

# The Construction of Minimal $(b,t)$ -Blocking Sets Containing Conics in $PG(2,5)$ with the Complete Arcs and Projective Codes Related with Them

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## **Abstract**

A  $(b,t)$ -blocking set  $B$  in  $PG(2,q)$  is set of  $b$  points such that every line of  $PG(2,q)$  intersects  $B$  in at least  $t$  points and there is a line intersecting  $B$  in exactly  $t$  points. In this paper we construct a minimal  $(b,t)$ -blocking sets,  $t = 1,2,3,4,5$  in  $PG(2,5)$  by using conics to obtain complete arcs and projective codes related with them.

**Keywords:** Blocking set, complete arc, projective code.

## 1- Introduction

Let  $GF(q)$  denotes the Galois field of  $q$  elements and  $V(3,q)$  be the vector space of row vectors of length three with entries in  $GF(q)$ . Let  $PG(2,q)$  be the corresponding projective plane. The points of  $PG(2,q)$  are the non zero vectors of  $V(3,q)$  with the rule that  $X = (x_1, x_2, x_3)$  and  $y = (\lambda x_1, \lambda x_2, \lambda x_3)$  represent the same point, where  $\lambda \in GF(q) \setminus \{0\}$ . The number of points of  $PG(2,q)$  is  $q^2 + q + 1$ .

If the point  $P(X)$  is the equivalence class of the vector  $X$ , then we will say that  $X$  is a vector representing  $P(X)$ . A subspace of dimension one is a set of points all of whose representing vectors form a subspace of dimension two of  $V(3,q)$ , such subspaces are called lines.

The number of lines in  $PG(3,q)$  is  $q^2 + q + 1$ . There are  $q + 1$  points on every line and  $q + 1$  lines through every point. The point  $X(x_1, x_2, x_3)$  is on the line  $Y[y_1, y_2, y_3]$  if and only if  $x_1y_1 + x_2y_2 + x_3y_3 = 0$ .

### Definition (1.1): [1]

A  $(k,n)$ -arc is a set of  $k$  points of a projective plane such that some  $n$  but no  $n + 1$  of them are collinear,  $n \geq 2$ .

### Definition (1.2): [2]

A  $(k,n)$ -arc is complete if it is not contained in a  $(k + 1, n)$ -arc.

### Definition (1.3): [2]

A line  $l$  in  $PG(2,q)$  is an  $i$ -secant on a  $(k,n)$ -arc  $K$  if  $|l \cap K| = i$ .

### Definition (1.4): [2]

A point  $N$  which is not on a  $(k,n)$ -arc has index  $i$  if there are exactly  $i$  ( $n$ -secants) of the arc through  $N$ , we denote the number of points  $N$  of index  $i$  by  $N_i$ .

### Remark (1.5): [3]

The  $(k,n)$ -arc is complete iff  $N_0 = 0$ . Thus the arc is complete iff every point of  $PG(2,q)$  lies on some  $n$ -secant of the arc.

### Definition (1.6): [3]

An  $(b,t)$ -blocking set  $B$  in  $PG(2,q)$  is a set of  $b$  points such that every line of  $PG(2,q)$  intersects  $B$  in at least  $t$  points, and there is a line intersecting  $B$  in exactly  $t$  points. If  $B$  contains a line, it is called trivial, thus  $B$  is a subset of  $PG(2,q)$  which meets every line  $l$  in  $PG(2,q)$ , but contains no line completely; that is  $t \leq |B \cap l| \leq q$  for every line  $l$  in  $PG(2,q)$ . So  $B$  is a blocking set iff  $PG(2,q) \setminus B$  is a blocking set. A blocking set is minimal if  $B \setminus \{P\}$  is not blocking set for every  $p$  in  $B$ .

### Lemma (1.7): [4]

A  $(b,1)$ -blocking set  $B$  is minimal in  $PG(2,q)$  iff there is a line  $l$  in  $PG(2,q)$  such that  $B \cap l = \{Q\}$  for every  $Q$  in  $B$ .

### Definition (1.8): [3]

A variety  $V(F)$  of  $PG(2,q)$  is a subset of  $PG(2,q)$  such that:  
 $V(F) = \{P(A) \in PG(2,q) \mid F(A) = 0\}$ .

