

On frame self-orthogonal Latin squares of type $h^m 1^n$

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Abstract

An SOLS (self orthogonal Latin square) of order v with n_i missing sub-SOLS (holes) of order h_i ($1 \leq i \leq k$), which are disjoint and spanning (i.e. $\sum_{i=1}^k n_i h_i = v$), is called a frame SOLS and denoted by FSOLS($h_1^{n_1} h_2^{n_2} \cdots h_k^{n_k}$). In this paper, we prove that: if $h \geq 7$, $m \geq 4$, $n \geq 4$ and $n \neq 6$, then there exists an FSOLS($h^m 1^n$); an FSOLS($h^m 1^6$) exists if $h \geq 7$, $h \neq 8, 12, 28$ and $m \geq 17$.

1 Introduction

A *self-orthogonal* Latin square of order v , or SOLS(v), is a Latin square of order v which is orthogonal to its transpose. It is well known [3] that an SOLS(v) exists for all values of v , $v \neq 2, 3$ or 6 .

Let S be a set and $\mathcal{H} = \{S_1, S_2, \dots, S_k\}$ be a set of nonempty subsets of S . A *holey Latin square* having *hole set* \mathcal{H} is an $|S| \times |S|$ array, L , indexed by S , which satisfies the following properties:

- (1) every cell of L is either empty or contains a symbol of S ;
- (2) every symbol of S occurs at most once in any row or column of L ;
- (3) the subarrays $S_i \times S_i$ are empty for $1 \leq i \leq k$ (these subarrays are referred to as *holes*);
- (4) the symbol $x \in S$ occurs in row or column y if and only if $(x, y) \in (S \times S) \setminus \bigcup_{i=1}^k (S_i \times S_i)$.

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The *order* of L is $|S|$. Two holey Latin squares on symbol set S and hole set \mathcal{H} , say L_1 and L_2 , are said to be *orthogonal* if their superposition yields every ordered pair in $(S \times S) \setminus \bigcup_{i=1}^k (S_i \times S_i)$. We shall use the notation IMOLS($v; s_1, s_2, \dots, s_k$) to denote a pair of orthogonal holey Latin squares on symbol set S and hole set $\mathcal{H} = \{S_1, S_2, \dots, S_k\}$, where $v = |S|$ and $s_i = |S_i|$ for $1 \leq i \leq k$. If $\mathcal{H} = \emptyset$, we obtain an MOLS(v). If $\mathcal{H} = \{S_1\}$, we simply write IMOLS(v, s_1) for the orthogonal pair of holey Latin squares.

If L_1 and L_2 form an IMOLS($v; s_1, s_2, \dots, s_k$) such that L_2 is the transpose of L_1 , then we call L_1 a *holey SOLS*, denoted by ISOLS($v; s_1, s_2, \dots, s_k$). If $\mathcal{H} = \emptyset$, or $\{S_1\}$, then a holey SOLS is an SOLS(v), or ISOLS(v, s_1) respectively.

If $\mathcal{H} = \{S_1, S_2, \dots, S_k\}$ is a partition of S , then an IMOLS is called a *frame MOLS*. The *type* of the frame MOLS is defined to be the multiset $\{|S_i| : 1 \leq i \leq k\}$. We shall use an “exponential” notation to describe types: Type $h_1^{n_1} h_2^{n_2} \cdots h_k^{n_k}$ denotes n_i occurrences of h_i , $1 \leq i \leq k$, in the multiset. We briefly denote a frame MOLS of type $h_1^{n_1} h_2^{n_2} \cdots h_k^{n_k}$ FMOLS($h_1^{n_1} h_2^{n_2} \cdots h_k^{n_k}$).

If L_1 and L_2 form an FMOLS (frame MOLS) such that L_2 is the transpose of L_1 , then we call L_1 an FSOLS.

We observe that the existence of an SOLS(v) is equivalent to the existence of an FSOLS(1^v), and the existence of an ISOLS(v, h) is equivalent to the existence of an FSOLS ($1^{v-h} h^1$).

