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# Stabilizers of graphs of linear functions and rank-metric codes

Valentino Smaldore

### Università degli Studi di Padova

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# <span id="page-3-0"></span>Rank-metric codes

Definitions

#### **Definition**

An  $\mathbb{F}_q$ -linear rank-metric linear code  $\mathcal C$  is a  $\mathbb{F}_q$ -subspace of  $\mathbb{F}_q^{m\times n}$  of  $m \times n$  matrices over  $\mathbb{F}_q$ .

#### Definition

- The rank distance between two matrices A and B is the rank of their difference:  $d(A, B) = rk(A - B)$ .
- $\bullet$  The minimum distance of C is  $d = d(C) = min{d(A, B)|A, B \in C, A \neq B}.$

In this case we say  $\mathcal C$  is a rank-metric code with parameters  $(m, n, q; d)$ .

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# Rank-metric codes

**Definitions** 

### Theorem (Singleton-like bound)

 $log_a |\mathcal{C}| \leq max\{m, n\} (min\{m, n\} - d + 1).$ 

#### Definition

A code attaining the Singleton-like bound is called MRD-code.

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### Rank-metric codes

Left and right idealizers

#### Definition

The left and right idealizers of a rank-metric code  $C$  are

$$
L(C) = \{ Y \in \mathbb{F}_q^{m \times m} \mid YC \in C, \forall C \in C \},
$$

$$
R(C) = \{ Z \in \mathbb{F}_q^{n \times n} \mid CZ \in C, \forall C \in C \}.
$$

#### Theorem

- $\blacksquare$  If  $\mathcal C$  and  $\mathcal C'$  are equivalent  $\mathbb F_q$ -linear rank-metric codes of  $\mathbb F_q^{m\times n}$ , then their left and right idealizers are isomorphic.
- **2** Let C be an  $\mathbb{F}_q$ -linear MRD-code with  $d > 1$ .
	- If  $m \le n$ , then  $L(C)$  is a finite field with  $|L(C)| \le q^m$ .
	- If  $m \ge n$ , then  $R(C)$  is a finite field with  $|R(C)| \le q^n$ .
	- If  $m = n$ ,  $L(C)$  an[d](#page-4-0)  $R(C)$  are both fini[te](#page-4-0) [fiel](#page-6-0)d[s.](#page-5-0)

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### Rank-metric codes

Equivalent definitions

The elements of an  $\mathbb{F}_q$ -linear rank metric code C with parameters  $(m, n, q; d)$  may be seen as:

- matrices of  $\mathbb{F}_q^{m\times n}$  having rank at least  $d$  and with at least one matrix of rank exactly d;
- vectors of length *n* over  $\mathbb{F}_{q^m}$  having norm rank at least *d* and with at least one vector of norm rank exactly  $d$ ;
- $\mathbb{F}_q$ -linear maps  $V \to W$  where  $V = V(n, q)$  and  $W = V(m, q)$ , having usual map rank at least d and with at least one map of rank exactly d;
- when  $m = n$ , elements of the  $\mathbb{F}_q$ -algebra  $\mathcal{L}_{n,q}$  of q-polynomials over  $\mathbb{F}_{q^n}$  modulo  $x^{q^n} - x$ , having rank at least  $d$  and with at least one polynomial of rank exactly  $d$ .

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### <span id="page-7-0"></span>Linearized polynomials

$$
q=p^h, n\in\mathbb{N}.
$$

#### Definition

A linearized polynomial over  $\mathbb{F}_{q^n}$  is

$$
f=\sum_{i=0}^k a_i x^{q^i}\in \mathbb{F}_{q^n}[x]
$$

- $\bullet$  If  $a_k \neq 0$  then the q-degree of f is k.
- $L_{n,q}$  will denote the set of linearized polynomials over  $\mathbb{F}_{q^n}$ .

$$
\bullet \ \mathcal{L}_{n,q} = L_{n,q}/(x^{q^n}-x).
$$

Note that we can identify the elements of  $\mathcal{L}_{n,q}$  with the  $q$ -polynomials having  $q$ -degree smaller than  $n$ .

