

COMP2610 / COMP6261 Information Theory

Lecture 20: Joint-Typicality and the Noisy-Channel Coding Theorem

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Acknowledgement: These slides were originally developed by Professor Robert C. Williamson.

Channel Capacity: Recap

The *largest possible* reduction in uncertainty achievable across a channel is its **capacity**

Channel Capacity

The capacity C of a channel Q is the largest mutual information between its input and output for any choice of input ensemble. That is,

$$C = \max_{\mathbf{p}_X} I(X; Y)$$

Block Codes: Recap

(N, K) Block Code

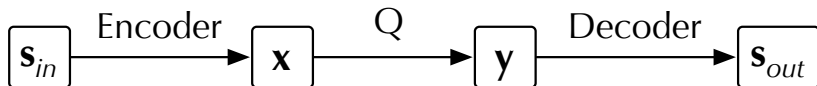
Given a channel Q with inputs \mathcal{X} and outputs \mathcal{Y} , an integer $N > 0$, and $K > 0$, an (N, K) Block Code for Q is a list of $S = 2^K$ codewords

$$\mathcal{C} = \{\mathbf{x}^{(1)}, \mathbf{x}^{(2)}, \dots, \mathbf{x}^{(2^K)}\}$$

where each $\mathbf{x}^{(s)} \in \mathcal{X}^N$ consists of N symbols from \mathcal{X} .

Rate of a block code is $\frac{K}{N} = \frac{\log_2 S}{N}$

Reliability: Recap



Probability of (Block) Error

Given a channel Q the **probability of (block) error** for a code is

$$p_B = P(\mathbf{s}_{out} \neq \mathbf{s}_{in}) = \sum_{\mathbf{s}_{in}} P(\mathbf{s}_{out} \neq \mathbf{s}_{in} | \mathbf{s}_{in}) P(\mathbf{s}_{in})$$

and its **maximum probability of (block) error** is

$$p_{BM} = \max_{\mathbf{s}_{in}} P(\mathbf{s}_{out} \neq \mathbf{s}_{in} | \mathbf{s}_{in})$$

The Noisy-Channel Coding Theorem: Recap

Informal Statement

Recall that a rate R is **achievable** if there is a block code with this rate and arbitrarily small error probability

We highlighted the following remarkable result:

Noisy-Channel Coding Theorem (Informal)

If Q is a channel with capacity C then the rate R is *achievable* **if and only if** $R \leq C$, that is, the rate is no greater than the channel capacity.

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Ideally, we would like to know:

- Can we go above C if we allow some fixed probability of error?
- Is there a **maximal** rate for a fixed probability of error?

1 Noisy-Channel Coding Theorem

2 Joint Typicality

3 Proof Sketch of the NCCT

4 Good Codes vs. Practical Codes

5 Linear Codes

The Noisy-Channel Coding Theorem

Formal Statement

Recall: a rate is achievable if for any tolerance $\epsilon > 0$, an (N, K) code with rate $K/N \geq R$ exists with max. block error $p_{BM} < \epsilon$

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$$\frac{K}{N} \leq R(p_b) = \frac{C}{1 - H_2(p_b)}$$

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- ❸ For any p , we **cannot** achieve a rate greater than $R(p)$ with probability of bit error p .

Note that as $p_b \rightarrow \frac{1}{2}$, $R(p_b) \rightarrow +\infty$, while as $p_b \rightarrow \{0, 1\}$, $R(p_b) \rightarrow C$, so we cannot achieve rate greater than C with probability of bit error arbitrarily small

Implications of NCCT

Suppose we know a channel has capacity 0.6 bits

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We **cannot** achieve a rate of 0.8 with arbitrarily small error

