

Generalized Pair Weights of Linear Codes and Linear Isomorphisms Preserving Pair Weights*

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Abstract

In this paper, we first introduce the notion of generalized pair weights of an $[n, k]$ -linear code over the finite field \mathbb{F}_q and the notion of pair r -equiweight codes, where $1 \leq r \leq k - 1$. Some basic properties of generalized pair weights of linear codes over finite fields are derived. Then we obtain a necessary and sufficient condition for an $[n, k]$ -linear code to be a pair equiweight code, and we characterize pair r -equiweight codes for any $1 \leq r \leq k - 1$. Finally, a necessary and sufficient condition for a linear isomorphism preserving pair weights between two linear codes is obtained.

Keywords: generalized pair weights, pair equiweight codes, pair r -equiweight codes, linear isomorphisms preserving pair weights.

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1 Introduction

In 1950, Hamming introduced the notions of Hamming weight (usually written w_H) and Hamming distance (usually written d_H) which would serve as the basis for modern coding theory. The notion of generalized Hamming weights appeared in the 1970's and has become an important research object in coding theory after Wei's work [19] in 1991. More specifically, let \mathbb{F}_q be the finite field with q elements, where $q = p^e$ and p is a prime. An $[n, k]$ -linear code C of length n over \mathbb{F}_q is an \mathbb{F}_q -subspace of dimension k of \mathbb{F}_q^n . Let r be an integer with $1 \leq r \leq k$ and let V be a subspace of dimension r of C . The Hamming support of V is defined by $\chi_H(V) = \{i \mid 0 \leq i \leq n - 1, \exists (c_0, \dots, c_{n-1}) \in V \text{ such that } c_i \neq 0\}$. Consequently, the r th *generalized Hamming weight* of a linear code C over \mathbb{F}_q is defined by $d_H^r(C) = \min\{|\chi_H(V)| \mid V \text{ is an } r\text{-dimensional subspace of } C\}$. It is obvious that $d_H^1(C)$ is just the minimum Hamming distance $d_H(C)$ and the set $\{d_H^1(C), d_H^2(C), \dots, d_H^k(C)\}$ is called the *generalized Hamming weight hierarchy* of C .

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Wei [19] showed that the generalized Hamming weight hierarchy of a code is of great importance in the sense that it features the performance of a linear code completely and has a close connection with cryptography; a series of good properties on the generalized Hamming weight hierarchy of a code were also exhibited in [19]. Since then, lots of works have been done in computing and describing the generalized Hamming weight hierarchies of certain codes, see, for example, [1], [13], [18] and [26].

The MacWilliams extension theorem plays a central role in coding theory. MacWilliams [17] and later Bogart, Goldberg, and Gordon [2] proved that, every linear isomorphism preserving the Hamming weight between two linear codes over finite fields can be extended to a monomial transformation. This classical result was known as MacWilliams extension theorem. In [21], Wood proved MacWilliams extension theorem for all linear codes over finite Frobenius rings equipped with the Hamming weight. In the commutative case, the author showed that the Frobenius property was not only sufficient but also necessary. In the non-commutative case, the necessity of the Frobenius property was proved in [23].

With the development of information theory, a number of new metrics have been introduced to coding theory, for example, the Lee metric, the burst metric, homogeneous metric etc. In 2011, motivated by the limitations of the reading process in high density data storage systems, Cassuto and Blaum [3] introduced a new metric framework, named symbol-pair distance, to protect against pair errors in symbol-pair read channels, where the outputs are overlapping pairs of symbols. The seminal work [3] has established relationships between the minimum Hamming distance of an error-correcting code and the minimum pair distance, has found methods for code constructions and decoding, and has obtained lower and upper bounds on the code sizes. In [4], the authors established a Singleton-type bound for symbol-pair codes and constructed MDS symbol-pair codes (meeting this Singleton-type bound), which is called the *maximum pair distance separable* (MPDS) code in this paper. Several works have been done on the constructions of MPDS codes, see, for example, [14], [15], [7] and [5]. In [16], Liu, Xing and Yuan presented the list decodability of symbol-pair codes and a list decoding algorithm of Reed-Solomon codes beyond the Johnson-type bound in the pair weight. In [8] and [9], the authors calculated the symbol-pair distances of repeated-root constacyclic codes of lengths p^s and $2p^s$, respectively. Yaakobi, Bruck and Siegel [24] generalized the notion of symbol-pair weight to b -symbol weight. Yang, Li and Feng [25] showed the Plotkin-like bound for the b -symbol weight and presented a construction on irreducible cyclic codes and constacyclic codes meeting the Plotkin-like bound.

As mentioned above, symbol-pair distance is a new metric model compared to the classical Hamming distance. Therefore, it is natural to ask how theorems surrounding classical coding theory generalize to the current symbol-pair framework. This generalization would have some potential applications in cryptography. Indeed, as indicated in the proceeding paragraph, several bounds on the minimum symbol-pair distance have been established, including the Singleton-type bound, the Johnson-type bound and the Plotkin-like bound.

In this paper, we introduce the notion of generalized pair weights of linear codes over finite fields, basic properties of generalized pair weights are derived. In particular, the

Singleton Bound respect to generalized pair weights are established, and a necessary and sufficient condition for a linear code to be an MPDS code is obtained. For an $[n, k]$ -linear code, we introduce the notion of the pair equiweight code and the pair r -equiweight code for any $1 \leq r \leq k - 1$. A necessary and sufficient condition for a linear code to be a pair equiweight code is derived. Moreover, we characterize pair r -equiweight codes. Note that MacWilliams extension theorem tells that every linear isomorphism preserving the Hamming weight between two linear codes can be induced by a monomial matrix. Unfortunately, a linear isomorphism induced by a permutation matrix may not preserve the pair weight between two linear codes. In this paper, we provide a necessary and sufficient condition for a linear isomorphism preserving pair weights between two linear codes.

This paper is organized as follows. Section 2 provides some preliminaries, and we introduce generalized pair weights of linear codes, and give a characterization of the pair weight of arbitrary codeword of a linear code. In Section 3, basic properties of generalized pair weights of linear codes are provided, and some other results are also given. In Section 4, we give a necessary and sufficient condition for a linear code to be a pair equiweight code. We obtain a necessary condition and a sufficient condition for an $[n, k]$ -linear code to be a pair r -equiweight code. Section 5 studies linear isomorphisms preserving pair weights of linear codes, we obtain a necessary and sufficient condition for a linear isomorphism preserving pair weights. In particular, we provide an algorithm to determine whether a linear code is a pair equiweight code, and whether an isomorphism between two linear codes preserves pair weights. We explain why this algorithm is more efficiently.

2 Preliminaries

Throughout this paper, let \mathbb{F}_q be the finite field of order q , where $q = p^e$ and p is a prime number. Let n be a positive integer, and let \mathbb{F}_q^n be the n -dimensional vector space over \mathbb{F}_q . An \mathbb{F}_q -subspace C of dimension k of \mathbb{F}_q^n is called an $[n, k]$ -linear code. The dual code C^\perp of C is defined as

$$C^\perp = \{\mathbf{x} \in \mathbb{F}_q^n \mid \mathbf{c} \cdot \mathbf{x} = 0, \forall \mathbf{c} \in C\},$$

where “ \cdot ” is the standard Euclidean inner product. We assume all codes in this paper are nonzero linear codes.

Definition 2.1. ([3]) For any $\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{y} \in \mathbb{F}_q^n$, the pair distance between \mathbf{x} and \mathbf{y} is defined as

$$d_p(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{y}) = |\{0 \leq i \leq n - 1 \mid (x_i, x_{i+1}) \neq (y_i, y_{i+1})\}|,$$

where the indices are taken modulo n . The pair weight of \mathbf{x} is defined as $w_p(\mathbf{x}) = d_p(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{0})$.

The minimal pair distance of a code C over \mathbb{F}_q is defined as

$$d_p(C) = \min_{\mathbf{c} \neq \mathbf{c}' \in C} d_p(\mathbf{c}, \mathbf{c}').$$

The *minimal pair weight* of C is defined as $\min\{w_p(\mathbf{c}) \mid \mathbf{0} \neq \mathbf{c} \in C\}$. Note that if C is an $[n, k]$ -linear code, then $d_p(C) = \min\{w_p(\mathbf{c}) \mid \mathbf{0} \neq \mathbf{c} \in C\}$.

An $[n, k]$ -linear code C over \mathbb{F}_q is called a *pair equiweight code* if any nonzero codeword of C has the same pair weight.

The generalized Hamming weights of any \mathbb{F}_q -subspace of \mathbb{F}_q^n and the r -minimal Hamming weight of an $[n, k]$ -linear code C over \mathbb{F}_q for $1 \leq r \leq k$ were defined by Wei [19].

Definition 2.2. ([19]) Let D be an \mathbb{F}_q -subspace of \mathbb{F}_q^n . The Hamming support of D , denoted by $\chi_H(D)$, is the set of all non-always-zero bit positions of D , i.e.,

$$\chi_H(D) = \{0 \leq i \leq n-1 \mid \exists \mathbf{x} = (x_0, x_1, \dots, x_{n-1}) \in D, x_i \neq 0\},$$

and the generalized Hamming weight of D is defined as $w_H(D) = |\chi_H(D)|$.

