

# Block designs and strongly regular graphs admitting a transitive action of the Mathieu group $M_{11}$

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## Abstract

In this paper we construct transitive  $t$ -designs, for  $t \geq 2$ , and strongly regular graphs from the Mathieu group  $M_{11}$ . We classify transitive  $t$ -designs with 11, 12 and 22 points admitting a transitive action of Mathieu group  $M_{11}$ . The most important result of this classification is proving the existence of a 3-design with parameters 3-(22, 7, 18). Additionally, we prove the existence of 2-designs with certain parameters having 55 and 66 points. Furthermore, we classify strongly regular graphs on at most 450 vertices admitting a transitive action of the Mathieu group  $M_{11}$ .

## 1 Introduction

We assume that the reader is familiar with the basic facts of group theory, design theory and theory of strongly regular graphs. We refer the reader to [1, 23] for relevant background reading in design theory, to [5, 21] for relevant background reading in group theory, and to background reading in theory of strongly regular graphs we refer the reader to [1, 2, 23].

An incidence structure is an ordered triple  $\mathcal{D} = (\mathcal{P}, \mathcal{B}, \mathcal{I})$  where  $\mathcal{P}$  and  $\mathcal{B}$  are non-empty disjoint sets and  $\mathcal{I} \subseteq \mathcal{P} \times \mathcal{B}$ . The elements of the set  $\mathcal{P}$  are called points, the elements of the set  $\mathcal{B}$  are called blocks and  $\mathcal{I}$  is called an incidence relation. If  $|\mathcal{P}| = |\mathcal{B}|$ , then the incidence structure is called symmetric. The incidence matrix

of an incidence structure is a  $v \times b$  matrix  $[m_{ij}]$  where  $v$  and  $b$  are the numbers of points and blocks respectively, such that  $m_{ij} = 1$  if the point  $P_i$  and the block  $x_j$  are incident, and  $m_{ij} = 0$  otherwise. An isomorphism from one incidence structure to another is a bijective mapping of points to points and blocks to blocks which preserves incidence. An isomorphism from an incidence structure  $\mathcal{D}$  onto itself is called an automorphism of  $\mathcal{D}$ . The set of all automorphisms forms a group called the full automorphism group of  $\mathcal{D}$  and is denoted by  $Aut(\mathcal{D})$ .

A  $t$ - $(v, k, \lambda)$  design is a finite incidence structure  $\mathcal{D} = (\mathcal{P}, \mathcal{B}, \mathcal{I})$  satisfying the following requirements:

1.  $|\mathcal{P}| = v$ ;
2. every element of  $\mathcal{B}$  is incident with exactly  $k$  elements of  $\mathcal{P}$ ;
3. every  $t$  elements of  $\mathcal{P}$  are incident with exactly  $\lambda$  elements of  $\mathcal{B}$ .

The elements of the set  $\mathcal{P}$  are called points, and the elements of the set  $\mathcal{B}$  are called blocks. Blocks can be regarded as subsets of the set of points. A  $t$ -design is called simple if it does not have repeated blocks. 2-designs are called block designs. If  $\mathcal{D}$  is a  $t$ -design, then it is also an  $s$ -design, for  $1 \leq s \leq t - 1$ . Hence every  $t$ -design, for  $t \geq 2$ , is a block design. A simple 2-design having  $\binom{v}{k}$  blocks is called complete. 2-designs which are not complete are often called balanced incomplete block designs (BIBDs). BIBDs have a wide range of applications, e.g. in experimental design, software testing, coding theory and cryptography. We say that a  $t$ - $(v, k, \lambda)$  design  $\mathcal{D}$  is a quasi-symmetric design with intersection numbers  $x$  and  $y$  ( $x < y$ ) if any two blocks of  $\mathcal{D}$  intersect in either  $x$  or  $y$  points.

A graph is regular if all the vertices have the same degree; a regular graph is strongly regular of type  $(v, k, \lambda, \mu)$  if it has  $v$  vertices, degree  $k$ , and if any two adjacent vertices are together adjacent to  $\lambda$  vertices, while any two non-adjacent vertices are together adjacent to  $\mu$  vertices. A strongly regular graph of type  $(v, k, \lambda, \mu)$  is usually denoted by  $SRG(v, k, \lambda, \mu)$ .

We say that an incidence structure  $\mathcal{I}$  is transitive if an automorphism group of  $\mathcal{I}$  acts transitively on points and blocks. A transitive incidence structure  $\mathcal{I}$  is called primitive if an automorphism group acts primitively on points and blocks.

