Galois Hulls of Linear Codes over Finite Fields^{*}

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Abstract

The ℓ -Galois hull $h_{\ell}(C)$ of an [n, k] linear code C over a finite field \mathbb{F}_q is the intersection of C and $C^{\perp_{\ell}}$, where $C^{\perp_{\ell}}$ denotes the ℓ -Galois dual of C which introduced by Fan and Zhang (2017). The ℓ - Galois LCD code is a linear code C with $h_{\ell}(C) = 0$. In this paper, we show that the dimension of the ℓ -Galois hull of a linear code is invariant under permutation equivalence and we provide a method to calculate the dimension of the ℓ -Galois hull by the generator matrix of the code. Moreover, we obtain that the dimension of the ℓ -Galois hulls of ternary codes are also invariant under monomial equivalence. We show that every [n, k] linear code over \mathbb{F}_q is monomial equivalent to an ℓ -Galois LCD code for any q > 4. We conclude that if there exists an [n, k] linear code over \mathbb{F}_q for any $0 \le \ell \le e - 1$, where $q = p^e$ for some prime p. As an application, we characterize the ℓ -Galois hull of matrix product codes over finite fields.

Keywords: ℓ -Galois hull of a linear code, monomial equivalence, ℓ -Galois LCD code, matrix product code.

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1 Introduction

Let \mathbb{F}_q be a finite field of order q, where $q = p^e$ and p is a prime. Recently, Fan and Zhang [12] generalize the Euclidean inner product and the Hermitian inner product to the so-called ℓ -Galois form (or ℓ -Galois inner product), where $0 \leq \ell \leq e - 1$. The ℓ -Galois dual codes, and the ℓ -Galois self-dual constacyclic codes over finite fields are studied. In particular, necessary and sufficient conditions for the existence of ℓ -Galois self-dual and isometrically Galois self-dual constacyclic codes are obtained. As consequences, some results on self-dual, iso-dual and Hermitian self-dual constacyclic codes are derived.

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Linear complementary-dual (LCD for short) codes are linear codes that intersect with their duals trivially. They were first studied by Massey [23] who showed that these codes are optimal for the two-user binary adder channel (BAC) and that they are asymptotically good. Sendrier [29] showed that these codes meet the Gilbert-Varshamov bound. In ([28],[29],[30],[32], [31]), the authors also studied the hulls of linear codes, and tried to find permutations between two equivalent codes, which has an application to code-based public key cryptosystems. Carlet and Guilley gave some applications of LCD codes in side-channel attacks and fault non-invasive attacks ([4],[6],[7]). LCD codes also can be used for constructions of lattices [17]. Optimal and MDS codes that are LCD are studied in many papers (see [2],[8],[10],[12],[16],[20],[22],[23],[27],[19]).

Motivated by the previous work, we study the Galois hulls of linear codes over finite fields. The ℓ -Galois hull of a linear code C over a finite field \mathbb{F}_q is defined by $h_\ell(C) = C \bigcap C^{\perp_\ell}$, where $q = p^e$, p is a prime, and $0 \leq \ell \leq e-1$. The classical LCD code is a linear code with $h_0(C) = 0$, and the Hermitian LCD code is a code with $h_{\frac{e}{2}}(C) = 0$, where e is even.

Construction of codes is an interesting research field in coding theory. The matrix product code $[C_1, \dots, C_M] \cdot A$ is a new code constructed from the codes C_1, \dots, C_M of same length n and an $M \times N$ matrix A over a finite field \mathbb{F}_q . These codes were first proposed and studied in [5]. There are many papers focusing on its algebraic structure, different distance structures, and decoding algorithm (see [14],[15],[24],[1],[11]).

This paper is organized as follows. Section 2 gives some preliminaries. In Section 3, a characterization of the dimension of the ℓ -Galois hull of a linear code is provided. As a corollary, we obtain a necessary and sufficient condition for a linear code to be an ℓ -Galois LCD code. In Section 4, we first show that the dimension of any ℓ -Galois hull of a linear code is invariant under permutation equivalence for $0 \leq \ell \leq e - 1$. For ternary codes, the dimension of the ℓ -Galois hull is also invariant under monomial equivalence. Then we show that every linear code over \mathbb{F}_q is monomial equivalent to an ℓ -Galois LCD code in the case of q > 4. We conclude that if there exists an [n, k] linear code over \mathbb{F}_q with q > 4, then there exists an ℓ -Galois LCD code with the same parameters. In Section 5, we study the structure and the dimension of ℓ -Galois hull of matrix product codes.

2 Preliminaries

Throughout this paper, \mathbb{F}_q denotes a finite field of order $q = p^e$, where p is a prime, e is a positive integer. By \mathbb{F}_q^* we denote the multiplicative group of \mathbb{F}_q . Let $\mathbb{F}_q^n = \{(x_1, \dots, x_n) \mid x_j \in \mathbb{F}_q, 1 \leq j \leq n\}$ be the n dimensional vector space over \mathbb{F}_q . Any subspace C of \mathbb{F}_q^n is called a *linear code* of length n over \mathbb{F}_q . We assume that all codes are linear in this paper.

Let S_n be the symmetric group on the set $X = \{1, 2, \dots, n\}$. For all $\varphi \in S_n$ and $\mathbf{x} = (x_1, \dots, x_n) \in \mathbb{F}_q^n$, S_n acts on \mathbb{F}_q^n in the following way.

$$S_n \times \mathbb{F}_q^n \to \mathbb{F}_q^n, (\varphi, \mathbf{x}) \mapsto \varphi \cdot \mathbf{x} = \varphi(\mathbf{x}) = (x_{\varphi(1)}, \cdots, x_{\varphi(n)}).$$

In [12], Fan and Zhang introduced the following concept.

Definition 2.1. Assume the notations given above. For each integer ℓ with $0 \leq \ell \leq e-1$, let

$$\langle \mathbf{x}, \mathbf{y} \rangle_{\ell} = x_1 y_1^{p^{\ell}} + \dots + x_n y_n^{p^{\ell}}, \quad \forall \mathbf{x}, \mathbf{y} \in \mathbb{F}_q^n.$$

Then the form $\langle -, - \rangle_{\ell}$ is called the ℓ -Galois form on \mathbb{F}_{a}^{n} , or ℓ -Galois inner product.

It is easy to see that $\langle -, - \rangle_0$ is just the usual Euclidean inner product. And, $\langle -, - \rangle_{\frac{e}{2}}$ is the Hermitian inner product if e is even. For any code C over \mathbb{F}_q , the following code

$$C^{\perp_{\ell}} = \{ \mathbf{x} \in \mathbb{F}_q^n \, | \, \langle \mathbf{c}, \mathbf{x} \rangle_{\ell} = 0, \, \forall \mathbf{c} \in C \}$$

is called the ℓ -Galois dual code of C. If $C \subseteq C^{\perp_{\ell}}$, then C is said to be ℓ -Galois selforthogonal. Moreover, C is said to be ℓ -Galois self-dual if $C = C^{\perp_{\ell}}$.

Note that $C^{\perp_{\ell}}$ is linear whenever C is linear or not. In particular, $C^{\perp_{0}}$ (C^{\perp} for short) is just the Euclidean dual code of C, and $C^{\perp_{\frac{e}{2}}}(C^{\perp_{H}}$ for short) is just the Hermitian dual code of C if e is even.

