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**Information sets for
the generalized Reed-Muller codes and some
bases of minimum-weight vectors**

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Abstract

We produce a simple rule that will give information sets for the generalized Reed-Muller codes over any finite field, and use these information sets to obtain new bases of minimum-weight vectors for the codes of the designs of points and hyperplanes over prime fields.

The information sets can also be used to apply partial permutation decoding to these codes.

Joint work with [T. P. McDonough](#) and [V. C. Mavron](#) of the University of Wales, Aberystwyth, [[KMM](#)].

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Generalized Reed-Muller codes

Let $q = p^t$, p a prime, and $V = \mathbb{F}_q^m$ with standard basis. The codes are q -ary subcodes of length q^m of the function space \mathbb{F}_q^V that has the usual basis of characteristic functions on V .

Take $f \in \mathbb{F}_q^V$ as a function of the m -variables denoting the coordinates of a vector in V , i.e. if $\mathbf{x} = (x_1, x_2, \dots, x_m) \in V$, then $f \in \mathbb{F}_q^V$ is given by $f = f(x_1, x_2, \dots, x_m)$ and the x_i take values in \mathbb{F}_q .

The codeword defined by f will have $f(\mathbf{v})$ at the coordinate position corresponding to $\mathbf{v} = (v_1, v_2, \dots, v_m) \in V$.

Every $f \in \mathbb{F}_q^V$ can be written as a polynomial given uniquely as a linear combination of the q^m monomial functions

$$\mathcal{M} = \{x_1^{i_1} x_2^{i_2} \dots x_m^{i_m} \mid 0 \leq i_k \leq q-1, \text{ for } 1 \leq k \leq m\}.$$

The degree ρ of a monomial is the total degree, i.e. $\rho = \sum_{k=1}^m i_k$ and $0 \leq \rho \leq m(q-1)$.

Definition 1 Let $V = \mathbb{F}_q^m$, $m \geq 1$, over \mathbb{F}_q , where $q = p^t$ and p prime. For $0 \leq \rho \leq m(q-1)$, the ρ^{th} -order generalized Reed-Muller code $\mathcal{R}_{\mathbb{F}_q}(\rho, m)$ is the subspace of \mathbb{F}_q^V (with basis the characteristic functions of vectors in V) of all m -variable polynomial functions (reduced modulo $x_i^q - x_i$) of degree at most ρ . Thus

$$\mathcal{R}_{\mathbb{F}_q}(\rho, m) = \langle x_1^{i_1} x_2^{i_2} \cdots x_m^{i_m} \mid 0 \leq i_k \leq q-1, \text{ for } 1 \leq k \leq m, \sum_{k=1}^m i_k \leq \rho \rangle.$$

The codes have length q^m and the codewords are obtained by evaluating the m -variable polynomials in the code at all the points of the vector space V .

Further $\mathcal{R}_{\mathbb{F}_q}(\rho, m)^\perp = \mathcal{R}_{\mathbb{F}_q}(\mu, m)$ for $\rho < m(q-1)$ and where $\rho + \mu + 1 = m(q-1)$.

[For more about the generalized Reed-Muller codes, see [\[AK98\]](#) or [\[AK92\]](#).]

Some properties of GRM codes

- $\mathcal{R}_{\mathbb{F}_q}(\rho, m) = [q^m, f_{\rho, m, q}, d_{\rho, m, q}]_q$ where

$$f_{\rho, m, q} = \sum_{i=0}^m (-1)^i \binom{m}{i} \binom{m+\rho-iq}{m} \quad \text{and} \quad d_{\rho, m, q} = (q-b)q^{m-a-1},$$

where $\rho = a(q-1) + b$, $0 \leq b < q-1$.

