# Some Insights on Zeros of Fourier Transforms of Sets in $\mathbb{Z}_n^2$

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## Quick facts and notations

Fourier transform:

$$\widehat{1}_A(x) = \sum_{a \in A} e^{2\pi i \langle a, x \rangle / n}, \quad A \subseteq \mathbb{Z}_n^2$$

Zero set:

$$Z(\widehat{1}_A) = \{x \in \mathbb{Z}_n^2 : \widehat{1}_A(x) = 0\}$$

Difference set:

$$\Delta A = \{a - a' : a, a' \in A, a \neq a'\}$$

## Quick facts and notations

$$(A,S)$$
 is a spectral pair on  $\mathbb{Z}_n^2 \Leftrightarrow \begin{cases} |A| = |S| \\ \Delta S \subseteq Z(\widehat{1}_A) \end{cases}$ 

$$(A,B) \text{ is a tiling pair on } \mathbb{Z}_n^2 \quad \Leftrightarrow \quad \begin{cases} |A|\cdot |B| = n^2 \\ \Delta \mathbb{Z}_n^2 \subseteq Z(\widehat{1}_A) \cup Z(\widehat{1}_B) \end{cases}$$

## Appetizer

Let H be a maximal cyclic subgroup in  $\mathbb{Z}_n^2$  generated by h, then

$$\widehat{1}_{H}(x) = \sum_{k=0}^{n-1} e^{2\pi i k \langle h, x \rangle / n} = \begin{cases} 0 & \text{if } \langle h, x \rangle \neq 0, \\ n & \text{if } \langle h, x \rangle = 0, \end{cases}$$

which means

$$Z\big(\widehat{1}_H\big)=\{x\in\mathbb{Z}_n^2:\langle h,x\rangle\neq 0\}.$$

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Orthogonal set:

$$A^{\perp} = \{x \in \mathbb{Z}_n^2 : \langle a, x \rangle = 0, \ \forall a \in A\}.$$

## Poisson summation formula (maximal cyclic subgroups)

If H is a maximal cyclic subgroup, then

$$Z(\widehat{1}_H)=\mathbb{Z}_n^2 \setminus H^\perp$$

More precisely

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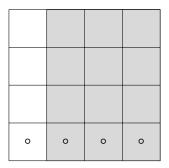
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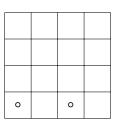
Spoiler: This actually holds for all subgroups.

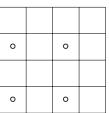
# Examples

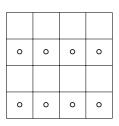


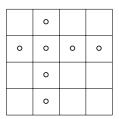
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## How about such sets?









#### Basic observation

Given some A, let's consider whether x = (k,0) is in  $Z(\widehat{1}_A)$ :

$$\widehat{1}_{A}(x) = \sum_{(a_{1}, a_{2}) \in A} e^{2\pi i (a_{1} \cdot k + a_{2} \cdot 0)/n} = \sum_{(a_{1}, a_{2}) \in A} e^{2\pi i a_{1} \cdot k/n}$$

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(1) If  $A_1$  is the multiset obtained by applying  $(a_1, a_2) \mapsto (a_1, 0)$  on A, then  $\widehat{1}_A(x) = \widehat{1}_{A_1}(x)$  for x = (k, 0).

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- (2) We may view  $\sum_{(a_1,a_2)\in A} e^{2\pi i a_1 \cdot k/n}$  as the univariate polynomial

$$p(z) = \sum_{(a_1,a_2)\in A} z^{a_1}$$

evaluated at  $z = e^{2\pi i k/n}$ 

#### The idea

Given some A and x, to determine whether  $x \in Z(\widehat{1}_A)$ , we find some x', y' so that  $x \in \langle x' \rangle$ ,  $x' \perp y'$ , and x', y' generates  $\mathbb{Z}_n^2$ .

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Write every element  $a \in A$  into linear combinations of x', y', then repeating the same procedure we obtain

- (1)  $\widehat{1}_A(x)$  depends only on the projection of A into  $\langle x' \rangle$ ;
- (2)  $\widehat{1}_A(x)$  can be viewed as a univariate polynomial evaluated at  $z = e^{2\pi i k/n}$  where k is the value so that x = kx'.

