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# A Coding Theorem for the Discrete Memoryless Broadcast Channel

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**Abstract**—A coding theorem for the discrete memoryless broadcast channel is proved for the case where no common message is to be transmitted. The theorem is a generalization of the results of Cover and van der Meulen on this problem. The result is tight for broadcast channels having one deterministic component

## I. INTRODUCTION

A DISCRETE memoryless broadcast channel (DMBC) as defined by Cover [1] is determined by a pair of discrete memoryless channels with common input alphabet  $\mathcal{X}$ . We denote by  $F$  and  $G$  the transition proba-

bility matrices of these channels:

$$F = \{F(x|y) : y \in \mathcal{Y}, x \in \mathcal{X}\}, \quad G = \{G(z|y) : y \in \mathcal{Y}, z \in \mathcal{Z}\}.$$

Here  $\mathcal{X}$  and  $\mathcal{Z}$  are the output alphabets, with cardinalities  $|\mathcal{Y}|, |\mathcal{X}|, |\mathcal{Z}| < \infty$ . The DMBC corresponding to the matrices  $F, G$  will be denoted by  $(F, G)$ .

We assume that the conditional probabilities of receiving the sequences  $x^n \in \mathcal{X}^n$  and  $z^n \in \mathcal{Z}^n$  at the outputs of the channels  $F$  and  $G$ , respectively, are given by

$$F^n(x^n|y^n) = \prod_{i=1}^n F(x_i|y_i), \quad G^n(z^n|y^n) = \prod_{i=1}^n G(z_i|y_i)$$

where  $y^n = y_1 y_2 \cdots y_n$ .

In connection with the DMBC  $(F, G)$ , we consider the following coding problem. A sender has to transmit two independent messages over the channels  $F$  and  $G$ : one message for receiver I observing the output of the channel

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$F$ , and another for receiver II observing the output of the channel  $G$ . The messages take their values in the sets  $\{1, 2, \dots, J\}$  and  $\{1, 2, \dots, K\}$ . The sender uses a block code of block length  $n$ . Given that the first message has value  $j$  and the second message has value  $k$ , the sender transmits a sequence  $y_{jk}^n \in \mathcal{Y}^n$ . The question is at which rate pairs  $(n^{-1} \log J, n^{-1} \log K)$  can this be done so that both receivers can with high probability decode their respective messages correctly. The asymptotic values of these rate pairs constitute the capacity region of the broadcast channel.

No computable formulas are known for the capacity region of the DMBC, except for three special cases: 1) if one of the component channels is "more capable" in the sense of [2] than the other one; 2) if the DMBC  $(F, G)$  is the product of the DMBC's  $(F_1, G_1)$  and  $(F_2, G_2)$  (i.e.,  $\mathcal{Y} = \mathcal{Y}_1 \times \mathcal{Y}_2$ ,  $\mathcal{X} = \mathcal{X}_1 \times \mathcal{X}_2$ ,  $\mathcal{Z} = \mathcal{Z}_1 \times \mathcal{Z}_2$ ,  $F(x_1, x_2|y_1, y_2) = F_1(x_1|y_1)F_2(x_2|y_2)$ ,  $G(z_1, z_2|y_1, y_2) = G_1(z_1|y_1)G_2(z_2|y_2)$ , for  $(y_1, y_2) \in \mathcal{Y}$ ,  $(x_1, x_2) \in \mathcal{X}$ ,  $(z_1, z_2) \in \mathcal{Z}$ ),  $G_1$  is a degraded version of  $F_1$ , and  $F_2$  is a degraded version of  $G_2$ ); and 3) if the DMBC is deterministic, i.e.,  $F$  and  $G$  are  $(0, 1)$ -matrices. Case 1) has been solved recently in [3], generalizing earlier results of [13], [4], [5], and [2]. (See also [6] for a related problem.) Case 2) is settled in [15].

Although case 3) now seems almost trivial, it had been an open problem for a long time. (The Blackwell channel is a deterministic DMBC.) It was settled independently by Pinsker [7] and the author [9]. (See also [8] for a particular case; [9] contains only a heuristic proof.)

In the general case only an inner bound to the capacity region is known. This can be obtained from the results of van der Meulen [10] and Cover [11] (see [12]). The aim of the present paper is to prove a better inner bound (Theorem 2) to the capacity region of the DMBC. This bound is proved by a random coding method which is a combination of the coding techniques of Bergmans [13] and Cover and van der Meulen [10], [11], with the random coding technique used to prove source coding theorems in rate distortion theory.

Theorem 3 is an easy consequence of Theorem 2 and describes the capacity region of the deterministic DMBC. It is generalized by Theorem 4 to DMBC's with one deterministic component. Theorem 4 has also been proved independently by Gelfand and Pinsker [17]. The converse part of Theorem 4 is a special case of an outer bound for the general DMBC (Theorem 5), due to Körner and the author [16].

Theorems 3 and 4 show that Theorem 2 is more than a formal generalization of Theorem 1. As a matter of fact, we shall show in Appendix II that Theorem 1 is not tight for the Blackwell channel.

