

# THE GENERATING FIELDS OF TWISTED KLOOSTERMAN SUMS

SHENXING ZHANG

**ABSTRACT.** We use the Kloosterman sheaves constructed by Fisher to show when two twisted Kloosterman sums differ a  $(q-1)$ -th root of unity, and use  $p$ -adic analysis to prove the non-vanishing of twisted Kloosterman sums. Then we can determine the generating fields of twisted Kloosterman sums by these results.

## 1. INTRODUCTION

**1.1. Background.** Let  $p$  be a prime number,  $q = p^d$  a power of  $p$ , and  $\mathbb{F}_q$  the field with  $q$  elements. Denote by  $\mu_n \subseteq \overline{\mathbb{Q}}^\times$  the group of  $n$ -th roots of unity. Let  $\psi : \mathbb{F}_p \rightarrow \mu_p$  be a fixed non-trivial additive character. For  $\chi = \{\chi_1, \dots, \chi_n\}$  an unordered  $n$ -tuple of multiplicative characters  $\chi_i : \mathbb{F}_q^\times \rightarrow \mu_{q-1}$  and  $a \in \mathbb{F}_q^\times$ , define the *Kloosterman sum* as

$$\text{Kl}_n(\psi, \chi, q, a) = \sum_{\substack{x_1 \cdots x_n = a \\ x_i \in \mathbb{F}_q^\times}} \chi_1(x_1) \cdots \chi_n(x_n) \psi(\text{Tr}(x_1 + \cdots + x_n)),$$

where  $\text{Tr} = \text{Tr}_{\mathbb{F}_q/\mathbb{F}_p}$ . Clearly it lies in  $\mathbb{Z}[\mu_{p(q-1)}]$ .

When  $\chi = \mathbf{1} = \{1, \dots, 1\}$  is trivial, the distinctness of Kloosterman sums is studied by many peoples. It's easy to see that

$$a, b \text{ conjugate} \implies \text{Kl}_n(\psi, \mathbf{1}, q, a) = \text{Kl}_n(\psi, \mathbf{1}, q, b).$$

Fisher in [Fis92, Remark 4.28(2)] conjectured that the converse

$$(1.1) \quad \text{Kl}_n(\psi, \mathbf{1}, q, a) = \text{Kl}_n(\psi, \mathbf{1}, q, b) \implies a, b \text{ conjugate}$$

is also true if  $p \geq nd$ . It's known that (1.1) holds when  $p > (2n^{2d} + 1)^2$  in [Fis92], or  $p \geq (d-1)n + 2$  and  $p$  does not divide a certain integer in [Wan95, Theorem 1.3]. Once (1.1) holds, one can obtain that  $\text{Kl}_n(\psi, \mathbf{1}, q, a)$  generates  $\mathbb{Q}(\mu_p)^H$ , where

$$H = \left\{ t \in \text{Gal}(\mathbb{Q}(\mu_p)/\mathbb{Q}) \mid \exists k \in \mathbb{Z} \text{ such that } t^n = a^{p^k-1} \right\}.$$

**1.2. Notations and main results.** In this article, we will study the *generating fields* of twisted Kloosterman sums.

We need the following notations:

- $c = c(\chi) \mid (q-1)$  the minimal positive integer such that  $\chi_i^c = 1, i = 1, \dots, n$ , i.e., the least common multiplier of orders of  $\chi_i$ .
- $\chi^w := \{\chi_1^w, \dots, \chi_n^w\}$ , where  $w \in \mathbb{Z}$  or  $\mathbb{Z}/c\mathbb{Z}$ .

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- $\chi\eta := \{\chi_1\eta, \dots, \chi_n\eta\}$ , where  $\eta$  is a multiplicative character.
- $\chi \circ \sigma := \{\chi_1 \circ \sigma, \dots, \chi_n \circ \sigma\}$ , where  $\sigma \in \text{Gal}(\mathbb{F}_q/\mathbb{F}_p)$ .
- $\prod \chi := \chi_1 \cdots \chi_n$ .

Clearly, the Galois group

$$\text{Gal}(\mathbb{Q}(\mu_{pc})/\mathbb{Q}) = \left\{ \sigma_t \tau_w \mid t \in (\mathbb{Z}/p\mathbb{Z})^\times, w \in (\mathbb{Z}/c\mathbb{Z})^\times \right\},$$

where

$$\sigma_t(\zeta_p) = \zeta_p^t, \sigma_t(\zeta_c) = \zeta_c, \quad \tau_w(\zeta_p) = \zeta_p, \tau_w(\zeta_c) = \zeta_c^w$$

for primitive  $\zeta_p \in \mu_p, \zeta_c \in \mu_c$ .

**Theorem 1.1.** *Assume that  $p > \max\{(2n^{2d} + 1)^2, (3n - 1)c - n\}$  and for any  $i, j$ ,  $\chi_i = \chi_j$  if  $\chi_i^n = \chi_j^n$ . Then  $\text{Kl}_n(\psi, \chi, q, a)$  generates  $\mathbb{Q}(\mu_{pc})^H$ , where  $H$  consists of those  $\sigma_t \tau_w$  such that there exists an integer  $k$  and a character  $\eta$  satisfying*

$$t^n = a^{1-p^k}, \quad \chi^w = \chi^{p^k} \eta, \quad \eta(a) = \prod \chi^w(t).$$

A basic observation tells that

$$\sigma_t \tau_w \text{Kl}_n(\psi, \chi, q, a) = \prod \chi(t)^{-w} \text{Kl}_n(\psi, \chi^w, q, at^n).$$

To study the generating fields, we need to know when two Kloosterman sums differ a  $(q-1)$ -th roots of unity  $\lambda$ . In § 2, we will recall the construction of Kloosterman sheaves by Fisher. Then we will show when two twisted Kloosterman sums differ  $\lambda$  for sufficiently large  $p$ , see Theorem 2.4. We also need the non-vanishingness of Kloosterman sums, which will be proved by  $p$ -adic analysis in § 3. Then we finish the proof in § 4. We will end this paper with several examples in § 5.

## 2. KLOOSTERMAN SHEAVES AND FISHER'S DESCENT

**2.1. Kloosterman sheaves.** Let  $\ell \neq p$  be a prime and fix an embedding  $\overline{\mathbb{Q}}_\ell \hookrightarrow \mathbb{C}$ . Then the additive and multiplicative characters  $\psi, \chi_i$  can take value both in  $\overline{\mathbb{Q}}_\ell$  or  $\mathbb{C}$ .

