

Algorithms of Information Security: Error-correcting codes. Tutorial.

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Basic definition

Definition

The Hamming distance $d(x, y)$ of two vectors x and y is equal to the number of coordinates in which they differ.

Example. $d(1000111, 1010110) = 2$.

Definition

The generator matrix of a linear $[n, k]$ code C in F^n is a $k \times n$ matrix G , with elements in F , such that its rows form the bases of C .

The matrix G is in the standard form if $G = (I_k \mid A)$, where I_k is the identity $k \times k$ matrix and A is any $k \times (n - k)$ matrix.

The generator matrix has dimension $k \times n$ and must satisfy 3 basic rules:

- 1 each row of the matrix is a codeword
- 2 the rows of the matrix are linearly independent, so the rank of the matrix G is equal to k
- 3 each codeword is a linear combination of matrix rows.

If code C has a generator matrix $G = (I_k \mid A)$, then its control matrix corresponds to $H = (-A^T \mid I_{n-k})$, where I_{n-k} is identity matrix $(n - k) \times (n - k)$.

Example 1. Consider the field F_3 and let the generator matrix of $[5,3]$ -code be as follows:

$$G = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 & 1 & 2 \\ 0 & 2 & 0 & 0 & 1 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & 1 & 0 \end{pmatrix}$$

Convert the matrix G to the standard form and find the parity check matrix H of the code.

Solution: We have the matrix

$$G = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 & 1 & 2 \\ 0 & 2 & 0 & 0 & 1 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & 1 & 0 \end{pmatrix}$$

and we multiply the second row of the matrix by 2 and get the following matrix:

$$G' = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 & 1 & 2 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 & 0 & 2 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & 1 & 0 \end{pmatrix}$$

Linear codes

Then $G' = (I_3 \mid A)$, so the matrix in standard form is

$$A = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 2 \\ 0 & 2 \\ 1 & 0 \end{pmatrix}$$

Note. The parity check matrix of the linear code C is the generator matrix of its dual code.

The parity check matrix is

$$H = (-A^T \mid I_2) = \begin{pmatrix} 2 & 0 & 2 & 1 & 0 \\ 1 & 1 & 0 & 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix}.$$

Cyclic codes

Definition

A cyclic code is a linear code whose generator matrix is made up of codewords (vectors). These code words will be generated by a cyclic shift. The linear code C of length n over the field F_q is therefore invariant with respect to the cyclic shift of its coordinates.

For each word $a = (a_0, \dots, a_{n-1}) \in F_q^n$ holds:

$(a_0, \dots, a_{n-1}) \in C \Rightarrow (a_1, \dots, a_{n-1}, a_0) \in C$. Each word (vector) a can be identified with a polynomial over the field F_q , i.e.,

$a = (a_0, \dots, a_{n-1})$ is represented by

$a(x) = a_{n-1}x^{n-1} + \dots + a_1x + a_0$ or

$$a(x) = \sum_{i=0}^{n-1} a_i x^i \in F_q^n[x].$$

Cyclic codes

The polynomials of the polynomial code are then multiples of the generator polynomial since the cyclic shift corresponds to multiplication by the polynomial x . Generator matrix of the cyclic code with the polynomial $a(x) = a_{n-1}x^{n-1} + \dots + a_1x + a_0$ is:

$$G = \begin{pmatrix} a_0 & a_1 & \dots & a_{n-1} & 0 & \dots & 0 \\ 0 & a_0 & a_1 & \dots & a_{n-1} & \dots & 0 \\ \vdots & \ddots & \vdots & \ddots & \vdots & & \\ 0 & 0 & \dots & a_0 & a_1 & \dots & a_{n-1} \end{pmatrix}$$

Example 2.

Find the generator matrix for the cyclic code $(6,3)$ whose generator polynomial is as follows: $1 \cdot x^3 + 0 \cdot x^2 + 1 \cdot x + 1$.

Solution. Immediately, from the knowledge of the coefficients of the polynomial $x^3 + x + 1$, we get the generator matrix by shifting as follows:

$$G = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 1 & 0 & 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 1 & 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & 1 & 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix}$$

Example 3. Find the generator and parity check matrix over the field F_2 for the binary cyclic code of length 6 with the generator polynomial: $g(x) = x^3 + 1$.

