

# Applications of Linear Algebra to Coding Theory

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# Outline

- Introduction
- AIM
- Coding Theory Vs Cryptography
- Coding Theory
- Binary Symmetric Channel
- Hamming Code
- Generator and Parity check matrices
- Applications

# Coding Theory

- It is concerned with reliability of communication over noisy channels.
- Number of applications in digital communication such as E-mail, internet and Intranet.
- Also used in store scanners(Bar code)
- International Standard Book Number (ISBN)

# Coding Theory Vs Cryptography

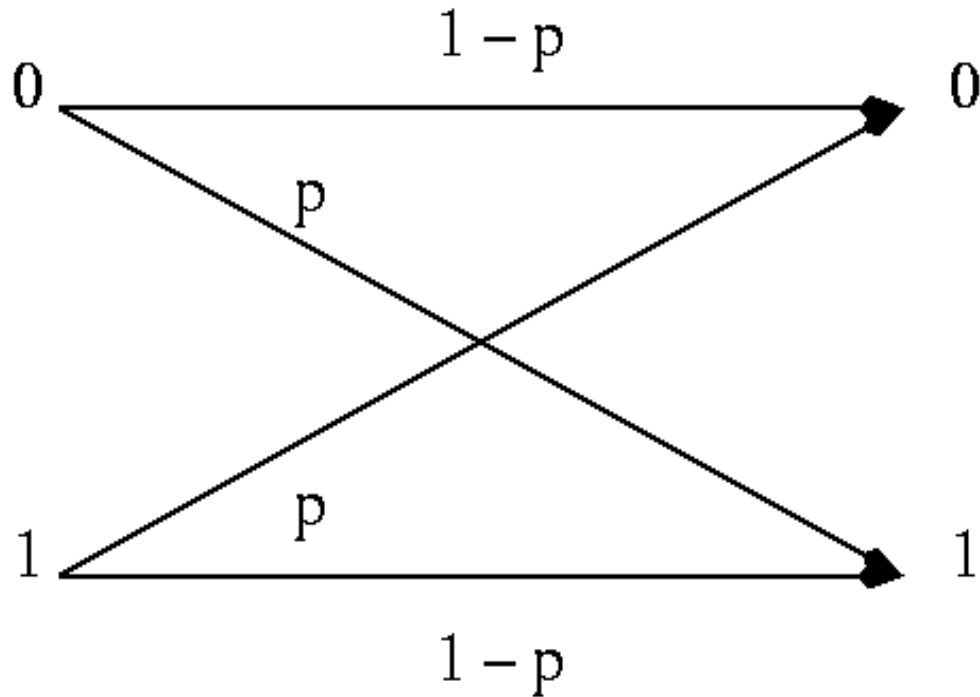
- Coding theory deals with communication in a hostile channel
- Concerned with encoding and decoding messages
- Need for clearing the information sent
- Cryptography is about disguising messages so only certain people can see through the disguise
- Concerned with encrypting and decrypting
- Hidden communication

# General Idea

- The main method used to recover messages that might be distorted during transmission over a noisy channel is to employ redundancy.
- Error detecting codes:-
  - Detect when an error occurs in transmission
- Error Correcting codes:-
  - Detect and correct the errors in transmission

# Simple Repetition Code

- Mathematical use of redundancy.
- Binary Symmetric Channel (BSC):-  
In this channel, every bit of a transmitted message has the same probability  $p$  of being changed to the other bit.
- $1-p$  is the reliability of the channel.
- In block coding theory, original data is broken into blocks of a fixed length and certain amount of redundancy is added to the data.



Binary Symmetric channel (BSC) is idealised model used for noisy channel.

- binary (0,1)
- symmetric  $p(0 \rightarrow 1) = p(1 \rightarrow 0)$

# Hamming Codes

- 3 bits of redundancy are added to information bits.

If the original data bits be denoted as  $x_1x_2x_3x_4$  then the corresponding codeword is  $x_1x_2x_3x_4x_5x_6x_7$ , obtained by adding 3 redundancy bits according to the equations:- $x_5=x_1+x_2+x_4$ ;  $x_6=x_1+x_3+x_4$ ;  $x_7=x_2+x_3+x_4$ , where all computations are done modulo 2.



