On entropy-constrained Gaussian channel capacity via the moment problem

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joint work with Shlomo Shamai and Emre Telatar





June 26, 2025

Outline

Entropy-constrained Gaussian channel

Moment problems

Output
Solution
Output
Description
Output
Description
Descripti

Outline

Entropy-constrained Gaussian channel

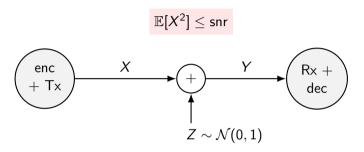
2 Moment problems

3 Low SNR capacity

Gaussian channel

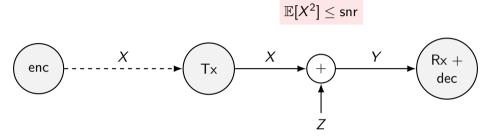
Gaussian channel $\begin{array}{c|c} \hline enc \\ + Tx \end{array}$ input $\begin{array}{c|c} enc \\ + dec \end{array}$

Gaussian channel



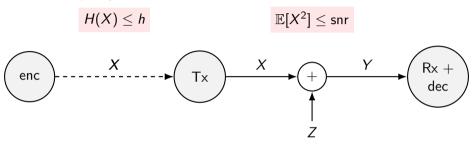
$$C(\mathsf{snr}) = \max_{X: \mathbb{E}[X^2] \leq \mathsf{snr}} I(X; X + Z) = \frac{1}{2} \log(1 + \mathsf{snr})$$

Gaussian channel



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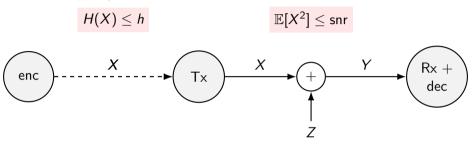
Entropy-constrained Gaussian channel



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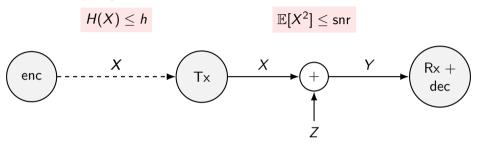
$$C_H(h, \mathsf{snr}) = \max_{X: \frac{\mathbb{E}[X^2] \leq \mathsf{snr}}{H(X) \leq h}} I(X; X + Z)$$

Entropy-constrained Gaussian channel



$$\begin{split} C(\mathsf{snr}) &= \max_{X: \mathbb{E}[X^2] \leq \mathsf{snr}} I(X; X + Z) = \frac{1}{2} \log(1 + \mathsf{snr}) \\ C_H(h, \mathsf{snr}) &= \max_{X: \frac{\mathbb{E}[X^2] \leq \mathsf{snr}}{H(X) \leq h}} I(X; X + Z) = \max_{X: \frac{\mathbb{E}[X^2] \leq 1}{H(X) \leq h}} I(X; \sqrt{\mathsf{snr}}X + Z) \end{split}$$

Entropy-constrained Gaussian channel



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ullet wlog let $\mathbb{E}[X]=0$, $\mathbb{E}[X^2]=1$; $G\sim \mathcal{N}(0,1)$ independent of Z

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$$\bullet C(\mathsf{snr}) - C_{\mathcal{H}}(h,\mathsf{snr}) = \min_{\substack{X : \mathbb{E}[X^2] \leq 1, \\ \mathcal{H}(X) \leq h}} D(\sqrt{\mathsf{snr}}X + Z \parallel \sqrt{\mathsf{snr}}G + Z)$$

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- optimal distribution at h: discrete X with $H(X) \leq h$ that is closest to $\mathcal{N}(0, 1 + \mathsf{snr})$ after "Gaussian smoothing"

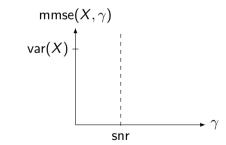
• MMSE of estimating X from $Y = \sqrt{\operatorname{snr}}X + Z$: $\operatorname{mmse}(X,\operatorname{snr}) = \mathbb{E}\left[(X - \mathbb{E}[X \mid Y])^2\right]$

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$$I(X, \text{snr}) = \frac{1}{2} \int_0^{\text{snr}} \text{mmse}(X, \gamma) \, d\gamma$$
, $H(X) = I(X, \text{"$\infty$"})$

