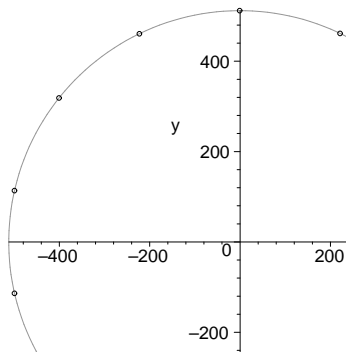


# Fundamental Operations on Rank Metric Codes

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# What is Coding Theory About?

Coding Theory was introduced after Shannon's noisy channel theorem (1948) for efficient communication across noisy channels.



sender transmits  $c$ , receiver gets  $c$

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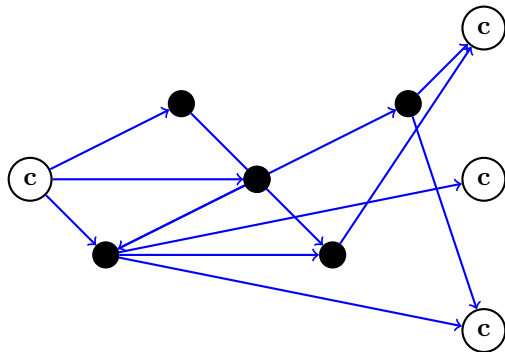
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sender transmits  $\mathbf{c}$ , receiver gets  $\mathbf{c} + \mathbf{e} = \mathbf{v}$

# What is Coding Theory About?

Coding Theory was introduced after Shannon's noisy channel theorem (1948) for efficient communication across noisy channels.



sender transmits  $c$ , receivers want  $c$



# Encoding

- $m \in \mathbb{F}_q^k$  is a message
- encode  $m$  by multiplication with a full-rank  $k \times n$  matrix

$$G : \mathbb{F}_q^k \longrightarrow \mathbb{F}_q^n : m \mapsto c = mG$$

$$C = \{mG : m \in \mathbb{F}_q^k\}$$

is an  $\mathbb{F}_q$ - $[n, k, d]$  code.

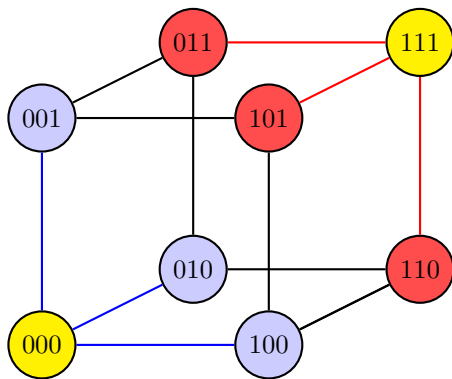
What is  $d$ ?

$d$  is the minimum distance between a pair of distinct codewords.

Want low  $n$ , high  $k$ , high  $d$ .

The higher  $d$  is, the more robust the code is to noise (packing problem).

# Sphere-Packing



# Fundamentals in Coding Theory

- Operations on codes - making new codes from old:
  - ▶ puncturing,
  - ▶ shortening,
  - ▶ extending,
  - ▶ concatenating,
  - ▶ products,
- Parameters of codes
  - ▶ length,
  - ▶ dimension,
  - ▶ minimum distance,
  - ▶ packing radius,
  - ▶ covering radius,
  - ▶ weight enumerators.
- Weight enumerators
  - ▶ MacWilliams duality theorem,
  - ▶ the zeta function.

# q-Analogues

subsets $\{s_1, \dots, s_k\}$ of $[n]$	subspaces $\langle s_1, \dots, s_k \rangle$ of $\mathbb{F}_q^n$
set cardinality	vector space dimension
binomial coefficients $\binom{n}{k}$	Gaussian coefficients $\begin{bmatrix} n \\ k \end{bmatrix}_q$
Hamming weight of $(v_1, \dots, v_n) \in \mathbb{F}_{q^m}^n$	$\mathbb{F}_q$ -dimension of $\langle v_1, \dots, v_n \rangle \subset \mathbb{F}_{q^m}^n$
Hamming weight of $(v_1, \dots, v_n) \in \mathbb{F}_{q^m}^n$	$\mathbb{F}_q$ -rank of $\begin{pmatrix} v_{11} & v_{12} & \cdots & v_{1n} \\ v_{21} & v_{22} & \cdots & v_{2n} \\ \vdots & \vdots & \vdots & \vdots \\ v_{m1} & v_{m2} & \cdots & v_{mn} \end{pmatrix} \in \mathbb{F}_q^{m \times n}$



# Rank Metric Codes

- Introduced by Delsarte (1978) as a  $q$ -analogue of coding theory.
- Independently introduced by Gabidulin (1986) and Roth (1991) for array error correction.
- Studied more after 2000 in the context of code-based-cryptosystems.
- Since 2008, generated interest among algebraic coding theorists due to their applicability in network error correction.
- Many open problems in coding theory: only since 2015 have we seen new optimal families of rank metric codes.

# Hamming Metric Codes

## Definition 1

A linear  $\mathbb{F}_q$ - $[n, k, d]$  code  $C$  is a  $k$ -dimensional subspace of  $\mathbb{F}_q^n$  of minimum Hamming distance

$$d = \min\{d_H(c, c') : c, c' \in C\}.$$

- $d_H((u_1, \dots, u_n), (v_1, \dots, v_n)) := |\{i \in [n] : u_i \neq v_i\}|$ .
- $C$  is optimal if  $k$  attains the max. possible dimension for fixed  $n, d$ .

