

## Parametrization of actions of $\langle \mathbf{u}, \mathbf{v} : \mathbf{u}^6 = \mathbf{v}^6 = \mathbf{1} \rangle$

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**Abstract.** Graham Higman proposed the problem of parametrization of actions of the extended modular group  $PGL(2, Z)$  on the projective line over  $F_q$ . The problem was solved by Q. Mushtaq. In this paper, we take up the problem and parametrize the actions of  $\langle u, v, t : u^6 = v^6 = t^2 = (ut)^2 = (vt)^2 = 1 \rangle$  on the projective line over finite Galois fields.

### 1. Introduction

Graham Higman proposed the problem of parametrization of actions of the extended modular group  $PGL(2, Z)$  on the projective line over  $F_q$ . The problem was solved by Q. Mushtaq. In this paper, we take up the problem and parametrize the actions of  $\langle u, v, t : u^6 = v^6 = t^2 = (ut)^2 = (vt)^2 = 1 \rangle$  on the projective line over finite Galois fields.

It is worthwhile to consider linear fractional transformations  $x, y$  satisfying the relations  $x^2 = y^m = 1$ , with a view to study actions of the group  $\langle x, y \rangle$  on real quadratic fields. If  $y : z \rightarrow \frac{az+b}{cz+d}$  is to act on all real quadratic fields, then  $a, b, c, d$  must be rational numbers and can be taken to be integers, so that  $\frac{(a+d)^2}{ad-bc}$  is rational. But if  $y : z \rightarrow \frac{az+b}{cz+d}$  is of order  $m$  one must have  $\frac{(a+d)^2}{ad-bc} = \omega^2 + \omega^{-2} + 2$ , where  $\omega$  is a primitive  $m$ th root of unity. Now  $\omega + \omega^{-1}$  is rational, for a primitive  $m$ th root  $\omega$ , only if  $m = 1, 2, 3, 4$ , or  $6$ . So these are the only possible orders of  $y$ . The group  $\langle x, y \rangle$  is cyclic of order two when  $m = 1$ . When  $m = 2$ , it is an infinite dihedral group and does not give inspiring information while studying its action on the quadratic numbers. For  $m = 3$ , the group  $\langle x, y \rangle$  is the modular group  $PSL(2, Z)$  and its action on real quadratic numbers has been discussed in detail in [2] and [3].

It is well known [1, 5] that the group  $G_{2,6}(2, Z)$ , where  $Z$  is the ring of

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integers, is generated by the linear-fractional transformations  $x : z \longrightarrow \frac{-1}{3z}$  and  $y : z \longrightarrow \frac{-1}{3(z+1)}$  which satisfy the relations

$$x^2 = y^6 = 1. \quad (1)$$

Let  $v = xyx$ , and  $u = y$ . Then  $(z)v = \frac{3z-1}{3z}$  and

$$u^6 = v^6 = 1 \quad (2)$$

So the group  $G_{6,6}(2, Z) = \langle u, v \rangle$  is a proper subgroup of the group  $G_{2,6}(2, Z)$ .

The linear-fractional transformation  $t : z \rightarrow \frac{1}{3z}$  inverts  $u$  and  $v$ , that is,  $t^2 = (ut)^2 = (vt)^2 = 1$  and so extends the group  $G_{6,6}(2, Z)$  to

$$G_{6,6}^*(2, Z) = \langle u^6 = v^6 = t^2 = (ut)^2 = (vt)^2 = 1 \rangle. \quad (3)$$

As  $u$  and  $v$  have the same orders, there exists an automorphism which interchanges  $u$  and  $v$  yielding the split extension  $G_{6,6}^*(2, Z)$ .

Let  $PL(F_q)$  denote the projective line over the Galois field  $F_q$ , where  $q$  is a prime, that is,  $PL(F_q) = F_q \cup \{\infty\}$ . The group  $G_{6,6}^*(2, q)$  is then the group of linear-fractional transformations of the form  $z \rightarrow \frac{az+b}{cz+d}$ , where  $a, b, c, d \in F_q$  and  $ad - bc \neq 0$ , while  $G_{6,6}(2, q)$  is its subgroup consisting of all those linear-fractional transformations of the form  $z \rightarrow \frac{az+b}{cz+d}$ , where  $a, b, c, d \in F_q$  and  $ad - bc$  is a non-zero square in  $F_q$ .

