

ON A CONSTRUCTION OF SELF-ORTHOGONAL CODES  
FROM ORBIT MATRICES OF 2-DESIGNS

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**ABSTRACT.** In 2003, Harada and Tonchev presented a construction of self-orthogonal codes from orbit matrices of symmetric 2-designs with fixed point free automorphisms. Since then, the constructions of self-orthogonal codes from orbit matrices of 2-designs has been extensively studied. In this paper, we present new constructions of self-orthogonal codes from orbit matrices of 2-designs for the cases not covered by the previously described methods. We construct self-orthogonal codes from orbit matrices of  $2-(1024, 496, 249)$  and  $2-(45, 5, 1)$  designs. Some of the constructed codes are optimal.

## 1. INTRODUCTION AND PRELIMINARIES

In [12], Harada and Tonchev presented a construction of self-orthogonal codes from orbit matrices of symmetric 2-designs with fixed point free automorphisms. Since then, the constructions of self-orthogonal codes from orbit matrices of incidence structures, in particular designs, has been extensively studied ([5], [7], [8], [9]). In this paper, we present new methods for a construction of self-orthogonal codes from orbit matrices of 2-designs for the cases not covered by the previously described methods. As a demonstration of the constructions presented, we construct self-orthogonal codes from  $2-(45, 5, 1)$  and  $2-(1024, 496, 249)$  designs.

We assume that the reader is familiar with the basic terminology from design theory and coding theory. For background information, we refer the reader to [1] and [16].

An incidence structure  $\mathcal{D} = (\mathcal{P}, \mathcal{B}, I)$ , with point set  $\mathcal{P}$ , block set  $\mathcal{B}$  and incidence relation  $I \subseteq \mathcal{P} \times \mathcal{B}$ , where  $|\mathcal{P}| = v$ ,  $|\mathcal{B}| = b$ , each block  $B \in \mathcal{B}$  is incident with exactly  $k$  points, every pair of distinct points from  $\mathcal{P}$  is incident with exactly  $\lambda$  blocks and each point is incident with exactly  $r$  blocks is a

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$2-(v, b, r, k, \lambda)$  design or a  $2-(v, k, \lambda)$  design. An automorphism group of the design  $\mathcal{D}$ , in the notation  $\text{Aut}(\mathcal{D})$ , is the group  $G = \{g \in \text{Sym}(\mathcal{P}) : \mathcal{B}^g = \mathcal{B}\}$ .

A linear  $q$ -ary  $[n, k]$  code  $C$  over the finite field  $\mathbb{F}_q$  of prime-power order  $q$  is a  $k$ -dimensional subspace of the  $n$ -dimensional vector space over  $\mathbb{F}_q$ . The *weight* of a codeword is the number of its elements that are nonzero and the distance between two codewords is the *Hamming distance* between them, i.e., the number of elements in which they differ. The *minimum distance* between different codewords is denoted by  $d$ . The minimum distance of a linear code is the minimum weight of its nonzero codewords. If a linear code  $C$  over a field of order  $q$  has length  $n$ , dimension  $k$ , and minimum distance  $d = d(C)$ , then we write  $[n, k, d]_q$  to show this information. For a linear  $[n, k, d]_q$  code  $C$  it holds that  $k \leq n - d + 1$  (Singleton bound), and  $C$  is called *optimal*  $[n, k]_q$  code if its minimum weight  $d$  achieves the Singleton bound for the minimum weight of  $[n, k]_q$  linear codes, i.e., if  $d = n - k + 1$ . A linear code is *near-optimal* if its minimum distance is at most 1 less than the largest possible value given by the Singleton bound. The *dual* code  $C^\perp$  is the orthogonal complement under the standard inner product  $(\cdot, \cdot)$ , i.e.  $C^\perp = \{v \in F^n | (v, c) = 0 \text{ for all } c \in C\}$ . If  $C \subset C^\perp$ , then  $C$  is called *self-orthogonal*.

We use GAP [11] for all computations in this paper involving the construction of codes from orbit matrices of the design. The obtained codes were analyzed using Magma [2].

## 2. ORBIT MATRICES OF 2-DESIGNS

For the construction of self-orthogonal codes we use point orbit matrices of 2-designs introduced in [5].

**Definition 2.1.** An  $m \times n$  matrix  $O = (o_{ij})$  is called a *point orbit matrix* for parameters  $(v, b, r, k, \lambda)$  and orbit length distributions  $(\nu_1, \dots, \nu_m)$  and  $(\beta_1, \dots, \beta_n)$  if the entries of  $O$  satisfy the conditions:

$$0 \leq o_{ij} \leq \beta_j, 1 \leq i \leq m, 1 \leq j \leq n,$$

$$\sum_{j=1}^n o_{ij} = r, 1 \leq i \leq m,$$

$$\sum_{i=1}^m \frac{\nu_i}{\beta_j} o_{ij} = k, 1 \leq j \leq n,$$

$$(2.1) \quad \sum_{j=1}^n \frac{\nu_t}{\beta_j} o_{sj} o_{tj} = \lambda \nu_t + \delta_{st}(r - \lambda), 1 \leq s, t \leq m,$$

$$\text{where } \sum_{i=1}^m \nu_i = v, \sum_{j=1}^n \beta_j = b, b = \frac{vr}{k}.$$

The submatrix of an orbit matrix corresponding to orbits of size 1 is called the *fixed part of the orbit matrix*, while the submatrix whose rows or columns correspond to orbits of length greater than 1 is called the *nonfixed part of the orbit matrix*.

