

State-of-the-Art Channel Coding

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- **Lesson 1: Introduction to Error Correcting Codes**
 - Principle structure of communication systems
 - Coding principles
 - Basics of error correcting codes
 - Examples: simple block codes and - if time permits - convolutional codes

- **Lesson 2: One Lesson of Information Theory**
 - Definitions of entropy, mutual information, ...
 - Channel coding theorem of Shannon

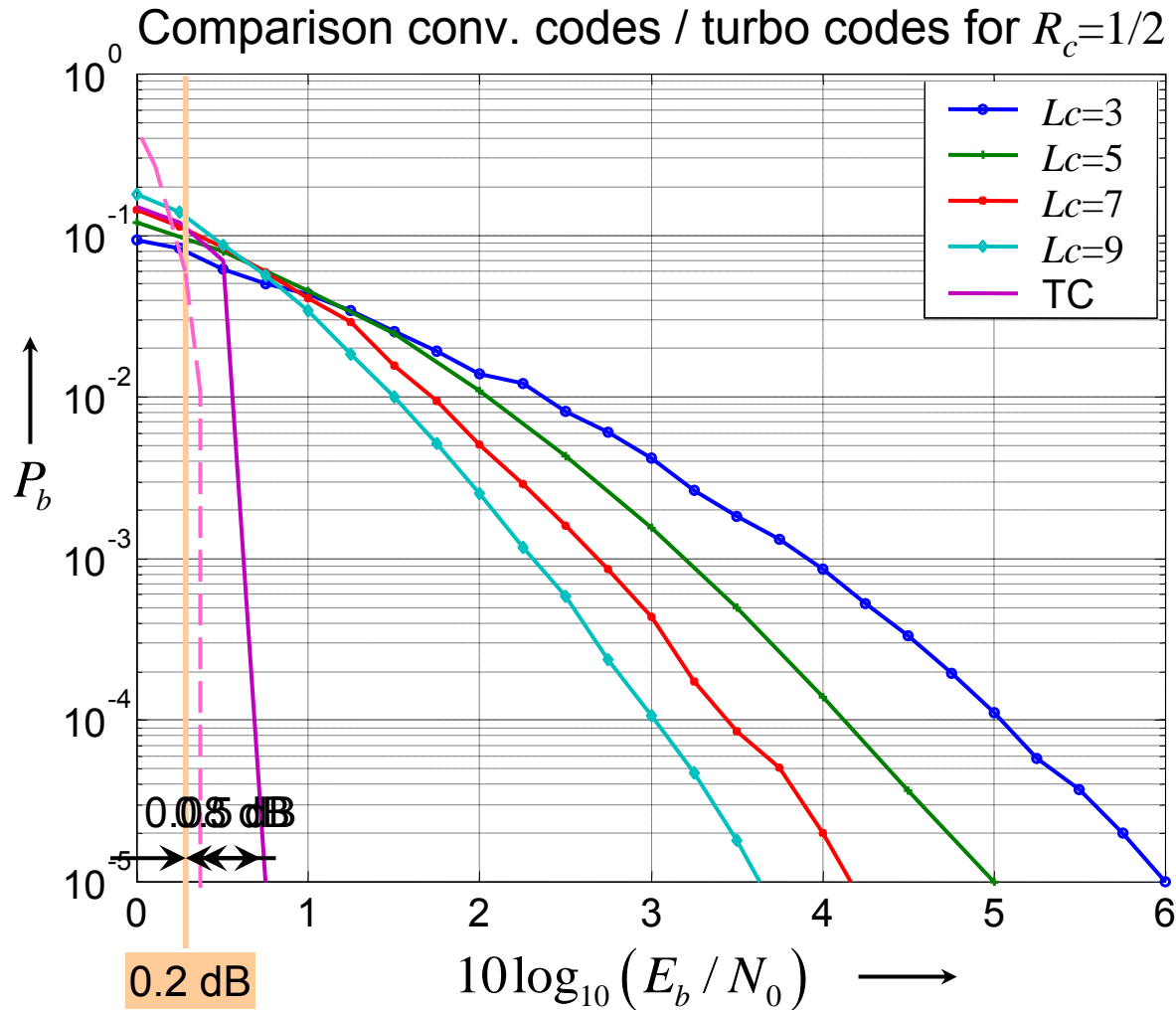
- **Lesson 3: State-of-the-art channel coding**
 - Coding strategies to approach the capacity limits
 - Definition of soft-information and turbo decoding principle
 - EXIT Chart Analysis

- 1948: Shannon defines his information theory
 - Definition of entropy and mutual information
 - Channel coding theorem

- 1963: Robert G. Gallager: “Low Density Parity Check Codes”
- 1966: G. David Forney: “Concatenated Codes”
 - Computers to that time not strong enough to demonstrate potential of investigated coding schemes
 - Turbo decoding was implicitly already invented

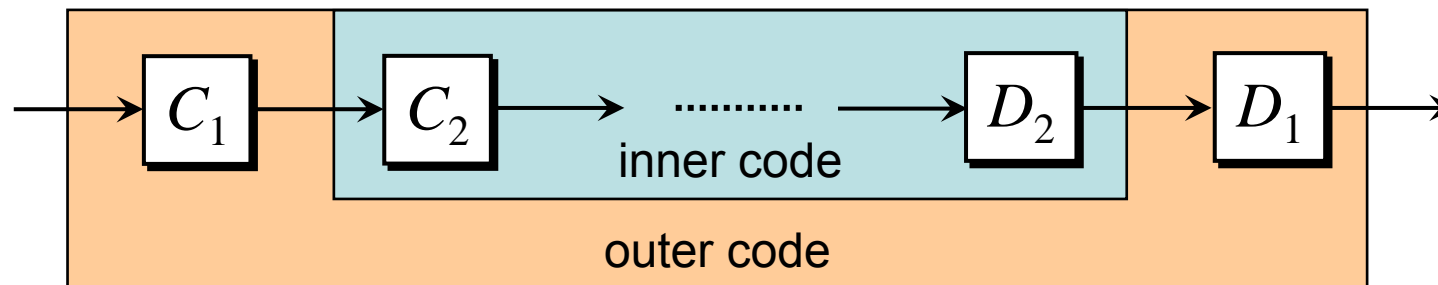
- 1993: First presentation of Turbo-Codes by Berrou, Glavieux, et al.
 - Approaching Shannon’s capacity for half-rate code by 0.5 dB

- 2001: Stephan ten Brink: EXIT Chart Analysis
 - Leads to further understanding of iterative decoding principles
 - Allows design / optimization of powerful concatenated codes
 - Repeat Accumulate Code approaches capacity up to 0.08 dB

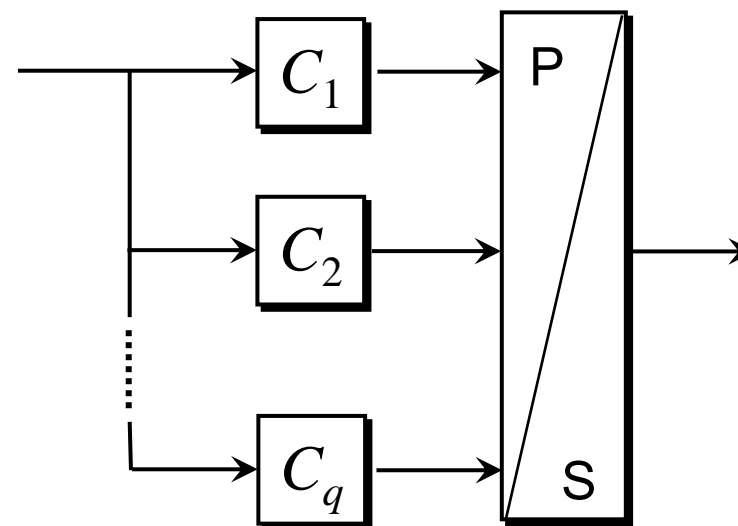


- ◆ Optimized interleaver of length $256 \times 256 = 65384$ bit
- ◆ For this interleaver gain of nearly 3 dB over conv. code with $L_c = 9$
- ◆ Gap to Shannon's channel capacity only 0.5 dB
- ◆ Tremendous performance loss for smaller interleavers
- ◆ World record: 0.1 dB gap to Shannon capacity by Stephan ten Brink

- Serial Code Concatenation
 - Example: Repeat Accumulate Codes

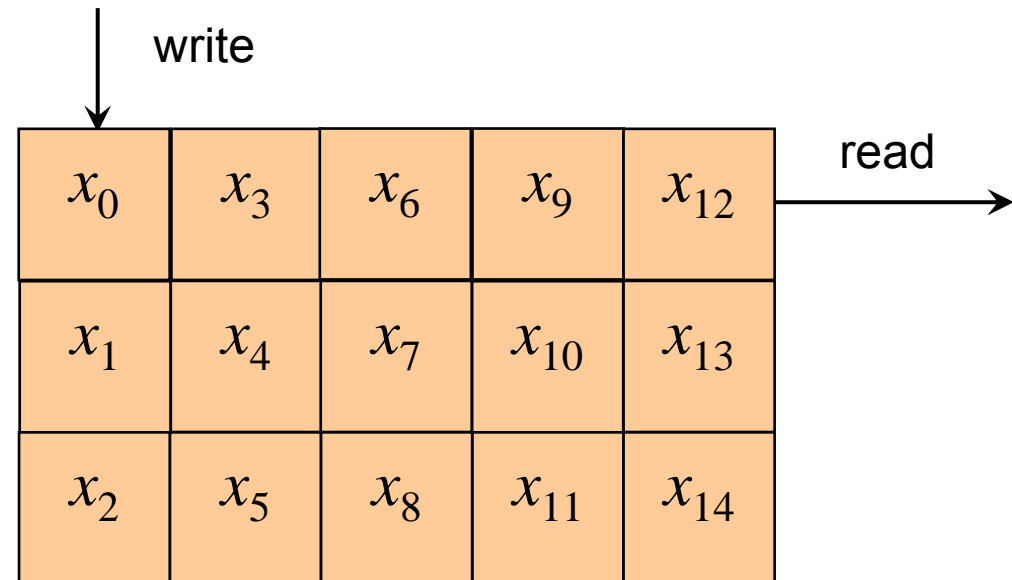


- Parallel Code Concatenation
 - Example: Turbo Codes



- Simple block interleaver

interleaving depth: 5



– Input sequence: $x_0, x_1, x_2, x_3, x_4, x_5, x_6, x_7, x_8, x_9, x_{10}, x_{11}, x_{12}, x_{13}, x_{14}$

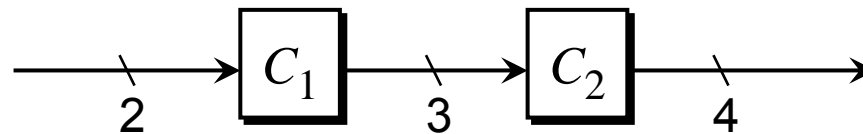
– Output sequence: $x_0, x_3, x_6, x_9, x_{12}, x_1, x_4, x_7, x_{10}, x_{13}, x_2, x_5, x_8, x_{11}, x_{14}$

- Convolutional interleaver

- Random interleaver

Simple Example of Serial Concatenation

- Concatenation of (3,2,2)-SPC and (4,3,2)-SPC code



- Total code rate: $R_c = 2/4 = 0.5$

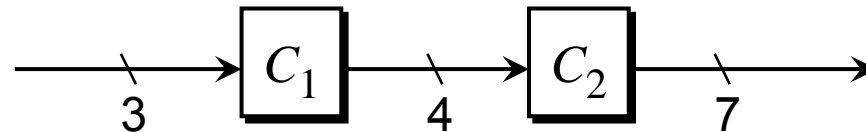
u	c₁	c₂	w_H(c₂)
00	000	0000	0
01	011	0110	2
10	101	1010	2
11	110	1100	2

$$d_{\min} = 2$$

- Minimum Hamming distance is not improved by code concatenation

Another Example of Serial Concatenation

- Concatenation of (4,3,2)-SPC and (7,4,3)-Hamming code



- Total code rate: $R_c = 3/7$

c_1	c_2	$w_H(c_2)$	c_2	$w_H(c_2)$
0000	0000 000	0	0000 000	0
0011	0011 001	3	0001 111	4
0101	0101 010	3	0110 011	4
0110	0110 011	4	0111 100	4
1001	1001 100	3	1010 101	4
1010	1010 101	4	1011 010	4
1100	1100 110	4	1100 110	4
1110	1111 111	7	1101 001	4

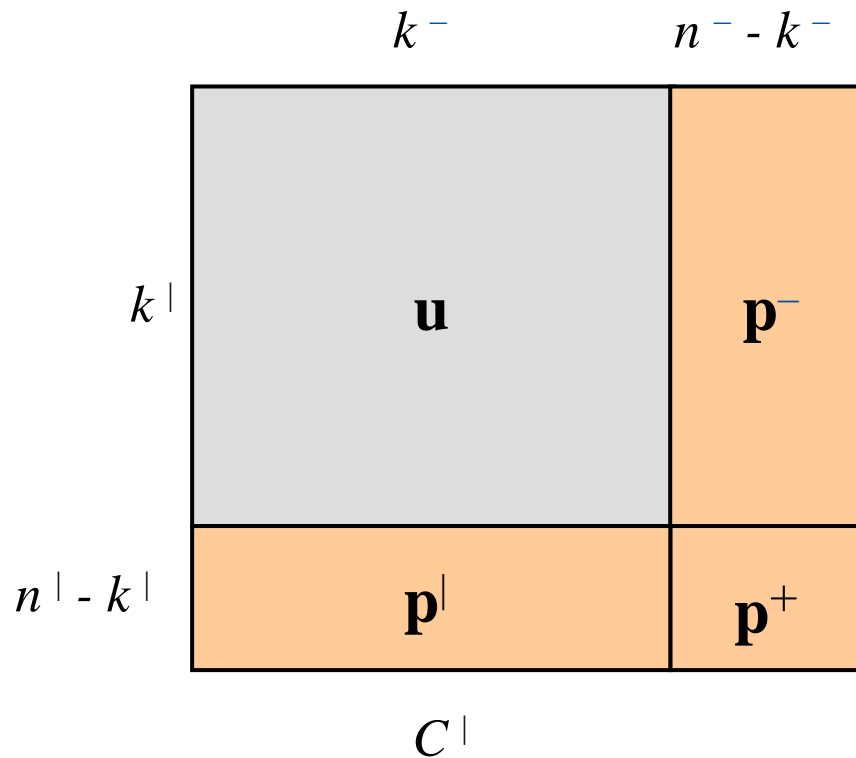
original concatenation:

$$d_{\min} = 3$$

optimized concatenation:

$$d_{\min} = 4$$

- Minimum Hamming distance can only be improved by careful selection of subset of inner code



- Information bits arranged in $(k^|, k^-)$ -matrix
- Row-wise encoding with code C^- of rate k^- / n^-
- Column-wise encoding with code $C^|$ of rate $k^| / n^|$
- Entire code rate:

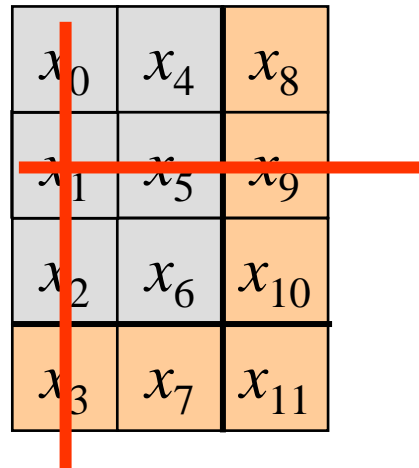
$$R_c = \frac{k^- \cdot k^|}{n^- \cdot n^|} = R_c^- \cdot R_c^|$$

- Minimum Hamming distance:

$$d_{\min} = d_{\min}^- \cdot d_{\min}^|$$

Examples of Product Codes (1)

- (12,6,4) product code



- Horizontal: (3,2,2)-SPC code → no error correction possible
- Vertical: (4,3,2)-SPC code → no error correction possible
- Code rate: 1/2
- $d_{\min} = 2 \cdot 2 = 4$
- Correction of 1 error possible

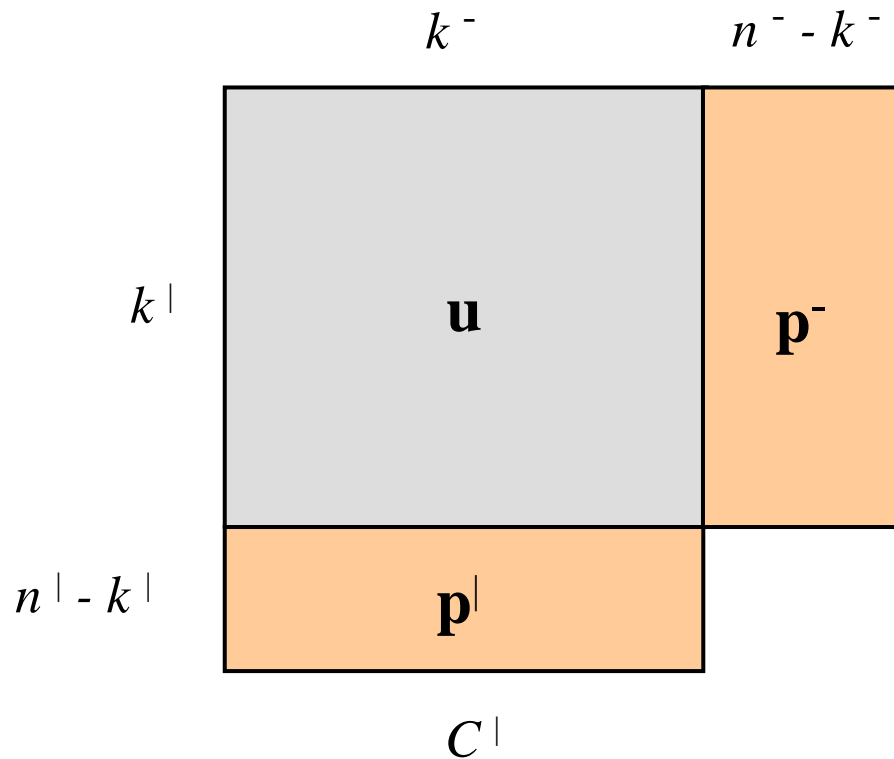
Examples of Product Codes (2)

- (28,12,6) product code

x_0	x_7	x_{14}	x_{21}
x_1	x_8	x_{15}	x_{22}
x_2	x_9	x_{16}	x_{23}
x_3	x_{10}	x_{17}	x_{24}
x_4	x_{11}	x_{18}	x_{25}
x_5	x_{12}	x_{19}	x_{26}
x_6	x_{13}	x_{20}	x_{27}

x_0	x_7	x_{14}	x_{21}
x_1	x_8	x_{15}	x_{22}
x_2	x_9	x_{16}	x_{23}
x_3	x_{10}	x_{17}	x_{24}
x_4	x_{11}	x_{18}	x_{25}
x_5	x_{12}	x_{19}	x_{26}
x_6	x_{13}	x_{20}	x_{27}

