

2014 Sino-German Workshop

*Bridging Theory and Practice in Wireless Communications and Networking*

Shenzhen Research Institute, The Chinese University of Hong Kong

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## **Random Access and Codes on Graphs: From Theory to Practice**

Gianluigi Liva, [gianluigi.liva@dlr.de](mailto:gianluigi.liva@dlr.de)

Institute for Communications and Navigation

German Aerospace Center, DLR



Knowledge for Tomorrow

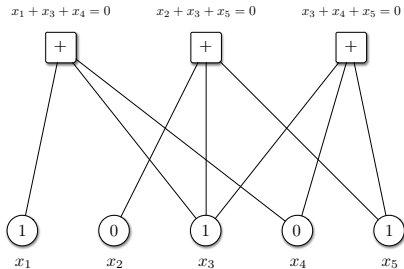
# Outline

- 1 Coded Slotted Aloha
- 2 Throughput Analysis
- 3 From Theory to Practice
- 4 Conclusions



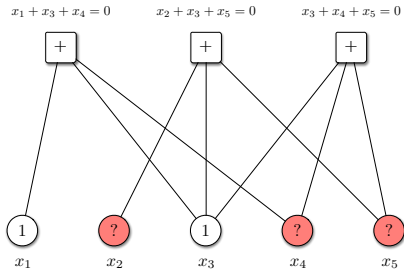
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## Erasure Correcting Codes



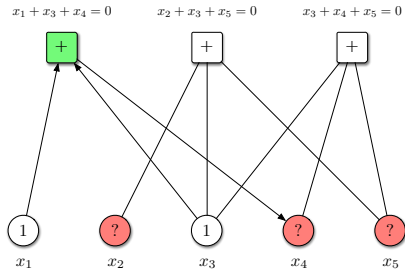
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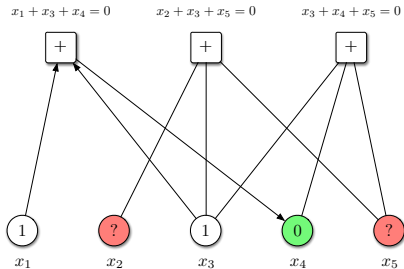
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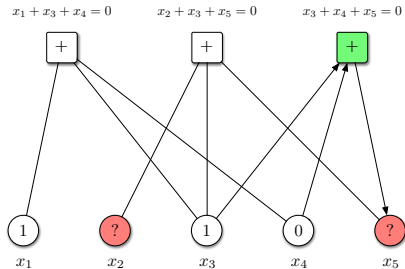
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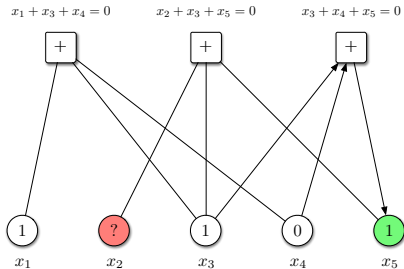
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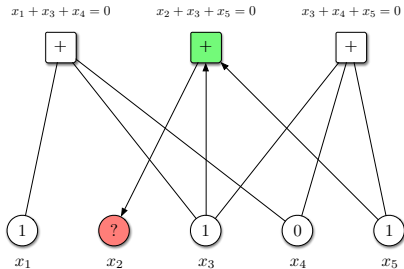
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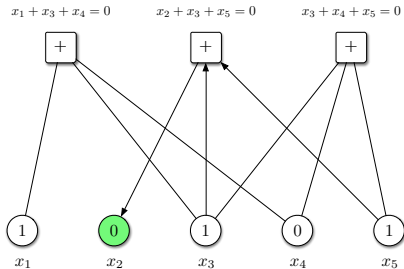
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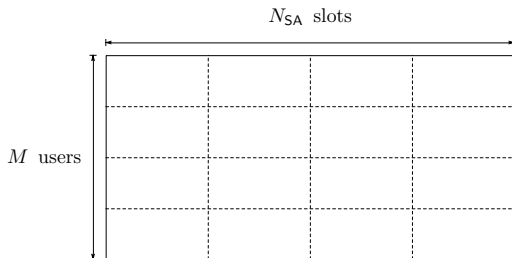
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### Multiple Access: Slotted Aloha (Framed)

