

# Wide Diameter of Möbius Cubes\*

Jun-Ming Xu and Zhi-Guo Deng

Department of Mathematics  
University of Science and Technology of China  
Hefei, Anhui, 230026, China  
xujm@ustc.edu.cn

Received 10 November 2003

Revised 6 December 2004

## Abstract

The Möbius cube is a variant of the hypercube and has better performance than the hypercube with the same number of links and processors. This paper shows that the wide diameter of the Möbius cube is at most  $\lceil \frac{n+2}{2} \rceil + 2$ , about one half of the same dimensional hypercube's.

**Keywords** Möbius cubes, Hypercubes, Diameter, Wide diameter, Connectivity

**AMS Subject Classification:** 05C12 90B10

## 1 Introduction

To have processors work on a problem cooperatively, parallel computer systems need a mechanism for exchanging data. Interconnection networks are one way to meet this need. In an interconnection network, each processor has its own memory and resources and is connected to a number of neighboring processors by communication paths. The processors can work cooperatively by passing messages via the communication paths. The topology of a network determines how well the processors can interact with each other to solve a given problem. The small wider diameter is an important performance parameter in choosing a particular interconnection network for a parallel computer.

The hypercube network has proved to be one of the most popular interconnection networks. Möbius cubes, proposed first by Cull and Larson[3], form a class of hypercube variants that give better performance with the same number of edges and vertices. Like hypercubes, Möbius cubes are expandable, have a simple routing algorithm, and have a high fault tolerance. The Möbius cubes are superior to the hypercube in having about half of the diameter of the hypercube, about two-thirds of the average distance of hypercube. The variously desired properties of Möbius cubes have been extensively investigated in the literature, see, for example, [3, 4, 5, 8, 9]. In this paper, we shows that the wide diameter of a Möbius cube is about one half of the same dimensional hypercube's.

The rest of this paper is organized as follows. Section 2 recalls definition of Möbius cubes and introduces notation used in this paper. In section 3, we give some lemmas to prepare for the section 4, in which we prove the wide diameter of the  $n$ -Möbius cubes is at most  $\lceil \frac{n+2}{2} \rceil + 2$ .

## 2 Definitions and Notation

The architecture of an interconnection network is usually represented by a graph. Throughout this paper, we use network and graph, processor and vertex, and link and edge, interchangeably.

\*The work was supported by NNSF of China (No. 10271114).

Our fundamental graph terminology is referred to [2] when using an undirected graph to model an interconnection network. This paper considers finite, simple, and loopless graph  $G = (V, E)$ , where  $V = V(G)$  and  $E = E(G)$  are the vertex set and the edge set of  $G$ , respectively. The edge connecting two vertices  $x$  and  $y$  is denoted by  $(x, y)$ .

Suppose that  $G$  is a  $w$ -connected graph. By Menger's theorem there exist  $w$  internally disjoint paths between any two distinct vertices in  $G$ , the smallest number  $\ell$  for which there are  $w$  internally disjoint paths of length at most  $\ell$  between any two vertices in  $G$  is called the wide diameter of  $G$ , denoted by  $d_w(G)$ , proposed first by Hsu [7]. In a real-time processing system, the wide diameter is an important parameter to measure performance of the network.

An  $n$ -dimensional Möbius cube, denoted by  $M_n$ , has  $2^n$  vertices. Each vertex has a unique  $n$ -component binary vector on  $\{0, 1\}$  for an address, also called an  $n$ -bit string. For instance, a vertex  $X$  has address  $x_1x_2 \cdots x_n$ . The vertex  $X$  connects to  $n$  neighbors  $Y_1, Y_2, \dots, Y_n$ , where each  $Y_i$  satisfies one of the following equations:

$$Y_i = x_1 \cdots x_{i-1} \bar{x}_i x_{i+1} \cdots x_n \quad \text{if } x_{i-1} = 0 \quad (1)$$

$$Y_i = x_1 \cdots x_{i-1} \bar{x}_i \bar{x}_{i+1} \cdots \bar{x}_n \quad \text{if } x_{i-1} = 1 \quad (2)$$

where  $\bar{x}_i$  is the complement of the bit  $x_i$  in  $\{0, 1\}$ .

More informally, a vertex  $X$  connects to a neighbor that differs in a bit  $x_i$  if  $x_{i-1} = 0$ , and to a neighbor that differs in bits  $x_i$  through  $x_n$  if  $x_{i-1} = 1$ . The connection between  $X$  and  $Y$  along dimension 1 has  $x_0$  undefined, so we can assume  $x_0$  is either equal to 0 or equal to 1, which gives us slightly different network topologies. If we assume  $x_0 = 0$ , we call the network a "0-Möbius cube", denoted by  $M_n^0$ , and if we assume  $x_0 = 1$ , we call the network a "1-Möbius cube", denoted by  $M_n^1$ . Figure 1 and Figure 2 show the 0-Möbius cube  $M_4^0$  and the 1-Möbius cube  $M_4^1$ .

According to the above definition, it is not difficult to see that  $M_n^0$  (respectively,  $M_n^1$ ) can be recursively constructed from  $M_{n-1}^0$  and  $M_{n-1}^1$  by adding  $2^{n-1}$  edges. For any vertex  $X = x_1x_2 \cdots x_{n-1}$  in  $M_{n-1}^0$  or  $M_{n-1}^1$ , we construct a new vertex  $X' = x'_1x'_2 \cdots x'_n$ , where  $x'_2 = x_1, x'_3 = x_2, \dots, x'_n = x_{n-1}$ , then assigning  $x'_1 = 0$  if  $X$  is in  $M_{n-1}^0$ , or  $x'_1 = 1$  if  $X$  is in  $M_{n-1}^1$ .  $M_n^0$  is constructed by connecting all pairs of vertices that differ only in the first bit, and  $M_n^1$  is constructed by connecting all pairs of vertices that differ in the first through the  $n$ th bits. For short, we denote  $M_n^0 = M_{n-1}^0 \oplus M_{n-1}^1$  and  $M_n^1 = M_{n-1}^0 \otimes M_{n-1}^1$ .

We define  $\widetilde{M}_n^0$  ( $\widetilde{M}_n^1$ , respectively) obtained from two disjoint copies of  $M_{n-1}^0$  ( $M_{n-1}^1$ , respectively) by adding  $2^{n-1}$  edges between copies to link two vertices that have not any differences, that is,  $\widetilde{M}_n^0 = M_{n-1}^0 \times K_2$  ( $\widetilde{M}_n^1 = M_{n-1}^1 \times K_2$ , respectively), where " $G \times K_2$ " denotes the cartesian product of the graph  $G$  and the complete graph  $K_2$  of order 2.

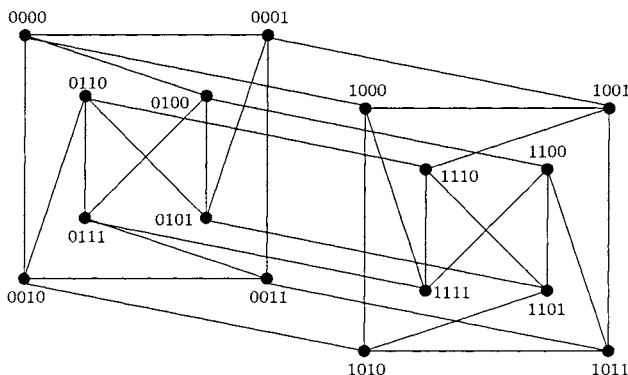


Figure 1: 0-Möbius cube  $M_4^0$

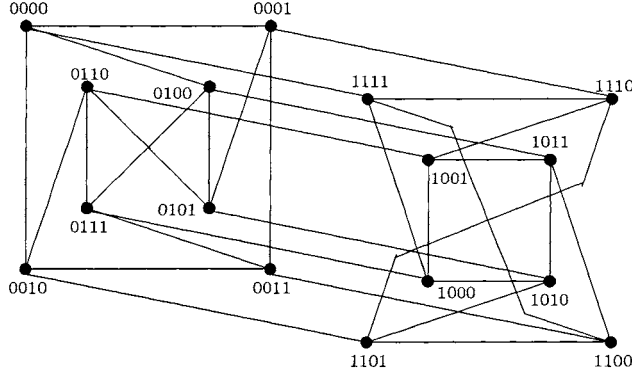


Figure 2: 1-Möbius cube  $M_4^1$

Let  $X = x_1x_2 \cdots x_n$  be a vertex of  $M_n$ . For a positive integer  $\ell \leq n$ , the  $\ell$ -prefix of  $X$ ,  $p_\ell(X)$ , is defined as an  $\ell$ -bit string  $x_1x_2 \cdots x_\ell$ .

