# The Smith Normal Form of the Incidence Matrix of Skew Lines in PG $(3, q)$ 

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## Outline

Introduction

All invariants are powers of $p$
$p$-filtrations and SNF bases

Invariants of the Strongly Regular Graph

Relation with Point-Line Incidence

Simultaneous SNF Bases

## Skew lines

- We consider the relation of skewness between lines in $P G(3, q), q=p^{t}$.
- Under the Klein Correpondence, two lines are skew iff the corresponding points of the Klein quadric in $P G(5, q)$ are not orthogonal, i.e, not joined by a line of the quadric. Thus the graph of skew lines is the same as the non-collinearity graph of points in the hyperbolic polar space $O^{+}(5, q)$.
- This is a strongly regular graph.


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## Notation

- $V$, a 4-dimensional vector space over $F_{q}$
- $\mathcal{L}_{r}=$ set of subspaces of dimension $r$ in $V$
- $A$ incidence matrix of skewness between lines in $\mathbb{P}(V)$
- $A$ is square of size $\left(q^{2}+q+1\right)\left(q^{2}+1\right)$.
- For any matrix $M$, let $e_{i}(M)=$ number of invariant factors in the Smith Normal Form of $M$ which are exactly divisible by $p^{i}$.


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- $A^{2}=q^{4} I+\left(q^{4}-q^{3}-q^{2}+q\right) A+\left(q^{4}-q^{3}\right)(J-A-I)$
- Eigenvalues of $A$ are $q,-q^{2}$, and $q^{4}$ with respective multiplicities $q^{4}+q^{2}, q^{3}+q^{2}+q$, and 1 .
- Special case of oppositeness relation
- We can replace Z by a suitable p-adic ring; We will use an unramified extension $R$ of $\mathbb{Z}_{p}$ containing a ( $q^{4}-1$ )-th root of unity.
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Theorem
Let $e_{i}=e_{i}(A)$.

1. $e_{i}=e_{3 t-i}$ for $0 \leq i<t$.
2. $e_{i}=0$ for $t<i<2 t, 3 t<i<4 t$, and $i>4 t$.
3. $\sum_{i=0}^{t} e_{i}=q^{4}+q^{2}$.
4. $\sum_{i=2 t}^{3 t} e_{i}=q^{3}+q^{2}+q$.
5. $e_{4 t}=1$.

Thus we get all the elementary divisor multiplicities once we know $t$ of the numbers $e_{0}, \ldots, e_{t}$ (or the numbers $e_{2 t}, \ldots, e_{3 t}$ ).

## More notation

- $[3]^{t}=\left\{\left(s_{0}, \ldots, s_{t-1}\right) \mid s_{i} \in\{1,2,3\}\right.$ for all $\left.i\right\}$
- $\mathcal{H}(i)=\left\{\left(s_{0}, \ldots, s_{t-1}\right) \in[3]^{t} \mid \#\left\{j \mid s_{j}=2\right\}=i\right\}$
- For $\vec{s}=\left(s_{0}, \ldots, s_{t-1}\right) \in[3]^{t}$

$$
\lambda_{i}=p s_{i+1}-s_{i}
$$

(subscripts mod $t$ ) and

$$
\vec{\lambda}=\left(\lambda_{0}, \ldots, \lambda_{t-1}\right)
$$

- For an integer $k$, set $d_{k}$ to be the coefficient of $x^{k}$ in the expansion of $\left(1+x+\cdots+x^{p-1}\right)^{4}$. Set $d(\vec{s})=\prod_{i=0}^{t-1} d_{\lambda_{i}}$.
- Theorem

