An Extension Theorem for Terraces

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Abstract

We generalise an extension theorem for terraces for abelian groups to apply to nonabelian groups with a central subgroup isomorphic to the Klein 4-group V. We also give terraces for three of the non-abelian groups of order a multiple of 8 that have a cyclic subgroup of index 2 that may be used in the extension theorem. These results imply the existence of terraces for many groups that were not previously known to be terraced, including 27 non-abelian groups of order 64 and all groups of the form $V^s \times D_{8t}$ for all s and all t > 1 where D_{8t} is the dihedral group of order 8t.

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1 Introduction

Let G be a group of order n and let $\mathbf{a} = (a_1, a_2, \dots, a_n)$ be an arrangement of all of the elements of G. Define $\mathbf{b} = (b_1, b_2, \dots, b_{n-1})$ by $b_i = a_i^{-1}a_{i+1}$. If each involution of G appears once in **b** and there are two appearances from each set $\{g, g^{-1} : g^2 \neq e\}$ in **b** then **a** is a *terrace* for G and **b** is its associated 2-sequencing. If a group has a terrace then it is *terraced*. Left-multiplying each element of a terrace by any element of the group produces another terrace for the group; choosing a_1^{-1} gives a terrace with the identity, e, as the first element—such a terrace is called *basic*.

Terraces for cyclic groups were implicitly used by Williams in [13] and the concept was formally defined and extended to arbitrary groups by Bailey [3]. They were originally of interest because the Cayley table of a group may be presented as a quasi-complete Latin square if and only if the group is terraced [3] but have since been used for other applications and studied as objects of interest in their own right. The purpose of this paper is to move closer to a proof of Bailey's Conjecture:

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Conjecture 1 [3] All groups, except the non-cyclic elementary abelian 2-groups, are terraced.

It is known that the non-cyclic elementary abelian 2-groups are not terraced [3].

Example 1 Let \mathbb{Z}_n be the additively-written cyclic group of order n. The Lucas-Walecki-Williams terrace (so-called because it was implicitly used by Lucas and Walecki [7] for even nand by Williams [13] for all n) for \mathbb{Z}_n is (0, 1, n - 1, 2, n - 2, ...) and has associated 2sequencing (1, n - 2, 3, n - 4, ...).

There have been two main lines of attack on Bailey's Conjecture. First, one may directly construct terraces for a particular family of groups. Second, one can produce theorems that build a terrace for a group out of terraces for smaller groups. The most powerful example of the second approach is the following result:

Theorem 1 [1, 2] Let G be a group with normal subgroup N. If N has odd index and is terraced, then G is terraced. If N has odd order and G/N is terraced then G is terraced.

In [9] a theorem that constructed a terrace for an abelian group G that has a subgroup of order 4 and a particular type of terrace for the quotient group was presented. This theorem is not fully correct in the case when the subgroup of order 4 is cyclic; see [11] in which the error is corrected and it is shown that all of the groups claimed to be terraced are indeed terraced. In the next section we present a more general version of the correct case (when the subgroup is isomorphic to V, the Klein 4-group) that applies to many non-abelian groups.

The extension result in the next section allows us to find terraces for a considerable array of previously unterraced groups. As input the theorem requires terraces with particular properties; some such terraces are catalogued in Section 3.

2 The extension theorem

We first define the properties we require of a terrace to be used in the theorem. Let K be a group of order $m \ge 6$ and let $\mathbf{a} = (a_1, a_2, \ldots, a_m)$ be a basic terrace for K. If $a_m = a_2^2$ and $a_{j-1}a_{j+1} = a_j = a_{j+1}a_{j-1}$ for some $5 \le j < m$ then \mathbf{a} is *extendable*.

