## ON A LINEARIZED COVERINGS OF A CUBIC HOMOGENEOUS EQUATION OVER A FINITE FIELD. LOWER BOUNDS

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We obtain lower bounds for the complexity of linearized coverings for some sets of special solutions of the equation $x_{1} x_{2} x_{3}+x_{2} x_{3} x_{4}+\cdots+$ $x_{3 n} x_{1} x_{2}+x_{1} x_{3} x_{5}++x_{4} x_{6} x_{8}+\cdots+x_{3 n-2} x_{3 n} x_{2}=b$ over an arbitrary finite field.

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Introduction. Throughout this paper $F_{q}$ stands for a finite field with $q$ elements [1] ( $q$ is a power of a prime number), and $F_{q}^{n}$ for an $n$-dimensional linear space over $\overline{F_{q}}: F_{q}^{n} \equiv\left\{\alpha=\left(\alpha_{1}, \alpha_{2}, \ldots, \alpha_{n}\right) \mid \alpha_{i} \in F_{q}, i=1,2, \ldots, n\right\}$. If $L$ is a linear subspace in $F_{q}^{n}$ and $\alpha \in F_{q}^{n}$, then the set $\alpha+L=\{\alpha+x \mid x \in L\}$ is a coset (or translate) of the subspace $L$ and $\operatorname{dim}(\alpha+L)$ coincides with $\operatorname{dim} L$. An equivalent definition: a subset $H \subseteq F_{q}^{n}$ is a coset if whenever $h_{1}, h_{2}, \ldots, h_{m}$ are in $H$, so is any affine combination of them, i.e. $\sum_{i=1}^{m} \lambda_{i} h_{i} \in H$ for any $\lambda_{1}, \lambda_{2}, \ldots, \lambda_{m}$ in $F_{q}$ such that $\sum_{i=1}^{m} \lambda_{i}=1$. It can be readily verified that any $m$-dimensional coset in $F_{q}^{n}$ can be represented as a set of solutions of a certain system of linear equations over $F_{q}$ of rank $n-m$ and vice versa.

Let $H$ be an $m$-dimensional coset in $F_{q}^{n}$. We identify $H$ with a ( $q^{m} \times n$ )-dimensional matrix, whose rows coincide with vectors from $H$. Obviously, any affine combination of rows of $H$ is also a row of this matrix, and any permutation of rows of the matrix $H$ does not change the properties of the coset. The matrix $H$ has the following basic properties:
(i) Any column in $H$ either consists of $q^{m}$ copies of the same element of $F_{q}$ (such columns are referred to as constant) or each element of $F_{q}$ occurs in the

[^0]column exactly $q^{m-1}$ times. Indeed, $H$ is the set of solutions of a certain system of linear equations over $F_{q}$ of $\operatorname{rank} n-m$ over unknowns $x_{1}, x_{2}, \ldots, x_{n}$. If the column that corresponds to $x_{i}$ is a constant one, we add an equation $x_{i}=\beta, \beta \in F_{q}$, to the original linear system. Obviously, the new system is of rank $n-m+1$ and has exactly $q^{m-1}$ solutions, which coincide with those rows in $H$ with $i$-th coordinate equal to $\beta$. The matrix formed by these rows will be denoted by $H_{\beta}$. Each $H_{\beta}$ is a $(m-1)$-dimensional coset. Applying an appropriate permutation of rows in $H$, which does not change the coset, one can rearrange the rows in such an order that all rows in each $H_{\beta}$ follow each other in $H$. All matrices $H_{\beta}$ for different $\beta \in F_{q}$ are translates of the same linear $(m-1)$-dimensional subspace in $F_{q}^{n}$, and thus, translates of each other.
(ii) Let $n=n_{1}+n_{2}$ and the first $n_{1}$ columns of the matrix $H$ form a submatrix $H^{1}$, and the remaining $n_{2}$ columns form a submatrix $H^{2}$. We denote this by $H=H^{1} \mid H^{2}$. Rows in each $H^{i}$ form a coset in $F_{q}^{n_{i}}$ and $\operatorname{dim} H^{i} \leq \operatorname{dim} H$. It is clear that $H \subseteq H^{1} \times H^{2}$ and $\operatorname{dim} H \leq \operatorname{dim} H^{1}+\operatorname{dim} H^{2}$.

