

# Finite Groups, Designs and Codes - Method 2

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ASI, Opatija, 31 May –11 June 2010

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# Outline

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# Abstract

In this talk we discuss the **second method** for constructing codes and designs from finite groups (mostly simple finite groups). Background materials and results together with the full discussions on the first method were discussed in talks 1 and 2.

The **second method** introduces a technique from which a large number of non-symmetric 1-designs could be constructed.

- Let  $G$  be a finite group,  $M$  be a maximal subgroup of  $G$  and  $C_g = [g] = nX$  be the conjugacy class of  $G$  containing  $g$ .
- We construct 1 -  $(v, k, \lambda)$  designs  $\mathcal{D} = (\mathcal{P}, \mathcal{B})$ , where  $\mathcal{P} = nX$  and  $\mathcal{B} = \{(M \cap nX)^y | y \in G\}$ . The parameters  $v, k, \lambda$  and further properties of  $\mathcal{D}$  are determined.
- We also study codes associated with these designs. In Subsections 5.1, 5.2 and 5.3 we apply the **second method** to the groups  $A_7$ ,  $PSL_2(q)$  and  $J_1$  respectively.

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- We construct  $1 - (v, k, \lambda)$  designs  $\mathcal{D} = (\mathcal{P}, \mathcal{B})$ , where  $\mathcal{P} = nX$  and  $\mathcal{B} = \{(M \cap nX)^y \mid y \in G\}$ . The parameters  $v, k, \lambda$  and further properties of  $\mathcal{D}$  are determined.
- We also study codes associated with these designs. In Subsections 5.1, 5.2 and 5.3 we apply the **second method** to the groups  $A_7$ ,  $PSL_2(q)$  and  $J_1$  respectively.

# Construction of 1-Designs and Codes from Maximal Subgroups and Conjugacy Classes of Elements

Here we assume  $G$  is a finite simple group,  $M$  is a maximal subgroup of  $G$ ,  $nX$  is a conjugacy class of elements of order  $n$  in  $G$  and  $g \in nX$ . Thus  $C_g = [g] = nX$  and  $|nX| = |G : C_G(g)|$ . As in Section 3 (Talks 1 and 2) let  $\chi_M = \chi(G|M)$  be the permutation character afforded by the action of  $G$  on  $\Omega$ , the set of all conjugates of  $M$  in  $G$ . Clearly if  $g$  is not conjugate to any element in  $M$ , then  $\chi_M(g) = 0$ .

The construction of our 1-designs is based on the following theorem.



## Theorem (12)

*Let  $G$  be a finite simple group,  $M$  a maximal subgroup of  $G$  and  $nX$  a conjugacy class of elements of order  $n$  in  $G$  such that  $M \cap nX \neq \emptyset$ . Let  $\mathcal{B} = \{(M \cap nX)^y \mid y \in G\}$  and  $\mathcal{P} = nX$ . Then we have a  $1 - (|nX|, |M \cap nX|, \chi_M(g))$  design  $\mathcal{D}$ , where  $g \in nX$ . The group  $G$  acts as an automorphism group on  $\mathcal{D}$ , primitive on blocks and transitive (not necessarily primitive) on points of  $\mathcal{D}$ .*

**Proof:** First note that  $\mathcal{B} = \{M^y \cap nX \mid y \in G\}$ . We claim that  $M^y \cap nX = M \cap nX$  if and only if  $y \in M$  or  $nX = \{1_G\}$ . Clearly if  $y \in M$  or  $nX = \{1_G\}$ , then  $M^y \cap nX = M \cap nX$ . Conversely suppose there exists  $y \notin M$  such that  $M^y \cap nX = M \cap nX$ .

## Proof Thm 12 Cont.

Then maximality of  $M$  in  $G$  implies that  $G = \langle M, y \rangle$  and hence  $M^z \cap nX = M \cap nX$  for all  $z \in G$ . We can deduce that  $nX \subseteq M$  and hence  $\langle nX \rangle \leq M$ . Since  $\langle nX \rangle$  is a normal subgroup of  $G$  and  $G$  is simple, we must have  $\langle nX \rangle = \{1_G\}$ . Note that maximality of  $M$  and the fact  $\langle nX \rangle \leq M$ , excludes the case  $\langle nX \rangle = G$ .

