

# ON PRIMITIVE NORMAL ELEMENTS OVER FINITE FIELDS

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# ON PRIMITIVE NORMAL ELEMENTS OVER FINITE FIELDS

by

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Department of Mathematics

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to the



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*Dedicated to*  
*My Family*

# Certificate

This is to certify that the thesis entitled “**On Primitive Normal Elements over Finite Fields**” submitted by **Ms. Anju** to the Indian Institute of Technology Delhi, for the award of the degree of **Doctor of Philosophy**, is a record of the original bonafide research work carried out by her under my supervision and guidance. The thesis has reached the standards fulfilling the requirements of the regulations relating to the degree.

The results contained in this thesis have not been submitted in part or full to any other University or Institute for the award of any degree or diploma.

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# Abstract

Primitive elements and normal elements are of great importance in coding theory and cryptography. Primitive elements play a very important role in cryptosystems based on the multiplicative cyclic groups of non zero elements of a finite field. For example ElGamal cryptosystem, and Diffie-Hellman key exchange protocol use this group. Let  $\mathbb{F}_{q^n}$  be an extension of the field  $\mathbb{F}_q$  of degree  $n$ , where  $q = p^k$  for some positive integer  $k$  and prime  $p$ . The advantage of using normal basis representation yields efficient exponentiation, as the  $q$ -th powers of elements are given by a cyclic bit-shift of the corresponding coordinate vector. Let  $A = \begin{pmatrix} a & b & c \\ 0 & d & e \end{pmatrix} \in M_{2 \times 3}(\mathbb{F}_q)$  ( $q = 2^k$  for some positive integer  $k$ ) be a matrix of rank 2. In this thesis, we obtain a sufficient condition for the existence of a primitive element  $\alpha \in \mathbb{F}_q$  such that the element  $(a\alpha^2 + b\alpha + c)/(d\alpha + e)$  is a primitive element of  $\mathbb{F}_q$ , and using that condition, we prove that every  $\mathbb{F}_q$  ( $q = 2^k$ ) contains such a primitive element except for finitely many cases. We also establish existence of a primitive normal element  $\alpha$  of  $\mathbb{F}_{q^n}$  over  $\mathbb{F}_q$  such that  $(a\alpha^2 + b\alpha + c)/(d\alpha + e)$  is a primitive element of  $\mathbb{F}_{q^n}$  for  $A \in M_{2 \times 3}(\mathbb{F}_{q^n})$ . Further we discuss existence of a primitive pair  $(\alpha, \alpha + \alpha^{-1})$  in  $\mathbb{F}_{q^n}$  such that the trace,  $Tr_{\mathbb{F}_{q^n}/\mathbb{F}_q}(\alpha)$  is any prescribed element of  $\mathbb{F}_q$ . We also consider the problem regarding the existence of a primitive pair of the form  $(\alpha, (a\alpha^2 + b\alpha + c)/(d\alpha + e))$ , such that  $Tr_{\mathbb{F}_{q^n}/\mathbb{F}_q}(\alpha)$  and  $Tr_{\mathbb{F}_{q^n}/\mathbb{F}_q}(\alpha^{-1})$  are any prescribed elements of  $\mathbb{F}_q$ . Finally, we prove that the number of self-dual normal bases generators of  $\mathbb{F}_{q^n}$  over  $\mathbb{F}_q$  in

$(\text{Tr}_{\mathbb{F}_q^n/\mathbb{F}_q}^{-1}(\beta))$  ( $n = mp^l$ ,  $l \geq 1$ ), for any self-dual normal basis generator  $\beta$  of  $\mathbb{F}_{q^m}$  over  $\mathbb{F}_q$ , is independent of the choice of  $\beta$ .

