

# Non-commutative association schemes of rank 6

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Israel

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Willem Haemers, Felix Lazebnik and Andrew Woldar,  
August 2017, University of Delaware, USA

# Known results

1. Y. Asaba and A. Hanaki, A construction of integral standard generalized table algebras from parameters of projective geometries, *Israel J. Math.*, **194**, (2013), 395-408.
2. A. Hanaki and P.-H. Zieschang, on imprimitive noncommutative association schemes of order 6, *Comm. Algebra*, **42** (3), (2014), 1151-1199.
3. M. Yoshikawa, On noncommutative integral standard table algebras in dimension 6, *Comm. Algebra*, **42** (2014), 2046-2060.
4. B. Drabkin and C. French, On a class of noncommutative imprimitive association schemes of rank 6, *Comm. Algebra*, **43** (9), (2015), 4008-4041.
5. C. French and P.-H. Zieschang, On the normal structure of noncommutative association schemes of rank 6, *Comm. Algebra*, **44** (3), 2016, 1143-1170.

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In all those papers it was assumed that the scheme is imprimitive.

# Notation

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If  $R, S \subseteq X^2$  are binary relations on a finite set  $X$ , then

- 1  $R(x) := \{y \in X \mid (x, y) \in R\}$ ;
- 2  $R^t := \{(x, y) \in X^2 \mid (y, x) \in R\}$
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If  $\mathbb{F}$  is a field, then

- 1  $M_X(\mathbb{F})$  is the matrix algebra;
- 2  $I_X$  is the identity matrix;
- 3  $J_X$  is all one matrix;
- 4  $^\top$  is matrix transposition;

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- 3  $|\mathcal{R}|$  - the **rank** of  $\mathfrak{X}$ .

# Adjacency (BM-) algebra of a scheme

## Theorem

Let  $A_i$  be the adjacency matrix of the basic graph  $(X, R_i)$ . Then the linear span  $\mathcal{A}_{\mathbb{F}} := \langle A_0, \dots, A_d \rangle$  is a subalgebra of the matrix algebra  $M_X(\mathbb{F})$ . Moreover  $I_X, J_X \in \mathcal{A}_{\mathbb{F}}$ ,  $\mathcal{A}_{\mathbb{F}}^{\top} = \mathcal{A}_{\mathbb{F}}$  and

$$A_i A_j = \sum_{k=0}^d p_{ij}^k A_k.$$

$\mathcal{A}_{\mathbb{F}}$  is called the **adjacency / Bose-Mesner** algebra of  $\mathfrak{X}$ . The basis  $A_0, \dots, A_d$  is called the **standard basis** of  $\mathcal{A}_{\mathbb{F}}$ .



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## Proposition

A symmetric scheme is commutative  $\Rightarrow$   
A non-commutative scheme contains at least one pair of anti-symmetric relations.

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Let  $\mathfrak{X} = (X, \mathcal{R} = \{R_i\}_{i=0}^d)$  be an association scheme and  $\mathcal{A}_{\mathbb{F}} = \langle A_0, \dots, A_d \rangle$  its BM-algebra,  $\text{char}(\mathbb{F}) = 0$ . The following conditions are equivalent

- (a)  $\mathfrak{X}$  is imprimitive;
- (b)  $\exists I \subset \{0, \dots, d\}$  s.t.  $1 < |I| \leq d$  and  $R_I := \bigcup_{i \in I} R_i$  is an equivalence relation on  $X$ ;
- (c)  $\exists I \subset \{0, \dots, d\}$  s.t.  $I' = I$  and  $\langle A_i \rangle_{i \in I}$  is a subalgebra of  $\mathcal{A}_{\mathbb{F}}$ ,  $\text{char}(\mathbb{F}) = 0$ .

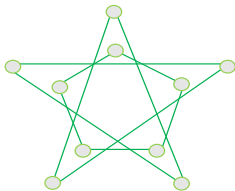
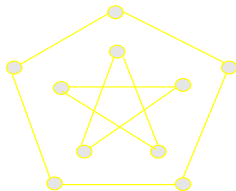
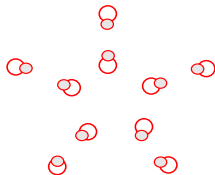
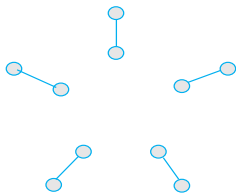
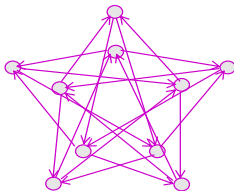
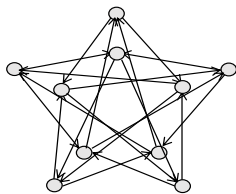
The subset  $\{R_i\}_{i \in I}$  is called a **closed subset** of  $\mathcal{R}$ .

