

# Proper Circulant Weighing Matrices of Weight $p^2$

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# Weighing Matrices

A **weighing matrix** of order  $v$  and weight  $n$  is a square matrix  $M$  of order  $v$  with entries from  $\{-1, 0, +1\}$  such that

$$M M^T = nI$$

where  $I$  is the identity matrix of order  $n$  and  $M^T$  is the transpose of  $M$ .

The matrix  $M = (b_{ij})$  is called **circulant** if every row is obtained from the previous row by a cyclic shift to the right, i.e. for all  $i$  and  $j$ ,  $b_{ij} = b_{1, j-i}$ .

# Perfect Sequences

Suppose  $M = (b_{ij})$  is a circulant weighing matrix of order  $v$  and weight  $n$ .

Let  $a_i = b_{1,j+1}$  for  $j = 0, 1, \dots, v-1$ .

Then the sequence  $(a_0, a_1, \dots, a_{v-1})$  is a perfect sequence.

A **perfect sequence** is a sequence  $\mathbf{a} = (a_0, a_1, \dots, a_{v-1})$  with zero out-of-phase auto-correlation, i.e.

$$\text{Aut}_{\mathbf{a}}(t) = \frac{1}{v} \sum_{j=0}^{v-1} a_j a_{j+t \pmod{v}} = 0$$

for all  $t \not\equiv 0 \pmod{v}$ .

# Group Matrices

Let  $G$  be a finite of order  $v$  and  $A = \sum_{g \in G} a_g g \in \mathbf{Z}[G]$ .

Define the **group matrix**  $M = (b_{gh})_{g,h \in G}$ , where the rows and columns of  $M$  are indexed by the elements of  $G$  and  $b_{gh} = a_\gamma$  if  $gh^{-1} = \gamma$ .

If  $G$  is cyclic, then with a proper indexing of rows and columns,  $M$  is a circulant matrix.

## $W(G, n)$ and $CW(v, n)$

$M$  is a weighing matrix of weight  $n$  if and only if  $A$  satisfies

$$(W1) \quad a_g \in \{-1, 0, +1\};$$

$$(W2) \quad AA^{(-1)} = n.$$

where  $A^{(-1)} = \sum_{g \in G} a_g g^{-1} \in \mathbf{Z}[G]$ .

$A$  is called a  $W(G, n)$  if it satisfies (W1) and (W2).

If  $G$  is cyclic,  $A$  is called a  $CW(v, n)$ .

## Proper Group Weighing Matrices

Obviously, if  $H$  is a subgroup of  $G$  and  $A \in \mathbf{Z}[H]$  is a  $W(H, n)$ , then by regarding  $A$  as an element in  $\mathbf{Z}[G]$ , it is clear that  $gA$  is a  $W(G, n)$  for any  $g \in G$ .

To classify all group weighing matrices, it is natural to ignore these types.

$A \in \mathbf{Z}[G]$  is called **proper** if the support of  $A$  is not contained in any coset of any proper subgroup of  $G$ .

(The corresponding group matrix is also called proper.)

## $CW(v, 4)$

Proper  $CW(v, 4)$  exists if and only if either  $v$  is even or  $v = 7$ . (Eades and Hain, 1976)

Let  $G$  be a cyclic group of order  $v$ . If  $A \in \mathbf{Z}[G]$  is a  $CW(v, 4)$ , then there exist  $g \in G$  and  $t$  an integer relatively prime to  $v$  such that either  $gA^{(t)}$  or  $-gA^{(t)}$  is equal to the one of the  $A_i$  listed.

