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Commuting Involution Graphs for 4-dimensional Projective Symplectic Groups

Alistaire Everett and Peter Rowley

Abstract

For a group G and X a subset of G the commuting graph of G on X , denoted by $\mathcal{C}(G, X)$, is the graph whose vertex set is X with $x, y \in X$ joined by an edge if $x \neq y$ and x and y commute. If the elements in X are involutions, then $\mathcal{C}(G, X)$ is called a commuting involution graph. This paper studies $\mathcal{C}(G, X)$ when G is a 4-dimensional projective symplectic group and X a G -conjugacy class of involutions, determining the diameters and structure of the discs of these graphs.

1 Introduction

For G a group and X a subset of G , the commuting graph of G on X , $\mathcal{C}(G, X)$, is the graph whose vertex set is X with $x, y \in X$ joined whenever $x \neq y$ and $xy = yx$. In effect commuting graphs first appeared in the paper of Brauer and Fowler [13], famous for containing a proof that up to isomorphism only finitely many non-abelian simple groups can have a given centralizer of an involution. The commuting graphs considered in [13] had $X = G \setminus \{1\}$ - such graphs have played an important role in recent work related to the Margulis–Platanov conjecture (see [24]). The complement of this type of commuting graph appeared in [22] where B.H. Neumann solved a problem posed by Erdős. Various kinds of commuting graphs have been deployed in the study of finite groups, particularly the non-abelian simple groups. For example, the analysis and subsequent construction by Fischer [18] of the three simple Fischer groups used the commuting graph on the conjugacy class of 3-transpositions. While a computer-free uniqueness proof of the Lyons simple group by Aschbacher and Segev [6] employed a commuting graph where the vertices consisted of the 3-central subgroups of order 3. For G either a symmetric group, or more generally a finite Coxeter group, or a projective special linear group and X a certain conjugacy class of G , the structure of $\mathcal{C}(G, X)$ has been investigated at length by Bundy [14], Bates, Bundy, Hart, Perkins and Rowley [8], [9], [10], [11] and [12]. Infinite Coxeter groups have also been studied in Perkins [23]. A different flavour of graph (also called a commuting graph) has been examined in Akbari, Mohammadian, Radjavi, Raja [3] and Iranmanesh, Jafarzadeh [20]. There, for a group G , the vertex set is $G \setminus Z(G)$ with two distinct elements being joined if

they commute. Recently there has been work on commuting graphs for rings (see, for example, [1], [2]).

This paper investigates $\mathcal{C}(G, X)$ when G is a finite 4-dimensional projective symplectic group and X is a G -conjugacy class of involutions. Such graphs are referred to as commuting involution graphs. From now on H will denote the symplectic group $Sp(4, q)$, $q = p^a$ and p a prime. Let V be the natural (symplectic) $GF(q)H$ -module, and set $G = H/Z(H)$. So $G \cong PSp(4, q)$ and $G \cong H$ when $p = 2$. In the case when $p = 2$, G has three conjugacy classes of involutions. Recalling that for an involution x of G , $V(x) = \{v \in V \mid (v, v^x) = 0\}$ these three classes X_1, X_2, X_3 may be described thus (see [7])

$$\begin{aligned} X_1 &= \{x \in G \mid x^2 = 1, \dim C_V(x) = 3\}; \\ X_2 &= \{x \in G \mid x^2 = 1, \dim C_V(x) = 2, \dim V(x) = 3\}; \text{ and} \\ X_3 &= \{x \in G \mid x^2 = 1, \dim C_V(x) = 2, V(x) = V\}. \end{aligned}$$

For $t \in X_i$, we define

$$\Delta_i(t) = \{x \in X_i \mid d(t, x) = i\}$$

where d is the standard distance metric on $\mathcal{C}(G, X_i)$. Our four main theorems are as follows.

Theorem 1.1 *Suppose that $p = 2$ and $i = 1, 3$. Then $\mathcal{C}(G, X_i)$ is connected of diameter 2 with the disc sizes being*

$$\begin{aligned} |\Delta_1(t)| &= q^3 - 2; \text{ and} \\ |\Delta_3(t)| &= q^3(q - 1). \end{aligned}$$

Theorem 1.2 *Suppose that $p = 2$. Then $\mathcal{C}(G, X_2)$ is connected of diameter 4, the disc sizes being*

$$\begin{aligned} |\Delta_1(t)| &= q^2(2q - 3); \\ |\Delta_2(t)| &= 2q^2(q - 1)^2; \\ |\Delta_3(t)| &= 2q^3(q - 1)^2; \text{ and} \\ |\Delta_4(t)| &= q^4(q - 1)^2. \end{aligned}$$

Turning to the case when p is odd, we have that there are two G -involution conjugacy classes Y_1 and Y_2 . We shall let Y_1 denote the G -conjugacy class whose elements are the images of an involution in H , and Y_2 to denote the G -conjugacy class whose elements are the image of an element of H of order 4 which square to the non-trivial element of $Z(H)$.

Theorem 1.3 *If p is odd, then $\mathcal{C}(G, Y_1)$ is connected of diameter 2 with disc sizes*

$$\begin{aligned} |\Delta_1(t)| &= \frac{1}{2}q(q^2 - 1); \text{ and} \\ |\Delta_2(t)| &= \frac{1}{2}(q^4 - q^3 + q^2 + q - 2). \end{aligned}$$

Theorem 1.4 (i) If $q \equiv 3 \pmod{4}$ then $\mathcal{C}(G, Y_2)$ is connected of diameter 3. Furthermore,

$$\begin{aligned} |\Delta_1(t)| &= \frac{1}{2}q(q^2 + 2q - 1); \\ |\Delta_2(t)| &= \frac{1}{16}(q + 1)(3q^5 - 2q^4 + 8q^3 - 30q^2 + 13q - 8); \text{ and} \\ |\Delta_3(t)| &= \frac{1}{16}(q - 1)(5q^5 - 4q^4 - 2q^3 + 4q^2 + 5q + 5). \end{aligned}$$

(ii) If $q \equiv 1 \pmod{4}$ then $\mathcal{C}(G, Y_2)$ is connected of diameter 3. Furthermore,

$$\begin{aligned} |\Delta_1(t)| &= \frac{1}{2}q(q^2 + 1); \\ |\Delta_2(t)| &= \frac{1}{16}(q - 1)(3q^5 - 6q^4 + 32q^3 - 10q^2 - 27q - 8); \text{ and} \\ |\Delta_3(t)| &= \frac{1}{16}(q - 1)(5q^5 + 22q^4 - 8q^3 + 34q^2 + 51q + 24). \end{aligned}$$

Theorems 1.1 and 1.2 are established in Section 2. While in Section 3 we give a proof of Theorem 1.3. The structure and properties of $\mathcal{C}(G, Y_2)$, in Section 4, are a much tougher nut to crack than the other four cases. The reason for this is that for $\mathcal{C}(G, X_i)$, ($i = 1, 2, 3$) and $\mathcal{C}(G, Y_1)$ the graph can be studied effectively by working in $H = Sp(4, q)$ and looking at certain configurations in the natural symplectic module V involving $C_V(x)$ for various $x \in X$ ($X = X_i$, $i = 1, 2, 3$ or $XZ(H)/Z(H) = Y_1$). The key point being that, in these four cases for $x \in X$, $C_V(x)$ is a non-trivial subspace of V whereas, for x of order 4 and squaring into $Z(H)$, $C_V(x)$ is trivial. If we change tack and look at G acting on the projective symplectic space things are not much better. When $q \equiv 3 \pmod{4}$ elements of Y_2 fix no projective points, while in the case $q \equiv 1 \pmod{4}$ they fix $2q + 2$ projective points. However, even in the latter case, the fixed projective points didn't appear to be of much assistance. It is the isomorphism $PSp(4, q) \cong O_5(5, q)$ that comes to our rescue. If now V is the 5-dimensional orthogonal module and $x \in Y_2$, then $\dim C_V(x) = 3$. Even so, probing $\mathcal{C}(G, Y_2)$ turns out to be a lengthy process. Fix $t \in Y_2$. Then by Lemma 4.3, $Y_2 \subseteq \bigcup_{U \in \mathcal{U}_1} C_G(U)$ where \mathcal{U}_1 is the set of all 1-subspaces of $C_V(t)$

and as a result, by Lemma 4.4, $\mathcal{C}(G, Y_2)$ may be viewed as the union of commuting involution graphs for various subgroups of G . Up to isomorphism there are three of these commuting involution graphs (called $\mathcal{C}(G^-, Y^-)$, $\mathcal{C}(G^+, Y^+)$ and $\mathcal{C}(G^0, Y^0)$ in Section 4). After studying these three commuting involution graphs in Theorems 4.6, 4.8 and 4.14 it follows immediately (Theorem 4.15) that $\mathcal{C}(G, Y_2)$ is connected and has diameter at most 3. Using the sizes of the discs in $\mathcal{C}(G^-, Y^-)$, $\mathcal{C}(G^+, Y^+)$ and $\mathcal{C}(G^0, Y^0)$ we then complete the proof of Theorem 1.4. This ‘‘patching together’’ of the discs is quite complicated - for example we must confront such issues as t and x in Y_2 being of distance 3 in each of the commuting involution subgraphs which contain both t and x , yet they have distance 2 in $\mathcal{C}(G, Y_2)$ (see Lemmas 4.29 to 4.34).

Our group theoretic notation is standard as given, for example, in [5] or [19].

2 Structure of $\mathcal{C}(G, X_i), i = 1, 2, 3$

We begin looking at $G_0 = Sp_{2n}(q)$ where $n \geq 2$, $q = p^a$ and $p = 2$. Let V_0 denote the $GF(q)G_0$ -symplectic module of dimension $2n$ and let t_0 be an involution in G_0 for which $\dim C_V(t_0) = 2n - 1$. Put $X_0 = t_0^{G_0}$, the G_0 -conjugacy class of t_0 .

Theorem 2.1 $\mathcal{C}(G_0, X_0)$ is connected and has diameter 2.

Proof For $x \in X_0$,

$$C_{G_0}(x) \leq Stab_{G_0}(C_{V_0}(x))$$

with $Stab_{G_0}(C_{V_0}(x))$ having shape $q^{2n-1}SL_{2n-2}(q)(q-1)$. Set $K_x = O^{2'}(Stab_{G_0}(C_{V_0}(x)))$. Then $K_x \sim q^{2n-1}SL_{2n-2}(q)$ and $C_{G_0}(x) = K_x$. Let $x \in X_0 \setminus \{t_0\}$. If $C_{V_0}(t_0) = C_{V_0}(x)$, then $x \in K_{t_0}$ and so $x \in \Delta_1(t_0)$. Now suppose that $C_{V_0}(t_0) \neq C_{V_0}(x)$. Then $\dim(C_{V_0}(t_0) \cap C_{V_0}(x)) = 2n - 2$. Let U be a 1-dimensional subspace of $C_{V_0}(t_0) \cap C_{V_0}(x)$. Since $[V_0, t_0]$ is a 1-space and G_0 acts transitively on the 1-spaces of V_0 , there exists $y \in X_0$ such that $[V_0, y] = U$. So $[V_0, y] \leq C_{V_0}(t_0) \cap C_{V_0}(x)$ and hence y leaves both $C_{V_0}(t_0)$ and $C_{V_0}(x)$ invariant. Thus $y \in K_{t_0} \cap K_x = C_{G_0}(t_0) \cap C_{G_0}(x)$ and so $d(t_0, x) \leq 2$ and we see that $\mathcal{C}(G_0, X_0)$ is connected. Since $\mathcal{C}(G_0, X_0)$ cannot have diameter 1 (as then $\langle X_0 \rangle$ would be abelian), the theorem follows. \square

The remainder of this section is devoted to establishing Theorems 1.1 and 1.2. So we have $G = Sp(4, q)$ with $q = p^a$ and $p = 2$. For V , the natural $GF(q)$ module for G , we choose the symplectic basis $\{v_1, v_2 | v_3, v_4\}$ with $(v_1, v_4) = (v_2, v_3) = 1$. Thus the matrix defining this form is

$$J = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 \end{pmatrix},$$

and we may suppose that $G = \{A \in GL(4, q) | A^T J A = J\}$. We further define

$$S = \left\{ \begin{pmatrix} 1 & a & b & c \\ 0 & 1 & d & ad+b \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & a \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix} \middle| a, b, c, d \in GF(q) \right\},$$

$$Q_1 = \left\{ \begin{pmatrix} 1 & a & b & c \\ 0 & 1 & 0 & b \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & a \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix} \middle| a, b, c \in GF(q) \right\} \text{ and } Q_2 = \left\{ \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 & b & c \\ 0 & 1 & d & b \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix} \middle| b, c, d \in GF(q) \right\}.$$

Lemma 2.2 (i) $S \in \text{Syl}_2 G$.

(ii) $S = Q_1 Q_2$ with $Q_1^\# \cup Q_2^\#$ consisting of all the involutions of S .

Proof It is straightforward to check that S is a subgroup of G . Since $|G| = q^4(q^2 - 1)(q^4 - 1)$ and $|S| = q^4$, we have part (i). Part (ii) is an easy calculation. \square

The following three involutions are elements of G .

$$t_1 = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 & 1 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix}, \quad t_2 = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 & 1 & 1 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 & 1 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix}, \quad t_3 = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & 1 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix}.$$

Lemma 2.3 (i) For $i = 1, 2, 3, t_i \in X_i$.

(ii) $C_G(t_1) \sim q^3 SL(2, q)$ with $O_2(C_G(t_1)) = Q_1$ of order q^3 .

(iii) $C_G(t_2) = S$.

(iv) $|X_1| = q^4 - 1$.

(v) $|X_2| = (q^2 - 1)(q^4 - 1)$.

Proof (i) Let $v = (\alpha, \beta, \gamma, \delta) \in V$. Then $v^{t_1} = (\alpha, \beta, \gamma, \alpha + \delta)$, $v^{t_2} = (\alpha, \beta, \alpha + \gamma, \alpha + \beta + \delta)$ and $v^{t_3} = (\alpha, \alpha + \beta, \gamma, \gamma + \delta)$. Hence $[v, t_1] = (0, 0, 0, \alpha)$, $[v, t_2] = (0, 0, \alpha, \alpha + \beta)$ and $[v, t_3] = (0, \alpha, 0, \gamma)$. Consequently $\dim [V, t_1] = 1$ and $\dim [V, t_2] = 2 = \dim [V, t_3]$. Thus $t_1 \in X_1$. Now

$$(v, v^{t_2}) = \alpha(\alpha + \beta + \delta) + \beta(\alpha + \gamma) + \gamma\beta + \delta\alpha = \alpha^2 = 0$$

implies that $\alpha = 0$ and so $\dim V(t_3) = 3$. Therefore $t_2 \in X_2$. Turning to t_3 we have that

$$(v, v^{t_3}) = \alpha(\gamma + \delta) + \beta\gamma + \gamma(\alpha + \beta) + \delta\alpha = 0$$

implies that $V(t_2) = V$, as v is an arbitrary vector of V . Hence $t_3 \in X_3$, and we have (i).

(ii) By direct calculation we see that

$$C_G(t_1) = \left\{ \left(\begin{array}{cccc} 1 & b & c & d \\ 0 & f & g & h \\ 0 & k & m & n \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 \end{array} \right) \left| \begin{array}{l} b, c, d, f, g, h, k, m, n \in GF(q) \\ gk + fm = 1 \\ b + hk + fn = 0 \\ c + mh + gn = 0 \end{array} \right. \right\}.$$

Moreover

$$SL_2(q) \cong R = \left\{ \left(\begin{array}{cccc} 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & f & g & 0 \\ 0 & k & m & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 \end{array} \right) \middle| \begin{array}{l} f, g, k, m \in GF(q) \\ fg + km = 1 \end{array} \right\} \leq C_G(t_1).$$

with Q_1 a normal elementary abelian subgroup of $C_G(t_1)$ and $|Q_1| = q^3$. So $C_G(t_1) = RQ_1$. Thus (ii) holds.

(iii) This is a routine calculation.

From parts (ii) and (iii) $|C_G(t_1)| = q^4(q^2 - 1)$ and $|C_G(t_2)| = q^4$. Combining this with $|G| = q^4(q^2 - 1)(q^4 - 1)$ yields (iv) and (v). \square

Lemma 2.4 $|C_G(t_1) \cap X_1| = q^3 - 1$.

Proof Let s be an involution in S . Then, by Lemma 2.2(ii), $s \in Q_1^\# \cup Q_2^\#$. Let $v = (\alpha, \beta, \gamma, \delta)$ be a vector in V . Assume for the moment that $s \in Q_1$. Then

$$s = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & a & b & c \\ 0 & 1 & 0 & b \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & a \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix}$$

where $a, b, c \in GF(q)$. So $v^s = (\alpha, a\alpha + \beta, b\beta + \gamma, c\alpha + b\beta + a\gamma + \delta)$. Suppose that at least one of a and b is non-zero. If $v \in C_V(s)$, then we have $a\alpha = b\beta = c\alpha + b\beta + a\gamma = 0$. If, say, $a \neq 0$ then this gives $\alpha = 0$ and $b\beta + a\gamma = 0$. Hence $\gamma = \lambda\beta$ for some $\lambda \in GF(q)$. Thus $\dim C_V(s) = 2$, with the same conclusion if $b \neq 0$.

When $a = b = 0$ we see that $\dim C_V(s) = 3$. Therefore we conclude that

$$|Q_1 \cap X_1| = q - 1. \tag{2.4.1}$$

Now we suppose $s \in Q_2 \setminus Q_1$. Then

$$s = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 & a & b \\ 0 & 1 & c & a \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix}$$

where $a, b, c \in GF(q)$ and $c \neq 0$. Here $v^s = (\alpha, \beta, a\alpha + c\beta + \gamma, b\alpha + a\beta + \delta)$ and so, if $v \in C_V(s)$, $a\alpha + c\beta = b\alpha + a\beta = 0$. Suppose that $a = 0$ and $b \neq 0$. Then $c\beta = b\alpha = 0$ which yields $\alpha = 0 = \beta$. Hence $\dim C_V(s) = 2$. Likewise, when $a \neq 0$ and $b = 0$ we get $\dim C_V(s) = 2$. On the other hand, $a = 0 = b$ gives $\dim C_V(s) = 3$.

