Ordered Statistics Decoding for Linear Block Codes over Intersymbol Interference Channels

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Problem Statement



Intersymbol Interference (ISI) channel with memory $I \ge 0$

Input-output relationship:

$$\mathscr{Z}_t = \sum_{i=0}^{T} \mathscr{A}_{t-i} h_i + \mathscr{W}_t \text{ for } 1 \le t \le N,$$

where \mathcal{W}_t is i.i.d Gaussian noise.

• Important model for e.g. recording channels.



- Consider linear block codes important class of codes.
 - Includes BCH, low-density parity check, turbo, etc.
 - Includes codes used in standards, e.g. RS [255, 239,]



Problem Statement



Problem:

Decode linear block codes over ISI channels.





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Is This Problem Hard?

- Yes, very.
- Even state-of-the-art algorithms do not approach capacity.





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Ordered Statistics Decoding : Powerful Technique

RS [255, 239, 17] binary image, *memoryless* AWGN.





How Does OSD Perform on ISI Channels?

• Unimpressive gains observed (compared to memoryless).





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What Went Wrong?

• OSD: reliability-based decoding algorithm.



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Issue: Prev. Method not suited for Channel with Memory

- OSD originally designed for a *memoryless* channel.
 - Symbol errors considered *individually*.
 - Inefficient in ISI channels does not exploit memory.

Past Extensions for other channels



- Rayleigh fading [Fossorier & Lin (1997)]
- Wireless channel [Chen & Hwang (2000)]

Main Challenges / Overview

- Decoder designs:
 - Ordered statistics decoding (OSD).
 - Box-and-Match algorithm (BMA).
- Complexity-saving measures.
- Analysis: Reliability distributions / Symbol Error Prob.



Main Results (ISI Channels)

- Ordered statistics decoding (OSD).
 - Works for any linear block code.
 - Develop hypothesis method error events.

Introduction

- Efficient implementations.
- Box-and-Match algorithm (BMA).
 - OSD enhancement
 - Provide (increased) error correction guarantee.
 - Marginal complexity increment.
- Codeword optimality tests
 - Complexity saving techniques.
- Closed-form expressions for reliability distributions
 - Existing results not useful for our purposes.
- Approx. for ordered symbol error probabilities.
 - Quantifying the intuition behind OSD decoders.





Outline





Main Results

- Detection
- Ordered Statistics Decoding (OSD)
- Box-and-Match (BMA)
- Optimality Testing
- Analysis

3 Conclusion





Main Results

Detection

Detection in ISI Channels

System overview.



ISI Channel Memory $I \ge 0$



Recall the following dependence

$$\mathscr{Z}_t = \mathscr{Z}_t(\mathscr{A}_{t-I}, \cdots, \mathscr{A}_t).$$

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Main Results

Detection

Detection in ISI Channels

System overview.



ISI Channel Memory $I \ge 0$



• Computes symbol decision b_t and reliability r_t .





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Symbol Decision b_1, b_2, \cdots, b_N



andidates
$$\mathbf{a}_t = [a_{t-M}, \cdots, a_{t+M}]^T$$
, choose
 $b_t = b_t(\mathbf{z}_t) \stackrel{\Delta}{=} \arg\min_{a \in \{1, -1\}} \left\{ \min_{\mathbf{a}_t: a_t = a} |\mathbf{z}_t - \mathbf{H}\mathbf{a}_t|^2 \right\}$



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OSD for Lin. Bl. Codes over ISI channels

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• Computes symbol decision b_t and reliability r_t .



