Hindawi Publishing Corporation International Journal of Combinatorics Volume 2011, Article ID 206930, 16 pages doi:10.1155/2011/206930

Research Article

Cayley Graphs of Order 27p Are Hamiltonian

Ebrahim Ghaderpour and Dave Witte Morris

Department of Mathematics and Computer Science, University of Lethbridge, Leth-Bridge, AB, Canada T1K 3M4

Correspondence should be addressed to Dave Witte Morris, dave.morris@uleth.ca

Received 22 January 2011; Accepted 18 April 2011

Academic Editor: Cai Heng Li

Copyright © 2011 E. Ghaderpour and D. W. Morris. This is an open access article distributed under the Creative Commons Attribution License, which permits unrestricted use, distribution, and reproduction in any medium, provided the original work is properly cited.

Suppose that G is a finite group, such that |G| = 27p, where p is prime. We show that if S is any generating set of G, then there is a Hamiltonian cycle in the corresponding Cayley graph Cay(G; S).

1. Introduction

Theorem 1.1. If |G| = 27p, where p is prime, then every connected Cayley graph on G has a Hamiltonian cycle.

Combining this with results in [1–3] establishes that

Every Cayley graph on
$$G$$
 has a hamiltonian cycle if $|G| = kp$, where p is prime, $1 \le k < 32$, and $k \ne 24$. (1.1)

The remainder of the paper provides a proof of the theorem. Here is an outline. Section 2 recalls known results on hamiltonian cycles in Cayley graphs; Section 3 presents the proof under the assumption that the Sylow p-subgroup of G is normal; Section 4 presents the proof under the assumption that the Sylow p-subgroups of G are not normal.

2. Preliminaries: Known Results on Hamiltonian Cycles in Cayley Graphs

For convenience, we record some known results that provide hamiltonian cycles in various Cayley graphs, after fixing some notation.

Notation 1 (see [4, Sections 1.1 and 5.1]). For any group *G*, we use the following notation:

- (1) G' denotes the *commutator subgroup* [G, G] of G,
- (2) Z(G) denotes the *center* of G,
- (3) $\Phi(G)$ denotes the *Frattini subgroup* of *G*.

For $a, b \in G$, we use a^b to denote the *conjugate* $b^{-1}ab$.

Notation 2. If $(s_1, s_2, ..., s_n)$ is any sequence, we use $(s_1, s_2, ..., s_n)$ # to denote the sequence $(s_1, s_2, ..., s_{n-1})$ that is obtained by deleting the last term.

Theorem 2.1 (Marušič, Durnberger, Keating-Witte [5]). *If* G' *is a cyclic group of prime-power order, then every connected Cayley graph on* G *has a hamiltonian cycle.*

Lemma 2.2 (see [3, Lemma 2.27]). Let S generate the finite group G, and let $s \in S$. If

- (i) $\langle s \rangle \triangleleft G$,
- (ii) $Cay(G/\langle s \rangle; S)$ has a hamiltonian cycle, and
- (iii) either
 - (1) $s \in Z(G)$, or
 - (2) |s| is prime,

then Cay(G; S) has a hamiltonian cycle.

Lemma 2.3 (see [1, Lemma 2.7]). Let S generate the finite group G, and let $s \in S$. If

- (i) $\langle s \rangle \triangleleft G$,
- (ii) |s| is a divisor of pq, where p and q are distinct primes,
- (iii) $s^p \in Z(G)$,
- (iv) $|G/\langle s\rangle|$ is divisible by q, and
- (v) $Cay(G/\langle s \rangle; S)$ has a hamiltonian cycle,

then there is a hamiltonian cycle in Cay(G; S).

The following results are well known (and easy to prove).

Lemma 2.4 ("Factor Group Lemma"). Suppose that

- (i) S is a generating set of G,
- (ii) N is a cyclic, normal subgroup of G,
- (iii) $(s_1N,...,s_nN)$ is a hamiltonian cycle in Cay(G/N;S), and
- (iv) the product $s_1 s_2 \cdots s_n$ generates N.

Then $(s_1, ..., s_n)^{|N|}$ is a hamiltonian cycle in Cay(G; S).

Corollary 2.5. Suppose that

(i) *S* is a generating set of *G*,

- (ii) N is a normal subgroup of G, such that |N| is prime,
- (iii) $s \equiv t \pmod{N}$ for some $s, t \in S \cup S^{-1}$ with $s \neq t$, and
- (iv) there is a hamiltonian cycle in Cay(G/N; S) that uses at least one edge labelled s.

Then there is a hamiltonian cycle in Cay(G; S).

Definition 2.6. If H is any subgroup of G, then $H \setminus Cay(G; S)$ denotes the multigraph in which

- (i) the vertices are the right cosets of H, and
- (ii) there is an edge joining Hg_1 and Hg_2 for each $s \in S \cup S^{-1}$, such that $g_1s \in Hg_2$.

Thus, if there are two different elements s_1 and s_2 of $S \cup S^{-1}$, such that g_1s_1 and g_1s_2 are both in Hg_2 , then the vertices Hg_1 and Hg_2 are joined by a double edge.

Lemma 2.7 (see [3, Corollary 2.9]). Suppose that

- (i) S is a generating set of G,
- (ii) H is a subgroup of G, such that |H| is prime,
- (iii) the quotient multigraph $H \setminus Cay(G; S)$ has a hamiltonian cycle C, and
- (iv) C uses some double-edge of $H \setminus Cay(G; S)$.

Then there is a hamiltonian cycle in Cay(G; S).

Theorem 2.8 (see [6, Corollary 3.3]). Suppose that

- (i) *S* is a generating set of *G*,
- (ii) N is a normal p-subgroup of G, and
- (iii) $st^{-1} \in N$, for all $s, t \in S$.

Then Cay(G; S) has a hamiltonian cycle.

Remark 2.9. In the proof of our main result, we may assume $p \ge 5$, for otherwise either

- (i) |G| = 54 is of the form 18q, where q is prime, and so [3, Propostion 9.1] applies, or
- (ii) $|G| = 3^4$ is a prime power, and so the main theorem of [7] applies.

