

## Cameron-Liebler sets in different settings

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# OUTLINE

- 1 CAMERON-LIEBLER SETS IN FINITE PROJECTIVE SPACES
- 2 CAMERON-LIEBLER SETS IN FINITE CLASSICAL POLAR SPACES
- 3 CAMERON-LIEBLER SETS FOR ORDERED  $q$ -TUPLES

# INTRODUCTORY REMARKS

- Many links with Erdős-Ko-Rado problems.
- Algebraic techniques: of great importance for Cameron-Liebler problems.

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## DEFINITION

Cameron-Liebler line sets in  $\text{PG}(3, q)$ : arise from attempt of Cameron and Liebler to classify collineation groups of  $\text{PG}(n, q)$ ,  $n \geq 3$ , that have equally many orbits on lines and on points.

### DEFINITION

**Spread of  $\text{PG}(3, q)$ :** set of  $q^2 + 1$  lines partitioning point set of  $\text{PG}(3, q)$ .

**Classical example:** Regular spread.

# DEFINITION

- $A$ : incidence matrix of points and lines of  $\text{PG}(3, q)$ .
- $\chi$ : characteristic vector of set of lines of  $\text{PG}(3, q)$ .

## EQUIVALENT DEFINITIONS FOR CL SETS IN $\text{PG}(3, q)$

### DEFINITION

Cameron-Liebler set of lines  $\mathcal{L}$  of  $\text{PG}(3, q)$ :

- There exists integer  $x$  such that  $\mathcal{L}$  shares  $x$  lines with every spread of  $\text{PG}(3, q)$ .
- There exists integer  $x$  such that  $\mathcal{L}$  shares  $x$  lines with every regular spread of  $\text{PG}(3, q)$ .
- There exists integer  $x$  such that for every line  $\ell$  of  $\text{PG}(3, q)$ :

$$|\{m \in \mathcal{L} \setminus \{\ell\} \mid m \text{ meets } \ell\}| = x(q+1) + (q^2-1)\chi(\ell).$$

## EQUIVALENT DEFINITIONS FOR CL SETS IN $\text{PG}(3, q)$

### DEFINITION

Cameron-Liebler set of lines  $\mathcal{L}$  of  $\text{PG}(3, q)$ :

- There exists integer  $x$  such that for every incident point-plane pair  $(P, \pi)$  of  $\text{PG}(3, q)$ :

$$|\text{Star}(P) \cap \mathcal{L}| + |\text{Line}(\pi) \cap \mathcal{L}| = x + (q + 1)|\text{Pencil}(P, \pi) \cap \mathcal{L}|.$$

- There exists integer  $x$  such that for every pair of disjoint lines  $\ell$  and  $m$  of  $\text{PG}(3, q)$ :

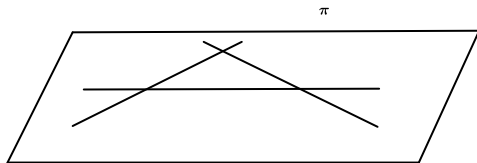
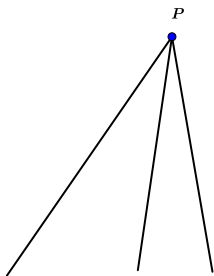
$$|\{n \in \mathcal{L} \mid n \text{ meets } \ell \text{ and } m\}| = x + q(\chi(\ell) + \chi(m)).$$

- $\chi \in \text{row}(A) \Leftrightarrow \chi \in \ker(A^T)^\perp$ .



# CLASSICAL EXAMPLES

- Set  $L_P$  of lines through point  $P$ : CL-set with  $x = 1$ .
- Set  $L_\pi$  of lines in plane  $\pi$ : CL-set with  $x = 1$ .

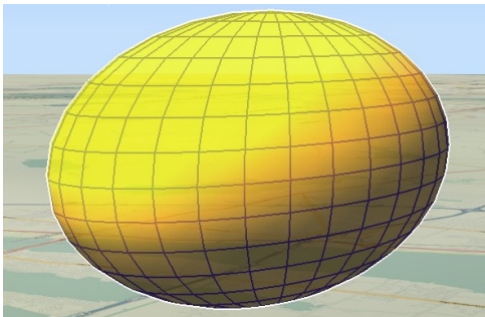


# CLASSICAL EXAMPLES

- $L_P \cup L_\pi$ , with  $P \notin \pi$ : CL-set with  $x = 2$ .
- Complement of preceding examples.

