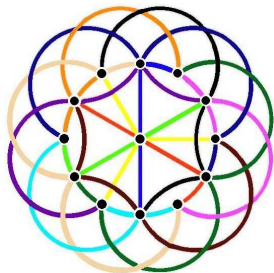


# Construction of $(p^a, p^b, p^a, p^{a-b})$ Relative Difference Sets in Non-abelian Groups

Huang Yiwei(with Bernhard Schmidt)

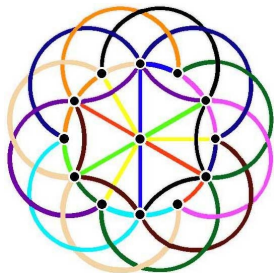
School of Physical and Mathematical sciences, Nanyang Technological University, Singapore

# A Very Nice Design!



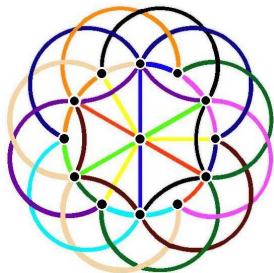
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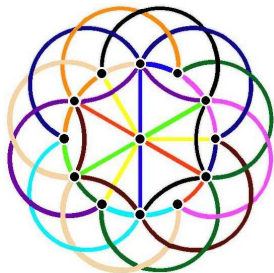
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- In the picture, there are 13 points and 13 blocks. Every two points(blocks) are incident with exactly one block(point).
- It is a **projective plane** of order 3.
- If 'design' is treated as an *art of selecting subsets from a point set*, then a projective plane is a perfect artwork!

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- Let the blocks be the elements in

$$\{Rg : g \in G\} \cup \{Ng : g \in G\}.$$

where  $R = \{(0, 0), (1, 1), (2, 1)\}$ ,  $N = \{0\} \times \mathbb{Z}_3$ .

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- It can be verified that it is an affine plane of order 3. Therefore, we also obtain a projective plane of order 3.
- The set  $R$  is called a  $(3, 3, 3, 1)$ –**relative difference set(RDS)** in  $G$  relative to  $N$ .

# Definition of RDS

- Let  $G$  be a group of order  $mn$ . Let  $N$  be a normal subgroup in  $G$  of order  $n$ .

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- When  $n = 1$ , the relative difference set (RDS) is just an ordinary difference set (DS). RDS is a generalization of DS.

# Two Examples of RDS

- In the *cyclic* group  $\mathbb{Z}_8$ , the set  $R = \{0, 1, 3\}$  is a  $(4, 2, 3, 1)$ -RDS relative to  $N = \{0, 4\}$ .

$$0 - 1 \equiv 7(\text{mod } 8); 0 - 3 \equiv 5(\text{mod } 8);$$

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- Let  $G = \langle a, t \mid a^4 = t^2 = 1, t^{-1}at = a^{-1} \rangle$  be the dihedral group of order 8. Then  $R = \{1, at, a^2t, a^3t\}$  is a  $(4, 2, 4, 2)$ -RDS in  $G$  relative to  $\langle t \rangle$ . This is a *non-abelian* RDS.

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- Construction of generalized Hadamard matrices.
- Construction of sequences with good autocorrelation properties.

## Problem

*How can we construct a relative difference set in a given group?*

- By tools of group ring, character theory..., many constructions and non-existence results are known for abelian difference sets. However, most tools in abelian cases do not apply in non-abelian cases.

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- One of most interesting cases (said by A.Pott) of RDS is with parameter  $(p^a, p^b, p^a, p^{a-b})$  where  $p$  is a prime number. In this talk, we construct RDSs with this parameter in non-abelian groups.

