

The maximum number of Desarguesian mutually orthogonal affine planes of order 2^n

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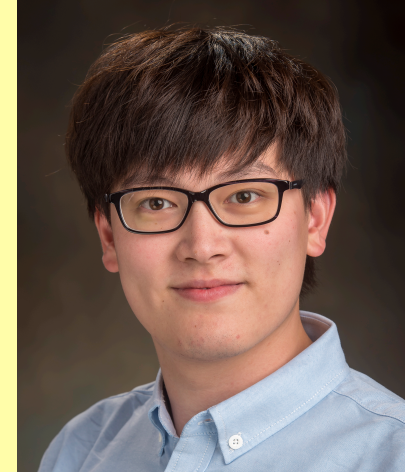
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Outline

- Desarguesian affine plane
- Orthogoval
- Central question
- Randomised search
- Explicit construction
- Deterministic search
- Feasible subspaces
- Future research

Desarguesian affine plane

- An **affine plane** of prime power order q is a $2-(q^2, q, 1)$ design
- **Desarguesian affine plane** $AG(2, q)$ of order q is unique up to isomorphism



Girard Desargues 1591–1661

Affine plane AG(2, 8)

- Construct $\mathbb{F}_8$ from primitive polynomial $f(x) = x^3 + x + 1$ with root α
- The nine **1-dim subspaces** of 2-dim vector space $\mathbb{F}_8 \times \mathbb{F}_8$ are
 $\langle(0,1)\rangle \quad \langle(1,0)\rangle \quad \langle(1,1)\rangle \quad \langle(1,\alpha)\rangle \quad \langle(1,\alpha^2)\rangle$
 $\langle(1,\alpha^3)\rangle \quad \langle(1,\alpha^4)\rangle \quad \langle(1,\alpha^5)\rangle \quad \langle(1,\alpha^6)\rangle$
- Map each 1-dim subspace of $\mathbb{F}_8 \times \mathbb{F}_8$ to **3-dim subspace of $\mathbb{F}_2^6$**

Affine plane AG(2, 8)

- Map each 1-dim subspace of $\mathbb{F}_8 \times \mathbb{F}_8$ to **3-dim subspace of $\mathbb{F}_2^6$**

★ elements of 1-dim subspace $\langle (1, \alpha^2) \rangle$ are

$$(0,0) \mapsto (000 \ 000)$$

$$(1, \alpha^2) \mapsto (001 \ 100)$$

$$(\alpha, \alpha^3) \mapsto (010 \ 011)$$

$$(\alpha^2, \alpha^4) \mapsto (100 \ 110)$$

$$(\alpha^3, \alpha^5) \mapsto (011 \ 111)$$

$$(\alpha^4, \alpha^6) \mapsto (110 \ 101)$$

$$(\alpha^5, 1) \mapsto (111 \ 001)$$

$$(\alpha^6, \alpha) \mapsto (101 \ 010)$$

$$f(x) = x^3 + x + 1$$

★ **decimal** representation of 3-dim subspace is

0	12	19	38	31	53	57	42
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Affine plane $AG(2, 8)$

- Map each 1-dim subspace of $\mathbb{F}_8 \times \mathbb{F}_8$ to **3-dim subspace of $\mathbb{F}_2^6$**

$\langle(0,1)\rangle \mapsto$	0	1	2	4	3	6	7	5
$\langle(1,0)\rangle \mapsto$	0	8	16	32	64	48	56	40
$\langle(1,1)\rangle \mapsto$	0	9	18	36	27	54	63	45
$\langle(1,\alpha)\rangle \mapsto$	0	10	20	35	30	55	61	41
$\langle(1,\alpha^2)\rangle \mapsto$	0	12	19	38	31	53	57	42
$\langle(1,\alpha^3)\rangle \mapsto$	0	11	22	39	29	49	58	44
$\langle(1,\alpha^4)\rangle \mapsto$	0	14	23	37	25	50	60	43
$\langle(1,\alpha^5)\rangle \mapsto$	0	15	21	33	26	52	59	46
$\langle(1,\alpha^6)\rangle \mapsto$	0	13	17	34	28	51	62	47

spread in $\mathbb{F}_2^6$

↓ additive cosets

$AG(2, 8)$

Affine plane AG(2, 8)

- Map each 1-dim subspace of $\mathbb{F}_8 \times \mathbb{F}_8$ to 3-dim subspace of $\mathbb{F}_2^6$
- The nine 3-dim subspaces of $\mathbb{F}_2^6$ form a spread in $\mathbb{F}_2^6$
 - ★ each pair of subspaces intersects only in 0
 - ★ the nonzero elements of the subspaces partition the nonzero elements of $\mathbb{F}_2^6$
- Affine plane AG(2, 8) comprises all 8 additive cosets in $\mathbb{F}_2^6$ of each subspace of the spread
 - ★ 72 subspaces (lines) each containing 8 points of $\mathbb{F}_2^6$
 - ★ every pair of points occurs in exactly 1 line

Orthogonal sets of lines

0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
0	8	16	24	32	40	48	56
0	9	18	27	36	45	54	63
0	10	20	30	35	41	55	61
0	11	22	29	39	44	49	58
0	12	19	31	38	42	53	57
0	13	17	28	34	47	51	62
0	14	23	25	37	43	50	60
0	15	21	26	33	46	52	59



0	1	8	9	20	21	28	29
0	2	12	14	32	34	44	46
0	3	24	27	37	38	61	62
0	4	19	23	35	39	48	52
0	5	26	31	40	45	50	55
0	6	16	22	41	47	57	63
0	7	10	13	49	54	59	60
0	11	18	25	33	42	51	56
0	15	17	30	36	43	53	58

spread C in $\mathbb{F}_2^6$

$AG(2, 8)$

orthogonal
affine planes

spread S in $\mathbb{F}_2^6$

$AG(2, 8)$

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Orthogoval sets of lines

- **Orthogoval sets of lines**: each line of one set intersects each line of other set in **at most 2 points**
- Orthogoval **spreads** extend to orthogoval **Desarguesian affine planes** when take additive cosets
 - ★ simple consequence of subspace property
 - ★ use to construct **perfect hash families**, **covering arrays**
- Orthog**oval** affine planes: each line of one plane is an **oval** in the other

