

## SOME MORE MATHIEU GROUP COVERINGS IN CHARACTERISTIC TWO

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**ABSTRACT.** Explicit equations are given for unramified coverings of the affine line in characteristic two with Mathieu groups of degrees 23 and 24 as Galois groups.

### 1. INTRODUCTION

Let  $k$  be a field of characteristic  $p \neq 0$ , and consider the polynomial  $\overline{F}_{23,20,1,1} = Y^{23} + XY^3 + 1$  of degree 23 in  $Y$  with coefficients in  $k[X]$ . Inspired by Serre's *linearization trick* (cf. [6] as reported in Section 1 of [5]), in the case of  $p = 2$ , in (1.5) of [4] a linearization lemma was proved for this polynomial and, together with the transitivity lemma (1.3) of [4], it showed that the said polynomial gives an unramified covering of the affine line  $L_k$  (in characteristic two) having  $M_{23}$  (= the Mathieu group of degree 23) as Galois group. In the present paper, by modifying this procedure, we shall prove the following:

**First Mathieu Group Theorem (1.1).** *If  $p = 2$  then, for any  $\alpha \in k$ , the Galois group  $\text{Gal}(Y^{24} + \alpha Y^4 + Y + X, k(X))$  equals the Mathieu group  $M_{24}$  of degree 24.*

From (1.1) it follows that, for  $p = 2$ , the equation  $Y^{24} + \alpha Y^4 + Y + X = 0$  gives an unramified covering of the affine line  $L_k$  with Galois group  $M_{24}$ . It may be noted that this covering is a special case of the family of unramified coverings given in Proposition 2 of the 1957 paper [1]. Moreover, the subcase  $\alpha = 0$  is part of the tilde family on pp. 74 and 103–108 of [2] and in (9.5) of [3] it was called a *border value* case giving interesting Galois group. In the subcase  $\alpha = 0$ , recently McKay and Conway have independently shown the Galois group to be  $M_{24}$ .

By “throwing away” a root of the above equation [see (2.1)], by (1.1) we get the following:

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**Second Mathieu Group Theorem (1.2).** *If  $p = 2$  and  $\alpha$  is any element of  $k$  then upon letting  $\Phi = Y^{-1}[(Y + X)^{24} - X^{24}] + \alpha Y^{-1}[(Y + X)^4 - X^4] + 1 = Y^{23} + X^8 Y^{15} + X^{16} Y^7 + \alpha Y^3 + 1$ , the equation  $\Phi = 0$  gives an unramified covering of the affine line  $L_k$  with  $\text{Gal}(\Phi, k(X)) = M_{23}$ .*

To explain the linearization trick, let us recall that an *additive polynomial*  $\Theta$  over a domain  $D$  of characteristic  $p$  is a polynomial of the form  $\Theta = Y^{p^M} + \sum_{i=0}^{M-1} a_i Y^{p^i}$  where  $a_i \in D$  with  $a_0 \neq 0$ . Clearly the  $Y$ -derivative of  $\Theta$  equals the nonzero constant  $a_0$  and hence, for any overfield  $\Lambda$  of  $D$ , the Galois group  $\text{Gal}(\Theta, \Lambda)$  is defined. Moreover, the roots of  $\Theta$  obviously form an elementary abelian group of order  $p^M$  and hence, as a permutation group,  $\text{Gal}(\Theta, \Lambda)$  is a subgroup of  $\text{GL}(M, p)$ . Now let there be given a monic polynomial  $\Gamma$  of degree  $N > 0$  in  $Y$  with coefficients in  $D$ . Assume that the  $Y$ -discriminant of  $\Gamma$  is nonzero so that we can talk about the Galois group  $\text{Gal}(\Gamma, \Lambda)$ . We shall say that  $\Gamma$  *linearizes over  $D$  at  $M$*  if there exists an additive polynomial  $\Theta$  over  $D$  of degree  $p^M$  such that  $\Gamma\Gamma^* = \Theta$  for some  $\Gamma^* \in D[Y]$ . If this is so, then  $\text{Gal}(\Gamma, \Lambda)$  is a homomorphic image of  $\text{Gal}(\Theta, \Lambda)$  and hence the order  $|\text{Gal}(\Gamma, \Lambda)|$  of  $\text{Gal}(\Gamma, \Lambda)$  divides the order  $|\text{GL}(M, p)|$  of  $\text{GL}(M, p)$ . It is easily seen that  $\Gamma$  always linearizes over  $\Lambda$  at  $M = N$ . But if it linearizes at a significantly smaller value of  $M$  then we can obtain reasonable bounds for the prime power factors of  $|\text{Gal}(\Gamma, \Lambda)|$ .

