

Cyclic DNA codes over the ring $\mathbb{Z}_4 + u\mathbb{Z}_4 + u^2\mathbb{Z}_4$

Research Article

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Abstract: In this work, we have investigated the one generator cyclic DNA codes with reverse and reverse complement constraints over the ring $R = \mathbb{Z}_4 + u\mathbb{Z}_4 + u^2\mathbb{Z}_4$ with $u^3 = 0$. Skew cyclic codes with reverse complement constraint are constructed over R . We have also determined a one-to-one correspondence between the elements of the ring R and DNA codons satisfying the Watson-Crick complement. Finally, we have established some examples which satisfy the given constraints.

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1. Introduction

DNA is shortened word of Deoxyribonucleic acid. It is a molecule made of two chains that curl around one another to frame a two-fold helix conveying the hereditary guidelines utilized in the development of all creatures. This two-fold helix is assembled by blending the four fundamental structure units A - (ADENINE), C - (CYTOSINE), G - (GUANINE) and T - (THYMINE) which are called the nucleotides held by Hydrogen ties. The DNA strand is held by an important feature called complementary base pairing which connects the Watson-Crick complementary bases with each other denoted by $A = T, G = C, C = G, T = A$.

In [4] Adleman performed a successful experiment for DNA computing. The basic idea of his work was to use DNA which is an ideal source of computing due to its dense and self-replicating property to solve a mathematical problem. After this successful experiment, the area of DNA computing was flooded with different approaches such as DNA tile assembly, the building of DNA nanostructures, DNA-based data storage system and study of error-correcting properties of DNA.

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Cyclic codes over rings have been studied by many authors (see for example [6] and [2]). Later DNA cyclic codes have gained interest of many researchers for their applications (see [16], [11], [18], [12], [14], [19], [5]). Abhay et al. [10] have studied DNA cyclic codes over the ring $\mathbb{Z}_4 + u\mathbb{Z}_4$ with $u^2 = 0$. Cyclic codes over the ring $R = \mathbb{Z}_4 + u\mathbb{Z}_4 + u^2\mathbb{Z}_4$ with $u^3 = 0$ have been studied by Ozen et al. in [15]. Cyclic code over skew polynomial ring have been constructed by [7]. Boucher and Ulmer [8] have found a link between arithmetic structure of skew polynomials and existence of such codes. In [17] Siap et al. studied skew cyclic code of arbitrary length and established a strong connection with well known codes. Most recently, the DNA codes over ring of order 256 has been studied in [9]. They have obtained DNA skew cyclic codes over the ring $\mathbb{F}_2 + u\mathbb{F}_2 + v\mathbb{F}_2 + w\mathbb{F}_2 + uv\mathbb{F}_2 + uw\mathbb{F}_2 + vw\mathbb{F}_2 + uvw\mathbb{F}_2$, where, $u^2 = 0, v^2 = v, w^2 = w, uv = vu, uw = wu, vw = wv$, addressing reversibility problem.

In this work, we have investigated the one generator cyclic DNA codes with reverse and reverse complement constraint over the ring $R = \mathbb{Z}_4 + u\mathbb{Z}_4 + u^2\mathbb{Z}_4$ with $u^3 = 0$. Skew cyclic codes with reverse complement constraint are constructed over R . We have also determined a one-to-one correspondence between elements of the ring R and DNA codons satisfying Watson-Crick complement. Finally, we have established some examples which satisfy the given constraints. Beside the theoretical results concerning the reverse and the reverse complement codes over the ring R and the one-to-one correspondence with codes, our other motivation in choosing this ring is the fact that it contains an additive subgroup of order 16. Then the idea of the additive stem distance characterizing the hybridization energy given in [12] can be extended to this subgroup and then to the ring.

This paper is structured in the following way: Section 2 contains basic definitions of cyclic DNA codes. We have established a one-to-one correspondence between elements of the ring $R = \mathbb{Z}_4 + u\mathbb{Z}_4 + u^2\mathbb{Z}_4$ with $u^3 = 0$, elements of \mathbb{Z}_4^3 and 64 codons. In Section 3, we have studied the reversibility condition of one generator cyclic codes over the ring R and have determined reverse complement codes. Binary image of the ring and skew cyclic codes are studied in Sections 4 and 5 respectively. In Section 6, we have obtained some examples. Finally, Section 7 concludes the paper with some establishments of future work that can be done using this work.

2. Preliminaries

Ozen et al. in [15] have determined cyclic codes over the ring $R = \mathbb{Z}_4 + u\mathbb{Z}_4 + u^2\mathbb{Z}_4$, where $u^3 = 0$. They obtained that the total number of cyclic codes over R is 13^r . They also found the general form of generator of cyclic codes over R and one generator cyclic codes (cyclic codes generated by one element) over the ring R .

Let $R = \mathbb{Z}_4 + u\mathbb{Z}_4 + u^2\mathbb{Z}_4 = \{a + ub + u^2c \mid a, b, c \in \mathbb{Z}_4\}$, where $u^3 = 0$. The ring R has 11 nontrivial ideals given by