3. Assume the Sylow p-Subgroup of G Is Normal

Notation 3. Let

- (i) *G* be a group of order 27*p*, where *p* is prime, and $p \ge 5$ (see Remark 2.9),
- (ii) *S* be a minimal generating set for *G*,
- (iii) $P \cong \mathbb{Z}_p$ be a Sylow *p*-subgroup of *G*,
- (iv) w be a generator of P, and
- (v) *Q* be a Sylow 3-subgroup of *G*.

Assumption 3.1. *In this section, we assume that P is a normal subgroup of G.*

Therefore *G* is a semidirect product:

$$G = Q \ltimes P. \tag{3.1}$$

We may assume that G' is not cyclic of prime order (for otherwise Theorem 2.1 applies). This implies that Q is nonabelian and acts nontrivially on P; so

$$G' = Q' \times P$$
 is cyclic of order $3p$. (3.2)

Notation 4. Since Q is a 3-group and acts nontrivially on $P \cong \mathbb{Z}_p$, we must have $p \equiv 1 \pmod{3}$. Thus, one may choose $r \in \mathbb{Z}$, such that

$$r^3 \equiv 1 \pmod{p}, \text{ but } r \not\equiv 1 \pmod{p}. \tag{3.3}$$

Dividing $r^3 - 1$ by r - 1, we see that

$$r^2 + r + 1 \equiv 0 \pmod{p}. \tag{3.4}$$

3.1. A Lemma That Applies to Both of the Possible Sylow 3-Subgroups

There are only 2 nonabelian groups of order 27, and we will consider them as separate cases, but, first, we cover some common ground.

Note

Since Q is a nonabelian group of order 27, and $G = Q \ltimes P \cong Q \ltimes \mathbb{Z}_p$, it is easy to see that

$$Q' = \Phi(Q) = Z(Q) = Z(G) = \Phi(G). \tag{3.5}$$

Lemma 3.2. Assume that

- (i) $s \in (S \cup S^{-1}) \cap Q$, such that s does not centralize P, and
- (ii) $c \in C_O(P) \setminus \Phi(Q)$.

Then we may assume that S is either $\{s, cw\}$ or $\{s, c^2w\}$ or $\{s, scw\}$ or $\{s, sc^2w\}$.

Proof. Since $G/P \cong Q$ is a 2-generated group of prime-power order, there must be an element a of S, such that $\{s, a\}$ generates G/P. We may write

$$a = s^i c^j z w^k$$
, with $0 \le i \le 2$, $1 \le j \le 2$, $z \in Z(Q)$, and $0 \le k < p$. (3.6)

Note the following.

(i) By replacing a with its inverse if necessary, we may assume $i \in \{0, 1\}$.

- (ii) By applying an automorphism of *G* that fixes *s* and maps *c* to cz^j , we may assume that *z* is trivial (since $(cz^j)^j = c^j z^{j^2} = c^j z$).
- (iii) By replacing w with w^k if $k \neq 0$, we may assume $k \in \{0,1\}$.

Thus,

$$a = s^i c^j w^k$$
 with $i, k \in \{0, 1\}$, and $j \in \{1, 2\}$. (3.7)

Case 1 (Assume k = 1). Then $\langle s, a \rangle = G$, and so $S = \{s, a\}$. This yields the four listed generating sets.

Case 2 (Assume k = 0). Then $\langle s, a \rangle = Q$, and there must be a third element b of S, with $b \notin Q$; after replacing w with an appropriate power, we may write b = tw with $t \in Q$. We must have $t \in \langle s, \Phi(Q) \rangle$, for otherwise $\langle s, b \rangle = G$ (which contradicts the minimality of S). Therefore

$$t = s^{i}z'$$
 with $0 \le i' \le 2$, and $z' \in \Phi(Q) = Z(G)$. (3.8)

We may assume the following.

- (i) $i' \neq 0$, for otherwise $b = z'w \in S \cap (Z(G) \times P)$; so Lemma 2.3 applies.
- (ii) i' = 1, by replacing b with its inverse if necessary.
- (iii) $z' \neq e$, for otherwise s and b provide a double edge in Cay(G/P; S); so Corollary 2.5 applies.

Then $s^{-1}b = z'w$ generates $Z(G) \times P$.

Consider the hamiltonian cycles

$$(a^{-1}, s^2)^3$$
, $((a^{-1}, s^2)^3 \#, b)$, $((a^{-1}, s^2)^3 \#\#, b^2)$ (3.9)

in Cay($G/\langle z, w \rangle$; S). Letting $z'' = (a^{-1}s^2)^3 \in \langle z \rangle$, we see that their endpoints in G are (resp.)

$$z''$$
, $z''(s^{-1}b) = z''z'w$, $z''(s^{-1}b)^s(s^{-1}b) = z''(z')^2w^sw$. (3.10)

The final two endpoints both have a nontrivial projection to P (since s, being a 3-element, cannot invert w), and at least one of these two endpoints also has a nontrivial projection to Z(G). Such an endpoint generates $Z(G) \times P = \langle z, w \rangle$, and so the Factor Group Lemma 2.4 provides a hamiltonian cycle in Cay(G; S).

3.2. Sylow 3-Subgroup of Exponent 3

Lemma 3.3. Assume that Q is of exponent 3; so

$$Q = \langle x, y, z \mid x^3 = y^3 = z^3 = e, [x, y] = z, [x, z] = [y, z] = e \rangle.$$
 (3.11)

Then one may assume the following:

- (1) $w^x = w^r$, but y and z centralize P, and
- (2) either
 - (a) $S = \{x, yw\}$, or
 - (b) $S = \{x, xyw\}.$

Proof. (1) Since Q acts nontrivially on P, and Aut(P) is cyclic, but $Q/\Phi(Q)$ is not cyclic, there must be elements a and b of $Q \setminus \Phi(Q)$, such that a centralizes P, but b does not. (And z must centralize P, because it is in Q'.) By applying an automorphism of Q, we may assume a = y and b = x. Furthermore, we may assume $w^x = w^r$ by replacing x with its inverse if necessary.

(2) *S* must contain an element that does not centralize *P*; so we may assume $x \in S$. By applying Lemma 3.2 with s = x and c = y, we see that we may assume that *S* is

$$\{x, yw\}$$
 or $\{x, y^2w\}$ or $\{x, xyw\}$ or $\{x, xy^2w\}$. (3.12)

But there is an automorphism of G that fixes x and w and sends y to y^2 ; so we need only consider two of these possibilities.

