

# A large family of strongly regular Cayley graphs from three-valued Gauss periods

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22-Aug-2019

# I will report that

there exists an infinite family of strongly regular Cayley graphs on  $(\mathbb{F}_q^6, +)$  with either of the following parameters

$$(q^6, r(q^3 + 1), -q^3 + r^2 + 3r, r^2 + r)$$

or

$$(q^6, r(q^3 - 1), q^3 + r^2 - 3r, r^2 - r),$$

where  $r = (q^2 - 1)M/2$ .

The family includes geometrically important classes of SRGs.

# Collaborators



J. Bamberg

T. Feng

M. Lee

Q. Xiang

# Strongly regular graphs and geometric substructures

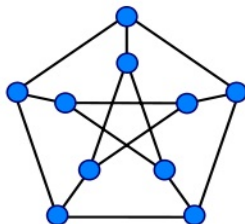
# Strongly regular graph

## Definition: strongly regular graph

A  $(v, k, \lambda, \mu)$  *strongly regular graph* (SRG) is a  $k$ -regular graph  $(V, E)$  with  $v$  vertices satisfying

- for  $\forall x, y \in V$  s.t.  $xy \in E$ ,  $|\{z \mid xz \in E; yz \in E\}| = \lambda$ ;
- for  $\forall x, y \in V$  s.t.  $xy \notin E$ ,  $|\{z \mid xz \in E; yz \in E\}| = \mu$ .

The Petersen graph is a  $(10, 3, 0, 1)$  SRG.



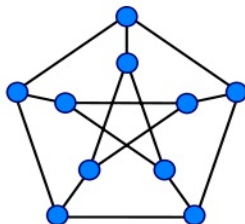
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A connected SRG, not complete or edgeless, is a regular graph having precisely two distinct eigenvalues different from  $k$ .

# Two types of parameters

## Definition

A  $(v, k, \lambda, \mu)$ -SRG is called

- *Latin square type*  $(+; u, r)$  if

$$(v, k, \lambda, \mu) = (u^2, r(u - 1), u + r^2 - 3r, r^2 - r);$$

- *negative Latin square type*  $(-; u, r)$  if

$$(v, k, \lambda, \mu) = (u^2, r(u + 1), -u + r^2 + 3r, r^2 + r).$$

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Typical examples of SRGs of  $+$  type or  $-$  type come from hyperbolic or elliptic quadrics of  $\mathbf{PG}(2n - 1, q)$ , respectively.

A SRG of type  $(+; u, r)$  and a SRG of type  $(-; u, r)$  sometimes act like a twin.



## Definition: Cayley graph

- $G$ : an (additively written) abelian group
- $D$ : a subset of  $G$  satisfying  $\mathbf{0}_G \notin D$  and  $D = -D$

A *Cayley graph*  $\text{Cay}(G, D)$  is a graph  $\Gamma = (G, E)$  s.t.  $xy \in E$  iff  $x - y \in D$ . The set  $D$  is called the *connection set* of  $\Gamma$ .

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We treat  $\text{Cay}(\mathbb{F}_q^6, D)$  s.t.  $D$  is  $\mathbb{F}_q^*$ -invariant.

$\Rightarrow D/\mathbb{F}_q^*$  can be viewed as a set  $\mathcal{D}$  of projective points in  $\text{PG}(5, q)$ .

# Finite orthogonal polar spaces

- $f$ : a nondegenerate quadratic form on  $\mathbb{F}_q^{d+1}$

An orthogonal polar space  $\mathcal{S}$  w.r.t.  $f$  is the geometry consisting of totally singular subspaces, which are the subspaces of  $\mathbf{PG}(d, q)$  contained in the associated quadric.

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- *Maximals*: subspaces in  $\mathcal{S}$  of maximal dimension
- *Rank*: the vector space dimension of maximals
- $P^\perp$ : the intersection of the tangent hyperplane at  $P$  with  $\mathcal{S}$

# Orthogonal polar spaces in $\mathbf{PG}(5, q)$

We consider orthogonal polar spaces in  $\mathbf{PG}(5, q)$ :  
a hyperbolic quadric  $\mathbf{Q}^+(5, q)$  and an elliptic quadric  $\mathbf{Q}^-(5, q)$ .

