

channel \rightarrow a mathematical model for communication & storage systems

Input alphabet $\rightarrow F$

Output alphabet $\rightarrow \Phi$

$$\vec{x} \in F^n$$

$$\vec{y} \in \Phi^m$$

Two types of channels

\rightarrow probabilistic

\rightarrow Adversarial \rightarrow later

probabilistic channel

$P_{\vec{y}/\vec{x}}(\vec{y}/\vec{x}) \rightarrow$ probability distribution of output, given input.

Example \rightarrow BINARY SYMMETRIC CHANNEL

$F = \{0, 1\}$ (BSC)

$\Phi = \{0, 1\}$

$m = n$.

upper case

$$P_{\vec{y}/\vec{x}}(\vec{y}/\vec{x})$$

$$\begin{cases} \vec{y} = (y_1, y_2, \dots, y_n) \\ \vec{x} = (x_1, x_2, \dots, x_n) \end{cases}$$

$$= \prod_{i=1}^n p_{y_i/x_i}(y_i/x_i)$$

$$p_{y/x}(y/x) = \begin{cases} 1-b & \text{if } y=x \\ b & \text{if } y=\text{NOT}(x) \end{cases}$$

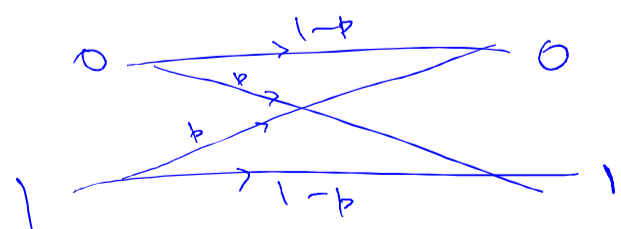
Lower case

cross-over probability

For instance, if $n=2$

$$P_{\vec{y}/\vec{x}}(00/00) = (1-b) \times (1-b) = (1-b)^2$$

$$P_{\vec{y}/\vec{x}}(01/00) = (1-b)b$$



Independence assumption

y_i is independent of $\{x_j : j \neq i\}$ given x_i

Memory less channels

Alternate view

$$\vec{y} = \vec{x} + \vec{z}$$

$n \times 1$

Always XOR!

$\vec{z} \rightarrow$ i.i.d components

Ber. (p)

$$\vec{z} \rightarrow \begin{pmatrix} z_1 \\ \vdots \\ z_n \end{pmatrix} \rightarrow \begin{cases} P(z_i=1) = b \\ P(z_i=0) = 1-b \end{cases}$$

i.e all operations are modulo 2

given x_i

$$p_x(y_i = y_i / x_1 = x_1, x_2 = x_2, \dots, x_n = x_n)$$

$$= p_x(y_i = y_i / x_i = x_i)$$

$$= p_{y/x}(y_i / x_i)$$

channels

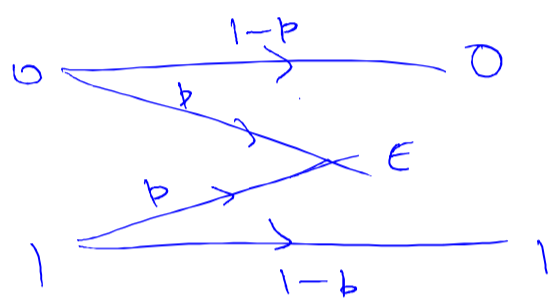
Binary erasure channel (BEC)

