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## BINARY LINEAR BLOCK CODES WITH IMPROVED MINIMUM DISTANCE BOUNDS

R. N. DASKALOV

**ABSTRACT.** The nonexistence of binary linear  $[n, k, d]$ -codes having parameters  $[60, 18, 22]$ ,  $[64, 18, 24]$ ,  $[72, 18, 28]$ ,  $[93, 19, 38]$ ,  $[72, 29, 22]$ ,  $[76, 29, 24]$ ,  $[85, 30, 28]$ ,  $[105, 30, 38]$ ,  $[104, 48, 28]$  and  $[101, 53, 24]$  is proven and as a consequence 194 minimum distance upper bounds in Verhoeff's table [8] have been improved.

### 1. Introduction.

Let  $GF(2)$  denote the Galois field of two elements, and let  $V(n, 2)$  denote the vector space of all ordered  $n$ -tuples over  $GF(2)$ . A linear code  $C$  of length  $n$  and dimension  $k$  over  $GF(2)$  is a  $k$ -dimensional subspace of  $V(n, 2)$ ; it is denoted by  $[n, k]$ -code.

A linear  $k \times n$  matrix whose rows form a basis of a linear code  $C$  is called a generator matrix of the code. Elements of the subspace are called codewords.

For an  $[n, k]$ -code  $C$  we define its dual code, denoted by  $C^\perp$ , as the set of vectors of  $V(n, 2)$  which are orthogonal to every codeword of  $C$ . The generator matrix of  $C^\perp$  is called parity check matrix of  $C$ .

A binary linear code of length  $n$ , dimension  $k$ , and minimum distance at least  $d$  is called an  $[n, k, d]$ -code. Define  $d(n, k)$  as the maximum value of  $d$  for which there exists a binary linear  $[n, k, d]$ -code.

T. Verhoeff [8] has recently provided an updated table of bounds on  $d(n, k)$  for  $1 \leq k \leq n \leq 127$ . We improve on some of the upper bounds given in that table by proving the nonexistence of codes with certain parameters.

In Section 2 we state the necessary preliminary definitions and results.

In Section 3 we improve the best known upper bounds on  $d(n, k)$  in ten essentially different cases. The results give rise to upper bounds on  $d(n, k)$  for 194 values of  $(n, k)$ .

Our method aims at assuming the existence of a certain code and obtaining a contradiction to MacWilliams' identities, similarly as in [1], [3], [4], [5], [7].

## 2. Preliminary results.

The Hamming weight of a vector  $x$ , denoted by  $wt(x)$ , is the number of nonzero entries in  $x$ . For a linear code the minimum distance is equal to the smallest of the weights of the nonzero codewords.

Let  $G$  be the generator matrix of an  $[n, k, d]$ -code  $C$ .

**Definition.** The residual code of  $C$  with respect to  $c \in C$  is the code generated by the restriction of  $G$  to the columns where  $c$  has a zero. The residual code of  $C$  with respect to  $c \in C$  is denoted by  $Res(C, c)$  or  $Res(C, w)$  if the Hamming weight of  $c$  is  $w$ .

**Lemma 2.1.** (the MacWilliams identities) [6, p.129] Let  $C$  be an  $[n, k, d]$ -code and  $A_i$  and  $B_i$  denote the number of codewords of weight  $i$  in the code  $C$  and in its dual code  $C^\perp$  respectively. Then

$$\sum_{i=0}^n K_t(i) A_i = 2^k B_t, \quad \text{for } 0 \leq t \leq n,$$

where

$$K_t(i) = \sum_{j=0}^t (-1)^j \binom{n-i}{t-j} \binom{i}{j}.$$

**Lemma 2.2.** [6, p.592] Suppose  $C$  is an  $[n, k, d]$ -code whose dual code has minimum distance  $d^\perp$ . Then there exists an  $[n - d^\perp, k - d^\perp + 1, d]$ -code.

**Lemma 2.3.** [7] Let  $C$  be an  $[n, k, d]$ -code and  $x \in C$ ,  $wt(x) = w$  and  $w < 2d$ . Then  $Res(C; w)$  has parameters  $[n - w, k - 1, d^\circ]$ , where  $d^\circ \geq d - \lfloor w/2 \rfloor$ . (By  $\lfloor x \rfloor$  the greatest integer  $\leq x$  is denoted.)

The following lemmas 2.4-2.7 are well known.

**Lemma 2.4.** Suppose that an  $[n, k, d]$ -code does not exist. Then an  $[n + 2d, k + 1, 2d]$ -code  $C$  does not exist.

*Proof.* By Lemma 2.3,  $Res(C, 2d) = [n, k, d]$ -code.

