

## BINARY CYCLIC CODES

Binary Cyclic codes was first studied by Prange in 1957.

Cyclic codes form an important subclass of linear codes. These codes are attractive for two reasons: first, encoding and syndrome computation can be implemented easily by employing shift registers with feedback connections (or linear sequential circuits); and second, because they have considerable inherent algebraic structure, it is possible to find various practical methods for decoding them.

If the components of an  $n$ -tuple  $\mathbf{v} = (v_0, v_1, \dots, v_{n-1})$  are cyclically shifted one place to the right, we obtain another  $n$ -tuple,

$$\mathbf{v}^{(1)} = (v_{n-1}, v_0, \dots, v_{n-2}),$$

Which is called a cyclic shift of  $\mathbf{v}$ . If the components of  $\mathbf{v}$  are cyclically shifted  $i$  places to the right, the resultant  $n$ -tuple would be

$$\mathbf{v}^{(i)} = (v_{n-i}, v_{n-i+1}, \dots, v_{n-1}, v_0, v_1, \dots, v_{n-i-1}).$$

Clearly, cyclically shifting  $\mathbf{v}$   $i$  places to the right is equivalent to cyclically shifting  $v_{n-i}$  places to the left.

**Definition .** An  $(n, k)$  linear code  $C$  is called a *cyclic code* if every cyclic shift of a code vector in  $C$  is also a code vector in  $C$ .

The  $(7, 4)$  linear code given in Table 1 is a cyclic code. Cyclic codes form an important subclass of the linear codes and they

possess many algebraic properties that simplify the encoding and the decoding implementations.

**TABLE .1** A (7, 4) CYCLIC CODE GENERATED BY  $g(X) = 1 + X + X^3$

Messages	Code Vectors	Code polynomials
(0 0 0 0)	0 0 0 0 0 0 0	$0 = 0 \cdot g(X)$
(1 0 0 0)	1 1 0 1 0 0 0	$1 + X + X^3 = 1 \cdot g(X)$
(0 1 0 0)	0 1 1 0 1 0 0	$X + X^2 + X^4 = X \cdot g(X)$
(1 1 0 0)	1 0 1 1 1 0 0	$1 + X^2 + X^3 + X^4 = (1 + X) \cdot g(X)$
(0 0 1 0)	0 0 1 1 0 1 0	$X^2 + X^3 + X^5 = X^2 \cdot g(X)$
(1 0 1 0)	1 1 1 0 0 1 0	$1 + X + X^2 + X^5 = (1 + X^2) \cdot g(X)$
(0 1 1 0)	0 1 0 1 1 1 0	$X + X^3 + X^4 + X^5 = (X + X^2) \cdot g(X)$
(1 1 1 0)	1 0 0 0 1 1 0	$1 + X^4 + X^5 = (1 + X + X^2) \cdot g(X)$
(0 0 0 1)	0 0 0 1 1 0 1	$X^3 + X^4 + X^6 = X^3 \cdot g(X)$
(1 0 0 1)	1 1 0 0 1 0 1	$1 + X + X^4 + X^6 = (1 + X^3) \cdot g(X)$
(0 1 0 1)	0 1 1 1 0 0 1	$X + X^2 + X^3 + X^6 = (X + X^3) \cdot g(X)$
(1 1 0 1)	1 0 1 0 0 0 1	$1 + X^2 + X^6 = (1 + X + X^3) \cdot g(X)$
(0 0 1 1)	0 0 1 0 1 1 1	$X^2 + X^4 + X^5 + X^6 = (X^2 + X^3) \cdot g(X)$
(1 0 1 1)	1 1 1 1 1 1 1	$1 + X + X^2 + X^3 + X^4 + X^5 + X^6$ $= (1 + X^2 + X^3) \cdot g(X)$
(0 1 1 1)	0 1 0 0 0 1 1	$X + X^5 + X^6 = (X + X^2 + X^3) \cdot g(X)$
(1 1 1 1)	1 0 0 1 0 1 1	$1 + X^3 + X^5 + X^6$ $= (1 + X + X^2 + X^3) \cdot g(X)$

