

Hasse-Weil type theorems and relevant classes of polynomial functions

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Seminario congiunto
UMI

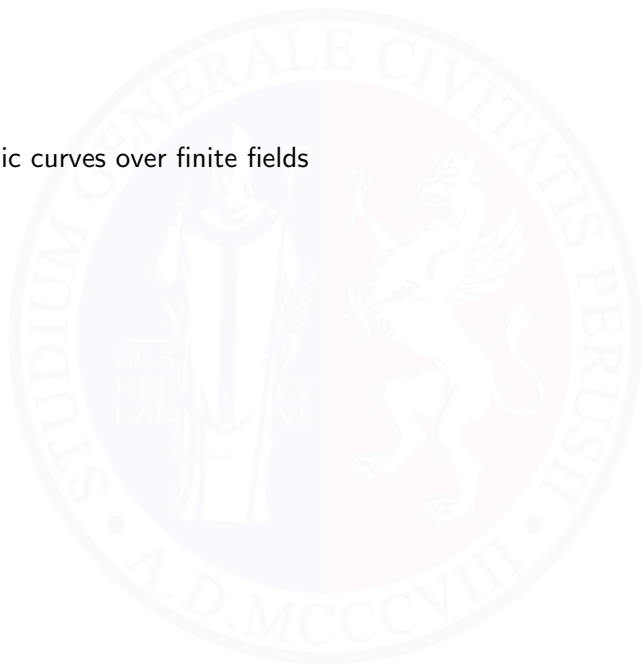
Gruppo Crittografia e Codici e Iniziativa De Componendis Cifris
Gruppo MathCifris

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Outline

- 1 Algebraic curves over finite fields



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- ① Algebraic curves over finite fields
- ② How describe a problem via a curve?
- ③ Which machineries?

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- ① Algebraic curves over finite fields
- ② How describe a problem via a curve?
- ③ Which machineries?
- ④ Applications:
 - ▶ Permutation polynomials
 - ▶ Fractional Permutation Polynomials
 - ▶ Planar polynomials
 - ▶ Scattered polynomials

Connections

Permutation polynomials

S-boxes, Public key cryptography,
Coding Theory, orthogonal latin squares,
bent-negabent functions

Planar polynomials, q odd

Construction of finite projective planes,
Relative difference sets,
Error-correcting codes
S-boxes in block ciphers

Planar polynomials, q even

Relative difference sets,
Error-correcting codes
S-boxes in block ciphers

Scattered polynomials

blocking sets, small complete caps,
two-intersection sets, MRD codes
finite semifields, translation hyperovals

Toy example: a permutation problem

How to check if a polynomial $f(x)$ permutes \mathbb{F}_q ?

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$f(x) = f(y)$ has **only solutions** $(\bar{x}, \bar{x}) \in \mathbb{F}_q^2$

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$f(x) = f(y)$ has **only solutions** $(\bar{x}, \bar{x}) \in \mathbb{F}_q^2$



$\frac{f(x)-f(y)}{x-y} = 0$ has **no solution** $(\bar{x}, \bar{y}) \in \mathbb{F}_q^2$ with $\bar{x} \neq \bar{y}$

Toy example: a permutation problem

Example

Does $f(x) = x^3 + x$ permute \mathbb{F}_7 ?

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$$\frac{f(x)-f(y)}{x-y} = 0 \text{ reads } x^2 + xy + y^2 + 1 = 0$$

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$f(x) = x^3 + x$ does not permute \mathbb{F}_7

Algebraic curves in Combinatorics

Construction of complete plane arcs

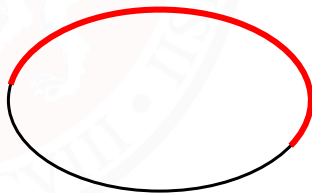
Definition

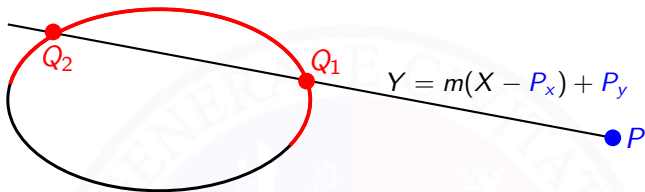
$\mathcal{A} \subset \text{PG}(2, q)$
arc \iff no three points collinear

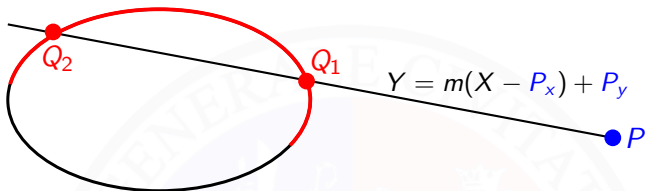
$\mathcal{A} \subset \text{PG}(2, q)$
complete arc $\iff \forall P \in \text{PG}(2, q) \setminus \mathcal{A}$
collinear with $Q_1 \neq Q_2 \in \mathcal{A}$

*Idea of Segre and
Lombardo-Radice*

*consider subsets of
a conic or a cubic curve*



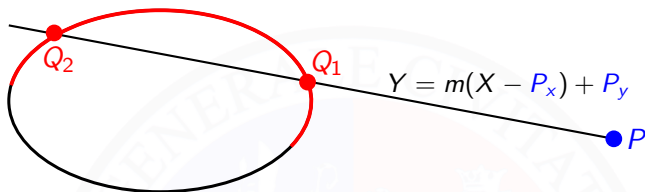




attach to P a curve C_P



*suitable points of C_P
yield existence of
bisecants through P*



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Complete planar arcs

Segre, Hirschfeld, Abatangelo, Korchmáros,
Szőnyi, Voloch, Giulietti, Platoni, Anbar, B., ...