$$\begin{aligned} A_{2u^2} &= \{0, 2u^2\} \\ A_{u^2} &= \{0, u^2, 2u^2, 3u^2\} \\ A_{2u} &= \{0, 2u, 2u^2, 2u + 2u^2\} \\ A_{2u+u^2} &= \{0, 2u^2, 2u + u^2, 2u + 3u^2\} \\ A_{2u,u^2} &= \{0, u^2, 2u^2, 3u^2, 2u, 2u + u^2, 2u + 2u^2, 2u + 3u^2\} \\ A_2 &= \{0, 2, 2u, 2u^2, 2 + 2u, 2 + 2u^2, 2u + 2u^2, 2 + 2u + 2u^2\} \\ A_{2+u^2} &= \{0, 2u, 2u^2, 2u + 2u^2, 2 + u^2, 2 + 3u^2, 2 + 2u + u^2, 2 + 2u + 3u^2\} \\ A_{2,u^2} &= \{0, 2, 2u, u^2, 2u^2, 3u^2, 2 + 2u, 2 + u^2, 2 + 2u^2, 2 + 3u^2, 2u + u^2, 2u + 2u^2, \\ &\quad 2u + 3u^2, 2 + 2u + u^2, 2 + 2u + 2u^2, 2 + 2u + 3u^2\} \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned}
 A_u &= \{0, u, 2u, 3u, u^2, 2u^2, 3u^2, u + u^2, u + 2u^2, u + 3u^2, 2u + u^2, 2u + 2u^2, \\
 &\quad 2u + 3u^2, 3u + u^2, 3u + 2u^2, 3u + 3u^2\} \\
 A_{2+u} &= \{0, 2u, u^2, 2u^2, 3u^2, 2 + u, 2 + 3u, 2u + u^2, 2u + 2u^2, 2u + 3u^2, 2 + u + u^2, \\
 &\quad 2 + u + 2u^2, 2 + u + 3u^2, 2 + 3u + u^2, 2 + 3u + 2u^2, 2 + 3u + 3u^2\} \\
 A_{2,u} &= \{0, 2, u, 2u, 3u, u^2, 2u^2, 3u^2, 2 + u, 2 + 2u, 2 + 3u, 2 + u^2, 2 + 2u^2, 2 + 3u^2, \\
 &\quad u + u^2, u + 2u^2, u + 3u^2, 2u + u^2, 2u + 2u^2, 2u + 3u^2, 3u + u^2, 3u + 2u^2, \\
 &\quad 3u + 3u^2, 2 + u + u^2, 2 + u + 2u^2, 2 + u + 3u, 2 + 2u + u^2, 2 + 2u + 2u^2, \\
 &\quad 2 + 2u + 3u^2, 2 + 3u + u^2, 2 + 3u + 2u^2, 2 + 3u + 3u^2\}.
 \end{aligned}$$

The ring R is a finite local ring with $A_{2,u}$ as its unique maximal ideal (as it contains all the non-zero divisors of R). The residue field of R is $\mathcal{K} = R/A_{2,u} = \{0 + A_{2,u}, 1 + A_{2,u}\} \cong \mathbb{Z}_2$. Let $p(x)$ be a monic basic irreducible polynomial of degree m in $R[x]$, then the Galois ring extension over R is defined by the residue class ring $Q_m = R[x]/(p(x))$ having 64^m elements.

The triplet of nucleotides called **codons** is the basic coding unit for amino acids during the protein synthesis in living organisms. Since the ring R has 64 elements, then it is convenient to describe a one-to-one correspondence between the elements of R and the codons. In the following table, we give a one-to-one correspondence between the elements of R , the elements of \mathbb{Z}_4^3 and the codons. The one-to-one correspondence, called Gray map between the rings R and \mathbb{Z}_4^3 is defined as $\psi : R \rightarrow \mathbb{Z}_4^3$ with $(a + ub + u^2c) \mapsto (a, b, c)$, where $a, b, c \in \mathbb{Z}_4$. Another important one-to-one correspondence between the elements of \mathbb{Z}_4^3 and D^3 is denoted by $\phi : \mathbb{Z}_4^3 \rightarrow D^3$, where D denotes the set of all nucleotides. The full names of codons have been taken from http://www.hgmd.cf.ac.uk/docs/cd_amino.html.

Table 1. Correspondence between elements of R , \mathbb{Z}_4^3 and Codons

| $a \in R$ | $\psi(a) \in \mathbb{Z}_4^3$ | $\phi(a) \in D^3$ | Full Name of Codons |
|-------------|------------------------------|-------------------|-----------------------------|
| 0 | (0, 0, 0) | GTG | Valine |
| u | (0, 1, 0) | CCG | Alanine |
| $u+u^2$ | (0, 1, 1) | CGA | Arginine |
| $u+2u^2$ | (0, 1, 2) | CAA | Glutamine |
| $u+3u^2$ | (0, 1, 3) | TAG | Termination (amber) |
| $2u+u^2$ | (0, 2, 1) | CAT | Histidine |
| $2u+2u^2$ | (0, 2, 2) | CTC | Serine |
| $2u+3u^2$ | (0, 2, 3) | ATA | Isoleucine |
| $3u+u^2$ | (0, 3, 1) | GCG | Alanine |
| $3u+2u^2$ | (0, 3, 2) | TCG | Serine |
| $3u+3u^2$ | (0, 3, 3) | TAA | Termination (ochre) |
| 1 | (1, 0, 0) | GGC | Arginine |
| $1+u$ | (1, 1, 0) | TGA | Termination (opal or umber) |
| $1+u+u^2$ | (1, 1, 1) | GGG | Glycine |
| $1+u+2u^2$ | (1, 1, 2) | GCA | Alanine |
| $1+u+3u^2$ | (1, 1, 3) | GAA | Glutamate |
| $1+2u$ | (1, 2, 0) | CCA | Proline |
| $1+2u+u^2$ | (1, 2, 1) | TTT | Phenylalanine |
| $1+2u+2u^2$ | (1, 2, 2) | CCT | Proline |
| $1+2u+3u^2$ | (1, 2, 3) | AGG | Arginine |
| $1+3u$ | (1, 3, 0) | TGG | Tryptophan |
| $1+3u+u^2$ | (1, 3, 1) | TTA | Leucine |
| $1+3u+2u^2$ | (1, 3, 2) | TAC | Tyrosine |
| $1+3u+3u^2$ | (1, 3, 3) | TGC | Cysteine |
| 2 | (2, 0, 0) | GAG | Arginine |
| $2u$ | (0, 2, 0) | ACA | Threonine |
| $2+u$ | (2, 1, 0) | AGC | Serine |
| $2+2u$ | (2, 2, 0) | AGA | Glutamate |

