

## 3. Message Attack (ISD)

1. From Generic Decoding to Syndrome Decoding
2. **Combinatorial Solutions: Exhaustive Search and Birthday Decoding**
3. Information Set Decoding: the Power of Linear Algebra
4. Complexity Analysis
5. Lee and Brickell Algorithm
6. Stern/Dumer Algorithm
7. May, Meurer, and Thomae Algorithm
8. Becker, Joux, May, and Meurer Algorithm
9. Generalized Birthday Algorithm for Decoding
10. Decoding One Out of Many

# Exhaustive Search

Problem: find  $w$  columns of  $H$  adding to  $s$  (modulo 2)

$$H = \begin{array}{cccc} & \xleftarrow{\quad n \quad} & & \\ & \boxed{h_1 \quad h_2 \quad \cdots \quad h_n} & \xrightarrow{\quad} & \\ & \uparrow n-k & & \\ & \downarrow & & \end{array} \quad s = \boxed{\phantom{000000}}$$

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Answer: enumerate all  $w$ -tuples  $(j_1, j_2, \dots, j_w)$  such that  $1 \leq j_1 < j_2 < \dots < j_w \leq n$  and check whether  $s + h_{j_1} + h_{j_2} + \dots + h_{j_w} = 0$

► How to enumerate nicely



































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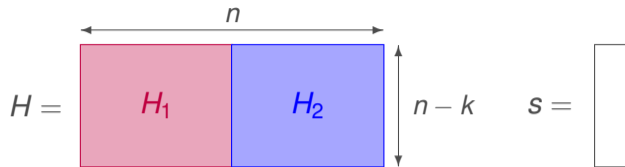
► How to enumerate nicely

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Note that we obtain all solutions

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Answer: Split  $H$  into two equal parts and enumerate the two following sets

$$\mathcal{L}_1 = \left\{ e_1 H_1^T \mid \text{wt}(e_1) = \frac{w}{2} \right\} \text{ and } \mathcal{L}_2 = \left\{ s + e_2 H_2^T \mid \text{wt}(e_2) = \frac{w}{2} \right\}$$

If  $\mathcal{L}_1 \cap \mathcal{L}_2 \neq \emptyset$ , we have solution(s):  $s + e_1 H_1^T + e_2 H_2^T = 0$

► Algorithm















# Birthday Decoding – Complexity

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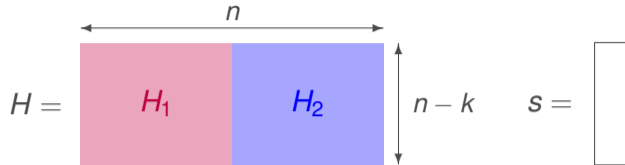
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We may have to repeat with  $H$  divided in several different ways



or more generally by picking the two halves **randomly**

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To obtain **all** solutions:

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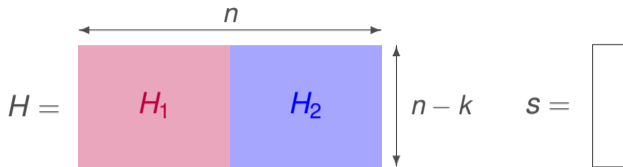
To obtain **all most** solutions:

repeat with  $\approx \frac{1}{\mathcal{P}}$  different splitting:  $\left\{ \begin{array}{l} 1. \text{ compute } \mathcal{L}_1 \text{ and } \mathcal{L}_2 \\ 2. \text{ compute } \mathcal{L}_1 \cap \mathcal{L}_2 \end{array} \right.$

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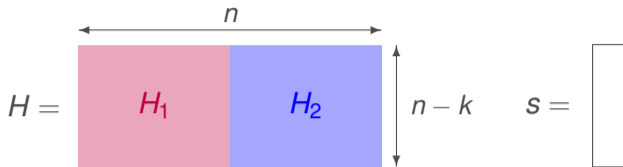
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$$\text{Total cost } \frac{2 \binom{n/2}{w/2} + \binom{n/2}{w/2}^2 / 2^{n-k}}{\mathcal{P}} = \frac{2 \binom{n}{w}}{\binom{n/2}{w/2}} + \frac{\binom{n}{w}}{2^{n-k}} \text{ operations}$$

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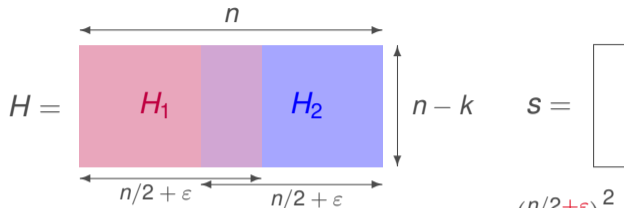
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$$\approx \sqrt[4]{8\pi w} \sqrt{\binom{n}{w}} + \#Solutions$$

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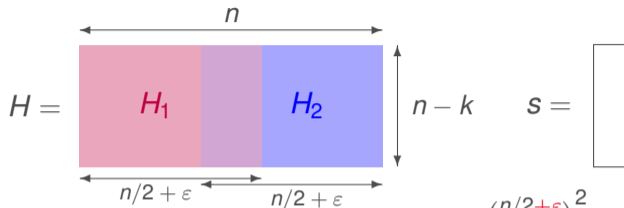
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$$\mathcal{P} = \frac{\binom{n/2+\epsilon}{w/2}^2}{\binom{n}{w}}$$

Relaxation: allow overlapping  $\rightarrow H_1$  and  $H_2$  are wider by  $\epsilon$

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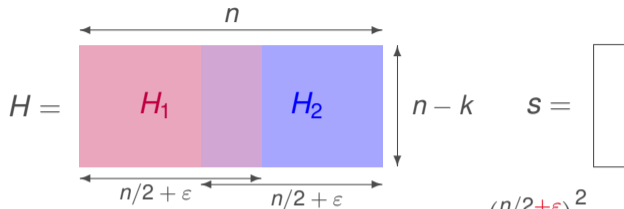
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We choose  $\epsilon$  such that  $\binom{n/2+\epsilon}{w/2} \approx \sqrt{\binom{n}{w}} \rightarrow$  single repetition

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Total cost:  $2\sqrt{\binom{n}{w}} + \binom{n}{w}/2^{n-k} = 2L + L^2/2^{n-k}$  with  $L = \sqrt{\binom{n}{w}}$   
(up to a small constant factor)

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