In (1.5) of [4] it was shown that, for  $p = 2$ , the polynomial  $\bar{F}_{23,20,1,1} = Y^{23} + XY + 1$  linearizes over  $k[X]$  at 11. In the Linearization Lemma (5.1) of Section 5, by slightly modifying the proof of (1.5) of [4], we shall show that, for  $p = 2$  and for any element  $T$  in an overfield of  $k[X]$  (for instance,  $T$  could be transcendental over  $k[X]$ ), the polynomial  $F^* = Y\bar{F}_{23,20,1,1} + T$  linearizes over  $k[X, T]$  at 12. By taking  $(\alpha, X)$  for  $(X, T)$  in  $F^*$ , it follows that  $|\text{Gal}(Y^{24} + \alpha Y^4 + Y + X, k(X))|$  divides  $|\text{GL}(12, 2)|$ .

For  $p = 2$ , in (1.3) of [4] it was shown that  $\text{Gal}(Y^{23} + XY^3 + 1, k(X))$  is doubly transitive and, as said above, this together with the fact that  $Y^{23} + XY^3 + 1$  linearizes at 11 shows that  $\text{Gal}(Y^{23} + XY^3 + 1, k(X)) = M_{23}$ . This time, in the Transitivity Lemma (4.1) of Section 4, we shall show that for certain monic polynomials  $F$  of degree  $n = mq$  in  $Y$  with coefficients in  $k[X]$  where  $q$  is the highest power of  $p$  which divides  $n$  and where  $p$  need not be 2, the Galois group  $\text{Gal}(F, k(X))$  is doubly transitive and its order is divisible by  $n(n-1)(q-1)$ . The proof of the Transitivity Lemma (4.1) will be based on some auxiliary lemmas which we shall prove in Section 2 and an irreducibility lemma which we shall prove in Section 3. Thus the Linearization Lemma (5.1) shows that  $\text{Gal}(Y^{24} + \alpha Y^4 + Y + 1, k(X))$  is not too big and the Transitivity Lemma (4.1) shows that it is not too small. In Section 6, Theorem (1.1) will be deduced from these two facts.

## 2. AUXILLIARY LEMMAS

Let  $F = F(Y) = Y^n + B_{n_1} Y^{n_1} + B_{n_2} Y^{n_2} + \dots + B_{n_h} Y^{n_h} + X$  where  $h$  and  $n > n_1 > n_2 > \dots > n_h = 1$  are positive integers, and  $0 \neq B_{n_i} \in k$  for  $1 \leq i \leq h$ . Assume that  $n$  is divisible by  $p$  and let  $m$  and  $q$  be the unique positive integers with  $n = mq$  such that  $m$  is nondivisible by  $p$  and  $q$  is a power of  $p$ . For  $1 \leq i \leq h-1$  assume that  $n_i$  is divisible by  $p$  and let  $m_i$  and  $q_i$  be the unique positive integers with  $n_i = m_i q_i$  such that  $m_i$  is nondivisible

by  $p$  and  $q_i$  is a power of  $p$ . [Note that the  $Y$ -derivative of  $F$  equals the nonzero element  $B_{n_h}$  of  $k$  and hence the Galois group  $\text{Gal}(F, k(X))$  makes sense and the equation  $F = 0$  gives an unramified covering of the affine line  $L_k$ .]

In the Transitivity Lemma (4.1) of Section 4 we shall show that if certain conditions are satisfied then  $\text{Gal}(F, k(X))$  is doubly transitive and its order is divisible by  $n(n-1)(q-1)$ . To prepare the ground work for this, here we shall prove two auxilliary lemmas.