An important intermediary object is an R-terrace, or rotational terrace. Following the convention of earlier papers we write circular lists in square brackets and consider the subscripts to be calculated modulo the length of the list. Let K be a group of order m and let $\mathbf{a} = [a_1, a_2, \ldots, a_{m-1}]$ be a circular arrangement of the non-identity elements of K. Define $\mathbf{b} = [b_1, b_2, \ldots, b_{m-1}]$ by $b_i = a_i^{-1}a_{i+1}$ for $1 \le i \le m-1$. If \mathbf{b} contains exactly one occurrence of each involution of K and exactly two occurrences from each set $\{k, k^{-1} : k^2 \ne e\}$ then \mathbf{a} is a rotational terrace or R-terrace for K and \mathbf{b} is the associated rotational 2-sequencing or R-2-sequencing of K. If there are no repeats among the elements of \mathbf{b} then the R-terrace is directed and the R-2-sequencing is an R-sequencing. Further, if $a_1 = a_{m-1}a_2 = a_2a_{m-1}$ then \mathbf{a} is a standard R^* -terrace for K and if $b_r = a_{r+1}^{-1}$ for some r then r is a right match-point

of **b**. Note that a standard R^{*}-terrace cannot have an R-2-sequencing with 1 as a right match-point.

Standard R^{*}-terraces whose R-2-sequencings have particular right match-points and extendable terraces are equivalent: The circular list $[a_1, a_2, \ldots, a_{m-1}]$ is a standard R^{*}-terrace whose R-2-sequencing has a right match-point r for some $2 \leq r \leq m-3$ if and only if

$$(e, a_{r+1}, a_{r+2}, \dots, a_{m-1}, a_1, a_2, \dots, a_r)$$

is an extendable terrace.

The following lemma restricts which groups may have an extendable terrace.

Lemma 1 [9] If the order of G is congruent to 2 modulo 4 then G does not have a rotational terrace.

We can now prove our main result. The *Klein 4-group* is the non-cyclic group of order 4 and a subgroup is *central* if each of its elements commutes with every element of the group (that is, it is contained in the centre of the group).

Theorem 2 Let G be a group with a central subgroup V of index $m \ge 7$, where V is isomorphic to the Klein 4-group. Suppose G/V has a standard R^* -terrace $[K_1, K_2, \ldots, K_{m-1}]$ whose R-2-sequencing has a match-point r for some $2 \le r \le m-3$ and such that there is a pair of elements, one in K_2 and one in K_{m-1} , that commute. Then G has an extendable terrace.

Proof. Choose coset representatives k_i , for $1 \leq i \leq m-1$, such that $k_i \in K_i$ and that both $k_{m-1}k_2 = k_1 = k_2k_{m-1}$ and $k_r^{-1}k_{r+1} = k_{r+1}^{-1}$. These two criteria potentially interact if r = 2. In this case, choose any $k_3 \in K_3$, set $k_2 = k_3^2$ and then there is a $k_{m-1} \in K_{m-1}$ that commutes with k_2 : if $\ell_2 \in K_2$ and $\ell_{m-1} \in K_{m-1}$ are the commuting elements we know to exist then there is a $v_0 \in V$ with $k_2 = v_0\ell_2$ and this commutes with ℓ_{m-1} , which we may set to be k_{m-1} , by the centrality of V.

Note that each element of G is uniquely expressible in the form vk for $v \in V$ and $k \in \{e, k_1, k_2, \ldots, k_{m-1}\}.$

We build the standard R^{*}-terrace by showing the lists of the v components and k components separately. Let $V = \{e, v_1, v_2, v_3\}$, then $[v_1, v_2, v_3]$ is an R-terrace for V (that is, any circular list of the non-identity elements of V is an R-terrace). We list the v components as the rows of a $4 \times m$ matrix. Let $(v_1, v_2, v_3)_{t-1}$ denote t - 1 repetitions of the sequence (v_1, v_2, v_3) , and similarly for other subscripted sequences. There are three slightly different matrices for the v components as m varies modulo 3.

Case 1: m = 3t for $t \ge 3$. Take

e	e			e	v_2	v_1	l
v_3	$(v_1, v_2, v_3)_{t-2}$	v_1	v_3	v_3	v_2	v_1	
v_3	v_2	$(v_3, v_1, v_2)_{t-2}$	v_3	v_2	v_1	v_3	
v_2	v_1	$(v_2, v_3, v_1)_{t-2}$	v_2	v_1	e	_	

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to be the v component matrix.

