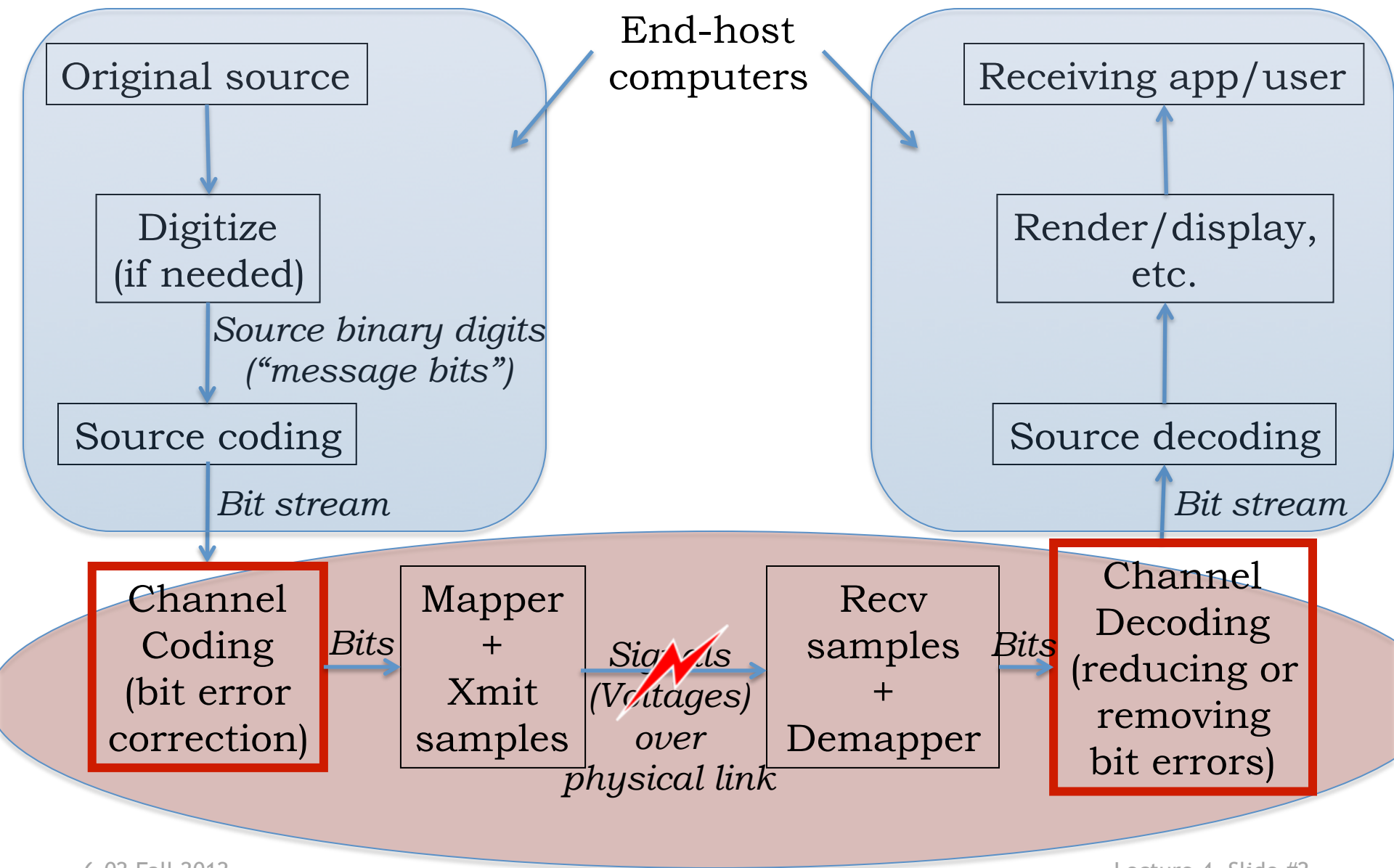


INTRODUCTION TO EECS II  
**DIGITAL  
 COMMUNICATION  
 SYSTEMS**

# 6.02 Fall 2012 Lecture #4

- Linear block codes
  - Rectangular codes
  - Hamming codes

# Single Link Communication Model

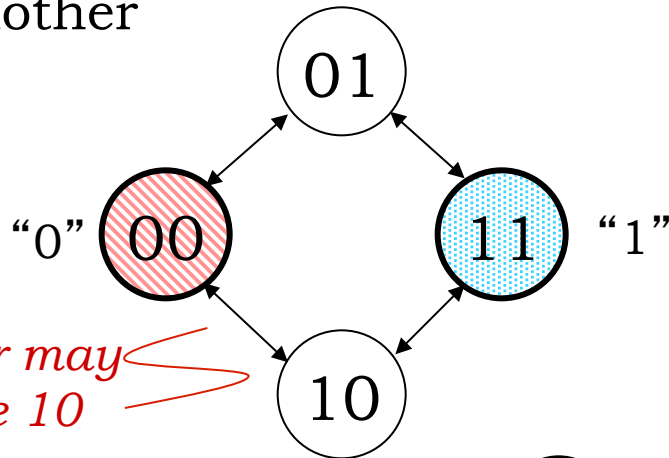


# Embedding for Structural Separation



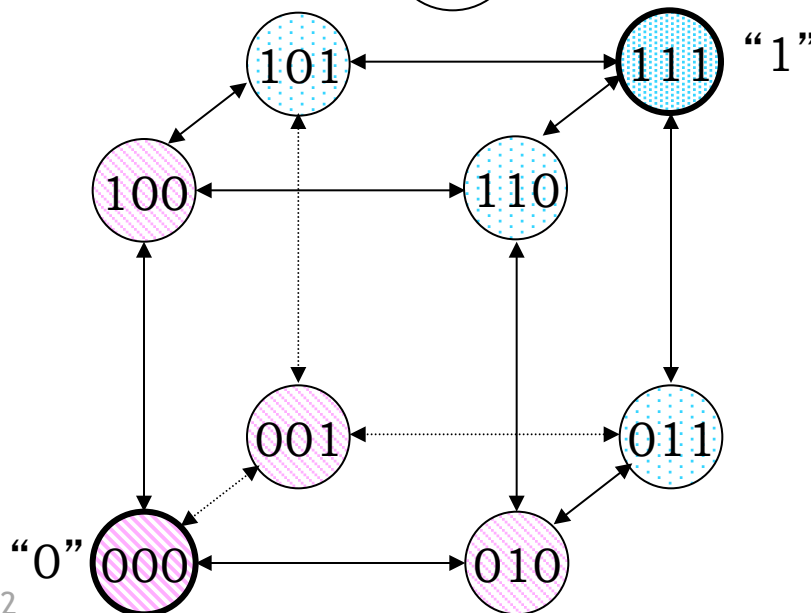
Encode so that the codewords are “far enough” from each other

Likely error patterns shouldn't transform one codeword to another



*single-bit error may cause 00 to be 10 (or 01)*

Code: nodes chosen in hypercube + mapping of message bits to nodes



If we choose  $2^k$  out of  $2^n$  nodes, it means we can map all  $k$ -bit message strings in a space of  $n$ -bit *codewords*. The **code rate** is  $k/n$ .

# Minimum Hamming Distance of Code vs. Detection & Correction Capabilities

If  $d$  is the minimum Hamming distance between codewords, we can:

- **detect all** patterns of up to  $t$  bit errors if and only if  $d \geq t+1$
- **correct all** patterns of up to  $t$  bit errors if and only if  $d \geq 2t+1$
- **detect all** patterns of up to  $t_D$  bit errors **while correcting** all patterns of  $t_C$  ( $<t_D$ ) errors if and only if  $d \geq t_C+t_D+1$

e.g.:   $d=4,$   
 $t_C=1, t_D=2$

# Linear Block Codes

Block code:  $k$  message bits encoded to  $n$  code bits  
i.e., each of  $2^k$  messages encoded into a unique  **$n$ -bit**  
codeword via a *linear transformation*.

**Key property:** Sum of any two codewords is *also* a  
codeword  $\rightarrow$  necessary and sufficient for code to be  
linear.

**$(n, k)$**  code has rate  $k/n$ .

Sometime written as  **$(n, k, d)$** , where  $d$  is the minimum  
Hamming Distance of the code.