Orthogonal sets of lines

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	16	24	32	40	48	56
9	18	27	36	45	54	63
10	20	30	35	41	55	61
11	22	29	39	44	49	58
12	19	31	38	42	53	57
13	17	28	34	47	51	62
14	23	25	37	43	50	60
15	21	26	33	46	52	59

spread C in $\mathbb{F}_2^6$


 orthogonal
 spreads

1	8	9	20	21	28	29
2	12	14	32	34	44	46
3	24	27	37	38	61	62
4	19	23	35	39	48	52
5	26	31	40	45	50	55
6	16	22	41	47	57	63
7	10	13	49	54	59	60
11	18	25	33	42	51	56
15	17	30	36	43	53	58

spread S in $\mathbb{F}_2^6$

- Orthogonal spreads C and S : each line of one spread intersects each line of other spread in **at most 2 points**
 - ★ ignore zero element in each line: then intersection is in **at most 1 point**

Mutually orthogonal

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	16	24	32	40	48	56
9	18	27	36	45	54	63
10	20	30	35	41	55	61
11	22	29	39	44	49	58
12	19	31	38	42	53	57
13	17	28	34	47	51	62
14	23	25	37	43	50	60
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1	8	9	20	21	28	29
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5	26	31	40	45	50	55
6	16	22	41	47	57	63
7	10	13	49	54	59	60
11	18	25	33	42	51	56
15	17	30	36	43	53	58



1	12	13	22	23	26	27
2	28	30	40	42	52	54
3	17	18	32	35	49	50
4	11	15	34	38	41	45
5	24	29	33	36	57	60
6	8	14	51	53	59	61
7	19	20	43	44	56	63
9	16	25	39	46	55	62
10	21	31	37	47	48	58

spread in $\mathbb{F}_2^6$
 $\downarrow$
 $\text{AG}(2, 8)$

Central Question

- Colbourn, Ingalls, Jedwab, Saaltink, Smith, Stevens 2024 asked:

What is the largest number of mutually orthogonal
Desarguesian affine planes of order $q = 2^n$?

- Equivalently:

What is the largest number of mutually orthogonal
spreads in $\mathbb{F}_2^{2n}$?

Finding orthogoval spreads in $\mathbb{F}_2^6$

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	16	24	32	40	48	56
9	18	27	36	45	54	63
10	20	30	35	41	55	61
11	22	29	39	44	49	58
12	19	31	38	42	53	57
13	17	28	34	47	51	62
14	23	25	37	43	50	60
15	21	26	33	46	52	59

spread C in $\mathbb{F}_2^6$

$$\begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 & 1 & 1 & 0 & 1 \\ 1 & 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 \\ 1 & 0 & 1 & 0 & 0 & 1 \\ 1 & 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 & 1 \\ 1 & 1 & 1 & 1 & 1 & 0 \\ 1 & 1 & 1 & 0 & 1 & 1 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ 0 \\ 0 \\ 0 \\ 0 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 1 \\ 1 \\ 1 \\ 0 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix}$$

$M \qquad 1 \qquad 61$

3	24	27	37	38	61	62
7	19	20	43	44	56	63
6	9	15	16	22	25	31
1	28	29	40	41	52	53
4	17	21	35	39	50	54
13	23	26	32	45	55	58
12	18	30	34	46	48	60
5	11	14	33	36	42	47
2	8	10	49	51	57	59

spread MC in $\mathbb{F}_2^6$

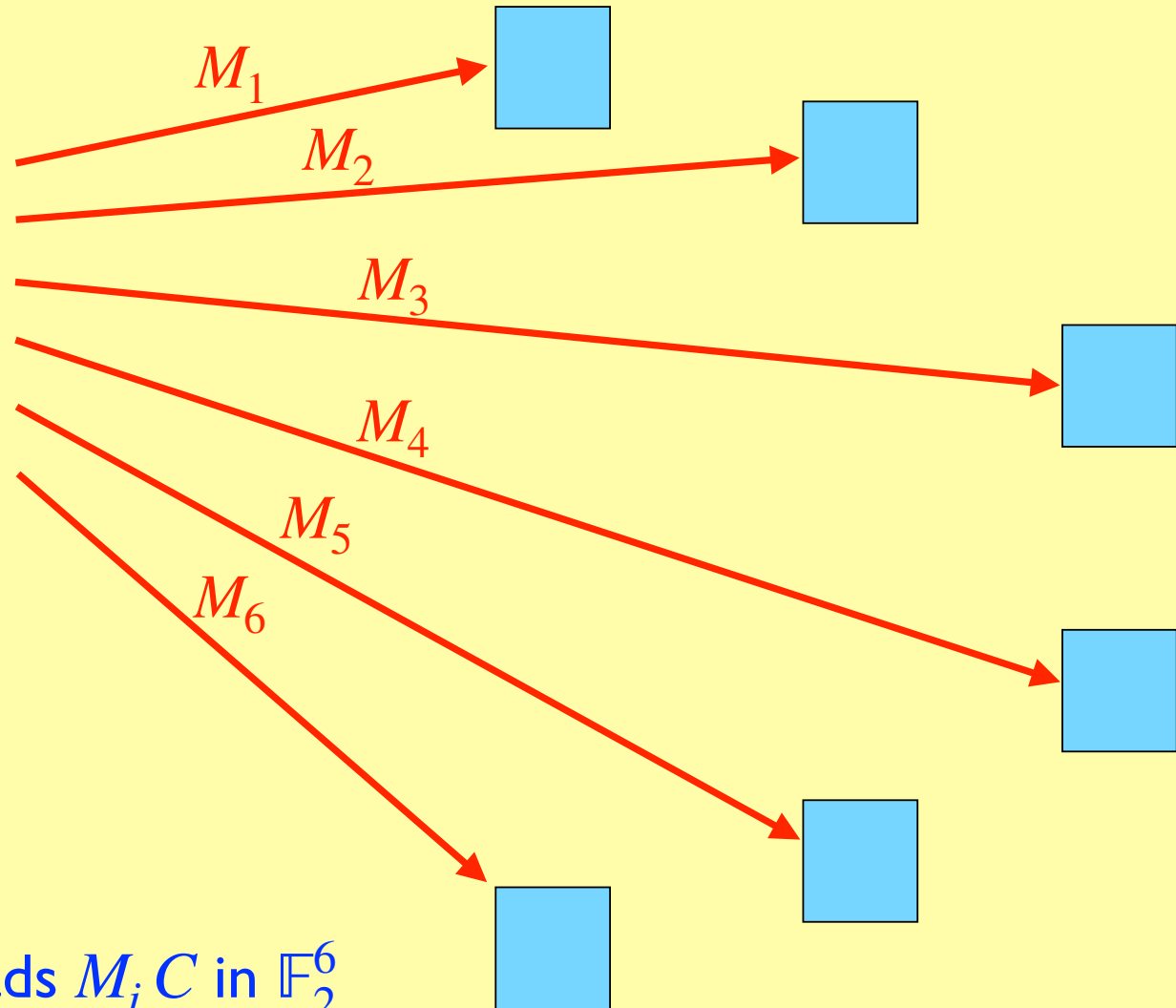
- (Colbourn et al 2024). Choose many $M \in \text{GL}(6, \mathbb{F}_2)$
randomly, retain those giving spread MC orthogoval to C