- Horizontal: (4,3,2)-SPC code → no error correction possible
- Vertical: (7,4,3)-Hamming code → single error correction possible
- $d_{\min} = 2 \cdot 3 = 6$ → 2 errors correctable



- Information bits \mathbf{u}
 - row-wise encoded with C^- and
 - column-wise and $C^|$
- Parity check bits of component codes not encoded (no checks on checks)
- Entire code rate

$$R_c = \frac{k^- \cdot k^|}{n^- \cdot n^| - (n^- - k^-) \cdot (n^| - k^|)}$$

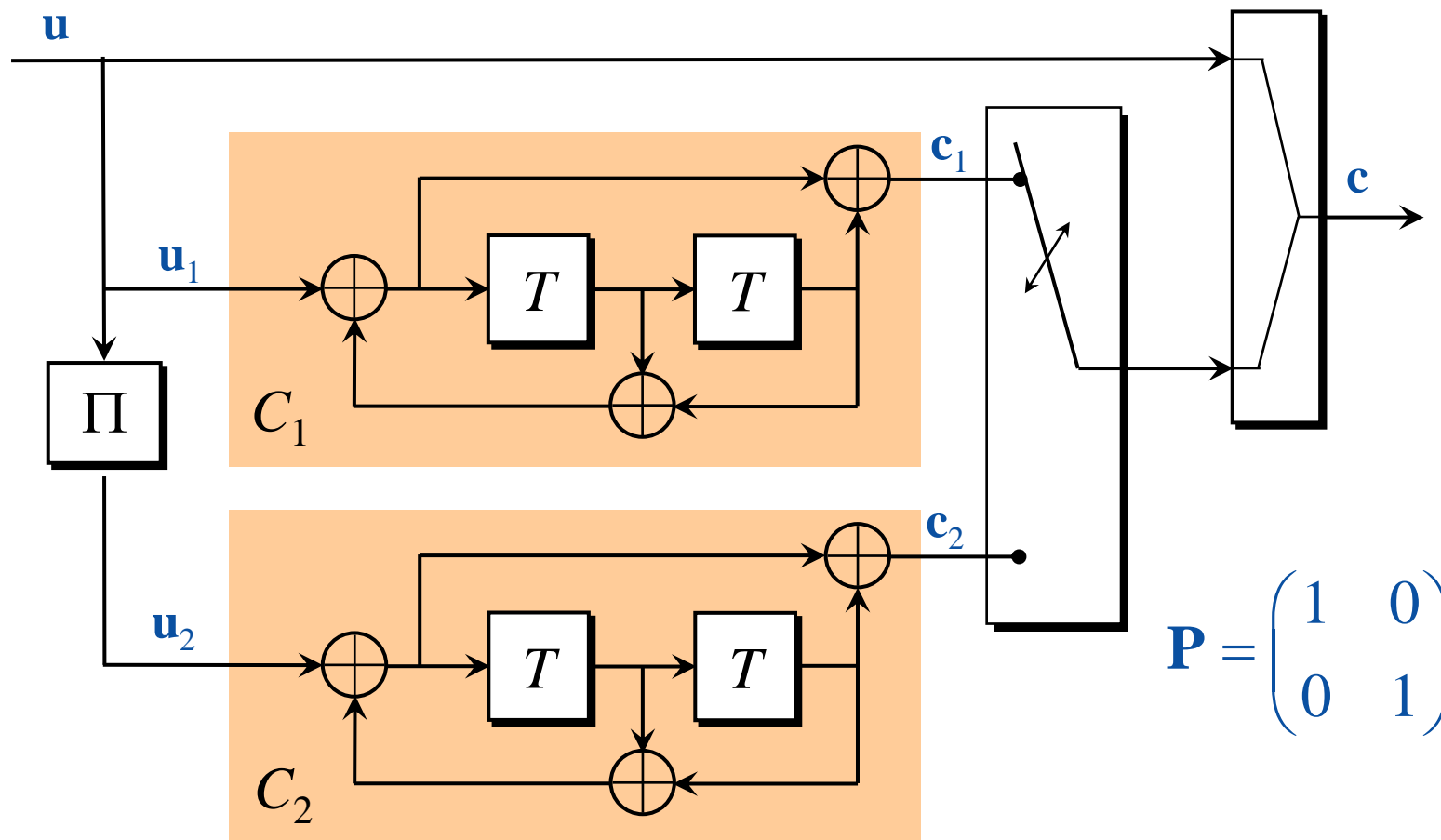
$$= \frac{1}{1/R_c^- + 1/R_c^| - 1}$$

- Minimum Hamming distance:

$$d_{\min} = d_{\min}^- + d_{\min}^| - 1$$

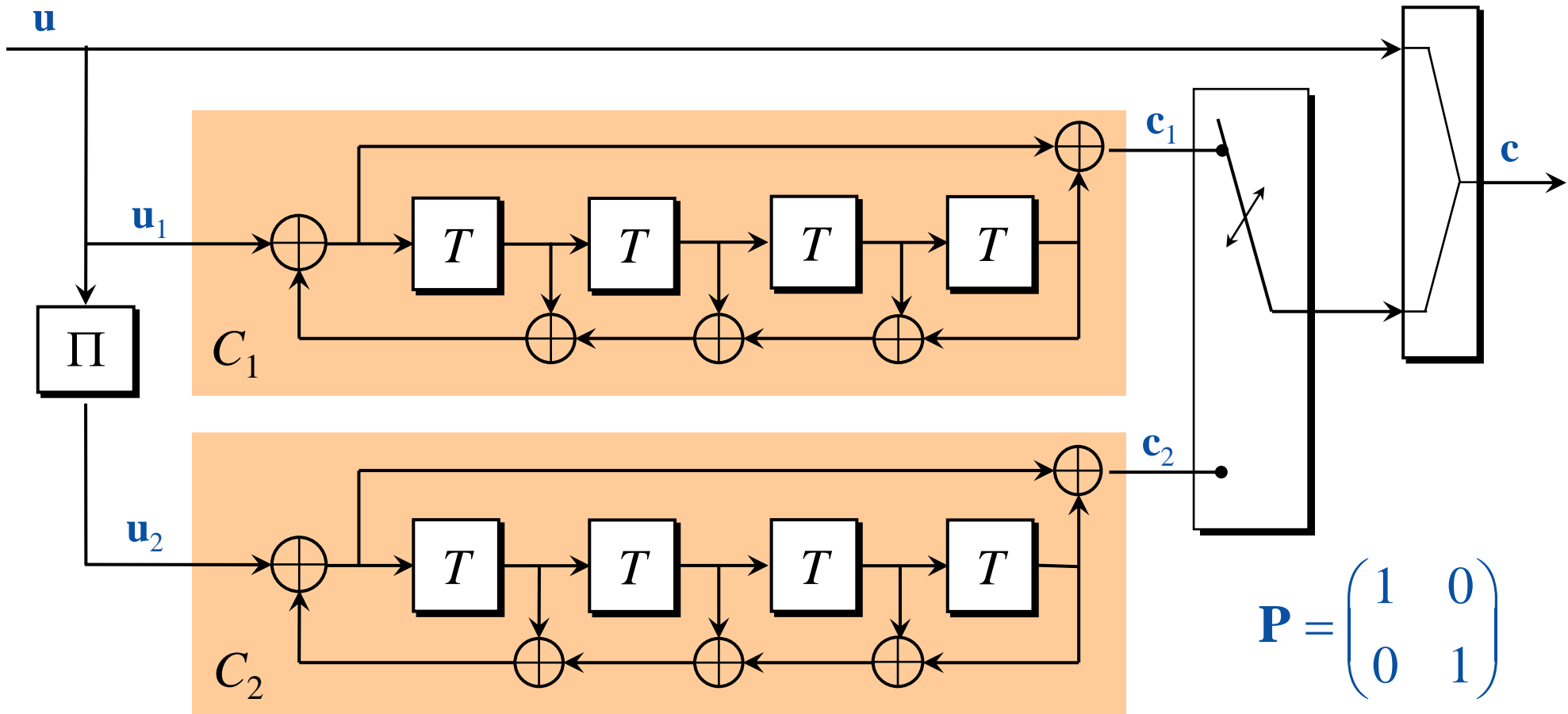
Example of Turbo Code

- 2 systematic, recursive convolutional encoders ($L_c = 3$)
- Constituent code rates $R_c = 2/3 \rightarrow$ total code rate $R_c = 1/2$



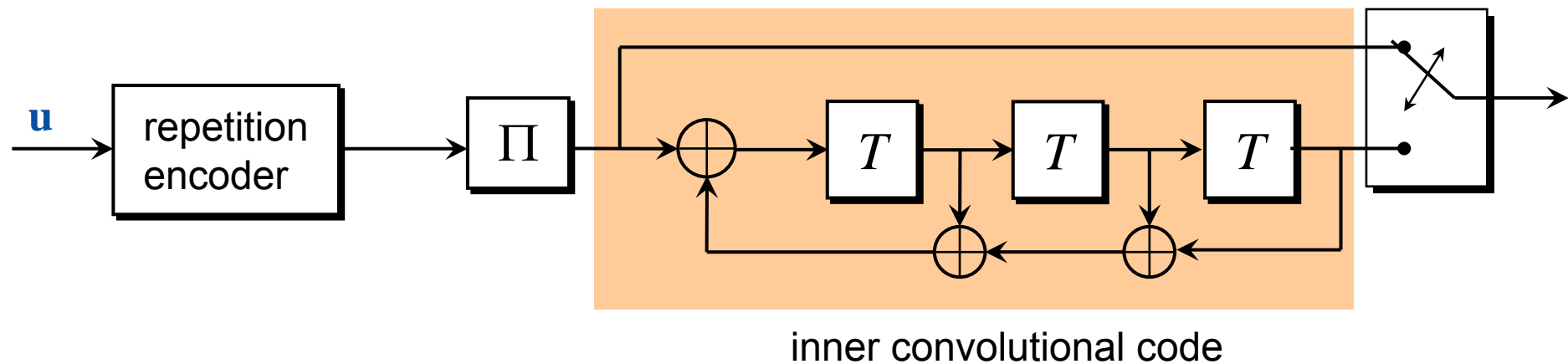
Turbo Code from Berrou and Glavieux

- 2 systematic, recursive convolutional encoders ($L_c = 5$)
- Constituent code rates $R_c = 2/3 \rightarrow$ total code rate $R_c = 1/2$
- Pseudo random interleaver of length 65536 bits



Repeat Accumulate Code from ten Brink

- Outer half-rate repetition code
- Inner convolutional code (scrambler) of rate 1
- → total code rate $R_c = 1/2$
- Random interleaver of different lengths
- **Code doping**: replace a few code bits (1%) by information bits for improving the convergence of iterative decoding process



Symbol-by-Symbol Soft-Output Decoding Turbo-Decoding

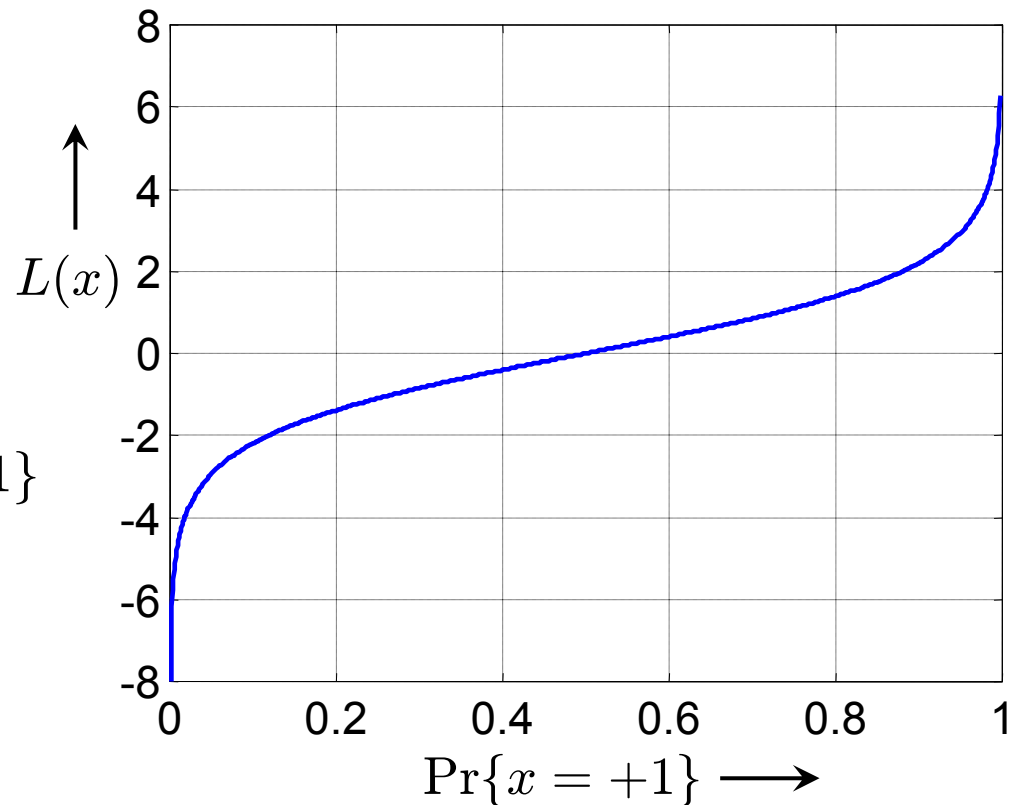
- Definition log-likelihood ratio: $L(x) = \log \frac{\Pr\{x = +1\}}{\Pr\{x = -1\}}$
 - Sign determines hard decision
 - Magnitude represents reliability of hard decision

- Probability of correct decision:

$$P_{\text{correct}} = \frac{e^{|L(x)|}}{1 + e^{|L(x)|}}$$

- Expectation of LLR (soft bit)

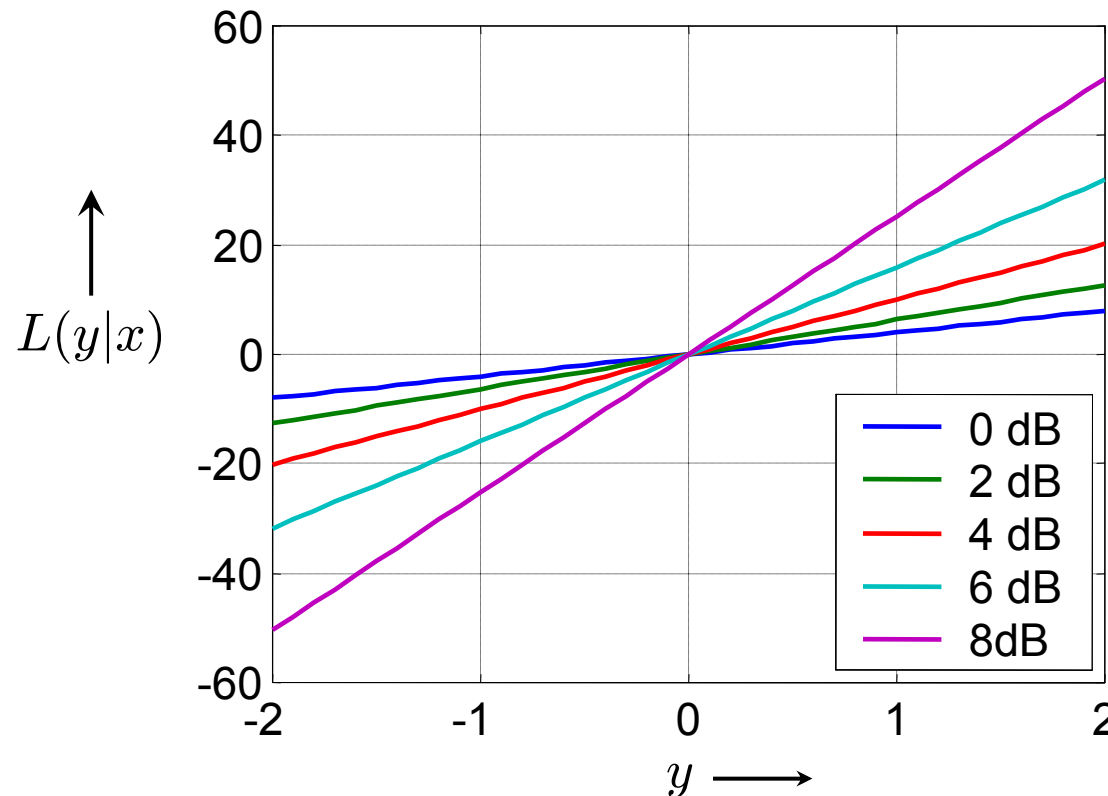
$$\begin{aligned} E\{x\} &= \Pr\{x = +1\} - \Pr\{x = -1\} \\ &= \frac{e^{L(x)}}{1 + e^{L(x)}} - \frac{1}{1 + e^{L(x)}} \\ &= \tanh\left(\frac{L(x)}{2}\right) \end{aligned}$$



LLRs for AWGN Output

$$\begin{aligned} L(y | x) &= \log \frac{p(y | x = +1)}{p(y | x = -1)} = \log \frac{\exp[-(y - 1)^2 / 2 / \sigma_N^2]}{\exp[-(y + 1)^2 / 2 / \sigma_N^2]} \\ &= -\frac{(y - 1)^2}{2\sigma_N^2} + \frac{(y + 1)^2}{2\sigma_N^2} = \frac{2}{\sigma_N^2} \cdot y \end{aligned}$$

