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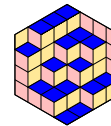


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Linked systems of symmetric designs

Brian G. Kodalen

ABSTRACT A linked system of symmetric designs (LSSD) is a w -partite graph ($w \geq 2$) where the incidence between any two parts corresponds to a symmetric design and the designs arising from three parts are related. The original construction for LSSDs by Goethals used Kerdock sets, in which v is a power of two. Some four decades later, new examples were given by Davis et. al. and Jedwab et. al. using difference sets, again with v a power of two. In this paper we develop a connection between LSSDs and “linked simplices”, full-dimensional regular simplices with two possible inner products between vertices of distinct simplices. We then use this geometric connection to construct sets of equiangular lines and to find an equivalence between regular unbiased Hadamard matrices and certain LSSDs with Menon parameters. We then construct examples of non-trivial LSSDs in which w can be made arbitrarily large for fixed even part of v . Finally we survey the known infinite families of symmetric designs and show, using basic number theoretic conditions, that $w = 2$ in most cases.

1. INTRODUCTION

In [3], Cameron investigated groups with inequivalent doubly-transitive permutation representations having the same permutation character and introduced the notion of a linked system of symmetric designs (LSSD). One such example arising from Kerdock codes was communicated by Goethals and later published in [8]. These structures in the homogeneous case were then further studied by Noda [16] where he bounded the number of fibers in a LSSD in terms of the design parameters induced between any two of the fibers. Using the specific $(16, 6, 2)$ designs, Mathon [14] classified all inequivalent LSSDs on these parameters via a computer search, finding that there were many inequivalent LSSDs with two or three fibers but only the scheme described by Goethals worked with four or more fibers. Later, Van Dam proved in [19] the equivalence between these objects and 3-class Q-antipodal association schemes. Martin, Muzychuk, and Williford found a connection to mutually unbiased bases in certain dimensions [13]. Finally Davis, Martin, Polhill [6] and Jedwab, Li, Simon [11] built more non-trivial examples using difference sets in 2-groups.

We begin with a survey of known results focusing on the connection to association schemes. We then introduce “linked simplices”, natural geometric objects which are of interest in their own right. We then establish the equivalence of sets of linked simplices and LSSDs. We compare three known bounds on the number of fibers and then explore connections to structures in Euclidean space. We show how to construct equiangular lines from arbitrary LSSDs and explore cases where LSSDs lead to real mutually

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unbiased bases (MUBs). After reviewing known examples, we focus on the case of Menon parameters and, employing an equivalence with sets of mutually unbiased Hadamard matrices, we construct new families of LSSDs for many values of v . In particular, we show that one may fix the even part of v without bounding the number of fibers in an LSSD, a result which was not previously known. In an appendix, we survey the parameters of known infinite families of symmetric designs and determine which of these cannot produce LSSDs with more than two fibers, noting differences from a recent discovery by Jedwab et. al. [11] in restricted cases.

2. HOMOGENEOUS LINKED SYSTEMS OF SYMMETRIC DESIGNS

We begin by reviewing symmetric designs as these will play a central role in all that follows. A *symmetric 2-design* with parameters (v, k, λ) is a set of blocks $\mathcal{B}$ on point set X written as $(X, \mathcal{B})$ satisfying the following three conditions:

- There are v blocks and v points ($|\mathcal{B}| = |X| = v$);
- Every block contains k points and every point is contained in k blocks;
- Every pair of points is contained in λ blocks and the intersection of any pair of blocks contains λ points.

We form an *incidence* matrix B for the block design, indexing rows by blocks and columns by points, setting $B_{ij} = 1$ if point j is in block i and $B_{ij} = 0$ otherwise. Finally, we note the following two equivalent equations which hold for any symmetric 2-design:

$$\begin{aligned} (1) \quad & k(k-1) = \lambda(v-1), \\ (2) \quad & k(v-k) = (k-\lambda)(v-1). \end{aligned}$$

We now move to a description of a homogeneous⁽¹⁾ linked system of symmetric designs as described by Cameron in [3] and Noda in [16]. Consider a multipartite graph Γ on wv vertices with vertex set partitioned into w sets of v vertices called “fibers”:

$$X = X_1 \dot{\cup} X_2 \dot{\cup} \cdots \dot{\cup} X_w.$$

We say Γ is a *linked system of symmetric designs*, $LSSD(v, k, \lambda; w)$ ($w \geq 2$), if it satisfies the following three properties:

- (i) no edge of Γ has both ends in the same fiber X_i ;
- (ii) for all $1 \leq i, j \leq w$ with $i \neq j$, the induced subgraph of Γ between X_i and X_j is the incidence graph of some (v, k, λ) -design;
- (iii) there exist constants μ and ν such that for distinct h, i, j ($1 \leq h, i, j \leq w$),

$$(3) \quad a \in X_i, b \in X_j \Rightarrow |\Gamma(a) \cap \Gamma(b) \cap X_h| = \begin{cases} \mu & a \sim b \\ \nu & a \not\sim b \end{cases}$$

where $\sim$ denotes adjacency in Γ and $\Gamma(x)$ denotes the neighborhood of vertex x . Observe that Γ is regular with valency $k(w-1)$. A specific type of LSSD introduced by [6] called a linking system of difference sets is a LSSD where the symmetric design induced between any two fibers comes from a difference set. Recently Jedwab et. al. [11] examined these in more detail, building new examples and proving non-existence results for certain parameters. However, Mathon [14] showed there exist three fiber LSSDs which do not come from difference sets and therefore these objects

⁽¹⁾Here, “homogeneous” refers to the designs between fibers all having the same parameters. For the duration of this paper, we will only concern ourselves with this case, though we drop this clarification later and only refer to the structures as linked systems of symmetric designs.

are not always equivalent to LSSDs. We will consider the general case, and therefore do not assume this added structure on our symmetric designs.

In [16, Prop. 0], Noda shows that μ and ν must take one of two pairs of values given by:

$$(4) \quad \nu = \frac{k(k \pm \sqrt{k - \lambda})}{v}, \quad \mu = \nu \mp \sqrt{k - \lambda}.$$

With these two possibilities for μ and ν , it becomes useful to distinguish between the two types of LSSDs. We will refer to the LSSD as “ μ -heavy” (resp., “ ν -heavy”) when $\mu > \nu$ (resp., $\nu > \mu$). Note that $\mu \neq \nu$ since $k - \lambda$ is positive. We now show that swapping adjacency between fibers produces another LSSD; we call this graph the multipartite complement of Γ . We again refer to [16] for the following observation.

PROPOSITION 2.1 (Noda). *Let Γ be a LSSD($v, k, \lambda; w$) with $w > 2$. If Γ is μ -heavy (resp., ν -heavy), the multipartite complement Γ' is a ν -heavy (resp., μ -heavy) LSSD($v, v - k, v - 2k + \lambda; w$).*

We further find that, given v , k , and λ , only one of the outcomes in (4) is possible for $v \geq 3$.

LEMMA 2.2. *Let Γ be a LSSD($v, k, \lambda; w$) with $w > 2$ and $1 < k < v - 1$. Then the following hold:*

- (i) exactly one of $\frac{k(k+s)}{v}$ and $\frac{k(k-s)}{v}$ is an integer;
- (ii) $\gcd(k, v) > 1$;
- (iii) $\gcd(s, v) > 1$.

Proof. Assume first (taking complements if necessary) that $k \leq \frac{v}{2}$. One can quickly check that $k + s < v$ except when $(v, k, \lambda) = (2, 1, 0)$ and $0 < k - s$ whenever $k > 1$. Then, for any $x \in \mathbb{Z}^+$, we have that if $\frac{x(k \pm s)}{v}$ is an integer then $\gcd(x, v) > 1$. Using our expression for ν in (4), we see that $\gcd(k, v) > 1$. Noting that $k' = v - k$ and therefore (ii) holds: $\gcd(k', v) = \gcd(k, v) > 1$. Now, using equation (1) and our requirement that $\sqrt{k - \lambda} = s$, we have the two equations:

$$\frac{k(k \pm s)}{v} \mp \frac{s(k \pm s)}{v} = \lambda.$$

The integer ν in (4) appears as the first term in one of these equations. Therefore we must have that either $\frac{s(k+s)}{v}$ or $\frac{s(k-s)}{v}$ must also be an integer, giving us (iii): $\gcd(s, v) > 1$. To show (i), consider that if both $\frac{k(k+s)}{v}$ and $\frac{k(k-s)}{v}$ are integers, then the same must hold for both $\frac{s(k+s)}{v}$ and $\frac{s(k-s)}{v}$. However, this implies $\frac{2s^2}{v} \in \mathbb{Z}^+$, contradicting $s^2 < k \leq \frac{v}{2}$. $\square$

REMARK 2.3. It is noteworthy that our assumption that the LSSD exists can be replaced with the requirement that either of $\frac{k(k \pm s)}{v}$ is an integer for symmetric design parameters (v, k, λ) . Thus any time we can show that either μ -heavy or ν -heavy parameters are integral, we know the opposite parameters cannot be integral as well. This will become useful in the appendix where we check the various known infinite families for feasibility.

The case where $k = 1$ or $k = v - 1$ produces LSSDs which are not of interest to us and for the remainder of the paper, we will refer to these designs as degenerate. For a further description of why these designs are degenerate, see Section 6.1. The observations that $\gcd(k, v) > 1$ and $\gcd(s, v) > 1$ are two tools which help us determine more easily which parameters might be feasible for a LSSD with $w > 2$. There are many other statements similar to these we can find, but these two will be sufficient for now. Using these, we can immediately rule out many parameters, for instance:

COROLLARY 2.4. Assume $w > 2$. If there exists a non-degenerate $LSSD(v, k, \lambda; w)$, then v is composite.

For a further use of these tools to rule out certain families of symmetric designs, see Appendix A.

3. ASSOCIATION SCHEMES

Let X be a finite set of vertices. A *symmetric d -class association scheme* (see [2]) on X is a pair $\mathcal{L} = (X, \mathcal{R})$ where $\mathcal{R} = \{R_0, R_1, \dots, R_d\}$ is a set of $d + 1$ relations on X satisfying the following properties:

- R_0 is the identity relation;
- $\{R_0, R_1, \dots, R_d\}$ forms a partition of $X \times X$;
- $(x, y) \in R_i$ implies $(y, x) \in R_i$;
- for $0 \leq i, j, k \leq d$ there exist *intersection numbers* $p_{i,j}^k$ such that for any $(x, y) \in R_k$, the number of vertices z for which $(x, z) \in R_i$ and $(z, y) \in R_j$ is equal to $p_{i,j}^k$ independent of our original choice of x and y .

Often it becomes useful to order the vertices in X and then represent each R_i as a 01-matrix A_i where the (x, y) entry of A_i is 1 if and only if $(x, y) \in R_i$. With this setting in mind, the defining properties above are encoded as:

- $A_0 = I$;
- $\sum_i A_i = J$;
- for all $0 \leq i \leq d$, $A_i^T = A_i$;
- for all $0 \leq i, j \leq d$, $A_i A_j = \sum_k p_{i,j}^k A_k$.

The final condition tells us that $\mathbb{A} = \text{span}\{A_0, A_1, \dots, A_d\}$ forms a matrix algebra under standard matrix multiplication. As our matrices are 01-matrices with disjoint support, this *Bose–Mesner algebra* is also closed under Schur (element-wise) products. Using our symmetric property, we note that $p_{i,j}^k = p_{j,i}^k$ telling us that $A_i A_j = A_j A_i$ and our matrices commute with each other. This allows us to simultaneously diagonalize our matrices to give us $d + 1$ orthogonal eigenspaces with projection operators $E_0, \dots, E_d$. As both $\{A_0, \dots, A_d\}$ and $\{E_0, \dots, E_d\}$ form bases for the Bose–Mesner algebra, there exists unique matrices P and Q so that

$$(5) \quad A_i = \sum_j P_{ji} E_j, \quad E_j = \frac{1}{|X|} \sum_i Q_{ij} A_i.$$

We call P and Q the first and second eigenmatrices, respectively and note here that P_{0i} is the valency of relation R_i and Q_{0j} is the rank of E_j . Finally, as our matrix algebra is closed under Schur products, we find that there exist structure constants $q_{i,j}^k$ such that for all $0 \leq i, j \leq d$:

$$E_i \circ E_j = \frac{1}{|X|} \sum_k q_{i,j}^k E_k.$$

We call these parameters the Krein parameters of the association scheme. A *Q -polynomial (cometric) association scheme* is one in which the set $\{E_0, E_1, \dots, E_d\}$ may be ordered so that $q_{i,j}^k = 0$ whenever $k > i + j$ or $k < |i - j|$ and $q_{i,j}^k > 0$ whenever $k = i + j$. Finally, we say an association scheme with Q -polynomial ordering $E_0, \dots, E_d$ is *Q -antipodal* if $q_{d,d}^k > 0$ when $k = 0$ but $q_{d,d}^k = 0$ for $0 < k < d$. Given a Q -polynomial ordering $E_0, \dots, E_d$ we find it convenient to order relations so that $Q_{01} > Q_{11} > \dots > Q_{d1}$; we call this the natural ordering.