# History on Hamming codes

- Middle of 20<sup>th</sup> century by Richard Hamming, Marcel Golay
- Bell Labs
- Early computers were detecting errors and halting, hence wasting a lot of computations.
- Single error-correcting codes in mid 1940s

# Vector space And codes

- A nonempty set of elements called vectors on which two operations, namely addition and scalar multiplication have been defined such that  $V$  is closed with respect to these operations and satisfies certain axioms.
- In Coding theory field  $B=\{0,1\}$  of scalars with operations of addition and multiplication defined as:-

$$0+0=0; 0+1=1; 1+0=1; 1+1=0$$

$$0.0=0; 0.1=0; 1.0=0; 1.1=1$$

Defn:- A binary linear code of length  $n$  is a vector subspace of  $B_n$ .

# Hamming C(7,4)

- Consider  $V_7$  vector space of 7 tuples of 0's and 1's over the field of scalars  $\{0,1\}$  where addition and multiplication are defined in the usual component wise manner
- For eg:-  $(1,0,0,1,1,0,1) + (0,1,1,1,0,0,1) = (1,1,1,0,1,0,0)$
- $0(1,0,0,1,1,0,1) = (0,0,0,0,0,0,0)$  and  $1(1,0,0,1,1,0,1) = (1,0,0,1,1,0,1)$
- Since each vector in  $V_7$  has seven components, and each of these components can be either 0 or 1, there are  $2^7$  vectors in this space.
- The four dimensional subspace of  $V_7$  having basis  $B = \{(1,0,0,0,0,1,1), (0,1,0,0,1,0,1), (0,0,1,0,1,1,0), (0,0,0,1,1,1,1)\}$  is called a Hamming Code and is denoted as  $C_{7,4}$
- The vectors in  $C_{7,4}$  can be used to send messages.
- Each vector in  $C_{7,4}$  can be written as  $v_i = a_1(1,0,0,0,0,1,1) + a_2(0,1,0,0,1,0,1) + a_3(0,0,1,0,1,1,0) + a_4(0,0,0,1,1,1,1)$   
There are  $2^4 = 16$  vectors in  $C_{7,4}$ . The Hamming code  $C_{7,4}$  can thus be used to send 16 different messages  $v_1, v_2, v_3, \dots, v_{16}$ .

# Hamming Codes and Error Correction

- When an error occurs in one location of a transmitted message the resulting incorrect vector lies in  $V_7$ , outside the subspace  $C_{7,4}$ .
- It can be proved that there is exactly one vector in  $C_{7,4}$  that differs from this incorrect vector in one location. Thus the error can be detected and corrected.
- In practice, electrical circuits called gates are used to test whether the received message is in  $C_{7,4}$  or not.