## II. DEFINITIONS AND RESULTS

*Definition:* For  $n = 1, 2, \dots$  a set of codewords of length  $n$

$$\{y_{jk}^n : 1 \leq j \leq J, 1 \leq k \leq K\} \subseteq \mathcal{Y}^n$$

is an  $(n, \epsilon)$ -code ( $\epsilon > 0$ ) for the DMBC  $(F, G)$  if there exist two disjoint families of decoding sets

$$\{\mathcal{Q}_j : 1 \leq j \leq J\}, \quad \{\mathcal{B}_k : 1 \leq k \leq K\}$$

( $\mathcal{Q}_j \subseteq \mathcal{X}^n$ ,  $\mathcal{B}_k \subseteq \mathcal{Z}^n$ ,  $\mathcal{Q}_j \cap \mathcal{Q}_{j'} = \mathcal{B}_k \cap \mathcal{B}_{k'} = \emptyset$ , for all  $j \neq j'$ ,  $k \neq k'$ ) such that

$$\frac{1}{JK} \sum_{j,k} [2 - F^n(\mathcal{Q}_j|y_{jk}) - G^n(\mathcal{B}_k|y_{jk})] < \epsilon. \quad (1)$$

The pair of numbers  $(n^{-1} \log J, n^{-1} \log K)$  is the *rate pair* of the code. A pair of numbers is called *achievable* if, for any fixed  $\epsilon > 0$ , it can be approximated by rate pairs of  $(n, \epsilon)$ -codes. The capacity region of the channel is the set of all achievable pairs.

We shall use the following notation. All random variables (r.v.'s) in the paper are supposed to have finite ranges. The symbols  $W$ ,  $U$ , and  $V$  will always denote r.v.'s and  $Y$ ,  $X$ , and  $Z$  will denote r.v.'s with ranges  $\mathcal{Y}$ ,  $\mathcal{X}$ , and  $\mathcal{Z}$ , respectively. We write  $(Y, X, Z) \in \mathcal{P}(F, G)$  if the conditional distributions of  $X$  and  $Z$  given  $Y$  are defined by the matrices  $F$  and  $G$ , respectively.  $(U, Y, X, Z) \in \mathcal{P}(F, G)$  will mean that 1)  $(Y, X, Z) \in \mathcal{P}(F, G)$ , and 2) both triples  $(U, Y, X)$  and  $(U, Y, Z)$  are Markov chains.

We recall the following inner bound for the capacity region of the DMBC.

*Theorem 1* (Cover-van der Meulen-Hajek-Pursley): Let  $\hat{\mathcal{R}}$  denote the convex closure of the set

$$\{(R_x, R_z) : R_x, R_z \geq 0, R_x \leq I(WU \wedge X), R_z \leq I(WV \wedge Z), R_x + R_z \leq \min \{I(W \wedge X), I(W \wedge Z)\} + I(U \wedge X|W) + I(V \wedge Z|W) \text{ for some } ((U, V, W), Y, X, Z) \in \mathcal{P}(F, G) \text{ such that } U, V, \text{ and } W \text{ are independent}\}.$$

Then any rate pair  $(R_x, R_z) \in \hat{\mathcal{R}}$  is achievable for the DMBC  $(F, G)$ .

Our goal is to prove the following generalization of this theorem.

*Theorem 2:* Let

$$\begin{aligned} \mathcal{R} = \{ & (R_x, R_z) : R_x, R_z \geq 0, R_x \leq I(WU \wedge X), \\ & R_z \leq I(WV \wedge Z), R_x + R_z \\ & \leq \min \{I(W \wedge X), I(W \wedge Z)\} + I(U \wedge X|W) \\ & + I(V \wedge Z|W) - I(U \wedge V|W) \\ & \text{for some } ((U, V, W), Y, X, Z) \in \mathcal{P}(F, G)\}. \end{aligned}$$

Then any rate pair  $(R_x, R_z) \in \mathcal{R}$  is achievable for the DMBC  $(F, G)$ .

*Remarks:* 1) It is easy to see that  $\mathcal{R}$  is convex. 2) In the definition of  $\mathcal{R}$ , no condition on the independence of the r.v.'s  $W$ ,  $U$ ,  $V$  is imposed. The set  $\hat{\mathcal{R}}$  consists of those rate pairs in  $\mathcal{R}$  that correspond to independent r.v.'s  $U$ ,  $V$ ,  $W$ . 3) Consider for a moment the subset  $\mathcal{R}_0 \subseteq \mathcal{R}$  consisting of

rate pairs corresponding to  $W = \text{const.}$ :

$$\begin{aligned} \mathfrak{R}_0 = \{ & (R_x, R_z): R_x, R_z \geq 0, \\ & R_x \leq I(U \wedge X), R_z \leq I(V \wedge Z), \\ & R_x + R_z \leq I(U \wedge X) + I(V \wedge Z) - I(U \wedge V) \\ & \text{for some } ((U, V), Y, X, Z) \in \mathfrak{P}(F, G) \}. \end{aligned}$$