$$F = \{0, 1\}, \Phi = \{0, 1, \epsilon\}$$

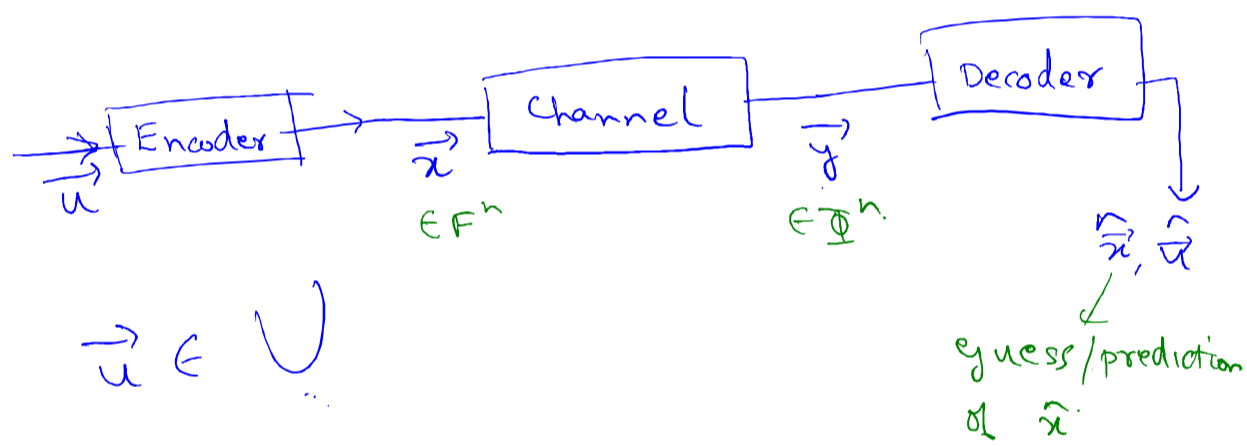
erasure symbol

$$p_{\vec{y}/\vec{x}} = \prod_{i=1}^n p_{y_i/x_i}$$

$$p_{y/x}(y/x) = \begin{cases} 1-p & \text{if } y=x \\ p & \text{if } y=\epsilon \\ 0 & \text{if } y=\text{not}(x) \end{cases}$$



Error correcting code



$$\vec{u} \in U$$

$$|U| = M$$

An (n, M) error correcting code contains the following

→ A one-to-one mapping from U to F^n ; called encoder

→ A one-to-one mapping from Φ^m to U (or from Φ^m to F^n) called decoder.

usually, we assume $m=n$.

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Formally, an

(n, M) code contains a set

$$C \subseteq F^n \text{ where } |C| = M$$

[Encoder mapping from $U \rightarrow C$ is implicit]

For a given channel, and a code C ,
a decoder is a mapping from
 \mathbb{F}^n to C

$$D(\vec{y}) = \vec{x}_0, \text{ where } \vec{x}_0 \in C$$

↳ Decoding function

Hamming distance

→ imposes some geometry on
 F^n , \mathbb{F}^n etc.

Given a set F , and a number n ,
the Hamming distance between strings

$\vec{x}, \vec{y} \in F^n$ is

$$d_H(\vec{x}, \vec{y}) = |\{i: x_i \neq y_i\}|$$



[where $\vec{x} = (x_1, \dots, x_n)$
 $\vec{y} = (y_1, \dots, y_n)$]

Example

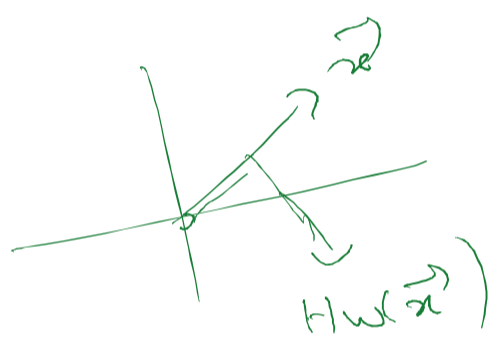
$$d_H(0010, 0110) = 2.$$

Hamming weight

For any set F with a
reference element "0",

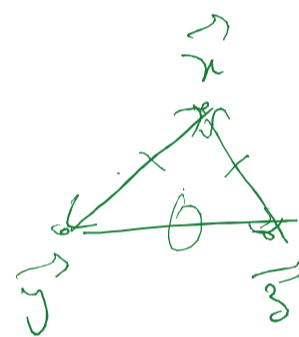
the Hamming Weight of a
vector $\vec{x} \in F^n$ is

