TRANSACTIONS OF THE
AMERICAN MATHEMATICAL SOCIETY
Volume 348, Number 4, April 1996

FURTHER NICE EQUATIONS FOR NICE GROUPS

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ABSTRACT. Nice sextinomial equations are given for unramified coverings of the affine line in nonzero characteristic p with $\mathrm{P}\Omega^-(2m,q)$ and $\Omega^-(2m,q)$ as Galois groups where $m>3$ is any integer and $q>1$ is any power of $p>2$.

1. INTRODUCTION

Let $m>3$ be any integer, let $q>1$ be any power of a prime $p>2$, consider the polynomials $F^- = F^-(Y) = Y^n + T^{q^2}Y^{u'} + X^qY^u - XY^w - TY^{w'} - 1$ and $F^* = F^*(Y) = Y^{n^*} + XY + 1$ in indeterminates T, X, Y over an algebraically closed field k of characteristic p, where $n = 1+q+\cdots+q^{2m-1}$, $u' = 1+q+\cdots+q^{m+1}$, $u = 1+q+\cdots+q^m$, $w = 1+q+\cdots+q^{m-2}$, $w' = 1+q+\cdots+q^{m-3}$, $n^* = 1+q+\cdots+q^{m-1}$, and consider their respective Galois groups $\mathrm{Gal}(F^-, k(X,T))$ and $\mathrm{Gal}(F^*, k(X))$. Both these are special cases of the families of polynomials giving unramified coverings of the affine line in nonzero characteristic which were written down in my 1957 paper [A01]. In my "Nice Equations" paper [A04], as a consequence of Cameron-Kantor Theorem I [CaK] on antiflag transitive collineation groups, I proved that $\mathrm{Gal}(F^*, k(X)) =$ the projective special linear group $\mathrm{PSL}(m,q)$. In the present paper, as a consequence of Kantor's characterization of Rank 3 groups in terms of their subdegrees [Kan], supplemented by Cameron-Kantor Theorem IV [CaK], I shall show that $\mathrm{Gal}(F^-, k(X,T)) =$ the projective negative orthogonal group $\mathrm{P}\Omega^-(2m,q)$.[1] Note that Kantor's Rank 3 characterization depends on the Buekenhout-Shult characterization of polar spaces [BuS] which itself depends on Tits' classification of spherical buildings [Tit]. Recall that the Rank of a transitive permutation group is the number of orbits of its 1-point stabilizer, and the sizes of these orbits are called subdegrees.

As a corollary of the above theorem that the Galois group of F^- is $\mathrm{P}\Omega^-(2m,q)$, I shall show that the Galois group of a more general polynomial f^- is also $\mathrm{P}\Omega^-(2m,q)$. Moreover, by slightly changing f^- and F^-, I shall show that we get polynomials ϕ^- and ϕ_2^- whose Galois group is the negative orthogonal group $\Omega^-(2m,q)$. The polynomials f^-, ϕ^- and ϕ_2^- are also special cases of the families of polynomials giving unramified coverings of the affine line in nonzero characteristic written down in [A01].

Received by the editors March 23, 1995.
1991 *Mathematics Subject Classification.* Primary 12F10, 14H30, 20D06, 20E22.
This work was partly supported by NSF grant DMS 91–01424 and NSA grant MDA 904–92–H–3035.

[1]The projective negative (resp: positive) orthogonal group $\mathrm{P}\Omega^-(2m,q)$ (resp: $\mathrm{P}\Omega^+(2m,q)$) is also called the projective elliptic (resp: hyperbolic) orthogonal group.

As in [A03] and [A04], here the basic techniques will be MTR (the Method of Throwing away Roots) and FTP (Factorization of Polynomials).

It is a pleasure to thank Bill Kantor and Ulrich Meierfrankenfeld for inspiring conversations about this paper.

2. Notation and Outline

Let k_p be a field of characteristic $p > 0$, let $q > 1$ be any power of p, and let $m > 1$ be any integer.[2] To abbreviate frequently occurring expressions, for every integer $i \geq -1$ we put

$$\langle i \rangle = 1 + q + q^2 + \cdots + q^i \quad \text{(convention: } \langle 0 \rangle = 1 \text{ and } \langle -1 \rangle = 0\text{)}.$$

We shall frequently use the geometric series identity

$$1 + Z + Z^2 + \cdots + Z^i = \frac{Z^{i+1} - 1}{Z - 1}$$

and its corollary

$$\langle i \rangle = 1 + q + q^2 + \cdots + q^i = \frac{q^{i+1} - 1}{q - 1}.$$

Let

$$f^- = f^-(Y) = Y^{\langle 2m-1 \rangle} - 1 + \sum_{i=1}^{m-1} \left(T_i^{q^i} Y^{\langle m-1+i \rangle} - T_i Y^{\langle m-1-i \rangle} \right)$$

and note that then f^- is a monic polynomial of degree $\langle 2m-1 \rangle = 1 + q + q^2 + \cdots + q^{2m-1}$ in Y with coefficients in the polynomial ring $k_p[T_1, \ldots, T_{m-1}]$. Now the constant term of f^- is -1 and the Y-exponent of every other term in f^- is 1 modulo p, and hence $f^- - Y f_Y^- = -1$ where f_Y^- is the Y-derivative of f^-. Therefore $\mathrm{Disc}_Y(f^-) = -1$ where $\mathrm{Disc}_Y(f^-)$ is the Y-discriminant of f^-, and hence the Galois group $\mathrm{Gal}(f^-, k_p(T_1, \ldots, T_{m-1}))$ is well-defined as a subgroup of the symmetric group $\mathrm{Sym}_{\langle 2m-1 \rangle}$.

For $1 \leq e \leq m-1$, let f_e^- be obtained by substituting $T_i = 0$ for all $i > e$ in f^-, i.e., let

$$f_e^- = f_e^-(Y) = Y^{\langle 2m-1 \rangle} - 1 + \sum_{i=1}^{e} \left(T_i^{q^i} Y^{\langle m-1+i \rangle} - T_i Y^{\langle m-1-i \rangle} \right)$$

and note that then f_e^- is a monic polynomial of degree $\langle 2m-1 \rangle = 1 + q + q^2 + \cdots + q^{2m-1}$ in Y with coefficients in the polynomial ring $k_p[T_1, \ldots, T_e]$ and, as above, $\mathrm{Disc}_Y(f_e^-) = -1$ and the Galois group $\mathrm{Gal}(f_e^-, k_p(T_1, \ldots, T_e))$ is a subgroup of $\mathrm{Sym}_{\langle 2m-1 \rangle}$. Note that if $m > 2$ and $k = k_p =$ an algebraically closed field (of characteristic $p > 0$), then F^- is obtained by substituting X, T for T_1, T_2 in f_2^- and hence $\mathrm{Gal}(F^-, k(X,T)) = \mathrm{Gal}(f_2^-, k_p(T_1, T_2))$.

[2] In the Abstract and the Introduction we assumed $p > 2$ and $m > 3$. But in the rest of the paper, unless stated otherwise, we only assume $p > 0$ and $m > 1$.

In Section 3, we factor f^- as $f^- = \overline{f} f^*$ where $\overline{f} = \overline{f}(Y)$ and $f^* = f^*(Y)$ are monic polynomials of degrees $(q^m+1)\langle m-2\rangle$ and $q^{m-1}(q^m+1)$ in Y with coefficients in $k_p[T_1, \ldots, T_{m-1}]$, respectively, and in case of $p \neq 2$ we factor f^* further as $f^* = f^{**} f^{***}$ where $f^{**} = f^{**}(Y)$ and $f^{***} = f^{***}(Y)$ are both monic polynomials of degree $q^{m-1}(q^m+1)/2$ in Y with coefficients in $k_p[T_1, \ldots, T_{m-1}]$. In Section 3, we show that if $p = 2$ then $\overline{f}$ and f^* are irreducible in $k_p(T_1, \ldots, T_{m-1})[Y]$, and if $p \neq 2$ then $\overline{f}$, f^{**} and f^{***} are irreducible in $k_p(T_1, \ldots, T_{m-1})[Y]$. Given any e with $1 \leq e \leq m-1$, by putting $T_i = 0$ for all $i > e$ in $\overline{f}$ and f^* we get $f_e^- = \overline{f}_e f_e^*$ where $\overline{f}_e$ and f_e^* are monic polynomials of degrees $(q^m+1)\langle m-2\rangle$ and $q^{m-1}(q^m+1)$ in Y with coefficients in $k_p[T_1, \ldots, T_e]$ respectively. Likewise, if $p \neq 2$ then by putting $T_i = 0$ for all $i > e$ in f^{**} and f^{***} we get $f_e^* = f_e^{**} f_e^{***}$ where f_e^{**} and f_e^{***} are both monic polynomials of degree $q^{m-1}(q^m+1)/2$ in Y with coefficients in $k_p[T_1, \ldots, T_{m-1}]$. In Section 3, we also show that if $p = 2$ then $\overline{f}_e$ and f_e^* are irreducible in $k_p(T_1, \ldots, T_e)[Y]$, and if $p \neq 2$ then $\overline{f}_e$, f_e^{**} and f_e^{***} are irreducible in $k_p(T_1, \ldots, T_e)[Y]$.

In Section 4, we throw away a root of $\overline{f}$ to get its twisted derivative $f'(Y, Z)$, and we let $g(Y, Z)$ be the polynomial obtained by first dividing the Z-roots of $f'(Y, Z)$ by Y and then changing Y to $1/Y$. Assuming $m > 2$, in Section 4, we factor $g(Y, Z)$ into two factors; to motivate the calculations, we first do this for $m = 3$. The Z-degrees of these factors turn out to be $q(q^{m-1}+1)\langle m-3\rangle$ and q^{2m-2}. In Section 4, assuming $m > 2$, we show that these factors are irreducible in case of $\overline{f}_2$ and hence also in case of $\overline{f}$ and $\overline{f}_e$ for $2 \leq e \leq m-1$, and therefore $\mathrm{Gal}(\overline{f}, k_p(T_1, \ldots, T_{m-1}))$ and $\mathrm{Gal}(\overline{f}_e, k_p(T_1, \ldots, T_e))$ for $2 \leq e \leq m-1$ are Rank 3 groups with subdegrees 1, $q(q^{m-1}+1)\langle m-3\rangle$ and q^{2m-2}. In Section 6, from this Rank 3 description, we deduce the result that if $m > 3 \leq p$ and k_p is algebraically closed then $\mathrm{Gal}(f^-, k_p(T_1, \ldots, T_{m-1})) = \mathrm{Gal}(f_e^-, k_p(T_1, \ldots, T_e)) = \mathrm{P}\Omega^-(2m, q)$ for $2 \leq e \leq m-1$.

Consider the monic polynomials

$$\phi^- = \phi^-(Y) = Y^{q^{2m}-1} - 1 + \sum_{i=1}^{m-1} \left(T_i^{q^i} Y^{q^{m+i}-1} - T_i Y^{q^{m-i}-1} \right)$$

and

$$\phi_e^- = \phi_e^-(Y) = Y^{q^{2m}-1} - 1 + \sum_{i=1}^{e} \left(T_i^{q^i} Y^{q^{m+i}-1} - T_i Y^{q^{m-i}-1} \right) \quad \text{for } 1 \leq e \leq m-1$$

of degree $q^{2m}-1$ in Y with coefficients in $k_p[T_1, \ldots, T_{m-1}]$ and $k_p[T_1, \ldots, T_e]$, respectively, and note that, as before, $\mathrm{Disc}_Y(\phi^-) = \mathrm{Disc}_Y(\phi_e^-) = -1$. In Section 6, as a consequence of the above result about the Galois groups of f^- and f_e^-, we show that if $m > 3 \leq p$ and k_p is algebraically closed then $\mathrm{Gal}(\phi^-, k_p(T_1, \ldots, T_{m-1})) = \mathrm{Gal}(\phi_e^-, k_p(T_1, \ldots, T_e)) = \Omega^-(2m, q)$ for $2 \leq e \leq m-1$.

In Section 5, we give a review of linear algebra including definitions of $\mathrm{P}\Omega^-(2m, q)$ and $\Omega^-(2m, q)$.

