



CS3236 INTRODUCTION TO INFORMATION THEORY

Lecture 1: Introduction

Course given by Pierre Senellart

Material by Stephanie Wehner, with additions by P. Senellart

CLASS SURVIVAL GUIDE

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Lecture on Monday 2-4pm

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- Tutorial on Thursday 2-3pm, starting September 4
 - Discussion, QA, help with homework exercises
 - Discussion on projects

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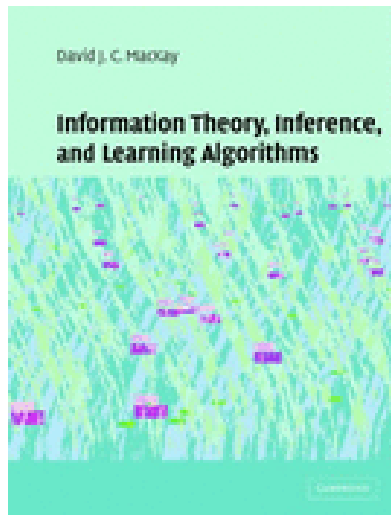
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- Grading
 - 50% Exam (examination period: Nov 22 to Dec 6)
 - 50% Continuous Assessment
 - 10% Mid-Term exam (October 13)
 - 20% Homework (assigned each week, due next Monday)
 - 20% Small project (handed out September 1, due November 14)

CLASS SURVIVAL GUIDE

- IVLE – Slides, materials, discussion board. Make use of it
- Book (also available in electronic form for free from <http://www.inference.phy.cam.ac.uk/itila/>)



Information Theory, Inference and Learning Algorithms
by David J. C. MacKay
Cambridge University Press, 2003

A PICTURE FROM MARS

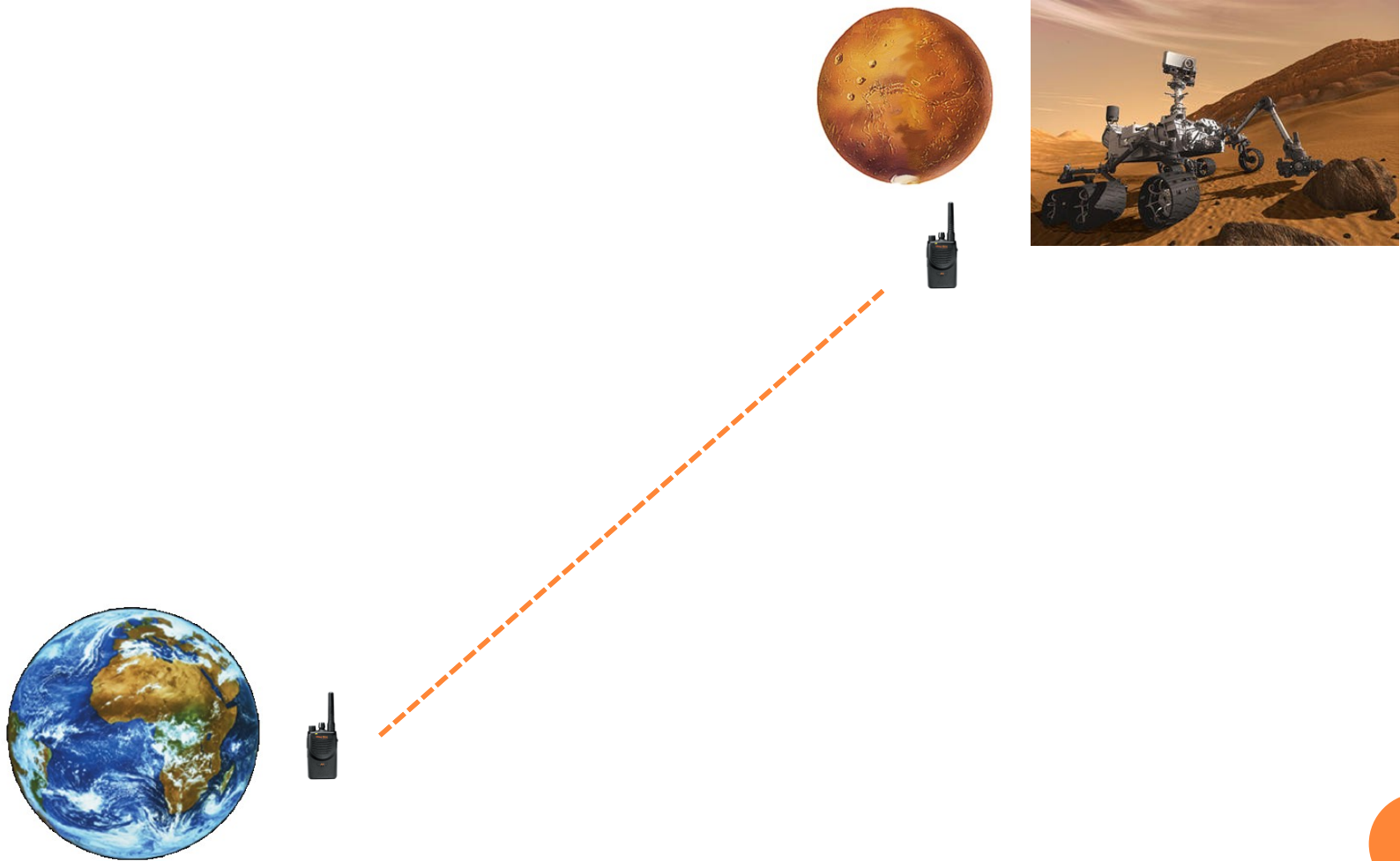


A PICTURE FROM MARS

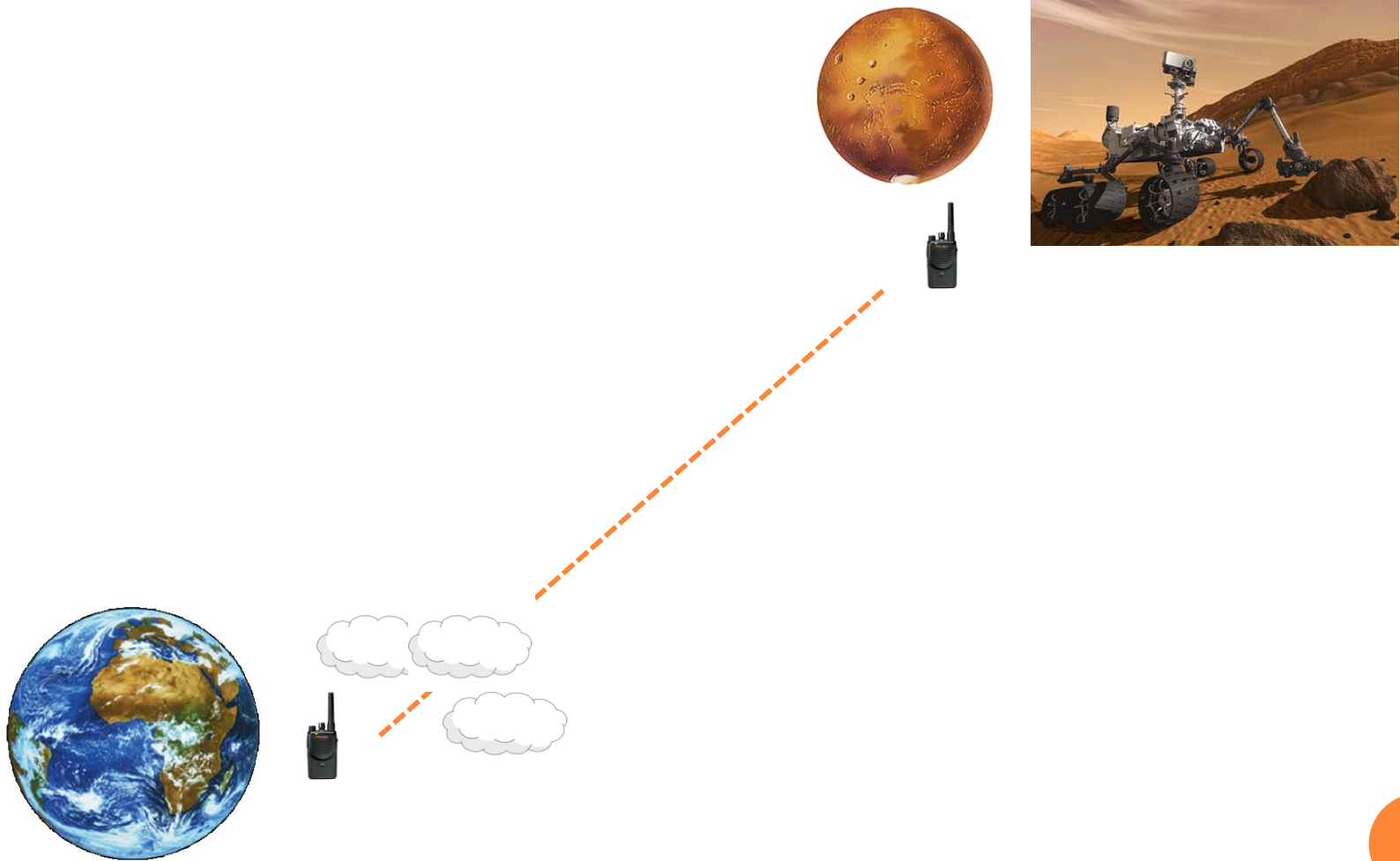


How did we manage to get this image from Mars to Earth?

