

# The Dispersion of Slepian-Wolf Coding

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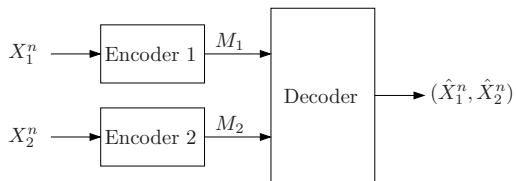
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Oliver Kosut  
Massachusetts Institute of  
Technology

# The Slepian-Wolf Problem

The optimal rate region for the Slepian-Wolf problem  $\mathcal{R}_{\text{SW}}^*$  is



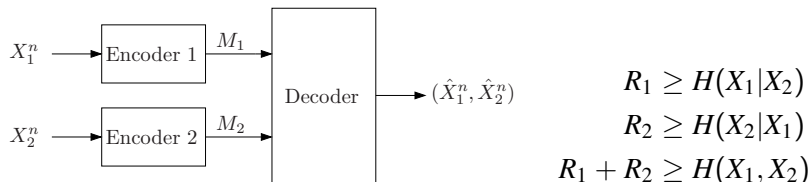
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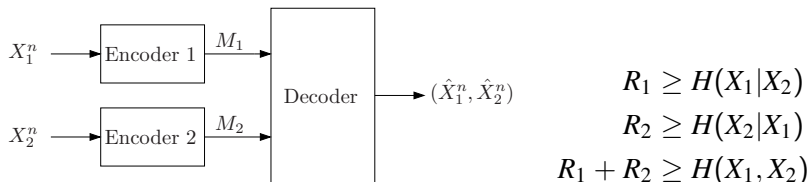
How does the region change if we impose that the **blocklength**  $n$  but allow the **error probability** to be no larger than  $\epsilon > 0$ ?

The error probability is defined as

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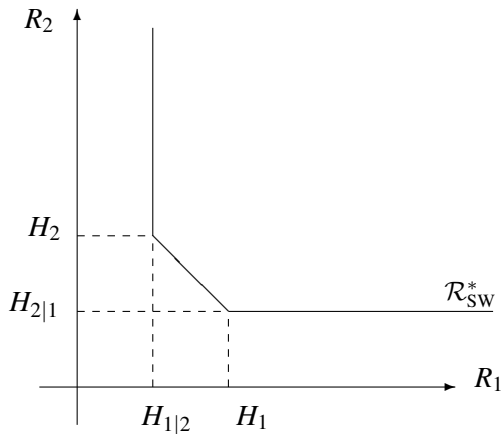
The  $(n, \epsilon)$ -region  $\mathcal{R}_{\text{SW}}^*(n, \epsilon)$  is the set of all  $(n, \epsilon)$ -achievable rates.

# Main Contribution

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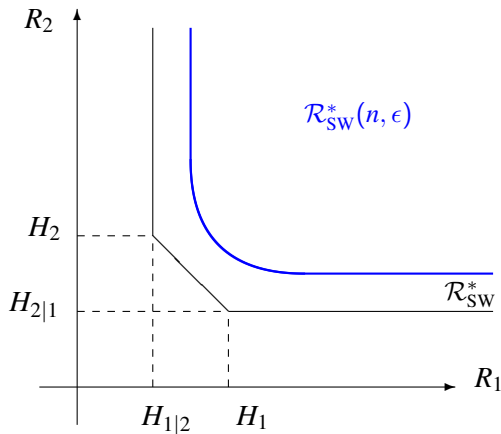