# Generator Matrix of Linear Block Code

Linear transformation:

$$C = D \cdot G$$

C is an n-element row vector containing the codeword

D is a k-element row vector containing the message

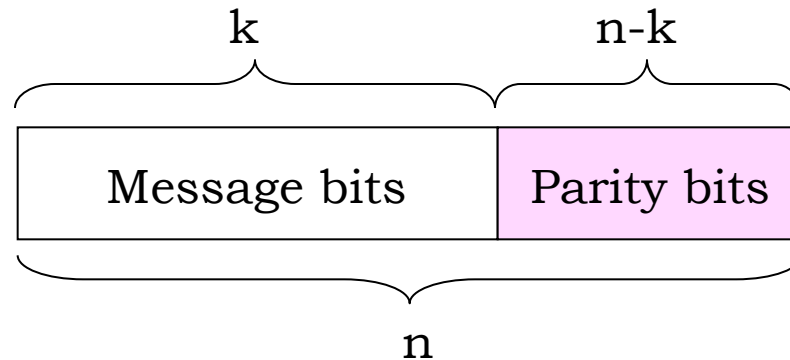
G is the  $k \times n$  *generator matrix*

Each codeword bit is a specified linear combination of message bits.

Each codeword is a linear combination of rows of G.

# $(n,k)$ Systematic Linear Block Codes

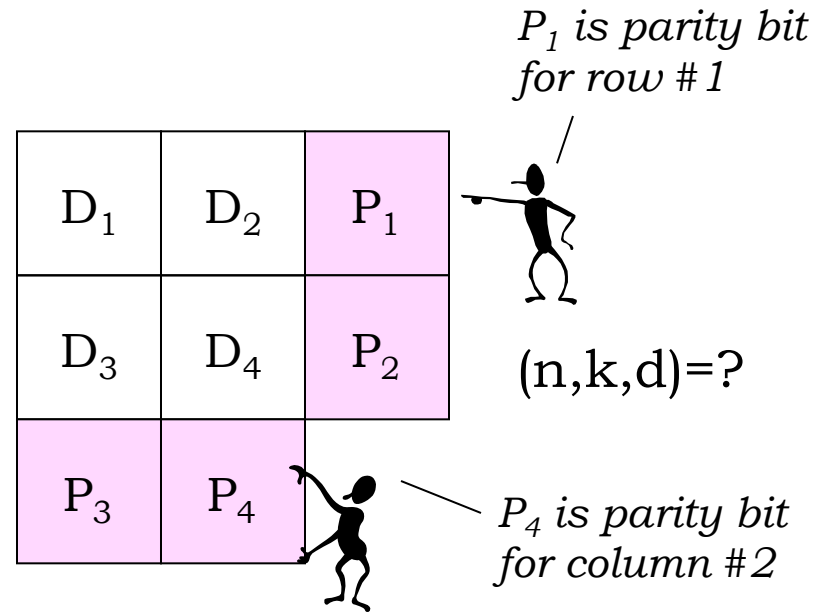
- Split data into  $k$ -bit blocks
- Add  $(n-k)$  parity bits to each block using  $(n-k)$  linear equations, making each block  $n$  bits long



- Every linear code can be represented by an **equivalent** systematic form --- ordering is not significant, direct inclusion of  $k$  message bits in  $n$ -bit codeword is.
- Corresponds to using invertible transformations on rows and permutations on columns of  $G$  to get
- $G = [I \mid A]$  --- identity matrix in the first  $k$  columns

# Example: Rectangular Parity Codes

Idea: start with rectangular array of data bits, add parity checks for each row and column. Single-bit error in data will show up as parity errors in a particular row and column, pinpointing the bit that has the error.



```
0 1 1
1 1 0
1 0
```

Parity for each row and column is correct  $\Rightarrow$  no errors

```
0 1 1
1 0 0
1 0
```

Parity check fails for row #2 and column #2  $\Rightarrow$  bit  $D_4$  is incorrect

```
0 1 1
1 1 1
1 0
```

Parity check only fails for row #2  $\Rightarrow$  bit  $P_2$  is incorrect



# Rectangular Code Corrects Single Errors

Claim: The min HD of the rectangular code with  $r$  rows and  $c$  columns is **3**. Hence, it is a single error correction (SEC) code.

Code rate =  $rc / (rc + r + c)$ .

*If we add an overall parity bit  $P$ , we get a  $(rc+r+c+1, rc, 4)$  code*

*Improves error detection but not correction capability*

$D_1$	$D_2$	$D_3$	$D_4$	$P_1$
$D_5$	$D_6$	$D_7$	$D_8$	$P_2$
$D_9$	$D_{10}$	$D_{11}$	$D_{12}$	$P_3$
$P_4$	$P_5$	$P_6$	$P_7$	$P$

Proof: Three cases.

