### **VC-dimension of subsets of Hamming graphs**

Christopher Housholder Layna Mangiapanello Steven Senger

Missouri State University

2025



### **Contents**



- 1. Background
  - VC-dimension
  - Hamming graph

#### 2. Examples

- 3. Results
  - H(2, q, 1)
  - H(2, q, 1)
  - H(2, q, 1)
  - H(d, q, 1)
  - H(2, q, t)

### **VC-dimension**



#### **VC-dimension**

The VC-dimension of the pair  $(X,\mathcal{F})$  is the size of the largest subset  $W\subset X$  that can be shattered by  $\mathcal{F}.$ 

### **VC-dimension**



#### **VC-dimension**

The *VC-dimension* of the pair  $(X, \mathcal{F})$  is the size of the largest subset  $W \subset X$  that can be shattered by  $\mathcal{F}$ .

#### **Shattering**

Given  $W\subseteq X$ , we say  $\mathcal F$  shatters W if for every subset  $S\subseteq W$ , there exists an  $F_S\in \mathcal F$  such that  $W\cap F_S=S$ .

### Hamming graph



### **Hamming graph**

The Hamming graph H(d,q,t) has vertex set  $\mathbb{Z}_q^d$ , and vertices are adjacent when they have Hamming distance exactly t.

### Hamming graph



#### **Hamming graph**

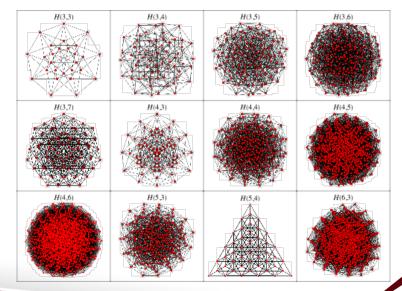
The Hamming graph H(d,q,t) has vertex set  $\mathbb{Z}_q^d$ , and vertices are adjacent when they have Hamming distance exactly t.

#### **Hamming distance**

Given two points  $x,y\in\mathbb{Z}_q^d$ , their Hamming distance,  $|x-y|_H$ , is the number of coordinates in which they differ. That is

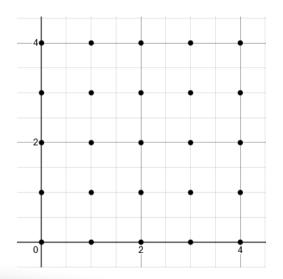
$$|x - y|_H := |\{j : x_j \neq y_j\}|.$$

### **Hamming graphs**





### **Hamming graphs**



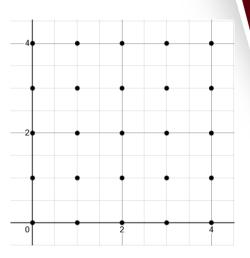


### Hamming graph



#### The Hamming graph

The Hamming graph H(d,q,t) has vertex set  $\mathbb{Z}_q^d$ , and vertices are adjacent when they have Hamming distance exactly t.

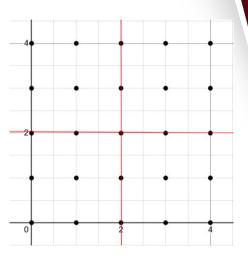


### Hamming graph

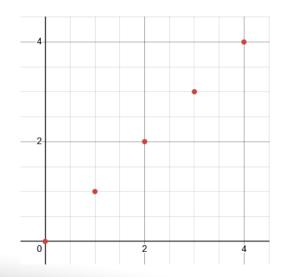


#### The Hamming graph

The Hamming graph H(d,q,t) has vertex set  $\mathbb{Z}_q^d$ , and vertices are adjacent when they have Hamming distance exactly t.





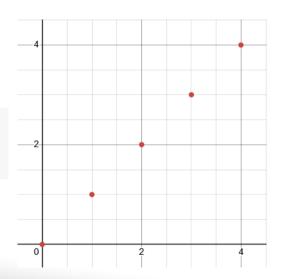




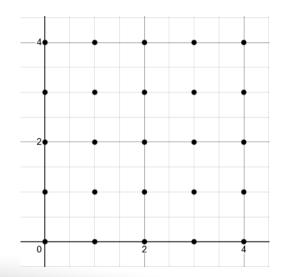
### **Example 1**

VC-dimension 0.