Facts: disjointness of difference sets

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Define an equivalence relation in finite Abelian groups:  $h \sim h'$  if h, h' generate the same cyclic subgroup.

**Fact 2:** Let E be an arbitrary equivalence class under  $\sim$ , then  $\Delta A \cap E$  and  $\Delta B \cap E$  can not be both non-empty.

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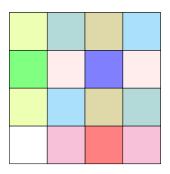
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**Fact 2:** Let E be an arbitrary equivalence class under  $\sim$ , then  $\Delta A \cap E$  and  $\Delta B \cap E$  can not be both non-empty.

Reason(dilation trick): If gcd(m, |A|) = 1 and (A, B) is a tiling pair, then (mA, B) is still a tiling pair.

# Equivalence classes



## Facts: a representation of $\mathbb{Z}_{p^k}$

Expand every element of  $\mathbb{Z}_{p^k}$  in base p, then each element can be represented by a k-digit base p number.

Fact: Subgroups have common trailing 0s:

A subgroup of size  $p^t$  consists of all numbers whose last k-t digits are 0, and its generators are of the form:

$$d_1 \dots d_{t-1} \times \underbrace{0 \dots 0}_{k-t \text{ digits}},$$

with  $x \neq 0$  and  $d_1, ..., d_{t-1}$  arbitrary.

## Quick facts and notations

Let

$$C' = \{\underbrace{0 \dots 0}_{t-1 \text{ digits}} \times \underbrace{0 \dots 0}_{k-t \text{ digits}} : x \in \mathbb{Z}_p\},$$

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Let E be an equivalence class in  $\mathbb{Z}_{p^k}^2$ , and  $h \in E$ .

E generates a cyclic group of some prime power order, hence if

$$E' = \{0, h, ..., (p-1)h\},\$$

then |E'| = p, and both  $E', \Delta E' \subseteq E$ .

## Quick facts

All elements in a given equivalence class are simultaneously annihilated.

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Each equivalence class E contains an size p subset E' whose difference set is still in the class.

We will construct sets of form  $E'_1 \oplus E'_2 \oplus \ldots \oplus E'_m$  as spectra for tilings sets or tiling complements for spectral sets in  $\mathbb{Z}_{p^k}^2$ .

#### Lemma

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#### Proposition

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#### **Theorem**

Tiling sets and spectral sets coincide in  $\mathbb{Z}_p^2$ .

$$T \Rightarrow S: |A| = p \text{ in } \mathbb{Z}_{p^k}^2$$

Let (A, B) be a tiling pair in  $\mathbb{Z}_{p^k}^2$  with |A| = p.

 $Z(\widehat{1}_A) \neq \emptyset$  must hold, otherwise  $Z(\widehat{1}_B)$  would contain the whole  $\Delta \mathbb{Z}^2_{p^k}$ .

There is some equivalence class E with  $E \subseteq Z(\widehat{1}_A)$ , and E' is a spectrum of A.

$$S \Rightarrow T : |A| \ge p^{2k-1} \text{ in } \mathbb{Z}_{p^k}^2$$

Let (A, S) be a spectral pair in  $\mathbb{Z}_{p^k}^2$  with  $|A| \ge p^{2k-1}$ .

There must be some equivalence class E that is disjoint with  $\Delta A$ , otherwise  $Z(\widehat{1}_S)$  would contain the whole  $\Delta \mathbb{Z}_{p^k}^2$ .

 $\Delta E' \cap \Delta A \subseteq E \cap \Delta A = \emptyset$ , thus E' is a tiling complement of A.

Tiling: 
$$|A| = p^{2k-1}$$
 in  $\mathbb{Z}_{p^k}^2$ 

Let (A, B) be a tiling pair in  $\mathbb{Z}_{p^k}^2$  with  $|A| = p^{2k-1}$ .

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There is an 
$$S$$
 with  $|S| = p^{2k-1}$  and  $Z(\widehat{1}_S) = \Delta \mathbb{Z}_{p^k}^2 \setminus E$ .

