



STANFORD

Supplementary Lecture 12B
Voronoi/Geometric Shaping Codes
February 17, 2026

JOHN M. CIOFFI

Hitachi Professor Emeritus (recalled) of Engineering

Instructor EE379A – Winter 2026

Announcements & Agenda

- Partition Chains & Binary Lattices
- The GS Encoder & Decoder
- Trellis Shaping

**Intermediate shaping gain
when N must be short
(low delay).**



Shaping Gain Review

- Coding gain is

$$\gamma \triangleq \frac{\left(d_{\min}^2(\mathbf{x}) / \bar{\mathcal{E}}_{\mathbf{x}} \right)}{\left(d_{\min}^2(\check{\mathbf{x}}) / \bar{\mathcal{E}}_{\check{\mathbf{x}}} \right)} = \underbrace{\frac{\left(\frac{d_{\min}^2(\mathbf{x})}{V^{2/N}(\Lambda)} \right)}{\left(\frac{d_{\min}^2(\check{\mathbf{x}})}{V^{2/N}(\check{\Lambda})} \right)}}_{\gamma_f \text{ fundamental gain}} \cdot \underbrace{\frac{\left(\frac{V^{2/N}(\Lambda)}{\bar{\mathcal{E}}_{\mathbf{x}}} \right)}{\left(\frac{V^{2/N}(\check{\Lambda})}{\bar{\mathcal{E}}_{\check{\mathbf{x}}}} \right)}}_{\gamma_s \text{ shaping gain}}$$

Shaping gain is this S12B's focus.

- Shaping gain relative to \mathbb{Z}^N (SQ QAM) with $d = 1$ in reference simplifies to

$$\gamma_s = \frac{V^{2/N}(\Lambda) \cdot (2^{2\bar{b}} - 1)}{\tilde{\mathcal{E}}_x \cdot 6}$$

- When both constellations use the same number of 2D constellation points, this further simplifies to

$$\gamma_s = \frac{(2^{2\bar{b}} - 1)}{6 \cdot \tilde{\mathcal{E}}_x}$$

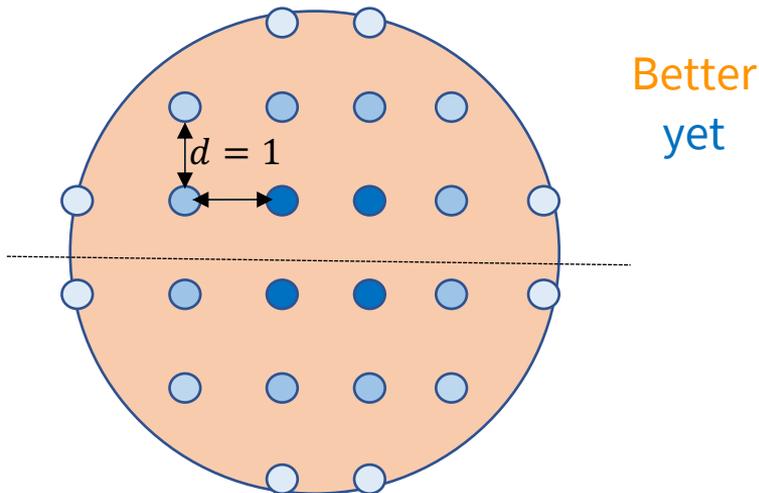
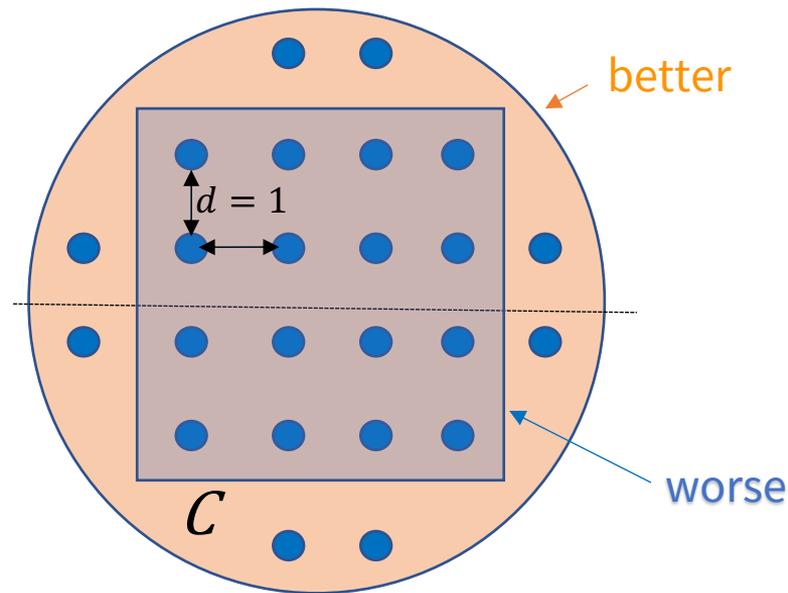
So shaping is basically the energy ratio to send same # of points.



