

RECURSIONS ASSOCIATED TO TRAPEZOID, SYMMETRIC AND ROTATION SYMMETRIC FUNCTIONS OVER GALOIS FIELDS

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ABSTRACT. Rotation symmetric Boolean functions are invariant under circular translation of indices. These functions have very rich cryptographic properties and have been used in different cryptosystems. Recently, Thomas Cusick proved that exponential sums of rotation symmetric Boolean functions satisfy homogeneous linear recurrences with integer coefficients. In this work, a generalization of this result is proved over any Galois field. That is, exponential sums over Galois fields of rotation symmetric polynomials satisfy linear recurrences with integer coefficients. In the particular case of \mathbb{F}_2 , an elementary method is used to obtain explicit recurrences for exponential sums of some of these functions. The concept of trapezoid Boolean function is also introduced and it is showed that the linear recurrences that exponential sums of trapezoid Boolean functions satisfy are the same as the ones satisfied by exponential sums of the corresponding rotations symmetric Boolean functions. Finally, it is proved that exponential sums of trapezoid and symmetric polynomials also satisfy linear recurrences with integer coefficients over any Galois field \mathbb{F}_q . Moreover, the Discrete Fourier Transform matrix and some Complex Hadamard matrices appear as examples in some of our explicit formulas of these recurrences.

1. INTRODUCTION

A Boolean function is a function from the vector space \mathbb{F}_2^n to \mathbb{F}_2 . Boolean functions are part of a beautiful branch of combinatorics with applications to many scientific areas. Some particular examples are the areas of theory of error-correcting codes and cryptography. Efficient cryptographic implementations of Boolean functions with many variables is a challenging problem due to memory restrictions of current technology. Because of this, symmetric Boolean functions are good candidates for efficient implementations. However, symmetry is too special a property and may imply that these implementations are vulnerable to attacks.

In [19], Pieprzyk and Qu introduced rotation symmetric Boolean functions. As in the case of symmetric Boolean functions, these functions turned out to be good candidates for efficient implementations. However, Pieprzyk and Qu showed that these functions are useful in the design of fast hashing algorithms with strong cryptographic properties. This work sparked interest in these functions and today their study is an active area of research [3, 10, 12, 13, 14, 16, 21, 22].

In some applications related to cryptography it is important for Boolean functions to be balanced. A balanced Boolean function is one for which the number of zeros and the number of ones are equal in its truth table. Let $F(\mathbf{X})$ be a Boolean function. List the elements of \mathbb{F}_2^n in lexicographic order and label them as $\mathbf{x}_0 = (0, 0, \dots, 0)$, $\mathbf{x}_1 = (0, 0, \dots, 1)$ and so on. The vector $(F(\mathbf{x}_0), F(\mathbf{x}_1), \dots, F(\mathbf{x}_{2^n-1}))$ is called the *truth table* of F .

Balancedness of Boolean functions can be studied from the point of view of Hamming weights. The *Hamming weight* of F , denoted by $\text{wt}(F)$, is the number of 1's in the truth table of F . Observe that a Boolean function in n variables is balanced if and only if its Hamming weight is 2^{n-1} . The study of weights of rotations symmetric Boolean functions has received some attention lately [3, 10, 12, 21]. In particular, it has been observed that weights of cubic rotation symmetric Boolean functions are linear recursive with constant coefficients [3, 10]. Recently, Cusick [9] showed that weights of any rotation symmetric Boolean function satisfy linear recurrences with integer coefficients. In this work, we generalize this result to other characteristics.

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Balancedness of Boolean functions can also be linked to exponential sums. The *exponential sum* of an n -variable Boolean function $F(\mathbf{X})$ is defined as

$$(1.1) \quad S(F) = \sum_{\mathbf{x} \in \mathbb{F}_2^n} (-1)^{F(\mathbf{x})}.$$

Observe that a Boolean function $F(\mathbf{X})$ is balanced if and only if $S(F) = 0$. This gives importance to the study of exponential sums in this context. This point of view is also a very active area of research. For some examples, please refer to [1, 2, 5, 6, 7, 8, 15, 17, 18, 20].

Exponential sums over finite fields have been useful in mathematics since many problems can be formulated in terms of these sums. Some very well-known examples of exponential sums include the number-theoretical Gauss sums, Kloosterman sums, and Weyl sums. Our general goal is to better understand the behavior of exponential sums. We hope this will bring understanding to many problems in areas like analytic number theory.

The Hamming weight of a Boolean function F and its exponential sums are related by the equation

$$(1.2) \quad \text{wt}(F) = \frac{2^n - S(F)}{2}.$$

Equation (1.2) implies that exponential sums of rotation symmetric Boolean functions also satisfy linear recurrences with integer coefficients.

A natural question to ask is if Cusick's result holds true in the general setting of exponential sums over finite fields or if it is just a particular result for the Boolean case. One of the most important results in this work is a generalization of Cusick's result over any Galois field. To be specific, let $q = p^r$ with p prime and $r \geq 1$. Exponential sums over \mathbb{F}_q of monomial rotation symmetric polynomials (and linear combinations of them) satisfy homogeneous linear recurrences with integer coefficients. Remarkably, this can be proved by elementary means. Another important result included in this work is that exponential sums over \mathbb{F}_q of elementary symmetric polynomials and linear combinations of them also satisfy linear recurrences with integer coefficients. Surprisingly, the Discrete Fourier Transform matrix, some Complex Hadamard matrices and the quadratic Gauss sum mod p appear in the study of the recurrences considered in this work.

This article is divided as follows. The next section includes some preliminary definitions. Section 3 is an introduction to the elementary method used to obtain the recurrences. This introduction is done over \mathbb{F}_2 in order to solidify the intuition. The reader interested in the generalization is invited to skip this section, however, he or she is encouraged to read the definition of trapezoid functions, as they are used through out the article. In section 4, linear recurrences with integer coefficients are obtained for exponential sums trapezoid functions over Galois fields. Moreover, it is in this section where it is proved that exponential sums over \mathbb{F}_q of monomial rotation symmetric polynomials and linear combinations of them satisfy linear recurrences with integer coefficients. The same technique is used in the section 5 to prove that exponential sums over \mathbb{F}_q of elementary symmetric polynomials and linear combinations of them also satisfy linear recurrences with integer coefficients. Finally, in the last section, some conjectures about the initial conditions of some of the sequences considered in this work are presented.

2. PRELIMINARIES

As mentioned in the introduction, Pieprzyk and Qu ([19]) introduced rotation symmetric Boolean functions. A *rotation symmetric Boolean function* in n variables is a function which is invariant under the action of the cyclic group C_n on the set \mathbb{F}_2^n . Let us explain this definition in a more concrete way. Our explanation is similar to the one presented in [21].

Let $X_i \in \mathbb{F}_2$ for $1 \leq i \leq n$. Define, for $1 \leq k \leq n$, the shift function

$$(2.1) \quad E_n^k(X_i) = \begin{cases} X_{i+k} & \text{if } i+k \leq n, \\ X_{i+k-n} & \text{if } i+k > n. \end{cases}$$

Extend this definition to \mathbb{F}_2^n by defining

$$(2.2) \quad E_n^k(X_1, X_2, \dots, X_n) = (E_n^k(X_1), E_n^k(X_2), \dots, E_n^k(X_n)).$$

The shift function E_n^k can also be extended to monomials via

$$(2.3) \quad E_n^k(X_{i_1} X_{i_2} \cdots X_{i_t}) = E_n^k(X_{i_1}) E_n^k(X_{i_2}), \dots, E_n^k(X_{i_t}).$$

A Boolean function $F(\mathbf{X})$ in n variables is a rotation symmetric Boolean function if and only if for any $(X_1 \cdots, X_n) \in \mathbb{F}_2^n$,

$$(2.4) \quad F(E_n^k(X_1 \cdots, X_n)) = F(X_1 \cdots, X_n)$$

for every $1 \leq k \leq n$. Pieprzyk and Qu showed that these functions are useful in the design of fast hashing algorithms with strong cryptographic properties. This work sparked interest in these functions and today their study is an active area of research [3, 10, 12, 13, 14, 16, 21, 22].

Every Boolean function in n variables can be identified with a multi-variable Boolean polynomial. This polynomial is known as the algebraic normal form (ANF for short) of the Boolean function. The degree of a Boolean function $F(\mathbf{X})$ is the degree of its ANF. The ANF of a rotation symmetric Boolean function is very well-structured. For example, suppose we have a rotation symmetric Boolean function in 5 variables. Suppose that $X_1X_2X_3$ is part of the ANF of the function. Then, the terms

$$(2.5) \quad \begin{aligned} E_5^1(X_1X_2X_3) &= X_2X_3X_4 \\ E_5^2(X_1X_2X_3) &= X_3X_4X_5 \\ E_5^3(X_1X_2X_3) &= X_4X_5X_1 \\ E_5^4(X_1X_2X_3) &= X_5X_1X_2 \end{aligned}$$

are also part of its ANF. Similarly, suppose that X_1X_3 is also a term of the ANF. Then,

$$X_2X_4, X_3X_5, X_4X_1, X_5X_2$$

are also part of the ANF. An example of a rotation symmetric Boolean function with this property is given by

$$(2.6) \quad \begin{aligned} R(\mathbf{X}) &= X_1X_2X_3 + X_2X_3X_4 + X_3X_4X_5 + X_4X_5X_1 + X_5X_1X_2 + \\ &\quad X_1X_3 + X_2X_4 + X_3X_5 + X_4X_1 + X_5X_2. \end{aligned}$$

Therefore, once a monomial $X_{i_1} \cdots X_{i_t}$ is part of the ANF of a rotation symmetric Boolean function, so is $E_n^k(X_{i_1} \cdots X_{i_t})$ for all $1 \leq k \leq n$. This implies that the information encoded in the ANF of a rotation symmetric Boolean function can be obtained with minimal information. This minimal information is known in the literature as the *short algebraic normal form* (or SANF). Please refer to [21] for more details.

