

# Smoothing of codes, uniform distributions, and applications

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IITH, August 21, 2024

## Outline

- ▷ Uniformly distributed point sets
- ▷ Smoothing binary codes: Asymptotic limits
- ▷ BSC wiretap channel, strong secrecy
- ▷ Linear hashing and randomness extraction
- ▷ Smoothing and hardness of Learning Parity with Noise (LPN)

References (Madhura Pathegama and A.B.):

arXiv:2308.11009, arXiv:2405.04406, arXiv:2408:03742

## Uniformly distributed point sets

### U.D. point sets approximate random subsets of the metric space

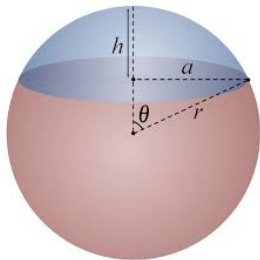
**Classical theory** of uniform distributions (H. WEYL, 1916) developed to measure errors in numerical (QMC) integration on  $\mathcal{X} = [0, 1]^d$

A set  $Z_N = \{z_1, \dots, z_N\} \subset \mathcal{X}$  is used to approximate  $\int_{\mathcal{X}} f(x) dx \approx \frac{1}{N} \sum_{i=1}^N f(z_i)$

Uniformly distributed sets of points are studied in multiple contexts. In **information theory** the most relevant are:

- ▷ “uniform” subsets in  $\mathcal{H}_n := \{0, 1\}^n$
- ▷ uniformly distributed points on the sphere  $S^n(\mathbb{R})$

## Uniform distributon on the sphere



Spherical cap  $\text{Cap}(x, t) = \{y \in S^d : (x, y) \geq t\}$ ;  $t = \cos \theta$

A *spherical code* is a finite set  $Z_N \subset S^d$

A sequence of spherical codes  $(Z_N)_N$  is called **uniformly distributed** if

$$\lim_{N \rightarrow \infty} \frac{1}{N} \sum_{i=1}^N \mathbb{1}_{C(x,t)}(z_i) = \sigma(C(x,t)) \text{ for all } x \in S^d, t \in [-1, 1]$$

## Uniform distribution in $\mathcal{H}_n := \{0, 1\}^n$

- ▷ Code  $\mathcal{C} \subset \mathcal{H}_n$
- ▷ View  $\mathcal{C}$  as a distribution on the space,  $P_{\mathcal{C}}(y) = \frac{1}{|\mathcal{C}|} \mathbb{1}_{\mathcal{C}}(y)$
- ▷ We could attempt a similar definition in the Hamming space: A subset (code)  $\mathcal{C} \subset \mathcal{H}_n$  is (approximately) **uniform** if

$$d_{\text{TV}}\left(\frac{\mathbb{1}_{\mathcal{C}}}{|\mathcal{C}|}, U_n\right) \leq \epsilon, \quad \text{where } U_n(z) = 1/2^n \text{ for all } z$$

- ▷ It is useful to think of “smoothed” code distributions. E.g., Bernoulli noise:

$$(T_{\beta\delta}\mathcal{C})(x) := \frac{1}{|\mathcal{C}|} \sum_{y \in \mathcal{H}_n} \mathbb{1}_{\mathcal{C}}(x+y) \delta^{|y|} (1-\delta)^{n-|y|}$$

## Uniformity and smoothing

### Noise operator on $\mathcal{H}_n := \{0, 1\}^n$

▷ Let  $r : \mathcal{H}_n \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$  be a function

▷  $T_r f(x) = (r * f)(x) := \sum_{z \in \mathcal{H}_n} r(z) f(x - z)$

▷ Let  $\mathcal{C} \subset \mathcal{H}_n$  be a code,  $f_{\mathcal{C}} := \frac{\mathbb{1}_{\mathcal{C}}}{|\mathcal{C}|}$

▷ If  $r$  is a pmf, then  $T_r f_{\mathcal{C}}$  is also a pmf

▷ **Examples:**

▷ Bernoulli noise  $(T_{\beta\delta} \mathcal{C})(x) := \frac{1}{|\mathcal{C}|} \sum_{y \in \mathcal{H}_n} \mathbb{1}_{\mathcal{C}}(x + y) \delta^{|y|} (1 - \delta)^{n - |y|}$

