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1

# The Perfect Binary One-Error-Correcting Codes of Length 15: Part II—Properties

Patric R. J. Östergård, Olli Pottonen, Kevin T. Phelps

Abstract—A complete classification of the perfect binary one-error-correcting codes of length 15 as well as their extensions of length 16 was recently carried out in [P. R. J. Östergård and O. Pottonen, "The perfect binary one-error-correcting codes of length 15: Part I—Classification," submitted for publication]. In the current accompanying work, the classified codes are studied in great detail, and their main properties are tabulated. The results include the fact that 33 of the 80 Steiner triple systems of order 15 occur in such codes. Further understanding is gained on full-rank codes via *i*-components, as it turns out that all but two full-rank codes can be obtained through a series of transformations from the Hamming code. Other topics studied include (non)systematic codes, embedded one-error-correcting codes, and defining sets of codes. A classification of certain mixed perfect codes is also obtained.

*Index Terms*—classification, Hamming code, *i*-component, perfect code, Steiner system

## I. INTRODUCTION

E consider binary codes of length n over the Galois field  $\mathbb{F}_2$ , that is, subsets  $C \subseteq \mathbb{F}_2^n$ . The (Hamming) distance  $d(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{y})$  between two codewords  $\mathbf{x}$ ,  $\mathbf{y}$  is the number of coordinates in which they differ, and the (Hamming) weight  $\mathrm{wt}(\mathbf{x})$  is the number of nonzero coordinates. The support of a codeword is the set of nonzero coordinates,  $\mathrm{supp}(\mathbf{x}) = \{i : x_i \neq 0\}$ . Accordingly,  $d(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{y}) = \mathrm{wt}(\mathbf{x} - \mathbf{y}) = |\mathrm{supp}(\mathbf{x} - \mathbf{y})|$ .

The minimum distance of a code is the largest integer d such that the distance between any distinct codewords is at least d. The balls of radius  $\lfloor (d-1)/2 \rfloor$  centered around the codewords of a code with minimum distance d are nonintersecting, so such a code is said to be a  $\lfloor (d-1)/2 \rfloor$ -error-correcting code. If these balls simultaneously pack and cover the ambient space, then the code is called *perfect*. A t-error-correcting perfect code is also called a t-perfect code.

It is well known [23] that binary perfect codes exist exactly for d=1; d=n; d=(n-1)/2 for odd n;  $d=3, n=2^m-1$  for  $m\geq 2$ ; and d=7, n=23. The first three types of codes are called trivial, the fourth has the parameters of Hamming codes, and the last one is the binary Golay code.

The number of binary 1-perfect codes of length 15 was recently determined in [35] using a constructive approach. It turned out that there are 5 983 inequivalent such codes, and

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these have 2 165 inequivalent extensions. Two binary codes are said to be *equivalent* if one can be obtained from the other by permuting coordinates and adding a constant vector. Such a mapping that produces a code from itself is an *automorphism*; the set of all automorphisms of a code form a group, the *automorphism group*.

The complete set of inequivalent codes is a valuable tool that makes it possible to study a wide variety of properties. Our aim is to answer questions stated in [12], [16] and elsewhere, and in general gain as good understanding as possible of the properties of the binary 1-perfect codes of length 15. The graph isomorphism program *nauty* [28] played a central role in several of the computations.

For completeness, we give the table with automorphism group distribution from [35] in Section II, where also the distribution of kernels is tabulated (including some corrections to earlier results). In Section III, the occurrence of Steiner triple systems in the codes—and quadruple systems in the extended codes—is studied, determining among other things that exactly 33 of the 80 Steiner triple systems of order 15 occur in these 1-perfect codes. Other questions addressed include that of finding the largest number of nonisomorphic Steiner triple systems in a code.

In Section IV partial results are provided on perhaps the most intriguing issue regarding 1-perfect codes, namely that of finding constructions (explanations) for all different codes. Codes that do not have full rank have been rather well understood, and now it turns out that all but two of the codes with (full) rank 15 can be obtained through a sequence of transformations from the Hamming code. (Non)systematic 1-perfect codes are treated in Section V, embedded one-error-correcting codes in Section VI, and defining sets of 1-perfect codes in Section VII. Many classes of mixed perfect codes with alphabet sizes that are powers of 2 are classified in Section VIII. The paper is concluded in Section IX, which includes a list of a few interesting problems related to binary 1-perfect codes of length 15, yet unanswered.

## II. AUTOMORPHISM GROUPS

First, we give formal definitions of several central concepts, some of which were briefly mentioned in the Introduction. A permutation  $\pi$  of the set  $\{1,2,\ldots,n\}$  acts on codewords by permuting the coordinates in the obvious manner. Pairs  $(\pi,\mathbf{x})$  form the wreath product  $S_2 \wr S_n$ , which acts on codes as  $(\pi,\mathbf{x})(C) = \pi(C+\mathbf{x}) = \pi(C) + \pi(\mathbf{x})$ . Two codes,  $C_1$  and  $C_2$ , are said to be isomorphic if  $C_1 = \pi(C_2)$  for some  $\pi$  and equivalent if  $C_1 = \pi(C_2 + \mathbf{x})$  for some  $\pi, \mathbf{x}$ .

The automorphism group of a code C,  $\operatorname{Aut}(C)$ , is the group of all pairs  $(\pi, \mathbf{x})$  such that  $C = \pi(C + \mathbf{x})$ . Two important subgroups of  $\operatorname{Aut}(C)$  are the group of symmetries,

$$Sym(C) = \{\pi : \pi(C) = C\}$$

and the kernel

$$Ker(C) = \{ \mathbf{x} : C + \mathbf{x} = C \}.$$

If the code contains the all-zero word, **0**, then the elements of the kernel are codewords. The distribution of the orders of the automorphism groups of the binary 1-perfect codes of length 15 and their extensions are presented in Table I and Table II, respectively.

