Information Theory

01 Course Overview



TI 2020/2021

Notice

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Bibliography

Many examples are extracted and adapted from:



Information Theory, Inference, and Learning Algorithms

Cambridge University Press, 2003

Information Theory, Inference, and Learning Algorithms David J.C. MacKay 2005, Version 7.2

- And some slides were based on lain Murray course
 - http://www.inf.ed.ac.uk/teaching/courses/it/2014/



Table of Contents

- Context and Motivation
- Let's code. Repeating Codes
- Let's code. Block Codes
- What performance the best codes achieve?
- Course Organization and Overview
 - Syllabus; Bibliography; Evaluation rules; important dates, etc.





Context and Motivation



Analog versus Digital Communication sending an audio signal by amplitude modulation: to desired speaker-cone position is the height of the signal. The



shows an encoding of a pure tone.

Econdingby with pittuce conocidation net attenuation: the amplitude of the signal decays over time. (7)

details of this in a real system could be messy.) Assuming we regularly boost the signal, we would also amplify any noise t been added to the signal. After several cycles of attenuation. addition and amplification, corruption can be severe.

A variety of analogue encodings are possible, but whatever is 'boosting' process can ever return a corrupted signal exactly original form. In digital communication the sent message con a discrete set. If the message is corrupted we can 'round' to nearest discrete message. It is possible, but not guaranteed, restore the message to exactly the one sent.

Digital communication

Encoding: amplitude modulation not only choice. Can re-represent messages to improve signal-to-noise ratio

Digital encodings: signal takes on discrete values

Signal

Communication channels

modem \rightarrow phone line \rightarrow modem

Galileo \rightarrow radio waves \rightarrow Earth

finger tips \rightarrow nerves \rightarrow brain Course Overview - 6 parent cell \rightarrow daughter cells



Digital cpmpaunication			Signahels
Encoding: amplitude modulation not only Can re-represent messages to improve sign digital encoding Digital encodings: signal takes on discret			$\begin{array}{l} Corrupted \\ Ine \to modem \\ Recovered \\ Ives \to Earth \end{array}$
	Signal	finger tips $ ightarrow$ ner $m{Course}$ parent cell $ ightarrow$ da	ves → brain Overview - 6 aughter cells

Examples of noisy communication channels





General digital communication system

The role of the **encoder is to introduce systematically redundancy** to make possible to the decoder (which know the encoding process) to discover the sent message even if some bits were flipped by the noise channel













f = 0.1





f = 0.1



Perfect communication over an noisy communication channel?

A useful disk drive would flip no bits at all in its entire lifetime. If we expect to read and write a gigabyte per day for ten years, we require a bit error probability of the order of 10⁻¹⁵, or smaller.



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- Physical solutions
 - Incremental improvements
 - Increasing costs



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Physical solutions

- Incremental improvements
- Increasing costs

System Solutions

Can turn noisy channels into reliable communication channels (with the only cost being a computational requirement at the encoder and decoder)



General digital communication system





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Information Theory and Coding Theory

The **role of the encoder** is to introduce **systematically redundancy** to make possible to the decoder (which know the encoding process) to discover the sent message even if some bits were flipped by the noise channel.





Information Theory and Coding Theory

The **role of the encoder** is to introduce **systematically redundancy** to make possible to the decoder (which know the encoding process) to discover the sent message even if some bits were flipped by the noise channel.

Information Theory is concerned with the theoretical limitations and potentials of such systems. 'What is the best error-correcting performance we could achieve?'

Coding Theory is concerned with the creation of practical encoding and decoding systems





Course Organization and Overview



Syllabus

1 - Introduction

- Main problems addressed by Information Theory and its creation.
- Relations with other bodies of knowledge.
- Information Theory Overview.

