

# Coding Perspectives for Collaborative Estimation over Networks

**John M. Walsh & Sivagnanasundaram Ramanan**

Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering

Drexel University

Philadelphia, PA

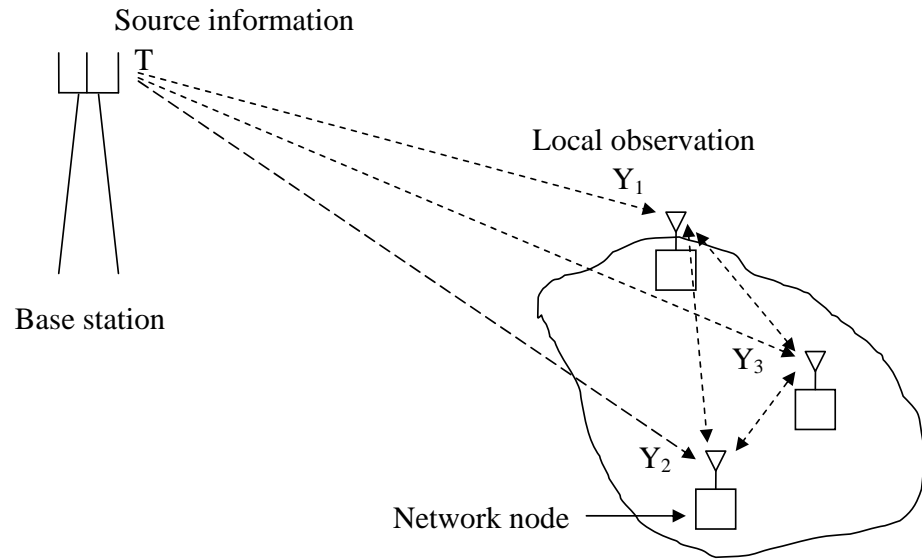
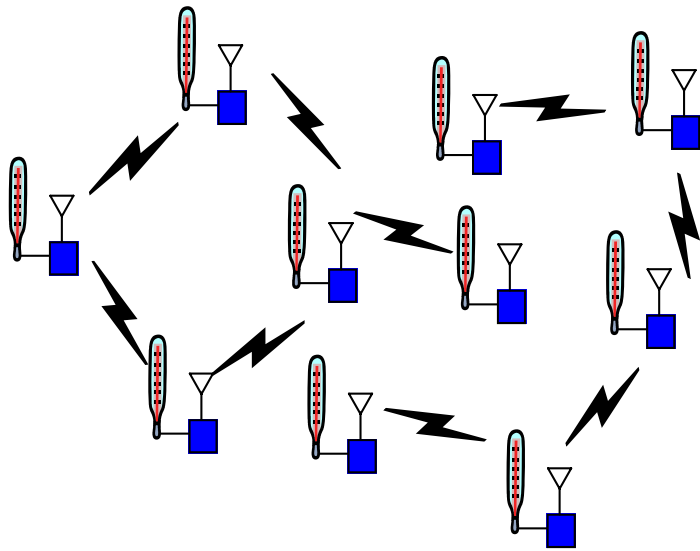
[jwalsh@ece.drexel.edu](mailto:jwalsh@ece.drexel.edu)



## Outline

1. What is collaborative estimation?
2. What are the major research issues/perspectives?
3. Collaborative Estimation from a Signal Processing/Machine Learning perspective
  - (a) architecture for using belief/expectation propagation for collaborative estimation in sensor networks
  - (b) example w/ benefits: channel gain estimation
4. Collaborative Estimation from an Information Theory/Coding Perspective
  - (a) proper architecture for the lossy network source code
  - (b) related known lossy source coding problems
  - (c) inner and outer bounds on the rate distortion region
5. How might these perspectives be reconciled?
6. Future Work

## What is collaborative estimation?

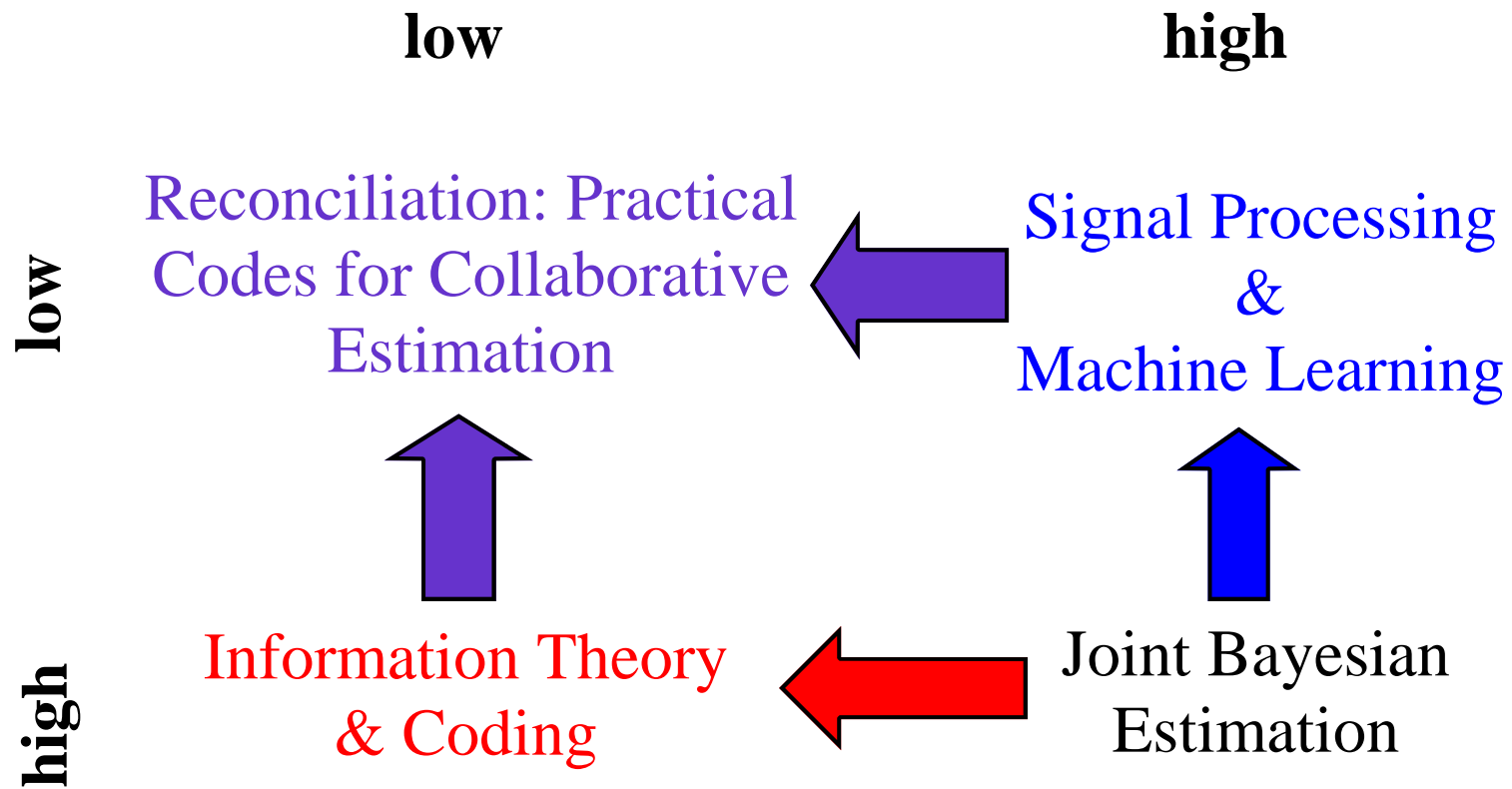


- $M$  nodes. Node  $m$  w/ local observations  $\mathbf{R}_m$ .
- Collection of random parameters  $\mathbf{T}$  jointly distrib. w/  $\{\mathbf{R}_m\}$
- Node  $m$  wants to estimate  $\mathbf{T}$  with  $\hat{\mathbf{T}}_m$  to minimize a local Bayesian cost function, i.e.  $d_m(\hat{\mathbf{T}}_m, \mathbf{T})$  given avail. info.
- nodes share information over a network to help form their estimates

What are the major research issues/perspectives?

## Communication Network & Energy Constraints

Computation & Delay Constraints



# Communication Network & Energy Constraints

Computation & Delay Constraints

low  
high

low

high

Joint Bayesian Estimation

## Joint Bayesian Estimation

- each node broadcasts its observations  $\mathbf{r}_m$  to all of the other nodes
- given  $\mathbf{r} := [\mathbf{r}_m | m \in [M]]$  each node forms the posterior distribution  $p_{\mathbf{T}|\mathbf{R}}(\mathbf{T}|\mathbf{r})$ .
- each node chooses its estimate  $\hat{\mathbf{T}}_m$  as the estimate minimizing its own Bayesian risk function

$$\hat{\mathbf{T}}_m \in \arg \min_{\hat{\mathbf{T}}_m} \int d_m(\hat{\mathbf{T}}_m, \mathbf{T}) p_{\mathbf{T}|\mathbf{R}}(\mathbf{T}|\mathbf{r}) d\mathbf{T}$$

# Communication Network & Energy Constraints

**Computation & Delay Constraints**

**low**

**high**

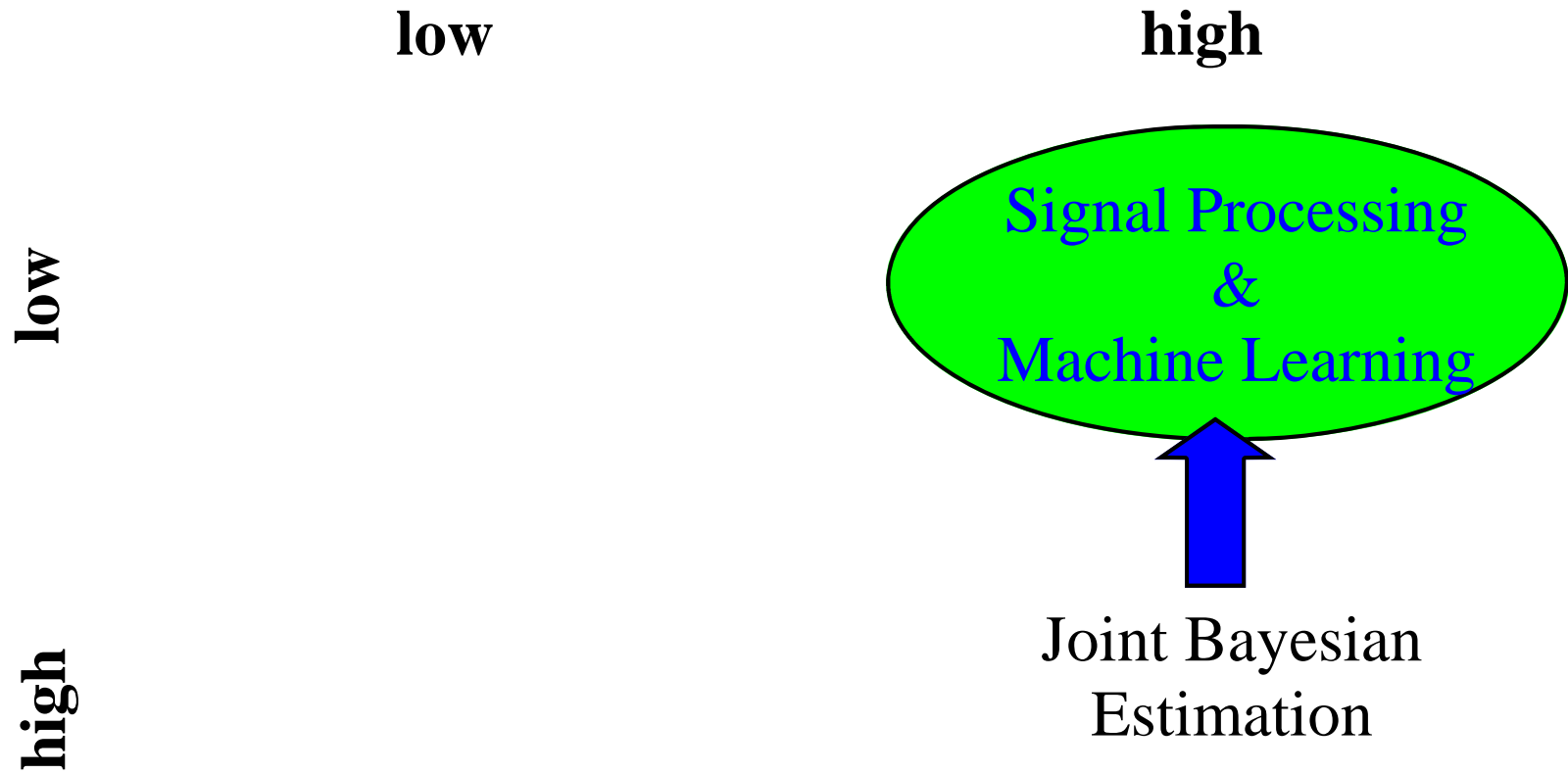
**low**

**high**

Joint Bayesian  
Estimation

# Communication Network & Energy Constraints

Computation & Delay Constraints





## The Signal Processing/Machine Learning Perspective

PROBLEM 1:  $\arg \min_{\hat{\mathbf{T}}_m} \int d_m(\hat{\mathbf{T}}_m, \mathbf{T}) p_{\mathbf{T}, \mathbf{R}}(\mathbf{T}, \mathbf{r}) d\mathbf{T}$  IS HARD!