Table I
AUTOMORPHISM GROUPS OF CODES

$ \operatorname{Aut}(C) $	#	$ \operatorname{Aut}(C) $	#	$ \operatorname{Aut}(C) $	#
8	3	512	1 017	24 576	7
12	3	672	3	32 768	8
16	5	768	32	43 008	4
24	10	1 024	697	49 152	10
32	138	1 536	17	65 536	5
42	2	2 048	406	98 304	1
48	12	2 688	1	131 072	1
64	542	3 072	37	172 032	1
96	22	3 840	1	196 608	5
120	1	4 096	202	344 064	2
128	1 2 3 0	5 3 7 6	4	393 216	2
192	18	6 144	35	589 824	1
256	1319	8 192	94	41 287 680	1
336	3	12 288	7		
384	30	16 384	44		

Table II AUTOMORPHISM GROUPS OF EXTENDED CODES

$ \operatorname{Aut}(C) $	#	$ \operatorname{Aut}(C) $	#	$ \mathrm{Aut}(C) $	#
128	11	5 3 7 6	1	196 608	6
192	5	6 144	23	262 144	3
256	105	8 192	174	344 064	1
384	9	10752	2	393 216	3
512	377	12 288	22	524 288	2
672	2	16 384	103	688 128	1
768	19	24 576	12	786 432	2
1 024	416	32 768	47	1 572 864	3
1 344	1	43 008	2	2 359 296	1
1 536	21	49 152	18	2752512	1
1 920	1	61 440	1	3 145 728	1
2 048	394	65 536	33	5 505 024	2
2 688	1	86 016	3	6 291 456	1
3 072	18	98 304	12	660 602 880	1
4 096	298	131 072	6		

It has been known since the early days of coding theory [22], [42] that binary 1-perfect codes are *distance invariant*, that is, the distance distribution of the other codewords with respect to any codeword does not depend on the choice of codeword. In particular, there is always one codeword at distance n, that is, the all-one word is in the kernel of all binary 1-perfect codes; the codes are said to be *self-complementary*. The distance distribution for binary 1-perfect codes of length 15 is

1 0 0 35 105 168 280 435 435 280 168 105 35 0 0 1.

There is also only one distance distribution with respect to any word that is not a codeword of such a code:

 $0\ 1\ 7\ 28\ 84\ 189\ 315\ 400\ 400\ 315\ 189\ 84\ 28\ 7\ 1\ 0.$ 

Once the equivalence classes of codes have been classified, classifying the isomorphism classes is straightforward. A representative from each isomorphism class is obtained by translating an equivalence class representative, and isomorphic codes necessarily belong to the same equivalence class. The following theorem characterizes the situation further.

Theorem 1: The codes  $C + \mathbf{x}$  and  $C + \mathbf{y}$  are isomorphic if and only if  $\mathbf{x}$  and  $\mathbf{y}$  are in the same  $\operatorname{Aut}(C)$ -orbit.

*Proof:* The codes are isomorphic iff there is a permutation  $\pi$  such that  $\pi(C + \mathbf{x}) = C + \mathbf{y}$ , which is equivalent to  $C = \pi(C + \mathbf{x} + \pi^{-1}(\mathbf{y}))$ . The last equation holds iff  $(\pi, \mathbf{x} + \pi^{-1}(\mathbf{y})) \in \operatorname{Aut}(C)$ . Clearly this pair maps  $\mathbf{x}$  to  $\mathbf{y}$ . Conversely, every pair which maps  $\mathbf{x}$  to  $\mathbf{y}$  is of the type  $(\pi, \mathbf{x} + \pi^{-1}(\mathbf{y}))$  with  $\pi$  arbitrary.

There are  $1\,637\,690$  nonisomorphic perfect codes,  $139\,350$  of which contain the all-zero codeword. Groups of symmetries of the codes are tabulated in Table III. The extended perfect codes have  $347\,549$  isomorphism classes, of which  $22\,498$ ,  $139\,350$ , and  $185\,701$  contain a codeword with minimum weight  $0,\,1$  and 2, respectively. Groups of symmetries of these codes are listed in Table IV.

Theorem 2: An (extended) perfect code C contains an embedded (extended) perfect code on the coordinates that are fixed by any subgroup  $G \subseteq \operatorname{Sym}(C)$ .

*Proof:* Assume that C is a perfect code and T the set of coordinates not fixed by G. Consider the embedded code consisting of the codewords with zeroes on T. The embedded code is perfect if every word  $\mathbf{x}$  with zeros on T is at either a codeword or at distance 1 from a codeword with zeroes on T. If this is not the case, then there is a codeword  $\mathbf{y}$  such that  $d(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{y}) = 1$  and  $|\operatorname{supp}(\mathbf{y}) \cap T| = 1$ . As there is a  $\pi \in G$  such that  $\pi(\mathbf{y}) \neq \mathbf{y}$ , we get a contradiction, since  $d(\mathbf{y}, \pi(\mathbf{y})) = 2$  and both  $\mathbf{y}$  and  $\pi(\mathbf{y})$  are codewords.

To prove the claim for extended perfect code, we puncture the code at any fixed coordinate and use the result for perfect codes.

Note that instead of  $\mathrm{Sym}(C)$  we may as well consider the subgroup of  $\mathrm{Aut}(C+\mathbf{x})$  that stabilizes  $\mathbf{x}$  for any word  $\mathbf{x}$ . Also note that Theorem 2 implies that  $\mathrm{Sym}(C)$  has  $2^k-1$  fixed coordinates for any perfect code C, and 0 or  $2^k$  fixed coordinates for any extended perfect code C. The numbers of fixed coordinates are tabulated in Tables V and VI.

Table III
GROUPS OF SYMMETRIES OF CODES

$ \operatorname{Sym}(C) $	#	$ \operatorname{Sym}(C) $	#	$ \operatorname{Sym}(C) $	#
1	668 929	12	80	96	37
2	646 808	16	2 2 2 2 2	168	3
3	2 598	21	45	192	32
4	288 221	24	536	288	1
5	3	32	685	1 344	7
6	64	48	24	20 160	1
8	27 370	64	24		

The existence problem for binary 1-perfect codes with automorphism group of (minimum) order 2 has received some attention. By Table I, there are no such codes of length 15. This contradicts claims in [16, p. 242] regarding existence of such codes. Existence for admissible lengths at least  $2^8 - 1$  and an interval of ranks has been proved in [15]. For lengths

Table IV
GROUPS OF SYMMETRIES OF EXTENDED CODES

Ia (a)	- 11	Ia (a)	- 11	Ia (a) I	- 11
$ \operatorname{Sym}(C) $	#	$ \operatorname{Sym}(C) $	#	$ \operatorname{Sym}(C) $	#
1	43 935	42	8	512	25
2	111 372	48	224	768	17
3	768	64	1012	1 152	1
4	98 199	80	1	1 344	3
5	5	96	137	1 536	10
6	613	128	394	2 688	1
8	57 502	168	6	3 072	8
12	390	192	44	20 160	1
16	25 858	256	80	21 504	7
21	30	288	1	322 560	1
24	307	336	15		
32	6 5 0 8	384	66		

 $\label{thm:coordinates} Table~V\\ Coordinates~fixed~by~symmetries~of~codes$ 

Coordinate	8	#	Coordinates	#	Coordinates	#
	) 1	3	3	37 732	15	668 928
	81	8	7	930 198		

 $2^m - 1$  with m = 5, 6, 7, only an 8-line outline of proof has been published [24]; there is an obvious desire for a detailed treatment of those cases.

