# Generalized plateaued functions and admissible (plateaued) functions

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2 Generalized plateaued functions





p a prime ,  $\zeta_p = \exp\left(\frac{2i\pi}{p}\right)$ 

 $V_n$  : an *n*-dimensional vector space over  $\mathbb{Z}_p$ 

 $a \cdot x$ : any inner product on  $V_n$ 

## DEFINITION

The Walsh transform of  $f: V_n \to \mathbb{Z}_p$  at  $a \in V_n$  is

$$\widehat{\chi_f}(a) = \sum_{x \in V_n} \zeta_p^{f(x) - a \cdot x}$$

### Remark

When 
$$p = 2$$
,  $\zeta_2 = -1$ 

## DEFINITION

A function  $f : V_n \to \mathbb{Z}_p$  is called a **plateaued function** if the Walsh transform  $\hat{\chi}_f$  takes at most three values.

## Facts :

Because of Parseval identify, | *x̂<sub>f</sub>(a)* | ∈ {0, p<sup>n+r/2</sup>} for some nonnegative integer *r*.

• 
$$r = 0 \rightarrow |\widehat{\chi_f}(a)| = p^{\frac{n}{2}}$$
 : bent functions

• 
$$p = 2, r = 1, n \text{ odd} \rightarrow |\widehat{\chi_f}(a)| \in \{0, 2^{\frac{n+1}{2}}\}$$
 : semi-bent functions

The power  $p^{\frac{n+r}{2}}$  is called the amplitude of *f*.

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Characterizations of plateaued functions : Carlet-Prouff 2003, Cesmelioglu-Meidl 2013, SM 2014, Carlet 2015, Hyun- Lee-Lee 2016, Carlet-SM-Ozbudak-Sinak 2017, etc.

# **Generalized plateaued functions**

$$\zeta_{p^k} = \exp\left(rac{2i\pi}{p^k}
ight), k ext{ a positive integer}$$

#### DEFINITION

Let *r* be an nonnegative integer. A function  $f : V_n \to \mathbb{Z}_{p^k}$  is called a **generalized plateaued function** with amplitude  $p^{\frac{n+r}{2}}$  if the generalized Walsh transform

$$\mathcal{H}_f(a) = \sum_{x \in V_n} \zeta_{p^k}^{f(x)} \zeta_p^{-a \cdot x}$$

has modulus 0 or  $p^{\frac{n+r}{2}}$  for all  $a \in V_n$ .

#### Remark

r=0 : generalized bent functions introduced by Kumar, Scholtz and Welch

## Example

Let f be a function from  $\mathbb{Z}_2^{2k+1} = \mathbb{Z}_2^k \times \mathbb{Z}_2^{k+1}$  to  $\mathbb{Z}_{2^{k+1}}$ , defined as

$$f(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{y}) = \left(\sum_{i=1}^{k} x_i y_i + y_{k+1}\right) \cdot 2^k + \sum_{i=1}^{k} y_i 2^{i-1},$$

where  $\mathbf{x} = (x_1, \cdots, x_k) \in \mathbb{Z}_2^k$  and  $\mathbf{y} = (y_1, \cdots, y_{k+1}) \in \mathbb{Z}_2^{k+1}$ . Then for any  $\mathbf{u} = (u_1, \cdots, u_k) \in \mathbb{Z}_2^k$  and  $\mathbf{v} = (v_1, \cdots, v_{k+1}) \in \mathbb{Z}_2^{k+1}$ , one has

$$|\mathcal{H}_f(\mathbf{u}, \mathbf{v})| = \begin{cases} 2^{\frac{(2k+1)+1}{2}} & \text{if } v_{k+1} = 1, \\ 0 & \text{if } v_{k+1} = 0. \end{cases}$$

f is generalized plateaued with amplitude  $2^{\frac{(2k+1)+1}{2}}$ 

There is an one-to-one correspondence between  $\mathbb{Z}_{p^k}$  and  $\mathbb{Z}_p^k$ : Every  $u \in \mathbb{Z}_{p^k}$  can be uniquely expressed in the form

$$u=\sum_{i=1}^k u_i p^{i-1}, \quad u_i\in\mathbb{Z}_p^{\cdot}$$

 $u_i$  shall be called the *i*th-digit of u in the *p*-base representation of u.