Let $\sigma : \mathbb{F}_q \to \mathbb{F}_q, a \mapsto a^p$, be the Frobenius automorphism of \mathbb{F}_q . For any $\mathbf{x} = (x_1, \cdots, x_n) \in \mathbb{F}_q^n$, and any matrix $G = (a_{ij})_{k \times l}$ over \mathbb{F}_q , set $\sigma(\mathbf{x}) := (\sigma(x_1), \cdots, \sigma(x_n))$ and $\sigma(G) := (\sigma(a_{ij}))_{k \times l}$.

The following proposition is easily obtained.

Proposition 2.2. Assume the notations given above. Then for any $0 \le \ell \le e-1$, (1) $C^{\perp_{\ell}} = (\sigma^{e-\ell}(C))^{\perp_{0}} = \sigma^{e-\ell}(C^{\perp_{0}})$. (2) $(C^{\perp_{\ell}})^{\perp_{f}} = \sigma^{2e-\ell-f}(C)$, for any $0 \le \ell, f \le e-1$. In particular, $(C^{\perp_{0}})^{\perp_{0}} = C$, and $(C^{\perp_{\frac{e}{2}}})^{\perp_{\frac{e}{2}}} = C$ if *e* is even.

Proof. The two statements follow immediately from the identity $\langle \mathbf{c}, \mathbf{x} \rangle_{\ell} = \langle \mathbf{c}, \sigma^{\ell}(\mathbf{x}) \rangle_{0} = \sigma^{\ell} (\langle \sigma^{e-\ell}(\mathbf{c}), \mathbf{x} \rangle_{0}).$

Definition 2.3. Let C be a linear code over \mathbb{F}_q . The ℓ -Galois hull of C is defined by $h_{\ell}(C) = C \bigcap C^{\perp_{\ell}}$. If $h_{\ell}(C) = 0$, then C is called a linear code with ℓ -Galois complementary dual or an ℓ -Galois LCD code. If $h_{\ell}(C) = C$, then C is called an ℓ -Galois self-orthogonal linear code.

Remark 2.4. Note that when $\ell = 0$ and $C \cap C^{\perp_0} = 0$, the code C is the classical LCD code. When e is even and $C \cap C^{\perp_{\frac{e}{2}}} = 0$, the code C is the Hermitian LCD code.

A monomial matrix is a square matrix such that in every row (and in every column) there is exactly one nonzero element. It is easy to see that any monomial matrix is a product of a permutation matrix and an invertible diagonal matrix. In particular, a permutation matrix is a special monomial matrix. Two linear codes C_1 and C_2 of length n over \mathbb{F}_q are monomial equivalent, if there is an monomial matrix M of size n such that $C_2 = C_1 M = \{\mathbf{y} \mid \mathbf{y} = \mathbf{x}M, \text{ for } \mathbf{x} \in C_1\}$. If M is a permutation matrix, then C_1 and C_2 are called permutation equivalent.

3 The ℓ -Galois hull of linear codes

In this section, we give a characterization for the ℓ -Galois hull of any linear code over \mathbb{F}_q . We have the following theorem.

Theorem 3.1. Let C be an [n, k] linear code over \mathbb{F}_q with a generator matrix G. Let h be the dimension of the ℓ -Galois hull $h_{\ell}(C) = C \bigcap C^{\perp_{\ell}}$ of C, and let r = k - h. Then there exists a generator matrix G_0 of C such that

$$G_0 \sigma^{\ell}(G_0^T) = \begin{pmatrix} O_{h \times h} & H_{h \times r} \\ O_{r \times h} & P_{r \times r} \end{pmatrix},$$

where $O_{h \times h}$ and $O_{r \times h}$ are respectively zero matrices of sizes $h \times h$ and $r \times h$, and the rank r(Q) of $Q = \begin{pmatrix} H_{h \times r} \\ P_{r \times r} \end{pmatrix}$ is r. Furthermore, the rank $r(G\sigma^{\ell}(G^{T}))$ of $G\sigma^{\ell}(G^{T})$ is r for any generator matrix G of C.

Proof. Let $\{\alpha_1, \dots, \alpha_h\}$ be a basis of $h_\ell(C)$. We can extend $\{\alpha_1, \dots, \alpha_h\}$ to a basis $\{\alpha_1, \dots, \alpha_h, \dots, \alpha_k\}$ of C. Let G_0 be the $k \times n$ matrix such that its *i*th row is α_i , where $1 \leq i \leq k$. Then G_0 is a generator matrix of C and $G_0 \sigma^\ell(G_0^T)$ is a $k \times k$ matrix. The element at the (i, j)-entry of $G_0 \sigma^\ell(G_0^T)$ is $\alpha_i \sigma^\ell(\alpha_j^T) = \langle \alpha_i, \alpha_j \rangle_\ell$. Note that $\langle \alpha_i, \alpha_j \rangle_\ell = 0$ if $1 \leq j \leq h$, since $\alpha_i \in C$ for all $1 \leq i \leq k$ and $\alpha_j \in C^{\perp_\ell}$ for all $1 \leq j \leq h$. Therefore, $G_0 \sigma^\ell(G_0^T)$ has the form as stated in the theorem.

Now we show that r(Q) = r. Obviously, $r(Q) \leq r$. Suppose r(Q) < r. Then there exists a non-zero vector $\tilde{\mathbf{x}} = (x_{h+1}, \cdots, x_k) \in \mathbb{F}_q^{k-h}$ such that $Q(\tilde{\mathbf{x}})^T = 0$. Let $\mathbf{x} = (\mathbf{0}, \tilde{\mathbf{x}}) \in \mathbb{F}_q^k$, where **0** is the zero vector of length h. Then we have

$$G_0 \sigma^{\ell}(G_0^T) \mathbf{x}^T = (0, Q) \begin{pmatrix} \mathbf{0} \\ \tilde{\mathbf{x}}^T \end{pmatrix} = 0.$$

Since the map $\sigma^{\ell} : \mathbb{F}_q \to \mathbb{F}_q, \sigma^{\ell}(a) = a^{p^{\ell}}, \forall a \in \mathbb{F}_q$ is an automorphism of \mathbb{F}_q , there exists a vector $\mathbf{y} = (0, \cdots, 0, y_{h+1}, \cdots, y_k) \in \mathbb{F}_q^k$ such that $\sigma^{\ell}(\mathbf{y}) = \mathbf{x}$. Therefore,

$$0 = G_0 \sigma^{\ell}(G_0^T) \mathbf{x}^T = G_0 \sigma^{\ell}(G_0^T) \sigma^{\ell}(\mathbf{y})^T = G_0 \sigma^{\ell}(G_0^T) \sigma^{\ell}(\mathbf{y}^T) = G_0 \sigma^{\ell}(G_0^T \mathbf{y}^T) = G_0 \sigma^{\ell}(\mathbf{y}G_0)^T.$$

This gives that $\mathbf{y}G_0 \in C^{\perp_{\ell}}$, which implies $\mathbf{y}G_0 \in h_{\ell}(C) = \langle \alpha_1, \cdots, \alpha_h \rangle$. We also have

$$\mathbf{y}G_0 = y_{h+1}\alpha_{h+1} + y_{h+2}\alpha_{h+2} + \dots + y_k\alpha_k \in \langle \alpha_{h+1}, \alpha_{h+2}, \dots, \alpha_k \rangle.$$

Hence $\mathbf{y} = \mathbf{0}$ since $\alpha_1, \alpha_2, \cdots, \alpha_k$ are linear independent. This is a contradiction. Hence, r(Q) = r.

