

# NUMBER OF MINIMAL CYCLIC CODES WITH GIVEN LENGTH AND DIMENSION

F. E. BROCHERO MARTÍNEZ

ABSTRACT. In this article, we count the quantity of minimal cyclic codes of length  $n$  and dimension  $k$  over a finite field  $\mathbb{F}_q$ , in the case when the prime factors of  $n$  satisfy a special condition. This problem is equivalent to count the quantity of irreducible factors of  $x^n - 1 \in \mathbb{F}_q[x]$  of degree  $k$ .

## 1. INTRODUCTION

Let  $\mathbb{F}_q$  be a finite field with  $q$  elements. A linear  $[n, k; q]$  code  $\mathcal{C}$  is a linear subspace of  $\mathbb{F}_q^n$  of dimension  $k$ .  $\mathcal{C}$  is called a *cyclic code* if  $\mathcal{C}$  is invariant by a shift permutation, i.e., if  $(a_0, a_1, \dots, a_{n-1}) \in \mathcal{C}$  then  $(a_{n-1}, a_0, a_1, \dots, a_{n-2}) \in \mathcal{C}$ . It is known that every cyclic code can be seen as an ideal of the ring  $\frac{\mathbb{F}_q[x]}{(x^n - 1)}$ . In addition, since  $\frac{\mathbb{F}_q[x]}{(x^n - 1)}$  is a principal ring, every ideal is generated by a polynomial  $g(x)$  such that  $g$  is a divisor of  $x^n - 1$ . Thus, the polynomial  $g$  is called *generator* of the code and the polynomial  $h(x) = \frac{x^n - 1}{g(x)}$  is called the *parity-check* polynomial of  $\mathcal{C}$ . Observe that  $\{g, xg, \dots, x^{k-1}g\}$ , where  $k = \deg(h)$ , is a basis of the linear space  $(g) \in \frac{\mathbb{F}_q[x]}{(x^n - 1)}$ , then the dimension of the code is the degree of the parity-check polynomial. A cyclic code  $\mathcal{C}$  is called *minimal cyclic code* if  $h$  is an irreducible polynomial in  $\mathbb{F}_q[x]$ . Thus, the number of irreducible factors of  $x^n - 1 \in \mathbb{F}_q[x]$  corresponds to the number of minimal cyclic codes of length  $n$  in  $\mathbb{F}_q$ . Specifically, there exists a bijection between the minimal cyclic codes of dimension  $k$  and length  $n$  over  $\mathbb{F}_q$ , that we denote by  $[n, k; q]$ , and the irreducible factors of  $x^n - 1 \in \mathbb{F}_q[x]$  of degree  $k$ .

Irreducible cyclic codes are very interesting by its applications in communication, storage systems like compact disc players, DVDs, disk drives, two-dimensional bar codes, etc. (see [5, Section 5.8 and 5.9]). The advantage of the cyclic codes, with respect to other linear codes, is that they have efficient encoding and decoding algorithms (see [5, Section 3.7]). For these facts, cyclic codes have been studied for the last decades and many progress has been found (see [8]).

A natural question is how many minimal cyclic codes of length  $n$  and dimension  $k$  over  $\mathbb{F}_q$  does there exist? In other words, the question is: given  $n$ ,  $k$  and  $\mathbb{F}_q$ , find an explicit formula for the number of minimal cyclic  $[n, k; q]$ -codes. This question is in general unknown, and how to construct all of them too.

In this article, we determine the number of minimal cyclic  $[n, k; q]$ -codes assuming that the order of  $q$  modulo each prime factor of  $n$  satisfies some special relation.

---

*Date:* September 16, 2021.

*2010 Mathematics Subject Classification.* 20C05 (primary) and 16S34(secondary).

*Key words and phrases.* minimal cyclic codes, cyclotomic classes.

## 2. PRELIMINARIES

Throughout this article,  $\mathbb{F}_q$  denotes a finite field of order  $q$ , where  $q$  is a power of a prime. For each  $a \in \mathbb{F}_l^*$ ,  $\text{ord}(a)$  denotes the order of  $a$  in a multiplicative group  $\mathbb{F}_l^*$ , i.e.  $\text{ord}(a)$  is the least positive integer  $k$  such that  $a^k = 1$ . In the same way, we denote by  $\text{ord}_n b$ , the order of  $b$  in a multiplicative group  $\mathbb{Z}_n^*$  and  $\nu_p(m)$  is the maximal power of  $p$  that divides  $m$ . In addition, for each irreducible polynomial  $P(x) \in \mathbb{F}_q[x]$ ,  $\text{ord}(P(x))$  denotes the order of some root of  $P(x)$  in some extension of  $\mathbb{F}_q$ .

