

A Note on [5,3] Error Correcting Codes over GF(7)

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Abstract: In this paper we investigate the existence, equivalence and some other features of [5,3] error correcting codes over GF(7).

Key-Words: Linear code, generator matrix, equivalent code.

I. Introduction

Let F be the $GF(q)$, the Galois field with q elements. An $[n, k]$ linear code over $GF(q)$ is a k -dimensional subspace of F^n , the space of all n -tuples with components from F . Since a linear code is a vector sub-space it can be given by a basis. The matrix whose rows are the basis vectors is called a generator matrix. For an acquaintance with coding theory at a basic level the reader may please consult [1,2,3].

A very important concept in coding is the weight of a vector v . By definition, this is the number of non-zero components v has and is denoted by $wt(v)$. The minimum weight of a code, denoted by d , is the weight of a non-zero vector of smallest weight in the code. A

well-known theorem says that if d is the minimum weight of a code C , then C can correct $t = \left\lfloor \frac{d-1}{2} \right\rfloor$ or fewer errors, and conversely. An $[n, k]$ linear code with minimum weight d is often called an $[n, k, d]$ code.

Two linear codes over $GF(q)$ are called equivalent if one can be obtained from the other by a combination of operations of the following types.

- (a) permutation of the positions of the code;
- (b) multiplication of the symbols appearing in a fixed position by a non-zero scalar.

It is well known [2] that two $k \times n$ matrices generate equivalent linear $[n, k]$ codes over $GF(q)$ if one matrix can be obtained from the other by a sequence of operations of the following types.

- (1) permutation of the rows;
- (2) multiplication of a row by a non-zero scalar;
- (3) addition of a scalar multiple of one row to another;
- (4) permutation of the columns;
- (5) multiplication of any column by a non-zero scalar.

It is also worth knowing [2] that if G is a generator matrix of an $[n, k]$ code, then by performing operations of types (1), (2), (3), (4) and (5), G can be transformed to standard form

$$[I_k | A],$$

where I_k is the $k \times k$ identity matrix, A is the $k \times (n - k)$ matrix

II. Existence of a [5, 3] Error Correcting Linear Code over GF(q) if $q \geq 4$

We begin with an existence theorem.

Theorem (2.1). Let $GF(q)$ be a field of order q where $q \geq 4$. Then there do always exist an one error correcting [5,3] code over $GF(q)$.

Proof. Let

$$M = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 & a_{11} & a_{12} \\ 0 & 1 & 0 & a_{21} & a_{13} \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & a_{31} & a_{14} \end{bmatrix}$$

be a generator matrix of a [5,3] code over $GF(q)$, $q \geq 4$ where $a_{ij} \in GF(q)$ for each i and j , $1 \leq i \leq 3$, $1 \leq j \leq 2$ and $a_{ij} \neq 0$.

One then obtains the following equivalence diagram where r_i and c_i denote the i^{th} row and i^{th} column respectively.

$$M = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 & a_{11} & a_{12} \\ 0 & 1 & 0 & a_{21} & a_{13} \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & a_{31} & a_{14} \end{bmatrix} \xrightarrow{a_{11}^{-1}r_1, a_{21}^{-1}r_2, a_{31}^{-1}r_3} \begin{bmatrix} a_{11}^{-1} & 0 & 0 & 1 & a_{11}^{-1}a_{12} \\ 0 & a_{21}^{-1} & 0 & 1 & a_{21}^{-1}a_{13} \\ 0 & 0 & a_{31}^{-1} & 1 & a_{31}^{-1}a_{14} \end{bmatrix} \xrightarrow{a_{11}c_1, a_{21}c_2, a_{31}c_3} \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 & 1 & a_{11}^{-1}a_{12} \\ 0 & 1 & 0 & 1 & a_{21}^{-1}a_{13} \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & 1 & a_{31}^{-1}a_{14} \end{bmatrix} \xrightarrow{a=a_{11}^{-1}a_{12}, b=a_{21}^{-1}a_{13}, c=a_{31}^{-1}a_{14}} \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 & 1 & a \\ 0 & 1 & 0 & 1 & b \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & 1 & c \end{bmatrix} \xrightarrow{a^{-1}c_5} \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 & 1 & 1 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 & 1 & a^{-1}b \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & 1 & a^{-1}c \end{bmatrix} \xrightarrow{x=a^{-1}b, y=a^{-1}c} \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 & 1 & 1 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 & 1 & x \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & 1 & y \end{bmatrix} = G.$$

Since $q \geq 4$, exist nonzero $x, y \in GF(q)$ such that $1, x$ and y are all distinct. Then no two columns of the parity check matrix

$$H = \begin{bmatrix} -1 & -1 & -1 & 1 & 0 \\ -1 & -x & -y & 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix}$$

are dependent and exist 3 columns of H

$$\begin{bmatrix} -1 \\ -1 \end{bmatrix}, \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix} \text{ and } \begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix}$$

which are dependent. Hence by a well known theorem [2] the minimum weight of the code generated by G or M is 3. ■

Thus there exists an one error correcting [5,3] linear code over $GF(7)$.

