# **Generating Good Span** n **Sequences Using Orthogonal Functions in Nonlinear Feedback Shift Registers**

### **Kalikinkar Mandal and Guang Gong**

**Abstract** A binary span *n* sequence generated by an *n*-stage nonlinear feedback shift register (NLFSR) is in a one-to-one correspondence with a de Bruijn sequence and has the following randomness properties: period  $2^n - 1$ , balance, and ideal  $n$ -tuple distribution. A span  $n$  sequence may have a high linear span. However, how to find a nonlinear feedback function that generates such a sequence constitutes a long-standing challenging problem for about 5 decades since Golomb's pioneering book, *Shift Register Sequences*, published in the middle of the 1960s. In hopes of finding good span  $n$  sequences with large linear span, in this chapter we study the generation of span  $n$  sequences using orthogonal functions in polynomial representation as nonlinear feedback in a nonlinear feedback shift register. Our empirical study shows that the success probability of obtaining a span  $n$  sequence in this technique is better than that of obtaining a span  $n$  sequence in a random span  $n$  sequence generation method. Moreover, we analyze the linear span of new span *n* sequences, and the linear span of a new sequence lies between  $2^n - 2 - 3n$  (near optimal) and  $2<sup>n</sup> - 2$  (optimal). Two conjectures on the linear span of new sequences are presented and are valid for  $n \leq 20$ .

## **1 Introduction**

*Nonlinear feedback shift registers* (NLFSRs) are used to design many cryptographic primitives such as pseudorandom sequence generators (PRSGs), stream ciphers [\[11\]](#page-34-0), and lightweight block ciphers [\[7\]](#page-34-1) for providing security and privacy in communication systems. Ciphers based on NLFSRs are of great practical importance in many constrained environments, for instance, RFID tags and sensor networks due to their need for efficient hardware implementation and high throughput. In general, an arbitrary NLFSR cannot be used for generating keystreams in stream ciphers

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because the randomness properties including the period of a sequence generated by that NLFSR are unknown and hard to determine.

A binary *de Bruijn sequence* is a binary sequence with period  $2<sup>n</sup>$  which satisfies the property that all  $n$ -tuples occur exactly once in one period. De Bruijn sequences have known randomness properties, namely, maximum period, balance property, ideal n-tuple distribution, and large linear span [\[3,](#page-34-2) [21,](#page-34-3) [34\]](#page-35-0). A *modified de Bruijn sequence* or *span n sequence* with period  $2^n - 1$  is a pseudorandom sequence where each nonzero  $n$ -tuple occurs exactly once in one period of the sequence. This property is referred to as *the span* n *property* [\[21\]](#page-34-3). Often, de Bruijn sequences as well as span  $n$  sequences are generated recursively by an  $n$ -stage nonlinear feedback shift register. Only,  $m$ -sequences are a class of span  $n$  sequences generated by linear feedback shift registers.

A span  $n$  sequence can be constructed from a de Bruijn sequence by removing any one zero from the run of zeros of length  $n$ , and similarly, a de Bruijn sequence can be formed from a span  $n$  sequence by adding one zero to the run of zeros of length n - 1. The *linear span or linear complexity* of a sequence is the length of the shortest LFSR that produces the given sequence. We remember that "linear span" and "span  $n$ " are two different properties of a span  $n$  sequence. Note that by adding an extra zero to the run of zeros of length  $n-1$  to an m-sequence, the linear span of the resultant de Bruijn sequence varies between  $2^{n-1} + n$  and  $2^n - 1$  [\[3\]](#page-34-2), but by removing any one zero from the run of zeros of length  $n$  from the resultant de Bruijn sequence, it becomes an  $m$ -sequence or a span  $n$  sequence with linear complexity  $n$ . So the lower bound of the linear span of the span  $n$  sequence drops to  $n$  [\[23\]](#page-34-4). This phenomenon suggests to study the randomness properties, particularly, the linear span property of span  $n$  sequences instead of de Bruijn sequences for cryptographic usages. Until recently, there is no known general construction of a nonlinear feedback function which generates a span  $n$  sequence, and this is open since the last 5 decades. Therefore, the generation of span  $n$  sequences by NLFSRs is a challenging problem.

Our objective is to produce span  $n$ /de Bruijn sequences using orthogonal functions as feedback functions in nonlinear feedback shift registers. An orthogonal feedback function has a trace representation and is composed of three parameters, namely, a decimation number, a primitive polynomial, and a t-tap position ( $5 \le t \le$  $n - 1$ ). In an NLFSR, a class of feedback functions is constituted by varying the decimation numbers and the polynomial bases of the finite fields. Finding span  $n$ sequences by using this class of feedback functions and all possible tap positions of the feedback functions is called a *structured search*. We show that a number of new span *n* sequences with a moderate *n* can be produced through the structured search. For  $n \geq 10$ , all the feedback functions of degree greater than or equal to two cannot be employed to search span  $n$  sequences. Using the structure search, on the other hand, one can employ a number of feedback functions with different degrees and a variable number of terms.

In this chapter, we present some new theoretical results on generating span  $n$ sequences and experimental results on finding the number of new span *n* sequences. The chapter is organized as follows. In Sect. [2,](#page-2-0) we provide some basic definitions of shift register sequences and their properties. Section [2.2](#page-3-0) recalls the definitions of known orthogonal functions, and Sect. [3](#page-9-0) introduces some known constructions of de Bruijn sequences. In Sect. [4,](#page-12-0) we describe the span  $n$  sequence generation technique using orthogonal functions and develop some properties of this technique, including an estimation of the number of orthogonal feedback functions used in this technique. Sections  $5$  and  $6$  present the experimental results on the number of span  $n$  sequences produced using orthogonal functions, and Sect. [7](#page-25-0) presents an empirical success probability comparison of obtaining span  $n$  sequences using orthogonal functions. In Sect. [8,](#page-26-0) we analyze the linear span of newly produced span  $n$  sequences by the aforementioned orthogonal functions and present two conjectures on the linear span of the span  $n$  sequences produced by the orthogonal functions. Our empirical results show that the success probability of obtaining a span  $n$  sequence in the structured search is larger than that of generating a span  $n$  sequence in a random search. Our results show that the linear span of a new span  $n$  sequence lies in the range of  $2^{n} - 2 - 3n$  (near optimal) and  $2^{n} - 2$  (optimal). In Sect. [9,](#page-29-0) some applications of new span n sequences are shown, and in the section "Conclusions", we conclude the chapter.

### <span id="page-2-0"></span>**2 Preliminaries**

In this section, we define and explain the terms and mathematical functions that will be used in this chapter to produce span  $n$  sequences.

- $\mathbb{F}_2 = \{0, 1\}$ : the Galois field with two elements.
- $\mathbb{F}_{2^t} = \{(x_0, x_1, \ldots, x_{t-1}) \mid x_i \in \mathbb{F}_2\}$ —an extension field that is defined by a primitive element  $\alpha$  with  $p(\alpha) = 0$ , where  $p(x) = c_0 + c_1x + \cdots + c_{t-1}x^{t-1} + x^t$ is a primitive polynomial of degree  $t \geq 2$ ) over  $\mathbb{F}_2$ . primitive element  $\alpha$  with  $p(\alpha) = 0$ , where  $p(x) = c_0 + c_1 x + \cdots + c_{t-1} x^{t-1}$ <br>is a primitive polynomial of degree  $t \ge 2$ ) over  $\mathbb{F}_2$ .<br>- Tr $(x) = x + x^2 + \cdots + x^{2^{t-1}}$ : the trace function mapping from  $\mathbb{F}_{2^t}$  to  $\mathbb{F$
- 
- $-D_t = \{d : d \text{ is a coset leader with } gcd(d, 2^t 1) = 1\}.$  The cardinality of  $D_t$ , denoted as  $|D_t|$ , is given by  $\frac{\phi(2^t-1)}{t}$ , where  $\phi(\cdot)$  is the Euler phi function.

## *2.1 Basic Definitions and Properties of Feedback Shift Registers*

Usually, an  $n$ -stage linear or nonlinear feedback shift register is used to generate a periodic binary sequence  $\mathbf{a} = \{a_i\}$ , and the recurrence relation for the (N)LFSR is defined as [\[20\]](#page-34-5)

$$
a_{n+k} = a_k \oplus g(a_{k+1},..., a_{k+n-1}), \ a_i \in \mathbb{F}_2, \ k \ge 0
$$

where  $(a_0, a_1, \ldots, a_{n-1})$  is the *initial state* of the shift register, g is a Boolean function in  $(n-1)$  variables, and  $\oplus$  is the addition operation over  $\mathbb{F}_2$ . If the function g is an affine function, then the sequence **a** is called an LFSR sequence; otherwise, it is called an NLFSR sequence. The above recurrence relation is also known as a nonsingular recurrence relation.

The complementary binary sequence of binary sequence  $\mathbf{b} = \{b_i\}_{i \geq 0}$ , denoted as **b**, is defined by  $\{b_i\}_{i>0}$ , where  $b_i = b_i \oplus 1$ . The *linear span or linear complexity* of a sequence is the length of the shortest LFSR that produces the sequence.

**Definition 1 ([\[22\]](#page-34-6))** The autocorrelation of a binary sequence  $\{a_i\}$  with period N is defined as

$$
C(\tau) = \sum_{i=0}^{N-1} (-1)^{a_{i+\tau} + a_{i}}.
$$

Moreover, if  $N = 2^n - 1$ , the sequence  $\{a_i\}$  has 2-level autocorrelation if

$$
C(\tau) = \begin{cases} 2^n - 1 & \text{if } \tau \equiv 0 \text{ (mod } 2^n - 1) \\ -1 & \text{if } \tau \not\equiv 0 \text{ (mod } 2^n - 1). \end{cases}
$$

<span id="page-3-1"></span>*Property 1* The linear span of a de Bruijn sequence, denoted as  $LS<sub>db</sub>$ , is bounded by  $[3]$ 

$$
2^{n-1} + n \le LS_{\rm db} \le 2^n - 1. \tag{1}
$$

On the other hand, the linear span of a span  $n$  sequence that is generated by an NLFSR, denoted as  $LS<sub>s</sub>$ , is bounded by

$$
2n < LS_s \le 2^n - 2. \tag{2}
$$

From this property, we say that a span  $n$  sequence has the optimal linear span if its linear span is equal to  $2^n - 2$ .

## <span id="page-3-0"></span>*2.2 Review of the Trace Representation of 2-level Autocorrelation Sequences*

An orthogonal function from  $\mathbb{F}_{2^t}$  to  $\mathbb{F}_2$  is in one-to-one correspondence with a binary sequence with (ideal) 2-level autocorrelation function, 2-level autocorrelation sequence in short. There are only very few known constructions on 2-level autocorrelation sequences, which constitutes another challenge problem for years. Interestingly, those functions possess good cryptographic properties. The reader is referred to Golomb and Gong's book [\[22\]](#page-34-6) for the details about the constructions of 2-level autocorrelation sequences and their related cryptographic properties. In the following, for easy reference, we formally provide the definition of orthogonal functions and their known constructions from corresponding trace representation of 2-level autocorrelation sequences.

