

On the isomorphism of certain Q -polynomial association schemes

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(joint work with Alessandro Siciliano)

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Association Schemes

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$d =$ positive integer

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Definition

(X, R) is a *d -class association scheme* if :

A1. R is a partition of $X \times X$ with $R_0 = \{(x, x) | x \in X\}$;

A2. $R_i^{-1} = \{(y, x) | (x, y) \in R_i\} = R_i$, $i = 0, \dots, d$;

A3. for each $(x, y) \in R_k$,

$$p_{i,j}^{(k)} = |\{z \in X | (x, z) \in R_i, (z, y) \in R_j\}| = p_{j,i}^{(k)}$$

does not depend on (x, y) .

Definition

Two schemes $(X, \{R_i\}_{0 \leq i \leq d})$ and $(X', \{R'_i\}_{0 \leq i \leq d})$ are *isomorphic* if there exists a bijection φ from X to X' and a permutation σ of $\{1, \dots, d\}$ such that

$$(x, y) \in R_i \iff (\varphi(x), \varphi(y)) \in R'_{\sigma(i)}.$$



The Bose–Mesner Algebra

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$\mathbb{R}(X, X)$ = the set of all the $|X|$ -matrices over \mathbb{R}

Definition

$A_i \in \mathbb{R}(X, X)$ with

$$A_i(x, y) = \begin{cases} 1 & \text{if } (x, y) \in R_i \\ 0 & \text{otherwise} \end{cases}$$

is called the *adjacency matrix* of R_i .

Theorem (Bose-Mesner, 1952)

Let (X, R) be an association scheme with d classes.

Then

$$\mathcal{A} = \langle A_0, \dots, A_d \rangle_{\mathbb{R}}$$

is a *commutative* subalgebra in $\mathbb{R}(X, X)$ such that:

- i. $\dim \mathcal{A} = d + 1$;
- ii. $D = D^T$, for each $D \in \mathcal{A}$.

\mathcal{A} is the so-called *Bose-Mesner algebra* of (X, R) .

Corollary

- i. \mathcal{A} admits $d + 1$ common maximal eigen-spaces V_0, \dots, V_d , where $V_0 = \langle \mathbf{1} \rangle$, such that*

$$\mathbb{R}^{|\mathcal{X}|} = V_0 \perp \dots \perp V_d.$$

Corollary

- i.* \mathcal{A} admits $d + 1$ *common maximal eigen-spaces* V_0, \dots, V_d , where $V_0 = \langle \mathbf{1} \rangle$, such that

$$\mathbb{R}^{|\mathcal{X}|} = V_0 \perp \dots \perp V_d.$$

- ii.* \mathcal{A} admits a unique basis of *minimal idempotent matrices* $\{E_0, \dots, E_d\}$.

The Eigenmatrices

Definition

The matrices P and Q such that

$$(A_0 \ A_1 \ \dots \ A_d) = (E_0 \ E_1 \ \dots \ E_d)P$$

and

$$(E_0 \ E_1 \ \dots \ E_d) = |X|^{-1}(A_0 \ A_1 \ \dots \ A_d)Q$$

are the *first* and the *second eigenmatrix* of (X, R) , respectively.

Definition

A scheme is *P-polynomial* if, after a reordering of the relations, there are polynomials p_i of degree i such that $A_i = p_i(A_1)$.

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A scheme is *P-polynomial* if, after a reordering of the relations, there are polynomials p_i of degree i such that $A_i = p_i(A_1)$.

A scheme is *Q-polynomial* if, after a reordering of the eigenspaces, there are polynomials q_i of degree i such that $E_i = q_i(E_1)$, where multiplication is done entrywise.

The Hollmann-Xiang association scheme

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Let \mathcal{C} be a *non-degenerate conic* in $\text{PG}(2, q^2)$:

$$\mathcal{C} = \{ \langle (1, t, t^2) \rangle : t \in \mathbb{F}_{q^2} \} \cup \{ \langle (0, 0, 1) \rangle \}$$

A line ℓ of $\text{PG}(2, q^2)$ is called a *passant* if $|\ell \cap \mathcal{C}| = 0$.