Definition. Let $M$ be a subset in $F_{q}^{n}$ and $H_{1}, H_{2}, \ldots, H_{m} \subseteq M$ be cosets of linear subspaces in $F_{q}^{n}$. If $M=\bigcup_{i=1}^{m} H_{i}$, then we say that $\left\{H_{1}, H_{2}, \ldots, H_{m}\right\}$ is a linearized covering of $M$ of complexity (or length) $m$. The linearized covering of $M$ with minimal length is the shortest linearized covering of $M$.

The problem of minimal covering of a set of solutions of a polynomial equation over a finite field by cosets of linear subspaces was first investigated in [2, 3] for the simple field $F_{2}$, in which the theory of disjunctive normal forms (DNF) over linear functions (linearized DNF) was constructed. This is a natural generalization of the theory of ordinary DNF, adequate to the problem of solving systems of nonlinear Boolean equations. In the new mathematical model a transition was made from the representation of Boolean functions by covering their carriers with $n$-dimensional unit cube intervals to coverings using cosets of linear subspaces of the finite field $F_{2^{n}}$, which, as a linear space, is isomorphic to the set of $n$-dimensional unit cube. The new model naturally summarizes the model of the ordinary DNF and in the framework of the new theory, significant progress was obtained in the minimization problem of Boolean functions, which is fundamentally unattainable in the framework of the theory of ordinary DNF. For example, for Boolean functions that can be represented as quadratic polynomials over $F_{2}$, the members of the minimal covering were written out in an explicit analytic form [4].

It was realized that the representation of functions by covering with cosets of linear subspaces can be transferred to the case of an arbitrary finite field. Such a representation is very useful in solving systems of equations over a finite field, as well as a number of problems. Generally speaking, coverings with cosets are a very convenient and efficient way to enumerate solutions of both single equations and systems of equations in finite fields.

Some metric characteristics of the linearized coverings of subsets of a finite field were investigated in [5, 6]. The problem of a linearized covering of symmetric
subsets of a finite field was solved in [7], and other results on this topic can be found in [4, 8-14].

Main Theorem. For a given $b \in F_{q}$ and for $n \geq 1$ consider an equation

$$
\begin{gather*}
x_{1} x_{2} x_{3}+x_{2} x_{3} x_{4}+\cdots+x_{3 n} x_{1} x_{2}+x_{1} x_{3} x_{5}+x_{4} x_{6} x_{8}+\cdots+ \\
+x_{3 n-2} x_{3 n} x_{2}=b \tag{1}
\end{gather*}
$$

over $F_{q}$. We denote by $M$ the set of solutions of (1). It is clear that $M \subseteq F_{q}^{3 n}$. We rewrite Eq. (1) in the following form:

$$
\begin{gather*}
\left(x_{1}+x_{4}\right)\left(x_{2}+x_{5}\right) x_{3}+\left(x_{4}+x_{7}\right)\left(x_{5}+x_{8}\right) x_{6}+\cdots+  \tag{2}\\
+\left(x_{3 n-2}+x_{1}\right)\left(x_{3 n-1}+x_{2}\right) x_{3 n}=b .
\end{gather*}
$$

If $n \equiv 0(\bmod 2)$ or $q \equiv 0(\bmod 2)$, then

$$
x_{3 n-2}+x_{1}=\sum_{i=1}^{n-1}(-1)^{i-1}\left(x_{3 i-2}+x_{3 i+1}\right)
$$

and

$$
x_{3 n-1}+x_{2}=\sum_{i=1}^{n-1}(-1)^{i-1}\left(x_{3 i-1}+x_{3 i+2}\right)
$$

and Eq. (2) can be rewritten in the form

$$
\begin{gather*}
\left(x_{1}+x_{4}\right)\left(x_{2}+x_{5}\right) x_{3}+\left(x_{4}+x_{7}\right)\left(x_{5}+x_{8}\right) x_{6}+ \\
+\cdots+\left(x_{3 n-5}+x_{3 n-2}\right)\left(x_{3 n-4}+x_{3 n-1}\right) x_{3(n-1)}+  \tag{3}\\
+\left[\sum_{i=1}^{n-1}(-1)^{i-1}\left(x_{3 i-2}+x_{3 i+1}\right)\right]\left[\sum_{i=1}^{n-1}(-1)^{i-1}\left(x_{3 i-1}+x_{3 i+2}\right)\right] x_{3 n}=b .
\end{gather*}
$$

