

# q-analogs of combinatorial designs and network codes

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(joint work with A.S. Elsenhans, A. Wassermann)

- Combinatorial Designs
- Network Codes
- Large Network Codes

# I - Combinatorial Designs

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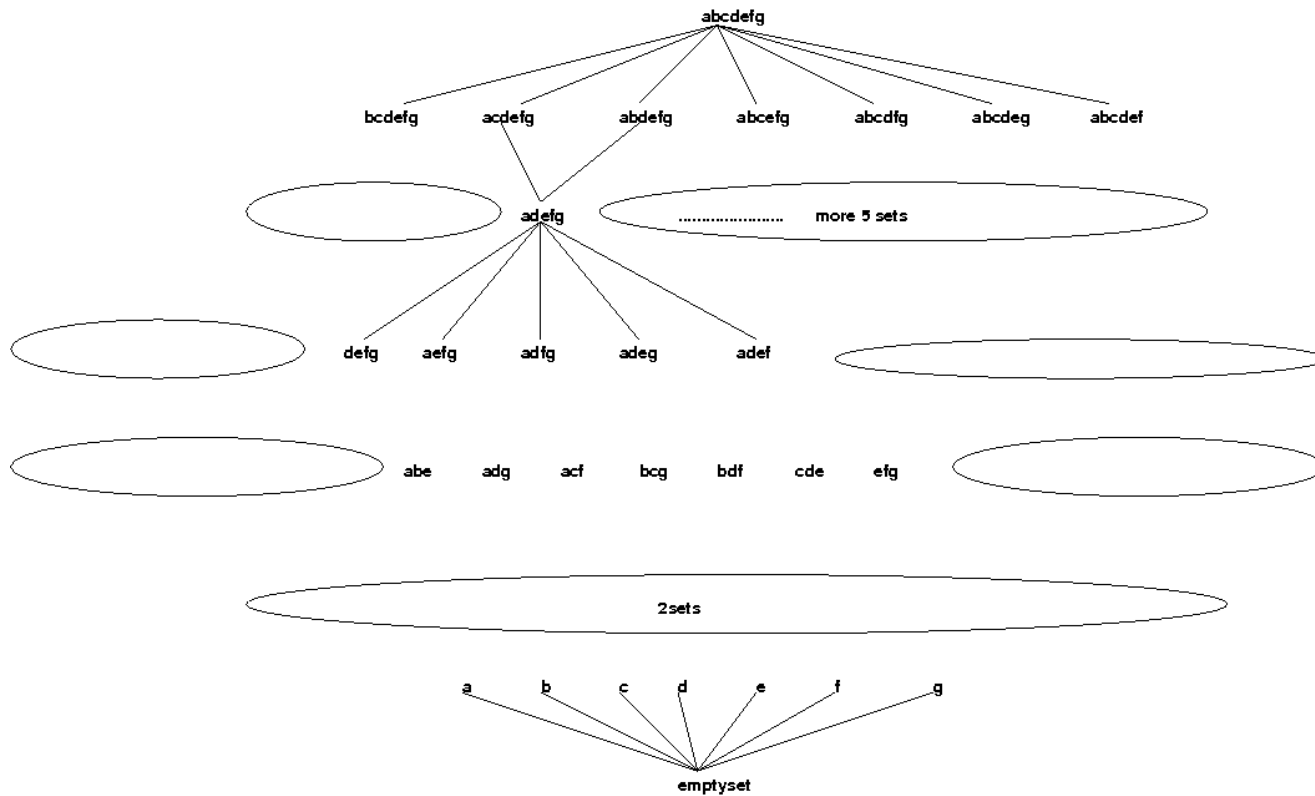
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$2 - (7, 3, 1)$  design

