# How Simple Can It Be to Construct Good Codes 

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## Outline

(1) Existing Good Codes
(2) RSPC Codes over Groups
(3) BMST over the BPSK-AWGN channels

- Repetition Increases Reliability
- Superposition Increases Efficiency
(4) BMST-RSPC Codes over Groups
(5) Examples
(6) Conclusions


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3 BMST over the BPSK-AWGN channels
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## AWGN Channels

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- Input: $x_{t} \in \mathcal{A}$, where $\mathcal{A} \subset \mathbb{R}^{\ell}$ is a signal constellation of finite size.
- Output: $y_{t}=x_{t}+w_{t}$, where $w_{t}$ is an $\ell$-dimensional sample from a white Gaussian noise process with power spectrum density (PSD) $\sigma^{2}$.
- The signal-to-noise ratio (SNR) is defined as

$$
\mathrm{SNR}=\frac{\sum_{x \in \mathcal{A}}\|x\|^{2}}{\ell \sigma^{2}|\mathcal{A}|}
$$

- The maximum transmission rate (bits/dimension) when the signal points are used with equal probability is given by $I(X ; Y)$, which is naturally upper-bounded by $0.5 \log (1+\mathrm{SNR})$.
- Roughly speaking, by a good code, we mean a code that performs well within one dB from the corresponding Shannon limit.


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- Non-binary, BICM, ...


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- any given target error performance (of interest), say, $10^{-4}, 10^{-6}$, or $10^{-15}$.


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## Any Signal Constellation Can Be Treated As A Group

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(3) There is a unique element $\theta \in \mathcal{A}$ satisfying $\alpha+\theta=\alpha$ for all $\alpha \in \mathcal{A}$. We call $\theta$ the identity element of $\mathcal{A}$ and denote it by 0 for convenience.

- For each $\alpha \in \mathcal{A}$, there is a unique element $\beta \in \mathcal{A}$ such that $\alpha+\beta=0$. We call such a $\beta$ the negative element of $\alpha$ and denote it by $-\alpha$ for convenience.


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## Example

(1) Conventional PAM/QAM
set: $\mathcal{A}=\Lambda / \Lambda_{0}$, where $\Lambda \subset \mathbb{R}^{\ell}$ is a lattice with $\Lambda_{0}$ as a sub-lattice; add: $\alpha+\beta \bmod \Lambda_{0}$ for $\alpha, \beta \in \Lambda / \Lambda_{0}$.

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(2) Conventional $M$-ary phase-shift keying ( $M$-PSK)
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(3) General constellation:
set: indexed (in an arbitrary order) by $\{0,1, \cdots, q-1\}$;
add: $\alpha+\beta \bmod q$ for two signal points $\alpha, \beta$.

## RSPC Codes over Groups

## Repetition (R) Codes over Groups

Consider an R code $\mathscr{C}[N, 1]$ over the $\operatorname{group}(\mathcal{A},+)$.

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3 Complexity: No computational load is required for encoding; $O(|\mathcal{A l}|)$ per coded symbol for decoding.

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4 Performance:

- For BPSK signalling over the AWGN channels, $\mathcal{A}=\{-1,+1\}$, the symbol-error-rate (SER) (i.e., the bit-error-rate (BER)) of the R code is given by

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\begin{equation*}
p_{R}(\mathrm{SNR})=Q\left(\sqrt{\frac{N}{\sigma^{2}}}\right) \tag{1}
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- For high-order constellations, the SER can be upper-bounded using the techniques of random mapping as shown in [Zhuang13,Zhuang14].
[Zhuang13] Qiutao Zhuang, Jia Liu, and Xiao Ma, "Upper bounds on the ML decoding error probability of general codes over AWGN channels," [Online]. Available: http://arxiv.org/abs/1308. 3303.
[Zhuang14] Qiutao Zhuang, Xiao Ma, and Aleksander Kavčić, "Bounds on the ML decoding error probability of RS-Coded modulation over AWGN channels," [Online]. Available: http://arxiv.org/abs/1401.5305.


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Figure: Performance of the R codes with $N=2,3$ over the BPSK-AWGN channels.