Let G be an arbitrary generator matrix of C, then there exists an invertible $k \times k$ matrix N such that $G = NG_0$. We have

$$G\sigma^{\ell}(G^T) = NG_0\sigma^{\ell}(G_0^T N^T) = NG_0\sigma^{\ell}(G_0^T)\sigma^{\ell}(N^T).$$

Then $r(G\sigma^{\ell}(G^T)) = r(G_0\sigma^{\ell}(G_0^T))$, since the matrix N and $\sigma^{\ell}(N^T)$ are invertible. We are done.

The following corollary can be obtained immediately.

Corollary 3.2. ([25]) Let C be an [n, k] linear code over \mathbb{F}_q with a generator matrix G. Let h be the dimension of $h_0(C)$ and r = k - h. Then the code C has a generator matrix G_0 such that

$$G_0 G_0^T = \left(\begin{array}{cc} O_{h \times h} & O_{h \times r} \\ O_{r \times h} & P_{r \times r} \end{array}\right),$$

where $O_{h \times h}, O_{h \times r}, O_{r \times h}$ are all zero matrices, and P is an invertible $r \times r$ matrix. Furthermore, the rank of GG^T is r for every generator matrix G of C.

Proof. Take $\ell = 0$ in Theorem 3.1, we get $G_0 G_0^T = G_0 \sigma^0(G_0^T) = \begin{pmatrix} O_{h \times h} & H_{h \times r} \\ O_{r \times h} & P_{r \times r} \end{pmatrix}$. Note that $G_0 G_0^T$ is a symmetric matrix, this implies that $H_{h \times r} = O_{h \times r}$. By Theorem 3.1 again, the rank of $\begin{pmatrix} H_{h \times r} \\ P_{r \times r} \end{pmatrix}$ is r, we have P is an invertible $r \times r$ matrix. Also the rank of $GG^T = G\sigma^0(G^T)$ is r for every generator matrix G of C by Theorem 3.1.

Corollary 3.3. Let C be an [n, k] linear code over \mathbb{F}_q with a generator matrix G, where $q = p^e$, and e is even. Let h be the dimension of $h_{\frac{e}{2}}(C)$ and r = k - h. Then C has a generator matrix G_0 such that

$$G_0 \sigma^{\frac{e}{2}} (G_0^T) = \begin{pmatrix} O_{h \times h} & O_{h \times r} \\ O_{r \times h} & P_{r \times r} \end{pmatrix},$$

where $O_{h \times h}, O_{h \times r}, O_{r \times h}$ are all zero matrices, and P is an invertible $r \times r$ matrix. Furthermore, the rank of $G\sigma^{\frac{e}{2}}(G^T)$ is r for every generator matrix G of C.

Proof. Take $\ell = \frac{e}{2}$ in Theorem 3.1, and note that $(G_0 \sigma^{\frac{e}{2}}(G_0^T))^T = \sigma^{\frac{e}{2}}(G_0)G_0^T$. It is easy to verify that $\langle \mathbf{x}, \mathbf{y} \rangle_{\frac{e}{2}} = \sigma^{\frac{e}{2}}(\langle \mathbf{y}, \mathbf{x} \rangle_{\frac{e}{2}})$ for any $\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{y} \in \mathbb{F}_q^n$. Hence $\langle \mathbf{x}, \mathbf{y} \rangle_{\frac{e}{2}} = 0$ if and only if $\langle \mathbf{y}, \mathbf{x} \rangle_{\frac{e}{2}} = 0$. The result then follows immediately.

Remark 3.4. The following example shows that if $\ell \neq 0$, or $\ell \neq \frac{e}{2}$, where e is even, then the matrix $H_{h\times r}$ may not be 0. For example, let $\mathbb{F}_8 = \mathbb{F}_2[w](w^3 + w + 1 = 0)$ and $C \leq \mathbb{F}_8^4$ be a [4,2] linear code of length 4 with a generator matrix $G = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 1 & w + 1 & w + 1 \\ 0 & w^2 + 1 & 1 & 0 \end{pmatrix}$.

Then $G\sigma(G^T) = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & w^2 \\ 0 & w^2 + w + 1 \end{pmatrix}$.

When $h_l(C) = 0$ or $h_l(C) = C$ for a linear code C, then the following two corollaries are straightforward.

Corollary 3.5. ([21]) Let C be an [n, k] linear code over \mathbb{F}_q with a generator matrix G. Then C is ℓ -Galois LCD code if and only if $G\sigma^{\ell}(G^T)$ is nonsingular.

Corollary 3.6. Let C be an [n, k] linear code over \mathbb{F}_q with a generator matrix G. Then C is an ℓ -Galois self-orthogonal code if and only if $G\sigma^{\ell}(G^T) = 0$.

In particular, we have

Corollary 3.7. Let C be an [n, k] linear code over \mathbb{F}_q with a generator matrix G and a parity check matrix H. Then C is an ℓ -Galois self-dual code if and only if both $G\sigma^{\ell}(G^T)$ and $H\sigma^{e-\ell}(H^T)$ are 0.

Proof. Since H is a parity check matrix of C, $\sigma^{e-\ell}(H)$ is a generator matrix of $C^{\perp_{\ell}}$. Note that $C \subseteq C^{\perp_{\ell}}$ if and only if $G\sigma^{\ell}(G^T) = 0$, and $C^{\perp_{\ell}} \subseteq C = (C^{\perp_{\ell}})^{\perp_{e-\ell}}$ if and only if $\sigma^{e-\ell}(H)\sigma^{e-\ell}(\sigma^{e-\ell}(H))^T = 0$ if and only if $H\sigma^{e-\ell}(H^T) = 0$. This finishes the proof. \Box

4 The existence of ℓ -Galois LCD codes

LCD codes over finite fields are an important class of linear codes. They have many applications in coding theory and cryptography, especially in designing decoding algorithm. In this section, we focus on the equivalence of *l*-Galois LCD codes.

Lemma 4.1. Let C be an [n, k] linear code of length n over \mathbb{F}_q , $\varphi \in S_n$ be a permutation, and $0 \leq l \leq e-1$. Then

(1)
$$\langle \varphi(\mathbf{x}), \varphi(\mathbf{y}) \rangle_{\ell} = \langle \mathbf{x}, \mathbf{y} \rangle_{\ell}$$
, for any $\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{y} \in \mathbb{F}_q^n$.
(2) $\varphi(C^{\perp_{\ell}}) = \varphi(C)^{\perp_{\ell}}$.

