

# An extension theorem for $[n, k, d]_q$ codes with $\gcd(d, q) = 2$

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## Abstract

As a continuation of Maruta [*Finite Fields Appl.* 10 (2004), 674–685], we investigate the extendability of  $[n, k, d]_q$  codes with  $d \equiv -2 \pmod{q}$  whose weights are congruent to 0,  $-1$  or  $-2 \pmod{q}$  for even  $q \geq 4$ . We show that such codes are extendable for all even  $q \geq 8$ , giving a new extension theorem for  $[n, k, d]_q$  codes with  $\gcd(d, q) = 2$ . We also consider the extendability of such codes for  $q = 4$ .

## 1 Introduction

Let  $\mathbb{F}_q^n$  denote the vector space of  $n$ -tuples over  $\mathbb{F}_q$ , the field of  $q$  elements. The *weight* of a vector  $\mathbf{a} \in \mathbb{F}_q^n$ , denoted by  $wt(\mathbf{a})$ , is the number of nonzero coordinate positions in  $\mathbf{a}$ . A  $k$ -dimensional subspace of  $\mathbb{F}_q^n$  is called a linear code over  $\mathbb{F}_q$  of length  $n$  with dimension  $k$ , or an  $[n, k]_q$  code. An  $[n, k, d]_q$  code is an  $[n, k]_q$  code with minimum weight  $d$ . The weight distribution of  $\mathcal{C}$  is the list of numbers  $A_i$  which is the number of codewords of  $\mathcal{C}$  with weight  $i$ . We only consider *non-degenerate* codes having no coordinate which is identically zero. The code obtained by deleting the same coordinate from each codeword of an  $[n, k, d]_q$  code  $\mathcal{C}$  is called a *punctured code* of  $\mathcal{C}$ . If there exists an  $[n+1, k, d+1]_q$  code  $\mathcal{C}'$  which gives  $\mathcal{C}$  as a punctured code,  $\mathcal{C}$  is called *extendable* and  $\mathcal{C}'$  is an *extension* of  $\mathcal{C}$ .

It is well-known that every binary linear code with odd minimum distance is extendable ([1]). Hill and Lizak [3] generalized this fact to linear codes over  $\mathbb{F}_q$  by showing that every  $[n, k, d]_q$  code with  $\gcd(d, q) = 1$  whose weights ( $i$ 's such that  $A_i > 0$ ) are congruent to 0 or  $d \pmod{q}$  is extendable, see also [2]. Maruta [12] gave another extension theorem as follows.

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**Theorem 1.1** ([12]). *Let  $\mathcal{C}$  be an  $[n, k, d]_q$  code with odd  $q \geq 5$ ,  $d \equiv -2 \pmod{q}$ , whose weights are congruent to 0,  $-1$  or  $-2 \pmod{q}$ ,  $k \geq 3$ . Then  $\mathcal{C}$  is extendable.*

See [9], [10], [11], [15] for other results on the extendability of linear codes over  $\mathbb{F}_q$ . We note that all of known extension theorems in these papers require the condition  $\gcd(d, q) = 1$ .

Let  $\mathcal{C}$  be an  $[n, k, d]_q$  code with  $q$  even,  $d \equiv -2 \pmod{q}$ , whose weights are congruent to 0,  $-1$  or  $-2 \pmod{q}$ ,  $k \geq 3$ . Based on the weight distribution of the code, we define the *diversity* of  $\mathcal{C}$  as the pair  $(\Phi_0, \Phi_1)$  with

$$\Phi_0 = \frac{1}{q-1} \sum_{q|i, i>0} A_i, \quad \Phi_1 = \frac{1}{q-1} \sum_{i \equiv -1 \pmod{q}} A_i.$$

We assume  $q = 2^h$ ,  $h \geq 2$ . Our goal is to prove the following new extension theorems:

**Theorem 1.2.** *Let  $\mathcal{C}$  be an  $[n, k, d]_q$  code with  $q = 2^h$  and  $h \geq 3$ ,  $d \equiv -2 \pmod{q}$ , whose weights are congruent to 0,  $-1$  or  $-2 \pmod{q}$ ,  $k \geq 3$ . Then  $\mathcal{C}$  is extendable.*

**Theorem 1.3.** *Let  $\mathcal{C}$  be an  $[n, k, d]_4$  code with diversity  $(\Phi_0, \Phi_1)$ ,  $k \geq 3$ ,  $d \equiv 2 \pmod{4}$  such that  $A_i = 0$  for all  $i \equiv 1 \pmod{4}$ . Then*

- (1)  $\mathcal{C}$  is extendable if there is a codeword  $c \in \mathcal{C}$  with  $\text{wt}(c) \equiv 3 \pmod{4}$ , i.e.,  $\Phi_1 > 0$ .
- (2)  $\mathcal{C}$  is extendable if  $\Phi_1 = 0$  and  $\Phi_0 \in \{\theta_{k-2}, (\theta_{k-1} + \theta_{k-2} + 4^{k-2})/2\}$ , where  $\theta_j = (4^{j+1} - 1)/3$ .

See also Theorems 5.1, 5.3, 5.5 in Section 5 for the case  $q = 4$  with  $k = 3, 4$ . From Theorems 1.1 and 1.2, we get the following.

**Theorem 1.4.** *Let  $\mathcal{C}$  be an  $[n, k, d]_q$  code with  $q \geq 5$ ,  $d \equiv -2 \pmod{q}$ , whose weights are congruent to 0,  $-1$  or  $-2 \pmod{q}$ ,  $k \geq 3$ . Then  $\mathcal{C}$  is extendable.*

**Applications.** (1) Let  $\mathcal{C}_1$  be a  $[q^2 - 1, 4, q^2 - q - 2]_q$  code with  $q \geq 5$ . Let  $c$  be a codeword of  $\mathcal{C}_1$  with weight  $q^2 - q + e$ . For  $1 \leq e \leq q - 3$ , the residual code of  $\mathcal{C}_1$  with respect to  $c$  is a  $[q - 1 - e, 3, q - 2 - e]_q$  code, which does not exist (see Theorem 2.7.1 of [7] for the residual code). Thus we have  $A_i = 0$  for all  $i \notin \{q^2 - q - 2, q^2 - q - 1, q^2 - q, q^2 - 2, q^2 - 1\}$ . Applying Theorem 1.4,  $\mathcal{C}_1$  is extendable. Actually, the extension of  $\mathcal{C}_1$  is also extendable. It is known that the weight distribution of  $\mathcal{C}_1$  is given by

$$(a_0, a_1, a_{q-1}, a_q, a_{q+1}) = (2, q^2 - 1, q + 1, 2(q^2 - 1), q^3 - 2q^2 + 1),$$

where  $a_i = A_{q^2-1-i}/(q-1)$ . Hence the diversity of  $\mathcal{C}_1$  is  $(\theta_1, 2q^2)$ . Considering the columns of a generator matrix of  $\mathcal{C}_1$  as a  $(q^2 - 1)$ -set in  $\text{PG}(3, q)$  (see Section 2), we get a  $(q^2 - 1)$ -cap in  $\text{PG}(3, q)$ , that is, a set of  $q^2 - 1$  points no three of which are

collinear. Hence the above result is equivalent to saying that, for  $q \geq 5$ , a  $(q^2 - 1)$ -cap in  $\text{PG}(3, q)$  is incomplete and extends to a  $(q^2 + 1)$ -cap (see Chapter 18 of [5]).

(2) Let  $\mathcal{C}_2$  be a  $[q, 3, q-2]_q$  code with  $q \geq 5$ . Since  $\mathcal{C}_2$  is MDS, the weight distribution is uniquely determined, satisfying the condition of Theorem 1.4. Hence  $\mathcal{C}_2$  is extendable. It is also known that the extension of  $\mathcal{C}_2$  is also extendable for even  $q$  but not for odd  $q$ .

