

Neighbor Balance in Infinite Latin Squares

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Abstract

We consider natural generalizations of D -complete Latin squares and Vatican squares from the finite to the infinite. We construct countable D -complete and Vatican squares using Cayley tables of groups and also give a countable Vatican square whose rows and columns cannot be permuted to give a Cayley table (whether a finite Vatican square with this property exists is an open question). We show that there is a partial Vatican square of uncountable size and order and introduce the notion of a semi-Vatican square—a concept that does not make sense in the finite case—and show that there is an uncountable semi-Vatican square based on \mathbb{R} .

Keywords: complete Latin square; directed terrace; infinite design; infinite Latin square; sequencing; Vatican square.

1 Introduction

A finite Latin square is *row complete* or *Roman* if any two distinct symbols appear in adjacent cells within rows once in each order. If the transpose of a Latin square is row complete then the square is *column complete*; a square that is row complete and column complete is *complete*. Finite row complete squares exist for all composite orders [9] and finite complete squares are known to exist for all even orders [8] and many odd composite orders at which a nonabelian group exists, see for example [11]

Vatican and D -complete squares strengthen this notion of completeness.

A Latin square is *row D -complete* if any two distinct symbols appear in cells that are distance d apart in rows at most once in each order for each $d \leq D$. *Column D -completeness* is defined analogously and a square that is both row and column D -complete is *D -complete*. The 1-completeness property is the same as completeness.

An $(n - 1)$ -complete square of order n is called *Vatican*; that is, Vatican squares have the pair-occurrence restriction at every possible distance.

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Vatican squares are known to exist for all orders that are one less than a prime. In addition to this, 2-complete squares are known to exist at orders $2p$ where p is a prime congruent to 5, 7 or 19 modulo 24, orders $2m$ where $5 \leq m \leq 25$, and order 21 [3, 12].

In this paper we extend these notions to the infinite and prove various existence results. As in [1], we use Zermelo-Fraenkel set theory with the axiom of choice. Common sets are the natural numbers \mathbb{N} which we take to include 0, the integers \mathbb{Z} (these two sets have order \aleph_0 ; that is, are countably infinite) and the real numbers \mathbb{R} (which has order 2^{\aleph_0} and is uncountable—this is the only uncountable order we consider).

We require a definition of an infinite Latin square that allows us to talk about spatial relationships. This is accomplished by embedding the square in the real plane. Let I , the *indexing set*, be either \mathbb{Z} or \mathbb{R} . A *Latin square* of order $|I|$ on a symbol set X is a function $L : I \times I \rightarrow X$ such that for each $i \in I$ the restriction of L to $I \times \{i\}$ is a bijection with X , as is the restriction to $\{i\} \times I$. In other words, each symbol appears once in each “row” and once in each “column.”

This definition is compatible with the definition for Latin squares of arbitrary cardinality of Hilton and Wojciechowski [10] and in the countable case it matches the “full-plane Latin square” of Caulfield [2]. If we allow the indexing set to be \mathbb{N} , we get the “quarter-plane Latin square” of Caulfield [2] and a similar but uncountable version is obtained by taking $I = \mathbb{R}^{\geq 0}$. We don’t explicitly consider these versions; however, all but Theorem 11 have natural quarter-plane analogues (indeed, the proofs of the quarter-plane versions are usually a little more straightforward).

The definition of completeness for infinite squares is obtained by identifying the ideas of adjacency and being at distance 1. This is perfectly natural in the countable case and again matches the definition of Caulfield [2]. It does not seem to capture a property of particular combinatorial interest in the uncountable case, but when we move to generalizing Vatican squares we get the very natural notion of pairs appearing at all distances. Indeed, the definition of an infinite Vatican square is arguably more natural than the finite version as it allows every pair to appear exactly once at every distance rather than merely at most once.

