

## Lecture 8 : Interference Channels

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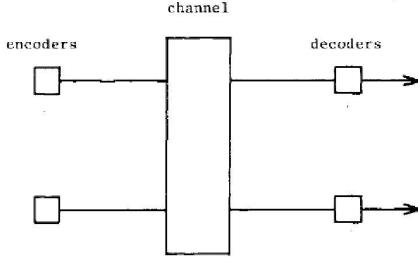


Figure 1: Interference Channel.

## 1 Definitions

**Definition 1 (DM-IC).** A (two user) discrete memoryless interference channel (DM-IC) denoted by  $(\mathbb{X}_1, \mathbb{X}_2, \mathbb{Y}_1, \mathbb{Y}_2, p_{Y_1 Y_2 | X_1 X_2}(y_1 y_2 | x_1 x_2))$ , consists of finite sets  $\mathbb{X}_1, \mathbb{X}_2, \mathbb{Y}_1$ , and  $\mathbb{Y}_2$ , and a collection of probability mass functions  $p_{Y_1 Y_2 | X_1 X_2}(\cdot | x_1 x_2)$  on  $\mathbb{Y}_1 \times \mathbb{Y}_2$ , one for each  $x_1 x_2 \in \mathbb{X}_1 \times \mathbb{X}_2$ , with the interpretation that  $X_k$  is the input of user  $k$ ,  $k = 1, 2$  and  $Y_k$  is the input to the decoder of user  $k$ . For  $n \in \mathbb{N}$ , with  $X_k^n = (X_{k1}, X_{k2}, \dots, X_{kn})$ ,  $k = 1, 2$  as inputs, the output sequence  $Y_1^n Y_2^n$  has pmf

$$p_{Y_1^n Y_2^n | X_1^n X_2^n}(y_1^n y_2^n | x_1^n x_2^n) = \prod_{i=1}^n p_{Y_1 Y_2 | X_1 X_2}(y_{1i} y_{2i} | x_{1i} x_{2i}) \quad (1)$$

**Definition 2 (Code).** An  $(n, M_1, M_2)$  code for the channel  $(\mathbb{X}_1, \mathbb{X}_2, \mathbb{Y}_1, \mathbb{Y}_2, p_{Y_1 Y_2 | X_1 X_2}(y_1 y_2 | x_1 x_2))$  consists of the following:

1. An index set of messages for each user  $k$ ,  $\mathbb{W}_k = \{1, 2, \dots, M_k\} = [M_k]$ .
2. An encoder  $f_k$  for each user  $k$ ,  $f_k : [M_k] \rightarrow \mathbb{X}_k^n$ ,  $k = 1, 2$ . Note that  $[M_k] \ni W_k \mapsto f_k(W_k) \in \mathbb{X}_k^n$ . The codebook can be represented by an ordered set

$$c = \{f_1(1), f_1(2), \dots, f_1(M_1); f_2(1), f_2(2), \dots, f_2(M_2)\}.$$

3. A decoding rule,  $g_k : \mathbb{Y}_k^n \rightarrow \phi \cup [M_k]$ ,  $k = 1, 2$ , i.e.,  $y_k^n \mapsto g_k(y_k^n) = \hat{w}_k \in \phi \cup [M_k]$ . Note that  $g_k$  partitions  $\mathbb{Y}_k^n$  into decision regions.

**Definition 3 (Probability of error).** Let  $W_k$  be the message transmitted by user  $k$  and let  $Y_k^n$  be the signal received by user  $k$ . The conditional probability of error for user  $k$  when  $(W_1 W_2) = (w_1 w_2)$  was transmitted is given by

$$P_{e, w_1 w_2}^{(n)}(c; k) = \Pr\{g_k(Y_k^n) \neq W_k | W_1 W_2 = w_1 w_2\}, \quad k = 1, 2.$$

The average probability of error for the code  $c$  (for user  $k$ ) is given by

$$P_e^{(n)}(c; k) = \frac{1}{M_1 M_2} \sum_{w_1 w_2} P_{e, w_1 w_2}^{(n)}(c; k) \quad k = 1, 2.$$

Note that the above equation assumes that all messages are equally likely and the users choose their messages independently.

**Definition 4 (Achievability).** The rate pair  $(R_1, R_2)$  is achievable, if for every  $\eta > 0, \lambda \in (0, 1)$ , there exists a sequence of  $(n, M_1, M_2)$  codes that satisfy

1.  $P_e^{(n)}(k) \leq \lambda$ , and
2.  $\frac{\log_2 M_k}{n} > R_k - \eta, k = 1, 2$

for all sufficiently large  $n$ .

**Definition 5 (Capacity region).** The capacity region is the set of all achievable rate pairs, denoted by  $\mathcal{C}_I$ .

