# Small cycles, generalized prisms and Hamiltonian cycles in the Bubble-sort graph

Elena V. Konstantinova<sup>a</sup>, Alexey N. Medvedev<sup>b,\*</sup>

<sup>a</sup>Sobolev Institute of Mathematics, Novosibisk State University, Novosibirsk, Russia <sup>b</sup>ICTEAM, Université catholique de Louvain, Louvain-la-Neuve, Belgium

### Abstract

The Bubble-sort graph  $BS_n$ ,  $n \ge 2$ , is a Cayley graph over the symmetric group  $Sym_n$  generated by transpositions from the set  $\{(12), (23), \ldots, (n-1n)\}$ . It is a bipartite graph containing all even cycles of length  $\ell$ , where  $4 \leq \ell \leq n!$ . We give an explicit combinatorial characterization of all its 4- and 6-cycles. Based on this characterization, we define generalized prisms in  $BS_n$ ,  $n \ge 5$ , and present a new approach to construct a Hamiltonian cycle based on these generalized

from the set {(12), (23), ..., (n - 1n)}. It is a unparate graph of the set {(12), (23), ..., (n - 1n)}. It is a unparate graph of the set {(12), (23), ..., (n - 1n)}. It is a unparate graph of the set {(12), (23), ..., (n - 1n)}. It is a unparate graph of the set {(12), (23), ..., (n - 1n)}. It is a unparate graph of the set {(12), (23), ..., (n - 1n)}. It is a unparate graph of the set {(12), (23), ..., (n - 1n)}. It is a unparate graph of the set {(12), (23), ..., (n - 1n)}. It is a unparate graph of the symmetric group is graph over the symmetric graph  $BS_n = Cay(Sym_n, B)$ ,  $n \ge 2$ , is a Cayley graph over the symmetric group  $Sym_n$  of permutation for the symmetric group is give following  $\binom{n}{2}$  Draid relations [11]: We start by introducing a few definitions. The Bubblesort graph  $BS_n = Cay(Sym_n, B)$ ,  $n \ge 2$ , is a Cayley graph over the symmetric group  $Sym_n$  of permutation for the symmetric group is give following  $\binom{n}{2}$  Draid relations [11]: biabine ibiabine it is a connected bipartite it does not contain odd cycles but it contains all even l - cycles where  $l = 4, \dots, n!$  [1]. The graph  $BS_n$ ,  $n \ge 3$ , is constructed from n copies (2). Since this graph also follows from result edges from the set { $[\pi_1\pi_2 \dots \pi_{n-1}i]$ ,  $[\pi_1\pi_2 \dots \pi_{n-1}i]$ ,

the theory of polytopes where  $BS_n$  is considered as 1skeleton of the Permutahedron [6], in knot theory [7] and the theory of reflection groups and Coxeter groups [8, 9, 10]. It is known that all transpositions  $b_i = (i \ i + 1)$ ,  $1 \leq i \leq n-1$ , from the set  $\mathcal{B}$  can be considered as (n-1)braids on n strands forming the braid group  $B_n$ . There is a surjective group homomorphism  $B_n \to Sym_n$  from the

Email addresses: e\_konsta@math.nsc.ru (Elena V. Konstantinova), an\_medvedev@yahoo.com (Alexey N. Medvedev) braid group into the symmetric group so that the Coxeter presentation of the symmetric group is given by the

$$b_i b_{i+1} b_i = b_{i+1} b_i b_{i+1}, 1 \leqslant i \leqslant n-2; \tag{1}$$

$$b_j b_i = b_i b_j, 1 \leqslant i < j - 1 \leqslant n - 2.$$

$$\tag{2}$$

It is known (see, for example \$1.9 in [8] or [9]) that if any permutation  $\pi$  is presented by two minimal length expressions u and v in terms of generating elements from the set  $\mathcal{B}$ , then u and v can be transformed to each other using only the braid relations (1) and (2). However, these relations are not the only set and not the smallest set for

Let us note that the relations (1) and (2) form a 6-cycle and a 4-cycle in the Bubble-sort graph  $BS_n$  for any  $n \ge 3$ and for any  $n \ge 4$ , correspondingly. As it follows below, we use a cycle description presented in [12] to characterize small cycles in the Pancake graph, and then applied in the

Two simple paths in a graph are called *non-intersecting*, if they have no common vertices. A sequence of transpositions  $C_{\ell} = b_{i_0} \dots b_{i_{\ell-1}}$ , where  $1 \leq i_j \leq n-1$ , and  $i_j \neq i_{j+1}$ for any  $0 \leq j \leq \ell - 1$ , such that  $\pi b_{i_0} \dots b_{i_{\ell-1}} = \pi$ , where  $\pi \in Sym_n$ , is said to be a form of a cycle  $C_\ell$  of length  $\ell$  in the Bubble-sort graph. A cycle  $C_{\ell}$  of length  $\ell$  is called an  $\ell$ -cycle. It is evident that any  $\ell$ -cycle can be presented by  $2\ell$  forms (not necessarily different) with respect to a vertex and a direction. The canonical form  $C_{\ell}$  of an  $\ell$ -cycle is called a form with a lexicographically maximal sequence of indices  $i_0 \ldots i_{\ell-1}$ . For cycles of a form  $C_{\ell} = b_a b_b \cdots b_a b_b$ , where  $\ell = 2 k$ , and  $b_a b_b$  appears k times, we write  $C_{\ell} = (b_a b_b)^k$ . In particular,  $BS_3 \cong C_6$ with the following canonical form:

$$C_6 = b_2 b_1 b_2 b_1 b_2 b_1 = (b_2 b_1)^3.$$
(3)