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3 For any given code rate $R=\frac{P}{Q}$ ( $P$ and $Q$ are co-prime), we can find a (unique) small interval $\left(\frac{K_{L}}{N_{L}}, \frac{K_{U}}{N_{U}}\right)$ such that $\frac{K_{L}}{N_{L}}<\frac{P}{Q} \leq \frac{K_{U}}{N_{U}}$.

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4 By time-sharing, i.e., using the code $\mathscr{C}\left[N_{L}, K_{L}\right] \alpha$ times and the $\mathscr{C}\left[N_{U}, K_{U}\right]$ $\beta$ times, we can construct a code with rate $R=\frac{P}{Q}$.


## RSPC Codes over Groups

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5 The time-sharing parameters $\alpha$ and $\beta$ can be determined by

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\frac{P}{Q}=\frac{\alpha K_{L}+\beta K_{U}}{\alpha N_{L}+\beta N_{U}} \tag{3}
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6 These codes are referred to as the RSPC codes. An RSPC code with rate $R=\frac{P}{Q}$ is denoted as $\mathscr{C}[Q, P]$ for convenience.

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7 Encoding:

- The left-most $\alpha K_{L}$ symbols $\mapsto \alpha$ codewords of $\mathscr{C}\left[N_{L}, K_{L}\right]$;
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9 Complexity: $O(1)$ per coded symbol for encoding; $O\left(|\mathcal{A}|^{2}\right)$ per coded symbol for decoding.

## RSPC Codes over Groups

## Time-Sharing



10 Performance: The performance of the RSPC code with $R=\frac{P}{Q}$ is given by

$$
\begin{equation*}
p_{R S P C}(\mathrm{SNR})=\frac{\alpha K_{L}}{\alpha K_{L}+\beta K_{U}} \cdot p_{L}(\mathrm{SNR})+\frac{\beta K_{U}}{\alpha K_{L}+\beta K_{U}} \cdot p_{U}(\mathrm{SNR}), \tag{4}
\end{equation*}
$$

where $p_{L}(\mathrm{SNR})$ and $p_{U}(\mathrm{SNR})$ are the performance functions for the code $\mathscr{C}\left[N_{L}, K_{L}\right]$ and the code $\mathscr{C}\left[N_{U}, K_{U}\right]$, respectively.

## RSPC Codes over Groups

## Example

Table: Examples of RSPC codes over groups

| Groups | $R=\frac{P}{Q}$ | $\left(\frac{K_{L}}{N_{L}}, \frac{K_{U}}{N_{U}}\right)$ | $\alpha$ | $\beta$ | Constructed codes |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| BPSK | $\frac{3}{8}$ | $\left(\frac{1}{3}, \frac{1}{2}\right)$ | 2 | 1 | $\mathscr{C}[3,1]^{2} \times \mathscr{C}[2,1]$ |
| BPSK | $\frac{5}{8}$ | $\left(\frac{1}{2}, \frac{2}{3}\right)$ | 1 | 2 | $\mathscr{C}[2,1] \times \mathscr{C}[3,2]^{2}$ |
| 8-PSK | $\frac{2}{5}$ | $\left(\frac{1}{3}, \frac{1}{2}\right)$ | 1 | 1 | $\mathscr{C}[3,1] \times \mathscr{C}[2,1]$ |
| 8-PSK | $\frac{3}{5}$ | $\left(\frac{1}{2}, \frac{2}{3}\right)$ | 1 | 1 | $\mathscr{C}[2,1] \times \mathscr{C}[3,2]$ |
| 16-QAM | $\frac{239}{255}$ | $\left(\frac{14}{15}, \frac{15}{16}\right)$ | 1 | 15 | $\mathscr{C}[15,14] \times \mathscr{C}[16,15]^{15}$ |

## RSPC Codes over BPSK



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## RSPC Codes over 8-PSK



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## RSPC Codes over Groups

## Summary

In summary, we are able to construct codes with

- any given rational code rate;
- analytic performance bounds;
- over any alphabet;
- but (usually) poor performance in terms of gap to the capacity.