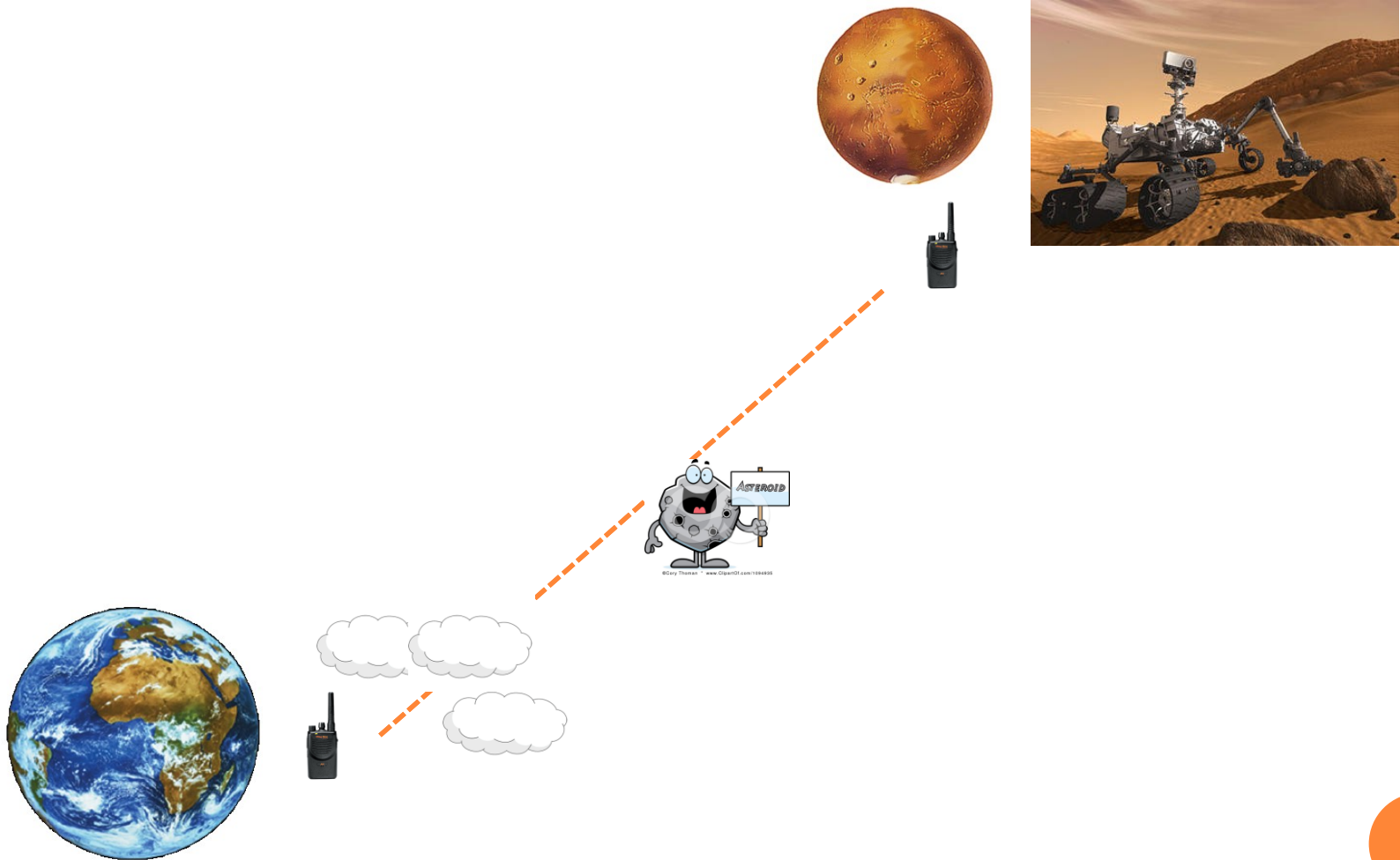
PROBLEM OF INFORMATION TRANSMISSION



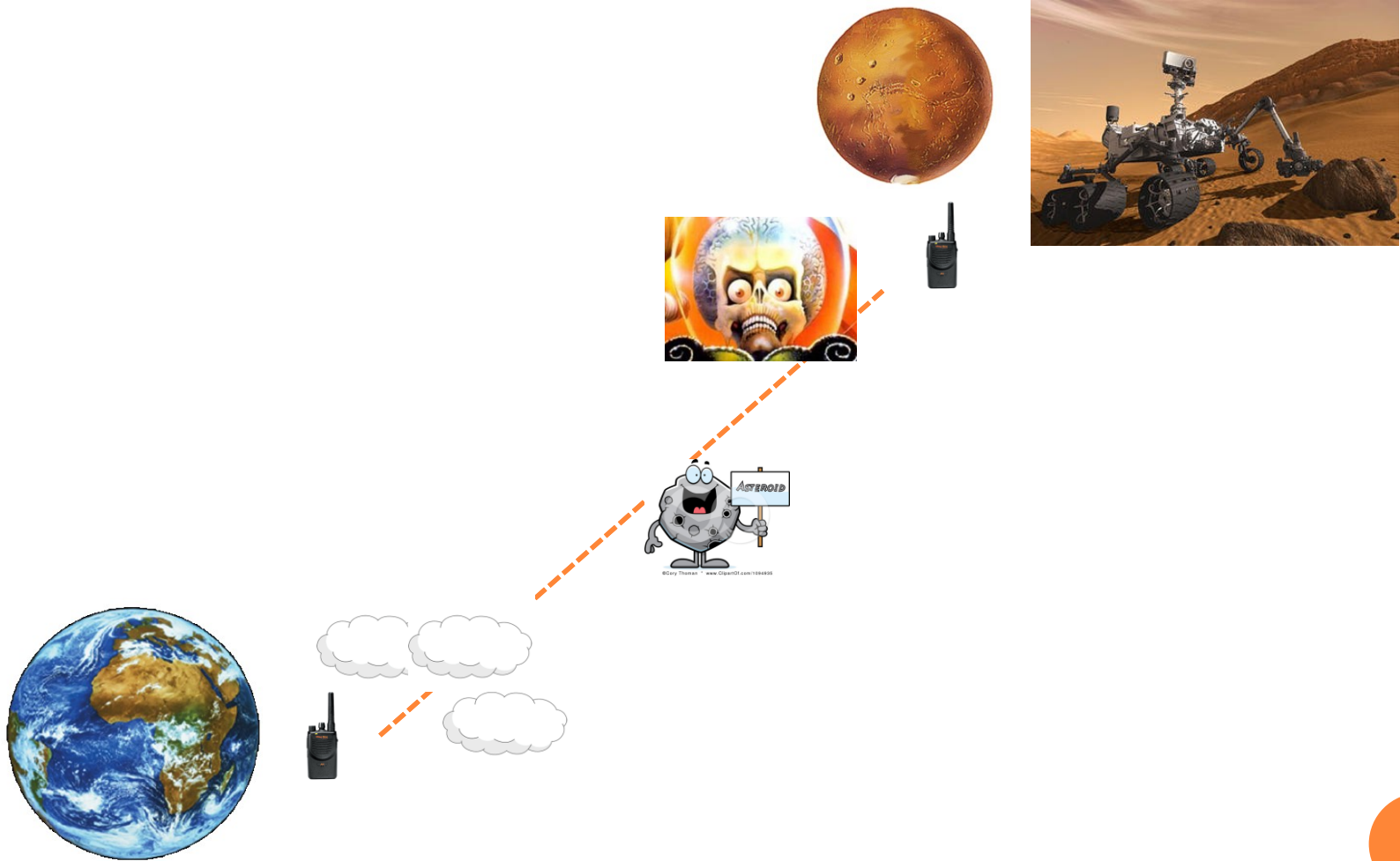
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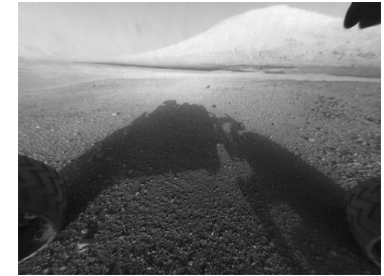
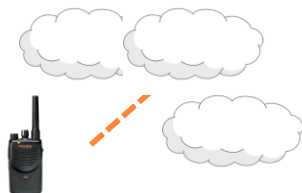
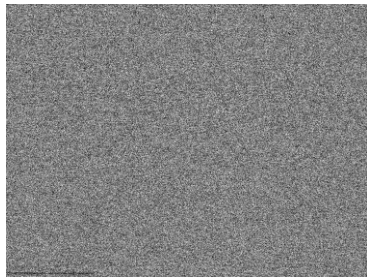
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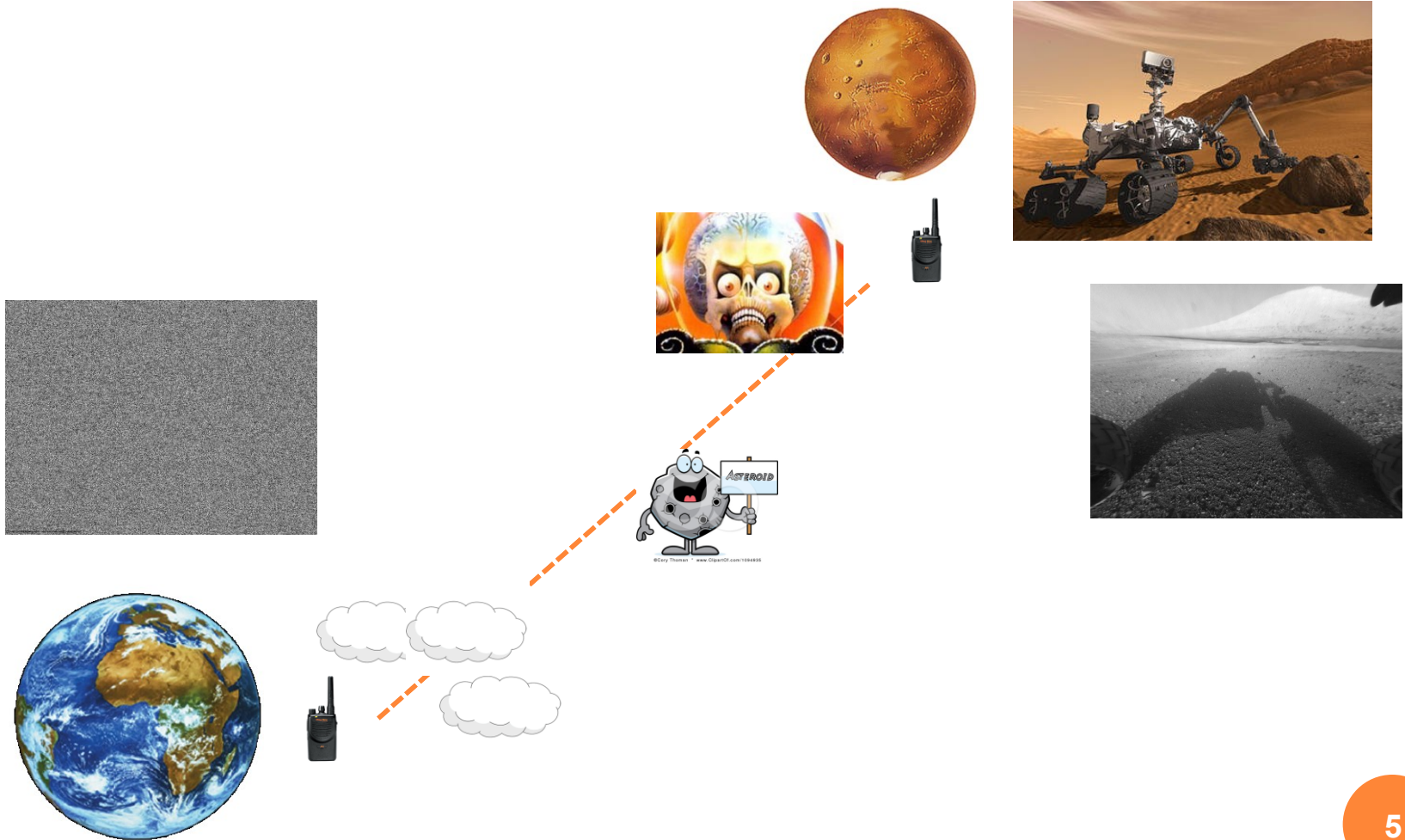
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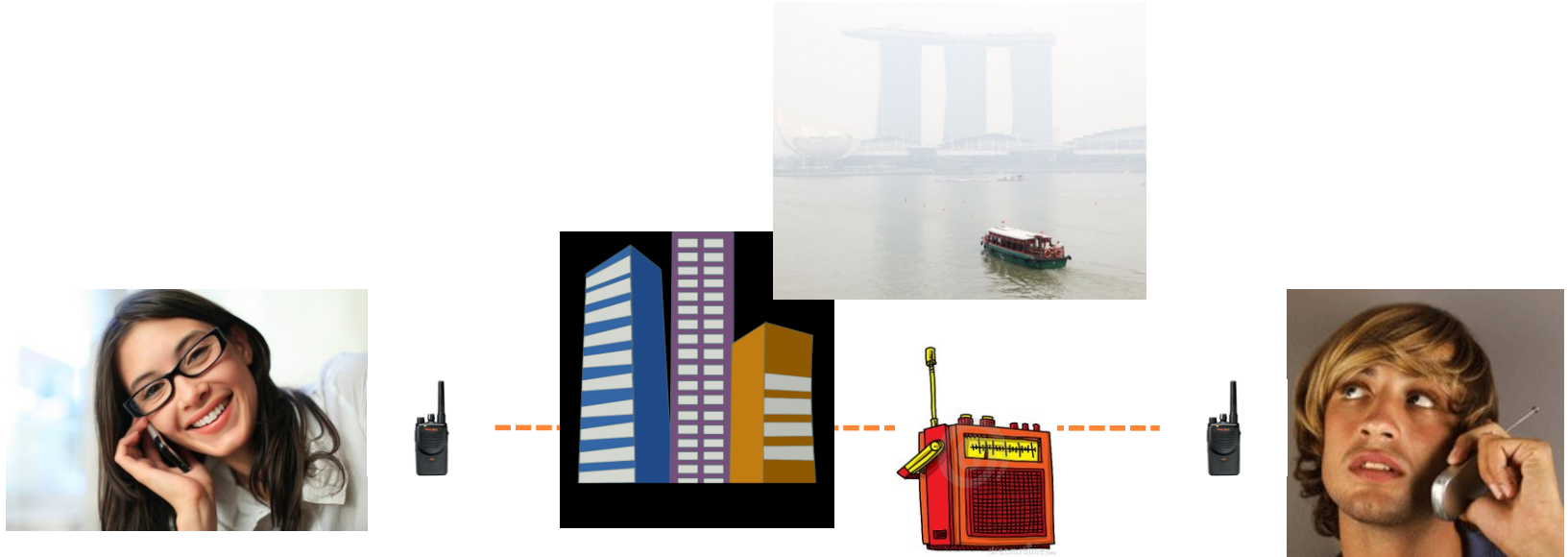


PROBLEM OF INFORMATION TRANSMISSION



How on earth can we still get the picture???

PROBLEM OF INFORMATION TRANSMISSION



How can we transmit voice signals correctly?

PROBLEM OF INFORMATION TRANSMISSION



How can we store and retrieve information from a hard disk?



PROBLEM OF INFORMATION TRANSMISSION



How can biological systems store and retrieve genetic information?

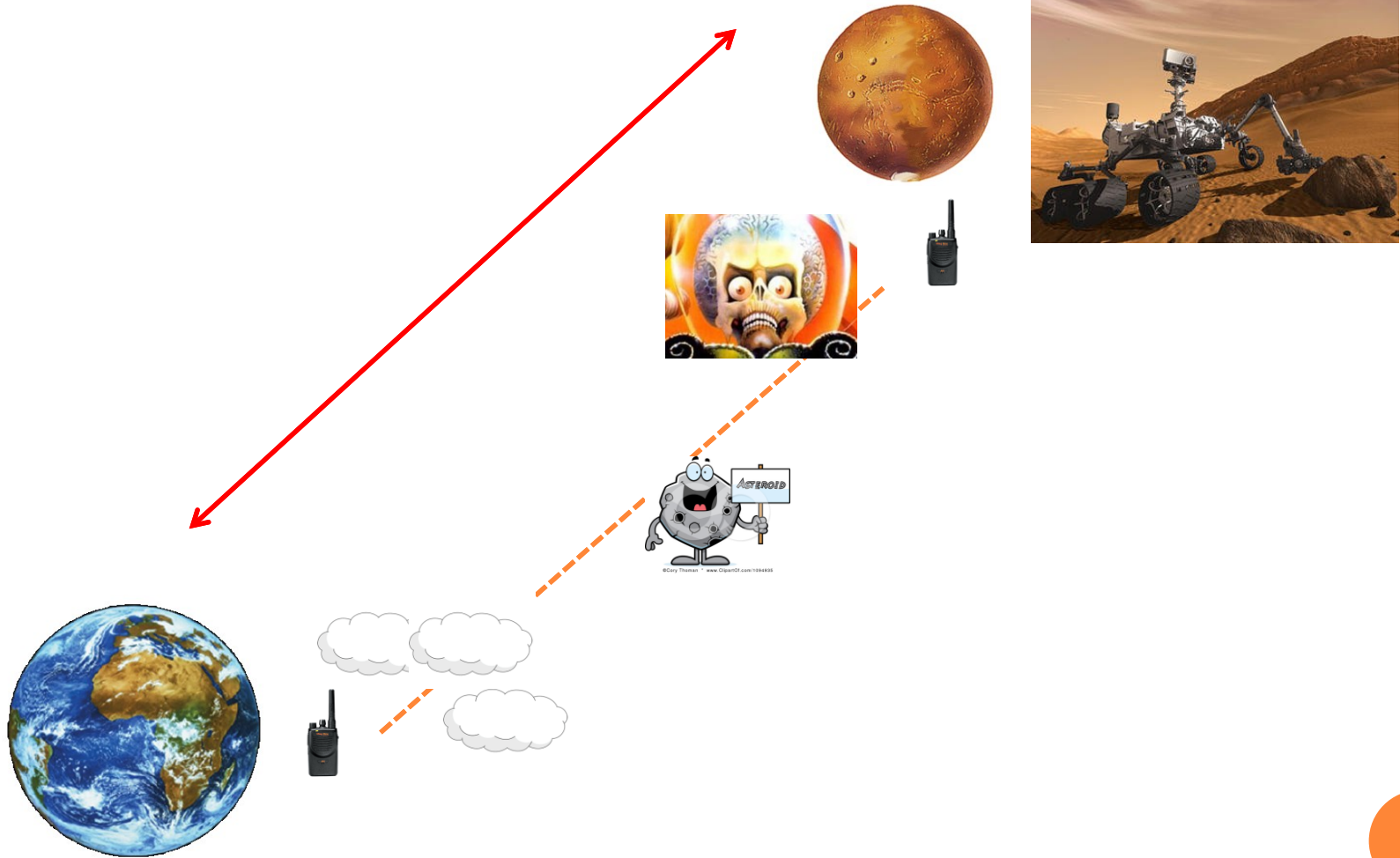
GOAL OF INFORMATION THEORY

What is the best way to store
or transmit information?

METHOD 1: IF IT FAILS, SEND AGAIN



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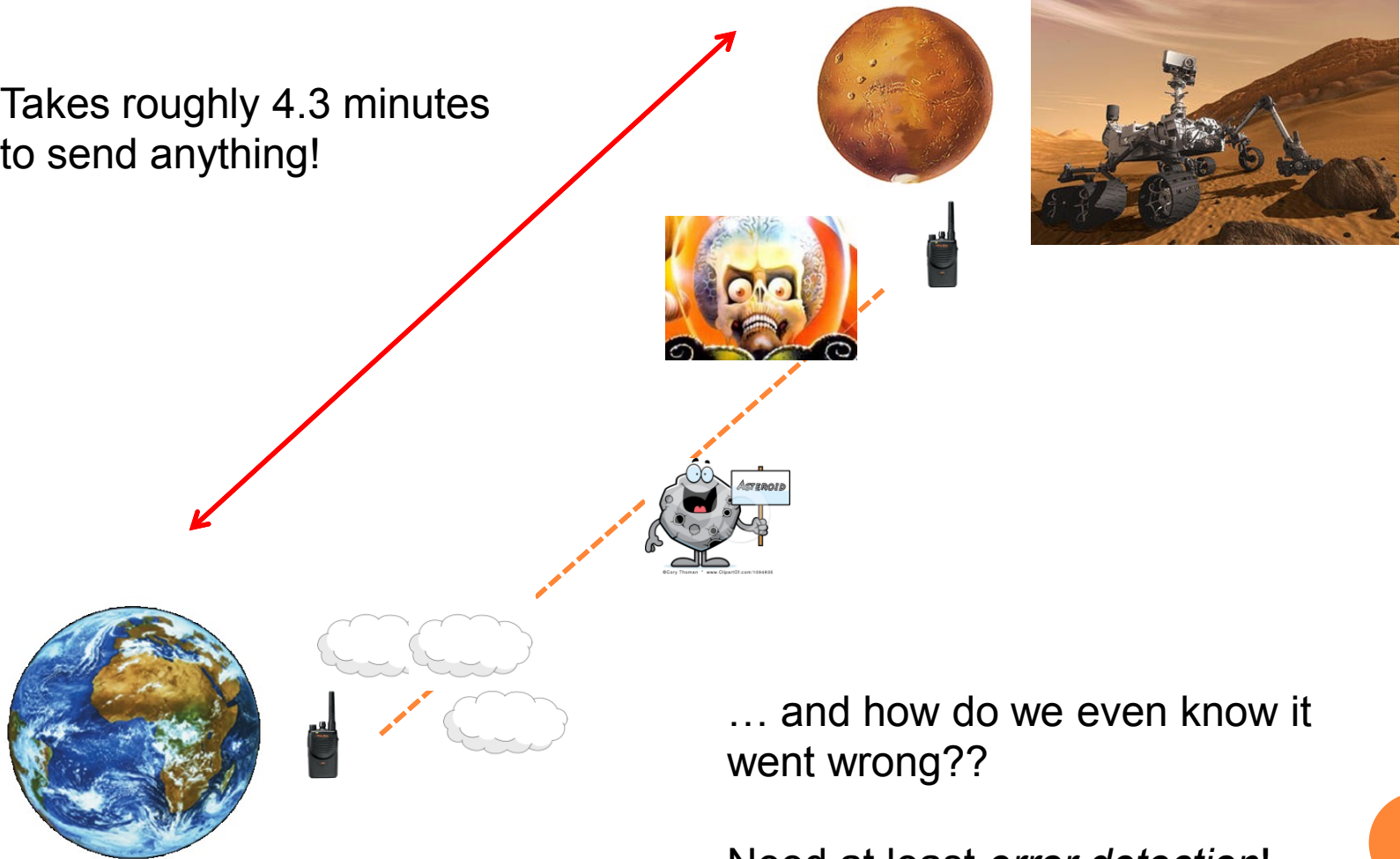
METHOD 1: IF IT FAILS, SEND AGAIN

Takes roughly 4.3 minutes to send anything!