(3) Let  $\mathbb{F}_4 = \{0, 1, \omega, \bar{\omega}\}$ , where  $\omega$  and  $\bar{\omega}$  are the roots of  $x^2 + x + 1 \in \mathbb{F}_2[x]$  and let  $\mathcal{C}_3$  be the  $[14, 3, 10]_4$  code with generator matrix

$$\begin{bmatrix} 0 & 0 & 1 & 1 & 1 & 1 & 1 & 1 & 1 & 1 & 1 & 1 & 1 \\ 1 & 1 & 0 & 0 & 1 & 1 & \omega & \omega & \omega & \omega & \bar{\omega} & \bar{\omega} & \bar{\omega} \\ \omega & \bar{\omega} & \omega & \bar{\omega} & \omega & \bar{\omega} & 0 & 1 & \omega & \bar{\omega} & 0 & 1 & \omega & \bar{\omega} \end{bmatrix}.$$

Then,  $\mathcal{C}_3$  has weight distribution  $(A_0, A_{10}, A_{12}) = (1, 42, 21)$  with diversity  $(7, 0)$ . Since  $\Phi_0 + A_d/3 = 7 + 14 = 21$ ,  $\mathcal{C}_3$  is not extendable by Theorem 5.3 in Section 5, although  $\mathcal{C}_3$  satisfies  $d \equiv -2 \pmod{4}$  and the weights of codewords are congruent to 0 or  $-2 \pmod{4}$  as required in Theorem 1.2. Thus, the case  $q = 4$  is exceptional. Similarly, the case  $q = 3$  is also exceptional, see [13].

(4) Extension theorems are often used for optimal linear codes problem, especially to prove the nonexistence of linear codes with certain parameters. For example, the nonexistence of  $[328, 4, 286]_8$ ,  $[474, 4, 414]_8$ ,  $[803, 4, 702]_8$  and  $[858, 4, 750]_8$  codes attaining the Griesmer bound can be proved applying Theorem 1.2, see [8].

## 2 Geometric preliminaries

We denote by  $\text{PG}(r, q)$  the projective geometry of dimension  $r$  over  $\mathbb{F}_q$ . A  $j$ -flat is a projective subspace of dimension  $j$  in  $\text{PG}(r, q)$ . 0-flats, 1-flats, 2-flats, 3-flats and  $(r - 1)$ -flats are called *points*, *lines*, *planes*, *solids* and *hyperplanes*, respectively. The number of points in a  $j$ -flat is  $|\text{PG}(j, q)| = \theta_j = (q^{j+1} - 1)/(q - 1)$ , where  $|T|$  denotes the number of elements in the set  $T$ . We refer to [4], [5] and [6] for geometric terminologies. We investigate linear codes over  $\mathbb{F}_q$  through the projective geometry.

We assume that  $k \geq 3$ , see [10] for  $k = 1, 2$ . Let  $\mathcal{C}$  be an  $[n, k, d]_q$  code with a generator matrix  $G = [g_{ij}] = [g_1, \dots, g_k]^T$ . Put  $\Sigma = \text{PG}(k-1, q)$ , the projective space of dimension  $k - 1$  over  $\mathbb{F}_q$ . We consider the mapping  $w_G$  from  $\Sigma$  to  $\{i \mid A_i > 0\}$ , the set of non zero weights of  $\mathcal{C}$ . For  $P = \mathbf{P}(p_1, \dots, p_k) \in \Sigma$  we define the *weight of  $P$  with respect to  $G$* , denoted by  $w_G(P)$ , as

$$w_G(P) = |\{j \mid \sum_{i=1}^k g_{ij}p_i \neq 0\}| = \text{wt}(\sum_{i=1}^k p_i g_i).$$

Let  $F_d = \{P \in \Sigma \mid w_G(P) = d\}$ . Recall that a hyperplane  $H$  of  $\Sigma$  is defined by a non-zero vector  $h = (h_0, \dots, h_{k-1}) \in \mathbb{F}_q^k$  as  $H = \{\mathbf{P}(p_0, \dots, p_{k-1}) \in \Sigma \mid h_0p_0 + \dots + h_{k-1}p_{k-1} = 0\}$ . The vector  $h$  is called the *defining vector of  $H$* .

**Lemma 2.1** ([14]).  $\mathcal{C}$  is extendable if and only if there exists a hyperplane  $H$  of  $\Sigma$  such that  $F_d \cap H = \emptyset$ . Moreover, the extended matrix of  $G$  by adding the defining vector of  $H$  as a column generates an extension of  $\mathcal{C}$ .

*Proof* For an  $[n, k, d]_q$  code  $\mathcal{C}$  with a generator matrix  $G$ , there exists a vector  $h = (h_0, \dots, h_{k-1}) \in \mathbb{F}_q^k$  such that  $[G, h^T]$  generates an  $[n+1, k, d+1]_q$  code if and only if  $\sum_{i=0}^{k-1} h_i p_i \neq 0$  holds for all  $P = \mathbf{P}(p_0, \dots, p_{k-1}) \in F_d$ . Equivalently, there exists a hyperplane  $H$  with defining vector  $h$  such that  $F_d \cap H = \emptyset$ .  $\square$

Now, let

$$\begin{aligned} F_0 &= \{P \in \Sigma \mid w_G(P) \equiv 0 \pmod{q}\}, \\ F_1 &= \{P \in \Sigma \mid w_G(P) \not\equiv 0, d \pmod{q}\}, \\ F_2 &= \{P \in \Sigma \mid w_G(P) \equiv d \pmod{q}\}, \quad F = \Sigma \setminus F_2. \end{aligned}$$

Since  $F_d \subset F_2$ , we obtain the following lemma by Lemma 2.1.

**Lemma 2.2.**  *$\mathcal{C}$  is extendable if there exists a hyperplane  $H$  of  $\Sigma$  such that  $H \subset F$ .*

**Lemma 2.3** ([2]). *For two linearly independent vectors  $\mathbf{a}_1, \mathbf{a}_2 \in \mathbb{F}_q^n$ , it holds that*

$$\sum_{\lambda \in \mathbb{F}_q} wt(\mathbf{a}_1 + \lambda \mathbf{a}_2) + wt(\mathbf{a}_2) \equiv 0 \pmod{q}.$$

As a consequence of Lemma 2.3, we get the following.

**Lemma 2.4.** *For a line  $L = \{P_0, P_1, \dots, P_q\}$  in  $\Sigma$ , it holds that*

$$\sum_{i=0}^q w_G(P_i) \equiv 0 \pmod{q}.$$

A  $t$ -flat  $\Pi$  of  $\Sigma$  with  $|\Pi \cap F_0| = i$ ,  $|\Pi \cap F_1| = j$  is called an  $(i, j)_t$  flat. An  $(i, j)_1$  flat is called an  $(i, j)$ -line. An  $(i, j)$ -plane, an  $(i, j)$ -solid and so on are defined similarly. We denote by  $\mathcal{F}_j$  the set of  $j$ -flats of  $\Sigma$ . Let  $\Lambda_t$  be the set of all possible  $(i, j)$  for which an  $(i, j)_t$  flat exists in  $\Sigma$ .

Now, let  $\mathcal{C}$  be an  $[n, k, d]_q$  code with diversity  $(\Phi_0, \Phi_1)$ ,  $q = 2^h$ ,  $h \geq 2$ ,  $k \geq 3$ ,  $d \equiv -2 \pmod{q}$  such that  $A_i = 0$  for all  $i \not\equiv 0, -1, -2 \pmod{q}$ . By Lemma 2.4, for any  $(i, j)$ -line  $l$  in  $\Sigma$ , we have

$$\sum_{P \in l} w_G(P) = 0i + (-1)j + (-2)(\theta_1 - (i+j)) \equiv 0 \pmod{q}.$$

So,  $2i + j \equiv 2 \pmod{q}$ . This yields the following.

**Lemma 2.5.**

$$\begin{aligned} \Lambda_1 &= \{(i, j) \mid 2i + j \equiv 2 \pmod{q}, 0 \leq i, j \leq \theta_1, i + j \leq \theta_1\} \\ &= \left\{ \left( \frac{q}{2} + 1 - s, 2s \right) \mid 0 \leq s \leq \frac{q}{2} \right\} \cup \{(1, 0), (0, 2), (\theta_1, 0)\}. \end{aligned}$$