Graham Higman proposed the problem of parametrization of actions of  $PGL(2, Z)$  on  $PL(F_q)$ . The problem was solved by Q. Mushtaq in [4]. In this paper, we take up the problem and parametrize the actions of  $G_{6,6}^*(2, Z)$  on  $PL(F_q)$ , except for a few uninteresting ones, by the elements of  $F_q$ . We have shown that any non-degenerate homomorphism  $\alpha$  from  $G_{6,6}(2, Z)$  into  $G_{6,6}(2, q)$  can be extended to a non-degenerate homomorphism  $\alpha$  from  $G_{6,6}^*(2, Z)$  into  $G_{6,6}^*(2, q)$ . It has been shown also that every element in  $G_{6,6}^*(2, q)$ , not of order 1, 2, or 6, is the image of  $uv$  under  $\alpha$ . It is also proved that the conjugacy classes of  $\alpha : G_{6,6}^*(2, Z) \rightarrow G_{6,6}^*(2, q)$  are in one-to-one correspondence with the conjugacy classes of non-trivial elements of  $G_{6,6}^*(2, q)$ , under a correspondence which assigns to the homomorphism  $\alpha$  the class containing  $(uv)\alpha$ . Of course, this will mean that we can actually parametrize the actions of  $G_{6,6}^*(2, q)$  on  $PL(F_q)$ , except for a few uninteresting ones, by the elements of  $F_q$ .

## 2. Conjugacy classes

The transformations  $u : z \rightarrow \frac{-1}{3(z+1)}$ ,  $v : z \rightarrow \frac{3z-1}{3z}$  and  $t : z \rightarrow \frac{1}{3z}$  generate  $G_{6,6}^*(2, Z)$ , subject to defining relations  $u^6 = v^6 = t^2 = (ut)^2 = (vt)^2 = 1$ . Thus to choose a homomorphism  $\alpha : G_{6,6}^*(2, Z) \rightarrow G_{6,6}^*(2, q)$  amounts to choosing  $\bar{u} = u\alpha, \bar{v} = v\alpha$  and  $\bar{t} = t\alpha$ , in  $G_{6,6}^*(2, q)$  such that

$$\bar{u}^6 = \bar{v}^6 = \bar{t}^2 = (\bar{u}\bar{t})^2 = (\bar{v}\bar{t})^2 = 1. \tag{4}$$

We call  $\alpha$  to be a *non-degenerate homomorphism* if neither of the generators  $u, v$  of  $G_{6,6}^*(2, Z)$  lies in the kernel of  $\alpha$ . Two homomorphisms  $\alpha$  and  $\beta$  from  $G_{6,6}^*(2, Z)$  to  $G_{6,6}^*(2, q)$  are called *conjugate* if there exists an inner automorphism  $\rho$  of  $G_{6,6}^*(2, q)$  such that  $\beta = \rho\alpha$ . Let  $\delta$  be the automorphism on  $G_{6,6}^*(2, Z)$  defined by  $u\delta = tut, v\delta = v$ , and  $t\delta = t$ . Then the homomorphism  $\alpha' = \delta\alpha$  is called the *dual homomorphism* of  $\alpha$ . This, of course, means that if  $\alpha$  maps  $u, v, t$  to  $\bar{u}, \bar{v}, \bar{t}$ , then  $\alpha'$  maps  $u, v, t$  to  $\bar{t}\bar{u}\bar{t}, \bar{v}, \bar{t}$  respectively. Since the elements  $\bar{u}, \bar{v}, \bar{t}$  as well as  $\bar{t}\bar{u}\bar{t}, \bar{v}, \bar{t}$  satisfy the relations (4), therefore the solutions of these relations occur in dual pairs. Of course, if  $\alpha$  is conjugate to  $\beta$  then  $\alpha'$  is conjugate to  $\beta'$ .