In Table VII, we display the number of codes with respect to their rank and kernel size. The results for rank 15 are new, and several entries for rank 13 and 14 correct earlier results from [47], [48] (also surveyed in [16, p. 237]); the authors of the original papers have rechecked their results for rank at most 14 and have arrived at results that corroborate those presented here.

As can be seen, there are 398 codes with full rank. Partial results for rank 15 can be found in [26]. All possible kernels (unique for sizes 2, 4, and 8; two for sizes 16 and 32) of the full-rank codes are, up to isomorphism, generated by the words in Table VIII.

A tiling of  $\mathbb{F}_2^n$  is a pair (V,A) of subsets of  $\mathbb{F}_2^n$  such that every  $\mathbf{x} \in \mathbb{F}_2^n$  can be written in exactly one way as  $\mathbf{x} = \mathbf{v} + \mathbf{a}$  with  $\mathbf{v} \in V$  and  $\mathbf{a} \in A$ . A tiling (V,A) of  $\mathbb{F}^n$  is said to be full rank if  $\operatorname{rank}(V) = \operatorname{rank}(A) = n$  and  $\mathbf{0} \in V \cap A$ . The results of the current work provide data for a classification of full-rank

Table VI COORDINATES FIXED BY SYMMETRIES OF EXTENDED CODES

Coordinates	#	Coordinates	#	Coordinates	#
0	162 499	2	519	8	131 187
1	17	4	9 392	16	43,935

Table VII
CODES BY RANK AND KERNEL SIZE

Kernel\Rank	11	12	13	14	15
2					19
4				163	14
8				1 287	8
16			224	2334	338
32			262	941	19
64			176	129	
128		12	28	8	
256		3	13	1	
512		3			
1024					
2048	1				

Table VIII
BASES OF KERNELS OF FULL-RANK CODES

111111110000000 110000000000100	111111001100000 000000001111111;	111100001111000
111111100000000 101011010101010	111100011110000 001110011000011;	110010011001100
111100000000000 000000000000111;	000011110000000	000000001111000
111111100000000 011110011000011;	111000011110000	100110011001100
111111100000000	111000011110000	111000000001111;
111111100000000	000000011111111;	
1111111111111111.		

tilings of  $\mathbb{F}_2^i$ ,  $10 \leq i \leq 15$ , where one of the sets has size 16, cf. [8], [11], [12]. Nonexistence of full-rank binary 1-perfect codes of length with a kernel of size 64 corroborates the result in [36] that there are no full-rank tilings of  $\mathbb{F}_2^9$ . Moreover, the observation regarding the structure of full-rank tilings of  $\mathbb{F}_2^{10}$  with  $|V|=2^4$  and  $|A|=2^6$  at the very end of [36] now gets an independent verification.

The number of extended binary 1-perfect codes of length 16 with respect to their rank and kernel size is shown in Table IX.

Table IX
EXTENDED CODES BY RANK AND KERNEL SIZE

Kernel\Rank	11	12	13	14	15
2					18
4				102	14
8				449	8
16			82	786	123
32			89	326	12
64			67	53	
128		8	11	4	
256		2	7	1	
512		2			
1024					
2048	1				

The kernels for the extended binary 1-perfect codes of length 16 and rank 15 are exactly those obtained by extending the kernels for the full-rank binary 1-perfect codes of length 15, listed earlier.

## III. STEINER SYSTEMS IN 1-PERFECT CODES

A Steiner system S(t,k,v) is a collection of k-subsets (called blocks) of a v-set of points, such that every t-subset of the v-set is contained in exactly one block. Steiner systems S(2,3,v) and S(3,4,v) are called Steiner triple systems and Steiner quadruple systems, respectively, and are often referred to as STS(v) and SQS(v), where v is called the order of the system. These are related to binary 1-perfect codes in the following way.

If C is a binary 1-perfect code of length v and  $\mathbf{x} \in C$ , then the codewords of  $C+\mathbf{x}$  with weight 3 form a Steiner triple system of order v. Analogously, if C is an extended binary 1-perfect code and  $\mathbf{x} \in C$ , then the codewords of  $C+\mathbf{x}$  with weight 4 form a Steiner quadruple system.

There are 80 Steiner triple systems of order 15. The longstanding open question whether all Steiner triple systems occur in some binary 1-perfect code (of the same length as the order of Steiner system) was settled in [34], by showing that at least two of the 80 STS(15) do not occur in a 1-perfect code. We are now able to determine exactly which STS(15) occur in a binary 1-perfect code—the total number of such STS(15) is 33—and furthermore in how many codes each such system occurs. This information is given in Table X using the numbering of the STS(15) from [27]. As far as the authors are aware, existence results for all of these, except those with indices 25 and 26, can be found in the literature [20], [30], [37].

Table X
OCCURRENCES OF STEINER TRIPLE SYSTEMS

Index	#	Index	#	Index	#
1	205	12	640	24	44
2	1 543	13	1 666	25	158
3	1 665	14	1 268	26	158
4	3 623	15	1961	29	187
5	2 2 0 9	16	745	33	37
6	1 229	17	781	35	2
7	335	18	1653	39	2
8	3 290	19	204	54	2
9	2950	20	493	61	57
10	2914	21	50	64	29
11	636	22	55	76	6

It is not difficult to see that all Steiner triple systems in a linear code are necessarily equal, so Hamming codes show that the problem of minimizing the number of different Steiner triple systems in a binary 1-perfect code has an obvious solution (for all lengths  $2^n-1$ ). On the other hand, Table XI shows that 14 is the maximum size of a spectra of Steiner triple systems in a binary 1-perfect code of length 15. The distribution in Table XI is perhaps more even than one might have guessed.