First let us note that  $F$  is irreducible because it is linear in  $X$ , and hence  $\text{Gal}(F, k(X))$  is transitive. By “throwing away” the root  $Y$  of  $F$  we get the monic polynomial  $\Omega(Y, Z) = Z^{-1}[F(Z+Y) - F(Y)]$  of degree  $n-1$  in  $Z$  with coefficients in  $k(Y) = k(X, Y)$ ; for the method of “throwing away” roots and its relation to one-point stabilizers, see [2]. Since the  $Y$ -derivative of  $F$  is a nonzero element of  $k$ , it follows that the  $Z$ -discriminant of  $\Omega(Y, Z)$  is a nonzero element of  $k$  and  $\text{Gal}(\Omega(Y, Z), k(Y))$  is isomorphic to the one-point stabilizer of  $\text{Gal}(F, k(X))$ . For every positive integer  $u$  let  $E_u(Y, Z) = Z^{-1}[(Z+Y)^u - Y^u]$ . Then clearly  $\Omega(Y, Z) = E_n(Y, Z) + \sum_{i=1}^h B_{n_i} E_{n_i}(Y, Z)$ . Therefore, by writing  $X$  and  $Y$  for  $Y$  and  $Z$ , respectively, we get the following:

**Auxilliary Lemma (2.1).** *With  $F$  as above, let  $\Omega(X, Y)$  be the monic polynomial of degree  $n-1$  in  $Y$  with coefficients in  $k[X]$  obtained by putting*

$$\Omega(X, Y) = E_n(X, Y) + \sum_{i=1}^h B_{n_i} E_{n_i}(X, Y)$$

where, for every positive integer  $u$ , by  $E_u(X, Y)$  we are denoting the homogeneous polynomial of degree  $u-1$  in  $(X, Y)$  with coefficients in  $k$  obtained by putting  $E_u(X, Y) = Y^{-1}[(Y+X)^u - X^u]$ . Then the  $Y$ -discriminant of  $\Omega(X, Y)$  is a nonzero element of  $k$  and hence the equation  $\Omega(X, Y) = 0$  gives an unramified covering of the affine line  $L_k$ . Moreover,  $\text{Gal}(F, k(X))$  is transitive and its one-point stabilizer is isomorphic to  $\text{Gal}(\Omega(X, Y), k(X))$ .

Now the  $k(X)$ -automorphism  $Y \mapsto XY$  of  $k(X)[Y]$  sends  $X^{1-n}\Omega(X, Y)$  to  $\Omega^*(X, Y) = X^{1-n}\Omega(X, XY) = E_n(1, Y) + \sum_{i=1}^h B_{n_i} X^{n_i-n} E_{n_i}(1, Y)$  which is a monic polynomial of degree  $n-1$  in  $Y$  with coefficients in  $k(X)$ . Likewise the  $k$ -automorphism  $(X, Y) \mapsto (1/X, Y)$  of  $k(X)[Y]$  sends  $\Omega^*(X, Y)$  to  $\Omega'(X, Y) = \Omega^*(1/X, Y) = E'_n(Y) + \sum_{i=1}^h B_{n_i} X^{n-n_i} E'_{n_i}(Y)$  which is a monic polynomial of degree  $n-1$  in  $Y$  with coefficients in  $k[X]$ , where for every positive integer  $u$  we have put  $E'_u(Y) = Y^{-1}[(Y+1)^u - 1]$ . It follows that the  $Y$ -discriminant of  $\Omega'(X, Y)$  is a nonzero element of  $k[X]$ , and  $\text{Gal}(\Omega'(X, Y), k(X))$  is isomorphic to  $\text{Gal}(\Omega(X, Y), k(X))$ . Therefore, by (2.1) we get the following:

**Auxilliary Lemma (2.2).** *With  $F$  as above, let  $\Omega'(X, Y)$  be the monic polynomial of degree  $n-1$  in  $Y$  with coefficients in  $k[X]$  obtained by putting  $\Omega'(X, Y) = E'_n(Y) + \sum_{i=1}^h B_{n_i} X^{n-n_i} E'_{n_i}(Y)$  where, for every positive integer  $u$ , by  $E'_u(Y)$  we are denoting the monic polynomial of degree  $u-1$  in  $Y$  with coefficients in  $k$  obtained by putting  $E'_u(Y) = Y^{-1}[(Y+1)^u - 1]$ . Then the  $Y$ -discriminant of  $\Omega'(X, Y)$  is a nonzero element of  $k[X]$ . Moreover,*

$\text{Gal}(F, k(X))$  is transitive and its one-point stabilizer is isomorphic to  $\text{Gal}(\Omega'(X, Y), k(X))$ .

