

## The prime tournaments $T$ with $|W_5(T)| = |T| - 2$

Houmem BELKHECHINE<sup>1,\*</sup>, Imed BOUDABBOUS<sup>2</sup>, Kaouthar HZAMI<sup>3</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Bizerte Preparatory Engineering Institute, Carthage University, Bizerte, Tunisia

<sup>2</sup>Sfax Preparatory Engineering Institute, Sfax University, Sfax, Tunisia

<sup>3</sup>Higher Institute of Applied Sciences and Technology of Kasserine, Kairouan University, Kasserine, Tunisia

Received: 30.12.2014

Accepted/Published Online: 20.05.2015

Printed: 30.07.2015

**Abstract:** We consider a tournament  $T = (V, A)$ . For  $X \subseteq V$ , the subtournament of  $T$  induced by  $X$  is  $T[X] = (X, A \cap (X \times X))$ . A module of  $T$  is a subset  $X$  of  $V$  such that for  $a, b \in X$  and  $x \in V \setminus X$ ,  $(a, x) \in A$  if and only if  $(b, x) \in A$ . The trivial modules of  $T$  are  $\emptyset$ ,  $\{x\} (x \in V)$ , and  $V$ . A tournament is prime if all its modules are trivial. For  $n \geq 2$ ,  $W_{2n+1}$  denotes the unique prime tournament defined on  $\{0, \dots, 2n\}$  such that  $W_{2n+1}[\{0, \dots, 2n-1\}]$  is the usual total order. Given a prime tournament  $T$ ,  $W_5(T)$  denotes the set of  $v \in V$  such that there is  $W \subseteq V$  satisfying  $v \in W$  and  $T[W]$  is isomorphic to  $W_5$ . B.J. Latka characterized the prime tournaments  $T$  such that  $W_5(T) = \emptyset$ . The authors proved that if  $W_5(T) \neq \emptyset$ , then  $|W_5(T)| \geq |V| - 2$ . In this article, we characterize the prime tournaments  $T$  such that  $|W_5(T)| = |V| - 2$ .

**Key words:** Tournament, prime, embedding, critical, partially critical

### 1. Introduction

#### 1.1. Preliminaries

A tournament  $T = (V(T), A(T))$  (or  $(V, A)$ ) consists of a finite set  $V$  of vertices together with a set  $A$  of ordered pairs of distinct vertices, called arcs, such that for all  $x \neq y \in V$ ,  $(x, y) \in A$  if and only if  $(y, x) \notin A$ . The cardinality of  $T$ , denoted by  $|T|$ , is that of  $V(T)$ . Given a tournament  $T = (V, A)$ , with each subset  $X$  of  $V$  is associated the subtournament  $T[X] = (X, A \cap (X \times X))$  of  $T$  induced by  $X$ . For  $X \subseteq V$  (resp.  $x \in V$ ), the subtournament  $T[V \setminus X]$  (resp.  $T[V \setminus \{x\}]$ ) is denoted by  $T - X$  (resp.  $T - x$ ). Two tournaments  $T = (V, A)$  and  $T' = (V', A')$  are isomorphic, which is denoted by  $T \simeq T'$ , if there exists an isomorphism from  $T$  onto  $T'$ , i.e. a bijection  $f$  from  $V$  onto  $V'$  such that for all  $x, y \in V$ ,  $(x, y) \in A$  if and only if  $(f(x), f(y)) \in A'$ . We say that a tournament  $T'$  embeds into  $T$  if  $T'$  is isomorphic to a subtournament of  $T$ . Otherwise, we say that  $T$  omits  $T'$ . The tournament  $T$  is said to be transitive if it omits the tournament  $C_3 = (\{0, 1, 2\}, \{(0, 1), (1, 2), (2, 0)\})$ . For a finite subset  $V$  of  $\mathbb{N}$ , we denote by  $\vec{V}$  the usual total order defined on  $V$ , i.e., the transitive tournament  $(V, \{(i, j) : i < j\})$ .

Some notations are needed. Let  $T = (V, A)$  be a tournament. For two vertices  $x \neq y \in V$ , the notation  $x \rightarrow y$  signifies that  $(x, y) \in A$ . Similarly, given  $x \in V$  and  $Y \subseteq V$ , the notation  $x \rightarrow Y$  (resp.  $Y \rightarrow x$ ) means that  $x \rightarrow y$  (resp.  $y \rightarrow x$ ) for all  $y \in Y$ . Given  $x \in V$ , we set  $N_T^+(x) = \{y \in V : x \rightarrow y\}$ . For all

\*Correspondence: houmem@gmail.com

2010 AMS Mathematics Subject Classification: 05C20, 05C60, 05C75.

$n \in \mathbb{N} \setminus \{0\}$ , the set  $\{0, \dots, n - 1\}$  is denoted by  $\mathbb{N}_n$ .

Let  $T = (V, A)$  be a tournament. A subset  $I$  of  $V$  is a *module* [11] (or a *clan* [7]) of  $T$  provided that for all  $x \in V \setminus I$ ,  $x \rightarrow I$  or  $I \rightarrow x$ . For example,  $\emptyset$ ,  $\{x\}$ , where  $x \in V$ , and  $V$  are modules of  $T$ , called *trivial* modules. A tournament is *prime* [4] (or *primitive* [7]) if all its modules are trivial. Notice that a tournament  $T = (V, A)$  and its *dual*  $T^* = (V, \{(x, y) : (y, x) \in A\})$  share the same modules. Hence,  $T$  is prime if and only if  $T^*$  is.

For  $n \geq 2$ , we introduce the tournament  $W_{2n+1}$  defined on  $\mathbb{N}_{2n+1}$  as follows:  $W_{2n+1}[\mathbb{N}_{2n}] = \overrightarrow{\mathbb{N}_{2n}}$  and  $N_{W_{2n+1}}^+(2n) = \{2i : i \in \mathbb{N}_n\}$  (see Figure 1). In 2003, B.J. Latka [8] characterized the prime tournaments omitting the tournament  $W_5$ . In 2012, the authors were interested in the set  $W_5(T)$  of the vertices  $x$  of a prime tournament  $T = (V, A)$  for which there exists a subset  $X$  of  $V$  such that  $x \in X$  and  $T[X] \simeq W_5$ . They obtained the following.

**Theorem 1** ([1]) *Let  $T$  be a prime tournament into which  $W_5$  embeds. Then  $|W_5(T)| \geq |T| - 2$ . If, in addition,  $|T|$  is even, then  $|W_5(T)| \geq |T| - 1$ .*

Our main result in this paper, presented in [3] without detailed proof, gives a characterization of the class  $\mathcal{T}$  of the prime tournaments  $T$  on at least 3 vertices such that  $|W_5(T)| = |T| - 2$ . This answers [1, Problem 4.4].

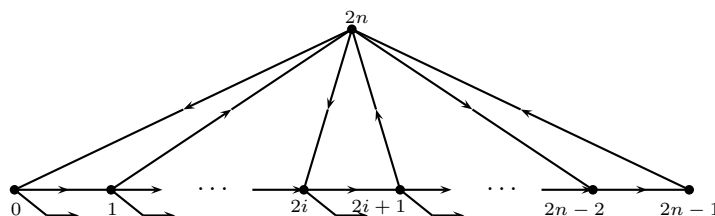


Figure 1.  $W_{2n+1}$

### 1.2. Partially critical tournaments and the class $\mathcal{T}$

Our characterization of the tournaments of the class  $\mathcal{T}$  requires the study of their partial criticality structure, a notion introduced as a weakening of the notion of criticality defined in Section 2. These notions are defined in terms of critical vertices. A vertex  $x$  of a prime tournament  $T$  is *critical* [10] if  $T - x$  is not prime. The set of noncritical vertices of a prime tournament  $T$  was introduced in [9]. It is called the *support* of  $T$  and is denoted by  $\sigma(T)$ . Let  $T$  be a prime tournament and let  $X$  be a subset of  $V(T)$  such that  $|X| \geq 3$ ; we say that  $T$  is *partially critical according to  $T[X]$*  (or  $T[X]$ -critical) [6] if  $T[X]$  is prime and if  $\sigma(T) \subseteq X$ . We will see that: for  $T \in \mathcal{T}$ ,  $V(T) \setminus W_5(T) = \sigma(T)$ . Partially critical tournaments are characterized by M.Y. Sayar in [9]. In order to recall this characterization, we first introduce the tools used to this end. Given a tournament  $T = (V, A)$ , with each subset  $X$  of  $V$ , such that  $|X| \geq 3$  and  $T[X]$  is prime, are associated the following subsets of  $V \setminus X$ :

- $\langle X \rangle = \{x \in V \setminus X : x \rightarrow X \text{ or } X \rightarrow x\}$ .
- For all  $u \in X$ ,  $X(u) = \{x \in V \setminus X : \{u, x\} \text{ is a module of } T[X \cup \{x\}]\}$ .
- $\text{Ext}(X) = \{x \in V \setminus X : T[X \cup \{x\}] \text{ is prime}\}$ .

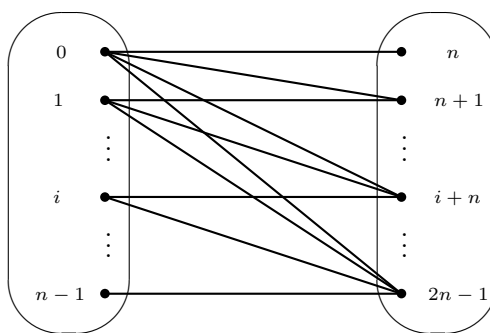
The family  $\{X(u) : u \in X\} \cup \{\text{Ext}(X), \langle X \rangle\}$  is denoted by  $p_X^T$ .

