



PERMANENTS OF  $3 \times 3$  INVERTIBLE MATRICES MODULO  $N$

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**Abstract**

Let  $GL_3(\mathbb{Z}_n)$  denote the set of  $3 \times 3$  invertible matrices with entries from  $\mathbb{Z}_n$ , the ring of integers modulo  $n$ . We study the distribution of a matrix function called the permanent, restricting its domain to  $GL_3(\mathbb{Z}_n)$ . Given  $x \in \mathbb{Z}$ , we count the number of elements in the set  $G_3(n, x) = \{M \in GL_3(\mathbb{Z}_n) \mid \text{perm}(M) \equiv x \pmod{n}\}$ .

**1. Introduction**

The aim of this paper is to carry forward the work done in [1] for  $2 \times 2$  matrices to  $3 \times 3$  matrices. We begin by recalling some definitions and notation. Let  $GL_r(\mathbb{Z}_n)$  denote the set of  $r \times r$  invertible matrices with entries from  $\mathbb{Z}_n$ , the ring of integers modulo  $n$ . Let  $S_n$  denote the group of permutations on  $n$  symbols. The *permanent* of an  $n \times n$  matrix  $A = [a_{ij}]$  is defined as

$$\text{perm}(A) = \sum_{\sigma \in S_n} \prod_{i=1}^n a_{i\sigma(i)}.$$

In [1], we determined the number of invertible  $2 \times 2$  matrices modulo  $n$  having a given permanent  $x$  (see the function  $g_n(x)$  in [1]). The *permanent* function looks similar to the *determinant*, which is defined as

$$\det(A) = \sum_{\sigma \in S_n} \prod_{i=1}^n \text{sgn}(\sigma) a_{i\sigma(i)}.$$

The determinant represents a geometric idea as well as an algebraic one. Geometrically, it is the volume (with orientation) of the parallelepiped formed by the rows

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(or columns). Algebraically, it is the product of the eigenvalues, counted with multiplicity. Although the permanent too plays an important role in graph theory (see [7],[5],[6],[9]) but it does not seem to have a geometric/algebraic interpretation.

It is well-known that the determinant can be computed in polynomial time. In particular, by applying the Gauss Elimination method one can show its complexity of computation is  $\sim O(n^3)$ . But there is no efficient algorithm known which can compute the permanent in polynomial time and it is unlikely that it even exists. The most-well known algorithm for computing the permanent is Ryser’s Algorithm [2] which has an asymptotic complexity  $O(n2^n)$ . Even for matrices with entries from the set  $\{0, 1\}$ , Valiant shows in [8] that the computation of the permanent of such matrices is a P-complete problem.

In view of this, the natural way to proceed has been to ask if one can use the determinant to compute the permanent. Given a commutative ring  $R$  with unity, does there exist a transformation  $\Phi : M_n(R) \rightarrow M_m(R)$  such that  $perm(A) = det(\Phi(A))$ ? An insightful discussion of the existence of such transformations of matrices over finite fields and their characteristics can be found in [4]. A new method for obtaining lower bounds on the number of matrices over a finite field with nonzero permanent is developed in [3].

The route we take in this paper is not based on the complexities of computation of the permanent. Rather, we discuss the distribution of the permanent values modulo  $n$  and count exactly the number of matrices having a given permanent modulo  $n$ . In doing this, we highlight the role that the prime divisors of  $n$  play. We introduce our main object of study now.

Let

$$G_3(n, x) = \{M \in GL_3(\mathbb{Z}_n) \mid perm(M) \equiv x \pmod{n}\}.$$

Let  $g_3(n, x)$  denote the cardinality of  $G_3(n, x)$ . We recall some results from the discussion of the  $2 \times 2$  case (see [1]) which carry over naturally to  $3 \times 3$  matrices as well.

1. **Multiplicative Property (MP):** For  $a, b, x \in \mathbb{N}$ ,  $(a, b) = 1$ , we have  $g_3(ab, x) = g_3(a, x) \times g_3(b, x)$ .
2. **Invariance Property (IP):** Let  $p$  be a prime number and  $k \in \mathbb{N}$ . Let  $m \in \mathbb{N}$  be such that  $p \nmid m$ . Then for  $1 \leq r \leq k$  we have  $g_3(p^k, p^r) = g_3(p^k, mp^r)$ . We also have  $g(p^k, 1) = g(p^k, u)$  whenever  $p \nmid u$ . This property actually partitions  $GL_3(\mathbb{Z}_{p^k})$  in the following manner:

$$|GL_3(\mathbb{Z}_{p^k})| = \sum_{i=0}^k \varphi(p^i) \times g_3(p^k, p^{k-i}).$$

Since in this paper, we are dealing primarily with  $3 \times 3$  matrices, from now on we will simply write  $g(n, x)$  to denote  $g_3(n, x)$ . When we will talk specifically about  $2 \times 2$  matrices, we will use the notation  $g_2(n, x)$ .

We now elaborate on the organization of the paper. Our main goal in this paper is to compute  $g(n, x)$ . Since this function is multiplicative in  $n$ , it is sufficient to know  $g(p^k, x)$ , where  $p$  is a prime number and  $k \in \mathbb{N}$ . Therefore the main result we will establish is the following.

**Theorem 1.** *Let  $p$  be a prime. Let  $k, x \in \mathbb{N}$ . Then*

$$g(p^k, x) = \begin{cases} p^{8(k-1)}g(p, 0) & \text{if } p \mid x, \\ p^{8(k-1)} \frac{|GL_3(\mathbb{Z}_p)| - g(p, 0)}{p-1} & \text{otherwise.} \end{cases}$$

These values look arbitrary at first, but they are an extension of the analogous result in [1].

**Theorem 2.** *Let  $p$  be a prime. Let  $k, x \in \mathbb{N}$ . Then  $g(p^k, x)$  assumes only two distinct values. Specifically,*

$$g(p^k, x) = \begin{cases} g(p^k, 0) & \text{if } p \mid x, \\ g(p^k, 1) & \text{otherwise.} \end{cases}$$

This looks similar to the IP but it tells us much more. For example, from IP we cannot get  $g(p^4, p) = g(p^4, 2p^2)$ , where  $p$  is an odd prime number but one can by using Theorem 2. Furthermore, knowing  $g(p^k, 0)$  is sufficient to determine  $g(p^k, 1)$ . Since for all  $i, 1 \leq i \leq k$  we have  $g(p^k, 0) = g(p^k, p^i)$ , and the telescoping sum:

$$\begin{aligned} |GL_3(\mathbb{Z}_{p^k})| &= g(p^k, 0) + \sum_{i=1}^{k-1} (p^i - p^{i-1}) \times g(p^k, 0) + \varphi(p^k) \times g(p^k, 1) \\ &= p^{k-1} \times g(p^k, 0) + (p^k - p^{k-1}) \times g(p^k, 1). \end{aligned}$$

Since  $|GL_3(\mathbb{Z}_{p^k})| = p^{9(k-1)}|GL_3(\mathbb{Z}_p)| = p^{9(k-1)}(p^3 - 1)(p^3 - p)(p^3 - p^2)$ , once we know  $g(p^k, 0)$  we can also evaluate  $g(p^k, 1)$ . Thus, the paper boils down to computing  $g(p, 0)$ . It is clear that  $g(2, 0) = 0$ . The following result will be proved in the last section 4.

