



On Transform-domain Decoding of Gabidulin Codes

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Abstract

- For a Gabidulin code, we propose a **transform–domain** algorithm correcting both **errors and erasures**.
- The transform–domain approach allows to **simplify** derivations, proofs, and decoding algorithms.
- We generalize this algorithm for **interleaved** Gabidulin codes.

- 1 Introduction
- 2 Definitions
- 3 Decoding a single Gabidulin code
- 4 Decoding of interleaved Gabidulin codes

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Gabidulin codes

Gabidulin code $\mathcal{G}(q^m; n, k)$ is a linear (n, k) code of length n and dimension k over the field $\mathbb{F} = \mathbb{F}_{q^m}$, $n \leq m$.

Codewords in vector form: $c = \begin{pmatrix} c_1 & \dots & c_n \end{pmatrix}$, $c_i \in \mathbb{F}_{q^m}$

Codewords in matrix form: $C = \begin{pmatrix} c_{11} & \dots & c_{1n} \\ \vdots & \vdots & \vdots \\ c_{m1} & \dots & c_{mn} \end{pmatrix}$, $c_{ij} \in \mathbb{F}_q$

Rank metric

For $a, b, c \in \mathbb{F}_{q^m}^n$

rank norm: $\text{rank}_q c \triangleq \text{rank } C$

rank distance: $d(a, b) \triangleq \text{rank}_q(a - b)$

For Gabidulin code $\mathcal{G}(q^m; n, k)$

Code distance $d = n - k + 1$ achieves the Singleton type bound

Channel: $e = r - c, \quad \tau = \text{rank}_q e$

If $d(r, c) = \tau < d/2$ then the error vector e will be corrected by a BMD decoder with complexity $\mathcal{O}(m^2)$ operations in \mathbb{F}_{q^m}

- “Standard” decoders: Gabidulin 1985, Roth 1991, Paramonov–Tretjakov 1991, Richter–Plass 2004
- Other decoders: Loidreau 2005, Wachter-Zeh et al. 2012

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Motivation

Lifting construction for Network coding (Kötter–Kschischang 2008)

Codeword of the subspace code:

$$V = (I_{m \times m}, C_{m \times n}) = \left(\begin{array}{ccc|ccc} 1 & & & c_{11} & \dots & c_{1n} \\ & \ddots & & \vdots & \vdots & \vdots \\ & & 1 & c_{m1} & \dots & c_{mn} \end{array} \right),$$

where $C \in \mathcal{G}(q^m; n, k)$, $m \geq n$.

To increase efficiency let us use *interleaving* of several Gabidulin codes

$$V = \left(I_{m \times m} | C^{(1)}, C^{(2)}, \dots, C^{(L)} \right), \quad C^{(i)} \in \mathcal{G}(q^m; n, k)$$

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Interleaved Gabidulin code \mathcal{IG}

In matrix form:

$$C = \left(C^{(1)}, C^{(2)}, \dots, C^{(L)} \right), \quad C^{(i)} \in \mathcal{G}(q^m; n, k)$$

In vector form:

$$c = \left(c^{(1)}, c^{(2)}, \dots, c^{(L)} \right), \quad c^{(i)} \in \mathcal{G}(q^m; n, k)$$

\mathcal{IG} code is an (Ln, Lk) linear code over \mathbb{F}_{q^m} with rank distance

$$d = n - k + 1$$

For $m = n$, \mathcal{IG} is an MRD code.

Errors and erasures correction is necessary for network coding.

Known results

Loidreau and Overbeck (2006) considered another variant of interleaved Gabidulin code, where a codeword is

$$c = \begin{pmatrix} c^{(1)} \\ c^{(2)} \\ \vdots \\ c^{(L)} \end{pmatrix}, \quad c^{(i)} \in \mathcal{G}(q^m; n, k)$$

They suggested an algebraic decoder correcting **errors only**

- with complexity $\mathcal{O}(Lm^3) = \mathcal{O}(m^3)$ operations in \mathbb{F}_{q^m}
- which corrects error vectors e if $\text{rank}_q e \leq \frac{L}{L+1}(d-1)$
- with probability of failure $P_f < 4q^{-m}$

Known results

In [SJB], a time domain algorithm for \mathcal{IG} codes having complexity $\mathcal{O}(m^2)$ operations in \mathbb{F}_{q^m} was suggested.