*Complete planar
k-arcs*

Hirschfeld, Voloch, Giulietti, Zini,
Marcugini, Pambianco, B., ...

Complete caps

Giulietti, Anbar, Platoni, B., ...

*Complete arcs
in projective spaces*

Giulietti, Platoni, B., ...

What is a curve?

\mathbb{F}_q : finite field with $q = p^h$ elements

Definition (Affine plane)

$$\text{AG}(2, q) := (\mathbb{F}_q)^2$$

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\mathcal{C} in $\text{AG}(2, q)$ **Curve**

class of proportional polynomials $F(X, Y) \in \mathbb{F}_q[X, Y]$

degree of $\mathcal{C} = \deg(F(X, Y))$

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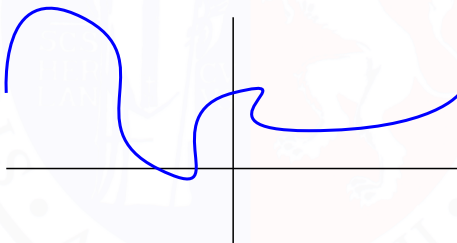
$$2X + 7Y^2 + 3 \iff 4X + 14Y^2 + 6$$

What is a curve?

\mathcal{C} defined by $F(X, Y)$

Definition

$(a, b) \in \text{AG}(2, q)$
(affine) \mathbb{F}_q -rational point of $\mathcal{C} \iff F(a, b) = 0$



$\mathcal{C} : F(X, Y) = 0$

Curves: absolute irreducibility

Definition

$\mathcal{C} : F(X, Y) = 0$ affine equation

Definition

\mathcal{C} absolutely irreducible \iff

$$\nexists G(X, Y), H(X, Y) \in \overline{\mathbb{F}_q}[X, Y] :$$

$$F(X, Y) = G(X, Y)H(X, Y)$$

$$\deg(G(X, Y)), \deg(H(X, Y)) > 0$$

Example

$X^2 + Y^2 + 1$ absolutely irreducible

$X^2 - sY^2, s \notin \square_q,$

$\implies (X - \eta Y)(X + \eta Y), \eta^2 = s, \eta \in \mathbb{F}_{q^2}$ not absolutely irreducible

A fundamental tool: Hasse-Weil Theorem

Question

How many \mathbb{F}_q -rational points can \mathcal{C} have?

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Theorem (Hasse-Weil Theorem)

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The number N_q of \mathbb{F}_q -rational points is

$$|N_q - (q + 1)| \leq (d - 1)(d - 2)\sqrt{q}.$$

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$$|N_q - (q + 1)| \leq (d - 1)(d - 2)\sqrt{q}.$$

Example

$\mathcal{C} : X^2 - Y^2 = 0$ has $2q + 1$ \mathbb{F}_q -rational points!

$\mathcal{C} : X^2 - sY^2 = 0, \quad s \notin \square_q$ has 1 \mathbb{F}_q -rational point!

Algebraic curves and Permutation Polynomials

Theorem

$f(x) \in \mathbb{F}_q[x]$ is PP \iff $\mathcal{C}_f : \frac{f(X)-f(Y)}{X-Y} = 0$ has no affine \mathbb{F}_q -rational points off $X - Y = 0$

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Example

$$f(x) = x^3 + x \in \mathbb{F}_q[x]$$

$$\mathcal{C}_f : \frac{f(X) - f(Y)}{X - Y} = X^2 + XY + Y^2 + 1 = 0$$

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not on $X - Y = 0$

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if $q > 3 \implies f(x) = x^3 + x$ is NOT a PP

Toy example revisited: a permutation problem 2

Example

Does $f(x) = x^7 + x^5 + x$ permute \mathbb{F}_{2^k} ?

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$$\frac{f(X)-f(Y)}{X-Y} = 0 \text{ reads } \begin{aligned} &X^6 + X^5Y + X^4Y^2 + X^4 + X^3Y^3 + X^3Y + \\ &X^2Y^4 + X^2Y^2 + XY^5 + XY^3 + Y^6 + Y^4 + 1 = 0 \end{aligned}$$

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$$\mathcal{C}_f = \mathcal{C}_1 \cup \mathcal{C}_2 \cup \mathcal{C}_3$$

$$\mathcal{C}_1 := X^2 + \omega^3XY + Y^2 + \omega^6 = 0$$

$$\mathcal{C}_2 := X^2 + \omega^6XY + Y^2 + \omega^5 = 0$$

$$\mathcal{C}_3 := X^2 + \omega^5XY + Y^2 + \omega^3 = 0$$

$$\omega \in \mathbb{F}_8 \text{ such that } \omega^3 + \omega + 1 = 0$$

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$$3 \nmid k \implies \mathcal{C}_i \text{ not defined over } \mathbb{F}_{2^k} \implies \text{no } \mathbb{F}_{2^k}\text{-rational points off } X = Y \implies x^7 + x^5 + x \text{ is PP}$$