We **can** achieve a rate of 0.8 with probability of bit error 5%, since

$$\frac{0.6}{1 - H_2(0.05)} = 0.8408 > 0.8$$

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Joint Typicality

Recall that a random variable \mathbf{z} from Z^N is **typical** for an ensemble Z whenever its average symbol information is within β of the entropy $H(Z)$

$$\left| -\frac{1}{N} \log_2 P(\mathbf{z}) - H(Z) \right| < \beta$$

Example ($\mathbf{p}_X = (0.9, 0.1)$ and BSC with $f = 0.2$):

[illegible]

Here:

- x has 10 1's (c.f. $p(X = 1) = 0.1$)

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Joint Typicality

A pair of sequences $\mathbf{x} \in \mathcal{A}_X^N$ and $\mathbf{y} \in \mathcal{A}_Y^N$, each of length N , are **jointly typical** (to tolerance β) for distribution $P(x, y)$ if

- ① \mathbf{x} is typical of $P(\mathbf{x})$ [$\mathbf{z} = \mathbf{x}$ above]
- ② \mathbf{y} is typical of $P(\mathbf{y})$ [$\mathbf{z} = \mathbf{y}$ above]
- ③ (\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{y}) is typical of $P(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{y})$ [$\mathbf{z} = (\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{y})$ above]

The **jointly typical set** of all such pairs is denoted $J_{N\beta}$.

Joint Typicality

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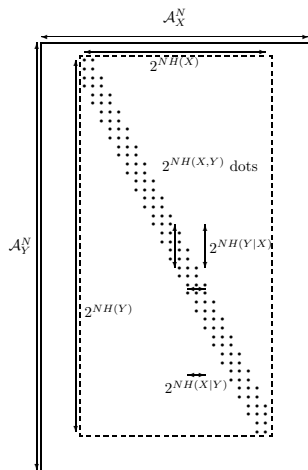
- x has 10 1's (c.f. $p(X = 1) = 0.1$)
- y has 26 1's (c.f. $p(Y = 1) = (0.8)(0.1) + (0.2)(0.9) = 0.26$)
- x, y differ in 20 bits (c.f. $p(X \neq Y) = 0.2$)
 - ▶ This is essential in addition to the above two facts

Joint Typicality

Counts

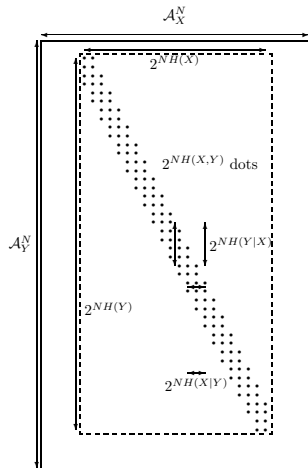
There are approximately:

- $2^{NH(X)}$ typical $\mathbf{x} \in \mathcal{A}_X^N$



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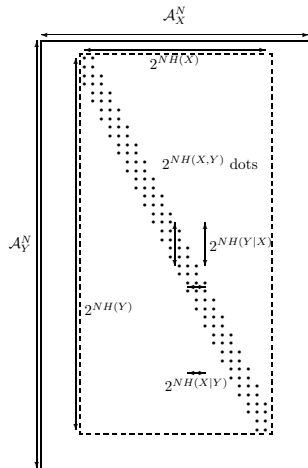


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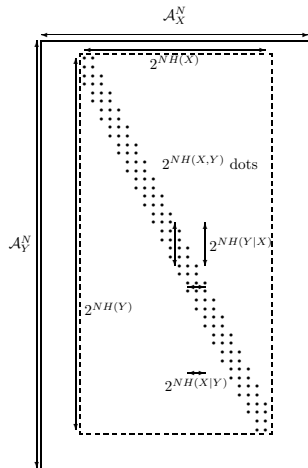


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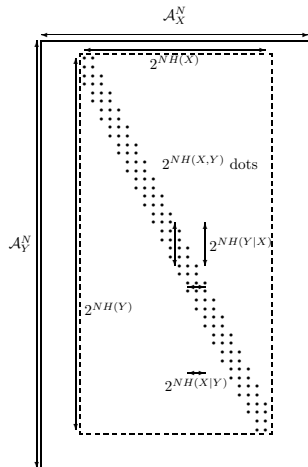


