



## THE REMOTENESS OF THE PERMUTATION CODE OF THE GROUP $U_{6n}$

MASOOMEH YAZDANI-MOGHADDAM AND REZA KAHKESHANI\*

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ABSTRACT. Recently, a new parameter of a code, referred to as the remoteness, has been introduced. This parameter can be viewed as a dual to the covering radius. It is exactly determined for the cyclic and dihedral groups. In this paper, we consider the group  $U_{6n}$  as a subgroup of  $S_{2n+3}$  and obtain its remoteness. We show that the remoteness of the permutation code  $U_{6n}$  is  $2n + 2$ . Moreover, it is proved that the covering radius of  $U_{6n}$  is also  $2n + 2$ .

### 1. INTRODUCTION

Let  $S_n$  be the symmetric group acting on the set  $\{1, \dots, n\}$ . We can consider any element  $\sigma \in S_n$  in the list form  $\sigma(1) \sigma(2) \cdots \sigma(n)$ . The distance between any two elements  $\sigma$  and  $\tau$  of  $S_n$ , called the Hamming distance, is given by

$$d(\sigma, \tau) = |\{1 \leq i \leq n \mid \sigma(i) \neq \tau(i)\}|.$$

It follows that  $d$  is a metric on  $S_n$  such that  $0 \leq d(\sigma, \tau) \leq n$  and  $d(\sigma, \tau) \neq 1$ . This metric, as we know, was first considered by Farahat [7]. The function  $d$  is invariant under left and right translation, i.e.,  $d(\sigma, \tau) = d(v\sigma, v\tau) = d(\sigma v, \tau v)$  for any  $\sigma, \tau, v \in S_n$ . Denote by  $\text{Fix}(\sigma)$  the set of the fixed points of

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\*Corresponding author

$\sigma$ . Thus,  $d(\sigma, \tau) = n - |\text{Fix}(\sigma\tau^{-1})|$ . The weight  $\text{wt}(\sigma)$  of a permutation  $\sigma$  is defined to be the number of non-fixed points of  $\sigma$ , i.e.,  $\text{wt}(\sigma) = d(1, \sigma)$ , where  $1$  is the identity permutation. Any nonempty subset  $\mathcal{C} \subseteq S_n$  is said to be a permutation code of length  $n$  over  $\{1, 2, \dots, n\}$ . The elements of  $\mathcal{C}$  are called codewords. The minimum distance  $d(\mathcal{C})$  of  $\mathcal{C}$  is the minimum distance between any two distinct codewords in  $\mathcal{C}$ , i.e.,  $d(\mathcal{C}) = \min_{\sigma \neq \tau \in \mathcal{C}} d(\sigma, \tau)$ . When  $\mathcal{C}$  is a subgroup of  $S_n$ , it is easy to see that

$$d(\mathcal{C}) = n - \max_{1 \neq \sigma \in \mathcal{C}} |\text{Fix}(\sigma)|,$$

which the right-hand side of the equality is known as the minimum degree of the group  $\mathcal{C}$ . If the permutation code  $\mathcal{C}$  is of length  $n$  that contains  $M$  codewords and has the minimum distance  $d$ , we will refer to it as an  $(n, M, d)$ -permutation code. The numbers  $n$ ,  $M$  and  $d$  are called the parameters of the code. Notice that  $M$  is the size of  $\mathcal{C}$ , that is,  $|\mathcal{C}| = M$ . We can associate an  $(M \times n)$ -array  $A$  to the any  $(n, M, d)$ -permutation code  $\mathcal{C}$  such that the rows of  $A$  are the codewords. Any symbol of  $1, 2, \dots, n$  occurs exactly in one entry of every row and any two distinct rows disagree in at least  $d$  columns. The array  $A$  is also called an  $(n, M, d)$ -permutation array (PA). For example,  $S_n$  is itself an  $(n, n!, 2)$ -permutation code, the alternating group  $A_n$  is an  $(n, n!/2, 3)$ -permutation code and the cyclic subgroup  $\langle (12 \cdots n) \rangle$  is an  $(n, n, n)$ -permutation code. For further results, see [1, 2, 5].