Hypersphere boundaries are good (Gaussian)

Subsymbol (ss)

- As N grows, harder to visualize but uniform spacing with fixed average energy leads to Gaussian marginals.
 - The 2D constellation below is a “marginal” from the N -D distribution.



- So, a better boundary shape MARGINAL \sim non-equal probability (marginal) distribution
 - GS codes try to make the 2D constellation above a marginal (slice in 2D) of a N -dimensional Lattice's decision region.
 - Some of these lattices' **Voronoi Regions** also approximate a hypersphere for large N .

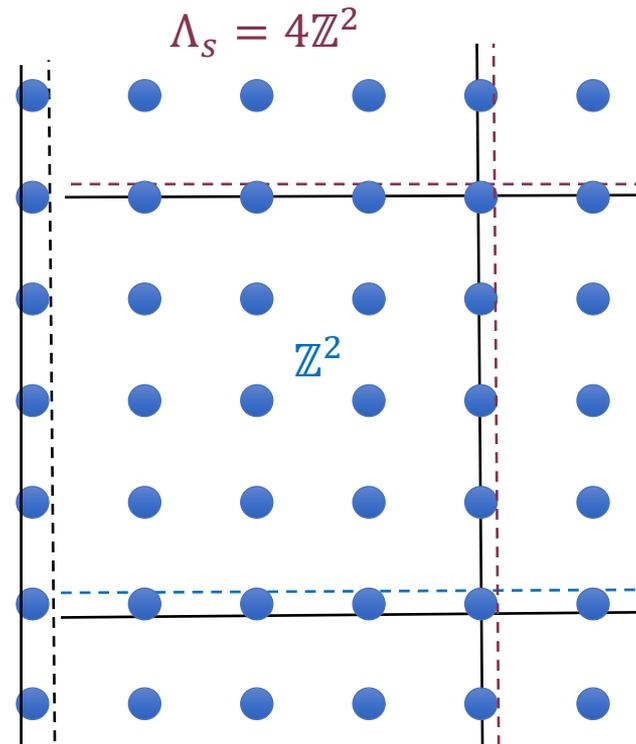


Partition Chains & Binary Lattices

Section 8.4.2

Binary Lattices Def & Partition Chain Review

- Place constellation points within geometric region:
 - This is trivial in 2D as \rightarrow .
 - Decision regions of D_4 and E_8 lattices increasingly approximate hyperspheres.
- Coding:** Pick a good lattice for inner code Λ_c ,
 - Example to right is \mathbb{Z}^2 (easy to illustrate not good code).
 - Good codes have high distance per volume ratios, γ_f .
- Shaping:** Pick a good lattice for shaping code Λ_s
 - Decision regions approximate hyperspheres.
 - Need not be same code as inner code Λ_c .
- Binary lattices satisfy $\mathbb{Z}^N / \Lambda_s / 2^m \mathbb{Z}^N$:
 - $|\Lambda_s / 2^m \mathbb{Z}^N| = 2^k$
 - $|\mathbb{Z}^N / \Lambda_s| = 2^{n-k} = 2^p$
- Examples (Appendix B or Reed Muller Codes):
 - $\mathbb{Z}^2 / D_2 / 2\mathbb{Z}^2$ (not a good code, but easy to illustrate \rightarrow).
 - $\mathbb{Z}^4 / \mathbf{D}_4 / (D_2)^2 / R_4 D_4 / 2\mathbb{Z}^4$
 - $\mathbb{Z}^8 / D_8 / (R_4 D_4)^2 / DE_4 / \mathbf{E}_8 / R_8 D_8 / (2D_4)^2 / R_8 D_8 / 2\mathbb{Z}^8$



Often good shaping codes are good for γ_f also, but not always.



Binary-Code Lattice Descriptions

- G_s is the binary-code generator with dual-code generator H_s .

$$\underbrace{\mathbb{Z}^n / \Lambda_s}_{H_s} \quad \underbrace{\Lambda_s / 2\mathbb{Z}^n}_{G_s}$$

- $\lambda = \mathbf{u} \cdot G_s$
- $\lambda \in \Lambda_s$
- $\mathbf{x} = \lambda + 2\mathbb{Z}^N$

$G_s = [1 \ 1]$

$\Lambda_s = D_2 = 2\mathbb{Z}^N + \{[0 \ 0], [1 \ 1]\}$

$H_s^{-t} = [1 \ 0]$

$\mathbf{s} \cdot H_s^{-t}$

$\mathbb{Z}^N = D_2 + \{[0 \ 0], [1 \ 0]\}$

- $\mathbf{s} \cdot H_s^{-t}$ corresponds to 2^p codeword offsets/cosets from the possible (think $\mathbf{0}$) codeword to \mathbb{Z}^N .
 - “Completes” the spatial points to \mathbb{Z}^N .
 - $H_s = [1 \ 1]$; $H_s^{-t} = [0 \ 1]$ ($p = 1$).
 - \mathbf{s} is one dimensional here (1 bit).