$$d_H(\vec{x}, \vec{0})$$



$$d_H(\vec{x}, \vec{y}) = H.w(\vec{x} + \vec{y})$$

for binary vectors
 \vec{x}, \vec{y}



Rate & Min. distance of a code

Rate of an (n, M) code C over alphabet F

is

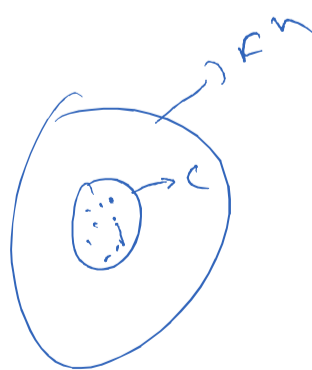
$$R = \frac{\log M}{\log |F|}$$

$$M = |C| \leq |F|^n \Rightarrow \log_{|F|} M \leq n$$

$$\Rightarrow R \leq 1$$

Min distance of a code C is

$$d_{\min} = \min_{\substack{\vec{x} \neq \vec{y} \\ \vec{x}, \vec{y} \in C}} d_H(\vec{x}, \vec{y})$$



(n, M, d) code has block length n ,
and min. distance d .

Examples

Repetition code over $F = \{0, 1\}$

$$M = 2$$

arbitrary n .

$$C = \{0000 \dots 0, 11 \dots 1\}$$

$$\text{Rate} = \frac{1}{n}$$

$$\left[\rightarrow 0 \text{ as } n \rightarrow \infty \right]$$

$$\text{Min. distance} = n$$

Single parity code over $F = \{0, 1\}$

$$M = 2^{n-1}, \text{ arbitrary } n.$$

$$U = \{0, 1\}^{n-1}$$

$$\vec{u} = (u_1, u_2, \dots, u_{n-1}) \rightarrow (u_1, u_2, \dots, u_{n-1}, u_1 + u_2 + \dots + u_{n-1})$$

$$\text{Rate} = \frac{n-1}{n} = 1 - \frac{1}{n}$$

$$\rightarrow 1 \text{ as } n \rightarrow \infty$$

XOR

Example

$$n = 3.$$

$$C = \{000, 011, 101, 110\}$$

$$\text{min. distance} = 2$$

In fact, in general, for a single parity check code,

$$d_{\text{min}} = 2 \quad \left[\begin{array}{l} \text{does not depend} \\ \text{on } n \end{array} \right]$$

$$\begin{array}{c} 00 \dots 00 \\ 00 \dots 11 \end{array} \left. \begin{array}{l} \downarrow \text{parity check} \\ \nearrow \end{array} \right\} \text{distance} = 2$$

Note that for a single parity code

$$\vec{x} \in C \text{ if and only if}$$

$$x_1 + x_2 + \dots + x_n = 0 \rightarrow \text{called a parity check equation.}$$

\hookrightarrow always XOR.

Decoder for probabilistic channels

For a channel $P_{Y/X}$, the

probability of error of a codeword $\vec{x}_0 \in C$.

$$P_{\text{err}}(\vec{x}_0) = P(D(\vec{y}) \neq \vec{x}_0 | \vec{x} = \vec{x}_0)$$