For any  $\sigma \in S_n$  and any integer  $r \geq 0$ , the ball of radius  $r$  centered at  $\sigma$ , denoted by  $B_r(\sigma)$ , is the set  $\{\tau \in S_n \mid d(\sigma, \tau) \leq r\}$ . The diameter of  $\mathcal{C}$  is the maximum distance between any two codewords in  $\mathcal{C}$ :

$$\delta(\mathcal{C}) = \max_{\sigma, \tau \in \mathcal{C}} d(\sigma, \tau).$$

The radius of  $\mathcal{C}$ , denoted by  $\rho(\mathcal{C})$ , is the minimum radius of a ball centered at a codeword needed to cover  $\mathcal{C}$ :

$$\rho(\mathcal{C}) = \min_{\sigma \in \mathcal{C}} \max_{\tau \in \mathcal{C}} d(\sigma, \tau).$$

Again, if  $\mathcal{C} \subseteq S_n$  is a subgroup then  $\delta(\mathcal{C}) = \rho(\mathcal{C}) = n - \min_{\sigma \in \mathcal{C}} |\text{Fix}(\sigma)|$ . The covering radius of the code  $\mathcal{C}$  is defined to be the minimum radius such that the balls centered around the codewords cover the whole  $S_n$ :

$$\text{cr}(\mathcal{C}) = \max_{x \in S_n} \min_{\sigma \in \mathcal{C}} d(x, \sigma).$$

For the covering radius of permutation codes, see [4]. Recently, Cameron and Gadouleau [3] introduced a new parameter of a code, called the remoteness, which can be interpreted as a dual to the covering radius. The remoteness of  $\mathcal{C}$  is the minimum radius of a single ball that covers the whole  $\mathcal{C}$ :

$$r(\mathcal{C}) = \min_{x \in S_n} \max_{\sigma \in \mathcal{C}} d(x, \sigma).$$

It is noticeable that we have the following equivalent definitions for the mentioned parameters:

$$\begin{aligned} \delta(\mathcal{C}) &= \min\{r \mid \mathcal{C} \subseteq B_r(\sigma) \text{ for any } \sigma \in \mathcal{C}\}, \\ \rho(\mathcal{C}) &= \min\{r \mid \mathcal{C} \subseteq B_r(\sigma) \text{ for some } \sigma \in \mathcal{C}\}, \\ \text{cr}(\mathcal{C}) &= \min\{r \mid S_n \subseteq \cup_{\sigma \in \mathcal{C}} B_r(\sigma)\}, \\ r(\mathcal{C}) &= \min\{r \mid \mathcal{C} \subseteq B_r(\sigma) \text{ for some } \sigma \in S_n\}. \end{aligned}$$

Moreover, there are the following inequalities [3, 8]:

$$\begin{aligned} \rho(\mathcal{C}) &\leq \delta(\mathcal{C}) \leq 2\rho(\mathcal{C}), \\ \delta(\mathcal{C})/2 &\leq r(\mathcal{C}) \leq \rho(\mathcal{C}), \\ \rho(S_n) &\leq r(\mathcal{C}) + \text{cr}(\mathcal{C}) \leq \rho(S_n) + \delta(S_n), \end{aligned}$$

and if  $\mathcal{C}$  is neither a singleton nor  $S_n$  then  $r(\mathcal{C}) + \text{cr}(\mathcal{C}) \geq n + 1$ . For example, if  $\mathcal{C} = \{\sigma\} \subseteq S_n$  is a singleton then  $\delta(\mathcal{C}) = \rho(\mathcal{C}) = r(\mathcal{C}) = 0$ . Moreover,  $\text{cr}(\mathcal{C})$  is 0 if  $n = 1$  and  $n$  otherwise. Also,  $\delta(S_n) = \rho(S_n) = r(S_n) = n$  and  $\text{cr}(S_n) = 0$ .