Standard approach:

- 1 solve the key equation to find “positions” of errors,
- 2 find error values.

To correct (errors only) by a single Gabidulin code Silva and Kschischang [SK] suggested an elegant solution for the second decoding step using a transform–domain approach.

[SJB] V. Sidorenko, L. Jiang, M. Bossert, “Skew-Feedback Shift-Register Synthesis and Decoding Interleaved Gabidulin Codes,” *IEEE Trans. Inform. Theory*, vol. IT-57, pp. 621–632, Febr. 2011.

[SK] D. Silva and F. R. Kschischang, “Fast encoding and decoding of Gabidulin codes,” in *Proc. IEEE Int. Symp. Inform. Theory*, Seoul, Korea, Jul. 2009, pp. 2858–2862

Our contribution

- For a single Gabidulin code we propose a **transform-domain** decoding algorithm. The algorithm is extended for **IQ** codes. Time complexity of the algorithms is $\mathcal{O}(m^2)$ operations in the field \mathbb{F}_{q^m} .
- It corrects all error words of rank τ if

$$t \leq \tau_{\max} \triangleq \frac{L}{L+1}(d-1),$$

- where probability $P_f(\tau)$ of decoding failure is

$$P_f(\tau) \leq 3.5q^{-m\{(L+1)(\tau_{\max}-\tau)+1\}} < \frac{4}{q^m}.$$

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Skew polynomials and linearized polynomials

Consider $\mathbb{F} = \mathbb{F}_{q^m}$, where q is power of a prime, with the Frobenius automorphism $\theta(a) = a^q$, $\theta^i(a) = \theta(\theta^{i-1}(a))$.

Define a ring structure on the set of skew polynomials $a(x)$

$$\mathbb{F}[x; \theta] = \{a(x) = a_n x^n + \cdots + a_1 x + a_0 \mid a_i \in \mathbb{F} \text{ and } n \in \mathbb{N}\}.$$

The addition in $\mathbb{F}[x; \theta]$ is usual. The multiplication is defined by the basic rule

$$xa = \theta(a)x$$

and extended to all elements of $\mathbb{F}[x; \theta]$ by associativity and distributivity.

Denote the corresponding linearized q -polynomial by $a_{(q)}(x)$, where

$$a_{(q)}(x) = \sum_{j=0}^n a_j \theta^j(x) = a_n x^{q^n} + \cdots + a_1 x^{q^1} + x.$$

θ -transform

Let us fix $n \leq m$ linearly independent over \mathbb{F}_q elements $h_1, \dots, h_n \in \mathbb{F}_{q^m}$ and define the following $n \times n$ transform matrix Φ over \mathbb{F}_{q^m}

$$\Phi = \begin{pmatrix} h_1 & h_2 & \dots & h_n \\ \theta(h_1) & \theta(h_2) & \dots & \theta(h_n) \\ \vdots & \vdots & \vdots & \vdots \\ \theta^{n-1}(h_1) & \theta^{n-1}(h_2) & \dots & \theta^{n-1}(h_n) \end{pmatrix}.$$

The Moore matrix Φ is nonsingular and has the inverse matrix Φ^{-1} .

Definition

A Gabidulin code \mathcal{G} is a linear (n, k) code of length n and dimension k over the field \mathbb{F}_{q^m} , $n \leq m$, with parity check matrix

$$H = \begin{pmatrix} h_1 & h_2 & \dots & h_n \\ \theta(h_1) & \theta(h_2) & \dots & \theta(h_n) \\ \vdots & \vdots & \vdots & \vdots \\ \theta^{n-k-1}(h_1) & \theta^{n-k-1}(h_2) & \dots & \theta^{n-k-1}(h_n) \end{pmatrix}$$

consisting of the first $n - k$ rows of the matrix Φ .

