

Near Triple Arrays

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Based on joint work with Klas Markström and Lars-Daniel Öhman

August 25, 2025

Triple arrays (TA)

$(r \times c, v)$ -triple array

$r \times c$ table, v symbols each used e times, no repetitions in rows/columns,
 $|\text{row} \cap \text{row}| = \lambda_{rr}$, $|\text{column} \cap \text{column}| = \lambda_{cc}$, $|\text{row} \cap \text{column}| = \lambda_{rc}$

| | | | | | | | | |
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$$e = \lambda_{rc} = \frac{rc}{v}, \quad \lambda_{rr} = \frac{c(e-1)}{r-1}, \quad \lambda_{cc} = \frac{r(e-1)}{c-1}$$

- *admissible* $(r \times c, v)$: $e, \lambda_{rc}, \lambda_{rr}, \lambda_{cc} \in \mathbb{Z}$, $\max(r, c) \leq v \leq rc$

Near triple arrays (NTA)

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G.–Markström–Öhman 25

each symbol used $\lfloor e \rfloor$ or $\lceil e \rceil$ times, no repetitions in rows/columns,
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- ◇ No admissibility conditions
- ◇ $\text{NTA} = \text{TA}$ for TA-admissible $(r \times c, v)$

Component designs

| | | | | | |
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| 7 | 6 | 10 | 8 | 2 | 5 |
| 10 | 9 | 5 | 3 | 4 | 7 |

$(5 \times 6, 10)$ -TA

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1   

Column design

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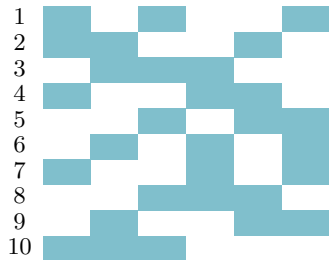


Column design

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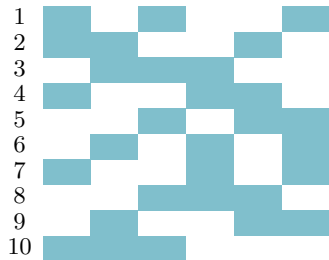


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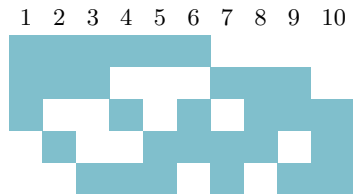
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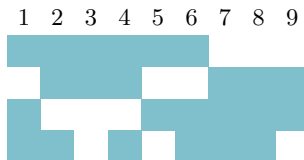


Row design

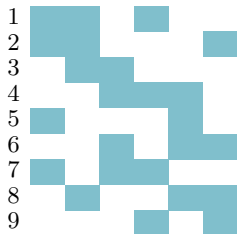
Component designs

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$(4 \times 6, 9)$ -NTA



Row design

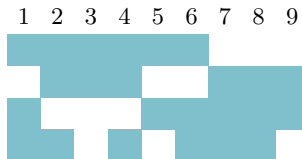


Column design

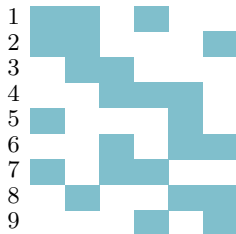
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$(4 \times 6, 9)$ -NTA



Row design



Column design

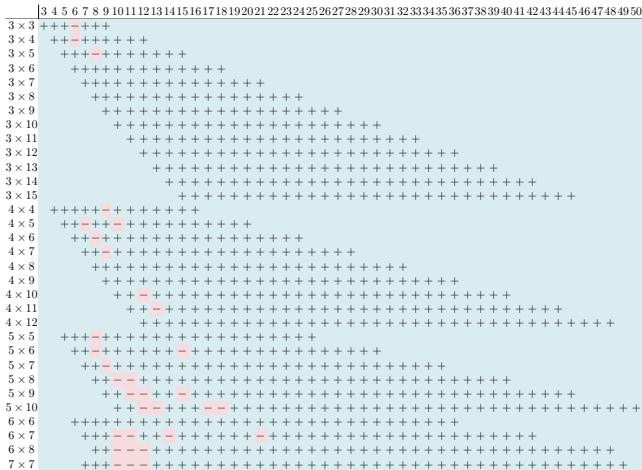
NTA: *max. balanced*
max. uniform design (Bofill–Torras 04)