1. With  $\gamma, a, b \in G$  such that  $o(\gamma) = 2$  and  $\{a, \gamma a\} \cap \{b, \gamma b\} = \emptyset$ ,

$$A_1 = (1 + \gamma)a + (1 - \gamma)b.$$

2. With  $h \in G$  such that  $o(h) = 7$ ,

$$A_2 = -1 + h + h^2 + h^4.$$

## $CW(v, 9)$

Proper  $CW(v, 9)$  exists if and only if  $v = 13, 26$  or  $24$ .  
(Ang, Arasu, Ma and Strassler, 2008)

Let  $G$  be a cyclic group of order  $v$ . If  $A \in \mathbf{Z}[G]$  is a  $CW(v, 9)$ , then there exist  $g \in G$  and  $t$  an integer relatively prime to  $v$  such that either  $gA^{(t)}$  or  $-gA^{(t)}$  is equal to the one of the  $A_i$  listed.

1. With  $h \in G$  such that  $o(h) = 13$ ,

$$A_1 = (h + h^3 + h^9) \pm [(h^2 + h^5 + h^6) - (h^4 + h^{10} + h^{12})].$$

2. With  $\gamma, h \in G$  such that  $o(\gamma) = 2$  and  $o(h) = 13$ ,

$$A_2 = \gamma(h + h^3 + h^9) \pm [(h^2 + h^5 + h^6) - (h^4 + h^{10} + h^{12})].$$

3. With  $\omega, a \in G$  such that  $o(\omega) = 3$  and  $o(a) = 8$ ,

$$A_3 = -1 + (a + a^3)(1 - a^4) + (\omega + \omega^2)(1 + a^4).$$



## $CW(v, p^2)$

Let  $p$  be an odd prime. Our main aim is to determine all  $CW(v, p^2)$ , in particular,  $p = 5$ .

In the attempt to solve the problem, we find that the following two cases are very different:

- I.  $v$  and  $p$  are relatively prime;
- II.  $v$  is divisible by  $p$ .

We suspect that if  $v$  is divisible by  $p$  (i.e. **Case II**), no proper  $CW(v, p^2)$  exists for  $p \geq 5$ .

## Case II: A Known Result

**Theorem** (Arasu and Ma, 2001)

Let  $p$  be an odd prime and let  $G = \langle \alpha \rangle \times H$  be an abelian group where  $o(\alpha) = p^s$  and  $\gcd(|H|, p) = 1$ .

Then there is no proper  $W(G, p^2)$  if  $s > 1$ .

**Corollary** No Proper  $CW(p^s w, p^2)$  if  $s > 1$ .

## Case II: Main Structural Result

The following is an improved version of a result by Arasu and Ma, 2001.

**Theorem** Let  $p$  be an odd prime and let  $G = \langle \alpha \rangle \times H$  be an abelian group where  $o(\alpha) = p$  and  $\gcd(|H|, p) = 1$ .

1. If  $p \geq 7$ , there exists a proper  $W(G, p^2)$  if and only if there exist  $\beta \in H$ , with  $o(\beta) = 2$ , a subset  $Z \subset H - \langle \beta \rangle$ , with  $Z \cap \beta Z = \emptyset$ , and disjoint subsets  $X, Y \subset (H/\langle \beta \rangle) - \{1\}$  such that

$$[1 + (1 - \beta)Z][1 + (1 - \beta)Z]^{(-1)} = p - \frac{p-1}{2} \langle \beta \rangle$$

and

$$[1 + 2(X - Y)][1 + 2(X - Y)]^{(-1)} = p^2.$$

## Case II: Main Structural Result

2. If there exists a proper  $W(G, 25)$ , there exist  $\beta \in H$ , with  $o(\beta) = 2$ , and disjoint subsets  $X, Y \subset (H/\langle\beta\rangle) - \{1\}$  such that

$$[1 + 2(X - Y)][1 + 2(X - Y)]^{(-1)} = 25.$$

## Case II: Questions

A. Let  $H$  be a finite cyclic group of even order with  $\gcd(|H|, p) = 1$  and let  $\beta \in H$  with  $o(\beta) = 2$ .