Reliability Sequence r_1, r_2, \cdots, r_N

Measures a detection "margin"

$$r_t = r_t(\mathbf{z}_t) \stackrel{\Delta}{=} \min_{\mathbf{a}: a_t \neq b_t(\mathbf{z}_t)} |\mathbf{z}_t - \mathbf{H}\mathbf{a}_t|^2 - \min_{\mathbf{a}: a_t = b_t(\mathbf{z}_t)} |\mathbf{z} - \mathbf{H}\mathbf{a}_t|^2 \ge 0$$



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OSD for Lin. Bl. Codes over ISI channels

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Main Results Detection

Order Statistics of Reliabilities



• Ordered reliabilities: $\mathscr{R}_{(1)} \leq \mathscr{R}_{(2)} \leq \cdots \leq \mathscr{R}_{(N)}$

- Ordered symbol decisions: $\mathscr{B}_{(1)}, \mathscr{B}_{(2)}, \cdots, \mathscr{B}_{(N)}$
- OSD relies on high reliable decisions.
- High reliable decisions $\mathscr{B}_{(i)}$ recv. correctly most of the time.



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Ordered Statistics Decoding (OSD)

Result : OSD for ISI channels

F. Lim, A. Kavčić, and M. Fossorier, "OSD of linear block codes over ISI channels," *IEEE Trans. on Magn.*, vol. 44, no. 11, pp. 3765–3768, Nov. 2008.



- Hypothesize errors over *high* reliable positions.
- Erasure decode *low* reliable positions.
- Good coding gains: efficient error

hypothesis method

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Ordered Statistics Decoding (OSD)

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Main Results Ordered Statistics Decoding (OSD) Erasure Decoding In a Nutshell

- (High) reliable symbols are *hypothesized* (guessed).
- Low reliable symbols decoded all at once (by erasing).
- $[N, K, d_{\min}]$ linear block codes C.



Main Results Ordered Statistics Decoding (OSD)

OSD is a List Decoding Technique



Main Results Ordered Statistics Decoding (OSD) Hypothesis Technique for ISI Channels

Hypotheses made according to *bursty* error mechanism

- Strategy: Consider set of "reliable" error events.
- Related to the memory state evolution in channel.



Definition: Err. pair $p = (\mathbf{a}, \mathbf{b})$, error event decomposition

• Err. pair $p = (\mathbf{a}, \mathbf{b})$ decomposed into error events $p = (\mathbf{a}, \mathbf{b}) = \varepsilon_1 \circ \varepsilon_2 \circ \cdots \circ \varepsilon_m$



Definition: The set of reliable error events \mathcal{E}

• Reliable error event $\varepsilon \in \mathcal{E}$ flips *at least* one reliable position.

Summary of the OSD Algorithm

OSD Parameter \mathcal{O}

- Largest num. of events in *E*, *collectively hypothesized*.
- Shorthand notation for list size $|\mathcal{L}_{\text{OSD}}| = \sum_{i=0}^{\mathcal{O}} {|\mathcal{E}| \choose i}$.





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OSD decoding includes the following steps:

- 1) Pick a subset (of size *at most* \mathcal{O}) from $\mathcal{E} \to \text{error pair } p$.
- 2) Form error hypothesis pair p and erasure decode.
- 3) Choose best codeword c_{OSD} in \mathcal{L}_{OSD} .



Main Results Ordered Statistics Decoding (OSD)

Closing Points : Ordered Statistics Decoding (OSD)

- OSD generalized for ISI channels.
- Consider reliable events $\varepsilon \in \mathcal{E}$ to exploit memory.
 - The set \mathcal{E} is *very* complex (compared to memoryless case).
 - Handled using a generalized Viterbi alg. and Battail's alg.
- Our approach obtains much more impressive gains, than when *directly* applying past techniques.



Is There a Need for Further Improvement?

- For Reed-Muller [64, 32, 8], OSD is near-optimal.
- However, for RS [255, 239, 17], further improvement is desired.
- Consider box-and-match (BMA) enhancements.



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OSD: A naive strategy?

Is it effective to keep increasing \mathcal{O} ?

- \bullet Larger ${\cal O}$ gives better error correction, however,
- $|\mathcal{E}|$ is a big number.