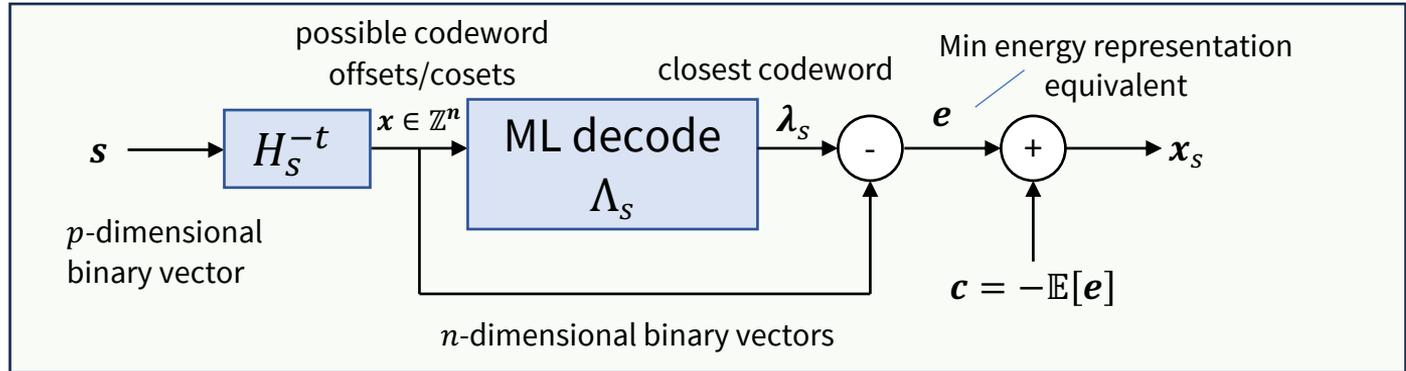
$$\mathbb{Z}^n = \{ \mathbf{x} \mid \mathbf{x} = \mathbf{e} + \Lambda_s \wedge \mathbf{e} = \mathbf{s} \cdot H_s^{-t} \}$$

- Constellation points (\mathbb{Z}^N) can be constructed from G_s 's codewords by adding offsets computed as $\mathbf{s} \cdot H_s^{-t}$!
 - But we'd like the ones that are in the zero-mean-centered Voronoi region of D_2 .



The Voronoi/GS encoder & decoder

- Has a decoder in it!



- The decoder is simpler and inverts this process

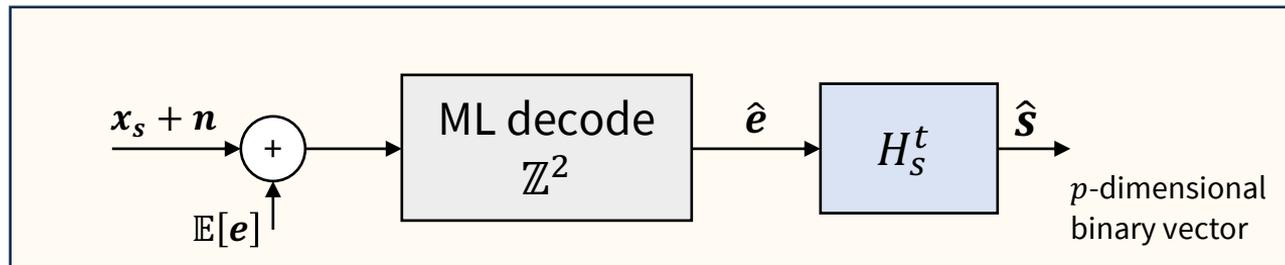
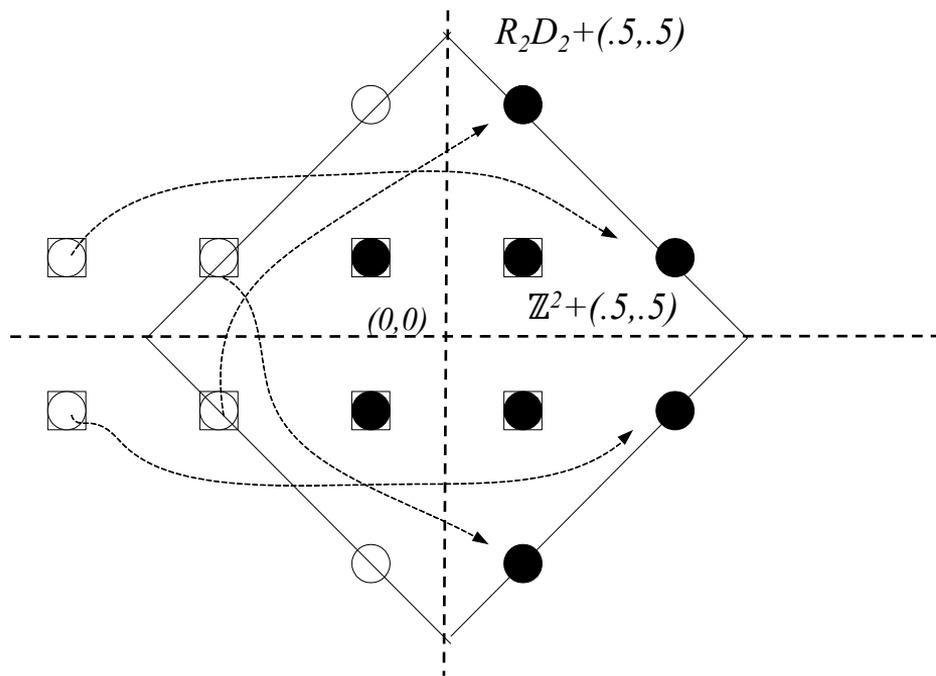