Scaled matched filter output equals LLR



Example for Soft-Output Decoding

- Single parity check code

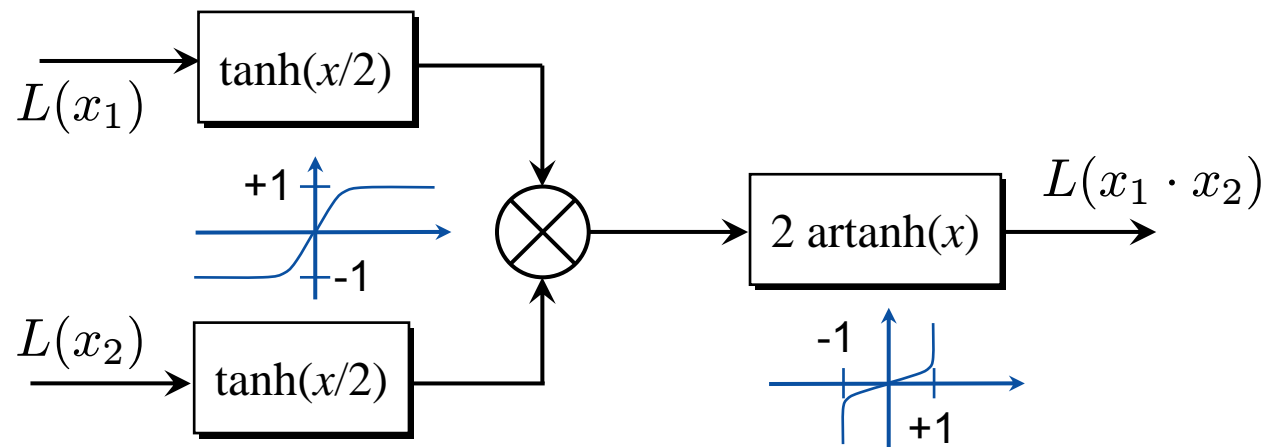
u_1	u_2	p
-------	-------	-----
- Parity check equation: $p = u_1 \oplus u_2$
- Question: What is the LLR of u_1 given the LLRs of u_2 and p ?
 - Resolving parity check equation w.r.t. u_1 : $u_1 = u_2 \oplus p$
 - Extrinsic LLR does not depend on u_1 itself:

$$\begin{aligned} L_e(u_1) &= \log_2 \frac{\Pr\{u_2 \oplus p = 0\}}{\Pr\{u_2 \oplus p = 1\}} = \log_2 \frac{\Pr\{u_2 = 0, p = 0\} + \Pr\{u_2 = 1, p = 1\}}{\Pr\{u_2 = 0, p = 1\} + \Pr\{u_2 = 1, p = 0\}} \\ &= \log_2 \frac{\Pr\{u_2 = 0\} \Pr\{p = 0\} + \Pr\{u_2 = 1\} \Pr\{p = 1\}}{\Pr\{u_2 = 0\} \Pr\{p = 1\} + \Pr\{u_2 = 1\} \Pr\{p = 0\}} \\ &\vdots \\ &= 2 \cdot \operatorname{atanh} \left[\tanh \left(\frac{L(u_2)}{2} \right) \cdot \tanh \left(\frac{L(p)}{2} \right) \right] = 2 \cdot \operatorname{atanh} [E\{u_2\} \cdot E\{p\}] \end{aligned}$$

- mod-2-sum of 2 statistical independent random variables:

$$L(\underbrace{x_1 \cdot x_2}_{u_1 \oplus u_2}) = 2 \cdot \operatorname{atanh} \left[\tanh \left(\frac{L(x_1)}{2} \right) \cdot \tanh \left(\frac{L(x_2)}{2} \right) \right]$$

$$\approx \operatorname{sgn} [L(x_1)] \cdot \operatorname{sgn} [L(x_2)] \cdot \min \{ |L(x_1)|, |L(x_2)| \}$$



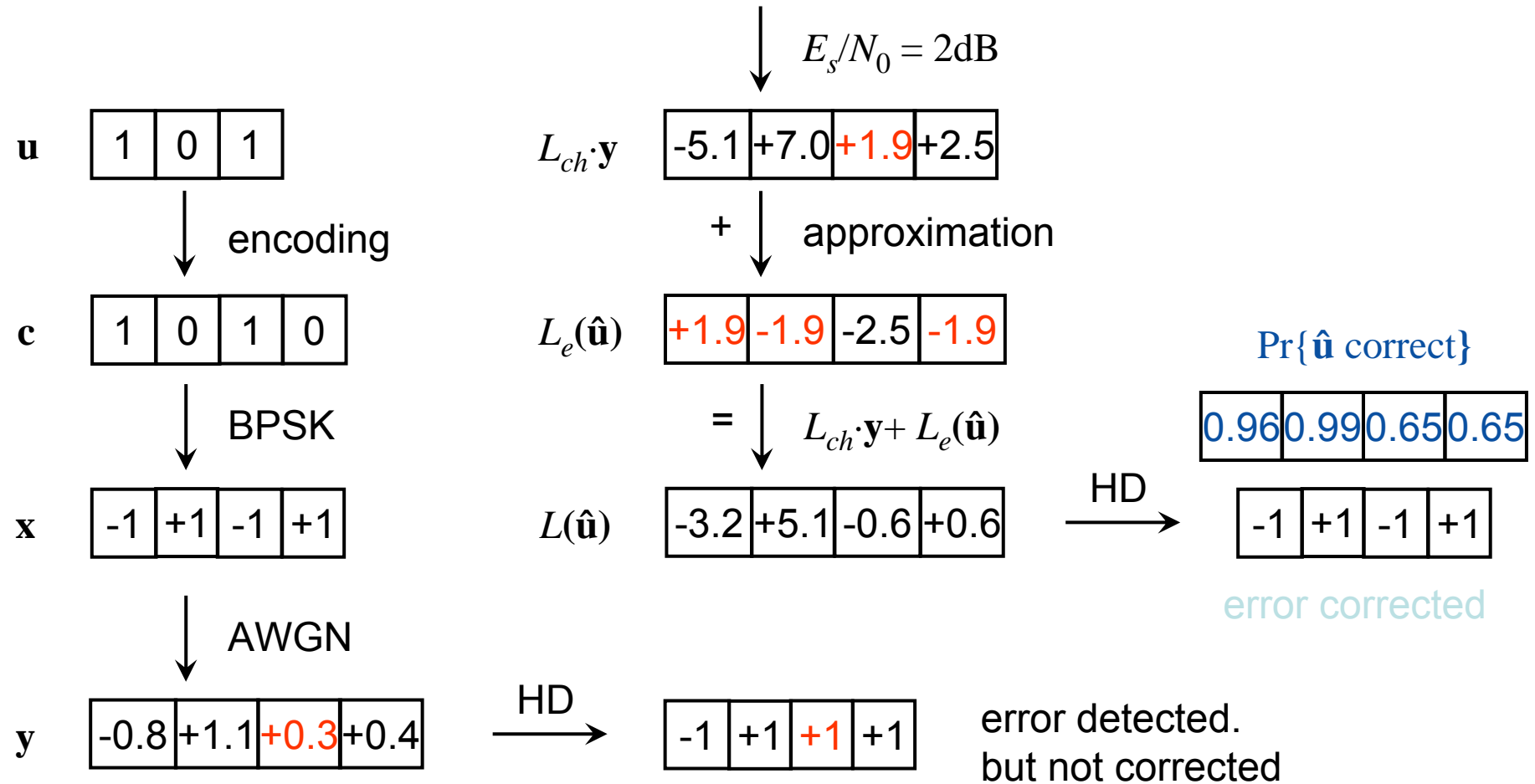
- mod-2-sum of n variables:
$$L(x_1 \cdots x_n) = 2 \operatorname{atanh} \left[\prod_{i=1}^n \tanh \left(\frac{L(x_i)}{2} \right) \right]$$

$$\approx \prod_{i=1}^n \operatorname{sgn} [L(x_i)] \cdot \min_i \{ |L(x_i)| \}$$

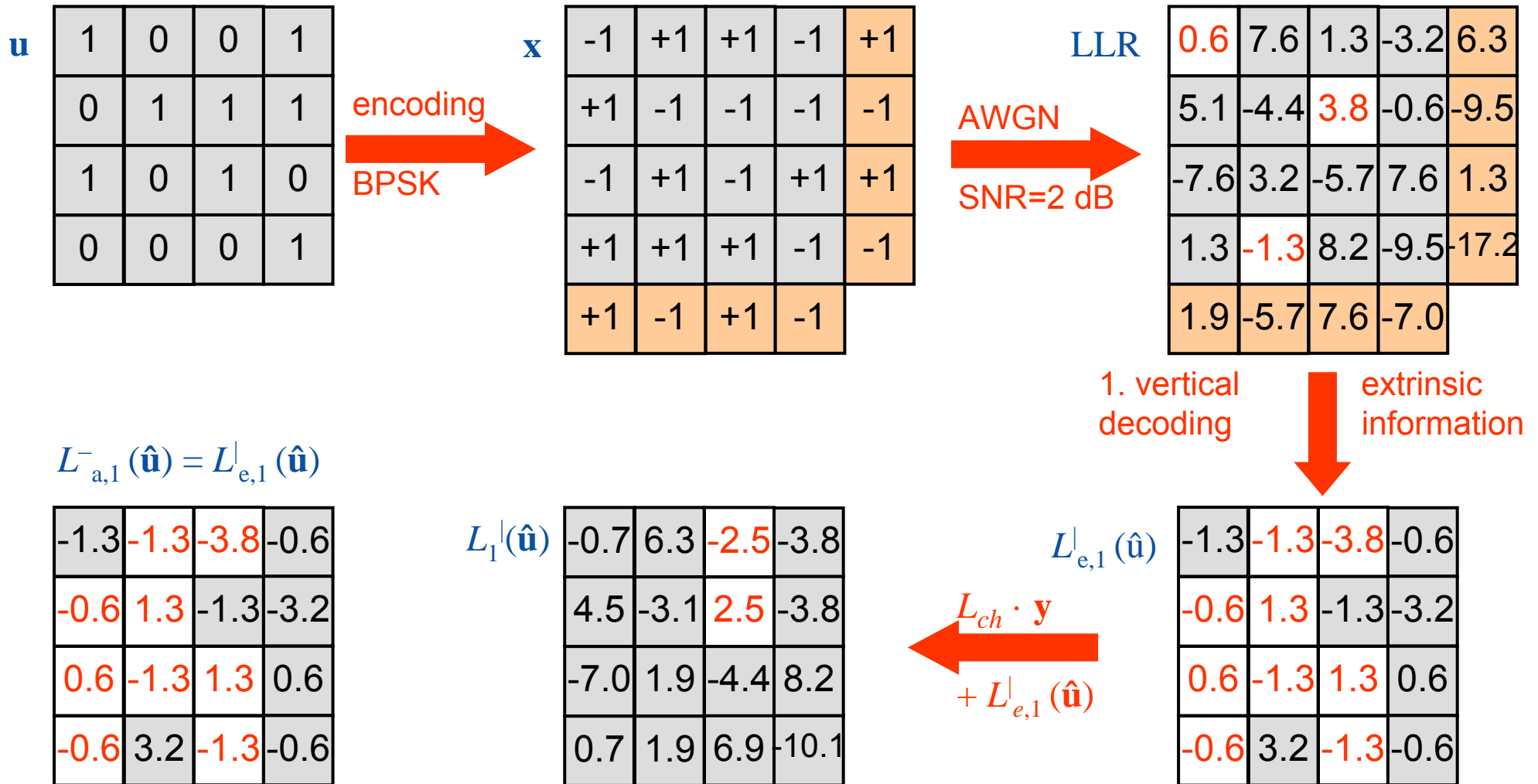
- For systematic encoders, soft-output of decoder can be split into 3 statistically independent parts:

$$\begin{aligned}
 L(\hat{u}_i) &= \ln \frac{p(u_i = 0, \mathbf{y})}{p(u_i = 1, \mathbf{y})} = \ln \frac{\sum_{\mathbf{c} \in \Gamma_i^{(0)}} p(\mathbf{y} | \mathbf{x}) \cdot \Pr\{\mathbf{c}\}}{\sum_{\mathbf{c} \in \Gamma_i^{(1)}} p(\mathbf{y} | \mathbf{x}) \cdot \Pr\{\mathbf{c}\}} \\
 &= \underbrace{\ln \frac{p(y_i | x_i = +1)}{p(y_i | x_i = -1)}}_{L_{\text{ch}} y_i} + \underbrace{\ln \frac{\Pr\{u_i = 0\}}{\Pr\{u_i = 1\}}}_{L_\alpha(u_i)} + \underbrace{\ln \frac{\sum_{\mathbf{c} \in \Gamma_i^{(0)}} \prod_{\substack{j=1 \\ j \neq i}}^n p(y_j | x_j) \cdot \prod_{\substack{j=1 \\ j \neq i}}^k \Pr\{c_j\}}{\sum_{\mathbf{c} \in \Gamma_i^{(1)}} \prod_{\substack{j=1 \\ j \neq i}}^n p(y_j | x_j) \cdot \prod_{\substack{j=1 \\ j \neq i}}^k \Pr\{c_j\}}}_{L_e(\hat{u}_i)} \\
 &\quad \text{Intrinsic LLR (systematic part)} \qquad \text{A-priori LLR} \qquad \text{Extrinsic LLR}
 \end{aligned}$$

Soft-Output Decoding for (4,3,2)-SPC-Code



Turbo Decoding of (24,16,3)-Produktcode (1)



Turbo Decoding of (24,16,3)-Produktcode (2)

$$L_{ch} \mathbf{y} + L_{a,1}^{-1}(\hat{\mathbf{u}})$$

-0.7	6.3	-2.5	-3.8	6.3
4.5	-3.1	2.5	-3.8	-9.5
-7.0	1.9	-4.4	8.2	1.3
0.7	1.9	6.9	-10.1	-17.2
1.9	-5.7	7.6	-7.0	

1. horizontal decoding

$$L_{e,1}^{-1}(\hat{\mathbf{u}})$$

2.5	-0.7	0.7	0.7
-2.5	2.5	-3.1	2.5
-1.3	1.3	-1.3	1.3
1.9	0.7	0.7	-0.7

$$L_{ch} \cdot \mathbf{y} +$$

$$L_{e,1}^{-1}(\hat{\mathbf{u}}) + L_{a,1}^{-1}(\hat{\mathbf{u}})$$

$$L_1^{-1}(\hat{\mathbf{u}})$$

1.8	5.6	-1.8	-3.1
2.0	-0.6	-0.6	-1.3
-8.3	3.2	-5.7	9.5
2.6	2.6	7.6	-10.8

$$L_{ch} \mathbf{y} + L_{a,2}^1(\mathbf{u})$$

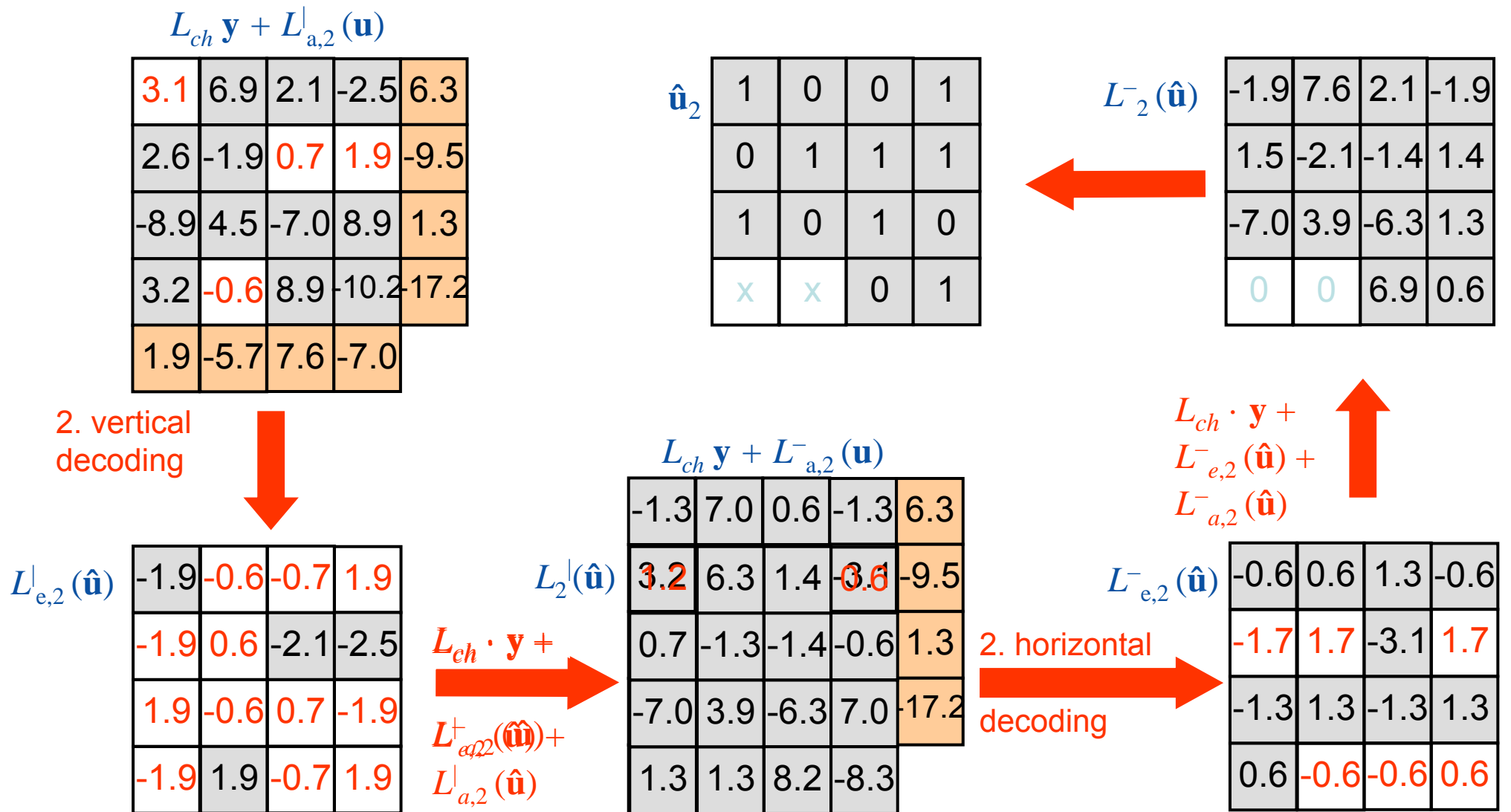
3.1	6.9	2.1	-2.5	6.3
2.6	-1.9	0.7	1.9	-9.5
-8.9	4.5	-7.0	8.9	1.3
3.2	-0.6	8.9	-10.2	-17.2
1.9	-5.7	7.6	-7.0	

