Applications of Combinatorial Designs to Software Engineering, Cyber Security and Disaster Science

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Based on joint works with Charles Colbourn, Bernhard Garn, Ludwig Kampel, Ilias Kotsireas, Temur Kutsia, Manuel Leithner and Michael Wagner.

5th Pythagorean conference, Hotel Horizon Blu, June 6, 2025

Tribute to Design Theorists and some Background of the Talk

- 25 years ago, C. J. Colbourn, J. H. Dinitz and D.R. Stinson, published their seminal survey on applications of combinatorial designs to communications, cryptography, and networking *[Surveys in Combinatorics, 1999. London Mathematical Society Lecture Note Series. Cambridge University Press; pages 37-100]*

Γενική Μεταπτυχιακή Εξέταση

Συνδυαστικοί Σχεδιασμοί και εφαρμογές στην Κωδικοποίηση,
την Κρυπτογραφία, και τις Τηλεπικοινωνίες

(Combinatorial Designs and their applications, in Coding Theory,
Cryptography and Communications)

Δημήτριος Ε. Σίμος
Δόκιμος Υποψήφιος Διδάκτορας
Ε.Μ.Π.

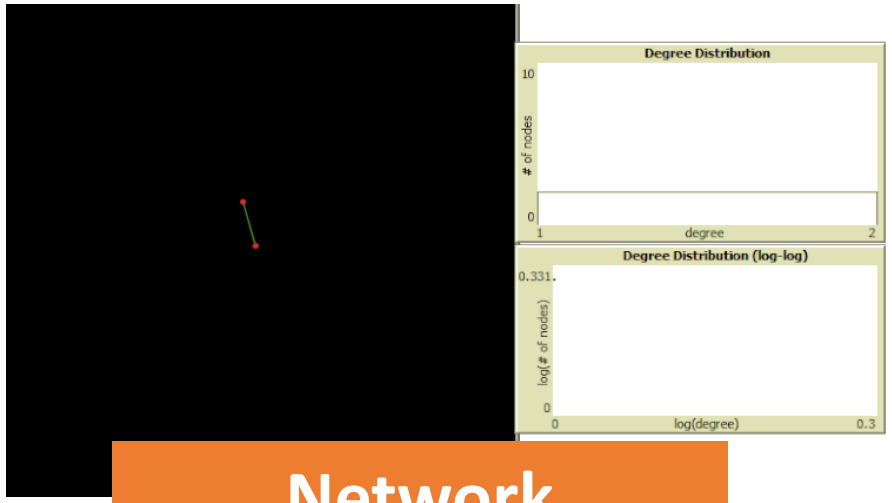
- 17 years ago, I presented my PHD proposal based on their work
- 15 years ago, I presented links between designs and telecommunications in PYTHAG4
- I still consider their work, one of the most influential which shaped me as a scientist and all researchers I was privileged to mentor – thank you ☺

Outline of the Talk

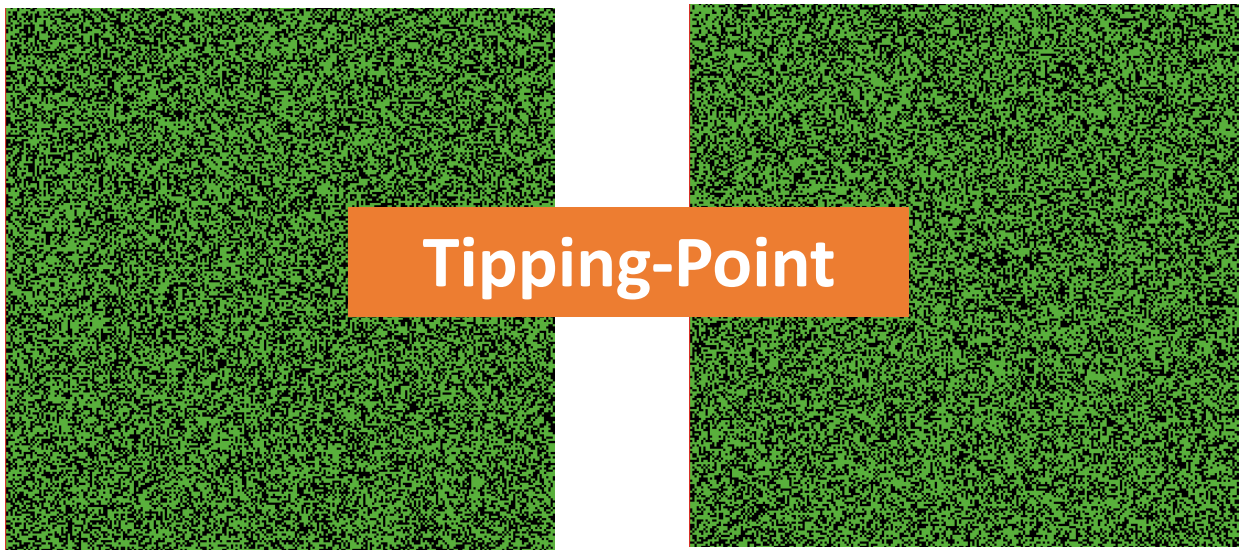
1. Critical Software / Cyber-physical Systems
2. Natural Hazards / Disasters
3. Conclusion & Future Outlook

Introduction

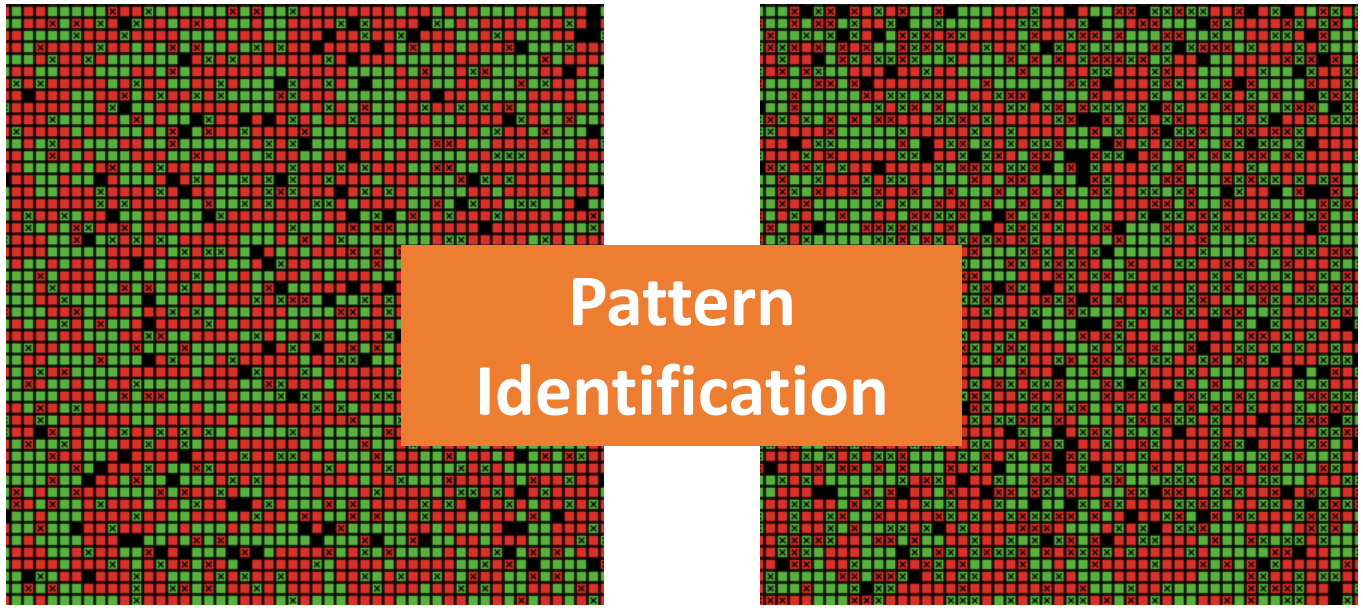
Analysis, Modelling & Simulation of Complex Systems



Network Evolution



Tipping-Point



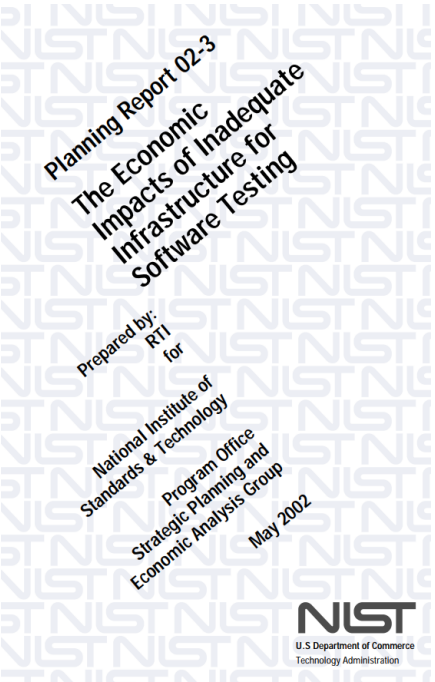
Pattern Identification

Patterns appear in Every Instance of a Complex System

- **Cyber-physical Systems (Systems Under Test / Attack Paths)**
  - **Software/System Failures**
  - **Security Vulnerabilities**
  - **Hardware Trojans**
- **Disaster Management (Natural / Technological Hazards)**
  - **Compound and Cascading Effects of Hazards**

Motivation for Combinatorial Designs in Complex Systems

- **Economic Impact:** Software testing may consume up to half of the overall software development cost ("system of systems view")
  - **Combinatorial explosion:** Exhaustive search of input space increases time needed exponentially
  - Added level of complexity for system testing and climate science (modelling real-world environments and vulnerabilities)
- How can we estimate the residual risk that remains after testing? How can we guarantee aspects of test quality (e.g. test coverage, locating faults)?