Finding orthogoval spreads in $\mathbb{F}_2^6$

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	16	24	32	40	48	56
9	18	27	36	45	54	63
10	20	30	35	41	55	61
11	22	29	39	44	49	58
12	19	31	38	42	53	57
13	17	28	34	47	51	62
14	23	25	37	43	50	60
15	21	26	33	46	52	59

spread C in $\mathbb{F}_2^6$

spreads $M_i C$ in $\mathbb{F}_2^6$

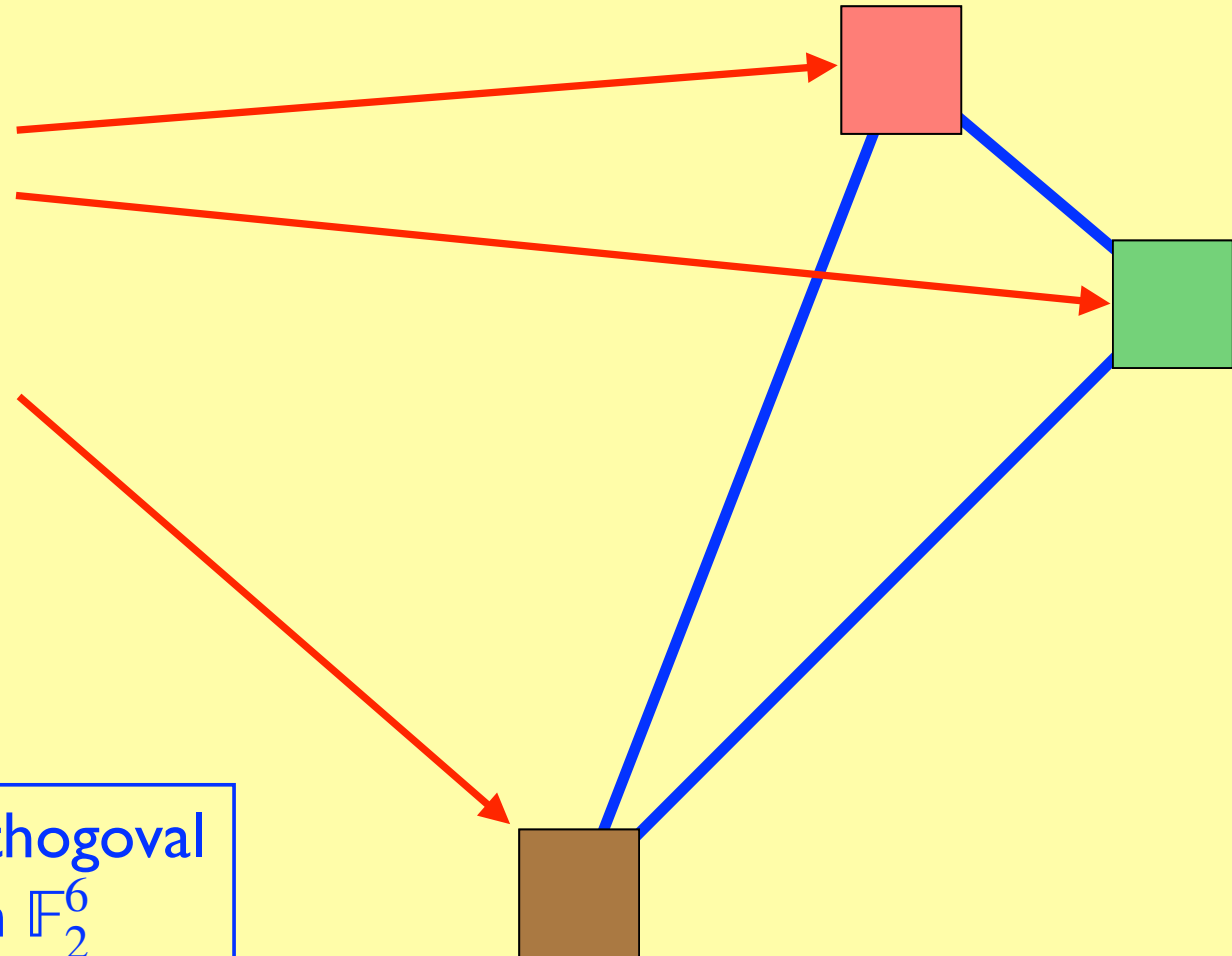


Finding orthogoval spreads in $\mathbb{F}_2^6$

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	16	24	32	40	48	56
9	18	27	36	45	54	63
10	20	30	35	41	55	61
11	22	29	39	44	49	58
12	19	31	38	42	53	57
13	17	28	34	47	51	62
14	23	25	37	43	50	60
15	21	26	33	46	52	59

spread C in $\mathbb{F}_2^6$

4 mutually orthogoval
spreads in $\mathbb{F}_2^6$



Finding orthogoval spreads in $\mathbb{F}_2^6$

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	16	24	32	40	48	56
9	18	27	36	45	54	63
10	20	30	35	41	55	61
11	22	29	39	44	49	58
12	19	31	38	42	53	57
13	17	28	34	47	51	62
14	23	25	37	43	50	60
15	21	26	33	46	52	59

spread C in $\mathbb{F}_2^6$

$$\begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 & 1 & 1 & 0 & 1 \\ 1 & 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 \\ 1 & 0 & 1 & 0 & 0 & 1 \\ 1 & 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 & 1 \\ 1 & 1 & 1 & 1 & 1 & 0 \\ 1 & 1 & 1 & 0 & 1 & 1 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ 0 \\ 0 \\ 0 \\ 0 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 1 \\ 1 \\ 1 \\ 0 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix}$$