**Definition 2** A function, say,  $f(x)$ , from  $\mathbb{F}_{2}$  to  $\mathbb{F}_{2}$  is called an orthogonal function if  $\sum_{x \in \mathbb{F}_{2^t}} (-1)^{f(\lambda x) + f(x)} = 0$  for all  $(1 \neq) \lambda \in \mathbb{F}_{2^t}$ .

Let  $\alpha$  be a primitive element of  $\mathbb{F}_{2^t}$  and let  $a_i = f(\alpha^i)$  where the binary sequence  ${a_i}$  is called an evaluation of  $f(x)$  and  $f(x)$ , the trace representation of  ${a_i}$ .

*Property 2* With the above notation:

1.  $f(x)$  is orthogonal if and only if its evaluation has 2-level autocorrelation.

2. If  $f(x)$  is orthogonal, then  $f(x^r)$  is orthogonal for all r with  $(r, 2^t - 1) = 1$ .

Let  $C = \{r, 2r, \dots, 2^{n_r-1}r\}$  where  $n_r$  is the smallest number such that  $r2^{n_r} \equiv$ r mod  $2^t - 1$ . Then C is called a (cyclotomic) coset consisting r modulo  $2^t - 1$ , and the smallest number in C is called the coset leaders of  $C$ . Let I consist of all coset leaders modulo  $2^t - 1$ .

#### **2.2.1 Number Theory-Based Constructions**

This type of the constructions includes Legendre sequences and Hall sextic residue sequences. Let  $p = 2^t - 1$  be a prime number, *u* be a primitive element in  $\mathbb{F}_p$ , and  $c = \frac{2^t - 2}{t}$ .

**Orthogonal Functions from Legendre Sequences (A1)** Let

$$
f(x) = \sum_{i=0, i \in I}^{c/2-1} \text{Tr}(x^{u^{2i}}), x \in \mathbb{F}_{2^t}.
$$

Or equivalently,

$$
f(x) = \sum_{i \in I_0} \text{Tr}(x^i), x \in \mathbb{F}_{2^i}
$$

where  $I_0 \subset I$  consist of all quadratic coset leaders modulo  $2^t - 1$ . Then  $f(x)$  is an orthogonal function from  $\mathbb{F}_{2^t}$  to  $\mathbb{F}_2$  whose evaluation gives a Legendre sequence with 2-level autocorrelation.

**Hall's "Sextic Residue Sequence" (A2)** Additional to the Legendre sequences,  $p = 4t - 1 = 4a^2 + 27$ . Let

$$
f(x) = \sum_{i=0, i \in I}^{c/6-1} \text{Tr}(x^{u^{6i}}), x \in \mathbb{F}_{2^t}.
$$

Then  $f(x)$  is an orthogonal function from  $\mathbb{F}_{2}$  to  $\mathbb{F}_{2}$  whose evaluation gives a Hall's "sextic residue sequence" with 2-level autocorrelation function.

#### **2.2.2 Finite Fields-Based Constructions**

There are four types of constructions for 2-level autocorrelation sequences: msequences, hyperoval constructions, Welch–Gong transformation construction, and Kasami power function construction including three-term and five-term sequences.

#### **Orthogonal Functions from m-Sequences** Let

$$
f(x) = \text{Tr}(x), x \in \mathbb{F}_{2^t},
$$

then  $f(x)$  is an orthogonal function whose evaluation gives an *m*-sequence with period  $2^t - 1$ , and the other *m*-sequences are given by  $Tr(x^d)$  where  $gcd(d, 2^t 1) = 1.$ 

**Orthogonal Functions from Hyperoval Sequences** There are three monomial hyperoval sequences with 2-level autocorrelation, namely, Segre type and Glynn type 1 and type 2. Except for Segre hyperoval sequences, the trace representation is not represented in a formula. Instead, it is described in terms of some relation which needs to be computed for different t.

Let  $(1)^l$  denote a string of l consecutive 1s. Let A denote the set consisting of all strings of the form  $(1)^{4a+1}0$  or  $a \ge 0$  and  $(1)^{4b}$ ,  $b \ge 0$ . Let  $A^*$  denote the set of all strings obtained by concatenating zero, one or more strings from *A*. Let t be a prime and

<span id="page-5-0"></span>
$$
\frac{|01(\text{string in } \mathcal{A}^*)0(1)^{2s}, s \ge 0 \text{ or } |}{|011(\text{string in } \mathcal{A}^*)11}
$$
\n(3)

The trace representation of a Segre hyperoval sequence of period  $2^t - 1$ , t odd, is given by

$$
f(x) = \sum_{i \in T_{\text{Segree}}} \text{Tr}(x^i), x \in \mathbb{F}_{2^i}
$$

where  $T_{\text{Sesre}} \subset I$  which are the collections of coset leaders of the all binary numbers given by  $(3)$  [\[5\]](#page-34-7).

Let  $T_{\text{Glynn}} \subset I$  be the collections of the coset leaders of solutions to

$$
w(j) + w((k-1)j - w(kj) = 1, j = 1, ..., 2t - 1
$$

where  $w(x)$  is the Hamming weight of binary number x. Then the trace representation of a Glynn hyperoval sequence of period  $2^t - 1$ , t odd, is given by

$$
f(x) = \sum_{i \in T_{\text{Glynn}}} \text{Tr}(x^i), x \in \mathbb{F}_{2^t}
$$

where  $k = \sigma + \gamma$  for Glynn type 1 and  $k = 3\sigma + 4$  for Glynn type 2 where  $\sigma = 2^{(t+1)/2}$  and  $\gamma = 2^{(3t+1)/4}$  [\[13\]](#page-34-8).

**Orthogonal Functions from Three-Term, Five-Term, and Welch–Gong Transformation Constructions** In [\[38\]](#page-35-1), it was conjectured that three-term and five-term sequences have 2-level autocorrelation as well as Welch–Gong transformation sequences discovered by Golomb, Gong, and Gaal. The validity of those conjectures is established later on by Dillon and Dobbertin in [\[8,](#page-34-9) [9\]](#page-34-10).

Let  $t = 2k - 1$  for some positive integer k and  $t \ge 5$ . Let

$$
f(x) = \text{Tr}(x + x^{2^k+1} + x^{2^k-1}), x \in \mathbb{F}_{2^l}.
$$

Then its evaluation gives three-term 2-level autocorrelation sequences.

Let t be a positive integer with t mod  $3 \neq 0$  and  $3k \equiv 1$  mod t for some integer k. We define the function h from  $\mathbb{F}_{2^t}$  to  $\mathbb{F}_{2^t}$  by

$$
h(x) = x + x^{q_1} + x^{q_2} + x^{q_3} + x^{q_4}
$$

where

$$
q_1 = 2^k + 1, q_2 = 2^{2k} + 2^k + 1, q_3 = 2^{2k} - 2^k + 1, q_4 = 2^{2k} + 2^k - 1.
$$

(Note that  $h(x)$  is a permutation over  $\mathbb{F}_{2^t}$  [\[8\]](#page-34-9).) Let

$$
g(x) = Tr(h(x))
$$
 and  $f(x) = Tr(h(x + 1) + 1)$ 

where  $f(x)$  is known as the *WG transformation*. The evaluations of  $g(x)$  and  $f(x)$ yield five-term sequences and WG transformation sequences.

**Orthogonal Functions from Kasami Power Function Construction** Let  $gcd(k, t) = 1, k < t, kk' \equiv 1, and$ 

$$
f(x) = \text{Tr}(R(x)), x \in \mathbb{F}_{2^l}
$$

where  $R(x)$  is given by

$$
R(x) = \sum_{i=1}^{k'} A_i(x) + V_{k'}(x)
$$

where  $A_i$  and  $V_i$  are iteratively defined by

$$
A_1(x) = x
$$
  
\n
$$
A_2(x) = x^{2^k+1}
$$
  
\n
$$
A_{i+2}(x) = x^{2^{(i+1)k}} A_{i+1}(x) + x^{2^{(i+1)k}-2^{ik}} A_i(x), i \ge 1
$$

and

$$
V_1(x) = 0
$$
  
\n
$$
V_2(x) = x^{2^k - 1}
$$
  
\n
$$
V_{i+2}(x) = x^{2^{(i+1)k}} V_{i+1}(x) + x^{2^{(i+1)k} - 2^{ik}} V_i(x), i \ge 1.
$$

**Orthogonal Functions from Subfield Constructions** Let  $1 < m | t, m \neq t$ , and  $g(x)$  be any orthogonal function from  $\mathbb{F}_{2^m}$  to  $\mathbb{F}_2$ , listed in the above subsections, and let

$$
f(x) = \mathrm{Tr}^t_m(g(x)), x \in \mathbb{F}_{2^t}
$$

where Tr<sub>m</sub><sup>t</sup>(x) is the trace function from 
$$
\mathbb{F}_{2^t}
$$
 to  $\mathbb{F}_{2^m}$ , i.e.,  
\n
$$
\text{Tr}_m^t(x) = x + x^{2^m} + \dots + x^{2^{(l-1)m}}, x \in \mathbb{F}_{2^t}, l = t/m.
$$

Then  $f(x)$  is an orthogonal function from  $\mathbb{F}_{2}$  to  $\mathbb{F}_{2}$ , and its evaluation is called a subfield 2-level autocorrelation sequences which includes GMW sequence for  $g(x) = \text{Tr}_1^m(x^d)$  where  $\text{Tr}(x)$  is the trace function from  $\mathbb{F}_{2^m}$  to  $\mathbb{F}_2$  and  $\gcd(d, 2^m -$ 1) = 1 and generalized GMW sequences for the rest of  $g(x)$ . Here we shorten them as GMW sequences.

### **2.2.3 Orthogonal Functions for Small Fields**

In the following, we give the exponents explicitly for all known orthogonal functions of the form  $f(x) = \sum_{i \in I} \text{Tr}(x^i)$  from  $\mathbb{F}_{2^t}$  $\mathbb{F}_{2^t}$  $\mathbb{F}_{2^t}$  to  $\mathbb{F}_2$  for  $5 \le t \le 11$  in Tables [1,](#page-8-0) 2 and [3](#page-9-1) where the monomial function  $Tr(x)$  is not listed.