THEOREM 3.1 (Van Dam [19]). *Let Γ be a non-degenerate LSSD with adjacency matrix A . Then the algebra $\langle A \rangle$ is the Bose–Mesner algebra of a 3-class Q -antipodal association scheme on X . Conversely, every Q -antipodal 3-class association scheme arises in this way. More specifically, the natural ordering of the relations of any Q -antipodal 3-class association scheme is as follows:*

- R_0 is the identity relation on X ;
- R_1 is given by adjacency in a μ -heavy LSSD;
- R_2 is the union of complete graphs on the fibers induced by R_1 ;
- R_3 is given by adjacency in a ν -heavy LSSD;

While we will not provide a proof here, instead referring the reader to [19], we list the intersection numbers, the first and second eigenmatrices, and a some of the Krein parameters for later use. Let $\Gamma_1 = (X, R_1)$ be a μ -heavy LSSD(v, k, λ) with complement design given by $\Gamma_2 = (X, R_3)$. The following are the intersection numbers, listed via the four matrices L_0, L_1, L_2, L_3 where $L_i = [p_{i,j}^k]_{k,j}$:

$$L_0 = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix}, \quad L_1 = \begin{bmatrix} 0 & k(w-1) & 0 & 0 \\ 1 & \mu(w-2) & k-1 & (k-\mu)(w-2) \\ 0 & \lambda(w-1) & 0 & (k-\lambda)(w-1) \\ 0 & \nu(w-2) & k & (k-\nu)(w-2) \end{bmatrix},$$

$$L_2 = \begin{bmatrix} 0 & 0 & v-1 & 0 \\ 0 & k-1 & 0 & v-k \\ 1 & 0 & v-2 & 0 \\ 0 & k & 0 & v-k-1 \end{bmatrix}, \quad L_3 = \begin{bmatrix} 0 & 0 & 0 & (v-k)(w-1) \\ 0 & (k-\mu)(w-2) & v-k & (v+\mu-2k)(w-2) \\ 0 & (k-\lambda)(w-1) & 0 & (v+\lambda-2k)(w-1) \\ 1 & (k-\nu)(w-2) & v-k-1 & (v+\nu-2k)(w-2) \end{bmatrix}.$$

Now, the first and second eigenmatrices (P and Q respectively) are given as:

$$(6) \quad P = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & k(w-1) & v-1 & (v-k)(w-1) \\ 1 & \sqrt{k-\lambda}(w-1) & -1 & -\sqrt{k-\lambda}(w-1) \\ 1 & -\sqrt{k-\lambda} & -1 & \sqrt{k-\lambda} \\ 1 & -k & v-1 & k-v \end{bmatrix}, \quad Q = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & v-1 & (w-1)(v-1) & w-1 \\ 1 & \frac{v-k}{\sqrt{k-\lambda}} & -\frac{v-k}{\sqrt{k-\lambda}} & -1 \\ 1 & -1 & 1-w & w-1 \\ 1 & \frac{-k}{\sqrt{k-\lambda}} & \frac{k}{\sqrt{k-\lambda}} & -1 \end{bmatrix}.$$

Finally, we use this matrix Q to calculate our Krein parameters using standard techniques (see [2]). Defining $L_i^* = [q_{i,j}^k]_{k,j}$ similar to before, we find

$$L_1^* = \begin{bmatrix} 0 & v-1 & 0 & 0 \\ 1 & \frac{(1-w)(2k-v)+(v-2)s}{ws} & \frac{(w-1)(s(v-2)+(2k-v))}{ws} & 0 \\ 0 & \frac{s(v-2)+2k-v}{ws} & \frac{s(w-1)(v-2)-(2k-v)}{ws} & 1 \\ 0 & 0 & v-1 & 0 \end{bmatrix}, \quad L_3^* = \begin{bmatrix} 0 & 0 & 0 & w-1 \\ 0 & 0 & w-1 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & w-2 & 0 \\ 1 & 0 & 0 & w-2 \end{bmatrix}.$$

Note that our association scheme is Q -polynomial if L_1^* is irreducible tridiagonal ([2, Prop. 2.7.1 (i')]), requiring that $s(v-2) > v-2k$ for which $k > 1$ is sufficient. Further, the two 0's in the last column of L_3^* signify that our scheme is Q -antipodal. We henceforth use the term “linked system of symmetric designs” to refer to either the graph Γ or to the association scheme it generates as in Theorem 3.1. It is worth noting that we can fulfill the LSSD conditions using degenerate parameters, however these will not satisfy the requirement $s(v-2) > v-2k$ as $k = 1$. Therefore, these association schemes will not be Q -polynomial. This is one reason why we will ignore this case for much of our discussion.

3.1. BOUNDS FOR w .

Noda Bound. In Theorem 2 of [16], Noda gives the following bound

$$(w-1) \left[(k-2)\lambda \binom{k}{3} - (v-2) \left[(v-k) \binom{\nu}{3} + k \binom{\mu}{3} \right] \right] \\ \leq (v-2) \left[(v-1) \binom{\lambda}{3} + \binom{k}{3} - \left[(v-k) \binom{\nu}{3} + k \binom{\mu}{3} \right] \right]$$

with equality if and only if a pair $(X_1, X_2 \cup X_3 \cup \dots \cup X_w)$ forms a 3-design. If we restrict ourselves to the case of μ -heavy LSSDs, one can verify that this gives

$$(w-1)(2k-v) \leq (v-2)\sqrt{k-\lambda}.$$

If we have that $2k > v$, then we arrive at the bound

$$(7) \quad w \leq \frac{(v-2)\sqrt{k-\lambda}}{2k-v} + 1.$$

Since the condition becomes vacuous when $2k < v$, the bound only applies when $(2k-v)(\mu-\nu) > 0$.

Krein Conditions. In [14], Mathon shows that the previous bound is equivalent to the requirement that $q_{1,1}^1 \geq 0$. We have

$$q_{1,1}^1 = \frac{(1-w)(2k-v) + (v-2)s}{ws} \geq 0, \quad w \leq \frac{(v-2)s}{2k-v} + 1$$

assuming $v < 2k$. As before, the bound says nothing about LSSDs with $(2k-v) \times (\mu-\nu) < 0$.

Absolute Bound. In [13], a bound is provided independent of the sign of $(2k-v)(\mu-\nu)$ relying only on the Q -polynomial structure (particularly that $q_{1,1}^3 = 0$ and $q_{1,1}^2 > 0$). Let $m_i = \text{rank}(E_i)$. We know from our Q matrix that $m_2 = (w-1)m_1$. Further,

$$E_1 \circ E_1 = \frac{1}{|X|} (q_{1,1}^0 E_0 + q_{1,1}^1 E_1 + q_{1,1}^2 E_2).$$

Therefore $m_2 + m_1 + 1 \leq \frac{1}{2}m_1(m_1 + 1)$ if $q_{1,1}^1 > 0$ and $m_2 + 1 \leq \frac{1}{2}m_1(m_1 + 1)$ otherwise (c.f. [2, Thm. 2.3.3]). First consider the case when $q_{1,1}^1 > 0$:

$$(w-1)m_1 \leq \frac{m_1^2 - m_1 - 2}{2}, \\ w \leq \frac{m_1}{2} + \frac{1}{2} - \frac{2}{m_1}.$$

Since $m_1 = v-1$ is an integer, this gives $w \leq \frac{v-1}{2}$.

If instead we have that $q_{1,1}^1 = 0$ then we find $w \leq \frac{v+1}{2}$, so the absolute bound is never tight. But here, know our Krein condition is tight giving us

$$w = \frac{(v-2)s}{2k-v} + 1$$

with $2k > v$ ($q_{1,1}^1 = 0$ is not possible unless $2k > v$ since $w \geq 2$). Further, our bound from the eigenspace structure gives

$$w \leq \frac{m_1 + 2}{2} = \frac{v+1}{2}.$$

Therefore we must have $\frac{(v-2)s}{2k-v} + 1 \leq \frac{v+1}{2}$ giving $2(v-2)s \leq (v-1)(2k-v)$ or $2s \leq (2k-v) + \frac{2s}{v-1}$. Since $2s < k < v-1$, this means that $2s \leq (2k-v)$. We can

square both sides and preserve the inequality, giving: $4(k - \lambda) \leq 4k^2 - 4kv + v^2$. Using (2) this gives

$$4(k - \lambda) \leq v.$$

This means that whenever the Krein condition is tight ($q_{1,1}^1 = 0$), we must have $4(k - \lambda) \leq v \leq 2k$. There is only one known family of constructions which achieve the Krein bound. For this construction (see Section 6.2) $v = 4(k - \lambda)$. Further, the more general family of parameters (Menon) is the only possible family for which this inequality is tight.

4. LINKED SIMPLICES

In this section, we will write $\{b_j\}$ for the set $\{b_1, \dots, b_v\}$ for both sets of points and sets of blocks. For our purposes a “regular simplex” will be taken to be a set of v unit vectors spanning $\mathbb{R}^{v-1}$ with the property that the inner product of any pair of distinct vectors is $\frac{-1}{v-1}$. Let $\mathcal{A} = \{a_i\}$ and $\mathcal{B} = \{b_j\}$ be two regular simplices in $\mathbb{R}^{v-1}$. We say $\mathcal{A}$ and $\mathcal{B}$ are *linked* if there exist two real numbers γ and δ such that for all $1 \leq i, j \leq v$, $\langle a_i, b_j \rangle \in \{\gamma, \delta\}$. (Note that, here, “linked” always implies regular.) Extending this, given regular simplices $\mathcal{A}_1, \dots, \mathcal{A}_w$ in $\mathbb{R}^{v-1}$ we say $\{\mathcal{A}_1, \dots, \mathcal{A}_w\}$ is a *set of w linked simplices* if any two of them are linked with the same parameters γ and δ . The next few theorems establish an equivalence between these objects and LSSDs.

THEOREM 4.1. *Consider a LSSD($v, k, \lambda; w$) with Bose–Mesner algebra $\mathbb{A}$. The first idempotent E_1 in a Q -polynomial ordering of $\mathbb{A}$, appropriately scaled, is the Gram matrix of a set of w linked simplices. In the case $w = 2$, E_2 scaled similarly is also the Gram matrix of a second set of two linked simplices.*

Proof. Let $(X, \mathcal{R})$ be a LSSD($v, k, \lambda; w$) with Bose–Mesner algebra $\mathbb{A}$. Let $\{A_i\}$ and $\{E_j\}$ be the bases of Schur and matrix idempotents respectively. We have from (5)

$$E_j = \frac{1}{|X|} \sum Q_{ij} A_i.$$

As E_j is an idempotent, E_j is a positive semidefinite (p.s.d.) matrix with rank Q_{0j} . Therefore using (6),

$$G = \frac{vw}{v-1} E_1 = A_0 + \frac{v-k}{(v-1)\sqrt{k-\lambda}} A_1 - \frac{1}{v-1} A_2 - \frac{k}{(v-1)\sqrt{k-\lambda}} A_3$$

is p.s.d. with 1 on the main diagonal. Given that $Q_{01} = v-1$, G is the Gram matrix of a set Y of vw vectors in $\mathbb{R}^{v-1}$. Further there are only three possible inner products among distinct vectors of Y given by

$$\alpha_1 = \frac{v-k}{(v-1)\sqrt{k-\lambda}}, \quad \alpha_2 = -\frac{1}{v-1}, \quad \alpha_3 = -\frac{k}{(v-1)\sqrt{k-\lambda}}.$$

Since A_2 corresponds to complete graphs within fibers, our vectors form a set of w linked simplices in $\mathbb{R}^{v-1}$ with $\gamma = \alpha_1$ and $\delta = \alpha_3$ as inner products between simplices.