For any vector $\alpha=\left(\alpha_{1}, \alpha_{2}, \ldots, \alpha_{3 n}\right) \in F_{q^{3 n}}$, when $n \equiv 1(\bmod 2)$ and $q \equiv 1(\bmod 2)$, we construct a new vector
$\tilde{\alpha}=\left(\left(\alpha_{1}+\alpha_{4}\right)\left(\alpha_{2}+\alpha_{5}\right),\left(\alpha_{4}+\alpha_{7}\right)\left(\alpha_{5}+\alpha_{8}\right), \ldots,\left(\alpha_{3 n-2}+\alpha_{1}\right)\left(\alpha_{3 n-1}+\alpha_{2}\right)\right) \in F_{q}^{n}$, and when $n \equiv 0(\bmod 2)$ or $q \equiv 0(\bmod 2)$, we construct a vector

$$
\begin{aligned}
\tilde{\alpha}= & \left(\left(\alpha_{1}+\alpha_{4}\right)\left(\alpha_{2}+\alpha_{5}\right),\left(\alpha_{4}+\alpha_{7}\right)\left(\alpha_{5}+\alpha_{8}\right), \ldots,\right. \\
& \left.\left(\alpha_{3 n-5}+\alpha_{3 n-2}\right)\left(\alpha_{3 n-4}+\alpha_{3 n-1}\right)\right) \in F_{q}^{n-1} .
\end{aligned}
$$

Further, everywhere $z(\gamma)$ denotes the number of zero coordinates of the vector $\gamma=\left(\gamma_{1}, \gamma_{2}, \ldots, \gamma_{m}\right) \in F_{q^{m}}$. Moreover, for any $s \in\{0,1, \ldots, n\}$ we have the set

$$
M_{s} \equiv\left\{\alpha=\left(\alpha_{1}, \alpha_{2}, \ldots, \alpha_{3 n}\right) \in M \mid z(\tilde{\alpha})=s\right\} .
$$

It should be noted that for $n \equiv 0(\bmod 2)$ or $q \equiv 0(\bmod 2)$ the set $M_{n}$ does not exist. It is clear that $M_{s} \cap M_{t}=\emptyset \Longleftrightarrow s \neq t$ and

$$
M=\bigcup_{s} M_{s}
$$

We denote by $E_{q}(n, s)$ the minimal complexity of the linearized covering of the set $M_{s}$, and by $E_{q}(n)$ we denote the complexity of the shortest covering of $M$ by cosets that are entirely contained in one of the sets $M_{s}, s=0,1, \ldots, n$.

Our goal is to evaluate the values of $E_{q}(n, s)$ and $E_{q}(n)$. The upper bounds and the case of $n \equiv 1(\bmod 2)$ and $q \equiv 1(\bmod 2)$ were obtained in [15].

Theorem. When $n \equiv 0(\bmod 2)$ or $q \equiv 0(\bmod 2)$, then

$$
\begin{gathered}
E_{q}(n, s) \geq\left\{\begin{array}{l}
C_{n-1}^{s}(q-1)^{2(n-s-1)}\left(2-\frac{1}{q}\right)^{s}, \text { if } 0 \leq s<n-1 \text { and } b \neq 0, \\
\frac{1}{q} C_{n-1}^{s}(q-1)^{2(n-s-1)}\left(2-\frac{1}{q}\right)^{s}, \text { if } 0 \leq s<n-1 \text { and } b=0, \\
\left(1-\frac{1}{q}\right)^{2}\left[\left(2-\frac{1}{q}\right)^{s}-2\left(1-\frac{1}{q}\right)^{s}+\frac{(-1)^{s}}{q^{s}}\right], \\
\text { if } s=n-1 \text { and } b \neq 0, \\
\frac{1}{q}\left(3-\frac{3}{q}+\frac{1}{q^{2}}\right)^{s}\left(2-\frac{1}{q}\right)^{2}+2\left(1-\frac{1}{q}\right)^{s+1}- \\
\left(1-\frac{1}{q}\right)^{3}\left(-\frac{1}{q}\right)^{s}, \\
\text { if } s=n-1 \text { and } b=0 .
\end{array}\right. \\
E_{q}(n) \geq\left\{\begin{array}{l}
(q-1)^{2(n-1)}+o\left(q^{2(n-1)}\right), \\
\begin{array}{l}
\text { if } b \neq 0, \\
\frac{1}{q}(q-1)^{2(n-1)}+o\left(q^{2(n-1)-1}\right),
\end{array} \\
\text { if } b=0 .
\end{array}\right.
\end{gathered}
$$