### Definition (1.9): [5]

Let  $Q(2,q)$  be the set of quadrics in  $PG(2,q)$ ; that is the varieties  $V(F)$ , where:

$$F = a_{11} X_1^2 + a_{22} X_2^2 + a_{33} X_3^2 + a_{12} X_1 X_2 + a_{13} X_1 X_3 + a_{23} X_2 X_3 \quad \dots(1)$$

If  $V(F)$  is non-singular, then the quadric is a **conic**.

That is, if  $A = \begin{bmatrix} a_{11} & \frac{a_{12}}{2} & \frac{a_{13}}{2} \\ \frac{a_{12}}{2} & a_{22} & \frac{a_{23}}{2} \\ \frac{a_{13}}{2} & \frac{a_{23}}{2} & a_{33} \end{bmatrix}$  is nonsingular, then the quadric (1) is a conic.

### 1.10 The Relation Between The Blocking (b,t)-Set and The (k,n)-arc [5]

The (k,n)-arc and the (b,t)-blocking set are each complement to the other in the projective plane  $PG(2,q)$ , that is,  $n + t = q + 1$  and  $k + b = q^2 + q + 1$ . Thus the complement of the (b,t)-blocking set is the set of points that intersects every line in at most  $n$  points which represents the (k,n)-arc. Also finding minimal (b,t)-blocking set is equivalent to finding maximal (k,n)-arc in  $PG(2,q)$ .

#### Lemma (1.11): [4]

Let  $\beta = C \cup \ell \cup \{P\} \setminus \{P_1, P_2\}$ , where  $C$  is a conic,  $\ell$  is a (2-secant) of  $C$  such that  $C \cap \ell = \{P_1, P_2\}$ ,  $P$  is the point of intersection of the two tangents to  $C$  at  $P_1$  and  $P_2$ , then  $\beta$  is a minimal  $(2p - 1, 1)$ -blocking set.

#### Definition (1.12): [5]

Let  $V(n,q)$  denote the vector space of all ordered  $n$ -tuples over  $GF(q)$ . A linear code  $C$  over  $GF(q)$  of length  $n$  and dimension  $k$  is a  $k$ -dimensional subspace of  $V(n,q)$ . The vectors of  $C$  are called code words. The Hamming distance between two codewords is defined to be the number of coordinate places in which they differ. The minimum distance of a code is the smallest distances between distinct codewords. Such a code is called an  $[n,k,d]_q$  code if its minimum hamming distance is  $d$ .

There exists a relationship between complete (n,r)-arcs in  $PG(2,q)$  and  $[n,3,d]_q$  codes given by the next theorem.

#### Theorem (1.13): [5]

There exists a projective  $[n,3,d]_q$  code if and only if there exists an  $(n, n - d)$ -arc in  $PG(2,q)$ .

#### Theorem (1.14): [6]

Let  $\beta_2$  be a double blocking set in  $PG(2,q)$ :

- (1) If  $q < 9$ , then  $\beta_2$  has at least  $3q$  points.
- (2) If  $q = 11, 13, 17$  or  $19$ , then  $|\beta_2| \geq (5q + 7)/2$ .

#### Theorem (1.15): [6]

Let  $\beta_3$  be a triple blocking set in  $PG(2,q)$ :

- (1) If  $q = 5, 7, 9$ , then  $\beta_3$  has at least  $4q$  points and if  $q = 8$ , then  $\beta_3$  has at least  $31$  points.
- (2) If  $q = 11, 13$  or  $17$ , then  $|\beta_3| \geq (7q + 9)/2$ .

Now, we prove the following theorem:

#### Theorem (1.16):

A (b,t)-blocking set  $B$  is minimal in  $PG(2,q)$  then every point  $P$  in  $B$  there is a  $t$ -secant of  $B$  containing  $P$ .

#### Proof:

Suppose  $B$  is minimal blocking set, let  $P$  be any point in  $B$ . Let  $K$  be the complement of  $B$ , then  $K$  is complete (k,n)-arc in  $PG(2,q)$  and  $P$  is not  $K$ ., then  $P$  is an (n-secant) of  $K$ , but  $q + 1 = t + n$  and so  $t = q + 1 - n$ . Thus  $P$  is on an (t-secant) of  $B$ .