For an  $\ell$ -bit string  $S$  with  $\ell \leq n$ , we use  $M_n(S)$  to denote the subgraph of  $M_n$  induced by the set of vertices with the prefix  $S$ . Let  $S_1$  and  $S_2$  be two distinct  $\ell$ -bit strings with  $\ell \leq n$ . If  $M_n(S_1)$  and  $M_n(S_2)$  can be joined by an edge in  $M_n$ , then  $M_n(S_1)$  and  $M_n(S_2)$  are called two adjacent subgraphs of  $M_n$ .  $M_n(S_1) \cup M_n(S_2)$  denotes the subgraph of  $M_n$  induced by  $V(M_n(S_1)) \cup V(M_n(S_2))$ .

Let  $X$  be a vertex in  $M_n$ ,  $\ell$  a positive integer with  $\ell < n$  and  $S_1 = p_\ell(X)$ . Assume  $S_2$  is an  $\ell$ -bit string with  $S_1 \neq S_2$ . If  $(S_1, S_2) \in E(M_\ell)$ , then, clearly, a vertex  $Y$  satisfying  $p_\ell(Y) = S_2$  and  $(X, Y) \in E(M_n)$  can be uniquely determined by  $S_1, S_2$  and  $X$ . We can thus denote such a vertex  $Y$  by  $f(X; S_1, S_2)$ . For example, given  $(S_1, S_2) = (00, 11) \in E(M_2^0)$  and  $X = 0011$ , the neighbor of  $X$  in  $M_4^1$  with prefix 11 can be uniquely identified and is given by 1100, that is,  $f(X; S_1, S_2) = 1100$ .

Let  $P = (X_0, X_1, \dots, X_m)$  be a path in  $M_\ell$ . The length of  $P$ , the number of edges in  $P$ , is denoted by  $|P|$ . Two terminal vertices  $X_0$  and  $X_m$  of  $P$  can be denoted by  $t(X_0; P) = X_m$  and  $t(X_m, P) = X_0$ ,  $X_i$  is called the immediate predecessor of  $X_{i+1}$ . For a given vertex  $X$  in  $M_n$  with  $p_\ell(X) = X_0$ , we use  $P(X; P)$  to denote the path  $(W_0, W_1, \dots, W_m)$  in  $M_n$  associated with  $P$ , where  $W_0 = X$  and  $W_i = f(W_{i-1}; X_{i-1}, X_i)$  for all  $1 \leq i \leq m$  (here, we must require  $M_n$  and  $M_\ell$  are both “0-Möbius cube” or both “1-Möbius cube”, otherwise,  $W_i$  and  $W_{i+1}$  possibly haven’t edge to connect in  $M_n$  for  $i = 0, \dots, m - 1$ ). Then  $|P(X; P)| = |P|$ . For example, let  $P = (00, 10, 11, 01)$  be a path of  $M_2^0$  and  $X = 0011$ . Then  $P(X; P) = (0011, 1011, 1100, 0100)$  is a path in  $M_4^0$ .

For a given path  $P = (X_0, X_1, \dots, X_m)$  in  $M_\ell$ , let  $I = \{M_n(X_i) \cup M_n(X_{i+1}) : M_n(X_i) \cup M_n(X_{i+1}) \text{ is isomorphic to the } (n - \ell + 1)\text{-dimensional } M_{n-\ell+1}^1, 1 \leq i \leq m - 2\}$ , and let  $\gamma(P) = |I|$ . From definition, we can note that  $M_n(X_0) \cup M_n(X_1)$  and  $M_n(X_{m-1}) \cup M_n(X_m)$  don’t belong the set  $I$  whether they are isomorphic to  $M_{n-\ell+1}^1$  or not. For example, let  $P = (00, 10, 11, 01)$  be a path of  $M_2^0$ , then  $\gamma(P) = 1$ .

### 3 Some Lemmas

**Lemma 1** (Cull and Larson [3]) The Möbius cube  $M_n$  is  $n$ -regular  $n$ -connected, the diameter of  $M_n^0$  is equal to  $\lceil \frac{n+2}{2} \rceil$  for  $n \geq 4$ , and the diameter of  $M_n^1$  is equal to  $\lceil \frac{n+1}{2} \rceil$  for  $n \geq 1$ .

**Lemma 2** Let  $S = x_1x_2 \cdots x_\ell$  be an  $\ell$ -bit string with  $\ell \leq n - 1$ . Then  $M_n(S)$  is isomorphic to  $M_{n-\ell}^0$  if  $x_\ell = 0$ , and isomorphic to  $M_{n-\ell}^1$  if  $x_\ell = 1$ .

*Proof* Assume  $S = x_1x_2 \cdots x_\ell$  be an  $\ell$ -bit string with  $\ell \leq n-1$ . If  $x_\ell = 0$ , then the mapping  $\theta : V(M_n(S)) \rightarrow V(M_{n-\ell}^0)$  defined by  $\theta(x_1x_2 \cdots x_\ell x_{\ell+1} \cdots x_n) = x_{\ell+1} \cdots x_n$  is bijective, and for any  $X, Y \in V(M_n(S))$ ,  $(X, Y) \in E(M_n(S)) \Leftrightarrow (\theta(X), \theta(Y)) \in E(M_{n-\ell}^0)$  as  $x_\ell = 0$ . Thus,  $\theta$  is an isomorphism from  $M_n(S)$  to  $M_{n-\ell}^0$ . In a similar argument, we can prove the other part of the lemma.  $\blacksquare$

In the  $M_4^0$  shown in Figure 1, we can find that  $M_4^0(01) \cup M_4^0(11)$  (resp.  $M_4^0(10) \cup M_4^0(00)$ ) is isomorphic to the  $\widetilde{M}_3^1$  (resp.  $\widetilde{M}_3^0$ ),  $M_4^0(01) \cup M_4^0(00)$  (resp.  $M_4^0(10) \cup M_4^0(11)$ ) is isomorphic to the  $M_3^0$  (resp.  $M_3^1$ ). In general, we have the following result.

**Lemma 3** For any  $X = x_1x_2 \cdots x_n, Y = y_1y_2 \cdots y_n \in V(M_n)$ , let  $S_1 = p_\ell(X), S_2 = p_\ell(Y)$  with  $\ell \leq n-1$ . If  $S_1 \neq S_2$ , then  $M_n(S_1) \cup M_n(S_2)$  is isomorphic to

- (1)  $M_{n-\ell+1}^0$  if  $x_\ell \neq y_\ell, x_{\ell-1} = y_{\ell-1} = 0 (\ell \geq 1)$ , and  $x_1 \cdots x_{\ell-2} = y_1 \cdots y_{\ell-2} (\ell \geq 2)$ ;
- (2)  $M_{n-\ell+1}^1$  if  $x_\ell \neq y_\ell$ , and there exists an  $i$  with  $0 \leq i \leq \ell-1$  such that  $x_i = y_i = 1, x_1 \cdots x_{i-1} = y_1 \cdots y_{i-1} (i \geq 1)$  and  $\bar{x}_{i+1} \cdots \bar{x}_\ell = y_{i+1} \cdots y_\ell$ ;
- (3)  $\widetilde{M}_{n-\ell+1}^0$  if  $x_\ell = y_\ell = 0$ , and there exists an  $i$  with  $1 \leq i \leq \ell-1$  such that  $x_{i-1} = y_{i-1} = 0, x_i \neq y_i$  and  $x_j = y_j$  for each  $j = 1, 2, \dots, i-2, i+1, \dots, \ell$ ;
- (4)  $\widetilde{M}_{n-\ell+1}^1$  if  $x_\ell = y_\ell = 1$ , and there exists an  $i$  with  $1 \leq i \leq \ell-1$  such that  $x_{i-1} = y_{i-1} = 0, x_i \neq y_i$  and  $x_j = y_j$  for each  $j = 1, 2, \dots, i-2, i+1, \dots, \ell$ .

*Proof* Let  $X = x_1x_2 \cdots x_n$  and  $Y = y_1y_2 \cdots y_n$  be two distinct vertices in  $V(M_n)$ , and let  $S_1 = p_\ell(X)$  and  $S_2 = p_\ell(Y)$  with  $S_1 \neq S_2$ . We only prove the assertions (1) and (3) since the assertions (2) and (4) can be proved similarly.