To develop the algebraic properties of a cyclic code, we treat the components of a code vector  $v = (v_0, v_1, \dots, v_{n-1})$  as the coefficients of a polynomial as follows:

$$\mathbf{v}(X) = v_0 + v_1X + v_2X^2 + \dots + v_{n-1}X^{n-1}.$$

Thus, each code vector corresponds to a polynomial of degree  $n - 1$  or less. If  $v_{n-1} \neq 0$ , the degree of  $\mathbf{v}(X)$  is  $n - 1$ ; if  $v_{n-1} = 0$ , the degree of  $\mathbf{v}(X)$  is less than  $n - 1$ . The correspondence between the vector  $\mathbf{v}$  and the polynomial  $\mathbf{v}(X)$  is one-to-one. We shall call  $\mathbf{v}(X)$  the code polynomial of  $\mathbf{v}$ . Hereafter, we use the terms "code vector" and "code polynomial" interchangeably. The code polynomial that corresponds to the code vector  $\mathbf{v}^{(i)}$  is

$$\begin{aligned} \mathbf{v}^{(i)}(X) = v_{n-i} + v_{n-i+1}X + \dots + v_{n-1}X^{i-1} \\ + v_0X^i + v_1X^{i+1} + \dots + v_{n-i-1}X^{n-1}. \end{aligned}$$

There exists an interesting algebraic relationship between  $\mathbf{v}(X)$  and  $\mathbf{v}^{(i)}(X)$ . Multiplying  $\mathbf{v}(X)$  by  $X^i$ , we obtain

$$X^i\mathbf{v}(X) = v_0X^i + v_1X^{i+1} + \dots + v_{n-i-1}X^{n-1} + \dots + v_{n-1}X^{n+i-1}.$$

The equation above can be manipulated into the following form:

$$\begin{aligned} X^i\mathbf{v}(X) &= v_{n-i} + v_{n-i+1}X + \dots + v_{n-1}X^{i-1} + v_0X^i + \dots + v_{n-i-1}X^{n-1} \\ &\quad + v_{n-i}(X^n + 1) + v_{n-i+1}X(X^n + 1) + \dots + v_{n-1}X^{i-1}(X^n + 1) \\ &= \mathbf{q}(X)(X^n + 1) + \mathbf{v}^{(i)}(X), \end{aligned} \tag{.1}$$

where  $q(X) = v_{n-i} + v_{n-i+1}X + \dots + v_{n-1}X^{i-1}$ . From (1) we see that the code polynomial  $v^{(i)}(X)$  is simply the remainder resulting from dividing the polynomial  $X^i v(X)$  by  $X^n + 1$ .

It follows that the nonzero code polynomial of minimum degree in an  $(n, k)$  cyclic code  $C$  is of the following form:

$$g(X) = 1 + g_1X + g_2X^2 + \dots + g_{n-k-1}X^{n-k-1} + X^{n-k}. \quad \dots(1)$$

Every code polynomial  $v(X)$  in an  $(n, k)$  cyclic code can be expressed in the following form:

$$\begin{aligned} v(X) &= u(X)g(X) \\ &= (u_0 + u_1X + \dots + u_{k-1}X^{k-1})g(X). \end{aligned}$$

If the coefficients of  $u(X)$ ,  $u_0, u_1, \dots, u_{k-1}$  are the  $k$  information digits to be encoded,  $v(X)$  is the corresponding code polynomial. Hence, the encoding can be achieved by multiplying the message  $u(X)$  by  $g(X)$ . Therefore, an  $(n, k)$  cyclic code is completely specified by its nonzero code polynomial of minimum degree,  $g(X)$ , given by (1). The polynomial  $g(X)$  is called the *generator polynomial* of the code. The degree of  $g(X)$  is equal to the number of parity-check digits of the code.

