

TODAY:

## Introduction to locality in coding

- Definitions of local Decodability  
local Testability  
local Recoverability

- Reed-Muller Example

- "Optimal" LRCs.

---

Locality in Algorithms

- Algorithms usually compute functions

$$f: \{0,1\}^n \rightarrow \{0,1\}^m$$

- Running time always  $\Omega(n+m)$  - right?

- Can we conceive algorithms running in time  $o(n+m)$ ?

- What expectation/guarantees can we have?

- Are they useful?

Will illustrate in context of decoding.

(2)

## Decoding Algorithm

- Let  $C \subseteq \{0,1\}^n$  have encoding function  $E: \{0,1\}^n \rightarrow \{0,1\}^n$
- Decoder should map  $D: \{0,1\}^n \rightarrow \{0,1\}^k$
- But suppose we want only  $m_i$  for message  $m \in \{0,1\}^k$ , given  $y \approx E(m)$ .
- Is it essential to read all of  $y_1, \dots, y_n$ ?  
or can we get away by "sampling".
- Answer: Not obvious....  
In retrospect: YES.

- ~~Is  $(E, D)$  locally decodable~~

-  $l$ -local (decoding) algorithm:  $A^y$

• Picks distribution  $\mathcal{P}$  over  $\binom{[n]}{l}$

• Samples  $S \sim \mathcal{P}$ ;

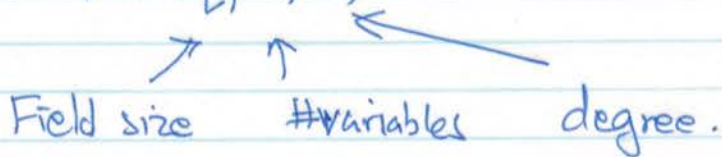
• Queries  $y_S \triangleq \{y_i : i \in S\}$

• Answers based (only) on  $y_S$ .

[Independent of  $y_{\bar{S}}$ ]

# Example: Reed-Muller Codes

Recall: Reed-Muller Codes  $RM(q, m, d)$



$$RM(q, m, d) \triangleq \left\{ f: \mathbb{F}_q^m \rightarrow \mathbb{F}_q \mid \deg(f) \leq d \right\}$$

$\downarrow$   
 represented as vector of length  $n = q^m$  over  $\mathbb{F}_q$

$$d < q \left\{ \begin{array}{l} \text{distance of } RM(q, m, d) \approx q^m \cdot \frac{(q-d)}{q} = q^{m-1}(q-d) \\ \text{dimension} \end{array} \right. = \binom{d+m}{m} \geq \exp(\min(d, m)).$$

$$n = q^m \quad ; \quad R \geq \exp(\min(d, m))$$

But will get  $\ell \leq q$  ! (even  $\ell = d+2$ )

Main Idea: "Local Redundancies":

$$\text{line } \ell_{a,b} \triangleq \{ a + t \cdot b \mid t \in \mathbb{F}_q \} \quad (a, b \in \mathbb{F}_q^m)$$

$$f|_{\ell_{a,b}}(t) \triangleq f(a + t \cdot b) \quad [f|_{\ell} \in \mathbb{F}_q^q]$$

$\forall a, b$   
 $\deg(f|_{\ell}) \leq \deg(f)$  ;  $d < q-1 \Rightarrow f|_{\ell}$  is not an arbitrary function  $\mathbb{F}_q \rightarrow \mathbb{F}_q$ .

$(\epsilon, \ell)$ -local decoder:  $D^y(i)$   $i \in [k]$

outputs  $m_i$  w.p.  $\geq \frac{2}{3}$

if  $\delta(E(m), y) \leq \epsilon \cdot \delta(C)$

distance of code  $C$ .



$C$  is  $(\epsilon, \ell)$ -locally decodable if it has an  $(\epsilon, \ell)$ -local decoder  $D$



$(\epsilon, \ell)$ -local tester:  $T^y$

Outputs YES if  $y \in C$ .

