

# Nilpotent Primer Hypermaps with Hypervertices of Valency a prime

Shaofei Du

School of Mathematical Sciences  
Capital Normal University  
Beijing, 100048, China

Symmetries of Surfaces, Maps and Dessins, BIRS, Sep 27, 2017

Joint work with Mr Kai Yuan

# 1. Definitions

**Topological Map  $\mathcal{M}$ :** a 2-cell embedding of a graph into a surface. The embedded graph  $X$  is called the *underlying graph* of the map  $\mathcal{M}$ .

*Automorphism* of a map  $\mathcal{M}$  : a self-homeomorphism of the surface, any automorphism of the map must be an automorphism of the underlying graph  $X$

*Orientation-Preserving Automorphism* of an orientable map  $\mathcal{M}$  : an automorphism of preserving orientation of the map

*Automorphism group*  $\text{Aut}(\mathcal{M})$  :

*Orientation-preserving automorphisms group*  $\text{Aut}^+ \mathcal{M}$

## Hypermap:

A *hypermap*  $\mathcal{H}$  is a 2-cell embedding of a connected bipartite graph  $\mathcal{G}$  into a compact and connected surface  $\mathcal{S}$  without border

The vertices of  $\mathcal{G}$  in two biparts are respectively called the *hypervertices* and *hyperedges* of the hypermap, and the connected regions of  $\mathcal{G} \setminus \mathcal{S}$  are called *hyperfaces*.

Choose a center for each hyperface and subdivide the hypermap by adjoining the hyperface centers to its adjacent hypervertices and hyperedges.

Get a triangular subdivision whose triangles are the *flags* of this hypermap, which are represented by little triangle around hypervertices

Define three involuntary permutations  $\gamma_0$ ,  $\gamma_1$  and  $\gamma_2$  on the flag set  $F$ :

$\gamma_0$  exchanges two flags adjacent to the same hyperedge and center but distinct hypervertices;

$\gamma_1$  exchanges two flags adjacent to the same hypervertex and center but distinct hyperedges;

$\gamma_2$  exchanges two flags adjacent to the same hypervertex and hyperedge but distinct centers.



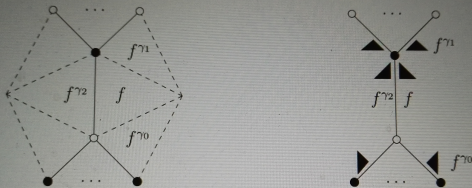


Figure 1: *Flags are drawn in the left figure and represented by little triangles around hypervertices in the right figure.*

The subgroup  $\langle \gamma_0, \gamma_1, \gamma_2 \rangle$  of  $S^F$  acts transitively on  $F$ .

In the orientable case, the even word subgroup  $\langle \gamma_0\gamma_1, \gamma_1\gamma_2 \rangle$  of  $\langle \gamma_0, \gamma_1, \gamma_2 \rangle$  acts on  $F$  with two orbits.

Each orbit determines an orientation described by the action of the even word subgroup. Fixing an orientation we get an oriented hypermap.

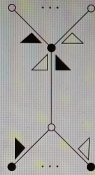


Figure 2: *Two orbits of flags are represented by black little triangles and white little triangles..*

Given one of two orbits, say  $F_1$ , every orbit of  $\langle \gamma_0 \gamma_1 \rangle$ ,  $\langle \gamma_1 \gamma_2 \rangle$  and  $\langle \gamma_0 \gamma_2 \rangle$  on  $F_1$  is respectively the flags contained in one hyperface, the flags around one hypervertex and the flags around one hyperedge.

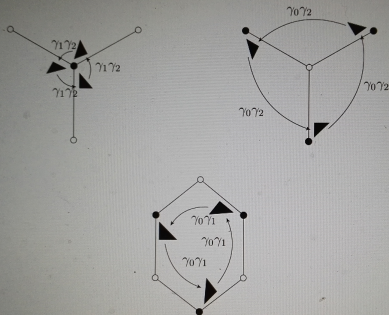


Figure 3: Three figures show the orbit of  $\langle \gamma_1 \gamma_2 \rangle$ ,  $\langle \gamma_0 \gamma_2 \rangle$  and  $\langle \gamma_0 \gamma_1 \rangle$  on  $F_1$ , respectively.

