

# Code-Based Cryptography

McEliece Cryptosystem

## 2. McEliece Cryptosystem

1. Formal Definition
2. Security-Reduction Proof
3. McEliece Assumptions
4. Notions of Security
5. Critical Attacks - Semantic Secure Conversions
6. Reducing the Key Size
7. **Reducing the Key Size - LDPC codes**
8. Reducing the Key Size - MDPC codes
9. Implementation

# Low-density parity-check (LDPC) codes

**1963:** Gallager introduced LDPC codes



R. G. Gallager.

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**1996:** MacKay and Neal (re)-discovered LDPC codes



D. J.C. MacKay and R. M. Neal.

*Near shannon limit performance of Low Density Parity Check codes.*

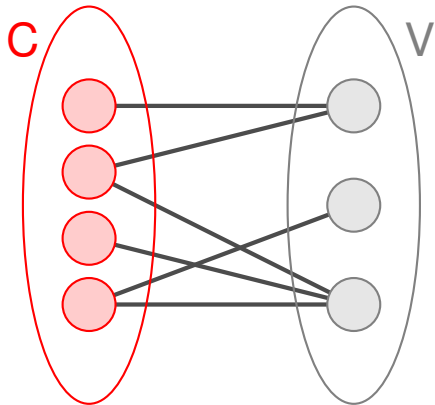
Electronics Letters, 32:1645-1646, 1996.

# Representation for LDPC codes

- **Matrix Representation:** Sparse parity check matrix  $H \in \mathbb{F}_2^{m \times n}$

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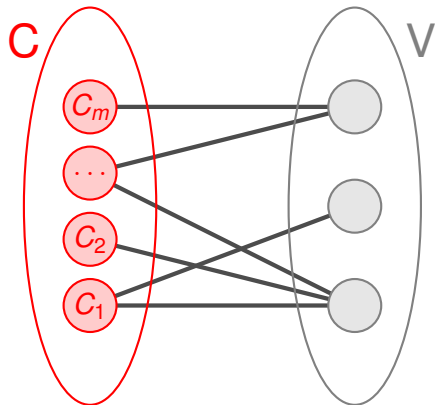
- **Matrix Representation:** Sparse parity check matrix  $H \in \mathbb{F}_2^{m \times n}$
- **Graphical Representation**



**Bipartite Graph**

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- **Graphical Representation**



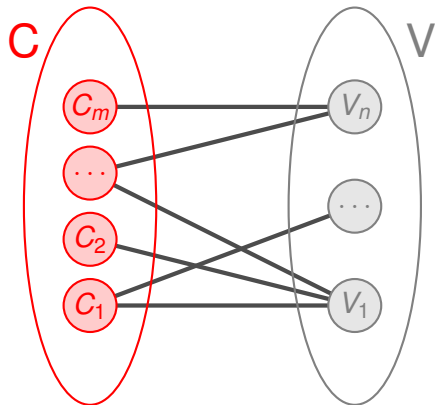
**Variable nodes**  
 $V_j \longleftrightarrow j\text{-th column of } H$

**Tanner Graph**



# Representation for LDPC codes

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- **Graphical Representation**



**Tanner Graph**

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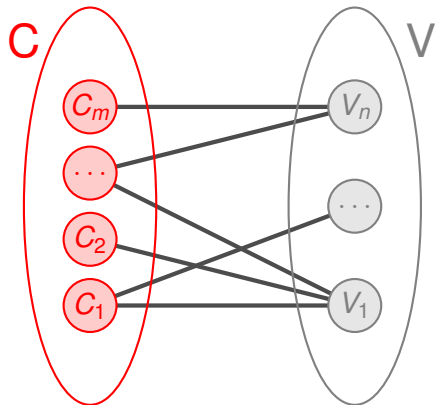
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**Check nodes**

$C_i \longleftrightarrow i\text{-th row of } H$

# Representation for LDPC codes

- **Matrix Representation:** Sparse parity check matrix  $H \in \mathbb{F}_2^{m \times n}$
- **Graphical Representation**