- $\text{Aut}(\mathcal{R}_{\mathbb{F}_q}(\rho, m)) = \text{AGL}_m(\mathbb{F}_q)$ for $0 \leq \rho \leq m(q-1)$.
- $\mathcal{R}_{\mathbb{F}_q}(\rho, m)^*$ is the **punctured** GRM, of length $q^m - 1$, and is cyclic with $GL_m(\mathbb{F}_q)$ as automorphism group.
- With $m = 1$, $\mathcal{R}_{\mathbb{F}_q}(\rho, 1)^*$ is the Reed-Solomon code and $\mathcal{R}_{\mathbb{F}_q}(\rho, 1)$ the extended Reed-Solomon code, i.e.

$$\mathcal{R}_{\mathbb{F}_q}(\rho, 1) = \langle x^i \mid 0 \leq i \leq \rho \rangle,$$

where $\rho \leq q-1$ and $d_{\rho, 1, q} = (q-\rho)$, so the code is $[q, \rho+1, q-\rho]_q$ and is an MDS code.

If $\rho = r(q - 1)$, the minimum distance of $\mathcal{R}_{\mathbb{F}_q}(r(q - 1), m)$ is q^{m-r} and the minimum words are the incidence vectors of the subspaces of dimension $(m - r)$ and their cosets (the $(m - r)$ -flats), e.g.

$$p(x_1, \dots, x_m) = \prod_{i=1}^r (1 - x_i^{q-1}) \in \mathcal{R}_{\mathbb{F}_q}(r(q - 1), m)$$

is the incidence vector of the subspace of V given by the equations

$$X_1 = X_2 = \dots = X_r = 0$$

of dimension $m - r$.

The incidence (characteristic) vector of a point (vector) $\mathbf{w} = (w_1, \dots, w_m) \in V$ is

$$\chi_{\mathbf{w}} = v^{\mathbf{w}} = \prod_{i=1}^m (1 - (x_i - w_i)^{q-1}).$$

Information sets

The coordinate set of the codes are the vectors $(v_1, v_2, \dots, v_m) \in V$, where $v_i \in \mathbb{F}_q$, and the vectors can be ordered in any way. For a generator matrix to be in standard form, we want the first k positions to form an information set, where k is the dimension of the code.

The set of monomial functions of degree at most ν ,

$$\mathcal{B} = \{x_1^{i_1} x_2^{i_2} \dots x_m^{i_m} \mid 0 \leq i_k \leq q-1, \text{ for } 1 \leq k \leq m, \sum_{k=1}^m i_k \leq \nu\},$$

is an \mathbb{F}_q -basis of $\mathcal{R}_{\mathbb{F}_q}(\nu, m)$. A subset $S \subseteq V = \mathbb{F}_q^m$ will be an information set of the code if, and only if, the subspace of \mathbb{F}_q^S spanned by the restriction of \mathcal{B} to S has dimension $|\mathcal{B}|$.

Theorem 1 Let $V = \mathbb{F}_q^m$, where $q = p^t$ and p is a prime, and $\mathbb{F}_q = \{\alpha_0, \dots, \alpha_{q-1}\}$, and

$$\mathcal{S} = \{[i_1, i_2, \dots, i_m] \mid i_k \in \mathbb{Z}, 0 \leq i_k \leq q-1, 1 \leq k \leq m\}.$$

Let \leq denote the partial order defined on \mathcal{S} by $[i_1, i_2, \dots, i_m] \leq [j_1, j_2, \dots, j_m]$ if and only if $i_k \leq j_k$ for all k such that $1 \leq k \leq m$.

Let $\mathcal{X} \subseteq \mathcal{S}$ have the property

$$x \in \mathcal{X} \Rightarrow ((y \in \mathcal{S}) \wedge (y \leq x) \Rightarrow y \in \mathcal{X}).$$

and let

$$C = \langle x_1^{i_1} x_2^{i_2} \cdots x_m^{i_m} \mid [i_1, i_2, \dots, i_m] \in \mathcal{X} \rangle.$$

Then the set of vectors

$$\mathcal{I} = \{(\alpha_{i_1}, \dots, \alpha_{i_m}) \mid [i_1, i_2, \dots, i_m] \in \mathcal{X}\}$$

is an information set for C .