\hookrightarrow decoder

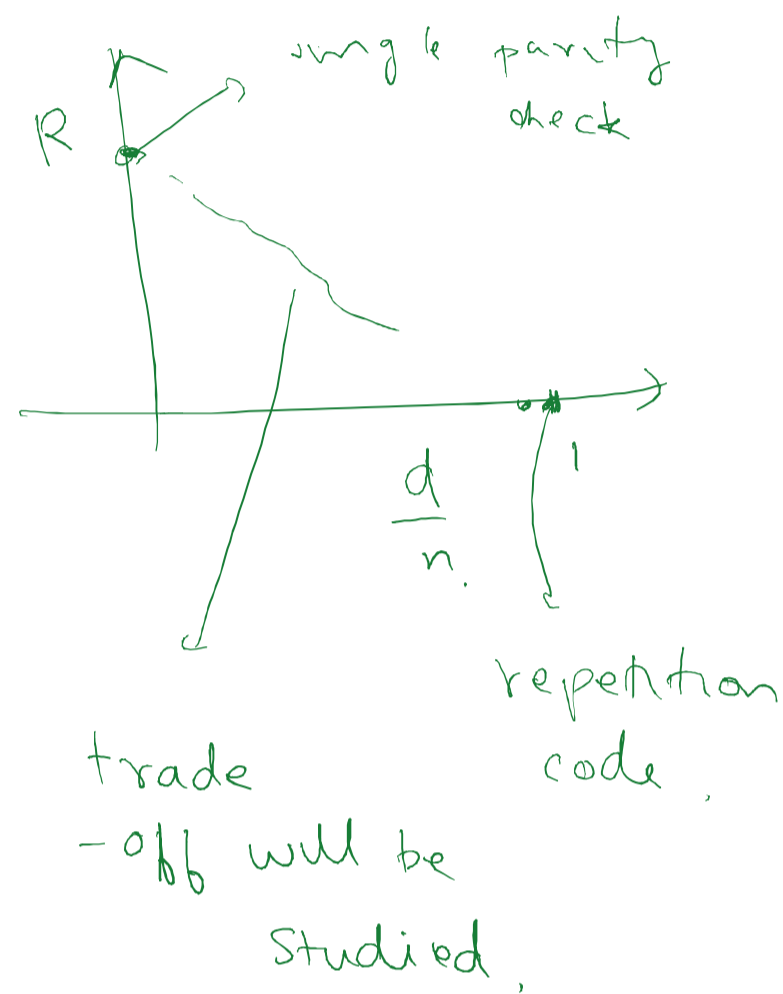
1) Maximal prob. of error

$$P_{\text{err}}(C) = \max_{\vec{x}_0 \in C} P_{\text{err}}(\vec{x}_0)$$

2) Average prob. of error

$$\text{a.i.} = \frac{1}{|C|} \sum_{\vec{x}_0 \in C} P_{\text{err}}(\vec{x}_0)$$

For large n .



$$P_{\text{err}}(c) = \frac{1}{M} \sum_{\vec{x}_0 \in C} P_{\text{err}}(\vec{x}_0)$$

MAP decoder

minimizes prob. of error for a given $P_{\vec{x}}(\vec{x})$

$$D(\vec{y}) = \arg \max_{\vec{x}_0 \in C} P_r(\vec{X} = \vec{x}_0 / \vec{Y} = \vec{y})$$

ML Decoder

minimizes prob. of error

If $P_{\vec{x}}(\vec{x})$ is uniform.

$$D(\vec{y}) = \arg \max_{\vec{x}_0 \in C} P_{\vec{Y}/\vec{X}}(\vec{y} / \vec{x}_0)$$

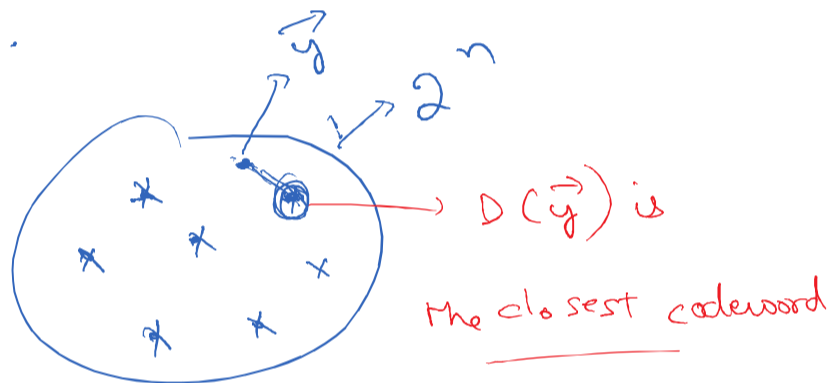
BSC(p)

It can be shown that,

$$p < \frac{1}{2}$$

$$D(\vec{y}) = \arg \min_{\vec{x}_0 \in C} d_H(\vec{y}, \vec{x}_0)$$

ML decoder.