| | | | |
|-------------|-----------|-----|---------------|
| $2+u+u^2$ | (2, 1, 1) | ATT | Isoleucine |
| $2+u+2u^2$ | (2, 1, 2) | GAT | Aspartate |
| $2+u+3u^2$ | (2, 1, 3) | CGC | Arginine |
| $2+2u+u^2$ | (2, 2, 1) | CAG | Glutamine |
| $2+2u+2u^2$ | (2, 2, 2) | CAC | Histidine |
| $2+2u+3u^2$ | (2, 2, 3) | GAC | Aspartate |
| $2+3u$ | (2, 3, 0) | GTT | Valine |
| $2+3u+u^2$ | (2, 3, 1) | ATC | Isoleucine |
| $2+3u+2u^2$ | (2, 3, 2) | GGC | Glycine |
| $2+3u+3u^2$ | (2, 3, 3) | GCT | Valine |
| 3 | (3, 0, 0) | GGA | Glycine |
| $3u$ | (0, 3, 0) | CTA | Leucine |
| $3+u$ | (3, 1, 0) | ATG | Methionine |
| $3+u+u^2$ | (3, 1, 1) | ACG | Threonine |
| $3+u+2u^2$ | (3, 1, 2) | ACC | Threonine |
| $3+u+3u^2$ | (3, 1, 3) | AAT | Asparagine |
| $3+2u$ | (3, 2, 0) | TCA | Serine |
| $3+2u+u^2$ | (3, 2, 1) | AAG | Lysine |
| $3+2u+2u^2$ | (3, 2, 2) | CCG | Alanine |
| $3+2u+3u^2$ | (3, 2, 3) | TTG | Leucine |
| $3+3u$ | (3, 3, 0) | CGT | Arginine |
| $3+3u+u^2$ | (3, 3, 1) | CTT | Leucine |
| $3+3u+2u^2$ | (3, 3, 2) | ACT | Threonine |
| $3+3u+3u^2$ | (3, 3, 3) | CCC | Proline |
| $1+u^2$ | (1, 0, 1) | AAC | Asparagine |
| $1+2u^2$ | (1, 0, 2) | AGT | Serine |
| $1+3u^2$ | (1, 0, 3) | TTC | Phenylalanine |
| $2+u^2$ | (2, 0, 1) | TAT | Tyrosine |
| $2+2u^2$ | (2, 0, 2) | TGT | Cysteine |
| $2+3u^2$ | (2, 0, 3) | GTA | Valine |
| $3+u^2$ | (3, 0, 1) | TCC | Serine |
| $3+2u^2$ | (3, 0, 2) | GGT | Glycine |
| $3+3u^2$ | (3, 0, 3) | AAA | Lysine |
| u^2 | (0, 0, 1) | CTG | Leucine |
| $2u^2$ | (0, 0, 2) | TCT | Leucine |
| $3u^2$ | (0, 0, 3) | GTC | Valine |

Definition 2.1. Let $a, b \in \mathbb{Z}_4$, then we define a distance called **Gray distance** by $d_G(a, b) = d_H(\phi(a), \phi(b))$, where $\phi(a), \phi(b) \in D^3$. Note that it can be extended upto length n . Hence the map ϕ is a distance preserving map from (R^n, d_G) to (D^{3n}, d_H) .

Example 2.2. Let $a = 1 + u + u^2$ and $b = 2 + 2u + 2u^2$, then

$$d_G(a, b) = d_H(GGG, CAC) = 3.$$

Definition 2.3. If \mathcal{C} is invariant under the cyclic shift operator $\delta : R^n \rightarrow R^n$ given by $\delta(c_1, c_2, \dots, c_n) = (c_n, c_1, \dots, c_{n-1})$, then the code \mathcal{C} is called a **cyclic code** of length n .

Definition 2.4. Let \mathcal{C} be a code of arbitrary length n over any finite set \mathcal{A} . Then \mathcal{C} is called **reversible code** if it remains invariant under the reversal of each codeword, i.e., if $c = (c_1, c_2, \dots, c_n) \in \mathcal{C}$, then $c^R = (c_n, c_{n-1}, \dots, c_1) \in \mathcal{C}$.

While working with cyclic and reversible codes we need to deal with a polynomial called **self-reciprocal polynomial** defined in the following definition.

Definition 2.5. Let $p(x) = a_0 + a_1x + \dots + a_nx^n$ be a polynomial of degree n . The polynomial $g(x) = a_n + a_{n-1}x + \dots + a_0x^n$ is called **reciprocal polynomial** of $p(x)$. A polynomial $p(x)$ over R is said to be **self-reciprocal polynomial** if $p(x) = p^*(x)$, where $p^*(x) = x^n p(\frac{1}{x})$.

