

# **Association Schemes on Triples from Two-transitive Groups**

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# Introduction

$$R_0 = \{(0, 0), (1, 1), (2, 2), (3, 3)\}$$

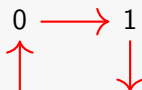
$$R_1 = \{(0, 1), (1, 2), (2, 3), (3, 0)\}$$

$$R_2 = \{(0, 2), (1, 3), (2, 0), (3, 1)\}$$

$$R_3 = \{(0, 3), (1, 0), (2, 1), (3, 2)\}$$

↻ 0

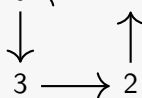
1 ↻



0 1

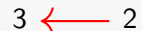


0 ← 1



↻ 3

2 ↻



3 2

$$A_0 := \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix}, A_1 := \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 \\ 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 \end{pmatrix}$$

$$A_2 := \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 \\ 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 & 0 \end{pmatrix}, A_3 := \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 \\ 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 \end{pmatrix}$$

# Introduction

## Association Schemes on Triples [MB90]

- ▶ **Higher Dimensional** Object
- ▶ **Hypermatrices**
- ▶ **Ternary** Algebras

# Relation Form

## Adjacency Relations

$$R_0 = \{(1, 1, 1), (2, 2, 2), (3, 3, 3)\}$$

$$R_1 = \{(1, 2, 2), (1, 3, 3), (2, 1, 1), (2, 3, 3), (3, 1, 1), (3, 2, 2)\}$$

$$R_2 = \{(2, 1, 2), (3, 1, 3), (1, 2, 1), (3, 2, 3), (1, 3, 1), (2, 3, 2)\}$$

$$R_3 = \{(2, 2, 1), (3, 3, 1), (1, 1, 2), (3, 3, 2), (1, 1, 3), (2, 2, 3)\}$$

$$R_4 = \{(1, 2, 3), (1, 3, 2), (2, 1, 3), (2, 3, 1), (3, 1, 2), (3, 2, 1)\}$$

1. The  $R_i$  **partition**  $\Omega \times \Omega \times \Omega$

2. **Switching** coordinates of  $R_i$  yields an  $R_j$ .

3. **(Trivial Relations)**

$R_0, R_1, R_2, R_3$ : relations with triples with **identical** elements

# Relation Form

## Adjacency Relations

$$R_0 = \{(1, 1, 1), (2, 2, 2), (3, 3, 3)\}$$

$$R_1 = \{(\textcolor{red}{1}, \textcolor{blue}{2}, \textcolor{blue}{2}), (1, 3, 3), (2, 1, 1), (2, 3, 3), (3, 1, 1), (3, 2, 2)\}$$

$$R_2 = \{(2, 1, 2), (3, 1, 3), (1, 2, \textcolor{red}{1}), (3, 2, 3), (1, 3, 1), (2, 3, 2)\}$$

$$R_3 = \{(2, 2, 1), (3, 3, 1), (1, \textcolor{red}{1}, 2), (3, 3, 2), (1, 1, 3), (2, 2, 3)\}$$

$$R_4 = \{(1, 2, 3), (1, 3, 2), (2, 1, 3), (2, 3, 1), (3, 1, 2), (3, 2, 1)\}$$

## 4. (Third valencies)

$$x \neq y \text{ then } |\{z : (x, y, z) \in R_i\}| = n_i^{(3)}$$

$$n_{\textcolor{red}{1}}^{(3)} = 1$$

## 5. (Intersection numbers)

$(x, y, z) \in R_l$ , then

$$|\{w \in \Omega : (w, y, z) \in R_i, (x, w, z) \in R_j, (x, y, w) \in R_k\}| = p_{ijk}^l$$

$$p_{\textcolor{red}{1}\textcolor{blue}{3}\textcolor{blue}{2}}^1 = 1$$

# ASTs as ternary algebras

## Hypermatrix Form

1.  $R_1 = \{(1, 2, 2), (1, 3, 3), (2, 1, 1), (2, 3, 3), (3, 1, 1), (3, 2, 2)\}$

$$A_1 = \begin{pmatrix} \begin{matrix} 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 \end{matrix} & \begin{matrix} 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 \end{matrix} & \begin{matrix} 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 \end{matrix} \end{pmatrix}$$