Let  $\mathcal{D} = (\mathcal{P}, \mathcal{B}, \mathcal{I})$  be  $2-(v, b, r, k, \lambda)$  design and let  $G$  be an automorphism group of  $\mathcal{D}$  acting on the set of points with  $m$  point orbits denoted by  $\mathcal{P}_1, \mathcal{P}_2, \dots, \mathcal{P}_m$ , and on the set of blocks with  $n$  block orbits denoted by  $\mathcal{B}_1, \mathcal{B}_2, \dots, \mathcal{B}_n$ , where  $|\mathcal{P}_i| = \nu_i, 1 \leq i \leq m$ , and  $|\mathcal{B}_j| = \beta_j, 1 \leq j \leq n$ . Further, let  $\{w_i | 0 \leq i \leq d\}$  be the set of lengths of point and block orbits for  $G$  acting on  $\mathcal{D}$ , where  $w_i < w_j$ , for  $i < j$ . Then  $m = \sum_{i=0}^d m_i$  and  $n = \sum_{i=0}^d n_i$ , where  $m_i$  (resp.  $n_i$ ) is the number of point (resp. block) orbits of length  $w_i, i \in \{0, 1, 2, \dots, d\}$ . Let  $N_j$  (resp.  $M_j$ ) be the number of block (resp. point) orbits with size smaller than  $w_j$ , that is:

$$N_j = \begin{cases} 0, & j = 0 \\ \sum_{i < j} n_i, & j \in \{1, \dots, d+1\} \end{cases}, \quad M_j = \begin{cases} 0, & j = 0 \\ \sum_{i < j} m_i, & j \in \{1, \dots, d+1\} \end{cases}.$$

It follows:

$$\begin{aligned} \beta_i &= w_j, & 1 + N_j \leq i \leq N_{j+1}, j \in \{0, \dots, d\}, \\ \nu_i &= w_j, & 1 + M_j \leq i \leq M_{j+1}, j \in \{0, \dots, d\}. \end{aligned}$$

Denote by  $o_{ij}$  the number of blocks of  $\mathcal{B}_j$  incident with a representative of the point orbit  $\mathcal{P}_i$  and denote by  $\gamma_{ij}$  the number of points of  $\mathcal{P}_i$  incident with a representative of the block orbit  $\mathcal{B}_j$ . Then it follows

$$(2.2) \quad \gamma_{ij} \cdot \beta_j = o_{ij} \cdot \nu_i.$$

We call the matrix  $O = (o_{ij})$  the point-block orbit matrix, while the matrix  $\Gamma = (\gamma_{ij})$  is the block-point orbit matrix of  $\mathcal{D}$  for the action of the group  $G$ . Note that the matrix  $O$  is a point orbit matrix for the parameters  $(v, b, r, k, \lambda)$  and the orbit length distributions  $(\nu_1, \dots, \nu_m)$  and  $(\beta_1, \dots, \beta_n)$ . On the other hand, the orbit matrices from Definition 2.1 need not be orbit matrices corresponding to any 2-design.

### 3. SELF-ORTHOGONAL CODES FROM ORBIT MATRICES OF 2-DESIGNS

In [5] and [8], constructions of self-orthogonal codes from orbit matrices, and fixed and nonfixed parts of orbit matrices of 2-designs admitting an automorphism group  $G$  acting on the set of points and the set of blocks with two orbit lengths, 1 and  $w$ , are presented. In this section we present methods for a construction of self-orthogonal codes from point-block orbit matrices of 2-designs, where the lengths of the orbits are not restricted to 1 and  $w$ . We use the notation introduced in the previous section and all orbit matrices of designs are point-block orbit matrices.

In the next theorem we study the conditions under which a self-orthogonal code can be constructed from the fixed part of the orbit matrix for an automorphism group  $G \leq \text{Aut}(D)$  of the 2-design  $\mathcal{D}$ .

**Theorem 3.1.** *Let  $\mathcal{D} = (\mathcal{P}, \mathcal{B}, \mathcal{I})$  be a  $2-(v, b, r, k, \lambda)$  design with an automorphism group  $G$  and let  $O$  be the corresponding orbit matrix. If  $w_0 = 1$  and a prime  $p$  divides  $r$ ,  $\lambda$  and  $w_h$ , for all  $h \in \{1, 2, \dots, d\}$  such that  $n_h \neq 0$ , then the rows of the fixed part of  $O$  span a self-orthogonal code of length  $n_0$  over  $\mathbb{F}_q$ , where  $q = p^c$ .*

*Proof.* The fixed part of the orbit matrix  $O = (o_{ij})$  is shown in Figure 1.

