

# A self-orthogonal doubly-even code invariant under $M^cL$

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## Abstract

We examine a design  $\mathcal{D}$  and a binary code  $C$  constructed from a primitive permutation representation of degree 2025 of the sporadic simple group  $M^cL$ . We prove that  $\text{Aut}(C) = \text{Aut}(\mathcal{D}) = M^cL$  and determine the weight distribution of the code and that of its dual. In Section 6 we show that for a word  $w_i$  of weight  $i$ , where  $i \in \{848, 896, 912, 972, 1068, 1100, 1232, 1296\}$  the stabilizer  $(M^cL)_{w_i}$  is a maximal subgroup of  $M^cL$ . The words of weight 1024 split into two orbits  $C_{(1024)_1}$  and  $C_{(1024)_2}$  respectively. For  $w_i \in C_{(1024)_1}$  we prove that  $(M^cL)_{w_i}$  is a maximal subgroup of  $M^cL$ .

## 1 Introduction

The binary codes obtained from the primitive permutation representations of the sporadic simple groups have been examined in [3], [6], [9] and [10].

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See [7] for collected results. Here following a similar approach to that of [9] and [10] we construct a 1-(2025, 1232, 1232) self-dual symmetric design  $\mathcal{D}$  from a primitive permutation representation of degree 2025 of the sporadic simple group  $M^cL$  of McLaughlin [4]. Associated to this design we construct a  $[2025, 22, 848]_2$  self-orthogonal doubly-even binary code  $C$  which is invariant under the  $M^cL$  group. We determine the weight distribution of  $C$  and that of  $C^\perp$  and show that  $\text{Aut}(C) = \text{Aut}(\mathcal{D}) = M^cL$ . Also we show that  $C$  is the smallest non-trivial  $GF(2)$  module on which  $M^cL$  acts irreducibly. Let  $C_i$  denote the set of all words of  $C$  of weight  $i$ . In Section 6, we determine the structures of the stabilizers  $(M^cL)_{w_i}$ , for all nonzero weight  $i$ , where  $w_i$  is a word of weight  $i$  (see Table 3). We show that if  $i \in \{848, 896, 912, 972, 1068, 1100, 1232, 1296\}$ ,  $(M^cL)_{w_i}$  is a maximal subgroup of  $M^cL$ . Note that the words of weight 1024 split into two orbits, respectively  $C_{(1024)_1}$  and  $C_{(1024)_2}$ . For  $w_i \in C_{(1024)_1}$ , we show that  $(M^cL)_{w_i}$  is a maximal subgroup of  $M^cL$ . On the other hand if  $w_i$  is such that  $i \in \{988, 1004, 1008, (1024)_2, 1052\}$ , we describe the structures of  $(M^cL)_{w_i}$  for each  $i$  and we show that they are not maximal in  $M^cL$ . Finally, in Section 6 for each  $w_i$ , we take the support of  $w_i$  and orbit it under the action of  $G = M^cL$  to form the blocks of the 1 - (2025,  $i, k_i$ ) designs  $\mathcal{D}_{w_i}$  where  $k_i = |(w_i)^G| \times \frac{i}{2025}$ . Information on these designs is listed in Table 4. We outline our notation in Section 2, and describe the background results and a construction method in Section 3. A brief overview of the simple sporadic group  $M^cL$  is given in Section 4. Our results are given in Sections 5 and 6.

## 2 Terminology and notation

Our notation will be standard, and it is as in [1] and ATLAS [4]. For the structure of groups and their maximal subgroups we follow the ATLAS notation. The groups  $G.H$ ,  $G : H$ , and  $G \cdot H$  denote a general extension, a split extension and a non-split extension respectively. For a prime  $p$ ,  $p^n$  denotes the elementary abelian group of order  $p^n$ . We also denote the particular cases of an extraspecial group by  $p^{1+2n}$ ,  $p_+^{1+2n}$  or  $p_-^{1+2n}$ .

An incidence structure  $\mathcal{D} = (\mathcal{P}, \mathcal{B}, \mathcal{I})$ , with point set  $\mathcal{P}$ , block set  $\mathcal{B}$  and incidence  $\mathcal{I}$  is a  $t$ -( $v, k, \lambda$ ) design, if  $|\mathcal{P}| = v$ , every block  $B \in \mathcal{B}$  is incident with precisely  $k$  points, and every  $t$  distinct points are together incident with precisely  $\lambda$  blocks. The dual structure of  $\mathcal{D}$  is  $\mathcal{D}^t = (\mathcal{B}, \mathcal{P}, \mathcal{I})$ . Thus the transpose of an incidence matrix for  $\mathcal{D}$  is an incidence matrix for  $\mathcal{D}^t$ . We will say that the design is **symmetric** if it has the same number of points and blocks, and **self dual** if it is isomorphic to its dual.