$e \in \mathbb{Z}$: *regular graph design*

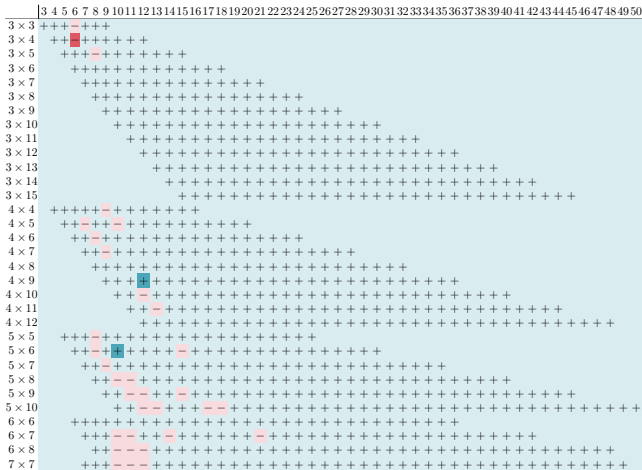
TA: *balanced incomplete block design*

$\lambda_{cc} \in \mathbb{Z}$: *pairwise balanced design*

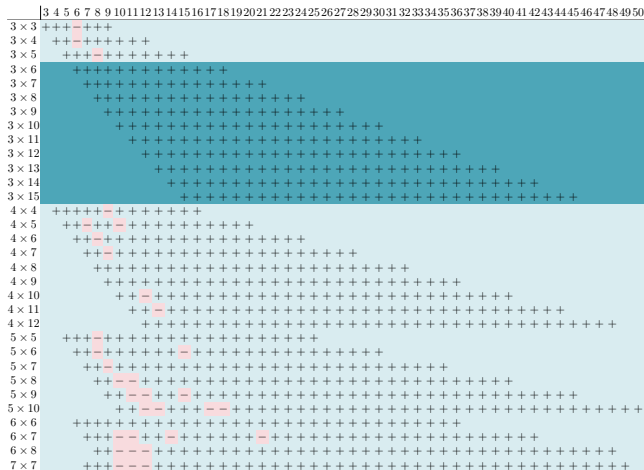
Existence of NTA



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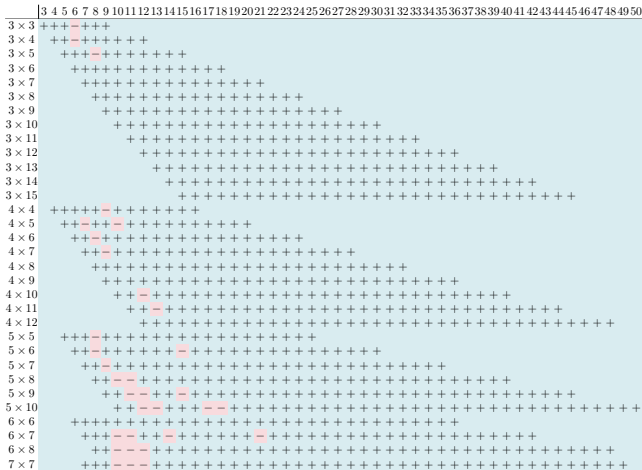


Existence of NTA



- ◇ $(3 \times c, v)$ -NTA exist for all v when $c \geq 6$ **G.–Markström–Öhman 25**
- ◇ **Conjecture:** $(r \times c, v)$ -NTA exist for all v when $c \geq r(r - 1)$

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- ◇ **Conjecture:** $(r \times c, v)$ -NTA exist for all v when $c \geq r(r-1)$
- ◇ **Question:** arrays with $|\text{row} \cap \text{row}| \in [x, x+2]$, etc., exist for all r, c, v ?