Now consider the case when $a \neq 0 \neq b$ and $a^2 + bc = 0$. From $a\alpha + c\beta = 0$ we obtain $\beta = a\alpha c^{-1}$ and so $0 = b\alpha + a\beta = b\alpha + a^2c^{-1}\alpha = (b + a^2c^{-1})\alpha$. Since $a^2 + bc = 0$, this equation holds for all $\alpha \in GF(q)$ and consequently $\dim C_V(s) = 3$. Similar considerations show that $\dim C_V(s) = 2$ when $a \neq 0 \neq b$ and $a^2 + bc \neq 0$. So, to summarize, for $s \in Q_2 \setminus Q_1$, $s \in X_1$ when either $a = 0 = b$ or $a \neq 0 \neq b$ and $a^2 + bc = 0$. For the former, there are $q - 1$ such involutions (as $c \neq 0$). For the latter, there are $q - 1$ choices for each of b and c and in each case a is uniquely determined (as $GF(q)^\#$ is cyclic of odd order), so giving $(q - 1)^2$ involutions. Therefore

$$|(X_1 \cap S) \setminus Q_1| = |X_1 \cap (Q_2 \setminus Q_1)| = q(q - 1). \quad (2.4.2)$$

Since any two distinct Sylow 2-subgroups of $SL(2, q)$ have trivial intersection and $SL(2, q)$ possesses $q + 1$ Sylow 2-subgroups, Lemma 2.3(ii) together with (2.4.1) and (2.4.2) yields that

$$\begin{aligned} |C_G(t_1) \cap X_1| &= (q - 1) + q(q - 1)(q + 1) \\ &= (q - 1)(1 + q^2 + q) = q^3 - 1. \end{aligned}$$

This proves Lemma 2.4. □

Proof of Theorem 1.1 As is well-known – see for example [16] – G has an outer automorphism arising from the Dynkin diagram of type $C_2 = B_2$. This outer automorphism interchanges the two involution conjugacy classes X_1 and X_3 and as a consequence $\mathcal{C}(G, X_1)$ and $\mathcal{C}(G, X_3)$ are isomorphic graphs. Thus we need only consider $\mathcal{C}(G, X_1)$. From Lemma 2.4, as $\Delta_1(t) = (C_G(t_1) \cap X_1) \setminus \{t_1\}$,

$$|\Delta_1(t_1)| = (q^3 - 1) - 1 = q^3 - 2.$$

By Theorem 2.1, $\mathcal{C}(G, X_1)$ has diameter 2. Hence, by Lemma 2.3(iv),

$$|\Delta_2(t_1)| = |X_1| - (q^3 - 1) = (q^4 - 1) - (q^3 - 1) = q^4 - q^3 = q^3(q - 1),$$

so proving Theorem 1.1.

Before moving on to prove Theorem 1.2 we need additional preparatory material. If W is a subspace of V , then W^\perp denotes the subspace of V defined by

$$W^\perp = \{v \in V \mid (v, w) = 0 \text{ for all } w \in W\}$$

and we recall that $\dim W + \dim W^\perp = \dim V = 4$.

By Lemma 2.3(i),(iii) we see that $C_V(C_G(t_2)) = \{(0, 0, 0, \alpha) \mid \alpha \in GF(q)\}$ is 1-dimensional. For $x \in X_2$ set $U_1(x) = C_V(C_G(x))$ and $U_2(x) = C_V(x)$. So $\dim U_1(x) = 1$ and $\dim U_2(x) = 2$ (with the subscripts acting as a reminder). We denote the stabilizer in G of $U_1(t_2)$, respectively $U_2(t_2)$, by P_1 , respectively P_2 . Then $P_i \sim q^3 SL_2(q)(q - 1)$ for $i = 1, 2$. Also $Q_i = O_2(P_i)$ with $C_{P_i}(Q_i) = Q_i$ for $i = 1, 2$.

We start analyzing $\mathcal{C}(G, X_2)$ by determining $\Delta_1(t_2)$. For $x \in X_2$ we let $Z_{C_G(x)}$ denote $Z(C_G(x)) \cap X_2$.

Lemma 2.5 $X_2 = \bigcup_{R \in \text{Syl}_2 G} Z_R$.

Proof Clearly $X_2 = \bigcup_{R \in \text{Syl}_2 G} Z_R$ by Lemma 2.3(iii). If $Z_R \cap Z_T = \emptyset$ for $R, T \in \text{Syl}_2 G$, then we have some $x \in Z(R) \cap Z(T) \cap X_2$ whence, using Lemma 2.3(iii), $R = C_G(x) = T$. So the lemma holds. \square

Lemma 2.6 *Let $R, T \in \text{Syl}_2 G$. If there exists $x \in Z_R$ and $y \in Z_T$ such that $[x, y] = 1$ then $[Z_R, Z_T] = 1$.*

Proof Since $xy = yx$, $y \in C_G(x) = R$. Hence $Z(R) \leq C_G(y) = T$ and so $[Z_R, Z_T] = 1$. \square

Let Δ be the building for G and $\mathcal{C}(\Delta)$ denote the chamber graph of Δ . We may view the vertices (chambers) of $\mathcal{C}(\Delta)$ as being $\{N_G(R) \mid R \in \text{Syl}_2 G\}$ with two distinct chambers $N_G(R)$ and $N_G(T)$ being adjacent whenever $\langle N_G(R), N_G(T) \rangle \leq P_i^g$ for some $g \in G$ and some $i \in \{1, 2\}$. We use $d^{\mathcal{C}}$ to denote the standard distance metric in $\mathcal{C}(\Delta)$ and for a chamber c put $\Delta_j^{\mathcal{C}}(c) = \{d \in \mathcal{C}(\Delta) \mid d^{\mathcal{C}}(c, d) = j\}$. The structure of $\mathcal{C}(\Delta)$ is well-known.

Lemma 2.7 $\mathcal{C}(\Delta)$ has diameter 4 and $|\Delta_1^{\mathcal{C}}(c)| = 2q$; $|\Delta_2^{\mathcal{C}}(c)| = 2q^2$; $|\Delta_3^{\mathcal{C}}(c)| = 2q^3$; and $|\Delta_4^{\mathcal{C}}(c)| = q^4$.

Proof A straightforward calculation. \square

We now introduce a graph \mathcal{Z} whose vertex set is $V(\mathcal{Z}) = \{Z_R \mid R \in \text{Syl}_2 G\}$ with $Z_R, Z_T \in V(\mathcal{Z})$ joined if $Z_R \neq Z_T$ and $[Z_R, Z_T] = 1$.

Lemma 2.8 *The graphs \mathcal{Z} and $\mathcal{C}(\Delta)$ are isomorphic.*

Proof Define $\varphi : V(\mathcal{Z}) \rightarrow V(\mathcal{C}(\Delta))$ by $\varphi : Z_R \mapsto N_G(R)$ ($R \in \text{Syl}_2 G$). If $\varphi(Z_R) = \varphi(Z_T)$ for $R, T \in \text{Syl}_2 G$, then $N_G(R) = N_G(T)$ and so $R = T$ and then $Z_R = Z_T$. Thus φ is a bijection between $V(\mathcal{Z})$ and $V(\mathcal{C}(\Delta))$. Suppose $N_G(R)$ and $N_G(T)$ are distinct, adjacent chambers in $\mathcal{C}(\Delta)$. Without loss of generality we may assume $T = S$. Then $N_G(R), N_G(S) \leq P_i$ for $i \in \{1, 2\}$. The structure of P_i then forces $Z(R), Z(S) \leq Q_i$. Since Q_i is abelian, we deduce that $[Z_R, Z_S] = 1$. So Z_R and Z_S are adjacent in \mathcal{Z} . Conversely, suppose Z_R and Z_S are adjacent in \mathcal{Z} . Then $[Z_R, Z_S] = 1$ with, by Lemma 2.5, $Z_R \cap Z_S = \emptyset$. Hence $Z_R \subseteq S$ and so by Lemma 2.2(ii), $Z_R \subseteq Q_1 \cup Q_2$. Now $Q_1 \cap Q_2 \cap X_2 = Z_S$ and so we must have $Z_R \subseteq Q_i$ for $i \in \{1, 2\}$. The structure of P_i now gives $N_G(R) \leq P_i$ and therefore $N_G(R)$ and $N_G(S)$ are adjacent in $\mathcal{C}(\Delta)$, which proves the lemma. \square

Proof of Theorem 1.2

Since for all $x_1, x_2 \in X$, $[x_1, x_2] = 1$ if and only if $[Z_{C_G(x_1)}, Z_{C_G(x_2)}] = 1$ by Lemma 2.5, then for $i > 1$, $d^{\mathcal{C}}(x_1, x_2) = i$ if and only if $d^{\mathcal{Z}}(Z_{C_G(x_1)}, Z_{C_G(x_2)}) = i$ (where $d^{\mathcal{Z}}$ denotes the distance in \mathcal{Z}). Note that if $d^{\mathcal{C}}(x_1, x_2) = 1$, then either $Z_{C_G(x_1)} = Z_{C_G(x_2)}$ or $d^{\mathcal{Z}}(Z_{C_G(x_1)}, Z_{C_G(x_2)}) = 1$. Since X_2 is a disjoint union of the elements of \mathcal{Z} , then $\mathcal{C}(G, X_2)$ is connected of diameter 4. Now

$$\Delta_1(t) = \bigcup_{\substack{R \in \text{Syl}_2 G \\ [Z_S, Z_R] = 1}} Z_R \quad \text{and} \quad \Delta_i(t) = \bigcup_{\substack{R \in \text{Syl}_2 G \\ d^{\mathcal{Z}}(Z_S, Z_R) = i}} Z_R, \quad i > 1$$

and so $|\Delta_1(t)| = |Z_S| + 2q|Z_S| - 1$. From $|Z_S| = (q-1)^2$ we get $|\Delta_1(t)| = (q-1)^2 + 2q(q-1)^2 - 1 = q^2(2q-3)$. The remaining disc sizes are immediate from the structure of the chamber graph $\mathcal{C}(\Delta)$.

3 Structure of $\mathcal{C}(G, Y_1)$

This section is devoted to the proof of Theorem 1.3. In order to investigate the disc structure of $\mathcal{C}(G, Y_1)$ it is advantageous for us to work in $H = Sp_4(q)$ (and so $\overline{H} = H/Z(H) \cong G$). We assume that $\{v_1, v_2, v_3, v_4\}$ is a hyperbolic basis for V with $(v_2, v_1) = (v_4, v_3) = 1$. Thus if J is the matrix defining this form then

$$J = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & -1 & 0 & 0 \\ 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & -1 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 \end{pmatrix},$$

and J has two diagonal blocks J_0 where $J_0 = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & -1 \\ 1 & 0 \end{pmatrix}$. We may suppose that for $t \in Y_1$,

we have $\overline{s} = t$ where $s = \left(\begin{array}{c|c} -I_2 & \\ \hline & I_2 \end{array} \right)$. Put $X = s^H$. Then $Y_1 = \{\overline{x} \mid x \in X\}$. For $x \in X$, set $N_x = N_H(\langle x, Z(H) \rangle)$. Evidently, for $\overline{x_1}, \overline{x_2} \in Y_1$ (where $x_1, x_2 \in X$) $\overline{x_1}$ and $\overline{x_2}$ commute if and only if $x_1 \in N_{x_2}$ (or equivalently $x_2 \in N_{x_1}$). Now N_s consists of $g \in H$ for which $s^g = s$ or $s^g = -s$. Letting $g = \left(\begin{array}{c|c} A & B \\ \hline C & D \end{array} \right)$ where A, B, C and D are 2×2 matrices over $GF(q)$, direct calculation reveals that either $B = C = 0$ or $A = D = 0$. Also, as $g \in H$, we must have $A^T J_0 A = D^T J_0 D = J_0$ and therefore

$$\begin{aligned} N_s &= \left\{ \left(\begin{array}{c|c} A & \\ \hline & B \end{array} \right), \left(\begin{array}{c|c} & A \\ \hline B & \end{array} \right) \mid A, B \in SL_2(q) \right\} \\ &\sim (SL_2(q) \times SL_2(q)) : 2 \end{aligned}$$

Lemma 3.1 $|\Delta_1(t)| = \frac{1}{2}q(q^2 - 1)$.

Proof Since $X = s^H$ consists of all the involutions in $H \setminus Z(H)$, a quick calculation gives

$$X \cap N_s = \left\{ \left(\begin{array}{c|c} & A \\ \hline A^{-1} & \end{array} \right) \middle| A \in SL_2(q) \right\} \cup \{s, -s\}.$$

Under the natural homomorphism to G , for $x \in X$ $\bar{x} = \overline{-x}$, and so $|\Delta_1(t)| = \frac{1}{2}|SL_2(q)| = \frac{1}{2}q(q^2 - 1)$. \square

Put $E = \langle v_3, v_4 \rangle$. Then $E^\perp = \langle v_1, v_2 \rangle$ and we note that $C_V(s) = E$. Furthermore we have that $\text{Stab}_H(\{E, E^\perp\}) = N_s$. Put $\Sigma = \{ \{F, F^\perp\} \mid F \text{ is a hyperbolic 2-subspace of } V \}$. Now let $\beta \in GF(q)$ and set $U_\beta = \langle (1, 0, 1, 0), (0, \beta, 0, -\beta - 1) \rangle$. Then U_β is a hyperbolic 2-subspace of V and so $\{U_\beta, U_\beta^\perp\} \in \Sigma$. The N_s -orbit of $\{U_\beta, U_\beta^\perp\}$ will be denoted by Σ_β .

Lemma 3.2 *Let F be a hyperbolic 2-subspace of V with $F \neq E$ or E^\perp . Then $\{F, F^\perp\} \in \Sigma_\beta$ for some $\beta \in GF(q)$. Moreover, for $\beta \in GF(q)$, $\Sigma_\beta = \Sigma_{-\beta-1}$.*

Proof Since $F \neq E$ or E^\perp , we may find $w_1 \in F$ with $w_1 = (\alpha_1, \beta_1, \gamma_1, \delta_1)$ and $\{\alpha_1, \beta_1\} \neq \{0\} \neq \{\gamma_1, \delta_1\}$. Now N_s contains two $SL_2(q)$ subgroups for which $\langle v_1, v_2 \rangle$ and $\langle v_3, v_4 \rangle$ are natural $GF(q)SL_2(q)$ -modules. Because $SL_2(q)$ acts transitively on the non-zero vectors of such modules, we may suppose $w_1 = (1, 0, 1, 0)$. Now choose $w_2 \in F$ such that $(w_1, w_2) = 1$ (and so $\langle w_1, w_2 \rangle = F$). Then if $w_2 = (\alpha, \beta, \gamma, \delta)$ we must have $\beta + \delta = -1$ and so $w_2 = (\alpha, \beta, \gamma, -\beta - 1)$. The matrices in N_s fixing w_1 are

$$C_{N_s}(w_1) = \left\{ \left(\begin{array}{cc|cc} 1 & & & \\ a_1 & 1 & & \\ \hline & & 1 & \\ & & a_2 & 1 \end{array} \right), \left(\begin{array}{cc|cc} & & 1 & \\ & & a_1 & 1 \\ \hline 1 & & & \\ a_2 & 1 & & \end{array} \right) \middle| a_1, a_2 \in GF(q) \right\}.$$

Let $g = \left(\begin{array}{cc|cc} 1 & & & \\ a_1 & 1 & & \\ \hline & & 1 & \\ & & a_2 & 1 \end{array} \right)$ where $a_1, a_2 \in GF(q)$. Then $w_1^g = w_1$.

We single out the cases $\beta = 0$ and $\beta = -1$ for special attention. If, say, $\beta = 0$, then $w_2 = (\alpha, 0, \gamma, -1)$. Hence $w_2 - \alpha w_1 = (0, 0, \gamma - \alpha, -1)$ and $F = \langle w_1, w_2 - \alpha w_1 \rangle$. Since $(0, 0, \gamma - \alpha, -1)g = (0, 0, (\gamma - \alpha) - a_2, -1)$ and choosing $a_2 = -\gamma + \alpha$, we obtain $Fg = U_0$. For $\beta = -1$ a similar argument works (using $w_2 - \gamma w_1$ instead of $w_2 - \alpha w_1$). So we may assume that $\beta \neq 0, -1$. From

$$w_2g = (\alpha, \beta, \gamma, -\beta - 1) = (\alpha + \beta a_1, \beta, \gamma + (-\beta - 1)a_2, -\beta - 1)$$

by a suitable choice of a_1 and a_2 , as $\beta \neq 0, -1$, we get $w_2g = (0, \beta, 0, -\beta - 1)$, whence $Fg = U_\beta$. Thus we have shown $\{F, F^\perp\} \in \Sigma_\beta$ for some $\beta \in GF(q)$. Finally, for $\beta \in GF(q)$, $\Sigma_\beta = \Sigma_{-\beta-1}$

follows from

$$(0, \beta, 0, -\beta - 1) \left(\begin{array}{c|c} & 1 \\ \hline 1 & \\ \hline & 1 \end{array} \right) = (0, -\beta - 1, 0, \beta).$$

□

Let $\phi : GF(q) \setminus \{-1\} \rightarrow GF(q)$ be defined by

$$\phi(\lambda) = -(1 + (\lambda + 1)^{-2}(1 - \lambda^2))^{-1} \quad (\lambda \in GF(q)).$$

There is a possibility that this is not well-defined should $1 + (\lambda + 1)^{-2}(1 - \lambda^2) = 0$. This would then give $(\lambda + 1)^2 + (1 - \lambda^2) = 0$ from which we infer that $\lambda = -1$. So we conclude that ϕ is well-defined.

Lemma 3.3 *ϕ is injective.*

Proof Suppose $\phi(\lambda) = \phi(\mu)$ for $\lambda, \mu \in GF(q) \setminus \{-1\}$ with $\lambda \neq \mu$. Hence

$$(1 + (\lambda + 1)^{-2}(1 - \lambda^2))^{-1} = (1 + (\mu + 1)^{-2}(1 - \mu^2))^{-1}.$$

Simplifying and using the fact that q is odd gives

$$\mu^2 + \mu - \mu\lambda^2 - \lambda^2 - \lambda + \lambda\mu^2 = 0,$$

and then

$$(\mu + \lambda)(\mu - \lambda) + (\mu - \lambda) + \lambda\mu(\mu - \lambda) = 0.$$

Hence $(\mu - \lambda)(\mu + \lambda + 1 + \lambda\mu) = 0$. Since $\mu \neq \lambda$, we get $\mu + \lambda + 1 + \lambda\mu = 0$ from which we deduce that either $\lambda = -1$ or $\mu = -1$, a contradiction. So the lemma holds. □

Proof of Theorem 1.3

We first show that $\text{Diam } \mathcal{C}(G, Y_1) = 2$. So let $x \in X$ be such that $x \notin \{t\} \cup \Delta_1(t)$. Now $\{C_V(x), C_V(x)^\perp\} \in \Sigma$ as $C_V(x) \neq E$ or E^\perp (otherwise $x \in \{s, -s\}$ and then $\bar{x} = t$).