- 1 Introduction
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Errors and erasures

Channel with errors only: $r = c + e$, $\text{rank}_q e = \tau$, then

$$e = aB,$$

where $a \in \mathbb{F}_q^{\tau m}$, $B \in \mathbb{F}_q^{\tau \times n}$, $\text{rank}_q a = \text{rank}_q B = \tau$.

Channel with errors and erasures

$$e = e_C + e_F + e_R,$$

$$e = aB = a_C B_C + a_F B_F + a_R B_R,$$

where blue symbols are known and

$$a_C \in \mathbb{F}_q^{\varkappa m}, B_C \in \mathbb{F}_q^{\varkappa \times n}, \quad \text{rank } a_C = \text{rank } B_C = \varkappa,$$

$$a_F \in \mathbb{F}_q^{\varepsilon m}, B_F \in \mathbb{F}_q^{\varepsilon \times n}, \quad \text{rank } a_F = \text{rank } B_F = \varepsilon,$$

$$a_R \in \mathbb{F}_q^{\rho m}, B_R \in \mathbb{F}_q^{\rho \times n}, \quad \text{rank } a_R = \text{rank } B_R = \rho.$$

Errors and erasures polynomials

Define row erasure skew polynomial $\sigma_R(x)$

$\sigma_{R(q)}(a_{R,i}) = 0, i = 1, \dots, \rho$, then $\sigma_{R(q)}(x) = \text{minpoly}(a_R)$

Define full error skew polynomial $\sigma_F(x)$

$$\sigma_{F(q)}(\sigma_{R(q)}(a_{F,i})) = 0, i = 1, \dots, \varepsilon.$$

Denote

$$\sigma_{FR}(x) = \sigma_F(x)\sigma_R(x)$$

Define

$$f = (f_1, \dots, f_{\varkappa}) = B_C h^T,$$

and column erasure polynomial

$$\lambda_{C(q)}(x) = \text{minpoly}(f)$$

Given a skew polynomial $\lambda(x)$ of degree \varkappa , we define a reciprocal skew polynomial $\bar{\lambda}(x)$ having coefficients $\bar{\lambda}_i = \theta^{i-\varkappa}(\lambda_{\varkappa-i})$ for $i = 0, \dots, \varkappa$.

Modified syndrome

The syndrome vector:

$$s = (s_1, \dots, s_{d-1}) = rH^T = eH^T.$$

The syndrome polynomial:

$$s(x) = \sum_{i=1}^{n-k} s_i x^{i-1}.$$

The modified syndrome polynomial $s_{RC}(x)$, incorporates known information about row and column erasures:

$$s_{RC}(x) = \sigma_R(x)s(x)\bar{\lambda}_C(x).$$

Key equation for a single Gabidulin code

Theorem (Silva-Kschischang-Kötter)

The following equation holds

$$\sigma_F(x)s_{RC}(x) \equiv \omega(x) \pmod{x^{n-k}}, \quad (1)$$

where $\deg \omega(x) < \tau$ and the error evaluator polynomial $\omega(x)$ is defined by the first τ components of the modified syndrome $s_{RC}(x)$.

Given the modified syndrome $s_{RC}(x)$, a solution $\sigma_F(x)$ of (1) can be found by a skew shift-register synthesis algorithm or by the Euclid's algorithm with complexity $\mathcal{O}(m^2)$.

Transformed error vector

The transformed error vector and polynomial

$$\tilde{e} = e\Phi^T$$

and the transformed error polynomial

$$\tilde{e}(x) = \sum_{i=1}^n \tilde{e}_i x^{i-1}.$$

Theorem (Error vector)

The transformed error polynomial $\tilde{e}(x)$ satisfies the following equation

$$\sigma_{FR}(x)\tilde{e}(x)\bar{\lambda}_C(x) \equiv \omega(x) \pmod{x^n}, \quad (2)$$

where the polynomial $\omega(x)$ is defined by (1).