Algebraically, given a finite set  $D$  and a transitive group  $\langle R, L \rangle$  on  $D$ , define an oriented hypermap  $\mathcal{H} = (D; R, L)$ :

the orbits of  $\langle R \rangle$ ,  $\langle L \rangle$  and  $\langle RL \rangle$  on  $D$  are called hyperfaces, hypervertices and hyperedges, respectively, with incidence given by non-empty intersection.

$D$  is called the dart set and the group  $\text{Mon}(\mathcal{H}) = \langle R, L \rangle$  is called the monodromy group of the hypermap.

In the case  $(RL)^2 = 1$ ,  $\mathcal{H}$  is an oriented map.

For oriented hypermaps  $\mathcal{H} = (D; R, L)$  and  $\mathcal{H}' = (D'; R', L')$ , a covering  $\psi : \mathcal{H} \rightarrow \mathcal{H}'$  is a mapping  $\psi : D \rightarrow D'$  satisfying  $R\psi = \psi R'$  and  $L\psi = \psi L'$ .

Now, the assignment  $R \mapsto R'$  and  $L \mapsto L'$  extends to an epimorphism  $\text{Mon}(\mathcal{H}) = \langle R, L \rangle \rightarrow \text{Mon}(\mathcal{H}') = \langle R', L' \rangle$  of the monodromy groups.

As usual, one may define an isomorphism, an automorphism and the automorphism group  $\text{Aut}(\mathcal{H})$  for hypermaps. It is straightforward that  $|\text{Aut}(\mathcal{H})| \leq |D|$ .

An oriented hypermap is called *regular* if the action of  $\text{Mon}(\mathcal{H}) = \langle R, L \rangle$  on  $D$  is regular. In this case, the set  $D$  can then be replaced by  $G := \text{Mon}(\mathcal{H})$ , so that  $\text{Mon}(\mathcal{H})$  and  $\text{Aut}(\mathcal{H})$  can be viewed as the left and right regular multiplications of  $G$ , respectively.

Denote  $\mathcal{H}$  by a triple  $\mathcal{H} = (G; r, \ell)$ , where  $G = \langle r, \ell \rangle$ . Then the hyperfaces (resp. hypervertices and hyperedges) correspond to right cosets of  $G$  relative to  $\langle r \rangle$ , (resp.  $\langle \ell \rangle$  and  $\langle r\ell \rangle$ ).

Given a group  $G$ ,  $(G; r_1, \ell_1) \cong (G; r_2, \ell_2)$  if and only if there exists an automorphism  $\sigma$  of  $G$  such that  $r_1^\sigma = r_2$  and  $\ell_1^\sigma = \ell_2$ .



## 2. (face-) Primer map

(face-) Primer map  $\mathcal{H}$ :  $\text{Aut}(\mathcal{H})$  induces a faithful action on  $\mathcal{F}$

The primer hypermaps were introduced by Breda d'Azevedo and Fernandes in 2011.

For any hypermap  $(G; r, \ell)$ ,  $(G/\langle r \rangle_G; \bar{r}, \bar{\ell})$  is primer.

The first step might be to determine the primer hypermaps. Based on the knowledge of primer hypermaps, one may determine general hypermaps.

To recover a hypermap from its primer hypermap is essentially extension problem, of a group by a cyclic group.

1. A.Breda d'Azevedo, M.E.Fernandes, Classification of primer hypermaps with a prime number of hyperfaces, *Europ.J.Combin*, 32(2011), 233-242.
2. A.Breda d'Azevedo, M.E.Fernandes, Classification of the regular oriented hypermaps with prime number of hyperfaces, *Ars Math.Contemp*, 10(1)(2016), 193-209.
3. S.F. Du, X.Y. Hu, A classification of primer hypermaps with a product of two primes number of hyperfaces, *Euro J. Combin*, **62**(2017), 245-262

### 3. Nilpotent hypermaps

General question: determine the regular maps and regular hypermaps with given (fibre-preserving) automorphism group  $G$ .

There are some papers on the finite simple groups  $G$ . We shall focus on nilpotent groups.

1. A. Malnič, R. Nedela and M. Škoviera, Regular maps with nilpotent automorphism groups, *European J. Combin.* 33 (2012), 1974–1986.

2. M.D.E., Conder, S.,F. Du, R. Nedela, M. Škoviera, Regular maps with nilpotent automorphism group, *J. Algebraic Combin.* **44**(2016), 863-874.