Deligne in [Del77, Theorem 7.8] and Katz in [Kat88, Theorem 4.11] defined the Kloosterman sheaf of  $\overline{\mathbb{Q}}_\ell$ -modules

$$\mathcal{Kl} = \mathcal{Kl}_{n,q}(\psi, \chi)$$

on  $\mathbb{G}_{m/\mathbb{F}_q}$ , with the following properties:

- $\mathcal{Kl}$  is lisse of rank  $n$  and pure of weight  $n-1$ .
- For any  $a \in \mathbb{F}_q^\times$ ,  $\text{Tr}(\text{Frob}_a, \mathcal{Kl}_{\overline{a}}) = (-1)^{n-1} \text{Kl}_n(\psi, \chi, q, a)$ .
- $\mathcal{Kl}$  is tame at 0.
- $\mathcal{Kl}$  is totally wild with Swan conductor 1 at  $\infty$ . So all  $\infty$ -breaks are  $1/n$ .

Here  $\text{Frob}_a$  is the geometric Frobenius at  $a$ .

**Definition 2.1.** The  $n$ -tuple  $\chi$  is called *Kummer-induced* if there exists a non-trivial character  $\Lambda$  such that  $\chi = \chi\Lambda$  as unordered  $n$ -tuples. In this case,  $\prod \chi = \prod(\chi\Lambda) = \Lambda^n \prod \chi$  and thus  $\Lambda^n = 1$ .

When  $\chi$  is not Kummer-induced,  $\mathcal{Kl}$  is not *geometrically Kummer-induced*. That's to say,  $\mathcal{Kl} \mid \mathbb{G}_{m/\overline{\mathbb{F}}_p}$  is not of type  $(t \mapsto t^N)_* \mathcal{F}$  for some positive integer  $N > 1$  and some lisse sheaf  $\mathcal{F}$  on  $\mathbb{G}_{m/\overline{\mathbb{F}}_p}$ . See [Fis92, Theorem 2.9].

**2.2. Fisher's descent.** In [Fis92, §3], Fisher gave a descent of Kloosterman sheaves along an extension of finite fields. For any  $a \in \mathbb{F}_q^\times$ , he defined a lisse sheaf  $\mathcal{F}_a(\chi)$  on  $\mathbb{G}_m = \mathbb{G}_m/\mathbb{F}_p$ , such that

- $\mathcal{F}_a(\chi) \mid \mathbb{G}_m/\mathbb{F}_q = \bigotimes_{\sigma \in \text{Gal}(\mathbb{F}_q/\mathbb{F}_p)} (t \mapsto \sigma(a)t^n)^* \mathcal{Kl}_{n,q}(\psi \circ \sigma^{-1}, \chi \circ \sigma^{-1})$ .
- $\mathcal{F}_a(\chi)$  is lisse of rank  $n^d$  and pure of weight  $d(n-1)$ .
- For any  $t \in \mathbb{F}_p^\times$ ,  $\text{Tr}(\text{Frob}_t, \mathcal{F}_a(\chi)_{\bar{t}}) = (-1)^{(n-1)d} \text{Kl}_n(\psi, \chi, q, at^n)$ .
- $\mathcal{F}_a(\chi)$  is tame at 0 and its  $\infty$ -breaks are at most 1.

Assume that  $p > 2n + 1$  and  $\chi$  is not Kummer-induced. Then  $\mathcal{F}_a(\chi)$  has a highest weight with multiplicity one. Thus it has a subsheaf  $\mathcal{G}_a(\chi)$  such that, as representations of the Lie algebra of the connected geometric monodromy group  $G_{\text{geom}}(\mathcal{F}_a(\chi))^\circ$ ,  $\mathcal{G}_a(\chi)$  is the irreducible sub-representation with highest weight. Moreover, it is geometrically irreducible and occurs exactly once in  $\mathcal{F}_a(\chi)$  over  $\mathbb{G}_m/\mathbb{F}_p$ . See [Fis92, Proposition 4.18].

The multiplicative character  $\chi$  can be viewed as a character on  $\mathbb{F}_p$ -points of  $\mathbb{B}^\times = \text{Res}_{\mathbb{F}_q/\mathbb{F}_p} \mathbb{G}_m$ . It gives a rank one lisse sheaf on  $\mathbb{B}^\times$  constructed from the Lang torsor as in [Kat88, §4.3]. Denote by  $\mathcal{L}_\chi$  its restriction on  $\mathbb{G}_m$ . Similarly, the additive character  $\psi$  gives a rank one lisse sheaf on  $\mathbb{G}_a/\mathbb{F}_p$ . Denote by  $\mathcal{L}_\psi$  its restriction on  $\mathbb{G}_m$ . For any  $t \in \mathbb{F}_p^\times$ ,

$$\text{Tr}(\text{Frob}_t, (\mathcal{L}_\chi)_{\bar{t}}) = \chi(t), \quad \text{Tr}(\text{Frob}_t, (\mathcal{L}_\psi)_{\bar{t}}) = \psi(t).$$

**2.3. Distinctness.** We will consider when

$$\text{Kl}_n(\psi, \chi, q, a) = \lambda \text{Kl}_n(\psi, \rho, q, b)$$

for some  $\lambda \in \mu_{q-1}$ . The argument is almost the same as in [Fis92], while  $\lambda = 1$  in his paper. So we will only show the difference.

