

ON THE COVERING RADIUS OF SOME CODES OVER $R = Z_2 + uZ_2$, WHERE $u^2 = 0$

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ABSTRACT

In this correspondence, we give lower and upper bounds on the covering radius of codes over the ring $R = Z_2 + uZ_2$ where $u^2 = 0$ with respect to different distance. We also determine the covering radius of various Repetition codes, Simplex codes (Type α and Type β) and their dual and give bounds on the covering radius for MacDonald codes of both types over R .

KEYWORDS: Covering Radius, Codes over Finite Rings, Simplex Codes, Hamming Codes

1 INTRODUCTION

In the last decade, there are many researchers doing research on code over finite rings. In particular, codes over $Z_4, Z_2 + uZ_2$ where $u^2 = 0$ received much attention [1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 9, 11, 12, 14, 16, 17]. The covering radius of binary linear codes were studied [6, 7]. Recently the covering radius of codes over Z_4 has been investigated with respect to Lee and Euclidean distances [1, 15]. In 1999, Sole et al gave many upper and lower bounds on the covering radius of a code over Z_4 with different distances. In the recent paper [15], the covering radius of some particular codes over Z_4 have been investigated. In this correspondence, we consider the ring $R = Z_2 + uZ_2$ where $u^2 = 0$. In this paper, we investigate the covering radius of the Simplex codes (both types) and their duals, MacDonald codes and repetition codes over R . We also generalized some of the known bounds in [1]. A linear code C of length n over R is an additive subgroup of R^n . An element of C is called a codeword of C and a generator matrix of C is a matrix whose rows generate C . The Hamming weight $w_H(x)$ of a vector x in R^n is the number of non-zero components. The Lee weight for a codeword $x = (x_1, x_2, \dots, x_n)$ is defined by

$$w_L(x) = \sum_{i=1}^n w_L(x_i), \text{ where } w_L(x_i) = \begin{cases} 0 & \text{if } x_i = 0 \\ 1 & \text{if } x_i = 1 \text{ or } 1 + u \\ 2 & \text{if } x_i = u \end{cases}$$

The Lee distance between the codewords x and $y \in R^n$ is defined as $d_L(x, y) = w_L(x - y)$. The Euclidean weight

$$\text{is given by the relation } w_E(x) = \sum_{i=1}^n w_E(x_i), \text{ where } w_E(x_i) = \begin{cases} 0 & \text{if } x_i = 0 \\ 1 & \text{if } x_i = 1 \text{ or } 1 + u \\ 4 & \text{if } x_i = u \end{cases}$$

The Euclidean distance between the codewords x and $y \in R^n$ is defined as $d_E(x, y) = w_E(x - y)$.

A linear Gray map ϕ from $R \rightarrow Z_2^2$ is defined by $\phi(x + uy) = (y, x + y)$, for all $x + uy \in R$. The image $\phi(C)$, of a linear code C over R of length n by the Gray map, is a binary code of length $2n$ with same cardinality [16]. The dual code

C^\perp of C is defined as $\{x \in R^n \mid x \cdot y = 0 \text{ for all } y \in C\}$ where $x \cdot y = \sum_{i=1}^n x_i y_i \pmod{2}$. C is self-orthogonal if

$C \subseteq C^\perp$ and C is self-dual if $C = C^\perp$. Two codes are said to be equivalent if one can be obtained from the other by

permuting the coordinates or changing the signs of certain coordinates or multiplying non-zero element in a fixed column. Codes differing by only a permutation of coordinates are called permutation-equivalent.

