

The Hamming Code

A very little coding theory

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2nd January 2014

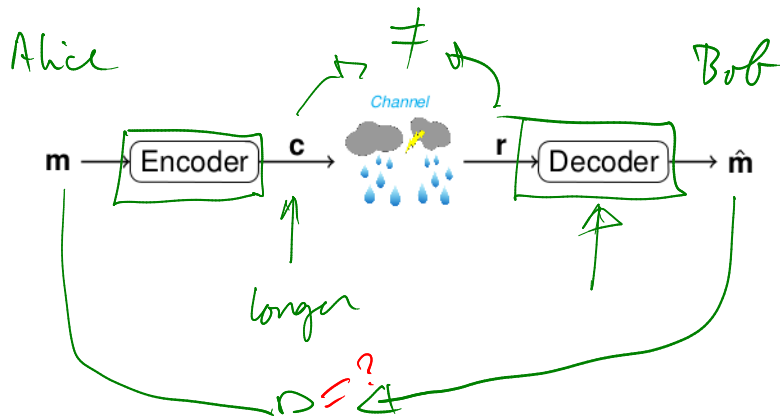
Error-Control Coding

- Noise damages information



- How do we get robust communication?

Communications with Error-Control



The Hamming Code

- The $[7, 4, 3]$ Hamming Code

$$G = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 & 1 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 & 0 & 1 & 1 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 & 1 & 1 & 1 \end{bmatrix} \quad (1)$$

Handwritten annotations: $n=7$ (with an arrow pointing to the number of columns) and $k=4$ (with an arrow pointing to the number of rows).

- Encoding Function $\mathbf{c} = \mathbf{m} \cdot \mathbf{G}$

Properties

$[7, 4, 3]$

- The Hamming code is a set $C \subset \mathbb{Z}_2^7$
- The elements of C are valid codewords
 - $\#C = 2^k = 2^4$ valid words
 - $2^n = 2^7$ possible 7-bit words
 - A fraction $2^k/2^n = 2^{-3}$ of the words are valid
- Take two distinct words $c_1, c_2 \in C$
 - The Hamming distance $d(c_1, c_2) \geq 3$
- At least three bit errors to risk confusion with another codeword

MINIMUM
DISTANCE

Error Detection and Error Correction

Error Detection if $\mathbf{r} \notin C$, we have **detected an error**.

- We can for instance ask for a retransmission.
- The Hamming code can detect up to two errors

Error Correction if $\mathbf{r} \notin C$, we try to find the most likely $\mathbf{c} \in C$, which could be received as \mathbf{r}

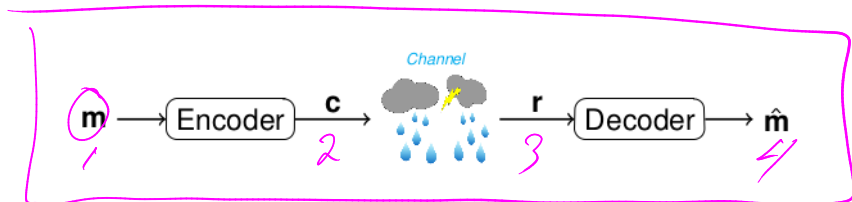
- The Hamming Code can correct one error
- It **never** corrects more than one error

Note that if we use the Hamming code for error correction, we cannot also detect two errors.

Mathematical Introduction *A First Course in Coding Theory* by
Raymond Hill

Comprehensive Engineering Textbook *Error-Control Coding* by Lin
and Costello

Summary



Exercise

Using the generator matrix G from slide 4, encode the message (0011).