Case 2: m = 3t + 1 for $t \ge 2$. Take

$\int e$	e		v_2	v_1
v_3	$(v_2, v_1, v_3)_{t-1}$	v_3	v_2	v_1
v_3	v_2	$(v_1, v_3, v_2)_{t-1}$	v_1	v_3
v_2	v_1	$(v_3, v_2, v_1)_{t-1}$	e	

to be the v component matrix.

Case 3: m = 3t + 2 for $t \ge 2$. Take

e	e		e	v_2	v_1
v_3	$(v_2, v_1, v_3)_{t-1}$	v_2	v_3	v_2	v_1
v_3	v_2	$(v_1, v_3, v_2)_{t-1}$	v_1	v_1	v_3
v_2	v_1	$(v_3, v_2, v_1)_{t-1}$	v_3	e	

to be the h component matrix.

For each of the above cases the k component matrix is

$\begin{bmatrix} k \end{bmatrix}$	\dot{r}_1	k_2			k_{m-1}	e
k	$\dot{2}$	k_3		k_{m-1}	k_1	k_1
k	$;_1$	k_2			k_{m-1}	e
Le	2	k_2	k_3		k_{m-1}	_

As V is central in G and $k_{m-1}k_2 = k_1 = k_2k_{m-1}$ we get the following matrix of quotients in the k component:

$$\begin{bmatrix} k_1^{-1}k_2 & k_2^{-1}k_3 & \dots & \dots & k_{m-2}^{-1}k_{m-1} & k_1^{-1}k_2 & k_{m-1}^{-1}k_1 \\ k_2^{-1}k_3 & k_3^{-1}k_4 & \dots & k_{m-2}^{-1}k_{m-1} & k_1^{-1}k_1 & e & e \\ k_1^{-1}k_2 & k_2^{-1}k_3 & \dots & \dots & k_{m-2}^{-1}k_{m-1} & k_1^{-1}k_2 & e \\ k_{m-1}^{-1}k_1 & k_2^{-1}k_3 & k_3^{-1}k_4 & \dots & k_{m-2}^{-1}k_{m-1} & k_{m-1}^{-1}k_1 \end{bmatrix}$$

Each repeated sequence in the v component matrix is a directed R-terrace and so when the quotient matrices are combined we get a sequence that obeys the conditions of an R-2-sequencing.

Further, as the first two entries and the last entry of every v component matrix is e, it follows from our choices of k_1 , k_2 , and k_{m-1} that the R-terrace is a standard R*-terrace. As the first m-2 entries of every v component matrix are all e, our choices of k_r and k_{r+1} give us the match-point we require in position r of the R-2-sequencing. \Box

The awkward condition in Theorem 2 regarding commuting elements in commuting cosets is automatically satisfied in the cases where we have appropriate direct products or abelian (sub)groups. Hence an immediate consequence of the theorem is:

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Corollary 1 Let A be an abelian 2-group that has a normal series with all factors isomorphic to the Klein 4-group and let K be a group with an extendable terrace. Then $A \times K$ has an extendable terrace. In particular, $\mathbb{Z}_{2^s}^{2^s} \times K$ has an extendable terrace for all s.

Our goal now is to construct extendable terraces for as many groups as possible.

3 Extendable terraces

The following results for abelian groups are established in [9, 10, 11]:

- The cyclic group \mathbb{Z}_n has an extendable terrace if and only if $n \ge 7$ and n is not twice an odd number.
- All abelian 2-groups of order at least 8, except the elementary abelian 2-groups, have an extendable terrace.
- Let p be an odd prime. The group $\mathbb{Z}_2^{2t} \times \mathbb{Z}_p$ has an extendable terrace unless t = 0 and $p \leq 5$.
- The groups $\mathbb{Z}_2^{2t+1} \times \mathbb{Z}_3$ and $\mathbb{Z}_2^{2t+1} \times \mathbb{Z}_5$ have an extendable terrace for all $t \ge 1$.

