Strong Orthogonal Arrays of Strength Two Plus and Second Order Saturated Designs

Boxin Tang

(joint work with Yuanzhen He and Ching-Shui Cheng)

Simon Fraser University

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1. Introduction

Designs for computer experiments

- distance or discrepancy criteria
- model-dependent criteria
- orthogonality
- orthogonal arrays or strong orthogonal arrays

McKay, Beckman and Conover (1979); Owen (1992); Tang (1993); He and Tang (2013, 2014).

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Strong orthogonal arrays (SOAs)

(when compared with ordinary orthogonal arrays)

- more space-filling
- very expensive for strength 4 or higher
- can be constructed at almost no cost for strength 3
- free but no more space-filling for strength 2

Inspired by (t, m, s)-nets (Niederreiter 1992), SOAs were introduced and studied by He and Tang (2013, 2014)

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2. SOAs of strength 2+ and their characterization

SOAs of strength 2+

- almost as space-filling as SOAs of strength 3
- but much more economical than the latter

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An SOA $(n, m, s^2, 2+)$

- has *n* runs and *m* factors of s^2 levels
- any two columns are collapsible into an OA(n, 2, s² × s, 2) and an OA(n, 2, s × s², 2)
- i.e., the design achieves stratifications on $(s^2) \times s$ and $s \times (s^2)$ grids in all two-dimensions.

An SOA(16, 10, 4, 2+) is given below:

It achieves stratifications on 2×4 and 4×2 grids in every two-dimension.

To compare, in 16 runs,

- For m ≤ 7 factors, an SOA of strength 3 can be constructed, which can do 2 × 4 and 4 × 2 grids in two-dimensions, and 2 × 2 × 2 in three-dimensions.
- For m ≤ 5 factors, an OA is available and can do 4 × 4 grids in two-dimensions.

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An characterization of SOAs of strength 2+

An SOA($n, m, s^2, 2+$), say D, exists if and only if there exist two arrays A and B where

•
$$A = (a_1, ..., a_m)$$
 is an $OA(n, m, s, 2)$ and

- $B = (b_1, \ldots, b_m)$ is an OA(n, m, s, 1) such that
- (a_j, a_k, b_k) is an orthogonal array of strength 3 for any $j \neq k$.

The three arrays are linked through D = sA + B.

3. Construction using 2^{m-p} designs

Let S denote the saturated regular design of $n = 2^k$ runs with m = n - 1 factors.

Theorem 1. If an SOA of strength 2+ is to be constructed using regular A and B with their columns selected from S, then it is necessary and sufficient that $\overline{A} = S \setminus A$ is an SOS design.

A design C is an SOS design if any $d \in \overline{C}$ can be written as d = ab for some $a, b \in C$ (Block and Mee 2003).

The proof shows that an SOA(2^k , m, 4, 2+) can be constructed from an SOS design *C* as follows:

- **1** Take $A = \overline{C}$. Write $A = (a_1, \ldots, a_m)$.
- Since C is an SOS design, we must have a_j = b_jb'_j for some b_j, b'_j ∈ C. Take B = (b₁,..., b_m).
- Solution D, an SOA(2^k , m, 4, 2+), using

$$D=2A+B.$$

The paper provides four constructions of SOS designs, based on which the bounds on the maximum number of factors in an SOA of strength 2+ have been obtained.

Table 1. Maximum numbers of factors for SOAs of strength 3 and 2+.

| k | $n=2^{\kappa}$ | h_k | m_k |
|---|----------------|--------------|---------------|
| | | (strength 3) | (strength 2+) |
| 4 | 16 | 7 | 10* |
| 5 | 32 | 15 | 22* |
| 6 | 64 | 31 | 50* |
| 7 | 128 | 63 | 106 |
| 8 | 256 | 127 | 226 |

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4. Constructions using s^{m-p} designs

Theorem 4. For any $k \ge 3$ and any prime power $s \ge 3$, an $SOA(s^k, m, s^2, 2+)$ can be constructed where

$$m = (s^k - 1)/(s - 1) - ((s - 1)^k - 1)/(s - 2)$$

Table 2. A comparison of the number m' of factors for $SOA(s^k, m', s^3, 3)$ in He and Tang (2014) and the number m'' of factors for $SOA(s^k, m'', s^2, 2+)$ from Theorem 4.

| k | S | $n = s^k$ | <i>m</i> ′ | <i>m</i> ′′ |
|---|---|-----------------------|-------------|----------------|
| 3 | 3 | 27 | 4 | 6 |
| 3 | 4 | 64 | 5 | 8 |
| 3 | 5 | 125 | 6 | 10 |
| 4 | 3 | 81 | 10 | 25 |
| 4 | 4 | 256 | 17 | 45 |
| 4 | 5 | 625 | 26 | 71 |
| 3 | S | s ³ | s+1 | 2 <i>s</i> |
| 4 | S | s^4 | $s^{2} + 1$ | $3s^2 - s + 1$ |

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5. A generalization

We only give one example here.

This array (transposed) achieves stratifications on 6×3 and 3×6 grids in all two-dimensions.

6. Discussion and further work

- further design selection by orthogonality, distance and discrepancy criteria
- minimal SOS designs
- construction using nonregular designs (Xu, Phoa and Wong 2009)

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Minimal SOS designs

- concept and usefulness
- characterization using clear 2fi's
- 1-saturating sets and linear codes with covering radius 2: Davydov, Marcugini and Pambianco (2006).

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Construction using nonregular designs

- similar results can be established
- an example is an SOA(48, 33, 4, 2+)

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