# A concrete example (M. Klin and A.Woldar)

$$A(\mathfrak{x}) = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 1 & 2 & 2 & 1 & 3 & 4 & 5 & 5 & 4 \\ 1 & 0 & 1 & 2 & 2 & 4 & 3 & 4 & 5 & 5 \\ 2 & 1 & 0 & 1 & 2 & 5 & 4 & 3 & 4 & 5 \\ 2 & 2 & 1 & 0 & 1 & 5 & 5 & 4 & 3 & 4 \\ 1 & 2 & 2 & 1 & 0 & 4 & 5 & 5 & 4 & 3 \\ 3 & 5 & 4 & 4 & 5 & 0 & 2 & 1 & 1 & 2 \\ 5 & 3 & 5 & 4 & 4 & 2 & 0 & 2 & 1 & 1 \\ 4 & 5 & 3 & 5 & 4 & 1 & 2 & 0 & 2 & 1 \\ 4 & 4 & 5 & 3 & 5 & 1 & 1 & 2 & 0 & 2 \\ 5 & 4 & 4 & 5 & 3 & 2 & 1 & 1 & 2 & 0 \end{pmatrix}$$

# Example (the basic graphs)

back





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- 4 the others.

# Schemes coming from groups

Let  $G \leq \text{Sym}(X)$  be a transitive permutation group,  
 $\Pi : \mathbb{F}[G] \rightarrow M_X(\mathbb{F})$  corresponding representation of  $G$ ,  
 $R_0 = I_X, R_1, \dots, R_d$  be the complete set of 2-orbits (orbitals) of  $G$ .

## Proposition

The set of relations  $R_i, i = 0, \dots, d$  form an association scheme on  $X$ . Its BM-algebra coincides with  $C_{M_X(\mathbb{F})}(\Pi(\mathbb{F}[G]))$ . Association schemes of this type are called **Schurian**.

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## Example

If  $G$  acts regularly on  $X$ , then the relations  $R_i$  are permutations of  $X$  which form a regular permutation subgroup of  $\text{Sym}(X)$  isomorphic to  $G$ . All basic relations of this scheme are **thin** (have valency one).

The BM-algebra of this scheme is isomorphic to  $\mathbb{F}[G]$ .

# Class merging (fusion and fission schemes)

## Definition

Let  $\mathfrak{X} = (X, \mathcal{R} = \{R_i\}_{i=0}^d)$  and  $\mathfrak{X}' = (X, \mathcal{R}' = \{R'_i\}_{i=0}^{d'})$  be two association schemes with the same point set  $X$ . We say that  $\mathfrak{X}'$  is a **fusion** of  $\mathfrak{X}$  (or  $\mathfrak{X}$  is a **fission** of  $\mathfrak{X}'$ ) iff each  $R'_i$  is a union of some  $R_j$ .



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$\mathfrak{X}' = (X, \mathcal{R}' = \{R'_i\}_{i=0}^{d'})$  is a fusion of  $\mathfrak{X} = (X, \mathcal{R} = \{R_i\}_{i=0}^d)$  iff there exists a partition  $T_0, \dots, T_{d'}$  of  $\{0, 1, \dots, d\}$  such that

- 1  $T_0 = \{0\}$ ;
- 2  $\forall i \exists j T'_i = T_j$ ;
- 3  $\forall i R'_i = \bigcup_{j \in T_i} R_j$ .

# Flag scheme of a projective plane

Let  $\Pi = (P, L)$  be a projective plane of order  $n$ . Denote by  $\mathcal{F}$  the set of flags  $(p, \ell)$  of the plane  $\Pi$ . Define two relations on  $\mathcal{F}$  as following

$$\begin{aligned} S &:= \{((p_1, \ell_1), (p_2, \ell_2)) \mid p_1 = p_2, \ell_1 \neq \ell_2\}, \\ T &:= \{((p_1, \ell_1), (p_2, \ell_2)) \mid p_1 \neq p_2, \ell_1 = \ell_2\}. \end{aligned}$$

Then the relations  $1_{\mathcal{F}}, S, T, ST, TS, TST$  form an association scheme of rank 6 on  $\mathcal{F}$  called the **flag scheme of a projective plane**.