2. Ternary multiplication:  $(ABC)_{ijk} = \sum_w A_{wjk} B_{iwk} C_{ijw}$
3. Adjacency hypermatrices satisfy  $A_i A_j A_k = \sum_{l=0}^m p_{ijk}^l A_l$
4.  $\text{Span}_{\mathbb{C}} \{A_i\}_{i=0}^m$  is a **ternary algebra**;  
neither associative nor commutative

# TWO-TRANSITIVE GROUPS AND ASTS



# ASTs from Two-transitive groups

## Two-transitive Groups

$G$  a group acts two transitively on  $\Omega$

$a \neq b$  and  $x \neq y$

$$(\exists g \in G) ((g \cdot a, g \cdot b) = (x, y))$$

## Two-transitive Actions yield ASTs [MB90]

$G$  a group acting two-transitively on  $\Omega$

→ **Induced action**  $g \cdot (x, y, z) := (g \cdot x, g \cdot y, g \cdot z)$

→ **Orbits** of  $G$  on  $\Omega \times \Omega \times \Omega$  forms an **AST**

## Example: $A\Gamma L(1, 8)$

**Orbits** of  $A\Gamma L(1, 8)_{0,1}$  :  $\{a, a^2, a^4\}$ ,  $\{a^3, a^5, a^6\}$

$$R_4 = \{(0, 1, a), (0, 1, a^2), (0, 1, a^4) \dots\}$$

$$R_5 = \{(0, 1, a^3), (0, 1, a^5), (0, 1, a^6), \dots\}$$

1. Nontrivial  $R_i$  has **representative** with form  $(0, 1, x)$

2. **Other** representatives  $(0, 1, y) \in R_i$ :

$$\{(0, 1, y) : y \in A\Gamma L(1, 8)_{0,1}(x)\}$$

3.

$$n_4^{(3)} = \left| \{a, a^2, a^4\} \right| = 3$$

$$n_5^{(3)} = \left| \{a^3, a^5, a^6\} \right| = 3$$

# Sizes of ASTs from Groups

In general [MB90, BB22a]

**# of nontrivial relations = # of orbits**

**third valencies = sizes of orbits**

# AST Parameters

# Projective Semilinear Group

# Projective Space

$PG(2, n)$

$$\left\{ \begin{bmatrix} x_1 \\ x_2 \\ x_3 \end{bmatrix}_h : (x_1, x_2, x_3) \neq (0, 0, 0), x_i \in GF(n) \right\}$$

$$(\forall \kappa \neq 0) \left( \begin{bmatrix} y_1 \\ y_2 \\ y_3 \end{bmatrix}_h = \begin{bmatrix} \kappa x_1 \\ \kappa x_2 \\ \kappa x_3 \end{bmatrix}_h \right)$$

$PGL(3, n)$

$$\left\{ \begin{bmatrix} x_1 \\ x_2 \\ x_3 \end{bmatrix}_h \mapsto \begin{bmatrix} \phi(x_1) \\ \phi(x_2) \\ \phi(x_3) \end{bmatrix}_h : A \in GL(3, n), \phi \in Gal(GF(n)) \right\}$$

# Orbits of two-point stabilizer

$$P\Gamma L(3, n) \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 0 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix}_h, \begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ 1 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix}_h = \left\{ \begin{bmatrix} x_1 \\ x_2 \\ x_3 \end{bmatrix}_h \mapsto \begin{bmatrix} a & 0 & c \\ 0 & b & d \\ 0 & 0 & e \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} \phi(x_1) \\ \phi(x_2) \\ \phi(x_3) \end{bmatrix}_h : a, b, e \neq 0, \phi \in \text{Gal}(GF(n)) \right\}$$

## Orbits

**Ideal** Points:  $\left\{ \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ c \\ 0 \end{bmatrix}_h : c \neq 0 \right\}$

**Affine** points:  $\left\{ \begin{bmatrix} c \\ d \\ e \end{bmatrix}_h : e \neq 0 \right\}$

**Sizes:**  $n - 1, n^2$

# AST from Projective Groups

## Nontrivial Relations

$$R_4 = \left[ \left( \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 0 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix}_h, \begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ 1 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix}_h, \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 1 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix}_h \right) \right]$$