It is quite natural that we can assume $\chi_H(D) \subseteq \mathbb{Z}/n\mathbb{Z}$, the ring of integers modulo n .

Definition 2.3. ([19]) Let C be an $[n, k]$ -linear code over \mathbb{F}_q . For $1 \leq r \leq k$, the r -minimal Hamming weight of C is defined as $d_H^r(C) = \min\{w_H(D) \mid D \leq C, \dim(D) = r\}$.

Note that if $r = 1$, the 1-minimal Hamming weight of C is just the minimal Hamming weight of C . In [19], the following result was proved.

Lemma 2.4. ([19, Theorem 1]) Let C be an $[n, k]$ -linear code over \mathbb{F}_q . Then we have

$$1 \leq d_H^1(C) < d_H^2(C) < \dots < d_H^{k-1}(C) < d_H^k(C) \leq n.$$

The set $\{d_H^1(C), d_H^2(C), \dots, d_H^k(C)\}$ is called the *generalized Hamming weight hierarchy* of C .

In 2003, Fan and Liu [11] introduced the Hamming r -equiweight code for an $[n, k]$ linear code over \mathbb{F}_q , where $1 \leq r \leq k-1$.

Definition 2.5. Let C be an $[n, k]$ -linear code over \mathbb{F}_q and $1 \leq r \leq k-1$. The code C is called a *Hamming r -equiweight code* if $d_H^r(C) = w_H(D)$ for any subspace D of dimension r of C .

Note that if $r = 1$, the Hamming r -equiweight code is just the Hamming equiweight code as usual. The properties of this class of codes are also obtained in [11].

In this paper, we introduce the notion of generalized pair weights of any \mathbb{F}_q -subspace of \mathbb{F}_q^n and r -minimal pair weight of $[n, k]$ -linear codes over \mathbb{F}_q , where $1 \leq r \leq k$. We will study their properties in this paper.

Definition 2.6. Let D be an \mathbb{F}_q -subspace of \mathbb{F}_q^n . The pair support of D is defined as

$$\chi_p(D) = \{0 \leq i \leq n-1 \mid \exists \mathbf{x} = (x_0, \dots, x_{n-1}) \in D, (x_i, x_{i+1}) \neq (0, 0)\},$$

where the indices are taken modulo n . The generalized pair weight of D is defined as $w_p(D) = |\chi_p(D)|$.

Definition 2.7. Let C be an $[n, k]$ -linear code over \mathbb{F}_q . For $1 \leq r \leq k$, the r -minimal pair weight of C is defined as $d_p^r(C) = \min\{w_p(D) \mid D \leq C, \dim(D) = r\}$. The set $\{d_p^1(C), d_p^2(C), \dots, d_p^k(C)\}$ is called the generalized pair weight hierarchy of C .

Remark 2.8. If $r = 1$, the 1-minimal pair weight $d_p^1(C)$ of the code C is just the minimal pair weight $d_p(C)$ of C . In [4], we know $d_p(C) \leq n - k + 2$. If C satisfies $d_p(C) = d_p^1(C) = n - k + 2$, then we call C a maximum pair distance separable (MPDS) code.

Let J be a subset of $\{0, 1, \dots, n-1\}$. The subcode C_J of a code C of length n for pair weights is defined to be:

$$C_J = \{\mathbf{c} = (c_0, c_1, \dots, c_{n-1}) \in C \mid (c_i, c_{i+1}) = (0, 0) \ \forall i \notin J\}.$$

By the definition of C_J , we know that $C_J = C$ when $J = \{0, 1, \dots, n-1\}$ and $C_J = \mathbf{0}$ when $J = \emptyset$. Also we have $C_{J_1} \subseteq C_{J_2}$ if $J_1 \subseteq J_2$.

Definition 2.9. Let C be an $[n, k]$ -linear code over \mathbb{F}_q , let $J \subseteq \{0, 1, \dots, n-1\}$. Let C_J be defined as above. For $1 \leq r \leq k$, let $m_r(C) = \min_J \{|J| \mid \dim(C_J) = r\}$. Then the following sequence is called the length/dimension profile (LDP) for the pair weight of C :

$$\mathbf{m}(C) = \{m_1(C), m_2(C), \dots, m_k(C)\}.$$

Let U be an \mathbb{F}_q -vector space of dimension k . We denote by $\langle V, W \rangle$ the subspace generated by the subspaces V, W of U , and let U/W denote the quotient space modulo W . For any $r, k \in \mathbb{N}$, let

$$\text{PG}^r(U) = \{V \leq U \mid \dim(V) = r\}, \quad \text{PG}^{\leq r}(U) = \{V \leq U \mid \dim(V) \leq r\}.$$

If $V = \{\mathbf{0}\}$, then $\dim(\{\mathbf{0}\}) = 0$ and $\text{PG}^0(U) = \{\{\mathbf{0}\}\}$. Let $n_{r,k}$ denote the number of all r -dimensional subspaces of an k -dimensional vector space. When $r > k$, we let $n_{r,k} = 0$. Then it is easy to see that

$$n_{r,k} = \begin{cases} 1, & \text{if } r = 0; \\ \prod_{i=0}^{r-1} \frac{q^k - q^i}{q^r - q^i}, & \text{if } 1 \leq r \leq k; \\ 0, & \text{if } r > k. \end{cases}$$

Let C be an $[n, k]$ -linear code with a generator matrix $G = (G_0, \dots, G_{n-1})$, where G_i is the column vector of G . For any $V \in \text{PG}^{\leq 2}(\mathbb{F}_q^k)$, the function $m_G : \text{PG}^{\leq 2}(\mathbb{F}_q^k) \rightarrow \mathbb{N}$ is defined as follows.

$$m_G(V) = |\{0 \leq i \leq n-1 \mid \langle G_i, G_{i+1} \rangle = V\}|,$$

where the indices are taken modulo n . We define the function $\theta_G : \text{PG}^{\leq k}(\mathbb{F}_q^k) \rightarrow \mathbb{N}$ to be

$$\theta_G(U) = \sum_{V \in \text{PG}^{\leq 2}(U)} m_G(V)$$

for any $U \in \text{PG}^{\leq k}(\mathbb{F}_q^k)$.

For an $[n, k]$ -linear code C over \mathbb{F}_q with a generator matrix G , we know that for any $1 \leq r \leq k$ and a subspace D of dimension r of C , there exists a unique subspace \tilde{D} of dimension r of \mathbb{F}_q^k such that $D = \tilde{D}G = \{\mathbf{y}G \mid \mathbf{y} \in \tilde{D}\}$. In particular, for any nonzero codeword $\mathbf{c} \in C$, there exists a unique nonzero vector $\mathbf{y} \in \mathbb{F}_q^k$ such that $\mathbf{c} = \mathbf{y}G = (\mathbf{y}G_0, \mathbf{y}G_1, \dots, \mathbf{y}G_{n-1})$, where $G = (G_0, \dots, G_{n-1})$.

Proposition 2.10. *Assume the notations are given above. Then $w_p(D) = n - \theta_G(\tilde{D}^\perp)$ for any subspace D of C , where \tilde{D} is the unique corresponding subspace of D . In particular, $w_p(\mathbf{c}) = n - \theta_G(\langle \mathbf{y} \rangle^\perp)$ for any $0 \neq \mathbf{c} \in C$.*

Proof. By the definition of w_p and the function θ_G , we have

$$\begin{aligned} w_p(D) &= |\{0 \leq i \leq n-1 \mid \exists \mathbf{c} = (c_0, c_1, \dots, c_{n-1}) \in D, (c_i, c_{i+1}) \neq (0, 0)\}| \\ &= n - |\{0 \leq i \leq n-1 \mid \forall \mathbf{c} = (c_0, c_1, \dots, c_{n-1}) \in D, (c_i, c_{i+1}) = (0, 0)\}| \\ &= n - |\{0 \leq i \leq n-1 \mid \forall \mathbf{y} \in \tilde{D}, \mathbf{y}G_i = \mathbf{y}G_{i+1} = 0\}| \\ &= n - |\{0 \leq i \leq n-1 \mid \langle G_i, G_{i+1} \rangle \subseteq \tilde{D}^\perp\}| \\ &= n - \sum_{V \in \text{PG}^{\leq 2}(\tilde{D}^\perp)} |\{0 \leq i \leq n-1 \mid \langle G_i, G_{i+1} \rangle = V\}| \\ &= n - \sum_{V \in \text{PG}^{\leq 2}(\tilde{D}^\perp)} m_G(V) = n - \theta_G(\tilde{D}^\perp). \end{aligned}$$

In particular, when we take $D = \langle \mathbf{c} \rangle$ to be the 1-dimensional subspace generated by the codeword $\mathbf{c} \in C$, then $w_p(\langle \mathbf{c} \rangle) = w_p(\mathbf{c}) = n - \theta_G(\langle \mathbf{y} \rangle^\perp)$. \square

Definition 2.11. *Let C be an $[n, k]$ -linear code over \mathbb{F}_q and $1 \leq r \leq k-1$, we say that C is a pair r -equiweight code if $d_p^r(C) = w_p(D)$ for any subspace D of dimension r of C .*

Remark 2.12. *If $r = 1$, the pair 1-equiweight code is just the pair equiweight code. However, a Hamming equiweight code is not a pair equiweight code in general.*

Example 2.13. *Let C_1 be the linear code with a generator matrix $\begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix}$ over \mathbb{F}_2 . Then C_1 is a pair equiweight code but not a Hamming equiweight code. Let C_2 be the linear code with a generator matrix $\begin{pmatrix} 1 & 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 1 & 0 \end{pmatrix}$ over \mathbb{F}_2 . Then C_2 is a Hamming equiweight code but not a pair equiweight code.*

The following proposition provides a method to construct a pair equiweight code from a Hamming equiweight code.