## Theorem 2 (Singleton Bound, 1964)

If  $C$  is an  $[n, k, d]$  code then  $k \leq n - d + 1$ .

- Codes that meet the Singleton bound are called **maximum distance separable** (MDS).
- MDS code exist for  $n \leq q + 1$  (via Reed-Solomon codes).
- Segre (1955) conjectured that if  $k \leq q$ ,  $q$  odd then  $n \leq q + 1$ .

# Rank-Metric Codes

## Definition 3

A linear  $\mathbb{F}_q$ - $[m \times n, k, d]$  rank-metric code  $C$  is a  $k$ -dimensional subspace of  $\mathbb{F}_q^{m \times n}$  of minimum rank distance

$$d = \min\{\text{rk}(A - B) : A, B \in C\}.$$

- $\text{rk}$  is a distance function on  $\mathbb{F}_q$ - $[m \times n, k, d]$ .
- $C$  is optimal if  $k$  attains the max. possible dimension for fixed  $m, n, d$ .

## Theorem 4 (Rank Singleton Bound, Delsarte 1978)

If  $C$  is an  $[m \times n, k, d]$  code with  $n \leq m$  then  $k \leq m(n - d + 1)$ .

- Codes that meet the rank Singleton bound are called **maximum rank distance** codes (MRD).
- MRD codes exist for all  $m, n, d$ .

# A Construction of MDS Codes

The Reed-Solomon Codes form a class of MDS codes.

Choose  $\alpha_1, \dots, \alpha_n$  distinct in  $\mathbb{F}_q^\times$ .

$$\text{RS}(n, k) := \{c_f = (f(\alpha_1), \dots, f(\alpha_n)) : f \in \mathbb{F}_q[x], \deg(f) \leq k-1\}$$

Any pair of distinct polynomials  $f, g \in \mathbb{F}_q[x]$  of degree  $\leq k-1$  have at most  $k-2$  common roots so

$$d_H(c_f, c_g) \geq n - k + 1.$$

From the Singleton bound its minimum distance is  $\leq n - k + 1$ , so  $\text{RS}(n, k)$  is MDS.

Remark: For a basis-free approach, identify  $\text{RS}(n, k)$  with

$$\{f \in \mathbb{F}_q[x], \deg(f) \leq k-1\}.$$

# A Construction of MRD Codes

The Delsarte-Gabidulin Codes form a class of MRD codes (1978, 1984).

- $L_m := \{f_0x + f_1x^q + \dots + f_kx^{q^{m-1}} : f_i \in \mathbb{F}_{q^m}\}$  (linearized polynomials in  $\mathbb{F}_{q^m}[x]$ )
- Choose  $\alpha_1, \dots, \alpha_n \in \mathbb{F}_{q^m}$ , linearly independent over  $\mathbb{F}_q$

$$\mathcal{G}(m, n, k) := \{c_f = (f(\alpha_1), \dots, f(\alpha_n)) : f \in L_m, \deg(f) \leq q^{k-1}\}$$

$$f, g \in L_m, \deg f, \deg g \leq q^{k-1} \implies \dim(\ker f \cap \ker g) \leq k-1 \implies d_{\text{rk}}(c_f, c_g) \geq n - k + 1.$$

- $\mathcal{G}(n, k)$  is MRD by rank Singleton bound.
- $M_{n \times n}(\mathbb{F}_q) \cong L_n$  as rings (multiplication modulo  $x^{q^n} - 1$ ).

For a basis-free approach, define

$$\mathcal{G}(m, k) := \{f_0x + f_1x^q + \dots + f_kx^{q^{k-1}} : f_i \in \mathbb{F}_{q^m}\}.$$

# MRD Codes

- Delsarte-Gabidulin codes admit fast decoding.
- Until 2015 they were the only known family of MRD codes.

The twisted Delsarte-Gabidulin codes were discovered by Sheekey in 2015.

$$\mathcal{H}(n, k) := \{f_0x + f_1x^q + \cdots + f_kx^{q^{k-1}} + f_0\theta^{q^h}x^{q^k} : f_i \in \mathbb{F}_{q^n}\}.$$

## Theorem 5

If  $\theta^{\frac{q^n-1}{q-1}} \neq (-1)^{nk}$  then  $\mathcal{H}(n, k)$  is MRD with parameters  $[n \times n, kn, n - k + 1]$

- The converse is false.
- The Delsarte-Gabidulin codes are  $\mathbb{F}_{q^n}$ -linear.
- The twisted Delsarte-Gabidulin codes are not always  $\mathbb{F}_{q^n}$ -linear.
- Few other families of rank-metric codes are known.
- Most MRD codes are not twisted Delsarte-Gabidulin codes.

# The Hamming Weight Enumerator

The weight of a codeword is its distance to zero, wrt a given distance function. Given a linear code  $C \subset \mathbb{F}_q^n$ , its Hamming weight enumerator is

$$W(x, y) = \sum_{i=0}^n W_i x^{n-i} y^i,$$

where  $W_t := |\{c \in C : d_H(c, 0) = t\}|$  for  $0 \leq t \leq n$ .