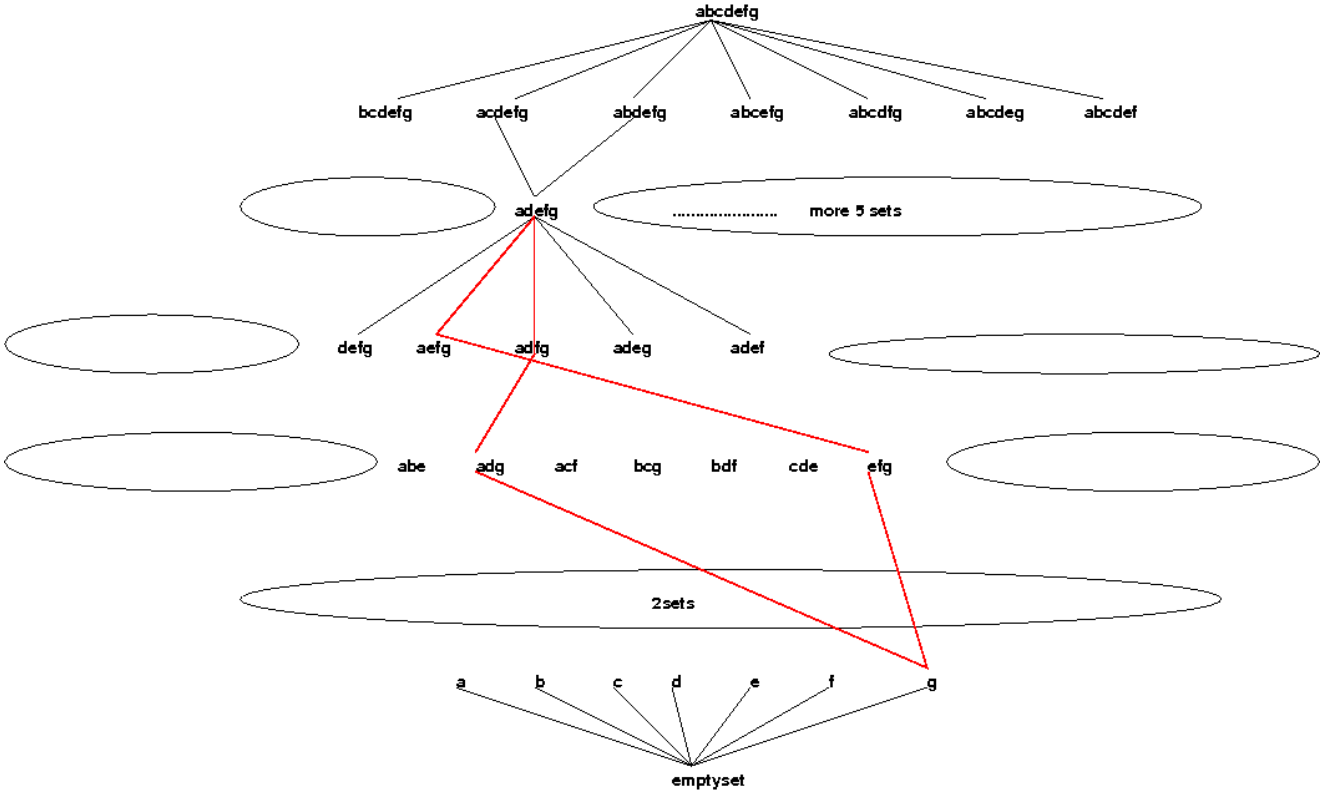
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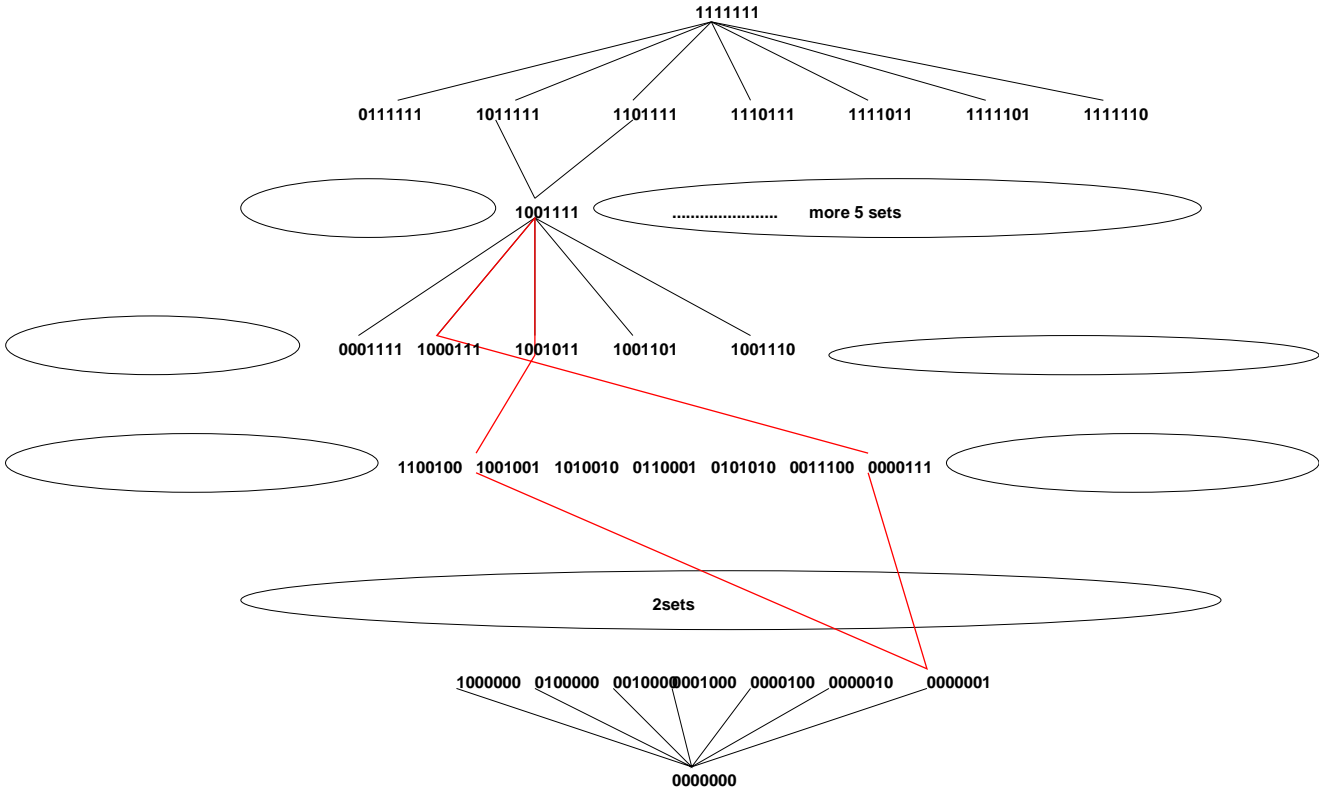