An automorphism of a code  $\mathcal{C}$  is any permutation of the coordinate positions that maps codewords to codewords. The set of all the automorphisms of  $\mathcal{C}$  is a group and is denoted by  $\text{Aut}(\mathcal{C})$ . Clearly,  $\text{Aut}(\mathcal{C}) \leq S_n$  if the length of  $\mathcal{C}$  is  $n$ . In fact, the automorphism group of any permutation code of a group  $G$  is  $G$ .

In [3], the authors considered the cyclic and dihedral groups as permutation codes and obtained their remoteness. In this paper, motivated by [3], we consider the permutation group  $U_{6n}$  and focus on its remoteness. We show that  $r(U_{6n}) = 2n + 2$  if  $U_{6n}$  is considered as a subgroup of  $S_{2n+3}$ . Moreover, it is proved that minimum distance, diameter, radius and covering radius of  $U_{6n}$  are 3,  $2n + 3$ ,  $2n + 3$  and  $2n + 2$ , respectively.

## 2. THE REMOTENESS OF SOME PERMUTATION CODES

The following results in this section deal with the remoteness of some permutation groups. Firstly, it is clear that the remoteness of a permutation code of length  $n$  is at most  $n$ . If

$$\sigma(i_1) = j_1, \sigma(i_2) = j_2, \dots, \sigma(i_k) = j_k$$

for all codewords  $\sigma \in \mathcal{C}$  then by translation we can assume that  $i_1 = j_1, i_2 = j_2, \dots, i_k = j_k$ . So,  $r(\mathcal{C})$  is unchanged by restriction to  $\{1, \dots, n\} \setminus \{i_1, \dots, i_k\}$ . Moreover, for computing the remoteness of any pair of permutations, it is sufficient to consider pairs of the form  $\{1, \sigma\}$  by translation and it is shown that the remoteness depends on the cycle structure of  $\sigma$ . Notice that if  $\mathcal{C} \subseteq \mathcal{D}$  then  $r(\mathcal{C}) \leq r(\mathcal{D})$ .

**Theorem 2.1.** [3, Proposition 4] *Let  $\sigma$  be a permutation,  $d = d(1, \sigma)$  is even and  $\mathcal{C} = \{1, \sigma\}$ . Suppose that the cycle lengths  $l_1, l_2, \dots, l_k$  of  $\sigma$ , where  $l_i \geq 2$ , can be ordered in a way that there exists  $s$  such that  $\sum_{i=1}^s l_i = \sum_{i=s+1}^k l_i = d/2$ . Then  $r(\mathcal{C}) = d/2$ . Otherwise,  $r(\mathcal{C}) = \lfloor d/2 \rfloor + 1$ .*

**Theorem 2.2.** [3, Theorem 1] *Let  $G = \langle a \rangle$ . Suppose that  $a \in S_n$  is a product of  $k$  distinct cycles with no fixed points. Then*

$$r(G) = \begin{cases} n - k & \text{if } a \text{ is an even permutation,} \\ n - k + 1 & \text{if } a \text{ is an odd permutation.} \end{cases}$$

It is noticeable that the parameters of a code are not intrinsic but they depend on the permutation representation. For example, the cyclic group of order six can be generated by  $(1\ 2\ 3\ 4\ 5\ 6)$  or  $(1\ 2)(3\ 4\ 5)$  in  $S_6$ . By Theorem 2.2, in the first case the remoteness is 6 and in the second is 5.

**Theorem 2.3.** [3, Proposition 13] *Consider the dihedral group of order  $2n$ , i.e.  $D_{2n}$ , as a subgroup of  $S_n$ . Then*

$$r(D_{2n}) = \begin{cases} n - 1 & \text{if } n \equiv 1 \text{ or } 5 \pmod{6}, \\ n & \text{otherwise.} \end{cases}$$

**Theorem 2.4.** [3, Proposition 4] *A transitive group  $G$  has remoteness  $n - 1$  if and only if it has covering radius  $n - 1$ . Otherwise, the remoteness of  $G$  is  $n$ .*

A latin square of order  $n$  is an  $n \times n$  array with entries from the set  $\{1, 2, \dots, n\}$  so that each entry appears exactly once in any row and any column. A latin square is called cyclic if the first row contains  $1, 2, \dots, n$  in increasing order and each row is derived from the previous one by a cyclic shift to the left. A  $k \times n$  Latin rectangle ( $k \leq n$ ) is a  $k \times n$  array with entries from  $\{1, 2, \dots, n\}$  such that each entry be exactly once in any row and at most once in any column. Notice that the rows of a latin square of order  $n$  define a code of length  $n$  and the minimum distance  $n$ .