For a  $(\varphi_0^{(t)}, \varphi_1^{(t)})_t$  flat  $\Pi_t$ , let  $c_{i,j}^{(t)}$  be the number of  $(i, j)_{t-1}$  flats in  $\Pi_t$ . Note that  $\Phi_u = \varphi_u^{(k-1)}$  for  $u = 1, 2$ . The list of  $c_{i,j}^{(t)}$ 's is called the *spectrum* of  $\Pi_t$ . Then we have the following equations by usual counting arguments:

$$\sum_{(i,j) \in \Lambda_{t-1}} c_{i,j}^{(t)} = \theta_t, \quad (2.1)$$

$$\sum_{(i,j) \in \Lambda_{t-1}} i c_{i,j}^{(t)} = \theta_{t-1} \varphi_0^{(t)}, \quad (2.2)$$

$$\sum_{(i,j) \in \Lambda_{t-1}} j c_{i,j}^{(t)} = \theta_{t-1} \varphi_1^{(t)}, \quad (2.3)$$

$$\sum_{(i,j) \in \Lambda_{t-1}} \binom{i}{2} c_{i,j}^{(t)} = \theta_{t-2} \binom{\varphi_0^{(t)}}{2}, \quad (2.4)$$

$$\sum_{(i,j) \in \Lambda_{t-1}} \binom{j}{2} c_{i,j}^{(t)} = \theta_{t-2} \binom{\varphi_1^{(t)}}{2}, \quad (2.5)$$

$$\sum_{(i,j) \in \Lambda_{t-1}} \binom{i+j}{2} c_{i,j}^{(t)} = \theta_{t-2} \binom{\varphi_0^{(t)} + \varphi_1^{(t)}}{2}. \quad (2.6)$$

From (2.2), (2.3) and (2.6), we get

$$\sum_{(i,j) \in \Lambda_{t-1}} i j c_{i,j}^{(t)} = \binom{\varphi_0^{(t)} + \varphi_1^{(t)}}{2} - \binom{\varphi_0^{(t)}}{2} - \binom{\varphi_1^{(t)}}{2} = \theta_{t-2} \varphi_0^{(t)} \varphi_1^{(t)}. \quad (2.7)$$

**Lemma 2.6.**  $\varphi_0^{(t)} \geq \theta_{t-2}$  for  $t \geq 2$ .

*Proof* We proceed by induction on  $t$ . For  $t = 2$ , if  $\varphi_0^{(2)} = 0$ , then every line in  $\Pi_2$  is a  $(0, 2)$ -line. We count the value of  $\varphi_1^{(2)}$  in two ways: considering all lines passing through a fixed point of  $F_d \cap \Pi_2$  we have  $\varphi_1^{(2)} = \theta_1 + 1$ , while the lines through a fixed point of  $F_1 \cap \Pi_2$  yields  $\varphi_1^{(2)} = 2\theta_1$ , a contradiction. Hence  $\varphi_0^{(2)} \geq 1$ .

Assume our assertion for  $t - 1$ ,  $t \geq 3$ . Then, by the induction hypothesis and from the equations (2.1) and (2.2), we get

$$0 \leq \sum_{(i,j) \in \Lambda_{t-1}} (i - \theta_{t-3}) c_{i,j}^{(t)} = \theta_{t-1} \varphi_0^{(t)} - \theta_{t-3} \theta_t,$$

which yields  $\varphi_0^{(t)} \geq \theta_t \theta_{t-3} / \theta_{t-1} = \theta_{t-2} - 1 + \theta_{t-3} / \theta_{t-1} > \theta_{t-2} - 1$ , so that  $\varphi_0^{(t)} \geq \theta_{t-2}$ .  $\square$

To prove Theorems 1.2 and 1.3, by Lemma 2.2 it suffices to prove the following three theorems.

**Theorem 2.7.** Assume  $q = 2^h$ ,  $h \geq 2$ . Let  $\Pi_t$  be a  $(\varphi_0^{(t)}, \varphi_1^{(t)})_t$  flat,  $2 \leq t \leq k-1$ . Then,  $\Pi_t$  contains a  $(\theta_{t-2}, q^{t-1})_{t-1}$  flat if  $\varphi_1^{(t)} > 0$ .

**Theorem 2.8.** Let  $\Pi_t$  be a  $(\varphi_0^{(t)}, 0)_t$  flat,  $2 \leq t \leq k-1$ . Then,  $\Pi_t$  contains a  $(\theta_{t-1}, 0)_{t-1}$  flat if  $q = 2^h, h \geq 3$ .

**Theorem 2.9.** Assume  $q = 4$ . Let  $\Pi_t$  be a  $(\varphi_0^{(t)}, 0)_t$  flat,  $2 \leq t \leq k-1$ . Then,  $\Pi_t$  contains a  $(\theta_{t-1}, 0)_{t-1}$  flat if  $\varphi_0^{(t)} = \theta_{t-1}$  or  $(\theta_t + \theta_{t-1} + 4^{t-1})/2$ .

For  $t = k-1$ , a  $(\theta_{t-2}, q^{t-1})_{t-1}$  flat and a  $(\theta_{t-1}, 0)_{t-1}$  flat are hyperplanes of  $\Sigma$  which are contained in  $F$ . Hence Theorem 1.2 follows from Theorems 2.7 and 2.8, and (1) and (2) of Theorem 1.3 follow from Theorems 2.7 and 2.9, respectively.

### 3 Proof of Theorem 2.7

Assume  $q = 2^h$ ,  $h \geq 2$ . Let  $\Pi_t$  be a  $(\varphi_0^{(t)}, \varphi_1^{(t)})_t$  flat,  $2 \leq t \leq k-1$ , with spectrum  $c_{i,j}^{(t)}$ 's. We assume that  $\varphi_1^{(t)} > 0$  throughout this section. We first determine all possible  $(\varphi_0^{(2)}, \varphi_1^{(2)}) \in \Lambda_2$  and the corresponding spectra.

**Lemma 3.1.** When  $\varphi_1^{(2)} > 0$ , the following three equalities hold:

$$\theta_1(2\varphi_0^{(2)} + \varphi_1^{(2)}) - (q+2)\theta_2 = -qc_{1,0}^{(2)} - qc_{0,2}^{(2)} + qc_{\theta_1,0}^{(2)} \quad (3.1)$$

$$\varphi_0^{(2)}(2\varphi_0^{(2)} + \varphi_1^{(2)} - \theta_2 - 1) = -qc_{1,0}^{(2)} + \theta_1 qc_{\theta_1,0}^{(2)} \quad (3.2)$$

$$\varphi_1^{(2)}(2\varphi_0^{(2)} + \varphi_1^{(2)} - \theta_2 - \theta_1) = -2qc_{0,2}^{(2)} \quad (3.3)$$

*Proof* Calculating  $\sum_{(i,j) \in \Lambda_1} (2i+j-q-2)c_{i,j}^{(2)}$  by way of (2.1)-(2.3), we get

$$2\theta_1\varphi_0^{(2)} + \theta_1\varphi_1^{(2)} - (q+2)\theta_2 = -qc_{1,0}^{(2)} - qc_{0,2}^{(2)} + qc_{\theta_1,0}^{(2)}.$$

Similarly, we can get (3.2) and (3.3) by calculating  $\sum_{(i,j) \in \Lambda_1} i(2i+j-q-2)c_{i,j}^{(2)}$  and  $\sum_{(i,j) \in \Lambda_1} j(2i+j-q-2)c_{i,j}^{(2)}$ , respectively.  $\square$

A point  $P$  of  $\Pi_t \cap F_0$  is *singular* if every line through  $P$  meets  $\Pi_t \cap F_0$  in exactly one point or  $q+1$  points. The set  $\Pi_t \cap F_0$  is called *singular* or *non-singular* according as it has singular points or not [6].

An  $s$ -flat  $S$  is called an *axis* of  $\Pi_t$  of type  $(a, b)$  if every hyperplane of  $\Pi_t$  not containing  $S$  has diversity  $(a, b)$  and if there is no hyperplane of  $\Pi_t$  through  $S$  whose diversity is  $(a, b)$ . Then the spectrum of  $\Pi_t \cap F_0$  has  $c_{a,b}^{(t)} = \theta_t - \theta_{t-1-s}$  and the axis is unique if it exists. The axis helps characterize the geometrical structure of  $\Pi_t$ .  $\Pi_t$  has an axis if  $\Pi_t \cap F_0$  is singular.

**Lemma 3.2.** Let  $\Pi_2$  be a  $(\varphi_0^{(2)}, \varphi_1^{(2)})$ -plane with  $\varphi_1^{(2)} > 0$ . If  $c_{0,2}^{(2)} = 0$  in  $\Pi_2$ , then

$$(\varphi_0^{(2)}, \varphi_1^{(2)}; c_{1,0}^{(2)}, c_{r+1,q-2r}^{(2)}, c_{1,q}^{(2)}, c_{\theta_1,0}^{(2)}) = ((r+1)q+1, q^2-2rq; r, q^2, q-2r, r+1)$$

for some  $r$  with  $0 \leq r \leq \frac{q}{2}$  and there is a point of  $F_0$  which is the axis of  $\Pi_2$  of type  $(r+1, q-2r)$ .

