Chapter 12

Optimum Decoding of Convolutional Codes

12.1 (Note: The problem should read " for the (3,2,2) encoder in Example 11.2 "rather than " for the (3,2,2) code in Table 12.1(d)".) The state diagram of the encoder is given by:



From the state diagram, we can draw a trellis diagram containing h + m + 1 = 3 + 1 + 1 = 5 levels as shown below:



Hence, for $\mathbf{u} = (11, 01, 10)$,

$\mathbf{v}^{(0)}$	=	(1001)
$\mathbf{v}^{(1)}$	=	(1001)
$\mathbf{v}^{(2)}$	=	(0011)

and

$$\mathbf{v} = (110, 000, 001, 111)$$

agreeing with (11.16) in Example 11.2. The path through the trellis corresponding to this codeword is shown highlighted in the figure.

12.2 Note that

$$\sum_{l=0}^{N-1} c_2 \left[\log P(r_l | v_l) + c_1 \right] = \sum_{l=0}^{N-1} \left[c_2 \log P(r_l | v_l) + c_2 c_1 \right]$$
$$= c_2 \sum_{l=0}^{N-1} \log P(r_l | v_l) + N c_2 c_1.$$

Since

$$\max_{\mathbf{v}} \left\{ c_2 \sum_{l=0}^{N-1} \log P(r_l | v_l) + N c_2 c_1 \right\} = c_2 \max_{\mathbf{v}} \left\{ \sum_{l=0}^{N-1} \log P(r_l | v_l) \right\} + N c_2 c_1$$

if C_2 is positive, any path that maximizes $\sum_{l=0}^{N-1} \log P(r_l|v_l)$ also maximizes $\sum_{l=0}^{N-1} c_2[\log P(r_l|v_l) + c_1]$.

12.3 The integer metric table becomes:

	0_{1}	0_{2}	1_{2}	1_{1}
0	6	5	3	0
1	0	3	5	6

The received sequence is $\mathbf{r} = (1_1 1_2 0_1, 1_1 1_1 0_2, 1_1 1_1 0_1, 1_1 1_1 1_1, 0_1 1_2 0_1, 1_2 0_2 1_1, 1_2 0_1 1_1)$. The decoded sequence is shown in the figure below, and the final survivor is

 $\hat{\mathbf{v}} = (111, 010, 110, 011, 000, 000, 000),$

which yields a decoded information sequence of

 $\hat{\mathbf{u}} = (11000).$

This result agrees with Example 12.1.



12.4 For the given channel transition probabilities, the resulting metric table is:

	0_{1}	0_{2}	0_{3}	0_4	1_{4}	1_{3}	1_{2}	1_{1}
0	-0.363	-0.706	-0.777	-0.955	-1.237	-1.638	-2.097	-2.699
1	-2.699	-2.097	-1.638	-1.237	-0.955	-0.777	-0.706	-0.363

To construct an integer metric table, choose $c_1 = 2.699$ and $c_2 = 4.28$. Then the integer metric table becomes:

	0_{1}	0_{2}	0_{3}	0_4	1_{4}	1_{3}	1_{2}	1_{1}
0	10	9	8	7	6	5	3	0
1	0	3	5	6	$\overline{7}$	8	9	10

- 12.5 (a) Referring to the state diagram of Figure 11.13(a), the trellis diagram for an information sequence of length h = 4 is shown in the figure below.
 - (b) After Viterbi decoding the final survivor is

$$\hat{\mathbf{v}} = (11, 10, 01, 00, 11, 00).$$

This corresponds to the information sequence

$$\hat{\mathbf{u}} = (1110).$$



12.6 Combining the soft decision outputs yields the following transition probabilities:

	0	1
0	0.909	0.091
1	0.091	0.909

For hard decision decoding, the metric is simply Hamming distance. For the received sequence

 $\mathbf{r} = (11, 10, 00, 01, 10, 01, 00),$

the decoding trellis is as shown in the figure below, and the final survivor is

$$\hat{\mathbf{v}} = (11, 10, 01, 01, 00, 11, 00),$$

which corresponds to the information sequence

 $\hat{\mathbf{u}} = (1110).$

This result matches the result obtained using soft decisions in Problem 12.5.