In the sequel, we shall often use the same notation to denote an element *u* of  $\mathbb{Z}_{n^k}$  and the sequence  $u = (u_1, \dots, u_k)$  of its digits.

## **Component functions**

Given a  $\mathbb{Z}_{p^k}$ -valued function f, define

$$f_c = f_k + \sum_{i=1}^{k-1} c_i f_i, \quad c = (c_1, \dots, c_{k-1}) \in \mathbb{Z}_p^{k-1}.$$

- $f_c$ : a component function of f;
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- $f_i$ : *i*th-digit of f.

When p = 2, if *f* is a generalized bent function from  $V_n$  to  $\mathbb{Z}_{p^k}$ :

#### THEOREM (MARTINSEN, MEIDL, STANICA)

If *n* is even then  $f_c$  is bent for all  $c \in \mathbb{Z}_p^k$ .

## THEOREM (MARTINSEN, MEIDL, SM, STANICA)

If *n* is odd then  $f_c$  is semi-bent for all  $c \in \mathbb{Z}_p^k$ .

# Component functions of a generalized plateaued function

#### Theorem

If  $f: V_n \to \mathbb{Z}_{p^k}$  is a generalized plateaued function with amplitude  $p^{\frac{n+r}{2}}$  then :

- if *p* is odd or if p = 2 and n + r is even,  $f_c$  is plateaued with amplitude  $p^{\frac{n+r}{2}}$
- 2 if p = 2, n + r is odd and  $k \ge 3$ ,  $f_c$  is plateaued with amplitude  $2^{\frac{n+r+1}{2}}$

#### Remark

For r = 0 and p odd (generalized bent functions), it has been also established independently by Wang, Wu and Liu.

k a positive integer

A basis of the vectorspace  $\mathbb{Q}(\zeta_{p^k})$  over  $K := \mathbb{Q}(\zeta_p)$  is  $\{\zeta_{p^k}^u, 0 \le u \le p^{k-1} - 1\}.$ 

The (unique) decomposition of a Walsh coefficient over this basis is :

$$\mathcal{H}_f(a) = \sum_{x \in V_n} \zeta_{p^k}^{f(x)} \zeta_p^{-a \cdot x} = \sum_{u \in \mathbb{Z}_p^{k-1}} \zeta_{p^k}^u \sum_{x \in W_u} \zeta_p^{f_k(x) - a \cdot x} \in \mathbb{Q}(\zeta_{p^k})$$

where  $W_u = \{x \in V_n \mid f_1(x) = u_1, \dots, f_{k-1}(x) = u_{k-1}\}.$ 

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where  $W_u = \{x \in V_n \mid f_1(x) = u_1, \dots, f_{k-1}(x) = u_{k-1}\}.$ 

On the other hand,

$$\widehat{\chi_{f_c}}(a) = \sum_{x \in V_n} \zeta_p^{f_c(x) - a \cdot x} = \sum_{u \in \mathbb{Z}_p^{k-1}} \zeta_p^{c \cdot u} \sum_{x \in W_u} \zeta_p^{f_k(x) - a \cdot x}$$

The two above decompositions of  $\mathcal{H}_f(a)$  and  $\widehat{\chi_{f_c}}(a)$  involve the same sums  $S_u(a) = \sum_{x \in W_u} \zeta_p^{f_k(x) - a \cdot x} \in \mathbb{Q}(\zeta_p)$ 

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 $p^{\star} = \left(\frac{-1}{p}\right)p$  where  $\left(\frac{1}{p}\right)$  denotes the Legendre symbol.