## <span id="page-8-0"></span>Linearized polynomials

Partially scattered polynomials

Let t be a divisor of n,  $1 < t < n$ , f linearized polynomial over  $\mathbb{F}_{q^n}$ ,

#### **Definition**

f is L-q<sup>t</sup>-partially scattered if for any  $y,z\in\mathbb{F}_{q^n}^*$ ,

$$
\frac{f(y)}{y} = \frac{f(z)}{z} \Longrightarrow \frac{y}{z} \in \mathbb{F}_{q^t}.
$$

f is R-q<sup>t</sup>-partially scattered if for any  $y,z\in\mathbb{F}_{q^n}^*$ ,

$$
\frac{f(y)}{y} = \frac{f(z)}{z} \text{ and } \frac{y}{z} \in \mathbb{F}_{q^t} \Longrightarrow \frac{y}{z} \in \mathbb{F}_q.
$$

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# <span id="page-9-0"></span>Linearized polynomials

Scattered polynomials

### Definition

A linearized polynomial  $f$  over  $\mathbb{F}_{q^n}$  is scattered if for any  $y,z\in \mathbb{F}_{q^n}^*$ ,

$$
\frac{f(y)}{y} = \frac{f(z)}{z} \Longrightarrow \frac{y}{z} \in \mathbb{F}_q.
$$

Note that a polynomial f which is both  $L-q^t$ -partially scattered and  $R$ - $q$ <sup>t</sup>-partially scattered is scattered.

#### Proposition (J. Sheekey, 2016)

Let f be a scattered polynomial over  $\mathbb{F}_{q^n}$ . Then  $C_f = \langle x, f(x) \rangle_{q^n}$  is a  $(n, n, q; n - 1)$ -MRD code of dimension  $2n$ .

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# Linearized polynomials

Graph of functions

### **Definition**

Let  $f \in \mathbb{F}_q[x]$ .

- The graph of f is  $\mathcal{G}_f = \{(y, f(y)) \mid y \in \mathbb{F}_q\} \subseteq AG(2, q)$ .
- The set of directions of  $f \in \mathbb{F}_q[x]$  is defined as

$$
\mathcal{D}_f = \{PQ \cap \ell_\infty \mid P, Q \in \mathcal{G}_f, P \neq Q\}.
$$

The set of slopes of the lines used in  $\mathcal{D}_f$  is

$$
D_f = \left\{ \frac{f(y) - f(z)}{y - z} \mid y, z \in \mathbb{F}_q, \ y \neq z \right\}.
$$

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Note that  $\mathcal{D}_f = \{ \langle (1, m, 0) \rangle_g \mid m \in D_f \}.$ 

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# Linearized polynomials

Graph of functions



# <span id="page-12-0"></span>Linearized polynomials

Linear sets

#### Definition

• The linear set associated to f is

$$
L_f = L_{\mathcal{G}_f} = \{ \langle (y, f(y)) \rangle_{q^n} \mid y \in \mathbb{F}_{q^n}^* \}.
$$

The weight of a point  $P = \langle v \rangle_{q^n} \in PG(1, q^n)$  in  $L_f$  is

$$
w_{L_f}(P)=\dim_q(\mathcal{G}_f\cap \langle v\rangle_{q^n}).
$$

 $L_f$  is called scattered if all points of  $L_f$  have weight one.

Note that the polynomial  $f\in \mathcal{L}_{n,q}$  is scattered if and only if  $L_f$  is.

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# Linearized polynomials

Graph of functions



If  $\ell$  meets  $\mathcal{D}_f$  in a point of weight  $j$ , then it meets  $\mathcal{G}_f$  in  $q^j$  points. If  $\ell$  meets  $\ell_\infty$  outside  $\mathcal{D}_f$ , then it meets  $\mathcal{G}_f$  in exactly  $1$  point.

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# Linearized polynomials

Low weight polynomials

#### Definition

A low weight polynomial f is a polynomial for which the associated linear set  $L_f$  has all points of weight less than  $\frac{n}{2}$ .

#### Example

Scattered polynomials have all points of weight 1, then they are low weight.

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# Stabilizers of graphs

#### Definition

The stabilizer of  $\mathcal{G}_f$  is the set  $\mathbb{S}_f = \{A \in \mathbb{F}_{q^n}^{2 \times 2} \mid A \mathcal{G}_f \subseteq \mathcal{G}_f\}$ , where  $AG_f = \left\{ A \begin{pmatrix} y \\ f(y) \end{pmatrix} \right\}$  $f(y)$  $\Big) \mid y \in \mathbb{F}_{q^n} \Big\}$ .

#### Proposition

 $\mathbb{S}_f$ , together with  $+$  and  $\cdot$  the usual sum and product of matrices in  $\mathbb{F}_{q^n}^{2\times 2}$  and  $\star$  the multiplication by a scalar in  $\mathbb{F}_q$ , forms an  $\mathbb{F}_q$ -algebra.