$O$		$n_0$				$n_1$			$n_2$			$\dots$		$n_d$		
		1	1	...	1	$w_1$	...	$w_1$	$w_2$	...	$w_2$	...	...	$w_d$	...	$w_d$
$m_0$	1															
	$\vdots$															
	1															
$m_1$	$w_1$															
	$\vdots$															
	$w_1$															
$\vdots$	$\vdots$															
	$\vdots$															
$m_d$	$w_d$															
	$\vdots$															
	$w_d$															

FIGURE 1. The fixed part of an orbit matrix

Let  $\nu_s = \nu_t = 1$ , where  $1 \leq s \leq t \leq M_1 = m_0$ . Then

$$\sum_{j=1}^n \frac{\nu_t}{\beta_j} o_{sj} o_{tj} = \sum_{\substack{h=0 \\ n_h \neq 0}}^d \left( \sum_{j=1+N_h}^{N_{h+1}} \frac{1}{w_h} o_{sj} o_{tj} \right) = \sum_{j=1}^{n_0} o_{sj} o_{tj} + \sum_{\substack{h=1 \\ n_h \neq 0}}^d \left( \sum_{j=1+N_h}^{N_{h+1}} \frac{1}{w_h} o_{sj} o_{tj} \right),$$

and, using (2.1), it follows

$$\sum_{j=1}^{n_0} o_{sj} o_{tj} = \lambda + \delta_{st}(r - \lambda) - \sum_{\substack{h=1 \\ n_h \neq 0}}^d \sum_{j=1+N_h}^{N_{h+1}} \frac{1}{w_h} o_{sj} o_{tj}.$$

Since a point from an orbit of size 1 is incident with none or with all blocks from some block orbit, it follows that  $o_{sj} \in \{0, w_h\}$ , that is,  $o_{sj} o_{tj} \in \{0, w_h^2\}$ , for  $1 + N_h \leq j \leq N_{h+1}$  such that  $n_h \neq 0$ .

Thus, we have

$$\sum_{j=1}^{n_0} o_{sj} o_{tj} = \lambda + \delta_{st}(r - \lambda) - \sum_{\substack{h=1 \\ n_h \neq 0}}^d w_h z_h,$$

where  $z_h = |\{j : o_{sj} o_{tj} = w_h^2\}|$ . It follows that the fixed part of the matrix  $O$  generates a self-orthogonal code of length  $n_0$  over  $\mathbb{F}_q$ , where  $q = p^c$ .  $\square$

In the next example, we apply Theorem 3.1 to construct self-orthogonal codes from the fixed part of orbit matrices of a 2-(1024, 496, 240) design.

**Example 3.2.** *The symmetric 2-(1024, 496, 240) design available at [17] (see also [3]) belongs to the family of Cantor designs. The full automorphism group of this design has order  $2^{35} \cdot 3^6 \cdot 5^2 \cdot 7 \cdot 11 \cdot 17 \cdot 31 = 25410822678459187200$ , it is isomorphic to the group  $E_{1024} : O(11, 2)$  and it has 73 conjugacy classes of subgroups isomorphic to  $Z_4$ . Among them, only a few have fixed orbits and the corresponding orbit length distributions are given in the first column of Table 1, where  $d_i$  denotes the number of block orbits of length  $i$ , for  $i \in \{1, 2, 4\}$ . So,  $r = 496$ ,  $\lambda = 240$  and the orbit lengths are 1, 2 or 4. Note that since in addition to the fixed part, there are also parts corresponding to orbits of length 2 and 4, methods described in [5] and [8] can not be applied. However, the conditions of Theorem 3.1 are satisfied for  $p = 2$  and from the fixed part of the corresponding orbit matrices we have constructed self-orthogonal binary codes as presented in Table 1. Optimal codes are denoted by \*, and near-optimal codes are denoted by \*\*.*

TABLE 1. Self-orthogonal codes from the fixed part of the orbit matrices for  $Z_4$  acting on a 2-(1024, 496, 240) design

$(d_1, d_2, d_4)$	$C$	$ \text{Aut}(C) $	Weight Distribution
(8, 28, 240)	[8, 2, 4]**	$2^7 \cdot 3^2$	$[(0, 1), \langle 4, 2 \rangle, \langle 8, 1 \rangle]$
(16, 120, 192)	[16, 2, 8]	$2^{15} \cdot 3^4 \cdot 5^2 \cdot 7^2$	$[(0, 1), \langle 8, 2 \rangle, \langle 16, 1 \rangle]$
(16, 24, 240)	[16, 4, 4]	$2^{15} \cdot 3^5$	$[(0, 1), \langle 4, 4 \rangle, \langle 8, 6 \rangle, \langle 12, 4 \rangle, \langle 16, 1 \rangle]$
(32, 112, 190)	[32, 4, 8]	$2^{31} \cdot 3^9 \cdot 5^4 \cdot 7^4$	$[(0, 1), \langle 8, 4 \rangle, \langle 16, 6 \rangle, \langle 24, 4 \rangle, \langle 32, 1 \rangle]$
(32, 112, 190)	[32, 4, 16]*	$2^{30} \cdot 3^9 \cdot 7$	$[(0, 1), \langle 16, 14 \rangle, \langle 32, 1 \rangle]$
(64, 96, 192)	[64, 6, 24]	$2^{56} \cdot 3^{18} \cdot 5$	$[(0, 1), \langle 24, 16 \rangle, \langle 32, 30 \rangle, \langle 40, 16 \rangle, \langle 64, 1 \rangle]$
(64, 96, 192)	[64, 6, 32]*	$2^{47} \cdot 3^2 \cdot 5 \cdot 7 \cdot 31$	$[(0, 1), \langle 32, 62 \rangle, \langle 64, 1 \rangle]$
(128, 64, 192)	[128, 8, 56]	$2^{79} \cdot 3^4 \cdot 5 \cdot 7$	$[(0, 1), \langle 56, 64 \rangle, \langle 64, 126 \rangle, \langle 72, 64 \rangle, \langle 128, 1 \rangle]$

Using Theorem 3.1 we obtain the following statement.