<span id="page-8-0"></span>

| Orthogonal functions | Trace spectra                   | # of terms     |
|----------------------|---------------------------------|----------------|
| $t=5$                |                                 |                |
| T <sub>3</sub>       | 1, 3, 5                         | 3              |
| $t=7$                |                                 |                |
| T <sub>3</sub>       | 1, 9, 13                        | 3              |
| T5                   | 1, 5, 21, 13, 29                | 5              |
| WG                   | 1, 3, 7, 19, 29                 | 5              |
| QR                   | 3, 5, 7, 23, 27, 29, 43, 55, 63 | 9              |
| Hall                 | 5, 27, 63                       | 3              |
| $t = 8$              |                                 |                |
| <b>GMW</b>           | 7, 13, 37, 11                   | $\overline{4}$ |
| T5                   | 1, 9, 37, 29, 39                | 5              |
| WG                   | 13, 19, 21, 29, 39              | 5              |
| $t = 9$              |                                 |                |
| T3                   | 1, 17, 25                       | 3              |
| <b>GMW</b>           | 3, 17, 129                      | 3              |
| Segre                | 1, 5, 7, 9, 19, 25, 37, 77, 117 | 9              |
| Glynn 1              | 1, 5, 9, 13, 19, 37, 43         | 7              |
| Glynn 2              | 17, 23, 37, 43, 45, 75, 87      | $\overline{7}$ |

**Table 1** Exponents in the orthogonal functions over  $\mathbb{F}_{2^t}$ ,  $5 \le t \le 9$ 

**Table 2** Exponents in the orthogonal functions over  $\mathbb{F}_{2^t}$ ,  $t = 10$ 

<span id="page-8-1"></span>

| Orthogonal functions | Trace spectra   | # of terms     |
|----------------------|---|----------------|
| T <sub>5</sub>       | 1, 9, 57, 73, 121                                     | 5              |
| WG                   | 1, 3, 5, 7, 11, 13, 15, 35, 69, 71, 89, 105, 121      | 13             |
| GMW1                 | 3, 17   | $\overline{c}$ |
| GMW2                 | 5.9   | $\overline{c}$ |
| GMW3                 | 7, 19, 25, 69   | 4              |
| GMW4                 | 11, 13, 21, 73  | 4              |
| GMW <sub>5</sub>     | 1, 5, 7, 9, 19, 25, 69                                | 7              |
| GMW <sub>6</sub>     | 15, 23, 27, 29, 77, 85, 89, 147                       | 8              |
| GMW7                 | 3, 7, 11, 13, 15, 21, 23, 27, 29, 73, 77, 85, 89, 147 | 14             |

We define the following set:

 $D_t^* = \{d : d \in D_t \text{ and } f_d(\cdot), \text{ is nonlinear and } f_d(x) \neq f_{d_1}(x), d \neq d_1(\in D_t^*)\}.$ 

For all decimation numbers in  $D_t^*$ , we take into account all distinct orthogonal functions obtained from an orthogonal function using decimations.

<span id="page-9-1"></span>

| Orthogonal functions | Trace spectra   | # of terms |
|----------------------|---|------------|
| T <sub>3</sub>       | 1, 33, 49   | 3          |
| T <sub>5</sub>       | 1, 17, 121, 137, 143                                    | 5          |
| WG                   | 21, 23, 29, 35, 37, 41, 71, 89, 139, 165, 213, 307, 415 | 13         |
| $Segre = B2$         | 1, 5, 13, 21, 53, 77, 85, 205, 213, 309, 333, 341, 413, | 15         |
|                      | 423, 469  |            |
| Glynn 1              | 1, 5, 9, 13, 19, 37, 43, 67, 69, 137, 163, 211, 293     | 13         |
| Glynn 2              | 1, 5, 13, 17, 29, 37, 49, 61, 69, 81, 93, 101, 113,     | 21         |
|                      | 125, 139, 147, 151, 157, 171, 173, 183                  |            |
| B <sub>3</sub>       | 1, 5, 7, 9, 19, 25, 81, 169, 295                        | 9          |

**Table 3** Exponents in the orthogonal functions over  $\mathbb{F}_{2^t}$ ,  $t = 11$ 

## <span id="page-9-0"></span>**3 Review of Known Constructions of (Modified) de Bruijn Sequences**

There is a one-to-one correspondence between a de Bruijn sequence and a modified de Bruijn/span  $n$  sequence. When the construction of a feedback function that generates a span  $n$  sequence is known, the construction of a de Bruijn sequence can be known and vice versa. In this section, we provide some known de Bruijn and span  $n$  sequence generation techniques.

### *3.1 Known Constructions for de Bruijn Sequences*

Problem of generating a de Bruijn sequence is easy to understand, but providing a solution for generating a de Bruijn sequence efficiently is a challenging problem. This problem is studied from algorithmic, graph theoretic, and algebraic technique points of view in the literature. In particular, generating a de Bruijn sequence using a feedback shift register is an algebraic technique, which exploits properties of a feedback function. In the following, we present some well-known approaches of constructing de Bruijn sequences.

#### **3.1.1 Lempel's** D**-Morphism-Based Techniques for de Bruijn Sequences**

Lempel in [\[26\]](#page-35-2) proposed the concept of generating a de Bruijn sequence of period  $2^{n+1}$  by first computing two D-morphic preimages of a de Bruijn sequence of period  $2<sup>n</sup>$  and then concatenating these two preimages at a conjugate pair. In this construction, it is assumed that the construction of the de Bruijn sequence of period  $2^n$  is known. Later on, Annexstein in [\[1\]](#page-34-11) and Chang et al. in [\[6\]](#page-34-12) proposed two algorithms based on Lempel's D-homomorphism for producing de Bruijn sequences of long period. Games [\[18\]](#page-34-13) proposed a generalized construction of Lempel's construction in which a de Bruijn sequence of period  $2^{n+1}$  is constructed from two different de Bruijn sequences of period  $2<sup>n</sup>$  using Lempel's conjugate.

In [\[36\]](#page-35-3), Mykkeltveit et al. presented Lempel's construction in the form of a composited recurrence relation. Following Mykkeltveit et al.'s construction, Mandal and Gong in [\[28\]](#page-35-4) refined and studied the composited construction, for producing strong composited de Bruijn sequences of arbitrarily long period from a span  $n$ sequence. For the properties and cycle structures of composited recurrence relations, see [\[27,](#page-35-5) [36\]](#page-35-3). Note that, in the composited construction, the feedback function of a de Bruijn sequence is a bit complicated, which contains a number of sum-ofproduct terms. Recently, Mandal and Gong in [\[29\]](#page-35-6) analyzed composited de Bruijn sequences from D-morphic point of view and presented an iterative technique for computing the nonlinear feedback function of a composited de Bruijn sequence. In the composited construction one needs to know the construction of a feedback function of a span  $n$  sequence in order to generate a de Bruijn sequence of long period.

#### **3.1.2 Algorithms for de Bruijn Sequence Generation**

Fredricksen and Kessler in [\[16\]](#page-34-14) proposed an algorithm based on lexicographic compositions for constructing de Bruijn sequences of period  $2<sup>n</sup>$ , and the amount of storage required in implementing the algorithm is linear in  $n$ . Fredricksen and Maiorana in [\[17\]](#page-34-15) presented an algorithm for generating necklaces of length  $n$  in  $k$ colors, and a k-ary de Bruijn sequence of period  $k<sup>n</sup>$  is produced by juxtaposing in order the periodic reductions of the necklaces.

Fredricksen [\[14\]](#page-34-16) developed an algorithm to generate nonlinear de Bruijn sequences, and the algorithm requires  $3n$  units of storage and outputs one bit in around  $n$  units of time. Fredricksen also exhibited that new de Bruijn sequences can be obtained from a de Bruijn sequence by cross-joining, and the number of such new de Bruijn sequences is  $2^{2n-5}$ . The storage requirement for implementing the method is about  $6n$  units. When this method is compared with Mandal and Gong's iterative technique (MG iterative technique) for composited de Bruijn sequences, MG iterative technique for the composited feedback function requires less amount of time as well as memory.

Etzion and Lempel [\[12\]](#page-34-17) developed a construction of de Bruijn sequences with linear complexity  $(2^{n-1} + n)$  for all  $n \ge 3$ . A detailed survey by Fredricksen of many other de Bruijn sequence generation techniques can be found in [\[15\]](#page-34-18).

#### **3.1.3 Cycle Joining Techniques for de Bruijn Sequence Generation**

Cycle joining technique is one of the well-known methods of generating a de Bruijn sequence in which a de Bruijn sequence is constructed by joining a finite number of cycles produced by a feedback shift register. In this technique, first a feedback function of a nonsingular feedback shift register is chosen, and then a different feedback function for a de Bruijn sequence is constructed from the first feedback function based on its cycle decomposition.

Jansen et al. [\[25\]](#page-35-7) presented a cycle joining algorithm for generating de Bruijn sequences where the feedback function of a de Bruijn sequence is the sum of two functions; one function is the feedback function itself, and another function is constructed from the feedback function for joining cycles. In [\[25\]](#page-35-7), it is shown that  $O(2^{\frac{2n}{\log(2n)}})$  de Bruijn sequences of period  $2^n$  can be produced when all irreducible polynomials of degree  $n$  is taken in a feedback shift register. The storage requirement for this method is  $3n$  bits, and  $4n$ -unit of time is required to generate each bit of a de Bruijn sequence. A storage-time comparison between this algorithm and the MG iterative technique can be found in [\[6\]](#page-34-12).

Yang and Dai in  $[40]$  proposed a construction of an  $m$ -ary de Bruijn sequence based on joining the cycles using modification sets of a feedback function  $f$ . In the construction, a nonlinear feedback function  $F$  of a de Bruijn sequence is constructed from the feedback function  $f$  using the modification sets of  $f$ . The authors showed that, when a circulating register is chosen, at least  $2^{\left(\frac{m^n}{n} - mn\right)}$  feedback functions that generate de Bruijn sequences can be constructed. However, this method is not efficient for large values of  $n$ , since the method requires the cycles decomposition of f to construct the function  $F$ , and for a large n, it is very hard to obtain the cycle decomposition of  $f$ . Moreover, the feedback function would contain many product terms for joining of the cycles.

Hauge and Helleseth [\[24\]](#page-34-19) proposed a technique based on an irreducible polynomial and its adjacency graph to generate de Bruijn sequences. In this technique, a de Bruijn sequence is obtained as maximum spanning trees from the adjacency graph of a feedback function corresponding to an irreducible polynomial. The lower bound for the number of de Bruijn sequences is determined in terms of the cyclotomic numbers.