**Theorem 2.5.** [3, Proposition 7] *If  $\mathcal{C}$  is a  $k \times n$  latin rectangle then  $r(\mathcal{C}) \geq n - \lfloor n/k \rfloor$ . Moreover, if  $k \equiv 0 \pmod{2}$ ,  $n \equiv k \pmod{0}$  and  $\mathcal{C}$  consists of the first  $k$  rows of the cyclic latin square of order  $n$  then  $r(\mathcal{C}) \geq n - \frac{n}{k} + 1$ .*

### 3. REMOTENESS OF THE GROUP $U_{6n}$

In this section, we consider the group  $U_{6n}$  as a permutation code and study its remoteness and other parameters.

Let  $n \geq 1$  be an integer. The group  $U_{6n}$  is a group of order  $6n$  generated by two elements  $a$  and  $b$  in which the relations  $a^{2n} = b^3 = 1$  and  $a^{-1}ba = b^{-1}$  between generators are hold, i.e.

$$U_{6n} = \langle a, b \mid a^{2n} = b^3 = 1, a^{-1}ba = b^{-1} \rangle.$$

Clearly, the subgroup  $\langle b \rangle$  is normal in  $U_{6n}$  and  $U_{6n} = \langle b \rangle \rtimes \langle a \rangle \cong \mathbb{Z}_3 \rtimes \mathbb{Z}_{2n}$ . It means that  $U_{6n}$  is the semidirect product of a cyclic group of order 3 by a cyclic group of order  $2n$  and we can write

$$(1) \quad U_{6n} = \{a^r, a^r b, a^r b^2 \mid 0 \leq r \leq 2n - 1\}.$$

Notice that  $U_6 \cong S_3$ .

Let

$$\sigma = (1\ 2\ \dots\ 2n)(2n+1\ 2n+2)$$

and

$$\tau = (2n+1\ 2n+2\ 2n+3)$$

be two permutations in the symmetric group  $S_{2n+3}$ . It is easily seen that  $\sigma^{2n} = 1$ ,  $\tau^3 = 1$  and  $\sigma^{-1}\tau\sigma\tau = 1$ . Then, as noted in [6], the mappings  $a \mapsto (1\ 2\ \dots\ 2n)(2n+1\ 2n+2)$  and  $b \mapsto (2n+1\ 2n+2\ 2n+3)$  show that we can embed  $U_{6n}$  in  $S_{2n+3}$ . So,  $U_{6n} = \langle \sigma, \tau \rangle$  and it is possible to consider  $U_{6n}$  as a subgroup of  $S_{2n+3}$ . Now,  $U_{6n}$  is a permutation code of length  $2n+3$  and size  $6n$ .

For further works, let  $M$  be the  $((6n) \times (2n+3))$ -array associated to the permutation code  $U_{6n}$ . Using (1), it is easy to see that

$$M = \left( \begin{array}{cccc|ccc} 1 & 2 & \dots & 2n & 2n+1 & 2n+2 & 2n+3 \\ 2 & 3 & \dots & 1 & 2n+2 & 2n+1 & 2n+3 \\ \vdots & \vdots & & \vdots & & \vdots & \\ 2n-1 & 2n & \dots & 2n-2 & 2n+1 & 2n+2 & 2n+3 \\ 2n & 1 & \dots & 2n-1 & 2n+2 & 2n+1 & 2n+3 \\ \hline 1 & 2 & \dots & 2n & 2n+2 & 2n+3 & 2n+1 \\ 2 & 3 & \dots & 1 & 2n+1 & 2n+3 & 2n+2 \\ \vdots & \vdots & & \vdots & & \vdots & \\ 2n-1 & 2n & \dots & 2n-2 & 2n+2 & 2n+3 & 2n+1 \\ 2n & 1 & \dots & 2n-1 & 2n+1 & 2n+3 & 2n+2 \\ \hline 1 & 2 & \dots & 2n & 2n+3 & 2n+1 & 2n+2 \\ 2 & 3 & \dots & 1 & 2n+3 & 2n+2 & 2n+1 \\ \vdots & \vdots & & \vdots & & \vdots & \\ 2n-1 & 2n & \dots & 2n-2 & 2n+3 & 2n+1 & 2n+2 \\ 2n & 1 & \dots & 2n-1 & 2n+3 & 2n+2 & 2n+1 \end{array} \right).$$