**Corollary 3.3.** *Let  $\mathcal{D} = (\mathcal{P}, \mathcal{B}, \mathcal{I})$  be a 2-( $v, k, \lambda$ ) design with an automorphism group  $G$  and let  $O$  be the corresponding orbit matrix. If  $w_0 = 1$  and a prime  $p$  divides  $r, \lambda$  and  $w_h$ , for all  $h \in \{1, 2, \dots, d\}$  such that  $n_h \neq 0$ , then the code spanned by the rows of  $O$  corresponding to orbits of length  $w_0$  is a self-orthogonal code of length  $n$  over  $\mathbb{F}_q$ , where  $q = p^c$ .*

*Proof.* Let  $\nu_s = \nu_t = w_0 = 1$ , where  $1 \leq s \leq t \leq M_1$  (Figure 2), and  $O = (o_{ij})$ .

$O$		$n_0$	$n_1$	$n_2$	$\dots$	$n_d$
		1 $\dots$ 1	$w_1$ $\dots$ $w_1$	$w_2$ $\dots$ $w_2$	$\dots$	$w_d$ $\dots$ $w_d$
$m_0$	1 $\vdots$ 1					
$m_1$	$w_1$ $\vdots$ $w_1$					
$m_2$	$w_2$ $\vdots$ $w_2$					
$\vdots$	$\vdots$				$\ddots$	
$m_d$	$w_d$ $\vdots$ $w_d$					

FIGURE 2. A submatrix of the orbit matrix  $O$  related to the Corollary 3.3

Then

$$\sum_{j=1}^n o_{sj} o_{tj} = \sum_{\substack{h=0 \\ n_h \neq 0}}^d \left( \sum_{j=1+N_h}^{N_{h+1}} o_{sj} o_{tj} \right) = \sum_{j=1+N_0}^{N_1} o_{sj} o_{tj} + \sum_{\substack{h=1 \\ n_h \neq 0}}^d \left( \sum_{j=1+N_h}^{N_{h+1}} o_{sj} o_{tj} \right)$$

From (2.2), we get

$$\begin{aligned} \sum_{j=1}^n o_{sj} o_{tj} &= \sum_{j=1}^{N_1} o_{sj} o_{tj} + \sum_{\substack{h=1 \\ n_h \neq 0}}^d \left( \sum_{j=1+N_h}^{N_{h+1}} \gamma_{sj} \frac{\beta_j}{\nu_s} \gamma_{tj} \frac{\beta_j}{\nu_t} \right) \\ &= \sum_{j=1}^{N_1} o_{sj} o_{tj} + \sum_{\substack{h=1 \\ n_h \neq 0}}^d \left( \sum_{j=1+N_h}^{N_{h+1}} \gamma_{sj} \frac{w_h}{w_0} \gamma_{tj} \frac{w_h}{w_0} \right) \\ &= \sum_{j=1}^{N_1} o_{sj} o_{tj} + \sum_{\substack{h=1 \\ n_h \neq 0}}^d (pb_h)^2 \sum_{j=1+N_h}^{N_{h+1}} \gamma_{sj} \gamma_{tj}, \end{aligned}$$

where  $pb_h = w_h$  when  $h \in \{1, \dots, d\}$  and  $n_h \neq 0$ .

Since  $p$  divides  $r, \lambda$  and  $w_h$ , for all  $h \in \{1, 2, \dots, d\}$  such that  $n_h \neq 0$  it follows from Theorem 3.1 that  $\sum_{j=1}^{N_1} o_{sj} o_{tj} \equiv 0 \pmod{p}$ . Thus, the

linear code spanned by the rows corresponding to orbits of length 1 is a self-orthogonal code of length  $n$  over  $\mathbb{F}_q$ , where  $q = p^c$ .  $\square$

Theorem 3.1 gives us the conditions under which a self-orthogonal code can be constructed from a fixed part of an orbit matrix. The next theorem gives the construction of a self-orthogonal code also from the other submatrices of an orbit matrix, but some additional properties are required.

**Theorem 3.4.** *Let  $\mathcal{D} = (\mathcal{P}, \mathcal{B}, \mathcal{I})$  be a  $2$ -( $v, k, \lambda$ ) design with an automorphism group  $G$  and let  $O$  be the corresponding orbit matrix such that  $pw_h|w_\ell$  for  $h < \ell$  ( $pw_\ell|w_h$  for  $h > \ell$ ), where  $n_h \neq 0$  and  $0 \leq \ell \leq d$ . If a prime  $p$  divides  $r - \lambda$  then the code spanned by the rows of the submatrix of  $O$  corresponding to orbits of length  $w_\ell$  is a self-orthogonal code of length  $n_\ell$  over  $\mathbb{F}_q$ , where  $q = p^c$ .*

*Proof.* Let  $\nu_s = \nu_t = w_\ell$ , where  $1 + M_\ell \leq s \leq t \leq M_{\ell+1}$  (Figure 3), and  $O = (o_{ij})$ .