- one important major difficulty: the integration over the posterior distribution is usually difficult computationally and analytically, as can be the minimization of the local risk.
- enter approximate Bayesian inference: attempt to (iteratively) approximate the posterior distribution within a particular exponential family of distributions
  - $\Rightarrow$  Expectation/Belief Propagation
- How can we organize network communications to keep energy consumption low, but yield message passing that gets the cases where belief propagation gives good estimates?

## Expectation Propagation (EP), I [1, 2, 3]

- parameters  $\mathbf{T}$  whose a.p.d.'s we want
- observations  $\mathbf{r}$
- joint stat. model that factors  $\theta_a \subseteq \theta$

$$p_{\mathbf{r}, \mathbf{T}}(\mathbf{r}, \theta) \propto \prod_{a=1}^M f_{a, \mathbf{r}}(\theta_a)$$

- Goal: calculate  $\lambda_a(\mathbf{r})$  to approximate

$$p_{\mathbf{T}|\mathbf{r}}(\theta|\mathbf{r}) \approx \prod_{a=1}^M g_{a, \lambda_a(\mathbf{r})}(\theta_a)$$

- $g_{a, \lambda_a(\mathbf{r})}(\theta_a) \propto \exp(\mathbf{h}_a(\theta_a) \cdot \lambda_a(\mathbf{r}))$
- Designer selects  $\mathbf{h}(\cdot) := [\mathbf{h}_a(\cdot)]$
- Given design +  $\mathbf{r}$ , EP  $\rightarrow \lambda_a(\mathbf{r}) \forall a$ .

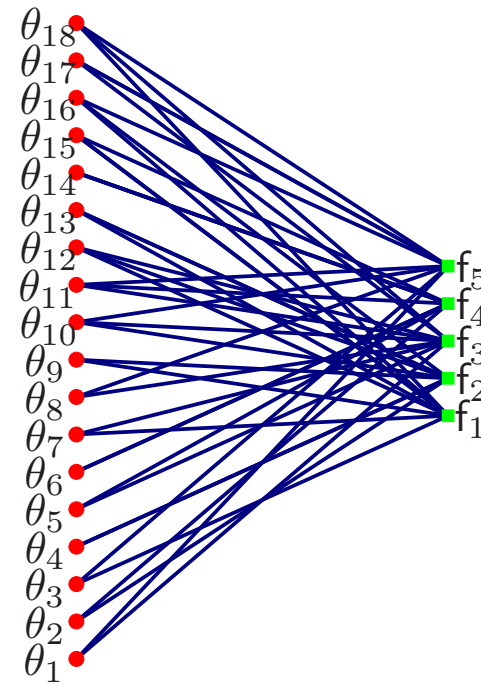


Figure 1: The parameter factor graph.

## EP, II. Design Choices: The log-basis Functions $h(\theta)$

- In choosing  $\mathbf{h}(\cdot)$  one trades between
  1. **Accuracy:** level of stat. dep. amongst  $T_i$  allowed in approx.
  2. **Complexity:** control amnt of computation + comm. req.'d

- **Requirement: Sufficiency**  $\forall \theta_a$

$$f_a(\theta_a) = \hat{f}_a(\mathbf{h}_a(\theta_a))$$

so all information  $f_a$  depends on is in  $\mathbf{h}_a(\theta_a)$ .

- **Requirement: Reciprocity**  $\mathbf{h}_a$ s are concatenations of  $\mathbf{v}_i(\vartheta_i)$  with each  $T_j$  in only one  $\vartheta_i$ .
- $\implies$  everywhere we are approximating  $T_i$  we are using the same type of density.

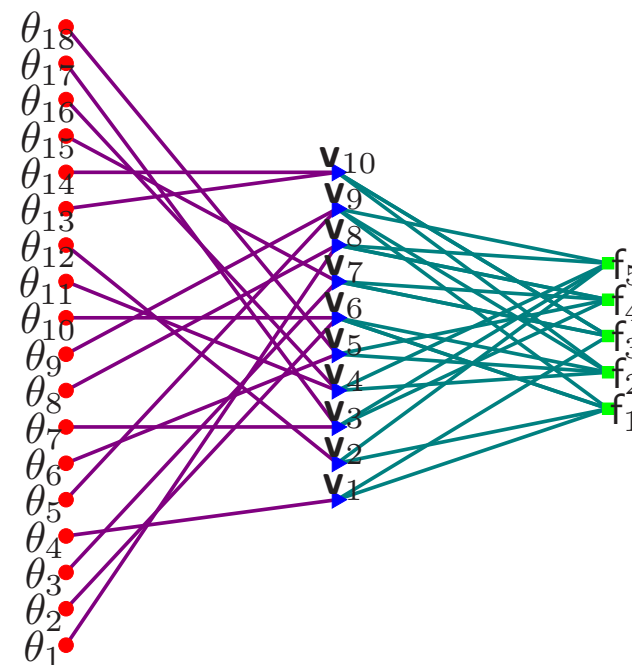


Figure 2: The parameter statistics factor graph.

## EP, III. Model Selection via $\mathbf{h}(\boldsymbol{\theta})$ : Examples

**Discrete  $\Theta$  (recall  $\mathbf{T} \in \Theta$ ):** Consider  $\Theta = \{0, 1\}^N$

- **independent bits:**  $\mathbf{h}(\boldsymbol{\theta}) = \boldsymbol{\theta}$
- **pairwise dependent bits:**

$$\mathbf{h}(\boldsymbol{\theta}) = [T_1, \dots, T_N, T_1T_2, T_1T_3, \dots, T_1T_N, T_2T_3, \dots, T_2T_N, \dots, T_{N-1}T_N]^T$$

**Continuous  $\Theta$ :** Consider  $\Theta = \mathbb{R}^N$

- $\{T_i\}$  **independent Gaussian:**

$$\mathbf{h}(\boldsymbol{\theta}) := [T_1, T_1^2, T_2, T_2^2, \dots, T_N, T_N^2]^T$$

- $\{T_i\}$  **jointly normal:**

$$\mathbf{h}(\boldsymbol{\theta}) := [T_1, T_1^2, T_2, T_2^2, \dots, T_N, T_N^2, T_1T_2, T_1T_3, \dots, T_1T_N, T_2T_3, \dots, T_2T_N, \dots, T_{N-1}T_N]^T$$

**Other possible distribution types:** exponential, beta, gamma, Poisson, any finite distribution

## EP, IV: The Message Passing Algorithm

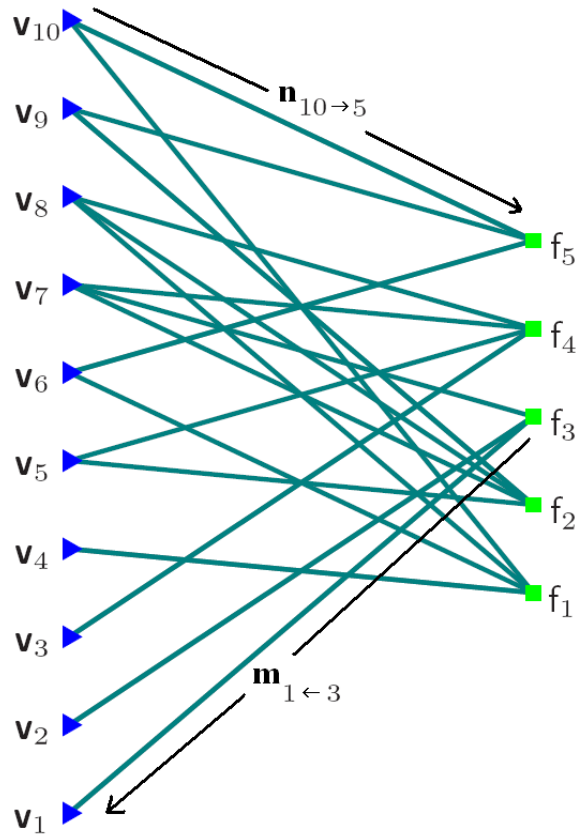


Figure 3: Message Passing.

- Try to make the approx. by passing messages
- right going messages

$$[\lambda_{\text{in}}]_i := \sum_{c \in \mathcal{N}(i) \setminus \{a\}} [\lambda_c]_i =: [\mathbf{n}_{j \rightarrow a}]_i$$

- left going messages

$$\mathbf{m}_{j \leftarrow a} := [[\lambda_a]_i \mid \mathbf{h}_i \in \mathbf{v}_j]$$

$$\begin{aligned} & \frac{\int_{\Theta_a} \mathbf{h}_a(\boldsymbol{\theta}_a) \hat{f}_a(\mathbf{h}_a(\boldsymbol{\theta}_a)) \exp(\mathbf{h}_a(\boldsymbol{\theta}_a) \cdot \boldsymbol{\lambda}_{\text{in}}) d\boldsymbol{\theta}_a}{\int_{\Theta_a} \hat{f}_a(\mathbf{h}_a(\boldsymbol{\theta}_a)) \exp(\mathbf{h}_a(\boldsymbol{\theta}_a) \cdot \boldsymbol{\lambda}_{\text{in}}) d\boldsymbol{\theta}_a} \\ &= \frac{\int_{\Theta_a} \mathbf{h}_a(\boldsymbol{\theta}_a) \exp(\mathbf{h}_a(\boldsymbol{\theta}_a) \cdot (\boldsymbol{\lambda}_{\text{in}} + \boldsymbol{\lambda}_a)) d\boldsymbol{\theta}_a}{\int_{\Theta_a} \exp(\mathbf{h}_a(\boldsymbol{\theta}_a) \cdot (\boldsymbol{\lambda}_{\text{in}} + \boldsymbol{\lambda}_a)) d\boldsymbol{\theta}_a} \end{aligned}$$

## When can you prove the approximation is good?

- When the factor node updates are equivalent to passing parameters for the associated marginal density, EP = belief propagation. [4, 5]
- In this case if the factor graph is a cycle free, BP gives exact marginal distributions for the (clustered)  $\Theta_i$
- Since it is a local message passing algorithm, if a particular computation neighborhood of size  $2\ell$  is a tree, then an exact posterior is calculated over data available in that neighborhood. [6, 7]

## How can this be used to simplify the Risk Minimization/Calculation?

$$\arg \min_{\hat{\mathbf{T}}_m} \int d_m(\hat{\mathbf{T}}_m, \mathbf{T}) p_{\mathbf{T}, \mathbf{R}}(\mathbf{T}, \mathbf{r}) d\mathbf{T}$$

