**Digital Communications** **Laboratory Report**

Forward Error

Correction

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1. **Introduction**

This laboratory project introduces some issues that occur in digital communication channels. In particular, we will study Forward Error Correction (FEC) as a technique to overcome the detrimental effects of noise on the communication channel. Here we will circumvent some of the low-level coding by using the komm Python library. The Komm library provides functions for PSK modulation and demodulation and for simulating an additive white Gaussian noise source, we will use the following code to implement QPSK coding, propagate the signal in a noisy channel, and QPSK decoding. The modulated psk waveform is by default unit average power. The scalar snr specifies the signal-to-noise ratio for the channel.

*# Quadra - ture Phase Shift Keying (QPSK)*

*psk = komm.PSKModulation(4, phase\_offset=np.pi / 4)*

*awgn = komm.AWGNChannel(snr=10 \*\* ((snrdb / 10) ), signal\_power=1.0)*

*# modulate(QPSK)*

*tx\_QPSK\_BCH\_stream = psk.modulate(tx\_BCH\_stream)*

*# simulate Noisy Channel*

*rx\_QPSK\_BCH\_stream = awgn(tx\_QPSK\_BCH\_stream)*

*# Demodulate(QPSK)*

*rx\_BCH\_stream = psk.demodulate(rx\_QPSK\_BCH\_stream)*

1. **Importing libraries and Obtaining Digital Data**

Before we start parity checking, we need to import the libraries that we will need to use in this project, they can provide functions such as reading pictures by greyscale, some specific mathematical algorithms, plotting, modulation and demodulation, simulation of signal channels, and so on, here is the corresponding code.

*import numpy as np*

*from PIL import Image*

*from matplotlib import pyplot as plt*

*import scipy*

*import komm*

A number of 8-bit depth grayscale images of various sizes have been provided for use in this laboratory project. We can read the greyscale image and convert it to the corresponding binary file with the following code.



*tx\_im = Image.open("/Users/george/Project/DC-Experiment-/Forward Error Correction/DC4\_150x100.pgm")*

*Npixels = tx\_im.size[1]\*tx\_im.size[0]*

*plt.figure()*

*plt.imshow(np.array(tx\_im),cmap="gray",vmin=0,vmax=255)*

*plt.show()*

*tx\_bin = np.unpackbits(np.array(tx\_im))*

1. **Block Coding: BCH codes**

Block codes work on fixed-size blocks (packets) of bits or symbols of predetermined size. Practical block codes can generally be hard-decoded in polynomial time to their block length. Bose-Chaudhuri-Hocquenghem (BCH) codes form a class of cyclic error-correcting codes that are constructed using polynomials over a finite field (also called Galois field). One of the key features of BCH codes is that during code design, there is precise control over the number of symbol errors correctable by the code. In particular, it is possible to design binary BCH codes that can correct multiple-bit errors. Another advantage of BCH codes is the ease with which they can be decoded, namely, via an algebraic method known as syndrome decoding. This simplifies the design of the decoder for these codes, using small low-power electronic hardware. We can use the following code to initialize the BCH encoder and decoder.

*code = komm.BCHCode(mu=3, delta=3)*

*n,k = code.length, code.dimension*

*encoder = komm.BlockEncoder(code)*

*decoder = komm.BlockDecoder(code)*

*print(code, n, k)*

1. **(7,4) code alphabet**

The (𝑛 = 7, 𝑘 = 4) BCH code is equivalent to the Hamming (7,4) code. We can generate the alphabet of valid 7-bit codewords by examining code.codewords and obtain the corresponding generator polynomial from code.generator\_polynomial. The following code examines the process of encoding and decoding a 4-bit number via the BCH method and taking any two codewords in the alphabet, their bitwise XOR results are still in the alphabet.

