



STANFORD

Lecture 8
Decoding
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Announcements & Agenda

■ Announcements

- PS3 extended to Friday – see updated HWH3 at website.
- PS4 is due TUESDAY, no late. (HWH4 is already at website.)
 - PS4 solutions will post immediately, and thus be available for your midterm study.
 - You should expect less time than PS2 or PS3.
- There is no homework assigned next week.

■ Today

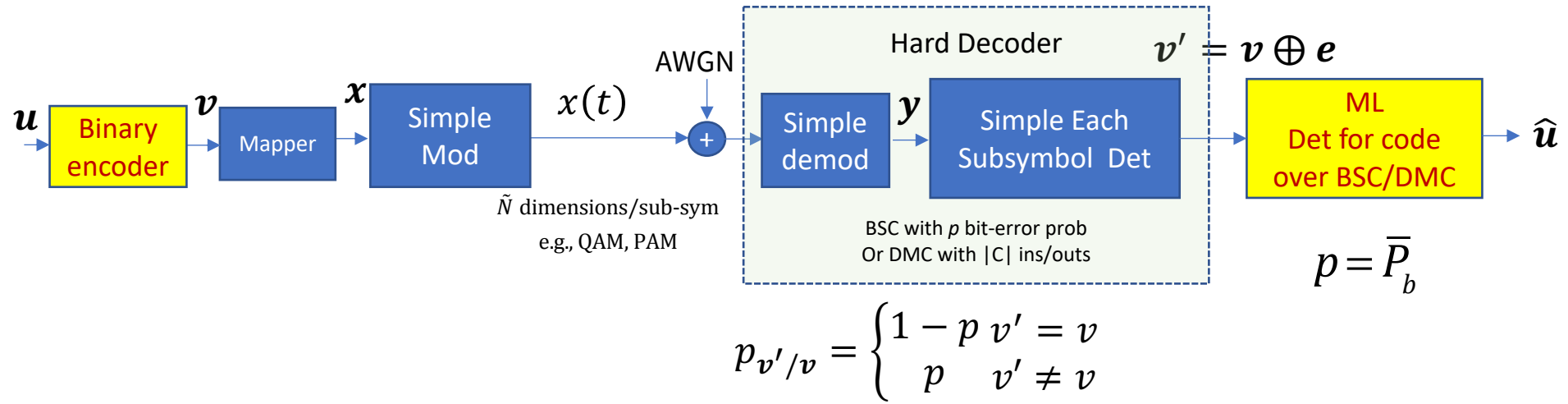
- Continue from L7
- Viterbi Sequence Decoding (MLSD)
- A Posteriori Probability (APP) bit decoding
- Soft-Output Viterbi Algorithm (SOVA)
- Backup – not covered: Invariant Factors Decomposition
 - Minimal Generators (and thus minimal decoder complexity)
 - Matlab code-structure error warning



Continue L7

[Section 7.2](#)

Hard decoder – first decodes the “v” bit sequence



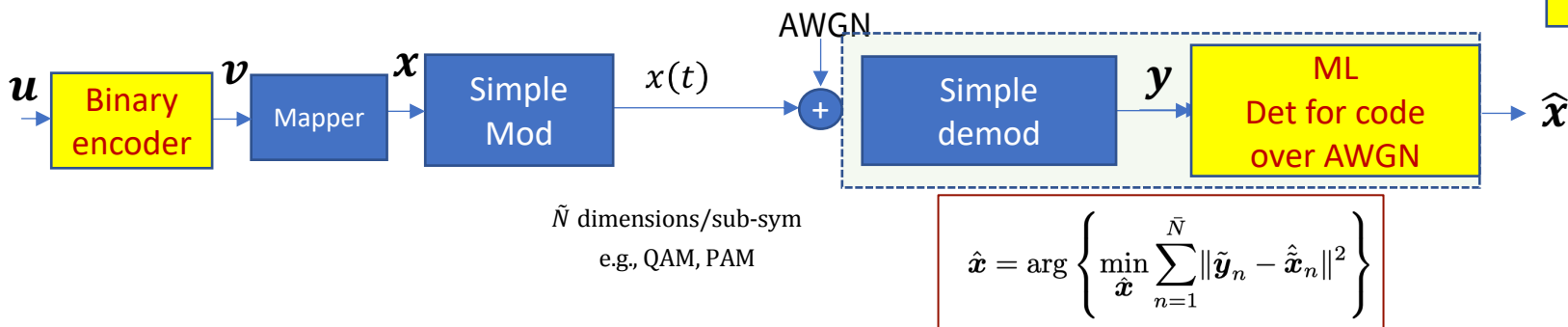
- Encoder-output subsymbols are decoded independently – e.g., a “hard” decision.
- The remaining channel is a BSC model, to which the binary code applies.
- The BEC with the “erasure” output is a first step from hard to soft....



Soft Decoder – decode the symbol

Finite
Real-Time
Complexity

$$p_{y/x} = (2\pi\sigma^2)^{-N/2} \cdot e^{-\|y-x\|^2/2\sigma^2}$$



- The demodulator samples ($\in \mathbb{C}$) pass to the detector for comparison of codewords (subsymbol sequences).
- The y information is “soft” in that it is not pre-quantized into a decision (or at least not to $|C|$ **subsymbol values**).
- Deployed systems often have ADC on y_n ; quantize $\frac{d_{\min}(|C|)}{\sigma_q} = 4^3$; i.e., 3 bits cover intra-point distance.
 - This 3-bit quantization **of dmin** limits decoder loss (w.r.t. infinite precision) to .25 dB distortion (one more bit reduces to .06 dB distortion).
 - Same rule applies per dimension for both ADCs in quadrature receivers.
 - Total ADC bits will then be these 3, plus \bar{b} , plus 1-2 bits for peak-to-average (analog coverage), so $b_{ADC} = \bar{b} + 4$, or possibly $\bar{b} + 5$.



AWGN Error Probability for Conv Codes

- AWGN $\bar{P}_e = \bar{N}_e \cdot Q\left(\frac{d_{min}}{2\sigma}\right) = \bar{N}_e \cdot Q\left(\sqrt{d_{free} \cdot \frac{\mathcal{E}_x}{\sigma^2}}\right) = \bar{N}_e \cdot Q\left(\sqrt{d_{free} \cdot \frac{k}{n} \cdot SNR}\right)$

- Because $d_{min} = \sqrt{d_{free} \cdot 4 \cdot \mathcal{E}_x}$

energy-spread reduces energy/subsym
(assumes $\frac{1}{T}$ can increase, so no filter on AWGN)

- AWGN $\bar{P}_b = \frac{N_b}{b} \cdot Q\left(\sqrt{d_{free} \cdot r \cdot SNR}\right)$

- Where $N_b = \sum_{i=1}^{\infty} i \cdot N(i, d_{free})$ and $N(i, d)$ for conv code is the number of i -input-bit error events with distance d .
 - Finding N_b can require exhaustive search in general, but Section 7.2 (L9) shows how to compute $N(i, d)$ for CC, also distspec.m.
 - Yes, it is equal to Chapter 1's $\sum_{i=1}^{\infty} p_x(i) \cdot n_b(i)$, which is actually harder to compute.

- BC **coding gain** $\gamma = 10 \cdot \log_{10}(r \cdot d_{free})$ (for AWGN with binary subsymbols ..) and **energy/bit** $\bar{\mathcal{E}}_b$.

HAZARD WARNING ☠ – **BINARY CODING THEORIST'S FALLACY** – assumes “free bandwidth”

Binary-code fair comparison: hold 2 of 3 $\{\bar{b} \quad \bar{\mathcal{E}}_x \quad \bar{P}_e\}$ fixed and compare 3rd;

But $N_{coded} = \frac{1}{r} \cdot N_{uncoded}$ so then BOTH $\bar{\mathcal{E}}_x$ & \bar{b} decrease for coded w.r.t uncoded (~ holding power & rate constant), not fair.

$\bar{b}_{coded} = r \cdot \bar{b}_{uncoded}$ $\bar{\mathcal{E}}_{x,coded} = r \cdot \bar{\mathcal{E}}_{x,uncoded}$; So $\mathcal{E}_b = \frac{\bar{\mathcal{E}}_x}{\bar{b}}$ is the same, **BUT** $W \cdot T \rightarrow W \cdot T / r$

So, either the coded design increased bandwidth (may not be possible) or otherwise reduced rate; adding a code to reduce rate is somewhat antithetical to Shannon if $R < C$. Increasing W is “cheating.”



BSC Error Probability

- BSC $\bar{P}_e = \bar{N}_e \cdot [4p(1-p)]^{\lfloor \frac{d_{free}}{2} \rfloor}$
- BSC $\bar{P}_b = \frac{N_b}{b} \cdot [4p(1-p)]^{\lfloor \frac{d_{free}}{2} \rfloor}$
- Chapter 1's B-Bound can be used to show that this is roughly 3dB inferior to soft decoding (AWGN).
- Fair-comparison discussion is for AWGN.
 - Strictly speaking with BSC, data rate must reduce to improve with codes.
 - From BSC capacity, $r \leq \underbrace{1 + p \cdot \log_2 p + (1-p) \cdot \log_2(1-p)}_c \leq 1$ for reliable transmission with a code $0 < p < \frac{1}{2}$.