Hence $\{C_V(x), C_V(x)^\perp\} \in \Sigma_\mu$ for some $\mu \in GF(q)$ by Lemma 3.2. Let $y = \left(\begin{array}{c|c} & I_2 \\ \hline I_2 & \end{array} \right) \in X \cap N_s$. Then $\bar{y} \in \Delta_1(t)$. Our aim is to choose an $x_\lambda \in N_y \cap X$ (so $\bar{x}_\lambda \in \Delta_1(\bar{y})$) for which $\{C_V(x_\lambda), C_V(x_\lambda)^\perp\} \in \Sigma_\mu$. Since Σ_μ is an N_s -orbit, there exists $h \in N_s$ such that $\{C_V(x_\lambda), C_V(x_\lambda)^\perp\}^h = \{C_V(x), C_V(x)^\perp\}$. As a consequence either $x = x_\lambda^h$ or $x = x_\lambda^{-1h}$ and therefore $\bar{x} = \bar{x}_\lambda^{\bar{h}}$, whence $d(t, \bar{x}) \leq 2$.

We first look at the case when $\mu = -2^{-1}$. Then $\mu = -\mu - 1$ and hence

$$U_{-2^{-1}} = \langle (1, 0, 1, 0), (0, 1, 0, 1) \rangle.$$

Observing that $U_{-2^{-1}} = C_V(y)$, we see that for $\mu = -2^{-1}$, $\bar{x} \in \Delta_1(y)$, which we are not concerned with here. So we may assume $\mu \neq -2^{-1}$.

Let $x_\lambda = \left(\begin{array}{c|c} \lambda I_2 & -B \\ \hline B & -\lambda I_2 \end{array} \right)$ where $\lambda \in GF(q) \setminus \{0\}$ and such that B has zero trace and determinant $1 - \lambda^2$. So $x_\lambda \in X \cap N_y$. We now move onto the case when $\mu = 0$ (or equivalently $\mu = -1$). Here we take $\lambda = 1$ and $B = \begin{pmatrix} 2 & -2 \\ 2 & -2 \end{pmatrix}$, noting that B satisfies the conditions to ensure that $\bar{x}_1 \in \Delta_1(\bar{y})$. Let $v = (\alpha, \beta, \gamma, \delta) \in V$. Then $v \in C_V(x_1)$ precisely when

$$\begin{aligned} 2\gamma + 2\delta &= 0; & -2\gamma - 2\delta &= 0; \\ -2\alpha - 2\beta - \gamma &= \gamma; & 2\alpha + 2\beta - \delta &= \delta; \end{aligned}$$

and thus the only conditions we get are $\gamma = -\beta - \alpha$ and $\alpha + \beta = \delta$. Thus

$$\begin{aligned} C_V(x_1) &= \{(\alpha, \beta, -\alpha - \beta, \alpha + \beta)\} \\ &= \langle (1, 0, -1, 1), (0, 1, -1, 1) \rangle. \end{aligned}$$

It is straightforward to check that $\{C_V(x_1), C_V(x_1)^\perp\} \in \Sigma_0$. Therefore we may also assume that $\mu \neq 0, -1$. Choosing $B = \begin{pmatrix} \lambda & \lambda^{-1} \\ -\lambda & -\lambda \end{pmatrix}$ we see that the requisite conditions are satisfied. Take $v = (\alpha, \beta, \gamma, \delta) \in V$ and calculating v^{x_λ} gives the relations

$$\begin{aligned} (\lambda - 1)\alpha + \gamma\lambda - \delta\lambda &= 0; & (\lambda - 1)\beta + \gamma\lambda^{-1} - \delta\lambda &= 0; \\ -\lambda\alpha + \lambda\beta - (\lambda + 1)\gamma &= 0; & -\lambda^{-1}\alpha + \lambda\beta - (\lambda + 1)\delta &= 0; \end{aligned}$$

which, after rearranging gives

$$\begin{aligned} \alpha &= \lambda(\lambda - 1)^{-1}(\delta - \gamma); & \beta &= \lambda(\lambda - 1)^{-1}\delta - \lambda^{-1}(\lambda - 1)^{-1}\gamma; \\ \gamma &= \lambda(\lambda + 1)^{-1}(\beta - \alpha); & \delta &= \lambda(\lambda + 1)^{-1}\alpha - \lambda^{-1}(\lambda + 1)^{-1}\alpha; \end{aligned}$$

and note that the relations for γ and δ are satisfied after substitution for α and β . Hence

$$\begin{aligned} C_V(x_\lambda) &= \{(\alpha, \beta, \lambda(\lambda + 1)^{-1}(\beta - \alpha), \lambda(\lambda + 1)^{-1}\beta - \lambda^{-1}(\lambda + 1)^{-1}\alpha)\} \\ &= \langle (1, 0, -\lambda(\lambda + 1)^{-1}, -\lambda^{-1}(\lambda + 1)^{-1}), (0, 1, \lambda(\lambda + 1)^{-1}, \lambda(\lambda + 1)^{-1}) \rangle. \end{aligned} \quad (3.3.1)$$

We want to determine which N_s -orbit, Σ_β , that $C_V(x_\lambda)$ lies in. Our representative, U_β , for Σ_β has $w_1 = (1, 0, 1, 0)$ as one component of the hyperbolic pair, so we need an element of N_s to send the first generator in (3.3.1) to w_1 . We need to find conditions on $C, D \in SL_2(q)$ such that

$$(1, 0, -\lambda(\lambda + 1)^{-1}, -\lambda^{-1}(\lambda + 1)^{-1}) \left(\begin{array}{c|c} C & \\ \hline & D \end{array} \right) = (1, 0, 1, 0)$$

and so without loss of generality we can take $C = I_2$. This reduces to solving

$$(-\lambda(\lambda + 1)^{-1}, -\lambda^{-1}(\lambda + 1)^{-1}) \begin{pmatrix} d_1 & d_2 \\ d_3 & d_4 \end{pmatrix} = (1, 0)$$

and after multiplying out, we get that $d_3 = -(d_1 + 1)\lambda^2 - \lambda$ and $d_4 = -d_2\lambda^2$. Since D has determinant 1, we find that $d_2 = \lambda^{-1}(\lambda + 1)^{-1}$ and so $d_4 = -\lambda(\lambda + 1)^{-1}$. Without loss of generality, by taking $d_1 = 1$ we have that

$$D = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & \lambda^{-1}(\lambda + 1)^{-1} \\ -2\lambda^2 - \lambda & -\lambda(\lambda + 1)^{-1} \end{pmatrix}$$

and a quick check shows that the first generator in (3.3.1) is mapped to w_1 . Using the same matrix, by multiplying on the right of the second generator in (3.3.1), we get

$$(0, 1, \lambda(\lambda + 1)^{-1}, \lambda(\lambda + 1)^{-1}) \left(I_2 \middle| \begin{matrix} \\ D \end{matrix} \right) = (*, 1, *, (\lambda + 1)^{-2}(1 - \lambda^2)) = u'$$

and $\langle w_1, u' \rangle$ is a hyperbolic 2-subspace conjugate to some U_β . Recall that for a fixed $\beta \in GF(q)$, N_s is transitive on $\{(\alpha, \beta, \gamma, -\beta - 1) \mid \alpha, \gamma \in GF(q)\}$. Hence, we need only find the hyperbolic pair representing such a conjugate of U_β , to determine β . This is found by requiring that some multiple of u' has inner product 1 with w_1 , that is

$$\beta \cdot 1 = -1 - \beta((\lambda + 1)^{-2}(1 - \lambda^2))$$

for some $\beta \in GF(q)$. By expanding, we get that $\beta = -(1 + (\lambda + 1)^{-2}(1 - \lambda^2))^{-1}$ and so $C_V(x_\lambda) \in \Sigma_\beta$. By Lemma 3.3, $\phi : \lambda \mapsto -(1 + (\lambda + 1)^{-2}(1 - \lambda^2))^{-1}$ is an injective map from $GF(q) \setminus \{-1\}$ into $GF(q)$. Since $\mu \neq -2^{-1}$, $\mu \neq -\mu - 1$ and therefore there exists $\lambda \in GF(q) \setminus \{-1\}$ such that $\phi(\lambda) = \mu$ or $-\mu - 1$. Bearing in mind that $U_\mu = U_{-\mu-1}$ by Lemma 3.2, we conclude that $\{C_V(x_\lambda), C_V(x_\lambda)^\perp\} \in \Sigma_\mu$. Consequently we have proved that $\text{Diam } \mathcal{C}(G, Y_1) = 2$.

From $|G| = \frac{q^4}{2}(q^2 - 1)(q^4 - 1)$ and $|C_G(t)| = q^2(q^2 - 1)^2$ we see that $|Y_1| = \frac{q^2}{2}(q^2 + 1)$. Using Lemma 3.1 then gives

$$|\Delta_2(t)| = \frac{1}{2}(q^4 - q^3 + q^2 + q - 2),$$

which completes the proof of Theorem 1.3.

4 Structure of $\mathcal{C}(G, Y_2)$

In this section we present a proof of Theorem 1.4. The uncovering of the disc structures of $\mathcal{C}(G, Y_2)$ will be a long haul. As discussed in Section 1, it will be advantageous for us to use

the well known isomorphism that $PSp_4(q) \cong O_5(q)$ (see Corollary 12.32 of [26]). So we take $G = O_5(q)$ and from now on V will denote the 5-dimensional $GF(q)$ orthogonal module for G . Thus the elements of G are 5×5 orthogonal matrices with respect to the orthogonal form $(,)$ which have spinor norm a square in $GF(q)$. We may assume that the Gram matrix with respect to $(,)$ is

$$J = \left(\begin{array}{cc|ccc} 0 & 1 & & & \\ 1 & 0 & & & \\ \hline & & 0 & 0 & 1 \\ & & 0 & -2 & 0 \\ & & 1 & 0 & 0 \end{array} \right).$$

Let

$$t = \left(\begin{array}{c|ccc} I_2 & & & \\ \hline & 0 & 0 & 1 \\ & 0 & -1 & 0 \\ & 1 & 0 & 0 \end{array} \right).$$

Then $t \in G$ and $Y_2 = t^G$. Let $\delta = \pm 1$ where $q \equiv \delta \pmod{4}$.

Lemma 4.1 (i) $\dim(C_V(t)) = 3$.

(ii) $C_V(t)^\perp = [V, t]$ is a 2-subspace of V of δ -type.

(iii) $V = C_V(t) \perp C_V(t)^\perp$.

Proof An easy calculation. □

Put $L_t = C_G(t) \cap C_G([V, t])$.

Lemma 4.2 (i) Let $x \in Y_2$. Then $t = x$ if and only if $C_V(t) = C_V(x)$.

(ii) $C_G(t) = \text{Stab}_G(C_V(t)) \sim (L_2(q) \times \frac{q-\delta}{2}).2^2$.

(iii) L_t acts faithfully on $C_V(t)$ and $L_t \cong L_2(q)$.

Proof

(i) Suppose $C_V(x) = C_V(t)$. Then, using Lemma 4.1 (ii), $[V, x] = C_V(x)^\perp = C_V(t)^\perp = [V, t]$. Hence by Lemma 4.1(iii), tx acts trivially on V and thus $tx = 1$. Therefore $t = x$ and (i) holds.

(ii) Plainly $C_G(t) \leq \text{Stab}_G(C_V(t))$, and if $g \in \text{Stab}_G(C_V(t))$, then $C_V(t) = C_V(t)^g = C_V(t^g)$. Hence, and $t^g \in Y_2$, $t = t^g$ by part (i). So $g \in C_G(t)$ and thus $C_G(t) = \text{Stab}_G(C_V(t))$. That $\text{Stab}_G(C_V(t)) \sim (L_2(q) \times \frac{q-\delta}{2}).2^2$ can be read off from Proposition 4.1.6 of [21].

(iii) For any $g \in C_G(t)$, we have $[V, t]^g = C_V(t)^{\perp g} = C_V(t^g)^\perp = C_V(t)^\perp = [V, t]$ and so $C_G(t) \leq \text{Stab}_G[V, t]$. If any element in L_t acts trivially on $C_V(t)$, then it would act trivially on V and thus be the identity. Hence L_t acts faithfully on $C_V(t)$. Let $v \in C_V(t)$ and by Lemma 4.1(iii), we have $[V, t] \leq \langle v \rangle^\perp$. Hence $\langle v \rangle^\perp = [V, t] \oplus W$ where $W \leq C_V(t)$. But since $\dim(\langle v \rangle^\perp) = 4$, we have $\dim(W) = 2$ and so $C_V(t) \not\leq \langle v \rangle^\perp$. Therefore for all $u \in C_V(t)$, $(v, u) = 0$ if and only if $v = 0$ and thus $(\ , \)$ is non-degenerate on restriction to $C_V(t)$. Hence we have $L_t \hookrightarrow GO(C_V(t)) \sim GO_3(q)$ as L_t fixes $[V, t]$ pointwise, by definition. Since $L_t \leq G$ and acts as determinant 1 on $[V, t]$, then it must act as determinant 1 on $C_V(t)$. In addition, as L_t fixes $[V, t]$ pointwise, when the elements of L_t are decomposed as products of reflections, the vectors reflected will lie in $C_V(t)$. Since the spinor norm of the elements of L_t are a square in $GF(q)$ and the vectors reflected lie in $C_V(t)$, then the spinor norm doesn't change on restriction to $C_V(t)$. Hence, $L_t \sim O_3(q) \sim L_2(q)$ proving (iii). □

Let \mathcal{U}_i denote the set of i -dimensional subspaces of $C_V(t)$, $i = 1, 2$. In proving Theorem 1.4, our divide and conquer strategy is based on the following observation.

Lemma 4.3 $Y_2 \subseteq \bigcup_{U \in \mathcal{U}_1 \cup \mathcal{U}_2} C_G(U)$.

Proof Let $x \in Y_2 \setminus \{t\}$ and set $U = C_V(t) \cap C_V(x)$. By Lemmas 4.1(i) and 4.2(i), $U \in \mathcal{U}_1 \cup \mathcal{U}_2$. Since $t, x \in C_G(U)$, we have Lemma 4.3. □

The three cases we must chase down are presaged by our next result.

Lemma 4.4 (i) Let U_0 be an isotropic 1-subspace of $C_V(t)$. Then $C_G(U_0) \sim q^3 : L_2(q)$.

(ii) Let U_ε be a 1-subspace of $C_V(t)$, such that $U_\varepsilon^\perp \cap C_V(t)$ is a 2-space of ε -type ($\varepsilon = \pm 1$). Then

$$C_G(U_\varepsilon) \sim \begin{cases} SL_2(q) \circ SL_2(q) & \delta = \varepsilon \\ L_2(q^2) & \delta = -\varepsilon. \end{cases}$$

Proof Let U_0 be an isotropic 1-subspace of $C_V(t)$. From Proposition 4.1.20 of [21], we know that $\text{Stab}_G(U_0) \sim C_0 : (C_1 \times C_2) \langle r \rangle$ where C_1 acts as scalars on U_0 , r a reflection of U_0 and $C_0 \sim q^3$, $C_2 \sim L_2(q)$ fixing U_0 pointwise. Hence $C_G(U_0) \sim q^3 : L_2(q)$, so proving (i).

If $\delta = 1$, then $[V, t]$ is a 2-subspace of V of +-type, and hence $U_+^\perp = (U_+^\perp \cap C_V(t)) \perp [V, t]$ is a 4-subspace of +-type. Similarly, $U_-^\perp = (U_-^\perp \cap C_V(t)) \perp [V, t]$ is a 4-space of --type. If $\delta = -1$, then $[V, t]$ is a 2-subspace of V of --type, and the results for when $\delta = 1$ interchange. Let W_+ and W_- be 4-subspaces of V of + and --type respectively, such that W_+^\perp and W_-^\perp

are 1-subspaces of $C_V(t)$, observing that $\text{Stab}_G(W_{\pm}) = \text{Stab}_G(W_{\pm}^{\perp})$. From Proposition 4.1.6 of [21], we have

$$\begin{aligned}\text{Stab}_G(W_+) &\sim C_+ \langle s_+ \rangle \\ \text{Stab}_G(W_-) &\sim C_- \langle s_- \rangle\end{aligned}$$

where $C_+ \sim SL_2(q) \circ SL_2(q)$ fixes W_+^{\perp} pointwise, $C_- \sim L_2(q^2)$ fixes W_-^{\perp} pointwise and s_+ , s_- are reflections of W_+^{\perp} and W_-^{\perp} respectively. This proves (ii) and hence the lemma. \square

Lemma 4.5 (i) *Let U_0 be a 2-subspace of $C_V(t)$ such that $U_0^{\perp} \cap C_V(t)$ is an isotropic 1-space. Then $C_G(U_0) \cong q^2 : \frac{q-\delta}{2}$.*

(ii) *Let U_{ε} be a 2-subspace of $C_V(t)$ of ε -type ($\varepsilon = \pm 1$). Then $C_G(U_{\varepsilon}) \sim L_2(q)$.*

Proof See Propositions 4.1.6 and 4.1.20 of [21]. \square

Define the following subsets of \mathcal{U}_i , $i = 1, 2$.

$$\begin{aligned}\mathcal{U}_1^+ &= \{U \in \mathcal{U}_1 \mid C_G(U) \sim SL_2(q) \circ SL_2(q)\} \\ \mathcal{U}_1^- &= \{U \in \mathcal{U}_1 \mid C_G(U) \sim L_2(q^2)\} \\ \mathcal{U}_1^0 &= \{U \in \mathcal{U}_1 \mid C_G(U) \sim q^3 : L_2(q)\} \\ \mathcal{U}_2^+ &= \{U \in \mathcal{U}_2 \mid U \text{ is of } +\text{-type}\} \\ \mathcal{U}_2^- &= \{U \in \mathcal{U}_2 \mid U \text{ is of } --\text{-type}\} \\ \mathcal{U}_2^0 &= \left\{ U \in \mathcal{U}_2 \mid C_G(U) \sim q^2 : \frac{q-\delta}{2} \right\}.\end{aligned}$$

In the notation of Lemma 4.4, \mathcal{U}_1^+ is the case $\delta = \varepsilon$ while \mathcal{U}_1^- is when $\delta = -\varepsilon$. Note by Lemmas 4.4 and 4.5 that $\mathcal{U}_i = \mathcal{U}_i^0 \cup \mathcal{U}_i^+ \cup \mathcal{U}_i^-$, $i = 1, 2$. We now study $C_G(U) \cap Y_2$ for $U \in \mathcal{U}_1$. By Lemma 4.4 there are three possibilities for the structure of $C_G(U)$. First we look at the case $U \in \mathcal{U}_1^-$, and set $G^- = C_G(U)$. Then $G^- \cong L_2(q^2)$ by definition of \mathcal{U}_1^- . Define $\Delta_i^-(t) = \{x \in G^- \cap Y_2 \mid d^-(t, x) = i\}$ where $i \in \mathbb{N}$ and d^- is the distance metric on the commuting graph $\mathcal{C}(G^-, G^- \cap Y_2)$.