$M \qquad 1 \qquad 61$

3	24	27	37	38	61	62
7	19	20	43	44	56	63
6	9	15	16	22	25	31
1	28	29	40	41	52	53
4	17	21	35	39	50	54
13	23	26	32	45	55	58
12	18	30	34	46	48	60
5	11	14	33	36	42	47
2	8	10	49	51	57	59

spread MC in $\mathbb{F}_2^6$

- (Colbourn et al 2024). Choose many $M \in \text{GL}(6, \mathbb{F}_2)$
randomly, retain those giving spread MC orthogoval to C
 - ★ find a **largest clique** in associated graph

mutually orthogoval spreads in $\mathbb{F}_2^{2n}$

n	order q of affine plane	known # mutually orthogoval spreads	method	maximum?
2	4	7	randomised search	Y
3	8	7	randomised search	?
4	16			
5	32			
6	64			
n	2^n			
n (coprime to 6)	2^n			

Known constructions

- Theorem (Colbourn et al 2024). There are
 - ★ 2 (mutually) orthogoval spreads in $\mathbb{F}_2^{2n}$ for all n
 - ★ 3 mutually orthogoval spreads in $\mathbb{F}_2^{2n}$ for n coprime to 6
 - ★ by explicit construction, using finite geometry and analysis of the roots of specific polynomials

mutually orthogoval spreads in $\mathbb{F}_2^{2n}$

n	order q of affine plane	known # mutually orthogoval spreads	method	maximum?
2	4	7	randomised search	Y
3	8	7	randomised search	?
4	16	2	construction	?
5	32	3	construction	?
6	64	2	construction	?
n	2^n	2	construction	?
n (coprime to 6)	2^n	3	construction	?

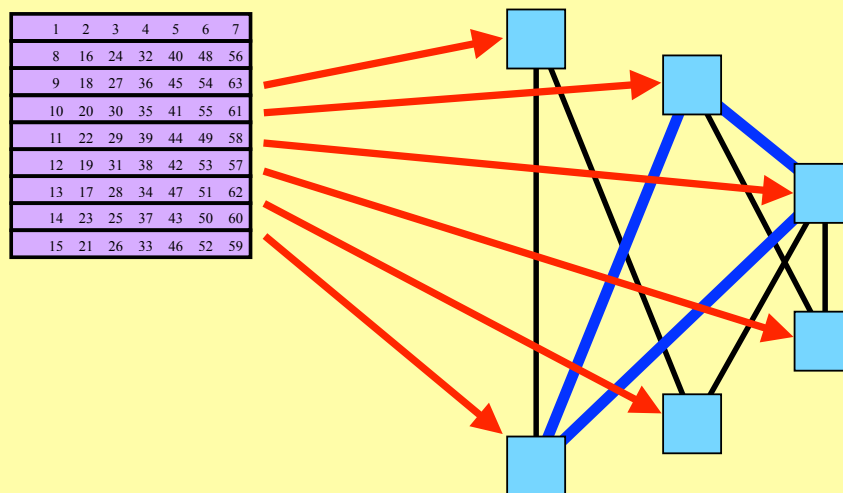
Known constructions

- Theorem (Colbourn et al 2024). There are
 - ★ 2 (mutually) orthogoval spreads in $\mathbb{F}_2^{2n}$ for all n
 - ★ 3 mutually orthogoval spreads in $\mathbb{F}_2^{2n}$ for n coprime to 6
 - ★ by explicit construction, using finite geometry and analysis of the roots of specific polynomials

Can these results be improved ?

Deterministic search

- Start with the canonical spread C in $\mathbb{F}_2^6$ (order $q = 8$)
- Construct explicitly all other **1904639 distinct spreads** in $\mathbb{F}_2^6$
- Of these, **only 3864 spreads are orthogoval to C**
- A largest clique in the graph on 3864 vertices has size **6**
- So largest number of mutually orthogoval spreads in $\mathbb{F}_2^6$ is **7**