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Let $\bar{\mathcal{C}}$ be the *extension* of \mathcal{C} in $\text{PG}(2, q^4)$.

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Then

$$\bar{\ell} \cap \bar{\mathcal{C}} = \{ \langle (1, t, t^2) \rangle, \langle (1, t^{q^2}, t^{2q^2}) \rangle \},$$

for some $t \in \mathbb{F}_{q^4} \setminus \mathbb{F}_{q^2}$.

\mathcal{E} = the set of all the elliptic lines of $\overline{\mathcal{C}}$

\mathcal{X} = the set of all pairs $\mathbf{t} = \{t, t^{q^2}\}$ with t in $\mathbb{F}_{q^4} \setminus \mathbb{F}_{q^2}$

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The identification

$$\begin{array}{ccc} \xi : \mathbb{F}_{q^4} \cup \{\infty\} & \longleftrightarrow & \bar{\mathcal{C}} \\ t & \longleftrightarrow & \langle (1, t, t^2) \rangle \\ \infty & \longleftrightarrow & \langle (0, 0, 1) \rangle \end{array}$$

induces the bijection

$$\begin{array}{ccc} \mathcal{X} & \longleftrightarrow & \mathcal{E} \\ \mathbf{t} = \{t, t^{q^2}\} & \longleftrightarrow & l_{\mathbf{t}}, \end{array}$$

where $l_{\mathbf{t}} = \bar{\ell}$ with $\bar{\ell} \cap \bar{\mathcal{C}} = \{\langle (1, t, t^2) \rangle, \langle (1, t^{q^2}, t^{2q^2}) \rangle\}$.

q even

For any two distinct pairs $\mathbf{s} = \{s, s^{q^2}\}$, $\mathbf{t} = \{t, t^{q^2}\} \in \mathcal{X}$, let

$$\rho(s, t) = \frac{(s + t)(s^{q^2} + t^{q^2})}{(s + t^{q^2})(s^{q^2} + t)} \in \mathbb{F}_{q^2} \setminus \{0, 1\}$$

Note that $\rho(s, t)$ is the *cross-ratio* of (s, s^{q^2}, t, t^{q^2}) .

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Note that $\rho(s, t)$ is the *cross-ratio* of (s, s^{q^2}, t, t^{q^2}) .

From the properties of the cross-ratio it is possible to define the *cross-ratio* of $\{\mathbf{s}, \mathbf{t}\}$ as the pair

$$\{\rho(s, t), \rho(s, t)^{-1}\}.$$

Theorem (Hollmann-Xiang, 2006)

Under the identification ξ , the action of $\mathrm{PGL}(2, q^2)$ on $\mathcal{E} \times \mathcal{E}$ gives rise to an association scheme on \mathcal{X} with $q^2/2 - 1$ classes $R_{\{\lambda, \lambda^{-1}\}}$, $\lambda \in \mathbb{F}_{q^2} \setminus \{0, 1\}$, where

$$(\mathbf{s}, \mathbf{t}) \in R_{\{\lambda, \lambda^{-1}\}} \iff \{\rho(s, t), \rho(s, t)^{-1}\} = \{\lambda, \lambda^{-1}\}.$$



The fusion scheme

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$\mathbf{T}_0(q^r)$ = the set of all the elements of \mathbb{F}_{q^r} with *absolute trace* zero

$$\mathbf{T}_0 = \mathbf{T}_0(q^2); \quad \mathbf{S}_0^* = \mathbf{T}_0(q) \setminus \{0\}; \quad \mathbf{S}_1 = \mathbb{F}_q \setminus \mathbf{S}_0.$$

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For any two distinct pairs $\mathbf{s}, \mathbf{t} \in \mathcal{X}$, define

$$\hat{\rho}(\mathbf{s}, \mathbf{t}) = \frac{1}{\rho(s, t) + \rho(s, t)^{-1}}$$

Since

$$\hat{\rho}(\mathbf{s}, \mathbf{t}) = \left(\frac{1}{\rho(s, t) + 1} \right)^2 + \left(\frac{1}{\rho(s, t) + 1} \right),$$

then

$$\text{Im } \hat{\rho} \subset \mathbf{T}_0.$$

Theorem (Hollmann-Xiang, 2006)