We follow the definition of a DNA code from [12]. A code C is called a *DNA code* if it satisfies some of the following properties:

- (i) The **Hamming distance constraint** is defined as $d_H(a, b) \geq d$ for all $a, b \in C$ and $a \neq b$ for some predefined distance d .
- (ii) The **reverse constraint** is defined as $d_H(a^R, b) \geq d$ for all $a, b \in C$ and $a \neq b$ for some predefined distance d and where a^R denotes the reverse sequence of alphabets in a .
- (iii) The **reverse complement constraint** is defined as $d_H(a^R, \bar{b}) \geq d$ for all $a, b \in C, a \neq b$ for some predefined distance d and where \bar{b} denotes a word in which each alphabet of b is replaced by its Watson-Crick complement. DNA code satisfying reverse complement constraint is called the reverse complement DNA code.
- (iv) The **fixed GC-content constraint** specifies that each codeword must have fixed number of G 's and C 's. Generally this fixed number is $\lfloor \frac{n}{2} \rfloor$ where n denotes the length of codewords.

Definition 2.6. Let C be a code of arbitrary length n over D . Then C is called **reverse complement code** if it contains both the reverse and the complement of every codeword in C , that is, if $(c_1, c_2, \dots, c_n) \in C$, then $(\bar{c}_n, \bar{c}_{n-1}, \dots, \bar{c}_1) \in C$.

It is interesting to observe that one-to-one correspondence we define is a customized gray map between the DNA codons and elements of the ring R . The elements of ideal A_2 correspond only to self reversible DNA codons. This map take care of GC content for the ideals A_{2u^2} and A_{2u} . The GC content is 30 to 50 percentage in these ideals. Further, the map satisfies the following property.

Lemma 2.7. Let $a \in R$, then $\bar{a} = a + 2(1 + u + u^2)$.

3. Cyclic DNA codes over R

In this section, we study the reverse and the reverse complement cyclic codes over R . For this, we will use the following Lemmas.

Lemma 3.1. [1] Let $p(x)$ and $q(x)$ be polynomials over \mathbb{Z}_4 with $\deg p(x) \geq \deg q(x)$. Then

- (i) $[p(x)q(x)]^* = p^*(x)q^*(x)$
- (ii) $[p(x) + q(x)]^* = p^*(x) + x^{\deg p(x) - \deg q(x)}q^*(x)$.

Lemma 3.2. [3] Let $C = \langle p(x) \rangle$ be a cyclic code of odd length n over \mathbb{Z}_4 ; where $p(x)$ is a monic polynomial of degree r over \mathbb{Z}_4 . Then C is reversible if and only if $p(x)$ is self reciprocal polynomial.

Now, we are able to prove the following result which will be useful thereafter.

Lemma 3.3. Let $p_1(x), p_2(x), \dots, p_r(x)$ be polynomials over \mathbb{Z}_4 with $\deg p_i(x) = k_i$ and $k_r \leq k_{r-1} \leq \dots \leq k_1$, then

- (i) $[p_1(x)p_2(x) \cdots p_r(x)]^* = p_1^*(x)p_2^*(x) \cdots p_r^*(x)$ and
- (ii) $[p_1(x) + p_2(x) + \cdots + p_r(x)]^* = p_1^*(x) + x^{k_1 - k_2}p_2^*(x) + \cdots + x^{k_1 - k_i}p_i^*(x) + \cdots + x^{k_1 - k_r}p_r^*(x)$.

Proof. We prove this by induction on r . By Lemma 3.1, this is true for $r = 2$. Let us assume that this is true for less than or equal to l , that is,

$$[p_1(x)p_2(x) \cdots p_l(x)]^* = p_1^*(x)p_2^*(x) \cdots p_l^*(x),$$

$$[p_1(x) + p_2(x) + \cdots + p_l(x)]^* = p_1^*(x) + x^{k_1 - k_2}p_2^*(x) + \cdots + x^{k_1 - k_l}p_l^*(x).$$

Now, we will check whether the hypothesis is true for $r = l + 1$. By using hypothesis for $r = 2$ and $r = l$ consecutively,

$$\begin{aligned} [p_1(x)p_2(x) \cdots p_l(x)p_{l+1}(x)]^* &= [p_1(x)p_2(x) \cdots p_l(x)]^* p_{l+1}^*(x) \\ &= p_1^*(x)p_2^*(x) \cdots p_{l+1}^*(x). \end{aligned}$$

Repeat the same process to prove the second identity.

$$\begin{aligned} [p_1(x) + p_2(x) + \cdots + p_{l+1}(x)]^* &= [p_1(x) + p_2(x) + \cdots + p_l(x)]^* + x^{(k_1 - k_{l+1})} p_{l+1}^*(x) \\ &= p_1^*(x) + x^{k_1 - k_2} p_2^*(x) + \cdots + x^{k_1 - k_l} p_l^*(x) + x^{(k_1 - k_{l+1})} p_{l+1}^*(x). \end{aligned}$$

Hence the induction hypothesis is true for $r = l + 1$. Therefore, by mathematical induction, the statement is true for all positive integer r . \square

Proposition 3.4. Let $p_i(x)$ and $q_i(x)$ be in $\mathbb{Z}_4[x]$ for $i = 1, 2$ and 3 . If the following equality holds

$$p_1(x) + up_2(x) + u^2p_3(x) = q_1(x) + uq_2(x) + u^2q_3(x), \tag{1}$$

then $p_i(x) = q_i(x)$ for $i = 1, 2$ and 3 .

Proof. Assume that equation (1) is true. Multiplying it by u^2 and using $u^3 = 0$, we have $u^2p_1(x) = u^2q_1(x)$. Therefore $p_1(x) = q_1(x)$, because $p_1(x), q_1(x) \in \mathbb{Z}_4[x]$.

Again multiplying (1) by u and substituting $p_1(x) = q_1(x)$, we get $u^2p_2(x) = u^2q_2(x)$ and hence $p_2(x) = q_2(x)$. Similarly, we get $p_3(x) = q_3(x)$. \square

Now, we study the reverse constraint of one generator cyclic code of odd length n over R . For this, first we need the following result which states one generator cyclic codes of odd length n over the ring R . This result with its proof can be found in [15].