Proposition 3.4. Assume, as usual, that |G| = 27p, where p is prime, and that G has a normal Sylow p-subgroup. If the Sylow 3-subgroup Q is of exponent 3, then Cay(G; S) has a hamiltonian cycle.

Proof. We write $\overline{\ }$ for the natural homomorphism from G to $\overline{G} = G/P$. From Lemma 3.3(2), we see that we need only consider two possibilities for S.

Case 1 (Assume $S = \{x, yw\}$). For a = x and b = yw, we have the following hamiltonian cycle in Cay(G/P; S):

Its endpoint in *G* is

$$a^{2}ba^{-2}b^{2}a^{2}bab^{2}a^{-1}ba^{2}bab^{-1}a^{2}b^{-2}$$

$$= x^{2}ywx^{-2}(yw)^{2}x^{2}ywx^{2}ywx(yw)^{2}x^{-1}ywx^{2}ywx(yw)^{-1}x^{2}(yw)^{-2}$$

$$= x^{2}ywxy^{2}w^{2}x^{2}ywx^{2}ywxy^{2}w^{2}x^{2}ywx^{2}ywxy^{2}w^{-1}x^{2}yw^{-2}.$$
(3.14)

Since the walk is a hamiltonian cycle in G/P, we know that this endpoint is in $P = \langle w \rangle$. So all terms except powers of w must cancel. Thus, we need only calculate the contribution from each appearance of w in this expression. To do this, note that if a term w^i is followed by a net total of j appearances of x, then the term contributes a factor of w^{ir^j} to the product. So the endpoint in G is

$$w^{r^{13}}w^{2r^{12}}w^{r^{10}}w^{r^8}w^{2r^7}w^{r^5}w^{r^3}w^{-r^2}w^{-2}. (3.15)$$

Since $r^3 \equiv 1 \pmod{p}$, this simplifies to

$$w^{r}w^{2}w^{r}w^{r^{2}}w^{2r}w^{r^{2}}ww^{-r^{2}}w^{-2} = w^{r+2+r+r^{2}+2r+r^{2}+1-r^{2}-2}$$

$$= w^{r^{2}+4r+1} = w^{r^{2}+r+1}w^{3r} = w^{0}w^{3r} = w^{3r}.$$
(3.16)

Since $p \nmid 3r$, this endpoint generates P; so the Factor Group Lemma 2.4 provides a hamiltonian cycle in Cay(G; S).

Case 2 (Assume $S = \{x, xyw\}$). For a = x and b = xyw, we have the hamiltonian cycle

$$\left(\left(a,b^2\right)^3 \#, a\right)^3 \tag{3.17}$$

in Cay(G/P; S). Its endpoint in G is

$$\left(\left(ab^{2}\right)^{3} b^{-1} a\right)^{3} = \left(\left(x(xyw)^{2}\right)^{3} (xyw)^{-1} x\right)^{3} = \left(\left(x(x^{2}y^{2}w^{r+1})\right)^{3} \left(w^{-1}y^{-1}x^{-1}\right) x\right)^{3}
= \left(\left(y^{2}w^{r+1}\right)^{3} \left(w^{-1}y^{-1}\right)\right)^{3} = \left(w^{3(r+1)} \left(w^{-1}y^{-1}\right)\right)^{3} = \left(y^{-1}w^{3r+2}\right)^{3}
= w^{3(3r+2)}.$$
(3.18)

Since we are free to choose r to be either of the two primitive cube roots of 1 in \mathbb{Z}_p , and the equation 3r + 2 = 0 has only one solution in \mathbb{Z}_p , we may assume that r has been selected to make the exponent nonzero. Then the Factor Group Lemma 2.4 provides a hamiltonian cycle in Cay(G; S).

3.3. Sylow 3-Subgroup of Exponent 9

Lemma 3.5. Assume that Q is of exponent 9; so

$$Q = \langle x, y \mid x^9 = y^3 = e, [x, y] = x^3 \rangle.$$
 (3.19)

There are two possibilities for G, depending on whether $C_O(P)$ contains an element of order 9 or not.

- (1) Assume that $C_Q(P)$ does not contain an element of order 9. Then we may assume that y centralizes P, but $w^x = w^r$. Furthermore, we may assume that:
 - (a) $S = \{x, yw\}$, or
 - (b) $S = \{x, xyw\}.$
- (2) Assume that $C_Q(P)$ contains an element of order 9. Then we may assume x centralizes P, but $w^y = w^r$. Furthermore, we may assume that:
 - (a) $S = \{xw, y\},$
 - (b) $S = \{xyw, y\},\$
 - (c) $S = \{xy, xw\}, or$
 - (d) $S = \{xy, x^2yw\}.$

Proof. (1) Since x has order 9, we know that it does not centralize P. But x^3 must centralize P (since x^3 is in G'). Therefore, we may assume $w^x = x^r$ (by replacing x with its inverse if necessary). Also, since $Q/C_Q(P)$ must be cyclic (because Aut(P) is cyclic), but $C_G(P)$ does not contain an element of order 9, we see that $C_Q(P)$ contains every element of order 3; so y must be in $C_Q(P)$.

Since *S* must contain an element that does not centralize *P*, we may assume $x \in S$. By applying Lemma 3.2 with s = x and c = y, we see that we may assume that *S* is:

$$\{x, yw\}$$
 or $\{x, y^2w\}$ or $\{x, xyw\}$ or $\{x, xy^2w\}$. (3.20)

The second generating set need not be considered, because $(y^2w)^{-1} = yw^{-1} = yw'$; so it is equivalent to the first. Also, the fourth generating set can be converted into the third, since there is an automorphism of G that fixes y, but takes x to xyw and w to w^{-1} .

(2) We may assume $x \in C_O(P)$; so $C_O(P) = \langle x \rangle$.

We know that S must contain an element s that does not centralize P, and there are two possibilities: either

- (I) s has order 3, or
- (II) s has order 9.

We consider these two possibilities as separate cases.

