



# Dual and Non-Dual Elements in Finite Fields (Rings)

Research Article

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**Abstract:** Let  $F$  be a finite field (ring) and  $a, b \in F$ . We call  $a$  and  $b$  as dual elements if  $a^2 = b^2 = -1$  (where 1 is the identity element of  $F$ ). The term dual elements refers to the dual properties of  $a$  and  $b$  as  $a$  and  $b$  are the additive as well as multiplicative inverse of each other. If  $a^2 = b^2 = -c$ , where  $c \neq 1$  is any element of  $F$  then we call  $a$  and  $b$  as non-dual elements of  $F$ . We note that if  $a \in F$  such that  $a^2 = -a$  then  $a$  is not necessarily the zero element of  $F$ .

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## 1. Introduction

The theory of finite rings and finite fields are important aspects of modern algebra for study and research. One may refer [1–3] for further details. The idea behind this note is simple and has originated through [4, 5]. In [4] we have given a simple technique to obtain a finite matrix field of order  $p$  for every prime  $p > 0$ . In [5] we have given a technique to construct a finite matrix field of order  $p^2$  for every positive prime  $p \neq 2$ . In this article we introduce the concept of dual inverse and dual elements in a finite ring and finite field and provide some examples. In this article by a finite ring we mean a finite commutative ring. In the section two, all the definitions and propositions are given for finite fields but they equally hold for finite rings as well.

## 2. Dual Elements and Dual Inverse

**Definition 2.1.** Let  $F$  be a finite field and  $a, b \in F$  then  $b$  is called the dual inverse of  $a$  if  $b$  is the additive as well as multiplicative inverse of  $a$ . If  $b$  is the dual inverse of  $a$  then  $a$  is also the dual inverse of  $b$ .

**Definition 2.2.** Let  $F$  be a finite field and  $a, b \in F$  then  $a$  and  $b$  are called dual elements of  $F$  if  $a^2 = b^2 = -1$ . In other words,  $a$  and  $b$  are called dual elements of  $F$  if  $a$  and  $b$  are the dual inverse of each other.

**Definition 2.3.** An element  $a$  of a finite field  $F$  is called the self dual element if  $a$  is the additive as well as multiplicative inverse of itself.

**Definition 2.4.** Let  $F$  be a finite field and  $a, b \in F$  then  $a$  and  $b$  are called non-dual elements of  $F$  if  $a^2 = b^2 \neq -1$ .

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**Proposition 2.5.** *If  $F$  is a finite field of characteristic  $p$  and  $c$  is an element of  $F$  then*

$$(1). a^2 + b^2 = (p-2)ab,$$

$$(2). a^3 + b^3 = 0,$$

$$(3). a^2 = b^2 = -c$$

for all  $a, b \in F$  and  $a + b = 0$ .

**Proposition 2.6.** *Let  $a$  and  $b$  are dual elements of a finite field  $F$  then*

$$(1). a^2 + b^2 = (p-2).1,$$

$$(2). a^3 + b^3 = 0$$

$$(3). a^2 = b^2 = -1.$$

Here 1 is the multiplicative identity of  $F$  and  $p$  is the characteristic of  $F$ .

**Proposition 2.7.** *The dual inverse of every  $a \in F$  (if it exists) is unique.*

**Proposition 2.8.** *Every finite field of characteristic two has self dual element.*

**Proposition 2.9.** *Let  $F$  be a finite field and  $a, b \in F$  with  $a + b = 0$  then  $a^2 = b^2 = -1$  or  $a^2 = b^2 = -c$ , where 1 is the identity element of  $F$  and  $c$  is an element of  $F$ .*

**Proposition 2.10.** *Let  $F$  be a finite field(ring) and  $a \in F$  such that  $a^2 = -a$  then  $a$  is not necessarily the zero element of  $F$ . Refer Example 2.16.*

**Example 2.11.** Let  $R = \left\{ \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 \end{pmatrix}, \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix}, \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 1 \\ 1 & 1 \end{pmatrix}, \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 1 \\ 1 & 0 \end{pmatrix} \right\}$ . One can see that  $R$  is a finite commutative ring under matrix addition and multiplication modulo 2. Let  $a = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix}$ ,  $b = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 1 \\ 1 & 0 \end{pmatrix}$ . Then  $a$  and  $b$  are self dual elements of  $R$ .

