



## 6. Generation from Combinatorial Design

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# Combinatorial Design

- ▶ **Configuration space**: all possible settings of the environment variable under which P could be used
- ▶ **Input space**: all possible values that can be taken by input variables

Combination of hardwares, OSs, platforms etc. is generally referred to as **compatibility testing**

# Combinatorial Design

## Example

Consider a program  $P$  that takes two positive integers  $x, y$  as input, and that is meant to be executed on the OSs Windows, Mac Os, and Linux through Mozilla, Explorer or Chrome browsers. Which are the Configuration and input spaces?

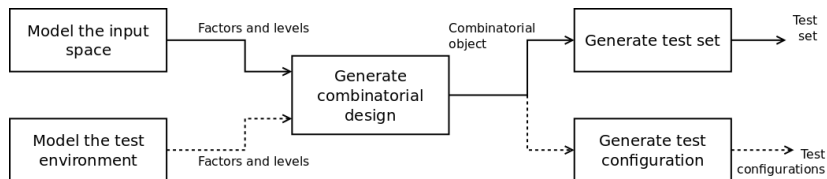
- ▶ **factors**: parameters possibly influencing program behaviour
  - ▶ **levels**: values that can be assumed by a factor
- 
- ▶ **Factor combination** leads to exponential growth
  - ▶ **test configuration** is a static selection while **test values** (parameters) are input provided to a running IOT
  - ▶ it is in general not meaningful to combine **input parameters** and the **configuration space**

# Input space of an online Pizza Delivery Service

## Example

Let us model the input space of an online Pizza Delivery Service (PDS) for the purpose of testing. The service takes orders online, checks for their validity, and schedules Pizza for delivery. A customer is required to specify the following four items as part of the online order: Pizza size, Toppings list, Delivery address, and a home phone number. Let us denote these four factors by S, T, A, and P, respectively.

# Combinatorial test-design process



Each factor combination may lead to one or more test cases where each test case consists of values of input variables and the expected output. Nevertheless, as usual **the generation of all combinations is generally not feasible**

**$k$  factors with  $n$  level each lead to  $n^k$  possible combinations**

# Fault model

The approach we are going to discuss targets **interaction faults**

- ▶ interaction faults are triggered when a **certain combination** of  $t \geq 1$  parameter values causes the program containing the fault to enter an invalid state
- ▶ faults triggered by some value of input variables regardless of the values of other inputs variables are known as **simple faults**. When  $t = 2$  they are known as **pairwise interaction faults**. For arbitrary value of  $t$  we refer to  **$t$ -way interaction faults**.

## Example - 1

Imagine a program that should return the value calculated by different combinations of a couple of functions. In particular when  $x=x_1$  and  $y=y_1$  the returned value should be  $f(x, y, z) + g(x, y)$  and  $f(x, y, z) - g(x, y)$  when  $x=x_2$  and  $y=y_2$ . Now consider the program:

```
begin
  int x, y, z;
  input (x, y, z);
  if (x==x1 and y==y2)
    output (f(x, y, z));
  else
    if (x==x2 and y==y1)
      output (g(x, y));
    else
      output (f(x, y, z) + g(x, y));
end
```

## Example - 2

Let  $x, y \in \{-1, 0, 1\}$  and  $z \in \{0, 1\}$ . Are there interaction faults that can be discovered in the following code snippet?

```
begin
  int x,y,z,p;
  input (x,y,z);
  p = (x+y)*z; // instead should be (x-y)*z
  if (p >= 0)
    output (f(x,y,z));
  else
    output (g(x,y));
end
```



# Fault vectors

- ▶ A **fault vector** is a  $k$ -uple of values for the factors of a program able to trigger a fault. The vector is considered a  **$t$ -fault vector** if any  $t \leq k$  elements in  $V$  are needed to trigger the fault in  $P$ .
- ▶ Note that a  $t$ -way fault vector for  $P$  triggers a  $t$ -way fault in  $P$ . Given  $k$  factors, there are  $k - t$  don't care entries in a  $t$ -way fault vector. We indicate don't care entries with an asterisk (\*).

