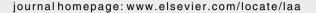


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## Linear Algebra and its Applications





## Some constructions of linearly optimal group codes

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#### ABSTRACT

We continue here the research on (quasi)group codes over (quasi)group rings. We give some constructions of  $[n, n-3, 3]_a$ codes over  $\mathbb{F}_q$  for n=2q and n=3q. These codes are linearly optimal, i.e. have maximal dimension among linear codes having a given length and distance. Although codes with such parameters are known, our main results state that we can construct such codes as (left) group codes. In the paper we use a construction of Reed–Solomon codes as ideals of the group ring  $\mathbb{F}_a G$  where G is an elementary abelian group of order q.

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#### 1. Introduction

We will extensively use some notions related to group rings. We refer the reader to [4, Appendix 2].

(Quasi-)group codes over a finite ring R are linear codes obtained from left ideals of a (quasi-)group ring A = RG of a finite (quasi-)group G in the following way. Let  $G = \{g_1, \dots, g_n\}$  and  $I \leq_A A$  be a left

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ideal of A. Then the set  $\mathcal{K} = \mathcal{K}(I)$  of all words  $(r_1, \ldots, r_n) \in R^n$  such that  $\sum r_i g_i \in I$  is a linear n-code over the ring R, i.e. a submodule of the module  ${}_RR^n$ . Such codes will be also called G-codes over R, and will be said to be contained in the group ring. Moreover, a left ideal  $I \leq {}_AA$  will be identified with the code  $\mathcal{K}(I)$  and, for shortness, we will say that I is an  $[n, k, d]_q$ -code to mean that  $\mathcal{K}(I)$  is a code of length n, cardinality  $q^k$  and code distance d. This identification allows to define for every  $x = \sum r_i g_i \in A$  its Hamming weight  $\|x\|$  by  $\|x\| = \|(r_1, \ldots, r_n)\|$ .

There are many results about such codes in the case  $R = \mathbb{F}$  a finite field and G an abelian group (mainly a cyclic group with order coprime to  $|\mathbb{F}|$ ) see e.g. [8,3]. In the case of non-abelian groups there are some results in [9–11], where ideals of a semisimple  $\mathbb{F}$ -algebra  $\mathbb{F}G$  were considered.

Let us notice that codes considered in this paper sometimes are referred as left group codes, using the name group code when *I* is a two-sided ideal of the group algebra.

A natural and first step in the research of loop-codes is the computation of parameters for all possible codes  $\mathcal{K} = \mathcal{K}(I)$  and left ideals I of loop-algebras  $\mathbb{F}G$  of small orders and to search for the best codes among them. This was carried out in [2].

Following [3], a (generally nonlinear) [n,k,d]-code  $C\subseteq \mathbb{F}_q^n$  is said to be *optimal* if  $|C|=q^k$  is maximal among sizes of all possible n-codes with a given distance d. Remind that any code C satisfies the inequality  $k \le n-d+1$  (Singleton bound) and the code C is called MDS-code if k=n-d+1. Evidently, any MDS-code is optimal.

For any quasi-group ring A = RG there is an important example of a linked quasigroup MDS-code: its *fundamental ideal* 

$$\Delta(A) = \left\{ \sum_{g \in G} r(g)g : \sum_{g \in G} r(g) = 0 \right\}. \tag{1}$$

The fundamental ideal  $\Delta(A)$  is an [n, n-1, 2]-code and can be described also as the R-submodule of A spanned by all differences e-g,  $g \in G$ .

According to the definition of optimal code we will say that a linear  $[n, k, d]_q$ -code over a field  $\mathbb{F}_q$  is linearly optimal if k is the maximum of the dimensions of all  $\mathbb{F}_q$ -linear n-codes with a fixed distance d.

Let n(k,q) (resp. m(k,q)) be the maximal length of all MDS-codes C with combinatorial dimension  $k = \log_q |C|$  over an alphabet of q elements (resp., for a primary q, the maximal length of all linear MDS codes over the field  $\mathbb{F}_q$ ). Clearly  $m(k,q) \leq n(k,q)$ .

The following simple remark helps to prove that some codes are linearly optimal.

**Proposition 1.1** (see [2]). Let n, k, q be natural numbers, q primary, such that

$$n > m(k + 1, q)$$
.

Then any  $\mathbb{F}_q$ -linear  $[n, k, n-k]_q$ -code is linearly optimal.

Indeed, in other case there exists a linear  $[n, k+1, n-k]_q$ -code. But it is an MDS-code. So  $n \le m(k+1, q)$ . This is a contradiction.

**Corollary 1.2.** Any linear  $[tq, tq - 3, 3]_q$  code for  $t \ge 2$  is linearly optimal.

**Proof.** If 
$$q \le k$$
 then  $n(k, q) = k + 1$  by [3]. Now for  $k = tq - 3 \ge q - 1$  we have

$$m(k+1,q) = m(tq-2,q) \le n(tq-2,q) = tq-1 < tq$$
.

In this paper we will give constructions of  $[tq, tq - 3, 3]_q$  group codes over  $\mathbb{F}_q$  for t = 2 and t = 3. Linear algebra technics will play a key role in the proofs of our results.

Let us note that linear  $[n, n-3, 3]_q$ -codes over  $\mathbb{F}_q$  can be easily constructed as a shortcut Hamming [N, N-3, 3]-code for  $N=q^2+q+1$  [1]. Our main results state that we can construct such codes as group codes over  $\mathbb{F}_q$ .

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