

# Linear self-equivalence : a unifying point-of-view on the known families of APN functions

Jules Baudrin

based on a joint work with Anne Canteaut & Léo Perrin



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Univariate
$x^{2^s+1} + ax^{2^{(3-i)k+s}+2^{ik}}$
$x^{2^s+1} + ax^{2^{(4-i)k+s}+2^{ik}}$
$ax^{2^k+1} + x^{2^s+1} + x^{2^{s+k}+2^k} + bx^{2^{k+s}+1} + b^{2^k}x^{2^s+2^k}$
$x^3 + a^{-1}\text{Tr}_{\mathbb{F}_{2^n}/\mathbb{F}_2}(a^3x^9)$
$x^3 + a^{-1}\text{Tr}_{\mathbb{F}_{2^n}/\mathbb{F}_{2^3}}(a^3x^9 + a^6x^{18})$
$x^3 + a^{-1}\text{Tr}_{\mathbb{F}_{2^n}/\mathbb{F}_{2^3}}(a^6x^{18} + a^{12}x^{36})$
$ax^{2^s+1} + a^{2^k}x^{2^{2k}+2^{k+s}} + bx^{2^{2k}+1} + ca^{2^k+1}x^{2^s+2^{k+s}}$
$a^2x^{2^{2k+1}+1} + b^2x^{2^{k+1}+1} + ax^{2^{2k}+2} + bx^{2^k+2} + dx^3$
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$a\text{Tr}_{\mathbb{F}_{2^n}/\mathbb{F}_{2^k}}(bx^{2^i+1}) + a^{2^k}\text{Tr}_{\mathbb{F}_{2^n}/\mathbb{F}_{2^k}}(cx^{2^s+1})$
$L(x)^{2^k+1} + bx^{2^k+1}$

Multivariate
$(x, y) \mapsto \begin{pmatrix} x^{2^s+1} + ay^{(2^s+1)2^i} \\ xy \end{pmatrix}$
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# Outline

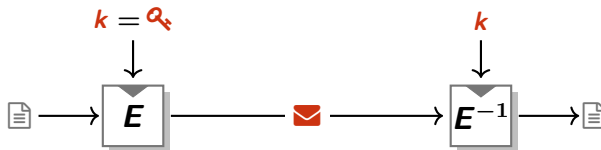
- From Differential cryptanalysis to APN functions
- Polynomial representations of vectorial Boolean functions
- APN state of the art
- Our unified point of view on the known APN functions

# Security of block ciphers

## Block cipher

A family of bijections  $\mathcal{E}$  of  $\mathbb{F}_2^n$ .

$$\mathcal{E} = \left( E_k: \mathbb{F}_2^n \xrightarrow{\sim} \mathbb{F}_2^n \right)_{k \in \mathbb{F}_2^{\kappa}}$$



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## Ideal block cipher

A *random* family of bijections.

In practice,  $\mathcal{E}$  should be *indistinguishable* from a random family of bijections

- to satisfy assumptions of security proofs
- to avoid stronger attack (e.g. key recoveries)

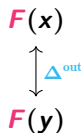
# Differential cryptanalysis

$$F: \mathbb{F}_2^n \rightarrow \mathbb{F}_2^n.$$

## Principle

Studies for each input difference  $\Delta^{\text{in}} \neq 0$ , the *distribution of output differences*:

$$\forall \Delta^{\text{out}} \in \mathbb{F}_2^n, \quad \mathbb{P}_{x \leftarrow \mathbb{F}_2^n} [F(x + \Delta^{\text{in}}) + F(x) = \Delta^{\text{out}}] = ?$$



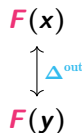
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## Average over all bijections

For all  $(\Delta^{\text{in}} \neq 0, \Delta^{\text{out}})$ , the equation  $F(x + \Delta^{\text{in}}) + F(x) = \Delta^{\text{out}}$  has 1 solution  $x$  *on average*.