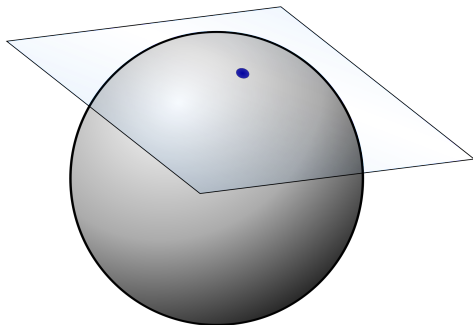
# CL-SETS OF BRUEN AND DRUDGE

Elliptic quadric  $Q^-(3, q)$



# CL-SETS OF BRUEN AND DRUDGE

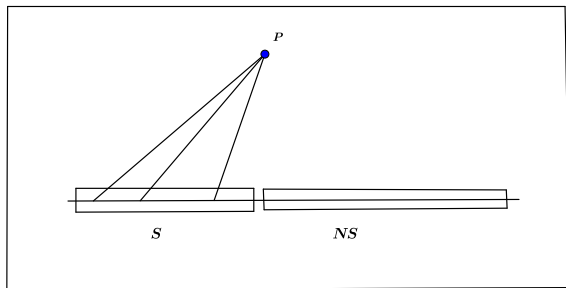
Tangent plane to point of  $Q^-(3, q)$



# CL-SETS OF BRUEN AND DRUDGE

- $Q^-(3, q)$ ,  $q$  odd: quadratic form  $Q$ .
- $v \notin Q^-(3, q)$ :
  - set  $S$ :  $Q(v)$  non-zero square.
  - set  $NS$ :  $Q(v)$  non-square.

# CL-SETS OF BRUEN AND DRUDGE

 $T_P(Q^-(3, q))$ 

## CL-SETS OF BRUEN AND DRUDGE

- $S_0$ : set of skew lines to  $Q^-(3; q)$ .
- $S_{1,S}$ : set of tangent lines through  $P \in Q^-(3, q)$  and points of  $S$  in  $T_P(Q^-(3, q))$ .
- $S_{1,NS}$ : set of tangent lines through  $P \in Q^-(3, q)$  and points of  $NS$  in  $T_P(Q^-(3, q))$ .
- $S_0 \cup S_{1,S}$  and  $S_0 \cup S_{1,NS}$ : CL-set with  $x = (q^2 + 1)/2$ .

## OTHER EXAMPLES

- Derivation construction of Gavriluk, Matkin, Penttila, and Cossidente, Pavese:  $x = (q^2 + 1)/2$ .
- CL-set  $\mathcal{L}$  with  $x = (q^2 - 1)/2$  by De Beule, Demeyer, Metsch, Rodgers and Feng, Momihara, Xiang.
- Plane  $\pi$  contains no lines of  $\mathcal{L}$ :  $\mathcal{L}$  union  $\text{Line}(\pi)$ : CL-set with  $x = (q^2 + 1)/2$ .



# MODULAR EQUALITY OF GAVRILYUK-METSCH

## THEOREM (GAVRILYUK, METSCH)

*Cameron-Liebler line set  $\mathcal{L}$  with parameter  $x$ . Then for every plane  $\pi$  and every point  $P$ :*

$$\binom{x}{2} + n(n-x) \equiv 0 \pmod{q+1},$$

*where  $n$  is number of lines of  $\mathcal{L}$  through  $P$  in plane  $\pi$ .*

## THEOREM (GAVRILYUK, METSCH)

*There is no Cameron-Liebler set in  $PG(3, q)$ ,  $q$  odd, with parameter  $x$ , where  $x \equiv 3 \pmod{4}$ .*

## EQUIVALENT DEFINITIONS FOR CL $K$ -SETS

### DEFINITION (RODGERS, STORME, VANSWEEVELT)

Let  $\mathcal{L}$  be set of  $k$ -spaces in  $\text{PG}(2k+1, q)$  with characteristic function  $\chi$ . Then the following are equivalent:

- Integer  $x$  for which  $|\mathcal{L} \cap \mathcal{S}| = x$  for every  $k$ -spread in  $\text{PG}(2k+1, q)$ .
- Integer  $x$  for which  $|\mathcal{L} \cap \mathcal{S}| = x$  for every regular  $k$ -spread in  $\text{PG}(2k+1, q)$ .
- $\chi \in \text{row}(A)$  ( $\Leftrightarrow \chi \in \ker(A^T)^\perp$ ).
- Integer  $x$  such that for every  $k$ -space  $\pi$ , number of elements of  $\mathcal{L}$  disjoint from  $\pi$  is  $(x - \chi(\pi))q^{(k+1)k}$ .
- Integer  $x$  such that  $\chi - \frac{x}{q^{k+1}+1}j$  is eigenvector of  $K$  for eigenvalue  $\tau = -q^{(k+1)k}$ .