Similarly we have

$$G' = \frac{vw}{v-1} E_2 = \left(A_0 + \frac{-k}{(v-1)\sqrt{k-\lambda}} A_1 - \frac{1}{v-1} A_2 + \frac{v-k}{(v-1)\sqrt{k-\lambda}} A_3 \right).$$

Therefore G' is also the Gram matrix of a set of vectors coming from w distinct simplices. However, the rank of E_2 is $(w-1)(v-1)$ and therefore these simplices are linked only when $w = 2$ (we require that each simplex is full-dimensional in the space spanned by vectors in both simplices in order for the simplices to be considered linked). Therefore any pair of fibers from our LSSD will give us another set of linked

simplices with inner products $-\alpha_1$ and $-\alpha_3$. This corresponds to choosing one of the two simplices and replacing each x in that simplex by $-x$. $\square$

This tells us that every LSSD gives rise to a set of linked simplices. Before proving the converse, we first prove a lemma arising from the observation that a regular simplex is an equiangular tight frame [10].

LEMMA 4.2. *Let $\{a_i\}$ be a regular simplex in $\mathbb{R}^{v-1}$ and let $x, y \in \mathbb{R}^{v-1}$. Then*

$$\sum_i \langle a_i, x \rangle \langle a_i, y \rangle = \frac{v}{v-1} \langle x, y \rangle.$$

Proof. For a vector x , let $x(i)$ denote the i^{th} element of x . For each $1 \leq i \leq v$, define $\alpha_i \in \mathbb{R}^v$ as the unit vector

$$\alpha_i = \sqrt{\frac{v-1}{v}} \left[a_i(1), a_i(2), \dots, a_i(v-1), \frac{1}{\sqrt{v-1}} \right].$$

For $i \neq i'$,

$$\langle \alpha_i, \alpha_{i'} \rangle = \frac{v-1}{v} \left(\langle a_i, a_{i'} \rangle + \frac{1}{v-1} \right) = 0.$$

Therefore $\{\alpha_i\}$ forms an orthonormal basis for $\mathbb{R}^v$. Now define $\chi, \psi \in \mathbb{R}^v$ as:

$$\chi = [x(1), x(2), \dots, x(v-1), 0], \quad \psi = [y(1), y(2), \dots, y(v-1), 0].$$

Then for each i ,

$$\langle \alpha_i, \chi \rangle = \sqrt{\frac{v-1}{v}} \langle a_i, x \rangle, \quad \langle \alpha_i, \psi \rangle = \sqrt{\frac{v-1}{v}} \langle a_i, y \rangle$$

giving us

$$\langle x, y \rangle = \langle \chi, \psi \rangle = \sum_i \langle \alpha_i, \chi \rangle \langle \alpha_i, \psi \rangle = \frac{v-1}{v} \sum_i \langle a_i, x \rangle \langle a_i, y \rangle.$$

$\square$

Using this lemma, we now seek to build a LSSD with w fibers from a set of w linked simplices. We first provide a construction of the graph Γ and then split the verification into two parts: first that Γ restricted to a pair of fibers represents a symmetric design, and second that the constants μ and ν given by (3) are well-defined. Clearly, we need only consider three fibers in the proofs to follow; the arguments extend to w fibers.

THEOREM 4.3. *Let $\{a_i\}$ and $\{b_j\}$ be linked simplices in $\mathbb{R}^{v-1}$ with inner products γ and δ . For each j , let $B_j = \{a_i : \langle a_i, b_j \rangle = \gamma\}$. Then $(\{a_i\}, \{B_j\})$ is a symmetric 2-design.*

Proof. First we must prove that each block contains a constant number of points. Let $1 \leq j \leq v$ be fixed and define $k_j = |B_j|$. Since the set $\{a_i\}$ of vectors form a regular simplex, the centroid of those vectors must be the origin. Then, $\sum_i \langle b_j, a_i \rangle = \langle b_j, \sum_i a_i \rangle = 0$ giving us the equation $k_j \gamma + (v - k_j) \delta = 0$. Solving this for k_j gives $k_j = \frac{\delta v}{\gamma - \delta}$, independent of j . Now we will show that any pair of blocks contains a constant number of points in common; swapping roles this gives that any pair of points is contained in a constant number of blocks. Fix $1 \leq s, t \leq v$ so that b_s and b_t are two distinct vectors in $\{b_j\}$ with corresponding blocks B_s and B_t respectively. Define $\lambda_{s,t} = |B_s \cap B_t|$ and

$$x_s = [\langle a_1, b_s \rangle, \langle a_2, b_s \rangle, \dots, \langle a_v, b_s \rangle], \quad x_t = [\langle a_1, b_t \rangle, \langle a_2, b_t \rangle, \dots, \langle a_v, b_t \rangle].$$

Recalling that $k\gamma + (v - k)\delta = 0$,

$$\langle x_s, x_t \rangle = \lambda_{s,t} \gamma^2 + 2(k - \lambda_{s,t}) \gamma \delta + (v - 2k + \lambda_{s,t}) \delta^2 = \lambda_{s,t} (\delta - \gamma)^2 - v \delta^2.$$

We may instead apply Lemma 4.2 to get

$$\langle x_s, x_t \rangle = \sum_i \langle a_i, b_s \rangle \langle a_i, b_t \rangle = \frac{v}{v-1} \langle b_s, b_t \rangle = -\frac{v}{(v-1)^2}.$$

Equating these two values gives us

$$\lambda_{s,t} = \frac{v\delta^2}{(\delta-\gamma)^2} - \frac{v}{(v-1)^2(\gamma-\delta)^2}.$$

The quantity on the right is independent of s and t and therefore $\lambda_{s,t}$ does not depend on s and t . Therefore our block system forms a 2-design with the above values for k and λ . $\square$

As both k and λ are integers, this gives us restrictions on which inner products are allowed. We solve the system

$$\begin{aligned} k\gamma + (v-k)\delta &= 0, \\ \lambda(\delta-\gamma)^2 - v\delta^2 &= -\frac{v}{(v-1)^2} \end{aligned}$$

to find that $\delta^2 = \frac{k}{(v-1)(v-k)}$. Using (2), this simplifies to

$$(8) \quad \delta = \pm \frac{k}{(v-1)\sqrt{k-\lambda}}, \quad \gamma = \mp \frac{v-k}{(v-1)\sqrt{k-\lambda}}.$$

These match the previously determined entries of E_1 and E_2 corresponding to the first and third relations. Our next theorem concerns the existence of μ and ν , which arise between triples of fibers.

THEOREM 4.4. *Let $\{a_i\}$, $\{b_i\}$, and $\{c_i\}$ be three linked simplices in $\mathbb{R}^{v-1}$ with inner products γ and δ as before. For each $1 \leq j, k \leq v$, let $B_j = \{a_i : \langle a_i, b_j \rangle = \gamma\}$ and $C_k = \{a_i : \langle a_i, c_k \rangle = \gamma\}$. Then there exists integers μ and ν such that*

$$|B_j \cap C_k| = \begin{cases} \mu & \langle b_j, c_k \rangle = \gamma \\ \nu & \langle b_j, c_k \rangle = \delta \end{cases}$$

where μ and ν are independent of our choice of j and k .

Proof. We follow a similar method of calculating an inner product in two ways, then equating the results. Fix $0 \leq i, j \leq v$ and let $\eta_{i,j} = |B_i \cap C_j|$. Define

$$x_i = [\langle a_1, b_i \rangle, \langle a_2, b_i \rangle, \dots, \langle a_v, b_i \rangle], \quad x_j = [\langle a_1, c_j \rangle, \langle a_2, c_j \rangle, \dots, \langle a_v, c_j \rangle].$$

Then we have $\langle x_i, x_j \rangle = \eta_{i,j}(\gamma - \delta)^2 - v\delta^2$ and using Lemma 4.2,

$$\langle x_i, x_j \rangle = \sum_{\ell} \langle a_{\ell}, b_i \rangle \langle a_{\ell}, c_j \rangle = \frac{v}{v-1} \langle b_i, c_j \rangle.$$

Equating these two values and solving for $\eta_{i,j}$ gives us

$$\eta_{i,j} = \frac{1}{(\gamma-\delta)^2} \left(v\delta^2 + \frac{v}{v-1} \langle b_i, c_j \rangle \right).$$

While the right side is not independent of i and j as we saw in the previous theorem, it is only dependent on the value of $\langle b_i, c_j \rangle$. Using ν and μ for $\eta_{i,j}$ when $\langle b_i, c_j \rangle$ is δ and γ respectively, we have:

$$\begin{aligned} \nu &= \frac{v}{(\gamma-\delta)^2} \left(\frac{\delta^2(v-1)^2 + \delta(v-1)}{(v-1)^2} \right), \\ \mu &= \frac{v}{(\gamma-\delta)^2} \left(\frac{\delta^2(v-1)^2 + \gamma(v-1)}{(v-1)^2} \right) = \nu + \frac{v}{(\gamma-\delta)(v-1)}. \end{aligned}$$

Using the values of γ and δ found previously to make λ integral, we find that

$$\gamma - \delta = \mp \frac{v}{(v-1)\sqrt{k-\lambda}},$$

giving us that

$$\begin{aligned} \nu &= \frac{k(k \pm \sqrt{k-\lambda})}{v}, \\ \mu &= \nu \mp \sqrt{k-\lambda}. \end{aligned}$$

Since μ and ν are both cardinalities of sets, any time we find non-integral values for μ and ν we can conclude that the hypothesized set of linked simplices does not exist. $\square$

This brings us to the main theorem of this section (cf. [17, Thm. 2.6(1)]).

THEOREM 4.5. *A $LSSD(v, k, \lambda; w)$ is equivalent to a set of w linked simplices in $\mathbb{R}^{v-1}$.*

Proof. Theorem 4.1 tells us that given any $LSSD(v, k, \lambda; w)$ we can always build a set of w linked simplices using a scaled version of the first idempotent as the Gram matrix. For the converse, let $\{X_1, X_2, \dots, X_w\}$ be a set of w linked simplices with inner products $\gamma > \delta$. Define a graph Γ on vertex set $\bigcup_i X_i$ where $x \in X_j$ and $y \in X_\ell$ ($j \neq \ell$) are adjacent if and only if $\langle x, y \rangle = \gamma$. Then Γ is a multipartite graph with w fibers. Theorem 4.3 tells us that the induced graph between a pair of fibers is a symmetric 2-design. Theorem 4.4 shows that given any pair of vertices in distinct fibers $x \in X_i$ and $y \in X_\ell$,

$$|\Gamma(x) \cap \Gamma(y) \cap X_j| = \begin{cases} \mu & x \sim y \\ \nu & x \not\sim y \end{cases}$$

where X_j is a third fiber. As we assumed $\gamma > \delta$, this also provides that $\mu > \nu$. Therefore Γ is a μ -heavy LSSD and adjacency in Γ is the first relation of our proposed association scheme. The third relation (the ν -heavy LSSD) is built from using δ to define adjacency. $\square$

4.1. A GEOMETRIC CLASSIFICATION. As every association scheme has relations corresponding to complementary μ -heavy and ν -heavy LSSDs, it becomes useful to differentiate between LSSDs where P_{01} (the valency of the μ -heavy design) is greater than P_{03} (the valency of the ν -heavy design) or vice versa. Noting that the μ -heavy LSSD gives the nearest neighbor graph⁽²⁾ of our association scheme and thus the only positive inner product apart from 1, we classify a LSSD as “optimistic” if $P_{01} > P_{03}$ (and thus there are more positive inner products than negative). Likewise we classify the opposite case as “pessimistic”. While this classification helps designate whether the set of linked simplices has mostly positive or mostly negative inner products, we also note that every known non-degenerate example of a LSSD is optimistic. At the level of linked systems, an LSSD is optimistic if $(2k - v)(\mu - \nu) > 0$ and pessimistic if $(2k - v)(\mu - \nu) < 0$. The following table lists the possibilities.

	$2k > v$	$2k < v$
μ -heavy	optimistic	pessimistic
ν -heavy	pessimistic	optimistic

Motivated by the natural ordering of relations, we will adopt the convention of focusing on the μ -heavy LSSD. This forces us to allow for $k > \frac{v}{2}$.

⁽²⁾The “nearest neighbor graph” here refers to the basis relation in our association scheme corresponding to largest innerproduct not equal to 1. By definition, this is R_1 under the natural ordering of relations for a Q -polynomial scheme.