Theorem 4.6 *If $q \neq 3$ then $\mathcal{C}(G^-, G^- \cap Y_2)$ is connected of diameter 3 with*

$$\begin{aligned}|\Delta_1^-(t)| &= \frac{1}{2}(q^2 - 1); \\ |\Delta_2^-(t)| &= \frac{1}{4}(q^2 - 1)(q^2 - 5); \text{ and} \\ |\Delta_3^-(t)| &= \frac{1}{4}(q^2 - 1)(q^2 + 7).\end{aligned}$$

Proof Since $q^2 \equiv 1 \pmod{4}$ and $q \neq 3$ implies $q^2 > 13$, this follows from Theorem 1.1(iii) of [10]. \square

We move on to analyze $G^+ = C_G(U)$ where $U \in \mathcal{U}_1^+$. Hence, by definition of \mathcal{U}_1^+ , $G^+ \sim L_1 \circ L_2$ where $L_1 \sim SL_2(q) \sim L_2$ (with the central product identifying $Z(L_1)$ and $Z(L_2)$). Set $Y^+ = G^+ \cap Y_2$. We begin by describing Y^+ .

Lemma 4.7 $Y^+ = \{x_1x_2 \mid x_i \in L_i \text{ and } x_i \text{ has order } 4, i = 1, 2\}$.

Proof Apart from the central involution z of G^+ , all other involutions of G^+ are of the form g_1g_2 where $g_i \in L_i$ ($i = 1, 2$) has order 4. Since all involutions in $L_i/Z(G^+)$ are conjugate, it quickly follows that $\{g_1g_2 \mid g_i \in L_i \text{ and } g_i \text{ has order } 4, i = 1, 2\}$ is a G^+ -conjugacy class. Now z acts as -1 on U^\perp and thus $\dim C_V(z) = 1$. Therefore $t \neq z$ whence, as $t \in G^+$, the lemma holds. \square

Let d^+ denote the distance metric on the commuting graph $\mathcal{C}(G^+, Y^+)$ and, for $i \in \mathbb{N}$, $\Delta_i^+(t) = \{x \in Y^+ \mid d^+(t, x) = i\}$.

Theorem 4.8 Assume that $q \notin \{3, 5, 9, 13\}$. Then $\mathcal{C}(G^+, Y^+)$ is connected of diameter 3 with

$$\begin{aligned} |\Delta_1^+(t)| &= \frac{1}{2}(q - \delta)^2 + 1; \\ |\Delta_2^+(t)| &= \frac{1}{8}(q - \delta)^3(q - 4 - \delta) + (q - \delta)(q - 2 - \delta); \text{ and} \\ |\Delta_3^+(t)| &= \frac{3}{8}q^4 + \frac{1}{2}(1 + 3\delta)q^3 - \frac{1}{4}(7 + 6\delta)q^2 + \frac{7}{2}(1 + \delta)q - \frac{1}{8}(29 + 20\delta). \end{aligned}$$

Proof Let $\overline{G^+} = G^+/Z(G^+)$ ($= \overline{L_1} \times \overline{L_2}$). Note that for $x_1x_2 \in Y^+$, $x_1^{-1}x_2 = x_1x_2^{-1}$ and $x_1x_2 = x_1^{-1}x_2^{-1}$ and so the inverse image of $\overline{x_1x_2}$ contains two elements of Y^+ . Let $d^{(i)}$ denote the distance metric on the commuting graph of $\overline{L_i}$ and $\Delta_j^{(i)}(\overline{x_i})$ the j^{th} disc of $\overline{x_i}$ in the commuting graph of $\overline{L_i}$. By Lemma 4.7, $t = t_1t_2$ where, for $i = 1, 2$, $t_i \in L_i$ has order 4. Let $x = x_1x_2 \in Y^+$ with $x \neq t$. Then $tx = xt$ if and only if tx has order 2. So, bearing in mind that $Y^+ \cup \{z\}$ (where $\langle z \rangle = Z(G^+)$) are all the involutions of G^+ , we have that $tx = xt$ if and only if one of the following holds:- $x_1 = t_1, x_2 = t_2^{-1}$; $x_1 = t_1^{-1}, x_2 = t_2$; $\overline{x_1} \in \Delta_1^{(1)}(\overline{t_1})$ and $\overline{x_2} \in \Delta_1^{(2)}(\overline{t_2})$. Thus

$$\Delta_1^+(t) = \left\{ x_1x_2 \mid \overline{x_i} \in \Delta_1^{(i)}(\overline{t_i}), i = 1, 2 \right\} \cup \{t_1t_2^{-1}\}. \quad (4.8.1)$$

Hence, using [10],

$$|\Delta_1^+(t)| = 2 \left(\frac{1}{2}(q - \delta) \right)^2 + 1 = \frac{1}{2}(q - \delta)^2 + 1. \quad (4.8.2)$$

Next we examine $\Delta_2^+(t)$. Let $x \in Y^+$. Assume that $x = x_1t_2$ or $x_1t_2^{-1}$ where $\overline{x_1} \in \Delta_1^{(1)}(\overline{t_1})$. Then $x \in \Delta_1^+(t_1t_2^{-1})$ (recall $t_1t_2^{-1} = t_1^{-1}t_2$) which implies, by (4.8.1), that $x \in \Delta_2^+(t)$. If $x = t_1x_2$ or $t_1^{-1}x_2$ where $\overline{x_2} \in \Delta_1^{(2)}(\overline{t_2})$, we similarly get $x \in \Delta_2^+(t)$. Therefore

$$\left\{x_1x_2 \mid \overline{x_1} \in \Delta_1^{(1)}(\overline{t_1}), \overline{x_2} = \overline{t_2}\right\} \cup \left\{x_1x_2 \mid \overline{x_2} \in \Delta_1^{(2)}(\overline{t_2}), \overline{x_1} = \overline{t_1}\right\} \subseteq \Delta_2^+(t). \quad (4.8.3)$$

Now suppose $x = x_1x_2$ where $\overline{x_1} \in \Delta_2^{(1)}(\overline{t_1})$ and $\overline{x_2} \in \Delta_1^{(2)}(\overline{t_2})$. So there exists $\overline{y_1} \in \overline{L_1}$ such that $(\overline{t_1}, \overline{y_1}, \overline{x_1})$ is a path of length 2 in the commuting graph for $\overline{L_1}$. Then $(t = t_1t_2, y_1x_2^{-1}, x_1x_2 = x)$ is a path of length 2 in $\mathcal{C}(G^+, Y^+)$. Thus, by (4.8.1), $x \in \Delta_2^+(t)$. If, on the other hand, $\overline{x_1} \in \Delta_1^{(1)}(\overline{t_1})$ and $\overline{x_2} \in \Delta_2^{(2)}(\overline{t_2})$ we obtain the same conclusion. Should we have $\overline{x_1} \in \Delta_2^{(1)}(\overline{t_1})$ and $\overline{x_2} \in \Delta_2^{(2)}(\overline{t_2})$, similar arguments also give $x \in \Delta_2^+(t)$. So

$$\begin{aligned} & \left\{x_1x_2 \mid \overline{x_1} \in \Delta_2^{(1)}(\overline{t_1}), \overline{x_2} \in \Delta_1^{(2)}(\overline{t_2})\right\} \cup \left\{x_1x_2 \mid \overline{x_1} \in \Delta_1^{(1)}(\overline{t_1}), \overline{x_2} \in \Delta_2^{(2)}(\overline{t_2})\right\} \\ & \cup \left\{x_1x_2 \mid \overline{x_1} \in \Delta_2^{(1)}(\overline{t_1}), \overline{x_2} \in \Delta_2^{(2)}(\overline{t_2})\right\} \subseteq \Delta_2^+(t). \end{aligned} \quad (4.8.4)$$

Since $x = x_1x_2 \in \Delta_2^+(t)$ implies $d^{(i)}(\overline{t_i}, \overline{x_i}) \leq 2$ for $i = 1, 2$, $\Delta_2^+(t)$ is the union of the two sets in (4.8.3) and (4.8.4). Thus, employing [10],

$$|\Delta_2^+(t)| = \frac{1}{8}(q - \delta)^3(q - 4 - \delta) + (q - \delta)(q - 2 - \delta). \quad (4.8.5)$$

Now, as $q \notin \{3, 5, 9, 13\}$, by [10] the commuting graph for $\overline{L_i}$ is connected of diameter 3. Arguing as above we deduce that $\mathcal{C}(G^+, Y^+)$ is also connected with diameter 3. Because $|Y^+| = 2 \left| \overline{t_1}^{\overline{L_1}} \right| \left| \overline{t_2}^{\overline{L_2}} \right| = \frac{1}{2}q^2(q + \delta)^2$, combining (4.8.2) and (4.8.5) we may determine $|\Delta_3^+(t)|$ to be as stated, so completing the proof of Theorem 4.8. \square

Finally we look at $C_G(U)$ where $U \in \mathcal{U}_1^0$. This will prove to be trickier than the other two cases. Put $G^0 = C_G(U)$. So $G^0 \sim q^3 : L_2(q)$. We require an explicit description of G^0 which we now give. Let $Q = \{(\alpha, \beta, \gamma) \mid \alpha, \beta, \gamma \in GF(q)\}$ and

$$L = \left\{ \left(\begin{array}{ccc} a^2 & 2ab & b^2 \\ ac & ad + bc & bd \\ c^2 & 2cd & d^2 \end{array} \right) \mid \begin{array}{l} a, b, c, d \in GF(q) \\ ad - bc = 1 \end{array} \right\}.$$

with L acting on Q by right multiplication. Then $Q \sim q^3$ and $L \sim L_2(q)$. Since Q is the 3-dimensional $GF(q)L$ -module (see the description on page 15 of [4]), $G^0 \cong Q \rtimes L$. We will identify this semidirect product with G^0 , writing $G^0 = QL$. Any $g \in G^0$ has a unique expression $g = g_Q g_L$ where $g_Q \in Q$ and $g_L \in L$ - in what follows we use such subscripts to describe this expression. Set $Y^0 = G^0 \cap Y_2$, let d^0 denote the distance metric and $\Delta_i^0(t)$ the

i^{th} disc of the commuting graph $\mathcal{C}(G^0, Y^0)$. In determining the discs of $\mathcal{C}(G^0, Y^0)$ we make use of the commuting involution graph of $L \cong L_2(q)$ (as given in [10]). So we shall use d^L to denote the distance metric on $\mathcal{C}(L, L \cap Y^0)$ and for $x \in L \cap Y^0$ and $i \in \mathbb{N}$, $\Delta_i^L(x) = \{y \in L \cap Y^0 \mid d^L(x, y) = i\}$. It is straightforward to check that

$$L \cap Y^0 = \left\{ \begin{pmatrix} a^2 & 2ab & b^2 \\ ac & bc - a^2 & -ab \\ c^2 & -2ac & a^2 \end{pmatrix} \middle| \begin{array}{l} a, b, c \in GF(q) \\ a^2 + b^2 = -1 \end{array} \right\}$$

and, as G^0 has one conjugacy class of involutions, $Y^0 = \{x_Q x_L \mid x_L \in L \cap Y^0 \text{ and } x_L \text{ inverts } x_Q\}$. Without loss of generality, we take

$$t = t_L = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 0 & 1 \\ 0 & -1 & 0 \\ 1 & 0 & 0 \end{pmatrix}$$

and, up until Theorem 4.14, we will assume that $q \notin \{3, 5, 9, 13\}$. Thus the diameter of $\mathcal{C}(L, L \cap Y^0)$ is 3.

Lemma 4.9 (i) $Qt \cap Y^0 = \{(\alpha, \beta, -\alpha)t \mid \alpha, \beta \in GF(q)\}$ and $|Qt \cap Y^0| = q^2$.

(ii) $Qt \cap \Delta_1^0(t) = \emptyset$.

Proof A straightforward calculation. □

Lemma 4.10 We have

$$\Delta_1^0(t) = \left\{ x \middle| x_Q = (\alpha, 0, \alpha), x_L = \begin{pmatrix} a^2 & 2ab & b^2 \\ ab & b^2 - a^2 & -ab \\ b^2 & -2ab & a^2 \end{pmatrix}, a^2 + b^2 = -1 \right\},$$

and $|\Delta_1^0(t)| = \frac{1}{2}q(q - \delta)$.

Proof Let $x, y \in Y^0$. If $[x, y] = 1$ then clearly $[x_L, y_L] = 1$. From [10] we have

$$\Delta_1^L(t) = \left\{ \begin{pmatrix} a^2 & 2ab & b^2 \\ ab & b^2 - a^2 & -ab \\ b^2 & -2ab & a^2 \end{pmatrix} \middle| a^2 + b^2 = -1 \right\}.$$

If $x_Q = (\alpha, \beta, \gamma)$ and $x_L \in \Delta_1^L(t)$ then $[t, x] = 1$ implies $\alpha = \gamma$ and $\beta = 0$. Moreover, every $x = (\alpha, 0, \alpha)x_L$, where $x_L \in \Delta_1^L(t)$, is in Y^0 . Hence, $\Delta_1^0(t)$ is as described above. By [10], for any involution $x_L \in L$ we have $|\Delta_1^L(x_L)| = \frac{1}{2}(q - \delta)$ and there are q possible values that α can take for a fixed such x_L , proving the lemma. □

Lemma 4.11 Let $x \in Y^0$ with $x_L \in \Delta_1^L(t)$. If $x \notin \Delta_1^0(t)$, then $x \in \Delta_2^0(t)$.

Proof Suppose $x \in Y^0$ where $x_Q = (\alpha, \beta, \gamma)$ and

$$x_L = \begin{pmatrix} a^2 & 2ab & b^2 \\ ab & b^2 - a^2 & -ab \\ b^2 & -2ab & a^2 \end{pmatrix}.$$

Then x_L inverts x_Q if and only if

$$\begin{aligned} a^2\alpha + 2ab\beta + b^2\gamma &= -\alpha \\ ab\alpha + (b^2 - a^2)\beta - ab\gamma &= -\beta \\ b^2\alpha - 2ab\beta + a^2\gamma &= -\gamma. \end{aligned} \tag{4.11.1}$$

Suppose first that $\delta = -1$. Then, since -1 is not square in $GF(q)$, we must have $a, b \neq 0$. Rearranging the first equation gives $\alpha = 2ab^{-1}\beta + \gamma$ and (4.11.1) remains consistent. Note that when $\beta = 0$, we have $\alpha = \gamma$ and so $x \in \Delta_1^0(t)$. So assume $\beta \neq 0$. Let $y \in \Delta_1^0(t)$ where $y_Q = (ab^{-1}\beta + \gamma, 0, ab^{-1}\beta + \gamma)$ and

$$y_L = \begin{pmatrix} b^2 & -2ab & a^2 \\ -ab & a^2 - b^2 & ab \\ a^2 & 2ab & b^2 \end{pmatrix}.$$

It is a routine calculation to show that $[x, y] = 1$, proving the lemma for $\delta = -1$. Now assume $\delta = 1$. If $a, b \neq 0$ then the argument from the previous case still holds, so assume first that $a = 0$, and hence b is the unique element in $GF(q)$ that squares to -1 . Then (4.11.1) simplifies to $\alpha = \gamma$, and so $x_Q = (\alpha, \beta, \alpha)$. Let $z \in \Delta_1^0(t)$ where $z_Q = (\alpha, 0, \alpha)$ and

$$z_L = \begin{pmatrix} -1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & -1 \end{pmatrix}.$$

An easy calculation shows that $[x, z] = 1$. Similarly, assuming $b = 0$ then a is the unique element of $GF(q)$ squaring to -1 and (4.11.1) simplifies to $\beta = 0$. Then $x_Q = (\alpha, 0, \gamma)$ and if $w \in \Delta_1^0(t)$ where $w_Q = (2^{-1}(\alpha + \gamma), 0, 2^{-1}(\alpha + \gamma))$ and

$$w_L = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 0 & -1 \\ 0 & -1 & 0 \\ -1 & 0 & 0 \end{pmatrix}$$

then an easy check shows that $[x, w] = 1$, proving the lemma for $\delta = 1$. □

Lemma 4.12 *We have $Qt \cap Y^0 \subseteq \{t\} \cup \Delta_2^0(t) \cup \Delta_3^0(t)$. Moreover,*

$$\begin{aligned} |Qt \cap \Delta_2^0(t)| &= \frac{1}{2}(q^2 - (1 + \delta)q + \delta); \text{ and} \\ |Qt \cap \Delta_3^0(t)| &= \frac{1}{2}(q^2 + (1 + \delta)q - (2 + \delta)). \end{aligned}$$

Proof If $x \in Qt \cap Y^0$ and $x \neq t$ then $x_Q = (\alpha, \beta, -\alpha)$ and $x \notin \Delta_1^0(t)$ by Lemma 4.9. Let $y \in \Delta_1^0(t)$ where $y_Q = (\gamma, 0, \gamma)$ and

$$y_L = \begin{pmatrix} a^2 & 2ab & b^2 \\ ab & b^2 - a^2 & -ab \\ b^2 & -2ab & a^2 \end{pmatrix}$$

with $a^2 + b^2 = -1$. Then $[x, y] = 1$ if and only if $-a^2\alpha = ab\beta$ and $-b^2\beta = ab\alpha$.

Assume first that $\delta = -1$. Since -1 is not square in $GF(q)$, we have $a, b \neq 0$ and so $\alpha = -a^{-1}b\beta$. Hence if $y \in Qt$ is such that $y_Q = (-a^{-1}b\beta, \beta, a^{-1}b\beta)$, then $y \in \Delta_2^0(t)$. By looking at $\Delta_1^L(t)$, we see there are $q+1$ ordered pairs (a, b) that satisfy $a^2 + b^2 = -1$. However, if $(a, b) \neq (c, d)$ where $a^2 + b^2 = c^2 + d^2 = -1$ and $a^{-1}b = c^{-1}d$, then an easy calculation shows that $(c, d) = (-a, -b)$. Hence there are $\frac{1}{2}(q+1)$ distinct values of $a^{-1}b$ satisfying the relevant conditions. If $\beta = 0$ then $x = t$ and if $\beta \neq 0$ there are $\frac{1}{2}(q^2 - 1)$ elements in $Qt \cap \Delta_2^0(t)$.

