

## BACHELOR

### The multiplicative complexity of symmetric functions over a field with characteristic $p$

van Heesch, M.P.P.

*Award date:*  
2014

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# **The multiplicative complexity of symmetric functions over a field with characteristic $p$**

Maran van Heesch (0762684)

Supervisor;  
Dr.ir. L.A.M. (Berry) Schoenmakers

July 3, 2014

## **Abstract**

In this thesis we consider the boolean elementary symmetric functions over a field with characteristic  $p$ , with  $p$  an odd, large enough prime. We will determine the coefficients of the symmetric functions. Also we will prove that it is possible to determine the coefficients with a recurrence relation of which the order depends on the number of variables of the degree of the smallest monomial in the symmetric polynomial.

The multiplicative complexity of the symmetric polynomials is the number of multiplications needed to construct the polynomial. We will show the minimal number of multiplications needed for elementary symmetric functions with eight or less variables.

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# 1 Introduction

In [2], research to the elementary symmetric functions over a field  $\mathbb{F}_2$  has been done. In this thesis we will consider the elementary symmetric functions over a field  $\mathbb{F}_p$ , with  $p$  an odd, large enough prime. This means that we work  $\text{mod } p$  instead of  $\text{mod } 2$ . Since prime  $p$  is large enough, working with  $\text{mod } p$  is in this thesis equal to working over  $\mathbb{Z}$ .

A symmetric function is a function such that the value of the function is independent of the order of the input variables. For a symmetric function  $f$  in three variables we have  $f(x, y, z) = f(y, z, x) = f(z, x, y)$  for all  $x, y, z \in \mathbb{F}_p$ .

The elementary symmetric functions that we will consider are functions in  $n$  boolean variables. We will write these functions as sums of monomials. A monomial of length  $j$  is a product of  $j$  variables, say  $x_{i_1} \cdot x_{i_2} \cdot \dots \cdot x_{i_{j-1}} \cdot x_{i_j}$ . Thus,  $j \leq n$ .

The elementary symmetric function  $e_i^n$  is the sum over all the different monomials of degree  $i$  when there are  $n$  variables. So for  $1 \leq i \leq n$ ,

$$e_i^n(x_1, \dots, x_n) = \sum_{M \subseteq \{1, \dots, n\}, |M|=i} \prod_{j \in M} x_j$$

with  $e_i^n : \{0, 1\}^n \rightarrow \mathbb{Z}$ .

It is easy to see that the value of  $e_i^n$  is equal to  $\binom{j}{i}$  when  $j$  variables have value 1. The functions that we consider in this thesis are denoted as  $\sigma_i^n$  where  $\sigma_i^n = e_i^n \text{ mod } 2$ . We focus on the evaluation of the boolean function  $\sigma_i^n$ , with  $\sigma_i^n : \{0, 1\}^n \rightarrow \{0, 1\}^n \subseteq \mathbb{F}_p$ .

The main goal in this thesis is to minimize the number of multiplications needed to determine the value of  $\sigma_i^n$ . This because we assume that multiplications (also called AND-gates) cost time while additions, which include subtractions, are ‘free’. We assume that it is possible to reuse products. This means that if  $a \cdot b$  is determined, determining  $a \cdot b \cdot c$  only costs one additional multiplication. We also assume that multiplying a variable with a constant is ‘free’. Also  $a = a^2 = a^k, k > 0$  since  $a = 0$  or  $a = 1$ .

As an example we consider the function  $\sigma_2^3$ . We can write  $\sigma_2^3$  in the two following ways:  $\sigma_2^3 = a \cdot b + a \cdot c + b \cdot c - 2ab \cdot c = (a + b - 2a \cdot b) \cdot c + ab$ . Figure 1 clearly shows the number of multiplications in each of the two ways to write  $\sigma_2^3$ .

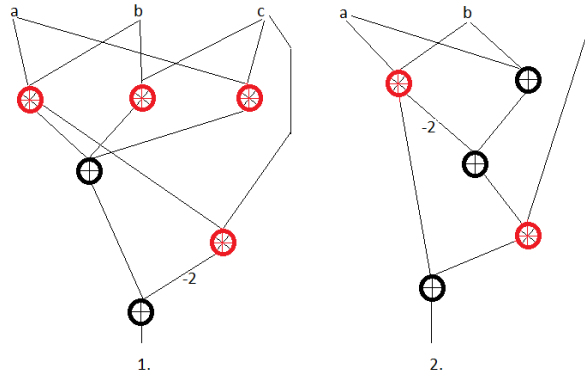


Figure 1: Illustration of  $\sigma_2^3$

In Figure 1 the additions are black and the AND-gates are red. It is easy to see that in the second way to write  $\sigma_2^3$  there are fewer AND-gates necessary than in the first way to write  $\sigma_2^3$ . Since the degree of  $\sigma_2^3$  is three, we say that  $\sigma_2^3$  can be written with a minimum of two multiplications.

We are mainly interested in the function  $\sigma_i^n$  for its use in secure multiparty computation, which is a way to compare secure data from various participants in such a way that the only information that could be leaked is the output value of the comparison.

## 2 The structure of $\sigma_i^n$

As stated in Section 1, we want to determine  $\sigma_i^n$  in such a way that  $\sigma_i^n = e_i^n \pmod{2}$  for all  $n, i$ .

First we will consider some examples of  $\sigma_i^n$  for small values of  $n$  and  $i$ .

If  $n = 2$  and  $i = 1$ , it is easy to see that  $\sigma_1^2 = x_1 + x_2 - 2x_1x_2$ . When only one variable is equal to one,  $e_1^2 \pmod{2} = 1$  and so is  $\sigma_1^2$ . When both variables are equal to one,  $e_1^2 \pmod{2} = 0$  and so is  $\sigma_1^2$ . This means that  $\sigma_1^2$  is a sum of  $e_1^2$  and  $e_2^2$ , namely  $\sigma_1^2 = e_1^2 - 2e_2^2$ .

In Section 1 we have shown that if  $n = 3$  and  $i = 2$  then  $\sigma_2^3 = a \cdot b + a \cdot c + b \cdot c - 2ab \cdot c$ . This shows that  $\sigma_2^3 = e_2^3 - 2e_3^3$ .

We believe that  $\sigma_i^n$  is of the form  $e_i^n + a_{i,i+1}^n e_{i+1}^n + \dots + a_{i,n}^n e_n^n$ . In order to find a closed expression for  $\sigma_i^n$  we only have to determine the values of the coefficients  $a_{i,m}^n$  with  $i < m \leq n$ .

**Remark 1.** *The coefficients  $a_{i,j}^n$  for  $j \neq i$  are even, and  $a_{i,i}^n$  is odd. Since  $\sigma_i^n \pmod{2} = e_i^n$ .*

The coefficients will be dependent of the Hammingweight of the variables, since the value of  $e_i^n \pmod{2}$  is only dependent on the number of variables equal to one.

### 2.1 The coefficients $a_{i,m}^n$ of $\sigma_i^n$

To determine the coefficients  $a_{i,m}^n$  we use the following theorem:

**Theorem 1.** *For  $1 \leq i \leq n$ , let  $\{a_{i,j}^n\}_{j=0}^n$  satisfy*

$$\forall_{w=0}^n \binom{w}{i} \pmod{2} = \sum_{j=0}^n a_{i,j}^n \binom{w}{j}.$$

Then

$$(i) \quad \sigma_i^n = \sum_{j=0}^n a_{i,j}^n e_j^n,$$

$$(ii) \quad a_{i,j}^n = \begin{cases} 0, & 0 \leq j < i, \\ 1, & j = i, \\ \binom{j}{i} \pmod{2} - \sum_{h=i}^{j-1} a_{i,h}^n \binom{j}{h}, & i < j \leq n. \end{cases}$$

*Proof.* This proof consists of two parts.

