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Local duality for equitable partitions of a Hamming space

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ABSTRACT

The Hamming space Q_n is the set of binary words of length n . A partition (C_1, C_2, \dots, C_r) of Q_n with quotient matrix $B = [b_{ij}]_{r \times r}$ is equitable if for all i and j , any word in the cell C_i has exactly b_{ij} neighbors in the cell C_j . In this paper, we provide an explicit formula relating the local spectrum of cells in the face to that in the orthogonal face.

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1. Introduction

The equitable partition of a Hamming space has been extensively studied due of its importance in coding theory [2,3,6,7] and algebraic graph theory [4]. A completely regular code of covering radius ρ is part of the cells for an equitable $(\rho + 1)$ -partition of a Hamming space.

In [10], A.Y. Vasil'eva proved that if C is 1-perfect (one-error-correcting perfect), then there is a connection between the local spectrum of C with respect to a u -face and its orthogonal one. An explicit formula describing the connection is given as well. We refer to her result as the local duality for 1-perfect codes.

The 1-perfect codes generate an equitable bipartition of a Hamming space. It is natural to extend the local duality for 1-perfect codes to that for arbitrary equitable partitions of a Hamming space. By using the relations on neighboring component of the complete local spectrum, Vasil'eva also settled the local duality for arbitrary equitable partitions of a Hamming space [11].

The purpose of the paper is to provide a more explicit formula relating the local spectrum of an equitable partition to its orthogonal local spectrum. This permits the easy derivation of a formula relating the local spectrum of eigenfunctions and its orthogonal local spectrum, first obtained in [12].

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According to [12], the reconstruction problem for eigenfunctions is closely related to the local duality for eigenfunctions.

In the next section we state our main result, Theorem 2.2, solving the local duality problem for any equitable partition of a Hamming space in an explicit fashion. In Section 3 this result is proved, after which some simple consequences are derived, see Corollaries 3.4, 3.6 and 3.7.

2. Main result

The Hamming space Q_n is the set of binary word of length n . A subset C of Q_n is called a (binary) code of length n and the elements of C are called codewords. Let u be a word in Q_n . The support of u is the set of nonzero coordinate positions of u . Throughout this paper, we identify u with its support, and by \bar{u} we denote the complement of u . The weight of u is the cardinality of its support, and it is denoted by $|u|$. The Hamming distance $d(u, v)$ between u and v equals the number of coordinate positions in which u and v differ.

Definition 2.1. An r -partition (C_1, C_2, \dots, C_r) of Q_n is equitable with quotient matrix $B = [b_{ij}]$ if for any word v in the cell C_i , the number of neighbors in the cell C_j is b_{ij} for all $i, j = 1, 2, \dots, r$.

In the literature [2,3], the concept of equitable partitions of Q_n is also referred to as “perfect r -colorings” or “ r -partition designs”.

There are known examples of equitable bipartition of Q_n . A binary code C of Q_n is 1-perfect if for any word $v \in Q_n$ there exists a unique codeword u in C such that the number of coordinate positions in which u and v differ is at most one. It is well known [9] that an 1-perfect code of length n exists if and only if $n = 2^m - 1, m > 1$. One easily verifies that any 1-perfect code of length n generates an equitable bipartition of Q_n with quotient matrix $\begin{bmatrix} 0 & n \\ 1 & n-1 \end{bmatrix}$. For $u, w \in Q_n$, define the u -face B_u^w (centered at w) to be the set $\{z+w : z \subseteq u\}$. If w is the zero word, then we simply denote B_u^w by B_u . By convention, if u is the zero word $\mathbf{0}$, then we set $B_{\mathbf{0}}^w = \{w\}$. It should be mentioned that we do not assume the restriction $u \cap w = \emptyset$ for B_u^w as in [5,6].

We introduce the local weight enumerator of C with respect to a u -face as follows:

$$W_C^{u,w}(x) = \sum_{c \in C \cap B_u^w} x^{|c+w|} = \sum_{c \in (C+w) \cap B_u} x^{|c|}. \tag{2.1}$$

If u is the all-one word $\mathbf{1}$ in (2.1), then $W_C^{\mathbf{1},w}(x)$ becomes the weight enumerator of C with respect to w . More generally, we define the local weight enumerator of a real valued function f of Q_n . The local weight enumerator of f with respect to a u -face is defined by

$$W_f^{u,w}(x) = \sum_{v \in B_u^w} f(v)x^{|v+w|}.$$

If f is a characteristic function of a code C , then the local weight enumerator of f with respect to a u -face is equal to that of C with the same u -face.

