The Impact of Network Coding on Mathematics

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Random Network Coding and Designs Over GF(q)

- COST Action IC1104: an EU-funded network
- Funding for workshops, meetings, short research visits
- Chairs: M. Greferath & M. Pavcević
- S. Blackburn, T. Etzion, A. Garcia-Vasquez, C. Hollanti, J. Rosenthal
- Network involving 28 participant countries
- Final meeting: Network Coding and Designs, Dubronvik, April 4-8, 2016.

 q-designs, subspace codes, rank-metric codes, distributed storage, cryptography, related combinatorial structures.

Some Impacts of Network Coding



Error-Correction in Network Coding

The following seminal papers stimulated a huge volume of work on subspace and rank-metric codes.

- Kötter, Kschischang, "Coding for Erasures and Errors in Random Network Coding," IEEE Trans. Inform. Th. (54), 8, 2008. (cited by: 292 (Scopus), 605 (Google))
- Silva, Kschischang, Kötter, "A Rank-Metric Approach to Error Control in Random Network Coding," IEEE Trans. Inform. Th. (54), 9, 2008. (cited by 195 (Scopus), 259 (Google))

Motivation: To provide a framework for error correction in networks without much knowledge of the network topology.

Constant Dimension Subspace Codes

A subspace code C is a set subspaces of \mathbb{F}_q^n , equipped with the subspace distance:

$$d_{S}(U, V) = \dim(U + V) - \dim(U \cap V)$$

= $\dim U + \dim V - 2\dim(U \cap V).$

- If each codeword has dimension k then C is a constant dimension code and d_S(U, V) = 2(k − dim(U ∩ V)).
- Channel model: $U \longrightarrow V = \pi(U) \oplus W$.
- $\pi(U) < U$, formed by 'deletions', W formed by 'insertions'.
- Receiver decodes to unique codeword if

 $2(\dim U - \dim \pi(U) + \dim W) < d_{\mathcal{S}}(\mathcal{C}).$

• Matrix model:
$$X \in \mathbb{F}_q^{m \times n} \longrightarrow Y = AX + BZ$$
.

Rank-Metric Codes

A rank-metric code C is a subset of $\mathbb{F}_q^{m \times n}$, equipped with the rank distance:

$$d_{\rm rk}(F,G) = {\rm rk}(F-G)$$

 ${\mathcal C}$ can be lifted to a (constant dimension) subspace code via:

$$\mathcal{I}(\mathcal{C}) := \{ \langle X \rangle = \operatorname{rowspace}([I|x]) : x \in \mathcal{C} \}.$$

•
$$d_{\mathcal{S}}(\langle X \rangle, \langle Y \rangle) = d_{\mathrm{rk}}(x - y)$$

- Matrix model: $X \longrightarrow Y = AX + BZ$.
- Receiver decodes to unique codeword if

$$2(\operatorname{rk} X - \operatorname{rk} AX + \operatorname{rk} BZ) < d_{\operatorname{rk}}(C).$$

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Optimality

- $\mathcal{G}_q(n,k) = \text{set of all } k \text{-dim'l subspaces of } \mathbb{F}_q^n$.
- What is the optimal size A_q(n, d, k) of a constant dimension code in G_q(n, k) of minimum distance d?
- How do we construct such codes?

Example 1

Let $C \subset \mathcal{G}(n, k)$ such that every *t*-dimensional subspace is contained in exactly one space of C. So C is an $S_q(t, k, n)$ Steiner structure. Then $|C| = A_q(n, 2(k - t + 1), k)$.

A Steiner structure is a q-analogue of design theory. Steiner structures yield optimal subspace codes.

Examples of Steiner Structures

Theorem 2

There exists an $S_2(2,3,13)$. In fact there exist at least 401 non-isomorphic ones.

Braun, Etzion, Ostergard, Vardy, Wassermann, "Existence of *q*-Analogs of Steiner Systems," arXiv:1304.1462, 2012.

This is the first known example of a non-trivial Steiner structure.

