

**ELEC 6131: Error Detecting and Correcting Codes**  
**Lecture 6: Cyclic Codes**

**Cyclic codes:**

**Definition:** a linear block code is cyclic if a cycle shift of any codeword is another codeword.

The  $i$ th shift of  $\underline{v} = (v_0, v_1, \dots, v_{n-1})$  is:

$$\underline{v}^{(i)} = (v_{n-i}, v_{n-i+1}, \dots, v_{n-1}, v_0, v_1, \dots, v_{n-i-1}).$$

For example,  $\underline{v}^{(1)} = (v_{n-1}, v_0, v_1, \dots, v_{n-2})$  and  $\underline{v}^{(2)} = (v_{n-2}, v_{n-1}, v_0, v_1, \dots, v_{n-3})$ .

**Example:**

A (7, 4) cyclic code generated by  $g(X) = 1 + X + X^3$ .

Messages	Code vectors	Code polynomials
(0000)	0000000	$0 = 0 \cdot g(X)$
(1000)	1101000	$1 + X + X^3 = 1 \cdot g(X)$
(0100)	0110100	$X + X^2 + X^4 = X \cdot g(X)$
(1100)	1011100	$1 + X^2 + X^3 + X^4 = (1 + X) \cdot g(X)$
(0010)	0011010	$X^2 + X^3 + X^5 = X^2 \cdot g(X)$
(1010)	1110010	$1 + X + X^2 + X^5 = (1 + X^2) \cdot g(X)$
(0110)	0101110	$X + X^3 + X^4 + X^5 = (X + X^2) \cdot g(X)$
(1110)	1000110	$1 + X^4 + X^5 = (1 + X + X^2) \cdot g(X)$
(0001)	0001101	$X^3 + X^4 + X^6 = X^3 \cdot g(X)$
(1001)	1100101	$1 + X + X^4 + X^6 = (1 + X^3) \cdot g(X)$
(0101)	0111001	$X + X^2 + X^3 + X^6 = (X + X^3) \cdot g(X)$
(1101)	1010001	$1 + X^2 + X^6 = (1 + X + X^3) \cdot g(X)$
(0011)	0010111	$X^2 + X^4 + X^5 + X^6 = (X^2 + X^3) \cdot g(X)$
(1011)	1111111	$1 + X + X^2 + X^3 + X^4 + X^5 + X^6$ $= (1 + X^2 + X^3) \cdot g(X)$
(0111)	0100011	$X + X^5 + X^6 = (X + X^2 + X^3) \cdot g(X)$
(1111)	1001011	$1 + X^3 + X^5 + X^6$ $= (1 + X + X^2 + X^3) \cdot g(X)$

Let  $v(X) = v_0 + v_1X + v_2X^2 + \dots + v_{n-1}X^{n-1}$  be the polynomial representation of  $\underline{v}$ . Then,

$$v^{(i)}(X) = v_{n-i} + v_{n-i+1}X + \dots + v_{n-1}X^{i-1} + \cancel{v_0X^i} + \cancel{v_1X^{i+1}} + \dots + \cancel{v_{n-i-1}X^{n-1}}.$$

Multiply  $X^i$  by  $v(X)$ , i.e., shift  $\underline{v}$   $i$  times (linearly, not cyclically). Then,

$$X^i v(X) = \cancel{v_0X^i} + \cancel{v_1X^{i+1}} + \dots + \cancel{v_{n-i+1}X^{n-1}} + \dots + v_{n-1}X^{n+i-1}.$$

Add  $X^i v(X)$  and  $v^{(i)}(X)$ :

$$X^i v(X) + v^{(i)}(X) = v_{n-i} + v_{n-i+1}X + \cdots + v_{n-1}X^{i-1} + v_{n-i}X^n + v_{n-i+1}X^{n+1} + \cdots + v_{n-1}X^{n+i-1}$$

or:

$$X^i v(X) + v^{(i)}(X) = [v_{n-i} + v_{n-i+1}X + \cdots + v_{n-1}X^{i-1}](X^n + 1).$$

So:

$$X^i v(X) = q(X)[X^n + 1] + v^{(i)}(X).$$

That is, the  $i$ th cyclic shift of  $v(X)$  is generated by dividing  $X^i v(X)$  by  $X^n + 1$ .