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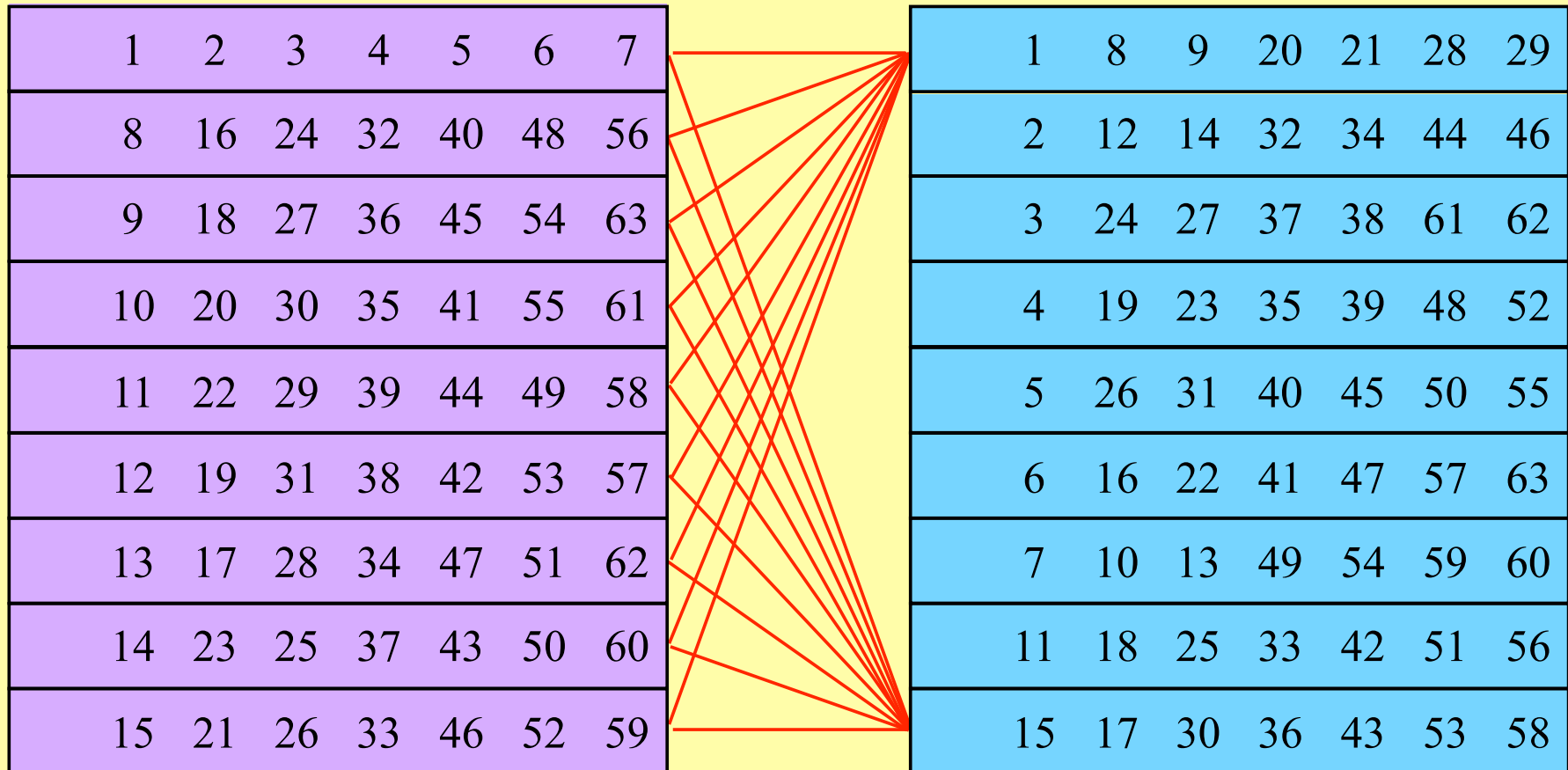
mutually orthogoval spreads in $\mathbb{F}_2^{2n}$

n	order q of affine plane	known # mutually orthogoval spreads	method	maximum?
2	4	7	randomised search	Y
3	8	7	randomised search	Y
4	16	2	construction	?
5	32	3	construction	?
6	64	2	construction	?
n	2^n	2	construction	?
n (coprime to 6)	2^n	3	construction	?

Deterministic search

- Start with the canonical spread C in $\mathbb{F}_2^6$ (order $q = 8$)
- Construct explicitly all other **1904639 distinct spreads** in $\mathbb{F}_2^6$
- Of these, **only 3864 spreads are orthogoval to C**
- A largest clique in the graph on 3864 vertices has size **6**
- So largest number of mutually orthogoval spreads in $\mathbb{F}_2^6$ is **7**
- This method solves order $q = 8$, but for order $q = 16$ there are **21 846 665 723 904** distinct spreads in $\mathbb{F}_2^8$ 🤯

Feasible subspaces



spread C in $\mathbb{F}_2^6$

orthogonal
spreads

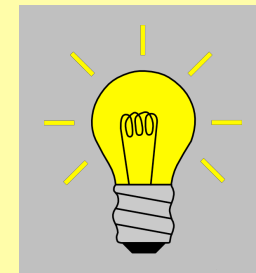
spread S in $\mathbb{F}_2^6$

Feasible subspaces

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	16	24	32	40	48	56
9	18	27	36	45	54	63
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11	22	29	39	44	49	58
12	19	31	38	42	53	57
13	17	28	34	47	51	62
14	23	25	37	43	50	60
15	21	26	33	46	52	59

spread C in $\mathbb{F}_2^6$

1	8	9	20	21	28	29
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Find all feasible subspaces
individually, then combine
into orthogonal spreads!

feasible subspace in $\mathbb{F}_2^6$

Feasible subspaces

- **Feasible** subspace intersects in at most one (nonzero) element with each subspace of the canonical spread
- How to find **all feasible n -dimensional subspaces** ?
 - ★ silly: filter all n -dimensional subspaces of $\mathbb{F}_2^{2n}$ directly
 - ★ smart: construct the feasible n -dimensional subspaces **recursively** from feasible lower-dimensional subspaces

Feasible subspaces

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	16	24	32	40	48	56
9	18	27	36	45	54	63
10	20	30	35	41	55	61
11	22	29	39	44	49	58
12	19	31	38	42	53	57
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14	23	25	37	43	50	60
15	21	26	33	46	52	59