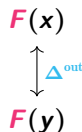
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## Differential distinguisher

$(\Delta^{\text{in}}, \Delta^{\text{out}})$  such that for many  $k$ ,  $E_k(x + \Delta^{\text{in}}) + E_k(x) = \Delta^{\text{out}}$  has many solutions  $x$ .

[BihSha91]

# Resisting against differential attacks

## Differential distinguisher

[BihSha91]

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## Differential resistance

For all  $(\Delta^{\text{in}}, \Delta^{\text{out}})$  and all keys  $k$ ,  $E_k(x + \Delta^{\text{in}}) + E_k(x) = \Delta^{\text{out}}$  has *few* solutions.

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For all  $(\Delta^{\text{in}}, \Delta^{\text{out}})$ ,  $S(x + \Delta^{\text{in}}) + S(x) = \Delta^{\text{out}}$  has *few* solutions.

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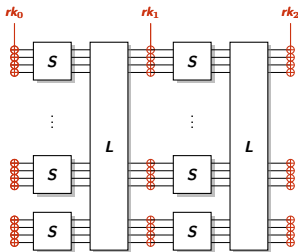
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$$\delta_S(\Delta^{\text{in}}, \Delta^{\text{out}}) = |\{x \mid S(x + \Delta^{\text{in}}) + S(x) = \Delta^{\text{out}}\}|$$



$$\mathbb{P}[\Delta^{\text{in}}, \Delta, \Delta^{\text{out}}] \leq \left( \frac{\max_{a \neq 0, b} \delta_S(a, b)}{2^m} \right)^{d(L)}$$

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$\delta_S(\Delta^{\text{in}}, \Delta^{\text{out}})$  is even.



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## Almost perfect non-linear (APN) function

[NybKnu92]

A function  $F$  is APN if:  $\forall \Delta^{\text{in}} \neq 0, \Delta^{\text{out}}, \delta_F(\Delta^{\text{in}}, \Delta^{\text{out}}) \leq 2$ .

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- Easy definition
- Hard to find new instances (even for small  $n$ )
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- Lots of open problems

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## Big APN problem

[BDMW10]

Find  $F: \mathbb{F}_2^n \rightarrow \mathbb{F}_2^n$  which is APN, *bijective* for an *even*  $n$ .

A *single* example is known for  $n = 6$ .

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Hopefully clearer in 12 min ?

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# Polynomial representations of Boolean functions

## Polynomial representations (1/2)

$$\mathbf{F}: \mathbb{F}_2^n \rightarrow \mathbb{F}_2^n, \begin{pmatrix} x_1 \\ \vdots \\ x_n \end{pmatrix} \mapsto \begin{pmatrix} F_1(x_1, \dots, x_n) \\ \vdots \\ F_n(x_1, \dots, x_n) \end{pmatrix}.$$



## Polynomial representations (1/2)

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### Algebraic Normal Form (ANF)

( $q = 2, m = n$ ). Each coordinate is a polynomial of  $\mathbb{F}_2[X_1, \dots, X_n]/(X_1^2 + X_1, \dots, X_n^2 + X_n)$

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$$\tilde{F}: \mathbb{F}_{2^4} \rightarrow \mathbb{F}_{2^4}$$

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*Up to a choice of bases!*

# Polynomial representations and APN functions

$$\delta_F(\Delta^{\text{in}}, \Delta^{\text{out}}) = |\{x, F(x + \Delta^{\text{in}}) + F(x) = \Delta^{\text{out}}\}|$$



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**A**:  $(\mathbb{F}_2^n, +) \rightarrow (U, +_u)$  and **B**:  $(V, +_v) \rightarrow (\mathbb{F}_2^n, +)$  linear bijective mappings.  
Then **A**  $\circ$  **F**  $\circ$  **B**:  $(V, +_v) \rightarrow (U, +_u)$

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Then  $A \circ F \circ B: (V, +_v) \rightarrow (U, +_u)$

## Proposition

- $\forall \Delta^{\text{in}}, \Delta^{\text{out}}, \quad \delta_F(B(\Delta^{\text{in}}), A^{-1}(\Delta^{\text{out}})) = \delta_{AFB}(\Delta^{\text{in}}, \Delta^{\text{out}})$
- $F$  is APN if and only if  $A \circ F \circ B$  is APN.