Proposition 2.14. *Let C be an $[n, k]$ -linear code over \mathbb{F}_q with a generator matrix $G = (G_0, \dots, G_{n-1})$, and let \hat{C} be a $[2n, k]$ -linear code over \mathbb{F}_q with a generator matrix $\hat{G} = (G_0, O, \dots, G_{n-1}, O)$, where O is the column zero vector of length k . Then for any $1 \leq r \leq k-1$, C is a Hamming r -equiweight code if and only if \hat{C} is a pair r -equiweight code.*

Proof. Let φ be a map from C to \hat{C} such that $\varphi(\mathbf{c}) = (c_0, 0, \dots, c_{n-1}, 0) \in \hat{C}$ for any $\mathbf{c} = (c_0, \dots, c_{n-1}) \in C$. Then φ is an \mathbb{F}_q -linear isomorphism and $w_p(\varphi(\mathbf{c})) = 2w_H(\mathbf{c})$. The rest part of the proof is trivial. \square

3 Generalized pair weights of linear codes

In this section, we give general properties of generalized pair weights of linear codes. Some bounds about generalized pair weights of linear codes are obtained in this section.

We first give a characterization on the relationship between the generalized Hamming weight $w_H(D)$ and the generalized pair weight $w_p(D)$ for any \mathbb{F}_q -subspace D of \mathbb{F}_q^n . If $w_H(D) = n$, then $w_p(D) = n$. If $w_H(D) < n$, we have the following lemma.

Lemma 3.1. *Let D be an \mathbb{F}_q -subspace of \mathbb{F}_q^n , and suppose $w_H(D) < n$. Assume that*

$$\chi_H(D) = \bigcup_{l=1}^L \{s_l, s_l + 1, \dots, s_l + e_l\} \subseteq \mathbb{Z}/n\mathbb{Z}$$

and $|s_l - s_{l-1} - e_{l-1}| \geq 2$ for $1 \leq l \leq L$ where $s_0 = s_L$ and $e_0 = e_L$. Then $w_p(D) = w_H(D) + L$.

Proof. If $i \in \chi_H(D)$, there exists $\mathbf{x} = (x_0, \dots, x_{n-1}) \in D$ such that $x_i \neq 0$. Then the two pairs (x_{i-1}, x_i) and (x_i, x_{i+1}) both are not $(0, 0)$ and $\{i-1, i\} \subseteq \chi_p(D)$. Here, when $i = 0$, $i-1 = n-1$. Hence

$$\chi_p(D) = \cup_{l=1}^L \{s_l - 1, s_l, s_l + 1, \dots, s_l + e_l\}.$$

Since $|s_l - s_{l-1} - e_{l-1}| \geq 2$, we have

$$\{s_{l-1} - 1, s_{l-1}, s_{l-1} + 1, \dots, s_{l-1} + e_{l-1}\} \cap \{s_l - 1, s_l, s_l + 1, \dots, s_l + e_l\} = \emptyset$$

for $1 \leq l \leq L$, where $s_0 = s_L$ and $e_0 = e_L$. Hence $w_p(D) = |\chi_p(D)| = |\chi_H(D)| + L = w_H(D) + L$. \square

Theorem 3.2. *Let C be an $[n, k]$ -linear code over \mathbb{F}_q . Then we have*

- (a) *If $1 \leq r \leq k-1$, or $r = k$ and $d_H^k(C) < n$, then $d_H^r(C) + 1 \leq d_p^r(C) \leq 2d_H^r(C)$.*
- (b) *If $r = k$ and $d_H^k(C) = n$ then $d_p^k(C) = n$.*

Proof. (a) Suppose $1 \leq r \leq k-1$. Let D be an \mathbb{F}_q -subspace of C such that $\dim(D) = r$ and $d_p^r(C) = w_p(D)$. If $w_H(D) = |\chi_H(D)| = n$, then

$$d_p^r(C) = w_p(D) = |\chi_p(D)| = n.$$

By Lemma 2.4, there exists an \mathbb{F}_q -subspace \tilde{D} of C such that $\dim(\tilde{D}) = r$ and $w_H(\tilde{D}) = d_H^r(C) < n$. Then $n = w_p(D) = d_p^r(C) \leq w_p(\tilde{D})$ and hence

$$w_p(D) = d_p^r(C) = w_p(\tilde{D})$$

with $w_H(\tilde{D}) = d_H^r(C) < n$. Therefore, without loss of generality, we can assume that $w_H(D) < n$. Then by Lemma 3.1, we have $w_p(D) = w_H(D) + L$. Hence

$$d_p^r(C) = w_p(D) = w_H(D) + L \geq w_H(D) + 1 \geq d_H^r(C) + 1.$$

Let E be an \mathbb{F}_q -subspace of C such that $\dim(E) = r$ and $d_H^r(C) = w_H(E)$. Since $d_H^r(C) = w_H(E) < n$, by Lemma 3.1, we have $w_p(E) = w_H(E) + L_1$. Hence $d_p^r(C) \leq w_p(E) = w_H(E) + L_1 \leq 2w_H(E) = 2d_H^r(C)$.

If $r = k$ and $d_H^k(C) < n$, we have $w_p(C) = w_H(C) + L_2$ by Lemma 3.1 since $|\chi_H(C)| = d_H^k(C) < n$. Hence

$$d_H^k(C) + 1 = w_H(C) + 1 \leq d_p^k(C) = w_p(C) = w_H(C) + L_2 \leq 2w_H(C) = 2d_H^k(C).$$

(b) If $d_H^k(C) = |\chi_H(C)| = n$, then $d_p^k(C) = |\chi_p(C)| = n$. \square

Note that, if $r = 1$, we have $d_H^1(C) + 1 \leq d_p^1(C) \leq 2d_H^1(C)$, this is the usual relationship between the minimal pair weight and minimal Hamming weight of the linear code C .

Theorem 3.3. *Let C be an $[n, k]$ -linear code over \mathbb{F}_q with $n \geq 2$. Then we have*

$$2 \leq d_p^1(C) < d_p^2(C) < \cdots < d_p^{k-1}(C) \leq d_p^k(C) \leq n.$$

Proof. The inequality $d_p^r(C) \leq d_p^{r+1}(C)$ is trivial for $1 \leq r \leq k-1$. For any subspace D of dimension one of C over \mathbb{F}_q , there exists $0 \neq \mathbf{x} = (x_0, \dots, x_{n-1}) \in D$ such that $x_i \neq 0$. Hence $w_p(D) \geq 2$ and $d_p^1(C) \geq 2$.

For any $2 \leq r \leq k-1$, by Lemma 2.4, we have $d_H^r(C) < n$. Note that there exists a subspace D of C such that $\dim(D) = r$ and $w_p(D) = d_p^r(C)$ by the definition of the r -minimal pair weight of C . If $w_H(D) = |\chi_H(D)| = n$, then

$$d_p^r(C) = w_p(D) = |\chi_p(D)| = n.$$

There exists an \mathbb{F}_q -subspace \tilde{D} of C such that $\dim(\tilde{D}) = r$ and $w_H(\tilde{D}) = d_H^r(C) < n$ by Lemma 2.4 again. Then $n = w_p(D) = d_p^r(C) \leq w_p(\tilde{D})$ and hence $w_p(D) = d_p^r(C) = w_p(\tilde{D})$. Therefore, without loss of generality, we can assume $w_H(D) < n$. Then there exists an index $i \in \chi_H(D)$ such that $i+1 \notin \chi_H(D)$, where $i+1$ is taken modulo n when $i = n-1$. Let $\hat{D} = \{\mathbf{x} \in D \mid \mathbf{x} = (x_0, \dots, x_{n-1}), x_i = 0\}$. We know that $\dim(\hat{D}) = r-1$, $i \notin \chi_H(\hat{D})$ and $\chi_H(\hat{D}) \cup \{i\} = \chi_H(D)$. Hence $i \notin \chi_p(\hat{D})$ and $i \in \chi_p(D)$. Therefore, $d_p^{r-1}(C) \leq |\chi_p(\hat{D})| < |\chi_p(D)| = d_p^r(C)$ for $2 \leq r \leq k-1$. \square

Remark 3.4. *There exists a linear code C of length n such that $d_p^{k-1}(C) = d_p^k(C) = n$. For example, let C be the linear code over \mathbb{F}_2 with generator matrix $\begin{pmatrix} 1 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 1 \end{pmatrix}$. Then we have $d_p^1(C) = d_p^2(C) = 3 = n$.*

Corollary 3.5. *Let C be an $[n, k]$ -linear code over \mathbb{F}_q with $k \geq 2$. Then*

- (a) *if $d_p^{k-1}(C) = d_p^k(C)$ then $d_H^k(C) = n$.*
- (b) *$d_p^{k-1}(C) = d_p^k(C)$ if and only if $d_p^{k-1}(C) = d_p^k(C) = n$.*

Proof. (a) Suppose otherwise that $d_H^k(C) < n$. Then there exists an index $i \in \chi_H(C)$ such that $i + 1 \notin \chi_H(C)$, where the indices are taken modulo n . Let

$$\hat{C} = \{\mathbf{x} \in C \mid \mathbf{x} = (x_0, \dots, x_{n-1}), x_i = 0\}.$$

We know $\dim(\hat{C}) = k - 1$, $i \notin \chi_H(\hat{C})$ and $\chi_H(\hat{C}) \cup \{i\} = \chi_H(C)$. Hence $i \notin \chi_p(\hat{C})$ and $i \in \chi_p(C)$. Therefore, we have

$$d_p^{k-1}(C) \leq |\chi_p(\hat{C})| < |\chi_p(C)| = d_p^k(C),$$

which is a contradiction.

