

## On Sums of s-orthogonal Matrices

S.Krishnamoorthy\* and K.Jaikumar<sup>†,1</sup>

\*Department of Mathematics,  
Government Arts College (Autonomous), Kumbakonam,  
Tamilnadu, India.

profkrishnamoorthy@gmail.com.

<sup>†</sup>Department of Mathematics,  
Arasu Engineering College, Kumbakonam,  
Tamilnadu, India.

kjaikumar@hotmail.com

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**Abstract :** In this paper we discussed the sum of s-orthogonal and s-unitary matrices. Also we show that every  $A \in M_n(\mathbb{Z}_{2n-1})$  can be written as a sum of s-orthogonal matrices in  $M_n$ . Moreover, we show that every  $A \in M_n(\mathbb{Z}_{2k})$  can be written a sum of of s-orthogonal matrices in  $M_n(\mathbb{Z}_{2k})$  if and only if the row sums and column sums of A have the same parities.

**Keywords :** s-orthogonal matrix, s-unitary matrix, Sum of s-orthogonal and s-unitary matrices.

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### 1 Introduction and Basic Definitions

Let  $\mathbb{F} \in \{\mathbb{R}, \mathbb{C}, \mathbb{H}\}$ . Let  $\mathcal{U}_n^s(\mathbb{F})$  be the set of s-unitary matrices in  $M_n(\mathbb{F})$ , and let  $\mathcal{O}_n^s(\mathbb{F})$  be the set of s-orthogonal matrices in  $M_n(\mathbb{F})$ . Suppose  $n \geq 2$ . In this chapter we show that every  $A \in M_n(\mathbb{F})$  can be written as a sum of matrices in  $\mathcal{U}_n^s(\mathbb{F})$  and of matrices in  $\mathcal{O}_n^s(\mathbb{F})$ . Let  $A \in M_n(\mathbb{F})$  be given and let  $k \geq 2$  be the least integer that is a least upper bound of the singular values of A. When  $\mathbb{F} = \mathbb{C}$ , we show that A can be written as a sum of k matrices from  $\mathcal{U}_n^s(\mathbb{F})$ . When  $\mathbb{F} = \mathbb{R}$ , we show that if  $k = 3$ , then A can

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<sup>1</sup>Corresponding author E-Mail: kjaikumar@hotmail.com (K.Jaikumar)

be written as a sum of 6 s-orthogonal matrices; if  $k = 2$ , or if  $k \geq 4$ , we show that  $A$  can be written as a sum of  $k + 2$  s-orthogonal matrices.

Let  $\mathbb{F} = \mathbb{C}$  (the set of complex numbers) or  $\mathbb{F} = \mathbb{R}$  (the set of real numbers). Let  $n$  be a given positive integer. We let  $M_n(\mathbb{F})$  be the set of all  $n \times n$  matrices with entries in  $\mathbb{F}$ . We also let  $E_{ij} \in M_n(\mathbb{F})$  be the matrix whose  $(i, j)$  entry is 1 and all other entries are 0.

We study the sums of s-unitary matrices and we also study the sums of s-orthogonal matrices. We determine which matrices (if any) in  $M_n(\mathbb{F})$  can be written as a sum of s-unitary or s-orthogonal matrices. We note that the sum of unitary matrices in  $M_n(\mathbb{C})$  has been previously studied (see [1] and the references therein). Moreover, for  $A, B \in M_n(\mathbb{C})$ , sums of the form  $UAU^* + VB^*V$ , where  $U, V \in M_n(\mathbb{C})$  are unitary, have also been studied [2]. In this paper we extend the result concerning unitary and orthogonal matrices into s-unitary and s-orthogonal matrices.

