

Steiner forms

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Basic definitions

- ▶ Let F be a field and let V be a finite-dimensional vector space over F . A trilinear form $f : V^3 \rightarrow F$ is **alternating** if

$$f(u_1, u_2, u_3) = 0 \text{ whenever } u_i = u_j \text{ for } i \neq j.$$

- ▶ A (trilinear alternating) form f is **equivalent** to g ($f \sim g$) if there exists $\phi \in \mathbf{GL}(V)$ such that

$$f(u_1, u_2, u_3) = g(\phi(u_1), \phi(u_2), \phi(u_3)).$$

- ▶ Classification of classes of \sim is known up to dimension 7 for a large family of fields including all finite fields.
- ▶ A vector u belongs to the **radical** of f (denoted by $\text{Rad}f$) if

$$f(u_1, u_2, u_3) = 0 \text{ whenever } u = u_i \text{ for some } i.$$

- ▶ A form f is **nondegenerate** if $\text{Rad}f = 0$.

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Radical polynomial

- ▶ **Radical of a vector** $u \in V$ is the subspace $\text{Rad}(u) = \{v \in V; f(u, v, -) \equiv 0\}$.
- ▶ The codimension of the radical of a vector u is called the **rank** of u , denoted by $r(u)$.
- ▶ Let F be the two-element field $GF(2)$ (any finite field) and let n denote the dimension of V , $n = \dim V$.
- ▶ The **radical polynomial** of a form f is defined by:

$$p(f) = \sum_{u \in V} x^{r(u)} y^{n-r(u)},$$

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Theorem

Let f be a bilinear alternating form on V of dimension n . Then it is equivalent to $g = b_1 \wedge b_2 + \dots + b_{k-1} \wedge b_k$, $k \leq n$.

Notation: Let $B = \{b_1, \dots, b_n\}$ be a basis of V . Alternating form $b_1 \wedge b_2$ is a form given by

$$(b_1 \wedge b_2)(b_1, b_2) = 1 \Rightarrow (b_1 \wedge b_2)(b_2, b_1) = -1,$$

$$(b_1 \wedge b_2)(b_i, b_j) = 0 \text{ whenever } \{i, j\} \neq \{1, 2\}.$$

Example of a trilinear form:

$$f = b_1 \wedge b_2 \wedge b_3 + b_3 \wedge b_4 \wedge b_5 = 123 + 345.$$

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Radical polynomials on dimension 7 :-)

Classification by A. M. Cohen and A. G. Helminck (1988):

0	$128y^7$
123	$16y^4(y^3 + 7x^2y)$
123 + 345	$4y^2(y^5 + 15x^2y^3 + 16x^4y)$
123 + 456	$2y(y^3 + 7x^2y)(y^3 + 7x^2y)$
123 + 345 + 156	$2y(y^6 + 7x^2y^4 + 56x^4y^2)$
123 + 234 + 345 + 246 + 156	$2y(y^6 + 63x^4y^2)$
123 + 145 + 167 + 357	$y^7 + 7x^2y^5 + 56x^4y^3 + 64x^6y$
123 + 167 + 246 + 357	$y^7 + 3x^2y^5 + 76x^4y^3 + 48x^6y$
123 + 145 + 167	$y^7 + 63x^2y^5 + 64x^6y$
123 + 345 + 567	$y^7 + 13x^2y^5 + 82x^4y^3 + 32x^6y$
123 + 145 + 167 + 246 + 357	$y^7 + 63x^4y^3 + 64x^6y$
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Orthogonal decompositions

Let V be a direct sum of its subspaces V_i ($V = \bigoplus V_i$), $1 \leq i \leq m$ and let f be a nondegenerate form. Let $\pi_i : V \rightarrow V_i$ be the projections with respect to this direct sum. Then the system of subspaces $\bigoplus V_i$ is an **orthogonal decomposition** of f if

$$f(u_1, \dots, u_k) = \sum_i f(\pi_i(u_1), \dots, \pi_i(u_k)).$$

A form f is **indecomposable** if it has no orthogonal decomposition with $m \geq 2$.

Example of a decomposable form:

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Theorem

Let f be a decomposable form $f = \bigoplus f_i$. Then

$$\rho(f) = \prod \rho(f_i).$$

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Steiner triple systems

A **Steiner triple system** on n points is a system of three-element sets of points such that any pair of points is contained in exactly one set.