**Lemma 1 ([7])** *Let  $T = (V, A)$  be a tournament and let  $X$  be a subset of  $V$  such that  $|X| \geq 3$  and  $T[X]$  is prime. The nonempty elements of  $p_X^T$  constitute a partition of  $V \setminus X$  and satisfy the following assertions:*

- For  $u \in X$ ,  $x \in X(u)$ , and  $y \in V \setminus (X \cup X(u))$ , if  $T[X \cup \{x, y\}]$  is not prime, then  $\{u, x\}$  is a module of  $T[X \cup \{x, y\}]$ .
- For  $x \in \langle X \rangle$  and  $y \in V \setminus (X \cup \langle X \rangle)$ , if  $T[X \cup \{x, y\}]$  is not prime, then  $X \cup \{y\}$  is a module of  $T[X \cup \{x, y\}]$ .
- For  $x \neq y \in \text{Ext}(X)$ , if  $T[X \cup \{x, y\}]$  is not prime, then  $\{x, y\}$  is a module of  $T[X \cup \{x, y\}]$ .

Furthermore,  $\langle X \rangle$  is divided into  $X^- = \{x \in \langle X \rangle : x \rightarrow X\}$  and  $X^+ = \{x \in \langle X \rangle : X \rightarrow x\}$ . Similarly, for all  $u \in X$ ,  $X(u)$  is divided into  $X^-(u) = \{x \in X(u) : x \rightarrow u\}$  and  $X^+(u) = \{x \in X(u) : u \rightarrow x\}$ . We then introduce the family  $q_X^T = \{\text{Ext}(X), X^-, X^+\} \cup \{X^-(u) : u \in X\} \cup \{X^+(u) : u \in X\}$ .

A graph  $G = (V(G), E(G))$  (or  $(V, E)$ ) consists of a finite set  $V$  of vertices together with a set  $E$  of unordered pairs of distinct vertices, called *edges*. Given a vertex  $x$  of a graph  $G = (V, E)$ , the set  $\{y \in V, \{x, y\} \in E\}$  is denoted by  $N_G(x)$ . With each subset  $X$  of  $V$  is associated the *subgraph*  $G[X] = (X, E \cap \binom{X}{2})$  of  $G$  induced by  $X$ . An isomorphism from a graph  $G = (V, E)$  onto a graph  $G' = (V', E')$  is a bijection  $f$  from  $V$  onto  $V'$  such that for all  $x, y \in V$ ,  $\{x, y\} \in E$  if and only if  $\{f(x), f(y)\} \in E'$ . We now introduce the graph  $G_{2n}$  defined on  $\mathbb{N}_{2n}$ , where  $n \geq 1$ , as follows. For all  $x, y \in \mathbb{N}_{2n}$ ,  $\{x, y\} \in E(G_{2n})$  if and only if  $|y - x| \geq n$  (see Figure 2).



**Figure 2.**  $G_{2n}$

A graph  $G$  is *connected* if for all  $x \neq y \in V(G)$ , there is a sequence  $x_0 = x, \dots, x_m = y$  of vertices of  $G$  such that for all  $i \in \mathbb{N}_m$ ,  $\{x_i, x_{i+1}\} \in E(G)$ . For example, the graph  $G_{2n}$  is connected. A *connected component* of a graph  $G$  is a maximal subset  $X$  of  $V(G)$  (with respect to inclusion) such that  $G[X]$  is connected. The set of the connected components of  $G$  is a partition of  $V(G)$ , denoted by  $\mathcal{C}(G)$ . Let  $T = (V, A)$  be a prime tournament. With each subset  $X$  of  $V$  such that  $|X| \geq 3$  and  $T[X]$  is prime, is associated its *outside graph*  $G_X^T$  defined by  $V(G_X^T) = V \setminus X$  and  $E(G_X^T) = \{\{x, y\} \in \binom{V \setminus X}{2} : T[X \cup \{x, y\}] \text{ is prime}\}$ . We now present the characterization of partially critical tournaments.

**Theorem 2 ([9])** *Consider a tournament  $T = (V, A)$  with a subset  $X$  of  $V$  such that  $|X| \geq 3$  and  $T[X]$  is prime. The tournament  $T$  is  $T[X]$ -critical if and only if the assertions below hold.*

1.  $Ext(X) = \emptyset$ .
2. For all  $u \in X$ , the tournaments  $T[X(u) \cup \{u\}]$  and  $T[\langle X \rangle \cup \{u\}]$  are transitive.
3. For each  $Q \in \mathcal{C}(G_X^T)$ , there is an isomorphism  $f$  from  $G_{2n}$  onto  $G_X^T[Q]$  such that  $Q_1, Q_2 \in q_X^T$ , where  $Q_1 = f(\mathbb{N}_n)$  and  $Q_2 = f(\mathbb{N}_{2n} \setminus \mathbb{N}_n)$ . Moreover, for all  $x \in Q_i$  ( $i = 1$  or  $2$ ),  $|N_{G_X^T}(x)| = |N_{T[Q_i]}^+(x)| + 1$  (resp.  $n - |N_{T[Q_i]}^+(x)|$ ) if  $Q_i = X^+$  or  $X^-(u)$  (resp.  $Q_i = X^-$  or  $X^+(u)$ ), where  $u \in X$ .

The next corollary follows from Theorem 2 and Lemma 1.

**Corollary 1** Let  $T$  be a  $T[X]$ -critical tournament,  $T$  is entirely determined up to isomorphism by giving  $T[X]$ ,  $q_X^T$  and  $\mathcal{C}(G_X^T)$ . Moreover, the tournament  $T$  is exactly determined by giving, in addition, either the graphs  $G_X^T[Q]$  for any  $Q \in \mathcal{C}(G_X^T)$ , or the transitive tournaments  $T[Y]$  for any  $Y \in q_X^T$ .

We underline the importance of Theorem 2 and Corollary 1 in our description of the tournaments of the class  $\mathcal{T}$ . Indeed, these tournaments are introduced up to isomorphism as  $C_3$ -critical tournaments  $T$  defined by giving  $\mathcal{C}(G_{\mathbb{N}_3}^T)$  in terms of the nonempty elements of  $q_{\mathbb{N}_3}^T$ . Figure 3 illustrates a tournament obtained from such information. We refer to [10, Discussion] for more details about this purpose.

We now introduce the class  $\mathcal{H}$  (resp.  $\mathcal{I}, \mathcal{J}, \mathcal{K}, \mathcal{L}$ ) of the  $C_3$ -critical tournaments  $H$  (resp.  $I, J, K, L$ ) such that:

- $\mathcal{C}(G_{\mathbb{N}_3}^H) = \{\mathbb{N}_3^+(0) \cup \mathbb{N}_3^-, \mathbb{N}_3^+ \cup \mathbb{N}_3^-(1)\}$  (see Figure 3);
- $\mathcal{C}(G_{\mathbb{N}_3}^I) = \{\mathbb{N}_3^+(0) \cup \mathbb{N}_3^+(2), \mathbb{N}_3^+(1) \cup \mathbb{N}_3^-(0)\}$ ;
- $\mathcal{C}(G_{\mathbb{N}_3}^J) = \{\mathbb{N}_3^+(1) \cup \mathbb{N}_3^-, \mathbb{N}_3^-(1) \cup \mathbb{N}_3^-(0)\}$ ;
- $\mathcal{C}(G_{\mathbb{N}_3}^K) = \{\mathbb{N}_3^+(1) \cup \mathbb{N}_3^-, \mathbb{N}_3^+(0) \cup \mathbb{N}_3^-(2)\}$ ;
- $\mathcal{C}(G_{\mathbb{N}_3}^L) = \{\mathbb{N}_3^+(1) \cup \mathbb{N}_3^-, \mathbb{N}_3^+(0) \cup \mathbb{N}_3^-(2), \mathbb{N}_3^+ \cup \mathbb{N}_3^-(0)\}$ .

Notice that for  $\mathcal{X} = \mathcal{H}, \mathcal{I}, \mathcal{J}$  or  $\mathcal{K}$ ,  $\{|V(T)| : T \in \mathcal{X}\} = \{2n + 1 : n \geq 3\}$  and  $\{|V(T)| : T \in \mathcal{L}\} = \{2n + 1 : n \geq 4\}$ . We denote by  $\mathcal{H}^*$  (resp.  $\mathcal{I}^*, \mathcal{J}^*, \mathcal{K}^*, \mathcal{L}^*$ ) the class of the tournaments  $T^*$ , where  $T \in \mathcal{H}$  (resp.  $\mathcal{I}, \mathcal{J}, \mathcal{K}, \mathcal{L}$ ).