## 2- The Projective Plane PG(2,5)

In this paper we consider the case  $q = 5$  and the elements of  $GF(5)$  are denoted by  $0,1,2,3,4$ .

A projective plane  $\pi = PG(2,5)$  over  $GF(5)$  consists of 31 points, 31 lines each line contains 6 points and through every point there is 6 lines.

Let  $P_i$  and  $\ell_i$  be the points and lines of  $PG(2,5)$  respectively. Let  $i$  stands for the point  $P_i$ ,  $i = 1,2,\dots,31$ . The points and lines of  $PG(2,5)$  are given in the table (1).

### 2.1 The Conic in PG(2,5) Through The Reference and Unit Points

The general equation of the conic is:

$$a_{11}x_1^2 + a_{22}x_2^2 + a_{33}x_3^2 + a_{12}x_1x_2 + a_{13}x_1x_3 + a_{23}x_2x_3 = 0 \quad \dots(1)$$

By substituting the reference points:

$1(1,0,0)$ ,  $2(0,1,0)$ ,  $7(0,0,1)$  and the unit point  $13(1,1,1)$ , which are four points no three of them are collinear, in (1), we get:

$a_{12} + a_{13} + a_{23} = 0$  and  $a_{11} = a_{22} = a_{33} = 0$ , so (1) becomes:

$$a_{12}x_1x_2 + a_{13}x_1x_3 + a_{23}x_2x_3 = 0 \quad \dots(2)$$

If  $a_{12} = 0$ , then the conic is degenerated, therefore  $a_{12} \neq 0$ , similarly,  $a_{13} \neq 0$  and  $a_{23} \neq 0$ .

Dividing equation (2) by  $a_{12}$ , we get:

$$x_1x_2 + \alpha x_1x_3 + \beta x_2x_3 = 0, \text{ where } \alpha = \frac{a_{13}}{a_{12}}, \beta = \frac{a_{23}}{a_{12}}, \text{ then } \beta = -(1 + \alpha) \text{ since}$$

$$1 + \alpha + \beta = 0 \pmod{5}.$$

Then  $x_1x_2 + \alpha x_1x_3 - (1 + \alpha)x_2x_3 = 0$ , where  $\alpha \neq 0$  and  $\alpha \neq 4$ , for if  $\alpha = 0$  or  $\alpha = 4$  we get a degenerated conic, that is,  $\alpha = 1,2,3$ .

### 2.2 The Equations and the Points of the Conics in PG(2,5) Through the Reference and Unit Points

For any value of  $\alpha$ , there is a unique conic contains 6 points, 4 of them are the reference and unit points

1. If  $\alpha = 1$ , then the equation of the conic  $C_1$  is

$$x_1x_2 + x_1x_3 + 3x_2x_3 = 0$$

The points of  $C_1$  are :  $1,2,7,13,20,26$ .

2. If  $\alpha = 2$ , then the equation of the conic  $C_2$  is

$$x_1x_2 + 2x_1x_3 + 2x_2x_3 = 0$$

The points of  $C_2$  are :  $1,2,7,13,21,29$ .

3. If  $\alpha = 3$ , then the equation of the conic  $C_3$  is

$$x_1x_2 + 3x_1x_3 + x_2x_3 = 0$$

The points of  $C_3$  are :  $1,2,7,13,24,30$ .

Thus we found five conics two of them are degenerated and the remaining three conics  $C_1, C_2, C_3$  are non-degenerated.

Table (1)

$i$	$P_i$	$L_i$					
1	1 0 0	2	7	12	17	22	27
2	0 1 0	1	7	8	9	10	11
3	1 1 0	6	7	16	20	24	28
4	2 1 0	4	7	14	21	23	30
5	3 1 0	5	7	15	18	26	29
6	4 1 0	3	7	13	19	25	31
7	0 0 1	1	2	3	4	5	6
8	1 0 1	2	11	16	21	26	31

