

# All or Nothing at All

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## In Memory of Ralph Stanton, 1923–2010



## All-or-nothing Transforms

- $X$  is a finite set
- $s$  is a positive integer, and  $\phi : X^s \rightarrow X^s$ .
- $\phi$  is an unconditionally secure **all-or-nothing transform** provided that the following properties are satisfied:
  1.  $\phi$  is a **bijection**.
  2. If any  $s - 1$  of the  $s$  output values  $y_1, \dots, y_s$  are fixed, then the value of any **one** input value  $x_i$  ( $1 \leq i \leq s$ ) is completely undetermined.
- We will denote such a function as an  $(s, v)$ -**AONT**, where  $v = |X|$ .
- The desired property can be expressed as

$$H(X_i | Y_1, \dots, Y_{j-1}, Y_{j+1}, \dots, Y_s) = H(X_i),$$

for all  $i$  and  $j$  such that  $1 \leq i \leq s$  and  $1 \leq j \leq s$ .

## Cryptographic Motivation

- Rivest defined **AONT** in 1997 to provide a mode of operation for block ciphers that would require the decryption of **all blocks** of an encrypted message in order to determine any specific **single block** of plaintext.
- Suppose we are given  $s$  blocks of plaintext,  $(x_1, \dots, x_s)$ .
- First, we apply an **AONT**, computing

$$(y_1, \dots, y_s) = \phi(x_1, \dots, x_s).$$

- Then we encrypt  $(y_1, \dots, y_s)$  using a block cipher.
- At the receiver's end, the ciphertext is decrypted, and then the inverse transform  $\phi^{-1}$  is applied to restore the  $s$  plaintext blocks.
- Note that the transform  $\phi$  is **not secret**.

# Linear AONT

- Let  $\mathbb{F}_q$  be a finite field of order  $q$ .
- An  $(s, q)$ -AONT defined on  $\mathbb{F}_q$  is **linear** if each  $y_i$  is an  $\mathbb{F}_q$ -linear function of  $x_1, \dots, x_s$ .

## Theorem 1 (Stinson, 2000)

Suppose that  $q$  is a prime power and  $M$  is an invertible  $s$  by  $s$  matrix with entries from  $\mathbb{F}_q$ , such that **no entry of  $M$  is equal to 0**. Then the function  $\phi : (\mathbb{F}_q)^s \rightarrow (\mathbb{F}_q)^s$  defined by

$$\phi(\mathbf{x}) = \mathbf{x}M^{-1}$$

is a linear  $(s, q)$ -AONT.

## Example: Hadamard Matrices

- Suppose  $p > 2$  is prime,  $s \equiv 0 \pmod{4}$ , and  $H$  is a **Hadamard matrix** of order  $s$ .
- $H$  has entries  $\pm 1$  and  $HH^T = sI_s$ .
- Construct  $M$  by reducing the entries of  $H$  modulo  $p$ .
- Then  $M$  yields a linear  $(s, p)$ -**AONT**.
- If  $s = 4$  and  $p = 3$ , we have

$$H = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 1 & 1 & 1 \\ 1 & -1 & -1 & 1 \\ 1 & -1 & 1 & -1 \\ 1 & 1 & -1 & -1 \end{pmatrix} \rightarrow M = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 1 & 1 & 1 \\ 1 & 2 & 2 & 1 \\ 1 & 2 & 1 & 2 \\ 1 & 1 & 2 & 2 \end{pmatrix}$$

## Example: Cauchy Matrices

- An  $s$  by  $s$  **Cauchy matrix** can be defined over  $\mathbb{F}_q$  if  $q \geq 2s$ .
- Let  $a_1, \dots, a_s, b_1, \dots, b_s$  be distinct elements of  $\mathbb{F}_q$ .
- Let

$$c_{ij} = \frac{1}{a_i - b_j},$$

for  $1 \leq i \leq s$  and  $1 \leq j \leq s$ .