**Remark 1** We have  $\mathcal{H}^* = \mathcal{H}$  and  $\mathcal{I}^* = \mathcal{I}$ .

**Proof** Let  $T \in \mathcal{H}$ . The permutation  $f$  of  $V(T)$  defined by  $f(1) = 0, f(0) = 1$ , and  $f(v) = v$  for all  $v \in V(T) \setminus \{0, 1\}$  is an isomorphism from  $T^*$  onto a tournament  $T'$  of the class  $\mathcal{H}$ . Let now  $T \in \mathcal{I}$  and let  $x$  be the unique vertex of  $\mathbb{N}_3^+(2)$  such that  $|N_{T[\mathbb{N}_3^+(2)]}^+(x)| = 0$ . The permutation  $g$  of  $V(T)$  defined by  $g(1) = 0, g(0) = 1, g(x) = 2, g(2) = x$ , and  $g(v) = v$  for  $v \in V(T) \setminus \{0, 1, 2, x\}$  is an isomorphism from  $T^*$  onto a tournament  $T'$  of the class  $\mathcal{I}$ . □

By setting  $\mathcal{M} = \mathcal{H} \cup \mathcal{I} \cup \mathcal{J} \cup \mathcal{J}^* \cup \mathcal{K} \cup \mathcal{K}^* \cup \mathcal{L} \cup \mathcal{L}^*$ , we state our main result as follows.

**Theorem 3** Up to isomorphism, the tournaments of the class  $\mathcal{T}$  are those of the class  $\mathcal{M}$ . Moreover, for all  $T \in \mathcal{M}$ , we have  $V(T) \setminus W_5(T) = \sigma(T) = \{0, 1\}$ .

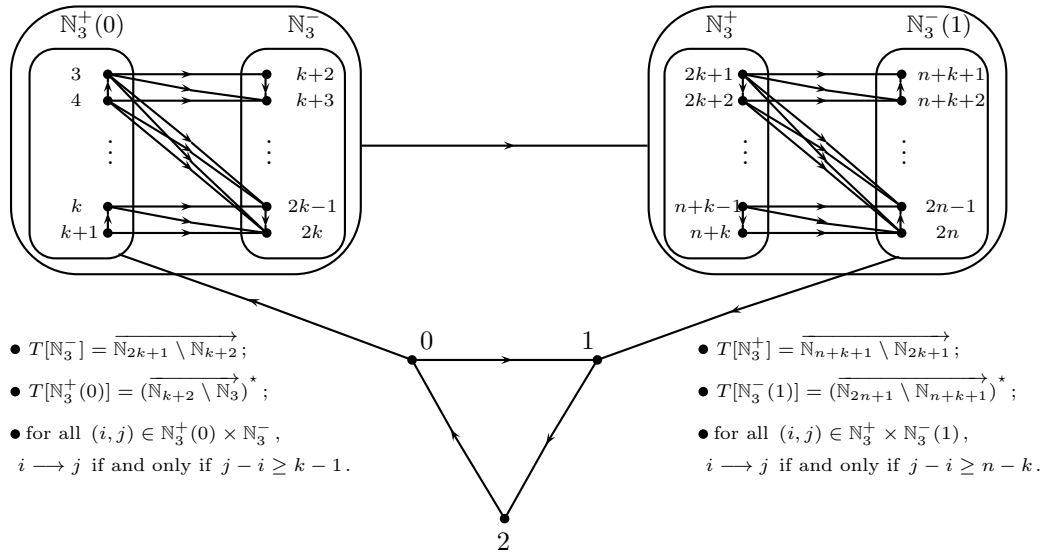


Figure 3. A tournament  $T$  of the class  $\mathcal{H}$

## 2. Critical tournaments and tournaments omitting $W_5$

We begin by recalling the characterization of the critical tournaments and some of their properties. A prime tournament  $T = (V, A)$ , with  $|T| \geq 3$ , is *critical* if  $\sigma(T) = \emptyset$ , i.e. if all its vertices are critical. In order to present the critical tournaments, characterized by J.H. Schmerl and W.T. Trotter in [10], we introduce the tournaments  $T_{2n+1}$  and  $U_{2n+1}$  defined on  $\mathbb{N}_{2n+1}$ , where  $n \geq 2$ , as follows:

- $A(T_{2n+1}) = \{(i, j) : j - i \in \{1, \dots, n\} \pmod{2n+1}\}$  (see Figure 4).
- $A(T_{2n+1}) \setminus A(U_{2n+1}) = A(T_{2n+1}[\{n+1, \dots, 2n\}])$  (see Figure 5).

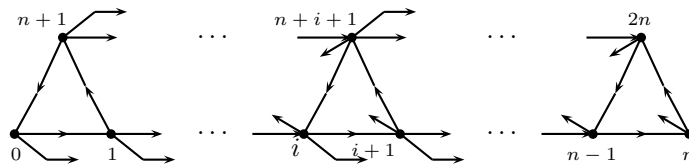


Figure 4.  $T_{2n+1}$

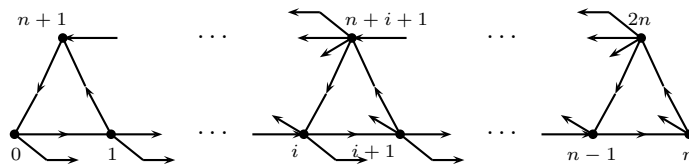


Figure 5.  $U_{2n+1}$

**Theorem 4 ([10])** *Up to isomorphism,  $T_{2n+1}$ ,  $U_{2n+1}$ , and  $W_{2n+1}$ , where  $n \geq 2$ , are the only critical tournaments.*

Notice that a critical tournament is isomorphic to its dual. Moreover, as a tournament on 4 vertices is not prime, we have:

**Fact 1** Up to isomorphism,  $T_5$ ,  $U_5$ , and  $W_5$  are the only prime tournaments on 5 vertices.

As mentioned in [2], the next remark follows from the definition of the critical tournaments.

**Remark 2** Up to isomorphism, the prime subtournaments on at least 5 vertices of  $T_{2n+1}$  (resp.  $U_{2n+1}$ ,  $W_{2n+1}$ ), where  $n \geq 2$ , are the tournaments  $T_{2m+1}$  (resp.  $U_{2m+1}$ ,  $W_{2m+1}$ ), where  $2 \leq m \leq n$ .

To recall the characterization of the prime tournaments omitting  $W_5$ , we introduce the Paley tournament  $P_7$  defined on  $\mathbb{N}_7$  by  $A(P_7) = \{(i, j) : j - i \in \{1, 2, 4\} \pmod{7}\}$ . Notice that for all  $x \neq y \in \mathbb{N}_7$ ,  $P_7 - x \simeq P_7 - y$ , and let  $B_6 = P_7 - 6$ .

**Theorem 5 ([8])** Up to isomorphism, the prime tournaments on at least 5 vertices and omitting  $W_5$  are the tournaments  $B_6$ ,  $P_7$ ,  $T_{2n+1}$ , and  $U_{2n+1}$ , where  $n \geq 2$ .

### 3. Some useful configurations

In this section, we introduce a number of configurations that occur in the proof of Theorem 3. These configurations involve mainly partially critical tournaments. We begin with the two following lemmas obtained in [2].

**Lemma 2 ([2])** If  $B_6$  embeds into a prime tournament  $T$  on 7 vertices and if  $T \not\cong P_7$ , then  $|W_5(T)| = 7$ .

**Lemma 3 ([2])** Let  $T$  be a  $U_5$ -critical tournament on 7 vertices. If  $T \not\cong U_7$ , then  $W_5(T) \cap \{3, 4\} \neq \emptyset$ .

Lemma 4 specifies the  $C_3$ -critical tournaments with a connected outside graph. It follows from the examination of the different possible configurations obtained by using Theorem 2.

**Lemma 4** Given a  $C_3$ -critical tournament  $T$  on at least 5 vertices, if  $G_{\mathbb{N}_3}^T$  is connected, then  $T$  is critical. More precisely, the different configurations are as follows where  $i \in \mathbb{N}_3$  and  $i + 1$  is considered modulo 3.

1. If  $\mathcal{C}(G_{\mathbb{N}_3}^T) = \{\mathbb{N}_3^-(i) \cup \mathbb{N}_3^+(i + 1)\}$ , then  $T \simeq T_{2n+1}$  for some  $n \geq 2$ .
2. If  $\mathcal{C}(G_{\mathbb{N}_3}^T) = \{\mathbb{N}_3^-(i) \cup \mathbb{N}_3^+(i)\}$ ,  $\{\mathbb{N}_3^+(i) \cup \mathbb{N}_3^-(i)\}$ ,  $\{\mathbb{N}_3^+(i) \cup \mathbb{N}_3^+(i + 1)\}$ , or  $\{\mathbb{N}_3^-(i) \cup \mathbb{N}_3^-(i + 1)\}$ , then  $T \simeq U_{2n+1}$  for some  $n \geq 2$ .
3. If  $\mathcal{C}(G_{\mathbb{N}_3}^T) = \{\mathbb{N}_3^-(i) \cup \mathbb{N}_3^-(i)\}$ ,  $\{\mathbb{N}_3^+(i) \cup \mathbb{N}_3^+(i)\}$ , or  $\{\mathbb{N}_3^+(i) \cup \mathbb{N}_3^-(i + 1)\}$ , then  $T \simeq W_{2n+1}$  for some  $n \geq 2$ .

For a transitive tournament  $T$ , recall that  $\min T$  denotes its smallest element and  $\max T$  its largest.

**Lemma 5** Given a  $C_3$ -critical tournament  $T$  on at least 5 vertices, if  $T[\mathbb{N}_3 \cup e] \simeq T_5$  for all  $e \in E(G_{\mathbb{N}_3}^T)$ , then  $T \simeq T_{2n+1}$  for some  $n \geq 2$ .

