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**Yun Fan**, Wuhan,, 430079, Peoples Rep of China, and **Bangteng Xu\*** (bangteng.xu@eku.edu),  
521 Lancaster Avenue, Richmond, KY 40475. *Nonlinear functions and difference sets on group  
actions.*

Let  $G$  be a finite abelian group acting on a finite set  $X$ .  $G$ -bent functions on  $X$  and  $G$ -difference sets of  $X$  are generalizations of bent functions on  $G$  and difference sets of  $G$ , respectively. We introduce the notion of a  $G$ -dual set  $\widehat{X}$  of  $X$ , which plays a role similar to the dual group  $\widehat{G}$  of  $G$ . For any  $T$ -valued function  $f$  on  $X$ , where  $T$  is the unit circle in the complex plane, we define the Fourier transform  $\widehat{f}$  of  $f$  as a function on  $\widehat{X}$ . Then we characterize a  $G$ -bent function  $f$  in terms of its Fourier transform  $\widehat{f}$ , and a  $G$ -difference set of  $X$  by a normalized  $G$ -dual set. Constructions of  $G$ -bent functions and  $G$ -perfect nonlinear functions will also be discussed. (Received July 14, 2016)