

On Mutually Nearly Orthogonal Latin Squares

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Two Latin squares $L = [l(i, j)]$ and $M = [m(i, j)]$, of even order n with entries $\{0, 1, 2, \dots, n-1\}$, are said to be nearly orthogonal if the superimposition of L on M yields an $n \times n$ array $A = [(l(i, j), m(i, j))]$ in which each ordered pair (x, y) , $0 \leq x, y \leq n-1$ and $x \neq y$, occurs at least once and the ordered pair $(x, x + n/2)$ occurs exactly twice.

In this talk, I will discuss an upper bound for the maximum μ for which a set of μ cyclic mutually orthogonal Latin squares (MNOLS) of order n exists and give the values of μ for $n \leq 16$. Also, I will present direct constructions for the existence of general families of 3 cyclic MNOLS of some orders and settle the spectrum question for sets of 3 MNOLS of even order, for all but the order 146.

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