**Proof** Let  $T$  be a  $C_3$ -critical tournament on at least 5 vertices such that for all  $e \in E(G_{\mathbb{N}_3}^T)$ ,  $T[\mathbb{N}_3 \cup e] \simeq T_5$ . Given  $e \in E(G_{\mathbb{N}_3}^T)$ , by using Lemma 4 and Remark 2,  $e = \{v, v'\}$ , where  $v \in \mathbb{N}_3^-(i)$ ,  $v' \in \mathbb{N}_3^+(i + 1)$ ,  $i \in \mathbb{N}_3$  and  $i + 1$  is considered modulo 3. Then, by Theorem 2, the connected components of  $T$  are the nonempty elements of the family  $\{\mathbb{N}_3^-(j) \cup \mathbb{N}_3^+(j + 1)\}_{j \in \mathbb{N}_3}$ , where  $j + 1$  is considered modulo 3. The tournament  $T$  is critical. Indeed, by using Theorem 2, for each  $k \in \mathbb{N}_3$ ,  $\{\max T[\mathbb{N}_3^+(k + 1) \cup \{k + 1\}], \min T[\mathbb{N}_3^-(k + 2) \cup \{k + 2\}]\}$ , where

$k + 1$  and  $k + 2$  are considered modulo 3, is a nontrivial module of  $T - k$ . It follows that  $T \simeq T_{2n+1}$  for some  $n \geq 2$  by Remark 2.  $\square$

**Lemma 6** *Given a  $U_5$ -critical tournament, if  $T[\mathbb{N}_5 \cup e] \simeq U_7$  for all  $e \in E(G_{\mathbb{N}_5}^T)$ , then  $T \simeq U_{2n+1}$  for some  $n \geq 2$ .*

**Proof** The subsets  $X$  of  $\mathbb{N}_7$  such that  $U_7[X] \simeq U_5$  are the sets  $\mathbb{N}_7 \setminus \{i, j\}$ , where  $\{i, j\} = \{0, 4\}, \{4, 1\}, \{1, 5\}, \{5, 2\}, \{2, 6\}$ , or  $\{6, 3\}$ . By observing  $q_X^{U_7}$  for such subsets  $X$  and by Theorem 2, we deduce that the elements of  $\mathcal{C}(G_{\mathbb{N}_5}^T)$  are the nonempty elements among the following six sets:  $\mathbb{N}_5^+ \cup \mathbb{N}_5^-(0)$ ,  $\mathbb{N}_5^+(0) \cup \mathbb{N}_5^+(3)$ ,  $\mathbb{N}_5^-(1) \cup \mathbb{N}_5^-(3)$ ,  $\mathbb{N}_5^+(1) \cup \mathbb{N}_5^+(4)$ ,  $\mathbb{N}_5^-(2) \cup \mathbb{N}_5^-(4)$ , and  $\mathbb{N}_5^- \cup \mathbb{N}_5^+(2)$ . Suppose first that  $|\mathcal{C}(G_{\mathbb{N}_5}^T)| = 6$ . The tournament  $T$  is critical. Indeed, by using Theorem 2,  $\{\min T[\mathbb{N}_5^+], \max T[\mathbb{N}_5^+(3)]\}$  (resp.  $\{\min T[\mathbb{N}_5^-(3)], \max T[\mathbb{N}_5^+(4)]\}$ ),  $\{\min T[\mathbb{N}_5^-(4)], \max T[\mathbb{N}_5^-]\}$ ,  $\{\min T[\mathbb{N}_5^-(1)], \max T[\mathbb{N}_5^+(0)]\}$ ,  $\{\min T[\mathbb{N}_5^-(2)], \max T[\mathbb{N}_5^+(1)]\}$ ) is a nontrivial module of  $T - 0$  (resp.  $T - 1, T - 2, T - 3, T - 4$ ). By Remark 2,  $T \simeq U_{2n+1}$  for some  $n \geq 8$ . Suppose now that  $|\mathcal{C}(G_{\mathbb{N}_5}^T)| \leq 5$ . Then  $T$  embeds into a  $U_5$ -critical tournament  $T'$  with  $|\mathcal{C}(G_{\mathbb{N}_5}^{T'})| = 6$ . By the first case,  $T' \simeq U_{2n+1}$  for some  $n \geq 8$  and thus  $T \simeq U_{2n+1}$  for some  $n \geq 2$  by Remark 2.  $\square$

**Lemma 7** *Let  $T = (V, A)$  be a  $T[X]$ -critical tournament with  $|V \setminus X| \geq 2$ , let  $Q = \mathbb{N}_{2n}$  be a connected component of  $G_X^T$  such that  $G_X^T[Q] = G_{2n}$ , and let  $e = \{i, i + n\}$ , where  $i \in \mathbb{N}_n$ . Then the tournament  $T - e$  is  $T[X]$ -critical. Moreover,  $Q$  is included in any subset  $Z$  of  $V$  such that  $T[Z] \simeq W_5$  and  $Z \cap (V \setminus (Q \cup W_5(T - e))) \neq \emptyset$ .*

**Proof** For  $n \geq 2$ , the function

$$f_i : Q \setminus e \longrightarrow \mathbb{N}_{2n-2}$$

$$k \longmapsto \begin{cases} k & \text{if } 0 \leq k \leq i - 1 \\ k - 1 & \text{if } i + 1 \leq k \leq n + i - 1 \\ k - 2 & \text{if } n + i + 1 \leq k \leq 2n - 1, \end{cases}$$

is an isomorphism from  $G_{2n} - e$  onto  $G_{2n-2}$ . It follows from Theorem 2 that  $T - e$  is  $T[X]$ -critical. Now suppose that there is  $Z \subseteq V$  such that  $T[Z] \simeq W_5$  and  $Z \cap (V \setminus (Q \cup W_5(T - e))) \neq \emptyset$ . Therefore, we have  $|Z \cap e| = 1$  or  $e \subset Z$ . Suppose for a contradiction that  $|Z \cap e| = 1$ , and set  $\{z\} = Z \cap e$ . As  $\text{Ext}(V \setminus e) = \emptyset$ , then by Lemma 1, either  $z \in \langle V' \rangle$  or  $z \in V'(u)$ , where  $V' = V \setminus e$  and  $u \in V'$ . If  $z \in \langle V' \rangle$ , then  $Z \setminus \{z\}$  is a nontrivial module of  $T[Z]$ , a contradiction. If  $z \in V'(u)$ , then  $u \notin Z$ , otherwise  $\{u, z\}$  is a nontrivial module of  $T[Z]$ . Thus,  $T[Z'] \simeq W_5$ , where  $Z' = (Z \setminus \{z\}) \cup \{u\} \subset V \setminus e$ . A contradiction because  $Z' \cap (V \setminus W_5(T - e)) \neq \emptyset$ . Finally, for all  $e' \in \{\{j, j + n\} : j \in \mathbb{N}_n\}$ , the bijection  $f$  from  $V \setminus e$  onto  $V \setminus e'$ , defined by  $f|_{V \setminus Q} = \text{Id}_{V \setminus Q}$  and  $f|_{Q \setminus e} = f_j^{-1} \circ f_i$ , is an isomorphism from  $T - e$  onto  $T - e'$ . It follows that  $V \setminus (Q \cup W_5(T - e')) = V \setminus (Q \cup W_5(T - e))$ . Thus, as proved above,  $e' \subset Z$ , so that  $Q \subset Z$ .  $\square$

**4. Proof of Theorem 3**

We begin by establishing the partial criticality structure of the tournaments of the class  $\mathcal{T}$ . For this purpose, we use the notion of minimal tournaments for two vertices. Given a prime tournament  $T = (V, A)$  of cardinality  $\geq 3$  and two distinct vertices  $x \neq y \in V$ ,  $T$  is said to be *minimal* for  $\{x, y\}$  (or  $\{x, y\}$ -*minimal*) when for all proper subset  $X$  of  $V$ , if  $\{x, y\} \subset X$  ( $|X| \geq 3$ ), then  $T[X]$  is not prime. These tournaments were introduced and characterized by A. Cournier and P. Ille in [5]. From this characterization, the following fact, observed in [1], is obtained by a simple and quick verification.

**Fact 2 ([1, 5])** *Up to isomorphism, the tournaments  $C_3$  and  $U_5$  are the unique minimal tournaments for two vertices  $T$  such that  $|W_5(T)| \leq |T| - 2$ . Moreover,  $\{3, 4\}$  is the unique unordered pair of vertices for which  $U_5$  is minimal.*

**Proposition 1** *Let  $T = (V, A)$  be a tournament of the class  $\mathcal{T}$ . Then the vertices of  $W_5(T)$  are critical and there exists  $z \in W_5(T)$  such that  $T[(V \setminus W_5(T)) \cup \{z\}] \simeq C_3$ . In particular,  $T$  is  $T[(V \setminus W_5(T)) \cup \{z\}]$ -critical.*

**Proof** By Theorem 1,  $|T|$  is odd and  $\geq 7$ . First, suppose by contradiction that there is  $\alpha \in W_5(T)$  such that  $T - \alpha$  is prime. Since  $|T - \alpha|$  is even and  $\geq 6$  with  $|V(T - \alpha) \setminus W_5(T - \alpha)| \geq 2$ , then by Theorems 1 and 5,  $T - \alpha \simeq B_6$  and  $T \not\simeq P_7$ . A contradiction by Lemma 2. Second, let  $X$  be a minimal subset of  $V$  such that  $V \setminus W_5(T) \subset X$  ( $|X| \geq 3$ ) and  $T[X]$  is prime, so that  $T[X]$  is  $(V \setminus W_5(T))$ -minimal. By Fact 2,  $T[X] \simeq C_3$  or  $U_5$ . Suppose, toward a contradiction that  $T[X] \simeq U_5$  and take  $T[X] = U_5$ . By Fact 2,  $V \setminus W_5(T) = \{3, 4\}$ . As  $T$  is  $U_5$ -critical, then by Lemma 6 and Theorem 5, there exists  $e \in E(G_X^T)$  such that  $T[X \cup e]$  is prime and not isomorphic to  $U_7$ . It follows from Lemma 3, that there exists a subset  $Z$  of  $X \cup e$  such that  $T[Z] \simeq W_5$  and  $Z \cap (V \setminus W_5(T)) \neq \emptyset$ , a contradiction. □

Now, we prove Theorem 3 for tournaments on 7 vertices.