Does there exist  $Z \subset H - \langle \beta \rangle$  such that  $Z \cap \beta Z = \emptyset$  and

$$[1 + (1 - \beta)Z][1 + (1 - \beta)Z]^{(-1)} = p - \frac{p-1}{2} \langle \beta \rangle ?$$

B. Let  $K$  be a finite cyclic group with  $\gcd(|K|, p) = 1$ .

Does there exist disjoint subsets  $X, Y \subset K - \{1\}$  such that

$$[1 + 2(X - Y)][1 + 2(X - Y)]^{(-1)} = p^2 ?$$

## Case II: Question A - A Nonexistence Result

**Theorem** Let  $H$  be a finite group of even order and let  $\beta \in H$  with  $o(\beta) = 2$ .

If there exist  $Z \subset H - \langle \beta \rangle$  such that  $Z \cap \beta Z = \emptyset$  and

$$[1 + (1 - \beta)Z][1 + (1 - \beta)Z]^{(-1)} = m - \frac{m-1}{2} \langle \beta \rangle$$

for some integer  $m$ , then  $m \equiv 1 \pmod{4}$  and  $|Z| = (m - 1)/4$ .

**Proof** Counting the coefficients of the identity element in both side of the equation, we have

$$\begin{aligned} 1 + 2|Z| &= \text{the sum of squares of the coefficients on LHS} \\ &= m - \frac{m-1}{2} \end{aligned}$$

which implies  $|Z| = (m - 1)/4$  and hence  $m \equiv 1 \pmod{4}$ .

## Case II: Question A - A Nonexistence Result

**Corollary** For  $p \geq 7$ , no proper  $CW(pw, p^2)$  exists  
if  $p \equiv 3 \pmod{4}$ .

## Case II: Question A - Some Examples

By trial-and error, we find some solutions to **Question A**:

$p = 5$ :  $H = \langle g \rangle$ ,  $Z = \{g\}$  and  $\beta = g^2$  where  $o(g) = 4$ .

$p = 13$ :  $H = \langle g, \omega \rangle$ ,  $Z = \{g, g^2\omega, g^2\omega^2\}$  and  $\beta = g^2$  where  $o(g) = 4$  and  $o(\omega) = 3$ .

$p = 17$ :  $H = \langle h, \omega \rangle$ ,  $Z = \{h, h^3, h^4\omega, h^4\omega^2\}$  and  $\beta = h^4$  where  $o(h) = 8$  and  $o(\omega) = 3$ .

$p = 29$ :  $H = \langle g, \pi \rangle$ ,  $Z = \{\pi, \pi^6, g\pi, g\pi^6, g^3, g^3\pi^3, g^3\pi^4\}$  and  $\beta = g^2$  where  $o(g) = 4$  and  $o(\pi) = 7$ .



## Case II: Question B - Basic Results

Let  $K$  be a finite cyclic group with  $\gcd(|K|, p) = 1$ .

Suppose there exist disjoint subsets  $X, Y \subset K - \{1\}$  such that  $[1 + 2(X - Y)][1 + 2(X - Y)]^{(-1)} = p^2$  where  $p \equiv 1 \pmod{4}$ .

(i)  $X^{(p)} = X$  and  $Y^{(p)} = Y$ .

(ii)  $|X| = \frac{1}{8}(p^2 + 2p - 3)$  and  $|Y| = \frac{1}{8}(p^2 - 2p + 1)$ .

(iii)  $(X + Y)^{(-1)} = X + Y$ .

Without loss of generality, we assume that  $K$  is the smallest cyclic group that contains both  $X$  and  $Y$ , i.e.  $K = \langle X, Y \rangle$ .

## Case II: Question B - A Non-Existence Result

**Theorem** Suppose  $|K|$  divides  $p^2 - 1$ . Then there do not exist disjoint subsets  $X, Y \subset K - \{1\}$  such that

$$[1 + 2(X - Y)][1 + 2(X - Y)]^{(-1)} = p^2.$$

**Corollary** For  $p \geq 5$ , no proper  $CW(pw, p^2)$  exists if  $w$  divides  $p^2 - 1$ .

## Case II: Question B - Orbits Under the Action $g \rightarrow g^p$

Recall that  $X^{(p)} = X$  and  $Y^{(p)} = Y$ .