(b) We only need to prove the necessity. By (a), $d_H^k(C) = n = |\chi_H(C)|$, hence $d_p^k(C) = |\chi_p(C)| = n$. Therefore, $d_p^{k-1}(C) = d_p^k(C) = n$. \square

The claim “ $d_H^k(C) = n$ implies $d_p^{k-1}(C) = d_p^k(C)$ ” is not true in general. For example, let C be a $[4, 2]$ -linear code over \mathbb{F}_2 with the generator matrix $G = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & 1 \end{pmatrix}$. Then $d_H^2(C) = 4$, $d_p^1(C) = 3$ and $d_p^2(C) = 4$.

By using Theorem 3.3, we can give a bound for generalized pair weight hierarchies $\{d_p^1(C), d_p^2(C), \dots, d_p^k(C)\}$ and a relationship between this bound and MPDS codes defined in Remark 2.8. For two real number sequences $\{a_1, a_2, \dots, a_k\}$ and $\{b_1, b_2, \dots, b_k\}$,

$$\{a_1, a_2, \dots, a_k\} \leq \{b_1, b_2, \dots, b_k\}$$

means $a_i \leq b_i$ for any $1 \leq i \leq k$.

Theorem 3.6 (Singleton Bound respect to generalized pair weights). *Let C be an $[n, k]$ -linear code over \mathbb{F}_q . Then*

$$\{d_p^1(C), d_p^2(C), \dots, d_p^{k-1}(C), d_p^k(C)\} \leq \{n - k + 2, n - k + 3, \dots, n, n\}.$$

These bounds are met with equality everywhere if and only if C is an MPDS code.

Proof. By Theorem 3.3, for all $1 \leq r \leq k - 1$, we get

$$d_p^r(C) \leq d_p^{r+1}(C) - 1 \leq \dots \leq d_p^{k-1}(C) + r - k + 1 \leq n + r - k + 1.$$

The remaining part of the proof is obvious. \square

Example 3.7. Let C be the linear code with a generator matrix $\begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 & 1 & 1 \\ 0 & 1 & -1 & 1 \end{pmatrix}$ over \mathbb{F}_3 . Then we know that C is an MPDS code by Proposition 4.1 of [4]. On the other hand, we have $d_p^i(C) = 4$ for any $1 \leq i \leq 2$ by directly calculating.

By using Theorem 3.6, it is easy to know that a linear code is not an MPDS code when there exists an index r such that $1 \leq r \leq k-1$ and $d_p^r(C) < n - k + r + 1$. Then we prove that the definition of the LDP for the pair weight which is essentially the same as the generalized pair weight hierarchy.

Theorem 3.8. Assume the notations are given above. Then $d_p^r(C) = m_r(C)$ for all $1 \leq r \leq k$.

Proof. Assume $1 \leq r \leq k$. There is a subset J_0 of $\{0, 1, \dots, n-1\}$ such that $\dim(C_{J_0}) = r$ and $|J_0| = m_r(C)$ by the definition of $m_r(C)$. By the definition of $d_p^r(C)$, we have

$$d_p^r(C) \leq w_p(C_{J_0}) \leq |J_0| = m_r(C). \quad (3.1)$$

On the other hand, there is a subspace D of C such that $\dim(D) = r$ and $d_p^r(C) = w_p(D)$ by the definition of $d_p^r(C)$. Assume $J_1 = \chi_p(D)$, then $D \leq C_{J_1}$.

If $D = C_{J_1}$, then $m_r(C) \leq |J_1| = w_p(D) = d_p^r(C)$. Hence $d_p^r(C) = m_r(C)$.

If $D \subsetneq C_{J_1}$, we get

$$\hat{r} = \dim(C_{J_1}) > \dim(D) = r.$$

Hence $d_p^{\hat{r}}(C) \leq w_p(C_{J_1}) \leq |J_1| = w_p(D) = d_p^r(C)$. By Theorem 3.3, we get $r = k - 1 = \hat{r} - 1$ and $d_p^{k-1}(C) = d_p^k(C)$. Then $d_p^{k-1}(C) = d_p^k(C) = n$ by Corollary 3.5. Hence $d_p^r(C) = m_r(C)$ by Inequality 3.1 and $m_r(C) \leq n$. \square

4 Pair r -equiweight codes

In this section, we study pair r -equiweight codes. Before we provide our main theorems in this section, we give some notions and a key lemma.

Recall that $n_{r,k}$ is the number of all subspaces of dimension r of a vector space of dimension k . Let $\text{PG}^r(\mathbb{F}_q^k) = \{V_1^r, V_2^r, \dots, V_{n_{r,k}}^r\}$ be the set of all subspaces of dimension r of \mathbb{F}_q^k . There is a bijection between $\text{PG}^{k-r}(\mathbb{F}_q^k)$ and $\text{PG}^r(\mathbb{F}_q^k)$, which is defined by

$$\text{PG}^{k-r}(\mathbb{F}_q^k) \rightarrow \text{PG}^r(\mathbb{F}_q^k), V^{k-r} \mapsto (V^{k-r})^\perp, \forall V^{k-r} \in \text{PG}^{k-r}(\mathbb{F}_q^k).$$

Hence $n_{r,k} = n_{k-r,k}$. For convenience, if $\frac{k}{2} < r \leq k$, we assume

$$\text{PG}^r(\mathbb{F}_q^k) = \{V_1^r = (V_1^{k-r})^\perp, V_2^r = (V_2^{k-r})^\perp, \dots, V_{n_{r,k}}^r = (V_{n_{r,k}}^{k-r})^\perp\}.$$

Let \mathbb{Q} be the rational number field. For $0 \leq r \leq s \leq k$, let $T_{r,s}$ be a matrix in $M_{n_{r,k} \times n_{s,k}}(\mathbb{Q})$ such that

$$T_{r,s} = (t_{ij})_{n_{r,k} \times n_{s,k}}, \quad \text{where } t_{ij} = \begin{cases} 1, & \text{if } V_i^r \subseteq V_j^s; \\ 0, & \text{if } V_i^r \not\subseteq V_j^s. \end{cases}$$

Let A^T denote the transpose matrix of the matrix A . Let $J_{m \times n}$ be the $m \times n$ matrix with all entries being 1. i.e, $J_{m \times n} = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & \cdots & 1 \\ \vdots & \ddots & \vdots \\ 1 & \cdots & 1 \end{pmatrix}$. In particular, $J_{1 \times n} = \mathbf{1} = (1, \dots, 1)$.

Lemma 4.1. *Assume the notations are given above, and let $k \geq 2$. Then*

- (a) *The sum of all rows of $T_{r,s}$ is the constant row vector $n_{r,s}\mathbf{1}$.*
- (b) *The matrix $T_{1,k-1}$ is an invertible matrix and $T_{1,k-1}^{-1} = \frac{1}{q^{k-2}}(T_{1,k-1} - \frac{q^{k-2}-1}{q^{k-1}-1}J_{n_{1,k} \times n_{1,k}})$.
The sum of all rows of $T_{1,k-1}^{-1}$ is a constant row vector.*
- (c) $T_{r,k-1}T_{1,k-1} = (q^{k-r-1})T_{1,r}^T + \frac{q^{k-r-1}-1}{q-1}J_{n_{r,k} \times n_{1,k}}$ and

$$T_{r,k-1}T_{1,k-1}^{-1} = \frac{1}{q^{r-1}}T_{1,r}^T - \frac{q^{r-1}-1}{q^{r-1}(q^{k-1}-1)}J_{n_{r,k} \times n_{1,k}}, \text{ for } k \geq r+1.$$

- (d) $T_{r,s}T_{s,z} = n_{s-r,z-r}T_{r,z}$ for $1 \leq r \leq s \leq z \leq k$.

Proof. (a) Since the number of all subspaces of dimension r of V_i^s is $n_{r,s}$ for any $1 \leq i \leq n_{s,k}$, we know that the sum of the rows of $T_{r,s}$ is the constant row vector $n_{r,s}\mathbf{1}$.