Note that for a BSC

$$P_{\vec{Y}/\vec{X}}(\vec{y} / \vec{x}) = p^{d_H(\vec{y}, \vec{x})} (1-p)^{n-d_H(\vec{y}, \vec{x})}$$

Also, if $p < \frac{1}{2}$,

$$p^a (1-p)^{n-a} > p^b (1-p)^{n-b}$$

$$\text{iff } a < b$$

Example

$n=3$, repetition code.

$$C = \{000, 111\}$$

$$\vec{y} \rightarrow D(\vec{y})$$

$$\begin{aligned} 000 &\rightarrow 000 \\ 001 &\rightarrow 000 \\ 010 &\rightarrow 000 \\ 011 &\rightarrow 111 \\ 100 &\rightarrow 000 \\ 101 &\rightarrow 111 \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned} 110 &\rightarrow 111 \\ 111 &\rightarrow 111 \\ 011 &\rightarrow 111 \end{aligned}$$

$$P_{\text{err}}(000) = P(\vec{y} = 101 \text{ or } \vec{y} = 110 \text{ or } \vec{y} = 111 / \vec{x} = 000)$$

$$P_{\text{err}}(000) = 3p^2(1-p) + p^3$$

Sketch of proof of optimality

$$p(\text{error}) = \sum_{\vec{y} \in \mathbb{F}_2^n} P_r(\text{error} / \vec{Y} = \vec{y}) P_r(\vec{Y} = \vec{y})$$

$$= \sum_{\vec{y}} P_r(\vec{x} \neq D(\vec{y}) / \vec{Y} = \vec{y}) P_r(\vec{Y} = \vec{y})$$

$$= \sum_{\vec{y}} P_r(\vec{y}) [1 - P_r(\vec{x} = D(\vec{y}) / \vec{Y} = \vec{y})]$$

$$= \sum_{\vec{y}} P_r(\vec{y}) [1 - P_{\vec{x}/\vec{y}}(D(\vec{y}) / \vec{y})]$$

larger this is, the smaller the $p(\text{error})$, hence the MAP rule

$$P_{\text{err}}(000) \leq p$$

can be easily verified that

$$P_{\text{err}}(000) < p$$

larger Repetition increases reliability

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As $n \rightarrow \infty$, $P_{err} \rightarrow 0$ for repetition code

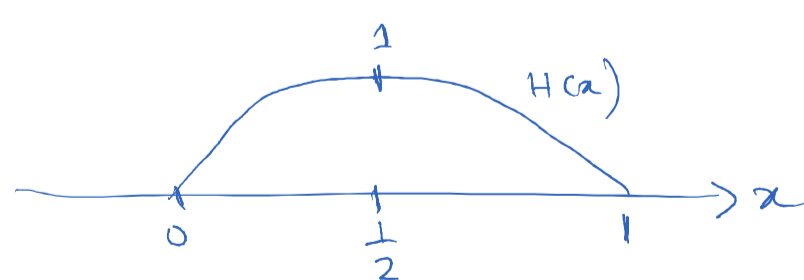
given a number ϵ , what is the highest rate R , s.t. \exists a (n, M) code of rate R , with $P_{err} \leq \epsilon$.

