

Generalized Covering and Packing Designs

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- ▶ Question: Is there a similar generalization for covering designs and covering arrays?
- ▶ Same question, but for packing designs and packing arrays?
- ▶ Answer: Yes.....

Notation

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- ▶ Let $\mathbf{v} = (v_1, v_2, \dots, v_m)$ be an m -tuple of positive integers with sum v , and let $\mathbf{k} = (k_1, k_2, \dots, k_m)$ be an m -tuple of positive integers with sum k , and where each $k_i \leq v_i$.

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- ▶ Now let $\mathbf{X} = (X_1, X_2, \dots, X_m)$ be an m -tuple of pairwise disjoint sets, where $|X_i| = v_i$.

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- ▶ Now let $\mathbf{X} = (X_1, X_2, \dots, X_m)$ be an m -tuple of pairwise disjoint sets, where $|X_i| = v_i$.
- ▶ An m -tuple $\mathbf{t} = (t_1, t_2, \dots, t_m)$ of *non-negative* integers is called *admissible*, if they sum to t and each $t_i \leq k_i$.

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- ▶ Now let $\mathbf{X} = (X_1, X_2, \dots, X_m)$ be an m -tuple of pairwise disjoint sets, where $|X_i| = v_i$.
- ▶ An m -tuple $\mathbf{t} = (t_1, t_2, \dots, t_m)$ of *non-negative* integers is called *admissible*, if they sum to t and each $t_i \leq k_i$.
- ▶ Similarly, an m -tuple $\mathbf{T} = (T_1, T_2, \dots, T_m)$ of disjoint sets is called *admissible*, if each $T_i \subseteq X_i$ and $|T_i| = t_i$, where $\mathbf{t} = (t_1, t_2, \dots, t_m)$ is admissible.

Definition

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- ▶ each $B_i \subseteq X_i$, and $|B_i| = k_i$;
- ▶ every admissible $\mathbf{T} = (T_1, T_2, \dots, T_m)$ is contained in exactly λ blocks.

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- ▶ Other classes of designs that can be obtained include 1-factorizations of complete graphs (where $\mathbf{k} = (2, 1)$, $t = 2$, $\lambda = 1$) and resolvable designs (where $\mathbf{k} = (k - 1, 1)$).

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- ▶ How can we similarly generalize covering designs/arrays or packing designs/arrays?

Generalized covering designs

- ▶ A *generalized covering design* $GC_\lambda(\mathbf{v}, \mathbf{k}, t)$ is a collection of blocks

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- ▶ Usually, we are only concerned with the case $\lambda = 1$, and omit the subscript λ .
 - ▶ By taking $\mathbf{v} = (v)$ and $\mathbf{k} = (k)$ we obtain (ordinary) covering designs, and by taking $\mathbf{v} = (s, s, \dots, s)$ and $\mathbf{k} = (1, 1, \dots, 1)$ we obtain covering arrays.

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- ▶ This is still ongoing.....

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- ▶ For vectors $\mathbf{v} = (v_1, v_2, \dots, v_m)$ and $\mathbf{k} = (k_1, k_2, \dots, k_m)$, construct a graph $G = H_1 + H_2 + \dots + H_m$, where

$$H_i = \begin{cases} \overline{K_{v_i}}, & \text{if } k_i = 1, \\ K_{v_i}, & \text{if } k_i \geq 2. \end{cases}$$

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- ▶ Then a $GC(\mathbf{v}, \mathbf{k}, 2)$ corresponds to a *clique covering* of G by copies of a complete graph K_k , where each clique contains k_i vertices of H_i .

A construction algorithm

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 - ▶ In each block, replace the placeholders greedily, ensuring that no symbol is repeated in a block.

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 - ▶ Remove any repeated blocks.

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 - ▶ In each block, replace the placeholders greedily, ensuring that no symbol is repeated in a block.
 - ▶ Remove any repeated blocks.
- ▶ If \mathcal{C} is optimal, and there is an index i where $v_i = v_{\max}$ and $k_i = k_{\min}$, then we are guaranteed our $GC(\mathbf{v}, \mathbf{k}, 2)$ is also optimal.

Example

- ▶ Suppose $\mathbf{v} = (5, 6, 7)$, $\mathbf{k} = (3, 4, 3)$ and $t = 2$; then $v_{\max} = 7$ and $k_{\min} = 3$.

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- ▶ Start with a $(7, 3, 2)$ covering design \mathcal{C} :

{124}

{235}

{346}

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Example, II

- ▶ Suppose $\mathbf{v} = (5, 6, 7)$, $\mathbf{k} = (3, 4, 3)$ and $t = 2$; then $v_{\max} = 7$ and $k_{\min} = 3$.
- ▶ Put a copy of \mathcal{C} on each part:

$(\{124\}, \{124\}, \{124\})$
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Example, III

- ▶ Suppose $\mathbf{v} = (5, 6, 7)$, $\mathbf{k} = (3, 4, 3)$ and $t = 2$; then $v_{\max} = 7$ and $k_{\min} = 3$.
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Example, IV

- ▶ Suppose $\mathbf{v} = (5, 6, 7)$, $\mathbf{k} = (3, 4, 3)$ and $t = 2$; then $v_{\max} = 7$ and $k_{\min} = 3$.
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Example, V

- ▶ Suppose $\mathbf{v} = (5, 6, 7)$, $\mathbf{k} = (3, 4, 3)$ and $t = 2$; then $v_{\max} = 7$ and $k_{\min} = 3$.
- ▶ Replace the placeholders greedily, ensuring that no symbol is repeated in a block:

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THE END

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