**Theorem 1:** the non-zero code polynomial with minimum degree in a cyclic code  $C$  is unique.

**Proof:** let  $g(X) = g_0 + g_1X + \cdots + g_{r-1}X^{r-1} + X^r$  be the minimal degree code polynomial of  $C$ . Suppose there is another  $g'(X) = g'_0 + g'_1X + \cdots + g'_{r-1}X^{r-1} + X^r$ . Then,  $g(X) + g'(X)$  is another codeword in  $C$  with degree less than  $r$ .  $\Rightarrow$  contradiction.

**Theorem 2:** let  $g(X) = g_0 + g_1X + \cdots + g_{r-1}X^{r-1} + X^r$  be the minimum degree polynomial of a cyclic code  $C$ . Then,  $g_0 \neq 0$ .

**Proof:** if  $g_0 = 0$  then shifting  $g(X)$  once to the left (or  $n - 1$  times to right) results in  $g_1 + g_2X + \cdots + g_{r-1}X^{r-2} + X^{r-1}$  which has a degree  $< r \Rightarrow$  contradiction. So,  $g(X) = 1 + g_1X + \cdots + g_{r-1}X^{r-1} + X^r$ .

Let  $g(X)$  be the polynomial of minimum degree of a code  $C$ . Take  $g(X), Xg(X), X^2g(X), \dots, X^{n-r-1}g(X)$ . These are shifts of  $g(X)$  by  $0, 1, \dots, n - r - 1$ . So, they are codewords. Any linear combination of them is also a codeword. Therefore,

$$\begin{aligned} v(X) &= u_0g(X) + u_1Xg(X) + \cdots + u_{n-r-1}X^{n-r-1}g(X) \\ &= [u_0 + u_1X + \cdots + u_{n-r-1}X^{n-r-1}]g(X) \end{aligned}$$

is also a code.

**Theorem 3:** let  $g(X) = 1 + g_1X + \cdots + g_{r-1}X^{r-1} + X^r$  be the non-zero code polynomial of minimum degree of an  $(n, k)$  cyclic code  $C$ . A binary polynomial of degree  $n - 1$  or less is a code polynomial if and only if it is a multiple of  $g(X)$ .

**Proof:** let  $v(X)$  be a polynomial of degree  $n - 1$  or less such that:

$$v(X) = (a_0 + a_1X + \cdots + a_{n-r-1}X^{n-r-1})g(X).$$

Then,

$$v(X) = a_0g(X) + a_1Xg(X) + \cdots + a_{n-r-1}X^{n-r-1}g(X).$$

Since  $g(X), Xg(X), \dots$  are each codeword of  $C$  so is their sum  $v(X)$ .

Now assume  $v(X)$  be a code polynomial in  $C$ . Then write:

$$v(X) = a(X)g(X) + b(X)$$

i.e., divide  $v(X)$  by  $g(X)$  and get remainder  $b(X)$  and quotient  $a(X)$ .

$$b(X) = v(X) + a(X)g(X).$$

$v(X)$  is a codeword and so is  $a(X)g(X)$ . Therefore,  $b(X)$  is also a codeword. But degree of  $b(X)$  is less than  $r \Rightarrow$  contradiction unless if  $b(X) = 0$ .

The number of polynomials of degree  $n - 1$  or less that are multiple of  $g(X)$  is  $2^{n-r}$ . Due to 1-to-1 correspondence between these polynomials and the codewords (Theorem 3), we have  $2^{n-r} = 2^k \Rightarrow r = n - k$ .

**Theorem 4:** in an  $(n, k)$  cyclic code, there is one and only one code polynomial of degree  $n - k$ ,

$$g(X) = 1 + g_1X + g_2X^2 + \dots + g_{n-k-1}X^{n-k-1} + X^{n-k}.$$

Every code polynomial is a multiple of  $g(X)$ . Every binary polynomial of degree  $n - 1$  or less that is a multiple of  $g(X)$  is a code polynomial. So,

$$v(X) = u(X)g(X)$$

is a code polynomial, however, not in a systematic form.

