

# Permutation modules and $p$ -ranks of Incidence Matrices Part 3: Cross-characteristic

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Groups and Geometries, ISI Bangalore, December 2012

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# Outline

A cross-characteristic example

Permutation modules for classical groups

Characteristic zero

Results of Liebeck

The cases  $c = d$

Some Applications

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# $\mathbf{GL}(V)$ acting on $\mathbf{P}(V)$

- ▶  $V$  a vector space over  $\mathbf{F}_q$ .
- ▶  $\mathbf{GL}(V)$  acts doubly transitively on the set  $P$  of 1-dimensional subspaces of  $V$ .
- ▶  $F$  an algebraically closed field of characteristic  $\ell \nmid q$ .
- ▶  $F^P$  the  $FG$ -permutation module.
- ▶ If  $\ell \nmid |P|$ ,  $F^P = F \oplus X$

$$\begin{array}{c} \text{▶ } F \\ | \\ X \\ | \\ F \end{array}$$

Figure:  $F^P$  when  $\ell \mid |P|$

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- ▶ Suppose  $V$  has a non-degenerate quadratic form or symplectic form, or a vector space over  $\mathbf{F}_{q^2}$  with a nonsingular hermitian form.
- ▶  $G$ , the subgroup of  $\mathbf{GL}(V)$  preserving the form.
- ▶  $\mathbf{P}_0$  the set of singular 1-spaces (points).
- ▶ Action of  $G$  on  $\mathbf{P}_0$  is transitive of rank 3
- ▶ Let  $\Psi, \Phi$  be the nondiagonal orbits of  $G$  on  $\mathbf{P}_0 \times \mathbf{P}_0$ , with  $\Phi$  the set of singular pairs.

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# Characteristic zero

- ▶  $\Delta : F^{P_0} \rightarrow F^{P_0}, x \mapsto \sum_{(x,y) \in \Psi} y$
- ▶  $F^{P_0} = \mathbf{F}1 \oplus X \oplus Y$
- ▶ D. G. Higman (1960s)
- ▶ The summands are the eigenspaces  $\Delta$ .
- ▶ Let  $k$  be the eigenvalue of  $1$ ,  $c$  and  $d$  the other eigenvalues.
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- ▶ Liebeck (1980-81) studied  $F^{P_0}$  under the assumption  $c \neq d$
- ▶ *graph submodules*  $U'_c, U'_d$ , where
$$U'_\lambda = \langle (\Delta - \lambda I)(x - x') \mid x, x' \in X \rangle$$
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# Structure of $F^{P_0}$ when $c \neq d$

$a \notin \{c, d\}$  :

$$F \oplus X \oplus Y$$

$a \in \{c, d\}$  :

$$X \oplus \begin{array}{c} F \\ | \\ Y \\ | \\ F \end{array}$$

Figure: The cases  $c \neq d$

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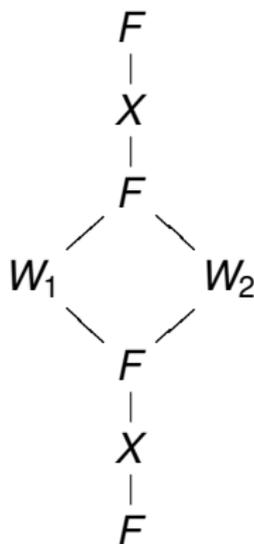
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# $F^{P_0}$ when $c = d$

- ▶  **$\mathrm{Sp}(2m, q)$**   $q$  odd,  $\ell = 2$  ( Lataille-Sin-Tiep (2003))

- ▶  $m$  even :



- ▶  $m$  odd :



Figure:  **$\mathrm{Sp}(2m, q)$** ,  $q$  odd,  $\ell = 2$

# Structure of module of lines for $m = 2, \ell = 2$

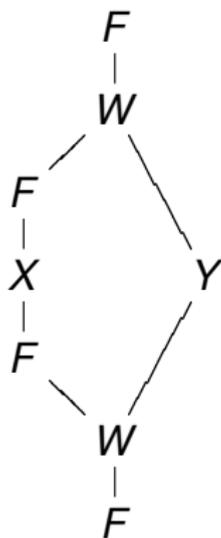


Figure: lines for  $\mathbf{Sp}(4, q)$ ,  $q$  odd,  $\ell = 2$

## Related work on GQ codes

The  $\mathbf{F}_2$ -permutation modules for rank 2 groups of odd characteristic have been studied in small ranks by Bagchi-Brouwer-Wilbrink (1991), and Brouwer-Haemers-Wilbrink (1992) in connection with the  $\mathbf{F}_2$ -codes associated with generalized quadrangles.