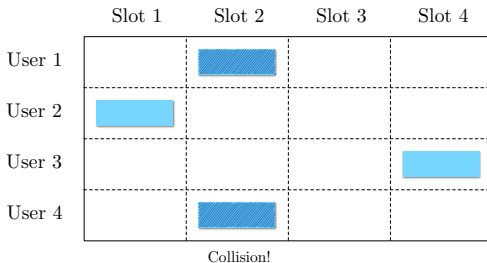


MAC Frame



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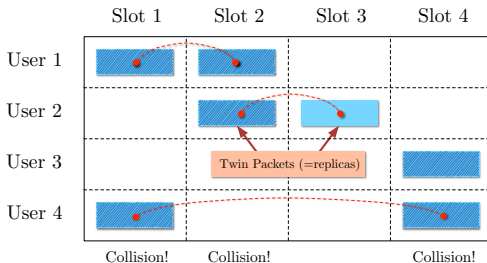


Collision  $\equiv$  Erasure



## Prologue

### Multiple Access: Coded Slotted Aloha (Framed)



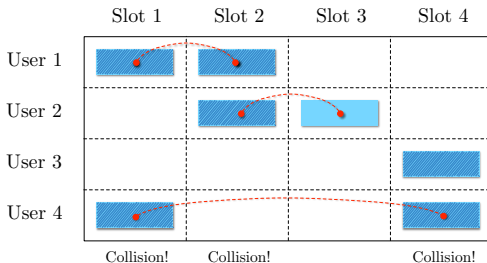
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Packet Copies  $\equiv$  Repetition Code



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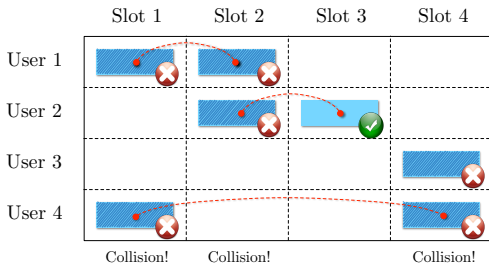
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Successive Interference Cancellation

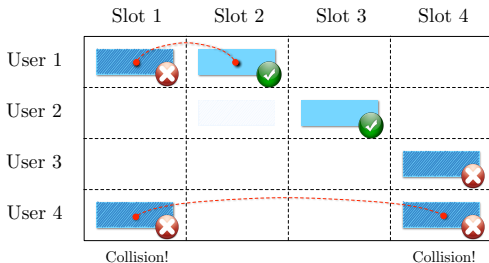
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Iterative Erasure Decoding



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Successive Interference Cancellation

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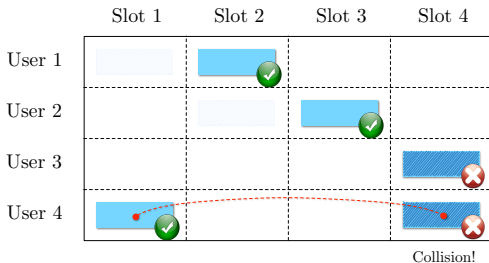
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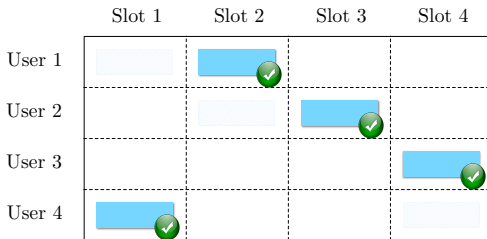
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# Coded Slotted Aloha

## Overview

- Slotted Aloha (SA) [[Abramson1970](#)]: Adopted as the initial access scheme in both cellular terrestrial and satellite networks
- Diversity slotted Aloha (DSA) [[Choudhury1983](#)]: Packet repetition (twin replicas) to achieve a slight throughput enhancement at low loads
- Contention resolution diversity slotted Aloha (CRDSA) [[Casini2007](#)]: A more efficient use of the packet repetition

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- Overall framework: Coded Slotted Aloha (CSA) [Paolini2011]
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## Coded Slotted Aloha

### System Model (Repetition Codes)

- a. Collisions are **destructive**
- b. In absence of interference, packets are **decoded with high probability**
- c. Packet replicas have a **pointer** to the their respective copies
- d. If packet is successfully decoded, the pointer is extracted and the interference contributions caused by the replicas on the corresponding slots are removed
- e. The procedure is **iterated** until no more **clean packets** are discovered