### 3. IRREDUCIBILITY

As another step toward the Transitivity Lemma, let us prove the following:

**Irreducibility Lemma (3.1).** *Let  $V$  be a real discrete valuation of a field  $K$  (note that then  $V$  maps  $K$  onto  $\mathbb{Z} \cup \{\infty\}$ ), let  $0 \leq r < d$  be integers, let  $f(Y) = \sum_{j=0}^d b_j Y^{d-j}$  be a polynomial of degree  $d$  in  $Y$  with coefficients  $b_j$  in  $K$  such that  $V(b_j) \geq V(b_0) = V(b_r) = 0 < V(b_d) < \infty$  for  $0 < j < r$ , and  $V(b_j)/V(b_d) > (j-r)/(d-r)$  for  $r < j < d$ , and let*

$$s = (d-r)/\text{GCD}(V(b_d), d-r).$$

Then we have the following.

(3.1.1) *If  $y$  is a root of  $f(Y)$  in an overfield of  $K$  and  $W$  is an extension of  $V$  to  $K(y)$  with  $W(y) > 0$  (where we again assume  $W$  to map  $K(y)$  onto  $\mathbb{Z} \cup \{\infty\}$ ), then the reduced ramification exponent  $e$  of  $W$  over  $V$  is divisible by  $s$ .*

(3.1.2) *If  $d = d - r = s$ , then  $f(Y)$  is irreducible in  $K[Y]$ .*

(3.1.3) *If  $f(Y)$  is irreducible in  $K[Y]$  and has no multiple root in any overfield of  $K$ , then  $|\text{Gal}(f(Y)/b_0, K)|$  is divisible by  $s$ .*

For a moment let the situation be as in (3.1.1). Then  $W(b_j) = eV(b_j)$  for  $0 \leq j \leq d$ , and hence  $W(b_j) \geq W(b_0) = W(b_r) = 0 < W(b_d) < \infty$  for  $0 < j < r$ , and  $W(b_j) > (j-r)W(b_d)/(d-r)$  for  $r < j < d$ . Since  $W(y) > 0$ , we see that  $W(b_j y^{d-j}) > W(b_r y^{d-r})$  for  $0 \leq j < r$ ; therefore, since  $f(y) = 0$ , there must be at least two minimal  $W$ -value terms amongst  $(b_j y^{d-j})_{r \leq j \leq d}$ . Now if  $W(y) > W(b_d)/(d-r)$  then for  $r \leq j < d$  we would have

$$W(b_j y^{d-j}) = W(b_j) + (d-j)W(y) > [(j-r) + (d-j)]W(b_d)/(d-r) = W(b_d)$$

which would contradict the existence of two minimal value terms. Likewise, if  $W(y) < W(b_d)/(d-r)$  then for  $r < j \leq d$  we would have

$$\begin{aligned} W(b_j y^{d-j}) &= W(b_j) + (d-j)W(y) \geq (j-r)(d-r)^{-1}W(b_d) + (d-j)W(y) \\ &> (j-r)W(y) + (d-j)W(y) \\ &= (d-r)W(y) = W(b_r y^{d-r}) \end{aligned}$$

which would again contradict the existence of two minimal value terms. Consequently we must have  $W(y) = W(b_d)/(d-r)$ . Therefore  $eV(b_d)/(d-r) = W(y) \in \mathbb{Z}$  and hence  $e$  is divisible by  $s$ . This proves (3.1.1).