- **In this Talk:** Formulate **testing**, **reasoning** and **resilience** problems as combinatorial problems and then use efficient methods to tackle them

Advancing Testing & Security of Critical Software

Combinatorics beyond Experimental Design

Example: A Large System for Testing

- Suppose we have a system with on-off switches
- 34 switches = 2^{34} = 1.7×10^{10} possible settings

- How do we **test** this system?

Example of a Mathematical Structure used in Testing

System Under Test (SUT) with 3 Boolean Input Parameters a, b, c

- Could be function, application, configuration file, etc.
- Exhaustive test set: $2^3 = 8$ tests
- 2-way covering array (test set): 4 tests

a	b	c	(a, b)	(b, c)	(a, c)
0	0	0	(0, 0)	(0, 0)	(0, 0)
0	1	1	(0, 1)	(1, 1)	(0, 1)
1	0	1	(1, 0)	(0, 1)	(1, 1)
1	1	0	(1, 1)	(1, 0)	(1, 0)

Table 1: 2-way test set (left) covering all pairs of parameters (right)

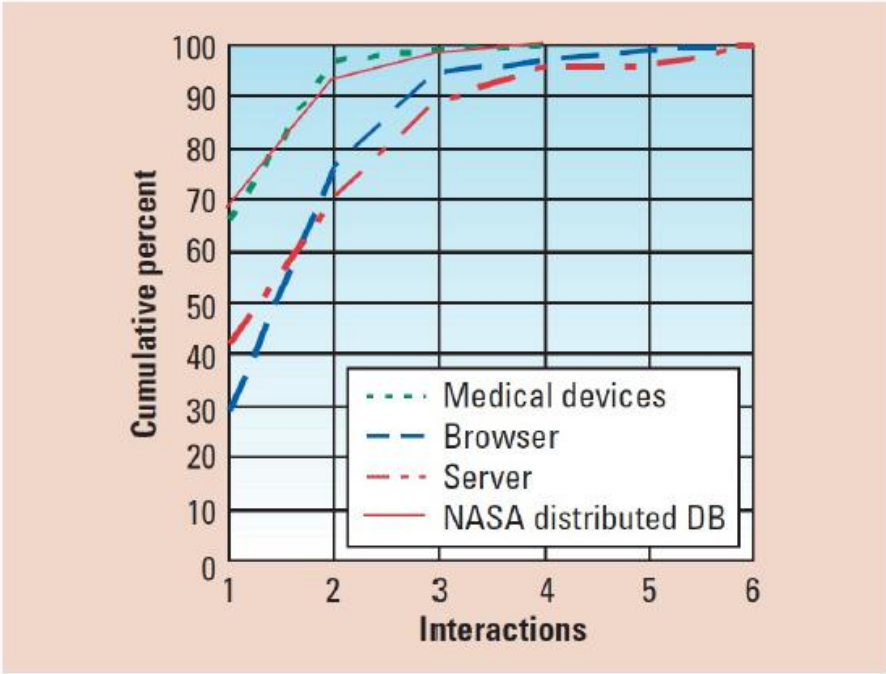
Covering Arrays $CA(N; t, k, v)$ **of Strength** t

- Cover all t-way combinations of k input parameters at least once
- Input parameters have v total values each
- Such a mathematical object has N total rows (tests)

How is this Knowledge Useful?

- Recall the system with on-off switches
- 34 switches = $2^{34} = 1.7 \times 10^{10}$ possible settings
- **Assumption: What if we knew no failure involves more than 3 switch settings interacting?**
  - If only 3-way combinations, need a CA with only 33 tests
  - If only 4-way combinations, need a CA with only 85 tests

Empirical Evidence: Fault Coverage vs. Interactions



- The maximum degree of interaction observed so far in actual real-world faults is **relatively** small (six)
  - 2-way interaction: **age** > 100 and **zip-code** = 5001, DB push fails
- Most failures are induced by single factor faults or by the **joint combinatorial effect** (interaction) of two factors, with progressively fewer failures induced by interactions between three or more factors

Combinatorial Testing (CT)

What is Combinatorial Testing?
Combinatorial Strategy for Higher Interaction Testing ($t \geq 2$)

Where it can be Applied?
To system configurations, input data or both

Key Facts:

- CT utilizes 100% coverage of t-way combinations of k input data or system configuration parameters
- Coverage is provided by **mathematical objects** (covering arrays), that are later transformed to software artifacts
- t-way tests that cover **all** such few parameter (factor) interactions can be very effective and provide strong assurance

Virtual Driving Function Testing Problem

TECH

Tesla must provide NHTSA with Autopilot recall data by July or face up to $135 million in fines

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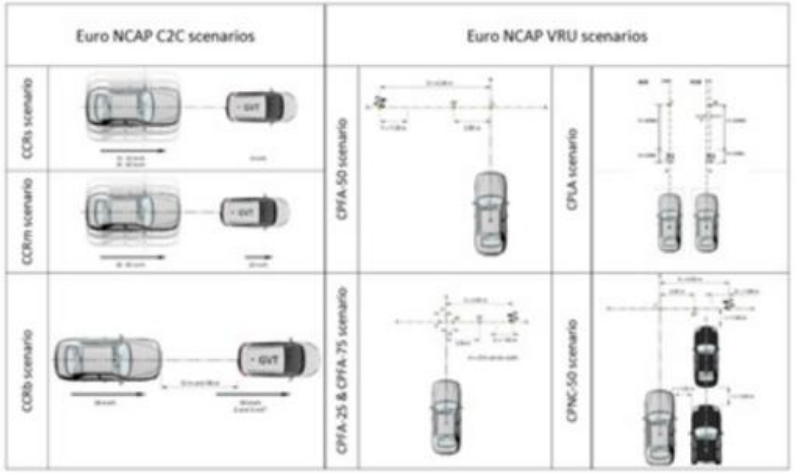
CNBC

SHARE

Virtual Driving Scenarios for testing the AEB function

IPM for Driving Scenarios

- Developed and used in previous works (Wotawa et al.[a])
- Description of traffic situation via parameters + values
  - Speed of the car: EgoVehicle1_Start_speed
  - Type of car: EgoVehicle1_VehicleType
  - Position of the car: EgoVehicle1_Offset_s
  - Number of pedestrians: NumberOfPede
- Resulting IPM consists of 39 parameters & 42 constraints:



(3, 3, 31, 3, 5, 1, 6, 4, 12, 12, 12, 10, 14, 12, 12, 12, 10, 14, 31, 4, 3, 20, 9, 3, 3, 31, 4, 3, 20, 9, 3, 3, 31, 4, 3, 20, 9, 3, 3)

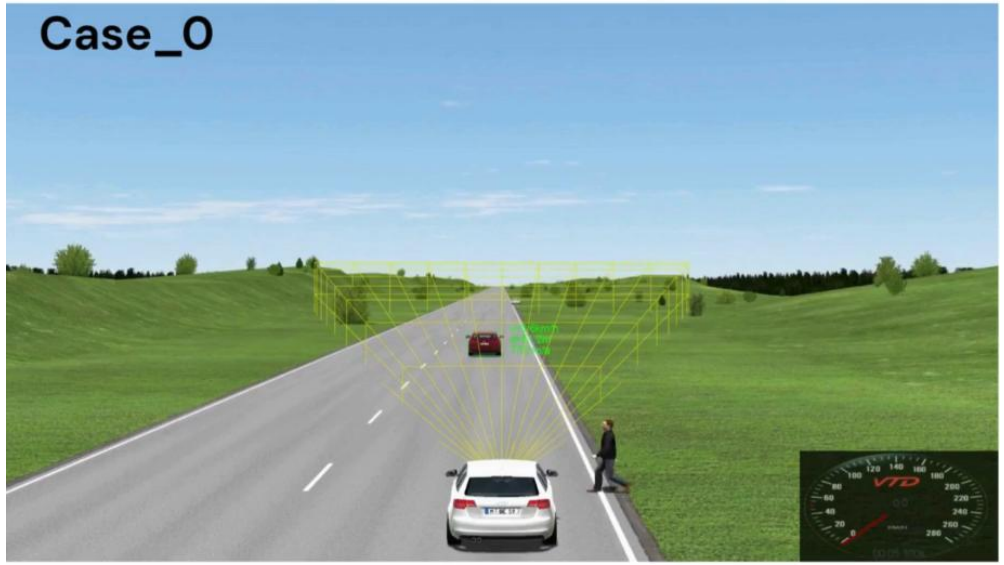
```
[Parameter]
NumberOfVehiclePlayer (enum) : 1, 2, 3
NumberOfPede (enum) : 1, 2, null
EgoVehicle1_Start_speed (enum) : 0, 1.388888889 ,2.777777778  ,4.166666667  ,5.555555556  ,6.944444444  ,8.333333333  ,9.722222222  , ...
EgoVehicle1_VehicleType (enum) : Audi_A3_2009_white, Audi_Q5_2008_red, Audi_S5_2009_black metallic
EgoVehicle1_Offset_s (enum) : -2,-1,0, 1, 2
EgoVehicle1_Offset_t (enum) : 0
EgoVehicle1_Rate (enum) : 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10
EgoVehicle1_Target_Speed (enum) : 14, 28, 42, 55
Pedestrians_Objects1_Start_speed (enum) : 0, 0.28, 0.56, 0.83, 1.11, 1.39, 1.6, 1.94, 2.22, 2.5, 2.8, null
Pedestrians_Objects1_Offset_s (enum) : 3, 4, 5,6,7,8,9,10,11,12,13, null
Pedestrians_Objects1_Offset_t (enum) : 10,11,12,13,14,15,16,17,18,19,20, null
Pedestrians_Objects1_Rate (enum) : 0, 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, null
Pedestrians_Objects1_Type (enum) : Adult, Child, Wheelchair, Animal, Ballon, Paper, Dog, Stone, Adult_w_Bicycle, Adult_w_child, custom1, custom2, custom3, null
Pedestrians_Objects2_Start_speed (enum) : 0, 0.28, 0.56, 0.83, 1.11, 1.39, 1.6, 1.94, 2.22, 2.5, 2.8, null
Pedestrians_Objects2_Offset_s (enum) : -9,-10,-11,-12,-13,-14,-15,-16,-17,-18,-19,null
```

