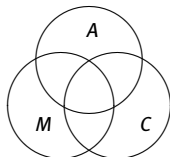


Codes, arrangements and matroids

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on PhD thesis of
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Palaiseau, 6 May 2014



- ▶ C = error-correcting codes
(extended) weight enumerator polynomial $W_C(X, Y)$, $W_C(X, Y, T)$
- ▶ A = arrangements of hyperplanes
topology, combinatorics
characteristic polynomial $\chi(T)$, coboundary polynomial $\chi(S, T)$
- ▶ M = matroids
generalization of linear algebra and graph theory
(di)chromatic polynomial and Tutte polynomial $t_M(X, Y)$

1. Error-correcting codes
2. Weight enumerator
3. Arrangements and codes
4. Arrangements and weight enumerators
5. Extended weight enumerator
6. Matroids
7. Tutte-Whitney polynomial

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<http://www.win.tue.nl/~ruudp/paper/63.pdf>

Error-correcting codes

The **support** of \mathbf{x} in \mathbb{F}_q^n is defined by

$$\text{supp}(\mathbf{x}) = \{ j \mid x_j \neq 0 \}$$

The **weight** of \mathbf{x} is defined by

$$\text{wt}(\mathbf{x}) = |\text{supp}(\mathbf{x})|$$

that is the number of nonzero entries of \mathbf{x}

The support of **subspace** D of \mathbb{F}_q^n is defined by

$$\text{supp}(D) = \{ j \mid x_j \neq 0 \text{ for some } \mathbf{x} \in D \}$$

The weight of D is defined by

$$\text{wt}(D) = |\text{supp}(D)|$$

Let C be an \mathbb{F}_q -linear code

Then the **minimum distance** of C is

$$d(C) = \min\{ \text{wt}(\mathbf{c}) \mid \mathbf{0} \neq \mathbf{c} \in C \}$$

The **r -th generalized distance** of C is

$$d_r(C) = \min\{ \text{wt}(D) \mid D \text{ subspace of } C, \dim(D) = r \}$$

So $d_1(C) = d(C)$.

C an \mathbb{F}_q -linear code of dimension k

A $k \times n$ matrix G with entries in \mathbb{F}_q
is called **generator matrix** of C if

$$C = \{ \mathbf{x}G \mid \mathbf{x} \in \mathbb{F}_q^k \}$$

A $(n - k) \times n$ matrix H with entries in \mathbb{F}_q
is called a **parity check matrix** of C if

$$C = \{ \mathbf{c} \in \mathbb{F}_q^n \mid \mathbf{c}H^T = \mathbf{0} \}$$

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The **inner product** on \mathbb{F}_q^n is defined by

$$\mathbf{x} \cdot \mathbf{y} = x_1 y_1 + \cdots + x_n y_n$$

This inner product is **bilinear**, **symmetric** and **nondegenerate** but the notion of **positive definite** makes no sense over a finite field

For an $[n, k]$ code C we define the **dual** or **orthogonal code** C^\perp as

$$C^\perp = \{ \mathbf{x} \in \mathbb{F}_q^n \mid \mathbf{c} \cdot \mathbf{x} = 0 \text{ for all } \mathbf{c} \in C \}.$$

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Let G be a generator matrix of C

C is called **degenerate**

if for there is a position j such that $c_j = 0$ for all $\mathbf{c} \in C$

The following statements are equivalent:

1. C is nondegenerate
2. G has no zero column
3. $d(C^\perp) \geq 2$

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(Generalized) weight enumerator

