

## Additive semisimple multivariable codes over $\mathbb{F}_4$

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**Abstract** The structure of additive multivariable codes over  $\mathbb{F}_4$  (the Galois field with 4 elements) is presented. The semisimple case (i.e., when the defining polynomials of the code have no repeated roots) is specifically addressed. These codes extend in a natural way the abelian codes, of which additive cyclic codes of odd length are a particular case. Duality of these codes is also studied.

**Keywords** Additive multivariable codes, abelian codes, quantum codes, duality

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### 1 Introduction

Quantum codes are designed to detect and correct the errors produced in quantum computations [14,15]. These codes can be constructed with the help of specific classical codes, called *additive*, over  $\mathbb{F}_4$  (the Galois field with 4 elements) [2]. An additive code of length  $n$  is a subgroup of  $\mathbb{F}_4^n$  under addition. The particular case of additive cyclic codes has been considered in [5]. An additive code  $\mathcal{C}$  is called *cyclic* if, whenever  $c = (c_1, \dots, c_n) \in \mathcal{C}$ , then its cyclic shift  $(c_2, \dots, c_n, c_1)$  is also a codeword in  $\mathcal{C}$ . These codes are related to properties of the ring  $\mathbb{F}_4[X]/\langle X^n - 1 \rangle$ . In the case  $n$  odd, the semisimple structure of this ring can be used to obtain a complete description of the codes [7]. The case  $n$  even has been also considered [8].

Many authors have stated that many classical codes are ideals in certain algebras over a finite field, see for example [1,3,12]. In particular, *multivariable* codes have been considered, i.e., codes that can be viewed as ideals of the quotient ring  $\mathbb{F}_4[X_1, \dots, X_r]/\langle t_1(X_1), \dots, t_r(X_r) \rangle$  (where  $t_i(X_i) \in \mathbb{F}_4[X_i]$  are fixed polynomials). Abelian codes, i.e., multivariable codes where  $t_i(X_i) = X_i^{n_i} - 1$ , for all  $1 \leq i \leq r$ , are particular cases, and they extend classical cyclic codes. These types of codes

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have been also constructed if the underlying ring is not a field, but a finite chain ring [9, 10].

In this paper we describe additive multivariable codes over the finite field  $\mathbb{F}_4$ , when the polynomials  $t_i(X_i) \in \mathbb{F}_2[X_i]$  have no repeated-roots. The semisimple structure of the rings  $\mathcal{A}_4 = \mathbb{F}_4[X_1, \dots, X_r]/\langle t_1(X_1), \dots, t_r(X_r) \rangle$  and  $\mathcal{A}_2 = \mathbb{F}_2[X_1, \dots, X_r]/\langle t_1(X_1), \dots, t_r(X_r) \rangle$  is fundamental in this description.

The paper is organized as follows. In Section 2 we review the basic terminology and the results concerning the decomposition of the rings  $\mathcal{A}_4$  and  $\mathcal{A}_2$ , and their relation. Section 3 is devoted to the description of the structure of the additive codes. In Section 4 we study the duals of abelian semisimple codes. Finally in Section 5 we characterize those non-trivial abelian semisimple codes that are self-dual.

## 2 Preliminaries

In this section we will obtain the structure of the ambient space of additive semisimple multivariable codes over the finite field  $\mathbb{F}_4$ . That is, we will describe explicitly the structure of the ring  $\mathcal{A}_4 = \mathbb{F}_4[X_1, \dots, X_r]/\langle t_1(X_1), \dots, t_r(X_r) \rangle$ , where  $t_i(X_i) \in \mathbb{F}_2[X_i]$  for all  $i = 1, \dots, r$ . In order to obtain this description we will decompose this ring as a direct sum of ideals. See [13] for proofs and details about this decomposition.

### 2.1 Decomposition of $\mathbb{F}_q[X_1, \dots, X_r]/\langle t_1(X_1), \dots, t_r(X_r) \rangle$

Let  $q = p^e$  ( $p$  prime), and let  $I = \langle t_1(X_1), \dots, t_r(X_r) \rangle \triangleleft \mathbb{F}_q[X_1, \dots, X_r]$  be the ideal generated by monic polynomials  $t_i(X_i) \in \mathbb{F}_p[X_i]$ , of degree  $n_i$ ,  $i = 1, \dots, r$  (in this paper we are concerned with the case  $q = 2^2$ ). Let  $H_i$  be the set of roots of  $t_i(X_i)$  in a suitable extension field of  $\mathbb{F}_q$  for each  $i = 1, \dots, r$ . We require that  $t_i(X_i)$  has no multiple roots for all  $i = 1, \dots, r$ . We are interested in the decomposition of the algebra  $\mathcal{A}_q = \mathbb{F}_q[X_1, \dots, X_r]/\langle t_1(X_1), \dots, t_r(X_r) \rangle$ .

**Definition 1** Let  $\mu = (\mu_1, \dots, \mu_r) \in H_1 \times \dots \times H_r$ , then we define the  $q$ -class of  $\mu$  as

$$C_q(\mu) = \left\{ (\mu_1^{q^s}, \dots, \mu_r^{q^s}) \mid s \in \mathbb{N} \right\}.$$

**Proposition 1** Let  $\mu = (\mu_1, \dots, \mu_r) \in H_1 \times \dots \times H_r$  and let  $q_i$  be the degree of the minimal polynomial of  $\mu_i$  over  $\mathbb{F}_q$  for each  $i = 1, \dots, r$ . Then we have that

1.  $|C_q(\mu)| = \text{l.c.m.}(q_1, q_2, \dots, q_r) = [\mathbb{F}_q(\mu_1, \dots, \mu_r) : \mathbb{F}_q]$ .
2. The set  $\mathcal{C}_q$  of  $q$ -classes  $C_q(\mu)$  is a partition of  $H_1 \times \dots \times H_r$ .
3. For each ideal  $\mathcal{I} \triangleleft \mathbb{F}_q[X_1, \dots, X_r]/I$  the affine variety  $V(\mathcal{I})$  of common zeros of the elements in  $\mathcal{I}$  is a union of classes.

**Definition 2** Let  $K$  be an algebraic extension of  $\mathbb{F}_q$  and let  $\alpha \in K$ . Let us denote by  $\text{Irr}(\alpha, \mathbb{F}_q)$  the minimal polynomial of  $\alpha$  over the field  $\mathbb{F}_q$ . If  $\mu = (\mu_1, \dots, \mu_r) \in H_1 \times \dots \times H_r$ , then consider the following polynomials:

1.  $p_{\mu,i}(X_i) = \text{Irr}(\mu_i, \mathbb{F}_q)$ , and  $d_{\mu,i} = \deg p_{\mu,i}$  for all  $i = 1, \dots, r$ .
2.  $w_{\mu,i}(\mu_1, \dots, \mu_{i-1}, X_i) = \text{Irr}(\mu_i, \mathbb{F}_q(\mu_1, \dots, \mu_{i-1}))$  for all  $i = 2, \dots, r$ .

3.  $\pi_{\mu,i}(\mu_1, \dots, \mu_{i-1}, X_i) = p_{\mu,i}(X_i)/w_{\mu,i}(\mu_1, \dots, \mu_{i-1}, X_i)$  for all  $i = 2, \dots, r$ .

*Remark 1* All the polynomials in the definition above can be seen as polynomials in  $\mathbb{F}_q[X_1, \dots, X_r]$  (substituting  $\mu_i$  by  $X_i$ ) and the following ring isomorphism holds

$$\mathbb{F}_q[X_1, \dots, X_r]/\langle p_{\mu,1}, w_{\mu,2}, \dots, w_{\mu,r} \rangle \cong \mathbb{F}_q(\mu_1, \dots, \mu_r).$$

Moreover, if  $\mu' \in C_q(\mu)$ , then  $p_{\mu,i} = p_{\mu',i}$   $i = 1, \dots, r$  and  $w_{\mu,i} = w_{\mu',i}$ ,  $\pi_{\mu,i} = \pi_{\mu',i}$   $i = 2, \dots, r$ . Thus, if  $C = C_q(\mu)$  is the  $q$ -class of  $\mu$ , we will write  $p_{C,i} = p_{\mu,i}$ ,  $d_{C,i} = d_{\mu,i}$ ,  $w_{C,i} = w_{\mu,i}$ ,  $\pi_{C,i} = \pi_{\mu,i}$ . Analogously, the ideal  $\langle p_{C,1}, w_{C,2}, \dots, w_{C,r} \rangle$  will be denoted by  $I_C$ .

**Definition 3** Let  $\mu = (\mu_1, \dots, \mu_r) \in H_1 \times \dots \times H_r$ . If  $C = C_q(\mu)$  is the  $q$ -class of  $\mu$ , we define the following polynomial in  $\mathbb{F}_q[X_1, \dots, X_r]$

$$h_C(X_1, \dots, X_r) = \prod_{i=1}^r \frac{t_i(X_i)}{p_{C,i}(X_i)} \prod_{i=2}^r \pi_{C,i}(X_i, \dots, X_r).$$

**Proposition 2** Let  $\mu = (\mu_1, \dots, \mu_r) \in H_1 \times \dots \times H_r$ . If  $C = C_q(\mu)$  is the  $q$ -class of  $\mu$ , then

1. The annihilator of  $\langle h_C + I \rangle$  (in  $\mathcal{A}_q$ ) is  $I_C + I$ ,
2. The set of zeros of  $h_C$  is  $H_1 \times \dots \times H_r \setminus C$ ,
3. The set of zeros of  $I_C$  is  $C$ .

**Theorem 1 (Decomposition of the ambient space  $\mathcal{A}_q$ )**

$$\mathcal{A}_q = \mathbb{F}_q[X_1, \dots, X_r]/I \cong \bigoplus_{C \in \mathcal{C}_q} \langle h_C + I \rangle$$

where  $\langle h_C + I \rangle \cong \mathbb{F}_q[X_1, \dots, X_r]/I_C$  is a finite field isomorphic to  $\mathbb{F}_q(\mu_1, \dots, \mu_r) \cong \mathbb{F}_{q^{|C|}}$ , and so the algebra  $\mathcal{A}_q$  is semisimple. Hence, there exists a unique set of primitive orthogonal idempotents  $\{e_C + I\}_{C \in \mathcal{C}_q} \subseteq \mathcal{A}_q$  such that  $1 + I = \sum_{C \in \mathcal{C}_q} e_C + I$  and  $\mathcal{A}_q(e_C + I) \cong \langle h_C + I \rangle$ . Namely, the idempotent  $e_C + I$  is exactly the element  $g_C h_C + I$ , with  $g_C h_C + I_C = 1 + I_C$ , and its set of zeros is  $H_1 \times \dots \times H_r \setminus C$ .

*Remark 2* Notice that if  $q = 4$ ,  $r = 1$  and  $t_1(X) = X^n - 1$  with  $n$  odd, we obtain the ambient space of additive cyclic codes over  $\mathbb{F}_4$  described in [7]. In this case, if  $\alpha$  is a primitive  $n$ th-root of unity and  $\mu = \alpha^i$ , then the exponents of the elements in the  $q$ -class  $C = C_4(\mu)$  are the elements of the 4-cyclotomic coset containing  $i$ . Also, each direct summand  $h_C + I \cong \mathbb{F}_{4^{\lambda_C}}$ , where  $\lambda_C$  is the size of the  $q$ -class  $C$ , that is, the degree of the irreducible polynomial  $p_C$ .

Classical multivariable codes over  $\mathbb{F}_4$  are defined as the ideals of the algebra  $\mathcal{A}_4$ . However, since additive codes are no longer closed under multiplication by arbitrary elements of  $\mathbb{F}_4$ , they do not correspond to ideals of this ring. This type of codes are related instead to submodules of  $\mathcal{A}_4$ , when viewed as a module over one of its subrings.

**Lemma 1** If  $f \in \mathbb{F}_q[X_1, \dots, X_r]$ , then there exists a unique polynomial  $NF(f) \in \mathbb{F}_q[X_1, \dots, X_r]$  such that  $f + I = NF(f) + I$ , and  $\deg_{X_i}(NF(f)) < n_i$ . It is called the normal form of  $f$  w.r.t.  $I$ . Moreover, two polynomials  $f, g \in \mathbb{F}_q[X_1, \dots, X_r]$  satisfy  $f + I = g + I$  if and only if  $NF(f) = NF(g)$ . In particular, all classes  $f + I$ , where  $0 \neq f$  and  $\deg_{X_i}(NF(f)) < n_i$ , for all  $1 \leq i \leq r$ , are not zero.

*Proof* Consider the lexicographic monomial order with  $X_1 > X_2 > \dots > X_r$ . Then,  $\{t_1(X_1), \dots, t_r(X_r)\}$  is a Groebner basis of  $I$  (actually its reduced Groebner basis w.r.t. such an order), and so the result follows from [4, Chapter 2, Section 9, Theorem 3 and Proposition 4].

**Definition 4** Let  $S$  be the set of elements  $f+I \in \mathcal{A}_q$  such that  $NF(f) \in \mathbb{F}_p[X_1, \dots, X_r]$ .