From above we deduce that

$$b = |\mathcal{B}| = |\Omega| = [G : M].$$

If  $B \in \mathcal{B}$ , then

$$k = |B| = |M \cap nX| = \sum_{i=1}^k |[x_i]_M| = |M| \sum_{i=1}^k \frac{1}{|C_M(x_i)|},$$

## Proof Thm 12 Cont.

Let  $v = |\mathcal{P}| = |nX| = [G : C_G(g)]$ . Form the design  $\mathcal{D} = (\mathcal{P}, \mathcal{B}, \mathcal{I})$ , with point set  $\mathcal{P}$ , block set  $\mathcal{B}$  and incidence  $\mathcal{I}$  given by  $x\mathcal{I}B$  if and only if  $x \in B$ . Since the number of blocks containing an element  $x$  in  $\mathcal{P}$  is  $\lambda = \chi_M(x) = \chi_M(g)$ , we have produced a  $1 - (v, k, \lambda)$  design  $\mathcal{D}$ , where  $v = |nX|$ ,  $k = |M \cap nX|$  and  $\lambda = \chi_m(g)$ .

The action of  $G$  on blocks arises from the action of  $G$  on  $\Omega$  and hence the maximality of  $M$  in  $G$  implies the primitivity. The action of  $G$  on  $nX$ , that is on points, is equivalent to the action of  $G$  on the cosets of  $C_G(g)$ . So the action on points is primitive if and only if  $C_G(g)$  is a maximal subgroup of  $G$ . ■

## Remark (4)

Since in a  $1 - (v, k, \lambda)$  design  $\mathcal{D}$  we have  $kb = \lambda v$ , we deduce that

$$k = |M \cap nX| = \frac{\chi_M(g) \times |nX|}{[G : M]}.$$

Also note that  $\tilde{\mathcal{D}}$ , the complement of  $\mathcal{D}$ , is  $1 - (v, v - k, \tilde{\lambda})$  design, where  $\tilde{\lambda} = \lambda \times \frac{v-k}{k}$ .

## Remark (5)

If  $\lambda = 1$ , then  $\mathcal{D}$  is a  $1 - (|nX|, k, 1)$  design. Since  $nX$  is the disjoint union of  $b$  blocks each of size  $k$ , we have  $\text{Aut}(\mathcal{D}) = S_k \wr S_b = (S_k)^b : S_b$ . Clearly in this case for all  $p$ , we have  $C = C_p(\mathcal{D}) = [ |nX|, b, k ]_p$ , with  $\text{Aut}(C) = \text{Aut}(\mathcal{D})$ .

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## Remark (6)

*The designs  $\mathcal{D}$  constructed by using Theorem 12 are not symmetric in general. In fact  $\mathcal{D}$  is symmetric if and only if*

$$b = |\mathcal{B}| = v = |\mathcal{P}| \Leftrightarrow [G : M] = |nX| \Leftrightarrow$$

$$[G : M] = [G : C_G(g)] \Leftrightarrow |M| = |C_G(g)|.$$

## Designs and Codes from $A_7$

$A_7$  has five conjugacy classes of maximal subgroups, which are listed in Table 6. It has also 9 conjugacy classes of elements some of which are listed in Table 7.

Table 6: Maximal subgroups of  $A_7$

No.	Structure	Index	Order
Max[1]	$A_6$	7	360
Max[2]	$PSL_2(7)$	15	168
Max[3]	$PSL_2(7)$	15	168
Max[4]	$S_5$	21	120
Max[5]	$(A_4 \times 3):2$	35	72

Table 7: Some of the conjugacy classes of  $A_7$

$nX$	$ nX $	$C_G(g)$	Maximal Centralizer
$2A$	105	$D_8: 3$	No
$3A$	70	$A_4 \times 3 \cong (2^2 \times 3): 3$	No
$3B$	280	$3 \times 3$	No

We apply the Theorem 12 to the above maximal subgroups and few conjugacy classes of elements of  $A_7$  to construct several **non-symmetric 1- designs**. The corresponding **binary codes** are also constructed. In the following we only discuss one example (see Subsection 5.1.1, main paper). For other examples see Subsections 5.1.2 to 5.1.5 of the main paper.



## $G = A_7$ , $M = A_6$ and $nX = 3A$ : 1 – (70, 40, 4) Design

- Let  $G = A_7$ ,  $M = A_6$  and  $nX = 3A$ . Then

$$b = [G : M] = 7, v = |3A| = 70, k = |M \cap 3A| = 40.$$

- Also using the character table of  $A_7$ , we have

$$\chi_M = \chi_1 + \chi_2 = \underline{1a} + \underline{6a}$$

and for  $g \in 3A$

$$\chi_M(g) = 1 + 3 = 4 = \lambda.$$

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and for  $g \in 3A$

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- We produce a **non-symmetric**  $1 - (70, 40, 4)$  design  $\mathcal{D}$ .