**Theorem 3.** *Let  $p$  be an odd prime. Then*

$$g(p, 0) = \begin{cases} p(p-1)^4[(p+1)^3 + 1] & \text{if } (p-3) \text{ is a quadratic residue modulo } p, \\ p^2(p-1)^4(p^2 + 3p + 5) & \text{otherwise.} \end{cases}$$

We dedicate Section 2 to the proof of Theorem 2. In Section 3 we derive the proof of Theorem 1 using Theorem 2. In Section 4 we prove Theorem 3 in two different ways.

**2. The Range of  $g(p^k, x)$**

In this section we prove Theorem 2. We will start by showing that  $g(p^k, 0) = g(p^k, p^r)$  whenever  $1 \leq r \leq k$ . That coupled with IP will prove Theorem 2. For this section, we introduce some notation. Given a  $3 \times 3$  matrix  $A$ , let  $P_{ij}(A)$  be the permanent of  $2 \times 2$  submatrix obtained by deleting row  $i$  and column  $j$  of  $A$ . Given a prime  $p, k, x \in \mathbb{N}, 1 \leq i, j \leq 3$ , define the following sets:

- $G(p^k, x, 1, 1) = \{A \in G(p^k, x) : p \nmid P_{11}(A)\},$
- $G(p^k, x, 1, 2) = \{A \in G(p^k, x) : p \mid P_{11}(A), p \nmid P_{12}(A)\},$
- $G(p^k, x, 1, 3) = \{A \in G(p^k, x) : p \mid P_{11}(A), P_{12}(A), p \nmid P_{13}(A)\},$
- $G(p^k, x, 2, 1) = \{A \in G(p^k, x) : p \mid P_{11}(A), P_{12}(A), P_{13}(A), p \nmid P_{21}(A)\},$
- $G(p^k, x, 2, 2) = \{A \in G(p^k, x) : p \mid P_{11}(A), P_{12}(A), P_{13}(A), P_{21}(A), p \nmid P_{22}(A)\}.$

In a similar way, one can define the sets  $G(p^k, x, 2, 3), G(p^k, x, 3, 1), G(p^k, x, 3, 2)$  and  $G(p^k, x, 3, 3)$ . An interesting observation is that for an odd prime  $p$  such that  $p \mid x$ , the sets

$$G(p^k, x, 1, 1), G(p^k, x, 1, 2), G(p^k, x, 1, 3), G(p^k, x, 2, 1) \text{ and } G(p^k, x, 2, 2)$$

are always non-empty, containing the matrices

$$\begin{pmatrix} \frac{x-1}{2} & \frac{x+1}{2} & 0 \\ 1 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix}, \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 1 & 1 & 1 \\ 0 & 1 & x-1 \end{pmatrix}, \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 \\ (x-1)^{-1} & 1 & 1 \\ x-1 & 1 & x-1 \end{pmatrix},$$

$$\begin{pmatrix} 0 & 0 & 1 \\ 1 & 1 & 0 \\ x-1 & 1 & 0 \end{pmatrix} \text{ and } \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 1 & 1 \\ 0 & 1 & 1 \\ 0 & 1 & x-1 \end{pmatrix},$$

respectively. Can we assure the non-emptiness of the remaining four sets, namely

$$G(p^k, x, 2, 3), G(p^k, x, 3, 1), G(p^k, x, 3, 2) \text{ and } G(p^k, x, 3, 3)?$$

The following lemma shows that it is not possible, no matter what the constraints on  $x$  are.

**Lemma 1.** *Let  $p$  be a prime number. Let  $k, x \in \mathbb{N}$ . Then the sets*

$$G(p^k, x, 2, 3), G(p^k, x, 3, 1), G(p^k, x, 3, 2) \text{ and } G(p^k, x, 3, 3)$$

*are empty sets.*

*Proof.* We will show that if  $A = [a_{ij}]$  with  $p$  dividing  $P_{11}(A), P_{12}(A), P_{13}(A), P_{21}(A)$  and  $P_{22}(A)$  then  $A$  will fail to be invertible. It is easy to verify the following identity:

$$2a_{22}P_{22}(A) - a_{11}P_{11}(A) + a_{12}P_{12}(A) - 2a_{21}P_{21}(A) - 3a_{13}P_{13}(A) = \det(A) - 6a_{13}a_{21}a_{32}.$$

At this stage, the lemma is already proved for  $p = 2$  and  $p = 3$ . We give the proof for the remaining primes. Suppose that  $p$  had divided any one of  $a_{13}, a_{21}$  or  $a_{32}$ . Then we would be done.

We again assume the contrary. Suppose  $a_{13}^{-1}, a_{21}^{-1}$  and  $a_{32}^{-1}$  exist. Since

$$p \mid P_{11}(A), \text{ where } P_{11}(A) = a_{22}a_{33} + a_{23}a_{32}, \quad a_{23} \equiv -a_{22}a_{33}a_{32}^{-1} \pmod{p}.$$

We substitute this into  $P_{12}(A) = a_{21}a_{33} + a_{23}a_{31} \equiv 0 \pmod{p}$ , and we get  $a_{33}(a_{21}a_{32} - a_{22}a_{31}) \equiv 0 \pmod{p}$ . Suppose  $p \mid a_{33}$ . Then from  $p \mid P_{11}(A)$ , we see that  $p \mid a_{23}$  and from  $p \mid P_{21}(A)$ , we get  $p \mid a_{13}$ , which is absurd. Thus, the only option is that  $p \mid (a_{21}a_{32} - a_{22}a_{31})$ . With a similar argument we can show that  $p \mid a_{31}(a_{23}a_{32} - a_{22}a_{33})$ . Finally we are left with

$$p \mid (a_{21}a_{32} - a_{22}a_{31}) \text{ and } p \mid (a_{22}a_{33} - a_{23}a_{32}).$$

Multiplying the first equation by  $a_{33}$  and the second by  $a_{31}$  and subtracting, we arrive at  $p \mid a_{32}(a_{21}a_{33} - a_{23}a_{31})$ . Since  $p \nmid a_{32}$ , we have  $p \mid (a_{21}a_{33} - a_{23}a_{31})$  and hence  $p \mid \det(A)$ , a contradiction.  $\square$

Theorem 5 in Section 4 provides exact values of  $g(p, 0, i, j) = |G(p, 0, i, j)|$ .

