

Pacific Journal of Mathematics

EMBEDDING PARTIAL IDEMPOTENT d -ARY QUASIGROUPS

J. CSIMA

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**It is shown that every finite partial idempotent d -quasi-
 group is embedded in a finite idempotent d -quasigroup.**

1. Introduction. Evans [3] has proved that every partial Latin square of order n can be embedded in a Latin square of order $2n$. Equivalently, every partial quasigroups of order n can be embedded in a quasigroup of order $2n$. The connection between Latin squares and quasigroups is explained in [2]. Lindner [5] has proved that every idempotent partial quasigroup of order n can be embedded in an idempotent quasigroup of order 2^n , while Hilton [4], using a different technique, reduced this order to $4n$. After Cruse [1] gave a multidimensional analogue of Evans' theorem, Lindner [6] succeeded in proving an embedding theorem for idempotent ternary quasigroups. In the present paper, denoting by $N(p)$ the minimal order of d -quasigroups in which the partial idempotent d -quasigroup (P, p) is embedded, we show that (P, p) is embedded in an idempotent d -quasigroup (Q, q) , such that $|Q| \leq 2N(p)$ if d is odd and $|Q| \leq 3N(p)$ if d is even.

For $d = 3$ this is an improvement on Lindner's result, but when $d = 2$ our construction gives a higher upper bound than Hilton's. The reason for this is that Hilton's construction relies on the fact that a partial quasigroup can be embedded in a quasigroup with the order doubled. This is not known to be true when $d > 2$ and a direct generalization of Hilton's construction cannot be applied.

2. Notation and definitions. If A is a set and $x \in A^d$, then x_i denotes the i th component of $x = (x_1, x_2, \dots, x_d)$. If $x \in A$, $\bar{x} \in A^d$ is defined as $\bar{x} = (x, x, \dots, x)$. Similar notation applies to the functions $f: X \rightarrow Y^d$ and $g: X \rightarrow Y$. For every $x \in X$

$$f(x) = (f_1(x), f_2(x), \dots, f_d(x))$$

and for every $x \in X^d$, $\bar{g}(x) = (g(x_1), g(x_2), \dots, g(x_d))$. The function $\Delta_A: A \rightarrow A^d$ is defined as $\Delta_A(x) = \bar{x}$ for all $x \in A$. The restriction of $f: S \rightarrow T$ to $A \subseteq S$ is denoted by $f|A$. We may take exception when f is a d -ary operation, in which case $f|A$ will often be abbreviated by f . When no danger of ambiguity exists, we do not distinguish between $h: S \rightarrow T$ and $g: S \rightarrow U$ if $h(x) = g(x)$ for every $x \in S$. The symbol $[x, y]$ denotes the d -tuple

$$((x_1, y_1), (x_2, y_2), \dots, (x_d, y_d)) ,$$

${}_x U$ stands for $\{[x, y]: y \in U\}$ and S_x denotes the Cartesian product $\{x\} \times S$.

If Q is a nonempty finite set of cardinality n and d is a natural number, we say that $q: U \rightarrow Q$ is a *partial d -quasigroup of order n* , provided $U \subseteq Q^d$ and the equation $q(x) = q(y)$ implies that either $x = y$ or else x and y differ in at least two of their components. The partial d -quasigroup q may also be denoted by (Q, q) or (Q, U, q) . If $U = Q^d$, then q is a *d -quasigroup of order n* .

We observe that if (Q, q) is a finite d -quasigroup, then given $x_1, x_2, \dots, x_{i-1}, x_{i+1}, \dots, x_d$ and y in Q , there exists a unique $x_i \in Q$ such that

$$q(x_1, x_2, \dots, x_d) = y .$$

A partial d -quasigroup (Q, U, q) is *idempotent* if $x \in Q$ implies $\bar{x} \in U$ and $q(\bar{x}) = x$.

In order to simplify our terminology we refer to ordinary finite quasigroups by calling them binary quasigroups and use the word "quasigroup" to abbreviate the expression "finite d -quasigroup".

(S, T, s) is a *partial subquasigroup* of the partial quasigroup (P, U, q) , if $S \subseteq Q$ and $s = q|T$. A partial quasigroup (S, T, s) is *isomorphic* to (Q, U, q) , if there exists a bijection $\phi: S \rightarrow Q$ such that $\bar{\phi}(T) = U$ and $q(\bar{\phi}(x)) = \phi(s(x))$ for all $x \in T$. (S, T, s) is *embedded* ("can be embedded") in (Q, U, q) if there exists an injection $\phi: S \rightarrow Q$ such that $\bar{\phi}(T) \subseteq U$ and $q(\bar{\phi}(x)) = \bar{\phi}(s(x))$ for all $x \in T$. Evidently, (S, T, s) is embedded in (Q, U, q) if and only if the latter has a partial subquasigroup isomorphic to the former.