Formally, an infinite Latin square is *row complete* or *Roman* each pair of distinct symbols appear exactly once in each order at distance 1 in rows, and the square is *complete* if the corresponding property also holds in columns. An infinite Latin square with indexing set I is *row D-complete* if each pair of symbols appear exactly once in each order at distance d in rows for each $d \in I$ with $0 < d \leq D$, and the square is *D-complete* if the corresponding property also holds in columns. Further, the square is *Vatican* if for each $d \in I^+ =$ we have that each pair of distinct symbols appears at distance d exactly once in each order in rows and once in each order in columns.

As infinite sets can be bijective with proper subsets of themselves, we can define a variation on Vatican squares that only makes sense for infinite orders. Say that an infinite Latin square is *semi-Vatican* if for each $d \in I^+ = \{i \in I \mid i > 0\}$ we have that each pair of distinct symbols appears at distance d exactly once in rows and once in columns. Although this does not have a finite analogue, all known constructions for Vatican squares of finite order n have $n/2$ rows that together form a “row semi-Vatican rectangle” and the remaining $n/2$ rows are the reverse of these ones.

Our first method for constructing squares uses groups to define the entries. In the finite case the most well-known construction for complete squares—and the only known

ones for Vatican squares and D -complete squares with $D > 1$ —uses the notion of “sequenceability” of a group and generalisations of it. In the next section we show that similar notions are sufficient to construct infinite D -complete, Vatican and semi-Vatican squares and in Section 3 show that there are many groups of countable order for which we can permute the rows and columns of their Cayley tables to obtain D -complete, Vatican or semi-Vatican squares.

In Section 4 we explore non-group-based methods. We show that there is a countable Vatican square that cannot be realized by permuting the rows and columns of a Cayley table. Whether a finite Vatican square with this property exists is an open question. We also show that there is a countable Latin square with no permutation of its rows and columns Vatican (or even row complete).

We return to groups in Section 5 and look at the uncountable case. We are unable to show that the Cayley table of any group of order 2^{\aleph_0} can have its rows and columns permuted to form a Vatican square. However, we are able to construct a partial Vatican square of uncountably infinite size and order based on $(\mathbb{R}, +)$. Also using $(\mathbb{R}, +)$ we are able to give a direct construction of an uncountable semi-Vatican square using just the tools of undergraduate calculus.

2 Group Methods

Our main method for constructing squares uses groups to define the entries. In particular we will be concerned with functions from the indexing set to a group that satisfy various constraints.

Let G be an infinite group of cardinality \aleph_0 or 2^{\aleph_0} and with identity e . Let \mathbf{a} be a bijection from the appropriate indexing set I to G and define a function $\mathbf{b} : I \rightarrow G \setminus \{e\}$ by $\mathbf{b}(i) = \mathbf{a}(i)^{-1}\mathbf{a}(i+1)$. If \mathbf{b} is also a bijection then \mathbf{a} is a *directed terrace* for G and \mathbf{b} is a *sequencing* of G . When $I = \mathbb{Z}$ we usually write $\mathbf{a}(i)$ as a_i , which emphasises the notion of a directed terrace as a sequence of elements of the group, how it is usually considered in the finite case.

More generally, for a bijection $\mathbf{a} : I \rightarrow G$ define a function $\mathbf{b}_{(d)} : I \rightarrow G \setminus \{e\}$ for each $d \in I^+$ by $\mathbf{b}_{(d)}(i) = \mathbf{a}(i)^{-1}\mathbf{a}(i+d)$. If for each $d \in I$ with $0 < d \leq D$ we have that $\mathbf{b}_{(d)}$ is a bijection then \mathbf{a} is a *directed T_D -terrace* for G and $\mathbf{b}_{(d)}$ is the $T_{(d)}$ -sequencing corresponding to \mathbf{a} . If this holds for all $d \in I^+$ then \mathbf{a} is a directed T_∞ -terrace.

For any bijection $\mathbf{a} : I \rightarrow G$ define a square $L(\mathbf{a}) = (l_{ij})$ by $l_{ij} = \mathbf{a}(i)^{-1}\mathbf{a}(j)$. As \mathbf{a} is a bijection, each row and column contains each symbol exactly once and so L is a Latin square. Call a Latin square created in this way *based on G* , or simply *group-based*.