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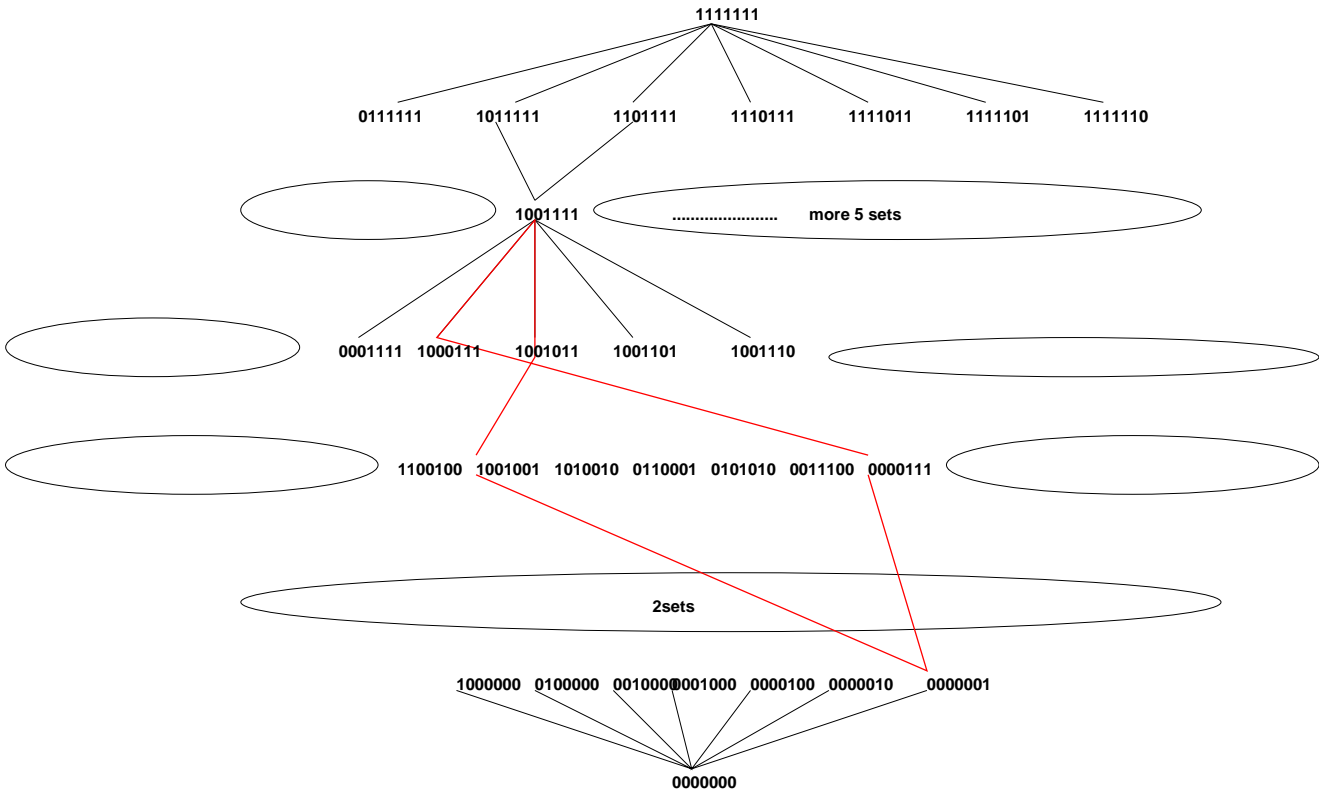