- Then  $C = (c_{ij})$  is the Cauchy matrix defined by the sequence  $a_1, \dots, a_s, b_1, \dots, b_s$ .
- A Cauchy matrix  $C$  is invertible, and all of its entries are non-zero, so  $C$  yields an  $(s, q)$ -**AONT**.

## Example: The Bierbrauer Construction

- Let  $q = p^k$  where  $q > 2$ ,  $p$  is prime and  $k$  is a positive integer.
- Let  $\lambda \in \mathbb{F}_q$  be such that  $\lambda \notin \{s - 1 \bmod p, s - 2 \bmod p\}$ .
- Define  $\gamma = (s - 1 - \lambda)^{-1}$ ; note that  $\gamma \neq 0, 1$ .
- Let  $M$  be the following (symmetric) matrix:

$$M = \begin{pmatrix} 1 - \gamma & -\gamma & -\gamma & \dots & -\gamma & \gamma \\ -\gamma & 1 - \gamma & -\gamma & \dots & -\gamma & \gamma \\ -\gamma & -\gamma & 1 - \gamma & \dots & -\gamma & \gamma \\ \vdots & \vdots & \vdots & \ddots & \vdots & \vdots \\ -\gamma & -\gamma & -\gamma & \dots & 1 - \gamma & \gamma \\ \gamma & \gamma & \gamma & \dots & \gamma & -\gamma \end{pmatrix}.$$



## Example: The Bierbrauer Construction (cont.)

- It is straightforward to verify that  $M$  is invertible; indeed, we have

$$M^{-1} = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 & \dots & 0 & 1 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 & \dots & 0 & 1 \\ \vdots & \vdots & \vdots & \ddots & \vdots & \vdots \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & \dots & 1 & 1 \\ 1 & 1 & 1 & \dots & 1 & \lambda \end{pmatrix}.$$

- Therefore  $M$  yields an  $(s, q)$ -AONT.
- This AONT is also very efficient computationally, since it is sparse (it contains mostly 0 entries).

## Binary Transforms

- A transform defined over  $\mathbb{F}_2$  is termed a **binary** transform.
- A binary transform automatically yields a transform over any field  $\mathbb{F}_{2^n}$ , in which the only computations are **exclusive-ors of bitstrings**.
- Unfortunately, there is no (linear or nonlinear)  $(s, 2)$ -**AONT** for any  $s \geq 2$ !
- This suggests looking for (binary, linear) transforms that are “close to” **AONT**.
- Suppose that  $s$  is even, and let  $M = J_s - I_s$  (where  $J_s$  is the  $s$  by  $s$  all-1's matrix).

## Binary Transforms (cont.)

- For example, when  $s = 4$ , we have

$$M = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 1 & 1 & 1 \\ 1 & 0 & 1 & 1 \\ 1 & 1 & 0 & 1 \\ 1 & 1 & 1 & 0 \end{pmatrix}.$$

- Then  $M^{-1} = M$ , where  $M$  is considered as a matrix over  $\mathbb{F}_2$ .
- In this resulting transform, each  $x_j$  will depend on all the  $y_i$ 's **except for  $y_j$** .
- The **density** of 1's in the example above is  $12/16 = 3/4$ .

## Generalized AONT

- Let  $|X| = v$  and let  $1 \leq t \leq s$ .
- $\phi : X^s \rightarrow X^s$  is a  **$t$ -all-or-nothing transform** provided that the following properties are satisfied:
  1.  $\phi$  is a bijection.
  2. If any  $s - t$  of the  $s$  output values  $y_1, \dots, y_s$  are fixed, then any  $t$  of the input values  $x_i$  ( $1 \leq i \leq s$ ) are completely undetermined.
- We will denote such a function  $\phi$  as a  **$(t, s, v)$ -AONT**.
- The original definition corresponds to a **1-AONT**.
- Property 2 can be rephrased as follows: for all  $\mathcal{X} \subseteq \{X_1, \dots, X_s\}$  with  $|\mathcal{X}| = t$ , and for all  $\mathcal{Y} \subseteq \{Y_1, \dots, Y_s\}$  with  $|\mathcal{Y}| = s - t$ , it holds that

$$H(\mathcal{X} \mid \{Y_1, \dots, Y_s\} \setminus \mathcal{Y}) = H(\mathcal{X}). \quad (1)$$