Proof. (1) Let $\mathbf{x} = (x_1, \dots, x_n), \mathbf{y} = (y_1, \dots, y_n) \in \mathbb{F}_q^n$, then $\varphi(\mathbf{x}) = (x_{\varphi(1)}, \dots, x_{\varphi(n)})$ and $\varphi(\mathbf{y}) = (y_{\varphi(1)}, \dots, y_{\varphi(n)})$. Hence

$$\langle \varphi(\mathbf{x}), \varphi(\mathbf{y}) \rangle_{\ell} = x_{\varphi(1)} y_{\varphi(1)}^{p^{\ell}} + \dots + x_{\varphi(n)} y_{\varphi(n)}^{p^{\ell}} = x_1 y_1^{p^{\ell}} + \dots + x_n y_n^{p^{\ell}} = \langle \mathbf{x}, \mathbf{y} \rangle_{\ell}.$$

(2) Let $\mathbf{v} \in C^{\perp_{\ell}}$, then $\varphi(\mathbf{v}) \in \varphi(C^{\perp_{\ell}})$. For any $\mathbf{u} \in \varphi(C)$, there exists a codeword $\mathbf{c} \in C$ such that $\varphi(\mathbf{c}) = \mathbf{u}$. We have

$$\langle \mathbf{u}, \varphi(\mathbf{v}) \rangle_{\ell} = \langle \varphi(\mathbf{c}), \varphi(\mathbf{v}) \rangle_{\ell} = \langle \mathbf{c}, \mathbf{v} \rangle_{\ell} = 0.$$

This implies that $\varphi(\mathbf{v})\in\varphi(C)^{\perp_\ell}$ and hence $\varphi(C^{\perp_\ell})\subseteq\varphi(C)^{\perp_\ell}$. Since

$$\dim(\varphi(C^{\perp_{\ell}})) = \dim(C^{\perp_{\ell}}) = n - \dim(C) = n - \dim(\varphi(C)) = \dim(\varphi(C)^{\perp_{\ell}}),$$

we get $\varphi(C^{\perp_{\ell}}) = \varphi(C)^{\perp_{\ell}}$.

Proposition 4.2. The dimension of the ℓ -Galois hull of a linear code is invariant under permutation equivalence.

Proof. Let C be an [n, k] linear code of length n over \mathbb{F}_q and $\varphi \in S_n$ be an arbitrary permutation. By Lemma 4.1, we have

$$\varphi(h_{\ell}(C)) = \varphi(C \cap C^{\perp_{\ell}}) = \varphi(C) \cap \varphi(C^{\perp_{\ell}}) = \varphi(C) \cap \varphi(C)^{\perp_{\ell}} = h_{\ell}(\varphi(C)).$$

Because $\dim(h_{\ell}(\varphi(C))) = \dim(\varphi(h_{\ell}(C))) = \dim(h_{\ell}(C))$, this finishes the proof.

Remark 4.3. If q = 3, the dimension of the ℓ -Galois hull of a linear code is invariant under monomial equivalence. In fact, suppose that $C_2 = C_1M$, by Proposition 4.2, we only need to prove the case when M is an invertible diagonal matrix. Let G_1 and G_2 be the generator matrices of C_1 and C_2 respectively, then $G_2 = G_1M$. Since q = 3, we have $\ell = 0$ and $MM^T = I$, the identity matrix. Hence we have

$$G_{2}\sigma^{\ell}(G_{2})^{T} = G_{1}M\sigma^{\ell}(G_{1}M)^{T} = G_{1}M\sigma^{\ell}(M)^{T}\sigma^{\ell}(G_{1})^{T} = G_{1}MM^{T}\sigma^{\ell}(G_{1})^{T} = G_{1}\sigma^{\ell}(G_{1})^{T}.$$

It follows that $h_{\ell}(C_{1}) = h_{\ell}(C_{2}).$

In order to prove the main result in this section, we need the following proposition. This proposition is known (for example, see [25]), we provide an alternative proof here.

Proposition 4.4. Let f(X) be a nonzero polynomial of $\mathbb{F}_q[X_1, \dots, X_n]$ such that the degree of f(X) with respect to X_j is at most q-1 for all j, where $1 \leq j \leq n$. Then there exists a vector $\mathbf{x} \in \mathbb{F}_q^n$ such that $f(\mathbf{x}) \neq 0$.

Proof. We prove this proposition by induction on n. If n = 1, then by assumption the degree of f(X) is at most q - 1. Note that the number of roots of f(X) over the finite field \mathbb{F}_q is less or equal to the degree of f(X). Therefore, there exists a vector $\mathbf{x} \in \mathbb{F}_q^1$ such that $f(\mathbf{x}) \neq 0$.

Now assume $n \geq 2$. We can further assume that the degree $\deg_{X_n}(f)$ of f(X) with respect to X_n is greater than or equal to 1. Otherwise $f(X) \in \mathbb{F}_q[X_1, \dots, X_{n-1}] \subseteq$ $\mathbb{F}_q[X_1, \dots, X_n]$, then there exists a vector $\mathbf{x} \in \mathbb{F}_q^{n-1}$ such that $f(\mathbf{x}) \neq 0$ by the inductive hypothesis. Therefore we can assume that

$$f(X) = f(X_1, \cdots, X_n) = \sum_{i=1}^k g_i(X_1, \cdots, X_{n-1}) X_n^i,$$

where $k = \deg_{X_n} f(X_1, \dots, X_n)$ and $g_k(X_1, \dots, X_{n-1})$ is a nonzero polynomial. Hence, there exists $\bar{\mathbf{x}} = (x_1, \dots, x_{n-1}) \in \mathbb{F}_q^{n-1}$ such that $g_k(x_1, \dots, x_{n-1}) \neq 0$. Let $F(X_n) = f(x_1, \dots, x_{n-1}, X_n)$ and $\deg(F(X_n)) = k$, then there is an element $x_n \in \mathbb{F}_q$ such that $F(x_n) \neq 0$ by the result of the previous argument. Hence there exists $\mathbf{x} = (x_1, \dots, x_n)$ such that $f(\mathbf{x}) \neq 0$.

Proposition 4.5. Let f(X) and g(X) be two nonzero polynomials of $\mathbb{F}_q[X_1, \dots, X_n]$ such that the degree of f(X)g(X) with respect to X_j is at most q-1 for all j. Let $\Omega = \{\mathbf{x} \in \mathbb{F}_q^n | g(\mathbf{x}) = 0\}$. Then there exists a vector $\mathbf{x} \in \mathbb{F}_q^n \setminus \Omega$ such that $f(\mathbf{x}) \neq 0$.

Proof. By Proposition 4.4, there exists a vector $\mathbf{x} \in \mathbb{F}_q^n$ such that $f(\mathbf{x})g(\mathbf{x}) \neq 0$. Hence there exists a vector $\mathbf{x} \in \mathbb{F}_q^n \setminus \Omega$ such that $f(\mathbf{x}) \neq 0$.

By the proposition above, we can easily get the following two corollaries.

Corollary 4.6. Let f(X) be a nonzero polynomial of $\mathbb{F}_q[X_1, \dots, X_n]$ such that the degree of f(X) with respect to X_j is at most q-2 for all j. Then there exists an $\mathbf{x} \in {\mathbb{F}_q^*}^n$ such that $f(\mathbf{x}) \neq 0$.

Proof. Let $g(X) = \prod_{i=1}^{n} X_i$ and $\Omega = \{ \mathbf{x} \in \mathbb{F}_q^n | g(\mathbf{x}) = 0 \}$. Then $\mathbb{F}_q^n \setminus \Omega = \{ \mathbb{F}_q^* \}^n$. We are done.