- $A_7$  acts **primitively** on the **7 blocks**.
- $C_{A_7}(g) = A_4 \times 3$  is not maximal in  $A_7$ , sits in the maximal subgroup  $(A_4 \times 3):2$  with index two.
- Thus  $A_7$  acts imprimitively on the 70 points.
- $\tilde{D}$  is a  $1 - (70, 30, 3)$  design.
- $Aut(\mathcal{D}) \cong 2^{35}:S_7 \cong 2^5 \wr S_7$ .
- $|Aut(\mathcal{D})| = 2^{39} \cdot 3^2 \cdot 5 \cdot 7$ .

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## $G = A_7$ , $M = A_6$ and $nX = 3A$ : [70, 6, 32] Code

Construction using **MAGMA** shows that the binary code  $C$  of this design is a [70, 6, 32] code. The code  $C$  is self-orthogonal with the weight distribution

$$\langle 0, 1 \rangle, \langle 32, 35 \rangle, \langle 40, 28 \rangle .$$

Our group  $A_7$  acts irreducibility on  $C$ .

- If  $W_i$  denote the set of all words in  $C$  of weight  $i$ , then

$$C = \langle W_{32} \rangle = \langle W_{40} \rangle,$$

so  $C$  is generated by its minimum-weight codewords.

- $Aut(C) \cong 2^{35} : S_6$  with  $|Aut(C)| = 2^{42} \cdot 3^2 \cdot 5 \cdot 7$ , and we note that  $Aut(C) \cong Aut(D)$  and that  $Aut(D)$  is not a normal subgroup of  $Aut(C)$ .

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- $Aut(C) \cong 2^{35} : S_8$  with  $|Aut(C)| = 2^{42} \cdot 3^2 \cdot 5 \cdot 7$ , and we note that  $Aut(C) \geq Aut(\mathcal{D})$  and that  $Aut(\mathcal{D})$  is not a normal subgroup of  $Aut(C)$ .

- $C^\perp$  is a  $[70, 64, 2]$  code and its weight distribution has been determined. Since the blocks of  $\mathcal{D}$  are of even size 40, we have that  $j$  meets evenly every vector of  $C$  and hence  $j \in C^\perp$ .
- If  $\bar{W}_i$  denote the set of all codewords in  $C^\perp$  of weight  $i$ , then  $|\bar{W}_2| = 35$ ,  $|\bar{W}_3| = 840$ ,  $|\bar{W}_4| = 14035$ ,  $\bar{W}_2 \subseteq \bar{W}_4$ ,  $j \in \langle \bar{W}_4 \rangle$  and

$$C^\perp = \langle \bar{W}_3 \rangle, \dim(\langle \bar{W}_2 \rangle) = 35, \dim(\langle \bar{W}_4 \rangle) = 63.$$

- Let  $e_{ij}$  denote the 2-cycle  $(i, j)$  in  $S_7$ , where  $\{i, j\} = s(\bar{w}_2)$  is the support of a codeword  $\bar{w}_2 \in \bar{W}_2$ . Then  $e_{ij}(\bar{w}_2) = \bar{w}_2$ , and  $\langle e_{ij} | \{i, j\} = s(\bar{w}_2), \bar{w}_2 \in \bar{W}_2 \rangle = 2^{35}$ .

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- Using **MAGMA** we can easily show that  $V = F_2^{70}$  is decomposable into indecomposable  $G$ -modules of dimension 40 and 30.
- We also have

$$\dim(\text{Soc}(V)) = 21, \quad \text{Soc}(V) = \langle J \rangle \oplus C \oplus C_{14},$$

where  $C$  is our 6-dimensional code and  $C_{14}$  is an irreducible code of dimension 14.

- Using **MAGMA** we can easily show that  $V = F_2^{70}$  is **decomposable** into **indecomposable**  $G$ -modules of dimension **40** and **30**.
- We also have

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## Stabilizers: Tables 8 and 9

The structure the stabilizers  $Aut(\mathcal{D})_{w_I}$  and  $Aut(\mathcal{C})_{w_I}$ , where  $I \in \{32, 40\}$  are listed in Table 8 and 9.