Theorem 3.5. [15] Let \mathcal{C} be a cyclic code of odd length n over R . If $\mathcal{C} = \langle h_1(x) + ug_1(x) + u^2b_1(x), uh_2(x) + u^2b_2(x), u^2h_3(x) \rangle$ and $h_1(x)$ and $h_3(x)$ are equal, then

$$\mathcal{C} = \langle h_1(x) + ug_1(x) + u^2b_1(x) \rangle.$$

Definition 3.6. Let R be a ring and $p(x) \in R[x]$ is called **regular polynomial** if it is not a zero divisor in $R[x]$.

Theorem 3.7. Let \mathcal{C} be a cyclic code of odd length n over the ring R . Let $p(x)$ be a regular polynomial in $\mathbb{Z}_4[x]$ and $\mathcal{C} = \langle p(x) + uq(x) + u^2h(x) \rangle$ where $p(x), q(x)$ and $h(x)$ are in $\mathbb{Z}_4[x]$. If $\deg p(x) = r$, $\deg q(x) = s$ and $\deg h(x) = t$ with $r \geq s \geq t$, then \mathcal{C} is reversible if and only if

- (a) $p(x)$ is a self reciprocal polynomial.
- (b) (i) $x^{r-s}q^*(x) = q(x)$ and $x^{r-t}h^*(x) = h(x)$, or
- (ii) $x^{r-s}q^*(x) = p(x) + q(x)$ and $x^{r-t}h^*(x) = q(x) + h(x)$, or
- (iii) $x^{r-s}q^*(x) = p(x) + q(x)$ and $x^{r-t}h^*(x) = p(x) + q(x) + h(x)$, or
- (iv) $x^{r-s}q^*(x) = q(x)$ and $x^{r-t}h^*(x) = p(x) + h(x)$.

Proof. Let us assume that \mathcal{C} is a reversible code over R . Then $\mathcal{C} \bmod u = \langle p(x) \rangle$ is a reversible code over \mathbb{Z}_4 . Therefore, by Lemma 3.2 we have that $p(x)$ is a self reciprocal polynomial in $\mathbb{Z}_4[x]$.

Now, by Lemma 3.3 we have

$$\begin{aligned} [p(x) + uq(x) + u^2h(x)]^* &= p^*(x) + ux^{r-s}q^*(x) + u^2x^{r-t}h^*(x) \\ &= p(x) + ux^{r-s}q^*(x) + u^2x^{r-t}h^*(x) \\ &= (p(x) + uq(x) + u^2h(x))k(x) \in \mathcal{C}. \end{aligned}$$

Since the degrees of both sides are the same, we have $k(x)$ is a constant in R , i.e., $k = k_1 + uk_2 + u^2k_3$ and hence

$$\begin{aligned} p(x) + ux^{r-s}q^*(x) + u^2x^{r-t}h^*(x) &= (p(x) + uq(x) + u^2h(x))k \\ &= (p(x) + uq(x) + u^2h(x))(k_1 + uk_2 + u^2k_3) \\ &= p(x)k_1 + u(p(x)k_2 + q(x)k_1) + u^2(p(x)k_3 + q(x)k_2 + h(x)k_1) \quad (2) \end{aligned}$$

Now by Proposition 3.4, we get $k_1 = 1$ and each k_2 and k_3 have 4 possibilities. Therefore, we have 16 possible cases, i.e., conditions for $k = 1, 1 + u, 1 + 2u, 1 + 3u, 1 + u + u^2, 1 + u + 2u^2, 1 + u + 3u^2, 1 + 2u + u^2, 1 + 2u + 2u^2, 1 + 2u + 3u^2, 1 + 3u + u^2, 1 + 3u + 2u^2, 1 + 3u + 3u^2, 1 + u^2, 1 + 2u^2, 1 + 3u^2$. We have investigated all these cases by substituting values of k in (2). Then we get the following summarized results:

| Constant k | Conditions Obtained |
|---------------------|---|
| $k = 1$ | $x^{r-s}q^*(x) = q(x)$ and $x^{r-t}h^*(x) = h(x)$ |
| $k = 1 + u$ | $x^{r-s}q^*(x) = p(x) + q(x)$ and $x^{r-t}h^*(x) = q(x) + h(x)$ |
| $k = 1 + 2u$ | $2x^{r-s}q^*(x) = 2q(x)$ and $2x^{r-t}h^*(x) = 2h(x)$ |
| $k = 1 + 3u$ | $2x^{r-s}q^*(x) = 2p(x) + 2q(x)$ and $2x^{r-t}h^*(x) = 2q(x) + 2h(x)$ |
| $k = 1 + u + u^2$ | $x^{r-s}q^*(x) = p(x) + q(x)$ and $x^{r-t}h^*(x) = p(x) + q(x) + h(x)$ |
| $k = 1 + u + 2u^2$ | $2x^{r-s}q^*(x) = 2p(x) + 2q(x)$ and $2x^{r-t}h^*(x) = 2q(x) + 2h(x)$ |
| $k = 1 + u + 3u^2$ | $x^{r-s}q^*(x) = p(x) + q(x)$ and $2x^{r-t}h^*(x) = 2p(x) + 2q(x) + 2h(x)$ |
| $k = 1 + 2u + u^2$ | $2x^{r-s}q^*(x) = 2q(x)$ and $2x^{r-t}h^*(x) = 2p(x) + 2h(x)$ |
| $k = 1 + 2u + 2u^2$ | $2x^{r-s}q^*(x) = 2q(x)$ and $2x^{r-t}h^*(x) = 2h(x)$ |
| $k = 1 + 2u + 3u^2$ | $2x^{r-s}q^*(x) = 2q(x)$ and $2x^{r-t}h^*(x) = 2p(x) + 2h(x)$ |
| $k = 1 + 3u + u^2$ | $2x^{r-s}q^*(x) = 2p(x) + 2q(x)$ and $2x^{r-t}h^*(x) = 2p(x) + 2q(x) + 2h(x)$ |
| $k = 1 + 3u + 2u^2$ | $2x^{r-s}q^*(x) = 2p(x) + 2q(x)$ and $2x^{r-t}h^*(x) = 2q(x) + 2h(x)$ |
| $k = 1 + 3u + 3u^2$ | $2x^{r-s}q^*(x) = 2p(x) + 2q(x)$ and $2x^{r-t}h^*(x) = 2p(x) + 2q(x) + 2h(x)$ |
| $k = 1 + u^2$ | $x^{r-s}q^*(x) = q(x)$ and $x^{r-t}h^*(x) = p(x) + h(x)$ |
| $k = 1 + 2u^2$ | $x^{r-s}q^*(x) = q(x)$ and $2x^{r-t}h^*(x) = 2h(x)$ |
| $k = 1 + 3u^2$ | $x^{r-s}q^*(x) = q(x)$ and $2x^{r-t}h^*(x) = 2p(x) + 2h(x)$ |