To make code systematic, multiply the information polynomial  $u(X)$  by  $X^{n-k}$ . This means placing the  $k$  information bits at the head of the shift register (in  $k$  right-most Flip-Flops). Then,

$$u(X) = u_0 + u_1X + \dots + u_{k-1}X^{k-1}$$

will result in:

$$X^{n-k}u(X) = u_0X^{n-k} + u_1X^{n-k+1} + \dots + u_{k-1}X^{n-1}.$$

Now divide  $X^{n-k}u(X)$  by  $g(X)$  to get:

$$X^{n-k}u(X) = a(X)g(X) + b(X),$$

where  $b(X)$  is a polynomial of degree  $n - k - 1$  or less:

$$b(X) = b_0 + b_1X + \dots + b_{n-k-1}X^{n-k-1}$$

$$b(X) + X^{n-k}u(X) = a(X)g(X).$$

This means that  $b(X) + X^{n-k}u(X)$  is the representation of a codeword in systematic form, i.e.,

$$\begin{aligned} b(X) + X^{n-k}u(X) &= b_0 + b_1X + \dots + b_{n-k-1}X^{n-k-1} \\ &\quad + u_0X^{n-k} + u_1X^{n-k+1} + \dots + u_{k-1}X^{n-1} \end{aligned}$$

that represents

$$\underline{v} = (b_0, b_1, \dots, b_{n-k-1}, u_0, u_1, \dots, u_{k-1}).$$

**Example:** consider the (7, 4) cyclic code generated by  $g(X) = 1 + X + X^3$ . Let  $u(X) = 1 + X^3$ . Then,

- 1-  $X^3u(X) = X^3 + X^6$
- 2-

$$\begin{array}{r}
 X^3 + X \\
 \hline
 X^3 + X + 1 \overline{) X^6 + X^3} \\
 \underline{X^6 + X^4 + X^3} \phantom{0} \\
 X^4 \phantom{0} \\
 \underline{X^4 + X^2 + X} \phantom{0} \\
 X^2 + X \leftarrow b(X)
 \end{array}$$

- 3-  $v(X) = b(X) + X^3u(X) = X + X^2 + X^3 + X^6$  or  $\underline{v} = (0, 1, 1, 1, 0, 0, 1)$

A (7, 4) cyclic code in systematic form generated by  $g(X) = 1 + X + X^3$ .

Message	Codeword	
(0000)	(0000000)	$0 = 0 \cdot g(X)$
(1000)	(1101000)	$1 + X + X^3 = g(X)$
(0100)	(0110100)	$X + X^2 + X^4 = Xg(X)$
(1100)	(1011100)	$1 + X^2 + X^3 + X^4 = (1 + X)g(X)$
(0010)	(1110010)	$1 + X + X^2 + X^5 = (1 + X^2)g(X)$
(1010)	(0011010)	$X^2 + X^3 + X^5 = X^2g(X)$
(0110)	(1000110)	$1 + X^4 + X^5 = (1 + X + X^2)g(X)$
(1110)	(0101110)	$X + X^3 + X^4 + X^5 = (X + X^2)g(X)$
(0001)	(1010001)	$1 + X^2 + X^6 = (1 + X + X^3)g(X)$
(1001)	(0111001)	$X + X^2 + X^3 + X^6 = (X + X^3)g(X)$
(0101)	(1100101)	$1 + X + X^4 + X^6 = (1 + X^3)g(X)$
(1101)	(0001101)	$X^3 + X^4 + X^6 = X^3g(X)$
(0011)	(0100011)	$X + X^5 + X^6 = (X + X^2 + X^3)g(X)$
(1011)	(1001011)	$1 + X^3 + X^5 + X^6 = (1 + X + X^2 + X^3)g(X)$
(0111)	(0010111)	$X^2 + X^4 + X^5 + X^6 = (X^2 + X^3)g(X)$
(1111)	(1111111)	$1 + X + X^2 + X^3 + X^4 + X^5 + X^6$ $= (1 + X^2 + X^5)g(X)$