$$L_{e,1}^{-1}(\hat{\mathbf{u}}) = L_{a,2}^1(\hat{\mathbf{u}})$$

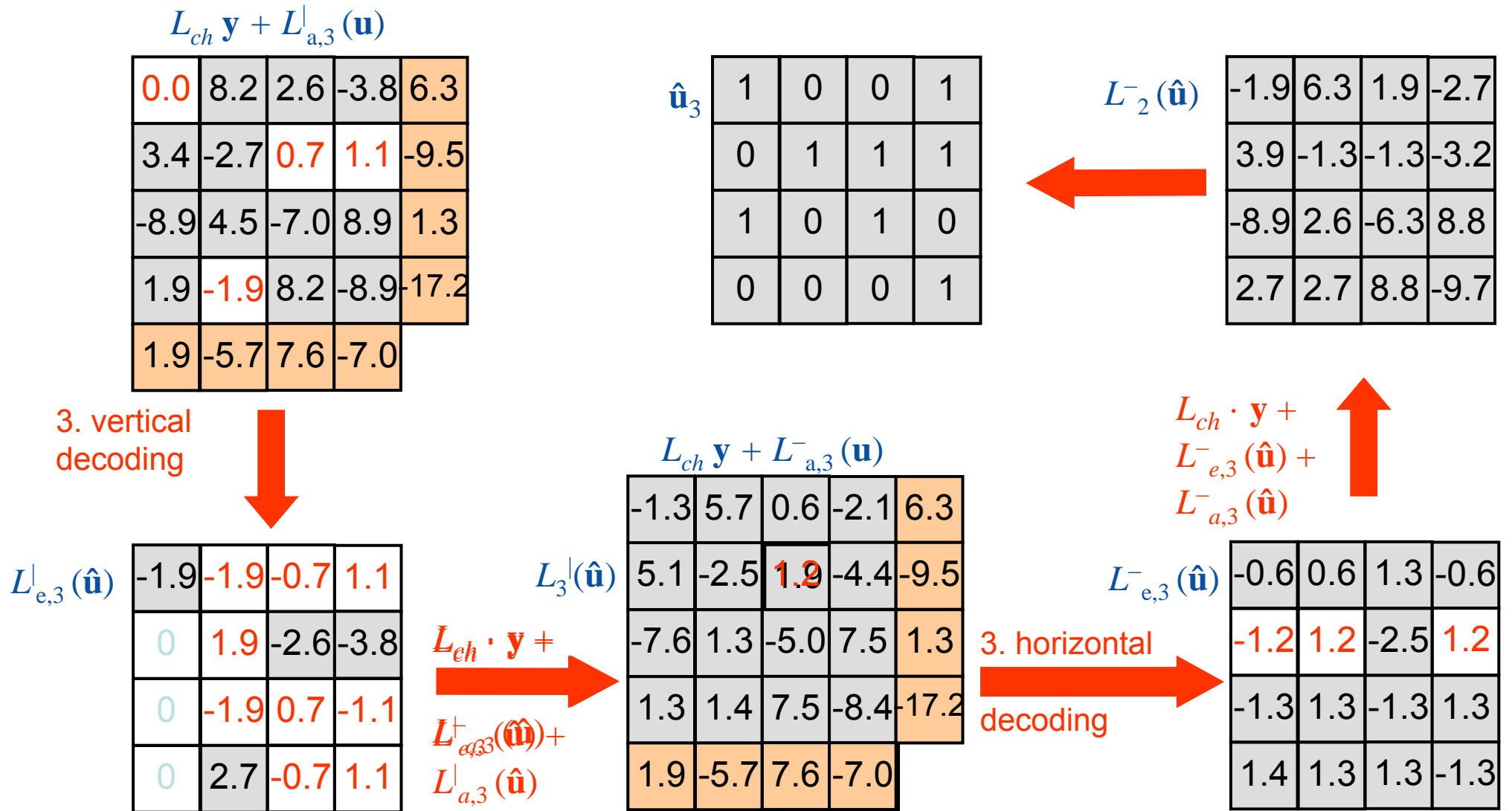
$$\hat{\mathbf{u}}_1$$

0	0	1	1
0	1	1	1
1	0	1	0
0	0	0	1

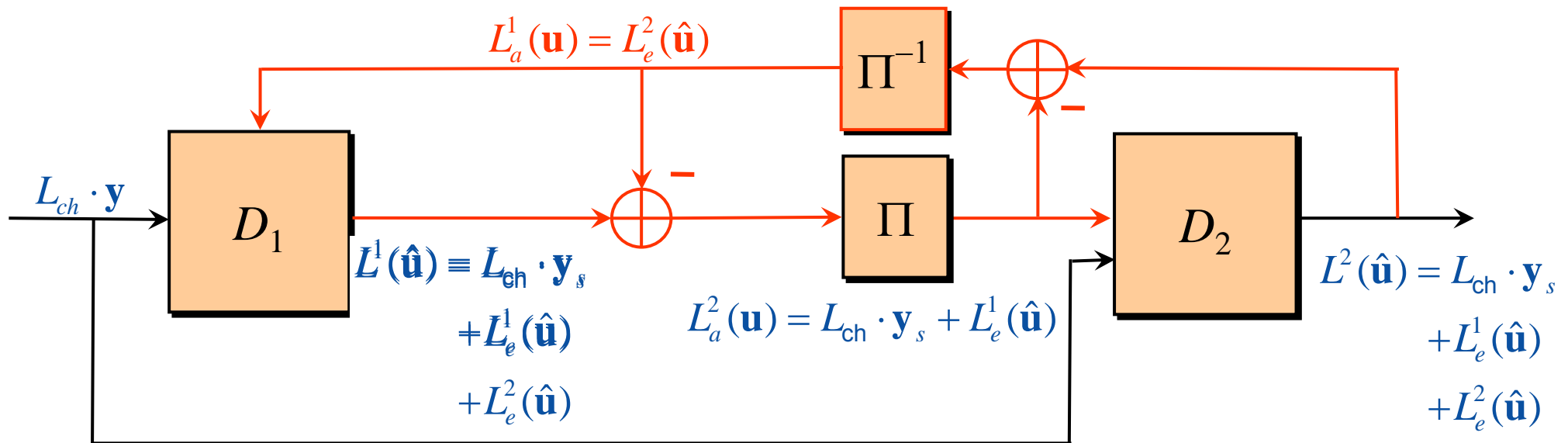
Turbo Decoding of (24,16,3)-Produktcode (3)



Turbo Decoding of (24,16,3)-Produktcode (4)

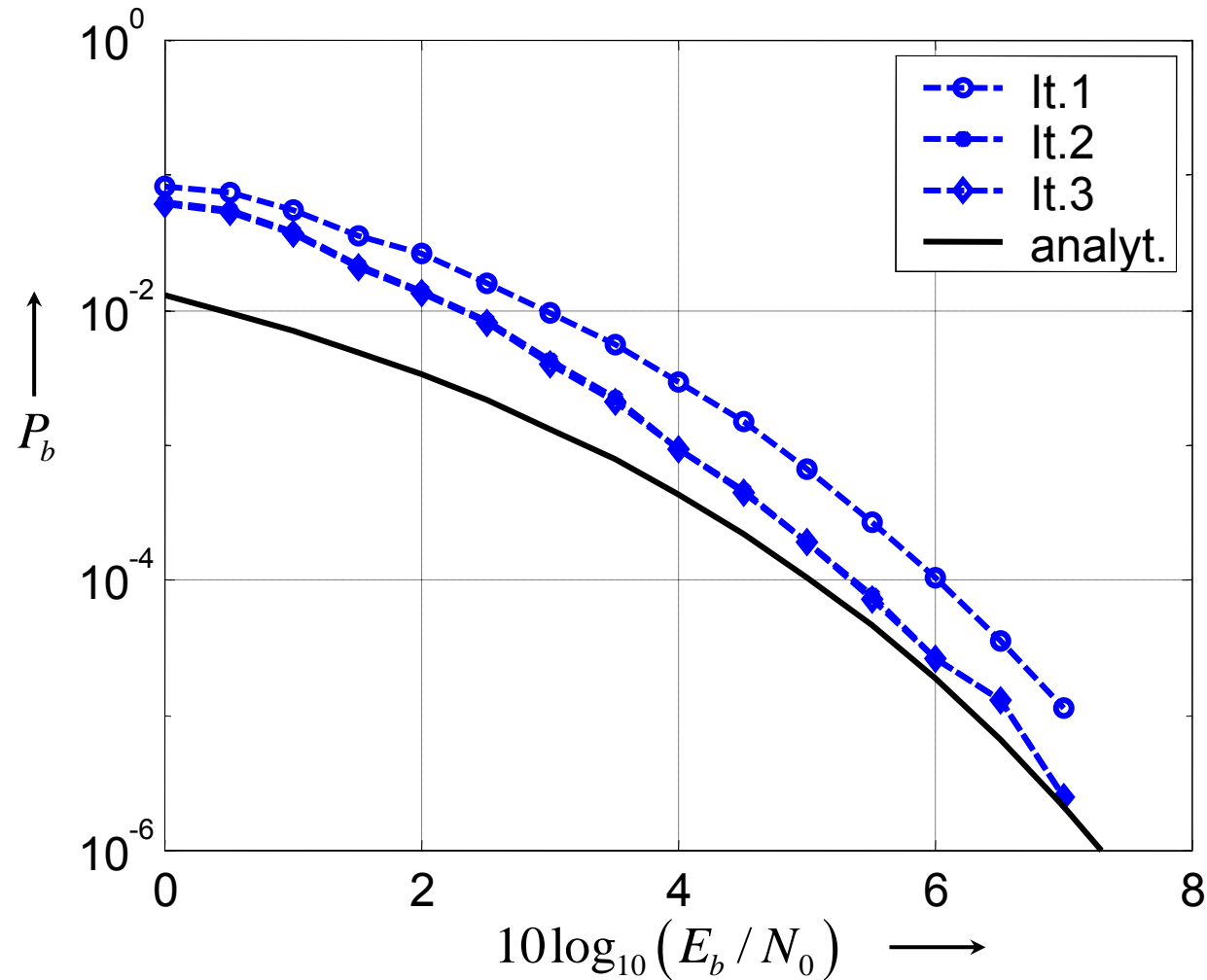


General Concept of „Turbo“ Decoding

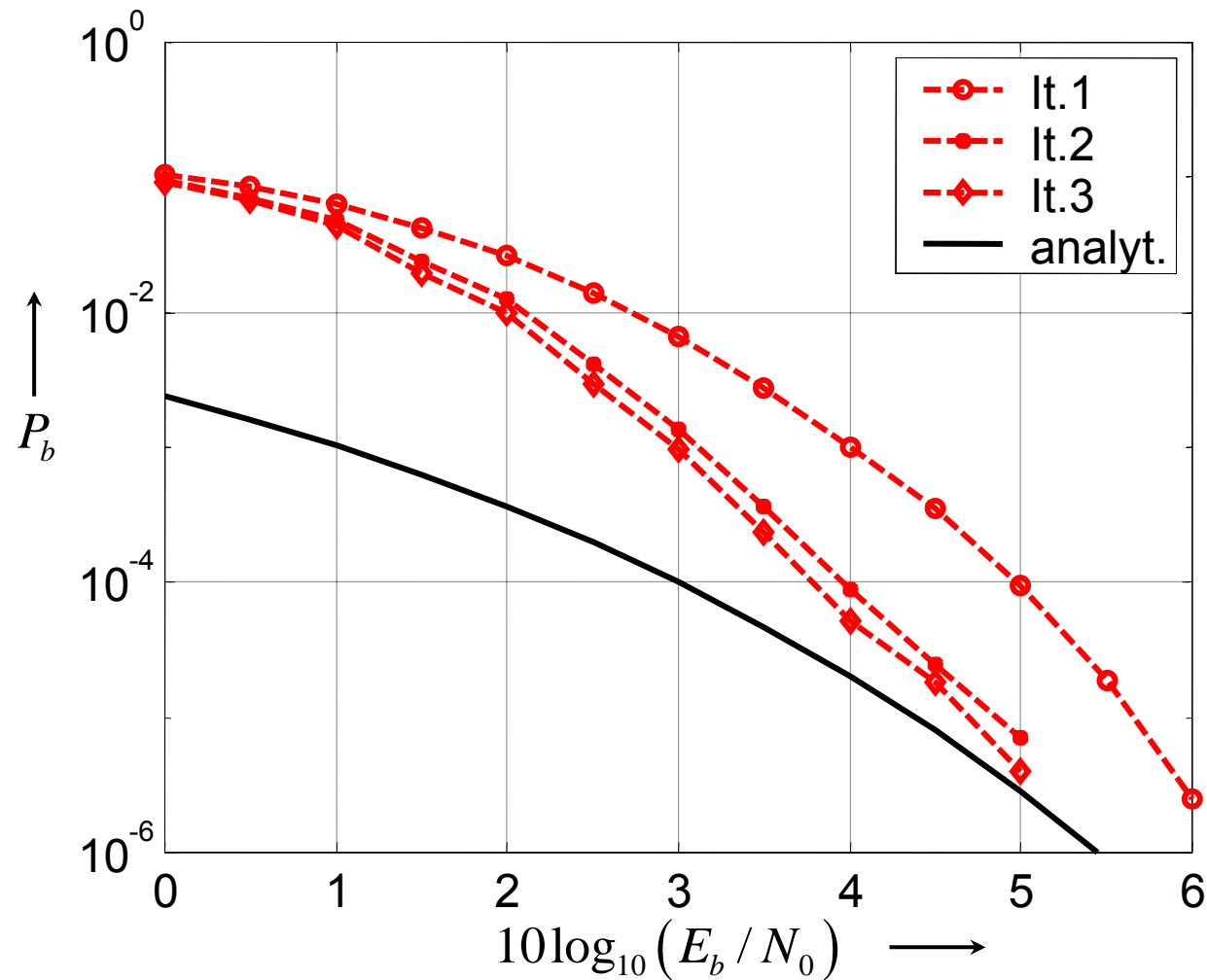


- Each decoder supplies extrinsic information as a priori information to other decoder
- $L_e(\hat{\mathbf{u}})$ is incorporated in $L(\hat{\mathbf{u}})$ for systematic encoders
- Improvement by additional decoding iteration with a-priori knowledge if $L_e(\hat{\mathbf{u}})$, $L_a(\hat{\mathbf{u}})$ and $L_{ch}\mathbf{y}_s$ are statistically independent

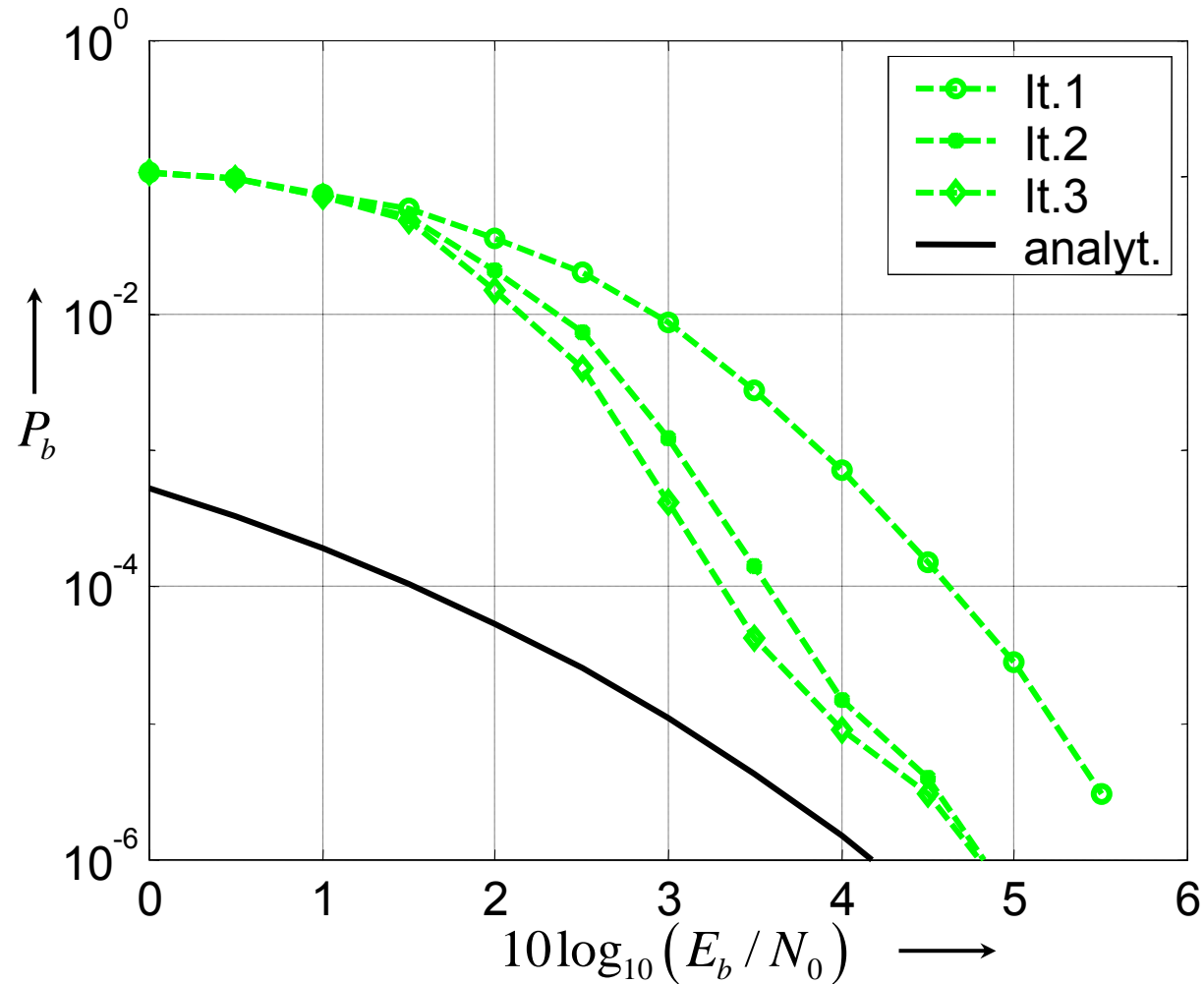
- (7,4,3)-Hamming Codes, parallel concatenation