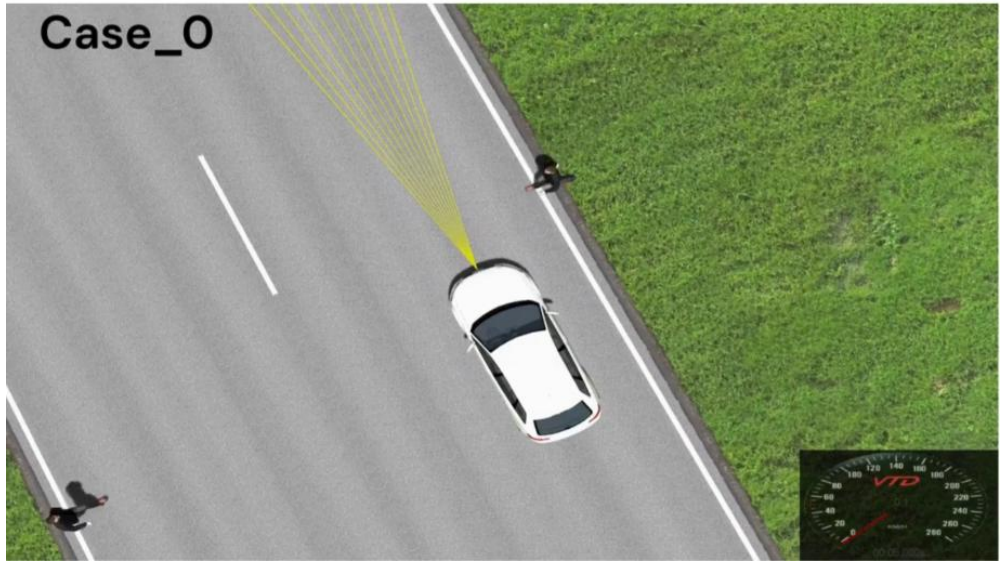
Inspection of Individual Crash Scenario

One Factor at a Time (OFAT) Strategy

- Consider single crash scenario
- Change every parameter to all other values one by one
- $\Rightarrow \geq$6-way interaction identified
  - $(-,-,-,-,1,-,-,-,-,-,1.39,-,-,-,-,10,20,-,-,\text{-}18,-,-,-,-,-,-,-,-,-,-,65,-,-,-,-,-,-,-,-,-,-)$
  - This 6-way interaction appears in millions of tests (roughly 10^{26})

EgoVehicle1_Offset_s	Pedestrains_Objects1_Start_speed	Pedestrains_Objects1_Offset_s	Pedestrains_Objects1_Offset_t	Pedestrains_Objects2_Offset_s	Vehicles_Players2_Offset_t	Oracle
1	1.39	10	20	-18	65	crash
0	1.39	10	20	-18	65	non-crash
1	0	10	20	-18	65	non-crash
1	1.39	3	20	-18	65	non-crash
1	1.39	10	10	-18	65	non-crash
1	1.39	10	20	-9	65	non-crash
1	1.39	10	20	-18	15	non-crash





Why Rigorous Security Testing of Software and Systems?

Topic — Software

Report: Software failure caused $1.7 trillion in financial losses in 2017

Published January 26, 2018 | Written by Scott Matteson

Software testing company Tricentis found that retail and consumer technology were the areas most affected, while software failures in public service and healthcare were down from the previous year.

Lack of IT-Security Specialists

- 4M Cybersecurity specialists missing worldwide [Cyber WorkForce Study 2023]
  - In EU IT-Security employees grow by 7.2% and their lack is 9.7%

The Problem of Malicious Hardware Logic Detection

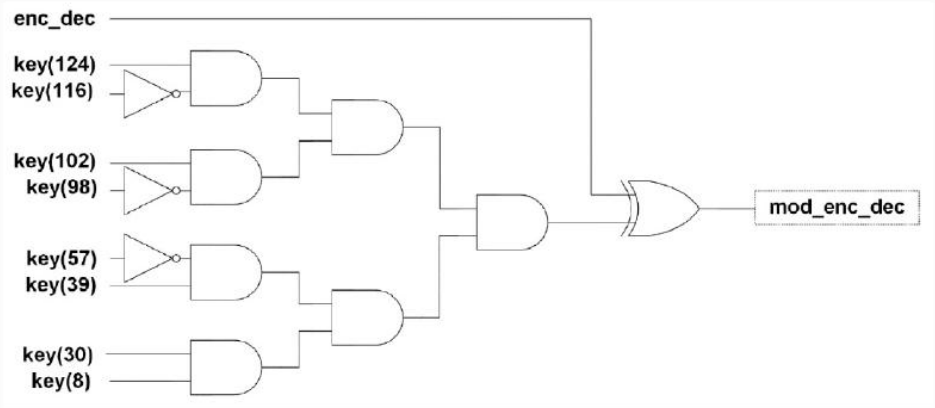
Cryptographic Trojans as Instances of Malicious Hardware

- **Scenario:** Trojans reside inside cryptographic circuits that perform encryption and decryption in FPGA technologies
  - **Examples:** Block ciphers (AES), Stream Ciphers (Mosquito)
- **Problem:** Hardware Trojan horse (HTH) detection

Combinational Trojans

A Combinational Trojan in AES-128

- Activates when a specific combination of key bits appears



- When all monitored inputs are ”1”, the Trojan payload part (just one XOR gate!) is activated
- Trojan reverses the mode of operation (DoS attack)

Trojan Design the Latest Years

Allegedly Reported Cases of Hardware Trojans

- **2007:** Syrian radar failed to warn of an incoming air strike (a backdoor built into the system's chips was rumored to be responsible)
- **2012:** Counterfeit semiconductor chips on the rise (commercial, military grade), rumored to be traced back to China

How Large are Today's Hardware Trojan Horses?

Recent study added fewer than 1,000 transistors to the 1.8 million already on the chip (a small backdoor circuit that gave access to privileged regions of chip memory)

- **Increased Awareness:** DARPA Report, 2011, US House of Representatives, 2012, US DoD Trusted Foundry Program 2012

Exciting (Triggering) Hardware Trojan Horses

Threat Model

- The attacker can control the key or the plaintext input and can observe the ciphertext output
- The attacker combines only a few signals for the activation

Input Model for Symmetric Ciphers

- **Activating Sequence:** Trojan monitors $k << 128$ key bits of AES-128
- **Attack vectors:** Model activating sequences of the Trojan (**black-box** testing); 128 binary parameters for AES-128
- **Input space:** $2^{128} = 3.4 \times 10^{38}$ for 128 bits key
  - Exhaustive testing becomes **intractable**

The Problem of Generating a Test Set

The Problem for Testing of Hardware Trojans

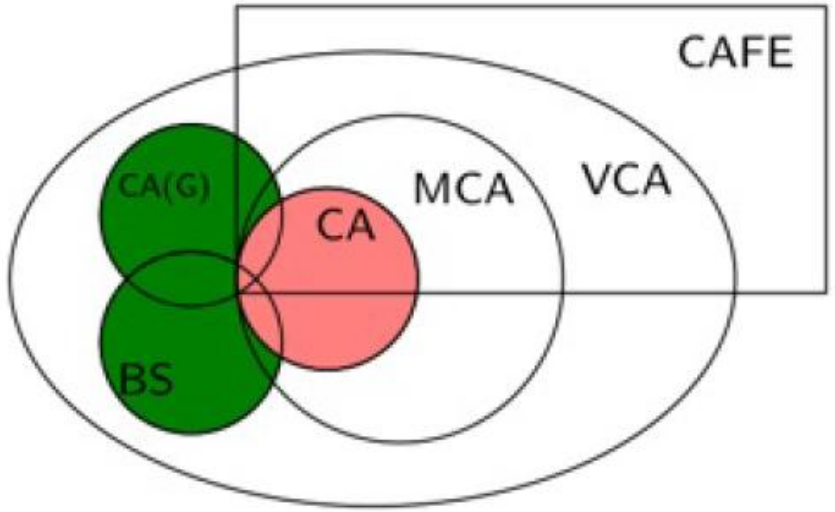
- How to efficiently test all possible k-bit input vectors for Trojan activation?

The General (Combinatorial) Test Generation Problem

Let n and $k << n$ parameters of a SUT. Construct sets of test vectors of minimal size that cover **all** possible k-subspaces

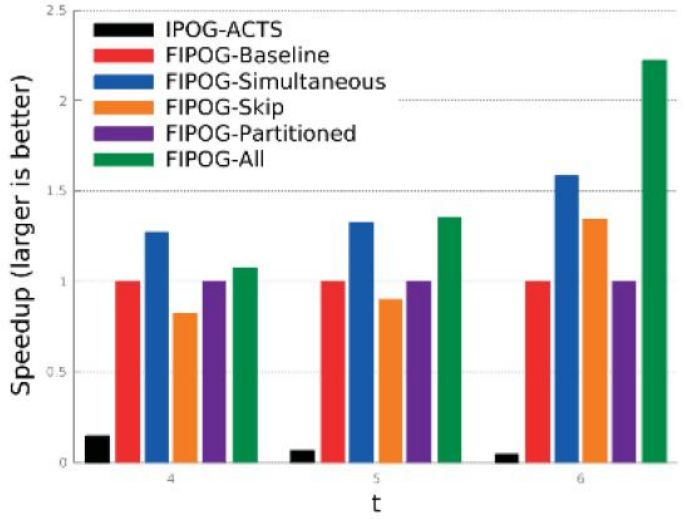
- Equivalent to finding a $CA(N; t, k, v)$ with **minimum** number of rows (also called the t-way covering problem)!
- The t-way covering problem is a **hard** combinatorial optimization problem studied for centuries