# A Group in Form of 3-Tuple

- Consider the set  $K$  of 3-tuples

$$K = \{ \langle x, y; c \rangle : x, y \in \mathbb{F}_{q^k}, c \in \mathbb{F}_q \}.$$

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- Let  $Tr : \mathbb{F}_{q^k} \rightarrow \mathbb{F}_q$ . Then the operation between two elements in  $K$  is defined by

$$\begin{aligned} & \langle x_1, y_1; c_1 \rangle * \langle x_2, y_2; c_2 \rangle \\ &= \langle x_1 + x_2, y_1 + y_2; Tr(x_2 y_1) + c_1 + c_2 \rangle. \end{aligned}$$



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- Then  $K$  is a group of order  $q^{2k+1}$ .

# A Subgroup in 3-Tuple

- A **permutation function**  $f(x)$  from  $\mathbb{F}_{q^k}$  to  $\mathbb{F}_{q^k}$  is a mapping which permutes the elements of  $\mathbb{F}_{q^k}$ . We call  $f(x)$  **additive** when  $f(x_1 + x_2) = f(x_1) + f(x_2)$  for any  $x_1, x_2$ .

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- Let

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- Then  $G$  is a normal subgroup of order  $q^{k+1}$  in  $K$ .

## Theorem

*Let the group*

$$G = \{ \langle x, f(x); c \rangle : x \in \mathbb{F}_{q^k}, c \in \mathbb{F}_q \},$$

*Then the set*

$$R = \{ \langle x, f(x); 0 \rangle : x \in \mathbb{F}_{q^k} \}$$

*is a  $(q^k, q, q^k, q^{k-1})$ -RDS in  $G$  relative to*

$$N = \{ \langle 0, 0; c \rangle : c \in \mathbb{F}_q \}.$$

# Proof of the Main Theorem

## Proof.

Check by definition. We consider the difference of two distinct elements in  $R$ .

$$\begin{aligned} & \langle x, f(x); 0 \rangle * \langle y, f(y); 0 \rangle^{-1} \\ &= \langle x - y, f(x - y); \text{Tr}(-y(f(x - y))) \rangle. \end{aligned} \quad (1)$$

Partition the set  $S = \{(x, y) : x, y \in \mathbb{F}_{q^k}, x \neq y\}$  into  $q^k$  subsets of size  $q^k$ :  $S_a = \{(a + d, d) : d \in \mathbb{F}_{q^k}\}$ ,  $a \in \mathbb{F}_{q^k} \setminus \{0\}$ . For each subset  $S_a$ , the value in (1) will become

$$\langle a, f(a); \text{Tr}(-df(a)) \rangle, d \in \mathbb{F}_{q^k}. \quad (2)$$

Since  $f(a) \neq 0$ , then  $\mathbb{F}_{q^k} = \{-df(a) : d \in \mathbb{F}_{q^k}\}$ , and for  $\text{Tr} : \mathbb{F}_{q^k} \rightarrow \mathbb{F}_q$  is a surjective  $\mathbb{F}_q$ -linear function, we have (2) cover  $q^{k-1}$  times of the elements in

$$\{\langle a, f(a); c \rangle : c \in \mathbb{F}_q\}.$$



# Divisible Design and RDS

- The existence of an  $(m, n, k, \lambda)$ -RDS in  $G$  is equivalent to the existence of an  $(m, n, k, \lambda)$ -divisible design with a Singer group  $G$ .

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  - It tells us two things.
- 1 The construction of a divisible design with a Singer group  $G$  can be reduced to the construction of RDS in  $G$ .
  - 2 Since a divisible design can have many non-isomorphic Singer groups, we can obtain RDSs in many different groups. Our idea of construction is from the investigation of the automorphisms (represented by elements in  $AGL(n, q)$ ) of the classical  $(q^k, q, q^k, q^{k-1})$ -divisible design.

- Let  $R$  be a  $(q^k, q, q^k, q^{k-1})$ -RDS in  $G$  relative to  $N$ . Let  $U$  be a subgroup of  $N$  of order  $u$ . By dividing out  $U$ , there exists an  $(q^k, q/u, q^k, q^{k-1}u)$ -RDS in  $G/U$  relative to  $N/U$ . Hence it is a contraction of any  $(p^a, p^b, p^a, p^{a-b})$ -RDS.