**Remark 1.**

- $\mathcal{C}_I$  is closed and convex.
- $R \in \mathcal{C}_I, R$  dominates  $r \implies r \in \mathcal{C}_I$ .
- $\mathcal{C}_I$  depends on  $p_{Y_1 Y_2 | X_1 X_2}$  only through the marginals  $p_{Y_k | X_1 X_2}, k = 1, 2$ .

**Example 1. (Gaussian interference channel. Caution:  $\mathbb{X}_k = \mathbb{R}$ )**

$$\begin{bmatrix} Y_1 \\ Y_2 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & \sqrt{a_{12}} \\ \sqrt{a_{21}} & 1 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} X_1 \\ X_2 \end{bmatrix} + \begin{bmatrix} \xi_1 \\ \xi_2 \end{bmatrix}$$

where  $\xi_k \sim N(0, 1)$ ;  $X_1$  and  $X_2$  are power constrained

$$\frac{1}{n} \sum_{i=1}^n x_{ki}^2(w_k) \leq P_k, \quad \forall w_k \in [M_k].$$

- $\mathcal{C}_I$  for this channel is not fully known. But,

**Proposition 1.** For the Gaussian interference channel, if  $a_{12} \gg 1$  and  $a_{21} \gg 1$ , then  $\mathcal{C}_I = \mathcal{C}_{MAC(2,2,2)}$  is given by

$$\begin{aligned} \mathcal{C}_I = & \left\{ R \in \mathbb{R}_+^2 : R_k \leq \frac{1}{2} \log(1 + P_k), k = 1, 2, \right. \\ & \left. R_1 + R_2 \leq \min \left\{ \frac{1}{2} \log(1 + P_1 + a_{12}p_2), \frac{1}{2} \log(1 + P_2 + a_{21}P_1) \right\} \right\} \end{aligned}$$

**Remark 2.** •  $\mathcal{C}_I$  is not necessarily a polyhedron associated with a polymatroid.

- $a_{12} \geq 1 + P_1$  and  $a_{21} \geq 1 + P_2 \implies \mathcal{C}_I$  is a rectangle; as if there were no interference.

*Proof.* **Achievability:** Make both decoders decode both streams. Hence,  $\mathcal{C}_{MAC(2,2,2)} \subseteq \mathcal{C}_I$ .

**Converse:** If  $a_{ij} \geq 1, i \neq j$ , then the other user sees a stronger channel and should be able to decode the unwanted signal. Let  $R \in \mathcal{C}_I$ . For a fixed  $\lambda/2 \in (0, 1), \eta > 0$ , consider a sequence of  $(n, M_1, M_2)$  codes that satisfy  $P_e^n(k) \leq \lambda/2$  and the rate condition.

In vector notation, the received signals are

$$\begin{aligned} y_1^n &= x_1^n + \sqrt{a_{12}} x_2^n + \xi_1^n \\ y_2^n &= \sqrt{a_{21}} x_1^n + x_2^n + \xi_2^n. \end{aligned}$$

Also,  $f_k(g_k(y_k^n)) = x_k^n$  with probability  $\geq 1 - \lambda/2$ . Consider,

$$\widehat{y}_1^n = \frac{y_2^n - f_2(g_2(y_2^n))}{\sqrt{a_{21}}} + \sqrt{a_{12}} f_2(g_2(y_2^n)) + \sqrt{1 - \frac{1}{a_{21}}} \widehat{\xi}_1^n,$$

where  $\widehat{\xi}_1^n$  is independent Gaussian noise generated at the receiver. Similarly obtain  $\widehat{y}_2^n$ . Define  $G_1(y_1^n) := (g_1(y_1^n), g_2(\widehat{y}_2^n))$ . Similarly define  $G_2$ . Define:

$$\begin{bmatrix} \widetilde{Y}_1^n \\ \widetilde{Y}_2^n \end{bmatrix} := \begin{bmatrix} 1 & \sqrt{a_{12}} \\ \sqrt{a_{21}} & 1 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} x_1^n \\ x_2^n \end{bmatrix} + \begin{bmatrix} \widetilde{\xi}_1^n \\ \widetilde{\xi}_2^n \end{bmatrix},$$

where  $\widetilde{\xi}_1^n = \frac{\xi_2^n}{\sqrt{a_{21}}} + \sqrt{1 - \frac{1}{a_{21}}} \widehat{\xi}_1^n$  and  $\widetilde{\xi}_2^n = \frac{\xi_1^n}{\sqrt{a_{12}}} + \sqrt{1 - \frac{1}{a_{12}}} \widehat{\xi}_2^n$ .

