

Exercises n° 4, Cyclic and BCH codes

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Exercise 1. In this exercise, we give an alternative proof of the BCH bound using the discrete Fourier Transform.

Let n be an integer and \mathbb{F}_q a finite field with q prime to n . Let $\mathbb{F}_q(\zeta_n)$ be a finite extension of \mathbb{F}_q containing all the n -th roots of 1, ζ_n denotes a primitive n -th root of 1. The discrete Fourier transform is defined as

$$\mathcal{F} : \begin{cases} \mathbb{F}_q(\zeta_n)[X]/(X^n - 1) & \longrightarrow & \mathbb{F}_q(\zeta_n)[X]/(X^n - 1) \\ f & \longmapsto & \sum_{i=0}^{n-1} f(\zeta_n^{-i})X^i \end{cases} .$$

1. Prove that \mathcal{F} is an \mathbb{F}_q -linear map.
2. Prove that

$$\sum_{i=0}^{n-1} \zeta_n^{ij} = \begin{cases} n & \text{if } n|j \\ 0 & \text{else} \end{cases} .$$

3. Prove that \mathcal{F} is an isomorphism with inverse:

$$\mathcal{F}^{-1} : \begin{cases} \mathbb{F}_q(\zeta_n)[X]/(X^n - 1) & \longrightarrow & \mathbb{F}_q(\zeta_n)[X]/(X^n - 1) \\ f & \longmapsto & \frac{1}{n} \sum_{i=0}^{n-1} f(\zeta_n^i)X^i \end{cases} .$$

Indication: it suffices to prove that $\mathcal{F}^{-1}(\mathcal{F}(X^i)) = X^i$ for all $i = 0, \dots, n-1$.

4. For all $f, g \in \mathbb{F}_q(\zeta_n)[X]/(X^n - 1)$, denote by $f \star g$ the coefficientwise product:

$$\text{if } f = \sum_{i=0}^{n-1} f_i X^i \text{ and } g = \sum_{i=0}^{n-1} g_i X^i, \text{ then } f \star g = \sum_{i=0}^{n-1} f_i g_i X^i .$$

Prove that for all $f, g \in \mathbb{F}_q(\zeta_n)[X]/(X^n - 1)$, then

- (i) $\mathcal{F}(fg) = \mathcal{F}(f) \star \mathcal{F}(g)$;
- (ii) $\mathcal{F}(f \star g) = \frac{1}{n} \mathcal{F}(f) \mathcal{F}(g)$;
- (iii) $\mathcal{F}^{-1}(fg) = n(\mathcal{F}^{-1}(f) \star \mathcal{F}^{-1}(g))$;
- (iv) $\mathcal{F}^{-1}(f \star g) = \mathcal{F}^{-1}(f) \mathcal{F}^{-1}(g)$;

5. Let $g \in \mathbb{F}_q[X]/(X^n - 1)$ be a nonzero polynomial vanishing at $1, \zeta_n, \dots, \zeta_n^{\delta-2}$ (in particular, it vanishes at $\delta - 1$ roots of $X^n - 1$ with consecutive exponents). Prove that

$$\mathcal{F}^{-1}(g) \equiv X^{\delta-1}h(X) \pmod{(X^n - 1)}$$

for some $h \in \mathbb{F}_q(\zeta_n)[X]$ where h is nonzero and has degree $\leq n - \delta$.

6. Using $\mathcal{F}(\mathcal{F}^{-1}(g))$ prove that g has at least δ nonzero coefficients.
7. Prove that if $g \in \mathbb{F}_q[X]/(X^n - 1)$ vanishes at $\zeta_n^a, \zeta_n^{a+1}, \dots, \zeta_n^{a+\delta-2}$, then g also has at least δ nonzero coefficients.
8. Conclude.

Exercise 2 (A decoding algorithm for BCH codes). Let \mathbb{F}_q be a finite field and n be an integer prime to q . Let $\mathbb{F}_q(\zeta_n)$ be the smallest extension of \mathbb{F}_q containing all the n -th roots of 1. Let $g \in \mathbb{F}_q[x]$ be a polynomial of degree $< n$ vanishing at $\zeta_n, \dots, \zeta_n^{\delta-1}$ for some positive integer δ . Let C be the BCH code with generating polynomial g . The BCH bound asserts that C has minimum distance at least equal to δ . We will prove that the code is t -correcting, where $2t + 1 = \delta$ if δ is odd and $2t + 1 = \delta - 1$ if δ is even.