## *3.2 Known Techniques for Generating Modified de Bruijn Sequences*

Most of the research efforts devoted on span  $n$  sequences have been concerned about the number of span  $n$  sequences and the characteristics of nonlinear feedback functions [\[21,](#page-34-3) [33,](#page-35-9) [34\]](#page-35-0) including the number of terms in the feedback functions [\[33,](#page-35-9) [35\]](#page-35-10) and the weight of truth tables of the feedback functions [\[32,](#page-35-11) [33\]](#page-35-9). Mayhew and Golomb reported the number of span n sequences for different values of the linear span of span  $n$  sequences and for different values of the number of terms in the feedback functions ( $4 \le n \le 6$ ) [\[34,](#page-35-0) [35\]](#page-35-10). Mayhew reported the number of span n sequences for different weight classes of the truth tables of the feedback functions for  $n = 6$  [\[33\]](#page-35-9). However, the task of finding the number of span n sequences for

different weight classes and for different values of the linear span is an unsolved problem for  $n > 7$ .

In [\[4\]](#page-34-20). Chan et al. have considered the generation of quadratic *m*-sequence that uses very simple quadratic functions as the feedback function, which is the sum of a linear function in  $n$  variables and a quadratic term for any two variables and reported the number of span *n* sequences for  $5 < n < 12$ . Dubrova in [\[10\]](#page-34-21) and Rachwalik et al. in [\[39\]](#page-35-12) found a few quadratic  $m$ -sequences, i.e., span  $n$  sequence generated using quadratic feedback functions for  $4 \le n \le 24$  and  $25 \le n \le 27$ , respectively. Gammel et al. have searched span  $n$  sequences while designing stream cipher Achterban:128/80 based on nonlinear feedback shift registers [\[19\]](#page-34-22).

Note that the feedback functions of an NLFSR in [\[10,](#page-34-21) [19,](#page-34-22) [39\]](#page-35-12) contain only a few terms and are of low algebraic degree. All the methods for finding the number of span  $n$  sequences and verifying the span  $n$  property of a sequence use an exhaustive search method which is an exponential time algorithm in  $n$ .

### <span id="page-12-0"></span>**4 A New Construction**

In this section we first describe the recurrence relation of nonlinear feedback shift registers whose feedback functions are orthogonal functions. In an n-stage NLFSR, the feedback function can also be regarded as a Boolean function in  $t$  variables where  $5 < t \leq n - 1$ . Our considered orthogonal feedback functions in t variables are balanced as the evaluation of the feedback function has 2-level autocorrelation and have even Hamming weight  $2^{t-1}$ . Thus, the new span *n* sequences generated by a class of feedback functions belong to the weight class  $2^{n-2}$ . Then we calculate the approximate number of feedback functions used in the structured search.

## *4.1 Description of Span* n *Sequence Generation Using Orthogonal Function*

Let  $\mathbf{a} = \{a_i\}$  be a binary sequence generated by an *n*-stage NLFSR whose nonlinear recurrence relation is defined as

<span id="page-12-1"></span>
$$
a_{n+k} = a_k \oplus f_d(x_k), \ x_k = (a_{r_1+k}, a_{r_2+k}, \dots, a_{r_t+k}) \in \mathbb{F}_{2^t}, d \in D_t^*,
$$
  
0 < t < n, k \ge 0 (4)

where  $(r_1, r_2, \ldots, r_t)$  with  $0 < r_1 < r_2 < \cdots < r_t \leq n - 1$  is called a *t*-tap *position* of the NLFSR,  $f_d(x) = f(x^d)$ ,  $f(x)$  is an orthogonal function, and  $\oplus$ is the addition over  $\mathbb{F}_2$ . For a proper selection of a *t*-tap position and a feedback function  $f_d(x)$ , the binary sequence **a** can be a *span n sequence*. We note that for any choice of a *t*-tap position and a feedback function  $f_d(x)$ , the binary sequence may not be a span *n* sequence. The reason for choosing  $t \leq (n - 1)$  is to involve a small number of state variables in the feedback functions, which is benefited to the implementation of the NLFSR as well as the production of more feedback functions.

Let  $\mathbf{b} = \{b_i\}$  be a binary sequence generated by the following recurrence relation

<span id="page-13-0"></span>
$$
b_{n+k} = 1 \oplus b_k \oplus f_d(x_k), \ x_k = (b_{r_1+k}, \dots, b_{r_t+k}) \in \mathbb{F}_{2^t}, d \in D_t^*,
$$
  
0 < t < n, k \ge 0. (5)

Similarly, for a proper selection of a t-tap position and a feedback function  $f_d(x)$ , the complementary binary sequence **b** of **b** can be a *span* n *sequence*, but the sequence  $\bf{b}$  is not a span *n* sequence since it contains the all-zero state.

If the number of terms in the algebraic normal form representation of the function  $f_d$  is even, then the recurrence relations [\(4\)](#page-12-1) and [\(5\)](#page-13-0) cannot generate a span n sequence for any choice of a t-tap position, since for the all-one state, recurrence relation [\(4\)](#page-12-1) generates the all-one sequence, and recurrence relation [\(5\)](#page-13-0) contains the all-one  $n$ -tuple.

**Proposition 1** *If*  $f_d(x) = 0$  *for*  $x = (1, 1, \ldots, 1) \in \mathbb{F}_{2^t}$ *, then recurrence relations [\(4\)](#page-12-1) and [\(5\)](#page-13-0) cannot generate span* n *sequences.*

In the recurrence relations  $(4)$  and  $(5)$ , by varying three parameters, namely, the primitive polynomial  $p(x)$ , the decimation number d, and the t-tap position  $(r_1, r_2, \ldots, r_t)$ , a number of new span *n* sequences can be produced, and that number mainly depends on the length n of the NLFSR and the number t of inputs to the function  $f_d$ . We call this searching technique a *structured search*, where an NLFSR has a compact representation in terms of feedback functions and tap positions. Note that we may not always obtain a span  $n$  sequence for a fixed value of  $t$  and for any length  $n$  of the NLFSR. A special case of the recurrence relation [\(4\)](#page-12-1) with the trace function in  $(n - 1)$  variables as the feedback function is defined in [\[37\]](#page-35-13).

A periodic reverse binary sequence is defined as follows [\[32,](#page-35-11) [35\]](#page-35-10): for a binary sequence  $\{a_0, a_1, \ldots, a_{2^n-2}\}$  with period  $2^n - 1$ , the reverse sequence of the binary sequence is defined by  $\{a_{2^n-2}, a_{2^n-3}, \ldots, a_1, a_0\}$ . A reverse sequence of a span *n* sequence is also a span  $n$  sequence, which is not shift equivalent to the original one, and the reverse span  $n$  sequence can be generated by the same function but with a different  $t$ -tap position.

**Proposition 2** ([\[32\]](#page-35-11)) Let  $g(x_0, x_1, ..., x_{n-1}) = x_0 \oplus f(x_1, ..., x_{n-1})$  generates *a* span *n* sequence with period  $2^n - 1$ . Then the function  $h(x_0, x_{n-1},...,x_1) =$  $x_0 \oplus f(x_{n-1},...,x_1)$  generates a reverse span n sequence.

Our span *n* sequences generated by recurrence relations  $(4)$  and  $(5)$  with a fixed  $P(x)$  are uniquely determined by the following three parameters:

- 1. the decimation number  $d$ ,
- 2. the primitive polynomial  $p(x)$ ,
- 3. the t-tap position  $(r_1, r_2, \ldots, r_t)$ .

Similarly, the reverse span  $n$  sequence of a span  $n$  sequence with parameters d,  $p(x)$ , and  $(r_1, r_2,..., r_t)$  is represented by the same decimation number d and the same primitive polynomial  $p(x)$ , but with a different t-tap position  $(n - r_1, n$  $r_2, \ldots, n - r_t$ ). For a fixed function  $f_d(x)$ , a span n sequence generated by  $f_d(x)$ is different if the t-tap position is different. We now describe the span  $n$  sequence generation by the above structured search in the following example.

*Example 1* The following example describes our span *n* sequence generation procedure for  $t = 5$ .

The WG transformation over  $\mathbb{F}_{2^5}$  is given by

$$
f(x) = \text{Tr}(x + (x+1)^5 + (x+1)^{13} + (x+1)^{19} + (x+1)^{21}).
$$

After simplification,  $f(x)$  can be written as

$$
f(x) = \text{Tr}(x^{19}), x \in \mathbb{F}_{2^5},
$$

which is degenerated into an *m*-sequence. For  $t = 5$ , the set of coset leaders is given by  $D_t = \{1, 3, 5, 7, 11, 15\}$ , and the coset leaders for which  $f_d(x)$  is nonlinear is given by  $D_t^* = \{1, 3, 7, 11, 15\}$ , since for  $d = 5$ , the function  $f_d(x)$  is linear. The *d*-th decimation of  $f(x)$  is given by<br>  $f_d(x) = f(x^d) = \text{Tr}(x^{d'})$ 

$$
f_d(x) = f(x^d) = \text{Tr}(x^{d'}), \ d' = (19 \cdot d) \bmod 2^t - 1, \ d \in D_t^*.
$$

The *n*-stage nonlinear recurrence relation with a *t*-tap position is given by

$$
a_{n+k} = a_k \oplus f_d(x_k), x_k = (a_{r_1+k}, \ldots, a_{r_5+k}) \in \mathbb{F}_{2^5}, k \ge 0.
$$

The Boolean representation of  $f(x) = Tr(x^{19})$  with defining polynomial  $p(x) =$  $1 + x + x^2 + x^4 + x^5$  of  $\mathbb{F}_{25}$  is as follows:

$$
f(x_0,...,x_4) = x_0 + x_3 + x_0x_1 + x_0x_2 + x_0x_3 + x_0x_4 + x_1x_2 + x_1x_3 + x_1x_4
$$
  
+ 
$$
x_2x_4 + x_0x_1x_3 + x_0x_1x_4 + x_0x_2x_3 + x_0x_3x_4 + x_1x_2x_4.
$$

For the span *n* sequence with parameters  $d = 1$ ,  $p(x) = 1 + x + x^2 + x^4 + x^5$ .  $(r_1, r_2, r_3, r_4, r_5) = (1, 2, 3, 4, 5)$  $(r_1, r_2, r_3, r_4, r_5) = (1, 2, 3, 4, 5)$  $(r_1, r_2, r_3, r_4, r_5) = (1, 2, 3, 4, 5)$  in Table 4, the above recurrence relation can be written as

$$
a_{7+k} = a_k + a_{1+k} + a_{4+k} + a_{1+k}a_{2+k} + a_{1+k}a_{3+k} + a_{1+k}a_{4+k} + a_{1+k}a_{5+k}
$$
  
+ 
$$
a_{2+k}a_{3+k} + a_{2+k}a_{4+n} + a_{2+n}a_{5+k} + a_{3+k}a_{5+k} + a_{1+k}a_{2+k}a_{4+k}
$$
  
+ 
$$
a_{1+k}a_{2+k}a_{5+k} + a_{1+k}a_{3+k}a_{4+k} + a_{1+k}a_{4+k}a_{5+k} + a_{2+k}a_{3+k}a_{5+k},
$$
  

$$
a_k \in \mathbb{F}_2, k \ge 0.
$$

<span id="page-15-0"></span>



The above generates the following span *n* sequence of period  $2^7 - 1$ 

### 111111100011100100010000011011000000100101101110101110000101111

0110101011001010000111100110001010100100111110100110100011001110:

For  $n = 7$ , all the span *n* sequences produced by recurrence relations [\(4\)](#page-12-1) and [\(5\)](#page-13-0) are presented in Table [4.](#page-15-0)

### *4.2 Approximate Number of Functions in the Search Space*

Note that three parameters, namely, a decimation number  $d$ , a primitive polynomial  $p(x)$ , and a t-tap position, determine a nonlinear recurrence relation or a feedback function that may generate a span  $n$  sequence. In other words, each feedback function can be considered as a candidate span  $n$  sequence. For a fixed value of  $n$ and  $t$ , a search space is formed by including all possible combinations of these three parameters. In order to find span  $n$  sequences, an exhaustive search is performed over this search space. We determine the size of the search space or the number of candidate span *n* sequences in terms of *n* and *t* in the following proposition.

