

ε -Capacity, Strong Converse, and Second-Order Coding Rates for Channels with General State

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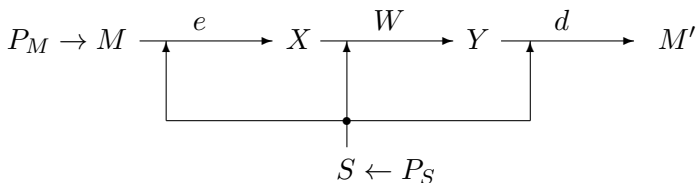
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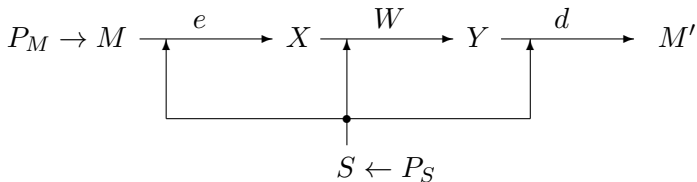
full version: [arXiv:1305.6789](https://arxiv.org/abs/1305.6789)

Setup and Notation



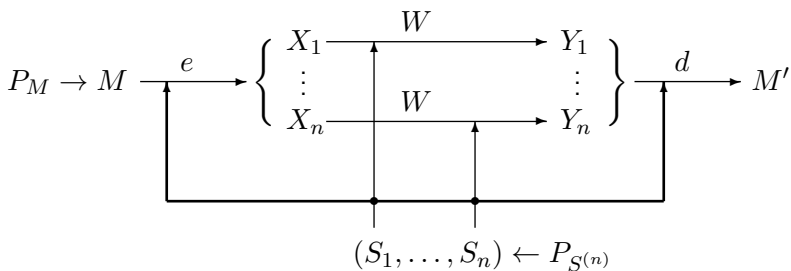
- We consider discrete channels $W \in \mathcal{P}(\mathcal{Y}|\mathcal{X}, \mathcal{S})$.
- The channel state $S \leftarrow P_S \in \mathcal{P}(\mathcal{S})$ is known non-causally at the encoder and the decoder.

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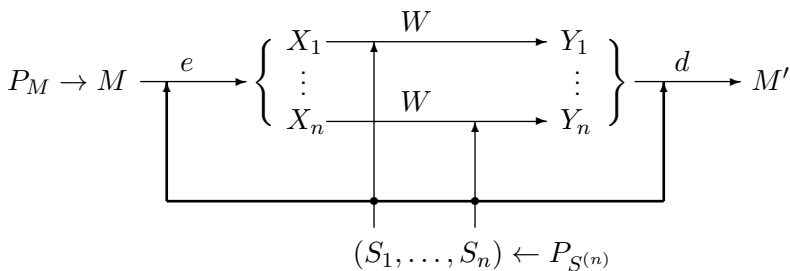
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- The channel state $S \leftarrow P_S \in \mathcal{P}(\mathcal{S})$ is known non-causally at the encoder and the decoder.
- We keep $\varepsilon \in (0, 1)$ fixed.
- $M^*(\varepsilon; W, P_S)$ is the maximum size of a code $\mathcal{C} = \{\mathcal{M}, e, d\}$ for W such that the **average** error probability is at most ε .

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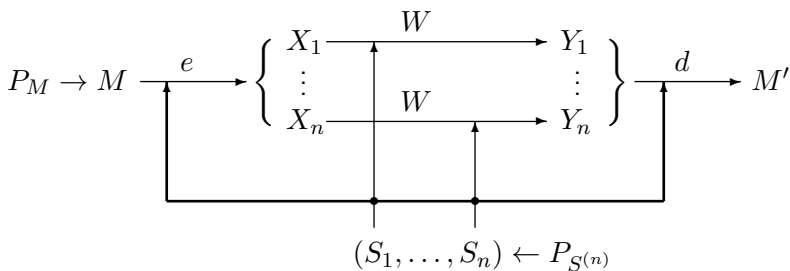
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- $\vec{S} = \{S^{(n)} := (S_1^{(n)}, S_2^{(n)}, \dots, S_n^{(n)})\}$ is a general sequence of random channel states in the sense of [Verdú-Han'94](#).
- Set $M^*(\varepsilon; n) = M^*(\varepsilon; W^n, P_{S^{(n)}})$. We are interested in the asymptotic expansion of $\log M^*(\varepsilon; n)$ for large n .

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- Φ is the cumulative (normal) Gaussian distribution.