# NOTATION

$$\left[ \begin{array}{c} n+1 \\ k+1 \end{array} \right]_q = \prod_{i=0}^k \frac{q^{n+1-i} - 1}{q^{i+1} - 1}.$$

(Number of  $k$ -spaces in  $\text{PG}(n, q)$ )

## ERDŐS-KO-RADO RESULTS

### THEOREM (RODGERS, STORME, VANSWEEVELT)

*Cameron-Liebler  $k$ -set of  $PG(2k + 1, q)$  with parameter  $x = 1$  is either:*

- *all  $k$ -spaces through one point  $P$ .*
- *all  $k$ -spaces in one hyperplane  $H$ .*

### THEOREM

*Largest Erdős-Ko-Rado sets of  $k$ -spaces in  $PG(2k + 1, q)$  have size  $\left[ \begin{smallmatrix} 2k + 1 \\ k + 1 \end{smallmatrix} \right]_q$  and are equal to either: all  $k$ -spaces through one point  $P$  or all  $k$ -spaces in one hyperplane  $H$ .*

CAMERON-LIEBLER  $k$ -SETS WITH PARAMETER  $x = 2$

## CAMERON-LIEBLER 2-SETS IN $PG(5, q)$ AND EKR-SETS

### THEOREM

*Let  $S$  be set of planes of  $PG(5, q)$  pairwise intersecting non-trivially. Then*

- either  $|S| = \begin{bmatrix} 5 \\ 2 \end{bmatrix}_q$  and  $S$  consists of all planes through fixed point  $P$  or all planes in fixed hyperplane  $H$  of  $PG(5, q)$ .*
- (Blokhuis, Brouwer and Szőnyi) If  $|S| > q^5 + 2q^4 + 3q^3 + 2q^2 + q + 1$ , then  $S$  is contained in a preceding example.*

## ERDŐS-KO-RADO RESULTS

### THEOREM

*Largest Erdős-Ko-Rado sets of  $k$ -spaces in  $PG(2k + 1, q)$  have size  $\left[ \begin{smallmatrix} 2k + 1 \\ k + 1 \end{smallmatrix} \right]_q$  and are equal to either: all  $k$ -spaces through one point  $P$  or all  $k$ -spaces in one hyperplane  $H$ .*

### THEOREM (BLOKHUIS, BROUWER, SZŐNYI)

*Let  $\mathcal{L}$  be Erdős-Ko-Rado set of  $k$ -spaces in  $PG(2k + 1, q)$ , with  $k + 1 < q \log q - q$  and  $|\mathcal{L}| > \frac{1}{2}q^{(k+1)k}$ , then all  $k$ -spaces of  $\mathcal{L}$  pass through one point  $P$  or lie in one hyperplane  $H$ .*

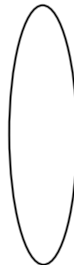
$\pi_1$



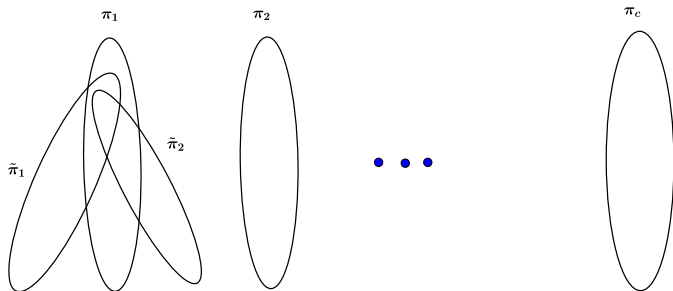
$\pi_2$



$\pi_c$







## RESULTS FOR GENERAL $k$

### THEOREM (METSCH)

*Let  $\mathcal{L}$  be Cameron-Liebler 2-set in  $PG(5, q)$ , with parameter  $x$ .  
Then it is not possible that  $3 \leq x < q/3$ .*

### THEOREM (METSCH)

*Let  $\mathcal{L}$  be Cameron-Liebler  $k$ -set in  $PG(2k + 1, q)$ ,  
 $3 < k < q \log q - q - 1$ ,  $q \geq q_0$ , with parameter  $x$ .  
Then it is not possible that  $3 \leq x < q/5$ .*

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# FINITE CLASSICAL POLAR SPACES