Proof. Let $n \equiv 0(\bmod 2)$ or $q \equiv 0(\bmod 2)$.
For vectors $\alpha=\left(\alpha_{1}, \alpha_{2}, \ldots, \alpha_{n-1}\right), \beta=\left(\beta_{1}, \beta_{2}, \ldots, \beta_{n-1}\right) \in F_{q}^{n-1}$ the product $\alpha \cdot \beta$ is defined by the equality $\alpha \cdot \beta=\left(\alpha_{1} \beta_{1}, \alpha_{2} \beta_{2}, \ldots, \alpha_{n-1} \beta_{n-1}\right)$. It is easy to verify that for a fixed vector $\gamma \in F_{q}^{n-1}$ the number of ordered pairs $(\alpha, \beta)$ such that $\alpha, \beta \in$ $F_{q}^{n-1}$ and $\alpha \cdot \beta=\gamma$ is equal to $(2 q-1)^{z(\gamma)}(q-1)^{n-1-z(\gamma)}$. Hence, if the vectors $\alpha, \beta \in$ $F_{q}^{n-1}$ satisfy the equalities $\alpha \cdot \beta=\gamma$ and $\left(\sum_{i=1}^{n-1}(-1)^{i-1} \alpha_{i}\right)\left(\sum_{i=1}^{n-1}(-1)^{i-1} \beta_{i}\right)=\omega$, where $\gamma \in F_{q}^{n-1}$ and $\omega \in F_{q}$, then we say that the vector pair $(\alpha, \beta)$ generates a vector $(\gamma, \omega) \in F_{q}^{n}$, and this fact is fixed by writing $(\alpha, \beta) \rightarrow(\gamma, \omega)$.

It was constructed in [15] a system of cosets covering the set $M_{s}$ for the Eq. (3). Cosets are represented by systems of linear equations over the field $F_{q}$. The set $M_{s}$, where $0 \leq s \leq n-1$, is covered by the sets of the solutions of the following systems of linear equations:

$$
\begin{cases}x_{3 i-2}+x_{3 i+1}=\alpha_{i}, & i=1,2, \ldots, n-1,  \tag{4}\\ x_{3 i-1}+x_{3 i+2}=\beta_{i}, & i=1,2, \ldots, n-1, \\ \gamma_{1} x_{3}+\cdots+\gamma_{n-1} x_{3(n-1)}+\omega x_{3 n}=b,\end{cases}
$$

where the vector pair $(\alpha, \beta)$ generates a vector

$$
\left(\gamma_{1}, \gamma_{2}, \ldots, \gamma_{n-1}, \omega\right) \neq(0,0, \ldots, 0,0) \in F_{q}^{n} \text { and } z(\alpha \beta)=z(\gamma)=s
$$

If $s=n-1$ and $b=0$ in Eq. (3), then the solution sets of systems (4) are supplemented by the solution sets of the following systems:

$$
\left\{\begin{align*}
& x_{3 i-2}+x_{3 i+1}=\alpha_{i},  \tag{5}\\
& x_{3 i-1}+x_{3 i+2}=\beta_{i}, \\
& i=1,2, \ldots, n, n, n, \\
& x_{3}, \ldots, 1,
\end{align*}\right.
$$

where the vector pair $(\alpha, \beta)$ generates a vector $(0,0, \ldots, 0,0) \in F_{q}^{n}$.

It is obvious that for different vector pairs $(\alpha, \beta)$ the sets of solutions of the above constructed systems of equations lie in $M_{s}$, are pairwise disjoint and the union of all these sets coincides with $M_{s}$ and so it is a disjoint covering of this set.