Table XI SIZES OF SPECTRA OF STEINER TRIPLE SYSTEMS

Size	#	Size	#
Size			
1	437	8	321
2	753	9	489
3	581	10	110
4	895	11	48
5	651	12	95
6	1 090	13	19
7	452	14	42

If all Steiner triple systems in a code are isomorphic, then the code is said to be *homogeneous*. By Table XI, there are 437 homogeneous binary 1-perfect codes of length 15. This information is further refined in Table XII by showing which Steiner triple systems occur in homogeneous codes and in how many they occur.

In an analogous way, we may discuss the occurrence of Steiner quadruple systems in extended binary 1-perfect codes. However, since as many as 15 590 (out of a total of 1 054 163) Steiner quadruple systems of order 16 occur in extended 1-perfect codes, a table analogous to Table X would be far too big for this article. Consequently, we only tabulate, in Table XIII, the sizes and numbers of spectra of Steiner quadruple systems in extended binary 1-perfect codes of length 16. There are exactly 101 such codes that are homogeneous with respect to Steiner quadruple systems.

Table XII
STEINER TRIPLE SYSTEMS IN HOMOGENEOUS CODES

Index	#	Index	#	Index	#
1	3	9	36	17	10
2	23	10	36	19	9
3	15	11	27	22	8
4	63	12	7	25	19
5	36	13	26	26	19
7	5	14	18	29	7
8	60	16	6	61	4

Table XIII
SIZES OF SPECTRA OF STEINER QUADRUPLE SYSTEMS

Size	#	Size	#	Size	#
1	101	11	91	21	63
2	97	12	142	22	28
3	77	13	33	23	2
4	180	14	109	24	75
5	132	15	41	25	4
6	172	16	94	28	40
7	114	17	38	32	21
8	178	18	59	48	2
9	93	19	31		
10	131	20	17		

## IV. STRUCTURE OF *i*-COMPONENTS

Consider a binary one-error-correcting code C and a nonempty subcode  $D\subseteq C$ . If we get another one-error-correcting code from C by complementing coordinate i exactly in the words belonging to D, then D is said to be an i-component of C. An i-component is minimal if it is not a superset of a smaller i-component. The reader is referred to [43] for a more thorough discussion of i-components.

The minimum distance graph of a code consists of one vertex for each codeword and one edge for each pair of codewords whose mutual distance equals the minimum distance of the code. All possible partitions into minimal i-components can be determined by a straightforward algorithm: for a prescribed value of i, construct the minimum distance graph and remove all edges but those connecting two codewords that differ in coordinate i. The connected components of this graph—for 1-perfect codes with length  $n \geq 15$  there are at least two of them [43, Proposition 6]—form the minimal i-components of the code.

The spectrum of sizes of minimal *i*-components is presented in Table XIV. Each row lists the number of sets of given sizes as well as the number of such partitions (whose total number is  $15 \cdot 5983 = 89745$ ). It has been known that partitions with 2 sets of size 1024 as well as 16 sets of size 128 exist, cf. [43].

The main reason for studying these concepts is that by complementing coordinate i in an i-component, one gets another binary 1-perfect code, so this is a means of constructing new codes from old ones. Codes that can be obtained from each other by a series of such transformation form a *switching class*. (Malyugin [25], [26] considers a more restricted set of transformations that partition the switching classes further.) By [40], the binary 1-perfect codes of length 15 are partitioned into at least two switching classes; we are now able to compute the exact structure of the switching classes.

There are 9 switching classes for the binary 1-perfect codes of length 15, and their sizes are 5 819, 153, 3, 2, 2, 1, 1, 1, and

128	256	512	768	896	1 024	#
16						1 030
8	4					1 536
8		2				2817
4	6					616
4	2	2				2 048
4			2			2 587
2				2		458
	8					1 023
	4	2				2783
	2		2			3 049
		4				7 565
					2	64 233

1. In particular this gives a method for obtaining codes with (full) rank 15. (The construction of binary 1-perfect codes of length 15 with rank smaller than 15 is rather well understood, cf. [16, Theorem 17].) The class with 5819 codes in fact contains all codes with full rank, except two; all codes with rank 11 (the Hamming code), 12, and 13 are also in this class. Phelps and LeVan [40] found one of the switching classes of size 2.

The two full-rank codes that are not in the switching class of the Hamming code have one more code in their switching class, a code with rank 14 (so one may say that all binary 1-perfect codes of length 15 can be obtained by known constructions). The two full-rank codes have kernels of size 2 and 4, and their automorphism groups have orders 336 and 672, respectively. Both of the codes have an automorphism group which is the direct product of the kernel and a group isomorphic to PSL(3, 2), which has order 168; this group partitions the coordinates into two orbits of size 7 and one of size 1. Indeed, note that PSL(3, 2) is the group of symmetries of the Hamming code of length 7.

One may generalize the concept of i-components to that of  $\alpha$ -components; see [44] and its references. An  $\alpha$ -component, where  $\alpha \subseteq \{1,2,\ldots,n\}$ , is an i-component for all  $i \in \alpha$ . We call an  $\alpha$ -component trivial if it is the full code or if  $|\alpha|=1$ . With minor modifications to the proof of [43, Proposition 6] one concludes that each minimal i-component is a trivial  $\alpha$ -component. All nontrivial  $\alpha$ -components consist of 1024 codewords, and  $|\alpha| \in \{2,3\}$ .

The authors are confident with the double-counting argument used in [35] for validating the classification of binary 1-perfect codes of length 15; anyway, the fact that no new codes were encountered in the switching classes further reinforces this confidence.

## V. Systematic 1-Perfect Codes

A binary code of size  $2^k$  is said to be *systematic* if there are k coordinates such that the codewords restricted to these coordinates contain all possible k-tuples; otherwise it is said to be *nonsystematic*. It is known [39] that nonsystematic binary 1-perfect codes exist for all admissible lengths greater than or equal to 15. It turns out that there are 13 nonsystematic binary 1-perfect codes of length 15. These extend to 6 nonsystematic and 7 systematic codes of length 16.