### 2.1. Parametrization

If the natural mapping  $GL(2, q) \rightarrow G_{6,6}^*(2, q)$  maps a matrix  $M$  to the element of  $g$  of  $G_{6,6}^*(2, q)$ , then  $\theta = (tr(M))^2 / \det(M)$  is an invariant of the conjugacy class of  $g$ . We refer to it as the parameter of  $g$  or of the conjugacy class. Of course, every element in  $F_q$  is the parameter of some conjugacy class in  $G_{6,6}^*(2, q)$ . For instance, the class represented by a matrix with characteristic polynomial  $z^2 - \theta z + \theta$  if  $\theta \neq 0$  or  $z^2 - 1$  if  $\theta = 0$ .

If  $q$  is odd, there are two classes with parameter 0. Of course a matrix  $M$  in  $GL(2, q)$  represents an involution in  $G_{6,6}^*(2, q)$  if and only if its trace is zero. This means that the two classes with parameter 0 contain involutions. One of the classes is contained in  $G_{6,6}(2, q)$  and the other not. In any case, there are two classes with parameter 4; the class containing the identity element and the class containing the element  $z \rightarrow z + 1$ . Thus apart from these two exceptions, the correspondence between classes and parameters is one-to-one.

If  $q$  is odd and  $g$  is not an involution, then  $g$  belongs to  $G_{6,6}(2, q)$  if and only if  $\theta$  is a square in  $F_q$ . On the other hand  $g : z \rightarrow \frac{az+b}{cz+d}$ , where  $a, b, c, d \in F_q$ , has a fixed point  $k$  in the natural representation of  $G_{6,6}^*(2, q)$

on  $PL(F_q)$  if and only if the discriminant,  $a^2+d^2-2ad+4bc$ , of the quadratic equation  $k^2c + k(d - a) - b = 0$  is a square in  $F_q$ . Since the determinant  $ad - bc$  is 1 and the trace  $a + d$  is  $r$ , the discriminant is  $(\theta - 4)$ . Thus,  $g$  has fixed point in the natural representation of  $G_{6,6}^*(2, q)$  on  $PL(F_q)$  if and only if  $(\theta - 4)$  is a square in  $F_q$ .

If  $U$  and  $V$  are two non-singular  $2 \times 2$  matrices corresponding to the generators  $\bar{u}$  and  $\bar{v}$  of  $G_{6,6}^*(2, q)$  with  $\det(UV) = 1$  and trace  $r$ , then for a positive integer  $k$

$$(UV)^k = \left\{ \binom{k-1}{0} r^{k-1} - \binom{k-2}{1} r^{k-3} + \dots \right\} UV - \left\{ \binom{k-2}{0} r^{k-2} - \binom{k-3}{1} r^{k-4} + \dots \right\} I. \tag{5}$$

Furthermore, suppose

$$f(r) = \binom{k-1}{0} r^{k-1} - \binom{k-2}{1} r^{k-3} + \dots \tag{6}$$

The replacement of  $\theta$  for  $r^2$  in  $f(r)$  yields a polynomial  $f(\theta) = f_k(\theta)$  in  $\theta$ . Thus, one can find a minimal polynomial  $g_k(\theta)$ , which is equal to  $f_k(\theta)$  if  $k$  is a prime number, otherwise for any positive integer  $k$  such that  $q \equiv \pm 1 \pmod k$  by the equation:

$$g_k(\theta) = \frac{f_k(\theta)}{g_{d_1}(\theta)g_{d_2}(\theta)\dots g_{d_n}(\theta)} \tag{7}$$

where  $d_1, d_2, \dots, d_n$ , are the divisors of  $k$  such that  $1 < d_i < k$ ,  $i = 1, 2, \dots, n$  and  $f_k(\theta)$  is obtained by the equation (3.2).

The degree of the minimal polynomial is obtained as:

$$\deg[g_k(\theta)] = \deg[f_k(\theta)] - \sum \deg[g_{d_i}(\theta)], \tag{8}$$

where  $\deg[f_k(\theta)] = \left\{ \begin{array}{l} \frac{k-1}{2} \text{ if } k \text{ is odd,} \\ \frac{k}{2} \text{ if } k \text{ is even} \end{array} \right\}$ . Also,  $\deg[g_{p^n}(\theta)] = \frac{p^n}{2} - \frac{p^{n-1}}{2}$ ,

where  $p$  is a prime.