The code  $C_F$  of the design  $\mathcal{D}$  over the finite field  $F$  is the space spanned by the incidence vectors of the blocks over  $F$ . We take  $F$  to be a prime field

$F_p$ , in which case we write also  $C_p$  for  $C_F$ , and refer to the dimension of  $C_p$  as the  $p$ -rank of  $\mathcal{D}$ . In the general case of a 2-design, the prime must divide the order of the design, i.e.  $r - \lambda$ , where  $r$  is the replication number for the design, that is, the number of blocks through a point. If the point set of  $\mathcal{D}$  is denoted by  $\mathcal{P}$  and the block set by  $\mathcal{B}$ , and if  $Q$  is any subset of  $\mathcal{P}$ , then we will denote the incidence vector of  $Q$  by  $v^Q$ . Thus  $C_F = \langle v^B \mid B \in \mathcal{B} \rangle$ , and is a subspace of  $F^{\mathcal{P}}$ , the full vector space of functions from  $\mathcal{P}$  to  $F$ . For any code  $C$ , the dual or orthogonal code  $C^\perp$  is the orthogonal under the standard inner product. The hull of a design's code over some field is the intersection  $C \cap C^\perp$ . If a linear code over a field of order  $q$  is of length  $n$ , dimension  $k$ , and minimum weight  $d$ , then we write  $[n, k, d]_q$  to represent this information. If  $c$  is a codeword then the support of  $c$  is the set of non-zero coordinate positions of  $c$ . A constant word in the code is a codeword all of whose coordinate entries are either 0 or 1. The all-one vector will be denoted by  $\mathbf{j}$ , and is the constant vector of weight the length of the code. Two linear codes of the same length and over the same field are equivalent if each can be obtained from the other by permuting the coordinate positions and multiplying each coordinate position by a non-zero field element. They are isomorphic if they can be obtained from one another by permuting the coordinate positions. An automorphism of a code is any permutation of the coordinate positions that maps codewords to codewords. An automorphism thus preserves each weight class of  $C$ .

### 3 Preliminary results

The designs and codes in this paper come from the following standard construction, described in [9, Proposition 1] and in [10]:

**Result 1** [9, Proposition 1] *Let  $G$  be a finite primitive permutation group acting on the set  $\Omega$  of size  $n$ . Let  $\alpha \in \Omega$ , and let  $\Delta \neq \{\alpha\}$  be an orbit of the stabilizer  $G_\alpha$  of  $\alpha$ . If*

$$B = \{\Delta^g : g \in G\},$$

*then  $B$  forms a self-dual  $1$ - $(n, |\Delta|, |\Delta|)$  design with  $n$  blocks, with  $G$  acting as an automorphism group on this structure, primitive on the points and blocks of the design.*

Note that if we form any union of orbits of the stabilizer of a point, including the orbit consisting of the single point, and orbit this under the full group, we will still get a self-dual symmetric 1-design with the group operating. Thus the orbits of the stabilizer can be regarded as building blocks. Because of the maximality of the point stabilizer, there is only one orbit of length 1: see [9].

The following two theorems deal with the automorphism groups of the designs and codes constructed from a finite primitive permutation group in a manner described in Theorem 1.

**Theorem 1 [12]** *Let  $\mathcal{D}$  be a self-dual 1-design obtained by taking all the images under  $G$  of a non-trivial orbit  $\Delta$  of the point stabilizer in any of  $G$ 's primitive representations, and on which  $G$  acts primitively on points and blocks, then the automorphism group of  $\mathcal{D}$  contains  $G$ .*