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Takes roughly 4.3 minutes to send anything!



... and how do we even know it went wrong??

Need at least *error detection!*

METHOD 1: IF IT FAILS, SEND AGAIN



METHOD 1: IF IT FAILS, SEND AGAIN



HUH?

The moment were we want to retrieve the data may be far in the future.... when original is no longer available!

Your brain already has an amazing amount of error detection and memory built in 😊

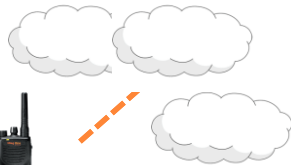
METHOD 2: IMPROVE SITUATION



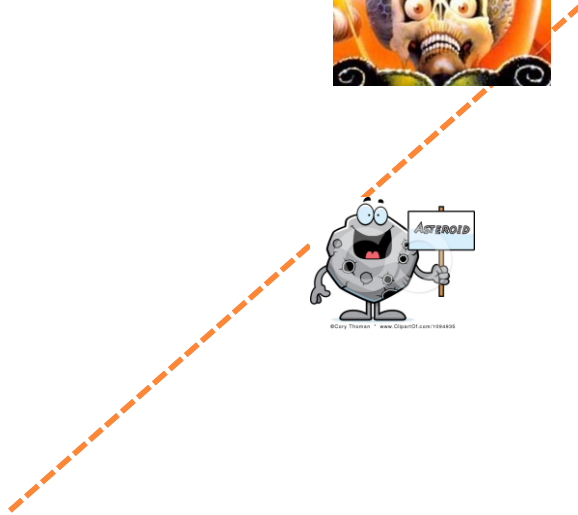
Reduce the amount of errors by making a better hard disk

Very expensive!

METHOD 2: IMPROVE THE SITUATION



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Not possible to eliminate all errors!

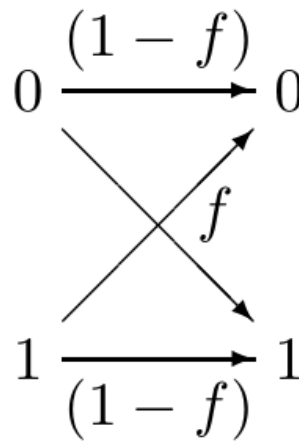
GOAL OF INFORMATION THEORY

What is the best way to store
or transmit information?

Without changing
the situation!

WHAT IS NOISE?

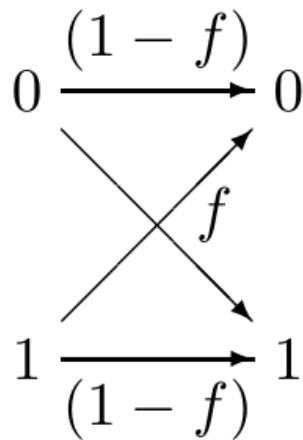
- Example: binary symmetric channel



Flips the input bit with probability f

WHAT IS NOISE?

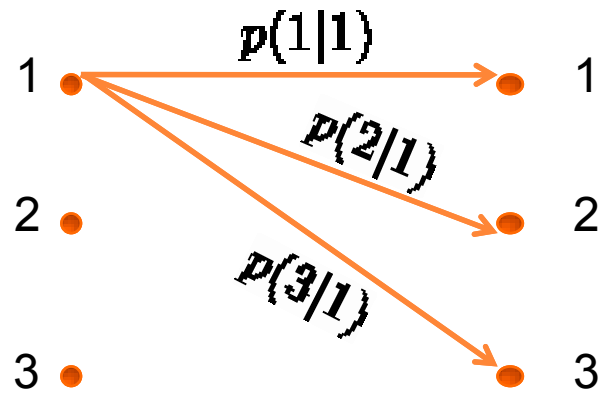
- Any noise channel is given by conditional probability distributions mapping inputs to output



Correct: $p(0|0) = p(1|1) = 1 - f$

Error: $p(1|0) = p(0|1) = f$

WHAT IS NOISE?

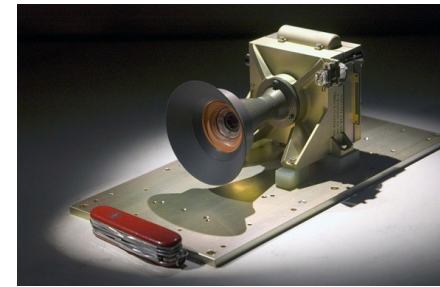


Any noisy channel is given by such conditional probabilities.

“Using the channel”: give one input and receive one output

WHAT IS A SOURCE (OF INFORMATION)?

- Determines the information we want to send

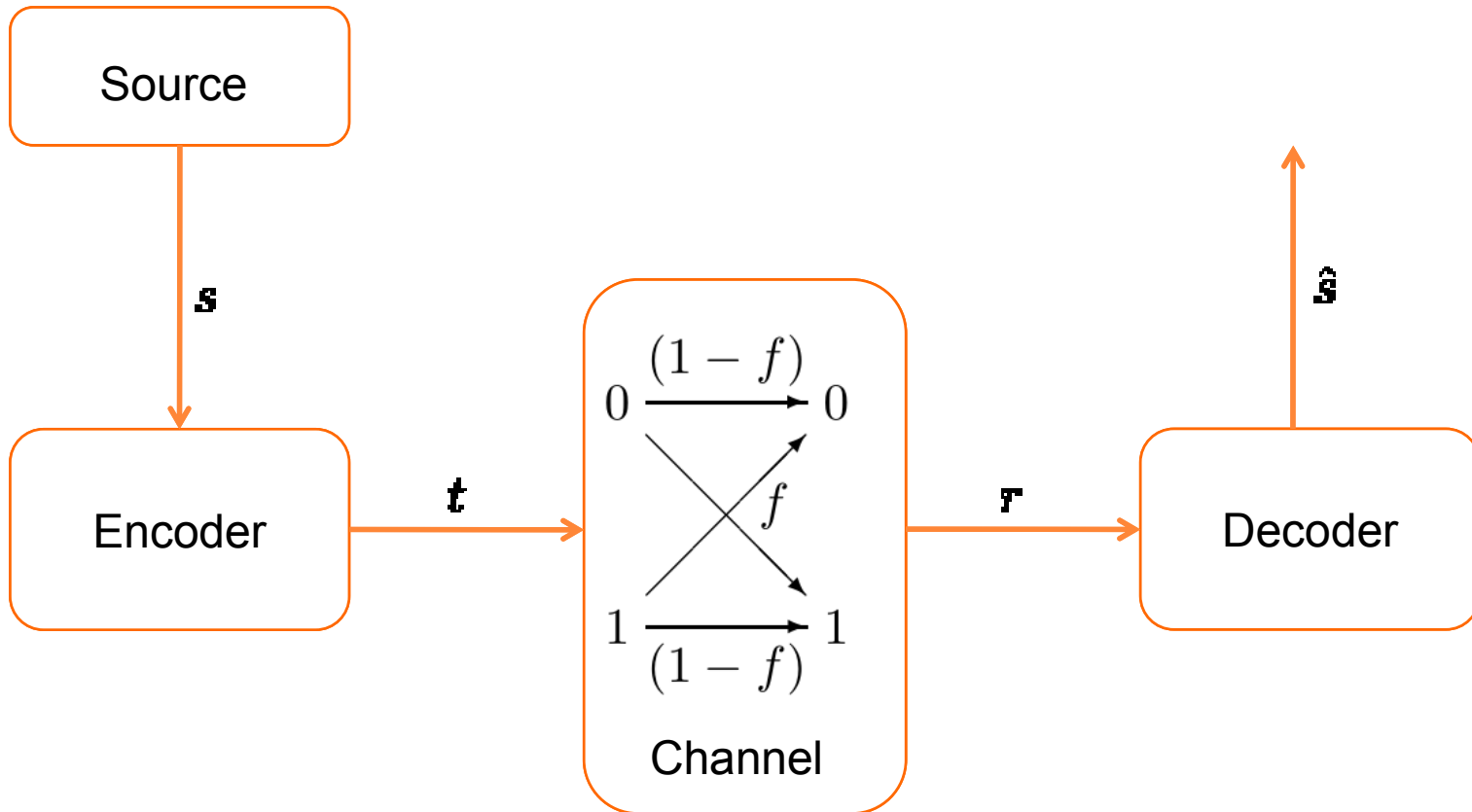


- Mathematically, probability distribution



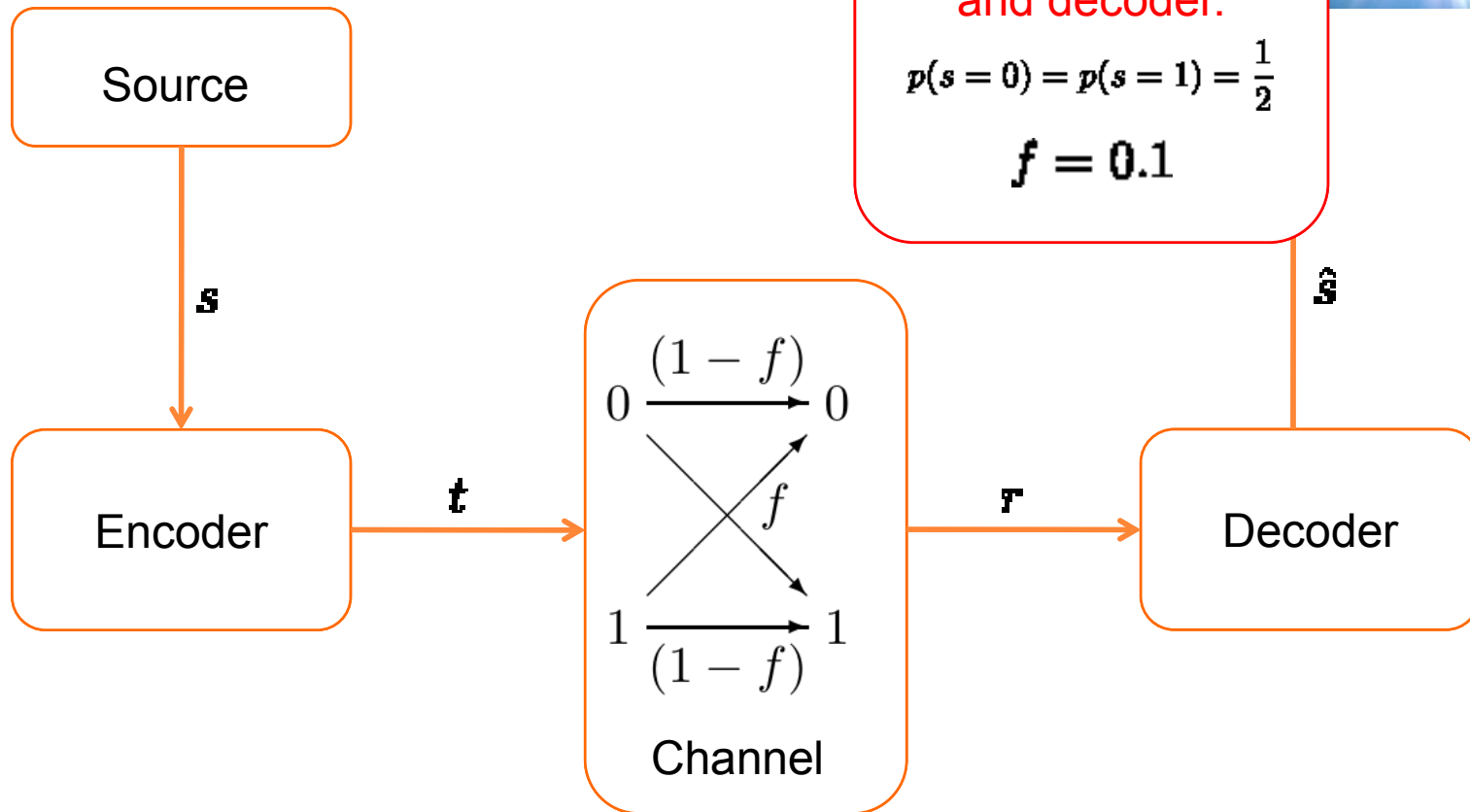
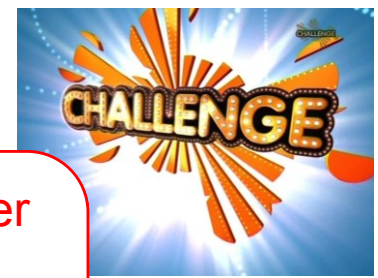
$$p(s = 0) = p(s = 1) = \frac{1}{2}$$

SENDING INFORMATION



Goal: Construct an encoder and decoder such that we can recover the information $\hat{s} = s$

SENDING INFORMATION



Find any encoder and decoder.

$$p(s=0) = p(s=1) = \frac{1}{2}$$

$$f = 0.1$$

Goal: Construct an encoder and decoder such that we can recover the information $\hat{s} = s$

REPETITION CODE: ENCODER

- Send each input symbol 3 times (Code R_3)

$$s = 0 \quad t = 000$$

$$s = 1 \quad t = 111$$

- Errors can be described by adding a noise vector

s	0	0	1	0	1	1	0	
t	$\overbrace{000}$	$\overbrace{000}$	$\overbrace{111}$	$\overbrace{000}$	$\overbrace{111}$	$\overbrace{111}$	$\overbrace{000}$	$0 \oplus 0 = 1 \oplus 1 = 0$
n	000	001	000	000	101	000	000	$0 \oplus 1 = 1 \oplus 0 = 1$
r	000	001	111	000	010	111	000	

REPETITION CODE: DECODER

s	0	0	1	0	1	1	0
t	$\underbrace{000}$	$\underbrace{000}$	$\underbrace{111}$	$\underbrace{000}$	$\underbrace{111}$	$\underbrace{111}$	$\underbrace{000}$
n	000	001	000	000	101	000	000
r	$\underbrace{000}$	$\underbrace{001}$	$\underbrace{111}$	$\underbrace{000}$	$\underbrace{010}$	$\underbrace{111}$	$\underbrace{000}$
\hat{s}	0	0	1	0	0	1	0

corrected errors

*

undetected errors

*

- Compute the majority of each 3 bit block

REPETITION CODE: DECODER

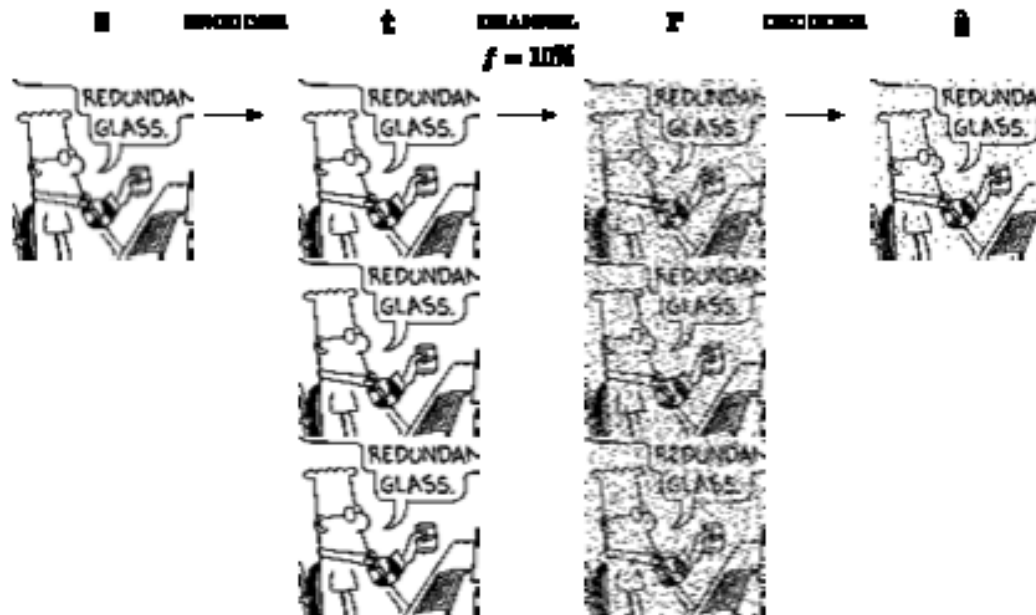
s	0	0	1	0	1	1	0
t	$\underbrace{000}$	$\underbrace{000}$	$\underbrace{111}$	$\underbrace{000}$	$\underbrace{111}$	$\underbrace{111}$	$\underbrace{000}$
n	000	001	000	000	101	000	000
r	$\underbrace{000}$	$\underbrace{001}$	$\underbrace{111}$	$\underbrace{000}$	$\underbrace{010}$	$\underbrace{111}$	$\underbrace{000}$
\hat{s}	0	0	1	0	0	1	0

corrected errors
undetected errors

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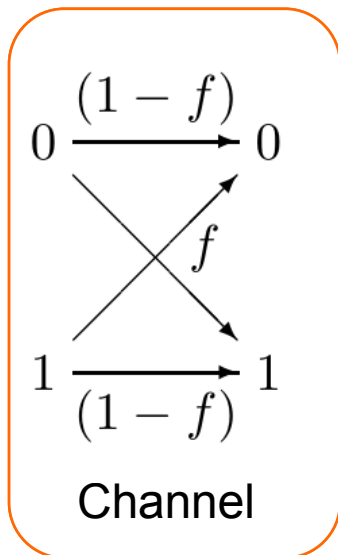
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- Compute the majority of each 3 bit block



HOW GOOD IS OUR CODING SCHEME?