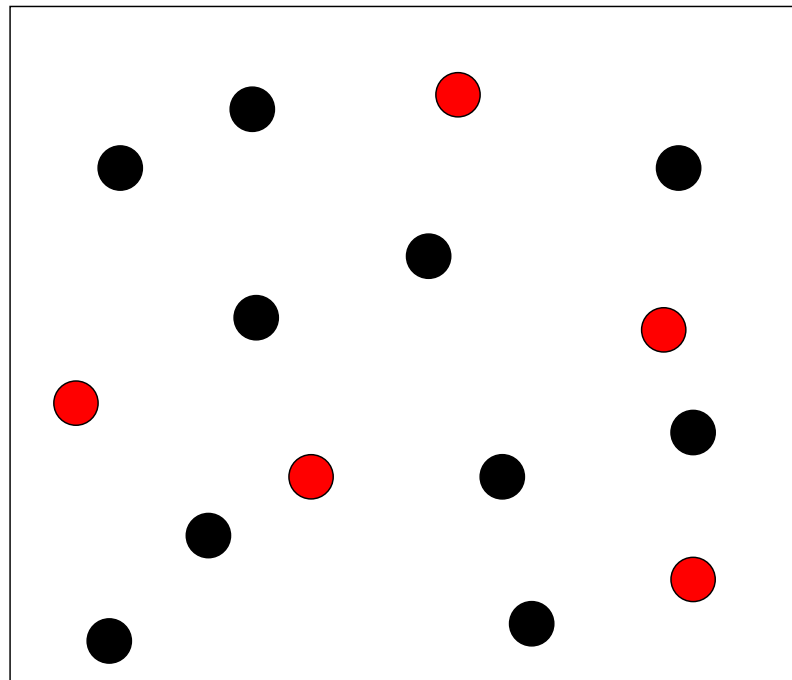
- if  $d_m$  depends only on a certain collection of elements of  $\mathbf{T}$   $\Theta_m$ , then can select a factoring & approximating family to get marginals for  $\Theta_m$  from BP.
- More broadly, if there are parts of the posterior which yield risk computation difficult, they can be approximated with exponential families in which it is simple (e.g. Gaussians). [8, 9]
- Factoring can be set up to give tree like neighborhoods via random duty cycling, as shown in the next example. [10, 11]
- The message passing nature of the algorithm describes a way to handle decentralization of the data (group it with factor nodes). [12, 13, 14, 15, 16]

## Example: Wireless Sensor Network Initialization

- Plane flies over forest/ field of interest, drops many sensor nodes.
- Placement is random, nodes do not know: positions, their neighbors, nor the gains in the wireless channels between them.
- Nodes must conserve power  $\implies$  duty cycling a must, but can not yet be done in an organized fashion.
- Organization performed in network, egalitarian (non-hierarchical) structure.
- Each node would like to organize communications in an energy efficient manner (power control, MAC, and routing), but this requires knowledge of channel gains.
- Initialization Phase: Using a random sleep (duty cycling) strategy for communications, estimate the wireless channel gains in the network.

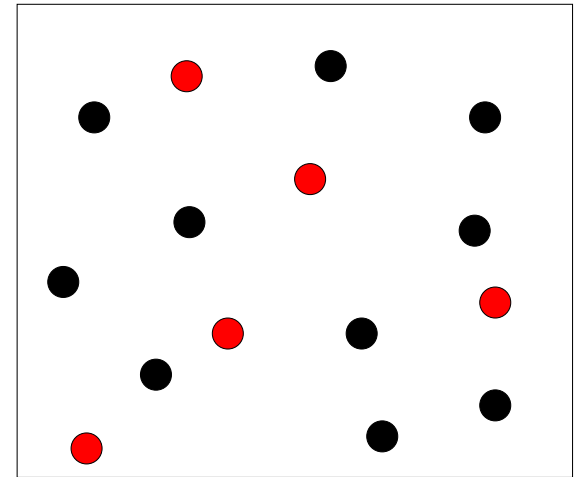
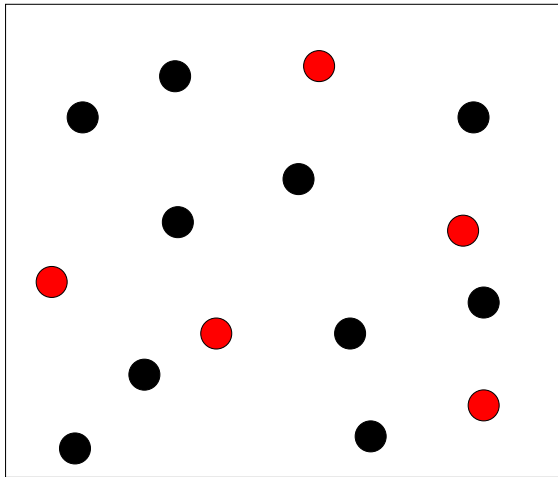


## Duty cycling to the network



- Keep only a small subset of sensors “awake” at each time instant

## Regular cyclic random sleep strategy to the network



- Regular cyclic random sleep strategy: a random subset of nodes are awake at a time and the sleep pattern repeats after certain amount of time
- At each time instant same number of nodes are awake and each maintains the same average power consumption

## Regular cyclic random sleep strategy to the network

- $d$  nodes are awake at a time instant
- Each node is awake  $c$  times in a sleep cycle
- $K$  time instants in a sleep cycle

$$K = \frac{c}{d}N$$

- Define the set of nodes awake at time instant  $k$  to be  $\{\mathcal{S}(k) | k \in \{1, \dots, K\}\}$

## Model for the channels

- Channel gain of a link between any two nodes heavily depends on the distance between them
- Pathloss model

$$h \propto R^{-n}$$

where pathloss exponent  $n$  ( $2 \leq n \leq 6$ )

- Gain of the link between node  $i$  and node  $j$

$$h_{i,j} \propto \|\mathbf{x}_i - \mathbf{x}_j\|_2^{-4}$$

## The prior joint distribution of the channels



- Any two channel gains incident on the same node are dependent

$$\text{dependent:} \quad h_{i,j} \propto \|\mathbf{x}_i - \mathbf{x}_j\|_2^{-4} \quad h_{i,m} \propto \|\mathbf{x}_i - \mathbf{x}_m\|_2^{-4}$$

$$\text{independent:} \quad h_{i,j} \propto \|\mathbf{x}_i - \mathbf{x}_j\|_2^{-4} \quad h_{m,n} \propto \|\mathbf{x}_m - \mathbf{x}_n\|_2^{-4}$$

- The prior joint distribution of the channel gains is analytically complex, because of the inverse nonlinear dependence on the node positions
- Under EP, we approximate it with a Gaussian with the same mean and covariance
- Ability to exploit this prior information is key from a *network* perspective.

## Channel Training

- Train the channel using a training sequence  $u_1, \dots, u_M$
- Model the observation as

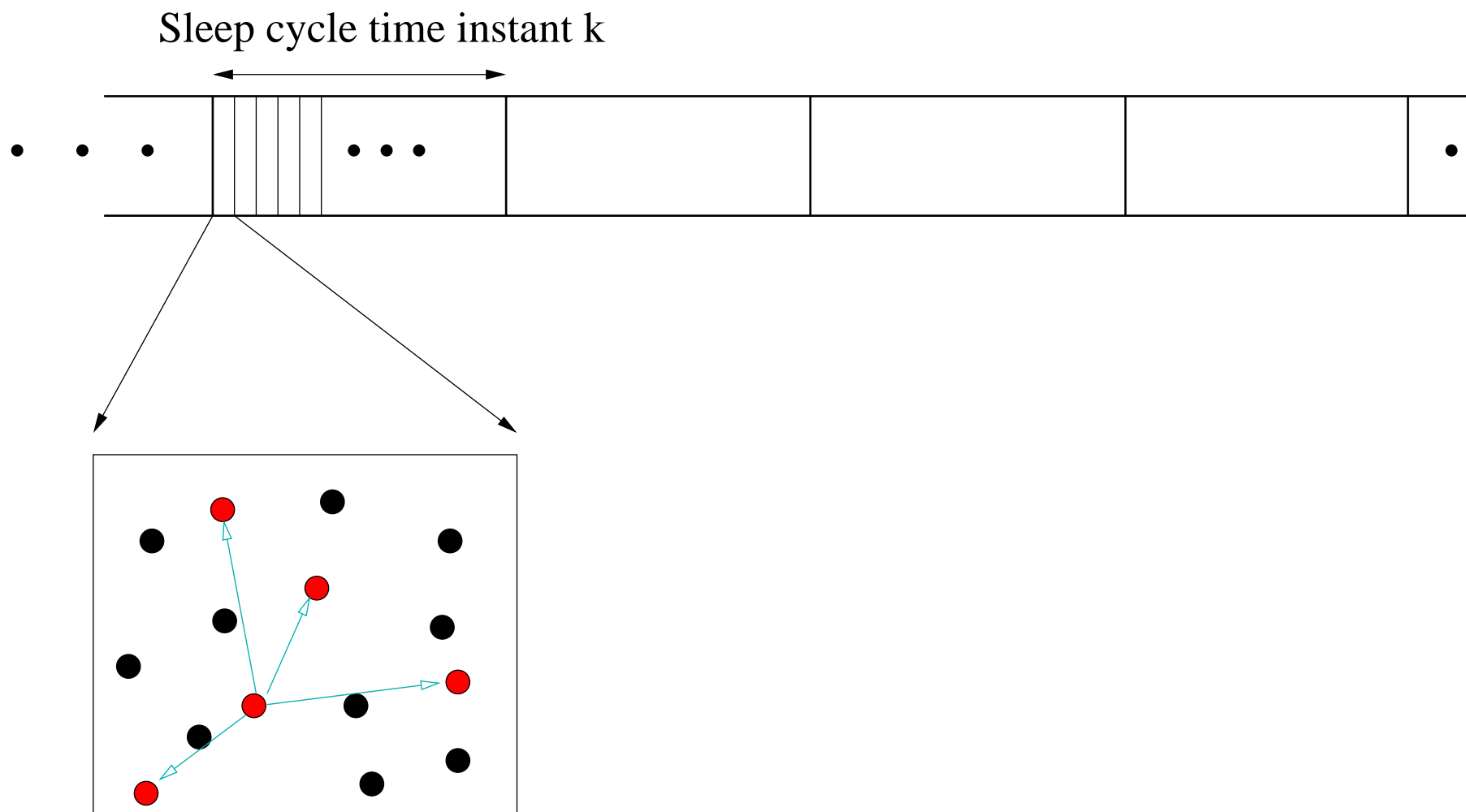
$$r_m = hu_m + v_m$$

where  $v_m$  is Gaussian distributed noise, which is i.i.d. over time and space

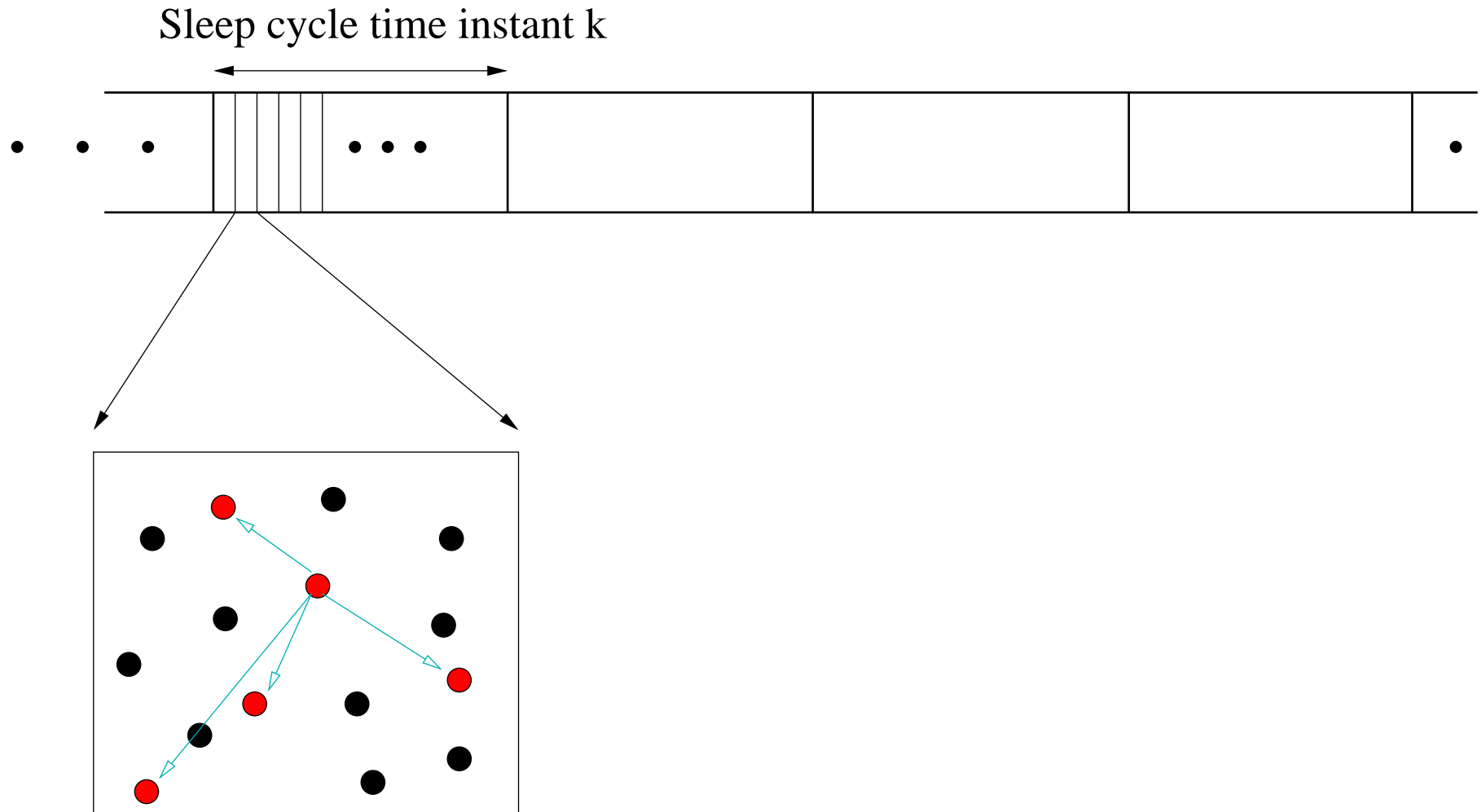
- Each time instant  $k$  is further divided into  $2c$  time slots
- In the first  $c$  time slots, nodes which are awake during  $k$  take turns transmitting their training sequences