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- The groups  $G$  that admitting a RDS are mostly non-abelian. We will describe the structures of all the groups in the construction in generators and relations.
- One major construction of RDSs which belong to parameter  $(p^a, p^b, p^a, p^{a-b})$  is from Davis(1992), it is shown the existence of  $(p^{2n}, p^k, p^{2n}, p^{2n-k})$ -RDS in the groups whose center contains a large elementary abelian subgroup. Most non-abelian groups do not have such large center. A lot of non-abelian cases from our construction are without that restriction.

- Recall that in our construction, the group  $G$  that admitting an RDS is

$$G = \{ \langle x, f(x); c \rangle : x \in \mathbb{F}_{q^k}, c \in \mathbb{F}_q \}.$$

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- We can choose the permutative  $p$ -polynomials over  $\mathbb{F}_{q^k}$  for the choices of  $f(x)$ , and there are a lot of such polynomials.



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- Case 1: Let  $q$  be an odd prime. Let  $\mathbb{F}_{q^k}^* = \langle \alpha \rangle$ . Let  $Tr : \mathbb{F}_{q^k} \rightarrow \mathbb{F}_q$ , and  $x_i = \langle \alpha^i, f(\alpha^i); 0 \rangle$ ,  $i = 0, \dots, k-1$ ;  $z = \langle 0, 0; 1 \rangle$ , then we have the structure of  $G$  as

$$G = \langle x_0, \dots, x_{k-1}, z \mid x_i^q = z^q = 1, x_i z = z x_i, \\ x_i x_j = x_j x_i z^{Tr(\alpha^j f(\alpha^i) - \alpha^i f(\alpha^j))}, i, j = 0, \dots, k-1 \rangle.$$

Case 2: Let  $q = 2$ . Define  $Tr, x_i, z, \alpha$  in the same way as case 1. Note that the order of generator  $x_i$  depends on whether  $Tr(\alpha^i f(\alpha^i))$  is zero. Therefore, the group structure is:

$$\langle x_0, \dots, x_{k-1}, z \mid x_i^2 = z^{Tr(\alpha^i f(\alpha^i))}, z^2 = 1, x_i z = z x_i, \\ x_i x_j = x_j x_i z^{Tr(\alpha^j f(\alpha^i) - \alpha^i f(\alpha^j))}, i, j = 0, \dots, k-1 \rangle.$$

- For the prime power cases, we introduce some notations in preparation. Let  $q = p^n$  ( $n > 1$ ), where  $p$  is a prime. Still, let  $\mathbb{F}_{q^k}^* = \langle \alpha \rangle$ . Define  $\beta = \alpha^{\frac{q^k-1}{q-1}}$ , thus  $\mathbb{F}_q^* = \langle \beta \rangle$ .

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- Let  $\text{Coef}(x)$  where  $x \in \mathbb{F}_q$  stands for a vector of coefficients of a polynomial of  $\beta$  over  $\mathbb{F}_p$  by which we represent the element  $x$ . For example, if  $x = a_0 + a_1\beta + \dots + a_{n-1}\beta^{n-1}$ , then  $\text{Coef}(x) = (a_0, \dots, a_{n-1})$ .

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- Moreover, we define

$$(z_0, \dots, z_{n-1})^{(a_0, \dots, a_{n-1})} = z_0^{a_0} \dots z_{n-1}^{a_{n-1}}.$$

Case 3: Let  $q = p^n$ , where  $p$  is an odd prime. Define the generators  $x_i = \langle \alpha^i, f(\alpha^i); 0 \rangle, i = 0, \dots, kn - 1$ ;  $z_j = \langle 0, 0; \beta^j \rangle, j = 0, \dots, n - 1$ . Then we have the structure of  $G$  as:

$$\begin{aligned} & \langle x_0, \dots, x_{kn-1}, z_0, \dots, z_{n-1} \mid x_i^p = z_s^p = 1, x_i z_s = z_s x_i, \\ & z_s z_m = z_m z_s, x_i x_j = x_j x_i (z_0, \dots, z_{n-1})^{\text{Coef}(\text{Tr}(\alpha^j f(\alpha^i) - \alpha^i f(\alpha^j)))}, \\ & i, j = 0, \dots, kn - 1; s, m = 0, \dots, n - 1 \rangle. \end{aligned}$$