3. Factorization of the Basic Equation

We find a root $h_m(Y) \in \mathrm{GF}(p)[Y]$ of the polynomial

$$Y^{q^m+1} R^q - R - \left(Y^{\langle 2m-1\rangle} - 1 \right)$$

by telescopically putting

$$h_m(Y) = \sum_{\mu=0}^{m-1} Y^{(q^m+1)\langle m-2-\mu\rangle}$$

and checking that then

$$Y^{q^m+1} h_m(Y)^q - h_m(Y) - \Big(Y^{\langle 2m-1\rangle} - 1\Big) = 0$$

and, for any integer $0 < i < m$, we find a root $h_i(Y, T_i) \in \mathrm{GF}(p)[Y, T_i]$ of the polynomial

$$Y^{q^m+1} R^q - R - \Big(T_i^{q^i} Y^{\langle m-1+i\rangle} - T_i Y^{\langle m-1-i\rangle}\Big)$$

by telescopically putting

$$h_i(Y, T_i) = \sum_{\mu=0}^{i-1} T_i^{q^{i-1-\mu}} Y^{q^m\langle i-2-\mu\rangle + \langle m-2-\mu\rangle}$$

and checking that then

$$Y^{q^m+1} h_i(Y, T_i)^q - h_i(Y, T_i) - \Big(T_i^{q^i} Y^{\langle m-1+i\rangle} - T_i Y^{\langle m-1-i\rangle}\Big) = 0.$$

By summing the above equations, upon letting

$$\overline{f} = \overline{f}(Y) = \sum_{\mu=0}^{m-1} Y^{(q^m+1)\langle m-2-\mu\rangle} + \sum_{i=1}^{m-1}\sum_{\mu=0}^{i-1} T_i^{q^{i-1-\mu}} Y^{q^m\langle i-2-\mu\rangle + \langle m-2-\mu\rangle},$$

we get

$$Y^{q^m+1} \overline{f}(Y)^q - \overline{f}(Y) - f^-(Y) = 0.$$

From the above equation it follows that

$$f^- = \overline{f} f^* \quad \text{where} \quad f^* = f^*(Y) = Y^{q^m+1} \overline{f}(Y)^{q-1} - 1$$

and

$$\text{if } p \neq 2 \text{ then } f^* = f^{**} f^{***}$$

where

$$f^{**} = f^{**}(Y) = Y^{(q^m+1)/2} \overline{f}(Y)^{(q-1)/2} - 1$$

and

$$f^{***} = f^{***}(Y) = Y^{(q^m+1)/2} \overline{f}(Y)^{(q-1)/2} + 1.$$

Note that the $(\mu = 0)$ term in the above first summation is $Y^{(q^m+1)\langle m-2\rangle}$ and its exponent $(q^m + 1)\langle m - 2\rangle$ is strictly greater than the Y-exponent of every other term in the above two summations. Hence $\overline{f}$ is a monic polynomial of degree $(q^m+1)\langle m-2\rangle$ in Y with coefficients in $k_p[T_1, \ldots, T_{m-1}]$. Therefore f^* is a monic polynomial of degree $(q^m + 1)[1 + (q - 1)\langle m - 2\rangle] = q^{m-1}(q^m + 1)$ in Y with coefficients in $k_p[T_1, \ldots, T_{m-1}]$, and if $p \neq 2$ then f^{**} and f^{***} are both monic

polynomials of degree $q^{m-1}(q^m+1)/2$ in Y with coefficients in $k_p[T_1,\dots,T_{m-1}]$. Thus

(3.0)
$$\begin{cases} f^- = \overline{f} f^* \text{ where } \overline{f} \text{ and } f^* \text{ are monic polynomials of degrees } (q^m+1)\langle m-2\rangle \\ \text{and } q^{m-1}(q^m+1) \text{ in } Y \text{ with coefficients in } k_p[T_1,\dots,T_{m-1}] \text{ respectively,} \\ \text{and if } p\neq 2 \text{ then } f^* = f^{**}f^{***} \text{ where } f^{**} \text{ and } f^{***} \text{ are both monic polynomials} \\ \text{of degree } q^{m-1}(q^m+1)/2 \text{ in } Y \text{ with coefficients in } k_p[T_1,\dots,T_{m-1}]. \end{cases}$$

For $1 \le e \le m-1$, let $\overline{f}_e = \overline{f}_e(Y)$ and $f_e^* = f_e^*(Y)$ be obtained by putting $T_i = 0$ for all $i > e$ in $\overline{f}$ and f^*, respectively, and if $p \neq 2$ then let $f_e^{**} = f_e^{**}(Y)$ and $f_e^{***} = f_e^{***}(Y)$ be obtained by putting $T_i = 0$ for all $i > e$ in f^{**} and f^{***}, respectively. Then by (3.0),

(3.1)
$$\begin{cases} \text{for } 1 \le e \le m-1 \text{ we have:} \\ f_e^- = \overline{f}_e f_e^* \text{ where } \overline{f}_e \text{ and } f_e^* \text{ are monic polynomials of degrees } (q^m+1)\langle m-2\rangle \\ \text{and } q^{m-1}(q^m+1) \text{ in } Y \text{ with coefficients in } k_p[T_1,\dots,T_e], \text{ respectively,} \\ \text{and if } p\neq 2 \text{ then } f_e^* = f_e^{**}f_e^{***} \text{ where } f_e^{**} \text{ and } f_e^{***} \text{ are both monic polynomials} \\ \text{of degree } q^{m-1}(q^m+1)/2 \text{ in } Y \text{ with coefficients in } k_p[T_1,\dots,T_e]. \end{cases}$$

Now

$$f_e^- = A_e T_1^q - B_e T_1 + C_e$$

where

$$0 \neq A_e = Y^{\langle m\rangle} \in k_p[Y] \text{ and } 0 \neq B_e = Y^{\langle m-2\rangle} \in k_p[Y]$$

and

$$C_e = Y^{\langle 2m-1\rangle} - 1 + \sum_{i=2}^{e} \left(T_i^{q^i} Y^{\langle m-1+i\rangle} - T_i Y^{\langle m-1-i\rangle} \right) \in k_p[Y, T_1, \dots, T_e]$$

and hence in particular $\deg_{T_1} f_e^- = q$. Also clearly $\deg_{T_1} \overline{f}_e = 1$ and hence $\deg_{T_1} f_e^* = q-1$ and if $p \neq 2$ then $\deg_{T_1} f_e^{**} = (q-1)/2 = \deg_{T_1} f_e^{***}$.

In case of $p = 2$, the irreducibility of $\overline{f}_e$ and f_e^* will follow from Lemmas (4.2) and (4.3) of [A05]. In case of $p \neq 2$, for establishing the irreducibility of $\overline{f}_e$, f_e^{**} and f_e^{***} we now prove the following lemma.

Lemma (3.2). *Let Q be a field of characteristic p and consider a univariate polynomial $g_0 = A_0T^q - B_0T + C_0$ with A_0, B_0, C_0 in Q such that $A_0 \neq 0 \neq B_0$. Assume that $g_0 = g_0' g_0'' g_0'''$ in $Q[T]$ with $\deg_T g_0' = 1$ and $\deg_T g_0'' > 0 < \deg_T g_0'''$. Also assume that for some real discrete valuation I of Q (whose value group is the group of all integers) we have $GCD(q-1, I(B_0/A_0)) = 2$. Then g_0'' and g_0''' are irreducible in $Q[T]$.*

To see this, we note that by assumption $g_0' = A_0'T + B_0'$ with $0 \neq A_0' \in Q$ and $B_0' \in Q$. Now $-B_0'/A_0'$ is a root of $g_0/A_0 = T^q - (B_0/A_0)T + (C_0/A_0)$ and hence

$$[T - (B_0'/A_0')]^q - (B_0/A_0)[T - (B_0'/A_0')] + (C_0/A_0) = T[T^{q-1} - (B_0/A_0)].$$

Therefore, in view of the Q-automorphism $T \to T - (B_0'/A_0')$ of $Q[T]$, we see that g_0/A_0 factors into exactly one more nonconstant monic irreducible factor in $Q[T]$ as $T^{q-1} - (B_0/A_0)$, i.e., upon writing $g_0/A_0 = \theta_1\theta_2\dots\theta_\rho$ and $T^{q-1} - (B_0/A_0) = \theta_1'\theta_2'\dots\theta_{\rho'}'$ where $\theta_1, \theta_2, \dots, \theta_\rho, \theta_1', \theta_2', \dots, \theta_{\rho'}'$ are nonconstant monic irreducible polynomials in $Q[t]$, we have $\rho = 1 + \rho'$. By assumption 2 divides $q-1$ and hence we must have $p \neq 2$. Also 2 divides $I(B_0/A_0)$ and hence $I(B_0/A_0) = 2s$ where s is an integer. We can take an element Λ in Q with $I(\Lambda) = 1$, and then we can take an element Δ in an algebraic closure Q^* of Q with $B_0/A_0 = (\Delta\Lambda^s)^2$. Now $I((B_0/A_0)/\Lambda^{2s}) = 0$ and hence by the Discriminant Criterion we see that I is unramified in $Q(\Delta)$. Therefore upon taking an extension I^* of I to $Q(\Delta)$ we have $I^*(\Delta\Lambda^s) = s$ and hence $\mathrm{GCD}((q-1)/2, I^*(\Delta\Lambda^s)) = 1 = \mathrm{GCD}((q-1)/2, I^*(-\Delta\Lambda^s))$. In $Q(\Delta)[T]$ we have $T^{q-1} - (B_0/A_0) = [T^{(q-1)/2} - \Delta\Lambda^s][T^{(q-1)/2} + \Delta\Lambda^s]$. By taking $\Delta' \in Q^*$ with $\Delta'^{(q-1)/2} = \Delta\Lambda^s$ and then taking an extension I' of I^* to $Q(\Delta, \Delta')$ and letting r be the reduced ramification exponent of I' over I^*, we have $I'(\Delta\Lambda^s)/[(q-1)/2] = rI^*(\Delta\Lambda^s)/[(q-1)/2] = rs/[(q-1)/2]$. Consequently $rs/[(q-1)/2]$ must be an integer and hence, because $\mathrm{GCD}((q-1)/2, I^*(\Delta\Lambda^s)) = 1$, it follows that r divides $(q-1)/2$. Since the field degree $[Q(\Delta, \Delta') : Q(\Delta)]$ is at least r, we conclude that $[Q(\Delta, \Delta') : Q(\Delta)] \geq (q-1)/2$. Since Δ' is a root of the polynomial $T^{(q-1)/2} - \Delta\Lambda^s$, this polynomial must be irreducible in $Q(\Delta)[T]$. Similarly the polynomial $T^{(q-1)/2} + \Delta\Lambda^s$ is also irreducible in $Q(\Delta)[T]$. Consequently $\rho' \leq 2$ and hence $\rho \leq 3$. Therefore the polynomials g_0'' and g_0''' must be irreducible in $Q[T]$.

The following lemma is an easy consequence of the Gauss Lemma.