OSD: A naive strategy?

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- $|\mathcal{E}|$ is a big number.

The box-and-match algorithm (BMA) is an elegant idea to

- process error events more efficiently, using
- similar complexity as OSD.

Result : Box-and-Match (BMA) for ISI channels

F. Lim, A. Kavčić, and M. Fossorier, "List decoding techniques for ISI channels using ordered statistics," in IEEE JSAC, Vol. 28, No. 2, pp 241 - 251, Jan 2010.



Main Results

Box-and-Match (BMA)

Box-and-Match (BMA) : A Simple Idea

BMA Parameter \mathcal{O}

• Hypothesizes \mathcal{O} subsets of error events in \mathcal{E} .

• List size $|\mathcal{L}_{\text{BMA}}| > \sum_{i=0}^{\mathcal{O}} {|\mathcal{E}| \choose i} = |\mathcal{L}_{\text{OSD}}|.$



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Box-and-Match (BMA) : A Simple Idea

The Box-and-Match (BMA) decoder improves the OSD. How?

- Let's say the following 3 error events occur.
- Will not be corrected by OSD with order $\mathcal{O} = 2$.
- May be corrected by the BMA with order $\mathcal{O} = 2$.



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Summary of Idea Behind BMA

• BMA extends error correction to > O error events.

Main Results

- BMA considers > O error events, IF
 - BEFORE codeword is actually formed (computed),
 - the BMA KNOWS that codeword disagrees only with small # control band (CB) symbols.

Box-and-Match (BMA)

• BMA will not test all > O combinations of error events.

Q: How does the BMA know ...

WHICH combinations of > O error events, map to codewords, with only a small number of errors over the CB?



- Each codeword is boxed according to its "label".
- Each codeword is "matched" to other codewords.





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Main Results Box-an

Box-and-Match (BMA)

- Each codeword is boxed according to its "label".
- Each codeword is "matched" to other codewords.
- Main difficulty faced.





BMA : Error Correction Guarantee

BMA extends error correction to > O error events.

If the transmitted codeword **c** has the decomposition $(\mathbf{c}, \mathbf{b}) = p_1 \circ p_2 \circ p_{\mathsf{CB}} \circ (\mathbf{a}, \mathbf{b})$

satisfying

- Both p_1, p_2 each consists of $\leq O$ reliable EEs
- $p_1 \circ p_2$ consists of > \mathcal{O} reliable EEs
- *p*_{CB} is a hypothesized control band (CB) error pair.
- $\bullet \ (a,b)$ consists of all other error events.

then $\ensuremath{\mathbf{c}}$ is guaranteed to be placed into the BMA list.



Box-and-Match (BMA)

Performance of BMA

• [255, 239, 17] Reed-Solomon binary image.





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Complexity of the BMA

Under some mild assumptions, the complexity of the BMA is computed as follows.

Proposition

For a CB of size κ , the fractional increase in list size of the BMA is

$$\begin{aligned} |\mathcal{L}_{\text{BMA}}| / |\mathcal{L}_{\text{OSD}}| &= 1 + \frac{(|\mathcal{L}_{\text{OSD}}| + 1) |\mathcal{L}_{\text{OSD}}|}{2^{\kappa + 1}} \\ &\approx 1 \text{ for large } \kappa \end{aligned}$$

Note

For large CB size κ we have

$$|\mathcal{L}_{\text{BMA}}| pprox |\mathcal{L}_{ ext{OSD}}|$$



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Result : Efficient optimality tests for ISI channels

F. Lim, A. Kavčić, and M. Fossorier, "On sufficient conditions for testing optimality of codewords in ISI channels," submitted to *ISIT*, 2010.



Optimality tests may help reduce OSD complexity



• Can we do better than c_{OSD} ?

- If no, stop and save unnecessary computations.
- Q1 Is c_{OSD} better than all other codewords?