▷ Ball noise  $(T_{b_t} \mathcal{C})(x) := \frac{1}{V(t)} \sum_{y: |y| \leq t} \mathbb{1}_{\mathcal{C}}(x + y)$

▷ Clearly if  $\mathcal{C}$  is of small size,  $T_r f_{\mathcal{C}}$  cannot be close to uniform  $U_n$ ,  $U_n(x) = 2^{-n}$

▷ Let  $|\mathcal{C}| = 2^{Rn}$ . We are interested in **conditions** on  $\mathcal{C}$  or  $R$  for  $T_r f_{\mathcal{C}}$  to be close to  $U_n$  and **applications** of this property

## Related work in Information theory and Cryptography

### ▷ Channel resolvability

Given  $P_{Y|X}^n : \mathcal{X}^n \rightarrow \mathcal{Y}^n$ , what is  $\min |\mathcal{C}|$  such that  $d_{\text{TV}}(\frac{1}{|\mathcal{C}|} \mathbb{1}_{\mathcal{C}} \circ P_{Y|X}^n, Q_Y^n)$  is small?

HAN-VERDÚ '94, HAYASHI '06, YU-TAN '18, PATHEGAMA-B. '23, YU '23

### ▷ Strong coordination

BLOCH-LANEMAN '13, CHOU E.A. '18, COVER-PERMUTER '07, CUFF E.A., '10-'13

### ▷ Entropy of noisy functions and BSC decoding

SAMORODNITSKY '16, ORDENTLICH-POLYANSKIY '18

Decoding: HAĞLA E.A. '21, SPRUMONT-RAO '23, PATHEGAMA-B. '23

### ▷ Wiretap Channels

Discrete: HAYASHI '06, YU-TAN '19, PATHEGAMA-B. '23

Gaussian: BELFIORE-OGGIER '10, LUZZI E.A. '23

### ▷ Linear hashing

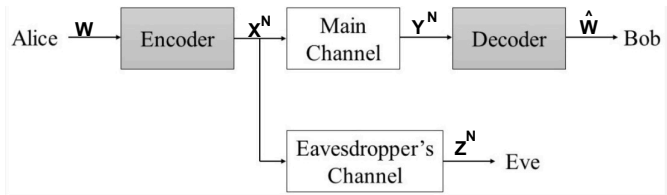
General results: IMPAGLIAZZO E.A. '89, HAYASHI-TAN '16-'18

Linear hashing: PATHEGAMA-B. '24, YAN-LING '24

### ▷ WDP-to-LPN (worst-to-average) case reductions

BRAKERSKY '19, DEBRIS-ALAZARD E.A. '22, DEBRIS-ALAZARD-RESCH '22, PATHEGAMA-B. '24

## Application of uniformity: The Wiretap Channel



### Goals:

- (1) Main receiver B can recover  $W$  with high probability,  $\triangleright$  Strong secrecy  $I(Z^N, W) \rightarrow 0$
- (2)  $I(Z^N, W) \leq \epsilon$   $\triangleright$  Weak secrecy  $\frac{1}{N}I(Z^N, W) \rightarrow 0$

Capacity of the BSC wiretap channel  $\mathcal{C} = H(\delta_e) - H(\delta_b)$



## Smoothing of binary codes

**Definition:** A sequence of codes  $(C_n)_n$  is **asymptotically perfectly  $D_p$ -smoothable** with respect to kernels  $(r_n)_n$  if

$$\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} D_p(T_{r_n} f_{C_n} \| U_n) = 0, \quad 0 \leq p \leq \infty.$$

Here  $D_p(P \| Q)$  is the Rényi divergence of order  $p$  :

$$D_p(P \| Q) = \frac{1}{p-1} \log \left( \mathbb{E}_P \frac{dP}{dQ} \right)^{p-1} = \frac{1}{p-1} \log \sum_i P_i^p Q_i^{-(p-1)}$$

For  $p = 1$  this is the KL divergence.

