

## Algorithmic Optimization of Non-Binary Decoders.

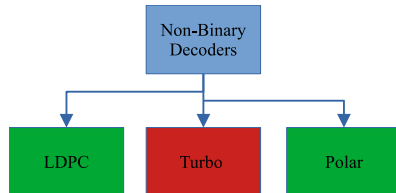
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Thesis Defense held in Lorient on 14 Dec, 2023.

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## Brief Context and Objective

- This thesis is a part of the Quasi Cyclic Small Packet (QCSP)<sup>1</sup> project.
- QCSP Project: Association of non-binary codes with Cyclic-Code Shift Keying (CCSK)<sup>2</sup> for self-synchronization and identification waveforms for IoT networks.
- CCSK is a low-rate non-binary modulation of rate  $r = \frac{\log_2(q)}{q}$  where  $q$  is field order.
- Thesis role: investigates non-binary decoders and aims to optimize their decoding algorithms.



<sup>1</sup>K. Saied. (2019), "Quasi Cyclic Small Packet," [Online]. Available: <https://qcsp.univ-ubs.fr>.

<sup>2</sup>G. Dillard, M. Reuter, J. Zeidler, *et al.*, "Cyclic Code-Shift Keying: A Low Probability of Intercept Communication Technique." *IEEE Transactions on Aerospace and Electronic Systems*.

# Error Control Codes I

- Shannon<sup>3</sup> proved that reliable communication is possible.
- Since then, plenty of error correction codes have been proposed.
- In general, an error correction code receives an information block of length  $K$  and encodes it to generate a codeword of length  $N$  by introducing  $M = N - K$  redundant symbols.

## Error Control Codes II

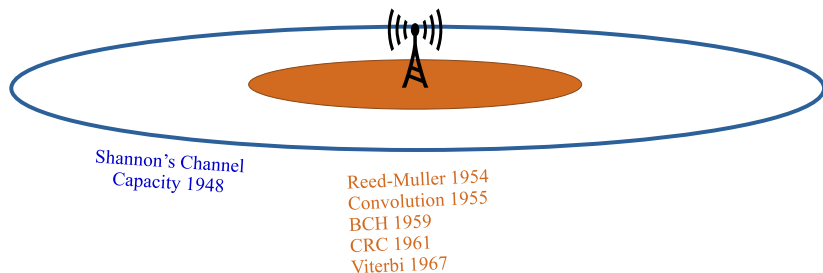


Figure 1: Performance of classical codes (before 1993).

# Error Control Codes III

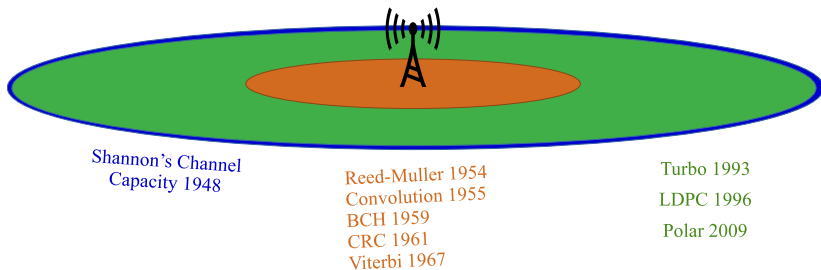


Figure 2: Performance of capacity-approaching codes

<sup>3</sup>C. E. Shannon, "A mathematical theory of communication," *The Bell System Technical Journal*, vol. 27, no. 3, pp. 379–423, 1948. DOI: 10.1002/j.1538-7305.1948.tb01338.x

## If all is good, why non-binary codes?

- Performance of binary codes degrades under:
  - Short packet communication.
  - Non-binary Modulation.
- Solution: Use NB codes.

# Performance of Binary Vs. NB LDPC

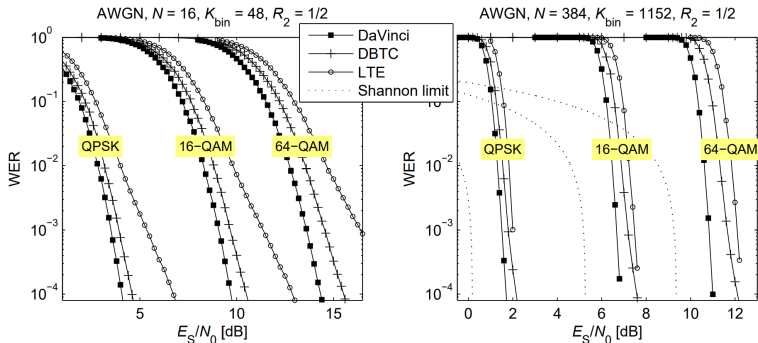
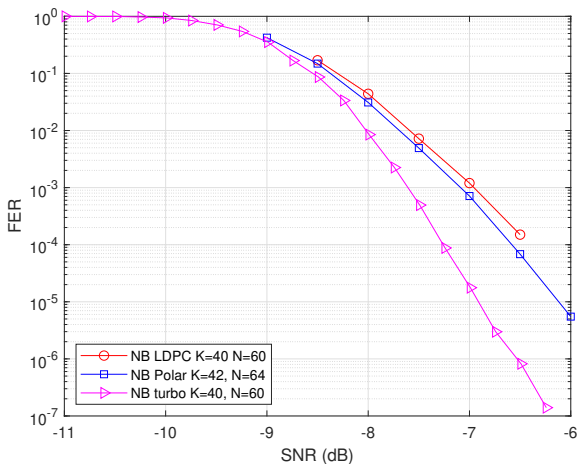


Figure 3: Binary vs. Non-Binary GF(64) LDPC over Different Modulation Schemes<sup>4</sup>

<sup>4</sup>S. P. et al., "Performance evaluation of non-binary ldpc codes on wireless channels," in *ICT-MobileSummit 2009 Conference Proceedings, 2009*, ISBN: 978-1-905824-12-0.

# Performance of Non-Binary Codes on CCSK Modulation

$$\blacksquare r = \frac{Kp}{Nq}$$





Alright! Let's use non-binary codes.