1	8	9	20	21	28	29
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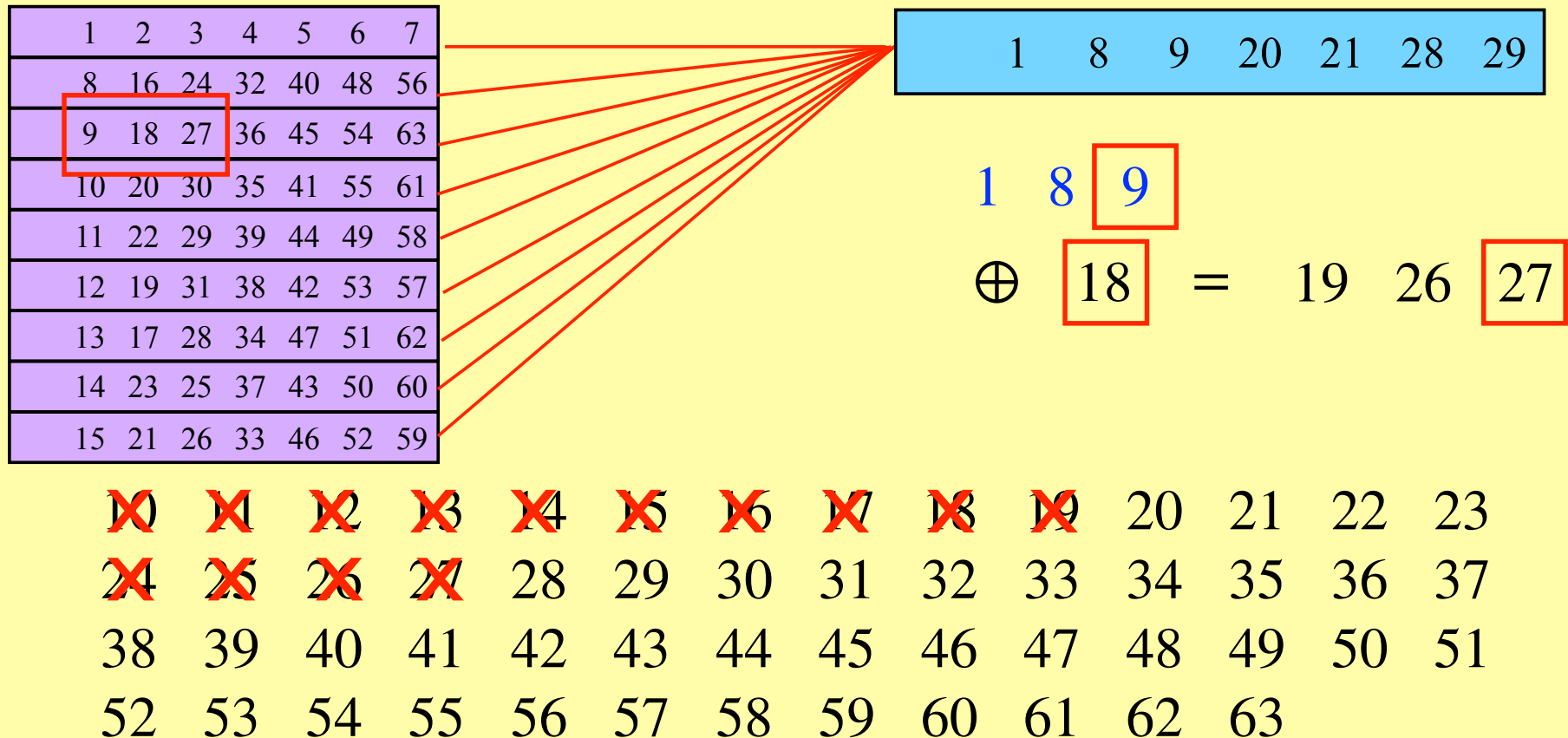
$$1 \quad \boxed{8} \quad 9$$

$$\oplus \quad \boxed{16} = 17 \quad \boxed{24} \quad 25$$

~~10~~ ~~11~~ ~~12~~ ~~13~~ ~~14~~ ~~15~~ ~~16~~ ~~17~~ 18 19 20 21 22 23
~~24~~ ~~25~~ 26 27 28 29 30 31 32 33 34 35 36 37
 38 39 40 41 42 43 44 45 46 47 48 49 50 51
 52 53 54 55 56 57 58 59 60 61 62 63

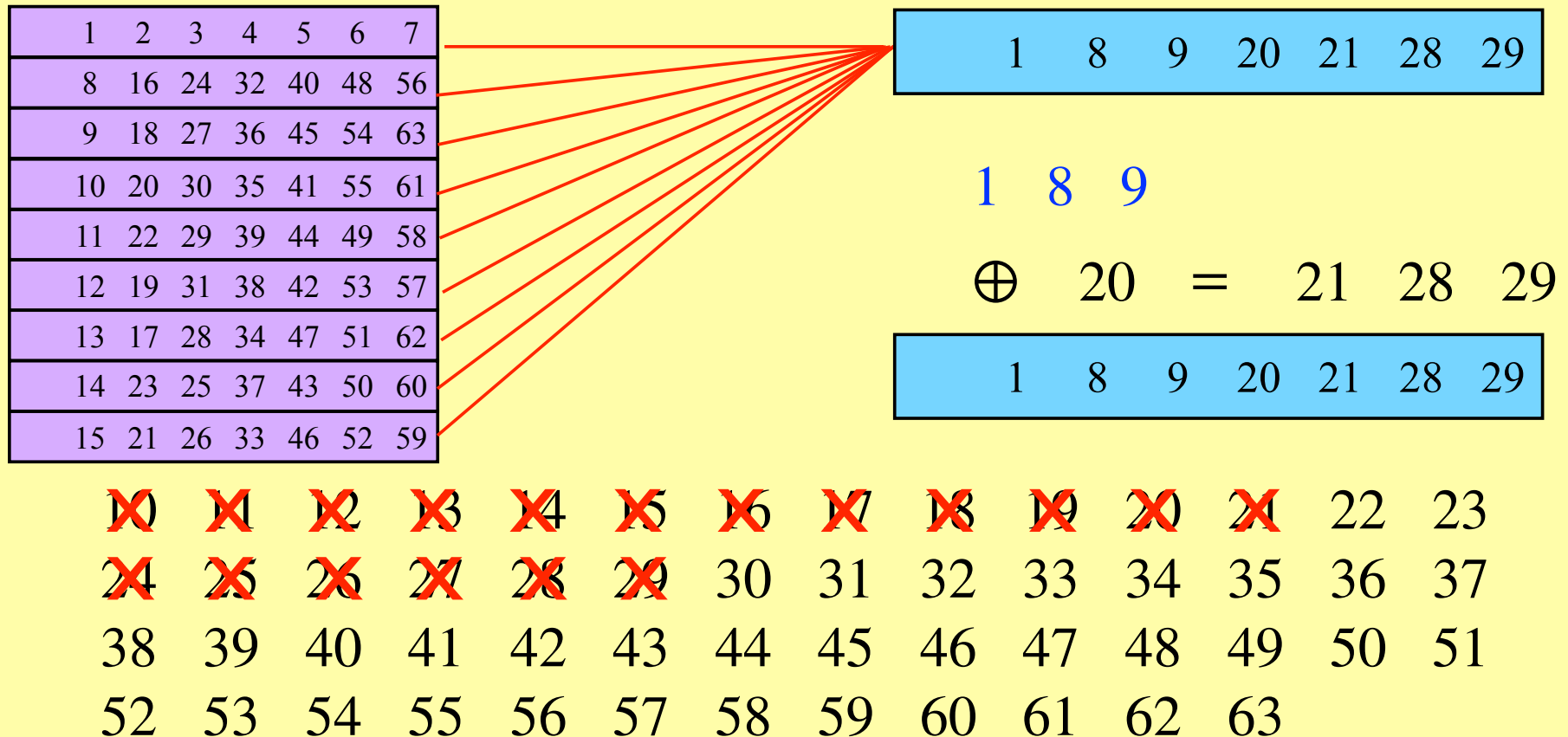
- Extend **each** feasible 2-dimensional subspace T to all feasible 3-dimensional subspaces whose **smallest** elements are T