We believe that the novelty of Theorem 2 is essentially in establishing that any rate pair in  $\mathfrak{R}_0$  is achievable. Let us give a heuristic reason why the rate pairs in  $\mathfrak{R}_0$  should be achievable. Let  $(U^n, Y^n, Z^n)$  denote the length  $n$  output of the discrete memoryless correlated source with generic variable  $(U, Y, Z)$ . It can be shown by the method used in [14] that, for some sequence of positive numbers  $\{\delta_n\}$  with  $\delta_n \rightarrow 0$ ,

$$\begin{aligned} \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} n^{-1} \max \{ & I(V^* \wedge Z^n): V^* \text{ is an r.v. such} \\ & \text{that } n^{-1}I(V^* \wedge U^n) < \delta_n \text{ and } (V^*, Y^n, Z^n) \text{ is a} \\ & \text{Markov chain} \} = \max \{ I(V \wedge Z) - I(U \wedge V): \\ & (V, Y, Z) \text{ is a Markov chain} \}. \end{aligned}$$

It is easy to see from this that, for  $(U, Y, X, Z) \in \mathfrak{P}(F, G)$  and large enough  $n$ , we can construct an r.v.  $V_n^*$  such that  $((U^n, V_n^*), Y^n, X^n, Z^n) \in \mathfrak{P}(F^n, G^n)$ ,

$$\begin{aligned} \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} n^{-1}I(V_n^* \wedge Z^n) = \max \{ & I(V \wedge Z) - I(U \wedge V): \\ & ((U, V), Y, X, Z) \in \mathfrak{P}(F, G) \} \end{aligned}$$

and

$$\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} n^{-1}I(V_n^* \wedge U^n) = 0 \quad (2)$$

i.e.,  $V_n^*$  is asymptotically independent of  $U^n$ . We also have  $n^{-1}I(U^n \wedge X^n) = I(U \wedge X)$  for all  $n$ . Therefore, if we had  $I(V_n^* \wedge U^n) = 0$  for all  $n$ , instead of (2), the achievability of the pair  $R_x = I(U \wedge X)$ ,  $R_z = \max_V [I(V \wedge Z) - I(U \wedge V)]$  (and hence of  $\mathfrak{R}_0$ ) would follow from the Cover-van der Meulen theorem.

**Theorem 3 (Pinsker-Marton):** If  $(F, G)$  is a deterministic broadcast channel, i.e., if  $F$  and  $G$  are  $(0, 1)$  matrices, then the capacity region of  $(F, G)$  is

$$\begin{aligned} \mathfrak{R} = \{ & (R_x, R_z): R_x, R_z \geq 0, R_x \leq H(X), R_z \leq H(Z), \\ & R_x + R_z \leq H(XZ) \text{ for some } (Y, X, Z) \in \\ & \mathfrak{P}(F, G) \}. \end{aligned}$$

The direct part of this theorem follows from Theorem 2 by defining  $W = \text{const}$ ,  $U = X$ ,  $V = Z$ . The converse is trivial. Pinsker extended this theorem to the case of multi-component broadcast channels, all components of which are deterministic.

**Theorem 4 (Gelfand-Pinsker-Marton):** If  $(F, G)$  is a DMBC for which  $F$  is a  $(0, 1)$  matrix then the capacity region of  $(F, G)$  is

$$\begin{aligned} \mathfrak{R} = \{ & (R_x, R_z): 0 \leq R_x \leq H(X), 0 \leq R_z \leq I(V \wedge Z), \\ & R_x + R_z \leq H(X|V) + I(V \wedge Z) \text{ for some} \\ & (V, Y, X, Z) \in \mathfrak{P}(F, G) \}. \end{aligned}$$

Moreover, this region remains unchanged if  $V$  is allowed to take at most  $\|\mathfrak{Y}\| + 2$  values.

The direct part of Theorem 4 follows from Theorem 2 with  $W = \text{const}$ ,  $U = X$ . The converse is a special case of

the following outer bound for the capacity region of a DMBC [16].

**Theorem 5 (Körner-Marton):** The capacity region  $\mathfrak{R}$  of the DMBC  $(F, G)$  satisfies

$$\begin{aligned} \mathfrak{R} \subseteq \{ & (R_x, R_z): 0 \leq R_x \leq I(Y \wedge X), 0 \leq R_z \leq I(V \wedge \\ & Z), R_x + R_z \leq I(Y \wedge X|V) + I(V \wedge Z) \text{ for } \\ & \text{some } (V, Y, X, Z) \in \mathfrak{P}(F, G) \}. \end{aligned} \quad (3)$$

Moreover  $V$  can be assumed to take at most  $\|\mathfrak{Y}\| + 2$  values.