If  $p = 2, k \ge 3$  otherwise k a positive integer

## THEOREM (REGULARITY OF GENERALIZED PLATEAUED FUNCTIONS)

Let  $f: V_n \to \mathbb{Z}_{p^k}$  be a generalized plateaued function with amplitude  $p^{\frac{n+r}{2}}$ . Then, for every  $a \in V_n$ ,

$$\mathcal{H}_f(a) = \varepsilon(a) \sqrt{p^{\star}}^{n+r} \zeta_{p^k}^{g(a)} \zeta_p^{h(a)}$$

for some  $\varepsilon: V_n \to \{-1, 0, 1\}$ ,  $g: V_n \to \mathbb{Z}_{p^{k-1}}$  and  $h: V_n \to \mathbb{Z}_p$ .

#### Remark

When 
$$p = 2$$
,  $p^* = \left(\frac{-1}{2}\right)2 = 2$ .

## In summary,

$$S_u(a) = \sum_{x \in W_u} \zeta_p^{f_k(x) - a \cdot x} \in \mathbb{Q}(\zeta_p) =: K$$
$$\mathcal{H}_f(a) = \sum_{u \in \mathbb{Z}_p^{k-1}} \zeta_{p^k}^u S_u(a) = \varepsilon(a) \left(\sqrt{p^\star}\right)^{n+r} \zeta_{p^k}^{g(a)} \zeta_p^{h(a)},$$

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- When p = 2:  $\zeta_2 = -1$  and  $K = \mathbb{Q}(\zeta_2) = \mathbb{Q}$ .

In that case, one has therefore to separate the two subcases :

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In that case, one has therefore to separate the two subcases : (a) n + r even :  $\nu = \sqrt{p^{\star}}^{n+r} = 2^{\frac{n+r}{2}} \in K$ (b) n + r odd :  $\sqrt{p^{\star}}^{n+r} = 2^{\frac{n+r-1}{2}}\sqrt{2} = 2^{\frac{n+r-1}{2}} \left(\zeta_{2^{k}}^{2^{k-3}} - \zeta_{2^{k}}^{3\cdot 2^{k-3}}\right) \in \mathbb{Q}(\zeta_{2^{k}}) \setminus K$ 

## p odd or n + r even, $k \ge 3$ if p = 2 (Cases 1 or 2a)

$$\sum_{u\in\mathbb{Z}_p^{k-1}}\zeta_{p^k}^u\sum_{x\in W_u}\zeta_p^{f_k(x)-a\cdot x}=\varepsilon(a)\sqrt{p^{\star}}^{n+r}\zeta_{p^k}^{g(a)}\zeta_p^{h(a)},\quad \sqrt{p^{\star}}\in\mathbb{Q}(\zeta_p)$$

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Hence

$$S_u(a) = \sum_{x \in W_u} \zeta_p^{f_k(x) - a \cdot x} = \begin{cases} \varepsilon(a) \sqrt{p^{\star}}^{n+r} \zeta_p^{h(a)} & \text{if } u = g(a) \\ 0 & \text{otherwise} \end{cases}$$

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Thus

$$\widehat{\chi_{f_c}}(a) = \sum_{u \in \mathbb{Z}_p^{k-1}} \zeta_p^{u \cdot c} S_u(a) = S_{g(a)}(a) \zeta_p^{g(a) \cdot c}$$

 $f_c$  is plateaued with amplitude  $p^{\frac{n+r}{2}}$ 

p = 2, n + r odd and  $k \ge 3$  (Case 2b)

$$\sum_{u \in \mathbb{Z}_{2}^{k-1}} \zeta_{2^{k}}^{u} \sum_{x \in W_{u}} (-1)^{f_{k}(x) - a \cdot x} = \varepsilon(a) 2^{\frac{n+r-1}{2}} (-1)^{h(a)} \left( \zeta_{2^{k}}^{g(a) + 2^{k-3}} - \zeta_{2^{k}}^{g(a) + 3 \cdot 2^{k-3}} \right)$$