Assume that  $G = \text{Aut}^+(\mathcal{M})$  is nilpotent and the underlying graph of the map is simple. It is proved that

- (i) the number of vertices of any such map is bounded by a function  $f_c$  of the nilpotency class of the group  $G$ , where  $f_c$  is given by applying a theorem of Labute on the ranks of the factors of the lower central series of  $\Gamma$  (via the associated Lie algebra),
- (ii) for a fixed nilpotency class  $c$  there is exactly one such simple regular map  $\mathcal{M}_c$  attaining the bound, and that this map is universal, in the sense that every simple regular map  $\mathcal{M}$  for which  $\text{Aut}^+(\mathcal{M})$  is nilpotent of class at most  $c$  is a quotient of  $\mathcal{M}_c$ .

## 4. Nilpotent Primer Hypermaps

A  $PNp$  hypermap  $\mathcal{H}$  means a primer hypermap such that  $\text{Aut}(\mathcal{H})$  is nilpotent and the hypervertex-valency is a prime  $p$ .

**Theorem:** Let  $\mathcal{H}$  be a  $PNp$  hypermap. Then

- (1)  $\text{Aut}(\mathcal{H})$  is a finite  $p$ -group;
- (2)  $\mathcal{H}$  has at most  $p^{1+f_c}$  hyperfaces, where  $c$  is the nilpotent class of  $\text{Aut}(\mathcal{H})$ ;
- (3) For every integer  $c \geq 1$ , there exists a unique  $PNp$  hypermap  $\mathcal{H}_c$  of class  $c$ , having  $p^{1+f_c}$  hyperfaces, and type either  $(p, p^{m+1}, p^m)$  for  $c = m(p-1) + 1$  or  $(p, p^m, p^m)$  for  $(m-1)(p-1) + 1 < c < m(p-1) + 1$ .
- (4) Every  $PNp$  hypermap of class at most  $c$  is a quotient of  $\mathcal{H}_c$ .

By  $\mu(k)$  we denote the Möbius function. Given a prime  $p$ , for a positive integer  $n$ , let  $\rho(n)$  be the largest integer such that

$$n - \rho(n)(p - 1) > 1$$

$$\text{Set } \alpha_k = -\frac{1}{k!} \frac{d^k}{dx^k} \left( \ln \frac{1-2x+x^{p+1}}{(1-x)^2} \right) \Big|_{x=0}.$$

Set  $f_1 = 0$  and  $f_n = \sum_{i=2}^n R_i$  for  $n \geq 2$ , where

$$R_n = \sum_{i=0}^{\rho(n)-1} \sum_{\substack{k \mid (n-i(p-1)) \\ k > 1}} \mu\left(\frac{n-i(p-1)}{k}\right) \frac{k}{n-i(p-1)} \alpha_k.$$

# Outline of the proof

Let  $\mathcal{H}$  a  $PNp$  hypermap with the group  $G = \langle r, \ell \rangle$ .

## Lemma

*The automorphism group  $G = \langle r, \ell \rangle$  is a finite  $p$ -group, where  $|r| = p^m$  for some integer  $m$  and  $|\ell| = p$ .*



Let  $\Gamma = \langle x, y \mid y^p = 1 \rangle$  so that  $G$  is a quotient of  $\Gamma$ , where  $r$  and  $\ell$  are the images of  $x$  and  $y$ , respectively.

### Lemma

*For each  $n \geq 2$ , the factor  $\Gamma_n/\Gamma_{n+1}$  of the lower central series of  $\Gamma$  is a finite elementary abelian  $p$ -group.*

### Lemma

*For  $m \geq 2$  and  $1 \leq h \leq p - 1$ , the factor  $\Gamma_m/\Gamma_{m+h}$  has exponent  $p$ .*

### Lemma

$[x^{p^m}, y] \in \Gamma_{m(p-1)+2}$  for all  $m \geq 1$ .

### Lemma

$(xy)^{p^m} \in x^{p^m} \Gamma_{m(p-1)+1}$  for all  $m \geq 1$ .

The proof for above lemmas depends on Philip Hall's collection process and some related results.

1. M. Hall, JR., *Combinatorial Theory*, Macmilan, New York, 1967.
2. R.R.Struik, On the nilpotent products of cyclic groups, *Canad J of Math.*, **12**(1960), 447-462.