Case I (Assume that s has order 3). We may assume s = y. Letting c = x, we see from Lemma 3.2 that we may assume S is either

$$\{y, xw\}$$
 or $\{y, x^2w\}$ or $\{y, yxw\}$ or $\{y, yx^2w\}$. (3.21)

The second and fourth generating sets need not be considered, because there is an automorphism of G that fixes y and w, but takes x to x^2 . Also, the third generating set may be replaced with $\{y, xyw\}$, since there is an automorphism of G that fixes y and w, but takes x to $y^{-1}xy$.

Case II (Assume that s has order 9). We may assume s = xy. Letting c = x, we see from Lemma 3.2 that we may assume that S is either

$$\{xy, xw\}$$
 or $\{xy, x^2w\}$ or $\{xy, xyxw\}$ or $\{xy, xyx^2w\}$. (3.22)

The second generating set is equivalent to $\{xy, xw\}$, since the automorphism of G that sends x to x^4 , y to $x^{-3}y$, and w to w^{-1} maps it to $\{xy, (xw)^{-1}\}$. The third generating set is mapped to $\{xy, x^2yw\}$ by the automorphism that sends x to x[x, y] and y to $[x, y]^{-1}y$. The fourth generating set need not be considered, because xyx^2w is an element of order 3 that does not centralize P, which puts it in the previous case.

Proposition 3.6. Assume, as usual, that |G| = 27p, where p is prime, and that G has a normal Sylow p-subgroup. If the Sylow 3-subgroup Q is of exponent 9, then Cay(G; S) has a hamiltonian cycle.

Proof. We will show that, for an appropriate choice of a and b in $S \cup S^{-1}$, the walk

$$(a^3, b^{-1}, a, b^{-1}, a^4, b^2, a^{-2}, b, a^2, b, a^3, b, a^{-1}, b^{-1}, a^{-1}, b^{-2})$$
 (3.23)

provides a hamiltonian cycle in Cay(G/P; S) whose endpoint in G generates P (so the Factor Group Lemma 2.4 applies).

We begin by verifying two situations in which (3.23) is a hamiltonian cycle.

(HC1) If $|\overline{a}| = 9$, $|\overline{b}| = 3$, and $\overline{a^b} = \overline{a^4}$ in $\overline{G} = G/P$, then we have the hamiltonian cycle:

$$\overline{e} \xrightarrow{a} \overline{a} \xrightarrow{a} \overline{a^{2}} \xrightarrow{a} \overline{a^{3}} \xrightarrow{b^{-1}} \overline{a^{3}b^{2}} \xrightarrow{a} \overline{a^{7}b^{2}} \xrightarrow{b^{-1}} \overline{a^{7}b}$$

$$\xrightarrow{a} \overline{a^{5}b} \xrightarrow{a} \overline{a^{3}b} \xrightarrow{a} \overline{ab} \xrightarrow{a} \overline{ab} \xrightarrow{a} \overline{a^{8}b} \xrightarrow{b} \overline{a^{8}b^{2}} \xrightarrow{b} \overline{a^{8}} \xrightarrow{a^{-1}} \overline{a^{7}}$$

$$\xrightarrow{a^{-1}} \overline{a^{6}} \xrightarrow{b} \overline{a^{6}b} \xrightarrow{a} \overline{a^{4}b} \xrightarrow{a} \overline{a^{2}b} \xrightarrow{b} \overline{a^{2}b^{2}} \xrightarrow{a} \overline{a^{6}b^{2}} \xrightarrow{a} \overline{ab^{2}}$$

$$\xrightarrow{a} \overline{a^{5}b^{2}} \xrightarrow{b} \overline{a^{5}} \xrightarrow{a^{-1}} \overline{a^{4}} \xrightarrow{b^{-1}} \overline{a^{4}b^{2}} \xrightarrow{a^{-1}} \overline{b^{2}} \xrightarrow{b^{-1}} \overline{b} \xrightarrow{b} \xrightarrow{b^{-1}} \overline{e}$$

$$(3.24)$$

(HC2) If $|\overline{a}| = 9$, $|\overline{b}| = 9$, $\overline{a^b} = \overline{a^7}$, and $\overline{b^3} = \overline{a^6}$ in $\overline{G} = G/P$, then we have the hamiltonian cycle:

$$\overline{e} \xrightarrow{a} \overline{a} \xrightarrow{a} \overline{a^{2}} \xrightarrow{a} \overline{a^{3}} \xrightarrow{b^{-1}} \overline{a^{6}b^{2}} \xrightarrow{a} \overline{a^{4}b^{2}} \xrightarrow{b^{-1}} \overline{a^{4}b}$$

$$\xrightarrow{a} \overline{a^{8}b} \xrightarrow{a} \overline{a^{3}b} \xrightarrow{a} \overline{a^{7}b} \xrightarrow{a} \overline{a^{2}b} \xrightarrow{b} \overline{a^{2}b^{2}} \xrightarrow{b} \overline{a^{8}} \xrightarrow{a^{-1}} \overline{a^{7}}$$

$$\xrightarrow{a^{-1}} \overline{a^{6}} \xrightarrow{b} \overline{a^{6}b} \xrightarrow{a} \overline{a^{5}b} \xrightarrow{a} \overline{a^{5}b} \xrightarrow{b} \overline{a^{5}b^{2}} \xrightarrow{a} \overline{a^{3}b^{2}} \xrightarrow{a} \overline{a^{5}b^{2}}$$

$$\xrightarrow{a} \overline{a^{8}b^{2}} \xrightarrow{b} \overline{a^{5}} \xrightarrow{a^{-1}} \overline{a^{4}} \xrightarrow{b^{-1}} \overline{a^{7}b^{2}} \xrightarrow{a^{-1}} \overline{b^{2}} \xrightarrow{b^{-1}} \overline{b} \xrightarrow{b^{-1}} \overline{e}.$$

$$(3.25)$$

To calculate the endpoint in G, fix $r_1, r_2 \in \mathbb{Z}_p$, with

$$w^a = w^{r_1}, \qquad w^b = w^{r_2},$$
 (3.26)

and write

$$a = aw_1, b = bw_2, \text{ where } a, b \in Q, w_1, w_2 \in P.$$
 (3.27)

Note that if an occurrence of w_i in the product is followed by a net total of j_1 appearances of \underline{a} and a net total of j_2 appearances of \underline{b} , then it contributes a factor of $w_i^{r_1^{j_1}r_2^{j_2}}$ to the product. (A similar occurrence of w_i^{-1} contributes a factor of $w_i^{-r_1^{j_1}r_2^{j_2}}$ to the product.) Furthermore, since $r_1^3 \equiv r_2^3 \equiv 1 \pmod{p}$, there is no harm in reducing j_1 and j_2 modulo 3.