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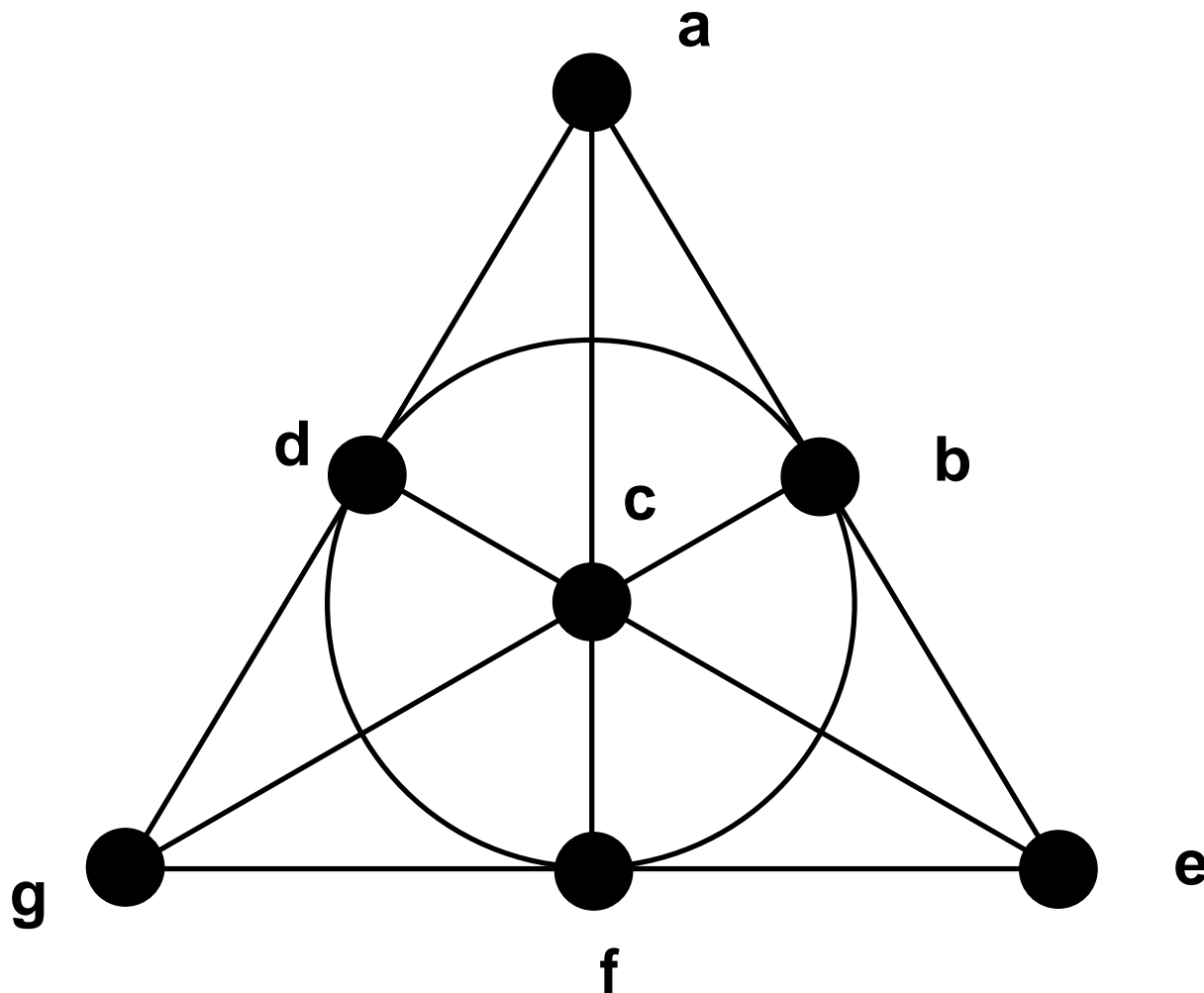
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# Combinatorial Designs



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Fano plane



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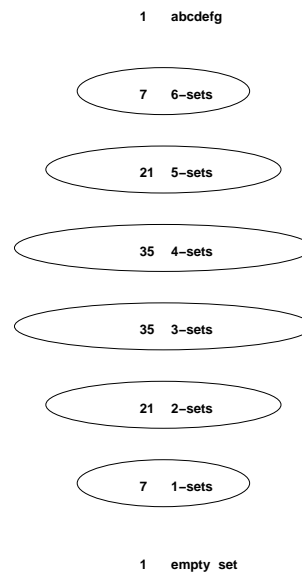
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each  ~~$t$~~  set of points is in exactly  $\lambda$  blocks
- ~~$t$ - $(v, k, \lambda)$   $q$ -Design~~  
each  $t$ -space of  $\mathbb{F}_q^v$  is in exactly  
 $\lambda$  of the chosen  $k$ -spaces

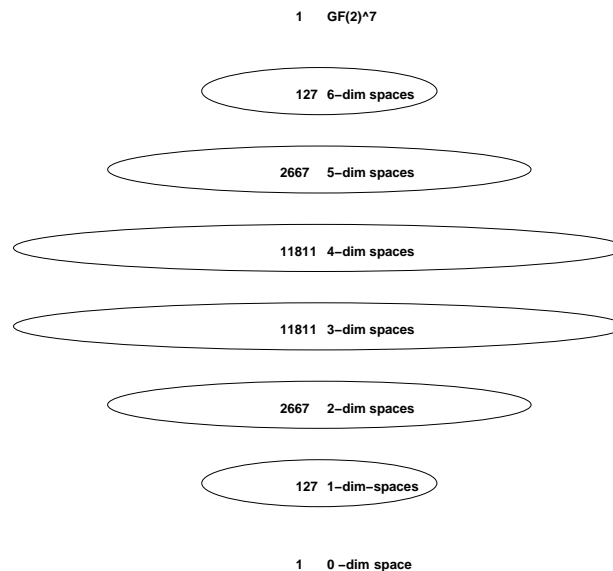
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size given by the **q-binomial coefficients**  $\begin{bmatrix} v \\ k \end{bmatrix}_q :=$  number  
of the  $k$ -subspaces of  $\mathbb{F}_q^v$ .