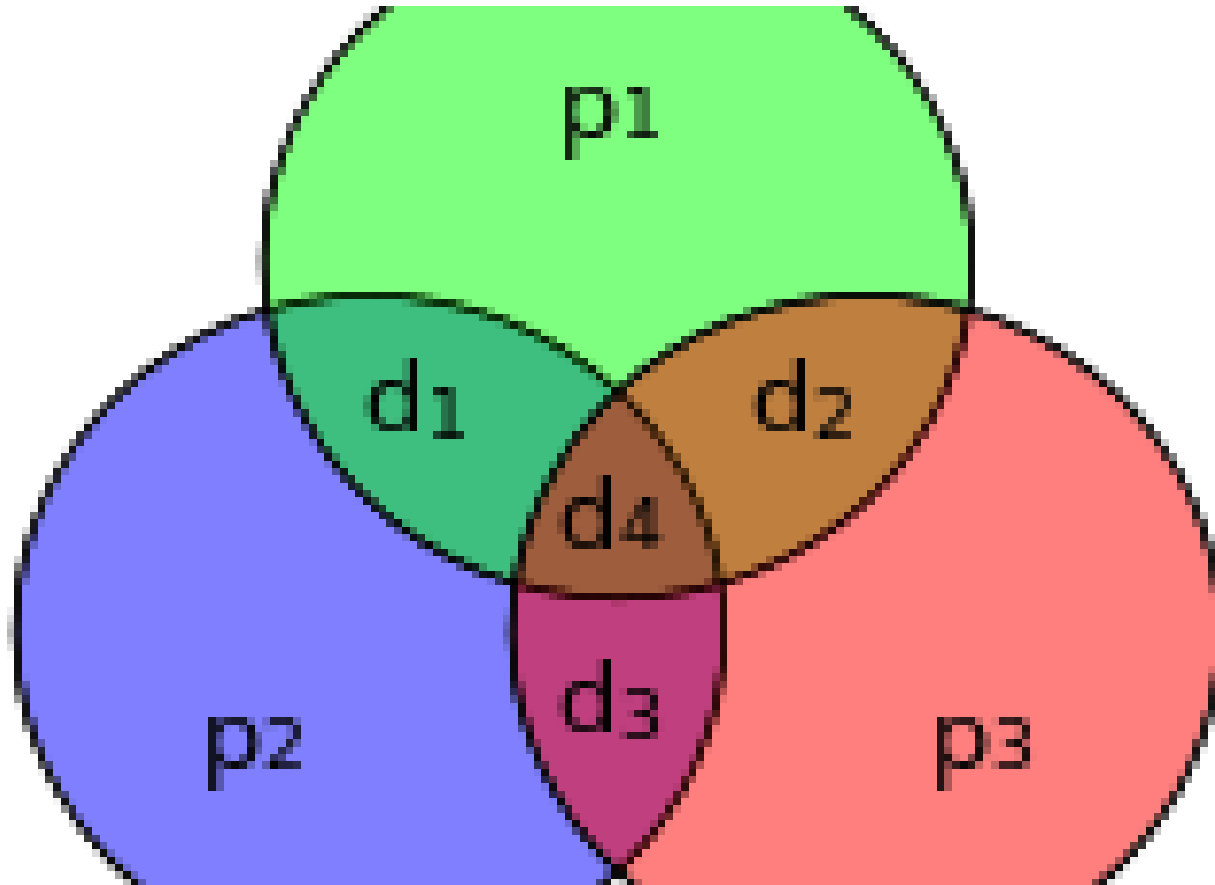
# Generator and Parity check matrices

- A generator matrix of a linear code  $C$  is a matrix  $G$  whose rows span the code.
- A parity check matrix  $H$  of a linear code is a matrix whose null space is  $C$ .
- Augment binary messages with an extra bit to make an even no of 1's.
- If you receive a message with an odd no of bits you know there has been an error in transmission.

- Therefore, the code (of dimension  $k$ ) can be defined as either  $C = \{ u * G : u \text{ in } B_k \}$  or  $C = \{ u \text{ in } B_n : H * u = 0 \text{ vector} \}$ . The rank of  $G$  or the nullity of  $H$  give the dimension of  $C$ .
- Recall from linear algebra that a  $k$  by  $n$  matrix over  $B$  defines a linear transformation from  $B_k$  to  $B_n$ . So, the vector-matrix multiplication  $u * G$  corresponds to encoding: The information vector  $u$  of length  $k$  is transformed into a codeword  $v = u * G$  of length  $n$ .
- The redundancy is added through the vector-matrix multiplication. The parity check matrix is useful for checking for errors. Suppose the code has a parity check matrix  $H$ . If a vector  $w$  is received, we compute the product  $H * w$ , called the syndrome of  $w$ . If the syndrome is the zero vector, we assume that there was no error. If not, we know that there is an error.

# Hamming Codes (Contd)

- The goal of Hamming codes is to create a set of parity bits that overlap such that a single-bit error (the bit is logically flipped in value) in a data bit *or* a parity bit can be detected *and* corrected.



Graphical representation of data bits  
 $d_1, d_2, d_3, d_4$  (corresponding to  $x_1 x_2 x_3 x_4$ ) and parity  
bits  $p_1, p_2, p_3$  (corresponding to  $x_5 x_6 x_7$ )



# Hamming Matrices

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

$$\mathbf{H} := \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 & 1 & 0 & 1 & 0 & 1 \\ 0 & 1 & 1 & 0 & 0 & 1 & 1 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 & 1 & 1 & 1 \end{pmatrix}.$$

- The 4 data bits — assembled as a vector  $p$  is pre-multiplied by  $G$  (i.e.  $Gp$ ) and taken modulo 2 to yield the encoded value that is transmitted. The original 4 data bits are converted to 7 bits (hence the name "Hamming(7,4)") with 3 parity bits added to ensure even parity.