Coding Tables –best known rate 1/2 conv codes

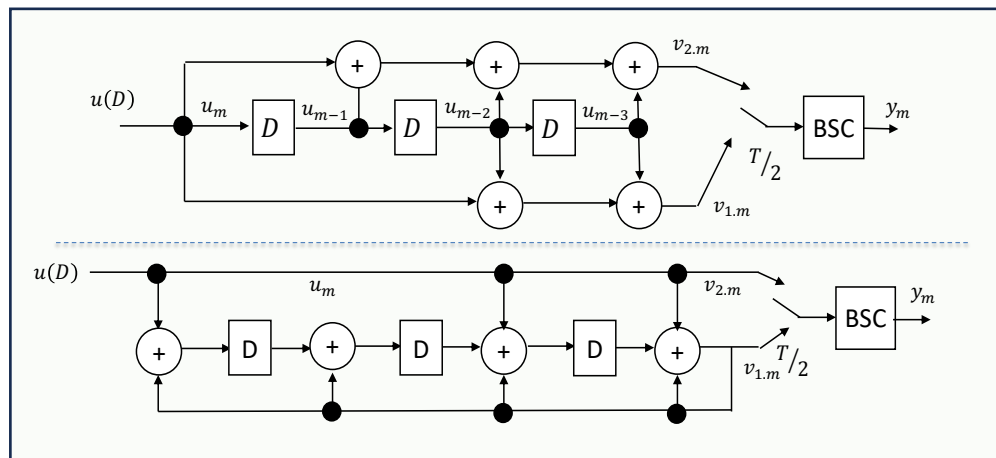
Section 8.2 – Conv Code Tables see the octal entries, chap 8 [6]

2^v	$g_{11}(D)$	$g_{12}(D)$	d_{free}	γ	(dB)	N_e	N_1	N_2	N_b	L_D
4	7	5	5	2.5	3.98	1	2	4	1	3
8	17	13	6	3	4.77	1	3	5	2	5
16	23	35	7	3.5	5.44	2	3	4	4	8
(2G) 16	31	33	7	3.5	5.44	2	4	6	4	7
32	77	51	8	4	6.02	2	3	8	4	8
64	163	135	10	5	6.99	12	0	53	46	16
(802.11a) 64	155	117	10	5	6.99	11	0	38	36	16
(802.11b) 64	133	175	9	4.5	6.53	1	6	11	3	9
128	323	275	10	5	6.99	1	6	13	6	14
256	457	755	12	6	7.78	10	9	30	40	18
(3G) 256	657	435	12	6	7.78	11	0	50	33	16
512	1337	1475	12	6	7.78	1	8	8	2	11
1024	2457	2355	14	7	8.45	19	0	80	82	22
2048	6133	5745	14	7	8.45	1	10	25	4	19
4096	17663	11271	15	7.5	8.75	2	10	29	6	18
8192	26651	36477	16	8	9.0	5	15	21	26	28
16384	46253	77361	17	8.5	9.29	3	16	44	17	27
32768	114727	176121	18	9	9.54	5	15	45	26	37
65536	330747	207225	19	9.5	9.78	9	16	48	55	33
131072	507517	654315	20	10	10	6	31	58	30	27

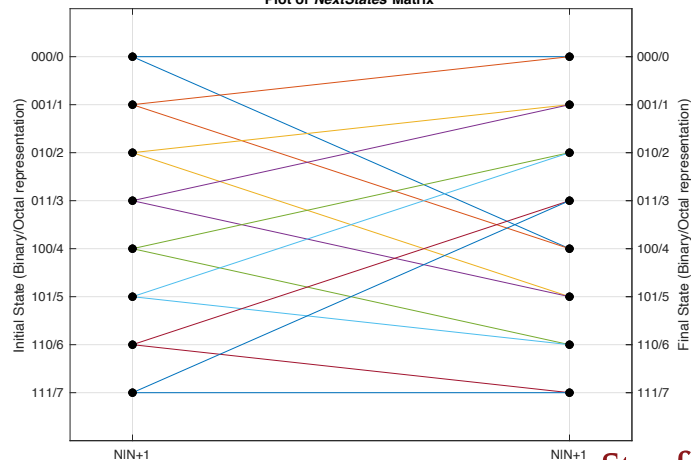
Table 8.1: Rate 1/2 Maximum Free Distance Codes

L_D = length of Min-dist event

```
>> t8=poly2trellis(4,[17 13]) =
numInputSymbols: 2
numOutputSymbols: 4
numStates: 8
nextStates: [8 x 2 double]
outputs: [8 x 2 double]
>> plotnextstates(t8.nextStates)
```



Plot of NextStates Matrix



Best rate-1/3 convolutional codes

- Codes listed for other rates, example 1/3 here, see Sec 8.2 for 1/4, 2/3, 3/4,

2^v	$g_{11}(D)$	$g_{12}(D)$	$g_{13}(D)$	$g_{14}(D)$	d_{free}	γ	(dB)	N_e	N_1	N_2	N_b	L_D
4	7	7	7	5	10	2.5	3.98	1	1	1	2	4
8	17	15	13	13	13	3.25	5.12	2	1	0	4	6
16	37	35	33	25	16	4	6.02	4	0	2	8	7
32	73	65	57	47	18	4.5	6.53	3	0	5	6	8
64	163	147	135	135	20	5	6.99	10	0	0	37	16
128	367	323	275	271	22	5.5	7.40	1	4	3	2	9
256	751	575	633	627	24	6.0	7.78	1	3	4	2	10
512	0671	1755	1353	1047	26	6.5	8.13	3	0	4	6	12
1024	3321	2365	3643	2277	28	7.0	8.45	4	0	5	9	16
2048	7221	7745	5223	6277	30	7.5	8.75	4	0	4	9	15
4096	15531	17435	05133	17627	32	8	9.03	4	3	6	13	17
8192	23551	25075	26713	37467	34	8.5	9.29	1	0	11	3	18
16384	66371	50575	56533	51447	37	9.25	9.66	3	5	6	7	19
32768	176151	123175	135233	156627	39	9.75	9.89	5	7	10	17	21
65536	247631	264335	235433	311727	41	10.25	10.1	3	7	7	7	20

- Code complexity measure $N_D = \underbrace{2^v}_{states} \cdot \left(\underbrace{2^k}_{adds} + \underbrace{2^k - 1}_{compares} \right)$



Design Example

- An AWGN has SNR = 5 dB.
- The uncoded ($M = 2$) error rate is $P_e = Q(10^{5/20}) = .0377$ (*not very good*).
- A better design uses best 64-state rate $r = 1/2$ code, so bandwidth expands by 2x.
 - The gain is 7 dB.
 - New $P_e = Q(10^{(5+7)/20}) = 3.4303e-05$ (better, see Slide L8:8's table for this code).
- To get $P_e \approx 10^{-6}$?
 - Need 8.5 dB of coding gain with rate $1/2$, so use this table's 1024-state code
 - $P_e = Q(10^{(5+8.5)/20}) \approx 10^{-6}$

- Encoder is $G(D) = \left[\underbrace{1 + D + D^2 + D^3 + D^5 + D^8 + D^{10}}_{2457} \quad \underbrace{1 + D^2 + D^3 + D^5 + D^6 + D^7 + D^{10}}_{2355} \right]$

1024 is a lot of states: larger distances may have large N_i that increase P_e .

Design instead should use better (not CC) code (see Lectures 9-11).

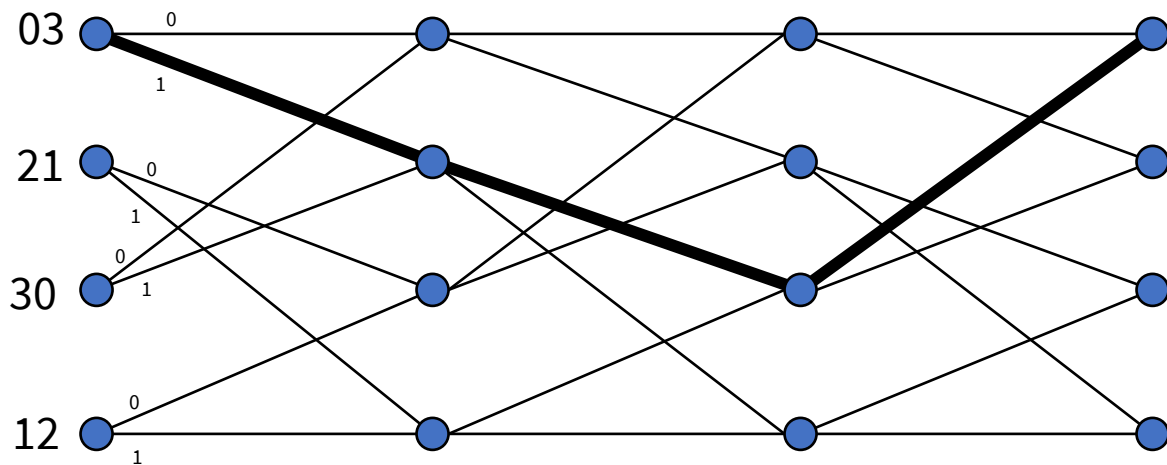
The 7 dB and 8.5 dB here often reduce in practice to about 5.5-6.0 dB, because of large N_i .



Viterbi Sequence Decoding

Section 7.1

Example, rate $r = 1/2$ CC surviving path



One path/sequence maximizes $p_{Y(D)/X(D)}$

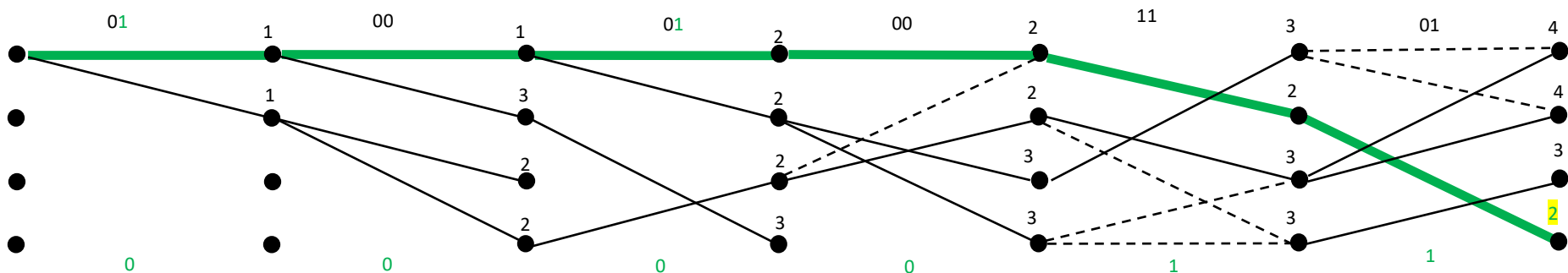
$$\hat{x}(D) = \arg \left\{ \max_{\hat{x}(D)} p_{Y(D)/X(D)} \right\}$$

- $\hat{x}(D)$ is the best **survivor path**. There are 2^v possible survivors at each time.
- Each state thus at time k has one best survivor, so 2^v possible survivors at stage k ,
 - from which any stage $k + 1$ survivor must follow.