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The flag scheme is non-commutative and imprimitive.

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$\mathfrak{X} = (X, \{R_0, R_1, R_2\})$  with  $1' = 2, 2' = 1$  (antisymmetric case) or  $1' = 1, 2' = 2$  (symmetric case).

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In the second case the basic graphs form a complementary pair of strongly regular graphs. The parameters are completely determined by  $p_{11}^0, p_{11}^1, p_{11}^2$ .



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In both cases the schemes are commutative.

# BM-algebra of an association scheme.

Theorem (B. Weisfeiler & A. Leman, D. Higman)

Let  $\mathfrak{X} = (X, \mathcal{R})$  be a scheme. It's BM-algebra  $\mathcal{A}_{\mathbb{F}}$  is semisimple if  $\text{char}(\mathbb{F}) = 0$ . If, in addition,  $\mathbb{F}$  is algebraically closed, then

$$\mathcal{A}_{\mathbb{F}} \cong \bigoplus_{i=0}^k M_{m_i}(\mathbb{F}), \text{ with } m_0 = 1.$$

In particular,  $|\mathcal{R}| = \sum_{i=0}^k m_i^2$ .

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Corollary

A BM-algebra of a non-commutative rank six scheme over algebraically closed field  $\mathbb{F}$  of characteristic zero is isomorphic to  $\mathbb{F} \oplus \mathbb{F} \oplus M_2(\mathbb{F})$ .

# Non-commutative association schemes of rank 6

## Theorem

Let  $\mathfrak{X} = (X, \{R_0, \dots, R_5\})$  be a non-commutative rank six association scheme of order  $n$ . Let  $\mathcal{A} := \langle A_0, \dots, A_5 \rangle_{\mathbb{R}}$  be BM-algebra of  $\mathfrak{X}$  defined over the reals. Then

- 1  $\exists$  an algebra isomorphism  $\Theta : \mathcal{A} \rightarrow \mathbb{R} \oplus \mathbb{R} \oplus M_2(\mathbb{R})$ ;
- 2  $\Theta(A^\top) = \Theta(A)^\top$ ;
- 3  $A_i^\top = A_i$  if  $0 \leq i \leq 3$  and  $A_4^\top = A_5$ .

Thus  $\Theta(A) = (\delta(A), \phi(A), B(A))$  where  $\delta, \phi$  and  $B$  are three absolutely irreducible real representations of  $\mathcal{A}$ .

In what follows  $\delta$  is a degree map ( $\delta(A_i)$  equals the valency of  $R_i$ ).

# The image of the standard basis

The elements  $b_i := \Theta(A_i) = (\delta_i, \phi_i, B_i)$ ,  $i = 0, \dots, 5$  form a basis of  $M_{1,1,2}(\mathbf{R}) := \mathbf{R} \oplus \mathbf{R} \oplus M_2(\mathbf{R})$  s.t.

- 1  $b_0 = (1, 1, I_2)$  is the identity of  $M_{1,1,2}(\mathbf{R})$ ;
- 2  $b_1^\top = b_1, b_2^\top = b_2, b_3^\top = b_3, b_4^\top = b_5, b_5^\top = b_4$ ;
- 3 the structure constants  $p_{ij}^k$  of the basis  $\mathbf{B}$  are non-negative integers;
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A basis satisfying 1,2,4 is called a **reality basis** (H.Blau) of  $\mathcal{A}$ . The number  $\delta_0 + \dots + \delta_5$  is called **degree/order** of  $\mathbf{B}$ .

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A reality basis is called **integral** iff all  $p_{ij}^k$  are integers.

# Enumeration of integral table bases

## Definition

Two table bases  $\mathbf{B}$  and  $\tilde{\mathbf{B}}$  of  $M_{1,1,2}(\mathbb{R})$  are **equivalent** if there exists a  $\top$ -permutable automorphism  $\varphi$  of  $M_{1,1,2}(\mathbb{R})$  such that  $\mathbf{B}^\varphi = \tilde{\mathbf{B}}$ .

Two tables bases  $\mathbf{B}, \tilde{\mathbf{B}}$  of  $\mathcal{A}$  are equivalent iff there exists a permutation  $\varphi$  of  $\{0, 1, \dots, d\}$  which commutes with  $\top$  and satisfies s.t.  $\tilde{p}_{ij}^k = p_{\varphi(i), \varphi(j)}^{\varphi(k)}$  for all  $i, j, k$ .

