



Problem 10. «A fixed element»

A polynomial $f(X_1, \dots, X_n) \in \mathbb{F}_2[X_1, \dots, X_n]$ is called *reduced* if the degree of each X_i in f is at most 1. For $0 \leq r \leq n$, the r th order Reed – Muller code of length 2^n , denoted by $R(r, n)$, is the \mathbb{F}_2 -space of all reduced polynomials in X_1, \dots, X_n of total degree $\leq r$. We also define $R(-1, n) = \{0\}$.

The general linear group $GL(n, \mathbb{F}_2)$ acts on $R(r, n)$ naturally: Given $A \in GL(n, \mathbb{F}_2)$ and $f(X_1, \dots, X_n) \in R(r, n)$, Af is defined to be the reduced polynomial obtained from $f((X_1, \dots, X_n)A)$ by replacing each power X_i^k ($k \geq 2$) with X_i . Consequently, $GL(n, \mathbb{F}_2)$ acts on the quotient space $R(r, n)/R(r - 1, n)$.

Let $A \in GL(n, \mathbb{F}_2)$ be such that its characteristic polynomial is a primitive irreducible polynomial over \mathbb{F}_2 . Prove that the only element in $R(r, n)/R(r - 1, n)$, where $0 < r < n$, fixed by the action of A is 0.