(1) Assume  $x_\ell \neq y_\ell, x_{\ell-1} = y_{\ell-1} = 0$ , and  $x_1 \cdots x_{\ell-2} = y_1 \cdots y_{\ell-2}$ . We can, without loss of generality, assume  $x_\ell = 0, y_\ell = 1$ . By Lemma 2,  $M_n(S_1)$  is isomorphic to  $M_{n-\ell}^0$  and  $M_n(S_2)$  is isomorphic to  $M_{n-\ell}^1$ . Thus, to prove that  $M_n(S_1) \cup M_n(S_2)$  is isomorphic to  $M_{n-\ell+1}^0$ , it is sufficient to prove  $M_n(S_1) \cup M_n(S_2)$  is isomorphic to  $M_{n-\ell}^0 \oplus M_{n-\ell}^1$ . To the end, we can define a mapping

$$\theta : V(M_n(S_1) \cup M_n(S_2)) \rightarrow V(M_{n-\ell}^0 \oplus M_{n-\ell}^1)$$

subject to, for  $Z = z_1 \cdots z_\ell z_{\ell+1} \cdots z_n$ ,

$$\theta(Z) = \begin{cases} 0z_{\ell+1} \cdots z_n & \text{if } Z \in V(M_n(S_1)); \\ 1z_{\ell+1} \cdots z_n & \text{if } Z \in V(M_n(S_2)). \end{cases}$$

By the recursively constructed definition of  $M_n^0$ , it is not difficult to see that  $\theta$  is an isomorphism from  $M_n(S_1) \cup M_n(S_2)$  to  $M_{n-\ell}^0 \oplus M_{n-\ell}^1$ .

(3) If  $x_\ell = y_\ell = 0$ , then by Lemma 2, both  $M_n^0(S_1)$  and  $M_n^0(S_2)$  are isomorphic to  $M_{n-\ell}^0$ . Since there is an  $i$  ( $1 \leq i \leq \ell-1$ ) such that  $x_{i-1} = y_{i-1} = 0, x_i \neq y_i, x_j = y_j$  ( $1 \leq j \leq \ell, j \neq i, i-1$ ),  $(X, x_1 \cdots x_{i-1} \bar{x}_i x_{i+1} \cdots x_\ell x_{\ell+1} \cdots x_n) \in E(M_n(S_1) \cup M_n(S_2))$ , e.g.,  $(S_1 x_{\ell+1} \cdots x_n, S_2 x_{\ell+1} \cdots x_n) \in E(M_n(S_1) \cup M_n(S_2))$ , so there exist a bijection such that  $M_n(S_1) \cup M_n(S_2)$  is isomorphic to  $\widetilde{M}_{n-\ell+1}^0$ .  $\blacksquare$

**Lemma 4** Let  $X = x_1x_2 \cdots x_n$  and  $Y = y_1y_2 \cdots y_n$  be two vertices in  $M_n$ . If there are  $(n-2)$  internally disjoint paths  $P_1^*, P_2^*, \dots, P_{n-2}^*$  from  $x_1x_2 \cdots x_{n-2}$  to  $y_1y_2 \cdots y_{n-2}$  in  $M_{n-2}$  (Here,  $M_n$  and  $M_{n-2}$  are both either “0-Möbius cube” or “1-Möbius cube”.) with  $|P_1^*| \leq \lceil \frac{n}{2} \rceil$  and  $|P_i^*| \leq \lceil \frac{n}{2} \rceil + 2$  for each  $i = 2, \dots, n-2$ , and  $\gamma(P_i^*) \geq 1$  for each  $i = 1, 2, \dots, n-2$ , then there are  $n$  internally disjoint paths  $P_1, P_2, \dots, P_n$  joining  $X$  and  $Y$  such that  $|P_1| \leq \lceil \frac{n+2}{2} \rceil, |P_i| \leq \lceil \frac{n+2}{2} \rceil + 2$  for each  $i = 2, \dots, n$ , and  $\gamma(P_i) \geq 1$  for each  $i = 1, 2, \dots, n$ .

*Proof* Our aim is to construct  $n$  paths  $P_1, P_2, \dots, P_n$  satisfying the requirement in Lemma. Since  $M_n$  and  $M_{n-2}$  are both either “0-Möbius cube” or “1-Möbius cube”, we first construct  $(n-2)$  paths in  $M_n$  as follows :

$$P_i' = P(X; P_i^*) = (X, X_{i,1}, \dots, X_{i,|P_i^*|} = W_i) \text{ for } i = 1, 2, \dots, n-2.$$

We can observe that all of  $P'_i$  are disjoint and  $|P'_i| = |P_i^*|$  for each  $i = 1, 2, \dots, n-2$ . Furthermore, since  $P_{n-2}(W_i) = p_{n-2}(Y)$ , it follows that  $W_i$  and  $Y$  are both in a subgraph which is isomorphic to either  $M_2^0$  or  $M_2^1$ . For given  $i$  ( $1 \leq i \leq n-2$ ), if  $W_i = Y$ , we simply let  $P_i = P'_i$ ; if  $W_i \neq Y$  we make the following modifications of  $P'_i$  to obtain a path  $P_i$ .

Since  $\gamma(P_i^*) \geq 1$ , we can assume  $M_n(p_{n-2}(X_{i,k})) \cup M_n(p_{n-2}(X_{i,k+1}))$  is isomorphic to  $M_{n-1}^1$  ( $1 \leq k < |P'_i| - 1$ ). Because  $M_n(p_{n-2}(X_{i,|P'_i|-1}))$  and  $M_n(p_{n-2}(W_i))$  have edges to connect, thus  $M_n(p_{n-2}(X_{i,|P'_i|-1})) \cup M_n(p_{n-2}(W_i))$  is isomorphic to one of  $M_{n-1}^0$ ,  $M_{n-1}^1$ ,  $\widetilde{M_{n-1}^0}$  and  $\widetilde{M_{n-1}^1}$ . Let  $X'_{i,|P'_i|-1}$  be a neighbor predecessor of  $Y$  in  $MQ_n(p_{n-2}(X_{i,|P'_i|-1}))$ ,  $X'_{i,j}$  be a neighbor predecessor of  $X'_{i,j+1}$  in  $M_n(p_{n-2}(X_{i,j}))$  for each  $j = |P_i^*| - 2, \dots, k$ . We will prove that there exists  $\ell$  with  $k \leq \ell \leq |P_i^*| - 1$  such that  $X'_{i,\ell}$  is a neighbor of  $X_{i,\ell}$  in  $M_n(p_{n-2}(X_{i,\ell}))$ . Without loss of generality, we can assume  $M_n(p_{n-2}(X_{i,|P'_i|-1})) \cup M_n(p_{n-2}(W_i))$  is isomorphic to  $M_{n-1}^0$ , other situations can be similarly dealt with.

For each  $i = 1, 2, \dots, n-2$ , assume  $W_i = w_1^i \cdots w_n^i$ . Without loss of generality, let  $w_{n-2}^i = y_{n-2} = 0$ . By Lemma 2,  $W_i$  and  $Y$  belong to  $M_n(p_{n-2}(W_i))$  which is isomorphic to  $M_2^0$ . If  $w_{n-1}^i w_n^i = 00$ ,  $y_{n-1} y_n = 01$  or  $w_{n-1}^i w_n^i = 10$ ,  $y_{n-1} y_n = 11$ , then we can let  $\ell = |P'_i| - 1$ . If  $W_i$  and  $Y$  do not have an edge to connect, such as  $w_{n-1}^i w_n^i = 00$ ,  $y_{n-1} y_n = 11$  or  $w_{n-1}^i w_n^i = 10$ ,  $y_{n-1} y_n = 01$ , since  $M_n(p_{n-2}(X_{i,|P'_i|-1}))$  is isomorphic to  $M_2^1$ , thus  $X_{i,|P'_i|-1}$  is a neighbor of  $X'_{i,|P'_i|-1}$ . Thus we can also let  $\ell = |P'_i| - 1$ . If  $w_{n-1}^i w_n^i = 00$ ,  $y_{n-1} y_n = 10$  or  $w_{n-1}^i w_n^i = 01$ ,  $y_{n-1} y_n = 11$ , then  $X_{i,|P'_i|-1}$  is not a neighbor of  $X'_{i,|P'_i|-1}$ . But if there is  $j$  ( $k < j < |P'_i| - 1$ ) such that  $M_n(p_{n-2}(X_{i,j})) \cup M_n(p_{n-2}(X_{i,j+1}))$  is isomorphic to  $M_{n-1}^0$ , then we can let  $\ell = j$ . If there is not such  $j$ , then we can let  $\ell = k$ .

So there exists  $\ell$  with  $k \leq \ell \leq |P_i^*| - 1$  such that  $X'_{i,\ell}$  is a neighbor of  $X_{i,\ell}$  in  $M_n(p_{n-2}(X_{i,\ell}))$ . Let  $P_i = (P'_i - (X_{i,\ell}, \dots, W_i)) \cup (X_{i,\ell}, X'_{i,\ell}, \dots, X'_{i,|P'_i|-1}, Y)$ . Obviously,  $|P_i| \leq |P'_i| + 1$  and  $\gamma(P_i) \geq 1$ .