*Proof* From (3.3), (3.1) and (3.2), we get  $2\varphi_0^{(2)} + \varphi_1^{(2)} = \theta_2 + \theta_1$ ,  $c_{\theta_1,0}^{(2)} = c_{1,0}^{(2)} + 1$  and  $\theta_1 c_{\theta_1,0}^{(2)} = \varphi_0^{(2)} + c_{1,0}^{(2)}$ . We assume that  $c_{1,0}^{(2)} = r$ . Then we get  $\varphi_0^{(2)} = qr + \theta_1$  and  $\varphi_1^{(2)} = q^2 - 2rq$ . If  $r = 0$ , we obtain  $(\varphi_0^{(2)}, \varphi_1^{(2)}) = (\theta_1, q^2)$ ,  $c_{\theta_1,0}^{(2)} = 1$  and  $c_{1,q}^{(2)} = q^2 + q$ . If  $r \geq 1$ , we have  $(\varphi_0^{(2)}, \varphi_1^{(2)}) = ((r+1)q+1, q^2-2rq)$ ,  $c_{\theta_1,0}^{(2)} = r+1$  and  $c_{1,0}^{(2)} = r$ . It follows from  $\varphi_0^{(2)} + \varphi_1^{(2)} + rq = \theta_2$  that  $\varphi_2^{(2)} = rq$ . Let  $l_1, l_2$  be  $(\theta_1, 0)$ -lines and put  $P = l_1 \cap l_2$ . Then  $r$   $(1, 0)$ -lines must be passing through  $P$ . Since  $\varphi_2^{(2)} = rq$ , other lines through  $P$  have no points of  $F_2$ , which must be  $(\theta_1, 0)$ -lines or  $(1, q)$ -lines from  $\Lambda_1$ . Hence, when  $(\varphi_0^{(2)}, \varphi_1^{(2)}) = ((r+1)q+1, q^2-2rq)$ , we obtain  $c_{1,q}^{(2)} = q-2r$ ,  $c_{r+1,q-2r}^{(2)} = q^2$ , and  $P$  is the axis of  $\Pi_2$  of type  $(r+1, q-2r)$ .  $\square$

An  $n$ -set  $K$  in  $\text{PG}(2, q)$  is called an  $n$ -arc if every line of  $\text{PG}(2, q)$  meets  $K$  in at most two points. In the dual space of  $\text{PG}(2, q)$ , the set of lines  $K$  is called an  $n$ -arc of lines. When  $q$  is even, it is known that  $n \leq q+2$  and that every  $q$ -arc is contained in a unique  $(q+2)$ -arc, see [4].

**Lemma 3.3.** Let  $\Pi_2$  be a  $(\varphi_0^{(2)}, \varphi_1^{(2)})$ -plane with  $\varphi_1^{(2)} > 0$ . If  $c_{0,2}^{(2)} > 0$  and  $c_{1,0}^{(2)} = 0$  in  $\Pi_2$ , then

$$(\varphi_0^{(2)}, \varphi_1^{(2)}; c_{0,2}^{(2)}, c_{\frac{q}{2}+1,0}^{(2)}, c_{\frac{q}{2},2}^{(2)}, c_{1,q}^{(2)}) = \left(\frac{q^2-q+2}{2}, 2q; q, q-1, q^2-q, 2\right)$$

and the  $(0, 2)$ -lines and  $(1, q)$ -lines form a  $(q+2)$ -arc of lines.

*Proof* We have  $c_{\theta_1,0}^{(2)} = 0$  from  $c_{0,2}^{(2)} > 0$ . From (3.2), (3.3) and (3.1), we get  $2\varphi_0^{(2)} + \varphi_1^{(2)} = \theta_2 + 1$ ,  $c_{0,2}^{(2)} = \frac{\varphi_1^{(2)}}{2}$  and  $c_{0,2}^{(2)} = q$ . So,  $(\varphi_0^{(2)}, \varphi_1^{(2)}, \varphi_2^{(2)}) = (\frac{q^2-q+2}{2}, 2q, \frac{q^2-q}{2})$ . Let  $l_1, l_2, \dots, l_q$  be the  $(0, 2)$ -lines. Then, we have  $|l_1 \cup l_2 \cup \dots \cup l_q| \geq \theta_1 q - \binom{q}{2} = \frac{q^2+3q}{2}$ , where the equality holds when  $l_1, \dots, l_q$  form an arc of lines, that is, no three of  $l_1, \dots, l_{q+2}$  are concurrent. Since  $|(l_1 \cup l_2 \cup \dots \cup l_q) \cap F_1| \leq 2q = \varphi_1$ , we have

$$\begin{aligned} |(l_1 \cup l_2 \cup \dots \cup l_q) \cap F_2| &= |l_1 \cup l_2 \cup \dots \cup l_q| - |(l_1 \cup l_2 \cup \dots \cup l_q) \cap F_1| \\ &\geq \frac{q^2+3q}{2} - 2q = \varphi_2. \end{aligned}$$

Hence it holds that  $|(l_1 \cup l_2 \cup \dots \cup l_q) \cap F_2| = \varphi_2$  and  $|(l_1 \cup l_2 \cup \dots \cup l_q) \cap F_1| = \varphi_1$ . Thus,  $l_1, \dots, l_q$  form an arc of lines. Since there is a unique  $(q+2)$ -arc containing a given  $q$ -arc by Corollary 10.19 in [4], let  $l_{q+1}, l_{q+2}$  be the two lines so that  $l_1, \dots, l_q, l_{q+1}, l_{q+2}$  form a  $(q+2)$ -arc of lines. It follows from  $(l_1 \cup l_2 \cup \dots \cup l_q)^c = F_0 \cap \Pi_2$  that  $l_{q+1} \cap l_{q+2} \in F_0$ . And the points of  $l_{q+1} \cup l_{q+2}$  other than  $l_{q+1} \cap l_{q+2}$  are points

Table 1: Types of planes with  $\varphi_1^{(2)} > 0$  where  $1 \leq r \leq \frac{q}{2} - 2$  and  $c_r^{(2)} = c_{r+1,q-2r}^{(2)}$ 

Type	$\varphi_0^{(2)}$	$\varphi_1^{(2)}$	$c_{1,0}^{(2)}$	$c_{0,2}^{(2)}$	$c_r^{(2)}$	$c_{\frac{q}{2},2}^{(2)}$	$c_{\frac{q}{2}+1,0}^{(2)}$	$c_{1,q}^{(2)}$	$c_{\theta_1,0}^{(2)}$
(a-1)	$\theta_1$	$q^2$	0	0	0	0	0	$\theta_2 - 1$	1
(a-2)	$(r+1)q + 1$	$q^2 - 2rq$	$r$	0	$q^2$	0	0	$q - 2r$	$r + 1$
(a-3)	$(\frac{q}{2})q + 1$	$2q$	$\frac{q}{2} - 1$	0	0	$q^2$	0	2	$\frac{q}{2}$
(a-4)	$\frac{q^2-q+2}{2}$	$2q$	0	$q$	0	$q^2 - q$	$q - 1$	2	0
(a-5)	1	$2q$	$q - 1$	$q^2$	0	0	0	2	0

of  $F_1$  meeting  $l_1, \dots, l_q$  since  $c_{1,0}^{(2)} = 0$ . Hence,  $l_{q+1}$  and  $l_{q+2}$  are  $(1, q)$ -lines. Thus, we obtain the spectrum as claimed and that the  $(0, 2)$ -lines and  $(1, q)$ -lines form a  $(q+2)$ -arc of lines.  $\square$

**Lemma 3.4.** *Let  $\Pi_2$  be a  $(\varphi_0^{(2)}, \varphi_1^{(2)})$ -plane with  $\varphi_1^{(2)} > 0$ . If  $c_{0,2}^{(2)} > 0$  and  $c_{1,0}^{(2)} > 0$  in  $\Pi_2$ , then  $(\varphi_0^{(2)}, \varphi_1^{(2)}; c_{1,0}^{(2)}, c_{0,2}^{(2)}, c_{1,q}^{(2)}) = (1, 2q; q-1, q^2, 2)$  and there is a point of  $F_0$  which is the axis of  $\Pi_2$  of type  $(0, 2)$ .*

