

# *Multivariate $P$ -polynomial association schemes and $m$ -distance regular graphs*

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Joint work with

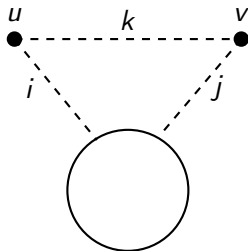
Pierre-Antoine Bernard, Nicolas Crampé, Luc Vinet and Meri Zaimi

TerwilligerFest - Combinatorics around the  $q$ -Onsager algebra  
Kranjska gora

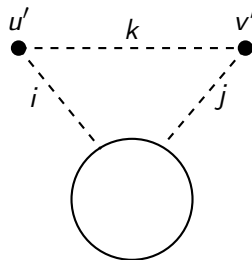
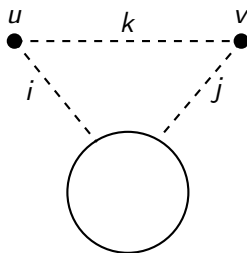


- ① DRG and  $P$ -polynomial association scheme
  - Distance regular graphs
  - $P$ -polynomial association scheme
  
- ②  $m$ -distance regular graph and  $m$ -variate  $P$ -polynomial scheme
  - Multivariate  $P$ -polynomial scheme
  - $m$ -distance regular graphs

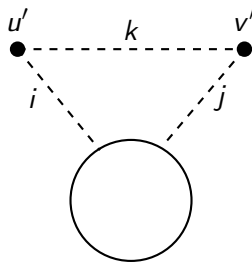
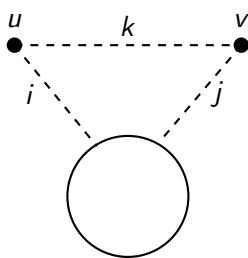
# Distance regular graphs



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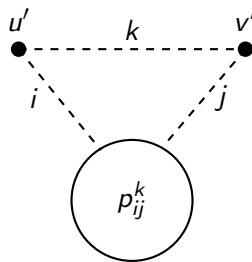
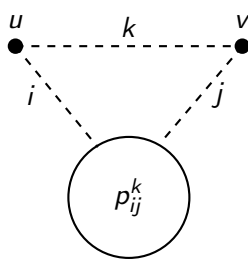


## Distance regular graphs



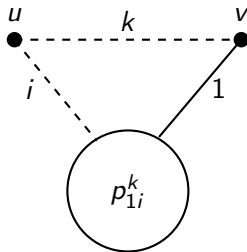
A graph  $G$  is **distance regular** if for any  $u, v \in V(G)$  and any  $i, j \in \mathbb{Z}$ ,  $|S_i(u) \cap S_j(v)|$  depends only on  $\text{dist}(u, v)$ .

# Distance regular graphs

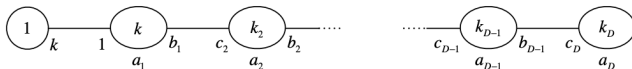


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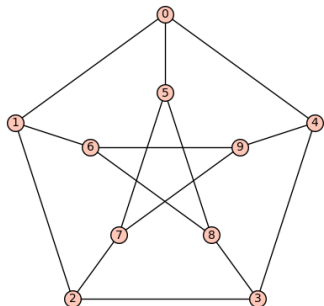


Equivalently,  $G$  is **distance regular** if for any  $u, v \in V(G)$  and  $i \in \mathbb{Z}$ ,  $|S_i(u) \cap S_1(v)|$  depends only on  $\text{dist}(u, v)$ .



# Examples

- $C_n$
- Petersen graph
- Strongly regular graphs
  - Hamming graphs
  - Johnson graphs
  - Grassmann graphs





$$A_0 = I_8$$

$$A_1 = \begin{bmatrix} 0 & 1 & 1 & 0 & 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 1 & 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 & 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 1 & 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 \\ 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 & 0 & 1 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 & 1 & 0 & 0 & 1 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 & 1 & 1 & 0 \end{bmatrix},$$

$$A_2 = \begin{bmatrix} 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 & 1 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 & 1 & 0 & 0 & 1 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 & 0 & 1 \\ 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 \\ 1 & 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 1 & 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 & 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 1 & 0 & 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 \end{bmatrix},$$