**Part i** Assume the input has Hammingweight  $w$ , for  $0 \leq w \leq n$ .

Then  $\sigma_i^n = e_i^n \bmod 2 = \binom{w}{i} \bmod 2 = \sum_{j=0}^n a_{i,j}^n \binom{w}{j} = \sum_{j=0}^n a_{i,j}^n e_j^n$

**Part ii** Assume the input has Hammingweight  $w$ , for  $0 \leq j \leq n$ .

If  $0 \leq w < i$  it holds that  $\sigma_i^n = \binom{w}{i} \bmod 2 = 0$ . Thus  $\sum_{j=0}^n a_{i,j}^n \binom{w}{j} = 0$ . Since  $\binom{w}{j} = 0$  for  $j > w$ , we have that  $\sum_{j=0}^w a_{i,j}^n \binom{w}{j} = 0$ . It follows that  $a_{i,j}^n = 0$  if  $j \leq w < i$ .

If  $w = i$  it holds that  $\sigma_i^n = \binom{w}{i} \bmod 2 = 1$ . Thus  $\sum_{j=i}^n a_{i,j}^n \binom{w}{j} = 1$ . Since  $\binom{w}{j} = 0$  if  $j > w$  it follows that  $a_{i,i}^n \binom{w}{i} = 1$ , thus  $a_{i,i}^n = 1$ .

If  $i < w \leq n$ . Say  $w = i + 1$ , it holds that  $\sigma_i^n = \binom{w}{i} \bmod 2 = \sum_{j=i}^n a_{i,j}^n \binom{w}{j} = \binom{w}{i} + a_{i,i+1}^n \binom{w}{i+1}$ . It follows that

$$a_{i,i+1}^n = \binom{i+1}{i} \bmod 2 - \binom{i+1}{i}$$

Assume that  $a_{i,j}^n = \binom{j}{i} \bmod 2 - \sum_{h=i}^{j-1} a_{i,h}^n \binom{j}{h}$  holds for  $i+1 < j < m < n$ . Now we assume that the input has Hammingweight  $w$  with  $w = m+1$ .  $\sigma_i^n = \binom{m+1}{i} \bmod 2 = \sum_{j=i}^n a_{i,j}^n \binom{m+1}{j}$ . Thus

$$a_{i,m+1}^n = \binom{m+1}{i} \bmod 2 - \sum_{j=i}^m a_{i,j}^n \binom{m+1}{h}$$

□

**Remark 2.** The coefficients  $a_{i,j}^n$  of  $\sigma_i^n$  with  $i < m \leq n$  are unique.

**Remark 3.** The values of  $a_{i,j}^n$  are independent of the value of  $n$ .

Now, we are able to construct  $\sigma_i^n$  for all  $n, i \in \mathbb{N}$ .

As an example we show the calculations for  $\sigma_2^5$ .  $\sigma_2^5$  is of the form  $a_{2,2}^5 e_2^5 + a_{2,3}^5 e_3^5 + a_{2,4}^5 e_4^5 + a_{2,5}^5 e_5^5$ . It is known that  $a_{2,2}^5 = 1$ .

First we determine  $a_{2,3}^5$ :

$$a_{2,3}^5 = \binom{3}{2} \bmod 2 - \binom{3}{2} = -2$$

Next we determine  $a_{2,4}^5$ :

$$a_{2,4}^5 = \binom{4}{2} \bmod 2 - \binom{4}{2} + 2 \binom{4}{3} = 2$$

Lastly we determine  $a_{2,5}^5$ :

$$a_{2,5}^5 = \binom{5}{2} \bmod 2 - \binom{5}{2} + 2 \binom{5}{3} - 2 \binom{5}{4} = 0$$

So we find that  $\sigma_2^5 = e_2^5 - 2e_3^5 + 2e_4^5$ . The exact functions  $\sigma_i^n$  for  $n$  from 1 to 8 can be found in Appendix A.

## 2.2 A closer look at the structure of $\sigma_i^n$ for fixed $i$

In Appendix A we can see that the row of coefficients  $a_{i,m}^n$  for a fixed  $i$ ,  $1 \leq m \leq n$  is a subset of the row of coefficients  $a_{i,m}^{n'}$  for the same  $i$ ,  $1 \leq m < n'$ , when  $n < n'$ . We see that if  $n$  increases, the length of the row becomes longer. For example we consider  $\sigma_4^n$ . The coefficient rows of  $\sigma_4^4$ ,  $\sigma_4^5$ ,  $\sigma_4^6$ ,  $\sigma_4^7$  and  $\sigma_4^8$  are prefixes  $\{1\}$ ,  $\{1, -4\}$ ,  $\{1, -4, 10\}$ ,  $\{1, -4, 10, -20\}$ ,  $\{1, -4, 10, -20, 34\}$ .

In this subsection we will look at the rows of coefficients for some of the values of  $i$ .

$\sigma_1^n$  The row of coefficients for  $\sigma_1^n$ , which can be found in Table 1, is a very well known row. It is possible to rewrite this row to  $\{(-2)^0, (-2)^1, (-2)^2, (-2)^3, (-2)^4, (-2)^5, (-2)^6, (-2)^7\}$ .

Keeping this row in mind, it is easy to determine the values of  $a_{1,9}^n$ ,  $n > 9$ , and  $a_{1,10}^n$ ,  $n > 10$ , namely  $(-2)^{(9-1)} = 256$  and  $(-2)^{(10-1)} = -512$ . A check with Theorem 1 confirms this. Now we have found an easy way to compute  $a_{1,n}^n$ ;  $a_{1,n}^n = (-2)^{(n-1)}$  for  $n \geq 1$ .

It is also possible to use the recurrence relation  $a_{1,n}^n = -2a_{1,n-1}^n$  for  $n > 1$  and  $a_{1,1}^n = 1$ .

$\sigma_2^n$  The row of coefficients of  $\sigma_2^n$ , which can be extended using theorem 1, can be found in Table 1. Using [5] we found that this row is the expansion of  $\frac{1}{1+2x+2x^2}$  and that the recurrence relations  $a_{2,n}^n = -2(a_{2,n-1}^n + a_{2,n-2}^n)$  for  $n > 2$  with  $a_{2,2}^n = 0$ ,  $a_{2,2}^n = 1$  and  $a_{2,n}^n = -4a_{2,n-4}^n$  for  $n > 4$  with  $a_{2,1}^n = a_{2,2}^n = a_{2,3}^n = 0$ ,  $a_{2,4}^n = 1$  hold. These recurrence relations give two quick ways to compute  $a_{2,n}^n$ .

$\sigma_3^n$  The coefficient list of  $\sigma_3^n$  can be found in Table 1. Using Mathematica's function *FindLinearRecurrence[]* we find that the recurrence relation that describes the coefficient list of  $\sigma_3^n$  is  $a_{3,n}^n = -4a_{3,n-1}^n - 6a_{3,n-2}^n - 4a_{3,n-3}^n$  for  $n > 3$  with  $a_{3,1}^n = a_{3,2}^n = 0$ ,  $a_{3,3}^n = 1$ . This recurrence gives an easy way to compute the coefficients  $a_{3,n}^n$ .

The coefficient list of  $\sigma_3^n$  can also be generated by the function  $a_{3,n}^n = (-1)^{n-1} \left( \frac{2^n}{4} - \frac{2^{\frac{n}{2}} \sin \pi \cdot \frac{n}{4}}{2} - \frac{0^n}{4} \right)$  [4]. This provides a way to determine the coefficient list of  $\sigma_3^n$  without the use of a recurrence relation.

$\sigma_4^n$  Now we consider the coefficient list of  $\sigma_4^n$ , which can be found in Table 1. Using Mathematica's function *FindLinearRecurrence[]* we find the following linear recurrence relation to determine  $a_{4,n}^n$ ;  $a_{4,n}^n = -4a_{4,n-1}^n - 6a_{4,n-2}^n - 4a_{4,n-3}^n - 2a_{4,n-4}^n$  for  $n > 4$  with  $a_{4,1}^n = a_{4,2}^n = a_{4,3}^n = 0$ ,  $a_{4,4}^n = 1$ . This gives an easy way to determine the coefficients of  $\sigma_4^n$ .