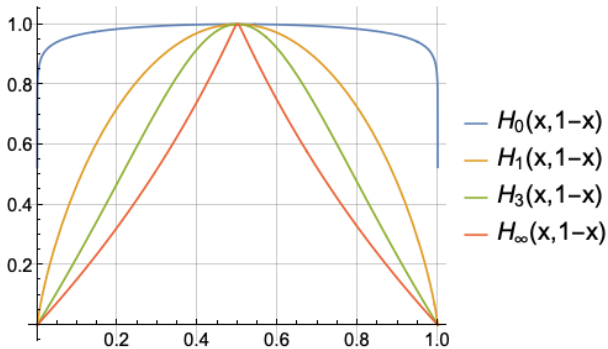
If  $Q$  is uniform,  $D_p$  is related to the Rényi entropy:

$$D_p(P \| U_n) = n - H_p(P)$$

$$H_p(P) = \frac{1}{1-p} \log \left( \sum_i P_i^p \right)$$

$$\text{For } P \sim \text{Ber}(\delta), H_p(P) = H_p(\delta, 1 - \delta) = \frac{1}{1-p} \log(\delta^p + (1 - \delta)^p)$$

# Rényi entropy



## Our results

- ▶ Finding the **threshold rates** for binary codes to achieve asymptotically perfect smoothing under **Bernoulli noise**
- ▶ Threshold rates for **ball noise**
- ▶ Bounds on the achievable rate of Reed-Muller codes on the **wiretap channel**

*Remark:* Recent results established that Reed-Muller codes achieve capacity of the binary-input symmetric channels

- ▶ BEC: KUDEKAR, KUMAR, MONDELLI, PFISTER, ŞAŞÖĞLU, URBANKE, '17
- ▶ BMS: ABBE-SANDON, '23

The property of achieving BEC capacity is the reason that RM codes figure in our examples

## Threshold for perfect smoothing

**Definition:** Let  $(r_n)_n$  be a sequence of noise kernels. Rate  $R$  is **achievable** for perfect  $D_p$ -smoothing if there exists a sequence of codes  $(\mathcal{C}_n)_n$  such that  $R(\mathcal{C}_n) \rightarrow R$  as  $n \rightarrow \infty$  and  $(\mathcal{C}_n)_n$  is perfectly  $D_p$ -smoothable.

Define the **capacity of perfect smoothing**  $S_p^r$  as  $\inf(\text{achievable rates})$  for  $D_p$  smoothing w.r.t.  $(r_n)_n$ .

This is a particular case of the general problem of **channel resolvability** (T.-S. HAN AND S. VERDÚ, 1983)

The current state of the art for Bernoulli kernels is given in the next theorem.

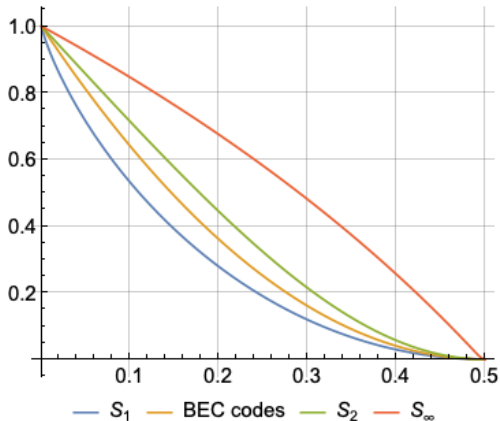
### Theorem

$$S_p^{\beta\delta} = \begin{cases} 0 & \text{if } p = 0 \\ 1 - H(\delta) & \text{if } p \in (0, 1] \\ 1 - H_p(\delta) & \text{if } p \in (1, \infty], \end{cases}$$

where  $H_p(\delta) = \frac{1}{1-p} \log(\delta^p + (1-\delta)^p)$  is the Rényi entropy of order  $p$ .

Here the results for  $p \in [0, 2] \cup \{\infty\}$  are due to L. YU AND V. Y. F. TAN, 2018, while the cases  $2 < p < \infty$  are new.

## Smoothing capacity plots



Threshold rates for perfect asymptotic smoothing (top to bottom)

- ▷  $S_\infty^{\beta\delta}$
- ▷  $S_2^{\beta\delta}$
- ▷  $D_1$  smoothing threshold for (duals of) codes achieving BEC capacity
- ▷  $D_p$  smoothing capacity,  $p \in (0, 1]$  = Shannon capacity of BSC( $\delta$ )

## Remarks on the proof

To show that this rate is attainable, we use random coding.

For the lower bound on  $R$  we use the equality

$$D_p(f_{\mathcal{C}} \| U_n) = \frac{p}{p-1} \log \|2^n f_{\mathcal{C}}\|_p.$$

Then use induction to establish the bound for all rational  $p$  and a density argument to prove it for all real  $p$ .