A function $t: Q \rightarrow Q^d$ is a *transversal* of the quasigroup (Q, q) if

(i) $q(t(x)) = x$ for all $x \in Q$

(ii) $x \neq y$ implies $t_i(x) \neq t_i(y)$ for $i = 1, 2, \dots, d$. We observe that if (Q, q) is idempotent, then Δ_Q is a transversal of (Q, q) . Some quasigroups do not possess transversals. A transversal t of (Q, q) is an *offbeat* transversal if $t(x) \neq \bar{y}$ for all $x, y \in Q$. We say that $f: Q \rightarrow Q^d$ *fixes* P if $P \subseteq Q$ and $f(x) = \bar{x}$ for all $x \in P$.

3. Transversals and embedding.

LEMMA 1. *Let $n \geq 2$. Then for every odd $d \geq 3$ there exists an idempotent d -quasigroup (Q, q) of order n possessing an offbeat transversal.*

Proof. Let $Q = \{0, 1, \dots, n - 1\}$, let

$$q(x) = x_1 + \sum_{i=1}^{(d-1)^2} (x_{2i} - x_{2i+1}) \pmod n$$

and let

$$t(x) = (x, x + 1, x + 1, \dots, x + 1) \pmod n .$$

Then (Q, q) is an idempotent quasigroup with t as an offbeat transversal.

LEMMA 2. *Let $n \geq 3$. Then for every $d \geq 2$ there exists an idempotent d -quasigroup of order n with an offbeat transversal.*

Proof. We may assume that d is even as Lemma 1 covers the case when d is odd. We first deal with the case when $d = 2$. Figure 1 shows an idempotent binary quasigroup of order 6 with an offbeat transversal τ .

	0	1	2	3	4	5	
0	0	2	1	5	3	4	$\tau(0) = (1, 4)$
1	4	1	5	2	0	3	$\tau(1) = (0, 2)$
2	3	4	2	1	5	0	$\tau(2) = (3, 5)$
3	5	0	4	3	1	2	$\tau(3) = (2, 0)$
4	2	5	3	0	4	1	$\tau(4) = (5, 3)$
5	1	3	0	4	2	5	$\tau(5) = (4, 1)$

FIGURE 1

For all other orders $n \geq 3$ the desired binary quasigroups can be constructed with the help of orthogonal Latin squares. Now let $d \geq 4$, d even and $n \geq 3$. Let $Q = \{0, 1, \dots, n - 1\}$ and let (Q, l) be an idempotent binary quasigroup (of order n) with an offbeat transversal τ . Let

$$q(x) = l(x_1, x_2) + \sum_{i=2}^{d/2} (x_{2i} - x_{2i-1}) \pmod n$$

and let

$$t(x) = (\tau_1(x), \tau_2(x), x, x, \dots, x) .$$

Then (Q, q) is an idempotent d -quasigroup with t as an offbeat transversal.

LEMMA 3. *Let (Q, q) be a d -quasigroup with a transversal t and let*

$$q_t(x) = q(t_1(x_1), t_2(x_2), \dots, t_d(x_d)) .$$

Then (Q, q_t) is an idempotent quasigroup.

Proof. It is clear that q_t maps Q^d into Q . Suppose that $x \neq y$ and $q_t(x) = q_t(y)$. Let i be such that $x_i \neq y_i$. Then $t_i(x_i) \neq t_i(y_i)$. Since

$q(t_1(x_1), t_2(x_2), \dots, t_d(x_d)) = q(t_1(y_1), t_2(y_2), \dots, t_d(y_d))$, $(t_1(x_1), t_2(x_2), \dots, t_d(x_d))$ and $(t_1(y_1), t_2(y_2), \dots, t_d(y_d))$ must differ in at least two components. Hence there exists a $j \neq i$ such that $t_j(x_j) \neq t_j(y_j)$ implying $x_j \neq y_j$. Thus x and y differ in at least two components and (Q, q_t) is a quasigroup. If $z \in Q$, then

$$q_t(\bar{z}) = q(t_1(z), t_2(z), \dots, t_d(z)) = q(t(z)) = z$$

and (Q, q_t) is idempotent.

LEMMA 4. Let (P, p) be an idempotent partial subquasigroup of a (not necessarily idempotent) d -quasigroup (Q, q) and let t be a transversal of (Q, q) fixing P . Then (P, p) is a partial subquasigroup of (Q, q_t) .