**Tanner Graph**

**Variable nodes**

$V_j \longleftrightarrow j$ -th column of  $H$

**Check nodes**

$C_i \longleftrightarrow i$ -th row of  $H$

**Edges**

$e_{i,j} = \{C_i, V_j\} \longleftrightarrow h_{i,j} = 1$  in  $H$

# Example

Let  $\mathcal{C}$  be an  $[10, 7]$  binary LDPC code with parity-check matrix:

$$H = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 1 & 1 & 1 & 0 & 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 & 1 & 1 \\ 1 & 1 & 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 & 0 \end{pmatrix} \in \mathbb{F}_2^{3 \times 10}$$

# Example

$V_1$

$V_2$

$V_3$

$V_4$

$V_5$

$V_6$

$V_7$

$V_8$

$V_9$

$V_{10}$

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$C_1$

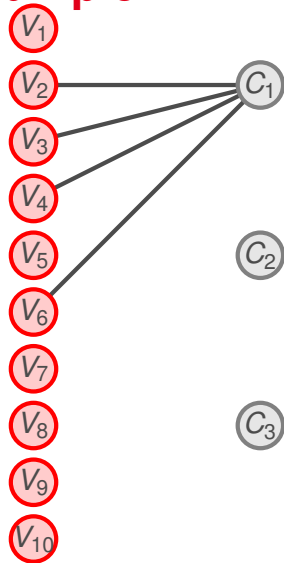
$C_2$

$C_3$

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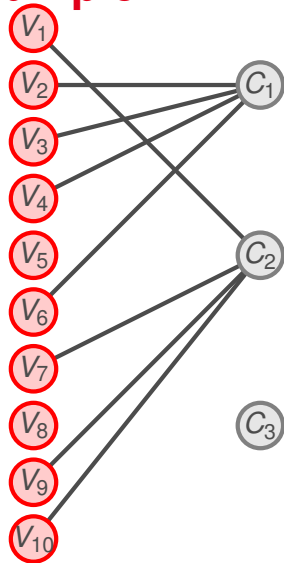
# Example



Let  $\mathcal{C}$  be an  $[10, 7]$  binary LDPC code with parity-check matrix:

$$H = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & \mathbf{1} & \mathbf{1} & \mathbf{1} & 0 & \mathbf{1} & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 & 1 & 1 \\ 1 & 1 & 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 & 0 \end{pmatrix} \in \mathbb{F}_2^{3 \times 10}$$

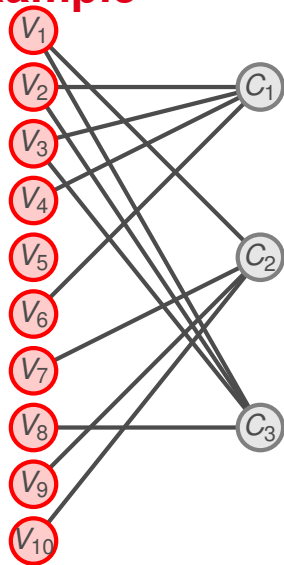
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# Example



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$$H = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 1 & 1 & 1 & 0 & 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 & 1 & 1 \\ \color{red}{1} & \color{red}{1} & \color{red}{1} & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & \color{red}{1} & 0 & 0 \end{pmatrix} \in \mathbb{F}_2^{3 \times 10}$$



# Bit-Flipping decoding algorithm

**Step 1 - Iteration I** Compute:

$f_j :=$  Number of unsatisfied parity-check equations of  $V_j$  with  $j = 1, \dots, n$   
 $f := \max(f_1, \dots, f_n)$

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**Step 2 - Iteration I Bit-Flipping**

$$V_j = \begin{cases} 1 - V_j & , \text{ if } f_j = f \\ V_j & , \text{ otherwise} \end{cases}$$

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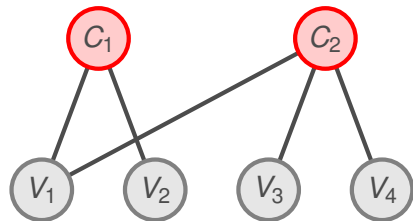
$$V_j = \begin{cases} 1 - V_j & , \text{ if } f_j = f \\ V_j & , \text{ otherwise} \end{cases}$$

**Step 3 - Iteration I Stop Criterion**

- Success: If  $f = 0$  and  $I < I_{max}$
- Failure: If  $f \neq 0$  and  $I = I_{max}$