**Lemma 2.** *Let  $p$  be a prime number. Let  $k, x \in \mathbb{N}$  be such that  $p \mid x$ . Then  $g(p^k, 0) = g(p^k, x)$ .*

*Proof.* Instead of giving a single bijection from  $G(p^k, 0)$  to  $G(p^k, x)$  we will give a bijection from  $G(p^k, 0, i, j)$  to  $G(p^k, x, i, j)$ . Since we will do this for all  $i, j$   $1 \leq i, j \leq 3$ , we would have in effect shown  $g(p^k, 0) = g(p^k, x)$  whenever  $p \mid x$ .

After Lemma 1, we only need to prove the above for

$$G(p^k, x, 1, 1), G(p^k, x, 1, 2), G(p^k, x, 1, 3), G(p^k, x, 2, 1) \text{ and } G(p^k, x, 2, 2).$$

We prove it for  $G(p^k, 0, 1, 1)$ . The remaining four can then be proved similarly. Define the map:

$$\psi_{11} : G(p^k, 0, 1, 1) \rightarrow G(p^k, x, 1, 1) \text{ by } \begin{pmatrix} a_{11} & a_{12} & a_{13} \\ a_{21} & a_{22} & a_{23} \\ a_{31} & a_{32} & a_{33} \end{pmatrix} \mapsto \begin{pmatrix} a_{11} + \frac{x}{P_{11}} & a_{12} & a_{13} \\ a_{21} & a_{22} & a_{23} \\ a_{31} & a_{32} & a_{33} \end{pmatrix}.$$

The important thing to see here is that the map  $\psi_{11}$  preserves invertibility since we are translating the determinant by a multiple of  $p$ . This would not be guaranteed

if we had done a similar operation from  $G(p^k, 1, 1, 1)$  to  $G(p^k, x, 1, 1)$ ,  $p \mid x$ . Now it is easy to check that  $\psi_{11}$  is an injective map. For surjectivity, if

$$M = \begin{pmatrix} b_{11} & b_{12} & b_{13} \\ b_{21} & b_{22} & b_{23} \\ b_{31} & b_{32} & b_{33} \end{pmatrix} \in G(p^k, x, 1, 1),$$

then  $\psi_{11}(N) = M$ , where

$$N = \begin{pmatrix} b_{11} - \frac{x}{p_{11}} & b_{12} & b_{13} \\ b_{21} & b_{22} & b_{23} \\ b_{31} & b_{32} & b_{33} \end{pmatrix} \in G(p^k, 0, 1, 1).$$

Consequently, the map  $\psi_{11}$  is a bijection. Hence, we see that  $|G(p^k, 0, 1, 1)| = |G(p^k, x, 1, 1)|$ . Similarly, we can show

$$|G(p^k, 0, 1, 2)| = |G(p^k, x, 1, 2)|, |G(p^k, 0, 1, 3)| = |G(p^k, x, 1, 3)|,$$

$$|G(p^k, 0, 2, 1)| = |G(p^k, x, 2, 1)| \text{ and } |G(p^k, 0, 2, 2)| = |G(p^k, x, 2, 2)|.$$

But since their disjoint unions are exactly  $G(p^k, 0)$  and  $G(p^k, x)$  respectively, thus we have  $g(p^k, 0) = g(p^k, x)$ , whenever  $p \mid x$ .  $\square$

Now the proof of Theorem 2 can be obtained from IP which gives  $g(p^k, 1) = g(p^k, y)$  when  $p \nmid y$  and Lemma 2 which gives  $g(p^k, 0) = g(p^k, x)$  when  $p \mid x$ .

### 3. Computing $g(p^k, x)$

In this section, our goal is to prove Theorem 1. In particular, from Theorem 2 it is sufficient to find  $g(p^k, 0)$  and  $g(p^k, 1)$  and furthermore, with our earlier discussion, it reduces to finding  $g(p^k, 0)$ . For a given odd prime  $p$  and  $k \in \mathbb{N}$ , we define the set  $G_{p^k} = \bigcup_{p \mid x} G(p^k, x)$ . We have  $|G_{p^k}| = p^{k-1}g(p^k, 0)$ , since

$$|\{x \mid 1 \leq x \leq n, p \mid x\}| = p^k - \varphi(p^k) = p^{k-1}.$$

We define the map  $\pi_{p^k} : G_{p^k} \rightarrow G(p, 0)$  as  $[c_{ij}] \mapsto [c_{ij} \pmod{p}]$ . It is easy to see that if  $A = [a_{ij}] \in G(p, 0)$ , then  $|\pi_{p^k}^{-1}(A)| = p^{9(k-1)}$  as if  $B = [b_{ij}] \in \pi_{p^k}^{-1}(A)$ , then  $b_{ij} = a_{ij} + c_{ij}$ , where  $p \mid c_{ij}$ . The following example illustrates the same.

**Example 4.** Consider the case when  $p = 3$  and  $k = 2$ . Then, the set  $G_9$  will be:

$$G_9 = G(9, 0) \cup G(9, 3) \cup G(9, 6).$$

| Condition                                                                                                                                                                                             | Subconditions                                                                                                       | Number of matrices                                      |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------|
| Only one entry in the 1st row is nonzero                                                                                                                                                              |                                                                                                                     | $3p^2(p-1)^4$                                           |
| Only one entry in 1st row is zero                                                                                                                                                                     | Only one entry in 2nd row is nonzero<br>Only one entry in 2nd row is zero<br>All the entries of 2nd row are nonzero | $3p(p-1)^4$<br>$6p(p-1)^5 + 3p^2(p-1)^4$<br>$3p(p-1)^6$ |
| All the entries of 1st row are nonzero                                                                                                                                                                | Only one entry in 2nd row is nonzero<br>Only one entry in 2nd row is zero<br>All the entries of 2nd row are nonzero | $3p(p-1)^5$<br>$3p(p-1)^6$<br>**                        |
| Here ** = $\begin{cases} p^2(p-1)^5(p-2) & \text{if } p-3 \text{ is not a quadratic residue modulo } p, \\ p(p-1)^5(p^2-2p-2) & \text{if } p-3 \text{ is a quadratic residue modulo } p. \end{cases}$ |                                                                                                                     |                                                         |

Table 1: Computation of  $g(p, 0)$ .

The map  $\pi_9$  reduces every matrix in  $G$  to a matrix in  $G(3, 0)$ . Furthermore, each element of  $G(3, 0)$  has  $3^9 = 19683$  preimages. For example consider the matrix  $\begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 2 & 1 & 2 \\ 1 & 1 & 1 \end{pmatrix} \in G(3, 0)$ . It has a preimage  $\begin{pmatrix} 4 & 0 & 0 \\ 2 & 1 & 2 \\ 1 & 1 & 1 \end{pmatrix} \in G(9, 3)$ . The matrix  $\begin{pmatrix} 1 & 3 & 0 \\ 2 & 1 & 2 \\ 1 & 1 & 1 \end{pmatrix} \in G(9, 6)$  is also an example of a preimage.