These definitions closely mimic the versions for finite groups and they can be used in much the same way. The following result generalizes Gordon’s result [8] for finite complete squares and Etzion, Golomb and Taylor’s result [7] for finite Vatican squares to the infinite. The countable and 1-complete case of Theorem 1 is equivalent to a result of Caulfield [2].

Theorem 1 *Let G be a group of order \aleph_0 or 2^{\aleph_0} . If G has a directed T_D -terrace then there is a D -complete Latin square of order $|G|$. Further, if G has a directed T_∞ -terrace then there is a Vatican square of order $|G|$.*

Proof. Let \mathbf{a} be a directed T_D -terrace for G and consider $L(\mathbf{a})$.

Take x and y to be distinct elements of G . There is a unique j with $\mathbf{a}(j)^{-1}\mathbf{a}(j+d) = x^{-1}y$ and a unique i with $\mathbf{a}(i)^{-1}\mathbf{a}(j) = x$. We therefore have that x appears in row i and column j of $L(\mathbf{a})$ and that y appears in row i and column $j+d$ of $L(\mathbf{a})$ and that x and y do not appear anywhere else with y exactly d to the right of x .

There is also a unique i with $xy^{-1} = \mathbf{a}(i)^{-1}\mathbf{a}(i+d)$ and then a unique j with $\mathbf{a}(i)^{-1}\mathbf{a}(j) = x$. This identifies a unique place where y appears exactly d unit above x in the square. Therefore $L(\mathbf{a})$ is a D -complete square of order $|G|$.

If we replace \mathbf{a} with a directed T_∞ -terrace in the above argument we see that $L(\mathbf{a})$ is a Vatican square of order $|G|$. \square

Slight variations on the above ideas allow us to construct semi-Vatican squares. Let G be a group of order \aleph_0 or 2^{\aleph_0} that has identity element e and no involutions. For a bijection $\mathbf{a} : I \rightarrow G$ define a function $\mathbf{b}_{(d)} : I \rightarrow G \setminus \{e\}$ for each $d \in I^+$ by $\mathbf{b}_{(d)}(i) = \mathbf{a}(i)^{-1}\mathbf{a}(i+d)$. If each $\mathbf{b}_{(d)}$ contains in its image exactly one element from each set $\{g, g^{-1} : g \neq e\}$ then \mathbf{a} is a *directed S_∞ -terrace* for G and $\mathbf{b}_{(d)}$ is the $S_{(d)}$ -sequencing corresponding to \mathbf{a} .

The semi-Vatican version of Theorem 1 is:

Theorem 2 *Let G be an involution-free group of order \aleph_0 or 2^{\aleph_0} . If G has a directed S_∞ -terrace then there is a semi-Vatican square of order $|G|$.*

Proof. Analogous to the proof of Theorem 1. \square

3 Countably infinite groups

In this section we show two results. First that a wide variety of countably infinite groups have a directed T_D -terrace for any positive integer D ; second that countably infinite abelian groups that have infinitely many non-involutions have a directed T_∞ -terrace. We first need some definitions. The existence of countable D -complete and Vatican squares follows.

Let G be a group. If every conjugacy class of G is finite then G is an *FC-group*. More about the structure of FC-groups can be found in [14, Chapter 15]. We are interested in those with countably infinite order. These include all countable infinite abelian groups and, further, all direct products of a countably infinite abelian group with a finite group.

For each element h of a group G define a subset S_h of G by

$$S_h = \{xhx : x \in G\}.$$

If S_h is infinite for each non-identity element h of G then say that G is *spreadable*. Note that an abelian group is spreadable if and only if it has infinitely many elements that are not involutions.