Assume now that $\delta = 1$. If $a, b \neq 0$ then the arguments of the previous case still hold, with the exception that there are now $q-1$ ordered pairs (a, b) that satisfy $a^2 + b^2 = -1$. However, as $a, b \neq 0$ we exclude the pairs $(\pm i, 0)$ and $(0, \pm i)$ where i is the unique element of $GF(q)$ squaring to -1 . Hence there are $q-5$ ordered pairs (a, b) satisfying $a^2 + b^2 = -1$, $a, b \neq 0$ and thus $\frac{1}{2}(q-5)$ distinct values of $a^{-1}b$. Hence there are $\frac{1}{2}(q-5)(q-1)$ elements $z \in Qt \cap \Delta_2^0(t)$ such that $z_Q = (-a^{-1}b\beta, \beta, a^{-1}b\beta)$ where $\beta \neq 0$ (note that if $\beta = 0$, then $z = t$). Suppose $a = 0$, then $b \neq 0$ and so $\beta = 0$. Hence $x_Q = (\alpha, 0, -\alpha)$ and all such x lie in $\Delta_2^0(t)$ if $\alpha \neq 0$. Similarly, if $b = 0$ then $a \neq 0$ and $x_Q = (0, \beta, 0)$ where $\beta \neq 0$ and all such x lie in $\Delta_2^0(t)$. Therefore, $|Qt \cap \Delta_2^0(t)| = \frac{1}{2}(q-5)(q-1) + 2(q-1) = \frac{1}{2}(q-1)^2$ as required.

Hence it suffices to show that these remaining involutions all lie in $\Delta_3^0(t)$. Let $w \in Qt$ be such that $w_Q = (\gamma, \varepsilon, -\gamma)$. Choose $s \in Y^0$ such that $s_Q = (ab\varepsilon - b^2\gamma, ab\gamma - a^2\varepsilon, b^2\gamma - ab\varepsilon)$ with $ab\gamma \neq a^2\varepsilon$ and

$$s_L = \begin{pmatrix} b^2 & -2ab & a^2 \\ -ab & a^2 - b^2 & ab \\ a^2 & 2ab & b^2 \end{pmatrix},$$

with $a^2 + b^2 = -1$. It is an easy check to show that $s \in \Delta_2^0(t)$, and moreover $[w, s] = 1$. This accounts for the remaining involutions in Qt , thus proving the lemma. \square

Lemma 4.13 *Suppose $x \in Y^0$ with $x_L \in \Delta_2^L(t)$. Then $x \in \Delta_2^0(t)$.*

Proof It can be shown (see Remark 2.3 of [10], noting the result holds for any odd q) that for a fixed $a, b \in GF(q)$ such that $a^2 + b^2 = -1$,

$$C_L \left(\begin{pmatrix} a^2 & 2ab & b^2 \\ ab & b^2 - a^2 & -ab \\ b^2 & -2ab & a^2 \end{pmatrix} \right) = \left\{ \begin{pmatrix} c^2 & 2cd & d^2 \\ ce & de - c^2 & -cd \\ e^2 & -2ce & c^2 \end{pmatrix} \mid \begin{array}{l} c^2 + de = -1 \\ b(e+d) = -2ac \end{array} \right\}.$$

Let $y \in Y^0$ be such that $y_Q = (\alpha, \beta, \gamma)$ and

$$y_L = \begin{pmatrix} c^2 & 2cd & d^2 \\ ce & de - c^2 & -cd \\ e^2 & -2ce & c^2 \end{pmatrix} \in \Delta_2^L(t).$$

So there exists $a, b \in GF(q)$ such that $a^2 + b^2 = -1$ and $b(e + d) = -2ac$ with $d \neq e$. Since y_L inverts y_Q , we have

$$\begin{aligned} c^2\alpha + 2cd\beta + d^2\gamma &= -\alpha \\ ce\alpha + (de - c^2)\beta - cd\gamma &= -\beta \\ e^2\alpha - 2ce\beta + c^2\gamma &= -\gamma. \end{aligned} \tag{4.13.1}$$

Assume first that $\delta = -1$. Since -1 is not square in $GF(q)$, then $d, e \neq 0$ and any $a, b \in GF(q)$ such that $b(d + e) = -2ac$ and $a^2 + b^2 = -1$ must also be non-zero. Moreover, if $c = 0$ then $d = -e^{-1}$ and $b(d - d^{-1}) = 0$ implying that $d = -1$. But then $y_L = t \notin \Delta_2^L(t)$, so $c \neq 0$. The system (4.13.1) now simplifies to $\alpha = 2ce^{-1}\beta + de^{-1}\gamma$. Let $x \in \Delta_1^0(t)$ be such that $x_Q = (\varepsilon, 0, \varepsilon)$ and

$$x_L = \begin{pmatrix} a^2 & 2ab & b^2 \\ ab & b^2 - a^2 & -ab \\ b^2 & -2ab & a^2 \end{pmatrix}$$

where $\varepsilon = -abc^{-1}e^{-1}(\gamma + (d - e)^{-1}(2c + a^{-1}be - ab^{-1}e - (ab)^{-1}e)\beta)$. Using the `PolynomialAlgebra` command in MAGMA [15] we verify that $[x, y] = 1$ and so $y \in \Delta_2^0(t)$.

Assume now that $\delta = 1$. Let $a, b \in GF(q)$ be such that $a^2 + b^2 = -1$ and $b(d + e) = -2ac$. Suppose $c, d, e \neq 0$ and $d \neq -e$. Then $b(d + e) = -2ac \neq 0$ and so $a, b \neq 0$. The argument for the case when $\delta = -1$ then holds. Suppose then $c, d, e \neq 0$ and $d = -e$. Then $b(d + e) = -2ac = 0$ and since $c \neq 0$ we must have $a = 0$ and $b^2 = -1$. The system (4.13.1) then becomes $\alpha = 2ce^{-1}\beta - \gamma$. If $x \in \Delta_1^0(t)$ is such that $x_Q = (-c^{-1}e^{-1}\beta, 0, -c^{-1}e^{-1}\beta)$ and

$$x_L = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 0 & -1 \\ 0 & -1 & 0 \\ -1 & 0 & 0 \end{pmatrix}$$

then a routine check shows that $[x, y] = 1$.

Now assume $c \neq 0$ and $d = 0$. Since $y_L \in \Delta_2^L(t)$, we must have $e \neq 0$ and so $c^2 = -1$. The system (4.13.1) becomes $\alpha = 2ce^{-1}\beta$ and using MAGMA [15] we deduce that if $x \in \Delta_1^0(t)$ where $x_Q = (\varepsilon, 0, \varepsilon)$,

$$x_L = \begin{pmatrix} a^2 & 2ab & b^2 \\ ab & b^2 - a^2 & -ab \\ b^2 & -2ab & a^2 \end{pmatrix}$$

and $\varepsilon = (ce^{-1}(1-a^2) - ab)\beta - 2^{-1}b^2\gamma$, then $[x, y] = 1$. Similarly, if $c \neq 0$ and $e = 0$, then $d \neq 0$ and $c^2 = -1$. The system (4.13.1) becomes $\beta = 2^{-1}cd\gamma$ and [15] will verify that if $x \in \Delta_1^0(t)$ where $x_Q = (\varepsilon, 0, \varepsilon)$,

$$x_L = \begin{pmatrix} a^2 & 2ab & b^2 \\ ab & b^2 - a^2 & -ab \\ b^2 & -2ab & a^2 \end{pmatrix}$$

and $\varepsilon = 2^{-1}(\gamma - b^2\alpha + abcd\gamma - a^2\gamma)$, then $[x, y] = 1$.

Finally, if $c = 0$ then $d = -e^{-1}$ and so $a^2 = -1$ and $b = 0$ satisfies the relevant conditions. Note that if $d = \pm 1$ then $y_L = t$, so we may assume $d \neq \pm 1$. The system (4.13.1) becomes $\alpha = d^2\gamma$, so if $x \in \Delta_1^0(t)$ where $x_Q = (2d^2\gamma(1-d^2)^{-1}, 0, 2d^2\gamma(1-d^2)^{-1})$ and

$$x_L = \begin{pmatrix} -1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & -1 \end{pmatrix}$$

then a routine check again shows that $[x, y] = 1$. Therefore, for all $y \in Y^0$ such that $y_L \in \Delta_2^L(t)$, there exists $x \in \Delta_1^L(t)$ such that $[x, y] = 1$, so proving the lemma. \square

Theorem 4.14 *If $q \notin \{3, 5, 9, 13\}$, then $\mathcal{C}(G^0, Y^0)$ is connected of diameter 3, with disc sizes*

$$\begin{aligned} |\Delta_1^0(t)| &= \frac{1}{2}q(q - \delta); \\ |\Delta_2^0(t)| &= \frac{1}{4}(q^4 - (2\delta + 2)q^3 + (1 + 2\delta)q^2 - 2q + 2\delta); \text{ and} \\ |\Delta_3^0(t)| &= \frac{1}{4}(q^4 + 2(1 + 2\delta)q^3 - (3 + 2\delta)q^2 + 2(1 + \delta)q - 2(2 + \delta)). \end{aligned}$$

Proof It is known that $\mathcal{C}(L, L \cap Y^0)$ has diameter 3. Hence, for any $h_i \in \Delta_i^L(t)$, there exists $h_{i\pm 1} \in \Delta_{i\pm 1}^L(t)$ that commutes with h_i , $i = 1, 2$. Therefore for any $x \in Y^0$ where $x_L \in \Delta_i^L(t)$, there exists $y \in Y^0$ with $y_L \in \Delta_{i\pm 1}^L(t)$ and such that $[x, y] = 1$. Since any $z \in Y^0$ where $z_L \in \Delta_3^L(t)$ must commute with some $w \in Y^0$ with $w_L \in \Delta_2^L(t)$ (which lies in $\Delta_2^0(t)$ by Lemma 4.13), $z \in \Delta_3^0(t)$. This finally covers all possible involutions in Y^0 and so the diameter of $\mathcal{C}(G^0, Y^0)$ is 3. Now for each $x_L \in L \cap Y^0$, $|Qx_L \cap Y^0| = q^2$ by Lemma 4.9, and therefore there are $\frac{1}{2}q^2(q - \delta)$ involutions $y \in Y^0$ such that $y_L \in \Delta_1^L(t)$. From Lemma 4.10, $|\Delta_1^0(t)| = \frac{1}{2}q(q - \delta)$. Therefore

$$\left| \bigcup_{x_L \in \Delta_1^L(t)} Qx_L \cap \Delta_2^0(t) \right| = \frac{1}{2}q^2(q - \delta) - \frac{1}{2}q(q - \delta) = \frac{1}{2}q(q - 1)(q - \delta).$$

There are $q^2 |\Delta_2^L(t)|$ involutions $z \in Y^0$ such that $z_L \in \Delta_2^L(t)$, which is known to be $\frac{1}{4}q^2(q - \delta)(q - 4 - \delta)$ (see [10]). Also, by Lemma 4.12, $|Qt \cap \Delta_2^0(t)| = \frac{1}{2}(q^2 - (1 + \delta)q - \delta)$. Hence

$$\begin{aligned} |\Delta_2^0(t)| &= |Qt \cap \Delta_2^0(t)| + \left| \bigcup_{x_L \in \Delta_1^L(t)} Qx_L \cap \Delta_2^0(t) \right| + q^2 |\Delta_2^L(t)| \\ &= \frac{1}{4}(q^4 - (2\delta + 2)q^3 + (1 + 2\delta)q^2 - 2q + 2\delta). \end{aligned}$$

Finally, there are $|Y^0| = q^2 |L \cap Y^0| = \frac{1}{2}q^3(q + \delta)$ involutions in G^0 and therefore

$$\begin{aligned} |\Delta_3^0(t)| &= |Y^0| - |\Delta_2^0(t)| - |\Delta_1^0(t)| - 1 \\ &= \frac{1}{4}(q^4 + 2(1 + 2\delta)q^3 - (3 + 2\delta)q^2 + 2(1 + \delta)q - 2(2 + \delta)) \end{aligned}$$

which proves Theorem 4.14. □

Theorem 4.15 $\mathcal{C}(G, Y_2)$ is connected of diameter at most 3.

Proof For $q \leq 13$, this is easily checked using MAGMA [15], so assume $q > 13$. Combining Lemma 4.3 with Theorems 4.6, 4.8 and 4.14 yields the theorem. □

We now focus on finding the disc sizes of $\mathcal{C}(G, Y_2)$. First, we need the following four lemmas.

Lemma 4.16 The sets \mathcal{U}_1^+ , \mathcal{U}_1^- and \mathcal{U}_1^0 are single $C_G(t)$ -orbits. Moreover,

$$\begin{aligned} |\mathcal{U}_1^0| &= q + 1; \\ |\mathcal{U}_1^+| &= \frac{1}{2}q(q + \delta); \text{ and} \\ |\mathcal{U}_1^-| &= \frac{1}{2}q(q - \delta). \end{aligned}$$

Proof Since $C_G(t)$ acts orthogonally on $C_V(t)$, the first statement is immediate. Recall the Gram matrix J for V with respect to $(\ , \)$ and the basis $\{v_i\}$. Observe that $C_V(t) = \{(\alpha, \beta, \gamma, 0, \gamma) \mid \alpha, \beta, \gamma \in GF(q)\}$ and so a basis for $C_V(t)$ is $\{v_1, v_2, v_3 + v_5\}$. Let $v = (\alpha, \beta, \gamma, 0, \gamma)$ be a non-zero vector in $C_V(t)$ and so $(v, v) = 2\alpha\beta + 2\gamma^2$.

Suppose v is isotropic, so $C_G(\langle v \rangle) \sim q^3 : L_2(q)$ and $(v, v) = 2\alpha\beta + 2\gamma^2 = 0$. If $\gamma = 0$, then $\alpha\beta = 0$ and so either $\alpha = 0$ or $\beta = 0$ (but not both as $v \neq 0$). Hence there are $2(q - 1)$ such vectors with $\gamma = 0$. If $\gamma \neq 0$, then $\alpha = -\beta^{-1}\gamma^2$ and there are $(q - 1)^2$ such vectors satisfying this. Hence there are $2(q - 1) + (q - 1)^2 = (q - 1)(q + 1)$ non-zero isotropic vectors contained

in $C_V(t)$ and thus $q + 1$ isotropic 1-subspaces of $C_V(t)$.

Suppose now v is $C_G(t)$ -conjugate to $v_3 + v_5$, which is non-isotropic. Note that $\langle v_3 + v_5 \rangle^\perp \cap C_V(t)$ is a 2-subspace of V of $+$ -type. If $\delta = 1$, then by Lemma 4.1(ii), $\langle v_3 + v_5 \rangle^\perp$ is a 4-subspace of V of $+$ -type and so $C_G(\langle v_3 + v_5 \rangle) \sim SL_2(q) \circ SL_2(q)$. While $\delta = -1$ gives that $\langle v_3 + v_5 \rangle^\perp$ is a 4-subspace of V of $-$ -type and so $C_G(\langle v_3 + v_5 \rangle) \sim L_2(q^2)$. A quick check shows that $(v_3 + v_5, v_3 + v_5) = 2$ and so $(v, v) = 2\alpha\beta + 2\gamma^2 = 2\lambda^2$ for some $\lambda \in GF(q)^*$. Thus, $\alpha\beta + \gamma^2 = \lambda^2$ for some $\lambda \in GF(q)^*$. If $\gamma = 0$, then $\alpha = \beta^{-1}\lambda^2$ and so there are $q - 1$ such vectors that satisfy this. If $\gamma = \pm\lambda$, then $\alpha\beta = 0$ and so for both values of γ , there are $2(q - 1) + 1$ vectors that satisfy this. Finally, if $\gamma \in GF(q) \setminus \{0, \lambda, -\lambda\}$, then $\alpha\beta = 1 - \gamma^2 \neq 0$ and so $\alpha = \beta^{-1}(1 - \gamma^2)$. There are $(q - 1)(q - 3)$ such vectors that satisfy this. Hence for any given λ , there exist $(q - 1) + 4(q - 1) + 2 + (q - 1)(q - 3) = q(q + 1)$ vectors that satisfy $\alpha\beta + \gamma^2 = \lambda^2$. Since there are $\frac{1}{2}(q - 1)$ squares in $GF(q)$, there are $q(q + 1)(q - 1)$ vectors that are $C_G(t)$ -conjugate to $v_3 + v_5$ and hence $\frac{1}{2}(q + 1)$ 1-subspaces of $C_V(t)$ that are $C_G(t)$ -conjugate to $v_3 + v_5$. This leaves the remaining orbit \mathcal{U}_1^- . Recall there are $q^2 + q + 1$ subspaces of $C_V(t_1)$ of dimension 1, and hence the size of the remaining orbit is $q^2 + q + 1 - (q + 1) - \frac{1}{2}q(q + 1) = \frac{1}{2}q(q - 1)$, so proving the lemma. \square

Corollary 4.17 *The sets \mathcal{U}_2^+ , \mathcal{U}_2^- and \mathcal{U}_2^0 are single $C_G(t)$ -orbits. Moreover,*

$$\begin{aligned} |\mathcal{U}_2^0| &= q + 1; \\ |\mathcal{U}_2^+| &= \frac{1}{2}q(q + 1); \text{ and} \\ |\mathcal{U}_2^-| &= \frac{1}{2}q(q - 1). \end{aligned}$$

Proof Since $C_V(t)$ is 3-dimensional, $U^\perp \cap C_V(t) \in \mathcal{U}_1$ for any $U \in \mathcal{U}_2$, and so the result is immediate by Lemma 4.16. \square

Lemma 4.18 *Let $U, U' \in \mathcal{U}_2$ be such that $U \neq U'$. Then $C_G(U) \cap C_G(U') \cap Y_2 = \{t\}$.*

Proof Suppose $x \in C_G(U) \cap C_G(U') \cap Y_2$. Since $U \neq U'$ and x fixes each 2-subspace pointwise, $U + U' = C_V(t)$ and so x fixes $C_V(t)$ pointwise. That is to say, $C_V(x) = C_V(t)$ and so $t = x$ by Lemma 4.2(i). \square

Lemma 4.19 *Let $U_0 \in \mathcal{U}_2^0$, and $G^0 = QL$, Y^0 be as defined in the discussion prior to Lemma 4.9. Let $\rho : C_G(U_0^\perp \cap C_V(t)) \rightarrow G^0$ be an isomorphism such that*

$$t^\rho = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 0 & 1 \\ 0 & -1 & 0 \\ 1 & 0 & 0 \end{pmatrix}.$$

Then $C_G(U_0)$ is totally disconnected and $(C_G(U_0) \cap Y_2)^\rho = Qt \cap Y^0$.