Now the proof of Theorem 1 follows from the following equation which was derived from the discussion before the previous example.

$$p^{k-1}g(p^k, 0) = p^{9(k-1)}g(p, 0),$$

$$g(p^k, 0) = p^{8(k-1)}g(p, 0).$$

Now we can also get the exact value of  $g(p^k, 1)$  in the following manner.

$$|GL_3(\mathbb{Z}_{p^k})| = p^{9(k-1)} \times |GL_3(\mathbb{Z}_p)|$$

$$= p^{(k-1)} \times g(p^k, 0) + (p^k - p^{(k-1)}) \times g(p^k, 1).$$

$$g(p^k, 1) = p^{8(k-1)} \frac{|GL_3(\mathbb{Z}_p)| - g(p, 0)}{p-1}.$$

#### 4. Computation of $g(p, 0)$

Table 1 summarizes how we compute  $g(p, 0)$ . We illustrate a few cases, the procedure for the remaining cases is similar.

**4.1. When the First Row Contains Only One Nonzero Entry**

Without loss of generality, let  $A = [a_{ij}]$  with  $a_{11} \neq 0, a_{12} = a_{13} = 0$ . Clearly,  $a_{11}$  has a total of  $(p - 1)$  choices. We now look at the possible choices for the other six entries of  $A$ . Consider the submatrix  $\begin{pmatrix} a_{22} & a_{23} \\ a_{32} & a_{33} \end{pmatrix}$ . The permanent of this matrix has to be divisible by  $p$  and determinant cannot be divisible by  $p$ . From [1], there are a total of  $g_2(p, 0) = (p - 1)^3$  choices for the four entries  $a_{22}, a_{23}, a_{32}$  and  $a_{33}$ . The remaining two entries  $a_{21}$  and  $a_{31}$  each have  $p$  choices. So the total number of ways becomes  $p^2 \times (p - 1)^4$ . Hence the total choices in this case is  $3p^2 \times (p - 1)^4$ .

**4.2. Exactly Two Entries in the First Row are Nonzero and All the Entries in the Second Row Are Nonzero**

Let

$$A = \begin{pmatrix} a_{11} & a_{12} & 0 \\ a_{21} & a_{22} & a_{23} \\ x & y & z \end{pmatrix} \in G(p, 0).$$

Then each entry in the second row has  $(p - 1)$  choices. The congruences for  $A$  are now

$$\begin{aligned} perm(A) &= a_{11}(a_{22}z + a_{33}y) + a_{12}(a_{21}z + a_{23}x) \equiv 0 \pmod{p}, \\ det(A) &= a_{11}(a_{22}z - a_{33}y) - a_{12}(a_{21}z - a_{23}x) \not\equiv 0 \pmod{p}. \end{aligned}$$

Let  $z$  be the free variable, so it has  $p$  choices. Now we will exclude certain values of  $x$  and  $y$  which will fail invertibility of  $A$ . We do not want the following system to have a solution, after we fix  $z = z_o$ :

$$\begin{aligned} a_{12}a_{23}x + a_{11}a_{23}y &\equiv -z_o(a_{11}a_{22} + a_{12}a_{21}), \\ a_{12}a_{23}x - a_{11}a_{23}y &\equiv -z_o(a_{11}a_{22} - a_{12}a_{21}). \end{aligned}$$

Since the determinant of the coefficient matrix is invertible, this system admits a unique solution, which will make  $A$  non-invertible. So we exclude that one choice of  $(x, y)$ . Now choosing any of the  $(p - 1)$  values of  $x$  and using the permanent congruence to get a uniquely determined value of  $y$  will work. Thus, there are a total of  $(p - 1)$  ways to choose the ordered pair  $(x, y)$ . After considering choices for the first row we end up with  $3p(p - 1)^6$  ways.



**4.3. If All the Entries of the First Row Are Nonzero and Only One Entry in the Second Row Is Nonzero**

In this situation the matrix looks like

$$A = \begin{pmatrix} a & b & c \\ \alpha & \beta & \gamma \\ x & y & z \end{pmatrix} \in G(p, 0),$$

where only one of  $\alpha, \beta, \gamma$  is nonzero. Suppose  $\alpha \neq 0, \beta = \gamma = 0$ . There are  $(p - 1)$  choices for  $\alpha$ . The congruences for  $A$  are now:

$$\begin{aligned} perm(A) &= \alpha(cy + bz) \equiv 0 \pmod{p}, \\ det(A) &= \alpha(cy - bz) \not\equiv 0 \pmod{p}. \end{aligned}$$

Since  $x$  does not appear in the above equations, it is free and has  $p$  choices. We need to exclude one choice for  $(y, z)$ , namely, the unique solution to this system:

$$\begin{aligned} \alpha(cy + bz) &\equiv 0 \pmod{p}, \\ \alpha(cy - bz) &\equiv 0 \pmod{p}. \end{aligned}$$

After throwing that choice of  $(y, z)$ , we are left with  $(p - 1)$  choices for the ordered pair  $(y, z)$ . Thus the total ways in this subcase after including the choices for the first row is  $3p(p - 1)^5$ . The factor 3 appears because we could have started with  $\beta \neq 0$  or  $\gamma \neq 0$ .

Adding up all the possibilities, we arrive at:

$$\begin{aligned} g(p, 0) &= 3p^2(p - 1)^4 + 3p^2(p - 1)^4(p + 1) + (p - 1)^3[3p(p - 1)^2 + 3p(p - 1)^3 \\ &\qquad\qquad\qquad + p^2(p - 1)^2(p - 2)] \\ &= 3p^2(p - 1)^4 + 3p^2(p - 1)^4(p + 1) + p(p - 1)^5[3 + 3p - 3 + p^2 - 2p] \\ &= 3p^2(p - 1)^4 + 3p^2(p - 1)^4(p + 1) + p^2(p - 1)^5(p + 1) \\ &= p^2(p - 1)^4(p^2 + 3p + 5). \end{aligned}$$

Let us check this with the actual value which a computer code gives out.

1. When  $p = 3, g(3, 0) = 9 \times 16 \times 23 = 3312$
2. When  $p = 5, g(5, 0) = 25 \times 256 \times 45 = 288000$
3. When  $p = 7, g(7, 0) = 49 \times 36 \times 36 \times 75 = 4762800$
4. When  $p = 11, g(11, 0) = 121 \times 10000 \times 159 = 192390000$ .
5. When  $p = 13, g(13, 0) = 169 \times 144 \times 144 \times 213 = 746433792$ .