The dual  $C^\perp := \{v \in \mathbb{F}_q^n : c \cdot v = 0 \forall c \in C\}$  has weight enumerator  $W^\perp(x, y)$  st:

## Theorem 6 (MacWilliams Duality Theorem)

$$W^\perp(x, y) = \frac{1}{|C|} W(x + (q-1)y, x - y)$$

# The Rank Weight Enumerator

Given a linear code  $C \subset \mathbb{F}_q^{m \times n}$ , its rank weight enumerator is

$$W(x, y) = \sum_{i=0}^n W_i x^{n-i} y^i,$$

where  $W_t := |\{X \in C : \text{rk } X = t\}|$  for  $0 \leq t \leq n$ .

In 2008 Gadouleau and Yan derived the  $q$ -analogue of the MacWilliams duality theorem. (Also Delsarte 1970s via association schemes)

$C^\perp := \{Y \in \mathbb{F}_q^{m \times n} : \text{tr}(XY^T) = 0 \forall X \in C\}$  has weight enumerator  $W^\perp(x, y)$  st:

## Theorem 7 (Rank metric duality theorem)

$$W^\perp(x, y) = \frac{1}{|C|} \tilde{W}(x + (q^m - 1)y, x - y)$$

where  $\tilde{W}(x, y)$  is a  $q$ -transform of  $W(x, y)$ .



# Weight Enumerators

The weight enumerator is an important invariant of a code.

For example, weight enumerators relate codes to designs, strongly regular graphs and association schemes.

It also tells us precisely how effective the code is for transmitting information.

- For some extremal codes, the weight enumerator is determined.
- In the Hamming metric, this occurs for MDS codes.
- In the rank metric, this occurs for MRD codes.
- The MDS/MRD property of a weight enumerator is invariant under puncturing and shortening.
- The MDS/MRD weight enumerators are  $\mathbb{Q}$ -bases for the spaces of Hamming/rank metric weight enumerators.

# Puncturing Hamming Metric Codes

Puncture an  $[n, k, d]$  code in  $\mathbb{F}_q^n$  by deleting the same coord. from each codeword. If  $d > 1$  this results in an  $[n-1, k, \geq d-1]$  code.

## Example 8

Puncture an  $\mathbb{F}_2$ - $[8, 4, 4]$  code on the last coordinate to get an  $\mathbb{F}_2$ - $[7, 4, 3]$  code.

0000000	1111111		0000000	1111111
1110000	0001110		1110000	0001110
1001100	0110010		1001100	0110010
1000011	0111100		1000011	0111100
0101010	1010101	→	0101010	1010101
0100101	1011010		0100101	1011010
0011001	1100110		0011001	1100110
0010110	1101001		0010110	1101001

The punctured code has a better rate, but worse minimum distance.

## Shortening Hamming Metric Codes

Shorten an  $[n, k, d]$  code by choosing the subcode with zero entries in a given coordinate and then deleting that same coordinate from each selected codeword. If  $d > 1$  this results in an  $[n-1, k-1, \geq d]$  code.

### Example 9

Shorten an  $\mathbb{F}_2$ - $[8, 4, 4]$  code on the last coordinate to get an  $\mathbb{F}_2$ - $[7, 3, 4]$  code.

0000000	11111111	0000000
11100001	00011110	0001111
10011001	01100110	0110011
10000111	01111000	0111100
01010101	10101010	1010101
01001011	10110100	1011010
00110011	11001100	1100110
00101101	11010010	1101001

The shortened code has a worse rate, but may have a higher minimum distance.

# Shortening and Puncturing Rank-Metric Codes

We define shortening/puncturing as projections to  $\mathbb{F}_q^{m \times (n-1)}$ .

## Definition 10

Let  $H \in \mathbb{F}_q^{n \times (n-1)}$  have rank  $n-1$ . Let  $h \in \mathbb{F}_q^n \setminus \text{col}(H)$ .

The punctured and shortened codes of  $C$  wrt  $H$  are:

$$\Pi_H(C) := \{XH : X \in C\} \subset \mathbb{F}_q^{m \times (n-1)} \text{ (punctured code),}$$

$$\Sigma_{h,H}(C) := \{XH : X \in C, Xh^T = 0\} \subset \mathbb{F}_q^{m \times (n-1)} \text{ (shortened code).}$$

## Example 11

Let  $E_i = [e_j^T : j \neq i]$ ,  $e_j = [0, \dots, 1, \dots, 0]$ .

- $\Pi_{E_i}(C)$  : delete the  $i$ th col of each elt of  $C$ .
- $\Sigma_{e_i, E_i}(C)$ : delete the  $i$ th col of each elt of  $C$  whose  $i$ th col is zero.

# Shortening and Puncturing Rank-Metric Codes

## Example 12

Here's an  $\mathbb{F}_2$ - $[4 \times 4, 3, 4]$  code,  $C$ .

$$\begin{bmatrix} 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 & 0 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} 0 & 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 1 & 0 & 1 & 1 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 \\ 1 & 1 & 0 & 0 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 1 & 1 \\ 1 & 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 1 & 0 & 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix}$$
$$\begin{bmatrix} 1 & 1 & 1 & 0 \\ 1 & 1 & 0 & 1 \\ 1 & 0 & 0 & 1 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 1 & 0 & 1 & 1 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & 1 \\ 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} 0 & 1 & 1 & 0 \\ 1 & 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 1 & 0 & 1 & 1 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 1 & 0 \\ 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 1 & 1 & 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix}$$

Then  $\Sigma_{e_1, E_1}(C) = \{0\}$  as  $C$  has weight enumerator  $x^4 + 7xy^3$ .