The following relations are defined on \mathcal{X} :

R_1 : $(\mathbf{s}, \mathbf{t}) \in R_1$ if and only $\widehat{\rho}(s, t) \in \mathbf{S}_0^*$;

R_2 : $(\mathbf{s}, \mathbf{t}) \in R_2$ if and only $\widehat{\rho}(s, t) \in \mathbf{S}_1$;

R_3 : $(\mathbf{s}, \mathbf{t}) \in R_3$ if and only $\widehat{\rho}(s, t) \in \mathbf{T}_0 \setminus \mathbb{F}_q$.

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R_1 : $(\mathbf{s}, \mathbf{t}) \in R_1$ if and only $\widehat{\rho}(s, t) \in \mathbf{S}_0^*$;

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R_3 : $(\mathbf{s}, \mathbf{t}) \in R_3$ if and only $\widehat{\rho}(s, t) \in \mathbf{T}_0 \setminus \mathbb{F}_q$.

Then $(\mathcal{X}, \{R_i\}_{i=0}^3)$ is a **3-class association scheme** which is a *fusion* of the previous scheme.

The Penttila-Williford association schemes

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Assume q even, and let

$H(3, q^2)$ be the *unitary polar space of rank 2* of $\text{PG}(3, q^2)$;

$W(3, q)$ be a *symplectic polar space of rank 2* embedded
in $H(3, q^2)$;

$Q^-(3, q)$ be an *orthogonal polar space of rank 1* embedded
in $W(3, q)$.

For any line l of $H(3, q^2)$ disjoint from $W(3, q)$, let \mathcal{S}_l denote the set of the (extended) lines of $W(3, q)$ that meet l .

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Definition

A *relative hemisystem of $H(3, q^2)$ with respect to $W(3, q)$* is a set \mathcal{H} of lines of $H(3, q^2)$ disjoint from $W(3, q)$ such that every point of $H(3, q^2)$ not in $W(3, q)$ lies on exactly $q/2$ lines of \mathcal{H} .

Theorem (Penttala-Williford, 2011)

Let \mathcal{H} be a relative hemisystem of $H(3, q^2)$ with respect to $W(3, q)$. Then a Q -polynomial (not P -polynomial) 3-class association scheme is constructed on \mathcal{H} through the following relations:

Theorem (Penttila-Williford, 2011)

Let \mathcal{H} be a relative hemisystem of $H(3, q^2)$ with respect to $W(3, q)$. Then a Q -polynomial (not P -polynomial) 3-class association scheme is constructed on \mathcal{H} through the following relations:

\tilde{R}_1 : $(I, m) \in \tilde{R}_1$ if and only $|I \cap m| = 1$;

\tilde{R}_2 : $(I, m) \in \tilde{R}_2$ if and only $I \cap m = \emptyset$ and $|\mathcal{S}_I \cap \mathcal{S}_m| = 1$;

\tilde{R}_3 : $(I, m) \in \tilde{R}_3$ if and only $I \cap m = \emptyset$ are $|\mathcal{S}_I \cap \mathcal{S}_m| = q + 1$.

The existence of relative hemisystems

$PO^-(4, q)$ = the *stabilizer* of $Q^-(3, q)$ in $PGU(4, q^2)$

$P\Omega^-(4, q)$ = the *commutator* subgroup of $PO^-(4, q)$

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$P\Omega^-(4, q)$ = the *commutator* subgroup of $PO^-(4, q)$

Theorem (Penttila-Williford, 2011)

$P\Omega^-(4, q)$ has two orbits on the lines of $H(3, q^2)$ disjoint from $W(3, q)$, both of them relative hemisystems with respect to $W(3, q)$.

Tanaka (private communication to Penttila and Williford)

The 3-class association schemes found by Hollmann and Xiang have the same parameters as the 3-class schemes derived from the Penttila-Williford relative hemisystems.

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Question:

Are the above 3-class association schemes isomorphic?

The key-stone:

$(\mathrm{PSL}(2, q^2), \mathrm{PG}(1, q^2))$ and $(\mathrm{P}\Omega^-(4, q), Q^-(3, q))$ are
permutationally isomorphic for all prime powers q .