S is essentially of form  $H^{\perp} \oplus X'$ , where H is a maximal cyclic subgroup that contains E, while X is the equivalence class of the subgroup of order |H|/|E| in H. (that S takes such a form will be more evident in the symplectic setting)

Symplectic form (anti-symmetric, bilinear):

$$\langle x, y \rangle_s = x_1 y_2 - x_2 y_1 = \langle \begin{pmatrix} x_1 \\ x_2 \end{pmatrix}, \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 1 \\ -1 & 0 \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} y_1 \\ y_2 \end{pmatrix} \rangle,$$

where 
$$x = (x_1, x_2), y = (y_1, y_2).$$

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Remark: The Fourier transform incurs a 90 degree rotation on the time-frequency plane, the rotation matrix is the symplectic matrix.

#### Appetizer revisited

Let H be a cyclic subgroup in  $\mathbb{Z}_n^2$  generated by h, then

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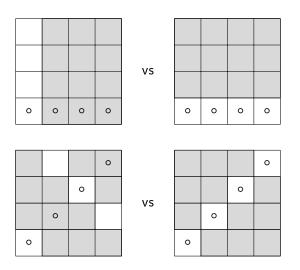
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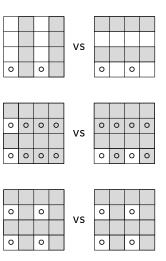
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Symplectic orthogonal sets:

$$H^{\perp_s}=\{x\in\mathbb{Z}_n^2:\langle h,x\rangle_s=0\}.$$



### More examples



#### Characterizing orthogonal sets

 $A^{\perp}$  and  $A^{\perp_s}$  are always subgroups. If ab=n, then

$$(a\mathbb{Z}_b \times \mathbb{Z}_n)^{\perp} = b\mathbb{Z}_a \times \{0\}, \quad (a\mathbb{Z}_b \times \mathbb{Z}_n)^{\perp_s} = \{0\} \times b\mathbb{Z}_a.$$

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Fact 1: A set complements a subgroup H in  $\mathbb{Z}_n^2$  if and only if its size is  $n^2/|H|$  and it annihilates  $H^{\perp}$  (in the Euclidean setting) or  $H^{\perp_s}$  (in the symplectic setting).

**Fact 2**: *H* is an order *n* subgroup in  $\mathbb{Z}_n^2$  if and only if  $H = H^{\perp_s}$ .

Fact 3: Poisson summation formula: If H is a subgroup, then

$$\widehat{1}_H^s = |H| \cdot 1_{H^{\perp_s}}$$

#### Strategy and motivation revisited

To determine whether  $h \in Z(\widehat{1}_A)$  or  $Z(\widehat{1}_A^s)$ , first we view the group as generated by linear combinations of x', y', where  $h \perp y'$  or  $h \perp_s y'$ .

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Direct computation is often complicated, ideally we shall find a map that preserves  $\langle \cdot, \cdot \rangle$  or  $\langle \cdot, \cdot \rangle_s$  (preserves tilingness and spectrality), and can send orthogonal basis to standard basis.

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- (1) If  $\langle Ua, Ub \rangle = \langle a, b \rangle$  holds for all a, b, then  $UU^* = I$ .
- (2) If  $Ux = (1,0)^T$ ,  $Uy = (0,1)^T$ , then  $U(x \ y) = I$ , hence  $U = \begin{pmatrix} x \\ y \end{pmatrix}^T$  and  $x_1 \cdot x_1 + x_2 \cdot x_2 = y_1 \cdot y_1 + y_2 \cdot y_2 = 1$ .

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Conclusion: NOT always possible in  $\mathbb{Z}_n^2$ .

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For  $x = \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 1 \end{pmatrix}$  and  $y = \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 3 \end{pmatrix}$ , the candidate U should be  $2^{-1} \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 1 \\ 1 & 3 \end{pmatrix}$ , but 2 is not multiplicatively invertible in  $\mathbb{Z}_4$ .

#### Symplectic bases

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Fact: Symplectic form is preserved on change of bases.