April 6, 2021

<sup>\*</sup>Corresponding author



Figure 1: Examples of the Bubble-Sort graphs (a)  $BS_3$  and (b)  $BS_4$ 

This representation admits the braid relation (1) for n = 3. In the case when n = 4, for 6-cycles there are two canonical forms  $C_6 = b_{i+1}b_ib_{i+1}b_ib_{i+1}b_i = (b_{i+1}b_i)^3$ , where i = 1, 2, meeting the same braid relations (1). Moreover, for 4-cycles there is the canonical form  $C_4 = b_3b_1b_3b_1 = (b_3 b_1)^2$  which admits the braid relation (2). It is evident from the Figure 1, (b), that the 4- and 6-cycles have no other canonical representation that is different from the braid relations in  $BS_4$ . The natural questions arising here is about existence of canonical forms of small cycles not admitting the braid relations in the Bubble-sort graph  $BS_n$  for any  $n \ge 4$ .

In this paper we give complete combinatorial characterization of 4- and 6-cycles, which is presented in the following two theorems.

**Theorem 1.** Each of vertices of  $BS_n$ ,  $n \ge 4$ , belongs to (n-2)(n-3)/2 distinct 4-cycles of the following canonical form:

$$C_4 = (b_j b_i)^2, \quad 1 \le i \le n-3, \, i+2 \le j \le n-1.$$
 (4)

In total, there are  $\frac{(n-2)(n-3)n!}{8}$  distinct 4-cycles in  $BS_n$ .

Instead of explicitly writing two index conditions as in Equation (4), for the sake of simplicity we use the compound version, given as  $1 \le i \le j-2 \le n-3$ .

**Theorem 2.** Each of vertices of  $BS_n$ ,  $n \ge 3$ , belongs to (n-2) distinct 6-cycles of the canonical form:

$$C_6^1 = (b_i \, b_{i+1})^3, \quad 1 \le i \le n-2, \ n \ge 3;$$
 (5)

when  $n \ge 5$ , each vertex belongs to 3(n-2)(n-3) distinct

6-cycles of the canonical form:

$$C_{6}^{2} = b_{j} b_{i+1} b_{i} b_{j} b_{i} b_{i+1}, \quad 1 \leq i \leq j-3 \leq n-4, or$$
  
$$1 \leq j \leq i-2 \leq n-4; \quad (6)$$

when  $n \ge 6$ , each vertex belongs to  $\frac{(n-3)(n-4)(n-5)}{2}$  distinct 6-cycles of the canonical form:

$$C_6^3 = (b_k \, b_j \, b_i)^2, \quad 1 \le i \le j - 2 \le k - 4 \le n - 5;$$
 (7)

 $C_{6}^{4} = b_{k} b_{j} b_{i} b_{k} b_{i} b_{j}, \quad 1 \leq i \leq j - 2 \leq k - 4 \leq n - 5; \quad (8)$   $C_{6}^{5} = b_{k} b_{j} b_{k} b_{i} b_{j} b_{i}, \quad 1 \leq i \leq j - 2 \leq k - 4 \leq n - 5; \quad (9)$   $C_{6}^{6} = b_{k} b_{i} b_{k} b_{j} b_{i} b_{j}, \quad 1 \leq i \leq j - 2 \leq k - 4 \leq n - 5. \quad (10)$ In total, there are  $(2n^{3} - 21n^{2} + 80n - 104)\frac{n!}{6}$  distinct 6-cycles in  $BS_{n}$ .

Hamiltonian cycles are one of the main objects of study in graph theory, and without doubt they also have numerous applications in various fields of science. The question of existence is as well important as the proposal of different constructions of these cycles, which is related to finding new Gray codes in combinatorial graphs [14] or various embeddings [15]. In this paper, we propose a new algorithm for constructing the Hamiltonian cycle, which is based on a maximal cover of the graph with generalized prisms. For any graph H, the generalized prism, denoted as 2-H, is defined as the Cartesian product  $H \times K_2$  [16]. The maximal cover of a graph G = (V, E) by subgraphs  $H \subset G$  is a vertex-disjoint embedding of a collection of  $H_1, H_2, \ldots, H_k$ , where  $H_i \cong H$  for each *i*, such that each vertex  $v \in V$  belongs to some  $H_i$ . The Hamiltonian cycle based on a maximal cover  $H_1, H_2, \ldots, H_k$  is the cycle that is formed by finding appropriate Hamiltonian paths in each copy of  $H_i$  and fastening them together by the edges between these subgraphs to form the closed Hamiltonian cycle in the original graph. Similar idea was successfully used to construct Hamiltonian cycles in vertex-transitive graphs (see e.g. [14], [17], [18]). Our result is presented in the following theorem.

**Theorem 3.** In graph  $BS_n$ ,  $n \ge 5$ , there exists a Hamiltonian cycle based on the maximal cover by generalized prisms  $2 \cdot BS_{n-2}$ .

Although we prove the existence of the cycle, the proof is constructive and the construction suggests there are multiple Hamiltonian cycles of the presented type.