Table 8: Stabilizer of a word  $w_I$  in  $Aut(\mathcal{D})$

$I$	$ W_I $	$Aut(\mathcal{D})_{w_I}$
32	35	$2^{35}:(A_4 \times 3):2$
40(1)	7	$2^{35}:S_6$
40(2)	21	$2^{35}:(S_5:2)$

Table 9: Stabilizer of a word  $w_i$  in  $Aut(C)$

$I$	$ W_I $	$Aut(D)_{w_i}$
32	35	$2^{35}:(S_4 \times S_4):2$
40	28	$2^{35}:(S_6 \times 2)$

## Designs and codes from $PSL_2(q)$

- The main aim of this section to develop a general approach to  $G = PSL_2(q)$ , where  $M$  is the maximal subgroup that is the stabilizer of a point in the natural action of degree  $q + 1$  on the set  $\Omega$ . This is fully discussed in Subsection 5.2.1.
- We start this section by applying the results discussed for Method 2, particularly the Theorem 12, to all maximal subgroups and conjugacy classes of elements of  $PSL_2(11)$  to construct 1- designs and their corresponding binary codes.
- The group  $PSL_2(11)$  has order  $660 = 2^2 \times 3 \times 5 \times 11$ , it has four conjugacy classes of maximal subgroups (Table 10). It has also eight conjugacy classes of elements (Table 11).

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Some 1-designs and Codes from  $A_7$

**Designs and codes from  $PSL_2(q)$**

$G = PSL_2(q)$  of degree  $q + 1$ ,  $M = G_1$

References

No.	Order	Index	Structure
Max[1]	55	12	$F_{55} = 11 : 5$
Max[2]	60	11	$A_5$
Max[3]	60	11	$A_5$
Max[4]	12	55	$D_{12}$

$nX$	$ nX $	$C_G(g)$	Maximal Centralizer
2A	55	$D_{12}$	Yes
3A	110	$\mathbb{Z}_6$	No
5A	132	$\mathbb{Z}_5$	No
5B	132	$\mathbb{Z}_5$	No
6A	110	$\mathbb{Z}_6$	No
11AB	60	$\mathbb{Z}_{11}$	No

# Max[1]

5A:  $\mathcal{D} = 1 - (132, 22, 2)$ ,  $b = 12$ ;  
 $C = [132, 11, 22]_2$ ,  $C^\perp = [132, 121, 2]_2$ ;  
 $Aut(\mathcal{D}) = Aut(C) = 2^{66} : S_{12}$ .

5B: As for 5A.

11A:  $\mathcal{D} = 1 - (60, 5, 1)$ ,  $b = 12$ ;  
 $C = [60, 12, 5]_2$ ,  $C^\perp = [60, 48, 2]_2$ ;  
 $Aut(\mathcal{D}) = Aut(C) = (S_5)^{12} : S_{12}$ .

11B: As for 11A.

# Max[1]

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 $Aut(\mathcal{D}) = Aut(C) = (S_5)^{12} : S_{12}$ .

11B: As for 11A.

## Max[2]

2A:  $\mathcal{D} = 1 - (55, 15, 3)$ ,  $b = 11$ ;  
 $C = [55, 11, 15]_2$ ,  $C^\perp = [55, 44, 4]_2$ ;  
 $Aut(\mathcal{D}) = PSL_2(11)$ ,  $Aut(C) = PSL_2(11) : 2$ .

3A:  $\mathcal{D} = 1 - (110, 20, 2)$ ,  $b = 11$ ;  
 $C = [110, 10, 20]_2$ ,  $C^\perp = [110, 100, 2]_2$ ;  
 $Aut(\mathcal{D}) = Aut(C) = 2^{55} : S_{11}$ .

5A:  $\mathcal{D} = 1 - (132, 12, 1)$ ,  $b = 11$ ;  
 $C = [132, 11, 12]_2$ ,  $C^\perp = [132, 121, 2]_2$ ;  
 $Aut(\mathcal{D}) = Aut(C) = (S_{12})^{11} : S_{11}$ .

5B: As for 5A.

Note: Results for Max[3] are as for Max[2]

## Max[2]

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 $Aut(\mathcal{D}) = PSL_2(11)$ ,  $Aut(C) = PSL_2(11) : 2$ .

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5B: As for 5A.

Note: Results for Max[3] are as for Max[2]

## Max[4]

2A:  $\mathcal{D} = 1 - (55, 7, 7)$ ,  $b = 55$ ;  
 $C = [55, 35, 4]_2$ ,  $C^\perp = [55, 20, 10]_2$ ;  
 $Aut(\mathcal{D}) = Aut(C) = PSL_2(11) : 2$ .