(b) By (a), we know $J_{n_{1,k} \times n_{1,k}}T_{1,k-1} = n_{1,k-1}J_{n_{1,k} \times n_{1,k}}$. Since $V_i^{k-1} = (V_i^1)^\perp$ for any $1 \leq i \leq n_{1,k-1}$, we get $T_{1,k-1} = T_{1,k-1}^T$. Then

$$T_{1,k-1}T_{1,k-1} = T_{1,k-1}^TT_{1,k-1} = (b_{ij})_{n_{1,k} \times n_{1,k}}, \quad b_{ij} = \begin{cases} n_{1,k-1}, & \text{if } i = j; \\ n_{1,k-2}, & \text{if } i \neq j. \end{cases},$$

since b_{ij} is the number of all subspace of dimension one of $V_i^{k-1} \cap V_j^{k-1}$ for $1 \leq i, j \leq n_{1,k}$. Then

$$\frac{1}{n_{1,k-1} - n_{1,k-2}}(T_{1,k-1} - \frac{n_{1,k-2}}{n_{1,k-1}}J_{n_{1,k} \times n_{1,k}})T_{1,k-1}$$

is identity matrix. Hence $T_{1,k-1}$ is an invertible matrix and

$$\begin{aligned} T_{1,k-1}^{-1} &= \frac{1}{n_{1,k-1} - n_{1,k-2}}(T_{1,k-1} - \frac{n_{1,k-2}}{n_{1,k-1}}J_{n_{1,k} \times n_{1,k}}) \\ &= \frac{1}{q^{k-2}}(T_{1,k-1} - \frac{q^{k-2}-1}{q^{k-1}-1}J_{n_{1,k} \times n_{1,k}}). \end{aligned}$$

Since the sum of all rows of $T_{1,k-1}$ and the sum of all rows of $J_{n_{1,k} \times n_{1,k}}$ are constant row vectors, the sum of all rows of $T_{1,k-1}^{-1}$ is a constant row vector.

(c) By the definition of $T_{1,k-1}$ and $T_{r,k-1}$, we have

$$T_{r,k-1}T_{1,k-1} = T_{r,k-1}T_{1,k-1}^T = (c_{ij})_{n_{r,k} \times n_{1,k}}$$

such that

$$c_{ij} = |\{V_s^{k-1} | 1 \leq s \leq n_{1,k}, \langle V_j^1, V_i^r \rangle \leq V_s^{k-1}\}|$$

for $1 \leq i \leq n_{r,k}$ and $1 \leq j \leq n_{1,k}$. If $V_j^1 \leq V_i^r$,

$$\begin{aligned} c_{ij} &= |\{V_s^{k-1} | 1 \leq s \leq n_{1,k}, V_i^r \leq V_s^{k-1}\}| \\ &= |\{M | M \leq \mathbb{F}_q^k / V_i^r, \dim(M) = k - r - 1\}| \\ &= n_{1,k-r}. \end{aligned}$$

If $V_j^1 \not\leq V_i^r$,

$$\begin{aligned} c_{ij} &= |\{V_s^{k-1} | 1 \leq s \leq n_{1,k}, \langle V_j^1, V_i^r \rangle \subseteq V_s^{k-1}\}| \\ &= |\{M | M \leq \mathbb{F}_q^k / \langle V_j^1, V_i^r \rangle, \dim(M) = k - r - 2\}| \\ &= n_{1,k-r-1}. \end{aligned}$$

Hence $c_{ij} = \begin{cases} n_{1,k-r}, & \text{if } V_j^1 \subseteq V_i^r; \\ n_{1,k-r-1}, & \text{if } V_j^1 \not\subseteq V_i^r. \end{cases}$ And

$$\begin{aligned} T_{r,k-1}T_{1,k-1} &= (n_{1,k-r} - n_{1,k-r-1})T_{1,r}^T + n_{1,k-r-1}J_{n_{r,k} \times n_{1,k}} \\ &= q^{k-r-1}T_{1,r}^T + \frac{q^{k-r-1} - 1}{q - 1}J_{n_{r,k} \times n_{1,k}}. \end{aligned}$$

Since $T_{r,k-1}J_{n_{1,k} \times n_{1,k}} = n_{1,k-r}J_{n_{r,k} \times n_{1,k}}$, we have

$$\begin{aligned} T_{r,k-1}T_{1,k-1}^{-1} &= \frac{1}{n_{1,k-1} - n_{1,k-2}}T_{r,k-1}(T_{1,k-1} - \frac{n_{1,k-2}}{n_{1,k-1}}J_{n_{1,k} \times n_{1,k}}) \\ &= \frac{1}{q^{r-1}}T_{1,r}^T - \frac{q^{r-1} - 1}{q^{r-1}(q^{k-1} - 1)}J_{n_{r,k} \times n_{1,k}}. \end{aligned}$$

(d) By the definition of $T_{r,s}$ and $T_{s,z}$, we have $T_{r,s}T_{s,z} = (d_{ij})_{n_{r,k} \times n_{z,k}}$ such that

$$d_{ij} = |\{V_l^s | 1 \leq l \leq n_{s,k}, V_i^r \leq V_l^s \leq V_j^z\}|$$

for $1 \leq i \leq n_{r,k}$ and $1 \leq j \leq n_{z,k}$. If $V_i^r \subseteq V_j^z$,

$$\begin{aligned} d_{ij} &= |\{V_l^s | 1 \leq l \leq n_{s,k}, V_i^r \leq U \leq V_j^z\}| \\ &= |\{U | U \leq V_j^z / V_i^r, \dim(U) = s - r\}| \\ &= n_{s-r,z-r}. \end{aligned}$$

If $V_i^r \not\subseteq V_j^z$, $d_{ij} = 0$. Hence $T_{r,s}T_{s,z} = (d_{ij})_{n_{r,k} \times n_{z,k}} = n_{s-r,z-r}T_{r,z}$. \square

It is easy to see that when $k = 1$, any $[n, 1]$ -linear code is a pair equiweight code. In the following we assume $k \geq 2$, and study pair equiweight linear codes.

Theorem 4.2. Assume the notations are given above. Let C be an $[n, k]$ -linear code over \mathbb{F}_q with a generator matrix $G = (G_0, \dots, G_{n-1})$ for $k \geq 2$. Then C is a pair equiweight code if and only if $\sum_{V \in \Omega_i} \frac{1}{|V|} m_G(V)$ is constant for any $1 \leq i \leq n_{1,k}$, where $s = \min\{2, k-1\}$ and $\Omega_i = \{V \in \text{PG}^{\leq s}(\mathbb{F}_q^k) \mid V_i^1 \subseteq V\}$.

Proof. For $0 \leq r \leq 2$, let $\Delta_r = (m_G(V_1^r), m_G(V_2^r), \dots, m_G(V_{n_{r,k}}^r))$, and let

$$\Gamma_{k-1} = (\theta_G(V_1^{k-1}), \theta_G(V_2^{k-1}), \dots, \theta_G(V_{n_{1,k-1}}^{k-1})).$$

Assume $s = \min\{2, k-1\}$. By the definition of θ_G , we can verify that

$$\Gamma_{k-1} = \left(\sum_{W \in \text{PG}^{\leq 2}(V_1^{k-1})} m_G(W), \dots, \sum_{W \in \text{PG}^{\leq 2}(V_{n_{1,k-1}}^{k-1})} m_G(W) \right) = \sum_{r=0}^s \Delta_r T_{r,k-1}. \quad (4.1)$$

By Lemma 4.1 (b), the above equation is

$$\Gamma_{k-1} - m_G(\mathbf{0})\mathbf{1} = \left(\sum_{r=1}^s \Delta_r T_{r,k-1} T_{1,k-1}^{-1} \right) T_{1,k-1}. \quad (4.2)$$

By Lemma 4.1 (c), the element in the i th position of the vector

$$\sum_{r=1}^s \Delta_r T_{r,k-1} T_{1,k-1}^{-1} = \sum_{r=1}^s \Delta_r \left(\frac{1}{q^{r-1}} T_{1,r}^T - \frac{q^{r-1} - 1}{q^{r-1}(q^{k-1} - 1)} J_{n_{r,k} \times n_{1,k}} \right)$$

is

$$\begin{aligned} & m_G(V_i^1) + \sum_{r=2}^s \left(\frac{1}{q^{r-1}} \sum_{V^r \in \text{PG}^r(\mathbb{F}_q^k), V_i^1 \subseteq V^r} m_G(V^r) - \frac{q^{r-1} - 1}{q^{r-1}(q^{k-1} - 1)} \sum_{V^r \in \text{PG}^r(\mathbb{F}_q^k)} m_G(V^r) \right) \\ &= m_G(V_i^1) + \sum_{r=2}^s \sum_{V^r \in \text{PG}^r(\mathbb{F}_q^k), V_i^1 \subseteq V^r} \frac{1}{q^{r-1}} m_G(V^r) - \sum_{r=2}^s \sum_{V^r \in \text{PG}^r(\mathbb{F}_q^k)} \frac{q^{r-1} - 1}{q^{r-1}(q^{k-1} - 1)} m_G(V^r) \\ &= q \sum_{V \in \Omega_i} \frac{1}{|V|} m_G(V) - \sum_{r=2}^s \sum_{V^r \in \text{PG}^r(\mathbb{F}_q^k)} \frac{q^{r-1} - 1}{q^{r-1}(q^{k-1} - 1)} m_G(V^r), \end{aligned} \quad (4.3)$$

where $\Omega_i = \{V \in \text{PG}^{\leq s}(\mathbb{F}_q^k) \mid V_i^1 \subseteq V\}$.

