THE DISCRETE FOURIER TRANSFORM:
A CANONICAL BASIS OF EIGENFUNCTIONS

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ABSTRACT
We exhibit a canonical basis \( \Phi \) of eigenvectors for the discrete Fourier transform (DFT). The transition matrix \( \Theta \) from the standard basis to \( \Phi \) defines a novel transform which we call the discrete oscillator transform (DOT for short). Finally, we describe a fast algorithm for computing \( \Theta \) in certain cases.

1. INTRODUCTION
The discrete Fourier transform (DFT) is probably one of the most important operators in modern science. It is omnipresent in various fields of discrete mathematics and engineering, including combinatorics, number theory, computer science and, last but probably not least, digital signal processing. Formally, the DFT is a family \( \{F_N\} \) of unitary operators, where each \( F_N \) acts on the Hilbert space \( \mathcal{H}_N = \mathbb{C}(\mathbb{Z}/N\mathbb{Z}) \) by the formula

\[
F_N[f](w) = \frac{1}{\sqrt{N}} \sum_{t \in \mathbb{Z}/N\mathbb{Z}} e^{\frac{2\pi i w t}{N}} f(t).
\]

Although, so widely used, the spectral properties of the DFT remains to some extent still mysterious. For example, the calculation of the multiplicities of its eigenvalues, which was first carried out by Gauss, is quite involved and requires a multiple of number theoretic manipulations [AT].

A primary motivation for studying the eigenvectors of the DFT comes from digital signal processing. Here, a function is considered in two basic realizations: The time realization and the frequency realization. Each realization, yields information on different attributes of the function. The DFT operator acts as a dictionary between these two realizations

\[
\begin{align*}
F_N & : \text{Time} \\
\Theta & : \text{Frequency}.
\end{align*}
\]

From this point of view, it is natural to look for a diagonalization basis, namely, a basis of eigenvectors (eigen modes) for \( F_N \). In this regard, the main conceptual difficulty comes from the fact that the diagonalization problem is ill-defined, since, \( F_N \) is an operator of order 4, i.e., \( F_N^4 = I_d \), which means that it has at most four eigenvalues \( \pm 1, \pm i \), therefore each appears with large multiplicity (We assume \( N \gg 4 \)).

An interesting approach to the resolution of this difficulty, motivated from results in continuous Fourier analysis, was developed by Grunbaum in [G]. In that approach, a tridiagonal operator \( S_N \) which commutes with \( F_N \) and admits a simple spectrum is introduced. This enable him to give a basis of eigenfunctions for the DFT. Specifically, \( S_N \) appears as a certain discrete analogue of the differential operator \( D = \partial^2_t - t^2 \) which commutes with the continuous Fourier transform.

1.1 Main results of this paper
In this paper we describe a representation theoretic approach to the diagonalization problem of the DFT in the case when \( N = p \) is an odd prime number. Our approach, puts to the forefront the Weil representation [W] of the finite symplectic group \( S_p = SL_2(\mathbb{F}_p) \) as the fundamental object underlying harmonic analysis in the finite setting. Specifically, we exhibit a canonical basis \( \Phi_p \) of eigenvectors for the DFT. We also describe the transition matrix \( \Theta_p \) from the standard basis to \( \Phi_p \), which we call the discrete oscillator transform (DOT for short). In addition, in the case \( p \equiv 1 \pmod{4} \), we describe a fast algorithm for computing \( \Theta_p \) (FOT for short).

It is our general feeling that the Weil representation yields a transparent explanation to many classical results in finite harmonic analysis. To justify this claim, we describe an alternative method for calculating the multiplicities of the eigenvalues for the DFT, a method we believe is more suggestive than the classical calculations.

The rest of the introduction is devoted to a more detailed account of the main ideas and results of this paper.