▶ It shows that
$$A_2(13,4,3) = \begin{bmatrix} 13 \\ 2 \end{bmatrix}_2 / \begin{bmatrix} 3 \\ 2 \end{bmatrix}_2 = 1,597,245.$$

- Found by applying the Kramer-Mesner method.
- ► Prescribing an automorphism group of size s = 13(2¹³ - 1) = 106,483 reduces from an exact-cover problem of size 1,597,245 to one of size |S₂(2,3,13)|/s = 1,597,245/106,483 = 15.

Steiner Structures

Problem 3

Is there an $S_2(2,3,13)$ that is part of an infinite family of q-Steiner systems?

Problem 4

Are there any other other examples?

Problem 5

Does there exist an $S_q(2,3,7)$? This is the q-analogue of the Fano plane.

- An $S_2(2,3,7)$ would have 381 of 11811 planes of $PG(6, \mathbb{F}_2)$.
- Currently known that $A_2(7,2,3) \ge 329$ (Braun & Reichelt).
- The automorphism group of any $S_2(2,3,7)$ is small (2,3 or 4).
- Computer search is infeasible at this time.

q-Fano plane

- Braun, Kiermaier, Nakić, "On the Automorphism Group of a Binary *q*-Analog of the Fano Plane," Eur. J. Comb. 51, 2016.
- Kiermaier, Honold, "On Putative q-Analogues of the Fano plane and Related Combinatorial Structures," arXiv: 1504.06688, 2015.
- Etzion, "A New Approach to Examine *q*-Steiner Systems," arXiv:1507.08503, 2015.
- Thomas, 1987: It is impossible to construct the q-Fano plane as a union of 3 orbits of a Singer group.

q-Analogues of Designs

Definition 6 $\mathcal{D} \subset G_q(n,k)$ is a $t - (n, k, \lambda; q)$ design (over \mathbb{F}_q) if every *t*-dimensional subspace of \mathbb{F}_q^n is contained in exactly λ subspaces of \mathcal{D} .

Existence: Fazeli, Lovett, Vardy, "Nontrivial *t*-Designs over Finite Fields Exist for all *t*", *J. Comb. Thy*, *A*, 127, 2014.

- Introduced by Cameron in 1974.
- ► Thomas gave an infinite family of 2 (n, 3, 7; 2) designs for n ≡ ±1 mod 6. "Designs Over Finite Fields" Geometriae Dedicata, 24, 1987.
- Suzuki (1992), Abe, Yoshiara (1993), Miyakawa, Munesmasa, Yoshiara (1995), Ito (1996), Braun (2005).
- No 4-designs over \mathbb{F}_q are known.

q-Analogues of Designs

- Etzion, Vardy, "On *q*-Analogues of Steiner Systems and Covering Designs," Adv. Math. Comm. 2011.
- DISCRETAQ a tool to construct q-analogs of combinatorial designs (Braun, 2005).
- Kiermaier, Pavĉević "Intersection Numbers for Subspace Designs," J. Comb. Designs 23, 11, 2015.
- Braun, Kiermaier, Kohnert, Laue, "Large Sets of Subspace Designs," arXiv: 1411.7181, 2014.

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Maximum Rank Distance (MRD) Codes

- Delsarte, "Bilinear Forms over a Finite Field, with Applications to Coding Theory," J. Comb. Thy A, 25, 1978.
- Gabidulin, "Theory of Codes With Maximum Rank Distance," Probl. Inform. Trans., 1, 1985.

Theorem 7 A code $C \subset \mathbb{F}_q^{m \times n}$ of minimum rank distance d satisfies

$$q^{m(d'-1)} \leq |\mathcal{C}| \leq q^{m(n-d+1)}.$$

Equality is achieved in either iff d + d' - 2 = n. If C is \mathbb{F}_q -linear then $d' = d_{rk}(C^{\perp})$.