If 
$$x = x_1h + x_2h'$$
,  $y = y_1h + y_2h'$ , then 
$$\langle x, y \rangle_s = x_1y_1\langle h, h \rangle_s + x_1y_2\langle h, h' \rangle_s + x_2y_1\langle h', h \rangle_s + x_2y_2\langle h', h' \rangle_s$$
$$= x_1y_2 - x_2y_1$$

#### Symplectomorphisms

Symplectomorphism: change of symplectic bases

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If 
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, then  $\langle x, y \rangle_s = \langle x, Sy \rangle$ , and  $A = \begin{pmatrix} a & b \\ c & d \end{pmatrix}$  satisfies  $A^*SA = S$  if and only if  $ad - bc = 1$ .

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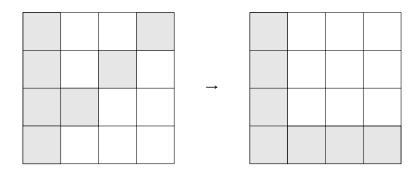
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(2) Matrices formed by symplectic basis have unit determinant:

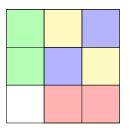
$$\langle x, y \rangle_s = x_1 y_2 - x_2 y_1 = \det \begin{pmatrix} x_1 & y_1 \\ x_2 & y_2 \end{pmatrix}$$





Any pair of generating maximal cyclic groups would work, they don't have to be orthogonal to each other in the Euclidean sense.

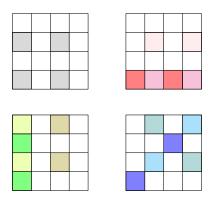
# Structures of $\mathbb{Z}_p^2$



The group dissects into maximal cyclic subgroups that mutually intersect trivially.

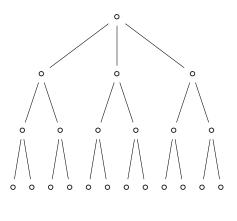
There are p+1 such subgroups, each subgroup forms a line.

# Structures of $\mathbb{Z}_{p^2}^2$



For every order p cyclic subgroup H, there are precisely p maximal cyclic subgroups that intersect at H.

# Structures of $\mathbb{Z}_{p^k}^2$



Each path from the root is a chain of cyclic subgroups by inclusion.

$$T \Rightarrow S \text{ in } \mathbb{Z}_{p^2}^2$$

#### Theorem

Tiling sets are also spectral in  $\mathbb{Z}_{p^2}^2$ .

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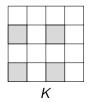
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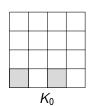
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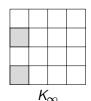
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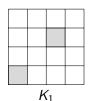
Suffices to consider tiling sets of size  $p^2$ . Let (A, B) be such a pair.

Denote and distinguish order p subgroups by their "slopes":









$$T \Rightarrow S \text{ in } \mathbb{Z}_{p^2}^2$$

Let 
$$M = \{i : \Delta K_i \subseteq Z(\widehat{1}_A^s)\}\$$
and  $M' = \{i : \Delta K_i \cap Z(\widehat{1}_A^s) = \emptyset\}$ 

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$$|M| = p + 1$$
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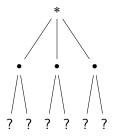
- (1) If |M| = p + 1, then  $\Delta K \subseteq Z(\widehat{1}_A^s)$ , and (A, K) is spectral.
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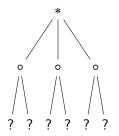
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- (3) If 0 < |M| < p + 1, then depending on the status of leaf nodes:
- (3.1) A annihilates a maximal path;
- (3.2) A annihilates a full sub-branch of some  $m' \in M'$ ;
- (3.3) No other cases possible.

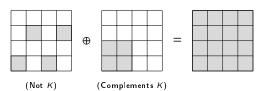
# T2S case (1)



### T2S case (2)



That B complementing K does not mean A is K, an example:



#### A counting lemma

#### Lemma

If  $x \in Z(\widehat{1}_A^s)$ , and ord(x) = p is a prime power, then

$$|A\cap \langle px\rangle^{\perp_s}|=p\cdot |A\cap \langle x\rangle^{\perp_s}|$$