Finding error vector

Known: $\sigma_R(x)$, $\bar{\lambda}_C(x)$, $s_{RC}(x)$, $\sigma_F(x)$

- 1 The error evaluator polynomial:

$$\omega(x) = \sigma_F(x)s_{RC}(x) \mod x^{n-k}$$

- 2 Compute $\sigma_{FR}(x) = \sigma_F(x)\sigma_R(x)$

By Theorem(Error vector):

$$\sigma_{FR}(x)\tilde{e}(x)\bar{\lambda}_C(x) \equiv \omega(x) \mod x^n$$

- 3 Compute $s_C(x) = \sigma_{FR}(x) \setminus w(x)|_0^{n-1}$
- 4 The transformed error word: $\tilde{e}(x) = s_C(x)/\bar{\lambda}_C(x)|_0^{n-1}$
- 5 The error word: $e = \tilde{e}(\Phi^{-1})^T$

Algorithm 1. Decoding of a single Gabidulin code NACHRICHTENTECHNIK Universität Ulm

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- 1 **input:** Received word $r \in \mathbb{F}_{q^m}^n$, vector a_R of row erasures, matrix B_C of column erasures
 - 2 **begin**
 - 3 Row erasure polynomial: $\sigma_{R(q)}(x) = \text{minpoly}(a_R)$
 - 4 Column erasure polynomial: $f = B_C h^T$, $\lambda_{C(q)}(x) = \text{minpoly}(f)$
 - 5 Syndrome: $s = r H^T$
 - 6 Modified syndrome: $s_{RC}(x) = \sigma_R(x) s(x) \bar{\lambda}_C(x)$
 - 7 Find $\sigma_F(x)$ by solving the key equation (1) using the Berlekamp–Massey type algorithm in [SJB]; in case of non single solution output decoding failure
 - 8 The error evaluator polynomial $\omega(x) = \sigma_F(x) s_{RC}(x) \bmod x^{n-k}$
 - 9 $\sigma_{FR}(x) = \sigma_F(x) \sigma_R(x)$
 - 10 The transformed error word $\tilde{e}(x) = \sigma_{FR}(x) \backslash w(x) / \bar{\lambda}_C(x) |_0^{n-1}$
 - 11 The error word $e = \tilde{e} (\Phi^{-1})^T$
 - 12 **end**
 - 13 **output:** The codeword $c = r - e$ or decoding failure
-

Comparison with time-domain algorithms

In time-domain algorithms, instead of Lines 8–12 one should do the following more complicated steps:

- One polynomial multiplication to find $\sigma_{FR}(x)$,
- Solve a system of linear equations (41) in [SKK] to find $\beta = (\beta_1, \dots, \beta_{\kappa})$,
- Compute $\sigma_{C(q)}(x) = \text{minpoly}(\beta)$,
- Compute $\sigma(x) = \sigma_C(x)\sigma_F(x)\sigma_R(x)$,
- Find a basis for the root space of $\sigma_{(q)}(x)$,
- Solve a system of linear equations (36) in [SKK] to find error locators,
- Compute error locations,
- Compute the error word.

Decoding of a single Gabidulin code

Theorem

Algorithm 1 corrects ε full errors, ρ row erasures and \varkappa column erasures as long as

$$2\varepsilon + \rho + \varkappa \leq n - k = d - 1.$$

Time complexity of Algorithm 1 is $\mathcal{O}(m^2)$ operations in \mathbb{F}_{q^m} .

- 1 Introduction
- 2 Definitions
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Assume a transmitted codeword

$$c = \begin{pmatrix} c^{(1)} & \dots & c^{(L)} \end{pmatrix} \in \mathbb{F}_{q^m}^{Ln}$$

and a received word

$$r = \begin{pmatrix} r^{(1)} & \dots & r^{(L)} \end{pmatrix} \in \mathbb{F}_{q^m}^{Ln}.$$

The error word is

$$e = \begin{pmatrix} e^{(1)} & \dots & e^{(L)} \end{pmatrix} \in \mathbb{F}_{q^m}^{Ln},$$

where $e = r - c$. Denote $\text{rank } e = \tau$, then the error word is

$$e = aB = a \begin{pmatrix} B^{(1)} & \dots & B^{(L)} \end{pmatrix}, \quad \text{where } a \in \mathbb{F}_{q^m}^\tau, \quad B \in \mathbb{F}_q^{\tau \times Ln},$$

where for every component code we have the following error vector

$$e^{(\ell)} = aB^{(\ell)} = a_{\mathbf{C}} B_{\mathbf{C}}^{(\ell)} + a_{\mathbf{F}} B_{\mathbf{F}}^{(\ell)} + a_{\mathbf{R}} B_{\mathbf{R}}^{(\ell)}.$$

Vector a is common for all interleaved codes. This allows to get more equations for the common error span polynomial $\sigma_F(x)$.