It is a classical result (see, for instance, [4]) to determine the number of factors of  $x^n - 1$  and its degree, when the order is given.

**Theorem 2.1.** *Let  $n$  be a positive integer such that  $\text{gcd}(n, q) = 1$ , then each factor of  $x^n - 1 \in \mathbb{F}_q[x]$  has order  $m$ , where  $m$  is a divisor of  $n$ . In addition, for each  $m|n$ , there exist  $\frac{\varphi(m)}{\text{ord}_m q}$  irreducible factors and each of these factors has degree  $\text{ord}_m q$ .*

As a consequence of this theorem (see proposition 2.1 in [1]), the number of factors of degree  $k$  of  $x^n - 1$  is  $\sum_{\substack{m|n \\ \text{ord}_m q = k}} \frac{\varphi(m)}{k}$  and then the total number of irreducible factors is  $\sum_{m|n} \frac{\varphi(m)}{\text{ord}_m q}$ . So, the number of irreducible factors of degree  $k$  is zero if any  $m$  divisor of  $n$  satisfies  $\text{ord}_m q = k$ . Clearly, this formula is not really explicit, because it depends on the calculation of the orders  $\text{ord}_m q$  for every divisor of  $n$ .

An equivalent approach is to use the technique of  $q$ -cyclotomic classes (see [11] page 157 or [9] Chapter 8). In fact, the  $q$ -cyclotomic class of  $j$  modulo  $n$  is the set  $\{j, jq, jq^2, \dots, jq^{k-1}\}$  whose elements are distinct modulo  $n$  and  $jq^k \equiv j \pmod{n}$ . This  $q$ -cyclotomic class determines one irreducible factor of  $x^n - 1$  of degree  $k$ .

If we denote by  $\mathcal{C}_k$  the set of numbers  $j$ , with  $1 \leq j \leq n$  that have  $q$ -cyclotomic class with  $k$  elements, then

$$\begin{aligned} \mathcal{C}_k &= \{j \leq n; k \text{ is the minimum positive integer such that } jq^k \equiv j \pmod{n}\} \\ &= \left\{ j \leq n; k \text{ is the minimum positive integer such that } q^k \equiv 1 \pmod{\frac{n}{\text{gcd}(n, j)}} \right\} \\ &= \left\{ j \leq n; k = \text{ord}_{\frac{n}{\text{gcd}(n, j)}} q \right\}. \end{aligned}$$

Since each  $q$ -cyclotomic class determines a minimal cyclic code, then the number of minimal cyclic  $[n, k; q]$ -codes is  $\frac{|\mathcal{C}_k|}{k}$ .

Using this technique, in [10] and [6] are shown explicit formulas for the total of minimal cyclic codes for some special cases.

**Theorem 2.2** ([10]). *Suppose that  $n = p_1^{\alpha_1} p_2$  satisfies that  $d = \text{gcd}(\varphi(p_1^{\alpha_1}), \varphi(p_2))$ ,  $p_1 \nmid (p_2 - 1)$  and  $q$  is a primitive root mod  $p_1^{\alpha_1}$  as well as mod  $p_2$ . Then the number of minimal cyclic codes of length  $n$  over  $\mathbb{F}_q$  is  $\alpha_1(d + 1) + 2$ .*

**Theorem 2.3** ([6, Theorem 2.6]). *Suppose that  $n = p_1^{\alpha_1} \cdots p_l^{\alpha_l}$  satisfies that  $\text{ord}_{p_j^{\alpha_j}} q = \varphi(p_j^{\alpha_j})$  for every  $j$ , and  $\text{gcd}(p_j - 1, p_i - 1) = 2$  for every  $i \neq j$ . Then the number of minimal cyclic codes of length  $n$  over  $\mathbb{F}_q$  is*

$$\frac{(2\alpha_1 + 1)(2\alpha_2 + 1) \cdots (2\alpha_k + 1) + 1}{2}.$$

Besides, some explicit formulas for the number of  $[n, k; q]$ -codes for some particular values of  $n$  and  $q$  are known