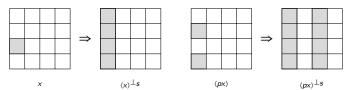
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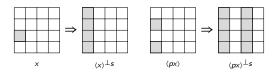
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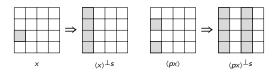
$$|A\cap \langle px\rangle^{\perp_s}|=p\cdot |A\cap \langle x\rangle^{\perp_s}|$$

For illustration purpose, let's say x = (0,1):





Let 
$$\omega = e^{2\pi i/p^2}$$
,  $P(z) = \sum_{(a_1,a_2)\in A} z^{a_1}$ , then 
$$\widehat{1}_A^s(x) = \sum_{(a_1,a_2)\in A} e^{2\pi i(a_1\cdot 1 - a_2\cdot 0)/p^2} = \sum_{(a_1,a_2)\in A} \omega^{a_1} = P(\omega).$$

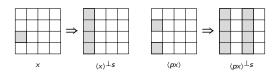


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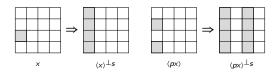
If  $x \in Z(\widehat{1}_A^s)$ , then  $P(\omega) = 0$ , which means P(z) is divisible by the  $p^2$ -th cyclotomic polynomial, hence

$$P(\omega) = (1 + \omega^p + ... + \omega^{p(p-1)})(c_0 + c_1\omega + ... + c_{p-1}\omega^{p-1}).$$



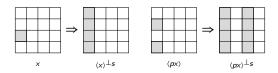


$$\begin{split} \widehat{1}_A^s(x) &= \sum_{a \in A} \omega^{\langle a, x \rangle_s} = \sum_{(a_1, a_2) \in A} \omega^{a_1} \\ &= (1 + \omega^p + \ldots + \omega^{p(p-1)}) (c_0 + c_1 \omega + \ldots + c_{p-1} \omega^{p-1}). \end{split}$$



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 $pc_0$  =sum of coefficients in front of  $1, \omega^p, \dots, \omega^{p(p-1)} = |A \cap \langle px \rangle^{\perp_s}|$ 

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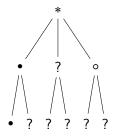
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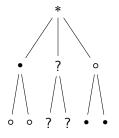
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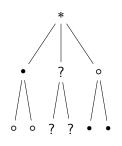
# T2S case (3.1)



# T2S case (3.2)



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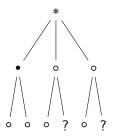


 $S = \{(0,0),(0,1)\} \oplus \{(0,0),(2,0)\}$ 

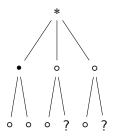


 $\Delta S = \Delta E' \oplus \Delta K_0$ 

# T2S case (3.3)

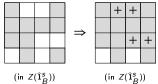


## T2S case (3.3)



B has to annihilate the white nodes, which implies that

B annihilates  $\mathbb{Z}_{p^2} \setminus K$  and all  $\Delta K_i$  for i in M', it has too many zeros!



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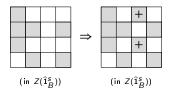
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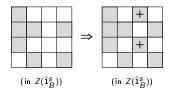
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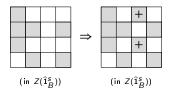


$$\Delta\big(\{0\}\times\mathbb{Z}_{p^2}\big)\subseteq Z\big(\widehat{1}_B^{\mathfrak s}\big) \text{ implies } B=\{\big(0,b_0\big),\ldots,\big(p^2-1,b_{p^2-1}\big)\}.$$



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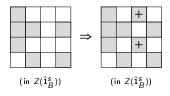
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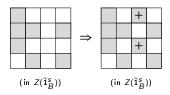
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$$K_0^{\perp} \setminus K \subseteq Z(\widehat{1}_B^s)$$
 implies  $Fu = 0$ .  $F: p \times p$  Fourier matrix,  $u = (u_0, ..., u_{p-1})^T$ .



$$\begin{split} &\Delta(\{0\}\times\mathbb{Z}_{p^2})\subseteq Z(\widehat{1}_B^s) \text{ implies } B=\{(0,b_0),\ldots,(p^2-1,b_{p^2-1})\}.\\ &\text{Set } B_m=\{(kp+m,b_{kp+m}): k=0,\ldots,p-1\},\ u_m=\sum\limits_{k=0}^{p-1}e^{2\pi ib_{kp+m}/p^2}.\\ &K_0^\perp\setminus K\subseteq Z(\widehat{1}_B^s) \text{ implies } Fu=0.\ F: p\times p \text{ Fourier matrix, } u=(u_0,\ldots,u_{p-1})^T. \end{split}$$

Thus u = 0, consequently for each fixed m,  $\{b_{kp+m}\}_{k=0}^{p-1} = \{kp\}_{k=0}^{p-1}$ .