Example BSC: 6 input bits & 12 output bits

Green outputs – BSC-output 2 errors from correct sequence



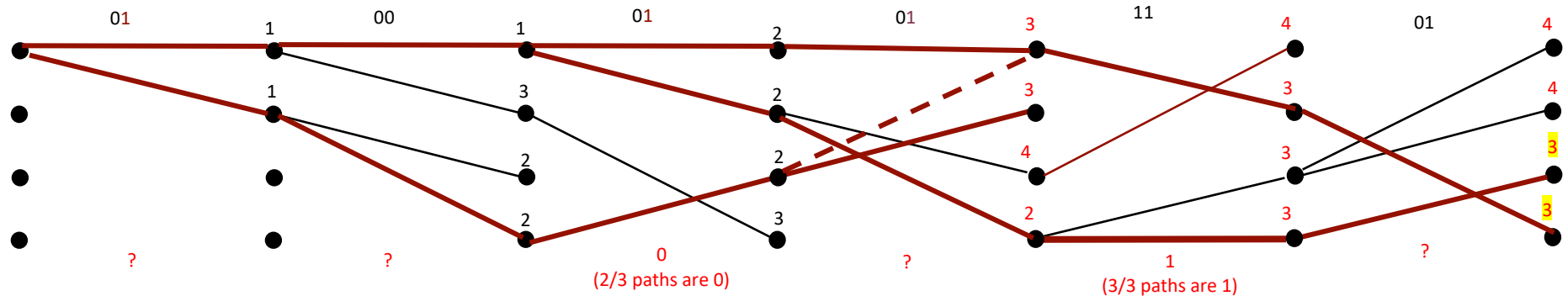
All input bits correctly detected

- This example's input bits are known and shown in green (in actual transmission, message is not known).
- Process can continue ad-infinitum, but after reasonable time ($\sim 5\nu$) – trace back path with lowest distance.
 - If a tie, pick one of them (probably an uncorrectable error has occurred).
- This is exactly ML if extended to infinity, and usually close with **finite survivor-path length**.



Example with 6 bits of input (12 output)

Red output – 3 BSC output errors → two sequences tied (detect error)



2/6 input bits are correct; 4 are ambiguous (using majority vote).

- Tie means sequence error is likely – must pick one of two equally likely.
- Detector needs more information to decode correctly.
 - This can include more future channel outputs that extend the 4 states (if available).



VA in General

state index - $i, i = 0, 1, \dots, M^\nu - 1$

state metric for state i at sampling time $k \triangleq \mathcal{U}_{i,k}$ (sometimes called the “path metric”)

previous-states set to state $i \triangleq J_i$ (that is, states that have a transition into state i)

branch value $\tilde{\mathbf{y}}_k(j \rightarrow i)$ noiseless output corresponding to a transition from state j to state i . (i.e., the value of the trellis branch, which is just x_k when $H(D) = 1$ for coded systems)

branch metric in going from state j to state i at time k , e.g. for BSC, $d_H(\mathbf{y}_k, \hat{\mathbf{v}}_k)$, or for AWGN

$$\Delta_{j,i,k} \triangleq \|\mathbf{y}_k - \hat{\mathbf{x}}_k(j \rightarrow i)\|^2$$

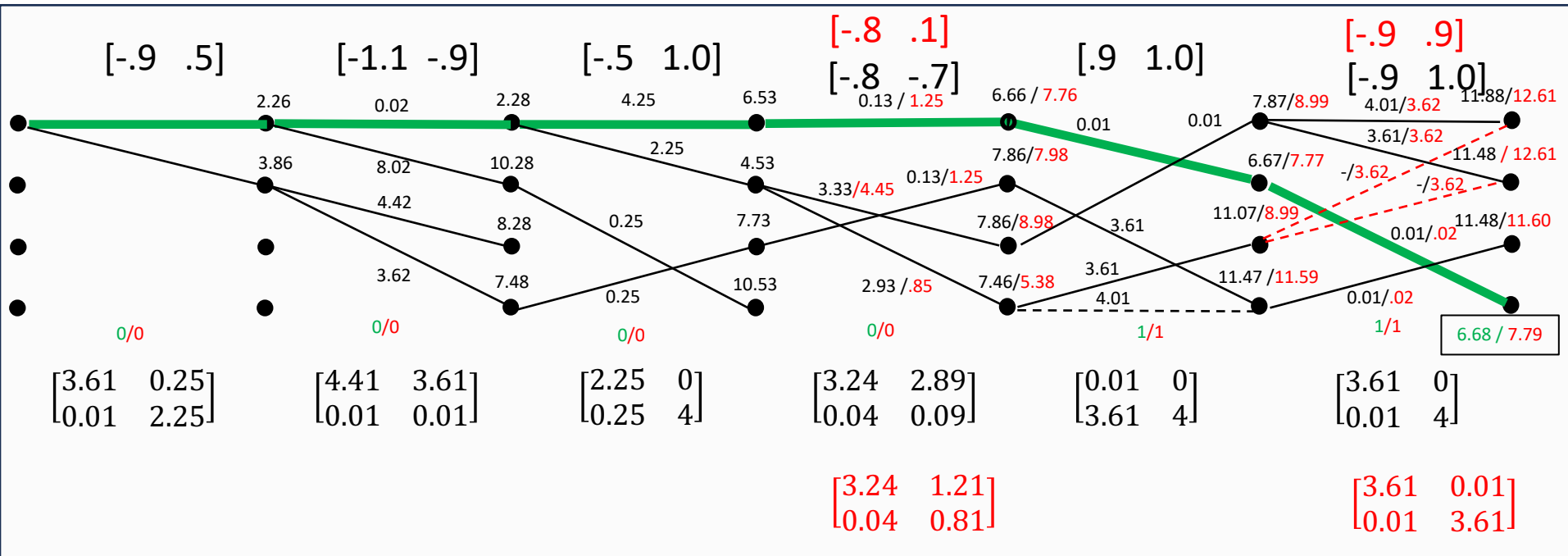
survivor path \bar{j}_i - the path that has minimum metric coming into state i .

- Formal – Many students just study trellis examples (L8:4-6) first, and then the above follows easily.



For AWGN?

- Same process with squared-distance replacing Hamming distance on branches



- The green path corresponds to the 2 “BSC errors” in hard-decoder example’s (L8:13) positions.
- The red numbers correspond to the 3 “BSC hard errors” in L8:14 positions, and they are corrected!

Soft decoding performs better than hard.



Matlab's vitdec program

```
DECODED = vitdec(CODE,TRELLIS,TBLEN,OPMODE,DECTYPE)
```

CODE is assumed to be the output of a convolutional encoder specified by the MATLAB structure TRELLIS. See POLY2TRELLIS for a valid TRELLIS structure. Each symbol in CODE consists of $\log_2(\text{TRELLIS.numOutputSymbols})$ bits, and CODE may contain one or more symbols. DECODED is a vector in the same orientation as CODE, and each of its symbols consists of $\log_2(\text{TRELLIS.numInputSymbols})$ bits. TBLEN is a positive integer scalar that specifies the traceback depth.

OPMODE denotes the operation mode of the decoder. Choices are:

'trunc' : The encoder is assumed to have started at the all-zeros state.

The decoder traces back from the state with the best metric.

'term' : The encoder is assumed to have both started and ended at the all-zeros state. The decoder traces back from the all-zeros state.

'cont' : The encoder is assumed to have started at the all-zeros state.

The decoder traces back from the state with the best metric. A delay equal to TBLEN symbols is incurred.

DECTYPE denotes how the bits are represented in CODE. Choices are:

'unquant' : The decoder expects signed real input values. +1 represents a logical zero and -1 represents a logical one.

'hard' : The decoder expects binary input values.

'soft' : See the syntax below.

■ INPUTS

- Needs trellis, $y(D)$, survivor length
- Indicate “opmode”
- Hard/soft

■ OUTPUTS

- Detected bits (sometimes “delayed”)
- Last-state metrics
- Survivor paths from last state
- Survivor's bits on survivor path

Program-use examples are next.



Use of matlab vitdec for 4-state example

```
>> t=poly2trellis(3,[7 5]);
```

```
>> convenc([0 0 0 0 1 1],t) = 00 00 00 00 11 01
```

```
>> t.nextStates =
```

```
0 2
0 2
1 3
1 3
```

```
>> t.outputs =
```

```
0 3
3 0
2 1
1 2
```

```
>> msg=[0 0 0 0 1 1];
```

```
>> code=convenc(msg,t)
```

```
code = 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 1 1 0 1
```

```
>> [d m p in] = vitdec(code,t,10,'cont','hard')
```

% 'cont' mode's d output does not include the 00001101

```
d = 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 % (all before msg - this is survivor delay)
```

```
m = 3 2 3 0 % final pathmetrics
```

```
p = % previous states
```

```
0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0
```

```
0 0 0 0 0 2 2 2 2 2
```

```
0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0
```

```
0 0 0 0 0 2 2 2 2 2
```

```
in = % last 6 stages of inputs on paths p
```

```
0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0
```

```
0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0
```

```
0 0 0 0 1 1 1 1 1 1
```

```
0 0 0 0 0 1 1 1 1 1
```

```
0 0 0 0 1 1
```

OR with no survivor delay:

```
>> vitdec(code,t,6,'trunc','hard') =
```

```
0 0 0 0 1 1
```

% 'trunc' mode includes the 000011

Also for t3 in L7:27 Example (same code, with feedback)

```
>> code=convenc(msg,t3) =
```

```
0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 1 1 1 0
```

```
>> vitdec(code,t3,6,'trunc','hard') =
```

```
0 0 0 0 1 1
```

- This uses matlab's ugly trellis



Now with Errors

- Repeat the earlier 2-output-bit error example decoding with matlab vitdec:

```
>> y=[0 1 0 0 0 1 0 0 1 1 0 1];  
  
>> vitdec(y,t,6,'trunc','hard')  
0 0 0 0 1 1
```

- The program vitdec actually decodes bits with ties too (3-output-bit errors):

```
>> y3errors=[0 1 0 0 0 1 0 1 1 1 0 1];  
  
>> vitdec(y3errors,t,6,'trunc','hard') =  
0 0 0 0 1 1
```

- Surprisingly, this is correct. Later we see a soft-output Viterbi (SOVA) that calculates additional local information for sequences with ties; it will also decode correctly.
- It is not clear what matlab vitdec is doing internally, but result is same. The full program is available by typing “edit vitdec” in matlab, but it is 414 lines with a lot of subroutine calls (the comments do not seem to help on this) and these subroutines are not visible with edit.
 - Motivated student encourage to take a look and tell me and rest of class how vitdec.m resolves the ties.