**Example 2.12.**

$$R = \left\{ \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 \end{pmatrix}, \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix}, \begin{pmatrix} 2 & 0 \\ 0 & 2 \end{pmatrix}, \begin{pmatrix} 3 & 0 \\ 0 & 3 \end{pmatrix}, \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 2 \\ 2 & 0 \end{pmatrix}, \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 3 \\ 3 & 0 \end{pmatrix}, \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 1 \\ 3 & 0 \end{pmatrix}, \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 2 \\ 2 & 1 \end{pmatrix}, \begin{pmatrix} 2 & 2 \\ 2 & 2 \end{pmatrix}, \begin{pmatrix} 3 & 2 \\ 2 & 3 \end{pmatrix}, \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 1 \\ 3 & 1 \end{pmatrix}, \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 3 \\ 1 & 1 \end{pmatrix}, \begin{pmatrix} 2 & 3 \\ 3 & 2 \end{pmatrix}, \begin{pmatrix} 2 & 1 \\ 3 & 2 \end{pmatrix}, \begin{pmatrix} 3 & 1 \\ 3 & 3 \end{pmatrix}, \begin{pmatrix} 3 & 3 \\ 1 & 3 \end{pmatrix} \right\}.$$

Then  $R$  is a finite commutative ring under matrix addition and multiplication modulo 4. Let  $a = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 3 \\ 1 & 0 \end{pmatrix}$ ,  $b = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 1 \\ 3 & 0 \end{pmatrix}$  then  $a$  and  $b$  are dual elements of  $R$ .

**Example 2.13.** *A finite matrix field of order 9 as given in [2] is*

$$M_9 = \left\{ \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 \end{pmatrix}, \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix}, \begin{pmatrix} 2 & 0 \\ 0 & 2 \end{pmatrix}, \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 1 \\ 2 & 0 \end{pmatrix}, \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 2 \\ 1 & 0 \end{pmatrix}, \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 1 \\ 2 & 1 \end{pmatrix}, \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 2 \\ 1 & 1 \end{pmatrix}, \begin{pmatrix} 2 & 1 \\ 2 & 2 \end{pmatrix}, \begin{pmatrix} 2 & 2 \\ 1 & 2 \end{pmatrix} \right\}.$$

Let  $a = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 1 \\ 2 & 0 \end{pmatrix}$  and  $b = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 2 \\ 1 & 0 \end{pmatrix}$  then it is easy to verify that  $a$  and  $b$  are dual elements of  $M_9$ . It may be noted that addition and multiplication in  $M_9$  are defined as matrix addition modulo 3 and matrix multiplication modulo 3 respectively.

**Example 2.14.** Let  $a = \begin{pmatrix} 2 & 0 \\ 0 & 2 \end{pmatrix}$ ,  $b = \begin{pmatrix} 3 & 0 \\ 0 & 3 \end{pmatrix}$ ;  $c = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 1 \\ 4 & 0 \end{pmatrix}$ ,  $d = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 4 \\ 1 & 0 \end{pmatrix}$ . One may refer [2] to see that these are elements of  $M_{25}$ .  $M_{25}$  is a finite field of order 25 under matrix addition and multiplication modulo 5. One can see that  $a$  and  $b$ ;  $c$  and  $d$  are dual elements of  $M_{25}$ .

**Example 2.15.** Since every finite field of characteristic  $p$  contains a finite field of order  $p$  therefore every field of characteristic 2 has a subfield of order 2. One can easily see that a finite field of order 2 has a self dual element. Thus it directly follows that every finite field of characteristic 2 has a self dual element. For two distinct matrix representations of a finite field of order 2 one may refer [1].

**Example 2.16.** Let  $F_5 = \left\{ \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 \end{pmatrix}, \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 1 \\ 1 & 1 \end{pmatrix}, \begin{pmatrix} 2 & 2 \\ 2 & 2 \end{pmatrix}, \begin{pmatrix} 3 & 3 \\ 3 & 3 \end{pmatrix}, \begin{pmatrix} 4 & 4 \\ 4 & 4 \end{pmatrix} \right\}$ , then it is a finite field of order 5 under matrix addition and multiplication modulo 5 [1]. Let

$$F_{11} = \left\{ \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 \end{pmatrix}, \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 1 \\ 1 & 1 \end{pmatrix}, \begin{pmatrix} 2 & 2 \\ 2 & 2 \end{pmatrix}, \begin{pmatrix} 3 & 3 \\ 3 & 3 \end{pmatrix}, \begin{pmatrix} 4 & 4 \\ 4 & 4 \end{pmatrix}, \begin{pmatrix} 5 & 5 \\ 5 & 5 \end{pmatrix}, \begin{pmatrix} 6 & 6 \\ 6 & 6 \end{pmatrix}, \begin{pmatrix} 7 & 7 \\ 7 & 7 \end{pmatrix}, \begin{pmatrix} 8 & 8 \\ 8 & 8 \end{pmatrix}, \begin{pmatrix} 9 & 9 \\ 9 & 9 \end{pmatrix}, \begin{pmatrix} 10 & 10 \\ 10 & 10 \end{pmatrix} \right\}.$$

It is easy to see that  $F_{11}$  is a finite field under matrix addition and multiplication modulo 11 [1].

One may verify that  $F_5$  has dual elements however  $F_{11}$  does not have dual elements. Therefore  $F_{11}$  contains only non-dual elements and one can also verify that there are non-zero elements in  $F_{11}$  satisfying  $a^2 = -a$ .

## References

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