**Remarks:** 1) A similar outer bound can be obtained for the rate region of codes all codewords of which have the same composition, say  $Q$ . Combining the bound for fixed  $Q$  with that obtained by reversing the roles of  $F$  and  $G$ , and then letting  $Q$  vary over the distributions on  $\mathfrak{Y}$ , the bound (3) can be improved. 2) Theorem 5 can be proved either by the method of "images of a set via two channels" used in [6], or by using only a single-letter technique for information quantities as in [18]. (Such a technique is also implicitly contained in the first method.) Here we give a proof of the second type, since it is simpler. However, the method used in [6] would give a stronger result: namely, that (1) holds also with  $\mathfrak{R}(\epsilon)$  (the region of the so-called  $\epsilon$ -achievable rates) instead of  $\mathfrak{R}$ . This means that Theorem 4 holds with a strong converse.

Theorem 5 is proved in Appendix I.

In the proof of Theorem 2 we use the following notation:

$P_X$  distribution of the r.v.  $X$ ;  
 $P_{U|W}$  conditional distribution of the r.v.  $U$  given the r.v.  $W$ ;  
 $P_X^n$  and  $P_{U|W}^n$  denote the  $n$ th memoryless extensions of these distributions;

for a finite set  $\mathfrak{W}$ ,  $a \in \mathfrak{W}$ ,  $n = 1, 2, \dots$  and  $w^n = w_1 w_2 \dots w_n \in \mathfrak{W}^n$ ,  $n(a|w^n) \triangleq \{i: w_i = a\}$ ; for an r.v.  $W$  with range  $\mathfrak{W}$ ,  $\eta > 0$  and  $n = 1, 2, \dots$ ,

$$\begin{aligned} \mathfrak{T}_W^n(\eta) \triangleq \{ & w^n \in \mathfrak{W}^n: |n^{-1}n(a|w^n) - P_W(a)| < \eta, \\ & \text{all } a \in \mathfrak{W} \}; \end{aligned}$$

for a pair of r.v.'s  $(W, X)$  with range  $\mathfrak{W} \times \mathfrak{X}$ , for  $\eta_1 > 0$ , for a sequence  $w^n \in \mathfrak{T}_W^n(\eta_1)$  and for  $\eta_2 \geq \eta_1$ ,

$$\begin{aligned} \mathfrak{T}_X(w^n, \eta_2) \triangleq \{ & X^n \in \mathfrak{X}^n: |n^{-1}n(ab|w^n x^n) - \\ & P_{WX}(ab)| < \eta_2, \text{ all } (a, b) \in \mathfrak{W} \times \mathfrak{X}; n(ab|w^n x^n) = \\ & 0 \text{ for } P_{WX}(a, b) = 0 \}. \end{aligned}$$

### III. PROOF OF THEOREM 2

It suffices to prove that the pair

$$\begin{aligned} R_x & \triangleq I(WU \wedge X) = I(W \wedge X) + I(U \wedge X|W), \\ R_z & \triangleq \min \{ I(W \wedge X), I(W \wedge Z) \} + I(U \wedge X|W) \\ & \quad + I(V \wedge Z|W) - I(U \wedge V|W) - R_x \\ & = I(V \wedge Z|W) - I(U \wedge V|W) \\ & \quad - |I(W \wedge X) - I(W \wedge Z)|_+, \end{aligned}$$

is achievable for  $((W, U, V), Y, X, Z) \in \mathcal{P}(F, G)$ . We may assume  $R_z > 0$ , i.e.,

$$I(U \wedge V | W) < I(V \wedge Z | W) - |I(W \wedge X) - I(W \wedge Z)|_+.$$

Fix the numbers  $\epsilon, \delta, \eta > 0$ . For  $n$  fixed, define<sup>1</sup>

$$I = [\exp(n(I(W \wedge X) - \delta))] \quad (4)$$

$$J = [\exp(n(I(U \wedge X | W) - \delta))] \quad (5)$$

$$L = [\exp(n(I(U \wedge V | W) + \delta))] \quad (6)$$

$$K = [\exp(n(I(V \wedge Z | W) - |I(W \wedge X) - I(W \wedge Z)|_+ - I(U \wedge V | W) - 2\delta))]. \quad (7)$$

We then have

$$KL \leq \exp(n(I(V \wedge Z | W) - \delta)) \quad (8)$$

$$IKL \leq \exp(n(I(WV \wedge Z) - \delta)). \quad (9)$$

Using a random coding method, we shall define length  $n$  codewords  $y_{ijk}$  ( $1 \leq i \leq I$ ,  $1 \leq j \leq J$ ,  $1 \leq k \leq K$ ) and decoding sets  $\mathcal{Q}_{ij} \subseteq \mathcal{X}^n$ ,  $\mathcal{B}_k \subseteq \mathcal{Z}^n$  so that (1) holds with the index  $j$  replaced by the pair of indices  $(ij)$  (and  $\epsilon$  replaced by  $\text{const } \epsilon$ ).

