

# Properties and Crosscorrelation of Decimated Sidelnikov Sequences\*\*

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**SUMMARY** In this paper, we show that if the  $d$ -decimation of a  $(q-1)$ -ary Sidelnikov sequence of period  $q-1 = p^m - 1$  is the  $d$ -multiple of the same Sidelnikov sequence, then  $d$  must be a power of a prime  $p$ . Also, we calculate the crosscorrelation magnitude between some constant multiples of  $d$ - and  $d'$ -decimations of a Sidelnikov sequence of period  $q-1$  to be upper bounded by  $(d+d'-1)\sqrt{q}+3$ .

**key words:** Sidelnikov sequences,  $d$ -decimation sequences, constant-multiple sequences, correlation bound, Weil bound

## 1. Introduction

For a prime power  $q = p^m$  and a positive integer  $M$  such that  $M|q-1$ , Sidelnikov [1] introduced an  $M$ -ary sequences (called the Sidelnikov sequences) of period  $q-1$ , and showed that their non-trivial autocorrelation magnitudes are upper bounded by 4 regardless of  $M$  and  $q$ .

Binary and non-binary sequences with good autocorrelation properties have important applications in spread spectrum communications and radar engineering [2], [3]. Sequence family with further property on good (low) cross-correlation has also some important applications in multi-user communications such as cellular mobile communications [3], [4]. Non-binary sequence family constructions using the Sidelnikov sequences have been considered by many researchers [5], [6], [8]–[13].

Sampling or decimation is a well-known method for constructing a new sequence from the given sequence [2]–[4]. In this paper, we show that if the  $d$ -decimation of a  $(q-1)$ -ary Sidelnikov sequence of period  $q-1 = p^m - 1$  is the  $d$ -multiple of the same Sidelnikov sequence, then  $d$  must be a power of a prime  $p$ . Also, we calculate the crosscorrelation magnitude between some constant multiples of  $d$ - and  $d'$ -

decimations of a Sidelnikov sequence of period  $q-1$  to be upper bounded by  $(d+d'-1)\sqrt{q}+3$ .

Section 2 introduces some preliminary concepts for the main results: notation, definition of Sidelnikov sequences, correlation, Weil bound on character sums, and decimation. Main results are given in Sect. 3. Section 4 gives a brief concluding remark.

## 2. Preliminaries

### 2.1 Notation and Convention

We will use the following notation:

- $p$  : a prime number
- $q$  : a prime power  $p^m$  with positive integer  $m$
- $GF(q)$  : the finite field with  $q$  elements
- $d$  : a decimation factor with  $\gcd(q-1, d) = 1$
- $M$  : a divisor of  $q-1$  with  $M \geq 2$
- $\omega_M = \exp(j\frac{2\pi}{M})$  where  $j = \sqrt{-1}$
- $\beta$  : a fixed primitive element of  $GF(q)$
- $\psi$  : the multiplicative character of  $GF(q)$  of order  $M$  defined by

$$\psi(x) = \exp\left(j\frac{2\pi}{M} \log_{\beta} x\right) = \omega_M^{\log_{\beta} x}$$

We keep  $\log(0) = 0$  and  $\psi(0) = 1$  in this paper for convenience.

### 2.2 Sidelnikov Sequences

**Definition 1** [1] For any fixed primitive element  $\beta$  of  $GF(q)$ , let  $D_k = \{\beta^{Mi+k} - 1 \mid 0 \leq i < \frac{q-1}{M}\}$ . Then  $M$ -ary Sidelnikov sequence  $\{s(t)\}$  of period  $q-1$  is defined as

$$s(t) = \begin{cases} 0, & \text{if } \beta^t = -1 \\ k, & \text{if } \beta^t \in D_k. \end{cases}$$

We will say that  $s(t)$  above is defined by the primitive element  $\beta$ .

Equivalently, it can also be expressed, with the new convention that  $\log 0 = 0$ , as

$$s(t) \equiv \log_{\beta}(\beta^t + 1) \pmod{M}$$

for  $0 \leq t \leq q-2$ .

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### 2.3 Correlation

A correlation is a measure of distance between two sequences or sequence families. If two sequences are the same, the correlation is called auto-correlation. Otherwise, we call it cross-correlation. The following definition has been well-known [4].