- Coding scheme: an encoder and a decoder
- Want to compute the probability that our reconstruction is *incorrect*



s	0	0	1	0	1	1	0
t	⏟	⏟	⏟	⏟	⏟	⏟	⏟
n	000	000	111	000	111	111	000
r	000	001	000	000	101	000	000
ŝ	⏟	⏟	⏟	⏟	⏟	⏟	⏟
	0	0	1	0	0	1	0

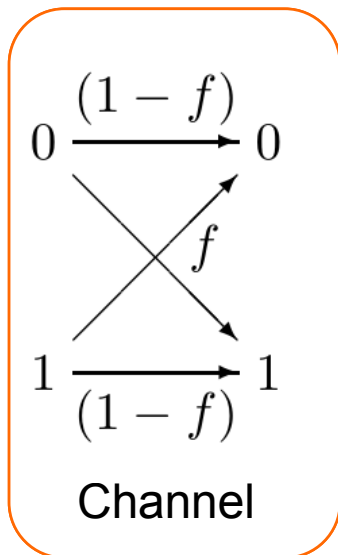
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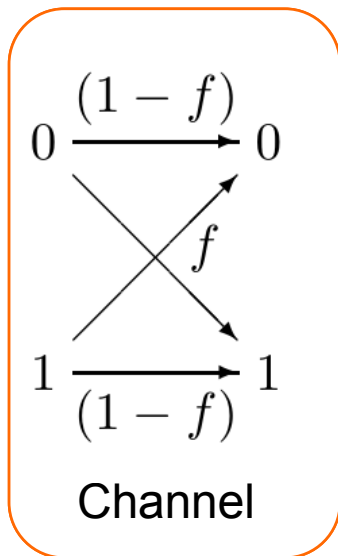
s	0	0	1	0	1	1	0
t	⏟	⏟	⏟	⏟	⏟	⏟	⏟
n	000	000	111	000	111	111	000
r	000	001	000	000	101	000	000
ŝ	⏟	⏟	⏟	⏟	⏟	⏟	⏟
	0	0	1	0	0	1	0

corrected errors
undetected errors

$$P_{\text{error}} = \sum_{\mathbf{s}} p(\mathbf{s}) p(\hat{\mathbf{s}} \neq \mathbf{s} | \mathbf{s}) = \frac{1}{2} \sum_{\mathbf{s}} p(\hat{\mathbf{s}} \neq \mathbf{s} | \mathbf{s})$$

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t	$\underbrace{000}$		$\underbrace{111}$	$\underbrace{000}$	$\underbrace{111}$	$\underbrace{111}$	$\underbrace{000}$
n	000	001	000	000	101	000	000
r	$\underbrace{000}$		$\underbrace{001}$	$\underbrace{111}$	$\underbrace{000}$	$\underbrace{010}$	$\underbrace{111}$
\hat{s}	0	0	1	0	0	1	0

corrected errors *

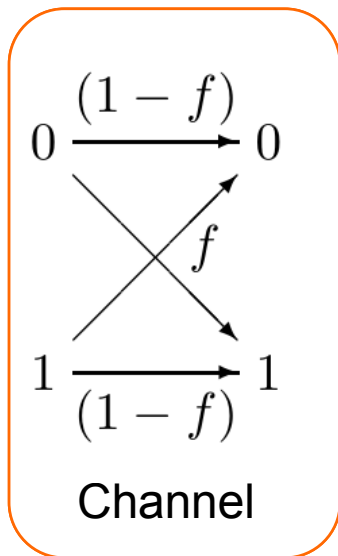
undetected errors *

$$P_{\text{error}} = \sum_s p(s) p(\hat{s} \neq s | s) = \frac{1}{2} \sum_s p(\hat{s} \neq s | s)$$

$$p(\hat{s} \neq s | s) = 3f^2(1-f) + f^3 \approx 0.03$$

HOW GOOD IS OUR CODING SCHEME?

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s	0	0	1	0	1	1	0	
t	$\underbrace{000}$		$\underbrace{111}$	$\underbrace{000}$	$\underbrace{111}$	$\underbrace{111}$	$\underbrace{000}$	
n	000	001	000	000	101	000	000	
r	$\underbrace{000}$		$\underbrace{001}$	$\underbrace{111}$	$\underbrace{000}$	$\underbrace{010}$	$\underbrace{111}$	$\underbrace{000}$
\hat{s}	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	

corrected errors
undetected errors

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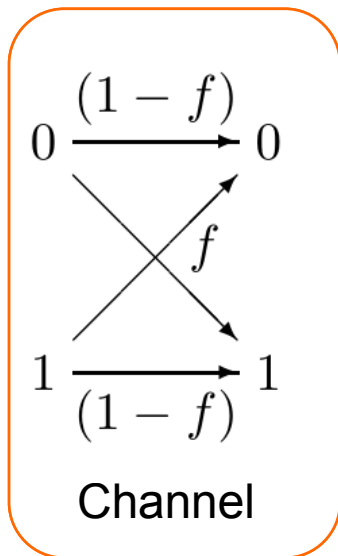
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Exactly 2 flipped

HOW GOOD IS OUR CODING SCHEME?

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t	⏟	⏟	⏟	⏟	⏟	⏟	⏟
n	000	000	111	000	111	111	000
r	000	001	000	000	101	000	000
r	⏟	⏟	⏟	⏟	⏟	⏟	⏟
ŝ	0	0	1	0	0	1	0

corrected errors
undetected errors

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$$p(\hat{s} \neq s | s) = 3f^2(1-f) + f^3 \approx 0.03$$

Exactly 2 flipped

All 3 flipped

HOW GOOD IS OUR CODING SCHEME?

- Makes an error with probability $P_{\text{error}} \approx 0.03$
- Not bad! Remember before we had an error with probability $f = 0.1$ so we improved!
- But... we had to send 3 bits for every 1 bit!
- Rate

$$R = \frac{\# \text{ of bits sent}}{\# \text{ of bits actually transmitted}} = \frac{|s|}{|t|} = \frac{1}{3}$$

MAYBE THERE IS A BETTER DECODER?

- For every 3 bits $\mathbf{r} = r_1 r_2 r_3$ we want to pick the most likely input s !

$$p(s = 0 | r_1 r_2 r_3) = \frac{p(r_1 r_2 r_3 | s = 0) p(s = 0)}{p(r_1 r_2 r_3)} = \frac{p(r_1 r_2 r_3 | s = 0)}{2p(r_1 r_2 r_3)}$$


$$p(s = 1 | r_1 r_2 r_3) = \frac{p(r_1 r_2 r_3 | s = 1) p(s = 1)}{p(r_1 r_2 r_3)} = \frac{p(r_1 r_2 r_3 | s = 1)}{2p(r_1 r_2 r_3)}$$

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Which one
is bigger?




$$p(\mathbf{s} = 1 | r_1 r_2 r_3) = \frac{p(r_1 r_2 r_3 | \mathbf{s} = 1) p(\mathbf{s} = 1)}{p(r_1 r_2 r_3)} = \frac{p(r_1 r_2 r_3 | \mathbf{s} = 1)}{2p(r_1 r_2 r_3)}$$

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Compute the likelihood ratio: $\frac{p(r_1 r_2 r_3 | s = 1)}{p(r_1 r_2 r_3 | s = 0)}$

MAYBE THERE IS A BETTER DECODER?

- For every 3 bits $\mathbf{r} = r_1 r_2 r_3$ we want to pick the most likely input \mathbf{s} !

$$p(\mathbf{s} = 0 | r_1 r_2 r_3) = \frac{p(r_1 r_2 r_3 | \mathbf{s} = 0) p(\mathbf{s} = 0)}{p(r_1 r_2 r_3)} = \frac{p(r_1 r_2 r_3 | \mathbf{s} = 0)}{2p(r_1 r_2 r_3)}$$

Which one
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$$p(\mathbf{s} = 1 | r_1 r_2 r_3) = \frac{p(r_1 r_2 r_3 | \mathbf{s} = 1) p(\mathbf{s} = 1)}{p(r_1 r_2 r_3)} = \frac{p(r_1 r_2 r_3 | \mathbf{s} = 1)}{2p(r_1 r_2 r_3)}$$

Compute the likelihood ratio: $\frac{p(r_1 r_2 r_3 | \mathbf{s} = 1)}{p(r_1 r_2 r_3 | \mathbf{s} = 0)}$ < 1 ?
 > 1 ?

MAYBE THERE IS A BETTER DECODER?

Compute the likelihood ratio: $\frac{p(\tau_1\tau_2\tau_3|s=1)}{p(\tau_1\tau_2\tau_3|s=0)}$

- Claim: Majority vote is the best thing we can do, because it gives us the same reconstruction as picking the most likely one!

$$\frac{p(\tau_1\tau_2\tau_3|s=1)}{p(\tau_1\tau_2\tau_3|s=0)} = \prod_{n=1}^3 \frac{p(\tau_n|t_n(1))}{p(\tau_n|t_n(0))}$$

$$\frac{p(\tau_n|t_n(1))}{p(\tau_n|t_n(0))} = \begin{cases} \gamma & \text{if } \tau_n = 1 \\ \gamma^{-1} & \text{if } \tau_n = 0 \end{cases} \quad \gamma = \frac{1-f}{f} > 1$$

MAYBE THERE IS A BETTER DECODER?

- Let's compare majority decisions to the most likely one

$$\frac{p(r_1 r_2 r_3 | s = 1)}{p(r_1 r_2 r_3 | s = 0)} = \prod_{n=1}^3 \frac{p(r_n | t_n(1))}{p(r_n | t_n(0))}$$

$$\gamma = \frac{1-f}{f} > 1$$

$$\frac{p(r_n | t_n(1))}{p(r_n | t_n(0))} = \begin{cases} \gamma & \text{if } r_n = 1 \\ \gamma^{-1} & \text{if } r_n = 0 \end{cases}$$

Received sequence \mathbf{r}	Likelihood ratio $\frac{P(\mathbf{r} s = 1)}{P(\mathbf{r} s = 0)}$	Decoded sequence $\hat{\mathbf{s}}$
000	γ^{-3}	0
001	γ^{-1}	0
010	γ^{-1}	0
100	γ^{-1}	0
101	γ^1	1
110	γ^1	1
011	γ^1	1
111	γ^3	1

HOW COULD WE IMPROVE OUR CODING SCHEME?

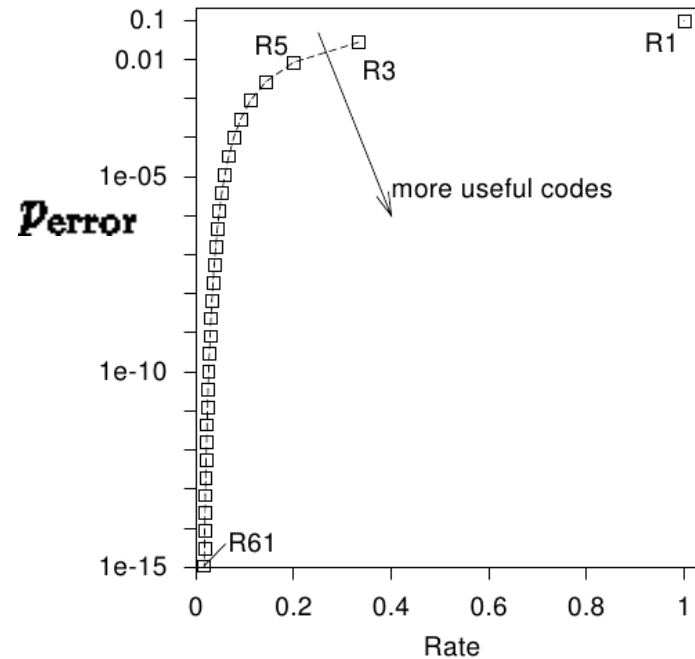
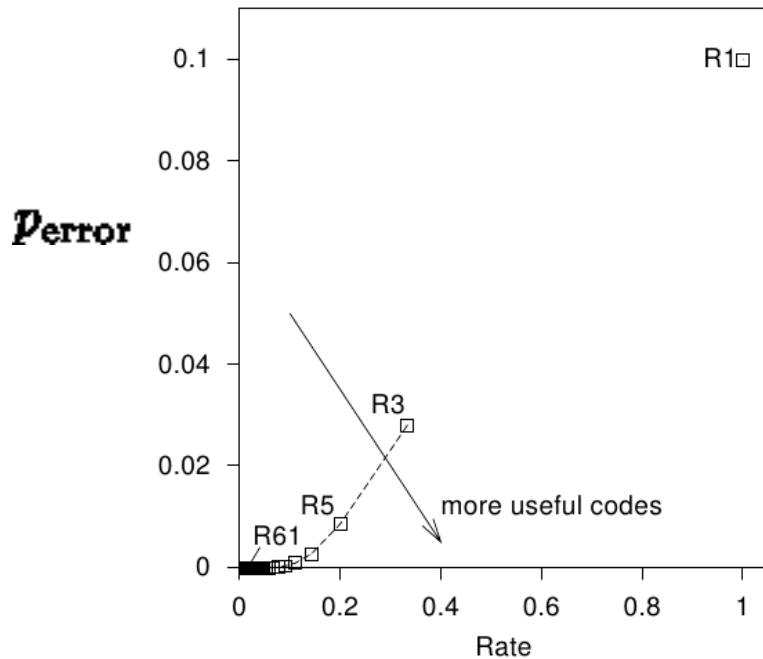
- Suggestions?

HOW COULD WE IMPROVE OUR CODING SCHEME?

- Suggestions?
Use more repetitions!

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HOW COULD WE IMPROVE OUR CODING SCHEME?

- Suggestions?
Use more repetitions!

To make the error arbitrarily small we need to send an arbitrarily large number of bits!