$Xh^T \neq 0$  for any  $h \neq 0$ , so all shortened codes of  $C$  are trivial.

# Shortening and Puncturing Rank-Metric Codes

## Example 13

Here's an  $\mathbb{F}_2$ - $[3 \times 3, 4, 2]$  code with  $W(x, y) = x^3 + 13xy^2 + 2y^3$ .

$$C = \left\langle \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 \end{bmatrix}, \begin{bmatrix} 0 & 0 & 1 \\ 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 \end{bmatrix}, \begin{bmatrix} 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 \end{bmatrix}, \begin{bmatrix} 0 & 0 & 1 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 \end{bmatrix} \right\rangle.$$

$H$	$h$	$W_{\Sigma_{h,H}}(x, y)$	$H$	$h$	$W_{\Sigma_{h,H}}(x, y)$
$E_2$	110	$x^2 + y^2$	$E_3$	001	$x^2 + 3y^2$
	010	$x^2 + y^2$		111	$x^2 + y^2$
	111	$x^2 + y^2$		011	$x^2 + y^2$
	011	$x^2 + y^2$		101	$x^2 + 3y^2$

# Duality of Puncturing and Shortening in the Hamming Metric

- The MDS property ( $k = n - d + 1$ ) is invariant under shortening and puncturing.
- Puncturing is really a projection to  $\mathbb{F}_q^{n-1}$ .
- Shortening is projection of a subcode to  $\mathbb{F}_q^{n-1}$ .
- We can puncture/shorten on several coords.

Recall  $C^\perp := \{x \in \mathbb{F}_q^n : c \cdot x = 0 \forall c \in C\}$ .

## Theorem 14 (Duality of Puncturing and Shortening)

Let  $\mathbf{P}_i(C)$  and  $\mathbf{S}_i(C)$  be the punctured and shortened codes of  $C$  at the  $i$ th coordinate, respectively. Then

$$\mathbf{P}_i(C)^\perp = \mathbf{S}_i(C^\perp).$$

Pf: (Easy)  $\mathbf{S}_i(C^\perp) \subset \mathbf{P}_i(C)^\perp$ . Show equality by comparing dimensions.

# Duality of Puncturing and Shortening in the Rank Metric

Recall for an  $\mathbb{F}_q$ - $[m \times n, k, d]$  code  $C$ ,

$$C^\perp := \{N \in \mathbb{F}_q^{m \times n} : \text{Tr}(MN^t) = 0 \text{ for all } M \in C\} \subseteq \mathbb{F}_q^{m \times n}.$$

## Theorem 15 (B., Ravagnani 2016)

*Duality of puncturing and shortening also holds for rank metric codes. In particular,*

$$\Pi_{E_i}(C)^\perp = \Sigma_{e_i, E_i}(C^\perp).$$

- $k^\perp := \dim(C^\perp) = mn - k$
- $C^{\perp\perp} = C$
- If  $C$  is not  $\mathbb{F}_{q^m}$ -linear, its duals under the trace inner product and the scalar inner product are different.



# Parameters of Punctured and Shortened Codes

## Lemma 16 (Hamming Metric)

Let  $C$  be an  $\mathbb{F}_q$ - $[n, k, d]$  code.

- 1  $\mathbf{P}_i(C)$  is  $[n-1, k, \geq d-1]$
- 2  $\mathbf{S}_i(C)$  is  $[n-1, k-1, \geq d]$ .
- 3 If  $C$  is MDS then so is  $\mathbf{P}_i(C)$ .
- 4 If  $C$  is MDS then so is  $\mathbf{S}_i(C)$ .

## Lemma 17 (Rank Metric)

Let  $C$  be an  $\mathbb{F}_q$ - $[m \times n, k, d]$  code. Let  $H \in \mathbb{F}_q^{n \times (n-1)}$  have rank  $n-1$  with  $h \notin \text{col}(H)$ .

- 1  $\Pi_H(C)$  is  $[m \times (n-1), k, \geq d-1]$
- 2  $\Sigma_{h,H}(C)$  is  $[m \times (n-1), \geq k-m, \geq d]$ .
- 3 If  $C$  is MRD then so is  $\Pi_H(C)$ .
- 4 If  $C$  is MRD then so is  $\Sigma_{h,H}(C)$ .