2 Is **c**_{OSD} better than all vectors dist. *d*_{min} away?

E.g. Memoryless (H is identity)





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Hong Kong, March 2011

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Exist *efficient* methods to solve Q2 for *memoryless* channels ... [Taipale (1991), Kaneko (1994)]



Q2A Integer programming problem $\mathbf{a}^* = \arg \max \mathbf{z}^T \mathbf{a}$ s. t. $d_H(\mathbf{a}, \mathbf{c}_{OSD}) \ge d_{\min}, a_i \in \{-1, 1\}$

Q2A has simple solution [Taipale (1991)]

• If $\mathbf{H} = \mathbf{I}$, then $\mathbf{Q}\mathbf{2}\mathbf{A} \equiv \mathbf{Q}\mathbf{2}$.





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Optimality Testing

Optimality Tests for ISI Channels

Defn: (C_{OSD} is diagonal matrix with diagonal c_{OSD})

•
$$\boldsymbol{\eta}(\mathbf{z}) \stackrel{\Delta}{=} (1 - \mathbf{C}_{\text{OSD}}(\mathbf{H}^T \mathbf{H})^{-1} \mathbf{H} \mathbf{z})/2.$$

• Dist.
$$U(\mathbf{c}_{OSD}) \stackrel{\Delta}{=} \frac{|\mathbf{H}\mathbf{C}_{OSD}\boldsymbol{\eta}|^2}{\lambda_{\min}}$$
, where λ_{\min} is min. eig. of $\mathbf{H}^T \mathbf{H}$.



Optimality Testing

Performance (Computer Simulations)

Performance for [24, 12, 8] Golay Code

• 5 different channels.

No.	λ_{\min}
1	0.7873
2	0.4309
3	0.2052
4	0.1408
5	0.0783







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Main Results Ar

Analysis

Overview of Analytic Results

Recall: System Overview



We provide expressions for:

- 1 *reliability distributions* $\Pr \{ \mathscr{R}_{t_1} \leq r_1, \cdots, \mathscr{R}_{t_m} \leq r_m \}$, and *error probabilities* $\Pr \{ \mathscr{B}_{t_1} \neq \mathscr{A}_{t_1}, \cdots, \mathscr{B}_{t_m} \neq \mathscr{A}_{t_m} \}$.
- 2 ordered error probabilities

$$\Pr\left\{\mathscr{B}_{(i)}\neq\mathscr{A}_{(i)}\right\},\,$$





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Main Results An

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where the *i*-th ordered position obtained from





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$$\Pr\left\{\mathscr{B}_{(i)}\neq\mathscr{A}_{(i)}\right\},\,$$

where the *i*-th ordered position obtained from

$$\mathscr{R}_{(1)} \leq \cdots \leq \mathscr{R}_{(i)} \leq \cdots \leq \mathscr{R}_{(N)}.$$





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Analysis : Past Work / Our Contribution

Result : *M*-truncated Max-Log-Map (MLM) Detector

F. Lim and A. Kavčić, "On the distribution the reliabilities of truncated max-log-map decoders," *submitted*, 2010.

Problem I: Detector Analysis - Solved (Practical Scheme)

- Detection schemes invented in 1970's, however
- their analysis is difficult.
- Recent results include,
 - High signal-to-noise (SNR) approx [Reggiani et. al. (2002)]
 - Memory-2 conv. codes [Lentmaier et. al. (2004)]
- We have a *closed-form* for the decoder presented earlier.

Our is a first, *exact* result for *joint distributions*, *irregardless* of memory length!

Analysis : Past Work / Our Contribution

Result : Conjectured approx. of ordered symbol error prob.

F. Lim, A. Kavčić, M. Fossorier, "Ordered statistics decoding for intersymbol interference channels," *in preperation*, 2010.

Problem II: Ordered Error Probabilities - In Progress ...