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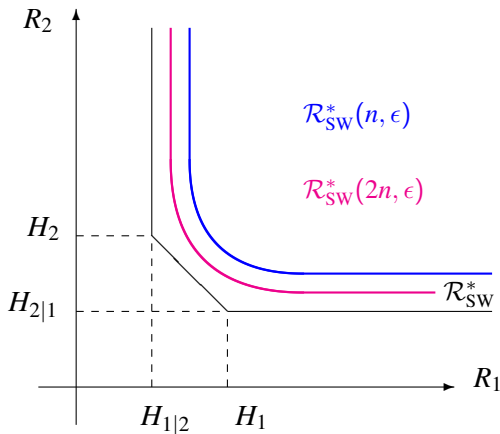
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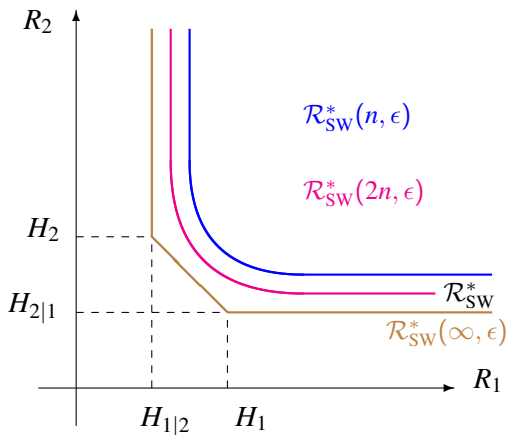
$$\begin{aligned}R_1 &\geq H(X_1|X_2) \\R_2 &\geq H(X_2|X_1) \\R_1 + R_2 &\geq H(X_1, X_2)\end{aligned}$$





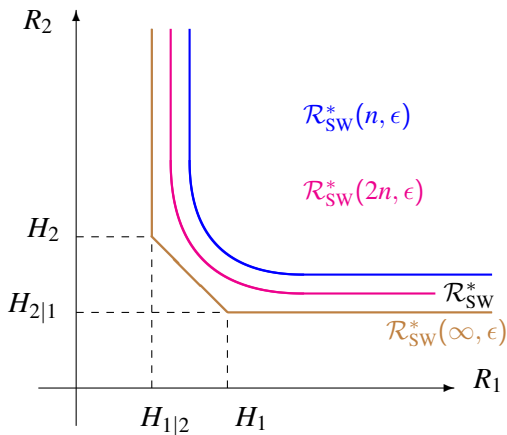
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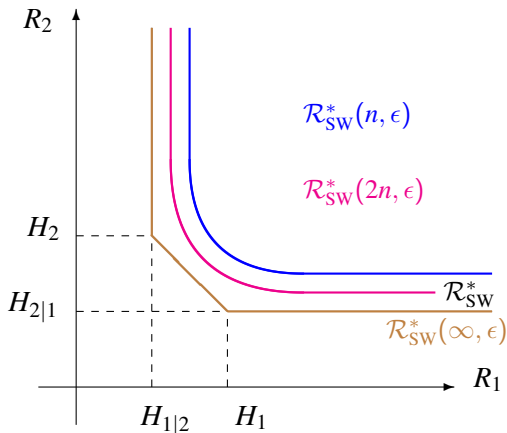
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Figure “correct” up to  $O(\frac{\log n}{n})$  terms.

# Prior Work on $(n, \epsilon)$ -regions

- For fixed-length **lossless source coding** [Strassen (1964), Kontoyiannis (1997), Hayashi (2008)],

$$R^*(n, \epsilon) = H(X) + \sqrt{\frac{V_1}{n}} Q^{-1}(\epsilon) + O\left(\frac{\log n}{n}\right)$$

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- Recent second-order coding rate results for

- 1 **Intrinsic randomness** and **resolvability** (Hayashi 2008)
- 2 **Channel coding** (Polyanskiy et al. 2010 and Hayashi 2009)
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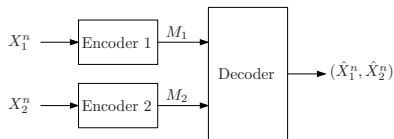
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- First non-trivial network information theory problem (**where there is more than one rate**) is the **Slepian-Wolf** problem

# $(n, \epsilon)$ -region for the Slepian-Wolf Problem



An  $(n, 2^{nR_1}, 2^{nR_2}, \epsilon)$  code for the source  $(X_1, X_2)$  is characterized by