$O$		$n_0$			$n_1$			$\dots$	$n_\ell$			$\dots$	$n_d$		
		$w_0$	$\dots$	$w_0$	$w_1$	$\dots$	$w_1$	$\dots$	$w_\ell$	$\dots$	$w_\ell$	$\dots$	$w_d$	$\dots$	$w_d$
$m_0$	$w_0$														
	$\vdots$														
	$w_0$														
$m_1$	$w_1$														
	$\vdots$														
	$w_1$														
$\vdots$	$\vdots$							$\ddots$							
$m_\ell$	$w_\ell$														
	$\vdots$														
	$w_\ell$														
$\vdots$	$\vdots$											$\ddots$			
$m_d$	$w_d$														
	$\vdots$														
	$w_d$														

FIGURE 3. Submatrices of the orbit matrix  $O$  related to the Theorem 3.4

Then

$$\begin{aligned}
\sum_{j=1}^n \frac{\nu_t}{\beta_j} o_{sj} o_{tj} &= \sum_{\substack{h=0 \\ n_h \neq 0}}^d \left( \sum_{j=1+N_h}^{N_{h+1}} \frac{w_\ell}{w_h} o_{sj} o_{tj} \right) \\
&= \sum_{\substack{h=0 \\ n_h \neq 0}}^{\ell-1} \left( \sum_{j=1+N_h}^{N_{h+1}} \frac{w_\ell}{w_h} o_{sj} o_{tj} \right) + \sum_{j=1+N_\ell}^{N_{\ell+1}} \frac{w_\ell}{w_\ell} o_{sj} o_{tj} \\
&\quad + \sum_{\substack{h=\ell+1 \\ n_h \neq 0}}^d \left( \sum_{j=1+N_h}^{N_{h+1}} \frac{w_\ell}{w_h} o_{sj} o_{tj} \right).
\end{aligned}$$

From (2.1) follows

$$\begin{aligned}
\sum_{j=1+N_\ell}^{N_{\ell+1}} o_{sj} o_{tj} &= \lambda w_\ell + \delta_{st}(r - \lambda) - \sum_{\substack{h=0 \\ n_h \neq 0}}^{\ell-1} \left( \sum_{j=1+N_h}^{N_{h+1}} \frac{w_\ell}{w_h} o_{sj} o_{tj} \right) \\
&\quad - \sum_{\substack{h=\ell+1 \\ n_h \neq 0}}^d \left( \sum_{j=1+N_h}^{N_{h+1}} \frac{w_\ell}{w_h} o_{sj} o_{tj} \right).
\end{aligned}$$

From (2.2) and  $pw_h|w_\ell$  for all  $h \in \{0, \dots, \ell-1\}$  such that  $n_h \neq 0$ , we get

$$\begin{aligned}
\sum_{j=1+N_\ell}^{N_{\ell+1}} o_{sj} o_{tj} &= \lambda w_\ell + \delta_{st}(r - \lambda) - \sum_{\substack{h=0 \\ n_h \neq 0}}^{\ell-1} pc_h \sum_{j=1+N_h}^{N_{h+1}} o_{sj} o_{tj} \\
&\quad - \sum_{\substack{h=\ell+1 \\ n_h \neq 0}}^d \sum_{j=1+N_h}^{N_{h+1}} \frac{w_\ell}{w_h} \gamma_{sj} \frac{w_h}{w_\ell} \gamma_{tj} \frac{w_h}{w_\ell},
\end{aligned}$$

where  $pc_h = \frac{w_\ell}{w_h}$  when  $0 \leq h < \ell$  and  $n_h \neq 0$ . Since  $pw_\ell|w_h$  for all  $h \in \{\ell+1, \dots, d\}$  such that  $n_h \neq 0$ , it holds

$$\begin{aligned}
\sum_{j=1+N_\ell}^{N_{\ell+1}} o_{sj} o_{tj} &= \lambda w_\ell + \delta_{st}(r - \lambda) - \sum_{\substack{h=0 \\ n_h \neq 0}}^{\ell-1} pc_h \sum_{j=1+N_h}^{N_{h+1}} o_{sj} o_{tj} \\
&\quad - \sum_{\substack{h=\ell+1 \\ n_h \neq 0}}^d pb_h \sum_{j=1+N_h}^{N_{h+1}} \gamma_{sj} \gamma_{tj},
\end{aligned}$$

where  $pb_h = \frac{w_h}{w_\ell}$  when  $h \in \{\ell+1, \dots, d\}$  and  $n_h \neq 0$ .



Further, since  $p$  divides  $w_\ell$  and  $r - \lambda$ , it follows that  $\sum_{j=1+N_\ell}^{N_{\ell+1}} o_{sj} o_{tj} \equiv 0 \pmod{p}$ . Thus, the linear code spanned by the rows corresponding to orbits of length  $w_\ell$  is a self-orthogonal code of length  $N_{\ell+1} - N_\ell = n_\ell$  over  $\mathbb{F}_q$ , where  $q = p^c$ .  $\square$

In the next example, we use Theorem 3.4 to construct self-orthogonal codes from submatrices of orbit matrices of Steiner 2-(45, 5, 1) designs.