It is clear that

$$(2) \quad m_{ij} = \begin{cases} (i+j-2 \bmod 2n)+1 & \text{if } 1 \leq i \leq 2n, \\ (i+j-2n-2 \bmod 2n)+1 & \text{if } 2n+1 \leq i \leq 4n, \\ (i+j-4n-2 \bmod 2n)+1 & \text{if } 4n+1 \leq i \leq 6n, \end{cases}$$

for any  $1 \leq i \leq 6n$  and  $1 \leq j \leq 2n$ . Here, the first  $2n$  columns is consist of all of the cyclic shifts of the permutation  $(1\ 2\ \dots\ 2n)$  in which the rows  $2n+1$  through  $6n$  are constructed by repetition of the

first  $2n$  rows. For the last three columns, as it is seen, each of the blocks

$$\begin{pmatrix} 2n+1 & 2n+2 \\ 2n+2 & 2n+1 \\ 2n+3 & 2n+3 \end{pmatrix}^T, \quad \begin{pmatrix} 2n+2 & 2n+1 \\ 2n+3 & 2n+3 \\ 2n+1 & 2n+2 \end{pmatrix}^T, \quad \begin{pmatrix} 2n+3 & 2n+3 \\ 2n+1 & 2n+2 \\ 2n+2 & 2n+1 \end{pmatrix}^T,$$

are repeated  $n$  times. Set  $A$ ,  $B$  and  $C$  be  $(2n) \times (2n+3)$  submatrices that consist of the first, the second and the third  $2n$  rows of  $M$ . Then,

$$M = \begin{pmatrix} A \\ B \\ C \end{pmatrix}.$$

In fact,  $(i+1)$ -th rows of  $A$ ,  $B$  and  $C$  ( $0 \leq i \leq 2n-1$ ) are correspond to the elements  $a^i$ ,  $a^i b$  and  $a^i b^2$  from the group  $U_{6n}$ , respectively. It is easily seen that

$$d(a^i b^j, a^k b^l) = \begin{cases} 3 & \text{if } i = k, \\ 2n+2 & \text{if } i \not\equiv k \pmod{2}, \\ 2n & \text{if } i \neq k, i \equiv k \pmod{2}, j = l, \\ 2n+3 & \text{if } i \neq k, i \equiv k \pmod{2}, j \neq l, \end{cases}$$

for any two distinct elements  $a^i b^j, a^k b^l \in U_{6n}$ , where  $0 \leq i, k \leq 2n-1$  and  $0 \leq j, l \leq 2$ . So,  $\delta(U_{6n}) = \rho(U_{6n}) = 2n+3$  and the minimum distance of  $U_{6n}$  is 3.

**Theorem 3.1.** *The remoteness of the permutation code  $U_{6n}$  is  $2n+2$ .*

*Proof.* Firstly, as noted in above, we have

$$\underbrace{\langle (1 \ 2 \cdots 2n)(2n+1 \ 2n+2) \rangle}_{\sigma} \leq U_{6n} \leq S_{2n+3}.$$

On the other hand, Theorem 2.2 shows that  $r(\sigma) = (2n+2) - 2 = 2n$ . So,

$$2n \leq r(U_{6n}) \leq 2n+3.$$

Now, we complete the proof by the following three steps.