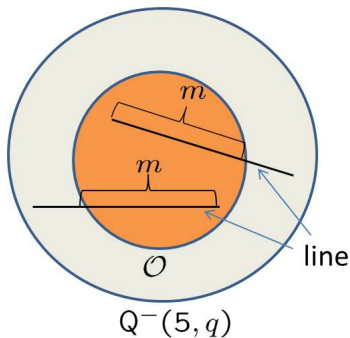
Quadric	rank	#points	quadratic form
$\mathbf{Q}^+(5, q)$	3	$(q^2 + 1)(q^2 + q + 1)$	$x_1x_2 + x_3x_4 + x_5x_6$
$\mathbf{Q}^-(5, q)$	2	$(q^3 + 1)(q + 1)$	$f(x_0, x_1) + x_3x_4 + x_5x_6$

# $m$ -ovoids

$\mathcal{S}$ : a finite (orthogonal) polar space of rank  $r$  in  $\mathbf{PG}(d, q)$

Definition:  $m$ -ovoid

An  $m$ -ovoid is a set  $\mathcal{O}$  of points s.t. every maximal of  $\mathcal{S}$  meets  $\mathcal{O}$  in exactly  $m$  points.

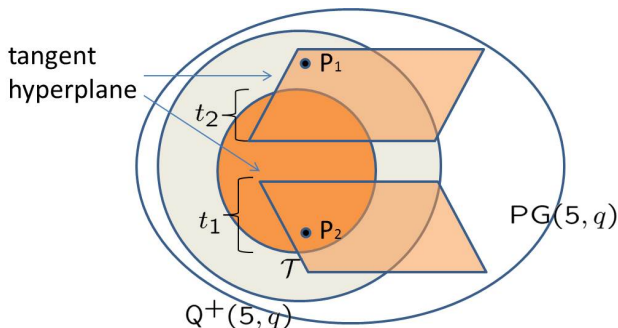


# $i$ -tight sets

Definition:  $i$ -tight set

A  $i$ -tight set is a set  $\mathcal{T}$  of points s.t.

$$|P^\perp \cap \mathcal{T}| = \begin{cases} i \frac{q^{r-1}-1}{q-1} + q^{r-1} (=: t_1) & \text{if } P \in \mathcal{T} \\ i \frac{q^{r-1}-1}{q-1} (=: t_2) & \text{if } P \notin \mathcal{T}. \end{cases}$$



# SRGs from $m$ -ovoids and $i$ -tight sets

- $\mathcal{D}$ : either a  $m$ -ovoid in  $\mathbf{Q}^-(5, q)$  or  $i$ -tight set in  $\mathbf{Q}^+(5, q)$
- $D := \{xy : \langle x \rangle \in \mathcal{D}, y \in \mathbb{F}_q^*\} \subseteq \mathbb{F}_q^6$

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J. Bamberg, S. Kelly, M. Law, T. Penttila, Tight sets and  $m$ -ovoids of finite polar spaces, **JCTA**, (2007).



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Proposition:  $m$ -ovoid,  $i$ -tight set  $\Rightarrow \text{Cay}(\mathbb{F}_q^6, D)$  is a SRG

- a  $m$ -ovoid in  $\mathbf{Q}^-(5, q) \Rightarrow$  a SRG of type  $(-; q^3, m(q - 1))$
- a  $i$ -tight set in  $\mathbf{Q}^+(5, q) \Rightarrow$  a SRG of type  $(+; q^3, i)$

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# Why are $\mathbf{Q}^+(5, q)$ and $\mathbf{Q}^-(5, q)$ so important?

## Remark

- A  $i$ -tight set in  $\mathbf{Q}^+(5, q)$  is mapped by the Klein correspondence to a set  $\mathcal{L}$  of lines, called a *Cameron-Liebler line class*, in  $\mathbf{PG}(3, q)$  s.t. every spread shares exactly  $i$  lines with  $\mathcal{L}$ .

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- A  $\frac{q+1}{2}$ -ovoid in  $\mathbf{Q}^-(5, q)$  is mapped by the duality of generalized quadrangles to a set  $\mathcal{L}$  of lines, called a *hemisystem*, in  $\mathbf{H}(3, q^2)$  containing exactly half of the lines on every point.

If a  $m$ -ovoid in  $\mathbf{Q}^-(5, q)$  exists, then  $m = (q + 1)/2$ .