**Proposition 2.2.** *Let  $a, b \in \mathbb{F}_q^\times$  and let  $\chi, \rho$  be  $n$ -tuples of multiplicative characters  $\chi_i, \rho_j : \mathbb{F}_q^\times \rightarrow \overline{\mathbb{Q}_\ell}^\times$  respectively. Assume that  $p > (2n^{2d} + 1)^2$ ,  $\chi$  is not Kummer-induced and there is  $\lambda \in \mu_{q-1}$  such that*

$$\text{Kl}_n(\psi, \chi, q, a) = \lambda \text{Kl}_n(\psi, \rho, q, b).$$

*Then  $\mathcal{G}_a(\chi) \otimes \mathcal{L}_{\prod \bar{\chi}} \mid \mathbb{G}_m/\mathbb{F}_p$  occurs at least once in  $\mathcal{F}_b(\rho) \otimes \mathcal{L}_{\prod \bar{\rho}} \mid \mathbb{G}_m/\mathbb{F}_p$ .*

*Proof.* See [Fis92, Corollary 4.20]. Denote by

$$\mathcal{F} = \mathcal{F}_a(\chi) \otimes \mathcal{L}_{\prod \bar{\chi}}, \quad \mathcal{F}' = \mathcal{F}_b(\rho) \otimes \mathcal{L}_{\prod \bar{\rho}}, \quad \mathcal{G} = \mathcal{G}_a(\chi) \otimes \mathcal{L}_{\prod \bar{\chi}}.$$

For any  $t \in \mathbb{F}_p^\times$ , we have  $\sigma_t \lambda = \lambda$ . Since

$$\begin{aligned} \sigma_t(\text{Kl}_n(\psi, \chi, q, a)) &= \prod \bar{\chi}(t) \cdot \text{Kl}_n(\psi, \chi, q, at^n) = (-1)^{(n-1)d} \text{Tr}(\text{Frob}_t, \mathcal{F}_{\bar{t}}), \\ \sigma_t(\text{Kl}_n(\psi, \rho, q, b)) &= \prod \bar{\rho}(t) \cdot \text{Kl}_n(\psi, \rho, q, bt^n) = (-1)^{(n-1)d} \text{Tr}(\text{Frob}_t, \mathcal{F}'_{\bar{t}}), \end{aligned}$$

we have  $\text{Tr}(\text{Frob}_t, \mathcal{F}_{\bar{t}}) = \lambda \text{Tr}(\text{Frob}_t, \mathcal{F}'_{\bar{t}})$ .

Let  $V = \overline{\mathbb{Q}_\ell} \cdot e$  with  $\text{Frob}_p \cdot e = \lambda e$ , where  $\text{Frob}_p \in \text{Gal}(\overline{\mathbb{F}_p}/\mathbb{F}_p)$  is the geometric Frobenius. Denote by  $\mathcal{L}_0$  the sheaf on  $\text{Spec } \mathbb{F}_p$  corresponding to this module and let  $\mathcal{L}$  be its pulling-back along  $\mathbb{G}_m \rightarrow \text{Spec } \mathbb{F}_p$ . Then for any  $t \in \mathbb{F}_p^\times$ ,

$$\text{Tr}(\text{Frob}_t, \mathcal{L}_{\bar{t}}) = \text{Tr}(\text{Frob}_p, \mathcal{L}_0) = \lambda, \quad \text{Tr}(\text{Frob}_t, (\mathcal{F}' \otimes \mathcal{L})_{\bar{t}}) = \text{Tr}(\text{Frob}_t, \mathcal{F}'_{\bar{t}}).$$

Since  $\mathcal{L} \mid \mathbb{G}_m/\mathbb{F}_p$  is trivial, the result then follows by applying Lemma 2.3 to sheaves  $\mathcal{F}, \mathcal{F}' \otimes \mathcal{L}, \mathcal{G}$  with  $r = s = n^d$ ,  $M_0 = 0$  and  $M_\infty \leq 1$ .  $\square$

**Lemma 2.3** ([Fis92, Lemma 4.9]). *Let  $\mathcal{F}, \mathcal{F}'$  be lisse sheaves on  $\mathbb{G}_m$  of same rank  $r$  and pure of the same weight  $w$ . Assume that for any  $t \in \mathbb{F}_p^\times$ ,*

$$\mathrm{Tr}(\mathrm{Frob}_t, \mathcal{F}_t) = \mathrm{Tr}(\mathrm{Frob}_t, \mathcal{F}'_t).$$

*Let  $\mathcal{G}$  be a geometrically irreducible sheaf of rank  $s$  on  $\mathbb{G}_m$ , pure of weight  $w$ , such that  $\mathcal{G} \mid \mathbb{G}_m/\overline{\mathbb{F}}_p$  occurs exactly once in  $\mathcal{F} \mid \mathbb{G}_m/\overline{\mathbb{F}}_p$ . Then  $\mathcal{G} \mid \mathbb{G}_m/\overline{\mathbb{F}}_p$  occurs at least once in  $\mathcal{F}' \mid \mathbb{G}_m/\overline{\mathbb{F}}_p$ , provided that  $p > (2rs(M_0 + M_\infty) + 1)^2$ , where  $M_\eta$  is the largest  $\eta$ -break of  $\mathcal{F} \oplus \mathcal{F}'$ .*

**Theorem 2.4.** *Let  $a, b \in \mathbb{F}_q^\times$  and let  $\chi, \rho$  be  $n$ -tuples of multiplicative characters. Assume that  $\chi, \rho$  are not Kummer-induced and neither of them is of type  $\{\xi_1, \xi_1^{-1}, 1, \Lambda_2\}\xi_2$ . If  $p > (2n^{2d} + 1)^2$  and*

$$\mathrm{Kl}_n(\psi, \chi, q, a) = \lambda \mathrm{Kl}_n(\psi, \rho, q, b)$$

*for some  $\lambda \in \mu_{q-1}$ , then there exists  $\sigma \in \mathrm{Gal}(\mathbb{F}_q/\mathbb{F}_p)$  and a multiplicative character  $\eta$ , such that  $b = \sigma(a)$  and  $\rho = (\chi \circ \sigma^{-1})\eta$  as unordered tuples. Moreover, either both Kloosterman sums vanish or  $\eta(b) = \lambda^{-1}$ .*

Here,  $\Lambda_2$  denotes the non-trivial quadratic character on  $\mathbb{F}_q^\times$ .