The following invariant is closely related to the concept of systematic binary codes. The set

$$ST(C) = {supp(\mathbf{x} - \mathbf{y}) : \mathbf{x}, \mathbf{y} \in C, \ d(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{y}) = 3}$$

must obviously have size between  $\binom{n}{2}/3$  (the size of a Steiner triple system of order n) and  $\binom{n}{3}$  when C is a binary 1-perfect code of length n; for n=15 these bounds are 35 and 455, respectively. The distribution of the values of  $|\mathrm{ST}(C)|$  is shown in Table XV for the 1-perfect codes of length 15.

Table XV VALUES OF |ST(C)|

				1 ( )1			
ST(C)	#	ST(C)	#	ST(C)	#	ST(C)	#
35	1	157	32	212	17	285	34
55	1	159	119	213	163	289	1
59	2	161	34	214	3	305	3
63	15	163	67	215	205	306	2
85	3	165	38	216	11	309	2
87	1	167	104	217	2	311	8
89	2	169	108	218	57	315	1
91	3	171	135	219	70	317	1
93	3	173	38	220	17	321	3
95	7	175	172	221	2	329	3
97	4	177	29	222	8	331	1
99	30	179	230	224	52	333	2
101	47	181	73	225	2	335	4
103	49	182	4	229	1	336	4
105	31	183	246	231	1	337	3
107	184	185	113	233	3	341	2
109	91	187	214	237	14	345	11
111	76	189	49	239	1	348	1
113	97	190	6	241	25	349	1
115	50	191	473	243	5	353	11
117	22	193	284	245	44	357	2
119	4	194	4	247	1	361	17
127	1	195	221	249	1	365	7
129	2	197	95	253	3	366	2
131	1	198	3	255	2	369	11
133	1	199	200	257	4	373	11
135	3	200	4	261	5	375	7
137	6	201	236	263	5	377	17
139	4	202	3	265	2	388	1
141	1	203	120	269	16	404	1
143	6	205	77	271	4	414	2
145	6	206	5	273	7	427	6
147	13	207	151	275	6	438	2
149	5	208	1	277	16	455	6
151	10	209	181	279	6		
153	18	210	4	281	17		
155	43	211	271	283	8		

Generalizing the concept of independent sets in graphs, a subset S of the vertices of a hypergraph is said to be *independent* if none of the edges is included in S. Viewing  $\mathrm{ST}(C)$  of a code C of length  $n=2^m-1$  as a 3-uniform hypergraph, if the independence number of this graph—denoted by  $\alpha(C)$ —is smaller than m, then C in nonsystematic [39, Lemma 1]. In particular, if  $|\mathrm{ST}(C)| = \binom{n}{3}$ , then  $\alpha(C) = 2$  and the code is nonsystematic.

Out of the 13 nonsystematic 1-perfect codes of length 15, 6 indeed have  $|\mathrm{ST}(C)| = \binom{15}{3} = 455$ . Out of the others, 6 have  $|\mathrm{ST}(C)| = 427$  with  $\alpha(C) = 3$ , and 1 has  $|\mathrm{ST}(C)| = 231$  with  $\alpha(C) = 8$ . The distribution of independence number of all codes, systematic as well as nonsystematic, is presented in Table XVI.

Examples of nonsystematic binary 1-perfect codes of length 15 with |ST(C)| = 455 and |ST(C)| = 427 were earlier

Table XVI INDEPENDENCE NUMBERS OF CODES

$\alpha(C)$	#	$\alpha(C)$	#
2	6	5	107
3	6	6	238
4	41	8	5 585

obtained in [39], and 12 inequivalent nonsystematic codes were encountered in [26]; see also [41]. The fact that there is a code C of length  $2^m - 1$  such that  $\alpha(C) > m$  shows that the above mentioned sufficient condition for a 1-perfect code C to be nonsystematic is not necessary, a question asked in [39].

For a binary 1-perfect code of length 15 with  $\alpha(C)=8$ , let S be the complement of a maximum independent set. A counting argument shows that each STS(15) of the code contains 7 triples on S, and hence each STS(15) contains an STS(7) on S. Moreover, for the code with |ST(C)|=231, ST(C) contains exactly those 3-subsets that intersect S in 1 or 3 coordinates. Also the 3-subsets for the codes with |ST(C)|=427 have a combinatorial explanation: the missing 3-subsets form an STS(15) with one point and the blocks intersecting that point removed, in other words, a 3-GDD of type  $2^7$ .

In extending these nonsystematic binary 1-perfect codes to codes of length 16, the codes with  $|\mathrm{ST}(C)| < 455$  lead to systematic codes, and those with  $|\mathrm{ST}(C)| = 455$  lead to nonsystematic codes.

## VI. EMBEDDING ONE-ERROR-CORRECTING CODES

Avgustinovich and Krotov [5] show that any binary one-error-correcting code of length m can be embedded (after appending a zero vector of appropriate length to the codewords) into a binary 1-perfect code of length  $2^m-1$ . One may further ask for the shortest 1-perfect code into which such a code can be embedded. For example, any binary one-error-correcting code of length 4—there are three inequivalent such codes,  $\{0000\}$ ,  $\{0000, 1110\}$ , and  $\{0000, 1111\}$ —can be embedded into the (unique) 1-perfect code of length 7, but this does not hold for all codes of length 5 (because the Hamming code of length 7 does not contain a pair of codewords with mutual distance 5).

The occurrence of codes of length greater than or equal to 5 in the classified codes was checked. It turns out that for lengths 5 and 6, all inequivalent one-error-correcting codes can be found in a binary 1-perfect code of length 15, but not all such codes of length 7 can be found. Out of several examples, here is one code (of size 10) that is not embeddable in a binary 1-perfect code of length 15:

One could further consider the stricter requirement that a code should be embedded in a perfect code in such a way that it is not a subset of another embedded code. The construction in [5] indeed gives codes with this strong property. This requirement is rather restrictive as, for example, the code

 $\{0000\}$  does not fulfill it with respect to the Hamming code of length 7.

The largest embedded codes with the property of not being subcodes of other embedded codes are directly related to certain fundamental properties. For example, a binary 1-perfect code of length  $2^m-1$  is systematic if and only if there exists an m-subset of coordinates for which the maximum size is 1. In other words, minimizing the maximum size over all m-subsets of coordinates should result in size 1. Instead maximizing the maximum size over subsets leads to the concept of cardinality-length profile (CLP), from which one may obtain the generalized Hamming weight hierarchy of a code; see [12], [19].