*print(code.codewords, code.generator\_polynomial)*

*print(code.codewords[1] ^ code.codewords[5])*

*test = np.array([1, 1, 0, 1])*

*encoder\_test = encoder(test)*

*print(decoder(encoder\_test))*

*# the results of the code*

*BCHCode(mu=3, delta=3) 7 4*

*[1 1 0 1]*

1. **Forward error correction using BCH codes**

In this part, use quadrature phase shift keying (QPSK) with unit average power per symbol. Having set up the code as shown above, coding and decoding are done with:

*coded\_word = encoder(message\_word)*

*message\_word = decoder(coded\_word)*

where the message\_word is a fixed length of k bits and coded\_word is a fixed length of n bits. We can use the following loop to code (and decode) the entire binary data.

*for snrdb in range(-30, 91, 2):*

*print(snrdb)*

*# Quadra - ture Phase Shift Keying (QPSK)*

*psk = komm.PSKModulation(4, phase\_offset=np.pi / 4)*

*awgn = komm.AWGNChannel(snr=10 \*\* ((snrdb / 10) / 10), signal\_power=1.0)*

*rx\_bin = np.empty(0)*

*rx\_bin\_withoutBCH = np.empty(0)*

*for num in range(0, Npixels \* 8, 8):*

*# Using BCH and QPSK methods to encode the information*

*tx\_BCH\_stream = encoder(tx\_bin[num:num + 4])*

*tx\_BCH\_stream = np.append(tx\_BCH\_stream, encoder(tx\_bin[num + 4:num + 8]))*

*# add one bit at the end of the tx\_BCH\_stream to*

*# ensure tx\_BCH\_stream can divide by psk.bits\_per\_symbol*

*# tx\_8bit\_BCH\_stream = np.append(tx\_BCH\_stream, 0)*

*# tx\_QPSK\_BCH\_stream = psk.modulate(tx\_8bit\_BCH\_stream)*

*# print(tx\_BCH\_stream)*

*tx\_QPSK\_BCH\_stream = psk.modulate(tx\_BCH\_stream)*

*# simulate Noisy Channel*

*rx\_QPSK\_BCH\_stream = awgn(tx\_QPSK\_BCH\_stream)*

*# Demodulate(QPSK)*

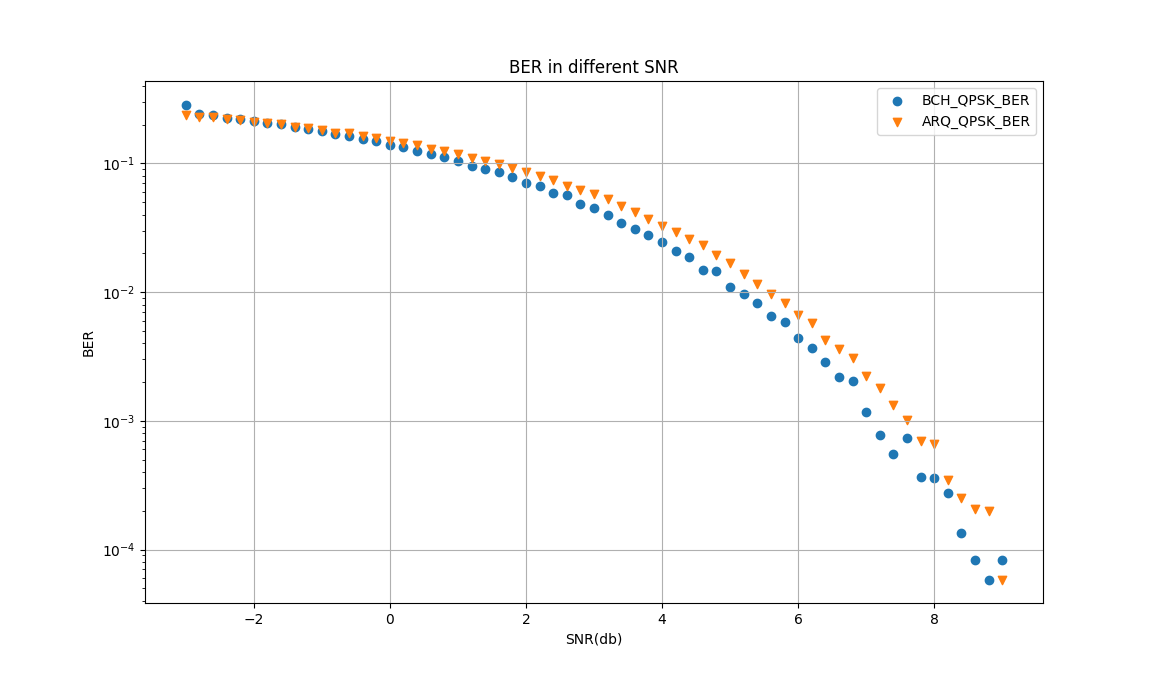
*rx\_BCH\_stream = psk.demodulate(rx\_QPSK\_BCH\_stream)*