*Proof.* Denote by

$$\mathcal{H} = \mathcal{K}\ell_{n,q}(\psi, \chi) \mid \mathbb{G}_m/\overline{\mathbb{F}}_p \quad \text{and} \quad \mathcal{K} = \mathcal{K}\ell_{n,q}(\psi, \rho) \mid \mathbb{G}_m/\overline{\mathbb{F}}_p.$$

By our assumptions,  $\mathcal{H}$  and  $\mathcal{K}$  are not Kummer-induced by [Fis92, Theorem 2.9]. If  $G_{\mathrm{geom}}(\mathcal{H})^\circ = \mathrm{SO}(4)$ , then  $n = 4$  and there is a multiplicative character  $\eta$  such that  $\overline{\chi} = \chi\eta$  as unordered 4-tuples and  $\prod \chi = \Lambda_2\eta^{-2}$  by [Fis92, Proposition 2.10]. Since  $\chi$  is not Kummer-induced, we have  $\chi = (\xi_1, \xi_1^{-1}, 1, \Lambda_2)\xi_2$  for some  $\xi_1, \xi_2$ . This contradicts to our assumptions. Thus  $G_{\mathrm{geom}}(\mathcal{H})^\circ \neq \mathrm{SO}(4)$ . Similarly,  $G_{\mathrm{geom}}(\mathcal{K})^\circ \neq \mathrm{SO}(4)$ .

Let  $\mathfrak{g}$  be the Lie algebra of the connected geometric monodromy group of

$$\bigoplus_{\sigma \in \mathrm{Gal}(\mathbb{F}_q/\mathbb{F}_p)} T_{\sigma(a)}^* \mathcal{K}\ell_{n,q}(\psi \circ \sigma^{-1}, \chi \circ \sigma^{-1}) \oplus \bigoplus_{\tau \in \mathrm{Gal}(\mathbb{F}_q/\mathbb{F}_p)} T_{\tau(a)}^* \mathcal{K}\ell_{n,q}(\psi \circ \tau^{-1}, \rho \circ \tau^{-1}),$$

where  $T$  is the translation. As showned in [Fis92, Theorem 4.22], we have

$$\mathcal{G}_a(\chi) \hookrightarrow \mathcal{F}_b(\rho), \quad \mathcal{G}_b(\rho) \hookrightarrow \mathcal{F}_a(\chi)$$

as representations of  $\mathfrak{g}$  by applying Corollary 2.2 and [Fis92, Lemma 4.19] twice. By following Fisher's argument step by step, there are  $\sigma \in \mathrm{Gal}(\mathbb{F}_q/\mathbb{F}_p)$  and a multiplicative character  $\eta$ , such that  $b = \sigma(a)$  and  $\rho = (\chi \circ \sigma^{-1})\eta$  as unordered tuples. This implies that

$$\mathrm{Kl}_n(\psi, \rho, q, b) = \eta(b) \mathrm{Kl}_n(\psi, \chi, q, a).$$

Hence both Kloosterman sums vanish or  $\eta(b) = \lambda^{-1}$ .  $\square$

*Remark 2.5.* In [Fis92, Corollary 4.27], Fisher showed that if  $p > (2n^{4d} + 1)^2$  and

$$|\mathrm{Kl}_n(\psi, \chi, q, a)| = |\mathrm{Kl}_n(\psi, \rho, q, b)|,$$

then  $b = \sigma(a)$ ,  $\rho = (\chi \circ \sigma^{-1})\eta$ , or  $b = (-1)^n \sigma(a)$ ,  $\rho = (\chi^{-1} \circ \sigma^{-1})\eta$ .

**Corollary 2.6.** *Keeping the hypotheses of Theorem 2.4. Assume that  $\chi$  is defined over  $\mathbb{F}_p$ , that's to say,  $\chi = \chi_0 \circ \mathbf{N}_{\mathbb{F}_q/\mathbb{F}_p}$  for some  $n$ -tuple  $\chi_0$  of characters on  $\mathbb{F}_p^\times$ . If*

$$\mathrm{Kl}_n(\psi, \chi, q, a) = \lambda \mathrm{Kl}_n(\psi, \chi, q, b), \quad \lambda \in \mu_{q-1},$$

*then  $b = \sigma(a)$  for some  $\sigma \in \mathrm{Gal}(\mathbb{F}_q/\mathbb{F}_p)$ , and  $\mathrm{Kl}_n(\psi, \chi, q, a) = \mathrm{Kl}_n(\psi, \chi, q, b)$ .*

*Proof.* In this case, we have  $\chi = \eta\chi$  and then  $\eta = 1$ . The result then follows easily.  $\square$

### 3. THE NON-VANISHING OF KLOOSTERMAN SUMS

The case  $n = 1$  is trivial. We will assume that  $n \geq 2$  in this section.

**Theorem 3.1.** *Assume that  $p > (3n-1)c - n$  and for any  $i, j$ ,  $\chi_i = \chi_j$  if  $\chi_i^n = \chi_j^n$ . Then  $\mathrm{Kl}_n(\psi, \chi, q, a)$  is nonzero.*

*Proof.* Let  $\mathfrak{p}$  be a prime above  $p$  in  $\mathbb{Q}(\mu_{q-1})$  and  $\mathfrak{P}$  the unique prime above  $\mathfrak{p}$  in  $\mathbb{Q}(\mu_{(q-1)p})$ . Let  $v$  be the normalized  $\mathfrak{P}$ -adic valuation. Once we fix an isomorphism from  $\mathbb{F}_q$  to the residue field of  $\mathfrak{p}$ , the Teichmüller lifting of the residue map at  $\mathfrak{p}$  gives a primitive character  $\omega$  of  $\mathbb{F}_q^\times$ . Denote by

$$g(m) := \sum_{t \in \mathbb{F}_q^\times} \omega^{-m}(t) \psi(\mathrm{Tr}(t))$$

the Gauss sum. Then the Stickelberger's congruence theorem tells that

$$(3.1) \quad v(g(m)) = \sum_{j=0}^{d-1} m_j,$$

where

$$0 \leq m \leq q-2, \quad m = \sum_{j=0}^{d-1} m_j p^j, \quad 0 \leq m_j \leq p-1,$$

see [Sti90] or [Was97, Chap. 6].

For any  $1 \leq i \leq n$ , there is  $s_i$  such that  $\chi_i = \omega^{-s_i}$ . Take  $x = x_1 \cdots x_n a^{-1}$  in the identity

$$\sum_{m=0}^{q-2} \omega^{-m}(x) = \begin{cases} q-1, & \text{if } x = 1; \\ 0, & \text{if } x \neq 1, \end{cases}$$

we get

$$(q-1) \mathrm{Kl}_n(\psi, \chi, q, a) = \sum_{m=0}^{q-2} \omega^m(a) \prod_{i=1}^n g(m + s_i).$$

There is a unique  $m$  such that  $v(\prod_{i=1}^n g(m + s_i))$  is minimal by Proposition 3.2. Hence the Kloosterman sum has a finite valuation and then is nonzero.  $\square$

We may assume that  $1 \leq s_i \leq q-1$  (notice the bound). Write

$$s_i = \sum_{j=0}^{d-1} s_{ij} p^j$$

with  $0 \leq s_{ij} \leq p-1$ .

