ENR-325/325L Principles of Digital Electronics and Laboratory

Xiang Li Fall 2025



Let's look into two of the coding method:

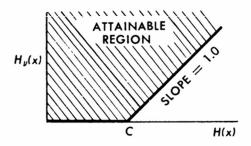
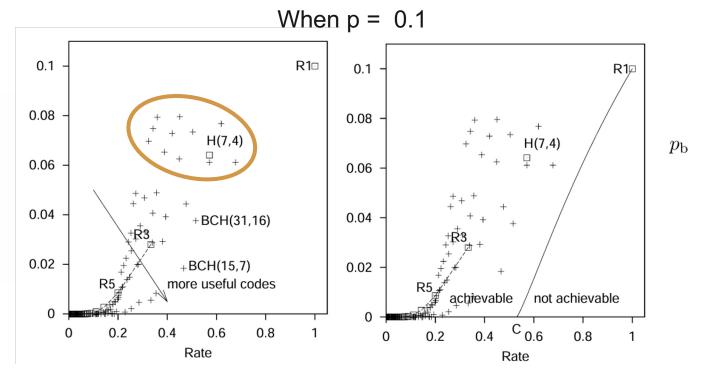


Fig. 9. — The equivocation possible for a given input entropy to a channel.

But how?



MacKay, David JC. *Information theory, inference and learning algorithms*. Cambridge university press, 2003.



By smart encoding and decoding: Huffman coding

- Use a binary encoding system, assuming the decoder would have all the key as well.
- To use less bits: apply variable length based on the usage frequency.
- But the code has to be uniquely decipherable (prefix-free, many times just called prefix).

$$a = 1, b = 110, c = 10$$

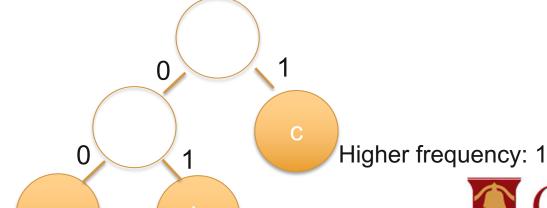
Not prefix free! 110 can be "b" or "ac"

a = 0, b = 110, c = 10

Prefix free

Huffman tree (where each node has exactly two children)