In particular,

$$\mathcal{I} = \{(\alpha_{i_1}, \dots, \alpha_{i_m}) \mid \sum_{k=1}^m i_k \leq \nu, 0 \leq i_k \leq q - 1\}$$

is an information set for $\mathcal{R}_{\mathbb{F}_q}(\nu, m)$, and if $q = p$ is a prime,

$$\mathcal{I} = \{(i_1, \dots, i_m) \mid i_k \in \mathbb{F}_p, 1 \leq k \leq m, \sum_{k=1}^m i_k \leq \nu\}$$

is an information set for $\mathcal{R}_{\mathbb{F}_p}(\nu, m)$, by taking $\alpha_{i_k} = i_k$.

Examples to illustrate the theorem

$q = 3$										
$m = 2$										
1	[0,0]	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
x_2	[0,1]	0	1	2	0	1	0	2	1	2
x_2^2	[0,2]	0	1	1	0	1	0	1	1	1
x_1	[1,0]	0	0	0	1	1	2	1	2	2
$x_1 x_2$	[1,1]	0	0	0	0	1	0	2	2	1
x_1^2	[2,0]	0	0	0	1	1	1	1	1	1

Figure 1: $\mathcal{R}_{\mathbb{F}_q}(\rho, m) = \mathcal{R}_{\mathbb{F}_3}(2, 2)$

$$\mathcal{B} = \{x_1^{i_1} x_2^{i_2} \mid 0 \leq i_k \leq 2, i_1 + i_2 \leq 2\}.$$

		0	0	0	0	1	1	1	w	w	w ²	1	w	w	w ²	w ²	w ²
		0	1	w	w ²	0	1	w	0	1	0	w ²	w	w ²	1	w	w ²
1	[0,0]	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
x ₂	[0,1]	0	1	w	w ²	0	1	w	0	1	0	w ²	w	w ²	1	w	w ²
x ₂ ²	[0,2]	0	1	w ²	w	0	1	w ²	0	1	0	w	w ²	w	1	w ²	w
x ₂ ³	[0,3]	0	1	1	1	0	1	1	0	1	0	1	1	1	1	1	1
x ₁	[1,0]	0	0	0	0	1	1	1	w	w	w ²	1	w	w	w ²	w ²	w ²
x ₁ x ₂	[1,1]	0	0	0	0	0	1	w	0	w	0	w ²	w ²	1	w ²	1	w
x ₁ x ₂ ²	[1,2]	0	0	0	0	0	1	w ²	0	w	0	w	1	w ²	w ²	w	1
x ₁ ²	[2,0]	0	0	0	0	1	1	1	w ²	w ²	w	1	w ²	w ²	w	w	w
x ₁ ² x ₂	[2,1]	0	0	0	0	0	1	w	0	w ²	0	w ²	1	w	w	w ²	1
x ₁ ³	[3,0]	0	0	0	0	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1

Figure 2: $\mathcal{R}_{\mathbb{F}_4}(3, 2)$, $\mathbb{F}_4 = \{\alpha_0, \alpha_1, \alpha_2, \alpha_3\} = \{0, 1, w, w^2\}$

$$\mathcal{B} = \{x_1^{i_1}x_2^{i_2} \mid 0 \leq i_k \leq 3, i_1 + i_2 \leq 3\}.$$

Example

The extended Reed-Solomon code,

$$\mathcal{R}_{\mathbb{F}_q}(\rho, 1) = \langle x^i \mid 0 \leq i \leq \rho \rangle,$$

where $\rho \leq q - 1$ and $d_{\rho,1,q} = (q - \rho)$, is a $[q, \rho + 1, q - \rho]_q$. Taking

$$\{\alpha_0, \dots, \alpha_{q-1}\} = \{0, 1, w, w^2, \dots, w^{q-2}\}$$

where w is a primitive element for \mathbb{F}_q , then our information set is the usual set

$$\{0, 1, w, w^2, \dots, w^{\rho-1}\}$$

giving the usual generating matrix as for BCH codes (puncturing first at 0).

Outline of proof:

The proof of Theorem 1 puts \mathcal{X} in lexicographic order by \prec , i.e. $x = [i_1, \dots, i_m] \prec y = [j_1, \dots, j_m]$ if, and only if, for some k with $1 \leq k \leq m$, $i_k < j_k$ and $i_\ell = j_\ell$ for $\ell < k$. So \preceq is a total order consistent with the partial order \leq .