Let $1 < j_1 < \cdots < j_s$ be integers. A rotation symmetric Boolean function of the form

$$(2.7) \quad R_{j_1, \dots, j_s}(n) = X_1X_{j_1} \cdots X_{j_s} + X_2X_{j_1+1} \cdots X_{j_s+1} + \cdots + X_nX_{j_1-1} \cdots X_{j_s-1},$$

where the indices are taken modulo n and the complete system of residues is $\{1, 2, \dots, n\}$, is called a (*long cycle*) *monomial rotation symmetric* Boolean function. For example, the rotation symmetric Boolean function (2.6) is given by

$$(2.8) \quad R(\mathbf{X}) = R_{2,3}(5) + R_3(5).$$

Sometimes the notation $(1, j_1, \dots, j_s)_n$ is used to represent the monomial rotation Boolean function (2.7), see [9].

As mentioned in the introduction, in this work we generalize Cusick's result over any Galois field. In particular, we show that exponential sums over finite fields of rotation symmetric polynomials are linear recurrent with integer coefficients. The *exponential sum* of a function $F : \mathbb{F}_q^n \rightarrow \mathbb{F}_q$ is given by

$$(2.9) \quad S_{\mathbb{F}_q}(F) = \sum_{\mathbf{x} \in \mathbb{F}_q^n} e^{\frac{2\pi i}{p} \text{Tr}_{\mathbb{F}_q/\mathbb{F}_p}(F(\mathbf{x}))}.$$

Here, $\text{Tr}_{\mathbb{F}_q/\mathbb{F}_p}$ represents the *field trace function* from \mathbb{F}_q to \mathbb{F}_p .

Exponential sums are very rich objects in the area of analytic number theory. Some well-known examples of exponential sums are special cases of definition (2.9). For example, let p be a prime. If $F(X) = aX^2$ with $a \in \mathbb{F}_p$, then

$$(2.10) \quad S_{\mathbb{F}_p}(F) = \sum_{k=0}^{p-1} e^{2\pi i ak^2/p} = g(a; p),$$

where $g(a; p)$ represents the *quadratic Gauss sum mod p*. On the other hand, if $F(X) = aX$ with $a \in \mathbb{F}_p$, then

$$(2.11) \quad S_{\mathbb{F}_p}(F) = \sum_{k=0}^{p-1} e^{2\pi i a k / p} = 1 + c_p(a),$$

where $c_p(a)$ represents the *Ramanujan's sum*. Finally, if $q = p^r$ and $F(X) = X^d + aX$ where $\gcd(d, p^r - 1) = 1$ and $a \in \mathbb{F}_q$, then

$$(2.12) \quad S_{\mathbb{F}_q}(F) = \sum_{x \in \mathbb{F}_q} e^{\frac{2\pi i}{p} \text{Tr}_{\mathbb{F}_q/\mathbb{F}_p}(x^d + ax)} = W_{q,d}(a),$$

where $W_{q,d}(a)$ represents a *Weil sum*.

In the next section we provide an introduction to the elementary method used in this article to obtain linear recurrences for this type of exponential sums. As mentioned before, this introduction is done over \mathbb{F}_2 . The reader interested in the generalization is invited to skip this section and go directly to section 4.

3. LINEAR RECURRENCES OVER \mathbb{F}_2

As mentioned in the introduction, Cusick [9] recently showed that exponential sums of rotation symmetric Boolean functions satisfy homogeneous linear recurrences with integer coefficients. This fact was suggested by some previous works on the subject. For example, in [12], Cusick and Stănică provided a linear recursion for the sequence of weights for the monomial rotation function $(1, 2, 3)_n$. This recursion, however, was not homogeneous, but it could be transformed into a homogeneous one, see [3]. Later, Cusick and Johns [10] provided recursions for weights of cubic rotation symmetric Boolean functions.

In this section we use elementary machinery to provide explicit homogeneous linear recurrences with integer coefficients for exponential sums of some rotation symmetric Boolean functions. The idea is to show that exponential sums of rotation symmetric Boolean functions satisfy the same linear recurrences of exponential sums of trapezoid Boolean functions (see definition below). As just mentioned, we prove this fact using elementary machinery and, at this early stage, without the use linear algebra. In the next section we show that exponential sums of rotation symmetric functions over any Galois field satisfy linear recurrences. The reader interested in this generalization may skip this section, but not before reading the definition of trapezoid functions.

Define the *trapezoid* Boolean function in n variables of degree k as

$$(3.1) \quad \tau_{n,k} = \sum_{j=1}^{n-k+1} X_j X_{j+1} \cdots X_{j+k-1}.$$

For example,

$$\begin{aligned} \tau_{7,3} &= X_1 X_2 X_3 + X_2 X_3 X_4 + X_3 X_4 X_5 + X_4 X_5 X_6 + X_5 X_6 X_7 \\ \tau_{6,4} &= X_1 X_2 X_3 X_4 + X_2 X_3 X_4 X_5 + X_3 X_4 X_5 X_6. \end{aligned}$$

The name trapezoid comes from counting the number of times each variable appears in the function $\tau_{n,k}$. For example, consider $\tau_{7,3}$. Observe that X_1 appears 1 time in $\tau_{7,3}$, X_2 appears 2 times, X_3 , X_4 and X_5 appears 3 times each, X_6 appears twice, and X_7 appears once. Plotting the these values and connecting the dots produces the shape of an isosceles trapezoid. The opposite is also true, that is, for every isosceles trapezoid that can be constructed by steps of length at most 1, one can construct a trapezoid Boolean function.

It turns out that sequences of exponential sums of trapezoid Boolean functions of fixed degree satisfy homogeneous linear recurrences with integer coefficients. These linear recurrences are the same ones satisfied by sequences of exponential sums of $(1, 2, \dots, k)$ -rotation symmetric Boolean functions. Remarkably, this fact can be proved by elementary means by “playing” a simple game of turning *ON* and *OFF* some of the variables. Given a Boolean variable X_i , we say that it is turned *OFF* if X_i assumes the value 0 and turned *ON* if the variable assumes the value 1. In other words, each Boolean variable represents a “switch” with two options: 0 (*OFF*) and 1 (*ON*).

We start the discussion with the recurrence for exponential sums of trapezoid Boolean functions.

Theorem 3.1. *The sequence $\{S(\tau_{n,k})\}_{n=k}^{\infty}$ satisfies a homogeneous linear recurrence with integer coefficients whose characteristic polynomial is given by*

$$(3.2) \quad p_k(X) = X^k - 2(X^{k-2} + X^{k-3} + \cdots + X + 1).$$

Proof. For the sake of simplicity, we present, in detail, the proof for the cases $k = 3$ and $k = 4$. The general case becomes clear after that. Moreover, the complete proof of a generalization of this theorem over any Galois field is presented in section 4.

Start with the case $k = 3$. Observe that by turning X_n *OFF* and *ON* we get the identity

$$(3.3) \quad S(\tau_{n,3}) = S(\tau_{n-1,3}) + S(\tau_{n-1,3} + X_{n-2}X_{n-1}).$$

Consider now $S(\tau_{n-1,3} + X_{n-2}X_{n-1})$. Turn X_{n-1} *OFF* and *ON* to get

$$(3.4) \quad S(\tau_{n-1,3} + X_{n-2}X_{n-1}) = S(\tau_{n-2,3}) + S(\tau_{n-2,3} + X_{n-2} + X_{n-3}X_{n-2}).$$

Finally, turn X_{n-2} *OFF* and *ON* to get

$$(3.5) \quad S(\tau_{n-2,3} + X_{n-2} + X_{n-3}X_{n-2}) = S(\tau_{n-3,3}) - S(\tau_{n-3,3} + X_{n-3} + X_{n-4}X_{n-3}).$$

The last equation is equivalent (after relabeling) to

$$(3.6) \quad S(\tau_{n,3}) = S(\tau_{n+1,3} + X_{n+1} + X_nX_{n+1}) + S(\tau_{n,3} + X_n + X_{n-1}X_n).$$

Observe that equations (3.3) and (3.4) can be combined to obtain

$$(3.7) \quad S(\tau_{n,3}) = S(\tau_{n-1,3}) + S(\tau_{n-2,3}) + S(\tau_{n-2,3} + X_{n-2} + X_{n-3}X_{n-2}).$$

Let $a_{n,3} = S(\tau_{n,3} + X_n + X_{n-1}X_n)$. Note that (3.6) implies that $S(\tau_{n,3}) = a_{n+1,3} + a_{n,3}$. Therefore, (3.7) can be re-written as

$$(3.8) \quad (a_{n+1,3} + a_{n,3}) = (a_{n,3} + a_{n-1,3}) + (a_{n-1,3} + a_{n-2,3}) + a_{n-2,3},$$

which is equivalent to

$$(3.9) \quad a_{n+1,3} = 2a_{n-1,3} + 2a_{n-2,3}.$$

This implies that $\{a_{n,3}\}$ satisfies the linear recurrence whose characteristic polynomial is given by $p_3(X)$. Since $S(\tau_{n,3}) = a_{n+1,3} + a_{n,3}$, then $\{S(\tau_{n,3})\}$ also satisfies such recurrence and the result holds for $k = 3$.

Consider now the case when $k = 4$. As it was done in the case when $k = 3$, turning *OFF* and *ON* several variables leads to

$$(3.10) \quad \begin{aligned} S(\tau_{n,4}) &= S(\tau_{n-1,4}) + S(\tau_{n-2,4}) + S(\tau_{n-3,4}) \\ &\quad + S(\tau_{n-3,4} + X_{n-3} + X_{n-4}X_{n-3} + X_{n-5}X_{n-4}X_{n-3}) \end{aligned}$$

and

$$(3.11) \quad \begin{aligned} S(\tau_{n,4}) &= S(\tau_{n+1,4} + X_{n+1} + X_nX_{n+1} + X_{n-1}X_nX_{n+1}) \\ &\quad + S(\tau_{n,4} + X_n + X_{n-1}X_n + X_{n-2}X_{n-1}X_n). \end{aligned}$$

Now let $a_{n,4} = S(\tau_{n,4} + X_n + X_{n-1}X_n + X_{n-2}X_{n-1}X_n)$ and observe that (3.10) can be re-written as

$$(3.12) \quad (a_{n+1,4} + a_{n,4}) = (a_{n,4} + a_{n-1,4}) + (a_{n-1,4} + a_{n-2,4}) + (a_{n-2,4} + a_{n-3,4}) + a_{n-3,4},$$

which is equivalent to

$$(3.13) \quad a_{n+1,4} = 2a_{n-1,4} + 2a_{n-2,4} + 2a_{n-3,4}.$$

Therefore, $\{a_{n,4}\}$ satisfies the linear recurrence whose characteristic polynomial is given by $p_4(X)$. Since $S(\tau_{n,4}) = a_{n+1,4} + a_{n,4}$, then $\{S(\tau_{n,4})\}$ also satisfies such recurrence and the result also holds for $k = 4$.