**Proof:** Suppose that  $G$  acts primitively on  $\Omega = G/G_\alpha$ . Primitivity of  $G$  implies that  $G_\alpha$  is a maximal subgroup. Let  $\mathcal{B} = \{\Delta^g : g \in G\}$  and suppose that  $B = \Delta^g$ , and  $B' = \Delta^{g'}$ . Then we have that  $(\Delta^g)^{g^{-1}g'} = \Delta^{gg^{-1}g'} = \Delta^{g'}$ , and so  $G$  acts transitively on  $\mathcal{B}$ . Now, if  $h \in G$  and  $\alpha \in \Delta^g$  then  $\alpha^h \in (\Delta^g)^h$ . Hence, we have that  $\alpha^h \in \Delta^{g^h}$  and therefore  $G \subseteq \text{Aut}(\mathcal{D})$ . ■

**Theorem 2** *If  $C$  is a linear code of length  $n$  of a symmetric  $1 - (v, k, k)$  design  $\mathcal{D}$  over a finite field  $F_q$ , then the automorphism group of  $\mathcal{D}$  is contained in the automorphism group of  $C$ .*

**Proof:** Suppose that  $\mathcal{D}$  is a  $1 - (v, k, k)$  design with  $\mathcal{P} = \{p_1, p_2, \dots, p_v\}$  the point set of  $\mathcal{D}$  and  $\mathcal{B} = \{B_1, B_2, \dots, B_v\}$  the block set. Let  $A$  be an incidence matrix for  $\mathcal{D}$ , then  $\mathcal{P}$  determines uniquely the rows of  $A$ , since each point is incident with precisely  $k$  blocks. If  $\alpha \in \text{Aut}(\mathcal{D})$ , then  $\alpha$  sends  $p_i$  to  $p_j$  for  $1 \leq i, j \leq v$  and  $B_{i'}$  to  $B_{j'}$ , where  $1 \leq i', j' \leq v$ , and  $\alpha$  preserves the incidence relation. Now if  $C$  is a code from  $\mathcal{D}$ , then we have that the columns of  $A$  span  $C$ . Let  $R_i$  and  $R_j$  denote the  $i$ -th and  $j$ -th columns of  $A$  respectively, with the entries of  $R_i$  and  $R_j$  labelled as the blocks indices. Then  $R_i$  and  $R_j$  have each exactly  $k$  non-zero entries, since they represent the incidence relation of a point with the corresponding  $k$  blocks of  $\mathcal{D}$ . Now the self-duality of  $\mathcal{D}$  implies that  $R_i$  and  $R_j$  are weight  $k$  vectors in  $C$ . Now since  $\alpha$  permutes the coordinate positions of the  $k$  non-zero entries of  $R_i$  to  $R_j$ , we deduce that  $\alpha$  is an automorphism of  $C$ . ■

## 4 The $M^cL$ group

It was shown by McLaughlin [11] that there exists a regular graph  $\mathcal{G} = (\Omega, \mathcal{E})$  with 275 vertices possessing a transitive automorphism group  $\text{Aut}(\mathcal{G})$  is isomorphic to  $M^cL:2$ , with  $M^cL$  a new simple group of order  $2^7 \times 3^6 \times 5^3 \times 7 \times 11$ . The McLaughlin graph  $\mathcal{G}$  is a rank-3 graph of valency 112 on 275 points in which the point stabilizer  $U = (M^cL)_x$  is a maximal subgroup isomorphic to  $U_4(3)$ . The orbits under the action of  $U$  are  $\{x\}$ ,  $\Phi$  and  $\Psi$  with lengths 1, 112 and 162, respectively. The action of  $U$  on  $\Phi$  is equivalent to the representation of  $U_4(3)$  on the set of totally singular

lines of the 4-dimensional unitary space  $V$  over the Galois field  $GF(9)$  with the stabilizer of a point having the form  $3^4:A_6$  and orbits of lengths [1, 30, 81]. The action of  $U$  on  $\Psi$  is equivalent to the representation of  $U_4(3)$  on the left cosets of a subgroup isomorphic to  $L_3(4)$  with the stabilizer of a point having orbits of lengths [1, 56, 105]. Thus the two point stabilizers of  $M^cL$  on  $\Omega$  are isomorphic to either  $3^4:A_6$  or  $L_3(4)$ . From this we conclude that  $U \cap U^g \cong 3^4:A_6$  or  $L_3(4)$ , for any two distinct conjugate subgroups isomorphic to  $U_4(3)$ .