From the above table, we can observe that there are 12 similar cases. Therefore, we can reduce above conditions into following four cases.

- (i) $x^{r-s}q^*(x) = q(x)$ and $x^{r-t}h^*(x) = h(x)$, or
- (ii) $x^{r-s}q^*(x) = p(x) + q(x)$ and $x^{r-t}h^*(x) = q(x) + h(x)$, or
- (iii) $x^{r-s}q^*(x) = p(x) + q(x)$ and $x^{r-t}h^*(x) = p(x) + q(x) + h(x)$, or
- (iv) $x^{r-s}q^*(x) = q(x)$ and $x^{r-t}h^*(x) = p(x) + h(x)$.

For the converse part, let us assume that the hypothesis is true. Since \mathcal{C} is a cyclic code over R , it is enough to show that $[p(x) + uq(x) + u^2h(x)]^*$ belong to \mathcal{C} .

$$\begin{aligned} [p(x) + uq(x) + u^2h(x)]^* &= p^*(x) + ux^{r-s}q^*(x) + u^2x^{r-t}h^*(x) \\ &= p(x) + ux^{r-s}q^*(x) + u^2x^{r-t}h^*(x). \end{aligned}$$

Now using conditions in the hypothesis, we have

$$[p(x) + uq(x) + u^2h(x)]^* = (p(x) + uq(x) + u^2h(x))k \in \mathcal{C}$$

where the constant $k \in \{1, 1 + u, 1 + 2u, 1 + 3u, 1 + u + u^2, 1 + u + 2u^2, 1 + u + 3u^2, 1 + 2u + u^2, 1 + 2u + 2u^2, 1 + 2u + 3u^2, 1 + 3u + u^2, 1 + 3u + 2u^2, 1 + 3u + 3u^2, 1 + u^2, 1 + 2u^2, 1 + 3u^2\} \subseteq R$. Therefore, \mathcal{C} is a reversible cyclic code in $R[x]$. □

By using Table 1 and Lemma 2.7, we have the following result.

Theorem 3.8. *Let $\mathcal{C} = \langle p(x) + uq(x) + u^2h(x) \rangle$ be a cyclic code over R where $p(x), q(x), h(x) \in \mathbb{Z}_4[x]$. If $\deg p(x) = r, \deg q(x) = s$ and $\deg h(x) = t$ with $r \geq s \geq t$, then \mathcal{C} is a reverse complement code if and only if*

1. the element $\frac{2(1+u+u^2)(x^n-1)}{(x-1)} \in \mathcal{C}$ and
2. the cyclic code \mathcal{C} is reversible.

Proof. Let \mathcal{C} be the code satisfying the hypothesis. Let $c(x) = c_0 + c_1x + \dots + c_kx^k \in \mathcal{C}$. Since \mathcal{C} is reversible, $c^*(x) = c_k + c_{k-1}x + \dots + c_0x^k \in \mathcal{C}$. As \mathcal{C} is an ideal of $\frac{R[x]}{\langle x^n-1 \rangle}$, so $x^{n-k-1}c^*(x) = c_kx^{n-k-1} + c_{k-1}x^{n-k} + \dots + c_0x^{n-1}$ belongs to \mathcal{C} . By hypothesis $2(1 + u + u^2)\frac{(x^n-1)}{(x-1)} \in \mathcal{C}$, therefore $2(1 + u + u^2)\frac{(x^n-1)}{(x-1)} + x^{n-k-1}c^*(x) \in \mathcal{C}$. Then

$$\begin{aligned} 2(1 + u + u^2)\frac{(x^n - 1)}{(x - 1)} + x^{n-k-1}c^*(x) &= 2(1 + u + u^2)(1 + x + x^2 + \dots + x^{n-k-2}) \\ &\quad + (c_k + 2(1 + u + u^2))x^{n-k-1} + \dots \\ &\quad + (c_0 + 2(1 + u + u^2))x^{n-1} \\ &= 2(1 + u + u^2)(1 + x + x^2 + \dots + x^{n-k-2}) \\ &\quad + \overline{c_k}x^{n-k-1} + \overline{c_{k-1}}x^{n-k} + \dots + \overline{c_0}x^{n-1} \\ 2(1 + u + u^2)\frac{(x^n - 1)}{(x - 1)} + x^{n-k-1}c^*(x) &= \overline{c^*(x)}. \end{aligned} \quad \text{(using Lemma(2.7))}$$

Hence, we conclude that \mathcal{C} is a reverse complement code.