Other than the unterraceable elementary abelian 2-groups, these results and Theorem 1 now give terraces for all abelian groups except for those of order coprime to 15 with elementary abelian Sylow 2-subgroup of order 2^{2t+1} for $t \ge 1$ [9, 10, 11]. When $t \ge 2$ it is known that these groups are terraced [10].

In this section we present extendable terraces for each of three non-abelian groups of order 8t with $t \ge 2$: the dihedral group D_{8t} , the semidihedral group S_{8t} and a third group that also has a cyclic subgroup of index 2 but does not appear to have a common name in the literature—we denote it M_{8t} following Gorenstein's use, reported in [6], of the letter M(but with a different subscript convention) for this group when it has order a power of 2. For even t, other than finitely many small cases, the terraces given for S_{8t} and M_{8t} are the first known. Here are presentations for these groups:

$$D_{8t} = \langle u, v : u^{4t} = e = v^2, vu = u^{4t-1}v \rangle$$

$$S_{8t} = \langle u, v : u^{4t} = e = v^2, vu = u^{2t-1}v \rangle$$

$$M_{8t} = \langle u, v : u^{4t} = e = v^2, vu = u^{2t+1}v \rangle$$

Before constructing the desired terraces we introduce a related concept and prove a lemma that is crucial to the construction.

An arrangement $\mathbf{g} = (g_1, g_2, \dots, g_n)$ of the integers $\{0, 1, \dots, n-1\}$ is a graceful sequence of length n if each element of the set $\{1, 2, \dots, n-1\}$ can be written $|g_{i+1} - g_i|$ for some i. This is equivalent to the notion of a graceful labelling of a path in graph theory [4]. If \mathbf{g} is a graceful sequence then so are its reverse $(g_n, g_{n-1}, \dots, g_1)$ and its complement $((n-1) - g_1, (n-1) - g_2, \dots, (n-1) - g_n)$. Considered to be a sequence in \mathbb{Z}_n rather than \mathbb{Z} a graceful sequence is a terrace, called a graceful terrace. **Example 2** The negated LWW terrace for \mathbb{Z}_n , obtained by negating each element of the LWW terrace of Example 1, is a graceful terrace.

Lemma 2 For all $t \ge 2$ there is a graceful sequence of length 2t - 1 with endpoints t - 2 and 2t - 3.

Proof. When $t \equiv 5 \pmod{6}$ we use the complement of the "3-twizzler" graceful terrace described in [12]. The 3-twizzler terrace is obtained from the negated LWW terrace for \mathbb{Z}_{2t-1} by dividing the terrace into subsequences of length 3 and reversing ("twizzling") each of them. After taking the complement we have:

$$2t-3$$
, 0, $2t-2$, 2, $2t-4$, 1, ..., $t-1$, t , $t-2$

When $t \equiv 2 \pmod{6}$ the complement of 3-twizzler terrace begins the same way but ends t-1, t-2, t. Switching the last two elements preserves the gracefulness of the sequence and gives us the t-2 that we need as an endpoint.

When $t \equiv 0 \pmod{3}$ we can use the complement of the "imperfect 3-twizzler" graceful terrace of [12]. In Preece's imperfect 3-twizzler terrace all but the final two elements are obtained by 3-twizzling as above. Here is its complement:

$$2t-3$$
, 0, $2t-2$, 2, $2t-4$, 1, ..., t , $t-3$, $t+1$, $t-1$, $t-2$.

Finally, when $t \equiv 1 \pmod{3}$ we give a new graceful terrace using similar ideas. We begin as in the previous cases by twizzling subsequences of length 3 from the negated LWW graceful terrace, however this time we stop with 7 elements remaining and rearrange those to give a final element of t - 2 while preserving the gracefulness of the sequence:

$$2t-3$$
, 0, $2t-2$, 2, $2t-4$, 1, ..., $t-5$, $t+3$, $t-6$,

t+1, t-3, t+2, t-4, t-1, t, t-2.

This completes the proof. \Box

Theorem 3 The groups D_{8t} , S_{8t} and M_{8t} have an extendable terrace for all $t \ge 2$.