The 2-way fault vector (2, 3, \*) indicates that the 2-way interaction fault is triggered when factor 1 is set to level 2, factor 2 to level 3, and factor 3 is the don't care factor.

# Fault vectors

The input domain of Program in the example 2 consists of three factors  $x$ ,  $y$ , and  $z$  each having two levels. There is a total of eight runs. For example,  $(1, 1, 1)$  and  $(-1, -1, 0)$  are two runs. Of these eight runs,  $(-1, 1, 1)$  and  $(-1, -1, 1)$  are fault vectors that trigger the 3-way fault in the Program  $(x_1, y_1, *)$  is a 2-way fault vector given that the values  $x_1$  and  $y_1$  trigger the 2-way fault in Program

# Latin squares

- ▶ A **Latin Square** of order  $n$  is an  $n \times n$  matrix such that no symbol appears more than once in a row and a column where the alphabet set  $\Sigma$  as cardinality  $n$ .  
e.g.  $\Sigma = \{A, B\}$  and  $\Sigma = \{1, 2, 3\}$ 
  - Latin squares are a useful tool to derive factor combinations in a smaller number with respect to brute force strategies

## Latin squares properties

Given a Latin square described by matrix  $\mathcal{M}$  a large number of same order matrices can be obtained through **row and column interchange and symbol-renaming operations**

A latin square obtained by the mentioned operations is said to be **isomorphic** to the starting latin square

A latin square can be easily derived using modulo arithmetic  
 $M(i, j) = (i + j) \bmod k$  – where  $k$  is the order of the square

# Mutually orthogonal latin squares (MOLS)

## MOLS

**MOLS** are a useful tool to generate  $t$  – wise vectors from latin squares. Two latin squares are mutually orthogonal if their combination in a matrix of the same order does not generate duplicates.

Let's consider the case of two latin squares of order 3

$MOLS(n)$  indicates a set of MOLS of order  $n$ . If  $n$  is prime  $MOLS(n)$  contains  $n - 1$  MOLS and it is referred as a **complete** set. MOLS exists for each  $n > 2 \wedge n \neq 6$

Let's build the  $MOLS(5)$  set

# Mutually orthogonal latin squares - Exercise

We follow a simple procedure to construct MOLS(5).

A latin square of order 5 given the symbol set  $S = \{1, 2, 3, 4, 5\}$ . The first row is a simple enumeration of all symbols in  $S$ ; the order of enumeration does not matter.

Here is one element of MOLS(5)

$$M_1 = \begin{matrix} 1 & 2 & 3 & 4 & 5 \\ 2 & 3 & 4 & 5 & 1 \\ 3 & 4 & 5 & 1 & 2 \\ 4 & 5 & 1 & 2 & 3 \\ 5 & 1 & 2 & 3 & 4 \end{matrix}$$

$$M_2 = \begin{matrix} 1 & 2 & 3 & 4 & 5 \\ 3 & 4 & 5 & 1 & 2 \\ 5 & 1 & 2 & 3 & 4 \\ 2 & 3 & 4 & 5 & 1 \\ 4 & 5 & 1 & 2 & 3 \end{matrix}$$

$$M_3 = \begin{matrix} 1 & 2 & 3 & 4 & 5 \\ 4 & 5 & 1 & 2 & 3 \\ 2 & 3 & 4 & 5 & 1 \\ 5 & 1 & 2 & 3 & 4 \\ 3 & 4 & 5 & 1 & 2 \end{matrix}$$

$$M_4 = \begin{matrix} 1 & 2 & 3 & 4 & 5 \\ 5 & 1 & 2 & 3 & 4 \\ 4 & 5 & 1 & 2 & 3 \\ 3 & 4 & 5 & 1 & 2 \\ 2 & 3 & 4 & 5 & 1 \end{matrix}$$

11 22 33 44 55  
35 41 52 13 24  
54 15 21 32 43  
23 34 45 51 12

## Pairwise design - binary factors

Let's consider three factors X, Y, Z each one with two levels, and let's generate a pairwise design.