**Proposition 3** *For any*  $n > t > 6$ *, the number of feedback functions in the search* space of recurrence relations [\(4\)](#page-12-1) and [\(5\)](#page-13-0) is given by  $C = \left(\frac{\phi(2^t-1)}{t}\right)$  $\left(\frac{t-1}{t}\right)^2\binom{n-1}{t}$  $_{t}^{-1}$ ) if  $|D_{t}^{*}|$  =  $\frac{\phi(2^t-1)}{t}$ .

*Proof* As in the recurrence relations, the first position is fixed for the sequence to be periodic, and any *t*-tap position is chosen from  $n - 1$  positions ( $n \ge 6$ ) to form a t-tap position; the number of distinct t-tap positions is given by  $T = \binom{n-1}{t}$  $\binom{-1}{t}$ . Again, the total number of nonlinear feedback functions is given by  $n_p \cdot |D_t^*|$ , where  $n_p = \phi(2^{t-1})$  is the number of t degree primitive polynomials over  $\mathbb{F}_r$ , and  $|D^*|$  is the  $\frac{(2^{t}-1)}{t}$  is the number of t degree primitive polynomials over  $\mathbb{F}_2$  and  $|D_t^*|$  is the number of decimation numbers for which the feedback function is nonlinear. Hence, for fixed n and t, the number of feedback functions in the search space is

$$
C = n_p \cdot |D_t^*| \cdot T = \left(\frac{\phi(2^t - 1)}{t}\right)^2 \binom{n-1}{t} \text{ if } |D_t^*| = \frac{\phi(2^t - 1)}{t}.
$$

<span id="page-16-0"></span>**Proposition 4** *A feedback shift register defined by recurrence relations [\(4\)](#page-12-1) and [\(5\)](#page-13-0) produces the maximum number of span* n *sequences when about half the length of the shift register tap positions participate in the feedback functions.*

*Proof* Without loss generality, we assume that the number of terms in a feedback function is even. In a feedback shift register, the feedback functions are different for different t-tap positions. Thus, for a particular value of n and t and for a feedback function in  $t$  variables, the number of different feedback functions in  $n$  variables is equal to  $N_{n,t} = \binom{n-1}{t}$  $t_1^{-1}$ ) and  $N_{n,t}$  is maximum when  $t = \lceil \frac{n}{2} \rceil$  (for linear feedback functions, t is always odd and  $t \approx \lceil \frac{n}{2} \rceil$ ). If the feedback functions in n variables that are candidate span n sequences are uniformly distributed over the set of all Boolean functions, then the FSR generates the maximum number of span  $n$  sequences when  $t \approx \lceil \frac{n}{2} \rceil$ . Hence, the assertion is established.

We note that an LFSR also produces the maximum number of span  $n$  sequences when  $t \approx \lceil \frac{n}{2} \rceil$  (see Table [20\)](#page-30-0). This property is also satisfied by the nonlinearly generated span *n* sequences using recurrence relations [\(4\)](#page-12-1) and [\(5\)](#page-13-0) (see Tables [6,](#page-19-0) [7,](#page-22-0) [8,](#page-22-1) [9,](#page-23-0) [10,](#page-23-1) [11,](#page-24-0) and [12\)](#page-24-1). We now estimate the number of feedback functions in the search space for finding the maximum number of span  $n$  sequences. Assume that we use NLFSRs defined by recurrence relations [\(4\)](#page-12-1) and [\(5\)](#page-13-0) for  $t = \lceil \frac{n}{2} \rceil$ . Let N denote the number of span  $n$  sequences (including reverse span  $n$  sequences) obtained by recurrence relations [\(4\)](#page-12-1) and [\(5\)](#page-13-0). Then we have the following theorem.

**Theorem 1** *An approximate number of candidate span* n *sequences or feedback*

function 1 An approximate number of contained span n sequences of *jecaot* 
$$
f
$$
 functions in recurrence relations (4) and (5) is given by  $C_0$ , where  $C_0 \approx \left(\frac{\phi(2^{\lceil \frac{n}{2} \rceil} - 1)}{\lceil \frac{n}{2} \rceil}\right)^2 \cdot \frac{2^{n-1}}{\sqrt{\pi \cdot \frac{n-1}{2}}}$  and  $C_0 \approx \frac{2^{2n-1} - 2^{\frac{3n}{2} + 1}}{\sqrt{\pi \cdot (\lceil \frac{n}{2} \rceil)^{5/2}}}$ , if  $2^t - 1$  is a Mersenne prime, and the success probability of obtaining such a span n sequence is given by  $\frac{N}{C_0}$ .

 $\Box$ 

*Proof* We recall that the size of the search space is

$$
C = \left(\frac{\phi(2^t - 1)}{t}\right)^2 \binom{n-1}{t}, \text{ for } |D_t^*| = \frac{\phi(2^t - 1)}{t}.
$$

Putting  $t = \lceil \frac{n}{2} \rceil$  in the above formula, then we get

$$
C_0 = \left(\frac{\phi(2^{\lceil \frac{n}{2} \rceil} - 1)}{\lceil \frac{n}{2} \rceil}\right)^2 \cdot \binom{n-1}{\lceil \frac{n}{2} \rceil}
$$
  
= 
$$
\left(\frac{\phi(2^{\lceil \frac{n}{2} \rceil} - 1)}{\lceil \frac{n}{2} \rceil}\right)^2 \cdot \binom{n-1}{\lfloor \frac{n-1}{2} \rfloor + 1}, \text{ for positive } n
$$
  
= 
$$
\left(\frac{\phi(2^{\lceil \frac{n}{2} \rceil} - 1)}{\lceil \frac{n}{2} \rceil}\right)^2 \cdot \frac{\left(n - \lfloor \frac{n-1}{2} \rfloor - 1\right) \cdot \binom{n-1}{\lfloor \frac{n-1}{2} \rfloor}}{\left(\lfloor \frac{n-1}{2} \rfloor + 1\right)}.
$$

By Stirling's formula

$$
\binom{m}{\left\lfloor \frac{m}{2} \right\rfloor} \sim \frac{2^m}{\sqrt{\pi m/2}},
$$

the above equation can be written as

$$
C_0 \sim \left(\frac{\phi(2^{\lceil \frac{n}{2} \rceil} - 1)}{\lceil \frac{n}{2} \rceil}\right)^2 \cdot \frac{\lfloor \frac{n-1}{2} \rfloor \cdot 2^{n-1}}{\left(\lfloor \frac{n-1}{2} \rfloor + 1\right) \cdot \sqrt{\pi \cdot \frac{n-1}{2}}}
$$

$$
\sim \left(\frac{\phi(2^{\lceil \frac{n}{2} \rceil} - 1)}{\lceil \frac{n}{2} \rceil}\right)^2 \cdot \frac{2^{n-1}}{\sqrt{\pi \cdot \frac{n-1}{2}}}.
$$

$$
\approx \frac{2^{2n-1} - 2^{\frac{3n}{2}+1}}{\sqrt{\pi} \cdot (\lceil \frac{n}{2} \rceil)^{5/2}}, \text{ if } 2^t - 1 \text{ is a Mersenne prime.}
$$

Thus, the success probability of obtaining a span *n* sequence is equal to  $\frac{N}{C_0}$ . Hence, the result is proved.  $\Box$ 

## <span id="page-18-0"></span>**5 Experimental Results on Span** n **Sequence Generation Using WG Transformations**

In this section, we report the number of new span  $n$  sequences generated using WG transformations. We also present a heuristic method for searching WG span  $n$  sequences of long length. Table [5](#page-18-1) provides a summary of the list of orthogonal functions used to produce span  $n$  sequences.

### *5.1 WG Span* n *Sequences*

WG span *n* sequences are obtained by putting the WG transformation in recurrence relations [\(4\)](#page-12-1) and [\(5\)](#page-13-0) for different t and n. The span n sequences are generated by computer simulations. We consider the WG transformations over the field  $\mathbb{F}_{2^t}$ for  $t = 5, 7, 8, 10$ , and 11. We denote by WG-t the WG transformations over the field  $\mathbb{F}_{2^t}$ . Table [6](#page-19-0) presents the number of new span *n* sequences (new reverse span *n* sequences are not taken into account) produced by recurrence relations  $(4)$ and [\(5\)](#page-13-0) for  $6 \le n \le 20$ . However, this method can be applied to generate span *n* sequences of long length. In Table  $6,$  " $\times$ " denotes the recurrence relations that are not defined for such values of n and t, and  $\sim$  represents those cases wherein the number of span  $n$  sequences is not yet determined. We present some instances of new span *n* sequences in the Appendix and all span *n* sequences in [http://www.](http://www.comsec.uwaterloo.ca/~kmandal/WG-Span-n/index.html) [comsec.uwaterloo.ca/~kmandal/WG-Span-n/index.html.](http://www.comsec.uwaterloo.ca/~kmandal/WG-Span-n/index.html)

A graphical representation of the number of new span  $n$  sequences is provided in Fig. [1,](#page-19-1) which shows that for different t the distribution of the number of new span  $n$  sequences has the following property: the number of span  $n$  sequences increases as *n* increases, and it reaches the maximum for some value of *n*, and thereafter the number of span *n* sequences decreases as *n* increases. At a quick glance, we can observe that the number of span *n* sequences is maximal close to  $n = 2t$ , which follows from the fact that the size of the search space is a multiple of a binomial coefficient (see Proposition [4\)](#page-16-0). This fact reveals that there exists a trade off between  $n$  and t for obtaining the maximum number of span  $n$  sequences.