An easy criterion

Criterion (SEGRE)

$P \in \mathcal{C}$ has tangent t

- *non-repeated*
- $t \cap \mathcal{C} = \{P\}$

$\implies \mathcal{C}$ is absolutely irreducible

An easy criterion

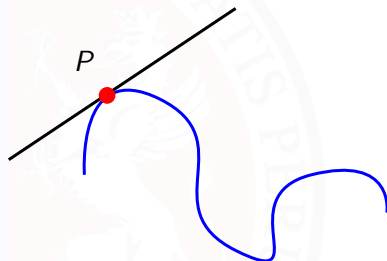
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BARTOCCI-SEGRE. Acta Arith XVIII, 1971

Frobenius automorphism and \mathbb{F}_q -rational components

Definition (Frobenius automorphism)

$$\begin{aligned}\varphi_q &: \overline{\mathbb{F}_q} \rightarrow \overline{\mathbb{F}_q} \\ \alpha &\mapsto \alpha^q\end{aligned}$$

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$$\begin{aligned}\varphi_q: \mathbb{A}^2(\overline{\mathbb{F}_q}) &\rightarrow \mathbb{A}^2(\overline{\mathbb{F}_q}) \\ (\alpha, \beta) &\mapsto (\alpha^q, \beta^q)\end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned}\varphi_q: \overline{\mathbb{F}_q}[X, Y] &\rightarrow \overline{\mathbb{F}_q}[X, Y] \\ \sum \alpha_{i,j} X^i Y^j &\mapsto \sum \alpha_{i,j}^q X^i Y^j\end{aligned}$$

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$$\varphi_q(\alpha) = \alpha \iff \alpha \in \mathbb{F}_q$$

$$\varphi_q(\alpha, \beta) = (\alpha, \beta) \iff (\alpha, \beta) \in \mathbb{A}^2(\mathbb{F}_q)$$

$$\varphi_q(\mathcal{C}) = \mathcal{C} \iff \lambda F \in \mathbb{F}_q[X, Y] \text{ for some } \lambda \in \overline{\mathbb{F}_q}^*$$

Frobenius automorphism and \mathbb{F}_q -rational components

$$F(X, Y) \in \mathbb{F}_q[X, Y], \quad \mathcal{C} : F(X, Y) = 0 \text{ curve}$$

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$$F(X, Y) = F_1(X, Y) \cdot F_2(X, Y) \cdot \dots \cdot F_k(X, Y), \quad F_i \in \overline{\mathbb{F}_q}[X, Y]$$

$$\mathcal{C}_i : F_i(X, Y) = 0 \text{ components of } \mathcal{C}$$

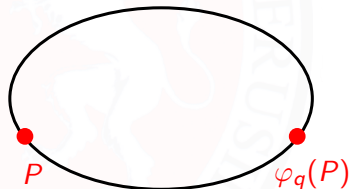
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$$P \in \mathcal{C} \implies \varphi_q(P) \in \mathcal{C}$$



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$\mathcal{C}_i : F_i(X, Y) = 0$ components of \mathcal{C}

$$\varphi_q(\mathcal{C}_i) = \mathcal{C}_j$$

$$\varphi_q(\mathcal{C}_i) = \mathcal{C}_j$$

\mathcal{C}_i

Remark

$$\varphi_q(\mathcal{C}_i) = \mathcal{C}_i \implies \begin{array}{l} \mathcal{C}_i \text{ is defined over } \mathbb{F}_q \\ \mathcal{C}_i \text{ } \mathbb{F}_q\text{-rational A.I. component of } \mathcal{C} \end{array}$$

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$\alpha^6 = 1$
 $\alpha \in \mathbb{F}_{23}$

The diagram shows a red dot from which five black lines radiate outwards. Each line is labeled with a linear equation in X and Y . The equations are:

- $X - \alpha^5 Y = 0$
- $X - \alpha^4 Y = 0$
- $X - \alpha^3 Y = 0$
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- $X - \alpha Y = 0$

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$\alpha^6 = 1$
 $\alpha \in \overline{\mathbb{F}_{23}}$

$X - \alpha^5 Y = 0$
 $X - \alpha^4 Y = 0$
 $X + Y = 0 \leftarrow \text{defined over } \mathbb{F}_{23}$
 $X - \alpha^2 Y = 0$
 $X - \alpha Y = 0$

$X + Y = 0$
defined over \mathbb{F}_{23}

\implies

there are 22 \mathbb{F}_{23} -rational
points (x, y) with $x \neq y$

\implies

$f(x) = x^6$
NO PP

Hasse-Weil again

Theorem (Hasse-Weil Theorem)

\mathcal{C} *absolutely irreducible* curve of degree d defined over \mathbb{F}_q

$$|N_q - (q + 1)| \leq (d - 1)(d - 2)\sqrt{q}.$$

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Corollary

$\deg f(x) < q^{1/4}$
 $f(x)$ *PP* $\implies \mathcal{C}_f$ has no \mathbb{F}_q -A.I.C. distinct from $X - Y = 0$