## Definition (Linear equivalence)

$F_1 \sim_{\text{lin}} F_2$  if  $\exists A, B$ , bijective linear s.t.  $A \circ F_1 \circ B = F_2$ .

## 4 linearly-equivalent functions

$$F: \mathbb{F}_2^4 \rightarrow \mathbb{F}_2^4, \begin{pmatrix} x_0 \\ x_1 \\ x_2 \\ x_3 \end{pmatrix} \mapsto \begin{pmatrix} x_0 x_2 + x_0 + x_1 x_2 + x_1 x_3 \\ x_0 x_1 + x_0 x_2 + x_2 x_3 + x_3 \\ x_0 x_1 + x_0 x_2 + x_0 x_3 + x_1 x_2 + x_1 x_3 + x_2 x_3 + x_2 \\ x_1 x_3 + x_1 + x_2 x_3 + x_2 + x_3 \end{pmatrix}$$

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## Proper representatives for easier proofs

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$\implies$  at most 2 solutions  $\implies$  APN !



# Linear self-equivalence : a unifying PoV on the known families of APN functions

Univariate
$x^{2^s+1} + ax^{2^{(3-i)k+s}+2^{ik}}$
$x^{2^s+1} + ax^{2^{(4-i)k+s}+2^{ik}}$
$ax^{2^k+1} + x^{2^s+1} + x^{2^{s+k}+2^k} + bx^{2^{k+s}+1} + b^{2^k}x^{2^s+2^k}$
$x^3 + a^{-1}\text{Tr}_{\mathbb{F}_{2^n}/\mathbb{F}_2}(a^3x^9)$
$x^3 + a^{-1}\text{Tr}_{\mathbb{F}_{2^n}/\mathbb{F}_{2^3}}(a^3x^9 + a^6x^{18})$
$x^3 + a^{-1}\text{Tr}_{\mathbb{F}_{2^n}/\mathbb{F}_{2^3}}(a^6x^{18} + a^{12}x^{36})$
$ax^{2^s+1} + a^{2^k}x^{2^{2k}+2^{k+s}} + bx^{2^{2k}+1} + ca^{2^k+1}x^{2^s+2^{k+s}}$
$a^2x^{2^{2k+1}+1} + b^2x^{2^{k+1}+1} + ax^{2^{2k}+2} + bx^{2^k+2} + dx^3$
$x^3 + ax^{2^{s+i}+2^i} + a^2x^{2^{k+1}+2^k} + x^{2^{s+i+k}+2^{i+k}}$
$a\text{Tr}_{\mathbb{F}_{2^n}/\mathbb{F}_{2^k}}(bx^{2^i+1}) + a^{2^k}\text{Tr}_{\mathbb{F}_{2^n}/\mathbb{F}_{2^k}}(cx^{2^s+1})$
$L(x)^{2^k+1} + bx^{2^k+1}$

Multivariate
$(x, y) \mapsto \begin{pmatrix} x^{2^s+1} + ay^{(2^s+1)2^i} \\ xy \end{pmatrix}$
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$(x, y) \mapsto \begin{pmatrix} x^{2^s+1} + xy^{2^s} + y^{2^s+1} \\ x^{2^{2s}+1} + x^{2^{2s}}y + y^{2^{2s}+1} \end{pmatrix}$
$(x, y) \mapsto \begin{pmatrix} x^{2^s+1} + xy^{2^s} + y^{2^s+1} \\ x^{2^{3s}}y + xy^{2^{3s}} \end{pmatrix}$
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$(x, y) \mapsto \begin{pmatrix} x^{2^s+1} + xy^{2^s} + ay^{2^s+1} \\ x^{2^{2s}+1} + ax^{2^{2s}}y + (1+a)^{2^s}xy^{2^{2s}} + ay^{2^{2s}+1} \end{pmatrix}$
$(x, y, z) \mapsto \begin{pmatrix} x^{2^s+1} + x^{2^s}z + yz^{2^s} \\ x^{2^s}z + y^{2^s+1} \\ xy^{2^s} + y^{2^s}z + z^{2^s+1} \end{pmatrix}$
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Hopefully clearer in 5 min ?