## known:

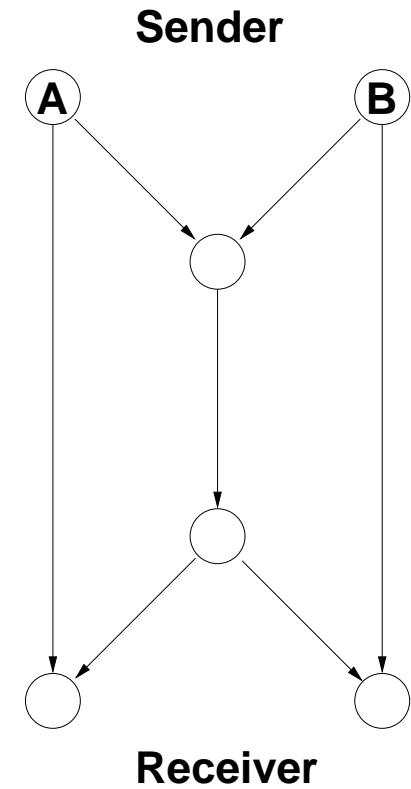
- Thomas (1987): first to study, 2–designs
- Braun, Kerber, Laue (2005): first 3–design

## open problems:

- $q$ –analog of the Fano plane?
- Steiner systems ? ( $\lambda = 1$ )
- $t > 3$ ? (up to  $t = 9$  in classical case)

# II - Network Codes

Model (Kötter, Kschischang)

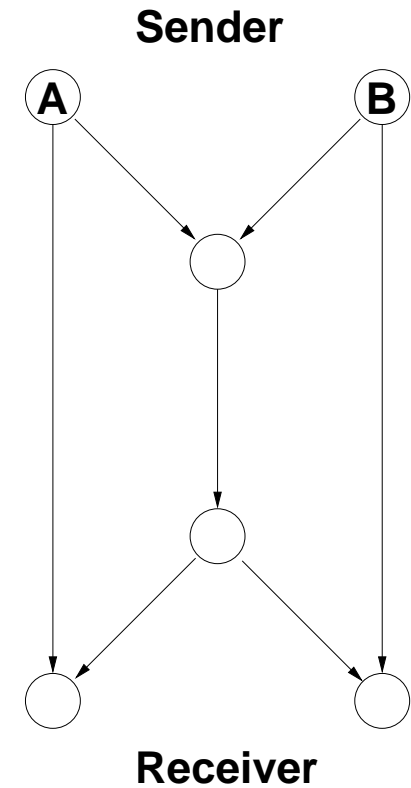




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one codeword:

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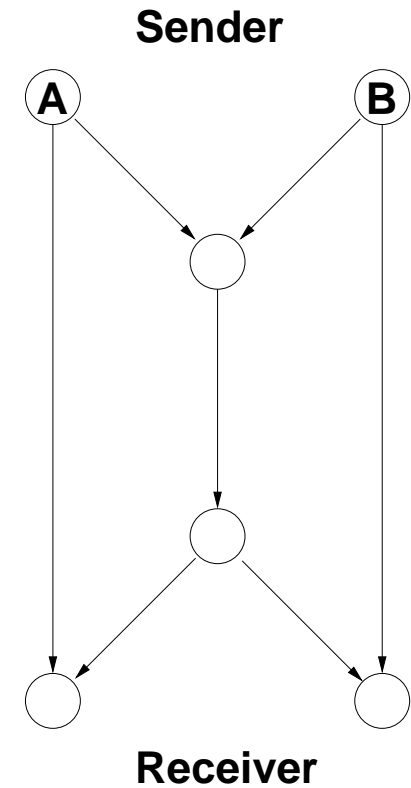


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one vertex in the network:

- receives several  $v_i \in V$
- sends random combination of the  $v_i$  (= EXOR)



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$U, W < \mathbb{F}_2^v$  :

$$d(U, W) = \dim(U) + \dim(W) - 2\dim(U \cap W)$$

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**constant dimension codes**  $\approx q$ - analog of constant weight codes



