

Problem 2: Odd Sets Solution

Proof: $m \geq n$

Explanation: $S = \{1, 2, 3\}$, then all possible subsets are: $2^S = \{\{1, 2, 3\}, \{1, 2\}, \{1, 3\}, \{2, 3\}, \{1\}, \{2\}, \{3\}, \{\}\}$. One can see that $S_1 = \{1\}, S_2 = \{2\}, S_3 = \{3\}$ is the largest family of subsets, hence $m=3$.

For any set of n elements, we can take S_1, \dots, S_n as singleton sets. This is a valid distribution. So $m \geq n$.

Proof: $m \leq n$

Let S_1, \dots, S_m some distribution of subsets of S . Define the matrix over \mathbb{F}_2 :

$$A_{ij} = \begin{cases} 1 & \text{if } j \in C_i \\ 0 & \text{else} \end{cases}.$$

Note that the rank of A is at most n as we are working over \mathbb{F}_2 . Then take $B = A_{ij}A^T$. By the rules, we have

that $B = I_m$. We know that for the rank it holds:

$$\text{rank}(B) \leq \min(\text{rank}(A), \text{rank}(A^T)) = n$$

So $m \leq n$.