Illustration of Encoder Action



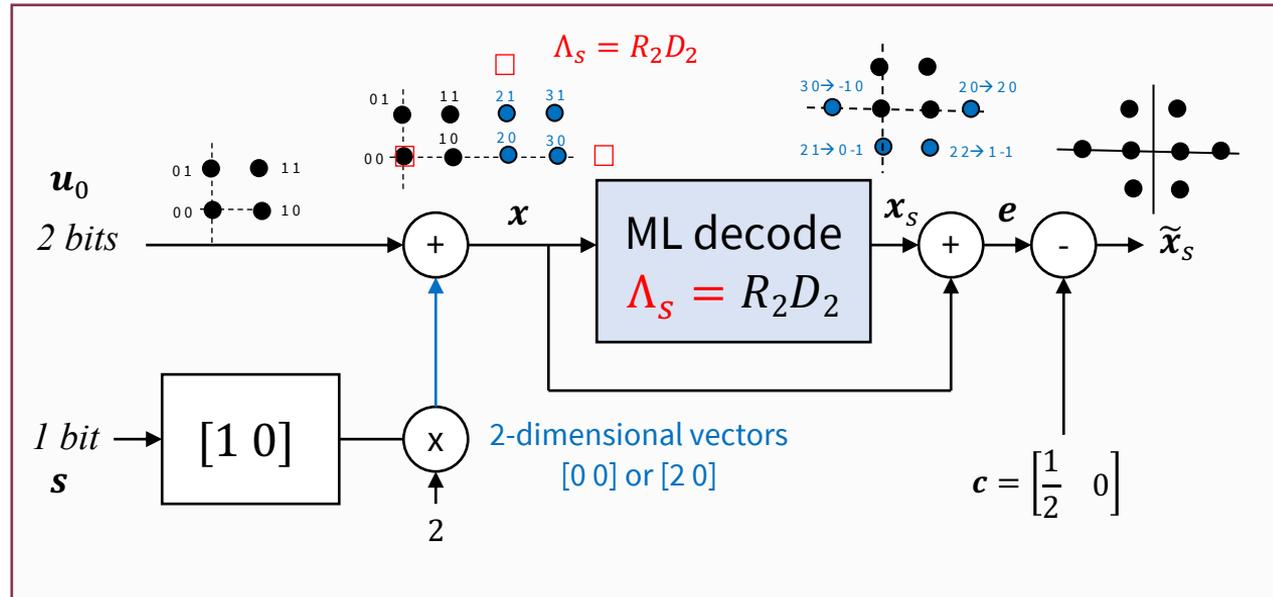
e point	$\bar{\mathcal{E}}_e(i)$	p_e	$\mathbb{E}[e(i)]$
$\frac{1}{2} [\pm 1, \pm 1]$	$\frac{1}{4}$	$1/2$	$[0, 0]$
$\frac{1}{2} [3, \pm 1]$	$\frac{5}{4}$	$1/4$	$[\frac{3}{2}, 0]$
$\frac{1}{2} [1, \pm 3]$	$\frac{5}{4}$	$1/4$	$[\frac{1}{2}, 0]$
average	$\frac{3}{4}$	-	$[\frac{1}{2}, 0]$

- Input subsymbols are the squared points (in a 2x4 rectangle (or any really 3 binary bits)).
- The encoder maps them into the circle points, with scaled/translated D_2 decision region
 - See the large diamond
- There is no shaping gain here, but illustrates the operation.