Feasible subspaces



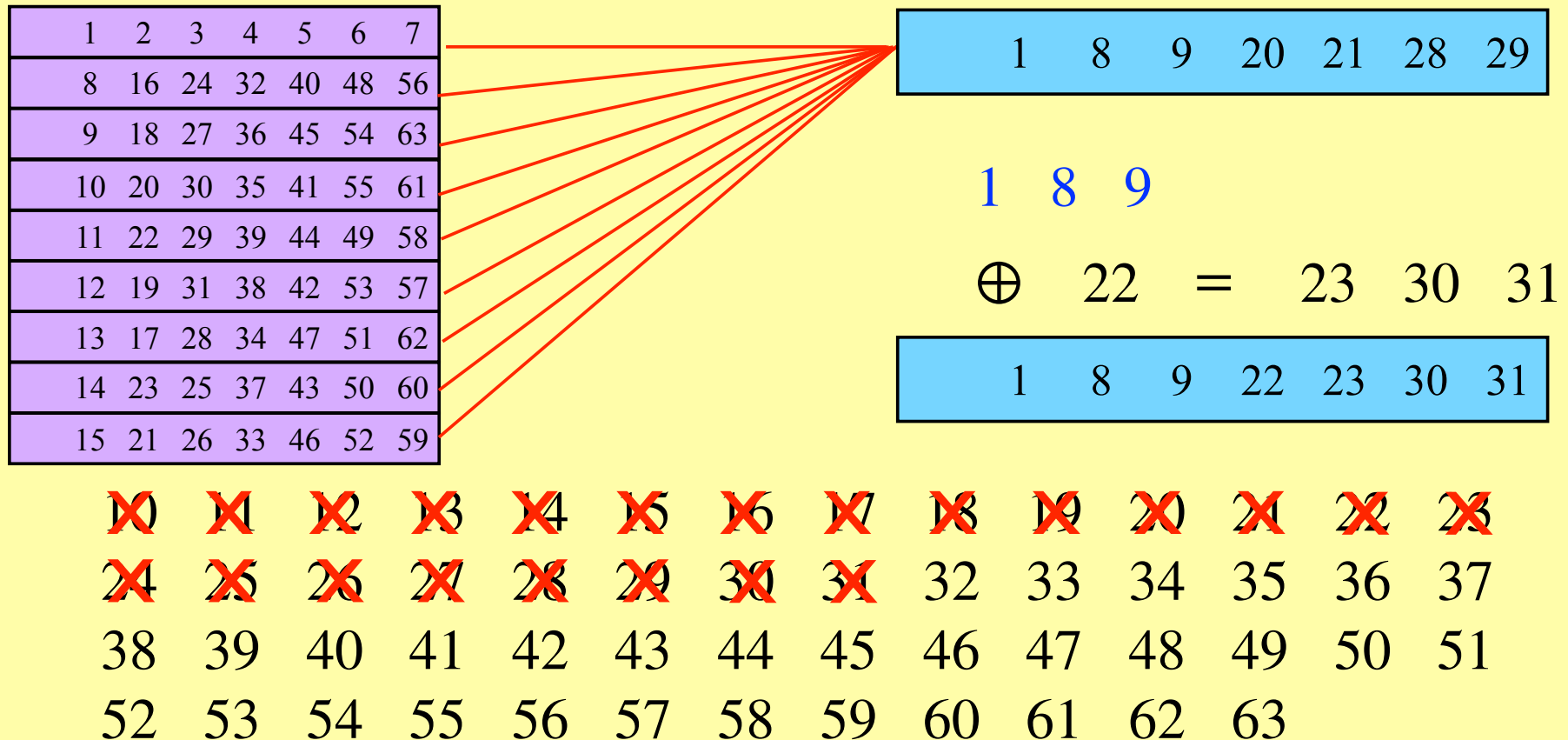
- Extend **each** feasible 2-dimensional subspace T to all feasible 3-dimensional subspaces whose **smallest** elements are T

Feasible subspaces



- Extend **each** feasible 2-dimensional subspace T to all feasible 3-dimensional subspaces whose **smallest** elements are T

Feasible subspaces



- Extend **each** feasible 2-dimensional subspace T to all feasible 3-dimensional subspaces whose **smallest** elements are T

Feasible subspaces

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	16	24	32	40	48	56
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12	19	31	38	42	53	57
13	17	28	34	47	51	62
14	23	25	37	43	50	60
15	21	26	33	46	52	59

spread C

1	8	9	20	21	28	29
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1	8	9	22	23	30	31
---	---	---	----	----	----	----