**Theorem 5:** the generator polynomial of an  $(n, k)$  code is a factor of  $X^n + 1$ .

**Proof:** divide  $X^k g(X)$  by  $X^n + 1$ .

$$X^k g(X) = (X^n + 1) + g^{(k)}(X) \text{ or } X^n + 1 = X^k g(X) + g^{(k)}(X)$$

$g^{(k)}(X)$  is a code polynomial. So,  $g^{(k)}(X) = a(X)b(X)$  for some  $a(X)$ . So,

$$X^n + 1 = [X^k + a(X)]g(X). \quad \text{QED}$$

**Theorem 6:** if  $g(X)$  is a polynomial of degree  $n - k$  and is a factor of  $X^n + 1$ . Then  $g(X)$  generates an  $(n, k)$  cyclic code.

**Proof:** let  $g(X), Xg(X), \dots, X^{k-1}g(X)$ . They are all polynomials of degree  $n - 1$  or less. A linear combination of them:

$$\begin{aligned} v(X) &= u_0g(X) + u_1Xg(X) + \dots + u_{k-1}X^{k-1}g(X) \\ &= [u_0 + u_1X + \dots + u_{k-1}X^{k-1}]g(X) \end{aligned}$$

is a code polynomial since  $u_i \in \{0, 1\}$ . Then  $v(X)$  will have  $2^k$  possibilities. These  $2^k$  polynomials form the  $2^k$  codewords of the  $(n, k)$  code.

**Generator polynomial of a cyclic code:**

$$\mathbf{G} = \begin{bmatrix} g_0 & g_1 & g_2 & \cdot & \cdot & \cdot & \cdot & \cdot & g_{n-k} & 0 & 0 & 0 & \cdot & \cdot & 0 \\ 0 & g_0 & g_1 & g_2 & \cdot & \cdot & \cdot & \cdot & \cdot & g_{n-k} & 0 & 0 & \cdot & \cdot & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & g_0 & g_1 & g_2 & \cdot & \cdot & \cdot & \cdot & \cdot & g_{n-k} & 0 & \cdot & \cdot & 0 \\ \cdot & \cdot & \cdot & \cdot & \cdot & \cdot & \cdot & \cdot & \cdot & \cdot & \cdot & \cdot & \cdot & \cdot & \cdot \\ \cdot & \cdot & \cdot & \cdot & \cdot & \cdot & \cdot & \cdot & \cdot & \cdot & \cdot & \cdot & \cdot & \cdot & \cdot \\ 0 & 0 & \cdot & \cdot & \cdot & 0 & g_0 & g_1 & g_2 & \cdot & \cdot & \cdot & \cdot & \cdot & g_{n-k} \end{bmatrix}$$

For example, for  $(7, 4)$  code with  $g(X) = 1 + X + X^3$ ,  $g_0 = g_1 = g_3 = 1$  and  $g_i = 0$  otherwise.

$$G = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 1 & 0 & 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 1 & 0 & 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & 1 & 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 & 1 & 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix}$$

This is not always in systematic form. We can make it into systematic form by row and column operations. For example, for the  $(7, 4)$  code:

$$G' = \begin{bmatrix} \underline{g_0} \\ \underline{g_1} \\ \underline{g_0} + \underline{g_2} \\ \underline{g_0} + \underline{g_1} + \underline{g_2} \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 1 & 0 & 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 1 & 0 & 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 1 & 1 & 1 & 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 1 & 0 & 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix}$$

**Parity check matrix of cyclic codes:**

We saw that  $g(X)$  divides  $X^n + 1$ . Write

$$X^n + 1 = g(X)h(X),$$

where  $h(X)$  is a polynomial of degree  $k$

$$h(X) = h_0 + h_1X + \dots + h_kX^k.$$

Consider a code polynomial  $v(X)$

$$\begin{aligned}
v(X)h(X) &= u(X)g(X)h(X) \\
&= u(X)(X^n + 1) \\
&= u(X)X^n + u(X).
\end{aligned}$$