- HIGH COMPLEXITY DECODERS.
- However, standardized for the Chinese Satellite Navigation System , BeiDou<sup>5</sup> for low code rate applications.

<sup>5</sup>C. S. N. Office. (2019), "BeiDou Navigation Satellite System Signal In Space Interface Control Document," [Online]. Available:

<http://www.beidou.gov.cn/xt/gfz/201912/P020230516558050038035.pdf>

## Binary Vs. Non-Binary Codes

- Binary Codes have symbols and coefficients defined on  $GF(q = 2^p)$  with  $p = 1$ .
- Non-Binary Codes have symbols and coefficients defined on  $GF(q = 2^p)$  with  $p > 1$ .
- Increases complexity of arithmetic operations.

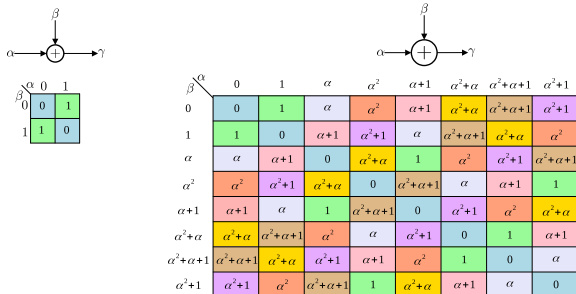


Figure 4: Arithmetic Operations on  $GF(2)$  and  $GF(8)$ .

# Non-Binary LDPC Codes

## Structure of NB-LDPC Codes

- LDPC Codes invented by R. Gallager in 1960<sup>6</sup>.
- Rediscovered by D. Mackay in 1996<sup>7,8</sup>.
- Linear block code defined by sparse Parity Check Matrix (PCM)  $\mathbf{H}$  of dimension  $M \times N$  over a Galois field  $\text{GF}(q = 2^p)$  with  $p > 1$ .
  - $M$ : Size of redundant symbols.
  - $N$ : Size of codeword.
- Codeword  $X$  is valid iff  $X \cdot \mathbf{H}^T = 0$  where  $\mathbf{H}^T$  is the transpose of  $\mathbf{H}$ .

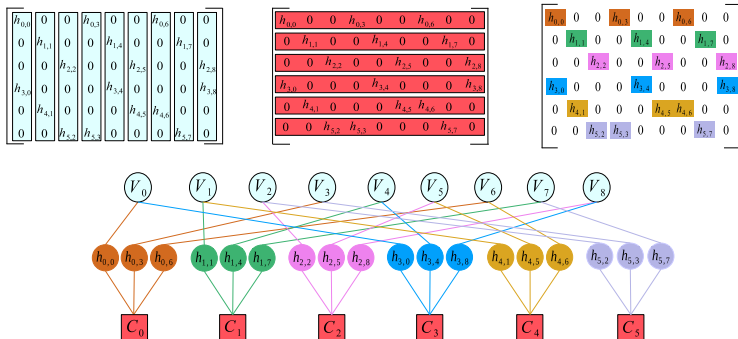
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<sup>6</sup>R. Gallager, *Low Density Parity-Check Codes*. Cambridge MA: MIT Press, 1963.

<sup>7</sup>D. MacKay, "Near shannon limit performance of low density parity check codes," *English, Electronics Letters*, vol. 32, 1645–1646(1), 18 Aug. 1996, ISSN: 0013-5194. [Online]. Available: [https://digital-library.theiet.org/content/journals/10.1049/el\\_19961141](https://digital-library.theiet.org/content/journals/10.1049/el_19961141).

<sup>8</sup>D. MacKay, "Good error-correcting codes based on very sparse matrices," in *Proceedings of IEEE International Symposium on Information Theory, 1997*, pp. 113–. DOI: 10.1109/ISIT.1997.613028.

## Structure of NB-LDPC Decoder

Figure 5: LDPC Decoder for  $N = 9$  and  $K = 3$ .

- $d_n = 2$  have good performance and more hardware friendly<sup>9</sup>.

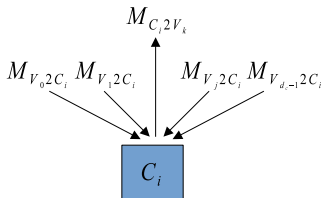
<sup>9</sup>C. Poulliat, M. Fossorier, and D. Declercq, "Design of regular  $(2, d_c)$ -LDPC codes over  $\text{GF}(q)$  using their binary images," *IEEE Transactions on Communications*, vol. 56, no. 10, pp. 1626–1635, 2008. DOI: 10.1109/TCOMM.2008.060527.

# Min-Sum Algorithm

- Sub-optimal algorithm that introduces mathematical approximation to reduce the processing complexity.
- Exchanged ( $q$ -ary) messages defined as Log-Likelihood Ratios (LLRs).

$$M_{V,2C_i} = [15, 0, 7, 4, 5, 1, 27, 2]$$

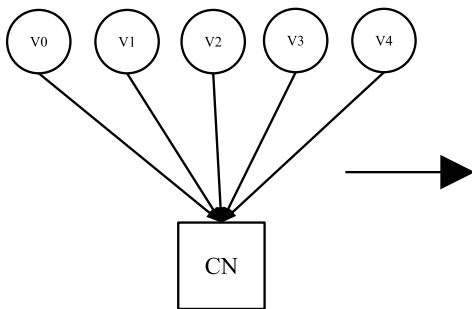
↑
↑  
 Most reliable symbol:  $\alpha^0$ 
Least reliable symbol:  $\alpha^5$



$$M_{C_i,2V_k}[\alpha] \approx \min_{\substack{j \neq k \\ h_{i,j} \neq 0}} \alpha_j = \alpha \left\{ \sum_{\substack{j \neq k \\ h_{i,j} \neq 0}} M_{V_j,2C_i}[\alpha_j] \right\} \quad (1)$$

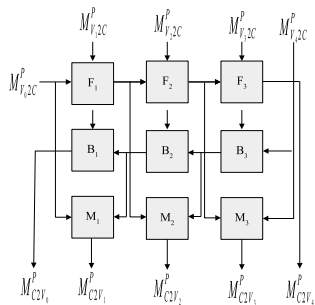
## Forward-Backward Approach

Complexity:  $d_c q^{d_c-1}$ .