In particular, if  $g \in X$  (or  $Y$ ), then

$$\{g^{p^k} \in K : k \in \mathbf{Z}\} \subset X \text{ (respectively, } Y).$$

For convenience, we define

$$\theta_p(g) = \{g^{p^k} \in K : k \in \mathbf{Z}\}.$$

We say that  $\theta_p(g)$  is the **orbit** of  $g$ .

$|\theta_p(g)|$  is equal to the smallest positive integer  $r$  such that  $o(g)$  divides  $p^r - 1$ .

## Case II: Question B - $p = 5$

**Lemma** For any  $g \in X \cup Y$ ,  $\theta_p(g)$  and  $\theta_p(g^{-1})$  are two disjoint orbits in  $X \cup Y$ .

**Theorem** There do not exist disjoint subsets  $X, Y \subset K - \{1\}$  such that  $[1 + 2(X - Y)][1 + 2(X - Y)]^{(-1)} = 25$ .

**Proof** Assume there exists such  $X$  and  $Y$ .

We know that  $|X| = 4$  and  $|Y| = 2$ .

Take any  $g \in X \cup Y$ . By the lemma,  $|\theta_p(g)| \leq 2$  and hence  $o(g)$  divides  $5^2 - 1$ .

But this means  $|K|$  divides  $5^2 - 1$ . This contradicts one of our previous results.

## Case II: Question B - $p = 5$

**Corollary** No proper  $CW(5w, 25)$  exists.

## Case I: A Classical Construction

**Theorem** Let  $L = \langle \alpha \rangle \times G$  be a group of order  $2mu$  such that  $o(\alpha) = 2$  and  $G$  is a group of order  $mu$ .

Suppose there exists an  $(m, 2u, n, \lambda)$ -relative difference set  $D = X \cup \alpha Y$  in  $L$  relative to  $\langle \alpha \rangle \times N$  where  $N$  is a normal subgroup of  $G$  of order  $u$  and  $X, Y$  are subsets of  $G$ .

Then  $A = X - Y$  is a proper  $W(G, n)$ .

By the classical geometric construction, for any divisor  $w$  of  $p - 1$ , there exists a  $(p^2 + p + 1, w, p^2, (p^2 - p)/w)$ -relative difference set in the cyclic group of order  $(p^2 + p + 1)w$ .

Thus for odd  $p$ , there exists a proper  $CW((p^2 + p + 1)w/2, p^2)$  where  $w$  is a divisor of  $p - 1$  such that  $w \equiv 2 \pmod{4}$ .

In particular, there exists a proper  $CW(31, 5)$ .

## Case I: Basic Results

Let  $G$  be a finite cyclic group of order  $v$  with  $\gcd(v, p) = 1$ .

Suppose  $A = X - Y$  is a  $CW(v, p^2)$  where  $X$  and  $Y$  are disjoint subsets of  $K$ .

(i)  $X^{(p)} = X$  and  $Y^{(p)} = Y$ .

(ii)  $|X| = \frac{1}{2}(p^2 \pm p)$  and  $|Y| = \frac{1}{2}(p^2 \mp p)$ .

In particular, if  $p = 5$ ,  $\{|X|, |Y|\} = \{15, 10\}$ .

## Case I: Our Strategy

Our aim is to determine all the proper  $CW(v, p^2)$ , in particular,  $CW(v, 25)$  (probably with the help of a computer).

To do so, we first need to limit the possible choices of  $v$ .

There is a very rough result given by [Ang, Arasu, Ma and Strasslerd, 2008](#).

**Lemma**  $v$  divides the least common multiple of  $p - 1$ ,  $p^2 - 1$ , ...,  $p^u - 1$  where  $u = (p^2 + p)/2$ .

The possible choices of  $v$  is too much even for  $p = 5$ .



## Case I: Our Strategy

In order to reduce the possible choices of  $v$ , we need to work on the orbit sizes  $|\theta_p(g)|$  for  $g \in X \cup Y$ .