**Theorem 2.4** ([3, Corollary 3.3 and 3.6]). *Suppose that  $n$  and  $q$  are numbers such that every prime factor of  $n$  divides  $q - 1$ . Then*

(1) *If  $8 \nmid n$  or  $q \not\equiv 3 \pmod{4}$  then the number of minimal cyclic  $[n, d; q]$ -codes is*

$$\begin{cases} \frac{\varphi(d)}{d} \cdot \gcd(n, q - 1) & \text{if } d \mid \frac{n}{\gcd(n, q-1)} \\ 0 & \text{otherwise} \end{cases}$$

The total number of minimal cyclic codes of length  $n$  is

$$\gcd(n, q - 1) \cdot \prod_{\substack{p \mid n \\ p \text{ prime}}} \left( 1 + \nu_p(m) \frac{p-1}{p} \right),$$

where  $\varphi$  is the Euler Totient function.

(2) *If  $8 \mid n$  and  $q \equiv 3 \pmod{4}$  then the number of minimal cyclic  $[n, d; q]$ -codes is*

$$\begin{cases} \frac{\varphi(d)}{d} \cdot \gcd(n, q - 1) & \text{if } d \text{ is odd and } d \mid \frac{n}{\gcd(n, q^2-1)} \\ \frac{\varphi(k)}{2k} \cdot (2^r - 1) \gcd(n, q - 1) & \text{if } d = 2k, k \text{ is odd and } k \mid \frac{n}{\gcd(n, q^2-1)} \\ \frac{\varphi(k)}{k} \cdot 2^{r-1} \gcd(n, q - 1) & \text{if } d = 2k, k \text{ is even and } k \mid \frac{n}{\gcd(n, q^2-1)} \\ 0 & \text{otherwise} \end{cases}$$

where  $r = \min\{\nu_2(n/2), \nu_2(q + 1)\}$ . The total number of minimal cyclic codes of length  $n$  is

$$\gcd(n, q - 1) \cdot \left( \frac{1}{2} + 2^{r-2}(2 + \nu_2(m)) \right) \cdot \prod_{\substack{p \mid n \\ p \text{ odd prime}}} \left( 1 + \nu_p(m) \frac{p-1}{p} \right).$$

### 3. CODES WITH POWER OF A PRIME LENGTH

In this section, we are going to suppose that  $n$  is a power of a prime. In order to determine the number of irreducible codes of length  $n$ , we need the following lemma, that it is pretty well-known in the Mathematical Olympiads folklore and it is attributed to E. Lucas and R. D. Carmichael (see [7]).

**Lemma 3.1** (Lifting-the-exponent Lemma). *Let  $p$  be a prime. For all  $a, b \in \mathbb{Z}$  and  $n \in \mathbb{N}$ , such that  $p \nmid ab$  and  $p \mid (a - b)$ , the following properties are satisfied*

- (i) *If  $p \geq 3$ , then  $\nu_p(a^n - b^n) = \nu_p(a - b) + \nu_p(n)$ .*
- (ii) *If  $p = 2$  and  $n$  is odd then  $\nu_2(a^n - b^n) = \nu_2(a - b)$ .*
- (iii) *If  $p = 2$  and  $n$  is even then  $\nu_2(a^n - b^n) = \nu_2(a^2 - b^2) + \nu_2(n) - 1$ .*

As a consequence of the previous lemma we obtain

**Corollary 3.2.** *Let  $p$  be a prime and  $\rho = \text{ord}_p q$ .*

(1) *If  $q \not\equiv 3 \pmod{4}$  or  $p \neq 2$  then*

$$\text{ord}_{p^\theta} q = \begin{cases} 1 & \text{if } \theta = 0 \\ \rho & \text{if } \theta \leq \beta \\ \rho p^{\theta-\beta} & \text{if } \theta > \beta. \end{cases}$$

where  $\beta = \nu_p(q^\rho - 1)$ .

(2) If  $q \equiv 3 \pmod{4}$  and  $p = 2$ , then

$$\text{ord}_{2^\theta} q = \begin{cases} 1 & \text{if } \theta = 0 \text{ or } 1. \\ 2 & \text{if } \theta \leq \beta \\ 2^{\theta-\beta+1} & \text{if } \theta > \beta. \end{cases}$$

where  $\beta = \nu_2(q^2 - 1)$ .