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Proof. \mathcal{D} \mathbb{F}_q -A.I.C. By Hasse-Weil Theorem

$$\begin{aligned} N_q &\geq -(d - 1)(d - 2)\sqrt{q} + (q + 1) \\ &\geq -(\sqrt[4]{q} - 2)(\sqrt[4]{q} - 3)\sqrt{q} + (q + 1) \\ &= 5\sqrt[4]{q^3} - 6\sqrt{q} + 1 \end{aligned}$$

Number of points *not at infinity nor on* $X - Y = 0$

$$N_q - 2 \deg(\mathcal{D}) \geq N_q - 2(\sqrt[4]{q} - 1) \geq 5\sqrt[4]{q^3} - 6\sqrt{q} - 2\sqrt[4]{q} + 3 > 0$$

Existence of absolutely irreducible \mathbb{F}_q -rational components

Remark

$P \in \mathcal{C}$ *simple point* $\implies P$ belongs to a *unique* component of \mathcal{C}

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Criterion

$F(X, Y, T) \in \mathbb{F}_q[X, Y, T],$

$P \in \mathcal{C} : F(X, Y, T) = 0$ *simple*

\mathbb{F}_q -point

$\implies \mathcal{C}$ has \mathbb{F}_q -A.I.C. defined over \mathbb{F}_q

$P = \varphi_q(P)$

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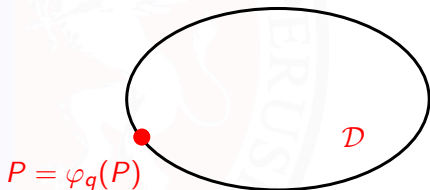
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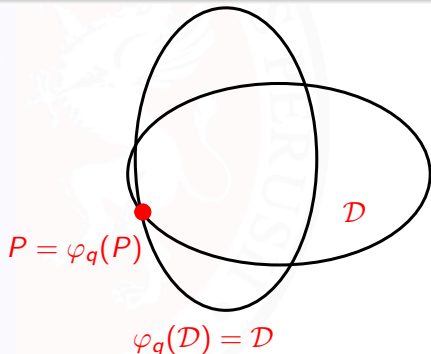
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What to do when the degree is too high: A Useful Criterion

Problem

The degree of $C_f : \frac{f(x)-f(y)}{x-y} = 0$ can be too high to use Hasse-Weil

What to do when the degree is too high: A Useful Criterion

Problem

The degree of $C_f : \frac{f(x)-f(y)}{x-y} = 0$ can be too high to use Hasse-Weil

$$f_{r,d,h}(x) = x^r h\left(x^{\frac{q-1}{d}}\right)$$

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$$f_{r,d,h}(x) = x^r h\left(x^{\frac{q-1}{d}}\right)$$

Criterion

$$f_{r,d,h}(x) \in \mathbb{F}_q \text{ PP} \iff \begin{aligned} &\bullet (r, (q-1)/d) = 1 \\ &\bullet x^r h(x)^{\frac{q-1}{d}} \text{ permutes } \mu_d = \{a \in \mathbb{F}_q : a^d = 1\} \end{aligned}$$

PARK, LEE. Bull. Aust. Math. Soc., 2001

ZIEVE. Proc. Am. Math. Soc. 2009

AKBARY, GHIOCA, WANG. Finite Fields Appl., 2011

What to do when the degree is too high: A Useful Criterion

$$f_{\alpha,\beta}(x) = x + \alpha x^{q(q-1)+1} + \beta x^{2(q-1)+1}, q = 2^n$$

Problem

Find all $\alpha, \beta \in \mathbb{F}_{q^2}$, $q = 2^n$, such that $f_{\alpha,\beta}$ is *PP*

TU, ZENG, LI, HELLESETH. Finite Fields Appl., 2018

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$$f_{\alpha,\beta}(x) = x + \alpha x^{q(q-1)+1} + \beta x^{2(q-1)+1} = x \left(1 + \alpha (x^{q-1})^q + \beta (x^{q-1})^2 \right)$$

$$f_{\alpha,\beta}(x) \in \mathbb{F}_{q^2} \text{ PP} \iff g_{\alpha,\beta}(x) = x \left(1 + \alpha x^q + \beta x^2 \right)^{q-1} \text{ permutes } \mu_{q+1}$$

How to make life easier

$f_{\alpha,\beta}(x) \in \mathbb{F}_{q^2}$ **PP** $\iff g_{\alpha,\beta}(x) = x(1 + \alpha x^q + \beta x^2)^{q-1}$ permutes μ_{q+1}

- $i \in \mathbb{F}_{q^2}$, $i^q + i = 1$
- $\alpha = A + iB$, $A, B \in \mathbb{F}_q$
- $\beta = C + iD$, $C, D \in \mathbb{F}_q$
- $x = \frac{x' + i}{x' + i + 1}$, $x' \in \mathbb{F}_q$

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$$g_{\alpha,\beta}(x) \mapsto h(x) = \frac{h_1(x)}{h_2(x)}, \quad \begin{array}{l} h_1, h_2 \in \mathbb{F}_q[x] \\ \deg(h_1), \deg(h_2) \leq 3 \end{array}$$