Table 1: Coefficient rows of  $\sigma_i^n$ ,  $1 \leq i \leq 4$

$i$	Coefficient rows $\sigma_n^i$											
1	1	-2	4	-8	16	-32	64	-128	256	-512	1024	2048
2	1	-2	2	0	-4	8	-8	0	16	-32	32	0
3	1	-4	10	-20	36	-64	120	-240	496	-1024	2080	-4160
4	1	-4	10	-20	34	-48	48	0	-164	560	-1352	2704

Using Mathematica we also found the following linear recurrence relations for the coefficient rows of  $\sigma_5^n$ ,  $\sigma_6^n$ ,  $\sigma_7^n$ ,  $\sigma_8^n$  and  $\sigma_9^n$ . In Table 2 the linear recurrence relations are described. I.e. the recurrence relation  $x_n = cx_{n-1} + bx_{n-2} + ax_{n-3}$ ,  $x_1 = x_2 = 0$  and  $x_3 = 1$  is described as  $\{a, b, c\}$ .

Table 2: The recurrence relation describing the coefficients of  $\sigma_i^n$

$i$	Coefficient rows $\sigma_i^n$
5	$\{-4, -10, -16, -14, -6\}$
6	$\{-4, -12, -22, -24, -16, -6\}$
7	$\{-8, -28, -56, -70, -56, -28, -8\}$
8	$\{-2, -8, -28, -56, -70, -56, -28, -8\}$
9	$\{-4, -18, -64, -140, -196, -182, -112, -44, -10\}$

We see that for the coefficient list of every  $\sigma_i^n$  an order  $i$  linear homogeneous recurrence relation with constant coefficients can be found. The following theorem follows.

**Theorem 2.** *The row of coefficients of  $\sigma_i^n$  can be described by an order  $i$  linear homogeneous recurrence relation with constant coefficients for  $n > i$  and  $a_{i,1}^n = \dots = a_{i,i-1}^n = 0$ ,  $a_{i,i}^n = 1$ .*

*Proof.* Say that  $a_{i,j}^{*n} = (-1)^j a_{i,j}^n$ . It follows from Theorem 1 that

$$\binom{w}{i} \bmod 2 = \sum_{j=0}^w (-1)^j a_{i,j}^{*w} \binom{w}{j}$$

We see that  $\sum_{j=0}^w (-1)^j a_{i,j}^{*w} \binom{w}{j}$  is the binomial transform of  $\binom{w}{i} \bmod 2$ .

Theorem 10 in [1] proves that if  $\binom{w}{i} \bmod 2$  has an order  $i$  recurrence relation for fixed  $w$  then  $(-1)^j a_{i,j}^{*w}$  also has an order  $i$  recurrence relation for fixed  $w$ .

$\binom{w}{i} \bmod 2$  has an order  $i$  recurrence relation for fixed  $w$  if and only if  $\binom{w}{i}$  has an order  $i$  recurrence relation for fixed  $w$ . It is clear to see that  $\binom{w}{i}$  has an order  $i$  recurrence relation since it  $\binom{w}{i}$  is a polynomial of degree  $i$ . One can assume that this is the characteristic polynomial of the recurrence relation. Thus it follows that  $(-1)^j a_{i,j}^{*w}$  has an order  $i$  recurrence relation.



Now it is easy to see that  $a_{i,j}^w$  has an order  $i$  recurrence relation, since it only differs from  $(-1)^j a_{i,j}^{*w}$  by the term  $(-1)^j$ . One can take the recurrence relation of  $a_{i,j}^{*w}$  and multiply this with  $(-1)^j$  to obtain the order  $i$  recurrence relation of  $a_{i,j}^w$ .  $\square$

### 2.3 A closer look at the coefficient row $a_{i,i+x}^n$ for fixed $x$

In the previous subsection, subsection 2.2, we looked at  $\sigma_i^n$  for fixed  $i$ . This means we considered the horizontal lines in the overview in Appendix A. Now, we want to take a look at the vertical lines in the overview in Appendix A. This means considering sequences  $a_{i,i+x}^n$ , the sequences for  $x$  between zero and three can be found in Table 3.

Table 3: Coefficient rows  $a_{i,i+x}^n$ ,  $1 \leq x \leq 3$

$x$	Coefficient rows $a_{i,i+x}^n$								
0	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
1	-2	-2	-4	-4	-6	-6	-8	-8	-10
2	4	2	10	10	22	20	36	36	56
3	-8	0	-20	-20	-64	-48	-120	-120	-232

We have done some research on the case  $x = 1$  and  $x = 2$ . We found the following functions to determine the coefficients of  $a_{i,i+1}^n$  and  $a_{i,i+2}^n$ :

$$a_{i,i+1}^n = i \bmod 2 - i$$

$$a_{i,i+2}^n = \frac{i(i-1)}{2} \bmod 2 + \frac{i(i-1)}{2} - i((i-1) \bmod 2)$$

We found these functions using Theorem 1. One can see that both  $a_{i,i+1}^n$  and  $a_{i,i+2}^n$  can be determined without the use of an recurrence relation.

It would be very interesting to examine the coefficient rows of  $a_{i,i+x}^n$  with  $x$  a constant and  $n > 3$ . Only this study is not the focus of this thesis. Therefore we did not do further research on this topic.

## 3 Simple cases of $\sigma_i^n$

In this section we will look at some simple cases of  $\sigma_i^n$ . We hope to find a relation between the number of variables and the minimum number of multiplications needed in each of the cases. In this section we will first consider  $\sigma_n^n$  and second  $\sigma_1^n$ .

### 3.1 Minimizing of the number of multiplications of $\sigma_n^n$

The simplest case if  $\sigma_i^n$  is the case where  $i = n$ ,  $n \geq 1$ . This because  $\sigma_n^n = x_1 \cdot x_2 \cdot \dots \cdot x_{n-1} \cdot x_n$ . It is not possible to rewrite this monomial in such a way that less multiplications then  $n - 1$  is used, since  $\sigma_n^n$  has degree  $n$ .

We conclude that the minimal number of multiplication needed to write  $\sigma_n^n$  is equal to  $n - 1$ .

### 3.2 Minimizing of the number of multiplications of $\sigma_1^n$

The degree of  $\sigma_1^n$  is equal to  $n$ , since the monomial  $x_1 \cdot x_2 \cdot \dots \cdot x_{n-1} \cdot x_n$  is included in  $\sigma_1^n$ . We note that it is possible to write  $\sigma_1^n$  in the following way:  $\sigma_1^n = x_1 \oplus x_2 \oplus \dots \oplus x_{n-1} \oplus x_n$ . Where  $\oplus$  stands for the XOR-gate. It holds that  $A \oplus B = A + B - 2AB$ . This shows that the use of an XOR-gate implies the use of one multiplication.

We will first consider small cases of  $n$  and then derive a general form for  $\sigma_1^n$ .

**Case  $n = 2$**   $\sigma_1^2 = x_1 + x_2 - 2x_1x_2$ . We see that  $x_1 \oplus x_2 = x_1 + x_2 - 2x_1x_2$ . Since the degree of  $\sigma_1^2$  is two, it is not possible to write  $\sigma_1^2$  without any multiplications. Thus, the minimal number of multiplications needed for  $\sigma_1^2$  is one.

**Case  $n = 3$**  It is possible to write  $\sigma_2^3$  using  $\sigma_1^2$  in the following way:  $\sigma_1^3 = \sigma_1^2 \oplus x_3$ . This because  $\sigma_1^2 = x_1 \oplus x_2$  and  $\sigma_1^3 = x_1 \oplus x_2 \oplus x_3$ . Thus we can write  $\sigma_1^3 = (x_1 + x_2 - 2x_1x_2) + x_3 - 2(x_1 + x_2 - 2x_1x_2) \cdot x_3$ . One can see that the minimal number of multiplications needed for  $\sigma_1^3$  is one more than the number of multiplications needed for  $\sigma_1^2$ . This means that  $\sigma_1^3$  can be written with two ( $=3-1$ ) multiplications.

It is not possible to write  $\sigma_2^3$  with less then two multiplications since the degree of  $\sigma_2^3$  is three.