The proof depends on some identities involving polynomials proved through a series of lemmas.

Let u_0, u_1, \dots, u_{q-1} be independent commuting indeterminates.

For $0 \leq i, j \leq q-1$, let $a_{i,j} = u_i - u_j$.

For $q-1 \geq t \geq 0$, let $s_{r,t} = \sum_{0 \leq i_1 \leq i_2 \leq \dots \leq i_r \leq t} u_{i_1} u_{i_2} \dots u_{i_r}$ for $r \geq 1$ and let $s_{0,t} = 1$.

For $0 \leq j \leq i \leq q-1$, let $c_{i,j} = \prod_{0 \leq \ell \leq j-1} a_{i,\ell}$,

Define three matrices M , L and R whose rows and columns are indexed by \mathcal{X} , ordered by \prec .

Let $x, y \in \mathcal{X}$ and write $x = [i_1, \dots, i_m]$ and $y = [j_1, \dots, j_m]$.

Set $M_{x,y} = u_y^x = u_{j_1}^{i_1} \dots u_{j_m}^{i_m}$.

Set $L_{x,y} = s_{i_1-j_1, j_1} \dots s_{i_m-j_m, j_m}$ if $y \leq x$ and $L_{x,y} = 0$ otherwise.

Set $R_{x,y} = c_{j_1, i_1} \dots c_{j_m, i_m}$ if $x \leq y$ and $R_{x,y} = 0$ otherwise.

Note that $x \prec y$ implies that $y \not\leq x$. So, L is lower triangular and R is upper triangular.

Lemma 2 $M = LR$ and $\det M = \prod_{0 \leq j < i \leq q-1} a_{i,j}^{n_i}$ where n_i is the number of occurrences of i among the coordinates of elements of \mathcal{X} .

The theorem now follows:

the $(\alpha_{j_1}, \dots, \alpha_{j_m})$ -coordinate of the monomial $x_1^{i_1} x_2^{i_2} \dots x_m^{i_m}$ is $\alpha_{j_1}^{i_1} \alpha_{j_2}^{i_2} \dots \alpha_{j_m}^{i_m}$.

The dimension of the spanning set is the rank of the $|\mathcal{X}| \times |\mathcal{X}|$ matrix N with

$$N_{x,y} = \alpha_{j_1}^{i_1} \alpha_{j_2}^{i_2} \dots \alpha_{j_m}^{i_m}$$

where $x = [i_1, \dots, i_m]$ and $y = [j_1, \dots, j_m]$.

For $0 \leq j < i \leq q - 1$, let $\beta_{i,j} = \alpha_i - \alpha_j$; so $\beta_{i,j} \neq 0$.

From Lemma 2, with $u_i = \alpha_i$, for $0 \leq i \leq q - 1$, and $\beta_{i,j} = a_{i,j}$,

$$\det N = \prod_{0 \leq j < i \leq q-1} \beta_{i,j}^{n_i} \neq 0.$$

Thus \mathcal{I} is an information set for $\mathcal{R}_{\mathbb{F}_q}(\nu, m)$. ■

Illustration (not GRM)

Let $\mathcal{X} = \{[0, 0], [0, 1], [0, 2], [1, 0], [1, 1], [1, 2]\}$, $q \geq 3$ and $\mathbb{F}_q = \{\alpha_0, \alpha_1, \dots, \alpha_{q-1}\}$.

$$L = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ \alpha_0 & 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ \alpha_0^2 & \alpha_0 + \alpha_1 & 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ \alpha_0 & 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 & 0 \\ \alpha_0^2 & \alpha_0 & 0 & \alpha_0 & 1 & 0 \\ \alpha_0^3 & (\alpha_0 + \alpha_1)\alpha_0 & \alpha_0 & \alpha_0^2 & \alpha_0 + \alpha_1 & 1 \end{bmatrix},$$