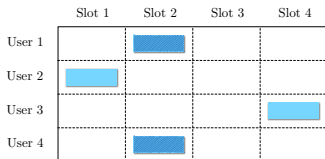


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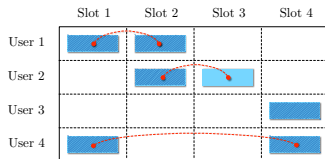
- $M$  users, each attempting one packet transmission within a frame
- Number of slots  $N_{SA}$
- Load given by

$$G = \frac{M}{N_{SA}}$$



Slotted Aloha

$$G = 1 \text{ [packets/slot]}$$



Coded Slotted Aloha

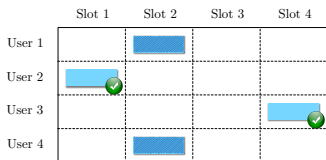
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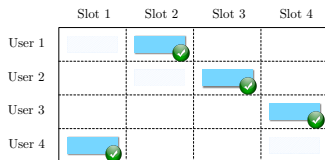
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- $T$  is the throughput in terms of successful packet transmissions per slot
- Replicas shall not be counted...



Slotted Aloha

$$T = 0.5 \text{ [packets/slot]}$$



Coded Slotted Aloha

$$T = 1 \text{ [packets/slot]}$$

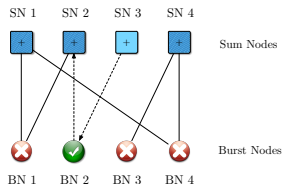
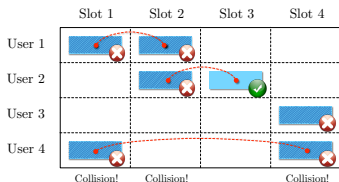




# Coded Slotted Aloha

## Irregular Repetition Slotted Aloha (IRSA)

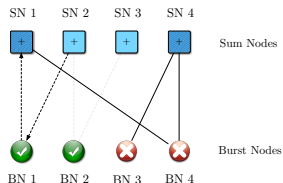
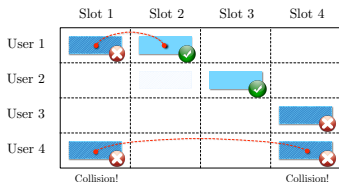
- Bipartite graph representation
  - ▶ slots  $\leftrightarrow$  sum (slot) nodes
  - ▶ packets  $\leftrightarrow$  burst (packet) nodes
  - ▶ replicas  $\leftrightarrow$  edges



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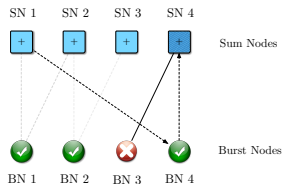
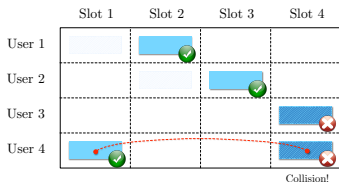
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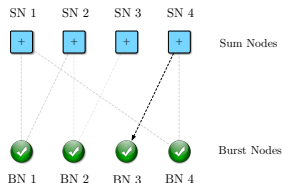
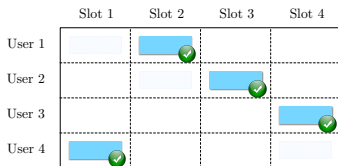
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- Bipartite graph representation
  - ▶ slots  $\leftrightarrow$  sum (slot) nodes
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# Coded Slotted Aloha

## General Case

- Combines *time-hopping multiple access* (THMA) [Lam1990] and successive interference cancellation (SIC).
- Each user divides the packet in  $k$  slices
- Slices encoded by an  $(n_h, k)$  erasure correcting code  $C_h$ .
- The code  $C_h$  is picked randomly from a set  $\mathcal{C} = \{C_1, \dots, C_{n_c}\}$  of component codes, all with the same dimension  $k$ .
- Encoded slices transmitted in  $n_h$  slots picked at random.

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[Lam1990] A. Lam and D. Sarwate, "Time-Hopping and Frequency-Hopping Multiple-Access Packet Communications," *IEEE Trans. Commun.*, vol. 38, pp. 875–888, June 1990.