- (1) Msgs with HD 1  $\rightarrow$  differ in 1 row and 1 col parity
- (2) Msgs with HD 2  $\rightarrow$  differ in either 2 rows OR 2 cols or both  $\rightarrow$  HD  $\geq 4$
- (3) Msgs with HD 3 or more  $\rightarrow$  HD  $\geq 4$

# Matrix Notation

Task: given  $k$ -bit message, compute  $n$ -bit codeword. We can use standard matrix arithmetic (modulo 2) to do the job. For example, here's how we would describe the  $(9,4,4)$  rectangular code that includes an overall parity bit.

$$D_{1 \times k} \cdot G_{k \times n} = C_{1 \times n}$$

$$[D_1 \quad D_2 \quad D_3 \quad D_4] \cdot \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 & 1 & 0 & 1 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 & 0 & 1 & 1 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 & 0 & 1 & 1 & 0 & 1 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 & 1 & 0 & 1 & 1 \end{bmatrix} = [D_1 \quad D_2 \quad D_3 \quad D_4 \quad P_1 \quad P_2 \quad P_3 \quad P_4 \quad P_5]$$

$1 \times k$   
message  
vector

$k \times n$   
generator  
matrix

$1 \times n$   
code word  
vector

The generator matrix,  $G_{k \times n} = \left[ \begin{array}{c|c} I_{k \times k} & A_{k \times (n-k)} \end{array} \right]$

# Decoding Rectangular Parity Codes

Receiver gets possibly corrupted word,  $w$ .

Calculates all the parity bits from the data bits.

If no parity errors, return  $rc$  bits of data.

Single row or column parity bit error  $\rightarrow$   $rc$  data bits are fine, return them

If parity of row  $x$  and parity of column  $y$  are in error, then the data bit in the  $(x,y)$  position is wrong; flip it and return the  $rc$  data bits

All other parity errors are *uncorrectable*. Return the data as-is, flag an “uncorrectable error”

# Let's do some rectangular parity decoding

Received codewords

1	0	1
0	1	0
0	1	

0	0	0
1	1	1
1	1	

0	0	1
0	1	0
0	0	

D1	D2	P1
D3	D4	P2
P3	P4	

1. Decoder action: \_\_\_\_\_

2. Decoder action: \_\_\_\_\_

3. Decoder action: \_\_\_\_\_

# How Many Parity Bits Do Really We Need?

- We have  $n-k$  parity bits, which collectively can represent  $2^{n-k}$  possibilities
- For **single-bit error** correction, parity bits need to represent two sets of cases:
  - Case 1: No error has occurred (1 possibility)
  - Case 2: Exactly one of the code word bits has an error ( $n$  possibilities, not  $k$ )
- So we need  $n+1 \leq 2^{n-k}$ 
$$n \leq 2^{n-k} - 1$$
- Rectangular codes satisfy this with big margin --- inefficient

# Hamming Codes

- Hamming codes correct single errors with the minimum number of parity bits:

$$n = 2^{n-k} - 1$$

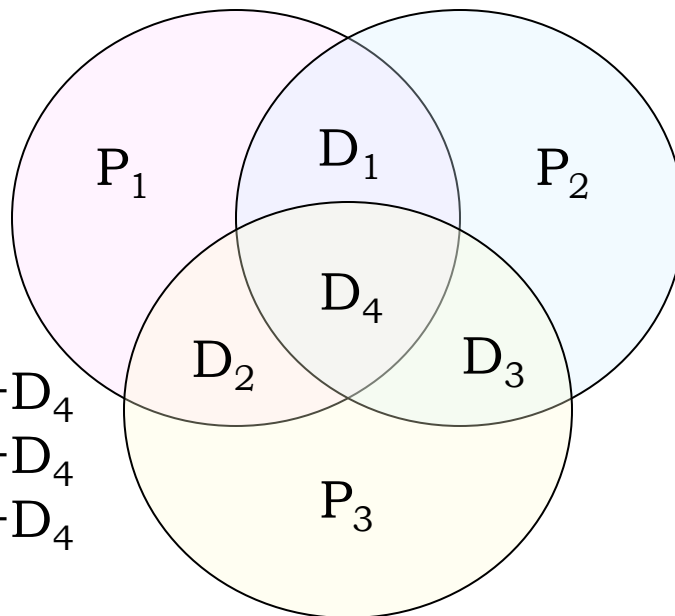
- (7,4,3)
- (15,11,3)
- $(2^m - 1, 2^m - 1 - m, 3)$
- --- “perfect codes” (but not best!)