From now on, let us denote by  $J$  the ideal in  $\mathbb{F}_p[X_1, \dots, X_r]$  generated by  $t_i(X_i)$ ,  $i = 1, \dots, r$ , and by  $\mathcal{A}_p$  the algebra  $\mathbb{F}_p[X_1, \dots, X_r]/J$  (notice that  $t_i(X_i) \in \mathbb{F}_p[X_i]$ , for all  $i = 1, \dots, r$ ).

**Proposition 3** *There exists a ring monomorphism  $\varphi : \mathcal{A}_p \rightarrow \mathcal{A}_q$  such that  $\varphi(f+J) = f+I$ , for all  $f \in \mathbb{F}_p[X_1, \dots, X_r]$ . The set  $S$  is the image of this map, and so it is a subring of  $\mathcal{A}_q$  isomorphic to  $\mathcal{A}_p$ .*

*Proof* Consider the ring homomorphisms  $\pi_q \circ i : \mathbb{F}_p[X_1, \dots, X_r] \rightarrow \mathcal{A}_q$ , given by  $(\pi_q \circ i)(f) = f+I$ , and  $\pi_p : \mathbb{F}_p[X_1, \dots, X_r] \rightarrow \mathcal{A}_p$ , given by  $\pi_p(f) = f+J$ . Since  $\ker \pi_p \subseteq \ker \pi_q \circ i$ , there exists a ring homomorphism  $\varphi : \mathcal{A}_p \rightarrow \mathcal{A}_q$  such that  $\varphi(f+J) = f+I$ , for all  $f \in \mathbb{F}_p[X_1, \dots, X_r]$ .

For all  $f \notin J$ , we have that  $f+J = NF(f)+J$ , where  $0 \neq NF(f) \in \mathbb{F}_p[X_1, \dots, X_r] \subseteq \mathbb{F}_q[X_1, \dots, X_r]$ , and  $\deg_{X_i}(NF(f)) < n_i$ . So,  $\varphi(f+J) = \varphi(NF(f)+J) = NF(f)+I \neq I$ , and the map is injective. Since  $\text{Im}(\varphi) \subseteq S$ , a simple counting argument let us conclude the equality  $\text{Im}(\varphi) = S$ , and so  $\mathcal{A}_p \cong S$ .

**Definition 5** An additive (semisimple) multivariable code over  $\mathbb{F}_q$  is a submodule of the module  ${}_S\mathcal{A}_q$ .

*Remark 3* These codes are called *semisimple* because the roots of the polynomials  $t_i(X_i)$  are required to be simple. If  $q = 4$ ,  $r = 1$ ,  $t_1(X) = X^n - 1$ , with  $n$  odd, additive multivariable codes over  $\mathbb{F}_4$  are exactly the additive cyclic codes over  $\mathbb{F}_4$  described in [7].

*Remark 4* It is just a straight forward fact that a semisimple code on  $\mathcal{A}_2$  can be seen as a shortened code of an abelian code choosing adequate polynomials  $X_i^{n_i} - 1$  such that  $t_i(X_i) | X_i^{n_i} - 1$  (thus we must shorten the codes in the positions not in  $t_i$ ). This follows directly from the fact that the ideals of  $\mathbb{F}[X]/\langle t(X) \rangle$  ( $t$  having simple roots) are shortened cyclic codes (see for example [11, Section 8.10]).

*Example 1* We shall illustrate the contents of the paper with the help of the following running example. Let us consider  $t_1(X_1) = X_1^7 + 1$ ,  $t_2(X_2) = X_2^3 + 1$  polynomials in  $\mathbb{F}_q[X_1, X_2]$ . The normal form of an element  $f+I$ , which has the shape  $\sum_{j=0}^6 \sum_{i=0}^2 f_{ij} X_1^j X_2^i$ , will be written as the matrix

$$F = (f_{ij}) = \begin{bmatrix} f_{00} & f_{01} & \dots & f_{06} \\ f_{10} & f_{11} & \dots & f_{16} \\ f_{20} & f_{21} & \dots & f_{26} \end{bmatrix}$$

We shall describe the decompositions of the algebras  $\mathcal{A}_q$  for  $q = 2$  and  $4$ .

– If  $q = 2$ , then the set of 2–classes is the following one:

$$\begin{aligned} \mathcal{C}_2 = \{ & \{(1, 1)\}, \{(\mu, 1), (\mu^2, 1), (\mu^4, 1)\}, \{(\mu^6, 1), (\mu^5, 1), (\mu^3, 1)\}, \\ & \{(1, \omega), (1, \omega^2)\}, \{(\mu, \omega), (\mu^2, \omega), (\mu^4, \omega), (\mu, \omega^2), (\mu^2, \omega^2), (\mu^4, \omega^2)\}, \\ & \{(\mu^6, \omega), (\mu^5, \omega), (\mu^3, \omega), (\mu^6, \omega^2), (\mu^5, \omega^2), (\mu^3, \omega^2)\} \} \end{aligned}$$

where  $\mu \in \mathbb{F}_{2^3}, \omega \in \mathbb{F}_{2^2}$  such that  $\mu^3 + \mu + 1 = \omega^2 + \omega + 1 = 0$ . The algebra  $\mathcal{A}_2$  is decomposed as the direct sum of six ideals, which are generated by the following idempotents:

$$\begin{aligned} \mathcal{K}_{\{(1,1)\}} &= \left\langle \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 1 & 1 & 1 & 1 & 1 & 1 & 1 \\ 1 & 1 & 1 & 1 & 1 & 1 & 1 & 1 \\ 1 & 1 & 1 & 1 & 1 & 1 & 1 & 1 \end{bmatrix} \right\rangle, & \mathcal{K}_{\mathcal{C}_2((\mu,1))} &= \left\langle \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 1 & 1 & 0 & 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 1 & 1 & 1 & 0 & 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 1 & 1 & 1 & 0 & 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 \end{bmatrix} \right\rangle, \\ \mathcal{K}_{\mathcal{C}_2((\mu^6,1))} &= \left\langle \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 & 1 & 1 & 1 \\ 1 & 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 & 1 & 1 & 1 \\ 1 & 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 & 1 & 1 & 1 \end{bmatrix} \right\rangle, & \mathcal{K}_{\mathcal{C}_2((1,\omega))} &= \left\langle \begin{bmatrix} 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 1 & 1 & 1 & 1 & 1 & 1 & 1 & 1 \\ 1 & 1 & 1 & 1 & 1 & 1 & 1 & 1 \end{bmatrix} \right\rangle, \\ \mathcal{K}_{\mathcal{C}_2((\mu,\omega))} &= \left\langle \begin{bmatrix} 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 1 & 1 & 1 & 0 & 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 1 & 1 & 1 & 0 & 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 \end{bmatrix} \right\rangle, & \mathcal{K}_{\mathcal{C}_2((\mu^6,\omega))} &= \left\langle \begin{bmatrix} 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 1 & 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 & 1 & 1 & 1 \\ 1 & 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 & 1 & 1 & 1 \end{bmatrix} \right\rangle. \end{aligned}$$

– If  $q = 4$ , then the set of 4–classes is the following one:

$$\begin{aligned} \mathcal{C}_4 = \{ & \{(1, 1)\}, \{(\mu, 1), (\mu^2, 1), (\mu^4, 1)\}, \{(\mu^6, 1), (\mu^5, 1), (\mu^3, 1)\}, \\ & \{(1, \omega)\}, \{(1, \omega^2)\}, \{(\mu, \omega), (\mu^2, \omega), (\mu^4, \omega)\}, \\ & \{(\mu, \omega^2), (\mu^2, \omega^2), (\mu^4, \omega^2)\}, \{(\mu^6, \omega), (\mu^5, \omega), (\mu^3, \omega)\}, \\ & \{(\mu^6, \omega^2), (\mu^5, \omega^2), (\mu^3, \omega^2)\} \} \end{aligned}$$

Observe that each 2–class of even size splits into two 4–classes. The decomposition of  $\mathcal{A}_4$  is given by the following direct sum of 9 ideals generated by the idempotents

$$\begin{aligned} \mathcal{I}_{\{(1,1)\}} &= \left\langle \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 1 & 1 & 1 & 1 & 1 & 1 & 1 \\ 1 & 1 & 1 & 1 & 1 & 1 & 1 & 1 \\ 1 & 1 & 1 & 1 & 1 & 1 & 1 & 1 \end{bmatrix} \right\rangle, & \mathcal{I}_{\mathcal{C}_4((\mu,1))} &= \left\langle \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 1 & 1 & 0 & 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 1 & 1 & 1 & 0 & 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 1 & 1 & 1 & 0 & 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 \end{bmatrix} \right\rangle, \\ \mathcal{I}_{\mathcal{C}_4((\mu^6,1))} &= \left\langle \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 & 1 & 1 & 1 \\ 1 & 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 & 1 & 1 & 1 \\ 1 & 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 & 1 & 1 & 1 \end{bmatrix} \right\rangle, & \mathcal{I}_{\{(1,\omega)\}} &= \left\langle \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 1 & 1 & 1 & 1 & 1 & 1 & 1 \\ \bar{\omega} & \bar{\omega} \\ \omega & \omega \end{bmatrix} \right\rangle, \\ \mathcal{I}_{\mathcal{C}_4((1,\omega^2))} &= \left\langle \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 1 & 1 & 1 & 1 & 1 & 1 & 1 \\ \omega & \omega \\ \bar{\omega} & \bar{\omega} \end{bmatrix} \right\rangle, & \mathcal{I}_{\mathcal{C}_4((\mu,\omega))} &= \left\langle \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 1 & 1 & 0 & 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ \bar{\omega} & \bar{\omega} & \bar{\omega} & 0 & \bar{\omega} & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ \omega & \omega & \omega & 0 & \omega & 0 & 0 & 0 \end{bmatrix} \right\rangle, \\ \mathcal{I}_{\mathcal{C}_4((\mu,\omega^2))} &= \left\langle \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 1 & 1 & 0 & 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ \omega & \omega & \omega & 0 & \omega & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ \bar{\omega} & \bar{\omega} & \bar{\omega} & 0 & \bar{\omega} & 0 & 0 & 0 \end{bmatrix} \right\rangle, & \mathcal{I}_{\mathcal{C}_4((\mu^6,\omega))} &= \left\langle \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 & 1 & 1 & 1 \\ \bar{\omega} & 0 & 0 & \bar{\omega} & 0 & \bar{\omega} & \bar{\omega} & \bar{\omega} \\ \omega & 0 & 0 & \omega & 0 & \omega & \omega & \omega \end{bmatrix} \right\rangle, \\ \mathcal{I}_{\mathcal{C}_4((\mu^6,\omega^2))} &= \left\langle \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 & 1 & 1 & 1 \\ \omega & 0 & 0 & \omega & 0 & \omega & \omega & \omega \\ \bar{\omega} & 0 & 0 & \bar{\omega} & 0 & \bar{\omega} & \bar{\omega} & \bar{\omega} \end{bmatrix} \right\rangle. \end{aligned}$$

(where  $\bar{\omega} = \omega^2$ ). Notice that  $\mathcal{A}_2$  is identified with the subalgebra  $S$  of  $\mathcal{A}_4$  of elements whose normal form has coefficients 0 or 1.

## 2.2 Relation between the decompositions of $\mathcal{A}_4$ and $\mathcal{A}_2$

From now on, let us fix  $q = 4$ . In the following, we will describe the relation between the structures of the algebras  $\mathcal{A}_4$  and  $\mathcal{A}_2$ . This will lead us, in the following section, to the description of the additive multivariable codes over  $\mathbb{F}_4$ . Since these decompositions are based on classes of roots, we first establish the relation between the 2-classes  $C_2(\mu)$  and the 4-classes  $C_4(\mu)$

**Lemma 2** *Let  $\mu_i$  be a root of the polynomial  $t_i(X_i)$ ,  $1 \leq i \leq r$ . Let  $q_i = \deg(\text{Irr}(\mu_i, \mathbb{F}_4))$  and  $k_i = \deg(\text{Irr}(\mu_i, \mathbb{F}_2))$ . If  $\mu = (\mu_1, \dots, \mu_r)$ , then:*

1. *If  $k_i$  is odd for all  $1 \leq i \leq r$ , then  $C_2(\mu) = C_4(\mu)$ , and it has size  $\text{l.c.m.}(k_1, \dots, k_r)$ .*
2. *If there exists  $i \in \{1, \dots, r\}$  such that  $k_i$  is even, then  $C_2(\mu) = C_4(\mu) \cup C_4(\mu^2)$ , where  $\mu^2 = (\mu_1^2, \dots, \mu_r^2)$ . The union is disjoint and both classes have equal size  $\text{l.c.m.}(q_1, \dots, q_r)$ .*

*The subset of 2-classes in the first case will be denoted  $\mathcal{C}_2^o$ , where as the 2-classes in the second case will be denoted  $\mathcal{C}_2^e$ .*

*Proof* If  $k_i$  is odd for all  $1 \leq i \leq r$ , then the minimal polynomials  $\{\text{Irr}(\mu_i, \mathbb{F}_2)\}_{i=1}^r$  are also irreducible in  $\mathbb{F}_4[X_i]$ , and  $q_i = k_i$ . So, the result straightforwardly follows from Proposition 1.

