

# Erasure Decoding of Reed-Solomon Codes

Data and Information Management: ELEN 3015

School of Electrical and Information Engineering,  
University of the Witwatersrand

# Overview

Erasure Decoding RS - McAuley

Example: RS - McAuley

Erasure Decoding RS - Rizzo

Example: RS - Rizzo

# 1. Erasure Decoding RS - McAuley

a set of equations can be formed by  $\rightarrow$  every codeword  $c \in C(x)$ ,  
 $C(x)$  a  $(n, k)$  RS code:  $c(x) = m(x)g(x)$

$g(x) \rightarrow$  generator polynomial  $\rightarrow n - k$  roots that are consecutive powers of  $\alpha$

$$g(x) = (x - \alpha^{0+\beta})(x - \alpha^{1+\beta})(x - \alpha^{2+\beta}) \dots (x - \alpha^{n-k-1+\beta}), \quad (1)$$

( $\beta$  is some offset. Normally  $\beta = 1$ )

# 1. Erasure Decoding RS - McAuley

$\therefore c(x) \in C = \langle g(x) \rangle$  has the same  $n - k$  roots as  $g(x)$

form up to  $n - k$  linear equations by substituting roots of  $g(x)$  into received polynomial  $\rightarrow$  result of each substitution should be zero.

McAuley used Gaussian elimination to solve the set of linear equations.

## 2. Example: RS - McAuley

As a simple example, consider the Reed-Solomon code with the following parameters:

- $n = 7$  (Code length)
- $k = 4$  (Number of data elements)
- $r = n - k = 3$  (Number of redundant elements)
- $d_{min} = n - k + 1 = 4$ , thus 3 erasures can be corrected.
- $GF(2^3)$  constructed with primitive polynomial  
 $p(x) = x^3 + x + 1$
- $g(x) = (x - \alpha^1)(x - \alpha^2)(x - \alpha^3) = x^3 + \alpha^6x^2 + \alpha^1x + \alpha^6$
- $d(x) = \alpha^3x^3 + \alpha^6x^2 + 1$

## 2. Example: RS - McAuley

The code polynomial after systematic encoding is:

$$c(x) =$$

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The code polynomial after systematic encoding is:

$$\begin{aligned}c(x) &= d(x) \cdot x^3 + (d(x) \cdot x^3 \bmod g(x)) \\&= (\alpha^3 x^6 + \alpha^6 x^5 + 1x^3) + \\&\quad ((\alpha^3 x^6 + \alpha^7 x^5 + 1x^3) \bmod (x^3 + \alpha^6 x^2 + \alpha^1 x + \alpha^6)) \\&= \alpha^3 x^6 + \alpha^6 x^5 + 1x^3 + \alpha^5 x^2 + \alpha^1 x + \alpha^2.\end{aligned}\tag{2}$$

## 2. Example: RS - McAuley

Assume coefficients of the terms of degree 2, 5 and 6 are erased ( $\mathbb{E} = \{2, 5, 6\}$ ):

$$r(x) = 0x^6 + 0x^5 + 1x^3 + 0x^2 + \alpha^1 x + \alpha^2, \quad (3)$$

Substitute roots  $\alpha^1$ ,  $\alpha^2$  and  $\alpha^3$  into  $r(x)$  (Replace the erased coefficients with variables  $A$ ,  $B$  and  $C$ ):

$$A(\alpha^1)^6 + B(\alpha^1)^5 + 1(\alpha^1)^3 + C(\alpha^1)^2 + \alpha^1(\alpha^1) + \alpha^2 = 0$$

$$A(\alpha^2)^6 + B(\alpha^2)^5 + 1(\alpha^2)^3 + C(\alpha^2)^2 + \alpha^1(\alpha^2) + \alpha^2 = 0$$

$$A(\alpha^3)^6 + B(\alpha^3)^5 + 1(\alpha^3)^3 + C(\alpha^3)^2 + \alpha^1(\alpha^3) + \alpha^2 = 0$$



## 2. Example: RS - McAuley

These equations can be reduced to the following set of linear equations.