In the literature we could find three proposed Hamiltonian cycle constructions in the Bubble-sort graph. The famous Steinhaus-Johnson-Trotter algorithm [2, 4] produces a Hamiltonian cycle, which is merely based on the permutation structure, rather than the structure of the graph, and it is different from our algorithm. T. Manneville and V. Pilaud in [19] proposed a similar method of constructing a Hamiltonian cycle in a general family of 1-skeletons of graph associahedra. However their method, in simple words, was based on the hierarchical structure, thus using  $b_{n-1}$ -edges to connect the chunks of a Hamiltonian cycle in the copies of  $BS_{n-1}$ . Another construction that also utilizes the fastening method was proposed in [20]. The authors used a lexicographical ordering of permutations in  $BS_n$  to obtain subgraphs isomorphic to  $BS_{n-1}$  and by connecting them through 4-cycles also get a Hamiltonian cycle. All the proposed methods are different from our algorithm and we provide the detailed explanation using graph-theoretic language, making it accessible to a wider community.

The rest of the paper is structured as follows. In the Section 2 we present the proof of Theorems 1 and 2 and in the Section 3 we present the details of the Hamiltonian cycle construction in the case of general n and the proof of Theorem 3.

### 2. Characterization of small cycles

The general idea of the proofs is based on considering two antipodal vertices  $\pi$  and  $\tau$  of the  $2\ell$ -cycle, where  $\ell = 4, 6$  and finding two non-intersecting  $\ell$ -paths between them (see Figure 2). For any positive integer  $d \leq n-2$ , the element  $\pi_i$  of a permutation  $\pi \in Sym_n$ , where  $1 \leq i \leq$ n-d-1, is called to be *shifted* d steps to the right from its original position, if  $\tau_{i+d} = \pi_i$ . This is achieved by applying the sequence of transpositions  $(b_{i+1}, b_{i+2}, \ldots, b_{i+d})$ .

In case of each  $\ell$ , we subdivide the proof into cases, depending on the number of shifted elements of  $\pi$  and the distance they are shifted along the  $(\pi, \tau)$ -path. It is obvious that along the  $(\tau, \pi)$ -path the same elements must be shifted back to the left to their original positions, and therefore we only consider shifting to the right. Since we



Figure 2: Example of  $(\pi, \tau)$ - and  $(\tau, \pi)$ -paths in a 6-cycle.

consider cycles of small length, we evade looking into more complicated shifts along the paths.

We call two transpositions  $b_i$  and  $b_j$  independent, if  $i \neq j-1, j+1$ . Otherwise the transpositions are called *dependent*. The main properties of such transpositions used in the proofs can be formulated as follows.

**Proposition 1.** Let  $\pi$  and  $\tau$  be the vertices of the Bubblesort graph  $BS_n, n \ge 3$ , and let the  $(\pi, \tau)$ -path of length d, where  $d \le n - 2$ , is given by a sequence of successively dependent transpositions then there is no non-intersecting  $(\tau, \pi)$ -path of length d.

*Proof.* For any j, where  $1 \leq j \leq n-d$ , the sequence of transpositions  $(b_j b_{j+1} \dots b_{j+d-1})$  acts on  $\pi$  as shifting of the element j to position j+d. Since this is the only moved element, the backward  $(\tau, \pi)$ -path of the same length inevitably has all the transpositions in reverse order. Hence, the path is unique.

### 2.1. Proof of Theorem 1

We present now the complete description of 4-cycles.

*Proof.* Since the graph is vertex-transitive, let  $\pi = [12...n]$ . For any two antipodal vertices  $\pi$  and  $\tau$  of a 4-cycle, the length of the  $(\pi, \tau)$ -path equals two. We prove the statement by considering all possible cases of the shifted elements of  $\pi$  along the  $(\pi, \tau)$ -path and describing the set of non-intersecting  $(\tau, \pi)$ -paths. Obviously, the number of shifted elements should not be greater than two.

Shift of the one element is equivalent to having only two dependent transpositions on the  $(\pi, \tau)$ -path and by Proposition 1 such a path is unique. If two elements are shifted, then  $(\pi, \tau)$ -path consists of two independent transpositions  $b_i b_j$ , where  $1 \leq i \leq n-3$  and  $i+3 \leq j \leq n-1$ . Since transpositions are independent, shuffling those will result in another path, which is a non-intersecting  $(\tau, \pi)$ -path defined as  $b_j b_i$ .

Altogether the canonical form of the only possible 4cycles is given in (4). It is straightforward to obtain the number of distinct cycles given by this family of forms. The number of possible pairs of indices is (n-2)(n-3)/2 and each form describes one distinct 4-cycle passing through a given vertex, thus in total there are (n-2)(n-3)/2 distinct 4-cycles passing through a given vertex and the total number of distinct 4-cycles in  $BS_n$  is  $\frac{(n-2)(n-3)n!}{8}$ . This completes the proof.



Figure 3: Illustration for the order of two shifted elements. Orders I) and III) produce the same form; cycle in order II) is impossible.

### 2.2. Proof of Theorem 2

We present now the complete description of 6-cycles.

*Proof.* Consider two antipodal vertices  $\pi = [12...n]$  and  $\tau$  of a 6-cycle. The length of the  $(\pi, \tau)$ -path is equal to three. We prove the statement by considering all possible cases of the shifted elements of  $\pi$  along the  $(\pi, \tau)$ -path and describing the set of non-intersecting  $(\tau, \pi)$ -paths. The number of such elements should not be greater than three. This turns to considering the following cases.

**Case 1: one shifted element.** Suppose the element *i* is shifted to the position i + 3. In order to do so, the sequence  $b_i b_{i+1} b_{i+2}$  should be applied to  $\pi$ , which consists of successively dependent transpositions and by Proposition 1 such  $(\pi, \tau)$ -path is unique. Hence, no 6-cycle is possible in this case.