Thus:

<b>k</b>	<b>Minimal equation satisfied by <math>\theta</math></b>
1	$\theta - 4 = 0$
2	$\theta = 0$

- 3  $\theta - 1 = 0$
- 4  $\theta - 2 = 0$
- 5  $\theta^2 - 3\theta + 1 = 0$
- 6  $\theta - 3 = 0$
- 7  $\theta^3 - 5\theta^2 + 6\theta - 1 = 0$
- 8  $\theta^2 - 4\theta + 2 = 0$
- 9  $\theta^3 - 6\theta^2 + 9\theta - 1 = 0$
- 10  $\theta^2 - 5\theta + 5 = 0$
- 11  $\theta^5 - 9\theta^4 + 28\theta^3 - 35\theta^2 + 15\theta - 1 = 0$
- 12  $\theta^2 - 4\theta + 1 = 0$
- 13  $\theta^6 - 11\theta^5 + 45\theta^4 - 84\theta^3 + 70\theta^2 - 21\theta + 1 = 0$
- 14  $\theta^6 - 120\theta^5 + 55\theta^4 - 120\theta^3 + 126\theta^2 - 56\theta + 7 = 0$
- 15  $\theta^7 - 13\theta^6 + 66\theta^5 - 165\theta^4 + 210\theta^3 - 126\theta^2 + 28\theta - 1 = 0$
- 16  $\theta^6 - 12\theta^5 + 54\theta^4 - 112\theta^3 + 106\theta^2 - 40\theta + 4 = 0$
- 17  $\theta^8 - 15\theta^7 + 91\theta^6 - 286\theta^5 + 495\theta^4 - 462\theta^3 + 210\theta^2 - 36\theta + 1 = 0$
- 18  $\theta^6 - 12\theta^5 + 54\theta^4 - 112\theta^3 + 105\theta^2 - 36\theta + 3 = 0$
- 19  $\theta^9 - 17\theta^8 + 120\theta^7 - 455\theta^6 + 1001\theta^5 - 1287\theta^4 + 924\theta^3 - 330\theta^2 + 45\theta - 1 = 0$
- 20  $\theta^8 - 16\theta^7 + 104\theta^6 - 352\theta^5 + 661\theta^4 - 680\theta^3 + 356\theta^2 - 80\theta + 5 = 0,$

and so on.

Let  $U = \begin{bmatrix} a & b \\ c & d \end{bmatrix}$  be an element of  $GL(2, q)$  corresponding to  $\bar{u}$ . Then, since  $\bar{u}^6 = 1$ ,  $U^6$  is a scalar matrix, and hence  $\det(U)$  is a square in  $F_q$ , where  $q = \pm 1 \pmod{12}$ . Thus, replacing  $U$  by a suitable scalar multiple, we assume that  $\det(U) = 1$ .

Since, for any matrix  $M$ , such that  $M^2$  and  $M^3$  are not scalar matrices,  $M^6 = \lambda I$  if and only if  $(\text{tr}(M))^2 = 3\det(M)$ , we may assume that  $\text{tr}(U) = a + d = \sqrt{3}$  and  $\det(U) = 1$ . Thus  $U = \begin{bmatrix} a & b \\ c & -a + \sqrt{3} \end{bmatrix}$ . Similarly,  $V = \begin{bmatrix} e & f \\ g & -e + \sqrt{3} \end{bmatrix}$ . Since  $\bar{u}^6 = 1$  also implies that the  $\text{tr}(\bar{u}) = \sqrt{3}$ , every element of  $GL(2, q)$  of trace equal to  $\sqrt{3}$  has upto scalar multiplication, a conjugate of the form  $\begin{bmatrix} 0 & -1 \\ 1 & \sqrt{3} \end{bmatrix}$ . Therefore  $U$  will be of the form  $\begin{bmatrix} 0 & -1 \\ 1 & \sqrt{3} \end{bmatrix}$ .

Now let  $\bar{t}$  be represented by  $T = \begin{bmatrix} l & m \\ n & j \end{bmatrix}$ . Since  $\bar{t}^2 = 1$ , the trace of  $T$  is zero. So, upto scalar multiplication, the matrix representing  $\bar{t}$  will be

of the form  $\begin{bmatrix} 0 & -k \\ 1 & 0 \end{bmatrix}$ . Because  $(\bar{u}\bar{t})^2 = (\bar{v}\bar{t})^2 = 1$ , the  $tr(\bar{u}\bar{t}) = tr(\bar{v}\bar{t}) = 0$  and so  $b = kc$  and  $f = gk$ .