**Third valency:**  $n - 1$

$$R_5 = \left[ \left( \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 0 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix}_h, \begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ 1 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix}_h, \begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ 0 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix}_h \right) \right]$$

**Third valency:**  $n^2$



# Computing $p_{ijk}^l$ for $P\Gamma L(3, n)$ AST

## Nontrivial relations

$$R_4 = \left[ \left( \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 0 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix}_h, \begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ 1 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix}_h, \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 1 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix}_h \right) \right]$$

Example:  $p_{444}^4 = n - 2$

$$\left| \left\{ \begin{bmatrix} z_1 \\ z_2 \\ z_3 \end{bmatrix}_h : \left( \begin{bmatrix} z_1 \\ z_2 \\ z_3 \end{bmatrix}_h, \begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ 1 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix}_h, \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 1 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix}_h \right), \left( \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 0 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix}_h, \begin{bmatrix} z_1 \\ z_2 \\ z_3 \end{bmatrix}_h, \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 1 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix}_h \right), \left( \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 0 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix}_h, \begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ 1 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix}_h, \begin{bmatrix} z_1 \\ z_2 \\ z_3 \end{bmatrix}_h \right) \in R_4 \right\} \right|$$

## Computing $p_{444}^4 = n - 2$ for $P\Gamma L(3, n)$ AST

### First inclusion

$$\left( \begin{bmatrix} z_1 \\ z_2 \\ z_3 \end{bmatrix}_h, \begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ 1 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix}_h, \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 1 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix}_h \right) \in R_4 = \left[ \left( \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 0 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix}_h, \begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ 1 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix}_h, \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 1 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix}_h \right) \right]$$

## Computing $p_{444}^4 = n - 2$ for $P\Gamma L(3, n)$ AST

$$A \left( \begin{bmatrix} \textcolor{red}{1} \\ 0 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix}_h, \begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ \textcolor{blue}{1} \\ 0 \end{bmatrix}_h, \begin{bmatrix} \textcolor{violet}{1} \\ \textcolor{violet}{1} \\ 0 \end{bmatrix}_h \right) = \left( \begin{bmatrix} z_1 \\ z_2 \\ z_3 \end{bmatrix}_h, \begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ 1 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix}_h, \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 1 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix}_h \right)$$

Column 1 of  $A$ :  $\begin{bmatrix} \textcolor{red}{az_1} \\ \textcolor{red}{az_2} \\ \textcolor{red}{az_3} \end{bmatrix}$

Column 2 of  $A$ :  $\begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ \textcolor{blue}{b} \\ 0 \end{bmatrix}$

Proceed

$$\begin{bmatrix} az_1 \\ az_2 + b \\ az_3 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} \textcolor{violet}{d} \\ \textcolor{violet}{d} \\ 0 \end{bmatrix} \implies z_3 = 0, \quad az_1 = az_2 + b$$

$$\begin{bmatrix} z_1 \\ z_2 \\ z_3 \end{bmatrix}_h \in \left\{ \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ c \\ 0 \end{bmatrix}_h : c \neq 0, 1 \right\}$$

# Intersection Numbers

## Commutative AST from $P\Gamma L(k, n)$

1.  $A_4 A_4 A_4 = (n - 2)A_4$

2.  $A_4 A_4 A_5 = A_4 A_5 A_4 = A_5 A_4 A_4 = 0$

3.  $A_4 A_5 A_5 = A_5 A_4 A_5 = A_5 A_5 A_4 = (n - 1)A_5$

4.  $A_5 A_5 A_5 = \frac{n^2(n^{k-2} - 1)}{n - 1}A_4 + \left(\frac{n^k - 1}{n - 1} - 3n\right)A_5$

## Note

**$A_4$  generates subalgebra**

**ASTs from  $PGL(k, n)$ ,  $PSL(k, n)$ , and  $P\Gamma L(k, n)$  equal for  $k \geq 3$**

# Affine Semilinear Group

# Affine Semilinear Group

$A\Gamma L(2, p^\alpha)$

Action on  $V = (GF(p^\alpha))^2$

$A \in GL(2, n), \quad \phi \in Gal(GF(n)), \quad v \in V$

$$(v, A, \phi) \cdot \begin{bmatrix} x_1 \\ x_2 \end{bmatrix} := A \begin{bmatrix} \phi(x_1) \\ \phi(x_2) \end{bmatrix} + v$$