5. CONNECTIONS TO OTHER STRUCTURES IN EUCLIDEAN SPACE

In the previous section, we developed the equivalence between LSSDs and a certain geometric structure using the first and second idempotents as Gram matrices. We now explore similar structures which can be built using combinations of these idempotents, though we will not always be able to reverse these constructions. Recall that

$$E_j = \frac{1}{|X|} \sum Q_{ij} A_i$$

and the rank of E_j is given by Q_{0j} . By considering nonnegative linear combinations of these idempotents, we construct Gram matrices of systems of vectors with desirable properties. As we are interested in low rank Gram matrices, we will only consider combinations of two or three of these idempotents, avoiding E_2 as this has rank $(w-1)(v-1)$. Before moving to the examples, we note that the matrix $x_0 E_0 + x_1 E_1 + x_3 E_3$ is expressible as $\sum_i y_i A_i$ with the following values for y_i :

$$\begin{aligned} y_0 &= \frac{1}{vw} (x_0 + (v-1)x_1 + (w-1)x_3), \\ y_1 &= \frac{1}{vw} (x_0 + \frac{v-k}{\sqrt{k-\lambda}} x_1 - x_3), \\ y_2 &= \frac{1}{vw} (x_0 - x_1 + (w-1)x_3), \\ y_3 &= \frac{1}{vw} (x_0 - \frac{k}{\sqrt{k-\lambda}} x_1 - x_3). \end{aligned}$$

5.1. EQUIANGULAR LINES. This construction is a generalization of de Caen's construction [7] using the Cameron–Seidel scheme. Using the above idempotents, we wish to make a positive semidefinite matrix with low rank with constant diagonal and only one possible magnitude of the main diagonal. Since the rank of our matrix is the sum of the multiplicities of the idempotents we use, we avoid using E_2 in order to reduce the rank. Therefore consider the matrix

$$G = vw(\alpha E_0 + \beta E_1 + \gamma E_3).$$

This is a $vw \times vw$ matrix with rank $v + w - 1$. In order to get equiangular lines, we must have a constant positive value c such that

$$\left| \alpha + \beta \left(\frac{v-k}{\sqrt{k-\lambda}} \right) - \gamma \right| = \left| \alpha - \beta + (w-1)\gamma \right| = \left| \alpha - \beta \left(\frac{k}{\sqrt{k-\lambda}} \right) - \gamma \right| = c.$$

Since α , β , and γ must all be positive, we note that $\alpha + \beta \left(\frac{v-k}{\sqrt{k-\lambda}} \right) - \gamma > \alpha - \beta \left(\frac{k}{\sqrt{k-\lambda}} \right) - \gamma$ and therefore we must have

$$c = \alpha + \beta \left(\frac{v-k}{\sqrt{k-\lambda}} \right) - \gamma = - \left[\alpha - \beta \left(\frac{k}{\sqrt{k-\lambda}} \right) - \gamma \right].$$

This tells us that

$$\beta = \frac{2c\sqrt{k-\lambda}}{v} \quad \text{and} \quad \alpha - \gamma = c \left(\frac{2k-v}{v} \right).$$

Here we have one final choice (the sign of $\alpha - \beta + (w-1)\gamma$). Substituting in our value for β , we find that

$$\alpha + (w-1)\gamma = c \left(\frac{2\sqrt{k-\lambda} \pm v}{v} \right).$$

However, since we must have $2\sqrt{k-\lambda} < v$, we know that choosing the minus on the right hand side would make the entire side negative. However α , γ , and $(w-1)$ are all positive and therefore this is not possible. Therefore we must use the $+$, giving

$$\gamma = 2c \left(\frac{v-k+\sqrt{k-\lambda}}{vw} \right), \quad \alpha = c \left(\frac{v+2\sqrt{k-\lambda}-(w-1)(v-2k)}{vw} \right).$$

Our final requirement is that the main diagonal of G is equal to 1. Using the coefficients of A_0 in our expression for G , we find

$$c = \frac{1}{2\sqrt{k-\lambda}-1}.$$

Scaling by vw for convenience, this gives us the final values:

$$\begin{aligned} vw\alpha &= \frac{v+2\sqrt{k-\lambda}-(w-1)(v-2k)}{(2\sqrt{k-\lambda}-1)}, \\ vw\beta &= \frac{2w\sqrt{k-\lambda}}{2\sqrt{k-\lambda}-1}, \\ vw\gamma &= \frac{2v-2k+2\sqrt{k-\lambda}}{2\sqrt{k-\lambda}-1}, \end{aligned}$$

with inner product $\frac{1}{2\sqrt{k-\lambda}-1}$. As we require $\alpha \geq 0$ for this construction to give a p.s.d. matrix, we need $w < \frac{2(k+s)}{v-2k} + 2$ in the pessimistic LSSD case (no such restriction occurs for the optimistic case). Therefore we have the following generalization of de Caen's construction:

THEOREM 5.1. *Let $\mathcal{L}$ be the association scheme arising from a LSSD($v, k, \lambda; w$). If either $\mathcal{L}$ is optimistic, or $w \leq 2 + \frac{2(k+s)}{v-2k}$ then we can build a set of vt lines in $\mathbb{R}^{v+t-1}$ for any $1 \leq t \leq w$. In the pessimistic case with $w > 2 + \frac{2(k+s)}{v-2k}$, we can achieve the construction for any $t \leq 2 + \frac{2(k+s)}{v-2k}$.*

5.2. REAL MUTUALLY UNBIASED BASES. A second useful system of vectors arises from taking $x_2 = x_3 = 0$ and $x_0 = x_1 = w$. This gives us the Gram matrix

$$G = A_0 + \frac{v-k+\sqrt{k-\lambda}}{v\sqrt{k-\lambda}}A_1 - \frac{k-\sqrt{k-\lambda}}{\sqrt{k-\lambda}}A_3$$

of a set of w orthonormal bases where two vectors from distinct bases have one of two inner products;

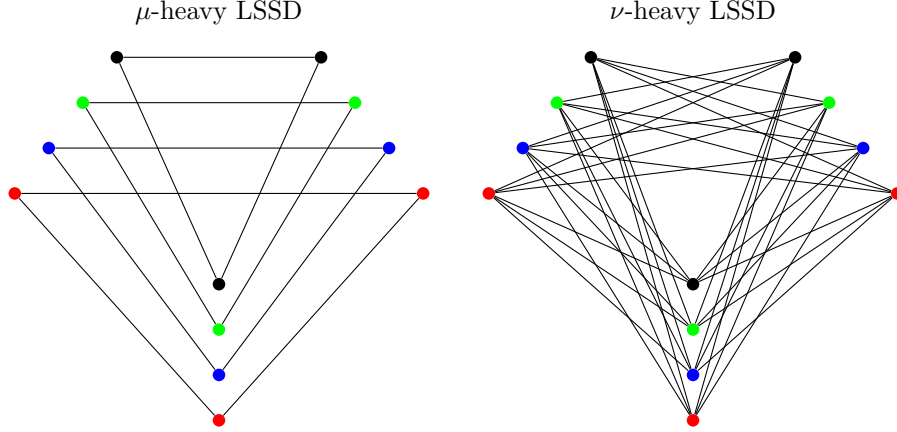
$$\beta_1 = \frac{v-k+\sqrt{k-\lambda}}{v\sqrt{k-\lambda}}, \quad \beta_2 = -\frac{k-\sqrt{k-\lambda}}{v\sqrt{k-\lambda}}.$$

Of particular interest is the case when $|\beta_1| = |\beta_2|$; this is precisely when our construction gives a set of mutually unbiased bases. This will be discussed in greater detail in Section 7.

6. TWO FAMILIES

6.1. DEGENERATE CASE. We first examine the case when the Q -polynomial structure fails as seen in the discussion of Theorem 3.1. Arguably the most interesting property of this scheme is that there are no bounds on w . In fact, for any choice of $v, w > 0$, we can build a LSSD with w fibers by building a set of cliques, each of size w , where each clique contains a single vertex from each fiber. This gives a μ -heavy LSSD

with the complement giving us the ν -heavy LSSD. Below is a representation of the complementary pairs LSSD(4,1,0;3) and LSSD(4,3,2;3).



In this case the μ -heavy LSSD has parameters $(v, 1, 0)$, so we find that $s = \sqrt{k - \lambda} = 1$, $\nu = \frac{k(k-s)}{v} = 0$, and $\mu = \nu + s = 1$. We list the P matrix and Q matrix and use these to further describe the LSSD:

$$P = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & w-1 & v-1 & (v-1)(w-1) \\ 1 & w-1 & -1 & -(w-1) \\ 1 & -1 & -1 & 1 \\ 1 & -1 & v-1 & 1-v \end{bmatrix}, \quad Q = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & v-1 & (w-1)(v-1) & w-1 \\ 1 & v-1 & -(v-1) & -1 \\ 1 & -1 & 1-w & w-1 \\ 1 & -1 & 1 & -1 \end{bmatrix}.$$

This means that our first idempotent is given by:

$$E_1 = (v-1)I + (v-1)A_1 - A_2 - A_3 = (vI - J) \otimes J.$$

If we scale this appropriately to obtain a Gram matrix of unit vectors, we find that E_1 is the Gram matrix of w copies of the same simplex in $\mathbb{R}^v$. This can be seen as well from the fact that $Q_{01} = Q_{11}$ meaning that any simplex vector has inner product 1 with exactly one vector from each of the “other” simplices, meaning the simplices are just copies of the same simplex. This explains why w is unbounded as we can always copy the same simplex as many times as we would like. This also indicates why this example is not of interest to us as it is not giving w distinct linked simplices.

6.2. CAMERON–SEIDEL SCHEME. This construction is given originally by Goethals ([8]) in terms of Kerdock codes. A generalization of this concept is found in [1], where Bey and Kyureghyan frame the properties of Kerdock sets in terms of bent functions rather than quadratic forms. While this generalization gives the same parameter sets as the original construction, it shows that there are many non-isomorphic constructions using various different realizations of Kerdock sets. Let $Q_1, Q_2, \dots, Q_w$ be a set of w quadratic forms on $\mathbb{Z}_2^n$ for which $Q_i + Q_j$ is a full rank quadratic form whenever $i \neq j$. Let cosets $\mathcal{Q}_1, \mathcal{Q}_2, \dots, \mathcal{Q}_w$ be cosets, $\mathcal{Q}_i = Q_i + \mathcal{R}(1, n)$, of the first order Reed Muller code (see [21, §4.5]). For each $1 \leq i \leq w$, define a set of vectors V_i via

$$V_i = \{[q(1), q(2), \dots, q(2^n - 1)] \mid q(2^n) = 0\}_{q \in \mathcal{Q}_i}.$$

Since $\mathcal{Q}_i$ is closed under complements, we know that $|V_i| = \frac{1}{2}|\mathcal{Q}_i| = 2^n$. Further, any pair of vectors $v, w \in \bigcup_i V_i$ come from vectors $q_v, q_w \in \bigcup_i \mathcal{Q}_i$ with last entry 0, so $wt(v \oplus w) = wt(q_v \oplus q_w)$. Finally, for each i construct the vector set

$$X_i = \left\{ \frac{1}{\sqrt{2^n - 1}} (2v - \mathbf{1}) \mid v \in V_i \right\}.$$

We claim $\{X_i\}_{i=1..w}$ is a set of linked simplices. To verify this, fix $1 \leq i < j \leq w$ and let $x_i, y_i \in X_i$ and $z_j \in X_j$ with corresponding coset vectors q_x, q_y , and q_z respectively. Then,

$$\langle x_i, x_i \rangle = \frac{1}{2^n - 1} ((wt(x_i) + (-1)^2(2^n - 1 - wt(x_i))) = 1$$

giving that every vector in $\bigcup_i X_i$ is a unit vector. Next,

$$\langle x_i, y_i \rangle = \frac{1}{2^n - 1} ((2^n - 1) - 2wt(q_x \oplus q_y)) = -\frac{1}{2^n - 1}$$

giving us that X_i forms a regular simplex. Finally,

$$\langle x_i, z_j \rangle = \frac{1}{2^n - 1} ((2^n - 1) - 2wt(q_x \oplus q_w)).$$

Since $wt(q_x \oplus q_z) \in \{2^{n-1} \pm 2^{r-1}\}$ we have that

$$\langle x_i, w_j \rangle = \begin{cases} \frac{2^r - 1}{2^n - 1} & wt(q_x \oplus q_w) = 2^{n-1} - 2^{r-1} \\ -\frac{2^r + 1}{2^n - 1} & wt(q_x \oplus q_w) = 2^{n-1} + 2^{r-1} \end{cases}$$

meaning there are two possible angles between simplices.