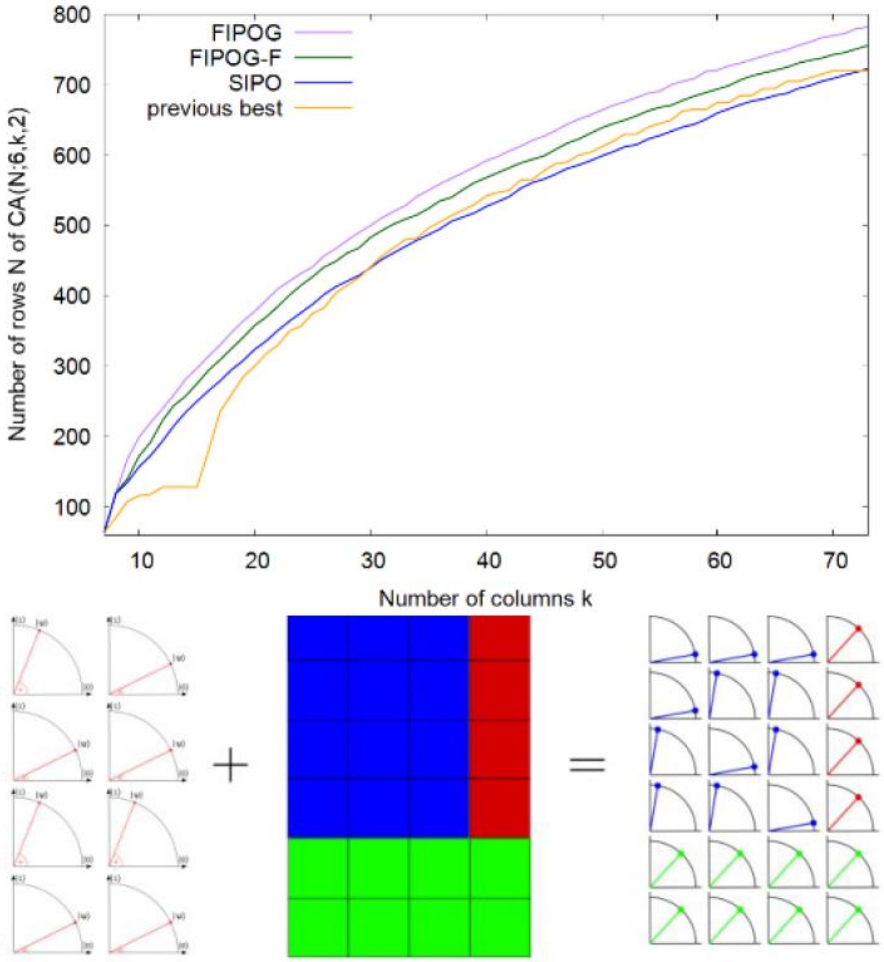
Complexity Classification of Problems of CAs

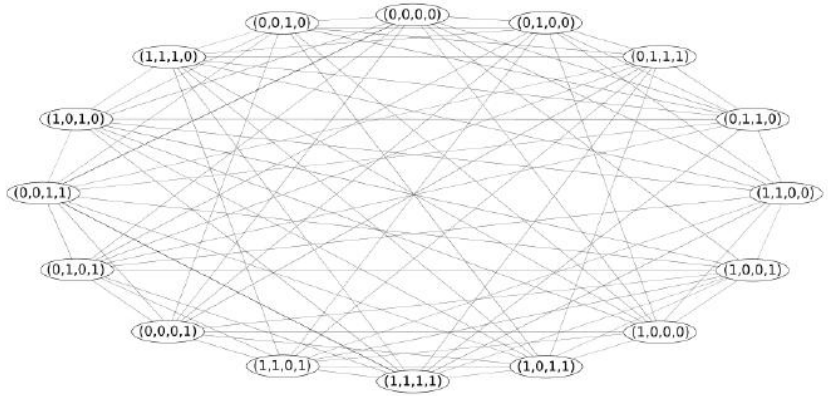


Classes of Covering Arrays	Decide Existence	Decide Size	Determine Size	Generation
optimal $CA_{2,2}$	P	P	P	P
optimal $CA_{t,v}$	P	NP	???	???
optimal $MCA_{t,v}$	P	NP	???	???
optimal BS_d	P	NP-complete	NP-hard	NP-hard
optimal $VCA_{\tau,2}$	P	NP-complete	NP-hard	NP-hard
optimal $VCA_{\tau,v}$	P	NP	???	???
optimal VCA_{τ}	P	NP-hard	NP-hard	NP-hard
optimal CA(G)	P	NP-complete	NP-hard	NP-hard
CAFE	NP-complete	NP-hard	NP-hard	NP-hard

How to Construct CAs: Greedy, Neural, Learning and Quantum Computing Algorithms



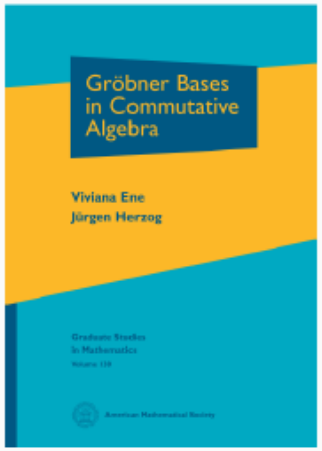


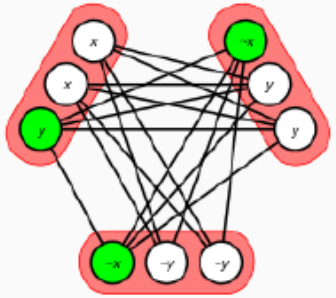


From top left clockwise: (i) speedup of efficient IPO algorithm; (ii) new optimized CAs from metaheuristic-enhanced IPO algorithm; (iii) Artificial neural networks for CA generation; (iv) quantum-inspired IPO algorithm.

How to Construct CAs: Algebraic and SAT Methods

$$\begin{pmatrix} 0 & 0 & \mathbf{x_1} \\ 1 & 0 & \mathbf{x_2} \\ 0 & 1 & \mathbf{x_3} \\ 1 & 1 & \mathbf{x_4} \end{pmatrix} \cdot \begin{pmatrix} a \\ 0 \\ b \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} b\mathbf{x_1} \\ a + \mathbf{x_2} b \\ b\mathbf{x_3} \\ a + b\mathbf{x_4} \end{pmatrix}$$





$$\begin{aligned}
x_1(x_1 - 1) &= 0 \\
x_2(x_2 - 1) &= 0 \\
x_3(x_3 - 1) &= 0 \\
x_4(x_4 - 1) &= 0 \\
(bx_1 - b)(bx_2 + a - b)(bx_3 - b)(bx_4 + a - b) &= 0 \\
(bx_1 - b)(bx_2 - b)(bx_3 + a - b)(bx_4 + a - b) &= 0 \\
(bx_1 - a - b)(bx_2 - b)(bx_3 - a - b)(bx_4 - b) &= 0 \\
(bx_1 - a - b)(bx_2 - a - b)(bx_3 - b)(bx_4 - b) &= 0 \\
b^2 x_1(bx_2 + a)x_3(bx_4 + a) &= 0 \\
b^2 x_1 x_2(bx_3 + a)(bx_4 + a) &= 0
\end{aligned}$$

How to Construct CAs: CPHF to CAs

Definition: Covering Perfect Hash Family

Given a prime power v, a *covering perfect hash family* (CPHF) $CPHF(n; k, v, t)$ is an $n \times k$ array of *permutation vectors*, where all selections of t columns contain at least one row where the t-tuple of permutation vectors is covering.

110	111	121	100	122	112	101	012	120	011
102	121	111	011	122	101	001	012	010	112

Example CPHF

A $CPHF(n; k, v, t)$ represents a $CA((v^t - 1) * n + 1; t, k, v)$.

How to Classify (partially) CAs: Balanced Covering Arrays

$(\boldsymbol{\lambda}, \boldsymbol{y})$-balanced Covering Arrays

An array is called $(\boldsymbol{\lambda}, \boldsymbol{y})$-balanced covering arrays for $\boldsymbol{\lambda} = (\lambda_1, \ldots, \lambda_t)$ and $\boldsymbol{y} = (y_1, \ldots, y_t)$, iff for all $i = 1, \ldots, t$ each i-way interaction appears at least λ_i times and at most y_i times.
Class of all $(\boldsymbol{\lambda}, \boldsymbol{y})$-balanced CAs with N rows, k columns over v-ary alphabet:

$$\mathbb{CA}_{\boldsymbol{\lambda}}^{\boldsymbol{y}}(N; t, k, v) = \bigcap_{i \in \{1,\ldots,t\}} \mathbb{CA}_{\lambda_i}(N; i, k, v) \cap \mathbb{PA}_{y_i}(N; i, k, v)$$

There exist exactly two non-equivalent $\mathrm{CA}(15; 3, 12, 2)$'s:

$$A_1 = \begin{pmatrix}
0&0&0&0&0&0&0&0&0&0&0&0\\
0&0&0&0&0&0&0&1&1&1&1&1\\
0&0&0&0&0&0&1&0&0&0&0&1\\
0&0&0&0&1&1&0&0&1&1&1&0\\
0&0&1&1&0&1&1&1&0&1&1&0\\
0&1&0&1&0&0&0&1&1&0&1&0\\
0&1&1&0&1&1&0&1&0&0&0&1\\
0&1&1&1&1&0&1&0&1&1&0&1\\
1&0&0&1&1&1&1&1&1&0&0&1\\
1&0&1&0&0&0&0&1&1&1&0&0\\
1&0&1&1&1&0&0&0&0&0&1&1\\
1&1&0&0&1&0&1&1&0&1&1&0\\
1&1&0&1&0&1&0&0&0&1&0&1\\
1&1&1&0&0&1&1&0&1&0&1&1\\
1&1&1&1&1&1&1&0&1&0&0&0
\end{pmatrix}, \qquad A_2 = \begin{pmatrix}
0&0&0&0&0&0&0&0&0&0&0&0\\
0&0&0&0&0&0&1&1&1&1&1&1\\
0&0&0&1&1&1&0&0&0&1&1&1\\
0&0&1&0&1&1&0&1&1&0&0&1\\
0&0&1&1&0&1&1&0&1&0&1&0\\
0&0&1&1&1&0&1&1&0&1&0&0\\
0&1&0&0&1&1&1&0&1&1&0&0\\
0&1&1&1&0&0&0&1&0&0&1&1\\
1&0&0&0&1&1&1&0&1&1&0&0\\
1&0&1&1&0&0&0&1&0&0&1&1\\
1&1&0&0&1&1&1&1&0&0&1&0\\
1&1&0&1&0&1&0&1&1&1&0&0\\
1&1&0&1&1&0&1&0&1&0&0&1\\
1&1&1&0&0&1&1&0&0&1&0&1\\
1&1&1&0&1&0&0&0&1&1&1&0
\end{pmatrix}$$