12.9 **Proof:** For d even,

$$P_{d} = \frac{1}{2} \begin{pmatrix} d \\ d/2 \end{pmatrix} p^{d/2} (1-p)^{d/2} + \sum_{e=(d/2)+1}^{d} \begin{pmatrix} d \\ e \end{pmatrix} p^{e} (1-p)^{d-e}$$

$$< \sum_{e=(d/2)}^{d} \begin{pmatrix} d \\ e \end{pmatrix} p^{e} (1-p)^{d-e}$$

$$< \sum_{e=(d/2)}^{d} \begin{pmatrix} d \\ e \end{pmatrix} p^{d/2} (1-p)^{d/2}$$

$$= p^{d/2} (1-p)^{d/2} \sum_{e=(d/2)}^{d} \begin{pmatrix} d \\ e \end{pmatrix}$$

$$< 2^{d} p^{d/2} (1-p)^{d/2}$$

and thus (12.21) is an upper bound on P_d for d even.

Q. E. D.

12.10 The event error probability is bounded by (12.25)

$$P(E) < \sum_{d=d_{free}}^{\infty} A_d P_d < A(X)|_{X=2\sqrt{p(1-p)}}.$$

From Example 11.12,

$$A(X) = \frac{X^6 + X^7 - X^8}{1 - 2X - X^3} = X^6 + 3X^7 + 5X^8 + 11X^9 + 25X^{10} + \cdots,$$

which yields

- (a) $P(E) < 1.2118 \times 10^{-4}$ for p = 0.01, (b) $P(E) < 7.7391 \times 10^{-8}$ for p = 0.001.

The bit error probability is bounded by (12.29)

$$P_b(E) < \sum_{d=d_{free}}^{\infty} B_d P_d < B(X)|_{X=2\sqrt{p(1-p)}} = \frac{1}{k} \left. \frac{\partial A(W,X)}{\partial W} \right|_{X=2\sqrt{p(1-p)}, W=1}.$$

From Example 11.12,

$$A(W,X) = \frac{WX^7 + W^2(X^6 - X^8)}{1 - W(2X + X^3)} = WX^7 + W^2(X^6 + X^8 + X^{10}) + W^3(2X^7 + 3X^9 + 3X^{11} + X^{13}) + \cdots$$

Hence,

$$\frac{\partial A(W,X)}{\partial W} = \frac{X^7 + 2W(X^6 - 3X^8 - X^{10}) - 3W^2(2X^7 - X^9 - X^{11})}{(1 - 2WX - WX^3)^2} + \cdots$$

and

$$\frac{\partial A(W,X)}{\partial W}\Big|_{W=1} = \frac{2X^6 - X^7 - 2X^8 + X^9 + X^{11}}{(1 - 2X - X^3)^2} = 2X^6 + 7X^7 + 18X^8 + \cdots.$$

This yields

- (a) $P_b(E) < 3.0435 \times 10^{-4}$ for p = 0.01,
- (b) $P_b(E) < 1.6139 \times 10^{-7}$ for p = 0.001.
- 12.11 The event error probability is given by (12.26)

$$P(E) \approx A_{d_{free}} \left[2\sqrt{p(1-p)} \right]^{d_{free}} \approx A_{d_{free}} 2^{d_{free}} p^{d_{free}/2}$$

and the bit error probability (12.30) is given by

$$P_b(E) \approx B_{d_{free}} \left[2\sqrt{p(1-p)} \right]^{d_{free}} \approx B_{d_{free}} 2^{d_{free}} p^{d_{free}/2}.$$

From Problem 12.10,

$$d_{free} = 6, \quad A_{d_{free}} = 1, \quad B_{d_{free}} = 2.$$

(a) For p = 0.01,

$$P(E) \approx 1 \cdot 2^{6} \cdot (0.01)^{6/2} = 6.4 \times 10^{-5}$$
$$P_{b}(E) \approx 2 \cdot 2^{6} \cdot (0.01)^{6/2} = 1.28 \times 10^{-4}.$$

(b) For p = 0.001,

$$P(E) \approx 1 \cdot 2^{6} \cdot (0.001)^{6/2} = 6.4 \times 10^{-8}$$
$$P_{b}(E) \approx 2 \cdot 2^{6} \cdot (0.001)^{6/2} = 1.28 \times 10^{-7}.$$

12.12 The (3, 1, 2) encoder of (12.1) has $d_{free} = 7$ and $B_{d_{free}} = 1$. Thus, expression (12.36) becomes

$$P_b(E) \approx B_{d_{free}} 2^{d_{free}/2} e^{-(Rd_{free}/2) \cdot (E_b/N_o)} = 2^{(7/2)} e^{-(7/6) \cdot (E_b/N_o)}$$

and (12.37) remains

$$P_b(E) \approx \frac{1}{2} e^{-E_b/N_o}.$$

These expressions are plotted versus E_b/N_o in the figure below.