Let $y \in \mathbb{F}_q^n$ be a word such that

$$y = c + e$$

where $c \in C$ and e is a word of weight f with $f \leq t$. In what follows, all the words of \mathbb{F}_q^n are canonically associated to polynomials in $\mathbb{F}_q[z]/(z^n - 1)$. For instance

$$e(z) = e_{i_1}z^{i_1} + \dots + e_{i_f}z^{i_f}$$

where the e_{i_j} 's are nonzero elements of \mathbb{F}_q .

We introduce some notation and terminology.

- The *syndrome* polynomial $S \in \mathbb{F}_q(\zeta_n)[z]$:

$$S(z) \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} \sum_{i=1}^{2t} y(\zeta_n^i) z^{i-1}.$$

- The *error locator polynomial* $\sigma \in \mathbb{F}_q(\zeta_n)[z]$

$$\sigma(z) \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} \prod_{j=1}^f (1 - \zeta_n^{i_j} z).$$

1. Among the polynomials S and σ , which one is known and which one is unknown from the point of view of the decoder?

2. Prove that

$$S(z) = \sum_{i=1}^{2t} e(\zeta_n^i) z^{i-1}$$

and hence depends only on the error vector e .

3. Let ω be the polynomial defined as

$$\omega(z) \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} \sum_{j=1}^f e_{i_j} \zeta_n^{i_j} \prod_{k \neq j} (1 - \zeta_n^{i_k} z)$$

Prove that

- (i) $\deg \omega < t$;
- (ii) $S(z)\sigma(z) \equiv \omega(z) \pmod{z^{2t}}$;
- (iii) σ and ω are prime to each other.

Indication: to prove that two polynomials are prime to each other, it is sufficient to prove that no root of one is a root of the other.

- 4. Prove that if another pair (σ', ω') of polynomials satisfying $\deg \sigma' \leq t$, $\deg \omega' < t$ and $S(z)\sigma'(z) \equiv \omega'(z) \pmod{z^{2t}}$ then, there exists a polynomial $H \in \mathbb{F}_q(\zeta_n)[z]$ such that $\sigma' = H\sigma$ and $\omega' = H\omega$.
- 5. Let h be the largest integer such that $z^h | S(z)$. Prove that $h < t$. Deduce that the greatest common divisor of S and z^{2t} has degree $< t$.
- 6. By proceeding to the extended Euclidian algorithm to the pair (S, z^{2t}) , there exist sequences of polynomials $P_0 = z^{2t}, P_1 = S, P_2, \dots, P_r$ with $\deg P_0 > \deg P_1 > \deg P_2 > \dots$ where P_r is the GCD of (S, z^{2t}) and $A_0, A_1, \dots, B_0, B_1, \dots$ such that for all i ,

$$P_i = A_i z^{2t} + B_i S.$$

In particular, we have $A_0 = B_1 = 1$ and $B_0 = A_1 = 0$.

Prove the existence of a polynomial H and an index i such that $P_i = H\omega$ and $A_i = H\sigma$.

Indication : You need to analyze Euclid algorithm, and in particular to prove that for all $i \geq 2$, $\deg B_i = \deg P_0 - \deg P_{i-1}$.

Remark : Actually a deeper analysis of extends Euclid algorithm makes possible to prove that H has degree 0 and equals $B_i(0)$.

7. Describe a decoding algorithm for decoding BCH codes. What is its complexity?

Exercise 3. The goal of the exercise is to observe the strong relations between BCH and Reed-Solomon codes. Let \mathbb{F}_q be a finite field and n be an integer prime to q .

1. We first consider the case $n = q - 1$.

(a) Prove that if $n = q - 1$ then \mathbb{F}_q contains all the n -th roots of 1.

Let ζ_n be such an n -th root, from now on the elements of $\mathbb{F}_q \setminus \{0\}$ are denoted by $1, \zeta_n, \zeta_n^2, \dots, \zeta_n^{n-1}$.

