

$$\begin{aligned}
& b_1 b_2 b_3 b_4 b_5 b_6 b_7 \\
& \bar{b}_1 b_2 b_3 b_4 b_5 b_6 b_7 \\
& b_1 \bar{b}_2 b_3 b_4 b_5 b_6 b_7 \\
& b_1 b_2 \bar{b}_3 b_4 b_5 b_6 b_7 \\
& b_1 b_2 b_3 \bar{b}_4 b_5 b_6 b_7 \\
& b_1 b_2 b_3 b_4 \bar{b}_5 b_6 b_7 \\
& b_1 b_2 b_3 b_4 b_5 \bar{b}_6 b_7 \\
& b_1 b_2 b_3 b_4 b_5 b_6 \bar{b}_7
\end{aligned}$$

Then considering the information capacity per symbol:

$$\begin{aligned}
C &= \max(H(\mathcal{Y}) - H(\mathcal{Y}|\mathcal{X})) \\
&= \frac{1}{7} \left(7 - \sum_j \sum_k p(y_k|x_j) \log \left(\frac{1}{p(y_k|x_j)} p(x_j) \right) \right) \\
&= \frac{1}{7} \left(7 + \sum_j 8 \left(\frac{1}{8} \log \frac{1}{8} \right) \frac{1}{N} \right) \\
&= \frac{1}{7} \left(7 + N \left(\frac{8}{8} \log \frac{1}{8} \right) \frac{1}{N} \right) \\
&= \frac{4}{7}
\end{aligned}$$

The capacity of the channel is 4/7 information bits per binary digit of the channel coding. Can we find a mechanism to encode 4 information bits in 7 channel bits subject to the error property described above?

The (7/4) Hamming Code provides a *systematic* code to perform this – a systematic code is one in which the obvious binary encoding of the source symbols is present in the channel encoded form. For our source which emits at each time interval 1 of 16 symbols, we take the binary representation of this and copy it to bits b_3, b_5, b_6 and b_7 of the encoded block; the remaining bits are given by b_4, b_2, b_1 , and *syndromes* by s_4, s_2, s_1 :

$$\begin{aligned}
b_4 &= b_5 \oplus b_6 \oplus b_7 \text{ and,} \\
s_4 &= b_4 \oplus b_5 \oplus b_6 \oplus b_7 \\
b_2 &= b_3 \oplus b_6 \oplus b_7 \text{ and,} \\
s_2 &= b_2 \oplus b_3 \oplus b_6 \oplus b_7 \\
b_1 &= b_3 \oplus b_5 \oplus b_7 \text{ and,} \\
s_1 &= b_1 \oplus b_3 \oplus b_5 \oplus b_7
\end{aligned}$$

On reception if the binary number $s_4 s_2 s_1 = 0$ then there is no error, else $b_{s_4 s_2 s_1}$ is the bit in error.

This Hamming code uses 3 bits to correct 7 ($= 2^3 - 1$) error patterns and transfer 4 useful bits. In general a Hamming code uses m bits to correct $2^m - 1$ error patterns and transfer $2^m - 1 - m$ useful bits. The Hamming codes are called *perfect* as they use m bits to correct $2^m - 1$ errors.