Viterbi Example with AWGN

- The vitdec.m function accepts the AWGN output as dectype = “**unquant**” (“soft” is for iterative decoders and is best used with biased all-positive log likelihood ratio soft information.)
 - vitdec.m ‘s detected input-of-the-channel uses opposite sign on channel output to this class/text’s convention.

```
% original 2-output-bit errors  
>> yawgn=[-.9 .5 -1.1 -.9 -.5 1 -.8 -.7 .9 1 -.9 1];  
>> vitdec(yawgn,t,6,'trunc','unquant')
```

```
0 0 0 0 1 1
```

```
% With revised 3-output-bit-errors  
>> yawgn2=yawgn;  
>> yawgn2(8)=.1;  
>> yawgn2(12)=.9;  
>> vitdec(-yawgn2,t,6,'trunc','unquant')
```

```
0 0 0 0 1 1
```

Soft decoding performs better than hard



8-state rate 2/3 code

- Form gen & output

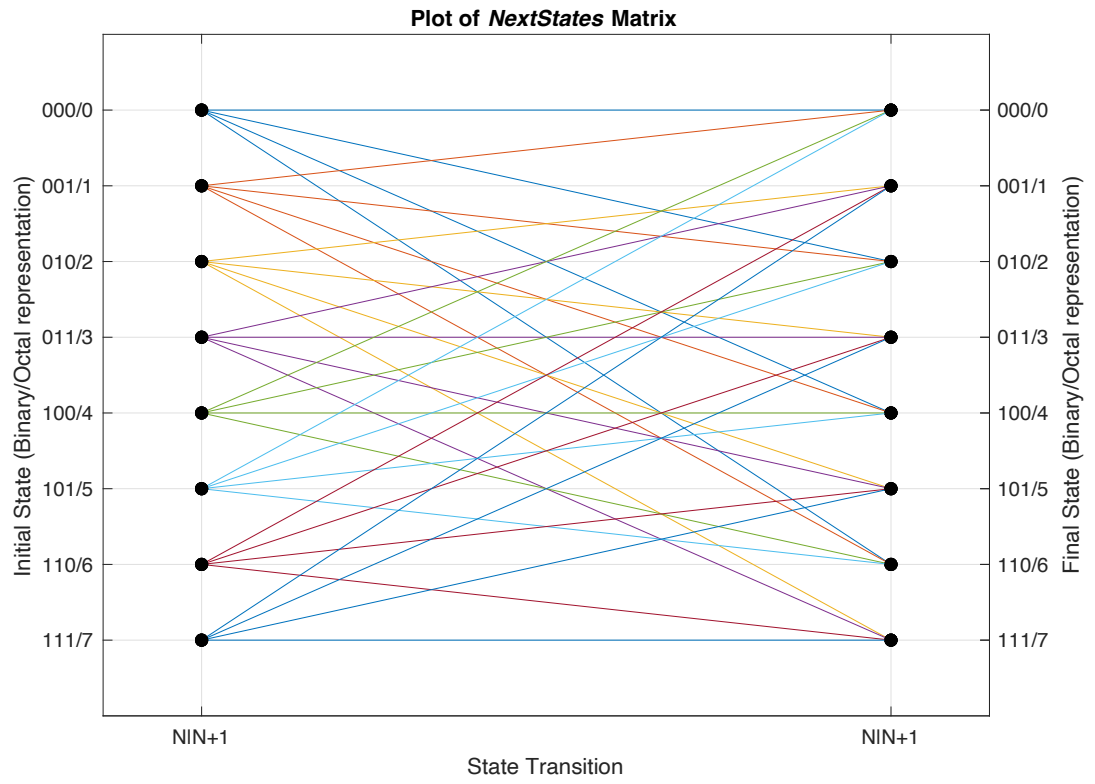
$$G_{best, \frac{2}{3}, 8\text{-state}}(D) = \begin{bmatrix} D & 1 + D^2 & 1 + D^2 \\ 1 + D & D & 1 \end{bmatrix}$$

```
tmin=poly2trellis([3 2], [2 5 5; 3 2 1])
numInputSymbols: 4
numOutputSymbols: 8
numStates: 8
nextStates: [8 x 4 double]
outputs: [8 x 4 double]

>> tmin.nextStates
0 4 2 6
0 4 2 6
1 5 3 7
1 5 3 7
0 4 2 6
0 4 2 6
1 5 3 7
1 5 3 7

>> tmin.outputs
0 6 3 5
3 5 0 6
4 2 7 1
7 1 4 2
5 3 6 0
6 0 5 3
1 7 2 4
2 4 1 7

>> inmin= [00 00 00 10 11 01 00 01];
>> outmin=convenc(inmin, tmin)
000 000 000 011 001 100 110 110
>> plotnextstates(tmin.nextStates)
```



8-state decode

- Decoding with $d_{\text{free}} = 4$:

```
>> vitdec(outmin,tmin,6,'trunc','hard') % no errors
00 00 00 10 11 01 00 01
>> inmin=
00 00 00 10 11 01 00 01];
-----
error2=[0 1 0, zeros(1,9), 1 0 0, zeros(1,9)]; % 2 errors
>> vitdec(+xor(outmin,error2),tmin,6,'trunc','hard')

00 00 00 10 11 01 00 01
-----
3 errors – can't correct (smaller free distance)
>> error=001 000 000 100 000 000 010 000

>> vitdec(+xor(outmin,error),tmin,6,'trunc','hard')
00 00 00 11 00 10 00 11
```

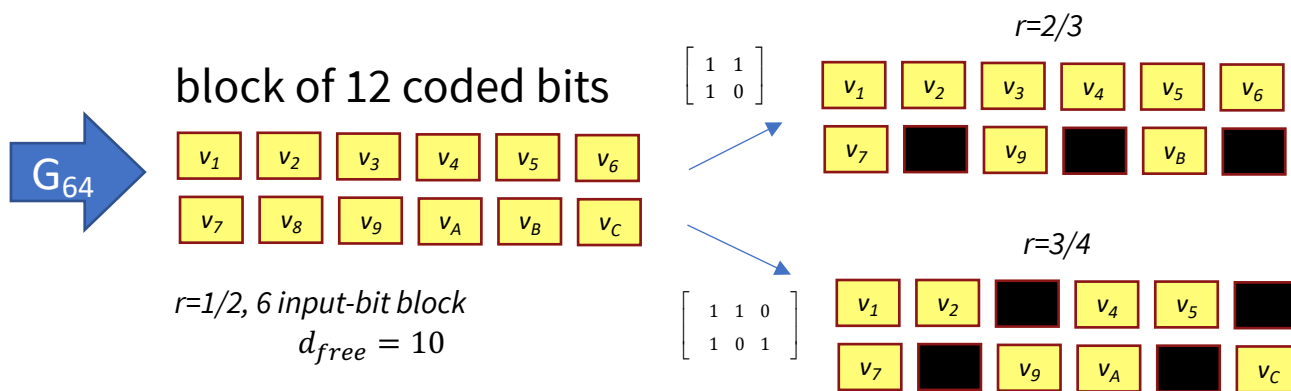
Higher rate, more complex
(8 states), but lower distance
of $d_{\text{free}} = 4$

It's possible with only $\left\lceil \frac{d_{\text{free}} - 1}{2} \right\rceil$
output bit errors to select
wrong sequence – why?

- We encourage you to play a bit.
 - Start with examples here and then vary inputs / channel outputs and see.
- The error sequence relative to correct may not yet have merged.
 - This is why decoders typically report decoded output by tracing backward $5 \cdot v$ subsymbol periods



Decoders with puncturing?



BSC Decoder inserts "0" for punctured bit into branch value (branch Hamming distance calculation uses only transmitted bits)

AWGN Decoder similarly includes 0 into branch Euclidean metric

- Receiver knows where punctured bits would have been.
- The decoder enters **distance 0** in the punctured channel-output position,
 - and otherwise proceeds.
 - vitdec.m has an optional input to say where this occurs.
- This reduces d_{free} by (usually, and at most) 1 for every punctured bit (10 for $1/2$, 7 for $2/3$, and 6 for $3/4$).





Caution on Matlab's awgn.m

- With $r < 1$ and binary AWGN, matlab's "SNR" is not defined the same as this course.
- For example, uncoded binary channel with $SNR_{379} = 7$ dB

```
>> y=awgn(x,7);
```

The 7 dB is for $\bar{\mathcal{E}}_x = 1$,
IN THE SAME BANDWIDTH

- For $r = 1/2$ and binary AWGN, matlab's "SNR"

```
>> y=awgn(x,10);  
% or  
>> y=awgn(x,7,-3)
```

The 7 dB IN THE SAME BANDWIDTH as uncoded
causes matlab's 10 dB in 2x BANDWIDTH
(because the noise is relative to $\bar{\mathcal{E}}_x = 1$ for
the larger 2x bandwidth)

Or 2x-rate encoder output has $\bar{\mathcal{E}}_x = 1/2$,
So 7- (-3) = 10 dB

- This highly counter-intuitive, but matlab people were not considering fixed power over variable bandwidths.
- Recommendation:** Use randn (Gaussian) noise directly with $(1/\sqrt{\text{SNR}/\text{Exbar}}) * \text{randn}(\# \text{ of points})$.
 - Avoid awgn command.