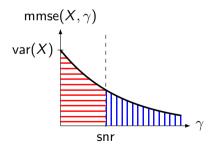
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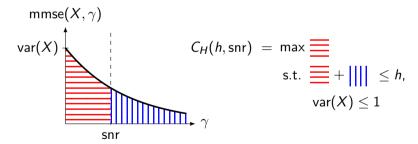
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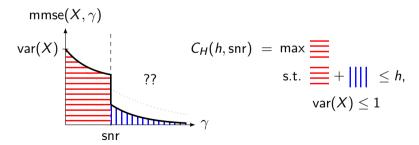
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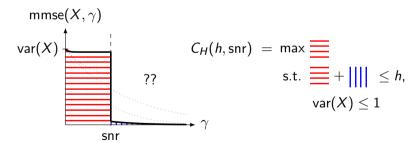
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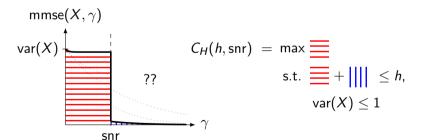
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ullet optimal distribution at snr: indistinguishable at SNR < snr, distinguishable at SNR > snr

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$$\mathbb{E}[X^{2n}] < \infty$$
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Outline

1 Entropy-constrained Gaussian channel

Moment problems

3 Low SNR capacity

Classical moment problem

Classical moment problem

• Q: Given s_1, s_2, s_3, \ldots , does there exist X on $\mathbb R$ such that $\mathbb E[X^n] = s_n$ for $n = 1, 2, 3, \ldots$?

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 - A: iff (k odd) there exists \tilde{s}_{k+1} such that $H_{\frac{k+1}{2}}(s_1, \ldots, s_k, \tilde{s}_{k+1}) \succeq 0$ (k even)

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infinite support iff $H_n > 0$ for all n

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Output
Solution
Output
Description
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Theorem

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$$H(X) \le h < \log 2 \iff X = \begin{cases} \tilde{X} & \text{w.p. } \epsilon < 1/2 \\ x_0 & \text{w.p. } 1 - \epsilon > 1/2 \end{cases}$$

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- need $\mathbb{E}[\tilde{X}^n] = s_n := \frac{1}{\epsilon} (\mathbb{E}[W^n] (1 \epsilon) x_0^n)$
- check: s_1, \ldots, s_4 "valid" iff $\epsilon > \eta_W$, but s_1, s_2, s_3 always "valid"

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 has $\mathbb{E}[X^n] = \mathbb{E}[W^n]$ for $n = 1, 2, 3, 4$, then $H(X) \ge h_2(\eta_W)$.
(ii) for any $h > 0$, there is X with $H(X) < h$ and $\mathbb{E}[X^n] = \mathbb{E}[W^n]$ for $n = 1, 2, 3$.

Proof idea

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$$H(X) \le h < \log 2 \iff X = \begin{cases} \tilde{X} & \text{w.p. } \epsilon < 1/2 \\ x_0 & \text{w.p. } 1 - \epsilon > 1/2 \end{cases}$$

- need $\mathbb{E}[\tilde{X}^n] = s_n \coloneqq \frac{1}{\epsilon} (\mathbb{E}[W^n] (1-\epsilon)x_0^n)$
- ullet check: s_1,\ldots,s_4 "valid" iff $\epsilon>\eta_W$, but s_1,s_2,s_3 always "valid"

Corollary

 $\eta_{G} = \frac{1}{3}$

Theorem

For any continuous W, there exists $\eta_W \in (0, \frac{1}{2})$ such that

- (i) if X has $\mathbb{E}[X^n] = \mathbb{E}[W^n]$ for n = 1, 2, 3, 4, then $H(X) \ge h_2(\eta_W)$. (ii) for any h > 0, there is X with H(X) < h and $\mathbb{E}[X^n] = \mathbb{E}[W^n]$ for n = 1, 2, 3.
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Corollary

$$\eta_{\mathcal{G}} = \frac{1}{3}$$
, so for $h < h_2(\frac{1}{3})$, as $\operatorname{snr} \to 0$, $C(\operatorname{snr}) - C_H(h,\operatorname{snr}) = \mathcal{O}(\operatorname{snr}^4)$.

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Thank you!