$$\mathbf{x} = \mathbf{G}\mathbf{p} = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 1 & 0 & 1 \\ 1 & 0 & 1 & 1 \\ 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 1 & 1 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 0 \\ 1 \\ 1 \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} 2 \\ 3 \\ 1 \\ 2 \\ 0 \\ 1 \\ 1 \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} 0 \\ 1 \\ 1 \\ 0 \\ 0 \\ 1 \\ 1 \end{pmatrix}$$

This means that 0110011 would be transmitted instead of transmitting 1011

# Parity Check

- If no error occurs during transmission, then the received codeword  $r$  is identical to the transmitted codeword  $x$

$$\mathbf{z} = \mathbf{H}\mathbf{r} = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 & 1 & 0 & 1 & 0 & 1 \\ 0 & 1 & 1 & 0 & 0 & 1 & 1 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 & 1 & 1 & 1 \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} 0 \\ 1 \\ 1 \\ 0 \\ 0 \\ 1 \\ 1 \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} 2 \\ 4 \\ 2 \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} 0 \\ 0 \\ 0 \end{pmatrix}$$

# Error Correction

- Suppose a single bit error has occurred  
 $R = x + e_i$  modulo 2 where  $e_i$  = zero vector with a 1 in the  $i$ th place.
- If we multiply this vector by  $H$ ,  $Hr = H(x + e_i)$
- Since  $x$  is the transmitted data, it is without error, and as a result,  $Hx = 0$ .  
Thus  $Hr = Hx + He_i = 0 + He_i$
- For example:

$$\mathbf{r} = (\mathbf{x} + \mathbf{e}_5) = \begin{pmatrix} 0 \\ 1 \\ 1 \\ 0 \\ 0 \\ 1 \\ 1 \end{pmatrix} + \begin{pmatrix} 0 \\ 0 \\ 0 \\ 0 \\ 1 \\ 0 \\ 0 \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} 0 \\ 1 \\ 1 \\ 0 \\ 1 \\ 1 \\ 1 \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} 0 \\ 1 \\ 1 \\ 0 \\ 1 \\ 1 \\ 1 \end{pmatrix}$$

$$\mathbf{z} = \mathbf{H}\mathbf{r} = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 & 1 & 0 & 1 & 0 & 1 \\ 0 & 1 & 1 & 0 & 0 & 1 & 1 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 & 1 & 1 & 1 \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} 0 \\ 1 \\ 1 \\ 0 \\ 1 \\ 1 \\ 1 \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} 3 \\ 4 \\ 3 \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 0 \\ 1 \end{pmatrix}$$

which corresponds to the fifth column of H.

$$\mathbf{r}_{corrected} = \begin{pmatrix} 0 \\ 1 \\ 1 \\ 0 \\ \bar{1} \\ 1 \\ 1 \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} 0 \\ 1 \\ 1 \\ 0 \\ 0 \\ 1 \\ 1 \end{pmatrix}$$

This corrected received value indeed, now, matches the transmitted value

# Hamming Codes and the Hat Puzzle

- At a mathematical show with 7 players each player receives a hat either red or blue
- The color of each hat is determined by a coin toss.
- Each player can see the other person's hat but not his own.
- When the host signals, all players must simultaneously guess the color of their own hats or pass.
- The group shares a \$1million prize if at least one player guesses correctly and no player guesses incorrectly.
- No communication of any sort between the players is allowed
- What should they do to maximize their chance of winning?

# International Standard Book Number (ISBN)

- Ten-digit number (codeword) assigned by publisher:

$$x_1x_2x_3x_4x_5x_6x_7x_8x_9x_{10}$$

- $x_1$ : language
- $x_2x_3$ : publisher
- $x_4x_5 \cdots x_9$ : book (assigned by publisher)
- $x_{10}$ : assigned so that  $x_{10} = \sum_{i=1}^9 i x_i \pmod{11}$

Possible to

- Detect and correct error in one digit.
- Detect transposition of two digits.



# Applications(contd)

- Hamming codes over integers modulo  $p$
- Hamming codes over an arbitrary finite field
- Widely used in computer memory(ECC)
- Storage devices (CD, DVD, DRAM), mobile communication (cellular telephones, wireless, microwave links), digital television, and high-speed modems (ADSL, xDSL).

# References

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- Richard Hill (1996).Elementary Linear Algebra with Applications.  
Harcourt, Orlando, 3rd edition.
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