Proof Since $U_0^\perp \cap C_V(t)$ is isotropic, it must lie inside of U_0 and so $C_G(U_0) \leq C_G(U_0^\perp \cap C_V(t))$. As t fixes U_0 pointwise, $t^\rho \in (C_G(U_0))^\rho \sim q^2 : \frac{q-\delta}{2}$ by Lemma 4.5(i). The subgroup of L with shape $\frac{q-\delta}{2}$ contains one single involution which must necessarily be t^ρ . For all $x \in Y^0$, we have $x_L^2 = 1$ and x_L inverts x_Q , so $(C_G(U_0) \cap Y_2)^\rho \subseteq Qt \cap Y^0$. By comparing the orders of both sides, we get equality. By Lemma 4.9(ii) $C_G(U_0) \cap C_G(t) \cap Y_2 = \{t\}$, hence $C_G(U_0)$ is totally disconnected. \square

Lemma 4.20 $|\Delta_1(t)| = \frac{1}{2}q(q^2 + (1 - \delta)q + \delta)$.

Proof Clearly, $x \in \Delta_1(t)$ if and only if $x \in \Delta_1(t) \cap C_G(U)$ for $U = C_V(t) \cap C_V(x)$, so

$$\Delta_1(t) = \bigcup_{U \in \mathcal{U}_1 \cup \mathcal{U}_2} (\Delta_1(t) \cap C_G(U)).$$

If $W, W' \in \mathcal{U}_1$ with $W \neq W'$, then $W \oplus W' \in \mathcal{U}_2$ and if $y \in C_G(W) \cap C_G(W')$ then $y \in C_G(W \oplus W')$ and hence $y \in C_G(W'')$ for any 1-subspace W'' of $W \oplus W'$. Since there are $q + 1$ subspaces of W'' of dimension 1, any such y will lie in exactly $q + 1$ such $C_G(U)$ for $U \in \mathcal{U}_1$. Together with $C_G(W'')$ and Lemma 4.18,

$$|\Delta_1(t)| = \sum_{U \in \mathcal{U}_1} |\Delta_1(t) \cap C_G(U)| - q \sum_{U \in \mathcal{U}_2} |\Delta_1(t) \cap C_G(U)|.$$

Combining Lemmas 4.16, 4.19 and Corollary 4.17 with Theorems 4.6, 4.8, 4.14 and [10], we have

$$\begin{aligned} |\Delta_1(t)| &= \frac{1}{2}q(q+1)(q-\delta) + \frac{1}{2}q(q+\delta) \left[\frac{1}{2}(q-\delta)^2 + 1 \right] + \frac{1}{4}q(q-\delta)(q^2-1) \\ &\quad - \frac{1}{2}q(q-\delta) \left[\frac{1}{2}q(q+1) + \frac{1}{2}q(q-1) \right] \\ &= \frac{1}{2}q(q^2 + (1-\delta)q + \delta) \end{aligned}$$

as required. \square

We now consider the second disc $\Delta_2(t)$. Here, we must be careful as elements that are distance 2 from t in some subgroup $C_G(U)$ may not be distance 2 from t in another subgroup $C_G(U')$. Moreover, there may be elements that are distance 3 from t in every such subgroup centralizing

an element of \mathcal{U}_1 , but actually are distance 2 from t in G . We introduce the following notation. Let $\Delta_2^K(t)$ be the second disc in the commuting involution graph $\mathcal{C}(K, K \cap Y_2)$ and

$$\Gamma_i(K) = \{x \in \Delta_2^K(t) \mid \dim C_V(\langle t, x \rangle) = i\}$$

for $K = C_G(U)$, $U \in \mathcal{U}_1 \cup \mathcal{U}_2$. Clearly, $\Delta_2(t) = \Gamma_1(G) \dot{\cup} \Gamma_2(G)$. A full list of cases with corresponding notation is found in Table 1. Also we use the following notation: for any $U \leq C_V(t)$, define $\mathcal{U}_i(U)$ to be the totality of i -dimensional subspaces of U and $\mathcal{W}_i(U)$ to be the totality of i -dimensional subspaces of $C_V(t)$ containing U . Note that $\mathcal{U}_i = \mathcal{U}_i(C_V(t))$.

Lemma 4.21 (i) If $W \in \mathcal{U}_2^0$, then $|\mathcal{U}_1^0 \cap \mathcal{U}_1(W)| = 1$ and $|\mathcal{U}_1^+ \cap \mathcal{U}_1(W)| = q$.

(ii) If $W \in \mathcal{U}_2^+$, then $|\mathcal{U}_1^0 \cap \mathcal{U}_1(W)| = 2$ and $|\mathcal{U}_1^+ \cap \mathcal{U}_1(W)| = |\mathcal{U}_1^- \cap \mathcal{U}_1(W)| = \frac{q-1}{2}$.

(iii) If $W \in \mathcal{U}_2^-$, then $|\mathcal{U}_1^+ \cap \mathcal{U}_1(W)| = |\mathcal{U}_1^- \cap \mathcal{U}_1(W)| = \frac{q+1}{2}$.

Proof Recall the Gram matrix J , with respect to the ordered basis $\{v_i\}$, $i = 1, \dots, 5$. Suppose $W^\perp \cap C_V(t) = U_0 \in \mathcal{U}_1^0$. Without loss of generality, choose $W = \langle v_1, v_3 + v_5 \rangle$. Clearly $\langle v_1 \rangle \in \mathcal{U}_1^0$, and $\langle v_3 + v_5 \rangle^\perp \cap C_V(t) \in \mathcal{U}_2^+$. Since

$$(v_1 + \lambda(v_3 + v_5), v_1 + \lambda(v_3 + v_5)) = \lambda^2(v_3 + v_5),$$

$v_1 + \lambda(v_3 + v_5)$ lies in the same $C_G(t)$ -orbit as $v_3 + v_5$ and so $\langle v_1 + \lambda(v_3 + v_5) \rangle^\perp \cap C_V(t) \in \mathcal{U}_2^+$, proving (i).

Suppose now $W \in \mathcal{U}_2^+$. Without loss of generality, choose $W = \langle v_1, v_2 \rangle$. Clearly $\langle v_1 \rangle, \langle v_2 \rangle \in \mathcal{U}_1^0$. Let $U_\lambda = v_1 + \lambda v_2$ for $\lambda \neq 0$ and note that $(v_1 + \lambda v_2, v_1 + \lambda v_2) = 2\lambda = \mu \neq 0$. Since the type of U_λ^\perp is determined by whether μ is a square or a non-square in $GF(q)$, and there are $\frac{q-1}{2}$ of each, it is clear that there exist $\frac{q-1}{2}$ such U_λ for which U_λ^\perp is of $+$ -type, and similarly for $-$ -type, proving (ii).

Finally suppose $W \in \mathcal{U}_2^-$, so for all $v \in W$, $(v, v) \neq 0$. The simple orthogonal group on W is cyclic of order $\frac{q+1}{2}$ and acts on the 1-subspaces of W in exactly two orbits with representatives $\langle u_1 \rangle$ and $\langle u_2 \rangle$ where (u_1, u_1) is a square and (u_2, u_2) is a non-square in $GF(q)$. Since $|\mathcal{U}_1(W)| = q+1$, both orbits must be of size $\frac{q+1}{2}$. This proves (iii) and hence the lemma follows. \square

Corollary 4.22 Let $U \in \mathcal{U}_1$. Then,

(i) $|\mathcal{W}_2(U)| = q+1$

(ii) If $U \in \mathcal{U}_1^0$, then $|\mathcal{U}_2^0 \cap \mathcal{W}_2(U)| = 1$ and $|\mathcal{U}_2^+ \cap \mathcal{W}_2(U)| = q$.

(iii) If $U \in \mathcal{U}_1^\delta$, then $|\mathcal{U}_2^0 \cap \mathcal{W}_2(U)| = 2$ and $|\mathcal{U}_2^+ \cap \mathcal{W}_2(U)| = |\mathcal{U}_2^- \cap \mathcal{W}_2(U)| = \frac{q-1}{2}$.

(iv) If $U \in \mathcal{U}_2^{-\delta}$, then $|\mathcal{U}_2^+ \cap \mathcal{W}_2(U)| = |\mathcal{U}_2^- \cap \mathcal{W}_2(U)| = \frac{q+1}{2}$.

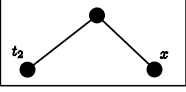
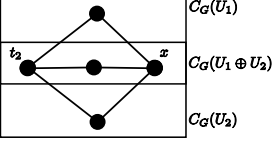
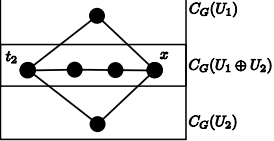
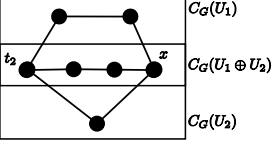
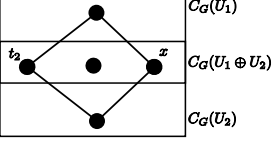
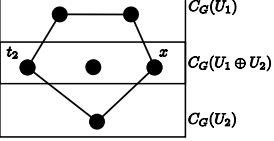
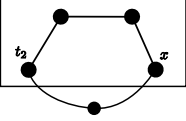
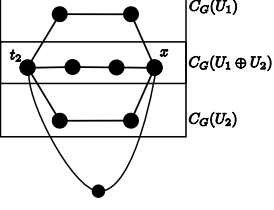
Case	Configuration	Properties	Description as Set
1	 $C_G(U_1)$	$x \in \Delta_2^{C_G(U_1)}(t)$ $U_1 = C_V(\langle t, x \rangle) \in \mathcal{U}_1$	$\dot{\bigcup}_{U \in \mathcal{U}_1} \Gamma_1(C_G(U))$
2	 $C_G(U_1)$ $C_G(U_1 \oplus U_2)$ $C_G(U_2)$	$x \in \Delta_2^{C_G(U_1 \oplus U_2)}(t)$ $U_1 \oplus U_2 = C_V(\langle t, x \rangle)$ $U_i \in \mathcal{U}_1$	$\dot{\bigcup}_{W \in \mathcal{U}_2} \Gamma_2(C_G(W))$
3	 $C_G(U_1)$ $C_G(U_1 \oplus U_2)$ $C_G(U_2)$  $C_G(U_1)$ $C_G(U_1 \oplus U_2)$ $C_G(U_2)$  $C_G(U_1)$ $C_G(U_1 \oplus U_2)$ $C_G(U_2)$  $C_G(U_1)$ $C_G(U_1 \oplus U_2)$ $C_G(U_2)$	$x \in \Delta_2^{C_G(U_2)}(t)$ for some $U_2 \leq C_V(\langle t, x \rangle)$ $x \notin \Delta_2^{C_G(U_1 \oplus U_2)}(t)$ $U_1 \oplus U_2 = C_V(\langle t, x \rangle)$ $U_i \in \mathcal{U}_1$	$\bigcup_{U \in \mathcal{U}_1} \Gamma_2(C_G(U)) \setminus \dot{\bigcup}_{W \in \mathcal{U}_2} \Gamma_2(C_G(W))$
4	 $C_G(U_1)$	$x \in \Delta_2^G(t)$ $x \notin \Delta_2^{C_G(U_1)}(t)$ $U_1 = C_V(\langle t, x \rangle) \in \mathcal{U}_1$	$\Gamma_1(G) \setminus \dot{\bigcup}_{U \in \mathcal{U}_1} \Gamma_1(C_G(U))$
5	 $C_G(U_1)$ $C_G(U_1 \oplus U_2)$ $C_G(U_2)$	$x \in \Delta_2^G(t)$ $x \notin \Delta_2^{C_G(U_i)}(t)$ for any $U_i \leq C_V(\langle t, x \rangle)$ $U_1 \oplus U_2 = C_V(\langle t, x \rangle)$ $U_i \in \mathcal{U}_1$	$\Gamma_2(G) \setminus \bigcup_{U \in \mathcal{U}_1} \Gamma_2(C_G(U))$

Table 1: List of cases in $\Delta_2(t)$

Proof Let $U \leq W \leq C_V(t)$. Then $W^\perp \cap C_V(t) \leq U^\perp \cap C_V(t) \leq C_V(t)$. The result follows from Lemma 4.21. \square

Lemma 4.23 *Let $U \in \mathcal{U}_1^0$ and $W \in \mathcal{U}_2^+ \cap \mathcal{W}_2(U)$. If $x \in Y_2 \cap C_G(W)$ is such that $d^{C_G(W)}(t, x) = 3$, then $d^{C_G(U)}(t, x) = 3$. Moreover,*

$$|\Gamma_1(C_G(U))| = \begin{cases} \frac{1}{4}q(q-3)(q-1)^2 & q \equiv 1 \pmod{4} \\ \frac{1}{4}q(q-1)^2(q+1) & q \equiv -1 \pmod{4}. \end{cases}$$

Proof Recall that $C_G(U) = QL \sim G^0$ where G^0 is defined as in the discussion prior to Lemma 4.9. By conjugacy, we may assume $L = C_G(W)$. Now $C_G(U) \cap C_G(t) = Q_0 C_L(t) \sim q : Dih(q-\delta)$ where $Q_0 \leq Q$ is elementary abelian of order q . Let $x \in Q_0 C_L(t) \cap Y_2$, so $x_L^2 = 1$ and x_L inverts x_Q . Clearly, $x_L^{x_Q} = x_L x_Q^2 \notin L$ since Q_0 is of odd order. Hence, $C_L(t)$ is self-normalizing in $Q_0 C_L(t)$ and thus there are q distinct conjugates of $C_L(t)$ in $Q_0 C_L(t)$. Let $g \in Q_0 C_L(t) \setminus C_L(t)$, so $C_L(t)^g \neq C_L(t)$. Now $[C_L(t), t] = [C_L(t)^g, t] = 1$ and so $\langle C_L(t), C_L(t)^g \rangle$ centralizes t . If $C_L(t), C_L(t)^g \leq L^h$ for some $h \in QL$, then $\langle C_L(t), C_L(t)^g \rangle \leq L^h$. However, $C_L(t) \not\leq \langle C_L(t), C_L(t)^g \rangle \leq C_L(t)$, a contradiction. Hence every conjugate of $C_L(t)$ lies in a different conjugate of L and so there are q distinct $Q_0 C_L(t)$ -conjugates of L . Therefore, $\mathcal{U}_2^+ \cap \mathcal{W}_2(U)$ is contained in the same $C_G(U) \cap C_G(t)$ -orbit, and $|U_2^+ \cap \mathcal{W}_2(U)| = q$ by Corollary 4.22. There are exactly q $+$ -type 2-subspaces of $C_V(t)$ containing U , all of which lie in the same $C_G(U) \cap C_G(t)$ orbit.

Let $x \in C_G(W) \cap Y_2$ be such that $d^{C_G(W)}(t, x) = 3$. Suppose $W^g \in \mathcal{U}_2^+ \cap \mathcal{W}_2(U)$ for some $g \in C_G(U) \cap C_G(t)$, $W \neq W^g$. If $d^{C_G(U)}(t, x) = 2$ then $d^{C_G(U)}(t^g, x^g) = d^{C_G(U)}(t, x^g) = 2$, and $d^{C_G(W)}(t, x) = d^{C_G(W^g)}(t, x^g) = 3$. Hence it suffices to prove the lemma for $C_G(W)$. By Theorem 4.14, any involution distance 3 away from t in L is necessarily distance 3 away from t in $C_G(U)$, proving the first statement.

Let $W_0 \in \mathcal{U}_2^0 \cap \mathcal{W}_2(U)$, so $C_G(W_0) \sim q^2 : \frac{q-\delta}{2}$. By Lemma 4.19, $\Delta_2^{C_G(U)}(t) \cap C_G(W_0) = Qt \cap \Delta_2^{C_G(U)}(t)$. Let W_i , $i = 1, \dots, q$ be the subspaces in $\mathcal{U}_2^+ \cap \mathcal{W}_2(U)$. From Lemma 4.18, $C_G(W_i) \cap C_G(W_j) \cap Y_2 = \{t\}$ if and only if $i = j$. Using Corollary 4.22(i) with [10], we have

$$\left| \bigcup_{i=1}^q \Delta_2^{C_G(W_i)}(t) \right| = \frac{1}{4}q(q-\delta)(q-4-\delta). \quad (4.23.1)$$

Combining Lemma 4.12 with (4.23.1),

$$\begin{aligned} |\Gamma_2(C_G(U))| &= \left| \bigcup_{i=1}^q \Delta_2^{C_G(W_i)}(t) \right| + \left| \Delta_2^{C_G(U)}(t) \cap C_G(W_0) \right| \\ &= \frac{1}{4}(q^3 - 2(1+\delta)q^2 + (2\delta-1)q + 2\delta). \end{aligned} \quad (4.23.2)$$

Together, (4.23.2) and Theorem 4.14 give

$$\begin{aligned} |\Gamma_1(C_G(U))| &= \left| \Delta_2^{C_G(U)}(t) \right| - |\Gamma_2(C_G(U))| \\ &= \frac{1}{4}q(q^3 - (2\delta + 3)q^2 + (4\delta + 3)q - 2\delta - 1) \end{aligned}$$

as required. \square

Lemma 4.24 *Let $t, x \in L_2(q)$. Then $d^{L_2(q)}(t, x) \leq 2$ if and only if the order of tx divides $\frac{1}{2}(q - \delta)$.*

Proof See Lemma 2.11 of [10]. \square

Lemma 4.25 *Let $U \in \mathcal{U}_1^+$, and $W \in (\mathcal{U}_2^+ \cup \mathcal{U}_2^-) \cap \mathcal{W}_2(U)$.*

(i) *If $\delta = 1$ and $W_0 \in \mathcal{U}_2^0 \cap \mathcal{W}_2(U)$, then $Y_2 \cap C_G(W_0) \setminus \{t\} \subseteq \Delta_3^{C_G(U)}(t)$.*

(ii) *If $x \in Y_2 \cap C_G(W)$ is such that $d^{C_G(W)}(t, x) = 3$, then $d^{C_G(U)}(t, x) = 3$ and*

$$|\Gamma_1(C_G(U))| = \begin{cases} \frac{1}{8}(q-1)(q-3)(q^2-6q+13) & q \equiv 1 \pmod{4} \\ \frac{1}{8}(q^2-1)(q^2-2q+5) & q \equiv -1 \pmod{4}. \end{cases}$$

