

Non-Extremal Triple Arrays and Near-Triple Arrays

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Based on joint work with Lars-Daniel Öhman

November 27, 2024

What is a triple array?

- r rows, c columns, v symbols
- no repetitions in rows or columns
- each symbol appears e times
- 2 rows, 2 columns, row and column: λ_{rr} , λ_{cc} , λ_{rc} common symbols

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
2	3	4	5	6	10	8	11	12
5	7	1	10	11	8	12	9	3
12	10	11	9	7	1	4	2	6

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Why triple arrays?

- ◇ Great experimental designs
- ◇ Rich combinatorial structure; generalize latin squares, Youden rectangles

What is a triple array?

◇ $(r \times c, rc)$ -TA

1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24

◇ $(n \times n, n)$ -TA: *latin square*

1	2	3	4	5
2	1	4	5	3
3	4	5	1	2
4	5	2	3	1
5	3	1	2	4

◇ $(n \times k, n)$ -TA: *Youden rectangle*

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
2	3	4	5	6	7	1
4	5	6	7	1	2	3

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◇ $e = \lambda_{rc} = rc/v$, $\lambda_{rr} = c(e - 1)/(r - 1)$, $\lambda_{cc} = r(e - 1)/(c - 1)$

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◇ $e = \lambda_{rc} = rc/v$, $\lambda_{rr} = c(e - 1)/(r - 1)$, $\lambda_{cc} = r(e - 1)/(c - 1)$

• *admissible* $(r \times c, v)$: $e, \lambda_{rr}, \lambda_{cc}, \lambda_{rc} \in \mathbb{Z}$, $\max(r, c) < v < rc$

◇ Ex.: $(3 \times 4, 6)$: no TA, $(5 \times 6, 10)$, $(4 \times 9, 12)$

Component designs

1	2	3	4	5	6
2	3	1	7	8	9
4	10	8	6	9	1
7	6	10	8	2	5
10	9	5	3	4	7

$(5 \times 6, 10)$ -TA

Component designs

1	2	3	4	5	6
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$(5 \times 6, 10)$ -TA

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Column design

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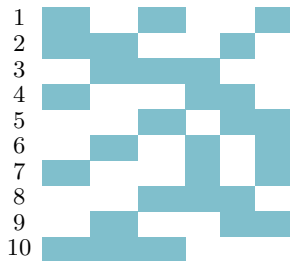


Column design

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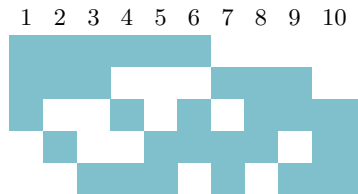


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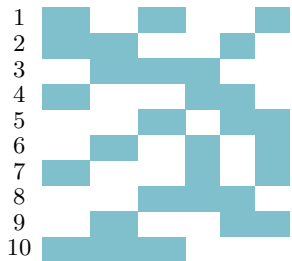
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Row design

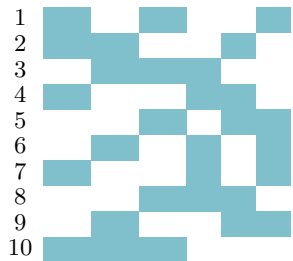


Column design

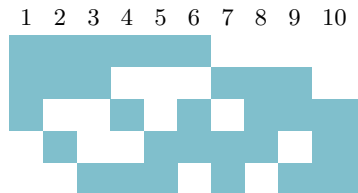
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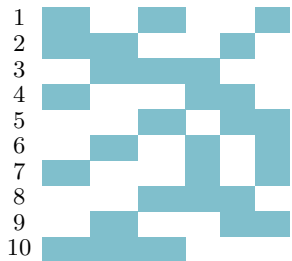
Row design

2 - (v, k, λ) *design*: family of *blocks* (k -sets) on v points, any 2 points lie in λ blocks

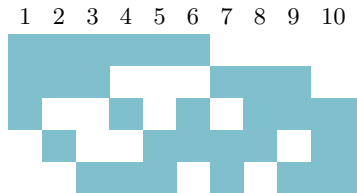
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$(5 \times 6, 10)$ -TA



Column design



Row design

$2-(v, k, \lambda)$ design: family of *blocks* (k -sets) on v points, any 2 points lie in λ blocks

$(r \times c, v)$ -TA:

- ◇ row design = $2-(r, e, \lambda_{rr})$ design
- ◇ column design = $2-(c, e, \lambda_{cc})$ design