*Proof:* (1) Clearly,  $\text{ord}_{p^\theta} q = \rho$  if  $1 \leq \theta \leq \beta$ . In the case  $\theta > \beta$ , since  $\text{ord}_p q$  divides  $\text{ord}_{p^\theta} q$  then, by Lemma 3.1 item (i), we have

$$\theta = \nu_p(q^k - 1) = \nu_p(q^\rho - 1) + \nu_p\left(\frac{k}{\rho}\right) = \beta + \nu_p\left(\frac{k}{\rho}\right).$$

In addition to the minimality of  $k$ , we obtain that  $\frac{k}{\rho} = p^{\theta-\beta}$ .

The proof of part (2) is similar by using items (ii) and (iii) of Lemma 3.1.  $\square$

**Theorem 3.3.** Suppose that  $n = p^\alpha$ , where  $p$  is a prime and  $\rho$  and  $\beta$  as in the previous lemma. Then

(1) If  $p \neq 2$  or  $q \not\equiv 3 \pmod{4}$  then the number of minimal cyclic  $[n, d; q]$ -codes is

$$\begin{cases} \gcd(n, q-1) & \text{if } d = 1 \\ \frac{p^{\min\{\alpha, \beta\} - 1}}{\rho} & \text{if } d = \rho \neq 1 \\ \frac{p^\beta - p^{\beta-j}}{\rho} & \text{if } d = \rho \cdot p^j \text{ and } 1 \leq j \leq \alpha - \beta \\ 0 & \text{otherwise} \end{cases}$$

(2) If  $n = 2^\alpha$  and  $q \equiv 3 \pmod{4}$  then the number of minimal cyclic  $[n, d; q]$ -codes is

$$\begin{cases} 2 & \text{if } d = 1 \\ 1 & \text{if } d = 2 \text{ and } \alpha = 2 \\ 3 & \text{if } d = 2 \text{ and } \alpha \geq 3 \\ 2 & \text{if } d = 2^j \text{ and } 2 \leq j \leq \alpha - 2 \\ 0 & \text{otherwise} \end{cases}$$

*Proof:* (1) In the case when  $k = 1$ , the number of  $[n, 1; q]$ -codes is equivalent to the number of roots of the polynomial  $x^n - 1$  in  $\mathbb{F}_q^*$ . Since every element of  $\mathbb{F}_q^*$  is root of  $x^{q-1} - 1$ , and  $\gcd(x^n - 1, x^{q-1} - 1) = x^{\gcd(n, q-1)} - 1$ , we conclude that the number of minimal  $[n, 1; q]$ -codes is  $\gcd(n, q-1)$ .

Now, suppose that  $d \neq 1$ . Since  $\rho$  divides  $\text{ord}_{p^s} q$  for every  $s \geq 1$  and  $\frac{\text{ord}_{p^s} q}{\rho}$  is a power of  $p$ , it follows that if  $\frac{k}{\rho}$  is not a power of  $p$ , then there not exist  $[n, k; q]$ -codes.

In the case when  $d = \rho$ , by Corollary 3.2, we know that  $\text{ord}_{p^s} q = \rho$  if and only if  $1 \leq s \leq \beta$  and then the number of  $[n, \rho; q]$ -codes is

$$\sum_{s=1}^{\min\{\alpha, \beta\}} \frac{\varphi(p^s)}{\rho} = \sum_{s=1}^{\min\{\alpha, \beta\}} \frac{p^s - p^{s-1}}{\rho} = \frac{p^{\min\{\alpha, \beta\}} - 1}{\rho}$$

Finally, in the case  $d = \rho p^j$ , since  $\text{ord}_{p^s} q = \rho p^j$  if and only if  $s = j + \beta$ , and  $s \leq \alpha$ , we conclude that  $j \leq \alpha - \beta$  and the number of  $[n, \rho p^j; q]$ -codes is

$$\frac{\varphi(p^s)}{\text{ord}_{p^s} q} = \frac{\varphi(p^{j+\beta})}{\rho p^j} = \frac{p^\beta - p^{\beta-1}}{\rho}.$$

So, this identity concludes the proof of (1).

We note that the proof of (2) is essentially the same of (1) and we omit.  $\square$

**Remark 3.4.** In [2], we show one way to construct the primitive idempotents of the ring  $\frac{\mathbb{F}_q[x]}{(x^n-1)}$  where  $n = p^\alpha$  and it is known that each primitive idempotent is a generator of one minimal cyclic code of length  $n$ .