2 - Foundational Concepts

- Entropy for discrete variables.
- Channel capacity for noiseless channels.
- Source Coding Shannon Theorem
- Data Compression
- Kolmogorov Complexity
- Joint distributions
- Mutual Information
- Condicional Entropy
- Noise and cross comunicativos
- Error correcting codes
- Channel capacity for noisy-channels.
- The Noisy-Channel Coding Theorem
- Extension for the continuum domain.
- Information Theory on other knowledge domains

3 - Probability and Inference

4 - Neural Networks



Bibliography

David J.C. MacKay

Information Theory, Inference, and Learning Algorithms

Cambridge University Press, 2003

http://www.inference.org.uk/mackay/

http://www.inference.org.uk/mackay/itila/



Information Theory, Inference, and Learning Algorithms David J.C. MacKay 2005, Version 7.2

Weekly routine

Lectures - 1 x 2 h

- The lab sessions 1 x 2 h
 - Training problem solving
 - Project developing

The recommended readings

The recommended actions

Meetings for student support if required



Evaluation rules

- The students performance evaluation includes two individual written tests and a small project.
 - Final Grade = 35% Test1 + 35% Test2 + 30% Project

To successful conclude the following constraints are applied:

- Project \geq 10;
- Test1 >= 8; Test2 >= 8;
- Average of Test1 and Test2 >= 10;
- Final Grade >= 10.
- The students that get a Project >= 10 and do satisfy the constraints on the tests, may have

an exam which grade will replace the tests in the final grade calculation



Web Site: http://ti.ssdi.di.fct.unl.pt



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TI 20/21 Information Theory	FACULDADE DE CIÊNCIAS E TECNOLOGIA UNIVERSIDADE NOVA DE LISBOA					
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News	offered to students from 4th and 5th years of Mestrado Integrado em Engenharia Informática (MIEI) and to Pós- Graduação em Criptografia e Informação (PGCI).					
Information	This unit presents the foundations of Information Theory and shows its applications to Computer Science, Statistical Inference and Machine Learning.					
Bibliography						
Sylabus	This course is provided by Departamento de Informática (<u>DI</u>) da Faculdade de Ciências e Tecnologia (<u>FCT</u>) da					
Evaluation Rules						
Schedule	Objectives: Knowledge:					
Resources	The main Information Theory concepts, including Entropy, Information, Condicional Entropy, Channel Capacity,					
Summaries	Identify these concepts in different contexts of communication systems, Storage, Data Processing and					
Training	 The main Information Theory's Theorem, the source coding theorem (with and without noise), its role, impact and application areas. The core aspects of Compression and error correcting codes. General principles and approaches to cryptography. Information Theory's application examples to different knowledge areas. 					
	Application:					
	Apply Entropy and Information concepts to Computer Science and Machine Learning.Develop the main components of data compression algorithms or error correcting codes.					
	Soft-Skills:					
	 Improve you ability to read and understand papers with a significant formal component. Be able to provide examples that illustrate the concepts and techniques discussed. Improve your team-work skills. Improve your communication skills (oral and written) on formal subjects. Propose and develop simple but formal notation. 					
	Prerequisites: Basic knowledge of Probability and Statistics. Basic knowledge and Practice of computer programming.					
	Teacher Prof. João Moura Pires (jmp@fct.unl.pt) at office P3/2 and Tel: 10746.					
	Schedule (see at <u>Schedule</u> that will be updated) Lectures:					
	English (if required) spoken lectures					
	Office hours:					
	 TBD Other time slots if you get previously an appointment 					
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Objectives:

Knowledge:

- The main Information Theory concepts, including Entropy, Information, Condicional Entropy, Channel Capacity.
- Identify these concepts in different contexts of communication systems, Storage, Data Processing and Inference.
- The main Information Theory's Theorem, the source coding theorem (with and without noise), its role, impact and application areas.
- The core aspects of Compression and error correcting codes.
- General principles and approaches to cryptography.
- Information Theory's application examples to different knowledge areas.