Corollary 4.7. Let $q = p^e, 1 \leq \ell \leq e-1$ and $\ell | e$. Let f(X) be a nonzero polynomial of $\mathbb{F}_q[X_1, \dots, X_n]$ such that the degree of f(X) with respect to X_j is at most $q-1-p^\ell$ for all j. Then there exists a vector $\mathbf{x} \in \{\mathbb{F}_q \setminus \mathbb{F}_{p^\ell}\}^n$ such that $f(\mathbf{x}) \neq 0$.

Proof. Let $g(X) = \prod_{i=1}^{n} (X_i^{p^{\ell}} - X_i)$ and $\Omega = \{ \mathbf{x} \in \mathbb{F}_q^n | g(\mathbf{x}) = 0 \}$. Then $\mathbb{F}_q^n \setminus \Omega = (\mathbb{F}_q \setminus \mathbb{F}_{p^{\ell}})^n$. The result then follows immediately.

Theorem 4.8. Let C be an [n, k] linear code over \mathbb{F}_q , where q > 4 and $0 \leq \ell \leq e - 1$. Then C is monomial equivalent to an ℓ -Galois LCD code.

Proof. Let C be an [n, k] linear code over \mathbb{F}_q with q > 4. Without loss of generality, we may assume that C has a generator matrix of the standard form $G = (I_k \mid B)$. Let $\mathbf{X} = (X_1, \dots, X_k)$. Now we define a k-variable polynomial $f(\mathbf{X})$ as follows:

$$f(\mathbf{X}) = \det(diag(X_1^{1+p^{\ell}}, \cdots, X_k^{1+p^{\ell}}) + B\sigma^{p^l}(B^T)).$$

It is easy to verify that $f(\mathbf{X})$ is a nonzero polynomial with the variables X_1, \dots, X_k and the degree of $f(\mathbf{X})$ with respect to X_j is $1 + p^{\ell}$ for all j. In the following, we show that $1 + p^{\ell} \leq q - 2$. Note that q > 4, we have

If p = 2 and $e \ge 3$, then $2^{e-1} \ge 3$, and $2^{e-1} + 2^{e-1} \ge 3 + 2^{e-1}$. This implies that $2^e \ge 3 + 2^{e-1} \ge 3 + 2^l$. Therefore, $q - 2 = 2^e - 2 \ge 2^\ell + 1$.

If $p \ge 3$ and $e \ge 2$, then $p^e \ge 3p^{e-1} \ge p^{e-1}+3$, hence $q-2 = p^e-2 \ge p^{e-1}+1 \ge p^{\ell}+1$.

If $p \ge 5$ and e = 1, then $\ell = 0$, and we get $q - 2 > 2 = 1 + p^{\ell}$. Hence, $1 + p^{\ell} \le q - 2$. Therefore, by Corollary 4.6, there exists a vector $\mathbf{x} = (x_1, \cdots, x_k) \in \{\mathbb{F}_q^*\}^k$ such that $f(\mathbf{x}) \ne 0$.

Now let $G_{\mathbf{x}} = GM$ be the $k \times n$ matrix, where M is an $n \times n$ diagonal matrix with the form $M = diag(x_1, \dots, x_k, 1, \dots, 1)$. Let $C_{\mathbf{x}} = CM$ be the code with the generator matrix $G_{\mathbf{x}}$. Then $C_{\mathbf{x}}$ is monomial equivalent to C. And we have

$$\det(G_{\mathbf{x}}\sigma^{l}(G_{\mathbf{x}})^{T}) = \det(\operatorname{diag}(x_{1}^{1+p^{\ell}}, \cdots, x_{k}^{1+p^{\ell}}) + B\sigma^{p^{\ell}}(B^{T})) = f(\mathbf{x}) \neq 0.$$

Therefore, $C_{\mathbf{x}}$ is an ℓ -Galois LCD code by Corollary 3.5.

When $\ell = 0$, we have the following corollary.

Corollary 4.9. ([9], [25]) Let C be a linear code over \mathbb{F}_q with q > 4. Then C is monomial equivalent to an LCD code.

In fact, this corollary is also true when q = 4 (see [9]). When e is even, and $\ell = \frac{e}{2}$, we get the following corollary.

Corollary 4.10. ([9], [25]) Let C be a linear code over \mathbb{F}_q with q > 4 and q a square. Then C is monomial equivalent to an Hermitian LCD code.

Remark 4.11. When q = 4, the corollary above is not right in general. In fact, if we let $\mathbb{F}_4 = \{0, 1, w, \bar{w}\}$ be the finite field of order 4, where $\bar{w} = w^2 = w + 1$. Let $C = \langle (1,1) \rangle = \{(1,1), (0,0), (w,w), (\bar{w}, \bar{w})\}$, and let G = (1,1) be a generator matrix of C. Then $G\bar{G}^T = 0$ and so C is not an Hermitian LCD code. For any $(a,b) \in \mathbb{F}_q^{*2}$, let $G_{(a,b)} = G\begin{pmatrix} a & 0\\ 0 & b \end{pmatrix}$ be a generator matrix of the code $C_{(a,b)}$. Then $G_{(a,b)}\bar{G}_{(a,b)}^T = a\bar{a} + b\bar{b} = a\bar{a}(1 + a^{-1}ba^{-1}\bar{b}) = a\bar{a}(1 + c\bar{c})(let c = a^{-1}b).$

Then for all $c = 1, w, \overline{w}$, we have $G_{(a,b)}\overline{G}_{(a,b)}^T = 0$. Hence any code that is monomial equivalent with C is not an Hermitian LCD code.

Theorem 4.12. Let C be a linear code over \mathbb{F}_q , where $q = p^e, 0 \leq \ell \leq e - 1, 1 \leq m \leq e - 1, m \mid e \text{ and } p^e - p^\ell - p^m \geq 2$. Then there exists a $\mathbf{x} = (x_1, \dots, x_k) \in \{\mathbb{F}_q \setminus \mathbb{F}_{p^m}\}^k$ such that $C_{\mathbf{x}}$ is an ℓ -Galois LCD code.

Proof. Let C be an [n, k] linear code over \mathbb{F}_q . Without loss of generality, we may assume that C has a generator matrix of the form $G = (I_k \mid B)$. Let $\mathbf{x} = (x_1, \dots, x_k) \in \{\mathbb{F}_q \setminus \mathbb{F}_{p^m}\}^k$ and $G_{\mathbf{x}}$ be the the generator matrix of the code $C_{\mathbf{x}}$, where $C_{\mathbf{x}}$ is defined in Theorem 4.8. Let $\mathbf{X} = (X_1, \dots, X_k)$. Now we define $f(\mathbf{X}) = \det(\operatorname{diag}(X_1^{1+p^\ell}, \dots, X_k^{1+p^\ell}) + B\sigma(B)^T)$. Hence $f(\mathbf{X})$ is a polynomial with the variables X_1, \dots, X_k and the degree of $f(\mathbf{X})$ with respect to X_i is $1+p^\ell$ for all i. We know that $2 \leq p^e - p^\ell - p^m$ and $1+p^\ell \leq p^e - p^m - 1$. The leading term of $f(\mathbf{X})$ with respect to the total degree of lex order is $X_1^{1+p^\ell}, \dots, X_k^{1+p^\ell}$. So $f(\mathbf{X})$ is a nonzero polynomial. Therefore $f(\mathbf{x}) \neq 0$ for some $\mathbf{x} \in \{\mathbb{F}_q \setminus \mathbb{F}_{p^\ell}\}^k$ by Corollary 4.7. Hence $C_{\mathbf{x}}$ is an ℓ -Galois LCD code by this choice of \mathbf{x} , and Corollary 3.5 because $\det(G_{\mathbf{x}}\sigma^{p^\ell}(G_{\mathbf{x}})^T) = f(\mathbf{x}) \neq 0$.