- Hyperbolic quadric  $Q^+(2n+1, q)$ :  
 $X_0X_1 + X_2X_3 + \cdots + X_{2n}X_{2n+1} = 0,$
- Elliptic quadric  $Q^-(2n+1, q)$ :  
 $f(X_0, X_1) + X_2X_3 + \cdots + X_{2n}X_{2n+1} = 0, f(X_0, X_1)$  irreducible homogeneous quadratic equation over  $\mathbb{F}_q,$
- Parabolic quadric  $Q(2n, q)$ :  
 $X_0^2 + X_1X_2 + X_3X_4 + \cdots + X_{2n-1}X_{2n} = 0,$
- Hermitian variety  $H(n, q^2)$ :  $X_0^{q+1} + \cdots + X_n^{q+1} = 0,$
- Symplectic polar space  $W(2n+1, q)$ : defined by totally isotropic spaces under symplectic polarity.

# CAMERON-LIEBLER SETS IN FINITE CLASSICAL POLAR SPACES

- Hyperbolic quadric  $Q^+(2n+1, q)$ : points, lines,  $\dots$ ,  $n$ -spaces,
- Elliptic quadric  $Q^-(2n+1, q)$ : points, lines,  $\dots$ ,  $(n-1)$ -spaces,
- Parabolic quadric  $Q(2n, q)$ : points, lines,  $\dots$ ,  $(n-1)$ -spaces,
- Hermitian variety  $H(n, q^2)$ : points, lines,  $\dots$ ,  $\lfloor (n-1)/2 \rfloor$ -spaces,
- Symplectic polar space  $W(2n+1, q)$ : points, lines,  $\dots$ ,  $n$ -spaces.

## GENERATORS ON HYPERBOLIC QUADRIC

- Set of generators  $\Omega$  on  $Q^+(2n+1, q)$  can be partitioned into two equivalence classes  $\Omega_1$  and  $\Omega_2$ :

$$\Pi_1 \sim \Pi_2 \Leftrightarrow \dim(\Pi_1 \cap \Pi_2) \equiv n \pmod{2}.$$

- $\Omega_1$ : **Latin generators.**  
 $\Omega_2$ : **Greek generators.**
- For  $Q^+(4n+1, q)$ , generators of  $\Omega_1$  pairwise intersect (EKR-set).
- For  $Q^+(4n+1, q)$ , generators of  $\Omega_2$  pairwise intersect (EKR-set).

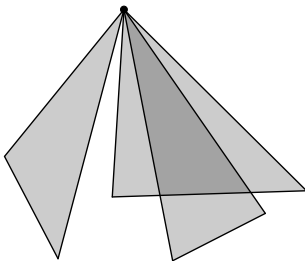
# GENERATORS IN FINITE CLASSICAL POLAR SPACES

- Finite classical polar space **rank**  $N$ : generators have dimension  $N - 1$ .
- Finite classical polar space: parameters  $(q, q^e)$ :
  - 1  $q$  = size finite field,
  - 2  $q^e + 1$  = number of generators through codimension one space to generator.
- Example:  $Q^+(2n + 1, q)$ : parameters  $(q, q^0)$ .  
(( $n - 1$ )-space on  $Q^+(2n + 1, q)$  lies in two generators.)

# ERDŐS-KO-RADO PROBLEM IN FINITE CLASSICAL POLAR SPACES

## Problem:

- What are largest sets of generators in finite classical polar space  $P$ , pairwise intersecting non-trivially?
- All generators of  $P$  through fixed point (point-pencil = p.-p.).



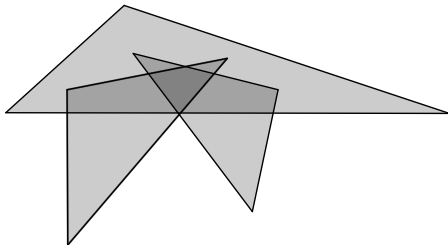


# ERDŐS-KO-RADO PROBLEM IN FINITE CLASSICAL POLAR SPACES

## Problem:

- What are largest sets of generators in finite classical polar space  $P$ , pairwise intersecting non-trivially?
- Sometimes different largest Erdős-Ko-Rado sets.
- $W(5, q)$ ,  $q$  odd: Largest Erdős-Ko-Rado sets of planes:
  - all planes of  $W(5, q)$ ,  $q$  odd, through given point,
  - all planes of  $W(5, q)$ ,  $q$  odd, intersecting given plane  $\pi$  in line, including  $\pi$ .