Since,  $\begin{bmatrix} \widetilde{Y}_1^n \\ \widetilde{Y}_2^n \end{bmatrix}$  has the same marginal as  $\begin{bmatrix} Y_1^n \\ Y_2^n \end{bmatrix}$  given  $\begin{bmatrix} X_1^n \\ X_2^n \end{bmatrix}$ , we must have

$$\Pr\{g_1(\widetilde{Y}_1^n) \neq W_1 | W_1 W_2 = w_1 w_2\} = P_{e,w_1 w_2}^{(n)}(1) \text{ and } \Pr\{\widetilde{Y}_1^n \neq Y_1^n | W_1 W_2 = w_1 w_2\} = P_{e,w_1 w_2}^{(n)}(2).$$

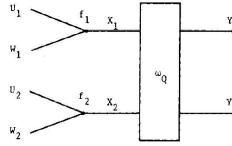
Therefore,

$$\begin{aligned} \Pr\{G_2(Y_2^n) \neq W_1 W_2 | W_1 W_2 = w_1 w_2\} &\leq \Pr\{\widetilde{Y}_1^n \neq Y_1^n | W_1 W_2 = w_1 w_2\} + \Pr\{g_1(\widetilde{Y}_1^n) \neq W_1 | W_1 W_2 = w_1 w_2\} \\ &\leq P_{e,w_1 w_2}^{(n)}(1) + P_{e,w_1 w_2}^{(n)}(2). \end{aligned}$$

Similarly  $\Pr\{G_2(Y_2^n) \neq W_1 W_2 | W_1 W_2 = w_1 w_2\} \leq P_{e,w_1 w_2}^{(n)}(1) + P_{e,w_1 w_2}^{(n)}(2)$ . Averaging over messages, we have a joint decoder whose  $P_{e,\text{joint}}^{(n)}(k) \leq \lambda/2 + \lambda/2 = \lambda$ . So  $R \in \mathcal{C}_{\text{MAC}(2,2,2)}$ .  $\square$

## 2 A Modified Interference Channel

**Motivation:** While in the above example,  $a_{12} \geq 1$ ,  $a_{21} \geq 1$  implies both decoders could decode both streams, this is not possible in general. Suppose each decoder decodes only a part of the other user's signal. Let us call this common. The undecoded signal is dedicated to the other user. The part that is decoded may enable a partial interference cancellation/mitigation. This motivates a splitting of the users data into a common and a dedicated portion.



**Figure 2:** Modified Interference Channel.

**Definition 6 (Code).** An  $(n, M_1, M_2, M_3, M_4)$  code for the channel  $(\mathbb{X}_1, \mathbb{X}_2, \mathbb{Y}_1, \mathbb{Y}_2, p_{Y_1 Y_2 | X_1 X_2}(y_1 y_2 | x_1 x_2))$  consists of the following:

1.  $[M_1] \times [M_2]$  is the index set of messages for user 1 and  $[M_3] \times [M_4]$  that for user 2.
2. An encoder for user 1,  $f_1 : [M_1] \times [M_2] \rightarrow \mathbb{X}_1^n$  and that for user 2 is  $f_2 : [M_3] \times [M_4] \rightarrow \mathbb{X}_2^n$ . The codebook can be represented by an ordered set  $c = \{f_1(\{1, 1\}), f_1(\{1, 2\}), \dots, f_1(\{1, M_2\}), \dots, f_1(\{M_1, M_2\}); f_2(\{1, 1\}), \dots, f_2(\{M_3, M_4\})\}$ .
3. A decoding rule,  $g_1 : \mathbb{Y}_1^n \rightarrow \phi \cup [M_1] \times [M_2] \times [M_4]$ , and  $g_2 : \mathbb{Y}_2^n \rightarrow \phi \cup [M_2] \times [M_3] \times [M_4]$ .

**Definition 7 (Probability of error).** Let  $(W_1, W_2)$  be the message transmitted by user 1 and  $(W_3, W_4)$  by user 2.  $P_{e,w_1 w_2 w_3 w_4}^{(n)}(\ell)$ , the conditional probability of error for output terminal  $\ell$  when  $(W_1 W_2 W_3 W_4) = (w_1 w_2 w_3 w_4)$  was transmitted is defined as before. and  $P_e^{(n)}(\ell)$ , the average probability of error for the code  $c$  (for output terminal  $\ell$ ) is also defined as before.

**Definition 8 (Achievability).** *The rate quadruple  $(R_1, R_2, R_3, R_4)$  is achievable, if for every  $\eta > 0$ ,  $\lambda \in (0, 1)$ , there exists a sequence of  $(n, M_1, M_2, M_3, M_4)$  codes that satisfy*

1.  $P_e^{(n)}(\ell) \leq \lambda$ , and
2.  $\frac{\log_2 M_\ell}{n} > R_\ell - \eta$ ,  $\ell \in [2]$ ,

*for all sufficiently large  $n$ .*