*rx\_bin\_bit\_stream = decoder(rx\_BCH\_stream[:7])*

*rx\_bin\_bit\_stream = np.append(rx\_bin\_bit\_stream, decoder(rx\_BCH\_stream[7:]))*

*rx\_bin = np.append(rx\_bin, rx\_bin\_bit\_stream)*

Plot 𝑏𝑒𝑟 (logarithmic axis) vs 𝑠𝑛𝑟 (in dB) over a suitable range of signal-to-noise, and also compare the results with QPSK without error correction.

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1. **Convolutional Coding**

Convolutional codes work on bit or symbol streams of arbitrary length. They are most often soft-decoded with the Viterbi algorithm. The komm library provides functions for encoding and decoding convolutional codes. There are several options. In particular, the best convolutional code performance is normally with soft-decision decoding on the real values returned from the demodulator based on the Euclidean distance from the symbol, thus providing a confidence level to the Viterbi decoder.

1. **Convolutional Coding with "hard" and "soft" decoding**

Use the following code to initialize the encoder decoder\_hard and decoder\_soft. tblen is a positive integer scalar that specifies the traceback depth in the Viterbi algorithm. When used in stream (continuous) form, the decoder has a delay (latency) equal to tblen for a single input stream code. Therefore we should append tblen zeros to the input binary stream, and discard the first tblen bits of the output stream. Typical values for a traceback depth tblen are about five or six times the constraint length 𝐿.

*code = komm.ConvolutionalCode(feedforward\_polynomials=[[0o7, 0o5]])*

*tblen = 18*

*encoder = komm.ConvolutionalStreamEncoder(code)*

*decoder\_hard = komm.ConvolutionalStreamDecoder(code,*

*traceback\_length=tblen, input\_type="hard")*

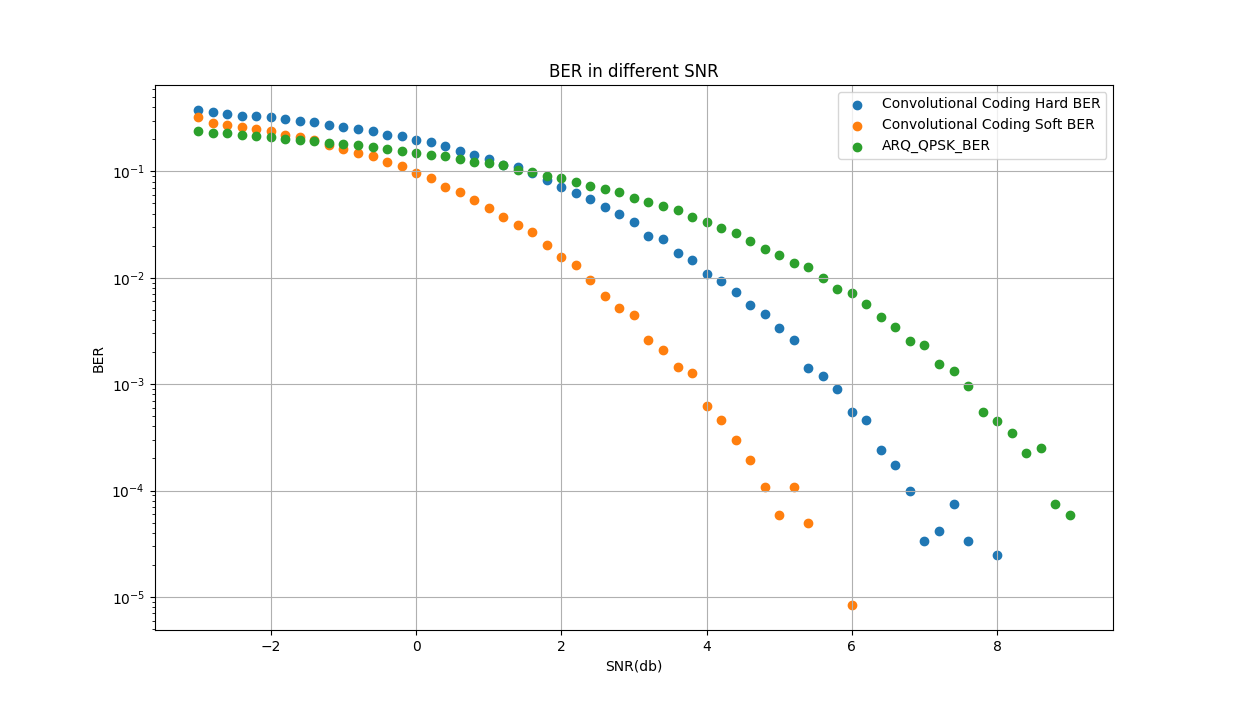
*decoder\_soft = komm.ConvolutionalStreamDecoder(code,*