- \blacktriangleright If ${\mathcal C}$ meets the upper bound it is called an MRD code
- If C is MRD and 𝔽_q linear we say it has parameters [mn, mk, n − k + 1]_q.

Delsarte-Gabidulin Codes

Theorem 8 (Delsarte)

Let $\alpha_1, ..., \alpha_n$ be a basis of \mathbb{F}_{q^n} and let $\beta_1, ..., \beta_m \subset \mathbb{F}_{q^n}$ be linearly indep. over \mathbb{F}_q . The set

$$\mathcal{C} = \left\{ \left(\sum_{\ell=0}^{k-1} \operatorname{tr} \left(\omega_{\ell} \alpha_{i}^{q^{\ell}} \beta_{i} \right) \right)_{1 \leq i \leq n, 1 \leq j \leq m} : \omega_{\ell} \in \mathbb{F}_{q^{n}} \right\}$$

is an \mathbb{F}_{q^n} -linear $[mn, mk, n - k + 1]_q$ MRD code. Equivalent form: let $g_1, ..., g_m \subset \mathbb{F}_{q^n}$ be be linearly indep. over \mathbb{F}_q .

$$C = \left\{ [x_1, ..., x_k] \begin{bmatrix} g_1 & g_2 & \cdots & g_m \\ g_1^q & g_2^q & \cdots & g_m^q \\ \vdots & & & \\ g_1^{q^{k-1}} & g_2^{q^{k-1}} & \cdots & g_m^{q^{k-1}} \end{bmatrix} : x_i \in \mathbb{F}_{q^n} \right\} \subset \mathbb{F}_{q^n}^m$$

is an \mathbb{F}_{q^n} -linear $[mn, mk, n-k+1]_q$ MRD code.

MRD Codes

- ► If $C \subset \mathbb{F}_q^{m \times n}$ is \mathbb{F}_q -linear then $C^{\perp} := \{ Y \in \mathbb{F}_q^{m \times n} : \operatorname{Tr}(XY^T) = 0 \ \forall \ X \in C \}.$
- Mac Williams' duality theorem holds for rank-metric codes.
- Mac Williams' extension theorem does not hold for rank-metric codes.
- C is MRD iff C^{\perp} is MRD.
- If C is MRD then its weight distribution is determined.
- The covering radius of an MRD code is not determined.
- ► Not all MRD codes are Delsarte-Gabidulin codes.
- $[n^2, n, n]_q$ MRD codes are spread-sets in finite geometry.
- Delsarte-Gabidulin MRD codes can be decoded using Gabidulin's algorithm with quadratic complexity.

MRD Codes

There are many papers on decoding rank-metric codes. Recently there has been much activity on the structure of MRD codes.

- Gadouleau, Yan, "Packing and Covering Properties of Rank Metric Codes," IEEE Trans. Inform. Theory, 54 (9) 2008.
- Morrison, "Equivalence for Rank-metric and Matrix Codes and Automorphism Groups of Gabidulin Codes," IEEE Trans. Inform. Theory 60 (11), 2014.
- de la Cruz, Gorla, Lopez, Ravagnani, "Rank Distribution of Delsarte Codes," arXiv: 1510.01008, 2015.
- Nebe, Willems, "On Self-Dual MRD Codes, arXiv: 1505.07237, 2015.
- de la Cruz, Kiermaier, Wassermann, Willems, "Algebraic Structures of MRD Codes," arXiv:1502.02711, 2015.

Quasi-MRD Codes

Definition 9 $\mathcal{C} \subset \mathbb{F}_q^{m \times n}$ is called quasi-MRD (QMRD) if $m \not| \dim(\mathcal{C})$ and

$$d(\mathcal{C}) = n - \left\lceil \frac{\dim(\mathcal{C})}{m} \right\rceil + 1.$$

C is called dually QMRD if C^{\perp} is also QMRD.

de la Cruz, Gorla, Lopez, Ravagnani, "Rank Distribution of Delsarte Codes," arXiv: 1510.01008, 2015.