Since  $u(X)$  has degree less than or equal to  $k - 1$ , so  $u(X)X^n + u(X)$  does not have  $X^k, X^{k+1}, \dots, X^{n-1}$ . That is coefficients of these powers of  $X$  are zero. So, we get  $n - k$  equalities:

$$\sum_{i=0}^k h_i v_{n-i-j} = 0 \text{ for } 1 \leq j \leq n - k.$$

So, we have  $H$  as:

$$\mathbf{H} = \begin{bmatrix} h_k & h_{k-1} & h_{k-2} & \cdot & \cdot & \cdot & \cdot & \cdot & h_0 & 0 & \cdot & \cdot & \cdot & \cdot & 0 \\ 0 & h_k & h_{k-1} & h_{k-2} & \cdot & \cdot & \cdot & \cdot & \cdot & h_0 & 0 & \cdot & \cdot & \cdot & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & h_k & h_{k-1} & h_{k-2} & \cdot & \cdot & \cdot & \cdot & \cdot & h_0 & \cdot & \cdot & \cdot & 0 \\ \vdots & & & & & & & & & & & & & & \vdots \\ 0 & 0 & \cdot & \cdot & \cdot & 0 & h_k & h_{k-1} & h_{k-2} & \cdot & \cdot & \cdot & \cdot & \cdot & h_0 \end{bmatrix}$$

**Theorem 7:** let  $g(X)$  be the generator polynomial of the  $(n, k)$  cyclic code  $C$ . The dual code of  $C$  is generated by  $X^k h(X^{-1})$  where  $h(X) = \frac{X^{n+1}}{g(X)}$ .

**Example:** consider  $(7, 4)$  code  $C$  with  $g(X) = 1 + X + X^3$ . The generator polynomial of  $C^t$  is  $X^4 h(X^{-1})$  where

$$h(X) = \frac{X^7 + 1}{1 + X + X^3} = 1 + X + X^2 + X^4.$$

That is, the generator of  $C^t$  is:

$$\begin{aligned}
X^4 h(X^{-1}) &= X^4(1 + X^{-1} + X^{-2} + X^{-4}) \\
&= 1 + X^2 + X^3 + X^4.
\end{aligned}$$

So,  $C^t$  is a  $(7, 3)$  code with  $d_{min} = 4$ . Therefore, it can correct any single error and detect any combination of double errors.

### Encoding of cyclic codes:

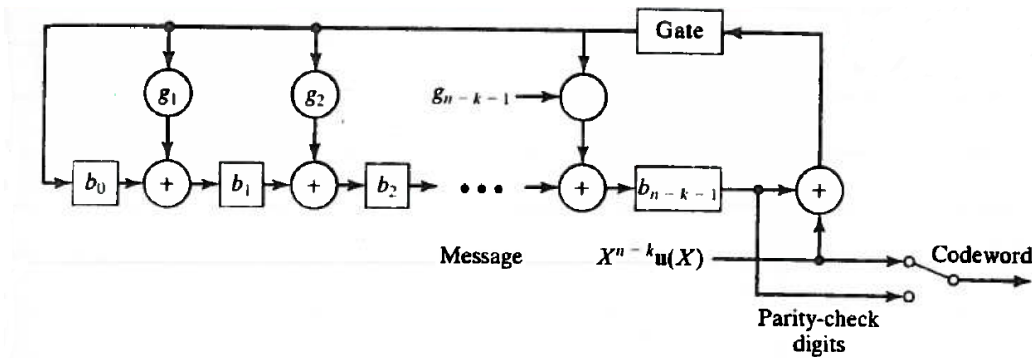
We saw that if we multiply the information polynomial by  $X^{n-k}$  and divide by  $g(X)$ , we get:

$$X^{n-1}u(X) = a(X)g(X) + b(X)$$

and

$$a(X)g(X) = b(X) + X^{n-1}u(X)$$

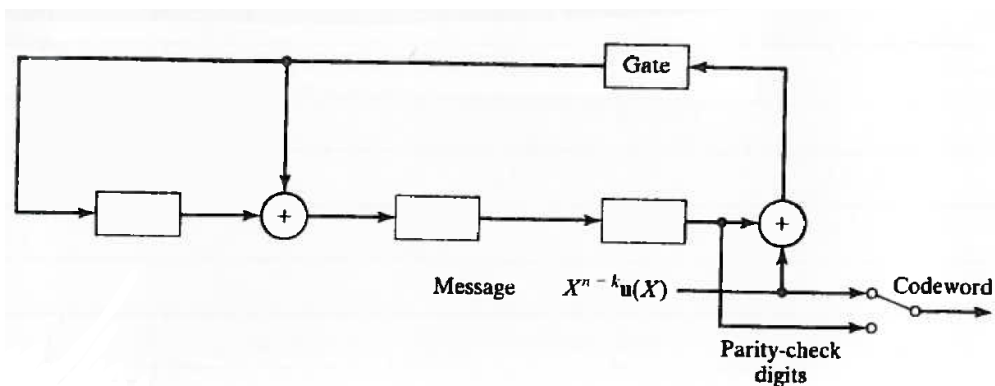
is a codeword in systematic form. The following circuit encodes  $u(X)$  based on the above discussion.



**Encoding circuit for an  $(n, k)$  cyclic code with generator polynomial  $g(X) = 1 + g_1X + g_2X^2 + \dots + g_{n-k-1}X^{n-k-1} + X^{n-k}$ .**

- 1) Close the gate and enter information bits in and also send them over channel. This does multiplication by  $X^{n-k}$  as well as parity bit generation.
- 2) Open the gate (break the feedback).
- 3) Output the  $n - k$  parity bits.

**Example:**  $(7, 4)$  code with  $g(X) = 1 + X + X^3$ .



**Encoder for the  $(7, 4)$  cyclic code generated by  $g(X) = 1 + X + X^3$ .**

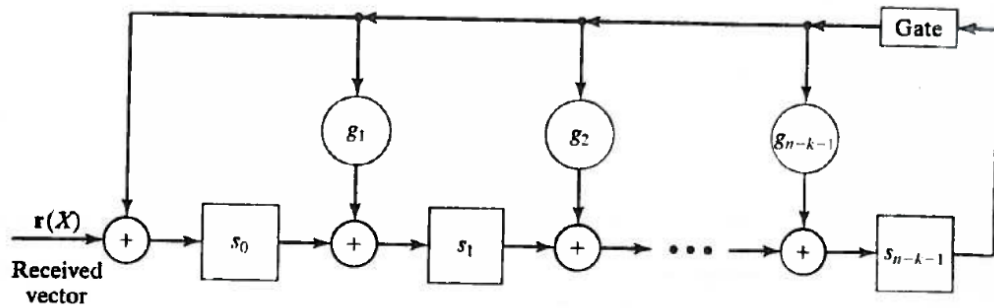
### Syndrome:

Assume  $r(X) = r_0 + r_1X + r_2X^2 + \dots + r_{n-1}X^{n-1}$  is the polynomial representing received bits. Divide  $r(X)$  by  $g(X)$  to get:

$$r(X) = a(X)g(X) + s(X).$$

$s(X)$  is a polynomial of degree  $n - k - 1$  or less. The  $n - k$  coefficients of  $s(X)$  are the syndromes.

**Theorem 8:** let  $s(X)$  be the syndrome of  $r(X) = r_0 + r_1X + \dots + r_{n-1}X^{n-1}$ . Then,  $s^{(i)}(X)$  resulting from dividing  $X^i s(X)$  by  $g(X)$  is the syndrome of  $r^{(i)}(X)$ .



An  $(n - k)$ -stage syndrome circuit with input from the left end.