**Example 3.5.** *Recently, the existence of 35 new 2-(45, 5, 1) designs has been established in [10]. Incidence matrices of 30 previously known 2-(45, 5, 1) designs are available at [14] (see also [4], [6], [13], [15]). We used the orbit matrices of all known 2-(45, 5, 1) designs that can be obtained for an action of a group of order 4. From these we constructed self-orthogonal binary codes. Since  $p = 2$ ,  $r - \lambda = 10$ , and the orbit lengths can be 1, 2 or 4, the conditions of Theorem 3.4 are satisfied.*

*In Tables 2 and 3, we present self-orthogonal binary codes from orbits of length 4 from orbit matrices for the action of group  $Z_4$  and  $E_4$ , respectively. In the first column of the table, the corresponding distributions of orbit lengths are given, where  $d_i$  denotes the number of block orbits of length  $i$ , for  $i \in \{1, 2, 4\}$ . As in the previous example, in these orbit matrices, in addition to the part corresponding to orbits of length 4, there is also a part corresponding to orbits of length 1 and 2, so we can not obtain these results with the constructions known so far. Optimal codes are denoted by \*, and near-optimal codes are denoted by \*\*.*

TABLE 2. Codes from the parts corresponding to the orbits of length 4 from the orbit matrices for  $Z_4$  acting on 2-(45, 5, 1) designs

$(d_1, d_2, d_4)$	$C$	$ \text{Aut}(C) $	<i>Weight Distribution</i>
(3, 8, 20)	[20, 5, 8]**	$2^{12}$	$[\langle 0, 1 \rangle, \langle 8, 14 \rangle, \langle 12, 16 \rangle, \langle 16, 1 \rangle]$
(3, 8, 20)	[20, 6, 8]*	$2^9$	$[\langle 0, 1 \rangle, \langle 8, 32 \rangle, \langle 12, 28 \rangle, \langle 16, 3 \rangle]$
(3, 4, 22)	[22, 6, 6]	$2^4$	$[\langle 0, 1 \rangle, \langle 6, 1 \rangle, \langle 8, 9 \rangle, \langle 10, 19 \rangle, \langle 12, 22 \rangle, \langle 14, 11 \rangle, \langle 18, 1 \rangle]$
(3, 4, 22)	[22, 7, 4]	$2^4$	$[\langle 0, 1 \rangle, \langle 4, 1 \rangle, \langle 6, 1 \rangle, \langle 8, 19 \rangle, \langle 10, 39 \rangle, \langle 12, 43 \rangle, \langle 14, 23 \rangle, \langle 18, 1 \rangle]$
(3, 4, 22)	[22, 7, 4]	$2^5$	$[\langle 0, 1 \rangle, \langle 4, 1 \rangle, \langle 6, 1 \rangle, \langle 8, 23 \rangle, \langle 10, 39 \rangle, \langle 12, 35 \rangle, \langle 14, 23 \rangle, \langle 16, 4 \rangle, \langle 18, 1 \rangle]$
(3, 4, 22)	[22, 7, 4]	$2^6$	$[\langle 0, 1 \rangle, \langle 4, 2 \rangle, \langle 8, 18 \rangle, \langle 10, 40 \rangle, \langle 12, 42 \rangle, \langle 14, 24 \rangle, \langle 16, 1 \rangle]$
(3, 4, 22)	[22, 7, 4]	$2^6$	$[\langle 0, 1 \rangle, \langle 4, 1 \rangle, \langle 6, 3 \rangle, \langle 8, 21 \rangle, \langle 10, 35 \rangle, \langle 12, 39 \rangle, \langle 14, 25 \rangle, \langle 16, 2 \rangle, \langle 18, 1 \rangle]$
(3, 4, 22)	[22, 7, 4]	$2^8$	$[\langle 0, 1 \rangle, \langle 4, 2 \rangle, \langle 6, 2 \rangle, \langle 8, 18 \rangle, \langle 10, 38 \rangle, \langle 12, 42 \rangle, \langle 14, 22 \rangle, \langle 16, 1 \rangle, \langle 18, 2 \rangle]$
(1, 5, 22)	[22, 8, 4]	$2^4 \cdot 3$	$[\langle 0, 1 \rangle, \langle 4, 1 \rangle, \langle 8, 75 \rangle, \langle 12, 163 \rangle, \langle 16, 16 \rangle]$
(1, 5, 22)	[22, 8, 4]	$2^9$	$[\langle 0, 1 \rangle, \langle 4, 2 \rangle, \langle 8, 76 \rangle, \langle 12, 158 \rangle, \langle 16, 19 \rangle]$
(3, 4, 22)	[22, 8, 4]	$2^9$	$[\langle 0, 1 \rangle, \langle 4, 4 \rangle, \langle 6, 2 \rangle, \langle 8, 46 \rangle, \langle 10, 78 \rangle, \langle 12, 68 \rangle, \langle 14, 46 \rangle, \langle 16, 9 \rangle, \langle 18, 2 \rangle]$
(3, 4, 22)	[22, 8, 4]	$2^{10}$	$[\langle 0, 1 \rangle, \langle 4, 4 \rangle, \langle 6, 4 \rangle, \langle 8, 42 \rangle, \langle 10, 76 \rangle, \langle 12, 76 \rangle, \langle 14, 44 \rangle, \langle 16, 5 \rangle, \langle 18, 4 \rangle]$
(3, 4, 22)	[22, 8, 6]	4	$[\langle 0, 1 \rangle, \langle 6, 8 \rangle, \langle 8, 38 \rangle, \langle 10, 80 \rangle, \langle 12, 80 \rangle, \langle 14, 40 \rangle, \langle 16, 9 \rangle]$
(3, 4, 22)	[22, 8, 6]	4	$[\langle 0, 1 \rangle, \langle 6, 10 \rangle, \langle 8, 36 \rangle, \langle 10, 76 \rangle, \langle 12, 84 \rangle, \langle 14, 42 \rangle, \langle 16, 7 \rangle]$
(3, 4, 22)	[22, 8, 6]	$2^6$	$[\langle 0, 1 \rangle, \langle 6, 8 \rangle, \langle 8, 42 \rangle, \langle 10, 80 \rangle, \langle 12, 72 \rangle, \langle 14, 40 \rangle, \langle 16, 13 \rangle]$
(1, 5, 22)	[22, 8, 8]*	$2^4$	$[\langle 0, 1 \rangle, \langle 8, 78 \rangle, \langle 12, 160 \rangle, \langle 16, 17 \rangle]$
(1, 5, 22)	[22, 8, 8]*	$2^6 \cdot 3$	$[\langle 0, 1 \rangle, \langle 8, 86 \rangle, \langle 12, 144 \rangle, \langle 16, 25 \rangle]$
(1, 5, 22)	[22, 8, 8]*	$2^{11} \cdot 3$	$[\langle 0, 1 \rangle, \langle 8, 90 \rangle, \langle 12, 136 \rangle, \langle 16, 29 \rangle]$
(3, 4, 22)	[22, 10, 4]	$2^{12}$	$[\langle 0, 1 \rangle, \langle 4, 4 \rangle, \langle 6, 32 \rangle, \langle 8, 158 \rangle, \langle 10, 320 \rangle, \langle 12, 308 \rangle, \langle 14, 160 \rangle, \langle 16, 41 \rangle]$
(1, 5, 22)	[22, 10, 4]	$2^{12} \cdot 3^2$	$[\langle 0, 1 \rangle, \langle 4, 4 \rangle, \langle 8, 318 \rangle, \langle 12, 628 \rangle, \langle 16, 73 \rangle]$
(1, 5, 22)	[22, 10, 4]	$2^{12} \cdot 3^2$	$[\langle 0, 1 \rangle, \langle 4, 8 \rangle, \langle 8, 306 \rangle, \langle 12, 640 \rangle, \langle 16, 69 \rangle]$
(3, 4, 22)	[22, 10, 4]	$2^{12} \cdot 3^2$	$[\langle 0, 1 \rangle, \langle 4, 8 \rangle, \langle 6, 32 \rangle, \langle 8, 146 \rangle, \langle 10, 320 \rangle, \langle 12, 320 \rangle, \langle 14, 160 \rangle, \langle 16, 37 \rangle]$
(3, 4, 22)	[22, 10, 6]	$3 \cdot 5 \cdot 2^8$	$[\langle 0, 1 \rangle, \langle 6, 32 \rangle, \langle 8, 170 \rangle, \langle 10, 320 \rangle, \langle 12, 296 \rangle, \langle 14, 160 \rangle, \langle 16, 45 \rangle]$
(1, 5, 22)	[22, 10, 8]*	$2^8 \cdot 3^2 \cdot 5 \cdot 7 \cdot 11$	$[\langle 0, 1 \rangle, \langle 8, 330 \rangle, \langle 12, 616 \rangle, \langle 16, 77 \rangle]$