**Case 2: two shifted elements.** Suppose the element i is shifted to the position i + 2 and another element j is shifted to j + 1. In order to do so, the sequence  $b_i b_{i+1}$  and the transposition  $b_j$  should be applied to  $\pi$ . There are three possible orders of application (see Figure 3):

I) 
$$b_i b_{i+1} b_j$$
; II)  $b_i b_j b_{i+1}$ ; III)  $b_j b_i b_{i+1}$ . (11)

There are two possibilities: either  $b_j$  is independent from  $b_i$  and  $b_{i+1}$  or not.

If  $b_i$  is independent from  $b_i$  and  $b_{i+1}$ , then in order to shift the element i back to the initial position, we need to apply the sequence  $b_i b_{i+1}$  in inverse order on  $(\tau, \pi)$ -path. By analyzing the possible ways of this operation (see Figure 3), we find the only possible cycle form  $b_j b_i b_{i+1} b_j b_{i+1} b_i$ , which corresponds to (6) from the statement. Since  $b_j$  is independent from  $b_i$  and  $b_{i+1}$ , then either  $i+3 \leq j$  or  $j \leq i-2$ . In the first case we have  $1 \leq i \leq n-4$  and  $i+3 \leq j \leq n-1$ . Taking the double sum over both these conditions we obtain (n-3)(n-4)/2. In the second case we have  $1 \leq j \leq n-3$  and  $j+2 \leq i \leq n-1$ , which gives the another (n-3)(n-4)/2 forms. In total, this leaves us with exactly (n-2)(n-3) distinct forms given by (6) and due to symmetries each form describes three distinct cycles passing through a given vertex, in total giving 3(n-2)(n-3)distinct cycles.

If  $b_j$  is dependent on  $b_i$  or  $b_{i+1}$ , then either j = i, j = i + 1 or j = i - 1. Along the  $(\tau, \pi)$ -path we must apply the sequence  $b_i b_{i+1}$  in the inverse order, thus for each choice I), II) and III) of  $(\pi, \tau)$ -path there exists a unique description of possible  $(\tau, \pi)$ -path. In case  $(\pi, \tau)$ path is given by I), then for j = i the non-intersecting  $(\tau, \pi)$ -path is given as  $b_{i+1} b_i b_{i+1}$ , whereas j = i - 1 and j = i + 1 are impossible. In case  $(\pi, \tau)$ -path is given by III), then for j = i + 1 the non-intersecting  $(\tau, \pi)$ -path is given as  $b_i b_{i+1} b_i$ , whereas j = i - 1 and j = i are impossible. The case of  $(\pi, \tau)$ -path given by II) is also impossible. Therefore, we have the only form of a 6-cycle given by  $b_{i+1} b_i b_{i+1} b_i b_{i+1} b_i$ , which corresponds to (5) in the statement. The number of distinct forms described by (5) is n - 2, and each form describes one cycle passing through a given vertex, in total giving (n - 2) distinct cycles.

**Case 3: three shifted elements.** Suppose the element *i* is shifted to the position i + 1 by  $b_i$ . Then we have two other elements *j* and *k* shifted to the positions j + 1 and k + 1 by independent transpositions  $b_j$  and  $b_k$  correspondingly. Suppose the  $(\pi, \tau)$ -path is given by  $b_i b_j b_k$ . The sole restriction on the non-intersecting  $(\tau, \pi)$ -path is that the two incident edges to  $\pi$  and  $\tau$  should be different. Therefore, we have two non-intersecting  $(\tau, \pi)$ -paths: 1)  $b_j b_k b_i$  and 2)  $b_k b_i b_j$ . Further, we note there are chords between pairs of paths  $(b_i b_j b_k, b_j b_k b_i)$ ,  $(b_j b_k b_i, b_k b_i b_j)$  and  $(b_i b_j b_k, b_k b_i b_j)$  (see Figure 4). Thus, combining all the non-intersecting pairs of paths, we obtain four distinct canonical forms of cycles described by (7)-(10) in the statement. We note that these 6-cycles appear only when  $n \ge 6$ .

One may see from the Figure 4 that paths form a subgraph of a 3-cube. Therefore any permutation of indices



Figure 4: Case of three shifted elements: three possible non-intersecting  $(\pi, \tau)$ -paths with chords between them produce a graph isomorphic to a 3-cube.



Figure 5: The graph  $BS_5$  with apparent 6-prism structure marked with different colors.

i, j, k leaves us inside the same subgraph and in order to calculate the number of distinct forms N(6) given by each of (7)-(10) it is only necessary to calculate the number of possible ordered triples (i, j, k), such that  $i \leq j-2 \leq k-4$ . We note that for n = 6 there is only one way to select three independent transpositions, thus N(6) = 1. Increasing n by one produces extra triples only by fixing the k = n - 1, which is  $\sum_{j=3}^{n-3} \sum_{i=1}^{j-2} 1 = (n-4)(n-5)/2$ , hence the following

relation holds for  $n \ge 7$ :

$$N(n) = N(n-1) + \frac{(n-4)(n-5)}{2}.$$

From this relation, we immediately have the number  $N(n) = \frac{(n-3)(n-4)(n-5)}{6}$ . Due to symmetries, each of the four forms (7)-(10) describes three distinct cycles passing through a given vertex, all in total giving a contribution of 2(n-3)(n-4)(n-5) distinct cycles.