**Definition 2** Let  $\{a(t)\}$  and  $\{b(t)\}$  be  $M$ -ary sequences of period  $L$ , where  $0 \leq t \leq L - 1$ . A periodic correlation between  $\{a(t)\}$  and  $\{b(t)\}$  is defined by

$$C_{a,b}(\tau) = \sum_{t=0}^{L-1} \omega_M^{a(t)-b(t+\tau)}$$

for  $0 \leq \tau \leq L-1$ , where  $\omega_M = \exp(j\frac{2\pi}{M})$  and  $t+\tau$  is computed modulo  $L$ .

For  $\tau \equiv 0 \pmod L$  when  $\{a(t)\}$  and  $\{b(t)\}$  are the same sequence, the value above becomes  $L$ , which is regarded as trivial. The values at all other cases (for all  $\tau$  when  $\{a(t)\}$  and  $\{b(t)\}$  are two different sequences or for  $\tau \not\equiv 0 \pmod L$  when  $\{a(t)\}$  and  $\{b(t)\}$  are the same sequence) are called non-trivial.

For a sequence set  $\mathcal{S}$ ,  $C_{max}(\mathcal{S})$  is the maximum magnitude of all the non-trivial correlations of the pairs of sequences in  $\mathcal{S}$ .

### 2.4 Weil Bound

The Weil bound gives an upper bound on the multiplicative character sums, and has been used to calculate upper bound on the crosscorrelation of various sequences [4]. Yu and Gong [9], [13] introduced a refined version from some of the previously well-known ones, with an additional assumption that  $\psi(0) = 1$ . We will use a further refined version by Kim [10].

**Theorem 1** [10] Let  $f_1(x), \dots, f_m(x)$  be distinct monic irreducible polynomials over  $GF(q)$  with degrees  $d_1, \dots, d_m$ , with  $e_j$  the number of distinct roots in  $GF(q)$  of  $f_j(x)$  ( $j = 1, \dots, m$ ). Let  $\psi_1, \dots, \psi_m$  be nontrivial multiplicative characters of  $GF(q)$ , with  $\psi_j(0) = 1$  ( $j = 1, \dots, m$ ). Then, for  $a_1, \dots, a_m \in GF(q)^\times$ , we have the estimate

$$\left| \sum_{x \in GF(q)} \psi_1(a_1 f_1(x)) \cdots \psi_m(a_m f_m(x)) \right| \leq \left( \sum_{j=1}^m d_j - 1 \right) \sqrt{q} + \sum_{j=1}^m e_j.$$

### 2.5 Decimation and Constant Multiple

Taking decimation and/or constant multiple is a well-known method for constructing a new sequence from the given sequence [5], [7].

**Definition 3** Let  $a(t)$  be an  $M$ -ary sequence of period  $L$ . Then (1) the  $d$ -decimation sequence  $b(t)$  of  $a(t)$  is  $b(t) = a(dt)$  for  $t = 0, 1, \dots$ ; (2) the  $d$ -multiple sequence  $c(t)$  of  $a(t)$  is  $c(t) = d \cdot a(t)$  for  $t = 0, 1, \dots$

When we apply the  $d$ -decimation to the periodic sequence of period  $L$ , we see easily that the period of decimated sequence becomes  $\frac{L}{k}$  where  $k = \gcd(d, L)$ . Therefore, we have to choose  $d$  such that  $\gcd(d, L) = 1$  in order to maintain the original period.

When we apply the  $d$ -multiple to the  $M$ -ary sequence, we see easily that the number of distinct values of the sequence becomes  $\frac{M}{k}$  where  $k = \gcd(d, M)$ . Therefore, we have to choose  $d$  such that  $\gcd(d, M) = 1$  in order to keep the resultant sequence to have truly  $M$  distinct values, i.e., to be an  $M$ -ary sequence.