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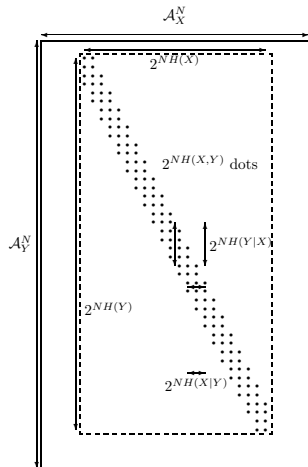
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Thus, by selecting **independent** typical vectors, we arrive at a **jointly typical** vector with probability approximately

$$\frac{2^{NH(X,Y)}}{2^{NH(X)} \cdot 2^{NH(Y)}} = 2^{-NI(X;Y)}$$

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Here we used

$$I(X; Y) = H(X) + H(Y) - H(X, Y)$$

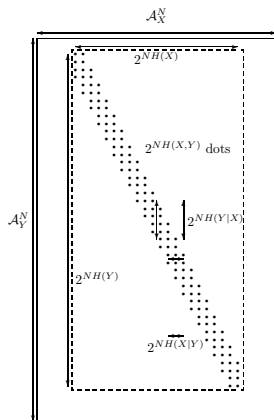
Joint Typicality Theorem

Let \mathbf{x}, \mathbf{y} be drawn from $(XY)^N$ with $P(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{y}) = \prod_n P(x_n, y_n)$.

Joint Typicality Theorem

For all tolerances $\beta > 0$

- 1 Almost every pair is eventually jointly typical
 $P((\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{y}) \in J_{N\beta}) \rightarrow 1$ as $N \rightarrow \infty$



Joint Typicality Theorem

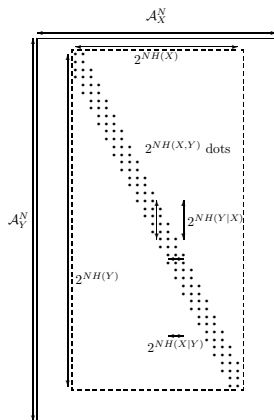
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- 2 The number of jointly typical sequences is roughly $2^{NH(X,Y)}$:

$$|J_{N\beta}| \leq 2^{N(H(X,Y)+\beta)}$$



Joint Typicality

Re-arranging the definition of typicality of \mathbf{z} , we have
(when $-\frac{1}{N}\log_2 P(\mathbf{z}) - H(Z) \geq 0$)

$$\begin{aligned}-\frac{1}{N}\log_2 P(\mathbf{z}) - H(Z) &< \beta \\-\log_2 P(\mathbf{z}) &< N(H(Z) + \beta) \\\log_2 P(\mathbf{z}) &> -N(H(Z) + \beta) \\P(\mathbf{z}) &> 2^{-N(H(Z) + \beta)}\end{aligned}$$

Similarly by considering the case when $-\frac{1}{N}\log_2 P(\mathbf{z}) - H(Z) \leq 0$ as well, we arrive at

$$2^{-N(H(Z) + \beta)} < P(\mathbf{z}) < 2^{-N(H(Z) - \beta)}$$

Joint Typicality

We know that

$$\begin{aligned}\sum_{\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{y}} P(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{y}) &= 1 \\ \sum_{\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{y} \in J_{N\beta}} P(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{y}) + \sum_{\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{y} \notin J_{N\beta}} P(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{y}) &= 1 \\ \sum_{\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{y} \in J_{N\beta}} P(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{y}) &= 1 - \sum_{\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{y} \notin J_{N\beta}} P(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{y}) \leq 1 \\ |J_{N\beta}| 2^{-N(H(X, Y) + \beta)} &\leq 1 \\ |J_{N\beta}| &\leq 2^{N(H(X, Y) + \beta)}\end{aligned}$$