$$r_{k,i,j,m} = h_{i,j}u_{i,m} + v_{k,i,j,m}$$

# Channel Training



# Channel Training



- Collect the observations during sleep cycle time instant  $k$

$$\mathbf{r}_k := [r_{k,i,j,m} \mid i, j \in \mathcal{S}(k), m \in \{1, \dots, M\}, i \neq j]$$



## The joint distribution of channel gains and observations

- The joint probability distribution of  $\mathbf{r}$  and  $\mathbf{h}$

$$p_{\mathbf{r},\mathbf{h}} = p_{\mathbf{h}} \prod_{k=1}^K p_{\mathbf{r}_k|\mathbf{h}}$$

where  $\mathbf{r} := [\mathbf{r}_k \mid k \in \{1, \dots, K\}]$

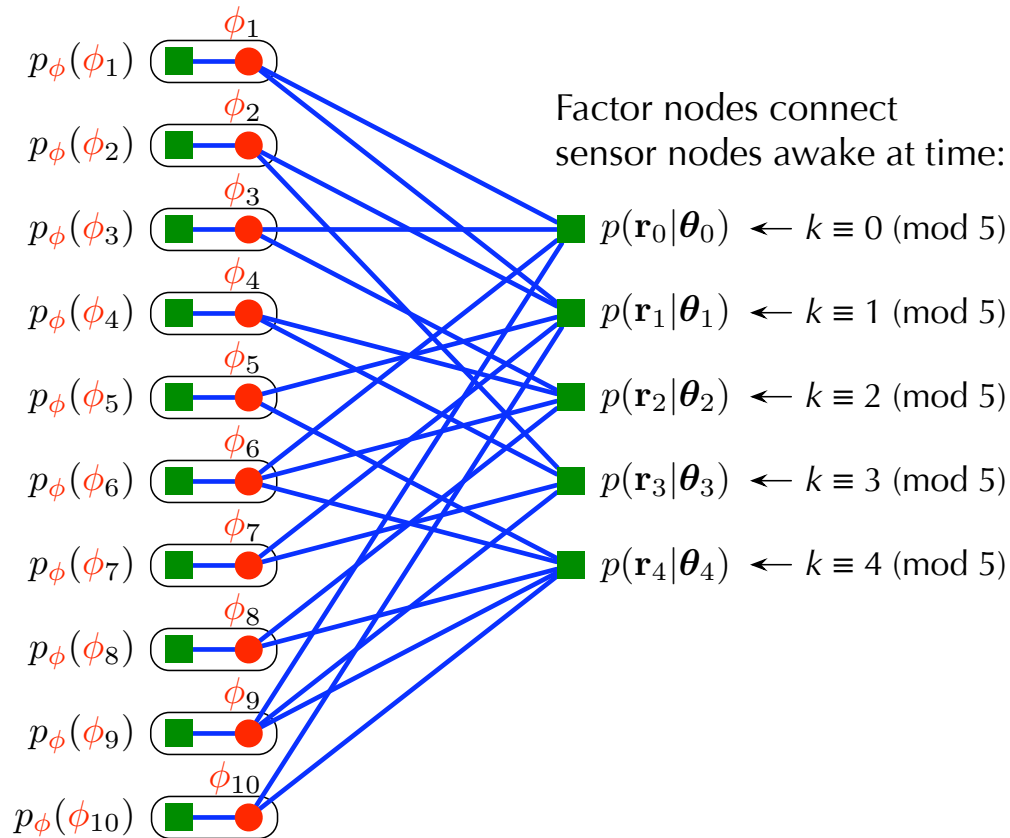
- Each node has a copy  $\mathbf{h}_i$  of  $\mathbf{h}$
- Write the joint distribution as

$$p_{\mathbf{r},\mathbf{h},\mathbf{h}_1,\dots,\mathbf{h}_N} = \prod_{k=1}^K p_{\mathbf{r}_k|\mathbf{h}} \prod_{i=1}^N \delta(\mathbf{h} - \mathbf{h}_i) (p_{\mathbf{h}}(\mathbf{h}_i))^{\frac{1}{N}} \quad (1)$$

where  $\delta$  is the point mass distribution at zero.

- We can associate this model with a factor graph

# Factor graph

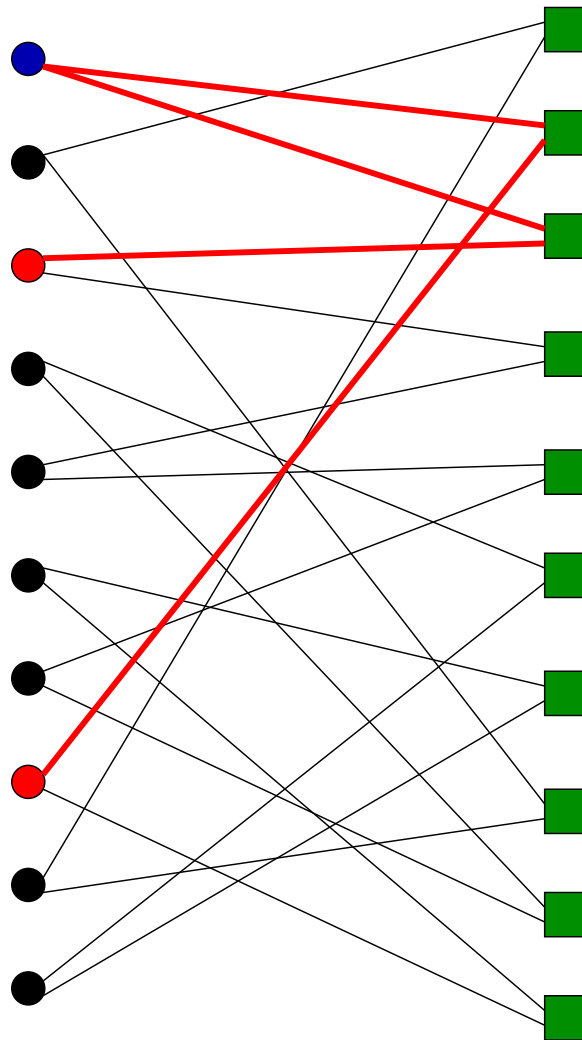


- A bipartite graph
- Left nodes: variable nodes, Right nodes: factor nodes
- Represent sensor nodes with the variable nodes and sleep cycle time instant with the factor nodes

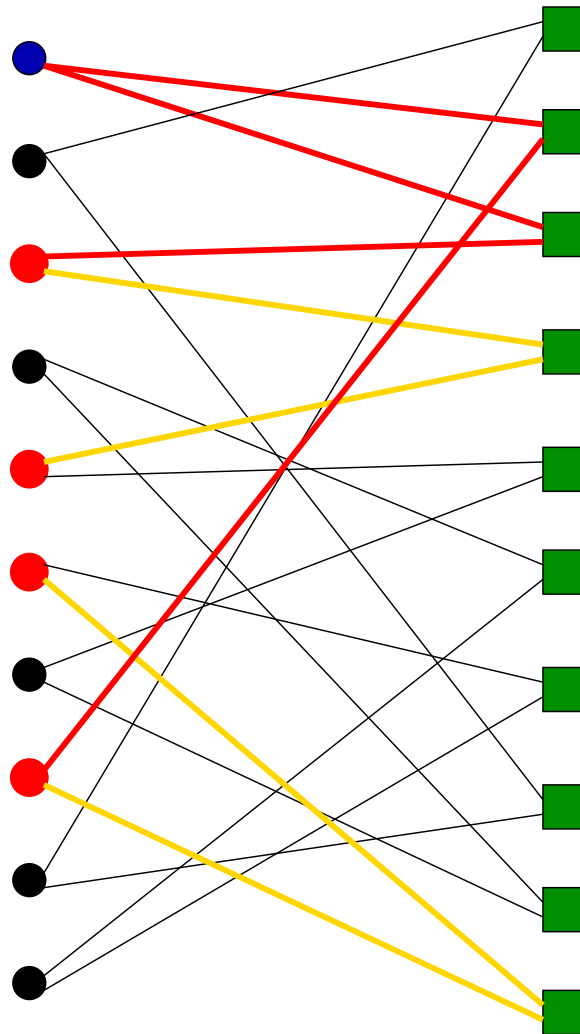
## The channels observed by a node after $\ell$ sleep cycles

- Only a subset of the channels can be observed after  $\ell$  sleep cycles
- Assumption: a node cannot disseminate data received during time instant  $k$  at another time instant  $k'$  in the same sleep cycle
- Decoding of data from other nodes takes time on the order of one complete sleep cycle
- After  $\ell$  sleep cycles, nodes can directly or indirectly receive information about links observed by nodes only upto  $2\ell$  edges away from them in the factor graph.