Solution. We have $n = 6$. Note that we have defined k such that $\deg(g(x)) = n - k$, then $n - k = 3$ and hence $k = 3$. The generator matrix is obtained immediately from the knowledge of the coefficients of the polynomial $g(x) = x^3 + 1$:

$$G = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 & 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix}$$

Next, we calculate $h(x) = (x^n - 1) : g(x)$, i.e.
 $h(x) = (x^6 - 1) : (x^3 + 1) = (x^6 + 1) : (x^3 + 1) = x^3 + 1$. Then the parity check matrix is as follows:

$$H = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 & 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix}$$

Example 4. Let C be a binary cyclic code of length 7 over F_2 with the generator polynomial: $g(x) = x^3 + x + 1$.

- a) Verify that the code C is cyclic.
- b) Find the generator matrix and parity check matrix for the given binary cyclic code C .

Hint for a): Note that every cyclic code is a polynomial code.

Verify that g divides $x^7 - 1$.

Solution.

- a) We easily verify that $x^7 - 1 = 1 + x^7 = (1 + x + x^3)(1 + x + x^2 + x^4)$ over F_2 , so $g(x)$ divides $x^7 + 1$ (or $x^7 - 1$) and thus the code C is a cyclic $[7, 4]$ code.
- b) We have $n = 7$. Note that we have defined k , such that $\deg(g(x)) = n - k$, then $n - k = 3$ and hence $k = 4$. The generator matrix is obtained immediately from the knowledge of the coefficients of the polynomial $g(x) = x^3 + x + 1$:

$$G = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 1 & 0 & 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 1 & 0 & 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & 1 & 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 & 1 & 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix}$$

Next, we calculate $h(x) = (x^n - 1) : g(x)$, i.e.,
 $h(x) = (x^7 - 1) : (x^3 + x + 1) = 1 + x + x^2 + x^4$. Then the parity
check matrix is as follows:

$$H = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 & 1 & 1 & 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 & 1 & 1 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 & 1 & 1 & 1 \end{pmatrix}$$

Cyclic codes

How to get all cyclic codes of a given length n ?

All we need to do is to find all the factors of $x^n - 1$.

Note: Every cyclic code is a polynomial code. So we can use the following statement from the lecture:

A polynomial code is cyclic if and only if its generator polynomial divides $x^n - 1$, where n is the length of the code.

Cyclic codes

Example 5. Find all binary cyclic codes of length 3 over F_2 .

Solution. If we want to determine $g(x)$, then we need to find the factorization of the polynomial $x^3 - 1$ over the field F_2 . Note that $x^3 - 1 = (x + 1)(x^2 + x + 1)$. Let $R_3 = F_2[x]/(x^3 - 1)$. We get the following results:

generator polynomial	code in R_3
1	R_3
$x + 1$	$\{0, 1 + x, x + x^2, 1 + x^2\}$
$x^2 + x + 1$	$\{0, 1 + x + x^2\}$
$x^3 - 1$	$\{0\}$

Finite fields

Definition

Let us have a finite field F_q and non-zero element $a \in F_q$. The smallest natural number n such that $a^n = 1$, is called the order of the element.

Consider the field F_{2^3} . This field is formed by polynomials over F_2 modulo the irreducible polynomial $x^3 + x + 1$. It contains the elements $\{0, 1, x, x + 1, x^2, x^2 + 1, x^2 + x, x^2 + x + 1\}$. The characteristic of this field is $p = 2$. All elements except 0 and 1 have order $n = q - 1 = 8 - 1 = 7$, and hence they are all primitive.

When we work with Reed-Solomon codes, it will be convenient for us to represent the non-zero elements of the finite field as powers of the primitive element (i.e., the generator of F_q^*). Let's choose one of the primitive elements in the field F_{2^3} (for example x) and denote it by α . By the element α^2 we mean the product $\alpha \cdot \alpha = x \cdot x = x^2$. We continue further with $\alpha^3 = \alpha^2 \cdot \alpha = x^2 \cdot x = x + 1$. We list the remaining powers in the following table:

α	x
α^2	x^2
α^3	$x + 1$
α^4	$x^2 + x$
α^5	$x^2 + x + 1$
α^6	$x^2 + 1$
α^7	1

Reed-Solomon codes

Example 6. Decide whether there is a Reed-Solomon code with parameters $[7, 5, 3]_q$. If such a code exists, find its parity check matrix.

Solution.