Is  $\mathbb{S}$  a field?

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# Stabilizers of graphs

#### Proposition

If  $A, B \in \mathbb{S}_f$ , then  $A + B$ ,  $AB \in \mathbb{S}_f$ .

#### Theorem

If f is a low weight polynomial, then  $(\mathbb{S}_f, +, \cdot)$  is a field.

#### Proof.

(Sketch of...) It is enough to prove that for any rank-one  $2 \times 2$ matrix M with elements in  $\mathbb{F}_{q^n}$ ,  $\mathcal{MG}_f$  is not contained in  $\mathcal{G}_f$ . Consider  $Z \neq O$  such that  $MZ = O$  and let C be a nonzero column of  $M$ . Define  $\mu: \mathcal{G}_f \to \mathbb{F}_{q^n}^2,$   $(y, f(y)) \mapsto M(y, f(y))^T$ .  $\mathsf{ker}\, \mu \subseteq \langle Z \rangle_{\bm{q}^n} \cap \mathcal{G}_f \Rightarrow \mathsf{dim}_{\bm{q}}(\mathsf{ker}\, \mu) < \frac{n}{2}$  $\frac{n}{2}$ , then dim $_q(Im\mu) > \frac{n}{2}$  $\frac{n}{2}$ . Assume  $MG_f \subseteq \mathcal{G}_f$ , then  $\mathit{Im}\mu \subseteq \langle C \rangle_{q^n} \cap \mathcal{G}_f$ ,  $\dim_q(\mathit{Im}\mu) < \frac{\pi}{2}$  $\frac{n}{2}$ !!

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### Stabilizers of graphs

Low weight polynomials and stabilizing fields

We will now see examples of low weight polynomials.

- $f = x^{q^s} \in \mathcal{L}_{n,q}$  with  $(s,n) = 1$ , then  $|\mathbb{S}_f| = q^n;$
- $f=\delta x^{q^s}+x^{q^{n(s-1)}}\in \mathcal{L}_{n,q}$  with  $(s,n)=1, \ \delta \neq 0$  and  $n\geq 4,$  then  $|\mathbb{S}_f|=q^2$  if *n* is even and  $|\mathbb{S}_f|=q$  if *n* is odd;
- $f=\delta x^{q^s}+x^{q^{s+n/2}}\in \mathcal{L}_{n,q}$  with  $\delta\neq 0$ ,  $n$  even and  $(s,n)=1,$  then  $|\mathbb{S}_f| = q^{\frac{n}{2}};$

• 
$$
f = x^q + x^{q^3} + \delta x^{q^5} \in \mathcal{L}_{6,q}
$$
 with q odd and  $\delta^2 + \delta = 1$ , then  $|\mathbb{S}_f| = q^2$ ;

- $f = x^{q^s} + x^{q^{s(t-1)}} + \eta^{1+q^s} x^{q^{s(t+1)}} + \eta^{1-q^{s(2t-1)}} x^{q^{s(2t-1)}} \in \mathcal{L}_{n,q}$  with q odd prime power,  $t, s, n \in \mathbb{N}$  with  $n = 2t, t \ge 5$ ,  $(s, n) = 1$  and  $N_{q^n/q^t}(\eta) = -1$ , then  $|\mathbb{S}_f| = q^2$ ;
- $f = x^{q^{s(t-1)}} + x^{q^{s(2t-1)}} + m(x^{q^s} x^{q^{s(t+1)}}) \in \mathcal{L}_{n,q}$  with  $q$  odd prime power, t, s,  $n \in \mathbb{N}$  with  $n = 2t$ ,  $t \ge 5$ ,  $gcd(s, n) = 1$ ,  $m \in \mathbb{F}_q^t$ , then  $|\mathbb{S}_f| = q^2$ .

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# Stabilizers of graphs

Partially scattered cases

### Partially scattered polynomials are almost low weight.

### Proposition

- $\textbf{D}$  If f is a R-q<sup>t</sup>-partially scattered polynomial in  $\mathcal{L}_{n,q},$  then  $w_{L_f}(P) \leq \frac{n}{2}$  $\frac{n}{2}$  for any point  $P \in PG(1, q^n)$ .
- $\bullet$  If f is a L-q<sup>t</sup>-partially scattered polynomial in  $\mathcal{L}_{n,q},$  then  $w_{L_f}(P) \leq t$  for any point  $P \in PG(1, q^n)$ .