$$R = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 1 & 1 & 1 & 1 & 1 \\ 0 & \alpha_1 - \alpha_0 & \alpha_2 - \alpha_0 & 0 & \alpha_1 - \alpha_0 & \alpha_2 - \alpha_0 \\ 0 & 0 & (\alpha_2 - \alpha_0)(\alpha_2 - \alpha_1) & 0 & 0 & (\alpha_2 - \alpha_0)(\alpha_2 - \alpha_1) \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & \alpha_1 - \alpha_0 & \alpha_1 - \alpha_0 & \alpha_1 - \alpha_0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & (\alpha_1 - \alpha_0)^2 & (\alpha_2 - \alpha_0)(\alpha_1 - \alpha_0) \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & (\alpha_2 - \alpha_0)(\alpha_2 - \alpha_1)(\alpha_1 - \alpha_0) \end{bmatrix}$$

For $x = [i_1, \dots, i_m]$ and $y = [j_1, \dots, j_m]$ then

$$M_{x,y} = \alpha_{j_1}^{i_1} \alpha_{j_2}^{i_2} \dots \alpha_{j_m}^{i_m}$$

and

$$M = LR = \begin{array}{c|cccccc} & (\alpha_0, \alpha_0) & (\alpha_0, \alpha_1) & (\alpha_0, \alpha_2) & (\alpha_1, \alpha_0) & (\alpha_1, \alpha_1) & (\alpha_1, \alpha_2) \\ \hline 1 & 1 & 1 & 1 & 1 & 1 & 1 \\ x_2 & \alpha_0 & \alpha_1 & \alpha_2 & \alpha_0 & \alpha_1 & \alpha_2 \\ x_2^2 & \alpha_0^2 & \alpha_1^2 & \alpha_2^2 & \alpha_0^2 & \alpha_1^2 & \alpha_2^2 \\ x_1 & \alpha_0 & \alpha_0 & \alpha_0 & \alpha_1 & \alpha_1 & \alpha_1 \\ x_1 x_2 & \alpha_0^2 & \alpha_0 \alpha_1 & \alpha_0 \alpha_2 & \alpha_0 \alpha_1 & \alpha_1^2 & \alpha_1 \alpha_2 \\ x_1 x_2^2 & \alpha_0^3 & \alpha_0 \alpha_1^2 & \alpha_0 \alpha_2^2 & \alpha_0^2 \alpha_1 & \alpha_1^3 & \alpha_1 \alpha_2^2 \end{array}$$

Designs from geometries

The 2-design of points and r -dimensional subspaces (respectively flats) of an m -dimensional projective (respectively affine) geometry over \mathbb{F}_q is denoted by $PG_{m,r}(\mathbb{F}_q)$ (respectively $AG_{m,r}(\mathbb{F}_q)$).

The **automorphism groups**, $PGL_{m+1}(\mathbb{F}_q)$ or $AGL_m(\mathbb{F}_q)$, respectively, of these designs (and codes) are the full projective or affine semi-linear groups, and 2-transitive on points.

If $q = p^e$ where p is a prime, the codes of these designs are over \mathbb{F}_p and are subfield subcodes of the generalized Reed-Muller codes. The dimension and minimum weight is known in each case.

In particular, the code $\mathcal{R}_{\mathbb{F}_p}((m-r)(p-1), m)$ is the p -ary code of the affine geometry design $AG_{m,r}(\mathbb{F}_p)$.

Projective geometry

We can construct information sets for the code $C_p(PG_{m,r}(\mathbb{F}_p))$ using what we have found for the affine case:

if \mathcal{I} is an information set for $C_p(AG_{m,m-1}(\mathbb{F}_p))$, then

$$\{(0, \dots, 0, 1)\} \cup \{(1, x_1, \dots, x_m) \mid (x_1, \dots, x_m) \in \mathcal{I}\},$$

is an information set for $C_p(PG_{m,m-1}(\mathbb{F}_p))$.