The group  $M^cL$  has precisely one conjugacy class of involutions and the centralizer of an involution in  $M^cL$  is isomorphic to  $2 \cdot A_8$ , the unique perfect central extension of the alternating group  $A_8$  by a group of order 2. Finkelstein [5] showed that the proper non-abelian simple subgroups of  $M^cL$  are isomorphic to  $A_5$ ,  $A_6$ ,  $A_7$ ,  $L_2(7)$ ,  $U_4(2)$ ,  $U_3(3)$ ,  $L_3(4)$ ,  $U_3(5)$ ,  $U_4(3)$ ,  $M_{11}$  and  $M_{22}$ . There are two classes of  $M_{22}$  subgroups, interchanged by the outer automorphism.

**Theorem 3** (Finkelstein [5]) *The McLaughlin simple group has precisely twelve conjugacy classes of maximal subgroups. The isomorphism types in these classes are as follows:*

- (i) two groups of classical type, namely,  $U_4(3)$  and  $U_3(5)$ ;
- (ii) four groups of Mathieu type, namely,  $M_{11}$ ,  $M_{22}$  (two classes) and  $L_3(4):2_2$ ,  
the set stabilizer of two points in the canonical representation of  $M_{23}$ ;
- (iii) six  $p$ -local subgroups, namely,  $2^4:A_7$  (two classes),  $2 \cdot A_8$ ,  $3^4:M_{10}$ ,  $3_+^{1+4}:2.S_5$   
and  $5_+^{1+2}:3:8$ . ■

## 5 Computations for $M^cL$

Using the construction method outlined in Result 1 we have implemented a computer programme that was used in Magma [2] to construct a 1 – (2025, 1232, 1232) self-dual symmetric design  $\mathcal{D}$ . Subsequently for the prime  $p = 2$  we have constructed its associated code  $C$  which is a  $[2025, 22, 848]_2$  and determined its basic properties. In addition we have determined the weight distribution for  $C$  and for  $C^\perp$  and the hull of  $\mathcal{D}$ . The complementary design of  $\mathcal{D}$  is a 1-(2025, 793, 793) self-dual symmetric design  $\overline{\mathcal{D}}$  whose binary code  $\overline{C}$  is a  $[2025, 23, 729]_2$  code. We show in Section 5 that  $C \subset \overline{C}$ .

The twelve primitive representations referred to in Theorem 3 are listed in Table 1. The first column gives the ordering of the primitive representations as given by Magma (or the ATLAS [4]) and as used in our computations; the second column gives the maximal subgroups while the third

list the degrees (the number of cosets of the point stabilizer). We should add that the Magma version 2.10 (13/05/2003) was used for most of the computations in this paper.

| No. | Max. sub.                 | Deg.   |
|-----|---------------------------|--------|
| 1   | $U_4(3)$                  | 275    |
| 2   | $M_{22}$                  | 2025   |
| 3   | $M_{22}$                  | 2025   |
| 4   | $U_3(5)$                  | 7128   |
| 5   | $3_+^{1+4} : 2 \cdot S_5$ | 15400  |
| 6   | $3^4 : M_{10}$            | 15400  |
| 7   | $L_3(4) : 2_2$            | 22275  |
| 8   | $2 \cdot A_8$             | 22275  |
| 9   | $2^4 : A_7$               | 22275  |
| 10  | $2^4 : A_7$               | 22275  |
| 11  | $M_{11}$                  | 113400 |
| 12  | $5_+^{1+2} : 3 : 8$       | 299376 |

Table 1: Maximal subgroups of  $M^cL$

### 5.1 The $1 - (2025, 1232, 1232)$ design

Using Theorem 3 and Table 1 we deduce that there are just two classes of maximal subgroups of  $M^cL$  group of index 2025. These maximal subgroups are interchanged by an outer automorphism of  $M^cL$ . For each class a representative is a group isomorphic to the Mathieu group  $M_{22}$ . The  $M^cL$  group acts as a rank-4 primitive group on the cosets of  $M_{22}$ , with the stabilizer of the action having orbits of length 1, 330, 462 and 1232. We take the orbit of length 1232 and form as indicated in Result 1, a self-dual symmetric  $1-(2025, 1232, 1232)$  design, on which  $M^cL$  acts.

Theorem 4 below deals with this design and its automorphism group and in Theorem 5 we show that  $M^cL$  is the automorphism group of its associated  $[2025, 22, 848]_2$  self-orthogonal doubly-even binary code.

