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Handout 29 Information Theory and Coding
Homework 12 Dec. 11, 2023

PROBLEM 1. Suppose we are told that for any n and M, for any binary code with blocklength n, with M codewords, the minimum distance d_{min} satisfies $d_{min} \le d_0(M,n)$ where d_0 is a specified upper bound on minimum distance.

(a) Show that any upper bound d_0 can be improved to he following upper bound: for any n, M, for any binary code with blocklength n with M codewords

$$d_{min} \le d_1(M,n)$$

where $d_1(M,n) = \min_{k:\ 0\le k\le n} d_0(\lceil M/2^k \rceil, n-k)$.

(b) Consider the trivial bound

$$d_0(M,n) = \begin{cases} n, & M \ge 2 \\ \infty, & M \le 1 \end{cases}$$

What is the bound d_1 constructed via (a) for this d_0?

(c) Suppose we are given a binary code with M words of blocklength n. Fix $1 \le i \le n$ and let $a_1, \dots, a_M$ be the ith bits if the M codewords. Suppose M_1 of the a_m's are '1' and M_0 of them are '0'. Show that

$$\sum_{m=1}^{M} \sum_{\substack{m'=1 \\ m'\ne m}}^{M} d_H(a_m, a'_m) = 2M_0M_1 \le M^2/2.$$

(d) Show that for any binary code with $M \ge 2$ codewords $x_1, \dots, x_M$ of blocklength n

$$M(M-1)d_{min} \le \sum_{m=1}^{M} \sum_{\substack{m'=1 \\ m'\ne m}}^{M} d_H(x_m, x_{m'}) \le nM^2/2;$$

consequently, $d_{min} \le \lfloor \frac{1}{2} n \frac{M}{M-1} \rfloor$.

PROBLEM 2. Let $W : \{0,1\} \longrightarrow \mathcal{Y}$ be a channel where the input is binary and where the output alphabet is $\mathcal{Y}$. The Bhattacharyya parameter of the channel W is defined as

$$Z(W) = \sum_{y\in\mathcal{Y}} \sqrt{W(y|0)W(y|1)}.$$

Let X_1, X_2 be two independent random variables uniformly distributed in $\{0,1\}$ and let Y_1 and Y_2 be the output of the channel W when the input is X_1 and X_2 respectively, i.e., $\mathbb{P}_{Y_1,Y_2|X_1,X_2}(y_1,y_2|x_1,x_2) = W(y_1|x_1)W(y_2|x_2)$. Define the channels $W^- : \{0,1\} \longrightarrow \mathcal{Y}^2$ and $W^+ : \{0,1\} \longrightarrow \mathcal{Y}^2 \times \{0,1\}$ as follows:

- $W^-(y_1, y_2|u_1) = \mathbb{P}[Y_1 = y_1, Y_2 = y_2|X_1 \oplus X_2 = u_1]$ for every $u_1 \in \{0,1\}$ and every $y_1, y_2 \in \mathcal{Y}$, where $\oplus$ is the XOR operation.
- $W^+(y_1, y_2, u_1|u_2) = \mathbb{P}[Y_1 = y_1, Y_2 = y_2, X_1 \oplus X_2 = u_1|X_2 = u_2]$ for every $u_1, u_2 \in \{0,1\}$ and every $y_1, y_2 \in \mathcal{Y}$.

(a) Show that $W^-(y_1, y_2|u_1) = \dfrac{1}{2} \displaystyle\sum_{u_2 \in \{0,1\}} W(y_1|u_1 \oplus u_2) W(y_2|u_2)$.

(b) Show that $W^+(y_1, y_2, u_1|u_2) = \dfrac{1}{2} W(y_1|u_1 \oplus u_2) W(y_2|u_2)$.

(c) Show that $Z(W^+) = Z(W)^2$.

For every $y \in \mathcal{Y}$ define $\alpha(y) = W(y|0)$, $\beta(y) = W(y|1)$ and $\gamma(y) = \sqrt{\alpha(y)\beta(y)}$.

(d) Show that

$$Z(W^-) = \sum_{y_1, y_2 \in \mathcal{Y}} \frac{1}{2} \sqrt{\Big(\alpha(y_1)\alpha(y_2) + \beta(y_1)\beta(y_2)\Big)\Big(\alpha(y_1)\beta(y_2) + \beta(y_1)\alpha(y_2)\Big)}.$$

(e) Show that for every $x, y, z, t \geq 0$ we have $\sqrt{x+y+z+t} \leq \sqrt{x} + \sqrt{y} + \sqrt{z} + \sqrt{t}$. Deduce that

$$\begin{aligned} Z(W^-) \leq &\frac{1}{2}\left(\sum_{y_1, y_2 \in \mathcal{Y}} \alpha(y_1)\gamma(y_2)\right) + \frac{1}{2}\left(\sum_{y_1, y_2 \in \mathcal{Y}} \alpha(y_2)\gamma(y_1)\right) \\ &+ \frac{1}{2}\left(\sum_{y_1, y_2 \in \mathcal{Y}} \beta(y_2)\gamma(y_1)\right) + \frac{1}{2}\left(\sum_{y_1, y_2 \in \mathcal{Y}} \beta(y_1)\gamma(y_2)\right). \end{aligned} \tag{1}$$

(f) Show that every sum in (1) is equal to $Z(W)$. Deduce that $Z(W^-) \leq 2Z(W)$.

Problem 3. For a given value $0 \leq z_0 \leq 1$, define the following random process:

$$Z_0 = z_0, \quad Z_{i+1} = \begin{cases} Z_i^2 & \text{with probability } 1/2 \\ 2Z_i - Z_i^2 & \text{with probability } 1/2 \end{cases} \qquad i \geq 0,$$

with the sequence of random choices made independently. Observe that the Z process keeps track of the polarization of a Binary Erasure Channel with erasure probability z_0 as it is transformed by the polar transform: $\mathbb{P}(Z_i = z)$ is exactly the fraction of Binary Erasure Channels having an erasure probability z among the 2^i BEC channels which are synthesized by the polar transform at the ith level. The aim of this problem is to prove that for any $\delta > 0$, $\mathbb{P}\big[Z_i \in (\delta, 1-\delta)\big] \to 0$ as i gets large.

(a) Define $Q_i = \sqrt{Z_i(1 - Z_i)}$. Find $f_1(z)$ and $f_2(z)$ so that

$$Q_{i+1} = Q_i \times \begin{cases} f_1(Z_i) & \text{with probability } 1/2, \\ f_2(Z_i) & \text{with probability } 1/2. \end{cases}$$

(b) Show that $f_1(z) + f_2(z) \leq \sqrt{3}$. Based on this, find a $\rho < 1$ so that

$$\mathbb{E}\big[Q_{i+1} \,\big|\, Z_0, \ldots, Z_i\big] \leq \rho Q_i.$$

(c) Show that, for the ρ you found in (b), $\mathbb{E}[Q_i] \le \frac{1}{2}\rho^i$.

(d) Show that

$$\mathbb{P}\big[Z_i \in (\delta, 1-\delta)\big] = \mathbb{P}\big[Q_i > \sqrt{\delta(1-\delta)}\big] \le \frac{\rho^i}{2\sqrt{\delta(1-\delta)}}.$$

Deduce that $\mathbb{P}\big[Z_i \in (\delta, 1-\delta)\big] \to 0$ as i gets large.