How to make life easier

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Proposition

$f_{\alpha,\beta}(x)$ **PP** of \mathbb{F}_{q^2} \iff $\mathcal{C}_{A,B} : \frac{h_1(X)h_2(Y) - h_1(Y)h_2(X)}{X - Y} = 0$,
 $\deg(\mathcal{C}_{A,B}) \leq 4$,
has **no \mathbb{F}_q -rational points** (\bar{x}, \bar{y}) with $\bar{x} \neq \bar{y}$

Exceptional Planar Functions

Definition (Planar Function, q odd)

q odd prime power

$f : \mathbb{F}_q \rightarrow \mathbb{F}_q$ **planar** or **perfect nonlinear** if

$$\forall \epsilon \in \mathbb{F}_q^* \implies x \mapsto f(x + \epsilon) - f(x) \text{ is PP}$$

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- Construction of finite projective planes

DEMBOWSKI-OSTROM, Math. Z. 1968

- Relative difference sets

GANLEY-SPENCE, J. Combin. Theory Ser. A 1975

- Error-correcting codes

CARLET-DING-YUAN, IEEE Trans. Inform. Theory 2005

- S-boxes in block ciphers

NYBERG-KNUDSEN, Advances in cryptology 1993.

Exceptional Planar Functions

Definition (Planar Function, q even)

q even

$f : \mathbb{F}_q \rightarrow \mathbb{F}_q$ **planar** if

$$\forall \epsilon \in \mathbb{F}_q^* \implies x \mapsto f(x + \epsilon) + f(x) + \epsilon x \text{ is PP}$$

Exceptional Planar Functions

Definition (Planar Function, q even)

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$f : \mathbb{F}_q \rightarrow \mathbb{F}_q$ **planar** if

$$\forall \epsilon \in \mathbb{F}_q^* \implies x \mapsto f(x + \epsilon) + f(x) + \epsilon x \text{ is PP}$$

ZHOU, J. Combin. Des. 2013.

Other works

SCHMIDT-ZHOU, J. Algebraic Combin., 2014

SCHERR-ZIEVE, Ann. Comb., 2014

HU-LI-ZHANG-FENG-GE, Des. Codes Cryptogr., 2015

QU, IEEE Trans. Inform. Theory, 2016

Exceptional Planar Functions

Theorem (B.-SCHMIDT, 2018.)

$$f(X) \in \mathbb{F}_q[X], \deg(f) \leq q^{1/4}$$

$$f(X) \text{ *planar* on } \mathbb{F}_q \iff f(X) = \sum_i a_i X^{2^i}$$

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Proposition (Connection with algebraic surfaces)

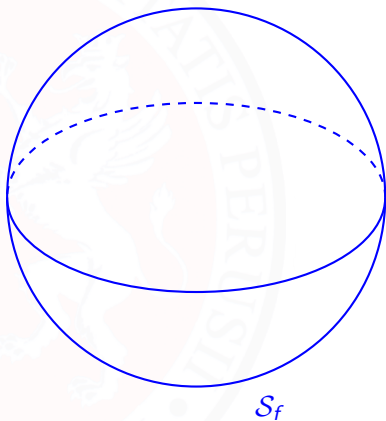
$$f(X) \in \mathbb{F}_q[X] \text{ *planar* } \iff \mathcal{S}_f : \psi(X, Y, Z) = 0$$

$$\psi(X, Y, Z) = 1 + \frac{f(X) + f(Y) + f(Z) + f(X + Y + Z)}{(X + Y)(X + Z)} \in \mathbb{F}_q[X, Y, Z]$$

has no affine \mathbb{F}_q -rational points off $X = Y$ and $Z = X$

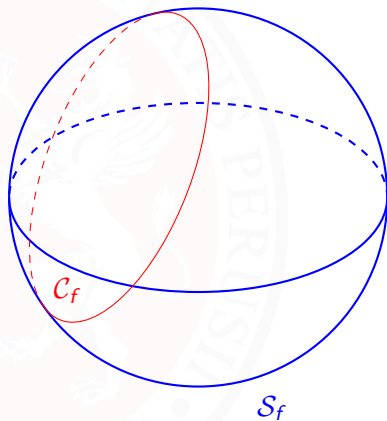
Proof Strategy

- Consider \mathcal{S}_f



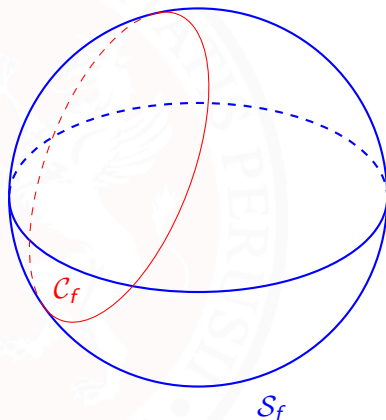
Proof Strategy

- Consider \mathcal{S}_f
- $\mathcal{C}_f = \mathcal{S}_f \cap \pi$



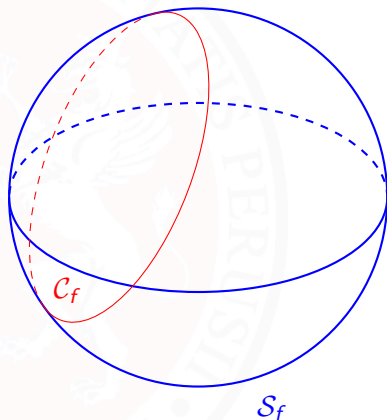
Proof Strategy

- Consider \mathcal{S}_f
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- \mathcal{C}_f has \mathbb{F}_q -rational A.I. component