In general, $S(\tau_{n,k})$ can be expressed as

$$(3.14) \quad S(\tau_{n,k}) = \sum_{i=1}^{k-1} S(\tau_{n-i,k}) + S\left(\tau_{n-k+1,k} + \sum_{j=0}^{k-2} \prod_{i=0}^j X_{n-k+1-i}\right)$$

and as

$$(3.15) \quad S(\tau_{n,k}) = S\left(\tau_{n+1,k} + \sum_{j=0}^{k-2} \prod_{i=0}^j X_{n+1-i}\right) + S\left(\tau_{n,k} + \sum_{j=0}^{k-2} \prod_{i=0}^j X_{n-i}\right).$$

Combine these equations and proceed as before to obtain the result. This concludes the proof. \square

It turns out that the sequence of exponential sums of $(1, 2, \dots, k)$ -rotation symmetric Boolean functions, that is, of $R_{2,3,\dots,k}(n)$, also satisfies the linear recurrence whose characteristic polynomial is given $p_k(X)$. This is a well-known result for the case when $k = 3$ ([3, 10]), but, to the knowledge of the authors, the closed formula for the general case is new. Before proving that $\{S(R_{2,3,\dots,k}(n))\}$ satisfies the linear recurrence with characteristic polynomial $p_k(X)$, we show an auxiliary result which can be proved using the same arguments as in the proof of Theorem 3.1.

Lemma 3.2. *Let $\tau_{n,k}$ be the trapezoid Boolean function of degree k in n variables. Suppose that $F(\mathbf{X})$ is a Boolean polynomial in the first j variables with $j < k$. Then, the sequences*

$$\{S(\tau_{n,k} + F(\mathbf{X}))\}$$

and

$$\{S(\tau_{n,k} + F(\mathbf{X}) + X_n + X_n X_{n-1} + X_n X_{n-1} X_{n-2} + \dots + X_n X_{n-1} \dots X_{n-k+2})\}$$

satisfies the linear recurrence whose characteristic polynomial is given by $p_k(X)$.

Proof. The proof of this result follows the same argument of the proof of Theorem 3.1. \square

Theorem 3.1 and Lemma 3.2 is all that is needed to show that the sequence of exponential sums of $(1, 2, \dots, k)$ -rotation symmetric Boolean functions satisfies the linear recurrence with characteristic polynomial $p_k(X)$.

Theorem 3.3. *The sequence $\{S(R_{2,3,\dots,k}(n))\}$ satisfies the homogeneous linear recurrence whose characteristic polynomial is given by $p_k(X)$.*

Proof. This result can also be proved by turning *OFF* and *ON* several variables. As before, we provide the proof for the case when $k = 4$. The general case follows the same argument.

To start the argument, turn *OFF* and *ON* the variable X_n to get

$$(3.16) \quad S(R_{2,3,4}(n)) = S(\tau_{n-1,4}) + S(\tau_{n-1,4} + X_1 X_2 X_3 + X_1 X_2 X_{n-1} + X_1 X_{n-2} X_{n-1}).$$

Consider the second term of the right hand side of this equation. Turn X_{n-1} *OFF* and *ON* to get

$$(3.17) \quad \begin{aligned} S(\tau_{n-1,4} + X_1 X_2 X_3 + X_1 X_2 X_{n-1} + X_1 X_{n-2} X_{n-1}) \\ = S(\tau_{n-2,4} + X_1 X_2 X_3) \\ + S(\tau_{n-2,4} + X_1 X_2 + X_1 X_2 X_3 + X_1 X_{n-2} + X_{n-3} X_{n-2} + X_{n-4} X_{n-3} X_{n-2}). \end{aligned}$$

Again, consider the second term of the right hand side of equation (3.17). Turn X_{n-2} *OFF* and *ON* to get

$$(3.18) \quad \begin{aligned} S(\tau_{n-2,4} + X_1 X_2 + X_1 X_2 X_3 + X_1 X_{n-2} + X_{n-3} X_{n-2} + X_{n-4} X_{n-3} X_{n-2}) \\ = S(\tau_{n-3,4} + X_1 X_2 + X_1 X_2 X_3) \\ + S(\tau_{n-3,4} + X_1 + X_1 X_2 + X_1 X_2 X_3 + X_{n-3} + X_{n-4} X_{n-3} + X_{n-5} X_{n-4} X_{n-3}). \end{aligned}$$

Equations (3.16), (3.17) and (3.18) lead to the equation

$$(3.19) \quad \begin{aligned} S(R_{2,3,4}(n)) = S(\tau_{n-1,4}) + S(\tau_{n-2,4} + X_1 X_2 X_3) + S(\tau_{n-3,4} + X_1 X_2 + X_1 X_2 X_3) \\ + S(\tau_{n-3,4} + X_1 + X_1 X_2 + X_1 X_2 X_3 + X_{n-3} + X_{n-4} X_{n-3} + X_{n-5} X_{n-4} X_{n-3}). \end{aligned}$$

Theorem 3.1 and Lemma 3.2 imply that $\{S(\tau_{n-1,4})\}$, $\{S(\tau_{n-2,4} + X_1 X_2 X_3)\}$, $\{S(\tau_{n-3,4} + X_1 X_2 + X_1 X_2 X_3)\}$ and

$$\{S(\tau_{n-3,4} + X_1 + X_1 X_2 + X_1 X_2 X_3 + X_{n-3} + X_{n-4} X_{n-3} + X_{n-5} X_{n-4} X_{n-3})\}$$

satisfy the linear recurrence whose characteristic polynomial $p_4(X)$. Since $\{S(R_{2,3,4}(n))\}$ is a linear combination of them, then the result holds when $k = 4$.

In general, $S(R_{2,3,\dots,k}(n))$ can be expressed as

$$(3.20) \quad \begin{aligned} S(R_{2,3,\dots,k}(n)) = & S(\tau_{n-1,k}) + \sum_{m=0}^{k-3} S\left(\tau_{n-2-m,k} + \sum_{j=0}^m \prod_{i=1}^{k-1-j} X_i\right) \\ & + S\left(\tau_{n-k+1,k} + \sum_{j=1}^{k-1} \left(\prod_{i=1}^j X_i + \prod_{i=0}^{j-1} X_{n-k+1-i}\right)\right) \end{aligned}$$

Invoke Theorem 3.1 and Lemma 3.2 to get the result. This concludes the proof. \square

The same technique can be applied to find linear recurrences of exponential sums other rotations. Recall that

$$(3.21) \quad R_{j_1,\dots,j_s}(n) = X_1 X_{j_1} \cdots X_{j_s} + X_2 X_{j_1+1} \cdots X_{j_s+1} + \cdots + X_n X_{j_1-1} \cdots X_{j_s-1},$$

where the indices are taken modulo n and the complete system of residues is $\{1, 2, \dots, n\}$. We define the equivalent of the trapezoid Boolean function for $R_{j_1,\dots,j_s}(n)$ as

$$(3.22) \quad T_{j_1,\dots,j_s}(n) = X_1 X_{j_1} \cdots X_{j_s} + X_2 X_{j_1+1} \cdots X_{j_s+1} + \cdots + X_{n+1-j_s} X_{j_1+n-j_s} \cdots X_{j_{s-1}+n-j_s} X_n.$$

For instance, under this notation one has

$$(3.23) \quad \tau_{n,k} = T_{2,3,\dots,k}(n).$$

It turns out that for $k \geq 4$, the sequences $\{S(R_{2,3,\dots,k-2,k}(n))\}$ and $\{S(R_{2,3,\dots,k-2,k+1}(n))\}$ both satisfy the linear recurrence whose characteristic polynomial is

$$(3.24) \quad q_k(X) = X^{k+1} - 2X^{k-1} - 2X^{k-2} - \cdots - 2X^3 - 4.$$

As just mentioned, this can be proved by playing a game of turning *ON* and *OFF* some variables. However, the process becomes somewhat tedious at a very early stage.

Other examples on which this elementary method can be used to find explicit formulas for linear recurrences include the sequence

$$(3.25) \quad \{S(R_{2,3,\dots,k}(n) + R_{2,3,\dots,k-1}(n))\},$$

which satisfies the linear recurrence with characteristic polynomial

$$(3.26) \quad X^k - 2X^{k-1} + 2,$$

the sequence

$$(3.27) \quad \{S(R_{2,3,\dots,k-1,k}(n) + R_{2,3,\dots,k-2,k}(n))\},$$

which satisfies the linear recurrence with characteristic polynomial

$$(3.28) \quad X^k - 2X^{k-1} + 2X - 2,$$

and the sequence

$$(3.29) \quad \{S(R_{2,3,\dots,k-2,k}(n) + R_{2,3,\dots,k-1}(n) + R_{2,3,\dots,k}(n))\},$$

which satisfies the linear recurrence with characteristic polynomial

$$(3.30) \quad X^k - 2(X^{k-2} + X^{k-3} + \cdots + X^2 + 1).$$

However, the process is somewhat tedious to be done by hand. Automatization seems to be the way to go. The reader is invited to read Cusick's work [9], which includes a *Mathematica* code that calculates a linear recurrences for the weights of a given rotation.

4. LINEAR RECURRENCES OVER \mathbb{F}_q

In this section we show that Cusick's result is not unique to the Boolean case. In fact, exponential sums over finite fields of rotation polynomials satisfy linear recurrences with constant coefficients. This is a generalization of Cusick's result.

Consider the Galois field $\mathbb{F}_q = \{0, \alpha_1, \dots, \alpha_{q-1}\}$ where $q = p^r$ with p prime and $r \geq 1$. The recall that the exponential sum of a function $F : \mathbb{F}_q^n \rightarrow \mathbb{F}_q$ is given by

$$(4.1) \quad S_{\mathbb{F}_q}(F) = \sum_{\mathbf{x} \in \mathbb{F}_q^n} e^{\frac{2\pi i}{p} \text{Tr}_{\mathbb{F}_q/\mathbb{F}_p}(F(\mathbf{x}))},$$

where $\text{Tr}_{\mathbb{F}_q/\mathbb{F}_p}$ represents the field trace function from \mathbb{F}_q to \mathbb{F}_p . The same technique used for exponential sums of Boolean functions can be used in general. However, instead of having two options for the “switch”, we now have q of them. Let X be a variable which takes values on \mathbb{F}_q . As before, we say that the variable X can be turned *OFF* or *ON*, however, this time the term “turn *OFF*” means that X assumes the value 0, while the term “turn *ON*” means that X assumes all values in \mathbb{F}_q that are different from zero. Think of this situation as a light switch on which you have the option to turn *OFF* the light and the option to turn it *ON* to one of $q - 1$ different colors.