One of our recursive constructions in the following sections relies on information regarding the location of (holey) transversals in certain Latin squares. Suppose that L is a holey Latin square on symbol set S with hole S_1 . A *holey transversal* with hole S_1 is a set T of $|S| - |S_1|$ (occupied) cells in L such that every symbol of $S \setminus S_1$ is contained in exactly one cell of T and the $|S| - |S_1|$ cells in T intersect each row and each column indexed by $S \setminus S_1$ in exactly one cell. $|S_1|$ is called the *size* of the hole of the holey transversal. A holey transversal T is *symmetric* if $(i, j) \in T$ implies $(j, i) \in T$. Two holey transversals T_1 and T_2 with the same hole are called a *symmetric pair of holey transversals* if $(i, j) \in T_1$ if and only if $(j, i) \in T_2$. If $S_1 = \emptyset$, then we call the holey transversal a *(complete)* transversal. A set of holey transversals are said to be *disjoint* if they have no cell in common.

FSOLS have been very useful in recursive constructions of various combinatorial designs, such as 2-perfect m -cycle systems [11], edge-colored designs [8], holey Schröder designs [1], intersections of transversal designs [7], and skew Room frames [5]. The following are known results concerning FSOLS(h^n), FSOLS($h^n u^1$) and FSOLS($h^m 1^n$).

Theorem 1.1

- (1) [3] *There exists an FSOLS(1^n) if and only if $n \geq 4, n \neq 6$.*
- (2) [13] *For $h \geq 2$, there exists an FSOLS(h^n) if and only if $n \geq 4$.*

- (3) [15, Theorem 7.1] Suppose that h, n and u are positive integers and $h \neq u$. Then there exists an FSOLS($h^n u^1$) if and only if $n \geq 4$ and $n \geq 1 + 2u/h$, except for $(h, n, u) = (1, 6, 2)$ and except possibly for $(h, n, u) \in \{(t+2, 6, (5h-1)/2), (t, 14, (13h-1)/2), (t, 18, (17h-1)/2), (t, 22, (21h-1)/2) : t \text{ is odd}\}$.
- (4) [15, Lemma 2.2 and Lemma 2.3] There exist FSOLS of types $2^{21^5}, 2^{31^4}, 2^{41^2}, 2^2 1^6, 2^2 1^7, 2^3 1^5$, and $2^4 1^3$; there do not exist FSOLS of types $1^{42^2}, 1^2 2^3$, and $1^3 2^3$.

In this paper, we prove that: if $h \geq 7$, $m \geq 4$, $n \geq 4$ and $n \neq 6$, then there exists an FSOLS($h^m 1^n$); an FSOLS($h^m 1^6$) exists if $h \geq 7$, $h \neq 8, 12, 28$ and $m \geq 17$.

2 Constructions

Construction 2.1 (Filling in holes) [14] Suppose that there exist FSOLS of type $\{s_i : 1 \leq i \leq n\}$ and for $1 \leq i \leq n$, $s_i = \sum_{j=1}^{t_i} s_{ij}$.

- (1) If there exist FSOLS of type $\{s_{nj} : 1 \leq j \leq t_n\}$, then there exist FSOLS of type $\{s_i : 1 \leq i \leq n-1\} \cup \{s_{nj} : 1 \leq j \leq t_n\}$.
- (2) Let $a \geq 0$ be an integer. If there exist FSOLS of type $\{a\} \cup \{s_{ij} : 1 \leq j \leq t_i\}$ for all $1 \leq i \leq n-1$, then there exist FSOLS of type $\{a+s_n\} \cup (\bigcup_{i=1}^{n-1} \{s_{ij} : 1 \leq j \leq t_i\})$.

The following recursive construction is referred to as *Inflation Construction*. It essentially “blows up” every occupied cell of an FSOLS into a Latin square such that if one cell is filled with a certain Latin square, then its symmetric cell is filled with the transpose of an orthogonal mate of the Latin square. We should mention the work of Brouwer and van Rees [4] and Stinson [12], which can be thought of as sources of Inflation Construction.

Construction 2.2 (Inflation Construction) Suppose there exist an FSOLS($h_1^{n_1} h_2^{n_2} \cdots h_k^{n_k}$) and an MOLS(h); then there exists an FSOLS($(hh_1)^{n_1} (hh_2)^{n_2} \cdots (hh_k)^{n_k}$). In particular, the existence of FSOLS(1^n) and MOLS(h) implies the existence of an FSOLS(h^n).

