*CS4220 Project 1*

*Hamming Code Error Detection*

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*Abstract*—this document presents the design of a program that demonstrates the capabilities of Data Link Layer Hamming codes. The project presented and subsequent algorithms demonstrate the successful application, and prove the correctness of Hamming codes in order to handle physical discrepancies in computer networking. Hamming codes are used to ensure the correctness of data received over a network connection; if bits in the data happen to be flipped during transmission Hamming codes can account for the bits and correct them.

Keywords—networks, error correction, Hamming Codes

# Introduction

In the field of computer science one of the most important concepts is computer networking; without network technology, computers and individuals would not be able to communicate and the field would be severely limited in application. As the development of technology and communication progressed, it was noticed that data on a wire is not always provided in integrity, meaning that data sent from one end of a line may not be the same as data received on the other end. In an effort to handle this physical limitation, scientists developed mathematical and numerical methods to account for such loss potential. One such algorithm developed was that of Hamming Codes which uses a pattern of data bits and check bits to compute a modulo 2 sum parity, in order to find and correct incorrect bits in a string of data.

# Hamming Codes

Using Hamming codes is a technique that can be utilized to perform error correcting on the data link layer. The Hamming Code technique is based on another system called Hamming distance, which is the “number of bit positions in which two codewords differ”. The significance “is that if two codewords are a Hamming distance *d* apart, it will require *d* single-bit errors to convert one into the other”. [1] The algorithm for finding the Hamming distance is based on a lower limit property of the number of check bits needed to correct single errors. This method of check bits provides the foundation for the use of Hamming codes.

The utilization of Hamming codes is the error correction technique where the “bits of the codeword are numbered consecutively, starting with bit 1 at the left end, bit 2 to its immediate right, and so on. The bits that are powers of 2 are the check bits. The rest are filled up with the m data bits”. [1] Based on a parity-check bit, this technique has the ability to correct any single mistake in the data transmission, such as a dropped bit. Our code demonstrates this concept by taking any codeword, encoding and decoding it using Hamming Code, and proving that a single bit error can be corrected based on the parity and check bits.

# Solution

## Algorithm

## Inputs and Outputs

## Testing