Extremal TA

◇ $v \geq r + c - 1$

**Bayley–Heidtmann, 1994; Bagchi, 1998;
McSorley–Phillips–Wallis–Yucas, 2005**

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◇ symmetric 2-design $\xrightarrow[\text{problem}]{\text{assignment}}$ extremal TA

Agrawal, 1966

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0,1,4,5,7,8

0,2,4,6,7,9

0,1,2,5,9,10

0,1,3,6,7,10

0,2,3,4,8,10

1,2,3,4,5,6

1,2,3,7,8,9

1,4,6,8,9,10

2,5,6,7,8,10

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0,2,3,4,8,10

1,2,4,7,10

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0,1,3,6,7,10

0,2,3,4,8,10 1,2,4,7,10 **2,3,6,9,10**

1,2,3,4,5,6

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1,3,5,8,10

3,4,6,7,8

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1,5,6,7,9

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2,3,6,9,10

1,3,5,8,10

3,4,6,7,8

2,4,5,8,9

1,5,6,7,9

1,2,3,4,5,6

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◇ extremal TA \rightarrow symmetric 2-design

BH, 1994; MPWY, 2005

The assignment problem

		C_1	C_2	C_3	C_4	C_5	C_6
		1,2,4,7,10	2,3,6,9,10	1,3,5,8,10	3,4,6,7,8	2,4,5,8,9	1,5,6,7,9
R_1	1,2,3,4,5,6						
R_2	1,2,3,7,8,9						
R_3	1,4,6,8,9,10						
R_4	2,5,6,7,8,10						
R_5	3,4,5,7,9,10						

The assignment problem

		C_1	C_2	C_3	C_4	C_5	C_6
		1,2,4,7,10	2,3,6,9,10	1,3,5,8,10	3,4,6,7,8	2,4,5,8,9	1,5,6,7,9
R_1	1,2,3,4,5,6	1, 2, 4	2, 3, 6	1, 3, 5	3, 4, 6	2, 4, 5	1, 5, 6
R_2	1,2,3,7,8,9	1, 2, 7	2, 3, 9	1, 3, 8	3, 7, 8	2, 8, 9	1, 7, 9
R_3	1,4,6,8,9,10	1, 4, 10	6, 9, 10	1, 8, 10	4, 6, 8	4, 8, 9	1, 6, 9
R_4	2,5,6,7,8,10	2, 7, 10	2, 6, 10	5, 8, 10	6, 7, 8	2, 5, 8	5, 6, 7
R_5	3,4,5,7,9,10	4, 7, 10	3, 9, 10	3, 5, 10	3, 4, 7	4, 5, 9	5, 7, 9

- find $a_{ij} \in R_i \cap C_j$: $a_{ij} \neq a_{kj}$, $a_{ij} \neq a_{il}$

The assignment problem

		C_1	C_2	C_3	C_4	C_5	C_6
		1,2,4,7,10	2,3,6,9,10	1,3,5,8,10	3,4,6,7,8	2,4,5,8,9	1,5,6,7,9
R_1	1,2,3,4,5,6	1, 2, 4	2, 3, 6	1, 3, 5	3, 4, 6	2, 4, 5	1, 5, 6
R_2	1,2,3,7,8,9	1, 2, 7	2, 3, 9	1, 3, 8	3, 7, 8	2, 8, 9	1, 7, 9
R_3	1,4,6,8,9,10	1, 4, 10	6, 9, 10	1, 8, 10	4, 6, 8	4, 8, 9	1, 6, 9
R_4	2,5,6,7,8,10	2, 7, 10	2, 6, 10	5, 8, 10	6, 7, 8	2, 5, 8	5, 6, 7
R_5	3,4,5,7,9,10	4, 7, 10	3, 9, 10	3, 5, 10	3, 4, 7	4, 5, 9	5, 7, 9

- find $a_{ij} \in R_i \cap C_j$: $a_{ij} \neq a_{kj}$, $a_{ij} \neq a_{il}$
- ◇ NP-complete for arbitrary R_i , C_j

Fon-Der-Flaass, 1997

The assignment problem

		C_1	C_2	C_3	C_4	C_5	C_6
		1,2,4,7,10	2,3,6,9,10	1,3,5,8,10	3,4,6,7,8	2,4,5,8,9	1,5,6,7,9
R_1	1,2,3,4,5,6	1, 2, 4	2, 3, 6	1, 3, 5	3, 4, 6	2, 4, 5	1, 5, 6
R_2	1,2,3,7,8,9	1, 2, 7	2, 3, 9	1, 3, 8	3, 7, 8	2, 8, 9	1, 7, 9
R_3	1,4,6,8,9,10	1, 4, 10	6, 9, 10	1, 8, 10	4, 6, 8	4, 8, 9	1, 6, 9
R_4	2,5,6,7,8,10	2, 7, 10	2, 6, 10	5, 8, 10	6, 7, 8	2, 5, 8	5, 6, 7
R_5	3,4,5,7,9,10	4, 7, 10	3, 9, 10	3, 5, 10	3, 4, 7	4, 5, 9	5, 7, 9