The generator polynomial of the  $(7, 4)$  cyclic code given in Table 1 is  $g(X) = 1 + X + X^3$ . We see that each code polynomial is a multiple of  $g(X)$ .

If  $g(X)$  is a polynomial of degree  $n - k$  and is a factor of  $X^n + 1$ , then  $g(X)$  generates an  $(n, k)$  cyclic code.

Example 1

The polynomial  $X^7 + 1$  can be factored as follows:

$$X^7 + 1 = (1 + X)(1 + X + X^3)(1 + X^2 + X^3).$$

There are two factors of degree 3; each generates a  $(7, 4)$  cyclic code. The  $(7, 4)$  cyclic code given by Table 1 is generated by  $g(X) = 1 + X + X^3$ . This code has minimum distance 3 and it is a single-error-correcting code. Notice that the code is not in systematic form. Each code polynomial is the product of a message polynomial of degree 3 or less and the generator polynomial  $g(X) = 1 + X + X^3$ .

For example, let  $u = (1010)$  be the message to be encoded. The corresponding message polynomial is  $u(X) = 1 + X^2$ . Multiplying  $u(X)$  by  $g(X)$  results in the following code polynomial:

$$\begin{aligned} v(X) &= (1 + X^2)(1 + X + X^3) \\ &= 1 + X + X^2 + X^5, \end{aligned}$$

or the code vector  $(1 \ 1 \ 1 \ 0 \ 0 \ 1 \ 0)$ .

H.W: Construct Binary Cyclic codes of  $(4,7)$  using  $g(X)=1+X^2+X^3$ ?

Given the generator polynomials  $g(X)$  of an  $(n, k)$  cyclic code, the code can be put into systematic form (i.e., the rightmost  $k$  digits of each code vector are the unaltered information digits and the leftmost  $n - k$  digits are parity-check digits). Suppose that the message to be encoded is  $u = (u_0, u_1, \dots, u_{k-1})$ . The corresponding message polynomial is

$$\mathbf{u}(X) = u_0 + u_1 X + \dots + u_{k-1} X^{k-1}.$$

Multiplying  $\mathbf{u}(X)$  by  $X^{n-k}$ , we obtain a polynomial of degree  $n - 1$  or less,

$$X^{n-k}\mathbf{u}(X) = u_0 X^{n-k} + u_1 X^{n-k+1} + \dots + u_{k-1} X^{n-1}.$$

Dividing  $X^{n-k}\mathbf{u}(X)$  by the generator polynomial  $g(X)$ , we have

$$X^{n-k}\mathbf{u}(X) = \mathbf{a}(X)g(X) + \mathbf{b}(X) \quad 2)$$

Where  $a(X)$  and  $b(X)$  are the quotient and the remainder, respectively. Since the degree of  $g(X)$  is  $n - k$ , the degree of  $b(X)$  must be  $n - k - 1$  or less, that is,

$$\mathbf{b}(X) = b_0 + b_1 X + \dots + b_{n-k-1} X^{n-k-1}.$$

Rearranging (2), we obtain the following polynomial of degree  $n - 1$  or less:

$$\mathbf{b}(X) + X^{n-k}\mathbf{u}(X) = \mathbf{a}(X)g(X). \quad \dots(3)$$

This polynomial is a multiple of the generator polynomial  $g(X)$  and therefore it is a code polynomial of the cyclic code generated by  $g(X)$ . Writing out  $\mathbf{b}(X) + X^{n-k}\mathbf{u}(X)$ , we have

$$\begin{aligned} \mathbf{b}(X) + X^{n-k}\mathbf{u}(X) &= b_0 + b_1 X + \dots + b_{n-k-1} X^{n-k-1} \\ &\quad + u_0 X^{n-k} + u_1 X^{n-k+1} + \dots + u_{k-1} X^{n-1}, \end{aligned} \quad \dots(4)$$

Which corresponds to the code vector

$$(b_0, b_1, \dots, b_{n-k-1}, u_0, u_1, \dots, u_{k-1}).$$

We see that the code vector consists of  $k$  unaltered information digits  $(u_0, u_1, \dots, u_{k-1})$  followed by  $n - k$  parity-check digits. The  $n - k$  parity-check digits are simply the coefficients of the remainder resulting from dividing the message polynomial  $X^{n-k} u(X)$  by the generator polynomial  $g(X)$ . The process above yields an  $(n, k)$  cyclic code in systematic form.