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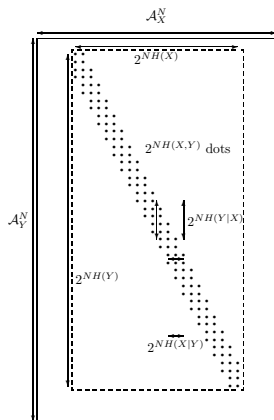
For all tolerances $\beta > 0$

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- 3 For \mathbf{x}' and \mathbf{y}' drawn independently from the marginals of $P(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{y})$,

$$P((\mathbf{x}', \mathbf{y}') \in J_{N\beta}) \leq 2^{-N(I(X;Y)-3\beta)}$$



Joint Typicality

If $(\mathbf{x}', \mathbf{y}')$ are independently selected,

$$\begin{aligned} P((\mathbf{x}', \mathbf{y}') \in J_{N\beta}) &= \sum_{\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{y} \in J_{N\beta}} P(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{y}) \leq 1 \\ &= \sum_{\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{y} \in J_{N\beta}} P(\mathbf{x})P(\mathbf{y}) \\ &\leq \sum_{\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{y} \in J_{N\beta}} 2^{-N(H(X)-\beta)} 2^{-N(H(Y)-\beta)} \\ &\leq 2^{N(H(X,Y)+\beta)} 2^{-N(H(X)-\beta)} 2^{-N(H(Y)-\beta)} \\ &\leq 2^{-N(I(X;Y)-3\beta)} \end{aligned}$$

1 Noisy-Channel Coding Theorem

2 Joint Typicality

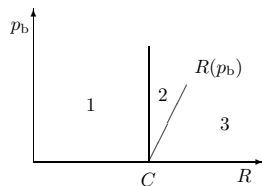
3 **Proof Sketch of the NCCT**

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The Noisy-Channel Coding Theorem

Let Q be a channel with inputs \mathcal{A}_X and outputs \mathcal{A}_Y .
Let $C = \max_{p_X} I(X; Y)$ be the capacity of Q and
 $H_2(p) = -p \log_2 p - (1 - p) \log_2 (1 - p)$.



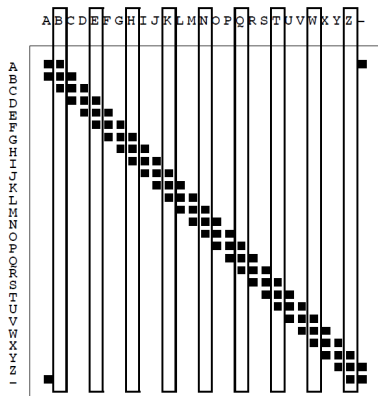
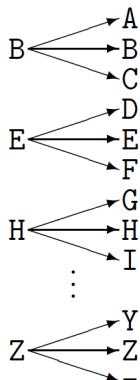
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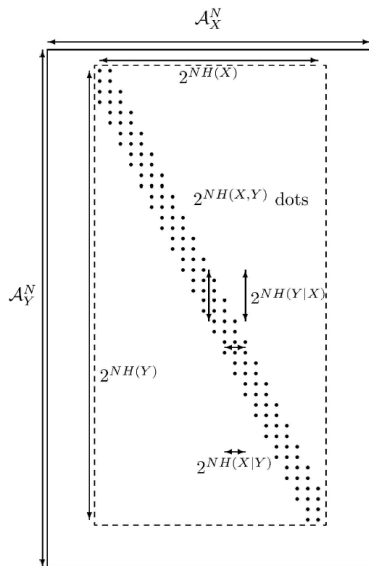
- 3 For any p_b , rates greater than $R(p_b)$ are not achievable.