A_1 is a $\mathrm{CA}^{(8,5,4)}_{(7,3,1)}(15; 3, 12, 2)$

A_2 is a $\mathrm{CA}^{(8,6,4)}_{(7,2,1)}(15; 3, 12, 2)$

Optimized Test Sets for CAs for Trojan Detection

- Comparison of test set sizes using the constant weight vectors (CWV) procedure (Tang and Woo, 1983) and the CA generation methods

n	t	Lesperance et al. (2015)	CWV	ours
128	2	2^7	129	11
128	3	-	256	37
128	4	2^{13}	8, 256	112
128	5	-	16, 256	252
128	6	-	349, 504	720
128	7	-	682, 752	2, 462
128	8	2^{23}	11, 009, 376	17, 544

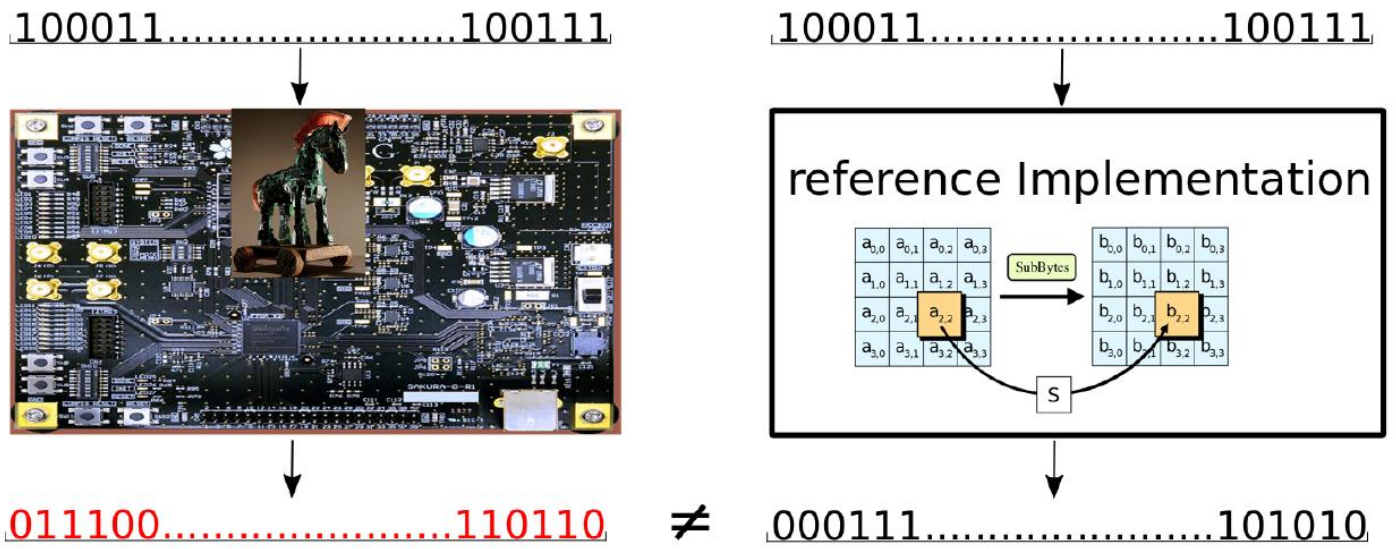
Employed CA Generation Methods:

- Simulated Annealing (SA) algorithms
- CAs from cyclotomy, constructions via Hash families

Case Study for Exciting Hardware Trojan Horses

Test Execution

- **Hardware implementation:** AES symmetric encryption algorithm over the Verilog-HDL model with the Sakura-G FPGA board



Oracle

Compare the output with a Trojan-free design of AES-128 (e.g. software implementation)

Test Results for Detecting Hardware Trojan Horses

- Test suite strength (t) vs. Trojan length (k)

t	Suite size	Number of activations		
		$k = 2$	$k = 4$	$k = 8$
2	11	5	3	0
3	37	12	4	0
4	112	32	7	1
5	252	62	14	1
6	720	307	73	6
7	2462	615	153	10
8	17544	4246	1294	178

Our Evaluation Results at a Glance

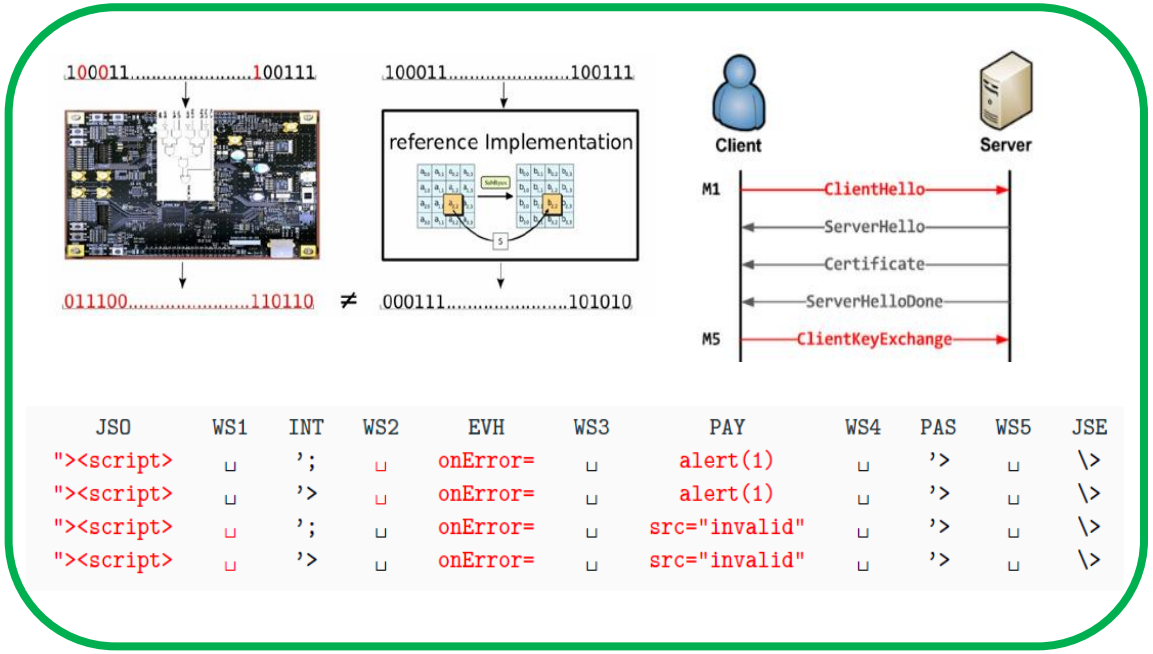
- There are about 366 ***trillion*** possible combinations for the Trojan activation;
- The whole space is covered with less than 18 ***thousands*** vectors
- .. and these vectors activate the Trojan ***hundreds*** of times

Combinatorial Security Testing (CST)

vulnerabilities found via interaction patterns

Proven-method: Rigorous testing for security

- Complex web applications:
  - XSS, SQL-i vulnerabilities
- Next generation protocol testing:
  - Parsing/input validation errors in TLS/BLE
- Intelligent and autonomous systems
  - Faults in autonomous driving functions
- Hardware Trojan Horse detection
  - Detection of Combinational Trojans



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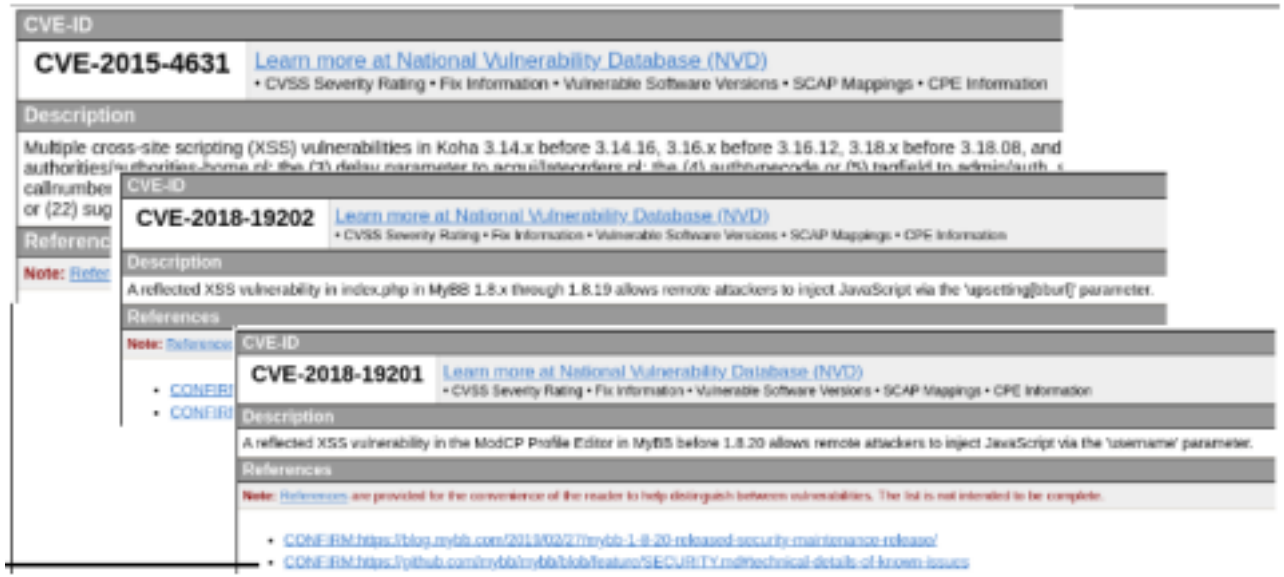