Thus the matrices corresponding to generators  $\bar{u}$ ,  $\bar{v}$  and  $\bar{t}$  of  $G_{6,6}^*(2, q)$  will be:

$U = \begin{bmatrix} a & kc \\ c & -a + \sqrt{3} \end{bmatrix}$ ,  $V = \begin{bmatrix} e & gk \\ g & -e + \sqrt{3} \end{bmatrix}$ , and  $T = \begin{bmatrix} 0 & -k \\ 1 & 0 \end{bmatrix}$  respectively, where  $a, c, e, g, k \in F_q$ . Then,

$$1 + a^2 + kc^2 - \sqrt{3}a = 0 \quad (9)$$

and

$$1 + e^2 + kg^2 - \sqrt{3}e = 0, \quad (10)$$

because the determinants of  $U$  and  $V$  are 1.

This certainly evolves elements satisfying the relations  $U^6 = \lambda_1 I$ ,  $V^6 = \lambda_2 I$ , where  $\lambda_1$  and  $\lambda_2$  are non-zero scalars and  $I$  is the identity matrix. The non-degenerate homomorphism  $\alpha$  is determined by  $\bar{u}, \bar{v}$  because one-to-one correspondence assigns to  $\alpha$  the class containing  $\bar{u} \bar{v}$ . So it is sufficient to check on the conjugacy class of  $\bar{u} \bar{v}$ . The matrix  $UV$  has the trace

$$r = 2(ae + kcg) + 3 - \sqrt{3}(a + e). \quad (11)$$

If  $tr(UVT) = ks$ , then

$$s = 2ag - c(2e - \sqrt{3}) - \sqrt{3}g. \quad (12)$$

So the relationship between (3.7) and (3.8) is

$$r^2 + ks^2 = 3r - 2. \quad (13)$$

We set

$$\theta = r^2. \quad (14)$$

**Lemma 1.** *Either  $\bar{u}\bar{v}$  is of order 3 or there exists an involution  $\bar{t}$  in  $G_{6,6}^*(2, q)$  such that  $\bar{t}^2 = (\bar{u}\bar{t})^2 = (\bar{v}\bar{t})^2 = 1$ .*

*Proof.* Let  $U$  be an element of  $GL(2, q)$  which yields the element  $\bar{u}$  of  $G_{6,6}^*(2, q)$ . Since  $(\bar{u})^6 = 1$ , therefore we can assume that  $U$  has the form

$$\begin{bmatrix} 0 & -1 \\ 1 & -\sqrt{3} \end{bmatrix}.$$

Let  $V = \begin{bmatrix} a & b \\ c & -a - \sqrt{3} \end{bmatrix}$  and  $T = \begin{bmatrix} l & m \\ n & -l \end{bmatrix}$  where  $1 + a^2 + bc - \sqrt{3}a = 0$ .

Now suppose that there exists a transformation  $\bar{t}$  in  $G_{6,6}^*(2, Z)$  such that  $\bar{t}^2 = (\bar{u}\bar{t})^2 = (\bar{v}\bar{t})^2 = 1$ . Let  $r$  be the trace of  $UV$ . Then  $r = 3 + b - c - \sqrt{3}a$ .  
Now

$$UT = \begin{bmatrix} 0 & -1 \\ 1 & -\sqrt{3} \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} l & m \\ n & -l \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} -n & l \\ l - \sqrt{3}n & m - \sqrt{3}l \end{bmatrix}$$

give us  $-n + m - \sqrt{3}l = 0$  or  $m = n + \sqrt{3}l$ .