- An easy construction is by expurgating an MRD code.
- If C is QMRD is does **not** follow that C^{\perp} is QMRD.
- The weight distribution of a QMRD code is not determined.

MRD Codes as Spaces of Linearized Polynomials

For m = n we construct a Delsarte-Gabidulin MRD code with parameters $[n^2, nk, n - k + 1]$ as follows:

$$G_{n,k} := \{ f = f_0 x + f_1 x^q + \cdots + f_{k-1} x^{q^{k-1}} : f_i \in \mathbb{F}_{q^n} \}$$

- *f* = *f*₀*x* + *f*₁*x^q* + · · · *f*_{k-1}*x<sup>q^{k-1}* is 𝔽_{*q*}-linear (in fact is 𝔽_{*qⁿ*}-linear) and so can be identified with a unique *n* × *n* matrix over 𝔽_{*q*}.
 </sup>
- Matrix multiplication corresponds to composition mod x^q - x.
- $\dim_q \ker f \le k-1$, so $\operatorname{rk} f \ge n-k+1$.

New Classes of MRD Codes

Theorem 10
Let
$$\nu \in \mathbb{F}_{q^n}$$
 satisfy $\nu^{rac{q^n-1}{q-1}}
eq (-1)^{nk}$. Then

$$\mathcal{H}_{k}(\nu,h) := \{f_{0}x + f_{1}x^{q} + \cdots + f_{k-1}x^{q^{k-1}} + \nu f_{0}^{q^{h}}x^{q^{k}} : f_{i} \in \mathbb{F}_{q^{n}}\}$$

is an
$$\mathbb{F}_q$$
-linear $[n^2, nk, n-k+1]$ MRD code.

Sheekey, "A New Family of Linear Maximum Rank Distance Codes," arXiv:1504.01581, 2015.

This is the most general known infinite family of MRD codes and includes Delsarte-Gabidulin codes. Other work:

- Horlemann-Trautmann, Marshall, "New Criteria for MRD and Gabidulin Codes and some Rank-Metric Code Constructions," arXiv:1507.08641, 2015.
- Lunardon, Trombetti, Zhou, "Generalized Twisted Gabidulin Codes," arXiv:1507.07855, 2015.

Rank Metric Covering Radius

Definition 11

The rank covering radius of a code $\mathcal{C} \subset \mathbb{F}_q^{m \times n}$ is given by

$$\rho(\mathcal{C}) := \max\{\min\{d_{\mathrm{rk}}(X, C) : C \in \mathcal{C}\} : X \in \mathbb{F}_q^{m \times n}\} \\ := \max\{d_{\mathrm{rk}}(X, C) : X \in \mathbb{F}_q^{m \times n}\} \\ := \max\{\mathrm{rk}(X + C) : X \in \mathbb{F}_q^{m \times n}\}$$

• $\mathbb{F}_q^{m \times n}, m \times n$ matrices over \mathbb{F}_q .

• $\rho(\mathcal{C})$ is the max rank weight over all translates of \mathcal{C} in $\mathbb{F}_q^{m \times n}$.

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Some Bounds on the Covering Radius

Theorem 12 (B., 2015) Let $C \subset C' \subset \mathbb{F}_q^{m \times n}$. Then $\triangleright \rho(C) \ge \min\{r : V_q(m, n, r) | C | \ge q^{mn}\}.$ $\triangleright \rho(C) \ge$

 $\max\{d_{\mathrm{rk}}(X,C): X \in C'\} \geq \min\{d_{\mathrm{rk}}(X,C): X \in \mathcal{C}' \setminus \mathcal{C}\} \geq d_{\mathrm{rk}}(\mathcal{C}').$

- If $\mathcal{C}, \mathcal{C}'$ are \mathbb{F}_q -linear, then $\rho(\mathcal{C}) \geq \min\{\operatorname{rk}(X) : X \in \mathcal{C}' \setminus \mathcal{C}\}.$
- If C is 𝔽_q-linear then ρ(C) is no greater than the number of non-zero weights of C[⊥].