**Strongly regular graphs of type  $(\pm; q^3, \frac{q^2-1}{2})$**

# New $m$ -ovoids and $i$ -tight sets

## Theorem by FMX & DDMR

Let  $q \equiv 5, 9 \pmod{12}$ . There exists a SRG on  $(\mathbb{F}_q^6, +)$  of type  $(+; q^3, \frac{q^2-1}{2})$ , which gives rise to a  $\frac{q^2-1}{2}$ -tight set in  $\mathbf{Q}^+(5, q)$ .

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## Theorem by BLMX

Let  $q \equiv 3 \pmod{4}$ . There exists a SRG on  $(\mathbb{F}_q^6, +)$  of type  $(-; q^3, \frac{q^2-1}{2})$ , which gives rise to a  $\frac{q+1}{2}$ -ovoid in  $\mathbf{Q}^-(5, q)$ .

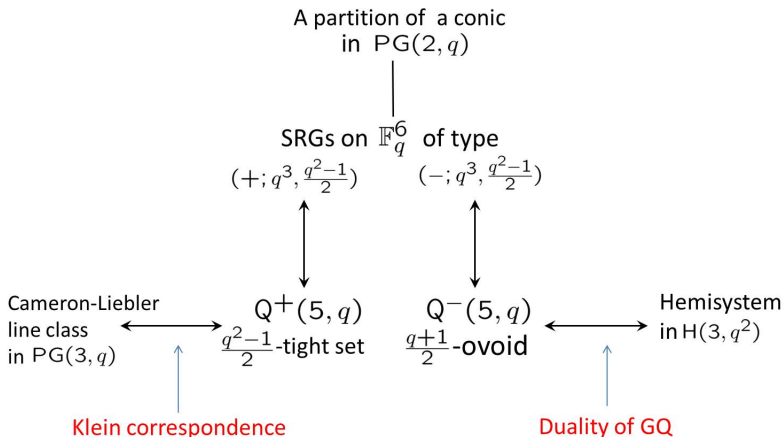
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A partition of a conic in  $\mathbf{PG}(2, q)$  is behind both constructions.



- $\text{PG}(2, q)$ : We identify the point set with  $\mathbb{F}_{q^3}^* / \mathbb{F}_q^*$  or  $\mathbb{Z}_{q^2+q+1}$ .
- $f(x) := \text{Tr}_{q^3/q}(x^2)$  defines a nondegenerate quadratic form from  $\mathbb{F}_{q^3}$  to  $\mathbb{F}_q$ .



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- $f(x) := \text{Tr}_{q^3/q}(x^2)$  defines a nondegenerate quadratic form from  $\mathbb{F}_{q^3}$  to  $\mathbb{F}_q$ .
- The set  $C = \{\langle x \rangle \mid f(x) = 0\} \subseteq \mathbb{F}_{q^3}^*/\mathbb{F}_q^*$  defines a **conic** in  $\text{PG}(2, q)$ , i.e., each line meets  $C$  in  $0, 1$  or  $2$  points.
- $T_i, i = 1, 2$ : a “good” partition of

$$I_C = \{i \pmod{q^2 + q + 1} \mid \text{Tr}_{q^3/q}(\omega^{2i}) = 0\}$$

## Construction by Bamberg-Lee-M.-Xiang (2018)

Let  $q \equiv 3 \pmod{4}$  and

$$X = \{Ni + 4j \pmod{4(q^2 + q + 1)} : \\ (i, j) \in (\{0, 3\} \times 2^{-1}T_1) \cup (\{1, 2\} \times 2^{-1}T_2)\}.$$

Define

$$D = \bigcup_{i \in X} \gamma^i \langle \gamma^{4(q^2+q+1)} \rangle \subseteq \mathbb{F}_{q^6}.$$

Then,  $\mathbf{Cay}(\mathbb{F}_{q^6}, D)$  is a SRG of type  $(-; q^3, \frac{q^2-1}{2})$ .