- (15,11,3)-Hamming-Codes, parallel concatenation

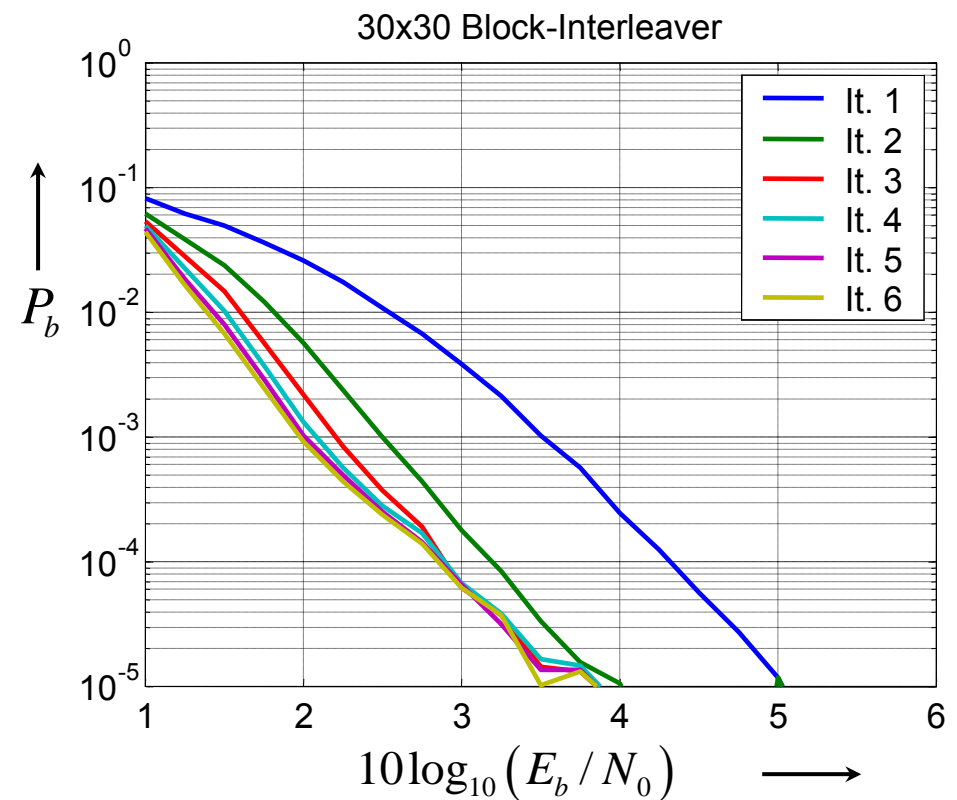
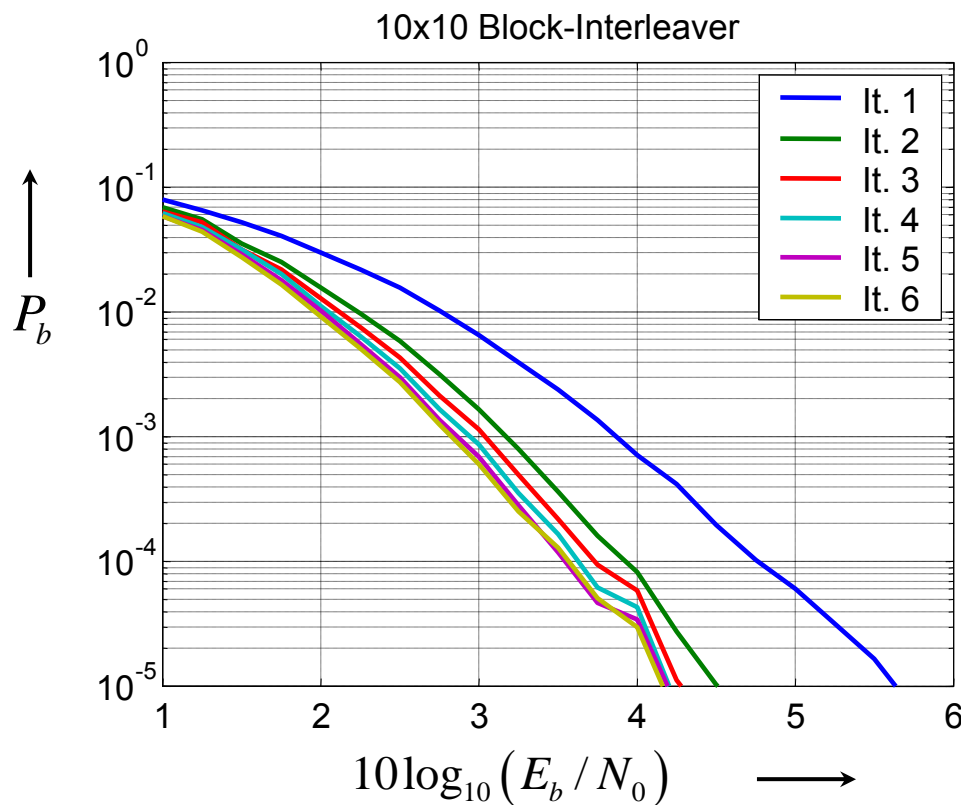


- (31,26,3)-Hamming-Codes, parallel concatenation



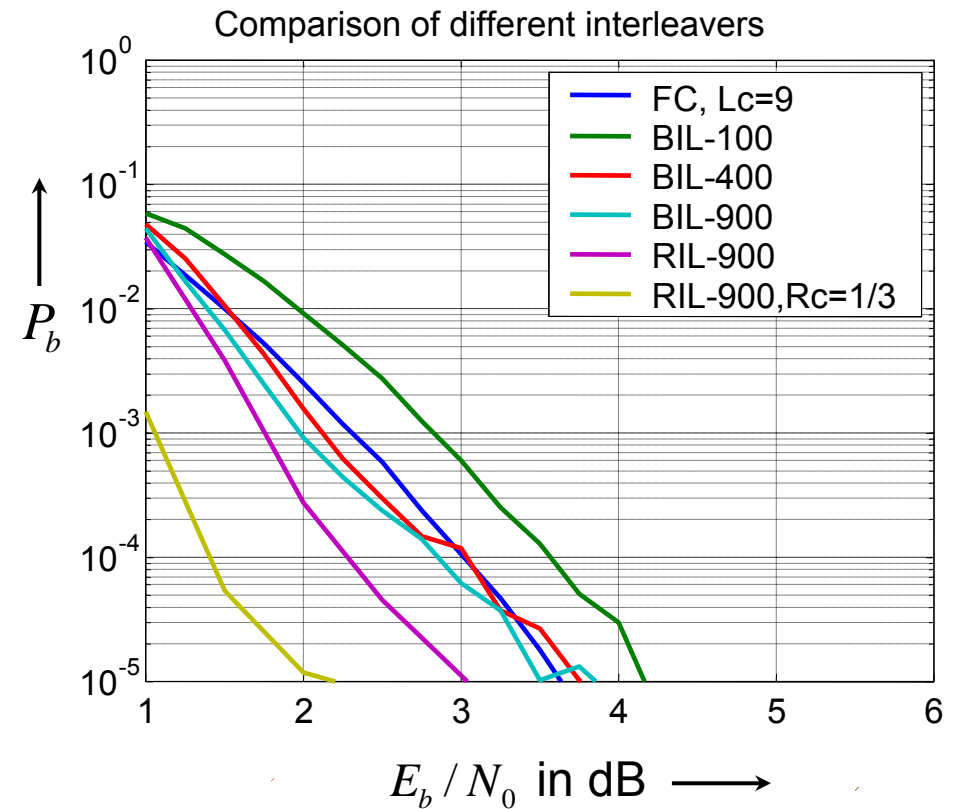
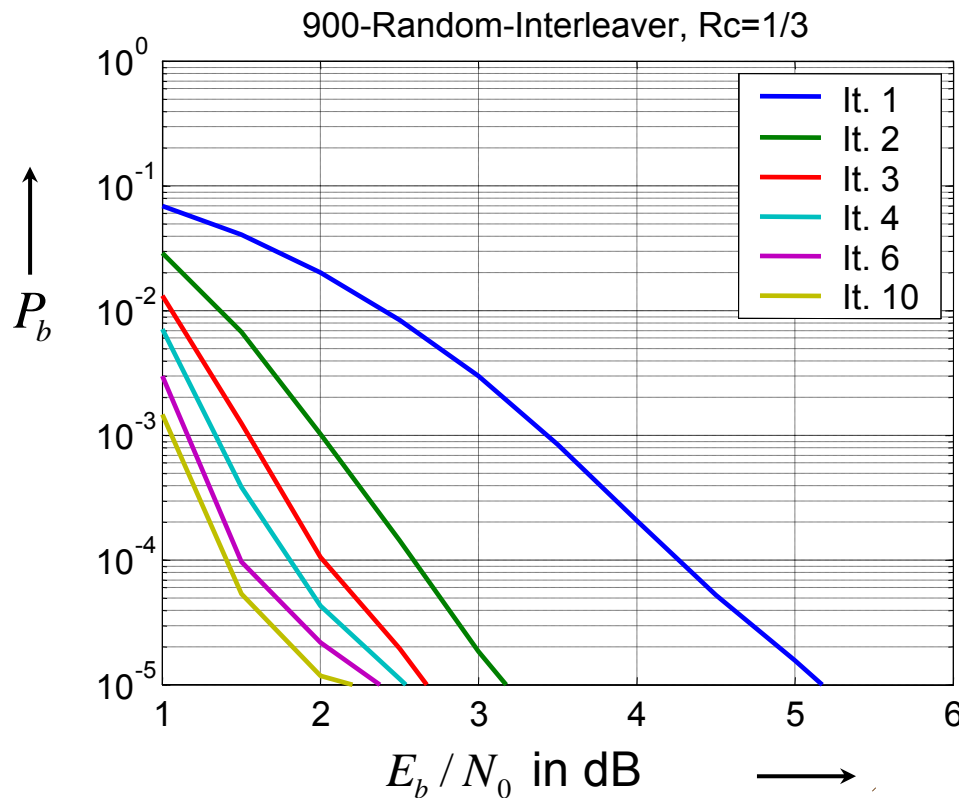
Simulation Results for Turbo Codes ($L_c = 3$)

- Simple Block Interleaver
 - No significant improvements after third decoding iteration



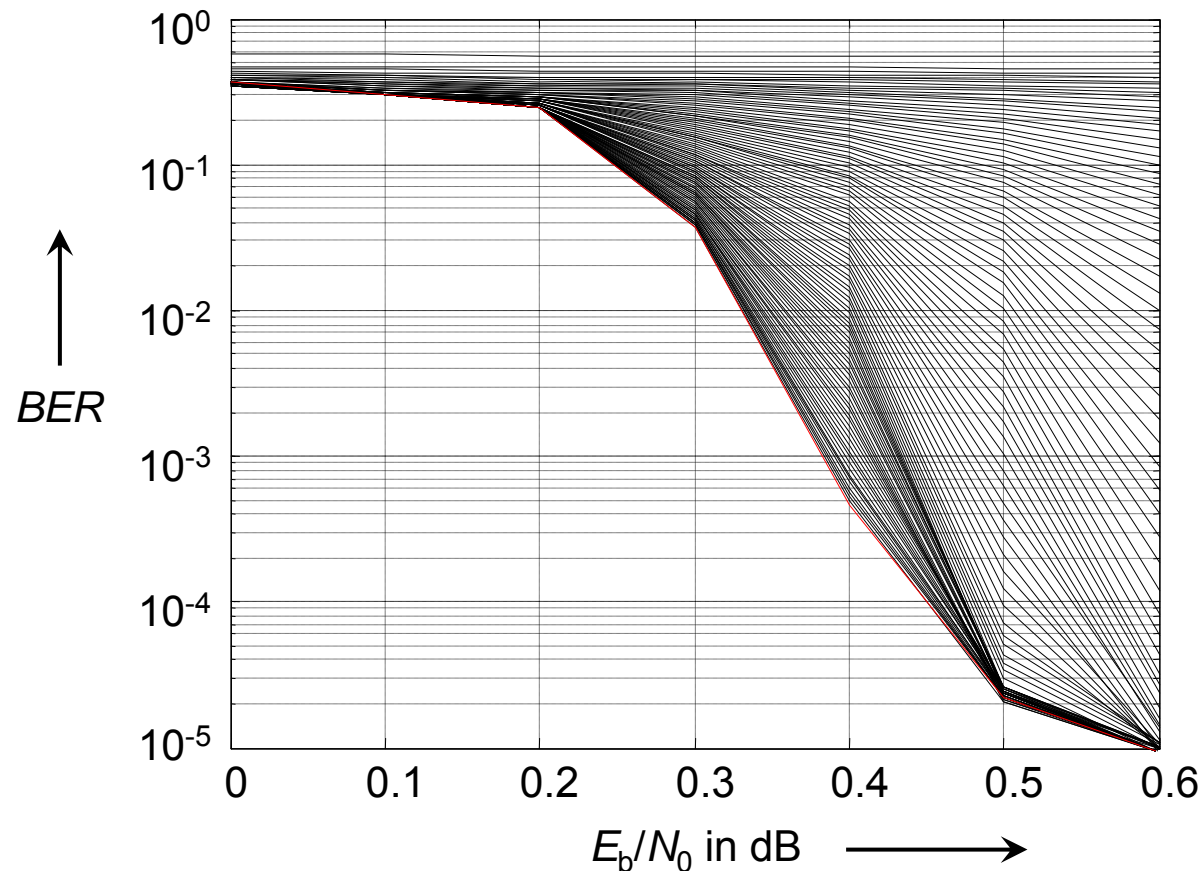
Block and Random Interleavers

- Iterative process gains significantly even after sixth iteration
- Increasing interleaver size improves performance remarkably

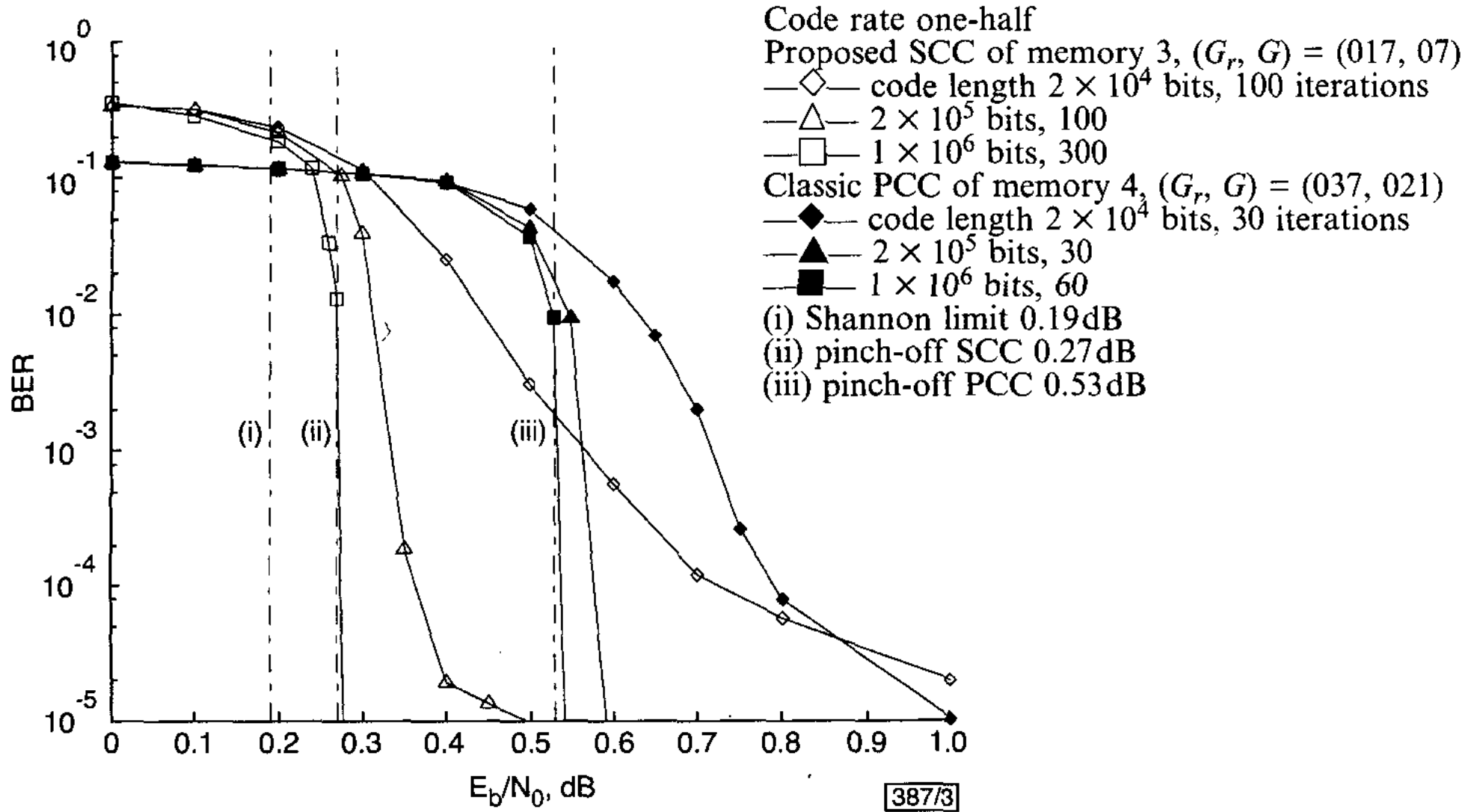


Repeat Accumulate Code by ten Brink

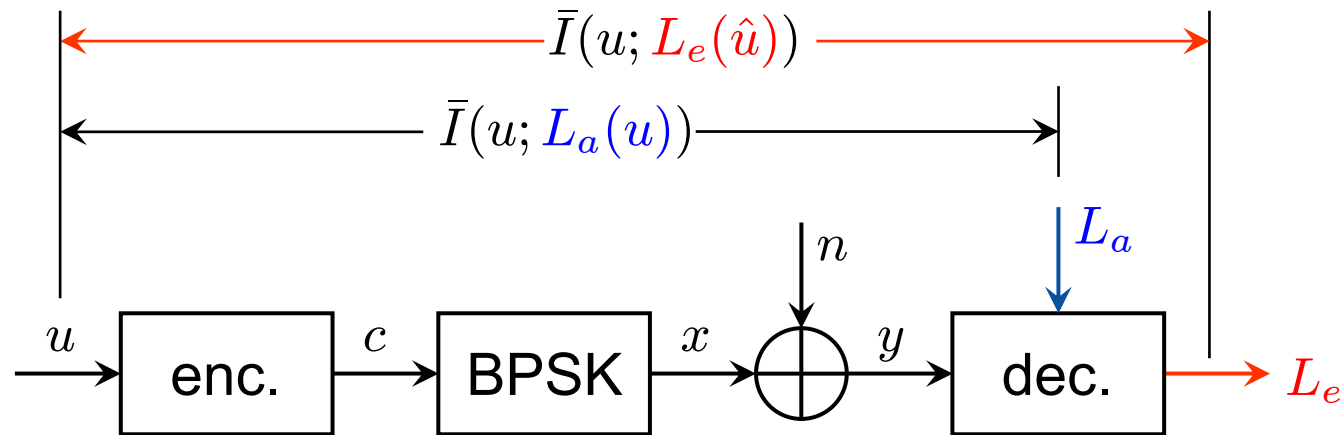
- Half-rate outer repetition encoder
- Rate-one inner recursive convolutional encoder
- Approximately 100 decoding iterations are needed