Maximum a Posteriori & the APP Algorithm

[Section 7.3](#)

Minimize instead each subsymbol error prob

- The **MAP detector** has criteria
 - Let $m \rightarrow k$ to emphasize time here (there are also different k input bits)
 - Also, let $\bar{N} \rightarrow K$.
- Reminder: this is the **APP** (à posteriori probability).
- Usually, the messages u_k are bits, so MAP minimizes each bit's error probability "separately."
- MAP decoding results are often very close to MLSD results, but not always:
 - If bit-error is the criterion, the MAP is better .. by definition.
 - If sequence (packet) error is the criterion, then MLSD is better.
 - Both MAP and MLSD initially assume the input values are equally likely.
- There is a "Viterbi-like" procedure "**Bahl Jelinek Cocke and Raviv (BCJR)**" that also uses the trellis for MAP.
- MAP or APP is more complex, but also produces "soft information" (LLR) that might be used by another code's decoder, if both share different encoders that act on same bit.
 - This product or concatenated code is a way to increase block length (better code possible) but retain simple decoding.

$$\hat{u}_k = \arg \min_{u_k} p^{u_k} / y_{0:K-1}$$



APP Method (largely for a packet of K subsymbols)

- Depends on 3 quantities from state i at time k to state j at time $k + 1$

- Forward trellis quantity

$$\alpha_k(j) = p(s_{k+1} = j, \mathbf{Y}_{0:K-1}) \quad j = 0, \dots, |S_{k+1}| - 1$$

- Backward trellis quantity

$$\beta_k(j) = p(\mathbf{Y}_{k:K-1} / s_{k+1} = j) \quad j = 0, \dots, |S_{k+1}| - 1$$

- Branch quantity

$$\gamma_k(i, j) = p(s_{k+1} = j, \mathbf{y}_k / s_k = i) \quad , i = 0, \dots, |S_k| - 1, j = 0, \dots, |S_{k+1}| - 1$$

- Tedious algebra and bookkeeping (See Section 7.3)

$$\gamma_k(j) = p^{m_k / \mathbf{y}_k}$$

- Branch calculation (do them all first)

- Forward recursion

$$\alpha_k(j) = \sum_{i \in S_k} \gamma_k(i, j) \cdot \alpha_{k-1}(i)$$

- Backward recursion

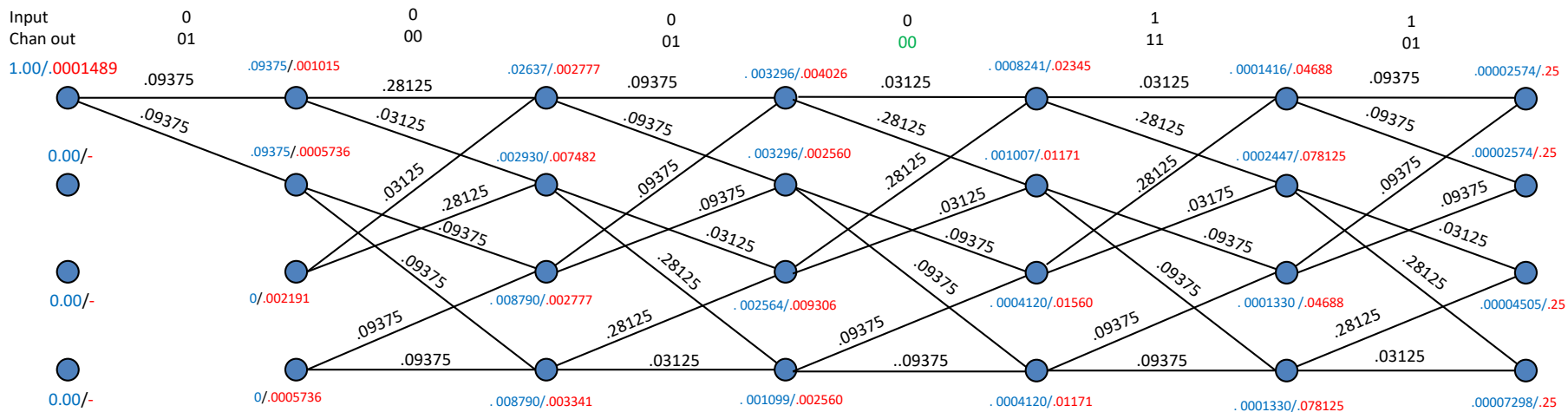
$$\beta_k(i) = \sum_{j \in S_{k+1}} \gamma_{k+1}(i, j) \cdot \beta_{k+1}(j)$$



Example with same rate $\frac{1}{2}$ code - BSC

- Branch γ calculations are all of the form $\frac{1}{2} \cdot p^i \cdot (1 - p)^{2-i}$ $i = 0,1,2$ for BSC with $p = 1/4$.
- Forward pass sums two products at each state to get new α .
- Backward pass sums two products at each state to get new β .

$$\frac{3}{32} = .09375$$



$Pr\{u = 0\}$	.5843	.7048	.7470	.6747	.2771	.3735
$Pr\{u = 1\}$	.4157	.2952	.2530	.3253	.7229	.6265
Bit decision	0	0	0	0	1	1



Compute Likelihoods: Foundation Equations

Definition 7.3.1 [*APP Foundational Equation:*] *The important APP foundational equation depends on the 3-term branch product*

$$\beta_k(j) \cdot \gamma_k(i, j) \cdot \alpha_{k-1}(i) \quad (7.64)$$

and on the labeling \mathcal{S}_k , which is the set of all allowed branch transitions from state any state s_k to any other state s_{k+1} for the given trellis description. The foundational equation is for calculation of the APP

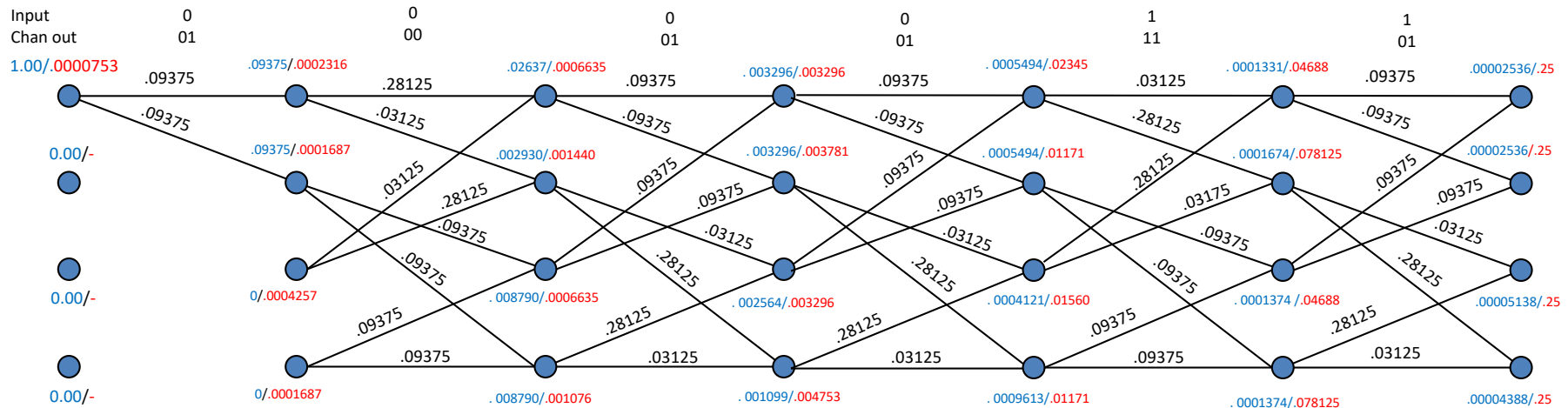
$$Pr\{\mathbf{x}_k / \mathbf{Y}_{0:K-1}\} = \sum_{(i,j) | \mathbf{x}_k \in \mathcal{S}_k} \beta_k(j) \cdot \gamma_k(i, j) \cdot \alpha_{k-1}(i) \quad (7.65)$$

The MAP detector then selects the x_k subsymbol value at each time k that maximizes (7.65).

- Compute the 3 quantities for each branch (γ) and for each state (α, β).
 - The decoder can also sum over the bit values corresponding to \mathbf{x}_k ,
 - which usually includes the input bit values $u_{k,i}$.
 - In some iterative-decoding situations is better the output values $v_{k,i}$.
- Then compute sum to get a posteriori probabilities \rightarrow decision for each bit.



How about 3 errors on BSC?

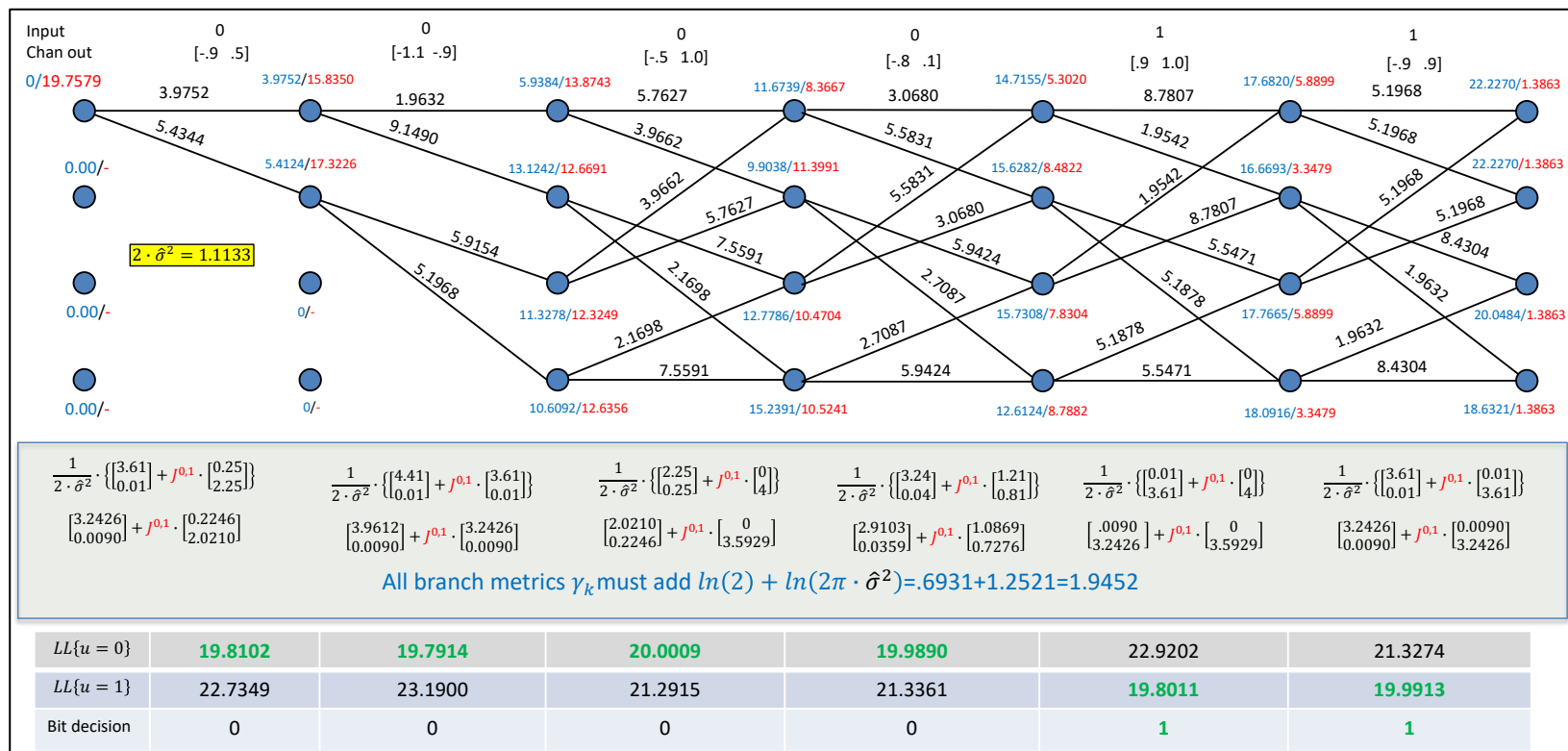


$Pr\{u = 0\}$	.5870	.6304	.5217	.5217	.3478	.4783
$Pr\{u = 1\}$	.4130	.3696	.4783	.4783	.6522	.5217
Bit decision	0	0	0	0	1	1

- It corrects all 3 – even with hard decisions; however, the decoder uses a p . This is additional soft info.
- Decoder already knew $p = .25$, but MLSD did not use it (with Viterbi Algorithm) – just Hamming distance.
- This heads toward soft decoding, slightly. Decisions won't change for another $p < 0.5$, but the soft info does.