A non-standard geometric setting

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From now on q is even.

$$\widehat{V} = \{(\alpha, x^q, x, \beta) : \alpha, \beta \in \mathbb{F}_q, x \in \mathbb{F}_{q^2}\} \hookrightarrow V(4, q^2)$$

$W(\widehat{V})$ = the symplectic polar space arising from
the intersection of $H(3, q^2)$ with $\text{PG}(\widehat{V})$

$$\widehat{Q} = \{ \langle (1, t^q, t, t^{q+1}) \rangle : t \in \mathbb{F}_{q^2} \} \cup \{ \langle (0, 0, 0, 1) \rangle \}$$

is a $Q^-(3, q)$ of $W(\widehat{V})$

Let

$$\begin{aligned} \theta : \text{PG}(1, q^2) &\longrightarrow \widehat{\mathcal{Q}} \\ \langle (1, t) \rangle &\mapsto \langle (1, t^q, t, t^{q+1}) \rangle \\ \langle (0, 1) \rangle &\mapsto \langle (0, 0, 0, 1) \rangle \end{aligned}$$

and

$$\begin{aligned} \chi : \text{PSL}(2, q^2) &\longrightarrow \text{P}\Omega^-(\widehat{V}) \\ g &\mapsto g \otimes g^q, \end{aligned}$$

where \otimes is the *Kronecher product*.

Proposition

$(\mathrm{PSL}(2, q^2), \mathrm{PG}(1, q^2))$ and $(\mathrm{P}\Omega^-(\widehat{V}), \widehat{Q})$ are *permutationally isomorphic* (for all prime powers q), i.e.

$$\begin{array}{ccccc}
 \mathrm{PSL}(2, q^2) \times \mathrm{PG}(1, q^2) & \longrightarrow & \mathrm{PG}(1, q^2) \\
 \chi \downarrow & & \theta \downarrow & & \theta \downarrow \\
 \mathrm{P}\Omega^-(\widehat{V}) \times \widehat{Q} & \longrightarrow & \widehat{Q} & & \widehat{Q}
 \end{array}$$

is a commutative diagram.

The Penttila-Williford relative hemisystem

For any $t \in \mathbb{F}_{q^4} \setminus \mathbb{F}_{q^2}$, let

$$\theta(t) = \langle (1, t^q, t, t^{q+1}) \rangle, \quad \theta(t^{q^2}) = \langle (1, t^{q^3}, t^{q^2}, t^{q^3+q^2}) \rangle$$

and $M_t = \langle \theta(t), \theta(t^{q^2}) \rangle$. Note that M_t is a line of $\text{PG}(3, q^4)$.

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and $M_t = \langle \theta(t), \theta(t^{q^2}) \rangle$. Note that M_t is a line of $\text{PG}(3, q^4)$.

Lemma

- i.* For each $\mathbf{t} = \{t, t^{q^2}\}$, $m_{\mathbf{t}} = M_t \cap \text{PG}(3, q^2)$ is a line of $H(3, q^2)$, which is disjoint from $W(\widehat{V})$.
- ii.* $\{m_{\mathbf{t}} : t \in \mathbb{F}_{q^4} \setminus \mathbb{F}_{q^2}\}$ is one of the Penttila-Williford relative hemisystem.



Betting...

Betting...

Finding a bijection between the sets

$$\mathcal{X} = \{\mathbf{t} = \{t, t^{q^2}\} : t \in \mathbb{F}_{q^4} \setminus \mathbb{F}_{q^2}\}$$

and

$$\mathcal{H} = \{m_{\mathbf{t}} : t \in \mathbb{F}_{q^4} \setminus \mathbb{F}_{q^2}\}$$

such that the relations respectively defined on them, after a proper reordering, are preserved.

Lemma

The map

$$\begin{aligned}\varphi: \mathcal{X} &\rightarrow \mathcal{H} \\ \mathbf{t} &\mapsto m_{\mathbf{t}}\end{aligned}$$

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is a bijection.

Is φ the winning bijection?