Proof Recall that $C_G(U) \sim G^+ \sim L_1 \circ L_2$ for $L_1 \sim SL_2(q) \sim L_2$. Suppose $y \in C_G(W)$ is such that $d^{C_G(W)}(t, y) = 3$. Since $C_G(W) \sim L_2(q)$ is simple, then $y = gg^\varphi$ for some $g \in L_1$ and $\varphi : L_1 \rightarrow L_2$. Since $t \in C_G(W)$, write $t = ss^\varphi$ for some $s \in L_1$. Then $d^{L_1}(s, g) = 3$, so $d^{C_G(U)}(t, y) = 3$ by Theorem 4.8, and thus

$$\Delta_3^{C_G(W)}(t) \subseteq \Delta_3^{C_G(U)}(t) \quad \text{for all } W \in (\mathcal{U}_2^+ \cup \mathcal{U}_2^-) \cap \mathcal{W}_2(U). \quad (4.25.1)$$

If $\delta = -1$, then $\mathcal{U}_2^0 \cap \mathcal{W}_2(U) = \emptyset$ by Corollary 4.22. If $\delta = 1$, there exists $W_0 \in \mathcal{U}_2^0 \cap \mathcal{W}_2(U)$. Recall that $W_0^\perp \cap C_V(t) \in \mathcal{U}_1^0$ so $C_G(W_0) \leq C_G(W_0^\perp \cap C_V(t)) \sim G^0 = QL$. By Lemma 4.19, if $x \in C_G(W_0) \cap Y_2$ then $x = x_Q t$ and x_Q is inverted by t and has order p . Since x_Q also lies in $C_G(U)$, we can write $x_Q = hh^\varphi$ for some $h \in L_1$. Now $x_Q^{-1} = h^{-1}h^{-1\varphi}$ and so $x_Q^t = x_Q^{s s^\varphi} = h^s(h^\varphi)^{s^\varphi} = h^{-1}h^{-1\varphi}$. Therefore, $h^s = h^{-1}$ and $h^{\varphi s^\varphi} = h^{-1\varphi}$. Moreover, $x = x_Q t = (hs)(hs)^\varphi$ where $hs \in L_1$ is an element of order 4 squaring to the non-trivial element of $Z(L_1)$, and $h = (hs)s$ has order p . By Lemma 4.24 and [10], $d^{L_1}(hs, s) = 3$ and so $d^{C_G(U)}(t, x_Q t) = 3$ by Theorem 4.8. Therefore,

$$C_G(W_0) \cap \Delta_2^{C_G(U)}(t) = \emptyset \quad \text{for all } W_0 \in \mathcal{U}_2^0 \cap \mathcal{W}_2(U). \quad (4.25.2)$$

Hence combining (4.25.1) with Lemma 4.21, [10] and, if $\delta = 1$, (4.25.2) we get

$$\left| \bigcup_{U \leq W} \Delta_2^{C_G(W)}(t) \right| = |\Gamma_2(C_G(U))| = \frac{1}{4}(q - \delta)^2(q - 4 - \delta).$$

This, together with Theorem 4.8 yields

$$\begin{aligned} |\Gamma_1(C_G(U))| &= \left| \Delta_2^{C_G(U)}(t) \right| - |\Gamma_2(C_G(U))| \\ &= \frac{1}{8}(q - 1)(q - 1 - 2\delta)(q^2 - (4 + 2\delta)q + 9 + 4\delta), \end{aligned}$$

which proves the lemma. □

Lemma 4.26 *Let $U \in \mathcal{U}_1^-$, and $W \in (\mathcal{U}_2^+ \cup \mathcal{U}_2^-) \cap \mathcal{W}_2(U)$.*

(i) *If $\delta = -1$ and $W_0 \in \mathcal{U}_2^0 \cap \mathcal{W}_2(U)$, then $Y_2 \cap C_G(W_0) \setminus \{t\} \subseteq \Delta_3^{C_G(U)}(t)$.*

(ii) *We have*

$$\left| \Gamma_2(C_G(U)) \setminus \bigcup_{W \in \mathcal{W}_2(U)} \Gamma_2(C_G(W)) \right| = \frac{1}{4}(q - 2 + \delta)(q^2 - 1)$$

and $|\Gamma_1(C_G(U))| = \frac{1}{4}(q - 1)^3(q + 1)$.

Proof First assume $\delta = -1$, and consider $C_G(W_0)$. By Lemma 4.19, every involution in $C_G(W_0)$ can be written as xt where x has order p . But $(xt)t = x$ has order p , which does not divide $\frac{1}{2}(q^2 - 1)$, and hence $d^{C_G(U)}(xt, t) = 3$. In other words, $Y_2 \cap C_G(W_0) \setminus \{t\} \subseteq \Delta_3^{C_G(U)}(t)$, so proving (i).

Consider then $C_G(W) \sim L_2(q)$. We utilize the character table of $L_2(q)$ from Chapter 38 of [17] (see also Schur [25]). Recall that $L_2(q)$ contains one conjugacy class of involutions, and two conjugacy classes of elements of order p . The remaining conjugacy classes partition into two cases: those whose order divides $\frac{1}{2}(q - 1)$ and those whose order divides $\frac{1}{2}(q + 1)$. Let C be a conjugacy class of elements in $C_G(W)$ and define $X_C = \{x \in Y_2 \cap C_G(W) \mid tx \in C\}$. It is a well-known character theoretic result (see, for example, Theorem 4.2.12 of [19]) that

$$|X_C| = \frac{|C|}{|C_G(t)|} \sum_{\substack{\chi \\ \text{Irreducible}}} \frac{\chi(x) |\chi(t)|^2}{\chi(1)} \tag{4.26.1}$$

and all X_C are pairwise disjoint. Let $x \in Y_2 \cap C_G(W)$. If the order of tx divides $\frac{1}{2}(q^2 - 1)$ but not $\frac{1}{2}(q - \delta)$ then it must necessarily divide $\frac{1}{2}(q + \delta)$. Hence, if C is a conjugacy class

of elements of order dividing $\frac{q+\delta}{2}$, then any $y \in X_C$ has the property that $d^{C_G(W)}(t, y) = 3$ but $d^{C_G(U)}(t, y) = 2$, by Lemma 4.24. Recall that $\Gamma_2(C_G(U)) \setminus \dot{\bigcup}_{W \in \mathcal{W}_2(U)} \Gamma_2(C_G(W))$ is the set consisting of all such involutions. Therefore, it suffices to calculate the sizes of all such relevant X_C . We use \mathcal{F} to denote to be the set of all conjugacy classes of elements with order dividing $\frac{q+\delta}{2}$.

By [17], we see that for any $C \in \mathcal{F}$, $|C| = q(q - \delta)$ and so for any $x \in C$, $|C_{C_G(W)}(x)| = (q - \delta)$. Hence (4.26.1) and [17] gives $|X_C| = q - \delta$. Now if $\delta = 1$, then $|\mathcal{F}| = \frac{q-1}{4}$ by [17]. If $\delta = -1$, then $|\mathcal{F}| = \frac{q-3}{4}$. Since $|\Delta_3^{C_G(W)}(t) \cap \Delta_2^{C_G(U)}| = |X_C| |\mathcal{F}|$, and by Corollary 4.22, $|\mathcal{W}_2(U) \cap (\mathcal{U}_2^+ \cup \mathcal{U}_2^-)| = q + \delta$, we obtain

$$\begin{aligned} \left| \Gamma_2(C_G(U)) \setminus \dot{\bigcup}_{W \in \mathcal{W}_2(U)} \Gamma_2(C_G(W)) \right| &= |\mathcal{W}_2(U) \cap (\mathcal{U}_2^+ \cup \mathcal{U}_2^-)| |X_C| |\mathcal{F}| \\ &= \begin{cases} \frac{1}{4}(q-1)(q^2-1) & q \equiv 1 \pmod{4} \\ \frac{1}{4}(q-3)(q^2-1) & q \equiv -1 \pmod{4} \end{cases} \end{aligned}$$

which proves the first part of (ii). We now prove the last part of (ii). Recall that

$$\left| \dot{\bigcup}_{W \in \mathcal{W}_2(U)} \Gamma_2(C_G(W)) \right| = (q + \delta) |\Delta_2^{C_G(W)}(t)| = \frac{1}{4}(q^2 - 1)(q - 4 - \delta)$$

by [10] and Corollary 4.22. Together with the above statement, we have

$$\begin{aligned} |\Gamma_2(C_G(U))| &= \left| \dot{\bigcup}_{W \in \mathcal{W}_2(U)} \Gamma_2(C_G(W)) \right| + \left| \Gamma_2(C_G(U)) \setminus \dot{\bigcup}_{W \in \mathcal{W}_2(U)} \Gamma_2(C_G(W)) \right| \\ &= \frac{1}{4}(q^2 - 1)(q - 4 - \delta) + \frac{1}{4}(q^2 - 1)(q - 2 + \delta) \\ &= \frac{1}{2}(q^2 - 1)(q - 3). \end{aligned}$$

Hence

$$\begin{aligned} |\Gamma_1(C_G(U))| &= \left| \Delta_2^{C_G(U)}(t) \right| - |\Gamma_2(C_G(U))| \\ &= \frac{1}{4}(q-1)^3(q+1), \end{aligned}$$

and Lemma 4.26 holds. □

Lemma 4.27 $\left| \dot{\bigcup}_{U \in \mathcal{U}_1} \Gamma_1(C_G(U)) \right| = \begin{cases} \frac{1}{16}q(q^2-1)(3q^3-11q^2+21q-29) & q \equiv 1 \pmod{4} \\ \frac{1}{16}q(q^2-1)(q-1)(3q^2+2q+7) & q \equiv -1 \pmod{4}. \end{cases}$

Proof Since $\mathcal{U}_1 = \mathcal{U}_1^0 \dot{\cup} \mathcal{U}_1^+ \dot{\cup} \mathcal{U}_1^-$, with each orbit size given in Lemma 4.16, the result follows immediately from Lemmas 4.23, 4.25 and 4.26. \square

Recall the list of cases in Table 1. The next lemma concerns Cases 2 and 3, in other words, $\bigcup_{U \in \mathcal{U}_1} \Gamma_2(C_G(U))$.

Lemma 4.28 $\left| \bigcup_{U \in \mathcal{U}_1} \Gamma_2(C_G(U)) \right| = \frac{1}{2}(q - \delta)(q^3 - 2q^2 - 1)$.

Proof By Lemmas 4.12 and 4.19, for any $W_0 \in \mathcal{U}_2^0$ we have $\left| \Delta_2^{C_G(U)}(t) \cap C_G(W_0) \right| = \frac{1}{2}(q - 1)(q - \delta)$ for some $U \in \mathcal{U}_1(W_0)$. Additionally, for any $W \in (\mathcal{U}_2^+ \dot{\cup} \mathcal{U}_2^-)$ we have

$$\begin{aligned} \left| \Delta_2^{C_G(U)}(t) \cap C_G(W) \right| &= \left| \Delta_2^{C_G(W)} \right| + \left| \Delta_3^{C_G(W)}(t) \cap \Delta_2^{C_G(U)}(t) \right| \\ &= \frac{1}{2}(q - \delta)(q - 3), \end{aligned}$$

for some $U \in \mathcal{U}_1(W)$, by [10] and Lemma 4.26. Since $\mathcal{U}_2 = \mathcal{U}_2^0 \dot{\cup} \mathcal{U}_2^+ \dot{\cup} \mathcal{U}_2^-$, with the orbit sizes given in Corollary 4.17, this covers every involution in $\bigcup_{U \in \mathcal{U}_1} \Gamma_2(C_G(U))$, and the lemma follows. \square

We now concern ourselves with the final two cases. These concern involutions that are distance 3 from t in every $C_G(U)$ that they appear in, but actually are distance 2 from t in G . Recall that for any involution $y \in Y_2$, $C_G(y) = \text{Stab}_G C_V(y) = L_y K_y$ where $L_y = C_G(y) \cap C_G([V, y]) \sim L_2(q)$ and $|K_y| = 2(q - \delta)$. Also note that $L_y \trianglelefteq C_G(y)$ acts faithfully on $C_V(y)$, and $\text{Syl}_p C_G(y) = \text{Syl}_p L_y$. The following three lemmas concern Case 5.

Lemma 4.29 *Let $W \in \mathcal{U}_2^0 \cup \mathcal{U}_2^{-\delta}$ and $x \in C_G(W)$ be such that $d^{C_G(U)}(t, x) = 3$ for all $U \in \mathcal{U}_1(W)$. Then $d(t, x) = 3$.*

Proof If $W \in \mathcal{U}_2^0$, then any involution in $C_G(W)$ can be written as $x = x_Q t$ where $x_Q = xt$ has order p . If $W \in \mathcal{U}_2^{-\delta}$, then, from Lemma 4.26, any involution $x \in C_G(W)$ such that tx has order dividing $\frac{1}{2}(q^2 - 1)$ must be distance 2 from t in $C_G(U)$ for some $U \in \mathcal{U}_1(W)$. Hence, any x satisfying the hypothesis must have the property that the order of tx is p .

Let $W \in \mathcal{U}_2^0 \cup \mathcal{U}_2^{-\delta}$ and suppose $d(t, x) = 2$, then there exists $y \in Y_2$ such that $t, x \in C_G(y) = L_y K_y$. Since tx has order p , $tx \in L_y$ and so $tx \in C_G([V, y])$. As L_y acts faithfully on $C_V(y)$, any element of order p must fix a 1-subspace of $C_V(y)$, say U_y . Therefore, $tx \in C_G(U_y \oplus [V, y])$. But $tx \in C_G(W + [V, y])$ and since $[V, y] \in \mathcal{U}_2^\delta$, we have $W \neq [V, y]$. Set $W + [V, y] = U_y \oplus [V, y]$.

Suppose $U_y \leq W$. Then $t, x, y \in C_G(U_y)$ and so $d^{C_G(U_y)}(t, x) = 2$, contradicting our assumption. Hence $U_y \not\leq W$ and so $U_y = \langle u_1 + u_2 \rangle$ for $u_1 \in W \setminus [V, y]$ and $u_2 \in [V, y]$. Since $y \in C_G(y)$, $(u_1 + u_2)^y = u_1 + u_2$. However, $(u_1 + u_2)^y = u_1^y + u_2^y = u_1^y - u_2$ and so $u_2 = -2^{-1}u_1 + 2^{-1}u_1^y$. Thus $u_1 + u_2 = 2^{-1}(u_1 + u_1^y)$ and so $U_y = \langle u_1 + u_1^y \rangle$. Recall that $t, x \in C_G(y)$ and $u_1 \in W \setminus [V, y]$, so $u_1^t = u_1^x = u_1$. Hence $u_1 + u_1^y$ is centralized by both t and x and so $U_y \leq W = C_V(\langle t, x \rangle)$, a contradiction. Therefore, $d(t, x) \neq 2$ and the lemma holds. \square

Lemma 4.30 *Let $W \in \mathcal{U}_2^\delta$. Then $\Delta_3^{C_G(W)}(t) \subseteq \Delta_2(t)$. In particular,*

$$\left| \Gamma_2(G) \setminus \bigcup_{U \in \mathcal{U}_1} \Gamma_2(C_G(U)) \right| = \begin{cases} q(q^2 - 1) & q \equiv 1 \pmod{4} \\ 0 & q \equiv -1 \pmod{4}. \end{cases}$$

Proof We deal first with the case when $\delta = -1$. From Lemma 4.26, the number of involutions distance 3 from t in $C_G(W)$ that are actually distance 2 from t in some $U \in \mathcal{U}_1(W)$ is $\frac{1}{4}(q+1)(q-3) = \left| \Delta_3^{C_G(W)}(t) \right|$. That is to say all elements in $\Delta_3^{C_G(W)}(t)$ are distance 2 from t in $C_G(U)$ for some $U \in \mathcal{U}_2(W)$. This occurs for every such $W \in \mathcal{U}_2^\delta$ and so $\Gamma_2(G) = \bigcup_{U \in \mathcal{U}_1} \Gamma_2(C_G(U))$.

Assume now that $\delta = 1$. As before, any element x in $\Gamma_2(G) \setminus \bigcup_{U \in \mathcal{U}_1} \Gamma_2(C_G(U))$ must have the property that the order of tx is p . Suppose $d(t, x) = 2$, and so there exists $y \in Y_2$ such that $t, x \in C_G(y)$. If $W \neq [V, y]$ then the argument from Lemma 4.29 holds and results in a contradiction. So we must have $W = [V, y]$. Since $\text{Stab}_G C_V(y) = \text{Stab}_G [V, y] = C_G(y)$, $C_G([V, y]) \leq C_G(y)$ and so any element in $C_G([V, y]) = C_G(W)$ centralizes y . In particular, $\Delta_3^{C_G(W)}(t) \subseteq \Delta_2(t)$, establishing the first statement. By Lemma 4.26, the number of involutions distance 3 from t in $C_G(W)$ that are actually distance 2 from t in some $U \in \mathcal{U}_1(W)$ is $\frac{1}{4}(q-1)^2$. By [10], $\left| \Delta_3^{C_G(W)}(t) \right| = \frac{1}{4}(q-1)(q+7)$ and so by subtracting the two, there are $2(q-1)$ involutions in $\Delta_3^{C_G(W)}(t)$ that are distance 3 from t in $C_G(U)$ for all $U \in \mathcal{U}_1(W)$, but are actually distance 2 from t in $\mathcal{C}(G, Y_2)$. Since $|\mathcal{U}_2^\delta| = \frac{1}{2}q(q+\delta)$ by Corollary 4.17, the lemma follows. \square

Finally we turn to Case 4, $\Gamma_1(G) \setminus \bigcup_{U \in \mathcal{U}_1} \Gamma_1(C_G(U))$.

Lemma 4.31 *Let $U \in \mathcal{U}_1^- \cup \mathcal{U}_1^0$ and $x \in C_G(U)$ be such that $C_V(\langle t, x \rangle) = U$ and $d^{C_G(U)}(t, x) = 3$. Then $d(t, x) = 3$.*

Proof Assume first that $U \in \mathcal{U}_1^-$. By Lemma 4.24, tx has order p or divides $\frac{1}{2}(q^2 + 1)$. Suppose $d(t, x) = 2$, then there exists $y \in Y_2$ such that $t, x \in C_G(y)$. Since $\frac{1}{2}(q^2 + 1)$ is coprime to $|C_G(y)| = q(q^2 - 1)(q - \delta)$, tx must have order p . Indeed, clearly $\frac{1}{2}(q^2 + 1)$ is coprime to both q and $q^2 - 1$, and any factor dividing $q - \delta$ must divide $q^2 - 1$ and so $\frac{1}{2}(q^2 + 1)$ is coprime to

$q - \delta$. Since tx has order p , then $tx \in L_y$.