Example 13

Let n = rs and let $\mathcal{C} = \{\sum_{i=0}^{r-1} f_i x^{q^{si}} : f_i \in \mathbb{F}_{q^n}\}$. Then \mathcal{C} has non-zero rank weights $\{s, 2s, ..., rs\}$ over \mathbb{F}_q , so that $\rho(\mathcal{C}^{\perp}) \leq r$.

Maximality

A code $\mathcal{C} \subset \mathbb{F}_q^{m \times n}$ is called maximal if \mathcal{C} is not strictly contained in any code $\mathcal{C}' \subset \mathbb{F}_q^{m \times n}$ with the same minimum distance.

Theorem 14 (Maximal Codes)

$$\mathcal{C} \subset \mathbb{F}_q^{m \times n}$$
 is maximal $\Leftrightarrow \rho(\mathcal{C}) \leq d_{\mathrm{rk}}(\mathcal{C}) - 1$
Clearly any MRD code is maximal.

Example 15 (Gadouleau, 2008)

Let C be an \mathbb{F}_q -linear [mn, mk, n - k + 1] Gabidulin MRD code. C is a maximal code and is contained in an \mathbb{F}_q -[mn, m(k + 1), n - k] Delsarte-Gabidulin code C'. Then

$$n-k=d_{\mathrm{rk}}(\mathcal{C}')\leq
ho(\mathcal{C})\leq d_{\mathrm{rk}}(\mathcal{C})-1=n-k.$$

Maximality

Theorem 16 (Sheekey, 2015) Let $\nu \in \mathbb{F}_{q^n}$ satisfy $\nu^{\frac{q^n-1}{q-1}} \neq (-1)^{nk}$. Then $\mathcal{H}_k(\nu, h) := \{f_0 x + f_1 x^q + \cdots + f_{k-1} x^{q^{k-1}} + \nu f_0^{q^h} x^{q^k} : f_i \in \mathbb{F}_{q^n}\}$ is an \mathbb{F}_q -linear $[n^2, nk, n-k+1]$ MRD code. Example 17 $\mathcal{C} = \mathcal{H}_k(\nu, h)$ is maximal and $\mathcal{H}_k(\nu, h) \subset \mathcal{H}_{k+1}(0, h') = \mathcal{C}'$. Therefore

$$n-k=d_{\mathrm{rk}}(\mathcal{C}')\leq
ho(\mathcal{C})\leq d_{\mathrm{rk}}(\mathcal{C}')-1=n-k.$$

- ► The current known families of MRD code C all have covering radius d_{rk}(C) - 1.
- ► There are sporadic examples of MRD codes C such that $\rho(C) < d_{\rm rk}(C) 1$.

Maximality of dually QMRD Codes

Theorem 18 Let $C \subset \mathbb{F}_q^{m \times n}$ be dually QMRD.

$$ho(\mathcal{C}) \leq \sigma^*(\mathcal{C}) = \mathsf{n} - \mathsf{d}_{\mathrm{rk}}(\mathcal{C}^{\perp}) + 1 = \mathsf{d}_{\mathrm{rk}}(\mathcal{C}).$$

• Then $\rho(\mathcal{C}) < d_{rk}(\mathcal{C})$ if and only if \mathcal{C} is maximal.

 If C is maximal then in particular it cannot be embedded in an [mn, mk, d_{rk}(C)] MRD code.

Example 19

►

Let ${\mathcal C}$ be the ${\mathbb F}_2\text{-linear}\ [16,3,4]$ code generated by

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

It can be checked that $\rho(\mathcal{C}) = 3 < d_{\mathrm{rk}}(\mathcal{C}) = 4$, so \mathcal{C} is maximal.