We consider first sequences of exponential sums of trapezoid functions. As in the Boolean case, they satisfy linear recurrences with integer coefficients over any Galois field \mathbb{F}_q . We start with the following lemma, which is interesting in its own right.

Lemma 4.1. *Let k, n and j be integers with $k > 2$, $1 \leq j < k$ and $n \geq k$. Then,*

$$(4.2) \quad S_{\mathbb{F}_q} \left(T_{2,3,\dots,k}(n) + \sum_{s=1}^j \beta_s \prod_{l=0}^{k-s-1} X_{n-l} \right) = S_{\mathbb{F}_q} \left(T_{2,3,\dots,k}(n) + \sum_{s=1}^j \prod_{l=0}^{k-s-1} X_{n-l} \right)$$

for any choice of $\beta_s \in \mathbb{F}_q^\times$.

Proof. The proof is by induction on n . Suppose first that $n = k$. Observe that

$$(4.3) \quad \begin{aligned} T_{2,3,\dots,k}(k) + \sum_{s=1}^j \beta_s \prod_{l=0}^{k-s-1} X_{k-l} &= X_1 X_2 \cdots X_k + \beta_j X_{j+1} X_{j+2} \cdots X_k + \beta_{j-1} X_j X_{j+1} \cdots X_k \\ &\quad + \cdots + \beta_2 X_3 X_4 \cdots X_k + \beta_1 X_2 X_3 \cdots X_k. \end{aligned}$$

Consider the right hand side of (4.3). If $1 \leq j \leq k - 2$, then make the changes of variables

$$\begin{aligned} X_t &= Y_t, \quad \text{for } j+2 \leq t \leq k \\ X_{j+1} &= \beta_j^{-1} Y_{j+1} \\ X_t &= \beta_{t-1}^{-1} \beta_t Y_t, \quad \text{for } 2 \leq t \leq j \\ X_1 &= \beta_1 Y_1. \end{aligned}$$

On the other hand, if $j = k - 1$, then make the change of variables

$$\begin{aligned} X_k &= \beta_{k-1}^{-1} Y_k \\ X_t &= \beta_{t-1}^{-1} \beta_t Y_t, \quad \text{for } 2 \leq t \leq k-1 \\ X_1 &= \beta_1 Y_1. \end{aligned}$$

This transforms (4.3) into

$$(4.4) \quad Y_1 Y_2 \cdots Y_k + \sum_{s=1}^j \prod_{l=0}^{k-s-1} Y_{k-l}.$$

Therefore,

$$(4.5) \quad S_{\mathbb{F}_q} \left(T_{2,3,\dots,k}(k) + \sum_{s=1}^j \beta_s \prod_{l=0}^{k-s-1} X_{k-l} \right) = S_{\mathbb{F}_q} \left(T_{2,3,\dots,k}(k) + \sum_{s=1}^j \prod_{l=0}^{k-s-1} X_{k-l} \right).$$

This concludes the base case.

Suppose now that for some $n \geq k$ we have

$$(4.6) \quad S_{\mathbb{F}_q} \left(T_{2,3,\dots,k}(n) + \sum_{s=1}^j \beta_s \prod_{l=0}^{k-s-1} X_{n-l} \right) = S_{\mathbb{F}_q} \left(T_{2,3,\dots,k}(n) + \sum_{s=1}^j \prod_{l=0}^{k-s-1} X_{n-l} \right).$$

Consider

$$(4.7) \quad S_{\mathbb{F}_q} \left(T_{2,3,\dots,k}(n+1) + \sum_{s=1}^j \beta_s \prod_{l=0}^{k-s-1} X_{n+1-l} \right).$$

Suppose first that $1 \leq j \leq k-2$. Letting X_{n+1} run over every element of the field leads to

$$(4.8) \quad \begin{aligned} S_{\mathbb{F}_q} \left(T_{2,3,\dots,k}(n+1) + \sum_{s=1}^j \beta_s \prod_{l=0}^{k-s-1} X_{n+1-l} \right) &= S_{\mathbb{F}_q} (T_{2,3,\dots,k}(n)) \\ &+ \sum_{\alpha \in \mathbb{F}_q^\times} S_{\mathbb{F}_q} \left(T_{2,3,\dots,k}(n) + \sum_{s=1}^{j+1} \gamma_s(\alpha) \prod_{l=0}^{k-s-1} X_{n-l} \right), \end{aligned}$$

where $\gamma_1(\alpha) = \alpha$ and $\gamma_s(\alpha) = \alpha\beta_{s-1}$. By induction

$$(4.9) \quad S_{\mathbb{F}_q} \left(T_{2,3,\dots,k}(n) + \sum_{s=1}^{j+1} \gamma_s(\alpha) \prod_{l=0}^{k-s-1} X_{n-l} \right) = S_{\mathbb{F}_q} \left(T_{2,3,\dots,k}(n) + \sum_{s=1}^{j+1} \prod_{l=0}^{k-s-1} X_{n-l} \right).$$

Therefore,

$$(4.10) \quad \begin{aligned} S_{\mathbb{F}_q} \left(T_{2,3,\dots,k}(n+1) + \sum_{s=1}^j \beta_s \prod_{l=0}^{k-s-1} X_{n+1-l} \right) &= S_{\mathbb{F}_q} (T_{2,3,\dots,k}(n)) \\ &+ \sum_{\alpha \in \mathbb{F}_q^\times} S_{\mathbb{F}_q} \left(T_{2,3,\dots,k}(n) + \sum_{s=1}^{j+1} \prod_{l=0}^{k-s-1} X_{n-l} \right). \end{aligned}$$

However, (4.10) does not depend on the choice of the β_t 's. It follows that

$$S_{\mathbb{F}_q} \left(T_{2,3,\dots,k}(n+1) + \sum_{s=1}^j \beta_s \prod_{l=0}^{k-s-1} X_{n+1-l} \right) = S_{\mathbb{F}_q} \left(T_{2,3,\dots,k}(n+1) + \sum_{s=1}^j \prod_{l=0}^{k-s-1} X_{n+1-l} \right)$$

is true for $1 \leq j \leq k-2$.

Consider now the case $j = k-1$. Again, letting X_{n+1} run over every element of the field leads to

$$(4.11) \quad \begin{aligned} S_{\mathbb{F}_q} (T_{2,3,\dots,k}(n+1) + \sum_{s=1}^{k-1} \beta_s \prod_{l=0}^{k-s-1} X_{n+1-l}) &= S_{\mathbb{F}_q} (T_{2,3,\dots,k}(n)) \\ &+ \sum_{\alpha \in \mathbb{F}_q^\times} e^{\frac{2\pi i}{p} \text{Tr}_{\mathbb{F}_q/\mathbb{F}_p}(\alpha\beta_{k-1})} S_{\mathbb{F}_q} \left(T_{2,3,\dots,k}(n) + \sum_{s=1}^{k-1} \gamma_s(\alpha) \prod_{l=0}^{k-s-1} X_{n-l} \right), \end{aligned}$$

where $\gamma_1(\alpha) = \alpha$ and $\gamma_s(\alpha) = \alpha\beta_{s-1}$. However, by induction

$$(4.12) \quad S_{\mathbb{F}_q} \left(T_{2,3,\dots,k}(n) + \sum_{s=1}^{k-1} \gamma_s(\alpha) \prod_{l=0}^{k-s-1} X_{n-l} \right) = S_{\mathbb{F}_q} \left(T_{2,3,\dots,k}(n) + \sum_{s=1}^{j+1} \prod_{l=0}^{k-s-1} X_{n-l} \right).$$

Since

$$(4.13) \quad \sum_{\alpha \in \mathbb{F}_q^\times} e^{\frac{2\pi i}{p} \text{Tr}_{\mathbb{F}_q/\mathbb{F}_p}(\alpha\beta_{k-1})} = -1,$$

then it follows that

$$(4.14) \quad S_{\mathbb{F}_q} \left(T_{2,3,\dots,k}(n+1) + \sum_{s=1}^{k-1} \beta_s \prod_{l=0}^{k-s-1} X_{n+1-l} \right) = S_{\mathbb{F}_q} (T_{2,3,\dots,k}(n)) - \sum_{\alpha \in \mathbb{F}_q^\times} S_{\mathbb{F}_q} \left(T_{2,3,\dots,k}(n) + \sum_{s=1}^{k-1} \prod_{l=0}^{k-s-1} X_{n-l} \right).$$

Since (4.10) does not depend on the choice of the β_t 's, then it follows that

$$S_{\mathbb{F}_q} \left(T_{2,3,\dots,k}(n+1) + \sum_{s=1}^{k-1} \beta_s \prod_{l=0}^{k-s-1} X_{n+1-l} \right) = S_{\mathbb{F}_q} \left(T_{2,3,\dots,k}(n+1) + \sum_{s=1}^{k-1} \prod_{l=0}^{k-s-1} X_{n+1-l} \right)$$

is true. This completes the induction and the proof. \square

Next is the linear recurrence for exponential sums of trapezoid functions over any Galois field.

Theorem 4.2. *Let $k \geq 2$ be an integer and $q = p^r$ with p prime. The sequence $\{S_{\mathbb{F}_q}(T_{2,3,\dots,k}(n))\}_{n=k}^\infty$ satisfies a homogeneous linear recurrence with integer coefficients whose characteristic polynomial is given by*

$$(4.15) \quad Q_{T,k,\mathbb{F}_q}(X) = X^k - q \sum_{l=0}^{k-2} (q-1)^l X^{k-2-l}.$$

In particular, when $q = 2$ we recover Theorem 3.1.