*Proof* We have  $c_{\theta_1,0}^{(2)} = 0$  from  $c_{0,2}^{(2)} > 0$ . Calculating  $(2\varphi_0^{(2)} + \varphi_1^{(2)})\theta_1 - 2\theta_2 = \sum_{(i,j) \in \Lambda_1} (2i + j - 2)c_{i,j}^{(2)} = q \sum_{s=1}^{\frac{q}{2}} c_{\frac{q}{2}+1-s,2s}^{(2)} \geq 0$ , we obtain  $2\varphi_0^{(2)} + \varphi_1^{(2)} \geq 2q + \frac{2}{q+1}$ . So,  $2\varphi_0^{(2)} + \varphi_1^{(2)} \geq 2q + 1$ . For any point  $R$  of  $F_2 \cap \Pi_2$ , considering the numbers of  $(i, j)$ -lines through  $R$  in  $\Pi_2$ , it follows from  $2i + j \equiv 2 \pmod{q}$  for  $(i, j) \in \Lambda_1$  that  $2\varphi_0^{(2)} + \varphi_1^{(2)} \equiv 2 \pmod{q}$ . Thus,  $2\varphi_0^{(2)} + \varphi_1^{(2)} \geq 2\theta_1$ . Let  $2\varphi_0^{(2)} + \varphi_1^{(2)} = 2\theta_1 + xq$  for  $x \in \mathbb{N} \cup \{0\}$ . Then, we have  $c_{1,0}^{(2)} = \varphi_0^{(2)}(q-x-1)$  from (3.2) and  $x \leq q-2$  from  $c_{1,0}^{(2)} > 0$ . Calculating  $-2 \times (3.1) + 2 \times (3.2) + (3.3)$ , we obtain

$$(2\varphi_0^{(2)} + \varphi_1^{(2)})^2 - (q^2 + 3q + 4)(2\varphi_0^{(2)} + \varphi_1^{(2)}) + 2q^3 + 6q^2 + 6q + 4 - q\varphi_1^{(2)} = 0 \quad (3.4)$$

from  $c_{\theta_1,0}^{(2)} = 0$ . Substituting  $2\varphi_0^{(2)} + \varphi_1^{(2)} = 2\theta_1 + xq$  to (3.4), we get

$$\varphi_1^{(2)} = 2q + xq(x-q+1) \quad (3.5)$$

which implies  $x = 0$ , for the right hand side of (3.5) is at most 0 for  $1 \leq x \leq q-2$ , a contradiction. Since  $(\varphi_0^{(2)}, \varphi_1^{(2)}) = (1, 2q)$ , we get  $c_{1,0}^{(2)} = q-1, c_{0,2}^{(2)} = q^2$  from (3.2) and (3.3). Let  $P$  be the unique point of  $F_0$ . Then, all  $(1, 0)$ -lines are passing through  $P$ . The remaining two lines through  $P$  contain  $2q$  points of  $F_1$ , so  $c_{1,q}^{(2)} = 2$ . Hence,  $P$  is the axis of  $\Pi_2$  of type  $(0, 2)$ .  $\square$

From Theorems 3.2, 3.3 and 3.4, we obtain Table 1.  
We denote by  $\langle \chi_1, \chi_2, \dots \rangle$  the smallest flat containing subsets  $\chi_1, \chi_2, \dots$  of  $\Sigma$ .

**Lemma 3.5.** *Let  $\Pi_2$  be a  $(\varphi_0^{(2)}, \varphi_1^{(2)})$ -plane with  $\varphi_1^{(2)} > 0$ .*

- (1) If  $(\varphi_0^{(2)}, \varphi_1^{(2)}) \neq (\theta_1, q^2)$ , then there is a point  $P \in F_0$  such that  $\langle P, Q \rangle$  is a  $(1, q)$ -line for any  $Q \in F_1$ .
- (2) If there exist two  $(1, q)$ -lines meeting in a point of  $F_1 \cap \Pi_2$ , then  $\Pi_2$  is a  $(\theta_1, q^2)$ -plane.

*Proof* We consider the geometric structure of the planes of Table 1. In the cases (a-2) and (a-3), the plane has a point of  $F_0$  which is the axis, so that any two  $(1, q)$ -lines meet in a point of  $F_0$ . And the two  $(1, q)$ -lines also meet in a point of  $F_0$  in the cases (a-4) and (a-5). Hence, (a-1) is the only case that there exist two  $(1, q)$ -lines meeting in a point of  $F_1 \cap \Pi_2$ .  $\square$

**Lemma 3.6** ([10]). *Let  $\pi$  be a proper subset of  $\Sigma$ . Then  $\pi$  is a hyperplane of  $\Sigma$  if and only if every line in  $\Sigma$  meets  $\pi$  in one point or in  $q + 1$  points.*

**Lemma 3.7.** *Let  $\Pi_t$  be a  $(\varphi_0^{(t)}, \varphi_1^{(t)})_t$  flat with  $\varphi_1^{(t)} > 0$  and  $\varphi_2^{(t)} = 0$ . Then  $(\varphi_0^{(t)}, \varphi_1^{(t)}; c_{\theta_{t-1}, 0}^{(t)}, c_{\theta_{t-2}, q^{t-1}}^{(t)}) = (\theta_{t-1}, q^t; 1, \theta_t - 1)$ .*

*Proof* It follows from the condition  $\varphi_2^{(t)} = 0$  and  $\Lambda_1$  that  $\Pi_t$  has only  $(\theta_1, 0)$ -lines or  $(1, q)$ -lines. From  $\varphi_1^{(t)} > 0$ ,  $\Pi_t \cap F_0$  is a proper subset of  $\Pi_t$ . By Lemma 3.6,  $\Pi_t \cap F_0$  is a hyperplane of  $\Pi_t$ . Hence our assertion follows.  $\square$

We prove the following lemma in the proof of Lemma 3.9 while the assertion for  $t = 2$  follows from Lemma 3.5 (2).

**Lemma 3.8.** *Let  $\Pi_t$  be a  $(\varphi_0^{(t)}, \varphi_1^{(t)})_t$  flat with  $t \geq 2$  containing two  $(\theta_{t-2}, q^{t-1})_{t-1}$  flats  $\pi_1$  and  $\pi_2$ . If  $\pi_1 \cap \pi_2$  is a  $(\theta_{t-3}, q^{t-2})_{t-2}$  flat, then  $(\varphi_0^{(t)}, \varphi_1^{(t)}) = (\theta_{t-1}, q^t)$ .*

**Lemma 3.9.** *Let  $\Pi_t$  be a  $(\varphi_0^{(t)}, \varphi_1^{(t)})_t$  flat with  $\varphi_1^{(t)} > 0$  and  $\varphi_2^{(t)} > 0$ . Then,*

- (1)  $\Pi_t$  contains a  $(\theta_{t-3}, q^{t-2})_{t-2}$  flat.
- (2) For a given  $(\theta_{t-3}, q^{t-2})_{t-2}$  flat  $\Delta_1$ , there exists a  $(\theta_{t-2}, q^{t-1})_{t-1}$  flat  $\pi_0$  in  $\Pi_t$  containing  $\Delta_1$ .
- (3)  $\Pi_t$  contains a  $(\theta_{t-2}, 0)_{t-2}$  flat  $S$  which is the axis of  $\Pi_t$ .
- (4) Let  $Q$  be a point of  $F_1$ . Then,  $Q$  is contained in a  $(\theta_{t-2}, q^{t-1})_{t-1}$  flat through  $S$ .

*Proof* We proceed by induction on  $t$ . Assume  $t = 3$ . (1) is obvious, for  $\Pi_3$  contains a  $(1, q)$ -line from Table 1. Let  $l_1$  be a  $(1, q)$ -line in  $\Pi_3$  and  $Q_1$  be a point of  $F_1 \cap l_1$ . Since  $\varphi_2^{(t)} > 0$ , let  $R$  be a point of  $F_2$  and put  $l = \langle Q_1, R \rangle$ . Now, take a plane  $\delta$  of  $\Pi_3$  through  $l$  which does not contain  $l_1$ . By Lemma 3.5 (1), we can take a  $(1, q)$ -line  $l_2$  through  $Q_1$  in  $\delta$ . Then,  $\delta_0 = \langle l_1, l_2 \rangle$  is a  $(\theta_1, q^2)$ -plane by Lemma 3.5 (2). Hence, (2) holds. From Lemma 3.7,  $\delta_0$  contains a  $(\theta_1, 0)$ -line, say  $L$ . We prove that any point  $Q$  of  $F_1$  is contained in a  $(\theta_1, q^2)$ -plane through  $L$ . Assume that  $Q \notin \delta_0$ , since it is obvious when  $Q \in \delta_0$ . Let  $\delta_1$  be a plane which contains  $R \in F_2$  and  $Q$ , not containing  $L$ . Take a point  $P_1 = L \cap \delta_1$ . Then,  $\delta_1 \cap \delta_0$  is a  $(1, q)$ -line, and  $P_1$  is on the  $(1, q)$ -lines of  $\delta_1$  by Lemma 3.5 (1). So, the line  $l' = \langle Q, P_1 \rangle$  is a  $(1, q)$ -line. Take