- find $a_{ij} \in R_i \cap C_j$: $a_{ij} \neq a_{kj}$, $a_{ij} \neq a_{il}$
- ◇ NP-complete for arbitrary R_i, C_j **Fon-Der-Flaass, 1997**
- ◇ **Conjecture:** in Agrawal's constr. solution exists if $|R_i \cap C_j| = \lambda_{rc} > 2$

Other constructions

- Extremal TA
 - ◇ from *Hadamard matrices*
 - ◇ from *Youden rectangles*
 - ◇ from *difference sets*

Preece–Wallis–Yucas, 2005
Nilson–Öhman, 2014
Nilson–Cameron, 2017

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- Non-extremal TA?

- ◇ “Small” admissible $(r \times c, v)$: $(7 \times 15, 35)$, $(11 \times 45, 99)$, $(15 \times 21, 63)$,
 $(16 \times 21, 56)$, $(16 \times 25, 100)$, $(13 \times 40, 130)$

- ◇ Is there a $(7 \times 15, 35)$ -triple array?

Preece, 1970s

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- ◊ Is there a $(7 \times 15, 35)$ -triple array?

Preece, 1970s

- ◊ There is!

MPWY, 2005; Yucas, 2002

31	1	18	16	7	10	5	3	4	2	33	14	19	15	12
26	32	1	2	29	30	28	20	27	11	5	34	3	8	4
1	17	13	9	3	4	21	22	6	35	25	5	24	2	23
6	27	33	28	16	13	35	30	15	10	9	26	12	17	29
16	12	23	32	34	21	15	33	24	22	11	10	8	25	20
21	22	28	24	25	19	7	14	18	29	27	23	26	30	31
11	7	8	14	13	32	20	6	34	18	19	17	35	31	9

- ◊ The only example known so far!

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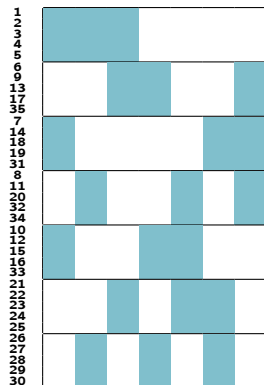
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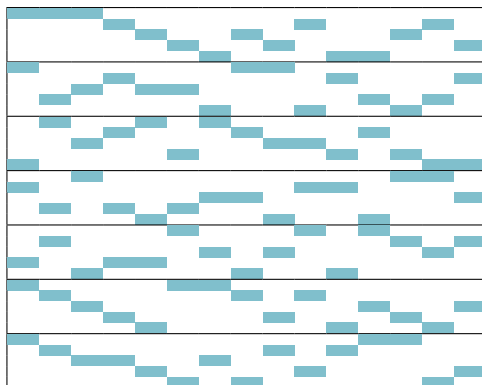
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26	32	1	2	29	30	28	20	27	11	5	34	3	8	4
1	17	13	9	3	4	21	22	6	35	25	5	24	2	23
6	27	33	28	16	13	35	30	15	10	9	26	12	17	29
16	12	23	32	34	21	15	33	24	22	11	10	8	25	20
21	22	28	24	25	19	7	14	18	29	27	23	26	30	31
11	7	8	14	13	32	20	6	34	18	19	17	35	31	9

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Non-extremal $(7 \times 15, 35)$ -TA



Row design: $5 \times \text{PG}(2, 2)$



Column design: resolution of $\text{PG}(3, 2)$

- *parallel class*: partition of all points into blocks
- *resolution*: partition of all blocks into parallel classes

New TA construction

G.-Öhman, 2023+

- admissible $(r \times c, v)$, $a := e(e-1)/(r-1) \in \mathbb{Z}$, $k := c/e \in \mathbb{Z}$
- 1 row design = $k \times$ symmetric $2-(r, e, a)$ design
 - 2 column design = resolution of $2-(c, e, \lambda_{cc})$ design
 - 3 blocks of 1 \Leftrightarrow parallel classes of 2
 - 4 assignment problem

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- ◇ First general construction for non-extremal TA