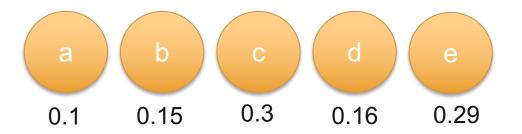
$$a = 00, b = 01, c = 1$$

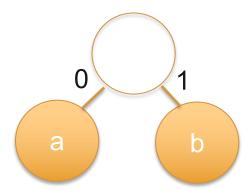


Lower frequency: 00

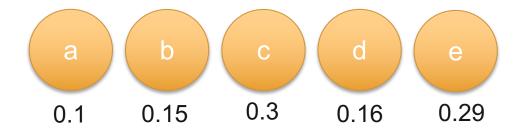


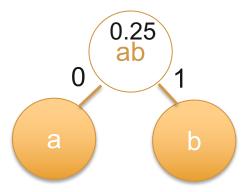
Lower frequency: 0°



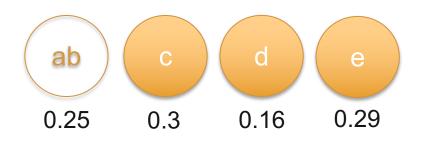


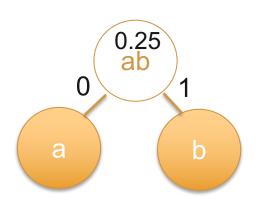


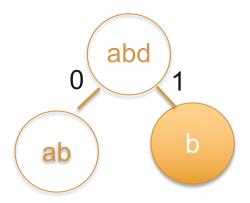




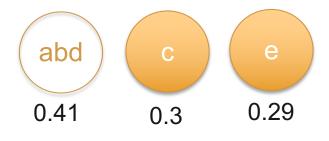


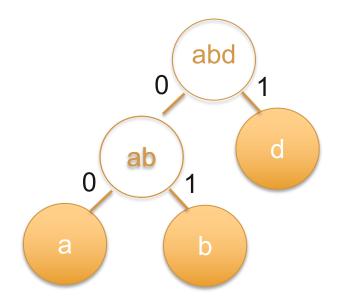


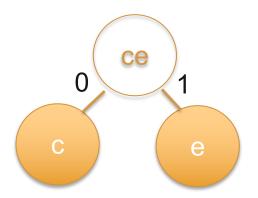




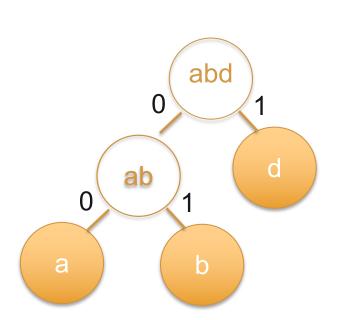




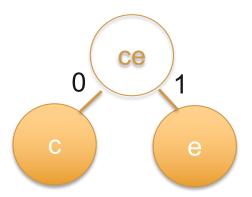




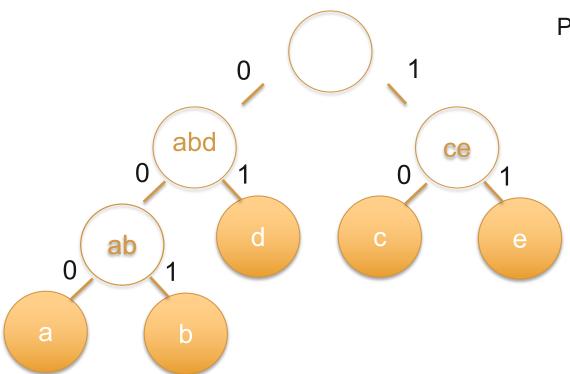








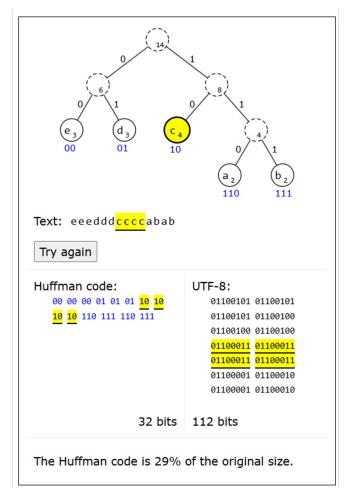






By smart encoding and decoding: Huffman coding

https://www.w3schools.com/dsa/dsa_ref_huffman_coding.php

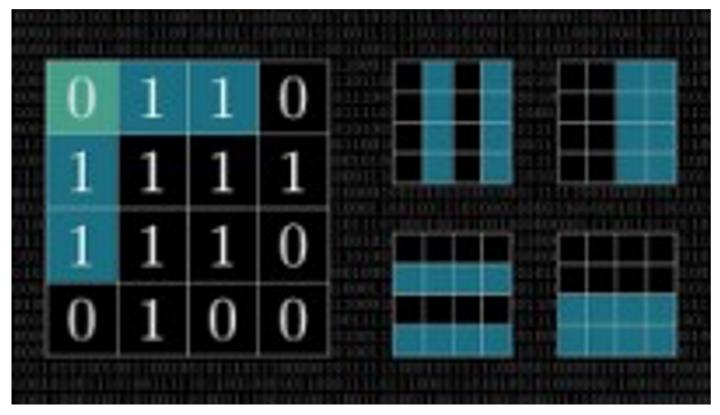


Input (A,	Symbol (a_i)	а	b	С	d	е	Sum
W)	Weights (w _i)	0.10	0.15	0.30	0.16	0.29	= 1
	Codewords (c_i)	010	011	11	00	10	
Output C	Codeword length (in bits) (ℓ_i)	3	3	2	2	2	
	Contribution to weighted path length $(\ell_i w_i)$	0.30	0.45	0.60	0.32	0.58	<i>L</i> (<i>C</i>) = 2.25
	Probability budget $(2^{-\ell_i})$	1/8	1/8	1/4	1/4	1/4	= 1.00
Optimality	Information content (in bits) $(-\log_2 w_i) \approx$	3.32	2.74	1.74	2.64	1.79	
	Contribution to entropy $(-w_i \log_2 w_i)$	0.332	0.411	0.521	0.423	0.518	H(A) = 2.205

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Huffman coding

The hamming code

- Introduce redundancy, aka parity bits to check for errors.
- The receiver can use the parity bits to pinpoint and correct single-bit error.



Can also check: https://harryli0088.github.io/hamming-code/



https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=X8jsijhllIA&t=156s

The hamming code

A bit more information to cover:

MONOGRAPH 1757



BELL TELEPHONE SYSTEM

TECHNICAL PUBLICATION

Error detecting and error correcting codes

We shall require that this checking number give the position of any single error, with the zero value meaning no error in the symbol. Thus the check number must describe m + k + 1 different things, so that

$$2^k \ge m + k + 1$$

Parity bits	Total bits	Data bits
m	$n=2^m-1$	$k=2^m-m-1$

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hamming_code

n	m	Corrésponding k
1	0	1
2	0	2
3	1	2
4	1	3
5	2	3
6	3	3
7	4	3
8	4	4
9	5	4
8 9 10	6	4
11	7	4
12 13	8	4
13	9	4
14	10	4
14 15	11	4
16	11	5
16		10 100

2^8=256 256-8-1=247