Theorem 3 *Let $D \in \mathbb{N}$. If G is a countably infinite spreadable FC-group then G has a directed T_D -terrace.*

Proof. We build a directed T_D -terrace \mathbf{a} outwards from $a_0 = e$ with a series of processes, numbered from -1 to D , each of which will be implemented infinitely often. The implementations of Process 0 will ensure that \mathbf{a} is surjective; for each i with $0 < i \leq D$ the implementations of Process i will ensure that $\mathbf{b}_{(i)}$ is surjective; the implementations of Process -1 will ensure that all of these functions are well-defined and injective.

For each d with $0 \leq d \leq D$ define σ_d to be a sequence of all of the non-identity elements of G . For $d > 0$ these sequences will track which quotients have not yet appeared at distance d and σ_0 will track which elements have not yet been used in \mathbf{a} .

At the start of each process, assume we have a partial directed T_D -terrace $\mathbf{a} = (a_{k-l}, a_{k-l+1}, \dots, a_k)$ of length $l + 1$ and that the σ_d have been appropriately updated to match this sequence.

For Process -1 we wish to find an element $x \in G \setminus \{e\}$ such that we can assign a_{k-l-1} to be x . We need that $x \in \sigma_0$ and, for each d with $1 \leq d \leq D$, that $x^{-1}a_{k-l-1+d} \in \sigma_d$. This rules out only finitely many possible choices for x and so there are infinitely many admissible choices for x . Choose one and set $a_{k-l-1} = x$. Remove x from σ_0 and $x^{-1}a_{k-l-1+d}$ from σ_d for each $1 \leq d \leq D$.

For Process 0 the goal is to include g in \mathbf{a} , where g is the first element of σ_0 . We do so by successively assigning values for $a_{k+1}, a_{k+2}, \dots, a_{k+D}$ and then setting $a_{k+D+1} = g$.

Suppose that we have set $a_{k+1}, a_{k+2}, \dots, a_{k+j-1}$ for some $j \leq D$ (and have also suitably updated each of the σ_d) and need a value of $x \in G \setminus \{e\}$ to serve as a_{k+j} . Similarly to Process -1 , we start with some conditions that rule out only finitely many choices of x and so do not cause a problem: $x \neq g$; $x \in \sigma_0$; $a_{k+j-d}^{-1}x \in \sigma_d$. The potentially awkward condition is $a_{k+2j-D+1}x \neq x^{-1}g$. However, transforming this to $xa_{k+2j-D+1}x \neq g$ and noting that $S_{a_{k+2j-D+1}}$ is infinite as G is spreadable we see that there must be infinitely many admissible x from which to choose. Choose one, set $a_{k+j} = x$ and update the σ_d .

Once this is complete for all $j \leq D$, set $a_{k+D+1} = g$, update all of the σ_d and Process 0 is complete.

We now turn to Process i where $1 \leq i \leq D$. Here the goal is to make g , where g is the first element of σ_i , appear as a quotient at distance i . In particular, we shall successively assign $a_{k+1}, a_{k+2}, \dots, a_{k+D}$ and then set $a_{k+D+1} = a_{k+D+1-i}g$.

First consider $j \leq k + D - i$ (if any such j exist) and suppose first that we have successfully assigned $a_{k+1}, a_{k+2}, \dots, a_{k+j-1}$. We want to choose a value of x to set as a_{k+j} . As usual we have some constraints that rule out only finitely many choices: $x \in \sigma_0$; $a_{k+j-d}^{-1}x \neq g$; $a_{k+j-d}^{-1}x \in \sigma_d$. Satisfying these conditions is sufficient for the immediate task. However, in order to make some future choices possible, we also add the constraint that xa_{k-i+j}^{-1} is not conjugate to g . This only rules out finitely many choices as G is an FG-group. Choose a valid x and update the σ_d .

Next consider $j = k + D - i + 1$. The only constraints that do not obviously rule out only finitely many choices are those of the form $a_{k-l+1}^{-1}x \neq a_{j-l}^{-1}xg$ for $1 \leq l < D$, but this is equivalent to $xgx^{-1} \neq a_{j-l}a_{k+l-1}$ which is ruled out by our choice of a_{j-l} .