In the second case assume w.l.o.g. that  $k_i$  is even, for all  $1 \leq i \leq k$ , and odd for all  $k+1 \leq i \leq r$  (with  $k \geq 1$ ). Then, for all  $1 \leq i \leq k$ , the minimal polynomial  $\text{Irr}(\mu_i, \mathbb{F}_2)$  is the product of two irreducible polynomials of degree  $q_i$  in  $\mathbb{F}_4[X_i]$ . The roots of these polynomials constitute the 4-classes  $C_4(\mu_i)$  and  $C_4(\mu_i^2)$  respectively. Clearly, these are disjoint classes of equal size  $q_i$  and  $C_2(\mu_i) = C_4(\mu_i) \cup C_4(\mu_i^2)$ . Therefore,  $\mu^2$  does not belong to  $C_4(\mu)$  and so  $C_4(\mu^2)$  is disjoint with it. According to Proposition 1,

$$\begin{aligned} |C_2(\mu)| &= \text{l.c.m.}(k_1, \dots, k_r) = \text{l.c.m.}(2q_1, \dots, 2q_k, q_{k+1}, \dots, q_r) = \\ &= 2 \text{l.c.m.}(q_1, \dots, q_k, q_{k+1}, \dots, q_r) = 2|C_4(\mu)| \end{aligned}$$

and also

$$|C_2(\mu)| = |C_2(\mu^2)| = 2|C_4(\mu^2)|$$

hence we obtain the result.

Now, we can decompose the rings  $\mathcal{A}_4$  and  $\mathcal{A}_2$  into minimal ideals using Theorem 1. The decomposition for  $\mathcal{A}_4$  is the following one:

$$\mathcal{A}_4 \cong \bigoplus_{C \in \mathcal{C}_4} \mathcal{I}_C$$

where, for all  $C = C_4(\mu) \in \mathcal{C}_4$ , we denote the ideal  $\mathcal{I}_C = \langle e_C + I \rangle$ , which is isomorphic to the finite field  $\mathbb{F}_4(\mu)$  of size  $4^{|C|}$ , and  $e_C + I$  is idempotent.

On the other hand, the decomposition of the ring  $\mathcal{A}_2$  into minimal ideals is

$$\mathcal{A}_2 \cong \bigoplus_{C \in \mathcal{C}_2} \mathcal{K}_C = \left( \bigoplus_{C \in \mathcal{C}_2^o} \mathcal{K}_C \right) \oplus \left( \bigoplus_{C \in \mathcal{C}_2^e} \mathcal{K}_C \right)$$

where, for all  $C = C_2(\mu) \in \mathcal{C}_2^o \cup \mathcal{C}_2^e$ ,  $\mathcal{K}_C = \langle l_C + J \rangle$  is isomorphic to the field  $\mathbb{F}_2(\mu)$ , and so its size is  $2^{|C|}$ , and the element  $l_C + J$  is idempotent.

Next, let us consider the ring automorphism  $\tau : \mathbb{F}_4[X_1, \dots, X_r] \rightarrow \mathbb{F}_4[X_1, \dots, X_r]$ , where

$$\tau \left( \sum_{i_1, \dots, i_r} a_{i_1, \dots, i_r} X_1^{i_1} \cdots X_r^{i_r} \right) = \sum_{i_1, \dots, i_r} a_{i_1, \dots, i_r}^2 X_1^{i_1} \cdots X_r^{i_r}$$

Since  $t_i(X_i) \in \mathbb{F}_2[X_i]$ , for all  $1 \leq i \leq r$ , we have that  $\tau(t_i(X_i)) = t_i(X_i)$ , and so  $\ker(\pi_4 \circ \tau) \subseteq \ker \pi_4$  (where  $\pi_4 : \mathbb{F}_4[X_1, \dots, X_r] \rightarrow \mathcal{A}_4$  is the canonical epimorphism). Hence, there exists a ring homomorphism  $\tilde{\tau} : \mathcal{A}_4 \rightarrow \mathcal{A}_4$  such that  $\tilde{\tau}(f + I) = \tau(f) + I$ , for all  $f + I \in \mathcal{A}_4$ . This map is injective, since for all  $f \notin I$ , we have that  $f + I = NF(f) + I$ , where  $0 \neq NF(f) \in \mathbb{F}_4[X_1, \dots, X_r]$ , and  $\deg_{X_i}(NF(f)) < n_i$ , and so  $\tilde{\tau}(f + I) = \tau(NF(f)) + I \neq I$ . Clearly, this fact implies that  $\tilde{\tau}$  is also bijective and so it is a ring automorphism. Its fixed subring is  $S$ .

**Proposition 4** *Let  $\mathcal{A}_4 \cong \bigoplus_{C \in \mathcal{C}_4} \mathcal{I}_C$  and  $\mathcal{A}_2 \cong \bigoplus_{C \in \mathcal{C}_2^o} \mathcal{K}_C \oplus \bigoplus_{C \in \mathcal{C}_2^e} \mathcal{K}_C$  be the decompositions of  $\mathcal{A}_4$  and  $\mathcal{A}_2$  into minimal ideals, and let  $S$  be the subring of  $\mathcal{A}_4$ , isomorphic to  $\mathcal{A}_2$ , fixed by  $\tilde{\tau}$ . If  $\varphi$  is the embedding of  $\mathcal{A}_2$  in  $\mathcal{A}_4$  (see Proposition 3), then the following hold.*

1. If  $C \in \mathcal{C}_2^o$ , then:

- (a)  $C \in \mathcal{C}_4$ ,  $\tilde{\tau}(\mathcal{I}_C) = \mathcal{I}_C$ , and  $\tilde{\tau}|_{\mathcal{I}_C}$  is a field automorphism of order 2.
- (b)  $\varphi(\mathcal{K}_C) = \mathcal{I}_C \cap S$ , so it is the subfield of  $\mathcal{I}_C$  isomorphic to  $\mathbb{F}_{2^{|C|}}$ .
- (c)  $\mathcal{I}_C$  is 2-dimensional  $\mathcal{K}_C$ -vector space.

2. If  $C \in \mathcal{C}_2^e$ , then:

- (a)  $C = C_1 \cup C_2$ , where  $C_1, C_2 \in \mathcal{C}_4$ ,  $\tilde{\tau}(\mathcal{I}_{C_1}) = \mathcal{I}_{C_2}$ ,  $\tilde{\tau}(\mathcal{I}_{C_2}) = \mathcal{I}_{C_1}$ , and  $\tilde{\tau}|_{\mathcal{I}_{C_1} \rightarrow \mathcal{I}_{C_2}}$  is a field isomorphism.
- (b)  $\varphi(\mathcal{K}_C) = (\mathcal{I}_{C_1} \oplus \mathcal{I}_{C_2}) \cap S = \{(f + \tau(f)) + I \mid f \in \mathcal{I}_{C_1}\}$  is isomorphic to the field  $\mathcal{I}_{C_1} \cong \mathbb{F}_{4^{|C_1|}} = \mathbb{F}_{2^{|C|}}$ .
- (c)  $\mathcal{I}_{C_1} \oplus \mathcal{I}_{C_2}$  is 2-dimensional  $\mathcal{K}_C$ -vector space.

*Proof* Notice that, if  $\mu$  is a root of  $f(X_1, \dots, X_r)$ , then  $\mu^2$  is a root of the polynomial  $\tau(f(X_1, \dots, X_r))$ , and  $\tau^2(f(X_1, \dots, X_r)) = f(X_1, \dots, X_r)$ . So,  $\tilde{\tau}$  induces a permutation of order 2 of the idempotents  $\{e_C + I\}_{C \in \mathcal{C}_4}$ , so that  $\tilde{\tau}(e_C + I) = e_C + I$  if  $C \in \mathcal{C}_2^o$ , and  $\tilde{\tau}(e_{C_1} + I) = e_{C_2} + I$ ,  $\tilde{\tau}(e_{C_2} + I) = e_{C_1} + I$ , if  $C_1 \cup C_2 = C \in \mathcal{C}_2^e$ , where  $C_1, C_2 \in \mathcal{C}_4$ . This permutation is translated into the field isomorphisms of the statements 1.(a) and 2.(a).

For the statement 1.(b), it suffices to notice that  $C = C_4(\mu) = C_2(\mu)$ , so that  $\varphi(l_C + J) = e_C + I$ , and  $\varphi(\mathcal{K}_C) \subseteq \mathcal{I}_C \cap S$ . A counting argument let us conclude the desired equality.

Let us now show the statement 2.(b). The zeros of the idempotent  $\varphi(l_C + J)$  are exactly  $H_1 \times \dots \times H_r \setminus C$ . The zeros of  $e_{C_i} + I$  ( $i = 1, 2$ ) are  $H_1 \times \dots \times H_r \setminus C_i$ , and so the idempotent  $e_{C_1} + e_{C_2} + I \in \mathcal{I}_{C_1} \oplus \mathcal{I}_{C_2}$  has zeros  $H_1 \times \dots \times H_r \setminus (C_1 \cup C_2) = H_1 \times \dots \times H_r \setminus C$ . Hence  $\varphi(l_C + J) \subseteq (\mathcal{I}_{C_1} \oplus \mathcal{I}_{C_2}) \cap S$ , and the equality follows from another counting argument.

Finally, the statements (c) follow from the fact that  $\varphi$  is an embedding of the finite field  $\mathcal{K}_C$  (of size  $2^{|C|}$ ) into the ring  $\mathcal{I}_C$  (if  $C \in \mathcal{C}_2^o$ ), or  $\mathcal{I}_{C_1} \oplus \mathcal{I}_{C_2}$  (if  $C \in \mathcal{C}_2^e$ ), and so they can be regarded as  $\mathcal{K}_C$ -vector spaces. Since both have size  $4^{|C|}$ , we conclude that their dimension is 2.

*Remark 5* For  $C \in \mathcal{C}_2^o$ , the idempotent  $e_C + I$  is the identity of  $\varphi(\mathcal{K}_C)$ , and so  $e_C + I \in \varphi(\mathcal{K}_C) = \langle X_1^{i_1} \dots X_r^{i_r} e_C + I \mid 0 \leq i_l \leq \deg(t_l(X_l)) \rangle_{\mathbb{F}_2}$ . On the other hand, for  $C_1 \cup C_2 = C \in \mathcal{C}_2^e$  the idempotent  $e_{C_1} + e_{C_2} + I$  is the identity of  $\varphi(\mathcal{K}_C)$ , and so  $\varphi(\mathcal{K}_C) = \langle X_1^{i_1} \dots X_r^{i_r} (e_{C_1} + e_{C_2}) + I \mid 0 \leq i_l \leq \deg(t_l(X_l)) \rangle_{\mathbb{F}_2}$ .

*Example 2 (Example 1 cont'd)* Here is the list of odd and even 2-classes:

$$\begin{aligned} \mathcal{C}_2^o &= \{(1, 1)\}, \{(\mu, 1), (\mu^2, 1), (\mu^4, 1)\}, \{(\mu^6, 1), (\mu^5, 1), (\mu^3, 1)\} \\ \mathcal{C}_2^e &= \{(1, \omega), (1, \omega^2)\}, \{(\mu, \omega), (\mu^2, \omega), (\mu^4, \omega), (\mu, \omega^2), (\mu^2, \omega^2), (\mu^4, \omega^2)\}, \\ &\quad \{(\mu^6, \omega), (\mu^5, \omega), (\mu^3, \omega), (\mu^6, \omega^2), (\mu^5, \omega^2), (\mu^3, \omega^2)\} \end{aligned}$$

The ideal

$$\mathcal{I}_{\{(1,1)\}} = \left\{ \begin{bmatrix} 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \end{bmatrix}, \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 1 & 1 & 1 & 1 & 1 & 1 & 1 \\ 1 & 1 & 1 & 1 & 1 & 1 & 1 & 1 \\ 1 & 1 & 1 & 1 & 1 & 1 & 1 & 1 \end{bmatrix}, \begin{bmatrix} \omega & \omega \\ \omega & \omega \\ \omega & \omega \end{bmatrix}, \begin{bmatrix} \bar{\omega} & \bar{\omega} \\ \bar{\omega} & \bar{\omega} \\ \bar{\omega} & \bar{\omega} \end{bmatrix} \right\}$$

(where  $\bar{\omega} = \omega^2$ ) is isomorphic to  $\mathbb{F}_4$ , and it is a 2-dimensional vector space over the finite field  $\mathbb{F}_2 \cong \mathcal{K}_{\{(1,1)\}} = \left\{ \begin{bmatrix} 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \end{bmatrix}, \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 1 & 1 & 1 & 1 & 1 & 1 & 1 \\ 1 & 1 & 1 & 1 & 1 & 1 & 1 & 1 \\ 1 & 1 & 1 & 1 & 1 & 1 & 1 & 1 \end{bmatrix} \right\}$ . Moreover, the elements in  $\mathcal{I}_{\{(1,1)\}}$  with coefficients equal to 0 or 1 (i.e. in  $S$ ) are exactly those of  $\mathcal{K}_{\{(1,1)\}}$ .