Lemma (3.3). *Let κ be a field, and let $g_0 = g_0'g_0''g_0'''$ where g_0, g_0', g_0'', g_0''' are monic polynomials of positive degrees in Z with coefficients in the $(d+1)$-variable polynomial ring $\kappa[X_1, \dots, X_d, T]$. Assume that the polynomials g_0', g_0'', and g_0''' have positive T-degrees and are irreducible in the ring $\kappa(X_1, \dots, X_d, Z)[T]$. Also assume that the coefficients of g_0 as a polynomial in T have no nonconstant common factor in $\kappa[X_1, \dots, X_d, Z]$. Then the polynomials g_0', g_0'' and g_0''' are irreducible in the ring $\kappa(X_1, \dots, X_d, T)[Z]$.*

By letting I to be the Y-adic valuation of $Q = k_p(Y, T_2, \dots, T_e)$, i.e., the real discrete valuation whose valuation ring is the localization of $k_p[Y, T_2, \dots, T_e]$ at the principal prime ideal generated by Y, we see that $I(A_e) = \langle m \rangle$ and $I(B_e) = \langle m-2 \rangle$ and hence $I(B_e/A_e) = \langle m-2 \rangle - \langle m \rangle = -q^{m-1}(1+q)$. Therefore $\mathrm{GCD}(q-1, I(B_e/A_e)) = 1$ or 2 according as $p = 2$ or $p \neq 2$. Also obviously A_e and C_e have no nonconstant common factors in $k_p[Y, T_2, \dots, T_e]$. Therefore, if $p = 2$ then by Lemmas (4.2) and (4.3) of [A05], and if $p \neq 2$ then by the above Lemmas (3.2) and (3.3), for $1 \leq e \leq m-1$ we have that

$$\text{(3.4)} \qquad \begin{cases} \text{if } p = 2 \text{ then } \overline{f}_e \text{ and } f_e^* \text{ are irreducible in } k_p(T_1, \dots, T_e)[Y], \text{ and} \\ \text{if } p \neq 2 \text{ then } \overline{f}_e,\ f_e^{**} \text{ and } f_e^{***} \text{ are irreducible in } k_p(T_1, \dots, T_e)[Y]. \end{cases}$$

By taking $e = m-1$ in (3.4) we see that

$$\text{(3.5)} \qquad \begin{cases} \text{if } p = 2 \text{ then } \overline{f} \text{ and } f^* \text{ are irreducible in } k_p(T_1, \dots, T_{m-1})[Y], \text{ and} \\ \text{if } p \neq 2 \text{ then } \overline{f},\ f^{**} \text{ and } f^{***} \text{ are irreducible in } k_p(T_1, \dots, T_{m-1})[Y]. \end{cases}$$

4. Twisted Derivative and its Factorization

Recall that

$$\overline{f} = \overline{f}(Y) = \sum_{\mu=0}^{m-1} Y^{(q^m+1)\langle m-2-\mu\rangle} + \sum_{i=1}^{m-1}\sum_{\mu=0}^{i-1} T_i^{q^{i-1-\mu}} Y^{q^m\langle i-2-\mu\rangle+\langle m-2-\mu\rangle}.$$

Solving the equation $\overline{f} = 0$, we get

$$T_1 = \frac{\sum_{\mu=0}^{m-1} Y^{(q^m+1)\langle m-2-\mu\rangle} + \sum_{i=2}^{m-1}\sum_{\mu=0}^{i-1} T_i^{q^{i-1-\mu}} Y^{q^m\langle i-2-\mu\rangle+\langle m-2-\mu\rangle}}{-Y^{\langle m-2\rangle}}$$

and hence

$$\begin{aligned}
f'(Y,Z) =& \frac{\overline{f}(Z)-\overline{f}(Y)}{Z-Y} \quad \text{(def of the twisted derivative } f' \text{ of } \overline{f}\text{)}\\
=& \frac{\sum_{\mu=0}^{m-2}\left(Z^{(q^m+1)\langle m-2-\mu\rangle} - Y^{(q^m+1)\langle m-2-\mu\rangle}\right)}{Z-Y}\\
&+ \frac{\sum_{\mu=0}^{m-1} Y^{(q^m+1)\langle m-2-\mu\rangle}}{-Y^{\langle m-2\rangle}} \times \frac{Z^{\langle m-2\rangle} - Y^{\langle m-2\rangle}}{Z-Y}\\
&+ \frac{\sum_{i=2}^{m-1}\sum_{\mu=0}^{i-1} T_i^{q^{i-1-\mu}} Y^{q^m\langle i-2-\mu\rangle+\langle m-2-\mu\rangle}}{-Y^{\langle m-2\rangle}} \times \frac{Z^{\langle m-2\rangle} - Y^{\langle m-2\rangle}}{Z-Y}\\
&+ \sum_{i=2}^{m-1}\sum_{\mu=0}^{i-1} \frac{T_i^{q^{i-1-\mu}}\left(Z^{q^m\langle i-2-\mu\rangle+\langle m-2-\mu\rangle} - Y^{q^m\langle i-2-\mu\rangle+\langle m-2-\mu\rangle}\right)}{Z-Y}.
\end{aligned}$$

Therefore

$$\begin{aligned}
g =& g(Y,Z)\\
=& Y^{(q^m+1)\langle m-2\rangle-1} f'(1/Y, Z/Y) \quad \text{(def of polynomial } g \text{ obtained by dividing}\\
&\qquad\qquad \text{roots of } f' \text{ by } Y \text{ and then changing } Y \text{ to } 1/Y\text{)}\\
=& \frac{\sum_{\mu=0}^{m-2}\left(Z^{(q^m+1)\langle m-2-\mu\rangle} - 1\right) Y^{(q^m+1)q^{m-1-\mu}\langle \mu-1\rangle}}{Z-1}\\
&+ \frac{\sum_{\mu=0}^{m-1} Y^{(q^m+1)q^{m-1-\mu}\langle \mu-1\rangle}}{-1} \times \frac{Z^{\langle m-2\rangle} - 1}{Z-1}\\
&+ \frac{\sum_{i=2}^{m-1}\sum_{\mu=0}^{i-1} T_i^{q^{i-1-\mu}} Y^{q^{m-1-\mu+i}\langle m-1+\mu-i\rangle+q^{m-1-\mu}\langle \mu-1\rangle}}{-1} \times \frac{Z^{\langle m-2\rangle} - 1}{Z-1}\\
&+ \sum_{i=2}^{m-1}\sum_{\mu=0}^{i-1} \frac{T_i^{q^{i-1-\mu}}\left(Z^{q^m\langle i-2-\mu\rangle+\langle m-2-\mu\rangle} - 1\right) Y^{q^{m-1-\mu+i}\langle m-1+\mu-i\rangle+q^{m-1-\mu}\langle \mu-1\rangle}}{Z-1}.
\end{aligned}$$

For $i = m$, the powers of Z in the last summation coincide with the corresponding powers of Z in the first summation; moreover, for $\mu = m-1$, by convention $\left(Z^{(q^m+1)\langle m-2-\mu\rangle} - 1\right) = 0$, and hence the first summation can be extended to $m-1$. Consequently, upon letting

$$D_{i\mu} = \frac{Z^{q^m\langle i-2-\mu\rangle+\langle m-2-\mu\rangle} - 1}{Z-1} - \frac{Z^{\langle m-2\rangle} - 1}{Z-1} \quad \text{for } 2 \le i \le m \text{ and } 0 \le \mu \le i-1$$

we get

$$g = \sum_{\mu=0}^{m-1} D_{m\mu} Y^{(q^m+1)q^{m-1-\mu}\langle\mu-1\rangle} + \sum_{i=2}^{m-1}\sum_{\mu=0}^{i-1} D_{i\mu} Y^{q^{m-1-\mu+i}\langle m-1+\mu-i\rangle+q^{m-1-\mu}\langle\mu-1\rangle} T_i^{q^{i-1-\mu}}.$$

It follows that if $m = 2$ then

$$g = \frac{Z\left(Z^{q^2}-1\right)}{Z-1} - Y^{q^2+1} \quad \text{with} \quad \frac{Z\left(Z^{q^2}-1\right)}{Z-1} \in (Zk_p[Z]) \setminus \left(Z^2 k_p[Z]\right)$$

and hence g is irreducible in $k_p(Z)[Y]$ and therefore by the Gauss Lemma g is irreducible in $k_p(Y)[Z]$. Thus

$$\text{(4.0)} \qquad \begin{cases} \text{if } m = 2, \text{ then } g \text{ is a monic polynomial of degree } q^2 \text{ in } Z \\ \text{with coefficients in } k_p[Y], \text{ and } g \text{ is irreducible in } k_p(Y)[Z]. \end{cases}$$

Henceforth assuming $m > 2$, and displaying dependence on T_2, we get

$$\begin{aligned} g =& D_{20} Y^{q^{m+1}\langle m-3\rangle} T_2^q + D_{21} Y^{q^m\langle m-2\rangle+q^{m-2}} T_2 \\ &+ \sum_{\mu=0}^{m-1} D_{m\mu} Y^{(q^m+1)q^{m-1-\mu}\langle\mu-1\rangle} \\ &+ \sum_{i=3}^{m-1}\sum_{\mu=0}^{i-1} D_{i\mu} Y^{q^{m-1-\mu+i}\langle m-1+\mu-i\rangle+q^{m-1-\mu}\langle\mu-1\rangle} T_i^{q^{i-1-\mu}}. \end{aligned}$$

Now upon letting

$$\widetilde{T}_i = Y^{q^m\langle m-1-i\rangle} T_i \quad \text{for } 2 \le i \le m-1$$

we get

$$\begin{aligned} g =& D_{20} \widetilde{T}_2^q + D_{21} Y^{(q^m+1)q^{m-2}} \widetilde{T}_2 \\ &+ \sum_{\mu=0}^{m-1} D_{m\mu} Y^{(q^m+1)q^{m-1-\mu}\langle\mu-1\rangle} \\ &+ \sum_{i=3}^{m-1}\sum_{\mu=0}^{i-1} D_{i\mu} Y^{(q^m+1)q^{m-1-\mu}\langle\mu-1\rangle} \widetilde{T}_i^{q^{i-1-\mu}}. \end{aligned}$$

Hence upon letting

$$\widehat{Y} = Y^{q^m+1}$$

and

$$\widehat{T}_i = \begin{cases} \widetilde{T}_i & \text{for } 2 \le i \le m-1, \\ 1 & \text{for } i = m, \end{cases}$$

we get

$$g = D_{20}\widehat{T}_2^q + D_{21}\widehat{Y}^{q^{m-2}}\widehat{T}_2 + \sum_{i=3}^{m}\sum_{\mu=0}^{i-1} D_{i\mu}\widehat{Y}^{q^{m-1-\mu}\langle\mu-1\rangle}\widehat{T}_i^{q^{i-1-\mu}}.$$

Expanding the exponents of $\widehat{Y}$ we get

$$g = D_{20}\widehat{T}_2^q + D_{21}\widehat{Y}^{q^{m-2}}\widehat{T}_2 + \sum_{i=3}^{m}\sum_{\mu=0}^{i-1} D_{i\mu}\widehat{Y}^{q^{m-1-\mu}+\cdots+q^{m-2}}\widehat{T}_i^{q^{i-1-\mu}}$$

where the dots indicate geometric series with ratio q. Upon letting

$$\widehat{D}_{i\mu} = D_{i,i-1-\mu} \quad \text{for } 2 \le i \le m \text{ and } 0 \le \mu \le i-1$$

we get

$$\widehat{D}_{i\mu} = \frac{Z^{q^m\langle\mu-1\rangle+\langle m-1-i+\mu\rangle} - Z^{\langle m-2\rangle}}{Z-1} \quad \text{for } 2 \le i \le m \text{ and } 0 \le \mu \le i-1$$

and arranging the terms according to descending powers of $\widehat{Y}$ we get

$$g = \widehat{D}_{20}\widehat{Y}^{q^{m-2}}\widehat{T}_2 + \widehat{D}_{21}\widehat{T}_2^q + \sum_{i=3}^{m}\sum_{\mu=0}^{i-1} \widehat{D}_{i\mu}\widehat{Y}^{q^{m-i+\mu}+\cdots+q^{m-2}}\widehat{T}_i^{q^\mu}$$

and simplifying the expression of $\widehat{D}_{20}$ and $\widehat{D}_{21}$ we have

$$\widehat{D}_{20} = -\frac{Z^{\langle m-3\rangle}\left(Z^{q^{m-2}}-1\right)}{Z-1} \quad \text{and} \quad \widehat{D}_{21} = \frac{Z^{\langle m-2\rangle}\left(Z^{q^m}-1\right)}{Z-1}.$$