**Notation 1.1.** *The secondary transpose (conjugate secondary transpose) of  $A$  is defined by  $A^s = VA^T V$  ( $A^\ominus = VA^*V$ ), where “ $V$ ” is the fixed disjoint permutation matrix with units in its secondary diagonal.*

**Definition 1.2.** [3] *Let  $A \in M_n(F)$*

(i). *The matrix  $A$  is called s-normal, if  $AA^\ominus = A^\ominus A$*

(ii). *The matrix  $A$  is called s-orthogonal, if  $AA^s = A^s A = I$ . That is  $A^T V A = V$*

(iii). *The matrix  $A$  is called s-unitary, if  $AA^\ominus = A^\ominus A = I$ . That is  $A^* V A = V$*

**Lemma 1.3.** *Let  $n$  be a given positive integer. Let  $\mathcal{G} \subset M_n(\mathbb{F})$  be a group under multiplication. Then  $A \in M_n(\mathbb{F})$  can be written as a sum of matrices in  $\mathcal{G}$  if and only if for every  $Q, P \in \mathcal{G}$ , the matrix  $QAP$  can be written as a sum of matrices in  $\mathcal{G}$ .*

Notice that both  $\mathcal{U}_n^s(\mathbb{F})$  and  $\mathcal{O}_n^s(\mathbb{F})$  are groups under multiplication. Let  $\alpha \in \mathbb{F}$  be given. Then Lemma 1.3 guarantees that for each  $Q \in \mathcal{G}$ , we have that  $\alpha Q$  can be written as a sum of matrices from  $\mathcal{G}$  if and only if  $\alpha I$  can be written as a sum of matrices from  $\mathcal{G}$ .

**Lemma 1.4.** *Let  $n \geq 2$  be a given integer. Let  $G \subset M_n(\mathbb{F})$  be a group under multiplication. Suppose that  $\mathcal{G}$  contains  $K \equiv \text{diag}(1, -1, \dots, -1)$  and the permutation matrices. Then every  $A \in M_n(\mathbb{F})$  can be written as a sum of matrices in  $\mathcal{G}$  if and only if for each  $\alpha \in \mathbb{F}$ ,  $\alpha I$  can be written as a sum of matrices in  $\mathcal{G}$ .*

*Proof.* The forward implication is trivial. For the other direction, suppose that for each  $\alpha \in \mathbb{F}$ ,  $\alpha I$  can be written as a sum of matrices in  $\mathcal{G}$ . Now,  $K \in \mathcal{G}$  so that for each  $\alpha \in \mathbb{F}$ , Lemma 1.3 guarantees that  $\alpha K$  can also be written as a sum of matrices in  $\mathcal{G}$ . It follows that  $\alpha E_{11} = \frac{\alpha}{2} I + \frac{\alpha}{2} K$  can be written as a sum of matrices in  $\mathcal{G}$ . Now, for each  $1 \leq i, j \leq n$ , notice that  $E_{ij} = P E_{11} Q$  for some permutation matrices  $P$  and  $Q$ , and that  $P, Q \in \mathcal{G}$ . Therefore, if  $A \in M_n(\mathbb{F})$ , then  $A$  can be written as a sum of matrices in  $\mathcal{G}$ , as  $A = [a_{ij}] = \sum_{i,j} a_{ij} E_{ij}$ .  $\square$

**Lemma 1.5.** *Let  $k \geq 2$  be a given integer. Let  $\mathcal{A}_k \equiv \{z \in \mathbb{C} : |z| \leq k\}$  and let  $\mathcal{C}_k \equiv \{\sum_{j=1}^k e^{i\theta_j} : \theta_j \in \mathbb{R} \text{ for } j = 1, \dots, k\}$ . Then  $\mathcal{A}_k = \mathcal{C}_k$ .*

## 2 Sums of s-orthogonal Matrices

The only matrices in  $\mathcal{O}_1^s(\mathbb{F})$  are  $\pm 1$ . Hence, not every element of  $M_1(\mathbb{F})$  can be written as a sum of elements in  $\mathcal{O}_1^s(\mathbb{F})$ . In fact, only the integers can be written as a sum of elements of  $\mathcal{O}_1^s(\mathbb{F})$ .

### 2.1 The Case $\mathcal{U}_n^s(\mathbb{C})$

Let  $\alpha \in \mathbb{C}$  be given. Then there exist an integer  $k \geq 2$  and  $\theta_1, \dots, \theta_k \in \mathbb{R}$  such that  $\alpha = f_k(\theta_1, \dots, \theta_k)$ . Now, notice that  $\alpha I = f_k(\theta_1, \dots, \theta_k)I = e^{i\theta_1}I + \dots + e^{i\theta_k}I$  is a sum of matrices in  $\mathcal{U}_n^s(\mathbb{C})$ . When  $n = 1$ , every  $\alpha \in \mathbb{C}$  can be written as a sum of elements of  $\mathcal{U}_1^s(\mathbb{C})$ . When  $n \geq 2$ , Lemma 1.4 guarantees that every  $A \in M_n(\mathbb{C})$  can be written as a sum of matrices in  $\mathcal{U}_n^s(\mathbb{C})$ .