Repeat Accumulate Code by ten Brink



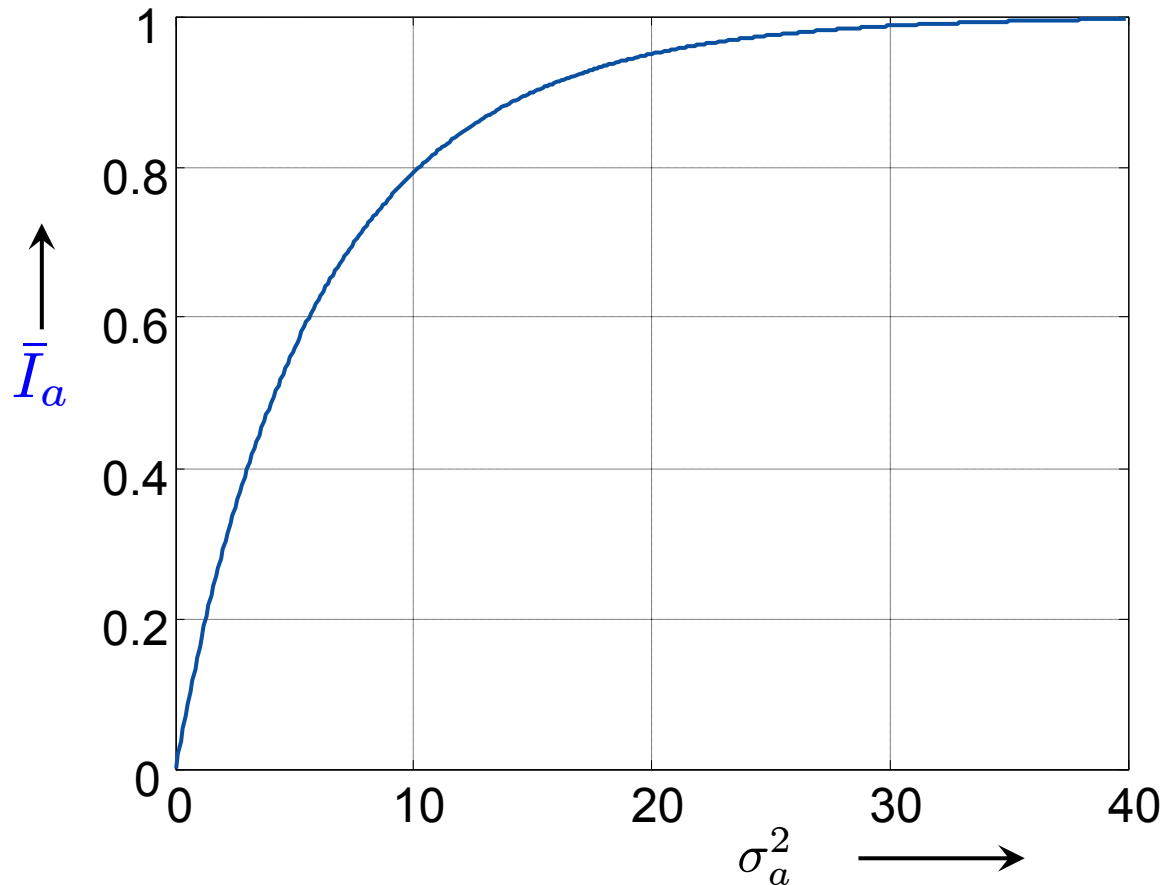
- For a long time, turbo decoding process has not really been understood
- Several approaches for the analysis exist:
 - Density evolution
 - EXIT chart analysis
- Basically, decoders exchange extrinsic mutual information
- Semi-analytic analysis
 - Simulation results showed that extrinsic LLRs are approximately Gaussian distributed (at least after many iterations)
 - Generate Gaussian distributed artificial a priori LLRs with specified mutual information $\bar{I}(u; L_a(\hat{u}))$
 - Determine by simulations extrinsic mutual information $\bar{I}(u; L_e(\hat{u}))$ at decoder output
 - Behavior of decoder is characterized by this relationship



- Artificial a-priori LLRs: $L_a = \frac{2}{\sigma_{\mathcal{N}_a}^2} \cdot y_a = \frac{2}{\sigma_{\mathcal{N}_a}^2} \cdot (x + n_a)$
 with Gaussian noise $n_a \in \mathcal{N}(0, \sigma_{\mathcal{N}_a}^2)$ and $\bar{I}_a = \bar{I}(u; L_a(u))$
- Measure extrinsic mutual information at decoder output $\bar{I}_e = \bar{I}(u; L_e(\hat{u}))$

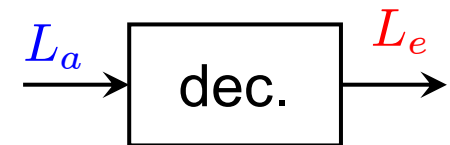
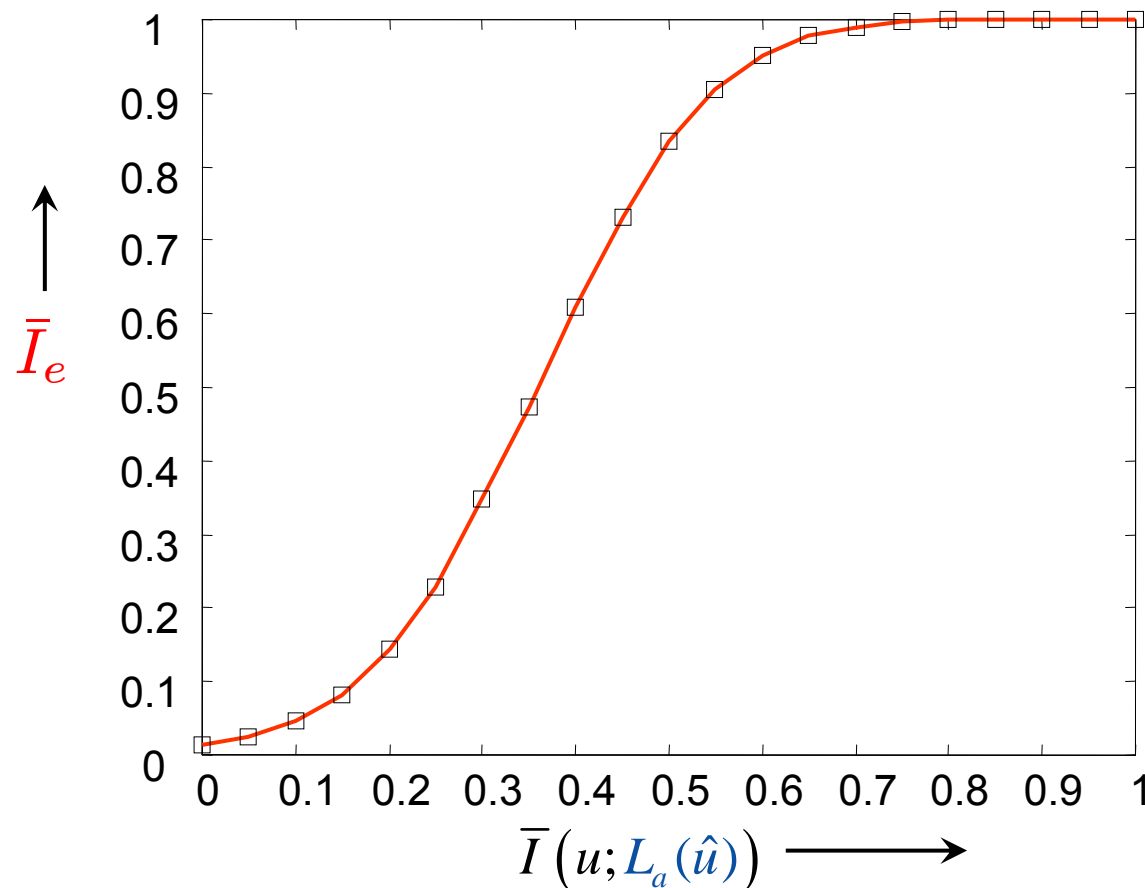
- Mutual a-priori information only depends on noise variance

$$\bar{I}_a = 1 + \frac{1}{2} \cdot \sum_{\mu=0}^1 \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} p(L_a | x = X_{\mu}) \cdot \log_2 \left[\frac{p(L_a | x = X_{\mu})}{p(L_a | x = X_0) + p(L_a | x = X_1)} \right] dL_a$$



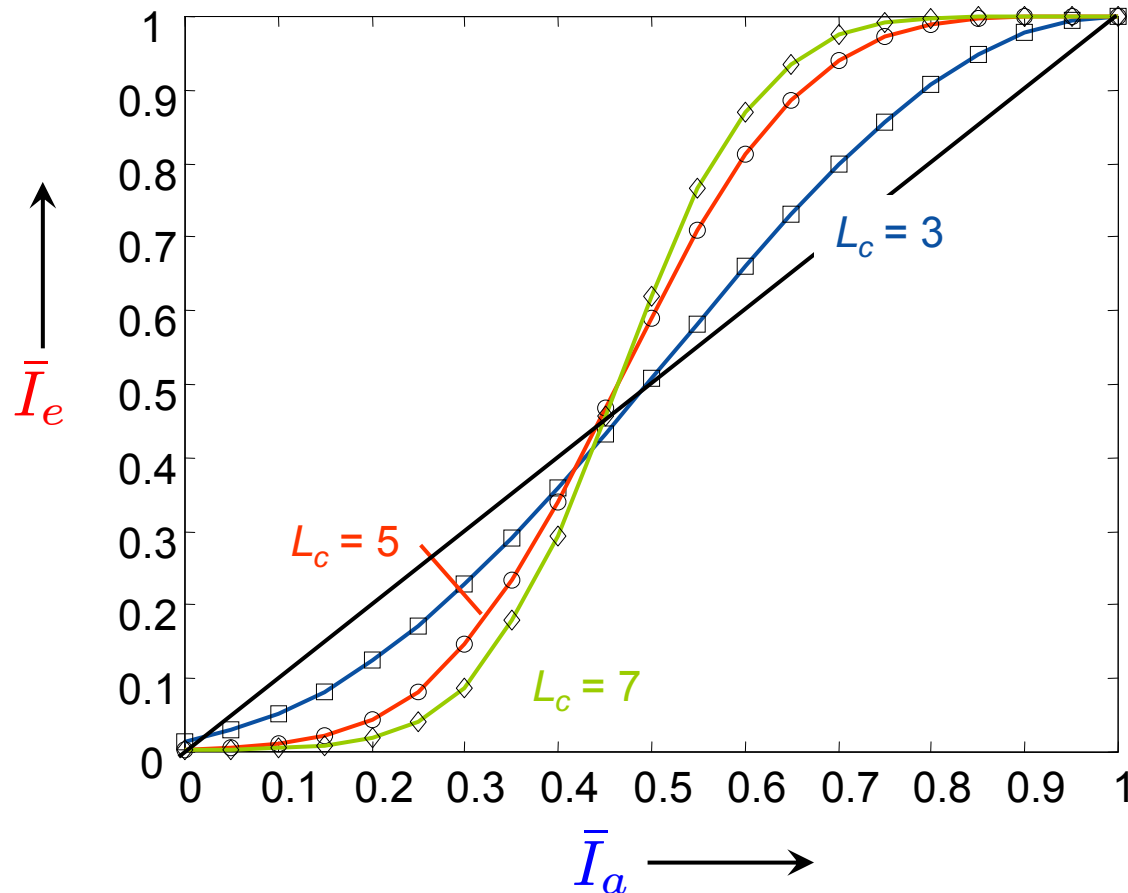
- Dependency of mutual information at decoder input and output

$$\bar{I}_e = 1 + \frac{1}{2} \cdot \sum_{\mu=0}^1 \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} \hat{p}(L_e | x = X_\mu) \cdot \log_2 \left[\frac{\hat{p}(L_e | x = X_\mu)}{\hat{p}(L_e | X_0) + \hat{p}(L_e | X_1)} \right] dL_e$$



Behavior for different NSC Codes

- Only a-priori information at decoder input (no channel output)

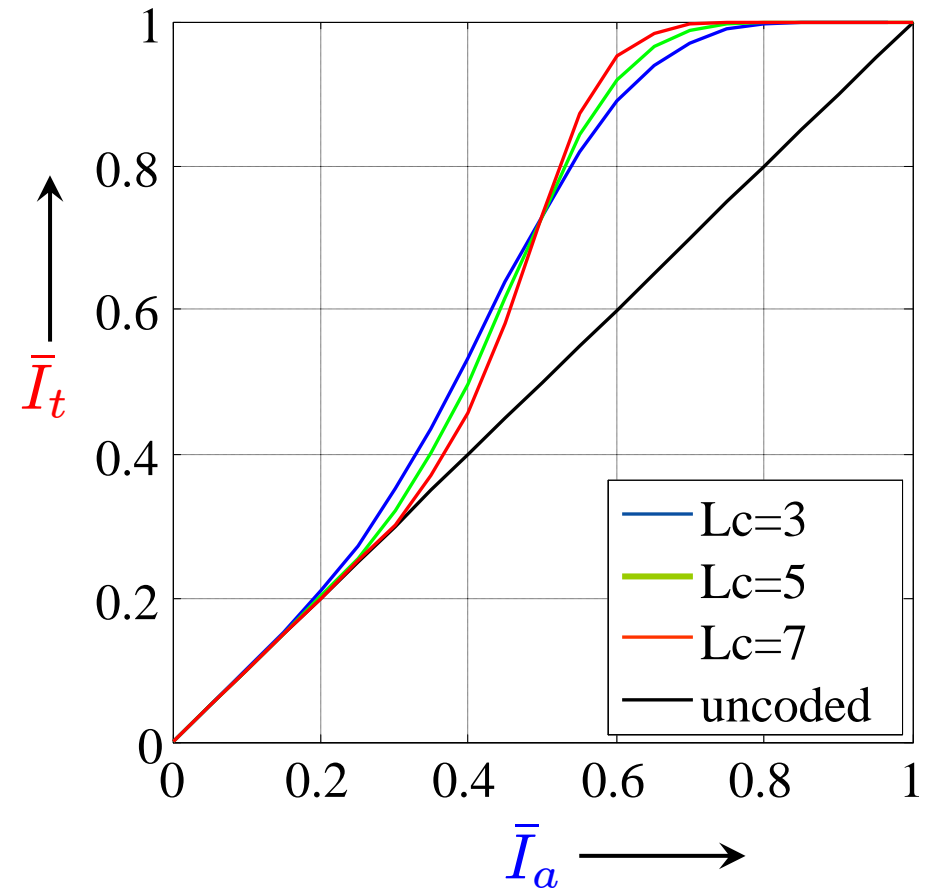
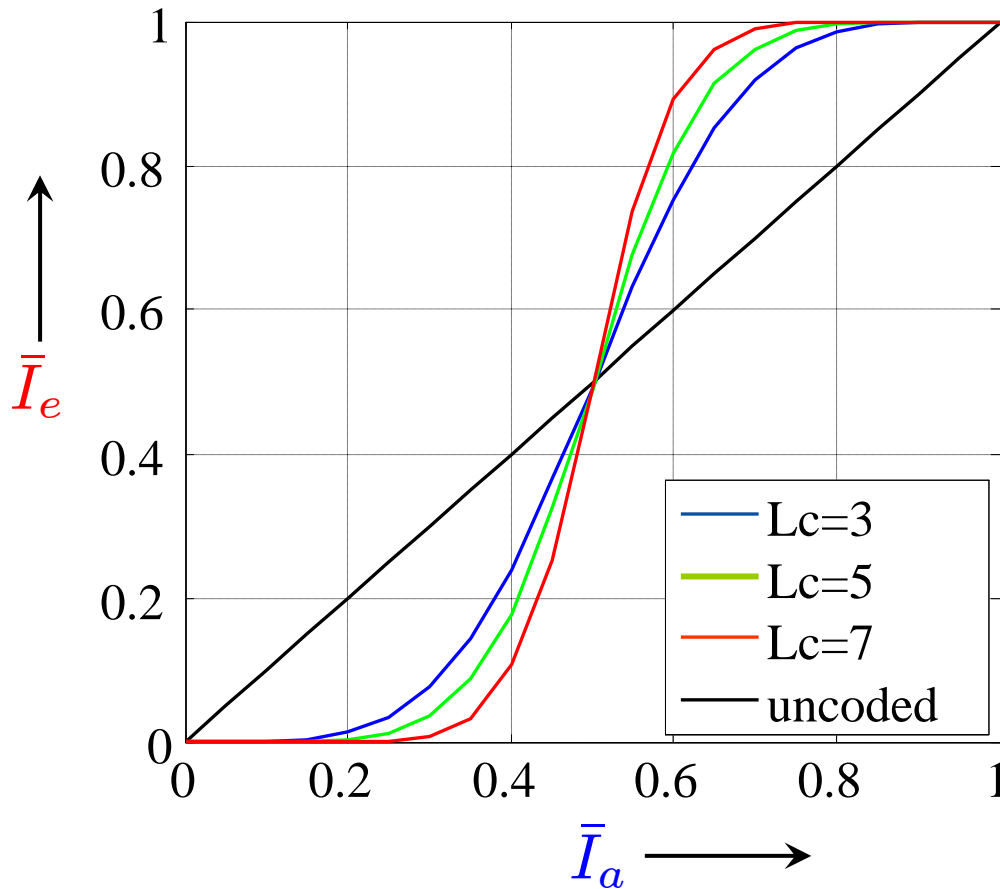


- Weak codes better for low a priori information
- Strong codes better for high a priori information
- Point of intersection for all convolutional codes at (0.5,0.5) (explanation for this behavior unknown!)

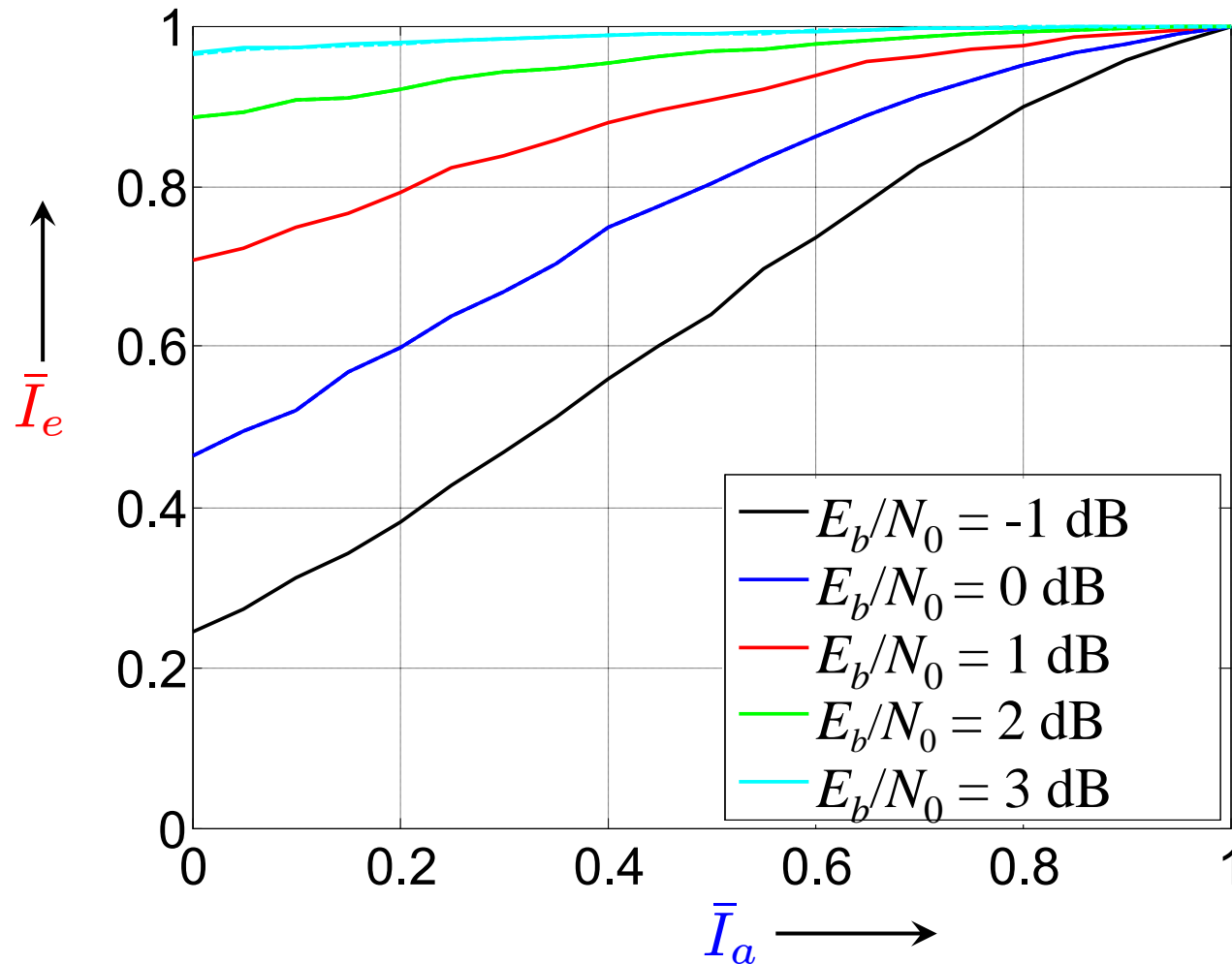


Extrinsic and Total Information

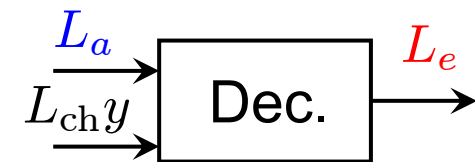
- Only a-priori information at decoder input
- Extrinsic and a priori information do **not** sum up