## The channels observed by a node after 1 sleep cycle



# The channels observed by a node after 2 sleep cycles



## Expectation Propagation

- The approximated prior joint distribution on  $\mathbf{h}$  can be written as

$$p_{\mathbf{h}}(\mathbf{h}) \propto \exp\left\{-\frac{1}{2}[(\mathbf{h} - \mathbf{m}_{\mathbf{h}})^T \boldsymbol{\Sigma}_{\mathbf{h}}^{-1}(\mathbf{h} - \mathbf{m}_{\mathbf{h}})]\right\} \quad (2)$$

- Initial estimate at each node  $\hat{\mathbf{h}} = \mathbf{m}_{\mathbf{h}}$
- They may want to update their estimates by updating the statistics (mean and covariance)
- Once we have associated the joint distribution on  $\mathbf{h}$  with a factor graph, we can apply Expectation Propagation to calculate the posterior distribution

## Selection of message family

- The approximated prior joint distribution on  $\mathbf{h}$

$$p_{\mathbf{h}}(\mathbf{h}) \propto \exp\left\{-\frac{1}{2}[(\mathbf{h} - \mathbf{m}_{\mathbf{h}})^T \boldsymbol{\Sigma}_{\mathbf{h}}^{-1}(\mathbf{h} - \mathbf{m}_{\mathbf{h}})]\right\} \quad (3)$$

- The conditional joint distribution on the observations  $\mathbf{r}_k$  collected during sleep cycle instant  $k$

$$p_{\mathbf{r}_k|\mathbf{h}_k}(\mathbf{r}_k|\mathbf{h}_k) \propto \exp\left\{-\frac{1}{2}[(\mathbf{r}_k - \mathbf{m}_{\mathbf{r}_k})^T \boldsymbol{\Sigma}_{\mathbf{r}_k}^{-1}(\mathbf{r}_k - \mathbf{m}_{\mathbf{r}_k})]\right\} \quad (4)$$

- Select the the message exponential family to be used in EP to be multivariate Gaussian distributed as

$$\mathbf{v}(\mathbf{h}) = \left( \mathbf{h}_y \quad \mathbf{h}_z \quad \mathbf{h} \right)^T$$

$$\mathbf{h}_y := [h_{i,j}^2 | i, j \in \{1, \dots, N\}, i < j]$$

$$\mathbf{h}_z := [h_{i,j} h_{m,n} | i, j, m, n \in \{1, \dots, N\}, i < j, m < n, m > i]$$

$$\mathbf{h} := [h_{i,j} | i, j \in \{1, \dots, N\}, i < j]$$

## Diffusion LMS [17]

- Least-Mean Squares (LMS) is a stochastic gradient-descent algorithm
- During sleep cycle time instant  $k$ , when node  $i$  transmits, the nodes  $i' \in \mathcal{S}(k) \setminus i$  make observations
- Node  $i'$  has access to  $\{u_{i,m}, r_{k,i,i',m}\}$   $u_{i,m}$ : regression vector,  $r_{k,i,i',m}$ : desired signal
- Estimate  $\hat{h}_{i,i'}^{k,m}$  of  $h_{i,i'}$  at node  $i'$

$$\hat{h}_{i,i'}^{k,m} = \hat{h}_{i,i'}^{k,m-1} + \mu u_{i,m} (r_{k,i,i',m} - \hat{h}_{i,i'}^{k,m} u_{i,m})$$

- At the end of the sleep cycle instant  $k$ , diffuse the estimate by

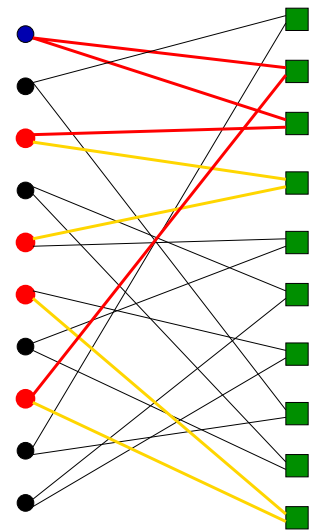
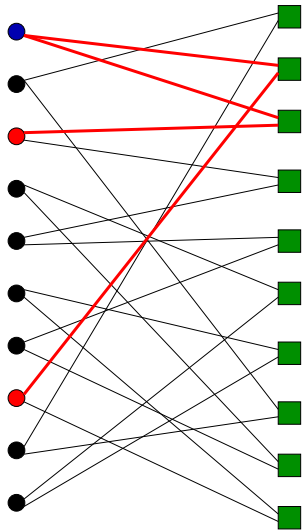
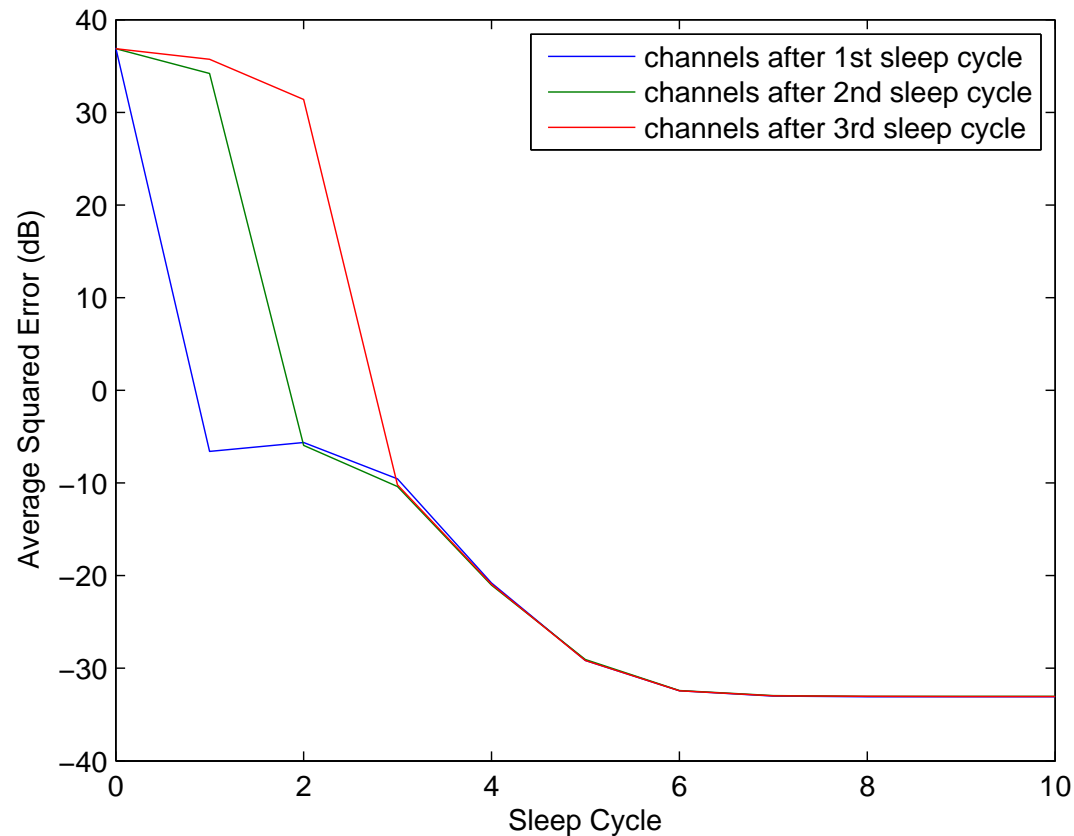
$$\tilde{\mathbf{h}}^k = \sum_{i \in \mathcal{S}(k)} a(k, i) \hat{\mathbf{h}}_i^k$$



## Simulation

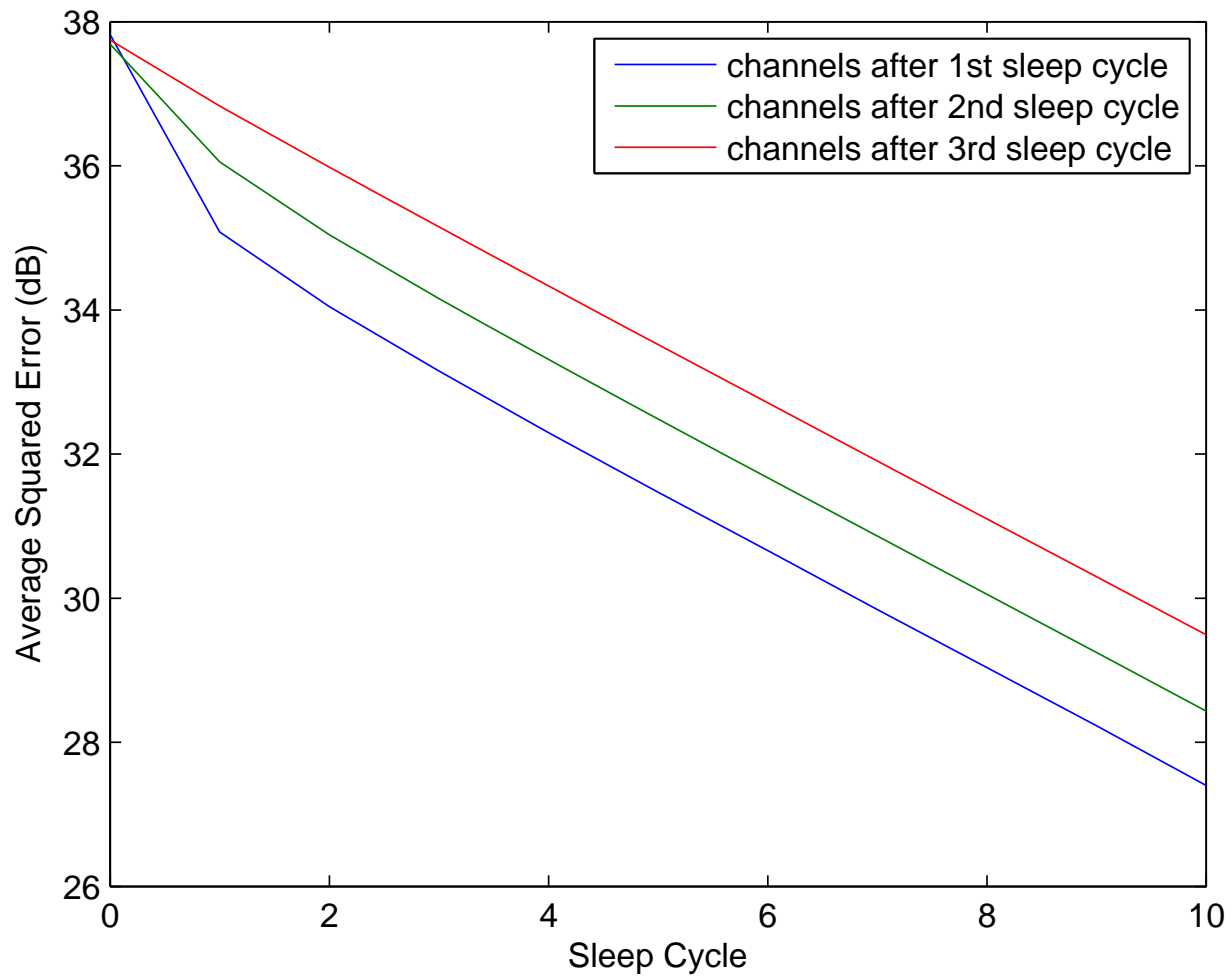
- A network with 20 sensors
- Random sleep strategy with  $K = 10, d = 4, c = 2$
- Training sequence of length 1000
- Monte Carlo Simulations 400
- Plot average estimation error of only those channel gains observed directly or indirectly after  $\ell$  iterations

## Simulation results: EP [8, 9]



- For directly observed links, drastic change after first sleep cycle
- Drastic change shifts for the indirectly observed links
- Estimation error decreases even after that

# Simulation results: LMS



- Maximum step size before it starts to diverge: 1.995

# Communication Network & Energy Constraints

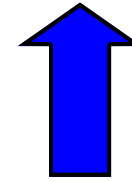
Computation & Delay Constraints

low  
high

low

high

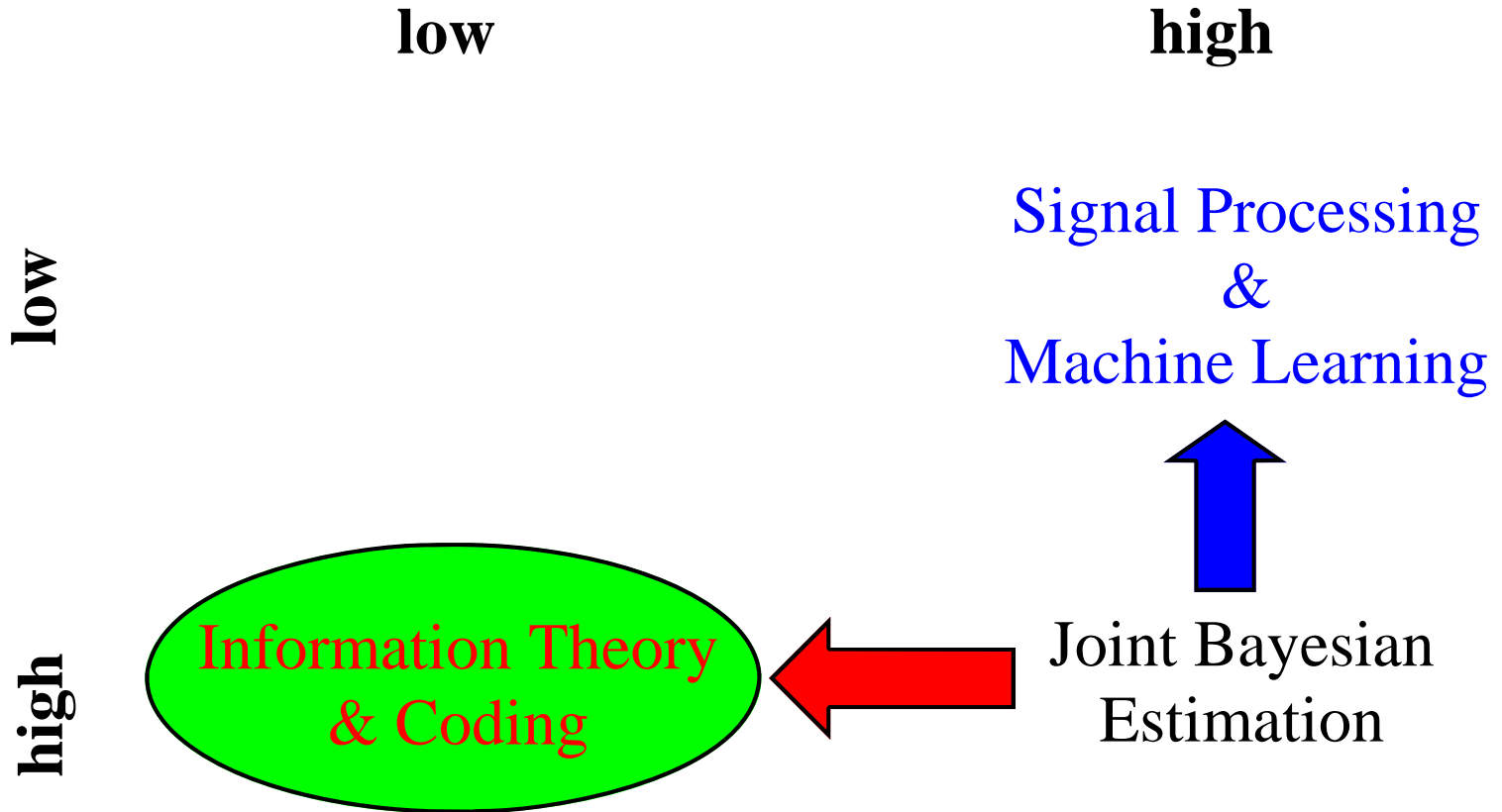
Signal Processing  
&  
Machine Learning