**Lemma 2.1.** *Let  $n$  be a given positive integer. Then every  $A \in M_n(\mathbb{C})$  can be written as a sum of matrices in  $\mathcal{U}_n^s(\mathbb{C})$ .*

Let  $A \in M_n(\mathbb{C})$  be given. We look at the number of matrices that make up the sum  $A$ .

Let  $\alpha \in \mathbb{C}$  be given. If  $|\alpha| \leq k$  for some positive integer  $k$ , then  $\alpha \in \mathcal{A}_k$ . Moreover,  $\alpha \in \mathcal{A}_m$  for every integer  $m \geq k$ . For any such  $m$ , Lemma 1.5 guarantees that there exist  $\theta_1, \dots, \theta_m \in \mathbb{R}$  such that  $\alpha = e^{i\theta_1}I + \dots + e^{i\theta_m}I$ . However, if  $|\alpha| > k$ , then  $\alpha \notin \mathcal{A}_k$  and  $\alpha$  cannot be written as a sum of  $k$  elements of  $\mathcal{U}_1^s(\mathbb{C})$ .

Write  $A = U\Sigma V$  (the singular value decomposition of  $A$ , where  $U, V \in M_n(\mathbb{C})$  are s-unitary and  $\Sigma = \text{diag}(\sigma_1, \dots, \sigma_n)$  with  $\sigma_1 \geq \dots \geq \sigma_n \geq 0$ ). Let  $k$  be the least integer such that  $\sigma_1 \leq k$ . Suppose that  $k \leq 2$ . Then, for each  $l$ , we have  $\sigma_l \in \mathcal{A}_k$ . Moreover,  $\sigma_1 \notin \mathcal{A}_{k-1}$ . Hence,  $A$  cannot be written as a sum of  $k-1$  s-unitary matrices. However, for each  $l$ , we have  $\sigma_l = e^{i\theta_{l1}} + \dots + e^{i\theta_{lk}}$ , where each  $\theta_{l1}, \dots, \theta_{lk} \in \mathbb{R}$ . For each  $t = 1, \dots, k$ , set  $U_t = \text{diag}(e^{i\theta_{1t}}, \dots, e^{i\theta_{nt}})$ . Then  $U_t \in M_n(\mathbb{C})$  is s-unitary and  $\sum_{t=1}^k U_t = \Sigma$ . Hence,  $A$  can be written as a sum of  $k$  s-unitary matrices.

Suppose that  $k = 1$ . If  $\sigma_n = 1$ , then  $\Sigma = I$  and  $A$  is s-unitary. If  $\sigma_n \notin 1$ , then for each  $l$ , we have  $\sigma_l \in \mathcal{A}_2$ , and  $A$  can be written as a sum of two s-unitary matrices. We summarize our results.

**Theorem 2.2.** *Let  $A \in M_n(\mathbb{C})$  be given. Let  $k$  be the least (positive) integer so that there exist  $U_1, \dots, U_k \in \mathcal{U}_n^s(\mathbb{C})$  satisfying  $U_1 + \dots + U_k = A$ .*

- (1). *If  $A$  is s-unitary, then  $k = 1$ .*
- (2). *If  $A$  is not s-unitary and  $\sigma_1(A) \in 2$ , then  $k = 2$ .*
- (3). *If  $m \geq 2$  is an integer such that  $m < \sigma_1(A) \leq m + 1$ , then  $k = m + 1$ .*

For positive integers  $m \geq k$ , we have  $\mathcal{A}_k \subseteq \mathcal{A}_m$ . Hence, every  $U \in \mathcal{U}_n^s(\mathbb{C})$  can be written as a sum of two or more elements of  $\mathcal{U}_n^s(\mathbb{C})$ . It follows that every  $A \in M_n(\mathbb{C})$  that can be written as a sum of  $k$  elements of  $\mathcal{U}_n^s(\mathbb{C})$  can be written as a sum of  $m$  elements of  $\mathcal{U}_n^s(\mathbb{C})$ .