**Theorem 4** *For  $M^cL$  of degree 2025, the automorphism group of the the design with parameters  $1 - (2025, 1232, 1232)$  is a non-abelian finite simple group of order 898128000. Moreover this group is isomorphic to the simple sporadic group  $M^cL$ .*

**Proof:** Let  $\text{Aut}(\mathcal{D})$  be the automorphism group of the  $1-(2025, 1232, 1232)$  design  $\mathcal{D}$  obtained from an orbit of length 1232 for  $M^cL$  of degree 2025.

Computations with Magma show that  $\text{Aut}(\mathcal{D})$  is a non-abelian group of order 898128000. Since by Theorem 1 we have  $\text{Aut}(\mathcal{D}) \supseteq M^cL$  the result follows. ■

## 5.2 The $[2025, 22, 848]_2$ code

We found that the  $1-(2025, 1232, 1232)$  design yields a  $[2025, 22]_2$  binary code  $C$ . In the following theorem we determine some of the properties of  $C$  and furthermore we show that  $\text{Aut}(C) \cong M^cL$ .

**Theorem 5** *The group  $M^cL$  is the automorphism group of the  $[2025, 22]_2$  code  $C$  obtained from the  $1 - (2025, 1232, 1232)$  design  $\mathcal{D}$ . The code  $C$  is self orthogonal doubly-even, with minimum distance 848. Its dual is a  $[2025, 2003, 4]_2$  with 2338875 words of weight 4. Moreover  $\mathcal{J} \in C^\perp$  and  $M^cL$  acts irreducibly on  $C$  as a  $GF(2)$ -module.*

**Proof:** Let  $\text{Aut}(C) = \Gamma$ . Then by Theorem 2 we have that  $\text{Aut}(\mathcal{D}) \subseteq \Gamma$ . Our computations show that  $|\Gamma| = 898128000 = |\text{Aut}(\mathcal{D})|$  and hence  $\Gamma = \text{Aut}(\mathcal{D})$ . Now since  $\text{Aut}(\mathcal{D}) = M^cL$  by Theorem 4, the results follows.

Since the blocks of  $\mathcal{D}$  are of even size, we have that  $\mathcal{J}$  meets evenly every vector of  $C$ , so  $\mathcal{J} \in C^\perp$ . We used Magma to calculate the weight distribution of  $C$  which is listed in Table 2. In Table 2,  $i$  represents the weight of a codeword and  $A_i$  denotes the number of words in  $C$  of weight  $i$ . From the weight distribution of  $C$  we deduce that the minimum weight of  $C$  is 848. That  $C$  is doubly-even follows immediately from Table 2, since its weights are all divisible by 4. Since  $C$  is a binary doubly-even code, it follows that  $C$  is self-orthogonal.

TABLE 2  
The weight distribution of  $C$

| $i$  | $A_i$   |
|------|---------|
| 0    | 1       |
| 848  | 2025    |
| 896  | 22275   |
| 912  | 22275   |
| 972  | 15400   |
| 988  | 356400  |
| 1004 | 1247400 |
| 1008 | 1247400 |
| 1024 | 801900  |
| 1052 | 356400  |
| 1068 | 113400  |
| 1100 | 7128    |
| 1232 | 2025    |
| 1296 | 275     |

That  $C^\perp$  has minimum weight 4 was found using Magma. The full weight distribution of  $C^\perp$  can be obtained.

Notice that  $\dim(C) = 22$  and it can be easily shown using Table 3 below that  $C$  does not contain invariant subspaces of dimensions 1 and 21 respectively, under  $M^cL$ . Thus we deduce that  $C$  is the smallest non-trivial  $GF(2)$  module on which  $M^cL$  acts irreducibly (see [8]). ■

Now if  $w_i$  is a word of weight  $i$  in  $C$ , in Section 6 we determine the structures of  $(M^cL)_{w_i}$ , i.e, the stabilizers of  $w_i$  in  $M^cL$ . These are listed in Table 3. Also for each  $w_i$ , we take the support of  $w_i$  and orbit it under the action of  $G = M^cL$  to form the blocks of the  $1 - (2025, i, k_i)$  designs  $\mathcal{D}_{w_i}$  where  $k_i = |\langle w_i \rangle^G| \times \frac{i}{2025}$ . Information on these designs is listed in Table 4. In Section 6, Lemmas 6 and 7 deal with the action of  $M^cL$  on the codewords of  $C$ .