the plane  $\delta' = \langle L, l' \rangle$ . Let  $P_2$  be a point of  $L$  which is not  $P_1$  and let  $\delta_2$  be a plane through the line  $\langle P_2, R \rangle$ , not containing  $L$ . Then,  $\delta_0 \cap \delta_2$  is a  $(1, q)$ -line. Hence  $P_2$  is on the  $(1, q)$ -lines of  $\delta_2$  by Lemma 3.5 (1). From  $l' \cap \delta_2 \in F_1$ ,  $\delta_2 \cap \delta'$  is a  $(1, q)$ -line. It follows from Lemma 3.5 (2) that  $\delta'$  is a  $(\theta_1, q^2)$ -plane. Thus, every point of  $F_1$  is on a  $(\theta_1, q^2)$ -plane through  $L$ , and other planes through  $L$  are  $(\theta_1, 0)$ -planes. This implies that  $L$  is the axis of  $\pi$ . Hence (3) and (4) hold. It also follows that the solid containing two  $(\theta_1, q^2)$ -planes through a  $(1, q)$ -line is a  $(\theta_2, q^3)$ -solid. Thus, Lemma 3.8 holds for  $t = 3$ .

Next, assume (1)-(4) and Lemma 3.8 for  $t - 1$ ,  $t \geq 4$ . Let  $\Pi_t$  be a  $(\varphi_0^{(t)}, \varphi_1^{(t)})_t$  flat with  $\varphi_1^{(t)} > 0$  and  $\varphi_2^{(t)} > 0$ . Take a hyperplane  $\hat{\pi}$  of  $\Pi_t$  containing a point of  $F_1$  and a point of  $F_2$ . Then, by the induction hypothesis for (2),  $\hat{\pi}$  contains a  $(\theta_{t-3}, q^{t-2})_{t-2}$  flat. Hence (1) holds. Let  $\Delta_1$  be a  $(\theta_{t-3}, q^{t-2})_{t-2}$  flat in  $\Pi_t$  and  $\delta$  be a  $(\theta_{t-4}, q^{t-3})_{t-3}$  flat in  $\Delta_1$ . Let  $R$  be a point of  $F_2$  and put  $\Delta = \langle \delta, R \rangle$ . Now, take a  $(t-1)$ -flat  $\pi$  of  $\Pi_t$  through  $\Delta$  which does not contain  $\Delta_1$ . By the induction hypothesis for (3) and (4), we can take a  $(\theta_{t-3}, q^{t-2})_{t-2}$  flat  $\Delta_2$  through  $\delta$  in  $\pi$ . Then,  $\pi_0 = \langle \Delta_1, \Delta_2 \rangle$  is a  $(\theta_{t-2}, q^{t-1})_{t-1}$  flat by the induction hypothesis for Lemma 3.8. Hence (2) holds. From Lemma 3.7,  $\pi_0$  contains a  $(\theta_{t-2}, 0)_{t-2}$  flat, say  $S$ . We prove that any point  $Q \in F_1$  is contained in a  $(\theta_{t-2}, q^{t-1})_{t-1}$  flat through  $S$ . Assume that  $Q \notin \pi_0$ , since it is obvious when  $Q \in \pi_0$ . Let  $\pi_1$  be a  $(t-1)$ -flat which contains  $R \in F_2$  and  $Q$ , not containing  $S$ . Take a  $(\theta_{t-3}, 0)_{t-3}$  flat  $\delta_1 = S \cap \pi_1$ . Then,  $\pi_0 \cap \pi_1$  is a  $(\theta_{t-3}, q^{t-2})_{t-2}$  flat, and  $\delta_1$  is on the  $(\theta_{t-3}, q^{t-2})_{t-2}$  flats of  $\pi_1$  by the induction hypothesis for (3) and (4). So,  $\Delta' = \langle Q, \delta_1 \rangle$  is a  $(\theta_{t-3}, q^{t-2})_{t-2}$  flat. Take the  $(t-1)$  flat  $\pi' = \langle S, \Delta' \rangle$ . Let  $\delta_2$  be a  $(\theta_{t-3}, 0)_{t-3}$  flat of  $S$  which is not  $\delta_1$  and let  $\pi_2$  be a  $(t-1)$ -flat through  $\delta_2$ , not containing  $S$ . Then,  $\pi_0 \cap \pi_2$  is a  $(\theta_{t-3}, q^{t-2})_{t-2}$  flat. Hence  $\delta_2$  is on the  $(\theta_{t-3}, q^{t-2})_{t-2}$  flat by the induction hypothesis for (3). Since  $\Delta' \cap \pi_2$  is a  $(\theta_{t-4}, q^{t-3})_{t-3}$  flat,  $\pi_2 \cap \pi'$  is a  $(\theta_{t-3}, q^{t-2})_{t-2}$  flat. It follows from the induction hypothesis for Lemma 3.8 that  $\pi'$  is a  $(\theta_{t-2}, q^{t-1})_{t-1}$  flat. Thus, every point of  $F_1$  is on a  $(\theta_{t-2}, q^{t-1})_{t-1}$  flat through  $S$ , and other  $(t-1)$ -flats through  $S$  are  $(\theta_{t-2}, 0)_{t-1}$  flats. This implies that  $S$  is the axis of  $\Pi_t$ . Hence (3) and (4) hold. It also follows that the  $t$  flat containing two  $(\theta_{t-2}, q^{t-1})_{t-1}$  flats through a  $(\theta_{t-3}, q^{t-2})_{t-2}$  flat is a  $(\theta_{t-1}, q^t)_t$  flat. Thus, we also complete the proof of Lemma 3.8.  $\square$

As a consequence of Lemma 3.9, we get the following.

**Lemma 3.10.** *Let  $\Pi_t$  be a  $(\varphi_0^{(t)}, \varphi_1^{(t)})_t$  flat with  $\varphi_1^{(t)} > 0$  and  $\varphi_2^{(t)} > 0$ . Then,  $\Pi_t$  contains a  $(\theta_{t-2}, q^{t-1})_{t-1}$  flat.*

Hence Theorem 2.7 follows from Lemmas 3.10 and 3.7.

## 4 Proof of Theorem 2.8

We assume that  $\varphi_1^{(t)} = 0$  and  $q = 2^h$ ,  $h \geq 3$  throughout this section.

We proceed by induction on  $t$ . For  $t = 2$ , we get Table 2 from Theorem 19.4.4 in [5] with  $n = \frac{q}{2} + 1$ , since  $|F_0 \cap l| = 1, \frac{q}{2} + 1$  or  $\theta_1$  for any line  $l$  (we use the symbols in [5] as Type in Tables 2-6). Any plane has a  $(\theta_1, 0)$ -line as claimed.

Table 2: Types of planes with  $\varphi_1^{(2)} = 0$ ,  $q = 2^h$ ,  $h \geq 3$ 

Type	$\varphi_0^{(2)}$	$\varphi_1^{(2)}$	$c_{1,0}^{(2)}$	$c_{\frac{q}{2}+1,0}^{(2)}$	$c_{\theta_1,0}^{(2)}$
(III)	$\frac{q^2+q+2}{2}$	0	$\theta_1$	$q^2 - 1$	1
(IV)	$\frac{q^2+3q+2}{2}$	0	0	$q^2 - 1$	$q + 2$
(V)	$\frac{q^2+2q+2}{2}$	0	$\frac{q}{2}$	$q^2$	$\frac{q}{2} + 1$
(VI)	$\theta_1$	0	$\theta_2 - 1$	0	1
(VII)	$\theta_2$	0	0	0	$\theta_2$

Table 3: Types of solids with  $\varphi_1^{(3)} = 0$ ,  $q = 2^h$ ,  $h \geq 3$ 

Type	$\varphi_0^{(3)}$	$\varphi_1^{(3)}$	$c_{\frac{q^2+q+2}{2},0}^{(3)}$	$c_{\frac{q^2+3q+2}{2},0}^{(3)}$	$c_{\frac{q^2+2q+2}{2},0}^{(3)}$	$c_{\theta_1,0}^{(3)}$	$c_{\theta_2,0}^{(3)}$
(III)	$\frac{q^3+q^2+2q+2}{2}$	0	$\theta_3 - \theta_2$	0	$q^2 - 1$	$\theta_1$	1
(IV)	$\frac{q^3+3q^2+2q+2}{2}$	0	0	$\theta_3 - \theta_2$	$q^2 - 1$	0	$q + 2$
(V)	$\frac{q^3+2q^2+2q+2}{2}$	0	0	0	$\theta_3 - \theta_1$	$\frac{q}{2}$	$\frac{q}{2} + 1$
(VI)	$\theta_2$	0	0	0	0	$\theta_3 - 1$	1
(VII)	$\theta_3$	0	0	0	0	0	$\theta_3$
( $\mathcal{R}_3$ )	$\frac{q^3+2q^2+2q+2}{2}$	0	$\frac{\theta_3-\theta_2}{2}$	$\frac{\theta_3-\theta_2}{2}$	$\theta_2 - 1$	0	1

For  $t = 3$ , we also get Table 3 for possible solids from Theorems 19.4.8 and 19.4.9 in [5]. Thus, any solid has a  $(\theta_2, 0)$ -plane.