AWGN Case with BCJR (uses log likelihoods)



- Calculation of branch metrics by hand can use the items inside the box.
- Final decisions are in the table.



LOGMAP APP

- This LOGMAP APP algorithm computes LL to avoid multiplication:

$$\alpha = \sum_i \alpha_i \cdot \gamma_i$$

- LOGMAP defines

$$\begin{aligned} \lambda_i &\triangleq \ln(\alpha_i) + \ln(\gamma_i) \\ e^{\lambda_i} &= \alpha_i \cdot \gamma_i \end{aligned}$$

- This simplifies multiplication (per term) to addition (and reduces arithmetic range requirement).

- Addition of original terms (different i) requires the calculation:

$$\lambda = \ln \left(\sum_i e^{\lambda_i} \right)$$

- LOGMAP recursively recruits the sum with table look ups and additions/differences:

$$\lambda = \lambda_1 + \ln \left(1 + e^{\lambda_2 - \lambda_1} \right) = \lambda_1 + f(\lambda_2 - \lambda_1)$$



Matlab's BCJR (with some edits,@ website)

- Section 8.2 – Conv Code Tables (see the octal entries)

```
function BCJR_AWGN(y,trellis,sigma)
```

BCJR_conv Decoder

This program derives from a nice matlab-file-xchange listing by K. Elhalil, of SUP'COM Tunisia. It was modified by me (J. Cioffi) in 2023 to allow convolutional codes with $k>1, r=k/n$.

It implements the Bahl, Cocke, Jelinek and Raviv (BCJR) APP algorithm. This function accepts the channel output y , the trellis (from poly2trellis). It uses a priori prob that is set to $1/2^k$ instead of the original matlab. Motivated users may want to add the ability to input a set of a priori inputs (presumably extrinsic information from another code's use on same bits). It returns the APP LLR for each data bit input. The program replaces an alpha->beta turnaround at last stage with just equal output probability $1/2^n$ for each initial beta value. I believe that avoids bias and is more accurate. $N=length(y)$ and N/n must be integer. Also, I commented out a normalization line for alpha and beta that I believe incorrect.

INPUTS:

y - these are real-valued vectors from some (AWGN likely) channel output
multiply this by -1 to get the EE379 Class convention on 0->-1
trellis - this is matlab's usual trellis description (see text or class notes to avoid excessive computation for feedback systematic).
 σ - this is 1-dimensional AWGN standard deviation

OUTPUTS:

The decoded bits' LLRs

```
> yawgn2 %(same 4-state code, same outputs – 3 error case)
-0.9000  0.5000 -1.1000 -0.9000 -0.5000  1.0000 -0.8000  0.1000
0.9000  1.0000 -0.9000  0.9000
```

```
>> BCJR_AWGN(-yawgn2,t,1.1133/2) =
```

```
5.7066  6.2779  2.5626  2.5684 -6.4242 -2.5681 LLRs
```

```
0 0 0 0 1 1 Bits
```

The entries on the earlier trellis were obtained by going into source code and printing gamma, alpha, beta, and LLs.



BCJR_BSC @ website

Section 8.2 – Conv Code Tables (see the octal entries)

```
function BCJR_BSC(y,trellis,p)
```

BCJR_conv Decoder - HAMMING DISTANCE BSC

This program derives from a nice matlab-file-xchange listing by K. Elhalil, of SUP'COM Tunisia. It was modified by me (J. Cioffi) in 2023 to allow convolutional codes with $k>1, r=k/n$. It has been tested on easy ($r=2/3$) codes but not for $k>2$. Maximum k value is 4, so up to rate $4/5$ codes.

It implements the Bahl, Cocke, Jelinek and Raviv (BCJR) APP algorithm. This function accepts the BSC output y , the trellis (from poly2trellis). It uses a priori prob that is set to $1/2^k$.

Motivated users may want to add the ability to input a set of a priori inputs or extrinsic information

The program returns the a posteriori probability's LLR for each data bit input. The program sets the stage beta initial probabilities to $1/2^n$ each. JC believes that avoids bias and is more accurate. $N=length(y)$ and N/n must be integer.

INPUTS:

- y - these are integers 1's or 0's in $1 \times n$ vector
- trellis - this is matlabs usual trellis description (see my text or class notes to avoid excessive computation for feedback systematic.
- p - this is 1-dimensional BSC error-probability for uncoded use.

OUTPUTS:

the decoded input bits' LLRs

WITH 0 OUTPUT BIT ERRORS:

```
>> out = 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 1 1 0 1  
>> BCJR_BSC(out,t,25) =
```

3.5981 3.1193 2.6526 2.2290 -1.9712 -1.4020 **LLRs**

0 0 0 0 1 1 **Bits**

WITH 2 OUTPUT BIT ERRORS:

```
>> outBSC2=[0 1 0 0 1 0 0 1 1 0 1];  
>> BCJR_BSC(outBSC2,t,25) =  
0.3406 0.8704 1.0826 0.7295 -0.9589 -0.5173 % less soft info/confidence  
  
>> outBSC3=[0 1 0 0 1 0 1 1 1 0 1];  
  
>> BCJR_BSC(outBSC3,t,25) =  
0.3514 0.5341 0.0870 0.0870 -0.6286 -0.0870 % less soft info, all bits but first  
  
>> BCJR_BSC(outBSC2,t,49) =  
0.0008 0.0392 0.0016 0.0016 -0.0008 -0.0000 % same decisions, but  
Less confident because p is large  
>> BCJR_BSC(outBSC3,t,49)=0.0008 0.0392 0.0000 0.0000 -0.0008 -0.0000
```

$p < 1/2$ just scales confidence



Rate 2/3 examples

- The original program (BCJR_conv.m) from Matlab File exchange only handed AWGN.
 - It also only handled $k = 1$, so then only rate $r = 1/n$ codes.
 - BCJR_BSC.m and BCJR_AWGN.m handle respectively Hamming and Euclidean distance and $r=k/n$ for $k=1,2,3,4$

```
tmin=poly2trellis([3 2], [2 5 5; 3 2 1]);
>> inmin =
 [ 00 00 00 10 11 01 00 01];
>> outmin=convenc(inmin,tmin) =
 000 000 000 011 001 100 110 110

>> (-sign(BCJR_BSC(outmin,tmin,0.125))+1)/2
 00 00 00 10 11 01 00 01

>> (-sign(BCJR_BSC(xor(outmin,error2),tmin,0.125))+1)/2=
 00 00 00 10 11 01 00 01

----- 3 errors breaks -----
>> error=001 000 000 100 000 000 010 000

>> (-sign(BCJR_BSC(xor(outmin,error),tmin,0.125))+1)/2
 00 00 00 10 11 11 00 11
```

$$G_{best \frac{2}{3} 8\text{-state}}(D) = \begin{bmatrix} D & 1 + D^2 & 1 + D^2 \\ 1 + D & D & 1 \end{bmatrix}$$

Note fewer bit errors with BCJR than with Viterbi (vitdec had 6 errors on L8:14).

▪ Soft Information?

```
>> BCJR_BSC(outmin,tmin,0.125) =
 6.3363 6.0916 5.5102 5.2724 4.8885 4.7739 -4.3927 4.3377
-3.9469 -3.8931 3.5362 -3.3284 3.1898 2.8062 2.2747 -2.3525
```

```
>> BCJR_BSC(xor(outmin,error2),tmin,0.125) =
 1.4981 1.1619 1.0144 0.5441 1.7154 1.5290 -0.3864 1.0702
-1.2267 -0.5590 0.6631 -0.7614 1.1868 0.6030 0.4964 -0.6719
```

```
>> BCJR_BSC(outmin,tmin,0.25) =
 2.1147 2.0436 1.4665 1.3846 1.1293 1.1448 -0.9088 0.8865
-0.7604 -0.6870 0.6312 -0.5003 0.5364 0.3806 0.2365 -0.2868
```

Errors → less confidence

Worse channel → less confidence



Soft-Output Viterbi Algorithm

SOVA

Section 7.3.2

- LOGMAX – approximates the sum in sum of products by maximum term.
 - Often very true in decoding.

$$\ln(\alpha_{k+1}, s_{k+1}) \approx \max_{\text{branches into } s_{k+1}} \ln(\alpha_k, s_k, \text{branch into}) + \ln(\gamma_k, \text{branch into}) .$$

This is the VA in the forward direction. Similarly in the backward direction

$$\ln(\beta_k, s_k) \approx \max_{\text{branches into } s_{k+1}} \ln(\beta_{k+1}, s_k, \text{branch into}) + \ln(\gamma_k, \text{branch into}) .$$

$$LLR\mathbf{x}_k = \pm \left[\begin{array}{l} \max_0 \text{ branches } \{ \ln(\alpha_k, \text{branch}) + \ln(\gamma_k, \text{branch}) + \ln(\beta_k, \text{branch}) \} \\ - \max_1 \text{ branches } \ln(\alpha_k, \text{branch}) + \ln(\gamma_k, \text{branch}) + \ln(\beta_k, \text{branch}) \end{array} \right] ,$$

- Look familiar?
 - Yes, back to Viterbi.
 - But now we have 2, one forward and one backward.