Finally for this process, consider $j > k + D - i + 1$. As with Process 0, all the constraints rule out only finitely many choices for a_j , using the fact that G is spreadable.

Repeatedly run the processes in turn. All the requirements of a directed T_D -terrace are met. \square

Theorem 1 immediately gives:

Corollary 4 *For any $D \in \mathbb{N}$ there is a countably infinite D -complete Latin square.*

In the case where the group is abelian, the methods of the proof of Theorem 3 can be extended to give a directed T_∞ -terrace.

Theorem 5 *Let G be a countably infinite abelian group with infinitely many non-involutions. Then G has a directed T_∞ -terrace.*

Proof. First note that G is a spreadable FC-group, so we can apply the processes of the proof of Theorem 3. We do so, employing a variable D to maintain distinct differences at every distance.

In particular, we follow the method of the proof of Theorem 3 but for each process we redefine D to be l , the length of the partial directed terrace so far. Now, applying each process (except Process -1 , which preserves all the required differences properties anyway) gives a partial directed T_D -terrace of length $2D + 1$. We claim that this is also a partial directed T_∞ -terrace.

Suppose there is a $d > D$ such that $a_{j+d} - a_j = a_{i+d} - a_i$ for some $i < j$. Then, as G is abelian, we also have $a_{j+d} - a_{i+d} = a_j - a_i$. But $j - i \leq D$ as the partial sequence has length $2D + 1$, contradicting that we have a partial directed T_D -terrace.

Thus at each step the process preserves that we have a partial directed T_∞ -terrace and running through the processes repeatedly gives us a full directed T_∞ -terrace. \square

Again applying Theorem 1:

Corollary 6 *There is a countably infinite Vatican square.*

4 Countably infinite squares not based on groups

The results of the previous section raise the question about what is and is not possible for countably infinite squares more generally. Perhaps *all* countably infinite squares may be made complete, or even Vatican, with a suitable permutation of their rows and columns? In a similar vein, it is known that all infinite Steiner triple systems are resolvable [5], an uncommon property among finite systems. However, Theorem 7 scuppers this possibility, showing that there is a countably infinite square that cannot be made row-complete via permuting columns.

In the other direction, a question asked (and answered positively) about finite squares was whether there exist row-complete Latin squares that are not based on groups, see [4, 6, 13]. We answer the infinite version of this question, also positively, in Theorem 8. Indeed, this result gives a Vatican square that is not group-based. All known finite Vatican squares are based on groups.

Theorem 7 *There is a countably infinite Latin square that cannot be made row-complete by permuting columns.*

Proof. We will build a square with the rows, columns and symbols indexed by \mathbb{N} and by employing a bijection $\mathbb{N} \rightarrow \mathbb{Z}$ to the column and row indices we get our full-plane square. The idea is that we will ensure at each stage that no three columns can appear

in sequence in a row-complete Latin square while also ensuring that the Latin square properties are attained. That there is no row-complete Latin square of order 3 is the crucial fact.

For each $i, j \in \mathbb{N}$, set $\rho_i = \kappa_j = \mathbb{N}$. These sequences will track which symbols have been used in each row and column respectively and allow us to ensure that the Latin properties hold. Also set $\zeta = \emptyset$; into this set we will add the indices of columns that cannot be used in juxtaposition with two earlier columns in a row-complete square.

To start the construction, define three entries in each of the first three rows using the following square, where the bottom left entry goes in cell $(0, 0)$.

$$\begin{array}{ccc} 2 & 0 & 1 \\ 1 & 2 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 2 \end{array}$$

Remove 0, 1 and 2 from ρ_i and κ_i for $i \in \{0, 1, 2\}$ and add 0, 1 and 2 to ζ .

We now alternate between Process 0, which ensures that each symbol appears in each row and column, and Process 1, which ensures that ζ fills up.