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Hence

$$S_{u}(a) = \sum_{x \in W_{u}} (-1)^{f_{k}(x) - a \cdot x} = \begin{cases} \varepsilon(a) 2^{\frac{n+r-1}{2}} (-1)^{h(a)} & \text{if } u = g(a) + 2^{k-3} \\ -\varepsilon(a) 2^{\frac{n+r-1}{2}} (-1)^{h(a)} & \text{if } u = g(a) + 3 \cdot 2^{k-3} \\ 0 & \text{otherwise} \end{cases}$$

Thus

$$\widehat{\chi_{f_c}}(a) = (-1)^{(g(a)+2^{k-3})\cdot c} S_{g(a)+2^{k-3}}(a) - (-1)^{(g(a)+3\cdot 2^{k-3})\cdot c} S_{g(a)+3\cdot 2^{k-3}}(a).$$

 $f_c$  is plateaued with amplitude  $2 \times 2^{\frac{n+r-1}{2}} = 2^{\frac{n+r+1}{2}}$ 

# Question

Let f be a function from  $V_n$  to  $\mathbb{Z}_{p^k}$  where p odd or p = 2 and n + r even

**Question :** if all the  $f_c$ 's are plateaued with the same amplitude, is f a generalized plateaued function?

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Answer : it is NOT necessary true

Generalized bent function : r = 0

When p = 2, various characterizations involving the  $f_c$ 's have been found

- *k* = 2 : Solé, Tokereva (2009)
- *k* = 3 : Stanica et *al* (2013)
- k a positive integer : Hodzic, Pasalic (2016), Tang, Qi, Xiang, Feng (2016)

Each of them require an additional statement on the  $f_c$ 's.

Let *f* be a generalized plateaued function from  $V_n$  to  $\mathbb{Z}_{p^k}$ 

**Cases 1 and 2a** : p be odd or n + r be even

We have proved that all the component functions  $f_c$  of f have all the same amplitude but above we have shown that

#### Lemma

For all 
$$a \in V_n$$
,  $c \in \mathbb{Z}_p^{k-1}$  and  $d \in \mathbb{Z}_p^{k-1}$ , we have

 $|\widehat{\chi_{f_c}}(a)| = |\widehat{\chi_{f_d}}(a)|$ 

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Let f be a generalized plateaued function from  $V_n$  to  $\mathbb{Z}_{p^k}$ 

Cases 1 and 2a : one can extend all the preceding results and show that

#### THEOREM

For all  $H \in \mathbb{Z}_p[X_1, \ldots, X_{k-1}]$ ,  $f_H = f_k + H(f_1, \ldots, f_{k-1})$  is plateaued with amplitude  $p^{\frac{n+r}{2}}$  and, for all a in  $V_n$ ,  $H_1$ ,  $H_2$  in  $\mathbb{Z}_p[X_1, \ldots, X_k]$ , we have :

$$|\widehat{\chi_{f_{H_1}}}(a)| = |\widehat{\chi_{f_{H_2}}}(a)|.$$

#### Remark

$$f_c = f_H$$
 with  $H(x_1, \ldots, x_{k-1}) = \sum_{i=1}^{k-1} c_i x_i$ 

From now, suppose *p* is odd or p = 2 and n + r is even.

Let  $\mathcal{P} = \{P_1, \ldots, P_t\}$  be a partition of  $V_n : \bigcup_{i=1}^t P_i = \mathbb{Z}_p^n, P_i \cap P_j = \emptyset, i \neq j.$ 

A function  $g: V_n \to \mathbb{Z}_p$  is said to be piecewise constant over  $\mathcal{P}$  if it locally constant on each element of  $\mathcal{P}$ .