Any linear code C over R is equivalent to a code with generator matrix G of the form

$$G = \begin{bmatrix} I_{k_0} & A & B \\ 0 & uI_{k_1} & uD \end{bmatrix}, \quad (1.1)$$

where A , B and D are matrices over R . Then the code C contain all codewords $[v_0, v_1]G$, where v_0 is a vector of length k_1 over R and v_1 is a vector of length k_2 over Z_2 . Thus C contains a total of $4^{k_1} 2^{k_2}$ codewords. The parameters of C are given $[n, 4^{k_1} 2^{k_2}, d]$ where d represents the minimum distance of C . In [11], we associate to the code C , two binary codes. The residue code C_1 is defined as $C_1 = \{x \in Z_2^n \mid \exists y \in Z_2^n \text{ and } x + uy \in C\}$ and the torsion code $C_2 = \{x \in Z_2^n \mid ux \in C\}$. A vector v is a 2-linear combination of the vectors v_1, v_2, \dots, v_k if $v = l_1 v_1 + \dots + l_k v_k$ with $l_i \in Z_2$ for $1 \leq i \leq k$. A subset $S = \{v_1, v_2, \dots, v_k\}$ of C is called a 2-basis for C if for each $i = 1, 2, \dots, k-1$, $2v_i$ is a 2-linear combination of v_{i+1}, \dots, v_k , $2v_k = 0$, C is the 2-linear span of S and S is 2-linearly independent [18]. The number of elements in a 2-basis for C is the 2-dimension of C . It is easy to verify that the rows of the matrix

$$B = \begin{bmatrix} I_{k_0} & A & B \\ uI_{k_0} & uA & uB \\ 0 & uI_{k_1} & uD \end{bmatrix} \quad (1.2)$$

form a 2-basis for the code C generated by G given in (1.1). A linear code C over R (over Z_2) of length n , 2-dimension k , minimum distance d_H and d_L is called an $[n, k, d_H, d_L]$ ($[n, k, d_H]$) or simply an $[n, k]$ code. In this paper, we define the covering radius of codes over R with respect to different distances and in particular study the covering radius of Simplex codes of type α and β namely, S_k^α and S_k^β and their duals, MacDonald codes and repetition codes over R . Section 2 contains basic results for the covering radius of codes over R . Section 3 determines the covering radius of different types of repetition codes. Section 4 determines the covering radius of Simplex codes and its dual and finally section 5 determines the bounds on the covering radius of MacDonald codes.

2 COVERING RADIUS OF CODES

Let d be the general distance out of various possible distances (such as Hamming, Lee, and Euclidean).

The covering radius of a code C over R with respect to a general distance d is given by $r_d(C) = \max_{u \in R^n} \left\{ \min_{c \in C} \{d(c, u)\} \right\}$.

$$R^n = \bigcup_{c \in C} S_{r_d}(c)$$

It is easy to see that $r_d(C)$ is the least positive integer r_d such that

$S_{r_d}(u) = \{v \in R^n \mid d(u, v) \leq r_d\}$ for any $u \in R^n$. The translate $u+C = \{u + c \mid c \in C\}$ is called the coset of C where $u \in R^n$. A vector of minimum weight in a coset is called a coset leader. The following propositions are straight forward generalization from [1].

Proposition 2.1

The covering radius of C with respect to the general distance d is the largest minimum weight among all cosets.

Proposition 2.2

Let C be a code over R and $\varphi(C)$ the generalized Gray map image of C . Then $r_L(C) = r_H(\varphi(C))$.

Now, we give several lower and upper bounds on the covering radius of codes over R with respect to general weight. The proof of Proposition 2.3 and Theorem 2.4 being similar to the case of Z_4 [1], is omitted.

Proposition 2.3 (Sphere-Covering Bounds)

For any code C of length n over R ,

$$\frac{2^{2^{s-1}n}}{|C|} \leq \sum_{i=0}^{r_d(C)} \binom{2^{s-1}n}{i}$$

We consider the two upper bounds on the covering radius of a code over R with respect to general weight. Let C be a code over R and let $s(C^\perp) = |\{i \mid A_i(C^\perp) \neq 0, i \neq 0\}|$ where $A_i(C^\perp)$ is the number of codewords of various possible distances i in C^\perp .

Theorem 2.4 (Delsarte Bound)

Let C be a code over R , then $r_d(C) \leq s(C^\perp)$.

The following result of Mattson [6] is useful for computing covering radius of codes over rings generalized easily from codes over finite fields.