**Figure 6:** Conventional Check Node for  $d_c = 5$ .

Complexity:  $3(d_c - 2)q^2$ .



**Figure 7:** Check Node Decomposition for  $d_c = 5$ .

# Min-Sum Approximation I

Let  $A = [5, 4, 6, 8, 1, 7, 3, 0]$  and  $B = [8, 2, 0, 9, 5, 2, 7, 6]$ .

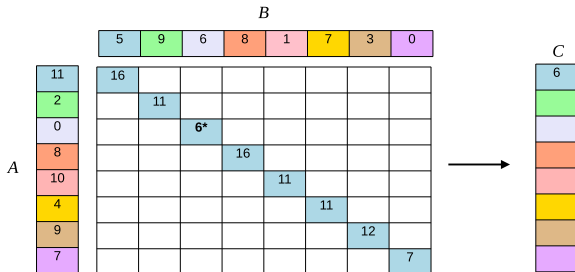


Figure 8: Toy Example on GF(8) for Check Node Processing over Min-Sum.



# Min-Sum Approximation II

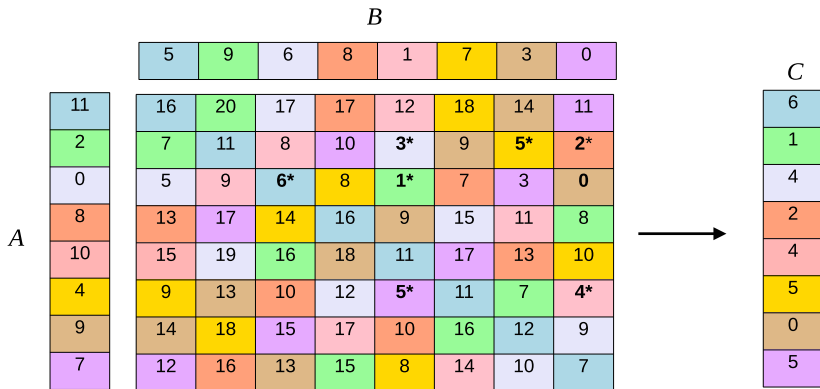


Figure 9: Toy Example on GF(8) for Check Node Processing over Min-Sum.

# Min-Sum Approximation III



Figure 10: Toy Example on GF(8) for Check Node Processing over Min-Sum.

# Extended Min-Sum Algorithm I

When sorting the MS messages, the sorted messages are

$$A = [(\alpha^6, 0), (\alpha^3, 1), (\alpha^5, 3), (\alpha^0, 4)],$$

$$B = [(\alpha^1, 0), (\alpha^4, 2), (\alpha^3, 5), (\alpha^6, 6)].$$

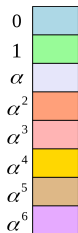


Figure 11: Symbols Color Code.

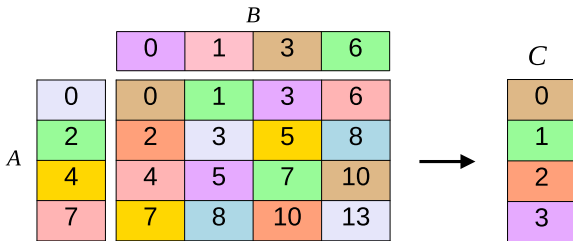
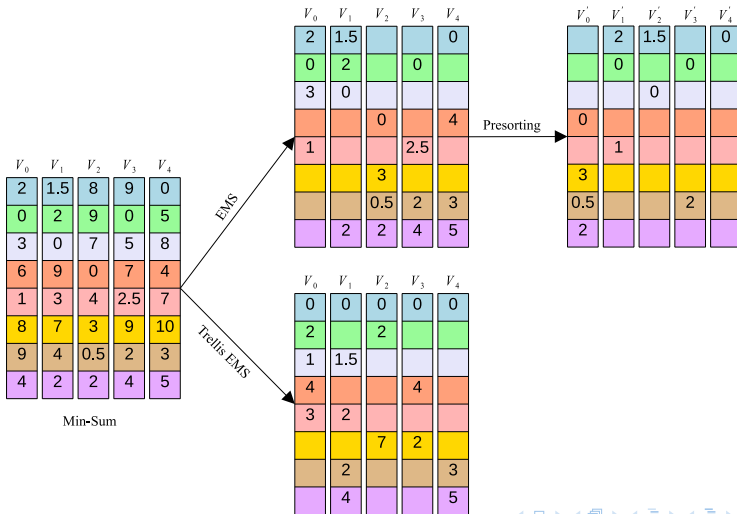


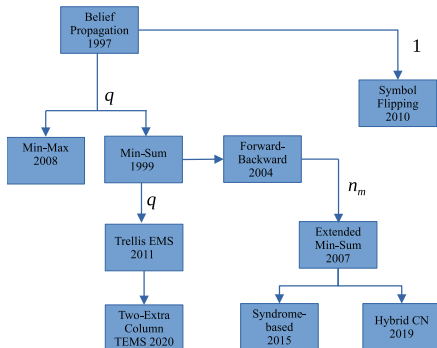
Figure 12: Processing of EMS-based ECN

# Truncation Scheme for NB-LDPC Decoders



# Evolution of NB-LDPC Decoding Algorithms.

- Belief Propagation [8].
- Symbol Flipping [10].
- Min-Max [11].
- Min-Sum [12].
- Extended Min-Sum [13].
- Syndrome-Based [14].
- Forward-Backward [15].
- L-Bubble [16].
- S-Bubble [17].
- Trellis Extended Min-Sum [18].
- Two-Extra Columns TEMS [19].