## Linear $t$ -AONT

For an  $s$  by  $s$  matrix  $M$  with entries from  $\mathbb{F}_q$ , and for  $I, J \subseteq \{1, \dots, s\}$ , define  $M(I, J)$  to be the  $|I|$  by  $|J|$  submatrix of  $M$  induced by the **columns** in  $I$  and the **rows** in  $J$ .

### Theorem 2

Suppose that  $q$  is a prime power and  $M$  is an invertible  $s$  by  $s$  matrix with entries from  $\mathbb{F}_q$ . Let

$$\mathcal{X} \subseteq \{X_1, \dots, X_s\}, |\mathcal{X}| = t,$$

and let

$$\mathcal{Y} \subseteq \{Y_1, \dots, Y_s\}, |\mathcal{Y}| = t.$$

Then the function  $\phi(\mathbf{x}) = \mathbf{x}M^{-1}$  satisfies (1) with respect to  $\mathcal{X}$  and  $\mathcal{Y}$  if and only if the  $t$  by  $t$  submatrix  $M(I, J)$  is invertible, where  $I = \{i : X_i \in \mathcal{X}\}$  and  $J = \{j : Y_j \in \mathcal{Y}\}$ .

## Cauchy Matrices, Again

Any square submatrix of a Cauchy matrix is again a Cauchy matrix, and therefore it (the submatrix) is invertible. So we have the following result.

### Theorem 3

*Suppose  $q$  is a prime power and  $q \geq 2s$ . Then there is a linear transform that is **simultaneously** a  $(t, s, q)$ -AONT for all  $t$  such that  $1 \leq t \leq s$ .*

## Binary $t$ -AONT

- We quantify the “closeness” of  $M$  to a  $t$ -AONT by considering the **ratio** of the number of invertible  $t$  by  $t$  submatrices to the total number of  $t$  by  $t$  submatrices.
- For an  $s$  by  $s$  invertible 0 – 1 matrix  $M$  and for  $1 \leq t \leq s$ , we define

$$N_t(M) = \text{number of invertible } t \text{ by } t \text{ submatrices of } M$$

and

$$R_t(M) = \frac{N_t(M)}{\binom{s}{t}^2}.$$

- We refer to  $R_t(M)$  as the  **$t$ -density** of the matrix  $M$ .
- We also define

$$R_t(s) = \max\{R_t(M) : M \text{ is an } s \text{ by } s \text{ invertible } 0 - 1 \text{ matrix}\}.$$

- $R_t(s)$  denotes the **maximum  $t$ -density** of any  $s$  by  $s$  invertible 0 – 1 matrix.

## Invertible 2 by 2 0 – 1 Matrices

A 2 by 2 0 – 1 matrix is invertible if and only if it is one of the following six matrices:

$$\begin{pmatrix} 1 & 1 \\ 1 & 0 \end{pmatrix} \quad \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 1 \\ 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix} \quad \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 1 \\ 1 & 1 \end{pmatrix}$$

$$\begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ 1 & 1 \end{pmatrix} \quad \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix} \quad \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 1 \\ 1 & 0 \end{pmatrix}.$$



## Example

- Define a 3 by 3 matrix:

$$M = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 1 & 1 \\ 1 & 0 & 1 \\ 1 & 1 & 0 \end{pmatrix}.$$

- Seven of the nine 2 by 2 submatrices of  $M$  are invertible.
- The only non-invertible 2 by 2 submatrices are  $M(\{1,3\}, \{1,2\})$  and  $M(\{1,2\}, \{1,3\})$ .
- Both of these submatrices are equal to

$$\begin{pmatrix} 1 & 1 \\ 1 & 1 \end{pmatrix}.$$

- Finally,  $M$  itself is invertible.
- Therefore,  $R_2(M) = 7/9$ .
- In fact, this is optimal, so  $R_2(3) = 7/9$ .