Also

$$VT = \begin{bmatrix} a & b \\ c & -a + \sqrt{3} \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} l & m \\ n & -l \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} al + bn & am - bl \\ cl - an + \sqrt{3}n & cm + al - \sqrt{3}l \end{bmatrix}$$

yields  $2al + bn + cm - \sqrt{3}l = 0$  or  $2al + bn + c(n + \sqrt{3}l) - \sqrt{3}l = 0$  or  $2al + bn + cn + \sqrt{3}cl - \sqrt{3}l = 0$ . Hence

$$(2a + \sqrt{3}c - \sqrt{3})l + (b + c)n = 0. \tag{15}$$

Now for  $T$  to be a non-singular matrix, we have  $\det(T) \neq 0$ , that is,  $-l^2 - mn \neq 0$  or  $l^2 + mn \neq 0$  or  $l^2 + n(n + \sqrt{3}l) \neq 0$  or  $l^2 + n^2 + \sqrt{3}nl \neq 0$  or

$$\left(\frac{l}{n}\right)^2 + 1 + \sqrt{3}\left(\frac{l}{n}\right) \neq 0. \tag{16}$$

Thus the necessary and sufficient conditions for the existence of  $\bar{t}$  in  $G_{6,6}^*(2, q)$  are the equations (15) and (16). Hence  $\bar{t}$  exists in  $G_{6,6}^*(2, q)$  unless

$$\left(\frac{l}{n}\right)^2 + 1 + \sqrt{3}\left(\frac{l}{n}\right) = 0.$$

Of course, if both  $2a + \sqrt{3}c - \sqrt{3}$  and  $b + c$  are equal to zero, then the existence of  $\bar{t}$  is trivial. If not, then  $\frac{l}{n} = \frac{-(b+c)}{2a + \sqrt{3}c - \sqrt{3}}$ , and so equation (16) is equivalent to  $(b + c)^2 + (2a + \sqrt{3}c - \sqrt{3})^2 + (2a + \sqrt{3}c - \sqrt{3})(b + c) \neq 0$ . Thus there exists  $\bar{t}$  in  $G_{6,6}^*(2, q)$  such that  $\bar{t}^2 = (\bar{u}\bar{t})^2 = (\bar{v}\bar{t})^2 = 1$  unless

$$(b + c)^2 + (2a + \sqrt{3}c - \sqrt{3})^2 = \sqrt{3}(2a + \sqrt{3}c - \sqrt{3})(b + c).$$

This yields  $(b - c)^2 + 4bc + 4a^2 + 3c^2 + 3 + 4\sqrt{3}ac - 4\sqrt{3}a - 6c = \sqrt{3}(2ab + \sqrt{3}bc - \sqrt{3}b + 2ac + \sqrt{3}c^2 - \sqrt{3}c)$ .

After simplification we get  $r^2 - 3r + 2 = 0$ . So,  $r^2 = 3r - 2$  and after squaring both sides, we get  $\theta^2 - 5\theta + 4 = 0$ . This implies that  $\theta = 1$  or  $\theta = 4$ .

By the preceding table,  $\theta = 1$  implies that the order of  $\bar{u}\bar{v}$  is 3 and  $\theta = 4$  gives the order of  $\bar{u}\bar{v}$  is 1, so neglecting it because  $(\bar{u}\bar{v}) \neq 1$ , the parameter of  $\bar{u}\bar{v}$  is 1 and the order of  $\bar{u}\bar{v}$  is 3.  $\square$

**Lemma 2.** *One and only one of the following holds:*

(i) *The pair  $(\bar{u}, \bar{v})$  is invertible.*

(ii)  *$\bar{u}\bar{v}$  has order 3 and  $\bar{u}\bar{v} \neq \bar{v}\bar{u}$ .*  $\square$

In what follows we shall find a relationship between the parameters of the dual homomorphisms. We first prove the following.

**Lemma 3.** *Any non trivial element  $\bar{g}$  of  $G_{6,6}^*(2, q)$  whose order is not equal to 2 or 6 is the image of  $uv$  under some non-degenerate homomorphism  $\alpha$  of  $G_{6,6}^*(2, , Z)$  into  $G_{6,6}^*(2, q)$ .*

*Proof.* Using Lemma 1, we show that every non-trivial element of  $G_{6,6}^*(2, q)$  is a product of two elements of orders 3. So we find elements  $\bar{u}, \bar{v}$  and,  $\bar{t}$  of  $G_{6,6}^*(2, q)$  satisfying the relations (4) with  $\bar{u}\bar{v}$  in a given conjugacy class.