Let $e_{i}=e_{i}(A)$ denote the multiplicity of $p^{i}$ as an elementary divisor of $A$. Then, for $0 \leq i \leq t$,

$$
e_{2 t+i}=\sum_{\vec{s} \in \mathcal{H}(i)} d(\vec{s}) .
$$

## Example, $q=9$

- $\left(1+x+x^{2}\right)^{4}=$ $1+4 x+10 x^{2}+16 x^{3}+19 x^{4}+16 x^{5}+10 x^{6}+4 x^{7}+x^{8}$
- $\mathcal{H}(0)=\{(11),(13),(31),(33)\}$, $\mathcal{H}(1)=\{(21),(23),(12),(32)\}, \mathcal{H}(2)=\{(22)\}$.
- $e_{4}=d(11)+d(13)+d(31)+d(33)=202$
- $e_{5}=d(21)+d(23)+d(12)+d(32)=256$
- $e_{6}=d(22)=361$

Table: The elementary divisors of the incidence matrix of lines vs. lines in $\mathrm{PG}(3,9)$, where two lines are incident when skew.

| Elem. Div. | 1 | 3 | $3^{2}$ | $3^{4}$ | $3^{5}$ | $3^{6}$ | $3^{8}$ |
| :--- | ---: | ---: | ---: | ---: | ---: | ---: | ---: |
| Multiplicity | 361 | 256 | 6025 | 202 | 256 | 361 | 1 |

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## $p$-filtrations

- $R$, local principal ideal domain, max ideal $p R, F=R / p R$.
- For $L \leq R^{\ell}$, set $\bar{L}=\left(L+p R^{\ell}\right) / p R^{l}$.
- $\eta: R^{m} \rightarrow R^{n}, R$-module homomorphism
- $M_{i}(\eta)=\left\{x \in R^{m} \mid \eta(x) \in p^{i} R^{n}\right\}$
- $N_{i}(\eta)=\left\{p^{-i} \eta(x) \mid x \in M_{i}(\eta)\right\}\left(\right.$ and $\left.N_{-1}(\eta)=\{0\}\right)$
- $R^{m}=M_{0}(\eta) \supseteq M_{1}(\eta) \supseteq$
- $N_{0}(\eta) \subseteq N_{1}(\eta) \subseteq$
- $F^{m}=\overline{M_{0}(\eta)} \supseteq \overline{M_{1}(\eta)} \supseteq$
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- Lemma

Let $\eta: R^{m} \rightarrow R^{n}$ be a homomorphism of free $R$-modules of finite rank. Then, for $i \geq 0$,

$$
e_{i}(\eta)=\operatorname{dim}_{F}\left(\overline{M_{i}(\eta)} / \overline{M_{i+1}(\eta)}\right)=\operatorname{dim}_{F}\left(\overline{N_{i}(\eta)} / \overline{N_{i-1}(\eta)}\right) .
$$

## Left SNF Bases

- For a given homomorphism $\eta: R^{m} \rightarrow R^{n}$, we will be interested in pairs of bases $(\mathcal{B}, \mathcal{C})$ with respect to which the matrix of $\eta$ is in Smith normal form.
- We define a left SNF basis for $\eta$ to be any basis of $R^{m}$ that belongs to such a pair. Similarly, a right SNF basis for $\eta$ is any basis of $R^{n}$ belonging to such a pair. We now describe how to construct such bases.
- $M_{0}(\eta) \supseteq M_{1}(\eta) \supseteq \cdots \supseteq M_{\ell}(\eta) \supsetneq \operatorname{ker}(\eta)$
- $\overline{\mathcal{B}_{\ell+1}}$ basis of $\operatorname{ker}(\eta)$
- Extend to a basis $\overline{\mathcal{B}_{\ell}} \cup \overline{\mathcal{B}_{\ell+1}}$ of $\overline{M_{\ell}(\eta)}$.
- Continue, to get a basis $\cup_{i=0}^{\ell+1} \overline{\mathcal{B}_{i}}$ of $\overline{M_{0}(\eta)}$.
- Lift the elements of $\overline{\mathcal{B}_{\ell+1}}$ to a set $\mathcal{B}_{\ell+1}$ of preimages in
ker( $\eta$ ).
- Continuing, enlarge each $\mathcal{B}_{i+1}$ by adjoining a set $\mathcal{B}_{i}$ of preimages in $M_{i}(\eta)$ of $\overline{\mathcal{B}_{i}}$.