## Problem

Given a number  $n$ , find all integral table bases of order  $n$  (up to equivalency) of the algebra  $M_{1,1,2}(\mathbb{R})$ .

# Character Table

The algebra  $\mathcal{A} \cong M_{1,1,2}(\mathbb{R})$  has three irreducible characters  $\delta, \phi$  and  $\chi(A) := \text{tr}(B(A))$ .

The standard character of  $\mathcal{A}$ :  $\tau(A) := \text{tr}(A)$ .

$\tau = \delta + m_\phi\phi + m_\chi\chi$ , where  $m_\phi$  and  $m_\chi$  are the multiplicities.

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## The character table

	$b_0$	$b_1$	$b_2$	$b_3$	$b_4$	$b_5$
$\delta$	1	$\delta_1$	$\delta_2$	$\delta_3$	$\delta_4$	$\delta_5 = \delta_4$
$\phi$	1	$\phi_1$	$\phi_2$	$\phi_3$	$\phi_4$	$\phi_5 = \phi_4$
$\chi$	2	$\chi_1$	$\chi_2$	$\chi_3$	$\chi_4$	$\chi_5 = \chi_4$

# Orthogonality relations

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## Row orthogonality

$$\begin{aligned}1 + \delta_1 + \delta_2 + \delta_3 + 2\delta_4 &= n \\1 + \frac{\phi_1^2}{\delta_1} + \frac{\phi_2^2}{\delta_2} + \frac{\phi_3^2}{\delta_3} + 2\frac{\phi_4^2}{\delta_4} &= \frac{n}{m_\phi} \\4 + \frac{\chi_1^2}{\delta_1} + \frac{\chi_2^2}{\delta_2} + \frac{\chi_3^2}{\delta_3} + 2\frac{\chi_4^2}{\delta_4} &= 2\frac{n}{m_\chi} \\1 + \phi_1 + \phi_2 + \phi_3 + 2\phi_4 &= 0 \\2 + \chi_1 + \chi_2 + \chi_3 + 2\chi_4 &= 0 \\2 + \frac{\phi_1\chi_1}{\delta_1} + \frac{\phi_2\chi_2}{\delta_2} + \frac{\phi_3\chi_3}{\delta_3} + 2\frac{\phi_4\chi_4}{\delta_4} &= 0\end{aligned}$$

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## Column orthogonality

$$\begin{aligned}1 + m_\phi + 2m_\chi &= n; \\ \forall_{i=1,\dots,5} \delta_i + m_\phi\phi_i + m_\chi\chi_i &= 0\end{aligned}$$

# Necessary conditions

## Proposition

If  $\mathbf{B}$  is an integral table basis, then  $\delta_i, \phi_i, \chi_i, i = 1, \dots, 4$  are integers and

- 1  $\forall_i \delta_i > 0;$
- 2  $|\phi_i| \leq \delta_i, |\chi_i| \leq 2\delta_i.$

## Proposition

If the table basis comes from a scheme, then the multiplicities  $m_\phi, m_\chi$  are positive integers.

## Proposition

The set  $\{\phi_i/\delta_i\}_{i=1}^4$  contains at least two numbers. If it contains exactly two numbers, then the center of  $\mathcal{A}$  is a BM-algebra of a rank three fusion scheme  $\mathfrak{X}$ .



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The numbers  $\delta_1, \delta_2, \delta_3, \delta_4, \phi_1, \phi_2, \phi_3$  determine the character table  $T$  of  $(\mathcal{A}, \mathbf{B})$  uniquely.

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## Theorem

Given the character table  $T$  of  $(\mathcal{A}, \mathbf{B})$ , there exists a unique (up to an equivalency) reality basis  $\mathbf{B}$  with that character table. In particular, the numbers  $\delta_1, \delta_2, \delta_3, \delta_4, \phi_1, \phi_2, \phi_3$  determine the structure constants of the BM-algebra  $\mathcal{A}$ .

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We have enumerated all tuples  $\delta_1, \delta_2, \delta_3, \delta_4, \phi_1, \phi_2, \phi_3$  which provide a character table  $T$  with integral entries.

Then for each character table  $T$  we construct a table basis  $\mathbf{B}$  and check whether the structure constants w.r.t.  $\mathbf{B}$  are non-negative integers.

# Enumeration results

We obtained all feasible parameters of non-commutative schemes of rank six up to order 150. Among them four parameter sets for primitive schemes were found.