3A:  $\mathcal{D} = 1 - (110, 2, 1)$ ,  $b = 55$ ;  
 $C = [110, 55, 2]_2$ ,  $C^\perp = [110, 55, 2]_2$ ;  
 $Aut(\mathcal{D}) = Aut(C) = 2^{55} : S_{55}$ .

6A : As for 3A.

## Max[4]

2A:  $\mathcal{D} = 1 - (55, 7, 7)$ ,  $b = 55$ ;  
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3A:  $\mathcal{D} = 1 - (110, 2, 1)$ ,  $b = 55$ ;  
 $C = [110, 55, 2]_2$ ,  $C^\perp = [110, 55, 2]_2$ ;  
 $Aut(\mathcal{D}) = Aut(C) = 2^{55} : S_{55}$ .

6A : As for 3A.



## Max[4]

- 2A:**  $\mathcal{D} = 1 - (55, 7, 7)$ ,  $b = 55$ ;  
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Let  $G = PSL_2(q)$ , let  $M$  be the stabilizer of a point in the natural action of degree  $q + 1$  on the set  $\Omega$ . Let  $M = G_1$ .

- Then it is well known that  $G$  acts **sharply 2-transitive** on  $\Omega$  and

$$M = F_q : F_q^* = F_q : \mathbb{Z}_{q-1},$$

if  $q$  is even. For  $q$  odd we have

$$M = F_q : \mathbb{Z}_{\frac{q-1}{2}}.$$

- Since  $G$  acts 2-transitively on  $\Omega$ , we have  $\chi = 1 + \psi$  where  $\chi$  is the permutation character and  $\psi$  is an irreducible character of  $G$  of degree  $q$ . Also since the action is sharply 2-transitive, only  $1_G$  fixes 3 distinct elements. Hence for all  $1_G \neq g \in G$  we have  $\lambda = \chi(g) \in \{0, 1, 2\}$ .

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## Proposition (13)

For  $G = PSL_2(q)$ , let  $M$  be the stabilizer of a point in the natural action of degree  $q + 1$  on the set  $\Omega$ . Let  $M = G_1$ . Suppose  $g \in nX \subseteq G$  is an element fixing exactly one point, and without loss of generality, assume  $g \in M$ . Then the replication number for the associated design is  $r = \lambda = 1$ . We also have

- (i) If  $q$  is odd then  $|g^G| = \frac{1}{2}(q^2 - 1)$ ,  $|M \cap g^G| = \frac{1}{2}(q - 1)$ , and  $\mathcal{D}$  is a  $1$ - $(\frac{1}{2}(q^2 - 1), \frac{1}{2}(q - 1), 1)$  design with  $q + 1$  blocks and  $\text{Aut}(\mathcal{D}) = S_{\frac{1}{2}(q-1)} \wr S_{q+1} = (S_{\frac{1}{2}(q-1)})^{q+1} : S_{q+1}$ . For all  $p$ ,  $C = C_p(\mathcal{D}) = [\frac{1}{2}(q^2 - 1), q + 1, \frac{1}{2}(q - 1)]_p$ , with  $\text{Aut}(C) = \text{Aut}(\mathcal{D})$ .

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## Proposition (13 Cont.)

(ii) If  $q$  is even then  $|g^G| = (q^2 - 1)$ ,  $|M \cap g^G| = (q - 1)$ , and  $\mathcal{D}$  is a 1- $((q^2 - 1), (q - 1), 1)$  design with  $q + 1$  blocks and

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**Proof:** Since  $\chi(g) = 1$ , we deduce that  $\psi(g) = 0$ . We now use the character table and conjugacy classes of  $PSL_2(q)$  (for example see [13]):

## Proposition (13 Cont.)

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## Proof of Proposition 13 Cont.

- (i) For  $q$  odd, there are two types of conjugacy classes with  $\psi(g) = 0$ . In both cases we have  $|C_G(g)| = q$  and hence  $|nX| = |g^G| = |PSL_2(q)|/q = (q^2 - 1)/2$ . Since  $b = [G : M] = q + 1$  and

$$k = \frac{\chi(g) \times |nX|}{[G : M]} = \frac{1 \times (q^2 - 1)/2}{q + 1} = (q - 1)/2,$$

the results follow from Remark 5

- (ii) For  $q$  even,  $PSL_2(q) = SL_2(q)$  and there is only one conjugacy class with  $\psi(g) = 0$ . A class representative is the matrix  $g = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ 1 & 1 \end{pmatrix}$  with  $|C_G(g)| = q$  and hence  $|nX| = |g^G| = |PSL_2(q)|/q = (q^2 - 1)$ .