III. Equivalence of One Error Correcting [5,3] Linear Codes over GF(7)

Let

$$M = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 & a_{11} & a_{12} \\ 0 & 1 & 0 & a_{21} & a_{13} \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & a_{31} & a_{14} \end{bmatrix}$$

be the generator matrix of a [5,3] linear code over $GF(7)$. If the code is to be error correcting, the minimum weight d should be at least 3. Hence $a_{ij} \neq 0$ for each i and j , $1 \leq i \leq 3$, $1 \leq j \leq 2$. Then as in Theorem (2.1) above, M can be shown to be equivalent to

$$G = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 & 1 & 1 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 & 1 & x \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & 1 & y \end{bmatrix}$$

Notice that x in G above can't be 1, as in that case the first two rows of G if subtracted will produce a codeword of weight 2 and the code generated by G will not be error-correcting. On the other hand x and y can't be same, as then the last two rows of G if subtracted will give a codeword of weight 2. Moreover the diagram below

$$A = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 & 1 & 1 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 & 1 & x \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & 1 & y \end{bmatrix} \xrightarrow{\text{swap}(r_2, r_3)} \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 & 1 & 1 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & 1 & y \\ 0 & 1 & 0 & 1 & x \end{bmatrix} \xrightarrow{\text{swap}(c_2, c_3)} \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 & 1 & 1 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 & 1 & y \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & 1 & x \end{bmatrix} = B$$

Shows that the codes generated by

$$A = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 & 1 & 1 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 & 1 & x \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & 1 & y \end{bmatrix} \text{ and } B = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 & 1 & 1 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 & 1 & y \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & 1 & x \end{bmatrix}$$

are equivalent. Thus from among the 36 possible choices for $\begin{pmatrix} x \\ y \end{pmatrix}$ below:

$$\begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 1 \end{pmatrix}, \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 2 \end{pmatrix}, \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 3 \end{pmatrix}, \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 4 \end{pmatrix}, \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 5 \end{pmatrix}, \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 6 \end{pmatrix}; \begin{pmatrix} 2 \\ 1 \end{pmatrix}, \begin{pmatrix} 2 \\ 2 \end{pmatrix}, \begin{pmatrix} 2 \\ 3 \end{pmatrix}, \begin{pmatrix} 2 \\ 4 \end{pmatrix}, \begin{pmatrix} 2 \\ 5 \end{pmatrix}, \begin{pmatrix} 2 \\ 6 \end{pmatrix}; \begin{pmatrix} 3 \\ 1 \end{pmatrix}, \begin{pmatrix} 3 \\ 2 \end{pmatrix}, \begin{pmatrix} 3 \\ 3 \end{pmatrix}, \begin{pmatrix} 3 \\ 4 \end{pmatrix}, \begin{pmatrix} 3 \\ 5 \end{pmatrix}, \begin{pmatrix} 3 \\ 6 \end{pmatrix};$$

$$\begin{pmatrix} 4 \\ 1 \end{pmatrix}, \begin{pmatrix} 4 \\ 2 \end{pmatrix}, \begin{pmatrix} 4 \\ 3 \end{pmatrix}, \begin{pmatrix} 4 \\ 4 \end{pmatrix}, \begin{pmatrix} 4 \\ 5 \end{pmatrix}, \begin{pmatrix} 4 \\ 6 \end{pmatrix}; \begin{pmatrix} 5 \\ 1 \end{pmatrix}, \begin{pmatrix} 5 \\ 2 \end{pmatrix}, \begin{pmatrix} 5 \\ 3 \end{pmatrix}, \begin{pmatrix} 5 \\ 4 \end{pmatrix}, \begin{pmatrix} 5 \\ 5 \end{pmatrix}, \begin{pmatrix} 5 \\ 6 \end{pmatrix}; \begin{pmatrix} 6 \\ 1 \end{pmatrix}, \begin{pmatrix} 6 \\ 2 \end{pmatrix}, \begin{pmatrix} 6 \\ 3 \end{pmatrix}, \begin{pmatrix} 6 \\ 4 \end{pmatrix}, \begin{pmatrix} 6 \\ 5 \end{pmatrix}, \begin{pmatrix} 6 \\ 6 \end{pmatrix}$$