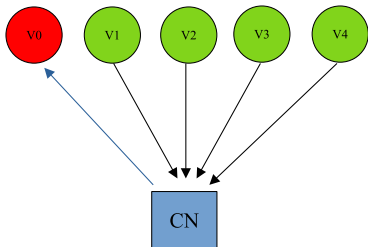


Is there still room for further reduction in complexity?

# The Best, the Requested, and the Default Algorithm I

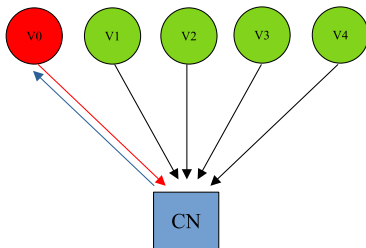
The intangible principle of iterative decoding..

A priori information are NEVER considered.

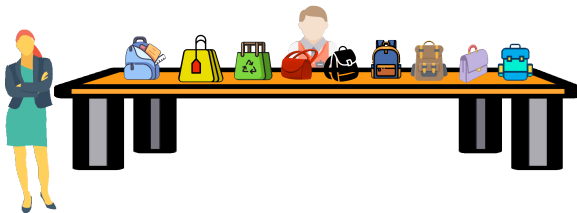


Is NO MORE intangible!

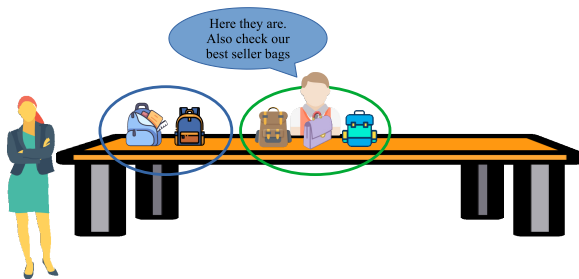
Considering A priori information (correctly) simplifies the decoding process!



# The Best, the Requested, and the Default in a Market I

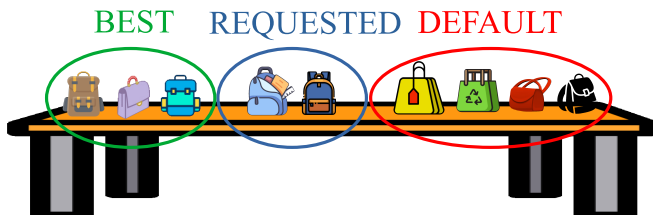


## The Best, the Requested, and the Default in a Market II





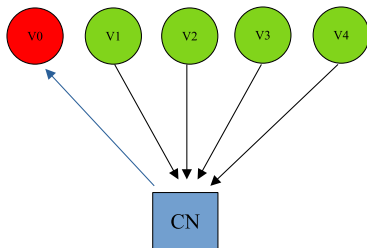
# The Best, the Requested, and the Default in a Market III



# The Best, the Requested, and the Default Algorithm I

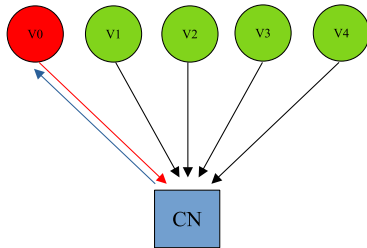
The intangible principle of iterative decoding..

A priori information are NEVER considered.



Is NO MORE intangible!

Considering A priori information (correctly) simplifies the decoding process!



## The Best, the Requested, and the Default Algorithm II

- In BRD, VN requests the reliability of specific symbols from CN.
- Including these requested symbols maintains code convergence using fewer elements.
- Reduces communication load (bottleneck in parallel implementations) while maintaining similar decoding performance.

## The Best, the Requested, and the Default Algorithm III

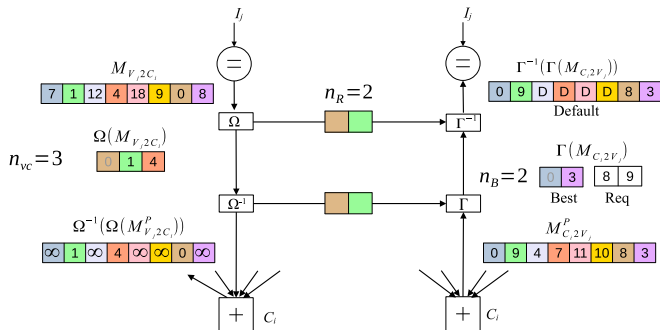


Figure 13: Toy Example on BRD over GF(8).

# Statistical Analysis of BRD Algorithm

- $K = 120$ .
- $N = 144$ .
- GF(64).
- $E_b/N_0 = 3.5$  dB.
- $iter_{max} = 10$ .
- $n_B = 4$ .
- $n_R = 3$ .

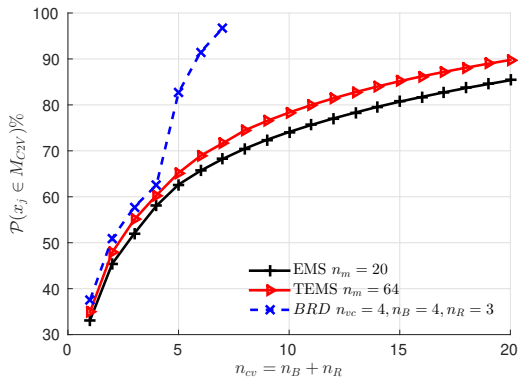


Figure 14: Probability that the encoded symbol  $x_j$  is in the message  $\Gamma(M_{C2V_j})$ .

# Size of Messages

Table 1: Size of Exchanged Messages per Edge on GF(64)

Scheme	Code Rate	Input	Output	
		$n_{vc}$	$n_B$	$n_R$
TEMS	any	64	64	-
EMS	any	20	20	-
BRD	$r \geq 5/6$	4	4	3
	$r = 1/2$	8	6	5
	$r = 1/3$	13	7	8

## Trellis BRD

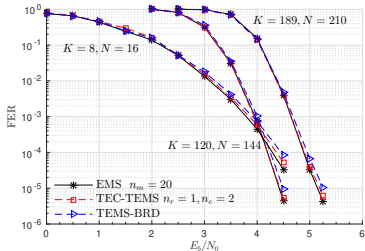


Figure 15: Trellis-BRD on GF(64) over BPSK.