# $W(5, q)$ , $q$ ODD



# RESULTS FOR FINITE CLASSICAL POLAR SPACES

Polar space	Maximum size	Classification
$Q^-(2n+1, q)$	$(q^2 + 1) \cdots (q^n + 1)$	p.-p.
$Q(4n, q)$	$(q + 1) \cdots (q^{2n-1} + 1)$	p.-p.
$Q(4n+2, q), n \geq 2$	$(q + 1) \cdots (q^{2n} + 1)$	p.-p., Latins $Q^+(4n+1, q)$
$Q(6, q)$	$(q + 1)(q^2 + 1)$	p.-p., Latins $Q^+(5, q)$ , base
$Q^+(4n+1, q)$	$(q + 1) \cdots (q^{2n} + 1)$	all Latins
Latins $Q^+(4n+3, q), n \geq 2$	$(q + 1) \cdots (q^{2n} + 1)$	p.-p.
Latins $Q^+(7, q)$	$(q + 1)(q^2 + 1)$	p.-p., meeting Greek in plane
$W(4n+1, q), n \geq 2, q$ odd	$(q + 1) \cdots (q^{2n} + 1)$	p.-p.
$W(4n+1, q), n \geq 2, q$ even	$(q + 1) \cdots (q^{2n} + 1)$	p.-p., Latins $Q^+(4n+1, q)$
$W(5, q), q$ odd	$(q + 1)(q^2 + 1)$	p.-p., base,
$W(5, q), q$ even	$(q + 1)(q^2 + 1)$	p.-p., base, Latins $Q^+(5, q)$
$W(4n+3, q)$	$(q + 1) \cdots (q^{2n+1} + 1)$	p.-p.
$H(2n, q^2)$	$(q^3 + 1)(q^5 + 1) \cdots (q^{2n-1} + 1)$	p.-p.
$H(4n+3, q^2)$	$(q + 1)(q^3 + 1) \cdots (q^{4n+1} + 1)$	p.-p.
$H(4n+1, q^2), n \geq 2$	$<  \Omega /(q^{2n+1} + 1)$	?
$H(5, q^2)$	$q(q^4 + q^2 + 1) + 1$	base

# CL-SETS OF GENERATORS IN CLASSICAL POLAR SPACES

## DEFINITION

Let  $\mathcal{L}$  be set of  $k$ -spaces in  $\text{PG}(2k+1, q)$  with characteristic function  $\chi$ . Then following are equivalent:

- Some integer  $x$  for which  $|\mathcal{L} \cap \mathcal{S}| = x$  for every  $k$ -spread in  $\text{PG}(2k+1, q)$ .
- Some integer  $x$  for which  $|\mathcal{L} \cap \mathcal{S}| = x$  for every regular  $k$ -spread in  $\text{PG}(2k+1, q)$ .
- $\chi \in \text{row}(A)$  ( $\Leftrightarrow \chi \in \ker(A^T)^\perp$ ).
- Some integer  $x$  such that for every  $k$ -space  $\pi$ , number of elements of  $\mathcal{L}$  disjoint from  $\pi$  is  $(x - \chi(\pi))q^{(k+1)k}$ .
- Some integer  $x$  such that  $\chi - \frac{x}{q^{k+1}+1}j$  is eigenvector of  $K$  for eigenvalue  $\tau = -q^{(k+1)k}$ .

## EIGENSPACES OF GRAPH $\Gamma_j$

- $\Gamma_j$ :  $\Pi_1 \sim_j \Pi_2$  if and only if

$$\dim(\Pi_1 \cap \Pi_2) = \dim \Pi_1 - j = \dim \Pi_2 - j.$$

- $A_j$ : symmetric matrix: real eigenvalues.
- $\mathbb{R}\Omega = V_0 \perp V_1 \perp \cdots \perp V_N$ .
- $V_0, \dots, V_N$  are eigenspaces for all graphs  $\Gamma_0, \dots, \Gamma_N$ .

- 

$$V_0 = \langle (1, \dots, 1) \rangle.$$

# ROW( $A$ )

## THEOREM

$$\mathbb{R}\Omega = V_0 \perp V_1 \perp \cdots \perp V_N.$$

*Let  $A$  be point-generator incidence matrix of  $\mathcal{P}$ , then*

$$\text{row}(A) = V_0 \perp V_1.$$

## TYPE I

Type I:  $Q^-(2d+1, q)$ ,  $Q(4n, q)$ ,  $Q^+(4n+1, q)$ ,  $W(4n-1, q)$  and  $H(n, q^2)$ .

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Let  $P$  be finite classical polar space of type I, let  $A$  be point-generator incidence matrix.