Now suppose $\sum_{V \in \Omega_i} \frac{1}{|V|} m_G(V)$ is constant for all $1 \leq i \leq n_{1,k}$. Then

$$q \sum_{V \in \Omega_i} \frac{1}{|V|} m_G(V) - \sum_{r=2}^s \sum_{V^r \in \text{PG}^r(\mathbb{F}_q^k)} \frac{q^{r-1} - 1}{q^{r-1}(q^{k-1} - 1)} m_G(V^r)$$

is constant for all $1 \leq i \leq n_{1,k}$ and $\sum_{r=1}^s \Delta_r T_{r,k-1} T_{1,k-1}^{-1}$ is a constant vector by Equation 4.3. Since the sum of all rows of $T_{1,k-1}$ is a constant row vector by Lemma 4.1 (a), we get

$$\Gamma_{k-1} - m_G(\mathbf{0})\mathbf{1}$$

and Γ_{k-1} are constant vectors by Equation 4.2. Then θ_G is a constant function.

Since the \mathbb{F}_q -linear map $\phi : \mathbb{F}_q^k \rightarrow C$ such that $\phi(\mathbf{y}) = \mathbf{y}G$ for any $\mathbf{y} \in \mathbb{F}_q^k$ is a linear isomorphism, there is nonzero vector \mathbf{y} in \mathbb{F}_q^k such that $\mathbf{c} = \phi(\mathbf{y})$ for any nonzero codeword \mathbf{c} in C . By Proposition 2.10, we have

$$w_p(\mathbf{c}) = n - \theta_G(\langle \mathbf{y} \rangle^\perp).$$

Hence C is a pair equiweight code.

On the contrary, suppose C is a pair equiweight code. Then Γ_{k-1} , $\Gamma_{k-1} - m_G(\mathbf{0})\mathbf{1}$ and $\sum_{r=1}^s \Delta_r T_{r,k-1} T_{1,k-1}^{-1}$ are all constant vectors by Proposition 2.10, Lemma 4.1 (b) and Equation 4.2. Then $\sum_{V \in \Omega_i} \frac{1}{|V|} m_G(V)$ is constant for all $1 \leq i \leq n_{1,k}$, since the element in the i th position of the vector $\sum_{r=1}^s \Delta_r T_{r,k-1} T_{1,k-1}^{-1}$ is

$$q \sum_{V \in \Omega_i} \frac{1}{|V|} m_G(V) - \sum_{r=2}^s \sum_{V^r \in \text{PG}^r(\mathbb{F}_q^k)} \frac{q^{r-1} - 1}{q^{r-1}(q^{k-1} - 1)} m_G(V^r).$$

□

In particular, if $k \geq 3$ and the function m_G is constant restricted on $\text{PG}^2(\mathbb{F}_q^k)$, then we have the following corollary.

Corollary 4.3. *Assume the notations are given above. Let C be an $[n, k]$ -linear code over \mathbb{F}_q with a generator matrix $G = (G_0, \dots, G_{n-1})$. Then C is a pair equiweight code if and only if the function m_G restricted on $\text{PG}^1(\mathbb{F}_q^k)$ is a constant.*

Proof. Suppose the function m_G is constant function on $\text{PG}^2(\mathbb{F}_q^k)$ with value $a \in \mathbb{N}$, then

$$\sum_{V \in \Omega_i} \frac{1}{|V|} m_G(V) = m_G(V_i^1) + \frac{|\Omega_i| - 1}{q^2} a,$$

where $\Omega_i = \{V \in \text{PG}^{\leq 2}(\mathbb{F}_q^k) \mid V_i^1 \subseteq V\}$. Hence the function m_G for G is a constant function on $\text{PG}^1(\mathbb{F}_q^k)$ if and only if

$$\sum_{V \in \Omega_i} \frac{1}{|V|} m_G(V)$$

is constant for all $1 \leq i \leq n_{1,k}$, if and only if C is a pair equiweight code by statement (b) in Theorem 4.2. □

We can get the following example by using Corollary 4.3.

Example 4.4. Let $\alpha_1 = (011000001010001001011)$, $\alpha_2 = (001011000001011001010)$ and $\alpha_3 = (000001011001001011001) \in \mathbb{F}_2^{21}$. Let C be the linear code with a generator matrix $\begin{pmatrix} \alpha_1 \\ \alpha_2 \\ \alpha_3 \end{pmatrix}$ over \mathbb{F}_2 . Then C is a pair equiweight code and the value of the pair weight of C is 14 by Corollary 4.3. Also we can directly calculate to get the following table such that the first and the second column are non-zero vectors in C and the third column is the pair weight of the vector which is at the same row.

α_1	(011000001010001001011)	14
α_2	(001011000001011001010)	14
α_3	(000001011001001011001)	14
$\alpha_1 + \alpha_2$	(010011001011010000001)	14
$\alpha_1 + \alpha_3$	(011001010011000010010)	14
$\alpha_2 + \alpha_3$	(001010011000010010011)	14
$\alpha_1 + \alpha_2 + \alpha_3$	(010010010010011011000)	14

In the next theorem, we obtain a necessary condition and a sufficient condition of that C is a pair r -equiweight code.

Theorem 4.5. Assume the notations are given above. Let C be an $[n, k]$ -linear code over \mathbb{F}_q with a generator matrix $G = (G_0, \dots, G_{n-1})$, $k \geq 2$ and $1 \leq r \leq k - 1$.

(a) If C is a pair r -equiweight code, then

$$\sum_{V \in \Omega_i} \frac{n_{k-r-\dim(V), k-1-\dim(V)}}{|V|} m_G(V)$$

is constant for any $1 \leq i \leq n_{1,k}$, where $s = \min\{2, k-r\}$, $\Omega_i = \{V \in \text{PG}^{\leq s}(\mathbb{F}_q^k) \mid V_i^1 \subseteq V\}$.

(b) When $r = k-1$, C is a pair r -equiweight code if and only if the function m_G restricted on $\text{PG}^1(\mathbb{F}_q^k)$ is a constant.

(c) When $2 \leq r \leq k-2$, if $m_G(V_i^2) + \frac{1}{n_{1,k-r-1}} \sum_{V^1 \in \text{PG}^1(V_i^2)} m_G(V^1)$ is constant for $1 \leq i \leq n_{2,k}$, then C is a pair r -equiweight code.

Proof. (a) Since the \mathbb{F}_q -linear map $\phi : \mathbb{F}_q^k \rightarrow C$ such that $\phi(\mathbf{y}) = \mathbf{y}G$ for any $\mathbf{y} \in \mathbb{F}_q^k$ is a linear isomorphism, there is an unique \mathbb{F}_q -subspace \tilde{D} of \mathbb{F}_q^k such that $D = \phi(\tilde{D})$ for any \mathbb{F}_q -subspace D with $\dim(D) = r$ of C . By Proposition 2.10, we have

$$w_p(D) = n - \theta_G(\tilde{D}^\perp).$$

Let $\Delta_l = (m_G(V_1^l), m_G(V_2^l), \dots, m_G(V_{n_{l,k}}^l))$ for $0 \leq l \leq s$ and

$$\Gamma_{k-r} = (\theta_G(V_1^{k-r}), \theta_G(V_2^{k-r}), \dots, \theta_G(V_{n_{r,k-1}}^{k-r})).$$

By the definition of the function θ_G , we get

$$\Gamma_{k-r} = \sum_{l=0}^s \Delta_l T_{l,k-r} \quad (4.4)$$

and

$$\Gamma_{k-r} - m_G(\mathbf{0})\mathbf{1} = \sum_{l=1}^s \Delta_l T_{l,k-r}.$$

By Lemma 4.1 (b) and (d), we have

$$\begin{aligned} (\Gamma_{k-r} - m_G(\mathbf{0})\mathbf{1})T_{k-r,k-1}T_{1,k-1}^{-1} &= \sum_{l=1}^s \Delta_l T_{l,k-r} T_{k-r,k-1} T_{1,k-1}^{-1} \\ &= \sum_{l=1}^s n_{k-l-r,k-l-1} \Delta_l T_{l,k-1} T_{1,k-1}^{-1}. \end{aligned} \quad (4.5)$$

Also we know the element in the i th position of the vector

$$\sum_{l=1}^s n_{k-l-r,k-l-1} \Delta_l T_{l,k-1} T_{1,k-1}^{-1} = \sum_{l=1}^s n_{k-l-r,k-l-1} \Delta_l \left(\frac{1}{q^{l-1}} T_{1,l}^T - \frac{q^{l-1} - 1}{q^{l-1}(q^{k-1} - 1)} J_{n_{l,k} \times n_{1,k}} \right)$$

is

$$q \sum_{V \in \Omega_i} \frac{n_{k-r-\dim(V), k-1-\dim(V)}}{|V|} m_G(V) - \sum_{l=2}^s \sum_{V^l \in \text{PG}^l(\mathbb{F}_q^k)} n_{k-l-r,k-l-1} \frac{q^{l-1} - 1}{q^{l-1}(q^{k-1} - 1)} m_G(V^l) \quad (4.6)$$

by Lemma 4.1 (c), where $\Omega_i = \{V \in \text{PG}^{\leq s}(\mathbb{F}_q^k) \mid V_i^1 \subseteq V\}$.