Shannon's results for BSC(p)

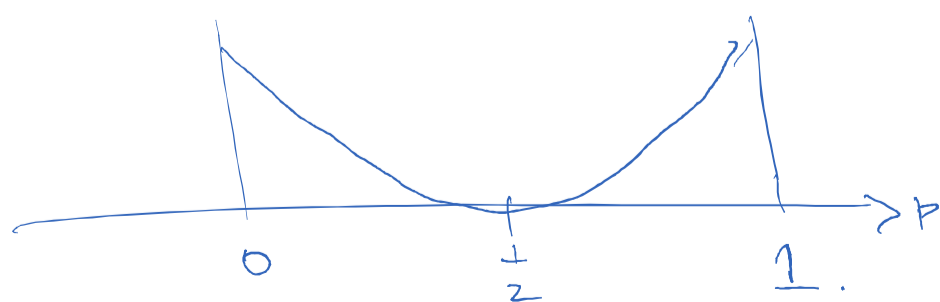
- 1) If $R < 1 - H(p)$, then
 for every ϵ , there exists an (n, M) code of rate R , s.t. $P_{err} \leq \epsilon$, for sufficiently large n .
 (Achievability)
- 2) If $R > 1 - H(p)$, then, as $n \rightarrow \infty$, $P_{err} \rightarrow 1$ for every sequence of (n, M) codes with rate R .
 (Converse)
- capacity of Binary Symmetric channel BSC(p)
- $H(x) = -x \log_2 x - (1-x) \log_2 (1-x)$

Remarks

- Shannon's results are non-constructive
 In this course, we will learn how to construct codes
- Shannon's approach ignored computational complexity.
 Eg. comp. complexity of ML decoding techniques BSC
 \sim order of $M = |F|^{nR}$.
 we will learn low-complexity decoding
- $H(x) \rightarrow$ called the binary entropy function.

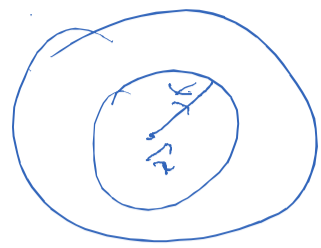


capacity (p)



Interpretation of $H(x)$

For $\vec{x} \in \{0,1\}^n$
 let $S(n,t) = \{ \vec{y} : d_H(\vec{y}, \vec{x}) = t \}$



$$|S(n,t)| = \binom{n}{t}$$

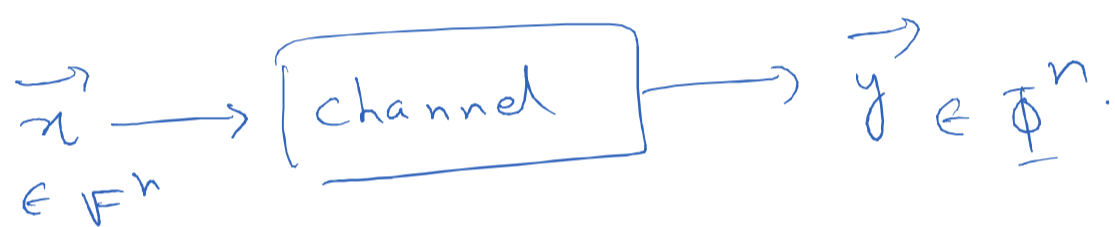
as $n \rightarrow \infty$
 $|S(n, pn)| \approx 2^{nH(p)}$

more precisely $nH(p) + o(n)$
 $|S(n, pn)| = 2^{nH(p) + o(n)}$
 (sublinear in $o(n)$)

can be shown using string approximation

$$\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{o(n)}{n} = 0$$

Adversarial channels



For every \vec{x} , define a set

$$\Phi_{\vec{x}} \subseteq \Phi^n$$

↳ set of possible output strings given input was \vec{x}



Example

t-error channel

Define

$$B(\vec{x}, r) = \{ \vec{z} \in F^n : d_H(\vec{z}, \vec{x}) \leq r \}$$

↳ Ball of radius r centered at \vec{x}

t-error channel has

$$\Phi_{\vec{x}} = B(\vec{x}, t)$$