Two-point stabilizer

$$A\Gamma L(2, n)_{\begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix}, \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix}} = \left\{ \begin{bmatrix} x_1 \\ x_2 \end{bmatrix} \mapsto \begin{bmatrix} 1 & a \\ 0 & b \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} \phi(x_1) \\ \phi(x_2) \end{bmatrix} : b \neq 0, \phi \in Gal(GF(n)) \right\}$$

# Orbits of two-point stabilizer

## Type 1:

Correspond to **Galois conjugacy classes**

$$\left\{ \begin{bmatrix} a^{p^\mu} \\ 0 \end{bmatrix} : 0 \leq \mu < \alpha \right\}$$

(Size  $\deg_{\mathbb{Z}_p}(a)$ )

## Type 2:

Corresponds to vectors **linearly independent** from  $\begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix}$

$$\left\{ \begin{bmatrix} c \\ d \end{bmatrix} \notin \text{Span} \left( \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix} \right) \right\}$$

(Size  $(p^\alpha)^2 - p^\alpha$ )

# Intersection Numbers

**Hypermatrices from Type 1 orbits form subalgebra**

$a, b, c \in GF(q) \setminus \{0, 1\}$

$T$  a **transversal** of the orbits of  $A\Gamma L(1, p^\alpha)_{0,1}$

$$A^a A^b A^c = \sum_{\ell \in T} p_\ell A^\ell,$$

$$p_\ell = \left| \left\{ c^{p^\mu} : (\exists \kappa, \lambda)(1 - c^{p^\mu}) a^{p^\kappa} + c^{p^\mu} = c^{p^\mu} b^{p^\lambda} = \ell \right\} \right|$$

**Other** intersection numbers found **similarly**

**Computed** via equations involving **Galois conjugates**



# Sporadic Groups

# Sporadic Groups

## Computed through GAP

Group	AST Size	$n_i^{(3)}$	Group	AST Size	$n_i^{(3)}$
$M(11)$	5	9	$M(11)$ (degree 12)	5	10
$M(12)$	5	10	$PSL(2, 11)$ (degree 11)	6	3, 6
$M(22)$	5	20	$A_7$ (degree 15)	6	1, 12
$M(23)$	5	21	$HS$	7	12, 72, 90
$M(24)$	5	22	$Co_3$	6	112, 162

The ASTs are commutative

Intersection numbers in manuscript [BB22a]

# Other Groups

## Sizes, third valencies, and intersection numbers

- ▶  $S_n$  and  $A_n$
- ▶  $PSL(2, n)$
- ▶ Other subgroups of  $A\Gamma L(k, n)$

## Sizes and third valencies

- ▶  $PGU(3, q)$  and  $PSU(3, q)$
- ▶  $Sp(2\ell, 2)$
- ▶  $Sz(q)$  and  $Ree(q)$

# Other Groups

## Sizes and third valencies

1.  $PGU(3, q)$  and  $PSU(3, q)$  on **isotropic** lines
  - **Orbits:** solutions of  $r + r^q = 1$  and  $s + s^q = 0$
2.  $Sp(2\ell, 2)$  on **quadratic forms**
  - **Orbits:** **isotropic** vectors orthogonal (or not) to a fixed vector
3.  $Sz(q)$  and  $Ree(q)$ 
  - **Orbits:** **solutions** to some lengthy equations

# Research Directions

## 1. Intersection numbers:

$PGU(3, q)$ ,  $PSU(3, q)$ ,  $Sp(2\ell, 2)$ ,  $Sz(k)$ ,  $Ree(k)$ ,  
**other subgroups** of  $A\Gamma L(k, q)$  and  $P\Gamma U(k, q)$

## 2. **Classification** of ASTs over small vertices [BB22c]

## 3. **Identity** pairs and **inverse** pairs [MB94]

## 4. Algebraic/Combinatorial AST **structure theory** [Lis71]

## 5. **Spectral theory** of hypermatrices [GF20]

## 6. Other **types** and **constructions** of ASTs [PB21, BB22b]

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