More generally, if \mathcal{I} is an information set for $C_p(AG_{m,r}(\mathbb{F}_p))$ and \mathcal{J} is an information set for $C_p(PG_{m-1,r}(\mathbb{F}_p))$, then $\mathcal{I}^* \cup \mathcal{J}^\dagger$ is an information set for $C_p(PG_{m,r}(\mathbb{F}_p))$, where

$$\mathcal{I}^* = \{(1, x_1, \dots, x_m) \mid (x_1, \dots, x_m) \in \mathcal{I}\},$$

$$\mathcal{J}^\dagger = \{(0, x_1, \dots, x_m) \mid (x_1, \dots, x_m) \in \mathcal{J}\}.$$

Using this inductive construction, we get

$$\{(0, \dots, 0, 1)\} \cup \bigcup_{1 \leq i \leq r} \mathcal{K}_i$$

is an information set for $C_p(PG_{m, m-r}(\mathbb{F}_p))$, where \mathcal{K}_i is the set of vectors

$$\left\{ \underbrace{(0, \dots, 0)}_{r-i}, 1, \underbrace{a_{r-i+1}, \dots, a_m}_{m-r+i} \mid 0 \leq a_j \leq p-1, r-i+1 \leq j \leq m, \sum_{j=r-i+1}^m a_j \leq i(p-1) \right\}.$$

This construction of information sets for the point-hyperplane projective geometry designs immediately gives a set of hyperplanes whose incidence vectors form a basis for the code in the prime case, by using homogeneous coordinates

This construction can be compared with the basis found in [GK98], where a basis of hyperplanes for the affine prime case was constructed and this then applied to the projective case. In the case of planes, i.e. $m = 2$, the bases in both [GK98] and here are Moorhouse [Moo91] bases.

The dimension of the code in the affine case is

$$f_{q-1,m,q} = \binom{m+q-1}{m},$$

and $f_{q-1,m,q} + 1$ in the projective case.

Proposition 3 If $C = C_p(PG_{m,m-1}(\mathbb{F}_p))$, where p is a prime and $m \geq 2$, then, using homogeneous coordinates, the incidence vectors of the set

$$\{(1, a_1, \dots, a_m)' \mid a_i \in \mathbb{F}_p, \sum_{i=1}^m a_i \leq p - 1\} \cup \{(0, \dots, 0, 1)'\}$$

of hyperplanes form a basis for C .

Similarly, a basis of hyperplanes for $C_p(AG_{m,m-1}(\mathbb{F}_p))$ for $m \geq 2$, p prime is the set of incidence vectors of the hyperplanes with equation

$$\sum_{i=1}^m a_i X_i = p - 1$$

with

$$\sum_{i=1}^m a_i \leq p - 1,$$

where $a_i \in \mathbb{F}_p$ for $1 \leq i \leq m$, and not all the a_i are 0, along with the hyperplane with equation $X_m = 0$.

Example

A basis of minimum-weight vectors for $C_3(PG_{2,1}(\mathbb{F}_3))$.

	0	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	0	0	0
	0	0	0	0	1	1	2	1	2	2	1	1	1
	1	0	1	2	0	1	0	2	1	2	0	1	2
$(0, 0, 1)'$	0	1	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	0
$(1, 0, 0)'$	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	1
$(1, 0, 1)'$	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	1	1	0	0
$(1, 0, 2)'$	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	1	0	0
$(1, 1, 0)'$	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	1	0	0	0
$(1, 1, 1)'$	0	0	0	1	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	1
$(1, 2, 0)'$	1	0	0	0	1	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0

Figure 3: $C_3(PG_{2,1}(\mathbb{F}_3))$

Example

A basis of minimum-weight vectors for $\mathcal{R}_{\mathbb{F}_3}(2, 2) = C_3(AG_{2,1}(\mathbb{F}_3))$.

	0	0	0	1	1	2	1	2	2
	0	1	2	0	1	0	2	1	2
$X_2 = 0$	1	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	0
$X_2 = 2$	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	1
$X_2 = 1$	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	1	0
$X_1 = 2$	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	1
$X_1 + X_2 = 2$	0	0	1	0	1	1	0	0	0
$2X_1 = 2$	0	0	0	1	1	0	1	0	0

Figure 4: $\mathcal{R}_{\mathbb{F}_3}(2, 2) = C_3(AG_{2,1}(\mathbb{F}_3))$

Compare with the generator matrix using the polynomial basis **1**.

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