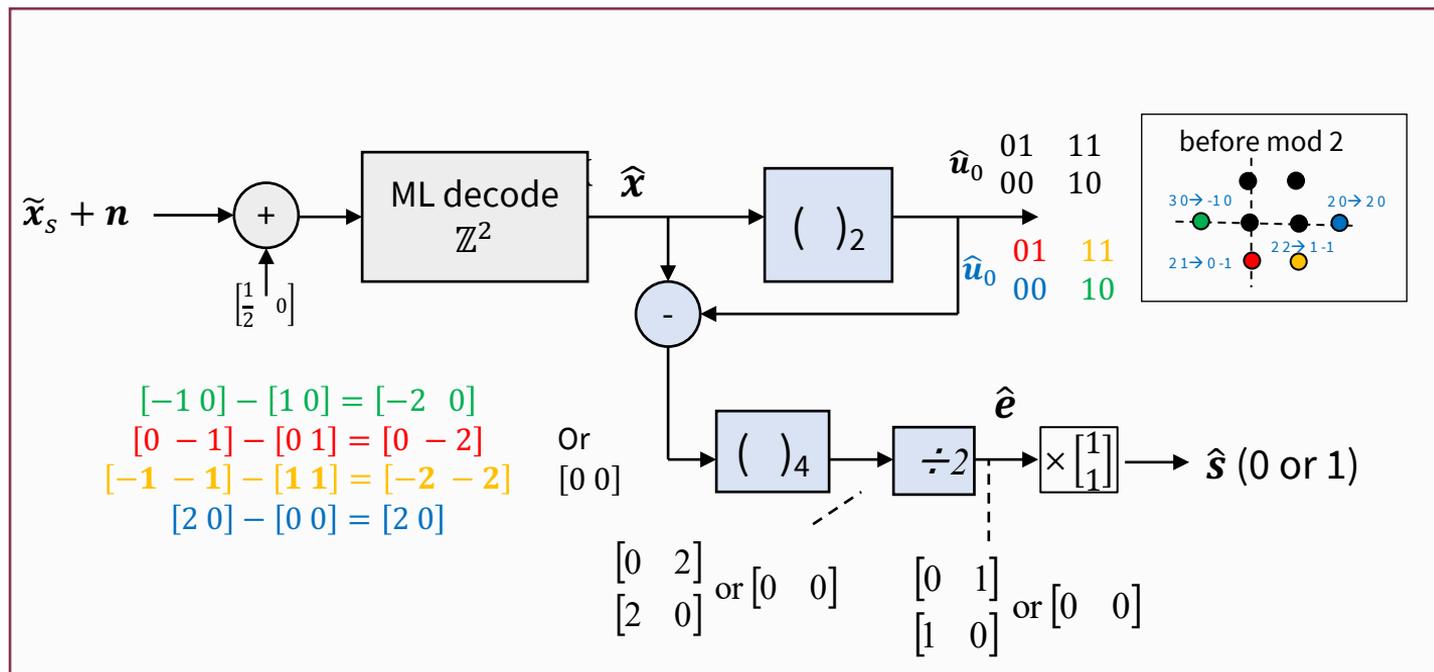
Specific Encoder for the Example

- 1 bit is syndrome
- Other 2 bits carry directly
 - They scale the D_2 .
- The factor 2^{m-1} is scaling.
- So the ML decode (in encoder) finds the closest point in R_2D_2
- Difference is transmitted