A dual setting

A dual setting

The Klein correspondence κ (q even)

lines of $\text{PG}(3, q^2) \longleftrightarrow$ points of $Q^+(5, q^2)$

lines of $H(3, q^2) \longleftrightarrow$ points of $Q^-(5, q)$

lines of $W(3, q) \longleftrightarrow$ points of $Q(4, q)$.

The Klein correspondence κ (q even)

lines of $H(3, q^2) \longleftrightarrow$ points of $Q^-(5, q)$

lines of $W(\widehat{V}) \longleftrightarrow$ points of (which?) $Q(4, q)$.

Another non-standard geometric setting

$$\tilde{V} = \{(x, x^q, y, y^q, z, z^q) : x, y, z \in \mathbb{F}_{q^2}\} \hookrightarrow V(6, q^2)$$

$$\tilde{Q} : xz^q + x^qz + y^{q+1} = 0 \text{ is a } Q^-(5, q) \text{ in } \text{PG}(\tilde{V})$$

$$\Gamma = \{\langle (x, x^q, c, c, z, z^q) \rangle : x, z \in \mathbb{F}_{q^2}, c \in \mathbb{F}_q\}$$

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$$\tilde{Q} : xz^q + x^qz + y^{q+1} = 0 \text{ is a } Q^-(5, q) \text{ in } \text{PG}(\tilde{V})$$

$$\Gamma = \{\langle (x, x^q, c, c, z, z^q) \rangle : x, z \in \mathbb{F}_{q^2}, c \in \mathbb{F}_q\}$$

Then

$$Q(4, q) = \Gamma \cap \tilde{Q} = \kappa(W(\hat{V}))$$

$$m_t \in \mathcal{H} \xleftrightarrow{\kappa} P_t \in Q^-(5, q) \setminus Q(4, q)$$

$$m_{\mathbf{t}} \in \mathcal{H} \xleftrightarrow{\kappa} P_{\mathbf{t}} \in Q^-(5, q) \setminus Q(4, q)$$

$$S_{m_{\mathbf{t}}} \xleftrightarrow{\kappa} \tilde{O}_{\mathbf{t}} = Q(4, q) \cap P_{\mathbf{t}}^{\perp}$$

Looking at some *special* planes of $\text{PG}(\widetilde{V})$

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For $\mathbf{s} \neq \mathbf{t}$, let

$$\Pi_{\mathbf{s},\mathbf{t}} = \langle \Gamma^\perp, P_{\mathbf{s}}, P_{\mathbf{t}} \rangle,$$

and $\tilde{Q}_{\mathbf{s},\mathbf{t}}$ be the restriction of \tilde{Q} on $\Pi_{\mathbf{s},\mathbf{t}}$.

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$$\text{Rad}(\Pi_{\mathbf{s},\mathbf{t}}) = \langle v_{\mathbf{s},\mathbf{t}} \rangle.$$

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and $\tilde{Q}_{\mathbf{s},\mathbf{t}}$ be the restriction of \tilde{Q} on $\Pi_{\mathbf{s},\mathbf{t}}$.

Then

$$\text{Rad}(\Pi_{\mathbf{s},\mathbf{t}}) = \langle v_{\mathbf{s},\mathbf{t}} \rangle.$$

Two cases are possible:

$$\tilde{Q}_{\mathbf{s},\mathbf{t}}(v_{\mathbf{s},\mathbf{t}}) = 0$$

$$\tilde{Q}_{\mathbf{s},\mathbf{t}}(v_{\mathbf{s},\mathbf{t}}) \neq 0$$

First case: $\widetilde{Q}_{s,t}(v_{s,t}) = 0$

$\Pi_{s,t} \cap Q^-(5, q)$ consists of two distinct lines through $\langle v_{s,t} \rangle$.

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$\Pi_{s,t} \cap Q^-(5, q)$ consists of two distinct lines through $\langle v_{s,t} \rangle$.