All: None





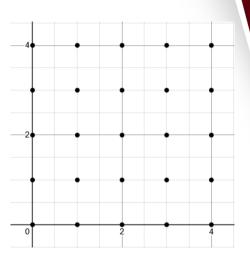






#### **Necessary information**

A Hamming graph with Hamming adjacency defined by a Hamming distance of t=1 can never have VC-dimension 4 or higher.



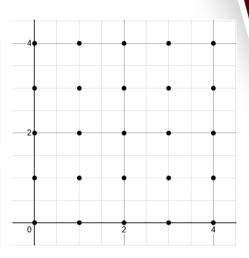


#### **Necessary information**

A Hamming graph with Hamming adjacency defined by a Hamming distance of t=1 can never have VC-dimension 4 or higher.

### Why?

The idea is relatively easy and fun, and fun things should be left to the audience.



### **Example 2**

VC-dimension 3.

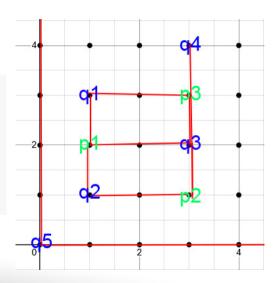
**q1**: p1, p3

**q2**: p1, p2

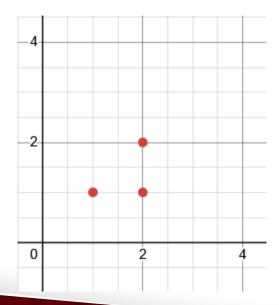
**q3**: p1, p2, p3

**q4**: p2, p3

**q5**: None







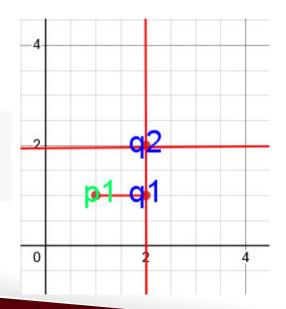


### Example 3

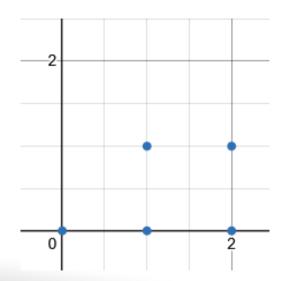
VC-dimension 1.

**q1**: p1

q2: None









### **Example 4**

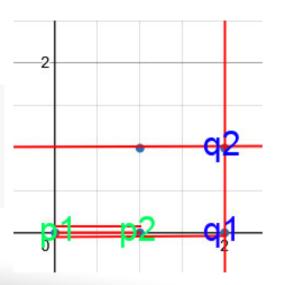
VC-dimension 2.

**q1**: p1, p2

**p1**: p2

**p2**: p1

q2: None







## Results



#### Theorem 0.1

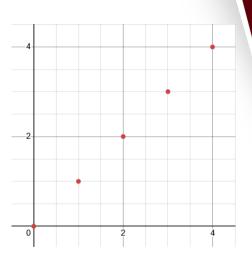
Given natural numbers  $d,q\geq 2$ , there exists a subset U of the vertices of H(d,q) of size |U|=q so that the VC-dimension of (U,n(U)) is 0.

### Theorem 0.1



#### Theorem 0.1

Given natural numbers  $d,q\geq 2$ , there exists a subset U of the vertices of H(d,q) of size |U|=q so that the VC-dimension of (U,n(U)) is 0.





#### Theorem 1.1

Given a natural number  $q\geq 2,$  and subset U of the vertices of H(2,q) of size  $q+1\leq |U|<2q$ , the VC-dimension of (U,n(U)) is at least 1.



#### Theorem 1.1

Given a natural number  $q \geq 2$ , and subset U of the vertices of H(2,q) of size  $q+1 \leq |U| < 2q$ , the VC-dimension of (U,n(U)) is at least 1.