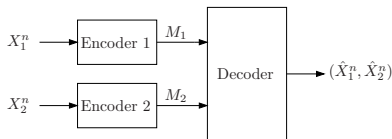
- 1 Two Encoders:  $f_{j,n} : \mathcal{X}_j^n \rightarrow [1 : 2^{nR_j}]$  for  $j = 1, 2$
- 2 Decoder:  $\varphi_n : [1 : 2^{nR_1}] \times [1 : 2^{nR_2}] \rightarrow \mathcal{X}_1^n \times \mathcal{X}_2^n$

such that  $\mathbb{P}((\hat{X}_1^n, \hat{X}_2^n) \neq (X_1^n, X_2^n)) \leq \epsilon$ .

## Definition

Rate pair  $(R_1, R_2)$  is  **$(n, \epsilon)$ -achievable** if there exists an  $(n, 2^{nR_1}, 2^{nR_2}, \epsilon)$  code for the source  $(X_1, X_2)$ .

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The  **$(n, \epsilon)$ -optimal rate region**  $\mathcal{R}_{\text{SW}}^*(n, \epsilon)$  is the set of all  $(n, \epsilon)$ -achievable rate pairs.



- Baron et al. (2004): Slepian-Wolf with **perfect side-information**

$$R_1 \approx H(X_1|X_2) + \sqrt{\frac{V}{n}} Q^{-1}(\epsilon)$$

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- Sarvotham-Baron-Baraniuk (2005): Slepian-Wolf for **correlated Bernoulli(1/2) sources**

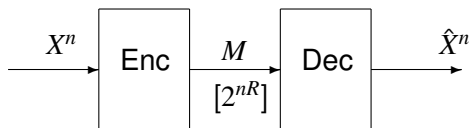
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where  $V_1 = \text{Var}(-\log p_{X_1|X_2}(X_1|X_2))$ ,  $V_2 = \text{Var}(-\log p_{X_2|X_1}(X_2|X_1))$   
and  $V_3 = \text{Var}(-\log p_{X_1, X_2}(X_1, X_2))$ .

# Point-To-Point Source Coding Revisited



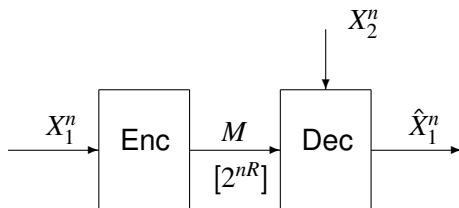
Rate  $R$  is  $(n, \epsilon)$ -achievable if [Strassen (1964) and Kontoyiannis (1997)]

$$R \geq H(X) + \sqrt{\frac{V}{n}} Q^{-1}(\epsilon)$$

Define **entropy density**  $h(x) = -\log p_X(x)$ , then

- $H(X) = \mathbb{E}[h(X)]$
- $V = \text{Var}[h(X)]$

# Slepian-Wolf with Perfect Side Information



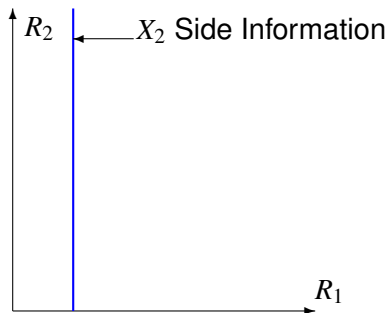
Baron et al. (2004): Rate  $R$  is  $(n, \epsilon)$ -achievable if

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Define **conditional entropy density**  $h(x_1|x_2) = -\log p_{X_1|X_2}(x_1|x_2)$ , then