## Coded Slotted Aloha

### General Case

- The code  $C_h$  is picked with probability  $P_h$
- Rate of the scheme:

$$R = \frac{k}{\sum_{h=1}^{n_c} P_h n_h} = \frac{k}{\bar{n}}$$

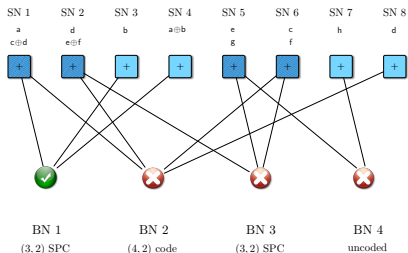
- For a fixed frame duration, the frame is composed of  $N_{\text{CSA}} = kN_{\text{SA}}$  slots
- **Iterative SIC process** is combined with **local MAP erasure decoding**



# Coded Slotted Aloha

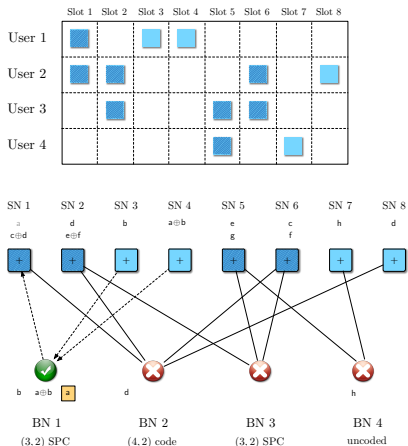
## Example

	Slot 1	Slot 2	Slot 3	Slot 4	Slot 5	Slot 6	Slot 7	Slot 8
User 1	a		b	a⊕b				
User 2	c⊕d	d				c		d
User 3		e⊕f			e	f		
User 4					g		h	



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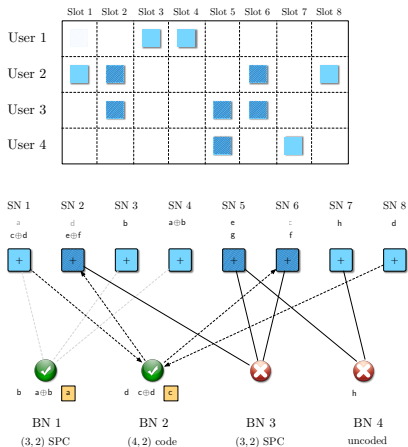
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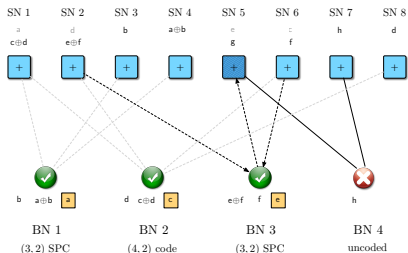
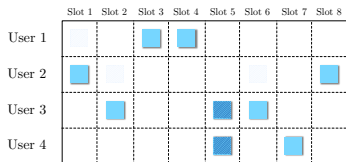
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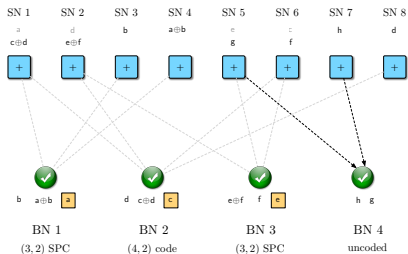
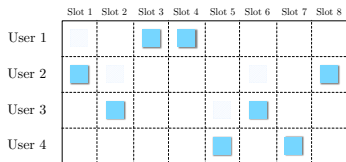
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## Example



# Coded Slotted Aloha

## Example



# Asymptotic SIC Analysis

## Density Evolution

- Asymptotic setting:
  - ▶  $N_{SA} = N_{CSA}/k \rightarrow \infty$
  - ▶  $M = G \cdot N_{SA} \rightarrow \infty$
- Analyze the behavior of iterative SIC with [density evolution](#) (well-established analysis tool in the field of modern coding theory)



# Asymptotic SIC Analysis

## Density Evolution

### Threshold phenomenon

For a given  $\mathcal{C} = \{C_1, \dots, C_{n_c}\}$  and a given  $\mathbf{P} = \{P_h\}_{h=1, \dots, n_c}$  there exists  $G^*(\mathcal{C}, \mathbf{P})$  s.t.