# Towards More Efficient Codes: (7,4,3) Hamming Code Example

- Use minimum number of parity bits, each covering a subset of the data bits.
- No two message bits belong to exactly the same subsets, so a single-bit error will generate a unique set of parity check errors.

*Modulo-2  
addition,  
aka XOR*

$$\begin{aligned}P_1 &= D_1 + D_2 + D_4 \\P_2 &= D_1 + D_3 + D_4 \\P_3 &= D_2 + D_3 + D_4\end{aligned}$$



*Suppose we check the  
parity and discover that  $P_1$   
and  $P_3$  indicate an error?  
bit  $D_2$  must have flipped*

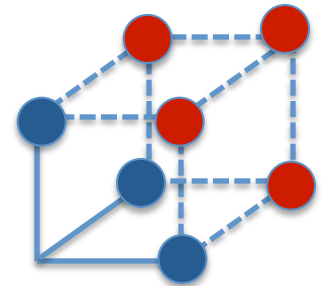
*What if only  $P_2$  indicates  
an error?  
 $P_2$  itself had the error!*



# Logic Behind Hamming Code Construction

- Idea: Use parity bits to cover each axis of the binary vector space
  - That way, all message bits will be covered with a **unique** combination of parity bits

Index	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Binary index	001	010	011	100	101	110	111
(7,4) code	<b>P1</b>	<b>P2</b>	<b>D1</b>	<b>P3</b>	<b>D2</b>	<b>D3</b>	<b>D4</b>



$P_1$  with binary index 00**1** covers

$$P_1 = D_1 + D_2 + D_4$$

$$P_2 = D_1 + D_3 + D_4$$

$$P_3 = D_2 + D_3 + D_4$$

$D_1$  with binary index 0**11**

$D_2$  with binary index **101**

$D_4$  with binary index **111**



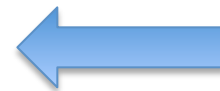
# Syndrome Decoding: Idea

- After receiving the possibly corrupted message (use ' to indicate possibly erroneous symbol), compute a **syndrome** bit ( $E_i$ ) for each parity bit

$$E_1 = D'_1 + D'_2 + D'_4 + P'_1$$

$$E_2 = D'_1 + D'_3 + D'_4 + P'_2$$

$$E_3 = D'_2 + D'_3 + D'_4 + P'_3$$



$$0 = D_1 + D_2 + D_4 + P_1$$

$$0 = D_1 + D_3 + D_4 + P_2$$

$$0 = D_2 + D_3 + D_4 + P_3$$

- If all the  $E_i$  are zero: no errors
- Otherwise use the particular combination of the  $E_i$  to figure out correction

Index	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Binary index	001	010	011	100	101	110	111
(7,4) code	P1	P2	D1	P3	D2	D3	D4

$E_3E_2E_1$	Corrective Action
000	no errors
001	$p_1$ has an error, flip to correct
010	$p_2$ has an error, flip to correct
011	$d_1$ has an error, flip to correct
100	$p_3$ has an error, flip to correct
101	$d_2$ has an error, flip to correct
110	$d_3$ has an error, flip to correct
111	$d_4$ has an error, flip to correct

# Constraints for more than single-bit errors

Code parity constraint inequality for **single-bit** errors

$$1 + n \leq 2^{n-k}$$

Write-out the inequality for **t-bit** errors

# Elementary Combinatorics

- Given  $n$  objects, in how many ways can we choose  $m$  of them?

If the ordering of the  $m$  selected objects matters, then

$$n(n-1)(n-2) \dots (n-m+1) = n!/(n-m)!$$

If the ordering of the  $m$  selected objects doesn't matter, then the above expression is too large by a factor  $m!$ , so

$$\text{"n choose m"} = \binom{n}{m} = \frac{n!}{(n-m)!m!}$$

# Error-Correcting Codes occur in many other contexts too

- e.g., ISBN numbers for books,  
0-691-12418-3

(Luenberger's *Information Science*)

- $1D_1 + 2D_2 + 3D_3 + \dots + 10D_{10} = 0 \pmod{11}$

Detects single-digit errors, and transpositions