*traceback\_length=tblen, input\_type="soft")*

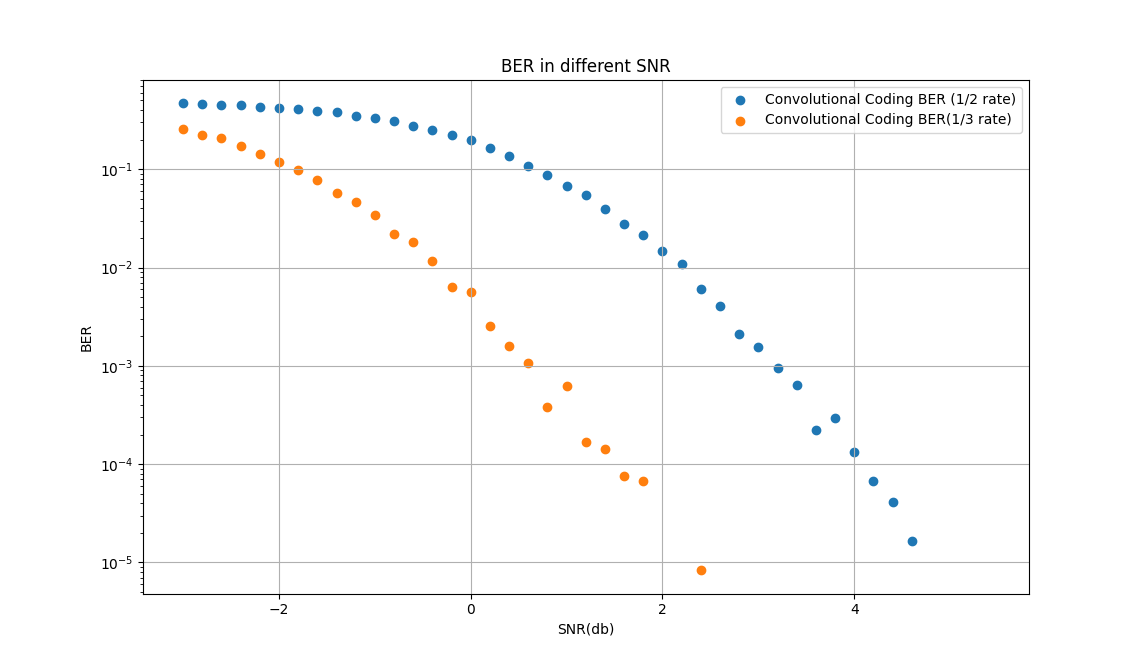
*tx\_bin = np.append(tx\_bin, np.zeros(tblen))*

*rx\_hard\_bin = rx\_hard\_bin[tblen:]*

*rx\_soft\_bin = rx\_soft\_bin[tblen:]*

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1. **7 constraint length of convolutional codes**

We can use the parameter *feedforward\_polynomials = [[0o155, 0o117]]* and *feedforward\_polynomials = [[0o155, 0o117, 0o127]]* to initialize the new encoder and the decoder. Again, plot 𝑏𝑒𝑟 (logarithmic axis) vs 𝑠𝑛𝑟 (in dB) over a suitable range of signal-to-noise for each of these using "soft" decoding.