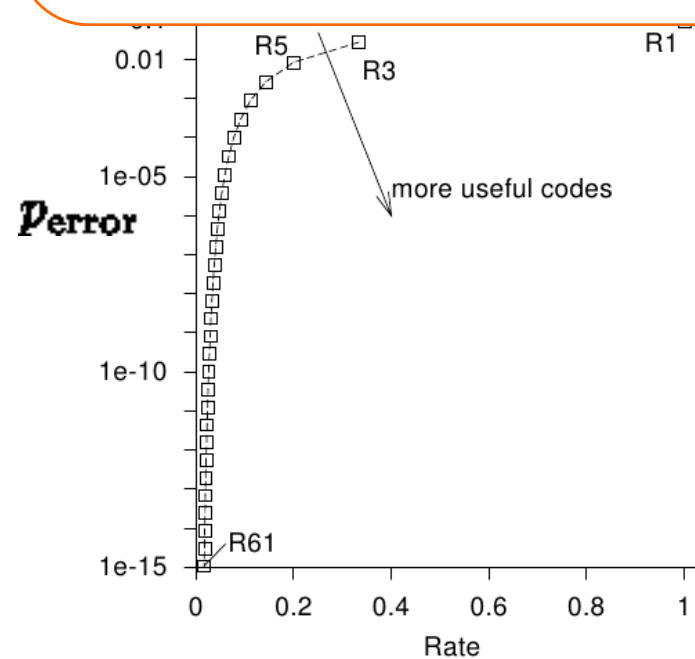
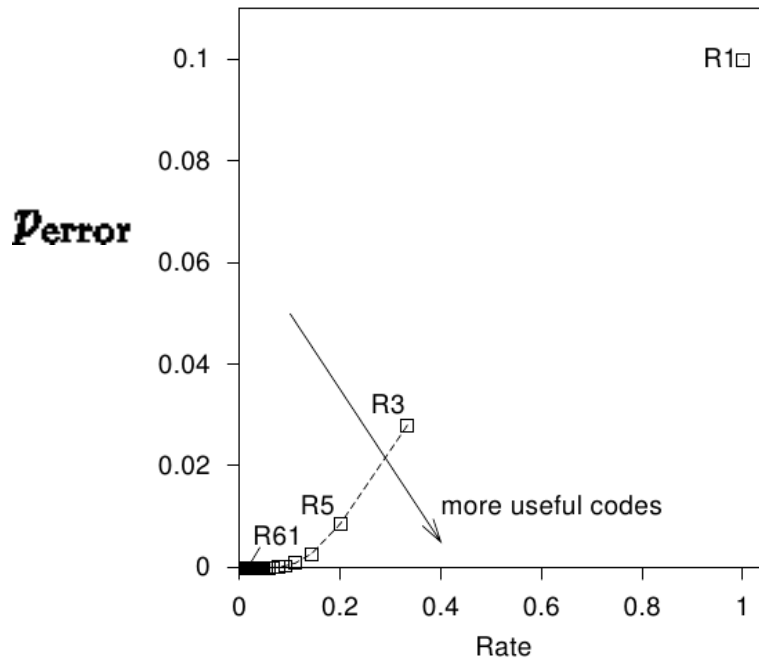


ILLUSTRATION OF ERROR VS. NUMBER OF BITS TRANSMITTED

- Let's assume we want to store our bits on a hard disk and want the error to be very small

ILLUSTRATION OF ERROR VS. NUMBER OF BITS TRANSMITTED

- Let's assume we want to store our bits on a hard disk and want the error to be very small

How many GB do we need to transmit in order to send 1 GB of actual data with error $p_{\text{error}} = 10^{-15}$ using repetition coding for $f = 0.1$?

ILLUSTRATION OF ERROR VS. NUMBER OF BITS TRANSMITTED

- Let's assume we want to store our bits on a hard disk and want the error to be very small

How many GB do we need to transmit in order to send 1 GB of actual data with error $p_{\text{error}} = 10^{-15}$ using repetition coding for $f = 0.1$?

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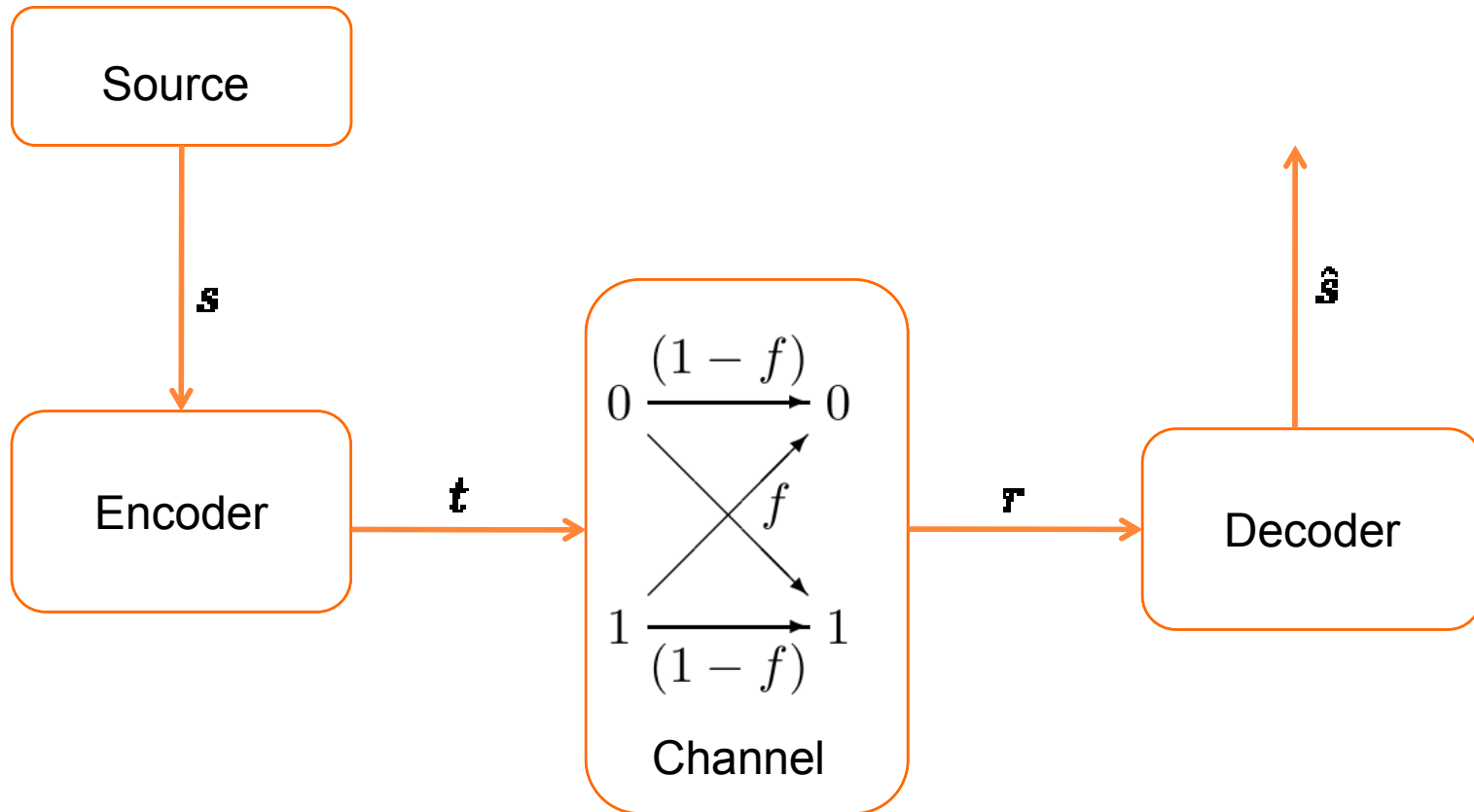
- A
bout 60!! (do the exercise, 1.3d!)
- ... imagine the size of your phone if we were to store information like this 😊

ARE THERE BETTER CODES THAN REPETITION?

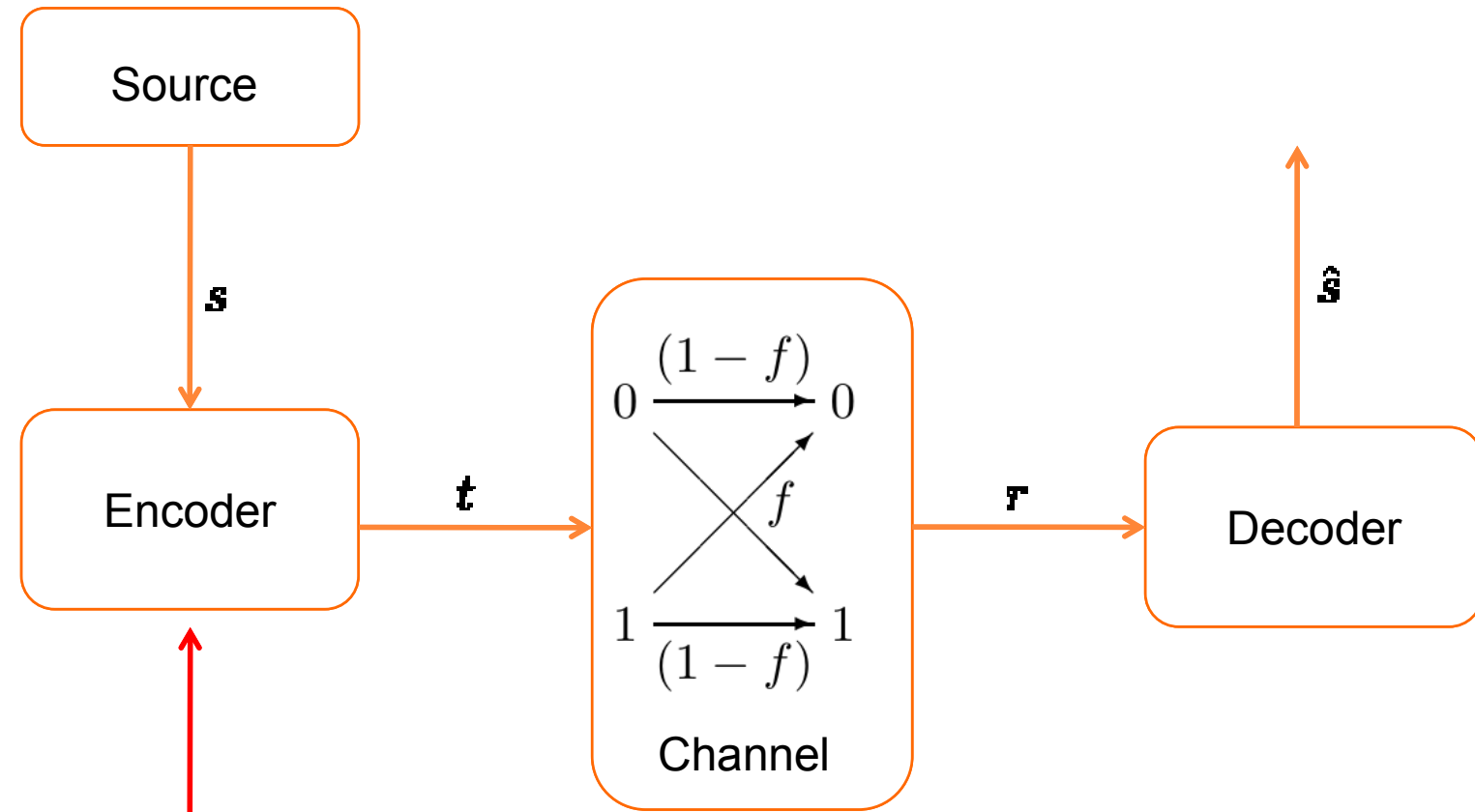
- What do you think?
- Let's remember our goal! We want to figure out:

What is the best way to store
or transmit information?

SENDING INFORMATION

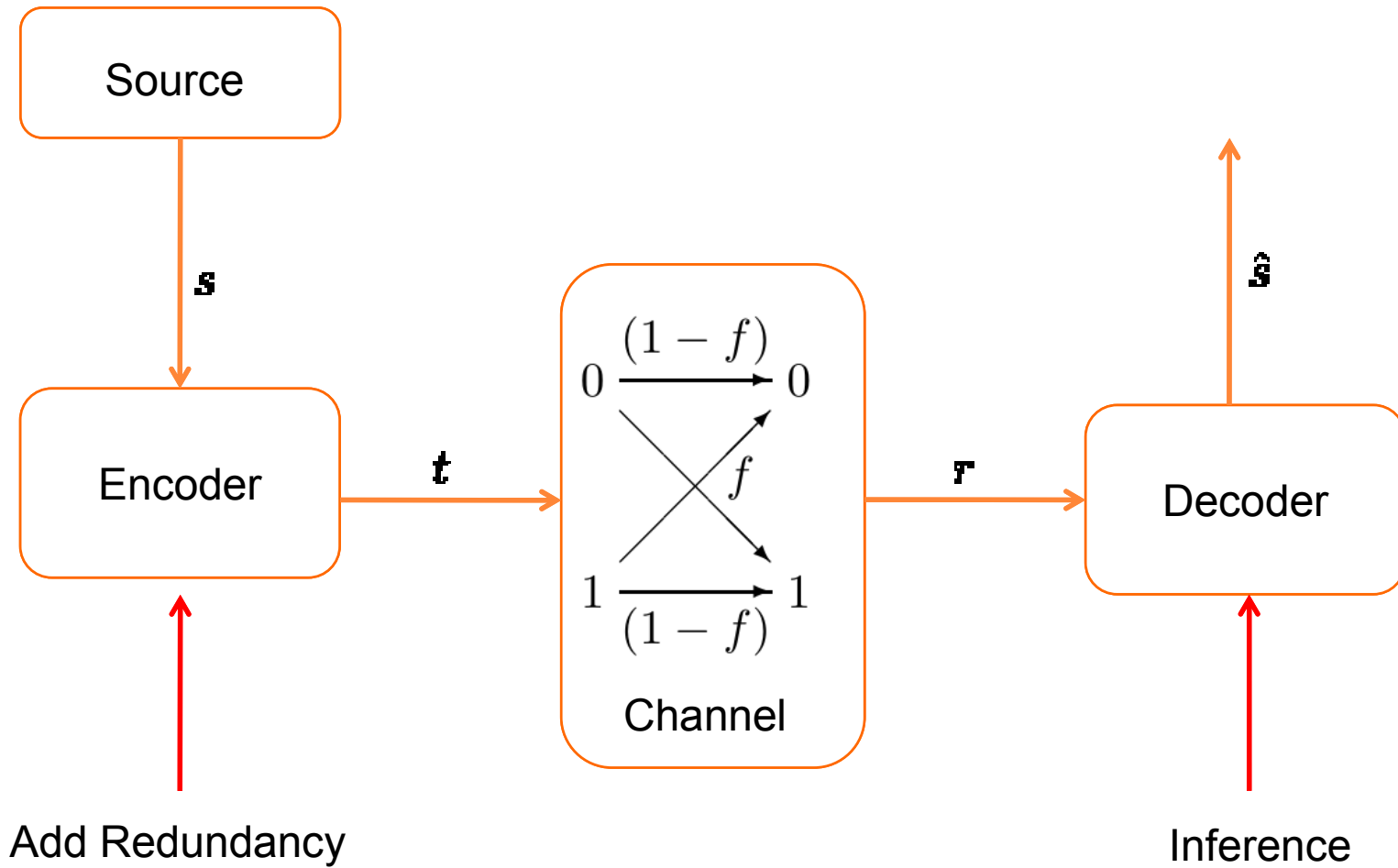


SENDING INFORMATION



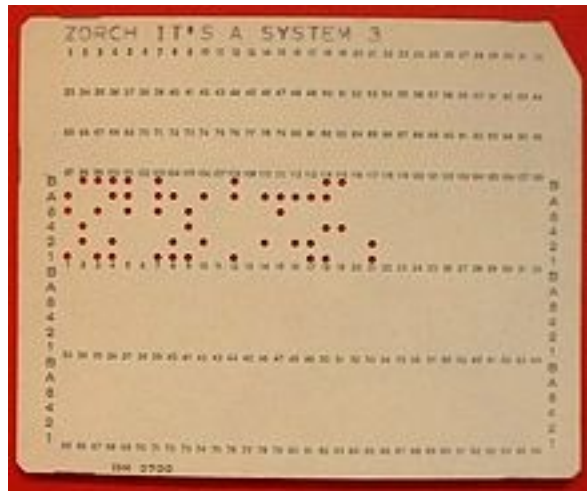
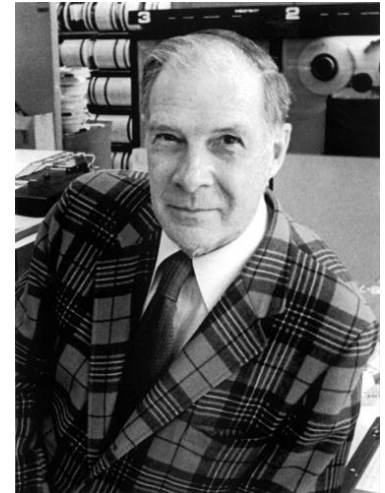
Add Redundancy

SENDING INFORMATION



EXAMPLE: (7,4)-HAMMING CODE

- Invented by Richard Hamming
- Originally used to correct errors in punch cards but still in use today!