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- Continuing, enlarge each $\mathcal{B}_{i+1}$ by adjoining a set $\mathcal{B}_{i}$ of preimages in $M_{i}(\eta)$ of $\overline{\mathcal{B}_{i}}$.
- The set $\mathcal{B}=\bigcup_{i=0}^{\ell+1} \mathcal{B}_{i}$ is an $R$-basis of $R^{m}$.


## Right SNF Bases

- $N_{\ell}(\eta)=N_{\ell+1}(\eta)=\cdots$, call this module $N^{\prime}$
- $N^{\prime}$ the purification of $\operatorname{Im} \eta$
- The elementary divisors of $\eta$ remain the same if we change its codomain $N^{\prime}$.
- Basis $\overline{\mathcal{C}_{0}}$ of $\overline{N_{0}(\eta)}$,
- Extend to basis $\overline{\mathcal{C}_{0}} \cup \overline{\mathcal{C}_{1}}$ of $\overline{N_{1}(\eta)}$.
- Continue, ending with basis $\cup_{i=0}^{\ell} \overline{\mathcal{C}_{i}}$ of $\overline{N^{\prime}}$.
- Now we lift $\overline{\mathcal{C}_{0}}$ to a set $\mathcal{C}_{0}$ of preimages in $N_{0}(\eta)$.
- Continuing, enlarge each $\mathcal{C}_{i}$ by adjoining a set $\mathcal{C}_{i+1}$ of preimages in $N_{i+1}(\eta)$ of $\overline{\mathcal{C}_{i+1}}$.
- $\mathcal{C}^{\prime}=\bigcup_{i=0}^{\ell} \mathcal{C}_{i}$ is an $R$-basis of $N^{\prime}$.
- Extend arbitrarily to a basis $\mathcal{C}=\bigcup_{i=0}^{\ell+1} \mathcal{C}_{i}$ of $R^{n}$.


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## Eliminating the all-one vector

- View $A$ as an $R$-module map.
- $: R^{\mathcal{L}_{2}} \rightarrow R^{\mathcal{L}_{2}}$ sends a 2-subspace to the (formal) sum of the 2 -subspaces incident with it.

- (1) $A=q^{4} 1$
- $e_{4 t}(A)=e_{4 t}\left(A_{\gamma_{2}}\right)+1$
- $e_{i}(A)=e_{i}\left(\left.A\right|_{Y_{2}}\right)$ for $i \neq 4 t$.


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- $e_{i}(A)=e_{i}\left(\left.A\right|_{Y_{2}}\right)$ for $i \neq 4 t$.


## Eliminating the all-one vector

- View $A$ as an $R$-module map.
- $A: R^{\mathcal{L}_{2}} \rightarrow R^{\mathcal{L}_{2}}$ sends a 2 -subspace to the (formal) sum of the 2 -subspaces incident with it.
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## SRG equation

- $A\left(A+\left(q^{2}-q\right) I\right)=q^{3} I+\left(q^{4}-q^{3}\right) J$
- Let $P$ and $Q$ be unimodular, with $D=P A Q^{-1}$ diagonal.