Process 0. Let M be the maximum row index for which the corresponding row is non-empty and let N be the maximum element of ζ . For $j = 0, 1, \dots, N$ add the first element of κ_j in the lowest-indexed position of column j that does not contravene the Latin constraints. Similarly, for $i = 0, 1, \dots, M$ add the first element of ρ_i in the lowest-indexed position of row i that does not contravene the Latin constraints. Finally, for each cell (i, j) with $i \leq M$ and $j \leq N$, in turn add the smallest element of \mathbb{N} that does not contravene the Latin constraints. At each step in Process 0 remove the appropriate elements from ρ_i and κ_j .

Process 1. Define N as in Process 0 and consider the column C with index $y_3 = N + 1$. For each pair of distinct columns A , and B with indices at most N , say y_1 and y_2 , do the following. Take x_1, x_2, x_3 to be the three smallest row indices for which all of A , B and C have no entries and let m be the largest number that appears in any of these three columns. Put the symbols $m + 1$, $m + 2$ and $m + 3$ in the cells $\{(x_i, y_j) : 1 \leq i, j \leq 3\}$ in such a way that the Latin constraints are not contravened (possible, as an order 3 Latin square exists) and add $N + 1$ to the set ζ . Each time entries are added to the square update ρ_i and κ_j accordingly.

As every 3×3 Latin square has two instances of identical consecutive symbols in rows, Process 1 does indeed ensure that all column indices are legitimately added to ζ . \square

Prior to giving Theorem 8 we need a result that lets us be sure that a square is not group-based. The *quadrangle criterion* states that in a square based on a group if the three equations

$$a_{i_1 j_1} = a_{i_2 j_2}, \quad a_{k_1 j_1} = a_{k_2 j_2}, \quad a_{i_1 l_1} = a_{i_2 l_2}$$

are satisfied then $a_{k_1 l_1} = a_{k_2 l_2}$ [6, Theorem 1.2.1]. That is, if two “quadrangles” in a group-based square agree on three points then they agree on the fourth.

Theorem 8 *There is a countably infinite Vatican square that is not based on a group.*

Proof. The idea is to start with a subsquare at the origin, structured to guarantee that the square is not group-based, and grow this to fill the plane via different processes, analogously to the proof of Theorem ???. Our symbol set is \mathbb{N} .

Place the following 4×4 square at the origin, with the bottom-left cell in position $(0, 0)$.

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

This does not break any of the constraints required to be Vatican. Considering the symbols $\{0, 1, \dots, 4\}$ we see that it breaks the quadrangle criterion and hence any square with this as a subsquare cannot be group-based.

For each $i, j \in \mathbb{Z}$ set $\rho_i = \kappa_j = (0, 1, 2, \dots)$. For each i with $0 \leq i \leq 3$ remove from ρ_i the four elements that appear in the row indexed by i in the above 4×4 square and for each j with $0 \leq j \leq 3$ remove from κ_j the four elements that appear in the column indexed by j . These sequences will track which symbols have been used in each row and column.

For each $d \geq 1$ construct an ordered sequence σ_d of all possible ordered pairs of distinct elements. Remove any ordered pairs from σ_d that occur at distance d in the above 4×4 square in rows (for example, remove $(0, 1)$, $(7, 8)$, $(9, 10)$ and $(2, 4)$ from σ_3). The sequence σ_d will track which pairs have occurred at distance d apart horizontally. Generate an ordered sequence τ_d for each $d \geq 1$ similarly, but for ordered pairs at distance d within columns rather than rows.

We now define the processes. Process 0 ensures that the square fills up and that each row and column contains each element. Process d ensures that each ordered pair of symbols occurs at distance d in both rows and columns.

Process 0. Given a finite partial square, define M to be the largest absolute value of a non-empty row or column index. For each i with $-M \leq i \leq M$ in turn, place the first element of ρ_i in row i , in one of the positions that has smallest absolute value of column index without violating any of the Vatican conditions (as the number of Vatican conditions is finite, this must be possible) and remove that entry from ρ_i and the appropriate κ_j . Also remove any new pairs generated at distance d in rows from σ_d and new pairs generated at distance d in columns from τ_d . Repeat for columns. Recalculate M and for every empty cell in turn whose row and column indices are both at most M in absolute value, put the smallest permissible entry in that cell and remove the appropriate values from the sequences.