ENCODING IN THE (7,4)-HAMMING CODE

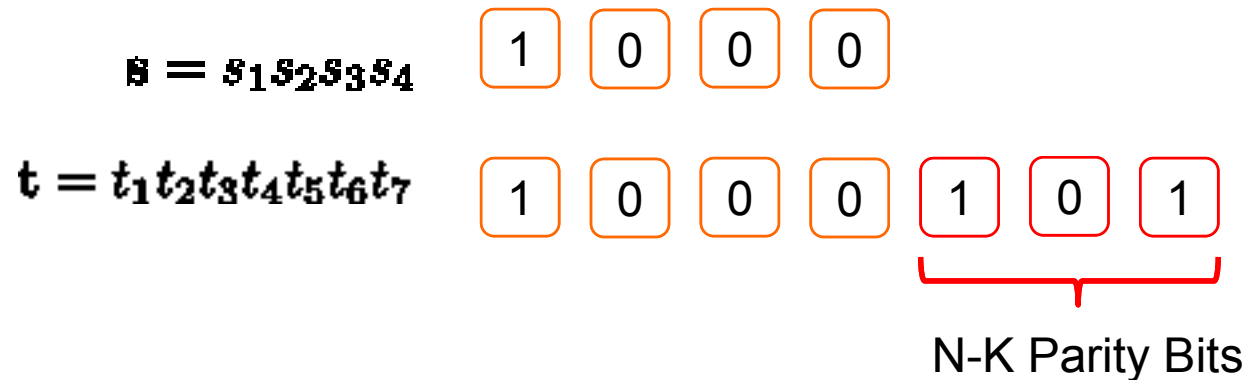
- Block code: each block of $K=4$ bits is encoded into $N=7$ bits
- Rate $R = \frac{4}{7}$

$$\mathbf{s} = s_1s_2s_3s_4$$

$$\mathbf{t} = t_1t_2t_3t_4t_5t_6t_7$$

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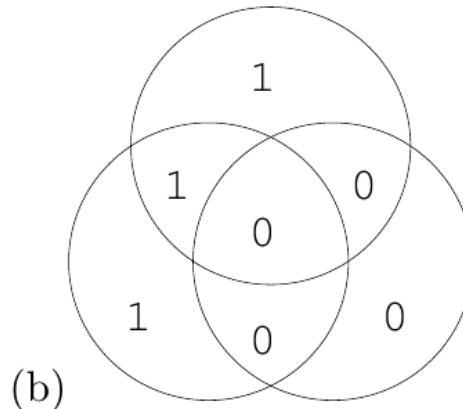
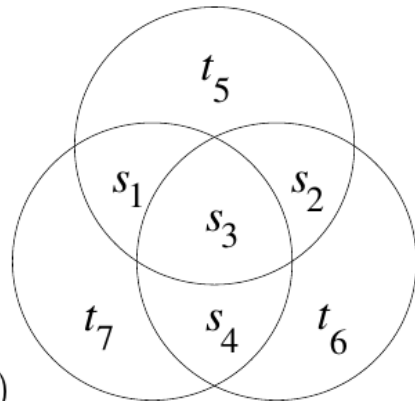
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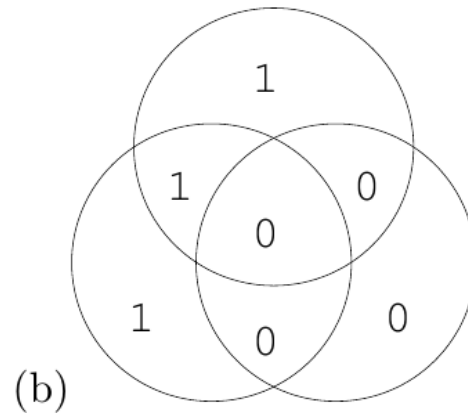
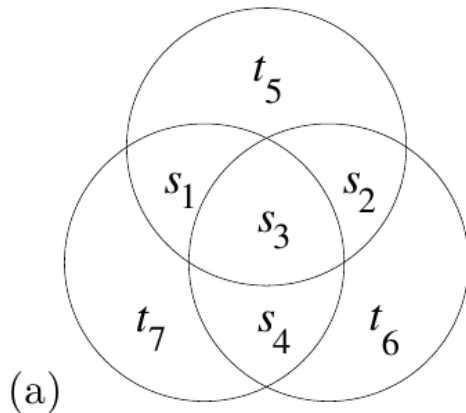


N-K Parity Bits



Parity in each circle should be even (even # of 1's)

ENCODING THE (7,4)-HAMMING CODE



← Parity in each circle should be even (even # of 1's)

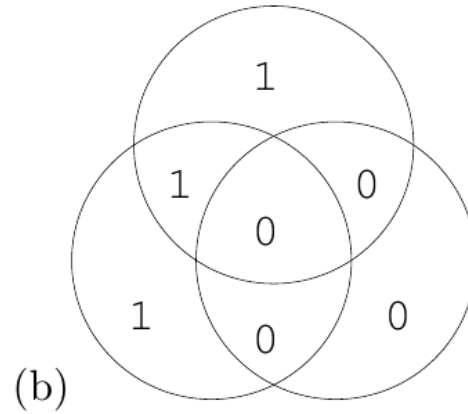
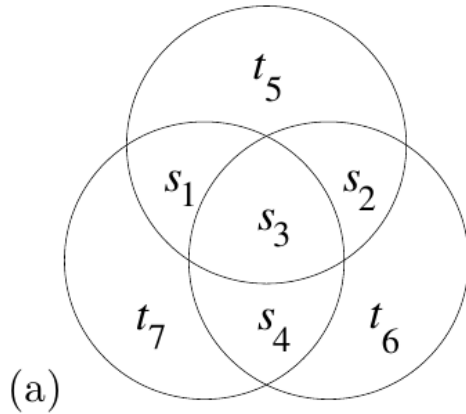
s	t	s	t	s	t	s	t
0000	0000000	0100	0100110	1000	1000101	1100	1100011
0001	0001011	0101	0101101	1001	1001110	1101	1101000
0010	0010111	0110	0110001	1010	1010010	1110	1110100
0011	0011100	0111	0111010	1011	1011001	1111	1111111

t is also called the *codeword*

As you can see every pair of code words differs in at least three bits!

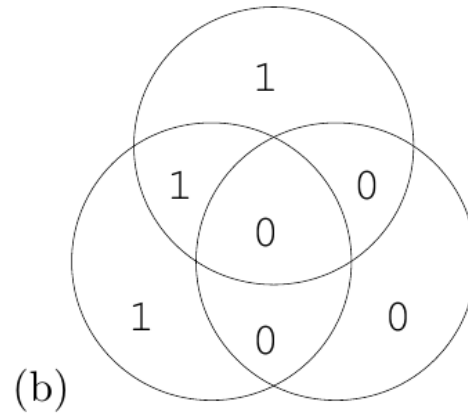
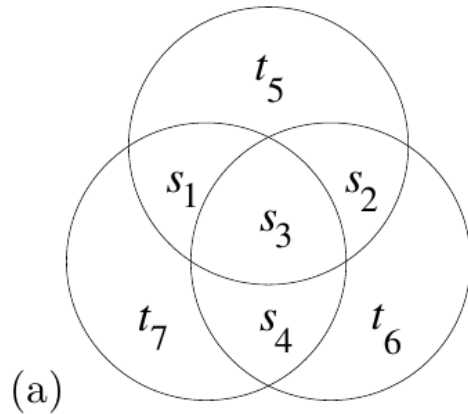
Distance $d = 3$ where $d = \min_{\mathbf{t}, \mathbf{t}'} \# \text{bits in which } \mathbf{t} \text{ and } \mathbf{t}' \text{ differ}$

DECODING THE (7,4)-HAMMING CODE



← Parity in each circle should be even (even # of 1's)

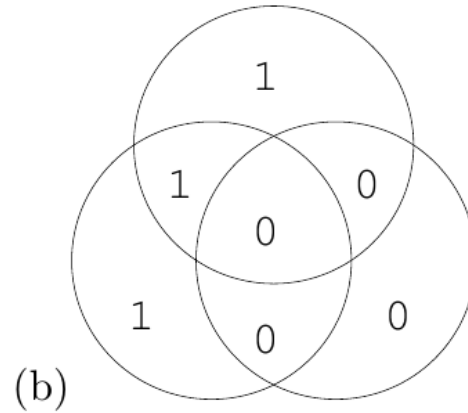
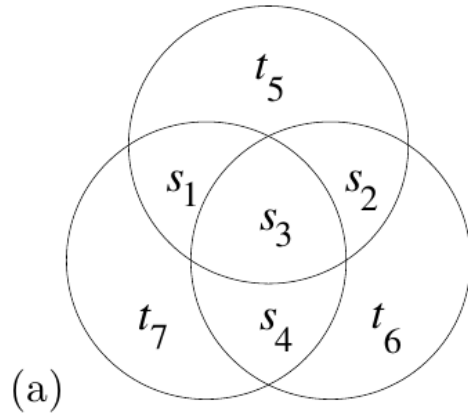
DECODING THE (7,4)-HAMMING CODE



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- If any of the circles have odd parity we know something went wrong!

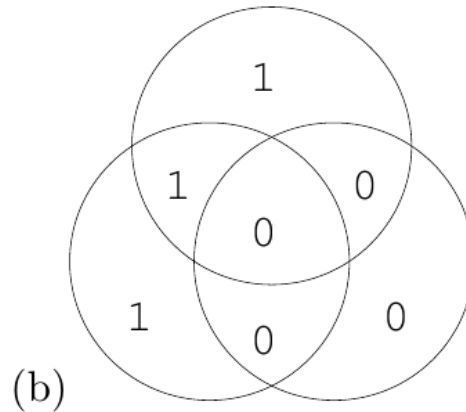
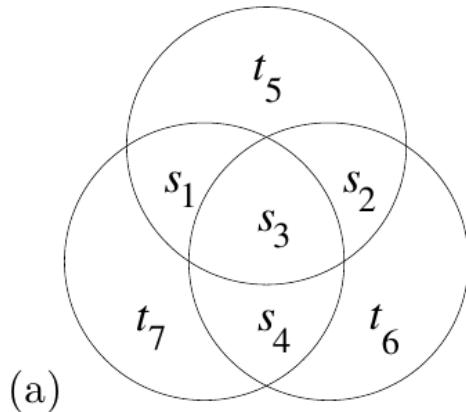
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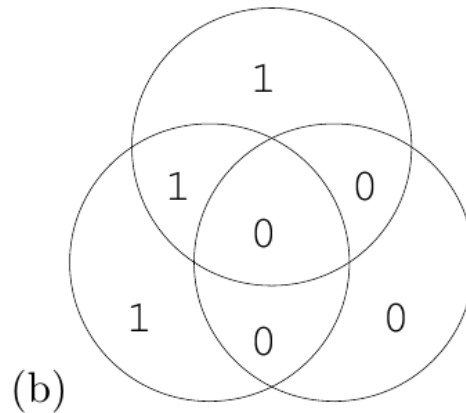
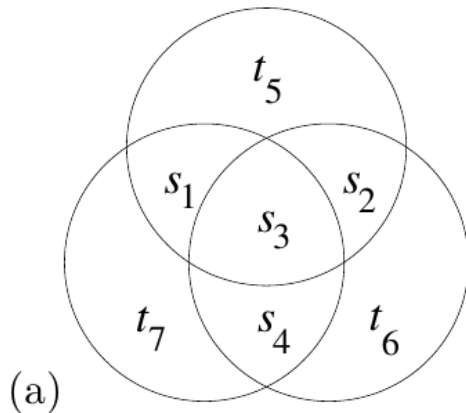


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A flip is *less likely* than no flip

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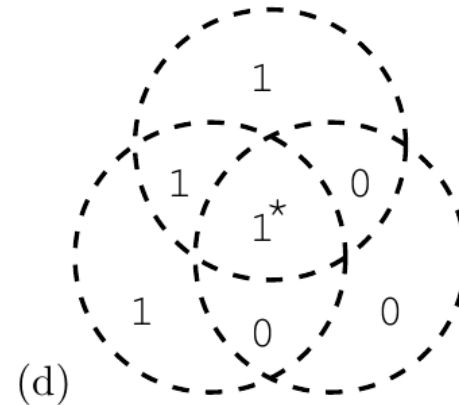
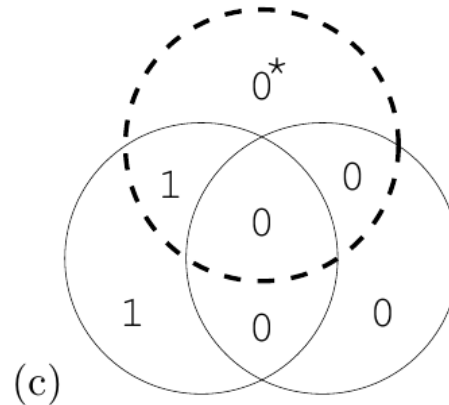
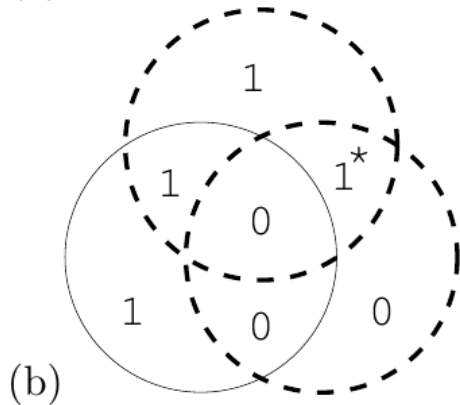
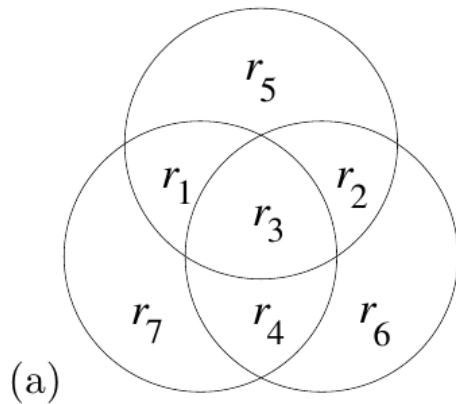
A flip is *less likely* than no flip

- Find the smallest number of flips we can make ourselves to restore the cycles to correct parity

DECODING THE (7,4)-HAMMING CODE

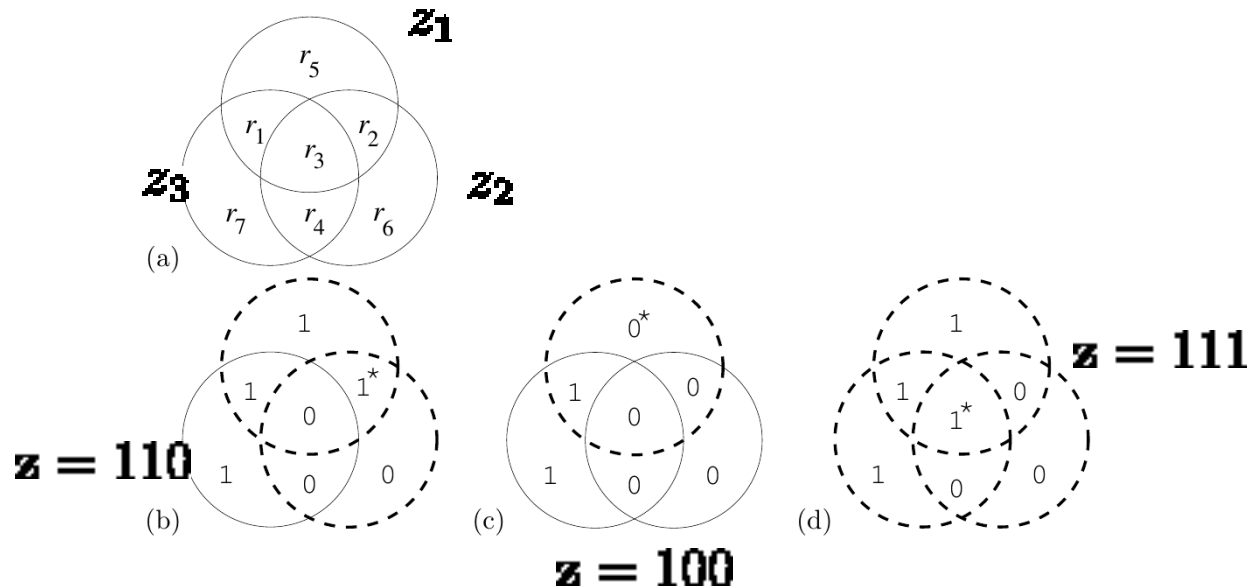
Want to find the least number of flips to restore all cycles!