The computer program agrees with our values when  $p = 3, 5, 11$  but not when  $p = 7, 13$ . The code gives an output of  $g(7, 0) = 4653936$  and  $g(13, 0) = 739964160$ . So what is different in these cases? Let us consider the case when  $p = 7$  and the

following matrix  $A = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 1 & 2 \\ 1 & 2 & 1 \\ x & y & z \end{pmatrix}$ . The equations for this matrix become

$$\begin{aligned} \text{perm}(A) &= 5x + 3y + 3z \equiv 0 \pmod{7}, \\ \det(A) &= 4x + y + z \not\equiv 0 \pmod{7}. \end{aligned}$$

After a quick inspection, one can see that there is no ordered triad  $(x, y, z)$  satisfying the above two congruences as  $5(5x + 3y + 3z) \equiv 4x + y + z \pmod{7}$ . But when we take the same matrix but change  $p$  to 3, 5 or 11 then the system admits a solution. So there is something different with the prime 7 here and 13 too, because they are throwing out some additional choices for the second row as well, apart from the multiples of the first row.

#### 4.4. Role of Quadratic Residues

We noticed that when  $n = 7$ , each determinant of the three  $2 \times 2$  submatrices formed from last two rows was a nonzero scalar multiple of the respective permanents of those submatrices. Let us explore this further. Note that we are in the case that

$p \nmid a \cdot b \cdot c \cdot \alpha \cdot \beta \cdot \gamma$ , where  $A = \begin{pmatrix} a & b & c \\ \alpha & \beta & \gamma \\ x & y & z \end{pmatrix} \in G(p, 0)$ . Since  $\gamma \neq 0$ , it has  $p - 1$  choices. Suppose that

$$\frac{b\gamma + c\beta}{b\gamma - c\beta} = \frac{c\alpha + a\gamma}{c\alpha - a\gamma} = \frac{a\beta + b\alpha}{a\beta - b\alpha} = \theta. \tag{1}$$

It is clear that  $\frac{b\gamma + c\beta}{b\gamma - c\beta} \notin \{1, p - 1\}$  if for example,  $\frac{b\gamma + c\beta}{b\gamma - c\beta} = 1$ , then  $c\beta = 0$ . Thus  $\theta \in \{2, 3, \dots, p - 2\}$ . Also from Equation 1 we have the following,

$$\alpha = \frac{a\gamma(\theta + 1)}{c(\theta - 1)} = \frac{a\beta(\theta - 1)}{b(\theta + 1)}.$$

Again, from  $\theta = \frac{b\gamma + c\beta}{b\gamma - c\beta}$  we have  $\theta + 1 = \frac{2b\gamma}{b\gamma - c\beta}$  and  $\theta - 1 = \frac{2c\beta}{b\gamma - c\beta}$ . Substituting these values, we arrive at  $\beta^3 = \frac{b^3\gamma^3}{c^3} = \left(\frac{b\gamma}{c}\right)^3$ . Now from  $b\gamma - c\beta \not\equiv 0 \pmod{p}$  we have,

$$\begin{aligned} \beta^3 - \left(\frac{b\gamma}{c}\right)^3 &\equiv \left(\beta - \frac{b\gamma}{c}\right) \left(\beta^2 + \left(\frac{b\gamma}{c}\right)\beta + \left(\frac{b\gamma}{c}\right)^2\right) \equiv 0 \pmod{p} \\ \text{implies } \beta^2 + \left(\frac{b\gamma}{c}\right)\beta + \left(\frac{b\gamma}{c}\right)^2 &\equiv 0 \pmod{p}. \end{aligned}$$

This means that  $\beta$  must solve the above quadratic congruence. That can only happen when, the following quadratic congruence in  $u$  admits a solution

$$u^2 \equiv \left(\frac{b\gamma}{c}\right)^2 - 4\left(\frac{b\gamma}{c}\right)^2 \equiv -3\left(\frac{b\gamma}{c}\right)^2 \pmod{p}.$$

According to Euler’s Criterion, the above quadratic congruence in  $u$  admits a solution if and only if

$$\left(-3\left(\frac{b\gamma}{c}\right)^2\right)^{\frac{p-1}{2}} \equiv (p-3)^{\frac{p-1}{2}} \equiv 1 \pmod{p}.$$

The above congruence is equivalent to the fact that  $(p-3)$  is a quadratic residue modulo  $p$ . When  $(p-3)$  is a quadratic residue modulo  $p$ , then for every choice of  $\gamma$  there will be two values of  $\beta$  which will each lead to a unique value of  $\alpha$  for which we will not get any  $(x, y, z)$  satisfying the two congruences. Thus, the correction is merely  $2(p-1)$ . The expression now is  $p(p-1)[(p-1)^3 - (p-1) - 2(p-1)] = p(p-1)^2[p^2 + 1 - 2p - 1 - 2] = p(p-1)^2(p^2 - 2p - 2)$ . Thus, we arrive at the modified expression when  $(p-3)$  is a quadratic residue modulo  $p$  as

$$g(p, 0) = p(p-1)^4[(p+1)^3 + 1].$$

A quick check gives us

- $g(7, 0) = 7 \times 36 \times 36 \times 513 = 4653936$ ,
- $g(13, 0) = 13 \times 144 \times 144 \times 2745 = 739964160$ .

Both these values agree with the output given by the computer program. Theorem 3 is now proved.

**4.5. Computation of  $g(p, 0, i, j)$**

If  $p \mid x$ , then one can observe more facts about the number of elements in the sets

$$G(p, x, 1, 1), G(p, x, 1, 2), G(p, x, 1, 3), G(p, x, 2, 1) \text{ and } G(p, x, 2, 2).$$

These observations can be derived from Table 2, which we now cement as a result.

**Theorem 5.** *Let  $p$  be an odd prime. Then*

1.  $g(p, 0, 2, 2) = p(p-1)^4$ ,
2.  $g(p, 0, 2, 1) = (3p-1)g(p, 0, 2, 2)$ ,
3.  $g(p, 0, 1, 3) = (p-1)g(p, 0, 2, 2)$ ,
4.  $g(p, 0, 1, 2) = p(p+1)g(p, 0, 2, 2)$ ,

| n  | g(n,0)    | g(n,0,1,1) | g(n,0,1,2) | g(n,0,1,3) | g(n,0,2,1) | g(n,0,2,2) |
|----|-----------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|
| 3  | 3312      | 2208       | 576        | 96         | 384        | 48         |
| 5  | 288000    | 225280     | 38400      | 5120       | 17920      | 1280       |
| 7  | 4653936   | 3900960    | 508032     | 54432      | 181440     | 9072       |
| 9  | 21730032  | 14486688   | 3779136    | 629856     | 2519424    | 314928     |
| 11 | 192390000 | 173140000  | 14520000   | 1100000    | 3520000    | 110000     |
| 13 | 739964160 | 677154816  | 49061376   | 3234816    | 10243584   | 269568     |

Table 2: Some values of  $g(n, 0, i, j)$ .

$$5. \ g(p, 0, 1, 1) = \begin{cases} (p + 3)(p^2 - p + 1)g(p, 0, 2, 2) & \text{if } (p - 3)^{\frac{p-1}{2}} \equiv 1 \pmod{p}, \\ (p^3 + 2p^2 + 1)g(p, 0, 2, 2) & \text{otherwise.} \end{cases}$$

*Proof.* Let  $A = \begin{pmatrix} a_{11} & a_{12} & a_{13} \\ a_{21} & a_{22} & a_{23} \\ a_{31} & a_{32} & a_{33} \end{pmatrix}$ . Recall the following definitions.

$$P_{11}(A) = a_{22}a_{33} + a_{23}a_{32}, \quad P_{12}(A) = a_{21}a_{33} + a_{23}a_{31}, \quad P_{13}(A) = a_{21}a_{32} + a_{22}a_{31},$$

$$P_{21}(A) = a_{12}a_{33} + a_{13}a_{32}, \quad P_{22}(A) = a_{11}a_{33} + a_{13}a_{31}.$$

Note that in the rest of the proof, by  $x = 0$  we mean  $x \equiv 0 \pmod{p}$ .