for $\begin{pmatrix} x \\ y \end{pmatrix}$ in G , we have only ten choices, namely,

$$\begin{pmatrix} 2 \\ 3 \end{pmatrix}, \begin{pmatrix} 2 \\ 4 \end{pmatrix}, \begin{pmatrix} 2 \\ 5 \end{pmatrix}, \begin{pmatrix} 2 \\ 6 \end{pmatrix}; \begin{pmatrix} 3 \\ 4 \end{pmatrix}, \begin{pmatrix} 3 \\ 5 \end{pmatrix}, \begin{pmatrix} 3 \\ 6 \end{pmatrix}, \begin{pmatrix} 4 \\ 5 \end{pmatrix}, \begin{pmatrix} 4 \\ 6 \end{pmatrix} \text{ and } \begin{pmatrix} 5 \\ 6 \end{pmatrix} \text{ which could yield ten generator matrices}$$

$$G_1 = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 & 1 & 1 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 & 1 & 2 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & 1 & 3 \end{bmatrix}, G_2 = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 & 1 & 1 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 & 1 & 2 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & 1 & 4 \end{bmatrix}, G_3 = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 & 1 & 1 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 & 1 & 2 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & 1 & 5 \end{bmatrix}, G_4 = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 & 1 & 1 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 & 1 & 2 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & 1 & 6 \end{bmatrix}, G_5 = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 & 1 & 1 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 & 1 & 3 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & 1 & 4 \end{bmatrix},$$

$$G_6 = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 & 1 & 1 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 & 1 & 3 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & 1 & 5 \end{bmatrix},$$

$$G_7 = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 & 1 & 1 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 & 1 & 3 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & 1 & 6 \end{bmatrix}, G_8 = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 & 1 & 1 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 & 1 & 4 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & 1 & 5 \end{bmatrix}, G_9 = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 & 1 & 1 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 & 1 & 4 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & 1 & 6 \end{bmatrix}$$

and

$$G_{10} = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 & 1 & 1 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 & 1 & 5 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & 1 & 6 \end{bmatrix}$$

producing ten in-equivalent codes.

Next we will show that contrary to our expectation the codes generated by G_1, G_2, \dots, G_{10} are all equivalent.

Now we will show that G_1, G_2, G_3 and G_4 are equivalent.

$$G_1 = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 & 1 & 1 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 & 1 & 2 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & 1 & 3 \end{bmatrix} \xrightarrow{r_2=r_2+5r_1, r_3=r_3+4r_1} \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 & 1 & 1 \\ 5 & 1 & 0 & 6 & 0 \\ 4 & 0 & 1 & 5 & 0 \end{bmatrix} \xrightarrow{\text{swap}(c_1, c_5)} \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 & 1 & 1 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 & 6 & 5 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & 5 & 4 \end{bmatrix}$$

$$\xrightarrow{r_2=6r_2, r_3=3r_3} \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 & 1 & 1 \\ 0 & 6 & 0 & 1 & 2 \\ 0 & 0 & 3 & 1 & 5 \end{bmatrix} \xrightarrow{c_2=6c_2, c_3=5c_3} \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 & 1 & 1 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 & 1 & 2 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & 1 & 5 \end{bmatrix} = G_3.$$

$$G_4 = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 & 1 & 1 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 & 1 & 2 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & 1 & 6 \end{bmatrix} \xrightarrow{\text{swap}(c_5, c_6)} \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 & 1 & 1 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 & 2 & 1 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & 6 & 1 \end{bmatrix} \xrightarrow{r_2=4r_2, r_3=6r_3} \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 & 1 & 1 \\ 0 & 4 & 0 & 1 & 4 \\ 0 & 0 & 6 & 1 & 6 \end{bmatrix} \xrightarrow{r_1=r_1+r_3, r_2=r_2+4r_3}$$

$$\begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 & 6 & 2 & 0 \\ 0 & 4 & 3 & 5 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 6 & 1 & 6 \end{bmatrix} \xrightarrow{\text{swap}(c_3, c_6)} \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 & 2 & 6 \\ 0 & 4 & 0 & 5 & 3 \\ 0 & 0 & 6 & 1 & 6 \end{bmatrix} \xrightarrow{r_1=4r_1, r_2=3r_2} \begin{bmatrix} 4 & 0 & 0 & 1 & 3 \\ 0 & 5 & 0 & 1 & 2 \\ 0 & 0 & 6 & 1 & 6 \end{bmatrix} \xrightarrow{2c_1, 3c_2, 6c_3, 5c_5}$$

