# Can 'finite' be more than 'infinite' in distributed source coding

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> Proliferation of Internet, wireless and sensor network applications

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- Supported by distributed information processing
- Information-theoretic perspective

# 1: Distributed Field Gathering



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## 2: Broadcast and Interference Networks



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# 3: Streaming over the Internet



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Information Theory:

- Develop efficient communication strategies
- ► No constraints on memory/computation for encoding/decoding
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Coding Theory:

- Approach these limits using algebraic codes (Ex: linear codes)
- Fast encoding and decoding algorithms
- Objective: practical implementability of optimal communication systems

Start with Binary Symmetric Source: X is IID Be(1/2)

▶ Wish to compress with Hamming distortion:  $d_H(x, \hat{x}) = 1$  if  $x \neq \hat{x}$ and equals 0 otherwise.

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- Single-letter relation between source and its quantized version

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## Many-to-one transformation: Quantization



- Sequences that get the same color are NEARBY
- $\hat{X}^n = f(X^n)$ , i.e., deterministically related
- But  $\hat{X}_i$  is related to  $X_i$  probabilistically:  $P(\hat{X}_i|X_i)$ .

## Many-to-one transformation: Binning



Sequences that get the same color are FAR APART

- More is thought be better in information theory and coding theory
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- Till recently we did not know whether these regions are tight or not.
- Wagner et al ['11] proved that Berger-Tung region is not tight using a continuity argument.

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## Lossy Distributed Source Coding

Compression of correlated sources in a distributed setting



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Restrict to reconstruction of one source with distortion
## Lossy Distributed Source Coding

Compression of correlated sources in a distributed setting



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Compression of correlated sources in a distributed setting



- Restrict to reconstruction of one source with distortion
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- Single-letter Achievable Rate Distortion Region [Berger-Tung 77]
- Independent, Random (unstructured), Infinite-dimensional quantization

#### Lossy Distributed Source Coding

Compression of correlated sources in a distributed setting



- Restrict to reconstruction of one source with distortion
- Window into the world of network information theory
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- Let  $U_i$  denote the quantized version of  $Y_i$
- Curse: Long Markov chain:  $U_1 Y_1 Y_2 U_2$



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• Quantization Rate:  $I(Y_1; U_1)$  and  $I(Y_2; U_2)$ .



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- Quantization Rate:  $I(Y_1; U_1)$  and  $I(Y_2; U_2)$ .
- $\blacktriangleright$  Sources are correlated  $\implies$  quantized vectors are correlated

- Bin the quantized vectors to exploit correlation
- Boon: rate rebate of  $I(U_1; U_2)$ .



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Set of all n-length sequences



3-bit quantization+2-bit binning





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3-bit quantization+2-bit binning

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▶ Total Rate:  $I(Y_1; U_1) + I(Y_2; U_2) - I(U_1; U_2) = I(Y_1, Y_2; U_1, U_2).$ 



Set of all n-length sequences

3-bit quantization+2-bit binning

- ▶ Total Rate:  $I(Y_1; U_1) + I(Y_2; U_2) I(U_1; U_2) = I(Y_1, Y_2; U_1, U_2).$
- ▶ BT:  $R_1 + R_2 = I(Y_1, Y_2; U_1, U_2)$  optmized with  $U_1 Y_1 Y_2 U_2$



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- ▶ BT:  $R_1 + R_2 = I(Y_1, Y_2; U_1, U_2)$  optmized with  $U_1 Y_1 Y_2 U_2$
- Centralized:  $R_1 + R_2 = I(Y_1, Y_2; U_1, U_2)$  optimized over everything

#### ▶ Quantize+Bin is ubiquitous in communications, signal processing

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Why BT rate region is not optimal?

Is it because of independent and random (unstructured) quantization?

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What if we quantize the two sources using identical linear codes?

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Is it because of independent and random (unstructured) quantization?

- What if we quantize the two sources using identical linear codes?
- ▶ Lemma: If  $Y_1 \neq Y_2$ , as  $n \to \infty$ , the two quantization noises become independent.

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Is it because of independent and random (unstructured) quantization?

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- You cannot escape the curse with the wand of linear codes.

## BT: Independent, random infinite-length quantizers

- > As block-length becomes large, most volume is inside the walls
- infinitesimal perturbation will take you to the next voronoi region



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► Short block-length: Correlation Transfer Efficiency ↑, Source Representation Efficiency ↓ Infinite-length quantizer is better than finite-length quantizer

► Large block-length: Correlation Transfer Efficiency ↓, Source Representation Efficiency ↑

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- ► Large block-length: Correlation Transfer Efficiency ↓, Source Representation Efficiency ↑
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This is an artifact of quantize and bin strategy

## Common Information (Gacs-Korner-Witsenhausen)

A random variable X such that  $X = f_i(Y_i)$  for  $i \in \{1, 2\}$  such that H(X) > 0.