We are looking for q , for which $7 = n = q - 1$, apparently it is exactly $q = 2^3$. Let us represent the elements of the field F_8 using the root α of the polynomial $x^3 + x + 1$ irreducible over F_2 , so $F_8 = \{a_0 + a_1\alpha + a_2\alpha^2 \mid a_i \in F_2\}$. Since the group F_8^* is cyclic, every non-unit element is of order 7, therefore let's calculate the matrix

$$H = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & \alpha & \alpha^2 & \alpha + 1 & \alpha^2 + \alpha & \alpha^2 + \alpha + 1 & \alpha^2 + 1 \\ 1 & \alpha^2 & \alpha^2 + \alpha & \alpha^2 + 1 & \alpha & \alpha + 1 & \alpha^2 + \alpha + 1 \end{pmatrix}$$

Example 7. Consider the finite field F_5 and let $\alpha = 2$. Find:

- generator polynomial for $RS(4, 2)$ (i.e., length is $n = 4$ and dimension is $k = 2$)
- generator matrix for $RS(4, 2)$
- check parity matrix for $RS(4, 2)$.

Reed-Solomon codes

Solution.

- Consider a finite field F_5 and $\alpha = 2$. It is easy to check that $\text{ord}(\alpha) = 4$, and α is therefore a primitive element for F_5^* . Note: we create the generator polynomial $g(x)$ of the RS code using the following formula:

$$g(x) = (x - \alpha)(x - \alpha^2) \dots (x - \alpha^{n-k}),$$

where α is a primitive element.

Then the generator polynomial is:

$$g(x) = (x - 2)(x - 4) = 3 + 4x + x^2.$$

- We can also write the generator matrix for $RS(4,2)$:

$$G = \begin{pmatrix} 3 & 4 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 3 & 4 & 1 \end{pmatrix}$$

Reed-Solomon codes

- We know the generator matrix and we need to find the parity check matrix for $RS(4, 2)$. First, we modify the generator matrix into standard form and obtain the following matrix:

$$\begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 & 3 & 4 \\ 0 & 1 & 3 & 2 \end{pmatrix}$$

Now we have a generator matrix of the form $G = (I \mid A)$, then its parity check matrix is $H = (-A^T \mid I)$, where I is the identity matrix. In our case

$$A = \begin{pmatrix} 3 & 4 \\ 3 & 2 \end{pmatrix}$$

Then we get the following parity check matrix

$$H = (-A^T \mid I) = \begin{pmatrix} 2 & 2 & 1 & 0 \\ 1 & 3 & 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix}$$

Binary Reed-Muller codes

The generator matrix of the Reed-Muller code of order r creates a code of length 2^m . The generator matrix of the Reed-Muller code can be defined as a matrix consisting of $r + 1$ partial submatrices:

$$G = \begin{pmatrix} G_0 \\ G_1 \\ \vdots \\ G_r \end{pmatrix},$$

where G_0 is a vector of length $n = 2^m$, which contains only ones (i.e., $(1, \dots, 1)$), matrix G_1 has dimension $m \times 2^m$ and its columns are binary representations of the numbers $0, 1, \dots, n - 1$, where the leftmost column is $(0, \dots, 0)^T$, and the rightmost column is $(1, \dots, 1)^T$. The other submatrices G_l then have the size of $\binom{m}{l}$ rows and 2^m columns, with the fact that its rows are made up of arbitrary but different products (the $*$ $\text{mod } 2$ operation applied component by component) of l rows of matrix G_1 .

Binary Reed-Muller codes

Example 8. Construct the generator matrix of the binary Reed-Muller code $R(2,3)$ and determine its length n .

Binary Reed-Muller codes

Solution. We have $r = 2$ and $m = 3$, then $n = 2^m = 8$. First, we find out how many submatrices the generator matrix should consist of. For $r = 2$, the matrix G will be composed of $r + 1$ submatrices, that is

$$G = \begin{pmatrix} G_0 \\ G_1 \\ G_2 \end{pmatrix},$$

Binary Reed-Muller codes

Since the length of the code is $n = 8$, the generator matrix must have 8 columns. The construction of the matrix G_0 is trivial. Indeed, this matrix is only a single row vector with eight single zeros. Creating the matrix G_1 is also simple. The numbers 0 to 7 are written in binary form and are put into the matrix column by column. We get

$$G_0 = (11111111)$$
$$G_1 = \begin{pmatrix} 00001111 \\ 00110011 \\ 01010101 \end{pmatrix}.$$