9	2	0	1	2	9	14	19	24	29
10	3	0	1	2	10	15	20	25	30
11	4	0	1	2	8	13	18	23	28
12	0	1	1	1	27	28	29	30	31
13	1	1	1	6	11	15	19	23	27
14	2	1	1	4	9	16	18	25	27
15	3	1	1	5	10	13	21	24	27
16	4	1	1	3	8	14	20	26	27
17	0	2	1	1	17	18	19	20	21
18	1	2	1	5	11	14	17	25	28
19	2	2	1	6	9	13	17	26	30
20	3	2	1	3	10	16	17	23	29
21	4	2	1	4	8	15	17	24	31
22	0	3	1	1	22	23	24	25	26
23	1	3	1	4	11	13	20	22	29
24	2	3	1	3	9	15	21	22	28
25	3	3	1	6	10	14	18	22	31
26	4	3	1	5	8	16	19	22	30
27	0	4	1	1	12	13	14	15	16
28	1	4	1	3	11	12	18	24	30
29	2	4	1	5	9	12	20	23	31
30	3	4	1	4	10	12	19	26	28
31	4	4	1	6	8	12	21	25	29

## 2.3 The Construction of Minimal (b,t)-Blocking Sets By Using Conic-Type Blocking Sets

We construct minimal (b,t)-blocking set in  $PG(2,5)$  from the minimal blocking (9,1)-sets of lemma (1.15) by using conic.

### 2.3.1 The Construction of Minimal (9,1)-Blocking Set by Lemma (1.11)

We take the conic  $C_1$  in section 2.

Let  $\beta_1 = C_1 \cup L_1 \setminus \{P_1, P_2\} \cup \{P\}$ ,  $C_1 = \{1,2,7,13,20,26\}$ ,  $L_1 = \{2,7,12,17,22,27\}$ ,  $C_1 \cap L_1 = \{2,7\}$ ,  $L_4$  and  $L_9$  are the two tangents to  $C_1$  at the points 7 and 2 respectively.  $L_4 \cap L_9 = \{14\}$ , then

$\beta_1 = \{1,12,13,14,17,20,22,26,27\}$ ,  $\beta_1$  is a (9,1)-blocking set in  $PG(2,5)$ . Since each point of  $\beta_1$  is on line  $\ell$  in  $PG(2,9)$  such that  $\beta_1 \cap \ell = \{P\}$  (lemma 1.7),  $\beta_1$  satisfies the following conditions:

- (a)  $\beta_1$  intersects every line in  $PG(2,5)$  in at least one point.
- (b) Every point in  $\beta_1$ , there is a line  $\ell$  in  $PG(2,5)$  such that  $\beta_1 \cap \ell = \{P\}$ .

The complement of  $\beta_1$  is the complete (22,5)-arc  $K_5$ , by theorem (1.13) there exists a projective  $[22,3,17]$  code.

### 2.3.2 The Construction of Minimal (b,2)-Blocking Set In $PG(2,5)$

We construct two (9,1)-blocking sets.

Let  $\beta_1 = \{1,12,13,14,17,20,22,26,27\}$  be the minimal (9,1)-blocking set of section (2.3.1). We construct another (9,1)-blocking set

$\alpha_1 = C_2 \cup L_8 \setminus \{C_2 \cap L_8\} \cup \{15\}$ , where  $C_2 = \{1,2,7,13,21,29\}$ ,  $L_8 = \{2,11,16,21,26,31\}$ ,  $C_2 \cap L_8 = \{2,21\}$ ,  $L_{10} \cap L_{24} = \{15\}$  and  $L_{10}$  and  $L_{24}$  are tangents to  $C_2$  at the points 2 and 21 respectively.

$\alpha_1 = \{1,7,11,13,15,16,26,29,31\}$  is (9,1)-blocking set.

Now, we construct (b,2)-blocking set as follows:

Let  $A = \alpha_1 \cup \beta_1 = \{1,7,11,12,13,14,15,16,17,20,22,26,27,29,31\}$ .

A must satisfies the following conditions:

(a) A intersects every line of  $PG(2,5)$  in at least two points.

(b) Every point in A is on at least one 2-secant of A.

