# Existence of small ordered orthogonal arrays

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(joint work with Kai-Uwe Schmidt)

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2-(3,4,1) orthogonal array



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Applications:

statistics, coding theory, cryptography, software testing, ...













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No orthogonal array with t = 2!

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### Applications:

numerical integration (connected to (t, m, s)-nets), coding theory, cryptography, ...

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Accordingly, define  $N^*(n, r)$  for  $t-(q, n, r, \lambda)$  OOAs.

#### Orthogonal array: Rao bound 1973

$$N(n) \ge \left(rac{cqn}{t}
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(c is a universal constant independent of all other parameters)

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#### Theorem (Kuperberg-Lovett-Peled 2017)

For all integers q, n, t with  $q \ge 2$  and  $1 \le t \le n$ , there exists a t- $(q, n, \lambda)$  orthogonal array Y such that

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This gives

$$\left(\frac{c'qn}{t}\right)^{t/2} \le N(n) \le \left(\frac{cqn}{t}\right)^{ct}$$

for some universal constants c, c' > 0.

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$$|Y| \le \left(\frac{cq(n+t)}{t}\right)^{ct}$$

for some universal constant c > 0.

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Roughly speaking, the lower bound  $(\star)$  is more accurate than the upper bound  $(\star)$  if *n* is large compared to *t*.

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Roughly speaking, the lower bound  $(\star)$  is more accurate than the upper bound  $(\star)$  if *n* is large compared to *t*.

The proof is nonconstructive and based on a probabilistic method.

Besides using (t, m, s)-nets, only a few constructions of OOAs are known, for example:

- Rosenbloom-Tsfasman (1997)
- Skriganov (2001)
- Castoldi-Moura-Panario-Stevens (2017)
- Panario-Saaltink-Stevens-Wevrick (2019)

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They all give MDS-like codes, namely optimal t-(q, n, r, 1) OOAs of size  $q^t$  if q is a prime power with  $q \ge n - 1$ .

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It has been applied to

- orthogonal arrays, combinatorial *t*-designs,
  *t*-wise permutations (Kuperberg-Lovett-Peled 2017)
- t-designs over finite fields (Fazeli-Lovett-Vardy 2014)
- large sets of combinatorial *t*-designs (Lovett-Rao-Vardy 2020)
- large sets of *t*-designs over finite fields (Bao-Ji 2022)

"Regular combinatorial objects": highly symmetric objects with many simultaneous conditions of exact count. "Regular combinatorial objects": highly symmetric objects with many simultaneous conditions of exact count.

t- $(q, n, r, \lambda)$  OOA:

collection of vectors in  $[q]^{nr}$  such that on any t coordinates (that are allowed to choose), each one of the possible  $q^t$  patterns occurs exactly  $\lambda$  times.

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#### Basic idea of KLP theorem

If the regular combinatorial objects satisfy certain properties, then the probability that a random construction works is positive, albeit tiny. Thus, the object exists.

## Framework of KLP theorem

Let M be an integer matrix with row set R and column set C.

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Goal: Find a *small* subset Y of rows whose average equals the average of all rows

$$\frac{1}{|Y|}\sum_{x\in Y} \operatorname{row}(x) = \frac{1}{|R|}\sum_{x\in R} \operatorname{row}(x).$$

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Orthogonal arrays:

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\* \* \*. . . 1`  $M = \blacksquare$ 



This gives

$$\frac{1}{4}(1,\ldots,1) = \frac{1}{|Y|} \sum_{x \in Y} \operatorname{row}(x) = \frac{1}{|R|} \sum_{x \in R} \operatorname{row}(x) = \frac{1}{8}(2,\ldots,2)$$

#### A subset Y of rows of M satisfying

$$\frac{1}{|Y|}\sum_{x\in Y} \operatorname{row}(x) = \frac{1}{|R|}\sum_{x\in R} \operatorname{row}(x)$$

is precisely a t- $(q, n, \lambda)$  orthogonal array.

#### Theorem (KLP theorem)

If the matrix *M* satisfies certain conditions, then there is a small subset *Y* of rows in *M* such that

$$\frac{1}{|Y|}\sum_{x\in Y} \operatorname{row}(x) = \frac{1}{|R|}\sum_{x\in R} \operatorname{row}(x).$$

(Small means polynomial in the number of columns of M and other parameters.)

## "Easy conditions"

Let V be the vector space over  $\mathbb{Q}$  spanned by the columns of M. Boundedness of V:

All entries in M are "small".

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The subspace V contains the constant vectors.

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## Symmetry:

The symmetry group of M acts transitively on the rows of M.

We want a *small* subset Y with

$$\sum_{x \in Y} \operatorname{row}(x) = |Y| \cdot \frac{1}{|R|} \sum_{x \in R} \operatorname{row}(x).$$

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Divisibility: There exists a *small* integer *c* such that

$$c \cdot \frac{1}{|R|} \sum_{x \in R} \operatorname{row}(x)$$

can be expressed as an integer combination of the rows of M.

# Let $V^{\perp}$ be the orthogonal complement of V in $\mathbb{Q}^{R}$ .

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This is usually the hardest condition to check!

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