Can we find a unique bit that lies **inside** all unhappy cycles but **outside** all happy ones?



SYNDROME DECODING

- The syndrome $\mathbf{z} = z_1 z_2 z_3$ tells us which circle is violated



If $\mathbf{z} = 000$ it means that no error is detected!

Later we will see how this code can easily be implemented as a matrix and decoded without the visual picture.

HOW WELL ARE WE DOING NOW?

- Since we encode a block of 4 bits two different errors:
 - Probability of block error – any bit in the block is wrong

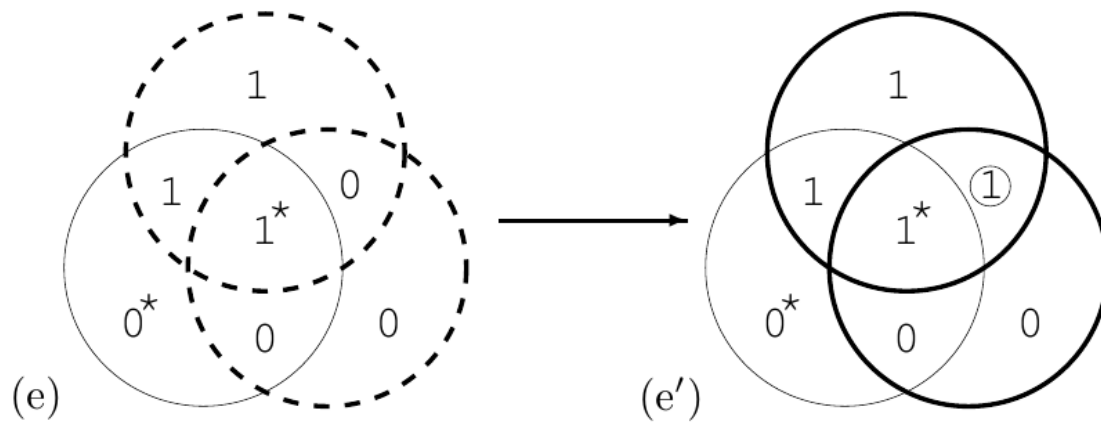
$$P_{\text{error Block}} = P(\hat{s} \neq s)$$

- Probability of bit error – average probability that a bit is wrong

$$P_{\text{error Bit}} = \frac{1}{4} \sum_{k=1}^K P(\hat{s}_k \neq s_k)$$

HOW WELL ARE WE DOING NOW?

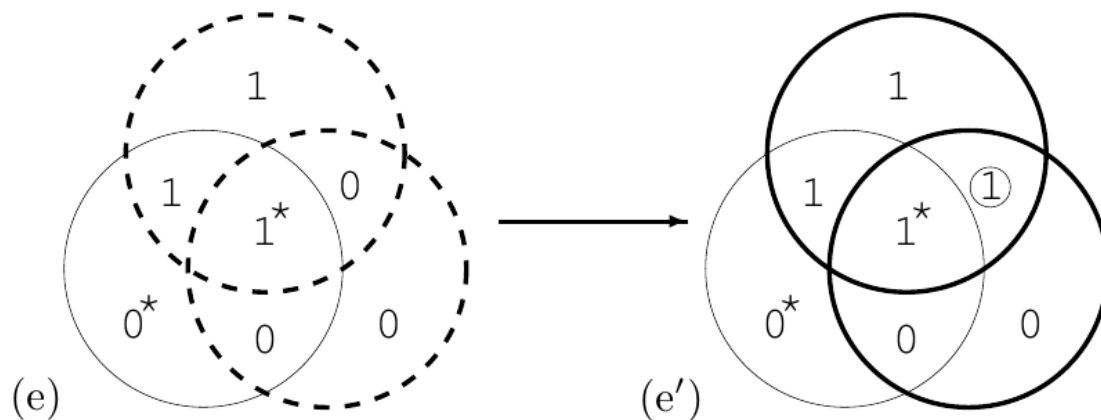
Block error occurs if more than one bit is flipped



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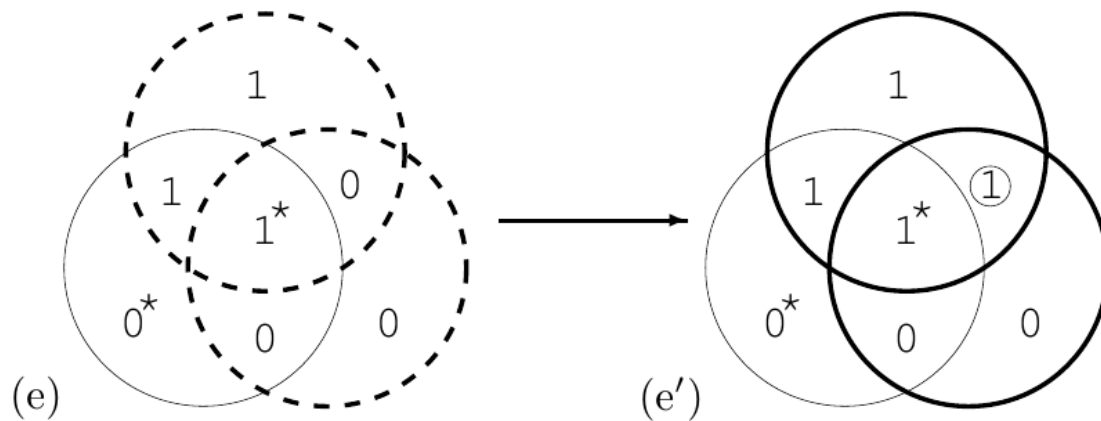


$$\mathbf{P_{\text{Error Block}}} = \mathbf{P(\hat{s} \neq \mathbf{s})} = \sum_{r=2}^7 \binom{7}{r} f^r (1-f)^{7-r} \simeq \binom{7}{2} f^2 = 21f^2$$

Much worse than repetition code of 1 bit into 3 bits?

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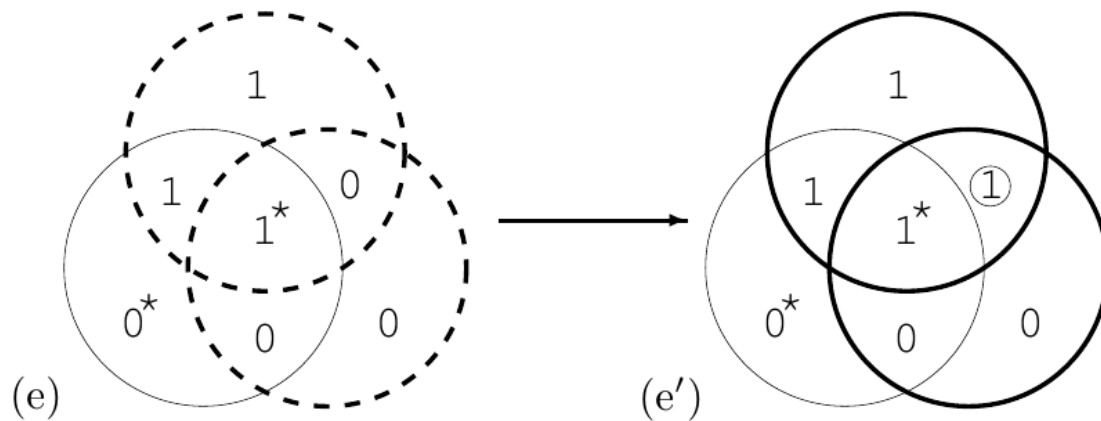
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Much worse than repetition code of 1 bit into 3 bits?

Bit error is more important than block error. Also big advantage:

$$R = \frac{4}{7}$$

HOW ABOUT THE BIT ERROR?

- Turns out about 7% of all bits will be wrong (probability of bit error)

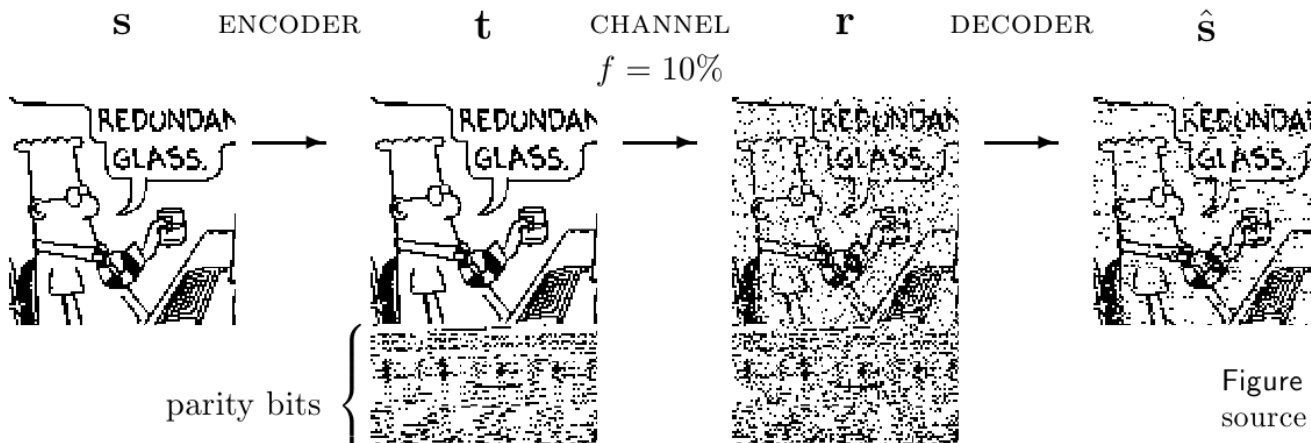
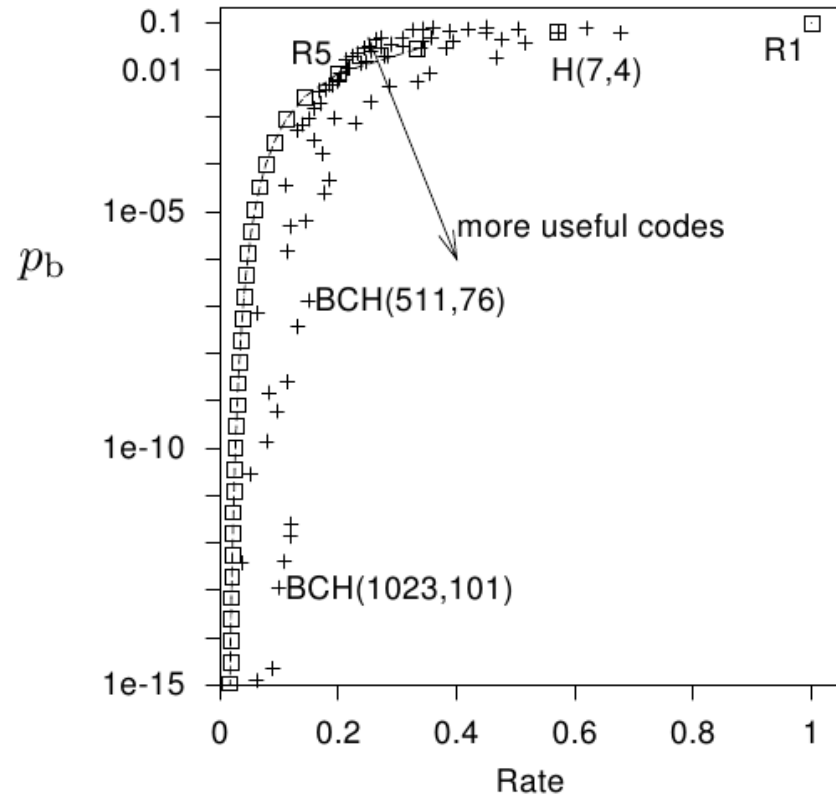
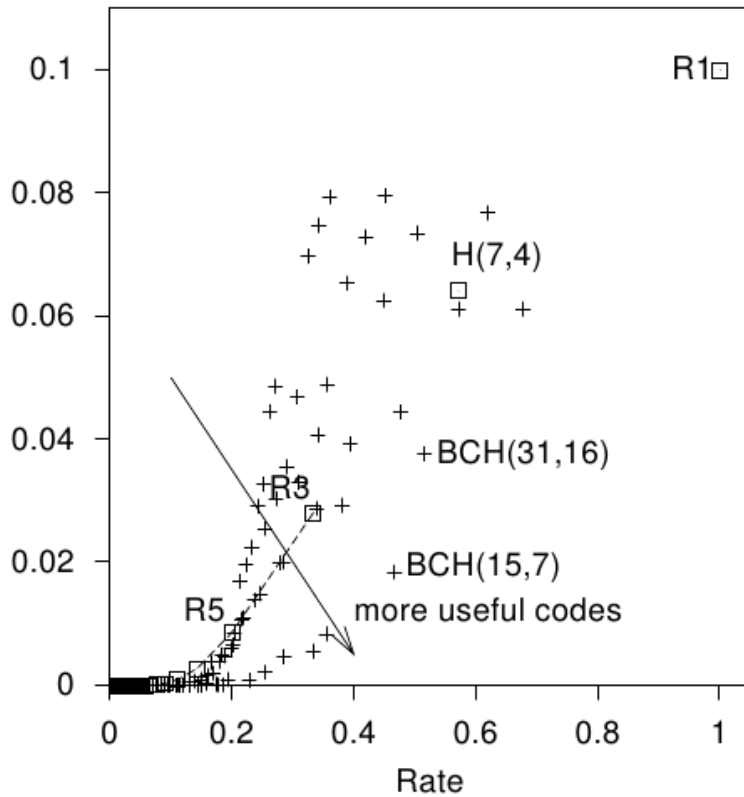
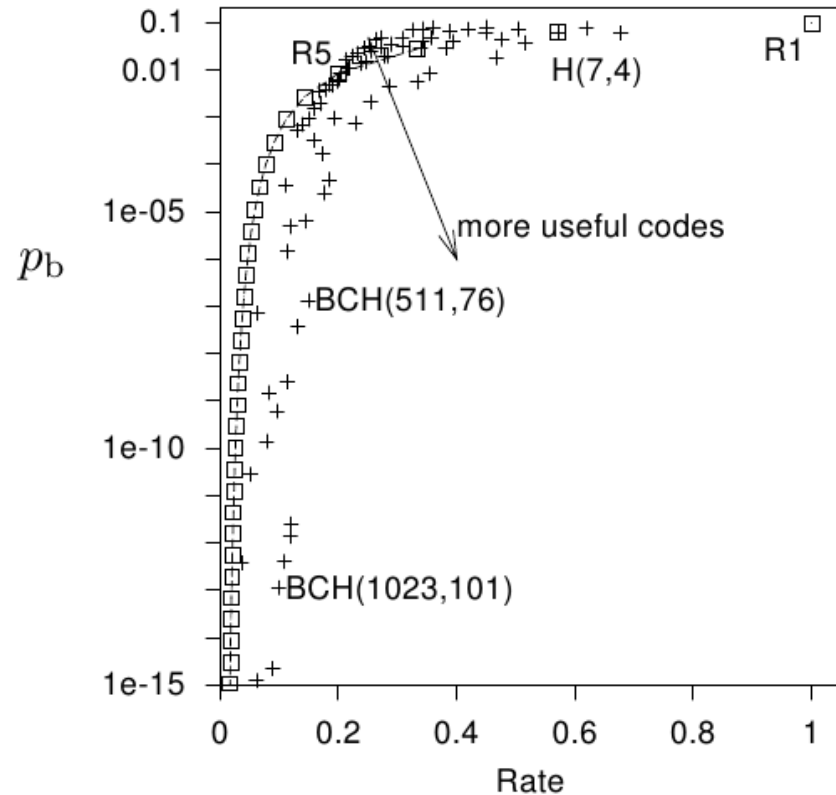
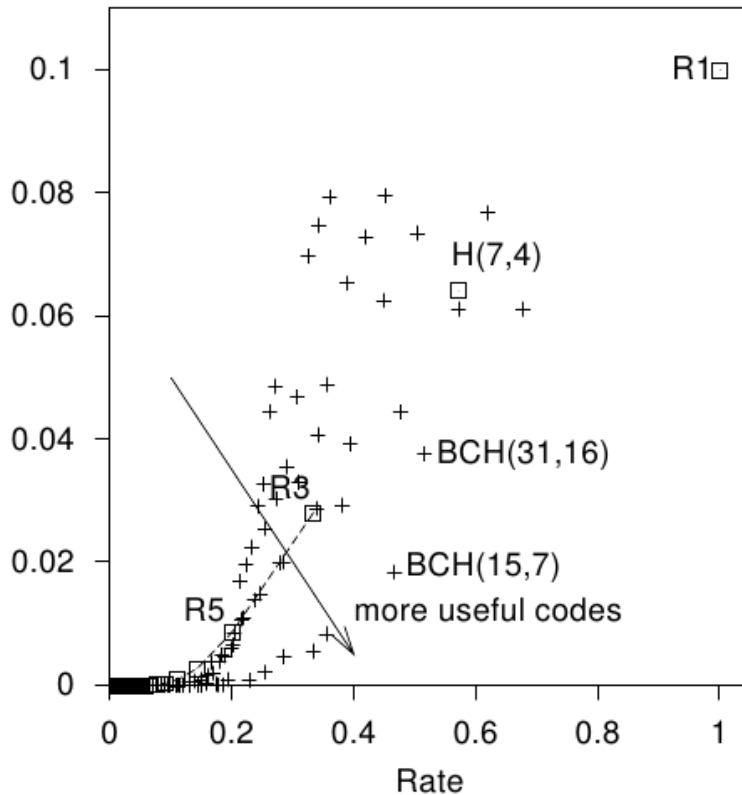