Let C be a code of length n

A_w denotes the number of codewords in C of weight w

$A_w^{(r)}$ denotes the number of subspaces of C of dimension r weight w

The **weight enumerator** is:

$$W_C(X, Y) = \sum_{w=0}^n A_w X^{n-w} Y^w.$$

The **r -th generalized weight enumerator** is:

$$W_C^{(r)}(X, Y) = \sum_{w=0}^n A_w^{(r)} X^{n-w} Y^w.$$

Theorem

Let C be a $[n, k]$ code over \mathbb{F}_q

Then

$$W_{C^\perp}(X, Y) = q^{-k} W_C(X + (q-1)Y, X - Y)$$

Proof

Several proofs are known

Proposition

Let $W_C(X, Y)$ be the weight enumerator of C
Then the probability of undetected error on a
 q -ary symmetric channel with cross-over probability p is given by

$$P_{ue}(p) = W_C \left(1 - p, \frac{p}{q-1} \right) - (1 - p)^n.$$

Arrangements and codes

Let C and D be linear codes in \mathbb{F}_q^n

Then C is called **permutation equivalent** to D

if there exists a permutation matrix Π such that $\Pi(C) = D$

If moreover $C = D$, then Π is called an **permutation automorphism** of C

The code C is called **generalized** or **monomial equivalent** to D

if there exists a monomial matrix M such that $M(C) = D$

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An **arrangement** in \mathbb{F}^k is an n -tuple (H_1, \dots, H_n) of hyperplanes in \mathbb{F}^k

The arrangement is called **simple** if all the n hyperplanes are mutually distinct

The arrangement is called **central** if $\mathbf{0} \in H_j$ for all j
If the arrangement is central one considers the hyperplanes in $\mathbb{P}^{k-1}(\mathbb{F})$

A central arrangement is called **essential** if $\bigcap_j H_j = \{\mathbf{0}\}$
Projective systems and essential arrangements are dual notions

Let $G = (g_{ij})$ be a generator matrix of a nondegenerate code C of dimension k

So G has no zero columns

Let H_j be the linear hyperplane in \mathbb{F}_q^k with equation

$$g_{1j}X_1 + \cdots + g_{kj}X_k = 0.$$

\mathcal{A}_G is the arrangement (H_1, \dots, H_n) associated with G

There is a one-to-one correspondence between:

1. generalized equivalence classes of nondegenerate $[n, k]$ codes over \mathbb{F}_q
2. equivalence classes of essential arrangements of n hyperplanes in $\mathbb{P}^{k-1}(\mathbb{F}_q)$

Proposition

Let C be a nondegenerate code over \mathbb{F}_q with generator matrix G

Let c be a codeword $c = xG$ for the unique $x \in \mathbb{F}_q^k$

Then $n - \text{wt}(c)$ is equal to the number of hyperplanes of \mathcal{A}_G through x

Proof

Now $c_j = \sum_i g_{ij} x_i$

So $c_j = 0$ if and only if $x \in H_j$

Hence

$$n - \text{wt}(c) = |\{j \mid c_j = 0\}| = |\{j \mid x \in H_j\}|$$

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Arrangements and weight enumerator

A_w the number of codewords of weight w equals
the number of points that are on exactly $n - w$ of the hyperplanes of \mathcal{A}_G

In particular A_n is equal to the number of points that is in
the complement of the union of these hyperplanes in \mathbb{F}_q^k

This number can be computed by the [principle of inclusion/exclusion](#):

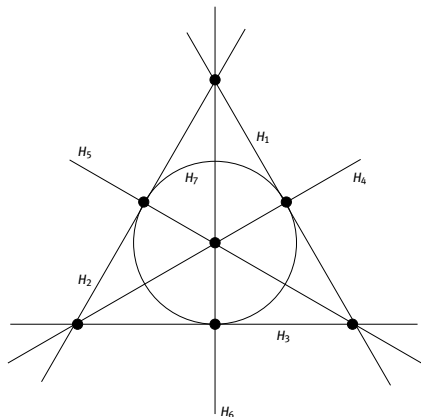
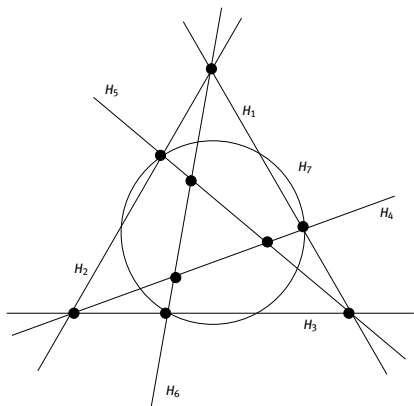
$$\begin{aligned} A_n &= q^k - |H_1 \cup \dots \cup H_n| \\ &= q^k + \sum_{w=1}^n (-1)^w \sum_{i_1 < \dots < i_w} |H_{i_1} \cap \dots \cap H_{i_w}|. \end{aligned}$$