Model of an elliptic QF:  $f(x) = \mathbf{Tr}_{q^3/q}(x^{q^3+1})$

# A partition of the conic $C$

## Definition

For  $d_0 \in I_C = \{d_i : i = 0, 1, \dots, q\}$ , we define

$$\mathcal{X} := \{\omega^{d_i} \text{Tr}_{q^3/q}(\omega^{d_0+d_i}) : 1 \leq i \leq q\} \cup \{2\omega^{d_0}\}$$

and

$$J_C := \{i \pmod{2(q^2 + q + 1)} : \omega^i \in \mathcal{X}\}.$$

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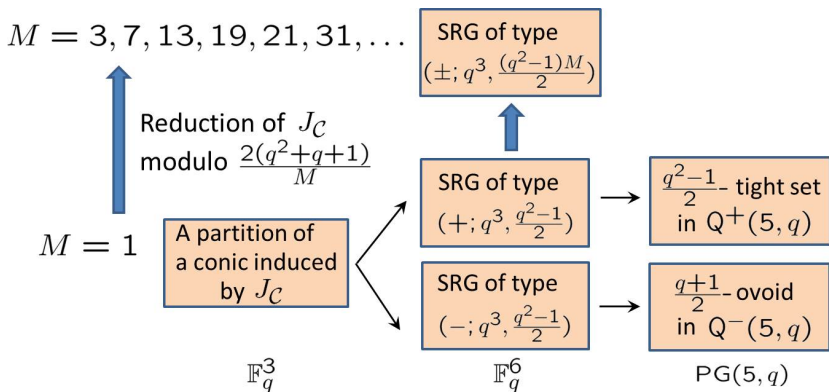
$$J_C := \{i \pmod{2(q^2 + q + 1)} : \omega^i \in \mathcal{X}\}.$$

We have  $J_C \equiv I_C \pmod{q^2 + q + 1}$ . The set  $\mathcal{X}$  yields a four-class fission scheme of a three-class translation scheme on  $(\mathbb{F}_{q^3}, +)$  related to the conic.

The partition of  $J_C$  into the even and odd parts induces the required partition  $T_1$  and  $T_2$  of  $I_C$ .

# **A new large family of SRGs from quotients of known SRGs**

$\Phi_{M,\pm} := \{q \mid \exists \text{a SRG of type } (\pm; q^3, \frac{(q^2-1)M}{2})\} \Leftarrow \text{infinite set??}$



K. Momihara, Construction of strongly regular Cayley graphs based on three-valued Gauss periods, **EJC**, (2018).

# Main result

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## Main Thm 1 by M. & Xiang (2019)

Assume that there is  $1 \leq h \leq M - 1$  s.t.  $M \mid h^2 + h + 1$ .

- 1  $\Phi_{M,+} \cup \Phi_{M,-}$  is an infinite set.
- 2 If  $-1 \notin \langle 2 \rangle \pmod{M'}$  for  $\forall M' \mid M$ , both  $\Phi_{M,+}$  and  $\Phi_{M,-}$  are infinite sets.



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## Main Thm 2 by M. & Xiang (2019)

Assume that

- $M$  is an odd prime power,
- the class number of  $\mathbb{Q}(\zeta_M + \zeta_M^{-1})$  is odd.

Then, if  $-1 \in \langle 2 \rangle \pmod{M}$ ,  $\Phi_{M,+}$  is an infinite set. Furthermore, if  $\text{ord}_M(2) \equiv 2 \pmod{4}$ ,  $\Phi_{M,-}$  is an infinite set.

## Definition: Gauss period

- $\omega$ : a fixed primitive element of  $\mathbb{F}_q$
- $\psi_{\mathbb{F}_q}$ : a fixed nonprincipal additive character of  $\mathbb{F}_q$
- $N$ : a positive integer dividing  $q - 1$ .

### Definition: Gauss period

The  $N$ th Gauss periods of  $\mathbb{F}_q$  are the character values of  $\omega^i \langle \omega^N \rangle$ ,  $i = 0, 1, \dots, N - 1$ :

$$\sum_{x \in \omega^i \langle \omega^N \rangle} \psi_{\mathbb{F}_q}(x), \quad 0 \leq i \leq N - 1.$$

## Problem

Let  $N \mid q^2 + q + 1$ . When do the  $N$ th Gauss periods in  $\mathbb{F}_{q^3}$  take exactly three values in an arithmetic progression?

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T. Maruta, Cyclic and pseudo-cyclic MDS codes of dimension three, **ASMFUM**, (1995).

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## Equivalent Problem

Take the reduction (as a multiset) of the conic

$I_C = \{i \pmod{q^2 + q + 1} \mid \text{Tr}_{q^3/q}(\omega^{2i}) = 0\}$  modulo  $N$ , i.e.,

$$S_N := \{i \pmod{N} \mid i \in I_C\}.$$

Let  $c_x$  be the multiplicity of each  $x \in \{0, 1, \dots, N-1\}$  in  $S_N$ .  
For which  $N$  and  $q$  does  $c_x \in \{0, 1, 2\}$  for every  $x$ ?