**Case  $n = 4$**  We can write  $\sigma_1^4$  in the following way using only three multiplications:  $\sigma_1^4 = \sigma_1^3 + x_4 - 2\sigma_1^3x_4$ . This equals to the following structure:  $\sigma_1^4 = \sigma_1^3 \oplus x_4$ . It is clear to see that it is not possible to write  $\sigma_1^4$  with less than three multiplications, since the degree of  $\sigma_1^4$  is four.

If we look at a more general case, we can see that  $\sigma_1^n$  can be written as  $\sigma_1^{n-1} \oplus x_n = \sigma_1^{n-1} + x_n - 2\sigma_1^{n-1} \cdot x_n$ . Thus we conclude that it is possible to write  $\sigma_1^n$  with a minimum of  $n - 1$  multiplications for all  $n \geq 1$ . This because when we start with  $\sigma_1^2$ , which we can write with one ( $=2-1$ ) multiplication, we can compute  $\sigma_1^3$  with only one extra multiplication. If we repeat this step  $n - 2$  times, we see that it is possible to write  $\sigma_1^n$  with  $n - 1$  multiplications.

## 4 Minimizing of the number of multiplications of $\sigma_{n-1}^n$

In this section we will consider  $\sigma_{n-1}^n$ . We assume that it is possible to compute  $\sigma_{n-1}^n$  with  $n - 1$  multiplications. This because the largest monomial has degree  $n$ . First we will look at  $\sigma_{n-1}^n$  for  $n = 2, 3, 4$ .

**Equation for  $\sigma_1^2$**  It is easy to see that it is possible to compute  $\sigma_1^2$  with only one multiplication, since  $\sigma_1^2 = a + b - 2a \cdot b$ . It is not possible to write  $\sigma_1^2$  with less than one multiplication since the monomial  $ab$  has to be constructed.

**Equation for  $\sigma_2^3$**  We have already shown in the introduction that it is possible to write  $\sigma_2^3$  with only two multiplications. Namely;  $\sigma_2^3 = a \cdot b + a \cdot c + b \cdot c - 2ab \cdot c = (a + b - 2a \cdot b) \cdot c + ab$ . It is not possible to write  $\sigma_2^3$  with less multiplications, since the monomial with the highest degree of  $\sigma_2^3$  is equal to 3.

**Equation for  $\sigma_3^4$**  It was not easy to find a way to compute  $\sigma_3^4$  using only three multiplications. We have found a couple of ways to do so;

$$\begin{aligned}\sigma_3^4 &= (a \cdot b + (a + b - 4ab) \cdot c) \cdot (d + c - 1) + ab \\ \sigma_3^4 &= (a \cdot b + c \cdot d) \cdot (-4cd + a + b + c + d) - 2ab + 2cd \\ \sigma_3^4 &= (a \cdot b + c \cdot d) \cdot (-2ab - 2cd + a + b + c + d)\end{aligned}$$

We also tried to write  $\sigma_3^4$  in three multiplications with the term  $a \cdot b \cdot c$ . We came to the conclusion that this is not possible using Mathematica. The method used will be described in Subsection 4.1

It is not possible to write  $\sigma_3^4$  with less multiplications, since the monomial with the highest degree of  $\sigma_3^4$  is equal to 4.

When we look at the ways to write  $\sigma_{n-1}^n$  and the structure of  $\sigma_{n-1}^n$  we see that  $\sigma_{n-1}^n$  can be written using  $\sigma_{n-2}^{n-1}$ ;

$$\sigma_2^3 = \sigma_1^2 \cdot (c + b - 1) + a \tag{1}$$

$$\sigma_3^4 = \overline{\sigma_2^3} \cdot (d + c - 1) + a \cdot b \tag{2}$$

$$\sigma_4^5 = \sigma_3^4 \cdot (e + d - 1) + a \cdot b \cdot c \tag{3}$$

$$\sigma_5^6 = \overline{\sigma_4^5} \cdot (f + e - 1) + a \cdot b \cdot c \cdot d \tag{4}$$

Where  $\overline{\sigma_{n-1}^n}$  means that the coefficient  $a_{n-1,n}^n$  has to be multiplied by 2. I.e,  $\overline{\sigma_2^3} = e_2^3 - 4e_3^3$ .

## 4.1 Equation for $\sigma_4^5$

Since it seems difficult to find ways to write  $\sigma_3^4$  with only 3 multiplications, it is expected to be very difficult to write  $\sigma_4^5$  with only four multiplications. Because it is not possible to write  $\sigma_3^4$  with only three multiplications while including the term  $a \cdot b \cdot c$  we cannot use equation 3 to write  $\sigma_4^5$  with only four multiplications. Using the second way to write  $\sigma_3^4$  we can write  $\sigma_4^5$  with five multiplications;  $\sigma_4^5 = ((a \cdot b + c \cdot d) \cdot (a + b + c + d - 4cd) - 2ab + 2cd) \cdot e + ab \cdot c$ .

In the process of finding a way to write  $\sigma_4^5$  with only four multiplications, we used Mathematica. First we constructed a function *red[]*, which made sure that when multiplying a variable  $x_i$  with itself the outcome would not become  $(x_i)^2$  but  $x_i$ . This assumption has

been made in Section 1. *red[]* sees letters  $a, b, c$  etc. as variables. The Mathematica code can be found in Appendix B. We also used the Mathematica functions *MonomialList[]* and *Solve[]*.

We used the function *red[]* in the following way; we always entered  $-\sigma_4^5$  first and then we added a polynomial, a guessing polynomial, of which we believed that it could be an other way to write  $\sigma_4^5$ . If the outcome of *red[]* is equal to zero, the second polynomial is a different way to write  $\sigma_4^5$ . An example of how the function *red[]* was used is given in Figure 2.

```
In[] := red[-(abcd + abce + abde + acde + bcde - 4abcde)
+(e + d - 1)((ab + cd)(a + b + c + d - 4cd) - 2ab + 2cd)
Out[] = -abc
```

Figure 2: Example of the function *red[]*

We call the output of the function *red[]* the "left-over polynomial". First we tried to find a polynomial with only four multiplications that was equal to  $\sigma_4^5$  by hand. We have tried for several hours but could not find such a polynomial. That is why we started a much broader search.

We started using the function *MonomialList[]*. The input for this function was the same as the input from *red[]*, where our guessing polynomial consisted of variable coefficients. The output was an equation for each of the monomials in the left-over polynomial. If we choose all the coefficients in such a way that all the equations are equal to zero, we find a polynomial in four multiplications that is equal to  $\sigma_4^5$ .

An example of the function *MonomialList[]* is given in Figure 3.

```
In[] = MonomialList[red[-(ab + ac + ad + bc + bd + cd - 2(abc + abd + acd + bcd)
+ 2abcd) + (\xi ab + \phi cd + \omega a + \nu b + \eta c + \iota d + y)(\alpha ab + \beta cd + \gamma a + \delta b + \epsilon c + \zeta d + x)], {a, b, c, d}]

Out[] = {abcd(-2 + \beta \xi + \alpha \phi), abc(2 + \alpha \eta + \epsilon \xi), abd(2 + \alpha \iota + \zeta \xi),
ab(-1 + y \alpha + x \xi + \alpha \xi + \gamma \xi + \delta \xi + \alpha \omega + \delta \omega), acd(2 + \gamma \phi + \beta \omega),
ac(-1 + \gamma \eta + \epsilon \omega), ad(-1 + \gamma \iota + \zeta \omega), a(y \gamma + x \omega + \gamma \omega), bcd(2 + \delta \phi),
bc(-1 + \delta \eta), bd(-1 + \delta \iota), by \delta, cd(-1 + y \beta + \beta \eta + \zeta \eta + \beta \iota + \epsilon \iota + x \phi + \beta \phi + \epsilon \phi + \zeta \phi),
c(y \epsilon + x \eta + \epsilon \eta), d(y \zeta + x \iota + \zeta \iota), xy}
```

Figure 3: Example of the function *MonomialList[]*

We used the function *Solve[]* to find a solution for all the equations. In order to reduce the number of equations that needed to be solved, we did not include the equations for the monomials  $ab, cd, a, b, c, d$  and  $e$ . This is not a problem since we can always add or subtract these monomials to the guessing polynomial.