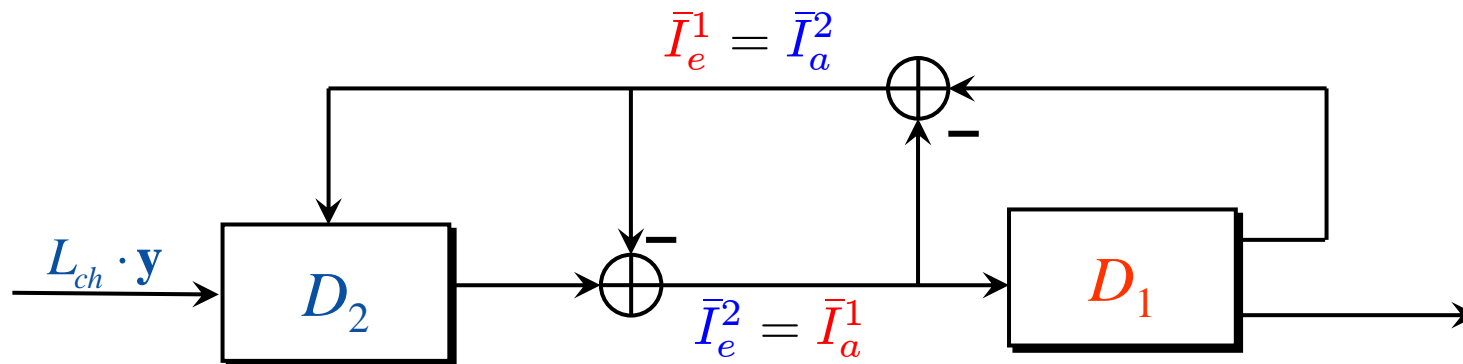
- A-priori and intrinsic information at decoder input



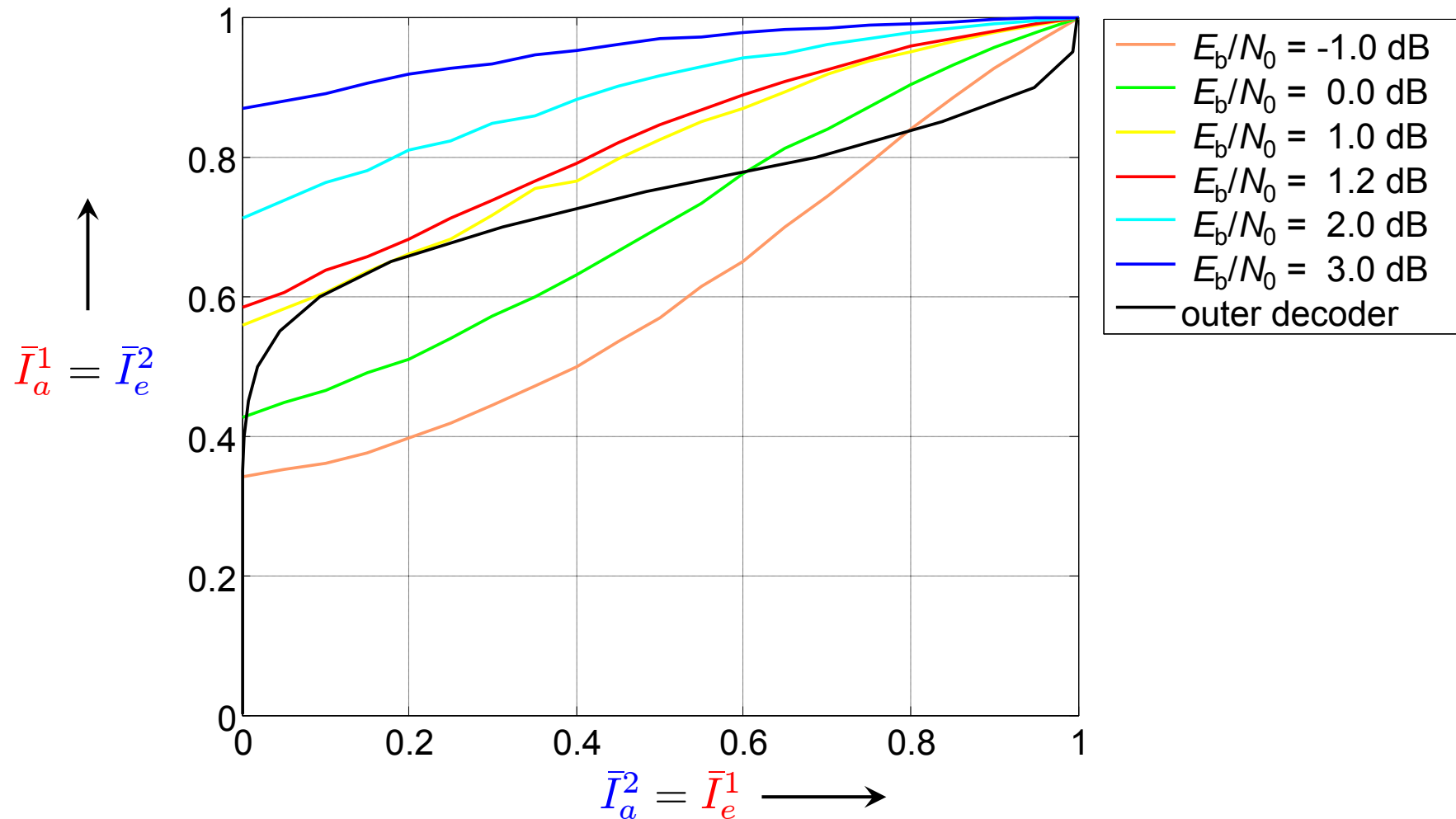
- High channel SNR leads to high extrinsic information
- Large a-priori information can compensate bad channel conditions



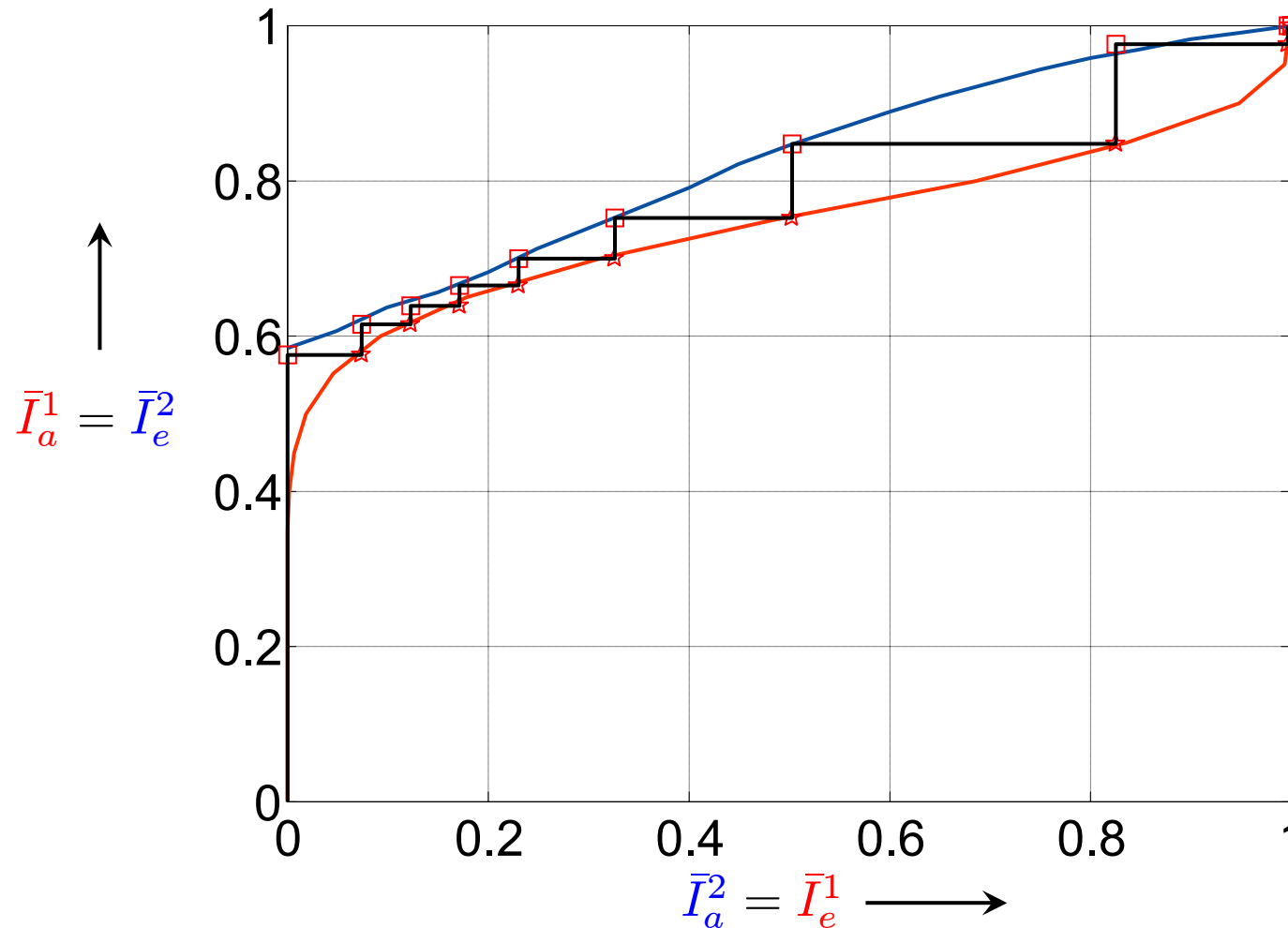
- EXtrinsic Information Transfer (EXIT)
- Serial concatenation of inner Walsh Hadamard Code and outer convolutional code
- Extrinsic information of one inner Hadamard decoder is a priori information for outer convolutional decoder and vice versa
- Drawing trajectories of both decoders into one diagram and flipping abscissa and ordinate for outer convolutional code leads to EXIT charts



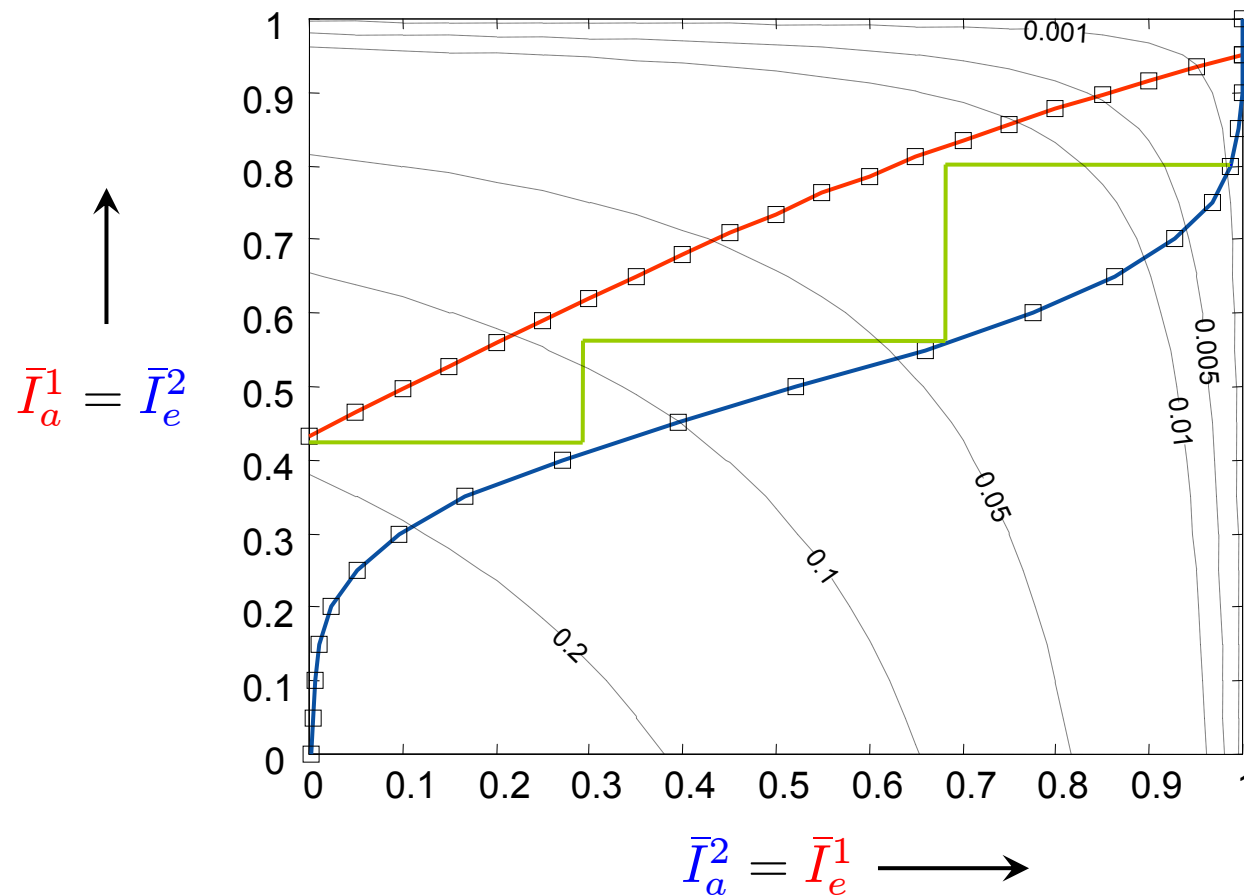
- Determining **pinch-off SNR**: minimum SNR for convergence



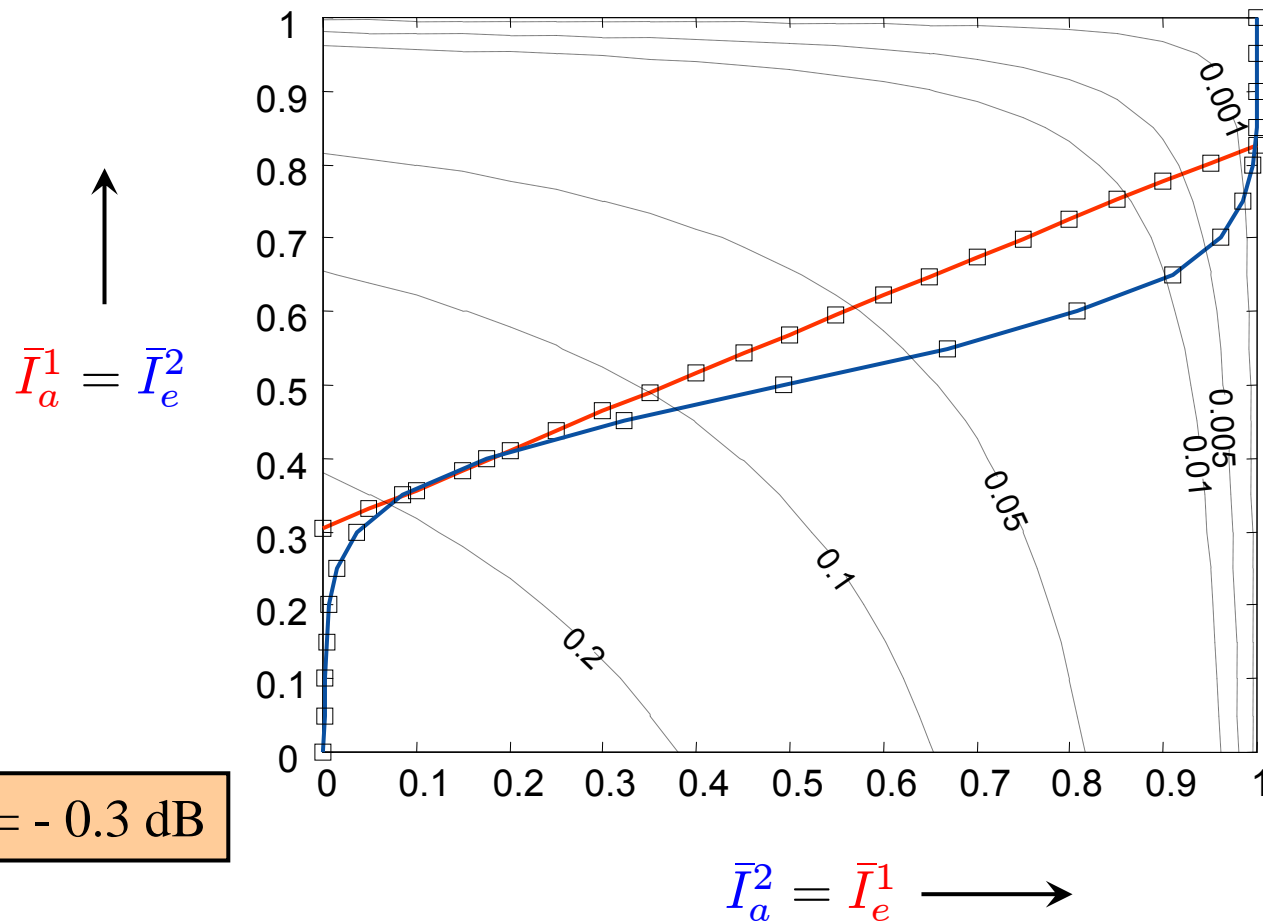
- Serial concatenation of inner RSC and outer NSC code



- Outer convolutional code
- Inner Walsh-Hadamard code



- Determining **pinch-off SNR**: minimum SNR for which convergence is maintained



$10\log_{10}(E_b/N_0) = -0.3 \text{ dB}$

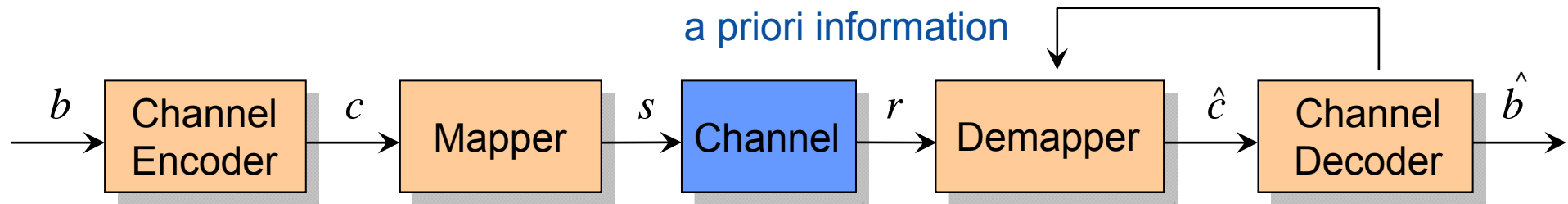
- Application of turbo processing not restricted to concatenated codes
- Applicable for any concatenated system
 - Concatenation of source and channel coding
(exploitation of residual redundancy from source coding)

 - Concatenation of coding and modulation
(bit-interleaved coded modulation)

 - Channel equalization and decoding can be performed iteratively

 - Multi-user detection and decoding can be performed iteratively

Thanks for your attention!