**Proposition 2** *Up to isomorphism, the class  $\mathcal{M}$  and the class  $\mathcal{T}$  have the same tournaments on 7 vertices. Moreover, for each tournament  $T$  on 7 vertices of the class  $\mathcal{M}$ , we have  $V(T) \setminus W_5(T) = \sigma(T) = \{0, 1\}$ .*

**Proof** Let  $T = (V, A)$  be a tournament on 7 vertices of the class  $\mathcal{M}$ .  $T \in \mathcal{M} \setminus (\mathcal{L} \cup \mathcal{L}^*)$  because the tournaments of the class  $\mathcal{L}$  have at least 9 vertices. Let  $e \in E(G_{\mathbb{N}_3}^T)$ . By Lemma 4,  $T - e \simeq U_5$  or  $T_5$ . By Lemma 7, if there exists a subset  $Z \subset V$  such that  $T[Z] \simeq W_5$ , then  $e \subset Z$ . It follows that  $V \setminus \mathbb{N}_3 \subset Z$ . Thus  $V \setminus W_5(T) = \{0, 1\}$  by verifying that  $T - \{1, 2\} \not\simeq W_5$ ,  $T - \{0, 2\} \not\simeq W_5$  and  $T - \{0, 1\} \simeq W_5$ . As  $T$  is  $C_3$ -critical,  $\sigma(T) = \{0, 1\}$  from the following. First,  $T - 2$  is not prime because  $\{0\} \cup \mathbb{N}_3^- \cup \mathbb{N}_3^+(0)$  (resp.  $\{1\} \cup \mathbb{N}_3^+(0)$ ,  $\{0, 1\} \cup \mathbb{N}_3^-(0) \cup \mathbb{N}_3^-(1)$ ,  $\{1\} \cup \mathbb{N}_3^+(0)$ ) is a nontrivial module of  $T - 2$  if  $T \in \mathcal{H}$  (resp.  $\mathcal{I}$ ,  $\mathcal{J}$ ,  $\mathcal{K}$ ). Second, by Lemma 1, we have  $\text{Ext}(X) = \{0, 1\}$ , where  $X = V \setminus \{0, 1\}$ , because  $\{0, 1\} \cap \langle X \rangle = \emptyset$ , and for all  $u \in X$ ,  $\{0, 1\} \cap X(u) = \emptyset$  because  $V \setminus W_5(T) = \{0, 1\}$ .

Conversely, let  $T$  be a tournament on 7 vertices of the class  $\mathcal{T}$ . By Proposition 1, we can assume that  $T$  is  $C_3$ -critical with  $V(T) \setminus W_5(T) \subset \mathbb{N}_3$ . By Lemma 4 and Theorem 5,  $|\mathcal{C}(G_{\mathbb{N}_3}^T)| = 2$ . We distinguish the following cases.

- $\mathbb{N}_3^+ \neq \emptyset$  and  $\mathbb{N}_3^- \neq \emptyset$ . By Theorem 2,  $|\mathbb{N}_3^-| = |\mathbb{N}_3^+| = 1$ . Therefore, we can assume that  $\mathbb{N}_3(0) \neq \emptyset$  and  $\mathbb{N}_3(2) = \emptyset$ . It suffices to verify that  $|\mathbb{N}_3(0)| = |\mathbb{N}_3^+(0)| = 1$  because, in this case, by using Theorem 2 and Lemma 4,  $T \in \mathcal{H}$ . By using again Theorem 2 and Lemma 4, we verify the following. First, if  $|\mathbb{N}_3(0)| = 2$ ,



then  $\mathcal{C}(G_{\mathbb{N}_3}^T) = \{\mathbb{N}_3^+ \cup \mathbb{N}_3^-(0), \mathbb{N}_3^- \cup \mathbb{N}_3^+(0)\}$ . Therefore,  $T - \{0, 1\} \simeq T - \{0, 2\} \simeq W_5$ , a contradiction. Second, if  $|\mathbb{N}_3^-(0)| = 1$ , then  $\mathcal{C}(G_{\mathbb{N}_3}^T) = \{\mathbb{N}_3^+ \cup \mathbb{N}_3^-(0), \mathbb{N}_3^- \cup \mathbb{N}_3^+(1)\}$ . Therefore,  $T \simeq U_7$ , a contradiction by Theorem 5.

- $\langle \mathbb{N}_3 \rangle = \emptyset$ . By Theorem 2, we can assume that  $|\mathbb{N}_3^-(0)| = |\mathbb{N}_3^+(0)| = 1$ . We have  $|\mathbb{N}_3(1)| = 1$ . Otherwise, by Theorem 2 and Lemma 4, we can suppose that  $\mathcal{C}(G_{\mathbb{N}_3}^T) = \{\mathbb{N}_3^+(0) \cup \mathbb{N}_3^+(1), \mathbb{N}_3^-(0) \cup \mathbb{N}_3^-(1)\}$ . Therefore,  $T - \{1, 2\} \simeq T - \{0, 2\} \simeq W_5$ , a contradiction. We have also  $\mathcal{C}(G_{\mathbb{N}_3}^T) = \{\mathbb{N}_3^+(0) \cup \mathbb{N}_3(2), \mathbb{N}_3^-(0) \cup \mathbb{N}_3(1)\}$ . Otherwise, again by Theorem 2 and Lemma 4,  $\mathcal{C}(G_{\mathbb{N}_3}^T) = \{\mathbb{N}_3^+(0) \cup \mathbb{N}_3^+(1), \mathbb{N}_3^-(0) \cup \mathbb{N}_3^-(2)\}$ , so that  $T \simeq U_7$ , a contradiction by Theorem 5. Thus, we distinguish four cases. If  $|\mathbb{N}_3^-(2)| = |\mathbb{N}_3^+(1)| = 1$ , then  $T \simeq T_7$ , which contradicts Theorem 5. If  $|\mathbb{N}_3^+(2)| = |\mathbb{N}_3^-(1)| = 1$ , then  $T - \{0, 2\} \simeq T - \{0, 1\} \simeq W_5$ , a contradiction. If  $|\mathbb{N}_3^+(2)| = |\mathbb{N}_3^+(1)| = 1$ , then  $T \in \mathcal{I}$ . If  $|\mathbb{N}_3^-(2)| = |\mathbb{N}_3^-(1)| = 1$ , then  $T$  is isomorphic to a tournament of the class  $\mathcal{I}$  with  $V(T) \setminus W_5(T) = \{0, 2\}$ .
- $\emptyset \neq \langle \mathbb{N}_3 \rangle \in q_{\mathbb{N}_3}^T$ . By interchanging  $T$  and  $T^*$ , we can suppose that  $\langle \mathbb{N}_3 \rangle = \mathbb{N}_3^-$ . In this case,  $|\mathbb{N}_3^-| = 1$  by Theorem 2. First, suppose that  $|\mathbb{N}_3(0)| = 2$  and  $|\mathbb{N}_3(1)| = 1$ . By Theorem 2 and Lemma 4,  $\mathcal{C}(G_{\mathbb{N}_3}^T) = \{\mathbb{N}_3^+(0) \cup \mathbb{N}_3^-, \mathbb{N}_3^-(0) \cup \mathbb{N}_3(1)\}$ . We have  $|\mathbb{N}_3^+(1)| = 1$ , otherwise  $T \simeq U_7$ , a contradiction by Theorem 5. Thus,  $T$  is isomorphic to a tournament of the class  $\mathcal{K}$  with  $V(T) \setminus W_5(T) = \{0, 2\}$ . Second, suppose that  $|\mathbb{N}_3(0)| = 1$  and  $|\mathbb{N}_3(1)| = 2$ . Again by Theorem 2 and Lemma 4,  $\mathcal{C}(G_{\mathbb{N}_3}^T) = \{\mathbb{N}_3^+(1) \cup \mathbb{N}_3^-, \mathbb{N}_3^-(1) \cup \mathbb{N}_3^-(0)\}$ , so that  $T \in \mathcal{J}$ . Lastly, suppose that  $|\mathbb{N}_3(0)| = |\mathbb{N}_3(1)| = 1$ . By Theorem 2 and Lemma 4, we can suppose that  $\mathcal{C}(G_{\mathbb{N}_3}^T) = \{\mathbb{N}_3^+(1) \cup \mathbb{N}_3^-, \mathbb{N}_3(0) \cup \mathbb{N}_3(2)\}$ . By Lemma 4, we distinguish only three cases. If  $|\mathbb{N}_3^-(2)| = |\mathbb{N}_3^-(0)| = 1$ , then  $T - \{0, 1\} \simeq T - \{1, 2\} \simeq W_5$ , a contradiction. If  $|\mathbb{N}_3^+(0)| = |\mathbb{N}_3^+(2)| = 1$ , then  $T \simeq U_7$ , which contradicts Theorem 5. If  $|\mathbb{N}_3^-(2)| = |\mathbb{N}_3^+(0)| = 1$ , then  $T \in \mathcal{K}$ .