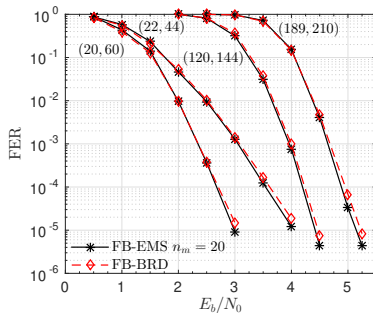


Figure 16: FB-BRD Decoder on GF(64) over BPSK.

# Forward-Backward BRD Decoder I

Parallel CN implementation for a code rate  $r = 5/6$  with  $d_c = 12$  on Cyclone IV FPGA with frequency  $F = 200$  MHz and throughput  $T = 24$  Mbps.

Table 2: Synthesis Results for  $d_c = 12$  on GF(64)

Scheme	Logic Elements	Registers
FB-EMS ( $n_m = 16$ )	109860	89940
FB-BRD ( $n_{vc} = 4, n_B = 4, n_R = 3, n_{IN} = 15$ )	94782	37308

15% reduction in computational load and 60% reduction in memory allocation.



## NB-LDPC Conclusion

- The Best, the Requested, and the Default algorithm is proposed for NB-LDPC decoders.
- Reduces communication load by allowing exchange of a priori information.
- Implemented using different algorithms
  - Trellis EMS.
  - FB-EMS.
  - SYN-EMS.
- Also, used presorting to further reduce the internal processing of the EMS-based CN.

# Non-Binary Polar Codes

# Introduction to Non-Binary Polar Codes

- Latest error correction code proposed by E. Arıkan in 2009<sup>10</sup>.
- Encodes message of size  $K$  into a codeword of size  $N$ .
- Relies on channel polarization.
- Physical channel transformed into  $N$  virtual channels.
- Virtual channels are polarized into either noiseless or extremely noisy channels.

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<sup>10</sup>E. Arıkan, "Channel Polarization: A Method for Constructing Capacity-Achieving Codes for Symmetric Binary-Input Memoryless Channels," *IEEE Transactions on Information Theory*, vol. 55, no. 7, pp. 3051–3073, 2009. DOI: 10.1109/TIT.2009.2021379.

# Structure of Polar Codes I

- Polar Code of code length  $N$  has  $n = \log_2(N)$  (encoding/decoding) layers.
- Each layer consists of  $N/2$  kernels.

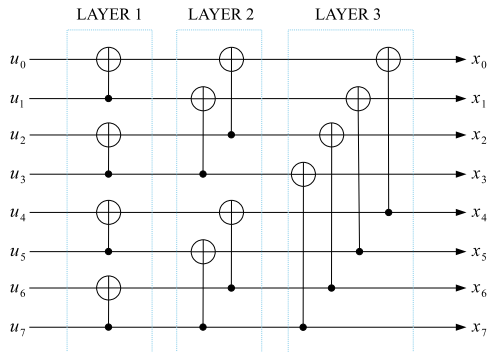


Figure 17: Polar Transformation ( $N$ -to- $N$ ) for  $N = 8$ .

## Structure of Polar Codes II

- Kernel is basic processing unit in polar code.

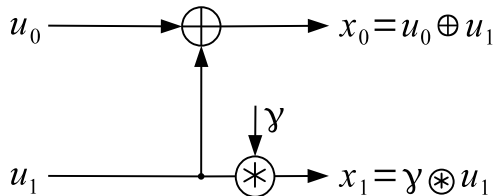


Figure 18: Encoding Kernel

## Structure of Polar Codes III

Assume  $K = 4$ ,  $N = 8$ .  $\mathcal{A}_D = \{3, 5, 6, 7\}$  (using Genie-Aided decoding).

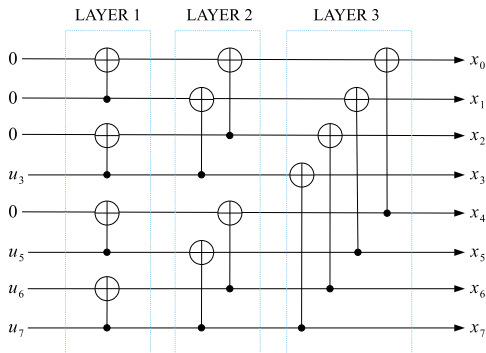


Figure 19: Polar Encoding

# Structure of Polar Codes IV

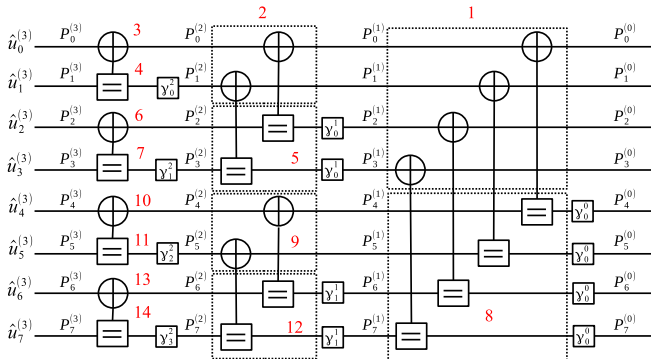


Figure 20: Factor Graph of SC Decoder for  $N = 8$

## Structure of Polar Codes V

## Successive Cancellation (SC) Decoding

$$P_0^u(\alpha) = \sum_{\beta \in GF(q)} P_0^x(\alpha \oplus \beta) \cdot P_1^x(\gamma \otimes \beta) \quad \forall \alpha \in GF(q).$$

(2)

$$\hat{u}_0 = \operatorname{argmax}_{\alpha \in GF(q)} P_0^u(\alpha),$$

(3)

$$P_1^u(\beta) = \mu \cdot P_0^x(\hat{u}_0 \oplus \beta) \cdot P_1^x(\gamma \otimes \beta) \quad \forall \beta \in GF(q),$$

(4)

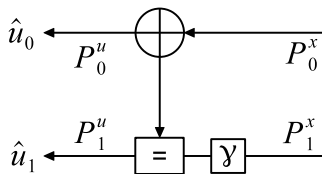


Figure 21: Decoding Process



# Evolution of Non-binary Polar Decoding Algorithms

- Min-Sum<sup>11</sup>:
  - Eliminates complex functions such as logarithmic and exponential functions.
  - Converts all multiplication operations to additions.
- Simplified Min-Sum<sup>12</sup>.
  - Truncation of one input only.
- Extended Min-Sum<sup>13</sup>:
  - Truncates the messages down to  $n_m$ .