## सारांश

क्रिप्टोग्राफी और कोडिंग के सिद्धांतों में प्रीमिटिव तत्वों और नॉर्मल तत्वों का बहुत महत्वपूर्ण स्थान है। प्रीमिटिव तत्व परिमित फील्ड के शून्य के अतिरिक्त तत्वों के चक्रीय समूह पर आधारित क्रिप्टो निकायों में महत्वपूर्ण भूमिका निभाते हैं। उदाहरण के लिए एलगामल क्रिप्टोसिस्टम और डिफ़्फी हैल्लमेन कुंजी विनिमय प्रोटोकॉल इस समूह का उपयोग करते हैं। मान लीजिये कि  $\mathbb{F}_{q^n}$ ,  $\mathbb{F}_q$  का डिग्री  $n$  का एक एक्स्टेंसन है, जहाँ पर किसी धनात्मक पूर्णांक  $k$  और अभाज्य संख्या  $p$  के लिए,  $q = p^k$  है। नॉर्मल प्रतिनिधित्व का उपयोग करने का लाभ यह है कि यह कुशल घातांक प्रदान करता है, चूंकि तत्वों की  $q$ -th घात संबंधित वेक्टर निर्देशांक की चक्रीय बिट-शिफ्ट द्वारा दी जाती हैं। मान लीजिये  $A = \begin{pmatrix} a & b & c \\ 0 & d & e \end{pmatrix} \in M_{2 \times 3}(\mathbb{F}_q)$  ( $q = 2^k$ , किसी धनात्मक पूर्णांक  $k$  के लिए), रैंक 2 का एक आव्यूह है। इस शोध प्रबंध में, हम किसी ऐसे प्रीमिटिव तत्व  $\alpha \in \mathbb{F}_q$ , जिसके लिए  $(a\alpha^2 + b\alpha + c)/(d\alpha + e)$  भी  $\mathbb{F}_q$  का प्रीमिटिव तत्व हो जाए, की उपस्थिति के लिए पर्याप्त नियम खोजते हैं, और उस नियम का उपयोग करते हुए हम यह सिद्ध करते हैं कि कुछ सीमित अवस्थाओं के अतिरिक्त, प्रत्येक  $\mathbb{F}_q$  ( $q = 2^k$ ) में ऐसे प्रीमिटिव तत्व उपस्थित हैं। हम  $A \in M_{2 \times 3}(\mathbb{F}_{q^n})$  के लिए  $\mathbb{F}_{q^n}$  के  $\mathbb{F}_q$  पर एक ऐसे प्रीमिटिव नॉर्मल तत्व  $\alpha$ , जिसके लिए  $(a\alpha^2 + b\alpha + c)/(d\alpha + e)$  भी  $\mathbb{F}_{q^n}$  का प्रीमिटिव तत्व हो जाए, की उपस्थिति भी स्थापित करते हैं। तदोपरांत हम ऐसे प्रीमिटिव युग्म  $(\alpha, \alpha + \alpha^{-1})$  की उपस्थिति की भी चर्चा करते हैं जिसका ट्रेस,  $Tr_{\mathbb{F}_{q^n}/\mathbb{F}_q}(\alpha)$ , फील्ड  $\mathbb{F}_q$  का कोई भी निर्धारित सदस्य हो। हम ऐसे प्रीमिटिव युग्म  $(\alpha, (a\alpha^2 + b\alpha + c)/(d\alpha + e))$ , कि  $Tr_{\mathbb{F}_{q^n}/\mathbb{F}_q}(\alpha)$  और  $Tr_{\mathbb{F}_{q^n}/\mathbb{F}_q}(\alpha^{-1})$ , फील्ड  $\mathbb{F}_q$  के कोई भी निर्धारित सदस्य हैं, के अस्तित्व के विषय में भी विचार करते हैं। अंत में हम यह सिद्ध करते हैं कि  $\mathbb{F}_{q^m}$  के  $\mathbb{F}_q$  पर किसी सेल्फ-डुयल नॉर्मल बेसिस प्रतिनिधि  $\beta$  के लिए,  $(Tr_{\mathbb{F}_{q^n}/\mathbb{F}_{q^m}})^{-1}(\beta)$  ( $n = mp^l, l \geq 1$ ), में  $\mathbb{F}_{q^n}$  के  $\mathbb{F}_q$  पर सेल्फ-डुयल नॉर्मल बेसिस प्रतिनिधियों कि संख्या  $\beta$  के चुनाव से स्वतंत्र है।



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# List of Symbols

$\mathbb{N}$	the set of natural numbers
$\mathbb{Z}$	the set of integers
$\mathbb{Q}$	the set of rational numbers
$\mathbb{R}$	the set of real numbers
$q$	a prime power
$a b$	$a$ divides $b$
$a \nmid b$	$a$ does not divide $b$
$\forall x$	for all $x$
$ S $	cardinality, i.e., number of elements of the finite set $S$
$x \in X$	$x$ is a member of $X$
$x \notin X$	$x$ is not a member of $X$
$A \subset R$	$A$ is a proper subset of $R$
$A \subseteq R$	$A$ is a subset of $R$
$A \not\subseteq R$	$A$ is not a subset of $R$
$a \equiv b \pmod{n}$	$a$ is congruent to $b$ modulo $n$
$\gcd(k_1, k_2, \dots, k_n)$	the greatest common divisor of $k_1, \dots, k_n$
$\phi(n)$	Euler's phi-function of $n$
$\mathbb{Z}_n$	the group of integers modulo $n$
$\mathcal{U}(\mathbb{Z}_n)$	the multiplicative group of integers modulo $n$

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$\langle a \rangle$	the cyclic group generated by $a$
$=$	equal to
$\neq$	not equal to
$\mathbb{F}_q, GF(q)$	finite field with $q$ elements
$\mathbb{F}_q^*$	the multiplicative group of nonzero elements of $\mathbb{F}_q$
$C(n, q)$	the group of $n \times n$ circulant matrices over $\mathbb{F}_q$
$OC(n, q)$	the group of $n \times n$ orthogonal circulant matrices over $\mathbb{F}_q$
$Tr_{\mathbb{F}/K}(\alpha)$	the trace of $\alpha \in \mathbb{F}$ over $K$
$SDN(n, q)$	the number of self-dual normal bases of $\mathbb{F}_{q^n}$ over $\mathbb{F}_q$
$A^T$	Transpose of matrix $A$
$\text{Rank}(A)$	Rank of matrix $A$
$\text{char}(R)$	characteristic of $R$
$\omega(m)$	number of distinct prime divisors of $m$
$\Omega_q(f(x))$	number of distinct monic irreducible divisors of $f(x)$ over $\mathbb{F}_q$