We will apply these considerations only in a few particular situations.

(E1) Assume $w_1 = e$ (so $a \in Q$ and $\underline{a} = a$). Then the endpoint of the path in G is

$$a^{3}b^{-1}ab^{-1}a^{4}b^{2}a^{-2}ba^{2}ba^{3}ba^{-1}b^{-1}a^{-1}b^{-2}$$

$$= a^{3}(\underline{b}w_{2})^{-1}a(\underline{b}w_{2})^{-1}a^{4}(\underline{b}w_{2})^{2}a^{-2}(\underline{b}w_{2})a^{2}$$

$$\times (\underline{b}w_{2})a^{3}(\underline{b}w_{2})a^{-1}(\underline{b}w_{2})^{-1}a^{-1}(\underline{b}w_{2})^{-2}$$

$$= a^{3}(w_{2}^{-1}\underline{b}^{-1})a(w_{2}^{-1}\underline{b}^{-1})a^{4}(\underline{b}w_{2}\underline{b}w_{2})a^{-2}(\underline{b}w_{2})a^{2}$$

$$\times (\underline{b}w_{2})a^{3}(\underline{b}w_{2})a^{-1}(w_{2}^{-1}\underline{b}^{-1})a^{-1}(w_{2}^{-1}\underline{b}^{-1}w_{2}^{-1}\underline{b}^{-1}).$$
(3.28)

By the above considerations, this simplifies to w_2^m , where

$$m = -1 - r_1^2 r_2 + r_1 r_2 + r_1 + r_2^2 + r_1 r_2 + r_1 - r_1^2 - r_2 - r_2^2$$

= $-r_1^2 r_2 - r_1^2 + 2r_1 r_2 + 2r_1 - r_2 - 1$. (3.29)

Note the following.

- (a) If $r_1 \neq 1$ and $r_2 = 1$, then m simplifies to $6r_1$, because $r_1^2 + r_1 + 1 \equiv 0 \pmod{p}$ in this case.
- (b) If $r_1 \neq 1$ and $r_2 \neq 1$, then m simplifies to $3r_1(r_2+1)$, because $r_1^2 + r_1 + 1 \equiv r_2^2 + r_2 + 1 \equiv 0 \pmod{p}$ in this case.

(E2) Assume $w_2 = e$ (so $b \in Q$ and b = b). Then the endpoint of the path in G is

$$a^{3}b^{-1}ab^{-1}a^{4}b^{2}a^{-2}ba^{2}ba^{3}ba^{-1}b^{-1}a^{-1}b^{-2}$$

$$= (\underline{a}w_{1})^{3}b^{-1}(\underline{a}w_{1})b^{-1}(\underline{a}w_{1})^{4}b^{2}(\underline{a}w_{1})^{-2}b(\underline{a}w_{1})^{2}b(\underline{a}w_{1})^{3}b(\underline{a}w_{1})^{-1}b^{-1}(\underline{a}w_{1})^{-1}b^{-2}$$

$$= (\underline{a}w_{1}\underline{a}w_{1}\underline{a}w_{1})b^{-1}(\underline{a}w_{1})b^{-1}(\underline{a}w_{1}\underline{a}w_{1}\underline{a}w_{1}\underline{a}w_{1})b^{2}(w_{1}^{-1}\underline{a}^{-1}w_{1}^{-1}\underline{a}^{-1})$$

$$\times b(\underline{a}w_{1}\underline{a}w_{1})b(\underline{a}w_{1}\underline{a}w_{1}\underline{a}w_{1})b(w_{1}^{-1}\underline{a}^{-1})b^{-1}(w_{1}^{-1}\underline{a}^{-1})b^{-2}.$$

$$(3.30)$$

By the above considerations, this simplifies to w_1^m , where

$$m = r_1^2 + r_1 + 1 + r_1^2 r_2 + r_1 r_2^2 + r_2^2 + r_1^2 r_2^2 + r_1 r_2^2 - r_1$$

$$- r_1^2 + r_1^2 r_2^2 + r_1 r_2^2 + r_2 + r_1^2 r_2 + r_1 r_2 - r_1 - r_1^2 r_2$$

$$= 2r_1^2 r_2^2 + 3r_1 r_2^2 + r_2^2 + r_1^2 r_2 + r_1 r_2 + r_2 - r_1 + 1.$$
(3.31)

Note the following.

- (a) If $r_1 = 1$ and $r_2 \ne 1$, then m simplifies to $-3(r_2+2)$, because $r_2^2 + r_2 + 1 \equiv 0 \pmod{p}$ in this case.
- (b) If $r_1 \neq 1$ and $r_2 \neq 1$, then m simplifies to $-r_1r_2 2r_1 + r_2 + 2$, because $r_1^2 + r_1 + 1 \equiv r_2^2 + r_2 + 1 \equiv 0 \pmod{p}$ in this case.

Now we provide a hamiltonian cycle for each of the generating sets listed in Lemma 3.5.

- (1a) If $C_Q(P)$ has exponent 3, and $S = \{x, yw\}$, we let a = x and b = yw in (HC1). In this case, we have $w_1 = e$, $r_1 = r$, and $r_2 = 1$; so (E1(a)) tells us that the endpoint in G is w_2^{6r} .
- (1b) If $C_Q(P)$ has exponent 3, and $S = \{x, xyw\}$, we let a = x and $b = (xyw)^{-1}$ in (HC2). In this case, we have $w_1 = e$, $r_1 = r$, and $r_2 = r^{-1} = r^2$; so (E1(b)) tells us that the endpoint in G is w_2^m , where

$$m = 3r_1(r_2 + 1) = 3r(r^2 + 1) = 3(r^3 + r) \equiv 3(1 + r) = 3(r + 1) \pmod{p}.$$
 (3.32)