Proof. It suffices to show that q and q_t agree on P^d . Let $x \in P^d$. Then indeed

$$q_t(x) = q(t_1(x_1), t_2(x_2), \dots, t_d(x_d)) = q(x_1, x_2, \dots, x_d) = q(x) .$$

DEFINITION. The product (Q, q) of the d -quasigroups (R, r) and (S, s) is defined as follows. $Q = R \times S$ and for every

$$z = [x, y] \in (R \times S)^d$$

$$q(z) = (r(x), s(y)) .$$

If t' and t'' are transversals in (R, r) and (S, s) respectively, their product t is defined by

$$t(x, y) = [t'(x), t''(y)] .$$

LEMMA 5. The product (Q, q) of the quasigroups (R, r) and (S, s) is a quasigroup. If t' and t'' are transversal of (R, r) and (S, s) respectively, then their product t is a transversal of (Q, q) . If (V, r) is a subquasigroup of (R, r) , then $q|(V \times S)^d$ is a subquasigroup of (Q, q) . If (R, r) is idempotent and $x \in R$, then (S_x, q) is isomorphic to (S, s) . The product of idempotent quasigroups is idempotent.

Proof. Let (Q, q) be the product of (R, r) and (S, s) . Suppose

$q([x, y]) = q([u, v])$ and $[x, y] \neq [u, v]$. Then $r(x) = r(u)$ and $s(y) = s(v)$. If $x \neq u$, then x and u differ in at least two components and so do $[x, y]$ and $[u, v]$. If $x = u$, then $y \neq v$ and again $[x, y]$ and $[u, v]$ differ in at least two components. Thus (Q, q) is a quasigroup. Suppose t' and t'' are transversals of (R, r) and (S, s) respectively and t is their product. Then

$$q(t(x, y)) = q[t'(x), t''(y)] = (r(t'(x)), s(t''(y))) = (x, y) .$$

Suppose $(x, y) \neq (u, v)$. If $x \neq u$, then $t'_i(x) \neq t'_i(u)$ for $i = 1, 2, \dots, d$; and if $y \neq v$, then $t''_i(y) \neq t''_i(v)$. In any event, if $(x, y) \neq (u, v)$, we have

$$t_i(x, y) = (t'_i(x), t''_i(y)) \neq (t'_i(u), t''_i(v)) = t_i(u, v)$$

for all i . Thus t is a transversal of (Q, q) . Suppose (V, r) is a subquasigroup of (R, r) . Then the range of $q|(V \times S)^d$ is $V \times S$, so $q|(V \times S)^d$ is a subquasigroup of (Q, q) . If (R, r) is idempotent, then $y \mapsto (x, y)$ is an isomorphism from (S, s) to (S_x, q) for every $x \in R$. If (R, r) and (S, s) are both idempotent and $z = (x, y) \in Q$, then

$$q(\bar{z}) = (r(\bar{x}), s(\bar{y})) = (x, y) = z$$

and (Q, q) is idempotent.

LEMMA 6. *Let (R, r) and (S, g) be idempotent quasigroups and let (Q, f) be their product. Let $P \subseteq S$ and let τ be an offbeat transversal of (R, r) . For every $z = (x, y) \in Q$ let*

$$t_i(z) = \begin{cases} (x, y) & \text{if } y \in P \\ (\tau_i(x), y) & \text{if } y \notin P \end{cases}$$

for $i = 1, 2, \dots, d$. Then t is a transversal of (Q, f) , fixing $R \times P$. Furthermore, if $(x, y) \in Q$ and $a \in R$, then $t(x, y) \in S_a^d$ if and only if $x = a$ and $y \in P$.

Proof. Let $(x, y) \in Q$ and $(u, v) \in Q$ be such that $t_i(x, y) = t_i(u, v)$ for some i . Then necessarily $y = v$. If $y \in P$, then

$$(x, y) = t_i(x, y) = t_i(u, v) = t_i(u, y) = (u, y) = (u, v) .$$

If $y \notin P$, then $(\tau_i(x), y) = (\tau_i(u), v)$ implies $(x, y) = (u, v)$. If $y \in P$, then

$$f(t(x, y)) = f([\bar{x}, \bar{y}]) = (r(\bar{x}), g(\bar{y})) = (x, y) .$$

If $y \notin P$, then

$$f(t(x, y)) = f([\tau(x), \bar{y}]) = (r(\tau(x)), g(\bar{y})) = (x, y) .$$

Thus t is a transversal of (Q, f) . It is evident from the definition of t , that t fixes $R \times P$. If $a \in R$ and $y \in P$, then of course $t(a, y) \in S_a^d$. On the other hand if $(x, y) \in Q$, $a \in R$ and $y \notin P$, then $t(x) \notin S_a^d$ because $\tau(x) = \bar{a}$ is impossible as τ is an offbeat transversal.

