

Correction to "On normal and subnormal q-ary codes"

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Correction to "On Normal and Subnormal q -ary Codes"

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In the above correspondence,¹ the following corrections are necessary.

When sets are defined, a vertical bar $|$ is intended where a

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¹A. C. Lobstein and G. J. M. van Wee, *IEEE Trans. Inform. Theory*, vol. 35, no. 6, pp. 1291-1295, Nov. 1989.

division bar $/$ is used. The most important place where this might cause confusion is in the proof of Lemma 1. A rewritten version of part of that proof will follow.

The last two sentences of the Introduction should read: We include a table of lower and upper bounds on $K_3(n, R)$, the minimal number of codewords in any ternary code of length n and covering radius R , for $n \leq 13$, $R \leq 3$, known to us. We improved some of the known lower bounds by linear programming.

Section II, line 13: ..., and such a coordinate i is called acceptable.

Proof of Theorem 1, line 5: $\dots + d((u, v), B_a^{(1)}) - \Delta_{a,u}$.

Theorem 2 should read: If C is a $(q, n, M)R$ subnormal code with an acceptable partition without the empty set, then for every natural number p there is a $(q, n + pq, M)R + (q - 1)p$ code.

In the proof of Lemma 1, the first few lines should read:

Proof: The repetition code is $C_{\text{rep}} = \cup_{a \in F_q} \{J_a^n\}$, with J_a^n the all- a vector of length n . Let w be any vector in F_q^n , containing p_a times the symbol a . Let $p = \max\{p_a | a \in F_q\}$. Then $p \geq \lfloor n/q \rfloor$ and $d(w, C_{\text{rep}}) = n - p \leq n - \lfloor n/q \rfloor$ and so C_{rep} has covering radius $R \leq n - \lfloor n/q \rfloor$. Taking w with $p = \lfloor n/q \rfloor$ shows that $R = n - \lfloor n/q \rfloor$. Now, ...

Three lines before Theorem 3 should read: ... are nonempty for all $a \in F_q$.

The second sentence of the proof of Theorem 3 should read: For $t \in F_q$ let $\Delta_t = 0$ if $t = 0$, and $\Delta_t = 1$ otherwise.

Two lines before Lemma 3, the name should read: J. H. van Lint, Jr.

On page 1293, first column, line 4: $\dots + \sum_{a \in F_q \setminus \{c\}} d(x, b^a)$.

The middle of line 2 of Theorem 5 should read: then $d \leq (q/(q-1)) \cdot R + 1$.

The first sentence in the proof of Theorem 5 should end with: $d(c, \emptyset) = n \geq d$.

The second to last sentence of Section III should read: Theorem 5 and any choice of the parameters of the Hamming codes just mentioned can be used to disprove the q -ary generalization of this conjecture, even when we replace "normal" by "subnormal."

On page 1293, second column, line 2 should read: $|C| \geq 3^n / (1 + 2n)$.

Proof of Theorem 6, line 3: ... such that $d(c, c') \leq 2$.

Page 1294, second column, line 8 the C should be uppercase.

In Section V, Open Problem 1) should read:

1) Find ternary, optimal or nonoptimal, normal or subnormal codes improving, by the amalgamated direct sum construction, on the upper bounds on $K_3(n, R)$ (cf. Section IV-A).

The following piece of text is missing at the end of the paper.

Notes Added in Proof

- 1) The result, mentioned in the Introduction, that binary linear codes with minimum distance $d_{\min} \leq 5$ are normal, has not (yet) been established. X. Hou (Univ. of Chicago) has shown that the proof in [12] is incorrect.
- 2) For open problem No. 2, see: G. J. M. van Wee, "Bounds on packings and coverings by spheres in q -ary and mixed Hamming spaces," *J. Combin. Theory (A)*, to appear.

In [5], there are two authors, H. O. Hämmäläinen and S. Rankinen. Reference [8] appeared in *IEEE Trans. Inform. Theory*, vol. IT-34, pp. 1343-1344, Sept. 1988.