□

We complete our structural study of the tournaments of the class  $\mathcal{T}$  by the following two corollaries.

**Corollary 2** *Let  $T$  be a  $C_3$ -critical tournament such that  $V(T) \setminus W_5(T) = \{0, 1\}$ . Then there exist  $Q \neq Q' \in \mathcal{C}(G_{\mathbb{N}_3}^T)$  and a tournament  $R$  on 7 vertices of the class  $\mathcal{M}$  such that for all  $e \in E(G_{\mathbb{N}_3}^T[Q])$  and for all  $e' \in E(G_{\mathbb{N}_3}^T[Q'])$ , there exists an isomorphism  $f$  from  $R$  onto  $T[\mathbb{N}_3 \cup e \cup e']$ . Moreover,  $f(0) = 0$ ,  $f(1) = 1$  and we have:*

1. *If  $R \in \mathcal{H} \cup \mathcal{J} \cup \mathcal{J}^*$ , then  $f(2) = 2$ ;*
2. *If  $R \in \mathcal{I} \cup \mathcal{K} \cup \mathcal{K}^*$ , then  $f(2) = 2$  or  $\mathbb{N}_3(2) = \{f(2)\}$ .*

**Proof** To begin, notice the following remark: given a  $D[X]$ -critical tournament  $D$ , for any edges  $a$  and  $b$  belonging to a same connected component of  $G_X^D$ , we have  $D[X \cup a] \simeq D[X \cup b]$ . Therefore, by Fact 1, Lemma 5, and Theorem 5, there exists  $Q \in \mathcal{C}(G_{\mathbb{N}_3}^T)$  such that for all  $a \in E(G_{\mathbb{N}_3}^T[Q])$ ,  $T[\mathbb{N}_3 \cup a] \simeq U_5$ . By Lemma 4 and Remark 2, the tournament  $T[\mathbb{N}_3 \cup Q]$  is isomorphic to  $U_{2n+1}$ , for some  $n \geq 2$ , and does not admit a prime subtournament on 7 vertices other than  $U_7$ . Therefore, by Lemma 6, Theorem 5, and the remark above, there exists  $Q' \in \mathcal{C}(G_{\mathbb{N}_3}^T) \setminus \{Q\}$  such that for all  $e \in E(G_{\mathbb{N}_3}^T[Q])$  and for all  $e' \in E(G_{\mathbb{N}_3}^T[Q'])$ ,  $T[\mathbb{N}_3 \cup e \cup e']$  is prime and not isomorphic to  $U_7$ . Moreover,  $T[\mathbb{N}_3 \cup e \cup e'] \not\cong P_7$  because the vertices of  $P_7$  are all noncritical.

Likewise,  $T[\mathbb{N}_3 \cup e \cup e'] \not\cong T_7$  by Remark 2. It follows from Theorem 5 and Proposition 2 that there exists an isomorphism  $f$  from a tournament  $R$  on 7 vertices of the class  $\mathcal{M}$  onto  $T[\mathbb{N}_3 \cup e \cup e']$ . As  $(0, 1) \in A(R) \cap A(T)$  and  $V(R) \setminus W_5(R) = V(T) \setminus W_5(T) = \{0, 1\}$  by Proposition 2, then  $f$  fixes 0 and 1. If  $R \in \mathcal{H} \cup \mathcal{J} \cup \mathcal{J}^*$ , then  $f$  fixes 2 because 2 is the unique vertex  $x$  of  $R$  such that  $R[\{0, 1, x\}] \simeq C_3$ . If  $R \in \mathcal{I} \cup \mathcal{K} \cup \mathcal{K}^*$ , then  $|\{x \in V(R) : R[\{0, 1, x\}] \simeq C_3\}| = 2$ . Therefore,  $f(2) = 2$  or  $\alpha$ , where  $\alpha$  is the unique vertex of  $\mathbb{N}_3(2)$  in the tournament  $T[\mathbb{N}_3 \cup e \cup e']$ .  $\square$

**Corollary 3** For all  $T \in \mathcal{T}$ , we have  $V(T) \setminus W_5(T) = \sigma(T)$ .

**Proof** Let  $T$  be a tournament of the class  $\mathcal{T}$  such that  $V(T) \setminus W_5(T) = \{0, 1\}$ . By Proposition 1, we can assume that  $T$  is  $C_3$ -critical. By the same proposition, it suffices to prove that  $\{0, 1\} \subseteq \sigma(T)$ . By Corollary 2, there is a subset  $X$  of  $V(T)$  such that  $\mathbb{N}_3 \subset X$  and  $T[X]$  is isomorphic to a tournament on 7 vertices of the class  $\mathcal{M}$ . Suppose for a contradiction that  $T$  admits a critical vertex  $i \in \{0, 1\}$ , and let  $Y = X \setminus \{i\}$ . By Proposition 2,  $T[Y]$  is prime. As  $T$  is  $T[Y]$ -critical, then  $i \notin \text{Ext}(Y)$  by Theorem 2. This is a contradiction because  $T[X]$  is prime.  $\square$

Now, we prove that  $\mathcal{M} \subseteq \mathcal{T}$ . More precisely:

**Proposition 3** For all tournament  $T$  of the class  $\mathcal{M}$ , we have  $V(T) \setminus W_5(T) = \sigma(T) = \{0, 1\}$ .

**Proof** Let  $T$  be a tournament on  $(2n + 1)$  vertices of the class  $\mathcal{M}$  for some  $n \geq 3$ . By Corollary 3, it suffices to prove that  $V(T) \setminus W_5(T) = \{0, 1\}$ . We proceed by induction on  $n$ . By Proposition 2, the statement is satisfied for  $n = 3$ . Let now  $n \geq 4$ . Therefore, either  $T$  is a tournament on 9 vertices of the class  $\mathcal{L} \cup \mathcal{L}^*$  or there is  $Q \in \mathcal{C}(G_{\mathbb{N}_3}^T)$  such that  $|Q| \geq 4$ . In the first case, for all  $e \in E(G_{\mathbb{N}_3}^T)$ ,  $T - e$  is isomorphic to  $U_7$  or to a tournament on 7 vertices of the class  $\mathcal{K} \cup \mathcal{K}^*$ . Therefore, if there exists a subset  $Z$  of  $V(T)$  such that  $Z \cap \{0, 1\} \neq \emptyset$  and  $T[Z] \simeq W_5$ , then, for all  $e \in E(G_{\mathbb{N}_3}^T)$ ,  $e \subset Z$  by Lemma 7. Thus,  $V(T) \setminus \mathbb{N}_3 \subset Z$ , a contradiction. As, furthermore,  $W_5$  embeds into  $T$ , then  $V(T) \setminus W_5(T) = \{0, 1\}$  by Theorem 1. In the second case, let  $Q \in \mathcal{C}(G_{\mathbb{N}_3}^T)$  such that  $|Q| \geq 4$ . Let  $\mathcal{X} = \mathcal{H}, \mathcal{I}, \mathcal{J}, \mathcal{K},$  or  $\mathcal{L}$ . For  $T \in \mathcal{X}$ , by Lemma 7, there is  $e \in E(G_{\mathbb{N}_3}^T[Q])$  such that  $T - e$  is  $C_3$ -critical. Moreover,  $T - e$  is isomorphic to a tournament of the class  $\mathcal{X}$  because  $\mathcal{C}(G_{\mathbb{N}_3}^{T-e})$  is as described in the same class. By induction hypothesis,  $W_5$  embeds into  $T - e$ , and thus into  $T$ . By Theorem 1, it suffices to verify that  $\{0, 1\} \subseteq V(T) \setminus W_5(T)$ . Therefore, suppose that there exists  $Z \subset V(T)$  such that  $Z \cap \{0, 1\} \neq \emptyset$  and  $T[Z] \simeq W_5$ . By induction hypothesis and by Lemma 7,  $Q \subset Z$ , so that  $Z \subset Q \cup \mathbb{N}_3$ . This is a contradiction by Theorem 5, because  $T[\mathbb{N}_3 \cup Q] \simeq U_{|Q|+3}$  or  $T_{|Q|+3}$  by Lemma 4.  $\square$

We are now ready to construct the tournaments of the class  $\mathcal{T}$ . We partition these tournaments  $T$  according to the following invariant  $c(T)$ . For  $T \in \mathcal{T}$ ,  $c(T)$  is the minimum of  $|\mathcal{C}(G_{\sigma(T) \cup \{x\}}^T)|$ , the minimum being taken over all the vertices  $x$  of  $W_5(T)$  such that  $T[\sigma(T) \cup \{x\}] \simeq C_3$ . Notice that  $c(T) = c(T^*)$ . As  $T$  is  $T[\sigma(T) \cup \{x\}]$ -critical by Proposition 1, then  $c(T) \leq 4$ . Moreover,  $c(T) \geq 2$  by Lemma 4. Proposition 1 leads us to classify the tournaments  $T$  of the class  $\mathcal{T}$  according to the different values of  $c(T)$ . We will see that  $c(T) = 2$  or 3. Theorem 3 results from Propositions 3, 4, 5, and 6.