#### 4. THE NUMBER OF CYCLIC CODES GIVEN AN SPECIAL CONDITION

Throughout this section,  $n = p_1^{\alpha_1} \cdots p_l^{\alpha_l}$  is the factorization in primes of  $n$ , where  $n$  is odd or  $q \not\equiv 3 \pmod{4}$ . Moreover, we put  $\rho_i = \text{ord}_{p_i} q$  and  $\beta_i = \nu_{p_i}(q^{\rho_i} - 1)$ .

**Definition 4.1.** The pair  $(n, q)$  satisfies the homogeneous order condition (H.O.C.) if  $\text{gcd}(\rho_i, n) = 1$ , for every  $i$ , and there exists  $\rho \in \mathbb{N}$  such that  $\rho = \text{gcd}(\rho_i, \rho_j)$ , for every  $i \neq j$ .

Observe that every pair  $(n, q)$  considered in Theorems 2.2, 2.3, 2.4 and 3.3 satisfies H.O.C.. Furthermore, if  $(n, q)$  satisfies H.O.C then

$$R := \text{lcm}(\rho_1, \rho_2, \dots, \rho_k) = \frac{\rho_1 \rho_2 \cdots \rho_k}{\rho^{k-1}}$$

and, by Lemma 3.1, we have

$$\nu_{p_i}(q^R - 1) = \nu_{p_i}(q^{\rho_i} - 1) + \sum_{\substack{1 \leq j \leq k \\ j \neq i}} \nu_{p_i} \left( \frac{\rho_j}{\rho} \right) = \beta_i.$$

**Lemma 4.2.** Let  $(n, q)$  be a pair which satisfies H.O.C. and  $d = p_1^{\theta_1} \cdots p_l^{\theta_l}$  be a divisor of  $n$  other than 1. Then

$$\text{ord}_d q = \frac{\rho d}{\text{gcd}(d, q^R - 1)} \prod_{\substack{1 \leq i \leq l \\ \theta_i \neq 0}} \frac{\rho_i}{\rho}.$$

*Proof:* Observe that if  $\theta_i \neq 0$  then

$$\text{ord}_{p_i^{\theta_i}} q = \rho_i \frac{p_i^{\theta_i}}{\text{gcd}(p_i^{\theta_i}, q^{\rho_i} - 1)} = \rho_i \frac{p_i^{\theta_i}}{\text{gcd}(p_i^{\theta_i}, q^R - 1)}.$$

Thus, in the case when  $d = p_{i_1}^{\theta_{i_1}} \cdots p_{i_s}^{\theta_{i_s}}$ , where  $\theta_{i_j} \neq 0$ , we have

$$\begin{aligned} \text{ord}_d q &= \text{lcm}(\text{ord}_{p_{i_1}^{\theta_{i_1}}} q, \dots, \text{ord}_{p_{i_s}^{\theta_{i_s}}} q) \\ &= \rho \cdot \text{lcm} \left( \frac{\text{ord}_{p_{i_1}^{\theta_{i_1}}} q}{\rho}, \dots, \frac{\text{ord}_{p_{i_s}^{\theta_{i_s}}} q}{\rho} \right) \\ &= \rho \prod_{j=1}^s \frac{\rho_{i_j} \frac{p_{i_j}^{\theta_{i_j}}}{\text{gcd}(p_{i_j}^{\theta_{i_j}}, q^R - 1)}}{\rho} \\ &= \rho \frac{d}{\text{gcd}(d, q^R - 1)} \prod_{p_i | d} \frac{\rho_i}{\rho}. \end{aligned}$$

$\square$

**Corollary 4.3.** Let  $(n, q)$  be a pair which satisfies H.O.C.. If there exist minimal cyclic  $[n, k; q]$ -codes then

- (1)  $\gcd(k, \rho_i) = 1$  or  $\rho_i$ , for every  $i$ .
- (2) If  $p_i$  divides  $\gcd(n, k)$ , then  $\rho_i$  divides  $k$ .
- (3)  $\gcd(n, k)$  divides  $\frac{n}{\gcd(n, q^R - 1)}$ .