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If 
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The aim is to produce a B so that  $\Delta A \cap \Delta B = \emptyset$ , and  $|B| = p^2$  or  $p^3$  respectively.

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(1) There is some B satisfying  $\Delta A \cap \Delta B = \emptyset$ , and B either is or complements an order  $p^2$  subgroup.

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Consider  $M = \{i : \Delta K_i \cap \Delta A \neq \emptyset\}$  and  $M' = \{i : \Delta K_i \cap \Delta A = \emptyset\}$ .

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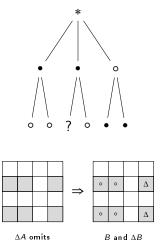
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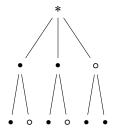
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- (2.1) |M'| > 0,  $\exists m \in M$  with empty leaf: complements some  $K_i \oplus E'$ .
- (2.2) |M'| > 0, no branch of M has empty leaf: impossible.
- (2.3) |M'| = 0: S is a tiling complement of K, mutual annihilation.

# $S2T: p^2 \le |A| < p^3 \text{ case } (2.1)$

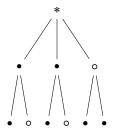


# $S2T : p^2 \le |A| < p^3 \text{ case } (2.2)$



More complicated than the T2S (3.3) excessive zero case, since  $|S| \ge p^2$  instead of  $= p^2$ .

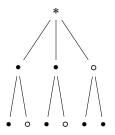
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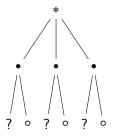


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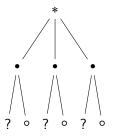
This puts more restrictions on it and leads to a contradiction by counting.

# $S2T : p^2 \le |A| < p^3 \text{ case } (2.3)$



For each  $K_i$ , there shall be some maximal cyclic subgroup  $H_i$  so that  $\Delta A \cap \Delta H_i \subseteq K_i$ , otherwise  $\Delta K_i^{\perp_s} \subseteq Z(\widehat{1}_S^s)$  (violates uncertainty).

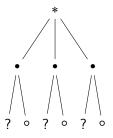
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Otherwise both  $\Delta A$  and  $\Delta S$  comply with the above tree and will lead to a contradiction by counting as in (2.2).



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- (1)  $\Delta A$  intersects each order  $p^2$  subgroup non-trivially:
- $\Rightarrow$  M is not empty (since  $\triangle A$  needs to intersect K).
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- $\Rightarrow$  S can tile along with some  $E' \oplus K_i$ .

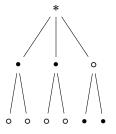
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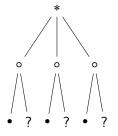
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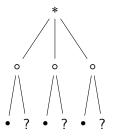
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Reduce to  $\mathbb{Z}_{p^2} \times \mathbb{Z}_p$ .





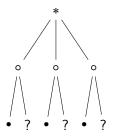
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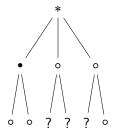
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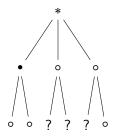
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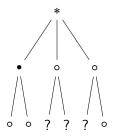
Sum over  $i: |S| + p|S \cap K| = p^2 + p|S \cap K| + p|S \cap E_i| \Rightarrow |S| \ge p^2$ .



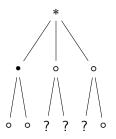
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$$a_i = |A \cap (K_i^{\perp_s} \setminus K)|, b = |A \cap K|, a'_i = |S \cap (K_i^{\perp_s} \setminus K)|, b' = |S \cap K|.$$



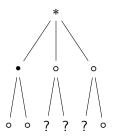
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Structures and results on  $\mathbb{Z}_{p^2}^2$  are briefed by a case discussion along its tree structure.