$$A_3 = \begin{bmatrix} 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \end{bmatrix}$$

$$A_0 + A_1 + A_2 + A_3 = J$$

$$A_1^2 = 2A_2 + 3A_0,$$

$$A_1A_2 = A_2A_1 = 2A_1 + 3A_3$$

$$A_1A_3 = A_3A_1 = A_2$$

$$A_2^2 = 3A_0 + 2A_2$$

$$A_2A_3 = A_3A_2 = A_1$$

$$A_3^2 = A_0$$

# Association scheme

A **commutative association scheme** with  $d$  classes on  $n$  vertices is a set of  $n \times n$  01-matrices  $\mathcal{A} = \{A_0, \dots, A_d\}$  such that:

- $A_0 = I$
- $\sum_r A_r = J$
- $A_r^T \in \mathcal{A}$  for all  $r$
- For all  $i, j$ ,  $A_i A_j = A_j A_i$  lies in  $\mathbb{C}[\mathcal{A}]$ , the span of  $\mathcal{A}$  over  $\mathbb{C}$ .

- $v_0(x) = 1, v_1(x) = x, v_2(x) = \frac{1}{2}x^2 - \frac{3}{2}, v_3(x) = \frac{1}{6}x^2 - \frac{7}{6}x$

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An association scheme  $\mathcal{A} = \{A_0, \dots, A_d\}$  is  $P$ -polynomial if we can relabel the matrices such that  $A_i = v_i(A_1)$  for some polynomial  $v_i$  of degree  $i$ .

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Examples: Hamming scheme, Johnson scheme...

Non-examples: nonbinary Johnson scheme, association scheme based on attenuated spaces, association scheme based on isotropic spaces...

## Equivalence conditions

$$A_i A_j = A_j A_i = \sum_k p_{ij}^k A_k$$

$$\mathcal{A} = \{A_0, \dots, A_d\}$$

- $\mathcal{A}$  is a  $P$ -polynomial ordering

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- The graph associated to  $A_1$  is distance regular

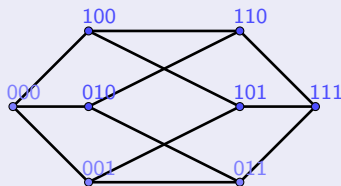


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- $\mathcal{A}$  is a  $P$ -polynomial ordering  $(A_i = v_i(A_1))$
- The graph associated to  $A_1$  is distance regular
- $p_{1i}^k \neq 0 \implies i-1 \leq k \leq i+1$ , and  
 $p_{1i}^{i+1} \neq 0, p_{1i}^{i-1} \neq 0$

- ① DRG and  $P$ -polynomial association scheme
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  - Multivariate  $P$ -polynomial scheme
  - $m$ -distance regular graphs

# Monomial orders

A **monomial order**  $\leq$  on  $\mathbb{C}[x_1, x_2, \dots, x_m]$  is a relation on the set of monomials  $x_1^{n_1} x_2^{n_2} \dots x_m^{n_m}$  satisfying:

- (i)  $\leq$  is a total order
- (ii) for monomials  $u, v, w$ , if  $u \leq v$ , then  $wu \leq wv$
- (iii)  $\leq$  is a well-ordering (any non-empty subset of the set of monomials has a minimum element under  $\leq$ )

An order on  $\mathbb{N}^m$  as well

## Examples of monomial order

- $\alpha \leq_{\text{lex}} \beta$ : the leftmost nonzero entry of  $\alpha - \beta$  is negative  
 $(0, 2) \leq_{\text{lex}} (1, 0)$

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 $(0, 2) \leq_{\text{lex}} (1, 0)$
- $\alpha \leq_{\text{grlex}} \beta$ :  $\alpha_1 + \cdots + \alpha_m < \beta_1 + \cdots + \beta_m$  or  
 $(\alpha_1 + \cdots + \alpha_m = \beta_1 + \cdots + \beta_m \text{ and } \alpha \leq_{\text{lex}} \beta)$   
 $(1, 0) \leq_{\text{grlex}} (0, 2) \leq_{\text{grlex}} (1, 1)$