Remark 4.13. Sometimes we want to find $\mathbf{x} = (x_1, \dots, x_k) \in \mathbb{F}_q^k$ and $C_{\mathbf{x}}$ for a linear code C such that $C_{\mathbf{x}}$ is an ℓ -Galois LCD code. It is easy to find $\mathbf{x} = (x_1, \dots, x_k)$ by using Theorem 4.12 rather than Theorem 4.8, because the set $\mathbb{F}_q \setminus \mathbb{F}_{p^m}$ is smaller than the set $\mathbb{F}_q \setminus \{0\}$.

5 An application to matrix product codes

In this section, we apply the results obtained in Section 4 to study the hull of matrix product codes over finite fields.

Let A be an $M \times N$ matrix, B be an $R \times S$ matrix. The tensor product of the two

matrices is defined by $A \otimes B = \begin{pmatrix} a_{11}B & \cdots & a_{1N}B \\ \vdots & \ddots & \vdots \\ a_{M1}B & \cdots & a_{MN}B \end{pmatrix}$. The following properties of the

tensor product of matrices are well-known.

Lemma 5.1. Let $A \in \mathbb{F}_q^{M \times N}$, $B \in \mathbb{F}_q^{R \times S}$, $C \in \mathbb{F}_q^{N \times T}$ and $D \in \mathbb{F}_q^{S \times U}$. Then (1) $(A \otimes B)^T = A^T \otimes B^T$. (2) $(A \otimes B)(C \otimes D) = (AC) \otimes (BD)$. **Definition 5.2.** Let $A = (a_{ij})$ be an $M \times N$ matrix over \mathbb{F}_q , and let C_1, \dots, C_M be codes of length n over \mathbb{F}_q . The matrix product code $[C_1, \dots, C_M] \cdot A$ is the set of all matrix products $[\mathbf{c}_1, \dots, \mathbf{c}_M] \cdot A = [\sum_{i=1}^M \mathbf{c}_i a_{i1}, \dots, \sum_{i=1}^M \mathbf{c}_i a_{iN}]$, where $\mathbf{c}_i \in C_i$ is a $1 \times n$ row vector for $i = 1, \dots, M$.

By using the tensor product of matrices, a matrix product code can be written as $[\mathbf{c}_1, \cdots, \mathbf{c}_M] \cdot A = [\mathbf{c}_1, \cdots, \mathbf{c}_M](A \otimes I)$, the usual matrix product, where I is the $n \times n$ identity matrix.

Remark 5.3. In the original paper (see [5]), the authors defined the matrix product code by writing each codeword $\mathbf{c}_j \in C_j$ as a column vector. Here we write each codeword $\mathbf{c}_j \in C_j$ as a row vector in the above definition, which is different from the original paper. However, by using the alternative definition, we can easily obtain the generator matrix of the matrix product code and calculate its hull.

Recall that a right inverse of an $M \times N$ matrix A is an $N \times M$ matrix B such that $AB = I_M$. In this case we say that A is right non-singular. Throughout if A is right non-singular then A^{-1} denotes a right inverse of A. The following proposition on matrix product codes is well-known.

Proposition 5.4. ([5]) Let C_1, \dots, C_M be M codes of length n over \mathbb{F}_q . If the matrix A is right non-singular then $|[C_1, \dots, C_M] \cdot A| = |C_1| \cdots |C_M|$. Furthermore, if C_1, \dots, C_M are linear codes, then dim $([C_1, \dots, C_M] \cdot A) = \sum_{i=1}^M \dim(C_i)$.

The following result is well-known (see [5]). We give an another proof.

Proposition 5.5. Let C_1, \dots, C_M be linear codes of length n over \mathbb{F}_q and the matrix A be right non-singular. Let $C = [C_1, \dots, C_M] \cdot A$ with generator matrix G, and let G_i be

the generator matrix of C_i for all $1 \le i \le M$. Then $G = \begin{pmatrix} a_{11}G_1 & \cdots & a_{1N}G_1 \\ \vdots & \ddots & \vdots \\ a_{M1}G_M & \cdots & a_{MN}G_M \end{pmatrix}$.

Proof. Let $G_i = \begin{pmatrix} \alpha_{i1} \\ \vdots \\ \alpha_{ik_i} \end{pmatrix}$, $\alpha_{ij} \in \mathbb{F}_q^n$ and k_i be the dimension of C_i for all $1 \le i \le M$. For any $\mathbf{c} = [\mathbf{c}_1, \cdots, \mathbf{c}_M] \cdot A \in C$, $\mathbf{c}_i = [\lambda_{i1} \cdots \lambda_{ik_i}]G_i$. We have

$$\mathbf{c} = [\mathbf{c}_1, \cdots, \mathbf{c}_M] (A \otimes I) = [\lambda_{11}, \cdots, \lambda_{1k_1}, \cdots, \lambda_{M1}, \cdots, \lambda_{Mk_M}] \begin{pmatrix} G_1 & 0 & \cdots & 0 \\ 0 & G_2 & \cdots & \vdots \\ \vdots & \vdots & \ddots & 0 \\ 0 & \cdots & 0 & G_M \end{pmatrix} (A \otimes I)$$
$$= [\lambda_{11}, \cdots, \lambda_{1k_1}, \cdots, \lambda_{M1}, \cdots, \lambda_{Mk_M}] \begin{pmatrix} a_{11}G_1 & \cdots & a_{1N}G_1 \\ \vdots & \ddots & \vdots \\ a_{M1}G_M & \cdots & a_{MN}G_M \end{pmatrix}.$$

Since the matrix A is non-singular, the number of rows of G is $\sum_{i=1}^{M} k_i = \dim(C)$ by Proposition 5.4. Hence G is a generator matrix of C.

We have the following theorem.

Theorem 5.6. Let C_1, \dots, C_M be $[n, k_i]$ linear codes of length n over \mathbb{F}_q , where $1 \leq i \leq M$, and let $C = [C_1, \dots, C_M] \cdot A$ be the matrix product code. For $0 \leq \ell \leq e-1$, suppose $A\sigma^{\ell}(A^T) = diag(\lambda_1, \dots, \lambda_M)$, then the ℓ -Galois hull of C is

$$h_{\ell}(C) = [B_1, \cdots, B_M] \cdot A,$$

where for all $1 \le i \le M$, $B_i = \begin{cases} C_i, & \text{if } \lambda_i = 0; \\ h_\ell(C_i), & \text{if } \lambda_i \ne 0. \end{cases}$