Proposition 2.5 (Mattson)

If C_0 and C_1 are codes over R generated by matrices G_0 and G_1 respectively and if C is the code generated by

$$G = \left(\begin{array}{c|c} 0 & G_1 \\ \hline G_0 & A \end{array} \right) \text{ then } r_d(C) \leq r_d(C_0) + r_d(C_1) \text{ and the covering radius of } D \text{ (concatenation of } C_0 \text{ and } C_1) \text{ satisfy the}$$

following $r_d(D) \geq r_d(C_0) + r_d(C_1)$, for all distances d over R . Since the covering radius of C generated by $G = [A|B]$ is greater than or equal to $r_d(C_A) + r_d(C_B)$ where C_A and C_B are codes generated by A and B respectively, this implies $r_d(D) \geq r_d(C_0) + r_d(C_1)$ because C_1 is a subcode of the code generated $[G_1|A]$.

3 COVERING RADIUS OF REPETITION CODES

A q -ary repetition code C over a finite field $F_q = \{\alpha_0 = 0, \alpha_1 = 1, \alpha_2, \alpha_3, \dots, \alpha_{q-1}\}$ is an $[n, 1, n]$ code

$$C = \{\overline{\alpha} \mid \alpha \in F_q\}, \text{ where } \overline{\alpha} = (\alpha, \alpha, \dots, \alpha). \text{ The covering radius of } C \text{ is } \left\lceil \frac{n(q-1)}{q} \right\rceil \text{ [13]. Using this, it can be}$$

seen easily that the covering radius of block (of size n) repetition code $[n(q-1), 1, n(q-1)]$ generated by

$$G = \left[\overbrace{11 \dots 1}^n \overbrace{\alpha_2 \alpha_2 \dots \alpha_2}^n \overbrace{\alpha_3 \alpha_3 \dots \alpha_3}^n \dots \overbrace{\alpha_{q-1} \alpha_{q-1} \dots \alpha_{q-1}}^n \right] \text{ is } \left\lceil \frac{n(q-1)^2}{q} \right\rceil \text{ since it will be equivalent to a repetition code of}$$

length $(q-1)n$. Consider the repetition code over R . There are two types of them of length n viz. unit repetition code

$C_\beta: [n, 2, n, n]$ generated by $G_\beta = [11 \dots 1]$ and zero divisor repetition code $C_\alpha: [n, 1, n, 2n]$ generated by $G_\alpha = [uu \dots u]$.

With respect to the Hamming distance the covering radius of C_β is $\left\lceil \frac{n(q-1)}{q} \right\rceil$ but covering radius of C_α is n .

The following result determines the covering radius with respect Lee distance and Euclidean distance.

Theorem 3.1

$$r_L(C_\alpha) = n, r_E(C_\alpha) = 2n, r_L(C_\beta) = n \text{ and } r_E(C_\beta) = \frac{3n}{2}.$$

Proof. Note that $\varphi(C_\alpha)$ is a binary repetition code of length $2n$ hence $r_L(C_\alpha) = \frac{2n}{2} = n$. Now by definition

$$r_E(C_\alpha) = \max_{u \in R^n} \{d_E(x, C_\alpha)\}. \text{ Let } x = \overbrace{uuu \dots u}^{\frac{n}{2}} \overbrace{000 \dots 0}^{\frac{n}{2}} \in R^n, \text{ then } d_E(x, 0) = d_E(x, u) = 2n. \text{ Thus } r_E(C_\alpha) \geq 2n. \text{ On the}$$

other hand if $x \in R^n$ has a composition $(\omega_0, \omega_1, \omega_2, \omega_3)$, where $\sum_{i=0}^3 \omega_i = n$ then $d_E(x, \bar{0}) = n - \omega_0 + 3\omega_2$ and $d_E(x, \bar{u})$