- (2a) If $C_Q(P)$ has exponent 9, and $S = \{xw, y\}$, we let a = xw and b = y in (HC1). In this case, we have $w_2 = e$, $r_1 = 1$, and $r_2 = r$; so (E2(a)) tells us that the endpoint in G is $w_1^{-3(r+2)}$.
- (2b) If $C_Q(P)$ has exponent 9, and $S = \{xyw, y\}$, we let a = xyw and b = y in (HC1). In this case, we have $w_2 = e$ and $r_1 = r_2 = r$; so (E2(b)) tells us that the endpoint in G is w_2^m , where

$$m = -r_1 r_2 - 2r_1 + r_2 + 2 = -r^2 - 2r + r + 2 = -(r^2 + r + 1) + 3 \equiv 3 \pmod{p}. \tag{3.33}$$

(2c) If $C_Q(P)$ has exponent 9, and $S = \{xy, xw\}$, we let a = xw and $b = (xy)^{-1}$ in (HC2). In this case, we have $w_2 = e$, $r_1 = 1$, and $r_2 = r^{-1} = r^2$; so (E2(a)) tells us that the endpoint in G is w_1^m , where

$$m = -3(r_2 + 2) = -3(r^2 + 2) \equiv -3(-(r+1) + 2) = 3(r-1) \pmod{p}.$$
 (3.34)

(2d) If $C_Q(P)$ has exponent 9, and $S = \{xy, x^2yw\}$, we let a = xy and $b = x^2yw$ in (HC2). In this case, we have $w_1 = e$ and $r_1 = r_2 = r$; so (E1(b)) tells us that the endpoint in G is w_2^m , where

$$m = 3r_1(r_2 + 1) = 3r(r + 1) = 3(r^2 + r) \equiv 3(-1) = -3 \pmod{p}.$$
 (3.35)

In all cases, there is at most one nonzero value of r (modulo p) for which the exponent of w_i is 0. Since we are free to choose r to be either of the two primitive cube roots of 1 in \mathbb{Z}_p , we may assume that r has been selected to make the exponent nonzero. Then the Factor Group Lemma 2.4 provides a hamiltonian cycle in Cay(G; S).

4. Assume the Sylow *p*-Subgroups of *G* Are Not Normal

Lemma 4.1. Assume that

- (i) |G| = 27p, where p is an odd prime, and
- (ii) the Sylow p-subgroups of G are not normal.

Then p=13, and $G=\mathbb{Z}_{13}\ltimes(\mathbb{Z}_3)^3$, where a generator w of \mathbb{Z}_{13} acts on $(\mathbb{Z}_3)^3$ via multiplication on the right by the matrix

$$W = \begin{bmatrix} 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 \\ 1 & 1 & 0 \end{bmatrix}. \tag{4.1}$$

Furthermore, we may assume that

S is of the form
$$\{w^i, w^j v\}$$
, (4.2)

where $v = (1, 0, 0) \in (\mathbb{Z}_3)^3$, and

$$(i,j) \in \{(1,0), (2,0), (1,2), (1,3), (1,5), (1,6), (2,5)\}.$$
 (4.3)

Proof. Let *P* be a Sylow *p*-subgroup of *G*, and let *Q* be a Sylow 3-subgroup of *G*. Since no odd prime divides 3-1 or 3^2-1 , and 13 is the only odd prime that divides 3^3-1 , Sylow's Theorem [8, Theorem 15.7, page 230] implies that p = 13, and that $N_G(P) = P$; so *G* must have a normal

p-complement [4, Theorem 7.4.3]; that is, $G = P \ltimes Q$. Since P must act nontrivially on Q (since P is not normal), we know that it must act nontrivially on $Q/\Phi(Q)$ [4, Theorem 5.3.5, page 180]. However, P cannot act nontrivially on an elementary abelian group of order 3 or 3^2 , because |P| = 13 is not a divisor of 3 - 1 or $3^2 - 1$. Therefore, we must have $|Q/\Phi(Q)| = 3^3$; so Q must be elementary abelian (and the action of P is irreducible).

Let W be the matrix representing the action of w on $(\mathbb{Z}_3)^3$ (with respect to some basis that will be specified later). In the polynomial ring $\mathbb{Z}_3[X]$, we have the factorization:

$$\frac{X^{13} - 1}{X - 1} = \left(X^3 - X - 1\right) \cdot \left(X^3 + X^2 - 1\right) \cdot \left(X^3 + X^2 + X - 1\right) \cdot \left(X^3 - X^2 - X - 1\right). \tag{4.4}$$

Since $w^{13} = e$, the minimal polynomial of W must be one of the factors on the right-hand side. By replacing w with an appropriate power, we may assume that it is the first factor. Then, choosing any nonzero $v \in (\mathbb{Z}_3)^3$, the matrix representation of w with respect to the basis $\{v, v^w, v^{w^2}\}$ is W (the Rational Canonical Form).

Now, let ζ be a primitive 13th root of unity in the finite field GF(27). Then any Galois automorphism of GF(27) over GF(3) must raise ζ to a power. Since the subgroup of order 3 in \mathbb{Z}_{13}^{\times} is generated by the number 3, we conclude that the orbit of ζ under the Galois group is $\{\zeta, \zeta^3, \zeta^9\}$. These must be the 3 roots of one of the irreducible factors on the right-hand side of (4.4). Thus, for any $k \in \mathbb{Z}_{13}^{\times}$, the matrices W^k , W^{3k} , and W^{9k} all have the same minimal polynomial; so they are conjugate under $GL_3(3)$. That is,

$$W,W^3,W^9$$
 powers of W in the same row of the W^2,W^5,W^6 following array are conjugate under $GL_3(3):W^4,W^{12},W^{10}$ $W^7,W^8,W^{11}.$ (4.5)

There is an element a of S that generates $G/Q \cong P$. Then a has order p; so, replacing it by a conjugate, we may assume $a \in P = \langle w \rangle$, and so $a = w^i$ for some $i \in \mathbb{Z}_{13}^{\times}$. From (4.5), we see that we may assume $i \in \{1,2\}$ (perhaps after replacing a by its inverse).

Now let b be the second element of S; so we may assume $b = w^j v$ for some j. We may assume $0 \le j \le 6$ (by replacing b with its inverse, if necessary). We may also assume $j \ne i$, for otherwise $S \subset aQ$, and so Theorem 2.8 applies.

If j = 0, then (i, j) is either (1, 0) or (2, 0), both of which appear in the list; henceforth, let us assume $j \neq 0$.