## Outline

(1) Existing Good Codes
(2) RSPC Codes over Groups
(3) BMST over the BPSK-AWGN channels

- Repetition Increases Reliability
- Superposition Increases Efficiency
(4) BMST-RSPC Codes over Groups
(5) Examples

6 Conclusions

## Repetition Increases Reliability




## The codeword is transmitted once.

We assume a basic code $\mathscr{C}[n, k]$, whose performance curve in terms of BER versus SNR is available. In this talk, we assume that $\mathscr{C}=[N, K]^{B}$, the $B$-fold Cartesian product of a short block code [ $N, K$ ], consisting of all vectors of the form ( $\boldsymbol{v}_{0}, \boldsymbol{v}_{1}, \cdots, \boldsymbol{v}_{B-1}$ ), where each $\boldsymbol{v}_{i}$ is a codeword in the $[N, K]$ code for $0 \leq i \leq B-1$.

## Repetition Increases Reliability




## The same codeword is transmitted twice.

The performance curve shifts to the left by 3 dB .

## Repetition Increases Reliability




The same codeword is transmitted $m+1$ times.
The performance curve shifts to the left by $10 \log _{10}(m+1) \mathrm{dB}$.
Repetition increases reliability but decreases efficiency (code rate).

## Superposition Increases Efficiency




## The first transmission

- Initially, the transmitter sends a codeword from the code $\mathscr{C}$ that corresponds to the first data block.


## Superposition Increases Efficiency




## The second transmission

- Since the short code is weak, the receiver is unable to recover reliably the data from the current received block. Hence the transmitter transmits the codeword (possibly in its interleaved version) one more time.


## Superposition Increases Efficiency




## The second transmission

- Since the short code is weak, the receiver is unable to recover reliably the data from the current received block. Hence the transmitter transmits the codeword (possibly in its interleaved version) one more time.
- In the meanwhile, a fresh codeword from $\mathscr{C}$ that corresponds to the second data block is superimposed on the second block transmission.


## Superposition Increases Efficiency




## The third transmission for encoding memory $m=1$

- In the third transmission, the current codeword $\boldsymbol{v}^{(2)}$ is superimposed to ("mixed into") the previous codeword $\boldsymbol{v}^{(1)}$ and then transmitted.
- This system can be iteratively decoded by passing extrinsic messages between adjacent layers. The performance is intuitively lower bounded by the repetition system.


## Superposition Increases Efficiency




## Transmission with memory $m$

- Generally, for a BMST system with memory $m$, the $t$-th transmission is a superposition of the current codeword and the $m$ consecutive past codewords, all in their randomly-interleaved version.
- The code rate remains almost the same, except that termination is needed, while the minimum distance increases very likely by $m$ times for large $B \gg m$. Hence the error floor can be predicted by shifting the performance curve to the left by $10 \log _{10}(m+1) \mathrm{dB}$.


## Summary

## The BMST system

- The encoding diagram of a BMST system with memory $m$.

- The normal graph for a BMST system with $L=4$ and $m=2$.



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## Summary

## The BMST system

- The encoding diagram of a BMST system with memory $m$.

- The normal graph for a BMST system with $L=4$ and $m=2$.

- The lower bound can be obtained by shifting the performance curve of the basic code to the left by $10 \log _{10}(m+1) \mathrm{dB}$.
- Any code with fast encoding algorithm and SISO decoding algorithm can be embedded in the BMST system.


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## A General Procedure of Designing BMST-RSPC Codes

 over GroupsWith the genie-aided lower bound, to construct a BMST-RSPC code of a given code rate $R=\frac{P}{Q}$ over a group $(\mathcal{A},+)$ with a target SER $p_{\text {target }}$, we can perform the following steps.

1 Construct an RSPC code $\mathscr{C}[Q, P]$ over the group $(\mathcal{A},+)$, whose performance (or upper-bound) function $\mathrm{SER}=p_{R S P C}(\mathrm{SNR})$ is available.

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2 Take the $B$-fold Cartesian product of the RSPC code $\mathscr{C}[Q, P]^{B}$ as the basic code. In order to approach the channel capacity, we set the code length $n=Q B$ large enough in our simulations;
3 Replace the encoder ENC in the original BMST system by the RSPC encoder and $\square$ by the addition over the associated group.

## A General Procedure of Designing BMST-RSPC Codes

 over Groups4 Find the required SNR to achieve the target SER. That is, find $\gamma_{\text {target }}$ such that $p_{R S P C}\left(\gamma_{\text {target }}\right) \leq p_{\text {target }}$.