- Solved for memoryless case [Lin & Fossorier (1995)], but
- unknown when sequence $\mathscr{R}_1, \cdots, \mathscr{R}_N$ is *dependent*
- We conjecture approximations, based on
- known concentration results for dependent sequences.

We show empirical evidence to attest accuracy of our conjectures.



Analysis : Past Work / Our Contribution

Misconception that in approaches similar to [Reggiani et. al. (2002)], the reliability distribution \Re_t must be approximated.

[Lim & Kavčić (2010)]: because signaling is *binary*, consideration of all cases is easy.

 \Rightarrow Discussion on Problem I (Detector Analysis) follows...





Analysis

Detector Reliability Dist. and Error Probabilities



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Analysis

Detector Reliability Dist. and Error Probabilities

Recall: Reliability sequence
$$\mathscr{R}_1, \mathscr{R}_2, \cdots, \mathscr{R}_N$$

$$\mathscr{R}_{t} \stackrel{\Delta}{=} \min_{\mathbf{a}_{t}: a_{t} \neq \mathscr{B}_{t}} |\mathscr{Z}_{t} - \mathbf{H}\mathbf{a}_{t}|^{2} - \min_{\mathbf{a}_{t}: a_{t} = \mathscr{B}_{t}} |\mathscr{Z}_{t} - \mathbf{H}\mathbf{a}_{t}|^{2} \ge 0$$





Analysis

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Analysis

Detector Reliability Dist. and Error Probabilities

Recall: Reliability sequence $\mathscr{R}_1, \mathscr{R}_2, \cdots, \mathscr{R}_N$

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Main Results

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Detector Reliability Dist. and Error Probabilities

Recall: Reliability sequence
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Analysis

Our Results

Recall: Reliability sequence $\mathcal{R}_1, \mathcal{R}_2, \cdots, \mathcal{R}_N$

$$\mathscr{R}_t \stackrel{\Delta}{=} \min_{\mathbf{a}_t: a_t \neq \mathscr{R}_t} |\mathscr{L}_t - \mathbf{H}\mathbf{a}_t|^2 - \min_{\mathbf{a}_t: a_t = \mathscr{R}_t} |\mathscr{L}_t - \mathbf{H}\mathbf{a}_t|^2 \ge 0$$

$$\begin{aligned} \mathscr{Y}_t &\stackrel{\Delta}{=} & \max_{\mathbf{a}_t: a_t = \mathscr{A}_t} |\mathscr{Z}_t - \mathbf{H}\mathscr{A}_t|^2 - |\mathscr{Z}_t - \mathbf{H}\mathbf{a}_t|^2 \\ \mathscr{X}_t &\stackrel{\Delta}{=} & \max_{\mathbf{a}_t: a_t \neq \mathscr{A}_t} |\mathscr{Z}_t - \mathbf{H}\mathscr{A}_t|^2 - |\mathscr{Z}_t - \mathbf{H}\mathbf{a}_t|^2 \end{aligned}$$

Proposition [Lim '10]

• The reliability \mathcal{R}_t satisfies

$$\mathscr{R}_t = |\mathscr{X}_t - \mathscr{Y}_t|.$$

• The symbol error event $\{\mathscr{B}_t \neq \mathscr{A}_t\}$ satisfies

$$\{\mathscr{B}_t \neq \mathscr{A}_t\} = \{\mathscr{X}_t \ge \mathscr{Y}_t\}$$



Our Results

We show the distribution of $\mathscr{X}_t - \mathscr{Y}_t$ is of the form $\Pr \{\mathscr{X}_t - \mathscr{Y}_t \leq r\} =$ $\mathbb{E}_{\mathscr{A}_t, \mathscr{U}} \left\{ \int_0^\infty f_{\Gamma}(\gamma) \cdot \Phi\left(r + d(\gamma, \mathscr{A}_t, \mathscr{U})\right) d\gamma \right\}$

where

- \mathscr{U} is *uniformly distributed* on the *surface* of a (2M)-dimensional hypersphere.
- $f_{\Gamma}(\gamma)$ is standard chi density with 2M degrees of freedom.
- $\Phi(\cdot)$ is a *Gaussian distribution* function.
- d(γ, a_t, u) is the difference of affine maximums in γ, i.e. d(γ) = d(γ, a_t, u) = max(γ ⋅ α + β) - max(γ ⋅ α' + β') where α, α', β and β' are length-(4^M) vectors depending on a_t and u.