$= n - \omega_2 + 3\omega_0$. Thus $d_E(x, C_\alpha) = \min\{n - \omega_0 + 3\omega_2, n - \omega_2 + 3\omega_0\} \leq n + \omega_0 + \omega_2 \leq n + n = 2n$. Hence $r_E(C_\alpha) = 2n$. Similar

arguments can be used to show that $r_E(C_\beta) \leq \frac{3n}{2}$. To show that $r_E(C_\beta) \geq \frac{3n}{2}$, let

$$x = \overbrace{000 \dots 0}^t \overbrace{111 \dots 1}^t \overbrace{uuu \dots u}^t \overbrace{1+u1+u \dots 1+u}^{n-3t} \in R^n, \text{ where } t = \left\lfloor \frac{n}{4} \right\rfloor, \text{ then } d_E(x, \bar{0}) = n+2t, d_E(x, \bar{1}) = 4n-10t,$$

$d_E(x, \bar{u}) = n+2t$ and $d_E(x, \overline{1+u}) = 6t$. Thus $r_E(C_\beta) \geq \min\{4n - 10t, n + 2t, 6t\} \geq \frac{3n}{2}$. The proof of $r_L(C_\beta) = n$ is simple so

we omit it.

In order to determine the covering radius of Simplex and MacDonald codes over R , we need to define few block repetition codes over R and find their covering radius. To determine the covering radius of R block (three blocks each of

size n) repetition code $\text{BRep}_\alpha^{3n} : [3n, 2, 2n, 4n, 6n]$ generated by $G = \left[\overbrace{111 \dots 1}^n \overbrace{uuu \dots u}^n \overbrace{1+u1+u \dots 1+u}^n \right]$ note that

the code has constant Lee weight $4n$. Thus for $x = 11 \dots 1 \in R^{3n}$, we have $d_L(x, \text{BRep}_\alpha^{3n}) = 3n$. Hence by definition,

$r_L(\text{BRep}_\alpha^{3n}) \geq 3n$. On the other hand, its Gray image $\varphi(\text{BRep}_\alpha^{3n})$ is equivalent to binary linear code $[6n, 2, 4n]$ with the

generator matrix $\left(\begin{array}{c|c|c} \overbrace{11 \dots 1}^{2n} & \overbrace{11 \dots 1}^{2n} & \overbrace{00 \dots 0}^{2n} \\ \overbrace{11 \dots 1}^{2n} & \overbrace{00 \dots 0}^{2n} & \overbrace{11 \dots 1}^{2n} \end{array} \right)$. Thus the covering radius $r_L(\text{BRep}_\alpha^{3n}) \leq \frac{4n}{2} + \frac{2n}{2} = 3n$. Thus, we

have $r_L(\text{BRep}_\alpha^{3n}) = 3n$. With respect Euclidean distance, it is clear that $r_E(\text{BRep}_\alpha^{3n}) \geq \frac{3n}{2} + 2n + \frac{3n}{2} = 5n$.

Let $x = (u|v|w) \in R^{3n}$ with u, v and w have compositions $(r_0, r_1, r_2, r_3), (s_0, s_1, s_2, s_3)$ and (t_0, t_1, t_2, t_3) respectively such that

sum of each component composition is n , then $d_E(x, \bar{0}) = 3n - r_0 + 3r_2 - s_0 + 3s_2 - t_0 + 3t_3$, $d_E(x, c_1) = 3n - r_1 + 3r_3 - s_2$

$+ 3s_0 - t_3 + 3t_1$, $d_E(x, c_2) = 3n - r_2 + 3r_0 - s_0 + 3s_2 - t_2 + 3t_0$ and $d_E(x, c_3) = 3n - r_3 + 3r_1 - s_2 + 3s_0 - t_1 + 3t_3$. Thus

$d_E(x, \text{BRep}_\alpha^{3n}) \leq 3n + \min\{3r_2 + 3s_2 + 3t_2 - r_0 - s_0 - t_0, 3r_3 + 3s_0 + 3t_1 - r_1 - s_2 - t_3, 3r_0 + 3s_2 + 3t_0 - r_2 - s_0 - t_2, 3r_1 +$

$3s_0 + 3t_3 - r_3 - s_2 - t_1\} \leq 3n + \frac{1}{2} \{2n + 2s_0 + 2s_2\} \leq 5n$. Thus we have the following theorem.

