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# A Study of Dual Pairs of Set Systems

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Abstract: Each  $(0,1)$  matrix is associated with a dual pair of set systems. Some classical combinatorial structures including 2-designs, symmetric designs, quasi-symmetric designs are represented in this way. In terms of union or Boolean sums, some condition were posed over a dual pair of set systems, so that it provides a way for pooling designs, i.e., non-adaptive group testing.

## 1. Preliminary

For a given  $(0,1)$ -matrix  $M$  of order  $t \times n$ , two set systems with ground sets  $\{1, 2, \dots, n\}$  and  $\{1, 2, \dots, t\}$  respectively, can be associated with rows as well as the columns of  $M$  naturally. Some combinatorial structures can be defined over these set systems by posing some conditions over those rows and columns of  $M$ . For example, the inner products among pairs of rows and pairs of columns were used in posing those conditions for 2-designs, symmetric designs and quasi-symmetric designs. On the other hand, Boolean sums among columns were used to define for disjunction, which lead to the notions of  $d$ -disjunct,  $d$ -separability and used for non-adaptive group-testing and pooling designs as well.

Let  $M$  be a  $(0,1)$ -matrix of order  $t \times n$ , let  $T_i$  be the subset of  $\{1, 2, \dots, n\}$  with the  $i$ -th row of  $M$  as its characteristic vector, and  $C_j$  be the subset of  $\{1, 2, \dots, t\}$  with the  $j$ -th column of  $M$  as its characteristic vector. We consider the following properties over the family  $\mathcal{C} = \{C_1, C_2, \dots, C_n\} \subseteq 2^{[t]}$  and their dual

families  $\mathcal{T} = \{T_1, T_2, \dots, T_t\}$ , where  $\mathcal{C}(D) = \bigcup_{i \in D} C_i$  for  $D \in \binom{[n]}{d}$ :

$$(i) \quad |C_i \cap C_j| < \frac{1}{d} |C_i| \quad \forall i \neq j,$$

- (ii)  $C \not\subseteq C(D)$  if  $j \notin D, D \in \binom{[n]}{d}$ ,
- (iii)  $C(D) \neq C(D')$  wherever  $D, D' \in \binom{[n]}{d}$  are distinct,  
i.e., the  $d$ -term union are pairwise distinct.

**Definition** Let  $M$  be a  $(0,1)$ -matrix of order  $t \times n$  and let  $C_j$  be the subset of  $\{1, 2, \dots, n\}$  with the  $j$ -th row of  $M$  as its characteristic vector. Then the matrix  $M$  is called  $d$ -disjunct if  $C = \{C_1, \dots, C_n\} \subseteq 2^{[n]}$  satisfying the condition that

$$C_j \not\subseteq \bigcup_{i \in D} C_i.$$

## 2. $d$ -disjunct

A  $d$ -disjunct matrix  $M$  of order  $t \times n$ ,  $M$  provide a strategy for a non-adaptive group testing which can identify to  $d$  defects. Thus form the above discussion we have sufficient conditions for disjunctness of matrices : If

$$|C_{i_0}| > \sum_{j=1}^d |C_{i_0} \cap C_{i_j}|, \text{ since}$$

$|C_{i_0} \cap (\bigcup_{j=1}^d C_{i_j})| = |\bigcup_{j=1}^d C_{i_0} \cap C_{i_j}| \leq \sum_{j=1}^d |C_{i_0} \cap C_{i_j}| < |C_{i_0}|$ ,  $C_{i_0} \not\subseteq \bigcup_{j=1}^d C_{i_j}$ , then  $M$  is called  $d$ -disjunct.