We add three points 3,10 and 18 to A and eliminate the points 15 and 26 from A to satisfy these conditions, then:

$\beta_2 = A \cup \{3,10,18\} \setminus \{15,26\} = \{1,3,7,10,11,12,13,14,16,17,18,20,22,27,29,31\}$  is a minimal (16,2)-blocking set. The complement of  $\beta_2$  is the complete (15,4)-arc  $K_4$ . By theorem (1.13) there exists a projective [15,3,11] code.

### 2.3.3 The Construction of Minimal (b,3)-Blocking Set In $PG(2,5)$

We take the (9,1)-blocking sets in section (2.3.2)

$\alpha_1 = \{1,7,11,13,15,16,26,29,31\}$ ,  $\beta_1 = \{1,12,13,14,17,20,22,26,27\}$ , Let  $\gamma_1 = C_3 \cup L_{28} \cup \{8\} \setminus \{C_3 \cap L_{28}\}$ ,  $C_3 = \{1,2,7,13,24,30\}$ ,  $L_{28} = \{3,11,12,18,24,30\}$ ,  $C_3 \cap L_{28} = \{24,30\}$  and  $L_{21} \cap L_{26} = \{8\}$ , where  $L_{21}$  and  $L_{26}$  are tangents to  $C_3$  at the points 24 and 30 respectively.

$\gamma_1 = \{1,2,3,7,8,11,12,13,18\}$  is a minimal (9,1)-blocking set.

We must construct a minimal (b,3)-blocking set from  $\alpha_1$ ,  $\beta_1$  and  $\gamma_1$  as follows:

Let  $B = \alpha_1 \cup \beta_1 \cup \gamma_1 = \{1,2,3,7,8,11,12,13,14,15,16,17,18,20,22,26,27,29,31\}$ .

B must satisfy the following conditions:

(a) B intersects every line in  $PG(2,5)$  in at least three points.

(b) Every point in B is on at least one 3-secant of B.

We add two points 4 and 5 to B and eliminate the point 31 from B to satisfy these conditions, then:

$\beta_3 = B \cup \{4,5\} \setminus \{31\} = \{1,2,3,4,5,7,8,11,12,13,14,15,16,17,18,20,22,26,27,29\}$  is a minimal (20,3)-blocking set which is trivial since  $\beta_3$  contains some lines completely. The complement of  $\beta_3$  is the complete (11,3)-arc  $K_3$ . By theorem (1.13) there exists a projective [11,3,8] code in  $PG(2,5)$ .

### 2.3.4 The Construction of Minimal (b,4)-Blocking Set In $PG(2,5)$

We take three minimal (9,1)-blocking sets in section (2.3.3) which are:

$\alpha_1 = \{1,7,11,13,15,16,26,29,31\}$ ,  $\beta_1 = \{1,12,13,14,17,20,22,26,27\}$ ,

$\gamma_1 = \{1,2,3,7,8,11,12,13,18\}$ .

Let  $\omega_1 = C_1 \cup L_2 \cup \{30\} \setminus \{C_1 \cap L_2\}$ , where  $C_1$  is the conic  $C_1 = \{1,2,7,13,20,26\}$ ,  $L_2 = \{1,7,8,9,10,11\}$ ,  $C_1 \cap L_2 = \{1,7\}$ ,  $L_4 \cap L_{12} = \{30\}$ ,  $L_4$  and  $L_{12}$  are tangents to  $C_1$  at the points 7 and 1 respectively, then.

$\omega_1 = \{2,8,9,10,11,13,20,26,30\}$  is a minimal (9,1)-blocking set.

We construct a minimal (b,4)-blocking set from  $\alpha_1$ ,  $\beta_1$ ,  $\gamma_1$  and  $\omega_1$  as follows:

Let  $C = \alpha_1 \cup \beta_1 \cup \gamma_1 \cup \omega_1 = \{1,2,3,7,\dots,14,15,16,17,18,20,22,26,27,29,30,31\}$ . C must satisfy the following conditions:

(a) C intersects every line in at least four points.

(b) Every point in C is on at least one 4-secant of C.

We add the points 6,45,21,24,28 to C, and eliminate one point 29 from C to satisfy these conditions, then:

$\beta_4 = C \cup \{6,21,24,28\} \setminus \{29\} = \{1,2,3,6,7,\dots,18,20,21,22,24,26,27,28,30,31\}$  is a minimal (25,4)-blocking set which is trivial since  $\beta_4$  contains some lines completely. The complement of  $\beta_4$  is the complete (6,2)-arc  $K_2$ . By theorem (1.13) there exists a projective [6,3,4] code.

