

Binary linear codes and designs

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A conference graph

Let $X = \mathbb{F}_p$, where p is a prime with $p \equiv 1 \pmod{4}$. Let Q be the set of quadratic residues in X . Consider the graph G with vertex set X , and edge set

$$E = \{(x, y) \mid x, y \in X, x - y \in Q\}.$$

Then for $x, y \in X$,

$$\#\{\text{common neighbors of } x, y\} = \begin{cases} \frac{p-1}{2} & \text{if } x = y, \\ \frac{p-5}{4} & \text{if } (x, y) \in E, \\ \frac{p-1}{4} & \text{otherwise.} \end{cases}$$

A graph on p (not necessarily prime) vertices satisfying the above condition is called a conference graph.

It is unknown whether a conference graph on 65 vertices exists.

Strongly regular graphs

A graph with edge set E is called a **strongly regular graph** with parameters (k, λ, μ) if

$$\#\{\text{common neighbors of } x, y\} = \begin{cases} k & \text{if } x = y, \\ \lambda & \text{if } (x, y) \in E, \\ \mu & \text{otherwise.} \end{cases}$$

A conference graph on p vertices is a strongly regular graph with parameters

$$(k, \lambda, \mu) = \left(\frac{p-1}{2}, \frac{p-5}{4}, \frac{p-1}{4} \right).$$

Adjacency matrix

The **adjacency matrix** A of a graph with vertex set X is the matrix whose rows and columns are indexed by X , and whose entries are defined by

$$A_{xy} = \begin{cases} 1 & \text{if } (x, y) \in E, \\ 0 & \text{otherwise.} \end{cases}$$

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$$A_{xy} = \begin{cases} 1 & \text{if } (x, y) \in E, \\ 0 & \text{otherwise.} \end{cases}$$

Since $(A^2)_{xy} = \#\{\text{common neighbors of } x, y\}$, the condition

$$\#\{\text{common neighbors of } x, y\} = \begin{cases} k & \text{if } x = y, \\ \lambda & \text{if } (x, y) \in E, \\ \mu & \text{otherwise.} \end{cases}$$

translates to

$$A^2 = kI + \lambda A + \mu(J - I - A),$$

where J is the “all-one” matrix.

The spectrum of the adjacency matrix

Since

$$(A^2)_{xx} = \#\{\text{neighbors of } x\} = k,$$

we have

$$AJ = JA = kJ.$$

Together with the equation

$$A^2 = kI + \lambda A + \mu(J - I - A),$$

we can see that A is a **root** of a cubic polynomial.

Exercise: Show that A has **exactly** three distinct eigenvalues, provided $\mu \neq 0$. Express the three eigenvalues of A in terms of k, λ, μ .

A symmetric design

Let $X = \mathbb{F}_p$, where p is a prime of the form $p = 4m - 1$, where $m \in \mathbb{Z}$. Let Q be the set of quadratic residues in X . Then $|Q| = 2m - 1$. Let

$$\mathcal{B} = \{Q + a \mid a \in \mathbb{F}_p\}.$$

Then for any distinct $x, y \in K$,

$$|\{B \in \mathcal{B} \mid x, y \in B\}| = \frac{p-3}{4} = m-1.$$

A family \mathcal{B} of $(2m - 1)$ -element subsets of an $(4m - 1)$ -element set is called a symmetric $(4m - 1, 2m - 1, m - 1)$ design if the above condition is satisfied.

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Definition of 2-design

Let X be a finite set of v elements. Let \mathcal{B} be a family of k -element subsets of X . If, for any distinct $x, y \in X$,

$$|\{B \in \mathcal{B} \mid x, y \in B\}| = \lambda,$$

then the pair (X, \mathcal{B}) is called a $2-(v, k, \lambda)$ design.

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$X = \mathbb{F}_7$, $Q = \{1, 2, 4\}$,

$$\begin{aligned}\mathcal{B} &= \{Q + a \mid a \in \mathbb{F}_7\} \\ &= \{\{1, 2, 4\}, \{2, 3, 5\}, \{3, 4, 6\}, \dots, \{0, 1, 3\}\}.\end{aligned}$$

- A non-complete design is a **good approximation** of the complete design.
- The axiom may be considered as a geometric one (projective plane). Consider the set of lines in the usual plane.

t - (v, k, λ) designs

Definition

A t - (v, k, λ) design is a pair $(\mathcal{P}, \mathcal{B})$, where

- \mathcal{P} : a finite set of v “points”,
- \mathcal{B} : a collection of k -subsets of \mathcal{P} , a member of which is called a “block,”
- $\forall T \subset \mathcal{P}$ with $|T| = t$, there are exactly λ members $B \in \mathcal{B}$ such that $T \subset B$.