Next for a moment let the situation be as in (3.1.2). We can take a root  $y$  of  $f(y)$  in an overfield of  $K$  and we can take an extension  $W$  of  $V$  to  $K(y)$ . Since  $f(y) = 0$ , there must be at least two minimal  $W$ -value terms amongst  $(b_j y^{d-j})_{0 \leq j \leq d}$ . Since  $d = d - r$ , we must have  $W(b_0) = 0 < W(b_j)$  for  $1 \leq j \leq d$ . Since  $f(y) = 0$  and  $V(b_d) \neq \infty$ , we must also have  $y \neq 0$ . Consequently  $W(y) > 0$  because otherwise  $b_0 y^d$  would be the only minimal value term. Therefore, since  $s = d$ , by (3.1.1) we see that the reduced ramification exponent of  $W$  over  $V$  is divisible by  $d$  and hence it must equal  $d$  and  $f(Y)$  must be irreducible in  $K[Y]$ . This proves (3.1.2).

Finally let the situation be as in (3.1.3). Let  $y_1, y_2, \dots, y_d$  be the distinct roots of  $f(Y)$  in a splitting field  $L$  of  $f(Y)$  over  $K$ , and take an extension  $U$  of  $V$  to  $L$ . Since  $V(b_0) = 0 \leq V(b_j)$  for  $1 \leq j \leq d$ , we must have  $U(b_i) \geq 0$  for  $1 \leq i \leq d$ . Since  $y_1 y_2 \dots y_d = (-1)^d b_d / b_0$  and  $V(b_0) = 0 < V(b_d)$ , we conclude that  $U(y_i) > 0$  for some  $i$ . Let  $y = y_i$  and let  $W$  be the extension of  $V$  to  $K(y)$  such that  $U$  is an extension of  $W$  to  $L$ . Now  $W(y) > 0$  and hence by (3.1.1) we see that the reduced ramification exponent of  $W$  over  $V$  is divisible by  $s$ . Therefore  $|\text{Gal}(f(Y)/b_0, K)|$  is divisible by  $s$ . This proves (3.1.3).

4. TRANSITIVITY

Finally let us state and prove the:

**Transitivity Lemma (4.1).** *Let  $F = F(Y) = Y^n + B_{n_1} Y^{n_1} + B_{n_2} Y^{n_2} + \dots + B_{n_h} Y^{n_h} + X$  where  $h$  and  $n > n_1 > n_2 > \dots > n_h = 1$  are positive integers, and  $0 \neq B_{n_i} \in k$  for  $1 \leq i \leq h$ . Assume that  $n$  is divisible by  $p$  and let  $m$  and  $q$  be the unique positive integers with  $n = mq$  such that  $m$  is nondivisible by  $p$  and  $q$  is a power of  $p$ . For  $1 \leq i \leq h - 1$  assume that  $n_i$  is divisible by  $p$  and let  $m_i$  and  $q_i$  be the unique positive integers with  $n_i = m_i q_i$  such that  $m_i$  is nondivisible by  $p$  and  $q_i$  is a power of  $p$ . [Note that the  $Y$ -derivative of  $F$  equals the nonzero element  $B_{n_h}$  of  $k$  and hence the Galois group  $\text{Gal}(F, k(X))$  makes sense and the equation  $F = 0$  gives an unramified covering of the affine line  $L_k$ .] Now considering the conditions*

(\*)  $\text{GCD}(n-1, q-1) = 1$  and  $(q_i-1)(n-1) > (q-1)(n_i-1)$  for  $1 \leq i \leq h-1$ ,

and

(\*\*)  $(n - n_i)(q - 1) > (n - 1)(q - q_i)$  for  $1 \leq i \leq h - 1$ ,

we have that: (\*)  $\Rightarrow \text{Gal}(F, k(X))$  is doubly transitive, and (\*) + (\*\*)  $\Rightarrow |\text{Gal}(F, k(X))|$  is divisible by  $n(n-1)(q-1)$ .