## Another Example

- Consider the 4 by 4 matrix  $J_4 - I_4$ :

$$M = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 1 & 1 & 1 \\ 1 & 0 & 1 & 1 \\ 1 & 1 & 0 & 1 \\ 1 & 1 & 1 & 0 \end{pmatrix}.$$

- 30 of the 36 2 by 2 submatrices of  $M$  are invertible.
- Also,  $M$  itself is invertible.
- Therefore,  $R_2(M) = 5/6$ .
- In fact, this is optimal, so  $R_2(4) = 5/6$ .

## An Upper Bound on $R_2(s)$

- Let  $N$  be a 2 by  $s$  0 – 1 matrix and consider its 2 by 1 submatrices.
- Suppose there are:
  - $a_0$  occurrences of  $\begin{pmatrix} 0 \\ 0 \end{pmatrix}$ ,
  - $a_1$  occurrences of  $\begin{pmatrix} 0 \\ 1 \end{pmatrix}$ ,
  - $a_2$  occurrences of  $\begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 0 \end{pmatrix}$ , and
  - $a_3$  occurrences of  $\begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 1 \end{pmatrix}$ .
- Of course  $a_0 + a_1 + a_2 + a_3 = s$ .
- The number of invertible 2 by 2 submatrices in  $N$  is

$$a_1a_2 + a_1a_3 + a_2a_3.$$

## An Upper Bound on $R_2(s)$ (cont.)

- This expression is maximized when

$$a_0 = 0, \quad a_1 = a_2 = a_3 = s/3.$$

- Therefore, the maximum number of invertible 2 by 2 submatrices is

$$3 \binom{s}{3}^2 = \frac{s^2}{3}.$$

- We have proven the following result.

### Lemma 4

*A 2 by  $s$  0 – 1 matrix contains  $\leq s^2/3$  invertible 2 by 2 submatrices.*

## An Upper Bound on $R_2(s)$ (cont.)

### Theorem 5

For any  $s \geq 2$ , it holds that

$$R_2(s) \leq \frac{2s}{3(s-1)}.$$

### Proof.

From Lemma 4, in any two rows of  $M$  there are at most  $s^2/3$  invertible 2 by 2 submatrices. In the entire matrix  $M$ , there are  $\binom{s}{2}$  ways to choose two rows, and there are  $\binom{s}{2}^2$  submatrices of order 2. This immediately yields

$$R_2(s) \leq \frac{\binom{s}{2}(s^2/3)}{\binom{s}{2}^2} = \frac{2s}{3(s-1)}.$$



## An Improved Upper Bound

- We begin by establishing upper bound on the number of invertible 2 by 2 submatrices in any 4 by  $s$  0 – 1 matrix.
- Label the non-zero vectors in  $\{0, 1\}^4$  in lexicographic order as follows:

$$\begin{array}{lll} b_0 = (0, 0, 0, 0) & b_1 = (0, 0, 0, 1) & b_2 = (0, 0, 1, 0) \\ b_3 = (0, 0, 1, 1) & \dots & b_{15} = (1, 1, 1, 1). \end{array}$$

- For  $1 \leq i, j \leq 15$ , define  $c_{ij}$  to be the number of invertible 2 by 2 submatrices in the 4 by 2 matrix  $\left( \begin{array}{c|c} b_i^T & b_j^T \end{array} \right)$ .
- Let  $C = (c_{ij})$ .
- $C$  is a 15 by 15 symmetric matrix with zero diagonal such that every off-diagonal element is a positive integer.