**Proposition 4** Up to isomorphism, the tournaments  $T$  of the class  $\mathcal{T}$  such that  $c(T) = 2$  are those of the class  $\mathcal{M} \setminus (\mathcal{L} \cup \mathcal{L}^*)$ .

**Proof** For all  $T \in \mathcal{M} \setminus (\mathcal{L} \cup \mathcal{L}^*)$ , we have  $T \in \mathcal{T}$  by Proposition 3, and  $c(T) = 2$  by Lemma 4. Now let  $T$  be a tournament on  $(2n + 1)$  vertices of the class  $\mathcal{T}$  such that  $c(T) = 2$ . By Proposition 1, we can assume that  $T$  is  $C_3$ -critical with  $V(T) \setminus W_5(T) = \{0, 1\}$  and  $|\mathcal{C}(G_{\mathbb{N}_3}^T)| = 2$ . By Corollary 2 and by interchanging  $T$  and  $T^*$ , there is a tournament  $R$  on 7 vertices of the class  $\mathcal{H} \cup \mathcal{I} \cup \mathcal{J} \cup \mathcal{K}$  such that for all  $e \in E(G_{\mathbb{N}_3}^T[Q])$  and for all  $e' \in E(G_{\mathbb{N}_3}^T[Q'])$ , there exists an isomorphism  $f$ , fixing 0 and 1, from  $R$  onto  $T[\mathbb{N}_3 \cup e \cup e']$ , where  $Q$  and  $Q'$  are the two different connected components of  $G_{\mathbb{N}_3}^T$ . If  $f(2) = 2$ , then, by Theorem 2,  $T$  and  $R$  are in the same class  $\mathcal{H}$ ,  $\mathcal{I}$ ,  $\mathcal{J}$ , or  $\mathcal{K}$ . Suppose now that  $f(2) \neq 2$ . By Corollary 2,  $R \in \mathcal{I} \cup \mathcal{K}$ . If  $R \in \mathcal{I}$  (resp.  $\mathcal{K}$ ), then  $T[\mathbb{N}_3 \cup e \cup e']$  is a tournament on 7 vertices of the class  $\mathcal{I}'$  (resp.  $\mathcal{K}'$ ) of the  $C_3$ -critical tournaments  $Z$  such that  $\mathcal{C}(G_{\mathbb{N}_3}^Z) = \{\mathbb{N}_3^-(0) \cup \mathbb{N}_3^+(1), \mathbb{N}_3^-(1) \cup \mathbb{N}_3^-(2)\}$  (resp.  $\mathcal{C}(G_{\mathbb{N}_3}^Z) = \{\mathbb{N}_3^+(1) \cup \mathbb{N}_3^-, \mathbb{N}_3^-(1) \cup \mathbb{N}_3^+(2)\}$ ). By Theorem 2,  $T \in \mathcal{I}'$  (resp.  $\mathcal{K}'$ ). Moreover, by considering the vertex  $\alpha = \min T[\mathbb{N}_3^-(2)]$  (resp.  $\max T[\mathbb{N}_3^+(2)]$ ) and by using Corollary 3,  $T$  is also  $T[\{0, 1, \alpha\}]$ -critical with  $\mathcal{C}(G_{\{0,1,\alpha\}}^T) = \{\{0, 1, \alpha\}^-(0) \cup \{0, 1, \alpha\}^+(1), \{0, 1, \alpha\}^+(0) \cup \{0, 1, \alpha\}^+(\alpha)\}$  (resp.  $\mathcal{C}(G_{\{0,1,\alpha\}}^T) = \{\{0, 1, \alpha\}^+(1) \cup \{0, 1, \alpha\}^-, \{0, 1, \alpha\}^+(0) \cup \{0, 1, \alpha\}^-(\alpha)\}$ ). It follows that  $T$  is isomorphic to a tournament of the class  $\mathcal{I}$  (resp.  $\mathcal{K}$ ).  $\square$

**Proposition 5** *Up to isomorphism, the tournaments  $T$  of the class  $\mathcal{T}$  such that  $c(T) = 3$  are those of the class  $\mathcal{L} \cup \mathcal{L}^*$ .*

**Proof** Let  $T$  be a tournament of the class  $\mathcal{L} \cup \mathcal{L}^*$ .  $T \in \mathcal{T}$  by Proposition 3. Moreover,  $c(T) = 3$  by Theorem 2. Indeed, it suffices to observe that for all  $x \in \{i \in V(T) \setminus \mathbb{N}_3 : T[\{0, 1, i\}] \simeq C_3\} = \mathbb{N}_3^-(2)$ , we have  $\max T[\mathbb{N}_3^+(1)] \in X^+(1)$ ,  $\min T[\mathbb{N}_3^-] \in X^-$ ,  $\min T[\mathbb{N}_3^+] \in X^+$ ,  $\max T[\mathbb{N}_3^-(0)] \in X^-(0)$  and  $2 \in X^+(x)$ , where  $X = \{0, 1, x\}$ .

Now let  $T$  be a tournament on  $(2n + 1)$  vertices of  $\mathcal{T}$  such that  $c(T) = 3$ . By Proposition 1, we can assume that  $T$  is  $C_3$ -critical with  $V(T) \setminus W_5(T) = \{0, 1\}$  and  $|\mathcal{C}(G_{\mathbb{N}_3}^T)| = 3$ . By Corollary 2 and by interchanging  $T$  and  $T^*$ , there is a tournament  $R$  on 7 vertices of the class  $\mathcal{H} \cup \mathcal{I} \cup \mathcal{J} \cup \mathcal{K}$  such that for all  $e \in E(G_{\mathbb{N}_3}^T[Q])$  and  $e' \in E(G_{\mathbb{N}_3}^T[Q'])$ , there exists an isomorphism  $f$ , which fixes 0 and 1, from  $R$  onto  $T[\mathbb{N}_3 \cup e \cup e']$ , where  $Q \neq Q' \in \mathcal{C}(G_{\mathbb{N}_3}^T)$ . Take  $e'' \in E(G_{\mathbb{N}_3}^T[Q''])$ , where  $Q'' = \mathcal{C}(G_{\mathbb{N}_3}^T) \setminus \{Q, Q'\}$ . Suppose, toward a contradiction, that  $R \in \mathcal{H} \cup \mathcal{J}$ . By Theorem 2 and by Corollary 2, if  $R \in \mathcal{H}$  (resp.  $R \in \mathcal{J}$ ), then  $\{Q, Q'\} = \{\mathbb{N}_3^+(0) \cup \mathbb{N}_3^-, \mathbb{N}_3^-(1) \cup \mathbb{N}_3^+\}$  (resp.  $\{\mathbb{N}_3^+(1) \cup \mathbb{N}_3^-, \mathbb{N}_3^-(0) \cup \mathbb{N}_3^-(1)\}$ ). Therefore, by Lemma 4,  $Q'' = \{\mathbb{N}_3^+(1) \cup \mathbb{N}_3^+(2)\}$ ,  $\{\mathbb{N}_3^-(0) \cup \mathbb{N}_3^+(1)\}$  or  $\{\mathbb{N}_3^-(0) \cup \mathbb{N}_3^-(2)\}$  (resp.  $\{\mathbb{N}_3^+(0) \cup \mathbb{N}_3^-(2)\}$  or  $\{\mathbb{N}_3^+(1) \cup \mathbb{N}_3^-(2)\}$ ). We verify that in each of these cases, either  $T[\{0\} \cup e \cup e'']$ ,  $T[\{0\} \cup e' \cup e'']$ ,  $T[\{1\} \cup e \cup e'']$  or  $T[\{1\} \cup e' \cup e'']$  is isomorphic to  $W_5$ , a contradiction. Therefore,  $R \in \mathcal{I} \cup \mathcal{K}$ . By Corollary 2,  $f(2) = 2$  or  $\alpha$ , where  $\alpha$  is the unique vertex of  $\mathbb{N}_3(2)$  in  $T[\mathbb{N}_3 \cup e \cup e']$ .