For a moment, assuming $m = 3$, we note that

$$g = \widehat{D}_{20}\widehat{Y}^q\widehat{T}_2 + \widehat{D}_{21}\widehat{T}_2^q + \widehat{D}_{30}\widehat{Y}^{1+q} + \widehat{D}_{31}\widehat{Y}^q + \widehat{D}_{32}$$

where

$$\widehat{D}_{20} = -\frac{Z\left(Z^q-1\right)}{Z-1} \quad \text{and} \quad \widehat{D}_{21} = \frac{Z^{1+q}\left(Z^{q^3}-1\right)}{Z-1} \quad \text{and} \quad \widehat{D}_{30} = -\frac{\left(Z^{1+q}-1\right)}{Z-1}$$

and

$$\widehat{D}_{31} = \frac{Z^{1+q}\left(Z^{q^3-q}-1\right)}{Z-1} \quad \text{and} \quad \widehat{D}_{32} = \frac{Z^{1+q}\left(Z^{q^3+q^4}-1\right)}{Z-1}$$

and to factor g we try to find a $\widehat{T}_2$-root $E_{30}\widehat{Y} + E_{31}$ of g. To do this we first put

$$E_{30} = \frac{\widehat{D}_{30}}{-\widehat{D}_{20}} = \frac{\frac{\left(Z^{1+q}-1\right)}{Z-1}}{\frac{-Z\left(Z^q-1\right)}{Z-1}} = \frac{\left(Z^{1+q}-1\right)}{-Z\left(Z^q-1\right)},$$

then we put

$$\begin{aligned}
E_{31} &= \frac{\widehat{D}_{31} + \widehat{D}_{21} E_{30}^{q}}{-\widehat{D}_{20}} \\
&= \frac{\frac{Z^{1+q}\left(Z^{q^3-q}-1\right)}{Z-1} + \frac{Z^{1+q}\left(Z^{q^3}-1\right)}{Z-1}\left(\frac{\left(Z^{1+q}-1\right)}{-Z\left(Z^{q}-1\right)}\right)^{q}}{\frac{Z\left(Z^{q}-1\right)}{Z-1}} \\
&= \frac{Z^{q}\left(Z^{q^3-q}-1\right)\left(Z^{q^2}-1\right) - \left(Z^{q^3}-1\right)\left(Z^{q^2+q}-1\right)}{\left(Z^{q}-1\right)\left(Z^{q^2}-1\right)} \\
&= \frac{\left(Z^{q^3+q^2} - Z^{q^3} - Z^{q^2+q} + Z^{q}\right) - \left(Z^{q^3+q^2+q} - Z^{q^3} - Z^{q^2+q} + 1\right)}{\left(Z^{q}-1\right)\left(Z^{q^2}-1\right)} \\
&= \frac{Z^{q^3+q^2} - Z^{q^3 q^2+q} + Z^{q} - 1}{\left(Z^{q}-1\right)\left(Z^{q^2}-1\right)} \\
&= \frac{\left(Z^{q}-1\right)\left(-Z^{q^3+q^2}+1\right)}{\left(Z^{q}-1\right)\left(Z^{q^2}-1\right)} \\
&= \frac{\left(-Z^{q^3+q^2}+1\right)}{\left(Z^{q^2}-1\right)},
\end{aligned}$$

and finally we calculate the term free of $\widehat{Y}$ to be

$$\begin{aligned}
\widehat{D}_{32} + \widehat{D}_{21} E_{31}^{q} &= \frac{Z^{1+q}\left(Z^{q^3+q^4}-1\right)}{Z-1} + \left(\frac{Z^{1+q}\left(Z^{q^3}-1\right)}{Z-1}\right)\left(\frac{\left(-Z^{q^3+q^2}+1\right)}{\left(Z^{q^2}-1\right)}\right)^{q} \\
&= \frac{Z^{1+q}\left(Z^{q^3+q^4}-1\right)}{Z-1} + \frac{Z^{1+q}\left(-Z^{q^3+q^4}+1\right)}{Z-1} \\
&= 0.
\end{aligned}$$

Alternatively, for "the fictitious term" E_{32}, we have

$$\begin{aligned}
E_{32} = \frac{\widehat{D}_{32} + \widehat{D}_{21} E_{31}^{q}}{-\widehat{D}_{20}} &= \frac{\widehat{D}_{32}}{-\widehat{D}_{20}} + \left(\frac{\widehat{D}_{21}}{-\widehat{D}_{20}}\right)\left(\frac{\widehat{D}_{31} + \widehat{D}_{21} E_{30}^{q}}{-\widehat{D}_{20}}\right)^{q} \\
&= -\frac{\widehat{D}_{32}}{\widehat{D}_{20}} + \frac{\widehat{D}_{21}\widehat{D}_{31}^{q}}{\widehat{D}_{20}^{1+q}} + \frac{\widehat{D}_{21}^{1+q} E_{30}^{q^2}}{\widehat{D}_{20}^{1+q}} \\
&= -\frac{\widehat{D}_{32}}{\widehat{D}_{20}} + \frac{\widehat{D}_{21}\widehat{D}_{31}^{q}}{\widehat{D}_{20}^{1+q}} - \frac{\widehat{D}_{21}^{1+q}\widehat{D}_{30}^{q^2}}{\widehat{D}_{20}^{1+q+q^2}}
\end{aligned}$$

and by substituting the values of $\widehat{D}_{20}$, $\widehat{D}_{21}$, $\widehat{D}_{30}$, $\widehat{D}_{31}$, $\widehat{D}_{32}$, we see this to be 0.

Now, without assuming $m = 3$, but henceforth again assuming $m > 2$, to factor g, for any $3 \le i \le m$, we try to find a $\widehat{T}_2$-root

$$\sum_{\mu=0}^{i-2} E_{i\mu} \widehat{Y}^{q^{m-i+\mu}+\cdots+q^{m-3}} \widehat{T}_i^{q^{\mu}}$$

of

$$\widehat{D}_{20}\widehat{Y}^{q^{m-2}}\widehat{T}_2 + \widehat{D}_{21}\widehat{T}_2^q + \sum_{\mu=0}^{i-1}\widehat{D}_{i\mu}\widehat{Y}^{q^{m-i+\mu}+\cdots+q^{m-2}}\widehat{T}_i^{q^\mu},$$

i.e., we try to find $E_{i\mu}$ in $\mathrm{GF}(p)(Z)$ such that

$$\begin{aligned}\sum_{\mu=0}^{i-1}\widehat{D}_{i\mu}\widehat{Y}^{q^{m-i+\mu}+\cdots+q^{m-2}}\widehat{T}_i^{q^\mu} &= -\widehat{D}_{20}\widehat{Y}^{q^{m-2}}\left(\sum_{\mu=0}^{i-2}E_{i\mu}\widehat{Y}^{q^{m-i+\mu}+\cdots+q^{m-3}}\widehat{T}_i^{q^\mu}\right)\\ &\quad -\widehat{D}_{21}\left(\sum_{\mu=0}^{i-2}E_{i\mu}\widehat{Y}^{q^{m-i+\mu}+\cdots+q^{m-3}}\widehat{T}_i^{q^\mu}\right)^q.\end{aligned}$$

Equating coefficients of

$$\widehat{Y}^{q^{m-i+\mu}+\cdots+q^{m-2}}\widehat{T}_i^{q^\mu}$$

to zero, we try to find $E_{i\mu}$ in $\mathrm{GF}(p)(Z)$ such that

$$\widehat{D}_{i\mu} = \begin{cases} -\widehat{D}_{20}E_{i\mu} & \text{for } \mu = 0,\\ -\widehat{D}_{20}E_{i\mu} - \widehat{D}_{21}E_{i,\mu-1}^q & \text{for } 1 \le \mu \le i-2,\\ -\widehat{D}_{21}E_{i,\mu-1}^q & \text{for } \mu = i-1.\end{cases}$$

Since $\widehat{D}_{20} \neq 0$, we can successively find the values of $E_{i\mu}$ for $0 \le \mu \le i-2$ by solving all except the last equation, and then get a condition by substituting these in the last equation. Upon letting

$$J_{i\mu} = \sum_{j=0}^{\mu}(-1)^{\langle\mu-j\rangle}\frac{\widehat{D}_{21}^{\langle\mu-j-1\rangle}\widehat{D}_{ij}^{q^{\mu-j}}}{\widehat{D}_{20}^{\langle\mu-j\rangle}} \qquad \text{for } 0 \le \mu \le i-1$$

these values are

$$E_{i\mu} = J_{i\mu} \qquad \text{for } 0 \le \mu \le i-2$$

and the condition is

$$J_{i,i-1} = 0.$$

Substituting the simplified expressions of $\widehat{D}_{20}$ and $\widehat{D}_{21}$, for $0 \le \mu \le i-1$ and $0 \le j \le \mu$ we get

$$\begin{aligned}\frac{\widehat{D}_{21}^{\langle\mu-j-1\rangle}}{\widehat{D}_{20}^{\langle\mu-j\rangle}} &= \left[\frac{Z^{\langle m-2\rangle}\left(Z^{q^m}-1\right)}{Z-1}\right]^{\langle\mu-j-1\rangle}\left[\frac{Z-1}{-Z^{\langle m-3\rangle}\left(Z^{q^{m-2}}-1\right)}\right]^{\langle\mu-j\rangle}\\ &= \frac{Z^{\langle m-2\rangle\langle\mu-j-1\rangle-\langle m-3\rangle\langle\mu-j\rangle}\prod_{l=0}^{\mu-j-1}\left(Z^{q^m}-1\right)^{q^l}}{(-1)^{\langle\mu-j\rangle}(Z-1)^{-q^{\mu-j}}\prod_{l=0}^{\mu-j}\left(Z^{q^{m-2}}-1\right)^{q^l}}\\ &= \frac{Z^{\langle m-2\rangle\langle\mu-j-1\rangle-\langle m-3\rangle\langle\mu-j\rangle}\prod_{l=0}^{\mu-j-1}\left(Z^{q^{m+l}}-1\right)}{(-1)^{\langle\mu-j\rangle}(Z-1)^{-q^{\mu-j}}\prod_{l=0}^{\mu-j}\left(Z^{q^{m-2+l}}-1\right)}\\ &= \frac{Z^{\langle m-2\rangle\langle\mu-j-1\rangle-\langle m-3\rangle\langle\mu-j\rangle}\prod_{l=m}^{m+\mu-j-1}\left(Z^{q^l}-1\right)}{(-1)^{\langle\mu-j\rangle}(Z-1)^{-q^{\mu-j}}\prod_{l=m-2}^{m+\mu-j-2}\left(Z^{q^l}-1\right)}\\ &= \frac{Z^{\langle m-2\rangle\langle\mu-j-1\rangle-\langle m-3\rangle\langle\mu-j\rangle}\left(Z^{q^{m+\mu-j-1}}-1\right)}{(-1)^{\langle\mu-j\rangle}(Z-1)^{-q^{\mu-j}}\left(Z^{q^{m-2}}-1\right)\left(Z^{q^{m-1}}-1\right)}\end{aligned}$$

where, for the last equation, a separate but trivial argument may be made in the case of $j = \mu$ by noting that then the extra (purposefully inserted) term $\left(Z^{q^{m+\mu-j-1}} - 1\right)$ in the numerator equals the extra term $\left(Z^{q^{m-1}} - 1\right)$ in the denominator. Therefore by substituting the values of $\widehat{D}_{ij}$, for $0 \le \mu \le i-1$ we get

$$J_{i\mu} = \sum_{j=0}^{\mu} (-1)^{\langle \mu-j \rangle} \left[\frac{Z^{\langle m-2\rangle\langle \mu-j-1\rangle - \langle m-3\rangle\langle \mu-j\rangle} \left(Z^{q^{m+\mu-j-1}} - 1\right)}{(-1)^{\langle \mu-j\rangle}(Z-1)^{-q^{\mu-j}} \left(Z^{q^{m-2}} - 1\right)\left(Z^{q^{m-1}} - 1\right)} \right] \times$$

$$\times \left[\frac{Z^{q^m\langle j-1\rangle + \langle m-1-i+j\rangle} - Z^{\langle m-2\rangle}}{Z-1} \right]^{q^{\mu-j}}$$

$$= \sum_{j=0}^{\mu} \frac{Z^{\langle m-2\rangle\langle \mu-j-1\rangle - \langle m-3\rangle\langle \mu-j\rangle + q^{m+\mu-j}\langle j-1\rangle + q^{\mu-j}\langle m-1-i+j\rangle} \left(Z^{q^{m+\mu-j-1}} - 1\right)}{\left(Z^{q^{m-2}} - 1\right)\left(Z^{q^{m-1}} - 1\right)}$$