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Bad news

1.

n	Number of STS on n points
7	1 (Fano Plane)
9	1 (Affine Plane)
13	2
15	80
19	11084874829

2. $\text{Aut}(\text{Fano Plane}) \neq \text{Aut}(f_{\text{Fano Plane}})$,
 $\text{Aut}(f) = \{\phi \in \mathbf{GL}(V); f(u, v, w) = f(\phi(u), \phi(v), \phi(w))\}$.
3. $123 + 145 + 167 + 357 + 346 + 247 + 256 \sim 123 + 145 + 167 + 357$

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Radical polynomial of Steiner forms on dimension 13

$$1x^0 + 0x^2 + 0x^4 + 25x^6 + 476x^8 + 4634x^{10} + 3056x^{12}$$

$$1x^0 + 0x^2 + 0x^4 + 26x^6 + 442x^8 + 4615x^{10} + 3108x^{12}$$

Radical polynomial of Steiner forms on dimension 15 :-)

$$\begin{aligned}
 &1x^0 + 15x^2 + 560x^4 + 448x^6 + 15360x^8 + 0x^{10} + 0x^{12} + 16384x^{14} \\
 &1x^0 + 7x^2 + 96x^4 + 568x^6 + 5472x^8 + 10240x^{10} + 0x^{12} + 16384x^{14} \\
 &1x^0 + 3x^2 + 40x^4 + 420x^6 + 3120x^8 + 8704x^{10} + 8192x^{12} + 12288x^{14} \\
 &1x^0 + 3x^2 + 20x^4 + 192x^6 + 2216x^8 + 8320x^{10} + 8704x^{12} + 13312x^{14} \\
 &1x^0 + 3x^2 + 28x^4 + 392x^6 + 2520x^8 + 8832x^{10} + 8704x^{12} + 12288x^{14} \\
 &1x^0 + 3x^2 + 4x^4 + 140x^6 + 1324x^8 + 7104x^{10} + 12928x^{12} + 11264x^{14} \\
 &1x^0 + 3x^2 + 4x^4 + 480x^6 + 2008x^8 + 6976x^{10} + 15104x^{12} + 8192x^{14} \\
 &1x^0 + 1x^2 + 14x^4 + 144x^6 + 1592x^8 + 6248x^{10} + 13248x^{12} + 11520x^{14} \\
 &1x^0 + 1x^2 + 8x^4 + 56x^6 + 950x^8 + 5320x^{10} + 14912x^{12} + 11520x^{14} \\
 &1x^0 + 1x^2 + 8x^4 + 90x^6 + 1012x^8 + 5736x^{10} + 14912x^{12} + 11008x^{14} \\
 &1x^0 + 1x^2 + 2x^4 + 30x^6 + 446x^8 + 4196x^{10} + 17900x^{12} + 10192x^{14} \\
 &1x^0 + 1x^2 + 6x^4 + 48x^6 + 719x^8 + 5313x^{10} + 15672x^{12} + 11008x^{14} \\
 &1x^0 + 1x^2 + 8x^4 + 126x^6 + 1344x^8 + 5304x^{10} + 14208x^{12} + 11776x^{14} \\
 &1x^0 + 1x^2 + 10x^4 + 120x^6 + 1452x^8 + 5456x^{10} + 13696x^{12} + 12032x^{14}
 \end{aligned}$$

Radical polynomial of Steiner forms on dimension 15 :-|

$$\begin{aligned}
 &1x^0 + 1x^2 + 4x^4 + 68x^6 + 834x^8 + 4916x^{10} + 16576x^{12} + 10368x^{14} \\
 &1x^0 + 1x^2 + 28x^4 + 266x^6 + 2312x^8 + 7504x^{10} + 9856x^{12} + 12800x^{14} \\
 &1x^0 + 1x^2 + 4x^4 + 150x^6 + 1292x^8 + 5112x^{10} + 16480x^{12} + 9728x^{14} \\
 &1x^0 + 1x^2 + 4x^4 + 54x^6 + 820x^8 + 4624x^{10} + 16384x^{12} + 10880x^{14} \\
 &1x^0 + 1x^2 + 0x^4 + 44x^6 + 302x^8 + 4148x^{10} + 18416x^{12} + 9856x^{14} \\
 &1x^0 + 1x^2 + 0x^4 + 24x^6 + 310x^8 + 3628x^{10} + 17956x^{12} + 10848x^{14} \\
 &1x^0 + 1x^2 + 0x^4 + 0x^6 + 251x^8 + 2975x^{10} + 19292x^{12} + 10248x^{14} \\
 &1x^0 + 1x^2 + 0x^4 + 0x^6 + 205x^8 + 2883x^{10} + 19150x^{12} + 10528x^{14} \\
 &1x^0 + 0x^2 + 4x^4 + 21x^6 + 332x^8 + 3367x^{10} + 18103x^{12} + 10940x^{14} \\
 &1x^0 + 0x^2 + 4x^4 + 13x^6 + 292x^8 + 3110x^{10} + 17996x^{12} + 11352x^{14} \\
 &1x^0 + 0x^2 + 4x^4 + 25x^6 + 445x^8 + 3333x^{10} + 17856x^{12} + 11104x^{14} \\
 &1x^0 + 0x^2 + 5x^4 + 32x^6 + 513x^8 + 3760x^{10} + 17389x^{12} + 11068x^{14} \\
 &1x^0 + 0x^2 + 2x^4 + 15x^6 + 241x^8 + 2748x^{10} + 18841x^{12} + 10920x^{14} \\
 &1x^0 + 0x^2 + 2x^4 + 13x^6 + 222x^8 + 2668x^{10} + 18578x^{12} + 11284x^{14}
 \end{aligned}$$

