Research Article Cayley Graphs of Order 27p Are Hamiltonian

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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) ⟨s⟩ ⊲ G,
(ii) Cay(G/⟨s⟩; 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) $\langle s \rangle \lhd G$,
- (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) $\operatorname{Cay}(G/\langle s \rangle; S)$ 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, \ldots, 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 $(s_1, \ldots, s_n)^{|N|}$ 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 $g_1 s \in Hg_2$.

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 18*q*, 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 3*p*. (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

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

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

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

$$Q' = \Phi(Q) = Z(Q) = Z(G) = \Phi(G).$$
(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) $c \in C_Q(P) \setminus \Phi(Q)$.

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.)

$$z'', \quad z''(s^{-1}b) = z''z' w, \quad z''(s^{-1}b)^s(s^{-1}b) = z''(z')^2 w^s w.$$
(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*) × *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

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

Then one may assume the following:

(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{G} 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

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

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

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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^{irj} 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

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

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

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

$$Q = \left\langle x, y \mid x^9 = y^3 = e, \ [x, y] = x^3 \right\rangle.$$
(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, x²yw}.

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 $x \in C_Q(P)$; so $C_Q(P) = \langle x \rangle$.

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

$$\left(a^{3}, b^{-1}, a, b^{-1}, a^{4}, b^{2}, a^{-2}, b, a^{2}, b, a^{3}, b, a^{-1}, b^{-1}, a^{-1}, b^{-2}\right)$$
(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}	ā	\xrightarrow{a}	$\overline{a^2}$	\xrightarrow{a}	$\overline{a^3}$	$\xrightarrow{b^{-1}}$	$\overline{a^3b^2}$	\xrightarrow{a}	$\overline{a^7b^2}$	$\xrightarrow{b^{-1}}$	$\overline{a^7b}$	
\xrightarrow{a}	$\overline{a^5b}$	\xrightarrow{a}	$\overline{a^3b}$	\xrightarrow{a}	ab	\xrightarrow{a}	$\overline{a^8b}$	\xrightarrow{b}	$\overline{a^8b^2}$	\xrightarrow{b}	$\overline{a^8}$	$\xrightarrow{a^{-1}}$	$\overline{a^7}$	(2, 24)
$\xrightarrow{a^{-1}}$	$\overline{a^6}$	\xrightarrow{b}	$\overline{a^6b}$	\xrightarrow{a}	$\overline{a^4b}$	\xrightarrow{a}	$\overline{a^2b}$	\xrightarrow{b}	$\overline{a^2b^2}$	\xrightarrow{a}	$\overline{a^6b^2}$	\xrightarrow{a}	$\overline{ab^2}$	(3.24)
\xrightarrow{a}	$\overline{a^5b^2}$	\xrightarrow{b}	$\overline{a^5}$	$\xrightarrow{a^{-1}}$	$\overline{a^4}$	$\xrightarrow{b^{-1}}$	$\overline{a^4b^2}$	$\xrightarrow{a^{-1}}$	$\overline{b^2}$	$\xrightarrow{b^{-1}}$	\overline{b}	$\xrightarrow{b^{-1}}$	\overline{e} .	

(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:

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

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

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

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

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

Note that if an occurrence of w_i in the product is followed by a net total of j_1 appearances of <u>*a*</u> and a net total of j_2 appearances of <u>*b*</u>, 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 $r_1^2 + r_1 + 1 \equiv r_2^2 + r_2 + r_2^2 + r_2 + r_2^2 + r_2^2$ 0 (mod p) in this case.

(E2) Assume $w_2 = e$ (so $b \in Q$ and $\underline{b} = b$). 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

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

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

Note the following.

- (a) If $r_1 = 1$ and $r_2 \neq 1$, 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

$$m = -r_1r_2 - 2r_1 + r_2 + 2 = -r^2 - 2r + r + 2 = -(r^2 + r + 1) + 3 \equiv 3 \pmod{p}.$$
 (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 $r \pmod{p}$ 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

$$W = \begin{bmatrix} 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 \\ 1 & 1 & 0 \end{bmatrix}.$$
 (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:

$$\frac{X^{13} - 1}{X - 1} = \left(X^3 - X - 1\right) \cdot \left(X^3 + X^2 - 1\right) \cdot \left(X^3 + X^2 + X - 1\right) \cdot \left(X^3 - X^2 - X - 1\right).$$
(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 { ζ , ζ^3 , ζ^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 GL₃(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 GL₃(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:

 $(i, j) = (2, 0) \ a = w^2, \ a^{-1} = w^{11}, \ b = (1, 0, 0), \ and \ b^{-1} = (-1, 0, 0)$ 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	(4.7)
\xrightarrow{a}	$102 \xrightarrow{a}$	020	$\xrightarrow{b^{-1}}$	220	\xrightarrow{a}	222	\xrightarrow{a}	211	\xrightarrow{a}	120	\xrightarrow{a}	221	(4.7)
\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.	

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

$$(i, j) = (1, 3) \ a = w, \ a^{-1} = w^{12}, \ b = w^3(1, 0, 0), \text{ and } b^{-1} = w^{10}(0, 1, -1)$$

Double edge: 200 \rightarrow 020 with *a* and *b*:

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

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

\xrightarrow{b}	000 120		211 012											
\xrightarrow{a}	220	\xrightarrow{a}	022	\xrightarrow{a}	222	\xrightarrow{a}	212	\xrightarrow{b}	202	$\xrightarrow{a^{-1}}$	122	$\xrightarrow{a^{-1}}$	121	(4.11)
$\xrightarrow{a^{-1}}$	111	$\xrightarrow{a^{-1}}$	011	$\overset{a^{-1}}{\longrightarrow}$	110	$\overset{a^{-1}}{\longrightarrow}$	001	$\overset{a^{-1}}{\longrightarrow}$	010	$\xrightarrow{a^{-1}}$	100	$\overset{b^{-1}}{\longrightarrow}$	000.	

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

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