In particular, let  $T_i$  be the test consisting of  $\{j \mid M(i, j) = 1\}$ , and

$\vec{r} = (x_1, x_2, \dots, x_t)'$  be the corresponding outcome vector. Suppose  $D \subseteq [n]$  is the set of  $d$  defects, then  $x_j = 1$  if and only of  $j \in C(D)$ . This group testing reports

support $\left(\vec{r}\right)$  as the set  $C(D)$ , consequent-ly,  $j \in [n]$  is a defect if

$$C_j \subseteq \text{support}\left(\vec{r}\right) = C(D).$$

Thus form the sufficient conditions for disjunctness of matrices, if  $M$  is a  $(0,1)$ -matrix of order  $t \times n$  such that  $JM = kJ$  and the off-diagonal entries of  $M' \cdot M$  are at most  $r$ . Let  $d = \lceil k/r \rceil - 1$ . For each  $D = \{i_1, \dots, i_d\} \subseteq [n]$ , then

$|A_i \cap (\bigcup_{j=1}^d A_j)| \leq \sum_{j=1}^d |A_i \cap A_j| \leq dr \leq k$ . It follows that  $A_i \not\subset \bigcup_{j=1}^d A_j$ . This shows that  $M$  is a  $d$ -disjunct matrix of order  $t \times n$ . Therefore, an interesting problem in extremal set theory is the following: Find  $F \subseteq \binom{[t]}{k} \subseteq 2^{[t]}$  with  $|F|$  large as possible such that  $|A \cap B| \leq 1$  whenever  $A, B \in F$  are different.

The following two theorems show that the relation between the family  $C = \{C_1, C_2, \dots, C_n\}$  and its dual family when they satisfied the above properties.

**Theorem** If  $C = \{C_1, C_2, \dots, C_n\} \subseteq 2^{[t]}$  satisfying the condition that  $C(D) \neq C(D')$

for distinct  $D, D' \in \binom{[n]}{d}$ , then the dual family  $T = \{T_1, T_2, \dots, T_i\} \subseteq 2^{[n]}$  satisfying

the following condition that for each  $x \in \{0,1\}^t$ , there exist  $D \in \binom{[n]}{d}$  such that

$|D \cap T_i| = 0$  if and only if  $x_i = 0$ .

**Theorem** Let  $D \in \binom{[n]}{d}$ , if  $C = \{C_1, C_2, \dots, C_n\} \subseteq 2^{[t]}$  satisfying the condition that

$C_j \not\subset \bigcup_{i \in D} C_i$ , then the dual family  $T = \{T_1, T_2, \dots, T_i\} \subseteq 2^{[n]}$  satisfying the following

condition that  $\bigcup_{i \in C(D)} T_i = [n] - D$ , and vice versa.

### 3. Some connections with combinatorial designs

A family  $\{T_1, T_2, \dots, T_i\} \subseteq 2^{[n]}$  is called a  $d$ -complete design if

$\bigcup_{i \in C(D)} T_i = [n] - D$  where  $D \in \binom{[n]}{d}$ . Note that if  $i \notin C(D)$  then  $M(i, r) = 0$  for all  $r \in D$ , i.e.  $r \notin T_i$  for all  $r \in D$ . Hence  $T_i \cap D = \emptyset$ , i.e.  $T_i \subseteq [n] - D$ . For example,

1.  $\{C_1, C_2, \dots, C_b\}$  is a  $2-(\nu, k, 1)$  design, then  $M_{\nu \times b}$  is  $(k-1)$ -disjunct, and hence  $\{T_1, T_2, \dots, T_\nu\}$  is  $(k-1)$ -complete.
2. If  $\{C_1, C_2, \dots, C_b\}$  is an affine resolvable  $2-(\nu, k, \lambda)$  design, then

$|C_i \cap C_j| \leq \frac{k^2}{\nu}$ , hence  $M_{\nu \times b}$  is  $\left(\frac{k}{\nu} - 1\right)$ -disjunct, and hence

$\{T_1, T_2, \dots, T_\nu\}$  is  $\left(\frac{k}{\nu} - 1\right)$ -complete.

3. If  $\{C_1, C_2, \dots, C_b\}$  is any affine resolvable incomplete block design with

$|C_i| = k$  and  $|C_i \cap C_j| \leq q_1$  or  $q_2$  then  $M$  is  $t$ -disjunct,

$t = \left\lfloor \frac{k}{\max\{q_1, q_2\}} \right\rfloor$ , and hence  $\{T_1, T_2, \dots, T_\nu\}$  is  $t$ -complete.

