

Your friend Juana sends you the bit string 0111110. You know that she uses the (7,4) Hamming code discussed in class. Being her friend, you of course want to know what her message was. I mean, let's not ghost Juana here.

A.A. Assume that the communications line is quite good, meaning that seven-bit messages contain at most one error. Then what do you do?

A.B. Assume that the communications line is pretty good, in that seven-bit messages contain at most two errors. Then what do you do?

B. Working with the (7,4) Hamming code, give an example where three errors occur in transmission but the error code is 000. This example shows that we have no hope of detecting more than two errors.

C. The (7,4) Hamming code was expressed using multiplication-mod-2 involving three matrices, which we called the encoder E , the decoder D , and the checker C . Can the (5,4) parity bit system (which encodes four bits into five, just as in class) be expressed using multiplication-mod-2 of encoder, decoder, and checker matrices too? If so, then what are these matrices, explicitly, for the parity-bit system?

For Problem D, let

$$A = \begin{bmatrix} A_{11} & A_{12} \\ A_{21} & A_{22} \end{bmatrix}, \quad B = \begin{bmatrix} B_{11} & B_{12} \\ B_{21} & B_{22} \end{bmatrix}$$

be arbitrary 2×2 matrices. "Arbitrary" means that they could be any 2×2 matrices. In other words, you don't know anything special about the numbers A_{ij} or B_{ij} . For example, you don't get to assume that B is diagonal.

D. Prove that $\det(AB) = (\det A)(\det B)$, by explicitly computing out both sides of that equation and comparing the results.

Epilogue: This exercise requires some algebra. It is much easier to see why $\det(AB) = (\det A)(\det B)$ geometrically. We'll do that in class soon. This problem is a great example of why you want to understand linear algebra from multiple directions. Sometimes one direction is easier than another.