Now suppose C is a pair r -equiweight code. Then Γ_{k-1} , $\Gamma_{k-1} - m_G(\mathbf{0})\mathbf{1}$ and

$$\sum_{l=1}^s n_{k-l-r,k-l-1} \Delta_l T_{l,k-1} T_{1,k-1}^{-1}$$

are both constant vectors by Proposition 2.10, Lemma 4.1 (a) and (b), and Equation 4.5. Then

$$\sum_{V \in \Omega_i} \frac{n_{k-r-\dim(V), k-1-\dim(V)}}{|V|} m_G(V)$$

is constant for all $1 \leq i \leq n_{1,k}$ by Equation 4.6.

(b) When $r = k - 1$, then $s = 1$ and

$$\sum_{V \in \Omega_i} \frac{n_{k-r-\dim(V), k-1-\dim(V)}}{|V|} m_G(V) = \frac{1}{q} m_G(V_i^1).$$

Then we use (a).

(c) When $2 \leq r \leq k - 2$, then $s = 2$ and Equation 4.4 is

$$\Gamma_{k-r} - m_G(\mathbf{0})\mathbf{1} = \Delta_1 T_{1,k-r} + \Delta_2 T_{2,k-r} = \left(\frac{1}{n_{1,k-r-1}} \Delta_1 T_{1,2} + \Delta_2 \right) T_{2,k-r}. \quad (4.7)$$

Since the element in the i th position of the vector $\frac{1}{n_{1,k-r-1}} \Delta_1 T_{1,2} + \Delta_2$ is

$$m_G(V_i^2) + \frac{1}{n_{1,k-r-1}} \sum_{V^1 \in \text{PG}^1(V_i^2)} m_G(V^1)$$

which is constant for $1 \leq i \leq n_{2,k}$ as assumption, we have

$$\frac{1}{n_{1,k-r-1}} \Delta_1 T_{1,2} + \Delta_2,$$

$\Gamma_{k-r} - m_G(\mathbf{0})\mathbf{1}$ and Γ_{k-r} are both constant vectors by Lemma 4.1 (a). Hence C is a pair r -equiweight code by Proposition 2.10. □

5 Linear isomorphisms preserving pair weights

MacWilliams [17] and later Bogart, Goldberg, and Gordon [2] proved that every linear isomorphism preserving Hamming weights between two linear codes over finite fields can be induced by a monomial matrix. Unfortunately, a linear isomorphism induced by a permutation matrix may not preserve pair weights of linear codes. In this section, we obtain a necessary and sufficient condition for a linear isomorphism preserving pair weights between two linear codes.

Let C and \tilde{C} be two $[n, k]$ -linear code over \mathbb{F}_q and $G = \begin{pmatrix} \mathbf{g}_1 \\ \cdots \\ \mathbf{g}_k \end{pmatrix}$ be a generator matrix of C for some $\mathbf{g}_i \in \mathbb{F}_q^n$. Let φ be an \mathbb{F}_q -linear isomorphism from C to \tilde{C} . Then $\tilde{G} = \begin{pmatrix} \varphi(\mathbf{g}_1) \\ \cdots \\ \varphi(\mathbf{g}_k) \end{pmatrix}$ is a generator matrix of \tilde{C} . Before we give a necessary and sufficient condition of that $w_p(\mathbf{c}) = w_p(\varphi(\mathbf{c}))$ for any $\mathbf{c} \in C$, we need following theorem.

Theorem 5.1. *Assume the notations are given above. Then $w_p(\mathbf{c}) - w_p(\varphi(\mathbf{c}))$ is constant for any nonzero $\mathbf{c} \in C$ if and only if $\sum_{V \in \Omega_i} \frac{1}{|V|} (m_G(V) - m_{\tilde{G}}(V))$ is constant for any $1 \leq i \leq n_{1,k}$, where $s = \min\{2, k - 1\}$, $\Omega_i = \{V \in \text{PG}^{\leq s}(\mathbb{F}_q^k) \mid V_i^1 \subseteq V\}$.*

Proof. Let ϕ be the \mathbb{F}_q -linear isomorphism from \mathbb{F}_q^k to C such that $\phi(\mathbf{y}) = \mathbf{y}G$ for any $\mathbf{y} \in \mathbb{F}_q^k$. And let $\tilde{\phi}$ be the \mathbb{F}_q -linear isomorphism from \mathbb{F}_q^k to \tilde{C} such that $\tilde{\phi}(\mathbf{y}) = \mathbf{y}\tilde{G}$ for any $\mathbf{y} \in \mathbb{F}_q^k$. Then $\tilde{\phi} = \varphi\phi$ by the definition of \tilde{G} . For any nonzero $\mathbf{c} \in C$, there is a \mathbf{y} such $\mathbf{c} = \phi(\mathbf{y})$ and let $\tilde{\mathbf{c}} = \varphi(\mathbf{c}) = \tilde{\phi}(\mathbf{y})$. Then by Proposition 2.10, we have

$$w_p(\mathbf{c}) = n - \theta_G(\langle \mathbf{y} \rangle^\perp) \quad (5.1)$$

and

$$w_p(\tilde{\mathbf{c}}) = n - \theta_{\tilde{G}}(\langle \mathbf{y} \rangle^\perp). \quad (5.2)$$

For $0 \leq r \leq s$, let $\Delta_r = (m_G(V_1^r), m_G(V_2^r), \dots, m_G(V_{n_{r,k}}^r))$, and let

$$\tilde{\Delta}_r = (m_{\tilde{G}}(V_1^r), m_{\tilde{G}}(V_2^r), \dots, m_{\tilde{G}}(V_{n_{r,k}}^r)).$$

Let $\Gamma_{k-1} = (\theta_G(V_1^{k-1}), \theta_G(V_2^{k-1}), \dots, \theta_G(V_{n_{1,k-1}}^{k-1}))$, and let

$$\tilde{\Gamma}_{k-1} = (\theta_{\tilde{G}}(V_1^{k-1}), \theta_{\tilde{G}}(V_2^{k-1}), \dots, \theta_{\tilde{G}}(V_{n_{1,k-1}}^{k-1})).$$

Then we get

$$\Gamma_{k-1} = \sum_{r=0}^s \Delta_r T_{r,k-1} = m_G(\mathbf{0})\mathbf{1} + \sum_{r=1}^s \Delta_r T_{r,k-1} \quad (5.3)$$

and

$$\tilde{\Gamma}_{k-1} = \sum_{r=0}^s \tilde{\Delta}_r T_{r,k-1} = m_{\tilde{G}}(\mathbf{0})\mathbf{1} + \sum_{r=1}^s \tilde{\Delta}_r T_{r,k-1} \quad (5.4)$$

by the definition of θ_G .

Suppose $a = w_b(\mathbf{c}) - w_b(\tilde{\mathbf{c}})$ for any nonzero $\mathbf{c} \in C$. By Equation 5.1 and Equation 5.2, we have $\theta_G(\langle \mathbf{y} \rangle^\perp) - \theta_{\tilde{G}}(\langle \mathbf{y} \rangle^\perp) = -a$ for any nonzero $\mathbf{y} \in \mathbb{F}_q^k$ and

$$\Gamma_{k-1} - \tilde{\Gamma}_{k-1} = -a\mathbf{1}.$$

By Equation 5.3 and Equation 5.4, we have

$$\sum_{r=1}^s (\Delta_r - \tilde{\Delta}_r) T_{r,k-1} = (m_{\tilde{G}}(\mathbf{0}) - m_G(\mathbf{0}) - a)\mathbf{1}$$

and

$$\sum_{r=1}^s (\Delta_r - \tilde{\Delta}_r) T_{r,k-1} T_{1,k-1}^{-1} = \frac{m_{\tilde{G}}(\mathbf{0}) - m_G(\mathbf{0}) - a}{n_{1,k-1}} \mathbf{1}.$$

By Lemma 4.1 (c), the element in the i th position of the vector $\sum_{r=1}^s (\Delta_r - \tilde{\Delta}_r) T_{r,k-1} T_{1,k-1}^{-1}$ is

$$q \sum_{V \in \Omega_i} \frac{1}{|V|} (m_G(V) - m_{\tilde{G}}(V)) - \sum_{r=2}^s \sum_{V^r \in \text{PG}^r(\mathbb{F}_q^k)} \frac{q^{r-1} - 1}{q^{r-1}(q^{k-1} - 1)} (m_G(V^r) - m_{\tilde{G}}(V^r)),$$

where $\Omega_i = \{V \in \text{PG}^{\leq s}(\mathbb{F}_q^k) \mid V_i^1 \subseteq V\}$. Then we have

$$\begin{aligned} & q \sum_{V \in \Omega_i} \frac{1}{|V|} (m_G(V) - m_{\tilde{G}}(V)) - \sum_{r=2}^s \sum_{V^r \in \text{PG}^r(\mathbb{F}_q^k)} \frac{q^{r-1} - 1}{q^{r-1}(q^{k-1} - 1)} (m_G(V^r) - m_{\tilde{G}}(V^r)) \\ &= \frac{m_{\tilde{G}}(\mathbf{0}) - m_G(\mathbf{0}) - a}{n_{1,k-1}}. \end{aligned}$$

Hence

$$\begin{aligned} q \sum_{V \in \Omega_i} \frac{1}{|V|} (m_G(V) - m_{\tilde{G}}(V)) &= \sum_{r=2}^s \sum_{V^r \in \text{PG}^r(\mathbb{F}_q^k)} \frac{q^{r-1} - 1}{q^{r-1}(q^{k-1} - 1)} (m_G(V^r) - m_{\tilde{G}}(V^r)) \\ &+ \frac{m_{\tilde{G}}(\mathbf{0}) - m_G(\mathbf{0}) - a}{n_{1,k-1}}. \end{aligned}$$

This implies that $\sum_{V \in \Omega_i} \frac{1}{|V|} (m_G(V) - m_{\tilde{G}}(V))$ are constant vectors for any $1 \leq i \leq n_{1,k}$.