<span id="page-18-1"></span>

<span id="page-19-0"></span>

| By recurrence relation $(4)$ |                  |                |          |          |    |          |     |     |      |      |                |      |                          |                          |              |
|------------------------------|------------------|----------------|----------|----------|----|----------|-----|-----|------|------|----------------|------|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------|
|                              | $\boldsymbol{n}$ |                |          |          |    |          |     |     |      |      |                |      |                          |                          |              |
| $\mathfrak{t}$               | 6                | $\tau$         | 8        | 9        | 10 | 11       | 12  | 13  | 14   | 15   | 16             | 17   | 18                       | 19                       | 20           |
| 5                            | $\Omega$         | 9              | 7        | 14       | 8  | 11       | 17  | 11  | 13   | 10   | 3              | 7    | 7                        | $\Omega$                 | $\mathbf{1}$ |
| 7                            | X                | $\times$       | 3        | 25       | 42 | 63       | 108 | 138 | 138  | 125  | 126            | 111  | 83                       | 86                       | 63           |
| 8                            | $\times$         | $\times$       | $\times$ | 3        | 9  | 18       | 34  | 76  | 96   | 104  | 106            | 108  | 110                      | 90                       | 79           |
| 10                           | $\times$         | $\times$       | X        | X        | X  | 5        | 40  | 107 | 246  | 373  | 627            | 819  | 999                      | $\sim$                   | $\sim$       |
| 11                           | $\times$         | $\times$       | $\times$ | $\times$ | X  | $\times$ | 31  | 204 | 574  | 1313 | 2539           | 4079 | $\sim$                   | $\sim$                   | $\sim$       |
| Total                        | $\Omega$         | 9              | 10       | 42       | 59 | 97       | 230 | 536 | 1067 | 1925 | 3401           | 5124 | $\overline{\phantom{0}}$ | $\overline{\phantom{a}}$ | -            |
| By recurrence relation $(5)$ |                  |                |          |          |    |          |     |     |      |      |                |      |                          |                          |              |
| $\mathfrak{t}$               | 6                | $\overline{7}$ | 8        | 9        | 10 | 11       | 12  | 13  | 14   | 15   | 16             | 17   | 18                       | 19                       | 20           |
| 5                            | $\mathbf{1}$     | $\overline{7}$ | 7        | 10       | 16 | 18       | 10  | 8   | 4    | 10   | $\overline{2}$ | 1    | 3                        | 1                        | $\Omega$     |
| 7                            | $\times$         | $\times$       | 4        | 25       | 47 | 59       | 121 | 122 | 137  | 125  | 123            | 98   | 74                       | 84                       | 54           |
| 8                            | $\times$         | $\times$       | X        | 1        | 6  | 35       | 33  | 75  | 73   | 91   | 123            | 115  | 106                      | 99                       | 77           |
| 10                           | $\times$         | $\times$       | $\times$ | $\times$ | X  | 4        | 47  | 118 | 270  | 401  | 680            | 863  | $\sim$                   | $\sim$                   | $\sim$       |
| 11                           | $\times$         | $\times$       | X        | X        | X  | X        | 33  | 186 | 576  | 1350 | 2522           | 4010 | $\sim$                   | $\sim$                   | $\sim$       |
| Total                        | 1                | $\overline{7}$ | 11       | 36       | 69 | 116      | 244 | 509 | 1060 | 1977 | 3450           | 5087 | -                        |                          |              |

**Table 6** Number of WG span *n* sequences



<span id="page-19-1"></span>**Fig. 1** Distribution of the number of span  $n$  sequences

*Remark 1* There exist many span *n* sequences whose *t*-tap positions and the bases of the finite fields are the same, but their decimation numbers are different.

## *5.2 The Search Complexity Reduction for WG Span* n *Sequences*

It is worth noticing that as t increases, the number of feedback functions in the search space increases exponentially. For large  $t$ , it is hard to find span  $n$  sequences by considering all functions in the search space. Thus, for large  $n$  and  $t$ , a search in a restricted search space can be performed to find span  $n$  sequences by imposing restrictions over decimation numbers and t-tap positions. Below we list a type of decimation numbers and  $t$ -tap positions that are observed for WG span  $n$  sequences. In some cases, we may not find any span  $n$  sequence. However, according to our observations, it is possible to obtain many span  $n$  sequences.

#### **5.2.1 Observations on Decimation Numbers**

We have performed a search on the following type of decimation numbers for different n

$$
D_{\text{dec}} = \{d : d \in D_t^* \text{ and } d = 2^i - 1, i = 1, 2, ..., t - 1\}
$$

for  $t = 7, 8$ , and 10, and the result shows that there exist many span n sequences whose decimation numbers in the recurrence relations [\(4\)](#page-12-1) and [\(5\)](#page-13-0) are of the above type. For this type of decimation numbers in the recurrence relations, the size of the search space is given by

$$
C_{\text{dec}} = \frac{\phi(2^t - 1)}{t}(t - 1)\binom{n - 1}{t} \approx \phi(2^t - 1)\binom{n - 1}{t}.
$$

Obviously, the reduced complexity  $C_{\text{dec}}$  is less than the original complexity C.

#### **5.2.2 Observations on** t**-Tap Positions**

Likewise, a search in the search space can be performed according to some pattern of  $t$ -tap positions for finding long period span  $n$  sequences. Assume that it is possible to fix, say, k tap positions  $(1 \le k \le t)$ . Then, the total number of fixed tap positions in the recurrence relations is  $(k + 1)$ , and we only need to choose  $(t - k)$  positions out of  $(n - 1 - k)$  positions. So, for k fixed choices of tap positions, the search complexity is

$$
C_{\text{tap}} = \left(\frac{\phi(2^t - 1)}{t}\right)^2 \binom{n - 1 - k}{t - k}.
$$

Based on our observations on the t-tap positions for  $t = 7, 8$ , and 10, the following types of  $t$ -tap positions are effective when the slope of the curves in Fig. [1](#page-19-1) increases gradually. For example, when  $t = 7$ ,  $n = 11, 12, 13$ , and 14 and  $t = 8$ ,  $n = 13, 14, 15, 16, 17$ , and 18, the t-tap positions are given by:  $\{1, 2, 3, 4, \ldots\}, \{1, 2, 3, \ldots, n-1\}, \{1, 2, \ldots, n-2, n-1\}, \{1, \ldots, n-3, n-1\}$  $2, n - 1$ , where the numbers in the tap positions represent fixed positions in the t-tap positions (i.e.,  $k = 4$  fixed positions) and "..." represents a combination of  $(n - k - 1)$  tap positions. We performed a search according to the first pattern of t-tap position; the following span  $n$  sequence generated by a WG transformation has been found for  $t = 13$  and  $n = 24$ .



## <span id="page-21-0"></span>**6 Experimental Results on Span** n **Sequences Generated by Other Orthogonal Functions**

This section reports the number of span  $n$  sequences produced using three-term, five-term, monomial, Hall, quadratic residue, Glynn, Segre, GMW, and Kasami power functions. Explicit representations of these function are provided in Tables [1,](#page-8-0) [2,](#page-8-1) and [3.](#page-9-1)

## *6.1 Three-Term and Five-Term and Monomial Span* n *Sequences*

Considering three-term and five-term functions in recurrence relations [\(4\)](#page-12-1) and [\(5\)](#page-13-0), a number of span  $n$  sequences can be obtained by the structured search. Tables  $7$ and  $8$  present the number of span  $n$  sequences for three-term functions and five-term functions, respectively. When  $t = 5$ , three-term functions and five-term functions degenerate to the same functions, as a result, the number of span  $n$  sequences obtained by three-term functions and five-term function are the same.

Table [9](#page-23-0) presents the number of span  $n$  sequences produced using monomial functions for  $6 \le n \le 20$ . In tables,  $\times$  denotes that the recurrence relation is not defined by the parameters t and n, and  $\sim$  denotes that the cases are incomplete due to a huge number of functions in the search space. When  $t = 5$ , the WG transformations and monomial functions degenerate to the same functions.

<span id="page-22-0"></span>

| By recurrence relation (4)   |                  |                |                |          |          |          |     |     |      |      |      |      |
|------------------------------|------------------|----------------|----------------|----------|----------|----------|-----|-----|------|------|------|------|
|                              | $\boldsymbol{n}$ |                |                |          |          |          |     |     |      |      |      |      |
| t                            | 6                | 7              | 8              | 9        | 10       | 11       | 12  | 13  | 14   | 15   | 16   | 17   |
| 5                            | 1                | 3              | 9              | 8        | 9        | 8        | 4   | 3   | 5    | 2    | 3    | 1    |
| 7                            | X                | $\times$       | 6              | 25       | 51       | 89       | 103 | 150 | 131  | 128  | 127  | 123  |
| 9                            | $\times$         | $\times$       | $\times$       | $\times$ | 8        | 52       | 104 | 223 | 391  | 549  | 710  | 770  |
| 11                           | $\times$         | $\times$       | $\times$       | X        | $\times$ | $\times$ | 35  | 190 | 624  | 1323 | 2580 | 4056 |
| Total                        | 1                | 3              | 15             | 33       | 68       | 149      | 246 | 566 | 1151 | 2002 | 3420 | 4950 |
| By recurrence relation $(5)$ |                  |                |                |          |          |          |     |     |      |      |      |      |
| t                            | 6                | 7              | 8              | 9        | 10       | 11       | 12  | 13  | 14   | 15   | 16   | 17   |
| 5                            | 1                | $\overline{c}$ | $\overline{c}$ | 5        | 10       | 5        | 6   | 5   | 3    | 1    | 3    | 5    |
| 7                            | $\times$         | $\times$       | $\overline{4}$ | 24       | 44       | 84       | 98  | 122 | 133  | 146  | 128  | 111  |
| 9                            | $\times$         | $\times$       | $\times$       | X        | 12       | 47       | 109 | 237 | 361  | 553  | 694  | 823  |
| 11                           | $\times$         | $\times$       | $\times$       | $\times$ | $\times$ | $\times$ | 34  | 186 | 578  | 1416 | 2554 | 4007 |
| Total                        | 1                | 3              | 6              | 29       | 66       | 136      | 247 | 550 | 1075 | 2116 | 3379 | 4946 |