A set of combinations is **balanced** when each value occurs exactly the same number of times

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# Pairwise design - binary factors

Generalizing the problem on  $n$  factors each one having two levels.

- ▶ we need to define  $\mathcal{S}_{2k-1}$  to be the set of strings of length  $2k - 1$  such that each string has exactly  $k$  1s. e.g.  $k = 3$

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

# The SAMNA procedure

Input:  $n$  - number of two-valued input variables (factors) Output: A set of factor combinations such that all pairs of input values are covered

- 1 Compute the smallest integer  $k$  such that  $n \leq |\mathcal{S}_{2k-1}|$
- 2 Select any subset of  $n$  strings from  $\mathcal{S}_{2k-1}$ . Arrange these to form an  $n \times (2k - 1)$  matrix with one string in each row, while the columns contain different bits each string
- 3 Append a columns of 0s to the end of each string selected
- 4 Each one of the  $2k$  columns contain a bit pattern from which we generate a combination is of the kind  $(X_1^*, X_2^*, \dots, X_n^*)$  where the value of each variable is selected depending on whether the bit in column  $i$ ,  $i \leq i \leq n$  is a 0 or a 1

## Example

Consider a simple Java applet named `ChemFun` that allows a user to create an in-memory database of chemical elements and search for an element.

Factor	Name	Levels	Comments
1	Operation	{Create,Show}	Two buttons
2	Name	{Empty,Nonempty}	Data Field, String
3	Symbol	{Empty,Nonempty}	Data Field, String
4	Atomic Number	{Invalid, Valid}	Data Field, data > 0
5	Properties	{Empty,Nonempty}	Data Field, String

Testing for all combinations would require a total of  $2^5$  tests, but if we are interested for testing for pairwise interactions we can reduce the number of tests to 6.

# Pairwise design for multivalued factors

In most practical cases factors can assume **more than just two levels**

- ▶ SAMNA cannot be applied
- ▶ MOLS( $n$ ) can be used to derive test set to satisfy the pairwise criterion

# PDMOLS algorithm

**Input:**  $n$  - number of factors

**Output:** a test set satisfying the pairwise criterion

- 1 Label the factors as  $F_1, F_2, \dots, F_n$  such that the following ordering constraint is satisfied:  $|F_1| \geq |F_2| \geq \dots \geq |F_{n-1}| \geq |F_n|$ . Let  $b = |F_1|$  and  $k = |F_2|$ .
- 2 Prepare a table containing  $n$  columns and  $b \times k$  rows divided into  $b$  blocks. Label the columns as  $F_1, F_2, \dots, F_n$ . Each block contains  $k$  rows.
- 3 Fill column  $F_1$  with 1s in block 1, 2s in block 2 and so on. Fill block 1 of columns  $F_2$  with the sequence  $1, 2, \dots, k$ .
- 4 Find  $s = n(k)$  MOLS of order  $k$ . Denote them as  $M_1, M_2, \dots, M_s$ . Note that  $s < k$  for  $k > 1$ .
- 5 Fill block 1 of column  $F_3$  with entries from column 1 of  $M_1$ , block 2 with entries from column 2 of  $M_1$ , and so on. If the number of blocks  $b = b_1 > k$  then reuse columns of  $M_1$  to fill rows in the remaining  $b_1 - k$  blocks. Repeat the procedure for the remaining columns. If  $s < (n - 2)$  then fill columns by randomly selecting the values.
- 6 Generate the test set from the rows of the resulting filled table.

# PDMOLS and combination constraints

In most real cases it is not meaningful/possible to use all the possible tests generated according to PDMOLS.