Further, we say that a graph  $\Gamma$  is transitive (primitive) if an automorphism group acts transitively (primitively) on the set of vertices of the graph  $\Gamma$  and that a graph is edge-transitive if an automorphism group acts transitively on the set of edges of the graph.

A flag of a design is an incident pair (point, block). We say that a  $t$ -design is flag-transitive if an automorphism group acts transitively on the set of flags of the design.

One of the main problems in design theory is classifying structures with given parameters or/and with a given automorphism group. In this paper we consider  $t$ -designs,  $t \geq 2$ , admitting a transitive action of the Mathieu group  $M_{11}$  on points and blocks. Construction of transitive designs from finite simple groups gives additional

information on the group acting on a design, which is interesting from the group theoretical point of view. To our best knowledge, this is the first time that the simple group  $M_{11}$  was taken into consideration for the construction of combinatorial structures in a way described in this paper.

In this paper we consider  $t$ -designs and strongly regular graphs constructed from the Mathieu group  $M_{11}$ . The group  $M_{11}$  is the simple group of order 7920, the smallest of five Mathieu simple groups, and up to conjugation it has 39 subgroups given in Table 1. Using the method introduced in [8], we classify all  $t$ -designs on 11, 12 or 22 points on which the group  $M_{11}$  acts transitively on points and blocks. Additionally, we obtain numerous transitive designs, under the action of  $M_{11}$ , for  $v = 55, 66$ . In many cases we prove the existence of 2-designs with certain parameters. We also prove the existence of a 3-(22, 7, 18) design. In addition, we classify all  $t$ -designs, for  $t \geq 2$ , on which the group  $M_{11}$  acts flag-transitively. This can be seen as a contribution to the sections in the Handbook of Combinatorial Designs on  $t$ -designs with  $t \geq 3$  by Khosrovshahi and Laue and to the section on  $t$ -designs with  $t = 2$  by Kreher (references [14, 16]). All the designs obtained in this paper are simple.

Further, we construct strongly regular graphs on 55, 66, 144 or 330 vertices admitting a transitive action of the simple group  $M_{11}$ . The strongly regular graphs constructed have been known before, but constructed in a different way.

Generators of the group  $M_{11}$  are available on the Internet:

<http://brauer.maths.qmul.ac.uk/Atlas/>.

All the structures are obtained by using programs written for Magma [4]. The designs having 11, 12 or 22 points can be found at the link:

<http://www.math.uniri.hr/~asvob/M11designs.txt>.

The strongly regular graphs constructed in this paper can be found at the link:

[http://www.math.uniri.hr/~asvob/SRGs\\_M11.txt](http://www.math.uniri.hr/~asvob/SRGs_M11.txt).

The paper is organized as follows. In Section 2 we describe the method of construction of transitive designs used in this paper, and in Section 3 we describe combinatorial structures constructed under the action of the Mathieu group  $M_{11}$ .

## 2 The method of construction

The method for constructing transitive incidence structures was presented in [10]. Further research of the construction of primitive symmetric 1-designs and regular graphs for which the stabilizer of a point and the stabilizer of a block are conjugate is given in [11], [12] and [13]. In [8], a construction of not necessarily primitive, but still transitive, block designs is presented.

**Theorem 1 ([8])** *Let  $G$  be a finite permutation group acting transitively on the sets  $\Omega_1$  and  $\Omega_2$  of size  $m$  and  $n$ , respectively. Let  $\alpha \in \Omega_1$  and  $\Delta_2 = \bigcup_{i=1}^s \delta_i G_\alpha$ , where  $G_\alpha = \{g \in G \mid \alpha g = \alpha\}$  is the stabilizer of  $\alpha$  and  $\delta_1, \dots, \delta_s \in \Omega_2$  are representatives*

of distinct  $G_\alpha$ -orbits on  $\Omega_2$ . If  $\Delta_2 \neq \Omega_2$  and

$$\mathcal{B} = \{\Delta_2 g : g \in G\},$$

then  $\mathcal{D}(G, \alpha, \delta_1, \dots, \delta_s) = (\Omega_2, \mathcal{B})$  is a  $1$ - $(n, |\Delta_2|, \frac{|G_\alpha|}{|G_{\Delta_2}} \sum_{i=1}^s |\alpha G_{\delta_i}|)$  design with  $\frac{m \cdot |G_\alpha|}{|G_{\Delta_2}|}$  blocks. The group  $H \cong G / \bigcap_{x \in \Omega_2} G_x$  acts as an automorphism group on  $(\Omega_2, \mathcal{B})$ , transitively on points and blocks of the design.