## Region $\mathcal{D}$

- Bivariate  $P$ -polynomial association schemes  
Bernard, Crampe, Poulain d'Andecy, Vinet, Zaimi (2022)
- Multivariate  $P$ - and/or  $Q$ -polynomial association schemes  
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$$\mathcal{D} \subset \mathbb{N}^m$$

(i)

- $\epsilon_1, \epsilon_2, \dots, \epsilon_m \in \mathcal{D}$



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$$\mathcal{D} \subset \mathbb{N}^m$$

(i)

- $\epsilon_1, \epsilon_2, \dots, \epsilon_m \in \mathcal{D}$
- $\leq$  monomial order on  $\mathbb{N}^m$

$$\left. \begin{array}{l} \mathbf{n} = (n_1, n_2, \dots, n_m) \in \mathcal{D} \\ 0 \leq n'_i \leq n_i \text{ for all } i \end{array} \right\} \implies \mathbf{n}' = (n'_1, n'_2, \dots, n'_m) \in \mathcal{D}$$

## $m$ -variate $P$ -polynomial association scheme

$\leq$  monomial order on  $\mathbb{N}^m$

$\mathcal{D} \subset \mathbb{N}^m$  satisfying (i) ( $\epsilon_i \in \mathcal{D}$  and ‘boxing property’)

A commutative association scheme  $\mathcal{A}$  is called  $m$ -variate  $P$ -polynomial on  $\mathcal{D}$  with respect to  $\leq$  if

(ii) There exists a relabeling of the elements of  $\mathcal{A} = \{A_{\mathbf{n}} \mid \mathbf{n} \in \mathcal{D}\}$  such that for all  $\mathbf{n} \in \mathcal{D}$  we have

$$A_{\mathbf{n}} = v_{\mathbf{n}}(A_{\epsilon_1}, A_{\epsilon_2}, \dots, A_{\epsilon_m}),$$

where  $v_{\mathbf{n}}(\mathbf{x})$  is an  $m$ -variate polynomial of degree  $\mathbf{n}$

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where  $v_{\mathbf{n}}(\mathbf{x})$  is an  $m$ -variate polynomial of degree  $\mathbf{n}$  and all monomials  $\mathbf{x}^{\beta}$  in  $v_{\mathbf{n}}(\mathbf{x})$  satisfy  $\beta \in \mathcal{D}$

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(iii) For  $i = 1, 2, \dots, m$  and  $\alpha = (\alpha_1, \alpha_2, \dots, \alpha_m) \in \mathcal{D}$ , the product  $A_{\epsilon_i} A_{\epsilon_1}^{\alpha_1} A_{\epsilon_2}^{\alpha_2} \dots A_{\epsilon_m}^{\alpha_m}$  is a linear combination of

$$\{A_{\epsilon_1}^{\beta_1} A_{\epsilon_2}^{\beta_2} \dots A_{\epsilon_m}^{\beta_m} \mid \beta = (\beta_1, \dots, \beta_m) \in \mathcal{D}, \beta \leq \alpha + \epsilon_i\}.$$

## An equivalent condition

$\mathcal{A} = \{A_i \mid i \in \mathcal{D}\}$  is a commutative association scheme

Then the following two statements are equivalent:

- (i)  $\mathcal{A}$  is an  $m$ -variate  $P$ -polynomial association scheme on  $\mathcal{D}$  with respect to a monomial order  $\leq$
- (ii) for  $i = 1, 2, \dots, m$  and  $\alpha \in \mathcal{D}$ ,  
 $p_{\epsilon_i, \alpha}^\beta \neq 0 \implies (\beta \leq \alpha + \epsilon_i \text{ and } \alpha \leq \beta + \epsilon_i)$   
 $p_{\epsilon_i, \alpha}^{\alpha + \epsilon_i} \neq 0, p_{\epsilon_i, \alpha}^{\alpha - \epsilon_i} \neq 0$

# Examples

- Direct product of  $P$ -polynomial association schemes
- Extensions of an association scheme
- Nonbinary Johnson scheme
- Association scheme based on attenuated spaces
- Association scheme based on isotropic spaces
- Generalized 24-cell

## $m$ -length of walks

$G = (X, E_1 \sqcup \cdots \sqcup E_m)$  a connected graph ( $E_i \cap E_j = \emptyset$  if  $i \neq j$ )

$\xi = (e_1, e_2, \dots, e_L)$  a walk on  $G$ .