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<sup>11</sup>F. Cochachin, L. Luzzi, and F. Ghaffari, "Reduced Complexity of a Successive Cancellation Based Decoder for NB-Polar Codes," in *2021 11th International Symposium on Topics in Coding (ISTC)*, 2021.

<sup>12</sup>F. Cochachin and G. Fakhreddine, "A Lightweight Encoder and Decoder for Non-Binary Polar Codes," in *2023 22nd International Conference on Wireless Networks (ICWN)*, 2023.

<sup>13</sup>P. Chen, B. Bai, and X. Ma, "Non-Binary Polar Coding with Low Decoding Latency and Complexity," *Journal of Information and Intelligence*, 2022, ISSN: 2949-7159.

# Asymmetrical Extended Min-Sum SC Decoder I

## Check Node Processing:

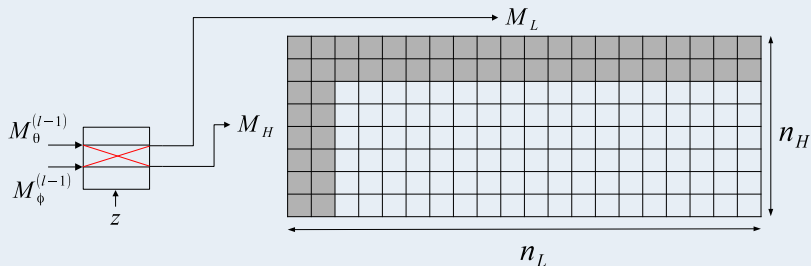


Figure 22: Schematic Structure of an AEMS CN.

# Asymmetrical Extended Min-Sum SC Decoder II

Table 3: Arithmetic Operations Performed per CN

Algorithm	GF Additions	Real Additions
SC-MS	$q^2$	$q^2$
SC-EMS	$n_m \sqrt{n_m}$	$n_m \sqrt{n_m} - (2n_m - 1)$
SC-AEMS	$2(n_H + n_L) - 4$	$n_H + n_L - 3$

Compared to the EMS-based CN with  $n_m = 20$ , total computed candidates by an AEMS-based CN with  $n_L = 20$  and  $n_H = 8$  is reduced by 50%.

## Asymmetrical Extended Min-Sum SC Decoder III

## ■ CCSK+BI-AWGN.

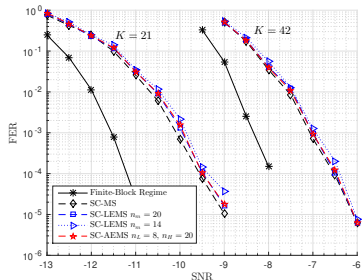


Figure 23: Simulation Results over  $GF(64)$  for  $N = 64$ ,  $r \approx 1/3$  ( $r_e \approx 1/32$ ) and  $r \approx 2/3$  ( $r_e \approx 1/16$ ) respectively.

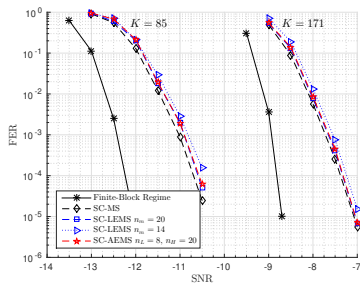


Figure 24: Simulation Results over  $GF(64)$  for  $N = 256$ ,  $r \approx 1/3$  ( $r_e \approx 1/32$ ) and  $r \approx 2/3$  ( $r_e \approx 1/16$ ) respectively.

# Polarization-Aware SC Decoder

- Polarization-Aware SC (SC-PA) decoder is a tailored SC decoder that has different kernel processing and input sizes.
- Designed using statistical estimation of CNs on successfully decoded frames.

## SC-PA: Node Clusters

- At each layer  $l = 1, \dots, n$ , there are  $s = \{0, \dots, 2^{l-1}\}$  clusters.
- Each cluster  $s$  has set of kernels  $S_s^{(l)}$  includes kernels from  $t = s \times (2^{n-l})$  up to  $t = (s + 1) \times (2^{n-l}) - 1$ .

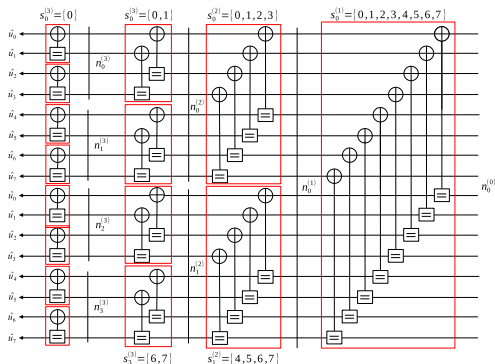


Figure 25: Nodes Clusters

## SC-PA: Statistical Computation Using EMS CNs I

- Bubble pattern matrix  $\mathcal{B}_t^{(l)}$  is defined as a matrix of size  $n_m \times n_m$  which includes the occurrence of the element (bubble) of  $T'_\Sigma(i, j)$ .