Case 1 (Assume i = 1). Since $j \neq i$, we must have $j \in \{2, 3, 4, 5, 6\}$.

Note that since W^3 is conjugate to W under $GL_3(3)$ (since they are in the same row of (4.5)), we know that the pair (w, w^4) is isomorphic to the pair $(w^3, (w^3)^4) = (w^3, w^{-1})$. By replacing b with its inverse, and then interchanging a and b, this is transformed to (w, w^3) . So we may assume $j \neq 4$.

Case 2 (Assume i = 2). We may assume that W^j is in the second or fourth row of the table (for otherwise we could interchange a with b to enter the previous case. So $j \in \{2, 5, 6\}$. Since

 $j \neq i$, this implies $j \in \{5,6\}$. However, since W^5 is conjugate to W^2 (since they are in the same row of (4.5)), and we have $(w^2)^3 = w^6$ and $(w^5)^3 = w^2$, we see that the pair (w^2, w^6) is isomorphic to (w^2, w^5) . So we may assume $j \neq 6$.

Proposition 4.2. If |G| = 27p, where p is prime, and the Sylow p-subgroups of G are not normal, then Cay(G; S) has a hamiltonian cycle.

Proof. From Lemma 4.1 (and Remark 2.9), we may assume $G = \mathbb{Z}_{13} \ltimes (\mathbb{Z}_3)^3$. For each of the generating sets listed in Lemma 4.1, we provide an explicit hamiltonian cycle in the quotient multigraph $P \setminus \text{Cay}(G; S)$ that uses at least one double edge. So Lemma 2.7 applies.

To save space, we use $i_1i_2i_3$ to denote the vertex $P(i_1, i_2, i_3)$.

$$(i, j) = (1, 0)$$
 $a = w$, $a^{-1} = w^{12}$, $b = (1, 0, 0)$, and $b^{-1} = (-1, 0, 0)$
Double edge: 222 \rightarrow 022 with a^{-1} and b :

$$000 \xrightarrow{b^{-1}} 200 \xrightarrow{a} 020 \xrightarrow{a} 002 \xrightarrow{a} 220 \xrightarrow{b^{-1}} 120 \xrightarrow{a} 012$$

$$\xrightarrow{a} 221 \xrightarrow{a} 102 \xrightarrow{b} 202 \xrightarrow{a} 210 \xrightarrow{a} 021 \xrightarrow{a} 112 \xrightarrow{a} 201$$

$$\xrightarrow{b^{-1}} 101 \xrightarrow{a^{-1}} 211 \xrightarrow{a^{-1}} 212 \xrightarrow{a^{-1}} 222 \xrightarrow{b} 022 \xrightarrow{b} 122 \xrightarrow{a^{-1}} 121$$

$$\xrightarrow{a^{-1}} 111 \xrightarrow{b^{-1}} 011 \xrightarrow{a^{-1}} 110 \xrightarrow{a^{-1}} 001 \xrightarrow{a^{-1}} 010 \xrightarrow{a^{-1}} 100 \xrightarrow{b^{-1}} 000.$$

$$(4.6)$$

(i,j) = (2,0) $a = w^2$, $a^{-1} = w^{11}$, b = (1,0,0), and $b^{-1} = (-1,0,0)$ Double edge: $020 \rightarrow 220$ with a and b^{-1} :

$$000 \xrightarrow{b^{-1}} 200 \xrightarrow{a} 002 \xrightarrow{a} 022 \xrightarrow{a} 212 \xrightarrow{b^{-1}} 112 \xrightarrow{a^{-1}} 210$$

$$\xrightarrow{a^{-1}} 122 \xrightarrow{a^{-1}} 111 \xrightarrow{a^{-1}} 110 \xrightarrow{b^{-1}} 010 \xrightarrow{a^{-1}} 201 \xrightarrow{b^{-1}} 101 \xrightarrow{a} 012$$

$$\xrightarrow{a} 102 \xrightarrow{a} 020 \xrightarrow{b^{-1}} 220 \xrightarrow{a} 222 \xrightarrow{a} 211 \xrightarrow{a} 120 \xrightarrow{a} 221$$

$$\xrightarrow{b} 021 \xrightarrow{a^{-1}} 202 \xrightarrow{a^{-1}} 121 \xrightarrow{a^{-1}} 011 \xrightarrow{a^{-1}} 001 \xrightarrow{a^{-1}} 100 \xrightarrow{b^{-1}} 000.$$

$$(4.7)$$

(i, j) = (1, 2) a = w, $a^{-1} = w^{12}$, $b = w^2(1, 0, 0)$, and $b^{-1} = w^{11}(-1, -1, 1)$ Double edge: 220 \rightarrow 022 with a and b:

$$000 \xrightarrow{b^{-1}} 221 \xrightarrow{a^{-1}} 012 \xrightarrow{a^{-1}} 120 \xrightarrow{b^{-1}} 102 \xrightarrow{b^{-1}} 200 \xrightarrow{a} 020$$

$$\xrightarrow{a} 002 \xrightarrow{a} 220 \xrightarrow{b} 022 \xrightarrow{a} 222 \xrightarrow{b} 011 \xrightarrow{a} 111 \xrightarrow{a} 121$$

$$\xrightarrow{a} 122 \xrightarrow{a} 202 \xrightarrow{a} 210 \xrightarrow{a} 021 \xrightarrow{a} 112 \xrightarrow{b^{-1}} 101 \xrightarrow{a^{-1}} 211$$

$$\xrightarrow{a^{-1}} 212 \xrightarrow{b} 201 \xrightarrow{b} 110 \xrightarrow{a^{-1}} 001 \xrightarrow{a^{-1}} 010 \xrightarrow{a^{-1}} 100 \xrightarrow{b^{-1}} 000.$$

$$(4.8)$$

(i, j) = (1, 3) a = w, $a^{-1} = w^{12}$, $b = w^3(1, 0, 0)$, and $b^{-1} = w^{10}(0, 1, -1)$ Double edge: $200 \rightarrow 020$ with a and b:

$$000 \xrightarrow{b^{-1}} 012 \xrightarrow{a^{-1}} 120 \xrightarrow{b^{-1}} 221 \xrightarrow{a} 102 \xrightarrow{a} 200 \xrightarrow{b} 020$$