The following two lemmas are modifications of [9, Lemma 2.10].

Lemma 2.3 If there exist an FSOLS(1^d) with k pairs of symmetric transversals (so that all $2k$ transversals are pairwise disjoint) and a symmetric holey transversal with a hole of size one such that the holey transversal intersect each of the $2k$ transversals in exactly one cell, there exist an MOLS(h), an IMOLS($h+v_i, v_i$), an IMOLS($h+u, u$), an IMOLS($h+v_i+u, v_i, u$) ($1 \leq i \leq k$), then there is an FSOLS($(h^{d-1}(h+u)^1(2 \sum_{i=1}^k v_i)^1)$.

Lemma 2.4 *If there exist an SOLS(h) with k pairs of symmetric transversals (so that all $2k$ transversals are pairwise disjoint—and therefore cannot contain any cell of the main diagonal) and a symmetric transversal T which intersects each of the $2k$ transversals and the main diagonal in exactly one cell, there exist an FMOLS(1^m), an FSOLS($1^m v^1$), an FSOLS($1^m v^1 u^1$), an FMOLS($1^m v_i^1$), an FMOLS($1^m v_i^1 u^1$), ($1 \leq i \leq k$), then there is an FSOLS($h^m(v + 2 \sum_{i=1}^k v_i)^1 u^1$).*

Given a set X of *points*, a *group divisible design* (GDD) is a triple $(X, \mathcal{G}, \mathcal{A})$ which satisfies the following properties:

1. \mathcal{G} is a partition of X and each member of \mathcal{G} is called a *group* (also called a *point class*);
2. \mathcal{A} is a set of subsets of X (each subset is called a *block*) such that a group and a block contain at most one common point;
3. every pair of points from distinct groups occurs in a unique block.

The *group type* of the GDD is the multiset $\{|G| : G \in \mathcal{G}\}$. A GDD $(X, \mathcal{G}, \mathcal{A})$ will be referred to as a K-GDD if $|A| \in K$ for every block A in \mathcal{A} .

Construction 2.5 (Weighting) [13, Lemma 2.5] *Suppose $(X, \mathcal{G}, \mathcal{A})$ is a GDD and let w be a map: $X \rightarrow \mathbf{Z}^+ \cup \{0\}$. Suppose there exist FSOLS of type $\{w(x) : x \in A\}$ for every $A \in \mathcal{A}$. Then there exist FSOLS of type $\{\sum_{x \in G} w(x) : G \in \mathcal{G}\}$.*

To apply the above constructions we need some “ingredients” provided in the following theorems and lemmas.

Theorem 2.6 [2] *There exists an MOLS(v) for any positive integer v , $v \neq 2, 6$.*

Theorem 2.7 [10] *There exists an IMOLS(v, n) for all values of v and n satisfying $v \geq 3n$ except that IMOLS($6, 1$) does not exist.*

A *transversal design* TD(k, n) is a GDD of group type n^k and block size k . It is well known that a TD(k, n) is equivalent to $k - 2$ MOLS (mutually orthogonal Latin squares) of order n and that for any prime power p , there exist $p - 1$ MOLS of order p . So we have the following theorem.

Theorem 2.8 *If p is a prime power, then there exists a TD(k, p) for $3 \leq k \leq p + 1$.*

From [6] (Table 2.68 and 2.72; the cases of 39 and 54 are from <http://www.emba.uvm.edu/~dinitz/newresults.html>), we have the following theorem.

Theorem 2.9 *There is a TD($6, t$) if $t \geq 5$ and $t \notin E_6 = \{6, 10, 14, 18, 22\}$. There is a TD($7, t$) if $t \geq 7$ and $t \notin E_7 = E_6 \cup \{15, 20, 26, 30, 34, 38, 46, 60, 62\}$.*

3 Main Result

Lemma 3.1 For $h \geq 7$, $m \geq 4$, $n \geq 4$ and $n \neq 6$, there exists an FSOLS($h^m 1^n$) if $4 \leq n \leq 2mh$.

