

# The Density of Costas Arrays Decays Exponentially

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## Objects of Interest:

"Costas Arrays"  $\hat{=}$  permutation matrices with certain constraints

arising in Engineering Applications  
(Radar, Sonar, —)

Question: How many "Costas Arrays" are there?

This Talk: Resolve "Exponential Decay" Conjecture:

$$\frac{\# \text{ } n \times n \text{ Costas Arrays}}{\# \text{ } n \times n \text{ Permutation Matrices}} \leq e^{-cn} \quad \text{for some } c > 0$$

Motivation: Why should we care?

- Natural Enumerative Question
- Interest from Engineering / Applications
- Testbed for probabilistic techniques

# Costas Arrays (J. Costas 1960s ; Navy Research)

Permutation Matrix where all vectors between different ones are distinct

Example:

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

Non-Examples:

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

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

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

How used?

To determine transmit Frequencies & Times

Frequency

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

Time

Key Combinatorial Property:

No shift of Time ( $\Leftrightarrow$ ) and Frequency ( $\Uparrow$ )  
can make any two different ones coincide

Quantity of Interest:  $C(n) = \#$   $n \times n$  Costas-Arrays  
(This talk)

# Background: Asymptotic Bounds

$C(n)$  = #  $n \times n$  Costas-Arrays ( $\hat{=}$  Permutation Matrices with Constraints)

## Algebraic constructions:

Golomb-Taylor 1984

Gilbert 1964

$C(n) \geq 1$  for  $\infty$  many  $n$  (e.g.  $n = \text{prime} - 1$ )

in fact  $C(n) \geq n^{2-\epsilon}$

## Second Moment Method:

Benjamin Weiss 1984/85

Victor Reiner 1986

Huw Davies 1989

$$\frac{C(n)}{n!} \leq O\left(\frac{1}{n}\right)$$

"Polynomial Decay"

resolved one of 10 Fundamental OPEN PROBLEMS  
(Golomb-Taylor List 1984)

## Conjecture:

Folklore late 1980s

Drakakis 2011

$$\frac{C(n)}{n!} \leq e^{-\Omega(n)}$$

"Exponential Decay"

Core Theoretical Problem

(2011 Update of Golomb-Taylor List)

$C(n) = \#$   $n \times n$  Costas-Arrays  $\left( \hat{=} \text{Permutation Matrices where all vectors between different ones are distinct} \right)$

Main Result (Correl, Swanson, W. 2021+)

Exponential decay:  $\frac{C(n)}{n!} \leq e^{-cn}$  for all  $n \geq 3$

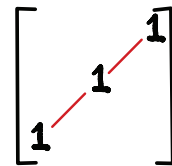
- Verifies Core Problem + Speculations From 1980s
- Nearly best possible:
  - $\frac{C(n)}{n!} \geq \frac{1}{n!} \geq \tilde{n}^{-n} = e^{-n \log \tilde{n}}$  for  $\infty$  many  $n$
  - $n \geq 3$  needed:  $\frac{C(n)}{n!} = 1$  for  $n \in \{1, 2\}$
- Proof: "Disjoint Approximation" Idea from Random Graph Theory.  
(to exploit Bounded Differences Inequality for Random Permutations)

## Proof-Idea

① Find Forbidden "combinatorial" configuration:

Costas Arrays do not contain three equally spaced co-linear ones:

$X = \#$  of these configurations in  
Random  $n \times n$  Permutation Matrix



② Exploit Probabilistic Interpretation:

$$\frac{C(n)}{n!} = \mathbb{P}(\text{Random } n \times n \text{ Perm. Matrix is Costas Array}) \leq \mathbb{P}(X=0)$$

③ Disjoint Approximation + Bounded Differences Inequality

$$\frac{C(n)}{n!} \leq \mathbb{P}(X=0) \leq \mathbb{P}(X_D=0) \leq \dots \leq e^{-\theta(n)}$$

max size of collection of three-one configurations  
counted by  $X$  that use disjoint ones

Open Problem: More precise estimate of  $\frac{C(n)}{n!}$  or  $C(n)$

$C(n)$  = #  $n \times n$  Permutation Matrices where all vectors between different ones are distinct.

We Know:  $n^{-n} \leq \frac{C(n)}{n!} \leq e^{-cn}$  For  $\infty$  many  $n$

Difficulty: Forbidden Configurations are non-standard.

$$\begin{bmatrix} 1 & 1 \\ & 1 & 1 \end{bmatrix} \quad \begin{bmatrix} & 1 & 1 \\ 1 & & 1 \\ & & & 1 \end{bmatrix} \quad \begin{bmatrix} 1 & & & \\ & 1 & & \\ & & 1 & \\ & & & 1 & 1 \end{bmatrix}$$

↑  
"more geometric than usual"

Your Ideas?

- Enumerative / Analytic Combinatorics
- Probability / Concentration / Probabilistic Combinatorics
- Ad-hoc Counting à la Stanley-Wilf Conjecture

## Summary:

$C(n) = \#$   $n \times n$  Costas-Arrays ( $\hat{=}$  Permutation Matrices with Constraints)

## Density of Costas Arrays

Exponential decay:  $\frac{C(n)}{n!} \leq e^{-cn}$  for all  $n \geq 3$

- Verifies Core Problem + Speculation from 1980s
- Proof: "Disjoint Approximation" Idea from Random Graph Theory.

## Questions:

- Better bounds on  $C(n)/n!$  or  $C(n)$  ?
- What approaches might give  $\frac{C(n)}{n!} \leq e^{-w(n)}$  ?