Equating the above expressions and solving for E_b/N_o yields

$$2^{(7/2)}e^{-(7/6)\cdot(E_b/N_o)} = \frac{1}{2}e^{-E_b/N_o}$$

$$1 = 2^{(9/2)}e^{-(1/6)(E_b/N_o)}$$

$$e^{(-1/6)(E_b/N_o)} = 2^{-(9/2)}$$

$$(-1/6)(E_b/N_o) = \ln(2^{-(9/2)})$$

$$E_b/N_o = -6\ln(2^{-(9/2)}) = 18.71$$

which is $E_b/N_o = 12.72$ dB, the coding threshold. The coding gain as a function of $P_b(E)$ is plotted below.



Note that in this example, a short constraint length code ($\nu = 2$) with hard decision decoding, the approximate expressions for $P_b(E)$ indicate that a positive coding gain is only achieved at very small values of $P_b(E)$, and the asymptatic coding gain is only 0.7dB.

12.13 The (3, 1, 2) encoder of Problem 12.1 has $d_{free} = 7$ and $B_{d_{free}} = 1$. Thus, expression (12.46) for the unquantized AWGN channel becomes

$$P_b(E) \approx B_{d_{free}} e^{-Rd_{free}E_b/N_o} = e^{-(7/3)\cdot(E_b/N_o)}$$

and (12.37) remains

$$P_b(E) \approx \frac{1}{2} e^{-E_b/N_o}.$$

These expressions are plotted versus E_b/N_o in the figure below.



Equating the above expressions and solving for E_b/N_o yields

$$e^{-(7/3)\cdot(E_b/N_o)} = \frac{1}{2}e^{-E_b/N_o}$$

$$1 = \frac{1}{2}e^{(4/3)(E_b/N_o)}$$

$$e^{(4/3)(E_b/N_o)} = 2$$

$$(4/3)(E_b/N_o) = \ln(2)$$

$$E_b/N_o = (3/4)\ln(2) = 0.5199,$$

which is $E_b/N_o = -2.84dB$, the coding threshold. (Note: If the slightly tighter bound on Q(x) from (1.5) is used to form the approximate expressin for $P_b(E)$, the coding threshold actually moves to $-\infty dB$. But this is just an artifact of the bounds, which are not tight for small values of E_b/N_o .) The coding gain as a function of $P_b(E)$ is plotted below. Note that in this example, a short constraint length code ($\nu = 2$) with soft decision decoding, the approximate expressions for $P_b(E)$ indicate that a coding gain above 3.0 dB is achieved at moderate values of $P_b(E)$, and the asymptotic coding gain is 3.7 dB.



12.14 The IOWEF function of the (3, 1, 2) encoder of (12.1) is

$$A(W,X) = \frac{WX^7}{1 - WX - WX^3}$$

and thus (12.39b) becomes

$$P_b(E) < B(X)|_{X=D_o} = \frac{1}{k} \left. \frac{\partial A(W,X)}{\partial W} \right|_{X=D_0,W=1} = \left. \frac{X^7}{(1-WX-WX^3)^2} \right|_{X=D_0,W=1}$$

For the DMC of Problem 12.4, $D_0 = 0.42275$ and the above expression becomes

$$P_b(E) < 9.5874 \times 10^{-3}$$

If the DMC is converted to a BSC, then the resulting crossover probability is p = 0.091. Using (12.29) yields

$$P_b(E) < B(X)|_{X=D_o} = \frac{1}{k} \left. \frac{\partial A(W,X)}{\partial W} \right|_{X=2\sqrt{p(1-p)},W=1} = \frac{X^7}{(1-WX-WX^3)^2} \left|_{X=2\sqrt{p(1-p)},W=1} = 3.7096 \times 10^{-1} + 10$$

about a factor of 40 larger than the soft decision case.

12.16 For the optimum (2,1,7) encoder in Table 12.1(c), $d_{free} = 10$, $A_{d_{free}} = 1$, and $B_{d_{free}} = 2$.

(a) From Table 12.1(c)

$$\gamma = 6.99 dB.$$

(b) Using (12.26) yields

$$P(E) \approx A_{d_{free}} 2^{d_{free}} p^{d_{free}/2} = 1.02 \times 10^{-7}.$$

(c) Using (12.30) yields

$$P_b(E) \approx B_{d_{free}} 2^{d_{free}} p^{d_{free}/2} = 2.04 \times 10^{-7}.$$

(d) For this encoder

$$\mathbf{G}^{-1} = \begin{bmatrix} D^2\\ 1+D^+D^2 \end{bmatrix}$$

and the amplification factor is A = 4.