TABLE 3. Codes from the parts corresponding to the orbits of length 4 from the orbit matrices for  $Z_2 \times Z_2$  acting on 2-(45, 5, 1) designs

$(d_1, d_2, d_4)$	$C$	$ \text{Aut}(C) $	Weight Distribution
(5, 17, 15)	$[15, 3, 8]^*$	$2^7 \cdot 3^5$	$[\langle 0, 1 \rangle, \langle 8, 6 \rangle, \langle 12, 1 \rangle]$
(5, 17, 15)	$[15, 4, 4]^*$	$2^9 \cdot 3$	$[\langle 0, 1 \rangle, \langle 4, 1 \rangle, \langle 8, 13 \rangle, \langle 12, 1 \rangle]$
(3, 16, 16)	$[16, 4, 8]^*$	$2^{10} \cdot 3$	$[\langle 0, 1 \rangle, \langle 8, 13 \rangle, \langle 12, 2 \rangle]$
(3, 16, 16)	$[16, 5, 4]$	$2^9$	$[\langle 0, 1 \rangle, \langle 4, 2 \rangle, \langle 8, 25 \rangle, \langle 12, 4 \rangle]$
(3, 16, 16)	$[16, 5, 4]$	$2^{11}$	$[\langle 0, 1 \rangle, \langle 4, 3 \rangle, \langle 8, 23 \rangle, \langle 12, 5 \rangle]$
(3, 16, 16)	$[16, 5, 4]$	$2^8 \cdot 3^2$	$[\langle 0, 1 \rangle, \langle 4, 1 \rangle, \langle 8, 27 \rangle, \langle 12, 3 \rangle]$
(5, 9, 19)	$[19, 5, 6]$	$2^4 \cdot 3$	$[\langle 0, 1 \rangle, \langle 6, 1 \rangle, \langle 8, 9 \rangle, \langle 10, 14 \rangle, \langle 12, 6 \rangle, \langle 14, 1 \rangle]$
(5, 9, 19)	$[19, 5, 8]^*$	$2^7 \cdot 3^2$	$[\langle 0, 1 \rangle, \langle 8, 9 \rangle, \langle 10, 16 \rangle, \langle 12, 6 \rangle]$
(5, 9, 19)	$[19, 6, 4]$	$2^6$	$[\langle 0, 1 \rangle, \langle 4, 1 \rangle, \langle 6, 2 \rangle, \langle 8, 19 \rangle, \langle 10, 28 \rangle, \langle 12, 11 \rangle, \langle 14, 2 \rangle]$
(5, 9, 19)	$[19, 6, 4]$	$2^{10}$	$[\langle 0, 1 \rangle, \langle 4, 2 \rangle, \langle 8, 18 \rangle, \langle 10, 32 \rangle, \langle 12, 10 \rangle, \langle 16, 1 \rangle]$
(5, 9, 19)	$[19, 6, 4]$	$2^9 \cdot 3$	$[\langle 0, 1 \rangle, \langle 4, 3 \rangle, \langle 8, 15 \rangle, \langle 10, 32 \rangle, \langle 12, 13 \rangle]$