Select the length  $n$  sequences  $w_i$  ( $1 \leq i \leq I$ ) independently of each other and according to the distribution  $P_{W_i}^n$ . Then, for fixed  $i$ , select the length  $n$  sequences  $u_{ij}$  ( $1 \leq j \leq J$ ) and  $v_{ikl}$  ( $1 \leq k \leq K$ ,  $1 \leq l \leq L$ ) independently of each other and according to the distributions  $P_{U_{ij}|W_i}^n(\cdot | w_i)$  and  $P_{V_{ikl}|W_i}^n(\cdot | w_i)$ , respectively. The set

$$\{w_i, u_{ij}, v_{ikl} : 1 \leq i \leq I, 1 \leq j \leq J, 1 \leq k \leq K, 1 \leq l \leq L\}$$

will be called an auxiliary random code.

For  $i, j, k$  fixed, let  $\chi_{ijk}$  denote the indicator variable of the event that the triple of sequences  $(w_i, u_{ij}, v_{ikl})$  belongs to  $\mathcal{T}_{WUV}^n(\eta/2)$  for at least one value of  $l$ . This value of  $l$  will be denoted by  $l(ijk)$ . From the rule for selecting our auxiliary random code, and from (6) it follows that, for sufficiently large  $n$ ,

$$\Pr \{\chi_{ijk} = 0\} < \epsilon. \quad (10)$$

If  $\chi_{ijk} = 1$ , let the codeword  $y_{ijk}$  be any sequence in  $\mathcal{T}_Y(w_i, u_{ij}, v_{ikl(ijk)}, \eta)$  and let  $y_{ijk}$  be arbitrary for  $\chi_{ijk} = 0$ . Set

$$\hat{\mathcal{Q}}_{ij} = \mathcal{T}_X(w_i, u_{ij}, 2\eta)$$

$$\hat{\mathcal{B}}_{ikl} = \mathcal{T}_Z(w_i, v_{ikl}, 2\eta),$$

$$\hat{\mathcal{B}}_{ik} = \bigcup_l \hat{\mathcal{B}}_{ikl},$$

$$\hat{\mathcal{B}}_k = \bigcup_{i,l} \hat{\mathcal{B}}_{ikl} = \bigcup_i \hat{\mathcal{B}}_{ik}.$$

We define the decoding sets  $\mathcal{Q}_{ij}$  and  $\mathcal{B}_k$  by

$$\mathcal{Q}_{ij} = \hat{\mathcal{Q}}_{ij} \setminus \{\mathcal{Q}_{i'j'} : (i'j') \neq (ij)\}$$

$$\mathcal{B}_k = \hat{\mathcal{B}}_k \setminus \{\hat{\mathcal{B}}_{k'} : k' \neq k\}.$$

For  $i, j, k$  fixed, we shall estimate the expected value of the quantities

$$1 - F^n(\mathcal{Q}_{ij} | y_{ijk}) \quad \text{and} \quad 1 - G^n(\mathcal{B}_k | y_{ijk})$$

<sup>1</sup>In (4)–(7)  $[M]$  denotes the integer part of the number  $M$ .

over the ensemble of the auxiliary random codes.

We have

$$\begin{aligned} & \chi_{ijk} [1 - F^n(\mathcal{Q}_{ij} | y_{ijk})] \\ &= \chi_{ijk} [1 - F^n(\hat{\mathcal{Q}}_{ij} | y_{ijk})] \\ & \quad + \chi_{ijk} F^n(\hat{\mathcal{Q}}_{ij} \cap \cup \{\hat{\mathcal{Q}}_{i'j'} : (i'j') \neq (ij)\} | y_{ijk}) \\ &= \chi_{ijk} [1 - F^n(\hat{\mathcal{Q}}_{ij} | y_{ijk})] \\ & \quad + \chi_{ijk} \sum_{x^n \in \hat{\mathcal{Q}}_{ij}} F^n(x^n | y_{ijk}) \tau\left(x^n, \bigcup_{(i'j') \neq (ij)} \mathcal{Q}_{i'j'}\right) \end{aligned} \quad (11)$$

where

$$\tau(x^n, \mathcal{Q}) = \begin{cases} 1, & \text{if } x^n \in \mathcal{Q} \\ 0, & \text{otherwise.} \end{cases}$$

Furthermore, since  $\hat{\mathcal{B}}_k \supseteq \hat{\mathcal{B}}_{ik}$ , and, consequently,

$$\hat{\mathcal{B}}_k \supseteq \hat{\mathcal{B}}_{ik} \setminus \cup \{\hat{\mathcal{B}}_{k'} : k' \neq k\}$$

we have, as in (11)

$$\begin{aligned} \chi_{ijk} [1 - G^n(\mathcal{B}_k | y_{ijk})] &\leq \chi_{ijk} [1 - G^n(\hat{\mathcal{B}}_{ik} | y_{ijk})] \\ & \quad + \sum_{z^n \in \hat{\mathcal{B}}_{ik}} G^n(z^n | y_{ijk}) \tau\left(z^n, \bigcup_{k' \neq k} \hat{\mathcal{B}}_{k'}\right). \end{aligned} \quad (12)$$