### 3. Main Result

The Sidelnikov sequence is constructed using a primitive element of a finite field. It is well-known that if  $\beta$  is a primitive element of  $GF(q)$ , then  $\beta^d$  is also a primitive element of  $GF(q)$  whenever  $\gcd(d, q - 1) = 1$ . It is interesting to note that the  $d$ -decimation of a Sidelnikov sequence defined by a primitive element  $\beta$  is a  $d$ -multiple of another Sidelnikov sequence defined by the primitive element  $\beta^d$ . Following has been essentially proved as Lemma 2 in [7]:

**Theorem 2** (Lemma 2 in [7]) Let  $q = p^m$  and  $\{s(t)\}$  be an  $M$ -ary Sidelnikov sequence of period  $q - 1$ . Let  $d$  be relatively prime to  $q - 1$ . Then  $s(dt) \equiv d \cdot s'(t) \pmod M$  where  $\{s'(t)\}$  given by  $s'(t) \equiv \log_\gamma(\gamma^t + 1) \pmod M$  is an another  $M$ -ary Sidelnikov sequence of period  $q - 1$  defined by the primitive element  $\gamma = \beta^d$ .

**Example 1** Table 1 shows some decimation sequences of a 10-ary Sidelnikov sequence of period  $q - 1 = 10$ .  $GF(11)$  has 4 primitive elements:  $2, 6 \equiv 2^9, 7 \equiv 2^7, 8 \equiv 2^3$ . We can show that  $9 \cdot s_1(t) \equiv s(9t)$  where  $6 \equiv 2^9$ . Similarly,  $7 \cdot s_2(t) \equiv s(7t)$  and  $3 \cdot s_3(t) \equiv s(3t)$ .

**Corollary 1** Let  $q = p^m$  and  $\{s(t)\}$  be an  $M$ -ary Sidelnikov sequence of period  $q - 1$ . If  $d = p^l k$  with  $\gcd(p, k) = 1$  and a nonnegative integer  $l$ , then  $s(p^l kt) = p^l s(kt)$  for all  $t$ . In particular, when  $k = 1$ , this implies  $s(p^l t) = p^l s(t)$  for all  $t$ .

The above corollary is quite straightforward since  $\beta$

**Table 1** Decimation sequences of a Sidelnikov sequence in Example 1.

	$t$	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
$\beta = 2$	$s(t)$	1	8	4	6	9	0	5	3	2	7
$\gamma = 6 \equiv 2^9$	$s_1(t)$	9	3	8	7	5	0	1	4	6	2
$\gamma = 7 \equiv 2^7$	$s_2(t)$	3	9	7	4	6	0	2	1	5	8
$\gamma = 8 \equiv 2^3$	$s_3(t)$	7	2	5	9	8	0	4	6	3	1

and  $\beta^{p^l}$  generate the same Sidelnikov sequence, but its converse is not at all trivial. We prove the converse for the case of  $M = q - 1$  and  $k = 1$ . We guess that it is also true for any divisor  $M$  of  $q - 1$  and  $k = 1$ , but leave this as an open problem.

**Theorem 3** *Let  $q = p^m$ , and  $\{s(t)\}$  be a  $(q - 1)$ -ary Sidelnikov sequence of period  $q - 1$ . If there exists a  $d$  such that  $s(dt) = d \cdot s(t)$  for all  $t$ , then  $d = p^l$  for some nonnegative integer  $l$ .*

*proof:* Since the period of the sequence is  $q - 1$ , we may assume that  $d \leq q - 2$ . We assume that  $s(dt) = d \cdot s(t)$  for all  $t$ , and write, on the contrary,  $d = p^l r$ , where  $l$  is a nonnegative integer,  $\gcd(r, p) = 1$  and  $r > 1$ . Then we will consider the binomial coefficient  $\binom{d}{p^l}$  and see if it is divisible by  $p$  or not. It will turn out that it is divisible by  $p$  in one way, and is not in other way, giving a desired contradiction to  $r > 1$ .

First, we have  $\log_\beta(\beta^t + 1)^d = \log_\beta(\beta^{dt} + 1)$ , and hence  $(\beta^t + 1)^d = \beta^{dt} + 1$  for all  $0 \leq t \leq q - 2$ . Therefore,  $(a + 1)^d = a^d + 1$  for all  $a \in GF(q)$ . This implies that  $p | \binom{d}{i}$  for all  $1 \leq i \leq d - 1$ . In particular, this implies that  $\binom{d}{p^l}$  is divisible by  $p$ .