# $F^{P_0}$ , remaining $c = d$ cases

- ▶ Sin-Tiep (2005)
- ▶  $\mathbf{GU}(2m, q^2)$  with  $m \geq 2$  and  $\ell|(q+1)$
- ▶  $\mathbf{GU}(2m+1, q^2)$  when  $m \geq 2$ ,  $\ell|(q+1)$
- ▶  $\mathbf{GO}(2m+1, q)$  with  $m \geq 3$ ,  $q$  odd and  $\ell = 2$
- ▶  $\mathbf{GO}^+(2m, q)$  with  $m \geq 3$  and  $\ell|(q+1)$
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# Unitary groups in even dimension

$\ell \nmid m$ :



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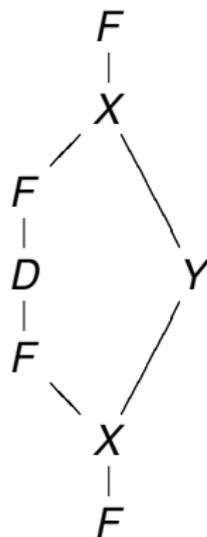
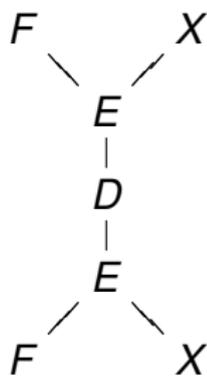


Figure:  $F^{P_0}$  for  $\mathbf{GU}(2m, q^2)$  when  $\ell \mid (q+1)$ .

# Unitary groups in odd dimension

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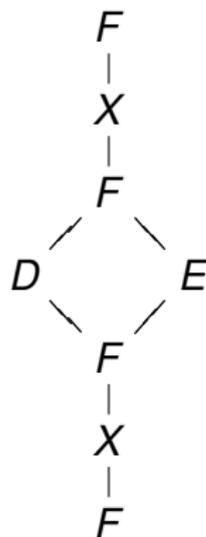
**Figure:** Submodule structure of  $F^{P_0}$  for  $\mathbf{GU}(2m+1, q^2)$  when  $\ell \mid (q+1)$  and  $\ell$  is odd or  $\ell = 2$  and  $q \equiv 3 \pmod{4}$ .

# Unitary groups in odd dimension

$m$  odd :



$m$  even :



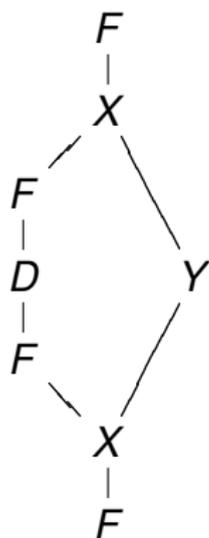
**Figure:** Submodule structure of  $F^{P_0}$  for  $\mathbf{GU}(2m+1, q^2)$  when  $\ell = 2$  and  $q \equiv 1 \pmod{4}$ .

# Orthogonal groups in odd dimension

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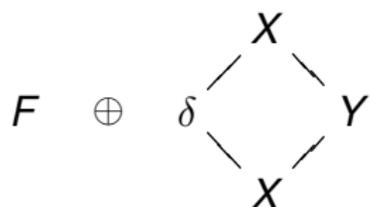
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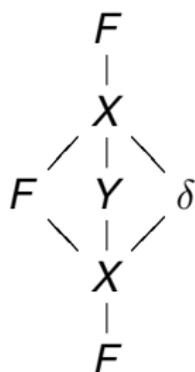
**Figure:** Submodule structure of  $F^{P_0}$  for  $\mathbf{GO}(2m+1, q)$ ,  $q$  odd, when  $\ell = 2$ .