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# Stabilizers of graphs

Partially scattered cases

#### Theorem

Let t be a proper divisor of n. Let  $f \in \mathbb{F}_{q^n}[x]$  be an L-q<sup>t</sup>-partially scattered polynomial in  $\mathcal{L}_{n,q}$ . Then  $\mathbb{S}_f$  is not a field if and only if f is equivalent to  $\ell^{q^t} - \ell$  for some  $\ell \in \mathcal{L}_{t,q}$ , and  $n = 2t$ .

#### Example

Let 
$$
p = \sum_{k=0}^{n-1} \left( \sum_{\ell=0}^{t-1} (u_{\ell} + u_{\ell}^{q^s} \xi) \lambda_{\ell}^{*q^k} \right) x^{q^k}
$$
, where  $\{u_0, \ldots, u_{t-1}\}$   
is an  $\mathbb{F}_q$ -basis of  $\mathbb{F}_{q^t}$  and  $(\lambda_0^*, \ldots, \lambda_{n-1}^*)$  is the dual basis of  
 $(u_0 + \mu u_0^{q^s} \xi, \ldots, u_{t-1} + \mu u_{t-1}^{q^s} \xi, u_0 + u_0^{q^s} \xi, \ldots, u_{t-1} + u_{t-1}^{q^s} \xi)$ .  
Then *p* is an *R*- $q^t$ -partially scattered polynomial and the stabilizer  
of  $\mathcal{G}_p$  is not a field.

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## Applications on rank-metric codes

#### Theorem

Let  $f\in \mathcal{L}_{n,q}$  and denote by  $\mathcal{C}_f=\langle x,f(x)\rangle_{q^n}$  the associated rank metric code in  $\mathcal{L}_{n,q}.$  Suppose that  $f \notin \langle x \rangle_{q^n}.$  Then the  $\mathcal{F}_q$ -algebras  $\mathbb{S}_f$  and  $R(\mathcal{C}_f)$  are isomorphic.

#### Proof.

(Sketch of...) The isomorphism is:

$$
\psi: \begin{pmatrix} a & b \\ c & d \end{pmatrix} \mapsto ax + bf(x).
$$

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### Applications on rank-metric codes

Right idealizers of rank-metric codes

Theorem (T. H. Randrianarisoa, 2020)

Let  $C_f = \langle x, f(x) \rangle_{q^n}$ . Then,

$$
d(C_f) = n - \max\{dim_q(\mathcal{G}_f \cap \langle v \rangle_{q^n}) \mid P = \langle v \rangle_{q^n} \in PG(1,q^n)\}.
$$

#### **Corollary**

Let f be a linearized polynomial in  $\mathcal{L}_{n,q}$ . If  $d(C_f) > \frac{n}{2}$  $\frac{n}{2}$ , then  $R(\mathcal{C}_f)$  is a field.

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### Applications on rank-metric codes

MRD codes associated with partially scattered polynomials

### Proposition

If  $n = tt'$  and  $f \in \mathcal{L}_{n,q}$  is an R-q<sup>t</sup>-partially scattered polynomial then  $\widetilde{\mathcal{C}}_f=\{F_{|\mathbb{F}_{q^t}}\mid \mathbb{F}_{q^t}\rightarrow \mathbb{F}_{q^t}\mid F\in \mathcal{C}_f\}$  is an MRD  $(n, t, q; t - 1)$ -code.

\n- \n
$$
\mathcal{L}_{t,n,q} = \{ g \in \mathcal{L}_{n,q} \mid g(\mathbb{F}_{q^t}) = \mathbb{F}_{q^t} \};
$$
\n
\n- \n $g \approx g'$  if and only if  $g|_{\mathbb{F}_{q^t}} = g'|_{\mathbb{F}_{q^t}};$ \n
\n- \n $\tilde{\pi} : \mathcal{L}_{n,q} \longrightarrow \mathcal{L}_{n,q} / \approx;$ \n
\n- \n $\Phi : \tilde{\pi}(g) \in \mathcal{L}_{t,n,q} / \approx \rightarrow g_{\mathbb{F}_{q^t}} \in \mathcal{L}_{t,q}.$ \n
\n

#### Proposition

Let  $f \in \mathcal{L}_{n,q}$  with  $f \notin \langle x \rangle_{q^n}$  and such that f is R-q<sup>t</sup>-partially scattered. Then,  $|R(\tilde{\mathcal{C}}_f)| \geq |\mathcal{L}_{t,n,q} \cap R(\mathcal{C}_f)|$ .

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