For the quick-look-in (2, 1, 7) encoder in Table 12.2, $d_{free} = 9$, $A_{d_{free}} = 1$, and $B_{d_{free}} = 1$.

(a) From Table 12.2

$$\gamma = 6.53 dB.$$

(b) Using (12.26) yields

$$P(E) \approx A_{d_{free}} 2^{d_{free}} p^{d_{free}/2} = 5.12 \times 10^{-7}.$$

(c) Using (12.30) yields

$$P_b(E) \approx B_{d_{free}} 2^{d_{free}} p^{d_{free}/2} = 5.12 \times 10^{-7}.$$

(d) For this encoder

$$\mathbf{G}^{-1} = \left[\begin{array}{c} 1\\1 \end{array} \right]$$

and the amplification factor is A = 2.

12.17 The generator matrix of a rate
$$R = 1/2$$
 systematic feedforward encoder is of the form

$$\mathbf{G} = \left[1 \ \mathbf{g}^{(1)}(D) \right].$$

Letting $\mathbf{g}^{(1)}(D) = 1 + D + D^2 + D^5 + D^7$ achieves $d_{free} = 6$ with $B_{d_{free}} = 1$ and $A_{d_{free}} = 1$.

(a) The soft-decision asymptotic coding gain is

$$\gamma = 4.77 dB$$

(b) Using (12.26) yields

$$P(E) \approx A_{d_{free}} 2^{d_{free}} p^{d_{free}/2} = 6.4 \times 10^{-5}.$$

(c) Using (12.30) yields

$$P_b(E) \approx B_{d_{free}} 2^{d_{free}} p^{d_{free}/2} = 6.4 \times 10^{-5}.$$

(d) For this encoder (and all systematic encoders)

$$\mathbf{G}^{-1} = \left[\begin{array}{c} 1\\ 0 \end{array} \right]$$

and the amplification factor is A = 1.

12.18 The generator polynomial for the (15,7) BCH code is

$$\mathbf{g}(X) = 1 + X^4 + X^6 + X^7 + X^8$$

and $d_g = 5$. The generator polynomial of the dual code is

$$\mathbf{h}(X) = \frac{X^{15} + 1}{X^8 + X^7 + X^6 + X^4 + 1} = X^7 + X^6 + X^4 + 1$$

and hence $d_h \geq 4$.

(a) The rate R = 1/2 code with composite generator polynomial $\mathbf{g}(D) = 1 + D^4 + D^6 + D^7 + D^8$ has generator matrix

$$\mathbf{G}(D) = \begin{bmatrix} 1 + D^2 + D^3 + D^4 & D^3 \end{bmatrix}$$

and $d_{free} \ge \min(5, 8) = 5$.

(b) The rate R = 1/4 code with composite generator polynomial $\mathbf{g}(D) = \mathbf{g}(D^2) + D\mathbf{h}(D^2) = 1 + D + D^8 + D^9 + D^{12} + D^{13} + D^{14} + D^{15} + D^{16}$ has generator matrix

$$\mathbf{G}(D) = \begin{bmatrix} 1 + D^2 + D^3 + D^4 & 1 + D^2 + D^3 & D^3 \end{bmatrix}$$

and $d_{free} \ge \min(d_g + d_h, 3d_g, 3d_h) = \min(9, 15, 12) = 9.$

The generator polynomial for the (31, 16) BCH code is

$$\mathbf{g}(X) = 1 + X + X^{2} + X^{3} + X^{5} + X^{7} + X^{8} + X^{9} + X^{10} + X^{11} + X^{15}$$

and $d_g = 7$. The generator polynomial of the dual code is

$$\mathbf{h}(X) = \frac{X^{15} + 1}{\mathbf{g}(X)} = X^{16} + X^{12} + X^{11} + X^{10} + X^9 + X^4 + X + 1$$

and hence $d_h \ge 6$.

(a) The rate R = 1/2 code with composite generator polynomial $\mathbf{g}(D) = 1 + D + D^2 + D^3 + D^5 + D^7 + D^8 + D^9 + D^{10} + D^{11} + D^{15}$ has generator matrix

$$\mathbf{G}(D) = \begin{bmatrix} 1 + D + D^4 + D^5 & 1 + D + D^2 + D^3 + D^4 + D^5 + D^7 \end{bmatrix}$$

and $d_{free} \ge \min(7, 12) = 7$.