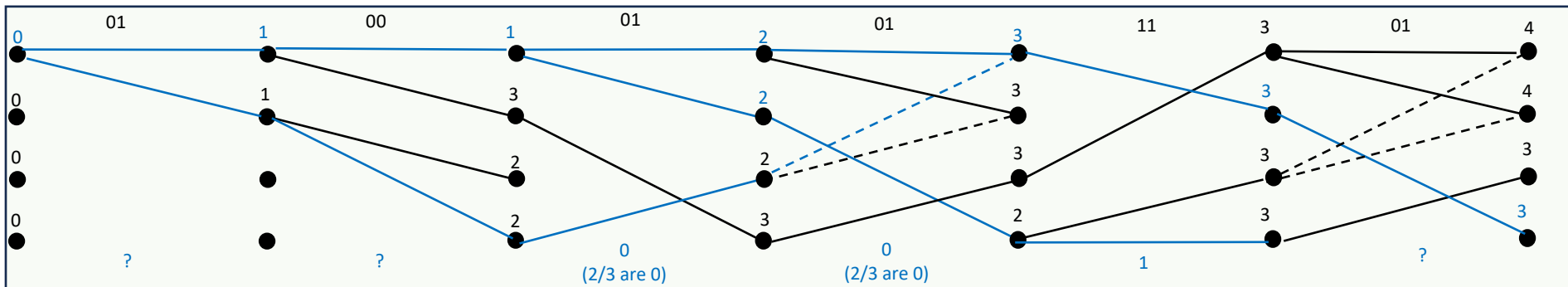
Forward SOVA Example with Ties

- It's pretty easy without ties – just find other path with other input with next lowest survivor metric
 - And take the difference, which magnitude (an integer for BSC) is indication of confidence (+ sign for 0 and – sign for 1)

Forward SOVA Example with ties (3-error example revisited)

k	0	1	2	3	4	5
$\{LL(0)\}$	{3}	{3}	{3,3}	{3,3}	\emptyset	{3}
$\{LL(1)\}$	{3}	{3}	{3}	{3}	{3,3}	{3}
ΔLL (dec)	0(?)	0(?)	$\frac{2}{3}$ (0)	$\frac{2}{3}$ (0)	-1 (1)	0 (?)

Green color indicates the minimum-metric path is a survivor in forward direction; all LL's in units of $\ln(p)$.



- The local resolution and majority voting appear to be what matlab is doing (requires examination/test of source code).
 - Probably could be confirmed by someone testing various situations
 - Nonetheless, the above is viable Forward-SOVA tie resolution

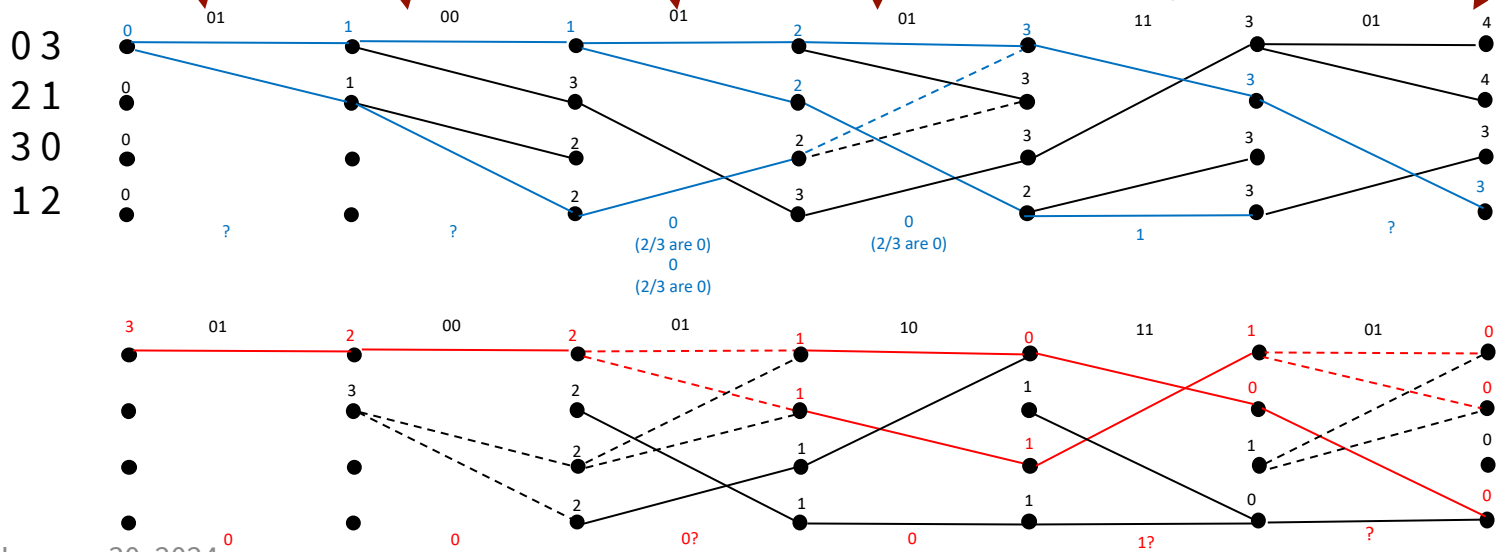


Forward-Backward SOVA Example

Forward-Backward SOVA

k	0	1	2	3	4	5
$\{LL(0)\}$	$\left\{ \begin{matrix} 3 \\ 0+1+2 \end{matrix} \right\}$	$\left\{ \begin{matrix} 3 & 4 \\ 1+0+2 & 1+1+2 \end{matrix} \right\}$	$\left\{ \begin{matrix} 3 & 6 & 4 & 3 \\ 1+1+1 & 3+2+1 & 2+1+1 & 2+0+1 \end{matrix} \right\}$	$\left\{ \begin{matrix} 3 & 5 & 3 & 4 \\ 2+1+0 & 2+2+1 & 2+1+0 & 3+0+1 \end{matrix} \right\}$	$\left\{ \begin{matrix} 6 & 5 & 4 & 4 \\ 3+2+1 & 3+1+1 & 3+0+1 & 2+1+1 \end{matrix} \right\}$	$\left\{ \begin{matrix} 4 & 5 & 4 & 3 \\ 3+1+0 & 3+2+0 & 3+0+1 & 3+0+0 \end{matrix} \right\}$
$\{LL(1)\}$	$\left\{ \begin{matrix} 4 \\ 0+1+3 \end{matrix} \right\}$	$\left\{ \begin{matrix} 5 & 4 \\ 1+2+2 & 1+1+2 \end{matrix} \right\}$	$\left\{ \begin{matrix} 3 & 4 & 4 & 5 \\ 1+1+1 & 3+0+1 & 2+1+1 & 2+2+1 \end{matrix} \right\}$	$\left\{ \begin{matrix} 4 & 3 & 4 & 6 \\ 2+1+1 & 2+0+0 & 2+1+1 & 3+2+1 \end{matrix} \right\}$	$\left\{ \begin{matrix} 5 & 4 & 3 & 3 \\ 3+2+0 & 3+1+0 & 3+0+0 & 2+1+0 \end{matrix} \right\}$	$\left\{ \begin{matrix} 4 & 3 & 4 & 5 \\ 3+1+0 & 3+0+0 & 3+1+0 & 3+2+0 \end{matrix} \right\}$
$\Delta LL(\text{dec})$	1 (0)	1 (0)	$2/3$ (0)	$2/3$ (0)	-1 (1)	0(?)

Green color indicates the minimum-metric path is a survivor in both forward and backward directions; all LL's in units of $\ln(p)$



Did better than Forward



Hagenauer's LLR SOVA update

- Prob of VA sequence error

$$\begin{aligned} Pr_{ML}\{x_k = -1\} &= Pr\{u_k = 0\} \propto e^{-LS_k^*(0)} \\ Pr_{ML}\{x_k = +1\} &= Pr\{u_k = 1\} \propto e^{-LS_k^*(1)} \end{aligned}$$

- Magnitude difference of two bit choices is
 - $\Delta LS_k = LS_k^*(0) - LS_k^*(1)$
 - $LLR_k = x_k \cdot \Delta LS_k$

- Linear-code analysis: all 0's is correct, so

$$P_e = \frac{e^{-LS_k^*(0)}}{e^{-LS_k^*(0)} + e^{-LS_k^*(1)}} = \frac{1}{1 + e^{\Delta LS_k}}$$

- Another decoder provides

$$\widehat{LLR}_k = \ln \frac{1 - \hat{P}_{b,k}}{\hat{P}_{b,k}}$$

- It includes soft info through:

$$\bar{P}_{b,k} \leftarrow \underbrace{\hat{P}_{b,k}}_{\text{bit differs}} \cdot \underbrace{\frac{e^{\Delta LS_k}}{1 + e^{\Delta LS_k}}}_{\text{survivor correct}} + \underbrace{(1 - \hat{P}_{b,k})}_{\text{bit same anyway}} \cdot \underbrace{\frac{1}{1 + e^{\Delta LS_k}}}_{\text{survivor incorrect}}$$

- Algebra provides

$$LLR_k \leftarrow \ln \left[\frac{1 + e^{\Delta LS_k + \widehat{LLR}_k}}{e^{\Delta LS_k} + e^{\widehat{LLR}_k}} \right]$$

- Ignores scaling difference between sequence and bit, so

$$\Delta LS_k \rightarrow \frac{(y_k - x_k)^2}{4 \cdot d_{free} \cdot SNR}$$

$$\text{or } \Delta LS_k \rightarrow \frac{d_H(y_k, v_k)}{d_{free}} \text{ for BSC}$$