The ideal  $\mathcal{I}_{C_4((\mu,1))}$  is isomorphic to  $\mathbb{F}_{4^3}$ , and it is a 2-dimensional vector space over the finite field

$$\begin{aligned} \mathbb{F}_{2^3} \cong \mathcal{K}_{C_2((1,1))} &= \left\{ \begin{bmatrix} 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \end{bmatrix}, \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 1 & 1 & 0 & 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 1 & 1 & 1 & 0 & 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 1 & 1 & 1 & 0 & 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 \end{bmatrix}, \begin{bmatrix} 0 & 1 & 1 & 1 & 0 & 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 1 & 1 & 0 & 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 1 & 1 & 0 & 1 & 0 & 0 \end{bmatrix}, \begin{bmatrix} 0 & 0 & 1 & 1 & 1 & 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & 1 & 1 & 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & 1 & 1 & 0 & 1 & 0 \end{bmatrix}, \right. \\ &\quad \left. \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 & 1 & 1 & 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 1 & 0 & 0 & 1 & 1 & 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 1 & 0 & 0 & 1 & 1 & 1 & 0 & 0 \end{bmatrix}, \begin{bmatrix} 0 & 1 & 0 & 0 & 1 & 1 & 1 & 1 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 & 0 & 1 & 1 & 1 & 1 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 & 0 & 1 & 1 & 1 & 1 \end{bmatrix}, \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 & 1 & 0 & 0 & 1 & 1 & 1 \\ 1 & 0 & 1 & 0 & 0 & 1 & 1 & 1 \\ 1 & 0 & 1 & 0 & 0 & 1 & 1 & 1 \end{bmatrix}, \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 1 & 0 & 1 & 0 & 0 & 1 & 1 \\ 1 & 1 & 0 & 1 & 0 & 0 & 1 & 1 \\ 1 & 1 & 0 & 1 & 0 & 0 & 1 & 1 \end{bmatrix} \right\} \end{aligned}$$

The ideals related to the 2 and 4-classes of  $(\mu^6, 1)$  behave similarly.

On the other hand, all the even classes follow the pattern of the 2-class  $\{(1, \omega), (1, \omega^2)\}$ . Namely, the ideal

$$\mathcal{K}_{C_2((1,\omega))} = \left\{ \begin{bmatrix} 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \end{bmatrix}, \begin{bmatrix} 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 1 & 1 & 1 & 1 & 1 & 1 & 1 & 1 \\ 1 & 1 & 1 & 1 & 1 & 1 & 1 & 1 \end{bmatrix}, \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 1 & 1 & 1 & 1 & 1 & 1 & 1 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 1 & 1 & 1 & 1 & 1 & 1 & 1 & 1 \end{bmatrix}, \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 1 & 1 & 1 & 1 & 1 & 1 & 1 \\ 1 & 1 & 1 & 1 & 1 & 1 & 1 & 1 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \end{bmatrix} \right\}$$

is isomorphic to  $\mathbb{F}_4$ , and the direct sum of the ideals

$$\mathcal{I}_{\{(1,\omega)\}} = \left\{ \begin{bmatrix} 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \end{bmatrix}, \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 1 & 1 & 1 & 1 & 1 & 1 & 1 \\ \bar{\omega} & \bar{\omega} \\ \omega & \omega \end{bmatrix}, \begin{bmatrix} \bar{\omega} & \bar{\omega} \\ 1 & 1 & 1 & 1 & 1 & 1 & 1 & 1 \\ \omega & \omega \end{bmatrix}, \begin{bmatrix} \bar{\omega} & \bar{\omega} \\ \omega & \omega \\ 1 & 1 & 1 & 1 & 1 & 1 & 1 & 1 \end{bmatrix} \right\}$$

$$\mathcal{I}_{\{(1,\omega^2)\}} = \left\{ \begin{bmatrix} 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \end{bmatrix}, \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 1 & 1 & 1 & 1 & 1 & 1 & 1 \\ \omega & \omega \\ \bar{\omega} & \bar{\omega} \end{bmatrix}, \begin{bmatrix} \omega & \omega \\ \bar{\omega} & \bar{\omega} \\ 1 & 1 & 1 & 1 & 1 & 1 & 1 & 1 \end{bmatrix}, \begin{bmatrix} \bar{\omega} & \bar{\omega} \\ 1 & 1 & 1 & 1 & 1 & 1 & 1 & 1 \\ \omega & \omega \end{bmatrix} \right\}$$

is a vector space over it.

### 3 Additive multivariable codes

Next we take advantage of the decomposition of the rings  $\mathcal{A}_4, \mathcal{A}_2$ , and their relation in order to obtain a complete description of an additive semisimple multivariable code  $\mathcal{D} \subseteq \mathcal{A}_4$ . From now on we assume that  $\mathcal{A}_4 \cong \bigoplus_{C \in \mathcal{C}_4} \mathcal{I}_C$  and  $\mathcal{A}_2 \cong \bigoplus_{C \in \mathcal{C}_2^o} \mathcal{K}_C \oplus \bigoplus_{C \in \mathcal{C}_2^e} \mathcal{K}_C$  are the decompositions of  $\mathcal{A}_4$  and  $\mathcal{A}_2$  into minimal ideals, that  $\varphi$  is the embedding of  $\mathcal{A}_2$  in  $\mathcal{A}_4$ , and that  $S = \varphi(\mathcal{A}_2)$  is the subring of  $\mathcal{A}_4$  fixed by the ring automorphism  $\tilde{\tau}$ . The main result in this section is the following.

**Theorem 2** *Let  $\mathcal{D} \subseteq \mathcal{A}_4$  be an additive semisimple code, i.e., a  $S$ -submodule of  $\mathcal{A}_4$ .*

1. *If  $C \in \mathcal{C}_2^o$ , then the set  $\mathcal{D}_C = \mathcal{D} \cap \mathcal{I}_C$  is a  $\mathcal{K}_C$ -vector subspace of  $\mathcal{I}_C$  of dimension  $0 \leq s_C \leq 2$ .*
2. *If  $C \in \mathcal{C}_2^e$ , with  $C = C_1 \cup C_2$ , and  $C_1, C_2 \in \mathcal{C}_4$ , then the set  $\mathcal{D}_C = \mathcal{D} \cap (\mathcal{I}_{C_1} \oplus \mathcal{I}_{C_2})$  is a  $\mathcal{K}_C$ -vector subspace of dimension  $0 \leq s_C \leq 2$ .*
3.  *$\mathcal{D} = \bigoplus_{C \in \mathcal{C}_2} \mathcal{D}_C$ ,  $|\mathcal{D}| = \prod_{C \in \mathcal{C}_2} 2^{s_C}$ , and the decomposition is unique.*

*Proof* 1.  $\mathcal{D}_C$  is an additive subgroup of the ideal  $\mathcal{I}_C$ , since  $\mathcal{D}$  is a code. Moreover, because it is an additive code, it is invariant under multiplication by elements in  $S$  so, in particular, by elements in  $\mathcal{I}_C \cap S = \varphi(\mathcal{K}_C)$ . Henceforth, since  $\varphi$  is injective,  $\mathcal{D}_C$  can be viewed as a vector space over the finite field  $\mathcal{K}_C$ , i.e., as a vector subspace of  $\mathcal{I}_C$ . Because  $\dim_{\mathcal{K}_C} \mathcal{I}_C = 2$ , we conclude the condition on the dimension of  $\mathcal{D}_C$ .

2. The argument above applies also in this case replacing  $\mathcal{I}_C$  by  $\mathcal{I}_{C_1} \oplus \mathcal{I}_{C_2}$ .
3. For all  $C \in \mathcal{C}_2$  we have that  $\mathcal{D}_C \subseteq \mathcal{D}$ , and so  $\bigoplus_{C \in \mathcal{C}_2} \mathcal{D}_C \subseteq \mathcal{D}$ . Conversely, if  $m + I \in \mathcal{D}$ , then

$$\begin{aligned} m + I &= (1 + I)(m + I) = \left( \bigoplus_{C \in \mathcal{C}_4} (e_C + I) \right) (m + I) = \\ &= \left( \bigoplus_{C \in \mathcal{C}_2^o} (e_C + I) \oplus \bigoplus_{\substack{C_1, C_2 \in \mathcal{C}_4 \\ C_1 \cup C_2 \in \mathcal{C}_2^e}} (e_{C_1} + e_{C_2} + I) \right) (m + I) \\ &= \bigoplus_{C \in \mathcal{C}_2^o} (e_C m + I) \oplus \bigoplus_{\substack{C_1, C_2 \in \mathcal{C}_4 \\ C_1 \cup C_2 \in \mathcal{C}_2^e}} ((e_{C_1} + e_{C_2})m + I) \in \bigoplus_{C \in \mathcal{C}_2} \mathcal{D}_C \end{aligned}$$

since  $e_C m + I \in \mathcal{D}_C$  (for all  $C \in \mathcal{C}_2^o$ ), and  $(e_{C_1} + e_{C_2})m + I \in \mathcal{D}_C$  (for all  $C_1 \cup C_2 = C \in \mathcal{C}_2^e$ ). Clearly,  $|\mathcal{D}| = \prod_{C \in \mathcal{C}_2} 2^{s_C}$ .

Finally, let us show that this decomposition is unique. Let  $\mathcal{D} = \bigoplus_{C \in \mathcal{C}_2} \mathcal{E}_C$  where  $\mathcal{E}_C \subseteq \mathcal{I}_C$ , if  $C \in \mathcal{C}_2^o$ , and  $\mathcal{E}_C \subseteq \mathcal{I}_{C_1} \oplus \mathcal{I}_{C_2}$ , if  $C_1 \cup C_2 = C \in \mathcal{C}_2^e$ . Then,  $\mathcal{E}_C \subseteq \mathcal{I}_C \cap \mathcal{D} = \mathcal{D}_C$ , in the first case, and  $\mathcal{E}_C \subseteq (\mathcal{I}_{C_1} \oplus \mathcal{I}_{C_2}) \cap \mathcal{D} = \mathcal{D}_C$ , in the second one. A counting argument on the sizes of these sets proves the result.

**Corollary 1** *The number of different additive semisimple codes in  $\mathcal{A}_4$  is*

$$\prod_{C \in \mathcal{C}_2} (2^{|C|} + 3)$$

*Of these, only  $\prod_{C \in \mathcal{C}_2} (2^{|C|} + 2)$  codes can be generated by a single codeword.*

*Proof* The number of subspaces in a 2–dimensional vector space over a finite field  $\mathbb{F}_q$  is  $1 + \frac{q^2-1}{q-1} + 1 = q+3$ . Hence, the result follows directly from the decomposition of the previous theorem.

A code  $\mathcal{D}_C$  can be generated by a single codeword if and only if it is a cyclic  $S$ –submodule of  $\mathcal{A}_4$ . So, all the submodules  $\mathcal{D}_C$  have to be also cyclic  $S$ –submodules, and the dimension of the vector subspace  $\mathcal{D}_C$  over  $\mathcal{K}_C$  has to be either 0 or 1. The number of possible codes obtained from these subspaces is exactly  $\prod_{C \in \mathcal{C}_2} (1 + (2^{|C|} + 1))$ .

### 3.1 Hamming distance

Next, we study the minimum distance of our codes. Let us first introduce the standard definitions.

**Definition 6** If  $f \in \mathbb{F}_q[X_1, \dots, X_r]$ , and  $NF(f) = \sum_{i=1}^r f_{\alpha_1 \dots \alpha_r} X_1^{\alpha_1} \dots X_r^{\alpha_r}$  is its normal form w.r.t.  $I$ , then we define the *Hamming weight of  $f + I$*  (denoted by  $\text{wt}(f + I)$ ), as the cardinality of  $\text{supp}(NF(f)) = \{(\alpha_1, \dots, \alpha_r) \mid f_{\alpha_1 \dots \alpha_r} \neq 0\}$ , the support of  $NF(f)$ .

The minimum distance of an additive (semisimple) multivariable code  $\mathcal{D} \subseteq \mathcal{A}_4$  is defined as the minimum Hamming weight of the nonzero elements in  $\mathcal{D}$ , and it is denoted by  $d(\mathcal{D})$ .

The study of the codes with the best Hamming distance for given parameters is one of the central problems in Coding Theory. A good source of bounds and examples of the best known codes (block linear, and quantum error correcting codes) can be found in *Code Tables* [6]. There exist several bounds on distances for classical multivariable semisimple codes over fields (BCH, Hartmann-Tzeng, Roos, ...) [13]. These bounds can be stated in the additive case due to the following fact:

**Proposition 5** Let  $\mathcal{D} \subseteq \mathcal{A}_4$  be an additive abelian code, and let  $T = \cup_{i=1}^l C_i$  be a union of  $C_4$ –classes  $C_i = C_4(\mu_i)$  such that:  $C_i \in T$  if and only if

$$- C_i \in C_2^o \text{ and } \mathcal{D}_C \neq 0$$

or

$$- C_i \subseteq C' \in C_2^e \text{ and } \mathcal{D}_{C'} \neq 0$$

Then  $d(\mathcal{D}) \geq d(\mathcal{D}^*)$ , where  $\mathcal{D}^*$  is the classical multivariable code in  $\mathcal{A}_4$  with set of defining roots equal to  $T$  [13].