## The Matrix $C$

$$C = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 1 & 1 & 1 & 1 & 2 & 2 & 1 & 1 & 2 & 2 & 2 & 2 & 3 & 3 \\ 1 & 0 & 1 & 1 & 2 & 1 & 2 & 1 & 2 & 1 & 2 & 2 & 3 & 2 & 3 \\ 1 & 1 & 0 & 2 & 3 & 3 & 2 & 2 & 3 & 3 & 2 & 4 & 5 & 5 & 4 \\ 1 & 1 & 2 & 0 & 1 & 1 & 2 & 1 & 2 & 2 & 3 & 1 & 2 & 2 & 3 \\ 1 & 2 & 3 & 1 & 0 & 3 & 2 & 2 & 3 & 4 & 5 & 3 & 2 & 5 & 4 \\ 2 & 1 & 3 & 1 & 3 & 0 & 2 & 2 & 4 & 3 & 5 & 3 & 5 & 2 & 4 \\ 2 & 2 & 2 & 2 & 2 & 2 & 0 & 3 & 5 & 5 & 5 & 5 & 5 & 5 & 3 \\ 1 & 1 & 2 & 1 & 2 & 2 & 3 & 0 & 1 & 1 & 2 & 1 & 2 & 2 & 3 \\ 1 & 2 & 3 & 2 & 3 & 4 & 5 & 1 & 0 & 3 & 2 & 3 & 2 & 5 & 4 \\ 2 & 1 & 3 & 2 & 4 & 3 & 5 & 1 & 3 & 0 & 2 & 3 & 5 & 2 & 4 \\ 2 & 2 & 2 & 3 & 5 & 5 & 5 & 2 & 2 & 2 & 0 & 5 & 5 & 5 & 3 \\ 2 & 2 & 4 & 1 & 3 & 3 & 5 & 1 & 3 & 3 & 5 & 0 & 2 & 2 & 4 \\ 2 & 3 & 5 & 2 & 2 & 5 & 5 & 2 & 2 & 5 & 5 & 2 & 0 & 5 & 3 \\ 3 & 2 & 5 & 2 & 5 & 2 & 5 & 2 & 5 & 2 & 5 & 2 & 5 & 0 & 3 \\ 3 & 3 & 4 & 3 & 4 & 4 & 3 & 3 & 4 & 4 & 3 & 4 & 3 & 3 & 0 \end{pmatrix}.$$

## A Quadratic Program

Define  $\mathbf{z} = (z_1, \dots, z_{15})$  and consider the following quadratic program  $Q$ :

$$\begin{array}{ll} \text{Maximize} & \gamma = \frac{1}{2} \mathbf{z} \mathbf{C} \mathbf{z}^T \\ \text{subject to} & \sum_{i=1}^{15} z_i \leq 1 \text{ and } z_i \geq 0, \text{ for all } i, 1 \leq i \leq 15. \end{array}$$

We were able to solve the quadratic program  $Q$  using the **BARON** software on the **NEOS** server

<http://www.neos-server.org/neos/>.

The optimal solution to  $Q$  is  $\gamma = 15/8$ .



## The Improved Bound

- It follows that the number of invertible 2 by 2 submatrices in a 4 by  $s$  matrix is at most  $15s^2/8$ .
- The number of invertible 2 by 2 submatrices in an  $s$  by  $s$  matrix is at most

$$\frac{\binom{s}{4}}{\binom{s-2}{2}} \times \frac{15s^2}{8} = \frac{5s^3(s-1)}{32}.$$

- Hence,

$$R_2(s) \leq \frac{5s^3(s-1)}{32} \times \frac{1}{\binom{s}{2}^2} = \frac{5s}{8(s-1)}.$$

- Asymptotically, the upper bound on  $R_2(s)$  has been improved from  $2/3$  to  $5/8$ .