**Proposition 3.2.** Assume that  $p > (3n - 1)c - n$  and for any  $i, j$ ,  $\chi_i = \chi_j$  if  $\chi_i^n = \chi_j^n$ . Then there is a unique  $0 \leq m \leq q - 2$  such that  $v(\prod_{i=1}^n g(m + s_i))$  is minimal.

*Proof.* Since  $c(\chi\chi_1^{-1}) \leq c(\chi)$ , we may assume that  $\chi_1 = 1, s_1 = q - 1$  for simplicity. Write

$$m + s_i - (q - 1)\epsilon_{i,-1} = \sum_{j=0}^{d-1} m_{ij}p^j, \quad 1 \leq i \leq n$$

where  $\epsilon_{i,-1} \in \{0, 1\}$  is the integer part of  $(m + s_i)/(q - 1)$  and  $0 \leq m_{ij} \leq p - 1$ . Then

$$m_{ij} = m_j + s_{ij} + \epsilon_{i,j-1} - p\epsilon_{ij}, \quad \epsilon_{ij} \in \{0, 1\}, \quad \epsilon_{i,d-1} = \epsilon_{i,-1}$$

and

$$(3.2) \quad v\left(\prod_{i=1}^n g(m + s_i)\right) = \sum_{i=1}^n \sum_{j=0}^{d-1} m_{ij}$$

by the Stickelberger's congruence theorem (3.1).

There exists a permutation  $\sigma_j \in S_n$  such that

$$(3.3) \quad s_{\sigma_j(1),j} \geq s_{\sigma_j(2),j} \geq \cdots \geq s_{\sigma_j(n),j}.$$

If  $s_{ij} = s_{i'j}$ , then  $\chi_i^n = \chi_{i'}^n$ ,  $\chi_i = \chi_{i'}$  and  $\epsilon_{ij} = \epsilon_{i'j}$  by Lemma 3.3. If  $s_{ij} > s_{i'j}$ , then

$$s_{ij} + \epsilon_{i,j-1} \geq s_{i'j} + \epsilon_{i',j-1} \quad \text{and} \quad \epsilon_{ij} \geq \epsilon_{i'j}.$$

In other words,  $\{\epsilon_{ij}\}_i$  and  $\{s_{ij} + \epsilon_{i,j-1}\}_i$  have the same orderings as (3.3). Therefore, there exists  $0 \leq u_j \leq n$  such that

$$\epsilon_{\sigma_j(1),j} = \cdots = \epsilon_{\sigma_j(u_j),j} = 1, \quad \epsilon_{\sigma_j(u_j+1),j} = \cdots = \epsilon_{\sigma_j(n),j} = 0,$$

$$m_{\sigma_j(1),j} \geq \cdots \geq m_{\sigma_j(u_j),j}, \quad m_{\sigma_j(u_j+1),j} \geq \cdots \geq m_{\sigma_j(n),j}.$$

Note that  $s_1 = q - 1, \epsilon_{1,-1} = 1$ . Since  $s_{1j} = p - 1$ , one can show that  $\epsilon_{1,j} = 1$  inductively, which means  $u_j \neq 0$ . If  $u_j \neq n$  but  $m_{\sigma_j(u_j),j} = m_{\sigma_j(n),j}$ , then

$$s_{\sigma_j(u_j),j} = p - 1, \epsilon_{\sigma_j(u_j),j} = 1, \quad s_{\sigma_j(n),j} = \epsilon_{\sigma_j(n),j} = 0.$$

By Lemma 3.3, this implies that  $\chi_{\sigma_j(u_j)} = \chi_{\sigma_j(n)}$  and then  $\epsilon_{\sigma_j(u_j),j} = \epsilon_{\sigma_j(n),j}$ , which is impossible. Hence

$$m'_j := m_{\sigma_j(u_j),j} = m_j + s_{\sigma_j(u_j),j} + \epsilon_{\sigma_j(u_j),j-1} - p$$

is the unique minimum among  $\{m_{ij}\}_i$ . Therefore, the valuation (3.2) becomes

$$(3.4) \quad \begin{aligned} \sum_{i,j} m_{ij} &= \sum_{i,j} [m'_j + p - s_{\sigma_j(u_j),j} - \epsilon_{\sigma_j(u_j),j-1} + s_{ij} + \epsilon_{i,j-1} - p\epsilon_{ij}] \\ &= ndp + \sum_{i,j} s_{ij} + \sum_j [nm'_j - ns_{\sigma_j(u_j),j} - n\epsilon_{\sigma_j(u_j),j-1} + (p-1)u_j]. \end{aligned}$$

By Lemma 3.3, there exists a unique  $U_j$  such that

$$s_{\sigma_j(U_j),j} + \frac{p-1}{n}U_j = \max_{1 \leq i \leq n} \left\{ s_{\sigma_j(i),j} + \frac{p-1}{n}i \right\}.$$

Moreover,

$$(3.5) \quad s_{\sigma_j(U_j),j} + \frac{p-1}{n}U_j > s_{\sigma_j(i),j} + \frac{p-1}{n}i + 1$$

for any  $i \neq U_j$ . This follows from Lemma 3.3 if  $\chi_{\sigma_j(U_j)} \neq \chi_{\sigma_j(i)}$ . If  $\chi_{\sigma_j(U_j)} = \chi_{\sigma_j(i)}$ , this follows from  $(p-1)/n > 1$ .

Write

$$E_{\sigma_j(1),j} = \cdots = E_{\sigma_j(U_j),j} = 1, \quad E_{\sigma_j(U_j+1),j} = \cdots = E_{\sigma_j(n),j} = 0.$$

If  $m$  is

$$M = \sum_{j=0}^{d-1} M_j p^j, \text{ where } M_j = p - s_{\sigma_j(U_j),j} - E_{\sigma_j(U_j),j-1},$$

then  $m'_j = 0, \epsilon_{ij} = E_{ij}$  and  $u_j = U_j$ . Denote by  $V$  the corresponding valuation (3.2) for  $m = M$ .