$$- \sum_{j=0}^{\mu} \frac{Z^{\langle m-2\rangle\langle \mu-j-1\rangle - \langle m-3\rangle\langle \mu-j\rangle + q^{\mu-j}\langle m-2\rangle} \left(Z^{q^{m+\mu-j-1}} - 1\right)}{\left(Z^{q^{m-2}} - 1\right)\left(Z^{q^{m-1}} - 1\right)}$$

where

$$\begin{aligned}
&\text{the first exponent of } Z \text{ in the last summation} \\
&= \langle m-2\rangle\langle \mu-j-1\rangle - \langle m-3\rangle\langle \mu-j\rangle + q^{\mu-j}\langle m-2\rangle \\
&= [\langle m-2\rangle(\langle \mu-j\rangle - q^{\mu-j}) - (\langle m-2\rangle - q^{m-2})\langle \mu-j\rangle] + q^{\mu-j}\langle m-2\rangle \\
&= q^{m-2}\langle \mu-j\rangle
\end{aligned}$$

and

$$\begin{aligned}
&\text{the first exponent of } Z \text{ in the last but one summation} \\
&= \langle m-2\rangle\langle \mu-j-1\rangle - \langle m-3\rangle\langle \mu-j\rangle + q^{m+\mu-j}\langle j-1\rangle + q^{\mu-j}\langle m-1-i+j\rangle \\
&= [\langle m-2\rangle(\langle \mu-j\rangle - q^{\mu-j}) - (\langle m-2\rangle - q^{m-2})\langle \mu-j\rangle] \\
&\qquad + q^{m+\mu-j}\langle j-1\rangle + q^{\mu-j}\langle m-1-i+j\rangle \\
&= [q^{m-2}\langle \mu-j\rangle - q^{\mu-j}\langle m-2\rangle] + q^{m+\mu-j}\langle j-1\rangle + q^{\mu-j}\langle m-1-i+j\rangle \\
&= [q^{m-2}\langle \mu-j\rangle + q^{m+\mu-j-1} + q^{m+\mu-j}\langle j-1\rangle] - q^{\mu-j}[\langle m-2\rangle - \langle m-1-i+j\rangle] \\
&\qquad - q^{m+\mu-j-1} \\
&= q^{m-2}\langle \mu+1\rangle - q^{m+\mu-i}\langle i-2-j\rangle - q^{m+\mu-j-1}.
\end{aligned}$$

Hence

$$\begin{aligned}
J_{i\mu} &= \sum_{j=0}^{\mu} \frac{Z^{q^{m-2}\langle\mu+1\rangle - q^{m+\mu-i}\langle i-2-j\rangle - q^{m+\mu-j-1}}\left(Z^{q^{m+\mu-j-1}}-1\right)}{\left(Z^{q^{m-2}}-1\right)\left(Z^{q^{m-1}}-1\right)} \\
&\quad - \sum_{j=0}^{\mu} \frac{Z^{q^{m-2}\langle\mu-j\rangle}\left(Z^{q^{m+\mu-j-1}}-1\right)}{\left(Z^{q^{m-2}}-1\right)\left(Z^{q^{m-1}}-1\right)} \\
&= \sum_{j=0}^{\mu} \frac{Z^{q^{m-2}\langle\mu+1\rangle - q^{m+\mu-i}\langle i-2-j\rangle}}{\left(Z^{q^{m-2}}-1\right)\left(Z^{q^{m-1}}-1\right)} - \sum_{j=0}^{\mu} \frac{Z^{q^{m-2}\langle\mu+1\rangle - q^{m+\mu-i}\langle i-1-j\rangle}}{\left(Z^{q^{m-2}}-1\right)\left(Z^{q^{m-1}}-1\right)} \\
&\quad - \sum_{j=0}^{\mu} \frac{Z^{q^{m-2}\langle\mu-j+1\rangle}}{\left(Z^{q^{m-2}}-1\right)\left(Z^{q^{m-1}}-1\right)} + \sum_{j=0}^{\mu} \frac{Z^{q^{m-2}\langle\mu-j\rangle}}{\left(Z^{q^{m-2}}-1\right)\left(Z^{q^{m-1}}-1\right)} \\
&= \sum_{j=1}^{\mu+1} \frac{Z^{q^{m-2}\langle\mu+1\rangle - q^{m+\mu-i}\langle i-1-j\rangle}}{\left(Z^{q^{m-2}}-1\right)\left(Z^{q^{m-1}}-1\right)} - \sum_{j=0}^{\mu} \frac{Z^{q^{m-2}\langle\mu+1\rangle - q^{m+\mu-i}\langle i-1-j\rangle}}{\left(Z^{q^{m-2}}-1\right)\left(Z^{q^{m-1}}-1\right)} \\
&\quad - \sum_{j=0}^{\mu} \frac{Z^{q^{m-2}\langle\mu-j+1\rangle}}{\left(Z^{q^{m-2}}-1\right)\left(Z^{q^{m-1}}-1\right)} + \sum_{j=1}^{\mu+1} \frac{Z^{q^{m-2}\langle\mu-j+1\rangle}}{\left(Z^{q^{m-2}}-1\right)\left(Z^{q^{m-1}}-1\right)} \\
&= \frac{Z^{q^{m-2}\langle\mu+1\rangle - q^{m+\mu-i}\langle i-2-\mu\rangle}}{\left(Z^{q^{m-2}}-1\right)\left(Z^{q^{m-1}}-1\right)} - \frac{Z^{q^{m-2}\langle\mu+1\rangle - q^{m+\mu-i}\langle i-1\rangle}}{\left(Z^{q^{m-2}}-1\right)\left(Z^{q^{m-1}}-1\right)} \\
&\quad - \frac{Z^{q^{m-2}\langle\mu+1\rangle}}{\left(Z^{q^{m-2}}-1\right)\left(Z^{q^{m-1}}-1\right)} + \frac{Z^{q^{m-2}}}{\left(Z^{q^{m-2}}-1\right)\left(Z^{q^{m-1}}-1\right)} \\
&= \frac{Z^{q^{m-2}\langle\mu+1\rangle - q^{m+\mu-i}\langle i-1\rangle}\left(Z^{q^{m+\mu-i}(\langle i-1\rangle - \langle i-2-\mu\rangle)}-1\right)}{\left(Z^{q^{m-2}}-1\right)\left(Z^{q^{m-1}}-1\right)} \\
&\quad - \frac{Z^{q^{m-2}}\left(Z^{q^{m-2}(\langle\mu+1\rangle-1)}-1\right)}{\left(Z^{q^{m-2}}-1\right)\left(Z^{q^{m-1}}-1\right)} \\
&= \frac{\left(Z^{q^{m-2}\langle\mu+1\rangle - q^{m+\mu-i}\langle i-1\rangle} - Z^{q^{m-2}}\right)\left(Z^{q^{m-1}\langle\mu\rangle}-1\right)}{\left(Z^{q^{m-2}}-1\right)\left(Z^{q^{m-1}}-1\right)}.
\end{aligned}$$

Therefore

$$\begin{aligned}
J_{i\mu} &= \frac{\left(Z^{-q^{m+\mu-i}\langle i-3-\mu\rangle} - Z^{q^{m-2}}\right)\left(Z^{q^{m-1}\langle\mu\rangle}-1\right)}{\left(Z^{q^{m-2}}-1\right)\left(Z^{q^{m-1}}-1\right)} \\
&= \frac{-\left(Z^{q^{m+\mu-i}\langle i-2-\mu\rangle}-1\right)\left(Z^{q^{m-1}\langle\mu\rangle}-1\right)}{Z^{q^{m+\mu-i}\langle i-3-\mu\rangle}\left(Z^{q^{m-2}}-1\right)\left(Z^{q^{m-1}}-1\right)}.
\end{aligned}$$

Now by putting $\mu = i-1$ we see that

$$J_{i,i-1} = 0.$$

It follows that, upon letting

$$E_{i\mu} = \frac{-\left(Z^{q^{m+\mu-i}\langle i-2-\mu\rangle}-1\right)\left(Z^{q^{m-1}\langle\mu\rangle}-1\right)}{Z^{q^{m+\mu-i}\langle i-3-\mu\rangle}\left(Z^{q^{m-2}}-1\right)\left(Z^{q^{m-1}}-1\right)} \quad \text{for } 3 \le i \le m \text{ and } 0 \le \mu \le i-1$$

we have

$$\begin{aligned}
&\sum_{\mu=0}^{i-1} \widehat{D}_{i\mu} \widehat{Y}^{q^{m-i+\mu}+\cdots+q^{m-2}} \widehat{T}_i^{q^\mu} \\
&\quad = -\widehat{D}_{20} \widehat{Y}^{q^{m-2}} \left(\sum_{\mu=0}^{i-2} E_{i\mu} \widehat{Y}^{q^{m-i+\mu}+\cdots+q^{m-3}} \widehat{T}_i^{q^\mu} \right) \\
&\qquad - \widehat{D}_{21} \left(\sum_{\mu=0}^{i-2} E_{i\mu} \widehat{Y}^{q^{m-i+\mu}+\cdots+q^{m-3}} \widehat{T}_i^{q^\mu} \right)^q \quad \text{for } 3 \le i \le m.
\end{aligned}$$

By q-linearity, summing the above equations we get

$$\begin{aligned}
&\sum_{i=3}^{m} \sum_{\mu=0}^{i-1} \widehat{D}_{i\mu} \widehat{Y}^{q^{m-i+\mu}+\cdots+q^{m-2}} \widehat{T}_i^{q^\mu} \\
&\quad = -\widehat{D}_{20} \widehat{Y}^{q^{m-2}} \left(\sum_{i=3}^{m} \sum_{\mu=0}^{i-2} E_{i\mu} \widehat{Y}^{q^{m-i+\mu}+\cdots+q^{m-3}} \widehat{T}_i^{q^\mu} \right) \\
&\qquad - \widehat{D}_{21} \left(\sum_{i=3}^{m} \sum_{\mu=0}^{i-2} E_{i\mu} \widehat{Y}^{q^{m-i+\mu}+\cdots+q^{m-3}} \widehat{T}_i^{q^\mu} \right)^q .
\end{aligned}$$

Therefore recalling that

$$\widehat{D}_{20} = -\frac{Z^{\langle m-3 \rangle} \left(Z^{q^{m-2}} - 1 \right)}{Z-1} \quad \text{and} \quad \widehat{D}_{21} = \frac{Z^{\langle m-2 \rangle} \left(Z^{q^m} - 1 \right)}{Z-1}$$

and letting

$$D = -\widehat{D}_{21} / \widehat{D}_{20}^q \quad \text{and} \quad E = \widehat{D}_{20} \sum_{i=3}^{m} \sum_{\mu=0}^{i-2} E_{i\mu} \widehat{Y}^{q^{m-i+\mu}+\cdots+q^{m-3}} \widehat{T}_i^{q^\mu}$$

we get

$$D = Z(Z-1)^{(q^{m-1}+1)(q-1)}$$

and

$$E = \sum_{i=3}^{m} \sum_{\mu=0}^{i-2} \left(\frac{Z^{q^{m+\mu-i} \langle i-2-\mu \rangle} - 1}{Z-1} \right) \left(\frac{Z^{\langle \mu \rangle} - 1}{Z-1} \right)^{q^{m-1}} Z^{\langle m+\mu-i-1 \rangle} \widehat{Y}^{q^{m-i+\mu}+\cdots+q^{m-3}} \widehat{T}_i^{q^\mu}$$

and

$$-DE^q + \widehat{Y}^{q^{m-2}} E + \sum_{i=3}^{m} \sum_{\mu=0}^{i-1} \widehat{D}_{i\mu} \widehat{Y}^{q^{m-i+\mu}+\cdots+q^{m-2}} \widehat{T}_i^{q^\mu} = 0.$$

The above equation says that $E/\widehat{D}_{20}$ is a $\widehat{T}_2$-root of

$$g = \widehat{D}_{21} \widehat{T}_2^q + \widehat{D}_{20} \widehat{Y}^{q^{m-2}} \widehat{T}_2 + \sum_{i=3}^{m} \sum_{\mu=0}^{i-1} \widehat{D}_{i\mu} \widehat{Y}^{q^{m-i+\mu}+\cdots+q^{m-2}} \widehat{T}_i^{q^\mu} .$$