Examples:

- 2- $(7, 3, 1)$ design can be constructed from $Q \subset \mathbb{F}_7$.

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 t -design $\implies (t - 1)$ -design

Intersection numbers

$(\mathcal{P}, \mathcal{B})$: $\textcolor{red}{t}$ - (v, k, λ) design. Write $\lambda = \lambda_{\textcolor{red}{t}}$,

$$\lambda_{t-1} = |\{B \in \mathcal{B} \mid T' \subset B\}|,$$

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$$\begin{aligned}\lambda_{t-1}(k - t + 1) &= \sum_{\substack{B \in \mathcal{B} \\ T' \subset B}} |B \setminus T'| \\ &= |\{(B, x) \mid B \in \mathcal{B}, T' \cup \{x\} \subset B, x \in \mathcal{P} \setminus T'\}| \\ &= \sum_{x \in \mathcal{P} \setminus T'} |\{B \in \mathcal{B} \mid T' \cup \{x\} \subset B\}| \\ &= \sum_{x \in \mathcal{P} \setminus T'} \lambda_t \\ &= \lambda_t(v - t + 1).\end{aligned}$$

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$$\lambda_{t-1} = \lambda_t \frac{v - t + 1}{k - t + 1}$$

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$$\lambda_{t-1} = \lambda_t \frac{v - t + 1}{k - t + 1} = 1 \cdot \frac{24 - 5 + 1}{8 - 5 + 1} = \frac{20}{4} = 5$$

For example,

$$5-(24, 8, 1) \implies 4-(24, 8, 5)$$

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$(\mathcal{P}, \mathcal{B})$: t -(v, k, λ) design

Let $I \subset \mathcal{P}$, $J \subset \mathcal{P}$, $|I| = i$, $|J| = j$, $I \cap J = \emptyset$, $i + j \leq t$.

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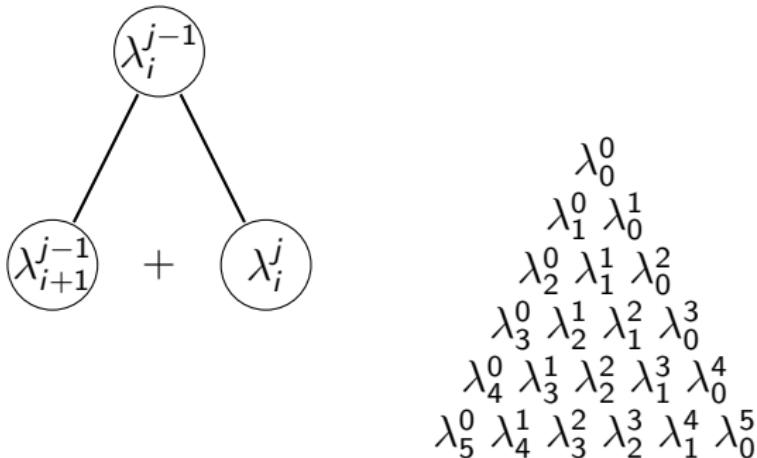
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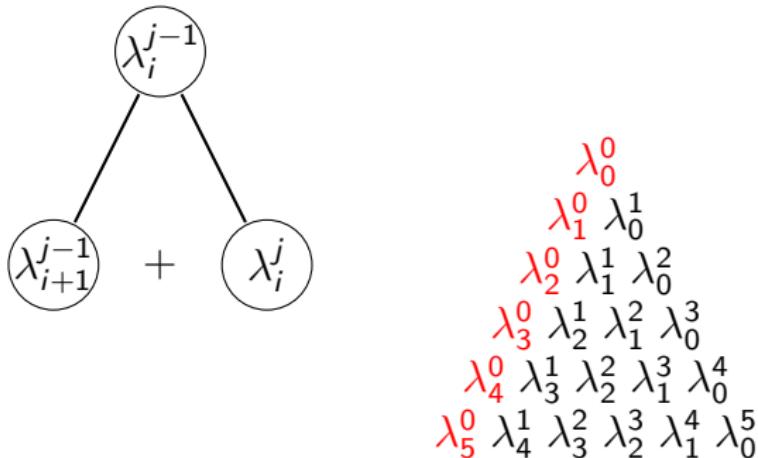
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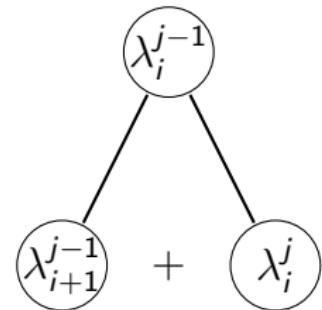
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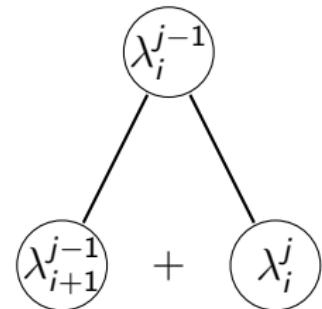
5-(24, 8, 1) design, $\lambda_i^{j-1} = \lambda_{i+1}^{j-1} + \lambda_i^j$