Assume now that $U \in \mathcal{U}_1^0$. Let x be an involution in $C_G(U) = QL \sim G^0$ as defined in the discussion prior to Lemma 4.9. Then $tx \in Qtx_L$ which has order n dividing $\frac{1}{2}(q + \delta)$ in QL/L . Therefore, $(Qtx_L)^n \in Q$ and so $(tx)^n$ has order p . Therefore, tx has order dividing $\frac{1}{2}q(q + \delta)$. Suppose $d(t, x) = 2$. Then there exists $y \in Y_2$ such that $t, x \in C_G(y)$. By the structure of $C_G(y) \sim (L_2(q) \times \frac{q-\delta}{2}) : 2^2$, the order of tx forces $tx \in L_y$.

We may now assume $U \in \mathcal{U}_1^- \cup \mathcal{U}_1^0$, so $tx \in L_y = C_G([V, y])$ and hence $tx \in C_G(U + [V, y])$. Suppose $U \not\leq [V, y]$, then $tx \in C_G(U \oplus [V, y])$. Also, $tx \in C_G(U_y \oplus [V, y])$ for some $U_y \leq C_V(y)$. However, if $U = U_y$ then $t, x, y \in C_G(U)$ and $d^{C_G(U)}(t, x) = 2$. While $U_y \neq U$ results in a contradiction using an analogous argument from Lemma 4.29. Hence $U \leq [V, y]$.

As $t, x \in C_G(y) = \text{Stab}_G([V, y])$, $tx \in L_y = C_G([V, y])$ and $[V, y] = U \perp U'$ where $U' = U^\perp \cap [V, y]$. Then for $u \in [V, y]$ we have $u^{tx} = u$ and so $u^t = u^x$. In particular, if $u \in U'$ then $u^t = u^x = -u$. Hence $[V, y] = U \perp ([V, t] \cap [V, x])$. If $C_V(\langle t, y \rangle)$ is 1-dimensional, then $C_V(y) = C_V(\langle t, y \rangle) \perp [V, t]$ since t stabilizes $C_V(y)$. However, then $[V, t] \oplus ([V, t] \cap [V, x])$ is 3-dimensional, a contradiction. A similar argument holds for $C_V(\langle x, y \rangle)$. Therefore both $C_V(\langle t, y \rangle)$ and $C_V(\langle x, y \rangle)$ are 2-dimensional. But since $\dim C_V(y) = 3$, this means $C_V(\langle t, y \rangle)$ and $C_V(\langle x, y \rangle)$ intersect non-trivially, that is $C_V(\langle t, x, y \rangle) \neq 0$, contradicting our assumption. Therefore, $d(t, x) \neq 2$, and consequently $d(t, x) = 3$. \square

The final case when $U \in \mathcal{U}_1^+$ is slightly trickier. Recall the definition of Y_1 . For any $z \in Y_1$, we have $C_G(z) \sim SL_2(q) \circ SL_2(q) : 2$ and $C_V(z)$ is 1-dimensional. We choose z such that $t \in C_G(z)$ and $C_V(z) = U$, and return to work in the setting of $Sp(4, q) / \langle -I_4 \rangle = G^\tau \sim G$. We denote the image of any subgroup $K \leq G$ by K^τ . Choose

$$z = \left(\begin{array}{c|c} -I_2 & \\ \hline & I_2 \end{array} \right) \in G^\tau$$

and note that $C_{G^\tau}(z) \sim C_G(U) : 2$. Hence,

$$C_G(U) \sim \left\{ \left(\begin{array}{c|c} A & \\ \hline & B \end{array} \right) \mid A, B \in SL_2(q) \right\} / \langle -I_4 \rangle = C_G(U)^\tau.$$

Let t^τ be the image of t in G^τ . We start with a preliminary lemma concerning the commuting involution graph $\mathcal{C}(L_2(q), X)$ where X is the sole conjugacy class of involutions. Denote by $L \sim L_2(q)$ and $\widehat{L} \sim PGL_2(q)$.

Lemma 4.32 *Let x be an involution in L . Then $\Delta_3^L(x)$ splits into $\frac{1}{4}(q + 2 + 5\delta)$ $C_L(x)$ -orbits of length $q - \delta$. Moreover, every $C_L(x)$ -orbit in $\Delta_3^L(x)$ is $C_{\widehat{L}}(x)$ -invariant.*

Proof Assume first that $\delta = -1$. Choose $x = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & -1 \\ 1 & 0 \end{pmatrix}$ and let $x_\lambda = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & \lambda \\ -\lambda^{-1} & 0 \end{pmatrix}$ for some $\lambda \in GF(q) \setminus \{\pm 1\}$. There are two possibilities for an element of $C_L(x)$:

$$g_1 = \begin{pmatrix} a_1 & a_2 \\ -a_2 & a_1 \end{pmatrix}, \quad g_2 = \begin{pmatrix} b_1 & b_2 \\ b_2 & -b_1 \end{pmatrix}.$$

By direct calculation, if $g_1^{-1}x_\lambda g_1 = x_\mu$ for some $\lambda, \mu \in GF(q) \setminus \{\pm 1\}$ then $(-\lambda^{-1} + \lambda)a_1a_2 = 0$. Note that since $\lambda \neq \pm 1$, then $\lambda \neq \lambda^{-1}$. If $a_1 = 0$ then $a_2^2 = 1$, and so $\mu = \lambda^{-1}$. On the other hand, if $a_2 = 0$ then $a_1^2 = 1$ and so $\mu = \lambda$. Note that in the case of g_2 , neither b_1 or b_2 can be 0 and so $g_2^{-1}x_\lambda g_2 = x_\mu$ requires $xy(\lambda - \lambda^{-1}) = 0$, a contradiction. Hence for $\lambda, \mu \in GF(q) \setminus \{\pm 1\}$, x_λ and x_μ lie in different $C_L(x)$ orbits if and only if $\mu \notin \{\lambda, \lambda^{-1}\}$. As we work modulo $\langle -I_4 \rangle$, there are at least $\frac{1}{4}(q-3)$ $C_L(x)$ -orbits in $\Delta_3^L(x)$. However for any $\lambda \neq \pm 1$, $C_L(x, x_\lambda) = 1$ and so, each $C_L(x)$ -orbit containing an x_λ is of length $q+1$. But $|\Delta_3^L(x)| = \frac{1}{4}(q-3)(q+1)$ and so all involutions in $\Delta_3^L(x)$ are accounted for. Hence the first statement holds for $\delta = -1$, and each $C_L(x)$ -orbit has representative x_λ for some $\lambda \neq \pm 1$. Let

$$e = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ 0 & -1 \end{pmatrix} \in \widehat{L} \setminus L$$

and note that $C_{\widehat{L}}(x) = \langle e \rangle C_L(x)$, and an easy check shows $[e, x_\lambda] = 1$ for all $\lambda \neq \pm 1$. Let $y \in \Delta_3^L(x)$, then $y = x_\lambda^s$ for some $s \in C_L(x)$. Let $g = er \in C_{\widehat{L}}(x)$ for some $r \in C_L(x)$. Then $y^g = x_\lambda^{s^{er}}$ and since $C_L(x) \trianglelefteq C_{\widehat{L}}(x)$, $s^{er} \in C_L(x)$. That is, every $C_L(x)$ -orbit in $\Delta_3^L(x)$ is $C_{\widehat{L}}(x)$ -invariant.

Assume now that $\delta = 1$. Choose $x = \begin{pmatrix} i & 0 \\ 0 & -i \end{pmatrix}$ where $i^2 = -1$ and let $y = \begin{pmatrix} \sigma & \mu\tau \\ \tau & \sigma \end{pmatrix}$ for some $\sigma, \mu, \tau \in GF(q)$, $\sigma \neq 0$ and μ a non-square in $GF(q)$. By [10], $y \in \Delta_3^L(x)$. There are two possibilities for an element of $C_L(x)$:

$$g_1 = \begin{pmatrix} a^{-1} & 0 \\ 0 & a \end{pmatrix}, \quad g_2 = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & b \\ -b^{-1} & 0 \end{pmatrix}.$$

By direct calculation, if $g_1^{-1}yg_1 = y$ then $a = 1$. Note that $g_2^{-1}yg_2 \neq y$ as $\pm b^2 \neq \mu$ for any non-square μ . Hence $C_L(\langle x, y \rangle) = 1$. Since y was arbitrary, each $C_L(x)$ -orbit has length $q-1$. Now $|\Delta_3^L(x)| = \frac{1}{4}(q+7)(q-1)$ and so the first statement holds for $\delta = 1$. Let

$$e_\nu = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & \nu \\ 1 & 0 \end{pmatrix} \in \widehat{L} \setminus L$$

and note that $C_{\widehat{L}}(x) = \langle e_\nu \rangle C_L(x)$ for any non-square ν . It is easy to check that $y^{e_\nu} = y$. Let $g = e_\nu r \in C_{\widehat{L}}(x)$ for some $r \in C_L(x)$. Then $y^g = y^{e_\nu r} = y^r$ and since y was arbitrary and $r \in C_L(x)$, every $C_L(x)$ -orbit in $\Delta_3^L(x)$ is $C_{\widehat{L}}(x)$ -invariant. \square

Lemma 4.33 $\left| \Delta_3^{C_G(U)}(t) \cap \Gamma_1(G) \right| = \frac{1}{4}(q-\delta)^2(q+2+5\delta)$.

Proof We first work in the setting of G^τ . Choose

$$t^\tau = \left(\begin{array}{cc|cc} 0 & -1 & & \\ 1 & 0 & & \\ \hline & & 0 & -1 \\ & & 1 & 0 \end{array} \right) = \left(\begin{array}{c|c} J_0 & \\ \hline & J_0 \end{array} \right).$$

By direct calculation, it is easily seen that

$$C_{G^\tau}(t^\tau) \subseteq \left\{ \left(\begin{array}{cc|cc} A_1 & A_2 & & \\ A_3 & A_4 & & \\ \hline & & & \end{array} \right) \middle| A_i^{-1} J_0 A_i = J_0 \pmod{\langle -I_4 \rangle} \right\}$$

and any involution $y \in C_{G^\tau}(t^\tau)$ has the additional properties that

$$\begin{aligned} \det A_1 + \det A_3 &= \det A_2 + \det A_4 = 1 \\ \text{and} \quad A_1^2 + A_2 A_3 &= A_3 A_2 + A_4^2 = -I_2. \end{aligned} \tag{4.33.1}$$

Recall that if $x \in C_G(U)^\tau$ then $x = \left(\begin{array}{c|c} A & \\ \hline & B \end{array} \right)$ for some $A, B \in SL_2(q)$ and by Theorem 4.8, $x \in \Delta_3^{C_G(U)^\tau}(t^\tau)$ if and only if A, B are involutions in L and either $d^L(A, J_0) = 3$ or $d^L(B, J_0) = 3$. So without loss of generality, set $A = B_i$ where $d^L(B_i, J_0) = i$ and choose $B \in \Delta_3^L(J_0)$.

If $x \in \Delta_2^{G^\tau}(t^\tau)$ then there exists $y = \left(\begin{array}{cc|cc} A_1 & A_2 & & \\ A_3 & A_4 & & \\ \hline & & & \end{array} \right) \in C_{G^\tau}(t^\tau)$ such that $y^2 = 1$ and $[x, y] = 1$. Suppose $\det A_2 = 0$. Then $\det A_4 = 1$ by (4.33.1), and so $A_4 \in C_L(J_0)$. As $[x, y] = 1$, $[A_4, B] = 1$. However $C_L(\langle J_0, B \rangle) = 1$, by Lemma 4.32 and so $A_4 = \pm I_2$. But then $A_3 A_2 = -2I_2$ by (4.33.1), which is impossible as $\det A_2 = 0$. An analogous argument holds for $\det A_3$. Hence $\det A_2, \det A_3 \neq 0$. Since $[x, y] = 1$, $B_i A_2 B = \pm A_2$ and so B_i and B must be $C_{\widehat{L}}(J_0)$ -conjugate. In other words, if B_i and B are not $C_{\widehat{L}}(J_0)$ -conjugate, then $[x, y] \neq 1$. By Lemma 4.32, every $C_L(J_0)$ orbit is an $C_{\widehat{L}}(J_0)$ -orbit and so if $[x, y] = 1$ then B_i and B must be $C_L(J_0)$ -conjugate. Assume then B_i and B are $C_L(J_0)$ -conjugate and let $A \in C_L(J_0)$ be such that $B_i^A = B$. Hence if $y_A = \left(\begin{array}{c|c} & A \\ \hline -A^{-1} & \end{array} \right) \in C_{G^\tau}(t^\tau)$, then $[y_A, x] = 1$ and so $d^{G^\tau}(t^\tau, x) = 2$. By Lemma 4.32, each $C_L(J_0)$ -orbit of $\Delta_3^L(J_0)$ is of length $q - \delta$, and there are $\frac{1}{4}(q + 2 + 5\delta)$ such orbits. Moreover, for any involution $x_0 \in C_G(U)^\tau$ conjugate to t^τ , zx_0 is also an involution in $C_G(U)^\tau$ conjugate to t^τ which has not been accounted for. Therefore, the number of involutions in $\Delta_3^{C_G(U)^\tau}(t^\tau)$ that are actually distance 2 from t^τ in G^τ is $\frac{1}{2}(q - \delta)^2(q + 2 + 5\delta)$.

We now return to the setting of G , and first assume that $\delta = -1$ and so by Corollary 4.22(i), $|\mathcal{W}_2(U)| = q + 1$, and for every $W \in \mathcal{W}_2(U)$, $C_G(W) \sim L_2(q)$. For each W , there exists $U_W \in \mathcal{U}_1^+$ such that $C_G(W) \leq C_G(U_W) \sim L_2(q^2)$ by Lemma 4.21, and $\Delta_3^{C_G(W)}(t) \subseteq \Delta_2^{C_G(U_W)}(t)$ by Lemma 4.30. Hence, there are $\frac{1}{4}(q + 1)^2(q - 3)$ involutions already counted (from Case 3)

and the remaining involutions do not fix a 2-subspace of $C_V(t)$. Therefore

$$\begin{aligned} \left| \Delta_3^{C_G(U)}(t) \cap \Gamma_1(G) \right| &= \frac{1}{2}(q+1)^2(q-3) - \frac{1}{2}(q+1)^2(q-3) \\ &= \frac{1}{4}(q+1)^2(q-3), \end{aligned}$$

as required. Now assume that $\delta = 1$ and so by Corollary 4.22. For each W , there exists $U_W \in \mathcal{U}_1^-$ such that $C_G(W) \leq C_G(U_W) \sim L_2(q^2)$ by Lemma 4.21 and $\left| \Delta_3^{C_G(W)}(t) \cap \Delta_2^{C_G(U_W)}(t) \right| = \frac{1}{4}(q-1)^2$ by Lemma 4.26. Since $|\mathcal{W}_2(U) \cap (\mathcal{U}_1^+ \cup \mathcal{U}_1^-)| = q-1$ by Corollary 4.22(iii), this accounts for $\frac{1}{4}(q-1)^3$ involutions. Suppose now $W_0 \in \mathcal{W}_2(U) \cap \mathcal{U}_2^0$. By Lemma 4.21, there exists $U_0 \in \mathcal{U}_1^0$ such that $C_G(W_0) \leq C_G(U_0)$. From Lemmas 4.12 and 4.19, $\left| C_G(W) \cap \Delta_2^{C_G(U_0)}(t) \right| = \frac{1}{2}(q-1)^2$. Since $|\mathcal{W}_2(U) \cap \mathcal{U}_2^0| = 2$ by Corollary 4.22(iii), this yields a further $(q-1)^2$ involutions. Finally, if $W \in \mathcal{U}_2^+$, then by Lemma 4.30, $\Delta_3^{C_G(W)}(t) \subseteq \Delta_2(t)$ and there are $2(q-1)$ involutions in $\Delta_3^{C_G(W)}(t)$ not already enumerated. Now $|\mathcal{U}_2^+ \cap \mathcal{W}_2(U)| = \frac{1}{2}(q-1)$ by Corollary 4.22(iii), and this yields another $(q-1)^2$ involutions. Hence, there are $\frac{1}{4}(q-3)^2 + 2(q-1)^2 = \frac{1}{4}(q-1)^2(q+7)$ involutions already counted (from Cases 3 and 5) and the remaining involutions do not fix a 2-subspace of $C_V(t)$. Consequently

$$\begin{aligned} \left| \Delta_3^{C_G(U)}(t) \cap \Gamma_1(G) \right| &= \frac{1}{2}(q-1)^2(q+7) - \frac{1}{2}(q-1)^2(q+7) \\ &= \frac{1}{4}(q-1)^2(q+7), \end{aligned}$$

as required. □

Corollary 4.34 $\left| \Gamma_1(G) \setminus \bigcup_{U \in \mathcal{U}_1} \Gamma_1(C_G(U)) \right| = \frac{1}{8}q(q-\delta)(q^2-1)(q+2+5\delta)$.

Proof Since $|\mathcal{U}_1^+| = \frac{1}{2}q(q+\delta)$, the result holds by Lemmas 4.32 and 4.33. □

Lemma 4.35 *If $q \equiv 3 \pmod{4}$, then*

- (i) $|\Delta_2(t)| = \frac{1}{16}(q+1)(3q^5 - 2q^4 + 8q^3 - 30q^2 + 13q - 8)$; and
- (ii) $|\Delta_3(t)| = \frac{1}{16}(q-1)(5q^5 - 4q^4 - 2q^3 + 4q^2 + 5q + 5)$.

If $q \equiv 1 \pmod{4}$, then

- (iii) $|\Delta_2(t)| = \frac{1}{16}(q-1)(3q^5 - 6q^4 + 32q^3 - 10q^2 - 27q - 8)$; and
- (iv) $|\Delta_3(t)| = \frac{1}{16}(q-1)(5q^5 + 22q^4 - 8q^3 + 34q^2 + 51q + 24)$.

Proof The cases listed in Table 1 are disjoint. Hence $|\Delta_2(t)|$ is determined by summing the values calculated in Lemmas 4.27, 4.28, 4.30 and 4.34. By Theorem 4.15, $\mathcal{C}(G, Y_2)$ has diameter 3 and so $|\Delta_3(t)| = |Y_2| - |\Delta_1(t)| - |\Delta_2(t)|$. Since $|G| = \frac{1}{2}q^4(q^2 - 1)(q^4 - 1)$ and $|C_G(t)| = q(q^2 - 1)(q - \delta)$, $|Y_2| = \frac{1}{2}q^3(q + \delta)(q^2 + 1)$. Together with Lemma 4.20, this proves the lemma. \square

Together, Theorem 4.15 and Lemmas 4.20 and 4.35 complete the proof of Theorem 1.4.

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