We are now ready to state our main result concerning the local duality for equitable partitions of Q_n .

Theorem 2.2. Let (C_1, C_2, \dots, C_r) be an equitable partition of Q_n with quotient matrix B . For $j = 1, 2, \dots, r$, let $(\alpha_{j1}, \alpha_{j2}, \dots, \alpha_{jr})^T$ be an eigenvector of B with eigenvalue λ_j . Then

$$\begin{bmatrix} W_{C_1}^{\bar{u},w}(x) \\ W_{C_2}^{\bar{u},w}(x) \\ \vdots \\ W_{C_r}^{\bar{u},w}(x) \end{bmatrix} = [\alpha_{ij}]^{-1} \text{diag}[G_1^u(-x), G_2^u(-x), \dots, G_r^u(-x)] [\alpha_{ij}] \begin{bmatrix} W_{C_1}^{u,w}(-x) \\ W_{C_2}^{u,w}(-x) \\ \vdots \\ W_{C_r}^{u,w}(-x) \end{bmatrix},$$

where $G_t^u(x) = (1-x)^{\frac{n+\lambda_t}{2}-|u|} (1+x)^{\frac{n-\lambda_t}{2}-|u|}$.

3. Proof of the main theorem

Let \mathcal{V}_n be the 2^n -dimensional vector space of real-valued functions on Q_n equipped with the inner product $\langle f, g \rangle = \sum_{x \in Q_n} f(x)g(x)$. For any $u \in Q_n$, define a function f^u as

$$f^u(v) = (-1)^{|u \cap v|}.$$

Then the set $\{f^u : u \in Q_n\}$ of characters is an orthogonal basis of \mathcal{V}_n . If f is in \mathcal{V}_n , then

$$f = \sum_{u \in Q_n} a_u f^u,$$

where a_u is the Fourier coefficient at u , i.e., $a_u = \langle f, f^u \rangle / \langle f^u, f^u \rangle = 2^{-n} \langle f, f^u \rangle$.

Let $S(u)$ denote the sphere of radius one centered at u , i.e.,

$$S(u) = \{v \in Q_n : d(u, v) = 1\}.$$

The adjacent matrix D of Q_n is defined by

$$D_{uv} = \begin{cases} 1 & \text{if } d(u, v) = 1, \\ 0 & \text{otherwise.} \end{cases}$$

For $f \in \mathcal{V}_n$, we define

$$(Df)(u) = \sum_{v \in S(u)} f(v).$$

Let n be an integer and let

$$(1 - z)^x (1 + z)^{n-x} = \sum_{k \geq 0} P_k(x; n) z^k.$$

If n is a positive integer and x is an integer with $0 \leq x \leq n$, then

$$P_k(x; n) = \sum_{j=0}^k (-1)^j \binom{x}{j} \binom{n-x}{k-j}$$

which is called the Krawtchouk polynomial in x of degree k .

It is well known [9] that f^u is an eigenfunction of D with eigenvalue $P_1(|u|; n)$, that is,

$$Df^u = P_1(|u|; n) f^u = (n - 2|u|) f^u.$$

The character sum of a code C with respect to $v \in Q_n$ is defined as

$$\chi_v(C) = \sum_{c \in C} (-1)^{|c \cap v|}.$$

The following three lemmas play an important role to prove our main result.

Lemma 3.1. (See [5].) *Let C be a subset of Q_n . Then*

$$\sum_{c \in C} \prod_{i=1}^n x_i^{c_i} = \frac{1}{2^n} \sum_{v \in Q_n} \chi_v(C) \prod_{i=1}^n (1 - x_i)^{v_i} (1 + x_i)^{1-v_i}.$$

Lemma 3.2. (See [6].) *Let f be an eigenfunction of D with eigenvalue λ . Then the following statements are true.*

- (a) $(n - \lambda)/2$ is a nonnegative integer, and hence λ is an integer.
- (b) $\langle f, f^u \rangle = 0$ if $|u| \neq (n - \lambda)/2$.

We denote 1_C the characteristic function of a code C .

