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cyclic code

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Let  $C$  be a linear code over a finite field  $A$  of block length  $n$ .  $C$  is called a *cyclic code*, if for every codeword  $c = (c_1, \dots, c_n)$  from  $C$ , the word  $(c_n, c_1, \dots, c_{n-1}) \in A^n$  obtained by a right shift of  $c$  is also a codeword from  $C$ .

Sometimes,  $C$  is called *the  $c$ -cyclic code*, if  $C$  is the smallest cyclic code containing  $c$ , or, in other words,  $C$  is the linear code generated by  $c$  and all codewords obtained by shifts of its  $c$ .

For example, if  $A = \mathbb{F}_2$  and  $n = 3$ , the codewords contained in the  $(1, 1, 0)$ -cyclic code are precisely

$$(0, 0, 0), (1, 1, 0), (0, 1, 1) \text{ and } (1, 0, 1).$$

Trivial examples of cyclic codes are  $A^n$  itself and the code containing only the zero codeword.