## Definition

(Hall) Let  $G = \langle a_1, a_2, \dots, a_t \rangle$  be a group. Then the basic commutators of  $G$  are elements of  $G$ , defined and ordered as follows:

- 1) The basic commutators of weight 1 are the generators  $a_1 < a_2 < \dots < a_t$  (in order);
- 2) Inductively, the basic commutators of weight  $w > 1$  are the elements  $[x, y]$  where  $\omega(x) + \omega(y) = \omega([x, y])$ , such that  $x > y$  and if  $x = [u, v]$  for basic commutators  $u$  and  $v$ , then  $y \geq v$ ;
- 3) Commutators are ordered so that  $x > y$  if  $\omega(x) > \omega(y)$  and for commutators of any fixed weight, let  $[x_1, y_1] < [x_2, y_2]$  if either  $y_1 < y_2$  or  $y_1 = y_2$  and  $x_1 < x_2$ .

## Proposition

(Hall) Let  $x_1, x_2, \dots, x_s$  be elements of a group. Let  $c_1, c_2, \dots$  be the basic commutators on  $x_1, x_2, \dots, x_s$  of weight at least 2 in order. Then

$$(x_1 \cdots x_s)^n = x_1^n x_2^n \cdots x_s^n c_1^{f_1(n)} \cdots c_i^{f_i(n)} d_1 d_2 \cdots d_t,$$

where for  $1 \leq j \leq i$ , and

$$f_j(n) = a_1 \binom{n}{1} + a_2 \binom{n}{2} + \cdots + a_{\omega_j} \binom{n}{\omega_j},$$

for  $a$ 's are rational integers not depending on  $n$  but only on  $c_j$  and  $a_{\omega_j} = 0$  for  $\omega_j > n$ ; and  $d$ 's are uncollected basic commutators.

## Proposition

*(Struik) Let  $x, y$  be elements of a group. Let  $u_1, u_2, \dots$  be the sequence of basic commutators of weight at least 2 on  $x$  and  $[x, y]$  in order. Then*

$$[x^n, y] = [x, y]^n u_1^{f_1(n)} \cdots u_i^{f_i(n)} d_1 d_2 \cdots d_t,$$

*where  $f_i, a$ 's and  $d$ 's have the same meaning as in last proposition.*

## Proposition

(Struik) Let  $\alpha$  be a fixed integer and  $G$  a group such that  $G_n = 1$ . Then if  $b_j \in G$  and  $m < n$ ,

$$[b_1, \dots, b_{i-1}, b_i^\alpha, b_{i+1}, \dots, b_m] = [b_1, \dots, b_m]^\alpha v_1^{f_1(\alpha)} v_2^{f_2(\alpha)} \dots v_t^{f_t(\alpha)}$$

where every  $v_k$  is a (not necessarily basic) commutator on  $b_1, \dots, b_m$  of weight  $> m$ , every  $b_j, 1 \leq j \leq m$  appears in each commutator  $v_k$ , and every  $f_h$  is of form with  $\omega_h = \omega(v_h) - (m - 1)$  where  $\omega(v_h)$  is the weight of  $v_h$  on  $b_1, \dots, b_m$ .

## Lemma

Let  $p$  be an odd prime and  $k = (m - 1)(p - 1) + 1 + i$ , where  $1 \leq i \leq p - 2$  and  $m \geq 1$ . Let  $W = Z_{p^m} \wr Z_p = \langle a \rangle \wr \langle b \rangle$  and  $\overline{W} = W/W_{k+1}$ . Then we have

- (i)  $c(W) = m(p - 1) + 1$ ;
- (ii)  $\text{Core}_W(\langle a_1 \rangle) = 1$ .
- (iii)  $|[a_1, tb^{-1}]| = |[a_1, tb]| = p^{m-s}$ , where  $s(p - 1) + 1 \leq t < (s + 1)(p - 1) + 1$  for  $0 \leq s \leq m$ ;
- (iv)  $|a_1 b| = p^{m+1}$ ;
- (v)  $c(\overline{W}) = k$ ;
- (vi)  $|\overline{a_1}| = p^m$ ,  $|\overline{b}| = p$  and  $|\overline{a_1 b}| = p^m$ ;
- (vii)  $\text{Core}_{\overline{W}}(\langle \overline{a_1} \rangle) = 1$ .