*Proof* It is enough to notice that, since  $T$  is the set of defining roots of  $\mathcal{D}^*$ , then  $\mathcal{D}_{C_i} = \mathcal{I}_{C_i}$ , for all  $i = 1, \dots, l$ . Therefore  $\mathcal{D} \subseteq \mathcal{D}^*$  and the conclusion follows.

*Remark 6* 1. In view of this result, if we used the classical approach for multivariable codes, the computation of the minimum distance of a multivariable additive abelian code in  $r$  variables would be reduced to computations of minimum distances of classical multivariable semisimple codes over a finite field in less number of variables ([13][Proposition 8, Chapter 6] )

2. There might exist additive codes with a greater Hamming distance than the one stated by the former bound, as the following example shows. Generally, these codes are not multivariable codes in the classical sense.

*Example 3 (Example 1 cont'd)* We apply Theorem 2 to construct an additive code by choosing suitable chunks (i.e., subcodes) in the components of the decomposition of  $\mathcal{A}_4$ , in the following way:

- In the component  $\mathcal{I}_{\{(1,1)\}}$ , we choose

$$\mathcal{D}_{\{(1,1)\}} = \left\{ \begin{bmatrix} 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \end{bmatrix}, \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 1 & 1 & 1 & 1 & 1 & 1 & 1 \\ 1 & 1 & 1 & 1 & 1 & 1 & 1 & 1 \\ 1 & 1 & 1 & 1 & 1 & 1 & 1 & 1 \end{bmatrix} \right\},$$

which is a 1-dimensional vector space over  $\mathcal{K}_{\{(1,1)\}}$ .

- In the ideals  $\mathcal{I}_{C_4((\mu,1))}$  and  $\mathcal{I}_{C_4((\mu^6,1))}$ , we choose 1-dimensional vector spaces over  $\mathcal{K}_{C_2((\mu,1))}$  and  $\mathcal{K}_{C_2((\mu^6,1))}$ , respectively. According to the proof of Corollary 1, we have  $9 \left( = \frac{8^2-1}{8-1} \right)$  choices for each of them. Let us take

$$\mathcal{D}_{C_2((\mu,1))} =_S \begin{bmatrix} 0 & 1 & \omega & \omega & \bar{\omega} & 1 & \bar{\omega} \\ 0 & 1 & \omega & \omega & \bar{\omega} & 1 & \bar{\omega} \\ 0 & 1 & \omega & \omega & \bar{\omega} & 1 & \bar{\omega} \end{bmatrix} \text{ and } \mathcal{D}_{C_2((\mu^6,1))} =_S \begin{bmatrix} 0 & \bar{\omega} & 1 & \bar{\omega} & \omega & \omega & 1 \\ 0 & \bar{\omega} & 1 & \bar{\omega} & \omega & \omega & 1 \\ 0 & \bar{\omega} & 1 & \bar{\omega} & \omega & \omega & 1 \end{bmatrix},$$

respectively.

Let us have a more detailed look at the subcode  $\mathcal{D}_{C_2((\mu,1))}$ . Since it is only contained in the component  $\mathcal{I}_{C_4((\mu,1))}$ , which is generated by the polynomial  $(1 + X_1 + X_1^2 + X_1^4)(1 + X_2 + X_2^2)$ , Proposition 5 ensures a minimum distance of 12, according to the BCH bound. But Sage computations [16] show that the actual distance is  $d(\mathcal{D}_{C_2((\mu,1))}) = 18$ .

- We simply choose  $\mathcal{D}_{C_2((1,\omega))} = \left\{ \begin{bmatrix} 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \end{bmatrix} \right\}$ .
- Finally, in the sums  $\mathcal{I}_{C_4((\mu,\omega))} \oplus \mathcal{I}_{C_4((\mu,\omega^2))}$  and  $\mathcal{I}_{C_4((\mu^6,\omega))} \oplus \mathcal{I}_{C_4((\mu^6,\omega^2))}$ , we also consider 1-dimensional vector spaces over  $\mathcal{K}_{C_2((\mu,\omega))}$  and  $\mathcal{K}_{C_2((\mu^6,\omega))}$ , respectively. Corollary 1 shows that a total amount of 65 possibilities are allowed for each component. Let us choose

$$\mathcal{D}_{C_2((\mu,\omega))} =_S \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 1 & 0 & 1 & 0 & 0 & 1 \\ 1 & \omega & \bar{\omega} & \omega & 0 & \bar{\omega} & 1 \\ 0 & \bar{\omega} & \bar{\omega} & \bar{\omega} & 0 & \bar{\omega} & 0 \end{bmatrix} \text{ and } \mathcal{D}_{C_2((\mu^6,\omega))} =_S \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 1 & \omega & 0 & \bar{\omega} & \omega & \bar{\omega} \\ \omega & 1 & \bar{\omega} & \bar{\omega} & \omega & 0 & 1 \\ \bar{\omega} & 0 & 1 & \bar{\omega} & 1 & \omega & \omega \end{bmatrix},$$

respectively.

*The additive code*

$$\mathcal{D} = \mathcal{D}_{\{(1,1)\}} \oplus \mathcal{D}_{C_2((\mu,1))} \oplus \mathcal{D}_{C_2((\mu^6,1))} \oplus \mathcal{D}_{C_2((1,\omega))} \oplus \mathcal{D}_{C_2((\mu^6,\omega))} \oplus \mathcal{D}_{C_2((\mu^6,\omega^2))}$$

of length 21 has  $2^{19} = 2^{1+3+3+0+6+6}$  codewords. Sage computations show that this code has distance  $d(\mathcal{D}) = 7$ .

#### 4 Duality for abelian codes

In this section we describe the dual code of an additive abelian code  $\mathcal{D}$ . Following Lemma 1, the elements of  $\mathcal{A}_4$  can be uniquely represented as  $f + I$ , where  $f = NF(f) = \sum_{\alpha} f_{\alpha} X^{\alpha}$ ,  $\alpha = (\alpha_1, \dots, \alpha_r)$ , and  $X^{\alpha} = X_1^{\alpha_1} \dots X_r^{\alpha_r}$  (notice that  $0 \leq \alpha_i < n_i$ , for all  $1 \leq i \leq r$ ). Let us introduce the function  $\bar{\cdot} : \mathcal{A}_4 \rightarrow \mathcal{A}_4$  that maps an element  $f + I$  to  $\bar{f} + \bar{I} = \sum_{\alpha} f_{\alpha} X^{n-\alpha} + I$ , where  $n = (n_1, \dots, n_r)$ . It is a ring automorphism of order

2. With this notation, the symmetric function used to define orthogonality is the trace inner product  $\langle \cdot, \cdot \rangle : \mathcal{A}_4 \times \mathcal{A}_4 \rightarrow \mathbb{F}_2$  given by

$$\langle f + I, g + I \rangle = \sum_{\alpha} \text{Tr}(f_{\alpha} g_{\alpha}^2) = \sum_{\alpha} (f_{\alpha} g_{\alpha}^2 + f_{\alpha}^2 g_{\alpha})$$

where  $\text{Tr} : \mathbb{F}_4 \rightarrow \mathbb{F}_2$  is the trace function. So, given an additive abelian code  $\mathcal{D}$ , its dual code is defined as  $\mathcal{D}^{\perp} = \{f + I \in \mathcal{A}_4 \mid \langle f + I, g + I \rangle = 0 \text{ for all } g + I \in \mathcal{D}\}$ . A code  $\mathcal{D}$  is self-orthogonal if  $\mathcal{D} \subseteq \mathcal{D}^{\perp}$  and self-dual if  $\mathcal{D} = \mathcal{D}^{\perp}$ . In the next section we will characterize this kind of codes.

For the study of duality it is useful to introduce the map  $(\cdot, \cdot) : \mathcal{A}_4 \times \mathcal{A}_4 \rightarrow S$  given by

$$(f + I, g + I) = (f + I) \overline{\tilde{\tau}(g + I)} + \tilde{\tau}(f + I) \overline{g + I}, \quad (1)$$

Notice that  $(\cdot, \cdot)$  is well-defined, since  $\tilde{\tau}(f + I) \overline{g + I} = \tilde{\tau}((f + I) \overline{\tilde{\tau}(g + I)})$ , and so  $(f + I, g + I)$  is contained in the subring of  $\mathcal{A}_4$  fixed by  $\tilde{\tau}$ , i.e., in  $S$ . Moreover,  $I = 0 + I = (f + I, g + I)$  if and only if  $(f + I) \overline{\tilde{\tau}(g + I)} = \tilde{\tau}(f + I) \overline{g + I}$  if and only if  $(f + I) \overline{\tilde{\tau}(g + I)}$  is in  $S$ .

Notice that (1) resembles an Hermitian form, in the sense that it is  $S$ -linear in the first argument and  $(g + I, f + I) = \overline{(f + I, g + I)}$ , for all  $f + I, g + I \in \mathcal{A}_4$ . This map is related to the trace inner product by the following way:

**Lemma 3**  $(f + I, g + I) = (\sum_{\alpha} \langle f + I, X^{\alpha} g + I \rangle X^{\alpha}) + I$ , for all  $f + I, g + I \in \mathcal{A}_4$ .

*Proof*

$$\begin{aligned} (f + I, g + I) &= (f + I) \overline{\tilde{\tau}(g + I)} + \tilde{\tau}(f + I) \overline{g + I} \\ &= \left( \sum_{\beta} f_{\beta} X^{\beta} + I \right) \left( \sum_{\gamma} g_{\gamma}^2 X^{n-\gamma} + I \right) + \left( \sum_{\beta} f_{\beta}^2 X^{\beta} + I \right) \left( \sum_{\gamma} g_{\gamma} X^{n-\gamma} + I \right) \\ &= \sum_{\beta} \sum_{\gamma} (f_{\beta} g_{\gamma}^2 + f_{\beta}^2 g_{\gamma}) X^{\beta+n-\gamma} + I = \sum_{\alpha} \left( \sum_{\gamma} (f_{\alpha+\gamma} g_{\gamma}^2 + f_{\alpha+\gamma}^2 g_{\gamma}) \right) X^{\alpha} + I \\ &= \sum_{\alpha} \left( \sum_{\delta} (f_{\delta} g_{\delta-\alpha}^2 + f_{\delta}^2 g_{\delta-\alpha}) \right) X^{\alpha} + I = \left( \sum_{\alpha} \langle f + I, X^{\alpha} g + I \rangle X^{\alpha} \right) + I \end{aligned}$$

(we have applied the changes of index  $\{\beta + n - \gamma = \alpha, \delta = \alpha + \gamma\}$ , and we have taken the subscripts modulo  $n$ )

So,  $(f + I, g + I) = I$  if and only if  $\langle r + I, g + I \rangle = 0$  for all  $r + I$  in  $S(f + I)$ , the  $S$ -submodule of  $\mathcal{A}_4$  generated by  $f + I$ , i.e., if and only if  $g + I$  is an element in the dual code of  $S(f + I)$ , the code spanned by  $f + I$ .

Notice that the composition of the ring automorphisms  $\tilde{\tau}$  and  $\bar{\cdot}$  induces a permutation on the set  $\mathcal{C}_4$ , because if  $\mu = (\mu_1, \dots, \mu_r)$  is a root of  $f + I$ , then  $\mu' = (\mu_1^{-2}, \dots, \mu_r^{-2})$  is a root of  $\tilde{\tau}(f + I)$ . If  $C = C_4(\mu)$  is the 4-class of the root  $\mu$ , then let us denote by  $C' = C_4(\mu')$  the 4-class of  $\mu'$ . Observe that, if we choose  $C_1, C_2 \in \mathcal{C}_4$  such that  $C_1 \cup C_2 \in \mathcal{C}_2^e$ , then  $C_1' \cup C_2' \in \mathcal{C}_2^e$  too. So, if  $C = C_1 \cup C_2 \in \mathcal{C}_2$ , we also write  $C' = C_1' \cup C_2'$ , and the permutation can be extended to 2-classes. It is clear that  $C_2((1^{-2}, \dots, 1^{-2})) = C_2((1, \dots, 1))$ , and so  $C_2((1, \dots, 1))$  is a fixed point of this permutation. On the other hand, no other 2-class in  $\mathcal{C}_2^o$  is fixed. Namely,

if  $C_2((1, \dots, 1)) \neq C_2(\mu) = C_2(\mu') \in \mathcal{C}_2^o$  then, since  $C_2(\mu^{-1}) = C_2(\mu')$ , we have  $\mu^{-1} \in C_2(\mu)$ . For all  $\delta \neq (1, \dots, 1)$ , we have  $\delta \neq \delta^{-1}$ , and so  $C_2(\mu)$  can be partitioned in pairs  $(\delta, \delta^{-1})$ . Hence  $C_2(\mu)$  must have even size, which is not possible.