Some Intuition for the NCCT



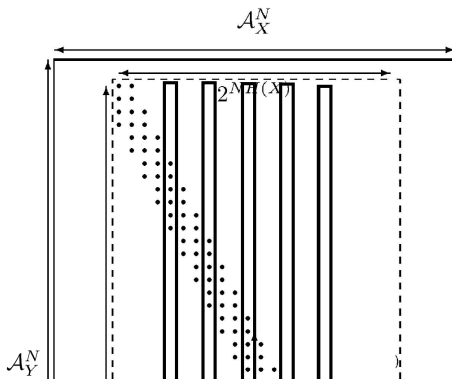
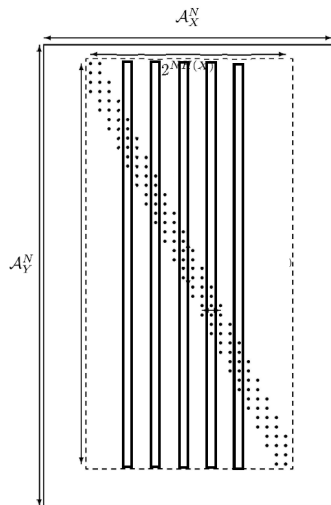
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Some Intuition for the NCCT

- Every typical \mathbf{x} induces a set of typical \mathbf{y} .
- Code with a set of typical \mathbf{x} whose typical \mathbf{y} 's does not overlap (or have minimal overlap) with each other.



Some Intuition for the NCCT

The proof of the NCCT is based on the following observations:

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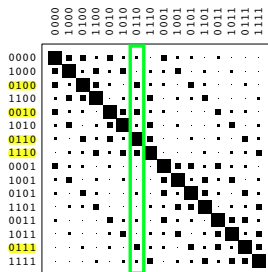
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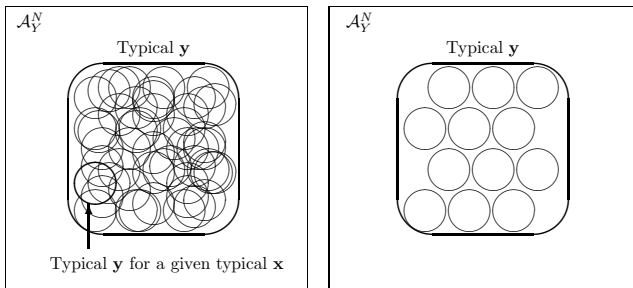
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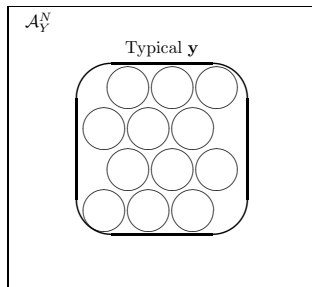
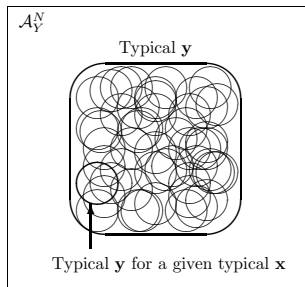
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- At most there are $\frac{2^{NH(Y)}}{2^{NH(Y|X)}} = 2^{N(H(Y)-H(Y|X))} = 2^{NI(X;Y)}$ \mathbf{x} with disjoint typical \mathbf{y} . Coding with these \mathbf{x} minimises error



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- Best rate K/N achieved when number of such \mathbf{x} (i.e., 2^K) is maximised: $2^K \leq \max_{\mathbf{p}_X} 2^{NI(X;Y)} = 2^{N \max_{\mathbf{p}_X} I(X;Y)} = 2^{NC}$



Proof Sketch of NCCT Part 1

We can:

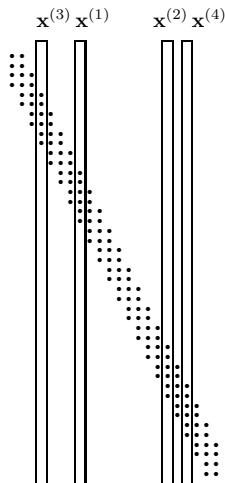
- define a family of **random** codes, which rely on joint typicality, and which achieve the given rate
- show that **on average**, such a code has a low probability of block error
- deduce that **at least one such** code must have a low probability of block error
- “expurgate” the above code so that it has low **maximal** probability of error

This will establish that the final code achieves low maximal probability of error, while achieving the given rate!