Joint Bayesian  
Estimation

# Communication Network & Energy Constraints

Computation & Delay Constraints

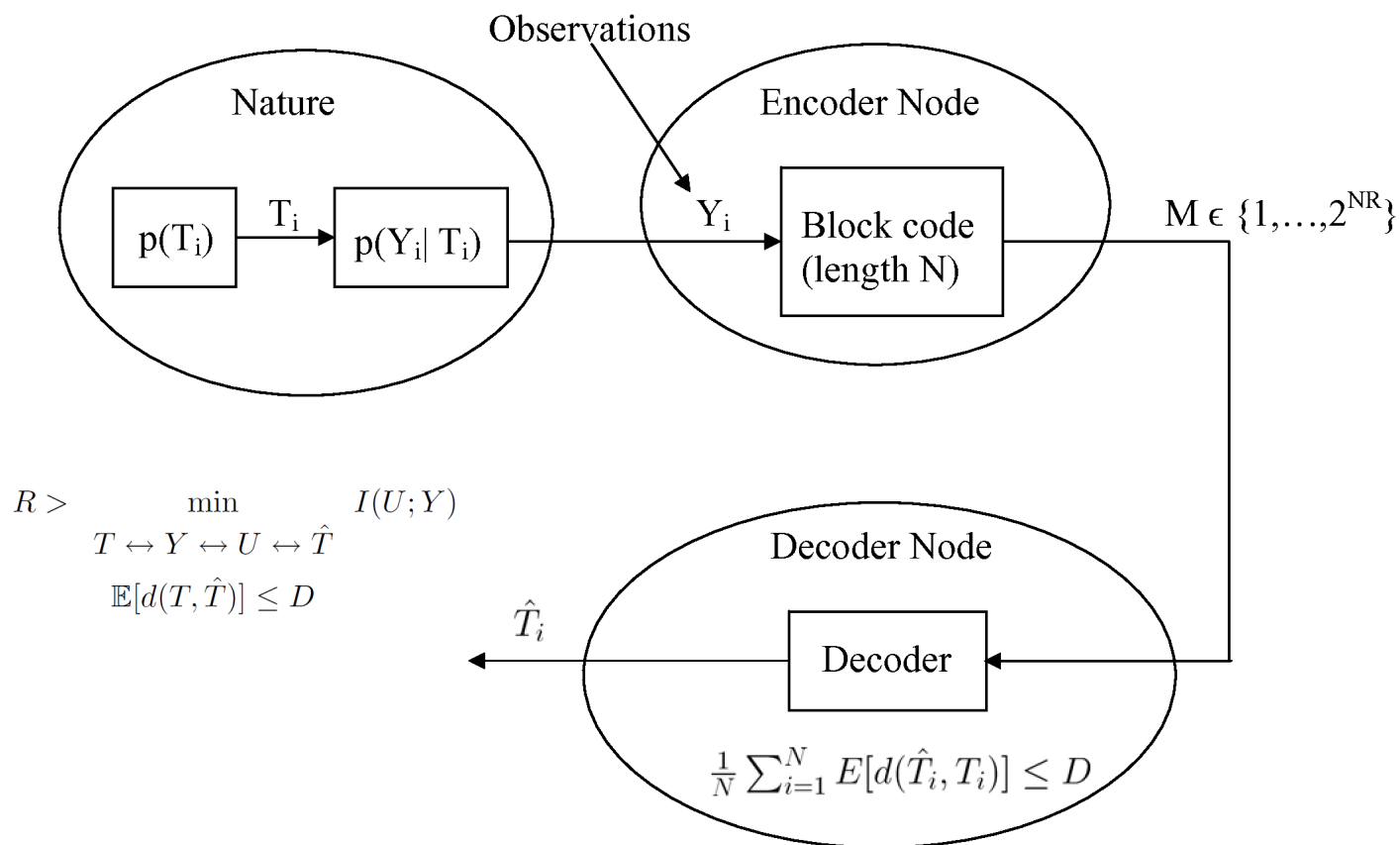


## The Information Theory/Coding Perspective

**PROBLEM 2:** only  $\mathbf{r}_m$  is originally available to node  $m$ ,  
any communication is over finite rate links

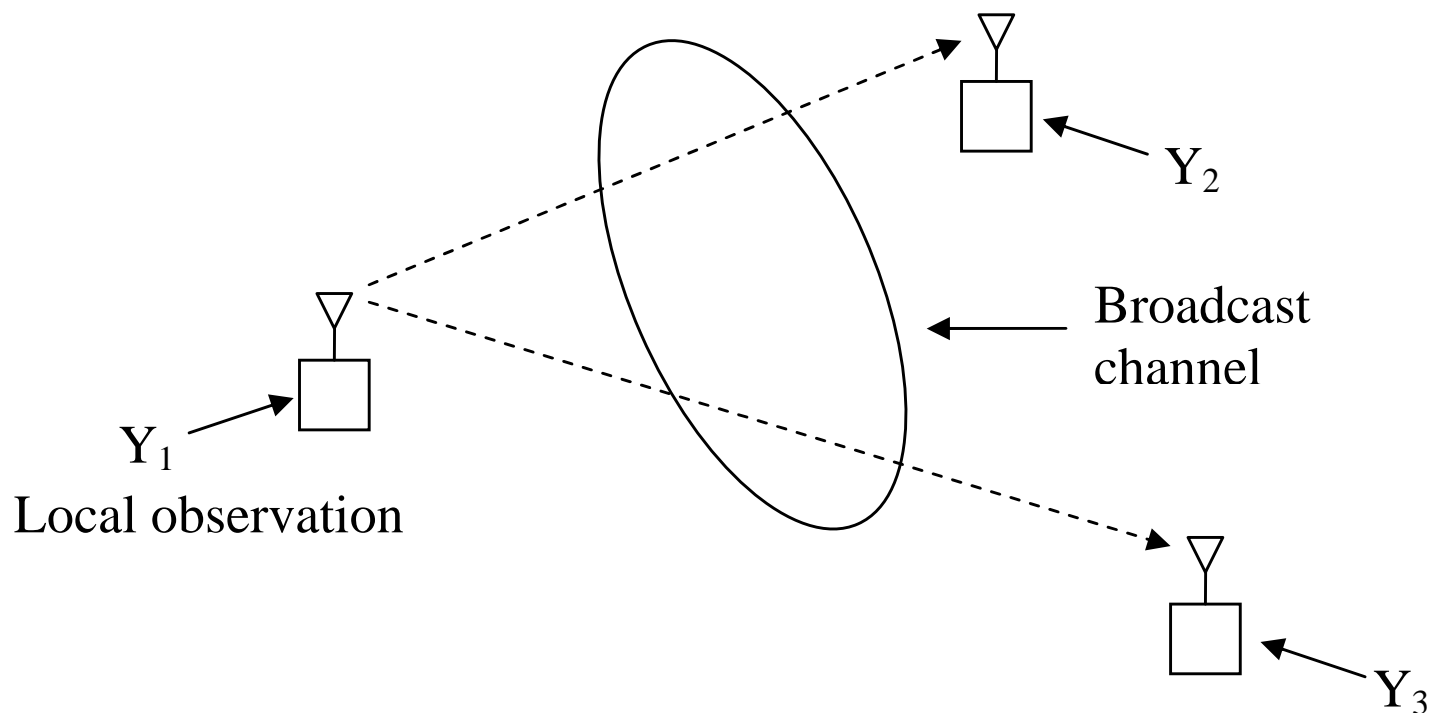
- another major important difficulty: the nodes must send their messages over a rate limited wired or wireless communication network. The information exchanged can not exceed the capabilities of this network.
- In a wireless network, the capabilities of the network are strongly related to the energy expenditures of the network nodes, due to a large amount of power spent on transmission.
- How should the communications be organized to allow for the best estimate performance when adapted to different communications networks? (I.e. what is the code structure?)
- What is the best estimate performance we can have subject to these constraints?

## Relationship Between Remote Bayesian Estimation and Lossy Source Coding



- $\frac{1}{N} \sum_{i=1}^N \mathbb{E}[d(\hat{T}_i, T_i)] < D$  plays the role of an average Bayesian cost. Dobrushin & Tsybakov '62 [18] showed minimum rate necessary to attain  $< D$  is
- Just like rate distortion function but with  $T_i$  instead of  $Y_i$ , and Markov requirement.

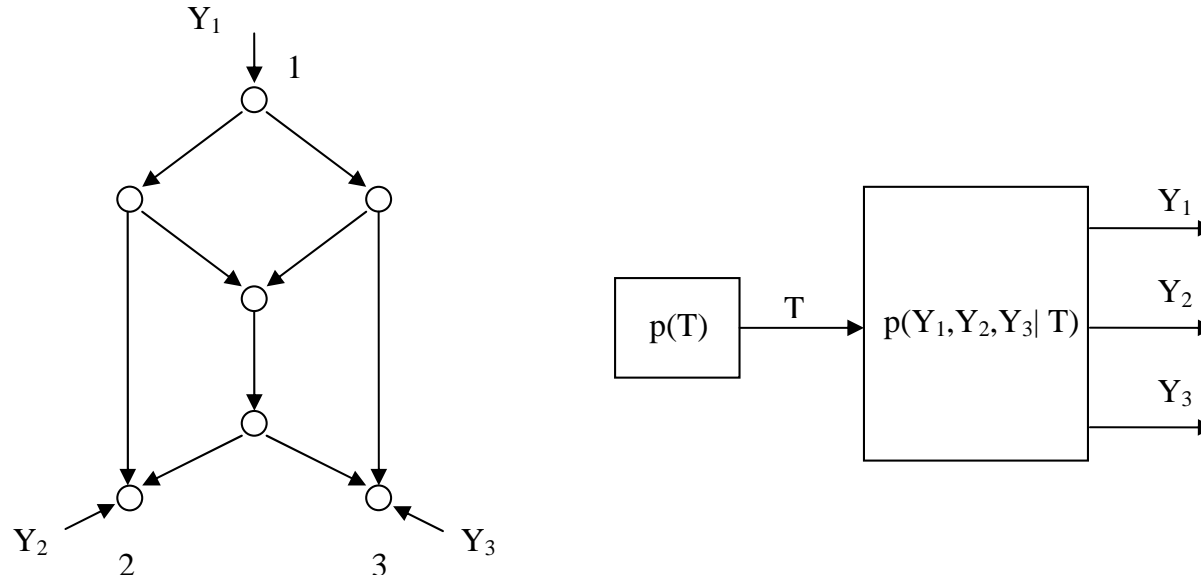
## What should the source code architecture be?