**Proof of Part 1.** First we show that  $a_{22}a_{33} - a_{23}a_{32} \not\equiv 0 \pmod{p}$ . For if it was, that would mean  $a_{22}a_{33} \equiv 0 \pmod{p}$  and  $a_{23}a_{32} \equiv 0 \pmod{p}$ , as  $p \mid P_{11}(A)$ . So we are left with either of the four cases  $(a_{22}, a_{23}) = (0, 0)$  or  $(a_{22}, a_{32}) = (0, 0)$  or  $(a_{33}, a_{23}) = (0, 0)$  or  $(a_{33}, a_{32}) = (0, 0)$ . Suppose  $(a_{22}, a_{23}) = (0, 0)$ . Then from  $p \mid P_{12}(A)$ , we have  $a_{33} = 0$ . Again from  $p \mid P_{21}(A)$  we have  $a_{13} = 0$  or  $a_{32} = 0$ . Both these choices contradict invertibility of  $A$ . The other three cases can be shown similarly. Thus,  $a_{22}a_{33} - a_{23}a_{32} \not\equiv 0 \pmod{p}$ . Since

$$a_{21}a_{33} + a_{23}a_{31} \equiv 0 \pmod{p}, \quad a_{21}a_{32} + a_{22}a_{31} \equiv 0 \pmod{p},$$

we are left with  $a_{21} = a_{31} = 0$ . Now  $\begin{pmatrix} a_{22} & a_{23} \\ a_{32} & a_{33} \end{pmatrix}$  has  $g_2(p, 0) = (p - 1)^3$  choices and  $a_{11}$  has  $(p - 1)$  choices. Let  $a_{12}$  be free to take  $p$  choices, after which  $a_{13}$  is uniquely determined from  $p \mid P_{21}(A)$ . This shows that  $g(p, 0, 2, 2) = p(p - 1)^4$ .

**Proof of Part 2.** We claim that any matrix belonging to  $G(p, 0, 2, 1)$  must be have one of the following forms,

$$\begin{pmatrix} a_{11} & a_{12} & a_{13} \\ 0 & a_{22} & a_{23} \\ 0 & a_{32} & a_{33} \end{pmatrix}, \begin{pmatrix} a_{11} & a_{12} & a_{13} \\ a_{21} & 0 & a_{23} \\ a_{31} & 0 & a_{33} \end{pmatrix} \text{ or } \begin{pmatrix} a_{11} & a_{12} & a_{13} \\ a_{21} & a_{22} & 0 \\ a_{31} & a_{32} & 0 \end{pmatrix}.$$

If a matrix  $A \in G(p, 0, 2, 1)$  is in one of the above three forms, then from  $p \mid perm(A)$  and  $p \nmid \det(A)$ , the remaining entries of the second and third row are nonzero (refer to [1]). To begin with, note that if  $a_{21} = 0$  then  $a_{31}$  must necessarily be 0 as well. For if it was not the case then from  $p \mid P_{13}(A)$  we get  $a_{22} = 0$ . Now from  $p \mid P_{11}(A)$  we get either  $a_{23} = 0$  or  $a_{32} = 0$ . The former contradicts invertibility of  $A$  while the latter contradicts the congruences:

$$perm(A) \equiv 0 \pmod{p} \text{ and } \det(A) \not\equiv 0 \pmod{p}.$$

So we see that either both  $a_{21}$  and  $a_{31}$  are 0, or else none of them is. In a similar way we can prove this for  $(a_{22}, a_{32})$  and  $(a_{23}, a_{33})$ . Let  $A \in G(p, 0, 2, 1)$ . If  $a_{21} = 0$  then  $A$  is of the first form, and we are done. If not, then  $a_{21} \neq 0$  and  $a_{31} \neq 0$ . Now if  $a_{22} = 0$ , then  $A$  is of the second form, and we are done. Otherwise,  $a_{22} \neq 0$  and  $a_{32} \neq 0$ . Thus all the entries of the submatrix  $\begin{pmatrix} a_{21} & a_{22} \\ a_{31} & a_{32} \end{pmatrix}$  are nonzero. Clearly the determinant of this submatrix cannot be zero, otherwise it would contradict the fact that all the entries are nonzero. Now look at  $a_{23}$  and  $a_{33}$  as variables in the system of congruences:

$$P_{11}(A) = a_{22}a_{33} + a_{23}a_{32} \equiv 0 \pmod{p}, P_{12}(A) = a_{21}a_{33} + a_{23}a_{31} \equiv 0 \pmod{p}.$$

Since  $a_{21}a_{32} - a_{22}a_{31} \neq 0$ , this system has a unique solution, which is  $a_{23} = a_{33} = 0$ . Thus, we have shown that every matrix of  $G(p, 0, 2, 1)$  must be one of these three forms. We now count each of them. Consider the case when the matrix looks like  $\begin{pmatrix} a_{11} & a_{12} & a_{13} \\ 0 & a_{22} & a_{23} \\ 0 & a_{32} & a_{33} \end{pmatrix}$ . There are  $g_2(p, 0) = (p - 1)^3$  ways to choose the submatrix  $\begin{pmatrix} a_{22} & a_{23} \\ a_{32} & a_{33} \end{pmatrix}$  and  $(p - 1)$  ways to choose  $a_{11}$ . There are  $p$  choices for  $a_{12}$ . After we choose  $a_{12}$ , there will be one choice of  $a_{13}$  which will make  $P_{21}(A) = 0$ , which we do not want. So there are  $(p - 1)$  choices for  $a_{13}$ . So the total choices become  $p(p - 1)^5$ .