Proof. We present the proof for $k > 2$. The case $k = 2$ can be proved using similar techniques. Start by turning X_n OFF and ON, that is, by letting X_n assume all its possible values. This produces the identity

$$(4.16) \quad S_{\mathbb{F}_q}(T_{2,3,\dots,k}(n)) = S_{\mathbb{F}_q}(T_{2,3,\dots,k}(n-1)) + \sum_{\beta \in \mathbb{F}_q^\times} S_{\mathbb{F}_q} \left(T_{2,3,\dots,k}(n-1) + \beta \prod_{j=1}^{k-1} X_{n-j} \right)$$

However, Lemma 4.1 implies

$$(4.17) \quad S_{\mathbb{F}_q} \left(T_{2,3,\dots,k}(n-1) + \beta \prod_{j=1}^{k-1} X_{n-j} \right) = S_{\mathbb{F}_q} \left(T_{2,3,\dots,k}(n-1) + \prod_{j=1}^{k-1} X_{n-j} \right)$$

for every $\beta \in \mathbb{F}_q^\times$. Therefore, (4.16) reduces to

$$(4.18) \quad S_{\mathbb{F}_q}(T_{2,3,\dots,k}(n)) = S_{\mathbb{F}_q}(T_{2,3,\dots,k}(n-1)) + (q-1) S_{\mathbb{F}_q} \left(T_{2,3,\dots,k}(n-1) + \prod_{j=1}^{k-1} X_{n-j} \right)$$

Consider now $S_{\mathbb{F}_q} \left(T_{2,3,\dots,k}(n-1) + \prod_{j=1}^{k-1} X_{n-j} \right)$. Let X_{n-1} assume all its possible values and use the same argument as before to get

$$(4.19) \quad S_{\mathbb{F}_q} \left(T_{2,3,\dots,k}(n-1) + \prod_{j=1}^{k-1} X_{n-j} \right) = S_{\mathbb{F}_p}(T_{2,3,\dots,k}(n-2)) + (q-1) S_{\mathbb{F}_q} \left(T_{2,3,\dots,k}(n-2) + \prod_{j=1}^{k-2} X_{n-1-j} + \prod_{j=1}^{k-1} X_{n-1-j} \right)$$

Thus, (4.18) reduces to

$$(4.20) \quad S_{\mathbb{F}_q}(T_{2,3,\dots,k}(n)) = S_{\mathbb{F}_q}(T_{2,3,\dots,k}(n-1)) + (q-1) S_{\mathbb{F}_q}(T_{2,3,\dots,k}(n-2)) + (q-1)^2 S_{\mathbb{F}_q} \left(T_{2,3,\dots,k}(n-2) + \prod_{j=1}^{k-2} X_{n-1-j} + \prod_{j=1}^{k-1} X_{n-1-j} \right).$$

Continue in this manner to get the following equation

$$(4.21) \quad S_{\mathbb{F}_q}(T_{2,3,\dots,k}(n)) = \sum_{l=1}^{k-1} (q-1)^{l-1} S_{\mathbb{F}_q}(T_{2,3,\dots,k}(n-l)) \\ + (q-1)^{k-1} S_{\mathbb{F}_q} \left(T_{2,3,\dots,k}(n-k+1) + \sum_{j=0}^{k-2} \prod_{l=0}^j X_{n-k+1-l} \right).$$

On the other hand, let X_{n+1} assume all its possible values and use Lemma 4.1 to get the equation

$$(4.22) \quad S_{\mathbb{F}_q} \left(T_{2,3,\dots,k}(n+1) + \sum_{j=0}^{k-2} \prod_{l=0}^j X_{n+1-l} \right) = S_{\mathbb{F}_q}(T_{2,3,\dots,k}(n)) \\ + e^{\frac{2\pi i}{p} \text{Tr}_{\mathbb{F}_q/\mathbb{F}_p}(\alpha_1)} S_{\mathbb{F}_q} \left(T_{2,3,\dots,k}(n) + \sum_{j=0}^{k-2} \prod_{l=0}^j X_{n-l} \right) \\ + e^{\frac{2\pi i}{p} \text{Tr}_{\mathbb{F}_q/\mathbb{F}_p}(\alpha_2)} S_{\mathbb{F}_q} \left(T_{2,3,\dots,k}(n) + \sum_{j=0}^{k-2} \prod_{l=0}^j X_{n-l} \right) \\ + e^{\frac{2\pi i}{p} \text{Tr}_{\mathbb{F}_q/\mathbb{F}_p}(\alpha_3)} S_{\mathbb{F}_q} \left(T_{2,3,\dots,k}(n) + \sum_{j=0}^{k-2} \prod_{l=0}^j X_{n-l} \right) \\ \vdots \\ + e^{\frac{2\pi i}{p} \text{Tr}_{\mathbb{F}_q/\mathbb{F}_p}(\alpha_{q-1})} S_{\mathbb{F}_q} \left(T_{2,3,\dots,k}(n) + \sum_{j=0}^{k-2} \prod_{l=0}^j X_{n-l} \right).$$

Now use the well-known formula

$$(4.23) \quad \sum_{\beta \in \mathbb{F}_q^\times} e^{\frac{2\pi i}{p} \text{Tr}_{\mathbb{F}_q/\mathbb{F}_p}(\beta)} = -1.$$

to reduce (4.22) to

$$(4.24) \quad S_{\mathbb{F}_q} \left(T_{2,3,\dots,k}(n+1) + \sum_{j=0}^{k-2} \prod_{l=0}^j X_{n+1-l} \right) = S_{\mathbb{F}_q}(T_{2,3,\dots,k}(n)) \\ - S_{\mathbb{F}_q} \left(T_{2,3,\dots,k}(n) + \sum_{j=0}^{k-2} \prod_{l=0}^j X_{n-l} \right).$$

This last equation is equivalent to

$$(4.25) \quad S_{\mathbb{F}_q}(T_{2,3,\dots,k}(n)) = S_{\mathbb{F}_q} \left(T_{2,3,\dots,k}(n+1) + \sum_{j=0}^{k-2} \prod_{l=0}^j X_{n+1-l} \right) \\ + S_{\mathbb{F}_q} \left(T_{2,3,\dots,k}(n) + \sum_{j=0}^{k-2} \prod_{l=0}^j X_{n-l} \right).$$

Let $a_n = S_{\mathbb{F}_q} \left(T_{2,3,\dots,k}(n) + \sum_{j=0}^{k-2} \prod_{l=0}^j X_{n-l} \right)$. Then,

$$(4.26) \quad S_{\mathbb{F}_q}(T_{2,3,\dots,k}(n)) = a_{n+1} + a_n$$

and equation (4.21) is now

$$(4.27) \quad (a_{n+1} + a_n) = \sum_{l=1}^{k-1} (q-1)^{l-1} (a_{n+1-l} + a_{n-l}) + (q-1)^{k-1} a_{n-k+1}.$$

The last equation reduces to

$$(4.28) \quad a_{n+1} = \sum_{l=0}^{k-2} q(q-1)^l a_{n-1-l}$$

This concludes the proof. \square

The polynomial $Q_{T,k,\mathbb{F}_q}(X)$ is quite interesting. In particular, it seems to be irreducible for $k > 2$ and every $q = p^r$ with p prime. The irreducibility of $Q_{T,k,\mathbb{F}_q}(X)$ when $\gcd(k, r) = 1$ is a consequence of Eisenstein-Dumas criterion.

Theorem 4.3 (Eisenstein-Dumas criterion). *Let $f(x) = a_n x^n + a_{n-1} x^{n-1} + \cdots + a_1 x + a_0 \in \mathbb{Z}[x]$ be a polynomial. Let p be a prime. Denote the p -adic valuation of an integer m by $\nu_p(m)$ (with $\nu_p(0) = +\infty$). Suppose that*

- (1) $\nu_p(a_n) = 0$,
- (2) $\nu_p(a_{n-i})/i > \nu_p(a_0)/n$ for $1 \leq i \leq n-1$, and
- (3) $\gcd(\nu_p(a_0), n) = 1$.

Then, $f(x)$ is irreducible over \mathbb{Q} .

Proposition 4.4. *Let $q = p^r$ with p prime. Suppose that $\gcd(k, r) = 1$. Then, the polynomial*

$$(4.29) \quad Q_{T,k,\mathbb{F}_q}(X) = X^k - q \sum_{l=0}^{k-2} (q-1)^l X^{k-2-l}$$

is irreducible over \mathbb{Q} .

Proof. This is a direct consequence of Eisenstein-Dumas criterion. \square

Exponential sums over \mathbb{F}_q of rotation functions also satisfy homogeneous linear recurrences. However, in general, these linear recurrences have higher order than the homogeneous linear recurrences satisfied by exponential sums of trapezoid functions. In other words, the identity observed over \mathbb{F}_2 between the linear recurrences of exponential sums of trapezoid Boolean functions and rotation symmetric Boolean functions is lost over \mathbb{F}_q . For example, if we consider the monomial rotation

$$(4.30) \quad R_2(n) = X_1 X_2 + X_2 X_3 + \cdots + X_{n-1} X_n + X_n X_1,$$

then we have the following result.