If  $\chi_{ijk} = 1$ , then  $(w_i, u_{ij}, v_{ikl}) \in \mathcal{T}_{WUV}^n(\eta/2)$  and  $y_{ijk} \in \mathcal{T}_Y(w_i, u_{ij}, v_{ikl}, \eta)$  for some  $l$ . Therefore, recalling the definition of  $\hat{\mathcal{Q}}_{ij}$  and  $\hat{\mathcal{B}}_{ikl}$ , it easily follows from the law of large numbers and from the relation  $((W, U, V), Y, X, Z) \in \mathcal{P}(F, G)$  that for large enough  $n$ ,

$$\chi_{ijk} [1 - F^n(\hat{\mathcal{Q}}_{ij} | y_{ijk})] < \epsilon \quad (13)$$

and, similarly,

$$\chi_{ijk} [1 - G^n(\hat{\mathcal{B}}_{ik} | y_{ijk})] \leq \chi_{ijk} [1 - G^n(\hat{\mathcal{B}}_{ikl} | y_{ijk})] < \epsilon. \quad (14)$$

Furthermore, we have

$$\begin{aligned} \tau\left(x^n, \bigcup_{(i'j') \neq (ij)} \hat{\mathcal{Q}}_{i'j'}\right) &\leq \sum_{i' \neq i} \tau\left(x^n, \bigcup_{j'} \hat{\mathcal{Q}}_{i'j'}\right) \\ & \quad + \sum_{j' \neq j} \tau(x^n, \hat{\mathcal{Q}}_{ij'}) \\ &\leq \sum_{i' \neq i} \tau(x^n, \hat{\mathcal{Q}}_{i'}) + \sum_{j' \neq j} \tau(x^n, \hat{\mathcal{Q}}_{ij'}) \end{aligned} \quad (15)$$

(where  $\hat{\mathcal{Q}}_{i'} = \mathcal{T}_X(w_{i'}, 2\eta)$ ), and

$$\begin{aligned} \tau\left(z^n, \bigcup_{k' \neq k} \hat{\mathcal{B}}_{k'}\right) &= \tau\left(z^n, \bigcup_{i', k' \neq k, l'} \hat{\mathcal{B}}_{i'k'l'}\right) \\ &\leq \sum_{i' \neq i, k', l'} \tau(z^n, \hat{\mathcal{B}}_{i'k'l'}) + \sum_{k' \neq k, l'} \tau(z^n, \hat{\mathcal{B}}_{ik'l'}). \end{aligned} \quad (16)$$

The rule for selecting the auxiliary code provides an estimate of the conditional expectations of the r.v.'s  $\tau(X^n, \hat{\mathcal{Q}}_{i'})$ ,  $\tau(X^n, \hat{\mathcal{Q}}_{ij'})$ ,  $\tau(Z^n, \hat{\mathcal{B}}_{i'k'l'})$ , and  $\tau(Z^n, \hat{\mathcal{B}}_{ik'l'})$ , given the values of the auxiliary codewords  $W_{i'}$ ,  $U_{ij'}$ ,  $V_{ik'l'}$ ,  $V_{ik2}, \dots, V_{ikL}$ . For  $X^n \in \hat{\mathcal{Q}}_{ij}$ ,  $Z^n \in \hat{\mathcal{B}}_{ik}$ , sufficiently small

$\eta$ , and large enough  $n$ , we have

$$E \left\{ \tau(x^n, \hat{\mathcal{Q}}_{i'}) | w_i, u_{ij}, v_{ik1}, \dots, v_{ikL} \right\} \\ \leq \exp \left[ -n(I(W \wedge X) - \delta/2) \right], \quad \text{for } i' \neq i \quad (17)$$

$$E \left\{ \tau(x^n, \hat{\mathcal{Q}}_{i'j'}) | w_i, u_{ij}, v_{ik1}, \dots, v_{ikL} \right\} \\ \leq \exp \left[ -n(I(U \wedge X | W) - \delta/2) \right], \quad \text{for } j' \neq j \quad (18)$$

$$E \left\{ \tau(z^n, \hat{\mathcal{B}}_{i'k'l'}) | w_i, u_{ij}, v_{ik1}, \dots, v_{ikL} \right\} \\ \leq \exp \left[ -n(I(WV \wedge Z) - \delta/2) \right], \quad \text{for } i' \neq i \\ \text{and any } k', l' \quad (19)$$

$$E \left\{ \tau(z^n, \hat{\mathcal{B}}_{i'k'l'}) | w_i, u_{ij}, v_{ik1}, \dots, v_{ikL} \right\} \\ \leq \exp \left[ -n(I(V \wedge Z | W) - \delta/2) \right], \quad \text{for } k' \neq k \\ \text{and any } l'. \quad (20)$$

Substituting (13) and (15) into (11), taking mathematical expectation and using (17) and (18), we get

$$E \left\{ \chi_{ijk} \left[ 1 - F^n(\mathcal{Q}_{ij} | y_{ijk}) \right] \right\} \\ \leq \epsilon + I \exp \left[ -n(I(W \wedge X) - \delta/2) \right] \\ + J \exp \left[ -n(I(U \wedge X | W) - \delta/2) \right]. \quad (21)$$