Conversely, we assume that \mathcal{C} is a reverse complement code, i.e., if $c(x) \in \mathcal{C}$, then $\overline{c^*(x)} \in \mathcal{C}$. First we observe that since \mathcal{C} is linear this implies that the element $a(x) = 0 \in \mathcal{C}$ and therefore

$$\overline{a(x)} = 2(1 + u + u^2)(1 + x + \dots + x^{n-1}) = 2(1 + u + u^2)\frac{(x^n - 1)}{(x - 1)} \in \mathcal{C}.$$

Now, let $c(x) = c_0 + c_1x + \dots + c_kx^k \in \mathcal{C}$, then

$$\begin{aligned} \overline{c^*(x)} &= 2(1 + u + u^2)(1 + x + \dots + x^{n-k-2}) + x^{n-k-1}\overline{c_k} + \dots + \overline{c_0} \\ &= 2(1 + u + u^2)(1 + x + \dots + x^{n-k-2}) + x^{n-k-1}(c_k + 2(1 + u + u^2)) + \\ &\quad \dots + (c_0 + 2(1 + u + u^2))x^{n-1} \end{aligned}$$

Adding $2(1 + u + u^2)\frac{(x^n-1)}{(x-1)}$ to the above equation, we get

$$\begin{aligned} \overline{c^*(x)} + 2(1 + u + u^2)\frac{(x^n - 1)}{(x - 1)} &= c_kx^{n-k-1} + c_{k-1}x^{n-k} + \dots + c_0x^{n-1} \\ &= x^{n-k-1}(c_k + c_{k-1}x + \dots + c_0x^k) \end{aligned}$$

Multiplying both side by x^{k+1} , we get

$$x^{k+1}\overline{c^*(x)} + 2(1 + u + u^2)\frac{(x^n - 1)}{(x - 1)} = c_k + c_{k-1}x + \dots + c_0x^k = c^*(x).$$

Thus, we have \mathcal{C} is reversible code. □

Theorem 3.9. Let C be a cyclic code of odd length n which satisfies the conditions of Theorem 3.8, then C is a DNA code.

Proof. Combining the proof of Theorem 3.7 and Theorem 3.8, we get the result. □

Example 3.10. Let $x = (2u + 2u^2, 2 + 2u^2, 2 + 2u)$ and $y = (2 + 2u, 2 + 2u^2, 2u + 2u^2)$. We define a code C consisting of all cyclic shifts and linear combinations of the vectors x and y over R . Thus we obtain corresponding DNA code of parameters $(9, 32, 4)$ as follows,

```
CTCTGTAGA GAGCACGAG CACGAGGAG CTCCTCGTG
GTGGTGGTG AGATGTCTC TCTACAGAG CACCACCAC
GTGCTCCTC GAGGAGCAC CTCGTGCTC GAGACATCT
ACAGAGTCT CTCAGATGT AGAGTGAGA CACTCTTCT
TCTTCTCAC TGTGTGTGT TCTGAGACA GTGTGTTGT
TGTAGACTC ACAACACAC TGTGTGAG ACATCTGAG
CACACAACA AGACTCTGT ACACACACA AGAAGAGTG
GTGAGAAGA TCTCACTCT GAGTCTACA TGTCTCAGA
```

Example 3.11. Let $x = (2, 2 + 2u, 2u, 2 + 2u + 2u^2)$, then we define a code generated by a generator matrix consisting of the cyclic shifts of the vector x over R . Thus, we have a DNA code of parameters $(12, 16, 6)$ as follows,

```
TGTGTGACAGTG TGTGTACAACA GTGGTGGTGGTG GTGTGTGTGACA
TGTACAACATGT TGTCACACACAC GTGACAGTGTGT GTGCACGTGCAC
CACGTGCACGTG CACTGTACACA ACAGTGTGTGTG ACATGTTGTACA
CACACACACTGT CACCACCACCAC ACAACATGTTGT ACACACTGTAC
```

4. Binary image of elements in R

In this section, we define binary images of elements of the ring R which will be useful for DNA computing. An element in the ring R is of the form $a + ub + u^2c$; where $a, b, c \in \mathbb{Z}_4$. Now, we can define a map between R and \mathbb{Z}_2 . A one-to-one correspondence between R and \mathbb{Z}_4^3 is defined as $\psi : R \rightarrow \mathbb{Z}_4^3$ with $(a + ub + u^2c) \mapsto (a, b, c)$ where $a, b, c \in \mathbb{Z}_4$.

We define a Gray map $\varphi : \mathbb{Z}_4 \rightarrow \mathbb{Z}_2^2$ using 2-adic expansion of elements in \mathbb{Z}_4 which are as follows:

| c | $\pi(c)$ | $\rho(c)$ | $v(c)$ |
|-----|----------|-----------|--------|
| 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 1 | 1 | 0 | 1 |
| 2 | 0 | 1 | 1 |
| 3 | 1 | 1 | 0 |

We have $\varphi(c) = (\rho(c), v(c))$ for all $c \in \mathbb{Z}_4$ (as in [13]). Therefore,

$$0 \rightarrow 00, 1 \rightarrow 01, 2 \rightarrow 11, 3 \rightarrow 10.$$

For any $v \in \mathbb{Z}_4$, the Lee weight $w_L(v)$ is defined as $\min(v, 4 - v)$. This Lee weight can be extended to the ring R as follow: for $x = a + ub + u^2c$ Lee weight of x is defined as $w_L(x) = w_L(a, b, c)$. The Hamming distance $d_H(c_1, c_2)$ between two codewords c_1 and c_2 is the Hamming weight of the codeword $w_H(c_1 - c_2)$ that is the number of non zero element in $(c_1 - c_2)$. Define $\chi : R \rightarrow \mathbb{Z}_2^6$ by $\chi(a + ub + u^2c) = (\rho(a), v(a), \rho(b), v(b), \rho(c), v(c))$. The map χ is clearly a linear map.