- for all  $0 < G < G^*(\mathcal{C}, \mathbf{P})$ , the residual packet erasure probability tends to zero as the number of IC iterations tends to infinity
  - for all  $G > G^*(\mathcal{C}, \mathbf{P})$ , decoding fails with a probability always bounded away from 0
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- The asymptotic threshold  $G^*$  depends on the component codes and on their probabilities
  - Look for  $\mathcal{C}$  and  $\mathbf{P}$  leading large thresholds, allowing transmissions with vanishing error probability for any load  $G < G^*(\mathcal{C}, \mathbf{P})$



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- The **asymptotic threshold  $G^*$**  depends on the component codes and on their probabilities
  - Look for  $\mathcal{C}$  and  $\mathbf{P}$  leading large thresholds, allowing transmissions with vanishing error probability for any load  $G < G^*(\mathcal{C}, \mathbf{P})$



# Asymptotic SIC Analysis

## Density Evolution

### Threshold phenomenon

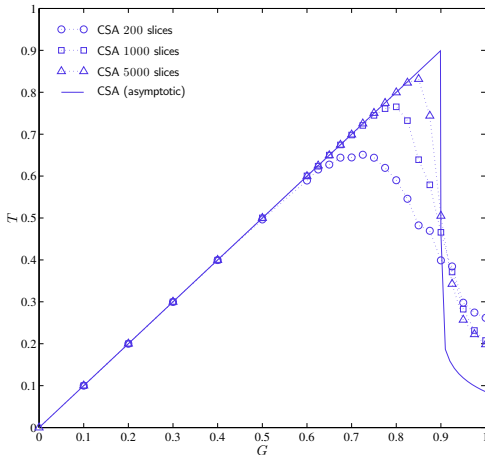
For a given  $\mathcal{C} = \{\mathcal{C}_1, \dots, \mathcal{C}_{n_c}\}$  and a given  $\mathbf{P} = \{P_h\}_{h=1, \dots, n_c}$  there exists  $G^*(\mathcal{C}, \mathbf{P})$  s.t.

- for all  $0 < G < G^*(\mathcal{C}, \mathbf{P})$ , the residual packet erasure probability tends to zero as the number of IC iterations tends to infinity
- for all  $G > G^*(\mathcal{C}, \mathbf{P})$ , decoding fails with a probability always bounded away from 0
- The **asymptotic threshold  $G^*$**  depends on the component codes and on their probabilities
- **Look for  $\mathcal{C}$  and  $\mathbf{P}$  leading large thresholds**, allowing transmissions with **vanishing error probability for any load  $G < G^*(\mathcal{C}, \mathbf{P})$**



# Asymptotic SIC Analysis

## Density Evolution





## Density Evolution Equations

- At the  $\ell$ -th IC iteration, let
  - ▶  $p_\ell$  be the average message erasure probability from the SNs to the BNs
  - ▶  $q_\ell$  be the average message erasure probability from the BNs to the SNs

$$q_\ell = \frac{1}{\bar{n}} \sum_{h=1}^{n_c} P_h \sum_{t=0}^{n_h-1} p_{\ell-1}^t (1 - p_{\ell-1})^{n_h-1-t} \left[ (n_h - t) \tilde{e}_{n_h-t}^{(h)} - (t+1) \tilde{e}_{n_h-1-t}^{(h)} \right]$$

$$p_\ell = 1 - \exp\left(-\frac{G}{R} q_\ell\right)$$

where  $\tilde{e}_g^{(h)}$  are the component codes [information functions](#)

$$G^*(\mathcal{C}, \mathbf{P}) = \sup\{G \geq 0 : p_\ell \rightarrow 0 \text{ as } \ell \rightarrow \infty, p_0 = 1\}$$



# Outline

- 1 Coded Slotted Aloha
- 2 Throughput Analysis**
- 3 From Theory to Practice
- 4 Conclusions



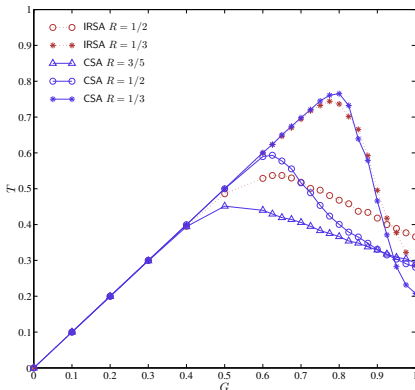
## Threshold Optimization

- Distribution profiles  $P$  and corresponding thresholds  $G^*(P)$  reported for optimized IRSA and CSA (with  $k = 2$ ) schemes under the [random code hypothesis](#)