## Symmetric BIBDs

- A  $(v, k, \lambda)$ -balanced incomplete block design (*BIBD*) is a pair  $(X, \mathcal{A})$ , where  $X$  is a set of  $v$  points and  $\mathcal{A}$  is a collection of  $k$ -subsets of  $X$  called blocks, such that every pair of points occurs in exactly  $\lambda$  blocks.
- Denote  $b = |\mathcal{A}|$ ; then  $b = \lambda v(v - 1)/(k(k - 1))$ .
- Every point occurs in exactly  $r = bk/v = \lambda(v - 1)/(k - 1)$  blocks.
- A *BIBD* is symmetric if  $v = b$ .
- Suppose  $(X, \mathcal{A})$  is a  $(v, k, \lambda)$ -*BIBD*.
- Denote  $X = \{x_i : 1 \leq i \leq v\}$  and  $\mathcal{A} = \{A_j : 1 \leq j \leq b\}$ .
- The incidence matrix of  $(X, \mathcal{A})$  is the  $v$  by  $b$  0-1 matrix  $M = (m_{ij})$  where  $m_{ij} = 1$  if  $x_i \in A_j$ , and  $m_{ij} = 0$  if  $x_i \notin A_j$ .

# Invertibility of Incidence Matrices of Symmetric BIBDs

## Lemma 6

Suppose  $M$  is the incidence matrix of a symmetric  $(v, k, \lambda)$ -BIBD. Then  $M$  is invertible over  $\mathbb{F}_2$  if and only if  $k$  is odd and  $\lambda$  is even.

## Proof.

It is well-known that  $\det(M)$  is an integer and

$$(\det(M))^2 = k^2(k - \lambda)^{v-1}.$$

Reducing modulo 2, we see that  $\det(M) \equiv 1 \pmod{2}$  if and only if  $k$  is odd and  $\lambda$  is even. □

# Invertibility of Incidence Matrices of Symmetric BIBDs

## Theorem 7

Suppose  $M$  is the incidence matrix of a  $(v, k, \lambda)$ -BIBD where  $k$  is odd and  $\lambda$  is even. Then

$$R_2(M) = \frac{k^2 - \lambda^2}{\binom{v}{2}}. \quad (2)$$

## Proof.

Given any two rows of  $M$ , we have  $a_3 = \lambda$ ,  $a_1 = a_2 = k - \lambda$ .  
Hence,

$$a_1 a_2 + a_1 a_3 + a_2 a_3 = (k - \lambda)^2 + 2\lambda(k - \lambda) = k^2 - \lambda^2.$$



The expression (2) is maximized when  $k \approx \frac{v}{\sqrt{2}}$ , in which case  $R_2(M) \approx 1/2$ .

## An Infinite Class of Examples from SBIBDs

- The points and hyperplanes of the  $m$ -dimensional projective geometry over  $\mathbb{F}_3$  yield a  $\left(\frac{3^{m+1}-1}{2}, \frac{3^m-1}{2}, \frac{3^{m-1}-1}{2}\right)$ -SBIBD.
- Complement it to get a  $\left(\frac{3^{m+1}-1}{2}, 3^m, 2 \times 3^{m-1}\right)$ -SBIBD.
- Since  $k$  odd and  $\lambda$  even, we can apply Theorem 7.
- Then

$$R_2 \left( \frac{3^{m+1} - 1}{2} \right) \geq \frac{40 \times 3^{2m-3}}{(3^{m+1} - 1)(3^m - 1)}.$$

## Example

- If we take  $m = 2$ , then we are starting with a  $(13, 4, 1)$ -*SBIBD*.
- After complementing, we have a  $(13, 9, 6)$ -*SBIBD*.
- This yields

$$R_2(13) \geq \frac{15}{26}.$$

- Asymptotically, this class of examples has

$$R_2(M) \approx \frac{40}{81} \approx .494.$$

- This is the best asymptotic result we have at present.