Let  $\mathcal{L}$  be set of generators of  $P$  with characteristic vector  $\chi$  and let

$$x = \frac{|\mathcal{L}|}{\prod_{i=0}^{d-2} (q^{e+i} + 1)}.$$

Then following statements are equivalent:

# TYPE I

Type I:  $Q^-(2d+1, q)$ ,  $Q(4n, q)$ ,  $Q^+(4n+1, q)$ ,  $W(4n-1, q)$   
 and  $H(n, q^2)$ .

- For each fixed generator  $\pi$  of  $P$ , number of generators of  $\mathcal{L}$  disjoint from  $\pi$  equals

$$(x - (\chi)_\pi)q^{(d-1)(d-2)/2+e(d-1)}.$$

- The vector  $\chi - \frac{x}{q^{d-1}+1}j$  is contained in eigenspace of  $K$  for eigenvalue  $-q^{(d-1)(d-2)/2+e(d-1)}$ .  
 ( $K$  = generator disjointness matrix)
- $\chi \in \text{row}(A) (\Leftrightarrow \chi \in (\ker(A))^\perp)$ .



# TYPE I

Type I:  $Q^-(2d+1, q)$ ,  $Q(4n, q)$ ,  $Q^+(4n+1, q)$ ,  $W(4n-1, q)$   
and  $H(n, q^2)$ .

---

If  $P$  has spread  $S$ , then also following two equivalences:

- $|\mathcal{L} \cap S| = x$  for every spread  $S$  of  $P$ .
- $|\mathcal{L} \cap S| = x$  for every spread  $S \in C$  of  $P$ , with  $C$  class of spreads which is union of orbits under group acting transitively on pairs of disjoint generators of  $P$ .

## TYPE II

Type II:  $Q^+(2d-1, q)$ ,  $d$  even.

Similar definitions, but restrict to  $\mathcal{G}$ : one class of generators of  $\mathcal{Q}^+(2d-1, q)$ ,  $d$  even.

## TYPE III

Type III:  $Q(4n+2, q)$ , all  $q$ , and  $W(4n+1, q)$ ,  $q$  even.  
 Let  $P$  be finite classical polar space of type III, let  $B$  be incidence matrix of generators and hyperbolic classes of  $P$ . Then

$$\text{row}(B) = V_0 \perp V_1 \perp V_d.$$

## TYPE III

Type III:  $Q(4n+2, q)$ , all  $q$ , and  $W(4n+1, q)$ ,  $q$  even.

Let  $B$  be incidence matrix of generators and hyperbolic classes of  $P$ , let  $K$  be generator disjointness matrix of  $P$ .

Let  $\mathcal{L}$  be set of generators of  $P$  with characteristic vector  $\chi$  and let

$$\chi = \frac{|\mathcal{L}|}{\prod_{i=1}^{d-2} (q^i + 1)}.$$

Then following statements are equivalent:

## TYPE III

Type III:  $Q(4n + 2, q)$ , all  $q$ , and  $W(4n + 1, q)$ ,  $q$  even.

- For each fixed generator  $\pi$  of  $P$ , number of generators of  $\mathcal{L}$  disjoint from  $\pi$  equals

$$(x - (\chi)_\pi)q^{(d-1)(d-2)/2}.$$

- The vector  $\chi - \frac{x}{q^{d+1}}j$  is contained in eigenspace of  $K$  for eigenvalue  $-q^{d(d-1)/2}$ .
- $\chi \in \text{row}(B) (\Leftrightarrow \chi \in (\ker(B))^\perp)$ .

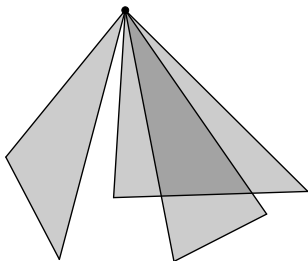
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- $|\mathcal{L} \cap S| = x$  for every spread  $S$  of  $P$ .
- $|\mathcal{L} \cap S| = x$  for every spread  $S \in C$  of  $P$ , with  $C$  class of spreads which is union of orbits under group acting transitively on pairs of disjoint generators of  $P$ .

## EXAMPLES OF CAMERON-LIEBLER SETS

All generators of  $P$  through fixed point (point-pencil = p.-p.) is  
Cameron-Liebler set with  $x = 1$ .



## EXAMPLES OF CAMERON-LIEBLER SETS

- **Partial ovoid** = set of points sharing at most one point with every generator.
- **Ovoid** = set of points sharing one point with every generator.
- Partial ovoid of size  $x$  defines Cameron-Liebler set with parameter  $x$ .