Binary Reed-Muller codes

The last step is to construct the submatrix G_2 . Its rows are always formed by the product of any two rows of the matrix G_1 , with the fact that no combination of multiplied rows may be repeated. We then determine the number of rows by calculating the expression $\binom{3}{2} = 3$. The products of rows 1 and 2 were selected for the first row, 2 and 3 for the second row, and 3 and 1 for the third row of the matrix G_2 .

$$G_2 = \begin{pmatrix} 00000011 \\ 00010001 \\ 00000101 \end{pmatrix}.$$

Binary Reed-Muller codes

The resulting matrix G then has the form after the composition of the submatrices G_0, G_1, G_2

$$G = \begin{pmatrix} 11111111 \\ 00001111 \\ 00110011 \\ 01010101 \\ 00000011 \\ 00010001 \\ 00000101 \end{pmatrix}.$$

Binary Reed-Muller codes

Example 9. Consider the Reed-Muller code $R(2, 4)$. Find the generator matrix of the code $R(2, 4)$.

Binary Reed-Muller codes

Solution 1. We have $r = 2$ and $m = 4$, then $n = 2^m = 16$. First, we find out how many submatrices the generator matrix should consist of. For $r = 2$, the matrix G will be composed of $r + 1$ submatrices, that is

$$G = \begin{pmatrix} G_0 \\ G_1 \\ G_2 \end{pmatrix},$$

Binary Reed-Muller codes

Since the length of the code is $n = 16$, then the generator matrix must have 16 columns. The construction of the matrix G_0 is trivial. This matrix is only a one row vector with 16 one zeros. Creating the matrix G_1 is also simple. The numbers 0 to 15 are written in binary form and are put into the matrix column by column. We get

$$G_0 = (1111111111111111)$$

$$G_1 = \begin{pmatrix} 0000000011111111 \\ 0000111100001111 \\ 0011001100110011 \\ 0101010101010101 \end{pmatrix}.$$

Binary Reed-Muller codes

The last step is to construct the submatrix G_2 . Its rows are always formed by the product of any two rows of the matrix G_1 , with the fact that no combination of multiplied rows may be repeated. We then determine the number of rows by calculating the expression $\binom{4}{2} = 6$. The products of rows 1 and 2 were chosen for the first row, 3 and 1 for the second and 2 and 3 for the third row, 1 and 4 for the fourth row, 2 and 4 to the fifth row and 3 and 4 to the sixth row of the matrix G_2 .

$$G_2 = \begin{pmatrix} 0000000000001111 \\ 0000000000110011 \\ 0000001100000011 \\ 0000000001010101 \\ 0000010100000101 \\ 0001000100010001 \end{pmatrix}.$$

Binary Reed-Muller codes

The resulting matrix G then has the form after the composition of the submatrices G_0, G_1, G_2

$$G = \begin{pmatrix} 1111111111111111 \\ 0000000011111111 \\ 0000111100001111 \\ 0011001100110011 \\ 0101010101010101 \\ 0000000000001111 \\ 0000000000110011 \\ 0000001100000011 \\ 0000000001010101 \\ 0000010100000101 \\ 0001000100010001 \end{pmatrix}$$

Binary Reed-Muller codes

Solution 2. We have $r = 2$ and $m = 4$, then $n = 16$. Monomials in $F_2[x_1, x_2, x_3, x_4]$ of degree at most 2 are $\{1, x_1, x_2, x_3, x_4, x_1x_2, x_1x_3, x_1x_4, x_2x_3, x_2x_4, x_3x_4\}$. Vectors in F_2^{16} associated with these monomials are:

$1 \rightarrow$	(11111111	11111111)
$x_1 \rightarrow$	(01010101	01010101)
$x_2 \rightarrow$	(00110011	00110011)
$x_3 \rightarrow$	(00001111	00001111)
$x_4 \rightarrow$	(00000000	11111111)
$x_1x_2 \rightarrow$	(00010001	00010001)
$x_1x_3 \rightarrow$	(00000101	00000101)
$x_1x_4 \rightarrow$	(00000000	01010101)
$x_2x_3 \rightarrow$	(00000011	00000011)
$x_2x_4 \rightarrow$	(00000000	00110011)
$x_3x_4 \rightarrow$	(00000000	00001111)

Binary Reed-Muller codes

Therefore, the generator matrix of the $R(2,4)$ code is as follows:

$$\begin{pmatrix} 11111111 & 11111111 \\ 01010101 & 01010101 \\ 00110011 & 00110011 \\ 00001111 & 00001111 \\ 00000000 & 11111111 \\ 00010001 & 00010001 \\ 00000101 & 00000101 \\ 00000000 & 01010101 \\ 00000011 & 00000011 \\ 00000000 & 00110011 \\ 00000000 & 00001111 \end{pmatrix}$$

Example 10. Consider the following binary code $C = \{(0, 0, 0), (1, 0, 1), (0, 1, 1), (1, 1, 0)\}$.