We now count the possible choices when the matrix looks like  $\begin{pmatrix} a_{11} & a_{12} & a_{13} \\ a_{21} & 0 & a_{23} \\ a_{31} & 0 & a_{33} \end{pmatrix}$

or  $\begin{pmatrix} a_{11} & a_{12} & a_{13} \\ a_{21} & a_{22} & 0 \\ a_{31} & a_{32} & 0 \end{pmatrix}$ . In fact, they both have equal number of choices, as will

be clear after we illustrate how to count one of them. Suppose we are counting the matrices of the form  $\begin{pmatrix} a_{11} & a_{12} & a_{13} \\ a_{21} & 0 & a_{23} \\ a_{31} & 0 & a_{33} \end{pmatrix}$ . There are  $g_2(p, 0) = (p - 1)^3$  ways

to choose the submatrix  $\begin{pmatrix} a_{21} & a_{23} \\ a_{31} & a_{33} \end{pmatrix}$  and  $(p - 1)$  ways to choose  $a_{12}$ . Note how  $P_{21}(A) = a_{12}a_{33} + a_{13}a_{32} = a_{12}a_{33}$ . So there are  $p$  choices each for  $a_{13}$  and  $a_{11}$ .

Thus the total choices for the second form are  $p^2(p-1)^4$ . The other form is dealt with in the exact same way. Finally, we arrive at

$$g(p, 0, 2, 1) = p(p-1)^5 + 2p^2(p-1)^4 = p(p-1)^4(3p-1) = (3p-1)g(p, 0, 2, 2).$$

**Proof of Part 3.** In this case we have  $0 = \text{perm}(A) = a_{13}P_{13}(A)$  and  $p \nmid P_{13}(A)$  hence  $a_{13} = 0$ . We also claim that  $p \nmid a_{21} \cdot a_{22} \cdot a_{23}$ . If  $p \mid a_{21}$ , then from  $p \mid P_{12}(A)$  we get  $a_{23} = 0$  or  $a_{31} = 0$ . If  $a_{31} = 0$ , then  $p \nmid P_{13}(A)$  gives  $a_{21} \neq 0$ , which is absurd. If  $a_{23} = 0$  then  $p \mid P_{11}(A)$  gives either  $a_{22} = 0$  or  $a_{33} = 0$ , both of which contradict the invertibility of  $A$ . In a similar way we can show that  $p \nmid a_{22}a_{23}$ . Now once we fix  $a_{23}$  which has  $(p-1)$  choices, we see that  $a_{33}$  is determined as  $a_{33} = \frac{-a_{32}a_{23}}{a_{22}} = \frac{-a_{31}a_{23}}{a_{21}}$ .

This gives  $a_{21}a_{32} - a_{22}a_{31} = 0$ . So how many choices are there for  $B = \begin{pmatrix} a_{21} & a_{22} \\ a_{31} & a_{32} \end{pmatrix}$ ?

We claim that none of the  $a_{31}$  or  $a_{32}$  can be zero. Suppose  $a_{31} = 0$ . Then from  $p \mid P_{12}(A)$ , we have either  $a_{21} = 0$  or  $a_{33} = 0$ . Thus if  $a_{31} = 0$ , then we have  $a_{33} = 0$ . But then from  $a_{33} = 0$ ,  $p \mid P_{11}(A)$  we get that  $a_{32} = 0$ , so  $A$  cannot be invertible. It can be proved in a similar way that  $a_{32} \neq 0$ . With these observations we are ready to compute  $g(p, 0, 1, 3)$ .

From  $a_{21} \neq 0, a_{22} \neq 0$  the total choices for the first row of  $B$  are  $(p-1)^2$ . The second row of  $B$  can only be a nonzero multiple of the first row, thus it has  $(p-1)$  choices. Thus the total choices for the matrix  $B$  are  $(p-1)^3$ . Let  $a_{11}$  have  $p$  choices. Once we fix  $a_{11}$ , then it follows from  $\det(A) \equiv 0 \pmod{p}$  and  $a_{21}a_{33} - a_{23}a_{31} \neq 0$  we have  $(p-1)$  choices for  $a_{12}$ . Thus, the total choices become  $p(p-1)^5 = (p-1)g(p, 0, 2, 2)$ .

**Proof of Part 4.** First observe that it is impossible to have  $a_{23} = a_{33} = 0$  because that would contradict  $p \nmid P_{12}(A)$ . We prove the result in two cases:  $p \mid a_{23} \cdot a_{33}$  and  $p \nmid a_{23} \cdot a_{33}$ .

Let  $p \mid a_{33}$ . Then from  $p \mid P_{11}(A)$ , where  $P_{11}(A) = a_{22}a_{33} + a_{23}a_{32}$ , we have  $p \mid a_{32}$ . This leaves  $g_2(p, 0) = (p-1)^3$  choices for  $\begin{pmatrix} a_{12} & a_{13} \\ a_{22} & a_{23} \end{pmatrix}$  and  $(p-1)$  choices for  $a_{31}$ .

Finally  $a_{11}$  and  $a_{12}$  are free to take any values, thus the total choices are  $p^2(p-1)^4$ . We could also have begun with  $p \mid a_{23}$ . Thus the total number of matrices when  $p \mid a_{23} \cdot a_{33}$  are  $2p^2(p-1)^4$ .

We now suppose that  $p \nmid a_{23} \cdot a_{33}$ . There are  $(p-1)^2$  ways to choose the ordered pair  $(a_{23}, a_{33})$ . In this case it is easy to see that  $p \nmid a_{22}a_{32}$ . First observe that  $p \mid P_{11}(A)$ , where  $P_{11}(A) = a_{22}a_{33} + a_{23}a_{32}$ , so  $p \mid a_{22}$  if and only if  $p \mid a_{32}$ . Hence, if  $p \mid a_{22}$ , then  $\text{perm}(A) = a_{12}P_{12}(A)$  forces  $a_{12} = 0$  which contradicts the invertibility of  $A$ .

So now  $a_{22}$  has  $(p-1)$  choices. After fixing  $a_{22}$ ,  $a_{32}$  is uniquely determined from  $p \mid P_{11}(A)$ . Now let  $a_{21}$  be free to take any of the  $p$  values. Since  $p \nmid P_{12}(A)$ , where  $P_{12}(A) = a_{21}a_{33} + a_{23}a_{31}$ , there is a unique value of  $a_{31}$  which will render  $P_{12}(A) = 0$ . We throw out that value, so we are left with  $(p-1)$  choices for

$a_{31}$ . Now all that is left is to choose the first row. Let  $a_{13}$  be free to take  $p$  values. Then  $a_{12}$  is uniquely determined because of the relation  $\text{perm}(A) = a_{12}P_{12}(A) + a_{13}P_{13}(A)$ . Finally we need to choose  $a_{11}$ . We claim first that  $(a_{22}a_{33} - a_{23}a_{32}) \neq 0$ . Otherwise we would end up with multiple zeroes in  $\begin{pmatrix} a_{22} & a_{23} \\ a_{32} & a_{33} \end{pmatrix}$  which is absurd since in this case all the four entries are nonzero. Therefore we are left with  $(p - 1)$  values of  $a_{11}$  because we will throw one value out which will make the determinant of  $A$  zero. The total choices in this case are  $p^2(p - 1)^5$ . Thus,

$$g(p, 0, 1, 2) = 2p^2(p - 1)^4 + p^2(p - 1)^5 = p^2(p - 1)^4(p + 1) = p(p + 1)g(p, 0, 2, 2).$$

**Proof of Part 5.** It is easy to see that

$$g(p, 0, 1, 1) = g(p, 0) - g(p, 0, 1, 2) - g(p, 0, 1, 3) - g(p, 0, 2, 1) - g(p, 0, 2, 2).$$

□

We now compute  $g(p, 0, 1, 1)$  independently. With that we have an alternate proof for Theorem 3.