- If the factor X assumes level x than factor Y cannot assume level y

## The AGTCS system

Factor	Levels			
$F_1'$ :Hardware (H)	PC	Mac		
$F_2'$ :OS (O)	Win2000	Win XP	OS9	OS10
$F_3'$ :Browser(B)	Explorer	Netscape 4.x	Firefox	Chrome
$F_4'$ :PI(P)	New	Existing		

## How to handle constraints

- The “PC” level is incompatible with “OSx” families.
- The “Mac” level is incompatible with “Win OS” families.
- there are invalid levels

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- there are invalid levels

Consider a system that needs to be tested according to possible configurations given by the combination of 6 different factors each one constituted by the following levels:

- ▶  $A = \{a_1, a_2, a_3, a_4\}$
- ▶  $B = \{b_1, b_2, b_3\}$
- ▶  $C = \{c_1, c_2, c_3, c_4\}$
- ▶  $D = \{d_1, d_2, d_3, d_4\}$
- ▶  $E = \{e_1, e_2, e_3\}$
- ▶  $F = \{f_1, f_2, f_3\}$

Derive a test set according to the pairwise design using the most suitable approach among the ones presented in the course. In the generation consider that there are some constraints that have to be respected:

- ▶ factors D, E, F are strongly interrelated factors and among all the possible configurations that are theoretically possible, only the following 3 should be considered as real  $(d_1, e_1, f_2)$ ,  $(d_2, e_2, f_1)$ ,  $(d_3, e_3, f_2)$ .
- ▶ for factors A and B the levels  $a_4$  and  $b_3$  cannot be assumed together



# MOLS shortcomings

- A sufficient number of MOLS might not exist for the problem at hand
- MOLS assist with the generation of balanced design but the number of configuration could be larger than necessary

To address such issues other approaches have been proposed:

- Orthogonal arrays
- Mixed-level orthogonal arrays
- Covering arrays
- Mixed-level covering arrays

# Orthogonal Arrays

## Definition

An **Orthogonal Array** is an  $N \times k$  matrix in which the entries are from a finite set  $S$  of  $s$  symbols such that any  $N \times t$  subarray contains each  $t$ -tuple exactly the same number of times. Such an orthogonal array is denoted by  $OA(N, k, s, t)$ . The index of an orthogonal array, denoted by  $\lambda$ , is equal to  $N/s^t$ .

When used in software testing:

- each column corresponds to a factor
- elements of cells to the levels for the corresponding factor
- each row leads to a test case or test configuration

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# Orthogonal Arrays

## Example

The following is an orthogonal array with 4 runs and strength 2 –  $OA(4, 3, 2, 2)$ :

Run	$F_1$	$F_2$	$F_3$
1	1	1	1
2	1	2	2
3	2	1	2
4	2	2	1

Orthogonal arrays assume that each factor assumes values from the same set of  $s$  values. This is not generally the case and **Mixed Level Orthogonal Arrays** can be used in such contexts.

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A mixed-level orthogonal array is denoted by  $MA(N, s_1^{k_1}, s_2^{k_2}, \dots, s_p^{k_p}, t)$  indicating  $N$  runs where  $k_i$  factors ( $1 \leq i \leq p$ ) have  $s_i$  levels ( $n = \sum_{i=1}^p k_i$ )

e.g.  $MA(8, 2^4, 4^1, 2)$

Run	$F_1$	$F_2$	$F_3$	$F_4$	$F_5$
1	1	1	1	1	1
2	2	2	2	2	1
3	1	1	2	2	2
4	2	2	1	1	2
5	1	2	1	2	3
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6	2	1	2	1	3
7	1	2	2	1	4
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# Exercise

## The Pizza Delivery Service

Let's consider the testing on an online Pizza Delivery Service (PDS). The service behaviour is based on 4 factors (Size, Toppings, Address, Phone). Let's imagine that factors have the following levels:

Factor	Levels		
Size	Large	Medium	Small
Toppings	Custom	Preset	
Address	Valid	Invalid	
Phone	Valid	Invalid	

How can you derive a set of tests satisfying the pairwise constraint?

Build a  $MA(??, 2^3, 3^1, 2)$



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# Covering Arrays

Introduced techniques produce **balanced combinatorial designs**. On the other hand for testing purpose this is **not necessarily needed**.

## Definition

A **Covering Array**, denoted as  $CA(N, k, s, t)$  is an  $N \times k$  matrix in which entries are from a finite set  $S$  of  $s$  symbols such that each  $N \times t$  subarray contains each possible  $t$ -tuple at least  $\lambda$  times. In this case we have an **unbalanced design**.