Application:

- Apply Entropy and Information concepts to Computer Science and Machine Learning.
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Information	25 Sep 2020, 02:10 PM Filed in: Labs
Resources	The Binomial distribution Approximating x! and
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Training	Probability of block error PB in H(7,4)
	 Noise vectors that give the all-zero syndrome in H(7,4) Design an error-correcting code (*)
Lectures	H(14, 8) code can correct any two errors?
Labs	
Summaries - RSS Feed	[T01]: Course overview
	25 Sep 2020, 10:10 AM Filed in: Lectures
	What we mean by "Information Theory"? What for? Why Information Theory is important? Why is important to study Information Theory?
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	Recommended Readings: (i) Information Theory, Inference, and Learning Algorithms from David MacKay, 2015, pages 1 - 16; (ii) The introduction of "A Mathematical Theory of Communication, Claude Shannon, 1948", pages 1-2.
	Recommended Activities: (i) see the following video: " <u>Claude Shannon - Father of the Information Age</u> ". (ii) Visit the various sections of this site.
	To Know:
	 Why is important the ideia of Digital communications? What was the main question that Shannon try to address with Information Theory? What is on of the most important result of Shannon's work? Understand the General Digital Communication system; What is the role of the Encoder (and the corresponding decoder). Binary Symmetric Channel; what is f? What is Pb, PB and R (rate)? Understand the Repetition codes, (RN). Understand the Block codes, the Linear Block codes, the Hamming code H(7, 4)





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Important Dates

- Test 1: Week starting at November 9th
- Test 2: Week starting at January 4th

- Project Specification: Up to 13 November
- Project delivery: Up to 19 December
- Project Oral discussion: 21, 22 December





Let's code. Repeating Codes



General digital communication system

A straightforward idea is to repeat every bit of the message a prearranged number of times.

Source sequence	Transmitted sequence
S	t
0	000
1	111



The repetition code R₃



Transmit R3 messages over a BSC

Transmit R3 messages over a Binary Symmetric Channel with f = 0.1

- We can describe the channel as 'adding' a sparse noise vector *n* to the transmitted vector *t* (adding in modulo 2 arithmetic):
 - A zero on *n* does not change the transmitted bit
 - A one on *n* does change the transmitted bit $0 \rightarrow 1$; $1 \rightarrow 0$






The transmitted message according to different noise vectors







The transmitted message according to different noise vectors





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The transmitted message according to different noise vectors





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The transmitted message according to different noise vectors





- The optimal algorithm looks at the received bits three at a time and takes a majority vote.
 - More 0, take a 0
 - More 1s, take a 1

Received sequence \mathbf{r}





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Received sequence \mathbf{r}	Decoded sequence $\hat{\mathbf{s}}$		
000	0	Source	
001	0		
010	0	s į	S
100	0	Encoder	Decoder
101	1		
110	1	t .	
011	1	channel	
111	1		



- The optimal algorithm looks at the received bits three at a time and takes a majority vote.
- The optimal decoding decision (optimal in the sense of having the smallest probability of being wrong) is to find which value of s is most probable, given r.





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Posteriori probability of s

$$P(s | r_1 r_2 r_3) = \frac{P(r_1 r_2 r_3 | s) P(s)}{P(r_1 r_2 r_3)}$$



Which value of *s* is most probable, given *r*.

$$P(s=1|r_1r_2r_3) = \frac{P(r_1r_2r_3|s=1)P(s=1)}{P(r_1r_2r_3)} \qquad P(s=0|r_1r_2r_3) = \frac{P(r_1r_2r_3|s=0)P(s=0)}{P(r_1r_2r_3)}$$



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Depends on

- prior probability P(s)
- the data-dependent term $P(r_1r_2r_3 \mid s)$ the *likelihood* of s



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The normalizing constant $P(r_1r_2r_3)$ does not needs to be calculated to find the most probable *s* given the received sequence



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We assume that the prior probability are equal: P(s = 0) = P(s = 1) = 0.5



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So maximizing $P(s | r_1r_2r_3)$ just requires to maximize the the likelihood P(r | s)

$$P(\boldsymbol{r} \mid \boldsymbol{s}) = P(\boldsymbol{r} \mid \boldsymbol{t}(\boldsymbol{s})) = \prod_{n=1}^{N} P(r_n \mid t_n(\boldsymbol{s}))$$

N = 3 is the number of bits in the block The BSC has no memory !