Therefore we can build a LSSD with w fibers whenever we have w quadratic forms whose pairwise sums are full rank. We represent each quadratic form as the $n \times n$ matrix giving the corresponding alternating bilinear form. Then, every matrix must differ in the first row in order for their difference to be full rank. This means $w \leq 2^{n-1}$ as there are only 2^{n-1} possible choices for the first row. This upper bound is achievable whenever n is even [4]. Below we give an example when $n = 4$ where Q_i is the alternating bilinear form corresponding to the i^{th} quadratic form.

$$\begin{aligned} Q_1 &= \begin{bmatrix} 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \end{bmatrix}, & Q_2 &= \begin{bmatrix} 0 & 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 \end{bmatrix}, & Q_3 &= \begin{bmatrix} 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 \\ 1 & 0 & 0 & 1 \\ 0 & 1 & 1 & 0 \end{bmatrix}, & Q_4 &= \begin{bmatrix} 0 & 1 & 1 & 0 \\ 1 & 0 & 1 & 1 \\ 1 & 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 & 0 \end{bmatrix}, \\ Q_5 &= \begin{bmatrix} 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & 1 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 & 1 \\ 1 & 1 & 1 & 0 \end{bmatrix}, & Q_6 &= \begin{bmatrix} 0 & 1 & 0 & 1 \\ 1 & 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 \end{bmatrix}, & Q_7 &= \begin{bmatrix} 0 & 0 & 1 & 1 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 1 & 1 & 0 & 1 \\ 1 & 0 & 1 & 0 \end{bmatrix}, & Q_8 &= \begin{bmatrix} 0 & 1 & 1 & 1 \\ 1 & 0 & 0 & 1 \\ 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 1 & 1 & 0 & 0 \end{bmatrix}. \end{aligned}$$

We can form the characteristic vectors $[Q_i(v)]_v$. Below we display $[Q_2(v)]_v$ and $[Q_8(v)]_v$:

$$\begin{aligned} [Q_2(v)]_v &= [0 \ 0 \ 0 \ 1 \ 0 \ 0 \ 0 \ 1 \ 0 \ 0 \ 0 \ 1 \ 1 \ 1 \ 1 \ 0], \\ [Q_8(v)]_v &= [0 \ 0 \ 0 \ 1 \ 0 \ 1 \ 0 \ 0 \ 0 \ 1 \ 1 \ 1 \ 0 \ 0 \ 1 \ 0]. \end{aligned}$$

Given the characteristic vectors, we can find the cosets of $\mathcal{R}(1, 4)$. The coset corresponding to $Q_2(v)$ is given below as the set of rows of the matrix. To improve

readability, + denotes a 1, - denotes a -1 and an empty space denotes a 0.

[illegible]

To form our regular simplex we now choose all vectors with 0 in the last coordinate, discard the last element, replace every 0 with a -1 , and then scale by $\frac{1}{\sqrt{15}}$ giving us the vectors (given by rows):

$$X_2 = \frac{1}{\sqrt{15}} \begin{bmatrix} - & - & + & - & - & - & + & + & + & + \\ + & - & + & - & + & + & + & - & - & - \\ + & - & + & - & + & + & + & - & - & - \\ - & + & - & + & - & + & - & + & - & + \\ - & + & - & + & - & + & - & + & - & + \\ - & + & - & + & - & + & - & + & - & + \\ + & + & - & + & - & + & - & + & - & + \\ + & + & - & + & - & + & - & + & - & + \\ - & - & + & + & - & - & + & + & - & - \\ + & - & + & - & + & - & + & - & + & - \\ + & - & + & - & + & - & + & - & + & - \\ + & - & + & - & + & - & + & - & + & - \end{bmatrix}.$$

Likewise each $Q_j(v)$ gives us a coset of size 32, which in turn is transformed to a regular simplex X_j in this manner.

Symmetric design parameters. The parameters of this scheme will be $v = 2^{2r}$, $k = 2^{r-1}(2^r + 1)$, $\lambda = 2^{r-1}(2^{r-1} + 1)$, $s = 2^{r-1}$, $\nu = 2^{r-2}(2^r + 1)$, and $\mu = 2^{r-2}(2^r + 3)$.

Intersection numbers. Noting that $p_{i,j}^k = p_{j,i}^k$, we list the unique intersection numbers while omitting the trivial $p_{0,i}^j$ parameters. Note that each $p_{i,k}^j$ is scaled by a constant based on i and k given in the first row of our table.

j	$p_{1,1}^j/2^{r-2}$	$p_{1,2}^j/2^{r-1}$	$p_{1,3}^j/2^{r-2}$	$p_{2,2}^j$	$p_{2,3}^j/2^{r-1}$	$p_{3,3}^j/2^{r-2}$
0	$(2^{r+1} + 2)(w - 1)$	0	0	$2^{2r} - 1$	0	$(2^{r+1} - 2)(w - 1)$
1	$(2^r + 3)(w - 2)$	$(2^r + 1) - 2^{1-r}$	$(2^r - 1)(w - 2)$	0	$(2^r - 1)$	$(2^{r-2} - 1)(w - 2)$
2	$(2^r + 2)(w - 1)$	0	$2^r(w - 1)$	$2^{2r} - 2$	0	$(2^r - 2)(w - 1)$
3	$(2^r + 1)(w - 2)$	$2^r + 1$	$(2^r + 1)(w - 2)$	0	$(2^r - 1) - 2^{1-r}$	$(2^{r-2} - 3)(w - 2)$

Krein parameters. As with the intersection numbers, we recall that $q_{i,j}^k = q_{j,i}^k$ and list each unique Krein parameter omitting the trivial $q_{0,i}^j$ parameters. No scaling is needed here.

j	$q_{1,1}^j$	$q_{1,2}^j$	$q_{1,3}^j$	$q_{2,2}^j$	$q_{2,3}^j$	$q_{3,3}^j$
0	$2^{2r} - 1$	0	0	$(w-1)(2^{2r}-1)$	0	$w-1$
1	$\frac{2^{2r}}{w} - 2$	$2^{2r} \left(\frac{w-1}{w}\right)$	0	$2^{2r} \left(\frac{(w-1)^2}{w}\right) - 2(w-1)$	$w-1$	0
2	$\frac{2^{2r}}{w}$	$2^{2r} \left(\frac{w-1}{w}\right) - 2$	1	$2^{2r} \left(\frac{(w-1)^2}{w}\right) + 2(w-2)$	$w-2$	0
3	0	$2^{2r} - 1$	0	$(w-2)(2^{2r}-1)$	0	$w-2$

7. NEW EXAMPLES WITH $v \neq 2^m$

Recall from Section 5.2 that we found the Gram matrix for a set of bases by adding the first two idempotents of our scheme, giving us

$$(9) \quad M = w(E_0 + E_1) = \left(A_0 + \frac{v - k + \sqrt{k - \lambda}}{v\sqrt{k - \lambda}} A_1 - \frac{k - \sqrt{k - \lambda}}{v\sqrt{k - \lambda}} A_3 \right)$$

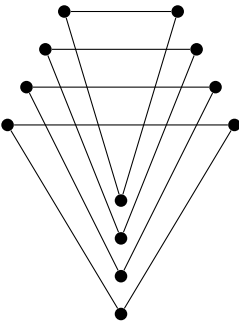
where k is the block size of the μ -heavy LSSD. If $\frac{v - k + \sqrt{k - \lambda}}{v\sqrt{k - \lambda}}$ and $-\frac{k - \sqrt{k - \lambda}}{v\sqrt{k - \lambda}}$ have the same absolute value, then M is the Gram matrix for a set of w mutually unbiased bases in $\mathbb{R}^v$. This will only occur when

$$v - 2k = -2\sqrt{k - \lambda}.$$

This means our LSSD must be optimistic, leading to the following lemma:

LEMMA 7.1. *Let $\mathbb{A}$ be the Bose-Mesner algebra of an optimistic LSSD($v, k, \lambda; w$) with Q -polynomial ordering E_0, E_1, E_2, E_3 of its primitive idempotents. If $|v - 2k| = 2\sqrt{k - \lambda}$ then $w(E_0 + E_1)$ is the Gram matrix of a set of w real MUBs in dimension v .*

It is important to note here that there exist pessimistic LSSDs such that $v - 2k = 2\sqrt{k - \lambda}$. One such example is a specific case of the degenerate parameters in Section 6.1 given by $(v, k, \lambda) = (4, 1, 0)$ with the graph Γ_1 displayed below.



We can easily see that $v - 2k = 2 = 2\sqrt{k - \lambda}$. However, the sum of the first two eigenspaces gives

$$M = 3(E_0 + E_1) = \frac{1}{3}A_0 - \frac{1}{4}A_1$$

which is not the Gram matrix of a set of MUBs. In fact, any Menon parameter set with $v/4$ odd will satisfy $|v - 2k| = 2\sqrt{k - \lambda}$ however none of these will produce MUBs. Therefore our restriction to optimistic LSSDs is required and we cannot say that any LSSD satisfying $|v - 2k| = 2\sqrt{k - \lambda}$ will give us MUBs using this construction. Conversely, the existence of w MUBs in $\mathbb{R}^v$ does not guarantee the existence of an optimistic LSSD($v, k, \lambda; w$); consider 3 MUBs in $\mathbb{R}^4$.

7.1. RESTRICTIONS ON THE PARAMETERS. In this section, we show that $|v - 2k| = 2\sqrt{k - \lambda}$ implies (v, k, λ) are Menon parameters. In the case of optimistic LSSDs, we also show $v/4$ is even. We now take a closer look at our restriction $v - 2k = -2\sqrt{k - \lambda}$. First note we can square both sides to get

$$4(k - \lambda) = v^2 - 4k(v - k).$$

Using (2), this gives $v = 4(k - \lambda)$ where we apply (1) to get

$$k^2 + k + \lambda = 4\lambda(k - \lambda).$$

Solving this for k gives $k = \frac{4\lambda+1}{2} \pm \frac{\sqrt{4\lambda+1}}{2}$ requiring $\frac{1}{2} \pm \frac{1}{2}\sqrt{4\lambda+1}$ to be an integer. Therefore $\sqrt{4\lambda+1}$ must be an odd integer. Assume $4\lambda+1 = (2u-1)^2$ for some positive integer u . Then $\lambda = u^2 - u$ and

$$k = 2u^2 - (2 \mp 1)u + \left(\frac{1 \mp 1}{2}\right).$$

If we re-parameterize the second family to avoid the trivial $(0, 0, 0)$ design when $u = 1$, we get the complementary families:

$$\begin{aligned} \lambda &= (u-1)u & \lambda' &= (u+1)u \\ k &= (2u-1)u & \text{and} & & k' &= (2u+1)u \\ v &= 4u^2 & v' &= 4u^2. \end{aligned}$$

If we restrict to an optimistic LSSD, we must use the second family for our μ -heavy LSSD Γ . From (4), the remaining parameters of Γ are

$$s = \sqrt{k-\lambda} = u, \quad \nu = \frac{k(k-s)}{v} = u^2 + \frac{u}{2}, \quad \mu = \nu + s = u^2 + \frac{3}{2}u.$$

Therefore ν (and μ) are integral if and only if u is even, resulting in the following theorem

THEOREM 7.2. *Let Γ be an optimistic LSSD($v, k, \lambda; w$). If $v - 2k = -2\sqrt{k-\lambda}$ then:*

- (i) $v = 4u^2$
- (ii) $k = 2u^2 + u$
- (iii) $\lambda = u^2 + u$
- (iv) $w \leq 2u^2$

Further, if u is odd, then $w = 2$.

Proof. Statements (i)–(iii) as well as our restriction when u is odd follow directly from above. Conclusion (iv) follows from (7). $\square$

The upper bound for w is achieved whenever u is a power of two using the Cameron–Seidel scheme. In light of this family and the requirement that $w = 2$ whenever $v/4$ is odd, one might ask if w is bounded as a function of the highest power of 2 dividing v . We will show later that this is not true by constructing examples with w as large as we like and $v/16$ odd.