759
253
77
21
5
1



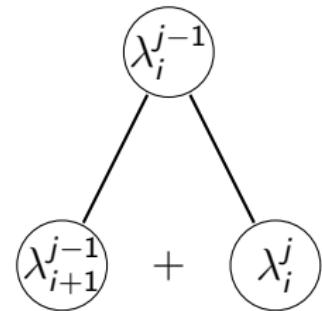
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759
253 506
77 176
21 56
5 16
1 4



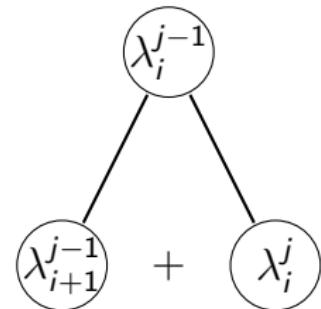
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			759		
		253	506		
	77		176	330	
	21	56		120	
5	16	40			
1	4	12			



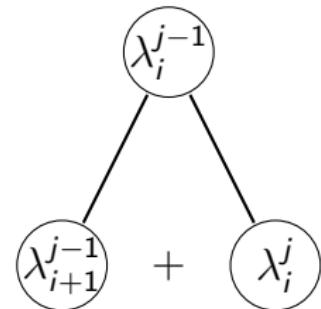
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1	5	16	40	80		
	4	12	28			



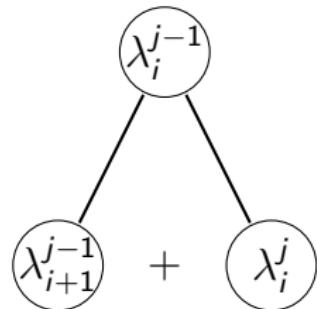
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			21	56	120	210		
	5	16	40	80	130			
1	4	12	28	52				



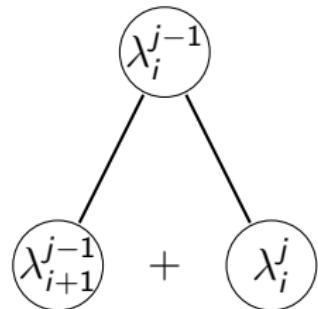
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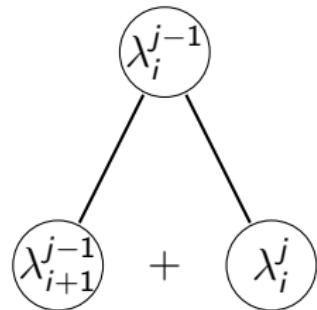
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Next row? $\lambda_6^0, \lambda_5^1, \lambda_4^2, \dots$

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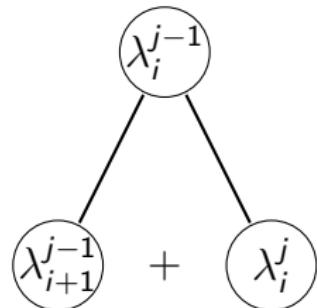
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$$\lambda_6^0(I) = |\{B \in \mathcal{B} \mid I \subset B\}| = 1 \text{ or } 0$$

depending on the choice of $I \subset \mathcal{P}$ with $|I| = 6$.

5-(24, 8, 1) design, $\lambda_i^{j-1} = \lambda_{i+1}^{j-1} + \lambda_i^j$

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Choose I in such a way that $\lambda_6^0(I) = 1$.

5-(24, 8, 1) design, $I \subset \mathcal{P}$, $|I| = 6$, $I \subset \exists B \in \mathcal{B}$

$$\lambda_{6-j}^j = |\{B \in \mathcal{B} \mid I \setminus J \subset B, B \cap J = \emptyset\}| \quad \text{where } J \subset I, J = j.$$

$$\lambda_{5-j}^j = \lambda_{6-j}^j + \lambda_{5-j}^{j+1}$$

giving

		759				
	253		506			
77		176		330		
21		56	120		210	
5		16	40	80		130
1		4	12	28	52	78
1	0	4	8	20	32	46

Similarly, taking $I \subset \mathcal{P}$, $|I| = 7$ appropriately, we obtain λ_{7-j}^j .
Finally taking $I \in \mathcal{B}$, we obtain λ_{8-j}^j .