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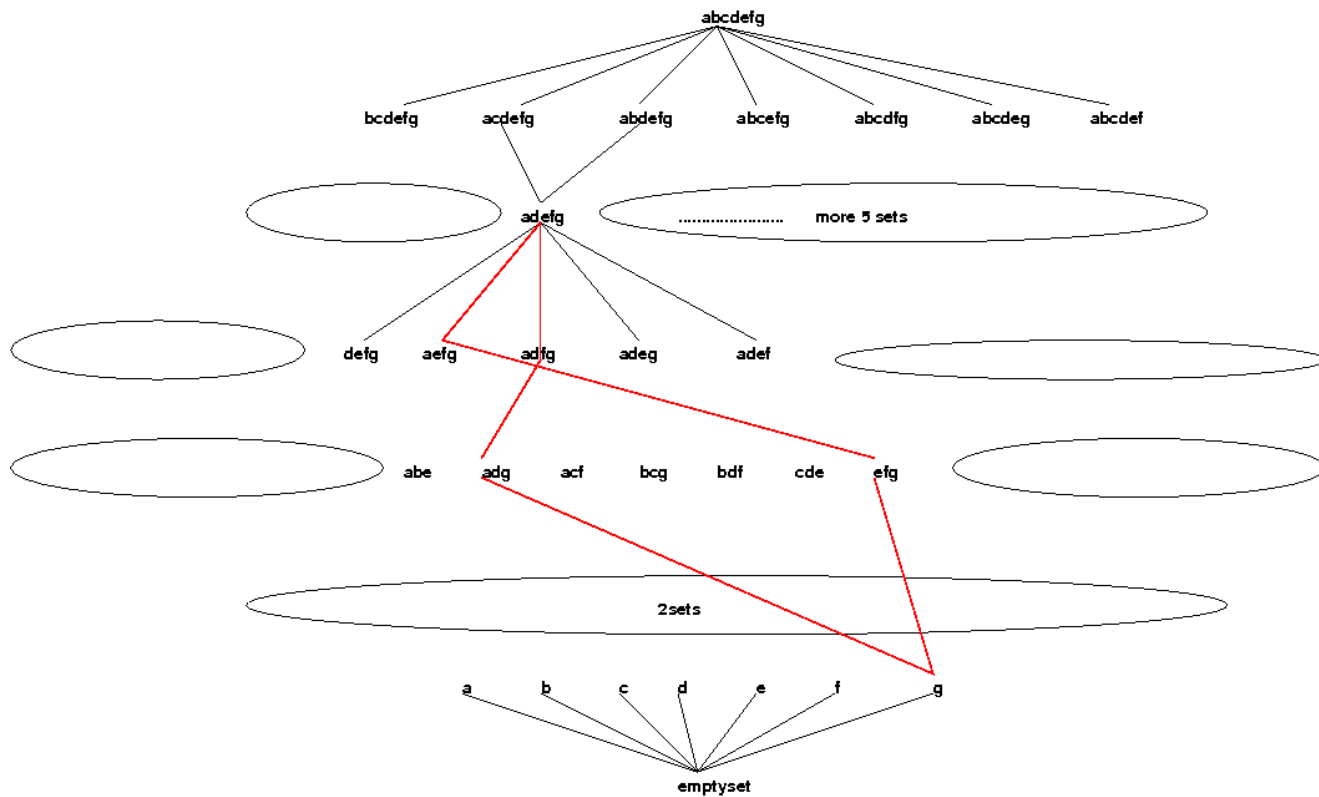
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find a Singer orbit  $O$  on the  $k$ -dim. subspaces of  $\mathbb{F}_2^v$  such that the pairwise intersection of the  $V_i \in O$  is at most 1-dimensional

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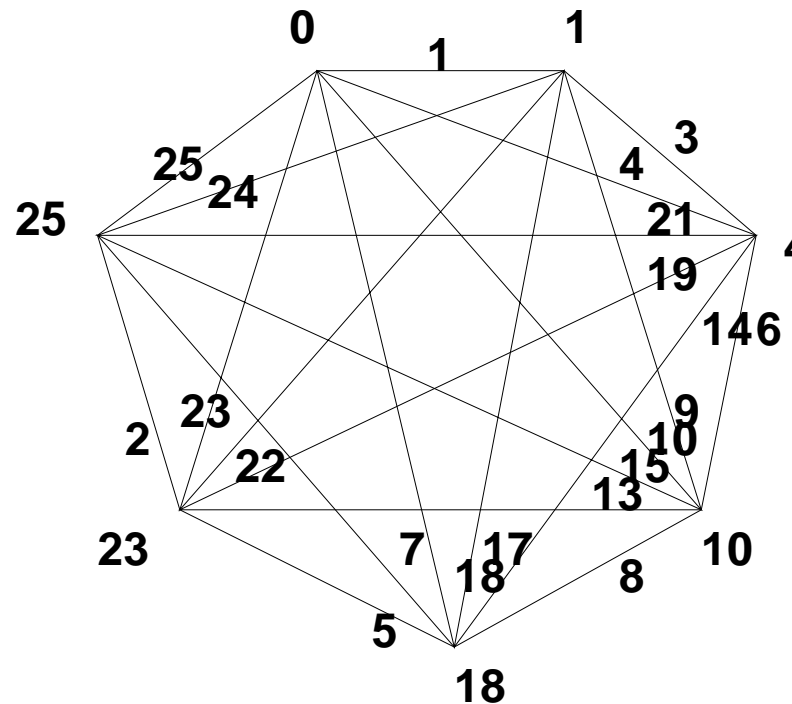
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- describe a complete orbit by the pairwise  $2\binom{k}{2}$  quotients

# *Example*

$k = 3$  , 3–space =  $\{0, 1, 4, 10, 18, 23, 25\}$   
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= exponents of a generator of  $\mathbb{F}_{2^6}^*$  (only for the example)  
orbit graph  $G_O$





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find a set  $\{V_1, \dots, V_b\}$  of '**combinable**'  $k$ -dim. subspaces of  $\mathbb{F}_2^v$  such that the pairwise quotients are different

$\Rightarrow$  code with  $b(2^v - 1)$  codewords and minimum distance  $\geq 2(k - 1)$

$v$	$k$	$b$	number of codewords	$2d$
15	3	555	$555 \cdot (2^{15} - 1) = 18185685$	4
16	3	1056	69204960	4
17	3	2108	276297668	4
18	3	4032	1056960576	4

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as  $d = 4$ : two possible cases in decoding:

- one **erasure** (we received a 2–space  $U < V$ )
- one **error** (we received a 4–space  $U > V$ )

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- costs: one multiplication ( $ux_1$ ) and one division ( $x_1/x_2$ ) in  $\mathbb{F}_{2^v}$

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- It works for all finite fields

# III - Large Network Codes

- Restrict to codes from good orbits = intersection of two  $k$ -dim. codewords in the Singer orbit is at most one-dimensional.