Radical polynomial of Steiner forms on dimension 15 :-()

$$\begin{aligned}
 &1x^0 + 0x^2 + 4x^4 + 18x^6 + 381x^8 + 3145x^{10} + 17823x^{12} + 11396x^{14} \\
 &1x^0 + 0x^2 + 2x^4 + 7x^6 + 200x^8 + 2370x^{10} + 18884x^{12} + 11304x^{14} \\
 &1x^0 + 0x^2 + 4x^4 + 24x^6 + 376x^8 + 3423x^{10} + 17988x^{12} + 10952x^{14} \\
 &1x^0 + 0x^2 + 2x^4 + 6x^6 + 173x^8 + 2338x^{10} + 18716x^{12} + 11532x^{14} \\
 &1x^0 + 0x^2 + 1x^4 + 8x^6 + 133x^8 + 2090x^{10} + 18699x^{12} + 11836x^{14} \\
 &1x^0 + 0x^2 + 1x^4 + 9x^6 + 150x^8 + 2182x^{10} + 18973x^{12} + 11452x^{14} \\
 &1x^0 + 0x^2 + 1x^4 + 6x^6 + 146x^8 + 2000x^{10} + 19158x^{12} + 11456x^{14} \\
 &1x^0 + 0x^2 + 0x^4 + 6x^6 + 144x^8 + 1845x^{10} + 18748x^{12} + 12024x^{14} \\
 &1x^0 + 0x^2 + 0x^4 + 0x^6 + 102x^8 + 1981x^{10} + 19012x^{12} + 11672x^{14} \\
 &1x^0 + 0x^2 + 0x^4 + 5x^6 + 105x^8 + 1561x^{10} + 19196x^{12} + 11900x^{14} \\
 &1x^0 + 0x^2 + 1x^4 + 2x^6 + 138x^8 + 1758x^{10} + 18916x^{12} + 11952x^{14} \\
 &1x^0 + 0x^2 + 1x^4 + 4x^6 + 163x^8 + 1989x^{10} + 18774x^{12} + 11836x^{14} \\
 &1x^0 + 0x^2 + 1x^4 + 5x^6 + 162x^8 + 1991x^{10} + 18924x^{12} + 11684x^{14} \\
 &1x^0 + 0x^2 + 0x^4 + 1x^6 + 105x^8 + 1660x^{10} + 18901x^{12} + 12100x^{14}
 \end{aligned}$$

Radical polynomial of Steiner forms on dimension 15 :-)

$$\begin{aligned}
 &1x^0 + 0x^2 + 0x^4 + 4x^6 + 147x^8 + 1721x^{10} + 18915x^{12} + 11980x^{14} \\
 &1x^0 + 0x^2 + 0x^4 + 4x^6 + 101x^8 + 1628x^{10} + 18778x^{12} + 12256x^{14} \\
 &1x^0 + 0x^2 + 0x^4 + 4x^6 + 102x^8 + 1630x^{10} + 19055x^{12} + 11976x^{14} \\
 &1x^0 + 0x^2 + 0x^4 + 2x^6 + 87x^8 + 1534x^{10} + 19040x^{12} + 12104x^{14} \\
 &1x^0 + 0x^2 + 1x^4 + 0x^6 + 113x^8 + 1835x^{10} + 18806x^{12} + 12012x^{14} \\
 &1x^0 + 0x^2 + 0x^4 + 2x^6 + 94x^8 + 1582x^{10} + 18765x^{12} + 12324x^{14} \\
 &1x^0 + 0x^2 + 0x^4 + 1x^6 + 88x^8 + 1394x^{10} + 18740x^{12} + 12544x^{14} \\
 &1x^0 + 0x^2 + 0x^4 + 4x^6 + 95x^8 + 1707x^{10} + 18985x^{12} + 11976x^{14} \\
 &1x^0 + 0x^2 + 0x^4 + 3x^6 + 111x^8 + 1568x^{10} + 18925x^{12} + 12160x^{14} \\
 &1x^0 + 0x^2 + 0x^4 + 3x^6 + 107x^8 + 1559x^{10} + 18942x^{12} + 12156x^{14} \\
 &1x^0 + 0x^2 + 1x^4 + 2x^6 + 125x^8 + 1817x^{10} + 19090x^{12} + 11732x^{14} \\
 &1x^0 + 0x^2 + 1x^4 + 1x^6 + 131x^8 + 1828x^{10} + 18966x^{12} + 11840x^{14} \\
 &1x^0 + 0x^2 + 0x^4 + 3x^6 + 107x^8 + 1605x^{10} + 18852x^{12} + 12200x^{14} \\
 &1x^0 + 0x^2 + 0x^4 + 2x^6 + 110x^8 + 1547x^{10} + 18968x^{12} + 12140x^{14}
 \end{aligned}$$