- Scalar Gaussian broadcast channel is degraded:
  - everything that receiver w/  $\downarrow$  SNR gets, the receiver with  $\uparrow$  SNR gets
  - receiver w/  $\uparrow$  SNR can get extra info
- Source code construction should reflect this:
  - If source code sends only individual messages  $S_{1 \rightarrow 2}, S_{1 \rightarrow 3}$  the ability of receiver w/  $\uparrow$  SNR to hear everything sent to the receiver w/  $\downarrow$  SNR is *wasted*
  - $\Rightarrow$  should use *multicast* messages!  $S_{1 \rightarrow \{2,3\}}, S_{1 \rightarrow 2}, S_{1 \rightarrow 3}$ .



## What should the source code architecture be?



- Network coding insight: limitation for  $R_{1 \rightarrow \{2,3\}}$  is 2, higher than maximum equal  $R_{1 \rightarrow 2}, R_{1 \rightarrow 3} = \frac{3}{2}$ .
- Again implies that (even separated) source coding construction should allow for *multicast* rates.

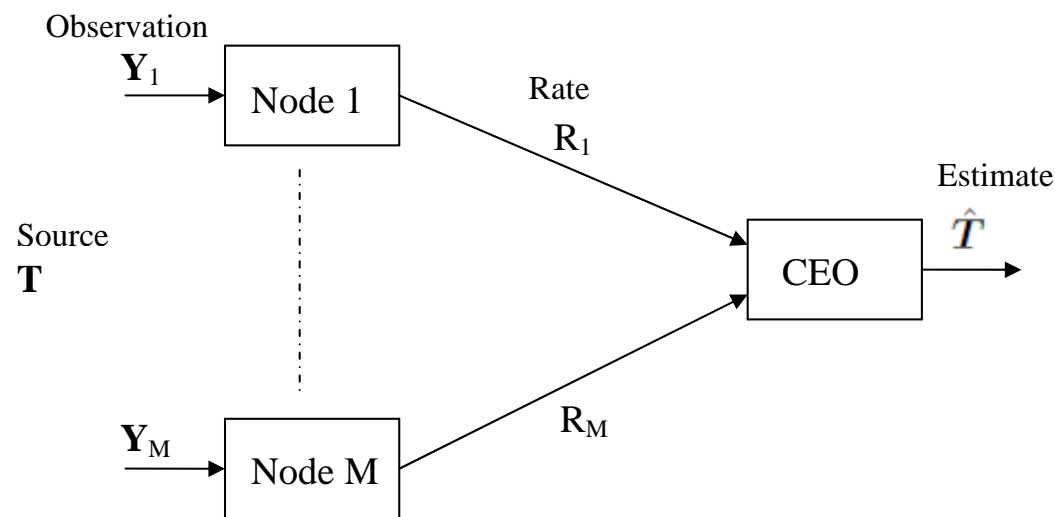
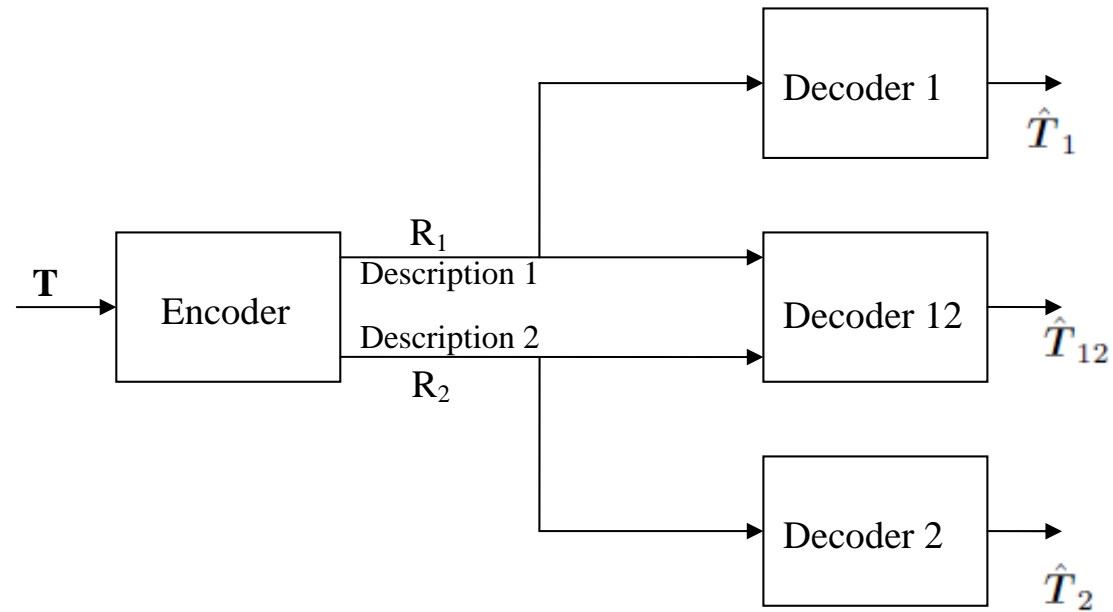


## What performance do the best such codes have? (Motivation)

- Rate distortion region  $\mathcal{R}$  of achievable rate vector  $\mathbf{r} := [R_{j \rightarrow \mathcal{A}} | j \in [M], \mathcal{A} \subseteq [M] \setminus j]$  and estimation error (cost) vector  $\mathbf{d} := [D_j | j \in [M]]$  pairs characterizes the best such codes.
- Capacity region  $\mathcal{C}$  of a network is described in terms of all achievable  $\mathbf{r}$ .
- Best estimation performances attainable are those  $\mathbf{d}$  associated with a  $\mathbf{r}$  through  $(\mathbf{r}, \mathbf{d}) \in \mathcal{R}$  with  $\mathbf{r}$  on the boundary of  $\mathcal{C}$ .
- Hence, inner and outer bounds for the rate distortion region  $\mathcal{R}$  for this problem are of interest.

# Rate Distortion Region

our problem is a hybrid between two classic information theory problems...[19][20][21]



## Rate Distortion Region: Inner Bound

- Multiple ( $M$ ) Descriptions Achievability:

1. select  $p(\mathbf{U}|T)$  such that  $\mathbb{E}[d(T, f(V, \{U_{\mathcal{A}}|\mathcal{A} \subseteq \mathcal{B}\}))] < D_{\mathcal{B}}$ . Each element  $U_{\mathcal{A}}$  of  $\mathbf{U}$  corresponds to codeword avail. to nodes w/ all descriptions in  $\mathcal{A} \subset [M]$ .
2. Generate codebook for  $\mathcal{A}$  as  $2^{N\tilde{R}_{\mathcal{A}}}$  length  $N$  codewords i.i.d.  $p(U_{\mathcal{A}})$ .

$$\sum_{\mathcal{A} \in \mathcal{P}} \tilde{R}_{\mathcal{A}} > \sum_{\mathcal{A} \in \mathcal{P}} H(U_{\mathcal{A}}|V) - H(\mathbf{U}_{\mathcal{P}}|T, V) \quad \text{for all } \mathcal{P} \subseteq 2^{[M]}$$

makes sure  $\exists$  codewords jointly typical w/ each other and  $T^N$  at encoder.

- CEO Achievability:

1. select  $p(U_i|Y_i)$ ,  $U_{[M]\setminus i}, Y_{[M]\setminus i} \leftrightarrow Y_i V \leftrightarrow U_i$ , such that  $\mathbb{E}[d(T, f(U_{[M]}, V))] < D$ .
2. Generate codebook for  $i$  as  $2^{N\tilde{R}_i}$  length  $N$  codewords iid  $p(U_i)$  w/  $\tilde{R}_i > I(U_i; Y_i)$ . Divide into  $2^{NR_i}$  bins, send index of bin with codeword jointly typical with observations  $Y_i^N$ .

$$\sum_{i \in \mathcal{A}} R_i > I(Y_{\mathcal{A}}; U_{\mathcal{A}}|U_{[M]\setminus \mathcal{A}})$$

makes sure  $\exists$  codewords jointly typical w/ each other in bins at decoder.

## Rate Distortion Region: Inner Bound

To hybridize the CEO and MD constructions, let each encoder in CEO encode multiple dependent descriptions, then bin.  $\implies$  both *encoder* (codebook size) & *decoder* (bin size) inequalities nontrivial. [22]

- $\mathcal{S}_i, \mathcal{D}_i$ , messages sent, recvd at node  $i$ , resp.
- **Time Sharing:**  $V$  is independent from  $\mathbf{Y}_{[M]}, T$
- **Encoding Constraints:**  $T, \hat{\mathbf{T}}_{[M]}, \mathbf{Y}_{[M]\setminus i}, \mathbf{U}_{\mathcal{S}\setminus\mathcal{S}_i} \leftrightarrow Y_i, V \leftrightarrow \mathbf{U}_{\mathcal{S}_i}$
- **Decoding Constraints:**  $T, \hat{\mathbf{T}}_{[M]\setminus i}, \mathbf{Y}_{[M]\setminus i}, \mathbf{U}_{\mathcal{S}\setminus\mathcal{D}_i} \leftrightarrow Y_i, \mathbf{U}_{\mathcal{D}_i}, V \leftrightarrow \hat{\mathbf{T}}_i$ , and  $D_i > \mathbb{E} \left[ d_i \left( T; \hat{\mathbf{T}}_i \right) \right]$

## Rate Distortion Region: Inner Bound

- **Codebooks:**  $\forall \mathcal{P}_j \subseteq \mathcal{S}_j, \forall j \in [M]$

$$\sum_{(j \rightarrow \mathcal{A}) \in \mathcal{P}_j} \tilde{R}_{j \rightarrow \mathcal{A}} > \sum_{(j \rightarrow \mathcal{A}) \in \mathcal{P}_j} H(U_{j \rightarrow \mathcal{A}} | V) - H(\mathbf{U}_{\mathcal{P}_j} | Y_j, V),$$

Makes sure there is a collection of codewords in the codebooks jointly typical with each other and the observations at each *encoder*.