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• Where $P(r_n \mid t_n)$,

$$P(r_n | t_n) = \begin{cases} (1-f) & \text{if } r_n = t_n \\ f & \text{if } r_n \neq t_n \end{cases}$$



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and the *likelihood ratio* for the to possible hypotheses is,

$$\frac{P(\mathbf{r} \mid s=1)}{P(\mathbf{r} \mid s=0)} = \prod_{n=1}^{N} \frac{P(r_n \mid t_n(1))}{P(r_n \mid t_n(0))}$$

$$\frac{P(r_n|t_n(1))}{P(r_n|t_n(0))} = \frac{1-f}{f} \quad if \quad r_n = 1$$

$$\frac{P(r_n|t_n(1))}{P(r_n|t_n(0))} = \frac{f}{1-f} \quad if \quad r_n = 0$$



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The *likelihood ratio* for the two possible hypotheses is,

$$\frac{P(\mathbf{r} \mid s=1)}{P(\mathbf{r} \mid s=0)} = \prod_{n=1}^{N} \frac{P(r_n \mid t_n(1))}{P(r_n \mid t_n(0))}$$

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Since f < 0.5,
$$\gamma = \frac{1-f}{f} > 1$$
 and so,

- The winning hypothesis is the one with the most 'votes'.
- Each vote counting for a factor of γ in the *likelihood ratio*.



The majority vote to decode R3.

Received sequence \mathbf{r}	Likelihood ratio $\frac{P(\mathbf{r} \mid s = 1)}{P(\mathbf{r} \mid s = 0)}$	Decoded sequence $\hat{\mathbf{s}}$
000	γ^{-3}	0
001	γ^{-1}	0
010	γ^{-1}	0
100	γ^{-1}	0
101	γ^1	1
110	γ^1	1
011	γ^1	1
111	γ^3	1



Decoding a message

The optimal algorithm looks at the received bits three at a time and takes a majority vote.



no errors: the message is correctly decoded

one error: the original is recovered

two or three errors: the message is incorrectly decoded.



An error is made by R3 if two or more bits are flipped in a block of three.



- An error is made by R3 if two or more bits are flipped in a block of three.
- The error probability of R3 is a sum of two terms:
 - the probability that all three bits are flipped = f^3 ;
 - the probability that exactly two bits are flipped, $3f^2(1 f)$.



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The improvement on Pb with R3

• Assuming a BSC with f = 0.1





The improvement on Pb with R3

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- Assuming a BSC with f = 0.1, with R_3 we reduce the error probability from 0.1 to 0.03, but.
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- The rate of information transfer has fallen by a factor of three
 - We would need three of the original noisy gigabyte disk drives in order to create a onegigabyte disk drive with pb = 0.03 !



- Assuming a BSC with f = 0.1, with R₃ we reduce the error probability from 0.1 to 0.03, but.
- The rate of information transfer has fallen by a factor of three
 - We would need three of the original noisy gigabyte disk drives in order to create a onegigabyte disk drive with pb = 0.03 !



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What improvements could we expect? At What rate?

- Can we push the error probability lower, to the values required for a sellable disk drive (e.g. 10⁻¹⁵)?
- So to build a single gigabyte disk drive with the required reliability from noisy gigabyte drives with f = 0.1, we would need 60 of the noisy disk drives






Block codes – the (7, 4) Hamming code



Block Codes

Add redundancy to **blocks of data** instead of encoding one bit at a time



Block Codes

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- A block code is a rule for converting a sequence of source bits s, of length K, say, into a transmitted sequence t of length N bits.
 - To add redundancy, *N* > *K*





Block Codes

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- A block code is a rule for converting a sequence of source bits s, of length K, say, into a transmitted sequence t of length N bits.
 - To add redundancy, N > K



■ In a linear block code, the extra *N* − *K* bits are linear functions of the original *K* bits





- Linear block code with N = 7; K = 4
 - 4 source bits
 - 3 parity check bits





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- The 3 parity check bits are linear combinations of the message bits



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$$t_{5} = s_{1} \oplus s_{2} \oplus s_{3}$$
$$t_{6} = s_{2} \oplus s_{3} \oplus s_{4}$$
$$t_{7} = s_{1} \oplus s_{3} \oplus s_{4}$$