Hence upon letting

$$g' = E - \widehat{D}_{20}\widehat{T}_2 \qquad \text{and} \qquad g'' = DE^{q-1} - \widehat{Y}^{q^{m-2}} + \sum_{l=1}^{q-1} D\widehat{D}_{20}^{l} E^{q-1-l}\widehat{T}_2^{l}$$

we obtain

$$\begin{aligned}
g'g'' &= \left(DE^{q} - \widehat{Y}^{q^{m-2}}E\right) + \sum_{l=1}^{q-1} D\widehat{D}_{20}^{l} E^{q-l}\widehat{T}_2^{l} \\
&\quad - \left(D\widehat{D}_{20}E^{q-1} - \widehat{D}_{20}\widehat{Y}^{q^{m-2}}\right)\widehat{T}_2 - \sum_{l=2}^{q} D\widehat{D}_{20}^{l} E^{q-l}\widehat{T}_2^{l} \\
&= \left(DE^{q} - \widehat{Y}^{q^{m-2}}E\right) + \left(D\widehat{D}_{20}E^{q-1}\right)\widehat{T}_2 + \sum_{l=2}^{q-1} D\widehat{D}_{20}^{l} E^{q-l}\widehat{T}_2^{l} \\
&\quad - \left(D\widehat{D}_{20}E^{q-1} - \widehat{D}_{20}\widehat{Y}^{q^{m-2}}\right)\widehat{T}_2 - \left(\sum_{l=2}^{q-1} D\widehat{D}_{20}^{l} E^{q-l}\widehat{T}_2^{l}\right) - D\widehat{D}_{20}^{q}\widehat{T}_2^{q} \\
&= \widehat{D}_{21}\widehat{T}_2^{q} + \widehat{D}_{20}\widehat{Y}^{q^{m-2}}\widehat{T}_2 + \left(DE^{q} - \widehat{Y}^{q^{m-2}}E\right) \\
&= \widehat{D}_{21}\widehat{T}_2^{q} + \widehat{D}_{20}\widehat{Y}^{q^{m-2}}\widehat{T}_2 + \sum_{i=3}^{m}\sum_{\mu=0}^{i-1} \widehat{D}_{i\mu}\widehat{Y}^{q^{m-i+\mu}+\cdots+q^{m-2}}\widehat{T}_i^{q^{\mu}} \\
&= g.
\end{aligned}$$

Thus we get the factorization

$$g = g'g'' \tag{4.1}$$

where by substituting the values of $\widehat{Y}$ and $\widehat{T}_i$ we have

$$\begin{aligned}
g =& \widehat{D}_{21}Y^{q^{m+1}\langle m-3\rangle}T_2^{q} + \widehat{D}_{20}\widehat{Y}^{q^{m-2}+q^{m}\langle m-2\rangle}T_2 + \sum_{\mu=0}^{m-1}\widehat{D}_{m\mu}Y^{(q^{m}+1)q^{\mu}\langle m-2-\mu\rangle} \\
&+ \sum_{i=3}^{m-1}\sum_{\mu=0}^{i-1}\widehat{D}_{i\mu}Y^{(q^{m}+1)q^{m-i+\mu}\langle i-2-\mu\rangle+q^{m+\mu}\langle m-1-i\rangle}T_i^{q^{\mu}}
\end{aligned} \tag{4.2}$$

and

$$g' = E - \widehat{D}_{20}Y^{q^{m}\langle m-3\rangle}T_2 \tag{4.3}$$

and

$$g'' = DE^{q-1} - Y^{(q^{m}+1)q^{m-2}} + \sum_{l=1}^{q-1} D\widehat{D}_{20}^{l}E^{q-1-l}Y^{q^{m}\langle m-3\rangle l}T_2^{l} \tag{4.4}$$

and

$$E = \sum_{\mu=0}^{m-2}\widehat{E}_{m\mu}Y^{(q^{m}+1)q^{\mu}\langle m-3-\mu\rangle} + \sum_{i=3}^{m-1}\sum_{\mu=0}^{i-2}\widehat{E}_{i\mu}Y^{(q^{m}+1)q^{m-i+\mu}\langle i-3-\mu\rangle+q^{m+\mu}\langle m-1-i\rangle}T_i^{q^{\mu}} \tag{4.5}$$

with

$$\widehat{E}_{i\mu} = \left(\frac{Z^{q^{m+\mu-i}\langle i-2-\mu\rangle}-1}{Z-1}\right)\left(\frac{Z^{\langle\mu\rangle}-1}{Z-1}\right)^{q^{m-1}} Z^{\langle m+\mu-i-1\rangle} \quad \text{for } 3 \le i \le m \text{ and } 0 \le \mu \le i-2, \tag{4.6}$$

and where we recall that

$$\widehat{D}_{i\mu} = \frac{Z^{q^m\langle\mu-1\rangle+\langle m-1-i+\mu\rangle} - Z^{\langle m-2\rangle}}{Z-1} \qquad \text{for } 3 \le i \le m \text{ and } 0 \le \mu \le i-1 \tag{4.7}$$

and

$$\widehat{D}_{20} = -\frac{Z^{\langle m-3\rangle}\left(Z^{q^{m-2}}-1\right)}{Z-1} \quad \text{and} \quad \widehat{D}_{21} = \frac{Z^{\langle m-2\rangle}\left(Z^{q^m}-1\right)}{Z-1} \tag{4.8}$$

and

$$D = -\widehat{D}_{21}/\widehat{D}_{20}^{q} = Z(Z-1)^{(q^{m-1}+1)(q-1)}. \tag{4.9}$$

By (4.6) we see that, for $3 \le i \le m$ and $0 \le \mu \le i-2$, $\widehat{E}_{i\mu}$ is a monic polynomial of degree

$$q^{m+\mu-i}\langle i-2-\mu\rangle - 1 + q^{m-1}(\langle\mu\rangle - 1) + \langle m+\mu-i-1\rangle = q\langle m-3\rangle + q^m\langle\mu-1\rangle$$

in Z with coefficients on $\mathrm{GF}(p)$. Therefore, since $Y^{(q^m+1)q^\mu\langle m-3-\mu\rangle} = 1$ for $\mu = m-2$, by (4.5) we see that E is a monic polynomial of degree

$$q\langle m-3\rangle + q^m\langle (m-2)-1\rangle = q(q^{m-1}+1)\langle m-3\rangle$$

in Z with coefficients in $\mathrm{GF}(p)[Y, T_2, \ldots, T_{m-1}]$. Consequently, in view of (4.3) and (4.8) we conclude that g' is a monic polynomial of degree $q(q^{m-1}+1)\langle m-3\rangle$ in Z with coefficients in $\mathrm{GF}(p)[Y, T_2, \ldots, T_{m-1}]$. Obviously g is a monic polynomial of degree

$$(\deg_Y \overline{f}) - 1 = (q^m+1)\langle m-2\rangle - 1 = q^m\langle m-2\rangle + q\langle m-3\rangle$$

in Z with coefficients in $\mathrm{GF}(p)[Y, T_2, \ldots, T_{m-1}]$. Hence in view of (4.1), (4.4), (4.8) and (4.9) we see that g'' is a monic polynomial of degree

$$q^m\langle m-2\rangle + q\langle m-3\rangle - q(q^{m-1}+1)\langle m-3\rangle = q^{2m-2}$$

in Z with coefficients in $\mathrm{GF}(p)[Y, T_2, \ldots, T_{m-1}]$. Thus

$$\begin{cases} g' \text{ and } g'' \text{ are monic polynomials of degrees } q(q^{m-1}+1)\langle m-3\rangle \text{ and } q^{2m-2} \\ \text{in } Z \text{ with coefficients in } \mathrm{GF}(p)[Y, T_2, \ldots, T_{m-1}] \text{ respectively.} \end{cases} \tag{4.10}$$

Without assuming $m > 2$, for $1 \le e \le m-1$, let f'_e and g_e denote the members of $\mathrm{GF}(p)[Y, Z, T_2, \ldots, T_e]$ obtained by putting $T_i = 0$ for all $i > e$ in f' and g

respectively. Then f'_e is the twisted derivative of $\overline{f}_e$, and dividing the Z-roots of f'_e by Y and afterwards changing Y to $1/Y$ we get g_e which is a monic polynomial of degree $q^m\langle m-2\rangle + q\langle m-3\rangle$ in Z with coefficients in $\mathrm{GF}(p)[Y, T_2, \ldots, T_e]$.

Again henceforth assuming $m > 2$, for $1 \le e \le m-1$, let g'_e and g''_e denote the members of $\mathrm{GF}(p)[Y, Z, T_2, \ldots, T_e]$ obtained by putting $T_i = 0$ for all $i > e$ in g' and g'' respectively. Then in view of (4.1) and (4.10),

$$\text{(4.11)} \qquad \begin{cases} \text{for } 1 \le e \le m-1 \text{ we have } g_e = g'_e g''_e \text{ where } g'_e \text{ and } g''_e \text{ are} \\ \text{monic polynomials of degrees } q(q^{m-1}+1)\langle m-3\rangle \text{ and } q^{2m-2} \text{ in } Z \\ \text{with coefficients in } \mathrm{GF}(p)[Y, T_2, \ldots, T_e] \text{ respectively.} \end{cases}$$

By (4.2), (4.3), (4.5), (4.6), (4.7) and (4.8) we have

$$g_2 = A_2 T_2^q - B_2 T_2 + C_2 \quad \text{and} \quad g'_2 = A'_2 T_2 + B'_2$$

where $A_2, B_2, C_2, A'_2, B'_2$ are the nonzero elements in $\mathrm{GF}(p)[Y, Z]$ given by

$$A_2 = \widehat{D}_{21} Y^{q^{m+1}\langle m-3\rangle} \quad \text{and} \quad B_2 = -\widehat{D}_{20} \widehat{Y}^{q^{m-2}+q^m\langle m-2\rangle}$$

and

$$C_2 = \sum_{\mu=0}^{m-1} \widehat{D}_{m\mu} Y^{(q^m+1)q^\mu\langle m-2-\mu\rangle}$$

and

$$A'_2 = -\widehat{D}_{20} Y^{q^m\langle m-3\rangle} \quad \text{and} \quad B'_2 = \sum_{\mu=0}^{m-2} \widehat{E}_{m\mu} Y^{(q^m+1)q^\mu\langle m-3-\mu\rangle}.$$

By letting I to be the Z-adic valuation of $Q = k_p(Y, Z)$, i.e., the real discrete valuation whose valuation ring is the localization of $k_p[Y, Z]$ at the principal prime ideal generated by Z, we see that $I(A_2) = \langle m-2\rangle$ and $I(B_2) = \langle m-3\rangle$ and hence $I(B_2/A_2) = \langle m-3\rangle - \langle m-2\rangle = -q^{m-2}$ and therefore $\mathrm{GCD}(q-1, I(B_2/A_2)) = 1$. In view of (4.7) and (4.8) we also see that A_2 and C_2 have no nonconstant common factor in $k_p[Y, Z]$, because $\mu = m-1$ gives the nonzero term $\widehat{D}_{m,m-1}$ of C_2 which is independent of Y, and $\mu = 0$ gives the highest Y-degree term of C_2 and its coefficient is

$$\widehat{D}_{m0} = \frac{1 - Z^{\langle m-2\rangle}}{Z-1}.$$

Therefore by Lemmas (4.2) and (4.3) of [A05] we conclude that

$$\text{(4.12)} \qquad \text{the polynomials } g'_2 \text{ and } g''_2 \text{ are irreducible in } k_p(Y, T_2)[Z].$$

As an immediate consequence of (4.12) we see that

$$\text{(4.13)} \qquad \begin{cases} \text{the polynomials } g' \text{ and } g'' \text{ are irreducible in } k_p(Y, T_2, \ldots, T_{m-1})[Z] \\ \text{and, for } 2 \le e \le m-1, \\ \text{the polynomials } g'_e \text{ and } g''_e \text{ are irreducible in } k_p(Y, T_2, \ldots, T_e)[Z]. \end{cases}$$