## Proof of Proposition 13 Cont.

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Since  $b = [G : M] = q + 1$  and

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If we have  $\lambda = r = 2$  then a graph (possibly with multiple edges) can be defined on  $b$  vertices, where  $b$  is the number of blocks, i.e. the index of  $M$  in  $G$ , by stipulating that the vertices labelled by the blocks  $b_i$  and  $b_j$  are adjacent if  $b_i$  and  $b_j$  meet. Then the incidence matrix for the design is an incidence matrix for the graph.

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We use the following result from [7, Lemma].

### Lemma (14)

*Let  $\Gamma = (V, E)$  be a regular graph with  $|V| = N$ ,  $|E| = e$  and valency  $v$ . Let  $\mathcal{G}$  be the 1- $(e, v, 2)$  incidence design from an incidence matrix  $A$  for  $\Gamma$ . Then  $\text{Aut}(\Gamma) = \text{Aut}(\mathcal{G})$ .*

**Proof:** See [7]. ■

**Note:** If  $\Gamma$  is connected, then we can show (induction) that  $\text{rank}_p(A) \geq |V| - 1$  for all  $p$  with obvious equality when  $p = 2$ . If in addition (as happens for some classes of graphs, see [7, 25, 24]) the minimum weight is the valency and the words of this weight are the scalar multiples of the rows of the incidence matrix, then we also have  $\text{Aut}(C_p(\mathcal{G})) = \text{Aut}(\mathcal{G})$ .

## Proposition (15)

For  $G = PSL_2(q)$ , let  $M$  be the stabilizer of a point in the natural action of degree  $q + 1$  on the set  $\Omega$ . Let  $M = G_1$ . Suppose  $g \in nX \subseteq G$  is an element fixing exactly two points, and without loss of generality, assume  $g \in M = G_1$  and that  $g \in G_2$ . Then the replication number for the associated design is  $r = \lambda = 2$ . We also have

- (i) If  $g$  is an involution, so that  $q \equiv 1 \pmod{4}$ , the design  $\mathcal{D}$  is a  $1 - (\frac{1}{2}q(q+1), q, 2)$  design with  $q + 1$  blocks and  $\text{Aut}(\mathcal{D}) = S_{q+1}$ . Furthermore  $C_2(\mathcal{D}) = [\frac{1}{2}q(q+1), q, q]_2$ ,  $C_p(\mathcal{D}) = [\frac{1}{2}q(q+1), q+1, q]_p$  if  $p$  is an odd prime, and  $\text{Aut}(C_p(\mathcal{D})) = \text{Aut}(\mathcal{D}) = S_{q+1}$  for all  $p$ .

## Proposition (15)

For  $G = PSL_2(q)$ , let  $M$  be the stabilizer of a point in the natural action of degree  $q + 1$  on the set  $\Omega$ . Let  $M = G_1$ . Suppose  $g \in nX \subseteq G$  is an element fixing exactly two points, and without loss of generality, assume  $g \in M = G_1$  and that  $g \in G_2$ . Then the replication number for the associated design is  $r = \lambda = 2$ . We also have

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## Proposition (15, cont.)

(ii) *If  $g$  is not an involution, the design  $\mathcal{D}$  is a  $1$ - $(q(q+1), 2q, 2)$  design with  $q+1$  blocks and  $\text{Aut}(\mathcal{D}) = 2^{\frac{1}{2}q(q+1)} : S_{q+1}$ . Furthermore  $C_2(\mathcal{D}) = [q(q+1), q, 2q]_2$ ,  $C_p(\mathcal{D}) = [q(q+1), q+1, 2q]_p$  if  $p$  is an odd prime, and  $\text{Aut}(C_p(\mathcal{D})) = \text{Aut}(\mathcal{D}) = 2^{\frac{1}{2}q(q+1)} : S_{q+1}$  for all  $p$ .*

**Proof:** A block of the design constructed will be  $M \cap g^G$ . Notice that from elementary considerations or using group characters we have that the only powers of  $g$  that are conjugate to  $g$  in  $G$  are  $g$  and  $g^{-1}$ . Since  $M$  is transitive on  $\Omega \setminus \{1\}$ ,  $g^M$  and  $(g^{-1})^M$  give  $2q$  elements in  $M \cap g^G$  if  $o(g) \neq 2$ , and  $q$  if  $o(g) = 2$ . These are all the elements in  $M \cap g^G$  since  $M_j$  is cyclic.