Example of  $(7, 4)$  code:

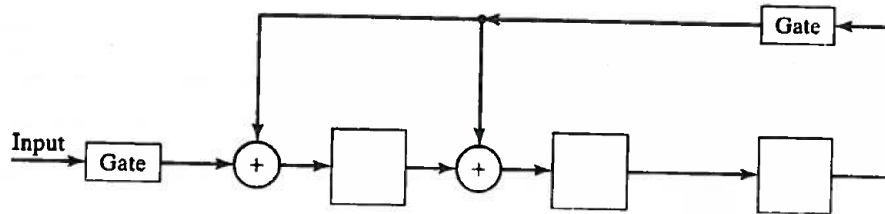


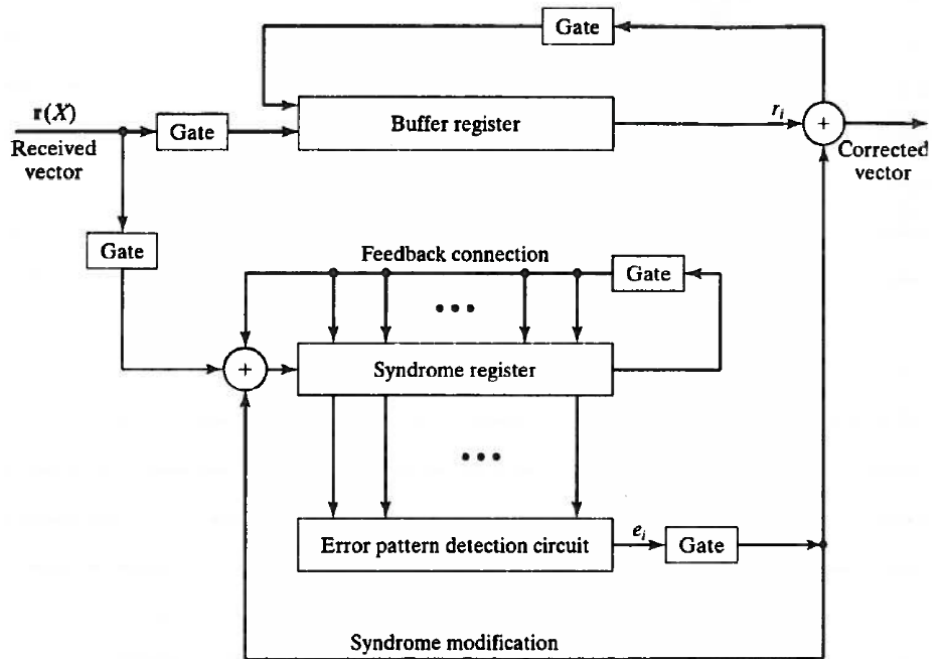
FIGURE 5.6: Syndrome circuit for the  $(7, 4)$  cyclic code generated by  $g(X) = 1 + X + X^3$ .

TABLE 5.3: Contents of the syndrome register shown in Figure 5.6 with  $r = (0010110)$  as input.

Shift	Input	Register contents
		000 (initial state)
1	0	000
2	1	100
3	1	110
4	0	011
5	1	011
6	0	111
7	0	101 (syndrome $s$ )
8	—	100 (syndrome $s^{(1)}$ )
9	—	010 (syndrome $s^{(2)}$ )

Decoding:





General cyclic code decoder with received polynomial  $r(X)$  shifted into the syndrome register from the left end.

Example of (7, 4) code:

Error patterns and their syndromes with the received polynomial  $r(X)$  shifted into the syndrome register from the left end.