**Lemma 2.5.** If there exists an  $[n, k, d]$ -code  $C$  with  $d$  even, then there exists an  $[n, k, d]$ -code whose codewords have even weights (just puncture  $C$  and then add an overall parity check).

**Lemma 2.6.**

- (a) If  $d(n, k) \leq d$ , where  $d$  is odd, then  $d(n - 1, k) \leq d - 1$ ;
- (b)  $d(n + 1, k + 1) \leq d(n, k)$ .

**Lemma 2.7.** *If  $x$  and  $y$  are distinct codewords in an  $[n, k, d]$ -code, then  $wt(x) + wt(y) \leq 2n - d$ .*

**Proof.** The  $3 \times n$  matrix consisting of rows  $x$ ,  $y$  and  $x + y$  has at most two 1's in each column, and so

$$wt(x) + wt(y) + wt(x + y) \leq 2n.$$

Since  $wt(x + y) \geq d$ , the result follows.

**Theorem 2.1.**  $d(67, 14) \leq 27$ .

**Proof.** Suppose that there exists a  $[67, 14, 28]$ -code  $C$ . By [3] a  $[61, 9, 28]$ -code does not exist and by Lemma 2.2 the dual code  $C^\perp$  is a  $[67, 53, 7]$ -code. By [8] a  $[67, 53, 7]$ -code does not exist which is a contradiction.  $\square$

**Corollary 2.1.**  $d(66, 14) \leq 26$ .

### 3. New Upper Bounds on $d(n, k)$

In each of the theorems of this section, we shall assume that a certain  $[n, k, d]$ -code with  $d$  even exists. By Lemma 2.5, there is no loss in assuming that the code is an even-weight one, i.e. that all the codewords are of an even weight.

We shall denote MacWilliams' identities for  $t = 0, 1, 2, \dots$  by  $e_t$  (see Lemma 2.1).

**Theorem 3.1.**  $d(60, 18) \leq 21$ .

**Proof.** Suppose that there exists an even-weight  $[60, 18, 22]$ -code  $C$ . By [8] a  $[54, 13, 22]$ -code does not exist and by Lemma 2.2,  $d^\perp \geq 7$ . By [8]  $Res(C, 26) = [34, 17, 9]$ -code and  $Res(C, 34) = [26, 17, 5]$ -code do not exist and so  $A_{26} = A_{34} = 0$ .  $\square$

Although only the first six MacWilliams' identities are free of  $B_1, B_2, B_3, B_4, B_5$  and  $B_6$ , the first seven identities seem to be useful. Hence the MacWilliams identities (Lemma 2.1) for  $t = 0, 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7$  give the following equations:

$$\begin{aligned} e_0 : & \quad A_{22} + A_{24} + A_{28} + A_{30} + A_{32} + A_{36} + A_{38} + A_{40} + A_{42} + A_{44} \\ & \quad + A_{46} + A_{48} + A_{50} + A_{52} + A_{54} + A_{56} + A_{58} + A_{60} = 262143 \\ e_1 : & \quad 16.A_{22} + 12.A_{24} + 4.A_{28} - 4.A_{32} - 12.A_{36} - 16.A_{38} - 20.A_{40} \\ & \quad - 24.A_{42} - 28.A_{44} - 32.A_{46} - 36.A_{48} - 40.A_{50} - 44.A_{52} - 48.A_{54} \\ & \quad - 52.A_{56} - 56.A_{58} - 60.A_{60} = -60 \\ e_2 : & \quad 98.A_{22} + 42.A_{24} - 22.A_{28} - 30.A_{30} - 22.A_{32} + 42.A_{36} + 98.A_{38} \\ & \quad + 170.A_{40} + 258.A_{42} + 362.A_{44} + 482.A_{46} + 618.A_{48} + 770.A_{50} \\ & \quad + 938.A_{52} + 1122.A_{54} + 1322.A_{56} + 1538.A_{58} + 1770.A_{60} = -1770 \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned}
e_3 : & \quad 208.A_{22} - 68.A_{24} - 108.A_{28} + 108.A_{32} + 68.A_{36} - 208.A_{38} \\
& - 740.A_{40} - 1592.A_{42} - 2828.A_{44} - 4512.A_{46} - 6708.A_{48} - 9480.A_{50} \\
& - 12892.A_{52} - 17008.A_{54} - 21892.A_{56} - 27608.A_{58} - 34220.A_{60} = -34220 \\
e_4 : & \quad - 589.A_{22} - 813.A_{24} + 211.A_{28} + 435.A_{30} + 211.A_{32} - 813.A_{36} \\
& - 589.A_{38} + 1235.A_{40} + 5811.A_{42} + 14547.A_{44} + 29107.A_{46} \\
& + 51411.A_{48} + 83635.A_{50} + 128211.A_{52} + 187827.A_{54} + 265427.A_{56} \\
& + 364211.A_{58} + 487635.A_{60} = -487635 \\
e_5 : & \quad - 4256.A_{22} - 1176.A_{24} + 1400.A_{28} - 1400.A_{32} + 1176.A_{36} \\
& + 4256.A_{38} + 3496.A_{40} - 9744.A_{42} - 49224.A_{44} - 134848.A_{46} \\
& - 293688.A_{48} - 561008.A_{50} - 981288.A_{52} - 1609248.A_{54} \\
& - 2510872.A_{56} - 3764432.A_{58} - 5461512.A_{60} = -5461512 \\
e_6 : & \quad - 5852.A_{22} + 5236.A_{24} - 1036.A_{28} - 4060.A_{30} - 1036.A_{32} \\
& + 5236.A_{36} - 5852.A_{38} - 23180.A_{40} - 15260.A_{42} + 93940.A_{44} \\
& + 447524.A_{46} + 1282292.A_{48} + 2959460.A_{50} + 5999476.A_{52} \\
& + 11120932.A_{54} + 19283572.A_{56} + 31735396.A_{58} + 50063860.A_{60} \\
& = -50063860 \\
e_7 : & \quad 20064.A_{22} + 18216.A_{24} - 11592.A_{28} + 11592.A_{32} - 18216.A_{36} \\
& - 20064.A_{38} + 38760.A_{40} + 128880.A_{42} + 11000.A_{44} - 986304.A_{46} \\
& - 4287096.A_{48} - 12503280.A_{50} - 30000872.A_{52} - 63613728.A_{54} \\
& - 123521112.A_{56} - 224305488.A_{58} - 386206920.A_{60} - 262144.B_7 \\
& = -386206920
\end{aligned}$$

The equation

$$(-2417.e_0 - 2289.e_1/2 - 347.e_2 - 315.e_3/2 - 37.e_4 - 129.e_5/8 - 5.e_6/2 - 7.e_7/8)/512$$

gives

$$\begin{aligned}
& 4.A_{30} + 105.A_{42} + 704.A_{44} + 2772.A_{46} + 8320.A_{48} + 21021.A_{50} \\
& + 47040.A_{52} + 96096.A_{54} + 182784.A_{56} + 328185.A_{58} \\
& + 561792.A_{60} + 448.B_7 = -113920,
\end{aligned}$$

a contradiction.

**Corollary 3.1.**

$$d(59 + i, 18 + i) \leq 20 \text{ for } 0 \leq i \leq 3$$

$$d(61 + i, 19 + i) \leq 21 \text{ for } 0 \leq i \leq 2.$$

By Lemma 2.4 and Lemma 2.6 we have

$$d(100 + i, 19 + i) \leq 40 \text{ for } 0 \leq i \leq 1$$

$$d(101 + i, 19 + i) \leq 41 \text{ for } 0 \leq i \leq 1.$$

**Theorem 3.2.**  $d(64, 18) \leq 23$ .

**Proof.** Suppose that there exists an even-weight  $[64, 18, 24]$ -code  $C$ . By [5] a  $[58, 13, 24]$ -code does not exist and by Lemma 2.2,  $d^\perp \geq 7$ . (i.e.  $B_1 = B_2 = B_3 = B_4 = B_5 = B_6 = 0$ .) By [8]  $\text{Res}(C, 30) = [34, 17, 9]$ -code and  $\text{Res}(C, 38) = [26, 17, 5]$ -code do not exist and so  $A_{30} = A_{38} = 0$ . Although only the first six MacWilliams' identities are free of  $B_i$  terms, it turns out to be useful here to row reduce the first seven identities. The equation

$$\begin{aligned} & ( - 7951.e_0 - 4639.e_1 - 1831.e_2 - 983.e_3 \\ & - 303.e_4 - 127.e_5 - 23.e_6 - 7.e_7 ) / 8192 \end{aligned}$$

gives

$$\begin{aligned} & 7.A_{18} + 21.A_{34} + 160.A_{36} + 693.A_{38} + 2240.A_{40} + 6006.A_{42} \\ & + 14112.A_{44} + 30030.A_{46} + 112.B_7 = -10736, \end{aligned}$$

a contradiction.

