#### Viterbi's Impact on the Exploration of the Solar System







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October 25, 1963



JPI



Proof of Optimality of Orthogonal Codes

First Appearance of



**Digital Communications** 

with Space Applications

SERIES IN INFORMATION THEORY

Error Bounds for Convolutional Codes and an Asymptotically Optimum Decoding Algorithm

ANDREW J. VITERBI, SENIOR MEMBER, IEEE

#### IV. A PROBABILISTIC NONSEQUENTIAL DECODING Algorithm

We now describe a new probabilistic nonsequential decoding algorithm which, as we shall show in the next section, is asymptotically optimum for rates  $R > R_0 = E_0(1)$ . The algorithm decodes an *L*-branch tree by performing *L* repetitions of one basic step. We adopt the convention of denoting each branch of a given path by its data symbol  $a_i$ , an element of GF(q). Also, although GF(q) is isomorphic to the integers modulo q only when q is a prime, for the sake of compact notation, we shall use the integer r to denote the rth element of the field.

In Step 1 the decoder considers all  $q^{\kappa}$  paths for the first K branches (where K is the branch constraint length of the code) and computes all  $q^{\kappa}$  likelihood functions  $\prod_{i=1}^{\kappa} p(\mathbf{y}_i \mid a_i)$ . The decoder then compares the likelihood function for the q paths:

 $(0, a_2, a_3, \cdots a_K),$  $(1, a_2, a_3, \cdots a_K),$ 

 $(q - 1, a_2, a_3, \cdots a_K)$ 

for each of the  $q^{K-1}$  possible vectors  $(a_2, a_3 \cdots a_K)$ . It thus performs  $q^{K-1}$  comparisons each among q path likelihood functions. Let the path corresponding to the greatest likelihood function in each comparison be denoted the *survivor*. Only the  $q^{K-1}$  survivors of as many comparisons are preserved for further consideration; the remaining paths are discarded. Among the  $q^{K-1}$  survivors

#### EE/Ma 127b, Class Project 2





Jet Propulsion Laboratory Interplanetary Error-Control Codes

#### - No Coding (Pre 1969)





#### Plus Reed-Solomon if Data Compression is Used



K= 15, R = 1/6 CC/VD + RS (1986 - 2004)
Turbo Codes (2004 - ?)
LDPC Codes (2006 - ?)

#### No Coding: The Early Mariners

- Mariner 2, 1962
  - Venus Flyby
  - Mariner 4, 1965
  - Mars Flyby
  - First close-up photographs of another planet.
  - Mariner 5, 1967
    - Venus Flyby

#### (32,6) Biorthogonal Code + "Green Machine" Decoding

Mariners 6, 7 (1969)
 Mars Flyby
 Mariner 9 (1971)
 Mars Orbit

+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+
+	-	+	-	+	-	+	—
+	+	—	—	+	+	—	—
+	—	—	+	+	—	—	+
+	+	+	+	-	-	-	—
+	—	+	-	-	+	—	+
+	+	—	-	—	—	+	+
+	—	—	+	—	+	+	_
—	—	—	_	—	—	—	—
-	+	—	+	-	+	-	+
_	_	+	+	_	_	+	+
-	+	+	-	-	+	+	-
—	—	—	-	+	+	+	+
—	+	_	+	+	-	+	_
—	-	+	+	+	+	_	-
—	+	+	_	+	_	_	+

The (8,4) biorthogonal code

#### (32,6) Biorthogonal Code/ "Green Machine" Decoding

Mariner 10, 1973-1974
Mercury and Venus
Viking Mars Landers, 1976
Mars' Surface

+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+
+	—	+	-	+	—	+	-
+	+	—	—	+	+	—	—
+		-	+	+	—	—	+
+	+	+	+	-	—	—	-
+	-	+	-	-	+	-	+
+	+	—	—	-	—	+	+
+	—	—	+	—	+	+	—
-	—	—	-	—	-	—	-
—	+	—	+	—	+	—	+
—	—	+	+	—	—	+	+
—	+	+	-	—	+	+	_
—	—	—	-	+	+	+	+
-	+	-	+	+	-	+	—
—	—	+	+	+	+	—	—
_	+	+	_	+	_		+

The (8,4) biorthogonal code

#### K= 7, R = 1/2 Convolutional Code with Viterbi Decoding



Voyagers 1&2 (1977–)
 "Grand Tour"
 Magellan Venus Radar Mapper (1989-1993)
 Mars Global Surveyor (1997-)

#### K = 15 Convolutional Codes with Big Decoding



[ Galileo (1989 – 2003)

- A Sea of Troubles
- [ Mars Pathfinder (1996- 1997)
  - Sojourner

#### K = 15 Convolutional Codes with Big Decoding



- Cassini (1997 — )

– Huygens Titan Probe, 2005

Mars Exploration Rover (2003–2004)

Spirit and Opportunity



#### A Brave New World :Turbo Codes

Turbo Convolutional Encoder / Verify / Decoder System Architecture



Messenger to Mercury (APL Mission: 2004–2011) Mars Reconnaissace Orbiter (Aug 2005 Launch) — Both use (8920, 1/6) CCSDS turbo code

#### Back to the Future: LDPC Codes

## Mars Telecomm Orbiter 2010 And Beyond ?





#### SUMMARY



#### **Claude Shannon:**



"The fundamental problem of communication is that of reproducing at one point either exactly or approximately a message selected at another point."

"Frequently the messages have meaning"

## A Tour of the Solar System

#### On the Occasion of Andrew Viterbi's 70th Birthday.

Ludwig van Beethoven, Moonlight Sonata Daniel Barenboim, pianist



#### Mercury Mariner 10 1974







#### Mars Mars Global Surveyor 1997

#### The Surface of Mars Mars Pathfinder 1998



#### The Asteroid Gaspra Galileo 1991





#### **Jupiter** Voyager 1 1979

#### Jupiter's moon lo Galileo 1996



#### lo above Jupiter Cassini 2004



# Jupiter's moon Callisto Galileo 2001



#### Saturn's moon Titan Cassini 2004

#### Saturn's moon Phoebe Cassini 2005





#### Uranus Voyager 2 1986

Neptune Voyager 2 1989



#### Pluto and its moon Charon Hubble Space Telescope 1994







We shall not cease from exploration And the end of all our exploring Will be to arrive where we started And know the place for the first time. -T. S. Eliot



### Happy Birthday Andy!