# Orthogonal groups in even dimension, maximal index

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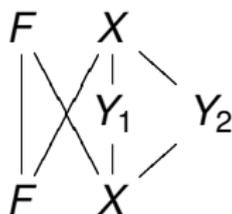
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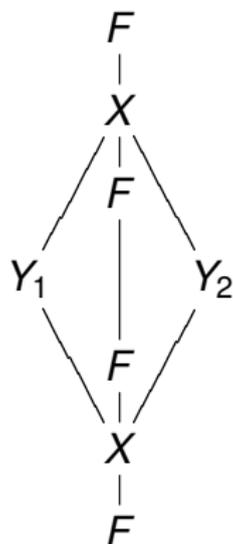
**Figure:** Submodule structure of  $F^{\mathbb{P}_0}$  for  $\mathbf{GO}^+(2m, q)$  when  $\ell \neq 2$  and  $\ell \mid (q+1)$ .

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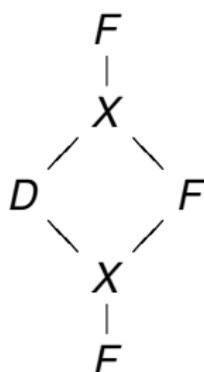
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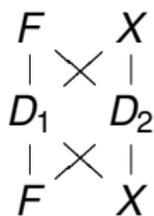
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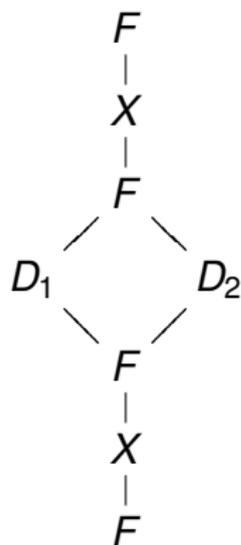
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*m even :*



*m odd :*



**Figure:** Submodule structure of  $F^{P_0}$  for  $\mathbf{GO}^-(2m, q)$ ,  $q$  odd, when  $\ell = 2$ .

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# Remarks

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- ▶ One can identify the “geometric” submodules, such as those generated by the characteristic vectors of the max. isotropic subspaces.

# Further work

- ▶ Hall-Nguyen, rank 3 permutation modules on nonsingular points,  $O_{2m}^{\pm}(2)$ ,  $m \geq 2$  and  $U_m(2)$ ,  $m \geq 4$ .
- ▶ There are two rank 3 permutation modules for  $E_6(q)$ , related by an automorphism.

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# Coding theory examples

The cross-characteristic theory, in particular  $\ell = 2$ , shows up in coding theory, in connection with structured Low Density Parity Check (LDPC) Codes. These may use the  $\mathbf{F}_2$ -incidence matrices of a family of geometrically defined incidence relations as generator or parity-check matrices.

# $LU(3, q)$ codes

- ▶  $V$  a 4-dimensional vector space over the field  $\mathbf{F}_q$
- ▶ Assume  $V$  has a nonsingular alternating bilinear form.
- ▶  $P = \mathbf{P}(V)$ ,  $L =$  the set of totally isotropic 2-dimensional subspaces, lines in  $P$ .
- ▶ Fix a point  $p_0$  and a line  $\ell_0$  through  $p_0$ .
- ▶  $P_1 = P \setminus p_0^\perp$ ,
- ▶  $L_1 =$  set of lines that do not meet  $\ell_0$ .
- ▶ Consider the incidence systems  $(P_1, L_1)$ ,
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- ▶ Assume  $V$  has a nonsingular alternating bilinear form.
- ▶  $P = \mathbf{P}(V)$ ,  $L =$  the set of totally isotropic 2-dimensional subspaces, lines in  $P$ .
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- ▶  $P_1 = P \setminus p_0^\perp$ ,
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# Codes from a conic

- ▶  $PG(2, q)$ ,  $q$  odd.
- ▶  $\mathcal{O}$  conic.
- ▶ Points:  $\mathcal{O}$ ,  $E$  (external)  $I$  (internal)
- ▶ Lines:  $Ta$  (tangent),  $Se$  (secant),  $Pa$  (passant)
- ▶ Droms and Mellinger used the various point-line incidence matrices to define families of LDPC codes.
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# Conjectures of Droms and Mellinger



$$\text{rank}_2 A(E, Se) = \begin{cases} \frac{1}{4}(q-1)^2 + 1, & \text{if } q \equiv 1 \pmod{4}, \\ \frac{1}{4}(q-1)^2 - 1, & \text{if } q \equiv 3 \pmod{4}. \end{cases}$$

- ▶ Sin-Xiang-Wu (2011) gave a proof.
- ▶ Proof uses detailed information about 2-blocks of  $\mathbf{SL}(2, q)$  (Landrock 1980).
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