#### DEFINITION

Let  $f : V_n \to \mathbb{Z}_p$ . Then, f is said to be r-admissible for  $\mathcal{P}$  if and only if, for every piecewise constant function  $g : V_n \to \mathbb{Z}_p$  over  $\mathcal{P}, f + g$  is plateaued with amplitude  $p^{\frac{n+r}{2}}$  and  $|\widehat{\chi}_f(a)| = |\widehat{\chi}_{f+g}(a)|$  for all  $a \in V_n$ .

Let f be a function from  $\mathbb{Z}_2^{2k+1} = \mathbb{Z}_2^k \times \mathbb{Z}_2^{k+1}$  to  $\mathbb{Z}_2$ , defined as

$$f(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{y}) = \sum_{i=1}^{k} x_i y_i + y_{k+1},$$

where  $\mathbf{x} = (x_1, \dots, x_k) \in \mathbb{Z}_2^k$  and  $\mathbf{y} = (y_1, \dots, y_{k+1}) \in \mathbb{Z}_2^{k+1}$ . Let  $\mathcal{P} = \{P_{\{y_1, \dots, y_k\}} : (y_1, \dots, y_k) \in \mathbb{Z}_2^k\}$ , where  $P_{\{y_1, \dots, y_k\}} = \{(\mathbf{x}, y_1, \dots, y_k, y_{k+1}) \in \mathbb{Z}_2^{2k+1} : \mathbf{x} \in \mathbb{Z}_2^k, y_{k+1} \in \mathbb{Z}_2\}$ . Then *f* is 1-admissible for  $\mathcal{P}$ .

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# Admissible (plateaued) functions

Let  $f : V_n \to \mathbb{Z}_p$  be a *r*-admissible function for a partition  $\mathcal{P} = \{P_1, \dots, P_t\}$  of  $V_n$ .

Define

$$S_i(a) = \sum_{x \in P_i} \zeta_p^{f(x) - a \cdot x}$$

#### PROPOSITION

For every  $1 \le i < j \le t$  and  $a \in V_n$ ,  $S_i(a)S_j(a) = 0$ 

#### Remark

The proof relies strongly on the fact that  $|\hat{\chi}_f(a)| = |\hat{\chi}_{f+g}(a)|$  for all  $a \in V_n$  for every piecewise constant function  $g: V_n \to \mathbb{Z}_p$  over  $\mathcal{P}$ .

Let k a positive integer

Let  $f: V_n \to \mathbb{Z}_{p^k}$  and  $f_i$  denotes the *i*th-digit of f

Let us construct a particular partition of  $\mathbb{Z}_p^n$  involving the  $(k-1) \mathrm{st}$  digits of f :

$$P_a = \bigcap_{i=1}^{k-1} f_i^{-1}(a_i)$$

and

$$\mathcal{P}_{f_1,\ldots,f_{k-1}}=\{P_a,\,a\in\mathbb{Z}_p^{k-1}\}.$$

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In that case, every function g which piecewise constant for  $\mathcal{P}$  can be expressed in the form  $g(x) = H(f_1(x), \ldots, f_{k-1}(x))$  for some  $H \in \mathbb{Z}_p[X_1, \ldots, X_{k-1}]$  and the preceding proposition rewrites as follows :

#### PROPOSITION

For all 
$$a \in V_n$$
 and  $(u, v) \in \left(\mathbb{Z}_p^{k-1}\right)^2$ ,  $S_u(a)S_v(a) = 0$  where

$$S_u(a) = \sum_{x \in W_u} \zeta^{f(x) - a \cdot x}.$$

Thanks to this result, one can establish the following characterization :

#### THEOREM

Let  $f: V_n \to \mathbb{Z}_{p^k}$ . Then, f is a generalized plateaued function with amplitude  $p^{\frac{n+r}{2}}$  if and only if  $f_k$  is r-admissible with respect to  $\mathcal{P}_{f_1,...,f_{k-1}}$ .