Proof. From Theorem 1.1 (3) we know that there exists an FSOLS($h^{m+r} u^1$) for $4 \leq u \leq (m+r-1)h/2$. Filling in r of the $m+r$ holes of size h with an FSOLS(1^h), and the hole of size u with an FSOLS(1^u) ($u \neq 6$), we obtain an FSOLS($h^m 1^n$) for $rh+4 \leq n \leq rh+(m+r-1)h/2$ ($n \neq rh+6$).

Take r from zero to $m+1$ we get FSOLSSs of type $h^m 1^n$ for n in the ranges of the Table 3.1.

r	Range for n	
0	[4, $(m-1)h/2]$	$(n \neq 6)$
1	$[h+4, h+mh/2]$	$(n \neq h+6)$
2	$[2h+4, h+(m+1)h/2]$	$(n \neq 2h+6)$
:	:	
k	$[kh+4, kh+(m+k-1)h/2]$	$(n \neq kh+6)$
$k+1$	$[(k+1)h+4, (k+1)h+(m+k)h/2]$	$(n \neq (k+1)h+6)$
:	:	
$m+1$	$[(m+1)h+4, (m+1)h+mh]$	$(n \neq (m+1)h+6)$

Table 3.1

Notice that $(k+1)h+4 \leq kh+(m+k-1)h/2+1$, and $n = (k+1)h+6$ is also in the range of $kh+4 \leq n \leq kh+(m+k-1)h/2$ except for $k=0$, $m=4$ and $7 \leq h \leq 11$, so we have proved the lemma except for FSOLS of types $7^4 1^{13}$, $8^4 1^{14}$, $9^4 1^{15}$, $10^4 1^{16}$ and $11^4 1^{17}$.

	4	3	2	1
2		0	4	3
4	3		1	0
1	0	4		2
3	2	1	0	

Table 3.2 an FSOLS(1^5)

Table 3.2 is an FSOLS(1^5) with two pairs of disjoint symmetric transversals and a symmetric holey transversal. One pair is on cells $(0,1)$, $(1,2)$, $(2,3)$, $(3,4)$, $(4,0)$ and $(1,0)$, $(2,1)$, $(3,2)$, $(4,3)$, $(0,4)$ and the other pair is on cells $(0,2)$, $(1,3)$, $(2,4)$, $(3,0)$, $(4,1)$ and $(2,0)$, $(3,1)$, $(4,2)$, $(0,3)$, $(1,4)$. The symmetric holey one is on cells $(1,4)$, $(2,3)$, $(3,2)$, $(4,1)$. Apply Lemma 2.3 with $d=5$, $k=2$, $h \in \{7, 8, 9, 10, 11\}$, $v_1 = v_2 = 1$, $u = 2$, the input designs, MOLS(h) and IMOLS($h+1, 1$) are from

Theorems 2.6 and 2.7, IMOLS($h + 3; 1, 2$) is from the existence of FSOLS(1^{h+12^1}) from Theorem 1.1 (3), we then get an FSOLS($h^4(h+2)^{14^1}$). Filling the hole of size $h + 2$ with an FSOLS(1^{h+2}) and the hole of size 4 with an FSOLS(1^4), we obtain an FSOLS(h^41^{h+6}) for $h \in \{7, 8, 9, 10, 11\}$. This completes the proof. \square

Lemma 3.2 *For $h \geq 7$, $m \geq 4$ and $n \geq 4$, there exists an FSOLS(h^m1^n) if $n \geq 2mh + 1$.*

Proof. From Theorem 1.1 (3) we know that there exists an FSOLS($1^n(mh)^1$) for $n \geq 2mh + 1$. Filling the hole of size mh with an FSOLS(h^m), we obtain the desired FSOLS(h^m1^n). \square

Lemma 3.3 *For $h > 10$, $h = 2t$ and $t \notin E_6 = \{6, 10, 14, 18, 22\}$, there exists an FSOLS(h^m1^6) if $m \geq 14$.*

Proof. Start with a TD($6, t$) and apply Construction 2.5. Give each point of the first four groups weight 2. In the fifth group, give weight 1 to one point, weight 2 to two points, and weight zero to the remaining points. In the last group, give weight 1 to one point and weight zero to the remaining points. The input designs, FSOLS of types $2^4, 2^5, 2^{41^1}, 2^{51^1}$, and 2^{41^2} , are from Theorem 1. We then get an FSOLS($((2t)^{45}1^{11})$. Filling the holes of size 5 with an FSOLS(1^5), we obtain an FSOLS($((2t)^{41}6)$.