Now we use Kummer's criterion [14]: the power of  $p$  dividing  $\binom{n}{k}$  is the number of carries when we add  $k$  to  $n - k$  in base  $p$ . We may divide  $r$  by  $p$  and write  $r = pa + j$  for some  $1 \leq j \leq p - 1$ . By Kummer's criterion, the power of  $p$  dividing  $\binom{d}{p^l}$  is the number of carries when adding  $p^l$  to  $d - p^l = p^l(r - 1)$  in base  $p$ . Observe that the right-most non-zero digit (in base  $p$ ) of  $p^l(r - 1)$  is  $(j - 1)$  when  $a = 0$  and those of  $p^l$  is 1, and hence, there are no carries in the sum that is just  $j$ . Therefore,  $\binom{d}{p^l}$  is not divisible by  $p$ . Similarly, it is obvious that  $\binom{d}{p^l}$  is not divisible by  $p$  when  $a > 0$ . This is a desired contradiction to  $r > 1$ . ■

Let  $s(t)$  be an  $M$ -ary Sidelnikov sequence of period  $q - 1$ . We will now derive the maximum correlation bound between  $c_1 \cdot s(dt)$  and  $c_2 \cdot s(d't)$  where  $c_1, c_2, d$  and  $d'$  are some constants. If  $p$  divides  $d$ , i.e.  $d = p^l k$ , where  $l > 0$ , then  $s(dt) = p^l \cdot s(kt)$  by Corollary 1. Especially, if  $d = p^l$  and  $d' = p^{l'}$ , then the correlation between  $c_1 \cdot s(dt)$  and  $c_2 \cdot s(d't)$  becomes just a correlation between two different constant multiples of a Sidelnikov sequence, and it was computed earlier by Kim and Song [5] and also by Yu and Gong [13]. Consequently, we need to consider only the case where  $p$  divides neither  $d$  nor  $d'$ .

**Lemma 1** *Let  $d, d'$  be positive integers with  $(d, q - 1) = (d', q - 1) = 1$ , and let  $0 \leq \tau \leq q - 2$ . Then we have the following:*

- (a) *The only root in  $GF(q)$  of  $x^d + 1 = 0$  is  $-1$ . The only root in  $GF(q)$  of  $x^{d'} + \beta^{-d'\tau} = 0$  is  $-\beta^{-\tau}$ .*
- (b) *If  $p$  does not divide  $d$ , then  $x^d + 1$  has no multiple roots. If  $p$  does not divide  $d'$ , then  $x^{d'} + \beta^{-d'\tau}$  has no multiple roots.*

- (c)  *$x^d + 1$  and  $x^{d'} + \beta^{-d'\tau}$  have a common root if and only if  $\tau = 0$ .*

*proof:* (a) If  $\gamma$  and  $\delta$  are roots of  $x^d + 1$ , then  $(\frac{\gamma}{\delta})^d = 1$ . But the only root of  $x^d = 1$  in  $GF(q)$  is 1, as  $\beta^{id} = 1 \Rightarrow q - 1 | id \Rightarrow q - 1 | i$ , since  $(d, q - 1) = 1$ . So  $\beta^i = 1$ , and hence  $\gamma = \delta$ . If  $d$  is odd, then the root of  $x^d + 1 = 0$  is  $-1$ . And if  $d$  is even, then  $q$  is even since  $(d, q - 1) = 1$ , and hence the characteristic is 2. Hence,  $-1 = +1$  is the only root of  $x^d + 1$  over  $GF(q)$ ,  $q$  even. The other case is similar.

(b) If  $p$  does not divide  $d$ , the  $x^d + 1$  and its derivative  $dx^{d-1}$  are relatively prime. The other case is similar.

(c) If  $\tau = 0$ , then  $-1$  is the common root. Conversely, let  $\gamma^d + 1 = 0$  and  $\gamma^{d'} + \beta^{-d'\tau} = 0$ . Then  $\gamma = -\zeta = -\beta^{-\tau}\eta$ , with  $\zeta^d = 1$  and  $\eta^{d'} = 1$ . So  $\beta^{\tau} = \eta\zeta^{-1}$ . Raising  $dd'$ -th power of both sides, we have  $\beta^{\tau dd'} = 1$ , which implies  $\tau = 0$ , since  $(d, q - 1) = (d', q - 1) = 1$ . ■

**Theorem 4** *Assume that  $(d, q - 1) = (d', q - 1) = 1$  and that  $p$  divides neither  $d$  nor  $d'$ . Let  $a(t) = c_1 \cdot s(dt)$  and  $b(t) = c_2 \cdot s(d't)$  are cyclically inequivalent for some  $M$ -ary Sidelnikov sequence  $s(t)$  of period  $q - 1$  and constants  $1 \leq c_1, c_2 \leq M - 1$ . Then we have*

$$\left| \max_{\tau} \{C_{a,b}(\tau)\} \right| \leq (d + d' - 1) \sqrt{q} + 3$$

where  $\tau$  runs over the integers  $0 \leq \tau \leq q - 2$ .