Lemma 3.3. (See [6].) Let (C_1, C_2, \dots, C_r) be an equitable partition with quotient matrix B and let $(\alpha_1, \alpha_2, \dots, \alpha_r)^T$ be an eigenvector of B with eigenvalue λ . Then $f = \sum_{i=1}^r \alpha_i 1_{C_i}$ is an eigenfunction of D with eigenvalue λ .

We are ready to prove our main result concerning the local duality for equitable partitions of Q_n . We denote E_i the set of words of weight i .

Proof of Theorem 2.2. Recall from [2] that the quotient matrix B is diagonalizable. For $j = 1, 2, \dots, r$, let $f_j = \sum_{i=1}^r \alpha_{ji} 1_{C_i}$, where $(\alpha_{j1}, \alpha_{j2}, \dots, \alpha_{jr})^T$ is an eigenvector of B with eigenvalue λ_j . Note that

$$\langle f_j, f^v \rangle = \sum_{i=1}^r \alpha_{ji} \langle 1_{C_i}, f^v \rangle = \sum_{i=1}^r \alpha_{ji} \chi_v(C_i). \tag{3.1}$$

We claim that the following identity holds for $t = 1, 2, \dots, r$,

$$\sum_{j=1}^r \alpha_{tj} \sum_{c \in C_j} \prod_{i=1}^n x_i^{c_i} = \frac{1}{2^n} \sum_{v \in E_{\frac{1}{2}(n-\lambda_t)}} \langle f_t, f^v \rangle \prod_{i=1}^n (1-x_i)^{v_i} (1+x_i)^{1-v_i}. \tag{3.2}$$

It follows from Lemma 3.1 and (3.1) that

$$\sum_{j=1}^r \alpha_{tj} \sum_{c \in C_j} \prod_{i=1}^n x_i^{c_i} = \frac{1}{2^n} \sum_{v \in Q_n} \langle f_t, f^v \rangle \prod_{i=1}^n (1-x_i)^{v_i} (1+x_i)^{1-v_i}. \tag{3.3}$$

We now apply Lemma 3.2 and Lemma 3.3 to obtain our claim (3.2).

Let u be a word in Q_n . Setting $x_i = 0$ for all $i \in \bar{u}$ in (3.2), we have

$$\sum_{j=1}^r \alpha_{tj} \sum_{c \in C_j \cap B_u} \prod_{i=1}^n x_i^{c_i} = \frac{1}{2^n} \sum_{v \in E_{\frac{1}{2}(n-\lambda_t)}} \langle f_t, f^v \rangle \prod_{i=1}^n (1-x_i)^{v_i} (1+x_i)^{1-v_i} \Big|_{x_i=0, i \in \bar{u}}. \tag{3.4}$$

Setting $x = x_i$ for all $i \in u$ in (3.4), we have

$$\sum_{j=1}^r \alpha_{tj} \sum_{c \in C_j \cap B_u} x^{|c|} = \frac{1}{2^n} \sum_{v \in E_{\frac{1}{2}(n-\lambda_t)}} \langle f_t, f^v \rangle (1-x)^{|u \cap v|} (1+x)^{|u| - |u \cap v|}, \tag{3.5}$$

for all $t = 1, 2, \dots, r$. Put

$$F_t^u(x) = \frac{1}{2^n} \sum_{v \in E_{\frac{1}{2}(n-\lambda_t)}} \langle f_t, f^v \rangle (1-x)^{|u \cap v|} (1+x)^{|u| - |u \cap v|} \quad (t = 1, 2, \dots, r).$$

Then the system of r equations in (3.5) becomes

$$[\alpha_{ij}] \begin{bmatrix} W_{C_1}^{u, \mathbf{0}}(x) \\ W_{C_2}^{u, \mathbf{0}}(x) \\ \vdots \\ W_{C_r}^{u, \mathbf{0}}(x) \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} F_1^u(x) \\ F_2^u(x) \\ \vdots \\ F_r^u(x) \end{bmatrix}. \tag{3.6}$$

Notice that

$$\begin{aligned}
 F_t^{\bar{u}}(-x) &= \frac{1}{2^n} \sum_{v \in E_{\frac{1}{2}(n-\lambda_t)}} \langle f_t, f^v \rangle (1+x)^{|\bar{u} \cap v|} (1-x)^{|\bar{u}| - |\bar{u} \cap v|} \\
 &= (1-x)^{\frac{1}{2}(n+\lambda_t) - |u|} (1+x)^{\frac{1}{2}(n-\lambda_t) - |u|} F_t^u(x).
 \end{aligned}
 \tag{3.7}$$