Proof Strategy

- Consider \mathcal{S}_f
- $\mathcal{C}_f = \mathcal{S}_f \cap \pi$
- \mathcal{C}_f has \mathbb{F}_q -rational A.I. component
- Hasse-Weil $\implies \mathcal{S}_f$ has \mathbb{F}_q -rational points $(\bar{x}, \bar{y}, \bar{z})$, $\bar{x} \neq \bar{y}$, $\bar{x} \neq \bar{z}$, if q is large enough

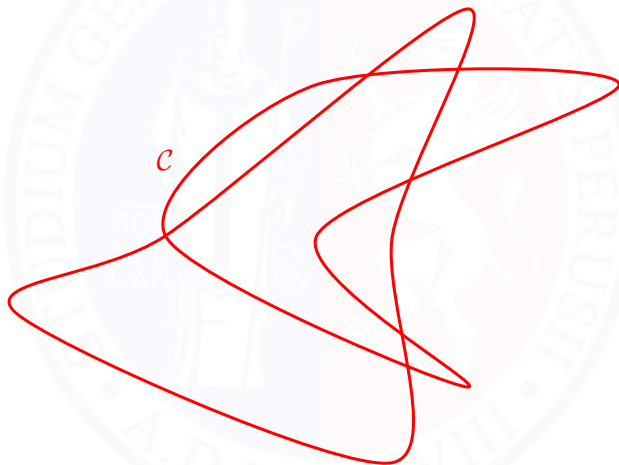


Another method based on singular points

- JANWA-McGUIRE-WILSON, J. Algebra, 1995
JEDLICKA, Finite Fields Appl., 2007
HERNANDO-McGUIRE, J. Algebra, 2011
HERNANDO-McGUIRE, Des. Codes Cryptogr., 2012
HERNANDO-McGUIRE-MONSERRAT, Geometriae Dedicata, 2014
SCHMIDT-ZHOU, J. Algebraic Combin., 2014
LEDUCQ, Des. Codes Cryptogr., 2015
B.-ZHOU, J. Algebra, 2018

Another method based on singular points

- Consider a curve C defined by $F(X, Y) = 0$, $\deg(F) = d$



Another method based on singular points

- Consider a curve \mathcal{C} defined by $F(X, Y) = 0$, $\deg(F) = d$
- Suppose \mathcal{C} has no A.I. components defined over \mathbb{F}_q

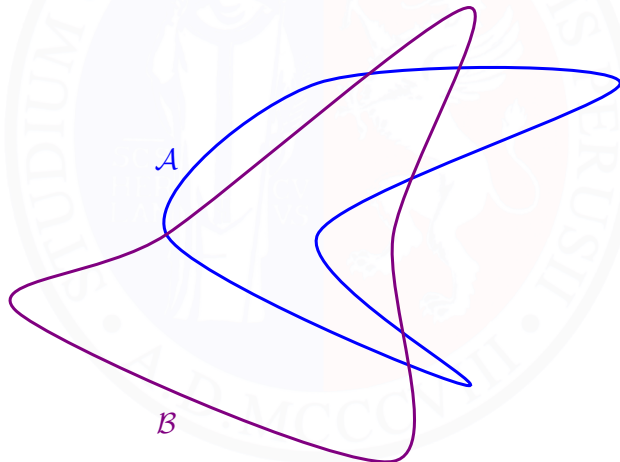


Another method based on singular points

- There are two components of \mathcal{C}

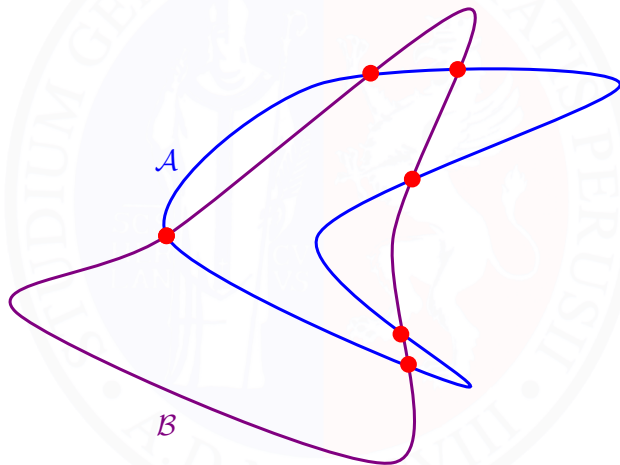
$\mathcal{A} : A(X, Y) = 0$, $\mathcal{B} : B(X, Y) = 0$, with

$$F(X, Y) = A(X, Y) \cdot B(X, Y), \quad \deg(A) \cdot \deg(B) \geq 2d^2/9$$



Another method based on singular points

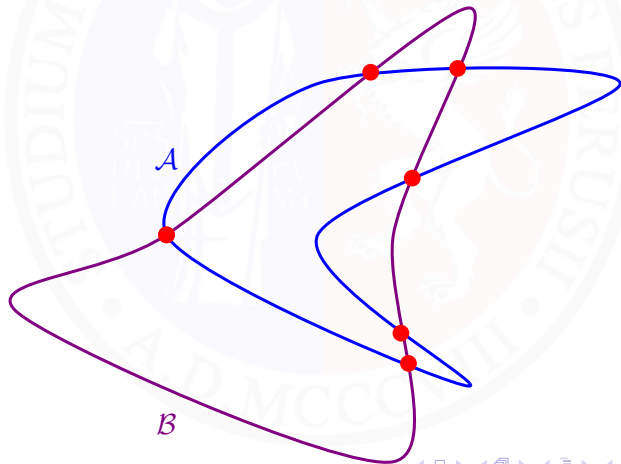
- $\mathcal{A} \cap \mathcal{B} \subset \text{SING}(\mathcal{C})$