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

Let C be the code over \mathbb{F}_q with generator matrix G

For $q = 2$, this is the simplex code $\mathcal{S}_2(2)$

The columns of G represent also the coefficients of the lines of \mathcal{A}_G

Assume q is even

$$A_0 = 1$$

$A_4 = 7(q - 1)$ there are 7 points on exactly 3 lines

$A_6 = 7(q - 1)[(q + 1) - 3] = 7(q - 1)(q - 2)$ there are 7 lines
and $(q + 1) - 3$ points of such a line is exactly on one of these

$$A_7 = q^3 - A_0 - A_4 - A_6 = (q - 1)(q - 2)(q - 4)$$

So

$$W_C(X, Y) = X^7 + 7(q - 1)X^3Y^4 + 7(q - 1)(q - 2)XY^6 + (q - 1)(q - 2)(q - 4)Y^7$$

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Assume q is odd, then similarly

$$W_C(X, Y) =$$

$$X^7 + 6(q-1)X^3Y^4 + 3(q-1)X^2Y^5 + (q-1)(7q-17)XY^6 + (q-1)(q-3)^2Y^7$$

The following method is based on [Katsman-Tsfasman](#)
Later we will encounter another method:
[matroids](#) and the [Tutte polynomial](#) by [Greene](#)

Definition

For a subset J of $[n] := \{1, 2, \dots, n\}$ define

$$C(J) = \{c \in C \mid c_j = 0 \text{ for all } j \in J\}$$

$$l(J) = \dim C(J)$$

$$B_J = q^{l(J)} - 1$$

$$B_t = \sum_{|J|=t} B_J$$

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The encoding map $\mathbf{x} \mapsto \mathbf{x}G = \mathbf{c}$
from vectors $\mathbf{x} \in \mathbb{F}_q^k$ to codewords
gives the following isomorphism of vector spaces

$$\bigcap_{j \in J} H_j \cong C(J)$$

Furthermore B_J is equal to the number of nonzero codewords \mathbf{c}
that are zero at all H_j in J

$$B_J = |C(J) \setminus \{0\}| = \left| \bigcap_{j \in J} H_j \setminus \{0\} \right|$$

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Lemma

Let C be a linear code with generator matrix G

Let $J \subseteq [n]$ and $|J| = t$

G_J is the $k \times t$ submatrix of G consisting of the columns of G indexed by J

Let $r(J)$ be the rank of G_J

Then $l(J) = k - r(J)$

Lemma

Let C be an \mathbb{F}_q -linear code of dimension k

Let d and d^\perp be the minimum distance of C and C^\perp , respectively

Let $J \subseteq [n]$ and $|J| = t$

Then

$$l(J) = \begin{cases} k - t & \text{for all } t < d^\perp \\ 0 & \text{for all } t > n - d \end{cases}$$

and

$$B_t = \begin{cases} \binom{n}{t} (q^{k-t} - 1) & \text{for all } t < d^\perp \\ 0 & \text{for all } t > n - d \end{cases}$$