In [15] it was also counted the values of the $\left|M_{s}\right|$ and $|M|$ :

$$
\begin{aligned}
& \left|M_{s}\right|=C_{n-1}^{s}(q-1)^{2(n-1-s)}(2 q-1)^{s} q^{n+1}, \quad \text { if } 0 \leq s<n-1, \\
& \left|M_{n-1}\right|=(q-1)^{2} \cdot\left[(2 q-1)^{n-1}-2(q-1)^{n-1}+(-1)^{n-1}\right] q^{-2} q^{n+1}, \quad \text { if } b \neq 0, \\
& \left|M_{n-1}\right|=(q-1)^{2} \cdot\left[(2 q-1)^{n-1}-2(q-1)^{n-1}+(-1)^{n-1}\right] q^{-2} q^{n+1}+ \\
& +\left[(2 q-1)^{n}+2(q-1)^{n+1}+(-1)^{n}(q-1)^{2}\right] q^{-2} q^{n+2}, \\
& \text { if } b=0, \\
& |M|=\left[q^{2 n}-(2 q-1)^{n}-2(q-1)^{n+1}+(-1)^{n-1}(q-1)^{2}\right] q^{n-1}, \\
& |M|=\left[q^{2 n}+(q-1)(2 q-1)^{n}+2(q-1)^{n+2}+(-1)^{n}(q-1)^{3}\right] q^{n-1}, \quad \text { if } b \neq 0, \\
& \mid=0 .
\end{aligned}
$$

Now we suppose that for $i=1,2, \ldots, k$ the vectors $\alpha^{i}=\left(\alpha_{1}^{i}, \alpha_{2}^{i}, \ldots, \alpha_{n}^{i}\right)$ belong to $F_{q}^{n}$ and their product is defined by the equality

$$
\alpha^{1} \alpha^{2} \cdots \alpha^{k}=\left(\alpha_{1}^{1} \alpha_{1}^{2} \cdots \alpha_{1}^{k}, \alpha_{2}^{1} \alpha_{2}^{2} \cdots \alpha_{2}^{k}, \ldots, \alpha_{n}^{1} \alpha_{n}^{2} \cdots \alpha_{n}^{k}\right)
$$

Then the following result was proved in [9]:
Lemma 1. Suppose that the coset $H$ consists of vectors of the form $\left(\alpha^{1}, \alpha^{2}, \ldots, \alpha^{k}\right) \in F_{q}^{k n}$ such that $\alpha^{i}=\left(\alpha_{1}^{i}, \alpha_{2}^{i}, \ldots, \alpha_{n}^{i}\right) \in F_{q}^{n}$ for all $i=1,2, \ldots, k$, and $z\left(\alpha^{1} \alpha^{2} \cdots \alpha^{k}\right)=s, 0 \leq s \leq n$. Then $\operatorname{dim} H \leq(k-1) s$.

Now suppose that $N(\alpha, \beta)$ denotes the cosets corresponding to the system (4) or (5) for the vector pair $(\alpha, \beta)=\left(\alpha_{1}, \alpha_{2}, \ldots, \alpha_{n-1}, \beta_{1}, \beta_{2}, \ldots, \beta_{n-1}\right) \in F_{q}^{2(n-1)}$.

Lemma 2. Let $G$ be a coset in $F_{q}^{3 n} \cap M_{s}$. Then

$$
\operatorname{dim} G \leq \begin{cases}s+n+1, & \text { if } b \neq 0 \\ s+n+2, & \text { if } b=0\end{cases}
$$

where $b$ is the right-hand side of Eq. (3).
Proof. A coset $G$ can be represented as

$$
G=\bigcup_{z(\alpha \beta)=s}(G \cap N(\alpha, \beta)),
$$

because $G \subseteq M_{s}$.
Let $H=\{(\alpha, \beta) \mid G \cap N(\alpha, \beta) \neq \emptyset\}$ and pairs $\left(\alpha^{1}, \beta^{1}\right),\left(\alpha^{2}, \beta^{2}\right), \ldots,\left(\alpha^{m}, \beta^{m}\right)$ belong to the set $H$. For elements $\lambda_{1}, \lambda_{2}, \ldots, \lambda_{m} \in F_{q}$ such that $\sum_{j=1}^{m} \lambda_{j}=1$ consider the sum

$$
\lambda_{1} \varphi_{1}+\lambda_{2} \varphi_{2}+\cdots+\lambda_{m} \varphi_{m} \equiv \varphi
$$