The  $m$ -length  $\ell_m(\xi)$  of  $\xi$  with respect to the  $m$ -partition

$\{E_i \mid i = 1, 2, \dots, m\}$  of  $E(G)$  is

$$\ell_m(\xi) = (|\{j \mid e_j \in E_1\}|, |\{j \mid e_j \in E_2\}|, \dots, |\{j \mid e_j \in E_m\}|).$$



## $m$ -length of walks

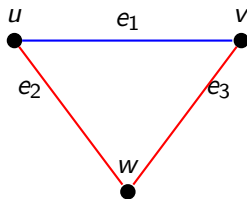
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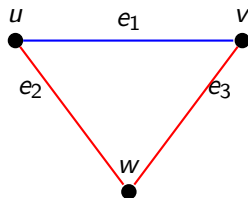
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$$E_1 = \{e_1\}$$

$$E_2 = \{e_2, e_3\}$$

$$\ell_2((e_1)) = (1, 0)$$

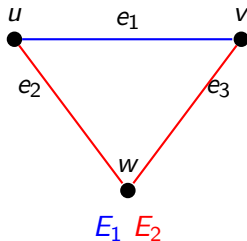
$$\ell_2((e_2 e_3)) = (0, 2)$$

## $m$ -distance between vertices

$\leq$  a monomial order on  $\mathbb{C}[x_1, \dots, x_m]$

The  $m$ -distance  $d_m$  between  $x, y \in V(G)$  is

$$d_m(x, y) = \min_{\leq} \{\ell_m(\xi) \mid \xi \text{ is a walk between } x \text{ and } y\}.$$

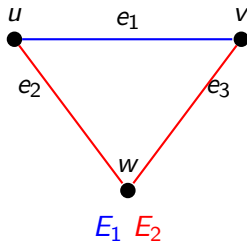


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$$\leq_{\text{lex}}: d_2(u, v) = (0, 2)$$

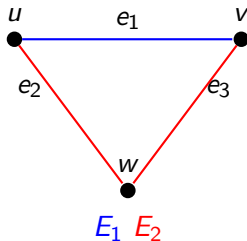
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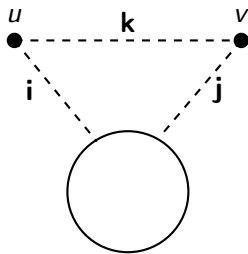
$$\leq_{\text{grlex}}: d_2(u, v) = (1, 0)$$

$$d_m(x, y) = \alpha,$$

$\beta \leq \alpha$ , there may not be vertices at  $m$ -distance  $\beta$

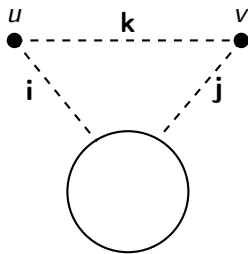
$\gamma_i \leq \alpha_i$ , there may not be vertices at  $m$ -distance  $\gamma$ .

$m$ -distance regular graphs  $G = (V, E_1 \sqcup \cdots \sqcup E_m)$



$G = (V, E_1 \sqcup \cdots \sqcup E_m)$  is  $m$ -distance regular with respect to the monomial order  $\leq$  if for any  $u, v \in V(G)$  and any  $\mathbf{i}, \mathbf{j} \in \mathbb{N}^m$ ,  $|S_{\mathbf{i}}(u) \cap S_{\mathbf{j}}(v)|$  depends only on  $\text{dist}_m(u, v)$ .

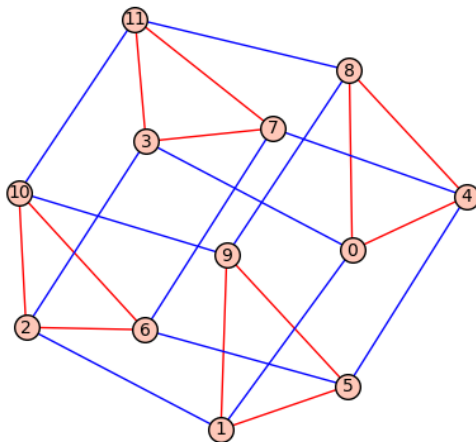
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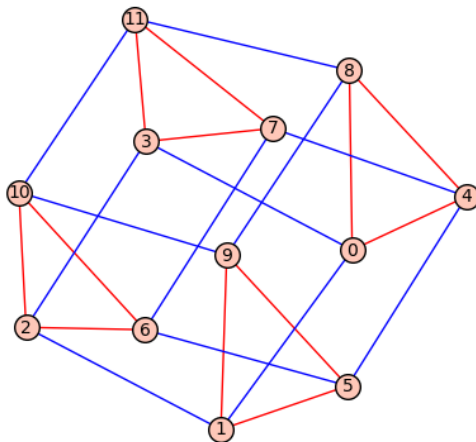
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$$d_m(x, y) = \alpha,$$