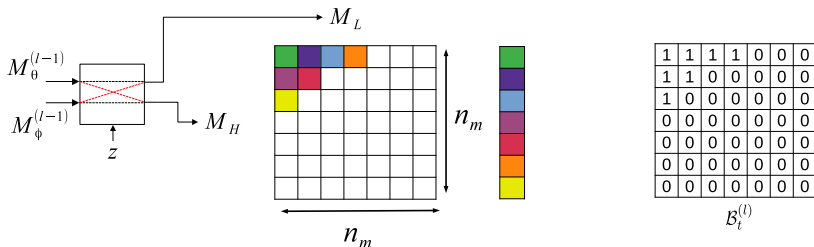


Figure 26: Computation of Bubble Indicator

## SC-PA: Statistical Computation Using EMS CNs II

$$\text{Contribution Rate Matrix: } C_s^{(l)} = \frac{1}{2^{n-l}} \sum_{t=s \cdot 2^{n-l}}^{(s+1) \cdot 2^{n-l} - 1} B_t^{(l)}. \quad (5)$$

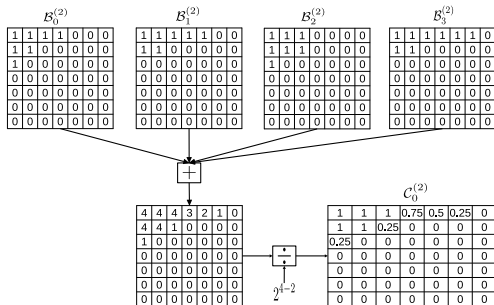


Figure 27: Computation of Contribution Rate Matrix



# SC-PA: Statistical Computation Using EMS CNs III

Accumulate statistical estimation over  $N_r$  decoded frames.

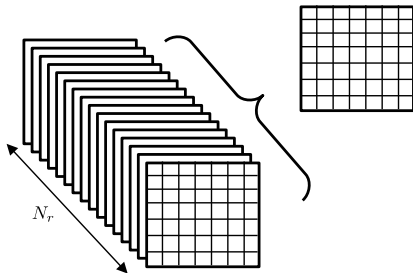


Figure 28: Accumulated Statistics of Contribution Rate Matrix

## SC-PA: Pruning Process I

- Pruning process applied to  $T'_\Sigma$  of each cluster by defining threshold  $\mathcal{P}_t$ .
- Any bubble  $T'_\Sigma(i, j)$  with contribution rate  $\mathcal{C}_s^{(l)}(i, j) < \mathcal{P}_t$  is omitted from CN processing.
- Pruned matrix formed and denoted as  $T'_{\Sigma_s^{(l)}}$  defined using indication matrix  $\mathcal{R}_s^{(l)}$ .

$$\mathcal{R}_s^{(l)} = \begin{cases} 1 & \text{If } \mathcal{C}_s^{(l)}(i, j) > \mathcal{P}_t \\ 0 & \text{Otherwise} \end{cases} \quad (6)$$

1	1	0.96	0.89	0.77	0.5	0.2
0.97	0.76	0.61	0.53	0.4	0.29	0.1
0.7	0.3	0.25	0.1	0.07	0.05	0.02
0.51	0.1	0.05	0	0	0	0
0.29	0.05	0.03	0	0	0	0
0.15	0.03	0.01	0	0	0	0
0.08	0.01	0	0	0	0	0

$\xrightarrow{\mathcal{P}_t = 0.3}$

1	1	1	1	1	1	0
1	1	1	1	1	1	0
1	0	0	0	0	0	0
1	0	0	0	0	0	0
0	0	0	0	0	0	0
0	0	0	0	0	0	0
0	0	0	0	0	0	0
0	0	0	0	0	0	0

Figure 29: Pruning Process to Generate Indicator Matrix

## SC-PA: Pruning Process II

$$T'_{\Sigma_s^{(l)}}(i, j) = \begin{cases} M_H(i) \boxplus M_L(j) & \text{If } \mathcal{R}_s^{(l)}(i, j) = 1 \\ (0, +\infty) & \text{Otherwise} \end{cases} : 0 \leq i, j < n_{s'}^{(l-1)}, \quad (7)$$

where  $n_{s'}^{(l-1)}$  is the size of the input messages (output size of the connected cluster in the previous layer), i.e.,  $s' = \lfloor s/2 \rfloor$ .

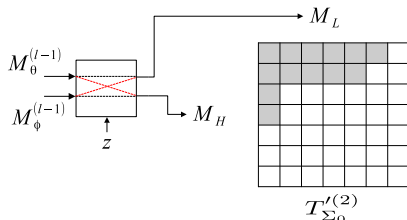


Figure 30: Pruned Matrix  $T'_{\Sigma_s^{(l)}}$

# SC-PA: Complexity and Simulation Results I

- $N = 256$ .
- $K = 85$ .
- GF(64).
- SNR = -11.5 dB.

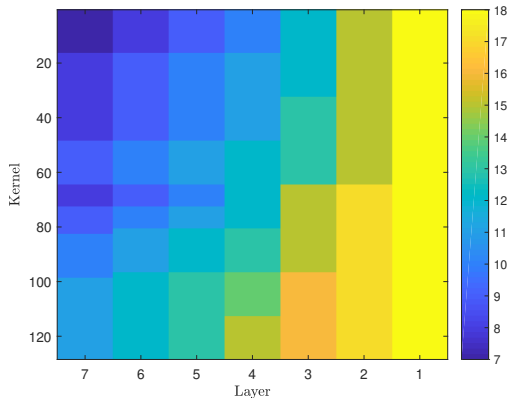


Figure 31: Size Map over Different Layers and Kernels.

# SC-PA: Complexity and Simulation Results II

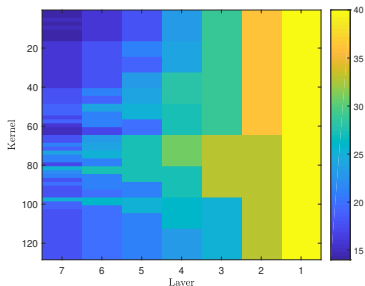


Figure 32: GF Additions per Kernel CN.

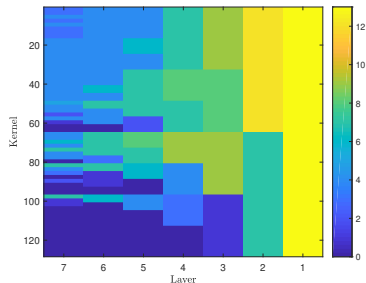


Figure 33: LLR Additions per Kernel CN.