*proof:* By the definition of Sidelnikov sequences and its decimation, we see that  $a(t) = c_1 \log_\beta(\beta^{dt} + 1)$  and  $b(t) = c_2 \log_\beta(\beta^{d't} + 1)$ . Then, their correlation becomes as follows:

$$\begin{aligned} C_{a,b}(\tau) &= \sum_{t=0}^{q-2} \omega_M^{a(t)-b(t+\tau)} \\ &= \sum_{t=0}^{q-2} \omega_M^{c_1 \log_\beta(\beta^{dt+1}) - c_2 \log_\beta(\beta^{d'(t+\tau)+1})} \\ &= \sum_{x \in GF(q)} \psi^{c_1(x^d + 1)} \cdot \psi^{M-c_2(\beta^{d'\tau} x^{d'} + 1)} - 1 \\ &= \sum_{x \in GF(q)} \psi^{c_1(x^d + 1)} \cdot \psi^{M-c_2(\beta^{d'\tau}(x^{d'} + \beta^{-d'\tau}))} - 1 \end{aligned}$$

**Case 1.**  $\tau \neq 0$ .

Lemma 1 says that, for any  $\tau$  with  $1 \leq \tau \leq q - 2$ ,  $f_1(x) = x^d + 1$  and  $f_2(x) = x^{d'} + \beta^{-d'\tau}$  are relatively prime (cf. Lemma 1(c)) with the respective number  $e, e'$  of distinct roots in  $GF(q)$  equal to  $e = e' = 1$ . (cf. Lemma 1(a)). Since  $M$  does not divide  $c_1$  and  $M - c_2$ ,  $\psi_1 = \psi^{c_1}$  and  $\psi_2 = \psi^{M-c_2}$  are not trivial. Therefore we have

$$\begin{aligned} &\psi_1(x^d + 1) \cdot \psi_2(\beta^{d'\tau}(x^{d'} + \beta^{-d'\tau})) \\ &= \psi_1(x+1) \cdot \psi_1(h_1(x)) \cdot \psi_2(\beta^{d'\tau}(x+\beta^{-\tau})) \cdot \psi_2(h_2(x)) \end{aligned}$$

where  $x^d + 1 = (x+1)h_1(x)$  and  $x^{d'} + \beta^{-d'\tau} = (x+\beta^{-\tau})h_2(x)$  for some polynomials  $h_1(x)$  and  $h_2(x)$ . By Lemma 1,  $h_1(x)$  and

**Table 2** Comparison between true max and bound in Cor. 2 for  $c = 1$ ,  $d' = 1$ ,  $\gcd(d, q - 1) = 1$  and  $p$  not dividing  $d$ .

$p$	$q$	$d$	$M$	True Max	Bound = $d\sqrt{q} + 3$
2	$64 = 2^6$	5	7	17.62	43.00
3	$243 = 3^5$	5	11	41.78	80.94
2	$256 = 2^8$	7	15	49.79	115.00
17	$289 = 17^2$	5	8	45.96	88.00
		7	8	38.88	122.00
7	$343 = 7^3$	5	9	47.78	95.60
2	$512 = 2^9$	5	7	56.58	68.88

$h_2(x)$  are products of some distinct monic irreducible polynomials over  $GF(q)$  of degrees greater than 1 (cf. Lemma 1(b)). Therefore, we can apply Weil bound in Theorem 1, and hence

$$|C_{a,b}(\tau)| \leq (d + d' - 1)\sqrt{q} + 3.$$

**Case 2.**  $\tau = 0$ .

In this case, we have

$$C_{a,b}(\tau = 0) = \sum \psi^{c_1}(x^d + 1) \cdot \psi^{M-c_2}(x^{d'} + 1) - 1. \quad (1)$$

Assume that  $d = d'$ . Then (1) becomes  $\sum \psi^{c_1-c_2}(x^d + 1) - 1$ . If  $c_1 = c_2$ , then two sequences are the same. Otherwise,

$$|C_{a,b}(\tau = 0)| \leq (d - 1)\sqrt{q} + 2$$

by Weil bound and Lemma 1.