Put

$$G_t^u(x) = (1-x)^{\frac{1}{2}(n+\lambda_t) - |u|} (1+x)^{\frac{1}{2}(n-\lambda_t) - |u|}.$$

After replacing x (resp. u) by $-x$ (resp. \bar{u}) in (3.6), apply (3.7) to obtain

$$[\alpha_{ij}] \begin{bmatrix} W_{C_1}^{\bar{u}, \mathbf{0}}(-x) \\ W_{C_2}^{\bar{u}, \mathbf{0}}(-x) \\ \vdots \\ W_{C_r}^{\bar{u}, \mathbf{0}}(-x) \end{bmatrix} = \text{diag}[G_1^u(x), G_2^u(x), \dots, G_r^u(x)] \begin{bmatrix} F_1^u(x) \\ F_2^u(x) \\ \vdots \\ F_r^u(x) \end{bmatrix}.
 \tag{3.8}$$

Using the fact that B is diagonalizable and combining (3.6) and (3.8), we have

$$\begin{bmatrix} W_{C_1}^{\bar{u}, \mathbf{0}}(x) \\ W_{C_2}^{\bar{u}, \mathbf{0}}(x) \\ \vdots \\ W_{C_r}^{\bar{u}, \mathbf{0}}(x) \end{bmatrix} = [\alpha_{ij}]^{-1} \text{diag}[G_1^u(-x), G_2^u(-x), \dots, G_r^u(-x)] [\alpha_{ij}] \begin{bmatrix} W_{C_1}^{u, \mathbf{0}}(-x) \\ W_{C_2}^{u, \mathbf{0}}(-x) \\ \vdots \\ W_{C_r}^{u, \mathbf{0}}(-x) \end{bmatrix}.
 \tag{3.9}$$

We remark that if (C_1, C_2, \dots, C_r) is an equitable partition of Q_n with quotient matrix B , then $(C_1 + w, C_2 + w, \dots, C_r + w)$ is also the equitable partition of Q_n with the same quotient matrix. It then follows from (2.1) and (3.9) that

$$\begin{bmatrix} W_{C_1}^{\bar{u}, w}(x) \\ W_{C_2}^{\bar{u}, w}(x) \\ \vdots \\ W_{C_r}^{\bar{u}, w}(x) \end{bmatrix} = [\alpha_{ij}]^{-1} \text{diag}[G_1^u(-x), G_2^u(-x), \dots, G_r^u(-x)] [\alpha_{ij}] \begin{bmatrix} W_{C_1}^{u, w}(-x) \\ W_{C_2}^{u, w}(-x) \\ \vdots \\ W_{C_r}^{u, w}(-x) \end{bmatrix}.$$

This proves Theorem 2.2. \square

Setting $u = \mathbf{0}$ in Theorem 2.2, leads to the following corollary.

Corollary 3.4. *Let (C_1, C_2, \dots, C_r) be an equitable partition of Q_n with quotient matrix B . For $j = 1, 2, \dots, r$, let $(\alpha_{j1}, \alpha_{j2}, \dots, \alpha_{jr})^T$ be an eigenvector of B with eigenvalue λ_j . If $w \in C_i$, then for $t = 1, 2, \dots, r$, we have*

$$W_{C_t}^{\mathbf{1}, w}(x) = \sum_{i=1}^r \alpha_{it} \beta_{ti} (1-x)^{\frac{1}{2}(n-\lambda_i)} (1+x)^{\frac{1}{2}(n+\lambda_i)},$$

where β_{ij} is an (i, j) entry of $[\alpha_{ij}]^{-1}$.

We remark that the formula obtained from Corollary 3.4 is more effective computationally than the matrix formula given in [8].