From Theorem 1 (3) we know that there exists an FSOLS($((2t)^k(8t+6)^1)$ when $k \geq 10$ and $t > 5$. Filling the hole of size $8t + 6$ with an FSOLS($((2t)^{41}6)$, we obtain an FSOLS($((2t)^m1^6)$ for $m \geq 14$. \square

Lemma 3.4 *There exists an FSOLS(h^m1^6) for $h = 20, 32, 44$ and $m \geq 17$.*

Proof. Start with a TD($7, 7$) and apply Construction 2.4. Take a block B , give each point of B in the first six groups weight 2, and the point of B in the last group weight 1. For the points of the TD not in B , give each point weight 3 in the first five groups, give one point weight 3 and five points weight zero in the sixth group, and give each point weight zero in the last group. The input designs, FSOLS of types $2^61^1, 3^{42^1}, 3^{52^1}, 3^{51^1}, 3^5, 3^6, 3^{61^1}$, are from Theorem 1. We then get an FSOLS((20^55^11) . Filling the hole of size five with an FSOLS(1^5), we obtain an FSOLS((20^51^6) .

Apply Construction 2.4 with a TD($7, 7$). Take a block B , give each point of B in the first five groups weight 2, the point of B in the sixth group weight zero and the point of B in the last group weight 1. For the remaining points not in B , give each point weight 5 in the first five groups, give one point weight 5 and five points weight zero in the sixth group, and give each point weight zero in the last group. The input designs, FSOLS of types $2^51^1, 5^5, 5^6, 5^{51^1}, 5^{61^1}, 5^{42^1}, 5^{52^1}$, are from Theorem 1. We then get an FSOLS((32^55^11) . Filling the hole of size five with an FSOLS(1^5), we obtain an FSOLS((32^51^6) .

Apply Construction 2.4 with a TD(7, 9). Take a block B , give each point of B in the first five groups weight 4, the point of B in the sixth group weight zero and the point of B in the last group weight 1. For the remaining points of the TD, give each point weight 5 in the first five groups, give one point weight 5 and five points weight zero in the sixth group, give each point weight zero in the last group. The input designs, FSOLS of types $4^{51^1}, 5^5, 5^6, 5^{51^1}, 5^{61^1}, 5^{41^1}, 5^{541^1}$, are from Theorem 1. We then get an FSOLS(44^{551^1}). Filling the hole of size five with an FSOLS(1^5), we obtain an FSOLS(44^{51^6}).

For $h \in \{20, 32, 44\}$, from Theorem 1 (3) we know that there exists an FSOLS($h^k(5h+6)^1$) when $k \geq 12$. Filling the hole of size $5h+6$ with an FSOLS(h^51^6), we obtain an FSOLS(h^m1^6) for $m \geq 17$. \square

Lemma 3.5 *For $h = 2t - 1$ and $h \geq 13$, there exists an FSOLS(h^m1^6) if $m \geq 17$.*

Proof. Apply Construction 2.4 with a TD($7, t$), where $t \geq 7$ and $t \notin E_7 = E_6 \cup \{15, 20, 26, 30, 34, 38, 46, 60, 62\}$. Take a block B , give each of its points weight 1. For the points not in B , give each point weight 2 in the first five groups, give weight 2 to two points and weight zero to the remaining $t - 3$ points in the sixth group, give weight zero to each point in the last group. The input designs, FSOLS of types $1^7, 2^5, 2^6, 2^{41^1}, 2^{51^1}$, and 2^{61^1} , are from Theorem 1. We then get an FSOLS($((2t-1)^551^1)$). Filling the holes of size 5 with an FSOLS(1^5), we obtain an FSOLS($((2t-1)^51^6)$.

Apply Construction 2.4 with a TD($7, t-1$) for $t \in \{10, 14, 18, 20, 22, 26, 30, 34, 38, 46, 60, 62\}$. Take a block B , give each point in the first six groups weight 3, give the point in the last group weight 1. For the points not in B , give each point weight 2 in the first five groups, give one point weight 2 and the remaining points weight zero in the sixth group, give each point weight zero in the last group. The input designs are $3^61^1, 2^5, 2^6, 2^{53^1}, 2^{43^1}, 2^{51^1}, 2^{61^1}$. Then we get an FSOLS of type $((2t-1)^551^1)$. Filling the holes of size 5 with an FSOLS(1^5), we obtain an FSOLS($((2t-1)^51^6)$.