## SC-PA: Complexity and Simulation Results III

Table 4: Design Parameters for SC-PA Decoder and Arithmetic Operations over Different Codes.

$K$	$\mu$	SC-PA		SC-AEMS		SC-EMS	
		$T_{GF}$	$T_{LLR}$	$T_{GF}$	$T_{LLR}$	$T_{GF}$	$T_{LLR}$
$N = 64, \mathcal{P}_t = 0.12, n_0^{(0)} = 18$				$n_L = 20, n_H = 8$		$n_m = 18$	
11	-13.5 dB	3776	916	8320	4000	12160	6560
21	-10.5 dB	4082	788				
42	-7.5 dB	4370	424				
$N = 256, \mathcal{P}_t = 0.08, n_0^{(0)} = 18$				$n_L = 20, n_H = 8$		$n_m = 18$	
42	-14 dB	22362	6048	46592	22400	68096	36736
85	-11.5 dB	24294	5744				
171	-8 dB	24742	3180				
$N = 1024, \mathcal{P}_t = 0.09, n_0^{(0)} = 25$				$n_L = 20, n_H = 8$		$n_m = 22$	
171	-15 dB	151986	45756	239616	115200	474264	276480
341	-12 dB	180396	45420				
683	-8.5 dB	222488	33314				

50% saving in GF additions and 90% in LLR additions compared to SC-EMS.

# SC-PA: Complexity and Simulation Results IV

## ■ B1-SCL32

- Binary SCL with  $L = 32$ .
- $K_b = Kp$ .
- $N_b = Nq$ .
- $r = \frac{K_b}{N_b}$ .

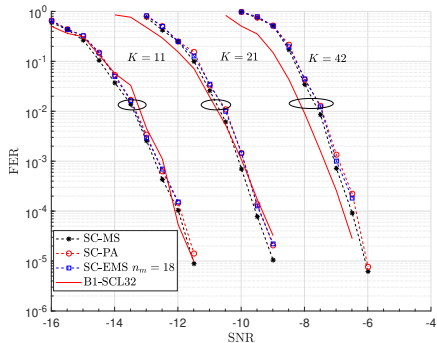
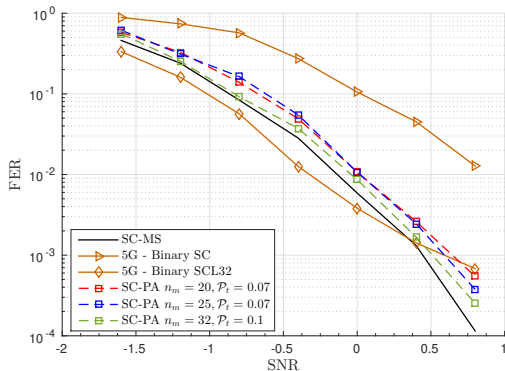


Figure 34: FER Performance over CCSK Modulation for  $N = 64$  on  $GF(q)$ .

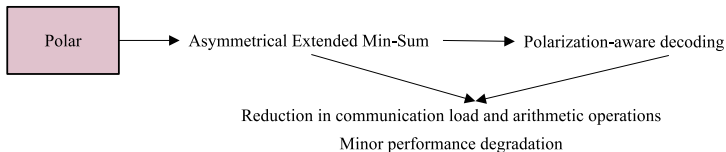
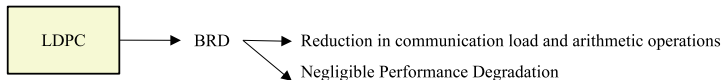
## SC-PA: Complexity and Simulation Results V

Figure 35: SC-PA over BPSK for  $N = 128$ ,  $K = 42$  on GF(64).



# Conclusion

Non-binary codes **outperform** binary codes but **suffer** from higher complexity.



**Thesis objective met :)**

## Perspectives and Future Work

- Overall complexity assessment:
  - Sorting.
  - VN Processing.
  - Routing.
  - Memory allocation.
- Hardware Implementation of proposed algorithms.
- Comprehensive complexity-performance study of non-binary polar and binary polar decoders over non-binary modulation.
- Extend study area to include SC List Decoding for NB Polar codes.
- Non-binary turbo codes.. a vague journey?

*Thank You !*

# List of Publications

- J. Jabour, C. Marchand, and E. Boutillon, "The Best, The Requested, and The Default Non-Binary LDPC Decoding Algorithm," in *2021 11th International Symposium on Topics in Coding (ISTC)*, 2021, pp. 1–5. DOI: [10.1109/ISTC49272.2021.9594148](https://doi.org/10.1109/ISTC49272.2021.9594148)
- J. Jabour, C. Marchand, and E. Boutillon, "The Best, the Requested, and the Default Elementary Check Node for EMS NB-LDPC Decoder," in *2023 IEEE Wireless Communications and Networking Conference (WCNC)*, 2023, pp. 1–6. DOI: [10.1109/WCNC55385.2023.10118720](https://doi.org/10.1109/WCNC55385.2023.10118720)
- J. Jabour, A. C. Al-Ghouwayel, and E. Boutillon, "Asymmetrical Extended Min-Sum for Successive Cancellation Decoding of Non-Binary Polar Codes," in *2023 12th International Symposium on Topics in Coding (ISTC)*, 2023, pp. 1–5. DOI: [10.1109/ISTC57237.2023.10273502](https://doi.org/10.1109/ISTC57237.2023.10273502)
- J. Jabour, A. C. Al-Ghouwayel, and E. Boutillon, "Polarization-Aware Decoding for Non-binary Polar Decoders," *IEEE Communication Letters*, 2023. DOI: Submitted
- E. Boutillon, J. Jabour, and M. Cédric, "A method for decoding a codeword encoded using a non-binary code, corresponding device, and computer program," WO2023025960A1, 2023. [Online]. Available: <https://patents.google.com/patent/WO2023025960A1>

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