## 6 Stabilizer of a codeword $w_i$ of weight $i$

Since  $M^cL$  acts as an automorphism group of  $C$  we consider this action and determine the structure of  $(M^cL)_{w_i}$  where  $i$  is in  $L$  or  $\bar{L}$  with  $L$  and  $\bar{L}$  as defined below.

Let  $L = \{848, 896, 912, 972, 1068, 1100, 1232, 1296\}$  and  $\bar{L}$  be the set  $\{988, 1004, 1008, 1024, 1052\}$ . For  $i \in L \cup \bar{L}$  we define  $C_i$  to be the set  $\{w_i \in C \mid \text{wt}(w_i) = i\}$ , where  $\text{wt}(w_i)$  denotes the weight of a word  $w_i$ . We show in Lemma 6 that  $(M^cL)_{w_i}$  is a maximal subgroup of  $M^cL$  for all  $i \in L$ . Now for  $w_i \in C_i$  we take the support of  $w_i$  and orbit that under  $M^cL$  to form the blocks of a 1-design  $\mathcal{D}_{w_i}$ . We show that for  $i \in L$ ,  $M^cL$  acts primitively on  $\mathcal{D}_{w_i}$ .

Now if  $w_i \in C_i$  where  $i \in \bar{L}$  we show in Lemma 7 that  $(M^cL)_{w_i}$  is not a maximal subgroup of  $M^cL$  for all  $i$  except when  $i = 1024$ . Moreover for  $i = 1024$ ,  $C_{1024}$  splits into two orbits of lengths 22275 and 779625, namely  $C_{(1024)_1}$  and  $C_{(1024)_2}$  respectively. We show that  $(M^cL)_w$  is isomorphic to  $2^4:A_7$  or  $2^4:[(A_4 \times 3):2]$ , where  $w \in C_{(1024)_1}$  or  $w \in C_{(1024)_2}$  respectively.

**Lemma 6** *Let  $i \in L$  and  $w_i \in C_i$ . Then  $(M^cL)_{w_i} = M_i$ , where  $M_i$  is a maximal subgroup of  $M^cL$ . Furthermore  $M^cL$  is primitive on  $\mathcal{D}_{w_i}$  for each  $i$ .*

**Proof:** For any  $w_i$  in  $C_i$  and  $i \in L$  our computations show that  $w_i^{M^cL} = C_i$ . Therefore each  $C_i$  forms an orbit under the action of  $M^cL$  and thus  $M^cL$  is transitive on each  $C_i$ . For  $w_i \in C_i$  we use Magma to construct  $(M^cL)_{w_i}$  as a permutation group inside  $M^cL$ . Furthermore we determine its structure by computing its composition factors. We deduce that for  $i \in L$ ,  $(M^cL)_{w_i} \in \{M_{22}, 2^4:A_7, L_3(4):2_2, 3^4:M_{10}, M_{11}, U_3(5), U_4(3)\}$ . By

the transitivity of  $M^cL$  on the code coordinates, the codewords of  $C_i$  form a 1-design  $\mathcal{D}_{w_i}$  with  $A_i$  blocks. This implies that  $M^cL$  is transitive on the blocks of  $\mathcal{D}_{w_i}$  for each  $w_i$  and since  $(M^cL)_{w_i}$  is a maximal subgroup of  $M^cL$ , we deduce that  $M^cL$  acts primitively on  $\mathcal{D}_{w_i}$ . ■

**Lemma 7** *Let  $i \in \bar{L}$  and  $w_i \in C_i$ . If  $i \neq 1024$ , then  $(M^cL)_{w_i} \in \{S_6, A_7\}$ . If  $i = 1024$ , then  $(M^cL)_{w_i} \cong 2^4:A_7$  or  $2^4 : [(A_4 \times 3) : 2]$ , where  $2^4 : [(A_4 \times 3) : 2]$  is not a maximal subgroup of  $M^cL$  but sits maximally inside  $2^4:A_7$ .*

**Proof: Case 1.** Take  $w_i \in C_i$  so that  $i \in \{988, 1004, 1008, 1052\}$ . Our computations show that  $w_i^{M^cL} = C_i$ . Thus each  $C_i$  forms an orbit under  $M^cL$  and so  $M^cL$  is transitive on each  $C_i$ . From our computations with Magma we deduce that  $(M^cL)_{w_i} \in \{S_6, A_7\}$  and hence they are not maximal subgroups of  $M^cL$ . For details see Table 3 below.