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# A unified point-of-view on the known APN functions

# One of the first non-power functions

## An APN binomial

[BudCarLea08]

$$G: \mathbb{F}_{2^{12}} \rightarrow \mathbb{F}_{2^{12}} \quad x \mapsto x^3 + \alpha x^{528}$$

$$G(x) = x^3(1 + x^{525}) = x^3 P(x^{15}), \text{ where } P = 1 + X^{35}$$

$$(525 = 35 \times 15)$$

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## Proposition

For any  $\gamma \in \mathbb{F}_{2^{12}}^*$ , the restriction of  $G|_{\mathbb{F}_{2^4}^*}$  is (up to a constant) the power mapping  $x \mapsto x^3$ .

## An APN binomial

[BudCarLea08]

- $G: \mathbb{F}_{2^{12}} \rightarrow \mathbb{F}_{2^{12}} \quad x \mapsto x^3 + \alpha x^{528}$
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## Multivariate point-of-view

$G$  is linearly equivalent to  $\tilde{G}: (\mathbb{F}_{2^4})^3 \rightarrow (\mathbb{F}_{2^4})^3 \quad (x_1, x_2, x_3) \mapsto (\tilde{G}_1(x), \tilde{G}_2(x), \tilde{G}_3(x))$ .

$$\tilde{G}_1(x) = ?x_1^2x_2 + ?x_1x_2^2 + ?x_2^3 + ?x_1^2x_3 + ?x_2^2x_3 + ?x_1x_3^2 + ?x_2x_3^2 + ?x_3^3.$$

All coordinates of  $\tilde{G}$  are homogeneous of the same degree 3.

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## An APN bivariate functions

[ZhoPot13]

$$H: \mathbb{F}_{64}^2 \rightarrow \mathbb{F}_{64}^2, (x, y) \mapsto (xy, x^3 + ay^3)$$

- $H_1$  homogeneous of order 2.
- $H_2$  homogeneous of order 3.

## Power mapping

$$F(x) = x^e$$

Let  $\lambda \in \mathbb{F}_{2^n}^*$ . Then for all  $x$ ,  $F(\lambda x) = \lambda^e x^e = \lambda^e F(x)$ .

Thus  $A \circ F \circ B = F$

with  $B(x) := \lambda x$ ,  $A(x) := \lambda^{-e} x$ .

# Linear self-equivalence

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## Cyclotomic mapping w.r.t a subfield

[Wang07]

$$G(x) = x^e P(x^{2^k-1}), n = \ell k$$

Let  $\varphi \in \mathbb{F}_{2^k}$ . Then for all  $x$ ,  $G(\varphi x) = \varphi^e x^e P(x^{2^k-1}) = \varphi^e G(x)$ .

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## $\ell$ -projective mapping

[BCP24, Göloğlu22]

$$H: \mathbb{F}_{2^k}^\ell \rightarrow \mathbb{F}_{2^k}^\ell (x_1, \dots, x_\ell) \mapsto (H_1(x), \dots, H_\ell(x)),$$

$\forall i$ ,  $H_i$  is homogeneous of order  $e_i$ .

Thus  $A \circ H \circ B = H$

with  $B(x) = (\varphi x_1, \dots, \varphi x_\ell)$ ,  
 $A(x) = (\varphi^{-e_1} x_1, \dots, \varphi^{-e_\ell} x_\ell)$

## Our main result (1/2)

Among the 22 known infinite APN families, 19 consist entirely of *cyclotomic* or  *$\ell$ -projective* mappings, *up to linear equivalence*.