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- *Balanced grid*: each pair of symbols appears together in μ rows+columns

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- **A** $v \geq r + c - 1$ for TA **Bailey–Heidtmann 94, Bagchi 98, MPWY 05**
- **B** $v \leq r + c - 1$ for BG **MPWY 05**
- **C** TA \Leftrightarrow BG when $v = r + c - 1$ **MPWY 05 + McSorley 05**

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- *Near balanced grid*: ... in $\lfloor \mu \rfloor$ or $\lceil \mu \rceil$ rows+columns

$$(r \times c, v)\text{-array:} \quad \# \left(\begin{array}{c} \text{pair of rows/columns} \\ \text{both contain same} \\ \text{pair of symbols} \end{array} \right) \begin{array}{l} \geq S_{\text{NTA}} = S_{\text{NTA}}(r, c, v) \\ \geq S_{\text{NBG}} = S_{\text{NBG}}(r, c, v) \end{array}$$

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Theorem

G.–Markström–Öhman 25

$$S_{\text{NTA}} < S_{\text{NBG}} \Rightarrow \text{no NTA}$$

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$$S_{\text{NTA}} = S_{\text{NBG}} \Rightarrow \text{NTA} = \text{NBG}$$

◇ **Implies A, B, C**

Enumeration of TA

- isotopism* = row + column + symbol permutations

| v $r \times c$ | | 6 3×4 | 10 5×6 | 12 4×9 | 14 7×8 | 15 6×10 | 20 5×16 |
|---------------------|-----|-------------------|--------------------|--------------------|--------------------|---------------------|---------------------|
| Total # | | 0 | 7 | 1 | 684782 | 270119 | 26804 |
| Aut | 1 | | | | 682054 | 263790 | 26714 |
| | 2 | | | | 1266 | 5280 | |
| | 3 | | 2 | 1 | 1277 | 260 | 90 |
| | 4 | | 1 | | 98 | 579 | |
| | 5 | | | | | 1 | |
| | 6 | | 1 | | 48 | 69 | |
| | 7 | | | | 2 | | |
| | 8 | | | | 12 | 88 | |
| | 10 | | | | | 2 | |
| | 12 | | 2 | | 9 | 17 | |
| | 16 | | | | | 11 | |
| | 18 | | | | | 1 | |
| | 20 | | | | | 4 | |
| | 21 | | | | 8 | | |
| | 24 | | | | 7 | 9 | |
| | 36 | | | | | 2 | |
| | 48 | | | | | 4 | |
| | 60 | | 1 | | | | |
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$(6 \times 10, 15)$ -TA with $|\text{Aut}| = 720$

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- “*intercalate*-dense”

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| 11 | 7 | 10 | 6 | 9 | 13 | 3 | 1 | 14 | 4 |
| 12 | 8 | 9 | 13 | 10 | 6 | 5 | 14 | 1 | 2 |

- “*intercalate*-dense”

$(6 \times 10, 15)$ -TA with $|\text{Aut}| = 720$

| | | | | | | | | | |
|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|
| 0 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 |
| 1 | 0 | 3 | 2 | 5 | 4 | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 |
| 6 | 10 | 7 | 11 | 8 | 12 | 0 | 2 | 4 | 14 |
| 9 | 13 | 12 | 8 | 11 | 7 | 14 | 5 | 3 | 0 |
| 11 | 7 | 10 | 6 | 9 | 13 | 3 | 1 | 14 | 4 |
| 12 | 8 | 9 | 13 | 10 | 6 | 5 | 14 | 1 | 2 |

- “*intercalate*-dense”

$(6 \times 10, 15)$ -TA with $|\text{Aut}| = 720$

| | | | | | | | | | |
|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|
| 0 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 |
| 1 | 0 | 3 | 2 | 5 | 4 | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 |
| 6 | 10 | 7 | 11 | 8 | 12 | 0 | 2 | 4 | 14 |
| 9 | 13 | 12 | 8 | 11 | 7 | 14 | 5 | 3 | 0 |
| 11 | 7 | 10 | 6 | 9 | 13 | 3 | 1 | 14 | 4 |
| 12 | 8 | 9 | 13 | 10 | 6 | 5 | 14 | 1 | 2 |

- “*intercalate*-dense”

$(6 \times 10, 15)$ -TA with $|\text{Aut}| = 720$

| | | | | | | | | | |
|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|
| 0 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 |
| 1 | 0 | 3 | 2 | 5 | 4 | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 |
| 6 | 10 | 7 | 11 | 8 | 12 | 0 | 2 | 4 | 14 |
| 9 | 13 | 12 | 8 | 11 | 7 | 14 | 5 | 3 | 0 |
| 11 | 7 | 10 | 6 | 9 | 13 | 3 | 1 | 14 | 4 |
| 12 | 8 | 9 | 13 | 10 | 6 | 5 | 14 | 1 | 2 |