Proof. The similar structure of the three groups allows us to use a slightly unusual approach. We give a sequence of elements of the form $u^x v^y$ with $0 \le x \le 4t - 1$ and $y \in \{0, 1\}$ and this sequence is a terrace regardless of to which group we interpret the elements belonging.

The terrace takes the form $\mathbf{a} = (e, \alpha, \beta, u^{2t}, v, \gamma, u^t v, \delta)$, where each Greek letter represents a sequence of elements. With the exception of δ , each of these sequences can be expressed in a "zigzag" pattern. The partial terrace up to $u^t v$ is given in Table 1.

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The associated partial 2-sequencings arising from the partial terrace for D_{8t} , S_{8t} and M_{8t} are given in Tables 2, 3 and 4 respectively with each row starting with the difference created by joining the subsequence with the previous one.

In each case, to complete the sequence to a terrace δ needs to satisfy three conditions. First, it must generate the final quotient of the form $u^x v$, which it can do by starting with u^{3t-1} . Second, it must contain the elements of the form u^x for $2t + 1 \leq x \leq 4t - 1$. Third, it must generate one from each inverse pair within $\langle u \rangle$ except for u^{2t} and $u^{\pm(2t-1)}$. Further, for the terrace to be extendable, the last element of δ must be u^{4t-2} .

These conditions can be met by taking a graceful sequence $(g_1, g_2, \ldots, g_{2t-1})$ that starts with t-2 and ends with 2t-3 and defining the *i*th element of δ to be u^{2t+1+g_i} . Such a sequence exists by Lemma 2.

Finally, we need to check the other condition to be extendable; that $a_{j-1}a_{j+1} = a_j = a_{j+1}a_{j-1}$ for some $j \ge 5$. Setting j = 4t - 1, we find that $a_{j-1} = u^{2t}v$, $a_j = u^{2t}$ and $a_{j+1} = v$; a valid choice in each of the three groups. \Box

Example 3 The terrace for
$$D_{32}$$
, S_{32} and M_{32} given by Theorem 3 is
 $e, u^7, uv, u^6, u^2v, u^5, u^3v, u^4, u^5v, u^3, u^6v, u^2, u^7v, u, u^8v, u^8,$
 $v, u^9v, u^{15}v, u^{10}v, u^{14}v, u^{11}v, u^{13}v, u^{12}v, u^4v, u^{11}, u^{13}, u^{12}, u^9, u^{15}, u^{10}, u^{14}.$

When considering which groups are most likely to give a counterexample to Bailey's conjecture those with many involutions and/or large elementary abelian 2-groups as subgroups Table 3: Partial 2-sequencing for S_{8t}



are natural contenders. Theorem 3 and Corollary 1 imply that many such contenders are indeed terraced; groups of the form $\mathbb{Z}_2^{2s} \times D_{8t}$ for all s and for $t \ge 2$, for example.

A computer search for extendable terraces for small groups has been implemented in GAP [5]. Neither of the two non-abelian groups of order 8 has an extendable terrace. Extendable terraces were found for all twelve non-abelian groups of orders 12, 16 and 20 not covered by Theorem 3. The notation $G_{n/p}$ indicates that the group has order n and is in position p in GAP's small group library. Where the group has a common name that is indicated as well, and we use the more familiar permutation notation for the alternating group A_4 . The value for j in the definition of an extendable terrace is also given.

Order 12:

$$\begin{array}{rcl} G_{12/1} &=& \langle a,b:a^6=e,b^2=a^3,ab=ba^{-1}\rangle\cong Q_{12},\ j=5\\ &e,a^2,a,b,a^3b,a^3,a^4b,a^5,a^5b,ab,a^2b,a^4\\ G_{12/3} &\cong& A_4,\ j=7\\ && (),(123),(234),(124),(134),(14)(23),(12)(34),(13)(24),(142),(143),(243),(132)\\ G_{12/4} &=& \langle a,b:a^6=b^2=e,ab=ba^{-1}\rangle\cong D_{12},\ j=6\\ &e,a,a^2b,a^5,a^4b,ab,a^3,a^3b,a^5b,b,a^4,a^2 \end{array}$$