For $t = 15$, start with a TD($7, 8$) and apply Construction 2.4. Take a block B , give each of its points weight 1. For the points not in B , give each of the points weight 4 in the first five groups, give one point weight 4 and the remaining six points weight zero in the sixth group, give each point weight zero in the last group. The input designs, FSOLS of types $1^7, 4^5, 4^6, 4^{41^1}, 4^{51^1}$, and 4^{61^1} , are from Theorem 1. We then get an FSOLS($((2t-1)^551^1)$). Filling the holes of size 5 with an FSOLS(1^5), we obtain an FSOLS($((2t-1)^51^6)$.

From Theorem 1 (3) we know that there exists an FSOLS($((2t-1)^k(10t+1)^1)$ when $k \geq 12$ and $t \geq 7$. Filling the hole of size $10t+1$ with an FSOLS($((2t-1)^51^6)$, we obtain an FSOLS($((2t-1)^m1^6)$ for $m \geq 17$. \square

Lemma 3.6 *There exists an FSOLS(h^m1^6) for $h \in \{9, 10, 11\}$ and $m \geq 15$.*

Proof. Apply Construction 2.4 with a TD($10, h$), where $h \in \{9, 11\}$. Take a block B , give weight 1 to each point. For the points not in B , give weight 1 to each point in

the first four groups and weight zero to each point in the last six groups. The input designs, 1^{10} , 1^4 and 1^5 , are from Theorem 1.1. We then obtain an FSOLS(h^41^6).

Start with a TD(6, 5) and apply Construction 2.4. Give each point of the first four groups weight 2. In the fifth group, give weight 1 to one point, weight 2 to two points, and weight zero to the remaining points. In the last group, give weight 1 to one point and weight zero to the remaining points. The input designs, FSOLS of types 2^4 , 2^5 , 2^41^1 , 2^51^1 , and 2^41^2 , are from Theorem 1. We then get an FSOLS($10^45^11^1$). Filling the holes of size 5 with an FSOLS(1^5), we obtain an FSOLS(10^41^6).

From Theorem 1 (3) we know that there exists an FSOLS($h^k(4h+6)^1$) when $k \geq 11$ and $h \in \{9, 10, 11\}$. Filling the hole of size $4h+6$ with an FSOLS(h^41^6), we obtain an FSOLS($(2t)^m1^6$) for $m \geq 15$. \square

0	2	4	6	1	3	5
6	1	3	5	0	2	4
5	0	2	4	6	1	3
4	6	1	3	5	0	2
3	5	0	2	4	6	1
2	4	6	1	3	5	0
1	3	5	0	2	4	6

Table 3.3 an SOLS(7)

Lemma 3.7 *There exists an FSOLS(7^m1^6) for $m \geq 7$.*

Proof. Table 3.3 is an SOLS(7) with 2 pairs of symmetric transversals off the main diagonal and they are pairwise disjoint, and also with a symmetric transversal T on cells $(0,6)$, $(1,5)$, $(2,4)$, $(3,3)$, $(4,2)$, $(5,1)$, $(6,0)$ which intersect each of the four transversals and the main diagonal in exactly one cell. Apply Lemma 2.4 with $h = 7$, $k = 2$, $m \geq 7$, $u = v = v_1 = v_2 = 1$, the input designs, FSOLS of types 1^m , 1^{m+1} and 1^{m+2} , are from Theorem 1.1 (1), we get an FSOLS of type $7^m5^11^1$. Filling the hole of size five with an FSOLS(1^5), we obtain an FSOLS(7^m1^6). \square

Combining Lemmas 3.1–3.7 we have the main result of this article.

Theorem 3.8 (1) *If $h \geq 7$, $m \geq 4$, $n \geq 4$ and $n \neq 6$, then there exists an FSOLS(h^m1^n).* (2) *An FSOLS(h^m1^6) exists if $h \geq 7$, $h \neq 8, 12, 28$ and $m \geq 17$.*

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