Step 1: Let  $\pi = \pi_1 \pi_2 \cdots \pi_{2n+3}$  be an arbitrary permutation in  $S_{2n+3}$  and recall that the rows of  $M$  are the codewords of  $U_{6n}$ . Denote by  $m_{ij}$  the entry in row  $i$  and column  $j$  of the matrix  $M$  and let  $m_1, m_2, \dots, m_{6n}$  be the rows of  $M$ . In fact,  $m_i$  is the permutation  $m_{i1} m_{i2} \cdots m_{i(2n+3)}$ . Consider the sum of distances between  $\pi$  and the rows of  $M$ , i.e.  $\sum_{i=1}^{6n} d(\pi, m_i)$ , which is equal to  $\sum_{i=1}^{6n} \sum_{j=1}^{2n+3} d(\pi_j, m_{ij})$ . Notice that  $d(\pi_j, m_{ij})$  is 0 if  $\pi_j = m_{ij}$  and 1 otherwise. We can find a lower bound for this sum by counting the number of different entries in any column. It is easy to see that if  $1 \leq j \leq 2n$  then each of the numbers  $1, 2, \dots, 2n$  exactly occurs 3 times at column  $j$ , and if

$2n + 1 \leq j \leq 2n + 3$  then column  $j$  contains each of the numbers  $2n + 1, 2n + 2, 2n + 3$  exactly  $2n$  times. Thus,

$$\sum_{i=1}^{6n} d(\pi_j, m_{ij}) \geq 3(2n - 1) = 6n - 3$$

for all  $1 \leq j \leq 2n$  and

$$\sum_{i=1}^{6n} d(\pi_j, m_{ij}) \geq 2(2n) = 4n$$

for  $j = 2n + 1, 2n + 2, 2n + 3$ . Now, we have

$$\begin{aligned} \sum_{i=1}^{6n} d(\pi, m_i) &= \sum_{i=1}^{6n} \sum_{j=1}^{2n+3} d(\pi_j, m_{ij}) \\ &= \sum_{j=1}^{2n} \sum_{i=1}^{6n} d(\pi_j, m_{ij}) + \sum_{j=2n+1}^{2n+3} \sum_{i=1}^{6n} d(\pi_j, m_{ij}) \\ &\geq 2n(6n - 3) + 3(4n) \\ (3) \qquad &= 12n^2 + 6n. \end{aligned}$$

So, there exists  $1 \leq i \leq 6n$  such that  $d(\pi, m_i) \geq \lceil (12n^2 + 6n)/(6n) \rceil = 2n + 1$ . This implies that  $r(U_{6n}) \geq 2n + 1$ .

Step 2: We want to show that  $r(U_{6n}) \geq 2n + 2$ . Suppose to the contrary that there exists  $\pi \in S_{2n+3}$  such that for all  $i, d(\pi, m_i) \leq 2n + 1$ . Now, (3) implies that  $d(\pi, m_i) = 2n + 1$  for all  $i$ . Hence,  $\pi$  agrees with each  $m_i$  in exactly two positions and this means that  $\pi$  does not map  $\{2n + 1, 2n + 2, 2n + 3\}$  to itself. So, there exists  $1 \leq s \leq 3$  such that  $\pi_{2n+s} = k, \pi_l = 2n + s$ , where  $1 \leq k, l \leq 2n$ . Then, we have

$$\begin{aligned} 12n^2 + 6n &= \sum_{i=1}^{6n} d(\pi, m_i) \\ &= \sum_{i=1}^{6n} \sum_{j=1}^{2n+3} d(\pi_j, m_{ij}) \\ &= \sum_{\substack{j=1 \\ j \neq l}}^{2n} \sum_{i=1}^{6n} d(\pi_j, m_{ij}) + \sum_{i=1}^{6n} d(\pi_l, m_{il}) \\ &\quad + \sum_{\substack{j=2n+1 \\ j \neq 2n+s}}^{2n+3} \sum_{i=1}^{6n} d(\pi_j, m_{ij}) + \sum_{i=1}^{6n} d(\pi_{2n+s}, m_{i(2n+s)}) \\ &\geq \sum_{\substack{j=1 \\ j \neq l}}^{2n} (6n - 3) + 6n + \sum_{\substack{j=2n+1 \\ j \neq 2n+s}}^{2n+3} (4n) + 6n \\ &= (2n - 1)(6n - 3) + 6n + 2(4n) + 6n \\ &= 12n^2 + 8n + 3, \end{aligned}$$

which is desired contradiction. Thus,  $r(U_{6n}) \geq 2n + 2$ .