# The Zeta Function of a Curve

- $\mathcal{C}$  non-singular projective curve over  $\mathbb{F}_q$ ,
- $N_k$  the number of  $\mathbb{F}_{q^k}$ -rational points of  $\mathcal{C}$ ,

The zeta-function of  $\mathcal{C}$  is

$$Z(\mathcal{C}, T) = \exp\left(\sum_{k \geq 1} \frac{N_k}{k} T^k\right).$$

## Theorem 18 (Weil, Dwork)

*The zeta function of any non-singular projective curve of genus  $g$  can be expressed as*

$$Z(\mathcal{C}, T) = \frac{P(T)}{(1-T)(1-qT)},$$

*some  $P(T) \in \mathbb{Q}[T]$   $\deg P(T) \leq 2g$ .  $|\omega| = q^{-1/2}$  for each root  $\omega$  of  $P(T)$ .*

# Zeta Functions for Hamming-Metric Codes

## Definition 19 (Duursma 1999)

The **zeta polynomial** of a (Hamming metric)  $\mathbb{F}_q$ - $[n, k, d]$  code  $C$  is the unique polynomial  $P(T)$  of degree at most  $n - d + 1$  such that

$$\frac{P(T)}{(1-T)(1-qT)} (Tx + (1-T)y)^n = \dots + \frac{W(x, y) - x^n}{q-1} T^{n-d} + \dots$$

The quotient

$$Z(T) := \frac{P(T)}{(1-T)(1-qT)}$$

is called the **zeta function** of  $C$ .

- The weight enumerator  $M_{n,d}$  of an  $\mathbb{F}_q$ - $[n, d]$  MDS code is determined.
- $P(T) = \sum_{i=0}^{n-d+1} p_i T^i \implies W(x, y) = \sum_{i=0}^{n-d} p_i M_{n, d+i}(x, y) + p_{n-d+1} x^n$ .
- If  $C$  is MDS then  $P(T) = 1$ .

# MRD Weight Enumerators

- If  $C$  is MRD, then its weight enumerator is determined (Delsarte, 1978).

$$M_{m \times n, d}(x, y) = x^n + \sum_{i=d}^n (q^{m(i-d+1)} - 1) \binom{n}{i} y^i \prod_{t=0}^{n-i-1} (x - q^t y).$$

- The MRD weight enumerators

$$\{M_{m \times n, d}(x, y) : 0 \leq d \leq n\} \cup \{x^n\}$$

are a  $\mathbb{Q}$ -**basis** for the space of all  $m \times n$  'weight enumerators' (homog. polys of degree  $n$ ).

- Given any  $[m \times n, k, d]$  code  $C$ , there exist unique coefficients  $p_i \in \mathbb{Q}$  s.t. for some  $r$ ,

$$W(x, y) = p_0 M_{m \times n, d}(x, y) + \cdots + p_r M_{m \times n, d+r}(x, y).$$

- The  $p_0, \dots, p_r$  turn out to coincide with the coefficients of the **zeta polynomial** of  $C$ .

# Zeta Functions, Zeta Polynomials, Weight Enumerators

Theorem 20 (B., Blanco-Chacón, Duursma, Sheekey, 2017)

$$Z(T)\phi_n(T) = \frac{P(T)\phi_n(T)}{(1-T)(1-q^m T)} = \dots + \frac{W(x,y) - x^n}{q^m - 1} T^{n-d} + \dots$$

$P(T)$  is the unique polynomial of degree at most  $n - d + 1$  such that

$$W(x,y) = \sum_{i=0}^{n-d} p_i M_{m \times n, d+i}(x,y) + p_{n-d+1} x^n.$$

- $\phi_{n,r} = \begin{bmatrix} n \\ r \end{bmatrix} \prod_{j=0}^{r-1} (x - q^j y) y^{n-r},$
- $\phi_n(T) := \sum_{r=0}^n \phi_{n,r}(x,y) T^r,$
- if  $C$  is MRD then  $P(T) = 1.$

# Zeta Functions

- $Z(\mathcal{C}, T)$  is the generating function for the number of points on a curve.
- $Z(T)$  is the generating function of **binomial moments** of a code.
- The binomial moments measure the average size of the **shortened subcodes**.
- The property  $|\omega| = q^{-1/2}$  for every root  $\omega$  of the zeta polynomial is called the Riemann hypothesis (RH).
- Many infinite families of codes with extremal Hamming weight enumerators sat. RH.
- It is conjectured that a sufficient condition for RH of a formally self-dual Hamming metric code is that it has weight distribution close to a random code.

## Question 1

Which families of rank-metric codes satisfy the Riemann hypothesis?

$$(|\omega| = q^{-m/2}?)$$

# The Riemann Hypothesis for Rank Metric Codes

## Example 21

Any MRD code satisfies RH - it has  $P(T) = 1!$

## Example 22

- Take a (Hamming metric) extended binary QR code in  $\mathbb{F}_2^{18}$ .
- Puncture and shorten this code to get a code in  $\mathbb{F}_2^{16}$ .
- Express each resulting word in  $\mathbb{F}_2^{16}$  as a  $4 \times 4$  matrix.

The binomial moments are

$$b_0 = 0, b_1 = 0, b_2 = 3/5, b_3 = 15, b_4 = 255$$

$$P(T) = (1 + 8T + 16T^2)/25 = (1 + 4T)^2/25.$$

The zeroes  $T = -1/4$  have absolute value  $(2^4)^{-1/2} = 1/\sqrt{16}$  and so satisfy RH.

The zeta polynomial is that of a maximal elliptic curve over  $\mathbb{F}_{16}$ .