The class to which we want  $\bar{u}\bar{v}$  to belong do not consist of involutions because  $\bar{g} = \bar{u}\bar{v}$  is not of order 2. Thus the traces of the matrices  $UV$  and  $UVT$  are not equal to zero. Hence  $r \neq 0$ , and  $s \neq 0$ , so that we have  $\theta = r^2 \neq 0$ ; and it is sufficient to show that we can choose  $a, c, e, g, k$ , in  $F_q$  so that  $r^2$  is indeed equal to  $\theta$ . The solution of  $\theta$  is therefore arbitrarily in  $F_q$ . We can choose  $r$  to satisfy  $\theta = r^2$ , equation (13), yields  $ks^2 = 3r - 2 - r^2$ . If  $r^2 \neq 3r - 2$ , we select  $k$  as above.

Any quadratic polynomial  $\lambda z^2 + \mu z + \nu$ , with coefficients in  $F_q$  takes at least  $(q+1)/2$  distinct values, as  $z$  runs through  $F_q$ ; since the equation  $\lambda z^2 + \mu z + \nu = k$  has at most two roots for fixed  $k$ ; and there are  $q$  elements in  $F_q$ , where  $q$  is odd. In particular,  $a^2 - \sqrt{3}a$  and  $-kc^2 - 1$  each taking at least  $(q+1)/2$  distinct values as  $a$  and  $c$  run through  $F_q$ . Similarly,  $e^2 - \sqrt{3}e$  and  $-kg^2 - 1$  each takes at least  $(q+1)/2$  distinct values as  $e$  and  $g$  run through  $F_q$ . Hence we can find  $a$  and  $c$  so that  $a^2 - \sqrt{3}a = -kc^2 - 1$  and  $e, g$  so that  $e^2 - \sqrt{3}e = -kg^2 - 1$ .

Finally, by substituting the values of  $r, s, a, c, e, g, k$  in equations (11) and (12) we obtain the values of  $e$  and  $g$ . These equations are linear equations for  $e$  and  $g$  with determinant  $(2a - \sqrt{3})^2 + 4kc^2 = 4a^2 + 3 - 4\sqrt{3}4kc^2 = 4(a^2 + kc^2 - \sqrt{3}a) + 3 = -4 + 3 = -1$ . It is non-zero, so that we can



find  $e$  and  $g$  satisfying equation (10). It is obvious from (13) and (14) that  $\theta = 0$  when  $r = 0$  and  $\theta = 1$  or  $4$  when  $s = 0$ . By the preceding table, the possibility that  $\theta = 0$  gives rise to the situation where  $\bar{u}.\bar{v}$  is of order 2. Similarly, the possibility  $\theta = 1$  leads to the situation where  $\bar{u}\bar{v}$  is of order 3 and  $\theta = 4$  yields  $\bar{u}\bar{v}$  of order 1.  $\square$

**Theorem 1.** *The conjugacy classes of non-degenerate homomorphisms of  $G_{6,6}^*(2, Z)$  into  $G_{6,6}^*(2, q)$  are in one-to-one correspondence with the non-trivial conjugacy classes of elements of  $G_{6,6}^*(2, q)$  under a correspondence which assigns to any non-degenerate homomorphism  $\sigma$  the class containing  $(uv)\sigma$ .*