7.2. HADAMARD MATRIX EQUIVALENCE. In this section, we establish an equivalence between LSSDs with parameters as in Theorem 7.2 with sets of regular unbiased Hadamard matrices (see [9] for more detailed information on unbiased Hadamard matrices). Van Dam et. al. [20, p. 1423] briefly mention this connection citing constructions of unbiased regular Hadamard matrices by Holzmann, Kharaghani, and Orrick [9] using mutually orthogonal latin squares. In this paper we describe the connection between unbiased regular Hadamard matrices and LSSDs in full using Theorem 7.1. A real Hadamard matrix of order v is a $v \times v$ matrix H with entries ± 1 such that $HH^T = vI$. H is a *regular Hadamard matrix* if $HJ = cJ$ for some constant c . Two Hadamard matrices H_1 and H_2 are *unbiased* if $\frac{1}{v}H_1H_2^T$ is itself a Hadamard matrix. Finally, a set of Hadamard matrix matrices are unbiased if each pair is unbiased. Using these definitions, consider the following:

THEOREM 7.3. *Let Γ be an optimistic LSSD($v, k, \lambda; w$). If $|v - 2k| = -2\sqrt{k-\lambda}$, then there exists a set of $w - 1$ real unbiased regular Hadamard matrices.*

Proof. Let $(X, \mathcal{R})$ be the association scheme arising from Γ with Bose–Mesner algebra $\mathbb{A}$. Let $\{E_0, E_1, E_2, E_3\}$ be the set of idempotents under the natural Q -polynomial ordering. From Lemma 7.1, $G = w(E_0 + E_1)$ is the Gram matrix of a set of w MUBs in $\mathbb{R}^v$. Let the w MUBs be given by the columns of the w unitary matrices $\{M_1, \dots, M_w\}$ and without loss of generality assume $M_1 = I$. Then any column from another M_i ($i \neq 1$) must have entries $\pm \frac{1}{\sqrt{v}}$. For $1 < i \leq w$, let $H_i = \sqrt{v}M_i$. First note that $H_i H_i^T = vM_i M_i^T = vI$, therefore for each $1 < i \leq w$, H_i is a Hadamard matrix. Now consider that the first v rows of G will have the block form $\begin{bmatrix} I & M_2 & M_3 & \dots & M_w \end{bmatrix}$. However from (9), we have that the positive (resp., negative) entries of M_i represent adjacency between vertices in the first and i^{th} fibers of the μ -heavy (resp., ν -heavy) LSSD. Therefore each M_i must have k positive entries and $v - k$ negative entries giving that H_i must be regular. Now define $\binom{w}{2}$ matrices $M_{i,j}$ where $M_{i,j}$ is the unitary matrix representing basis j when basis i is taken to be the standard basis (so $M_{1,j} = M_j$). Then we repeat all previous arguments to show that G has the block form:

$$G = \begin{bmatrix} I & M_{1,2} & \dots & M_{1,w} \\ M_{2,1} & I & \dots & M_{2,w} \\ \vdots & \vdots & \ddots & \vdots \\ M_{w,1} & M_{w,2} & \dots & I \end{bmatrix}$$

where $\sqrt{n}M_{i,j}$ is a Hadamard matrix for all $1 \leq i \neq j \leq w$. Now consider a second association scheme $\mathcal{L}'$ arising from the subgraph of Γ induced on three distinct fibers X_i , X_j , and X_k . The matrix $G' = w(E'_0 + E'_1)$ will have the form:

$$G' = \begin{bmatrix} I & M_{i,j} & M_{i,k} \\ M_{j,i} & I & M_{j,k} \\ M_{k,i} & M_{k,j} & I \end{bmatrix}.$$

Noting that $G^2 = wG$, the block in the $(1, 2)$ block of G^2 gives us that

$$2M_{i,j} + M_{i,k}M_{k,j} = 2M_{i,j}, \quad \text{or equivalently} \quad M_{i,k}M_{k,j} = M_{i,j}.$$

Therefore, if we return to the original LSSD and define $H_{i,j} = \sqrt{v}M_{i,j}$ then we find that $\frac{1}{\sqrt{v}}H_i^T H_j = H_{i,j}$. Therefore the set $\{H_2, \dots, H_w\}$ is a set of $w - 1$ regular unbiased Hadamard matrices. $\square$

We now show the converse:

THEOREM 7.4. *Assume $w > 2$. Let $\{H_2, \dots, H_w\}$ be $w - 1$ regular unbiased Hadamard matrices of order v . Then there exists an optimistic LSSD($v, k, \lambda; w$).*

Proof. Assume without loss of generality that the row sum of each of our Hadamard matrices is positive. Define vectors $x_{i,j}$ for $2 \leq i \leq w$ and $1 \leq j \leq v$ such that $x_{i,j}$ is the j^{th} column of $H_i - \frac{1}{\sqrt{v}}J$. Let $x_{1,j}$ be the j^{th} column of $\sqrt{v}I - \frac{1}{\sqrt{v}}J$. Note that for all $1 \leq i \leq w$, $\|x_{i,j}\| = v - 1$. Then, for all i, j , let $\hat{x}_{i,j} = \frac{x_{i,j}}{\sqrt{v-1}}$. Letting $X_i = \{x_{i,1}, \dots, x_{i,v}\}$, we claim that $\{X_1, \dots, X_w\}$ is a set of linked simplices. To

show this, fix $j \neq k$, $i \neq i'$ and consider the following four inner products:

$$(10) \quad \langle \hat{x}_{1,j}, \hat{x}_{1,k} \rangle = \frac{1}{v-1} (vI - J)_{j,k} = -\frac{1}{v-1},$$

$$(11) \quad \langle \hat{x}_{i,j}, \hat{x}_{i,k} \rangle = \frac{1}{v-1} (H_i H_i^T - J)_{j,k} = -\frac{1}{v-1},$$

$$(12) \quad \langle \hat{x}_{1,j}, \hat{x}_{i,k} \rangle = \frac{\sqrt{v}}{v-1} \left(H_i^T - \frac{1}{\sqrt{v}} J \right)_{j,k},$$

$$(13) \quad \langle \hat{x}_{i,j}, \hat{x}_{i',k} \rangle = \frac{\sqrt{v}}{v-1} \left(\frac{1}{\sqrt{v}} H_i H_{i'}^T - \frac{1}{\sqrt{v}} J \right)_{j,k}.$$

(10) and (11) give us the inner products within each X_i . Since $\frac{1}{\sqrt{v}} H_i H_{i'}^T$ is a Hadamard matrix, (12) and (13) tell us that inner products between sets X_i and $X_{i'}$ take values of $\frac{\pm\sqrt{v}-1}{v-1}$. Finally note that the all ones vector is orthogonal to all $x_{i,j}$. Therefore $\{X_1, \dots, X_w\}$ is a set of w simplices in $\mathbb{R}^{v-1}$ such that inner products between simplices can take only two possible values. Finally consider that the possible inner products are $\frac{\sqrt{v}}{v-1} \left(\pm 1 - \frac{1}{\sqrt{v}} \right)$. This tells us that $|\gamma| < |\delta|$ where γ is the positive inner product and δ is the negative. Therefore, since the centroid of any simplex is the origin, we must have more positive inner products between simplices than negative, telling us our *LSSD* is optimistic. $\square$

This leaves us with the following theorem

THEOREM 7.5. *An optimistic LSSD($v, k, \lambda; w$) with $|v - 2k| = 2\sqrt{k - \lambda}$ exists if and only if there exists a set of $w - 1$ regular unbiased Hadamard matrices with order v .*

7.3. CONSTRUCTING LSSDs FROM CERTAIN REAL MUBS. Using the results from the last section and the close relation between MUBs and Hadamard matrices, we wish to build new LSSDs. From Theorems 7.5 and 7.2, we are only going to find optimistic LSSDs with Menon parameters. Goethals gives a construction in [3] for $w = 2u^2$ whenever u is a power of 2 (see Section 6.2). Therefore we skip this case and instead look for constructions where u (and equivalently v) is not necessarily a power of 2.

7.3.1. Wocjan and Beth construction. Wocjan and Beth in [22] detail a way to create MUBs from MOLS. They take a set of t MOLS with side length d and create $t + 2$ MUBs in dimension d^2 . The process is to convert the MOLS into an orthogonal array with d^2 rows. They then expand the array by replacing each column with d columns giving by the characteristic vector of each symbol in that column. Finally, they extend this matrix by replacing each 1 in the array with a row from a Hadamard matrix and each 0 by an appropriate length vector of 0s. The result is that the d columns arising from each original column are orthogonal to each other. We will focus on the case where the resultant MUBs produce regular Hadamard matrices using their inner products.

For our purposes, an orthogonal array of size $(n^2 \times s)$ has entries from the set $\{1, \dots, n\}$ and any two columns contain each ordered pair exactly once. Let O be an orthogonal array of size $n^2 \times s$, let C^i denote the i^{th} column of O with entries C_k^i ($1 \leq k \leq n^2$). We may uniquely express

$$C^i = \sum_{j=1}^n k B^{i,j}$$

where each $B^{i,j}$ is a 01-vector of length n^2 . As each symbol j appears in each column C^i exactly n times, $B^{i,j}$ will have n 1s and $n^2 - n$ 0s. Let H be a Hadamard matrix

of order n . For $1 \leq l \leq n$ define a matrix $M^{i,j,l}$ as follows: For $1 \leq k \leq n$, we replace the k^{th} 1, counting from the top, in $B^{i,j}$ with the $H_{k,l}$. This produces $n^2 s$ columns each with n^2 entries $M_k^{i,j,l} \in \{0, 1, -1\}$.

The fact that $H^T H = nI$ together with $B^{i,j} \circ B^{i',j'} = 0$ for $j \neq j'$ give us that $\mathcal{B}_i = \{M^{i,1,1}, \dots, M^{i,n,n}\}$ is an orthogonal basis for each $i = 1, \dots, s$. Each vector in these bases has squared norm n . For $i \neq i'$, C^i and $C^{i'}$ denote distinct columns in our orthogonal array and therefore for any j and j' (not necessarily distinct), $B^{i,j} \circ B^{i',j'}$ has one nonzero entry. Therefore $M^{i,j,l} \circ M^{i',j',l'}$ also has one nonzero entry. Therefore

$$(14) \quad \langle M^{i,j,l}, M^{i',j',l'} \rangle = M_k^{i,j,l} M_k^{i',j',l'} = \pm 1$$

where $O_{k,i} = j$ and $O_{k,i'} = j'$. Therefore the bases $\mathcal{B}_1, \dots, \mathcal{B}_s$ produced by Wocjan and Beth are unbiased.

We now show that if H is regular, then the resulting unbiased Hadamard matrices are regular (see proof of Theorem 7.3 for the construction of these Hadamard matrices). For each Hadamard matrix, the row sum is the sum of inner products between a column $M^{i,j,l}$ of one basis with the set of n^2 columns $M^{i',j',l'}$ ($i \neq i'$, $1 \leq j', l' \leq n$) of the second basis used in its construction. We first sum $\langle M^{i,j,l}, M^{i',j',l'} \rangle$ over l' to get

$$\sum_{l'} \langle M^{i,j,l}, M^{i',j',l'} \rangle = M_k^{i,j,l} \left(\sum_{l'} M_k^{i',j',l'} \right) = p M_k^{i,j,l}.$$

We then sum this result over j' noting that k was chosen so that $O_{k,i} = j$ and $O_{k,i'} = j'$, and therefore depends on j' . As this sum will include every nonzero entry in $M^{i,j,l}$ exactly once, we know

$$(15) \quad \sum_{j'} \sum_{l'} \langle M^{i,j,l}, M^{i',j',l'} \rangle = \sum_{j'} p M_k^{i,j,l} = p \sum_{j'} H_{j',l} = p^2.$$

Then the sum of any row of the Hadamard matrix built from $M^{i,j,l}$ and $M^{i',j',l'}$ ($i \neq i'$) will be p^2 . Further, we showed in Theorem 7.3 that these Hadamard matrices are unbiased. Noting that $n = 4t^2$ for some t , as our original Hadamard must be regular, Theorem 7.5 tells us that our LSSD will be an optimistic $LSSD(16t^4, k, \lambda; s)$. This leads to our final theorem.