# The Riemann Hypothesis for Rank Metric Codes

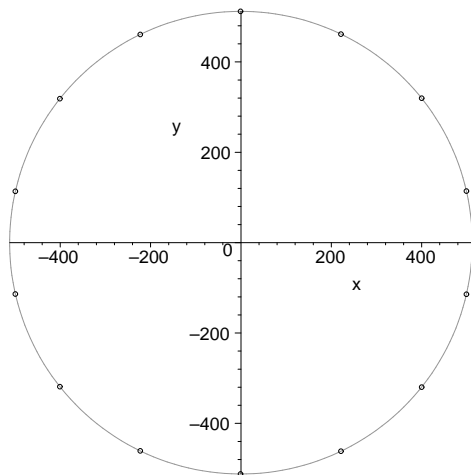


Figure: Complex zeroes for  $P(T)$  of  $\mathbb{F}_4^{9 \times 9}$  in  $\mathbb{F}_4^{18 \times 18}$ .



# A Bound on the Minimum Distance

## Theorem 23 (B., Blanco-Chacón, Duursma, Sheekey, 2017)

Let  $P(T)$  be the zeta polynomial of an  $\mathbb{F}_q$ - $[m \times n, k, d]$  rank metric code and let  $\theta$  be the negative of the sum of its reciprocal roots. Then

$$d \leq \log_q [(\theta + q^m + 1)(q - 1) + 1] - 1.$$

- Follows due to MacWilliam's duality theorem for rank metric codes.

# Shortened Subcodes, Binomial Moments and $W(x, y)$

## Definition 24 (The shortened subcode of $C$ )

We define the **shortened subcode** of  $C$  wrt  $U \subseteq \mathbb{F}_q^n$  as:

$$C_U := \left\{ X \in C : Xu^T = 0 \quad \forall u \in U \right\}.$$

## Definition 25 (The Binomial Moments of $C$ )

$$b_r = \begin{cases} \left[ \begin{matrix} n \\ \dim U \end{matrix} \right]^{-1} \sum_{\dim U = n-d-r} (|C_U| - 1) & \text{if } 0 \leq r \leq n-d \\ 0 & \text{if } r < 0 \\ q^{k-mu} - 1, u = n-d-r & \text{if } r > n-d^\perp - d \end{cases}$$

## Theorem 26 (B., Blanco-Chacón, Duursma, Sheekey, 2017)

$W(x, y)$  is completely determined by the  $b_i$ .

# Shortened Subcodes, Binomial Moments and $W(x, y)$

## Example 27

Here's an  $\mathbb{F}_2$ - $[3 \times 3, 4, 2]$  code with  $W(x, y) = x^3 + 13xy^2 + 2y^3$  and  $d^\perp = 1$ .

$$C = \left\langle \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 \end{bmatrix}, \begin{bmatrix} 0 & 0 & 1 \\ 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 \end{bmatrix}, \begin{bmatrix} 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 \end{bmatrix}, \begin{bmatrix} 0 & 0 & 1 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 \end{bmatrix} \right\rangle.$$

- $C_U = \{0\}$  if  $\dim U \geq 2$  and  $C_U = C$  if  $U = \{0\}$ .
- If  $\dim U = 1$  then  $|C_U| = 2, 2, 2, 2, 4, 4, 4$ .

$$b_0 = \frac{13}{7}, b_1 = 2^4 - 1, b_2 = 2^7 - 1, b_3 = 2^{10} - 1, \dots, b_r = 2^{4+3(r-1)} - 1, \dots$$

$$\begin{aligned} W(x, y) &= x^3 + \begin{bmatrix} 3 \\ 2 \end{bmatrix} (x-y)b_0 + \begin{bmatrix} 3 \\ 3 \end{bmatrix} b_1 = x^3 + 7(x-y)y^2 \frac{13}{7} + 15y^3 \\ &= x^3 + 13xy^2 + 2y^3. \end{aligned}$$

# Zeta Functions for Rank Metric Codes

## Definition 28 (The Zeta Function of $C$ )

$$Z(T) := (q^m - 1)^{-1} \sum_{r \geq 0} b_r T^r.$$

$$b_r - (q^m + 1)b_{r-1} + q^m b_{r-2} = 0, r \notin \{0, \dots, n - d^\perp - d + 2\}. \quad (1)$$

## Definition 29 (The Zeta Polynomial of $C$ )

$$P(T) := \sum_{r=0}^{n-d+1} p_r T^r,$$

$$p_r := (q^m - 1)^{-1} (b_r - (q^m + 1)b_{r-1} + q^m b_{r-2}).$$

The recurrence relation (1) yields

$$Z(T) = \frac{P(T)}{(1-T)(1-q^m T)}.$$

# Zeta Functions, Zeta Polynomials, Weight Enumerators

$$\phi_{n,n-i}(x,y) := (q^m - 1)^{-1} (M_{m \times n,i} - (q^m + 1)M_{m \times n,i+1} + q^m M_{m \times n,i+2}).$$

$$\phi_n(T) := \sum_{r=0}^n \phi_{n,r}(x,y) T^r.$$

Theorem 30 (B., Blanco-Chacón, Duursma, Sheekey, 2017)

$$Z(T)\phi_n(T) = \frac{P(T)\phi_n(T)}{(1-T)(1-q^m T)} = \dots + \frac{W(x,y) - x^n}{q^m - 1} T^{n-d} + \dots.$$