If  $\Delta_2 = \Omega_2$  then the set  $\mathcal{B}$  consists of one block, and  $\mathcal{D}(G, \alpha, \delta_1, \dots, \delta_s)$  is a design with parameters  $1$ - $(n, n, 1)$ .

If a group  $G$  acts  $t$ -homogeneously on the set  $\Omega_2$ , then the design obtained,  $(\Omega_2, \mathcal{B})$ , is a  $t$ -design (see [8]).

The construction described in Theorem 1 gives us all simple designs on which the group  $G$  acts transitively on the points and blocks; i.e. if  $G$  acts transitively on the points and blocks of a simple  $1$ -design  $\mathcal{D}$ , then  $\mathcal{D}$  can be obtained as described in Theorem 1. It follows from [6, Proposition 1.3.] that the group  $H$  acts flag-transitively on the design  $(\Omega_2, \mathcal{B})$  if and only if the base block  $\Delta_2$  is a single  $G_\alpha$ -orbit.

If a group  $G$  acts transitively on  $\Omega$ ,  $\alpha \in \Omega$ , and  $\Delta$  is an orbit of  $G_\alpha$ , then  $\Delta' = \{\alpha g \mid g \in G, \alpha g^{-1} \in \Delta\}$  is also an orbit of  $G_\alpha$ . Here  $\Delta'$  is called the orbit of  $G_\alpha$  paired with  $\Delta$ . It is obvious that  $\Delta'' = \Delta$  and  $|\Delta'| = |\Delta|$ . If  $\Delta' = \Delta$ , then  $\Delta$  is said to be self-paired.

**Corollary 1** *If  $\Omega_1 = \Omega_2$  and  $\Delta_2$  is a union of self-paired and mutually paired orbits of  $G_\alpha$ , then the design  $\mathcal{D}(G, \alpha, \delta_1, \dots, \delta_s)$  is a symmetric self-dual design and the incidence matrix of that design is the adjacency matrix of a  $|\Delta_2|$ -regular graph.*

Using Theorem 1 and Corollary 1 from [8], we construct  $t$ -designs and strongly regular graphs from the Mathieu group  $M_{11}$ . Additionally, combining the method given in Theorem 1 with the results presented in [6, Proposition 1.3.] we obtain all flag-transitive designs from the Mathieu group  $M_{11}$ .

The method of constructing designs and regular graphs described in Theorem 1 is a generalization of results presented in [7, 11, 12]. Using Corollary 1, one can construct all regular graphs admitting a transitive action of the group  $G$ , but we will be interested only in those regular graphs that are strongly regular.

For further details about implementing the construction and obtaining the results, including the isomorph rejection, we refer the reader to [9].

### 3 Combinatorial structures from $M_{11}$

The Mathieu group  $M_{11}$  is a simple group of order 7920, and up to conjugation it has 39 subgroups. It is the smallest sporadic group and acts 4-transitively on 11 points. There are five simple Mathieu groups, introduced by Emile Mathieu in [17, 18, 19] and  $M_{11}$  is the smallest among all Mathieu groups. The  $t$ -designs arising from the

Mathieu groups  $M_{22}$ ,  $M_{23}$  and  $M_{24}$  have been studied in work by Kramer, Magliveras and Mesner (see [15]), but those arising from  $M_{11}$  in the way described in this paper have not been explored so far.

In Table 1 we give the list of all the subgroups, up to conjugation, and some of their properties. Since each transitive action of a group  $G$  is permutation isomorphic to an action of  $G$  on cosets of its subgroup, the indices of the subgroups in Table 1 give us degrees of all transitive actions of the group  $M_{11}$ .