**Table 7** Number of three-term span  $n$  sequences

**Table 8** Number of five-term span *n* sequences

<span id="page-22-1"></span>

| By recurrence relation $(4)$ |          |                |                |          |          |          |     |                |      |                |      |      |                          |              |
|------------------------------|----------|----------------|----------------|----------|----------|----------|-----|----------------|------|----------------|------|------|--------------------------|--------------|
|                              | n        |                |                |          |          |          |     |                |      |                |      |      |                          |              |
| $\boldsymbol{t}$             | 6        | 7              | 8              | 9        | 10       | 11       | 12  | 13             | 14   | 15             | 16   | 17   | 18                       | 19           |
| 5                            | 1        | 3              | 9              | 8        | 9        | 8        | 4   | $\overline{4}$ | 5    | $\overline{c}$ | 3    | 1    | $\Omega$                 | $\mathbf{1}$ |
| 7                            | X        | $\times$       | 5              | 22       | 44       | 66       | 118 | 131            | 115  | 135            | 124  | 118  | 99                       | 90           |
| 8                            | X        | $\times$       | $\times$       | 1        | 9        | 18       | 37  | 56             | 88   | 101            | 104  | 86   | 92                       | 90           |
| 10                           | $\times$ | $\times$       | $\times$       | $\times$ | $\times$ | 9        | 37  | 116            | 246  | 411            | 621  | 797  | 943                      | $\sim$       |
| 11                           | $\times$ | $\times$       | $\times$       | $\times$ | $\times$ | $\times$ | 25  | 171            | 590  | 1443           | 2618 | 4194 | $\sim$                   | $\sim$       |
| Total                        | 1        | 3              | 14             | 31       | 62       | 101      | 221 | 478            | 1044 | 2092           | 3470 | 5196 | $\overline{\phantom{0}}$ | -            |
| By recurrence relation $(5)$ |          |                |                |          |          |          |     |                |      |                |      |      |                          |              |
| t                            | 6        | 7              | 8              | 9        | 10       | 11       | 12  | 13             | 14   | 15             | 16   | 17   | 18                       | 19           |
| 5                            | 1        | $\overline{2}$ | $\overline{2}$ | 5        | 10       | 5        | 6   | 5              | 3    | 1              | 3    | 5    | $\Omega$                 | $\mathbf{1}$ |
| 7                            | X        | $\times$       | 8              | 19       | 43       | 74       | 108 | 138            | 138  | 127            | 117  | 102  | 84                       | 91           |
| 8                            | X        | $\times$       | $\times$       | $\Omega$ | 6        | 22       | 38  | 54             | 66   | 116            | 89   | 106  | 83                       | 93           |
| 10                           | $\times$ | $\times$       | $\times$       | $\times$ | $\times$ | 7        | 47  | 119            | 223  | 443            | 627  | 861  | $\sim$                   | $\sim$       |
| 11                           | $\times$ | $\times$       | $\times$       | $\times$ | $\times$ | $\times$ | 20  | 172            | 609  | 1397           | 2558 | 4062 | $\sim$                   | $\sim$       |
| Total                        | 1        | 2              | 10             | 24       | 59       | 108      | 219 | 488            | 1039 | 2084           | 3394 | 5136 | $\overline{\phantom{0}}$ | -            |

## *6.2 Hall, QR, Segre, Glynn, and GMW Span* n *Sequences*

In this section, we present the number of span  $n$  sequences produced by Hall, QR, Segre, Glynn, and GMW functions for  $7 \le n \le 20$ . We use the functions defined in Tables [1,](#page-8-0) [2,](#page-8-1) and [3](#page-9-1) for Hall, quadratic residue, Glynn, Segre, and GMW functions in recurrence relations [\(4\)](#page-12-1) and [\(5\)](#page-13-0).

<span id="page-23-0"></span>

| By recurrence relation $(4)$ |                  |          |          |          |          |          |     |     |                |      |                |      |        |          |
|------------------------------|------------------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|-----|-----|----------------|------|----------------|------|--------|----------|
|                              | $\boldsymbol{n}$ |          |          |          |          |          |     |     |                |      |                |      |        |          |
| t                            | 6                | 7        | 8        | 9        | 10       | 11       | 12  | 13  | 14             | 15   | 16             | 17   | 18     | 19       |
| 5                            | $\Omega$         | 9        | 7        | 14       | 8        | 11       | 17  | 11  | 13             | 10   | 3              | 7    | 7      | $\Omega$ |
| 7                            | $\times$         | $\times$ | 6        | 17       | 41       | 76       | 79  | 118 | 108            | 99   | 125            | 78   | 88     | 72       |
| 9                            | $\times$         | x        | $\times$ | $\times$ | 10       | 43       | 120 | 258 | 410            | 519  | 662            | 788  | $\sim$ | $\sim$   |
| 11                           | $\times$         | $\times$ | $\times$ | $\times$ | $\times$ | $\times$ | 26  | 188 | 604            | 1423 | 2491           | 4056 | $\sim$ | $\sim$   |
| Total                        | $\Omega$         | 9        | 13       | 31       | 59       | 130      | 242 | 575 | 1135           | 2051 | 3281           | 4929 | -      | -        |
| By recurrence relation $(5)$ |                  |          |          |          |          |          |     |     |                |      |                |      |        |          |
| t                            | 6                | 7        | 8        | 9        | 10       | 11       | 12  | 13  | 14             | 15   | 16             | 17   | 18     | 19       |
| 5                            | 1                | 7        | 7        | 10       | 16       | 18       | 10  | 8   | $\overline{4}$ | 10   | $\overline{c}$ | 1    | 3      | 1        |
| 7                            | $\times$         | $\times$ | 4        | 25       | 45       | 60       | 98  | 117 | 114            | 104  | 116            | 96   | 86     | 77       |
| 9                            | $\times$         | $\times$ | $\times$ | $\times$ | 6        | 37       | 131 | 239 | 367            | 558  | 740            | 860  | $\sim$ | $\sim$   |
| 11                           | $\times$         | $\times$ | $\times$ | $\times$ | $\times$ | $\times$ | 32  | 184 | 596            | 1403 | 2547           | 4074 | $\sim$ | $\sim$   |
| Total                        | 1                | 7        | 11       | 35       | 67       | 115      | 271 | 548 | 1081           | 2075 | 3405           | 5031 |        |          |

**Table 9** Number of span *n* sequences generated by monomial functions

<span id="page-23-1"></span>**Table 10** Number of span *n* sequences generated by Hall functions and QR functions

|   | By recurrence relation $(4)$ |          |   |                |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |
|---|------------------------------|----------|---|----------------|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|
| n |                              |          |   |                |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |
| t | OF                           | 8        | 9 | 10             | 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 |
|   | Hall                         | 2        | 9 | 19             | 21 | 41 | 38 | 35 | 45 | 28 | 34 | 30 | 30 |    |
|   | QR                           | $\theta$ | 4 | $\overline{4}$ | 5  | 14 | 27 | 16 | 9  | 18 | 14 | 12 | 6  | 6  |
|   | By recurrence relation $(5)$ |          |   |                |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |
| t | OF                           | 8        | 9 | 10             | 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 |
| 7 | Hall                         |          | 6 | 20             | 25 | 37 | 48 | 36 | 44 | 46 | 24 | 39 | -  | -  |
|   | QR                           | $\theta$ | 3 | 6              | 7  | 13 | 12 | 13 | 18 | 16 | 13 | 14 | 10 | 8  |
|   |                              |          |   |                |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |

For the range  $7 \le t \le 11$ , the Hall and QR functions with trace representations exist only for  $t = 7$ . Table [10](#page-23-1) presents the number of span *n* sequences produced using recurrence relations [\(4\)](#page-12-1) and [\(5\)](#page-13-0) with Hall and QR functions for  $8 \le n \le 20$ . When all the decimated QR functions are considered, the class of 18 QR functions degenerates to two distinct QR orthogonal functions, and similarly, the class of 18 Hall functions degenerates to six distinct Hall orthogonal functions. Due to this reason, the number of span  $n$  sequences in Table [10](#page-23-1) is smaller compared to other cases for  $n = 7$ .

When all the decimations are considered, Glynn 1 functions and Glynn 2 functions over  $\mathbb{F}_{29}$  degenerate to the same class of orthogonal functions. Therefore, the number of span *n* sequences for Glynn 1 and Glynn 2 functions are the same in the structured search. However, for  $t = 11$ , the Glynn 1 class of functions and Glynn 2 class of functions are different. We provide the number of span  $n$  sequences produced by Glynn functions in Table  $11$ , which also contains the number of span  $n$ sequences generated by Segre functions for  $t = 9$  and 11. In Tables [10,](#page-23-1) [11,](#page-24-0) and [12,](#page-24-1)

<span id="page-24-0"></span>

|                  | By recurrence relation (4)   |          |          |     |     |     |      |      |                          |    |
|------------------|------------------------------|----------|----------|-----|-----|-----|------|------|--------------------------|----|
|                  |                              | n        |          |     |     |     |      |      |                          |    |
| $\boldsymbol{t}$ | OF                           | 10       | 11       | 12  | 13  | 14  | 15   | 16   | 17                       | 18 |
| 9                | Segre                        | 15       | 51       | 131 | 245 | 418 | 528  | 706  | 783                      |    |
| 11               | Segre                        | X        | $\times$ | 34  | 172 | 586 | 1413 | 2564 | $\overline{\phantom{0}}$ | -  |
| 9                | Glynn 1                      | 11       | 52       | 129 | 253 | 415 | 584  | 673  | 790                      |    |
| 11               | Glynn 1                      | $\times$ | $\times$ | 28  | 177 | 587 | 1418 | 2553 | -                        |    |
| 11               | Glynn 2                      | $\times$ | $\times$ | 30  | 185 | 595 | 1320 | 2646 | -                        |    |
|                  | By recurrence relation $(5)$ |          |          |     |     |     |      |      |                          |    |
| $\mathfrak{t}$   | $OF-t$                       | 10       | 11       | 12  | 13  | 14  | 15   | 16   | 17                       | 18 |
| 9                | Segre                        | 7        | 48       | 108 | 264 | 371 | 521  | 692  | -                        | -  |
| 11               | Segre                        | $\times$ | $\times$ | 37  | 153 | 627 | 1372 |      | -                        |    |
| 9                | Glynn 1                      | 6        | 49       | 126 | 248 | 397 | 529  | 709  | -                        | -  |
| 11               | Glynn 1                      | $\times$ | $\times$ | 26  | 185 | 562 | 1351 | -    | -                        |    |
| 11               | Glynn 2                      | X        | $\times$ | 28  | 183 | 598 | 1340 | -    | -                        | -  |

Table 11 Number of span *n* sequences generated by Segre and Glynn functions

<span id="page-24-1"></span>



"-" denotes the computation for the number of span *n* sequences is in progress and will be finished soon.

Table [12](#page-24-1) presents the number of span  $n$  sequences produced by GMW functions in the structured search for  $t = 8, 9$ , and 10 and  $9 \lt n \lt 19$ . For the GMW functions over  $\mathbb{F}_{28}$  and  $\mathbb{F}_{29}$ , there exists only one class of GMW functions. On the other hand, for the GMW functions over  $\mathbb{F}_{2^{10}}$ , there exist total seven distinct classes of orthogonal GMW functions with different number of terms in the trace representation. GMW span *n* sequences with  $9 \le n \le 18$  are generated using recurrence relations [\(4\)](#page-12-1) and [\(5\)](#page-13-0) with GMWi functions,  $1 \le i \le 7$ . In Table [12,](#page-24-1) the term "# of terms" denotes the number of terms in the trace representation of a GMW function.