Resilience of Complex Systems

Combinatorics beyond Experimental Design

Prevention and Reduction of Disaster Risk

Several Scientific Issues need to be addressed:

- Extreme weather events
- Impact of cascading effects by natural hazards
- Multi-hazard risk reduction

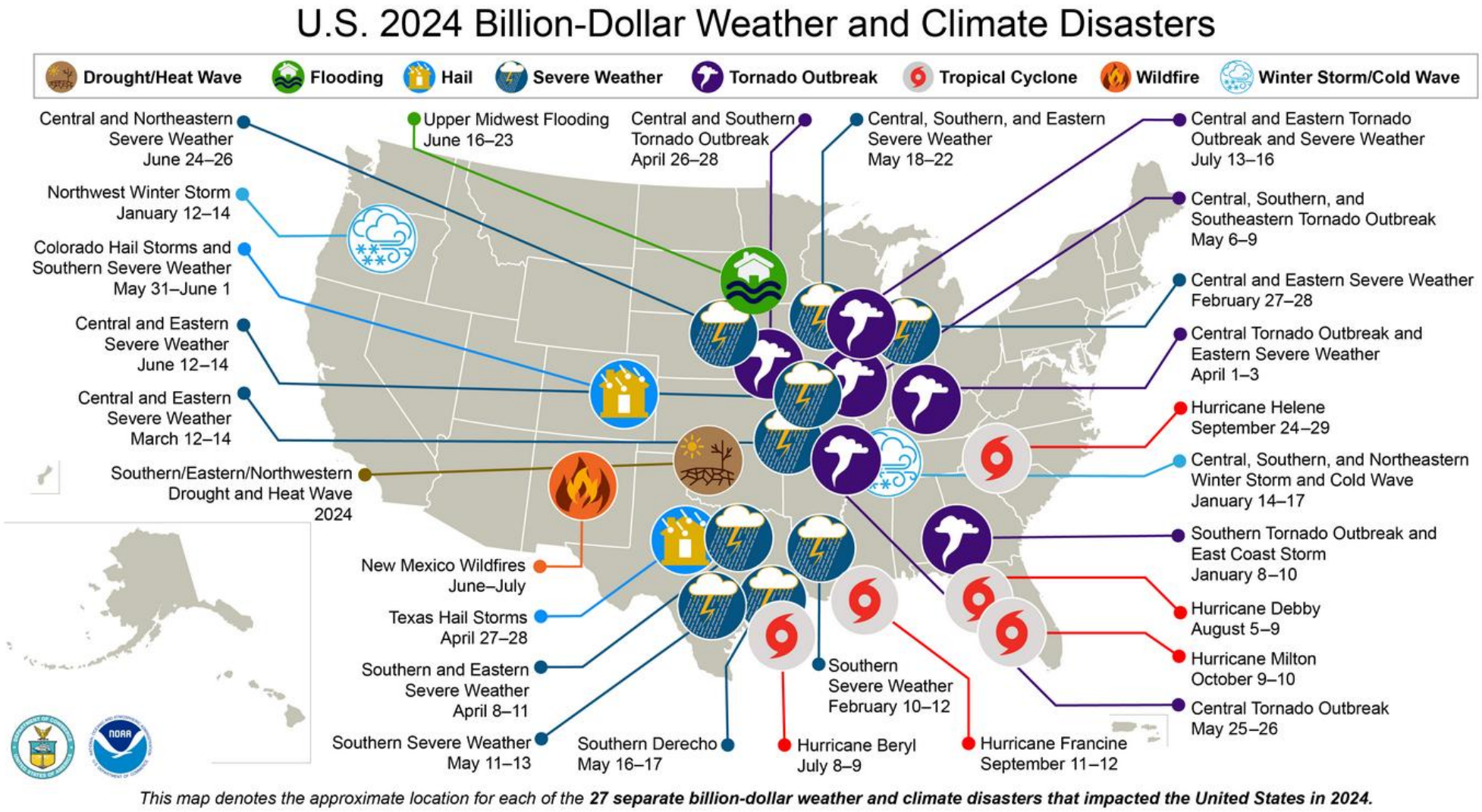
Existing Technology could and need to be further improved:

- Risk assessment
- Simulation tools
- Precise prediction, forecast and early warning systems

Science, Technology & Innovation (STI) Challenge:

An integrated disaster management system with monitoring, warning and simulation, **response plans** is **lacking**

Billion-Dollar Weather and Climate Disasters

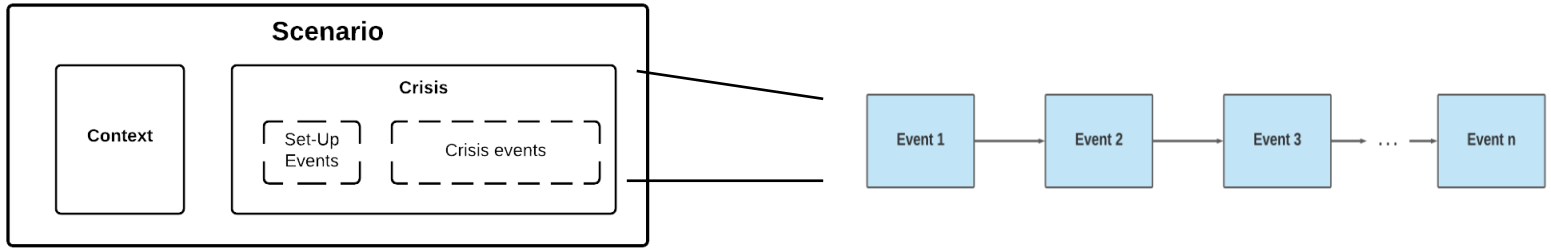


*This map denotes the approximate location for each of the **27 separate billion-dollar weather and climate disasters that impacted the United States in 2024.***

https://www.ncdc.noaa.gov/billions/

Crisis Scenarios in Disaster Research

- Scenarios can be modeled as sequences of events

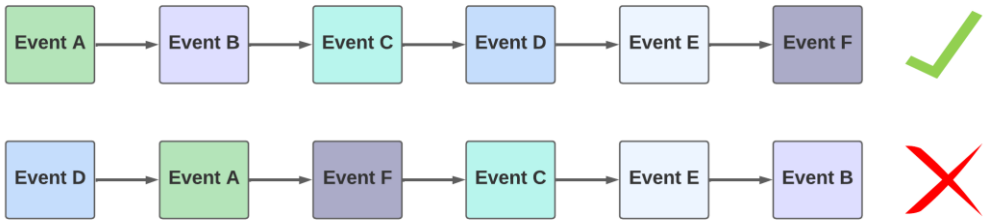


Structure of a crisis - scenario

- Disaster relief strategies as “Disaster Under Test” (DUT)

Sequences					
A	B	C	D	E	F
D	A	F	C	E	B
B	D	E	A	C	F
E	D	B	F	C	A
E	C	A	F	B	D
C	B	F	E	A	D
F	A	E	D	B	C
F	C	D	B	A	E

Testing different sequences of events



Building upon: Warren E Walker. The use of scenarios and gaming in crisis management planning and training, Volume 7897. Rand Santa Monica, CA, 1995.

Combinatorial structures for disaster scenarios

Example for a combinatorial structure from discrete mathematics: *Sequence Covering Array*

Definition:

Let S be a non-empty set with $|S| = s \in \mathbb{N}^{\times}$ *and* $N, t \in \mathbb{N}^{\times}$ *with* $1 \leq t \leq s$.
A ***sequence covering array (SCA)*** *of strength t,* $SCA(N, S, t)$ *is*

- *an* $N \times s$ *matrix,*
- *with entries from the finite set S,*
- *such that every t-way permutation of symbols from S occurs in at least one row (not necessarily adjacent),*
- *each row is a permutation of the s symbols.*