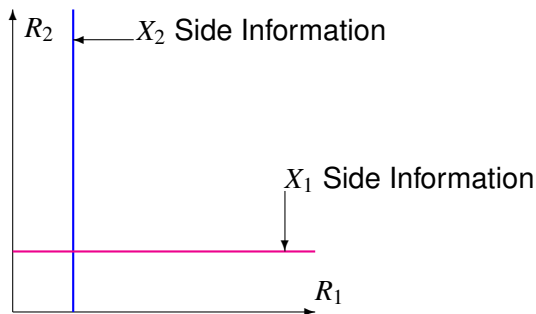
- $H(X_1|X_2) = \mathbb{E}[h(X_1|X_2)]$
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# Simple Slepian-Wolf Outer Bound



$$R_1 \geq H(X_1|X_2) + \sqrt{V_1/n} Q^{-1}(\epsilon), \quad V_1 := \text{Var}[-\log p(X_1|X_2)]$$

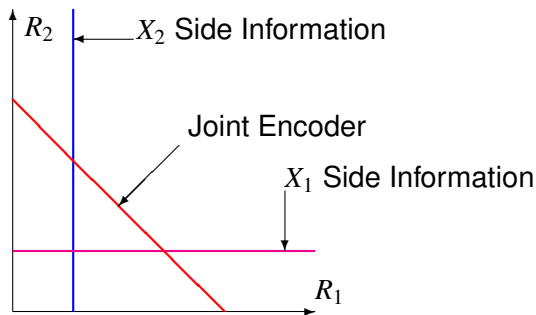
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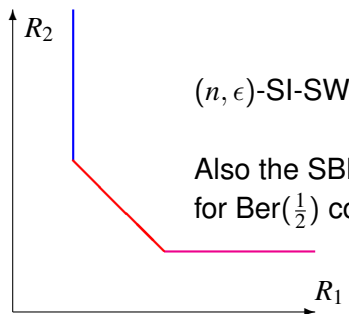
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where the set

$$\mathcal{S}_V(\epsilon) = \{z \in \mathbb{R} : \mathbb{P}(Z \leq z) \geq 1 - \epsilon\}$$

and the random variable  $Z \sim \mathcal{N}(0, V)$ .

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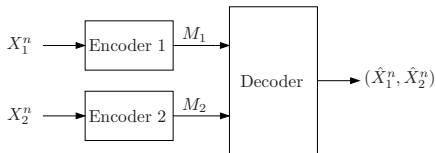
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What's the analogue of this result for the **two-encoder Slepian-Wolf** problem?



# Slepian-Wolf Dispersion Result

- Define **entropy density vector**

$$\mathbf{h}(x_1, x_2) := \begin{bmatrix} -\log p_{X_1|X_2}(x_1|x_2) \\ -\log p_{X_2|X_1}(x_2|x_1) \\ -\log p_{X_1, X_2}(x_1, x_2) \end{bmatrix}$$

- Note that  $\mathbb{E}[\mathbf{h}(X_1, X_2)] = [H(X_1|X_2), H(X_2|X_1), H(X_1, X_2)]^T$

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## Theorem (T.-Kosut (2012))

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and  $\mathcal{S}_{\mathbf{V}}(\epsilon) := \{\mathbf{z} \in \mathbb{R}^3 : \mathbb{P}(\mathbf{Z} \leq \mathbf{z}) \geq 1 - \epsilon\}$  with  $\mathbf{Z} \sim \mathcal{N}(\mathbf{0}, \mathbf{V})$ .

# Slepian-Wolf Dispersion: Proof of Direct Part

Direct part:

- Random binning + Joint minimum empirical entropy decoding similar to error exponent analysis in Csiszár and Körner
- **Multidimensional** Berry-Essèen Theorem

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Theorem (Bentkus 2003)

Let  $\mathbf{X}_1, \dots, \mathbf{X}_n$  be *independent* and identically distributed random vectors in  $\mathbb{R}^d$  with

$$\mathbb{E}(\mathbf{X}_1) = \mathbf{0}_d, \quad \text{Cov}(\mathbf{X}_1) = \mathbf{I}_d, \quad \mathbb{E}\|\mathbf{X}_1\|_2^3 = \xi$$