If all  $u_j = U_j$ , then  $\epsilon_{ij} = E_{ij}$  and

$$\sum_{i,j} m_{ij} = V + n \sum_j m'_j \geq V.$$

The equality holds if and only if all  $m'_j = 0$ , i.e.,  $m = M$ . If there exists  $j$  such that  $u_j \neq U_j$ , then by (3.4) and (3.5), we have

$$\begin{aligned} & \sum_{i,j} m_{ij} - V \\ &= \sum_j \left[ nm'_j - ns_{\sigma_j(u_j),j} - n\epsilon_{\sigma_j(u_j),j-1} + (p-1)u_j \right] \\ & \quad - \sum_j \left[ -ns_{\sigma_j(U_j),j} - nE_{\sigma_j(U_j),j-1} + (p-1)U_j \right] \\ &\geq \sum_j \left[ n(s_{\sigma_j(U_j),j} - s_{\sigma_j(u_j),j}) + n(E_{\sigma_j(U_j),j-1} - \epsilon_{\sigma_j(u_j),j-1}) + (p-1)(U_j - u_j) \right] \\ &\geq n \sum_j \left[ s_{\sigma_j(U_j),j} + \frac{p-1}{n}U_j - s_{\sigma_j(u_j),j} - \frac{p-1}{n}u_j + E_{\sigma_j(U_j),j-1} - \epsilon_{\sigma_j(u_j),j-1} \right] \\ &\geq n \sum_{u_j \neq U_j} \left[ s_{\sigma_j(U_j),j} + \frac{p-1}{n}U_j - s_{\sigma_j(u_j),j} - \frac{p-1}{n}u_j - 1 \right] > 0. \end{aligned}$$

Hence the valuation (3.2) is minimal if and only if  $m = M$ .  $\square$

**Lemma 3.3.** Assume that  $p > (3n-1)c - n$ . If  $\chi_i^n \neq \chi_{i'}^n$ , then there is no integer  $0 \leq \alpha \leq n$  such that  $|s_{ij} - s_{i'j} - \frac{p-1}{n}\alpha| \leq 1$ .

*Proof.* There exists  $r, r'$  such that

$$s_i = \frac{(q-1)r}{c}, \quad s_{i'} = \frac{(q-1)r'}{c}$$

and

$$s_{ij} = \frac{a_{j+1}p - a_j}{c}, \quad s_{i'j} = \frac{a'_{j+1}p - a'_j}{c},$$

where  $a_j \equiv rp^{-j}, a'_j \equiv r'p^{-j} \pmod{c}$  with  $1 \leq a_j, a'_j \leq c$ . Let  $a''_j := a_j - a'_j$ . Then  $|a''_j| \leq c-1$ .

If

$$\frac{p-1}{n}\alpha + t = s_{ij} - s_{i'j} = \frac{a''_{j+1}p - a''_j}{c}$$

for some  $0 \leq \alpha \leq n$  and  $|t| \leq 1$ , then

$$(na''_{j+1} - \alpha c)p = na''_j - \alpha c + nct.$$

There are three cases:

- If  $na''_{j+1} - \alpha c \neq 0$  and  $\alpha = n$ , then

$$p \leq |(a''_{j+1} - c)p| = |a''_j - c + ct| \leq 3c - 1 \leq (3n - 1)c - n$$

since  $n \geq 2$ .

- If  $na''_{j+1} - \alpha c \neq 0$  and  $\alpha < n$ , then

$$p \leq |na''_j - \alpha c + nct| \leq n(c - 1) + c(n - 1) + nc \leq (3n - 1)c - n.$$

- If  $na''_{j+1} - \alpha c = 0$ , then  $n(r - r') \equiv na''_{j+1}p^{j+1} \equiv 0 \pmod{c}$  and then  $\chi_i^n = \chi_{i'}^n$ .

The result then follows.  $\square$

*Remark 3.4.* When  $n = 2$ ,  $p > 3c - 2$  is enough by a careful estimation, see [Zha21, Lemma 3.4, Proposition 3.6].

#### 4. PROOF OF THE MAIN THEOREM

**Theorem 4.1.** Assume that  $p > \max\{(2n^{2d} + 1)^2, (3n - 1)c - n\}$  and for any  $i, j$ ,  $\chi_i = \chi_j$  if  $\chi_i^n = \chi_j^n$ . Then  $\text{Kl}_n(\psi, \chi, q, a)$  generates  $\mathbb{Q}(\mu_{pc})^H$ , where  $H$  consists of those  $\sigma_t \tau_w$  such that there exists an integer  $k$  and a character  $\eta$  satisfying

$$t^n = a^{1-p^k}, \quad \chi^w = \chi^{p^k} \eta, \quad \eta(a) = \prod \chi^w(t).$$

*Proof.* Note that if  $\chi$  is Kummer-induced, then there is a non-trivial character  $\Lambda$  such that  $\chi = \chi \Lambda$  and  $\Lambda^n = 1$ . Thus there exists  $i \neq j$  such that  $\chi_i = \chi_j \Lambda$  and  $\chi_i^n = \chi_j^n$ , which contradicts to our assumptions. Certainly,  $\chi = (\xi_1, \xi_1^{-1}, 1, \Lambda_2) \xi_2$  is also impossible.

By Theorems 2.4 and 3.1, the fact that

$$\sigma_t \tau_w \text{Kl}_n(\psi, \chi, q, a) = \prod \chi^{-w}(t) \text{Kl}_n(\psi, \chi^w, q, at^n),$$

and  $t^p = t$ , we have

$$t^n = a^{1-p^k}, \quad \chi^w = \chi^{p^k} \eta, \quad \eta(a) = \prod \chi^w(t)$$

for some integer  $k$ .  $\square$

*Remark 4.2.* Denote by  $\alpha = \gcd(k, d)$  and  $\lambda := a^{p^\alpha - 1}$ . Since the order of  $a$  divides  $\gcd((p^k - 1)(p - 1), p^d - 1) = (p^\alpha - 1) \gcd(p - 1, \frac{p^d - 1}{p^\alpha - 1}) = (p^\alpha - 1) \gcd(p - 1, \frac{d}{\alpha})$ ,

we have  $\lambda^{\frac{d}{\alpha}} = 1$ . If  $\lambda \neq 1$ , then

$$\text{Tr}(a) = (1 + \lambda + \cdots + \lambda^{\frac{d}{\alpha} - 1}) \cdot (a + a^p + \cdots + a^{p^{\alpha-1}}) = 0.$$

Hence if  $\text{Tr}(a) \neq 0$ , then  $\lambda = 1, t^n = a^{1-p^k} = 1$ . If moreover  $\chi = \mathbf{1}$ , then

$$H = \{t \in \text{Gal}(\mathbb{Q}(\mu_p)/\mathbb{Q}) \mid t^n = 1\}.$$

In fact, this holds for any  $p$ , see [Wan95]. See also [KRV11] for an attempt on a weaker condition.