Suppose $\sum_{V \in \Omega_i} \frac{1}{|V|} (m_G(V) - m_{\tilde{G}}(V)) = b$ for any $1 \leq i \leq n_{1,k}$. Then $\sum_{r=1}^s (\Delta_r - \tilde{\Delta}_r) T_{r,k-1} T_{1,k-1}^{-1}$ and $\sum_{r=1}^s (\Delta_r - \tilde{\Delta}_r) T_{r,k-1}$ are constant vectors by Lemma 4.1 (a), since the element in the i th position of the vector $\sum_{r=1}^s (\Delta_r - \tilde{\Delta}_r) T_{r,k-1} T_{1,k-1}^{-1}$ is

$$\begin{aligned} & q \sum_{V \in \Omega_i} \frac{1}{|V|} (m_G(V) - m_{\tilde{G}}(V)) - \sum_{r=2}^s \sum_{V^r \in \text{PG}^r(\mathbb{F}_q^k)} \frac{q^{r-1} - 1}{q^{r-1}(q^{k-1} - 1)} (m_G(V^r) - m_{\tilde{G}}(V^r)) \\ &= qb - \sum_{r=2}^s \sum_{V^r \in \text{PG}^r(\mathbb{F}_q^k)} \frac{q^{r-1} - 1}{q^{r-1}(q^{k-1} - 1)} (m_G(V^r) - m_{\tilde{G}}(V^r)). \end{aligned}$$

By Equation 5.3 and Equation 5.4, we get

$$\Gamma_{k-1} - \tilde{\Gamma}_{k-1} = \sum_{r=1}^s (\Delta_r - \tilde{\Delta}_r) T_{r,k-1} + (m_{\tilde{G}}(\mathbf{0}) - m_G(\mathbf{0})) \mathbf{1}$$

is a constant vectors and $\theta_G(\langle \mathbf{y} \rangle^\perp) - \theta_{\tilde{G}}(\langle \mathbf{y} \rangle^\perp)$ is constant for any nonzero $\mathbf{y} \in \mathbb{F}_q^k$. Therefore, $w_b(\mathbf{c}) - w_b(\varphi(\mathbf{c}))$ is constant for any nonzero $\mathbf{c} \in C$ by Equation 5.1 and Equation 5.2. \square

It is easy to get following result.

Corollary 5.2. *Assume the notations are given above. Then $w_p(\mathbf{c}) = w_p(\varphi(\mathbf{c}))$ for any $\mathbf{c} \in C$ if and only if $\sum_{V \in \Omega_i} \frac{1}{|V|} (m_G(V) - m_{\tilde{G}}(V))$ is constant for any $1 \leq i \leq n_{1,k}$ and there exists a nonzero $\mathbf{c}_0 \in C$ such that $w_p(\mathbf{c}_0) = w_p(\varphi(\mathbf{c}_0))$.*

From Theorems 4.2 and 5.1, we know that if we want to determine a linear code C is or not a pair equiweight code and a linear isomorphism is or not preserving pair weights of codes, it is crucial to calculate the following value

$$\sum_{V \in \Omega_i} \frac{1}{|V|} m_G(V)$$

for an $[n, k]$ -linear code C with a generator matrix G , where $s = \min\{2, k-1\}$ and $\Omega_i = \{V \in \text{PG}^{\leq s}(\mathbb{F}_q^k) \mid V_i^1 \subseteq V\}$.

Recall we assume that $G = (G_0, \dots, G_{n-1})$ is a generator matrix of an $[n, k]$ -linear code C over \mathbb{F}_q . Let

$$S_j = \mathbb{F}_q G_j + \mathbb{F}_q G_{j+1}$$

which is an \mathbb{F}_q -subspace of \mathbb{F}_q^k and let

$$\tilde{S}_j = [G_j, G_{j+1}]$$

is an $k \times 2$ submatrix of G for $0 \leq j \leq n-1$. We know that $\dim(S_j) = \text{rank}(\tilde{S}_j)$, where $\text{rank}(\tilde{S}_j)$ denotes the rank of \tilde{S}_j .

The following theorem gives an algorithm to calculate the value $\sum_{V \in \Omega_i} \frac{1}{|V|} m_G(V)$ in this section.

Theorem 5.3. *Let $\kappa_{ij} = \begin{cases} 1, & \text{if } V_i^1 \subseteq S_j; \\ 0, & \text{if } V_i^1 \not\subseteq S_j. \end{cases}$ for $1 \leq i \leq n_{1,k}$ and $1 \leq j \leq n$. Then*

$$\sum_{V \in \Omega_i} \frac{1}{|V|} m_G(V) = \sum_{j=1}^n \kappa_{ij} q^{-\text{rank}(\tilde{S}_j)}.$$

Proof. It is easy to prove this theorem by using the definition of the function m_G . □

Remark 5.4. *Let C be an $[n, k]$ -linear code over \mathbb{F}_q with a generator matrix $G = (G_0, \dots, G_{n-1})$, then we can calculate $f_i = \sum_{j=1}^n \kappa_{ij} q^{-\text{rank}(\tilde{S}_j)}$ for $1 \leq i \leq n_{1,k}$. First we can calculate $\{S_0, S_1, \dots, S_{n-1}\}$, and $|\text{PG}^1(S_i)| \leq q+1$. Assume $T = \bigcup_{i=1}^n \text{PG}^1(S_i)$, we have $|T| \leq n(q+1)$. If $V_i^1 \notin T$, then $f_i = 0$ by Theorem 5.3. So we only need to calculate $|T|$ subspaces of one dimension of \mathbb{F}_q^k for f_i .*

However, if we simply look at all q^k codewords of C and check their pair weights, then we need to calculate $\frac{q^k-1}{q-1}$ subspaces of dimension one of \mathbb{F}_q^k for their pair weights since \mathbf{c} and $\lambda \mathbf{c}$ have same pair weight for $\mathbf{c} \in C$ and $\lambda \in \mathbb{F}_q^$. So using our characterization to decide if C is a pair equiweight code or if a linear isomorphism preserve pair weight is more efficiently, since $|T| \leq n(q+1) \ll \frac{q^k-1}{q-1}$ when q is large. For example, when C is a $[10, 5]$ -linear code C over \mathbb{F}_{31} , $|T| = 320$ is much less than $\frac{31^5-1}{31-1} \approx 28629151$.*

Example 5.5. *Let C, C_1, C_2 be linear codes of length 4 with generator matrices*

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

$$G_1 = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 & 1 \\ 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 \end{pmatrix},$$

$$G_2 = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & 1 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 & 0 \end{pmatrix}$$

over \mathbb{F}_2 , respectively. And let $\varphi_1 : C \rightarrow C_1$ and $\varphi_2 : C \rightarrow C_2$ be linear isomorphisms such that

$$\varphi_1((c_0, c_1, c_2, c_3)) = (c_2, c_1, c_0, c_3)$$

and

$$\varphi_2((c_0, c_1, c_2, c_3)) = (c_0, c_2, c_1, c_3)$$

for any $(c_0, c_1, c_2, c_3) \in C$. Assume

$$V_1^1 = \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 0 \\ 0 \end{pmatrix}, V_2^1 = \begin{pmatrix} 0 \\ 1 \\ 0 \end{pmatrix}, V_3^1 = \begin{pmatrix} 0 \\ 0 \\ 1 \end{pmatrix}, V_4^1 = \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 1 \\ 0 \end{pmatrix},$$

$$V_5^1 = \begin{pmatrix} 0 \\ 1 \\ 1 \end{pmatrix}, V_6^1 = \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 0 \\ 1 \end{pmatrix}, V_7^1 = \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 1 \\ 1 \end{pmatrix}.$$

By Theorem 5.3, we get following sequences such that

$$\left\{ \sum_{V \in \Omega_i} \frac{1}{|V|} m_G(V), 1 \leq i \leq 7 \right\} = \left\{ \frac{1}{2}, 1, \frac{1}{2}, \frac{1}{2}, \frac{1}{2}, 0, 0 \right\},$$

$$\left\{ \sum_{V \in \Omega_i} \frac{1}{|V|} m_{G_1}(V), 1 \leq i \leq 7 \right\} = \left\{ \frac{1}{2}, 1, \frac{1}{2}, \frac{1}{2}, \frac{1}{2}, 0, 0 \right\}$$

and

$$\left\{ \sum_{V \in \Omega_i} \frac{1}{|V|} m_{G_2}(V), 1 \leq i \leq 7 \right\} = \left\{ \frac{1}{2}, 1, \frac{1}{2}, \frac{1}{4}, \frac{1}{4}, \frac{1}{4}, 0 \right\}.$$

Hence φ_1 preserves the pair weight, but φ_2 does not preserves the pair weight by Corollary 5.2. On the other hand, we can get same result by calculate directly.

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