Proposition

B_t relates to the weight distribution as follows:

$$B_t = \sum_{w=t}^{n-t} \binom{n-w}{t} A_w$$

Proof

Count in two ways the number of elements of the set

$$\{ (J, \mathbf{c}) \mid J \subseteq [n], |J| = t, \mathbf{c} \in \mathcal{C}(J), \mathbf{c} \neq \mathbf{0} \}$$

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Theorem

The generalized weight enumerator is given by the following formula:

$$W_C(X, Y) = X^n + \sum_{t=0}^n B_t(X - Y)^t Y^{n-t}$$

Proof

Use the previous proposition
the fact that $B_t = 0$ for $t > n - d$
change the order of summation and
use the binomial expansion:

$$X^{n-w} = ((X - Y) + Y)^{n-w}$$

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The following formula holds:

$$A_w = \sum_{t=n-w}^n (-1)^{n+w+t} \binom{t}{n-w} B_t.$$

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Proposition

The weight distribution of an MDS code of length n , dimension k and minimum distance $d = n - k + 1$

$$A_w = \binom{n}{w} \sum_{j=0}^{w-d} (-1)^j \binom{w}{j} (q^{w-d+1-j} - 1)$$

for $w \geq d = n - k + 1$

Extended weight enumerator

Let G be the generator matrix of a linear $[n, k]$ code C over \mathbb{F}_q

\mathbb{F}_q is a subfield of \mathbb{F}_{q^m}

Consider the code $C \otimes \mathbb{F}_{q^m}$ over \mathbb{F}_{q^m}
by taking all \mathbb{F}_{q^m} -linear combinations of the codewords in C
This is called the **extension code** of C over \mathbb{F}_{q^m}

G is also a generator matrix for the extension code $C \otimes \mathbb{F}_{q^m}$
Hence $C \otimes \mathbb{F}_{q^m}$ has dimension k over \mathbb{F}_{q^m}

Remember:

Definition

For a subset J of $[n] := \{1, 2, \dots, n\}$ define

$$C(J) = \{ \mathbf{c} \in C \mid c_j = 0 \text{ for all } j \in J \}$$

$$l(J) = \dim C(J)$$

Lemma

Let C be a linear code with generator matrix G

Let $J \subseteq [n]$ and $|J| = t$

G_J is the $k \times t$ submatrix of G consisting of the columns of G indexed by J

Let $r(J)$ be the rank of G_J

Then $l(J) = k - r(J)$

$l(J) = k - r(J)$ by the previous lemma

$r(J)$ is **independent of the extension field** \mathbb{F}_{q^m}

Therefore

$$\dim_{\mathbb{F}_q} C(J) = \dim_{\mathbb{F}_{q^m}} (C \otimes \mathbb{F}_{q^m})(J)$$

This motivates the usage of T as a variable for q^m in the next definition

Remember:

Let C be a linear code over \mathbb{F}_q

$$B_J = q^{l(J)} - 1$$

$$B_t = \sum_{|J|=t} B_J$$

Extend: **Definition**

$$B_J(T) = T^{l(J)} - 1$$

$$B_t(T) = \sum_{|J|=t} B_J(T)$$

Note that $B_J(q^m)$ is the number of nonzero codewords in $(C \otimes \mathbb{F}_{q^m})(J)$

Remember:

$$W_C(X, Y) = X^n + \sum_{t=0}^n B_t(X - Y)^t Y^{n-t}$$

Define the **extended weight enumerator** by

$$W_C(X, Y, T) = X^n + \sum_{t=0}^n B_t(T)(X - Y)^t Y^{n-t}$$

Is **well-defined** for any linear subspace C of \mathbb{F}^n over **any field** \mathbb{F}