For a code  $C \subseteq \mathbb{F}_2^n$ , the cardinality-length profile  $\kappa_i(C)$ ,  $1 \le i \le n$ , is defined as

$$\kappa_i(C) = \max_{D} \log_2 |D|,$$

where  $D\subseteq C$  and all words in D must coincide in n-i coordinates. The profile  $\kappa_1(C), \kappa_2(C), \ldots$  is an invariant for a code. The profiles of the binary 1-perfect codes of length 15 are listed in Table XVII in the nonlogarithmic form  $\kappa_1'(C), \kappa_2'(C), \ldots$ , where  $\kappa_i'(C) = 2^{\kappa_i(C)}$ , together with the number of codes with such profiles.

The fact that the number of codes in the last row of Table XVII equals the number of binary 1-perfect codes of length 15 that do not have full rank is in accordance with [12, Corollary 4.7]. By [12, Proposition 4.5] we already know that  $8 < \kappa_7'(C) < 16$ ; the new results reveal that  $\kappa_7'(C)$  can attain every value in this interval except 9. The only other value of i for which  $\kappa_i'(C)$  may be different for codes that have and do not have full rank is i=6; however, whereas  $\kappa_6'(C) \in \{6,7\}$  is only possible for full-rank codes,  $\kappa_6'(C) = 8$  is possible for both types.

Also the cardinality-length profiles of the extended binary 1-perfect codes of length 16 are listed in nonlogarithmic form, in Table XVIII.

One more concept can be related to the discussion in this section. An  $\mathrm{OA}_{\lambda}(t,k,q)$  orthogonal array of index  $\lambda$ , strength t, degree k, and order q is a  $k \times N$  array with entries from  $\{0,1,\ldots,q-1\}$  and the property that every  $t \times 1$  column vector appears exactly  $\lambda$  times in every  $t \times N$  subarray; necessarily  $N = \lambda q^t$ .

Viewing binary 1-perfect codes of length 15 as  $15 \times 2048$  arrays and their extensions as  $16 \times 2048$  arrays, it is obvious from Tables XVII and XVIII that these are  $OA_{16}(7,15,2)$  and  $OA_{16}(7,16,2)$  orthogonal arrays, respectively. Indeed, the following result by by Delsarte [10] reveals a strong connection between orthogonal arrays and codes.

Theorem 3: An array is an orthogonal array of strength t if and only if MacWilliams transformation of the distance distribution of the code formed by the columns of the array has entries  $A_0' = 1$ ,  $A_1' = A_2' = \cdots = A_t' = 0$ .

Using Theorem 3 one can prove that a 1-perfect binary code of length n corresponds to an orthogonal array of strength (n-1)/2, cf. [12, Theorem 4.4]. For information on the MacWilliams transform in general and the application to orthogonal arrays in particular, see [23, Ch. 5] and [14, Ch. 4], respectively. Using standard techniques [31], [32], [46], we are

Table XVII
CARDINALITY-LENGTH PROFILES OF CODES

$\kappa_1'(C)$	$\kappa_2'(C)$	$\kappa_3'(C)$	$\kappa_4'(C)$	$\kappa_5'(C)$	$\kappa'_6(C)$	$\kappa_7'(C)$	$\kappa'_8(C)$	$\kappa'_9(C)$	$\kappa'_{10}(C)$	$\kappa'_{11}(C)$	$\kappa'_{12}(C)$	$\kappa'_{13}(C)$	$\kappa'_{14}(C)$	$\kappa'_{15}(C)$	#
1	1	2	2	4	6	10	16	32	64	128	256	512	1 024	2 048	10
1	1	2	2	4	7	10	16	32	64	128	256	512	1 024	2 048	1
1	1	2	2	4	7	11	16	32	64	128	256	512	1 024	2 048	23
1	1	2	2	4	8	11	16	32	64	128	256	512	1 024	2 048	3
1	1	2	2	4	6	12	16	32	64	128	256	512	1 024	2 048	7
1	1	2	2	4	7	12	16	32	64	128	256	512	1 024	2 048	26
1	1	2	2	4	8	12	16	32	64	128	256	512	1 024	2 048	219
1	1	2	2	4	7	13	16	32	64	128	256	512	1 024	2 048	7
1	1	2	2	4	8	13	16	32	64	128	256	512	1 024	2 048	48
1	1	2	2	4	7	14	16	32	64	128	256	512	1 024	2 048	6
1	1	2	2	4	8	14	16	32	64	128	256	512	1 024	2 048	34
1	1	2	2	4	8	15	16	32	64	128	256	512	1 024	2 048	14
1	1	2	2	4	8	16	16	32	64	128	256	512	1 024	2 048	5585

Table XVIII
CARDINALITY-LENGTH PROFILES OF EXTENDED CODES

$\kappa_1'(C)$	$\kappa_2'(C)$	$\kappa_3'(C)$	$\kappa_4'(C)$	$\kappa_5'(C)$	$\kappa_6'(C)$	$\kappa_7'(C)$	$\kappa'_8(C)$	$\kappa_9'(C)$	$\kappa'_{10}(C)$	$\kappa'_{11}(C)$	$\kappa'_{12}(C)$	$\kappa'_{13}(C)$	$\kappa'_{14}(C)$	$\kappa'_{15}(C)$	$\kappa'_{16}(C)$	#
	1	1	2	2	4	6	10	16	32	64	128	256	512	1 024	2 048	6
1	1	1	2	2	4	7	10	16	32	64	128	256	512	1 024	2 048	1
1	1	1	2	2	4	7	11	16	32	64	128	256	512	1 024	2 048	13
1	1	1	2	2	4	8	11	16	32	64	128	256	512	1 024	2 048	2
1	1	1	2	2	4	6	12	16	32	64	128	256	512	1 024	2 048	5
1	1	1	2	2	4	7	12	16	32	64	128	256	512	1 024	2 048	13
1	1	1	2	2	4	8	12	16	32	64	128	256	512	1 024	2 048	69
1	1	1	2	2	4	7	13	16	32	64	128	256	512	1 024	2 048	6
1	1	1	2	2	4	8	13	16	32	64	128	256	512	1 024	2 048	20
1	1	1	2	2	4	7	14	16	32	64	128	256	512	1 024	2 048	6
1	1	1	2	2	4	8	14	16	32	64	128	256	512	1 024	2 048	21
1	1	1	2	2	4	8	15	16	32	64	128	256	512	1 024	2 048	13
1	1 1	1	2	2	4	8	16	16	32	64	128	256	512	1 024	2 048	1990

now be able to prove that there are no other orthogonal arrays with the above mentioned parameters.