*Proof.* Let  $\sigma : G_{6,6}^*(2, Z) \rightarrow G_{6,6}^*(2, q)$  be a non-degenerate homomorphism such that it maps  $u, v$  to  $\bar{u}, \bar{v}$ . Let  $\theta$  be the parameter of the class represented by  $\bar{u}\bar{v}$ . Now  $\alpha$  is determined by  $\bar{u}, \bar{v}$  and each  $\theta$  evolves a pair  $\bar{u}, \bar{v}$ , so that  $\sigma$  is associated with  $\theta$ . We shall call the parameter  $\theta$  of the class containing  $\bar{u}\bar{v}$ , the parameter of the non-degenerate homomorphism of  $G_{6,6}^*(2, Z)$  into  $G_{6,6}^*(2, q)$ . Now  $UT = \begin{bmatrix} ck & -ak \\ -a + \sqrt{3} & -ck \end{bmatrix}$  implies that  $\det(UT) = -k(a^2 - \sqrt{3}a + kc^2) = k$  (equation 9). Also,  $(UT)V = \begin{bmatrix} kec - ak g & k^2gc + ak(e - \sqrt{3}) \\ -ae + e\sqrt{3} - kgc & -akg + kg\sqrt{3} + ck(e - \sqrt{3}) \end{bmatrix}$  implies that  $Tr((UT)V) = 2kec - 2akg + \sqrt{3}kg - \sqrt{3}kc = -k(-2ce + 2ag - \sqrt{3}g + \sqrt{3}c) = -ks$ . If  $\bar{u}, \bar{v}, \bar{t}$  satisfy the relations (4), then so do  $\bar{t}\bar{u}\bar{t}, \bar{v}, \bar{t}$ . So that the solution of relations (4) occur in dual pairs. Hence replacing the solutions in Lemma 3 by  $\bar{t}\bar{u}\bar{t}, \bar{v}, \bar{t}$ , we have  $\theta = \frac{[Tr((UT)V)]^2}{\det(UT)} = \frac{k^2s^2}{k} = ks^2$ . We then find a relationship between the parameters of the dual non-degenerate homomorphisms.  $\square$

There is an interesting relationship between the parameters of the dual non-degenerate homomorphisms.

**Corollary 1.** *If  $\alpha : G_{6,6}^*(2, Z) \rightarrow G_{6,6}^*(2, q)$  is a non-degenerate homomorphism,  $\alpha'$  is its dual and  $\theta, \varphi$  are their respective parameters then  $\theta + \varphi = 3r - 2$ .*

*Proof.* Let  $\alpha : G_{6,6}^*(2, Z) \rightarrow G_{6,6}^*(2, q)$  be a non-degenerate homomorphism satisfying the relations  $u\alpha = \bar{u}, v\alpha = \bar{v}$  and  $t\alpha = \bar{t}$ . Let  $\alpha'$  be the dual of  $\alpha$ . As we choose the matrices  $U = \begin{bmatrix} a & ck \\ c & -a + \sqrt{3} \end{bmatrix}, V = \begin{bmatrix} e & g & k \\ g & -e + \sqrt{3} \end{bmatrix}$

and  $T = \begin{bmatrix} 0 & -k \\ 1 & 0 \end{bmatrix}$ , representing  $\bar{u}, \bar{v}$  and  $\bar{t}$ , respectively such that they satisfy the equations from (9) to (13). Now  $(\bar{u}\bar{v})^2 = 1$ , implies that  $Tr(UV) = 0$ . Also, we have  $\{Tr(UVT)\}/k = s = 0$  if and only if  $(\bar{u}\bar{v}\bar{t})^2 = 1$ . Then  $\det(UV) = 1$ , thus giving the parameter of  $\bar{u}\bar{v}$  equal to  $r^2 = \theta$ . Also since  $Tr(UVT) = ks$  and  $\det(UVT) = k$  (since  $\det(U) = 1$ ,  $\det(V) = 1$  and  $\det(T) = k$ ), we obtain the parameter of  $\bar{u}\bar{v}\bar{t}$  equal to  $ks^2$ , which we denote by  $\varphi$ . Thus  $\theta + \varphi = r^2 + ks^2$ . Substituting the values from equation (13), we therefore obtain  $\theta + \varphi = 3r - 2$ . Hence if  $\theta$  is the parameter of the non-degenerate homomorphism  $\alpha$ , then  $\varphi = 3r - 2 - \theta$  is the parameter of the dual  $\alpha'$  of  $\alpha$ .  $\square$

Theorem 1, of course, means that we can actually parametrize the non-degenerate homomorphisms of  $G_{6,6}^*(2, Z)$  to  $G_{6,6}^*(2, q)$  except for a few uninteresting ones, by the elements of  $F_q$ . Since  $G_{6,6}^*(2, q)$  has a natural permutation representation on  $PL(F_q)$ , any homomorphism  $\sigma : G_{6,6}^*(2, Z) \rightarrow G_{6,6}^*(2, q)$  gives rise to an action of  $G_{6,6}^*(2, Z)$  on  $PL(F_q)$ .

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