Similarly, from (14), (16), (12), (19), and (20) we get

$$E \left\{ \chi_{ijk} \left[ 1 - G^n(\mathcal{B}_k | y_{ijk}) \right] \right\} \\ \leq \epsilon + IKL \exp \left[ -n(I(WV \wedge Z) - \delta/2) \right] \\ + KL \exp \left[ -n(I(V \wedge Z | W) - \delta/2) \right]. \quad (22)$$

Using (4), (5), (8), (9), and (10) it follows from (21) and (22) that for all  $i, j, k$  and for large enough  $n$ ,

$$E \left\{ 2 - F^n(\mathcal{Q}_{ij} | y_{ijk}) - G^n(\mathcal{B}_k | y_{ijk}) \right\} < 8\epsilon.$$

This implies the existence of an  $(n, 8\epsilon)$ -code with rate pair  $(R_x - 2\delta, R_z - 2\delta)$  for any  $\epsilon, \delta > 0$ . The theorem is proved.

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#### APPENDIX I

##### Proof of Theorem 5

Let the r.v.  $Y^n$  be uniformly distributed over the codewords  $\{y_{jk}: 1 \leq j \leq J, 1 \leq k \leq K\}$  of an  $(n, \epsilon)$ -code for  $(F, G)$ , and denote by  $V^*$  the r.v. taking the value  $k$  if  $Y^n = y_{jk}$ . By Fano's lemma

$$n^{-1} \log J = n^{-1} H(Y^n | V^*) < n^{-1} I(Y^n \wedge X^n | V^*) + \text{const. } \epsilon, \\ n^{-1} \log K = n^{-1} H(V^*) < n^{-1} I(V^* \wedge Z^n) + \text{const. } \epsilon;$$

where  $X^n$  and  $Z^n$  are the  $n$ -length outputs of the discrete memoryless channels  $F$  and  $G$ , respectively, corresponding to the input  $Y^n$ . In order to prove (3), it suffices to show that for some  $(V, Y, X, Z) \in \mathcal{P}(F, G)$  we have

$$n^{-1} I(Y^n \wedge X^n | V^*) \leq I(Y \wedge X) \quad (23)$$

$$n^{-1} I(V^* \wedge Z^n) \leq I(V \wedge Z) \quad (24)$$

and

$$n^{-1} [I(Y^n \wedge X^n | V^*) + I(V^* \wedge Z^n)] \\ \leq I(Y \wedge X | V) + I(V \wedge Z) \quad (25)$$

provided that  $Y^n$  is any r.v. with values in  $\mathcal{Q}_Y^n$ ,  $X^n$  and  $Z^n$  are the length  $n$  outputs of channels  $F$  and  $G$ , respectively, corresponding to the input  $Y^n$ , and  $V^*, Y^n$  and  $(X^n, Z^n)$  form a Markov chain.

It is clear that

$$n^{-1} I(Y^n \wedge X^n | V^*) \leq n^{-1} I(Y^n \wedge X^n) \\ \leq n^{-1} \sum_{i=1}^n I(Y_i \wedge X_i) \quad (25)$$

$$n^{-1} I(V^* \wedge Z^n) \leq n^{-1} \sum_{i=1}^n I(V^* X^{i-1} Z_i^n \wedge Z_i) \\ = n^{-1} \sum_{i=1}^n I(V_i \wedge Z_i) \quad (26)$$

where  $X^{i-1} \triangleq X_1 X_2 \dots X_{i-1}$ ,  $Z_i^n = Z_{i+1} \dots Z_n$ ,  $V_i = V^* X^{i-1} Z_i^n$ ,  $1 \leq i \leq n$ . Moreover,

$$I(V^* \wedge Z^n) - I(V^* \wedge X^n) \\ = [I(V^* \wedge Z^n) - I(V^* \wedge X_1 Z_1^n)] \\ + [I(V^* \wedge X_1 Z_1^n) - I(V^* \wedge X_1 X_2 Z_2^n)] \\ + \dots + [I(V^* \wedge X^{n-1} Z_n) - I(V^* \wedge X^n)] \\ = \sum_{i=1}^n [I(V^* \wedge Z_i | X^{i-1} Z_i^n) - I(V^* \wedge X_i | X^{i-1} Z_i^n)]. \quad (27)$$

Applying (27) to  $Y^n$  instead of  $V^*$  yields

$$I(Y^n \wedge Z^n) - I(Y^n \wedge X^n) \\ = \sum_{i=1}^n [I(Y_i \wedge Z_i | X^{i-1} Z_i^n) - I(Y_i \wedge X_i | X^{i-1} Z_i^n)], \quad (27')$$

which is equivalent to

$$\sum_{i=1}^n I(Z_i^n \wedge X_i | X^{i-1}) = \sum_{i=1}^n I(X^{i-1} \wedge Z_i | Z_i^n). \quad (28)$$