- Linear block code with N = 7; K = 4
 - 4 source bits

 $\leftarrow 7 \text{ bits} \longrightarrow t$ t $s_1 \ s_2 \ s_3 \ s_4 \ t_5 \ t_5 \ t_5$

- 3 parity check bits
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Transmitting *s* = **1000**



$$t_{5} = s_{1} \oplus s_{2} \oplus s_{3} \qquad t_{5} = 1 \oplus 0 \oplus 0$$

$$t_{6} = s_{2} \oplus s_{3} \oplus s_{4} \qquad t_{6} = 0 \oplus 0 \oplus 0$$

$$t_{7} = s_{1} \oplus s_{3} \oplus s_{4} \qquad t_{7} = 1 \oplus 0 \oplus 0$$



S	t	S	\mathbf{t}	S	t	_	S	\mathbf{t}
0000	0000 <mark>000</mark>	0100	0100 <mark>110</mark>	 1000	1000 <mark>101</mark>		1100	1100 <mark>011</mark>
0001	0001 <mark>011</mark>	0101	0101 <mark>101</mark>	1001	1001 <mark>110</mark>		1101	1101 <mark>000</mark>
0010	0010 <mark>111</mark>	0110	0110 <mark>001</mark>	1010	1010 <mark>010</mark>		1110	1110 <mark>100</mark>
0011	0011 <mark>100</mark>	0111	0111 <mark>010</mark>	1011	1011 <mark>001</mark>		1111	1111 <mark>111</mark>

In H(7, 4) any pair of codewords differ from each other in at least three bits

- What this suggest in terms of its capabilities of detecting errors?
- Or even in terms of its capabilities of correcting errors?



Hamming Code (7, 4): Matricial form

- Because the Hamming code is a linear code, it can be written compactly in terms of matrices
 - s and t as column vectors s and t as row vectors t = sG $t = G^T s$ *S*₁ *S*₂ *S*₃ *S*₄ $G^{T} = \begin{bmatrix} t_{1} \\ t_{2} \\ t_{3} \\ t_{5} \\ t_{6} \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 \\ 1 & 1 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 1 & 1 \end{bmatrix}$ $G = \begin{bmatrix} t_1 & t_2 & t_3 & t_4 & t_5 & t_6 & t_7 \\ 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 & 1 \\ s_2 & 0 & 1 & 0 & 0 & 1 & 1 & 0 \\ s_3 & 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 & 1 & 1 & 1 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 & 1 & 1 \end{bmatrix}$ $t_5 = s_1 \oplus s_2 \oplus s_3$ $t_6 = s_2 \oplus s_3 \oplus s_4$ $t_7 = s_1 \oplus s_3 \oplus s_4$



We assume a Binary Symmetric Channel and that all source vectors are equiprobable.



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- The optimal decoder identifies the source vector *s* whose encoding *t*(*s*) differs
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 - Since any pair of codewords differ from each other in at least three bits, the H(7, 4) will detect and correct any error on a single bit. It will be misleading with errors on two bits.
 - Each error on one bit is associated to a syndrome.





s = 1000



s = 1000

$$t_5 = s_1 \oplus s_2 \oplus s_3$$
$$t_6 = s_2 \oplus s_3 \oplus s_4$$
$$t_7 = s_1 \oplus s_3 \oplus s_4$$



s = 1000

t = 1000**101**

$$t_{5} = s_{1} \oplus s_{2} \oplus s_{3}$$
$$t_{6} = s_{2} \oplus s_{3} \oplus s_{4}$$
$$t_{7} = s_{1} \oplus s_{3} \oplus s_{4}$$



s = 1000 *t* = 1000**101**

n = 0100000

$$t_5 = s_1 \oplus s_2 \oplus s_3$$
$$t_6 = s_2 \oplus s_3 \oplus s_4$$
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- s = 1000t = 1000101n = 0100000
 - *r* = 1100101