(b) Then, in this situation, describe the minimal cyclotomic classes and the cyclotomic classes in general.

(c) Still in case where $n = (q - 1)$, let C be a BCH whose set of roots contains $\zeta_n, \dots, \zeta_n^{\delta-1}$. Prove that C has dimension $n - \delta + 1$. Then prove that C is MDS.

(d) Let C' be the generalised Reed–Solomon code $C' \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} \mathbf{GRS}_{\delta-1}(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{x})$ where $\mathbf{x} \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} (1, \zeta_n, \zeta_n^2, \dots, \zeta_n^{n-1})$. Recall that this code is defined as the image of the map

$$\begin{cases} \mathbb{F}_q[z]_{<\delta-1} & \longrightarrow & \mathbb{F}_q^n \\ f & \longmapsto & (f(1), \zeta_n f(\zeta_n), \zeta_n^2 f(\zeta_n^2), \dots, \zeta_n^{n-1} f(\zeta_n^{n-1})) \end{cases} .$$

Prove that $C' = C^\perp$.

Indication : a nice basis for C' can be obtained from the images by the above map of the monomials $1, z, z^2, \dots, z^{\delta-2}$.

(e) Conclude that C is a generalised Reed Solomon (GRS in short) code.

2. Now, consider the general case : n is prime to q and C denotes the BCH code whose set of roots contains $\zeta_n, \dots, \zeta_n^{\delta-1}$. Prove that C is contained in the subfield subcode of a GRS code with minimum distance δ .

3. Deduce from that a decoding algorithm based on the decoding of the GRS code. Compare its complexity with that of the algorithm presented in Exercise 2.

Solution to Exercise 1

1. For all $f, g \in \mathbb{F}_q(\zeta_n)[X]/(X^n - 1)$ and all $\lambda, \mu \in \mathbb{F}_q$,

$$\mathcal{F}(\lambda f + \mu g) = \sum_{i=0}^{n-1} (\lambda f(\zeta_n^{-i}) + \mu g(\zeta_n^{-i})) X^i = \lambda \mathcal{F}(f) + \mu \mathcal{F}(g).$$

2. If $n|j$, then $\zeta_n^{ij} = 1$ for all integer i and hence

$$\sum_{i=0}^{n-1} \zeta_n^{ij} = n.$$

Else, then the classical formula on the sum of elements of geometric sequence yields

$$\sum_{i=0}^{n-1} \zeta_n^{ij} = \frac{1 - \zeta_n^{nj}}{1 - \zeta_n^j} = 0.$$

3. Let $j \in \{0, \dots, n-1\}$. Then

$$\mathcal{F}(X^j) = \sum_{i=0}^{n-1} \zeta_n^{-ij} X^i.$$

Set

$$\mathcal{G} : \begin{cases} \mathbb{F}_q(\zeta_n)[X]/(X^n - 1) & \longrightarrow \mathbb{F}_q(\zeta_n)[X]/(X^n - 1) \\ f & \longmapsto \frac{1}{n} \sum_{h=0}^{n-1} f(\zeta_n^h) X^h \end{cases}.$$

$$\begin{aligned} \mathcal{G} \circ \mathcal{F}(X^j) &= \frac{1}{n} \sum_{h=0}^{n-1} \sum_{i=0}^{n-1} \zeta_n^{-ij} \zeta_n^{hi} X^h \\ &= \frac{1}{n} \sum_{h=0}^{n-1} \left(\sum_{i=0}^{n-1} \zeta_n^{i(h-j)} \right) X^h. \end{aligned}$$

And from Question 2, $\sum_{i=0}^{n-1} \zeta_n^{i(h-j)} = 0$ if $h \neq j$ and n else. Thus,

$$\mathcal{G} \circ \mathcal{F}(X^j) = X^j.$$

4. (4i) Obvious, since for all i , $f g(\zeta_n^{-i}) = f(\zeta_n^{-i}) g(\zeta_n^{-i})$. By the very same manner, one proves (4iii). (4ii) can be obtained from (4i) and (4iii) as follows

$$\begin{aligned} \mathcal{F}(f \star g) &= \mathcal{F}(\mathcal{F}^{-1}(\mathcal{F}(f)) \star \mathcal{F}^{-1}(\mathcal{F}(g))) \\ &= \mathcal{F} \left(\frac{1}{n} \mathcal{F}^{-1}(\mathcal{F}(f) \mathcal{F}(g)) \right) \\ &= \frac{1}{n} \mathcal{F}(f) \mathcal{F}(g), \end{aligned}$$

where the second equality is a consequence of (4i). Identity (4iv) can be obtained by the very same manner by exchanging \mathcal{F} and \mathcal{F}^{-1} .