Another method based on singular points

- $\mathcal{I}(P, \mathcal{A}, \mathcal{B}) \leq \text{MAX}_P$ for all $P \in \text{SING}(\mathcal{C})$

$$2d^2/9 \leq \deg(\mathcal{A}) \cdot \deg(\mathcal{B}) = \overbrace{\sum_{P \in \mathcal{A} \cap \mathcal{B}} \mathcal{I}(P, \mathcal{A}, \mathcal{B})}^{\text{BEZOUT'S THEOREM}} \leq \sum_{P \in \mathcal{A} \cap \mathcal{B}} \text{MAX}_P$$



How to get a contradiction

$$2d^2/9 \leq \deg(\mathcal{A}) \cdot \deg(\mathcal{B}) = \sum_{P \in \mathcal{A} \cap \mathcal{B}} \mathcal{I}(P, \mathcal{A}, \mathcal{B}) \leq \sum_{P \in \mathcal{A} \cap \mathcal{B}} \underbrace{\text{MAX}_P}_{\text{CONTRADICTION}} < 2d^2/9$$

The image shows a mathematical derivation leading to a contradiction. The equation is: $2d^2/9 \leq \deg(\mathcal{A}) \cdot \deg(\mathcal{B}) = \sum_{P \in \mathcal{A} \cap \mathcal{B}} \mathcal{I}(P, \mathcal{A}, \mathcal{B}) \leq \sum_{P \in \mathcal{A} \cap \mathcal{B}} \text{MAX}_P < 2d^2/9$. A bracket labeled "BEZOUT'S THEOREM" spans the first three terms. A bracket labeled "CONTRADICTION" is under the last term, $\sum_{P \in \mathcal{A} \cap \mathcal{B}} \text{MAX}_P$.

How to get a contradiction

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- Good estimates on $\mathcal{I}(P, \mathcal{A}, \mathcal{B})$, $P = (\xi, \eta)$
 - ▶ Analyzing the smallest homogeneous parts in

$$F(X + \xi, Y + \eta) = F_m(X, Y) + F_{m+1}(X, Y) + \dots$$

- ▶ Proving that there is a unique branch centered at P
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BEZOUT'S THEOREM

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Maximum Scattered linear sets in $\text{PG}(1, q^n)$

$$\text{PG}(1, q^n) := \{(a : b) \mid a, b \in \mathbb{F}_{q^n}, (a, b) \neq (0, 0)\}$$

Definition (Linear sets)

$$\mathbb{U} \leq_q (\mathbb{F}_{q^n})^2, \dim(\mathbb{U}) = k$$

$$L(\mathbb{U}) = \{(u : v) : (u, v) \in \mathbb{U} \setminus \{(0, 0)\}\} \subset \text{PG}(1, q^n)$$

\mathbb{F}_q -linear set of $\text{PG}(1, q^n)$ of rank k

$$f(X) = \sum_i a_i X^{q^i} \in \mathbb{F}_{q^n}[X]$$

$$\mathbb{U} = \{(x, f(x)) : x \in \mathbb{F}_{q^n}\} \leq (\mathbb{F}_{q^n})^2$$

Definition (Maximum scattered Linear sets in $\text{PG}(1, q^n)$)

$$\begin{aligned} \dim_q(\mathbb{U}) = n \\ |L(\mathbb{U})| = \frac{q^n - 1}{q - 1} \end{aligned} \implies \begin{aligned} L(\mathbb{U}) \text{ is Maximum scattered} \\ f(X) \text{ scattered polynomial [Sheekey, AMC 2016]} \end{aligned}$$

Scattered Polynomials of Low Degree

Definition

$$\mathbb{U} = \left\{ (x^{q^t}, f(x)) : x \in \mathbb{F}_{q^n} \right\} \iff f(x) \text{ scattered of index } t$$

$L(\mathbb{U})$ maximum scattered linear set

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$L(\mathbb{U})$ maximum scattered linear set

Lemma

$$\mathbb{U} = \left\{ (x^{q^t}, f(x)) : x \in \mathbb{F}_{q^n} \right\}$$

$$L(\mathbb{U}) \subset \text{PG}(1, q^n) \text{ maximum scattered linear set} \iff$$

$$\mathcal{C}_f : \frac{f(X)Y^{q^t} - f(Y)X^{q^t}}{X^q Y - X Y^q} = 0 \subset \text{AG}(2, q^n)$$

contains *only* points (x, y) with $\frac{y}{x} \in \mathbb{F}_q$

$$C_f : \frac{f(X)Y^{q^t} - f(Y)X^{q^t}}{X^q Y - XY^q} = 0$$

'small degree' $\iff d \leq q^{n/4}$ in \mathbb{F}_{q^n}

Theorem (B.-ZHOU; J. Alg. 2018)