## Proposition (15, cont.)

- (ii) *If  $g$  is not an involution, the design  $\mathcal{D}$  is a  $1$ - $(q(q + 1), 2q, 2)$  design with  $q + 1$  blocks and  $\text{Aut}(\mathcal{D}) = 2^{\frac{1}{2}q(q+1)} : S_{q+1}$ . Furthermore  $C_2(\mathcal{D}) = [q(q + 1), q, 2q]_2$ ,  $C_p(\mathcal{D}) = [q(q + 1), q + 1, 2q]_p$  if  $p$  is an odd prime, and  $\text{Aut}(C_p(\mathcal{D})) = \text{Aut}(\mathcal{D}) = 2^{\frac{1}{2}q(q+1)} : S_{q+1}$  for all  $p$ .*

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## Proof of Proposition 15 Cont.

So if  $h_1, h_2 \in M_j$  and  $h_1 = g^{x_1}, h_2 = g^{x_2}$  for some  $x_1, x_2 \in G$ , then  $h_1$  is a power of  $h_2$ , so they can only be equal or inverses of one another.

(i) In this case by the above  $k = |M \cap g^G| = q$  and hence

$$|nX| = \frac{k \times [G : M]}{\chi(g)} = \frac{q \times (q + 1)}{2}.$$

So  $\mathcal{D}$  is a  $1-(\frac{1}{2}q(q + 1), q, 2)$  design with  $q + 1$  blocks. An incidence matrix of the design is an incidence matrix of a graph on  $q + 1$  points labelled by the rows of the matrix, with the vertices corresponding to rows  $r_i$  and  $r_j$  being adjacent if there is a conjugate of  $g$  that fixes both  $i$  and  $j$ , giving an edge  $[i, j]$ .

Since  $G$  is 2-transitive, the graph we obtain is the complete graph  $K_{q+1}$ . The automorphism group of the design is the same as that of the graph (see [7]), which is  $S_{q+1}$ . By [24],

$$C_2(\mathcal{D}) = [\frac{1}{2}q(q+1), q, q]_2 \text{ and}$$

$$C_p(\mathcal{D}) = [\frac{1}{2}q(q+1), q+1, q]_p \text{ if } p \text{ is an odd prime.}$$

Further, the words of the minimum weight  $q$  are the scalar multiples of the rows of the incidence matrix, so

$$\text{Aut}(C_p(\mathcal{D})) = \text{Aut}(\mathcal{D}) = S_{q+1} \text{ for all } p.$$

(ii) If  $g$  is not an involution, then  $k = |M \cap g^G| = 2q$  and hence

$$|nX| = \frac{k \times [G : M]}{\chi(g)} = \frac{2q \times (q+1)}{2} = q(q+1).$$

So  $\mathcal{D}$  is a  $1$ - $(q(q+1), 2q, 2)$  design with  $q+1$  blocks.

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$$\text{Aut}(C_p(\mathcal{D})) = \text{Aut}(\mathcal{D}) = S_{q+1} \text{ for all } p.$$

(ii) If  $g$  is not an involution, then  $k = |M \cap g^G| = 2q$  and hence

$$|nX| = \frac{k \times [G : M]}{\chi(g)} = \frac{2q \times (q+1)}{2} = q(q+1).$$

So  $\mathcal{D}$  is a  $1$ - $(q(q+1), 2q, 2)$  design with  $q+1$  blocks.

In the same way we define a graph from the rows of the incidence matrix, but in this case we have the complete directed graph. The automorphism group of the graph and of the design is  $2^{\frac{1}{2}q(q+1)} : S_{q+1}$ . Similarly to the previous case,  $C_2(\mathcal{D}) = [q(q+1), q, 2q]_2$  and  $C_p(\mathcal{D}) = [q(q+1), q+1, 2q]_p$  if  $p$  is an odd prime. Further, the words of the minimum weight  $2q$  are the scalar multiples of the rows of the incidence matrix, so  $\text{Aut}(C_p(\mathcal{D})) = \text{Aut}(\mathcal{D}) = 2^{\frac{1}{2}q(q+1)} : S_{q+1}$  for all  $p$ . ■

We end this subsection by giving few examples of designs and codes constructed, using Propositions 13 and 15, from  $PSL_2(q)$  for  $q \in \{16, 17, 19\}$ , where  $M$  is the stabilizer of a point in the natural action of degree  $q + 1$  and  $g \in nX \subseteq G$  is an element fixing exactly one or two points.