#### Theorem 1.2

Given a natural number  $q\geq 3$ , and subset U of the vertices of H(2,q) of size  $|U|\geq 2q+1$ , the VC-dimension of (U,n(U)) is at least 2.



#### Theorem 1.1

Given a natural number  $q \geq 2$ , and subset U of the vertices of H(2,q) of size  $q+1 \leq |U| < 2q$ , the VC-dimension of (U,n(U)) is at least 1.

#### Theorem 1.2

Given a natural number  $q\geq 3$ , and subset U of the vertices of H(2,q) of size  $|U|\geq 2q+1$ , the VC-dimension of (U,n(U)) is at least 2.

#### Theorem 1.3

Wait, what about when |U| = 2q???



#### Theorem 1.3.1

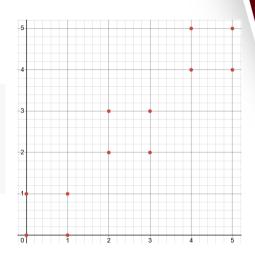
Given an odd number  $q \geq 3$ , and subset U of the vertices of H(2,q) of size  $|U| \geq 2q$ , the VC-dimension of (U,n(U)) is at least 2.

#### Theorem 1.3.2

Given an even number  $q \geq 3$ , and subset U of the vertices of H(2,q) of size  $|U| \geq 2q+1$ , the VC-dimension of (U,n(U)) is at least 2.

#### Theorem 1.3.2

Given an even number  $q\geq 3$ , and subset U of the vertices of H(2,q) of size  $|U|\geq 2q+1$ , the VC-dimension of (U,n(U)) is at least 2.

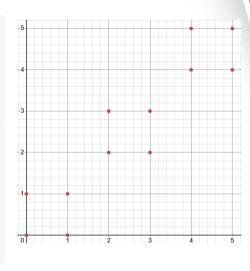


#### Theorem 1.3.2

Given an even number  $q \geq 3$ , and subset U of the vertices of H(2,q) of size  $|U| \geq 2q+1$ , the VC-dimension of (U,n(U)) is at least 2.

### **Necessary information**

Given a natural number  $q\geq 3$ , and subset U of the vertices of H(2,q) if U contains three points on the same line L, as well as a fourth point not on L, then the VC-dimension of (U,n(U)) is at least 2.



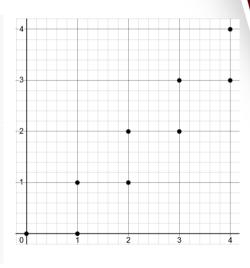




Given an odd number  $q \geq 3$ , and subset U of the vertices of H(2,q) of size  $|U| \geq 2q$ , the VC-dimension of (U,n(U)) is at least 2.

### **Necessary information**

Given a natural number  $q \geq 3$ , and subset U of the vertices of H(2,q) if U contains three points on the same line L, as well as a fourth point not on L, then the VC-dimension of (U,n(U)) is at least 2.



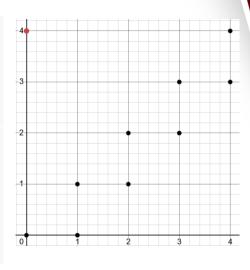


#### Theorem 1.3.1

Given an odd number  $q \geq 3$ , and subset U of the vertices of H(2,q) of size  $|U| \geq 2q$ , the VC-dimension of (U,n(U)) is at least 2.

### **Necessary information**

Given a natural number  $q\geq 3$ , and subset U of the vertices of H(2,q) if U contains three points on the same line L, as well as a fourth point not on L, then the VC-dimension of (U,n(U)) is at least 2.





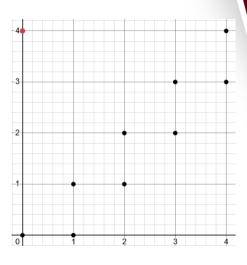


#### Theorem 1.3.1

Given an odd number  $q\geq 3$ , and subset U of the vertices of H(2,q) of size  $|U|\geq 2q$ , the VC-dimension of (U,n(U)) is at least 2.