**Theorem** If  $M$  is the point-block incidence matrix of a  $2-(\nu, k, 1)$  design and  $D \in \binom{[n]}{d}$ , then  $D = [n] - \bigcup \{T_i \mid \text{for each } i \text{ with } M(i, D) = 0\}$ .

**Example :**

A  $(16, 4, 1)$ -BIBD is presented by

{1 2 3 4, 5 6 7 8, 9 10 11 12, 13 14 15 16, 1 5 9 13, 2 8 10 15, 3 6 11 16, 4 7 12 14,  
1 6 10 14, 2 7 9 16, 3 5 12 15, 4 8 11 13, 1 7 11 15, 2 6 12 13, 3 8 9 14, 4 5 10 16,  
1 8 12 16, 2 5 11 14, 3 7 10 13, 4 6 9 15}.

The blocks of the dual incidence structure are as follows:

$A_1 = \{1,5,9,13,17\}$   $A_2 = \{1,6,10,14,18\}$   $A_3 = \{1,7,11,15,19\}$   $A_4 = \{1,8,12,16,20\}$   
 $A_5 = \{2,5,11,16,18\}$   $A_6 = \{2,7,9,14,20\}$   $A_7 = \{2,8,10,13,19\}$   $A_8 = \{2,6,12,15,17\}$   
 $A_9 = \{3,5,10,15,20\}$   $A_{10} = \{3,6,9,16,19\}$   $A_{11} = \{3,7,12,13,18\}$   $A_{12} = \{3,8,11,14,17\}$   
 $A_{13} = \{4,5,12,14,19\}$   $A_{14} = \{4,8,9,15,18\}$   $A_{15} = \{4,6,11,13,20\}$   
 $A_{16} = \{4,7,10,16,17\}$ .

Suppose we obtain the following result vector:

$R(U) = (0, 1, 0, 0, 1, 0, 1, 1, 1, 0, 1, 0, 1, 1, 0, 1)$ .

When we carry out the algorithm identify with input  $R(U)$ , we compute the following:

j	M																			
	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1		
1	0	1	1	1	0	1	1	1	0	1	1	1	0	1	1	1	0	1	1	1
3	0	1	1	1	0	1	0	1	0	1	0	1	0	1	0	1	0	1	0	1
4	0	1	1	1	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	0
6	0	0	1	1	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0
10	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0
12	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0
15	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0

(Note that boxed entries are used to indicate when a “1” is changed to a “0”.) The positive set  $U$  is thus  $U = \{10, 18\}$ .

#### 4 Some Classes Based on Ranked Posets

A few classes of non-adaptive pooling designs were proposed by Du and Ng, Macula and Weng and Huang . The first one is guaranteed to be  $d$ -error-detecting and thus  $\lfloor d/2 \rfloor$ -error-correcting, where  $d$ , a positive integer, is the maximum number of defectives (or positives). Hence, the number of errors which can be detected grows linearly with the number of positives. Also, this construction induces a construction of a binary code with maximum Hamming distance of at least  $2d+2$ . The second design is the  $q$ -analogue of a known construction on  $d$ -disjunct matrices.

For  $1 \leq d < k < n$ , let  $J(n, d, k)$  be the  $(0,1)$ -matrix of order  $\binom{n}{d} \times \binom{n}{k}$  with rows and columns be indexed by respectively we define the matrix  $J^*(n, d, k)$ . Initially, we define the by letting its represented by the members of  $\binom{[n]}{d}$  and  $\binom{[n]}{k}$  respectively in the following way: for  $D \in \binom{[n]}{d}$  and  $K \in \binom{[n]}{k}$  the  $(D, K)^{th}$  entry of the matrix  $J(n, d, k)$  is 1 if and only if  $D \subset K$ . We then define  $J^*(n, d, k)$  of order the  $\left( \binom{n}{d} + n \right) \times \binom{n}{k}$  obtained by row augmenting the matrix  $J(n, d, k)$  with  $u^c(n, 1, k)$ .