*Remark 4.3.* Consider the Kloosterman sums

$$S_m = \text{Kl}(\psi, \chi \circ \mathbf{N}_{\mathbb{F}_{q^m}/\mathbb{F}_q}, q^m, a).$$

The  $L$ -function

$$L(T) = \exp \left( \sum_{m=1}^{\infty} \frac{T^m}{m} S_m \right)$$

is a rational function over  $\mathbb{Q}(\zeta_{p(q-1)})$  by the Dwork-Bombieri-Grothendick rationality theorem. Thus the sequence  $\{S_m\}_m$  is a linear recurrence sequence. As shown in [WY20, Theorem 3], the sequence  $\{\mathbb{Q}(S_m)\}_{m \geq N}$  is periodic of period  $r$  for some  $r, N$ .

Assume that for any  $i, j$ ,  $\chi_i = \chi_j$  if  $\chi_i^n = \chi_j^n$ . By Theorem 1.1, if  $p > \max \{(2n^{2dm} + 1)^2, (3n - 1)c - n\}$ , then  $\mathbb{Q}(S_m) = \mathbb{Q}(\mu_{pc})^H$ , where  $H$  consists of those  $\sigma_t \tau_w$  such that there exists an integer  $k$  and a character  $\eta$  on  $\mathbb{F}_q^\times$  satisfying

$$(4.1) \quad t^n = a^{1-p^k}, \quad \chi^w = \chi^{p^k} \eta, \quad \eta(a) = \gamma \cdot \prod \chi^w(t) \text{ with } \gamma^m = 1.$$

Hence  $\mathbb{Q}(S_m) = \mathbb{Q}(S_{m-c})$  since  $\gamma^c = 1$ .

If  $p > \max \{(2n^{2d(N+r)} + 1)^2, (3n - 1)c - n\}$ , then the generating field of  $S_m$  is determined by (4.1) for any  $m$ . But unfortunately, we do not have a bound on  $N$ . We guess that  $S_m$  has the predicted generating field if  $p > 3ndc$ .

## 5. EXAMPLES

Denote by  $n_0 := (n, p - 1)$ ,  $d_0$  the degree of  $a^{(1-p)/n_0}$  and

$$a_0 := \mathbf{N}_{\mathbb{F}_{p^{d_0}}/\mathbb{F}_p} \left( a^{(1-p)/n_0} \right) = a^{(1-p^{d_0})/n_0}.$$

Since

$$(a^{(1-p)/n_0})^{p^k - 1} = t^{(p-1)n/n_0} = 1,$$

we have  $k = d_0\beta$  for some integer  $\beta$ . Moreover,

$$t^n = a^{1-p^k} = a_0^{n_0(1-p^k)/(1-p^{d_0})} = a_0^{n_0\beta}.$$

### 5.1. An example: $n = 2$ case.

**Proposition 5.1.** *Let  $\chi = \{1, \chi\}$ , where  $\chi$  is a multiplicative character of order  $c \neq 2$ . If  $p > \max \{(2^{2d+1} + 1)^2, 5c - 2\}$ , then  $\text{Kl}(\psi, \chi, p^d, a)$  generates  $\mathbb{Q}(\mu_{pc})^H$ , where*

$$H = \begin{cases} \langle \tau_{q_0} \sigma_{a_0}, \sigma_{-1}, \tau_{-1} \rangle, & \text{if } \chi(-1) = 1, \chi(a) = 1; \\ \langle \tau_{-q_0} \sigma_{a_0}, \sigma_{-1} \rangle, & \text{if } \chi(-1) = 1, \chi(a) = \chi(a_0) = -1; \\ \langle \tau_{q_0^\alpha} \sigma_{a_0^\alpha}, \sigma_{-1} \rangle, & \text{if } \chi(-1) = 1, \chi(a)^\alpha \neq 1; \\ \langle \tau_{q_0} \sigma_{-a_0}, \tau_{-1} \sigma_{-1} \rangle, & \text{if } \chi(-1) = -1, \chi(a) = \chi(a_0) = -1; \\ \langle \tau_{q_0} \sigma_{a_0}, \tau_{-1} \rangle, & \text{if } \chi(-1) = -1, \chi(a) = 1; \\ \langle \tau_{q_0} \sigma_{a_0}, \tau_{-1} \sigma_{-1} \rangle, & \text{if } \chi(-1) = -1, \chi(a) = -1, \chi(a_0) = 1; \\ \langle \tau_{q_0^\alpha/2} \sigma_{-a_0^\alpha/2} \rangle, & \text{if } \chi(-1) = -1, 2 \mid \alpha, \chi(a) \neq \pm 1; \\ \langle \tau_{q_0^\alpha} \sigma_{a_0^\alpha} \rangle, & \text{if } \chi(-1) = -1, 2 \nmid \alpha, \chi(a) \neq \pm 1. \end{cases}$$

is a subgroup of  $\text{Gal}(\mathbb{Q}(\mu_{pc})/\mathbb{Q})$ ,  $q_0 = \#\mathbb{F}_p(a^{(1-p)/2})$ ,  $a_0 = a^{(1-q_0)/2} \in \mathbb{F}_p^\times$  and  $\alpha$  is the order of  $\chi(a_0) \in \mu_{p-1}$ .

