Linear Block Codes III

Qi Zhang

Aarhus University School of Engineering

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Hamming weight

- **Definition 2.2**: The number of non-zero components $c_i \neq 0$ of a given vector $\mathbf{c} = (c_0, c_1, \dots, c_{n-1})$ of size $(1 \times n)$ is called the weight, or Hamming weight, $w(\mathbf{c})$, of that vector.
- In the case of vector defined over the binary field GF(2), the weight is the number of "1"s in the vector.



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Hamming distance

- **Definition 2.3**: The Hamming distance between two vectors $\mathbf{c}_1 = (c_{01}, c_{11}, \dots, c_{n-1,1})$ and $\mathbf{c}_2 = (c_{02}, c_{12}, \dots, c_{n-1,2})$, is denoted by $d(\mathbf{c}_1, \mathbf{c}_2)$. It is the number of component position in which the two vectors differ.
- e.g., $\mathbf{c}_1 = (0011010)$ and $\mathbf{c}_2 = (1011100)$, then $d(\mathbf{c}_1, \mathbf{c}_2) = 3$.
- According to the definitions, there is

$$d(\mathbf{c}_i, \mathbf{c}_j) = w(\mathbf{c}_i \oplus \mathbf{c}_j)$$

 Hamming distance of two code vectors is equal to the weight of addition of these two code vectors;



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Hamming distance

Property: The Hamming distance is a metric function that satisfies the triangle inequality.

$$d(\mathbf{c}_i, \mathbf{c}_k) + d(\mathbf{c}_j, \mathbf{c}_k) \geq d(\mathbf{c}_i, \mathbf{c}_j)$$

Proof: As

$$d(\mathbf{c}_i, \mathbf{c}_k) = w(\mathbf{c}_i \oplus \mathbf{c}_k)$$
$$d(\mathbf{c}_j, \mathbf{c}_k) = w(\mathbf{c}_j \oplus \mathbf{c}_k)$$
$$d(\mathbf{c}_i, \mathbf{c}_j) = w(\mathbf{c}_i \oplus \mathbf{c}_j)$$

It is easy to understand that $w(\mathbf{u}) + w(\mathbf{v}) > w(\mathbf{u} \oplus \mathbf{v})$

Let $\mathbf{u} = \mathbf{c}_i \oplus \mathbf{c}_k$ and $\mathbf{v} = \mathbf{c}_i \oplus \mathbf{c}_k$, then there is

$$w(\mathbf{c}_i \oplus \mathbf{c}_k) + w(\mathbf{c}_j \oplus \mathbf{c}_k) \ge w(\mathbf{c}_i \oplus \mathbf{c}_k \oplus \mathbf{c}_j \oplus \mathbf{c}_k) = w(\mathbf{c}_i \oplus \mathbf{c}_j)$$

Therefore

$$d(\mathbf{c}_i, \mathbf{c}_k) + d(\mathbf{c}_j, \mathbf{c}_k) \geq d(\mathbf{c}_i, \mathbf{c}_j)$$



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Minimum Distance of a Block Code

■ Minimum distance of the code, d_{min} : the minimum value of the distance between any two of the the codewords.

$$d_{min} = \min\{d(\mathbf{c}_i, \mathbf{c}_j); \mathbf{c}_i, \mathbf{c}_j \in C_b; \mathbf{c}_i \neq \mathbf{c}_j\}$$

As addition of any two code vectors becomes another code vector in linear block code, the Hamming distance of two code vectors is equal to the weight of another code vector.

$$d_{min} = \min\{w(\mathbf{c}_i \oplus \mathbf{c}_j); \mathbf{c}_i, \mathbf{c}_j \in C_b; \mathbf{c}_i \neq \mathbf{c}_j\}$$

=
$$\min\{w(\mathbf{c}_m); \mathbf{c}_m \in C_b; \mathbf{c}_m \neq 0\}$$

■ Therefore, the minimum distance of a linear block code $C_b(n, k)$ is the minimum value of the weight of the non-zero codewords of that code.



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- **Theorem 2.2**: Consider a linear block code $C_b(n, k)$ completely determined by its parity check matrix \mathbf{H} , for each codeword of Hamming weight p_H , there exist p_H columns of the parity check matrix \mathbf{H} whose sum is a all-zero vector.
 - In same way, if the parity check matrix \mathbf{H} contains p_H columns whose sum is a all-zero vector, then there is a code vector of weigh p_H .