Two sub-cases:

- i.* P_s and P_t are collinear in $Q^-(5, q)$
- ii.* P_s and P_t are NOT collinear in $Q^-(5, q)$

Subcase *i.* : P_s and P_t are collinear in $Q^-(5, q)$

P_s and P_t are collinear in $Q^-(5, q)$ if and only if

$m_s = \kappa^{-1}(P_s)$ and $m_t = \kappa^{-1}(P_t)$ are concurrent in $H(3, q^2)$,

that is $(m_s, m_t) \in \tilde{R}_1$.

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that is $(m_s, m_t) \in \tilde{R}_1$.

On the other hand, P_s and P_t are collinear in $Q^-(5, q)$ if and only if

$$\frac{1}{\rho(s, t) + 1} = \frac{(s + t^{q^2})(s^{q^2} + t)}{(s^{q^2} + s)(t^{q^2} + t)} \in \mathbb{F}_q,$$

if and only if $\hat{\rho}(s, t) \in \mathbf{S}_0^*$, that is $(s, t) \in R_1$.

Subcase *ii.* : P_s and P_t are NOT collinear in $Q^-(5, q)$

P_s and P_t are NOT collinear in $Q^-(5, q)$ if and only if

$m_s = \kappa^{-1}(P_s)$ and $m_t = \kappa^{-1}(P_t)$ are NOT concurrent in $H(3, q^2)$,

that is $(m_s, m_t) \in \tilde{R}_2$.

Subcase *ii.* : P_s and P_t are NOT collinear in $Q^-(5, q)$

P_s and P_t are NOT collinear in $Q^-(5, q)$ if and only if

$m_s = \kappa^{-1}(P_s)$ and $m_t = \kappa^{-1}(P_t)$ are NOT concurrent in $H(3, q^2)$,

that is $(m_s, m_t) \in \tilde{R}_2$.

On the other hand, P_s and P_t are NOT collinear in $Q^-(5, q)$ if and only if

$$\left(\frac{1}{\rho(s, t) + 1} \right)^q + \frac{1}{\rho(s, t) + 1} = 1,$$

that is $\hat{\rho}(s, t) \in \mathbf{S}_1$, i.e. $(s, t) \in R_2$.

Second case: $\widetilde{Q}_{s,t}(v_{s,t}) \neq 0$

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Then $|\widetilde{\mathcal{O}}_t \cap \widetilde{\mathcal{O}}_s| = q + 1$ if and only if

$\mathcal{S}_{m_t} = \kappa^{-1}(\widetilde{\mathcal{O}}_t)$ and $\mathcal{S}_{m_s} = \kappa^{-1}(\widetilde{\mathcal{O}}_s)$ meet in $q + 1$ lines of $W(\widehat{V})$,
that is $(m_t, m_s) \in \widetilde{R}_3$.

Second case: $\tilde{Q}_{s,t}(v_{s,t}) \neq 0$

$\Pi_{s,t} \cap Q^-(5, q)$ is a non-degenerate conic with nucleus $\langle v_{s,t} \rangle$.

Then $|\tilde{\mathcal{O}}_t \cap \tilde{\mathcal{O}}_s| = q + 1$ if and only if

$\mathcal{S}_{m_t} = \kappa^{-1}(\tilde{\mathcal{O}}_t)$ and $\mathcal{S}_{m_s} = \kappa^{-1}(\tilde{\mathcal{O}}_s)$ meet in $q + 1$ lines of $W(\hat{V})$,
that is $(m_t, m_s) \in \tilde{R}_3$.

On the other hand, $\tilde{Q}_{s,t}(v_{s,t}) \neq 0$ if and only if $(s, t) \in R_3$ by exclusion.

Summing up...

The bijection

$$\begin{aligned} \varphi: \mathcal{X} &\rightarrow \mathcal{H} \\ \mathbf{t} &\mapsto m_{\mathbf{t}} \end{aligned}$$

enjoys the property

$$(\mathbf{s}, \mathbf{t}) \in R_i \iff (m_{\mathbf{s}}, m_{\mathbf{t}}) = \varphi(\mathbf{s}, \mathbf{t}) \in \tilde{R}_i, \quad i = 1, 2, 3,$$

i.e. ...

Theorem G.Monzillo - A. Siciliano

The Hollmann-Xiang and Penttila-Williford Q -polynomial (but not P -polynomial) association schemes are isomorphic.