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https://hdl.handle.net/2324/1434301

出版情報:MI lecture note series. 53, pp.93-101, 2013-12-26. 九州大学マス・フォア・インダスト

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# Applications of Algebraic Structures in Visual Cryptography

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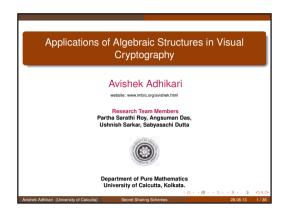
#### Abstract

Most of the secret sharing schemes are based on algebraic calculations in their realizations. But there are some different realizations from ordinal secret sharing schemes. Visual cryptography is one such secret sharing scheme. In visual cryptography, the problem is to encrypt some written material (handwritten notes, printed text, pictures, etc.) in a perfectly secure way in such a manner that the decoding may be done visually, without any cryptographic computations. The concept of visual cryptography was first proposed by Naor and Shamir in 1994. Visual cryptographic scheme for a set P of n participants is a cryptographic paradigm that enables a secret image to be split into n shadow images called shares, where each participant in P receives one share. Certain qualified subsets of participants can "visually" recover the secret image with some loss of contrast, but other forbidden sets of participants have no information about the secret image. In this talk, we shall explore how linear algebra and statistical design theory play an important role in constructing visual cryptographic schemes. We further emphasize on some of the open problems related to visual cryptographic schemes for both (k, n)-threshold and general access structures.

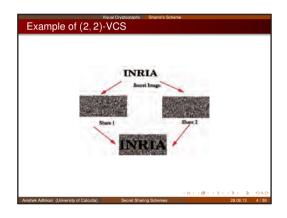
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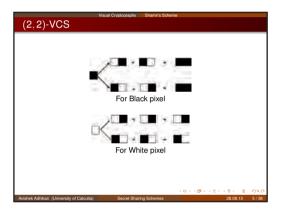
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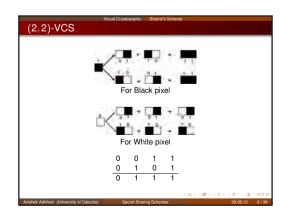
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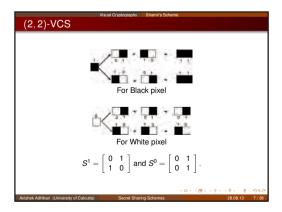


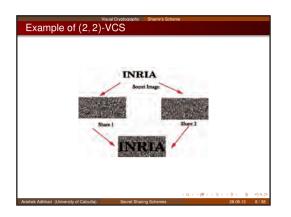


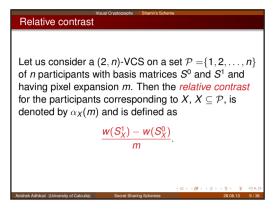




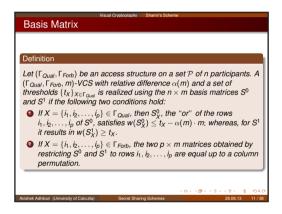




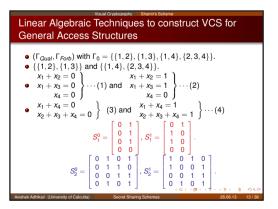




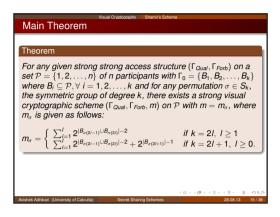
Secret Sharing for General Access Structure? Secret sharing refers to method for distributing a secret, say K, amongst a set  $\mathcal{P} = \{P_1, P_2, \dots, P_n\}$  of n participants, each of which is allocated a share of the secret in such a way that certain qualified set of participants can reconstruct the secret by combining their shares while certain set of participants gets no information about the secret even when they combine their shares. The set of participants who are qualified to reconstruct the share is called qualified set of participants, while the set of participants who are not qualified to reconstruct the secret is known as forbidden set of participants. The collection of all qualified sets of participants is denoted by  $\Gamma_{\textit{Qual}}$  while the set of all forbidden sets of participants are known as  $\Gamma_{Forb}$ .  $\Gamma_0$  denotes the set of minimal qualified sets of participants. (Γ<sub>Qual</sub>, Γ<sub>Forb</sub>) is known as an access structure on the set of participants  $\mathcal{P} = \{P_1, P_2, \dots, P_n\}.$ 