### 2.3.5 The Construction of Minimal (b,5)-Blocking Set In $PG(2,5)$

We take four minimal (9,1)-blocking sets of section (2.3.4) which are

$\alpha_1 = \{1,7,11,13,15,16,26,29,31\}$ ,  $\beta_1 = \{1,12,13,14,17,20,22,26,27\}$ ,

$\gamma_1 = \{1,2,3,7,8,11,12,13,18\}$ ,  $\omega_1 = \{2,8,9,10,11,13,20,26,30\}$ .

We construct another minimal (9,1)-blocking set.

Let  $\delta_1 = C_2 \cup L_6 \setminus \{7,13\} \cup \{24\}$ , where  $C_2$  is a conic,  $C_2 = \{1,2,7,13,21,29\}$ ,  $L_6 = \{3,7,13,19,25,31\}$ ,  $C_2 \cap L_6 = \{7,13\}$ ,  $L_3 \cap L_{22} = \{24\}$ , where  $L_3$  and  $L_{22}$  are tangents to  $C_2$  at the points 7 and 13 respectively, then.

$\delta_1 = \{1,2,3,19,21,24,25,29,31\}$  is a minimal (9,1)-blocking set.

Now, we must construct a minimal (b,5)-blocking set from  $\alpha_1, \beta_1, \gamma_1, \omega_1$  and  $\delta_1$  as follows:.

Let  $D = \alpha_1 \cup \beta_1 \cup \gamma_1 \cup \omega_1 \cup \delta_1 = \{1,2,3,7, \dots, 22, 24, \dots, 27, 29, 30, 31\}$ . D must satisfy the following conditions:

- (a) D intersects every line in at least five points.
- (b) Every point of D is on at least one 5-secant of D.

We add four points 5,6,23,28 to D to satisfy these conditions, then:

$\beta_5 = D \cup \{5,6,23,28\} = \{1,2,3,5, \dots, 31\}$  is a minimal (30,5)-blocking set which is trivial since  $\beta_5$  contains some lines completely. The complement of  $\beta_5$  is not arc since every (k,n) cannot exist when  $n < 2$ .

### Conclusion

1. We construct a minimal (9,1)-blocking set, which is containing a conic as in lemma (1.12). Also we construct minimal (16,2)-blocking by taking the union of two blocking (9,1)-sets of type in lemma (1.12). We construct minimal (20,3)-blocking set, by taking the union of three (9,1)- blocking sets of type in lemma (1.12). We construct minimal (25,4)-blocking set by taking the union of four (9,1)-blocking sets of type in lemma (1.12) and finally we construct minimal (30,5)-blocking set  $B_5$  by taking the union five (9,1)-blocking sets of type in lemma (1.12).
2. The minimal (9,1)-blocking set  $B_1$  and the minimal (16,2)-blocking set  $B_2$  are non-trivial, but the minimal (20,3)-blocking set  $B_3$ , the minimal (25,4)-blocking set  $B_4$  and the minimal (30,5)-blocking set  $B_5$  are trivial

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## بناء مجموعات قلبية –(b,t) صغرى تحتوي على مخروطيات في $PG(2,5)$ والاقواس الكاملة والشفرات الاسقاطية المرتبطة بها

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### الخلاصة

المجموعة القلبية -  $B(b,t)$  في  $PG(2,q)$  هي مجموعة من  $b$  من النقاط بحيث ان كل مستقيم في  $PG(2,q)$  يقطع  $B$  في  $t$  من النقاط في الاقل ويوجد مستقيم يقطع  $B$  في  $t$  من النقاط فقط. في هذا البحث قمنا ببناء مجموعات قلبية –  $(b,t)$  صغرى في  $PG(2,5)$  ،  $t = 1,2,3,4,5$  ، باعتماد مخروطيات وحصلنا على اقواس كاملة وشفرات إسقاطية مرتبطة بها.

**الكلمات المفتاحية :** مجموعة قلبية ، قوس كامل ، شفرة إسقاطية.