Using this method we did find ways to write  $\sigma_4^5$  with only four multiplications. The equations below show how  $\sigma_4^5$  can be written with only four multiplications, where  $A = a \cdot b + c \cdot d$ .

$$\sigma_4^5 = A \cdot (2ab - 4cd - 2a - 2b + 2c + 2d + e + 1) \cdot (-3ab + 2a + 2b + \frac{1}{2}e - 1) + cd$$

$$\sigma_4^5 = \frac{1}{2}A \cdot (-A + 2e + 1) \cdot (-A + a + b + c + d + 2e - 3)$$

$$\sigma_4^5 = \frac{1}{2}A \cdot (-A + a + b + c + d + e - \frac{5}{2}) \cdot (-3A + a + b + c + d + e + \frac{3}{2}) + \frac{3}{8}A$$

The only problem with the equations is that the coefficients of the polynomials are not all integers. I.e. one coefficient has the value  $\frac{1}{2}$ .

This will not be a big problem for implementations. This will be explained in section 5.

**Equation for  $\sigma_5^6$**  Using this method in Mathematica we also searched for other ways to write various  $\sigma_i^n$ . Equation 5 shows how  $\sigma_5^6$  can be written with only five multiplications.

$$\frac{1}{2}(a \cdot b + c \cdot d + e \cdot f) \cdot (-2ab - 2cd - 2ef + a + b + c + d + e + f) \cdot (ab + cd + ef - 1) \quad (5)$$

This way to write  $\sigma_5^6$  includes the factor  $\frac{1}{2}$ .

**Equation for  $\sigma_6^7$**  Equation 6 shows how  $\sigma_6^7$  can be written with only six multiplications, where  $A = a \cdot b + c \cdot d + e \cdot f$ .

$$\frac{1}{3}(A - g) \cdot (A - \frac{3}{4}(a + b + c + d + e + f) - g + 2) \cdot (A + g - 1) \cdot (A - 2(g + 1)) \quad (6)$$

This way to write  $\sigma_6^7$  includes the factor  $\frac{1}{3}$  and the coefficient  $\frac{1}{4}$ .

We also tried to find a function to write  $\sigma_6^7$  with only six multiplications for which not only the coefficients for  $ab$ ,  $cd$  and  $ef$  are equal, but also the coefficients for  $a$ ,  $b$ ,  $c$ ,  $d$ ,  $e$ ,  $f$  and  $g$ . We came to the conclusion that there are only complex solution for this problem. Equation 7 shows one of the possible solutions where  $B = a + b + c + d + e + f + g$ .

$$\frac{1}{4}A \cdot (\frac{i}{6}(15i + \sqrt{15})A + B + \frac{1}{3}(3 - i\sqrt{15})) \cdot (-\frac{i}{6}(-9i + \sqrt{15})A + B + \frac{i}{3}(6i + \sqrt{15})) \cdot (A - 1) \quad (7)$$

**Equation for  $\sigma_7^8$**  Equation 8 shows how  $\sigma_7^8$  can be written with only seven multiplications, where  $A = a \cdot b + c \cdot d + e \cdot f + g \cdot h$ .

$$\frac{1}{3}A \cdot (-A + 2) \cdot (A - \frac{1}{2}(a + b + c + d + e + f + g + h)) \cdot (A - 1) \quad (8)$$

This way to write  $\sigma_7^8$  includes the factor  $\frac{1}{3}$  and the coefficient  $\frac{1}{2}$ .

In the equations above we can see some kind of symmetry in the coefficients. We see that in each factor of the product the coefficients of the monomials of the same degree are equal.

This fact will make it relatively simple to find equations for  $\sigma_{n-1}^n$  for  $n > 8$ .

**Is it possible to construct a polynomial with integer coefficients such that it is equal to  $\sigma_4^5$ ?** After finding a way to write  $\sigma_4^5$  with only four multiplications but with using a rational number as one of the coefficients the question rises whether it is possible to write  $\sigma_4^5$  with only four multiplications and using only integers as coefficients. We have thought of the following way to check whether this is possible or not:

First we established a guessing polynomial which was as broad as possible. We choose

$$Pl(a, b, c, d, e) = (\alpha a \cdot b + \beta c \cdot d + \gamma a + \delta b + \epsilon c + \eta d + \theta e + x) \cdot (\iota ab + \kappa cd + \lambda a + \mu b + \nu c + \xi d + \zeta e + y) \cdot (\omega ab + \phi cd + \psi a + hb + jc + kd + me + z) + lab + ncd + qa + pb + tc + ud + ve + w$$

as our guessing polynomial. We chose this polynomial because we have seen in previous ways to write  $\sigma_{n-1}^n$  that the term  $ab$ , and if possible the term  $cd$ , is a recurring factor. Also, this polynomial contains the largest multiplications as possible, since in each part of the product every linear combination of  $a, b, c, d$  and  $e$  can occur.

There are two other guessing polynomials possible, which also have to be checked in a similar way. These are the following polynomials:

$$Pl2(a, b, c, d, e) = (w_1 a \cdot b + w_2 a + w_3 b + w_4 c + w_5 d + w_6 e + w) \cdot (x_1 ab + x_2 a + x_3 b + x_4 c + x_5 d + x_6 e + x) \cdot (y_1 ab + y_2 a + y_3 b + y_4 c + y_5 d + y_6 e + y) \cdot (z_1 ab + z_2 a + z_3 b + z_4 c + z_5 d + z_6 e + z) + lab + qa + pb + tc + ud + ve + v$$

and

$$Pl3(a, b, c, d, e) = (v_1 a + v_2 b + v_3 c + v_4 d + v_5 e + v) \cdot (w_1 a + w_2 b + w_3 c + w_4 d + w_5 e + w) \cdot (x_1 a + x_2 b + x_3 c + x_4 d + x_5 e + x) \cdot (y_1 a + y_2 b + y_3 c + y_4 d + y_5 e + y) \cdot (z_1 a + z_2 b + z_3 c + z_4 d + z_5 e + z) + qa + pb + tc + ud + ve + r$$

It might be possible to use a basis transformation on  $Pl2$  and  $Pl2$  to construct a polynomial of the form  $Pl$ . If this is possible, one does not have to check  $Pl2$  and  $Pl2$ . Further research has to be done on this part.

We know that the variables  $a, b, c, d$  and  $e$  can only have the value 0 or 1. This gives us  $2^5$  possible inputs. We have entered all the possible inputs in the polynomial  $Pl$ , giving us 32 equations in the coefficients of  $Pl$ . We have also entered the possible inputs in  $\sigma_4^5$ , giving us for each input the value of  $\sigma_4^5$ . Combining the two, we have found 32 equations which we should be able to solve. The equations can be found in Appendix C.

If it is possible to solve this set of equations using only integers, we have found a way to write  $\sigma_4^5$  with only integer coefficients. If it is not possible to solve this set of equations, using only integers, we have to do the same thing for  $Pl2$  and  $Pl2$ . If  $Pl2$  and  $Pl2$  also have no possible integer solutions we know that it is not possible to write  $\sigma_4^5$  with only integer coefficients.

$\sigma_4^5$  can have the value zero or one, since it is a boolean function. First we will focus

on the equations which are equal to one. This because we know that choosing all the variables equal to zero will solve all the equations equal to zero, but not the equations equal to one.