- Prove that C is a linear code.
- Find the distance d of the code C .
- Find the generator matrix G of the code C .

Solution:

- The vector $(0, 0, 0) \in C$, the addition operation of vectors from F_2^3 is closed and each element(vector) of C has an opposite element.
- We successively calculate the Hamming weight of all non-zero codewords and find that the minimum weight is equal to 2. According to the theorem (Let C be a linear code over F_q^n . Then $d(C) = wt(C)$), it follows that the minimum distance of the C code is equal to 2.

- The code size is 4, so $k = 2$, and the generator matrix G must have two rows. We can take, for example, the first two non-zero vectors and get:

$$G = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 & 1 \\ 0 & 1 & 1 \end{pmatrix}$$

Example 11. Consider the generator matrix G over the field F_3 . Find the parity check matrix H of the linear code generated by the following matrix

$$G = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 1 & 1 & 1 & 1 \\ 0 & 1 & 1 & 1 & 1 \\ 1 & 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 \end{pmatrix}$$

Solution: We have the matrix

$$G = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 1 & 1 & 1 & 1 \\ 0 & 1 & 1 & 1 & 1 \\ 1 & 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 \end{pmatrix}$$

and then we subtract the first row from the 3rd row and get the following matrix:

$$\begin{pmatrix} 1 & 1 & 1 & 1 & 1 \\ 0 & 1 & 1 & 1 & 1 \\ 0 & 0 & 2 & 2 & 2 \end{pmatrix}$$

Linear codes

Next, we multiply the 3rd row by 2 and subtract the second row from the first row. Then, we subtract the 3rd row from the 2nd row and get the following matrix:

$$G' = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & 1 & 1 \end{pmatrix}$$

We use the following relation $H = (-A^T \mid I)$ and get

$$H = (-A^T \mid I_2) = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 0 & 2 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 2 & 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix}$$

Example 12. Find all cyclic codes of length 4 over F_3 .

Note: Every cyclic code is a polynomial code. So we can use the following statement from the lecture:

A polynomial code is cyclic if and only if its generator polynomial divides $x^n - 1$, where n is the length of the code.

Solution. If we want to determine $g(x)$, then we need to find the decomposition of the polynomial $x^4 - 1$ over the field F_3 . Note that $x^4 - 1 = (x - 1)(x + 1)(x^2 + 1)$. We get the following results:

- Code $[4,3]$ is generated by $x - 1 = x + 2$.
- Code $[4,3]$ is generated by $x + 1$.
- Code $[4,2]$ is generated by $x^2 + 1$.
- Code $[4,2]$ is generated by $x^2 - 1 = x^2 + 2$.

- Code $[4,1]$ is generated by $(x-1)(x^2+1) = x^3 + 2x^2 + x + 2$.
- Code $[4,1]$ is generated by $(x+1)(x^2+1) = x^3 + x^2 + x + 1$.

Example 13.

Find the generator matrix for the cyclic code $(7,3)$ over F_2 , whose generator polynomial is as follows: $x^4 + x^2 + x + 1$.

Solution. The generator matrix is obtained immediately from the knowledge of the coefficients of the polynomial $x^4 + x^2 + x + 1$:

$$G = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 1 & 1 & 0 & 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 1 & 1 & 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & 1 & 1 & 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix}$$

Example 14. Find the generator matrix for the binary cyclic code of length 9 over F_2 with the generator polynomial:
 $g(x) = x^6 + x^3 + 1$.

Solution. We have $n = 9$. Note that we have defined k , such that $\deg(g(x)) = n - k$, then $n - k = 6$ and hence $k = 3$. The generator matrix is obtained immediately from the knowledge of the coefficients of the polynomial $g(x) = x^6 + x^3 + 1$:

$$G = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 & 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix}$$