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Then, for every  $n \in \mathbb{N}$  with  $\mathbf{Z} \sim \mathcal{N}(\mathbf{0}_d, \mathbf{I}_d)$ ,

$$\sup_{\substack{\mathcal{C} \subset \mathbb{R}^d: \\ \mathcal{C} \text{ measurable, convex}}} \left| \mathbb{P} \left( \frac{1}{\sqrt{n}} \sum_{i=1}^n \mathbf{X}_i \in \mathcal{C} \right) - \mathbb{P}(\mathbf{Z} \in \mathcal{C}) \right| \leq \frac{400d^{1/4}\xi}{\sqrt{n}}$$

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- Every  $(n, M_1, M_2, \epsilon)$  SW code has to satisfy

$$\begin{aligned} \epsilon &\geq \mathbb{P} \left[ -\frac{1}{n} \log p_{X_1^n | X_2^n}(X_1^n | X_2^n) \geq \frac{1}{n} \log M_1 + \gamma \right. \\ &\quad \text{or } -\frac{1}{n} \log p_{X_2^n | X_1^n}(X_2^n | X_1^n) \geq \frac{1}{n} \log M_2 + \gamma \\ &\quad \left. \text{or } -\frac{1}{n} \log p_{X_1^n, X_2^n}(X_1^n, X_2^n) \geq \frac{1}{n} \log(M_1 M_2) + \gamma \right] - 3(2^{-n\gamma}) \\ &= 1 - \mathbb{P}(\mathbf{h}(X_1^n, X_2^n) \leq \mathbf{R} + \gamma \mathbf{1}) - 3(2^{-n\gamma}), \quad \mathbf{R} = [R_1, R_2, R_1 + R_2]^T \end{aligned}$$

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- Strong converse in Han's information spectrum book – A result by Miyake and Kanaya (1995)
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- Set  $\gamma = O\left(\frac{\log n}{n}\right)$  and apply the Multidim. Berry-Essèen Theorem

# Our Main Result

The  $(n, \epsilon)$ -optimal rate region for the Slepian-Wolf problem is

$$\begin{bmatrix} R_1 \\ R_2 \\ R_1 + R_2 \end{bmatrix} \in \begin{bmatrix} H(X_1|X_2) \\ H(X_2|X_1) \\ H(X_1, X_2) \end{bmatrix} + \frac{1}{\sqrt{n}} \mathcal{S}_{\mathbf{V}}(\epsilon) \pm O\left(\frac{\log n}{n}\right) \mathbf{1}$$

and  $\mathcal{S}_{\mathbf{V}}(\epsilon) := \{\mathbf{z} \in \mathbb{R}^3 : \mathbb{P}(\mathbf{Z} \leq \mathbf{z}) \geq 1 - \epsilon\}$  with  $\mathbf{Z} \sim \mathcal{N}(\mathbf{0}, \mathbf{V})$ .

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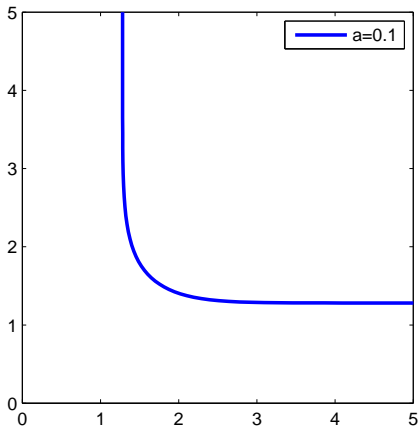
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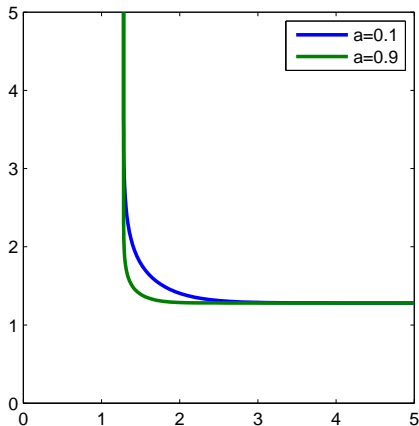
$$\mathbf{V} = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & a \\ a & 1 \end{bmatrix}, \quad a=0.1$$