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- Describe a 'bad' basis (representing a non good orbit) as a  $\mathbb{F}_{2^v}$ -solution  $b_1, \dots, b_k$  of at least one of the equations for identical quotients:

$$\frac{l_a}{l_b} = \frac{l_c}{l_d}$$

with  $l_i$  one of the  $(2^k - 1)$  nonzero  $\mathbb{F}_2$ -linear combination of the  $b_j$ .

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- number of bad bases ( $< (2^k - 1)^4 \cdot 2 \cdot (2^v - 1)^{k-1}$ ) is slower increasing (with increasing  $v$ ) than the number of all bases (about  $(2^v - 1)^k$ )

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Lemma: for  $v > 4k - 6$  there are good orbits.

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- e.g.  $k = 4, v = 128$  gives  $10^{34}$  orbits of  $2^{128} - 1$  codewords

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- a much better idea is needed to avoid storing this huge number of quotient sets

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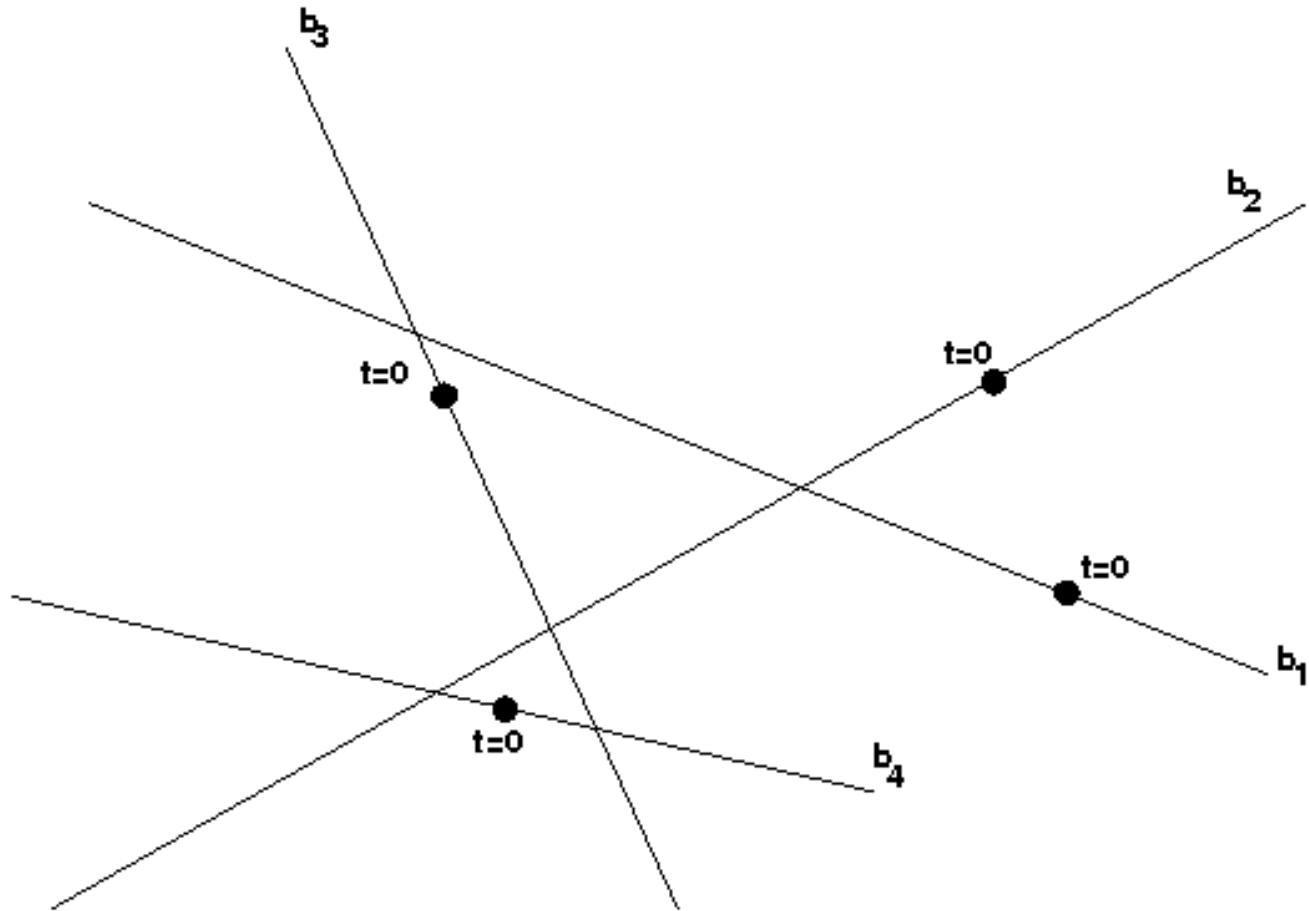
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- idea: use  $t$  to label the  $2^v$   $k$ –dimensional subspaces  $\langle b_1(t), \dots, b_k(t) \rangle$