Theorem 4.5. *Suppose that $p > 2$ is prime. Then, $\{S_{\mathbb{F}_p}(R_2(n))\}$ satisfy the homogeneous linear recurrence with characteristic polynomial*

$$(4.31) \quad Q_{R_2, \mathbb{F}_p}(X) = X^4 - p^2.$$

Proof. This is the first result for which its proof relies on linear algebra. Turn X_n and X_{n-1} OFF and ON, that is, let them assume all values in \mathbb{F}_p , and use the identity

$$(4.32) \quad S_{\mathbb{F}_p}(T_2(n) + \beta X_n) = S_{\mathbb{F}_p}(T_2(n) + X_n), \text{ for } \beta \in \mathbb{F}_p^\times$$

to get the equation

$$(4.33) \quad \begin{aligned} S_{\mathbb{F}_p}(R_2(n)) &= S_{\mathbb{F}_p}(T_2(n-2)) + (p-1)S_{\mathbb{F}_p}(T_2(n-2) + X_{n-2}) \\ &\quad + \sum_{\alpha \in \mathbb{F}_p^\times} \sum_{\beta \in \mathbb{F}_p} e^{\frac{2\pi i}{p}\alpha\beta} S_{\mathbb{F}_p}(T_2(n-2) + \alpha X_1 + \beta X_{n-2}), \end{aligned}$$

Let

$$(4.34) \quad \begin{aligned} a_0(n) &= S_{\mathbb{F}_p}(T_2(n)) \\ a_1(n) &= S_{\mathbb{F}_p}(T_2(n) + X_n) \\ b_{\alpha,\beta}(n) &= S_{\mathbb{F}_p}(T_2(n) + \alpha X_1 + \beta X_n) \text{ for } \alpha \in \mathbb{F}_p^\times, \beta \in \mathbb{F}_p. \end{aligned}$$

Then,

$$(4.35) \quad S_{\mathbb{F}_p}(R_2(n)) = a_0(n-2) + (p-1)a_1(n-2) + \sum_{\alpha \in \mathbb{F}_p^\times} \sum_{\beta \in \mathbb{F}_p} e^{\frac{2\pi i}{p}\alpha\beta} b_{\alpha,\beta}(n-2).$$

Observe that

$$(4.36) \quad \begin{aligned} a_0(n) &= a_0(n-1) + (p-1)a_1(n-1) \\ a_1(n) &= a_0(n-1) - a_1(n-1) \\ b_{\alpha,\beta}(n) &= \sum_{\gamma \in \mathbb{F}_p} e^{\frac{2\pi i}{p}(\beta\gamma)} b_{\alpha,\gamma}(n-1), \end{aligned}$$

which can be written in matrix form as

$$(4.37) \quad \begin{pmatrix} a_0(n) \\ a_1(n) \\ b_{1,0}(n) \\ b_{1,1}(n) \\ \vdots \\ b_{p-1,p-1}(n) \end{pmatrix} = A(p) \begin{pmatrix} a_0(n-1) \\ a_1(n-1) \\ b_{1,0}(n-1) \\ b_{1,1}(n-1) \\ \vdots \\ b_{p-1,p-1}(n-1) \end{pmatrix}$$

where

$$(4.38) \quad A(p) = \left(\begin{array}{c|c|c|c|c} A_0(p) & O & O & \cdots & O \\ \hline O & A_1(p) & O & \cdots & O \\ \hline O & O & A_2(p) & \cdots & O \\ \hline \vdots & \vdots & \vdots & \ddots & \vdots \\ \hline O & O & O & \cdots & A_{p-1}(p) \end{array} \right),$$

and

$$(4.39) \quad A_0(p) = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & p-1 \\ 1 & -1 \end{pmatrix} \quad \text{and} \quad A_j(p) = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 1 & 1 & \cdots & 1 \\ 1 & e^{\frac{2\pi i}{p}} & e^{\frac{4\pi i}{p}} & \cdots & e^{\frac{2(p-1)\pi i}{p}} \\ 1 & e^{\frac{4\pi i}{p}} & e^{\frac{8\pi i}{p}} & \cdots & e^{\frac{2 \times 2(p-1)\pi i}{p}} \\ \vdots & \vdots & \vdots & \ddots & \vdots \\ 1 & e^{\frac{2(p-1)\pi i}{p}} & e^{\frac{4(p-1)\pi i}{p}} & \cdots & e^{\frac{2 \times (p-1)^2 \pi i}{p}} \end{pmatrix},$$

for $1 \leq j \leq p-1$. It is clear that the first block $A_0(p)$ satisfies $X^2 - p$. All other blocks $A_j(p)$'s, for $1 \leq j \leq p-1$, are $\sqrt{p} \cdot W_p$, where W_p is the $p \times p$ square Discrete Fourier Transform matrix. Observe that

$$(4.40) \quad A_j(p)^2 = \begin{pmatrix} p & 0 & \cdots & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & \cdots & 0 & p \\ 0 & 0 & \cdots & p & 0 \\ \vdots & \vdots & \ddots & \vdots & \vdots \\ 0 & p & \cdots & 0 & 0 \end{pmatrix}.$$

Therefore,

$$(4.41) \quad A_j(p)^4 = \begin{pmatrix} p^2 & 0 & 0 & \cdots & 0 \\ 0 & p^2 & 0 & \cdots & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & p^2 & \cdots & 0 \\ \vdots & \vdots & \vdots & \ddots & \vdots \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & \cdots & p^2 \end{pmatrix}.$$

In other words, the big blocks $A_j(p)$'s satisfy $X^4 - p^2$. Since $X^2 - p \mid X^4 - p^2$, then we conclude that the matrix $A(p)$ satisfies the polynomial

$$(4.42) \quad Q_{R,2,\mathbb{F}_p}(X) = X^4 - p^2.$$

This means that the sequences $\{a_0(n)\}$, $\{a_1(n)\}$ and $\{b_{\alpha,\beta}(n)\}$, for $\alpha \in \mathbb{F}_p^\times, \beta \in \mathbb{F}_p$, all satisfy the linear recurrence with characteristic polynomial given by $Q_{R,2,\mathbb{F}_p}(X)$. Since $\{S_{\mathbb{F}_p}(R_2(n))\}$ is a combination of these sequences, then it also satisfies such recurrence. This concludes the proof. \square

We are now ready to prove one of the main results of this article. That is, exponential sums of rotation polynomials satisfy linear recurrences with integer coefficients.

Theorem 4.6. *Let $k \geq 2$ be an integer and $q = p^r$ with p prime and $r \geq 1$. The sequence $\{S_{\mathbb{F}_q}(R_{2,3,\dots,k}(n))\}_{n \geq k}$ satisfies a linear recurrence with integer coefficients.*

Proof. Let $\zeta_p = e^{2\pi i/p}$. Consider the expression $S_{\mathbb{F}_q}(R_{2,3,\dots,k}(n+k))$. Let $X_{n+k}, X_{n+k-1}, \dots, X_n$ assume all values in \mathbb{F}_q and observe that $S_{\mathbb{F}_q}(R_{2,3,\dots,k}(n+k))$ can be written as a linear combination of expressions of the form

$$(4.43) \quad a_{\alpha;\beta}(n) = S_{\mathbb{F}_q} \left(T_{2,3,\dots,k}(n) + \sum_{j=1}^{k-1} \left(\alpha_j \prod_{l=1}^j X_{n+1-l} + \beta_j \prod_{l=1}^j X_l \right) \right),$$

where $\alpha = (\alpha_1, \dots, \alpha_k) \in \mathbb{F}_q^{k-1}$ and $\beta = (\beta_1, \dots, \beta_k) \in \mathbb{F}_q^{k-1}$. However, note that for each $\alpha, \beta \in \mathbb{F}_q^{k-1}$, we have

$$(4.44) \quad a_{\alpha;\beta}(n) = \sum_{\gamma, \lambda \in \mathbb{F}_q^{k-1}} c_{\gamma, \lambda} \cdot a_{\gamma, \lambda}(n-1),$$

where $c_{\gamma, \lambda} \in \mathbb{Z}[\zeta_p]$ is a cyclotomic integer. Let $A_{2,3,\dots,k}(q)$ be the corresponding matrix for the linear equations in (4.44) and $F(X)$ be any annihilating polynomial for $A_{2,3,\dots,k}(q)$. We can assume that $F(X)$ has integer coefficients. This is because the minimal polynomial of $A_{2,3,\dots,k}(q)$ is monic, has algebraic integers coefficients and integrality is transitive. Then each $\{a_{\alpha;\beta}(n)\}_n$ satisfies the linear recurrence with characteristic polynomial given by $F(X)$. Since $\{S_{\mathbb{F}_q}(R_{2,3,\dots,k}(n+k))\}$ is a linear combination of these sequences, then $\{S_{\mathbb{F}_q}(R_{2,3,\dots,k}(n+k))\}$ also satisfies such recurrence. This concludes the proof. \square

It has been mentioned before that the identity between linear recurrences of exponential sums of trapezoid Boolean functions and rotation symmetric Boolean functions is lost over \mathbb{F}_q . However, the proof of Theorem 4.6 suggests that a relation between them can be recovered.

Corollary 4.7. *Let $q = p^r$ with p prime and $r \geq 1$. Let $\mu_{T,k,\mathbb{F}_q}(X)$ and $\mu_{R,k,\mathbb{F}_q}(X)$ be the characteristic polynomials associated to the minimal homogeneous linear recurrences with integer coefficients satisfied by $\{S_{\mathbb{F}_q}(T_{2,3,\dots,k}(n))\}$ and $\{S_{\mathbb{F}_q}(R_{2,3,\dots,k}(n))\}$ (resp.). Then,*

$$(4.45) \quad \mu_{T,k,\mathbb{F}_q}(X) \mid \mu_{R,k,\mathbb{F}_q}(X).$$

In particular, if $\gcd(k, r) = 1$, then $Q_{T,k,\mathbb{F}_q}(X) \mid \mu_{R,k,\mathbb{F}_q}(X)$

Proof. In the proof of Theorem 4.6. Observe that $\{a_{0;0}(n)\} = \{S_q(T_{2,3,\dots,k}(n))\}$, this implies (4.45). Now, if $\gcd(k, r) = 1$, then $Q_{T,k,\mathbb{F}_q}(X)$ is irreducible and therefore $\mu_{T,k,\mathbb{F}_q}(X) = Q_{T,k,\mathbb{F}_q}(X)$. This concludes the proof. \square

Definition 4.8. Let $\{b(n)\}$ be a sequence on an integral domain D . A set of sequences

$$\{\{a_1(n)\}, \{a_2(n)\}, \dots, \{a_s(n)\}\},$$

where s is some natural number, is called a *recursive generating set* for $\{b(n)\}$ if

- (1) there is an integer l such that for every n , $b(n)$ can be written as a linear combination of the form

$$b(n) = \sum_{j=1}^s c_j \cdot a_j(n-l),$$

where c_j 's are constants that belong to D , and

- (2) for each $1 \leq j_0 \leq s$ and every n , $a_{j_0}(n)$ can be written as a linear combination of the form

$$a_{j_0}(n) = \sum_{j=1}^s d_j \cdot a_j(n-1),$$

where d_j 's are also constants that belong to D .

The sequences $\{a_j(n)\}$'s are called *recursive generating sequences* for $\{b(n)\}$.

Remark 4.9. It is a well-known result in the theory of recursive sequences that a sequence that has a recursive generating set satisfies a linear recurrence with constant coefficients. In fact, this technique has been used in Theorems 4.5 and 4.6.