Obviously, these  $(n-2)$  paths  $P_1, P_2, \dots, P_{n-2}$  are internally disjoint. Now we construct other two paths using  $P_1^*$  as follows. For  $i = n-1$  and  $n$ , let  $X^i$  be the two distinct neighbors of  $X$  in  $M_n(p_{n-2}(X))$ . Let  $P'_{n-1} = P(X^{n-1}, P_1^*)$ ,  $P'_n = P(X^n, P_1^*)$ ,  $W_{n-1} = t(X^{n-1}, P'_{n-1})$ ,  $W_n = t(X^n, P'_n)$ . Note that  $|P'_{n-1}| = |P'_n| = |P_1^*|$ . Furthermore,  $W_{n-1} \neq W_n$ ,  $W_{n-1}$  and  $W_n$  are in a subgraph isomorphic to  $M_2^0$  or  $M_2^1$ .

Without loss of generality, we consider that  $W_{n-1}$  and  $W_n$  are different from  $Y$ . Let  $d_{M_n(p_{n-2}(Y))}(W_{n-1}, Y) = 1$ ,  $d_{M_n(p_{n-2}(Y))}(W_n, Y) = 2$ , the path from  $W_n$  to  $Y$  in  $M_n(p_{n-2}(Y))$  be  $(W_n, Z, Y)$ , then we can construct

$$P_{n-1} = (X, X^{n-1}, P'_{n-1}, W_{n-1}, Y) \quad \text{and} \quad P_n = (X, X^n, P'_n, W_n, Z, Y).$$

Obviously,  $|P_{n-1}| \leq \lceil \frac{n+2}{2} \rceil + 2$ ,  $|P_n| \leq \lceil \frac{n+2}{2} \rceil + 2$  and  $\gamma(P_{n-1}) \geq 1, \gamma(P_n) \geq 1$ . These  $n$  paths  $P_1, P_2, \dots, P_n$  are internally disjoint,  $|P_1| \leq \lceil \frac{n+2}{2} \rceil$  and  $|P_i| \leq \lceil \frac{n+2}{2} \rceil + 2$  for each  $i = 2, 3, \dots, n$ , as desired. The lemma follows.  $\blacksquare$

## 4 Wide diameter of Möbius Cubes

**Theorem 1** Let  $X$  and  $Y$  be two distinct vertices of  $M_n$  for  $n \geq 1$ . Then, there are  $n$  internally disjoint paths  $P_1, P_2, \dots, P_n$  joining  $X$  to  $Y$  such that  $|P_1| \leq \lceil \frac{n+2}{2} \rceil$  and  $|P_i| \leq \lceil \frac{n+2}{2} \rceil + 2$  for each  $i = 2, 3, \dots, n$ .

**Proof** We prove this theorem by induction on  $n$ . It is easy to verify that the theorem is true for  $n = 1, 2, 3$ . Assume the theorem is true for  $M_\ell$  for all  $\ell$  with  $3 < \ell < n$ . We proceed to the induction step according to as  $M_n$  is  $M_n^1$  or  $M_n^0$ .

**Case 1** We first consider  $M_n$  is  $M_n^1$ . Without loss of generality, assume that  $X = x_1 \cdots x_n$  and  $Y = y_1 \cdots y_n$  are in  $M_n^1$  and assume  $x_1 x_2 = 01$  since other situations can be considered in a similar argument. We partition  $M_n^1$  into four  $(n-2)$ -Möbius cubes shown in Figure 3. We distinguish the following cases according to different locations of  $Y$ .

*Subcase 1.1*  $y_1 y_2 = 01$ , that is, both  $X$  and  $Y$  are in  $M_n(01)$ .

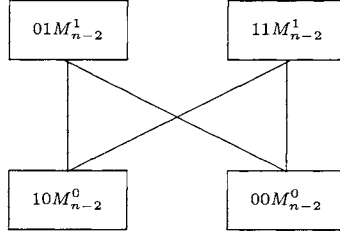


Figure 3: The partition of  $M_n^1$  into four  $(n - 2)$ -Möbius cubes

By Lemma 2,  $M_n^1(01)$  which is isomorphic to  $M_{n-2}^1$ . By the induction hypothesis, there are  $(n - 2)$  internally disjoint paths  $P_1, \dots, P_{n-2}$  joining  $X$  to  $Y$  in the  $M_n^1(01)$  such that  $|P_1| \leq \lceil \frac{n}{2} \rceil$  and  $|P_i| \leq \lceil \frac{n}{2} \rceil + 2$  for each  $i = 2, 3, \dots, n - 2$ . Let  $P_{n-1} = (X, 10\bar{x}_3 \cdots \bar{x}_n, P(10\bar{x}_3 \cdots \bar{x}_n, 10\bar{y}_3 \cdots \bar{y}_n), Y)$ , where  $P(10\bar{x}_3 \cdots \bar{x}_n, 10\bar{y}_3 \cdots \bar{y}_n)$  is a shortest path from  $10\bar{x}_3 \cdots \bar{x}_n$  to  $10\bar{y}_3 \cdots \bar{y}_n$  in  $M_n^1(10)$ . Since the diameter of  $M_n^1(01)$  is  $\lceil \frac{n-1}{2} \rceil$ , thus  $|P_{n-1}| \leq \lceil \frac{n-1}{2} \rceil + 2$ . Let  $P_n = (X, 00x_3 \cdots x_n, P(00x_3 \cdots x_n, 00y_3 \cdots y_n), Y)$ , where  $P(00x_3 \cdots x_n, 00y_3 \cdots y_n)$  is a shortest path from  $00x_3 \cdots x_n$  to  $00y_3 \cdots y_n$  in  $M^1(00)$ . Since the diameter of  $M_n^1(00)$  is  $\lceil \frac{n}{2} \rceil$ , thus  $|P_n| \leq \lceil \frac{n}{2} \rceil + 2$ . Obviously,  $P_1, \dots, P_n$  are required paths joining  $X$  to  $Y$ .

*Subcase 1.2*  $y_1y_2 = 00$ , that is,  $Y$  is in  $M_n^1(00)$ .

By Lemma 2,  $M_n^1(01) \cup M_n^1(00)$  is isomorphic to  $M_{n-1}^0$ . By the induction hypothesis, there are  $(n - 1)$  internally disjoint paths  $P_1, \dots, P_{n-1}$  joining  $X$  to  $Y$  in  $M_n^1(01) \cup M_n^1(00)$  such that  $|P_1| \leq \lceil \frac{n+1}{2} \rceil$  and  $|P_i| \leq \lceil \frac{n+1}{2} \rceil + 2$  for each  $i = 2, 3, \dots, n - 1$ . Let  $P_n = (X, 10\bar{x}_3 \cdots \bar{x}_n, P(10\bar{x}_3 \cdots \bar{x}_n, 11\bar{y}_3 \cdots \bar{y}_n), Y)$ , where  $P(10\bar{x}_3 \cdots \bar{x}_n, 11\bar{y}_3 \cdots \bar{y}_n)$  is a shortest path from  $10\bar{x}_3 \cdots \bar{x}_n$  to  $11\bar{y}_3 \cdots \bar{y}_n$  in  $M_n^1(10) \cup M_n^1(11)$ . By Lemma 2,  $M_n^1(10) \cup M_n^1(11)$  is isomorphic to the  $M_{n-1}^1$ . Since the diameter of  $M_{n-1}^1$  is  $\lceil \frac{n}{2} \rceil$ , thus  $|P_n| \leq \lceil \frac{n}{2} \rceil + 2$ . Obviously, these  $n$  paths are required.

*Subcase 1.3*  $y_1y_2 = 10$ . The proof is similar to that of Subcase 1.2.

*Subcase 1.4*  $y_1y_2 = 11$ , that is,  $Y$  is in  $M_n^0(11)$ .

This is a difficult case for us. We partition  $M_n^1$  into eight  $(n - 3)$ -Möbius cubes shown in Figure 4. Without loss of generality, we can assume  $x_1x_2x_3 = 010$  since a similar argument can deal with the case of  $x_1x_2x_3 = 011$ . We distinguish the following cases according to different locations of  $Y$ .

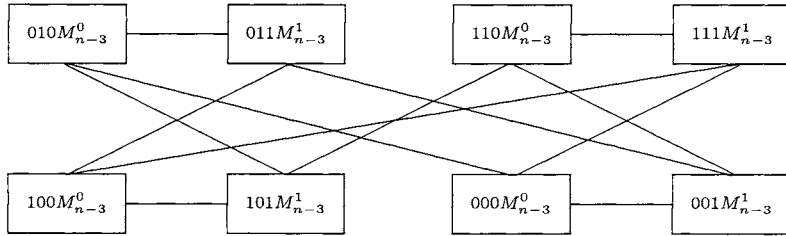


Figure 4: The partition of  $M_n^1$  into eight  $(n - 3)$ -Möbius cubes

*Subcase 1.4.1*  $y_1y_2y_3 = 111$ .