$\gamma_i \leq \alpha_i$ , there are vertices at  $m$ -distance  $\gamma$







Cartesian product of distance regular graphs

# Connection

$\leq$  a monomial order on  $\mathbb{N}^m$

$\mathcal{D} \subset \mathbb{N}^m$  satisfies condition (i)

$\mathcal{A} = \{A_{\mathbf{n}} \mid \mathbf{n} \in \mathcal{D}\}$  a symmetric association scheme on a set  $X$

Define  $E_i \subseteq X \times X$  by  $(x, y) \in E_i \iff (A_{\epsilon_i})_{xy} = 1$

The following statements are equivalent:

- (i)  $\mathcal{A}$  is an  $m$ -variate  $P$ -polynomial association scheme on  $\mathcal{D}$  with respect to  $\leq$
- (ii)  $G = (X, E_1 \sqcup \cdots \sqcup E_m)$  is  $m$ -distance-regular with respect to the edge partition  $\{E_i \mid i = 1, 2, \dots, m\}$  and  $\leq$   
 $\mathcal{D}$  is the set of all  $m$ -distances in  $G$  and the matrix  $A_{\ell}$  is the  $\ell$ -th  $m$ -distance matrix of  $G$  for all  $\ell \in \mathcal{D}$

## More examples

- Direct product of  $P$ -polynomial association schemes

## More examples

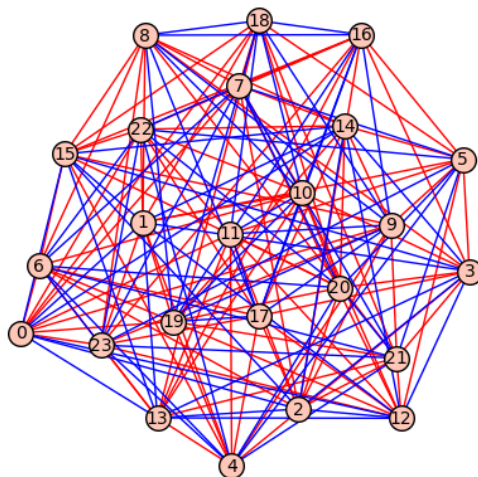
- Direct product of  $P$ -polynomial association schemes  $\leftrightarrow$   
Cartesian product of distance regular graphs
- $\mathcal{A} = \{A_0, \dots, A_d\}$  an association scheme on  $q$  vertices  
Extension (symmetrization) of  $\mathcal{A}$  of length  $n$

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Extension (symmetrization) of  $\mathcal{A}$  of length  $n \leftrightarrow$   
Hamming graph  $H(n, q)$ ,  $d$ -distance regular

24-cell,  $(\pm 1, \pm 1, 0, 0)$

2,  $\sqrt{6}$ ,



There exists at most one  $m$ -variate  $P$ -polynomial association scheme  $\mathcal{Z}$  with order  $\leq$  and with fixed generating matrices  $A_{\epsilon_i}$ ,  $i = 1, 2, \dots, m$ .

## More

- Terwilliger algebra of  $m$ -variate  $P$ - and  $Q$ -polynomial association schemes
- For a given  $k = (k_1, k_2, \dots, k_m)$ , are there finitely many  $m$ -distance-regular graph  $G = (X, \Gamma_1 \sqcup \Gamma_2 \sqcup \dots \sqcup \Gamma_m)$  such that the graph  $(X, \Gamma_i)$  is  $k_i$ -regular?
- Partial order  $\preceq$  such that  $\alpha \preceq \beta \implies \alpha \leq \beta$
- Generators



*Thank you!*