## Which (explicit) codes achieve perfect smoothing?

- ▶ Achieving BSC capacity **does not imply** perfect smoothing
- ▶ Polar codes achieve perfect smoothing at smoothing capacity
- ▶ RM codes (and other BEC capacity achieving codes) achieve a certain rate  $R > S_1$

## Good codes for the erasure channel and perfect smoothing

- ▶ A. SAMORODNITSKY 2016-'21 proved general bounds for the entropy of noisy functions on  $\mathcal{H}_n$
- ▶ Using these results, HAŻŁA-SAMORODNITSKY-SBERLO '21 connected performance of codes on the BEC and on the BSC
- ▶ Extending these ideas, we derive smoothing properties from erasure correction properties of codes
- ▶ **Key statement:** Bernoulli smoothing is “bounded above” by BEC performance.  
Take a linear code  $\mathcal{C}$ , let  $X_{\mathcal{C}^\perp}$  be a random codeword of  $\mathcal{C}^\perp$ . Let  $Y_{X_{\mathcal{C}^\perp}, \lambda}$  be the output of BEC( $\lambda$ ) for the input  $X_{\mathcal{C}^\perp}$ . Then

$$D_p(T_{\delta f_{\mathcal{C}}} \| U_n) \leq H(X_{\mathcal{C}^\perp}^\perp | Y_{X_{\mathcal{C}^\perp}, \lambda}),$$

where  $\lambda = (1 - 2\delta)^2$  for  $p = 1$  and  $\lambda = 1 - H_p(\delta)$  for  $p \geq 2$



## Good codes for the erasure channel and perfect smoothing

Using this lemma, we show that certain **explicit** code families attain perfect smoothing

### Theorem

Let  $(\mathcal{C}_n)_n$  be a sequence of linear codes with rate  $R_n \rightarrow R$ . Suppose that the dual sequence  $(\mathcal{C}_n^\perp)_n$  achieves capacity of the BEC( $\lambda$ ) with  $\lambda = R$ . Assume that  $d(\mathcal{C}_n^\perp) = \omega(\log(n))$  and  $R > (1 - 2\delta)^2$ , then

$$D(T_\delta f_{\mathcal{C}_n} \| U_n) \rightarrow 0 \quad \text{as } n \rightarrow \infty.$$

Let  $p \in \{2, 3, \dots, \infty\}$ . If  $R > 1 - h_p(\delta)$ , then

$$D_p(T_\delta f_{\mathcal{C}_n} \| U_n) \rightarrow 0 \quad \text{as } n \rightarrow \infty$$

In particular, the sequence  $\mathcal{C}_n$  achieves  $D_p$ -smoothing capacity  $S_p^{\beta_\delta}$  for  $p \in \{2, 3, \dots, \infty\}$ .

**Example:** Reed-Muller codes

## Smoothing for the wiretap channel: Main ideas

A. Wyner ('75) suggested the following scheme for transmission over the **wiretap channel**:

Let  $\mathcal{C}_0 \subset \mathcal{C}_1 \subset \mathcal{H}_n$  be linear codes. Encode messages into cosets  $\mathcal{C}_1/\mathcal{C}_0$ ; transmit a random vector from the coset.

**Reliability:**  $P(\hat{W} \neq W) \rightarrow 0$ ; **Secrecy:**  $T_{\delta_\epsilon} f_{\mathcal{C}_0}$  approaches  $U_n$

$$P_{Z|M=m}(z) = P_{X_{C_m+W}}(z) = P_{C_m} * P_W(z) = P_{C_0+c_m} * P_W(z) = P_{C_0} * P_W(z + c_m)$$

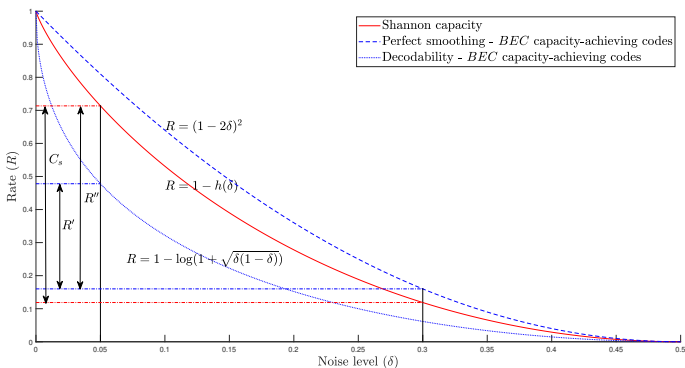
**Lemma:** Under **Wyner's coding scheme**, if

$$D(T_{\delta_\epsilon} f_{\mathcal{C}_0} \| U_n) < \epsilon, \text{ then } I(M; Z) < \epsilon.$$

**If a code attains BEC capacity, then its dual is smoothed by Bernoulli noise**

⇒ Duals of good codes for the BEC support strong security on the BSC wiretap channel

## Transmission rates for the wiretap channel



Achievable rates in BSC wiretap channel with BEC capacity-achieving codes.