Given  $C \in \mathcal{C}_2^o$ , and an element  $f + I \in \mathcal{I}_C$  (or  $C \in \mathcal{C}_2^e$ , and an element  $f + I \in \mathcal{I}_{C_1} \oplus \mathcal{I}_{C_2}$ ), we define

$$\mathcal{O}(f + I) = \left\{ g + I \in \mathcal{I}_{C'} \text{ (alt. } g + I \in \mathcal{I}_{C'_1} \oplus \mathcal{I}_{C'_2}) \mid (f + I)\overline{\tilde{\tau}(g + I)} \in S \right\} \quad (2)$$

We have the following result that completely describes the dual code  $\mathcal{D}^\perp$  of a given abelian code  $\mathcal{D}$ .

**Theorem 3** Let  $\mathcal{D}$  be an abelian additive code. If  $\mathcal{D} = \bigoplus_{C \in \mathcal{C}_2} \mathcal{D}_C$  is the unique decomposition of Theorem 2, and  $\mathcal{D}^\perp = \bigoplus_{C \in \mathcal{C}_2} \mathcal{D}_C^\perp$  is the unique decomposition of its dual code, then:

1. if  $\mathcal{D}_C = 0$ , then  $\mathcal{D}_{C'}^\perp = \mathcal{I}_{C'}$  (if  $C \in \mathcal{C}_2^o$ ), or  $\mathcal{D}_{C'}^\perp = \mathcal{I}_{C'_1} \oplus \mathcal{I}_{C'_2}$  (if  $C = C_1 \cup C_2 \in \mathcal{C}_2^e$ );
2.  $\mathcal{D}_{C'}^\perp = 0$  if  $\mathcal{D}_C = \mathcal{I}_C$  (when  $C \in \mathcal{C}_2^o$ ), or if  $\mathcal{D}_C = \mathcal{I}_{C_1} \oplus \mathcal{I}_{C_2}$  (when  $C = C_1 \cup C_2 \in \mathcal{C}_2^e$ );
3. if  $\mathcal{D}_C =_S (f + I)$  with  $I \neq f + I$ , then  $\mathcal{D}_{C'}^\perp = \mathcal{O}(f + I)$ . In such a case:
  - (a) If  $C \in \mathcal{C}_2^o$ , then  $\mathcal{O}(f + I) =_S (\tilde{\tau}(g + I))$ , where  $g + I \in \mathcal{I}_C$  is the multiplicative inverse of  $f + I$  in the field  $\mathcal{I}_C$ .
  - (b) If  $C = C_1 \cup C_2 \in \mathcal{C}_2^e$ , with  $C_1, C_2 \in \mathcal{C}_4$ , then let us write  $f + I = f_1 + f_2 + I$ , where  $f_i + I \in \mathcal{I}_{C_i}$  ( $i = 1, 2$ ). If  $f_i + I \neq I$  ( $i = 1, 2$ ), then  $\mathcal{O}(f + I) =_S (\tilde{\tau}(g_1 + g_2 + I))$ , where  $g_i + I \in \mathcal{I}_{C_i}$  is the multiplicative inverse of  $f_i + I$  in the field  $\mathcal{I}_{C_i}$  ( $i = 1, 2$ ). Otherwise, if  $f_i + I \neq I$  (and  $f_{3-i} + I = I$ ), then  $\mathcal{O}(f + I) =_S (e_{C'_{3-i}} + I)$ , if  $C \neq C'$  or  $\overline{\mathcal{I}_{C_1}} \neq \mathcal{I}_{C_1}$ , or  $\mathcal{O}(f + I) =_S (e_{C'_i} + I)$ , if  $C = C'$  and  $\overline{\mathcal{I}_{C_1}} = \mathcal{I}_{C_1}$ .

Summarizing, the possibilities given in Table 1 hold.

	$\mathcal{D}_C$	$\mathcal{D}_{C'}^\perp$
$C \in \mathcal{C}_2^o$	$\{0\}$	$\mathcal{I}_{C'}$
	$s(f + I)$	$s(\overline{\tilde{\tau}(g + I)})$
	$\mathcal{I}_C$	$\{0\}$
$C \in \mathcal{C}_2^e$	$\{0\}$	$\mathcal{I}_{C'_1} \oplus \mathcal{I}_{C'_2}$
	$s(f_i + I)$	$s(e_{C'_{3-i}} + I)$ , if $C \neq C'$ or if $\overline{\mathcal{I}_{C_1}} \neq \mathcal{I}_{C_1}$
		$s(e_{C'_i} + I)$ , if $C = C'$ and $\overline{\mathcal{I}_{C_1}} = \mathcal{I}_{C_1}$
	$s(f_1 + f_2 + I)$	$s(\overline{\tilde{\tau}(g_1 + g_2 + I)})$
	$\mathcal{I}_{C_1} \oplus \mathcal{I}_{C_2}$	$\{0\}$

**Table 1** Relation between the summands of orthogonal codes

*Proof* Observe that if  $f + I \in \mathcal{I}_C$  (alt.  $f + I \in \mathcal{I}_{C_1} \oplus \mathcal{I}_{C_2}$ ) and  $h + I \notin \mathcal{I}_{C'}$  (alt.  $h + I \notin \mathcal{I}_{C'_1} \oplus \mathcal{I}_{C'_2}$ ), then  $\overline{\tilde{\tau}(h + I)} \in \mathcal{I}_{C^*} \neq \mathcal{I}_C$  (alt.  $\overline{\tilde{\tau}(h + I)} \in \mathcal{I}_{C_1^*} \oplus \mathcal{I}_{C_2^*} \neq \mathcal{I}_{C_1} \oplus \mathcal{I}_{C_2}$ ), and

so  $(f+I)\overline{\tilde{\tau}(h+I)} \in \mathcal{I}_C \cap \mathcal{I}_{C^*} = I$  (alt.  $(f+I)\overline{\tilde{\tau}(h+I)} \in (\mathcal{I}_{C_1} \oplus \mathcal{I}_{C_2}) \cap (\mathcal{I}_{C_1^*} \oplus \mathcal{I}_{C_2^*}) = I$ ), i.e.,  $(f+I, h+I) = I$ . Therefore

$$(\mathcal{D}_C)^\perp = \left( (\mathcal{D}_C)^\perp \cap \mathcal{I}_{C'} \right) \oplus \bigoplus_{C' \neq D \in \mathcal{C}_2^o} \mathcal{I}_D \oplus \bigoplus_{D \in \mathcal{C}_2^s} (\mathcal{I}_{D_1} \oplus \mathcal{I}_{D_2})$$

(alt.  $(\mathcal{D}_C)^\perp = \left( (\mathcal{D}_C)^\perp \cap (\mathcal{I}_{C'_1} \oplus \mathcal{I}_{C'_2}) \right) \oplus \bigoplus_{D \in \mathcal{C}_2^o} \mathcal{I}_D \oplus \bigoplus_{C' \neq D \in \mathcal{C}_2^s} (\mathcal{I}_{C'_1} \oplus \mathcal{I}_{C'_2})$ ), and so

$$\begin{aligned} \bigoplus_{C' \in \mathcal{C}_2} \mathcal{D}_{C'}^\perp &= \bigoplus_{C \in \mathcal{C}_2} \mathcal{D}_C^\perp = \mathcal{D}^\perp = \left( \bigoplus_{C \in \mathcal{C}_2} \mathcal{D}_C \right)^\perp \\ &= \bigoplus_{C \in \mathcal{C}_2^o} \left( (\mathcal{D}_C)^\perp \cap \mathcal{I}_{C'} \right) \oplus \bigoplus_{C \in \mathcal{C}_2^s} \left( (\mathcal{D}_C)^\perp \cap (\mathcal{I}_{C'_1} \oplus \mathcal{I}_{C'_2}) \right) \end{aligned}$$

so that  $\mathcal{D}_{C'}^\perp = (\mathcal{D}_C)^\perp \cap \mathcal{I}_{C'}$  (alt.  $\mathcal{D}_{C'}^\perp = (\mathcal{D}_C)^\perp \cap (\mathcal{I}_{C'_1} \oplus \mathcal{I}_{C'_2})$ ). The first two items of the proposition now easily follow, since  $(\cdot, \cdot)$  is nondegenerate when restricted to  $\mathcal{I}_C \times \mathcal{I}_{C'}$  (alt.  $\mathcal{I}_{C_1} \oplus \mathcal{I}_{C_2} \times \mathcal{I}_{C'_1} \oplus \mathcal{I}_{C'_2}$ ), where as the first part of the third item is a consequence of equation (2).

In the case (a) it is straightforward to check that

$$(f+I, \overline{\tilde{\tau}(g+I)}) = (f+I)(g+I) + \tilde{\tau}((f+I)(g+I)) = (e_C + I) + \tilde{\tau}((e_C + I)) = I$$

so that  $S(\overline{\tilde{\tau}(g+I)}) \subseteq \mathcal{O}(f+I)$ . The fact that  $(\cdot, \cdot)$  is nondegenerate implies the claimed equality, because both sets are 1-dimensional  $\mathcal{K}_C$ -vector subspaces.

In the case (b), if  $f_i + I \neq I$  ( $i = 1, 2$ ), then

$$(f+I)\overline{\tilde{\tau}(g_1 + g_2 + I)} = (f_1 + f_2 + I)(g_1 + g_2 + I) = e_{C_1} + e_{C_2} + I \in S$$

and so  $(f+I, \overline{\tilde{\tau}(g_1 + g_2 + I)}) = I$ , i.e.,  $S(\overline{\tilde{\tau}(g_1 + g_2 + I)}) \subseteq \mathcal{O}(f+I)$ . Again, the fact that  $(\cdot, \cdot)$  is nondegenerate implies the claimed equality. Finally, if  $f_i + I \neq I$  (and  $f_{3-i} + I = I$ ), then

$$(f+I)\overline{\tilde{\tau}(e_{C'_{3-i}} + I)} = (f_i + I)(e_{C_{3-i}} + I) = I \in S$$

and so  $S(e_{C'_{3-i}} + I) \subseteq \mathcal{O}(f+I)$ , if  $C \neq C'$  or  $\overline{\mathcal{I}_{C_1}} \neq \mathcal{I}_{C_1}$ . The other content follows from the same argument as above. The case when  $C = C'$  and  $\overline{\mathcal{I}_{C_1}} = \mathcal{I}_{C_1}$  is similar.

*Remark 7* Notice that, in the case 3b of the previous lemma, if  $f_1 + I \neq I$ , we can take  $g_1 + I \in \mathcal{I}_{C_1}$  the multiplicative inverse of  $f_1 + I$  in the field  $\mathcal{I}_{C_1}$ , and multiply  $(f_1 + f_2 + I)(g_1 + \tau(g_1) + I) = e_{C_1} + h_2 + I$ , and so  $S(f_1 + f_2 + I) =_S (e_{C_1} + h_2 + I)$ . The same argument applies if  $f_2 + I \neq I$ .

*Example 4 (Example 1 cont'd)* Let us construct the orthogonal code of the  $\mathcal{D}$  presented in the example above. We first list the correspondence between 2-classes:  $\{(1, 1)\}$  and  $C_2((1, \omega))$  are fixed points in the permutation  $C \leftrightarrow C'$ . On the other hand,  $C_2((\mu, 1)) \leftrightarrow C_2((\mu^6, 1))$  and  $C_2((\mu, \omega)) \leftrightarrow C_2((\mu^6, \omega))$ . Now, let us describe for each component  $\mathcal{D}_C$ , the corresponding component  $\mathcal{D}_{C'}^\perp$ , according to Table 1.

- Since  $\mathcal{D}_{\{(1,1)\}} =_S \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 1 & 1 & 1 & 1 & 1 & 1 \\ 1 & 1 & 1 & 1 & 1 & 1 & 1 \\ 1 & 1 & 1 & 1 & 1 & 1 & 1 \end{bmatrix}$  and  $(1 + X_1 + X_1^2 + X_1^3 + X_1^4 + X_1^5 + X_1^6)(1 + X_2 + X_2^2) + I$  is the identity of  $\mathcal{I}_{\{(1,1)\}}$ , which happens to be invariant under  $\overline{\tilde{\tau}}$ , we get that  $\mathcal{D}_{\{(1,1)\}}^\perp = \mathcal{D}_{\{(1,1)\}}$ .