Theorem (Key equation for interleaved Gabidulin codes)

The following equation holds for $\ell = 1, \dots, L$

$$\sigma_F(x) s_{RC}^{(\ell)}(x) \equiv \omega^{(\ell)}(x) \pmod{x^{n-k}}, \quad (3)$$

where $\deg \omega^{(\ell)}(x) < \tau$ and the error evaluator polynomial $\omega^{(\ell)}(x)$ is defined by the first τ components of the modified syndrome $s_{RC}^{(\ell)}(x)$.

Theorem (Error vector)

The transformed error polynomials $\tilde{e}^{(\ell)}(x)$ satisfies the following equations

$$\sigma_{FR}(x) \tilde{e}^{(\ell)}(x) \bar{\lambda}_C^{(\ell)}(x) \equiv \omega^{(\ell)}(x) \pmod{x^n},$$

where the polynomials $\omega^{(\ell)}(x)$ are defined by (3).

Algorithm 2. Decoding of interleaved codes

-
- 1 **input:** Received word $r = (r^{(1)}, \dots, r^{(L)}) \in \mathbb{F}_{q^m}^{Ln}$, a_R , $B_C^{(\ell)}$, $\ell = 1, \dots, L$ Row erasure polynomial: $\sigma_{R(q)}(x) = \text{minpoly}(a_R)$
 - 2 **for** $\ell = 1, \dots, L$ **do**
 - 3 Column erasure polynomials: $f^{(\ell)} = B_C^{(\ell)} h^T$, $\lambda_{C(q)}^{(\ell)}(x) = \text{minpoly}(f^{(\ell)})$
 - 4 Syndromes: $s^{(\ell)} = r^{(\ell)} H^T$
 - 5 Modified syndromes: $s_{RC}^{(\ell)}(x) = \sigma_R(x) s^{(\ell)}(x) \bar{\lambda}_C^{(\ell)}(x)$
 - 6 Find $\sigma_F(x)$ by solving the key equation (3) using the Berlekamp–Massey type algorithm in [SJB]; in case of non single solution output decoding failure
 - 7 **for** $\ell = 1, \dots, L$ **do**
 - 8 The error evaluator polynomial: $\omega^{(\ell)}(x) = \sigma_F(x) s_{RC}^{(\ell)}(x) \bmod x^{n-k}$
 - 9 $\sigma_{FR}(x) = \sigma_F(x) \sigma_R(x)$
 - 10 The transformed error word: $\tilde{e}^{(\ell)}(x) = \sigma_{FR}(x) \backslash \omega^{(\ell)}(x) / \bar{\lambda}_C^{(\ell)}(x) |_0^{n-1}$
 - 11 The error word: $e^{(\ell)} = \tilde{e}^{(\ell)} (\Phi^{-1})^T$
 - 12 $e = (e^{(1)}, \dots, e^{(L)})$
 - 13 **output:** The codeword $c = r - e$ or decoding failure
-

Theorem

The fraction $P_f(\varepsilon)$ of full error vectors of rank $e_F = \varepsilon$ uncorrectable by Algorithm 2 in presence of ρ row erasures and $\varkappa_1, \dots, \varkappa_L$ column erasures is upper bounded by

$$P_f(\varepsilon) \leq 3.5q^{-m\{(L+1)(\varepsilon_{\max}-\varepsilon)+1\}} < \frac{4}{q^m}$$

if

$$L \leq \varepsilon \leq \varepsilon_{\max} \triangleq \frac{L}{L+1}(\bar{d} - 1) \quad (4)$$

and

$$\begin{aligned} P_f(\varepsilon) &= 0 \text{ for } \varepsilon < d_{\min}/2, \\ \bar{d} &= \frac{1}{L} \sum_{\ell=1}^L d - \rho - \varkappa^{(\ell)}, \quad d_{\min} = \min_{\ell} \{d - \rho - \varkappa^{(\ell)}\} \end{aligned} \quad (5)$$

are the average and minimum code distances respectively after erasings in interleaved (n, k) Gabidulin codes, $d = n - k + 1$.