1.2 Symmetries of the DFT
Let us fix an odd prime number \( p \) and for the rest of the introduction suppress the subscript \( p \) from all notations. Generally, when a (diagonalizable) linear operator \( A \) has eigenvalues admitting large multiplicities, it suggest that there exists a group \( G = G_N \subset GL(\mathcal{H}) \) of ”hidden” symmetries consisting of operators which commute with \( A \). Alas, usually the problem of computing the group \( G \) is formidable and, in fact, equivalent to the problem of diagonalizing \( A \). If the operator
A arise "naturally", there is a chance that the group G can be effectively described. In preferred situations, G is commutative and large enough so that all degeneracies are resolved and the spaces of common eigenvectors with respect to G are one-dimensional. The basis of common eigenvectors with respect to G establishes a distinguish choice of eigenvectors for A. Philosophically, we can say that it is more correct to consider from start the group G instead of the single operator A.

Interestingly, the DFT operator $F = F_p$ admits a natural group of symmetries $G_F$, which, in addition, can be effectively described using the Weil representation. For the sake of the introduction, it is enough to know that the Weil representation, it is maximal commutative subgroup in $Sp_{2n}$, a transform $\Theta_F$ called the oscillator transform. We describe a first algorithm for computing $\Theta_F$ in the case $F$ is a split torus. The theory is then applied to the specific torus associated with the DFT operator. We finish with a treatment of the multiplicity problem for the DFT, from the representation theoretic perspective.

### 1.6 Structure of the paper

We begin by discussing the finite Heisenberg group and the Heisenberg representation. Next we introduce the Weil representation of the finite symplectic group, first it is described in abstract terms and then more explicitly invoking the idea of invariant presentation of an operator. We proceed to discuss the theory of tori in the one-dimensional Weil representation, we explain how to associate to a maximal torus $T \subset SL_2$, a transform $\Theta_T$ called the oscillator transform. We describe a first algorithm for computing $\Theta_T$ in the case $T$ is a split torus. The theory is then applied to the specific torus associated with the DFT operator. We finish with a treatment of the multiplicity problem for the DFT, from the representation theoretic perspective.

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### 2. THE OSCILLATOR TRANSFORM

#### 2.1 The Heisenberg group

Let $(V, \omega)$ be a two-dimensional symplectic vector space over the finite field $\mathbb{F}_p$. The reader should think of $V$ as $\mathbb{F}_p^2$ equipped with the standard form $\omega((\tau, w), (\tau', w')) = \tau w' - w \tau'$. Considering $V$ as an abelian group, it admits a non-trivial central extension called the Heisenberg group. Concretely, the group $H$ can be presented as the set $H = V \times \mathbb{F}_p^*$ with the multiplication given by

$$((v, z)) \cdot ((v', z')) = (v + v', z + z' + \frac{1}{2} \omega(v, v')).$$

The center of $H$ is $Z = Z(H) = \{ (0, z) : z \in \mathbb{F}_p^* \}$. The symplectic group $Sp = Sp(V, \omega)$, which in this case is isomorphic to $SL_2(\mathbb{F}_p)$, acts by automorphism of $H$ through its action on the $V$-coordinate.

#### 2.2 The Heisenberg representation

One of the most important attributes of the group $H$ is that it admits, principally, a unique irreducible representation. The precise statement goes as follows. Let $\psi : Z \to \mathbb{C}^*$ be a character of the center. For example we can take $\psi(z) = e^{2\pi i z}$. Theorem 1.(Stone-von Neumann)

There exists a unique (up to isomorphism) irreducible unitary representation $(\pi, H, \mathcal{H})$ with the center acting by $\psi$, i.e., $\pi_z = \psi \cdot \text{Id}_{\mathcal{H}}$.

The representation $\pi$ which appears in the above theorem will be called the Heisenberg representation.