Step 3: Finally, we construct a permutation  $\pi \in S_{2n+3}$  such that  $d(\pi, m_i) \leq 2n+2$  for all  $m_i$ . Define  $\pi_j \equiv 3j - 2 \pmod{2n}$  for any  $1 \leq j \leq 2n$ . Notice that  $\pi$  is identity on the set  $\{2n+1, 2n+2, 2n+3\}$ . It is sufficient to show that this permutation agrees with each row of the matrix  $M$  in at least one position. By looking to the last three columns of  $M$ , it is seen that  $\pi$  agrees with the rows of  $A$ , the even rows of  $B$  and the even rows of  $C$  in at least one position. On the other hand, the first  $2n$  columns of  $B$  and  $C$  are the same and their  $(2i-1, j)$ -th entry is  $j+2i-2$ , where  $1 \leq i \leq n$  and  $1 \leq j \leq 2n$ . Now, the equation  $3j-2 \equiv j+2i-2 \pmod{2n}$  gives us  $j=i$  or  $i+n$ . In other words,  $\pi$  agrees with the odd rows of  $B$  and  $C$  in exactly two positions.  $\square$

*Remark 3.1.* Notice that in step 3 of the proof of Theorem 3.1, we can replace  $\sigma$  by the permutations  $\pi\tau$  and  $\pi\tau^2$ , because they are at distance at most  $2n+2$  from all codewords. Moreover, if we define  $\pi_j \equiv 3j-1 \pmod{2n}$  for any  $1 \leq j \leq 2n$  then similar arguments show that the permutations  $\pi(2n+1 \ 2n+2)$ ,  $\pi(2n+1 \ 2n+3)$  and  $\pi(2n+2 \ 2n+3)$  have the desired property too.

**Theorem 3.2.** *The covering radius of  $U_{6n}$  is  $2n+2$ .*

*Proof.* It is easily seen that for any  $\pi$  in  $S_{2n+3}$  there exist  $1 \leq i \leq 2n$  and  $1 \leq j \leq 2n+3$  such that  $\pi_j = m_{ij}$ , where  $M = (m_{ij})$  is the array associated to  $U_{6n}$ . Hence,  $\min_i d(\pi, m_i) \leq 2n+2$ .

Now, we construct a permutation  $\mu \in S_{2n+3}$  such that  $\min_i d(\mu, m_i) = 2n+2$ . We define

$$\mu(j) = \begin{cases} 2j & \text{if } 1 \leq j \leq n, \\ 2(j-n)+1 & \text{if } n+1 \leq j \leq 2n-3, \\ 2n+1 & \text{if } j = 2n-2, \\ 2n+2 & \text{if } j = 2n-1, \\ 2n+3 & \text{if } j = 2n, \\ 1 & \text{if } j = 2n+1, \\ 2n-3 & \text{if } j = 2n+2, \\ 2n-1 & \text{if } j = 2n+3. \end{cases}$$

The construction of  $\mu$  and (2) show that  $\mu$  is agreement with any  $m_i$  in at most one position. So,  $\mu$  is at a distance of  $2n+2$  and  $2n+3$  from all codewords of  $U_{6n}$ . This completes the proof.  $\square$

It is noticeable that we can construct more permutations with the property discussed in the proof of Theorem 3.2 and permutation  $\mu$  is not unique. Theorems 3.1 and 3.2 show that  $U_{6n}$  is a non-transitive permutation group with the same remoteness and covering radius.



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**Masoomeh Yazdani-Moghaddam**

Department of Pure Mathematics, Faculty of Mathematical Sciences,  
University of Kashan, Kashan, Iran  
Email: m.yazdani.m@grad.kashanu.ac.ir

**Reza Kahkeshani**

Department of Pure Mathematics, Faculty of Mathematical Sciences,  
University of Kashan, Kashan, Iran  
Email: kahkeshanireza@kashanu.ac.ir