## Proposition

(Liebeck) Suppose that  $W = A \wr B$ , where  $A$  and  $B$  are two finite  $p$ -groups. Take  $a \in A$  for  $|a| = p^{n+1}$  and  $b \in B$  for  $|b| = p^h$ , where  $n \geq 0$  and  $h \geq 1$ . For any integer  $t$ , set  $c_t = [a_1^{-1}, tb]$ , where  $a_1$  is a copy of the element  $a$  which is labeled by the identity of  $B$ .

Then we have

(i)  $c_t = 1$  for  $t \geq p^h + n(p-1)p^{h-1}$ ;

(ii)  $|c_t| = p^l$  where  $l \leq n$  and

$$p^h + (n-l)(p-1)p^{h-1} \leq t < p^h + (n-l+1)(p-1)p^{h-1};$$

(iii)  $|c_t| = p^{n+1}$  for  $0 < t < p^h$ .

## Proposition

(Liebeck) If  $A$  is an Abelian  $p$ -group of exponent  $p^n$  and  $B = \langle b_1 \rangle \times \cdots \times \langle b_m \rangle$  is a direct product of  $m$  cyclic groups, whose orders are  $p^{\beta_1}, \dots, p^{\beta_m}$ , respectively, where  $\beta_1 \geq \beta_2 \geq \cdots \geq \beta_m$ , then  $W = A \wr B$  has nilpotency class

$$c = \sum_{i=1}^m (p^{\beta_i} - 1) + (n - 1)(p - 1)p^{\beta_1 - 1} + 1.$$

## Lemma

*For given  $p$  and  $n \geq 2$ , let  $m$  be such that  $(m-1)(p-1) + 1 < n \leq m(p-1) + 1$ . Then the subgroup of  $H^{(n)} = \Gamma/\Gamma_{n+1}$  generated by the image of  $x^{p^m}$  is normal, but the subgroup generated by the image of  $x^{p^{m-1}}$  is not normal.*

The rank of the abelian  $p$ -group  $\Gamma_n/\Gamma_{n+1}$  for  $n \geq 1$  has been determined by Gaglione:

A. M. Gaglione, Factor groups the lower central series for special free products, *J. Alge.*, **37**(1975), 172-185

By  $\mu(k)$  we denote the Möbius function. Given a prime  $p$ , for a positive integer  $n$ , let  $\rho(n)$  be the largest integer such that  $n - \rho(n)(p - 1) > 1$

Set  $\alpha_k = -\frac{1}{k!} \frac{d^k}{dx^k} (\ln \frac{1-2x+x^{p+1}}{(1-x)^2}) \Big|_{x=0}$ .

Set  $f_1 = 0$  and  $f_n = \sum_{i=2}^n R_i$  for  $n \geq 2$ , where

$$R_n = \sum_{i=0}^{\rho(n)-1} \sum_{\substack{k \mid (n-i(p-1)) \\ k > 1}} \mu\left(\frac{n-i(p-1)}{k}\right) \frac{k}{n-i(p-1)} \alpha_k.$$

## Proposition

(Gaglione) The rank of the factor group  $\Gamma_n/\Gamma_{n+1}$  is  $R_n$ , for all  $n \geq 2$ , while the rank of  $\Gamma/\Gamma_2$  is 2.

Set  $f_1 = 0$  and  $f_n = \sum_{i=2}^n R_i$  for  $n \geq 2$ . Immediately, we have

## Corollary

The order of the quotient  $\Gamma_2/\Gamma_{n+1}$  is  $p^{f_n}$ , for all  $n \geq 2$ .

For  $p = 3, 5$ , the first  $2 \leq n \leq 18$  terms of these two sequences  $\{R_n\}$  and  $\{f_n\}$  are given below (with help of MATLAB):

$p = 3$	$R_n$ :	1, 2, 3, 6, 8, 16, 23, 42, 65, 116, 186, 328, 543, 948, 1607, 2804, 4816
	$f_n$ :	1, 3, 6, 12, 20, 36, 59, 101, 166, 282, 468, 796, 1339, 2287, 3894, 6691
$p = 5$	$R_n$ :	1, 2, 3, 6, 9, 18, 29, 54, 92, 172, 301, 558, 1004, 1858, 3399, 6316, 11911
	$f_n$ :	1, 3, 6, 12, 21, 39, 68, 122, 214, 386, 687, 1245, 2249, 4107, 7506, 13817

## Lemma

$\langle x \rangle \cap \Gamma_2 = 1$  and  $\langle y \rangle \cap \Gamma_2 = 1$ .