Theorem

The following holds:

$$W_C(X, Y, T) = \sum_{w=0}^n A_w(T) X^{n-w} Y^w$$

$$A_0(T) = 1, \text{ and } A_w(T) = \sum_{t=n-w}^n (-1)^{n+w+t} \binom{t}{n-w} B_t(T)$$

for $0 < w \leq n$ and

$$B_t(T) = \sum_{w=d}^{n-t} \binom{n-w}{t} A_w(T)$$

Proof is similar to the proof relating the A_w 's and B_t 's

Proposition

The weight distribution of an MDS code of length n and dimension k is given by

$$A_w(T) = \binom{n}{w} \sum_{j=0}^{w-d} (-1)^j \binom{w}{j} (T^{w-d+1-j} - 1)$$

for $w \geq d = n - k + 1$

Proof

Similar to the proof for A_w

Proposition

Let C be a linear $[n, k]$ code over \mathbb{F}_q

Then

$$W_C(X, Y, q^m) = W_{C \otimes \mathbb{F}_{q^m}}(X, Y)$$

The number of codewords in $C \otimes \mathbb{F}_{q^m}$ of weight w is equal to $A_w(q^m)$

Proof

Substituting $T = q^m$ in $B_t(T)$ gives

$B_t(q^m)$ which is equal to the B_t of $C \otimes \mathbb{F}_{q^m}$

Theorem

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

Then

$$W_{C^\perp}(X, Y, T) = T^{-k} W_C(X + (T - 1)Y, X - Y, T)$$

Proof

Substituting $T = q^m$ gives the MacWilliams identity for $C \otimes \mathbb{F}_{q^m}$

$$W_{C^\perp}(X, Y, q^m) = q^{-mk} W_C(X + (q^m - 1)Y, X - Y, q^m)$$

which holds for all m

Now $A_w(T)$ is a polynomial in T with coefficient in \mathbb{Z}

Giving infinitely many identities for the weight distributions of

$$C \otimes \mathbb{F}_{q^m} \text{ and } C^\perp \otimes \mathbb{F}_{q^m} = (C \otimes \mathbb{F}_{q^m})^\perp$$

The following formula will be useful later in identifying the extended weight enumerator with the Tutte polynomial

Proposition

Let C be a linear $[n, k]$ code over \mathbb{F}_q

$$W_C(X, Y, T) = \sum_{t=0}^n \sum_{|J|=t} T^{l(J)} (X - Y)^t Y^{n-t}$$

Proof

Use the description of $W_C(X, Y, T)$ in terms of the $B_t(T)$ and the definition of $B_t(T)$ in terms of the $l(J)$

Matroids

Matroids were introduced by **Whitney** in axiomatizing and generalizing the concepts of **independence** in linear algebra and **cycle** in graph theory

Definition

A **matroid** M is a pair (E, \mathcal{I}) consisting of a finite set E and a collection \mathcal{I} of subsets of E such that:

- (I.1) $\emptyset \in \mathcal{I}$.
- (I.2) If $J \subseteq I$ and $I \in \mathcal{I}$, then $J \in \mathcal{I}$.
- (I.3) If $I, J \in \mathcal{I}$ and $|I| < |J|$, then there exists a $j \in (J \setminus I)$ such that $I \cup \{j\} \in \mathcal{I}$.

A subset I of E is called **independent** if $I \in \mathcal{I}$
otherwise it is called **dependent**

Condition (I.2) is called the **independence augmentation axiom**

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Condition (I.2) is called the **independence augmentation axiom**

If J is a subset of E , then J has a **maximal independent subset** if there exists an $I \in \mathcal{I}$ such that $I \subseteq J$ and I is maximal with respect to this property and the inclusion

If I_1 and I_2 are maximal independent subsets of J then $|I_1| = |I_2|$ by condition (I.3)

The **rank** or **dimension** $r(J)$ of a subset J of E is the number of elements of a maximal independent subset of J

An independent set of rank $r(M)$ is called a **basis** of M
The collection of all bases of M is denoted by \mathcal{B}