The next corollary is a consequence of Theorem 3.4.

**Corollary 3.6.** *Let  $\mathcal{D} = (\mathcal{P}, \mathcal{B}, \mathcal{I})$  be a 2- $(v, k, \lambda)$  design with an automorphism group  $G$  and let  $O$  be the corresponding orbit matrix such that  $pw_h|w_\ell$  for  $h < \ell$  ( $pw_\ell|w_h$  for  $h > \ell$ ), where  $n_h \neq 0$  and  $0 \leq \ell \leq d$ . Let  $A_\ell$  be the submatrix of  $O$  such that the rows of  $A_\ell$  correspond to orbits of length  $w_\ell$  and the columns of  $A_\ell$  correspond to orbits of length greater than or equal to  $w_\ell$ . If a prime  $p$  divides  $r - \lambda$ , then the code spanned by the rows of the submatrix  $A_\ell$  is a self-orthogonal code of length  $n - N_\ell$  over  $\mathbb{F}_q$ , where  $q = p^c$ .*

*Proof.* Let  $\nu_s = \nu_t = w_\ell$ , where  $1 + M_\ell \leq s \leq t \leq M_{\ell+1}$  (Figure 4), and  $O = (o_{ij})$ .

Then

$$\sum_{j=1+N_\ell}^n o_{sj} o_{tj} = \sum_{\substack{h=\ell \\ n_h \neq 0}}^d \left( \sum_{j=1+N_h}^{N_{h+1}} o_{sj} o_{tj} \right) = \sum_{j=1+N_\ell}^{N_{\ell+1}} o_{sj} o_{tj} + \sum_{\substack{h=\ell+1 \\ n_h \neq 0}}^d \left( \sum_{j=1+N_h}^{N_{h+1}} o_{sj} o_{tj} \right)$$

From (2.2) we get

$$\begin{aligned} \sum_{j=1+N_\ell}^n o_{sj} o_{tj} &= \sum_{j=1+N_\ell}^{N_{\ell+1}} o_{sj} o_{tj} + \sum_{\substack{h=\ell+1 \\ n_h \neq 0}}^d \left( \sum_{j=1+N_h}^{N_{h+1}} \gamma_{sj} \frac{\beta_j}{\nu_s} \gamma_{tj} \frac{\beta_j}{\nu_t} \right) \\ &= \sum_{j=1+N_\ell}^{N_{\ell+1}} o_{sj} o_{tj} + \sum_{\substack{h=\ell+1 \\ n_h \neq 0}}^d \left( \sum_{j=1+N_h}^{N_{h+1}} \gamma_{sj} \frac{w_h}{w_\ell} \gamma_{tj} \frac{w_h}{w_\ell} \right). \end{aligned}$$

$O$		$n_0$	$n_1$	$\dots$	$n_\ell$	$\dots$	$n_d$
		$w_0 \dots w_0$	$w_1 \dots w_1$	$\dots$	$w_\ell \dots w_\ell$	$\dots$	$w_d \dots w_d$
$m_0$	$w_0$ $\vdots$ $w_0$	$A_0$					
$m_1$	$w_1$ $\vdots$ $w_1$		$A_1$				
$\vdots$	$\vdots$			$\ddots$			
$m_\ell$	$w_\ell$ $\vdots$ $w_\ell$				$A_\ell$		
$\vdots$	$\vdots$					$\ddots$	
$m_d$	$w_d$ $\vdots$ $w_d$						$A_d$

FIGURE 4. Submatrices of the orbit matrix  $O$  related to the Corollary 3.6

Since  $pw_\ell | w_h$  for all  $h \in \{\ell + 1, \dots, d\}$  such that  $n_h \neq 0$  we have

$$\sum_{j=1+N_\ell}^n o_{sj} o_{tj} = \sum_{j=1+N_\ell}^{N_{\ell+1}} o_{sj} o_{tj} + \sum_{\substack{h=\ell+1 \\ n_h \neq 0}}^d (pb_h)^2 \sum_{j=1+N_h}^{N_{h+1}} \gamma_{sj} \gamma_{tj},$$

where  $pb_h = \frac{w_h}{w_\ell}$  when  $h \in \{\ell + 1, \dots, d\}$  and  $n_h \neq 0$ .

From Theorem 3.4 it follows that  $\sum_{j=1+N_\ell}^n o_{sj} o_{tj} \equiv 0 \pmod{p}$ , and the linear code spanned by the rows of the submatrix  $A_\ell$  is a self-orthogonal code of length  $n - N_\ell$  over  $\mathbb{F}_q$ , where  $q = p^c$ .

□

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