Example 3.5. Let $n = 2^m - 3, m > 2$. D.S. Krotov proved in [7] that an $(n, 2^{n-m}, 3)$ code C_1 generates an equitable partition (C_1, C_2, C_3, C_4) of Q_n with quotient matrix

$$B = \begin{bmatrix} 0 & 1 & n-1 & 0 \\ 1 & 0 & n-1 & 0 \\ 1 & 1 & n-4 & 2 \\ 0 & 0 & n-1 & 1 \end{bmatrix}.$$

The set of eigenvalues of B is $\{-3, -1, 1, n\}$. Let (D_1, D_2, D_3, D_4) be any equitable partition of Q_n with the same quotient matrix B . It follows from Corollary 3.4 that if w is in D_2 , then $W_{D_2}^{1,w}(x)$ becomes

$$\begin{aligned} & \frac{n-1}{4n+12}(1-x)^{\frac{n+3}{2}}(1+x)^{\frac{n-3}{2}} + \frac{1}{2}(1-x)^{\frac{n+1}{2}}(1+x)^{\frac{n-1}{2}} \\ & + \frac{1}{4}(1-x)^{\frac{n-1}{2}}(1+x)^{\frac{n+1}{2}} + \frac{1}{n+3}(1+x)^n. \end{aligned}$$

In [1], M.R. Best and A.E. Brouwer used the weight enumerator of D_2 in another fashion to show that the maximum cardinality of length $n = 2^m - 3$ and minimum distance 3 equals 2^{n-m} .

An equitable bipartition of Q_n is equivalent to a completely regular code of covering radius one, and the quotient matrix of an equitable bipartition has two distinct eigenvalues, see [2] for details. The following corollary is a generalization of the local duality for 1-perfect codes established in [10].

Corollary 3.6. *Let (C_1, C_2) be an equitable bipartition of Q_n with quotient matrix $\begin{bmatrix} i & j \\ k & l \end{bmatrix}$. Then*

$$\begin{aligned} W_{C_1}^{\bar{u},w}(x) &= \frac{k}{j+k}(1+x)^{|\bar{u}|} \\ &+ (1-x)^{\frac{1}{2}(j+k)-|u|}(1+x)^{\frac{1}{2}(i+l)-|u|} \left(-\frac{k}{j+k}(1-x)^{|u|} + W_{C_1}^{u,w}(-x) \right). \end{aligned}$$

In particular, if $w \in C_1$, then

$$W_{C_1}^{1,w}(x) = \frac{k}{j+k}(1+x)^n + \frac{j}{j+k}(1-x)^{\frac{1}{2}(j+k)}(1+x)^{\frac{1}{2}(i+l)}.$$

Proof. It is a straightforward consequence of the fact that $(-j, k)$ (resp. $(1, 1)$) is an eigenvector of the quotient matrix with eigenvalue $i - k$ (resp. n). \square

Next, we derive directly, without the use of induction, the local duality for eigenfunctions of D established in [12]. Corollary 3.7 plays an important role in settling the reconstruction problem for eigenfunctions of D [12].

Corollary 3.7. *(See [12].) Let f be an eigenfunction of D with eigenvalue λ . Then*

$$W_f^{\bar{u},w}(x) = (1+x)^{\frac{1}{2}(n+\lambda)-|u|}(1-x)^{\frac{1}{2}(n-\lambda)-|u|}W_f^{u,w}(-x).$$

In particular,

$$W_f^{1,w}(x) = f(w)(1+x)^{\frac{1}{2}(n+\lambda)}(1-x)^{\frac{1}{2}(n-\lambda)}.$$

Proof. The partition $(\{v\})_{v \in Q_n}$ is equitable with quotient matrix D . We expand f in the standard basis $\{1_{\{v\}} : v \in Q_n\}$ as follows:

$$f = \sum_{v \in Q_n} f(v)1_{\{v\}}.$$

Since f is an eigenfunction of D with eigenvalue λ , we can apply (3.5) to obtain

$$\sum_{v \in Q_n} f(v) \sum_{c \in \{v\} \cap B_u} x^{|c|} = \frac{1}{2^n} \sum_{v \in E_{\frac{1}{2}(n-\lambda)}} \langle f, f^v \rangle (1-x)^{|u \cap v|} (1+x)^{|u| - |u \cap v|}. \quad (3.10)$$

The left-hand side of (3.10) becomes the local weight enumerator of f with respect to the zero word. It then follows from (3.7) that

$$W_f^{\bar{u}, \mathbf{0}}(x) = (1+x)^{\frac{1}{2}(n+\lambda) - |u|} (1-x)^{\frac{1}{2}(n-\lambda) - |u|} W_f^{u, \mathbf{0}}(-x). \quad (3.11)$$

We define a function g by $g(u) = f(u+w)$ that is also an eigenfunction of D with eigenvalue λ . To obtain the result, we apply g to (3.11). \square

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