For instance, take  $\delta_m = 0.05$ ;  $\delta_e = 0.3$ . Then

$$C_s = H(0.3) - H(0.05) = 0.5949$$

For Reed-Muller codes,

$$R'' = 0.5536$$

## Open problem about RM codes

Do nested sequences of RM codes attain secrecy capacity of the BSC wiretap channel under strong security? This does not follow directly from either

- ▶ Abbe-Sandon's proof of the BSC capacity result for RM codes
- ▶ The approach via classical-quantum duality ( RENES '18; RENGASWAMY E.A. '21)

*Remark:* MAHDAVIFAR-VARDY ('11) showed that polar codes attain the BSC wiretap capacity with weak secrecy; later GÜLCÜ-B. ('16) showed strong secrecy

## Universal hash families

- ▷ Given a source  $Z \sim P_Z$  with unknown distribution  $P_Z$  on  $\mathbb{F}_q^n$
- ▷  $\mathcal{F}_{n,m} := \{f : \mathbb{F}_2^n \rightarrow \mathbb{F}_2^m\}$  forms a **universal hash family** (UHF) if

$$\Pr_{f \sim \mathcal{F}} (f(u) = f(v)) \leq \frac{1}{2^m} \quad \forall u \neq v$$

**LHL** (classic): Let  $f \sim \mathcal{F}_{n,m}$ . If  $m \leq H_\infty(Z) - 2 \log(1/\epsilon)$ , then

$$d_{\text{TV}}(P_{f(Z)}, P_{U_m} \times P_f) \leq \epsilon/2$$

- ▷ Since  $d_{\text{TV}}(P, Q) = \frac{q^n}{2} \|P - Q\|_1$ , we can rewrite the LHL as:

$$\mathbb{E}_{f \sim \mathcal{F}} \|q^m P_{f(Z)} - 1\|_1 \leq \epsilon$$

- ▷ **(Strengthened LHL)** ( BENNET E.A., '95) If  $m \leq H_2(Z) - \log(1/\epsilon)$ , then

$$\mathbb{E}_{f \sim \mathcal{F}} [D(P_{f(Z)} \| P_{U_m})] \leq \frac{\epsilon}{\ln 2}$$

- ▷ We establish similar results using  $p$ -norms and linear hashing

## Linear Hashing

- ▷ Given a source  $Z$  on  $\mathbb{F}_q^n$ ,  $Z \sim P_Z$
- ▷ The set of linear codes  $\mathcal{C} := \{\mathcal{C}[n, n - m]_q\}$ ;
- ▷ Let  $H$  be a parity-check matrix of  $\mathcal{C} \in \mathcal{C}$

$P_Z \rightsquigarrow P_{HZ}$  – smoothing as hashing

### Theorem

Let  $\epsilon > 0$  and let  $p \geq 2$  be an integer. If  $Z$  is a random vector from  $\mathbb{F}_q^n$  with  $Z \sim P_Z$  and  $m \leq H_p(Z) - p - \log_q(1/\epsilon)$ , then

$$\mathbb{E}_{\mathcal{C} \sim \mathcal{C}} [D_p(P_{HZ} \| P_{U_m})] \leq \frac{p\epsilon}{(p-1) \ln q}$$

- ▷ Rewriting the conclusion:

$$\mathbb{E}_{\mathcal{C} \sim \mathcal{C}} \|q^m P_{HZ} - 1\|_p \leq 2^{1-1/p} ((1 + \epsilon)^p - 1)^{1/p}$$

This says that  $P_{HZ}$  is almost independent of the code. Measuring uniformity by  $l_p$  rather than  $d_{TV}$  is a stronger guarantee.