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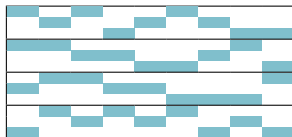
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- ◇ First general construction for non-extremal TA
- ◇ In constructed TA every two rows and column have a common symbols
- ◇ Can give extremal TA:

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
2	3	4	5	6	10	8	11	12
5	7	1	10	11	8	12	9	3
12	10	11	9	7	1	4	2	6

1
7
9
2
4
6
3
5
8
10
11
12



New non-extremal TA

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New $(7 \times 15, 35)$ -TA

- 7 resolutions of 2- $(15, 3, 1)$ designs (*Kirkman parades*)
- Knuth's Dancing Links algorithm
- ◇ 85 non-isotopic $(7 \times 15, 35)$ -TA

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# of parade	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Aut	168	168	24	24	12	12	21
TA found	0	3	24	4	21	21	12

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First $(21 \times 15, 63)$ -TA

- 149+ resolutions of 2 - $(15, 5, 6)$ designs
- Exhaustive search out of the question
- Randomization + nonexhaustive techniques

Mathon-Rosa, 1989

$(21 \times 15, 63)$ -TA

2	25	46	19	54	4	37	23	55	8	31	58	15	12	18	36	41	44	28	51	62
45	35	41	1	33	6	27	20	58	9	28	62	13	10	55	38	16	52	24	46	50
15	1	42	30	55	54	5	31	35	11	7	39	58	43	16	47	50	19	22	26	63
14	24	61	3	32	16	10	5	40	51	9	43	59	36	26	19	37	53	55	48	28
6	34	10	17	1	8	29	21	42	55	14	37	60	31	63	46	49	43	23	27	53
13	9	47	58	2	5	28	63	34	12	42	44	53	17	25	39	24	20	56	32	49
1	36	63	16	52	7	11	33	4	20	29	59	23	44	56	14	38	42	48	25	51
51	22	62	2	56	47	30	6	36	19	8	38	11	32	17	13	40	27	43	60	52
50	27	3	29	37	18	6	32	59	56	41	7	10	34	15	20	22	54	44	47	61
49	2	11	59	38	46	4	24	56	21	40	9	54	35	61	15	17	26	45	31	29
44	26	1	21	39	53	12	61	6	57	33	8	22	18	13	48	51	40	29	58	35
5	7	2	60	53	48	38	19	41	49	15	61	12	16	27	34	23	45	57	33	30
43	23	40	20	3	9	39	4	57	10	30	60	14	33	62	35	18	25	47	49	54
3	8	48	18	31	52	25	62	5	50	13	45	24	11	57	37	42	21	30	59	34
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Near-triple arrays

- r rows, c columns, v symbols
- no repetitions in rows or columns
- each symbol appears e or $e + 1$ times
- 2 rows: λ_{rr} or $\lambda_{rr} + 1$ common symbols
- 2 columns: λ_{cc} or $\lambda_{cc} + 1$ c.s.
- row and column: λ_{rc} or $\lambda_{rc} + 1$ c.s.

1	2	3	4	5	6
2	3	4	7	8	9
5	1	7	9	6	8
7	8	6	1	4	2

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Why near-triple arrays?

- ◇ (Hopefully) still great experimental designs
- ◇ Exist for wider range of parameters; easier to construct
- ◇ for TA-admissible $(r \times c, v)$, TA = NTA

Enumeration of TA

v	10	12	14	15	20	
$r \times c$	5×6	4×9	7×8	6×10	5×16	
Total #	7	1	684782	270119	26804	
Aut	1		682054	263790	26714	
	2		1266	5280		
	3	2	1	1277	260	90
	4	1		98	579	
	5				1	
	6	1		48	69	
	7			2		
	8			12	88	
	10				2	
	12	2		9	17	
	16				11	
	18				1	
	20				4	
	21			8		
	24			7	9	
	36				2	
	48				4	
	60	1				
	120				1	
	168			1		
720				1		

Open questions

- More non-extremal TA:
 - $\text{PG}(2, q) + \text{resolution of PG}(3, q)$: $(7 \times 15, 35)$, $(13 \times 40, 130)$, ...

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- **Conjecture:** in Agrawal's constr. solution exists if $|R_i \cap C_j| = \lambda_{rc} > 2$
- Statistical analysis of NTA
- ◇ Are there $r, c, v \in \mathbb{N}$, $\max(r, c) < v < r + c - 1$:

$$\frac{rc}{v} \in \mathbb{N}, \quad \frac{c(e-1)}{r-1} \in \mathbb{N}, \quad \frac{r(e-1)}{c-1} \in \mathbb{N}?$$