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- Assuming,
 - **a** codeword $\mathbf{c} = (c_0, c_1, \dots, c_{n-1})$ has a weight p_H , then there are p_H non-zero components, i.e., $c_{i_1} = c_{i_2} = \dots = c_{i_{p_H}} = 1$, $0 \le i_1 < i_2 < \dots < i_{p_H} \le n-1$;
 - $\mathbf{H} = [\mathbf{h}_0, \mathbf{h}_1, \dots, \mathbf{h}_{n-1}].$
- Since $\mathbf{c} \circ \mathbf{H}^T = \mathbf{0}$, then

$$\mathbf{c} \circ \mathbf{H}^{T} = (c_{0}, c_{1}, \dots, c_{n-1}) \circ [\mathbf{h}_{0}, \mathbf{h}_{1}, \dots, \mathbf{h}_{n-1}]^{T}$$

$$= c_{i_{1}} \bullet \mathbf{h}_{i_{1}} \oplus c_{i_{2}} \bullet \mathbf{h}_{i_{2}} \oplus \dots \oplus c_{i_{p_{H}}} \bullet \mathbf{h}_{i_{p_{H}}}$$

$$= \mathbf{h}_{i_{1}} \oplus \mathbf{h}_{i_{2}} \oplus \dots \oplus \mathbf{h}_{i_{p_{H}}} = \mathbf{0}$$



Corollary 2.7.1: For a linear block code $C_b(n, k)$ completely determined by its parity check matrix \mathbf{H} , the minimum weight or minimum distance of this code is equal to the minimum number of columns of parity check matrix whose sum is a all-zero vector.



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Example 2.13: For a linear block code $C_b(7,4)$, its parity check matrix is given below, determine the minimum distance of this code.

$$\mathbf{H} = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 & 1 & 1 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 & 1 & 1 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 & 1 & 1 & 1 \end{bmatrix}$$

■ Let's look at the column vector $\mathbf{h}_0, \mathbf{h}_1, \dots, \mathbf{h}_6$, we notice that e.g.,

$$\mathbf{h}_0 \oplus \mathbf{h}_1 \oplus \mathbf{h}_4 = (100) \oplus (010) \oplus (110) = \mathbf{0}$$

 $\mathbf{h}_0 \oplus \mathbf{h}_2 \oplus \mathbf{h}_6 = (100) \oplus (001) \oplus (101) = \mathbf{0}$

■ The minimum distance of this code is $d_{min} = 3$.



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Error Detection Capability of a Block Code

- Due to the effect of noise, a number of positions changed their value in the original vector **c**;
- If the noise modifies d_{min} positions and in the worst case a code vector is transformed into another vector of the code, then undetectable error occurs.
- If $d_{min} 1$ positions are changed by noise, it is guaranteed that the codeword cannot be converted into another codeword;
- The error-detection capability of a linear block code $C_b(n, k)$ with minimum distance d_{min} is $d_{min} 1$.



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Error Detection Capability of a Block Code

- Error-detection capability of a code can also be measured by means of the undetectable probability:
- As we know, $\mathbf{s} = \mathbf{r} \circ \mathbf{H}^T = (\mathbf{c} \oplus \mathbf{e}) \circ \mathbf{H}^T = \mathbf{c} \circ \mathbf{H}^T \oplus \mathbf{e} \circ \mathbf{H}^T = \mathbf{e} \circ \mathbf{H}^T$;
- If $\mathbf{s} = \mathbf{0}$ but $\mathbf{e} \neq \mathbf{0}$, then such error is not detectable.
- Therefore, the undetectable probability is equal to the probability of an error vector equal to a non-zero codeword.
- It can be expressed as:

$$P_U(E) = \sum_{i=1}^n A_i p^i (1-p)^{n-i}$$

- where A_i is the number of codewords of weight i, called weight distribution.
- p is the error probability of BSC.

Error Detection Capability of a Block Code

Example 2.14: To calculate the undetectable error probability of the linear block code $C_b(7,4)$, the weight distribution of this code is listed below:

$$A_0 = 1$$
, $A_1 = A_2 = 0$, $A_3 = 7$, $A_4 = 7$, $A_5 = A_6 = 0$, $A_7 = 1$

Solution:

$$P_U(E) = \sum_{i=1}^n A_i p^i (1-p)^{n-i}$$
$$= 7p^3 (1-p)^4 + 7p^4 (1-p)^3 + p^7 \approx 7p^3$$

• If $p = 10^{-2}$, $P_U(E) \approx 7 \times 10^{-6}$



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Maximum Likelihood Decoding.

