

# Polynomial automorphisms over finite fields

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QUESTION 1: do we understand the algebraic automorphisms of  $k^n$ ?

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- ▶ A map  $k^n \longrightarrow k^n$ .
- ▶ A list of  $n$  polynomials:  $F \in (k[X_1, \dots, X_n])^n$ .
- ▶ A ring endomorphism of  $k[X_1, \dots, X_n]$  sending  $g(X_1, \dots, X_n)$  to  $g(F_1, \dots, F_n)$ .

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**Remark:** If  $k$  is algebraically closed, then a polynomial endomorphism  $k^n \longrightarrow k^n$  which is a bijection, is an invertible polynomial map.

Polynomial automorphisms form a group, denoted by  $GA_n(k)$ .

Notations:

	Linear	Polynomial
All	$ML_n(k)$	$MA_n(k)$
Invertible	$GL_n(k)$	$GA_n(k)$

# Motivation: why over $\mathbb{F}_p$ ?

- ▶ Reduction-mod- $p$  techniques to (dis)prove things  
(Example:  $F$  injective  $\longrightarrow$   $F$  surjective.)  
(Example: Belov-Kontsevich)
- ▶ Possible applications (cryptography etc.)
- ▶ Simply because it is interesting:
  1. Connections with discrete mathematics.
  2. Connections with finite group theory.

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hence  $\det(\text{Jac}(F)) \in k[X_1, \dots, X_n]^* = k^*$ .

QUESTION: if  $F$  polynomial endomorphism, and  $\det(\text{Jac}(F)) \in k^*$ , is  $F$  invertible?

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LEMMA: If  $F$  is invertible, then  $\det(J(F)) \in k^*$ .

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In  $\text{char}(k) = p$ :  $F : X \longrightarrow X - X^p$  has  $\det(\text{Jac}(F)) = 1$  but  $F(0) = F(1)$ .

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$F : (X, Y) \longrightarrow (X + X^p, Y)$ :

$[k(X, Y) : k(X + X^p, Y)] = p$ .

$\text{char}(k) = 0 :$

$$F = (X + a_1X^2 + a_2XY + a_3Y^2, Y + b_1X^2 + b_2XY + b_3Y^2)$$

$$\begin{aligned} 1 &= \det(\text{Jac}(F)) \\ &= 1 + \\ &\quad (2a_1 + b_2)X + \\ &\quad (a_2 + 2b_3)Y + \\ &\quad (2a_1b_2 + 2a_2b_1)X^2 + \\ &\quad (2b_2a_2 + 4a_1b_3 + 4a_3b_1)XY + \\ &\quad (2a_2b_3 + 2a_3b_2)Y^2 \end{aligned}$$

In  $\text{char}(k)=2$  : (parts of) equations vanish. What are the right equations in  $\text{char}(k)=2(p)$ ?

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$GA_n(k)$  is generated by ???

**Elementary map:**  $(X_1 + f(X_2, \dots, X_n), X_2, \dots, X_n),$

invertible with inverse

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$$TA_n(k) := \langle J_n(k), Aff_n(k) \rangle$$

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In dimension 2: famous Jung-van der Kulk-theorem:

$$GA_2(\mathbb{K}) = TA_2(\mathbb{K}) = \text{Aff}_2(\mathbb{K}) \rtimes J_2(\mathbb{K})$$

Jung-van der Kulk is the reason that we can do a lot in  
dimension 2 !!!!

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Nagata proved:  $N$  is NOT tame over  $k[z]$ , i.e.  $N$  not in  $\text{TA}_2(k[z])$ .

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Simpler question: what is  $\pi(\text{TA}_n(\mathbb{F}_q))$ ?

Why simpler? Because we have a set of generators!

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$\mathrm{TA}_n(\mathbb{F}_q) = \langle \mathrm{GL}_n(\mathbb{F}_q), \sigma_f \rangle$  where  $f$  runs over  $\mathbb{F}_q[X_2, \dots, X_n]$   
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We make finite subset  $\mathcal{S} \subset \mathbb{F}_q[X_2, \dots, X_n]$  and define

$$\mathcal{G} := \langle \mathrm{GL}_n(\mathbb{F}_q), \sigma_f ; f \in \mathcal{S} \rangle$$

such that

$$\pi(\mathrm{TA}_n(\mathbb{F}_q)) = \pi(\mathcal{G}).$$

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Hence if  $q = 2$  or  $q = \text{odd}$ , then  $\pi(T_n(\mathbb{F}_q)) = \text{Sym}(q^n)$ .

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If  $q = 4, 8, 16, \dots$  we don't succeed to find a 2-cycle.

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So: Start looking for an odd automorphism!!! (Or prove they don't exist)

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Is there perhaps a combinatorial reason why  $\pi(\mathrm{GA}_n(\mathbb{F}_4))$  has only even permutations??

Another idea: study the bijections of  $\mathbb{F}_9^n$  given by elements of  $\text{GA}_n(\mathbb{F}_3)$ .

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## Corollary

(of some theorem I proved) Let  $F \in \text{GA}_2(\mathbb{F}_q[Z])$ . Then  $F$  is tamely mimickable.

Nagata can be **mimicked** by a tame map for every  $q = p^m$  -  
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This almost works - a bit more wiggling necessary (And for the general case, even more work.)

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Let's not be too ambitious:  $n = 3$ . And  $q = 2, 3, 4, 5$ .

Computable is (R. Willems):

$GA_3^2(\mathbb{F}_{2,3,4,5})$  and main part of  $GA_3^3(\mathbb{F}_2)$ . Surprisingly, results seem to be interesting!

Another idea: define  $MA_n^d(k) := \{F \in MA_n(k) \mid \deg(F) \leq d\}$ .

If  $k = \mathbb{F}_q$ , then this is finite. Now **compute**

$GA_n^d(\mathbb{F}_q) := GA_n(\mathbb{F}_q) \cap MA_n^d(\mathbb{F}_q)$  by checking all  $F \in MA_n^d(k)$ !

We find ALL automorphisms of degree  $\leq d$ . Will we find new ones we didn't know before?

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**Observation:**  $F \in GA_3^2(\mathbb{F}_q)$  seems to be  $\in TA_3(\mathbb{F}_q)$ , always.

No idea why!

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**THANK YOU** for enduring all those slides.

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$$\frac{\#\pi_4(\text{GLIN}_2(\mathbb{F}_2))}{\#\pi_4(\text{GTAM}_2(\mathbb{F}_2))} = 2.$$

End proof.

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**\*\*\* THANK YOU \*\*\***

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REASON 2: Polynomial maps over finite fields may have applications in discrete-mathematics like settings!

# RE-MOTIVATION:

Why **NOT** study polynomial maps over finite fields! In fact, why didn't anyone fill that **gaping hole** yet!

REASON 1: Reduction-mod- $p$  techniques to solve problems over  $\mathbb{C}$ . Classical example: an injective polynomial map is surjective. Reason: an injective map from a finite set to a finite. Very recent: Belov-Kontsevich (yes, that guy) proved equivalence of two already long-standing conjectures: the Dixmier Conjecture ('68) and the Jacobian Conjecture ('39).

REASON 2: Polynomial maps over finite fields may have applications in discrete-mathematics like settings! (In fact, one of the reasons for this talk is the hope that there may be one or two of you in the audience who may see such a possible application!)

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