Process d . Take the first pair (a, b) from σ_d . There are infinitely many pairs (i, j) such that cell (i, j) is either empty or contains a and cell $(i, j + d)$ is either empty or contains b and adding a to the first (if empty) and b to the second (if empty) does not violate the Vatican conditions (note that as $(a, b) \in \sigma_d$, at least one of these cells must be empty). From these options, choose one that has the smallest absolute value of $\max(|i|, |j|)$, add a and/or b to the cells and remove all necessary values from the sequences. Perform the analogous process in columns for the first pair from τ_d .

As in Theorem ??, performing the processes in the order

$$0, 1, 0, 1, 2, 0, 1, 2, 3, 0, 1, 2, 3, 4, 0, 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, \dots$$

guarantees that all of the properties of being a countably-infinite Vatican square are met. \square

As in the last section, a slight tweaking of the construction gives semi-Vatican rather than Vatican squares.

Theorem 9 *There is a countably infinite semi-Vatican square that is not based on a group.*

Proof. Use the construction method of the proof of Theorem 8, except make sure that the semi-Vatican, rather than Vatican, conditions are not violated and use the σ_d sequences to track which unordered pairs have occurred. \square

5 Uncountably infinite groups

We now move to squares of order 2^{\aleph_0} and limit our attention to the group $(\mathbb{R}, +)$. We have been unable to demonstrate the existence of a Vatican square of this size. Theorem 10 gives a partial result. However, we are able to construct a semi-Vatican square based on $(\mathbb{R}, +)$. This is given in Theorem 11.

Analagously to the well-studied finite case, a *partial infinite Latin square* on symbol set X with indexing set I (where $I \in \{\mathbb{Z}, \mathbb{R}\}$ as usual) is a function $P : J \times K \rightarrow X$ such that $J, K \subseteq I$, for each $k \in K$ the restriction of P to $J \times \{k\}$ is an injection to X and for each $j \in J$ the restriction of P to $\{j\} \times K$ is an injection to X . As in the non-partial case we think of $J \times \{k\}$ and $\{j\} \times K$ as rows and columns. The *order* of a partial infinite Latin square is the largest cardinality among J , K and Y , where $Y \subseteq X$ consists of the symbols used in the square. The *size* of a partial infinite Latin square is the cardinality of the set of entries of the square.

A partial infinite Latin square is a *partial infinite Vatican square* if given $x, y \in X$ then for any $d \in I^+$ we have x and y appearing in the same row at distance d from each other at most once in each order, and similarly for columns.

Let $A \subseteq \mathbb{R}$ and let \mathbf{a} be an injection from A to \mathbb{R} . For each $d \in \mathbb{R}^+$ let $B_{(d)} = \{i : i, i + d \in A\}$. Define functions $\mathbf{b}_{(d)} : B_{(d)} \rightarrow \mathbb{R} \setminus \{0\}$ by $\mathbf{b}_{(d)}(i) = \mathbf{a}(i + d) - \mathbf{a}(i)$. If each $\mathbf{b}_{(d)}$ is injective then call \mathbf{a} a *partial directed T_∞ -terrace*.

Theorem 10 *The group $(\mathbb{R}, +)$ has a partial directed T_∞ -terrace $\mathbf{m} : M \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ with M uncountable. Hence it is possible to construct a partial infinite Vatican square based on $(\mathbb{R}, +)$ that has uncountable size and uncountable order.*

Proof. We use Zorn's Lemma on the poset of partial directed T_∞ -terraces that is (partially) ordered as follows. If \mathbf{a} and \mathbf{c} are partial directed T_∞ -terraces on sets A and C respectively, then $\mathbf{a} \leq \mathbf{c}$ if $A \subseteq C$ and the restriction of \mathbf{c} to A is \mathbf{a} . Note that the poset is non-empty. Indeed, we have an explicit countable example using \mathbb{Z} in Theorem ??.