- ▷ Previous works (HAYASHI-TAN, '16-'18) proved  $p$ -uniformity guarantees for memoryless sources  $Z$

## Remarks on the proof

The technical claim behind this theorem can be stated as follows.

### Theorem

Let  $Z$  be a random vector in  $\mathbb{F}_q^n$ . Let  $\mathcal{C}$  be the set of all  $[n, k]_q$  linear codes. Then for all natural  $p \geq 2$ ,

$$\mathbb{E}_{\mathcal{C} \sim \mathcal{C}} [\|q^n P_{X_{\mathcal{C}} + Z}\|_p^p] \leq \sum_{d=0}^p \binom{p}{d} q^{(p-d)(d+n-k-H_p(Z))},$$

where  $X_{\mathcal{C}}$  is a uniform random codeword of  $\mathcal{C}$ .

## Bernoulli sources and hashing with Reed-Muller matrices

### Theorem

Let  $R \in (0, 1)$  and let  $\mathcal{C}_n$  be a sequence of RM codes whose rate  $R_n$  approaches  $R$ . Let  $H_n$  be the parity check matrix of  $\mathcal{C}_n$  and let  $Z_n$  be a binary vector formed of independent Bernoulli( $\delta$ ) random bits. If  $R > 1 - h_p(\delta)$ , then

$$\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} D_p(P_{H_n Z_n} \| P_{U_{n(1-R_n)}}) = 0, \quad p \in \{2, \dots, \infty\}$$

If  $p = 1$  and  $R > (1 - 2\delta)^2$ , then

$$\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} D(P_{H_n Z_n} \| P_{U_{n(1-R_n)}}) = 0.$$

The proof follows from the results on threshold rates for smoothing capacity



## Learning Parity with Noise

LPN problem  $\text{LPN}(k, \delta, N, \alpha)$  with *noise rate*  $\delta \in (0, 1/2)$ , *sample complexity*  $N$ , and *success probability*  $\alpha$ :

Given a collection of samples  $(a_i, a_i^\top m + b_i)_{i=1}^N$ ,  $a_i, m \in \mathbb{F}_2^k$ ,  $b_i \in \mathbb{F}_2$ , where

(1)  $m \sim P_{U_k}$  is fixed across all samples

(2)  $(a_i, b_i) \sim P_{U_k} P_{\text{Ber}(\delta)}$  are chosen independently for each sample,

find  $\hat{m}$  with  $\Pr(\hat{m} = m) \geq \alpha$ .

LPN underlies several cryptographic primitives:

- ▷ symmetric encryption HOPPER-BLUM '01, JUELS-WEIS '05
- ▷ public key cryptography ALEKHNOVICH '03
- ▷ collision-resistant hashing BRAKERSKI E.A. '19, YU E.A., '19

Is LPN computationally hard?

## WDP-to-LPN reduction

The **worst-case decoding** problem  $\text{WDP}(n, k, w)$  is defined as follows: Given

(1) a matrix  $G \in \mathbb{F}_2^{k \times n}$

(2) a vector  $y \in \mathbb{F}_2^n$  of the form  $y = G^T m' + e'$  for some  $m' \in \mathbb{F}_2^k$  and  $e' \in \mathbb{F}_2^n$  with  $|e'| = w$ ,

find  $m$  such that  $y = G^T m + e$  for some  $e \in \mathbb{F}_2^n$  with  $|e| = w$ .

Finding an efficient solver for LPN would amount to constructing an efficient probabilistic decoder for linear codes.

## Reduction

An LPN solver  $\mathcal{A}$  can be converted into a decoder

$G$  is  $k \times n$  is a generator matrix of  $\mathcal{C}$ ; noisy codeword  $G^T m + e$ , where  $|e| = w$

▷ Sample  $m' \xleftarrow{U_k} \mathbb{F}_2^k$ .

▷ Find  $P$  on  $\mathbb{F}_2^n$  and  $\varepsilon > 0$  such that

$$d_{\text{TV}}(P_{GZ, e^T Z}, P_{U_k} P_{\text{Ber}(\delta)}) \leq \varepsilon \quad (Z \sim P)$$

▷  $\{Z_i\}_{i=1}^N \leftarrow P$ ;  $a_i = GZ_i$   $b_i = e^T Z_i$ ,  $i = 1, \dots, N$

$$Z_i^T (G^T m' + G^T m + e) = a_i^T (m + m') + b_i.$$

▷  $\mathcal{A} \leftarrow (a_i, a_i^T (m + m') + b_i)_{i=1}^N$

▷ If  $N\varepsilon < \alpha$ , Algorithm  $\mathcal{A}$  outputs  $m + m'$  with success probability at least  $\alpha - N\varepsilon$  in time  $T$ .