Since  $000x_4 \cdots x_n$  and  $111y_4 \cdots y_n$  belong to the  $M_n^1(111) \cup M_n^1(000)$  which is isomorphic to the  $M_{n-2}^1$  by Lemma 2, there are  $n - 2$  internally disjoint paths joining  $000x_4 \cdots x_n$  to  $111y_4 \cdots y_n$  in the  $M_n^1(111) \cup M_n^1(000)$ . Let

$$N_{M_n^1(000)}(000x_4 \cdots x_n) = \{000z_{i4} \cdots z_{in} : 1 \leq i \leq n - 3\}$$

be neighbors of  $000x_4 \cdots x_n$  in  $M_n^1(000)$ . Assume these  $(n-2)$  paths have the following forms.

$$\begin{aligned} P_i^* &= 000x_4 \cdots x_n \rightarrow 000z_{i4} \cdots z_{in} \rightarrow \cdots \rightarrow Y \text{ for } i = 1, 2, \dots, n-3; \\ P_{n-2}^* &= 000x_4 \cdots x_n \rightarrow 111\bar{x}_4 \cdots \bar{x}_n \rightarrow \cdots \rightarrow Y. \end{aligned}$$

By the induction hypothesis,  $|P_i^*| \leq \lceil \frac{n}{2} \rceil + 2$  and  $|P_1^*| \leq \lceil \frac{n}{2} \rceil$ . By Lemma 3,  $M_n^1(010) \cup M_n^1(000)$  is isomorphic to the  $\widehat{M_{n-2}^0}$ , we can construct  $n$  paths as follows.

$$\begin{aligned} P_i &= X \rightarrow 010z_{i4} \cdots z_{in} \rightarrow 000z_{i4} \cdots z_{in} \rightarrow P_i^* - (000x_4 \cdots x_n, 000z_{i4} \cdots z_{in}); \\ P_{n-2} &= X \rightarrow 000x_4 \cdots x_n \rightarrow P_{n-2}^*; \\ P_{n-1} &= X \rightarrow 101\bar{x}_4 \cdots \bar{x}_n \rightarrow 110x_4 \cdots x_n \rightarrow \cdots \rightarrow 110\bar{y}_4 \cdots \bar{y}_n \rightarrow Y; \\ P_n &= X \rightarrow 011\bar{x}_4 \cdots \bar{x}_n \rightarrow 100x_4 \cdots x_n \rightarrow \cdots \rightarrow 100\bar{y}_4 \cdots \bar{y}_n \rightarrow Y, \end{aligned}$$

where  $1 \leq i \leq n-3$ ,  $110x_4 \cdots x_n \rightarrow \cdots \rightarrow 110\bar{y}_4 \cdots \bar{y}_n$  and  $100x_4 \cdots x_n \rightarrow \cdots \rightarrow 100\bar{y}_4 \cdots \bar{y}_n$  are shortest paths in  $M_n^1(110)$  and  $M_n^1(100)$ , respectively. Obviously, these  $n$  paths are internally disjoint and  $|P_1| \leq \lceil \frac{n+2}{2} \rceil$  and  $|P_i| \leq \lceil \frac{n+2}{2} \rceil + 2$  for each  $i = 2, \dots, n$ .

*Subcase 1.4.2*  $y_1y_2y_3 = 110$ .

First assume  $x_4 \cdots x_n = y_4 \cdots y_n$ . Let

$$N_{M_n^1(010)}(X) = \{010x_{14} \cdots x_{1n}, \dots, 010x_{(n-3)4} \cdots x_{(n-3)n}\}$$

be neighbors of  $X$  in  $M_n^1(010)$ . Obviously,

$$N_{M_n^1(110)}(Y) = \{110x_{14} \cdots x_{1n}, \dots, 110x_{(n-3)4} \cdots x_{(n-3)n}\}$$

is the neighbors of  $Y$  in  $M_n^1(110)$ . We can construct  $n$  paths joining  $X$  to  $Y$  in  $M_n$  as follows.

$$\begin{aligned} P_1 &= X \rightarrow 101\bar{x}_4 \cdots \bar{x}_n \rightarrow 110x_4 \cdots x_n = Y; \\ P_{i+1} &= X \rightarrow 010x_{i4} \cdots x_{in} \rightarrow 101\bar{x}_{i4} \cdots \bar{x}_{in} \rightarrow 110x_{i4} \cdots x_{in} \rightarrow Y, \quad 1 \leq i \leq n-3; \\ P_{n-1} &= X \rightarrow 000x_4 \cdots x_n \rightarrow 111\bar{x}_4 \cdots \bar{x}_n \rightarrow Y; \\ P_n &= X \rightarrow 011\bar{x}_4 \cdots \bar{x}_n \rightarrow 001\bar{x}_4 \cdots \bar{x}_n \rightarrow Y. \end{aligned}$$

By a simple observation, these  $n$  paths are internally disjoint and  $|P_i| = 4$  for  $i = 2, 3, \dots, n-2$ ,  $|P_1| = 2$  and  $|P_{n-1}| = |P_n| = 3$ .

We now assume  $x_4 \cdots x_n \neq y_4 \cdots y_n$ . We consider two subcases according to the parity of  $n$ .

*Subcase 1.4.2a*  $n$  is odd.

Obviously, both  $M_n^1(010) \cup M_n^1(101)$  and  $M_n^1(101) \cup M_n^1(110)$  are isomorphic to  $M_{n-2}^1$ . By the induction hypothesis, there are  $(n-3)$  internally disjoint paths joining  $110x_3 \cdots x_n$  to  $Y$  in  $M_n^1(110)$ . Let

$$N_{M_n^1(110)}(110x_4 \cdots x_n) = \{110z_{i4} \cdots z_{in} : 1 \leq i \leq n-3\}.$$

be neighbors of  $110x_4 \cdots x_n$  in  $M_n^1(110)$ . Then, these paths have the following forms.

$$P_i^* = 110x_4 \cdots x_n \rightarrow 110z_{i4} \cdots z_{in} \rightarrow \cdots \rightarrow Y,$$

and  $1 \leq |P_1^*| \leq \lceil \frac{n-1}{2} \rceil$ ,  $2 \leq |P_i^*| \leq \lceil \frac{n-1}{2} \rceil + 2$  for each  $i = 2, 3, \dots, n-3$ . We construct  $n$  paths internally disjoint from  $X$  to  $Y$  in  $M_n$  as follows.

$$\begin{aligned} P_1 &= X \rightarrow 010z_{14} \cdots z_{1n} \rightarrow \cdots \rightarrow 010y_4 \cdots y_n \rightarrow 101\bar{y}_4 \cdots \bar{y}_n \rightarrow Y, \\ P_i &= X \rightarrow 010z_{i4} \cdots z_{in} \rightarrow 101\bar{z}_{i4} \cdots \bar{z}_{in} \rightarrow 110z_{i4} \cdots z_{in} \rightarrow \cdots \rightarrow Y, \\ P_{n-2} &= X \rightarrow 101\bar{x}_4 \cdots \bar{x}_n \rightarrow 110x_4 \cdots x_n \rightarrow P_1^*, \\ P_{n-1} &= X \rightarrow 000x_4 \cdots x_n \rightarrow \cdots \rightarrow 000y_4 \cdots y_n \rightarrow 111\bar{y}_4 \cdots \bar{y}_n \rightarrow Y, \\ P_n &= X \rightarrow 011\bar{x}_4 \cdots \bar{x}_n \rightarrow \cdots \rightarrow 011\bar{y}_4 \cdots \bar{y}_n \rightarrow 001\bar{y}_4 \cdots \bar{y}_n \rightarrow Y, \end{aligned}$$

where  $i = 2, 3, \dots, n-3$ ; the path from  $X$  to  $010y_4 \cdots y_n$  in  $P_1$  is along the responding path  $P_1^*$  in the  $M_n^1(010)$ ; the path from  $110z_{i4} \cdots z_{in}$  to  $Y$  in  $P_i$  is along the path  $P_i^*$ ,  $2 \leq i \leq n-3$ ; the path from

$000x_4 \cdots x_n$  to  $000y_4 \cdots y_n$  in  $P_{n-1}$  is a shortest path from  $000x_4 \cdots x_n$  to  $000y_4 \cdots y_n$  in  $M_n^1(000)$ ; the path from  $011\bar{x}_4 \cdots \bar{x}_n$  to  $011\bar{y}_4 \cdots \bar{y}_n$  in  $P_n$  is a shortest path from  $011\bar{x}_4 \cdots \bar{x}_n$  to  $011\bar{y}_4 \cdots \bar{y}_n$  in  $M_n^1(011)$ . Obviously,

$$|P_1| \leq \lceil \frac{n+3}{2} \rceil = \lceil \frac{n+2}{2} \rceil, |P_{n-1}| \leq \lceil \frac{n+1}{2} \rceil + 2, |P_n| \leq \lceil \frac{n+1}{2} \rceil + 2; \\ |P_i| \leq \lceil \frac{n+3}{2} \rceil + 2 = \lceil \frac{n+2}{2} \rceil + 2, \text{ for each } i = 2, 3, \dots, n-2.$$

*Subcase 1.4.2b*  $n$  is even. We partition  $M_n^1$  into sixteen  $(n-4)$ -Möbius cubes shown as Figure 5. Without loss of generality, we can assume  $x_1x_2x_3x_4 = 0100$  since the case of  $x_1x_2x_3x_4 = 0101$  can be dealt with similarly.