## Definition

**Mixed level covering arrays** are analogous to mixed-level arrays permitting to factors to assume levels for sets of different cardinality. A **mixed-level covering array** is an  $N \times n$  matrix in which the entries are from a finite list of sets (factors)  $F_j$  ( $1 \leq j \leq n$ ) each one including  $f_j$  symbols (levels) such that any  $N \times t$  subarray contains each  $t$ -tuple at least once.

A mixed-level orthogonal array is denoted by  $MCA(N, s_1^{k_1}, s_2^{k_2}, \dots, s_p^{k_p}, t)$  indicating  $N$  runs where  $k_i$  factors ( $1 \leq i \leq p$ ) have  $s_i$  levels ( $n = \sum_{i=1}^p k_i$ )

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# Covering Arrays

$OA(8, 5, 2, 2)$

Run	$F_1$	$F_2$	$F_3$	$F_4$	$F_5$
1	1	1	1	1	1
2	2	1	1	2	2
3	1	2	1	2	1
4	1	1	2	1	2
5	2	2	1	1	2
6	2	1	2	2	1
7	1	2	2	2	2
8	2	2	2	1	1

$CA(6, 5, 2, 2)$

Run	$F_1$	$F_2$	$F_3$	$F_4$	$F_5$
1	1	1	1	1	1
2	2	2	1	2	1
3	1	2	2	1	2
4	2	1	2	2	2
5	2	2	1	1	2
6	1	1	1	2	2

# Covering Arrays

$MA(12, 2^3, 3, 2)$

Run	S	T	A	P
1	1	1	1	1
2	1	1	2	1
3	1	2	1	2
4	1	2	2	1
5	2	1	1	2
6	2	1	2	2
7	2	2	1	1
8	2	2	2	1
9	3	1	1	2
10	3	1	2	1
11	3	2	1	1
12	3	2	2	2

$MCA(6, 2^3, 3, 2)$

Run	S	T	A	P
1	1	1	1	1
2	2	2	1	2
3	3	1	2	2
4	1	2	2	2
5	2	1	2	1
6	3	2	1	1

# Generation of mixed-level covering arrays

## IPO

The **In-Parameter-Order** (IPO) procedure permits the derivation of mixed-level covering arrays for pairwise designs.

- Let  $\mathcal{F}_1, \mathcal{F}_2, \dots, \mathcal{F}_n$ , a list of  $n$  ordered factors with  $q_1, q_2, \dots, q_n$  levels respectively
- Let  $\mathcal{D}(\mathcal{F}_i) = \{v_i^1, v_i^2, \dots, v_i^{q_i}\}$  domain of  $\mathcal{F}_i$  and lets use  $v_i$  to represents a generic element of  $\mathcal{D}(\mathcal{F}_i)$  (clearly it results  $|\mathcal{D}(\mathcal{F}_i)| = q_i$ )

### 1: **procedure** IPO

**Input:** Number of factors and levels

**Output:** *MCA*

- ```
2:    $\mathcal{T} = \mathcal{D}(\mathcal{F}_1) \times \mathcal{D}(\mathcal{F}_2)$ 
3:   if  $n=2$  then set  $MCA = \mathcal{T}$ ; exit;
4:   end if
5:   for all  $F_k$  ( $k \in [3 \dots n]$ ) do
6:     [Horizontal Growth]
7:     [Uncovered Pairs] compute the set  $\mathcal{U}$  of all uncovered pairs
8:     [Vertical Growth]
9:   end for
10: end procedure
```

# Horizontal Growth

## HG

**Objective:** Replace each partial run  $(v_1, v_2, \dots, v_{k-1}) \in \mathcal{T}$  with  $(v_1, v_2, \dots, v_{k-1}, v_k)$  where  $v_k$  is suitably selected from  $\mathcal{D}(\mathcal{F}_k)$ .