In total, the graph  $BS_n$  contains

$$((n-2) + 3(n-2)(n-3) + 2(n-3)(n-4)(n-5))\frac{n!}{6}$$
$$= (2n^3 - 21n^2 + 80n - 104)\frac{n!}{6} \quad (12)$$

cycles of length 6. This completes the proof.

# 3. Hamiltonian cycles in $BS_n$ based on generalised prisms

In this section we give a description of a Hamiltonian cycle in the Bubble-sort graph  $BS_n$  based on graphical

prisms. We first show the existence of such cycles in the graph  $BS_5$ . Then the algorithm is further extended to the general case  $n \ge 5$ . We start the section with a few definitions and a technical lemma.

The parity of a permutation  $\pi \in Sym_n$  may be defined as the parity of the number of transpositions in the canonical representation of  $\pi$ . Let us remind, that the Bubble-sort graph is bipartite, since each multiplication by a generating transposition changes parity of a permutation. The graph of an n-prism,  $n \ge 3$ , is called the graph of a Cartesian product  $C_n \times K_2$  of the cycle of length nand the complete graph on two vertices. A graph is called Hamilton-connected if any two vertices of a graph are connected by a Hamiltonian path. The following proposition is well known for prisms (see e.g. [21]).

**Proposition 2.** The graph of n-prism is Hamilton-connected if and only if n is odd.

The Hamiltonian cycle is constructed using generalized prisms. Remind that for any graph G the generalised prism 2-G is defined as the Cartesian product  $G \times K_2$ . Let the graph G have a maximal vertex cover by subgraphs, isomorphic to a subgraph  $H \subset G$ . Then, the factor graph  $G_{H} = (V, E)$  is the graph whose nodes V represent covering subgraphs and there is an edge  $(V_1, V_2) \in E$  if in the original graph G there is an edge between some nodes  $u \in V_1$  and  $v \in V_2$ .

In the graph  $BS_n$ , where  $n \ge 5$ , we observe the presence of generalized prisms 2- $BS_{n-2}$ , whose vertex set is



Figure 6: a) Example of a 6-prism (or  $\mathcal{GP}_5$ ); b) Schematic example of a generalised prism  $\mathcal{GP}_6$ .

given by

$$\left\{ \left[ \pi_1 \dots \pi_{n-2} \, i \, j \right] \cup \left[ \pi_1 \dots \pi_{n-2} \, j \, i \right] \colon \pi_k \in \{1, \dots, n\} \setminus \{i, j\} \right\},\$$

for fixed  $i \neq j \in \{1, \ldots, n\}$  and the edge set includes edges, that correspond to transpositions  $b_1, \ldots, b_{n-3}, b_{n-1}$ . Further, note that  $b_{n-1}$ -edges only connect vertices of two copies of  $BS_{n-2}$ , since they permute only the last two elements of a permutation. Let us denote further for simplicity the 2- $BS_{n-2}$  as  $\mathcal{GP}_n$ . On the Figure 6 we show an example of the  $\mathcal{GP}_6$ . By hierarchical structure, it is straightforward to show that there exists a maximal cover of  $BS_n$  by  $\mathcal{GP}_n$ , therefore there exists the factor graph  $\Gamma_n = \frac{BS_n}{\mathcal{GP}_n}$ .

Let us describe the structure of the factor graph  $\Gamma_n$ . Since, the vertex set of any  $\mathcal{GP}_n$  contains all vertices with the last two elements fixed, then vertices of  $\Gamma_n$  can be encoded by unordered pairs of elements  $\{i, j\}$  from  $\{1, 2, \ldots, n\}$ and a specific prism on vertices with last elements i, j we denote as  $\mathcal{GP}_n(i, j)$ . Following the connectivity between copies of  $\mathcal{GP}_n$ , which is given by the edges corresponding to transposition  $b_{n-2}$ , two prisms  $\mathcal{GP}_n(i_1, j_1)$  and  $\mathcal{GP}_n(i_2, j_2)$ are connected iff  $\{i_1, j_1\} \cap \{i_2, j_2\} = 1$ . Hence  $\Gamma_n$  is isomorphic to the Johnson graph J(n, 2), which is proven to be Hamiltonian and even Hamilton-connected [22]. For the sake of visual presentation we refer to Figure 5 with an example of the covering of the graph  $BS_5$  by prisms  $\mathcal{GP}_5(2, 4)$ 

Furthermore, we note that any two factor vertices of  $\mathcal{GP}_n$  are connected through  $\mathcal{GP}_{n-1}$ , meaning that for any appropriate k all vertices of one  $\mathcal{GP}_{n-1}(k, i, j) \subset \mathcal{GP}_n(i, j)$  on the vertices of type  $[\dots k i j]$  with fixed last elements k, i, j are connected to the vertices of  $\mathcal{GP}_{n-1}(i, k, j) \subset \mathcal{GP}_n(k, j)$  on the vertices of type  $[\dots i k j]$  with fixed last elements i, k, j.

### 3.1. Proof of Theorem 3

*Proof.* We use the lifting method to construct the Hamiltonian cycle. We showed above that the factor graph is nice enough, thus we need to prove a certain statement about the connectivity of  $\mathcal{GP}_n$ .

**Proposition 3.** In the graph of the  $\mathcal{GP}_n \subset BS_n$ , where  $n \ge 5$ , for a given vertex  $\pi$  and any vertex  $\tau$ , such that the parity  $\omega(\pi) \ne \omega(\tau)$ , there is a Hamiltonian path with end vertices  $\pi$  and  $\tau$ .