If  $y_1y_2y_3y_4 = 1100$ , then, since both  $M_n^1(0100) \cup M_n^1(1011)$  and  $M_n^1(1011) \cup M_n^1(1100)$  are isomorphic to  $M_{n-3}^1$ , we can construct  $n$  required paths from  $X$  to  $Y$  similar to Case 1.4.2a. We now consider the case of  $y_1y_2y_3y_4 = 1101$ .

If  $n = 4$ , in  $M_4^1$ , we can construct 4 internally disjoint paths joining 0100 and 1101 as follows.

$$P_1^* = 0100 \rightarrow 1011 \rightarrow 1010 \rightarrow 1101; \\ P_2^* = 0100 \rightarrow 0111 \rightarrow 0011 \rightarrow 0010 \rightarrow 1101; \\ P_3^* = 0100 \rightarrow 0101 \rightarrow 0001 \rightarrow 1110 \rightarrow 1101; \\ P_4^* = 0100 \rightarrow 0000 \rightarrow 1111 \rightarrow 1100 \rightarrow 1101.$$

Obviously,  $\gamma(P_i^*) \geq 1$  for each  $i = 1, 2, 3, 4$  and  $|P_1^*| = 3 \leq \lceil \frac{n+2}{2} \rceil$  and  $|P_i^*| = 4 \leq \lceil \frac{n+2}{2} \rceil + 2$  for  $2 \leq i \leq 4$ . Thus these 4 paths satisfy the conditions of Lemma 4. We can construct  $n$  required paths joining  $X$  and  $Y$  in  $M_n^1$  by applying Lemma 4 continuously.

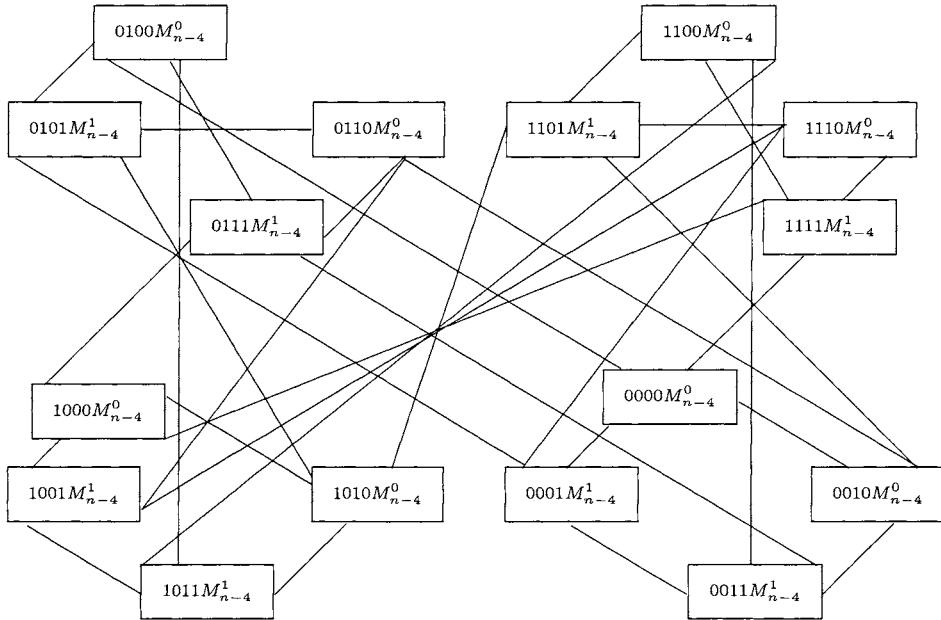
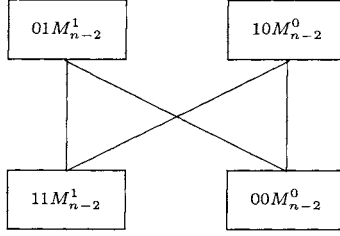


Figure 5: The partition of  $M_n^1$  into sixteen  $(n-4)$ -Möbius cubes

**Case 2** We now consider  $M_n$  to be  $M_n^0$ . The partition of  $M_n^0$  into four  $(n-2)$ -Möbius cubes are shown in Figure 6. There are four cases.



Figure 6: The partition of  $M_n^0$  into four  $(n-2)$ -Möbius cubes

In this case,  $X$  and  $Y$  belong to a subgraph  $M_n^0(01)$  which is isomorphic to  $M_{n-2}^1$ . By the induction hypothesis, there are  $(n-2)$  disjoint paths  $P_1, \dots, P_{n-2}$  joining  $X$  to  $Y$  in the  $M_n^0(01)$  such that  $|P_1| \leq \lceil \frac{n}{2} \rceil$  and  $|P_i| \leq \lceil \frac{n}{2} \rceil + 2$  for each  $i = 2, 3, \dots, n-2$ . Let

$$\begin{aligned} P_{n-1} &= X \rightarrow 00x_3 \cdots x_n \rightarrow \cdots \rightarrow 00y_3 \cdots y_n \rightarrow 01y_3 \cdots y_n, \\ P_n &= X \rightarrow 11x_3 \cdots x_n \rightarrow \cdots \rightarrow 11y_3 \cdots y_n \rightarrow Y, \end{aligned}$$

where the path from  $00x_3 \cdots x_n$  to  $00y_3 \cdots y_n$  in  $P_{n-1}$  is a shortest path from  $00x_3 \cdots x_n$  to  $00y_3 \cdots y_n$  in the  $M_n^0(00)$ , and the path from  $11x_3 \cdots x_n$  to  $11y_3 \cdots y_n$  in  $P_n$  is a shortest path from  $11x_3 \cdots x_n$  to  $11y_3 \cdots y_n$  in  $M_n^0(11)$ .

Since  $d_{M_n^0(00)}(00x_3 \cdots x_n, 00y_3 \cdots y_n) \leq \lceil \frac{n}{2} \rceil$  and  $d_{M_n^0(11)}(11x_3 \cdots x_n, 11y_3 \cdots y_n) \leq \lceil \frac{n-1}{2} \rceil$ , thus,  $|P_{n-1}| = \lceil \frac{n}{2} \rceil + 2$  and  $|P_n| = \lceil \frac{n-1}{2} \rceil + 2$ . Obviously,  $P_1, \dots, P_n$  are disjoint paths joining  $X$  to  $Y$  and satisfy our requirements.

*Subcase 2.1*  $y_1y_2 = 01$ .

*Subcase 2.2*  $y_1y_2 = 00$ .

In this case  $X$  and  $Y$  belong to a subgraph  $M_n^0(01) \cup M_n^0(00)$  which is isomorphic to  $M_{n-1}^0$ . By the induction hypothesis, there are  $(n-1)$  disjoint paths  $P_1, \dots, P_{n-1}$  joining  $X$  to  $Y$  in the  $M_n^0(01) \cup M_n^0(00)$  such that  $|P_1| \leq \lceil \frac{n+1}{2} \rceil$  and  $|P_i| \leq \lceil \frac{n+1}{2} \rceil + 2$  for each  $i = 2, 3, \dots, n-1$ . Let

$$P_n = X \rightarrow 11x_3 \cdots x_n \rightarrow \cdots \rightarrow 10y_3 \cdots y_n \rightarrow Y,$$

where the path from  $11x_3 \cdots x_n$  to  $10y_3 \cdots y_n$  is a shortest path from  $11x_3 \cdots x_n$  to  $10y_3 \cdots y_n$  in  $M_n^0(11) \cup M_n^0(10)$ . By Lemma 3,  $M_n^0(11) \cup M_n^0(10)$  is isomorphic to  $M_{n-1}^1$ , thus the distance between of  $11x_3 \cdots x_n$  and  $10y_3 \cdots y_n$  in  $M_n^0(11) \cup M_n^0(10)$  is at most  $\lceil \frac{n}{2} \rceil$ , and so  $|P_n| \leq \lceil \frac{n}{2} \rceil + 2$ . Obviously,  $P_1, P_2, \dots, P_n$  are disjoint paths joining  $X$  to  $Y$  and satisfy our requirements.

*Subcase 2.3*  $y_1y_2 = 11$ .