Case 4: Let  $q = 2^n$ , and  $x_i, z_j, \alpha, \beta$  same as case 3. Then we have the group  $G$  as:

$$\begin{aligned} & \langle x_0, \dots, x_{kn-1}, z_0, \dots, z_{n-1} \mid z_s^2 = 1, \\ & x_i^2 = (z_0, \dots, z_{n-1})^{\text{Coef}(\text{Tr}(\alpha^i f(\alpha^i)))}, x_i z_s = z_s x_i, z_s z_m = z_m z_s, \\ & x_i x_j = x_j x_i (z_0, \dots, z_{n-1})^{\text{Coef}(\text{Tr}(\alpha^j f(\alpha^i) - \alpha^i f(\alpha^j)))}, \\ & i, j = 0, \dots, kn-1; s, m = 0, \dots, n-1 \rangle. \end{aligned}$$



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- Let  $1 \leq e_i \leq p$ , and  $0 \leq i \leq k - 1$ . The RDSs for case 1,2 are

$$\left\{ x_0^{e_0} x_1^{e_1} \cdots x_{k-1}^{e_{k-1}} z^{-\sum_{i=0}^{k-1} \frac{e_i(e_i-1)}{2} \text{Tr}(\alpha^i f(\alpha^i))} \right\}.$$

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$$\left\{ x_0^{e_0} x_1^{e_1} \cdots x_{k-1}^{e_{k-1}} z^{-\sum_{i=0}^{k-1} \frac{e_i(e_i-1)}{2} \text{Tr}(\alpha^i f(\alpha^i))} \right\}.$$

- Let  $1 \leq e_i \leq p$ , and  $0 \leq i \leq kn - 1$ . The RDSs for case 3,4 are

$$\left\{ x_0^{e_0} x_1^{e_1} \cdots x_{kn-1}^{e_{kn-1}} (z_0, \dots, z_{n-1})^{\text{Coef}(-\sum_{i=0}^{kn-1} \frac{e_i(e_i-1)}{2} \text{Tr}(\alpha^i f(\alpha^i)))} \right\}.$$

# Computational Verifications

$(m, n, k, \lambda) - RDS$	$\mathbb{F}_{q^k}$	Group Type in Magma
$(8, 2, 8, 4)$	$\mathbb{F}_{2^3}$	10(abelian), 11, 12, 13
$(27, 3, 27, 9)$	$\mathbb{F}_{3^3}$	12, 15(abelian)
$(125, 5, 125, 25)$	$\mathbb{F}_{5^3}$	12, 15(abelian)
$(16, 2, 16, 8)$	$\mathbb{F}_{2^4}$	45, 46, 47, 48, 49, 50, 51(abelian)
$(81, 3, 81, 27)$	$\mathbb{F}_{3^4}$	62, 65, 67(abelian)
$(16, 4, 16, 4)$	$\mathbb{F}_{4^2}$	192(abelian), 193, 198, 199, 200, 202, 206, 207, 210, 214, 215, 217, 219, 223, 224, 230, 232, 237, 239, 242, 244, 245, 262, 264, 267(abelian)
$(81, 9, 81, 9)$	$\mathbb{F}_{9^2}$	425, 440, 453, 469, 498, 501, 504(abelian)

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- The groups in the construction are sometimes isomorphic even with different representations. Is there any convenient method to judge whether two groups are isomorphic?
- This construction of RDS is an example of success by investigation of subgroups of  $AGL(n, q)$ . Can we achieve more in finding RDS in  $AGL(n, q)$ ? Is it possible that the developments of the RDSs in subgroups of  $AGL(n, q)$  generate new designs?

Thank you very much for your  
attention!