To prove (4.1), in view of (2.2), it suffices to show that in the situation of (2.2), (\*)  $\Rightarrow \Omega'(X, Y)$  is irreducible in  $k(X)[Y]$ , and (\*) + (\*\*)  $\Rightarrow |\text{Gal}(\Omega'(X, Y), k(X))|$  is divisible by  $q - 1$ . So let the situation be as in (2.2) and assume (\*), let  $K = k(X)$  and  $d = n - 1$ , and let  $V$  be the order of zero at  $X = 0$ , i.e.,  $V(X^t P(X)/Q(X)) = t$  for all integers  $t$  and all  $P(X)$  and  $Q(X)$  in  $k[X]$  with  $P(0) \neq 0 \neq Q(0)$ . Note that now  $V(E'_n(X)) = q - 1$ ,  $V(E'_{n_i}(X)) = q_i - 1$  for  $1 \leq i \leq h - 1$ , and  $E'_{n_h}(X) = 1$ .

For a moment let  $r = 0$  and  $f(Y) = \Omega'(Y, X) = \sum_{j=0}^d b_j Y^{d-j}$  with  $b_j \in K$ . Then  $b_0 = B_{n_h} E'_{n_h}(X) =$  the nonzero element  $B_{n_h}$  of  $k$ . Also  $b_d = E'_n(X)$  and hence  $V(b_d) = q - 1$ . Moreover, for  $1 \leq i < h$  we have  $0 < n_i - 1 < d$  and  $b_{n_i-1} = B_{n_i} E'_{n_i}(X)$  and hence  $V(b_{n_i-1}) = q_i - 1$  and therefore  $V(b_{n_i-1})/V(b_d) > (n_i - 1)/d$ . Clearly  $b_j = 0$  for all  $j \in \{1, 2, \dots, d\} \setminus \{n_1, n_2, \dots, n_h\}$ , and hence  $V(b_j)/V(b_d) > j/d$  for  $0 < j < d$ . Since  $\text{GCD}(n-1, q-1) = 1$ , we also get  $\text{GCD}(V(b_d), d) = 1$ , and hence upon letting  $s = (d-r)/\text{GCD}(V(b_d), d-r)$  we have  $d = d - r = s$ . Consequently by (3.1.2) we conclude that  $\Omega'(Y, X)$  is irreducible in  $k(X)[Y]$ . Therefore  $\Omega'(X, Y)$  is irreducible in  $k(Y)[X]$ , and hence by Gauss's Lemma we see that  $\Omega'(X, Y)$  is irreducible in  $k(X)[Y]$ .

Now assume (\*\*) and let  $r = n - q$  and  $f(Y) = \Omega'(X, Y) = \sum_{j=0}^d b_j Y^{d-j}$  with  $b_j \in K$ . Then  $V(b_j) \geq V(b_0) = V(b_r) = 0 < V(b_d) = n - 1 = d$  for  $0 < j < r$ , and  $V(b_j)/V(b_d) > (j - r)/(d - r)$  for  $r < j < d$ . Also  $(d - r)/\text{GCD}(V(b_d), d - r) = q - 1$ . Therefore by (3.1.3) we see that  $|\text{Gal}(\Omega'(X, Y), k(X))|$  is divisible by  $q - 1$ .

## 5. LINEARIZATION

Let us now prove the:

**Linearization Lemma (5.1).** *If  $p = 2$  and  $T$  is any element in an overfield of  $k(X)$  [for instance,  $T$  could be transcendental over  $k(X)$ ], then there exist elements  $A_0, A_1, \dots, A_{12}$  in  $k[X, T]$  with  $A_0 \neq 0$  and  $A_{12} = 1$  such that  $\sum_{i=0}^{12} A_i Y^{2^i} = HF^*$  for some  $H \in k[X, T][Y]$  where  $F^* = Y\bar{F}_{23,20,1,1} + T$ .*