(b) The rate R = 1/4 code with composite generator polynomial $\mathbf{g}(D) = \mathbf{g}(D^2) + D\mathbf{h}(D^2) = 1 + D + D^2 + D^3 + D^4 + D^6 + D^9 + D^{10} + D^{14} + D^{16} + D^{18} + D^{19} + D^{20} + D^{21} + D^{22} + D^{23}$ has generator matrix

$$\mathbf{G}(D) = \begin{bmatrix} 1 + D + D^4 + D^5 & 1 + D^2 + D^5 + D^6 + D^8 & 1 + D + D^2 + D^3 + D^4 + D^5 + D^7 & 1 + D^5 \end{bmatrix}$$

and $d_{free} \ge \min(d_g + d_h, 3d_g, 3d_h) = \min(13, 21, 18) = 13.$

12.20 (a) The augmented state diagram is shown below.



The generating function is given by

$$A(W, X, L) = \frac{\sum_{i} F_i \Delta_i}{\Delta}$$

There are 3 cycles in the graph:

There is one pair of nontouching cycles:

Cycle pair 1: (loop 1, loop 3) $C_1C_3 = W^2 X^4 L^3$.

There are no more sets of nontouching cycles. Therefore,

$$\Delta = 1 - \sum_{i} C_{i} + \sum_{i',j'} C_{i'} C_{j'}$$

= 1 - (WX³L² + W²X⁴L³ + WXL) + W²X⁴L³.

There are 2 forward paths:

Forward path 1:
$$S_0 S_1 S_2 S_0$$
 $F_1 = W X^7 L^3$
Forward path 2: $S_0 S_1 S_3 S_2 S_0$ $F_2 = W^2 X^8 L^4$.

Only cycle 3 does not touch forward path 1, and hence

$$\Delta_1 = 1 - WXL.$$

Forward path 2 touches all the cycles, and hence

$$\Delta_2 = 1.$$

Finally, the WEF A(W, X, L) is given by

$$A(W, X, L) = \frac{WX^7L^3(1 - WXL) + W^2X^8L^4}{1 - (WX^3L^2 + W^2X^4L^3 + WXL) + W^2X^4L^3} = \frac{WX^7L^3}{1 - WXL - WX^3L^2}$$

and the generating WEF's $A_i(W, X, L)$ are given by:

$$\begin{split} A_1(W,X,L) &= \frac{WX^3L(1-WXL)}{\Delta} = \frac{WX^3L(1-WXL)}{1-WXL-WX^3L^2} \\ &= WX^3L + W^2X^6L^3 + W^3X^7L^4 + (W^3X^9 + W^4X^8)L^5 + (2W^4, X^{10} + W^5X^9)L^6 + \cdots \\ A_2(W,X,L) &= \frac{WX^5L^2(1-WXL) + W^2X^6L^3}{\Delta} = \frac{WX^5L^2}{1-WXL-WX^3L^2} \\ &= WX^5L^2 + W^2X^6L^3 + (W^2X^8 + W^3X^7)L^4 + (2W^3X^9 + W^4X^8)L^5 \\ &+ (W^3X^{11} + 3W^4X^{10} + W^5X^9)L^6 + \cdots \\ A_3(W,X,L) &= \frac{W^2X^4L^2}{\Delta} = \frac{W^2X^4L^2}{1-WXL-WX^3L^2} \\ &= W^2X^4L^2 + W^3X^5L^3 + (W^3X^7 + W^4X^6)L^4 + (2W^4X^8 + W^5X^7)L^5 \\ &+ (W^4X^{10} + 3W^5X^9 + W^6X^8)L^6 \cdots \end{split}$$

(b) This code has $d_{free} = 7$, so τ_{min} is the minimum value of τ for which $d(\tau) = d_{free} + 1 = 8$. Examining the series expansions of $A_1(W, X, L)$, $A_2(W, X, L)$, and $A_3(W, X, L)$ above yields $\tau_{min} = 5$.

(c) A table of $d(\boldsymbol{\tau})$ and $A_{d(\boldsymbol{\tau})}$ is given below.

au	$d(oldsymbol{ au})$	$A_{d(\boldsymbol{\tau})}$
0	3	1
1	4	1
2	5	1
3	6	1
4	7	1
5	8	1

(d) From part (c) and by looking at the series expansion of $A_3(W, X, L)$, it can be seen that

$$\lim_{\boldsymbol{\tau}\to\infty} d(\boldsymbol{\tau}) = \boldsymbol{\tau} + 3.$$

12.21 For a BSC, the trellis diagram of Figure 12.6 in the book may be used to decode the three possible 21bit subequences using the Hamming metric. The results are shown in the three figures below. Since the r used in the middle figure (b) below has the smallest Hamming distance (2) of the three subsequences, it is the most likely to be correctly synchronized.





(b)



(c)