 $0\text{-admissible} \to \text{bent functions}$ 

In that case, the equality  $|\widehat{\chi_f}(a)| = |\widehat{\chi_{f+g}}(a)|$  of the modulus of Walsh coefficients is always true and the definition rewrites

### DEFINITION

Let  $f : V_n \to \mathbb{Z}_p$ . Then, f is said to be 0-admissible for  $\mathcal{P}$  if and only if, for every piecewise constant function  $g : V_n \to \mathbb{Z}_p$  over  $\mathcal{P}, f + g$  is bent.

 $0\text{-admissible} \to \text{bent functions}$ 

In that case, the equality  $|\widehat{\chi_f}(a)| = |\widehat{\chi_{f+g}}(a)|$  of the modulus of Walsh coefficients is always true and the definition rewrites

### DEFINITION

Let  $f : V_n \to \mathbb{Z}_p$ . Then, f is said to be 0-admissible for  $\mathcal{P}$  if and only if, for every piecewise constant function  $g : V_n \to \mathbb{Z}_p$  over  $\mathcal{P}$ , f + g is bent.

Thus, the preceding characterization rewrites for generalized bent functions as follows :

## COROLLARY

Let  $f : V_n \to \mathbb{Z}_{p^k}$ . Then, f is a generalized bent function if and only if  $f_k + F(f_1, \dots, f_{k-1})$  is bent for all  $F \in \mathbb{Z}_p[X_1, \dots, X_{k-1}]$ .

Let  $f: V_n \to \mathbb{Z}_{p^k}$  be a generalized bent function with amplitude  $2^{\frac{n+r}{2}}$ Let *r* be a nonnegative integer

**Case 2b :** p = 2 and n + r odd

In that case, a component function  $f_c$  is plateaued with amplitude  $2^{\frac{n+r+1}{2}}$ 

The preceding notion of admissible functions can not be simply adapted since, one may have for some  $a \in V_n$  and  $(c, d) \in \mathbb{Z}_p^{k-1}$ :

$$|\widehat{\chi_{f_c(a)}}| \neq |\widehat{\chi_{f_d(a)}}|$$

The preceding characterization of generalized plateaued function when *p* is odd or *n* + *r* is even relies strongly on the fact that  $|\widehat{\chi_{f_c(a)}}| = |\widehat{\chi_{f_d(a)}}|$  for all *a*, *c* and *d*.

# Generalized plateaued functions from other ones

Let  $f: V_n \to \mathbb{Z}_{p^k}$ Suppose p is odd or n + r even Let t be a positive integer Let  $H_1, \ldots, H_t$  be functions from  $\mathbb{Z}_p^{k-1}$  to  $\mathbb{Z}_p$ Define

$$g(x) = p^{t-1}f_k(x) + \sum_{i=1}^{t} H_i(f_1(x), \dots, f_{k-1}(x))p^{i-1}$$

Then,

#### Theorem

If *f* is a generalized plateaued function with amplitude  $p^{\frac{n+r}{2}}$  the *g* is a generalized plateaued function with amplitude  $p^{\frac{n+r}{2}}$ .

# Generalized plateaued functions from other ones

Let  $f: V_n \to \mathbb{Z}_{p^k}$ Suppose p is odd or n + r even Let t be a positive integer Let  $H_1, \ldots, H_t$  be functions from  $\mathbb{Z}_p^{k-1}$  to  $\mathbb{Z}_p$ Define

$$g(x) = p^{t-1}f_k(x) + \sum_{i=1}^{t} H_i(f_1(x), \dots, f_{k-1}(x))p^{i-1}$$

## Proof.

It is a direct consequence of the fact that at most one sum  $S_u(a) = \sum_{x \in W_u} \zeta_p^{f(x) - a \cdot x}$  is non zero and whose modulus is equal to  $p^{\frac{n+r}{2}}$ :

$$\mathcal{H}_{g}(a) = \sum_{x \in V_{n}} \zeta_{p^{t}}^{g(x)} \zeta_{p}^{-a \cdot x} = \sum_{u \in \mathbb{Z}_{p^{t}}^{k-1}} \zeta_{p^{t}}^{\sum_{i=1}^{t} H_{i}(u)p^{i-1}} S_{u}(a) = \zeta_{p^{t}}^{\sum_{i=1}^{t} H_{i}(u)p^{i-1}} S_{u}(a^{\star})$$

for some  $a^{\star} \in V_n$ .

