

1154-11-219

Kelly Isham* (ishamk@uci.edu), **Nathan Kaplan** and **Max Weinreich**. *Counting n -arcs in projective planes.*

An n -arc in $\mathbb{P}^2(\mathbb{F}_q)$ is a collection of n distinct points such that no three lie on a line. In 1988, Glynn gave an algorithm for counting the number of n -arcs in a projective plane of order q . He found that for $n \leq 6$, the formula for the number of n -arcs is polynomial in q and that for $n = 7$ and 8 , the formula is quasipolynomial in q . In 1995, Iampolskaia et al showed that the formula for $n = 9$ is also quasipolynomial. Recent work by Kaplan et al extended this result to arbitrary projective planes of order q . This leads to the question - will the number of n -arcs over $\mathbb{P}^2(\mathbb{F}_q)$ continue to be quasipolynomial in q ? In this talk, we discuss a modification of Glynn's algorithm that makes computation simpler and we explain how the problem of counting the number of n -arcs in the projective plane over \mathbb{F}_q is equivalent to counting the number of rational points on certain varieties over \mathbb{F}_q . We use this new approach to prove that the number of 10-arcs in a projective plane over \mathbb{F}_q is not quasipolynomial. Lastly, we discuss analagous results for larger n and we relate this counting problem to the study of \mathbb{F}_q -points on Grassmannians and to MDS codes. (Received September 16, 2019)