$N$	$n$	$\delta, \phi$	$(m_\phi, m_\chi)$
1	81	$[10, 10, 20, 20], [1, 1, -7, 2]$	$(20, 30)$
2	96	$[19, 19, 19, 19], [-5, -5, 3, 3]$	$(19, 38)$
3	96	$[19, 19, 19, 19], [3, 3, 3, -5]$	$(19, 38)$
4	120	$[17, 17, 51, 17], [-3, -3, 3, 1]$	$(51, 34)$

# Primitive rank six schemes

## Theorem

There is only one feasible parameter set corresponding to primitive non-commutative rank six scheme of order  $\leq 150$ . It has order 81 and the valencies 1, 10, 10, 20, 20, 20.

*Proof.* The second and third algebras have rank three fusion scheme with degrees 1, 38, 57. According to Brouwer's table an SRG with such parameters doesn't exist.

The last algebra violates the condition  $p_{ij}^i \delta_j \equiv 0 \pmod{2}$  whenever  $i' = i, j' = j$ . □

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## Lemma (Munemasa)

There is no schurian primitive association schemes of rank 6 with less than 1600 points.

## Schurian case

Let  $G \leq \text{Sym}(X)$  be a transitive permutation group,  $\mathfrak{X} = (X, \mathcal{R})$  its 2-orbit scheme.

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$\mathfrak{X}$  is a non-commutative rank six scheme iff  $1_{G_x}^G = 1_G + \alpha + 2\beta$  where  $\alpha, \beta$  are distinct irreducible characters of  $G$ .

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Classify all transitive (primitive) permutation groups  $G \leq \text{Sym}(X)$  satisfying  $1_{G_x}^G = 1_G + \alpha + 2\beta$ .

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## Theorem (M. Conder and V. Jones)

If  $\mathfrak{X}$  has rank 6 and admits two closed subsets  $I, J \subseteq \{0, 1, \dots, 5\}$  such that  $R_I R_J \neq R_J R_I$ , then either  $\mathfrak{X}$  is a thin scheme isomorphic to  $S_3$  or  $\mathfrak{X}$  is a flag scheme of a Desarguesian plane.

# Central rank of a permutation group

Let  $G \leq \text{Sym}(X)$  be a permutation group,  
 $\Pi : \mathbb{C}[G] \rightarrow M_X(\mathbb{C})$  is a corresponding representation of  $G$ ,  
 $\mathfrak{X} = (X, \{R_0, R_1, \dots, R_d\})$  is the 2-orbit scheme of  $G$ ,  
 $\mathcal{A}$  is the BM-algebra of  $\mathfrak{X}$ .

## Theorem (H. Wielandt)

$$\mathcal{A} \cap \Pi(\mathbb{C}[G]) = Z(\mathcal{A}) = \Pi(Z(\mathbb{C}[G])).$$

In what follows we call  $\dim(Z(\mathcal{A}))$  the **central rank** of  $G$  and denote as  $c\text{-rank}(G)$ .

## Proposition

- 1 The central rank of a permutation group is equal to the number of irreducible constituents in the decomposition of  $\Pi$ ;
- 2  $2 \leq c\text{-rank}(G) \leq \text{rank}(G)$  where the equality holds iff  $\Pi$  is multiplicity free.

# Central rank of a permutation group

It is well-known that  $H \leq G \implies \text{rank}(H) \geq \text{rank}(G)$ .

But  $H \leq G \not\implies c\text{-rank}(H) \geq c\text{-rank}(G)$ . For example, take  $H$  to be a regular subgroup of  $S_6$  isomorphic to  $S_3$  and  $G$  to be  $\mathbb{Z}_3 \wr \mathbb{Z}_2$  in imprimitive action. Then  $c\text{-rank}(H) = 3$  while  $c\text{-rank}(G) = 4$ .



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## Theorem

If  $G$  is transitive and  $c\text{-rank}(G) = 2$  then  $\text{rank}(G) = 2$ , that is  $G$  acts 2-transitively on  $X$ .

The result is not true if  $G$  is intransitive (for example,  $c\text{-rank}(S_2 \boxplus S_2) = 2$ , but  $\text{rank}(S_2 \boxplus S_2) = 8$ ).

# Primitive permutation group of central rank three

Each rank three group is a  $c$ -rank three group, but not versa.

## Example

The group  $PGL_3(q)$  acting on the flags of the projective plane has rank six and  $c$ -rank three .

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## Theorem

If one of the groups  $A_n, S_n$  has a primitive action with central rank three, then the rank of this action is also three.

Thank you!