- We have that  $\mathcal{D}_{C_2((\mu,1))} =_S \begin{bmatrix} 0 & 1 & \omega & \bar{\omega} & 1 & \bar{\omega} \\ 0 & 1 & \omega & \bar{\omega} & 1 & \bar{\omega} \\ 0 & 1 & \omega & \bar{\omega} & 1 & \bar{\omega} \end{bmatrix}$ , and that the inverse of the element  $(X_1 + \omega X_1^2 + \omega X_1^3 + \omega^2 X_1^4 + X_1^5 + \omega^2 X_1^6)(1 + X_2 + X_2^2) + I$  in the field  $\mathcal{I}_{C_2((\mu,1))}$  is equal to  $(X_1 + \omega^2 X_1^2 + \omega^2 X_1^3 + \omega^2 X_1^4 + \omega X_1^5 + X_1^6)(1 + X_2 + X_2^2) + I$ . Therefore,  $\mathcal{D}_{C_2((\mu,1))}'$  is generated by  $(\omega^2 X_1 + X_1^2 + \omega^2 X_1^3 + \omega X_1^4 + \omega X_1^5 + X_1^6)(1 + X_2 + X_2^2)$ , and so  $\mathcal{D}_{C_2((\mu,1))}' = \mathcal{D}_{C_2((\mu^6,1))}$ . As a consequence

$$\mathcal{D}_{C_2((\mu^6,1))}' = \mathcal{D}_{C_2((\mu,1))}.$$

- From the trivial component  $\mathcal{D}_{C_2((1,\omega))} = \left\{ \begin{bmatrix} 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \end{bmatrix} \right\}$  we get that

$$\mathcal{D}_{C_2((1,\omega))}' = \mathcal{I}_{C_4((1,\omega))} \oplus \mathcal{I}_{C_4((1,\omega^2))}.$$

- Finally, we consider  $\mathcal{D}_{C_2((\mu^6,\omega))} =_S \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 1 & \omega & 0 & \bar{\omega} & \omega & \bar{\omega} \\ \omega & 1 & \bar{\omega} & \bar{\omega} & \omega & 0 & 1 \\ \bar{\omega} & 0 & 1 & \bar{\omega} & 1 & \omega & \omega \end{bmatrix}$ . The element  $1 + X_1 + \omega X_1^2 + \omega^2 X_1^4 + \omega X_1^5 + \omega^2 X_1^6 + (\omega + X_1 + \omega^2 X_1^2 + \omega^2 X_1^3 + \omega X_1^4 + X_1^6)X_2 + (\omega^2 + X_1^2 + \omega^2 X_1^3 + X_1^4 + \omega X_1^5 + \omega X_1^6)X_2^2 + I$  decomposes as  $f_1 + f_2 + I$ , where  $f_1 + I = (X_1 + X_1^3 + X_1^4 + X_1^5)(\omega^2 + \omega X_2 + X_2^2) \in \mathcal{I}_{C_4((\mu^6,\omega))}$ , and  $f_2 + I = (1 + \omega X_1 + \omega X_1^2 + \omega^2 X_1^3 + X_1^5 + \omega^2 X_1^6)(1 + \omega X_2 + \omega^2 X_2^2) \in \mathcal{I}_{C_4((\mu^6,\omega))}$ . The image of the sum of the inverses of  $f_1 + I$  and  $f_2 + I$  under the map  $\bar{\tau}$  gives us  $\mathcal{D}_{C_2((\mu^6,\omega))}' =_S \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 1 & 0 & 1 & 0 & 0 & 1 \\ 1 & \omega & \bar{\omega} & \omega & 0 & \bar{\omega} & 1 \\ 0 & \bar{\omega} & \bar{\omega} & \bar{\omega} & 0 & \bar{\omega} & 0 \end{bmatrix} = \mathcal{D}_{C_2((\mu,\omega))}$ . As a consequence

$$\mathcal{D}_{C_2((\mu^6,\omega))}' = \mathcal{D}_{C_2((\mu,\omega^2))}.$$

Therefore, the orthogonal of  $\mathcal{D}$  is the additive code

$$\begin{aligned} \mathcal{D}^\perp &= \mathcal{D}_{\{(1,1)\}} \oplus \mathcal{D}_{C_2((\mu,1))} \oplus \mathcal{D}_{C_2((\mu^6,1))} \oplus \mathcal{I}_{C_4((1,\omega))} \oplus \mathcal{I}_{C_4((1,\omega^2))} \\ &\oplus \mathcal{D}_{C_2((\mu^6,\omega))} \oplus \mathcal{D}_{C_2((\mu,\omega))} = \mathcal{D} \oplus \mathcal{I}_{C_4((1,\omega))} \oplus \mathcal{I}_{C_4((1,\omega^2))} \supseteq \mathcal{D}, \end{aligned}$$

and so the code is self-orthogonal.

## 5 Self-orthogonal and self-dual abelian codes

**Lemma 4** Let  $\mathcal{D} = \bigoplus_{C \in \mathcal{C}_2} \mathcal{D}_C$  be an additive abelian code in  $\mathcal{A}_4$  and let  $\mathcal{D}^\perp = \bigoplus_{C \in \mathcal{C}_2} \mathcal{D}_C^\perp$  be its dual code. Then:

1.  $\mathcal{D}$  is self-orthogonal if and only if for each  $C \in \mathcal{C}_2$ , if  $\mathcal{D}_C \neq 0$  and  $\mathcal{D}_{C'} \neq 0$ , then  $\mathcal{D}_C =_S (f + I)$  and  $\mathcal{D}_{C'} = \mathcal{O}(f + I)$ , with  $I \neq f + I$ .
2.  $\mathcal{D}$  is self-dual if and only if it is self-orthogonal and for each  $C \in \mathcal{C}_2$  such that  $\mathcal{D}_C = 0$ , then  $\mathcal{D}_{C'} = \mathcal{I}_{C'}$ , when  $C \in \mathcal{C}_2^o$  (or  $\mathcal{D}_{C'} = \mathcal{I}_{C'_1} \oplus \mathcal{I}_{C'_2}$ , when  $C = C_1 \cup C_2 \in \mathcal{C}_2^e$ ).

*Proof* 1. First of all notice that, for a code  $\mathcal{D}$  the condition of self-orthogonality,  $\mathcal{D} \subseteq \mathcal{D}^\perp$  is equivalent to  $\mathcal{D}_C \subseteq \mathcal{D}_C^\perp$  for all  $C \in \mathcal{C}_2$ . This condition clearly holds for all  $C \in \mathcal{C}_2$  such that  $\mathcal{D}_C = 0$ . If  $\mathcal{D}_C \neq 0$  but  $\mathcal{D}_{C'} = 0$ , then  $\mathcal{D}_C^\perp = \mathcal{I}_C$ , when  $C \in \mathcal{C}_2^o$ , according to Theorem 3, and so the condition also holds. Finally, if  $\mathcal{D}_C \neq 0$  and  $\mathcal{D}_{C'} \neq 0$ , then  $\mathcal{D}_C \neq \mathcal{I}_C$  for the code to be self-orthogonal (since otherwise,

from Theorem 3,  $\mathcal{D}_{C'}^\perp = 0 \not\subseteq \mathcal{D}_{C'}$ ) and  $\mathcal{D}_{C'} \neq \mathcal{I}_{C'}$  by the same argument. Hence  $\mathcal{D}_C =_S (f + I)$  with  $I \neq f + I$ . Because  $\mathcal{D}_{C'} \subseteq \mathcal{O}(f + I)$  and both sets are 1-dimensional  $\mathcal{K}_C$  subspaces, we obtain the desired equality.

2. The code  $\mathcal{D}$  is self-dual if and only if  $\mathcal{D}_C = \mathcal{D}_C^\perp$  for all  $C \in \mathcal{C}_2$ . In particular it has to be self-orthogonal. For the classes  $C \in \mathcal{C}_2$  such that  $\mathcal{D}_C =_S (f + I)$  and  $\mathcal{D}_{C'} = \mathcal{O}(f + I)$  (with  $I \neq f + I$ ) the equality is true, whereas if  $0 = \mathcal{D}_C = \mathcal{D}_C^\perp$ , from Theorem 3, we must have  $\mathcal{D}_{C'} = \mathcal{I}_{C'}$ , for the code to be self-dual. The case  $C \in \mathcal{C}_2^e$  is similar.

Now, we are able to describe the self-orthogonal and self-dual additive abelian codes in  $\mathcal{A}_4$ .

**Theorem 4** Let  $\mathcal{D} = \bigoplus_{C \in \mathcal{C}_2} \mathcal{D}_C$  be an additive abelian code in  $\mathcal{A}_4$  and let  $\mathcal{D}^\perp = \bigoplus_{C \in \mathcal{C}_2} \mathcal{D}_C^\perp$  be its dual code. Then,  $\mathcal{D}$  is self-orthogonal (alt.  $\mathcal{D}$  is self-dual) if and only if for each  $C \in \mathcal{C}_2$  the following condition hold (alt. except those marked with an asterisk):

1. If  $C \in \mathcal{C}_2^o$ :
  - (a) If  $C = C_2((1, \dots, 1))$ , then either
    - $\mathcal{D}_C = \{0\}$  (\*)
    - or  $\mathcal{D}_C$  is any  $\mathcal{K}_C$ -vector space of dimension 1.
  - (b) In other case, either
    - i.  $\mathcal{D}_C = \{0\}$  and
      - $\mathcal{D}_{C'} = \mathcal{I}_{C'}$
      - or  $\mathcal{D}_{C'}$  is any other  $\mathcal{K}_{C'}$ -vector subspace of  $\mathcal{I}_{C'}$  (\*)
    - ii. or  $\mathcal{D}_C =_S (f + I)$  with  $f + I \neq I$ , and  $\mathcal{D}_{C'} =_S (\tilde{\tau}(g + I))$ , where  $g + I \in \mathcal{I}_C$  is the multiplicative inverse of  $f + I$  in the field  $\mathcal{I}_C$ .
2. If  $C = C_1 \cup C_2 \in \mathcal{C}_2^e$ :
  - (a) If  $C = C'$ , then either
    - i.  $\mathcal{D}_C = \{0\}$  (\*),
    - ii. or if  $\overline{\mathcal{I}_{C_i}} = \mathcal{I}_{C_i}$  ( $i = 1, 2$ ), then
      - $\mathcal{D}_C =_S (e_{C_i} + I)$  with  $i = 1, 2$
      - or  $\mathcal{D}_C =_S (f_1 + \tilde{\tau}(f_1)z + I)$  where  $z + I$  is a non-zero element of the subfield of  $\mathcal{I}_{C_2}$  isomorphic to  $\mathbb{F}_{2^{|C_1|}}$
    - iii. or if  $\overline{\mathcal{I}_{C_1}} = \mathcal{I}_{C_2}$ , then  $\mathcal{D}_C =_S (f_1 + \tilde{\tau}(f_1)z + I)$  where  $z + I$  is a non-zero element of  $\mathcal{I}_{C_2}$  of order  $2^{|C_1|} + 1$ .
  - (b) If  $C \neq C'$ , then either
    - i.  $\mathcal{D}_C = \{0\}$  and
      - $\mathcal{D}_{C'} = \mathcal{I}_{C'}$
      - or  $\mathcal{D}_{C'}$  is any  $\mathcal{K}_{C'}$ -vector subspace of  $\mathcal{I}_{C'}$  (\*),
    - ii. or  $\mathcal{D}_C =_S (e_{C_i} + I)$  ( $i = 1, 2$ ) and  $\mathcal{D}_{C'} =_S (e_{C'_i} + I)$ ,
    - iii. or  $\mathcal{D}_C =_S (f_1 + f_2 + I)$  with  $f_i + I \neq I$  for  $i = 1, 2$ , and  $\mathcal{D}_{C'} =_S (\tilde{\tau}(g_1 + g_2 + I))$ , where  $g_i + I \in \mathcal{I}_{C_i}$  is the multiplicative inverse of  $f_i + I$  in the field  $\mathcal{I}_{C_i}$  ( $i = 1, 2$ ).

These possibilities for self-orthogonal (alt. self-dual) additive abelian codes are summarized in Table 2.

*Proof* 1. (a) If  $C = C_2((1, \dots, 1))$ , then  $C = C'$  and so, for the code to be self-orthogonal  $\mathcal{D}_C = \mathcal{D}_{C'}$  must be a proper  $\mathcal{K}_C$ -vector subspace of  $\mathcal{I}_C$  (according

		$\mathcal{D}_C$	$\mathcal{D}_{C'}$		
$C \in \mathcal{C}_2^o$	$C_{(1,\dots,1)}$	$\{0\}$	$\{0\}$	*	
		$s(f+I)$	$s(f+I)$	*	
	$C \neq C'$	$\{0\}$	$\{0\}$	*	
		$s(f+I)$	$s(f+I)$	*	
		$\mathcal{I}_C$	$\mathcal{I}_{C'}$	*	
$C \in \mathcal{C}_2^e$	$C = C'$	$\overline{\mathcal{I}_{C_1}} = \mathcal{I}_{C_1}$	$\{0\}$	*	
		$\overline{\mathcal{I}_{C_1}} = \mathcal{I}_{C_1}$	$s(e_{C_i} + I)$	*	
	$C = C'$	$\overline{\mathcal{I}_{C_1}} = \mathcal{I}_{C_2}$	$\{0\}$	*	
		$\overline{\mathcal{I}_{C_1}} = \mathcal{I}_{C_2}$	$s(f_1 + \tilde{\tau}(f_1)z + I)$	*	
	$C \neq C'$	$\{0\}$	$\{0\}$	$\{0\}$	*
			$s(f+I)$	$s(f+I)$	*
		$s(e_{C_i} + I)$	$\mathcal{I}_{C_1} \oplus \mathcal{I}_{C_2}$	$\{0\}$	*
			$s(e_{C_{3-i}} + I)$	$s(e_{C_{3-i}} + I)$	*
		$s(f_1 + f_2 + I)$	$\{0\}$	$\{0\}$	*
			$s(\tilde{\tau}(g_1 + g_2 + I))$	$s(\tilde{\tau}(g_1 + g_2 + I))$	*
$\mathcal{I}_{C_1} \oplus \mathcal{I}_{C_2}$	$\{0\}$	$\{0\}$	*		

**Table 2** Different possibilities on the summands for a code to be self-orthogonal or self-dual

to Lemma 4.1). The case  $\mathcal{D}_C = \mathcal{D}_{C'} = \{0\}$  is allowed for self-orthogonality, but it is not acceptable for self-duality (according to Lemma 4.2). Finally, if  $\mathcal{D}_C =_S (f+I)$ , from Theorem 3 we know that  $\mathcal{D}_{C'} = \mathcal{O}(f+I) =_S (\tilde{\tau}(g+I))$ , where  $g+I$  is the multiplicative inverse of  $f+I$  in the field  $\mathcal{I}_C$ . Thus,  $s(f+I) =_S (\tilde{\tau}(g+I))$  if and only if there exists  $c+I \in S$  such that  $(c+I)(f+I) = \tilde{\tau}(g+I)$ , if and only if  $c+I = \tilde{\tau}(g+I)(g+I) \in S$ . The restriction of the ring automorphism  $\tilde{\tau}$  to the ideal  $\mathcal{I}_C$  is the identity, and so  $c+I = \tilde{\tau}(g+I)(g+I) = \tilde{\tau}(c+I)$ , i.e.,  $c+I \in S$  always.