There are 6 equations equal to one, these can be found in Figure 4.

$$\begin{aligned}
A1 &= n+p+t+u+v+w+(x+\beta+\delta+\epsilon+\eta+\theta)(y+\xi+x+\mu+\nu+\xi)(h+j+k+m+z+\phi); \\
B1 &= (n+q+t+u+v+w+(x+\beta+\gamma+\epsilon+\eta+\theta)(y+\xi+x+\lambda+\nu+\xi)(j+k+m+z+\phi+\psi)); \\
C1 &= (1+p+q+u+v+w+(x+\alpha+\gamma+\delta+\eta+\theta)(y+\xi+\iota+\lambda+\mu+\xi)(h+k+m+z+\psi+\omega)); \\
D1 &= (1+p+q+t+v+w+(x+\alpha+\gamma+\delta+\epsilon+\theta)(y+\xi+\iota+\lambda+\mu+\nu)(h+j+m+z+\psi+\omega)); \\
E1 &= (1+n+p+q+t+u+w+(x+\alpha+\beta+\gamma+\delta+\epsilon+\eta)(y+\iota+x+\lambda+\mu+\nu+\xi)(h+j+k+z+\phi+\psi+\omega)); \\
F1 &= (1+n+p+q+t+u+v+w+(x+\alpha+\beta+\gamma+\delta+\epsilon+\eta+\theta)(y+\xi+\iota+x+\lambda+\mu+\nu+\xi)(h+j+k+m+z+\phi+\psi+\omega));
\end{aligned}$$

Figure 4: Equations equal to 1

We want to solve these equations and see if the solutions of these functions also lead to solving the equations equal to zero. To solve these functions we want to use the Mathematica function *Solve[]*.

The six equations, *A1* through *F1*, are too large to be solved quickly by the function *Solve[]*. This is why we decided to use the following equations;

$$\begin{aligned}
x_1 &= \alpha + \gamma + \delta \\
x_2 &= \iota + \lambda + \mu \\
x_3 &= \omega + \psi + h \\
x_4 &= \beta + \epsilon + \eta \\
x_5 &= \kappa + \nu + \xi \\
x_6 &= k + j + \phi \\
x_7 &= x + \theta \\
x_8 &= \zeta + y \\
x_9 &= m + z
\end{aligned}$$

We chose these equations in such a way that the equations *A1* through *F1* would be as small as possible. Using these equations, we have eliminated the following variables from the equations;  $\alpha, \beta, \theta, \iota, \kappa, \xi, \omega, \phi$  and  $m$ . But we have also added the variables  $x_1$  through  $x_9$ . Once a solution is found for the new set of variables, a unique solutions for the old set of variables can be constructed. This because each variable  $x_i$  contains one of the variables that have been eliminated from the equations. The equations that we are left with are shown in Figure 5.

$$\begin{aligned}
A2 &= n + p + t + u + v + w + (\delta + x4 + x7) (x8 + \mu + x5) (h + x6 + x9) ; \\
B2 &= (n + q + t + u + v + w + (\gamma + x4 + x7) (x8 + \lambda + x5) (x6 + x9 + \psi)) ; \\
C2 &= (1 + p + q + u + v + w + (x1 + \eta + x7) (x8 + x2 + \xi) (x3 + k + x9)) ; \\
D2 &= (1 + p + q + t + v + w + (x1 + \epsilon + x7) (x8 + x2 + v) (j + x9 + x3)) ; \\
E2 &= (1 + n + p + q + t + u + w + (x + x1 + x4) (\gamma + x2 + x5) (z + x6 + x3)) ; \\
F2 &= (1 + n + p + q + t + u + v + w + (x1 + x4 + x7) (x8 + x2 + x5) (x6 + x9 + x3)) ;
\end{aligned}$$

Figure 5: Equations equal to 1 after adding  $x_1$  through  $x_9$

The equations  $A2$  through  $F2$  can be easily solved by the function  $Solve[]$  and only have one solution. This solution contains a constraint on the variables  $n, p, t, v, l$  and  $q$ . All of these variables do not exist in the product of  $Pl$  but are simply to correct some of the terms.

The last thing we have to do is solve the equations equal to zero with the constraints given on the variables  $n, p, t, v, l$  and  $q$ .

Sadly enough, the solve function of mathematica has not yet given an answer whether or not it is possible to solve the equations equal to zero using only integers. Also attempts of choosing variables and checking if an integer solution exists did not gave an integer solution.

When one solves the equations equal to zero, he will know wether an integer solution exists or not.

Remember that the same procedure has te be done with  $Pl2$  and  $Pl2$  if  $Pl$  gives a negative answer.

## 5 Small examples of $\sigma_i^n$

In this section we will focus on Table 4. This table shows the minimal number of multiplications needed to write  $\sigma_i^n$  for  $1 \leq n \leq 8, 1 \leq i \leq 8$ .



Table 4: The minimal number of multiplications for  $\sigma_i^n$

$\sigma_i^n$	i							
n	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
1	0	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
2	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
3	2	2	2	-	-	-	-	-
4	3	<b>3</b>	3	3	-	-	-	-
5	4	<b>3?/4</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>4</b>	4	-	-	-
6	5	<b>5?</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>5</b>	5	-	-
7	6	<b>??</b>	<b>6?</b>	<b>6?</b>	<b>6?</b>	<b>6</b>	6	-
8	7	<b>??</b>	<b>7?</b>	<b>7?</b>	<b>7?</b>	<b>7?</b>	<b>7</b>	7

The numbers in bold writing are the boundaries that have been discovered and/or proven in this thesis. A question mark after an entry means that we expect the number of multiplications needed to be that entry only we have not found an equation to prove this. A double question mark means that we do not have an idea of how much multiplications are needed to describe the matching  $\sigma_i^n$ .

We will show the equations for  $\sigma_i^n$  which we have found and which have not been in previous sections of this thesis.

$\sigma_2^4$  The degree of  $\sigma_2^4$  is equal to four. This means that, using the degree lower bound, the minimal number of multiplications needed is three. If we can show that it is possible to write  $\sigma_2^4$  using only three multiplications, we know for certain that this is the minimal numbers of multiplications needed.

We found the following polynomial that is equal to  $\sigma_2^4$ :  $(a \cdot b - 2c \cdot d + c + d) \cdot (2cd + a + b - 2c - 2d) - ab + 2c + 2d - 3cd$ . Thus, we conclude that the minimal number of multiplications needed for  $\sigma_2^4$  is three.

$\sigma_2^5$  The degree of  $\sigma_2^5$  is equal to four. Only, it is not possible to write  $\sigma_2^5$  of the form  $(x_1a \cdot b + x_2c \cdot d + x_3a + x_4b + x_5c + x_6d + x_7e + x_8) \cdot (y_1ab + y_2cd + y_3a + y_4b + y_5c + y_6d + y_7e + y_8) + z_1ab + z_2cd + z_3a + z_4b + z_5c + z_6d + z_7e + z_8$ , since the terms  $abce$ ,  $abde$ ,  $acde$ ,  $ace$ ,  $ade$ ,  $bcde$ ,  $bce$  and  $bde$  can not be created this way.

It might is possible that  $\sigma_2^5$  can be written as the form  $(w_1a + w_2b + w_3c + w_4d + w_5e + w)(x_1a + x_2b + x_3c + x_4d + x_5e + x)(y_1a + y_2b + y_3c + y_4d + y_5e + y)(z_1a + z_2b + z_3c + z_4d + z_5e + z)$ . Only we did not find a correct polynomial that describes  $\sigma_2^5$  with only three multiplications. The reason that this is difficult is because of the structure of  $\sigma_2^5$ , namely it holds that  $\sigma_2^5 = e_2^5 - 2e_3^5 + 2e_4^5 - 0e_5^5$ . We believe that the zero coefficient is the reason that it is hard to determine an equation.

We found the following polynomial that is equal to  $\sigma_2^5$ :  $(a \cdot b + c \cdot d + \frac{4}{3}e - \frac{2}{3}) \cdot (5ab + 5cd - 3a - 3b - 3c - 3d + \frac{4}{3}e - \frac{2}{3}) \cdot (\frac{1}{4}a + \frac{1}{4}b + \frac{1}{4}c + \frac{1}{4}d - \frac{1}{2}) + \frac{2}{9} + \frac{7}{18}(a + b + c + d)$ .

Thus, we conclude that the minimal number of multiplications needed for  $\sigma_2^5$  might be three but we have found an equation which describes  $\sigma_2^5$  in four multiplications.

$\sigma_3^5$  We found the following polynomial that is equal to  $\sigma_3^5$ :  $\frac{1}{2}(a \cdot b + c \cdot d - 2e) \cdot (2ab + 2cd - (a + b + c + d) + e) \cdot (-3ab - 3cd + \frac{1}{2}(a + b + c + d + e) - \frac{1}{2})$ . Thus, we conclude that the minimal number of multiplications needed for  $\sigma_3^5$  is four.