In summary, encoding in systematic form consists of three steps:

*Step 1.* Premultiply the message  $u(X)$  by  $X^{n-k}$ .

*Step 2.* Obtain the remainder  $b(X)$  (the parity-check digits) from dividing  $X^{n-k}u(X)$  by the generator polynomial  $g(X)$ .

*Step 3.* Combine  $b(X)$  and  $X^{n-k}u(X)$  to obtain the code polynomial  $b(X) + X^{n-k}u(X)$ .

Example 2: Consider the  $(7, 4)$  cyclic code generated by  $g(X) = 1 + X + X^3$ . Let  $u(X) = 1 + X^3$  be the message to be encoded. Dividing  $X^3 u(X) = X^3 + X^6$  by  $g(X)$ ,

$$\begin{array}{r}
 X^3 + X \quad (\text{quotient}) \\
 X^3 + X + 1 \ ) \ X^6 \qquad \qquad \qquad + X^3 \\
 \underline{X^6 \qquad \qquad + X^4 + X^3} \\
 X^4 \\
 \underline{X^4 \qquad \qquad + X^2 + X} \\
 X^2 + X \quad (\text{remainder}),
 \end{array}$$

We obtain the remainder  $b(X) = X + X^2$ . Thus, the code polynomial is  $v(X) = b(X) + X^3u(X) = X + X^2 + X^3 + X^6$  and the corresponding code vector is  $v = (0 \ 1 \ 1 \ 1 \ 0 \ 0 \ 1)$ , where the four rightmost digits are the information digits. The 16 code vectors in systematic form are listed in Table 2.

### GENERATOR AND PARITY CHECK MATRICE OF CYCLIC CODES

To construct the 4 by 7 generator matrix  $G$ , we start with four polynomials represented by  $g(X)$  and three cyclic shifted versions of it as shown by:-

$$g(X) = 1 + X + X^3 \quad (\text{zero shift})$$

$$X \bullet g(X) = X + X^2 + X^4 \quad (1 - \text{cyclic shift}).$$

$$X^2 \bullet g(X) = X^2 + X^3 + X^5 \quad (2 - \text{cyclic shift}).$$

$$X^3 \bullet g(X) = X^3 + X^4 + X^6 \quad (3 - \text{cyclic shift}).$$

If the coefficients of these polynomials are used as elements of the rows of a 4 by 7 matrix, we got:-

$$G = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 1 & 0 & 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 1 & 0 & 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & 1 & 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 & 1 & 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix}.$$