Let t be a positive integer. As d_{min} is either odd or even, there is

$$2t+1 \le d_{min} \le 2t+2$$

■ A transmitted codeword \mathbf{c}_1 is transformed into \mathbf{r} . With respect of another codeword \mathbf{c}_2 , there is

$$d(\mathbf{c}_1,\mathbf{r})+d(\mathbf{c}_2,\mathbf{r})\geq d(\mathbf{c}_1,\mathbf{c}_2)$$

■ As \mathbf{c}_1 and \mathbf{c}_2 are codewords, there is

$$d(\mathbf{c}_1, \mathbf{c}_2) \geq d_{min} \geq 2t + 1$$

- Suppose an error pattern of t' errors occurs during transmission of \mathbf{c}_1 . Then $d(\mathbf{c}_1,\mathbf{r})=t'$. And $d(\mathbf{c}_2,\mathbf{r})\geq 2t+1-t'$. If $t'\leq t$, then $d(\mathbf{c}_2,\mathbf{r})>t$.
- It shows that if an error pattern of t or fewer errors occur, the received vector \mathbf{r} is closer to the transmitted codeword \mathbf{c}_1 than any other codeword \mathbf{c}_2 in C
- lacksquare For a BSC, it means the probability $P(\mathbf{r}|\mathbf{c}_1)$ is higher than $P(\mathbf{r}|\mathbf{c}_2)$
- This is the process of maximum likelihood decoding.

Error Correction Capability of a Block Code

- In contrast, the code is not capable of correcting all the error pattern of error with I > t, for there is at least one case in which an error pattern of I errors results in a received vector that is closer to an incorrect codeword than to the transmitted codeword.
- Proof: Let \mathbf{c}_1 and \mathbf{c}_2 be two codewords in C such that $d(\mathbf{c}_1, \mathbf{c}_2) = d_{min}$
 - Let $\mathbf{e}_1 + \mathbf{e}_2 = \mathbf{c}_1 + \mathbf{c}_2$.
 - $lackbox{\textbf{e}}_1$ and $lackbox{\textbf{e}}_2$ do not have nonzero components in common place.
 - Hence, $w(\mathbf{e}_1) + w(\mathbf{e}_2) = w(\mathbf{c}_1 + \mathbf{c}_2) = d_{min}$
 - suppose that \mathbf{c}_1 is transmitted and is corrupted by \mathbf{e}_1 , the received vector $\mathbf{r} = \mathbf{c}_1 + \mathbf{e}_1$;
 - Hence, $d(\mathbf{c}_1, \mathbf{r}) = w(\mathbf{c}_1 + \mathbf{r}) = w(\mathbf{e}_1)$.
 - There is $d(\mathbf{c}_2, \mathbf{r}) = w(\mathbf{c}_2 + \mathbf{r}) = w(\mathbf{c}_2 + \mathbf{c}_1 + \mathbf{e}_1) = w(\mathbf{e}_2)$
 - suppose \mathbf{e}_1 contains more than t errors $(w(\mathbf{e}_1) \ge t+1)$, thus $w(\mathbf{e}_2) \le t+1$
- Hence there is $d(\mathbf{c}_1, \mathbf{r}) \geq d(\mathbf{c}_2, \mathbf{r})$. This inequality shows there exists an error pattern of (l > t) errors that results in a received vector is closer to an incorrect codeword than to the transmitted codeword.

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Error Correction Capability of a Block Code

- In summary, a block code with minimum distance d_{min} guarantees correction of all the error patterns of $t = \lfloor (d_{min} 1)/2 \rfloor$ or fewer errors.
- The parameter $t = \lfloor (d_{min} 1)/2 \rfloor$ is called the random-error-correcting capability of the code.
- The code is referred to as a *t*-error-correcting code.



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Error Correction Capability of a Block Code

- **Q**: If we know a linear block code $C_b(n, k)$ can correct all the errors with weight t or less, what is the undecoded probability? Assuming the error probability of BSC is p.
- A: The undecoded probability is equal to the probability that more than *t* errors occur:

$$P_{e} = \sum_{i=t+1}^{n} \binom{n}{i} p^{i} (1-p)^{n-i}$$



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Error Detection & Correction Capability of a Block Code

- In a hybrid system, where errors are in part corrected and in part detected.
 - **Error** pattern of weight λ or less can be corrected;
 - Error pattern of weight is larger than λ but less than l+1, the system can detect it; $(\lambda < l)$
 - Such a system is possible if $d_{min} \ge l + \lambda + 1$.
- e.g., a liner block code $C_b(n, k)$ has minimum distance $d_{min} = 7$, this code can be used for correcting error pattern of weight $\lambda = 2$ or less and detecting error pattern of weight I = 4 or less.