- “*intercalate*-dense”
- ◇ part of infinite series of intercalate-dense TA

$(6 \times 10, 15)$ -TA with $|\text{Aut}| = 120$

| | | | | | | | | | |
|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|
| 0 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 |
| 1 | 0 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 2 | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 |
| 6 | 11 | 0 | 8 | 14 | 13 | 9 | 12 | 3 | 2 |
| 8 | 13 | 14 | 11 | 0 | 6 | 5 | 4 | 7 | 10 |
| 10 | 9 | 7 | 14 | 12 | 1 | 11 | 2 | 5 | 8 |
| 12 | 7 | 10 | 1 | 9 | 14 | 3 | 6 | 13 | 4 |

- **intercalate partition**

$(6 \times 10, 15)$ -TA with $|\text{Aut}| = 120$

| | | | | | | | | | |
|----------|----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|----|----|----|----|
| 0 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 |
| 1 | 0 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 2 | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 |
| 6 | 11 | 0 | 8 | 14 | 13 | 9 | 12 | 3 | 2 |
| 8 | 13 | 14 | 11 | 0 | 6 | 5 | 4 | 7 | 10 |
| 10 | 9 | 7 | 14 | 12 | 1 | 11 | 2 | 5 | 8 |
| 12 | 7 | 10 | 1 | 9 | 14 | 3 | 6 | 13 | 4 |

- intercalate partition

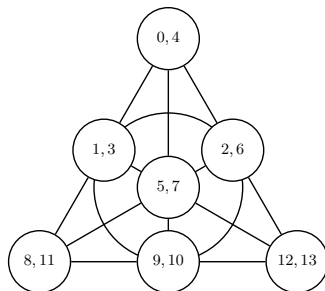
$(6 \times 10, 15)$ -TA with $|\text{Aut}| = 120$

| | | | | | | | | | |
|----|-----------|----------|----|----|-----------|----|----------|-----------|-----------|
| 0 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 |
| 1 | 0 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 2 | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 |
| 6 | 11 | 0 | 8 | 14 | 13 | 9 | 12 | 3 | 2 |
| 8 | 13 | 14 | 11 | 0 | 6 | 5 | 4 | 7 | 10 |
| 10 | 9 | 7 | 14 | 12 | 1 | 11 | 2 | 5 | 8 |
| 12 | 7 | 10 | 1 | 9 | 14 | 3 | 6 | 13 | 4 |

- intercalate partition

$(7 \times 8, 14)$ -TA with $|\text{Aut}| = 168$

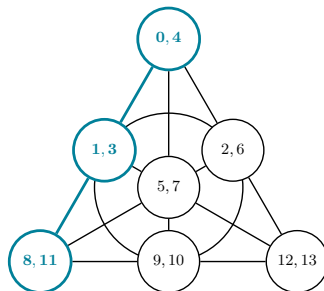
| | | | | | | | |
|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|
| 0 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 |
| 1 | 8 | 3 | 9 | 5 | 10 | 7 | 11 |
| 2 | 12 | 13 | 8 | 3 | 1 | 11 | 6 |
| 7 | 5 | 9 | 2 | 6 | 12 | 13 | 10 |
| 8 | 0 | 5 | 7 | 13 | 11 | 4 | 12 |
| 10 | 6 | 11 | 4 | 8 | 2 | 9 | 0 |
| 13 | 9 | 0 | 12 | 10 | 4 | 1 | 3 |



- line of *Fano plane* \leftrightarrow four 3×2 *Latin subrectangles*

$(7 \times 8, 14)$ -TA with $|\text{Aut}| = 168$

| | | | | | | | |
|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|
| 0 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 |
| 1 | 8 | 3 | 9 | 5 | 10 | 7 | 11 |
| 2 | 12 | 13 | 8 | 3 | 1 | 11 | 6 |
| 7 | 5 | 9 | 2 | 6 | 12 | 13 | 10 |
| 8 | 0 | 5 | 7 | 13 | 11 | 4 | 12 |
| 10 | 6 | 11 | 4 | 8 | 2 | 9 | 0 |
| 13 | 9 | 0 | 12 | 10 | 4 | 1 | 3 |



- line of *Fano plane* \leftrightarrow four 3×2 *Latin subrectangles*