## A Possibly Infinite Class of Examples from SBIBDs

- Suppose  $q = 4t^2 + 9$  is prime and  $t$  is odd.
- Then the quartic residues modulo  $q$ , together with 0, form a difference set which generates a  $\left(q, \frac{q+3}{4}, \frac{q+3}{16}\right)$ -SBIBD.
- Complement this design to get a  $\left(q, \frac{3(q-1)}{4}, \frac{3(3q-7)}{16}\right)$ -SBIBD.
- Since  $k$  is odd and  $\lambda$  is even, the incidence matrix  $M$  is invertible.
- Unfortunately, it is not known if an infinite number of primes of the desired form exist.
- If there are arbitrarily large primes of this type, we obtain

$$R_2(M) \approx \frac{63}{128} \approx .492.$$

## Examples from Cyclotomy

- Let  $p = 4f + 1$  be prime, where  $f$  is even, and let  $\nu \in \mathbb{F}_p^*$  be a primitive element.
- Let  $C_0 = \{\nu^{4i} : 0 \leq i \leq f - 1\}$ ; this is the unique subgroup of  $\mathbb{F}_p^*$  having order  $f$ .
- The multiplicative cosets of  $C_0$  are  $C_j = \nu^j C_0$ , for  $j = 0, 1, 2, 3$ .
- These cosets are often called **cyclotomic classes**.
- Construct a  $p$  by  $p - 1$  matrix  $M' = (m_{ij})$  from  $C_0$ .
- The rows and columns of  $M'$  are indexed by  $\mathbb{F}_p$ , and

$$m_{ij} = 1 \text{ if and only if } j - i \in C_0.$$

- The  $i$ th row of  $M'$  is the incidence vector of  $i + C_0$ .
- Finally, define  $M$  to be the complement of  $M'$ .



# Cyclotomic Numbers

## Theorem 8

Suppose  $p = 4f + 1$  is prime and  $f$  is even. Let  $\nu \in \mathbb{F}_q$  be a primitive element. Let  $p = \alpha^2 + \beta^2$ , where  $\alpha \equiv 1 \pmod{4}$  and  $\nu^f \equiv \alpha/\beta \pmod{p}$ . Then the cyclotomic numbers denoted  $(j, j)$ , where  $(j, j) = |C_j \cap (1 + C_j)|$  for  $0 \leq j \leq 3$ , are as follows:

$$\begin{aligned}(0, 0) &= \frac{p - 11 - 6\alpha}{16} \\(1, 1) &= \frac{p - 3 + 2\alpha - 4\beta}{16} \\(2, 2) &= \frac{p - 3 + 2\alpha}{16} \\(3, 3) &= \frac{p - 3 + 2\alpha + 4\beta}{16}.\end{aligned}$$

## Invertible 2 by 2 Submatrices

- Using these results on cyclotomic numbers, we can show that the total number of invertible 2 by 2 submatrices in  $M$  is

$$\binom{p}{2} \sum_{i=0}^3 \left( \frac{5f^2 + 2f - A_i(4f + 2 + A_i)}{4} \right) \\ = \binom{p}{2} \frac{252f^2 + 168f + 25 - 3\alpha^2 - 2\beta^2 - 6\alpha}{64},$$

- Asymptotically, we have that the density of these examples approaches  $63/128 \approx .492$ .
- But are the matrices invertible?**
- We can check invertibility by a simple **gcd computation**.
- Up to order 500, we get invertible matrices when  $p = 17, 97, 193, 241, 401, 433, 449$ .

## Future Work and Open Problems

- Can we improve the upper bounds on  $R_2(s)$  by using appropriate software to solve larger quadratic programs?
- Is there a theoretical criterion to determine the invertibility of the matrices obtained from cyclotomy-based constructions?
- It is easy to show that the **expected density** of invertible 2 by 2 submatrices in an  $s$  by  $s$  matrix is 0.5, if every entry is chosen randomly to be a “1” with probability  $1/\sqrt{2}$ . But what about the invertibility of the  $s$  by  $s$  matrices?
- Does  $\lim_{s \rightarrow \infty} R_2(s)$  exist? If so, is  $\lim_{s \rightarrow \infty} R_2(s) = 0.5$ ?
- We have determined the optimal density  $R_2(s)$  for  $s \leq 8$  by exhaustive search. Can we extend the exhaustive search to compute  $R_2(9)$ ?

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Thank You For Your Attention!