### 2.2 The Case $\mathcal{O}_n^s(\mathbb{C})$

**Theorem 2.3.** *Let  $n \geq 2$  be a given integer. Then every  $A \in M_n(\mathbb{C})$  can be written as a sum of matrices from  $\mathcal{O}_n^s(\mathbb{C})$ .*

Suppose that  $A = Q_1 + Q_2$ , where  $Q_1, Q_2 \in \mathcal{O}_n^s(\mathbb{C})$ . Then one checks that  $AA^s = Q_1A^sAQ_1^s$ , so that  $AA^s$  and  $A^sA$  are similar. Analogue to the proof of Theorem 13 of [4] ensures that  $A + QS$ , where  $Q$  is s-orthogonal and  $S$  is s-symmetric (or that  $A$  has a QS decomposition). Suppose now that  $A$  has a QS decomposition. Is it true that  $A$  can be written as a sum of two (complex) s-orthogonal matrices? Take the case  $n = 1$ , and notice that every  $A \in M_n(\mathbb{C})$  is a scalar and has a QS decomposition. However, only the integers can be written as a sum of orthogonal matrices in this case.

**Lemma 2.4.** *Let an integer  $n \geq 2$  and  $0 \neq \alpha \in \mathbb{C}$  be given. If  $\alpha I = Q + V$  is a sum of two matrices from  $\mathcal{O}_n^s(\mathbb{C})$ , then there exists a s-skew symmetric  $D \in M_n(\mathbb{C})$  such that  $Q = \frac{\alpha}{2}I + D$ ,  $V = \frac{\alpha}{2}I - D$ , and  $DD^s = (1 - \frac{\alpha^2}{4})I$ . Conversely, if there exists a s-skew symmetric  $D \in M_n(\mathbb{C})$  such that  $DD^s = (1 - \frac{\alpha^2}{4})I$ , then  $Q \equiv \frac{\alpha}{2}I + D$  and  $V \equiv \frac{\alpha}{2}I - D$  are in  $\mathcal{O}_n^s(\mathbb{C})$  and  $Q + V = \alpha I$ .*

*Proof.* Let an integer  $n \geq 2$  and  $0 \neq \alpha \in \mathbb{C}$  be given. Suppose that  $\alpha I \in M_n(\mathbb{C})$  can be written as a sum of two s-orthogonal matrices, say,  $\alpha I = Q + V$ . Write  $Q = [a_{ij}] = [q_1 \dots q_n]$  and  $V = [b_{ij}] = [v_1 \dots v_n]$ . Then,  $b_{ij} = -a_{ij}$  for  $i \neq j$ . Now, for each  $i = 1, \dots, n$ , we have  $\sum_{j=1}^n a_{ij}^2 = q_i^s q_i = 1 = v_i^s v_i = \sum_{j=1}^n b_{ij}^2 = b_{ii}^2 + \sum_{j \neq i, j=1}^n a_{ij}^2$ .

Hence,  $b_{ii} = \pm a_{ii}$ . Because  $Q + V = \alpha I$  and  $\alpha \neq 0$ , we have  $b_{ii} = a_{ii} = \frac{\alpha}{2}$ . Set  $D = [d_{ij}]$ , with  $d_{ij} = a_{ij}$  if  $i \neq j$ , and  $d_{ii} = 0$ , so that  $Q = \frac{\alpha}{2}I + D$  and  $V = \frac{\alpha}{2}I - D$ . Now, since  $Q$  and  $V$  are s-orthogonal, we have

$$QQ^s = \frac{\alpha^2}{4}I + \frac{\alpha}{2}(D + D^s) + DD^s = I \quad (2.1)$$

and

$$VV^s = \frac{\alpha^2}{4}I - \frac{\alpha}{2}(D + D^s) + DD^s = I. \quad (2.2)$$