Random Coding and Typical Set Decoding

Make **random code** \mathcal{C} with rate R' :

- Fix \mathbf{p}_X and choose $S = 2^{NR'}$ codewords, $\mathbf{x}^{(1)}, \dots, \mathbf{x}^{(S)}$, each with $P(\mathbf{x}) = \prod_n P(x_n)$



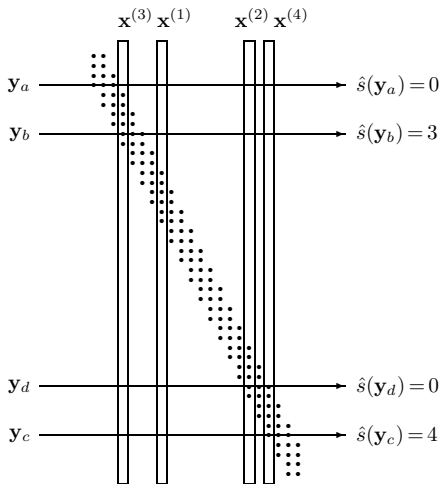
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Decode \mathbf{y} via typical sets:

- If there is *exactly one* \hat{s} so that $(\mathbf{x}^{\hat{s}}, \mathbf{y})$ are jointly typical then decode \mathbf{y} as \hat{s}
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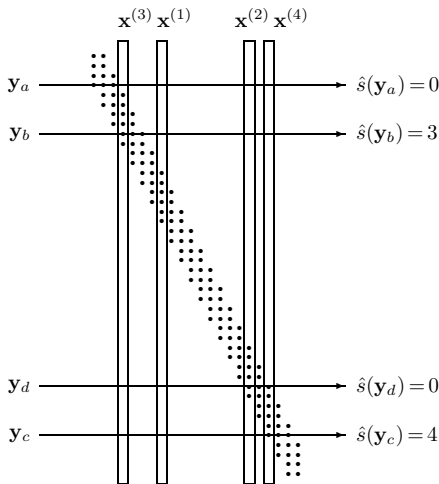
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Errors:

- $p_B(\mathcal{C}) = P(\hat{s} \neq s | \mathcal{C})$
- $\langle p_B \rangle = \sum_{\mathcal{C}} P(\hat{s} \neq s | \mathcal{C}) P(\mathcal{C})$
- $p_{BM}(\mathcal{C}) = \max_s P(\hat{s} \neq s | s, \mathcal{C})$
(Aim: $\exists \mathcal{C}$ s.t. $p_{BM}(\mathcal{C})$ small)



Average Error Over All Codes

Let's consider the **average error over random codes**:

$$\langle p_B \rangle = \sum_{\mathcal{C}} P(\hat{s} \neq s | \mathcal{C}) P(\mathcal{C})$$

A bound on the average $\langle f \rangle$ of some function f of random variables $z \in \mathcal{Z}$ with probabilities $P(z)$ *guarantees* there is at least one $z^* \in \mathcal{Z}$ such that $f(z^*)$ is smaller than the bound.¹

So $\langle p_B \rangle < \delta \implies p_B(\mathcal{C}^*) < \delta$ for some \mathcal{C}^* .

Analogy: Suppose the average height of class is not more than 160 cm. Then one of you *must* be shorter than 160 cm.

¹If $\langle f \rangle < \delta$ but $f(z) \geq \delta$ for all z , $\langle f \rangle = \sum_z f(z)P(z) \geq \sum_z \delta P(z) = \delta$!!

Proof Sketch of NCCT Part 1

Want to prove

Any rate $R < C$ is *achievable* for Q (i.e., an (N, K) code with rate $N/K \geq R$ exists with max. block error $p_{BM} < \epsilon$ for any tolerance ϵ)

Let us thus bound $\langle p_B \rangle$ for our random code

Choose some $\delta > 0$

- 1 Part one of the Joint Typicality Theorem says we can find an $N(\delta)$ such that the probability (\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{y}) are not jointly typical is less than δ .