$\sigma_4^6$  We found the following polynomial that is equal to  $\sigma_4^6$ :  $(a \cdot b + c \cdot d + e \cdot f) \cdot ((-2 - \frac{2}{\sqrt{6}})(ab + cd + ef) + a + b + c + d + e + f - \frac{1}{2} + \frac{3\sqrt{6}}{4}) \cdot ((-1 + \frac{1}{\sqrt{6}})(ab + cd + ef) + (1/2)(a + b + c + d + e + f) - \frac{1}{4} - \frac{3\sqrt{6}}{8}) + \frac{19}{48}(ab + cd + ef)$ . Thus, we conclude that the minimal number of multiplications needed for  $\sigma_4^6$  is five.

$\sigma_3^6$  We found the following polynomial that is equal to  $\sigma_3^6$ :  $(\frac{-10}{3}(a \cdot b + c \cdot d + e \cdot f) + \frac{5-\sqrt{15}}{3}(a+b+c+d+e+f) - 4 + \sqrt{15}) \cdot (ab+cd+ef - \frac{1}{2}(a+b+c+d+e+f)) \cdot (ab+cd+ef - (\frac{1}{2} + \frac{\sqrt{15}}{10})(a+b+c+d+e+f) + \frac{6}{5} + \frac{3\sqrt{15}}{10}) - \frac{11}{30}(ab+cd+ef) + \frac{11}{60}(a+b+c+d+e+f)$ . Thus, we conclude that the minimal number of multiplications needed for  $\sigma_3^6$  is five.

One can see that not all the polynomials found to describe  $\sigma_i^n$ , for certain values for  $i$  and  $n$ , have integer coefficients. Some also have rational or real numbers as their coefficients. For implementation of the polynomials, this is not a problem. Although, when dealing with rational and real numbers there are some things one has to be aware of.

When dealing with rational numbers, one has to make sure the the denominator of all the rational numbers in the polynomial and the prime number  $p$  have a greatest common divisor of 1. This because when the greatest common divisor equals 1, the rational number has an inverse number  $(\text{mod } p)$ . I.e. if the only rational number in the polynomial is a  $\frac{1}{2}$ , it is sufficient to say that  $p$  has to be an odd prime.

When dealing with real numbers, say  $\sqrt{x}$  with  $x \in \mathbb{N}$ ,  $x$  has to be a quadratic residue  $(\text{mod } p)$ . There are various ways to check whether  $x$  is a quadratic residue or a quadratic nonresidue. One way is to determine  $x^{\frac{p-1}{2}}(\text{mod } p)$ , if  $x^{\frac{p-1}{2}}(\text{mod } p) = 1$  then  $x$  is a quadratic residue. An other way to check if  $x$  is a quadratic residue is to determine the value of the Legendre symbol, Section 4.1 and 4.2 of [3] describe how to do this.

In Table 4, the two bottom rows are mainly filled with approximations of the minimal numbers of multiplications. We expect these number of multiplications because of the symmetry in the equations found thus far. We have no reason to believe that this symmetry does not hold when  $n$  increases. Only, we cannot say if the coefficients in the equations will be pretty. This means that we do not know if we coefficients will be rational, real or even complex.

In the case where  $i = 2$ , we are not sure what will happen with the minimal numbers of multiplications needed. This because of the zero in the coefficient row that describes  $\sigma_2^n$  for  $n \leq 5$ .

## 6 Conclusion

In this thesis we made a beginning of the elementary symmetric polynomials over a field with characteristic  $p$  has been done in this thesis.

We have found a way to construct these polynomials,  $\sigma_i^n$ , using the elementary symmetric polynomials  $e_i^n$ . Appendix A shows the exact functions  $\sigma_i^n$  for  $1 \leq n \leq 8$ . We have proven that the coefficients of  $\sigma_i^n$  can be determined using an order  $i$  linear homogeneous recurrence relation with constant coefficients. This is more efficient than using all previous coefficients to determine the next coefficient.

We have also shown equations for  $\sigma_i^n$  for numerous values of  $n$  and  $i$  minimizing the number of multiplications needed to write  $\sigma_i^n$ . These results can be found in Section 5.

## 7 Open problems and discussion

Although this thesis answers a lot of questions it also leaves some problems and points for further research.

**Problems** The first problem is whether it is necessary to use rational, real and possibly complex numbers as coefficients of the polynomials to describe  $\sigma_i^n$ . We have already made a beginning in answering this question, this can be found in Subsection 4.1. If one solves the equations that are equal to zero and there is an integer solution, then it is not necessary to write  $\sigma_4^5$  with rational coefficients. This would not mean that it is possible to write other  $\sigma_i^n$ 's with only integer coefficients. If an integer solution is found for these equations, this may give new insight in how to look for integer solutions. On the other hand, if it is not possible to write  $\sigma_4^5$  with only integer coefficients, then it is presumable that  $\sigma_i^n$  for  $n > 5$  cannot be written with only integer coefficients.

If it is not necessary that  $\sigma_i^n : \{0, 1\}^n \rightarrow \{0, 1\}$  and it is also allowed that  $\sigma_i^n : \{0, 1\}^n \rightarrow \{0, x\}$  with  $x \in \mathbb{R}$  then it does not matter if the coefficients of  $\sigma_i^n$  are integers or not. For example, one can compensate the rational coefficients by multiplying the entire equation with the least common multiple,  $lmc$ , of the denominators. This results in the function  $\sigma_i^n : \{0, 1\}^n \rightarrow \{0, lcm\}$  with  $lcm \in \mathbb{N}$  and in integer coefficients.

The second problem which would be very interesting to look at is finding equations for  $\sigma_i^n$ 's which have zeros in their coefficient rows. We have found it very difficult to find equations which described  $\sigma_2^5$  and  $\sigma_2^6$ , since there is no symmetry possible in the equations. It would also be interesting to investigate whether there is any regularity in the appearance of zeros in the coefficient rows.

**Points for further research** The first point which would be interesting for some further research, which has been mentioned in Subsection 2.3, is looking at the coefficients  $a_{i,i+x}^n$ .

A small beginning has been made in this thesis only this was not the focus of this thesis.

The second point of discussion is that when one has a ‘cheap’ test to determine whether something is equal to zero, it is possible to determine  $\sigma_{n-1}^n$  and  $\sigma_{n-2}^n$  without any multiplications. It might be possible that this also holds for other  $\sigma_i^n$ 's, but we did not do further research on this topic.

```
int x1, x2, xn;
int n;

public int sigma() {
    if (x1 + x2 + xn - n == 0) {
        if (n % 2 == 1)
            return 1;
        else
            return 0;
    } else if (x1 + x2 + xn - n == 1) {
        return 1;
    } else {
        return 0;
    }
}
```

Figure 6: Code to determine  $\sigma_{n-1}^n$

Figure 6 shows the code which can determine  $\sigma_{n-1}^n$  without any multiplications. A similar code can be written for determining  $\sigma_{n-2}^n$ .

## References

- [1] Stefano Barbero, Umberto Cerruti, and Nadir Murru, *Transforming recurrent sequences by using the binomial and invert operators*, Journal of Integer Sequences **13** (2010), Article 10.7.7.
- [2] Joan Boyar and Rene Peralta, *Tight bounds for the multiplicative complexity of symmetric functions*, (2008), 223 – 246.
- [3] Benne de Weger, *Algorithmic number theory, discrete mathematics 2, part 1*, 0.55 ed., October 2012.
- [4] N.J.A. Sloane and Paul Barry, *The on-line encyclopedia of integer sequences a000749*, June 2008.
- [5] Michael Somos and Paul Curtz, *The on-line encyclopedia of integer sequences a108520*.

## A Overview of $\sigma_i^n$ for $n$ from 1 to 8

In this section we show an overview of  $\sigma_i^n$  for  $n$  from 1 to 8.