THEOREM 7.6 (cf. [9, Thm. 13]). *Given a regular Hadamard matrix of order s and an orthogonal array of size $s^2 \times N$,*

- *There exists $N - 1$ regular unbiased Hadamard matrices of order s^2 .*
- *There exists a LSSD with $v = s^2$ and $w = N$.*

COROLLARY 7.7. *For sufficiently large s , if there exists a regular Hadamard matrix of order s , then there exists a $LSSD(s^2, k, \lambda; w)$ with $w \geq s^{\frac{1}{14.8}}$.*

Proof. [5] states that for sufficiently large s , $N(s) \geq s^{\frac{1}{14.8}}$ where $N(s)$ is the maximum number of columns in an orthogonal array s on s symbols. $\square$

COROLLARY 7.8. *For any $n \geq 1$ and $w > 2$, there exists an odd t permitting a $LSSD(16^n t, k, \lambda; w)$.*

Proof. [15] tells us that for any odd t , there exists a regular Hadamard matrix of order $4t^4$. Let H_t be the regular Hadamard matrix of order $4t^4$. Using Corollary 7.7, we can choose t large enough to guarantee the existence of a $LSSD(16t^8, k, \lambda; w)$. Now

consider the Hadamard matrix

$$H = \begin{bmatrix} -1 & 1 & 1 & 1 \\ 1 & -1 & 1 & 1 \\ 1 & 1 & -1 & 1 \\ 1 & 1 & 1 & -1 \end{bmatrix}.$$

Using this matrix, we can now build the regular Hadamard matrix $H_{n,t} = H_t \otimes^{n-1} H$ which is regular of order $4^n t^4$. This matrix, again paired with Corollary 7.7, now guarantees the existence of a $LSSD(16^n t^8, k, \lambda; w)$ for any choice of n . $\square$

COROLLARY 7.9. *There exists an $LSSD(v, k, \lambda; w)$ with $v = 36^{2n}$ and $w = 4^n + 1$ for all $n \geq 1$.*

Proof. Using the MacNeish construction ([12], [18, Thm. 1.1.2]), there exists an orthogonal array O_n of size $36^{2n} \times (4^n + 1)$. Consider the regular Hadamard matrix of order 36:

[illegible]

Since H is regular, $H_n = H^{\otimes n}$ is a regular Hadamard of order 36^n . Then O_n and H_n , along with Theorem 7.6, give us the desired LSSD. $\square$

The same construction gives, for example, $LSSD(100^{2n}, k, \lambda; 4^n + 1)$ for all $n \geq 1$. Finally, we note that if we can build a regular Hadamard matrix of order $4t^2$ for $1 \leq t \leq 50$, the table of largest known orthogonal arrays for small n in [5] gives us LSSDs with the following number of fibers.

t	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17
w	5	17	9	65	10	12	8	257	10	17	17	10	10	10	29	1025	10
t	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	32	33	
w	26	11	26	11	17	11	32	10	17	10	50	30	30	12	4097	32	
t	34	35	36	37	38	39	40	41	42	43	44	45	46	47	48	49	
w	18	32	65	32	18	32	26	13	20	32	65	17	32	32	30	17	

To give an example of the construction for Theorem 7.6 we build a $\text{LSSD}(16, 10, 6; 3)$. In all matrices that follow, “+” denotes a positive 1, “−” denotes a −1, and an empty space denotes 0. We begin by using the orthogonal array O and the Hadamard

matrix H :

$$O^T = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 1 & 1 & 1 & 2 & 2 & 2 & 2 & 3 & 3 & 3 & 3 & 4 & 4 & 4 & 4 \\ 1 & 2 & 3 & 4 & 1 & 2 & 3 & 4 & 1 & 2 & 3 & 4 & 1 & 2 & 3 & 4 \\ 1 & 2 & 3 & 4 & 2 & 3 & 4 & 1 & 3 & 4 & 1 & 2 & 4 & 1 & 2 & 3 \end{bmatrix}, \quad H = \begin{bmatrix} - & + & + & + \\ + & - & + & + \\ + & + & - & + \\ + & + & + & - \end{bmatrix}.$$

Using this OA, we have

[illegible]

and then using our Hadamard matrix,

$$M^1_{\cdot,\cdot,\cdot} = \begin{bmatrix} - & + & + & + \\ + & - & + & + \\ + & + & - & + \\ + & + & + & - \end{bmatrix}, \quad M^2_{\cdot,\cdot,\cdot} = \begin{bmatrix} - & + & + & + \\ - & + & + & + \\ + & - & + & + \\ + & - & + & + \\ + & + & - & + \\ + & + & - & + \\ + & + & - & + \\ + & + & - & + \end{bmatrix}$$

Finding the inner products of each pair of bases we find the three Hadamard matrices

[illegible]

This gives us a rank v idempotent

$$M = \frac{1}{12} \begin{bmatrix} 4I & H_{12} & H_{13} \\ H_{12}^T & 4I & H_{23} \\ H_{13}^T & H_{23}^T & 4I \end{bmatrix}.$$

Taking the positive entries of the off diagonal blocks of this matrix gives us the adjacency matrix of a μ -heavy LSSD(16, 10, 6; 3).

APPENDIX A. FEASIBLE PARAMETER SETS

The Handbook of Combinatorial Designs gives us a list of 21 distinct families of symmetric designs. We now examine each family to determine which parameter sets could be the incident symmetric design between fibers in a LSSDs with three or more fibers. The two conditions we will employ are that $s = \sqrt{k - \lambda}$ and $\nu = \frac{k(k \pm s)}{v}$ are integers, though from Lemma 2.2 we saw that the following conditions must also hold:

- (i) (Corollary 2.4) v must be composite;
- (ii) (Lemma 2.2 (ii)) $\gcd(v, k) > 1$;
- (iii) (Lemma 2.2 (iii)) $\gcd(v, s) > 1$;
- (iv) (Remark 2.3) At most one of $\frac{k(k \pm s)}{v}$ is integral.

Our results show that Families 6, 7, 9, 12, 13, and 14 are feasible. Further, Families 15-19 are feasible in specific cases ($m = 1$) but will not be feasible in general. It should be noted that this does not mean that we can find LSSDs in each of these families with $w > 2$, instead this means that we cannot disprove the existence of such LSSDs using only our integrality conditions. In fact, two of the families (McFarland/Wallis and Spence) were ruled out by Jedwab et. al. ([11]) in the case where the symmetric designs come from certain known constructions of difference sets. It is still open whether these families can produce LSSDs which do not arise from linking systems of difference sets.

FAMILY 1 (Point-hyperplane Designs).

$$\begin{aligned} v &= q^m + \cdots + 1 & k &= q^{m-1} + \cdots + 1 & \lambda &= q^{m-2} + \cdots + 1 \\ n &= q^{m-1} & s &= q^{\frac{m-1}{2}} \end{aligned}$$

Since s is a power of q , we know that $\gcd(s, v) = 1$. Therefore via (iii), any LSSD with these parameters will have $w = 2$.

FAMILY 2 (Hadamard matrix designs).

$$v = 4n - 1 \quad k = 2n - 1 \quad \lambda = n - 1 \quad s = \sqrt{n}$$

Since s divides $v + 1$, we know that $\gcd(s, v) = 1$. Therefore via (iii), any LSSD with these parameters will have $w = 2$.

FAMILY 3 (Chowla).

$$v = 4t^2 + 1 \quad k = t^2 \quad \lambda = \frac{1}{4}(t^2 - 1) \quad s = \frac{1}{2}\sqrt{3t^2 + 1}$$

Chowla designs require that v is prime, therefore any LSSD with these parameters will have $w = 2$ due to (i).

FAMILY 4 (Lehmer).

$$\begin{aligned} \text{(a)} \quad v &= 4t^2 + 9 & k &= t^2 + 3 & \lambda &= \frac{1}{3}(t^2 + 3) & n &= \frac{3}{4}k \\ \text{(b)} \quad v &= 8t^2 + 1 = 64u^2 + 9 & k &= t^2 & \lambda &= u^2 & n &= t^2 - u^2 \\ \text{(c)} \quad v &= 8t^2 + 49 = 64u^2 + 441 & k &= t^2 + 6 & \lambda &= u^2 + 7 & n &= t^2 - u^2 - 1 \end{aligned}$$

All three of the Lehmer designs require v to be prime, therefore any LSSD with these parameters will have $w = 2$ due to (i).

FAMILY 5 (Whiteman).

$$v = pq \quad k = \frac{1}{4}(pq - 1) \quad \lambda = \frac{1}{16}(pq - 5) \quad s = \frac{1}{4}(3p + 1)$$

where p and $q = 3p + 2$ are both prime. Since $\gcd(s, v) > 1$ we must have $s = p$ or $s = q$. However $s = q$ implies that p is negative while $s = p$ implies that $p = 1$ and $q = 5$. As this case gives the parameters $(5, 1, 0)$, only the degenerate case is possible. Therefore any non-degenerate LSSD using Whiteman parameters will require $w = 2$.

FAMILY 6 (Menon).

$$\begin{aligned} v &= 4t^2 & k &= 2t^2 - t & \lambda &= t^2 - t \\ n &= t^2 & s &= t \\ \nu &= \frac{(2t^2 - t)(2t^2 - t \pm t)}{4t^2} = \frac{1}{2}(2t - 1) \left(t - \frac{1 \mp 1}{2} \right) \end{aligned}$$

Since $2t - 1$ will always be odd, we must have that $(t - \frac{1 \mp 1}{2})$ is even. This means that for odd t , we must choose the $+$ so that we have $\nu = (2t - 1)\frac{t-1}{2}$. If instead t is even then we must choose the $-$ so that $\nu = (2t - 1)\frac{t}{2}$. This means that Menon parameters are feasible for all $t > 0$, though our choice of μ -heavy or ν -heavy depends on the parity of t .

FAMILY 7 (Wallis; McFarland).

$$\begin{aligned} v &= q^{m+1}(q^m + \cdots + q + 2) & k &= q^m(q^m + \cdots + q + 1) \\ \lambda &= q^m(q^{m-1} + \cdots + q + 1) & s &= q^m \\ \nu &= \frac{q^m(q^m + \cdots + q + 1)(q^m(q^m + \cdots + q + 1) \pm q^m)}{q^{m+1}(q^m + \cdots + q + 2)} \end{aligned}$$

Consider first the case of ν -heavy parameters,

$$\nu = \frac{q^m(q^m + \cdots + q + 1)(q^m(q^m + \cdots + q + 2))}{q^{m+1}(q^m + \cdots + q + 2)} = q^{m-1}(q^m + \cdots + q + 1).$$

As this is always an integer, we note using (iv) that μ -heavy parameters will never be feasible.

FAMILY 8 (Wilson; Shrikhande and Singhi).

$$v = m^3 + m + 1 \quad k = m^2 + 1 \quad \lambda = m \quad n = m^2 - m + 1$$

Note that $v = mk + 1$. Therefore $\gcd(k, v) = 1$ and, from (ii), any LSSD using these parameters will have $w = 2$.

FAMILY 9 (Spence).

$$\begin{aligned} v &= 3^m \left(\frac{3^m - 1}{2} \right) & k &= 3^{m-1} \left(\frac{3^m + 1}{2} \right) \\ \lambda &= 3^{m-1} \left(\frac{3^{m-1} + 1}{2} \right) & s &= 3^{m-1} \\ \nu &= \frac{\frac{1}{2}3^{m-1}(3^m + 1)(\frac{1}{2}3^{m-1}(3^m + 1) \pm 3^{m-1})}{\frac{1}{2}3^m(3^m - 1)} \end{aligned}$$

First consider μ -heavy parameters,

$$\nu = \frac{(3^m + 1) \left(\frac{1}{2}3^{m-1}(3^m - 1) \right)}{3(3^m - 1)} = 3^{m-2} \left(\frac{3^m + 1}{2} \right)$$

As this is always an integer, we note using (iv) that ν -heavy parameters will never be feasible.

FAMILY 10 (Rajkundlia and Mitchell; Ionin).

$$v = 1 + qr \left(\frac{r^m - 1}{r - 1} \right) \quad k = r^m \quad \lambda = r^{m-1} \left(\frac{r - 1}{q} \right) \quad r = \frac{q^d - 1}{q - 1}$$

Since r divides $v - 1$ and k is a power of r , we know that $\gcd(v, k) = 1$. Therefore, by (ii), any LSSD using these parameters will require $w = 2$.

FAMILY 11 (Wilson; Brouwer).

$$v = 2(q^m + \cdots + q) + 1 \quad k = q^m \quad \lambda = \frac{1}{2}q^{m-1}(q - 1) \quad n = \frac{1}{2}q^{m-1}(q + 1)$$

Since q divides $v - 1$ and k is a power of q , we must have that $\gcd(k, v) = 1$. Therefore, by (ii), any LSSD using these parameters will require $w = 2$.

FAMILY 12 (Spence, Jungnickel and Pott, Ionin).

$$\begin{aligned} v &= q^{d+1} \left(\frac{r^{2m} - 1}{r - 1} \right) \quad k = r^{2m-1}q^d \quad \lambda = (r - 1)r^{2m-2}q^{d-1} \\ s &= r^{m-1}q^d \quad r = \frac{q^{d+1} - 1}{q - 1} \\ \nu &= \frac{r^{2m-1}q^d(r^{2m-1}q^d \pm r^{m-1}q^d)}{q^{d+1} \left(\frac{r^{2m} - 1}{r - 1} \right)} = \frac{q^{d-1}r^{3m-2}(r^m \pm 1)}{r^{2m-1} + \cdots + 1} \end{aligned}$$

First consider when $m = 1$,

$$v = q^{d+1}(q^d + \cdots + q + 2) \quad k = q^d(q^d + \cdots + 1) \quad \lambda = q^d(q^{d-1} + \cdots + q + 1)$$

Giving us the same parameters as McFarland parameters (Family 7). While these constructions may be distinct, our conditions only depend on the parameters and thus these will work for ν -heavy designs when $m = 1$. If $m > 1$ however, r^{3m-2} is relatively prime with the denominator, so we must have $(r^{2m-1} + \cdots + 1) | q^{d-1}(r^m \pm 1)$. Since $r = \frac{q^{d+1}-1}{q-1} = q^d + \cdots + 1$, we have that $q^{d-1} < r$. Therefore $q^{d-1}(r^m \pm 1) < r^{m+1} \pm r < r^{2m-1} \cdots + 1$ and thus any LSSD using these parameters with $m > 1$ will require $w = 2$.