Let n and k be non-negative integers such that $k \leq n$

Let $[n] = \{1, \dots, n\}$

Let $\mathcal{I}_{n,k} = \{I \subseteq [n] \mid |I| \leq k\}$

Then $([n], \mathcal{I}_{n,k})$ is a matroid and it is denoted by $U_{n,k}$

It is called the **uniform matroid** of rank k on n elements

A subset B of $[n]$ is a basis of $U_{n,k}$ iff $|B| = k$

The matroid $U_{n,n}$ has no dependent sets and is called **free**

Let G be a $k \times n$ matrix with entries in a field \mathbb{F}

Let E be the set $[n]$ indexing the columns of G

Let \mathcal{I}_G be the collection of all subsets I of E
such that the columns of G_I are independent

Then $M_G = (E, \mathcal{I}_G)$ is a matroid

A matroid that is isomorphic with an M_G is called
representable over the field \mathbb{F}

Suppose that \mathbb{F} is a finite field and
 G_1 and G_2 are generator matrices of a code C
Then $(E, \mathcal{I}_{G_1}) = (E, \mathcal{I}_{G_2})$

So the matroid $M_C = (E, \mathcal{I}_C)$ of a code C is well defined by
 (E, \mathcal{I}_G) for some generator matrix G of C

Let $M = (E, \mathcal{I})$ be a matroid

Let \mathcal{B} be the collection of all bases of M

Define $B^\perp = (E \setminus B)$ for $B \in \mathcal{B}$

and $\mathcal{B}^\perp = \{B^\perp \mid B \in \mathcal{B}\}$

Define $\mathcal{I}^\perp = \{I \subseteq E \mid I \subseteq B \text{ for some } B \in \mathcal{B}^\perp\}$

Then (E, \mathcal{I}^\perp) is called the **dual matroid** of M and is denoted by M^\perp

The dual matroid is indeed a matroid

Let C be a code over a finite field

Then $(M_C)^\perp$ is isomorphic with M_{C^\perp} as matroids

Tutte-Whitney polynomial

Definition

Let $M = (E, \mathcal{I})$ be a matroid

The **Whitney rank generating function** $R_M(X, Y)$ is defined by

$$R_M(X, Y) = \sum_{J \subseteq E} X^{r(E)-r(J)} Y^{|J|-r(J)}$$

and the **Tutte-Whitney** or **dichromatic Tutte polynomial** by

$$t_M(X, Y) = \sum_{J \subseteq E} (X-1)^{r(E)-r(J)} (Y-1)^{|J|-r(J)}$$

Hence

$$t_M(X, Y) = R_M(X-1, Y-1)$$

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Proposition

Let C be a $[n, k]$ code over \mathbb{F}_q

Then the Tutte polynomial t_C of the matroid M_C of the code C is

$$t_C(X, Y) = \sum_{t=0}^n \sum_{|J|=t} (X-1)^{l(J)} (Y-1)^{l(J)-(k-t)}$$

Proof

$$t_C(X, Y) = \sum_{J \subseteq E} (X-1)^{r(E)-r(J)} (Y-1)^{|J|-r(J)}$$

Now $r(E) = k$, $t = |J|$ and $l(J) = k - r(J)$

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Theorem

Let C be a $[n, k]$ code over **any** field \mathbb{F}

Then the Tutte polynomial t_C of the matroid M_C of the code C and the extended weight enumerator $W_C(X, Y, T)$ determine each other

$$t_C(X, Y) = Y^n (Y - 1)^{-k} W_C(1, Y^{-1}, (X - 1)(Y - 1))$$

and

$$W_C(X, Y, T) = (X - Y)^k Y^{n-k} t_C\left(\frac{X + (T - 1)Y}{X - Y}, \frac{X}{Y}\right)$$

Second identity proved by **Greene** (1976) in case $T = \mathbb{F}_q$

Similar result holds the generalized weight enumerators $W_C^{(r)}(X, Y)$ by **Britz** (2007, 2010)