**Theorem 4.4.** Let  $\mathbb{F}_q$  be a finite field and  $n$  be a positive integer such that the pair  $(n, q)$  satisfies H.O.C. and suppose that  $n$  is odd or  $q \not\equiv 3 \pmod{4}$ . Let  $k$  be a positive integer satisfying the conditions of the corollary 4.3. Then the number of minimal cyclic  $[n, k; q]$ -codes is

$$\begin{cases} \gcd(n, q - 1) & \text{if } k = 1 \\ \gcd(n, q^R - 1) \frac{\varphi(\gcd(k, n))}{k} & \text{if } k \neq 1. \end{cases}$$

The total number of minimal cyclic codes of length  $n$  is

$$\frac{\rho - 1 + \prod_{i=1}^l \left( \frac{\rho}{\rho_i} \left( \varphi(p_i^{\beta_i}) \max\{\alpha_i - \beta_i, 0\} + p^{\min\{\alpha_i, \beta_i\}} - 1 \right) + 1 \right)}{\rho}$$

*Proof:* We are going to suppose that  $k \neq 1$ , because the case  $k = 1$  has been proved in Theorem 3.3. Let  $\mathcal{I}$  be the set of indices  $i$  such that  $\frac{\rho_i}{\rho}$  divides  $k$ ,  $\mathcal{J} = \{i \in \mathcal{I} | p_i \text{ divides } k\}$  and  $\mathcal{I}_0 = \mathcal{I} \setminus \mathcal{J}$ .

Let  $d$  be a divisor of  $n$  such that  $\text{ord}_d q = k$ . By Lemma 4.2, it follows that  $d | n_{\mathcal{I}}$  and  $k = tR_{\mathcal{I}}$  where

$$t = \gcd(k, n) = \frac{d}{\gcd(d, q^R - 1)} \quad \text{and} \quad R_{\mathcal{I}} = \rho \prod_{i \in \mathcal{I}} \frac{\rho_i}{\rho}.$$

Since  $t = \prod_{i \in \mathcal{I}} p_i^{\theta_i}$ , then

$$\theta_i = \nu_{p_i}(d) - \min\{\nu_{p_i}(d), \beta_i\} = \max\{0, \nu_{p_i}(d) - \beta_i\} \quad \text{for all } i \in \mathcal{I}.$$

Observe that  $\theta_i \leq \max\{0, \alpha_i - \beta_i\}$  for all  $i \in \mathcal{I}$  and then  $t$  divides  $\frac{n_{\mathcal{I}}}{\gcd(n_{\mathcal{I}}, q^R - 1)}$ . Furthermore, if  $\theta_i \neq 0$ , then  $\nu_{p_i}(d) = \theta_i + \beta_i \leq \alpha_i$ , and in the case  $\theta_i = 0$ , we have  $\nu_{p_i}(d) \leq \alpha_i \leq \beta_i$ . It follows that  $d = d_0 d_1$ , where

$$d_1 = \prod_{i \in \mathcal{J}} p_i^{\theta_i + \beta_i} = \gcd(k, n) \cdot \gcd(n_1, q^R - 1), \quad \text{with} \quad n_1 = \prod_{i \in \mathcal{J}} p_i^{\alpha_i}$$

and  $d_0$  is a divisor of  $n_0 = \prod_{i \in \mathcal{I}_0} p_i^{\alpha_i}$ . Therefore, the number of  $[n, k; q]$ -codes is

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{1}{k} \sum_{\substack{d | n \\ \text{ord}_d n = k}} \varphi(d) &= \frac{1}{k} \sum_{d_0 | n_0} \varphi(d_0 d_1) = \frac{n_0 \cdot \varphi(d_1)}{k} \\ &= \frac{n_0 \cdot \gcd(k, n) \cdot \gcd(n_1, q^R - 1)}{k} \prod_{i \in \mathcal{J}} \left( 1 - \frac{1}{p_i} \right). \end{aligned}$$

By using the fact that  $n_0 = \gcd(n_0, q^R - 1)$  and  $\prod_{i \in \mathcal{J}} \left( 1 - \frac{1}{p_i} \right) = \frac{\varphi(\gcd(k, n))}{\gcd(k, n)}$ , we conclude that the number of irreducible cyclic  $[n, k; q]$ -codes is

$$\frac{\gcd(n, q^R - 1) \varphi(\gcd(k, n))}{k}.$$

On the other hand, by Lemma 4.2, the function  $f(d) = \begin{cases} 1 & \text{if } d = 1 \\ \frac{\rho \cdot \varphi(d)}{\text{ord}_d q} & \text{if } d \neq 1 \end{cases}$  is multiplicative for every  $d$  divisor of  $n$ . So, the total number of minimal cyclic codes of length  $n$  is

$$\sum_{d|n} \frac{\varphi(d)}{\text{ord}_d q} = 1 - \frac{1}{\rho} + \frac{1}{\rho} \sum_{d|n} f(d).$$