The proof of (5.1) is simply obtained by adding obvious terms involving  $T$  in the RHS of various equations occurring in the proof of (1.5) of [4] given in Section 5 of [4]. In greater detail: To prove (5.1) assume that  $p = 2$ . Now

$$F^* = Y^{24} + XY^4 + Y + T$$

and by adding  $F^* + Y^{24}$  to both sides of this we get

$$(J'_{24}) \quad Y^{24} = XY^4 + Y + T + F^*.$$

Let  $P \equiv Q$  mean  $P - Q = HF^*$  for some  $H \in k[X, T][Y]$ . Then multiplying  $(J'_{24})$  by  $Y^{i-24}$  for  $i = 24, 26, 32, 36$  we get:

$$(J_{24}) \quad Y^{24} \equiv XY^4 + Y + [T],$$

$$(J_{26}) \quad Y^{26} \equiv XY^6 + Y^3 + [TY^2],$$

$$(J_{32}) \quad Y^{32} \equiv XY^{12} + Y^9 + [TY^8],$$

$$(J_{36}) \quad Y^{36} \equiv XY^{16} + Y^{13} + [TY^{12}].$$

Squaring  $(J_{32})$  we get

$$Y^{64} \equiv X^2Y^{24} + Y^{18} + [T^2Y^{16}],$$

and using  $(J_{24})$  we obtain

$$(J_{64}) \quad Y^{64} \equiv Y^{18} + X^3Y^4 + X^2Y + [T^2Y^{16} + X^2T].$$

Likewise, by squaring  $(J_{64})$  and then using  $(J_{36})$  we obtain

$$(J_{128}) \quad Y^{128} \equiv XY^{16} + Y^{13} + X^6Y^8 + X^4Y^2 + [T^4Y^{32} + TY^{12} + X^4T^2].$$

Again, by squaring  $(J_{128})$  and then using  $(J_{24})$ ,  $(J_{26})$ , and  $(J_{32})$  we obtain

$$(J_{256}) \quad Y^{256} \equiv X^{12}Y^{16} + X^3Y^{12} + X^2Y^9 + XY^6 + X^8Y^4 + Y^3 \\ + [T^8Y^{64} + X^2TY^8 + XT^2Y^4 + TY^2 + T^2Y + X^8T^4 + T^3].$$

Similarly, by squaring  $(J_{256})$  and then using  $(J_{24})$  and  $(J_{32})$  we obtain

$$(J_{512}) \quad Y^{512} \equiv X^4Y^{18} + (X^2 + X^{25})Y^{12} + X^{24}Y^9 + X^{16}Y^8 + Y^6 + X^7Y^4 + X^6Y \\ + [T^{16}Y^{128} + X^4T^2Y^{16} + (X^2T^4 + X^{24}T)Y^8 \\ + T^2Y^4 + T^4Y^2 + (X^{16}T^8 + T^6 + X^6T)].$$

Likewise, by squaring  $(J_{512})$  and then using  $(J_{24})$  and  $(J_{36})$  we obtain

$$(J_{1024}) \quad Y^{1024} \equiv X^{48}Y^{18} + (X^9 + X^{32})Y^{16} + X^8Y^{13} + Y^{12} \\ + X^{14}Y^8 + (X^5 + X^{51})Y^4 + X^{12}Y^2 + (X^4 + X^{50})Y \\ + [T^{32}Y^{256} + X^8T^2Y^{32} + (X^4T^8 + X^{48}T^2)Y^{16} + X^8TY^{12} \\ + (T^4 + X^{18}T + X^{64}T)Y^8 + T^8Y^4 \\ + (X^{32}T^{16} + T^{12} + X^{12}T^2 + X^{50}T + X^4T)].$$

Finally, by squaring  $(J_{1024})$  and then using  $(J_{24})$ ,  $(J_{26})$ ,  $(J_{32})$ , and  $(J_{36})$  we obtain

$$(J_{2048}) \quad Y^{2048} \equiv (X^{28} + X^{97})Y^{16} + X^{96}Y^{13} + (X^{19} + X^{65})Y^{12} \\ + (X^{18} + X^{64})Y^9 + (X^{10} + X^{102})Y^8 + X^{17}Y^6 \\ + (X + X^{24})Y^4 + X^{16}Y^3 + (X^8 + X^{100})Y^2 + Y \\ + [T^{64}Y^{512} + X^{16}T^4Y^{64} + (X^8T^{16} + X^{96}T^4)Y^{32} \\ + (T^8 + X^{36}T^2 + X^{128}T^2)Y^{16} + X^{96}TY^{12} \\ + (T^{16} + X^{18}T + X^{64}T)Y^8 + X^{17}T^2Y^4 + X^{16}TY^2 + X^{16}T^2Y \\ + (X^{64}T^{32} + T^{24} + X^{24}T^4 + X^{16}T^3 + X^{100}T^2 + X^8T^2 + T)].$$