IRSA							$G^*$
$R$	(2, 1)	(3, 1)	(6, 1)				
1/3	0.55401	0.26131	0.18467				0.879
2/5	0.62241	0.25517	0.12241				0.782
1/2	1.00000						0.500
CSA, $k = 2$							$G^*$
$R$	(3, 2)	(4, 2)	(5, 2)	(8, 2)	(9, 2)	(12, 2)	
1/3	0.08845	0.54418	0.12149			0.24587	0.868
2/5	0.15305	0.48508	0.13549	0.11423	0.11212		0.797
1/2	1.00000						0.656
3/5	0.66667	0.33333					0.409



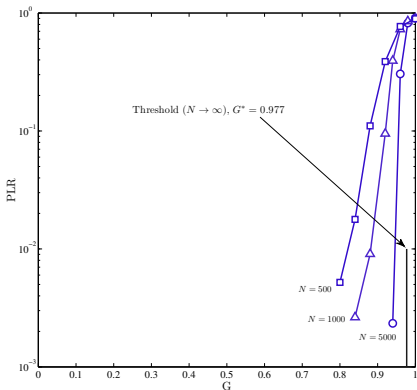
## Throughput Analysis for Optimized Profiles



- $N_{SA} = 500, N_{CSA} = 1000$
- Specific choice of linear block codes in the set  $\mathcal{C}$
- 6 codes, all with  $k = 2$ , and  $n \in \{4, 5, 8, 9, 12\}$



## Coded Slotted Aloha without Feedback Channel



- Packet Loss Rate for Coded SA based on optimized profiles
- $N_{SA} = 5000, 1000, 500$ , maximum iteration count set to 100
- Throughput close to 1 packet/frame without feedback channel - no retransmissions!!!



## How Far Can We Push $G^*(\mathcal{C}, \mathbf{P})$ for given $R$ ?

### Theorem

For rational  $R$  and  $0 < R \leq 1$ , let  $\mathbb{G}(R)$  be the unique positive solution to the equation

$$G = 1 - e^{-G/R}$$

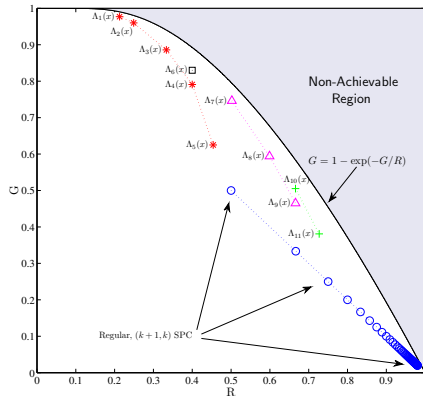
in  $[0, 1)$ . Then, the threshold  $G^*(\mathcal{C}, \mathbf{P})$  fulfills

$$G^*(\mathcal{C}, \mathbf{P}) < \mathbb{G}(R)$$

for *any* choice of  $\mathcal{C} = \{\mathcal{C}_1, \mathcal{C}_2, \dots, \mathcal{C}_{n_c}\}$  and  $\mathbf{P}$  associated with a rate  $R$



## How Far Can We Push $G^*(\mathcal{C}, P)$ for given $R$ ?



# Outline

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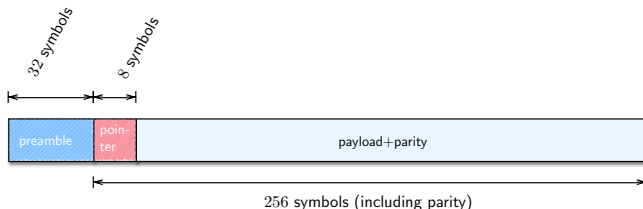




## A Closer Look at Successive Interference Cancellation

### Packet Format

- 32-symbols preamble for detection and initial channel estimation
- 256-bit payload including 16-bits header for replica pointer
- 256 parity bits
- QPSK, square-root raised cosine matched filter (MF), roll-off 0.2



## A Closer Look at Successive Interference Cancellation Signal Processing

- Perfect power control
- $I$  users attempt transmission within the same slot
- Complex baseband signal transmitted by the  $i$ -th user

$$u^{(i)}(t) = \sum_{v=1}^{N_s} b_v^{(i)} \gamma(t - vT_s)$$

where  $N_s$  is the number of symbols per segment,  $\{b_v^{(i)}\}$  is the sequence of symbols and  $T_s$  is the symbol period