$$t_{5} = s_{1} \oplus s_{2} \oplus s_{3}$$
$$t_{6} = s_{2} \oplus s_{3} \oplus s_{4}$$
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Which circles violate the parity check?	s = 1000			
The circles associated to	<i>t</i> = 1000 101			
t ₅ and t ₆	<i>n</i> = 0100000			
	<i>r</i> = 1100101			
	$t_5 = s_1 \oplus s_2 \oplus s_3$			
	$t_6 = s_2 \oplus s_3 \oplus s_4$			
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Which circles violate the parity check?	s = 1000
The circles associated to to	<i>t</i> = 1000 101
	<i>n</i> = 0 1 00000
Which bits are involved in all circles with a involved in	<i>r</i> = 1100101
	$t_5 = s_1 \oplus s_2 \oplus s_3$
	$t_6 = s_2 \oplus s_3 \oplus s_4$
	$t_7 = s_1 \oplus s_3 \oplus s_4$





Which circles violate the s = 1000parity check? *t* = 1000**101** The circles associated to t_5 and t_6 *n* = 0100000 Which bits are involved *r* = 1100101 in all circles with a violation? only r₂ ! (the flipped bit $t_5 = s_1 \oplus s_2 \oplus s_3$ $t_6 = s_2 \oplus s_3 \oplus s_4$ $t_7 = s_1 \oplus s_3 \oplus s_4$





Which circles violate the parity check?	s = 1000
The circles associated to	<i>t</i> = 1000 101
t₅ and t ₆	<i>n</i> = 0100000
Which bits are involved in all circles with a violation?	<i>r</i> = 1100101
The syndrome to this error is based on the parity of the circles	$t_{5} = s_{1} \oplus s_{2} \oplus s_{3}$ $t_{6} = s_{2} \oplus s_{3} \oplus s_{4}$ $t_{7} = s_{1} \oplus s_{2} \oplus s_{4}$
	1 1 5 4





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0



s = 1000

0



s = 1000

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 $t_5 = s_1 \oplus s_2 \oplus s_3$ $t_6 = s_2 \oplus s_3 \oplus s_4$ $t_7 = s_1 \oplus s_3 \oplus s_4$



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t = 1000**101**

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t ₅ and t ₆	<i>n</i> = 0100000
Which bits are involved	<i>r</i> = 1100101
	$t_5 = s_1 \oplus s_2 \oplus s_3$
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s = 1000*t* = 1000**101** *n* = 0000100 ۱ $t_5 = s_1 \oplus s_2 \oplus s_3$ $t_6 = s_2 \oplus s_3 \oplus s_4$ $t_7 = s_1 \oplus s_3 \oplus s_4$





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n = 0000100 r = 1000001 $t_5 = s_1 \oplus s_2 \oplus s_3$ $t_6 = s_2 \oplus s_3 \oplus s_4$

s = 1000

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 $t_7 = s_1 \oplus s_3 \oplus s_4$



Which circles violate the s = 1000parity check? *t* = 1000**101** The circles associated to t₅ n = 0000100Which bits are involved r = 1000001in all circles with a violation? only r₅ ! (the flipped bit) $t_5 = s_1 \oplus s_2 \oplus s_3$ $t_6 = s_2 \oplus s_3 \oplus s_4$ $t_7 = s_1 \oplus s_3 \oplus s_4$









































Which circles violate the s = 1000*t* = 1000**101** The circles associated to n = 0010000Which bits are involved *r* = 1010101 in all circles with a only r₃ ! (the flipped bit $t_5 = s_1 \oplus s_2 \oplus s_3$ The syndrome to this error is based on the $t_6 = s_2 \oplus s_3 \oplus s_4$ parity of the circles $t_7 = s_1 \oplus s_3 \oplus s_4$







- Flipping any one of the seven bits, we get a different syndrome is obtained in each case.
 - Seven non-zero syndromes, one for each bit.
 - The all-zero syndrome

Syndrome \mathbf{z}	000	001	010	011	100	101	110	111
Unflip this bit	none	r_7	r_6	r_4	r_5	r_1	r_2	r_3

The optimal decoder **unflips at most one bit**, depending on the syndrome.

Any two-bit error pattern will lead to a decoded seven-bit vector that contains three

errors.