Subgroup	Structure	Order	Index	Subgroup	Structure	Order	Index
$H_1$	$I$	1	7920	$H_{21}$	$Z_5 : Z_4$	20	396
$H_2$	$Z_2$	2	3960	$H_{22}$	$SL(2, 3)$	24	330
$H_3$	$Z_3$	3	2640	$H_{23}$	$S_4$	24	330
$H_4$	$Z_4$	4	1980	$H_{24}$	$E_9 : Z_4$	36	220
$H_5$	$E_4$	4	1980	$H_{25}$	$E_9 : Z_4$	36	220
$H_6$	$Z_5$	5	1584	$H_{26}$	$S_3 \times S_3$	36	220
$H_7$	$S_3$	6	1320	$H_{27}$	$GL(2, 3)$	48	165
$H_8$	$S_3$	6	1320	$H_{28}$	$Z_{11} : Z_5$	55	144
$H_9$	$Z_6$	6	1320	$H_{29}$	$A_5$	60	132
$H_{10}$	$Q_8$	8	990	$H_{30}$	$A_5$	60	132
$H_{11}$	$D_8$	8	990	$H_{31}$	$E_9 : Q_8$	72	110
$H_{12}$	$Z_8$	8	990	$H_{32}$	$(S_3 \times S_3) : Z_2$	72	110
$H_{13}$	$E_9$	9	880	$H_{33}$	$E_9 : Z_8$	72	110
$H_{14}$	$D_{10}$	10	792	$H_{34}$	$S_5$	120	66
$H_{15}$	$Z_{11}$	11	720	$H_{35}$	$(E_9 : Z_8) : Z_2$	144	55
$H_{16}$	$A_4$	12	660	$H_{36}$	$A_6$	360	22
$H_{17}$	$D_{12}$	12	660	$H_{37}$	$PSL(2, 11)$	660	12
$H_{18}$	$QD_{16}$	16	495	$H_{38}$	$A_6 \cdot Z_2$	720	11
$H_{19}$	$E_9 : Z_2$	18	440	$H_{39}$	$M_{11}$	7920	1
$H_{20}$	$Z_3 \times S_3$	18	440				

Table 1: Subgroups of the group  $M_{11}$

Generators of all subgroups presented in Table 1 are given in the Appendix.

### 3.1 $t$ -designs with $v \leq 22$

In this section we give all  $t$ -designs with at most 22 points on which the group  $M_{11}$  acts transitively. The designs are obtained from the group  $M_{11}$  by using Theorem 1. In that case, the stabilizers of points are subgroups of  $M_{11}$  having the indices 11, 12 and 22. The list of all designs obtained is given in Table 2. In each table we give the parameters of the constructed structures, the number of non-isomorphic structures and their full automorphism group. The group  $M_{11}$  acts 4-transitively on 11 points, hence all designs obtained by Theorem 1 on 11 points are 4-designs. The designs marked with \* are flag-transitive. Additionally, we have obtained two more flag-transitive designs that are not mentioned in Table 2, the complements of the designs with parameters 4-(11, 5, 1) and 3-(12, 4, 3).

Parameters of designs	# of blocks	# non-isomorphic	Full automorphism group
3-(11, 3, 1)*	165	1	$S_{11}$
4-(11, 4, 1)*	330	1	$S_{11}$
4-(11, 5, 1)*	66	1	$M_{11}$
4-(11, 5, 6)*	396	1	$M_{11}$
3-(12, 3, 1)*	220	1	$S_{12}$
3-(12, 4, 6)*	330	1	$M_{11}$
3-(12, 4, 3)*	165	1	$M_{11}$
3-(12, 5, 6)*	132	1	$M_{11}$
3-(12, 5, 30)	660	1	$M_{11}$
3-(12, 6, 2)*	22	1	$M_{11}$
3-(12, 6, 10)*	110	1	$M_{11}$
5-(12, 6, 6)	792	1	$M_{12}$
2-(22, 7, 36)	396	1	$M_{11}$
2-(22, 7, 180)	1980	1	$M_{11}$
2-(22, 7, 360)	3960	3	$M_{11}$
2-(22, 7, 720)	7920	2	$M_{11}$
3-(22, 7, 18)	792	1	$M_{11} \times Z_2$
3-(22, 7, 90)	3960	3	$M_{11} \times Z_2$
3-(22, 7, 180)	7920	1	$M_{11}$

Table 2:  $t$ -designs constructed from the group  $M_{11}$ ,  $v \leq 22$ 

**Remark 1** We proved the existence of a 3-(22, 7, 18) design, since it is the first known example of the design with these parameters. The 2-designs with 22 points having parameters (22, 7, 36) and (22, 7, 180) from Table 2 are not mentioned in [20] since  $r > 41$ . To the best of our knowledge, the designs with these parameters have not been known before. The Steiner system 4-(11, 5, 1) is known as the Witt design  $W_{11}$ . For further information on  $W_{11}$  we refer the reader to [25, 26]. The  $t$ -designs having the parameters of other transitive  $t$ -designs described in Table 2 were previously known. For further information on quasi-symmetric 3-(12, 6, 2) we refer the reader to [22], and for others known designs mentioned in Table 2 see [14, 20].

### 3.2 BIBDs with $v = 55$

In this section we give all 2-designs with 55 points on which the group  $M_{11}$  acts transitively. Note that there are no  $t$ -designs with  $v = 55$  and  $t \geq 3$  on which  $M_{11}$  acts transitively. The designs are obtained from the group  $M_{11}$  by using Theorem 1. In that case, the stabilizer of a point is a subgroup of  $M_{11}$  having index 55. The list of all designs obtained is given in Table 3. In Table 3 we give the parameters of the constructed structures, the number of non-isomorphic structures and their full automorphism group.