Theorem 4: The number of nonisomorphic  $OA_{16}(7, 15, 2)$  orthogonal arrays is 5 983, and the number of nonisomorphic  $OA_{16}(7, 16, 2)$  orthogonal arrays is 2 165.

*Proof:* We have earlier seen that any binary 1-perfect code of length 15 is an  $OA_{16}(7,15,2)$  orthogonal arrays and the extension of such a code is an  $OA_{16}(7,16,2)$  orthogonal array, so it suffices to prove that each orthogonal array is an (extended) perfect code.

Consider an arbitrary distance distribution  $A_i$   $(A_0 \ge 1, A_i \ge 0 \text{ for all } i)$  of a binary code of length 15 (resp. 16) and size 2 048. The MacWilliams transform  $A_i'$  of the distribution must fulfill Theorem 3 and also  $A_i' \ge 0$ . Using an LP solver to maximize  $A_1 + A_2$  yields 0. Thus the code has minimum distance 3, and it is 1-perfect. Similarly, in case of length 16, maximizing  $A_1 + A_2 + A_3$  yields 0.

By [14, Theorem 2.24] an  $OA_{\lambda}(2t,k,q)$  can be obtained from an  $OA_{\lambda}(2t+1,k+1,q)$  and vice versa. This enables us to classify the  $OA_{16}(6,14,2)$  and  $OA_{16}(6,15,2)$  orthogonal arrays; these are obtained by shortening the 1-perfect codes of length 15 and the extensions of these, and the number of nonisomorphic such arrays is 38 408 and 5 983, respectively [35].

In fact, [14, Theorem 2.24] and the technique used in Theorem 4 can be used to get the result that all binary one-error-correcting codes of length 14 and size 1024 can be lengthened to 1-perfect codes, a particular case of the general result proved in [7].

# VII. DEFINING SETS OF 1-PERFECT CODES

A *defining set* of a combinatorial object is a part of the object that uniquely determines the complete object. The term *unique* should here be interpreted in the strongest sense, that is, there should be exactly one way of doing this, *not* one way up to isomorphism.

Avgustinovich [3] gave a brief and elegant proof (which is repeated in [16]) of the following result.

Theorem 5: The codewords of weight (n+1)/2 (alternatively, weight (n-1)/2) form a defining set of any binary 1-perfect code of length n.

Avgustinovich and Vasile'va [6] were further able to prove the following related result.

Theorem 6: The codewords of weight w with  $w \le (n+1)/2$  form a defining set for the codewords of weight smaller than w of any binary 1-perfect code of length n.

One may ask whether it is possible to strengthen these results by proving that the codewords of weight (n-3)/2 or any other weight smaller than (n-1)/2 form a defining set for a binary 1-perfect code of length n. Obviously, the Hamming code of length 7 has no codewords of weight 2, so (n-1)/2 cannot be improved in that case.

Examination of the classified codes found examples of codes whose codewords of weight 6 do not form defining sets for binary 1-perfect codes of length 15. The following theorem then shows that the known results cannot be improved for length 15.

Theorem 7: Let  $w_1 < w_2 < (n-1)/2$ . If the codewords of weight  $w_2$  of a binary 1-perfect code C of length n do not

form a defining set of C, then neither do the codewords of weight  $w_1$ .

**Proof:** If the codewords of weight  $w_1$  form a defining set of C, then so do the codewords of weight  $w_2$ , as the codewords of weight  $w_2$  determine those of weight  $w_1$  by Theorem 6. This completes a proof by contrapositive.

One interesting observation was made in the study of this property. Namely, there are binary 1-perfect codes of length 15, whose codewords of weight 7 are a proper subset of the codewords of another code. In other words, this means that there are codes whose codewords of weight 7 form a defining set only when under the assumption that this set of words contains all codewords of weight 7.

## VIII. MIXED PERFECT CODES

The discussion in Section V focuses on (the structure of) pairs of codewords with mutual distance 3. For a particular such structure, which we shall now discuss, one is able to construct perfect codes with both quaternary and binary coordinates. Moreover, since this construction is reversible, we obtain a complete classification of these codes.

Assume that there exist three coordinates of a binary 1-perfect code of length 15 such that all codewords can be partitioned into pairs of words that differ only in those coordinates. In other words, the kernel of the code has an element with 1s in exactly these three coordinates. The values of the pairs in the three coordinates are then  $\{000, 111\}$ ,  $\{001, 110\}$ ,  $\{010, 101\}$ , and  $\{100, 011\}$ . It is not difficult to verify that replacing each original pair of codewords with one codeword and the three coordinates by an element from the finite field  $\mathbb{F}_4$  (or any alphabet of size 4) gives a mixed 1-perfect codes. This transformation is reversible, and has been used several times to construct good binary codes (of various types, both covering and packing) from codes with quaternary coordinates [13], [18], [33].

Moreover, for any set of t elements in the kernel with weight 3 and disjoint supports, we can obtain a mixed 1-perfect code with t quaternary coordinates. By determining all possible mixed 1-perfect codes that can be obtained in this manner and carrying out isomorph rejection among these, we found that the number of inequivalent 1-perfect codes over  $\mathbb{F}_4^1\mathbb{F}_2^{12}$ ,  $\mathbb{F}_4^2\mathbb{F}_2^9$ ,  $\mathbb{F}_4^3\mathbb{F}_2^6$ ,  $\mathbb{F}_4^4\mathbb{F}_2^3$ , and  $\mathbb{F}_4^5$  are 6483, 39, 4, 1, and 1, respectively. Uniqueness of the quaternary 1-perfect code of length 5 has earlier been proved in [1]. The orders of the automorphism groups of these codes are listed in Tables XIX to XXIII. (The existence of the codes is well known, for example, via the existence of the quaternary Hamming code of length 5 and the construction discussed above.)

The four code pairs of length 3 listed earlier are in fact cosets of the binary Hamming code of length 3, and the outlined construction is a special case of a general construction [18] that transforms coordinates over  $\mathbb{F}_{2^m}$  into cosets of the Hamming code of length  $2^m - 1$ .