Time complexity of the algorithm is $\mathcal{O}(Lm^2)$ operations in \mathbb{F}_{q^m} .

Discussion and future work

- Complexity: $\mathcal{O}(m^2)$ operations over \mathbb{F}_{q^m} and $\mathcal{O}(Lm^2)$.
- Fast methods:
 - for multiplication of linearized polynomials were found in [SK] and [WAS].
 - Fast solution of the key equations – in [SB].
- We need:
 - a fast method for finding a minimal power linearized polynomial, given a basis of its roots, and
 - a fast method for division of skew polynomials.

[SK] D. Silva and F. R. Kschischang, "Fast encoding and decoding of Gabidulin codes," in *Proc. IEEE Int. Symp. Inform. Theory*, Seoul, Korea, Jul. 2009, pp. 2858-2862

[WAS] A. Wachter, V. Afanassiev, V. Sidorenko, "Fast Decoding of Gabidulin Codes," *Designs, Codes and Cryptography*, April, 2012.

[SB] V. Sidorenko, M. Bossert, "Fast skew-feedback shift-register synthesis", *Designs, Codes and Cryptography*, April, 2012, pp. 1-13.

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Thank you!

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Skew-feedback shift-registers

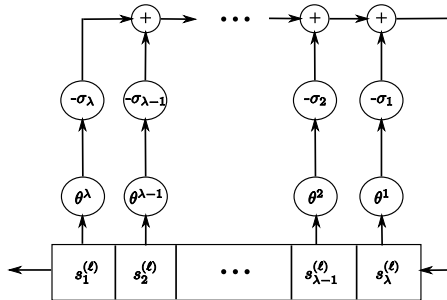


Figure: θ -skew-feedback shift-register (λ, σ)

- Given \mathbb{F} and an automorphism θ . When $\theta = id$ (i.e., $\theta(a) = a$) we have a classical *linear*-feedback shift-register.
- For $\mathbb{F} = \mathbb{F}_{q^m}$ and the Frobenius automorphism $\theta(a) = a^q$ we have a *linearized*-feedback shift-register.

Linearized polynomials

- *Extension field:* \mathbb{F}_{q^m} ,
- *Frobenius power:* For any integer i , $x^{[i]} \triangleq x^{q^i}$

Definition

A q -linearized polynomial (or q -polynomial) over \mathbb{F}_Q is a polynomial of the form

$$f(x) = \sum_{i=0}^t f_i x^{[i]}, \quad f_i \in \mathbb{F}_Q,$$

Symbolic product

$$f(x) \otimes g(x) = f(g(x))$$

Algorithm 1. Decoding the Gabidulin code

-
-
- 1 **input:** Received word $r \in \mathbb{F}_{q^m}^n$
 - 2 **begin**
 - 3 Compute syndrome $s = rH^T$
 - 4 Solve the key equation using the PTRP type algorithm, get $\sigma(x)$ and $t = \lambda$.
 - 5 Find a basis $a_1, \dots, a_t \in \mathbb{F}_{q^m}$ for the root space of $\sigma(x)$ get the vector $a = (a_1, \dots, a_t)$.
 - 6 Compute the matrix B using Gabidulin's algorithm.
 - 7 Compute error word $e = aB$.
 - 8 **end**
 - 9 **output:** Codeword $c = r - e$.
-

Algorithm 1 corrects errors of rank up to $(d-1)/2$ with the total complexity $\mathcal{O}(n^2)$ operations in \mathbb{F}_{q^m} .