**4.6. Independent Proof of Part 5 of Theorem 5**

Let  $A = [a_{ij}] \in G(p, 0, 1, 1)$ . Then we have  $p \nmid P_{11}(A)$ . Let  $D_{11} = \det(B)$ , where  $B = \begin{pmatrix} a_{22} & a_{23} \\ a_{32} & a_{33} \end{pmatrix}$ . Two possibilities arise,  $D_{11} = 0$  and  $D_{11} \neq 0$ .

**4.6.1. When  $D_{11} = 0$ .**

First note that none of the entries of  $B$  is zero. For example, if  $a_{22} = 0$  then we have either  $a_{23} = 0$  or  $a_{32} = 0$ . But that forces  $p \mid P_{11}(A)$ . Hence the matrix  $B$  can be chosen  $(p - 1)^3$  ways, as  $(a_{22}, a_{23})$  can be chosen in  $(p - 1)^2$  ways. Then we are left with  $(p - 1)$  choices for second row of  $B$ . Let  $a_{13}, a_{31}$  be free to choose any values, then it is easy to see that each of  $a_{12}, a_{21}$  can take  $p - 1$  values. Thus total number of matrices in  $G(p, 0, 1, 1)$  with  $D_{11} = 0$  are  $p^2(p - 1)^5$ .

**4.6.2. When  $D_{11} \neq 0$ .**

First of all note that we cannot have  $(a_{21}, a_{31}) = (0, 0)$  for this would contradict either the invertibility of  $A$  if  $a_{11} = 0$  or  $\text{perm}(A) = 0$  if  $a_{11} \neq 0$  as  $p \nmid P_{11}(A)$ . Table 3 illustrates how the rest of the proof follows. The value of  $g(p, 0, 1, 1)$  as stated in Theorem 5 can now be obtained after

$$p^2(p - 1)^5 + 2p(p - 1)^4(p^2 + 1) + 2p^2(p - 1)^5 + 2p(p - 1)^6 + \dots .$$

**Case 1: When  $a_{21} = 0$  or  $a_{31} = 0$ .** Let  $a_{21} = 0$ . Then  $a_{31}$  has  $(p - 1)$  choices. From [1] we have  $g_2(p, 1) = (p - 1)(p^2 + 1)$ . Consequently, the total choices for  $B$

| Condition              | Subconditions                                                                                                                                                                                                               | Number of matrices                 |
|------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| $p \mid a_{21}a_{31}$  |                                                                                                                                                                                                                             | $2p(p-1)^4(p^2+1)$                 |
| $p \nmid a_{21}a_{31}$ | Exactly one of $a_{22} = 0$ or $a_{32} = 0$<br>$p \nmid a_{22}a_{32}$ but exactly one of $a_{23}$ or $a_{33}$ is zero<br>All the entries of 2nd and 3rd row are nonzero                                                     | $2p^2(p-1)^5$<br>$2p(p-1)^6$<br>** |
| ** =                   | $\begin{cases} p(p-1)^4[(p-1)^3 - 2(p-1)^2] & \text{if } p-3 \text{ is not a quadratic residue modulo } p, \\ p(p-1)^4[(p-1)^3 - 2(p-1)^2 - 2(p-1)] & \text{if } p-3 \text{ is a quadratic residue modulo } p. \end{cases}$ |                                    |

Table 3:  $D_{11} \neq 0$ .

are  $(p-1)^2(p^2+1)$ . Let  $a_{12}$  and  $a_{13}$  each be free to take  $p$  values. Each time we do this, we get a unique value for  $a_{11}$  from  $perm(A) = 0$ . So there seem to be  $p^2$  possible ordered triads  $(a_{11}, a_{12}, a_{13})$ . However we must remove  $p$  of them because those will cause the determinant to become 0. Thus the first row has  $p^2 - p$  choices. So in this case, the total choices are  $2p(p-1)^4(p^2+1)$ .

**Case 2:** When  $a_{21} \neq 0$  and  $a_{31} \neq 0$  but exactly one of  $a_{22} = 0$  or  $a_{32} = 0$ . Suppose  $a_{22} = 0$ . Then  $a_{33}$  can take  $p$  values and  $p \nmid a_{23}a_{32}$  as  $P_{11}(A) \neq 0$ . So there are a total of  $p(p-1)^2$  choices for the submatrix  $B$ . There are  $(p-1)^2$  choices for  $(a_{21}, a_{31})$ . Finally as discussed earlier, there are  $p(p-1)$  choices for the first row. Thus, the total choices are  $2p^2(p-1)^5$ .

**Case 3:** When  $a_{21} \neq 0, a_{31} \neq 0, a_{22} \neq 0$  and  $a_{32} \neq 0$  but exactly one of  $a_{23}$  or  $a_{33} = 0$ . If  $a_{23} = 0$ , then we have  $(p-1)^5$  choices for the second and third row combined. The first row can be chosen in  $p(p-1)$  ways. But we could also start with  $a_{33} = 0$ , making the total choices for this case  $2p(p-1)^6$ .

**Case 4:** All the entries in the 2nd and 3rd rows are nonzero. There are  $(p-1)^3$  choices for the third row. It is easy to see that there are  $[(p-1)^3 - 2(p-1)^2]$  choices for the second row, when  $(p-3)$  is not a quadratic residue of  $p$ . This is because we have two more constraints, namely that  $P_{11}(A) \neq 0$  and  $D_{11} \neq 0$ . So every time we fix  $a_{21}$  and  $a_{22}$ , we will get one value of  $a_{23}$  that will make  $P_{11}(A) = 0$  and one value will make  $D_{11} = 0$ . Now after fixing the third row, we imitate the proof of the part related to the role of quadratic residues in Theorem 3. So we subtract another  $2(p-1)$  from the total choices of the second row whenever  $(p-3)$  is a quadratic residue of  $p$ . Again, after fixing the second and third row, the first row can be chosen in  $p(p-1)$  ways.

Now from the discussion provided in Section 3 we can compute  $g(p^k, 0, i, j)$  from the identity  $g(p^k, 0, i, j) = p^{8(k-1)}g(p, 0, i, j)$ . But note that  $g(n, 0, i, j)$  is not multiplicative in  $n$ . Hence, finding the value of  $g(n, 0, i, j)$  is an interesting problem.



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