Note that

$$\text{(4.14)} \qquad \text{in (4.1) to (4.13) we assumed } m > 2.$$

Recall that $\overline{f}_e$ is irreducible in $k_p(T_1, T_2, \ldots, T_e)[Y]$, its twisted derivative is $f'_e(Y, Z)$, and g_e is obtained by dividing the Z-roots of $f'_e(Y, Z)$ by Y and then changing Y to $1/Y$; therefore by (4.0), (4.1), (4.10), (4.11), (4.13) and (4.14) we get the following

Theorem (4.15). *If $m = 2$ then $Gal(\overline{f}, k_p(T_1)) = Gal(\overline{f}_1, k_p(T_1))$ is a 2-transitive permutation group of degree $q^m + 1$. If $m > 2$ and $2 \le e \le m-1$ then $Gal(\overline{f}_e, k_p(T_1, \ldots, T_e))$ is a transitive permutation group of Rank 3 with subdegrees 1, $q(q^{m-1}+1)\langle m-3\rangle$ and q^{2m-2}. Hence in particular, if $m > 2$ then $Gal(\overline{f}, k_p(T_1, \ldots, T_{m-1}))$ is a transitive permutation group of Rank 3 with subdegrees 1, $q(q^{m-1}+1)\langle m-3\rangle$ and q^{2m-2}.*

Notation. Recall that $<$ denotes a subgroup, and $\triangleleft$ denotes a normal subgroup. Let the groups $\mathrm{SL}(m,q) \triangleleft \mathrm{GL}(m,q) \triangleleft \Gamma\mathrm{L}(m,q)$ and $\mathrm{PSL}(m,q) \triangleleft \mathrm{PGL}(m,q) \triangleleft \mathrm{P}\Gamma\mathrm{L}(m,q)$ and their actions on $\mathrm{GF}(q)^m$ and $\mathcal{P}(\mathrm{GF}(q)^m)$ be as on pages 78-80 of [A03]. Let

$$\Theta_m : \Gamma\mathrm{L}(m,q) \to \mathrm{P}\Gamma\mathrm{L}(m,q) = \Gamma\mathrm{L}(m,q)/\mathrm{GF}(q)^*$$

be the canonical epimorphism where we identify the multiplicative group $\mathrm{GF}(q)^*$ with scalar matrices, which constitute the center of $\mathrm{GL}(m,q)$.

Now in view of Proposition 3.1 of [A04], by (3.0), (3.1), (3.4) and (3.5) we get the following

Theorem (4.16). *Assuming $GF(q) \subset k_p$, for $1 \le e \le m-1$, in a natural manner we may regard*

$$Gal(\phi_e^-, k_p(T_1, \ldots, T_e)) < GL(2m,q) \text{ and } Gal(f_e^-, k_p(T_1, \ldots, T_e)) < PGL(2m,q)$$

and then

$$\Theta_{2m}(Gal(\phi_e^-, k_p(T_1, \ldots, T_e))) = Gal(f_e^-, k_p(T_1, \ldots, T_e))$$

and $Gal(f_e^-, k_p(T_1, \ldots, T_e))$ has two or three orbits on $\mathcal{P}(GF(q)^{2m})$ of sizes $(q^m+1)\langle m-2\rangle$, $q^{m-1}(q^m+1)$ or $(q^m+1)\langle m-2\rangle$, $q^{m-1}(q^m+1)/2$, $q^{m-1}(q^m+1)/2$ according as $p = 2$ or $p \ne 2$. In particular, again assuming $GF(q) \subset k_p$, in a natural manner we may regard

$$Gal(\phi^-, k_p(T_1, \ldots, T_{m-1})) < GL(2m,q)$$

and

$$Gal(f^-, k_p(T_1, \ldots, T_{m-1})) < PGL(2m,q)$$

and then

$$\Theta_{2m}(Gal(\phi^-, k_p(T_1, \ldots, T_{m-1}))) = Gal(f^-, k_p(T_1, \ldots, T_{m-1}))$$

and $Gal(f^-, k_p(T_1, \ldots, T_e))$ has two or three orbits on $\mathcal{P}(GF(q)^{2m})$ of sizes $(q^m+1)\langle m-2\rangle$, $q^{m-1}(q^m+1)$ or $(q^m+1)\langle m-2\rangle$, $q^{m-1}(q^m+1)/2$, $q^{m-1}(q^m+1)/2$ according as $p = 2$ or $p \ne 2$.

Recall that a *quasi-p group* is a finite group which is generated by its p-Sylow subgroups. Since $\mathrm{Disc}_Y f_e^- = -1 = \mathrm{Disc}_Y \phi_e^-$ for $1 \le e \le m-1$, by the techniques of the proofs of Proposition 6 of [A01] and Lemma 34 of [A02] we get the following

Theorem (4.17). *If k_p is algebraically closed then, $Gal(f_e^-, k_p(T_1, \ldots, T_e))$ and $Gal(\phi_e^-, k_p(T_1, \ldots, T_e))$ for $1 \le e \le m-1$, are quasi-p groups. In particular, if k_p is algebraically closed then, $Gal(f^-, k_p(T_1, \ldots, T_{m-1}))$ and $Gal(\phi^-, k_p(T_1, \ldots, T_{m-1}))$ are quasi-p groups.*

5. Review of Linear Algebra

Recall that we are assuming $m > 1$. Let $\epsilon \in \{+, -\}$. Let $\epsilon' = (1 - \epsilon 1)/2$ and note that then $\epsilon' = 0$ or 1 according as $\epsilon = +$ or $-$ respectively.

Fix $\nu \in \mathrm{GF}(q)$ such that $T^2 + T + \nu$ is irreducible in $\mathrm{GF}(q)[T]$. Consider the quadratic forms $\psi^+(x) = x_1x_{m+1} + \cdots + x_mx_{2m}$ and $\psi^-(x) = x_1x_{m+1} + \cdots + x_{m-1}x_{2m-1} + x_m^2 + x_mx_{2m} + \nu x_{2m}^2$. Define the *orthogonal group* $\mathrm{O}^\epsilon(2m, q)$ as the group of all $e \in \mathrm{GL}(2m, q)$ which leave the quadratic form ψ^ϵ unchanged, i.e., $\psi^\epsilon(xe) = \psi^\epsilon(x)$. Let the *general orthogonal group* $\mathrm{GO}^\epsilon(2m, q)$ be defined as the group of all $e \in \mathrm{GL}(2m, q)$ such that for some $\lambda(e) \in \mathrm{GF}(q)$ we have $\psi^\epsilon(\xi e) = \lambda(e)\psi^\epsilon(\xi)$ for all $\xi \in \mathrm{GF}(q)^{2m}$. Let the *semilinear orthogonal group* $\Gamma\mathrm{O}^\epsilon(2m, q)$ be defined as the group of all $(\tau, e) \in \Gamma\mathrm{L}(2m, q)$, with $\tau \in \mathrm{Aut}(\mathrm{GF}(q))$ and $e \in \mathrm{GL}(2m, q)$, such that for some $\lambda(\tau, e) \in \mathrm{GF}(q)$ we have $\psi^\epsilon(\xi^\tau e) = \lambda(\tau, e)\psi^\epsilon(\xi)^\tau$ for all $\xi \in \mathrm{GF}(q)^{2m}$. Define the *special orthogonal group* $\mathrm{SO}^\epsilon(2m, q) = \mathrm{SL}(2m, q) \cap \mathrm{O}^\epsilon(2m, q)$. Let $\mathrm{O}'^\epsilon(2m, q)$ be the commutator subgroup of $\mathrm{O}^\epsilon(2m, q)$. Let $\Omega^\epsilon(2m, q) = \mathrm{O}'^\epsilon(2m, q)$ if $(m, q, \epsilon) \neq (2, 2, +)$, and let $\Omega^+(4, 2)$ be the subgroup of $\mathrm{SO}^+(4, 2)$ containing $\mathrm{O}'^+(4, 2)$, as defined in Definition 4 on page 30 of [LiK], such that $[\mathrm{SO}^+(4, 2) : \Omega^+(4, 2)] = 2 = [\Omega^+(4, 2) : \mathrm{O}'^+(4, 2)]$. Thus we get the sequence $\mathrm{O}'^\epsilon(2m, q) < \Omega^\epsilon(2m, q) < \mathrm{SO}^\epsilon(2m, q) < \mathrm{O}^\epsilon(2m, q) < \mathrm{GO}^\epsilon(2m, q) < \Gamma\mathrm{O}^\epsilon(2m, q)$ of orthogonal groups and by applying Θ_{2m} to them we get the corresponding sequence $\mathrm{PO}'^\epsilon(2m, q) < \mathrm{P}\Omega^\epsilon(2m, q) < \mathrm{PSO}^\epsilon(2m, q) < \mathrm{PO}^\epsilon(2m, q) < \mathrm{PGO}^\epsilon(2m, q) < \mathrm{P}\Gamma\mathrm{O}^\epsilon(2m, q)$ of projective orthogonal groups.[3]

Note that for any $H < \mathrm{GL}(2m, q)$ we have

$$\Omega^\epsilon(2m, q) < H \Leftrightarrow \mathrm{P}\Omega^\epsilon(2m, q) < \Theta_{2m}(H). \tag{5.1}$$

In case $(m, q, \epsilon) \neq (2, 2, +)$, this follows exactly as in the proof of Lemma 2.3 of [A04] because then by Theorem 11.46 of [Tay] $\Omega^\epsilon(2m, q)$ is generated by Siegel transformations. By the definition of a Siegel transformation (11.17 of [Tay]) we see that its order is p or 1, and the said proof is based on the fact that the group is generated by elements of p-power order, i.e., equivalently the fact that it is a quasi-p group. So (5.1) holds also for $(m, q, \epsilon) = (2, 2, +)$ because by Proposition 2.9.1(iv) of [LiK] $\Omega^+(4, 2)$ is a quasi-2 group.

[3]Instead of taking the specific quadratic form ψ^ϵ, in [LiK] these groups are defined for each quadratic form of "Witt defect ϵ'". Dickson [Dic] defines these groups for $p \neq 2$ by taking a different set of specific quadratic forms thus: if either $\epsilon = +$ and $q \equiv 1 \pmod 4$ or $\epsilon = +$ and $q \equiv 3 \pmod 4$ with m even or $\epsilon = -$ and $q \equiv 3 \pmod 4$ with m odd then take the quadratic form to be $x_1^2 + \cdots + x_{2m}^2$; if either $\epsilon = +$ and $q \equiv 3 \pmod 4$ with m odd or $\epsilon = -$ and $q \equiv 3 \pmod 4$ with m even then take the quadratic form to be $x_1^2 + \cdots + x_{2m-1}^2 - x_{2m}^2$; and finally if $\epsilon = -$ and $q \equiv 1 \pmod 4$ then take the quadratic form to be $x_1^2 + \cdots + x_{2m-1}^2 - \mu x_{2m}^2$ with $\mu \in \mathrm{GF}(q) \setminus \mathrm{GF}(q)^2$. By the *singular points* of $\mathrm{P}\Omega^\epsilon(2m, q)$ we mean the images in $\mathcal{P}(\mathrm{GF}(q)^{2m})$ of the nonzero $\xi \in \mathrm{GF}(q)^{2m}$ at which the quadratic form vanishes. By Exercise 11.3 on page 174 of [Tay] we see that the cardinality of the singular points of $\mathrm{P}\Omega^\epsilon(2m, q)$ is $(q^{m-1+\epsilon'} + 1)\langle m - 1 - \epsilon'\rangle$, and hence the cardinality of the *nonsingular points* of $\mathrm{P}\Omega^\epsilon(2m, q)$ is $q^{m-1}(q^m - 1 + 2\epsilon')$. By 11.24 and 11.27 on pages 150-151 of [Tay] we see that $\mathrm{P}\Omega^\epsilon(2m, q)$ acts transitively on its singular points, and by using Witt's Lemma (page 81 of [Asc]) we see that if $p = 2$, then $\mathrm{P}\Omega^\epsilon(2m, q)$ acts transitively on its nonsingular points, whereas if $p \neq 2$, then $\mathrm{P}\Omega^\epsilon(2m, q)$ has two equal size orbits of nonsingular points. Finally, by the sixth line of Table 5.4.C on page 200 of [LiK] which starts with $D_l^\pm(q)$), we see that if $m > 3$ and $\Phi < \mathrm{PGL}(2m, q)$ is isomorphic to $\mathrm{P}\Omega^\epsilon(2m, q)$, then $\mathrm{P}\Omega^\epsilon(2m, q) = \delta^{-1}\Phi\delta$ for some $\delta \in \mathrm{PGL}(2m, q)$.