# Bit-Flipping Decoding - Example

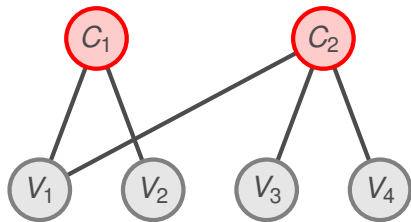
Received Data: (0, 1, 1, 1)



# Bit-Flipping Decoding - Example

Received Data: (0, 1, 1, 1)

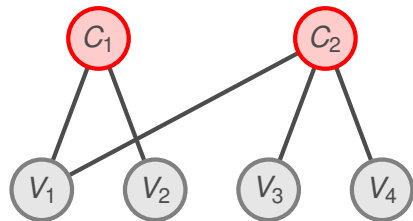
	$V_1$	$V_2$	$V_3$	$V_4$
Current	0	1	1	1
$C_0$	$\times$	$\times$	—	—
$C_1$	✓	—	✓	✓
$f_j$	1	1	0	0



# Bit-Flipping Decoding - Example

Received Data: (0, 1, 1, 1)

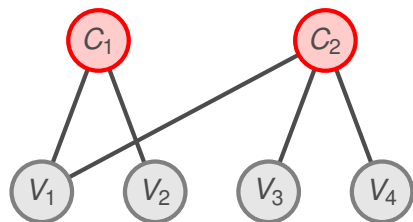
	$V_1$	$V_2$	$V_3$	$V_4$
Current	0	1	1	1
$C_0$	$\times$	$\times$	—	—
$C_1$	✓	—	✓	✓
$f_j$	1	1	0	0
Updated	1	0	1	1
<hr/>				
$C_0$	$\times$	$\times$	—	—
$C_1$	$\times$	—	$\times$	$\times$
$f_j$	2	1	1	1



# Bit-Flipping Decoding - Example

Received Data: (0, 1, 1, 1)

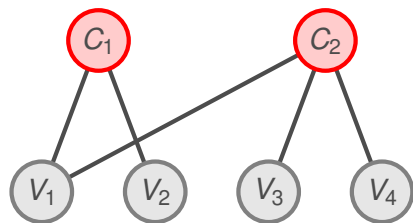
	$V_1$	$V_2$	$V_3$	$V_4$
Current	0	1	1	1
$C_0$	$\times$	$\times$	—	—
$C_1$	✓	—	✓	✓
$f_j$	1	1	0	0
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$C_0$	$\times$	$\times$	—	—
$C_1$	$\times$	—	$\times$	$\times$
$f_j$	2	1	1	1
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$C_0$	✓	✓	—	—
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# Bit-Flipping Decoding - Example

Received Data: (0, 1, 1, 1)

	$V_1$	$V_2$	$V_3$	$V_4$
Current	0	1	1	1
$C_0$	$\times$	$\times$	—	—
$C_1$	✓	—	✓	✓
$f_j$	1	1	0	0
Updated	1	0	1	1
$C_0$	$\times$	$\times$	—	—
$C_1$	$\times$	—	$\times$	$\times$
$f_j$	2	1	1	1
Updated	0	0	1	1
$C_0$	✓	✓	—	—
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$f_j$	0	0	0	0



Decoding Result: (0, 0, 1, 1)



# Variants based on LDPC codes



## Using pure LDPC codes

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C. Monico, J. Rosenthal, A. Shokrollahi.

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In ISIT 2000, pp. 215.

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**Weakness:** Search for low weight codewords in the dual of the public code

# Variants using QC-LDPC codes

## ➤ First proposal



M. Baldi, F. Chiaraluce, and R. Garelo.

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## ➤ Using an auxiliary “dense” matrix



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*Cryptanalysis of a new instance of McEliece cryptosystem based on QC-LDPC codes.*

In ISIT 2007, pp. 2591-2595.

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## ✗ **Attack:**



A. Otmani, J.P. Tillich, and L. Dallot.

*Cryptanalysis of two McEliece cryptosystems based on quasi-cyclic codes.*  
Special Issues of Mathematics in Computer Science, pp. 126-140, 2010.

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## ➤ New variant:



M. Baldi, M. Bodrato, and F. Chiaraluce.

*A new analysis of the McEliece cryptosystem based on QC-LDPC codes.*  
In SCN 2008, pp. 246-262.

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