Then we get the relation

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## Proof of First Theorem

- $\left.\left.A\right|_{Y_{2}} \equiv A\right|_{Y_{2}}+\left(q^{2}-q\right) I\left(\bmod p^{t}\right)$
$e_{i}\left(\left.A\right|_{\gamma_{2}}\right)=e_{i}\left(\left.A\right|_{Y_{2}}+\left(q^{2}-q\right) I\right)=e_{3 t-i}\left(\left.A\right|_{Y_{2}}\right)$, for $0 \leq i<t$
- $V_{\lambda}:=\lambda$-eigenspace for $A$ (as a matrix over the field of fractions of $R$ ).
- $V_{q} \cap R^{\mathcal{L}_{2}}$ and $V_{-q^{2}} \cap R^{\mathcal{L}_{2}}$ are pure $R$-submodules of $Y_{2}$.
$-V_{q} \cap R^{\mathcal{L}_{2}} \subseteq N_{t}\left(\left.A\right|_{Y_{2}}\right)$ and $V_{-q^{2}} \cap R^{\mathcal{L}_{2}} \subseteq M_{2 t}\left(A \mid Y_{2}\right)$.
$q^{4}+q^{2}=\operatorname{dim}_{F}\left(\overline{V_{q} \cap \mathbb{Z}_{p}^{\mathcal{L}_{2}}}\right) \leq \operatorname{dim}_{F} \overline{N_{t}\left(A \mid Y_{2}\right)}=\sum_{i=0}^{t} e_{i}\left(\left.A\right|_{\gamma_{2}}\right)$ and
$q^{3}+q^{2}+q=\operatorname{dim}_{F}\left(\overline{V_{-q^{2}} \cap \mathbb{Z}_{p}^{\mathcal{L}_{2}}}\right) \leq \operatorname{dim}_{F} \overline{M_{2 t}\left(A \mid Y_{2}\right)}=\sum_{i=2 t}^{3 t} e_{i}\left(\left.A\right|_{\gamma_{2}}\right)$.
- Since $\left(q^{4}+q^{2}\right)+\left(q^{3}+q^{2}+q\right)=\operatorname{dim}_{F} \overline{Y_{2}}$, we must have equalities throughout, so $e_{i}(A)=0$ for all other $i$.


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$V_{a} \cap R^{\mathcal{L}_{2}}$ and $V_{-q^{2}} \cap R^{\mathcal{L}_{2}}$ are pure $R$-submodules of $Y_{2}$. $V_{q} \cap R^{\mathcal{L}_{2}} \subseteq N_{t}\left(\left.A\right|_{\gamma_{2}}\right)$ and $V_{-q^{2}} \cap R^{\mathcal{L}_{2}} \subseteq M_{2 t}\left(A \mid \gamma_{2}\right)$.

and

- Since $\left(q^{4}+q^{2}\right)+\left(q^{3}+q^{2}+q\right)=\operatorname{dim}_{F} \overline{Y_{2}}$, we must have equalities throughout, so $e_{i}(A)=0$ for all other $i$.


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$\Rightarrow V_{q} \cap R^{\mathcal{L}_{2}} \subseteq N_{t}\left(A \mid Y_{2}\right)$ and $V_{-q^{2}} \cap R^{\mathcal{L}_{2}} \subseteq M_{2 t}\left(\left.A\right|_{\gamma_{2}}\right)$.
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$$
q^{4}+q^{2}=\operatorname{dim}_{F}\left(\overline{V_{q} \cap \mathbb{Z}_{p}^{\mathcal{L}_{2}}}\right) \leq \operatorname{dim}_{F} \overline{N_{t}\left(\left.A\right|_{\gamma_{2}}\right)}=\sum_{i=0}^{t} e_{i}\left(\left.A\right|_{Y_{2}}\right)
$$

and
$q^{3}+q^{2}+q=\operatorname{dim}_{F}\left(\overline{V_{-q^{2}} \cap \mathbb{Z}_{p}^{\mathcal{L}_{2}}}\right) \leq \operatorname{dim}_{F} \overline{M_{2 t}\left(\left.A\right|_{\gamma_{2}}\right)}=\sum_{i=2 t}^{3 t} e_{i}\left(\left.A\right|_{\gamma_{2}}\right)$.

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- $V_{\lambda}:=\lambda$-eigenspace for $A$ (as a matrix over the field of fractions of $R$ ).
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- $V_{q} \cap R^{\mathcal{L}_{2}} \subseteq N_{t}\left(A \mid \gamma_{2}\right)$ and $V_{-q^{2}} \cap R^{\mathcal{L}_{2}} \subseteq M_{2 t}\left(A \mid \gamma_{2}\right)$.