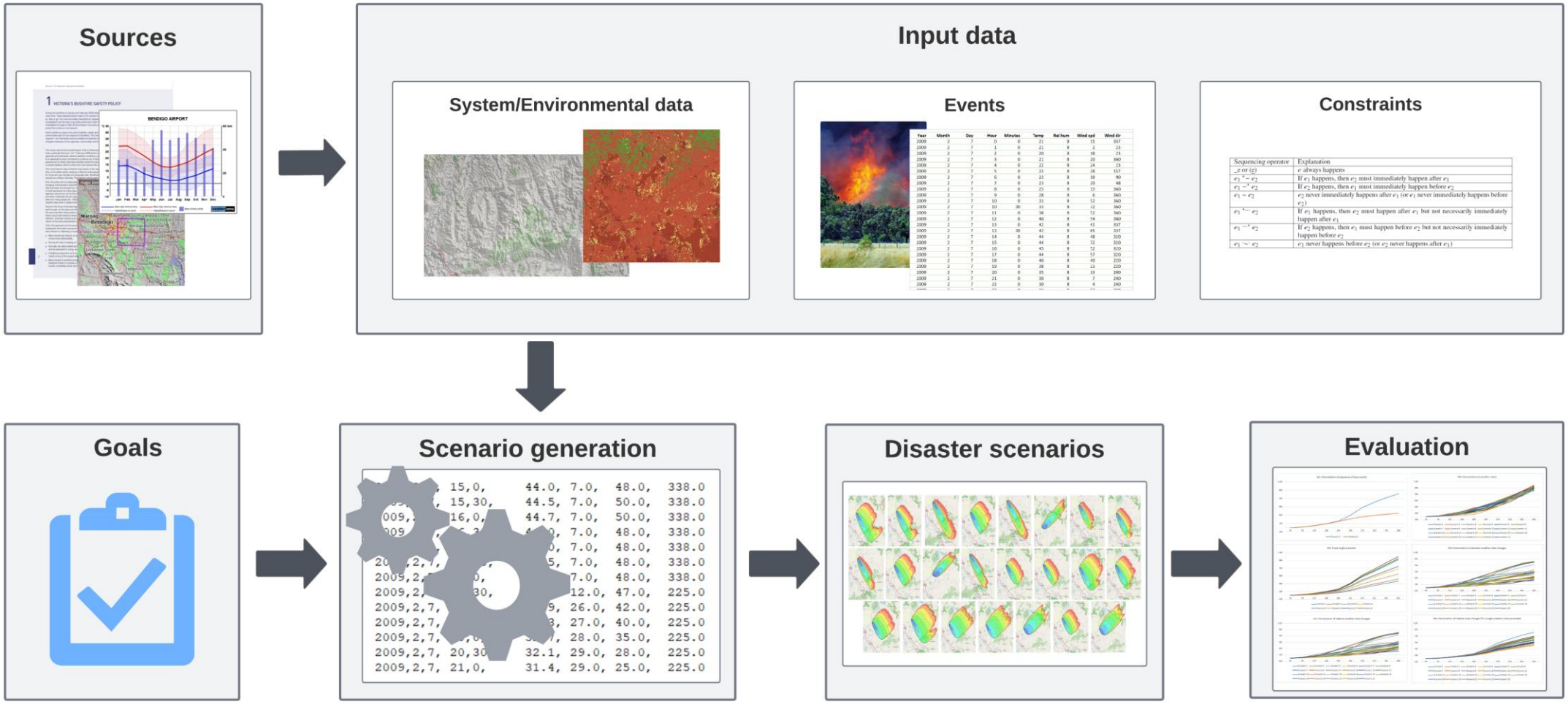
Example:

Test_1	A	D	B	C
Test_2	B	A	C	D
Test_3	B	D	C	A
Test_4	C	A	B	D
Test_5	C	D	B	A
Test_6	D	A	C	B

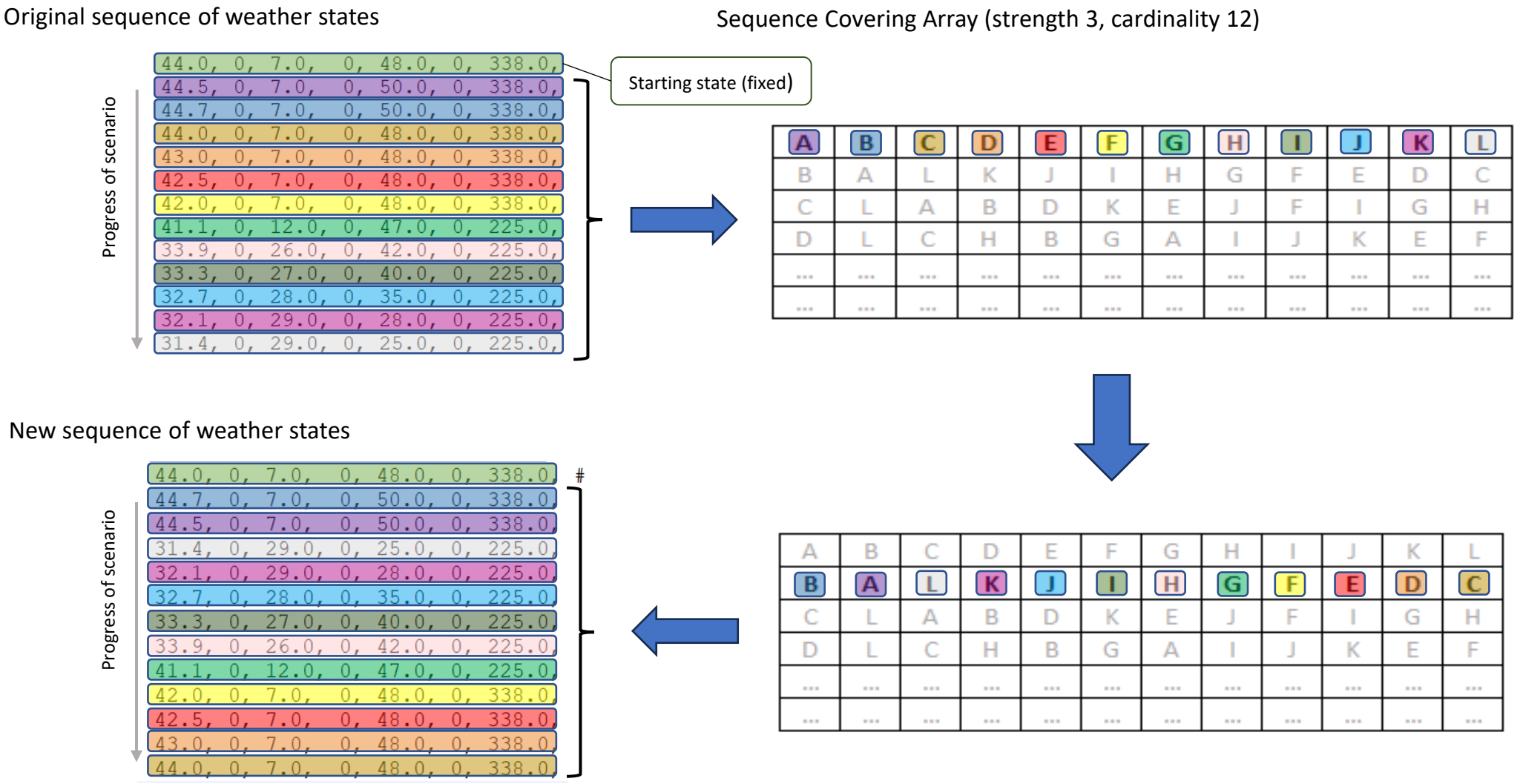
Sequences covered:
{ADB}, {ADC}, {ABC}, {DBC}
{BAC}, {BAD}, {BCD}, {ACD}
{BDC}, {BDA}, {BCA}, {DCA}
{CAB}, {CAD}, {CBD}, {ABD}
{CDB}, {CDA}, {CBA}, {DBA}
{DAC}, {DAB}, {DCB}, {ACB}

SCA of strength 3 of a symbol set $S = \{A, B, C, D\}$ of cardinality four

Combinatorial Fire Simulation Research Prototype



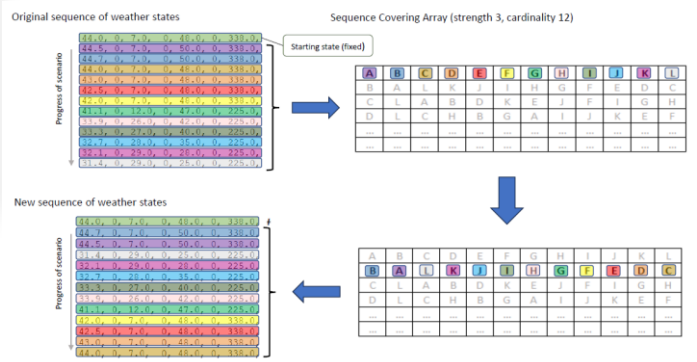
Scenario Generation by Permutation of Weather States



Analysis, Modelling & Simulation of Complex Systems (Bushfires)