- Pulse shape  $\gamma(t) = \mathcal{F}^{-1} \left\{ \sqrt{\text{RC}(f)} \right\}$ , where  $\text{RC}(f)$  the frequency response of the MF



## A Closer Look at Successive Interference Cancellation Signal Processing

- Each contribution is received with a random delay  $\epsilon_i$ , a random frequency offset  $f_i \sim \mathcal{U}[-f_{\max}, f_{\max}]$  and a random phase offset  $\phi_i \sim \mathcal{U}[0, 2\pi)$
- After the MF,

$$r(t) = \sum_{i=1}^l z^{(i)}(t) * h(t) + n(t)$$

where  $n(t)$  is the Gaussian noise contribution,  $h(t) = \gamma^*(-t)$  is the MF impulse response and

$$z^{(i)}(t) = \sum_{v=1}^{N_s} b_v^{(i)} \gamma(t - vT_s - \epsilon_i) \exp(j2\pi f_i t + j\phi_i)$$



## A Closer Look at Successive Interference Cancellation

### Signal Processing: Assumption

- Frequency shifts that are small w.r.t. the signal bandwidth (i.e.,  $f_{\max} T_s \ll 1$ ). Thus

$$r(t) \approx \sum_{i=1}^l \tilde{u}^{(i)}(t - \epsilon_i) e^{j2\pi f_i t + j\phi_i} + n(t)$$

where  $\tilde{u}^{(i)}(t)$  is the response of the MF to  $u^{(i)}(t)$

- $\tilde{u}^{(1)}(t)$  is the useful term and  $\tilde{u}^{(2)}(t), \tilde{u}^{(3)}(t), \dots, \tilde{u}^{(l)}(t)$  are the interference contributions to be cancelled
- First, estimate the set of parameters  $\{\epsilon_i, f_i, \phi_i\}$ , for  $i \in \{2, \dots, l\}$



## A Closer Look at Successive Interference Cancellation

### Signal Processing: Assumption

- Typically, in satellite applications  $\epsilon_i$  and  $f_i$  can be accurately estimated on the recovered replicas (i.e., their values remain constant through the frame)
- $\phi_i$ , which may not be stable from a slot to slot.
- Recall that the symbol sequences  $\{b_v^{(i)}\}$  (for  $i \in \{2 \dots l\}$ ) are known at the receiver



## A Closer Look at Successive Interference Cancellation

- Denote by  $y^{(i)}(t)$  the signal at the input of the phase estimator for the  $i$ -th contribution
- In the first step, the input signal is given by  $y^{(2)}(t) = r(t)$  and the phase of the first interfering user is estimated as

$$\hat{\phi}_2 = \arg \left\{ \sum_{v=1}^{N_s} y_v^{(2)} \left( b_v^{(2)} \right)^* \right\}$$

with

$$y_v^{(2)} = y^{(2)}(vT_s + \epsilon_2) e^{-j2\pi f_2(vT_s + \epsilon_2)}.$$

- After the estimation of the phase offset for the first interferer, the corresponding signal can be reconstructed as  $\tilde{u}^{(2)}(t - \epsilon_2) e^{j2\pi f_2 t + j\hat{\phi}_2}$  and its contribution can be removed, i.e.

$$y^{(3)}(t) = y^{(2)}(t) - \tilde{u}^{(2)}(t - \epsilon_2) e^{j2\pi f_2 t + j\hat{\phi}_2}.$$



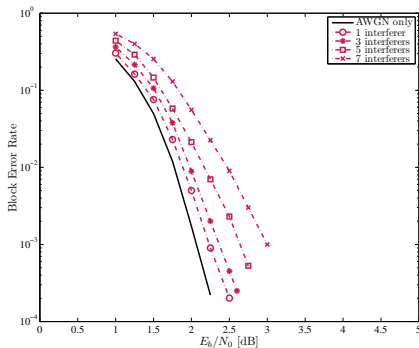
## A Closer Look at Successive Interference Cancellation

