Correction to 'On the error probability for a class of binary recursive feedback strategies'
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We can recover \( j \) from \( g(j) \) as follows:

\[
j_k = g_n^j, \quad j_k = j_{k+1} + g_k^j \mod 2
\]

which gives

\[
j_{n-1} = g_n^j + g_{n-1}^j, \quad j_{n-2} = g_n^j + g_{n-1}^j + g_{n-2}^j + \cdots
\]

Thus

\[
j_k = \sum_{m=k}^n g_m^j \mod 2.
\]

We know that the integers \( i \) and \( i' \), where \( 0 \leq i < 2^n - 1 \) and \( i' = i + 2^n - 1 \), differ in only one digit, i.e., \( i_k = 0, i'_k = 1 \).

\[
y_k^j = i_k + i_{k+1} = y_k^{i'}, \quad \text{if } k \leq n - 2.
\]

Furthermore,

\[
g_n^j + g_{n-1}^j = i_n
\]

while

\[
g_n^{i'} + g_{n-1}^{i'} = i_n = g_n^j + g_{n-1}^j.
\]

We have thus shown that, if we add together the first two columns of a \( 2^n \)-level Gray code and copy the remaining \( n - 2 \) columns, the resulting \( n - 1 \) columns contain two identical parts. It remains to be proved that each half is a \( 2^{n-1} \)-level Gray code. We denote the latter by \( G(i) \), \( 0 \leq i < 2^{n-1} - 1 \). Then

\[
G_{n-1} = i_{n-1}, \quad G_k = i_k + i_{k+1}, \quad 0 \leq k \leq n - 2.
\]

The previous are identical to the expressions (2) and (3). Thus the \( n - 1 \) columns do consist of two repetitions of \( 2^{n-1} \)-level Gray code. Now if we combine the first two columns again, we reduce each \( 2^{n-1} \)-level Gray code into two \( 2^{n-2} \)-level Gray codes, or, the complete array into four \( 2^{n-2} \)-level Gray codes. This can continue until we have only \( m \) columns, which would be \( 2^m \)-level repetitions of \( 2^m \)-level Gray code. We have thus derived the lemma.

**References**


**Correction to "On the Error Probability for a Class of Binary Recursive Feedback Strategies"**

J. PIETER M. SCHALKWIJK AND KAREL A. POST

In the above paper, p. 499, (2) should have read

\[
p_{n+1}(\theta) = \frac{(1 - y_{n+1}p) + y_{n+1}q}{(1 - y_{n+1})[aq + (1 - a)p] + y_{n+1}[(1 - a)q + ap]} p_n(\theta), \quad \text{for } \theta > u_n
\]

\[
\frac{(1 - y_{n+1})q + y_{n+1}p}{(1 - y_{n+1})[aq + (1 - a)p] + y_{n+1}[(1 - a)q + ap]} p_n(\theta), \quad \text{for } \theta < u_n
\]

On the right side of p. 505, the fifth and sixth line from the bottom, the lower error exponent \( E^- (R) \) is valid for the 1 output and the upper error exponent \( E^+ (R) \) for the 0 output.

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**Optimal Decoding of Linear Codes for Minimizing Symbol Error Rate**

L. R. BAHL, J. COCKE, F. JELINEK, AND J. RAVIV

Abstract—The general problem of estimating the a posteriori probabilities of the states and transitions of a Markov source observed through a discrete memoryless channel is considered. The decoding of linear block and convolutional codes to minimize symbol error probability is shown to be a special case of this problem. An optimal decoding algorithm is derived.

**I. Introduction**

The Viterbi algorithm is a maximum-likelihood decoding method which minimizes the probability of word error for convolutional codes [1], [2]. The algorithm does not, however, necessarily minimize the probability of symbol (or bit) error. In this correspondence we derive an optimal decoding method for linear codes which minimizes the symbol error probability.

We first tackle the more general problem of estimating the a posteriori probabilities (APP) of the states and transitions of a Markov source observed through a noisy discrete memoryless channel (DMC). The decoding algorithm for linear codes is then shown to be a special case of this problem.

The algorithm we derive is similar in concept to the method of Chang and Hancock [3] for removal of intersymbol interference. Some work by Baum and Petrie [4] is also relevant to this problem. An algorithm similar to the one described in this correspondence was also developed independently by McAdam et al. [5].

**II. The General Problem**

Consider the transmission situation of Fig. 1. The source is assumed to be a discrete-time finite-state Markov process. The \( M \) distinct states of the Markov source are indexed by the integer \( m, m = 0, 1, \ldots, M - 1 \). The state of the source at time \( t \) is denoted by \( S_t \) and its output by \( X_t \). A state sequence of the source extending from time \( t \) to \( t' \) is denoted by \( S_t := S_t S_{t+1} \cdots S_{t'} \), and the corresponding output sequence is \( X_t : = X_t X_{t+1} \cdots X_{t'} \).

The state transitions of the Markov source are governed by the transition probabilities

\[
p_m(m| m') = \Pr \{S_t = m | S_{t-1} = m'\}
\]

and the output by the probabilities

\[
q_s(x| m', m) = \Pr \{X_t = x | S_t = m', S_{t-1} = m\}
\]

where \( X \) belongs to some finite discrete alphabet.

**References**