Let \mathcal{C} be a chain in this poset. We have that $\cup \mathcal{C}$ is a partial directed T_∞ -terrace (if it were not, we would have a contradiction in one of the elements of the chain) and so $\cup \mathcal{C}$ is an upper bound for \mathcal{C} . Zorn's Lemma implies that we must have a maximal element \mathbf{m} . Let the domain of \mathbf{m} be M .

Suppose that M is finite or countably infinite and choose $x \in \mathbb{R} \setminus M$. We define a new partial directed T_∞ -terrace $\bar{\mathbf{m}}$ on $M \cup \{x\}$ with $\mathbf{m} < \bar{\mathbf{m}}$, showing that \mathbf{m} was not in fact maximal.

We get two types of restriction on what values $\mathbf{m}(x)$ may take: $\bar{\mathbf{m}}(x) \neq \mathbf{m}(y)$ for each $y \in M$ and $\bar{\mathbf{m}}(x)$ must be chosen so as not to cause any repeats in the differences at distance $d = |y - x|$ whenever $y + d \in M$. This set of restrictions rules out finite or countably many values and M is finite or countable so the set of values that $\bar{\mathbf{m}}(x)$ cannot be is at most countable. However, \mathbb{R} is uncountable and we are able to choose an allowable value. Thus M is uncountable.

Therefore, by Zorn's Lemma, we have partial directed T_∞ -terrace with uncountable domain.

The argument that this can be used to construct a partial infinite Vatican square with uncountable order and size is analogous to Theorem 1. \square

The argument in the above proof falls short of the target of a directed T_∞ -terrace in two important ways. First, and most obviously, we cannot make the domain of the terrace be all of \mathbb{R} . Secondly, even if we were able to extend the argument so that the domain did cover \mathbb{R} we still would not necessarily have a directed T_∞ -terrace as we would not have guaranteed that *all* differences occur at any distance d .

On the other hand, the large amount of freedom when building the chain while it is still countable allows us to add potentially interesting properties. For example, by building \mathcal{C} in the above proof such that M includes all of \mathbb{Q} we guarantee the existence of a partial directed T_∞ -terrace for $(\mathbb{R}, +)$ whose uncountable domain is dense in \mathbb{R} .

Perhaps surprisingly, we have significantly more success in the semi-Vatican case and need only methods from calculus to do so:

Theorem 11 *There is a semi-Vatican square based on $(\mathbb{R}, +)$.*

Proof. We give a direct definition of the required directed S_∞ -terrace \mathbf{a} :

$$\mathbf{a}(x) = \begin{cases} e^x - 1 & x \geq 0 \\ -\ln(1 - x) & \text{otherwise} \end{cases}$$

This is a continuous, strictly increasing bijection from \mathbb{R} to \mathbb{R} . Its derivative is:

$$\mathbf{a}'(x) = \begin{cases} e^x & x \geq 0 \\ \frac{1}{1-x} & \text{otherwise} \end{cases}$$

which is a continuous, strictly increasing bijection from \mathbb{R}^+ to \mathbb{R}^+ .

Therefore, for each $d \in \mathbb{R}^+$, we have that $\mathbf{b}_{(\mathbf{a})}$, defined by $\mathbf{b}_{(\mathbf{a})}(x) = \mathbf{a}(x + d) - \mathbf{a}(x)$ as usual, is a bijection from \mathbb{R}^+ to \mathbb{R}^+ . Hence \mathbf{a} is a directed S_∞ -terrace and Theorem 2 gives a semi-Vatican square based on $(\mathbb{R}, +)$. \square

Unfortunately, when one tries to use similar techniques to construct a directed T_∞ -terrace for $(\mathbb{R}, +)$ one quickly runs into difficulties.

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