*Proof.* As remarked above,  $k = d_0\beta$  and  $t^2 = a_0^{2\beta}$  for some integer  $\beta$ , where  $q_0 = p^{d_0}$ . Hence  $t = \pm a_0^\beta$  and

$$\chi^w = \{1, \chi^w\} = \chi^{q_0^\beta} \eta = \left\{ \eta, \eta \chi^{q_0^\beta} \right\}, \quad \eta(a) = \chi^w(t).$$

There are two cases:

(i) If  $\eta = 1, \chi^w = \chi^{q_0^\beta}$ , then  $w \equiv q_0^\beta \pmod{c}$  and

$$1 = \eta(a) = \chi^w(t) = \chi(t) = \chi(\pm a_0^\beta).$$

(ii) If  $\eta = \chi^w, \eta \chi^{q_0^\beta} = 1$ , then  $w \equiv -q_0^\beta \pmod{c}$ . Since  $\chi^w(a) = \eta(a) = \chi^w(t)$ , we have  $\chi(a) = \chi(t) = \chi(\pm a_0^\beta)$ . Since  $a_0 = a^{\frac{1-q_0}{2}} \in \mathbb{F}_p^\times$ , we have

$$\chi(a_0)^2 = \chi(a)^{1-q_0} = \chi(a_0)^{(1-q_0)\beta} = 1.$$

Thus  $\chi(a_0) = \pm 1$  and  $\alpha = 1$  or  $2$ .

Case  $\chi(-1) = 1$ : In case (i),  $\beta = \alpha m$  for some  $m$  and  $w \equiv q_0^{\alpha m}, t = \pm a_0^{\alpha m}$ . In case (ii), if  $\alpha = 1$ ,  $\chi(a_0) = \chi(a) = 1$ , then  $w \equiv -q_0^m, t = \pm a_0^m$ ; if  $\alpha = 2$ ,  $\chi(a_0) = \chi(a) = -1$ , then  $w \equiv -q_0^{1+2m}, t = \pm a_0^{1+2m}$ .

Case  $\chi(-1) = -1$  and  $2 \mid \alpha$ : In case (i),  $w \equiv q_0^{\alpha m}, t = a_0^{\alpha m}$  or  $w \equiv q_0^{\alpha(m+1/2)}, t = -a_0^{\alpha(m+1/2)}$ . In case (ii),  $\alpha = 2$ ,  $\chi(a) = \chi(a_0) = -1$ . Then  $w \equiv -q_0^{1+2m}, t = a_0^{1+2m}$  or  $w \equiv -q_0^{2m}, t = -a_0^{2m}$ .

Case  $\chi(-1) = -1$  and  $2 \nmid \alpha$ : In case (i),  $w \equiv q_0^{\alpha m}, t = a_0^{\alpha m}$ . In case (ii),  $\alpha = 1$  and  $\chi(a_0) = 1$ . If  $\chi(a) = 1$ , then  $w \equiv -q_0^m, t = a_0^m$ ; if  $\chi(a) = -1$ , then  $w \equiv -q_0^m, t = -a_0^m$ .  $\square$

**Example 5.2.** If  $a \in \mathbb{F}_p^\times$ , then  $q_0 = p, \alpha = 1$  or  $2$ . One can easily obtain that

$$H = \begin{cases} \langle \tau_p, \tau_{-1}, \sigma_{-1} \rangle, & \text{if } \chi(-1) = 1 \text{ and } \chi(a) = 1; \\ \langle \tau_p, \sigma_{-1} \rangle, & \text{if } \chi(-1) = 1 \text{ and } \chi(a) = -1; \\ \langle \tau_p, \tau_{-1} \rangle, & \text{if } \chi(-1) = -1 \text{ and } \chi(a) = 1; \\ \langle \tau_p, \tau_{-1}\sigma_{-1} \rangle, & \text{if } \chi(-1) = -1 \text{ and } \chi(a) = -1; \\ \langle \tau_p \rangle, & \text{if } \chi(-1) = -1 \text{ and } \chi(a) \neq \pm 1. \end{cases}$$

This drops the combinatorial condition on  $(p, d)$  and the non-vanishing condition on  $\text{Tr}(a)$  in [Zha21, Theorems 1.1, 1.3], while we require that  $p$  is large with respect to  $d$ .

*Remark 5.3.* Assume that  $\chi = \Lambda_2$ . If  $\Lambda_2(a) \neq 1$ , then the Kloosterman sum vanishes. If  $\Lambda_2(a) = 1$  and  $\text{Tr}(\sqrt{a}) \neq 0$ , then the Kloosterman sum generates  $\mathbb{Q}(\mu_p)^+$  if  $\chi(-1) = 1$ ;  $\mathbb{Q}(\mu_p)$  if  $\chi(-1) = -1$ . See [Zha21, Theorem 1.1(1)].

**5.2. The upper bound of the generating field.** If  $\eta = 1$ , then  $\chi_i^w = \chi_i^{q_0^\beta}$ . Thus  $w \equiv q_0^\beta \pmod{c}$ . Denote by

$$\alpha := \min \{ \alpha \in \mathbb{Z}_{>0} \mid \exists t_0 \in \mathbb{F}_p^\times \text{ such that } t_0^n = a_0^{n_0\alpha}, \prod \chi(t_0) = 1 \}.$$

Write  $\beta = \alpha s + r, 0 \leq r < \alpha$ . Then

$$(tt_0^{-s})^n = a_0^{n_0\beta - n_0\alpha s} = a_0^{n_0r}, \quad \prod \chi(tt_0^{-s}) = 1.$$

This forces  $r = 0$  and  $t = \lambda t_0^s$  with  $\lambda^n = 1, \prod \chi(\lambda) = 1$ . Hence

$$H \supseteq H_0 := \langle \tau_{q_0^\alpha} \sigma_{t_0}, \sigma_\lambda \mid \lambda^n = 1, \prod \chi(\lambda) = 1 \rangle.$$

This gives an upper bound of the degree of  $\text{Kl}(\psi, \chi, p^d, a)$ .

**Example 5.4.** Denote by  $m(\xi)$  the multiplicity of  $\xi$  in the  $n$ -tuple  $\chi$ . Assume that there exists a character  $\xi$  such that  $m(\xi) \neq m(\xi')$  for any  $\xi' \neq \xi$ . Then one can easily show that  $\eta = 1$  and  $H = H_0$ .

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SCHOOL OF MATHEMATICS, HEFEI UNIVERSITY OF TECHNOLOGY, HEFEI, ANHUI 230009, CHINA  
 Email address: zhangshenxing@hfut.edu.cn