5. By the very definition of \mathcal{F}^{-1} , the $\delta - 1$ first coefficients of $\mathcal{F}^{-1}(g)$ are zero. This yields the result.
6. From (4i) and from the previous question, we get:

$$\begin{aligned}\mathcal{F}(\mathcal{F}^{-1}(g)) &= \mathcal{F}(X^\delta h(X)) \\ &= \mathcal{F}(X^\delta) \star \mathcal{F}(h(X))\end{aligned}$$

Now, observe that $\mathcal{F}(X^\delta) = \sum_i \zeta_n^{-i\delta} X^i$ and hence has only nonzero coefficients. Therefore, the i -th coefficient of $\mathcal{F}(\mathcal{F}^{-1}(g)) = \mathcal{F}(X^\delta) \star \mathcal{F}(h(X))$ is zero if and only if that of $\mathcal{F}(h)$ is zero. Assume now that $\mathcal{F}(\mathcal{F}^{-1}(g))$ has strictly less than δ nonzero coefficients, which means that it has strictly more than $n - \delta$ zero coefficients. This entails that $\mathcal{F}(h)$ has strictly more than $n - \delta$ zero coefficients. By definition of \mathcal{F} , it means that h vanishes at strictly more than $n - \delta$ distinct elements among the ζ_n^{-i} 's which cannot happen since h is nonzero and has degree $\leq n - \delta$ and hence has at most $n - \delta$ distinct roots.

7. In the general case, use the cyclic structure and observe that in this situation,

$$X^{n-a} \mathcal{F}^{-1}(g) = X^\delta h(x)$$

for some polynomial h of degree $\leq n - \delta$ and hence

$$\mathcal{F}^{-1}(g) = X^{a+\delta} h(X).$$

The rest of the proof is exactly as in the previous question.

8. A nonzero polynomial vanishing at $\delta - 1$ roots with consecutive exponents has at least δ nonzero coefficients. This provides another proof of the BCH bound.

Solution to Exercise 2

1. S is known and σ is unknown.
2. We have,

$$\begin{aligned}S(z) &= \sum_{i=1}^{2t} y(\zeta_n^i) z^{i-1} \\ &= \sum_{i=1}^{2t} c(\zeta_n^i) z^{i-1} + \sum_{i=1}^{2t} e(\zeta_n^i) z^{i-1}.\end{aligned}$$

Then, by the very definition of the BCH code C , the term $\sum_{i=1}^{2t} c(\zeta_n^i) z^{i-1}$ is zero.

3. (i) Clearly, ω has degree $< f$ and since $f \leq t$, we get the result.

(ii) We have

$$\begin{aligned}
\omega(z) &= \sum_{j=1}^f e_{i_j} \zeta_n^{i_j} \prod_{k \neq j} (1 - \zeta_n^{i_k} z) \\
&= \sigma(z) \sum_{j=1}^f e_{i_j} \zeta_n^{i_j} \frac{1}{1 - \zeta_n^{i_j} z} \\
&= \sigma(z) \sum_{j=1}^f e_{i_j} \zeta_n^{i_j} \sum_{k=0}^{+\infty} \zeta_n^{k i_j} z^k \\
&= \sigma(z) \sum_{k=0}^{+\infty} z^k \left(\sum_{j=1}^f e_{i_j} \zeta_n^{i_j (k+1)} \right) \\
&= \sigma(z) \sum_{k=0}^{+\infty} z^k e(\zeta_n^{k+1}) \\
&= \sigma(z) \sum_{\ell=1}^{+\infty} z^{\ell-1} e(\zeta_n^\ell) \\
&\equiv \sigma(z) S(z) \pmod{z^{2t}}.
\end{aligned}$$