Parameters of block designs	# non-isomorphic	Full automorphism group
2-(55, 3, 4)	1	$M_{11}$
2-(55, 3, 8)	1	$M_{11}$
2-(55, 4, 8)	1	$M_{11}$
2-(55, 4, 16)	7	$M_{11}$
2-(55, 6, 10)	1	$M_{11}$
2-(55, 6, 20)	2	$M_{11}$
2-(55, 6, 40)	67	$M_{11}$
2-(55, 7, 14)	1	$M_{11}$
2-(55, 7, 28)	5	$M_{11}$
2-(55, 7, 56)	115	$M_{11}$
2-(55, 9, 8)	1	$M_{11}$
2-(55, 9, 32)	10	$M_{11}$
2-(55, 9, 48)	23	$M_{11}$
2-(55, 9, 64)	16	$M_{11}$
2-(55, 9, 96)	632	$M_{11}$
2-(55, 10, 12)	2	$M_{11}$
2-(55, 10, 20)	1	$M_{11}$
2-(55, 10, 24)	4	$M_{11}$
2-(55, 10, 40)	8	$M_{11}$
2-(55, 10, 48)	6	$M_{11}$
2-(55, 10, 60)	27	$M_{11}$
2-(55, 10, 80)	9	$M_{11}$
2-(55, 10, 120)	1647	$M_{11}$
2-(55, 12, 44)	5	$M_{11}$
2-(55, 12, 88)	43	$M_{11}$
2-(55, 12, 176)	6025	$M_{11}$
2-(55, 13, 104)	81	$M_{11}$
2-(55, 13, 208)	9086	$M_{11}$
2-(55, 15, 56)	6	$M_{11}$
2-(55, 15, 112)	8	$M_{11}$
2-(55, 15, 140)	53	$M_{11}$
2-(55, 15, 280)	23748	$M_{11}$
2-(55, 16, 80)	3	$M_{11}$
2-(55, 16, 160)	93	$M_{11}$
2-(55, 16, 320)	$\geq 8500$	$M_{11}$
2-(55, 18, 68)	2	$M_{11}$
2-(55, 18, 102)	8	$M_{11}$
2-(55, 18, 136)	39	$M_{11}$
2-(55, 18, 204)	215	$M_{11}$
2-(55, 18, 272)	161	$M_{11}$
2-(55, 18, 408)	$\geq 20162$	$M_{11}$
2-(55, 19, 152)	18	$M_{11}$
2-(55, 19, 228)	173	$M_{11}$
2-(55, 19, 304)	376	$M_{11}$
2-(55, 19, 456)	$\geq 15310$	$M_{11}$
2-(55, 21, 140)	9	$M_{11}$
2-(55, 21, 280)	249	$M_{11}$
2-(55, 21, 560)	$\geq 14250$	$M_{11}$
2-(55, 22, 308)	220	$M_{11}$
2-(55, 22, 616)	$\geq 18400$	$M_{11}$
2-(55, 24, 184)	8	$M_{11}$
2-(55, 24, 368)	256	$M_{11}$
2-(55, 24, 736)	$\geq 12100$	$M_{11}$
2-(55, 25, 200)	8	$M_{11}$
2-(55, 25, 320)	25	$M_{11}$
2-(55, 25, 400)	445	$M_{11}$
2-(55, 25, 800)	$\geq 12800$	$M_{11}$
2-(55, 27, 78)	1	$S_{11}$
2-(55, 27, 234)	8	$M_{11}$
2-(55, 27, 312)	56	$M_{11}$
2-(55, 27, 468)	308	$M_{11}$
2-(55, 27, 624)	626	$M_{11}$
2-(55, 27, 936)	$\geq 16905$	$M_{11}$

Table 3: BIBDs constructed from  $M_{11}$ ,  $v = 55$

**Remark 2** Designs from Table 3 are not mentioned in [20] since  $r > 41$ . To our best knowledge they have not been known before, so we proved the existence of 2-designs with the parameters listed in Table 3. The design with parameters 2-(55, 4, 8) is flag-transitive.

### 3.3 BIBDs with $v = 66$

In this section we give all 2-designs with 66 points on which the group  $M_{11}$  acts transitively. Note that there is no  $t$ -designs with  $v = 66$  and  $t > 2$  on which  $M_{11}$  acts transitively. The designs are obtained from the group  $M_{11}$  by using Theorem 1. In that case, the stabilizer of a point is subgroup of  $M_{11}$  having the index 66.