- Coded transmission with higher order modulation:
 - Usually Gray mapping employed
 - Minimizes bit error probability without channel coding
- Iterative detection and decoding
 - Channel decoder provides a priori information to the demapper
- Are there better mapping strategies than Gray mapping?

- Bijective mapping of $m = \log_2 M$ interleaved coded bits c_1, \dots, c_m onto transmit symbol s
- Chain rule of mutual information

$$I(s; r) = I(c_1, \dots, c_m; r) = \sum_{k=1}^m I(c_k; r | c_1, \dots, c_{k-1}) = \sum_{L=0}^{m-1} I_L$$

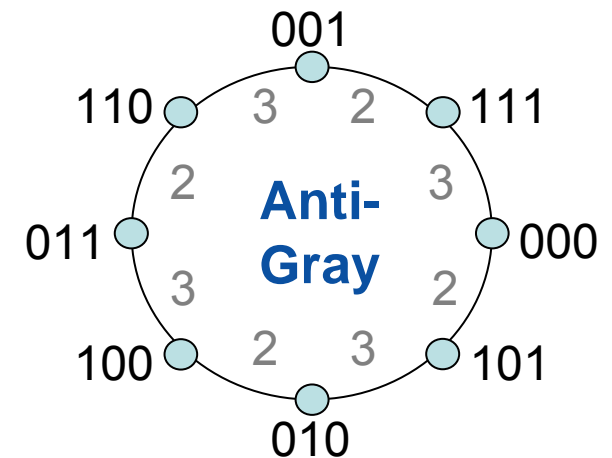
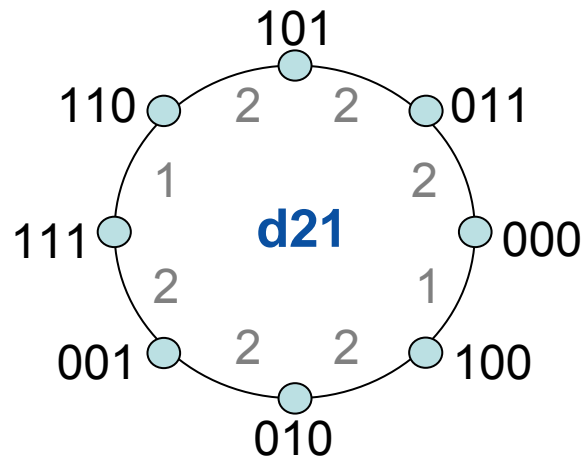
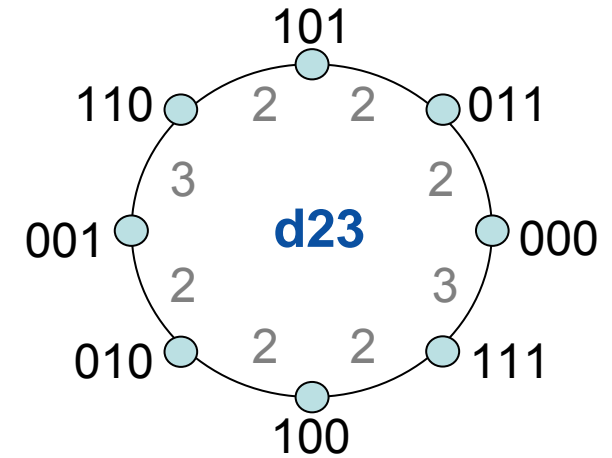
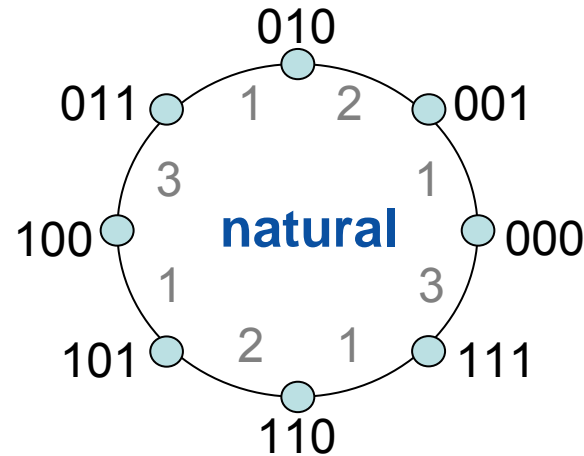
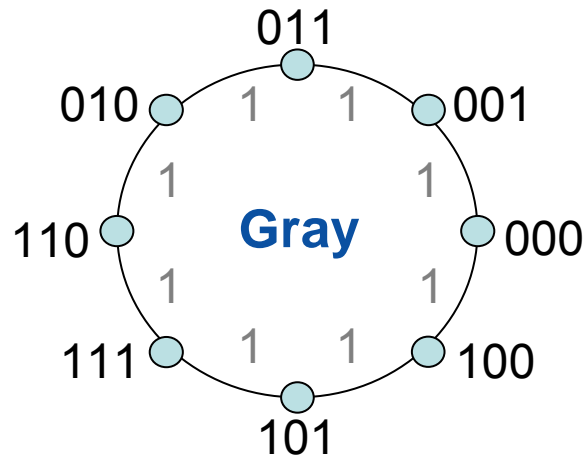
- Example: 8-PSK (three coded bits per symbol)

$I(s; r) =$	$I(c_1; r)$	+	$I(c_2; r c_1)$	+	$I(c_3; r c_1, c_2)$	
=	$I(c_1; r)$	+	$I(c_3; r c_1)$	+	$I(c_2; r c_1, c_3)$	
=	$I(c_2; r)$	+	$I(c_1; r c_2)$	+	$I(c_3; r c_1, c_2)$	
=	$I(c_2; r)$	+	$I(c_3; r c_2)$	+	$I(c_1; r c_2, c_3)$	
=	$I(c_3; r)$	+	$I(c_1; r c_3)$	+	$I(c_2; r c_1, c_3)$	
=	$I(c_3; r)$	+	$I(c_2; r c_3)$	+	$I(c_1; r c_2, c_3)$	
Averaging	\downarrow					
	I_0		I_1		I_2	

I_L : average bitwise mutual information if L bits are already known to the receiver

parallel sub-channels

Selected Bit-Mappings for 8-PSK



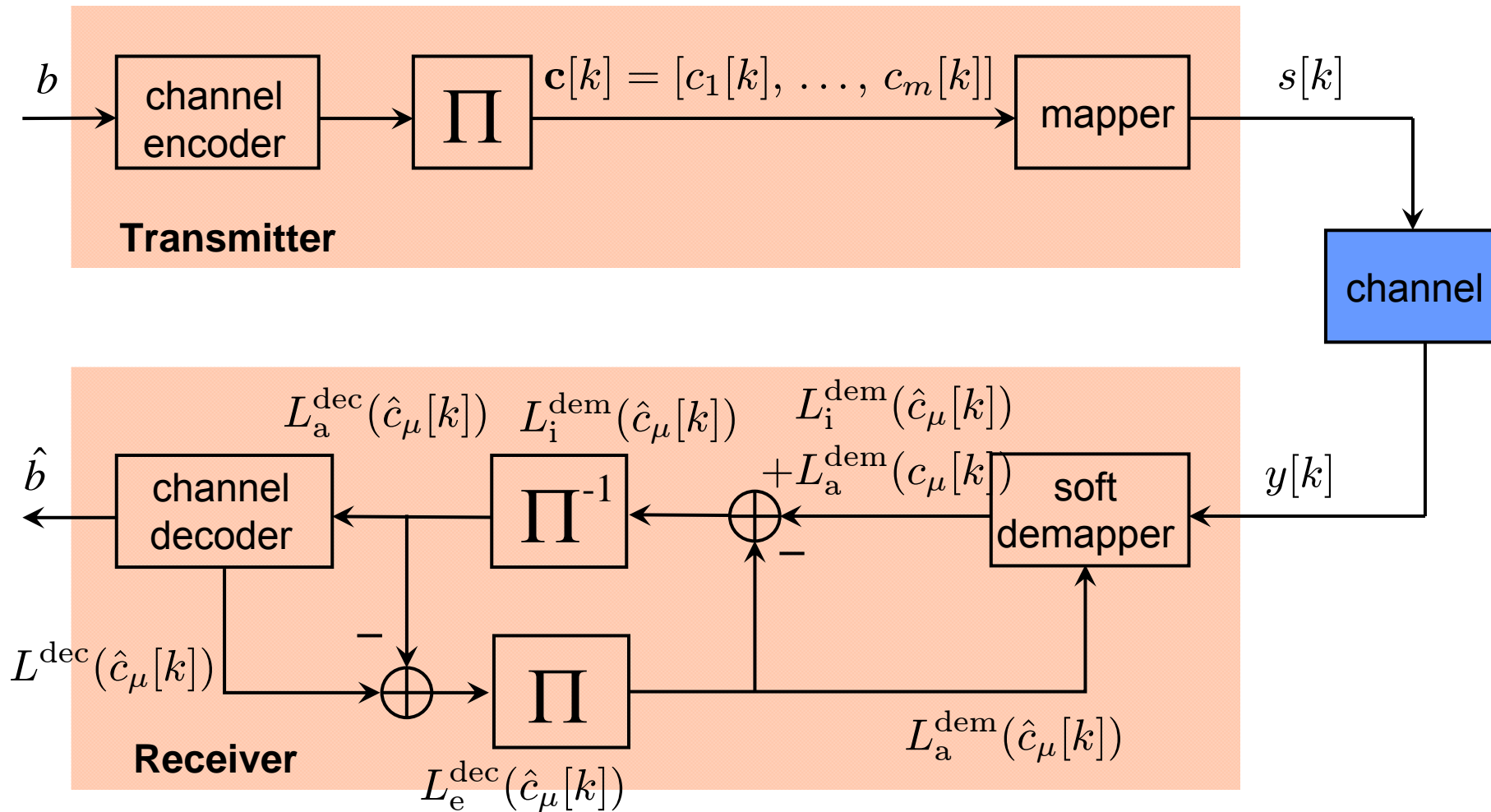
Bitwise Mutual Information for Different Mappings

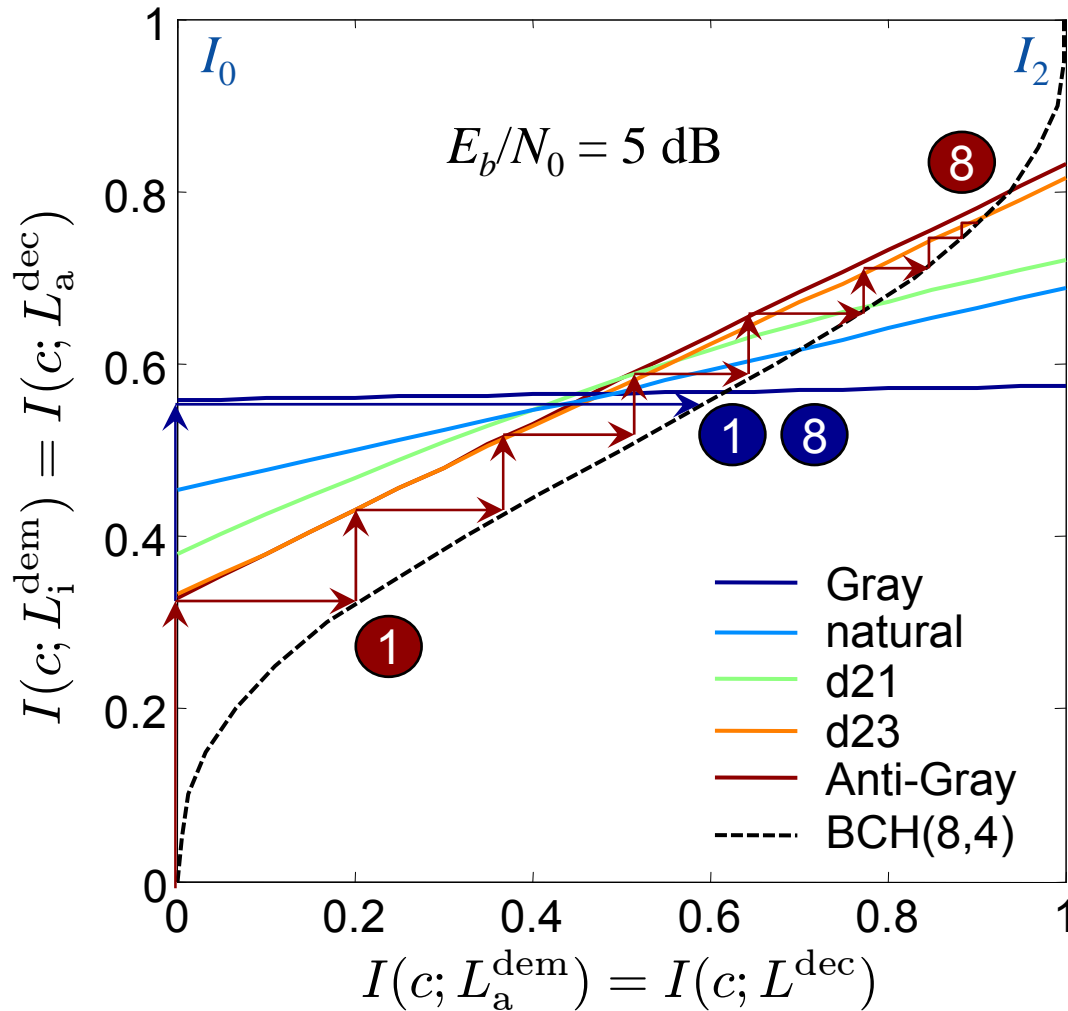
- Results for 8-PSK, AWGN channel, $E_b/N_0 = 6$ dB

Mapping	I_0	I_1	I_2	$I(s; r) = \sum I_L$
Gray	0.7810	0.7821	0.7831	2.3461
natural	0.6373	0.8268	0.8820	2.3461
d21	0.6327	0.7739	0.9395	2.3461
d23	0.5385	0.8186	0.9890	2.3461
Anti-Gray	0.4938	0.8726	0.9797	2.3461

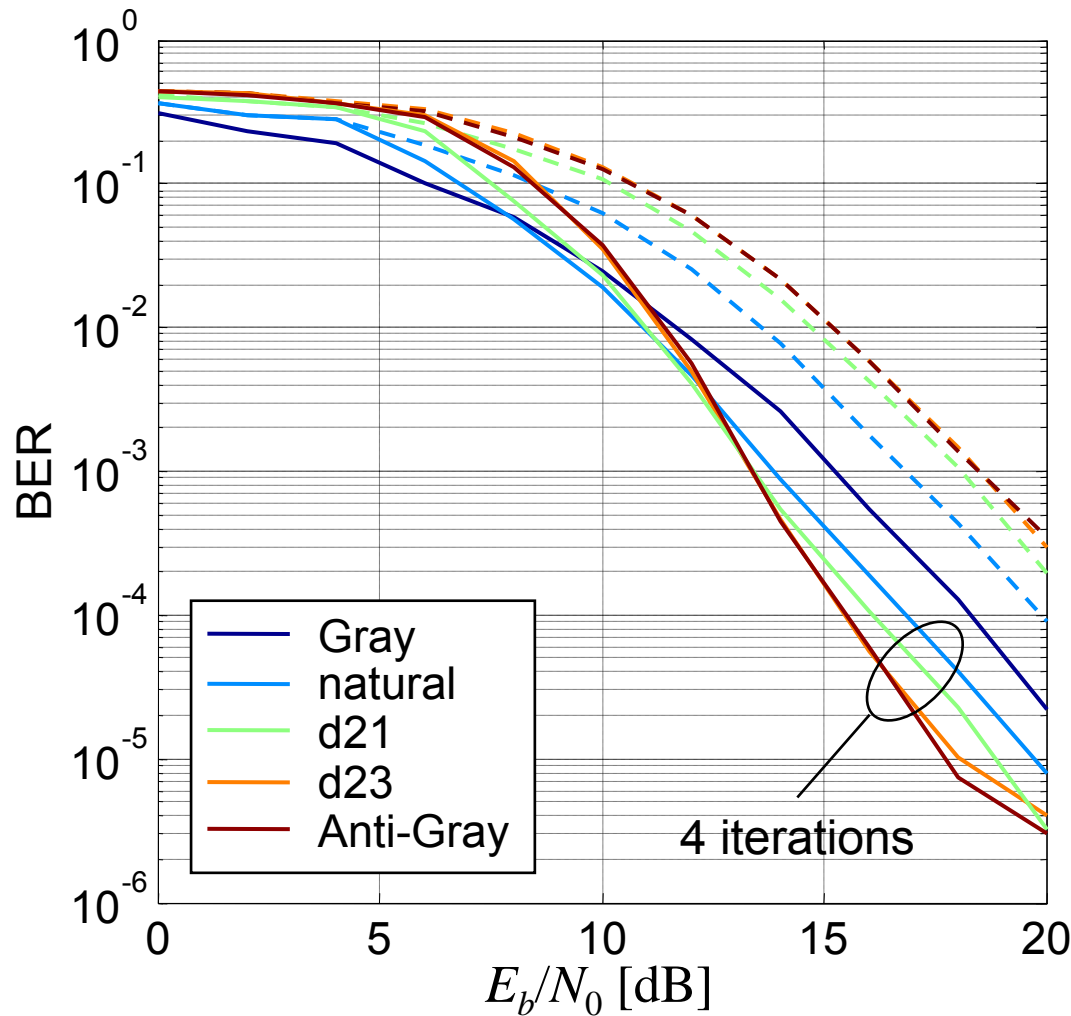
- Total mutual information is independent of mapping scheme
- Bit-specific mutual information highly depends on bit-mapping
 - Gray: nearly constant
 - d23, Anti-Gray: strong increase

System Model for BICM





- Demapper: *a priori* information
 - so far discrete
 - 0, 1, 2 bits perfectly known
 - now continuous
 - mutual information $I(c; L_a^{\text{dem}})$
- Result in principle as before
 - Boundary values I_0 and I_2
- Detection and decoding only once
 - Gray is best
- Iterative detection and decoding
 - Anti-Gray is best



- Simulation parameters
 - BCH(8,4)
 - 8-PSK
 - Alamouti scheme
 - 360 coded bits per frame
 - Independent Rayleigh fading
 - Channel const. for 24 symbols
- First detection and decoding
 - Gray good, Anti-Gray bad
- After four iterations
 - Anti-Gray is best
- Same results as predicted by EXIT charts