$P(T)$  is the unique polynomial of degree at most  $n - d + 1$  such that

$$W(x,y) = \sum_{i=0}^{n-d} p_i M_{m \times n, d+i}(x,y) + p_{n-d+1} x^n.$$

# Zeta Functions, Zeta Polynomials, Weight Enumerators

## Example 31

For the  $\mathbb{F}_q$ - $[3 \times 3, 4, 2]$  code  $C$  with  $W(x, y) = x^3 + 13xy^2 + 2y^3$ ,

$$\begin{aligned}\phi_3(T) &= y^3 + 7(x-y)y^2T + \dots \\ Z(T) &= \frac{13}{49} + \frac{15}{7}T + \frac{127}{7}T^2 + \frac{1023}{7}T^3 + \dots, \\ P(T) &= \frac{13}{49} - \frac{12}{49}T + \frac{48}{49}T^2.\end{aligned}$$

Then

$$\begin{aligned}\frac{P(T)\phi_3(T)}{(1-T)(1-2^3T)} &= \frac{(13-12T+48T^2)(y^3+7(x-y)y^2T+\dots)}{49(1-T)(1-8T)} \\ &= \dots + \frac{1}{7}(13xy^2+2y^3) + \dots\end{aligned}$$

and

$$\begin{aligned}p_0M_{3 \times 3, 2} + p_1M_{3 \times 3, 3} + p_2x^3 &= \frac{13}{49}(x^3 + 49xy^2 + 14y^3) - \frac{12}{49}(x^3 + 7y^3) + \frac{48}{49}x^3 \\ &= x^3 + 13xy^2 + 2y^3.\end{aligned}$$

# Invariance of the Zeta Polynomial

The weight enumerator of punctured/shortened MRD code is determined (it is MRD), so:

Theorem 32 (B., Blanco-Chacón, Duursma, Sheekey, 2017)

*The zeta polynomial  $P_C(T)$  is invariant under shortening and puncturing.*

$$W(x, y) = \sum_{i=0}^{n-d} p_i M_{m \times n, d+i}(x, y) + p_{n-d+1} x^n.$$

↓

puncturing

↓

$$\sum_{i=0}^{n-d} p_i M_{m \times (n-1), d-1+i}(x, y) + p_{n-d+1} x^{n-1}.$$

# Invariance of the Zeta Polynomial

The weight enumerator of punctured/shortened MRD code is determined (it is MRD), so:

Theorem 33 (B., Blanco-Chacón, Duursma, Sheekey, 2017)

*The zeta polynomial  $P(T)$  is invariant under shortening and puncturing.*

$$W(x, y) = \sum_{i=0}^{n-d} p_i M_{m \times n, d+i}(x, y) + p_{n-d+1} x^n.$$

↓

shortening

↓

$$\sum_{i=0}^{n-1-d} p_i M_{m \times (n-1), d+i}(x, y) + p_{n-d} x^{n-1}.$$



# Puncturing/Shortening Operations on Rank Weight Enumerators

- The weight enumerator of a punctured/shortened code depends on  $H$ .
- The **average** weight enum. after puncturing/shortening **is** determined.
- The average punctured/shortened weight enumerator can be computed by applying  $q$ -**derivatives** to  $W(x, y)$ .

$$\mathbf{P} := \begin{bmatrix} n \\ 1 \end{bmatrix}^{-1} (D_{q,x} + D_y) \quad \text{and} \quad \mathbf{S} := \begin{bmatrix} n \\ 1 \end{bmatrix}^{-1} D_x.$$

Theorem 34 (B., Blanco-Chacón, Duursma, Sheekey, 2017)

$$\begin{aligned} \textcircled{1} \quad \mathbf{P}(W(x, y)) &= \begin{bmatrix} n \\ 1 \end{bmatrix}^{-1} \sum_{\dim H = n-1} W_{\Pi_H(C)}(x, y), \\ \textcircled{2} \quad \mathbf{S}(W(x, y)) &= \begin{bmatrix} n \\ 1 \end{bmatrix}^{-1} \frac{1}{q^{n-1}} \sum_{\dim H = n-1, \langle h \rangle \not\subseteq H} W_{\Sigma_{h,H}}(x, y). \end{aligned}$$

# Normalized Weight Enumerators and the Zeta Function

Arguments based on **puncturing/shortening** show that:

## Theorem 35 (Duursma, 2001)

Let  $C$  be an  $\mathbb{F}_q$ - $[n, k, d]$  Hamming metric code. Then

$$\frac{P(T)}{(1-T)(1-qT)}(1-T)^{d+1} \equiv \mathscr{W} \left( \frac{1}{1-T} \right) \pmod{T^{n-d+1}},$$

where

$$\mathscr{W}(T) := \frac{1}{q-1} \sum_{i=d}^n \binom{n}{i}^{-1} W_i T^{i-d},$$

is the **normalized weight enumerator** of  $C$ .

Gives a nice classification of **random divisible** self-dual codes wrt their  $P(T)$ .

We do not yet have a  $q$ -analogue of this result.

# Normalized Weight Enumerators and the Zeta Function

## Lemma 36 (Duursma, 2001)

Let  $\mathcal{W}(T)$  be a n.w.e. Let  $\mathcal{W}^{\mathbf{P}}(T)$  and  $\mathcal{W}^{\mathbf{S}}(T)$  be the punctured and shortened n.w.e.s.

