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

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# Rank-metric codes

Definitions

#### Definition

An  $\mathbb{F}_q$ -linear rank-metric linear code 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).
- 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 C is a rank-metric code with parameters (m, n, q; d).

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# Rank-metric codes

Definitions

#### Theorem (**Singleton-like bound**)

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

#### 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  $\ensuremath{\mathcal{C}}$  are

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

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

#### Theorem

- If C and 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  $m \leq n$ , then  $L(\mathcal{C})$  is a finite field with  $|L(\mathcal{C})| \leq q^m$ .
  - If  $m \ge n$ , then  $R(\mathcal{C})$  is a finite field with  $|R(\mathcal{C})| \le q^n$ .
  - If m = n, L(C) and R(C) are both finite fields.

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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 

   \[
   m^{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 F<sub>q</sub>-algebra L<sub>n,q</sub> of q-polynomials over F<sub>q<sup>n</sup></sub> modulo x<sup>q<sup>n</sup></sup> - x, having rank at least d and with at least one polynomial of rank exactly d.

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# Linearized polynomials

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

#### Definition

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

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

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

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

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

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# 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- $q^t$ -partially scattered if for any  $y, z \in \mathbb{F}_{q^n}^*$ ,

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

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# 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- $q^t$ -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

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

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

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### Linearized polynomials Graph of functions



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# 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<sub>f</sub> is called scattered if all points of L<sub>f</sub> 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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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  $A\mathcal{G}_f = \{A\begin{pmatrix} y \\ f(y) \end{pmatrix} \mid y \in \mathbb{F}_{q^n}\}.$ 

#### 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  $\mathbb{S}_f$  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  $\mathbb{F}_{q^n}$ ,  $M\mathcal{G}_f$  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  $\mu : \mathcal{G}_f \to \mathbb{F}_{q^n}^2$ ,  $(y, f(y)) \mapsto M(y, f(y))^T$ . ker  $\mu \subseteq \langle Z \rangle_{q^n} \cap \mathcal{G}_f \Rightarrow \dim_q(\ker \mu) < \frac{n}{2}$ , then  $\dim_q(Im\mu) > \frac{n}{2}$ . Assume  $M\mathcal{G}_f \subseteq \mathcal{G}_f$ , then  $Im\mu \subseteq \langle C \rangle_{q^n} \cap \mathcal{G}_f$ ,  $\dim_q(Im\mu) < \frac{n}{2}!!$   $\underset{O}{\text{Table of contents}}$ 

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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  $n \ge 4$ , 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

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

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

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

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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,

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

#### Corollary

Let f be a linearized polynomial in  $\mathcal{L}_{n,q}$ . If  $d(\mathcal{C}_f) > \frac{n}{2}$ , 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- $q^t$ -partially scattered polynomial then  $\tilde{\mathcal{C}}_f = \{F_{|\mathbb{F}_{q^t}} | \mathbb{F}_{q^t} \to \mathbb{F}_{q^t} | F \in \mathcal{C}_f\}$  is an MRD (n, t, q; t - 1)-code.

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

#### Proposition

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

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