Otherwise, assume that  $d \neq d'$ . Then (1) becomes  $\sum \psi^{c_1-c_2}(x + 1) \cdot \psi^{c_1}(x^{d-1} - x^{d-2} + \dots - x + 1) \cdot \psi^{M-c_2}(x^{d'-1} - x^{d'-2} + \dots - x + 1) - 1$ . Second and third polynomials of degree  $d - 1$  and  $d' - 1$  inside the character are products of distinct monic irreducible polynomials over  $GF(q)$  by Lemma 1. Therefore, we can apply Weil bound, and hence

$$|C_{a,b}(\tau = 0)| \leq (d + d' - 2)\sqrt{q} + 2.$$

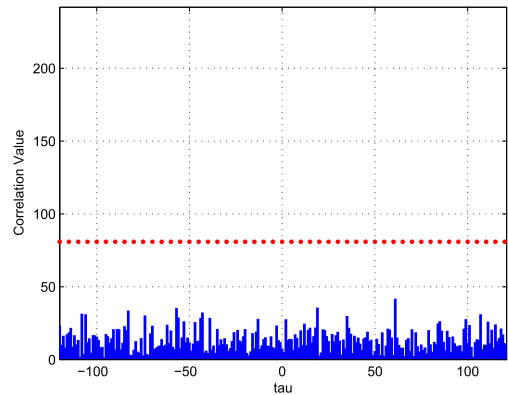
■

**Corollary 2** Assume that  $\gcd(d, q - 1) = 1$ , and that  $p$  does not divide  $d$ . Let  $s(t)$  be an  $M$ -ary Sidelnikov sequence of period  $q - 1$ . Let  $a(t) = c \cdot s(t)$  and  $b(t) = s(dt)$ . Then we have

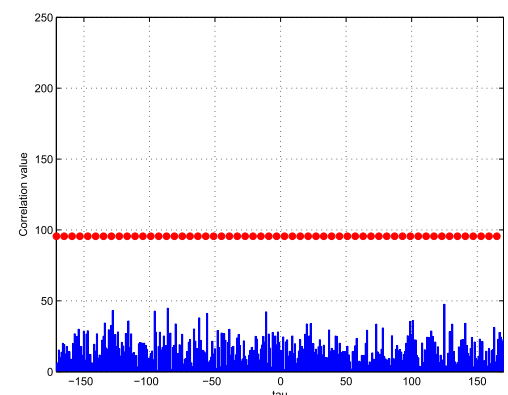
$$\left| \max_{\tau} \{C_{a,b}(\tau)\} \right| \leq d\sqrt{q} + 3.$$

**Example 2** Table 2 shows the difference between the exact maximal correlation magnitude and our correlation bound given in the above corollary for some  $q, d, c = 1$  and  $M$ .

**Example 3** Figure 1 shows the correlation function of the 11-ary Sidelnikov sequence of period  $3^5 - 1 = 242$  and its 5-decimation. The horizontal dotted line in the figure indicates the correlation bound in the main result, also shown



**Fig. 1** Correlation between a 5-ary Sidelnikov sequence of period 242 and its 5-decimation.



**Fig. 2** Correlation between a 9-ary Sidelnikov sequence of period 342 and its 5-decimation.

in Table 2, which is about 81. The true max turns out to be about 42, showing some gap between the two numbers. Figure 2 shows the correlation function of the 9-ary Sidelnikov sequence of period  $7^3 - 1 = 342$  and its 5-decimation. In this case, the true max turns out to be about 48.

#### 4. Concluding Remark

Both figures in the above example show that there is a gap between the true max and the bound calculated using the Weil bound. This gap will increase when the constant multiple  $c$  is not relatively prime to  $M$ . For example, when  $q = 343$  and  $M = 9$  (cf. Example for Fig. 2), the true max between  $3 \cdot s(t)$  and  $s(5t)$  is around 20 while the bound in Cor. 2 is also 95.6. We guess that these gaps can be reduced by some direct calculation of the correlation between  $c \cdot s(t)$  and  $s(dt)$  for  $1 \leq c \leq M - 1$  and  $\gcd(d, q - 1) = 1$ . It would be interesting in the future to see and compare these gaps between those from the direct calculation and from the Weil bound.

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