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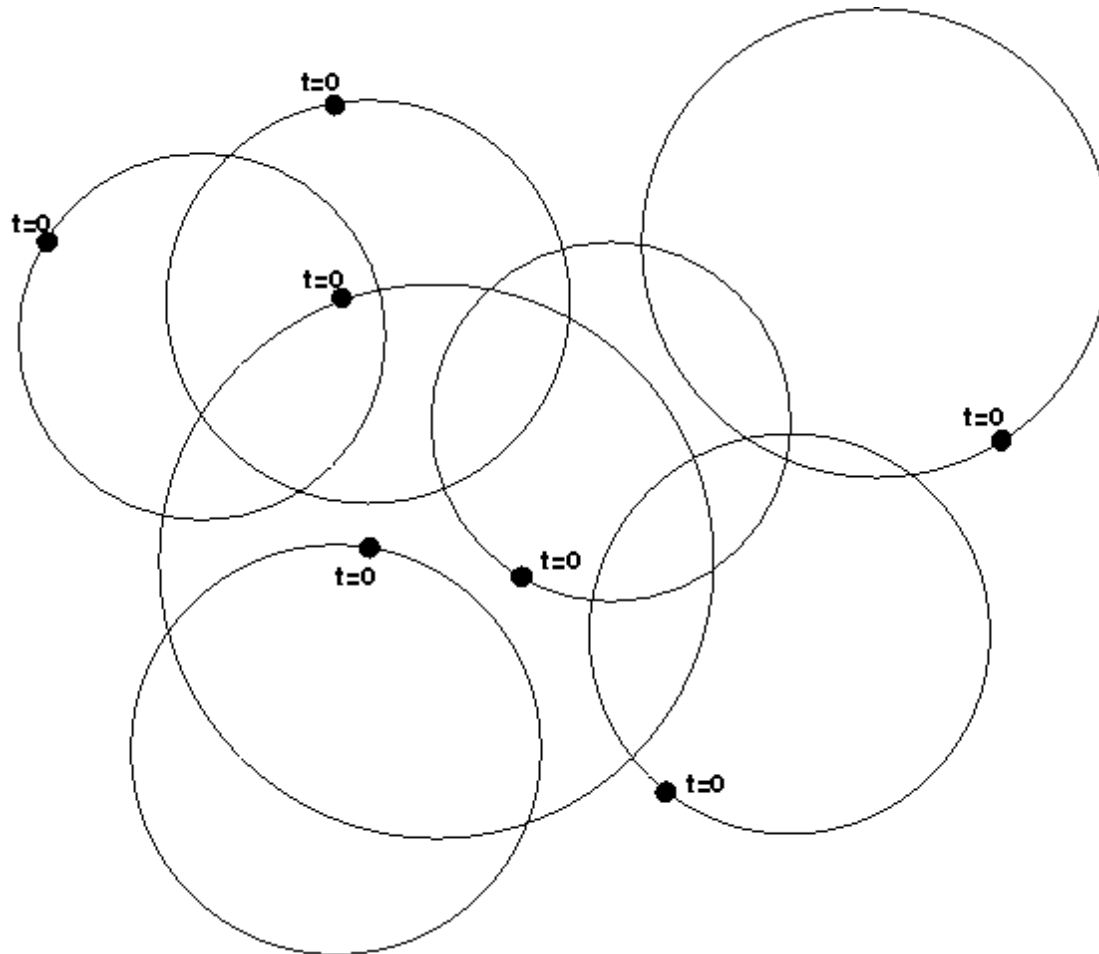
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- similar argument gives: for a fixed set of parameters  $a_i, s_i$  the number of independent points is at least  $2^v - 2^k + 1$ , in practice independent for all  $t$ .
- now look at the orbits of each space
- to check whether good and combinable we have to look at the  $(2^k - 1)(2^k - 2)$  quotients

$$t \mapsto \frac{l_i(b_1(t), \dots, b_k(t))}{l_j(b_1(t), \dots, b_k(t))}$$

## *new construction*

- these are circles in the Miquelian inversive plane (finite analogue of Riemann sphere)



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- prepare one further parameter  $t_0$  such that the corresponding code in  $C_2$  is combinable
- we have  $2^v + 1$  combinable Singer orbits each of length  $2^{2v} - 1$

For encoding we will transform a bitsequence  $(t, z) \in \mathbb{F}_{2^v} \times \mathbb{F}_{2^{2v}}$  into a  $k$ -dim subspace of  $\mathbb{F}_{2^{2v}}$ .



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- choose the proper subspace from the orbit by multiplying with  $z \neq 0$
- if  $z$  is zero use an space from the orbit with parameter  $t_0$  in  $C_2$  and encode by  $(t_0, t11 \dots 11)$

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- check that  $\dim(W \cap U) \geq k - 2$
- return  $t, z$  with special care for the case  $t = t_0$

# Bibliography

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# Thank you