Figure 1.17. Transmitting 10 000 source bits over a binary symmetric channel with $f = 10\%$ using a (7,4) Hamming code. The probability of decoded bit error is about 7%.

WHERE DOES THE (7,4)-HAMMING CODE FIT

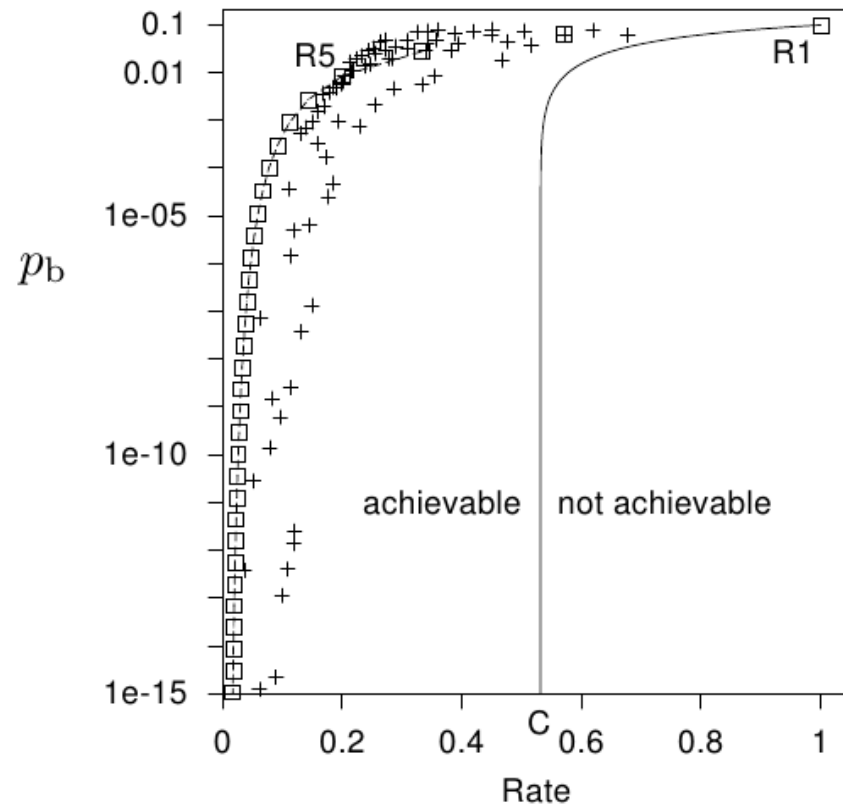
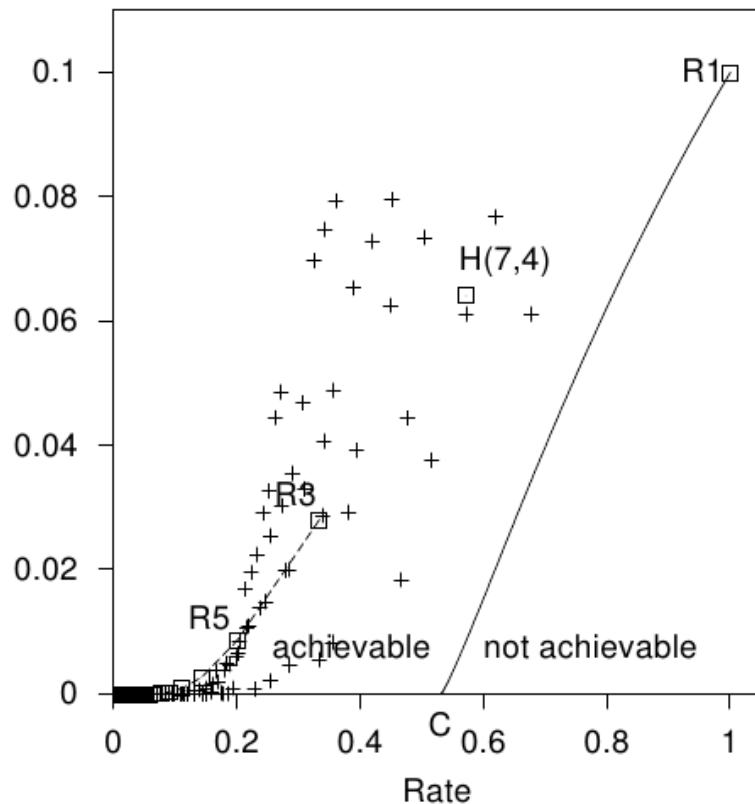


ARE THERE AT ALL BETTER CODES?



- Maybe to have the error arbitrarily close to 0 we must accept an arbitrarily small rate? (after all... no pain, no gain...)

SHANNON'S NOISY CHANNEL THEOREM



For every channel, there is a number C called the Capacity such that we can find a code with arbitrarily small amount of error and $R = C$!

(large $|s|=n$)

LET'S GO BACK TO OUR MARS TRANSMISSION EXAMPLE

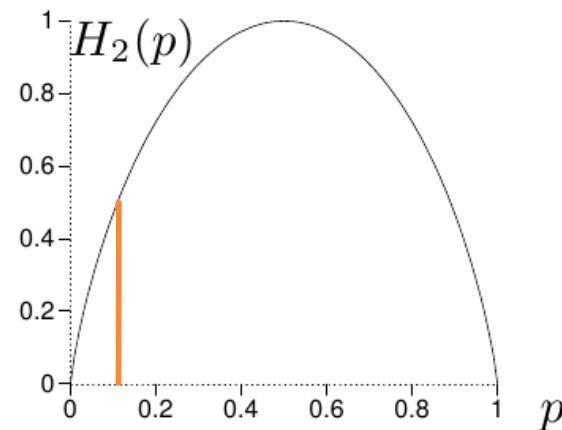
- Binary symmetric channel (BSC) with noise $f = 0.1$

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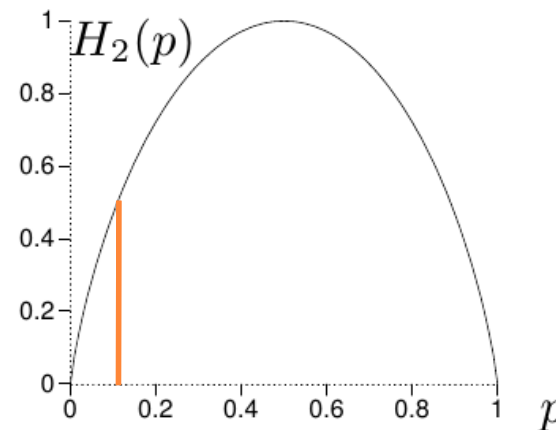
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Here $C \approx 0.47$

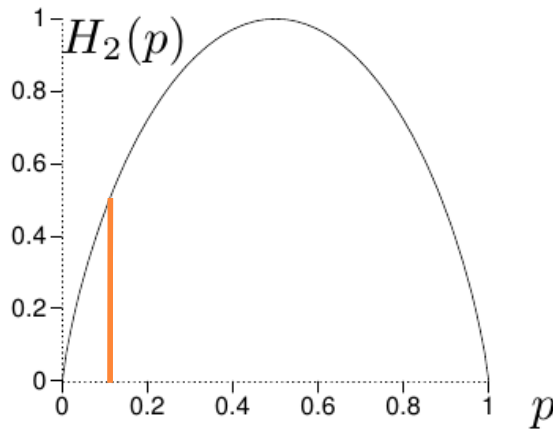
$$R = \frac{1\text{GB}}{N} = 0.47$$

$N \approx 2.2\text{GB}$ is enough!



SHANNON ENTROPY

$$C = 1 - H_2(f)$$



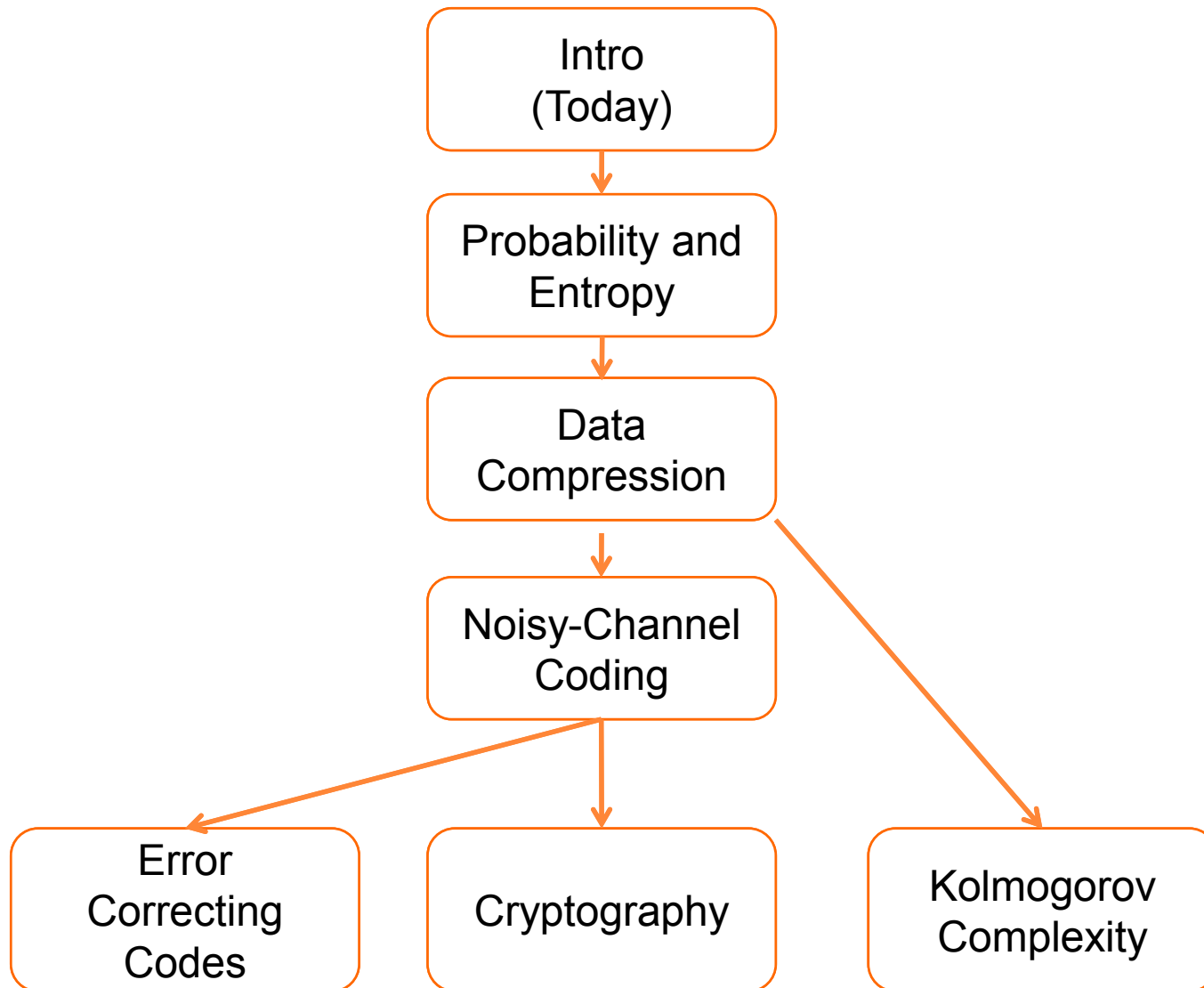
○ Binary entropy $H_2(f) = -f \log_2 f - (1 - f) \log_2(1 - f)$

○ Shannon entropy $H(p) = - \sum_x p_x \log_2 p_x$

WHAT HAVE WE LEARNED ABOUT INFORMATION THEORY?

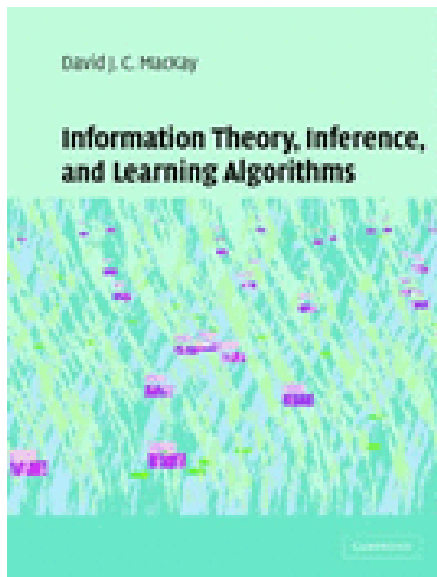
- Encoding and decoding information
- Repetition code
- (7,4)-Hamming code
 - Encodes 4 bits into 7 bits
 - Can detect and correct any error of a single bit!
- Shannon's noisy channel coding theorem
 - Information can be communicated over a noisy-channel at a non-zero rate with arbitrarily small error probability!

WHERE DO WE GO FROM HERE?



READING FOR THIS LECTURE

- Chapter 1 in the book



Information Theory, Inference and
Learning Algorithms
by David J. C. MacKay
Cambridge University Press, 2003

- Homework due by the beginning of next lecture, hand out in person at next lecture or upload to IVLE Workbin (please label upload with your name and assignment number)