Outputs NO w.p.  $\geq \epsilon \cdot \delta(y, C)$



~~$\epsilon$~~   $\epsilon$

•  $\Rightarrow$  Linearity of  $RM(q, m, d)$  + local Redundancy

$$\Rightarrow \exists x_0 \in \mathbb{F}_2^m \quad \Delta \quad x_1, \dots, x_{q-1} \in \mathbb{F}_2^m \quad \text{s.t.}$$

$f(x_0)$  determined by  $f(x_1) \dots f(x_{q-1})$

• Symmetry:  $\Rightarrow x_0 = 0$ ;  $\{x_1, \dots, x_{q-1}\} = \mathbb{F}_2^m \setminus \{0\}$  work.

$$f|_L(0) = \sum_{i=1}^{q-1} \lambda_i f|_L(\eta_i) \quad \{\eta_1, \dots, \eta_{q-1}\} = \mathbb{F}_2^m \setminus \{0\}.$$

$$[\exists \lambda_1, \dots, \lambda_{q-1} \text{ s.t. } \dots]$$

Local Decoding Problem: given oracle accepts to  $f: \mathbb{F}_2^m \rightarrow \mathbb{F}_2$

$$\text{s.t. } \exists \text{ deg } d \text{ poly } p: \mathbb{F}_2^m \rightarrow \mathbb{F}_2 \text{ s.t.}$$

$$\delta(f, p) \leq ???$$

$\triangleright a \in \mathbb{F}_2^m$ ; compute  $f(a)$

local Decoder:  $D^f(a)$ :

- Pick  $b \in \mathbb{F}_2^m$  at random; ~~let  $k = \langle a, b \rangle$~~
- Output  $\sum_{i=1}^{q-1} \lambda_i f(a + \eta_i b)$

makes  $q-1$  queries  $\Rightarrow (q-1)$ -local.

Correctness?  $\epsilon = ?$

6

Analysis:

① ~~Idea~~: for random  $b$  &  $\eta_i \neq 0$  <sup>fixed</sup>

$a + b \cdot \eta_i$  is random independent of  $a$ .

$$\Rightarrow \Pr_b \left[ f(a + b \cdot \eta_i) \neq p(a + b \cdot \eta_i) \right] \leq \delta(f, p)$$

$$\textcircled{2} \Rightarrow \Pr_b \left[ \exists i \in \{1, \dots, q-1\} \text{ s.t. } f(a + b \cdot \eta_i) \neq p(a + b \cdot \eta_i) \right] \leq (q-1) \cdot \delta(f, p)$$

if  $\forall i \ f(a + b \cdot \eta_i) = p(a + b \cdot \eta_i)$  then

$$\sum \lambda_i f(a + b \cdot \eta_i) = \sum \lambda_i p(a + b \cdot \eta_i) = P(a)$$

$$\Rightarrow \text{if } \boxed{(q-1) \cdot \delta(f, p) \leq \frac{1}{3}} \text{ then } D^f(a) = p(a) \text{ w.p. } \geq \frac{2}{3}$$

$$\text{yields } \epsilon = \frac{1}{3(q-1)}$$

Food for thought: Improve  $\epsilon$  to  $\Omega(1)$ .

(Exercise). Reduce  $l$  to  $O(d)$ .

Local testability:

Test: Verify the  $\deg(f|_L) \leq d$  for random  $h = L_{a,b}$

Locality:  $l = q$

Analysis: Non-trivial

Obstacles: if even if  $\forall L \deg(f|_L) \leq d \leq q$   
it maybe that  $\deg(f) > d$

Example:  $q = 2^l$ ;  $d = 2^{l-1}$ ;  $f(x_1, \dots, x_m) = x_1^d \cdot x_2^d$

on line  $L_{a,b}$   $\begin{cases} x_1 = a_1 t + b_1 \\ x_2 = a_2 t + b_2 \end{cases}$

$$\begin{aligned}
 f(x_1, \dots, x_m)|_L &= (a_1 t + b_1)^d (a_2 t + b_2)^d \\
 &= (a_1 a_2)^d t^{2d} + (a_1 b_2 + a_2 b_1)^d t^d + (b_1 b_2)^d \\
 &= (a_1 a_2)^d \cdot t + (a_1 b_2 + a_2 b_1)^d t^d + (b_1 b_2)^d
 \end{aligned}$$

$t^{2d} = t^q = t$

$\Rightarrow \deg(f|_L) \leq d$ .  
(under various conditions) ☒

Nevertheless: Thm:  $\Pr(\deg(f|_L) \leq d) \leq \epsilon \Rightarrow S(f, R_m) \leq 2\epsilon$ . ☒

General Questions:

Low-Query Regime:

- ① What is best relationship between  $[n, k, d]_2$  if we want code to  $(\epsilon, \ell)$  ~~locally~~ <sup>LDC</sup> with  $\epsilon = \Omega(1)$  &  $\ell \leq 2, 3, 4 \dots$   
 $d = \Omega(n)$ ;  $n \geq k^{1+\frac{1}{\ell}}$ ;  $n \leq \exp(\exp(\sqrt{\log k}))$
- ② What is best  $[ ]_2$  if we want code to be  $(\epsilon, \ell)$ -LTC with  $\epsilon = \Omega(1)$  &  $\ell \leq 2, 3, 4 \dots$   
 $n = O(k \text{ polylog } k)$  with  $\ell = 3$ .



High-rate Regime

if we want  $R \approx 1 - \delta$  what is the smallest  $\ell$  we can achieve

LDC:  $\ell \leq 2^{\sqrt{\log n}}$

LTC:  $\ell \leq (\log n)^{\log \log n}$

[Next two lectures: Ideas]





Question what is the relationship between  $n, k, l, d (q \rightarrow \infty)$

~~[GHSY]~~:

[Trivial]: weak recovery possible with

$$n = k + \frac{k}{l} + d - 1$$

Given  $m = \underbrace{m_1 \dots m_l}_{\oplus}, \underbrace{m_{l+1} \dots m_{2l}}_{\oplus} \dots \underbrace{m_k}_{\oplus}$

Encoding =  $m, \left\{ \begin{matrix} \oplus \\ i=1 \end{matrix} \right\} m_{(j-1)l+i} \left\{ \begin{matrix} k/l \\ j=1 \end{matrix} \right\}, \underbrace{RS^{\oplus}(m)}_{\substack{\uparrow \\ \text{Parity check bit in} \\ \text{systematic RS} \\ \text{code of distance } d. \\ \uparrow \\ \text{distance here}}}$

locality here

---

[GHSY]:  $n \geq k + \frac{k}{l} + d - O(1)$ .

Proof: - Find blocks of size  $(l+1)$  of rank  $\leq l$ .

- Union them to get  $(k-1) \left( \frac{l+1}{l} \right)$  coordinates of rank  $\leq (k-1)$

- Apply PHP to conclude

$$d \leq n - (k-1) \frac{(l+1)}{l} \text{ or } n \geq (k-1) + \left( \frac{k-1}{l} \right) + d$$

[Tamo-Burg]  $\exists$  Strong  $(l, d)$ -codes with  $n = k + \frac{k}{l} + d \pm O(1)$

Construction:  $q = \frac{(l+1)q^0}{r}$   $q = \frac{(l+1) \cdot S}{r} + 1$

Such  $\mathbb{F}_q$  has  $\omega$  s.t.  $1, \omega, \omega^2, \dots, \omega^{r-1}$  distinct &  $\omega^r = 1$ .

Code =  $\{ f(\alpha) \mid \alpha \in \mathbb{F}_q^* \mid f(x) = \sum \alpha_i x^i \}$   
But  $\alpha_{r-1}, \alpha_{2r-1}, \alpha_{3r-1}, \dots = 0$

Code =  $\{ f(\alpha) \mid \alpha \in \mathbb{F}_q^* \}$

$C_k = \{ \langle f(\alpha) \rangle_{\alpha \in \mathbb{F}_q^*} \mid f(x) = \sum_{i \leq k} \alpha_i x^i \}$   
 $\alpha_i = 0$  if  $i = -1 \pmod r$   
 $\alpha_{r-1}, \alpha_{2r-1}, \alpha_{3r-1}, \dots = 0$

$\dim(C_k) = k \left( \frac{r-1}{r} \right)$

$\text{dist}(C_k) \geq n - k$

Locality?

let  $S_a = \{ a, a \cdot \omega, a \omega^2, \dots, a \omega^{l-1} \}$

$f|_{S_a} = f(x) \{ \text{mod } \prod_{b \in S_a} (x-b) \} = f(x) \text{ mod } (x^r - a^r)$

But  $f(x) \text{ mod } (x^r - a^r)$  has degree  $\leq r-2$  !

[One smaller than it should be!]

so.  $f(a)$  determined by  $f|_{\{a - \{a\}}$  !



Next Lectures

- ① ~~High~~ High Rate LTCs
- ② Some analysis of LTCs.