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- Channels with state can be used to model many realistic scenarios, e.g. burst errors in the Gilbert-Elliott model.
- From a theoretical perspective, the model is rewarding because it allows to separate the effects due to randomness from the channel and the state.
- To the best of our knowledge, the problem has not been considered in this generality.
- Many special cases are discussed in the literature: see, e.g., [Keshet-Steinberg-Merhav'08](#) and [El Gamal-Kim'12](#).
- We point to specific prior results when we discuss particularizations of our results.

ε -Capacity and Optimistic (Converse) ε -Capacity

- A rate R is ε -achievable if there exists a sequence $\{\varepsilon_n\}$ with

$$\liminf_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{1}{n} \log M^*(\varepsilon_n; n) \geq R \quad \text{and} \quad \limsup_{n \rightarrow \infty} \varepsilon_n \leq \varepsilon.$$

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$$\liminf_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{1}{n} \log M^*(\varepsilon_n; n) \geq R \implies \liminf_{n \rightarrow \infty} \varepsilon_n \geq \varepsilon.$$

- Optimistic (Converse) ε -Capacity:

$$C^\dagger(\varepsilon) := \inf\{R \mid R \text{ is an } \varepsilon\text{-converse rate}\}.$$

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- Strong converse: $C(0) = C^\dagger(1)$. (Verdú-Han'94)

- Introduce the sequence of random variables $\{\mathfrak{C}^{(n)}\}_{n=1}^{\infty}$ as

$$\mathfrak{C}^{(n)}(S_1^{(n)}, \dots, S_n^{(n)}) := \frac{1}{n} \sum_{k=1}^n \mathfrak{C}_{S_k^{(n)}}.$$

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Theorem

For any $\varepsilon \in [0, 1]$, we have

$$C(\varepsilon) = \sup \left\{ R \mid \limsup_{n \rightarrow \infty} \Pr \left[\mathcal{C}^{(n)} \leq R \right] \leq \varepsilon \right\},$$

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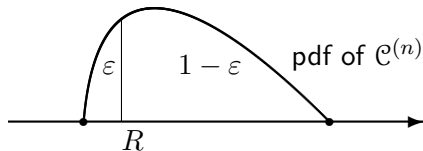
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- Depends on the randomness of the state, not the channel.
- In particular, by definition of \mathbf{p} -lim inf and \mathbf{p} -lim sup,

$$C(0) = \mathbf{p}\text{-lim inf}_{n \rightarrow \infty} \mathcal{C}^{(n)}, \quad C^\dagger(1) = \mathbf{p}\text{-lim sup}_{n \rightarrow \infty} \mathcal{C}^{(n)}.$$

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- Achievability: State-Dependent Feinstein bound — maximum probability of error.
- Converse: State-Dependent Meta-Converse:

$$M^*(\varepsilon; W, P_S) \leq \max_{P \in \mathcal{P}(\mathcal{X}|S)} \min_{Q \in \mathcal{P}(\mathcal{Y}|S)} \frac{1}{\beta_{1-\varepsilon}(P_S \times P \times W \| P_S \times P \times Q)}.$$

Strong Converse

- As a corollary, the strong converse holds (for capacity C) if and only if

$$\mathfrak{p}\text{-}\liminf_{n \rightarrow \infty} \mathcal{C}^{(n)} = \mathfrak{p}\text{-}\limsup_{n \rightarrow \infty} \mathcal{C}^{(n)} = C.$$

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- We find the following sufficient condition:

Proposition

The strong converse holds (for capacity C) if the following limits exist:

$$\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \mathbb{E} \left[\mathcal{C}^{(n)} \right] = C, \quad \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \text{Var} \left[\mathcal{C}^{(n)} \right] = 0.$$

ε -Second-Order Coding Rate

- As introduced by [Hayashi'09](#). More general than dispersion.
- We say that $r \in \mathbb{R} \cup \{\pm\infty\}$ is an ε -achievable second-order coding rate if there exists a sequence $\{\varepsilon_n\}$ s.t.

$$\liminf_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{1}{\sqrt{n}} \left[\log M^*(\varepsilon_n; n) - nC(\varepsilon) \right] \geq r, \quad \limsup_{n \rightarrow \infty} \varepsilon_n \leq \varepsilon$$

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- If r is an ε -achievable second-order coding rate, then there exists a sequence of length- n codes with number of codewords M_n and error probability ε_n satisfying

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- Optimal ε -second order coding rate: $\Lambda(\varepsilon) := \sup\{r \mid r \text{ is an } \varepsilon\text{-achievable second-order coding rate}\}.$