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Standard array

- For a (n, k) linear block code C.
- Any decoding scheme at the receiver is a rule to partition the 2^n possible received vectors into 2^k disjoint subsets $D_1, D_2, \ldots, D_{2^k}$.
- **Each** subset D_i is one-to-one correspondence to a codeword \mathbf{c}_i .
- If the received vector \mathbf{r} is found in the subset D_i , \mathbf{r} is decoded into \mathbf{c}_i .
- Decoding is correct if and only if the received vector \mathbf{r} is in the subset D_i that corresponds to the codeword transmitted.



Standard array

A method to partition is standard array:

- A standard array has 2^{n-k} rows and 2^k columns.
- The 2^{n-k} rows is called *cosets* of the code C. The first vector \mathbf{e}_j at each row is called *coset leader* (or coset representative).
- The 2^k columns correspond to the 2^k disjoint subsets D_1 , D_2 , ..., D_{2^k} .
- Note that any vector in a coset can be used as its coset leader, which does not change the vectors of the coset.

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Standard array

- **THEOREM**: No two vectors in the same row of a standard array are identical. Every vector appears in one and only one row.
- **THEOREM**: Every (n, k) linear block code is capable of correcting 2^{n-k} error patterns.
 - To minimize the probability of a decoding error, the error patterns that are most likely to occur for a given channel should be chosen as the coset leaders.
 - For a BSC, an error pattern of smaller weight is more probable than an error pattern of larger weight.
 - Therefore, each coset leader should be chosen to be a vector of least weight from the remaining available vectors.
 - The decoding based on the standard array is the *minimum distance decoding* (i.e., the maximum likelyhood decoding)



Minimum distance decoding

- Let \mathbf{r} be the received vector. Assume \mathbf{r} is found in the ith column D_i and Ith coset of the standard array.
- Then **r** is decoded into the codeword \mathbf{c}_i .
- As $\mathbf{r} = \mathbf{e}_I \oplus \mathbf{c}_i$, the distance between \mathbf{r} and \mathbf{c}_i is

$$d(\mathbf{r},\mathbf{c}_i)=w(\mathbf{r}\oplus\mathbf{c}_i)=w(\mathbf{e}_l\oplus\mathbf{c}_i\oplus\mathbf{c}_i)=w(\mathbf{e}_l)$$

■ If consider the distance between \mathbf{r} and any other codeword \mathbf{c}_j .

$$d(\mathbf{r},\mathbf{c}_j)=w(\mathbf{r}\oplus\mathbf{c}_j)=w(\mathbf{e}_l\oplus\mathbf{c}_i\oplus\mathbf{c}_j)$$

as \mathbf{c}_i , \mathbf{c}_j are two different codewords, the sum of them is a nonzero codeword, say \mathbf{c}_s , thus

$$d(\mathbf{r},\mathbf{c}_j)=w(\mathbf{e}_l\oplus\mathbf{c}_s)$$

■ As \mathbf{e}_l and $\mathbf{e}_l \oplus \mathbf{c}_s$ are in the same coset and there is $w(\mathbf{e}_l) \leq w(\mathbf{e}_l \oplus \mathbf{c}_s)$, we can say



$$d(\mathbf{r},\mathbf{c}_i) \leq d(\mathbf{r},\mathbf{c}_j)$$

- We can conclude that a linear block code $C_b(n, k)$ can correct 2^{n-k} error patterns and can detect $2^n 2^k$ error patterns.
- For a linear block code $C_b(n,k)$ with minimum distance d_{min} , all the vectors of weight equal to $t = \lfloor \frac{d_{min}-1}{2} \rfloor$ or less can be used as coset leaders.
- Not all the error patterns of weight t+1 can be corrected, even though some of them maybe can be corrected.
- **Example**: The standard array of a linear block code $C_b(6,3)$:

Syndrome decoding

■ All the vectors of the same coset have the same syndrome. Assuming \mathbf{e}_i is a coset leader, another vector in this coset can be denoted as $\mathbf{c}_j \oplus \mathbf{e}_i$, the syndrome of the non-coset header vector is

$$(\mathbf{c}_j \oplus \mathbf{e}_i) \circ \mathbf{H}^T = \mathbf{c}_j \circ \mathbf{H}^T \oplus \mathbf{e}_i \circ \mathbf{H}^T = \mathbf{e}_i \circ \mathbf{H}^T$$

The syndrome of any vector in the coset is equal to the syndrome of the leader of this coset.

- Syndrome is a (n-k)-component vector, there are 2^{n-k} different syndrome vectors which are allocated to different coset. In other words, for each correctable error pattern, there is a different syndrome vector.
- So it is possible to decode by constructing a table with correctable error patterns and their corresponding syndrome vectors.
- The decoder can correct the received vector simply by adding error pattern to the received vector.