*Proof.* By definition, the prism  $\mathcal{GP}_n$  is represented as two copies of  $BS_{n-2}^1$  and  $BS_{n-2}^2$ , put one above the other and connected by  $b_{n-1}$ -edges between nodes of respective copies. Since the graph  $BS_n$  is Hamiltonian for any  $n \ge 3$ , let us fix some Hamiltonian cycles  $H_{n-2}^1 \in BS_{n-2}^1$  and  $H_{n-2}^2 \in BS_{n-2}^2$  of similar structure, i.e. such that if an edge  $(\pi_1, \pi_2) \in H_{n-2}^1$ , then it implies that  $(\pi_1 b_{n-1}, \pi_2 b_{n-1}) \in$  $H_{n-2}^2$ .

The graph  $BS_n$  is bipartite, thus any path between two nodes of the opposite parity has odd length and between the nodes of the same parity the length is even. We shall use this fact to construct the desired Hamiltonian path between  $\pi$  and  $\tau$ . Since the graph is vertex-transitive, let us fix the vertex  $\pi$  in the copy  $BS_{n-2}^1$  and consider two cases of placement of the vertex  $\tau$ .

**Case 1.** Let  $\tau$  be in the same copy  $BS_{n-2}^1$ . Then, denote  $\overline{\pi} = \pi b_{n-1}$  and  $\overline{\tau} = \tau b_{n-1}$ . The nodes  $\overline{\pi}$  and  $\overline{\tau}$ are of different parity, thus the  $(\overline{\pi}, \overline{\tau})$ -path has odd length. Therefore, we can start the Hamiltonian path at  $\pi$ , then proceed in alternating way as shown on Figure 7 until we reach  $\overline{\tau}$ . Then we continue the path in the copy  $BS_{n-2}^2$ until we reach the direct neighbour of the vertex  $\overline{\pi}$  in the  $H_{n-2}^2$ . Moving back to the  $BS_{n-2}^1$  and following the unvisited part of  $H_{n-2}^1$  we reach the vertex  $\tau$ , thus obtaining the desired Hamiltonian path.

**Case 2.** Let  $\tau$  be in the different copy  $BS_{n-2}^2$ . Let us again denote  $\overline{\pi} = \pi b_{n-1}$  and  $\overline{\tau} = \tau b_{n-1}$ . The nodes  $\pi$ and  $\overline{\tau}$  are of the same parity, thus the  $(\pi, \overline{\tau})$ -path has even length. Therefore, we can start the Hamiltonian path at  $\pi$ , then proceed along the  $H_{n-2}^1$  until we reach the direct neighbour of  $\overline{\tau}$  as shown on Figure 7. Then we move to the copy  $BS_{n-2}^2$  and continue along the path  $H_{n-2}^2$  backwards (without passing through  $\tau$ ) until we reach the vertex  $\overline{\pi}$ in the  $H_{n-2}^2$ . The distance between the direct neighbour of  $\overline{\pi}$  and  $\tau$  is odd, since the length of the  $H_{n-2}^2$  is even and the traversed segment of  $H_{n-2}^1$  and  $H_{n-2}^2$  is of odd length, therefore we can continue in the alternating way



Figure 7: Schematic structure of the Hamiltonian path construction in prisms from Proposition 3.

until we reach the vertex  $\tau$  (see Figure 7), thus obtaining the desired Hamiltonian path.

We now turn to the proof of the main theorem. The Hamiltonian cycle in  $\Gamma_n$  defines the traversal sequence  $\mathcal{GP}_n^{(j_1)} \to \mathcal{GP}_n^{(j_2)} \to \cdots \to \mathcal{GP}_n^{(j_m)} \to \mathcal{GP}_n^{(j_1)}$  of generalized prisms and let us construct the lifted cycle in the original graph. Let us fix the vertex incident to the edge between  $\mathcal{GP}_n^{(j_1)}$  and  $\mathcal{GP}_n^{(j_2)}$  as a starting vertex  $\pi_{(j_1)}$  with parity  $\omega$ . Traversing this edge will change the parity, and the adjacent vertex  $\tau_{(j_2)}$  in  $\mathcal{GP}_n^{(j_2)}$  will have an opposite parity  $\overline{\omega}$ . By Proposition 3, there is a Hamiltonian path that ends in a vertex  $\pi_{(j_2)}$  with opposite parity  $\omega$  which is adjacent to  $\tau_{(j_3)}$  in  $\mathcal{GP}_n^{(j_3)}$ . Traversing to  $\tau_{(j_3)}$  changes the parity again to  $\overline{\omega}$ , which was the case for  $\tau_{(j_2)}$ . Proceeding in this way, the parity of the starting and ending vertices in the prisms will be different, hence when the construction arrives back to the starting prism  $\mathcal{GP}_n^{(j_1)}$ , the ending vertex  $\tau_{(j_1)}$  will have parity  $\overline{\omega}$ , opposite from the parity of  $\pi_{(j_1)}$ . Therefore, this vertex is at the odd distance from  $\pi_{(i_1)}$  and connecting them with a Hamiltonian path will result in a Hamiltonian cycle in the original graph  $BS_n$ . This finishes the proof of the Theorem 3. 

### Acknowledgement

The authors thank Zahary Hamaker for referring us to permutahedra, which have direct relation to the graph under our consideration and Valeriy Bardakov for providing insights regarding permutahedra. We thank the anonymous reviewers for their valuable suggestions that helped to improve the quality of the manuscript. This work was supported partially by the grants 17-51-560008, 18-01-00353 and 19-01-00682 of the Russian Foundation for Basic Research.