For example, we can show that there are at least two "irreducible" orbits of the largest size. With this result, the statement of the previous lemma can be refined to:

**Lemma**  $v$  divides the least common multiple of  $p - 1$ ,  $p^2 - 1$ , ...,  $p^u - 1$  where  $u = (p^2 - p)/2$ .

We have also obtained some better bounds on  $|\theta_p(g)|$ . But those results are too technical to be stated here.

## $CW(v, 25)$

By a computer search, we have found proper  $CW(v, 25)$  for  $v = 31, 62, 124, 71, 142, 33$ .

Let  $G$  be a cyclic group of order  $v \in \{31, 62, 124, 71, 142, 33\}$ . If  $A \in \mathbf{Z}[G]$  is a  $CW(v, 4)$ , then there exist  $g \in G$  and  $t$  an integer relatively prime to  $v$  such that either  $gA^{(t)}$  or  $-gA^{(t)}$  is equal to the one of the  $A_i$  listed.

**$v = 31$ :** With  $a \in G$  such that  $o(a) = 31$ ,

$$A_1 = -1 + \theta_5(a) + \theta_5(a^2) + \theta_5(a^3) + \theta_5(a^6) + \theta_5(a^{11}) \\ - \theta_5(a^4) - \theta_5(a^{16}) - \theta_5(a^{17});$$

$$A_2 = -1 + \theta_5(a) + \theta_5(a^2) + \theta_5(a^3) + \theta_5(a^8) + \theta_5(a^{17}) \\ - \theta_5(a^{11}) - \theta_5(a^{12}) - \theta_5(a^{16}).$$

## $CW(\nu, 25)$

$\nu = 62$ : With  $\gamma, a \in G$  such that  $o(\gamma) = 2$  and  $o(a) = 31$ ,

$$A_3 = -1 + \gamma\theta_5(a) + \theta_5(a^2) + \theta_5(a^3) + \theta_5(a^6) + \gamma\theta_5(a^{11}) \\ - \gamma\theta_5(a^4) - \gamma\theta_5(a^{16}) - \theta_5(a^{17});$$

$$A_4 = -1 + \gamma\theta_5(a) + \theta_5(a^2) + \gamma\theta_5(a^3) + \theta_5(a^8) + \gamma\theta_5(a^{17}) \\ - \gamma\theta_5(a^{11}) - \theta_5(a^{12}) - \theta_5(a^{16});$$

$$A_5 = -1 + (1 + \gamma)\theta_5(a) + (1 - \gamma)\theta_5(a^{11}) + \gamma\theta_5(a^6) + \theta_5(a^8) \\ - \gamma\theta_5(a^3) - \theta_5(a^{12});$$

$$A_6 = -1 + (1 + \gamma)\theta_5(a) - (1 - \gamma)\theta_5(a^{16}) + \theta_5(a^6) + \theta_5(a^8) \\ - \gamma\theta_5(a^3) - \gamma\theta_5(a^{12});$$

$$A_7 = -1 + (1 + \gamma)\theta_5(a) + (1 - \gamma)\theta_5(a^{17}) + \gamma\theta_5(a^4) + \theta_5(a^{12}) \\ - \gamma\theta_5(a^8) - \theta_5(a^{16});$$

$$A_8 = -1 + (1 + \gamma)\theta_5(a) - (1 - \gamma)\theta_5(a^{11}) + \theta_5(a^4) + \theta_5(a^{12}) \\ - \gamma\theta_5(a^8) - \gamma\theta_5(a^{16});$$

## *CW(v, 25)*

$$A_9 = -1 - (1 + \gamma)\theta_5(a) + (1 - \gamma)\theta_5(a^2) \\ + \gamma\theta_5(a^6) + \gamma\theta_5(a^{11}) + \theta_5(a^{12}) + \theta_5(a^{16});$$

$$A_{10} = -1 - (1 + \gamma)\theta_5(a) + (1 - \gamma)\theta_5(a^{17}) \\ + \theta_5(a^6) + \gamma\theta_5(a^{11}) + \gamma\theta_5(a^{12}) + \theta_5(a^{16}).$$