Since the above formulas  $(J_{24})$ ,  $(J_{26})$ ,  $\dots$ ,  $(J_{2048})$  are obtained by adding  $T$ -terms in the RHS of the corresponding formulas  $(I_{24})$ ,  $(I_{26})$ ,  $\dots$ ,  $(I_{2048})$  of Section 5 of [4], by modifying the last formula of that section to compensate for the  $T$ -terms we get

$$Y^{2048} + T^{64}Y^{512} + X^{16}Y^{256} + X^{96}Y^{128} + (X^8T^{16} + X^{64})Y^{32} \\ + (T^{16} + X^{10})Y^8 + XY^4 + X^8Y^2 + Y + (X^{64}T^{32} + T^{24} + X^8T^2 + T) \equiv 0.$$

Alternatively the above equation can be proved directly by using  $(J_{2048})$ ,  $(J_{512})$ ,  $(J_{256})$ ,  $(J_{128})$ , and  $(J_{32})$ . By multiplying the above equation by its constant term  $X^{64}T^{32} + T^{24} + X^8T^2 + T$  and then adding the resulting equation to the square of the above equation we get

$$Y^{4096} + (X^{64}T^{32} + T^{24} + X^8T^2 + T)Y^{2048} + T^{128}Y^{1024} \\ + (X^{64}T^{96} + T^{88} + X^8T^{66} + T^{65} + X^{32})Y^{512} \\ + (X^{80}T^{32} + X^{16}T^{24} + X^{24}T^2 + X^{16}T + X^{192})Y^{256} \\ + (X^{160}T^{32} + X^{96}T^{24} + X^{104}T^2 + X^{96}T)Y^{128} + (X^{16}T^{32} + X^{128})Y^{64} \\ + (X^{72}T^{48} + X^8T^{40} + X^{128}T^{32} + X^{64}T^{24} \\ + X^{16}T^{18} + X^8T^{17} + X^{72}T^2 + X^{64}T)Y^{32} + (T^{32} + X^{20})Y^{16} \\ + (X^{64}T^{48} + T^{40} + X^{74}T^{32} + X^{10}T^{24} \\ + X^8T^{18} + T^{17} + X^{18}T^2 + X^{10}T + X^2)Y^8 \\ + (X^{65}T^{32} + XT^{24} + X^9T^2 + XT + X^{16})Y^4 \\ + (X^{72}T^{32} + X^8T^{24} + X^{16}T^2 + X^8T + 1)Y^2 \\ + (X^{64}T^{32} + T^{24} + X^8T^2 + T)Y \equiv 0,$$

and this proves (5.1).

## 6. MATHIEU GROUP

To prove (1.1) assume that  $p = 2$ , let  $\alpha$  be any element of  $k$ , and let  $G = \text{Gal}(Y^{24} + \alpha Y^4 + Y + X, k(X))$ . Then by (4.1) we see that  $G$  is a doubly transitive permutation group of degree 24 whose order is divisible by 7, and hence by CTT and Special CDT on pp. 86 to 89 of [2], we must have  $G = M_{24}$  or  $A_{24}$  or  $S_{24}$ . As said in the Introduction, by taking  $(\alpha, X)$  for  $(X, T)$  in (5.1) we see that  $|G|$  divides  $|\text{GL}(12, 2)|$ . Finally, as a factorization of  $|\text{GL}(12, 2)|$  into powers of prime numbers we have

$$\begin{aligned} |\text{GL}(12, 2)| &= \prod_{i=0}^{11} (2^{12} - 2^i) \\ &= 2^{66} \times 3^8 \times 5^3 \times 7^4 \times 11 \times 13 \times 17 \times 23 \times 31^2 \times 73 \times 89 \times 127, \end{aligned}$$

but  $|A_{24}|$  and  $|S_{24}|$  are obviously divisible by  $11^2$  and hence we must have  $G = M_{24}$ .

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