

We can define  $\gamma_F(a, b)$  as below:  $\forall a, b \in \mathbf{F}_2^n \gamma_F(a, b) =$

$$\begin{cases} 1 & \text{if } a \neq 0_n \text{ and } F(x) + F(x + a) = b \text{ has solutions} \\ 0 & \text{otherwise} \end{cases}$$

Thus, for every APN  $(n, n)$ -function  $F$ , we view it as a Boolean function  $\frac{|(D_a F)^{-1}(b)|}{2} - 2^{n-1} \delta_0(a, b)$ , then we have

$$\widehat{\gamma_F(u, v)} = \frac{1}{2} W_F^2(u, v) - 2^{n-1}.$$

So we confirm that for every  $u, v$ :

$$W_{\gamma_F}(u, v) = \begin{cases} 2^n & \text{if } v = 0_n \\ 2^n - W_F^2(u, v) & \text{if } v \neq 0_n. \end{cases}$$

The fourth moment of the Walsh transform of an APN function  $F$ :

$$\sum_{u, v \in \mathbf{F}_2^n} W_F^4(u, v) = 3 \cdot 2^{4n} - 2^{3n+1}.$$

When apply the Titsworth relation on the  $\gamma_F$ , we have for all  $(u_0, v_0) \neq (0_n, 0_n)$ ,

$$\sum_{u, v \in \mathbf{F}_2^n} W_{\gamma_F}(u, v) W_{\gamma_F}(u + u_0, v + v_0) = 0.$$

Then we have:

**Theorem 1** *Any APN  $(n, n)$ -function  $F$  satisfies that  $\forall (u_0, v_0)$ ,*

$$\sum_{\substack{u, v \in \mathbf{F}_2^n \\ v \neq 0_n, v \neq v_0}} W_F^2(u, v) W_F^2(u + u_0, v + v_0) = 2^{4n} - 2^{3n+1} + 2^{4n} \delta_0(u_0, v_0).$$

**Corollary 1** *If there exists  $(u_0, v_0) \neq (0_n, 0_n)$  such that  $|W_F(u, v)|$  and  $|W_F(u + u_0, v + v_0)|$  both achieve the maximum value of  $\{|W_F(u, v)| \mid u, v \in \mathbf{F}_2^n; v \neq 0_n\}$ , then we have*

$$nl(F) \geq 2^{n-1} - \frac{1}{2} \sqrt{2^{4n-1} - 2^{3n}}.$$