**v = 124:** With  $\beta, a \in G$  such that  $o(\beta) = 4$  and  $o(a) = 31$ ,

$$A_{11} = -1 + (1 + \beta)\theta_5(a) + (1 - \beta)\theta_5(a^{11}) \\ + \beta^3\theta_5(a^6) + \beta^2\theta_5(a^8) - \beta^3\theta_5(a^3) - \beta^2\theta_5(a^{12});$$

$$A_{12} = -1 + (1 + \beta)\theta_5(a) + (1 - \beta)\theta_5(a^{17}) \\ + \beta^3\theta_5(a^4) + \beta^2\theta_5(a^{12}) - \beta^3\theta_5(a^8) - \beta^2\theta_5(a^{16}).$$

## $CW(v, 25)$

$v = 71$ : With  $b \in G$  such that  $o(b) = 71$ ,

$$A_{13} = \theta_5(b) + \theta_5(b^2) + \theta_5(b^7) - \theta_5(b^{22}) - \theta_5(b^{42});$$

$$A_{14} = \theta_5(b) + \theta_5(b^3) + \theta_5(b^{18}) - \theta_5(b^2) - \theta_5(b^{21});$$

$$A_{15} = \theta_5(b) + \theta_5(b^3) + \theta_5(b^{42}) - \theta_5(b^{11}) - \theta_5(b^{18});$$

$$A_{16} = \theta_5(b) + \theta_5(b^3) + \theta_5(b^{13}) - \theta_5(b^{14}) - \theta_5(b^{22}).$$

$v = 142$ : With  $\gamma, b \in G$  such that  $o(\gamma) = 2$  and  $o(b) = 71$ ,

$$A_{15} = \theta_5(b) + \theta_5(b^3) + \gamma\theta_5(b^{42}) - \theta_5(b^{11}) - \theta_5(b^{18});$$

$$A_{16} = \gamma\theta_5(b) + \theta_5(b^3) + \theta_5(b^{13}) - \theta_5(b^{14}) - \theta_5(b^{22}).$$

## $CW(v, 25)$

$v = 33$ : With  $\omega, c \in G$  such that  $o(\omega) = 3$  and  $o(c) = 11$ ,

$$\begin{aligned} A_{17} &= (1 - \omega - \omega^2)\theta_5(c) + (\omega + \omega^2)\theta_5(c^2) \\ &= \theta_5(c) - \theta_5(\omega c) + \theta_5(\omega c^2). \end{aligned}$$

## Conclusion

We are still in the process of refining some of our works on  $CW(v, 25)$  with  $v$  relatively prime to 5.

However, we believe that there are no other proper  $CW(v, 25)$  besides those we have listed in the previous slides.

# Open Problems

1. We have solutions to the equation

$$[1 + (1 - \beta)Z][1 + (1 - \beta)Z]^{(-1)} = p - \frac{p-1}{2} \langle \beta \rangle$$

in cyclic groups with  $p = 5, 13, 17$  and  $29$ .

Are there other solutions for large  $p$ ?

Note that solutions to the equation in cyclic groups can give us ternary "almost perfect" sequences.

2. Find solutions of the equation in other groups, say, abelian groups.



## Open Problems

3. Prove or disprove that the equation

$$[1 + 2(X - Y)][1 + 2(X - Y)]^{(-1)} = p^2$$

has no solution in cyclic groups.

4. Find solutions of the equation in other groups.

Note that solutions of the two equations in **Questions 1** and **3** can be used to construct group weighing matrices of weight  $p^2$ .

# Open Problems

5. Determine all proper  $CW(v, 49)$ .
6. Determine all proper  $W(G, p^2)$ , where  $G$  is abelian, for small values of  $p$ .
7. Apart from the classical construction of proper  $CW((p^2 + p + 1)w/2, p^2)$  where  $w$  is a divisor of  $p - 1$  such that  $w \equiv 2 \pmod{4}$ . Are there other (infinite) families of proper  $CW(v, p^2)$ ?