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- Break the long Markov chain using CI
- Reduces to BT strategy when CI is trivial

# Example [Wagner-Kelly-Altug 09]

► Let 
$$Y_1 = X + E$$
 and  $Y_2 = (X, Z)$ . Where  $X \sim Be(\frac{1}{2}), E \sim Be(\epsilon), Z \sim Be(p)$ .



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- If  $\epsilon = 0$  then X is a CI.
- The decoder wants to reconstruct X + Z with distortion D.



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- ▶ Instead can only reconstruct W:  $\hat{W} (X + E) X W$
- $\implies$  discontinuity in  $(R_1, R_2, D)$  as a function of  $\epsilon$ .
- Actual rate distortion region (performance limit) is continuous in  $\epsilon$

$$R_1 \ge 1 - h_b(\delta) + \theta_n \tag{1}$$

$$R_2 \ge h_b(p * \delta) - h_b(\delta_1) \tag{2}$$

$$D_2 \le \delta_1 * \left( (1 - (1 - \epsilon)^n) \left( \delta + \frac{\epsilon}{(1 - (1 - \epsilon)^n)} * \delta \right) \right)$$
(3)

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- This is a single-letter characterization
- Here  $\theta_n = \frac{1}{2} \frac{\log n}{n} + O(\frac{1}{n}).$

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(3)

- This is a single-letter characterization
- Here  $\theta_n = \frac{1}{2} \frac{\log n}{n} + O(\frac{1}{n}).$

• If  $n\epsilon \ll 1$  then the distortion is close to  $\delta_1 * \left( n\epsilon(\delta + \frac{1}{n} * \delta) \right)$ .

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▶ To get this performance via BT approach, we need multi-letterization

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Here is a block-diagram of the scheme:



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- n is finite and m is infinitely large
- ▶ 3 components:  $C_f^{(n)}$ ,  $C_r^{(m)}$  and  $\pi$ .

►  $C_f^{(n)}$  is an *n*-length code for quantizing a BSS to a distortion  $\delta$  with rate  $R(n, \delta) = 1 - h_b(\delta) + \theta_n$ . [Kostina-Verdu 12]

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• Interleaver 
$$\pi_i \in S_n, i \in [1:m]$$

#### Encoders

#### Encoder 1:

• Upon receiving a sequence (X + E)(1 : m, 1 : n) takes  $V(i, 1 : n) = argmin_{c^n \in C_n^f} d_h(c^n, (X + E)(i, 1 : n))$  transmits the index of V(i, 1 : n) in  $C_f^n$ .

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- Encoder 2:
  - Upon receiving a sequence X(1:m, 1:n) calculates  $\hat{V}(i, 1:n) = argmin_{c^n \in C_n^f} d_h(c^n, X(i, 1:n)).$
  - Calculates  $S(i, 1:n) = (\hat{V} + X + Z)(i, 1:n).$
  - Let  $\tilde{S}(i, 1:n) = \pi_i(S(i, 1:n))$ . Quantizes each  $\tilde{S}(1:m, j)$  using  $C_r^m$  to get  $\tilde{Q}(1:m, j)$ .
  - Transmits the index of  $\tilde{Q}(1:m,j)$  in  $C_r^m$ .

#### Observation

• Note that  $\tilde{S}(1:m,j)$  is a DMS:



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• The distribution of  $\tilde{S}(1:m,j)$  is  $Be(p * \delta)$ :

$$P(\tilde{S}(i,j)=1) = P(X(i,\pi_i(j)) + \hat{V}(i,\pi_i(j)) + Z(i,\pi_i(j)) = 1)$$
  
=  $p * P(X(i,\pi_i(j)) + \hat{V}(i,\pi_i(j)) = 1)$   
=  $p * \frac{1}{n} \sum_{j'=1}^{n} E(w_H(X(i,j') + \hat{V}(i,j')))$   
=  $p * \delta$ 

#### Decoder

Decoder:

- Calculates  $Q(i, 1:n) = \pi_i^{-1} \left( \tilde{Q}(i, 1:n) \right)$ .
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$$D \le \delta_1 * (1 - (1 - \epsilon)^n) \left( \delta + \frac{\epsilon}{(1 - (1 - \epsilon)^n} * \delta) \right)$$

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#### Theorem

The new rate-distortion region strictly contains the BT rate region
## Hamming Codes

• Using Hamming code of length  $2^r - 1$ :

$$R_{1} = 1 - \frac{r}{2^{r} - 1}$$

$$R_{2} = h_{b}(\frac{1}{2^{r}} * p) - h_{b}(\delta_{1})$$

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A good scheme for BT seems to be to time-share between the following points to avoid double quantization.

$$r_1 = 1, r_2 = h_b(p) - h_b(\delta_1)$$
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Also the CI scheme for  $\epsilon = 0$  gives an outer bound.

## Numerical Results

• Comparison between the three bounds:  $(\delta_1 = 0.1, p = 0.3, \epsilon = 10^{-10})$ 



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