- The SIC proceeds serially
- After the cancellation of the  $l - 1$  contributions the residual signal, denoted by  $y^{(1)}(t)$ , is given by the 1-st user's contribution, the noise  $n(t)$ , and a residual interference term  $\nu(t)$  due to the imperfect estimation of the interferers' phases (causing imperfect SIC), i.e.,

$$y^{(1)}(t) = \tilde{u}^{(1)}(t - \epsilon_1)e^{j2\pi f_1 t + j\phi_1} + n(t) + \nu(t)$$



## A Closer Look at Successive Interference Cancellation



- LDPC code over  $\mathbb{F}_{256}$
- $k = 256$  bits and  $n = 512$  bits
- The users are coarsely synchronized
- $f_i \sim \mathcal{U}[-f_{max}, +f_{max}]$
- $f_{max} = 0.01 \times B_s$ , being  $B_s$  the symbol rate
- Random phase offset for each replica
- The modulation is QPSK





## Coded Slotted Aloha in Practice

- The repetition-based variant of CSA is the random access method adopted by the 2nd generation of the [Digital Video Broadcasting \(DVB\) Return Channel via Satellite \(RCS\)](#) standard for interactive satellite services
- DLR owns a [SDR \(ETTUS\)-GPU-based gateway](#) (implementing a similar random access scheme employing spreading in addition, ETSI S-MIM standard) [working at 10 Mbps](#)
- We have developed together with TUM a [multi-user detector on a SDR-GPU platform](#), which may further enhance the performance enhanced random access protocols ( **destructive collisions** )



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## Conclusion

- Coded Slotted Aloha expresses most of its potential on a collision channel without feedback, thanks to its high reliability
- Shares several aspects with LDPC codes (and their generalization) over erasure channels
- Analogy:

FEC  $\Leftrightarrow$  ARQ

CSA  $\Leftrightarrow$  SA

- The CSA graph-based random access scheme can approach an efficiency of 1 packet/slot without retransmissions



## Reference

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- E. Paolini, G. Liva, M. Chiani, "Coded Slotted Aloha: A Graph-Based Method for Uncoordinated Multiple Access," submitted to IEEE Trans. Inf. Theory, available on Arxiv.org.



# 谢谢

Thank you!









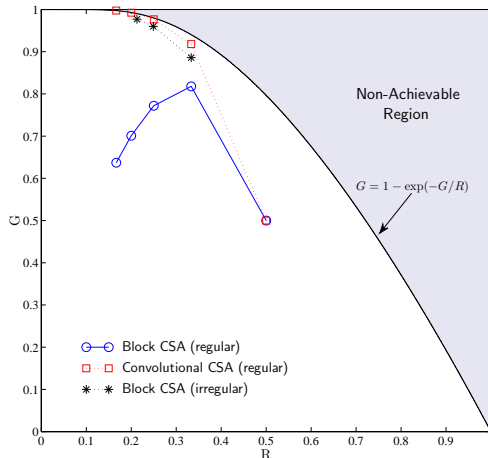


## Approaching the Upper Bound: Spatially Coupled CSA

- Idea: Exploit the **spatial coupling effect** within the CSA framework to improve the threshold.
- Consider the case where all users adopt the same repetition code (of length  $d$ ) for each transmission.
- Observe a threshold saturation effect also for spatially coupled CSA.



# Block and Convolutional CSA Schemes Performance Comparison



## Threshold Saturation Effect

- **Genie-Aided MAP Decoding:** The bipartite graph is revealed to the decoder by a genie, which enables MAP erasure decoding at the gateway.
- We compare the thresholds under
  - Block regular CSA ( $G_{\text{block}}^{\text{IT}}$ )
  - Convolutional CSA ( $G_{\text{conv}}^{\text{IT}}$ )
  - Genie-aided decoding ( $\overline{G}_{\text{block}}^{\text{MAP}}$ )
  - Upper bound ( $G^*$ )

$d$	$G_{\text{block}}^{\text{IT}}$	$G_{\text{conv}}^{\text{IT}}$	$\overline{G}_{\text{block}}^{\text{MAP}}$	$G^*$
2	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.7969
3	0.8184	0.9179	0.9179	0.9405
4	0.7722	0.9767	0.9767	0.9802
5	0.7017	0.9924	0.9924	0.9931

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[Kudekar2011] S. Kudekar, T. Richardson, R. Urbanke, "Threshold saturation via spatial coupling: Why convolutional LDPC ensembles perform so well over the BEC," *IEEE Trans. IT*, Feb. 2011.