End Lecture 8

**IFD is backup
interesting, not enough time**

Invariant Factors Decomposition

Appendix B.7

Parity Code Tables, Feedback, and poly2trellis

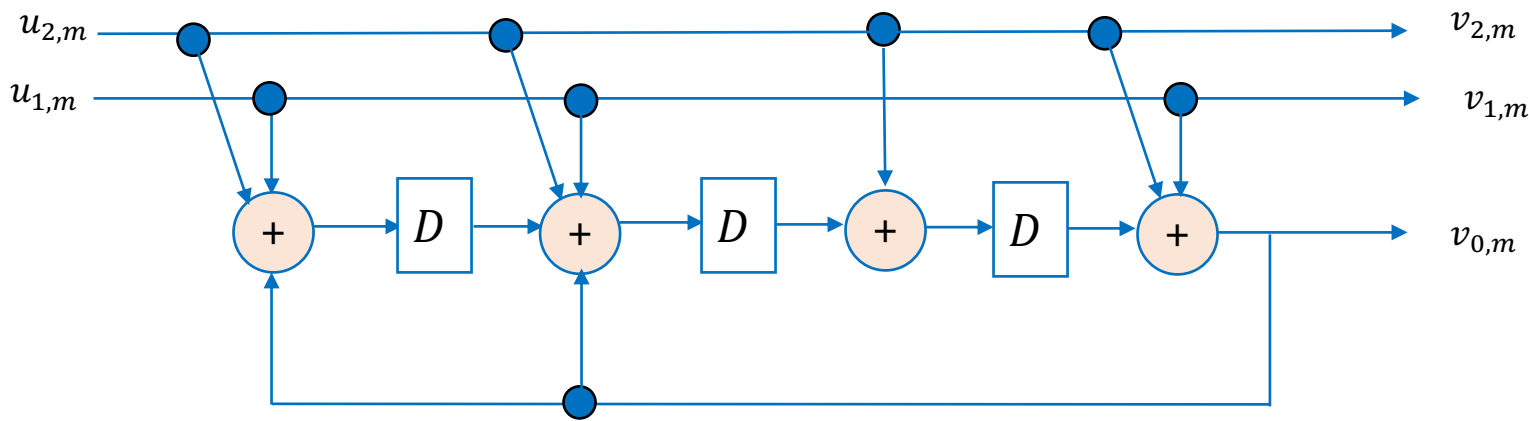
- Poly2trellis has a third input that is feedback – example best 8-state $r = 2/3$ conv code from tables

$$H(D) = [17 \quad 15 \quad 13] = [D^3 + D^2 + D + 1 \quad D^3 + D^2 + 1 \quad D^3 + D + 1]$$

$$H_{sys}(D) = \begin{bmatrix} \frac{D^3 + D^2 + D^1 + 1}{D^3 + D + 1} & \frac{D^3 + D^2 + 1}{D^3 + D + 1} & 1 \end{bmatrix}$$

$$G_{sys}(D) = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 & \frac{D^3 + D^2 + D^1 + 1}{D^3 + D + 1} \\ 0 & 1 & \frac{D^3 + D^2 + 1}{D^3 + D + 1} \end{bmatrix}$$

- Circuit has 8 states (3 flip flops)



So what does Matlab do?

```
>> tfeed=poly2trellis([4 4],[13 0 17 ; 0 13 15], [13 13])
```

```
tfeed =
```

```
numInputSymbols: 4
```

```
numOutputSymbols: 8
```

```
numStates: 64 OUCH!
```

```
nextStates: [64 × 4 double]
```

```
outputs: [64 × 4 double]
```

- I could find no way to use this command other than the above valid (but nonminimal trellis).
- The matlab page examples do the same thing – increase number of states excessively.
- This is NOT a problem if code is $r = 1/n$, then number of states is preserved.
- Here it was square of number of states (64), for rate $\frac{3}{4}$, it would cube number of states.

**But there is a
fix!**



Work-Around

- This is tedious and so matlab probably wanted to avoid it (See Appendix B on **Invariant Factors Decomp**).
 - It is Smith-Normal Form, but in binary polynomials:

$$G_{sys}(D) = \underbrace{\begin{bmatrix} 1 + D + D^2 + D^3 & 1 + D + D^2 \\ 1 + D^2 + D^3 & D + D^2 \end{bmatrix}}_{\substack{A \\ |A|=1}} \cdot \underbrace{\begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ D^3 + D + 1 & 1 \\ 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix}}_{\substack{\Gamma \\ |\Gamma| \neq 0}} \cdot \begin{bmatrix} D & 1 + D^2 & 1 + D^2 \\ 1 + D & D & 1 \end{bmatrix}$$

- The first two matrices are 1-to-1, so only remap all possible binary inputs to the SAME codewords.
 - They do not affect the set of codewords (or the code).
- Minimal 8-state feedback-free encoder is $G_{min}(D) = \begin{bmatrix} D & 1 + D^2 & 1 + D^2 \\ 1 + D & D & 1 \end{bmatrix}$.
- Encode with $G_{sys}(D)$ convenc.m has no issues (even though it uses 64 states) or just encode with 8 state circuit on slide 34; the codewords are the same (so MLSD will find closest codeword).
- Decoder assumes $G_{min}(D)$ and finds $\hat{u}_{min}(D)$; then $\hat{v}_{min}(D) = \hat{u}_{min}(D) \cdot G_{min}(D)$ - recode the decoded.
- $\hat{u}_{sys}(D) = [\hat{v}_{2,min}(D) \quad \hat{v}_{1,min}(D)]$ because the original encoder was systematic.
 - Further any finite number of output errors only cause a finite (possibly less, but not more) number of input bit errors.



Example: 8-state rate 2/3 code

■ Saving commands

```
tmin=poly2trellis([3 2], [2 5 5; 3 2 1])
```

```
numInputSymbols: 4  
numOutputSymbols: 8  
numStates: 8  
nextStates: [8 x 4 double]  
outputs: [8 x 4 double]
```

```
>> tmin.nextStates
```

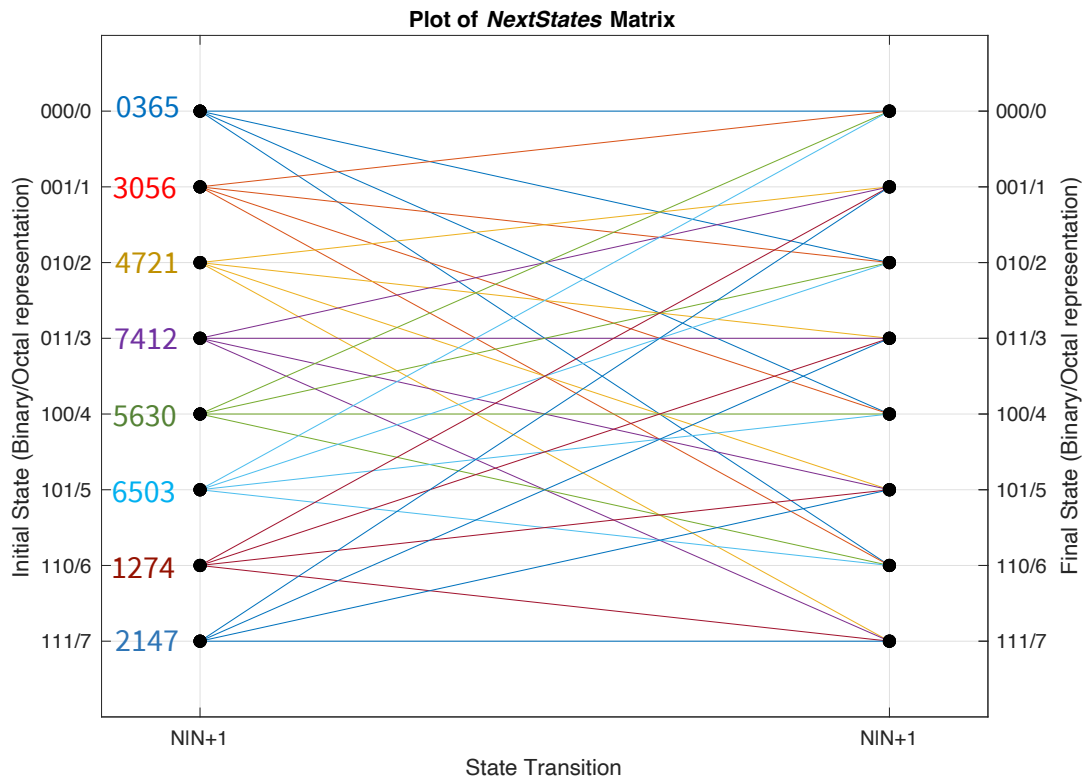
```
0 4 2 6  
0 4 2 6  
1 5 3 7  
1 5 3 7  
0 4 2 6  
0 4 2 6  
1 5 3 7  
1 5 3 7
```

```
>> tmin.outputs
```

```
0 6 3 5  
3 5 0 6  
4 2 7 1  
7 1 4 2  
5 3 6 0  
6 0 5 3  
1 7 2 4  
2 4 1 7
```

```
>> outmin=convenc([0 0 0 0 1 0 1 1 0 1 0 0 0 1],tmin)  
000 000 000 011 001 100 110 110
```

```
>> plotnextstates(tmin.nextStates)
```



8-state decode

Minimal Direct Works – dfree = 6

```
>> vitdec(outmin,tmin,6,'trunc','hard')
00 00 00 10 11 01 00 01
>> inmin=
00 00 00 10 11 01 00 01];
-----
error2=[0 0 1 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 1 0 0 0 0]; % 2 errors introduced
>> vitdec(xor(outmin,error2),tmin,6,'trunc','hard')

00 00 00 10 11 01 00 01
```

Systematic feedback encoder – different output

```
>> tfeed=poly2trellis([4 4],[13 0 17 ; 0 13 15], [13 13])
numInputSymbols: 4
numOutputSymbols: 8
numStates: 64
nextStates: [64 x 4 double]
outputs: [64 x 4 double]
>> outfeed=convenc([00 00 00 10 11 01 00 01],tfeed)
000 000 000 101 111 011 001 011 %systematic
>> informin=vitdec(outfeed,tmin,6,'trunc','hard')
00 00 00 11 01 11 00 00 % map differs
>> vmin = convenc(informin,tmin) =
000 000 000 101 111 011 001 011
```

Have to leave spaces in
matlab, but it looks better
without them here

```
>> informin2=vitdec(+xor(outfeed,error2),tmin,6,'trunc','hard')
00 00 00 11 01 11 01 11
>> vmin2 = convenc(informin2,tmin)
000 000 000 101 111 011 001 011
```

```
>> outfeed % check
000 000 000 101 111 011 001 011
```

% So, this fixes matlab's high-complexity-trellis problem with 8-state decoder

This works for any decoder,
But of course most helpful
With matlab poly2trellis issues