In Table 4 we give the parameters of the constructed structures, the number of non-isomorphic structures and their full automorphism group.

Parameters of block designs	# non-isomorphic	Full automorphism group
2-(66, 13, 36)	1	$M_{11}$
2-(66, 13, 48)	13	$M_{11}$
2-(66, 13, 72)	43	$M_{11}$
2-(66, 13, 96)	79	$M_{11}$
2-(66, 13, 144)	$\geq 1210$	$M_{11}$
2-(66, 14, 56)	6	$M_{11}$
2-(66, 14, 84)	33	$M_{11}$
2-(66, 14, 112)	105	$M_{11}$
2-(66, 14, 168)	$\geq 223$	$M_{11}$
2-(66, 26, 100)	2	$M_{11}$
2-(66, 26, 120)	2	$M_{11}$
2-(66, 26, 200)	33	$M_{11}$
2-(66, 26, 240)	4	$M_{11}$
2-(66, 26, 300)	159	$M_{11}$
2-(66, 26, 400)	1799	$M_{11}$
2-(66, 26, 600)	$\geq 8910$	$M_{11}$
2-(66, 27, 36)	1	$M_{11}$
2-(66, 27, 72)	1	$M_{11}$
2-(66, 27, 216)	60	$M_{11}$
2-(66, 27, 324)	49	$M_{11}$
2-(66, 27, 432)	412	$M_{11}$
2-(66, 27, 648)	$\geq 7913$	$M_{11}$

Table 4: BIBDs constructed from  $M_{11}$ ,  $v = 66$

**Remark 3** Designs from Table 4 are not mentioned in [20] since  $r > 41$ . As far as we know, they were not known before, so we proved the existence of 2-designs with the parameters listed in Table 4.



### 3.4 Strongly regular graphs

Using the method described in Theorem 1 and Corollary 1, we have obtained all regular graphs with at most 450 vertices admitting a transitive action of the group  $M_{11}$ . Using a computer search we have obtained strongly regular graphs on 55, 66, 144 or 330 vertices. Finally, we give the full automorphism groups of the constructed SRGs.

**Theorem 2** *Up to isomorphism there are exactly 5 strongly regular graphs with at most 450 vertices, admitting a transitive action of the group  $M_{11}$ . These strongly regular graphs have parameters  $(55, 18, 9, 4)$ ,  $(66, 20, 10, 4)$ ,  $(144, 55, 22, 20)$ ,  $(144, 66, 30, 30)$  and  $(330, 63, 24, 9)$ . Details about the strongly regular graphs obtained are given in Table 5.*

Graph $\Gamma$	Parameters	$Aut(\Gamma)$
$\Gamma_1$	$(55, 18, 9, 4)$	$S_{11}$
$\Gamma_2$	$(66, 20, 10, 4)$	$S_{12}$
$\Gamma_3$	$(144, 55, 22, 20)$	$M_{11}$
$\Gamma_4$	$(144, 66, 30, 30)$	$M_{12} : Z_2$
$\Gamma_5$	$(330, 63, 24, 9)$	$S_{11}$

Table 5: SRGs constructed from the Mathieu group  $M_{11}$

**Remark 4** The graphs  $\Gamma_1$  and  $\Gamma_2$  are the triangular graphs  $T(11)$  and  $T(12)$ , respectively. Strongly regular graphs with parameters  $(144, 55, 22, 20)$ ,  $(144, 66, 30, 30)$  and  $(330, 63, 24, 9)$  have been known before (see [2, 3]). The adjacency matrix of a  $SRG(144, 66, 30, 30)$  is the incidence matrix of a symmetric design with parameters  $(144, 66, 30)$ , a design with Menon parameters (related to a regular Hadamard matrix of order 144). This symmetric design is described in [24]. The group  $M_{11}$  does not act flag transitively on that symmetric  $(144, 66, 30)$  design, since the base block is the union of  $G_\alpha$ -orbits (see Theorem 1). However, the Mathieu group  $M_{12}$  acts flag transitively on that symmetric  $(144, 66, 30)$  design. Consequently, the group  $M_{12}$  acts edge-transitively on the constructed  $SRG(144, 66, 30, 30)$ , while the Mathieu group  $M_{11}$  does not. The  $SRG(330, 63, 24, 9)$  is the distance 1 or 4 graph in the Johnson graph  $J(11, 4)$ . The Johnson graph  $J(11, 4)$  can also be constructed from the Mathieu group  $M_{11}$  using Theorem 1. The strongly regular graphs  $\Gamma_1, \Gamma_2, \Gamma_3$  and  $\Gamma_4$  are edge-transitive with respect to their full automorphism group. Additionally, the same holds for the complements of the graphs  $\Gamma_1$  and  $\Gamma_2$ .