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6 Determine the encoding memory by $10 \log _{10}(m+1) \geq \gamma_{\text {target }}-\gamma_{\text {lim }}$. That is,

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\begin{equation*}
m=\left\lfloor 10^{\frac{\gamma_{\text {target }}-\gamma_{\mathrm{lim}}}{10}}-1\right\rceil, \tag{5}
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where $\lfloor x\rceil$ stands for the integer that is closest to $x$.

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7 Generate $m+1$ interleavers randomly.

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## Construction Examples - BMST-RSPC codes over BPSK

Table: The encoding memories required to approach the corresponding Shannon limits using BMST-RSPC codes at given target BERs

| $R=P / Q$ | Basic codes | $p_{\text {target }}$ | $\gamma_{\text {target }}(\mathrm{dB})$ | $\gamma_{\text {lim }}(\mathrm{dB})$ | $\gamma_{\text {target }}-\gamma_{\text {lim }}(\mathrm{dB})$ | $m$ |
| :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- |
| $1 / 8$ | $\mathrm{R}[8,1]^{1250}$ | $10^{-3}$ | 0.77 | -7.23 | 8.00 | 6 |
| $1 / 8$ | $\mathrm{R}[8,1]^{1250}$ | $10^{-6}$ | 4.51 | -7.23 | 11.74 | 14 |
| $1 / 4$ | $\mathrm{R}[4,1]^{2500}$ | $10^{-3}$ | 3.78 | -3.80 | 7.58 | 5 |
| $1 / 4$ | $\mathrm{R}[4,1]^{2500}$ | $10^{-6}$ | 7.52 | -3.80 | 11.32 | 13 |
| $3 / 8$ | $\mathrm{RSPC}[8,3]^{1250}$ | $10^{-3}$ | 6.0 | -1.6 | 7.6 | 5 |
| $3 / 8$ | $\mathrm{RSPC}[8,3]^{1250}$ | $10^{-6}$ | 10.1 | -1.6 | 11.7 | 14 |
| $1 / 2$ | $\mathrm{R}[2,1]^{5000}$ | $10^{-3}$ | 6.79 | 0.19 | 6.60 | 4 |
| $1 / 2$ | $\mathrm{R}[2,1]^{5000}$ | $10^{-6}$ | 10.53 | 0.19 | 10.34 | 10 |
| $1 / 2$ | $\mathrm{R}[2,1]^{5000}$ | $10^{-15}$ | 14.99 | 0.19 | 14.80 | 30 |
| $5 / 8$ | $\mathrm{RSPC}[8,5]^{1250}$ | $10^{-3}$ | 7.2 | 1.8 | 5.4 | 2 |
| $5 / 8$ | $\mathrm{RSPC}[8,5]^{1250}$ | $10^{-6}$ | 10.7 | 1.8 | 8.9 | 7 |
| $3 / 4$ | $\mathrm{SPC}[4,3]^{2500}$ | $10^{-3}$ | 7.62 | 3.39 | 4.23 | 2 |
| $3 / 4$ | $\mathrm{SPC}[4,3]^{2500}$ | $10^{-6}$ | 10.91 | 3.39 | 7.52 | 5 |
| $7 / 8$ | $\mathrm{SPC}[8,7]^{1250}$ | $10^{-3}$ | 8.18 | 5.27 | 2.91 | 1 |
| $7 / 8$ | $\mathrm{SPC}[8,7]^{1250}$ | $10^{-6}$ | 11.20 | 5.27 | 5.93 | 3 |

## A Construction Example - BMST-RSPC over BPSK with

 rate-1/2

Figure: Performance of the BMST systems with the R code $[2,1]^{5000}$ as the basic code. The target BERs are $10^{-3}$ and $10^{-6}$. The systems encode $L=100000$ sub-blocks of data and decode with the SWD algorithm of a maximum iteration $I_{\max }=18$.

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## Construction Examples - BMST-RSPC codes over BPSK



Figure: Performance of the BMST systems with the R code $[8,1]^{1250}$ as the basic code. The target BERs are $10^{-3}$ and $10^{-6}$. The systems encode $L=100000$ sub-blocks of data and decode with the SWD algorithm of a maximum iteration $I_{\text {max }}=18$.