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# Three-valued Gauss periods

## Theorem by Maruta (1995)

- $M \in \mathbb{N}$ :  $1 \leq \exists h \leq M - 1$  s.t.  $M \mid h^2 + h + 1$
- $q$ : a power of a prime  $p$  s.t.  $q \equiv h \pmod{M}$
- $N = (q^2 + q + 1)/M$

If  $p$  is large enough, the  $N$ th Gauss periods in  $\mathbb{F}_{q^3}$  take exactly three values  $-M + 2q$ ,  $-M + q$ ,  $-M$ .

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T. D. Duc, K. H. Leung, B. Schmidt, Upper bounds for cyclotomic numbers, [arXiv: 1903.07314](#), (2019).

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## Theorem by M. & Xiang (2019)

The claim above holds for any prime  $p$  satisfying

$$p > \left( \frac{12M}{\phi(M)} \right)^{\phi(M)/2\text{ord}_M(p)}.$$

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T. D. Duc, K. H. Leung, B. Schmidt, Upper bounds for cyclotomic numbers, [arXiv: 1903.07314](#), (2019).

## Example: $p = 7$ and $M = 3$

In this case,  $N = (p^2 + p + 1)/M = 19$  and

the Gauss periods take  $\alpha_1 = 11, \alpha_2 = 4, \alpha_3 = -3$ .

Define  $I_j := \{i \pmod{N} : \psi_{\mathbb{F}_{q^3}}(\omega^i \langle \omega^N \rangle) = \alpha_j\}$ ,  $j = 1, 2, 3$ .

Then,

$$I_1 = \{0\}, \quad I_2 = \{8, 10, 12, 13, 15, 18\},$$

$$I_3 = \{1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 9, 11, 14, 16, 17\}.$$

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On the other hand,

$$I_C = \{4, 19, 24, 25, 28, 36, 38, 54\} \subseteq \mathbb{Z}_{p^2+p+1}$$

and

$$S_N = \{0, 0, 4, 5, 6, 9, 16, 17\} = 2^{-1}(I_1 \cup I_1 \cup I_2).$$



# Construction based on three-valued Gauss periods

Assume that the  $N$ th Gauss periods in  $\mathbb{F}_{q^3}$  take three values  $\alpha_1 = -M + 2q$ ,  $\alpha_2 = -M + q$ ,  $\alpha_3 = -M$ .

- $I_j = \{i \pmod N : \psi_{\mathbb{F}_{q^3}}(\omega^i \langle \omega^N \rangle) = \alpha_j\}$ ,  $j = 1, 2, 3$
- $T_i$ ,  $i = 1, 2$ : a *good* partition of  $I_2$ .
- $S_i := 4^{-1}T_i \pmod N$ ,  $i = 1, 2$

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## Construction by M. (2018)

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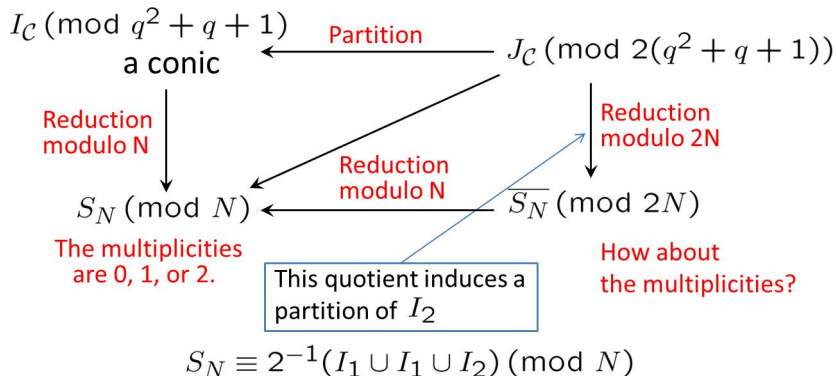
$$Y = \{Ni + 4j \pmod{4N} : (i, j) \in (\{0, 3\} \times S_1) \cup (\{1, 2\} \times S_2)\} \\ \cup \{Ni + 4j \pmod{4N} : i = 0, 1, 2, 3, j \in 4^{-1}I_1 \pmod{N}\}$$

and

$$D = \bigcup_{i \in Y} \gamma^i \langle \gamma^{4N} \rangle \subseteq \mathbb{F}_{q^6}.$$

Then,  $\text{Cay}(\mathbb{F}_{q^6}, D)$  is a SRG of type  $(-; q^3, \frac{(q-1)M}{2})$ .