(iii) The polynomial σ is separable with f distinct roots which are $\zeta_n^{-i_1}, \dots, \zeta_n^{-i_f}$. Now, let $1 \leq \ell \leq f$.

$$\omega(\zeta_n^{-i_\ell}) = \sum_{j=1}^f e_{i_j} \zeta_n^{i_j} \prod_{k \neq j} (1 - \zeta_n^{i_k} \zeta_n^{-i_\ell}).$$

and the product $\prod_{k \neq j} (1 - \zeta_n^{i_k} \zeta_n^{-i_\ell})$ is zero unless $j = \ell$. Therefore,

$$\omega(\zeta_n^{-i_\ell}) = e_{i_\ell} \zeta_n^{i_\ell} \prod_{k \neq \ell} (1 - \zeta_n^{i_k} \zeta_n^{-i_\ell})$$

which is nonzero. Thus no root of σ cancels ω , hence the two polynomials are prime to each other.

4. We have,

$$\omega(z)\sigma'(z) \equiv S(z)\sigma(z)\sigma'(z) \equiv \omega'(z)\sigma(z) \pmod{z^{2t}}$$

Therefore, $z^{2t} | \omega(z)\sigma'(z) - \omega'(z)\sigma(z)$. But the polynomial $\omega\sigma' - \omega'\sigma$ has degree $< 2t$ and hence is zero. Thus we have,

$$\omega(z)\sigma'(z) = \omega'(z)\sigma(z)$$

and since σ and ω are prime to each other, we get $\sigma | \sigma'$ which yields the existence of a polynomial H such that $\sigma' = H\sigma$. Next one deduce easily that $\omega' = H\omega$.

5. The coefficients of S are obtained by evaluating e which has degree $f \leq t$. Therefore, the number of roots of e is less than or equal to t . Thus, $h < t$.
6. From Question 5, the GCD P_r of S and z^{2t} equals up to multiplication by a nonzero scalar) z^h for some $h < t$. Consequently, in the sequence $(P_i)_i$ of polynomials given by the Euclidian algorithm, there exists an index i such that $\deg P_{i-1} \geq t$ and $\deg P_i < t$.

Set $\omega \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} P_i$. By construction, we have $\deg \omega < t$, moreover, the i -th step of Euclid Algorithm yields

$$\omega(z) \equiv B_i(z)S(z) \pmod{(z^{2t})}.$$

To conclude by applying the result of Question 4, we need to prove that $\deg A_i \leq t$. For this sake, we proceed to a deeper analysis of Euclid algorithm. Remind that there exists a sequence of quotients Q_1, Q_2, \dots such that for all $i \geq 2$,

$$P_i = Q_{i-1}P_{i-1} - P_{i-2} \tag{1}$$

$$B_i = Q_{i-1}B_{i-1} - B_{i-2}. \tag{2}$$

By induction, one proves that the sequence of degrees $\deg B_i$ is increasing for $i \geq 1$. Indeed, since $B_2 = Q_1B_1$ (remind that $B_0 = 0$), we clearly have $\deg B_2 \leq \deg B_1$. Then, by induction, for all $i \geq 2$, we assume that $\deg B_{i-1} \geq \deg B_{i-2}$ and hence from (2), we get

$$\deg(B_i) = \deg Q_{i-1} + \deg(B_{i-1}) \geq \deg B_{i-1} \tag{3}$$

since Q_i is nonzero (it is a quotient in an Euclidian division).

Now, as specified in (1), for all $i \geq 2$, we have the Euclidian division $P_{i-2} = Q_{i-1}P_{i-1} + P_i$ where P_i is the remainder. By the very definition of Euclidian division, we have

$$\forall i \geq 2, \quad \deg P_{i-2} = \deg(Q_{i-1}P_{i-1}) = \deg Q_{i-1} + \deg(P_{i-1}) \tag{4}$$

and, putting (3) and (4) together, we get

$$\forall i \geq 2, \quad \deg B_i = \deg B_{i-1} + \deg P_{i-2} - \deg P_{i-1}. \tag{5}$$

Finally, using (2) again, and since $B_1 = 0$, by induction, (5) leads to

$$\forall i \geq 2, \quad \deg B_i = \deg P_0 - \deg P_{i-1} = 2t - \deg P_{i-1}.$$

Next, by definition of i we have $\deg P_{i-1} \geq t$ which leads to $\deg B_i \leq t$. Thus, from Question 4, we get the result.