Proof. Suppose that $\mathbf{v} = [\mathbf{v}_1, \cdots, \mathbf{v}_M] \cdot A \in [B_1, \cdots, B_M] \cdot A$, then $\mathbf{v} \in C = [C_1, \cdots, C_M] \cdot A$, because $B_i \subseteq C_i$ for all $1 \leq i \leq M$. Let $\mathbf{u} = [\mathbf{u}_1, \cdots, \mathbf{u}_M] \cdot A \in C$, we have

$$\begin{aligned} \langle \mathbf{u}, \mathbf{v} \rangle_{\ell} &= \mathbf{u} \sigma^{\ell} (\mathbf{v}^{T}) = [\mathbf{u}_{1}, \cdots, \mathbf{u}_{M}] (A \otimes I) \sigma^{\ell} (([\mathbf{v}_{1}, \cdots, \mathbf{v}_{M}] (A \otimes I))^{T}) \\ &= [\mathbf{u}_{1} \cdots \mathbf{u}_{M}] (A \otimes I) \sigma^{\ell} ((A^{T} \otimes I) \begin{pmatrix} \mathbf{v}_{1}^{T} \\ \vdots \\ \mathbf{v}_{M}^{T} \end{pmatrix}) \\ &= [\mathbf{u}_{1}, \cdots, \mathbf{u}_{M}] (A \otimes I) (\sigma^{\ell} (A^{T}) \otimes I) \begin{pmatrix} \sigma^{\ell} (\mathbf{v}_{1}^{T}) \\ \vdots \\ \sigma^{\ell} (\mathbf{v}_{M}^{T}) \end{pmatrix} = [\mathbf{u}_{1}, \cdots, \mathbf{u}_{M}] (A \sigma^{\ell} (A^{T}) \otimes I) \begin{pmatrix} \sigma^{\ell} (\mathbf{v}_{1}^{T}) \\ \vdots \\ \sigma^{\ell} (\mathbf{v}_{M}^{T}) \end{pmatrix} \\ &= [\mathbf{u}_{1}, \cdots, \mathbf{u}_{M}] (\begin{pmatrix} \lambda_{1} I & 0 & \cdots & 0 \\ 0 & \lambda_{2} I & \cdots & \vdots \\ \vdots & \vdots & \ddots & 0 \\ 0 & \cdots & 0 & \lambda_{M} I \end{pmatrix}) \begin{pmatrix} \sigma^{\ell} (\mathbf{v}_{1}^{T}) \\ \vdots \\ \sigma^{\ell} (\mathbf{v}_{M}^{T}) \end{pmatrix} \\ &= [\lambda_{1} \mathbf{u}_{1}, \cdots, \lambda_{M} \mathbf{u}_{M}] \begin{pmatrix} \sigma^{\ell} (\mathbf{v}_{1}^{T}) \\ \vdots \\ \sigma^{\ell} (\mathbf{v}_{M}^{T}) \end{pmatrix} = \sum_{i=1}^{M} \lambda_{i} \mathbf{u}_{i} \sigma^{\ell} (\mathbf{v}_{i}^{T}). \end{aligned}$$

If $\lambda_i \neq 0$, then $\mathbf{v}_i \in B_i = h_\ell(C_i)$ and $\mathbf{u}_i \sigma^\ell(\mathbf{v}_i^T) = 0$ for all $1 \leq i \leq M$. Hence $\mathbf{v} \in h_\ell(C)$ and $[B_1, \dots, B_M] \cdot A \subseteq h_\ell(C)$.

Now suppose $\mathbf{v} = [\mathbf{v}_1, \cdots, \mathbf{v}_M] \cdot A \in h_\ell(C)$. Assume $\lambda_i = 0$, then $\mathbf{v}_i \in B_i = C_i$. If $\lambda_i \neq 0$. For any $\mathbf{u}_i \in C_i$, let $\mathbf{u}_i = [0, \cdots, 0, u_i, 0, \cdots, 0]$ and the number of location of u_i be *i*. Since $\mathbf{u}_i \in C$, we know that $0 = \langle \mathbf{u}_i, \mathbf{v} \rangle_\ell = \lambda_i \mathbf{u}_i \sigma^\ell(\mathbf{v}_i^T)$. Hence $\mathbf{u}_i \sigma^\ell(\mathbf{v}_i^T) = 0$ and $\mathbf{v}_i \in h_\ell(C_i) = B_i$. Thus, $\mathbf{v} \in [B_1, \cdots, B_M] \cdot A$ and $h_\ell(C) \subseteq [B_1, \cdots, B_M] \cdot A$.

Corollary 5.7. Let C_1, \dots, C_M be $[n, k_i]$ linear codes of length n over \mathbb{F}_q , where $1 \leq i \leq M$, and let $C = [C_1, \dots, C_M] \cdot A$ be the matrix product code. For $0 \leq \ell \leq e - 1$, suppose $A\sigma^{\ell}(A^T) = diag(\lambda_1, \dots, \lambda_M)$, where $\lambda_i \neq 0$ for all i. Then the ℓ -Galois hull of C is

$$h_{\ell}(C) = [h_{\ell}(C_1), \cdots, h_{\ell}(C_M)] \cdot A.$$

Denote C^{\perp_0} by C^{\perp} and $h_0(C)$ by h(C). Then

Corollary 5.8. Let C_1, \dots, C_M be linear codes of length n over \mathbb{F}_q , and $C = [C_1, \dots, C_M] \cdot A$. If the matrix A satisfies $AA^T = diag(\lambda_1, \dots, \lambda_M)$ and $\lambda_i \neq 0$ for all $1 \leq i \leq M$, then the hull h(C) of C is $h(C) = [h(C_1), \dots, h(C_M)] \cdot A$.

Proof. Take $\ell = 0$ in Corollary 5.7, the result then follows.

Example 5.9. Take q = 3 and l = 0. Let C_1 and C_2 be linear codes of length 4 over \mathbb{F}_3 with generator matrices $G_1 = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 & 1 & 1 \\ 0 & 1 & 1 & -1 \end{pmatrix}$ and $G_2 = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 1 & 1 & 1 \end{pmatrix}$ respectively. Then $h_0(C_1) = 0$ and $h_0(C_2) = C_2$. Let $A = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 1 \\ -1 & 1 \end{pmatrix}$ and $C = [C_1, C_2] \cdot A$, it is easy to verify that the generator matrix G of C is $G = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 & 1 & 1 & 1 & 0 & 1 & 1 \\ 0 & 1 & 1 & -1 & 0 & 1 & 1 & -1 \\ -1 & -1 & -1 & 1 & 1 & 1 & 1 \end{pmatrix}$ and $GG^T = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & -1 \end{pmatrix}$. Hence the generator matrix of $h_0(C)$ is $\begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 & 1 & 1 & 1 & 0 & 1 & 1 \\ 0 & 1 & 1 & -1 & 0 & 1 & 1 & -1 \end{pmatrix}$ by Theorem 3.1. Since $h_0(C_1) = 0$, $h_0(C_2) = C_2$, and $AA^T = \begin{pmatrix} -1 & 0 \\ 0 & -1 \end{pmatrix}$, we know that the generator matrix of $h_0(C) = [h_0(C_1), h_0(C_2)] \cdot A$ also is $\begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 & 1 & 1 & 1 & 0 & 1 & 1 \\ 0 & 1 & 1 & -1 & 0 & 1 & 1 & -1 \end{pmatrix}$

by Corollary 5.7.

A matrix $A = (a_{ij}) \in \mathbb{F}_q^{s \times s}$ is called *upper triangular* if $a_{ij} = 0$ whenever i > j. A matrix $A \in \mathbb{F}_q^{s \times s}$ is called *block upper triangular* if as a block matrix A is partitioned into the submatrices $A_{ij} \in \mathbb{F}_q^{s_i \times s_j}$, so that $A = (A_{ij})_{t \times t}$, $\sum_{i=1}^t s_i = s$ and $A_{ij} = 0$ for all i > j, $1 \le i \le s$ and $1 \le j \le s$. Consider the A_{ij} block as the entries of A, A is upper triangular.