### References

 Y. Kikuchi, T. Araki, Edge-bipancyclicity and edge-faulttolerant bipancyclicity of bubble-sort graphs, Information Processing Letters 100 (2006) 52–59.

- [2] S. M. Johnson, Generation of permutations by adjacent transposition, Mathematics of computation 17 (1963) 282–285.
- [3] V. L. Kompel'maher, V. A. Liskovec, Successive generation of permutations by means of a transposition basis, Kibernetika 3 (1975) 17–21.
- [4] H. F. Trotter, Algorithm 115: perm, Communications of the ACM 5 (1962) 434–435.
- [5] D. E. Knuth, Generating all permutations, Addison-Wesley Professional, 2013.
- [6] R. R. Thomas, The Permutahedron, volume 33, American Mathematical Soc., 2006, pp. 85–92.
- [7] J. S. Birman, T. E. Brendle, Braids: a survey, in: W. Menasco, M. Thistlethwaite (Eds.), Handbook of knot theory, Elsevier Science, 2005, pp. 33–192.
- [8] J. E. Humphreys, Finite and affine reflection groups, volume 29, Cambridge university press, 1990.
- [9] R. C. Lyndon, P. E. Schupp, Small cancellation theory, in: Combinatorial group theory, Springer-Verlag, New York, 2001, pp. 235–294.
- [10] A. Y. Ol'shanskii, Geometry of defining relations in groups, volume 70, Springer Science & Business Media, 1991.
- [11] C. Kassel, V. Turaev, Braid groups, volume 247, Springer Science & Business Media, New York, 2008.
- [12] E. V. Konstantinova, A. N. Medvedev, Cycles of length seven in the pancake graph, Diskretnyi Analiz i Issledovanie Operatsii 17 (2010) 46–55.
- [13] E. V. Konstantinova, A. N. Medvedev, Small cycles in the star graph, Siberian Electronic Mathematical Reports 11 (2014) 906–914.
- [14] E. Konstantinova, A. Medvedev, Independent even cycles in the pancake graph and greedy prefix-reversal gray codes, Graphs and Combinatorics 32 (2016) 1965–1978.
- [15] H. Shi, P. Niu, J. Lu, One conjecture of bubble-sort graphs, Information Processing Letters 111 (2011) 926–929.
- [16] B. L. Piazza, R. D. Ringeisen, Connectivity of generalized prisms over G, Discrete Applied Mathematics 30 (1991) 229– 233.
- [17] B. Alspach, Lifting hamilton cycles of quotient graphs, Discrete Mathematics 78 (1989) 25–36.
- [18] K. Kutnar, P. Šparl, Hamilton paths and cycles in vertextransitive graphs of order 6p, Discrete Mathematics 309 (2009) 5444–5460.
- [19] T. Manneville, V. Pilaud, Graph properties of graph associahedra, Séminaire Lotharingien de Combinatoire 73 (2015) B73d.
- [20] M. El-Hashash, H. Burgiel, The permutahedron  $\pi_n$  is hamiltonian, International Journal of Contemporary Mathematical Sciences 4 (2009) 31–39.
- [21] P. Paulraja, A characterization of hamiltonian prisms, Journal of Graph Theory 17 (1993) 161–171.
- [22] B. Alspach, Johnson graphs are hamilton-connected, Ars Mathematica Contemporanea 6 (2012) 21–23.

# Appendix

In the Appendix we present the table of all Hamiltonian paths between any two nodes at odd distance in the 6-prism  $P_6(i,k)$ .