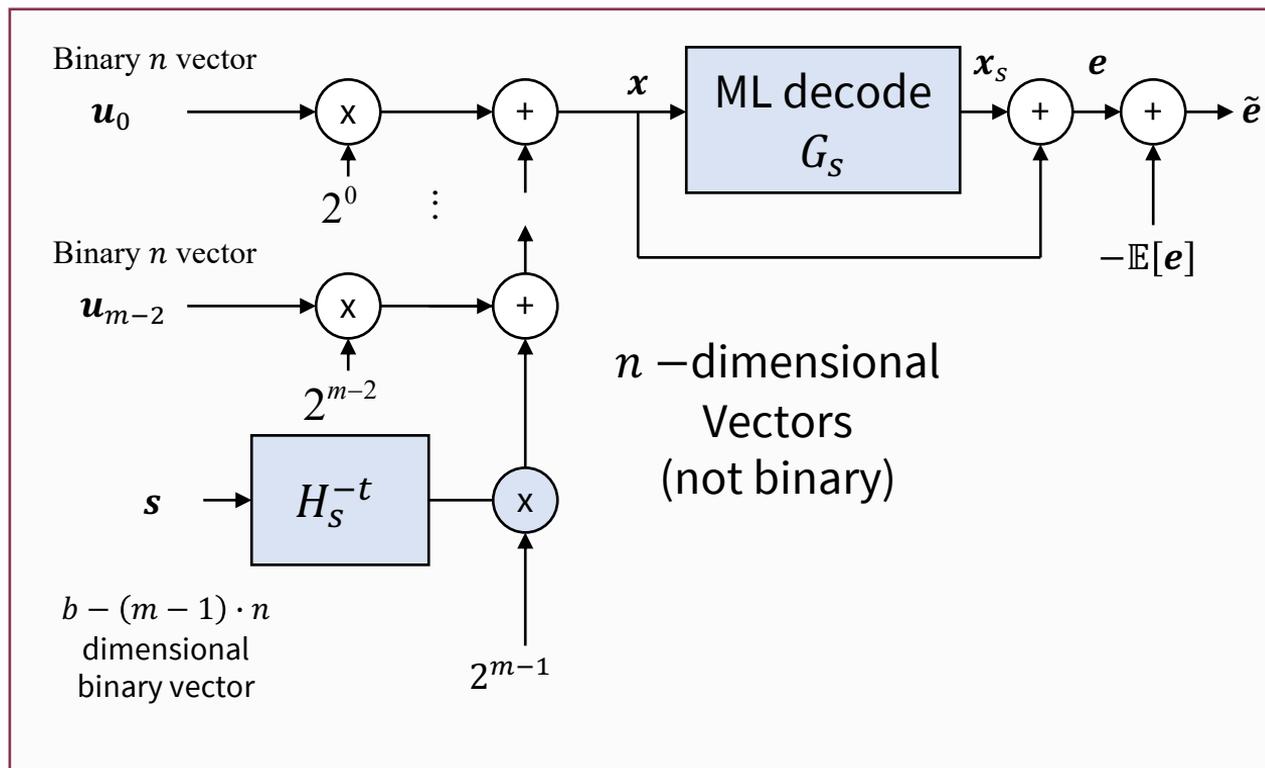
Example's Decoder

- Upper $(\)_2$ decodes the extra 2 trivial bits.
- Their constellation points are adjusted to create last offset.
- The factor 2 removes the encoder scaling.
- Compute Syndrome
- Difference is transmitted



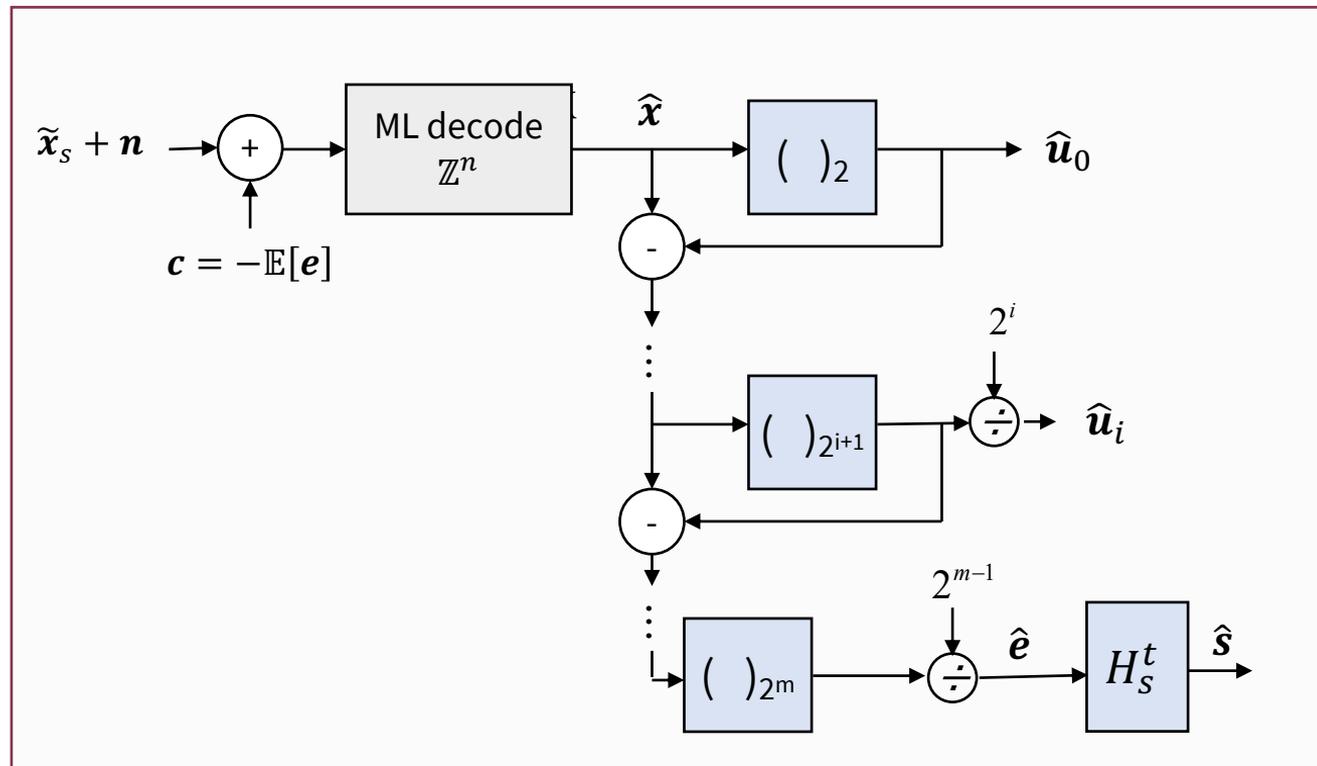
Generalize encoder to larger m (constellations)

- It follows same process.
 - Scaling squeezes more points into constellation.
 - Larger m
- Use up all bits
- Top \mathbf{u}_0 's bits can be zeroed to match b .