# CHARACTERIZATION THEOREMS

## THEOREM

*Let  $\mathcal{P}$  be finite classical polar space of type  $I$  of rank  $d$  with parameter  $e$ , and let  $\mathcal{L}$  be Cameron-Liebler set of  $\mathcal{P}$  with parameter  $x$ .*

*The number of elements of  $\mathcal{L}$  meeting a generator  $\pi$  in a  $(d - i - 1)$ -space equals*

$$\left( (x-1) \begin{bmatrix} d-1 \\ i-1 \end{bmatrix}_q + q^{i+e-1} \begin{bmatrix} d-1 \\ i \end{bmatrix}_q \right) q^{(i-1)(i-2)/2+(i-1)e}, \pi \in \mathcal{L}$$

$$x \begin{bmatrix} d-1 \\ i-1 \end{bmatrix}_q q^{(i-1)(i-2)/2+(i-1)e}, \pi \notin \mathcal{L}.$$

# CLASSIFICATION RESULTS

Type	Polar space	condition	classification
I	$\mathcal{Q}^-(2d+1, q)$	$x \leq q+1$	$x$ point-pencils or generators of $\mathcal{Q}(2d, q)$ ( $x = q+1$ )
I	$\mathcal{Q}(4n, q)$	$x \leq 2$	$x$ point-pencils or generators of $\mathcal{Q}^+(4n-1, q)$ ( $x = 2$ )
I	$\mathcal{Q}^+(4n+1, q)$	$x = 1$	point-pencil
I	$\mathcal{H}(2d-1, q^2)$	$x = 1$	point-pencil
I	$\mathcal{H}(2d, q^2)$	$x \leq q+1$	$x$ point-pencils or generators of $\mathcal{H}(2d-1, q^2)$ ( $x = q+1$ )
I	$\mathcal{W}(4n+3, q)$ , $q$ even	$x \leq 2$	$x$ point-pencils generators of $\mathcal{Q}^+(4n+3, q)$ ( $x = 2$ )
I	$\mathcal{W}(4n+3, q)$ , $q$ odd	$x \leq 2$	$x$ point-pencils
II	one class of $\mathcal{Q}^+(4n+3, q)$	$x = 1$	point-pencil
II	one class of $\mathcal{Q}^+(7, q)$ that admits a spread	$x \leq \frac{\sqrt{3}-1}{2}q$	$x$ point-pencils or $x$ base-solids
III	$\mathcal{Q}(4n+2, q)$ , $n \geq 2$	$x = 1$	point-pencil or hyperbolic class
III	$\mathcal{Q}(6, q)$	$x = 1$	point-pencil, hyperbolic class or base plane
III	$\mathcal{W}(4n+1, q)$ , $q$ even, $n \geq 2$	$x = 1$	point-pencil or hyperbolic class
III	$\mathcal{W}(5, q)$ , $q$ even	$x = 1$	point-pencil, hyperbolic class or base plane
	$\mathcal{W}(4n+1, q)$ , $n \geq 2$		no characterisation known

# CLASSIFICATION RESULTS

## THEOREM (DE BEULE AND DE BOECK)

*Let  $\mathcal{P}$  be finite classical polar space of rank  $d \geq 3$  and parameter  $e \geq 1$ , embedded in projective space over  $\mathbb{F}_q$  and let  $S$  be set of generators of  $\mathcal{P}$  such that*

- (I) *for every  $i = 0, \dots, d$ , number of elements of  $S$  meeting generator  $\pi$  in  $(d - i - 1)$ -space equals*

$$\begin{cases} \left( \binom{d-1}{i-1}_q + q^i \binom{d-1}{i}_q \right) q^{\binom{i-1}{2} + ie - 1} & \text{if } \pi \in S \\ (q^{e-1} + 1) \binom{d-1}{i-1}_q q^{\binom{i-1}{2} + (i-1)e} & \text{if } \pi \notin S \end{cases};$$

## CLASSIFICATION RESULTS

### THEOREM (DE BEULE AND DE BOECK)

- (II) *for every point  $P$  of  $\mathcal{P}$  there is generator  $\pi \notin S$  through  $P$ ;*
- (III) *for every point  $P$  of  $\mathcal{P}$  and every generator  $\pi \notin S$  through  $P$ , there are either  $(q^{e-1} + 1) \begin{bmatrix} d-2 \\ j \end{bmatrix}_q q^{\binom{j}{2} + je}$  generators of  $\mathcal{L}$  through  $P$  meeting  $\pi$  in  $(d-j-2)$ -space, for all  $j = 0, \dots, d-2$ , or there are no generators of  $\mathcal{L}$  through  $P$  meeting  $\pi$  in  $(d-j-2)$ -space, for all  $j = 0, \dots, d-2$ .*