*Remark 2* For a class of orthogonal functions in recurrence relations [\(4\)](#page-12-1) and [\(5\)](#page-13-0), each span  $n$  sequence is uniquely determined by a decimation number, a primitive polynomial, and a t-tap position. Unfortunately, we could not find any relation among these three parameters.

### <span id="page-25-0"></span>**7 The Success Probability Comparison**

In this section, an empirical success probability of obtaining a span  $n$  sequence using a orthogonal feedback function is presented. Note that the success probability in this section, an empirical section processing or columning a span n sequence<br>using a orthogonal feedback function is presented. Note that the success probability<br>of obtaining a randomly generated span n sequence is  $\frac$ span *n* sequence is generated by randomly choosing a feedback function from the set of all Boolean functions in *n* variables and checking the condition for a span *n* sequence.

We compared the success probability of obtaining a span  $n$  sequence using WG transformations (including reverse sequences) in the structured search with a random span *n* sequence generation method for  $t = 5, 7, 8$  ( for  $t \approx \lceil \frac{n}{2} \rceil$ ), 10, and 11 (for  $13 \le n \le 17$ ), and the comparison shows that in the structured search, one can produce a span  $n$  sequence with a better success probability than that of a random span  $n$  sequence generation method. A comparison of success probability for  $t = 5, 7$ , and 8 is provided in Table [13.](#page-26-1) Furthermore, we compared the success probability of obtaining a span  $n$  sequences using three-term, five-term, and monomial functions in Table [13](#page-26-1) for  $t = 5, 7, 8, 9$ . Table 13 illustrates that a span  $n$  sequence can be produced using any of three-term, five-term, and monomial functions with a better success probability. Our empirical comparisons also show that the success probability of obtaining a span  $n$  sequence using Hall, QR, Segre, Glynn, and GMW functions is greater than that of a random span n sequence generation method. We don't provide the success probability values due to the large number of cases.

Table 13

sequences

<span id="page-26-1"></span>

### <span id="page-26-0"></span>**8 Linear Span of New Span** n **Sequences**

In this section, we analyze the linear span of new span  $n$  sequences produced by orthogonal functions and present two conjectures on linear span of span n sequences produced by orthogonal functions.

We study the linear span of new span  $n$  sequences generated using orthogonal functions. The linear span of a sequence is an important randomness property that is considered as an upper bound on sequence unpredictability because using only twice-linear span consecutive bits one can certainly predict the remaining bits of the sequence by the Berlekamp–Massey algorithm  $[2, 31]$  $[2, 31]$  $[2, 31]$ . Sequences with optimal linear complexity are of practical interests, since an attacker requires the whole sequence to decrypt the message in a stream cipher. There is no theoretical result on the linear span of span  $n$  sequences generated by a nonlinear feedback shift register. What we know is the bounds presented in Property [1](#page-3-1) in Sect. [2.](#page-2-0)

We compute the linear span of new span  $n$  sequences by the Berlekamp–Massey algorithm, and our computational results show that the linear span of a new sequence lies in the range of  $(2^n - 2 - 3n)$  (near optimal) and  $(2^n - 2)$  (optimal). Table [14](#page-27-0) presents a summary of the linear spans of WG span  $n$  sequences generated by the recurrence relations [\(4\)](#page-12-1) and [\(5\)](#page-13-0), respectively. Moreover, Tables [15,](#page-27-1) [16,](#page-27-2) and [17](#page-28-0) exhibit a summary of the linear spans of the span  $n$  sequences generated by

<span id="page-27-0"></span>



<span id="page-27-1"></span>





<span id="page-27-2"></span>**Table 16** The bounds of the linear span of three-term span  $n$  sequences

monomial functions, three-term functions, and five-term functions, respectively, for different values of t, and Table  $18$  presents a summary of the linear span of span n sequences produced by other orthogonal functions. Our computational results also show that most of new sequences obtain the optimal linear span  $(2<sup>n</sup> - 2)$ , only very

<span id="page-28-0"></span>

By recurrence relations [\(4\)](#page-12-1) and [\(5\)](#page-13-0)



<span id="page-28-1"></span>**Table 18** The upper and lower bounds of the linear span of Hall, QR, GMW, Segre, and Glynn span  $n$ sequences

 $n$  sequences

few span *n* sequences obtain the linear span  $(2^n - 2 - 3n)$ , and in some cases all the linear spans are greater than  $(2^n - 2 - 3n)$ .

Based on our observation on the linear span of new span  $n$  sequences produced by orthogonal functions, we have the following two conjectures. These two conjectures are valid and verified by our computational results for  $n \leq 20$ .

*Conjecture 1* Let the function g be an orthogonal function and  $\mathbf{s} = \{s_i\}$  be a binary sequence generated by an *n*-stage NLFSR with  $n > m$  whose feedback function is given by

$$
f(x_0, x_1, \ldots, x_{n-1}) = c \oplus x_0 \oplus g(y)
$$

where  $c = 0/1$  and  $y = (x_{r_1}, x_{r_2}, \ldots, x_{r_m})$ ,  $y \in \mathbb{F}_{2^m}$ , and  $0 < r_1 < r_2 < \cdots < r_m$  $r_m < n$ . If **s** or **s** is a span *n* sequence, then the linear span of **s**, denoted as  $LS_s$ , is bounded by

$$
(2n - 2 - 3n) \le LSs \le (2n - 2).
$$

*Conjecture 2* For a prime length of an NLFSR, the linear span of a span n sequence produced by the above feedback function with an orthogonal function takes one of the following three values  $\{2^n - 2 - 2n, 2^n - 2 - n, 2^n - 2\}.$ 

### <span id="page-29-0"></span>**9 Applications**

Our span  $n$  sequences and span  $n$  sequences produced by the structured search in this chapter can be used in the following scenarios. In [\[28\]](#page-35-4), Mandal and Gong analyzed the composited construction based on a span  $n$  sequence for generating long and strong de Bruijn sequences. Based on their analysis, the span  $n$  sequence to be used in the construction must have high linear span in order to produce strong de Bruijn sequences. Since our span sequences have optimal or near-optimal linear span, these span  $n$  sequences can be used in the composited construction for producing long and strong de Bruijn sequences. Mandal et al. [\[30\]](#page-35-15) designed Warbler, a pseudorandom number generator for EPC C1 Gen2 RFID tags using NLFSRs where two span n sequences with optimal linear span are used to promise the randomness properties such as period and linear span of an output sequence. Our span  $n$  sequences or span  $n$  sequences produced by the structured search can be used to design lightweight pseudorandom number generators and stream ciphers. Thus, our span n sequences have an immediate application in cryptography, which can be found in [\[28,](#page-35-4) [30\]](#page-35-15).

#### **Conclusion**

In this chapter, we have studied the span  $n$  sequence generation using orthogonal functions and presented some theoretical results on generating span  $n$  sequences and experimental results about the number of span  $n$ sequences produced by orthogonal functions. We used all known and wellstudied orthogonal functions as nonlinear feedback functions in an NLFSR for  $5 \le t \le 11$  and presented the number of span *n* sequences produced using orthogonal functions for  $6 \le n \le 20$ . Finally, we analyzed the linear span of new span  $n$  sequences produced by the orthogonal functions and gave a summary of the bounds of the linear span for each class of span  $n$  sequences. Interestingly, the linear span of a new span  $n$  sequence lies between the near optimal  $(2^n - 2 - 3n)$  and optimal  $(2^n - 2)$ . We observed that the majority of span  $n$  sequences have an optimal linear span. According to our study, it is possible to obtain span  $n$  sequences of high linear span with a better probability of success using orthogonal feedback functions.

## **Appendix: A Upper and Lower Bounds of Linear Span of Span** n **Sequences**

We present the upper and lower bounds of the linear span of new span  $n$  sequences generated using orthogonal functions for different  $n$  and  $t$  and give all new span *n* sequences generated using WG transformations for  $t = 5$  (Tables [14,](#page-27-0) [15,](#page-27-1) [16,](#page-27-2) [17,](#page-28-0) [18,](#page-28-1) [19,](#page-30-1) [20,](#page-30-0) [21,](#page-31-0) and [22\)](#page-32-0). All new span  $n$  sequences generated using WG transformations with  $t = 7, 8, 10$ , and 11 can be found in [http://www.comsec.](http://www.comsec.uwaterloo.ca/~kmandal/WG-Span-n/index.html) [uwaterloo.ca/~kmandal/WG-Span-n/index.html.](http://www.comsec.uwaterloo.ca/~kmandal/WG-Span-n/index.html)

<span id="page-30-1"></span>

**Table 20** Tap-position distribution for an LFSR of length  $\leq 20$ 

<span id="page-30-0"></span>

| # of taps      | 5              | 6              | 7              | 8  | 9              | 10 | 11             | 12 | 13             | 14  | 15  | 16  | 17   | 18   | 19    | 20   |
|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----|----------------|----|----------------|----|----------------|-----|-----|-----|------|------|-------|------|
| 2              | $\overline{c}$ | 2              | $\overline{4}$ | -  | $\overline{2}$ | 2  | $\overline{c}$ | -  |                | -   | 6   |     | 6    | 2    |       | 2    |
| $\overline{4}$ | $\overline{4}$ | $\overline{4}$ | 10             | 12 | 16             | 20 | 44             | 18 | 66             | 42  | 82  | 52  | 152  | 72   | 158   | 100  |
| 6              | -              |                | 4              | 4  | 28             | 28 | 80             | 86 | 236            | 226 | 470 | 368 | 1050 | 718  | 1774  | 1104 |
| 8              |                |                |                |    | 2              | 10 | 50             | 36 | 264            | 338 | 720 | 812 | 2674 | 2296 | 6696  | 4522 |
| 10             |                |                |                |    |                |    |                | 4  | 60             | 140 | 450 | 648 | 2696 | 2910 | 10238 | 8436 |
| 12             |                |                |                |    |                |    |                | -  | $\overline{4}$ | 12  | 66  | 156 | 1006 | 1470 | 6766  | 7000 |
| 14             |                |                |                |    |                |    |                |    |                | -   | 6   | 12  | 122  | 284  | 1772  | 2460 |
| 16             |                |                |                |    |                |    |                | -  |                |     |     |     |      | 24   | 190   | 354  |
| 18             |                |                |                |    |                |    |                |    |                |     |     |     |      |      |       | 22   |



<span id="page-31-0"></span>**Table 21** WG span n sequences generated using rec. rel. [\(4\)](#page-12-1)

(continued)



## Table 21 (continued) **Decimation Polynomial Po**

<span id="page-32-0"></span>





### Table 22 (continued)

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