1	8	9	34	35	42	43
---	---	---	----	----	----	----

1	8	9	38	39	46	47
---	---	---	----	----	----	----

1	8	9	50	51	58	59
---	---	---	----	----	----	----

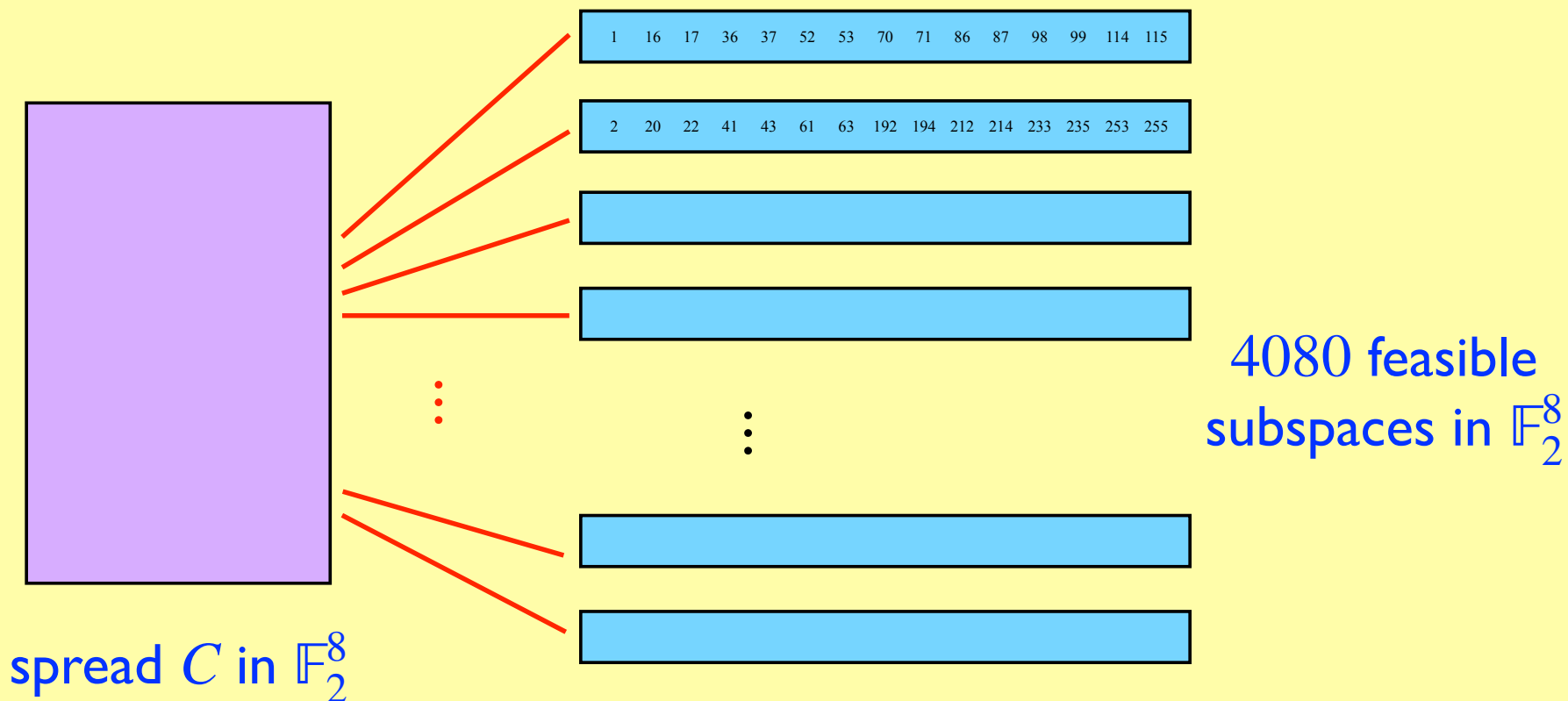
1	8	9	52	53	60	61
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- There are six 3-dimensional subspaces that are feasible wrt spread C and in which 1 8 9 are the smallest elements

Feasible subspaces in $\mathbb{F}_2^8$

- Start with the canonical spread C in $\mathbb{F}_2^8$ (order $q = 16$)
- There are 21 846 665 723 904 distinct **spreads** in $\mathbb{F}_2^8$
- But there are only 200 787 **4-dimensional subspaces** of $\mathbb{F}_2^8$
- Of these, **only 4080** are feasible wrt to C

Finding orthogoval spreads in $\mathbb{F}_2^8$



Find all 17-subsets of the feasible subspaces containing each element of $\{1, 2, \dots, 255\}$ exactly once

Feasible subspaces in $\mathbb{F}_2^8$

- Start with the canonical spread C in $\mathbb{F}_2^8$ (order $q = 16$)
- There are 21 846 665 723 904 distinct **spreads** in $\mathbb{F}_2^8$
- But there are only 200 787 **4-dimensional subspaces** of $\mathbb{F}_2^8$
- Of these, **only 4080** are feasible wrt to C
- **Exact cover search** finds all **17-subsets** of the 4080 feasible subspaces of $\mathbb{F}_2^8$ that give an orthogoval spread
- Gives that there are **40 800** spreads orthogoval to C
- **No two** of the 40 800 spreads are orthogoval to each other
- So largest # mutually orthogoval spreads in $\mathbb{F}_2^8$ is **2**

mutually orthogoval spreads in $\mathbb{F}_2^{2n}$

n	order q of affine plane	known # mutually orthogoval spreads	method	maximum?
2	4	7	randomised search	Y
3	8	7	randomised search	Y
4	16	2	construction	Y
5	32	3	construction	?
6	64	2	construction	?
n	2^n	2	construction	?
n (coprime to 6)	2^n	3	construction	?

Feasible subspaces in $\mathbb{F}_2^{10}$

- What about order $q = 32$?
- There are 109 221 651 **5-dimensional subspaces** of $\mathbb{F}_2^{10}$
- Of these, **only 65 472** are feasible wrt to C (4 seconds)
- **Exact cover search** to find all **33-subsets** of the 65 472 feasible subspaces of $\mathbb{F}_2^{10}$ that give orthogoval spread
 - ★ estimated run time 3 months
- Partial results suggest **no improvement** to known construction for $q = 32$
 - ★ nor to known construction for $q = 64$



Future research

- Use structure of solutions for orders 4, 8, 16 to reduce search time for **order 32** and bring **order 64** within reach
- Assuming the known constructions are optimal, what might a **proof** depend on ?
- Extend to Desarguesian affine planes in **odd characteristic**