Theorem 4.6 can be generalized to monomial rotation functions and linear combinations of them. To be specific, exponential sums over any Galois field of linear combinations of monomial rotation polynomials satisfy linear recurrences with integer coefficients. Of course, in general, we might need to turn *OFF* and *ON* more than k variables, even if the rotation is of degree k . Also, even though the sequences (4.43) always exist, their number might be too big to be handled by hand. For example, consider the sequence of exponential sums $\{S_{\mathbb{F}_3}(R_{2,3}(n))\}$. After some identifications, the authors needed 24 different recursive generating sequences (not claiming that this is optimal) of the form (4.43) and their corresponding 24×24 matrix in order to find that $\{S_{\mathbb{F}_3}(R_{2,3}(n))\}$ satisfy the linear recurrence whose characteristic polynomial is given by

$$(4.46) \quad \begin{aligned} X^6 - 3X^4 - 9X^3 + 9X + 18 &= (X^3 - 3)(X^3 - 3X - 6) \\ &= (X^3 - 3)Q_{T,3,\mathbb{F}_3}(X). \end{aligned}$$

Also, in general, to find the minimal polynomial of a matrix is not an easy task, therefore explicit formulas like the ones in Theorem 4.2 and Theorem 4.5 are much harder to get.

In the next section, this technique is used to prove that exponential sums over Galois fields of elementary symmetric polynomials (and linear combinations of them) satisfy homogeneous linear recurrences with integer coefficients.

5. LINEAR RECURRENCES OVER \mathbb{F}_q : SYMMETRIC POLYNOMIALS CASE

It is a well-established result that exponential sums of symmetric Boolean functions are linear recurrent. This was first established by Cai, Green and Thierauf [4]. In [5], Castro and Medina use this result to show that a conjecture of Cusick, Li, Stănică [11] is true asymptotically. In [6], some of the results of [5] were extended to some perturbations of symmetric Boolean functions. This recursivity was also used in [7, 8] to study the periodicity mod p (p prime) of exponential sums of symmetric Boolean functions.

In this section we show that exponential sums of some symmetric polynomials are linear recurrent over any Galois field. Remarkably, the proof uses the same argument as in the proof of Theorem 4.6. We decided to include the proof for completeness of the writing. However, the reader is welcome to skip the proof.

Let $\sigma_{n,k}$ be the elementary symmetric polynomial in n variables of degree k . For example,

$$(5.1) \quad \sigma_{4,3} = X_1X_2X_3 + X_1X_4X_3 + X_2X_4X_3 + X_1X_2X_4.$$

We have the following result.

Theorem 5.1. *Let $k \geq 2$ be an integer and $q = p^r$ with p prime and $r \geq 1$. The sequence $\{S_{\mathbb{F}_q}(\sigma_{n,k})\}$ satisfies a linear recurrence with constant coefficients.*

Proof. Consider the expression $S_{\mathbb{F}_q}(\sigma_{n+k,k})$. Define

$$(5.2) \quad a_{\beta}(n) = S_{\mathbb{F}_q} \left(\sigma_{n,k} + \sum_{j=1}^{k-1} \beta_j \sigma_{n,k-j} \right),$$

The set $\{a_{\beta}(n)\}_{\beta \in \mathbb{F}_q^{k-1}}$ is a recursive generating set for $S_{\mathbb{F}_q}(\sigma_{n+k,k})$. Therefore, the sequence $\{S_{\mathbb{F}_q}(\sigma_{n+k,k})\}_{n \geq 0}$ satisfies a linear recurrence with constant coefficients. As in the proof of Theorem 4.6, it can be argued that a linear recurrence with integer coefficients is guaranteed to exist. This concludes the proof. \square

This result can be generalized to any polynomial of the form

$$(5.3) \quad \sum_{j=0}^{k-1} \beta_j \sigma_{n,k-j},$$

with $\beta_j \in \mathbb{F}_q$. We present the result without proof, as it follows almost verbatim as the one from Theorem 5.1.

Theorem 5.2. *Let $k \geq 2$ be an integer and $q = p^r$ with p prime and $r \geq 1$. The sequence*

$$(5.4) \quad S_{\mathbb{F}_q} \left(\sum_{j=0}^{k-1} \beta_j \sigma_{n,k-j} \right)$$

satisfies a linear recurrence with constant coefficients, regardless of the choice of the β_j 's.

Example 5.3. Consider the sequence $\{S_{\mathbb{F}_3}(\sigma_{n,3})\}$. Recall that in this case the generating sequences are given by

$$(5.5) \quad a_{(s,t)}(n) = \{S_{\mathbb{F}_3}(\sigma_{n,3} + s\sigma_{n,2} + t\sigma_{n,1})\},$$

where $s, t \in \mathbb{F}_3$. Establish the order

$$(0, 0), (1, 0), (2, 0), (0, 1), (1, 1), (2, 1), (0, 2), (1, 2), (2, 2).$$

Then,

$$(5.6) \quad \begin{pmatrix} a_{(0,0)}(n) \\ a_{(1,0)}(n) \\ \vdots \\ a_{(2,2)}(n) \end{pmatrix} = A \begin{pmatrix} a_{(0,0)}(n-1) \\ a_{(1,0)}(n-1) \\ \vdots \\ a_{(2,2)}(n-1) \end{pmatrix},$$

where the matrix A is given by

$$(5.7) \quad A = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 1 & 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 & 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 & 1 & 0 & 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 & e^{\frac{2i\pi}{3}} & e^{-\frac{2i\pi}{3}} & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ e^{-\frac{2i\pi}{3}} & 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 & e^{\frac{2i\pi}{3}} \\ e^{\frac{2i\pi}{3}} & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 & e^{-\frac{2i\pi}{3}} & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 & e^{-\frac{2i\pi}{3}} & e^{\frac{2i\pi}{3}} \\ 0 & 0 & e^{-\frac{2i\pi}{3}} & e^{\frac{2i\pi}{3}} & 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & e^{\frac{2i\pi}{3}} & 0 & e^{-\frac{2i\pi}{3}} & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix}.$$

The minimal polynomial of A is given by

$$(5.8) \quad \begin{aligned} \mu_A(X) &= X^9 - 9X^8 + 36X^7 - 81X^6 + 108X^5 - 81X^4 + 81X^2 - 81X + 27 \\ &= (X^3 - 3X^2 + 3)(X^6 - 6X^5 + 18X^4 - 30X^3 + 36X^2 - 27X + 9). \end{aligned}$$

Therefore, $\{S_{\mathbb{F}_3}(\sigma_{n,3})\}$ satisfies the linear recurrence with characteristic polynomial given by $\mu_A(X)$.

5.1. Quadratic case. The case of the elementary symmetric polynomial of degree 2 is fascinating. Observe that the collection of the sequences

$$(5.9) \quad a_s(n) = S_{\mathbb{F}_p}(\sigma_{n,2} + s\sigma_{n,1}),$$

where $s \in \mathbb{F}_p$, is a recursive generating set for $\{S_{\mathbb{F}_p}(\sigma_{n,2})\}$. Also,

$$(5.10) \quad \begin{pmatrix} a_0(n) \\ a_1(n) \\ \vdots \\ a_{p-1}(n) \end{pmatrix} = M(p) \begin{pmatrix} a_0(n-1) \\ a_1(n-1) \\ \vdots \\ a_{p-1}(n-1) \end{pmatrix},$$

where the matrix $M(p)$ is given by

$$(5.11) \quad M(p) = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 1 & 1 & 1 & 1 & \cdots & 1 \\ e^{\frac{2(p-1)\pi i}{p}} & 1 & e^{\frac{2\pi i}{p}} & e^{\frac{4\pi i}{p}} & e^{\frac{6\pi i}{p}} & \cdots & e^{\frac{2(p-2)\pi i}{p}} \\ e^{\frac{2 \times 2(p-2)\pi i}{p}} & e^{\frac{2 \times 2(p-1)\pi i}{p}} & 1 & e^{\frac{4\pi i}{p}} & e^{\frac{8\pi i}{p}} & \cdots & e^{\frac{2 \times 2(p-3)\pi i}{p}} \\ e^{\frac{2 \times 3(p-3)\pi i}{p}} & e^{\frac{2 \times 3(p-2)\pi i}{p}} & e^{\frac{2 \times 3(p-1)\pi i}{p}} & 1 & e^{\frac{6\pi i}{p}} & \cdots & e^{\frac{2 \times 2(p-3)\pi i}{p}} \\ e^{\frac{2 \times 4(p-4)\pi i}{p}} & e^{\frac{2 \times 4(p-3)\pi i}{p}} & e^{\frac{2 \times 4(p-2)\pi i}{p}} & e^{\frac{2 \times 4(p-1)\pi i}{p}} & 1 & \cdots & e^{\frac{2 \times 2(p-3)\pi i}{p}} \\ \vdots & \vdots & \vdots & \vdots & \vdots & \ddots & \vdots \\ e^{\frac{2(p-1)\pi i}{p}} & e^{\frac{2 \times 2(p-1)\pi i}{p}} & e^{\frac{2 \times 3(p-1)\pi i}{p}} & e^{\frac{2 \times 4(p-1)\pi i}{p}} & e^{\frac{2 \times 5(p-1)\pi i}{p}} & \cdots & 1 \end{pmatrix}.$$

The matrix $M(p)$ can be obtained from the $p \times p$ Fourier Discrete Transform Matrix by replacing its j -row \mathbf{r}_j by $RTC^{j-1}(\mathbf{r}_j)$, where RTC is the *rotate through carry* function

$$(5.12) \quad RTC(a_1, a_2, a_3, \dots, a_n) = (a_n, a_1, a_2, \dots, a_{n-1})$$

and RTC^m represents m iterations of RTC .