Subtracting equation (2.2) from equation (2.1), we get  $D = -D^s$ , so that  $D$  is s-skew symmetric. Moreover,  $DD^s = (1 - \frac{\alpha^2}{4})I$ . For the converse, suppose that  $D \in M_n(\mathbb{C})$  is s-skew symmetric and satisfies  $DD^s = (1 - \frac{\alpha^2}{4})I$ . Set  $Q \equiv \frac{\alpha}{2}I + D$  and set  $V \equiv \frac{\alpha}{2}I - D$ . Then one checks that both  $Q$  and  $V$  are s-orthogonal matrices and  $Q + V = \alpha I$ .  $\square$

**Theorem 2.5.** *Let  $n$  be a given positive integer. For each  $\alpha \in \mathbb{C}$  and each s-orthogonal  $Q \in M_{2n}(\mathbb{C})$ ,  $\alpha Q$  can be written as a sum of two s-orthogonal matrices.*

Let an integer  $n \geq 2$  be given. If  $\alpha \in \{-2, 0, 2\}$ , then one checks that  $\alpha I \in M_n(\mathbb{C})$  can be written as a sum of two s-orthogonal matrices.

**Theorem 2.6.** *Let  $\alpha \in \mathbb{C}$  and let a positive integer  $n$  be given. Then  $\alpha I \in M_{2n+1}(\mathbb{C})$  can be written as a sum of two matrices from  $\mathcal{O}_n^s(\mathbb{C})$  if and only if  $\alpha \in \{-2, 0, 2\}$ .*

*Proof.* For the forward implication, let  $\alpha \in \mathbb{C}$  and let a positive integer  $n$  be given. Suppose that  $\alpha I \in M_{2n+1}(\mathbb{C})$  can be written as a sum of two s-orthogonal matrices. Then  $\alpha = 0$  or  $\alpha \neq 0$ . If  $\alpha = 0$ , then  $\alpha \in \{-2, 0, 2\}$ . If  $\alpha \neq 0$ , we show that  $\alpha \pm 2$ . Lemma 2.4 guarantees that there exists a s-skew symmetric  $D \in M_n(\mathbb{C})$  satisfying  $DD^s = (1 - \frac{\alpha^2}{4})I$ . Now, since  $n$  is odd, the s-skew symmetric  $D$  is singular. Hence,  $DD^s$  is singular and  $\alpha \pm 2$ . The backward implication can be shown by direct computation.  $\square$

### 2.3 The Case $\mathbb{F} = \mathbb{R}$ and $\mathbb{F} = \mathbb{H}$

**Theorem 2.7.** *Let  $n \geq 2$  be a given integer. Every  $A \in M_n(\mathbb{R})$  can be written as a sum of matrices from  $\mathcal{O}_n^s(\mathbb{R}) = \mathcal{U}_n^s(\mathbb{R})$ .*

**Theorem 2.8.** *Let a positive integer  $n$  and let  $A \in M_{2n}(\mathbb{R})$  be given. Suppose that  $k \geq 2$  is an integer such that  $\sigma_1(A) \leq k$ . Then  $A$  can be written as a sum of  $2k$  matrices in  $\mathcal{O}_{2n}^s(\mathbb{R})$ . Moreover, for every integer  $m \geq 2k$ , the matrix  $A$  can be written as a sum of  $m$  matrices in  $\mathcal{O}_{2n}^s(\mathbb{R})$ .*

*Proof.* Let  $A = U\Sigma V$  be a singular value decomposition of  $A$ . Then Lemma 1.3 guarantees that we only need to concern ourselves with  $\Sigma$ .

For  $n = 1$ , notice that  $\text{diag}(\sigma_1, \sigma_2) = sI_2 + rK_2$ , where  $s = \frac{1}{2}(\sigma_1 + \sigma_2)$  and  $t = \frac{1}{2}(\sigma_1 - \sigma_2)$ . Now,  $0 \leq t \leq s \leq k$ . Hence,  $sI_2$  and  $tK_2$  can each be written as a sum of  $k$  s-orthogonal matrices. Moreover, for each integer  $p \geq k$ , notice that  $sI_2$  can be written as a sum of  $p$  s-orthogonal matrices. Hence,  $sI_2 + rK_2$  can be written as a sum of  $p+k$  s-orthogonal matrices. For  $n > 1$ , write  $\Sigma = \text{diag}(\sigma_1, \sigma_2, \dots, \sigma_{2n-1}, \sigma_{2n}) = \text{diag}(\sigma_1, \sigma_2) \oplus \dots \oplus \text{diag}(\sigma_{2n-1}, \sigma_{2n})$ . Notice now that for each  $j = 1, \dots, n$ ,  $\text{diag}(\sigma_{2j-1}, \sigma_{2j})$  can be written as a sum of  $2k$  s-orthogonal matrices, say  $P_{j1}, \dots, P_{j(2k)}$ . For each  $l = 1, \dots, 2k$ , set  $Q_l \equiv P_{1l} \oplus \dots \oplus P_{nl}$ , and notice that  $\Sigma = Q_1 + \dots + Q_{2k}$ .