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## Appendix

In this section we give generators of the subgroups of  $M_{11}$  described in Section 3, Table 1, as permutations on 11 points.

$$H_1 = I$$

$$H_2 = \langle (1, 3)(2, 11)(4, 9)(6, 7) \rangle$$

$$H_3 = \langle (1, 3, 10)(2, 7, 4)(6, 11, 9) \rangle$$

$$H_4 = \langle (1, 7, 2, 4, 6)(3, 11, 8, 10, 9) \rangle$$

$$H_5 = \langle (1, 7, 3, 11, 4, 6, 5, 8, 9, 10, 2) \rangle$$

$$H_6 = \langle (1, 3)(2, 9)(4, 11)(8, 10), (1, 3)(2, 11)(4, 9)(6, 7) \rangle$$

$$H_7 = \langle (2, 11)(3, 6)(4, 10)(8, 9), (2, 6, 11, 3)(4, 8, 10, 9) \rangle$$

$$H_8 = \langle (2, 7, 11)(3, 8, 10)(4, 9, 6), (1, 5)(2, 11)(3, 10)(4, 6) \rangle$$

$$H_9 = \langle (2, 3)(6, 9)(7, 10)(8, 11), (2, 7, 11)(3, 8, 10)(4, 9, 6) \rangle$$

$$H_{10} = \langle (1, 9)(2, 3)(5, 6)(8, 10), (1, 10, 6)(4, 11, 7)(5, 9, 8) \rangle$$

$$H_{11} = \langle (1, 8, 9)(2, 10, 3)(4, 11, 6), (1, 4, 10)(2, 9, 6)(3, 8, 11) \rangle$$

$$H_{12} = \langle (1, 7, 2, 4, 6)(3, 11, 8, 10, 9), (1, 7)(2, 6)(3, 11)(8, 9) \rangle$$

$$H_{13} = \langle (1, 11, 9, 10, 8)(2, 6, 4, 5, 3), (1, 7, 3, 11, 4, 6, 5, 8, 9, 10, 2) \rangle$$

$$H_{14} = \langle (2, 11)(3, 6)(4, 10)(8, 9), (2, 6, 11, 3)(4, 8, 10, 9), (2, 8, 11, 9)(3, 10, 6, 4) \rangle$$

$$H_{15} = \langle (1, 11)(2, 7)(3, 6)(9, 10), (1, 7)(2, 11)(4, 8)(9, 10), (2, 7)(3, 9)(4, 8)(6, 10) \rangle$$

$$H_{16} = \langle (1, 11, 7, 8, 4, 6, 10, 9)(2, 3), (1, 4)(6, 11)(7, 10)(8, 9), (1, 7, 4, 10)(6, 9, 11, 8) \rangle$$

$$H_{17} = \langle (1, 7, 8)(2, 4, 11)(3, 6, 10), (1, 3)(2, 9)(4, 11)(8, 10), (1, 3)(2, 11)(4, 9)(6, 7) \rangle$$

$$H_{18} = \langle (1, 6)(2, 3)(5, 9)(7, 11), (1, 9)(2, 3)(5, 6)(8, 10), (1, 10, 6)(4, 11, 7)(5, 9, 8) \rangle$$

$$H_{19} = \langle (2, 11)(3, 6)(4, 10)(8, 9), (1, 8, 9)(2, 10, 3)(4, 11, 6), (1, 4, 10)(2, 9, 6)(3, 8, 11) \rangle$$

$$H_{20} = \langle (1, 5)(2, 6)(3, 9)(7, 10), (1, 3, 10)(4, 11, 8)(5, 9, 7), (1, 11, 9)(3, 8, 7)(4, 5, 10) \rangle$$

$$H_{21} = \langle (2, 11)(3, 6)(4, 10)(8, 9), (2, 4, 11, 10)(3, 8, 6, 9), (1, 8, 6, 3, 9)(2, 4, 10, 11, 7) \rangle$$

$$H_{22} = \langle (2, 3)(6, 9)(7, 10)(8, 11), (1, 11, 4, 6)(7, 9, 10, 8), (1, 4)(6, 11)(7, 10)(8, 9), \\ (1, 7, 4, 10)(6, 9, 11, 8) \rangle$$