Radical polynomial of Steiner forms on dimension 15 :-)

$$\begin{aligned}
 &1x^0 + 0x^2 + 0x^4 + 1x^6 + 83x^8 + 1500x^{10} + 18847x^{12} + 12336x^{14} \\
 &1x^0 + 0x^2 + 1x^4 + 1x^6 + 109x^8 + 1755x^{10} + 18869x^{12} + 12032x^{14} \\
 &1x^0 + 0x^2 + 1x^4 + 3x^6 + 147x^8 + 2000x^{10} + 18888x^{12} + 11728x^{14} \\
 &1x^0 + 0x^2 + 0x^4 + 2x^6 + 108x^8 + 1707x^{10} + 19134x^{12} + 11816x^{14} \\
 &1x^0 + 1x^2 + 0x^4 + 0x^6 + 142x^8 + 2604x^{10} + 19796x^{12} + 10224x^{14} \\
 &1x^0 + 0x^2 + 1x^4 + 0x^6 + 106x^8 + 1721x^{10} + 18935x^{12} + 12004x^{14} \\
 &1x^0 + 0x^2 + 1x^4 + 7x^6 + 124x^8 + 1938x^{10} + 19145x^{12} + 11552x^{14} \\
 &1x^0 + 0x^2 + 1x^4 + 3x^6 + 107x^8 + 1794x^{10} + 19078x^{12} + 11784x^{14} \\
 &1x^0 + 0x^2 + 0x^4 + 1x^6 + 91x^8 + 1482x^{10} + 18993x^{12} + 12200x^{14} \\
 &1x^0 + 0x^2 + 0x^4 + 2x^6 + 81x^8 + 1575x^{10} + 19101x^{12} + 12008x^{14} \\
 &1x^0 + 0x^2 + 0x^4 + 2x^6 + 78x^8 + 1624x^{10} + 19059x^{12} + 12004x^{14} \\
 &1x^0 + 0x^2 + 0x^4 + 1x^6 + 89x^8 + 1459x^{10} + 19010x^{12} + 12208x^{14} \\
 &1x^0 + 0x^2 + 0x^4 + 2x^6 + 79x^8 + 1506x^{10} + 19012x^{12} + 12168x^{14} \\
 &1x^0 + 0x^2 + 0x^4 + 5x^6 + 103x^8 + 1624x^{10} + 18867x^{12} + 12168x^{14}
 \end{aligned}$$

Radical polynomial of Steiner forms on dimension 15 ;-)

$$\begin{aligned}
 &1x^0 + 0x^2 + 0x^4 + 1x^6 + 78x^8 + 1478x^{10} + 19006x^{12} + 12204x^{14} \\
 &1x^0 + 0x^2 + 0x^4 + 1x^6 + 83x^8 + 1538x^{10} + 18881x^{12} + 12264x^{14} \\
 &1x^0 + 0x^2 + 0x^4 + 2x^6 + 82x^8 + 1575x^{10} + 19276x^{12} + 11832x^{14} \\
 &1x^0 + 0x^2 + 0x^4 + 4x^6 + 101x^8 + 1790x^{10} + 18808x^{12} + 12064x^{14} \\
 &1x^0 + 0x^2 + 0x^4 + 3x^6 + 86x^8 + 1571x^{10} + 18847x^{12} + 12260x^{14} \\
 &1x^0 + 0x^2 + 0x^4 + 10x^6 + 120x^8 + 1907x^{10} + 18630x^{12} + 12100x^{14} \\
 &1x^0 + 0x^2 + 0x^4 + 1x^6 + 67x^8 + 1513x^{10} + 18978x^{12} + 12208x^{14} \\
 &1x^0 + 0x^2 + 0x^4 + 2x^6 + 74x^8 + 1465x^{10} + 18650x^{12} + 12576x^{14} \\
 &1x^0 + 0x^2 + 0x^4 + 6x^6 + 80x^8 + 1783x^{10} + 18722x^{12} + 12176x^{14} \\
 &1x^0 + 0x^2 + 0x^4 + 0x^6 + 45x^8 + 870x^{10} + 19100x^{12} + 12752x^{14}
 \end{aligned}$$

Theorem (M. Computer, 2008)

Let n be at most 15. Then two STS on n points are isomorphic iff their Steiner forms over $\text{GF}(2)$ are equivalent.

Thank you for your patience.