Finally, notice that for each integer  $m \geq 2k$  and for each each  $j = 1, \dots, n$ , the matrix  $\text{diag}(\sigma_{2j-1}, \sigma_{2j})$  can be written as a sum of  $m$  s-orthogonal matrices.  $\square$

**Lemma 2.9.** *Let  $C \in M_2(\mathbb{R})$  be given. Suppose that  $k \geq 2$  is an integer such that  $\sigma_1(C) \leq k$ . Then for each integer  $t \geq k + 2$ ,  $C$  can be written as a sum of  $t$  matrices from  $\mathcal{U}_2^s(\mathbb{R})$ .*

**Theorem 2.10.** *Let  $n$  be positive integer, and let  $A \in M_{2n}(\mathbb{R})$  be given. Suppose that  $k \geq 2$  is an integer such that  $\sigma_1(A) \leq k$ . Then for each integer  $t \geq k + 2$ ,  $A$  can be written as a sum of  $t$  matrices in  $\mathcal{U}_{2n}^s(\mathbb{R})$ .*

**Theorem 2.11.** *Let  $A \in M_{2n+1}(\mathbb{R})$  be given. Suppose  $k \geq 2$  is an integer such that  $\sigma_1(A) \leq k$ . If  $k \leq 3$ , then  $A$  can be written as a sum of at most six matrices in  $\mathcal{O}_{2n+1}^s(\mathbb{R})$ . If  $k \geq 4$ , then  $A$  can be written as a sum of  $k + 2$  matrices in  $\mathcal{O}_{2n+1}^s(\mathbb{R})$ .*

**Theorem 2.12.** *Let  $n$  be a given positive integer. Let  $A \in M_n(\mathbb{H})$  be given. Then  $A$  can be written as a sum of matrices from  $\mathcal{U}_n^s(\mathbb{H})$ . Moreover, if  $k \geq 2$  is an integer such that  $\sigma_1(A) \leq k$ , then  $A$  can be written as a sum of  $k$  matrices from  $\mathcal{U}_n^s(\mathbb{H})$ .*

**Theorem 2.13.** *Let  $n \geq 2$  be a given integer. Let  $A \in M_n(\mathbb{H})$  be given. Then  $A$  can be written as a sum of matrices from  $\mathcal{O}_n^s(\mathbb{H})$ .*

## 3 On Sums of s-orthogonal Matrices $M_n(\mathbb{Z}_k)$

**Lemma 3.1.** *Let  $k$  and  $n$  be given positive integers. If  $E_{11} \in M_n(\mathbb{Z}_k)$  can be written as a sum of matrices from  $\mathcal{O}_{n,k}^s$ , then every  $A \in M_n(\mathbb{Z}_k)$  can be written as a sum of matrices in  $\mathcal{O}_{n,k}^s$ .*

**Lemma 3.2.** *Let  $k$  and  $n$  be given positive integers, with  $k \geq 2$ . Then  $2E_{11} \in M_n(\mathbb{Z}_k)$  can be written as a sum of matrices from  $\mathcal{O}_{n,k}^s$ .*

**Theorem 3.3.** Let  $k$  and  $n$  be given positive integers, with  $k \geq 2$ . Then  $A \in M_n(\mathbb{Z}_{2k-1})$  can be written as a sum of matrices from  $\mathcal{O}_{n,2k-1}^s$ .

**Lemma 3.4.** Let  $a_1, \dots, a_k \in \mathbb{Z}_{2m}$  be given. If  $a_1^2 + \dots + a_k^2 = 1$ , then  $a_1 + \dots + a_k$  is odd.