$$H_{23} = \langle (3, 6, 10)(4, 9, 8)(5, 11, 7), (1, 6, 2, 7)(3, 10, 11, 5), (1, 11, 2, 3)(5, 6, 10, 7), \\ (1, 2)(3, 11)(5, 10)(6, 7) \rangle$$

$$H_{24} = \langle (1, 11)(2, 7)(3, 6)(9, 10), (1, 7)(2, 11)(4, 8)(9, 10), (1, 2, 8)(3, 10, 9)(4, 11, 7), \\ (2, 7)(3, 9)(4, 8)(6, 10) \rangle$$

$$H_{25} = \langle (2, 11)(3, 6)(4, 10)(8, 9), (1, 4, 10)(2, 9, 6)(3, 8, 11), (2, 4, 11, 10)(3, 8, 6, 9), \\ (1, 6, 3)(2, 8, 4)(9, 11, 10) \rangle$$

$$H_{26} = \langle (2, 11)(3, 6)(4, 10)(8, 9), (1, 4, 10)(2, 9, 6)(3, 8, 11), (1, 6, 3)(2, 8, 4)(9, 11, 10), \\ (2, 8, 11, 9)(3, 10, 6, 4) \rangle$$

$$\begin{aligned}
H_{27} &= \langle (1, 5)(2, 6)(3, 9)(7, 10), (1, 3, 10)(4, 11, 8)(5, 9, 7), (1, 5)(3, 7)(4, 11)(9, 10), \\
&\quad (1, 11, 9)(3, 8, 7)(4, 5, 10) \rangle \\
H_{28} &= \langle (1, 5)(2, 7)(3, 8)(4, 9), (1, 2, 11)(3, 4, 9)(6, 8, 10) \rangle \\
H_{29} &= \langle (1, 7, 2)(3, 4, 10)(6, 8, 9), (2, 10)(3, 11)(4, 6)(7, 8) \rangle \\
H_{30} &= \langle (3, 5)(6, 7)(8, 9)(10, 11), (3, 6, 10)(4, 9, 8)(5, 11, 7), (1, 6, 2, 7)(3, 10, 11, 5), \\
&\quad (1, 11, 2, 3)(5, 6, 10, 7), (1, 2)(3, 11)(5, 10)(6, 7) \rangle \\
H_{31} &= \langle (2, 11)(3, 6)(4, 10)(8, 9), (1, 4, 10)(2, 9, 6)(3, 8, 11), (2, 6, 11, 3)(4, 8, 10, 9), \\
&\quad (1, 6, 3)(2, 8, 4)(9, 11, 10), (2, 8, 11, 9)(3, 10, 6, 4) \rangle \\
H_{32} &= \langle (1, 5)(2, 6)(3, 9)(7, 10), (1, 3, 10)(4, 11, 8)(5, 9, 7), (1, 5)(3, 7)(4, 11)(9, 10), \\
&\quad (1, 4, 5, 11)(3, 9, 7, 10), (1, 11, 9)(3, 8, 7)(4, 5, 10) \rangle \\
H_{33} &= \langle (1, 7, 11, 9, 5, 3, 4, 10)(2, 6), (1, 3, 10)(4, 11, 8)(5, 9, 7), (1, 5)(3, 7)(4, 11)(9, 10), \\
&\quad (1, 4, 5, 11)(3, 9, 7, 10), (1, 11, 9)(3, 8, 7)(4, 5, 10) \rangle \\
H_{34} &= \langle (1, 4)(3, 9)(5, 8)(6, 7), (1, 7, 6, 5, 4, 8)(2, 10, 9)(3, 11) \rangle \\
H_{35} &= \langle (1, 6)(2, 3)(5, 9)(7, 11), (1, 11, 5)(3, 6, 8)(4, 9, 10) \rangle \\
H_{36} &= \langle (1, 5)(2, 6)(3, 9)(7, 10), (1, 3, 5, 7)(4, 10, 11, 9), (1, 3, 10)(4, 11, 8)(5, 9, 7), \\
&\quad (1, 5)(3, 7)(4, 11)(9, 10), (1, 4, 5, 11)(3, 9, 7, 10), (1, 11, 9)(3, 8, 7)(4, 5, 10) \rangle \\
H_{37} &= \langle (1, 7)(2, 11)(4, 8)(9, 10), (1, 10, 8, 3)(2, 7, 9, 6) \rangle \\
H_{38} &= \langle (1, 8)(2, 6)(3, 4)(10, 11), (1, 6, 8, 7)(2, 10, 9, 3) \rangle \\
H_{39} &= \langle (1, 2)(4, 5)(6, 11)(8, 10), (1, 6, 9, 4)(3, 8, 7, 11) \rangle
\end{aligned}$$

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