By 2.1.B, 2.10.4(ii) and 2.10.6(i) of [LiK], for any $H < \mathrm{GL}(2m,q)$ we have

$$\Omega^\epsilon(2m,q) \lhd H \Leftrightarrow \Omega^\epsilon(2m,q) < H < \mathrm{GO}^\epsilon(2m,q) \tag{5.2}$$

and by 2.1.C of [LiK] we have

$$[\mathrm{GO}^\epsilon(2m,q) : \Omega^\epsilon(2m,q)] \begin{cases} \not\equiv 0 \pmod p & \text{if } p > 2, \\ = 2 & \text{if } p = 2. \end{cases} \tag{5.3}$$

Since $\Omega^\epsilon(2m,q)$ is quasi-p, it is generated by the p-power elements of $\Omega^\epsilon(2m,q)\mathrm{GF}(q)^*$, and hence these two subgroups have the same normalizer in $\mathrm{GL}(2m,q)$. Also clearly $\mathrm{GF}(q)^* < \mathrm{GO}^\epsilon(2m,q)$. Therefore by (5.2), for any $G < \mathrm{PGL}(2m,q)$ we have

$$\mathrm{P}\Omega^\epsilon(2m,q) \lhd G \Leftrightarrow \mathrm{P}\Omega^\epsilon(2m,q) < G < \mathrm{PGO}^\epsilon(2m,q) \tag{5.4}$$

and by (5.3) we get

$$[\mathrm{PGO}^\epsilon(2m,q) : \mathrm{P}\Omega^\epsilon(2m,q)] \begin{cases} \not\equiv 0 \pmod p & \text{if } p > 2 \\ = 2 & \text{if } p = 2. \end{cases} \tag{5.5}$$

Finally, since $\mathrm{GF}(q)^* < \mathrm{GO}^\epsilon(2m,q)$, for any $H < \mathrm{GL}(2m,q)$ we have

$$H < \mathrm{GO}^\epsilon(2m,q) \Leftrightarrow \Theta_{2m}(H) < \mathrm{PGO}^\epsilon(2m,q). \tag{5.6}$$

In view of Theorem IV of [CaK], by Corollary 1(iii) of Kantor [Kan] we get the following:

Theorem (5.7) [KANTOR]. *Assume that $m > 3$. Let G be a transitive permutation group of Rank 3 with subdegrees 1, $q(q^{m-2+\epsilon'}+1)\langle m-2-\epsilon'\rangle$ and q^{2m-2}. Then the permuted set can be identified with the singular points of $P\Omega^\epsilon(2m,q)$ so that $P\Omega^\epsilon(2m,q)_1 \lhd G < P\Gamma O^\epsilon(2m,q)_1$ where $P\Omega^\epsilon(2m,q)_1$ and $P\Gamma O^\epsilon(2m,q)_1$ denote the permutation groups on the said singular points induced by $P\Omega^\epsilon(2m,q)$ and $P\Gamma O^\epsilon(2m,q)$ respectively.*

For applying (5.7), we first prove the following

Lemma (5.8). *Let $G < PGL(m,q)$ have orbits $\Delta_1 \ldots, \Delta_e$ of sizes $d_1, \ldots, d_e$ on $\mathcal{P}(GF(q)^m)$, and note that then $\sum_{i=1}^n d_i = \langle m-1\rangle$. Assume that there is no positive integer $r < m$ together with a proper subset ρ of $\{1,\ldots,e\}$ such that $\sum_{i\in\rho} d_i = \langle r-1\rangle$. Also assume that there is no integral divisor $s > 1$ of m together with a disjoint partition $\sigma(1)\cup\cdots\cup\sigma(s) = \{1,\ldots,e\}$ of $\{1,\ldots,e\}$ into pairwise disjoint nonempty subsets $\sigma(1),\ldots,\sigma(s)$ such that for $1 \le j \le s$ we have $\sum_{i\in\sigma(j)} d_i = \binom{s}{j}(q-1)^{j-1}\langle (m/s)-1\rangle^j$. Then G acts faithfully on each of its orbits.*

Namely, the first assumption implies that $\Theta_m^{-1}(G)$ does not map any proper subspace of $\mathrm{GF}(q)^m$ (of positive dimension $r < m$) onto itself.[4] Therefore, regarding

[4]In view of this observation, by the last line of Table 5.4.A on page 199 of [LiK] which starts with $D_l^{\pm}(q)$, we see that if $m = 3$ and $\Phi < \mathrm{PGL}(2m,q)$ is isomorphic to and has the same size orbits as $\mathrm{P}\Omega^\epsilon(2m,q)$, then $\mathrm{P}\Omega^\epsilon(2m,q) = \delta^{-1}\Phi\delta$ for some $\delta \in \mathrm{PGL}(2m,q)$.

$\mathcal{P}(\mathrm{GF}(q)^m)$ as the set of all 1-dimensional subspaces of $\mathrm{GF}(q)^m$, it follows that Δ_1 spans $\mathrm{GF}(q)^m$. Let $\Psi = \{\gamma \in \Theta_m^{-1}(G) : \gamma(M) = M \text{ for all } M \in \Delta_1\}$. Then $\Psi \lhd \Theta_m^{-1}(G)$. Recall that a maximal eigenspace of Ψ is a maximal subspace L of $\mathrm{GF}(q)^m$ such that for some homomorphism $\alpha_L : \Psi \to \mathrm{GF}(q)^*$ we have $\gamma(z) = \alpha_L(\gamma)z$ for all $\gamma \in \Theta_m(\Psi)$ and $z \in L$. Since Δ_1 spans $\mathrm{GF}(q)^m$, we get a direct sum decomposition $\mathrm{GF}(q)^m = L_1 + \cdots + L_s$ where $L_1, \ldots, L_s$ are maximal eigenspaces of Ψ. Since $\Psi \lhd \Theta_m^{-1}(G)$, it follows that $\Theta_m^{-1}(G)$ acts transitively on this decomposition, and hence dim $L_i = m/s$ for $1 \le i \le s$. For $1 \le j \le s$ let Λ_j be the set of all $M \in \mathcal{P}(\mathrm{GF}(q)^m)$ such that, for every $0 \ne z \in M$, the cardinality of $\{1 \le i \le s : \mathrm{proj}_i(z) \ne 0\}$ is j where $\mathrm{proj}_i : L_1 + \cdots + L_s \to L_i$ is the natural projection. Then the cardinality of Λ_j is $\binom{s}{j}(q-1)^{j-1}\langle (m/s)-1\rangle^j$. Since $\Theta_m^{-1}(G)$ acts transitively on the above decomposition, there is a disjoint partition $\sigma(1) \cup \cdots \cup \sigma(s) = \{1, \ldots, e\}$ of $\{1, \ldots, e\}$ such that for $1 \le j \le s$ we have $\Lambda_j = \cup_{i \in \sigma(j)} \Delta_i$. Therefore for $1 \le j \le s$ we have $\sum_{i \in \sigma(j)} d_i = \binom{s}{j}(q-1)^{j-1}\langle (m/s)-1\rangle^j$. Consequently by the second assumption we must have $s = 1$. Therefore $\Psi = \mathrm{GF}(q)^*$ and hence G acts faithfully on Δ_1. Similarly G acts faithfully on each of its orbits.

In view of (5.8) and the previous two footnotes, we get the following corollary of (5.7):

Corollary (5.9). *Assume that $m > 3$. Let $G < PGL(2m, q)$ have 2 or 3 orbits on $\mathcal{P}(GF(q)^{2m})$ of sizes $(q^m+1)\langle m-2\rangle$, $q^{m-1}(q^m+1)$ or $(q^m+1)\langle m-2\rangle$, $q^{m-1}(q^m+1)/2$, $q^{m-1}(q^m+1)/2$ according as $p = 2$ or $p \ne 2$. Assume that G is Rank 3 with subdegrees 1, $q(q^{m-2+\epsilon'}+1)\langle m-2-\epsilon'\rangle$ and q^{2m-2} on the orbit of size $(q^m+1)\langle m-2\rangle$. Then $P\Omega^\epsilon(2m, q) \lhd \delta^{-1}G\delta$ for some $\delta \in PGL(2m, q)$.*

As in (5.7), let $\mathrm{P}\Omega^\epsilon(2m, q)_1$ denote the permutation group induced by $\mathrm{P}\Omega^\epsilon(2m, q)$ on its singular points (whose cardinality is $(q^m+1)\langle m-2\rangle$). In case of $p = 2$, let $\mathrm{P}\Omega^\epsilon(2m, q)_2$ denote the permutation group induced by $\mathrm{P}\Omega^\epsilon(2m, q)$ on its nonsingular points (whose cardinality is $q^{m-1}(q^m+1)$). In case of $p \ne 2$, the permutation groups induced by $\mathrm{P}\Omega^\epsilon(2m, q)$ on its two nonsingular orbits (whose common cardinality is $q^{m-1}(q^m+1)/2$) are easily seen to be equivalent and we denote them by $\mathrm{P}\Omega^\epsilon(2m, q)_2$. Now by (5.8) we see that

$$\mathrm{P}\Omega^\epsilon(2m, q)_1 \approx \mathrm{P}\Omega^\epsilon(2m, q) \approx \mathrm{P}\Omega^\epsilon(2m, q)_2 \tag{5.10}$$

where $\approx$ denotes isomorphism as abstract groups.

6. Galois Groups

By (4.15), (4.16), (5.1), (5.6) and (5.9) we get the following

Theorem (6.1). *If $m > 3$ and $GF(q) \subset k_p$, then, for $2 \le e \le m-1$, in a natural manner, we have*

$$\Omega^-(2m, q) < Gal(\phi_e^-, k_p(T_1, \ldots, T_e)) < GO^-(2m, q)$$

and

$$P\Omega^-(2m, q) < Gal(f_e^-, k_p(T_1, \ldots, T_e)) < PGO^-(2m, q).$$

Hence in particular, if $m > 3$ and $GF(q) \subset k_p$ then, in a natural manner we have

$$\Omega^-(2m, q) < Gal(\phi^-, k_p(T_1, \ldots, T_{m-1})) < GO^-(2m, q)$$

and

$$P\Omega^-(2m,q) < Gal(f^-, k_p(T_1,\ldots,T_{m-1})) < PGO^-(2m,q).$$

By (3.0), (3.1), (3.4), (3.5), (4.17), (5.2), (5.3), (5.4), (5.5), (5.10) and (6.1) we get the following

Theorem (6.2). *If $m > 3 \leq p$ and k_p is algebraically closed, then, for $2 \leq e \leq m-1$, in a natural manner we have*

$$Gal(\phi^-, k_p(T_1,\ldots,T_{m-1}) = Gal(\phi_e^-, k_p(T_1,\ldots,T_e) = \Omega^-(2m,q)$$

and

$$Gal(f^-, k_p(T_1,\ldots,T_{m-1})) = Gal(f_e^-, k_p(T_1,\ldots,T_e)) = P\Omega^-(2m,q)$$

and

$$\begin{aligned} Gal(\overline{f}, k_p(T_1,\ldots,T_{m-1})) &= Gal(\overline{f}_e, k_p(T_1,\ldots,T_e)) \\ &= P\Omega^-(2m,q)_1 \approx P\Omega^-(2m,q) \end{aligned}$$

and

$$\begin{aligned} Gal(f^{**}, k_p(T_1,\ldots,T_{m-1})) &= Gal(f_e^{**}, k_p(T_1,\ldots,T_e)) \\ &= P\Omega^-(2m,q)_2 \approx P\Omega^-(2m,q) \end{aligned}$$

and

$$\begin{aligned} Gal(f^{***}, k_p(T_1,\ldots,T_{m-1})) &= Gal(f_e^{***}, k_p(T_1,\ldots,T_e)) \\ &= P\Omega^-(2m,q)_2 \approx P\Omega^-(2m,q). \end{aligned}$$

Remark (6.3). We shall discuss the $m \leq 3$ or $p = 2$ case elsewhere.

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