# How to find a “good” partition of $I_2$



## Proposition

If the multiplicity of each element in  $\overline{S_N}$  is either **0** or **1**, we have a suitable partition of  $I_2$ .

## Equivalent condition

- $M = (q^2 + q + 1)/N$
- $\eta$ : the quadratic character of  $\mathbb{F}_{q^3}$
- $\epsilon_M$ : a primitive  $M$ th root of unity in  $\mathbb{F}_{q^3}$

### Proposition

The multiplicity of each  $x \in \{0, 1, \dots, 2N - 1\}$  in the multiset  $\overline{S_N}$  is either 0 or 1 iff  $\eta(2) \neq \eta(1 + \epsilon_M^\ell)$  for  $\forall \ell \in \{1, 2, \dots, M - 1\}$ .

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- $M = (q^2 + q + 1)/N$
- $\eta$ : the quadratic character of  $\mathbb{F}_{q^3}$
- $\epsilon_M$ : a primitive  $M$ th root of unity in  $\mathbb{F}_{q^3}$

### Proposition

The multiplicity of each  $x \in \{0, 1, \dots, 2N - 1\}$  in the multiset  $\overline{S_N}$  is either 0 or 1 iff  $\eta(2) \neq \eta(1 + \epsilon_M^\ell)$  for  $\forall \ell \in \{1, 2, \dots, M - 1\}$ .

We can use Chebotarëv's density theorem to prove the following.

### Theorem by M. & Xiang (2019)

For each odd integer  $M$  s.t.  $1 \leq \exists h \leq M - 1$  with  $M \mid h^2 + h + 1$ , there are infinitely many primes  $p$  s.t.  $\eta(2) \neq \eta(1 + \epsilon_M^\ell)$  for  $\forall \ell \in \{1, 2, \dots, M - 1\}$  in  $\mathbb{F}_{p^3}$ .

$\Rightarrow \Phi_{M,+} \cup \Phi_{M,-}$  is an infinite set.

$(\Phi_{M,\pm} := \{q \mid \exists \text{a SRG of type } (\pm; q^3, \frac{(q^2-1)M}{2})\})$

# Determination of a Galois group

In order to study whether each  $\Phi_{M,+}$  and  $\Phi_{M,-}$  is an infinite set, we need to determine

$$G = \text{Gal}(\mathbb{Q}(\zeta_4, \sqrt{2}, \sqrt{1 + \zeta_M}, \dots, \sqrt{1 + \zeta_M^{M-1}})/\mathbb{Q}).$$

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## Theorem by M. & Xiang (2019)

Let  $M$  be an odd prime power s.t. the class number of  $\mathbb{Q}(\zeta_M + \zeta_M^{-1})$  is odd. If  $\text{ord}_M(2) \equiv 1 \pmod{2}$  or  $\text{ord}_M(2) \equiv 2 \pmod{4}$ , both  $\Phi_{M,+}$  and  $\Phi_{M,-}$  are infinite sets.

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## Problem

Determine  $G$  in the case where  $M$  is not a prime power.



# Problem

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## Problem

Can you obtain SRG with new parameters from known SRGs by using our “quotient” method?

## Details

Consider a two-character set  $\mathcal{D}$  in  $\mathbf{PG}(d, q)$ .

$\mathcal{D}$  can be viewed as a subset  $I_{\mathcal{D}}$  of  $\mathbb{Z}_{\frac{q^{d+1}-1}{q-1}}$ .

Let  $N \mid \frac{q^{d+1}-1}{q-1}$ . Define

$$S_N = \{x \pmod{N} \mid x \in I_{\mathcal{D}}\}.$$

Assume that the multiplicity of each element  $x \in \{0, 1, \dots, N-1\}$  in  $S_N$  is  $a_1$  or  $a_2$ .

Define

$$I_1 = \{x \pmod{N} \mid \text{the multiplicity of } x \text{ in } S_N \text{ is } a_1\}.$$

### Problem

Let  $E = \bigcup_{x \in I_1} \gamma^x \langle \gamma^N \rangle \subseteq \mathbb{F}_{q^{d+1}}$ . Does  $\text{Cay}(\mathbb{F}_{q^{d+1}}, E)$  form a SRG?

Thank you very much for your attention!