$$\xrightarrow{a} 002 \xrightarrow{a} 220 \xrightarrow{a} 022 \xrightarrow{a} 222 \xrightarrow{a} 212 \xrightarrow{a} 211 \xrightarrow{a} 101$$

$$\xrightarrow{b^{-1}} 201 \xrightarrow{a^{-1}} 112 \xrightarrow{a^{-1}} 021 \xrightarrow{a^{-1}} 210 \xrightarrow{a^{-1}} 202 \xrightarrow{a^{-1}} 122 \xrightarrow{b} 121$$

$$\xrightarrow{a^{-1}} 111 \xrightarrow{a^{-1}} 011 \xrightarrow{a^{-1}} 110 \xrightarrow{a^{-1}} 001 \xrightarrow{a^{-1}} 010 \xrightarrow{a^{-1}} 100 \xrightarrow{b^{-1}} 000.$$

$$(4.9)$$

(i, j) = (1, 5) a = w, $a^{-1} = w^{12}$, $b = w^{5}(1, 0, 0)$, and $b^{-1} = w^{8}(1, 0, 1)$ Double edge: $220 \rightarrow 022$ with a and b^{-1} :

$$000 \xrightarrow{b^{-1}} 101 \xrightarrow{a} 120 \xrightarrow{a} 012 \xrightarrow{a} 221 \xrightarrow{b^{-1}} 010 \xrightarrow{a} 001$$

$$\xrightarrow{a} 110 \xrightarrow{a} 011 \xrightarrow{a} 111 \xrightarrow{b} 121 \xrightarrow{a} 122 \xrightarrow{b^{-1}} 102 \xrightarrow{a} 200$$

$$\xrightarrow{a} 020 \xrightarrow{a} 002 \xrightarrow{a} 220 \xrightarrow{b^{-1}} 022 \xrightarrow{a} 222 \xrightarrow{a} 212 \xrightarrow{a} 211$$

$$\xrightarrow{b} 202 \xrightarrow{a} 210 \xrightarrow{a} 021 \xrightarrow{a} 112 \xrightarrow{a} 201 \xrightarrow{a} 100 \xrightarrow{b^{-1}} 000.$$

$$(4.10)$$

(i, j) = (1, 6) a = w, $a^{-1} = w^{12}$, $b = w^{6}(1, 0, 0)$, and $b^{-1} = w^{7}(-1, 1, 1)$ Double edge: $021 \rightarrow 210$ with a^{-1} and b:

$$000 \xrightarrow{b^{-1}} 211 \xrightarrow{b^{-1}} 201 \xrightarrow{a^{-1}} 112 \xrightarrow{a^{-1}} 021 \xrightarrow{b} 210 \xrightarrow{b} 101$$

$$\xrightarrow{b} 120 \xrightarrow{a} 012 \xrightarrow{a} 221 \xrightarrow{a} 102 \xrightarrow{a} 200 \xrightarrow{a} 020 \xrightarrow{a} 002$$

$$\xrightarrow{a} 220 \xrightarrow{a} 022 \xrightarrow{a} 222 \xrightarrow{a} 212 \xrightarrow{b} 202 \xrightarrow{a^{-1}} 122 \xrightarrow{a^{-1}} 121$$

$$\xrightarrow{a^{-1}} 111 \xrightarrow{a^{-1}} 011 \xrightarrow{a^{-1}} 110 \xrightarrow{a^{-1}} 001 \xrightarrow{a^{-1}} 010 \xrightarrow{a^{-1}} 100 \xrightarrow{b^{-1}} 000.$$

$$(4.11)$$

(i,j)=(2,5) $a=w^2$, $a^{-1}=w^{11}$, $b=w^5(1,0,0)$, and $b^{-1}=w^8(1,0,1)$ Double edge: 112 \to 210 with a^{-1} and b:

$$000 \xrightarrow{b^{-1}} 101 \xrightarrow{a} 012 \xrightarrow{b} 102 \xrightarrow{a} 020 \xrightarrow{a} 220 \xrightarrow{a} 222$$

$$\xrightarrow{b} 112 \xrightarrow{b} 210 \xrightarrow{a^{-1}} 122 \xrightarrow{a^{-1}} 111 \xrightarrow{a^{-1}} 110 \xrightarrow{a^{-1}} 010 \xrightarrow{a^{-1}} 201$$

$$\xrightarrow{a^{-1}} 021 \xrightarrow{a^{-1}} 202 \xrightarrow{b^{-1}} 211 \xrightarrow{a} 120 \xrightarrow{a} 221 \xrightarrow{a} 200 \xrightarrow{a} 002$$

$$\xrightarrow{a} 022 \xrightarrow{a} 212 \xrightarrow{b^{-1}} 121 \xrightarrow{a^{-1}} 011 \xrightarrow{a^{-1}} 001 \xrightarrow{a^{-1}} 100 \xrightarrow{b^{-1}} 000.$$

$$(4.12)$$

Acknowledgments

This work was partially supported by research grants from the Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council of Canada.

References

- [1] S. J. Curran, D. W. Morris, and J. Morris, "Hamiltonian cycles in Cayley graphs of order 16p," Preprint.
- [2] E. Ghaderpour and D. W. Morris, "Cayley graphs of order 30p are hamiltonian," Preprint.
- [3] K. Kutnar, D. Marušič, J. Morris, D. W. Morris, and P. Šparl, "Hamiltonian cycles in Cayley graphs whose order has few prime factors," *Ars Mathematica Contemporanea*. In press.
- [4] D. Gorenstein, Finite Groups, Chelsea, New York, NY, USA, 1980.
- [5] K. Keating and D. Witte, "Hamilton cycles in Cayley graphs with cyclic commutator subgroup," *Annals of Discrete Mathematics*, vol. 27, pp. 89–102, 1985.
- [6] D. W. Morris, "2-generated Cayley digraphs on nilpotent groups have hamiltonian paths," Preprint.
- [7] D. Witte, "Cayley digraphs of prime-power order are hamiltonian," *Journal of Combinatorial Theory, Series B*, vol. 40, no. 1, pp. 107–112, 1986.
- [8] T. W. Judson, Abstract Algebra, Virginia Commonwealth University, Richmond, Va, USA, 2009.

















Submit your manuscripts at http://www.hindawi.com











Journal of Discrete Mathematics