- X^{q^k} , $q > 5$
unique scattered monic polynomial of small degree index 0
- X
• $bX + X^{q^2}$, $N_{\mathbb{F}_{q^n}/\mathbb{F}_q}(b) \neq 1$
unique scattered monic polynomials of small degree of index 1
(if $q = 2$ then $f(X) = X$)

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Branches centered
at singular points \implies better estimates
for $\mathcal{I}(P, \mathcal{A}, \mathcal{B})$

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(B.-MONTANUCCI, JCTA 2021)

$t = 2 \implies$ only *monomials* or *binomials*

Further applications

- **Arcs, caps in projective spaces:** Anbar, Giulietti, Platoni, Zini, Marcugini, Pambianco, Speziali, Marino, Polverino
- **Semiovals and Blocking semiovals:** Kiss, Marcugini, Pambianco, Pavese
- **Ovoids of $Q(4, q)$, $Q(5, q)$, $Q(6, q)$:** Durante, Grimaldi
- **Resolving sets:** Kiss, Marcugini, Pambianco
- **Permutation polynomials:** Giulietti, Zini, Quoos, Timpanella, Bonini, Hou
- **PN, APN, APcN functions:** Schmidt, Calderini, Timpanella, Ghiandoni, Fatabbi, Bonini
- **Kloosterman polynomials:** Li, Zhou
- **Moore exponent sets:** Zhou
- **Maximum scattered linear sets:** Zanella, Zullo, Montanucci, Csajbók, Giulietti, Zini, Zullo
- **r -fat linearized polynomials:** Micheli, Zini, Zullo

The background features a large, faint, circular seal of the University of Padua. The seal contains a central figure, likely a lion or a similar heraldic animal, surrounded by Latin text. The text "STUDIVM GENERALE CIVITATIS PAVSII" is visible at the top, and "A.D. MCCCXVIII" is at the bottom.

THANK YOU
FOR YOUR ATTENTION

How to get a contradiction

$$2d^2/9 \leq \deg(\mathcal{A}) \cdot \deg(\mathcal{B}) = \overbrace{\sum_{P \in \mathcal{A} \cap \mathcal{B}} \mathcal{I}(P, \mathcal{A}, \mathcal{B})}^{\text{BEZOUT'S THEOREM}} \leq \underbrace{\sum_{P \in \mathcal{A} \cap \mathcal{B}} \text{MAX}_P}_{\text{CONTRADICTION}} < 2d^2/9$$

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Another application: β -planar functions

Definition (Planar functions, odd characteristic)

$f(X) \in \mathbb{F}_q[X]$ is planar polynomial if

$$\forall \epsilon \in \mathbb{F}_q^* \quad x \mapsto f(x + \epsilon) - f(x) \text{ BIJECTION}$$



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Definition (β -Planar functions, odd characteristic)

$\beta \in \mathbb{F}_q \setminus \{0, 1\}$, $f(X) \in \mathbb{F}_q[X]$ is β -planar polynomial if

$$\forall \epsilon \in \mathbb{F}_q \quad x \mapsto f(x + \epsilon) - \beta f(x) \text{ BIJECTION}$$

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Theorem (B.-TIMPANELLA, J. Alg. Combin. 2020)

$\beta \in \mathbb{F}_{p^r} \setminus \{0, -1\}$, k such that $(t-1) \mid (p^k - 1)$

$p \nmid t \leq \sqrt[4]{p^r}$, X^t is NOT β -planar if

- 1 $p \nmid t-1$, $p \nmid \prod_{m=1}^7 \prod_{\ell=-7}^{7-m} m^{\frac{p^k-1}{t-1}} + \ell$, $t \geq 470$;
- 2 $t = p^\alpha m + 1$, $(p, \alpha) \neq (3, 1)$, $\alpha \geq 1$, $p \nmid m$, $m \neq p^r - 1 \forall r \mid \ell$, where $\ell = \min_i \{m \mid p^i - 1, \beta^{(p^i-1)/m} = 1\}$.

Another application: β -planar functions

$$\mathcal{C} : F(X, Y) = \frac{(X+1)^t - (Y+1)^t - \beta(X^t - Y^t)}{X - Y} \in \mathbb{F}_{p^r}[X, Y].$$

Another application: β -planar functions

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Singular points $SING(\mathcal{C})$ satisfy

$$\begin{cases} \left(\frac{X+1}{X}\right)^{t-1} = \beta \\ \left(\frac{X}{Y}\right)^{t-1} = 1 \\ \left(\frac{X+1}{Y+1}\right)^{t-1} = 1 \end{cases}$$

Another application: β -planar functions

$$\mathcal{C} : F(X, Y) = \frac{(X+1)^t - (Y+1)^t - \beta(X^t - Y^t)}{X - Y} \in \mathbb{F}_{p^r}[X, Y].$$

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We use estimates on the number of points of particular Fermat curves

GARCIA-VOLOCH, Manuscripta Math., 1987

GARCIA-VOLOCH, J. Number Theory, 1988