Theorem

Let $t_M(X, Y)$ be the Tutte polynomial of a matroid M

Let M^\perp be the dual matroid

Then

$$t_{M^\perp}(X, Y) = t_M(Y, X)$$

Theorem

Let C be a $[n, k]$ code over \mathbb{F}_q

Then

$$W_{C^\perp}(X, Y, T) = T^{-k} W_C(X + (T-1)Y, X - Y, T)$$

Proof Use

- ▶ $t_{M^\perp}(X, Y) = t_M(Y, X)$
- ▶ $M_{C^\perp} = (M_C)^\perp$
- ▶ $t_C(X, Y)$ and $W_C(X, Y, T)$ determine each other

Theorem

Let C be a $[n, k]$ code over \mathbb{F}_q

Then

$$W_{C^\perp}(X, Y, T) = T^{-k} W_C(X + (T-1)Y, X - Y, T)$$

Proof Use

- ▶ $t_{M^\perp}(X, Y) = t_M(Y, X)$
- ▶ $M_{C^\perp} = (M_C)^\perp$
- ▶ $t_C(X, Y)$ and $W_C(X, Y, T)$ determine each other

The following polynomials **determine each other**:

$W_C(X, Y, T)$ **extended weight enumerator** of C

$\{W_C^{(r)}(X, Y) | r = 1, \dots, k\}$ **generalized weight enumerators** of C

$t_C(X, Y)$ **dichromatic Tutte polynomial** of matroid M_C

$\chi_C(S, T)$ **coboundary** or **two variable char.pol.** of **geometric lattice** L_C

$\zeta_C(S, T)$ **two variable zeta function** of C by **Duursma**

But

$W_C(X, Y)$ is **weaker** than $W_C(X, Y, T)$

THANKS!

Gabidulin defined rank weight Applications in network coding

Choose a basis $\alpha_1, \dots, \alpha_m$ of \mathbb{F}_{q^m} as a vector space over \mathbb{F}_q

Let C be an \mathbb{F}_{q^m} -linear code of length n

Then with $\mathbf{c} = (c_1, \dots, c_n)$ in C

an $m \times n$ matrix $M(\mathbf{c})$ entries c_{ij} is associated where

$$c_j = \sum_{i=1}^m c_{ij} \alpha_i$$

The **rank weight** $\text{wt}_R(\mathbf{c}) = \text{rk}(\mathbf{c})$ of \mathbf{c}

is by definition the rank of the matrix $M(\mathbf{c})$

The **rank distance** is defined by $d_R(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{y}) = \text{rk}(\mathbf{x} - \mathbf{y})$

This defines a **metric** on the collection of all $m \times n$ matrices

The rank distance of the code is $d_R(C) = \min\{\text{rk}(\mathbf{c}) \mid \mathbf{0} \neq \mathbf{c} \in C\}$

QUESTION

Is there a similar theory for

- rank weight enumerator
- extended and generalized rank weight enumerator
- Matroid
- Tutte polynomial
- McWilliams identity?

The q -analogue of a **finite set** is a **finite dimensional vector space**

We list the q -analogues of some properties of subsets:

x, y subsets of $\{1, \dots, n\}$	x, y subspaces of \mathbb{F}_q^n
\emptyset	$\{0\}$
$x \cap y$ intersection	$x \cap y$ intersection
$x \cup y$ union	$x + y$ sum
x^c complement	x^\perp orthoplement
$ x $ size	$\dim(x)$ dimension
Newton binomial $\binom{n}{k}$	Gaussian binomial $\begin{bmatrix} n \\ k \end{bmatrix}_q$

This translation is sometimes **ambiguous**:

$x \cap y = \emptyset$ for subsets x and y
translates into:

$x \cap y = \{0\}$ for subspaces x and y

$x \cap y = \emptyset$ for subsets x and y
is equivalent to

$x \subseteq y^c$, the complement of y
this translates into:

$x \subseteq y^\perp$ for subspaces x and y