Broadcasting With Coded-Side Information

- Index Coding
- Broadcast Relay Networks
- Coded Caching
- Network Coding



Broadcast with Coded-Side Information

- $X \in \mathbb{F}_q^{n \times t}$ is the raw data held by the sender for *m* users.
- User *i* wants the packet $R_i X \in \mathbb{F}_q^t$.
- User *i* has side information $(V^{(i)}, V^{(i)}X) \in \mathbb{F}_q^{d_i \times n} \times \mathbb{F}_q^{d_i \times t}$.
- ► The sender, after receiving each request R_i , transmits $Y = LX \in \mathbb{F}_q^{N \times t}$ for some $L \in \mathbb{F}_q^{N \times n}$, N < n.
- ► Each user decodes $R_i X$ by solving a linear system of equations in the received Y and its side-information.

Objective 1

The sender aims to find an encoding LX that minimizes N such that the demands of all users satisfied.

Dai, Shum, Sung, "Data Dissemination with Side Information and Feedback", IEEE Trans. Wireless Comm. (13) 9, 2014.

A Class of Codes for Coded-Caching

Now we consider codes of the form $\mathcal{C} = \mathcal{C}^{(1)} \oplus \cdots \oplus \mathcal{C}^{(m)}$ for some $\mathcal{C}^{(i)} < \mathbb{F}_{a}^{n}$ of dimension d_{i} . So \mathcal{C} has the form:

$$\mathcal{C} = \left\{ \begin{bmatrix} X_1 \\ X_2 \\ \vdots \\ X_m \end{bmatrix} : X_i \in \mathcal{C}^{(i)} < \mathbb{F}_q^n \right\} \subset \mathbb{F}_q^{m \times n}.$$

 C with low covering radius are useful for coded-caching schemes.

$$\blacktriangleright \ \mathcal{C}^{\perp} = \mathcal{C}^{(1)^{\perp}} \oplus \cdots \oplus \mathcal{C}^{(m)^{\perp}}$$

A Class of Codes for Coded-Caching

Theorem 20 (B., Calderini, 2015)
Let
$$C = \bigoplus_{i \in [m]} C^{(i)}$$
.
 $\rho(C) \leq \sigma^*(C) = \max \operatorname{rk}(C^{\perp})$
 $= \max\{\dim\langle b_1, ..., b_m\rangle : b_i \in C^{i^{\perp}}\}.$
 $\rho(C) \leq \max\{n - d_i : i \in [m]\}, if |\{C^{(i)} : i \in [m]\}| \leq q.$
 $\rho(C) \leq \min\{n - d_i : i \in [m]\} + \ell - 1 if$
 $|\{C^{(i)} : i \in [m]\}| \leq q^{\ell t}/(q^t - 1), t > 1.$

Example 21

Let $\mathcal{C} = \mathcal{C}^{(1)} \oplus \cdots \oplus \mathcal{C}^{(m)}$, each $\mathcal{C}^{(i)} < \mathbb{F}_q^n$ of dimension d. Suppose that each $\mathcal{C}^{(i)}$ is systematic on the same set of coordinates, say $\{1, 2, ..., d\}$. Then given any $x \in \mathbb{F}_q^{m \times n}$, there exists $y \in \mathcal{C}$ such that $x - y = [0_d | z]$. So $\rho(\mathcal{C}) \leq n - d$.

Broadcast With Coded-Side Information

- 1 Dai, Shum, Sung, "Data Dissemination with Side Information and Feedback", IEEE Trans. Wireless Comm. (13) 9, 2014.
- 2 Shanmugam, Dimakis, Langberg, "Graph Theory versus Minimum Rank for Index Coding," arXiv:1402.3898

Results of [2] can be extended based on setting in [1] (joint with Calderini, 2015).

- ▶ clique: $C \subset [m]$ such that $\{v : R_i \in \langle v \rangle + C^i; \forall i \in C\} \neq \emptyset$
- clique/local clique/fractional local clique covering number
- partitioned multicast/fractional partition multicast number
- partitioned local clique covering number
- there exist achievable schemes based on these

Other Impacts on Mathematics

- Semi/quasifields
- Linearized Polynomials

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- Graph theory
- Matroids
- Lattices

The End

Thanks for your attention!