Assume  $x_3 \cdots x_n = y_3 \cdots y_n$ . Let

$$N_{M_n^0(01)}(X) = \{01z_{13} \cdots z_{1n}, \dots, 01z_{(n-2)3} \cdots z_{(n-2)n}\}$$

be neighbors of  $X$  in  $M_n^0(01)$ . Obviously,

$$N_{M_n^0(11)}(Y) = \{11z_{13} \cdots z_{1n}, \dots, 11z_{(n-2)3} \cdots z_{(n-2)n}\}$$

is the neighbors of  $Y$  in  $M_n^0(11)$ . We can construct  $n$  paths joining  $X$  to  $Y$  in  $M_n$  as follows.

$$\begin{aligned} P_1 &= X \rightarrow Y; \\ P_{i+1} &= X \rightarrow 01z_{i3} \cdots z_{in} \rightarrow 11z_{i3} \cdots z_{in} \rightarrow Y, \quad i = 1, \dots, n-2; \\ P_n &= X \rightarrow 00x_3 \cdots x_n \rightarrow \cdots \rightarrow 00\bar{x}_3 \cdots \bar{x}_n \rightarrow 10\bar{x}_3 \cdots \bar{x}_n \rightarrow Y, \end{aligned}$$

where  $00x_3 \cdots x_n$  to  $00\bar{x}_3 \cdots \bar{x}_n$  is a shortest path from  $00x_3 \cdots x_n$  to  $00\bar{x}_3 \cdots \bar{x}_n$  in  $M_n^0(00)$ . Clearly, these  $n$  paths are internally disjoint and  $|P_1| = 1$ ,  $|P_i| = 3$ ,  $1 \leq i \leq n-2$ ,  $|P_n| \leq \lceil \frac{n+2}{2} \rceil + 2$ .

We now assume  $x_3 \cdots x_n \neq y_3 \cdots y_n$ . By Lemma 3,  $X$  and  $Y$  are in  $M_n^0(01) \cup M_n^0(11)$  which is isomorphic to  $\widetilde{M}_{n-1}^1$ . Because  $11x_3 \cdots x_n$  and  $Y$  are in  $M_n^0(11)$  which is isomorphic to  $M_{n-2}^1$ . There are  $(n-2)$  internally disjoint paths  $P_1^*, \dots, P_{n-2}^*$  joining  $11x_3 \cdots x_n$  to  $Y$  in  $M_n^0(11)$  such that  $|P_1^*| \leq \lceil \frac{n}{2} \rceil$  and  $|P_i^*| \leq \lceil \frac{n}{2} \rceil + 2$  for each  $i = 2, 3, \dots, n-2$ . We can assume that

$$P_i^* = 11x_3 \cdots x_n \rightarrow 11z_{i3} \cdots z_{in} \rightarrow \cdots \rightarrow Y, \quad \text{for each } i = 1, 2, \dots, n-2.$$

We construct  $n$  internally disjoint paths joining  $X$  to  $Y$  in  $M_n$  as follows.

$$\begin{aligned} P_1 &= X \rightarrow 01z_{13} \cdots z_{1n} \rightarrow \cdots \rightarrow 01y_3 \cdots y_n \rightarrow Y; \\ P_i &= X \rightarrow 01z_{i3} \cdots z_{in} \rightarrow 11z_{i3} \cdots z_{in} \rightarrow \cdots \rightarrow Y \text{ for each } i = 2, 3, \dots, n-2; \\ P_{n-1} &= X \rightarrow 11x_3 \cdots x_n \rightarrow P_1^*; \\ P_n &= X \rightarrow 00x_3 \cdots x_n \rightarrow 10x_3 \cdots x_n \rightarrow \cdots \rightarrow 10\bar{y}_3 \cdots \bar{y}_n \rightarrow Y, \end{aligned}$$

where the path from  $X$  to  $01y_3 \cdots y_n$  in  $P_1$  is along the corresponding path  $P_1^*$  in the  $M_n^0(01)$ ; the path from  $11z_{i3} \cdots z_{in}$  to  $Y$  in  $P_i$  is along the  $P_i^*$ ; the path from  $10x_3 \cdots x_n$  to  $10\bar{y}_3 \cdots \bar{y}_n$  in  $P_n$  is a shortest path from  $10x_3 \cdots x_n$  to  $10\bar{y}_3 \cdots \bar{y}_n$  in  $M_n^0(10)$  which is isomorphic to the  $M_{n-2}^0$ . Clearly,  $P_1, P_2, \dots, P_n$  are internally disjoint. By the induction hypothesis,  $|P_1| \leq \lceil \frac{n+2}{2} \rceil$  and  $|P_i| \leq \lceil \frac{n+2}{2} \rceil + 2$  for each  $i = 2, 3, \dots, n$ , as desired.

*Subcase 2.4*  $y_1y_2 = 10$ .

We partition  $M_n^0$  into eight  $(n-3)$ -Möbius cubes shown in Figure 7. Without loss of generality, we can assume  $x_1x_2x_3 = 010$  since a similar argument can deal with the case of  $x_1x_2x_3 = 011$ . We distinguish the following cases according to different locations of  $Y$ .

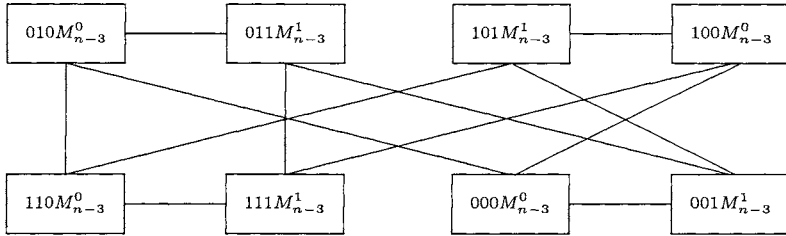


Figure 7: The partition of  $M_n^0$  into eight  $(n-3)$ -Möbius cubes

*Subcase 2.4.1*  $x_1x_2x_3 = 010, y_1y_2y_3 = 101$ .

Since  $M_n^0(010) \cup M_n^0(110)$ ,  $M_n^0(110) \cup M_n^0(101)$  are isomorphic to the  $\widetilde{M}_{n-2}^0$  and  $M_{n-2}^1$  respectively, the proof is similar to Subcase 1.4.1.

*Subcase 2.4.2*  $x_1x_2x_3 = 010, y_1y_2y_3 = 100$ . We consider two subcases according to the parity of  $n$ .

*Subcase 2.4.2a*  $n$  is odd.

Since  $M_n^0(010) \cup M_n^0(000)$ ,  $M_n^0(000) \cup M_n^0(100)$  are isomorphic to  $\widetilde{M}_{n-2}^0$ , we can construct  $n-2$  internally disjoint paths joining  $000x_4 \cdots x_n$  and  $100y_4 \cdots y_n$  in the  $M_n^0(000) \cup M_n^0(100)$  in a way similar to Subcase 2.3. Let

$$N_{M_n^0(000)}(000x_4 \cdots x_n) = \{000z_{i4} \cdots z_{in} : 1 \leq i \leq n-3\}.$$

Then the paths have the forms as follows.

$$\begin{aligned} P_i^* &= 000x_4 \cdots x_n \rightarrow 000z_{i4} \cdots z_{in} \rightarrow \cdots \rightarrow Y \text{ for each } i = 1, 2, \dots, n-3; \\ P_{n-2}^* &= 000x_4 \cdots x_n \rightarrow 100x_4 \cdots x_n \rightarrow \cdots \rightarrow Y. \end{aligned}$$

And  $|P_1^*| \leq \lceil \frac{n+1}{2} \rceil$  and  $|P_i^*| \leq \lceil \frac{n+1}{2} \rceil + 2$  for each  $i = 2, 3, \dots, n-2$ . We can construct  $n$  internally disjoint paths joining  $X$  to  $Y$  as follows.

$$\begin{aligned} P_i &= X \rightarrow 010z_{i4} \cdots z_{in} \rightarrow 000z_{i4} \cdots z_{in} \rightarrow \cdots \rightarrow Y \text{ for each } i = 1, 2, \dots, n-3; \\ P_{n-2} &= X \rightarrow 000x_4 \cdots x_n \rightarrow P_{n-2}^*; \\ P_{n-1} &= X \rightarrow 110x_4 \cdots x_n \rightarrow 101\bar{x}_4 \cdots \bar{x}_n \rightarrow \cdots \rightarrow 101y_4 \cdots y_n \rightarrow Y; \\ P_n &= X \rightarrow 011x_4 \cdots x_n \rightarrow 111x_4 \cdots x_n \rightarrow \cdots \rightarrow 111\bar{y}_4 \cdots \bar{y}_n \rightarrow Y, \end{aligned}$$

where the path from  $000z_{i4} \cdots z_{in}$  to  $Y$  in  $P_i$  is along the path  $P_i^*$ ; the path from  $101\bar{x}_4 \cdots \bar{x}_n$  to  $101y_4 \cdots y_n$  in  $P_{n-1}$  is a shortest path from  $101\bar{x}_4 \cdots \bar{x}_n$  to  $101y_4 \cdots y_n$  in  $M_n^0(101)$ ; the path from  $111x_4 \cdots x_n$  to  $111\bar{y}_4 \cdots \bar{y}_n$  in  $P_n$  is a shortest path from  $111x_4 \cdots x_n$  to  $111\bar{y}_4 \cdots \bar{y}_n$  in  $M_n^0(111)$ . Obviously,  $|P_1| \leq \lceil \frac{n+3}{2} \rceil = \lceil \frac{n+2}{2} \rceil$ ,  $|P_i| \leq \lceil \frac{n+3}{2} \rceil + 2 = \lceil \frac{n+2}{2} \rceil + 2$  for all  $2 \leq i \leq n-2$  and  $|P_i| \leq \lceil \frac{n+1}{2} \rceil + 2$  for  $i = n-1, n$ . So these  $n$  paths satisfy our requirements.