**TABLE 2** A (7,4) CYCLIC CODE GENERATED BY  $g(X) = 1 + X + X^3$

Message	Code word	
(0 0 0 0)	(0 0 0 0 0 0 0)	$0 = 0 \cdot g(X)$
(1 0 0 0)	(1 1 0 1 0 0 0)	$1 + X + X^3 = g(X)$
(0 1 0 0)	(0 1 1 0 1 0 0)	$X + X^2 + X^4 = Xg(X)$
(1 1 0 0)	(1 0 1 1 1 0 0)	$1 + X^2 + X^3 + X^4 = (1 + X)g(X)$
(0 0 1 0)	(1 1 1 0 0 1 0)	$1 + X + X^2 + X^5 = (1 + X^2)g(X)$
(1 0 1 0)	(0 0 1 1 0 1 0)	$X^2 + X^3 + X^5 = X^2g(X)$
(0 1 1 0)	(1 0 0 0 1 1 0)	$1 + X^4 + X^5 = (1 + X + X^2)g(X)$
(1 1 1 0)	(0 1 0 1 1 1 0)	$X + X^3 + X^4 + X^5 = (X + X^2)g(X)$
(0 0 0 1)	(1 0 1 0 0 0 1)	$1 + X^2 + X^6 = (1 + X + X^3)g(X)$
(1 0 0 1)	(0 1 1 1 0 0 1)	$X + X^2 + X^3 + X^6 = (X + X^3)g(X)$
(0 1 0 1)	(1 1 0 0 1 0 1)	$1 + X + X^4 + X^6 = (1 + X^3)g(X)$
(1 1 0 1)	(0 0 0 1 1 0 1)	$X^3 + X^4 + X^6 = X^3g(X)$
(0 0 1 1)	(0 1 0 0 0 1 1)	$X + X^5 + X^6 = (X + X^2 + X^3)g(X)$
(1 0 1 1)	(1 0 0 1 0 1 1)	$1 + X^3 + X^5 + X^6 = (1 + X + X^2 + X^3)g(X)$
(0 1 1 1)	(0 0 1 0 1 1 1)	$X^2 + X^4 + X^5 + X^6 = (X^2 + X^3)g(X)$
(1 1 1 1)	(1 1 1 1 1 1 1)	$1 + X + X^2 + X^3 + X^4 + X^5 + X^6$ $= (1 + X^2 + X^5)g(X)$

If the first row is added to the third row and the sum of the first two rows is added to the fourth row, we obtain the following matrix:

$$\mathbf{G}' = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 1 & 0 & 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 1 & 0 & 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 1 & 1 & 1 & 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 1 & 0 & 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix},$$

Which is in systematic form. This matrix generates the same code as  $\mathbf{G}$ .

'The generator matrix in systematic form can also be formed easily. Dividing  $X^{n-k+i}$  by the generator polynomial  $\mathbf{g}(X)$  for  $i = 0, 1, \dots, k-1$ , we obtain

$$X^{n-k+i} = \mathbf{a}_i(X)\mathbf{g}(X) + \mathbf{b}_i(X),$$

where  $\mathbf{b}_i(X)$  is the remainder with the following form:

$$\mathbf{b}_i(X) = b_{i0} + b_{i1}X + \dots + b_{i,n-k-1}X^{n-k-1}.$$

Since  $\mathbf{b}_i(X) + X^{n-k+i}$  for  $i = 0, 1, \dots, k-1$  are multiples of  $\mathbf{g}(X)$ , they are code polynomials. Arranging these  $k$  code polynomials as rows of a  $k \times n$  matrix, we obtain

$$\mathbf{G} = \begin{bmatrix} b_{00} & b_{01} & b_{02} & \cdots & b_{0,n-k-1} & 1 & 0 & 0 & \cdots & 0 \\ b_{10} & b_{11} & b_{12} & \cdots & b_{1,n-k-1} & 0 & 1 & 0 & \cdots & 0 \\ b_{20} & b_{21} & b_{22} & \cdots & b_{2,n-k-1} & 0 & 0 & 1 & \cdots & 0 \\ \vdots & \vdots & \vdots & \vdots & \vdots & \vdots & \vdots & \vdots & \vdots & \vdots \\ b_{k-1,0} & b_{k-1,1} & b_{k-1,2} & \cdots & b_{k-1,n-k-1} & 0 & 0 & 0 & \cdots & 1 \end{bmatrix}, \quad \dots(5)$$

which is the generator matrix of  $C$  in systematic form. The corresponding parity-check matrix for  $C$  is

$$\mathbf{H} = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 & \cdots & 0 & b_{00} & b_{10} & b_{20} & \cdots & b_{k-1,0} \\ 0 & 1 & 0 & \cdots & 0 & b_{01} & b_{11} & b_{21} & \cdots & b_{k-1,1} \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & \cdots & 0 & b_{02} & b_{12} & b_{22} & \cdots & b_{k-1,2} \\ \vdots & \vdots & \vdots & \vdots & \vdots & \vdots & \vdots & \vdots & \vdots & \vdots \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & \cdots & 1 & b_{0,n-k-1} & b_{1,n-k-1} & b_{2,n-k-1} & \cdots & b_{k-1,n-k-1} \end{bmatrix}. \quad \dots(6)$$