Theorem 3.2

$$r_L(\text{BRep}_\alpha^{3n}) = 3n \text{ and } r_E(\text{BRep}_\alpha^{3n}) = 5n.$$

One can also define a R block (two blocks each of size n) repetition code $\text{BRep}_\alpha^{2n} : [2n, 2, n, 2n, 4n]$ generated by

$$G = \left[\begin{array}{c|c} \overbrace{11 \cdots 1}^n & \overbrace{uu \cdots u}^n \\ \hline \end{array} \right]. \text{ We have following theorem (its proof is similar to the proof of Theorem 3.2) so we omit it.}$$

Theorem 3.3

$$r_L(\text{BRep}_\alpha^{2n}) = 2n \text{ and } r_E(\text{BRep}_\alpha^{2n}) = \frac{7n}{2}$$

Block code BRep_α^{2n} can be generalized to a block repetition code (two blocks of size m and n respectively)

$$\text{BRep}^{m+n} : [m+n, 2, m, \min\{2m, m+2n\}, \min\{4m, m+4n\}] \text{ generated by } G = \left[\begin{array}{c|c} \overbrace{11 \cdots 1}^m & \overbrace{uu \cdots u}^n \\ \hline \end{array} \right]. \text{ Theorem}$$

3.3 can be easily generalized using similar arguments to the following.

Theorem 3.4

$$r_L(\text{BRep}^{m+n}) = m+n \text{ and } r_E(\text{BRep}^{m+n}) = 2n + \frac{3m}{2}$$

4 SIMPLEX CODES OF TYPE α AND β OVER R

Quaternary simplex codes of type α and β have been recently studied in [2]. Type α Simplex code S_k^α is a linear code over R with parameters $[2^{2k}, 2k, 2^{2k-1}, 2^{2k}, 3 \cdot 2^{2k-1}]$ and an inductive generator matrix given by

$$G_k^\alpha = \left[\begin{array}{c|c|c|c} 00 \cdots 0 & 11 \cdots 1 & uu \cdots u & 1+u1+u \cdots 1+u \\ \hline G_{k-1}^\alpha & G_{k-1}^\alpha & G_{k-1}^\alpha & G_{k-1}^\alpha \end{array} \right] \quad (4.1)$$

with $G_1^\alpha = [0 \ 1 \ u \ 1+u]$. The dual code of S_k^α is a $[2^{2k}, 2^{2k+1} - 2k]$ code. Type simplex code S_k^β is a punctured version of S_k^α with parameters $[2^{k-1}(2^k - 1), 2k, 2^{2(k-1)}, 2^{(k-1)}(2^k - 1), 2^k(3 \cdot 2^{k-2} - 1)]$ and an inductive generator matrix given by

$$G_2^\beta = \left[\begin{array}{c|c|c|c} 1 & 1 & 1 & 1 & 0 & u \\ \hline 1 & 1 & u & 1+u & 1 & 1 \end{array} \right] \quad (4.2)$$

$$\text{and for } k > 2 \quad G_k^\beta = \left[\begin{array}{c|c|c} 11 \cdots 1 & 00 \cdots 0 & uu \cdots u \\ \hline G_{k-1}^\alpha & G_{k-1}^\beta & G_{k-1}^\beta \end{array} \right] \quad (4.3)$$

where G_{k-1}^α is the generator matrix of S_{k-1}^α . For details the reader is referred to [2]. The dual code of S_k^β is a $[2^{k-1}(2^k - 1), 2^{2k} - 2^k - 2k]$ type α code with minimum Lee weight $d_L = 3$.