#### 2.2.1 Standard realization of the Heisenberg representation

The Heisenberg representation $(\pi, H, \mathcal{H})$ can be realized as follows: $\mathcal{H}$ is the Hilbert space $\mathbb{C}(\mathbb{F}_p)$ of complex valued functions $\psi$ on $\mathbb{F}_p$ with $\psi(0) = 1$. The group $H$ acts on $\mathcal{H}$ via $\pi_z$ where $\psi(z)$ is the character of $Z$. This is indeed an irreducible representation, as the center acts non-trivially on $\mathcal{H}$. The Heisenberg representation is the building block for the representation of the symplectic group $Sp = Sp(V, \omega)$, which acts on $\mathcal{H}$ by automorphism.

### 1.3 The algebraic torus associated to the DFT

The subgroup $T_n$ can be computed explicitly and is of a very "nice" type, it consists of rational points of a maximal algebraic torus in $Sp$ which in plain language means that it is maximal commutative subgroup in $Sp$, consisting of elements which are diagonalizable over some field extension. Restricting the Weil representation to the subgroup $T_n$ yields a collection $G_F = \{ \rho(g) : g \in T_n \}$ of commuting operators, each acts unitarily on the Hilbert space $\mathcal{H}$ and commutes with $F$. This, in turn, yields a decomposition, stable under Fourier transform, into character spaces

$$\mathcal{H} = \bigoplus \mathcal{H}_\chi,$$

where $\chi$ runs in the set of (complex valued) characters of $T_n$, namely, if $\chi \in \mathcal{H}_\chi$ then $\rho(g)\chi = \chi(g)\chi$. The main technical statement of this paper, Theorem 3, roughly says that $\dim \mathcal{H}_\chi = 1$ for every $\chi$ which appears in (1). Choosing a unit representative $\phi_\chi \in \mathcal{H}_\chi$ for every $\chi$, gives the canonical basis $\Phi = \{ \phi_\chi \}$ of eigenvectors for $F$. The oscillator transform $\Theta$ sends a function $f \in \mathcal{H}$ to the coefficients in the unique expansion

$$f = \sum a_\chi \phi_\chi.$$

The fine behavior of $F$ and $\Theta$ is governed by the (split type) structure of $T_n$, which changes depending on the value of the prime $p$ modulo 4. This phenomena has several consequences. In particular, it gives a transparent explanation to the precise way the multiplicities of the eigenvalues of $F$ depend on the prime $p$. Another, algorithmic, consequence is related to the existence of a fast algorithm for computing $\Theta$.

### 1.4 Properties of eigenvectors

The character vectors $\phi_\chi$ satisfy many interesting properties and are objects of study in their own right. A comprehensive treatment of this aspect of the theory appears in [GHS].
functions on the finite line, with the standard Hermitian product. The action \( \pi \) is given by \( \pi(\tau, 0) \triangleright f(t) = f(t + \tau) \), \( \pi(0, w) \triangleright f(t) = \psi(w)f(t) \) and \( \pi(z) \triangleright f(t) = \psi(z)f(t) \). We call this explicit realization the standard realization.

2.3 The Weil representation

A direct consequence of Theorem 1 is the existence of a projective representation \( \rho : \mathcal{H} \rightarrow PU(\mathcal{H}) \). The construction of \( \rho \) out of the Heisenberg representation \( \pi \) is due to Weil [W] and it goes as follows. Considering the Heisenberg representation \( \pi \) and an element \( g \in SP \), one can define a new representation \( \pi^g \) acting on the same Hilbert space via \( \pi^g(h) = \pi \circ g(h) \). Clearly both \( \pi \) and \( \pi^g \) have the same central character \( \psi \) hence by Theorem 1 they are isomorphic. Since the space \( \text{Hom}_H(\pi, \pi^g) \) is one-dimensional, choosing for every \( g \in SP \) a non-zero representative \( \rho(g) \in \text{Hom}_H(\pi, \pi^g) \) gives the required projective representation. In more concrete terms, the projective representation \( \rho \) is characterized by the formula

\[
\rho(g) \pi(h) \rho(g^{-1}) = \pi(g(h)),
\]

for every \( g \in SP \) and \( h \in H \). It is a peculiar phenomenon of the finite field setting that the projective representation \( \rho \) can be linearized into an honest representation.