where $\varphi_{j} \in G \cap N\left(\alpha^{j}, \beta^{j}\right), j=1,2, \ldots, m$. The vectors $\varphi_{1}, \varphi_{2}, \ldots, \varphi_{m}$ belong to $G$ and $G$ is a coset, therefore $\varphi \in G$. It is clear that for all $i=1,2, \ldots, n-1$, the sum of the $(3 i-2)$-th and $(3 i+1)$-th coordinates of the vectors $\varphi_{1}, \varphi_{2}, \ldots, \varphi_{m}$ respectively is $\alpha_{i}^{1}, \alpha_{i}^{2}, \ldots, \alpha_{i}^{m}$ (system (4) or (5)), and the sum of the $(3 i-1)$-th and ( $3 i+2$ )-th coordinates of the same vectors are respectively $\beta_{i}{ }^{1}, \beta_{i}^{2}, \ldots, \beta_{i}^{m}$. Consequently, the sum of the $(3 i-2)$-th and $(3 i+1)$-th coordinates of the vector $\varphi$ is equal to $\lambda_{1} \alpha_{i}^{1}+\lambda_{2} \alpha_{i}^{2}+\cdots+\lambda_{m} \alpha_{i}^{m}$, and the sum of the $(3 i-1)$-th and $(3 i+2)$-th coordinate of the same vector is equal to $\lambda_{1} \beta_{i}^{1}+\lambda_{2} \beta_{i}^{2}+\cdots+\lambda_{m} \beta_{i}^{m}$. Hence,

$$
\varphi \in N\left(\lambda_{1} \alpha^{1}+\lambda_{2} \alpha^{2}+\cdots+\lambda_{m} \alpha^{m}, \lambda_{1} \beta^{1}+\lambda_{2} \beta^{2}+\cdots+\lambda_{m} \beta^{m}\right)
$$

Therefore,

$$
\varphi \in G \cap N\left(\lambda_{1} \alpha^{1}+\lambda_{2} \alpha^{2}+\cdots+\lambda_{m} \alpha^{m}, \lambda_{1} \beta^{1}+\lambda_{2} \beta^{2}+\cdots+\lambda_{m} \beta^{m}\right)
$$

and

$$
\left(\lambda_{1} \alpha^{1}+\lambda_{2} \alpha^{2}+\cdots+\lambda_{m} \alpha^{m}, \lambda_{1} \beta^{1}+\lambda_{2} \beta^{2}+\cdots+\lambda_{m} \beta^{m}\right) \in H .
$$

That is $H$ is a coset and satisfies the conditions of Lemma 1 for $k=2$. Finally we have that $\operatorname{dim} H \leq s$, i. e. $|H| \leq q^{s}$.

Next, consider a matrix of the coset $G$. Columns of the matrix $G$ with numbers of multiples of 3 form coset $G_{1}$, and the remaining columns coset $G_{2}$. For each pair $(\alpha, \beta) \in H$ there are rows in the matrix $G_{2}$ that satisfy a linear system of equations

$$
\begin{cases}x_{3 i-2}+x_{3 i+1}=\alpha_{i}, & i=1,2, \ldots, n-1,  \tag{6}\\ x_{3 i-1}+x_{3 i+2}=\beta_{i}, & i=1,2, \ldots, n-1,\end{cases}
$$

and the corresponding rows in $G_{1}$ satisfy the equation

$$
\gamma_{1} x_{3}+\cdots+\gamma_{n-1} x_{3(n-1)}+\omega x_{3 n}=b
$$

where $(\alpha, \beta) \rightarrow(\gamma, \omega)$. The number of solutions of the system (6) in $F_{q}^{2 n}$ is equal to $q^{2 n-2(n-1)}=q^{2}$, and the number of systems (6) does not exceed $|H| \leq q^{s}$. Consequently, $\left|G_{2}\right| \leq q^{s} \cdot q^{2}=q^{s+2}$ and $\operatorname{dim} G_{2} \leq s+2$. It is clear that $\operatorname{dim} G_{1} \leq n$. Thus $\operatorname{dim} G \leq \operatorname{dim} G_{1}+\operatorname{dim} G_{2} \leq s+n+2$.

When $b \neq 0$, the vector $(0,0, \ldots, 0) \in F_{q}^{n}$ does not satisfy equations of the form $\gamma_{1} x_{3}+\cdots+\gamma_{n-1} x_{3(n-1)}+\omega x_{3 n}=b$. Hence, for $b \neq 0$ we have $\operatorname{dim} G_{1} \leq n-1$ and $\operatorname{dim} G \leq \operatorname{dim} G_{1}+\operatorname{dim} G_{2} \leq n-1+s+2=s+n+1$.