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$$\langle p_B \rangle = \sum_{\text{atypical } (\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{y})} P(\hat{s} \neq s | \cdot) + \sum_{\text{typical } (\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{y})} P(\hat{s} \neq s | \cdot)$$

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- 3 Increasing N will make $\langle p_B \rangle < 2\delta$ if $R' < I(X; Y) - 3\beta$

Proof Sketch of NCCT Part 1

$$\begin{aligned} p_B(\mathcal{C}^*) &= \sum_{\text{atypical}(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{y})} P(\hat{s} \neq s) + \sum_{\text{typical}(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{y})} P(\hat{s} \neq s) \\ &= \delta + \sum_{\text{typical}(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{y})} 2^{-N(I(X; Y) - 3\beta)} \\ &= \delta + (2^{NR'} - 1)2^{-N(I(X; Y) - 3\beta)} \\ &= \delta + 2^{-N(I(X; Y) - R' - 3\beta)} \end{aligned}$$

Proof Sketch of NCCT Part 1

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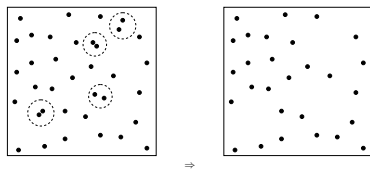
$$\langle p_B \rangle \leq \delta + 2^{-N(I(X; Y) - R' - 3\beta)}$$

- ❸ Increasing N will make $\langle p_B \rangle < 2\delta$ if $R' < I(X; Y) - 3\beta$
- ❹ Choosing maximal $P(x)$ makes required condition $R' < C - 3\beta$

Code Expurgation

The last main “trick” is to show that if there is an (N, K) code with rate R' and $p_B(\mathcal{C}) < \delta$ we can construct a new (N, K') code \mathcal{C}' with rate $R' - \frac{1}{N}$ and **maximum probability of error** $p_{BM}(\mathcal{C}') < 2\delta$.

We create \mathcal{C}' by **expurgating** (throwing out) half the codewords from \mathcal{C} , specifically the half with the largest *conditional* probability of error.



Proof:

- Code \mathcal{C}' has $2^{NR'}/2 = 2^{NR'-1}$ messages, so rate of $K'/N = R' - \frac{1}{N}$.
- Suppose $p_{BM}(\mathcal{C}') = \max_s P(\hat{s} \neq s | s, \mathcal{C}') \geq 2\delta$, then every $s \in \mathcal{C}$ that was thrown out must have conditional probability $P(\hat{s} \neq s | s, \mathcal{C}) \geq 2\delta$
- But then

$$p_B(\mathcal{C}) = \sum_s P(\hat{s} \neq s | s, \mathcal{C}) P(s) \geq \frac{1}{2} \sum_{s \notin \mathcal{C}'} 2\delta + \frac{1}{2} \sum_{s \in \mathcal{C}'} P(\hat{s} \neq s | s, \mathcal{C}) \geq \delta$$

Wrapping It All Up

From the previous slide, $\langle p_B \rangle < 2\delta \implies$ some C' such that $p_{BM}(C') < 4\delta$
with rate $R' - \frac{1}{N}$

Setting $R' = (R + C)/2$, $\delta = \epsilon/4$, $\beta < (C - R')/3$ gives the result!

NCCT Part 1: Comments

NCCT shows the **existence** of good codes; actually constructing **practical** codes is another matter

In principle, one could try the coding scheme outlined in the proof

- However, it would require a lookup in an exponential sized table (for the typical set decoding)!

Over the past few decades, some codes (e.g. Turbo codes) have been shown to achieve rate close to the Shannon capacity

- Beyond the scope of this course!

Next time

- Good Codes vs. Practical Codes
- Linear Codes
- Repetition Codes
- Hamming Codes