General Decoder

- The ML is only for inner code
- The inner code's errors will change outputs
- Otherwise, this is 1-to-1 mapping.



Shaping Gains for different lattices

- These are for large b .
- Same scaling and descaling, but the ML in encoder gets more complicated.
- The rest is the same.

n	Λ_s	γ_s (dB)
8	$1/2$	1.05
8	D_8^\perp	.47
8	E_8	.65
16	Λ_{16}	.86
24	Λ_{24}	1.03

Not bad gains, and for short $N = n$.

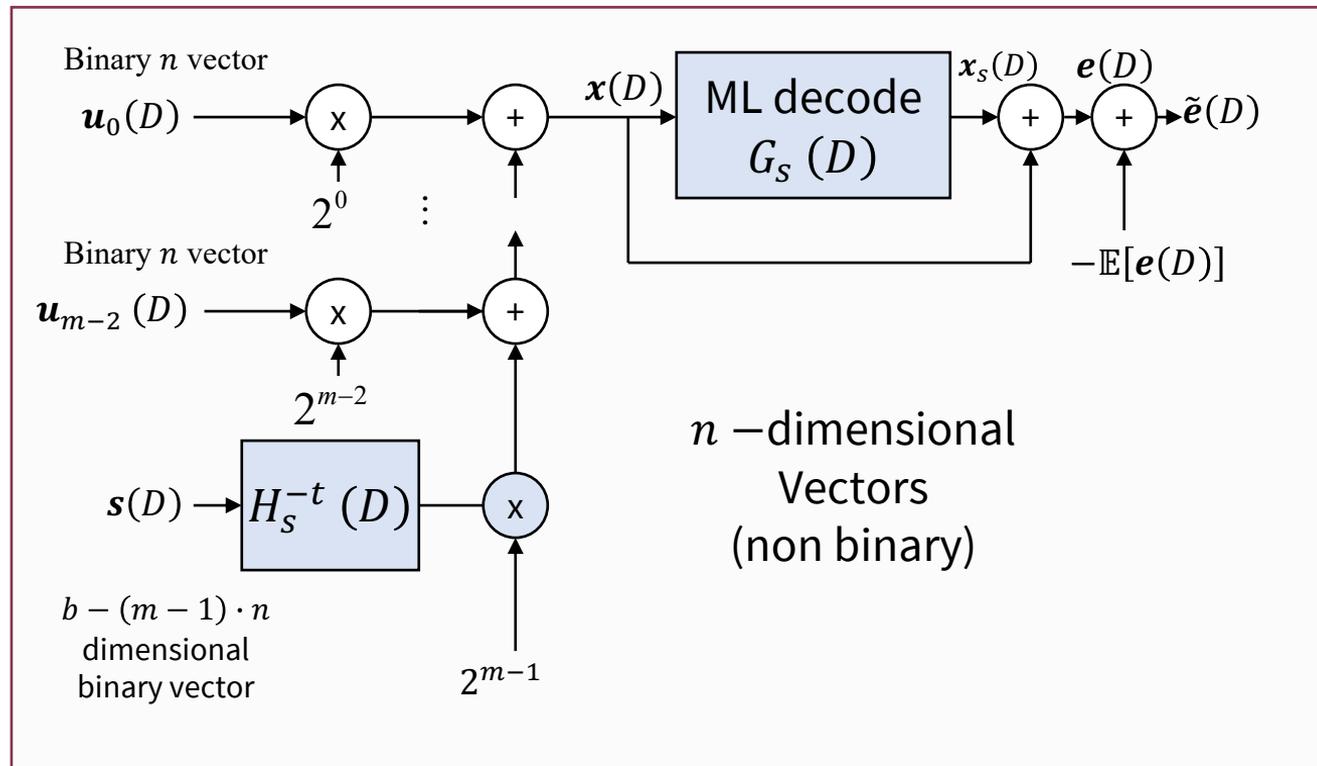


Trellis Shaping

[Section 8.4.2](#)

