

Correction to Theorem 12.1.1

In [BCN], Theorem 12.1.1 the existence of a certain association scheme is claimed, and details are given for $n = 3$. As Frédéric Vanhove (pers.comm., Sept. 2013) observed, things are slightly different for odd $n \geq 5$.

Let q be a power of 2, and $n \geq 3$. Let V be an n -dimensional vector space over \mathbb{F}_q provided with a nondegenerate quadratic form Q . If n is odd, there will be a nucleus $N = V^\perp$.

We construct an association scheme with point set X , where X is the set of projective points not on the quadric Q and (for odd n) distinct from N . For $n = 3$ and for even n , the relations will be R_0, R_1, R_2, R_3 where

$$\begin{aligned} R_0 &= \{(x, x) \mid x \in X\}, \text{ the identity relation;} \\ R_1 &= \{(x, y) \mid x + y \text{ is a hyperbolic line (secant)}\}; \\ R_2 &= \{(x, y) \mid x + y \text{ is an elliptic line (exterior line)}\}; \\ R_3 &= \{(x, y) \mid x + y \text{ is a tangent}\}. \end{aligned}$$

For odd n , $n \geq 5$, it is necessary to distinguish R_{3a} and R_{3n} , defined by

$$\begin{aligned} R_{3a} &= \{(x, y) \mid x + y \text{ is a tangent not on } N\}; \\ R_{3n} &= \{(x, y) \mid x + y \text{ is a tangent on } N\}. \end{aligned}$$

For $q = 2$ a hyperbolic line contains only one nonisotropic point, so that R_1 is empty.

Theorem 12.1.1 (corrected)

(i) $(X, \{R_0, R_1, R_2, R_3\})$ is an association scheme for even $n = 2m \geq 4$. It has eigenmatrix

$$P = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & \frac{1}{2}q^{m-1}(q^{m-1} + \varepsilon)(q-2) & \frac{1}{2}q^m(q^{m-1} - \varepsilon) & q^{2m-2} - 1 \\ 1 & \frac{1}{2}\varepsilon q^{m-2}(q+1)(q-2) & -\frac{1}{2}\varepsilon q^{m-1}(q-1) & \varepsilon q^{m-2} - 1 \\ 1 & 0 & \varepsilon q^{m-1} & -\varepsilon q^{m-1} - 1 \\ 1 & -\varepsilon q^{m-1} & 0 & \varepsilon q^{m-1} - 1 \end{pmatrix}$$

and multiplicities $1, q^2(q^{n-2} - 1)/(q^2 - 1), \frac{1}{2}q(q^{m-1} - \varepsilon)(q^m - \varepsilon)/(q+1), \frac{1}{2}(q-2)(q^{m-1} + \varepsilon)(q^m - \varepsilon)/(q-1)$.

(ii) $(X, \{R_0, R_1, R_2, R_{3a}, R_{3n}\})$ is an association scheme for odd $n = 2m+1 \geq 3$. It has eigenmatrix

$$P = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & \frac{1}{2}q^{2m-1}(q-2) & \frac{1}{2}q^{2m} & q(q^{2m-2} - 1) & q-2 \\ 1 & \frac{1}{2}q^{m-1}(q-2) & \frac{1}{2}q^m & -(q^{m-1} + 1)(q-1) & q-2 \\ 1 & -\frac{1}{2}q^{m-1}(q-2) & -\frac{1}{2}q^m & (q^{m-1} - 1)(q-1) & q-2 \\ 1 & \frac{1}{2}q^m & -\frac{1}{2}q^m & 0 & -1 \\ 1 & -\frac{1}{2}q^m & \frac{1}{2}q^m & 0 & -1 \end{pmatrix}$$

and multiplicities $1, \frac{1}{2}q(q^m + 1)(q^{m-1} - 1)/(q-1), \frac{1}{2}q(q^m - 1)(q^{m-1} + 1)/(q-1), \frac{1}{2}(q-2)(q^{2m} - 1)/(q-1)$ (twice).

When $n = 3$, the relation R_{3a} is empty, and the second eigenspace is absent.