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and

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- Since $\left(q^{4}+q^{2}\right)+\left(q^{3}+q^{2}+q\right)=\operatorname{dim}_{F} \overline{Y_{2}}$, we must have equalities throughout, so $e_{i}(A)=0$ for all other $i$.


## Remark

The above proof simply exploits the SRG equation, and makes no use of the geometry of $\operatorname{PG}(3, q)$. Therefore the first theorem is also true for the adjacency matrix $A$ of any strongly regular graph with the same parameters.

## Outline

> Introduction

> All invariants are powers of $p$
> p-filtrations and SNF bases

> Invariants of the Strongly Regular Graph

Relation with Point-Line Incidence

Simultaneous SNF Bases

- $B$ denote the incidence matrix with rows indexed by $\mathcal{L}_{1}$ and columns indexed by $\mathcal{L}_{2}$, where incidence again means zero intersection.
- $B^{t}$ denotes the transpose of $B$, and is just the incidence matrix of lines vs. points.

- $(1) B^{t} B=q^{4}\left(q^{2}+q+1\right)(q+1) 1$,
- $e_{i}\left(B^{t} B\right)=e_{i}\left(\left.B^{t} B\right|_{Y_{2}}\right)$ for $i \neq 4 t$.
- $B^{t} B=-\left[A+\left(q^{2}-q\right) I\right]+q^{2} I+\left(q^{3}+q^{2}-q\right) J$
- On $Y_{2}, B^{t} B=-\left[A+\left(q^{2}-q\right) /\right]+q^{2} I$.
- $e_{i}\left(B^{t} B \mid \gamma_{2}\right)=e_{i}\left(A \mid \gamma_{2}+\left(q^{2}-q\right) I\right)$
- $e_{2 t+i}(A)=e_{t-i}\left(B^{t} B\right)$, for $0 \leq i \leq t$.
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- On $Y_{2}, B^{t} B=-\left[A+\left(q^{2}-q\right) /\right]+q^{2} l$.
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B^{t} B=\left(q^{3}+q^{2}\right) I+\left(q^{3}+q^{2}-q-1\right) A+\left(q^{3}+q^{2}-q\right)(J-A-l) . \tag{2}
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$$

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- Suppose that we can diagonalize $B^{t}$ and $B$ by:

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P B^{t} E^{-1}=D_{2,1}
$$

and

$$
E B Q^{-1}=D_{1,2}
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where $E$ is the same matrix in both equations

- Then we can diagonalize the product:

- In general is not possible to find such a matrix $E$ ([5] is a source of information on this topic).
- Yet that is exactly what we will do.


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E B Q^{-1}=D_{1,2}
$$

where $E$ is the same matrix in both equations

- Then we can diagonalize the product:

$$
P B^{t} B Q^{-1}=D_{r, 1} D_{1, s},
$$

- In general is not possible to find such a matrix $E$ ([5] is a source of information on this topic).
- Yet that is exactly what we will do.
- Lemma

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- The groun $G$ has a cyclic subgroup $S$ which is isomorphic to $F^{\times}$, acting on $R^{\mathcal{L}_{1}}$ with all isotypic components of rank 1.
- Taking a generator of each component, we get a basis $\mathcal{I}$ of $R^{\mathcal{L}}{ }^{1}$.
- By using idempotents in $R G$, we can show that $\mathcal{I}$ is simultaneously a left SNF basis for $B$ and a right SNF basis for $B^{t}$.
- Finally, the elementary divisors of $B^{t}$ and $B$ can be found in work of Chandler, Sin and Xiang.
- This lemma generalizes. Let $A_{1, \ell}$ be the incidence matrix between 1 -subspaces and $\ell$-subspaces in any finite vector space. Using the generalization and the C-S-X formula, we can obtain the elementary divisors of the matrix $A_{1, r}^{t} A_{1, s}$.
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Thank you for your attention!

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