**Theorem 2** There exists a unique\(^1\) linear representation

\[
\rho : \mathcal{H} \rightarrow GL(\mathcal{H}),
\]

which satisfies equation (2).

2.3.1 Invariant presentation of the Weil representation

Let us denote by \( C(H, \psi) \) the space of (complex valued) functions on \( H \) which are \( \psi \)-equivariant with respect to the action of the center, namely, a function \( f \in C(H, \psi) \) satisfies \( f(gh) = \psi(h)f(g) \) for every \( z \in Z, h \in H \). Given an operator \( A \in \text{End}(\mathcal{H}) \), it can be written in a unique way as \( A = \pi(K_A) \), where \( K_A \in C(H, \psi^{-1}) \) and \( \pi \) denotes the extended action \( \pi(K_A) = \sum_{h \in H} K_A(h) \pi(h) \). The function \( K_A \) is called the kernel of \( A \) and it is given by the matrix coefficient

\[
K_A(h) = \frac{1}{\dim \mathcal{H}} Tr(\pi(A(h^{-1}))).
\]

In the context of the Heisenberg representation, formula (3) is usually referred to as the Weyl transform. Using the Weyl transform one is able to give an explicit description of the Weil representation. The idea [GH1] is to write each operator \( \rho(g) \), \( g \in SP \) in terms of its kernel function \( K_g = K_{\rho(g)} \in C(H, \psi^{-1}) \). The following formula is taken from [GH1]

\[
K_g(v, z) = \sigma(-\frac{1}{\dim \mathcal{H}}) \sigma(\text{det}(K_g + I)) \psi\left(\frac{1}{2} \omega(K_g, v, v) + z\right)
\]

for every \( g \in SP \) such that \( g - I \) is invertible, where \( \sigma \) denotes the unique quadratic character (Legendre character) of the multiplicative group \( \mathbb{F}_p^\times \) and \( \kappa \) is the Cayley transform \( \kappa(g) = \frac{e^{2\pi i c}}{c} \), \( g \in \mathbb{F}_p^\times \).

2.4 The theory of tori

A maximal (algebraic) torus in \( SP \) is a maximal commutative subgroup which becomes diagonalizable over some field extension. There exists two conjugacy classes of maximal (algebraic) tori in \( SP \). The first class consists of those tori which are diagonalizable already over \( \mathbb{F}_p \) or equivalently those are the tori that are conjugated to the standard diagonal torus

\[
A = \left\{ \begin{pmatrix} a & 0 \\ 0 & a^{-1} \end{pmatrix} : a \in \mathbb{F}_p \right\}.
\]

A torus in this class is called a split torus. The second class consists of those tori which become diagonalizable over a quadratic extension \( \mathbb{F}_{p^2} \) or equivalently those are tori which are not conjugated to \( A \). A torus in this class is called a non-split torus (sometimes it is called inert torus).

**Example 1** (Example of a non-split torus)

"It might be suggestive to explain further the notion of non-split torus by exploring, first, the analogue notion in the more familiar setting of the field \( \mathbb{R} \). Here, the standard example of a maximal non-split torus is the circle group \( SO(2) \subset SL_2(\mathbb{R}) \). Indeed, it is a maximal commutative subgroup which becomes diagonalizable when considered over the extension field \( \mathbb{C} \) of complex numbers. The above analogy suggests a way to construct an example of a maximal non-split torus in the finite field setting as well.

Let us identify the symplectic plane \( V = \mathbb{F}_p \times \mathbb{F}_p \) with the quadratic extension \( \mathbb{F}_{p^2} \). Under this identification, \( \mathbb{F}_{p^2} \) acts on \( V \) and for every \( g \in \mathbb{F}_{p^2} \) we have \( \omega(gu, gv) = \det(g) \omega(u, v) \), which implies that the group

\[
T_{ns} = \left\{ g \in \mathbb{F}_{p^2}^\times : \det(g) = 1 \right\}
\]

naturally lies in \( SP \). The group \( T_{ns} \) is an example of a non-split torus which the reader might think of as the "finite circle".