Theorem 4.1

$$2^{2k} \leq r_L(S_k^\alpha) \leq 2^{2k} + 1 \text{ and } r_E(S_k^\alpha) \leq \frac{5 \cdot 4^k + 5}{3}$$

Proof. Let $x = 11 \dots 1 \in \mathbb{R}^n$, we have $d_L(x, S_k^\alpha) = 2^{2k}$. By definition, $r_L(S_k^\alpha) \geq 2^{2k}$. To find the upper bound, by equation 4.1, the result of Mattson for finite rings and using Theorem 3.2, we get

$$\begin{aligned} r_L(S_k^\alpha) &\leq r_L(S_{k-1}^\alpha) + r_L(\langle \overbrace{11 \dots 1}^{2^{2(k-1)}} \overbrace{uu \dots u}^{2^{2(k-1)}} \overbrace{1+u1+u \dots 1+u}^{2^{2(k-1)}} \rangle) \\ &= r_L(S_{k-1}^\alpha) + 3 \cdot 2^{2(k-1)} \\ &= 3 \cdot 2^{2(k-1)} + 3 \cdot 2^{2(k-2)} + 3 \cdot 2^{2(k-3)} + \dots + 3 \cdot 2^{2 \cdot 2} + 3 \cdot 2^{2 \cdot 1} + r_L(S_1^\alpha) \end{aligned}$$

$$r_L(S_k^\alpha) \leq 2^{2k} + 1 \text{ (since } r_L(S_1^\alpha) = 5\text{)}. \text{ Thus } 2^{2k} \leq r_L(S_k^\alpha) \leq 2^{2k} + 1.$$

Similar arguments can be used to show $r_E(S_k^\beta) \leq 5(4^{(k-1)} + 4^{(k-2)} + 4^{(k-3)} + \dots + 4^1 + 1) - \frac{11}{2} + r_E(S_1^\alpha)$.

$$r_E(S_k^\alpha) \leq \frac{5 \cdot 4^k + 5}{3} \text{ (since } r_E(S_1^\alpha) = 8\text{)}. \text{ Similar arguments will compute the covering radius of Simplex codes of}$$

type β . We provide an outline of the proof.

Theorem 4.2

$$r_L(S_k^\beta) \leq 2^{k-1} (2^k - 1) - 1 \text{ and } r_E(S_k^\beta) \leq \frac{5 \cdot 4^k - 6 \cdot 2^k - 8}{6}$$

Proof. By equation 4.3, Proposition 2.5 and Theorem 3.4, we get

$$\begin{aligned} r_L(S_k^\beta) &\leq r_L(S_{k-1}^\beta) + r_L(\langle \overbrace{11 \dots 1}^{4^{(k-1)}} \overbrace{uu \dots u}^{2^{(2k-3)} - 2^{(k-2)}} \rangle) \\ &= r_L(S_{k-1}^\beta) + 2^{(2k-2)} + 2^{(2k-3)} - 2^{(k-2)} \\ &\leq (2^{(2k-2)} + 2^{(2k-4)} + \dots + 2^4) + (2^{(2k-3)} + 2^{(2k-5)} + \dots + 2^3) - (2^{(k-2)} + 2^{(k-3)} + \dots + 2) + r_L(S_2^\beta) \end{aligned}$$

Thus $r_L(S_k^\beta) \leq 2^{k-1} (2^k - 1) - 1$ (since $r_L(S_2^\beta) = 5$). Similarly, by using Theorem 3.4, we derive

$$r_E(S_k^\beta) \leq \frac{3}{2} (4^{(k-1)} + 4^{(k-2)} + \dots + 4^2) + (4^{(k-1)} + 4^{(k-2)} + \dots + 4^2) - 2(2^{k-2} + 2^{k-3} + \dots + 2) + r_E(S_2^\beta)$$

$$r_E(S_k^\beta) \leq \frac{5 \cdot 4^k - 6 \cdot 2^k - 8}{6} \text{ (since } r_E(S_2^\beta) = 8\text{)}.$$

Theorem 4.3

$$r_L(S_k^{\alpha^\perp}) = 1, r_L(S_k^{\beta^\perp}) = 2, r_E(S_k^{\alpha^\perp}) \leq 4 \text{ and } r_E(S_k^{\beta^\perp}) \leq 4.$$

Proof. By Delsarte Bound, $r_L(S_k^{\alpha \perp}) \leq 1$ and $r_L(S_k^{\beta \perp}) \leq 2$. Thus equality follows in the first case. For second case, note that $r_L(S_k^{\beta \perp}) \neq 1$, by sphere covering bound. The result for Euclidean distance follows from Delsarte bound.