Syndrome decoding

Example 2.16: For the linear block code $C_b(7,4)$ with parity check matrix:

$$\mathbf{H} = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 & 1 & 1 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 & 1 & 1 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 & 1 & 1 & 1 \end{bmatrix}$$

The received vector $\mathbf{r} = (1010011)$. Please determine the codeword \mathbf{c} .

- There are $2^4 = 16$ codewords and $2^{7-4} = 8$ cosets or correctable error patterns, each correctable error pattern has a unique syndrome vector.
- Error patterns and their corresponding syndrome vectors table:

Error patterns							Sy	Syndromes		
0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	
0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	
0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	
0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	1	0	
0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	1	
0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	1	1	
0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	1	



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Syndrome decoding

continue...

- $\mathbf{s} = \mathbf{r} \cdot \mathbf{H}^T = (111)$
- Look up the decoding table and find the error pattern $\mathbf{e} = (0000010)$.
- Hence, the codeword is

$$\mathbf{c} = \mathbf{r} + \mathbf{e} = (1010011) + (0000010) = (1010001)$$



Syndrome decoding summary

- Syndrome decoding or table-lookup decoding scheme consists of three steps:
 - 1 Compute the syndrome of \mathbf{r} , $\mathbf{s} = \mathbf{r} \cdot \mathbf{H}^T$.
 - 2 Locate the coset leader \mathbf{e}_l whose syndrome is equal to $\mathbf{r} \cdot \mathbf{H}^T$. Then \mathbf{e}_l is assumed to be the error pattern caused by the channel.
 - 3 Decode the received vector \mathbf{r} into the codeword $\mathbf{c} = \mathbf{r} + \mathbf{e}_l$.
- In principle, table-lookup decoding can be applied to any (n, k) linear code, however, for large n k, the implementation of this decoding scheme becomes impractical, either a large storage or a complicated logic circuitry is needed.
- Other variations of table-lookup decoding exist but each of these decoding schemes requires additional properties of a code other than the linear structure.

Linear block codes examples

- One class of linear block codes was discovered by Richard W. Hamming in 1950.
 - Hamming codes have a minimum distance of 3 and capable of correcting any single error
 - Hamming code can be decoded easily by table-lookup scheme.
- One class of linear block codes is the calss of Reed-Muller codes discovered by David E. Muller in 1954 and reformulated by Irwin S. Reed in the same year.
 - Reed-Muller codes form a large class of codes for multiple random error correction.



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Hamming codes

■ For any integer $m \ge 3$, there exists a Hamming code with the following characteristics:

length
$$n=2^m-1$$

Number of message bits $k=2^m-m-1$
Number of parity check bits $n-k=m$
Error correction capability $t=1, (d_{min}=3)$

For example:

$$\mathbf{H} = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 & 1 & 1 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 & 1 & 1 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 & 1 & 1 & 1 \end{bmatrix}$$

$$n = 2^{3} - 1 = 7$$

$$k = 2^{3} - 3 - 1 = 4$$

$$n - k = m = 3$$

$$t = 1 (d_{min} = 3)$$



Hamming codes

■ The parity check matrix **H** of a Hamming code is formed of non-zero *m* elements column vectors, its systematic form:

$$\mathbf{H} = [\mathbf{I}_m \mathbf{Q}]$$

- Identity submatrix I_m of size $m \times m$;
- Submatrix **Q** consists of $k = 2^m m 1$ columns formed with vectors of weight 2 or more.
- The systematic form of the generator matrix of Hamming code:

$$\mathbf{G} = \left[\mathbf{Q}^T \mathbf{I}_{2^m - m - 1} \right]$$



Hamming codes

■ The weight distribution of a Hamming code of length $n = 2^m - 1$ can be expressed by

$$A(z) = \frac{1}{n+1} \{ (1+z)^n + n(1-z)(1-z^2)^{(n-1)/2} \}$$

- The number of code vectors of weight i, A_i is the coefficient of z^i in the above polynomial
- This polynomial is the weight enumerator for Hamming codes.
- For example, the weight enumerator for the (7,4) Hamming code is

$$A(z) = \frac{1}{8} \{ (1+z)^7 + 7(1-z)(1-z^2)^3 \} = 1 + 7z^3 + 7z^4 + z^7$$

Hence, the weight distribution for the (7,4) Hamming code is $A_0 = 1$, $A_3 = 7$, $A_4 = 7$ and $A_7 = 1$.



Homework

- The rest subproblems in 2.4 and 2.6
- The problem 2.5, 2.7 and 2.8
- Preparation reading Chapter 3.1 3.6.