5-(24, 8, 1) design

The last row implies

$$B, B' \in \mathcal{P}, B \neq B' \implies |B \cap B'| \in \{4, 2, 0\}.$$

Binary codes

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Then

$$\dim C^\perp = v - \dim C.$$

The code C is said to be **self-orthogonal** if $C \subset C^\perp$ and **self-dual** if $C = C^\perp$.

Generator matrix of a code

If a binary code C is generated by row vectors $x^{(1)}, \dots, x^{(b)}$, then the matrix

$$\begin{bmatrix} x^{(1)} \\ \vdots \\ x^{(b)} \end{bmatrix}$$

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Note

$$C \subset C^\perp \iff |\text{supp}(x^{(i)}) \cap \text{supp}(x^{(j)})| \equiv 0 \pmod{2} \quad (\forall i, j).$$

Incidence matrix of a design

If $\mathcal{D} = (\mathcal{P}, \mathcal{B})$ is a t - (v, k, λ) design, the incidence matrix $M(\mathcal{D})$ of \mathcal{D} is the $|\mathcal{B}| \times |\mathcal{P}|$ matrix whose rows and columns are indexed by \mathcal{B} and \mathcal{P} , respectively, such that

$$(M(\mathcal{D}))_{B,p} = \begin{cases} 1 & \text{if } p \in B, \\ 0 & \text{otherwise.} \end{cases}$$

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$\dim C \leq 12$ for 5-(24, 8, 1) design

Recall that in a 5-(24, 8, 1) design $(\mathcal{P}, \mathcal{B})$,

$$|B \cap B'| \in \{8, 4, 2, 0\} \quad (\forall B, B' \in \mathcal{B}).$$

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The binary code C of a 5-(24, 8, 1) design is self-orthogonal. Indeed, the incidence matrix has row vectors $x^{(B)}$ ($B \in \mathcal{B}$), the characteristic vector of the block B . Then

$$x^{(B)} \cdot x^{(B')} = |B \cap B'| \bmod 2 = (8 \text{ or } 4 \text{ or } 2 \text{ or } 0) \bmod 2 = 0.$$

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Thus $C \subset C^\perp$, hence

$$\dim C \leq \frac{1}{2}(\dim C + \dim C^\perp) \leq \frac{24}{2} = 12.$$

The 5-(24, 8, 1) design, $|B \cap B'| \in \{4, 2, 0\}$

$\mathcal{P} = \{1, 2, \dots, 24\}$. We may take \mathcal{B} as:

B_1 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8

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The 5-(24, 8, 1) design, $|B \cap B'| \in \{4, 2, 0\}$

$\mathcal{P} = \{1, 2, \dots, 24\}$. We may take \mathcal{B} as:

B_1	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8																
B_2	1	2	3	4					9	10	11	12												
B_3	1	2	3		5				9				13	14	15									
B_4	1	2		4	5				9				16	17	18									
B_5	1		3	4	5				9				19	20	21									
B_6	2	3	4	5					9												22	23	24	
B_7	1	2	3		6				9				16			19			22					
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B_6	2	3	4	5		9				22	23	24												
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B_7	1	2	3		6				9				16			19			22					
B_8	1	2		4	6				9				13				20			23				
B_9	1		3	4	6				9				14			17					24			
B_{10}	1	2			5	6			9	10										21			24	
B_{11}	1		3		5	6			9		11						18				23			
B_{12}	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24

The 5-(24, 8, 1) design, $|B \cap B'| \in \{4, 2, 0\}$

$\mathcal{P} = \{1, 2, \dots, 24\}$. We may take \mathcal{B} as:

B_1	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8																	
B_2	1	2	3	4					9	10	11	12													
B_3	1	2	3		5				9				13	14	15										
B_4	1	2		4	5				9				16	17	18										
B_5	1		3	4	5				9							19	20	21							
B_6		2	3	4	5				9										22	23	24				
B_7	1	2	3		6				9				16			19			22						
B_8	1	2		4	6				9				13				20			23					
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B_{10}	1	2			5	6			9	10									21		24				
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The characteristic vectors of these 12 blocks generate a unique 12-dimensional code called the **Golay** code.

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Let D be the matrix of quadratic residue characters for \mathbb{F}_{23} . Then C is the code generated by the row vectors of the matrix

$$G = \begin{bmatrix} & & 1 \\ \frac{1}{2}(J - I - D) & \vdots & \\ & & 1 \end{bmatrix} \quad (23 \times 24 \text{ matrix}).$$