- $\mathcal{W}^{\mathbf{S}}(T) \equiv \mathcal{W}(T) \pmod{T^{n-d}},$
- $\mathcal{W}^{\mathbf{P}}(T) \equiv (1+T)\mathcal{W}(T) \pmod{T^{n-d+1}}.$

$$\begin{aligned} W(x, y) &= p_0 M_{n,d}(x, y) + p_1 M_{n,d+1}(x, y) \\ &= (p_0 \mathbf{P} + p_1 \mathbf{S}) M_{n+1,d+1}(x, y) \\ &\quad \downarrow \qquad \qquad \downarrow \\ \mathcal{W}(T) &= (p_0(1+T) + p_1 T) \mathcal{M}_{n+1,d+1}(T) \pmod{T^{n-d+1}} \\ \implies \mathcal{W}\left(\frac{T}{1-T}\right) &= (p_0 + p_1 T) \frac{1}{1-T} \mathcal{M}_{n+1,d+1}\left(\frac{T}{1-T}\right) \pmod{T^{n-d+1}} \end{aligned}$$

# Normalized Weight Enumerators and the Zeta Function

## Lemma 37 (Duursma, 2001)

Let  $\mathcal{W}(T)$  be the Hamming distance n.w.e. Let  $\mathcal{W}^{\mathbf{P}}(T)$  and  $\mathcal{W}^{\mathbf{S}}(T)$  be the punctured and shortened n.w.e.s, resp.

- $\mathcal{W}^{\mathbf{S}}(T) \equiv \mathcal{W}(T) \pmod{T^{n-d}},$
- $\mathcal{W}^{\mathbf{P}}(T) \equiv (1+T)\mathcal{W}(T) \pmod{T^{n-d+1}}.$

$$\begin{aligned} W(x, y) &= p_0 M_{n,d}(x, y) + p_1 M_{n,d+1}(x, y) \\ &= (p_0 \mathbf{P} + p_1 \mathbf{S}) M_{n+1,d+1}(x, y) \end{aligned}$$

↓

↓

$$\mathcal{W}(T) = (p_0(1+T) + p_1 T) \mathcal{M}_{n+1,d+1}(T) \pmod{T^{n-d+1}}$$

$$\Rightarrow \mathcal{W}\left(\frac{T}{1-T}\right) = P(T) \frac{1}{1-T} \mathcal{M}_{n+1,d+1}\left(\frac{T}{1-T}\right) \pmod{T^{n-d+1}}$$

$$\Rightarrow \mathcal{W}\left(\frac{T}{1-T}\right) = P(T) \frac{(1-T)^{d+1}}{(1-T)(1-qT)} \pmod{T^{n-d+1}}$$

# Invariance of Rank Normalized Weight Enumerators

## Definition 38

The normalized weight enumerator (n.w.e.) of  $C$  is defined to be the polynomial,

$$\mathcal{W}(T) := (q^m - 1)^{-1} \sum_{i=d}^n \binom{n}{i} W_i T^{i-d}.$$

$\mathcal{W}^{\mathbf{P}}(T)$  and  $\mathcal{W}^{\mathbf{S}}(T)$  are the n.w.e.s for  $\mathbf{P}(W_C(x, y))$  and  $\mathbf{S}(W_C(x, y))$ .

## Theorem 39 (B., Blanco-Chacón, Duursma, Sheekey, 2017)

- $\mathcal{W}^{\mathbf{S}}(T) \equiv \mathcal{W}(T) \pmod{T^{n-d}},$
- $\mathcal{W}^{\mathbf{P}}(T) \equiv (1 + q^d \alpha \varepsilon) \mathcal{W}(T) \pmod{T^{n-d+1}}.$

where

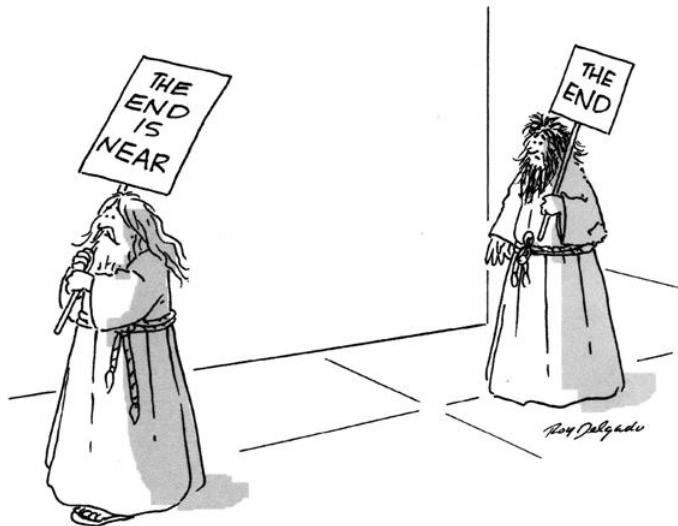
$$\alpha f(T) := Tf(T) \text{ and } \varepsilon f(T) := f(qT).$$

$$q\alpha\varepsilon = \varepsilon\alpha$$









## Closing Remarks

- The theory of rank metric codes is still largely uncovered.
- The zeta polynomial can provide a tool for classifying codes with certain weight enumerators (e.g. divisible codes).
- The behaviours of zeroes of classes of codes is an interesting strand of research.
- $q$ -commuting variables and  $q$ -derivatives feature in the theory of rank metric codes.
- Possible that many of the polynomial invariants of a rank metric code are best described in terms of  $q$ -commuting variables.

# The End



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