MATRIS

Comparison of Combinatorial Fire Scenarios

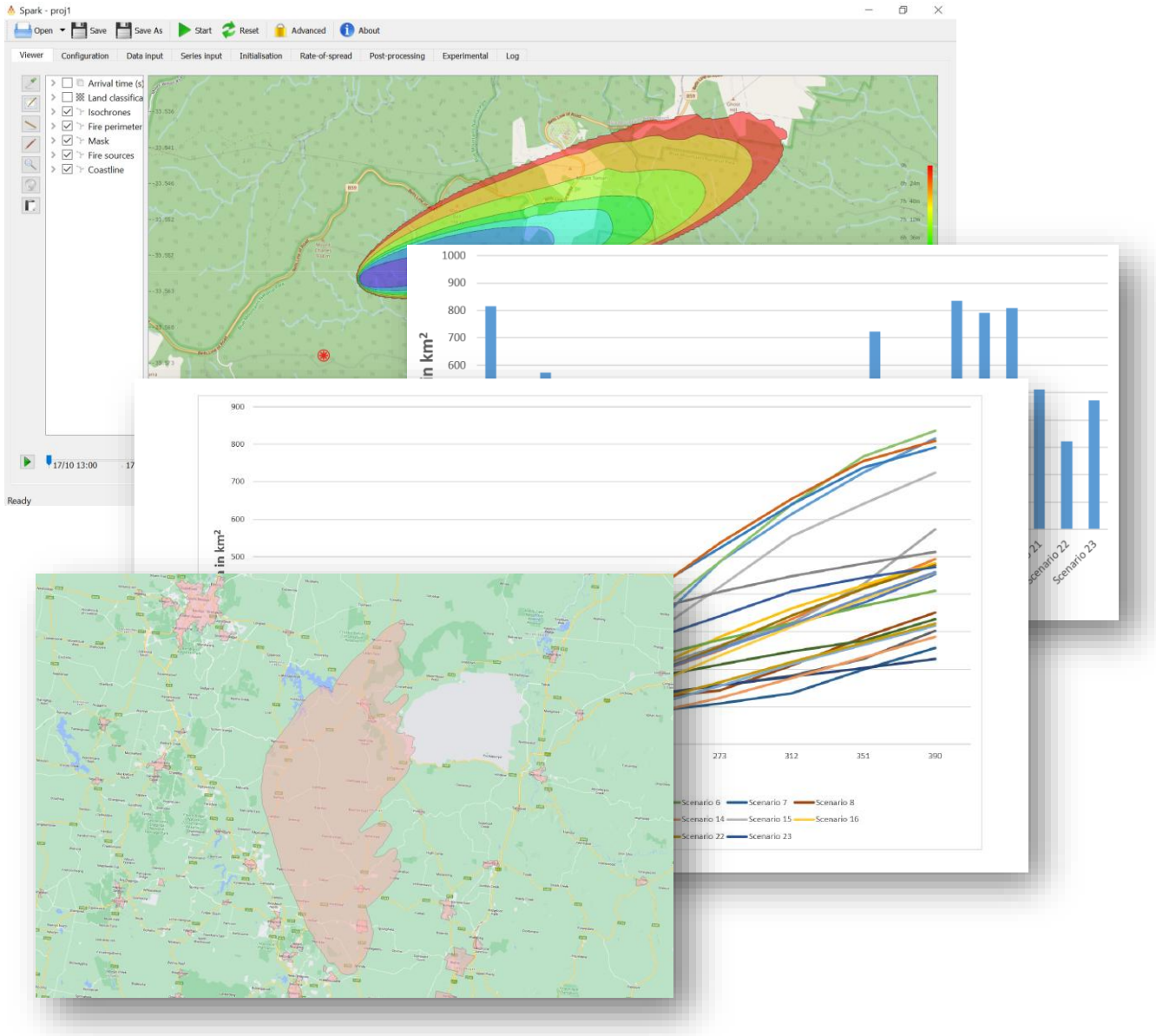


Evaluation

- Speed of fire spread,
- Total area affected,
- Towns/Infrastructure affected

- CSIRO SPARK

  https://research.csiro.au/spark/



Integration of Combinatorial Design Scenarios into Policy Making

United Nations

CSTD
COMMISSION ON SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY FOR DEVELOPMENT

Activity Report

HARNESSING STI FOR DISASTER RISK REDUCTION WORKSHOP

29 February-01 March 2024

Crimson Hotel, Alabang, Muntinlupa City, Philippines

A Joint initiative of the

Department of Science and Technology (DOST) of the Republic of the Philippines,
Department of State of the United States of America, and
the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD)

Under the Philippines and United States of America membership in the
Commission on Science and Technology for Development

Decision-making tool based on combinatorial methodology for best-use of resources or option for action intended for government actors and disaster risk managers. The model offers a decision tree following a combination and sequence of events that would trigger a response action or not.

Policy Recommendation Excerpt

Conclusion & Future Outlook

Complex Systems

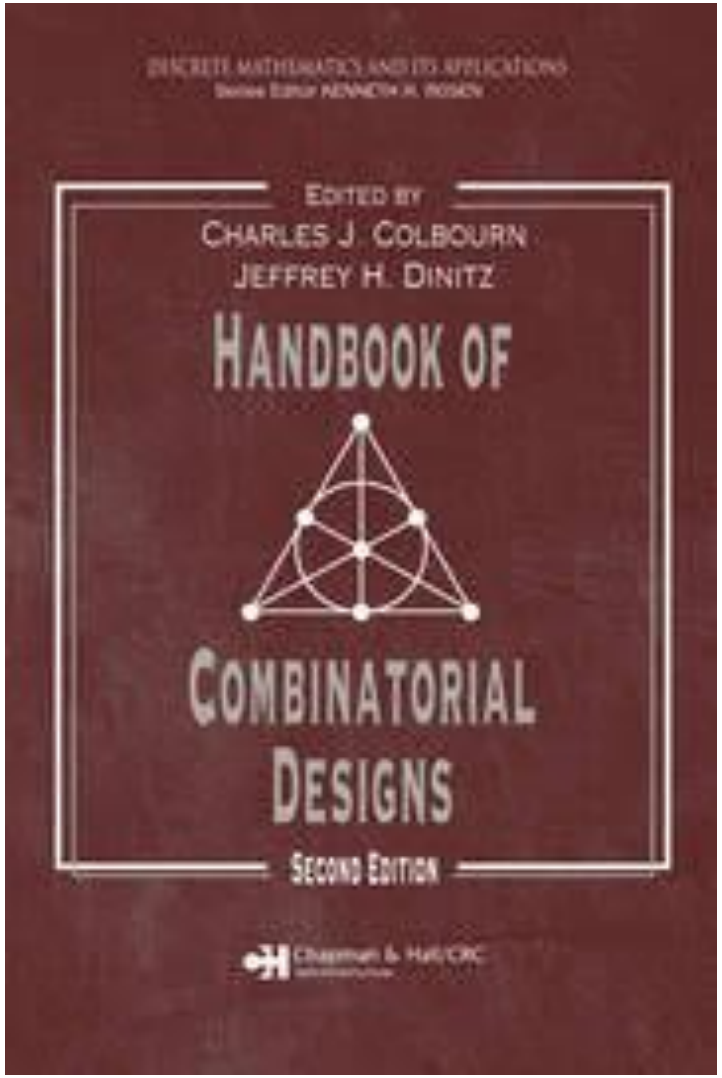
1. Critical Software / Cyber-physical Systems
2. Natural Hazards / Disasters

How are these connected?

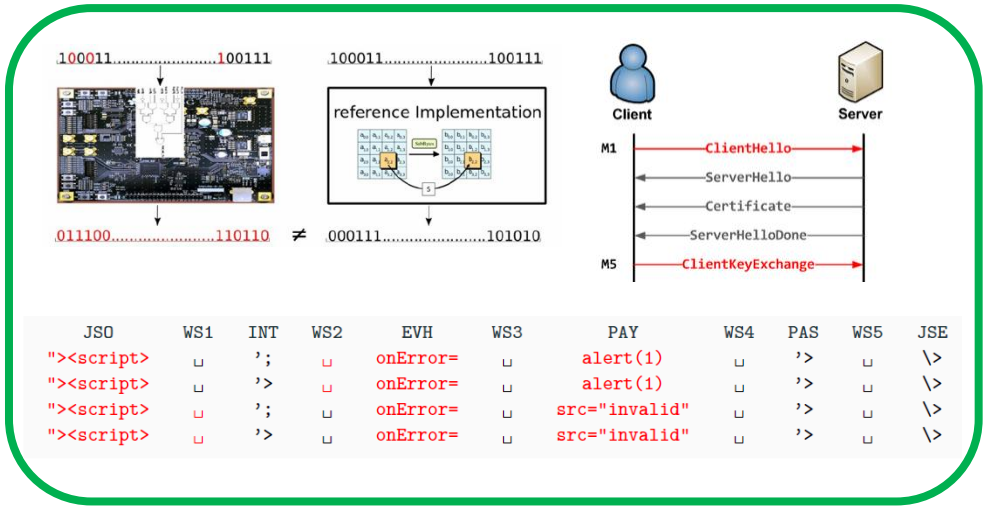
Interaction Patterns can be modelled after Mathematical Structures: Can their Identification enhance the Resilience of Complex Systems?

- **Cyber-physical Systems (Systems Under Test / Attack Paths)**
  - **Software Systems Engineering: Software/System Failures ➔ Interaction Faults**
  - **Web Security: Injection Vulnerabilities ➔ Complex (t-way) Attack Vectors**
  - **Supply Chain Security: Hardware Trojans ➔ (Optimal) Covering Arrays**
- **Disaster Management (Natural / Technological Hazards)**
  - **Compound and Cascading Effects of Hazards ➔ (Sequence) Covering Arrays**

How to Construct Interaction Patterns (**at Large**) ☺?



Scientific Vision for Combinatorial Designs in Systems Science



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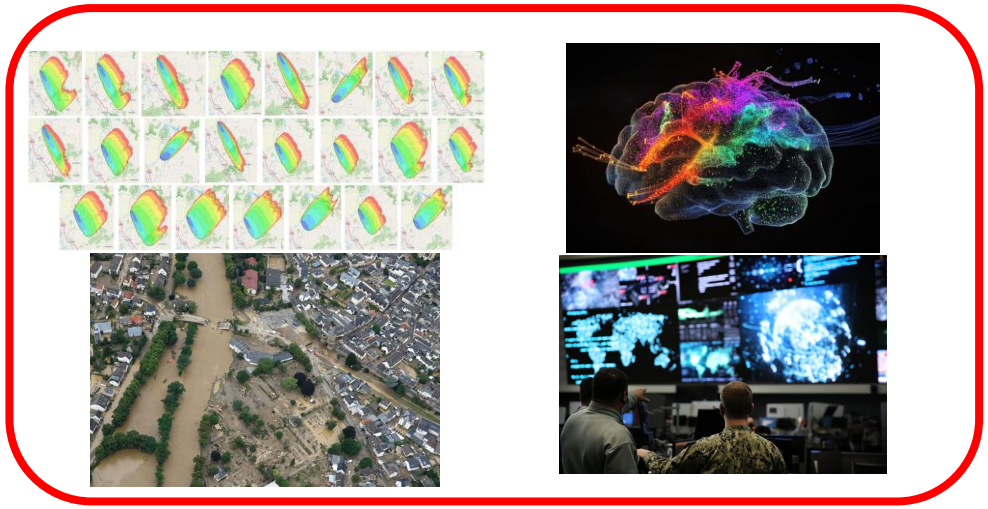

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The concept of interaction patterns in **complex systems** can lead to an **integrated cyber security & resilience strategy,** encompassing diverse simulations, rigorous testing and resilient response plans**,** implemented across **participating stakeholders*.**

(*) https://unctad.org/meeting/workshop-harnessing-science-technology-and-innovation-disaster-risk-reduction

SBA Research

NIST National Institute of Standards and Technology

TU Graz Graz University of Technology

MATRIS Research Group

Thank you very much for your attention!

Questions / Comments ?

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