**Case 2.** Consider  $C_{1024} = \{w_i \in C \mid \text{wt}(w_i) = 1024\}$ . Then  $C_{1024}$  splits into two orbits of lengths 22275 and 779625, namely  $C_{(1024)_1}$  and  $C_{(1024)_2}$  respectively.

Let  $w = w_{(1024)_1} \in C_{(1024)_1}$  and  $\bar{w} = w_{(1024)_2} \in C_{(1024)_2}$ . Then  $(M^cL)_w$  is a subgroup of order 40320 and thus maximal. Using Magma we determine its composition factors and from the list of maximal subgroups of  $M^cL$  we deduce that  $(M^cL)_w \cong 2^4:A_7$ .

Since  $|(M^cL)_{\bar{w}}| = 1152$ , it is not a maximal subgroup of  $M^cL$ . Direct computations with Magma shows that  $(M^cL)_{\bar{w}}$  has 17 conjugacy classes of elements. The structure of  $(M^cL)_{\bar{w}}$  however was not easy to determine by only finding the composition factors, as additional information about the group was needed.

We briefly describe the method used to determine the structure of this group. Using the information listed in the Atlas on the maximal subgroups of the  $M^cL$  and the structure of the Sylow subgroups of  $(M^cL)_{\bar{w}}$  we are able to determine by direct calculations that  $(M^cL)_{\bar{w}}$  sits maximally in a maximal subgroup of  $M^cL$  of types  $U_4(3)$ ,  $2 \cdot A_8$  or  $2^4:A_7$ . However a subgroup of  $U_4(3)$  or  $2 \cdot A_8$  of order 1152 has 22 conjugacy classes of elements. Therefore  $(M^cL)_{\bar{w}}$  is maximal subgroup of  $2^4 : A_7$  of type  $2^4 : [(A_4 \times 3) : 2]$ . ■

## 7 Observations

- (i) In Table 3 the first column represents the words of weight  $i$  and the second column represents the stabilizer in  $M^cL$  of a codeword  $w_i$  of  $C_i$ . In the final column we test the maximality of  $(M^cL)_{w_i}$  in  $M^cL$ . Observe that some of the maximal subgroups of  $M^cL$  do not feature in Table 3, namely  $3_+^{1+4} : 2 \cdot S_5$ ,  $2 \cdot A_8$  and  $5_+^{1+2} : 3 : 8$ .

TABLE 3  
Stabilizer of a word  $w_i$

| $i$        | $(M^cL)_{w_i}$               | Maximality |
|------------|------------------------------|------------|
| 848        | $M_{22}$                     | Yes        |
| 896        | $2^4 : A_7$                  | Yes        |
| 912        | $L_3(4) : 2_2$               | Yes        |
| 972        | $3^4 : M_{10}$               | Yes        |
| 988        | $A_7$                        | No         |
| 1004       | $S_6$                        | No         |
| 1008       | $S_6$                        | No         |
| $(1024)_1$ | $L_3(4) : 2_2$               | Yes        |
| $(1024)_2$ | $2^4 : [(A_4 \times 3) : 2]$ | No         |
| 1052       | $A_7$                        | No         |
| 1068       | $M_{11}$                     | Yes        |
| 1100       | $U_3(5)$                     | Yes        |
| 1232       | $M_{22}$                     | Yes        |
| 1296       | $U_4(3)$                     | Yes        |

- (ii) In Table 4 the first column represents the words of weight  $i$  and the second column gives the structure of the designs  $\mathcal{D}_{w_i}$ , which were defined in Section 6. In the third column we list the number of blocks of  $\mathcal{D}_{w_i}$ . We test the primitivity for the action of  $M^cL$  on  $\mathcal{D}_{w_i}$  in the final column.