### Univariate

$$x^{2^s+1} + ax^{2^{(3-i)k+s}+2^{ik}}$$

$$x^{2^s+1} + ax^{2^{(4-i)k+s}+2^{ik}}$$

$$ax^{2^k+1} + x^{2^s+1} + x^{2^{s+k}+2^k} + bx^{2^{k+s}+1} + b^{2^k}x^{2^s+2^k}$$

$$x^3 + a^{-1}\mathrm{Tr}_{\mathbb{F}_{2^n}/\mathbb{F}_2}(a^3x^9)$$

$$x^3 + a^{-1}\mathrm{Tr}_{\mathbb{F}_{2^n}/\mathbb{F}_{2^3}}(a^3x^9 + a^6x^{18})$$

$$x^3 + a^{-1}\mathrm{Tr}_{\mathbb{F}_{2^n}/\mathbb{F}_{2^3}}(a^6x^{18} + a^{12}x^{36})$$

$$ax^{2^s+1} + a^{2^k}x^{2^{2k}+2^{k+s}} + bx^{2^{2k}+1} + ca^{2^k+1}x^{2^s+2^{k+s}}$$

$$a^2x^{2^{2k+1}+1} + b^2x^{2^{k+1}+1} + ax^{2^{2k}+2} + bx^{2^k+2} + dx^3$$

$$x^3 + ax^{2^{s+i}+2^i} + a^2x^{2^{k+1}+2^k} + x^{2^{s+i+k}+2^{i+k}}$$

$$a\mathrm{Tr}_{\mathbb{F}_{2^n}/\mathbb{F}_{2^k}}(bx^{2^i+1}) + a^{2^k}\mathrm{Tr}_{\mathbb{F}_{2^n}/\mathbb{F}_{2^k}}(cx^{2^s+1})$$

$$L(x)^{2^k+1} + bx^{2^k+1}$$

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Univariate	Observations
$x^{2^s+1} + ax^{2^{(3-i)k+s}+2^{ik}}$	cyclotomic
$x^{2^s+1} + ax^{2^{(4-i)k+s}+2^{ik}}$	cyclotomic
$ax^{2^k+1} + x^{2^s+1} + x^{2^{s+k}+2^k} + bx^{2^{k+s}+1} + b^{2^k}x^{2^s+2^k}$	$\sim_{\text{lin}}$ biprojective
$x^3 + a^{-1}\text{Tr}_{\mathbb{F}_{2^n}/\mathbb{F}_2}(a^3x^9)$	cyclotomic/ $(\sim_{\text{lin}})$ frob.
$x^3 + a^{-1}\text{Tr}_{\mathbb{F}_{2^n}/\mathbb{F}_{2^3}}(a^3x^9 + a^6x^{18})$	cyclotomic/ $(\sim_{\text{lin}})$ frob.
$x^3 + a^{-1}\text{Tr}_{\mathbb{F}_{2^n}/\mathbb{F}_{2^3}}(a^6x^{18} + a^{12}x^{36})$	cyclotomic/ $(\sim_{\text{lin}})$ frob.
$ax^{2^s+1} + a^{2^k}x^{2^{2k}+2^{k+s}} + bx^{2^{2k}+1} + ca^{2^k+1}x^{2^s+2^{k+s}}$	cyclotomic
$a^2x^{2^{2k+1}+1} + b^2x^{2^{k+1}+1} + ax^{2^{2k}+2} + bx^{2^k+2} + dx^3$	cyclotomic
$x^3 + ax^{2^{s+i}+2^i} + a^2x^{2^{k+1}+2^k} + x^{2^{s+i+k}+2^{i+k}}$	$\sim_{\text{lin}}$ biprojective
$a\text{Tr}_{\mathbb{F}_{2^n}/\mathbb{F}_{2^k}}(bx^{2^i+1}) + a^{2^k}\text{Tr}_{\mathbb{F}_{2^n}/\mathbb{F}_{2^k}}(cx^{2^s+1})$	$\sim_{\text{lin}}$ biprojective
$L(x)^{2^k+1} + bx^{2^k+1}$	?

## Our main result (2/2)

Among the 22 known infinite APN families, 19 consist entirely of *cyclotomic* or  *$\ell$ -projective* mappings, *up to linear equivalence*.