## Construction Examples - BMST-RSPC codes over BPSK



Figure: Performance of the BMST systems with the R code $[4,1]^{2500}$ as the basic code. The target BERs are $10^{-3}$ and $10^{-6}$. The systems encode $L=100000$ sub-blocks of data and decode with the SWD algorithm of a maximum iteration $I_{\text {max }}=18$.

## Construction Examples - BMST-RSPC codes over BPSK



Figure: Performance of the BMST systems with the RSPC $[8,3]^{1250}$ as the basic code. The target BERs are $10^{-3}$ and $10^{-6}$. The systems encode $L=100000$ sub-blocks of data and decode with the SWD algorithm of a maximum iteration $I_{\text {max }}=18$.

## Construction Examples - BMST-RSPC codes over BPSK



Figure: Performance of the BMST systems with the RSPC $[8,5]^{1250}$ as the basic code. The target BERs are $10^{-3}$ and $10^{-6}$. The systems encode $L=100000$ sub-blocks of data and decode with the SWD algorithm of a maximum iteration $I_{\text {max }}=18$.

## Construction Examples - BMST-RSPC codes over BPSK



Figure: Performance of the BMST systems with the SPC $[4,3]^{2500}$ as the basic code. The target BERs are $10^{-3}$ and $10^{-6}$. The systems encode $L=100000$ sub-blocks of data and decode with the SWD algorithm of a maximum iteration $I_{\text {max }}=18$.

## Construction Examples - BMST-RSPC codes over BPSK



Figure: Performance of the BMST systems with the SPC $[8,7]^{1250}$ as the basic code. The target BERs are $10^{-3}$ and $10^{-6}$. The systems encode $L=100000$ sub-blocks of data and decode with the SWD algorithm of a maximum iteration $I_{\text {max }}=18$.

## Construction Examples - BMST-RSPC codes over BPSK



Figure: The required SNRs $\left(1 / \sigma^{2}\right)$ for the BMST-RPSC codes to achieve the BER of $10^{-6}$ over the BPSK-AWGN channels.

## Construction Examples - BMST-RSPC codes over BPSK



Figure: Performance of the BMST system with the R code $[2,1]^{5000}$ as the basic code. The target BER is $10^{-15}$. The system encodes $L=100000$ sub-blocks of data with the encoding memory $m=30$ and decodes with a decoding delay $d=60$ and a maximum iteration $I_{\max }=18$. At the SNR of $0.5 \mathrm{~dB}, p_{\mathrm{I}}=7.2 \times 10^{-6}$. Hence, according to the genie-aided bound, $p_{\text {II }}=4.2 \times 10^{-17}$.

## Construction Examples - BMST-RSPC codes over 8-PSK

## Example

Table: The encoding memories required to approach the corresponding Shannon limits using BMST-RSPC codes with rates $\frac{1}{5}, \frac{2}{5}, \frac{3}{5}, \frac{4}{5}$ at the target SER $p_{\text {target }}=10^{-4}$ over the 8-PSK-AWGN channels

| Rates $R$ | $p_{\text {target }}$ | $\gamma_{\text {target }}(\mathrm{dB})$ | $\gamma_{\text {lim }}(\mathrm{dB})$ | Gap $\gamma_{\text {target }}-\gamma_{\text {lim }}(\mathrm{dB})$ | Memory $m$ |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| $1 / 5$ | $10^{-4}$ | 10.1 | -2.8 | 12.9 | 18 |
| $2 / 5$ | $10^{-4}$ | 13.7 | 1.3 | 12.4 | 16 |
| $3 / 5$ | $10^{-4}$ | 14.3 | 4.7 | 9.6 | 8 |
| $4 / 5$ | $10^{-4}$ | 14.8 | 8.1 | 6.7 | 4 |

## Construction Examples - BMST-RSPC codes over 8-PSK



Figure: Performance of the BMST-RSPC codes using the RSPC code [5, 2] ${ }^{150}$ to achieve the target SER $p_{\text {target }}=10^{-4}$ over the 8-PSK-AWGN channels, where the encoder terminates every $L=1000$ sub-blocks and the maximum iteration number $I_{\max }=18$.

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Figure: Performance of the BMST-RSPC codes using the RSPC codes $[5, K]^{150}(K=1,2,3,4)$ to achieve the target SER $p_{\text {target }}=10^{-4}$ over the 8-PSK-AWGN channels, where the encoder terminates every $L=1000$ sub-blocks and the maximum iteration number $I_{\max }=18$.