*Proof.* Notice that if there are an even number of  $a_i$  that are odd, then the sum  $a_1^2 + \dots + a_k^2$  is even. Hence, there are an odd number of  $a_i$  that are odd, and  $a_1 + \dots + a_k$  is odd.  $\square$

**Theorem 3.5.** Let  $k$  and  $n$  be given positive integers. If  $A \in M_n(\mathbb{Z}_{2k})$  is  $s$ -orthogonal, then the row sums and the column sums of  $A$  are all odd.

**Corollary 3.6.** Let  $k$  and  $n$  be given positive integers. If  $A \in M_n(\mathbb{Z}_{2k})$  is a sum of matrices in  $\mathcal{O}_{n,2k}^s$ , then the row sums of  $A$  have the same parities and the column sums of  $A$  have the same parities. Moreover, the row sums and the column sums also have the same parities.

**Lemma 3.7.** Let  $k$  and  $n$  be given positive integers with  $n \geq 2$ . Let  $A \in M_n(\mathbb{Z}_{2k})$  have even entries only. Then  $A$  can be written as a sum of matrices in  $\mathcal{O}_{n,2k}^s$ .

**Theorem 3.8.** Let  $k$  be a given positive integer. Let  $B = \begin{bmatrix} a & b \\ c & d \end{bmatrix} \in M_n(\mathbb{Z}_{2k})$ . The following are equivalent.

- (1).  $B$  can be written as a sum of matrices in  $\mathcal{O}_{2,2k}^s$ .
- (2).  $a$  and  $d$  have the same parities, and  $b$  and  $c$  have the same parities.
- (3). The row sums of  $B$  and the column sums of  $B$  have the same parities.

**Theorem 3.9.** Let  $k$  and  $n \geq 2$  be given positive integers. Let  $B \in M_n(\mathbb{Z}_{2k})$  be given. Then  $B$  can be written as a sum of matrices in  $\mathcal{O}_{n,2k}^s$  if and only if the row sums of  $B$  and the column sums of  $B$  have the same parities.

**Lemma 3.10.** Let  $n$  and  $k$  be given positive integers with  $n \geq 3$ . Let  $B = [b_{ij}] \in M_n(\mathbb{Z}_{2k})$  have an odd parity. Suppose that  $b_{11} = 1$ . Suppose further that the entries in the first row are not all 1 and that the entries in the first column are not all 1. Then  $B = C + D$ , where  $C = [1] \oplus F$ , with  $F \in M_{n-1}(\mathbb{Z}_{2k})$  having an odd parity and  $D \in M_n(\mathbb{Z}_{2k})$  is a sum of matrices in  $\mathcal{O}_{n,2k}^s$ .

*Proof.* It is without loss of generality to assume that  $b_{1n} = 0$  and  $b_{n1} = 0$ . When  $n = 3$ , then  $b_{12} = b_{21} = 0$ , and we may take  $D = 0$ . Suppose now that  $n \geq 4$ . Let  $r_1$  be the first row of  $B$  and let  $c_1$  be the first column of  $B$ . Take  $s$  to be the vector with the same entries as  $r_1$  but with the first entry changed to 0. Take  $t$  to be the vector which has the same entries as  $c_1$  except in the first position. Set  $D$  as the matrix with first and last columns  $t$ , first and last rows  $s$ , and 0 elsewhere. Notice that the number of 1 in  $t$  is even, and that the number of 1 in  $s$  is also even. Hence,  $D$  can be written as a sum of matrices that are permutation equivalent to  $E_2 \oplus 0$ , and hence, can be written as a sum of matrices in  $\mathcal{O}_{n,2k}^s$ . Notice also that  $C = B + D$  has the form  $C = [1] \oplus F$ , where  $F \in M_{n-1}(\mathbb{Z}_2)$ . Because  $B$  has an odd parity and because  $D$  has an even parity,  $F$  has an odd parity.  $\square$

**Corollary 3.11.** Let  $n \geq 2$  be a given integer. Then  $B \in M_n(\mathbb{Z})$  can be written as a sum of  $s$ -orthogonal matrices in  $M_n(\mathbb{Z})$  if and only if the row sums of  $B$  and the column sums of  $B$  have the same parities.

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