$$\begin{aligned}\alpha^6 \cdot A + \alpha^5 \cdot B + \alpha^2 \cdot C &= \alpha^3 \\ \alpha^5 \cdot A + \alpha^3 \cdot B + \alpha^4 \cdot C &= \alpha^1 \\ \alpha^4 \cdot A + \alpha^1 \cdot B + \alpha^6 \cdot C &= \alpha^4\end{aligned}$$

Solving the set of linear equations yields  $C = \alpha^5$ ,  $B = \alpha^6$  and  $A = \alpha^3$ , which gives the correct coefficients for the erased terms. (Homework, Matlab/Octave/Magma/GAP)

### 3. Erasure Decoding RS - Rizzo

1. Determine the submatrix  $G^*$  of the generator matrix
2. Compute the inverse of a  $G^*$
3. Multiply  $G^*$  by the compacted received vector  $\bar{b}$  of length  $k$ .

### 3. Erasure Decoding RS - Rizzo

$G^*$  is constructed as follows.

Suppose we receive a vector  $\bar{r}$  with received indices

$M = \{j_0, j_1, \dots, j_{k-1}\}$ , i.e.  $|M| = k$ .

Construct a submatrix  $G^*$  by picking the columns  $j_0, j_1, \dots, j_{k-1}$ ,

$G^* = [C_{j_0}, C_{j_1}, \dots, C_{j_{k-1}}]$ , where  $C_i$  is the  $i$ -th column of  $G$ .

The multiplication of the compacted received vector

$\bar{b} = (r_{j_0}, r_{j_1}, \dots, r_{j_{k-1}})$  by  $(G^*)^{-1}$  results in the original information set  $\mathcal{I}$ .

## 4. Example: RS - Rizzo

Consider the same code and parameters as in the Example of McAuley.

The systematic generator matrix for this code is given as

$$G =$$

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The systematic generator matrix for this code is given as

$$G = \begin{bmatrix} \alpha^6 & \alpha^1 & \alpha^6 & 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ \alpha^5 & \alpha^2 & \alpha^6 & 0 & 1 & 0 & 0 \\ \alpha^5 & \alpha^4 & \alpha^3 & 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 \\ \alpha^2 & \alpha^0 & \alpha^1 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix}. \quad (4)$$

## 4. Example: RS - Rizzo

Transmitted codeword  $\rightarrow \bar{c} = (\alpha^2, \alpha^1, \alpha^5, 1, 0, \alpha^6, \alpha^3)$

Received vector  $\bar{r}$  is

$$\bar{r} = (\alpha^2, \alpha^1, 0, 1, 0, 0, 0), \quad (5)$$

where the second, fifth and sixth elements have been erased.

elements in positions  $\{0, 1, 3, 4\}$  are correctly received.

Form the compacted received vector  $\bar{b}$  as  $(\alpha^2, \alpha^1, 1, 0)$  and the matrix  $G^*$  as

$$G^* = \begin{bmatrix} \alpha^6 & \alpha^1 & 1 & 0 \\ \alpha^5 & \alpha^2 & 0 & 1 \\ \alpha^5 & \alpha^4 & 0 & 0 \\ \alpha^2 & \alpha^0 & 0 & 0 \end{bmatrix}. \quad (6)$$

## 4. Example: RS - Rizzo

The matrix  $(G^*)^{-1}$  is computed as

$$(G^*)^{-1} = \begin{bmatrix} 0 & 0 & \alpha^6 & \alpha^3 \\ 0 & 0 & \alpha^1 & \alpha^4 \\ 1 & 0 & \alpha^3 & \alpha^3 \\ 0 & 1 & \alpha^6 & \alpha^5 \end{bmatrix}. \quad (7)$$

Homework

## 4. Example: RS - Rizzo

Decoding is accomplished by the following multiplication

$$\begin{aligned}\mathcal{I}^* &= \bar{b} \cdot (G^*)^{-1} \\ &= (\alpha^2, \alpha^1, 1, 0) \begin{bmatrix} 0 & 0 & \alpha^6 & \alpha^3 \\ 0 & 0 & \alpha^1 & \alpha^4 \\ 1 & 0 & \alpha^3 & \alpha^3 \\ 0 & 1 & \alpha^6 & \alpha^5 \end{bmatrix} \\ &= (1, 0, \alpha^6, \alpha^3),\end{aligned}\tag{8}$$

yielding the original information set  $\mathcal{I}^* = \mathcal{I}$ .



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