	All possible Hamiltonian paths with end vertices $(\pi, \tau)$	
$\pi b_{i-1}$	$ \begin{bmatrix} b_i  b_{i-1}  b_i  b_{i-1}  b_k  b_{i-1}  b_i  b_{i-1}  b_i  b_{i-1}  b_k \end{bmatrix}, \\ \begin{bmatrix} b_i  b_{i-1}  b_i  b_k  b_i  b_{i-1}  b_i  b_{i-1}  b_i  b_k  b_i \end{bmatrix}, \\ \begin{bmatrix} b_i  b_{i-1}  b_k  b_{i-1}  b_i  b_{i-1}  b_i  b_{i-1}  b_k  b_{i-1}  b_i \end{bmatrix}$	$ \begin{matrix} [b_i  b_k  b_i  b_{i-1}  b_i  b_{i-1}  b_i  b_k  b_i  b_{i-1}  b_i ], \\ [b_k  b_{i-1}  b_i  b_{i-1}  b_i  b_{i-1}  b_k  b_{i-1}  b_i  b_{i-1}  b_i ], \\ [b_k  b_i  b_k  b_{i-1}  b_k  b_i  b_k  b_{i-1}  b_k  b_i  b_k ] \end{matrix}$
$\pi  b_i$	$ \begin{matrix} [b_{i-1} \ b_i \ b_{i-1} \ b_i \ b_k \ b_i \ b_{i-1} \ b_i \ b_{i-1} \ b_i \ b_k \end{matrix} ], \\ [b_{i-1} \ b_i \ b_{i-1} \ b_k \ b_{i-1} \ b_i \ b_{i-1} \ b_i \ b_{i-1} \end{matrix} ], \\ [b_{i-1} \ b_i \ b_k \ b_i \ b_{i-1} \ b_i \ b_{i-1} \ b_i \ b_{k-1} \end{matrix} ], $	$ \begin{matrix} [b_{i-1}  b_k  b_{i-1}  b_i  b_{i-1}  b_i  b_{i-1}  b_k  b_{i-1}  b_i  b_{i-1}  ], \\ [b_k  b_{i-1}  b_k  b_i  b_k  b_{i-1}  b_k  b_i  b_k  b_{i-1}  b_k  ], \\ [b_k  b_i  b_{i-1}  b_i  b_{i-1}  b_i  b_k  b_i  b_{i-1}  b_i  b_{i-1}  ] \end{matrix} $
$\pi b_k$	$[b_{i-1} b_i b_{i-1} b_i b_{i-1} b_k b_{i-1} b_i b_{i-1} b_i b_{i-1}], [b_{i-1} b_k b_i b_k b_{i-1} b_k b_i b_k b_{i-1} b_k b_i],$	$[b_i  b_{i-1}  b_i  b_{i-1}  b_i  b_k  b_i  b_{i-1}  b_i  b_{i-1}  b_i], \ [b_i  b_k  b_{i-1}  b_k  b_i  b_k  b_{i-1}  b_k  b_i  b_k  b_{i-1}]$
$\pi \cdot b_{i-1} \\ b_i b_{i-1}$	$ \begin{bmatrix} b_{i-1} b_i b_k b_i b_{i-1} b_i b_k b_{i-1} b_k b_i b_k \end{bmatrix}, \\ \begin{bmatrix} b_{i-1} b_k b_{i-1} b_i b_k b_{i-1} b_k b_i b_{i-1} b_k b_i b_{i-1} b_k b_{i-1} \end{bmatrix}, \\ \begin{bmatrix} b_i b_{i-1} b_k b_{i-1} b_i b_{i-1} b_k b_i b_k b_{i-1} b_k \end{bmatrix}, $	$ \begin{matrix} [b_i  b_k  b_i  b_{i-1}  b_k  b_i  b_k  b_{i-1}  b_i  b_k  b_i], \\ [b_k  b_{i-1}  b_k  b_i  b_k  b_{i-1}  b_i  b_{i-1}  b_k  b_{i-1}  b_i], \\ [b_k  b_i  b_k  b_{i-1}  b_k  b_i  b_{i-1}  b_i  b_k  b_i  b_{i-1}] \end{matrix}$
$\pi \cdot b_{i-1} \ b_i  b_k$	$ \begin{bmatrix} b_{i-1} & b_i & b_{i-1} & b_k & b_i & b_k & b_{i-1} & b_k & b_i & b_{i-1} & b_i \end{bmatrix}, \\ \begin{bmatrix} b_{i-1} & b_k & b_{i-1} & b_i & b_k & b_{i-1} & b_k & b_i & b_k & b_{i-1} & b_k \end{bmatrix}, \\ \begin{bmatrix} b_i & b_{i-1} & b_i & b_{i-1} & b_i & b_k & b_{i-1} & b_i & b_{i-1} \end{bmatrix}, \\ \begin{bmatrix} b_i & b_{i-1} & b_i & b_k & b_i & b_{i-1} & b_i & b_{i-1} & b_k & b_i & b_k \end{bmatrix}, $	$ \begin{matrix} [b_i  b_{i-1}  b_k  b_{i-1}  b_i  b_{i-1}  b_k  b_i  b_{i-1}  b_k  b_{i-1}  ], \\ [b_i  b_k  b_i  b_{i-1}  b_k  b_i  b_{i-1}  b_i  b_k  b_i  b_{i-1}  ], \\ [b_k  b_{i-1}  b_k  b_i  b_{i-1}  b_i  b_{i-1}  b_k  b_{i-1}  b_i  b_{i-1}  ], \\ [b_k  b_i  b_k  b_{i-1}  b_k  b_i  b_{k-1}  b_i  b_k  b_i  ] \end{matrix} $
$\frac{\pi \cdot b_i}{b_{i-1}  b_k}$	$ \begin{bmatrix} b_{i-1} b_i b_{i-1} b_i b_{i-1} b_k b_i b_{i-1} b_i b_{i-1} b_i \end{bmatrix}, \\ \begin{bmatrix} b_{i-1} b_i b_{i-1} b_k b_{i-1} b_i b_{i-1} b_i b_{i-1} b_i b_{k-1} b_i \end{bmatrix}, \\ \begin{bmatrix} b_{i-1} b_i b_k b_i b_{i-1} b_i b_k b_{i-1} b_i b_k b_i \end{bmatrix}, \\ \begin{bmatrix} b_{i-1} b_k b_{i-1} b_i b_k b_{i-1} b_i b_{k-1} b_i b_{k-1} b_i b_{k-1} b_i \end{bmatrix}, \\ \begin{bmatrix} b_{i-1} b_k b_{i-1} b_i b_k b_{i-1} b_i b_k b_{i-1} b_i b_{k-1} b_i b_i b_{i-1} b_i \end{bmatrix}, $	$ \begin{array}{l} [b_i  b_{i-1}  b_i  b_k  b_{i-1}  b_k  b_i  b_k  b_{i-1}  b_i  b_{i-1}], \\ [b_i  b_k  b_i  b_{i-1}  b_k  b_i  b_k  b_{i-1}  b_k  b_i  b_k], \\ [b_k  b_{i-1}  b_k  b_i  b_k  b_{i-1}  b_k  b_i  b_{i-1}  b_k  b_{i-1}], \\ [b_k  b_i  b_k  b_{i-1}  b_i  b_{i-1}  b_i  b_k  b_i  b_{i-1}  b_i] \end{array} $

Table 1: The list of Hamiltonian paths from the source node  $\pi$  in the 6-prism  $P_6(i, k)$  to any possible node with the odd distance.