#### **Necessary information**

Given a natural number  $q\geq 3$ , and subset  $|U|\geq 2q$  of the vertices of H(2,q) if U contains a "corner" then the VC-dimension of (U,n(U)) is at least 2.





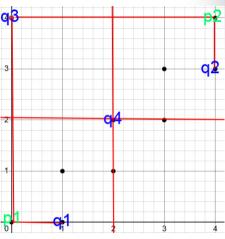


#### Theorem 1.3.1

Given an odd number q > 3, and subset U of the vertices of H(2,q) of size  $|U| \geq 2q$ , the VC-dimension of (U, n(U)) is at least 2.

#### **Necessary information**

Given a natural number q > 3, and subset  $|U| \geq 2q$  of the vertices of H(2,q) if U contains a "corner" then the VC-dimension of (U, n(U)) is at least 2.





#### Theorem 1.4

For  $q\geq 4$ , any subset U of the vertices of H(2,q) with  $|U|\geq 3q+1$ , the VC-dimension of (U,n(U)) is three.

### Theorem 1.4 - Proof idea

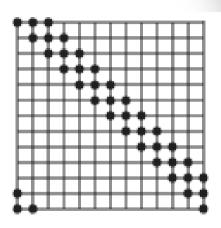


#### Theorem 1.4

For  $q\geq 4$ , any subset U of the vertices of H(2,q) with  $|U|\geq 3q+1,$  the VC-dimension of (U,n(U)) is three.

#### **Necessary information**

This is hard...



### H(d, q, 1)



#### Theorem 2.1

Given a natural number  $q \geq 3$ , and subset U of the vertices of H(d,q) of size  $|U| \geq 2q^{d-1} + 1$ , the VC-dimension of (U,n(U)) is at least 2.

#### Theorem 2.2

Given natural numbers  $d,q\geq 4$ , and a subset of U of the vertices of H(d,q) of size  $|U|\geq 3q^{d-1}+1$ , then the VC-dimension of (U,n(U)) is 3.

### **Theorem 2.1/2.2**



#### Theorem 2.1

Given a natural number  $q\geq 3$ , and subset U of the vertices of H(d,q) of size  $|U|\geq 2q^{d-1}+1$ , the VC-dimension of (U,n(U)) is at least 2.

### **Theorem 2.1/2.2**



#### Theorem 2.1

Given a natural number  $q \geq 3$ , and subset U of the vertices of H(d,q) of size  $|U| \geq 2q^{d-1} + 1$ , the VC-dimension of (U,n(U)) is at least 2.

#### **Necessary information**

We have constructed explicit examples in H(3,q) with size  $\frac{5q^2}{4}$  that maintain VC-dimension 1 by avoiding all shattering pairs.

### **Theorem 2.1/2.2**



#### Theorem 2.1

Given a natural number  $q \geq 3$ , and subset U of the vertices of H(d,q) of size  $|U| \geq 2q^{d-1} + 1$ , the VC-dimension of (U,n(U)) is at least 2.

#### **Necessary information**

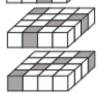
We have constructed explicit examples in H(3,q) with size  $\frac{5q^2}{4}$  that maintain VC-dimension 1 by avoiding all shattering pairs.











### H(2, q, t)



### **Cool Configuration**

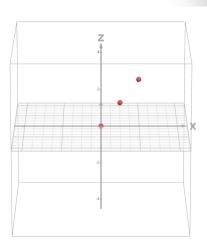
Previously it was/we believed that VC-dimension of 4 or greater was impossible to achieve on H(2,q,t) and while this is true for H(2,q,1), we found that it is surprisingly easy to construct graphs with VC-dimension n by increasing the Hamming distance with n.

### H(d,q,t)



#### **Cool Configuration**

Previously it was/we believed that VC-dimension of 4 or greater was impossible to achieve on H(2,q,t) and while this is true for H(2,q,1), we found that it is surprisingly easy to construct graphs with VC-dimension n by increasing the Hamming distance with n. (i.e. t=d=n)



# Thoughts, comments, concerns, critiques?



### Thanks:)

Christopher Housholder Layna Mangiapanello Steven Senger

Missouri State University

2025

# Missouri State.