- (b) In this case  $C \neq C'$ , and so self-orthogonality in the subcase i. (i.e.,  $\mathcal{D}_C = \{0\}$ ) is obvious (but self-duality is not possible unless  $\mathcal{D}_{C'} = \mathcal{I}_{C'}$ ), according to Lemma 3. In the subcase ii. ( $\mathcal{D}_C =_S (f+I)$ ) self-orthogonality is only true when  $\mathcal{D}_{C'} =_S (\tilde{\tau}(g+I))$ , because of Theorem 3. Since  $\tilde{\tau}$  and  $\bar{\tau}$  are commuting ring automorphisms of order at most 2, it follows that  $\mathcal{D}_C =_S (f+I) =_S (\tilde{\tau}(\tilde{\tau}(f+I))) = \mathcal{O}(\tilde{\tau}(g+I))$  and thus the condition is also sufficient. Self-duality is always true in such a case.
2. (a) If  $C = C' = C_1 \cup C_2$ , the case  $\mathcal{D}_C = \{0\}$  is possible if  $\mathcal{D}$  is self-orthogonal, but not if it is self-dual (Lemma 4).

If  $C \in \mathcal{C}_2$ , and  $\overline{\mathcal{I}_C} = \mathcal{I}_C$ , then the restriction of  $\bar{\tau}$  to  $\mathcal{I}_C$  is the identity if and only if  $C = C_2((1, \dots, 1))$ . In fact, in these conditions, if  $f+I = \sum_{\alpha} f_{\alpha} X^{\alpha} + I \in \mathcal{I}_C$ , then  $X^{\beta}(f+I) = X^{\beta}(f+I)$  for any index  $\beta = (\beta_1, \dots, \beta_r)$ . So, this implies that  $f_{n-\alpha-\beta} = f_{\alpha-\beta}$  for all  $\alpha$  and  $\beta$ . Taking  $\alpha = \beta$  we have that  $f_{n-2\beta} = f_0$  for all  $\beta$ . Since  $n_i$  is odd for  $i = 1, \dots, r$ ,  $f+I = f_0(\sum_{\alpha} X^{\alpha} + I)$  which is an element of  $\mathcal{I}_C$  with  $C = C_2((1, \dots, 1))$ .

Let us suppose that  $\overline{\mathcal{I}_{C_i}} = \mathcal{I}_{C_i}$  for  $i = 1, 2$ . Hence,  $\overline{\mathcal{I}_C} = \mathcal{I}_C$  and the restriction  $\bar{\tau}|_{\mathcal{I}_{C_i}}$  is a non trivial field automorphism of order 2, i.e.,  $\overline{f_i + I} = f_i^{2^d} + I$ ,

where  $d = |C_i|$ , since  $\mathcal{I}_{C_i} \cong \mathbb{F}_{4^{|C_i|}}$ . If  $\mathcal{D}_C =_S (f_i + I)$  ( $i = 1$  or  $2$ ), then  $\mathcal{O}(f_i + I) =_S (e_{C_i} + I)$ , and so self-orthogonality implies  $_S(f_i + I) =_S (e_{C_i} + I)$ . In such a case  $\mathcal{D}_C = \mathcal{D}_{C'}$ , and the condition for self-duality is also satisfied. Otherwise,  $\mathcal{D}_C =_S (f_1 + f_2 + I)$  with  $f_i + I \neq I$  ( $i = 1, 2$ ), and  $\mathcal{O}(f_1 + f_2 + I) =_S (\overline{\tilde{\tau}(g_1 + g_2 + I)})$ , where  $g_i + I$  is the multiplicative inverse of  $f_i + I$  in the field  $\mathcal{I}_{C_i}$ . Therefore, the condition for self-orthogonality (and self-duality) holds if and only if there exists an element  $c + I \in S$  such that

$$f_1 + f_2 + I = (c + I)(\overline{\tilde{\tau}(g_1)} + \overline{\tilde{\tau}(g_2)} + I) = (c + I)(\tilde{\tau}(g_1)^{2^d} + \tilde{\tau}(g_2)^{2^d} + I)$$

Then, the element  $c + I \in S$  must verify the following condition

$$c + I = (f_1 + f_2 + I)(\tilde{\tau}(f_1)^{2^d} + \tilde{\tau}(f_2)^{2^d} + I) = f_1 \tilde{\tau}(f_2)^{2^d} + f_2 \tilde{\tau}(f_1)^{2^d} + I$$

Now, since  $\tilde{\tau}(c + I) = c + I$ , we arrive to these equations

$$\begin{cases} f_1 \tilde{\tau}(f_2)^{2^d} + \tilde{\tau}(f_2) f_1^{2^d} + I = I \\ f_2 \tilde{\tau}(f_1)^{2^d} + \tilde{\tau}(f_1) f_2^{2^d} + I = I \end{cases}$$

From the second equation, we obtain that  $(\tilde{\tau}(f_1) g_2)^{2^d - 1} + I = e_{C_2} + I$ , that is,  $\tilde{\tau}(f_1) g_2 + I$  is a non-zero element of the subfield of  $\mathcal{I}_{C_2}$  isomorphic to  $\mathbb{F}_{2^d}$ . So, we obtain  $f_2 + I = \tilde{\tau}(f_1) z + I$ . This solution also verifies the first equation, so the result follows.

Let us suppose that  $\overline{\mathcal{I}_{C_1}} = \mathcal{I}_{C_2}$ . If  $\mathcal{D}_C =_S (f_i + I)$  with  $i = 1, 2$ ,  $\mathcal{O}(f_i + I) =_S (e_{C_{3-i}} + I) \neq \mathcal{D}_C$ , and so the code can not be self-orthogonal. Finally, we will consider  $\mathcal{D}_C =_S (f_1 + f_2 + I)$ . Since the restriction  $\tilde{\tau}|_{\mathcal{I}_{C_1}}$  (alt.  $\tilde{\tau}|_{\mathcal{I}_{C_2}}$ ) is a field automorphism of order 2, i.e.,  $\overline{\tilde{\tau}(f_i + I)} = f_i^{2^d} + I$ , using the same argument of the case 2(a)ii, we arrive to the equations

$$\begin{cases} f_1^{2^d+1} + \tilde{\tau}(f_2)^{2^d+1} + I = I, \\ f_2^{2^d+1} + \tilde{\tau}(f_1)^{2^d+1} + I = I. \end{cases}$$

Solving the second equation we obtain  $f_2 + I = \tilde{\tau}(f_1) z + I$ , where  $z + I$  is a non-zero element of  $\mathcal{I}_{C_2}$  of order  $2^d + 1$ . This solution also satisfies the first equation, and the result follows.

- (b) Let us now suppose that  $C \neq C'$ . The first case is similar to 1(b)i, where as the second one is similar to the first subcase of 2(a)ii. Finally, if  $\mathcal{D}_C =_S (f_1 + f_2 + I)$  with  $f_i + I \neq I$  for  $i = 1, 2$ , then  $\mathcal{O}(f_1 + f_2 + I) =_S (\overline{\tilde{\tau}(g_1 + g_2 + I)})$ , where  $g_i + I$  is the multiplicative inverse of  $f_i + I$  ( $i = 1, 2$ ). Hence,  $\mathcal{D}_{C'} =_S (\overline{\tilde{\tau}(g_1 + g_2 + I)})$  for the code to be self-orthogonal and self-dual.

*Example 5 (Example 1 cont'd)* The components of the self-orthogonal code  $\mathcal{D}$  presented in the examples above fall in the following cases of Theorem 4:

- $\mathcal{D}_{\{(1,1)\}}$  is case 1(a),
- $\mathcal{D}_{C_2((\mu,1))}$  and  $\mathcal{D}_{C_2((\mu^6,1))}$  are case 1(b)ii,
- $\mathcal{D}_{C_2((1,\omega))}$  is case 2(a)i,
- and  $\mathcal{D}_{C_2((\mu,\omega^2))}$  and  $\mathcal{D}_{C_2((\mu^6,\omega))}$  are case 2(b)iii.

Let us observe that this self-orthogonal code  $\mathcal{D}$  allow us to construct, via [2][Theorem 2], a quantum-error-correcting code with parameters  $[[21, 2, d]]$ , where  $d$  is the smallest weight of codewords in  $\mathcal{D}^\perp \setminus \mathcal{D}$ . Sage computations [16] show that the actual distance of the quantum-error-correcting code is  $d = 6$ , i.e., it has the same distance as the best known code with the same parameters listed in [6].

The ring automorphism  $\bar{\tau}$  defines an equivalence relation over the set of 2-classes  $\mathcal{C}_2$ . Let us denote  $\mathcal{B}$  the quotient set of  $\mathcal{C}_2$  by this relation. Using this notation, the number of self-orthogonal and self-dual codes are given by the following result.

**Corollary 2** *The number of additive abelian self-orthogonal (alt. self-dual) codes is given by Table 3.*

	Any	Generated by a single word
Self-orthogonal	$4 \prod_{\substack{C \in \mathcal{B} \\ C \neq C'}} (3 \cdot 2^{ C } + 6) \prod_{\substack{C \in \mathcal{B} \\ C = C'}} (2^{\frac{ C }{2}} + 2)$	$4 \prod_{\substack{C \in \mathcal{B} \\ C \neq C'}} (3 \cdot 2^{ C } + 4) \prod_{\substack{C \in \mathcal{B} \\ C = C'}} (2^{\frac{ C }{2}} + 2)$
Self-dual	$3 \prod_{\substack{C \in \mathcal{B} \\ C \neq C'}} (2^{ C } + 3) \prod_{\substack{C \in \mathcal{B} \\ C = C'}} (2^{\frac{ C }{2}} + 1)$	$3 \prod_{\substack{C \in \mathcal{B} \\ C \neq C'}} (2^{ C } + 1) \prod_{\substack{C \in \mathcal{B} \\ C = C'}} (2^{\frac{ C }{2}} + 1)$

**Table 3** Number of self-orthogonal and self-dual codes

*Proof* In Table 4 we count the number of codes from the possible choices in the entries of the table of Theorem 4 (see also Remark 7).

In order to know the number of self-dual codes, we do not count rows marked with an asterisk. Finally, the code  $\mathcal{D}$  is generated by a single word if and only if  $\mathcal{D}_C$  is a  $\mathcal{K}_C$ -vector space of dimension 0 or 1 for all  $C \in \mathcal{C}_2$ , i.e., we do not count any row containing  $\mathcal{I}_C$  or  $\mathcal{I}_{C_1} \oplus \mathcal{I}_{C_2}$ .

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		$\mathcal{D}_C$	$\mathcal{D}_{C'}$	Total number			
$C \in \mathcal{C}_2^o$	$C_{(1,\dots,1)}$	1		4	}		
		$\frac{2^2-1}{2-1}$					
	$C \neq C'$	1	1	$2^{ C } + 3$		}	
			$\frac{2^{ C -1}}{2-1}$				1
		$\frac{2^{ C -1}}{2-1}$	1	$(2^{ C } + 1) \cdot 2$			
	1	1	1				
$C \in \mathcal{C}_2^e$	$C = C'$	$\overline{\mathcal{I}}_{C_1} = \mathcal{I}_{C_1}$	1		$2^{ C /2} + 2$		}
			2	1			
		$2^{ C /2} - 1$					
	$C \neq C'$	$\overline{\mathcal{I}}_{C_1} = \mathcal{I}_{C_2}$	1		$2^{ C /2} + 2$	}	
			$2^{ C /2} + 1$				
			1	1	$2^{ C } + 3$		}
				$\frac{2^{ C -1}}{2-1}$			
	1	1	1				
	2	1	4				
	$2^{ C } - 1$	1	$(2^{ C } - 1) \cdot 2$				
	1	1	1				

**Table 4** Total number of self-orthogonal and self-dual codes

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