Let  $f: V_n \to \mathbb{Z}_{2^k}$ Suppose  $p = 2, k \ge 3$  and n + r odd

Define 
$$g : \mathbb{Z}_{2}^{n} \times \mathbb{Z}_{2} \to \mathbb{Z}_{2^{k}}$$
 as  

$$g(x, z) = (f_{k}(\mathbf{x}) + zf_{k-1}(\mathbf{x}))2^{k-1} + z2^{k-2} + \sum_{i=1}^{k-2} f_{i}(\mathbf{x})2^{i-1}$$

$$\zeta_{2^{k}}^{f(x)} = (-1)^{f_{k}(x)} \zeta_{4}^{f_{k-1}(x)} \zeta_{2^{k}}^{\sum_{i=1}^{k-2} f_{i}(\mathbf{x})2^{i-1}},$$

$$\zeta_{2^{k}}^{g(x,0)} = \zeta_{4}^{-f_{k-1}(x)} \zeta_{2^{k}}^{f(x)} \text{ and } \zeta_{2^{k}}^{g(x,1)} = (-1)^{f_{k-1}(x)} \zeta_{4}^{1-f_{k-1}(x)} \zeta_{2^{k}}^{f(x)}$$

#### Theorem

*f* is a generalized plateaued function with amplitude  $2^{\frac{n+r}{2}}$  if and only if *g* is a generalized plateaued function with amplitude  $2^{\frac{n+r}{2}}$ .

Let  $f: V_n \to \mathbb{Z}_{2^k}$ Suppose  $p = 2, k \ge 3$  and n + r even Define  $g: \mathbb{Z}_2^n \times \mathbb{Z}_2 \to \mathbb{Z}_{2^r}$  as

$$g(x,z) = 2^{t-1} f_k(x) + \sum_{i=1}^{t-1} H_i(f_1(x), \dots, f_{k-1}(x)) 2^{i-1} + 2^{t-2} z I(f_1(x), \dots, f_{k-1}(x))$$

where the  $H_i$ 's are maps from  $\mathbb{Z}_2^{k-1}$  to  $\mathbb{Z}_2$  and  $I: \mathbb{Z}_2^{k-1} \to \mathbb{Z}_4$ .

Let  $f: V_n \to \mathbb{Z}_{2^k}$ Observe that

$$\zeta_{p^t}^{g(x,0)} = \zeta_{p^t}^{h(x)}$$
 and  $\zeta_{p^t}^{g(x,1)} = \zeta_4^{I(f_1(x),\dots,f_{k-1}(x))} \zeta_{p^t}^{h(x)}$ 

where

$$h(x) = 2^{t-1} f_k(x) + \sum_{i=1}^t H_i(f_1(x), \dots, f_{k-1}(x)) 2^{i-1}$$

Now, if *I* is equal to 0 or  $2 \zeta_4^{I(f_1(x),...,f_{k-1}(x))} \in \{-1,1\}$  while, if it equal to 1 or 3,  $\zeta_4^{I(f_1(x),...,f_{k-1}(x))} \in \{-\zeta_4,\zeta_4\}$ .

Let  $f: V_n \to \mathbb{Z}_{2^k}$ 

#### THEOREM

Suppose that *f* is a generalized plateaued function with amplitude  $p^{\frac{n+r}{2}}$ . Then

- If *I* takes only the values 1 and 3, *g* is a generalized plateaued function with amplitude  $p^{\frac{n+r}{2}}$
- 2 If I takes only the values 0 and 2, g is a generalized plateaued function with amplitude  $p^{\frac{n+r+1}{2}}$

#### Remark

If I can take three values then g cannot be plateaued.