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## Example 1: $PSL_2(16)$

1.  $g$  is an involution having cycle type  $1^1 2^8$ ,  $r = \lambda = 1$ :  
 $\mathcal{D}$  is a  $1 - (255, 15, 1)$  design with 17 blocks. For all  $p$ ,  
 $C = C_p(\mathcal{D}) = [255, 17, 15]_p$ , with

$$\text{Aut}(C) = \text{Aut}(\mathcal{D}) = S_{15} \wr S_{17} = (S_{15})^{17} : S_{17}.$$

2.  $g$  is an element of order 3 having cycle type  $1^2 3^5$ ,  
 $r = \lambda = 2$ :  
 $\mathcal{D}$  is a  $1 - (272, 32, 2)$  design with 17 blocks.  
 $C_2(\mathcal{D}) = [272, 16, 32]_2$  and  $C_p(\mathcal{D}) = [272, 17, 32]_p$  for odd  
 $p$ . Also for all  $p$  we have

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## Example 2: $PSL_2(17)$ . Note that $17 \equiv 1 \pmod{4}$ .

1.  $g$  is an element of order 17 having cycle type  $1^1 17^1$ ,  
 $r = \lambda = 1$ :  
 $\mathcal{D}$  is a  $1 - (144, 8, 1)$  design with 18 blocks. For all  $p$ ,  
 $C = C_p(\mathcal{D}) = [144, 18, 8]_p$ , with

$$\text{Aut}(C) = \text{Aut}(\mathcal{D}) = S_8 \wr S_{18} = (S_8)^{18} : S_{18}.$$

2.  $g$  is an involution having cycle type  $1^2 2^8$ ,  $r = \lambda = 2$ :  
 $\mathcal{D}$  is a  $1 - (153, 17, 2)$  design with 18 blocks.  
 $C_2(\mathcal{D}) = [153, 17, 17]_2$  and  $C_p(\mathcal{D}) = [153, 18, 17]_p$  for odd  
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 $C_2(\mathcal{D}) = [153, 17, 17]_2$  and  $C_p(\mathcal{D}) = [153, 18, 17]_p$  for odd  
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$$\text{Aut}(C_p(\mathcal{D})) = \text{Aut}(\mathcal{D}) = S_{18}.$$

3.  $g$  is an element of order 4 having cycle type  $1^2 4^4$ ,  
 $r = \lambda = 2$ :  
 $\mathcal{D}$  is a  $1 - (306, 34, 2)$  design with 18 blocks.  
 $C_2(\mathcal{D}) = [306, 17, 34]_2$  and  $C_p(\mathcal{D}) = [306, 18, 34]_p$  for odd  
 $p$ . Also for all  $p$  we have

$$\text{Aut}(C_p(\mathcal{D})) = \text{Aut}(\mathcal{D}) = 2^{153} : S_{18}.$$

4.  $g$  is an element of order 8 having cycle type  $1^2 8^2$ ,  
 $r = \lambda = 2$ :  
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## Example 3: $PSL_2(9)$

1.  $g$  is an element of order 19 having cycle type  $1^1 19^1$ ,  
 $r = \lambda = 1$ :  $\mathcal{D}$  is a  $1 - (180, 9, 1)$  design with 20 blocks.  
 For all  $p$ ,  $C = C_p(\mathcal{D}) = [180, 20, 9]_p$ , with

$$\text{Aut}(C) = \text{Aut}(\mathcal{D}) = S_9 \wr S_{20} = (S_9)^{20} : S_{20}.$$

2.  $g$  is an element of order 3 having cycle type  $1^2 3^6$ ,  
 $r = \lambda = 2$ :  
 $\mathcal{D}$  is a  $1 - (380, 38, 2)$  design with 20 blocks.  
 $C_2(\mathcal{D}) = [360, 19, 38]_2$  and  $C_p(\mathcal{D}) = [360, 20, 38]_p$  for odd  
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$$\text{Aut}(C_p(\mathcal{D})) = \text{Aut}(\mathcal{D}) = 2^{190} : S_{20}.$$





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 For all  $p$ ,  $C = C_p(\mathcal{D}) = [180, 20, 9]_p$ , with






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2.  $g$  is an element of order 3 having cycle type  $1^2 3^6$ ,  
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