Order 16:

$$\begin{array}{lll} G_{16/3} &=& \langle a,b,c:a^4=b^2=c^2=e,ab=bac, [a,c]=[b,c]=e\rangle, \ j=6\\ &e,a,a^3,a^3c,a^2b,bc,a^2c,b,ab,ac,abc,c,a^3bc,a^2bc,a^3b,a^2\\ G_{16/4} &=& \langle a,b:a^4=b^4=e,ab=ba^{-1}\rangle, \ j=13\\ &e,a^2b,a^3b^3,a^3,ab^3,a^2,a,a^3b^2,b,b^3,a^2b^3,a^3b,a^2b^2,ab,ab^2,b^2\\ G_{16/9} &=& \langle a,b:a^8=e,b^2=a^4,ab=ba^{-1}\rangle\cong Q_{16}, \ j=5\\ &e,a^2b,ab,a,a^7,a^6,b,a^3b,a^7b,a^5b,a^2,a^5,a^6b,a^3,a^4b,a^4\\ G_{16/11} &=& \langle a,b,c:a^4=b^2=c^2=e,ab=ba^{-1}, [a,c]=[b,c]=e\rangle\cong D_8\times\mathbb{Z}_2, \ j=8\\ &e,a^3c,a^3,a,b,a^3b,bc,a^2c,a^2b,c,ab,a^3bc,a^2bc,ac,abc,a^2\\ G_{16/12} &=& \langle a,b,c:a^4=c^2=e,b^2=a^2,ab=ba^{-1}, [a,c]=[b,c]=e\rangle\cong Q_8\times\mathbb{Z}_2, \ j=10\\ &e,b,ab,ac,bc,c,a,a^3c,a^3b,a^2c,a^3bc,abc,a^2b,a^2bc,a^3,a^2\\ \end{array}$$

$$G_{16/13} = \langle a, b, c : a^2 = b^2 = c^4 = e, ab = bac^2, [a, c] = [b, c] = e \rangle \rangle, \ j = 8$$

$$e, c, ac^2, abc^2, bc^3, ac, bc, b, c^3, ab, bc^2, ac^3, abc, abc^3, a, c^2$$

Order 20:

$$\begin{array}{rcl} G_{20/1} &=& \langle a,b:a^{10}=e,b^2=a^5,ab=ba^{-1}\rangle \cong Q_{20}, \ j=9\\ && e,b,a^6b,ab,a^4b,a,a^3b,a^7,a^6,a^9,a^2b,a^2,a^4,a^8b,a^7b,a^8,a^5b,a^9b,a^3,a^5\\ G_{20/3} &=& \langle a,b:a^5=b^4=e,ab=ba^2\rangle, \ j=17\\ && e,a^2,ab,a^3,a^4b^3,ab^3,a^2b^2,a^2b,b^2,a,a^4b^2,b,a^3b,a^3b^3,a^3b^2,ab^2,a^2b^3,a^4b,b^3,a^4b^2\\ G_{20/4} &=& \langle a,b:a^{10}=b^2=e,ab=ba^{-1}\rangle \cong D_{20}, \ j=5\\ && e,a^6,a^4b,a^5,a^8b,a^3b,b,a^4,a^5b,a^8,a^2b,a^9b,a^7b,a^6b,a,ab,a^9,a^7,a^3,a^2\\ \end{array}$$

The smallest order for which Bailey's conjecture is not settled is 64. The abelian case for this order was proven in [9, 11]. Of the 256 non-abelian groups of order 64, only three were known to have terraces prior to this work [8]. The extendable terraces for groups of order 16 above imply that at least 25 further non-abelian groups of order 64 are terraced (this is the number of groups that have commuting elements in *all* pairs of commuting cosets of some central Klein 4-group to use in Theorem 2). Combining this with the known ones and the new terraces here for S_{64} and M_{64} gives a total of 30. There are 208 non-abelian groups of order 64 that have a central Klein 4-group with at least one pair of commuting cosets that contain a pair of commuting elements; many of these may fall to Theorem 2 if an appropriate extendable terrace for the quotient group of order 16 can be found.

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