Obviously, if $G$ is a coset in $M_{s}$, then $L_{q}(n, s) \geq \frac{\left|M_{s}\right|}{q^{\operatorname{maxdim} G}}$, and therefore for $0 \leq s<n-1$ we have the following:

$$
E_{q}(n, s) \geq \frac{C_{n-1}^{s}(q-1)^{2(n-1-s)}(2 q-1)^{s} q^{n+1}}{q^{s+n+1}}=C_{n-1}^{s}(q-1)^{2(n-1-s)}\left(2-\frac{1}{q}\right)^{s}
$$

if $b \neq 0$, and

$$
E_{q}(n, s) \geq \frac{1}{q} C_{n-1}^{s}(q-1)^{2(n-1-s)}\left(2-\frac{1}{q}\right)^{s}
$$

if $b=0$. And for $s=n-1$ we have that

$$
\begin{aligned}
E_{q}(n, s) & \geq \frac{(q-1)^{2} \cdot\left[(2 q-1)^{n-1}-2(q-1)^{n-1}+(-1)^{n-1}\right] q^{-2} q^{n+1}}{q^{2 n}}= \\
& =\left(1-\frac{1}{q}\right)^{2}\left[\left(2-\frac{1}{q}\right)^{n-1}-2\left(1-\frac{1}{q}\right)^{n-1}+\frac{(-1)^{n-1}}{q^{n-1}}\right]
\end{aligned}
$$

when $b \neq 0$, and

$$
\begin{aligned}
E_{q}(n, s) & \geq \frac{(q-1)^{2} \cdot\left[(2 q-1)^{n-1}-2(q-1)^{n-1}+(-1)^{n-1}\right] q^{-2} q^{n+1}}{q^{2 n+1}}+ \\
& +\frac{\left[(2 q-1)^{n}+2(q-1)^{n+1}+(-1)^{n}(q-1)^{2}\right] q^{n}}{q^{2 n+1}}= \\
& =\frac{1}{q}\left(3-\frac{3}{q}+\frac{1}{q^{2}}\right)\left(2-\frac{1}{q}\right)^{n-1}+2\left(1-\frac{1}{q}\right)^{n+2}-\left(1-\frac{1}{q}\right)^{3}\left(-\frac{1}{q}\right)^{n-1}
\end{aligned}
$$

if $b=0$.

It is also clear that the length of the covering of the set $M$ of all solutions of equation (3) with cosets from the sets $M_{s}, s=0,1, \ldots, n-1$, satisfies the following inequalities:

$$
\begin{aligned}
E_{q}(n) & \geq \sum_{s=0}^{n-2} \frac{C_{n-1}^{s}(q-1)^{2(n-1-s)}(2 q-1)^{s} q^{n+1}}{q^{s+n+1}}+ \\
& +\frac{(q-1)^{2} \cdot\left[(2 q-1)^{n-1}-2(q-1)^{n-1}+(-1)^{n-1}\right] q^{n-1}}{q^{2 n}}= \\
& =\left[(q-1)^{2}+\left(2-\frac{1}{q}\right)\right]^{n-1}-\frac{1}{q}\left(2-\frac{1}{q}\right)^{n-1}-2\left(1-\frac{1}{q}\right)^{n+1}+ \\
& +\left(-\frac{1}{q}\right)^{n-1}\left(1-\frac{1}{q}\right)^{2}=(q-1)^{2(n-1)}+o\left(q^{2(n-1)}\right)
\end{aligned}
$$

if $b \neq 0$, and

$$
\begin{gathered}
E_{q}(n) \geq \sum_{s=0}^{n-2} \frac{C_{n-1}^{s}(q-1)^{2(n-1-s)}(2 q-1)^{s} q^{n+1}}{q^{s+n+2}}+ \\
+\frac{(q-1)^{2} \cdot\left[(2 q-1)^{n-1}-2(q-1)^{n-1}+(-1)^{n-1}\right] q^{n-1}}{q^{2 n+1}}= \\
=\frac{1}{q}(q-1)^{2(n-1)}+o\left(q^{2(n-1)-1}\right)
\end{gathered}
$$

if $b=0$.

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