Assume the assertion of Theorem 2.8 for  $t - 1$ ,  $t \geq 4$ . We first assume that  $\Pi_t$  does not contain a  $(\frac{q^2+3q+2}{2}, 0)$ -plane. If  $\Pi_t \cap F_0$  is non-singular, then we have  $\frac{q}{2} + 1 = n = \sqrt{q} + 1$  by Lemma 23.5.15 in [6], a contradiction. Hence  $\Pi_t \cap F_0$  is singular. Let  $P \in F_0 \cap \Pi_t$  be a singular point and let  $\pi$  be a  $(t - 1)$ -flat in  $\Pi_t$  not containing  $P$ . By the induction hypothesis,  $\pi$  contains a  $(\theta_{t-2}, 0)_{t-2}$  flat  $\delta$ . It follows from the singularity that  $\langle \delta, P \rangle$  is a  $(\theta_{t-1}, 0)_{t-1}$  flat. Thus  $\Pi_t$  contains a  $(\theta_{t-1}, 0)_{t-1}$  flat. Next, assume that  $\Pi_t$  contains a  $(\frac{q^2+3q+2}{2}, 0)$ -plane. Then,  $\Pi_t$  has a  $(\theta_{t-1}, 0)_{t-1}$  flat from Theorem 23.6.1 in [6]. This completes the proof of Theorem 2.8.

## 5 Proof of Theorem 2.9

We assume that  $q = 4$  throughout this section. Let  $\mathcal{C}$  be an  $[n, k, d]_4$  code with diversity  $(\Phi_0, \Phi_1)$ ,  $k \geq 3$ ,  $d \equiv -2 \pmod{4}$  satisfying  $A_i = 0$  for all  $i \equiv 1 \pmod{4}$ . If  $\Phi_1 > 0$ , then  $\mathcal{C}$  is extendable by Theorem 2.7. So, we only consider the case when  $\Phi_1 = 0$ . Let  $\Pi_t$  be a  $(\varphi_0^{(t)}, 0)_t$  flat in  $\Sigma = \text{PG}(k - 1, 4)$ .

For  $t = 2$ , we can obtain Table 4 for possible planes from Theorem 19.4.4 in [5]. Hence, when  $k = 3$ ,  $\mathcal{C}$  is extendable if  $\Phi_0 \notin \{7, 9\}$ , for  $c_{\theta_1,0}^{(2)} > 0$ .

**Theorem 5.1.** *Let  $\mathcal{C}$  be an  $[n, 3, d]_4$  code with diversity  $(\Phi_0, 0)$ ,  $d \equiv 2 \pmod{4}$  such that  $A_i = 0$  for all  $i \equiv 1 \pmod{4}$ . Then  $\mathcal{C}$  is extendable if  $\Phi_0 \notin \{7, 9\}$ .*

Table 4: Types of planes with  $\varphi_1^{(2)} = 0, q = 4$ 

Type	$\varphi_0^{(2)}$	$\varphi_1^{(2)}$	$c_{1,0}^{(2)}$	$c_{3,0}^{(2)}$	$c_{\theta_1,0}^{(2)}$
(I)	9	0	9	12	0
(II)	7	0	14	7	0
(III)	11	0	5	15	1
(IV)	15	0	0	15	6
(V)	13	0	2	16	3
(VI)	5	0	20	0	1
(VII)	21	0	0	0	21

The next lemma follows from the spectra of (II) and (I) in Table 4.

**Lemma 5.2.** *Let  $\Pi_2$  be a  $(\varphi_0^{(2)}, 0)$ -plane in  $\Sigma$ .*

- (1)  $F_0 \cap \Pi_2$  forms a Fano plane if  $\varphi_0^{(2)} = 7$ .
- (2)  $F_0 \cap \Pi_2$  forms a Hermitian curve if  $\varphi_0^{(2)} = 9$ .

In the cases of Lemma 5.2, every line in  $\Pi_2$  meets  $F_d$  in at least one point if  $|(\Pi_2 \cap F_2) \setminus F_d| \leq 1$ . Since  $|(\Pi_2 \cap F_2) \setminus F_d| = \theta_2 - \varphi_0^{(2)} - |\Pi_2 \cap F_d|$ , the following holds.

**Theorem 5.3.** *Let  $\mathcal{C}$  be an  $[n, 3, d]_4$  code with diversity  $(\Phi_0, 0)$ ,  $\Phi_0 \in \{7, 9\}$ ,  $d \equiv 2 \pmod{4}$  such that  $A_i = 0$  for all  $i \equiv 1 \pmod{4}$ . Then  $\mathcal{C}$  is not extendable if  $\Phi_0 + A_d/3 \geq 20$ .*

For  $t = 3$ , we can obtain Table 5 for possible solids from Theorems 19.4.8, 19.4.9 and 19.5.13 in [5].

**Lemma 5.4.** *Let  $\Pi_3$  be a  $(\varphi_0^{(3)}, 0)$ -solid. Then,  $\Pi_3 \cap F_0$  contains a plane if  $\varphi_0^{(3)} \in \{21, 53, 61, 85\}$ .*

*Proof* From Table 5, every  $(\varphi_0^{(3)}, 0)$ -solid with  $\varphi_0^{(3)} \in \{21, 53, 61, 85\}$  contains a  $(21, 0)$ -plane.  $\square$

As a consequence of Lemma 5.4, we get the following. Note that  $\Phi_0 \neq \theta_3$  since  $F_d \neq \emptyset$ .

**Theorem 5.5.** *Let  $\mathcal{C}$  be an  $[n, 4, d]_4$  code with diversity  $(\Phi_0, 0)$ ,  $d \equiv 2 \pmod{4}$  such that  $A_i = 0$  for all  $i \equiv 1 \pmod{4}$ . Then  $\mathcal{C}$  is extendable if  $\Phi_0 \in \{21, 53, 61\}$ .*

**Lemma 5.6.** *Let  $\Pi_t$  be a  $(\theta_{t-1}, 0)_t$  flat. Then,  $(c_{\theta_{t-2},0}^{(t)}, c_{\theta_{t-1},0}^{(t)}) = (\theta_t - 1, 1)$ .*

Table 5: Types of planes with  $\varphi_1^{(2)} = 0, q = 4$ 

Type	$\varphi_0^{(3)}$	$\varphi_1^{(3)}$	$c_{9,0}^{(3)}$	$c_{7,0}^{(3)}$	$c_{11,0}^{(3)}$	$c_{15,0}^{(3)}$	$c_{13,0}^{(3)}$	$c_{5,0}^{(3)}$	$c_{21,0}^{(3)}$
(I)	37	0	64	0	0	0	12	9	0
(II)	29	0	0	64	0	0	7	14	0
(III)	45	0	0	0	64	0	15	5	1
(IV)	61	0	0	0	0	64	15	0	6
(V)	53	0	0	0	0	0	80	2	3
(VI)	21	0	0	0	0	0	0	84	1
(VII)	85	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	85
( $\mathcal{U}_3$ )	45	0	40	0	0	0	45	0	0
( $\mathcal{R}_3$ )	53	0	0	0	32	32	20	0	1
( $\mathcal{K}^*$ )	37	0	16	32	32	0	4	1	0
( $\mathcal{S}_{IV}$ )	33	0	15	45	18	1	0	6	0
( $\mathcal{S}_{III}$ )	41	0	15	15	46	3	5	1	0
( $\mathcal{S}_{II}$ )	49	0	7	1	42	21	14	0	0
( $\mathcal{T}$ )	45	0	8	8	48	8	13	0	0

*Proof* Suppose  $\Pi_t$  contains a  $(3, 0)$ -line  $l$ . Then every plane in  $\Pi_t$  through  $l$  contains at least seven points of  $F_0$  from Table 4. Counting the number of points of  $F_0$  in the planes through  $l$ , we have  $\varphi_0^{(t)} \geq (7 - 3)\theta_{t-2} + 3 = \theta_{t-1} + 2$ , a contradiction. Hence,  $\Pi_t$  has no  $(3, 0)$ -line, and possible lines are  $(1, 0)$ -lines or  $(5, 0)$ -lines. Since  $|\Pi_t \cap F_0| = \theta_{t-1}$ ,  $\Pi_t \cap F_0$  is a hyperplane of  $\Pi_t$  by Lemma 3.6, and we get the desired spectrum.  $\square$

Now, we set  $\nu_t = \frac{\theta_t + \theta_{t-1}}{2}$ ,  $\eta_t = \frac{\theta_t + \theta_{t-1} + 4^{t-1}}{2}$  for  $t \geq 3$ .