**Corollary 3.2.**

$$d(46 + i, 17 + i) \leq 14 \text{ for } 0 \leq i \leq 3$$

$$d(48 + i, 18 + i) \leq 15 \text{ for } 0 \leq i \leq 2.$$

By Lemma 2.4 and Lemma 2.6 we have

$$d(75 + i, 18 + i) \leq 28 \text{ for } 0 \leq i \leq 1$$

$$d(76 + i, 18 + i) \leq 29 \text{ for } 0 \leq i \leq 1.$$

**Theorem 3.3.**  $d(72, 18) \leq 27$ .

*Proof.* Let us assume that there exists an even-weight  $[72, 18, 28]$ -code  $C$ . By Theorem 2.1 a  $[67, 14, 28]$ -code does not exist and by Lemma 2.2  $d^\perp \geq 6$ . By [2]  $\text{Res}(C, 30) = [42, 17, 13]$ -code does not exist and so  $A_{30} = 0$ . By Lemma 2.3 and [8]  $A_{38} = A_{46} = 0$ .

The equation

$$\begin{aligned} & ( - 62496.e_0 - 110075.e_1/4 - 9506.e_2 - 12471.e_3/4 \\ & - 784.e_4 - 793.e_5/4 - 30.e_6 - 21.e_7/4)/1024 \end{aligned}$$

gives

$$\begin{aligned} & 64.A_{32} + 616.A_{50} + 3456.A_{52} + 12285.A_{54} + 34496.A_{56} + 83160.A_{58} \\ & + 179712.A_{60} + 357357.A_{62} + 665280.A_{64} + 1173744.A_{66} \\ & + 1980160.A_{68} + 3216213.A_{70} + 5056128.A_{72} + 7680.B_6 + 1344.B_7 \\ & = -165312, \end{aligned}$$

a contradiction.

**Corollary 3.3.**

$$d(71 + i, 18 + i) \leq 26 \text{ for } 0 \leq i \leq 7$$

$$d(73 + i, 19 + i) \leq 27 \text{ for } 0 \leq i \leq 6.$$

**Theorem 3.4.**

$$d(93, 19) \leq 37, \quad d(72, 29) \leq 21, \quad d(76, 29) \leq 23,$$

$$d(85, 30) \leq 27, \quad d(105, 30) \leq 37, \quad d(104, 48) \leq 27.$$

*Proof.* The proof of Theorem 3.4 is similar to that of Theorem 3.1.

**Theorem 3.5.**  $d(101, 53) \leq 23$ .

*Proof.* Suppose that there exists an even-weight  $[101, 53, 24]$ -code  $C$ . By Lemma 2.2 and Theorem 3.6,  $d^\perp \geq 26$ . By Lemma 2.3 and [8]  $A_i = 0$  for  $i = 26, 28, 30$  and 34. Two of the first twenty six row-reduced MacWilliams' identities become:

$$\begin{aligned}
 a) \quad & 28.A_{80} - 8970.A_{84} - 160425.A_{86} - 1674400.A_{88} - 12876435.A_{90} \\
 & - 80057250.A_{92} - 423361575.A_{94} - 1966582800.A_{96} - 8205150525.A_{98} \\
 & - 31256180280.A_{100} = -783933116521200,
 \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned}
 b) \quad & 145.A_{82} + 3744.A_{84} + 50220.A_{86} + 465920.A_{88} + 3359070.A_{90} \\
 & + 20049120.A_{92} + 103079340.A_{94} + 469048320.A_{96} + 1926426645.A_{98} \\
 & + 7247809920.A_{100} = 157331114940160.
 \end{aligned}$$

By Lemma 2.7 follows that  $A_i = 0$  or 1 for  $i = 90, 92, 94, 98$  and 100.

If  $A_{100} = 1$ , then  $A_i = 0$  for  $80 \leq i \leq 98$ . a) now gives a contradiction. So  $A_{100} = 0$ .

If  $A_{98} = 1$ , then  $A_i = 0$  for  $82 \leq i \leq 96$ . a) now gives a contradiction. So  $A_{98} = 0$ .

If  $A_{96} = 1$ , then  $A_i = 0$  for  $84 \leq i \leq 94$ . a) now gives a contradiction. So  $A_{96} = 0$ .

If  $A_{94} = 1$ , then  $A_i = 0$  for  $86 \leq i \leq 92$ . a)+4.b) now gives a contradiction. So  $A_{94} = 0$ .

The equation a)+4.b) gives a contradiction, because its left-hand side is positive but its right-hand side is negative and thus the result is obtained.

#### Corollary 3.4.

$$d(100 + i, 53 + i) \leq 22 \text{ for } 0 \leq i \leq 11$$

$$d(102 + i, 54 + i) \leq 23 \text{ for } 0 \leq i \leq 10.$$

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