- Because the Hamming code is a linear code, it can be written compactly in terms of matrices
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s and t as column vectors

 $t = G^T s$





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All the codewords t of the code satisfy

$$\begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ 0 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix} = Ht$$



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 $t = G^{T} s$ $G^{T} = \begin{bmatrix} t_{1} & s_{2} & s_{3} & s_{4} \\ 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ t_{2} & t_{3} & 0 & 0 \\ t_{3} & 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 & 1 \\ 1 & 1 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 1 & 1 \\ 1 & 0 & 1 & 1 \end{bmatrix}$

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The probability of bit error (for the source bits) is simply three sevenths of the

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probability of block error.

$$P_b = \frac{3}{7} P_B$$

The Hamming code communicates at a **rate**, R = 4/7.

The probability of decoded bit error is about 7% (*)



(*) Transmitting 10 000 source bits over a binary symmetric channel with f = 10% using a (7, 4) Hamming code. The probability of decoded bit error is about 7%.





What performance can the best codes achieve?


Code's performances

Error probability P_b versus rate R for repetition codes, H(7,4) and BCH codes (generalization of Hamming codes) Over a binary symmetric channel with f = 0.1



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Code's performances

- Linear codes look better than repetition codes
- But in all cases it looks that we need a rate near to zero to get a very small error probability





Goals:

- Reduce the decoded bit-error probability *P*_b
- We would like to keep the rate *R* large.

What points in the (*R*, *P*_b) plane are **achievable**?



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- Reduce the decoded bit-error probability P_b
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What points in the (*R*, *P*_b) plane are **achievable**?



A Mathematical Theory of Communication, **Claude Shannon**, 1948



Goals:

- Reduce the decoded bit-error probability P_b
- We would like to keep the rate *R* large.

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What points in the (R, P_b) plane are achievable?



- The widespread belief that the boundary between achievable and nonachievable points in the (R, P_b) plane was **a curve passing through the origin (R, P_b) = (0,0)**
- Shannon proved that the boundary between achievable and nonachievable points



meets the *R* axis at a non-zero value *R* = *C*

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- Shannon proved that the boundary between achievable and nonachievable points meets the *R* axis at a non-zero value *R* = *C*
- For any channel, **there exist codes** that make it possible to communicate with

arbitrarily small probability of error *P*^b at non-zero rates.





C is the channel *capacity*

$$C(f) = 1 - H_2(f) = 1 - \left[f \log_2 \frac{1}{f} + (1 - f) \log_2 \frac{1}{1 - f} \right]$$

For BSC
with
$$f = 0.1$$

 $C = 0.53$

and the curve separating the regions

$$R = C / (1 - H_2(p_b))$$



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What is the impact?

- Consider a (noisy) disk drive with f = 0.1
 - The code R_3 could communicate over this channel with $P_b = 0.03$ at a rate R = 1/3
 - The code R₃ could communicate over this channel with $P_b \approx 10^{-15}$ at a rate R = 1/60



What is the impact?

- Consider a (noisy) disk drive with f = 0.1
 - The code R_3 could communicate over this channel with $P_b = 0.03$ at a rate R = 1/3
 - The code R_3 could communicate over this channel with $P_b \approx 10^{-15}$ at a rate R = 1/60
- According to Shannon you don't need 60 disks to get a performance of $P_b \approx 10^{-15}$. You can get that performance with just 2 disks ! (0.5 < 0.53)



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Further Reading and Summary







Further Reading

Recommend Readings

 Information Theory, Inference, and Learning Algorithms from David MacKay, 2015, pages 1 - 16.

Supplemental readings:

- The introduction of "A Mathematical Theory of Communication, Claude Shannon, 1948", pages 1-2.
- See the movie: "Claude Shannon Father of the Information Age"



What you should know

- Why is important the ideia of Digital communications?
- What was the main question that Shannon try to address with Information Theory?
- What is on of the most important result of Shannon's work?

Concepts:

- General Digital Communication system
- What is the role of the Encoder (and the corresponding decoder)
- BSC; what is f
- What is P_b , P_B and R (rate)?
- Understand the Repetition codes, (R_N)
- Understand the Block codes, the Linear Block codes, the Hamming code H(7, 4)



Further Reading and Summary