5 MACDONALD CODES OF TYPE α AND β OVER R

The q -ary MacDonald code $M_{k,t}(q)$ over the finite field F_q is a unique $\left[\frac{q^k - q^t}{q - 1}, k, q^{k-1} - q^{t-1} \right]$ code in which every nonzero codeword has weight either q^{k-1} or $q^{k-1} - q^{t-1}$ [10].

In [8], authors have defined the MacDonald codes over R using the generator matrices of simplex codes. For $1 \leq t \leq k - 1$, let $G_{k,t}^\alpha$ ($G_{k,t}^\beta$) be the matrix obtained from G_k^α (G_k^β) by deleting columns corresponding to the columns of

$$G_t^\alpha \text{ (} G_t^\beta \text{)} . \text{ i. e. } G_{k,t}^\alpha = \left[G_k^\alpha \setminus \frac{0}{G_t^\alpha} \right] \tag{5.1}$$

$$\text{and } G_{k,t}^\beta = \left[G_k^\beta \setminus \frac{0}{G_t^\beta} \right] \tag{5.2}$$

where $[A \setminus B]$ denotes the matrix obtained from the matrix A by deleting the columns of the matrix B and $\mathbf{0}$ in 5.1 (respectively(5.2)) is a $(k - t) \times 2^{2t}$ (respectively $(k - t) \times 2^{t-1} (2^t - 1)$) zero matrix. The code $M_{k,t}^\alpha : [2^{2k} - 2^{2t}, 2k]$ ($M_{k,t}^\beta : [(2^{k-1} - 2^{t-1})(2^k + 2^t - 1), 2k]$) generated by the matrix $G_{k,t}^\alpha$ ($G_{k,t}^\beta$) is the punctured code of S_k^α (S_k^β) and is called a *MacDonald code* of type α (β). Next Theorem provides basic bounds on the covering radius of MacDonald codes.

Theorem 5.1

$$r_L(M_{k,t}^\alpha) \leq 4^k - 4^r + r_L(M_{r,t}^\alpha) \text{ for } t < r \leq k,$$

$$r_E(M_{k,t}^\alpha) \leq \frac{5}{3}(4^k - 4^r) + r_E(M_{r,t}^\alpha) \text{ for } t < r \leq k.$$

Proof. By Theorem 3.2,

$$\begin{aligned} r_L(M_{k,t}^\alpha) &\leq 3 \cdot 2^{(2k-2)} + r_L(M_{k-1,t}^\alpha) \\ &\leq 3 \cdot 2^{(2k-2)} + 3 \cdot 2^{(2k-4)} + \dots + 3 \cdot 2^{2r} + r_L(M_{r,t}^\alpha), k \geq r > t. \\ &= 4^k - 4^r + r_L(M_{r,t}^\alpha). \end{aligned}$$

Similar arguments holds for $r_E(M_{k,t}^\alpha)$. Similarly using equation 5.2, Proposition 2.5 and Theorem 3.4, following bounds can be obtained for type β MacDonald code.

Theorem 5.2

$$r_L(M_{k,t}^\beta) \leq 2^{(k-1)}(2^k - 1) + 2^{(r-1)}(1 - 2^r) + r_L(M_{r,t}^\beta) \text{ for } t < r \leq k,$$

$$r_E(M_{k,t}^\beta) \leq \frac{2^k(5 \cdot 2^k - 6) + 2^r(6 - 5 \cdot 2^r)}{6} + r_E(M_{r,t}^\beta) \text{ for } t < r \leq k$$

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