Analysis

Our Results

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Discussion on Problem I (Detector Analysis) finished.

\Rightarrow Discussion on Problem II (Ordered Symbol Error Prob.) follows...





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Conjectured Approx. for Ordered Symbol Error Prob.

• [Lim '10] Conjectured approx. for
$$\Pr \left\{ \mathscr{B}_{(i)} \neq \mathscr{A}_{(i)} \right\},$$

$$\int_{0}^{\infty} \Pr \left\{ \mathscr{B} \neq \mathscr{A} | \mathscr{R} = r \right\} f_{\mathscr{R}_{(i)}}(r) dr, \qquad (1)$$
where $f_{\mathscr{R}_{(i)}}(r)$ is the density of $\mathscr{R}_{(i)}$.

Want to analytically predict $\Pr \left\{ \mathscr{B}_{(i)} \neq \mathscr{A}_{(i)} \right\}$





Conjectured Approx. for Ordered Symbol Error Prob.



Want to analytically predict $\Pr \left\{ \mathscr{B}_{(i)} \neq \mathscr{A}_{(i)} \right\}$





Conjectured Approx. for Ordered Symbol Error Prob.



i-th "ordered" position"



Conjectured Approx. for Ordered Symbol Error Prob.

• [Lim '10] Conjectured approx. for $\Pr \left\{ \mathscr{B}_{(i)} \neq \mathscr{A}_{(i)} \right\}$, $\int_{0}^{\infty} \Pr \left\{ \mathscr{B} \neq \mathscr{A} | \mathscr{R} = r \right\} f_{\mathscr{R}_{(i)}}(r) dr, \qquad (1)$ where $f_{\mathscr{R}_{(i)}}(r)$ is the density of $\mathscr{R}_{(i)}$.

Eqn. (1) seems far off ... ?





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Wait, we can increase truncation length M.





Conjectured Approx. for Ordered Symbol Error Prob.

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Practically the same when M = 3 and 4.





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Unfortunately, we are unable to proof accuracy of (1), remains a conjectured approx ...





Conjectured Approx. for Ordered Symbol Error Prob.

• [Lim '10] Conjectured approx for $\Pr \{ \mathscr{B}_{(i)} \neq \mathscr{A}_{(i)} \}$, is given as

$$\Pr\left\{\mathscr{B} \neq \mathscr{A} | \mathscr{R} = r\right\} f_{\mathscr{R}_{(i)}}(r) dr, \tag{1}$$

where $f_{\mathscr{R}_{(i)}}(r)$ is the density of $\mathscr{R}_{(i)}$.

• [Sen (1968)] $\mathscr{R}_{(i)}$ is approx Gaussian for long N.

To compute (1), we will need

- (i) Intergence $F_{\mathscr{R}}(r)$ (ii) Joint $F_{\mathscr{R}_{t},\mathscr{R}_{t+j}}(r_{1}, r_{2})$ (iii) Error probs. Pr { $\mathscr{B} \neq \mathscr{A}$ } \leftarrow Problem I (Solved)
- (iv) Concentration Result [Sen (1968)]





Ordered statistics decoding (OSD) generalized for ISI channels.

- OSD/Box-and-Match (BMA)
 - powerful/efficient decoding algorithms
- Codeword optimality testing
 - complexity reduction.
- Reliability distributions / error probabilities obtained.
- Conjectured approx. for ordered error probabilities.