It is not hard to prove that $M(p)$ is a Complex Hadamard Matrix. In particular,

$$(5.13) \quad M(p) \overline{M(p)}^T = \overline{M(p)}^T M(p) = \begin{pmatrix} p & 0 & 0 & \cdots & 0 \\ 0 & p & 0 & \cdots & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & p & \cdots & 0 \\ \vdots & \vdots & \vdots & \ddots & \vdots \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & \cdots & p \end{pmatrix}.$$

This implies that $M(p)$ is diagonalizable and that all its eigenvalues satisfy $|\lambda| = \sqrt{p}$. Moreover, its eigenvalues are related to the number-theoretical quadratic Gauss sum mod p . The *quadratic Gauss sum mod p* is defined by

$$(5.14) \quad g(a; p) = \sum_{k=0}^{p-1} e^{2\pi i a k^2 / p}$$

It is well-established that

$$(5.15) \quad g(a; p) = \left(\frac{a}{p}\right) g(1; p),$$

where (a/p) denotes the Legendre's symbol, and that

$$(5.16) \quad g(1; p) = \begin{cases} \sqrt{p} & p \equiv 1 \pmod{4} \\ i\sqrt{p} & p \equiv 3 \pmod{4}. \end{cases}$$

Theorem 5.4. *Let $C(p)$ be the set of eigenvalues of $M(p)$. Let $\zeta_p = e^{2\pi i/p}$. Then, $\lambda \in C(p)$ if and only if*

$$(5.17) \quad \lambda = \left(\frac{-2}{p}\right) g(1; p) \zeta^{-sa^2}.$$

In particular, $|C(p)| = (p+1)/2$.

Proof. Let p be an odd prime number and $\zeta = \exp(2\pi i/p)$. The matrix $M(p)$ has (j, k) -entry $\zeta^{j(k-j)}$ where j and k run from 0 to $p-1$ inclusive. We compute the eigenvalues of $M(p)$ simply by writing down its eigenvectors.

Set $s = \frac{1}{2}(p-1)$. Then $1 \equiv -2s \pmod{p}$. For $0 \leq a \leq p-1$, let v_a be the column vector with k -entry $\zeta^{s(k-a)^2}$ where $0 \leq k \leq p-1$. Then the v_a are the cyclic shifts of v_0 . The entry in row j of $M(p)v_a$ is

$$\begin{aligned} \sum_{k=0}^{p-1} \zeta^{j(k-j)+s(k-a)^2} &= \sum_{k=0}^{p-1} \zeta^{-2sjk+2sj^2+sk^2-2sak+sa^2} \\ &= \sum_{k=0}^{p-1} \zeta^{s(k-a-j)^2+s(j-a)^2-2saj} \\ &= g(s; p) \zeta^{s(j-a)^2-sa^2}. \end{aligned}$$

This is $g(s, p) \zeta^{-sa^2}$ times the entry in row j of v_a . Therefore each v_a is an eigenvector with eigenvalue

$$g(s; p) \zeta^{-sa^2} = \left(\frac{s}{p}\right) g(1; p) \zeta^{-sa^2} = \left(\frac{-2}{p}\right) g(1; p) \zeta^{-sa^2}.$$

As these eigenvalues are not all distinct, there remains the possibility that some of these eigenvectors v_a are not linearly independent. That can only happen with eigenvectors in the same eigenspace, so for v_a and v_{p-a} where $0 < a < p$. But it is clear that none of the v_a are multiples of any of the others; simply consider the quotients of corresponding entries. So we have a dimension-two eigenspace for each eigenvalue $\left(\frac{-2}{p}\right) g(1, p) \zeta^{-sa^2}$ for $1 \leq a \leq \frac{1}{2}(p-1)$. This completes the proof. \square

Note that if λ is defined as in (5.17), then equation (5.16) implies

$$(5.18) \quad \lambda^p = (-i)^{\frac{p-1}{2}} \sqrt{p^p}$$

for every odd prime p . Therefore, Theorem 5.4 leads to

$$(5.19) \quad M(p)^p = \begin{pmatrix} (-i)^{\frac{p-1}{2}} \sqrt{p^p} & 0 & 0 & \cdots & 0 \\ 0 & (-i)^{\frac{p-1}{2}} \sqrt{p^p} & 0 & \cdots & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & (-i)^{\frac{p-1}{2}} \sqrt{p^p} & \cdots & 0 \\ \vdots & \vdots & \vdots & \ddots & \vdots \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & \cdots & (-i)^{\frac{p-1}{2}} \sqrt{p^p} \end{pmatrix},$$

and so

$$(5.20) \quad M(p)^{2p} = \begin{pmatrix} \left(\frac{-1}{p}\right) p^p & 0 & 0 & \cdots & 0 \\ 0 & \left(\frac{-1}{p}\right) p^p & 0 & \cdots & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & \left(\frac{-1}{p}\right) p^p & \cdots & 0 \\ \vdots & \vdots & \vdots & \ddots & \vdots \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & \cdots & \left(\frac{-1}{p}\right) p^p \end{pmatrix}.$$

Thus,

$$(5.21) \quad X^{2p} - \left(\frac{-1}{p}\right) p^p$$

is an annihilating polynomial for the matrix $M(p)$, which in turns implies that $\{S_{\mathbb{F}_p}(\sigma_{n,2})\}$ satisfies the linear recurrence with characteristic polynomial (5.21).

6. SOME OBSERVATIONS AND CONCLUDING REMARKS

We had shown that exponential sums over Galois fields of trapezoid polynomials and rotation polynomials satisfy linear recurrences with integer coefficients. An implication of this is that they can be calculated efficiently if we know a priori their initial values.

We predict the initial conditions for two families of these type of polynomials. Consider first the trapezoid polynomial $T_{2,3,\dots,k}(n)$. Recall that $\{S_{\mathbb{F}_q}(T_{2,3,\dots,k}(n))\}$ satisfies the linear recurrence with integer coefficients whose characteristic polynomial is given by $Q_{T,k,\mathbb{F}_q}(X)$. This polynomial is of degree k . Thus, if we know k initial values, then we calculate the whole sequence. Of course, $\{S_{\mathbb{F}_q}(T_{2,3,\dots,k}(n))\}$ makes sense only for values of $n \geq k$, however, since it satisfies a linear recurrence with integer coefficients, it can be extended to values of $n < k$. We conjecture the following.

Conjecture 6.1. *Let $\{t_{k,q}(n)\}$ be defined by*

$$(6.1) \quad \begin{aligned} t_{k,q}(j) &= q^j, \quad \text{for } 0 \leq j \leq k-1 \\ t_{k,q}(n) &= q \sum_{l=0}^{k-2} (q-1)^l t_{k,q}(n-(l+2)), \quad \text{for } n \geq k. \end{aligned}$$

Then, $S_{\mathbb{F}_q}(T_{2,3,\dots,k}(n)) = t_{k,q}(n)$ for all values of $n \geq k$.

We were able to prove that this conjecture is true for $k = 2, 3, 4$, but the general statement remains open. We were also able to predict the initial conditions for $\{S(R_{2,3,\dots,k}(n))\}$ (Boolean case). Recall that this sequence satisfies the linear recurrence whose characteristic polynomial is given by

$$(6.2) \quad p_k(X) = X^k - 2(X^{k-2} + X^{k-3} + \cdots + X + 1).$$

Therefore, as in the case of trapezoid polynomial $T_{2,3,\dots,k}(n)$, we need to know k initial values in order to calculate the whole sequence.

Conjecture 6.2. *Let*

$$(6.3) \quad \delta_o(j) = \begin{cases} 0 & \text{if } j \text{ is even} \\ 1 & \text{if } j \text{ is odd.} \end{cases}$$

Define $\{r_k(n)\}$ by

$$(6.4) \quad \begin{aligned} r_k(0) &= k \\ r_k(j) &= 2^j - \delta_o(j) \cdot 2, \quad \text{for } 1 \leq j \leq k-1 \\ r_k(n) &= 2 \sum_{l=0}^{k-2} r_k(n - (l+2)), \quad \text{for } n \geq k. \end{aligned}$$

Then, $S(R_{2,3,\dots,k}(n)) = r_k(n)$ for all values of $n \geq k$.

The problem of finding suitable initial conditions for this type of sequences is a nice problem, but also an important one. For example, if Conjecture 6.2 is true, then

$$\begin{aligned} \{S(R_{2,3,\dots,15}(n))\}_{n \geq 15} &= 32766, 65504, 131036, 262036, 524096, 104813, 2096268, 4192412, \dots \\ \{S(R_{2,3,\dots,30}(n))\}_{n \geq 30} &= 1073086444, 2146129256, 4292171136, 8584167576, 17167985776, \\ &34335272736, 68669148016, 137335500952, \dots \\ \{S(R_{2,3,\dots,100}(n))\}_{n \geq 100} &= 1267650600228229401496703205376, 2535301200456458802993406410548, \\ &5070602400912917605986812821300, 10141204801825835211973625642388, \\ &20282409603651670423947251284976, 40564819207303340847894502569720, \\ &\dots \end{aligned}$$

On the other hand, we know that Conjecture 6.1 is true for $k = 3$, which means, for example, that

$$\begin{aligned} \{S_{\mathbb{F}_9}(T_{2,3}(n))\}_{n \geq 3} &= 153, 1377, 7209, 23409, 164025, 729729, 3161673, 18377361, \dots \\ \{S_{\mathbb{F}_{7^3}}(T_{2,3}(n))\}_{n \geq 3} &= 234955, 80589565, 13881523159, 55203852025, 14215001955427, \\ &1647320876934229, 11351488736356111, 2232536080171760209, \dots \\ \{S_{\mathbb{F}_{7^{12}}}(T_{2,3}(n))\}_{n \geq 3} &= 50818321, 256175156161, 645881606118001, 2582501749259041, \\ &9764439145967152081, 16422699840579863752321, \\ &114835229977615135072561, 330868420079857977922668001, \dots \end{aligned}$$

Also, if Conjecture 6.1 is true in general, then we have, for example,

$$\begin{aligned} \{S_{\mathbb{F}_5}(T_{2,3,4,5}(n))\}_{n \geq 5} &= 1845, 9225, 39725, 173025, 730725, 2988025, 13244125, 56108625, \dots \\ \{S_{\mathbb{F}_{11^2}}(T_{2,3,\dots,7}(n))\}_{n \geq 7} &= 18445769583241, 2231938119572161, 226346720724231481, \\ &22141818198352009201, 2044333948085969113321, \\ &170550498912524502711841, 11342127359186464124132761, \dots \\ \{S_{\mathbb{F}_{7919}}(T_{2,3,\dots,8}(n))\}_{n \geq 8} &= 13665512318276822315545157633, 108217192048434155916802103295727, \\ &734609211013142008709051078210604961, \\ &4848502223556916452901817857822360556623, \\ &30722822355930196223839440343843855453844801, \\ &182535766024343164334384388453936618605681619887, \dots \end{aligned}$$

All these values were calculated almost instantaneously. Another nice problem is to automatize the process presented in this work. This is part of future work.

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