LEMMA 7. *Let (Q, r) be a quasigroup with a subquasigroup (S, r) and let (S, s) be an arbitrary quasigroup (on the set S). For each $x \in Q^d$ let*

$$q(x) = \begin{cases} s(x) & \text{if } x \in S^d \\ r(x) & \text{if } x \notin S^d \end{cases} .$$

Then (Q, q) is a quasigroup.

Proof. Let $x \in Q^d$ and $y \in Q^d$ such that $x \neq y$ and $q(x) = q(y)$. If both x and y belong to S^d , then $s(x) = s(y)$ implies that x and y differ in at least two components. The same is true if neither x nor y belong to S^d . If, say $x \in S^d$ and $y \notin S^d$, assume that x and y differ in exactly one component, say their first. Then $x_1 \neq y_1$ and $x_i = y_i$, if $i \geq 2$. It follows then, that $y_1 \notin S$. Let $x'_1 \in S$ be such that

$$r(x'_1, x_2, \dots, x_d) = s(x_1, x_2, \dots, x_d) .$$

Then $x'_1 \neq y_1$. On the other hand,

$$r(x'_1, x_2, \dots, x_d) = s(x) = r(y) = r(y_1, x_2, \dots, x_d) ,$$

implying $x'_1 = y_1$, a contradiction. Thus (Q, q) is a quasigroup.

DEFINITION. If (Q, r) , (S, r) , (S, s) and (Q, q) are as in Lemma 7, then (Q, q) is called the *replacement of (S, r) by (S, s) in (Q, r)* .

THEOREM 1. *Let (P, U, p) be a partial idempotent sub- d -quasigroup of a d -quasigroup (S, s) . Then (P, U, p) can be embedded in an idempotent d -quasigroup (Q, q) such that $|Q| \leq 3|S|$ if d is even and $|Q| \leq 2|S|$ if d is odd.*

Proof. Let (P, U, p) be a partial idempotent subquasigroup of (S, s) . First we deal with the case when $|S| \geq 3$. Let g be such that (S, g) is an idempotent quasigroup and let (R, r) be an idempotent quasigroup with an offbeat transversal τ . Let (Q, f) be the product of (R, r) and (S, g) . Define t as in Lemma 6. Then t is a transversal of (Q, f) . Let $a \in R$. Then t fixes $P_a(\subseteq R \times P)$. Define $s': S_a^d \rightarrow S_a$ as follows: $s'([\bar{a}, z]) = (a, s(z))$ for all $z \in S^d$. Then (S, s) is isomorphic to (S_a, s') via $\phi(y) = (a, y)$ for all $y \in S$. Indeed, $\bar{\phi}(S^d) = S_a^d$ and $s'(\bar{\phi}(z)) = s'([\bar{a}, z]) = (a, s(z)) = \phi(s(z))$ for all $z \in S^d$. Let (Q, q) be the replace-

ment of (S_a, f) by (S_a, s') in (Q, f) . Then $\phi|P$ establishes an isomorphism from (P, U, p) to $(P_{a'a}U, q)$. Thus (P, U, p) is embedded in (Q, q) . Next we will show, that t is a transversal of (Q, q) . It suffices to verify that $q(t(x, y)) = (x, y)$ for every $(x, y) \in Q$. Suppose $(x, y) \in Q$. If $t(x, y) \notin S_a^d$, then $q(t(x, y)) = f(t(x, y)) = (x, y)$. If $t(x, y) \in S_a^d$, we must have $x = a$ and $y \in P$ by Lemma 6. But then

$$\begin{aligned} q(t(x, y)) &= q(t(a, y)) = q([\bar{a}, \bar{y}]) = s'([\bar{a}, \bar{y}]) = (a, s(\bar{y})) \\ &= (a, p(\bar{y})) = (a, y) = (x, y). \end{aligned}$$

Thus t is a transversal of (Q, q) . By Lemma 4 (P, U, p) is embedded in the idempotent (Q, q) . Clearly, $|Q| = |R||S|$ and the smallest idempotent quasigroup (R, r) with an offbeat transversal is of order 3 or 2, depending on the parity of d .

Now let us look at the case when the order of (S, s) is one or two. Then, if $P = S$, (P, U, p) is embedded in the idempotent (S, s) . If $P \neq S$, then (P, U, p) is the unique (idempotent) quasigroup of order one, embedded in itself.

THEOREM 2. *Let (P, p) be a finite partial idempotent d -quasigroup. Then (P, p) can be embedded in a finite idempotent d -quasigroup (Q, q) . Furthermore, if $N(p)$ denotes the minimal order of d -quasigroups into which (P, p) can be embedded, then Q can be chosen so that $|Q| \leq 2N(p)$ if d is odd and $|Q| \leq 3N(p)$ if d is even.*

Proof. Using Cruse's result [1] that every finite partial d -quasigroup is embedded in a finite d -quasigroup, our theorem immediately follows from Theorem 1.

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