To transform a binary 1-perfect code of length 15 into a 1-perfect code over  $\mathbb{F}_8^1\mathbb{F}_2^8$ , we may search for a partition of the code into 128 subcodes of size 16 with all words in a subcode coinciding in 8 given coordinates. However, it turns out that this case can be proved in a direct way.

Table XIX Automorphism groups of 1-perfect codes over  $\mathbb{F}_4^1\mathbb{F}_2^{12}$ 

$ \mathrm{Aut}(C) $	#	$ \mathrm{Aut}(C) $	#	$ \mathrm{Aut}(C) $	#
8	1	768	11	24 576	8
16	12	1 024	609	32 768	7
32	289	1 536	22	49 152	3
64	1 125	2 048	343	65 536	2
96	1	3 072	25	98 304	5
128	1 447	4 096	154	196 608	1
192	14	6 144	12	294 912	1
256	1 390	8 192	64	589 824	1
384	14	12 288	4		
512	892	16384	26		

Table XX
AUTOMORPHISM GROUPS OF 1-PERFECT CODES OVER  $\mathbb{F}_4^2\mathbb{F}_2^9$ 

$ \operatorname{Aut}(C) $	#	$ \mathrm{Aut}(C) $	#
128	3	2 048	7
256	6	4 096	3
512	10	6 144	1
768	1	36 864	1
1 024	7		

Theorem 8: There are exactly 10 inequivalent 1-perfect codes over  $\mathbb{F}_8^1\mathbb{F}_2^8$ .

*Proof:* Consider a 1-perfect code C over  $\mathbb{F}_8^1\mathbb{F}_2^8$ ; such a code has size 128. Puncturing C in the 8-ary coordinate gives a binary code C' of length 8 and minimum distance at least 3-1=2. The code C' is unique, and consists of either all words of even weight or all words of odd weight.

Next consider the 8 subcodes  $C_i$  obtained by shortening in the 8-ary coordinate and taking all words whose 8-ary value is i. The codes  $C_i$  have length 8 and minimum distance 4 (at least 3, but words in C' do not have odd mutual distances), and since the maximum number of codewords in a code with these parameters is 16, all codes  $C_i$  must have size 16 ( $16 \times 8 = 128$ ).

Consequently, the set of subcodes  $C_i$  form an extension of a partition of  $\mathbb{F}_2^7$  into binary 1-perfect codes of length 7. There are 10 inequivalent such extended partitions [38] and consequently equally many inequivalent 1-perfect codes over  $\mathbb{F}_8^1\mathbb{F}_2^8$ .

The existence of 1-perfect codes over  $\mathbb{F}_2^1\mathbb{F}_2^8$  has been known and follows, for example, from [17, Theorem 2]. The automorphism groups of these codes can be obtained from [38, Appendix] and are shown in Table XXIV.

No other 1-perfect codes over  $\mathbb{F}^1_{2^{i_1}}\mathbb{F}^1_{2^{i_2}}\cdots\mathbb{F}^1_{2^{i_n}}$  can be obtained from the binary 1-perfect codes of length 15, since

Table XXI Automorphism groups of 1-perfect codes over  $\mathbb{F}_4^3\mathbb{F}_2^6$ 

$ \operatorname{Aut}(C) $	#
1 024	2
3 072	1
9216	1

Table XXII

AUTOMORPHISM GROUPS OF 1-PERFECT CODES OVER  $\mathbb{F}_4^4\mathbb{F}_2^3$ 

$ \operatorname{Aut}(C) $	#
9216	1

$ \operatorname{Aut}(C) $	#
23 040	1

Table XXIV AUTOMORPHISM GROUPS OF 1-PERFECT CODES OVER  $\mathbb{F}_8^1\mathbb{F}_2^8$ 

$ \operatorname{Aut}(C) $	#	$ \operatorname{Aut}(C) $	#
768	1	6 144	1
1 024	3	8 192	1
2688	1	12 288	1
3 072	1	172 032	1

any such code must have  $i_j + i_k \le 4$  for all  $1 \le j < k \le n$  [21, Lemma 1].

## IX. VARIOUS OTHER PROPERTIES

The current study focuses on properties of general interest; various other questions in the literature that can be addressed via the classified codes include those in [9, Sect. 8]. Several (nontrivial) properties of perfect codes have earlier been proved analytically; we shall here briefly mention one such property.

The minimum distance graph of a binary 1-perfect code of length 15 is a 35-regular graph of order 2 048. Phelps and LeVan [40] ask whether inequivalent binary 1-perfect codes always have nonisomorphic minimum distance graphs. This question is answered in the affirmative by Avgustinovich in [4], building on earlier work by Avgustinovich and others [2], [45]. An analogous result can also be obtained for extended binary 1-perfect codes [29], where it is also shown that the the automorphism group of an (extended) binary 1-perfect code is isomorphic to the automorphism group of its minimum distance graph for lengths  $n \geq 15$ .

We conclude this paper by discussing three of the open problems stated in [12] that still seem out of reach even for the case of binary 1-perfect codes of length 15.

The *intersection number* of two codes,  $C_1$  and  $C_2$ , is  $|C_1 \cap C_2|$ . The intersection number problem asks for the set of possible intersection numbers of distinct binary 1-perfect codes. Since binary 1-perfect codes are self-complementary, these intersection numbers are necessarily even. Among other things it is known that for binary 1-perfect codes of length 15, 0 (trivial) and 2 (by [12, Theorem 3.2]) are intersection numbers and in [11, Sect. III] it is proved that the largest number is  $2^{11}-2^7=1920$ . Some other intersection numbers are known, but determining the exact spectrum seems challenging.

Let (n,M,d) denote a binary code of length n, size M, and minimum distance d; such a code with the largest possible value of M with the other parameters fixed is called *optimal*. By shortening binary 1-perfect codes of length 15 up to i=3 times we get optimal  $(15-i,2^{11-i},3)$  codes. But do we get all such codes, up to equivalence, in this manner? For n=14 we do, as shown in [7]; this result was used in [35] to classify the optimal (14,1024,3) codes. But what about the cases of shortening twice or three times?

The proof of Theorem 8 relies on a classification [38] of partitions of  $\mathbb{F}_2^7$  into binary 1-perfect codes. This classification

problem may be considered for  $\mathbb{F}_2^{15}$  as well, but even the restricted version (stated in [12]) with 16 equivalent codes in the partition seems hopeless.

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