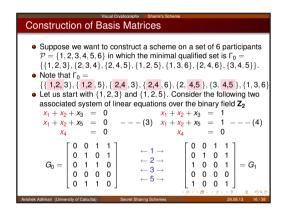


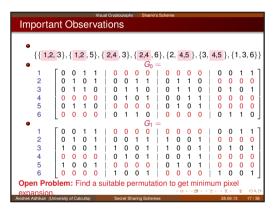
(2, n)-VCS by Naor and Shamir  $S^0 = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 \end{bmatrix} \quad and \quad S^1 = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix}.$  Here the *relative contrast* for any two participants is  $\frac{1}{4}$  and the *pixel expansion* is 4.

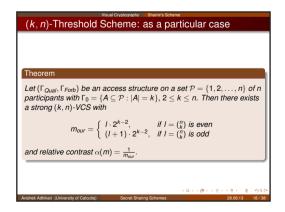


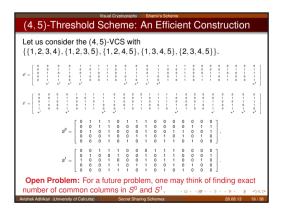
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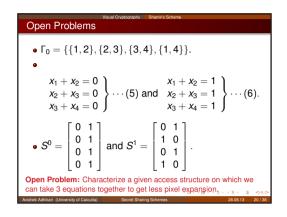




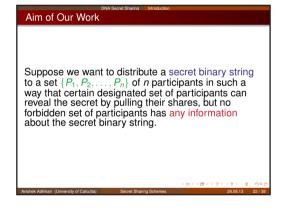


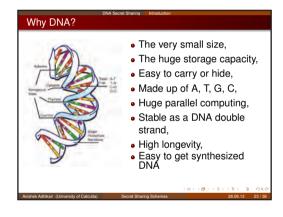


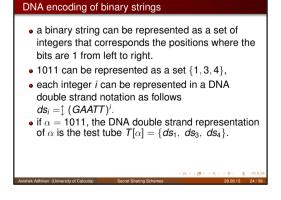


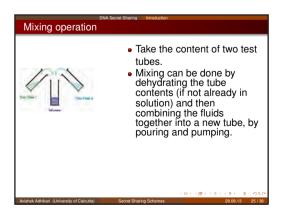


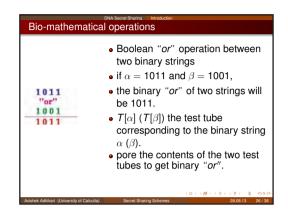


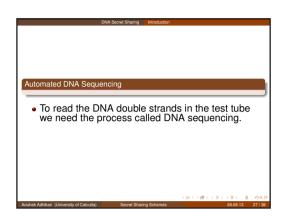


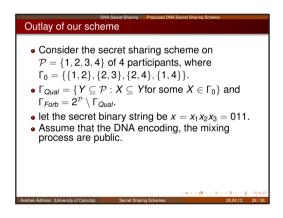


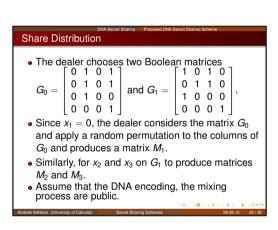


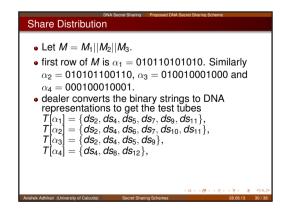


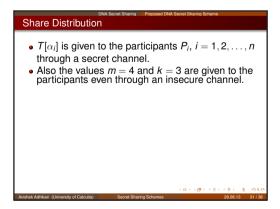












### Decryption by the Qualified participants • Let $P_1, P_2$ come together. • They use mixing procedure with test tubes $T[\alpha_1]$ and $T[\alpha_2]$ to get $T[\alpha_1] \cup T[\alpha_2] =$ $\{ds_2, ds_4, ds_5, ds_6, ds_7, ds_9, ds_{10}, ds_{11}\}.$ • Execute automated DNA sequencing method to read the DNA double strands. With the knowledge of decoding the DNA

representation to the binary string, the values of k=3 and m=4, the participants  $P_1$  and  $P_2$  can convert the DNA representation to the binary string y=010111101110.