1. **Comparing Codes**

Compare the various error-correction techniques (simple parity check and ARQs, BCH block codes, Convolutional Code with hard/soft decision), simple parity check and ARQs provide the best error-correcting for the data provided in cases of values for 𝑠𝑛𝑟 =3 dB using QPSK. Here are the results.

*# BCH\_QPSK\_BER* *in snr = 3dB*

*0.10224166666666666*

*# ARQ\_QPSK\_BER in snr = 3dB*

*0.057508333333333335*

*Convolutional Coding with Hard BER in snr = 3dB*

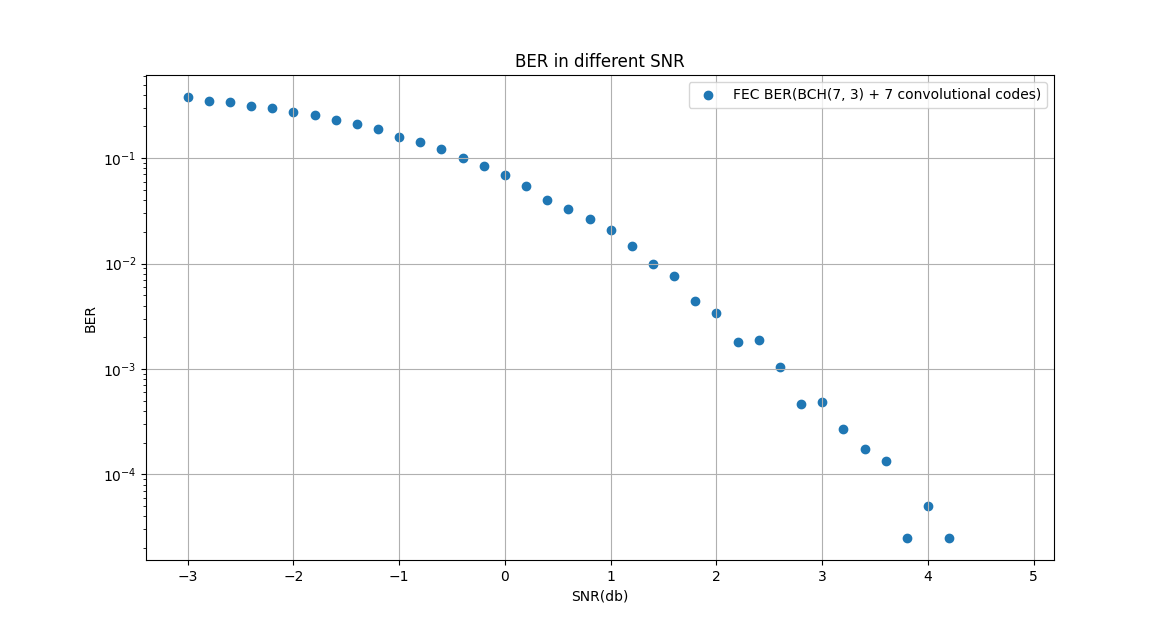
*0.09111666666666667*

*Convolutional Coding with Soft BER in snr = 3dB*

*0.067075*

1. **Concatenated Codes**

Many implementations of FEC can tolerate even lower signal-to-noise ratio by concatenating two different FEC code methods. Now use a convolutional code as an inner code, modulating as QPSK and passing the result through an AWGN channel, demodulate and decode using the soft-decision Viterbi method. Use this as an effective transmission channel and apply a BCH code as the outer code. Here is the ber in different SNR values. We can get ber equals 0.067425 where the signal power is equal to the noise, i.e. snr = 0 dB.



1. **Conclusion**

As the SNR increases, the error rates of the different codes gradually decrease, but Convolutional Code with soft decision is the best.