Table 4  
1-designs  $\mathcal{D}_{w_i}$  from  $M^cL$

| $i$        | $\mathcal{D}_{w_i}$    | No. of blocks | Primitivity |
|------------|------------------------|---------------|-------------|
| 848        | 1-(2025, 848, 848)     | 2025          | Yes         |
| 896        | 1-(2025, 896, 9856)    | 22275         | Yes         |
| 912        | 1-(2025, 912, 10032)   | 22275         | Yes         |
| 972        | 1-(2025, 972, 7392)    | 15400         | Yes         |
| 988        | 1-(2025, 988, 173888)  | 356400        | No          |
| 1004       | 1-(2025, 1004, 618464) | 1247400       | No          |
| 1008       | 1-(2025, 1008, 620928) | 1247400       | No          |
| $(1024)_1$ | 1-(2025, 1024, 112640) | 22275         | Yes         |
| $(1024)_2$ | 1-(2025, 1024, 394240) | 779625        | No          |
| 1052       | 1-(2025, 1052, 185152) | 356400        | No          |
| 1068       | 1-(2025, 1068, 59808)  | 113400        | Yes         |
| 1100       | 1-(2025, 1100, 3872)   | 7128          | Yes         |
| 1232       | 1-(2025, 1232, 1232)   | 2025          | Yes         |
| 1296       | 1-(2025, 1296, 176)    | 275           | Yes         |

- (iii) From Table 2 it can be observed that  $A_{896} = A_{912} = 22275$  and  $A_{972} = 15400$ . However from Table 1 we have that there are more than one maximal subgroup of  $M^cL$  of indices 22275 and 15400 respectively. So for the proof of Lemma 6 in order to ascertain the structures of  $(M^cL)_{w_i}$  where  $i \in \{896, 912, 972\}$ , by using Magma, we have computed their respective composition factors in each case.
- (iv) Notice from Table 2 that  $A_{988} = A_{1052} = 356400$ , and  $A_{1004} = A_{1008} = 1247400$ . These numbers do not equal the indices of maximal subgroups of  $M^cL$ . So for the proof of Case 1 in Lemma 7 in order to determine the structures of  $(M^cL)_{w_i}$  where  $i \in \{988, 1052, 1004, 1008\}$  by using Magma we have computed their respective composition factors in each case. With the help of the composition factors we deduce that  $(M^cL)_{w_i} \cong A_7$  if  $i \in \{988, 1052\}$  and  $(M^cL)_{w_i} \cong S_6$  if  $i \in \{1004, 1008\}$ .
- (v) The complementary design of  $\mathcal{D}$  is a 1-(2025, 793, 793) self-dual design whose binary code is a  $[2025, 23, 729]_2$  code that contains the code  $C$  and has weight distribution as follows:

[ $\langle 0, 1 \rangle, \langle 729, 275 \rangle, \langle 793, 2025 \rangle, \langle 848, 2025 \rangle, \langle 896, 22275 \rangle, \langle 912, 22275 \rangle, \langle 925, 7128 \rangle, \langle 957, 113400 \rangle, \langle 972, 15400 \rangle, \langle 973, 356400 \rangle, \langle 988, 356400 \rangle, \langle 1001, 801900 \rangle, \langle 1004, 1247400 \rangle, \langle 1008, 1247400 \rangle, \langle 1017, 1247400 \rangle, \langle 1021, 1247400 \rangle, \langle 1024, 801900 \rangle, \langle 1037, 356400 \rangle, \langle 1052, 356400 \rangle, \langle 1053, 15400 \rangle, \langle 1068, 113400 \rangle, \langle 1100, 7128 \rangle, \langle 1113, 22275 \rangle, \langle 1129, 22275 \rangle, \langle 1177, 2025 \rangle, \langle 1232, 2025 \rangle, \langle 1296, 275 \rangle, \langle 2025, 1 \rangle$  ].

This code is obtained from  $C$  by adjoining the  $j$  vector.

- (vi) As we mentioned in Subsection 5.1, the  $M^cL$  group acts as a rank-4 primitive group on the cosets of  $M_{22}$ , with the stabilizer of the action having orbits of length 1, 330, 462 and 1232. If we now take the orbit of length 330 and form as indicated in Result 1, a self-dual symmetric 1-(2025, 330, 330) design, then the hull of this design is a  $[2025, 22, 848]_2$  code whose weight distribution is:

[ $\langle 0, 1 \rangle, \langle 848, 2025 \rangle, \langle 896, 22275 \rangle, \langle 912, 22275 \rangle, \langle 972, 15400 \rangle, \langle 988, 356400 \rangle, \langle 1004, 1247400 \rangle, \langle 1008, 1247400 \rangle, \langle 1024, 801900 \rangle, \langle 1052, 356400 \rangle, \langle 1068, 113400 \rangle, \langle 1100, 7128 \rangle, \langle 1232, 2025 \rangle, \langle 1296, 275 \rangle$  ].

Magma calculations shows that this code is isomorphic to the code  $C$  discussed in detail in Subsection 5.2.

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