For a quotient of  $\Gamma$  to be the automorphism group of a  $PNp$  hypermap, we need the stabilizer of a hyperface to be core-free. It follows that the largest nilpotent quotient of class  $c$  that is admissible is the quotient  $U^{(c)} = H^{(c)}/K$ , where  $K$  is the core of the subgroup generated by the image of  $x$  in  $H^{(c)} = \Gamma/\Gamma_{c+1}$ .

### Lemma

*For any  $c \geq 1$ , take  $m$  such that  $(m-1)(p-1) + 1 < c \leq m(p-1) + 1$ . Then the group  $U^{(c)} = H^{(c)}/K$  has order  $p^{m+1+f_c}$ . The corresponding  $PNp$  hypermap  $\mathcal{H}_c$  has type either  $(p, p^{m+1}, p^m)$  for  $c = m(p-1) + 1$  or  $(p, p^m, p^m)$  for  $(m-1)(p-1) + 1 < c < m(p-1) + 1$ .*

## Lemma

*For any integer,  $c \geq 1$ , there exists a unique PNp hypermap  $\mathcal{H}_c$  of class  $c$ , having  $p^{1+f_c}$  hyperfaces and type either  $(p, p^{m+1}, p^m)$  for  $c = m(p-1) + 1$  or  $(p, p^m, p^m)$  for  $(m-1)(p-1) + 1 < c < m(p-1) + 1$ . Furthermore, every PNp hypermap of class at most  $c$  is a quotient of  $\mathcal{H}_c$ .*

The main theorem is proved !



**Table 1: P<sub>N</sub>p hypermaps of class 1, 2, 3**

$p$	Defining relators for $G$	$ G $	$c$	$(r, \ell)$	type	$g$
	$x, y^p, [y, x]$	$p$	1	$(x, y)$	$(p, p, 1)$	0
$p = 2$	$x^p, y^p, [y, x, x], [y, x, y]$	$p^3$	2	$(x, y)$	$(2, 4, 2)$	0
$p \geq 3$					$(p, p, p)$	$1 + \frac{p^2(p-2)}{2}$
2	$x^2, y^2, [y, x, x, y], [y, x, x, x],$ $[y, x, y, x], [y, x, y, y]$	16	3	$(x, y)$	$(2, 8, 2)$	0
	$x^4, y^2, [x^2, y][y, x, x]^{-1}, [y, x, x, y],$ $[y, x, x, x], [y, x, y, x], [y, x, y, y]$	32	3	$(x, y)$	$(2, 4, 4)$	1
	$x^4, y^2, [x^2, y][y, x, y]^{-1}, [y, x, x, y],$ $[y, x, x, x], [y, x, y, x], [y, x, y, y]$	32	3	$(x, y)$	$(2, 8, 4)$	3
	$x^4, y^2, [y, x, x, y], [y, x, x, x],$ $[y, x, y, x], [y, x, y, y]$	64	3	$(x, y)$	$(2, 8, 4)$	5

$p$	Defining relators for $G$	$ G $	$c$	$(r, \ell)$	type	$g$
3	$x^3, y^3, [y, x, x], [y, x, y, x],$ $[y, x, y, y]$	81	3	$(x, y), (y, x)$	$(3, 9, 3)$	10
	$x^3, y^3, [y, x, x]^{-1}[y, x, x]^2,$ $[y, x, y, x], [y, x, y, y]$	81	3	$(x, y)$	$(3, 9, 3)$	10
	$x^3, y^3, [y, x, y, x], [y, x, y, y],$ $[y, x, x, x], [y, x, x, y]$	243	3	$(x, y^2)$ $(x, y)$	$(3, 3, 3)$ $(3, 9, 3)$	1 28
$\geq 5$	$x^p, y^p, [x, y, x],$ $[x, y, y, x], [x, y, y, y]$	$p^4$	3	$(y, x), (xy^i, y)$ $1 \leq i \leq p$	$(p, p, p)$	$1 + \frac{p^3(p-1)}{2}$
	$x^p, y^p, [x, y, x, x], [x, y, x, y],$ $[x, y, y, x], [x, y, y, y]$	$p^5$	3	$(x, y)$	$(p, p, p)$	$1 + \frac{p^4(p-1)}{2}$

Thank you very much !