*Then  $S$  is set of generators of classical polar space of rank  $d$  and with parameter  $e-1$  embedded in  $\mathcal{P}$ .*

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I	$\mathcal{H}(2d-1, q^2)$	$x = 1$	point-pencil
I	$\mathcal{H}(2d, q^2)$	$x \leq q+1$	$x$ point-pencils or generators of $\mathcal{H}(2d-1, q^2)$ ( $x = q+1$ )
I	$\mathcal{W}(4n+3, q)$ , $q$ even	$x \leq 2$	$x$ point-pencils generators of $\mathcal{Q}^+(4n+3, q)$ ( $x = 2$ )
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# OUTLINE

- 1 CAMERON-LIEBLER SETS IN FINITE PROJECTIVE SPACES
- 2 CAMERON-LIEBLER SETS IN FINITE CLASSICAL POLAR SPACES
- 3 CAMERON-LIEBLER SETS FOR ORDERED  $q$ -TUPLES

- $F_q^d$ : set of  $d$ -tuples over  $\{1, \dots, q\}$ .



$$x \sim_i y \Leftrightarrow d_H(x, y) = d - i.$$

( $x$  and  $y$  differ in  $i$  positions)

- **Spread:** set of  $q$   $d$ -tuples, pairwise at distance  $d$ .
- **Classical example:**

$$\begin{array}{ccc} 1 & \dots & 1 \\ \vdots & & \vdots \\ q & \dots & q \end{array}$$

# CAMERON-LIEBLER SETS FOR ORDERED $q$ -TUPLES

## DEFINITION

Cameron-Liebler set with parameter  $x$  in  $F_q^d$ : set of  $d$ -tuples sharing  $x$   $d$ -tuples with every spread.

**Classical example:**

$$\begin{array}{cccc} 1 & * & \cdots & * \\ \vdots & \vdots & \vdots & \vdots \\ X & * & \cdots & * \end{array}$$



# CAMERON-LIEBLER SETS FOR ORDERED $q$ -TUPLES

## THEOREM

*For every  $x$ , with  $1 \leq x \leq q$ , there exists Cameron-Liebler set with parameter  $x$  in  $F_q^d$ .*

*Up to equivalence, equivalent to*

$$\begin{array}{cccc} 1 & * & \cdots & * \\ \vdots & \vdots & \vdots & \vdots \\ x & * & \cdots & * \end{array}$$

Symmetry group of  $F_q^d$  implies: spread contains precisely  $x$  elements of Cameron-Liebler set with parameter  $x$ , so  $q - x$  elements of spread not in Cameron-Liebler set.

# CAMERON-LIEBLER SETS FOR ORDERED $q$ -TUPLES

## Proof:

- Up to equivalence:

$$\begin{array}{ccc} 1 & \cdots & 1 \\ \vdots & & \vdots \\ x & \cdots & x \end{array}$$

in Cameron-Liebler set with parameter  $x$ .

# CAMERON-LIEBLER SETS FOR ORDERED $q$ -TUPLES

Backward induction:

- Up to equivalence:

$$\begin{array}{cccc} 1 & \dots & 1 & * \\ \vdots & & \vdots & \vdots \\ x & \dots & x & * \end{array}$$

in Cameron-Liebler set with parameter  $x$  (by finding spread with  $q - x$  other elements not in Cameron-Liebler set).

# CAMERON-LIEBLER SETS FOR ORDERED $q$ -TUPLES

Backward induction:

- Up to equivalence:

$$\begin{array}{cccc} 1 & * & \cdots & * \\ \vdots & \vdots & \vdots & \vdots \\ X & * & \cdots & * \end{array}$$

in Cameron-Liebler set with parameter  $x$  (by finding spread with  $q - x$  other elements not in Cameron-Liebler set).

## OPEN PROBLEMS

- Modular equality for Cameron-Liebler  $k$ -sets in  $\text{PG}(2k + 1, q)$ ?
- Cameron-Liebler sets of generators in  $\mathcal{W}(4n + 1, q)$ ,  $n \geq 2$ ?
- Classification results for Cameron-Liebler sets with parameter  $x$  in finite classical polar spaces?
- Cameron-Liebler sets in other settings?

Thank you very much for your attention