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## Construction Examples - BMST-RSPC codes over 16-QAM

Table: The encoding memory required to approach the Shannon limit using BMST-RSPC codes with rates $R=\frac{239}{255}$ at the target SER $p_{\text {target }}=10^{-3}$ over 16-QAM-AWGN channels

| Rates $R$ | $p_{\text {target }}$ | $\gamma_{\text {target }}(\mathrm{dB})$ | $\gamma_{\text {lim }}(\mathrm{dB})$ | Gap $\gamma_{\text {target }}-\gamma_{\text {lim }}(\mathrm{dB})$ | Memory $m$ |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| $239 / 255$ | $10^{-3}$ | 16.0 | 12.7 | 3.3 | 1 |

## Construction Examples - BMST-RSPC codes over 16-QAM



Figure: Performance of the BMST system using the RSPC code [255, 239] ${ }^{4}$ to achieve the target SER $p_{\text {target }}=10^{-3}$ over the 16-QAM-AWGN channels, where the encoder terminates every $L=1000$ sub-blocks and the maximum iteration number $I_{\max }=18$.

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## Conclusions

## Conclusions

- We have presented a simple (also deterministic) procedure to construct codes
- for any rational code rate;
- over any alphabet;
- performing well at any given target error rate;
- having linear complexity with the code length.
- Generalization to other ergodic channels is possible.


## Related Works

Xiao Ma, Chulong Liang, Kechao Huang, and Qiutao Zhuang, "Obtaining extra coding gain for short codes by block Markov superposition transmission," in Proceeding IEEE International Symposium on Information Theory, Istanbul, Turkey, July 2013, pp. 2054-2058.

Xiao Ma, Chulong Liang, Kechao Huang, and Qiutao Zhuang, "Block Markov Superposition Transmission Construction of Big Convolutional Codes from Short Codes," IEEE Trans. Inf. Theory, under 2nd round review, July 2014.

Chulong Liang, Xiao Ma, Qiutao Zhuang, and Baoming Bai, "Spatial coupling of generator matrices: A general approach to design good codes at a target BER," IEEE Transactions on Communications, October 2014, [Online]. Available:
http://ieeexplore.ieee.org/xpl/articleDetails.jsp?arnumber=6940240.
Chulong Liang, Xiao Ma, Qiutao Zhuang, and Baoming Bai, "A general procedure to design good codes at a target BER," in Proceeding the 8th International Symposium on Turbo Codes \& Iterative Information Processing, Bremen, Germany, August 2014.

Qiutao Zhuang, Xiao Ma, and Aleksander Kav̌̌ić, "Bounds on the ML decoding error probability of RS-Coded modulation over AWGN channels," [Online]. Available: http://arxiv.org/abs/1401.5305.

Qiutao Zhuang, Jia Liu, and Xiao Ma, "Upper bounds on the ML decoding error probability of general codes over AWGN channels," [Online]. Available: http://arxiv.org/abs/1308.3303.

Jingnan Hu, Chulong Liang, Xiao Ma, and Baoming Bai, "A new class of multiple-rate codes based on block Markov superposition transmission," in Proceeding International Workshop on High_Mobili垫y

## Related Works

Chulong Liang, Jingnan Hu, Xiao Ma, and Baoming Bai, "A new class of multiple-rate codes based on block Markov superposition transmission," submitted to IEEE Transactions on Signal Processing, under 2nd round review, October 2014, [Online]. Available: http://arxiv.org/abs/1308.4809.

Xiying Liu, Chulong Liang, and Xiao Ma, "Block Markov superposition transmission of convolutional codes with MSK signaling," IET Communications, accepted, August 2014.


Zhihua Yang, Chulong Liang, Xiaopei Xu , and Xiao Ma, "Block Markov superposition transmission with spatial modulation," IEEE Wireless Communications Letters, accepted, August 2014.

Chulong Liang, Kechao Huang, Xiao Ma, and Baoming Bai, "Block Markov superposition transmission with bit-interleaved coded modulation," IEEE Communications Letters, vol. 18, no. 3, pp. 397-400, March 2014.

## Thank You for Your Attention!

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