2.4.1 Decompositions with respect to a maximal torus

Restricting the Weil representation to a maximal torus \( T \subset SP \) yields a decomposition

\[
\mathcal{H} = \bigoplus_{\chi} \mathcal{H}_\chi,
\]

where \( \chi \) runs in the set \( T^\vee \) of complex valued characters of the torus \( T \). More concretely, choosing a generator\(^2\) \( t \in T \), the decomposition (5) naturally corresponds to the eigenspaces of the linear operator \( \rho(t) \). The decomposition (5) depends on the split type of \( T \). Let \( \sigma_T \) denote the unique quadratic character of \( T \).

**Theorem 3** ([GH3]) If \( T \) is a split torus

\[
\dim \mathcal{H}_\chi = \left\{ \begin{array}{ll} 1 \quad & \chi \neq \sigma_T, \\
2 \\ 0 \quad & \chi = \sigma_T. \end{array} \right.
\]

If \( T \) is a non-split torus

\[
\dim \mathcal{H}_\chi = \left\{ \begin{array}{ll} 1 \\ 0 \quad & \chi \neq \sigma_T. \end{array} \right.
\]

\(^1\)Unique, except in the case the finite field is \( \mathbb{F}_p \). For the canonical choice in the latter case see [GH1].

\(^2\)A maximal torus \( T \) in \( SL_2(\mathbb{F}_p) \) is a cyclic group, thus there exists a generator.
2.5 The discrete oscillator transform associated to a maximal torus

Let us fix a maximal torus $T$. Every vector $v \in \mathcal{H}$ can be written uniquely as a direct sum $v = \sum v_\chi$ with $v_\chi \in \mathcal{H}_\chi$ and $\chi$ runs in $I = \text{Spec}_T(\mathcal{H})$ - the spectral support of $\mathcal{H}$ with respect to $T$ consisting of all characters $\chi \in T^\vee$ such that $\dim \mathcal{H}_\chi \neq 0$. Let us choose, in addition, a collection of unit vectors $\phi_\chi \in \mathcal{H}_\chi$, $\chi \in I$ and let $\phi = \sum \phi_\chi$. We define the transform $\Theta_T : \Theta_T : \mathcal{H} \rightarrow \mathbb{C}(I)$ by $\Theta_T[v](\chi) = \langle v, \phi_\chi \rangle$. We will call the transform $\Theta_T$ the discrete oscillator transform (DOT for short) with respect to the torus $T$ and the test vector $\phi$.

**Remark 1** We note that in the case $T$ is a non-split torus, $\Theta_T$ maps $\mathcal{H}$ isomorphically to $\mathbb{C}(I)$. In the case $T$ is a split torus, $\Theta_T$ has a kernel consisting of $v \in \mathcal{H}$ such that $\langle v, \phi_\alpha \rangle = 0$.

2.5.1 The oscillator transform (integral form)

Let $\mathcal{M}_T : \mathcal{C}(T) \rightarrow \mathcal{C}(T^\vee)$ denote the Mellin transform

$$\mathcal{M}_T[f](\chi) = \frac{1}{\#T} \sum_{g \in T} \mathcal{Z}(g) f(g),$$

for $f \in \mathcal{C}(T)$. Let us denote by $m_T : \mathcal{H} \rightarrow \mathcal{C}(T)$ the matrix coefficient $m_T[v](g) = \langle v, \rho (g^{-1}) \phi \rangle$ for $v \in \mathcal{H}$.

**Lemma 1** ([GH3]) We have

$$\Theta_T = \mathcal{M}_T \circ m_T.$$

2.5.2 Fast oscillator transforms

In practice, it is desirable to have a "fast" algorithm for computing the oscillator transform (FOT for short). We work in the following setting. The vector $v$ is considered in the standard realization $\mathcal{H} = \mathbb{C}(F_p)$ (see 2.2.1), in this context the oscillator transform can be interpreted as a homomorphism from the diagonal torus $\mathcal{H}$ to $\mathcal{C}(I)$ via the matrix coefficient $m_T[v](g) = \langle v, \rho (g^{-1}) \phi \rangle$ for $v \in \mathcal{H}$.