We use (27) and (28) to overbound the left-hand side of (24):

$$n^{-1} [I(Y^n \wedge X^n | V^*) + I(V^* \wedge Z^n)] \\ = n^{-1} [I(Y^n \wedge X^n) + I(V^* \wedge Z^n) - I(V^* \wedge X^n)] \\ = n^{-1} \sum_{i=1}^n [I(Y_i \wedge X_i | X^{i-1} Z_i^n) + I(Z_i^n \wedge X_i | X^{i-1}) \\ + I(V^* \wedge Z_i | X^{i-1} Z_i^n) - I(V^* \wedge X_i | X^{i-1} Z_i^n)] \\ = n^{-1} \sum_{i=1}^n [I(Y_i \wedge X_i | V_i) + I(X^{i-1} \wedge Z_i | Z_i^n) \\ + I(V^* \wedge Z_i | X^{i-1} Z_i^n)] \\ \leq n^{-1} \sum_{i=1}^n [I(Y_i \wedge X_i | V_i) + I(V_i \wedge Z_i)]. \quad (29)$$

The third equality in (29) follows from

$$(V_i, Y_i, X_i, Z_i) \in \mathcal{P}(F, G), \quad i = 1, 2, \dots, n \quad (30)$$

which can be easily verified.

Equations (25), (26), and (29) together with (30) imply (23)–(25) if we define

$$V = (I, V_i), \quad Y = Y_i, \quad X = X_i, \quad Z = Z_i,$$

where  $I$  is an r.v. uniformly distributed over the set  $\{1, 2, \dots, n\}$  and independent of  $(V^*, Y^n, X^n, Z^n)$ .

The fact that the region in (1) does not decrease if  $V$  is allowed to take at most  $\|\mathcal{Q}_V\| + 2$  values can be seen using [5, lemma 3].

## APPENDIX II

Let  $(F, G)$  be the Blackwell channel, i.e.,  $\mathcal{Y} = \{0, 1, 2\}$ ,  $\mathcal{X} = \mathcal{Z} = \{0, 1\}$ , and

$$F = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 \\ 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix} \quad G = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 1 \\ 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix}.$$

*Proposition:*

$$\max \{R_x + R_z : (R_x, R_z) \in \mathcal{R}\} < \log 3 \\ = \max \{R_x + R_z : (R_x, R_z) \in \mathcal{R}\}. \quad (31)$$

*Proof:* From Theorem 3 it follows that the right-most side of (31) equals

$$\max \{H(X, Z) : (Y, X, Z) \in \mathcal{P}(F, G)\} = \log 3$$

and the maximum is achieved if and only if the joint distribution of the pair  $(X, Z)$  is

$$\Pr \{X=1, Z=1\} = \Pr \{X=1, Z=0\} \\ = \Pr \{X=0, Z=1\} = \frac{1}{3}. \quad (32)$$

Since in [12] size constraints are proved for the cardinality of the auxiliary r.v.'s  $W, U, V$  figuring in the definition of  $\mathcal{R}$ , it is enough to prove that for  $((U, V, W), Y, X, Z) \in \mathcal{P}(F, G)$  such that  $W, U$ , and  $V$  are independent, the inequality

$$\min \{I(W \wedge X), I(W \wedge Z)\} + I(U \wedge X | W) \\ + I(V \wedge Z | W) < \log 3 \quad (33)$$

holds.

It can be easily seen that

$$I(U \wedge X | W) + I(V \wedge Z | W) \\ \leq I(U \wedge X | VW) + I(V \wedge Z | W) \\ \leq I(UV \wedge XZ | W) \leq H(XZ | W) \quad (34)$$

and it is obvious that

$$\min \{I(W \wedge X), I(W \wedge Z)\} \leq I(W \wedge XZ) \quad (35)$$

so the left-hand side of (33) can be upper-bounded by

$$I(W \wedge XZ) + H(XZ | W) = H(XZ) \leq \log 3. \quad (36)$$

Suppose that in (33) we have equality instead of strict inequality. Then the following conditions must be satisfied:

$$\text{the pair } (X, Z) \text{ has distribution (32)} \quad (37)$$

$$I(W \wedge X) = I(W \wedge Z) = I(W \wedge XZ) \quad (38)$$

$$I(U \wedge X | VW) + I(V \wedge Z | W) \\ = I(UV \wedge XZ | W) = H(XZ | W) \quad (39)$$

c.f., (36), (35), and (34). From (37) it follows that the distribution of  $(X, Z)$  is indecomposable (see [19]). Therefore, (38) implies that  $W$  is independent of  $(X, Z)$  (see [20]). From this it follows that we can restrict attention to the case  $W = \text{const}$ . Then (39) implies that

$$(X, Z) \text{ is a deterministic function of } (U, V) \quad (40)$$

$$I(V \wedge X | Z) = I(U \wedge Z | XV) = 0. \quad (41)$$

Equations (40) and (41) imply that  $H(Z | XV) \leq H(Z | UV) = 0$ , which together with (32) means that we also have  $H(Z | V) = 0$ . Similarly  $H(X | U) = 0$  and consequently  $I(U \wedge V) \geq I(X \wedge Z) > 0$ , which contradicts the assumption that  $U$  and  $V$  are independent.

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