- For a fixed realization of a state sequence $\vec{s} = (s_1, \dots, s_n)$, the average error for code of length M is approximately

$$\Phi\left(\frac{\log M - \sum_{k=1}^n \mathcal{C}_{s_k}}{\sqrt{\sum_{k=1}^n \mathcal{V}_{S_k}}}\right) \text{ by Berry-Esseen.}$$

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- Let $s^* = \arg \min_{s \in \mathcal{S}} \mathcal{C}_s$ be unique. For $\varepsilon < P_S(s^*)$, we have $C(\varepsilon) = \mathcal{C}_{s^*}$ and $\Lambda(\varepsilon) = \sqrt{\mathcal{V}_{s^*}} \Phi^{-1} \left(\frac{\varepsilon}{P_S(s^*)} \right)$.

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- In fact ([Wolfowitz'78](#))

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- The second-order coding rate is

$$\Lambda(\varepsilon) = \sqrt{V_1 + V_2} \cdot \Phi^{-1}(\varepsilon), \quad \text{where}$$
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- Similar to [Ingber-Feder'10](#), but converse more challenging due to channel information at the *encoder*.

Example 2: State is i.i.d. — Proof sketch

- We want to evaluate

$$\Lambda(\varepsilon) = \sup \left\{ r \mid \limsup_{n \rightarrow \infty} \mathbb{E} \left[\Phi \left(\frac{nC(\varepsilon) - n\mathcal{C}^{(n)} + \sqrt{nr}}{\sqrt{n\mathcal{V}^{(n)}}} \right) \right] \leq \varepsilon \right\}$$

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- Employing a variant of Berry-Esseen, we find the following result which might be of independent interest.

Lemma

The following holds uniformly in x :

$$\mathbb{E} \left[\Phi \left(\sqrt{n} \frac{x - \mathcal{C}^{(n)}}{\sqrt{\mathcal{V}^{(n)}}} \right) \right] - \Phi \left(\sqrt{n} \frac{x - C}{\sqrt{V_1 + V_2}} \right) = O\left(\frac{1}{\sqrt{n}}\right).$$

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$$\text{Var}[\mathcal{C}^{(n)}] = \frac{1}{n^2} \sum_{k=1}^n \sum_{l=1}^n \text{Cov} [\mathcal{C}_{S_k}, \mathcal{C}_{S_l}],$$

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- In fact, we see that

$$\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} n \text{Var}[\mathcal{C}^{(n)}] = \underbrace{\text{Var}_{S \leftarrow \pi} [\mathcal{C}_S]}_{V_2} + 2 \underbrace{\sum_{k=1}^{\infty} \text{Cov}_{S_1 \leftarrow \pi} [\mathcal{C}_{S_1}, \mathcal{C}_{S_{1+k}}]}_{=: V_3}.$$

Example 3: State is Markov — Gilbert-Elliott

- The second-order coding rate depends on the mixing properties of the chain through V_3 .

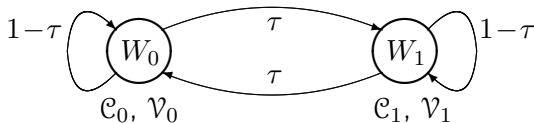
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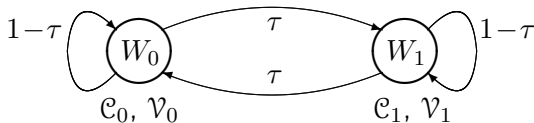


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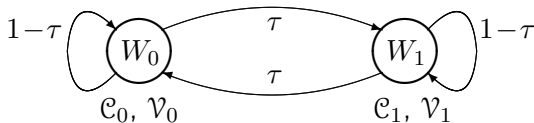
- We find $V_1 = \frac{1}{2}\mathcal{V}_0 + \frac{1}{2}\mathcal{V}_1$ and $V_2 + V_3 = \frac{1-\tau}{4\tau}(\mathcal{C}_0 - \mathcal{C}_1)^2$.

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- Further specializing to W_0, W_1 BSCs, this recovers the converse result by [Polyanskiy-Poor-Verdú'11](#).
- Additionally, we see that non-causal state information at the encoder does not help.

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- If the CAIDs for all W_s are equal, the (second-order) converse bounds can be achieved even if the channel state is unknown to the encoder, e.g. for the Gilbert-Elliott channel studied in [Polyanskiy-Poor-Verdú'11](#).

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- It would be interesting to see (but requires new techniques) if the result can be extended to general alphabets.