- **Bins:** for all  $\mathcal{C}_i \subseteq \mathcal{D}_i$  and  $i \in [M]$

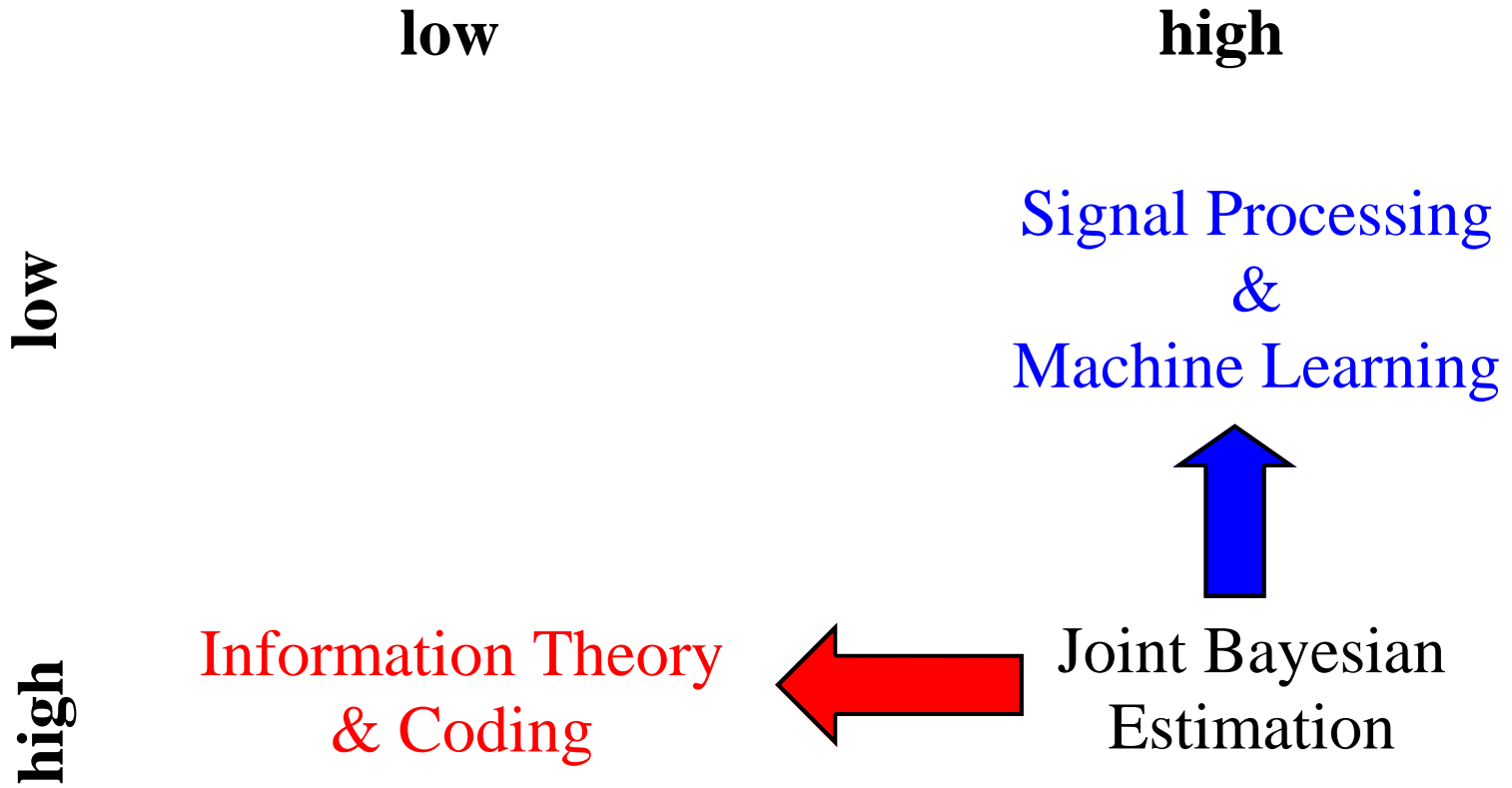
$$\sum_{(j \rightarrow \mathcal{A}) \in \mathcal{C}_i} R_{j \rightarrow \mathcal{A}} > \sum_{(j \rightarrow \mathcal{A}) \in \mathcal{C}_i} \left( \tilde{R}_{j \rightarrow \mathcal{A}} - H(U_{j \rightarrow \mathcal{A}} | V) \right) + H(\mathbf{U}_{\mathcal{C}_i} | V, \mathbf{U}_{\mathcal{D}_i \setminus \mathcal{C}_i}, Y_i)$$

Makes sure that the bins are small enough such that there is only one collection of codewords jointly typical with each other and the side information at each *decoder*.

How might these perspectives be reconciled?

## Communication Network & Energy Constraints

Computation & Delay Constraints

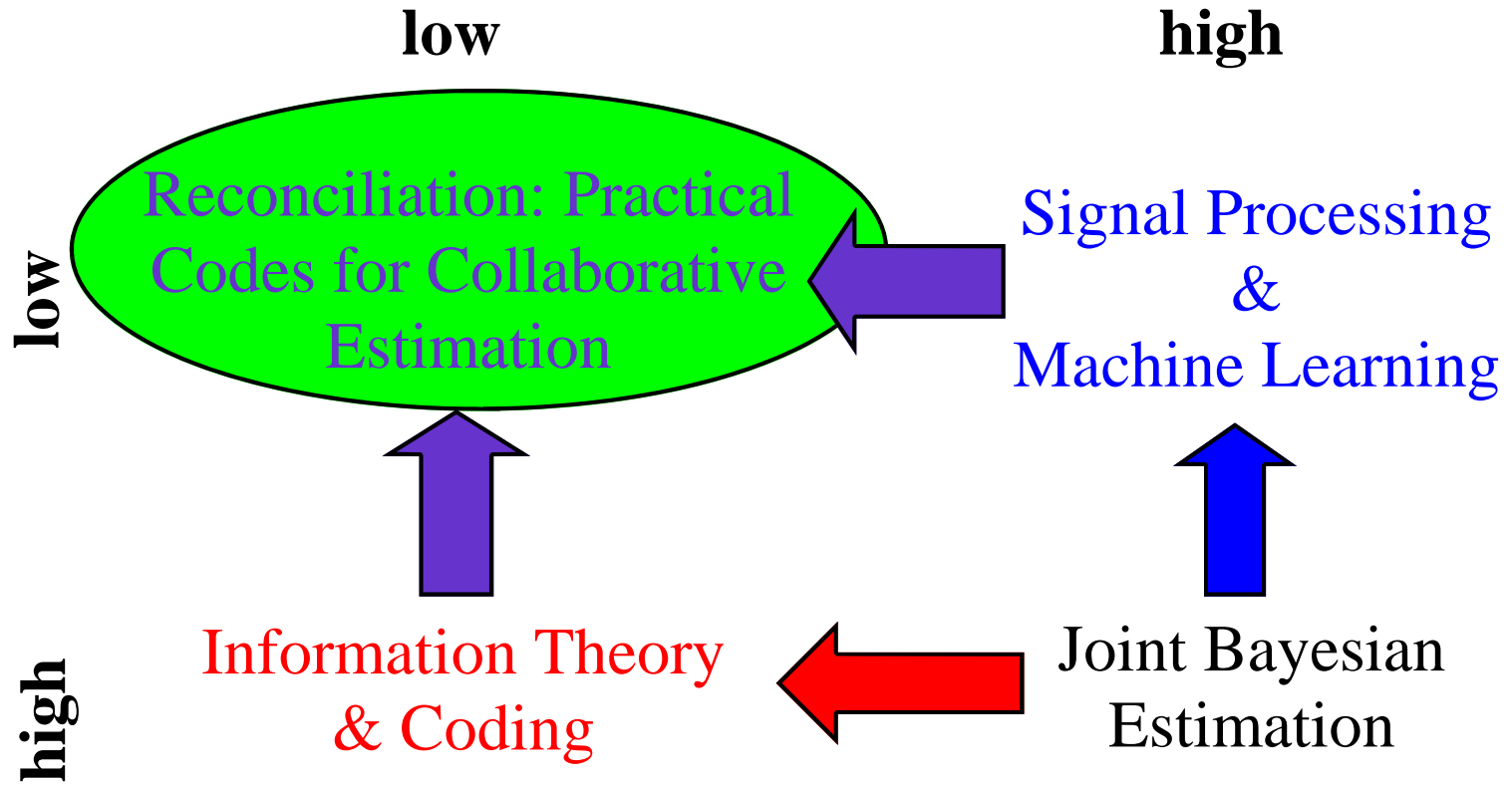




How might these perspectives be reconciled?

## Communication Network & Energy Constraints

Computation & Delay Constraints



## How might these perspectives be reconciled? Future Work

- Sparse graph coding constructions and modifications of BP decoders have been adapted to some multiterminal coding problems (Wyner-Ziv, Slepian-Wolf)
- How can they be adapted and generalized to this one?
- What do the information theoretic bound evaluate to in important pragmatic estimation problems for wireless networks, such as for channel estimation?
- Belief/expectation propagation can help not only with designing the decoders, but also determining which information to compress in order to make risk minimization tractable after decoding.

# References

- [1] T. P. Minka, “Expectation propagation for approximate Bayesian inference,” in *Uncertainty in AI’01*, 2001.
- [2] —, “A family of algorithms for approximate bayesian inference,” Ph.D. dissertation, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, 2001.
- [3] J. M. Walsh, “Distributed Iterative Decoding and Estimation via Expectation Propagation: Performance and Convergence,” Ph.D. dissertation, Cornell University, 2006.
- [4] J. Pearl, *Probabilistic reasoning in intelligent systems : networks of plausible inference*. Morgan Kaufmann Publishers, 1988.
- [5] F. R. Kschischang, B. J. Frey, and H.-A. Loeliger, “Factor graphs and the sum-product algorithm,” *IEEE Trans. Inform. Theory*, vol. 47, pp. 498–519, Feb. 2001.
- [6] T. J. Richardson and R. L. Urbanke, “The capacity of low-density parity-check codes under message-passing decoding,” *IEEE Trans. Inform. Theory*, vol. 47, no. 2, pp. 599–618, Feb. 2001.
- [7] T. J. Richardson, M. A. Shokrollahi, and R. L. Urbanke, “Design of capacity-approaching irregular low-density parity-check codes,” *IEEE Trans. Inform. Theory*, no. 2, pp. 619–639, Feb. 2001.
- [8] S. Ramanan and J. M. Walsh, “Distributed Estimation of Channel Gains in Wireless Sensor Networks,” in *Forty-Second Asilomar Conference on Signals, Systems, and Computers*, Oct. 2008. [Online]. Available: [http://www.ece.drexel.edu/walsh/Ramanan\\_Asilomar\\_08.pdf](http://www.ece.drexel.edu/walsh/Ramanan_Asilomar_08.pdf)
- [9] S. Ramanan and J. M. Walsh, “Distributed Estimation of Channel Gains in Wireless Sensor Networks,” *IEEE Trans. Signal Processing*, submitted March 16, 2009. Rejected. Revised and resubmitted August, 2009.
- [10] J. M. Walsh and P. A. Regalia, “Expectation propagation for distributed estimation in sensor networks,” in *8th IEEE International Workshop on Signal Processing Advances for Wireless Communications (SPAWC)*, Helsinki, Finland, June 2007. [Online]. Available: <http://www.ece.drexel.edu/walsh/spawc07.pdf>
- [11] J. M. Walsh, P. A. Regalia, and S. Ramanan, “Optimality of Expectation Propagation Based Distributed Estimation for Wireless Sensor Network Initialization,” in *9th IEEE Workshop on Signal Processing Advances in Wireless Communications (SPAWC)*, July 2008, pp. 620 – 624. [Online]. Available: <http://www.ece.drexel.edu/walsh/WalshSpawc08.pdf>
- [12] M. Cetin, L. Chen, J. W. Fisher III, A. T. Ihler, R. L. Moses, M. J. Wainwright, and A. S. Willsky, “Distributed Fusion in Sensor Networks,” *IEEE Signal Processing Mag.*, pp. 42–55, July 2006.
- [13] A. T. Ihler, I. J. W. Fisher, R. L. Moses, and A. S. Willsky, “Nonparametric belief propagation for sensor network self-calibration,” in *Proc. The International Conference on Acoustics, Speech, and Signal Processing (ICASSP)*, Montreal, Quebec, May 2004.
- [14] —, “Nonparametric Belief Propagation for Self-Calibration in Sensor Networks,” in *Information Processing in Sensor Networks (IPSN)*, July 2004.
- [15] —, “Nonparametric Belief Propagation for Sensor Network Self-Calibration,” *IEEE J. Select. Areas Commun.*, vol. 23, april 2005.

- [16] C. C. Moallemi and B. Van Roy, "Consensus propagation," *IEEE Trans. Inform. Theory*, vol. 52, no. 11, pp. 4753–4766, Nov. 2006.
- [17] C. G. Lopes and A. H. Sayed, "Incremental adaptive strategies over distributed networks," *IEEE Trans. Signal Processing*, vol. 55, no. 8, pp. 4064–4077, Aug. 2007.
- [18] R. L. Dobrushin and B. S. Tsybakov, "Information transmission with additional noise," *IEEE Transactions on Information Theory*, vol. IT-8, no. 5, pp. 293–304, September 1962.
- [19] J. Chen, X. Zhang, T. Berger, and S. B. Wicker, "An upper bound on the sum-rate distortion function and its corresponding rate allocation schemes for the ceo problem," *IEEE Journal on Selected Areas in Communications*, vol. 22, no. 6, pp. 977–987, August 2004.
- [20] T. Berger, Z. Zhang, and H. Viswanathan, "The CEO Problem," *IEEE Transactions on Information Theory*, vol. 42, no. 3, pp. 887–902, May 1996.
- [21] A. El Gamal and T. M. Cover, "Achievable rates for multiple descriptions," *IEEE Transactions on Information Theory*, vol. IT-28, no. 6, pp. 851–857, November 1982.
- [22] Te Sun Han and Kingo Kobayashi, "A Unified Achievable Rate Region for a General Class of Multiterminal Source Coding Systems," *IEEE Trans. Inform. Theory*, vol. IT-26, no. 3, pp. 277–288, May 1980.