$$\begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 & 1 & 1 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 & 1 & 3 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & 1 & 2 \end{bmatrix} \xrightarrow{\text{swap}(r_2, r_3)} \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 & 1 & 1 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & 1 & 2 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 & 1 & 3 \end{bmatrix} \xrightarrow{\text{swap}(c_2, c_3)} \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 & 1 & 1 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 & 1 & 2 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & 1 & 3 \end{bmatrix} = G_1$$

$$G_2 = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 & 1 & 1 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 & 1 & 2 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & 1 & 4 \end{bmatrix} \xrightarrow{r_1=r_1+5r_1, r_2=r_2+3r_3} \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 & 5 & 6 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 3 & 4 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & 1 & 4 \end{bmatrix} \xrightarrow{\text{swap}(c_3, c_5)} \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 & 6 & 5 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 & 4 & 3 \\ 0 & 0 & 4 & 1 & 1 \end{bmatrix} \xrightarrow{2c_3}$$

$$\begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 & 6 & 5 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 & 4 & 3 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & 1 & 1 \end{bmatrix} \xrightarrow{r_1=6r_1, r_2=2r_2} \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 & 1 & 2 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 & 1 & 6 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & 1 & 1 \end{bmatrix} \xrightarrow{\text{swap}(r_2, r_3)} \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 & 1 & 2 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & 1 & 1 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 & 1 & 6 \end{bmatrix} \xrightarrow{\text{swap}(r_1, r_2)}$$

$$\begin{bmatrix} 0 & 0 & 1 & 1 & 1 \\ 1 & 0 & 0 & 1 & 2 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 & 1 & 6 \end{bmatrix} \xrightarrow{\text{swap}(c_2, c_3)} \begin{bmatrix} 0 & 1 & 0 & 1 & 1 \\ 1 & 0 & 0 & 1 & 2 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & 1 & 6 \end{bmatrix} \xrightarrow{\text{swap}(c_1, c_2)} \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 & 1 & 1 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 & 1 & 2 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & 1 & 6 \end{bmatrix} = G_4.$$

Thus we have obtained the following theorem.

Theorem(3.1) An 1 – error correcting [5,3]code over $GF(7)$ is equivalent to the code with the following generator matrix G_1 where

$$G_1 = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 & 1 & 1 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 & 1 & 2 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & 1 & 3 \end{bmatrix}.$$

IV. Weight Distribution of a [5, 3] Linear Code over GF(7)

We begin with the following theorem [3].

Theorem (4.1) Let C be a $[n, k, d]$ MDS code over $GF(q)$ with $d = n - k + 1$. Then

$$A_0 = 1, A_i = 0, 1 \leq i < d \text{ and}$$

$$A_i = \binom{n}{i} \sum_{j=0}^{i-d} (-1)^j \binom{i}{j} (q^{i+1-d-j} - 1), d \leq i \leq n.$$

Applying this theorem on a [5,3,3] code C we obtain, $A_0 = 1, A_1 = A_2 = 0,$

$$A_3 = \binom{5}{3} (-1)^0 \binom{3}{0} (7 - 1) = 60$$

$$A_4 = \binom{5}{4} \sum_{j=0}^1 (-1)^j \binom{4}{j} (7^{2-j} - 1) = 5 [(-1)^0 \binom{4}{0} (48) + (-1)^1 \binom{4}{1} (6)] = 5(48 - 24) = 120$$

and

$$A_5 = \binom{5}{5} \sum_{j=0}^2 (-1)^j \binom{5}{j} (7^{3-j} - 1) = (7^3 - 1) - 5(7^2 - 1) + 10(7 - 1) = 162.$$

It is well-known [1] that if C is an MDS code, so is C^\perp . Hence the minimum distance of C^\perp is $5 - 2 + 1 = 4$. Then by Theorem (3.1) above, $A_0 = 1, A_1 = A_2 = A_3 = 0,$

$$A_4 = \binom{5}{4} (-1)^0 \binom{4}{0} (7 - 1) = 30 \text{ and}$$

$$A_5 = \binom{5}{5} \sum_{j=0}^1 (-1)^j \binom{5}{j} (7^{2-j} - 1) = (7^2 - 1) - 5(7 - 1) = 48 - 30 = 18.$$

Thus we have the following theorem.

Theorem(4.2). A [5,3,3] code C over $GF(7)$ has the following weight distribution.

Weight	Number of Words
0	1
3	60
4	120
5	162

On the other hand, a [5,2,4] code C^\perp has the following weight distribution.

Weight	Number of Words
0	1
4	30
5	18

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