Lemma 4.1. The Gray map from R^n to \mathbb{Z}_2^{6n} is a distance preserving map.

Proof. Let x_1, x_2 be two elements of R^n . Then $d_L(x_1, x_2) = w_L(x_1 - x_2)$. Since the map is bijective, we have $w_L(x_1 - x_2) = w_H(\chi(x_1 - x_2)) = w_H(\chi(x_1) - \chi(x_2))$. Therefore, the Gray map χ is distance preserving. \square

Given an element c of length n in a cyclic code \mathcal{C} . If the cyclic shift $\delta(c) \in \mathcal{C}$ then $\psi(\delta(\mathcal{C}))$ will be quasi cyclic code of length $3n$ with index 3 over \mathbb{Z}_4^{3n} . Then it can be easily seen that $\varphi(\psi(\delta(c)))$ satisfies quasi cyclic shift of length $6n$ with index 6 over \mathbb{Z}_2^{6n} . Thus we have the following theorem.

Theorem 4.2. *If \mathcal{C} is a cyclic code of length n , then its image is a quasi cyclic code of length $6n$ and with index 6 over \mathbb{Z}_2 .*

5. Skew cyclic codes over R

Let θ be a non-trivial automorphism defined by $\theta : R \rightarrow R$ such that $(a + ub + u^2c) \mapsto a - ub + u^2c$. The order of θ is 2 that is $\theta(\theta(a + ub + u^2c)) = a + ub + u^2c$. The ring $R[x, \theta] = \{a_0 + a_1x + a_2x^2 + \dots + a_{n-1}x^{n-1} : a_i \in R, n \in \mathbb{N}\}$, a non commutative ring with usual addition and multiplication defined as $ax^i \cdot bx^j = a\theta^i(b)x^{i+j}$ is called skew polynomial ring.

Definition 5.1. *A set \mathcal{C} of codewords over R^n is skew cyclic code if it satisfies the following*

- (i) \mathcal{C} is a submodule over R .
- (ii) Whenever $(c_0, c_1, \dots, c_{n-1}) \in \mathcal{C}$ then $(\theta(c_{n-1}), \theta(c_0), \dots, \theta(c_{n-2})) \in \mathcal{C}$.

Let $p(x) + \langle x^n - 1 \rangle \in R_\theta = R[x, \theta]/\langle x^n - 1 \rangle$ and $r(x) \in R[x, \theta]$, then define multiplication as $r(x)(p(x) + \langle x^n - 1 \rangle) = r(x)p(x) + \langle x^n - 1 \rangle$, for any $r(x) \in R[x, \theta]$. Clearly R_θ is left $R[x, \theta]$ -module.

Theorem 5.2. *A code \mathcal{C} over R is a skew cyclic code of length n if and only if \mathcal{C} is left ideal of $R[x, \theta]$ -module R_θ^n .*

Proof. The proof is same as the proof of [7, Theorem 1]. \square

Theorem 5.3. *Let \mathcal{C} be a skew cyclic code of length n over R . If \mathcal{C} contains a monic polynomial of minimal degree $p(x)$, then $\mathcal{C} = \langle p(x) \rangle$, where $p(x)$ is a right divisor of $x^n - 1$.*

Proof. The proof is same as the proof of [7, Lemma 1]]. \square

Now, we will introduce reverse complement skew cyclic codes over R . For this we have to notice that the multiplication over $R[x, \theta]$ is not commutative therefore we need to see things differently. Let $c = (c_0, c_1, \dots, c_{n-1})$ be in $R[x, \theta]$ then reversal of c denoted by c^R is given by $c^R = (c_{n-1}, c_{n-2}, \dots, c_0)$.

$$\begin{aligned} c(x^{-1}) \cdot x^{n-1} &= (c_0 + c_1x^{-1} + \dots + c_{n-1}x^{-n+1}) \cdot x^{n-1} \\ &= c_0 \cdot x^{n-1} + c_1x^{-1} \cdot x^{n-1} + \dots + c_{n-1}x^{-n+1} \cdot x^{n-1} \\ &= c_0\theta^0(1)x^{n-1} + c_1\theta^{-1}x^{n-1-1} + \dots + c_{n-1}\theta^{-n+1}x^{-n+1+n-1} \\ &= c_0x^{n-1} + c_1x^{n-2} + \dots + c_{n-1} = c^R \end{aligned}$$

As θ is an automorphism we have $\theta(1) = 1$ and $\theta^r(1) = 1$ for all $r \in \mathbb{Z}$. Note that the reciprocal polynomial $c^*(x)$ and $c^R(x)$ are different due to the operations on them. Also see $(p(x) \cdot q(x))^R \neq p^R(x) \cdot q^R(x)$ as in Lemma 3.3. If $p^R(x)$ coincide with $(rp^R(x))$, then $p(x)$ is called self reciprocal polynomial where r is a constant in R .

Theorem 5.4. *Let $\mathcal{C} = \langle p(x) \rangle$ be a skew cyclic code of length n , where $p(x)$ is a monic polynomial. Then if \mathcal{C} is reverse complement cyclic code then $p(x)$ is a self reciprocal polynomial and $2(1 + u + u^2)(x^n - 1)/(x - 1) \in \mathcal{C}$.*

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