Error pattern $e(X)$	Syndrome $s(X)$	Syndrome vector $(s_0, s_1, s_2)$
$e_6(X) = X^6$	$s(X) = 1 + X^2$	(1 0 1)
$e_5(X) = X^5$	$s(X) = 1 + X + X^2$	(1 1 1)
$e_4(X) = X^4$	$s(X) = X + X^2$	(0 1 1)
$e_3(X) = X^3$	$s(X) = 1 + X$	(1 1 0)
$e_2(X) = X^2$	$s(X) = X^2$	(0 0 1)
$e_1(X) = X^1$	$s(X) = X$	(0 1 0)
$e_0(X) = X^0$	$s(X) = 1$	(1 0 0)





2)  $b_i(X)$  has at least two terms. If it had one term:

$$\begin{aligned} X^{m+i} &= a_i(X)p(X) + X^j \\ \Rightarrow X^j(X^{m+i-j} + 1) &= a_i(X)p(X) \\ \Rightarrow p(X) \text{ divides } X^{m+i-j} + 1 &\text{ but } m+i-j < 2^m - 1 \\ &\Rightarrow \text{contradiction.} \end{aligned}$$

3) If  $i \neq j$ , then  $b_i(X) \neq b_j(X)$ . Let

$$\begin{aligned} X^{m+i} &= b_i(X) + a_i(X)p(X) \\ X^{m+j} &= b_j(X) + a_j(X)p(X). \end{aligned}$$

If  $b_i(X) = b_j(X)$ , then

$$X^{m+i}(X^{j-i} + 1) = [a_i(X) + a_j(X)]p(X),$$

i.e.,  $p(X)$  divides  $X^{j-i} + 1 \Rightarrow$  contradiction.

Let  $H = [I_m: Q]$  be the parity check matrix of this code.  $I_m$  is an  $m \times m$  identity matrix with  $Q$  an  $m \times (2^m - m - 1)$  matrix with  $\underline{b}_i = (b_{i0}, b_{i1}, \dots, b_{i,m-1})$  as its columns. Since no two columns of  $Q$  are the same and each have at least two 1's, then  $H$  is indeed a parity-check matrix of a Hamming code.

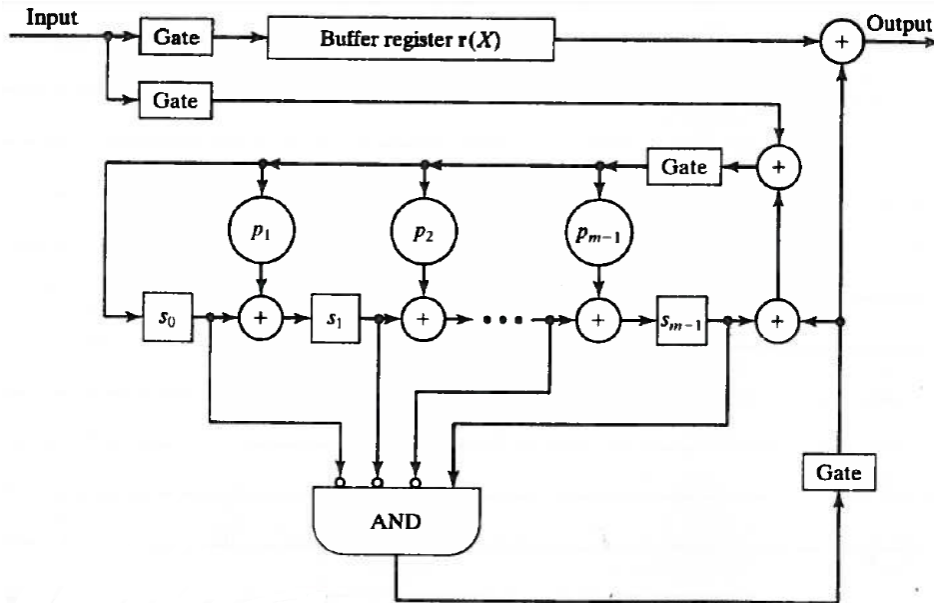
### Syndrome decoding of Hamming codes:

Assume that error is in location with highest order, i.e.,

$$e(X) = X^{2^m-2}.$$

Then, feeding  $r(X)$  from right to syndrome calculator is equivalent to dividing  $X^m \cdot X^{2^m-2}$  by the generator polynomial  $p(X)$ . Since  $p(X)$  divides  $X^{2^m-1} + 1$  then

$$s(X) = X^{m-1} \text{ or } \underline{s} = (0, 0, \dots, 0, 1).$$



Decoder for a cyclic Hamming code.