- $n = 1$ 
  - $\sigma_1^1 = e_1^1$
- $n = 2$ 
  - $\sigma_1^2 = e_1^2 - 2e_2^2$
  - $\sigma_2^2 = e_2^2$
- $n = 3$ 
  - $\sigma_1^3 = e_1^3 - 2e_2^3 + 4e_3^3$
  - $\sigma_2^3 = e_2^3 - 2e_3^3$
  - $\sigma_3^3 = e_3^3$
- $n = 4$ 
  - $\sigma_1^4 = e_1^4 - 2e_2^4 + 4e_3^4 - 8e_4^4$
  - $\sigma_2^4 = e_2^4 - 2e_3^4 + 2e_4^4$
  - $\sigma_3^4 = e_3^4 - 4e_4^4$
  - $\sigma_4^4 = e_4^4$
- $n = 5$ 
  - $\sigma_1^5 = e_1^5 - 2e_2^5 + 4e_3^5 - 8e_4^5 + 16e_5^5$
  - $\sigma_2^5 = e_2^5 - 2e_3^5 + 2e_4^5 - 0e_5^5$
  - $\sigma_3^5 = e_3^5 - 4e_4^5 + 10e_5^5$
  - $\sigma_4^5 = e_4^5 - 4e_5^5$
  - $\sigma_5^5 = e_5^5$
- $n = 6$ 
  - $\sigma_1^6 = e_1^6 - 2e_2^6 + 4e_3^6 - 8e_4^6 + 16e_5^6 - 32e_6^6$
  - $\sigma_2^6 = e_2^6 - 2e_3^6 + 2e_4^6 + 0e_5^6 - 4e_6^6$
  - $\sigma_3^6 = e_3^6 - 4e_4^6 + 10e_5^6 - 20e_6^6$
  - $\sigma_4^6 = e_4^6 - 4e_5^6 + 10e_6^6$
  - $\sigma_5^6 = e_5^6 - 6e_6^6$
  - $\sigma_6^6 = e_6^6$
- $n = 7$ 
  - $\sigma_1^7 = e_1^7 - 2e_2^7 + 4e_3^7 - 8e_4^7 + 16e_5^7 - 32e_6^7 + 64e_7^7$
  - $\sigma_2^7 = e_2^7 - 2e_3^7 + 2e_4^7 - 0e_5^7 - 4e_6^7 - 8e_7^7$
  - $\sigma_3^7 = e_3^7 - 4e_4^7 + 10e_5^7 - 20e_6^7 + 36e_7^7$
  - $\sigma_4^7 = e_4^7 - 4e_5^7 + 10e_6^7 - 20e_7^7$

$$- \sigma_5^7 = e_5^7 - 6e_6^7 + 22e_7^7$$

$$- \sigma_6^7 = e_6^7 - 6e_7^7$$

$$- \sigma_7^7 = e_7^7$$

•  $n = 8$

$$- \sigma_1^8 = e_1^8 - 2e_2^8 + 4e_3^8 - 8e_4^8 + 16e_5^8 - 32e_6^8 + 64e_7^8 - 128e_8^8$$

$$- \sigma_2^8 = e_2^8 - 2e_3^8 + 2e_4^8 - 0e_5^8 - 4e_6^8 + 8e_7^8 - 8e_8^8$$

$$- \sigma_3^8 = e_3^8 - 4e_4^8 + 10e_5^8 - 20e_6^8 + 36e_7^8 - 64e_8^8$$

$$- \sigma_4^8 = e_4^8 - 4e_5^8 + 10e_6^8 - 20e_7^8 + 34e_8^8$$

$$- \sigma_5^8 = e_5^8 - 6e_6^8 + 22e_7^8 - 64e_8^8$$

$$- \sigma_6^8 = e_6^8 - 6e_7^8 + 20e_8^8$$

$$- \sigma_7^8 = e_7^8 - 8e_8^8$$

$$- \sigma_8^8 = e_8^8$$

## B Mathematica code

This Mathematica code was used in determining multiplications under the assumption that  $(x_i)^2$  equals to  $x_i$ .

$red[w_1] :=$

$red[w] =$

$Fold[PolynomialRemainder[\#1, \#2[[1]], \#2[[2]]] \&, w, \{\{a^2 - a, a\}, \{b^2 - b, b\}, \{c^2 - c, c\}, \{d^2 - d, d\}, \{e^2 - e, e\}, \{f^2 - f, f\}, \{g^2 - g, g\}\}]$

## C Equations describing $\sigma_4^5$

The equations shown in Figure 7 describe  $\sigma_4^5$  when fitting the guessing polynomial used in Subsection 4.1.

```

{w+xyz, 0}
{v+w+(m+z)(y+ξ)(x+θ), 0}
{u+w+(k+z)(x+η)(y+ξ), 0}
{u+v+w+(k+m+z)(x+η+θ)(y+ξ+ξ), 0}
{t+w+(j+z)(x+e)(y+ν), 0}
{t+v+w+(j+m+z)(x+e+θ)(y+ξ+ν), 0}
{n+t+u+w+(x+β+e+η)(y+κ+ν+ξ)(j+k+z+φ), 0}
{n+t+u+v+w+(x+β+e+η+θ)(y+ξ+κ+ν+ξ)(j+k+m+z+φ), 0}
{p+w+(h+z)(x+δ)(y+μ), 0}
{p+v+w+(h+m+z)(x+δ+θ)(y+ξ+μ), 0}
{p+u+w+(h+k+z)(x+δ+η)(y+μ+ξ), 0}
{p+u+v+w+(h+k+m+z)(x+δ+η+θ)(y+ξ+μ+ξ), 0}
{p+t+w+(h+j+z)(x+δ+e)(y+μ+ν), 0}
{p+t+v+w+(h+j+m+z)(x+δ+e+θ)(y+ξ+μ+ν), 0}
{n+p+t+u+w+(x+β+δ+e+η)(y+κ+μ+ν+ξ)(h+j+k+z+φ), 0}
{n+p+t+u+v+w+(x+β+δ+e+η+θ)(y+ξ+κ+μ+ν+ξ)(h+j+k+m+z+φ), 1}
{q+w+(x+γ)(y+λ)(z+ψ), 0}
{q+v+w+(x+γ+θ)(y+ξ+λ)(m+z+ψ), 0}
{q+u+w+(x+γ+η)(y+λ+ξ)(k+z+ψ), 0}
{q+u+v+w+(x+γ+η+θ)(y+ξ+λ+ξ)(k+m+z+ψ), 0}
{q+t+w+(x+γ+e)(y+λ+ν)(j+z+ψ), 0}
{q+t+v+w+(x+γ+e+θ)(y+ξ+λ+ν)(j+m+z+ψ), 0}
{n+q+t+u+w+(x+β+γ+e+η)(y+κ+λ+ν+ξ)(j+k+z+φ+ψ), 0}
{n+q+t+u+v+w+(x+β+γ+e+η+θ)(y+ξ+κ+λ+ν+ξ)(j+k+m+z+φ+ψ), 1}
{l+p+q+w+(x+α+γ+δ)(y+ι+λ+μ)(h+z+ψ+ω), 0}
{l+p+q+v+w+(x+α+γ+δ+θ)(y+ξ+ι+λ+μ)(h+m+z+ψ+ω), 0}
{l+p+q+u+w+(x+α+γ+δ+η)(y+ι+λ+μ+ξ)(h+k+z+ψ+ω), 0}
{l+p+q+u+v+w+(x+α+γ+δ+η+θ)(y+ξ+ι+λ+μ+ξ)(h+k+m+z+ψ+ω), 1}
{l+p+q+t+w+(x+α+γ+δ+e)(y+ι+λ+μ+ν)(h+j+z+ψ+ω), 0}
{l+p+q+t+v+w+(x+α+γ+δ+e+θ)(y+ξ+ι+λ+μ+ν)(h+j+m+z+ψ+ω), 1}
{l+n+p+q+t+u+w+(x+α+β+γ+δ+e+η)(y+ι+κ+λ+μ+ν+ξ)(h+j+k+z+φ+ψ+ω), 1}
{l+n+p+q+t+u+v+w+(x+α+β+γ+δ+e+η+θ)(y+ξ+ι+κ+λ+μ+ν+ξ)(h+j+k+m+z+φ+ψ+ω), 1}

```

Figure 7: Equations describing  $\sigma_4^5$