Subcase 2.4.2b  $n$  is even. We partition  $M_n^0$  into sixteen  $(n-4)$ -Möbius cubes shown as Figure 8.

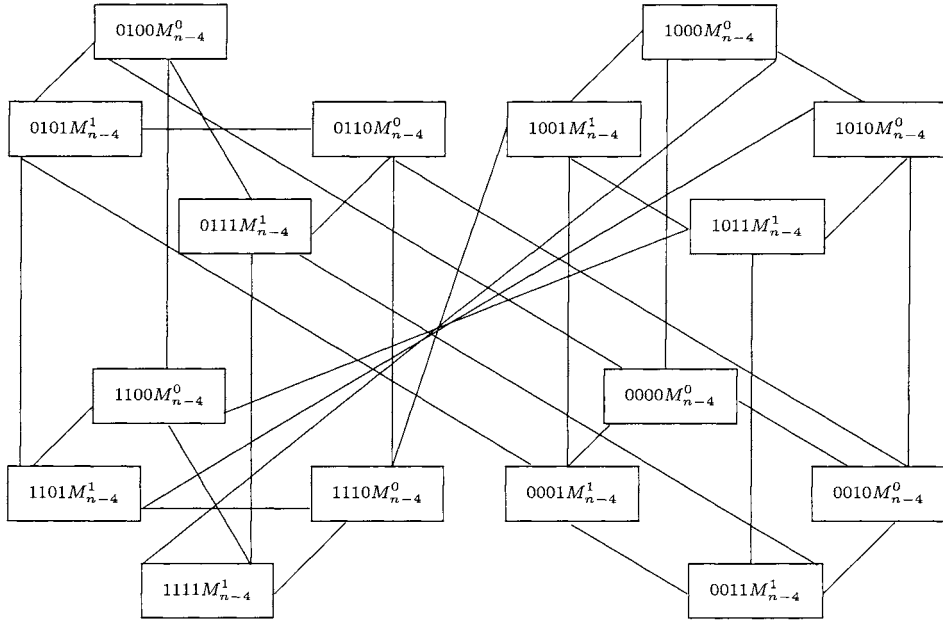


Figure 8: The partition of  $M_n^0$  into sixteen  $(n-4)$ -Möbius cubes

If  $x_1x_2x_3x_4 = 0100$  and  $y_1y_2y_3y_4 = 1000$ , then, since  $M_n^0(0100) \cup M_n^0(0000)$ ,  $M_n^0(0000) \cup M_n^0(1000)$  are isomorphic to the  $\bar{M}_{n-3}^0$ , we can construct  $n$  required paths in a way similar to Subcase 2.4.2a.

Now assume  $x_1x_2x_3x_4 = 0100$  and  $y_1y_2y_3y_4 = 1001$ . We first consider  $n = 4$ , in  $M_4^0$ , we can construct 4 internally disjoint paths joining 0100 and 1001 as follows:

$$\begin{aligned} P_1^* &= 0100 \rightarrow 1100 \rightarrow 1011 \rightarrow 1001; \\ P_2^* &= 0100 \rightarrow 0111 \rightarrow 1111 \rightarrow 1000 \rightarrow 1001; \\ P_3^* &= 0100 \rightarrow 0000 \rightarrow 0010 \rightarrow 0011 \rightarrow 0001 \rightarrow 1001; \\ P_4^* &= 0100 \rightarrow 0101 \rightarrow 0110 \rightarrow 1110 \rightarrow 1001. \end{aligned}$$

Obviously,  $\gamma(P_i^*) = 1$  for each  $i = 1, 2, 3, 4$  and  $|P_i^*| \leq 5 \leq \lceil \frac{n+2}{2} \rceil + 2$  for  $i = 2, 3, 4$ , and  $|P_1^*| = 3 \leq$

$\lceil \frac{n+2}{2} \rceil$ . These 4 paths satisfy the conditions of Lemma 4. Thus, we can construct  $n$  required paths by applying Lemma 4 continuously.

The proof of the theorem is complete. ■

**Theorem 2** For any Möbius cube  $M_n$ ,

$$\begin{aligned} \lceil \frac{n+2}{2} \rceil + 1 &\leq d_n(M_n^0) \leq \lceil \frac{n+2}{2} \rceil + 2, \text{ for } n \geq 4; \\ \lceil \frac{n+1}{2} \rceil + 1 &\leq d_n(M_n^1) \leq \lceil \frac{n+2}{2} \rceil + 2, \text{ for } n \geq 1. \end{aligned}$$

*Proof* Let  $G$  be  $n$ -connected and  $n$ -regular graph, we can use a basic result that  $d_n(G) \geq d(G) + 1$  obtained first by Hsu and Luczak [6]. Since  $M_n$  is  $n$ -connected and  $n$ -regular graph, thus  $d_n(M_n) \geq d(M_n) + 1$ . Because  $d(M_n^0) = \lceil \frac{n+2}{2} \rceil$ ,  $n \geq 4$ ,  $d(M_n^1) = \lceil \frac{n+1}{2} \rceil$ ,  $n \geq 1$ , and by Theorem 1, this theorem follows. ■

**Remarks** As we have known, the fault tolerant diameter of  $n$ -connected graph  $G$ ,  $D_n(G)$ , is not larger than the wide diameter of  $G$ . So we have  $D_n(M_n) \leq \lceil \frac{n+2}{2} \rceil + 2$  for all  $n \geq 1$ , immediately.

For the hypercube  $Q_n$ , Armstrong and Gray [1], Saad and Schiltz [11] independently showed that  $d_n(Q_n) = n + 1$ , and Krishnamoorthy and Krishnamurthy [10] showed that  $D_n(Q_n) = n + 1$ . From which, we can see that the wide diameter and fault tolerant diameter of Möbius cubes are about one half of those for hypercube respectively.

## References

- [1] J. R. Armstrong and F. G. Gray, Fault diagnosis in a Boolean  $n$ -cube array of microprocessors, *IEEE Transactions on computers*, **30**(8) (1981), 587-590.
- [2] J. A. Bondy and U. S. R. Murty, *Graph Theory with Applications*. London and Basingstoke, MacMillan Press LTD, 1976.
- [3] P. Cull and S. M. Larson, The Möbius cubes. *IEEE Trans. Computers*, **44** (5) (1995), 647-659.
- [4] J. Fan, Diagnosability of Möbius cubes. *IEEE Trans. Parallel Distributed Systems*, **9** (9) (1998), 923-928.
- [5] J. Fan, Hamilton-connectivity and cycle-embedding of Möbius cubes. *Information Processing Letters*, **82** (2002), 113-117.
- [6] D. F. Hsu and T. Luczak, Note on the  $k$ -diameter of  $k$ -regular  $k$ -connected graphs. *Discrete Mathematics*, **132** (1994), 291-296.
- [7] D. F. Hsu, On container width and length in graphs, groups, and networks. *IEICE Transaction on Fundamentals of Electronics, Communications and Computer Science*, **E77-A** (1994), 668-680.
- [8] W.-T. Huang, Y. Chuang, J. J. M. Tan and L. Hsu, Fault-free Hamiltonian cycle in faulty Möbius cubes. *Computación Systemas*, **4** (2) (2000), 106-114.
- [9] W.-T. Huang, W.-K. Chen and C.-H. Chen, Pancyclicity of Möbius cubes. *Proceedings of the Ninth International Conference on Parallel and Distributed Systems (ICPADS'02)*, 2002,
- [10] M. S. Krishnamoorthy and B. Krishnamurthy, Fault diameter of interconnection networks, *Computers and Mathematics with Applications*, **13**(5/6) (1987), 577-582.
- [11] Y. Saad and M. H. Schultz, Topological properties of hypercubes, *IEEE Transactions on computer*, **37**(7) (1988), 867-872.

Copyright of Journal of Interconnection Networks is the property of World Scientific Publishing Company and its content may not be copied or emailed to multiple sites or posted to a listserv without the copyright holder's express written permission. However, users may print, download, or email articles for individual use.