▷ In conclusion, with probability  $\alpha - N\varepsilon$  the message  $m$  is found in time  $T \cdot \text{poly}(n, k)$ .

Thus, we need **fast smoothing**: for large  $N$ , decoding error rate is large

## Meaningful reductions

- ▷ For  $\xi \sim \text{Ber}(\delta)$  with  $P_\xi(1) = \delta$ ,  $\text{bias}(\xi) := \frac{1}{2} - \delta$
- ▷  $\text{bias}(\xi) = o(1/\text{poly}(k))$  is too small;  $\text{bias}(\xi) = \Omega(1/\text{poly}(k))$  supports symmetric cryptography
- ▷  $d_{\text{TV}}(P_{\text{GZ}, e^\top Z}, P_{U_k} P_{\text{Ber}(\delta)}) < \epsilon$  (fast smoothing)

In summary, a **meaningful reduction** should satisfy

$$d_{\text{TV}}(P_{\text{GZ}}, P_{U_k}) < d_{\text{TV}}(P_{\text{GZ}, e^\top Z}, P_{U_k} P_{\text{Ber}(\delta)}) < \alpha/N, \quad (1a)$$

$$\text{bias}(e^\top Z) = \Omega\left(\frac{1}{\text{poly}(k)}\right). \quad (1b)$$

BRAKERSKI E.A. '19 showed that meaningful reductions are possible under the assumption of vanishing code rate  $k/n$

YU-ZHANG '22 and DEBRIZ-ALAZARD & RESCH, '22 show similar results with additional assumptions on codes and smoothing distributions.

In particular, it was not clear whether **meaningful reductions with constant rate** were possible

## Our results

We show that for constant-rate codes, the necessary conditions are violated, so an efficient reduction is generally not possible.

**Theorem:** Let  $(\mathcal{C}_n, n = 1, 2, \dots)$  be a sequence of  $[n, k]$  linear codes of increasing length and let  $\frac{k}{n} \rightarrow R > 0$  and  $\frac{d^\perp}{n} \rightarrow \delta^\perp > 0$ .

For any sequence of random vectors  $Z$  defined on  $\mathbb{F}_2^n$ , there exists a sequence of vectors  $e$  with  $|e|/n \rightarrow \omega$  such that the following holds true:

- ▶ If  $d_{\text{TV}}(P_{G_n Z}, P_{U_k}) = o(\frac{1}{\text{poly}(k)})$ , then  $\text{bias}(e^\top Z) = o(\frac{1}{\text{poly}(k)})$
- ▶ If  $d_{\text{TV}}(P_{G_n Z}, P_{U_k}) = 2^{-\Omega(k)}$ , then  $\text{bias}(e^\top Z) = 2^{-\Omega(k)}$ ,

where  $G_n$  is the generator matrix of  $\mathcal{C}_n$ .

## Remark: Slow smoothing supports reduction

Previously we assumed  $d_{\text{TV}}(P_{\text{GZ}, e^{\top}Z}, P_{U_k} P_{\text{Ber}(\delta)}) = o(1/\text{poly}(k))$ . Relaxing this allows reduction, but degrades the decoder's performance.

### Theorem:

Let  $R \in (0, 1)$ ,  $\omega \in (0, 1/2)$ , and  $l \in \mathbb{N}$ . Let  $\mathcal{C}_n$  be a sequence of  $[n, k]$  linear codes of increasing length  $n$  such that  $k/n \rightarrow R$ . Let  $G_n$  be a generator matrix of  $\mathcal{C}_n$  and let  $e \in \mathbb{F}_2^n$  be a vector satisfying  $|e| = \lfloor \omega n \rfloor$ . Then there exists a sequence of distributions  $(P_Z)_n$  satisfying the following conditions:

- (i)  $d_{\text{TV}}(P_{G_n Z, e^{\top}Z}, P_{U_k} P_{e^{\top}Z}) = O(k^{-l})$
- (ii)  $\text{bias}(e^{\top}Z) = \Omega(k^{-l})$ .

Thank you!