**Lemma 5.7.** *Let  $\Pi_t$  be an  $(\eta_t, 0)_t$  flat. Then,  $\Pi_t$  has no  $(i, 0)$ -plane for  $i \in \{7, 9, 11\}$ .*

*Proof* In case  $t = 3$ ,  $\Pi_t$  has no  $(i, 0)$ -plane for  $i \in \{7, 9, 11\}$  since  $(\varphi_0^{(3)}, 0) = (61, 0)$ ,  $(c_{13,0}^{(3)}, c_{15,0}^{(3)}, c_{21,0}^{(3)}) = (15, 64, 6)$ .

In case  $t \geq 4$ , suppose  $\Pi_t$  contains a  $(7, 0)$ -plane  $\delta$ . Then, every solid in  $\Pi_t$  through  $\delta$  contains at most 49 points of  $F_0$  from Table 5. Counting the number of points of  $F_0$  in the solids through  $\delta$ , we have

$$\varphi_0^{(t)} \leq (49 - 7)\theta_{t-3} + 7 = \frac{\theta_t + \theta_{t-1} + \theta_{t-2} - 13}{2} < \eta_t,$$

a contradiction. Hence,  $\Pi_t$  has no  $(7, 0)$ -plane. Similarly, it can be checked that  $\Pi_t$  has no  $(9, 0)$ -plane and no  $(11, 0)$ -plane by counting arguments. Thus, there is no  $(i, 0)$ -plane for  $i \notin \{5, 13, 15, 21\}$ .  $\square$

**Lemma 5.8.** *Let  $\Pi_t$  be a  $(\varphi_0^{(t)}, 0)_t$  flat. Then,  $\varphi_0^{(t)} \in \{\eta_t, \nu_t, \theta_{t-1}, \theta_t\}$  if  $\Pi_t$  has no  $(i, 0)$ -plane with  $i \in \{7, 9, 11\}$ .*

Table 6: Possible types of solids in  $\Pi_t$  of Lemma 5.8

Type	$\varphi_0^{(3)}$	$\varphi_1^{(3)}$	$c_{5,0}^{(3)}$	$c_{13,0}^{(3)}$	$c_{15,0}^{(3)}$	$c_{21,0}^{(3)}$
(VI)	21	0	84	0	0	1
(V)	53	0	2	80	0	3
(IV)	61	0	0	15	64	6
(VII)	85	0	0	0	0	85

*Proof* A possible plane in  $\Pi_t$  is a  $(5, 0)$ -plane, a  $(13, 0)$ -plane, a  $(15, 0)$ -plane or a  $(21, 0)$ -plane. Then, we have Table 6 as possible types of solids in  $\Pi_t$  from Table 5.

(1) Suppose  $\Pi_t$  contains a  $(15, 0)$ -plane  $\delta_1$ . Then, every solid in  $\Pi_t$  through  $\delta_1$  is a  $(61, 0)$ -solid from Table 6. Counting the number of points of  $F_0$  in the solids through  $\delta_1$ , we have  $\varphi_0^{(t)} = (61 - 15)\theta_{t-3} + 15 = \eta_t$ .

(2) Suppose  $\Pi_t$  has no  $(15, 0)$ -plane and contains a  $(13, 0)$ -plane  $\delta_2$ . Then, every solid in  $\Pi_t$  through  $\delta_2$  is a  $(53, 0)$ -solid from Table 6. Counting the number of points of  $F_0$  in the solids through  $\delta_2$ , we have  $\varphi_0^{(t)} = (53 - 13)\theta_{t-3} + 13 = \nu_t$ .

(3) Suppose  $\Pi_t$  has no  $(15, 0)$ -plane and no  $(13, 0)$ -plane and that  $\Pi_t$  contains a  $(5, 0)$ -plane  $\delta_3$ . Then, every solid in  $\Pi_t$  through  $\delta_3$  is a  $(21, 0)$ -solid from Table 6. Counting the number of points of  $F_0$  in the solids through  $\delta_3$ , we have  $\varphi_0^{(t)} = (21 - 5)\theta_{t-3} + 5 = \theta_{t-1}$ .

(4) Suppose  $\Pi_t$  has none of a  $(15, 0)$ -plane, a  $(13, 0)$ -plane and a  $(5, 0)$ -plane. Then, every solid in  $\Pi_t$  is a  $(85, 0)$ -solid from Table 6, and we have  $\varphi_0^{(t)} = \theta_t$ .  $\square$

**Lemma 5.9.** *Let  $\Pi_t$  be an  $(\eta_t, 0)_t$  flat. Then, the spectrum of  $\Pi_t$  is*

$$(c_{\nu_{t-1},0}^{(t)}, c_{\eta_{t-1},0}^{(t)}, c_{\theta_{t-1},0}^{(t)}) = (15, \theta_t - \theta_2, 6).$$

*Proof* We proceed by induction on  $t$ . For  $t = 3$ , the result follows from Table 5. Assume this for  $t - 1$ ,  $t \geq 4$ . From Lemma 5.8, a possible  $(t - 1)$ -flat in  $\Pi_t$  is a  $(\theta_{t-2}, 0)_{t-1}$  flat, an  $(\eta_{t-1}, 0)_{t-1}$  flat, a  $(\nu_{t-1}, 0)_{t-1}$  flat or a  $(\theta_{t-1}, 0)_{t-1}$  flat. And  $\Pi_t$  has an  $(\eta_{t-1}, 0)_{t-1}$  flat since a solid through a  $(15, 0)$ -plane is only a  $(61, 0)$ -solid. Then, by the induction hypothesis,  $\Pi_t$  has  $(\eta_{t-2}, 0)_{t-2}$  flats,  $(\nu_{t-2}, 0)_{t-2}$  flats and  $(\theta_{t-2}, 0)_{t-2}$  flats. In  $\Pi_t$ , there are exactly four  $(\eta_{t-1}, 0)_{t-1}$  flats and a  $(\nu_{t-1}, 0)_{t-1}$  flat through a  $(\nu_{t-2}, 0)_{t-2}$  flat, there are exactly five  $(\eta_{t-1}, 0)_{t-1}$  flats through an  $(\eta_{t-2}, 0)_{t-2}$  flat and there are either

- (a) four  $(\eta_{t-1}, 0)_{t-1}$  flats and a  $(\theta_{t-1}, 0)_{t-1}$  flat or
- (b) three  $(\nu_{t-1}, 0)_{t-1}$  flats and two  $(\theta_{t-1}, 0)_{t-1}$  flats

through a  $(\theta_{t-2}, 0)_{t-2}$  flat. From the induction hypothesis, the spectrum of an  $(\eta_{t-1}, 0)_{t-1}$  flat is  $(c_{\nu_{t-2},0}^{(t-1)}, c_{\eta_{t-2},0}^{(t-1)}, c_{\theta_{t-2},0}^{(t-1)}) = (15, \theta_{t-1} - \theta_2, 6)$ . Hence, we have  $c_{\nu_{t-1},0}^{(t)} = 15 \times 1 = 15$ ,  $c_{\eta_{t-1},0}^{(t)} = 15 \times (4 - 1) + (5 - 1) \times (\theta_{t-1} - \theta_2) + 6 \times (4 - 1) + 1 = \theta_t - \theta_2$  and  $c_{\theta_{t-1},0}^{(t)} = 6 \times 1 = 6$ .  $\square$

Now, Theorem 2.9 follows from Lemmas 5.6 and 5.9.

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