Multivariate	Observations
$(x, y) \mapsto \begin{pmatrix} x^{2^s+1} + ay^{(2^s+1)2^t} \\ xy \end{pmatrix}$	$\sim_{\text{lin}}$ bijective
$(x, y) \mapsto \begin{pmatrix} x^{2^{2s}+2^{3s}} + ax^{2^{2s}}y^{2^s} + by^{2^s+1} \\ xy \end{pmatrix}$	$\sim_{\text{lin}}$ bijective
$(x, y) \mapsto \begin{pmatrix} x^{2^s+1} + x^{2^{s+k/2}}y^{2^{k/2}} + axy^{2^s} + by^{2^s+1} \\ xy \end{pmatrix}$	$\sim_{\text{lin}}$ 4-projective
$(x, y) \mapsto \begin{pmatrix} x^{2^s+1} + xy^{2^s} + y^{2^s+1} \\ x^{2^{2s}+1} + x^{2^{2s}}y + y^{2^{2s}+1} \end{pmatrix}$	bijective
$(x, y) \mapsto \begin{pmatrix} x^{2^s+1} + xy^{2^s} + y^{2^s+1} \\ x^{2^{3s}}y + xy^{2^{3s}} \end{pmatrix}$	bijective
$(x, y) \mapsto \begin{pmatrix} x^{2^s+1} + by^{2^s+1} \\ x^{2^{s+k/2}}y + \frac{a}{b}xy^{2^{s+k/2}} \end{pmatrix}$	bijective
$(x, y) \mapsto \begin{pmatrix} x^{2^s+1} + xy^{2^s} + ay^{2^s+1} \\ x^{2^{2s}+1} + ax^{2^{2s}}y + (1+a)^{2^s}xy^{2^{2s}} + ay^{2^{2s}+1} \end{pmatrix}$	bijective
$(x, y, z) \mapsto \begin{pmatrix} x^{2^s+1} + x^{2^s}z + yz^{2^s} \\ x^{2^s}z + y^{2^s+1} \\ xy^{2^s} + y^{2^s}z + z^{2^s+1} \end{pmatrix}$	3-projective $\sim_{\text{lin}}$ cyclotomic
$(x, y, z) \mapsto \begin{pmatrix} x^{2^s+1} + xy^{2^s} + yz^{2^s} \\ xy^{2^s} + z^{2^s+1} \\ x^{2^s}z + y^{2^s+1} + y^{2^s}z \end{pmatrix}$	3-projective $\sim_{\text{lin}}$ cyclotomic



## Theorem

Among the 22 known infinite APN families, 19 consist entirely of *cyclotomic* or  *$\ell$ -projective* mappings, *up to linear equivalence*.

## Sum up

- Characterization of *very specific* self-equivalences
- Unify most of the approaches
- Partial answer to the *detection* of such structures up to equivalence

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## Open questions

- Link between self-equivalence and APN-ness [BeiBriLea21, Conjecture 1]
- Cyclotomic mappings outside the known classes? (from *non-quadratic* APN monomial)
- Projective mappings outside the known classes? (with *more* coordinates)

## About the naming

### Definition (APN function)

[NybKnu92]

A function  $F$  is APN if:  $\forall \Delta^{\text{in}} \neq 0, \Delta^{\text{out}}, \delta_F(\Delta^{\text{in}}, \Delta^{\text{out}}) \leq 2$ .

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### The linear case

$F$  linear.

$$F(x + \Delta^{\text{in}}) + F(x) = F(x) + F(\Delta^{\text{in}}) + F(x) = F(\Delta^{\text{in}})$$

$$\Delta^{\text{in}} \neq 0. \quad \delta_F(\Delta^{\text{in}}, \Delta^{\text{out}}) = \begin{cases} 2^n & \text{if } \Delta^{\text{out}} = F(\Delta^{\text{in}}) \\ 0 & \text{otherwise.} \end{cases}$$

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### The APN case

$F$  APN. Then  $\forall \Delta^{\text{in}} \neq 0, |\{\Delta^{\text{out}}, \delta_F(\Delta^{\text{in}}, \Delta^{\text{out}}) > 0\}| = 2^{n-1}$ .