Thus, $A = \begin{pmatrix} A_{11} & A_{12} & A_{1t} \\ 0 & A_{22} & \cdots & \vdots \\ \vdots & & \ddots & \\ 0 & \cdots & 0 & A_{tt} \end{pmatrix}$, where each A_{ij} is a $s_i \times s_j$ matrix and $\sum_{i=1}^p s_i = s$.

The following lemma is easy to prove.

Lemma 5.10. Suppose
$$A = \begin{pmatrix} A_{11} & A_{12} & \cdots & A_{1t} \\ 0 & A_{22} & \cdots & \vdots \\ \vdots & & \ddots & \\ 0 & \cdots & 0 & A_{tt} \end{pmatrix} \in \mathbb{F}_q^{s \times s}$$
 is a block upper triangular,

where each A_{ij} is a $s_i \times s_j$ matrix and $\sum_{i=1}^t s_i = s$. Then $r(A) \ge \sum_{i=1}^t r(A_{ii})$. The similar result of block lower triangular is also right.

Theorem 5.11. Let C_1, \dots, C_M be linear codes of length n over \mathbb{F}_q and $C = [C_1, \dots, C_M] \cdot A$, let G_i be a generator matrix of C_i for all $1 \leq i \leq M$, and G be a generator matrix of C.

Let k_i be the dimension of C_i for all $1 \leq i \leq M$, and k be the dimension of C. Suppose $A\sigma^{\ell}(A^{T}) = B = (b_{ij})_{M \times M}$ and B is upper triangular or lower triangular. Then (1) If $b_{ii} \neq 0$ for all $1 \leq i \leq M$ and A is right non-singular, then

$$\sum_{i=1}^{M} r(G_i \sigma^{\ell}(G_i)^T) \leq r(G \sigma^{\ell}(G)^T) \leq \sum_{i=1}^{M} k_i.$$

$$(2) \quad If \ r(G_i \sigma^{\ell}(G_i)^T) = k_i, \ A \sigma^{\ell}(A^T) = \begin{pmatrix} \lambda_1 & 0 & \cdots & 0 \\ 0 & \lambda_2 & \cdots & \vdots \\ \vdots & \vdots & \ddots & 0 \\ 0 & \cdots & 0 & \lambda_M \end{pmatrix} \text{ and } \lambda_i \neq 0 \text{ for all}$$

$$1 \leq i \leq M. \quad Then \ \sum_{i=1}^{M} r(G_i \sigma^{\ell}(G_i)^T) = r(G \sigma^{\ell}(G)^T) = \sum_{i=1}^{M} k_i.$$

Proof. (1) We just prove the case where B is block upper triangular. Since $A = (a_{ij})$ is non-singular, we know that $G = \begin{pmatrix} G_1 a_{11} & \cdots & G_1 a_{1N} \\ \vdots & \ddots & \vdots \\ G_M a_{M1} & \cdots & G_M a_{MN} \end{pmatrix}$. Then we have

$$G\sigma^{\ell}(G)^{T} = \begin{pmatrix} G_{1}a_{11} & \cdots & G_{1}a_{1N} \\ \vdots & \ddots & \vdots \\ G_{M}a_{M1} & \cdots & G_{M}a_{MN} \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} \sigma^{\ell}(G_{1})^{T}\sigma^{\ell}(a_{11}) & \cdots & \sigma^{\ell}(G_{M})^{T}\sigma^{\ell}(a_{M1}) \\ \vdots & \ddots & \vdots \\ \sigma^{\ell}(G_{1})^{T}\sigma^{\ell}(a_{1N}) & \cdots & \sigma^{\ell}(G_{M})^{T}\sigma^{\ell}(a_{MN}) \end{pmatrix}$$
$$= \begin{pmatrix} b_{11}G_{1}\sigma^{\ell}(G_{1})^{T} & \cdots & b_{1M}G_{1}\sigma^{\ell}(G_{M})^{T} \\ \vdots & \ddots & \vdots \\ b_{M1}G_{M}\sigma^{\ell}(G_{1})^{T} & \cdots & b_{MM}G_{M}\sigma^{\ell}(G_{M})^{T} \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} b_{11}G_{1}\sigma^{\ell}(G_{1})^{T} & \cdots & b_{1M}G_{1}\sigma^{\ell}(G_{M})^{T} \\ \vdots & \ddots & \vdots \\ 0 & \cdots & b_{MM}G_{M}\sigma^{\ell}(G_{M})^{T} \end{pmatrix}.$$

By the above lemma, we know that $\sum_{i=1}^{M} r(G_i \sigma^{\ell}(G_i)^T) \leq r(G \sigma^{\ell}(G)^T)$. Since $G \sigma^{\ell}(G)^T$ is $\sum_{i=1}^{M} k_i \times \sum_{i=1}^{M} k_i$, $r(G \sigma^{\ell}(G)^T) \leq \sum_{i=1}^{M} k_i$. All in all,

$$\sum_{i=1}^{M} r(G_i \sigma^{\ell}(G_i)^T) \le r(G \sigma^{\ell}(G)^T) \le \sum_{i=1}^{M} k_i.$$

(2) The proof of the second statement can be obtained from the proof of Statement (1).

Corollary 5.12. Let C_1, \dots, C_M be linear codes of length n over \mathbb{F}_q and $C = [C_1, \dots, C_M]$. A. Then

(1) If A is right non-singular and $A\sigma^{\ell}(A^{T})$ is block upper triangular or block lower

 $\begin{aligned} &\text{triangular, then } 0 \leq \dim(h_{\ell}(C)) \leq \sum_{i=1}^{M} \dim(h_{\ell}(C_i)). \\ & (2) \text{ If } A\sigma^{\ell}(A^T) = diag(\lambda_1, \cdots, \lambda_M), \text{ where } \lambda_i \neq 0 \text{ for all } 1 \leq i \leq M. \\ \dim(h_{\ell}(C)) = \sum_{i=1}^{M} \dim(h_{\ell}(C_i)). \end{aligned}$ Then *Proof.* (1) Let G_i be a generator matrix of C_i for all $1 \le i \le M$, G be a generator matrix of C. Let k_i be the dimension of C_i for all $1 \le i \le M$, and k be the dimension of C. By the above theorem, we know that

$$\sum_{i=1}^{M} r(G_i \sigma^{\ell}(G_i)^T) \le r(G \sigma^{\ell}(G)) \le \sum_{i=1}^{M} k_i$$

By Theorem 2.1, we know that $k = r(G\sigma^{\ell}(G)) + \dim(h_{\ell}(C))$ and $k_i = r(G_i\sigma^{\ell}(G_i)) + \dim(h_{\ell}(C_i))$ for all $1 \leq i \leq M$. By Proposition 5.4, we know that $k = \sum_{i=1}^{M} k_i$. In summary, we have $0 \leq \dim(h_{\ell}(C)) \leq \sum_{i=1}^{M} \dim(h_{\ell}(C_i))$.

(2) The pool of the second statement can be obtained from the proof of Statement (1). \Box

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