**Lemma 2** ([GH3]) We have

$$(Ad_\rho^{-1})^* \circ \Theta_T, \phi = \Theta_{A, \rho(s) \phi} \circ \rho (s). \quad \text{(6)}$$

**Remark 2** Roughly speaking, (6) means that (up to a "reparametrization" of $T^\vee$ by $A^\vee$ using $Ad_\rho^{-1}$) the oscillator transform of a vector $v \in \mathcal{H}$ with respect to the torus $T$ is the same as the oscillator transform of the vector $\rho (s) v$ with respect to the diagonal torus $A$.

In order to finish the construction we need to specify two basic facts about the Weil representation in the standard realization.

- The standard torus $A$ acts by (normalized) scalings, the precise formula of $\rho (g) f$ for $f = \begin{pmatrix} a & 0 \\ 0 & a^{-1} \end{pmatrix} \in A$ is

$$\rho (g) f (x) = \sigma (a) f (ax).$$

- Every operator $\rho (g), g \in Sp$, can be written in the form $\rho (g) = M_{s_1} \circ F \circ M_{s_2}$ where $M_{s_1}, M_{s_2}$ are the operators of multiplication by some functions $g_1, g_2 \in \mathbb{C}(F_p)$.

**Problem 1** Does there exists a fast algorithm for computing the oscillator transform associated to a non-split torus?

2.6 Diagonalization of the discrete Fourier transform

In this subsection we apply the previous development in order to exhibit a canonical basis of eigenvectors for the DFT. We will show that the DFT can be naturally identified (up to a normalization scalar) with an operator $\rho (w)$ in the Weil representation, where $w$ is an element in a maximal torus $T_w \subset Sp$. We take $w \in Sp = SL_2(\mathbb{F}_p)$ to be the Weyl element

$$w = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 1 \\ 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix} \quad \text{mod } 4.$$ 

**Lemma 3** ([H, GH3]) We have

$$F = C \cdot \rho (w),$$

where $C = i^{\frac{p-1}{2}}$.

**Proposition 1** ([GH3]) The group $T_w$ is a maximal torus. Moreover the split type of $T_w$ depends on the prime $p$ in the following way: $T_w$ is a split torus when $p \equiv 1 \text{ (mod 4)}$ and is a non-split torus when $p \equiv 3 \text{ (mod 4)}$.

**Proposition 1** has several consequences. First consequence is that choosing a unit character vector $\phi_\chi \in \mathcal{H}_\chi$ for
Second, more mysterious consequence is that although the character vector with respect to \( \rho \) further investigation which we will not discuss here. This is manifested in the structure of the group of symmetries: In the first case, the group of symmetries is a split torus consisting of \( p - 1 \) elements and in the second case it is a non-split torus consisting of \( p + 1 \) elements. It also seems that the structure of the symmetry group is important from the algorithmic perspective, in the case \( p \equiv 1 \pmod{4} \) we built a fast algorithm for computing \( \Theta \), while in the case \( p \equiv 3 \pmod{4} \) the existence of such an algorithm remains open (see Problem 1).

### 2.6.1 Multiplicities of eigenvalues of the DFT

Considering the group \( T_w \), we can give a transparent computation of the eigenvalues multiplicities for the operator \( \rho (w) \). First we note that, since \( w \) is an element of order \( 4 \), the eigenvalues of \( \rho (w) \) lies in the set \( \{ \pm 1, \pm i \} \). For \( \lambda \in \{ \pm 1, \pm i \} \), let \( m_\lambda \) denote the multiplicity of the eigenvalue \( \lambda \). We observe that

\[
m_\lambda = \bigoplus_{\chi \in \mathcal{X} \cap \mathcal{X}_d} \dim \mathcal{H}_\chi,
\]

where \( I_d \) consists of all characters \( \chi \in \text{Spec}_{T_w} (\mathcal{H}) \) such that \( \chi (w) = \lambda \). The result now follows easily from Theorem 3, applied to the torus \( T_w \). We treat separately the split and non-split cases.