- Let  $\mathcal{T} = t_1, t_2, \dots, t_m$  where  $|\mathcal{T}| = m$



# Horizontal Growth

1: **procedure** HORIZONTAL GROWTH

**Input:**  $\mathcal{T} = \{(v_1, v_2, \dots, v_{k-1}) \mid v_i \in \mathcal{F}_i\}$  and a factor  $\mathcal{F}_k$

**Output:**  $\mathcal{T}' = \{(v_1, v_2, \dots, v_k) \mid (v_1, v_2, \dots, v_{k-1}) \in \mathcal{T} \wedge v_k \in \mathcal{F}_k\}$

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2:    $\mathcal{AP} = \bigcup_{i=1}^{k-1} (\mathcal{F}_i \times \mathcal{F}_k)$ 
3:   Let  $\mathcal{T}' = \emptyset$  and  $c = \min(m, q_k)$ 
4:   for  $i=1$  to  $c$  do  $t'_j = \text{extend}(t_i, v_k^j), \mathcal{T}' = \mathcal{T}' \cup t'_j, \mathcal{AP} = \mathcal{AP} - \text{pairs}(t'_j)$ 
5:   end for
6:   if  $c = m$  then return  $\mathcal{T}'$ 
7:   end if
8:   for  $j=c+1$  to  $m$  do Let  $\mathcal{AP}' = \emptyset$ 
9:     for  $i=1$  to  $q_k$  do  $t' = (v_1, v_2, \dots, v_{k-1}) \in \mathcal{T}$  s.t.  $\max(|\mathcal{AP}''|)$ 
10:      where  $\mathcal{AP}'' = \{(v_l, v_k^i) \mid (v_l, v_k^i) \notin \mathcal{AP} \wedge (1 \leq l \leq k-1)\}$ 
11:      if  $|\mathcal{AP}''| > |\mathcal{AP}'|$  then  $\mathcal{AP}' = \mathcal{AP}''$  and  $v' = v_k^i$ 
12:      end if
13:    end for
14:     $t'_j = \text{extend}(t_i, v_k^j), \mathcal{T}' = \mathcal{T}' \cup t'_j, \mathcal{AP} = \mathcal{AP} - \mathcal{AP}'$ 
15:  end for
16: end procedure
```

# Vertical Growth

## VG

**Objective:** add runs to  $\mathcal{T}$  so to cover the remaining uncovered pairs

- In run  $(v_1, v_2, \dots, v_{i-1}, *, v_{i+1}, \dots, v_k)$  a “\*” denotes a non care values for parameter  $\mathcal{F}_i$

1: **procedure** VERTICAL GROWTH

**Input:**  $\mathcal{T} = \{(v_1, v_2, \dots, v_k) \mid v_i \in \mathcal{F}_i\}$  and  $\mathcal{U}$  set of uncovered pairs

**Output:**  $\mathcal{T}'$  such that all pairs are covered

2:  $\mathcal{T}' = \emptyset$

3: **for all**  $(v_l, v_k) \in \mathcal{U}$  s.t.  $1 \leq l \leq (k - 1)$  **do**

4:     **if**  $(\exists v' = (v_1, v_2, \dots, v_{l-1}, *, v_{l+1}, \dots, v_k) \in \mathcal{T}'$  **then**

5:          $\mathcal{T}' = (\mathcal{T}' - v') \cup \{(v_1, v_2, \dots, v_{l-1}, v_l, v_{l+1}, \dots, v_k)\}$

6:     **else**  $\mathcal{T}' = \mathcal{T}' \cup \{(*, *, \dots, *, v_l, *, \dots, v_k)\}$

7:     **end if**

8: **end for**

9:     For each run in  $\mathcal{T}'$  replace any don't care entry by an arbitrarily selected value

10:     Return  $\mathcal{T} \cup \mathcal{T}'$

11: **end procedure**

## Exercise

### Mixed-level covering arrays

Suppose you have three different factors  $A, B, C$  where factors  $A, C$  can assume values in the sets  $\{a_1, a_2, a_3\}$  and  $\{c_1, c_2, c_3\}$  respectively, while factor  $B$  can assume values in the set  $\{b_1, b_2\}$ . Derive mixed-level covering arrays for pairwise design for this configuration space.