FAMILY 13 (Davis and Jedwab).

$$\begin{aligned} v &= \frac{1}{3}2^{2d+4}(2^{2d+2} - 1) \quad k = \frac{1}{3}2^{2d+1}(2^{2d+3} + 1) \\ \lambda &= \frac{1}{3}2^{2d+1}(2^{2d+1} + 1) \quad s = 2^{2d+1} \\ \nu &= \frac{\frac{1}{3}2^{2d+1}(2^{2d+3} + 1) \left(\frac{1}{3}2^{2d+1}(2^{2d+3} + 1) \pm 2^{2d+1} \right)}{\frac{1}{3}2^{2d+4}(2^{2d+2} - 1)} \\ &= \frac{(2^{2d+3} + 1)((2^{2d+3} + 1) \pm 3)2^{2d-2}}{3(2^{2d+2} - 1)} \end{aligned}$$

First consider μ -heavy parameters,

$$\nu = \frac{(2^{2d+3} + 1)(2^{2d+3} - 2)2^{2d-2}}{3(2^{2d+2} - 1)} = \frac{(2^{2d+3} + 1)2^{2d-1}}{3}.$$

As $2^n + 1$ is divisible by 3 any time n is odd, this will always be an integer. Therefore, using (iv), ν -heavy parameters will never be feasible.

FAMILY 14 (Chen).

$$\begin{aligned} v &= 4q^{2d} \left(\frac{q^{2d} - 1}{q^2 - 1} \right) & k &= q^{2d-1} \left(1 + 2 \left(\frac{q^{2d} - 1}{q + 1} \right) \right) \\ \lambda &= q^{2d-1}(q-1) \left(\frac{q^{2d-1} + 1}{q + 1} \right) & s &= q^{2d-1} \\ \nu &= \frac{q^{2d-1} \left(1 + 2 \left(\frac{q^{2d-1}}{q+1} \right) \right) \left(q^{2d-1} \left(1 + 2 \left(\frac{q^{2d-1}}{q+1} \right) \right) \pm q^{2d-1} \right)}{4q^{2d} \left(\frac{q^{2d}-1}{q^2-1} \right)} \end{aligned}$$

First consider μ -heavy parameters,

$$\nu = \frac{\left(1 + 2 \left(\frac{q^{2d-1}}{q+1} \right) \right) \left(2q^{2d-1} \left(\frac{q^{2d-1}}{q+1} \right) \right)}{4q \left(\frac{q^{2d}-1}{q^2-1} \right)} = \frac{q^{2d-2}(q-1) \left(1 + 2 \left(\frac{q^{2d-1}}{q+1} \right) \right)}{2}$$

Since 2 will always divide either q^{2d-2} or $q-1$, we have that ν is integral under μ -heavy parameters. Then from (iv), ν -heavy parameters will never be feasible.

FAMILY 15 (Ionin).

$$\begin{aligned} v &= q^d \left(\frac{r^{2m} - 1}{(q-1)(q^d + 1)} \right) & k &= q^d r^{2m-1} & \lambda &= q^d(q^d + 1)(q-1)r^{2m-2} \\ s &= q^d r^{m-1} & r &= q^{d+1} + q - 1 \\ \nu &= \frac{q^d r^{2m-1} (q^d r^{2m-1} \pm q^d r^{m-1})}{q^d \left(\frac{r^{2m}-1}{(q-1)(q^d+1)} \right)} = \frac{(q-1)(q^d + 1)q^d r^{3m-2}}{(r^m \mp 1)}. \end{aligned}$$

First assume that $m = 1$. Then,

$$\nu = \frac{(q-1)(q^d + 1)q^d r}{(r \mp 1)}.$$

First considering μ -heavy parameters,

$$\nu = \frac{(q-1)(q^d + 1)q^d r}{(r + 1)} = \frac{(q-1)(q^d + 1)q^d r}{q(q^d + 1)} = (q-1)q^{d-1}r.$$

Therefore these parameters are feasible using μ -heavy parameters when $m = 1$ (and via (iv), ν -heavy parameters are infeasible). Now consider when $m > 2$. In this case, note that r^{3m-2} is relatively prime to $r^m \mp 1$. Therefore if ν is integral, then $r^m \mp 1$ must divide $q^d(q-1)(q^d + 1)$. However, since $q \geq 2$ we know that $r = q(q^d + 1) - 1 > q^d + 1$ and $r = q^{d+1} + q - 1 > q^{d+1} - q^d$. Therefore $r^m \geq r^2 > q^d(q-1)(q^d + 1)$ meaning that it is not possible for r^m to divide the latter. Therefore ν will never be integral when $m > 1$.

FAMILY 16 (Ionin).

$$\begin{aligned} v &= 2 \cdot 3^d \left(\frac{q^{2m} - 1}{3^d + 1} \right) & k &= 3^d q^{2m-1} & \lambda &= \frac{1}{2} 3^d (3^d + 1) q^{2m-2} \\ s &= 3^d q^{m-1} & q &= \frac{1}{2} (3^{d+1} + 1) \\ \nu &= \frac{3^d q^{2m-1} (3^d q^{2m-1} \pm 3^d q^{m-1})}{2 \cdot 3^d \left(\frac{q^{2m}-1}{3^d+1} \right)} = \frac{3^d (3^d + 1) q^{3m-2} (q^m \pm 1)}{2(q^m + 1)(q^m - 1)} = \frac{3^d (3^d + 1) q^{3m-2}}{2(q^m \mp 1)} \end{aligned}$$

We again must consider the case when $m = 1$ separately. If $m = 1$, then

$$\nu = \frac{3^d(3^d + 1)q}{2(q \mp 1)}.$$

We first consider μ heavy parameters,

$$\nu = \frac{3^d(3^d + 1)q}{3^{d+1} + 3} = 3^{d-1}q.$$

Therefore when $m = 1$, these parameters are feasible with μ -heavy parameters (and via (iv), ν -heavy parameters are infeasible). Using the same arguments as before, we can quickly find that ν will not be an integer for $m > 1$ noting that q is relatively prime to $q^m \mp 1$ and $q^m - 1 > 3^d(3^d + 1)$.

FAMILY 17 (Ionin).

$$\begin{aligned} v &= 3^d \left(\frac{q^{2m} - 1}{2(3^d - 1)} \right) & k &= 3^d q^{2m-1} & \lambda &= 23^d(3^d - 1)q^{2m-2} \\ s &= 3^d q^{m-1} & q &= 3^{d+1} - 2 \\ \nu &= \frac{3^d q^{2m-1}(3^d q^{2m-1} \pm 3^d q^{m-1})}{3^d \left(\frac{q^{2m} - 1}{2(3^d - 1)} \right)} = \frac{2q^{3m-2}3^d(3^d - 1)}{(q^m \mp 1)} \end{aligned}$$

As before, we first consider the case when $m = 1$ using ν -heavy parameters,

$$\nu = \frac{2q^{3m-2}3^d(3^d - 1)}{(q - 1)} = \frac{2q^{3m-2}3^d(3^d - 1)}{(3^{d+1} - 3)} = 2q^{3m-2}3^{d-1}.$$

Therefore when $m = 1$, these parameters are feasible with ν -heavy parameters (and via (iv), μ -heavy parameters are infeasible). We again find that $m > 1$ will not permit ν to be an integer as q^{3m-2} is relatively prime to $q^m \pm 1$ and $q^m - 1 > 2 \cdot 3^d(3^d - 1)$.

FAMILY 18 (Ionin).

$$\begin{aligned} v &= 2^{2d+3} \left(\frac{q^{2m} - 1}{q + 1} \right) & k &= 2^{2d+1}q^{2m-1} & \lambda &= 2^{2d-1}(q + 1)q^{2m-2} \\ s &= 2^{2d+1}q^{m-1} & q &= \frac{1}{3}(2^{2d+3} + 1) \\ \nu &= \frac{2^{2d+1}q^{2m-1}(2^{2d+1}q^{2m-1} \pm 2^{2d+1}q^{m-1})}{2^{2d+3} \left(\frac{q^{2m} - 1}{q + 1} \right)} = \frac{(q + 1)2^{2d-1}q^{3m-2}}{(q^m \mp 1)} \end{aligned}$$

First consider $m = 1$ using μ -heavy parameters, then $\nu = 2^{2d-1}q^{3m-2}$. Due to (iv) we see that ν -heavy parameters will not be feasible. Further, ν is non integral when $m > 1$ noting that q^{3m-2} is relatively prime to $q^m \mp 1$ and $q^m - 1 > (q + 1)2^{2d-1}$.

FAMILY 19 (Ionin).

$$\begin{aligned} v &= 2^{2d+3} \left(\frac{q^{2m} - 1}{3q - 3} \right) & k &= 2^{2d+1}q^{2m-1} & \lambda &= 3 \cdot 2^{2d-1}(q - 1)q^{2m-2} \\ s &= 2^{2d+1}q^{m-1} & q &= 2^{2d+3} - 3 \\ \nu &= \frac{2^{2d+1}q^{2m-1}(2^{2d+1}q^{2m-1} \pm 2^{2d+1}q^{m-1})}{2^{2d+3} \left(\frac{q^{2m} - 1}{3q - 3} \right)} = \frac{2^{2d-1}q^{3m-2}3(q - 1)}{(q^m \mp 1)} \end{aligned}$$

If $m = 1$ and we take ν -heavy parameters then $\nu = 2^{2d-1}3q$. Due to (iv) we see that ν -heavy parameters will not be feasible. Further, ν is non integral when $m > 1$ noting that q^{3m-2} is relatively prime to $q^m \mp 1$ and $q^m \mp 1 > 3 \cdot 2^{2d-1}(q - 1)$.

FAMILY 20 (Ionin). *For this family we use the only known realization where $p = 2$ and $q = 2^d - 1$ is a Mersenne prime.*

$$v = 1 + 2^{d+1} \frac{2^{dm} - 1}{2^d + 1} \quad k = 2^{2dm} \quad \lambda = 2^{2dm-d-1}(2^d + 1) \quad n = 2^{2dm-d-1}(2^d - 1)$$

Our first restriction tells us that n must be a square. However since 2 does not divide $2^d - 1$, we know that $2^d - 1$ must be a square in order for n to be a square giving us a contradiction. Thus any LSSD with these parameters will require $w = 2$.

FAMILY 21 (Kharaghani and Ionin).

$$\begin{aligned} v &= 4t^2 \left(\frac{q^{m+1} - 1}{q - 1} \right) & k &= (2t^2 - t)q^m & \lambda &= (t^2 - t)q^m \\ s &= tq^{\frac{m}{2}} & q &= (2t - 1)^2 \\ \nu &= \frac{(2t^2 - t)q^m ((2t^2 - t)q^m \pm tq^{\frac{m}{2}})}{4t^2 \left(\frac{q^{m+1} - 1}{q - 1} \right)} \\ &= \frac{(2t - 1)^{3m+1} ((2t - 1)^{m+1} \pm 1)(q - 1)}{4((2t - 1)^{2m+2} - 1)} \\ &= \frac{(2t - 1)^{3m+1}(q - 1)}{4((2t - 1)^{m+1} \mp 1)} \end{aligned}$$

First, since $(2t - 1)$ is odd, we have that $(2t - 1)^{3m+1}$ is relatively prime to $4((2t - 1)^{m+1} \mp 1)$. However since $m \geq 1$, $4((2t - 1)^{m+1} \mp 1) \geq 4(q - 1)$ and thus ν is never integral. Thus any LSSD with these parameters will require $w = 2$.

SUMMARY. We have shown here that only Families 6, 7, 9, 13 and 14 will always satisfy our integrality conditions. Further, Families 12, 15, 16, 17, 18, and 19 satisfy our integrality conditions whenever $m = 1$. Finally all remaining families will not allow for any LSSDs with $w > 2$.

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