7. Step 1. Compute S from the received word y .
- Step 2. Proceed to Euclid Algorithm to compute P_i and B_i .
- Step 3. Compute the GCD H of P_i and B_i and set $\omega = \frac{P_i}{H}$ $\sigma = \frac{B_i}{H}$ (actually a deeper analysis of Euclid Algorithm would lead to $\deg H = 1$).

Step 4. Compute the inverse of the roots of σ in $\mathbb{F}_q(\zeta_n)$. Call them $\zeta_n^{i_1}, \dots, \zeta_n^{i_f}$

Step 5. Compute the vector e defined as $e_k = 0$ for all $k \notin \{i_1, \dots, i_f\}$ and

$$\forall j \in \{1, \dots, f\}, e_{i_j} \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} \frac{\omega(\zeta_n^{-i_j}) \zeta_n^{-i_j}}{\prod_{k \neq j} (1 - \zeta_n^{i_k} \zeta_n^{-i_j})}.$$

Step 6. return $y - e$.

The most expensive part of the algorithm is Euclid algorithm whose complexity is $O(t^2)$ operations in $\mathbb{F}_q(\zeta_n)$.

Solution to Exercise 3

1. (a) It is well-known in finite field theory that

$$z^{q-1} - 1 = \prod_{a \in \mathbb{F}_q^\times} (z - a).$$

(b) Cyclotomic classes are any subset of $\mathbb{Z}/(q-1)\mathbb{Z}$ and minimal cyclotomic classes are subsets of cardinality 1.

(c) Let g be the polynomial $g(z) \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} \prod_{i=1}^{\delta-1} (z - \zeta_n^i)$. Since the ζ_n^i are all in \mathbb{F}_q , $g \in \mathbb{F}_q[z]$ and is a generating polynomial of the code. Since its degree is $\delta - 1$ its dimension is $n - \delta + 1$ and by the BCH bound its minimum distance is $\geq \delta$. Thanks to Singleton bound we see that its distance is actually equal to δ and hence it is an MDS code.

(d) From the basis of polynomials $1, z, z^2, \dots, z^{\delta-2}$, the code C' has a basis given by

$$v_i \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} (1, \zeta_n^{i+1}, \zeta_n^{2i+2}, \dots, \zeta_n^{i(n-1)+(n-1)})$$

for $i \in \{0, \dots, \delta - 2\}$. Let $c \in C$, then the inner product $\langle c, v_i \rangle$ is nothing but $c(\zeta_n^{i+1})$ regarding c as a polynomial. Then, since, by definition of C , we know that $c(\zeta_n^j) = 0$ for all $j \in \{1, \dots, \delta - 1\}$, which proves that

$$\forall i \in \{0, \dots, \delta - 2\}, \quad \langle c, v_i \rangle = 0.$$

Therefore, $C' \subset C^\perp$. Next, since C' has dimension $\delta - 1$ and C has dimension $n - \delta + 1$, we conclude that

$$C' = C^\perp.$$

(e) The dual of a GRS code is a GRS code. Hence C is GRS code.

2. Consider the BCH code D over $\mathbb{F}_q(\zeta_n)$ (and not \mathbb{F}_q) associated to the roots $\zeta_n, \dots, \zeta_n^{\delta-1}$. The code C is contained in $D|_{\mathbb{F}_q}$. Moreover, from the previous question, D is a GRS code.

3. The code D considered in the previous question has minimum distance δ . Thus an approach to correct up to $\lfloor \frac{\delta-1}{2} \rfloor$ errors would be to proceed as follows:

- Given a received word $y = c + e$ where $c \in C$ and $w_H(e) \leq \lfloor \frac{\delta-1}{2} \rfloor$. Solve the decoding problem in D using Berlekamp Welch algorithm.

By uniqueness of the solution of this decoding problem in C and in D , we know that the solution is the closest element in C to y and hence is c .

Compared to the algorithm presented in Exercise 2 whose complexity was quadratic in δ , the present algorithm includes a part of linear algebra which will be cubic.