In order to calculate the sum, observe that

$$\begin{aligned} \sum_{d|p_i^{\alpha_i}} f(d) &= 1 + \sum_{s=1}^{\alpha_i} \frac{\rho \cdot (p_i^s - p_i^{s-1})}{\rho_i \frac{p_i^s}{\text{gcd}(p_i^s, q^R - 1)}} \\ &= 1 + \frac{\rho}{\rho_i} \left(1 - \frac{1}{p_i}\right) \sum_{s=1}^{\alpha_i} \text{gcd}(p_i^s, q^R - 1) \\ &= 1 + \frac{\rho}{\rho_i} \left(1 - \frac{1}{p_i}\right) \left[ \sum_{s=1}^{\min\{\alpha_i, \beta_i\}} p_i^s + \max\{0, \alpha_i - \beta_i\} p_i^{\beta_i} \right] \\ &= 1 + \frac{\rho}{\rho_i} \left( p_i^{\min\{\alpha_i, \beta_i\}} - 1 + \left(1 - \frac{1}{p_i}\right) \max\{0, \alpha_i - \beta_i\} p_i^{\beta_i} \right) \\ &= 1 + \frac{\rho}{\rho_i} \left( p_i^{\min\{\alpha_i, \beta_i\}} - 1 + \max\{0, \alpha_i - \beta_i\} \varphi(p_i^{\beta_i}) \right). \end{aligned}$$

Then, by using the fact that  $\sum_{d|n} f(d)$  is a multiplicative function, we conclude the proof.  $\square$

#### REFERENCES

- [1] Agou, S., *Factorisation sur un Corps Fini  $\mathbb{F}_{p^n}$  des Polynômes Composés  $f(x^s)$  lorsque  $f(x)$  est un Polynôme Irréductible de  $\mathbb{F}_{p^n}[x]$* , L'Enseignement mathém. **22** (1976) 305-312
- [2] Brochero Martínez, F.E., Giraldo Vergara, C.R., *Explicit Idempotents of Finite Group Algebra* Finite Fields Appl. **28** (2014) 123-131
- [3] Brochero Martínez, F.E., Giraldo Vergara, C.R., Batista de Oliveira, L., *Explicit Factorization of  $x^n - 1 \in \mathbb{F}_q[x]$* , submitted for publication in Designs, Codes and Cryptography.
- [4] Butler, M.C.R., *The Irreducible factors of  $f(x^m)$  over a finite field*, J. London Math. Soc, 2nd Ser. **30** (1955) 480-482.
- [5] Farrell, P. G., Castieira Moreira, J., *Essentials of Error-Control Coding* John Wiley & Sons Ltd (2006).
- [6] Kumar P, Arora, S.K.  *$\lambda$ -Mapping and Primitive Idempotents in semi simple ring  $\mathcal{R}_m$* . Comm. Algebra **41** (2013) 3679-3694
- [7] R. D. Carmichael, *On the Numerical Factors of Certain Arithmetic Forms*, Amer. Math. Monthly, **16,10** (1909), 153-159.
- [8] Huffman, W.C. , Pless, V. , *Fundamentals of Error-Correcting Codes*, Cambridge University Press, (2003).
- [9] MacWilliams, F.J., Sloane, N.J.A. , *Theory of Error-Correcting Codes*, North-Holland (1977).
- [10] Sahni, A., Sehgal, P. *Minimal cyclic codes of length  $p^n q$* , Finite Fields Appl. **18** (2012), no. 5, 1017-1036.
- [11] Xambo-Descamps, S. *Block Error-Correcting Codes* Universitext, Springer (2003)

DEPARTAMENTO DE MATEMÁTICA, UNIVERSIDADE FEDERAL DE MINAS GERAIS, UFMG, BELO HORIZONTE, MG, 30123-970, BRAZIL,  
E-mail address: fbrocher@mat.ufmg.br