For  $q$  being a prime power, let  $F_q$  denote the Galois field  $\text{GF}(q)$  of  $q$  elements. Let  $\begin{bmatrix} F_q^m \\ l \end{bmatrix}$  denote the set of all  $l$ -dimensional subspaces ( $l$ -subspaces for short) of the  $m$ -dimensional vector space on  $F_q$ . For  $m \geq k > d \geq 1$ , Let  $M_q(m, k, d)$  be the  $0,1$ -matrix whose rows (resp. columns) are indexed by elements of  $\begin{bmatrix} F_q^m \\ d \end{bmatrix}$  (resp.  $\begin{bmatrix} F_q^m \\ k \end{bmatrix}$ ). We also order elements of these set lexicographically, i.e., the  $(i, j)$  entry of the

matrix  $M_q(m, k, d)$  is 1 if and only if the  $i$ -th  $d$ -subspace is a subspace of the  $j$ -th  $k$ -subspace of  $F_q^m$ .

Given integers  $m \geq k > d \geq 1$ . An  $l$ -matching is a matching of size  $l$  (i.e. it has  $l$  edges). Let  $M(m, k, d)$  be the  $(0,1)$ -matrix whose rows are indexed by the set of all  $d$ -matchings on  $K_{2m}$ , and whose columns are indexed by the set of all  $k$ -matchings on  $K_{2m}$ . All matchings are to be ordered lexicographically, i.e.,  $M(m, k, d)$  is 1 if and only if the  $i$ -th  $d$ -matching is contained in the  $j$ -th  $k$ -matching.

Theorem For  $m \geq k > d \geq 1$ ,

1.  $M_q(m, k, d)$  is a  $d$ -disjunct matrix of order  $\nu \times n$  with row weight  $\begin{bmatrix} m-d \\ k-d \end{bmatrix}_q$  and column weight  $\begin{bmatrix} k \\ d \end{bmatrix}_q$ .
2.  $M(m, k, d)$  is a  $d$ -disjunct matrix of order  $\nu \times n$  with row weight  $g(m-d, k-d)$  and column weight  $\binom{k}{d}$ .

Let  $V$  be an  $n$ -dimensional space over a finite field of order  $q$ . Let  $M$  be the incidence matrix with row entries indexed by the set of all 1-dimensional subspaces, columns entries indexed by the set of all  $k$ -dimensional subspaces of  $V$ , where  $a_{i,j} = 1$  if and only if the  $i$ -th row is a 1-dimensional subspace contained in the  $k$ -dimensional subspace corresponding to the  $j$ -th column.

Theorem

1. Both  $J(n, d, k)$  and  $J^*(n, d, k)$  are  $d$ -disjunct; moreover
2.  $d_H(B_d(J^*(n, d, k))) \geq 4$  if  $k - d \geq 3$ .

Corollary Given integers  $m > d \geq 1$ , the following holds:

1.  $M(m, k, d)$  is  $d$ -error-detecting and  $\lfloor d/2 \rfloor$ -error-correcting ; moreover
2.  $M(m, k, d)$  is  $(2d+1)$ -error-detecting and  $d$ -error-correcting if the number of positives

if known to be exactly  $d$ .

**Theorem** Let  $V$  be a vector space of dim  $n$  over a finite field  $GF(q)$ , and let  $M$  be a  $(0,1)$ -matrix row-indexed by  $\begin{bmatrix} V \\ d \end{bmatrix}$ , column-indexed by  $\begin{bmatrix} V \\ k \end{bmatrix}$  such that  $M(A,B)=1$  if  $A \subseteq B$ , and 0 otherwise. For a subset  $D$  of  $\begin{bmatrix} V \\ k \end{bmatrix}$ , let  $L(D)$  be the Boolean sum of those columns corresponding to those  $k$ -subspaces in  $D$ . Then

$$e_m := \min_{D, D' \subseteq \begin{bmatrix} V \\ k \end{bmatrix}, |D|=|D'|=m} d_H(L(D), L(D')).$$

$$= \begin{cases} 2 \times \begin{bmatrix} k-m \\ d-m \end{bmatrix}_q, & \text{if } m \leq d, \\ 0, & \text{otherwise.} \end{cases}$$

## 5. References

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