Suppose, again by contradiction, that  $R \in \mathcal{I}$ . We begin by the case where  $f(2) = 2$ . By Theorem 2, we can suppose that  $Q = \{\mathbb{N}_3^+(0) \cup \mathbb{N}_3^+(2)\}$  and  $Q' = \{\mathbb{N}_3^-(0) \cup \mathbb{N}_3^+(1)\}$ . By Lemma 4,  $Q'' = \{\mathbb{N}_3^-(1) \cup \mathbb{N}_3^+\}$ ,  $\{\mathbb{N}_3^-(2) \cup \mathbb{N}_3^+\}$ , or  $\{\mathbb{N}_3^-(1) \cup \mathbb{N}_3^-(2)\}$ . If  $Q'' = \{\mathbb{N}_3^-(1) \cup \mathbb{N}_3^+\}$  (resp.  $\{\mathbb{N}_3^-(2) \cup \mathbb{N}_3^+\}$ ), then  $T[\{0\} \cup e \cup e''] \simeq W_5$  (resp.  $T[\{1\} \cup e' \cup e''] \simeq W_5$ ), a contradiction. If  $Q'' = \{\mathbb{N}_3^-(1) \cup \mathbb{N}_3^-(2)\}$ , then, by taking  $X = \{0, 1, x\}$ , where  $x = \min T[\mathbb{N}_3^-(2)]$ , we obtain a contradiction because, by Corollary 3,  $T$  is  $T[X]$ -critical with  $|\mathcal{C}(G_X^T)| = 2$ . Indeed,  $\mathcal{C}(G_X^T) = \{X^-(0) \cup X^+(1), X^+(0) \cup X^+(x)\}$ , with  $X^-(0) = \mathbb{N}_3^-(0)$ ,  $X^+(1) = \mathbb{N}_3^+(1)$ ,  $X^+(0) = \mathbb{N}_3^+(0) \cup \mathbb{N}_3^-(1)$ ,

and  $X^+(x) = \mathbb{N}_3^+(2) \cup \{2\} \cup (\mathbb{N}_3^-(2) \setminus \{x\})$ . Now if  $f(2) = \alpha$ , then we obtain again a contradiction. Indeed, by replacing  $T$  by  $T^*$  and by interchanging the vertices 0 and 1,  $\{Q, Q'\} = \{\mathbb{N}_3^+(0) \cup \mathbb{N}_3^+(2), \mathbb{N}_3^-(0) \cup \mathbb{N}_3^+(1)\}$  as in the case where  $f(2) = 2$ .

At present,  $R \in \mathcal{K}$ . We begin by the case where  $f(2) = 2$ . By Theorem 2, we can suppose that  $Q = \{\mathbb{N}_3^- \cup \mathbb{N}_3^+(1)\}$  and  $Q' = \{\mathbb{N}_3^+(0) \cup \mathbb{N}_3^-(2)\}$ . By Lemma 4,  $Q'' = \{\mathbb{N}_3^-(0) \cup \mathbb{N}_3^+\}$ ,  $\{\mathbb{N}_3^-(1) \cup \mathbb{N}_3^+\}$ ,  $\{\mathbb{N}_3^-(0) \cup \mathbb{N}_3^-(1)\}$  or  $\{\mathbb{N}_3^-(1) \cup \mathbb{N}_3^+(2)\}$ . If  $Q'' = \{\mathbb{N}_3^-(1) \cup \mathbb{N}_3^+\}$  (resp.  $\{\mathbb{N}_3^-(1) \cup \mathbb{N}_3^-(0)\}$ ), then  $T[\{0\} \cup e \cup e''] \simeq W_5$  (resp.  $T[\{1\} \cup e' \cup e''] \simeq W_5$ ), a contradiction. If  $Q'' = \{\mathbb{N}_3^-(1) \cup \mathbb{N}_3^+(2)\}$ , then, by taking  $X = \{0, 1, x\}$ , where  $x = \max T[\mathbb{N}_3^+(2)]$ , we have a contradiction because, by Corollary 3,  $T$  is  $T[X]$ -critical with  $|\mathcal{C}(G_X^T)| = 2$ . Indeed,  $\mathcal{C}(G_X^T) = \{X^- \cup X^+(1), X^+(0) \cup X^-(x)\}$ , with  $X^- = \mathbb{N}_3^-$ ,  $X^+(1) = \mathbb{N}_3^+(1)$ ,  $X^+(0) = \mathbb{N}_3^-(1) \cup \mathbb{N}_3^+(0)$  and  $X^-(x) = \mathbb{N}_3^-(2) \cup \{2\} \cup (\mathbb{N}_3^+(2) \setminus \{x\})$ . If  $Q'' = \{\mathbb{N}_3^-(0) \cup \mathbb{N}_3^+\}$ , then  $T \in \mathcal{L}$ . Now suppose that  $f(2) = \alpha$ . By Theorem 2, we can suppose that  $Q = \{\mathbb{N}_2^+(1) \cup \mathbb{N}_2^-\}$  and  $Q' = \{\mathbb{N}_2^-(1) \cup \mathbb{N}_3^+(2)\}$ . By Lemma 4,  $Q'' = \{\mathbb{N}_3^-(2) \cup \mathbb{N}_3^+\}$ ,  $\{\mathbb{N}_3^-(2) \cup \mathbb{N}_3(0)\}$ , or  $\{\mathbb{N}_3^-(0) \cup \mathbb{N}_3^+\}$ . If  $Q'' = \{\mathbb{N}_3^-(2) \cup \mathbb{N}_3^+\}$  or  $\{\mathbb{N}_3^-(0) \cup \mathbb{N}_3^+(2)\}$ , then  $T[\{0\} \cup e \cup e''] \simeq W_5$ , a contradiction. If  $Q'' = \{\mathbb{N}_3^+(0) \cup \mathbb{N}_3^-(2)\}$ , then we obtain the same configuration giving  $|\mathcal{C}(G_X^T)| = 2$  in the case where  $f(2) = 2$ . If  $Q'' = \{\mathbb{N}_3^-(0) \cup \mathbb{N}_3^+\}$ , then  $T$  is isomorphic to a tournament of the class  $\mathcal{L}^*$ .  $\square$

**Proposition 6** For any tournament  $T$  of the class  $\mathcal{T}$ , we have  $c(T) = 2$  or 3.

**Proof** Let  $T$  be a tournament on  $(2n + 1)$  vertices of the class  $\mathcal{T}$  for some  $n \geq 3$ . We proceed by induction on  $n$ . By Propositions 4 and 5, the statement is satisfied for  $n = 3$  and for  $n = 4$ . Let  $n \geq 5$ . By Proposition 1, we can assume that  $T$  is  $C_3$ -critical with  $V(T) \setminus W_5(T) = \{0, 1\}$ . By Theorem 2 and Lemma 4,  $2 \leq c(T) \leq 4$ . Therefore, we only consider the case where  $|\mathcal{C}(G_{\mathbb{N}_3}^T)| = 4$ . By Corollary 2, there exist  $Q \neq Q' \in \mathcal{C}(G_{\mathbb{N}_3}^T)$  and a tournament  $R$  on 7 vertices of the class  $\mathcal{M}$ , such that for all  $e \in E(G_{\mathbb{N}_3}^T[Q])$  and for all  $e' \in E(G_{\mathbb{N}_3}^T[Q'])$ ,  $T[\mathbb{N}_3 \cup e \cup e'] \simeq R$ . By Lemma 7, there exists  $e'' \in E(G_{\mathbb{N}_3}^T[Q''])$ , where  $Q'' \in \mathcal{C}(G_{\mathbb{N}_3}^T) \setminus \{Q, Q'\}$ , such that  $T - e''$  is  $C_3$ -critical. As  $W_5$  embeds into  $T - e''$ , then  $V(T - e'') \setminus W_5(T - e'') = \{0, 1\}$  by Theorem 1. Therefore,  $T - e'' \in \mathcal{T}$ . By induction hypothesis,  $c(T - e'') = 2$  or 3. By Theorem 2, if  $c(T - e'') = 2$ , then  $c(T) = 2$  or 3. Therefore, suppose that  $c(T - e'') = 3$ . By Proposition 5 and by interchanging  $T$  and  $T^*$ , we can assume that  $T - e'' \in \mathcal{L}$ . By Theorem 2 and by taking  $e'' = \{x, x'\}$ , we can assume that  $x \in \mathbb{N}_3^-(1)$  and  $x' \in \mathbb{N}_3^+(2)$ . Thus, for  $X = \{0, 1, x'\}$ , we have  $T[X] \simeq C_3$  and  $X^+(x') = \emptyset$ . It follows from Theorem 2 that  $c(T) < 4$ .  $\square$

### References

- [1] Belkhechine H, Boudabbous I, Hzami K. Sous-tournois isomorphes à  $W_5$  dans un tournoi indécomposable. C R Acad Sci I Paris 2012; 350: 333–337 (in French).
- [2] Belkhechine H, Boudabbous I, Hzami K. Subtournois isomorphic to  $W_5$  of an indecomposable tournament. J Korean Math Soc 2012; 49: 1259–1271.
- [3] Belkhechine H, Boudabbous I, Hzami K. The indecomposable tournaments  $T$  with  $|W_5(T)| = |T| - 2$ . C R Acad Sci I Paris 2013; 351: 501–504.
- [4] Cournier A, Habib M. An efficient algorithm to recognize prime undirected graphs. Lect Notes Comput Sci 1993; 657: 212–224.

- [5] Cournier A, Ille P. Minimal indecomposable graphs. *Discrete Math* 1998; 183: 61–80.
- [6] Dubey CK, Mehta SK, Deogun JS. Conditionally critical indecomposable graphs. *Lect Notes Comput Sci* 2005; 3595: 690–700.
- [7] Ehrenfeucht A, Rozenberg G. Primitivity is hereditary for 2-structures. *Theor Comput Sci* 1990; 70: 343–358.
- [8] Latka BJ. Structure theorem for tournaments omitting  $N_5$ . *J Graph Theor* 2003; 42: 165–192.
- [9] Sayar MY. Partially critical indecomposable tournaments and partially critical supports. *Contrib Discrete Math* 2011; 6: 52–76.
- [10] Schmerl JH, Trotter WT. Critically indecomposable partially ordered sets, graphs, tournaments and other binary relational structures. *Discrete Math* 1993; 113: 191–205.
- [11] Spinrad J. P4-trees and substitution decomposition. *Discrete Appl Math* 1992; 39: 263–291.