- **Assume** \( T_w \) is a split torus, which happens when \( p \equiv 1 \pmod{4} \), namely, \( p = 4l + 1, l \in \mathbb{N} \). Since \( \dim \mathcal{H}_\chi = 1 \) for \( \chi \neq \sigma_{T_w} \), it follows that \( m_{\pm 1} = \frac{p - 1}{4} = l \). We are left to determine the values of \( m_{\pm 1} \), which depend on whether \( \sigma_{T_w} (w) = w^\frac{p - 1}{4} \) is 1 or \(-1\).

Since \( w \) is an element of order 4 in \( T_w \) we get that

\[
\sigma_{T_w} (w) = \begin{cases} 
1, & p \equiv 1 \pmod{8} \text{,} \\
-1, & p \equiv 5 \pmod{8} 
\end{cases}
\]

which implies that when \( p \equiv 1 \pmod{8} \) then \( m_1 = l + 1 \) and \( m_{-1} = l - 1 \) and when \( p \equiv 5 \pmod{8} \) then \( m_1 = l \) and \( m_{-1} = l + 1 \).

- **Assume** \( T_w \) is a non-split torus, which happens when \( p \equiv 3 \pmod{4} \), namely, \( p = 4l + 3, l \in \mathbb{N} \). Since \( \dim \mathcal{H}_\chi = 1 \) for \( \chi \neq \sigma_{T_w} \), it follows that \( m_{\pm 1} = \frac{p - 1}{4} = l + 1 \). The values of \( m_{\pm 1} \) depend on whether \( \sigma_{T_w} (w) = w^\frac{p - 1}{4} = 1 \) or \(-1\).

Since \( w \) is an element of order 4 in \( T_w \) we get that

\[
\sigma_{T_w} (w) = \begin{cases} 
1, & p \equiv 7 \pmod{8} \text{,} \\
-1, & p \equiv 3 \pmod{8} 
\end{cases}
\]

which implies that when \( p \equiv 7 \pmod{8} \) then \( m_1 = l \) and \( m_{-1} = l + 1 \) and when \( p \equiv 3 \pmod{8} \) then \( m_1 = l + 1 \) and \( m_{-1} = l \).

Summarizing, the multiplicities of the operator \( \rho (w) \) are

\[
\begin{array}{c|ccccc}
   & m_1 & m_{-1} & m_1 & m_{-1} \\
\hline
   p = 8k + 1 & 2k + 1 & 2k & 2k & 2k \\
p = 8k + 3 & 2k + 1 & 2k & 2k & 2k \\
p = 8k + 5 & 2k + 1 & 2k & 2k & 2k \\
p = 8k + 7 & 2k + 2 & 2k & 2k & 2k \\
\end{array}
\]

Considering now the DFT operator \( F \). If we denote by \( n_\mu, \mu \in \{ \pm 1, \pm i \} \) the multiplicity of the eigenvalue \( \mu \) of \( F \) then the values of \( n_\mu \) can be deduced from table 8 by invoking the relation \( n_\mu = m_\lambda \), where \( \lambda = i^{\frac{p - 1}{4}} \cdot \mu \) (see Lemma 3). Summarizing, the multiplicities of the DFT are

\[
\begin{array}{c|ccccc}
   & n_1 & n_{-1} & n_1 & n_{-1} \\
\hline
   p = 4l + 1 & l + 1 & l & l & l \\
p = 4l + 3 & l + 1 & l + 1 & l + 1 & l \\
\end{array}
\]

For a comprehensive treatment of the multiplicity problem from a more classical point of view see [AT]. Other applications of Lemma 3 appear in [GH2].

### REFERENCES


[H] Howe R., Private communication (Sep. 2006).