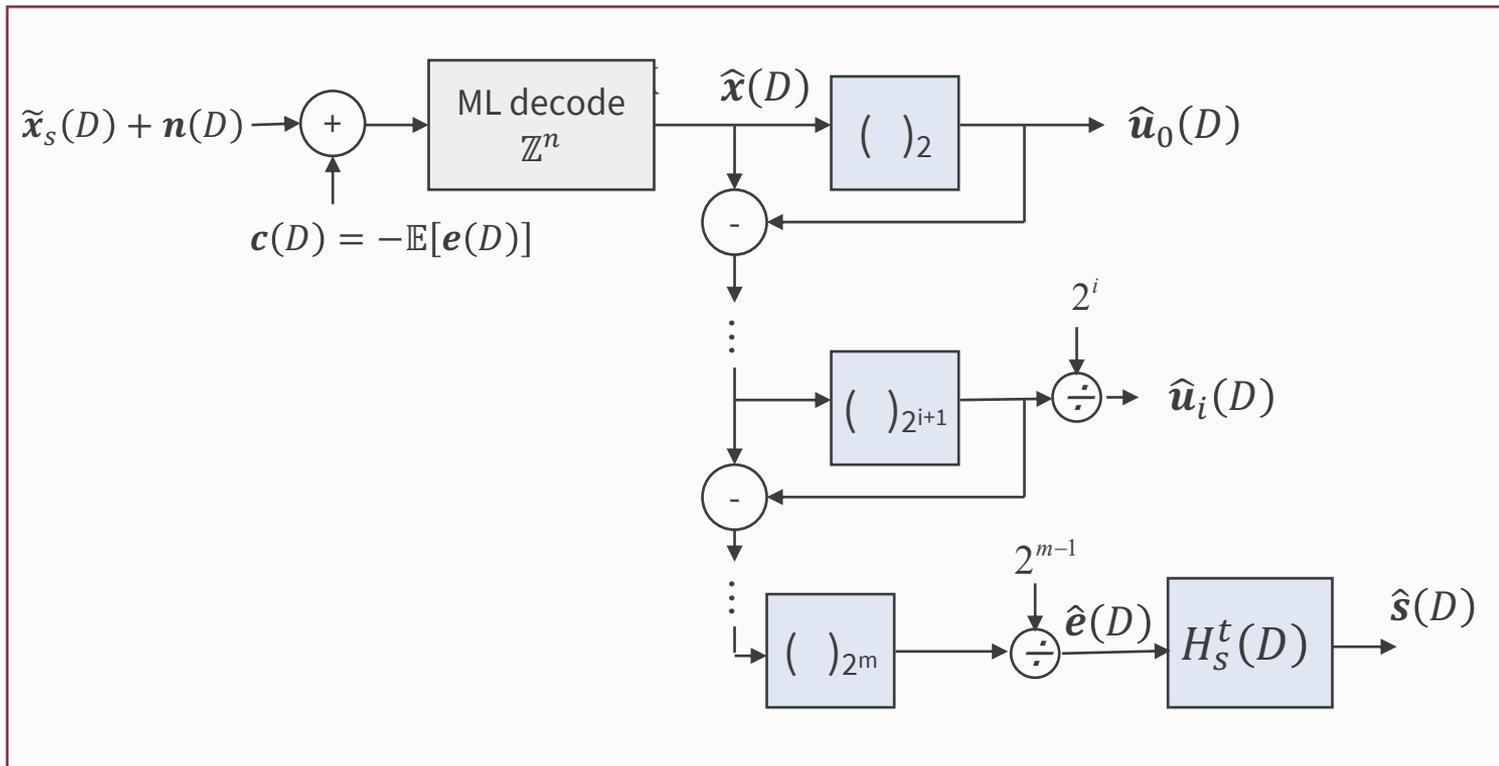
Encoder uses a Viterbi Decoder inside

- Done for subsymbols
- ML is more complex
 - Adds delay
 - Survivor
- Otherwise functions the same



Trellis Shaping Decoder

- Also follows Voronoi case
- Decoder is not complex
- Want FIR parity polynomial to limit error propagation



Some Trellis Shaping Codes and gains

- Intermediate to Voronoi and GS.
- Higher gains
- Not aware of their use.

2^v	γ_s (dB)	$H(D)$	$H(D)^{-*}$	delay
2	0.59	$[1 + D \ 1]$	$[1 \ D]$	8
4	0.97	$[1 + D^2 \ 1 + D + D^2]$	$[D \ 1 + D]$	26
8	1.05	$[1 + D^2 + D^3 \ 1 + D + D^3]$	$[1 + D \ D]$	34
8	1.06	$\begin{bmatrix} 1 + D^3 & 0 & D \\ 0 & 1 + D^3 & D^2 \end{bmatrix}$	$\begin{bmatrix} \frac{1}{1+D^3} & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & \frac{1}{1+D^3} & 0 \end{bmatrix}$	42
16	1.14	$\begin{bmatrix} 1 + D + D^4 & 0 & D + D^2 + D^3 \\ 0 & 1 + D + D^4 & D^2 \end{bmatrix}$	$\begin{bmatrix} \frac{1}{1+D+D^4} & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & \frac{1}{1+D+D^4} & 0 \end{bmatrix}$	100?





End Lecture S12B