**Example 3**

Again, let us consider the (7, 4) cyclic code generated by  $g(X) = 1 + X + X^3$ . Dividing  $X^3, X^4, X^5,$  and  $X^6$  by  $g(X)$ , we have

$$X^3 = g(X) + (1 + X),$$

$$X^4 = Xg(X) + (X + X^2),$$

$$X^5 = (X^2 + 1)g(X) + (1 + X + X^2),$$

$$X^6 = (X^3 + X + 1)g(X) + (1 + X^2).$$

Rearranging the equations above, we obtain the following four code polynomials:

$$v_0(X) = 1 + X + X^3,$$

$$v_1(X) = X + X^2 + X^4,$$

$$v_2(X) = 1 + X + X^2 + X^5,$$

$$v_3(X) = 1 + X^2 + X^6.$$

Taking these four code polynomials as rows of a  $4 \times 7$  matrix, we obtain the following generator matrix in systematic form for the (7, 4) cyclic code:

$$\mathbf{G} = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 1 & 0 & 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 1 & 0 & 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 1 & 1 & 1 & 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 1 & 0 & 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix},$$

which is identical to the matrix  $\mathbf{G}'$  obtain earlier in this section.

EXAMPLE 4 : Construct Parity Check Matrix H of example 2?  
 We simply find the party polynomial H(X) as follow:

$$\begin{aligned} \mathbf{h}(X) &= \frac{X^7 + 1}{\mathbf{g}(X)} \\ &= 1 + X + X^2 + X^4. \end{aligned}$$

The reciprocal of  $\mathbf{h}(X)$  is

$$\begin{aligned} X^4\mathbf{h}(X^{-1}) &= X^4(1 + X^{-1} + X^{-2} + X^{-4}). \\ &= 1 + X^2 + X^3 + X^4. \end{aligned}$$

Also  $X^5 \bullet \mathbf{h}(X^{-1}) = X + X^3 + X^4 + X^5,$   
 And  $X^6 \bullet \mathbf{h}(X^{-1}) = X^2 + X^4 + X^5 + X^6 .$

Then using the coefficients of these three equations as the elements of the rows of the 3 by 7 parity check matrix, we got

$$H' = \begin{matrix} & \mathbf{1} & \mathbf{0} & \mathbf{1} & \mathbf{1} & \mathbf{1} & \mathbf{0} & \mathbf{0} \\ \mathbf{0} & \mathbf{1} & \mathbf{0} & \mathbf{1} & \mathbf{1} & \mathbf{1} & \mathbf{0} & \\ \mathbf{0} & \mathbf{0} & \mathbf{1} & \mathbf{0} & \mathbf{1} & \mathbf{1} & \mathbf{1} & \end{matrix}$$

Here  $H'$  is not in systematic form therefore we must put it into a systematic by add 3<sup>rd</sup> row with the 1<sup>st</sup> row to obtain :-

$$H = \begin{matrix} & \mathbf{1} & \mathbf{0} & \mathbf{0} & \mathbf{1} & \mathbf{0} & \mathbf{1} & \mathbf{1} \\ \mathbf{0} & \mathbf{1} & \mathbf{0} & \mathbf{1} & \mathbf{1} & \mathbf{1} & \mathbf{0} & \\ \mathbf{0} & \mathbf{0} & \mathbf{1} & \mathbf{0} & \mathbf{1} & \mathbf{1} & \mathbf{1} & \end{matrix}$$