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$$\mathbf{V} = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & a \\ a & 1 \end{bmatrix}, \quad a=0.9$$

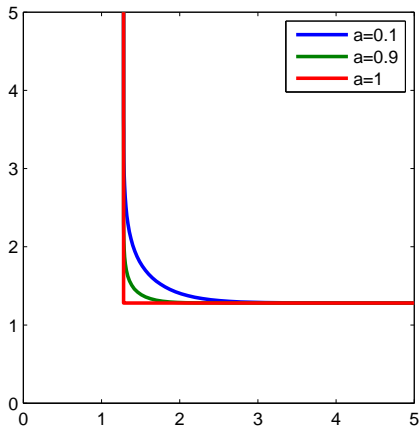




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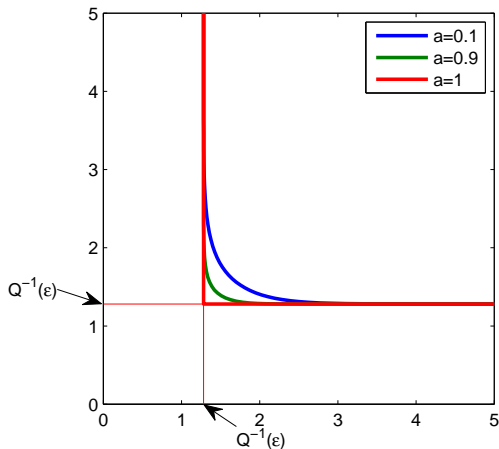
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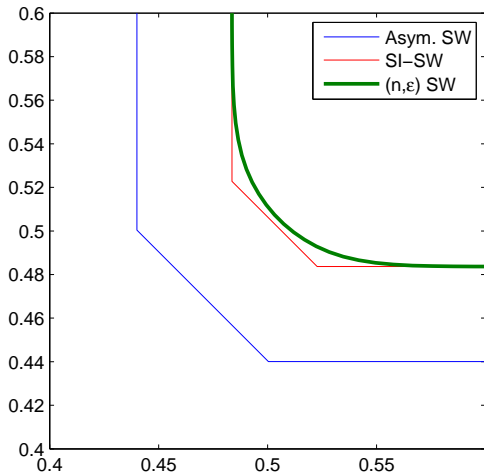


# $(n, \epsilon)$ -Slepian-Wolf Region

$$p(x_1, x_2) = \begin{bmatrix} 0.7 & 0.1 \\ 0.1 & 0.1 \end{bmatrix}$$

$$\epsilon = 0.1$$

$$n = 300$$

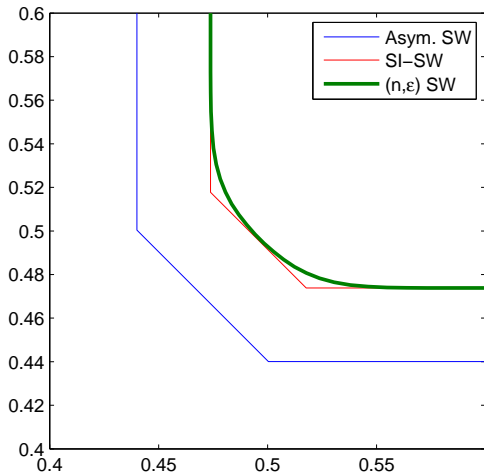


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$$p(x_1, x_2) = \begin{bmatrix} 0.7 & 0.1 \\ 0.1 & 0.1 \end{bmatrix}$$

$$\epsilon = 0.1$$

$$n = 500$$

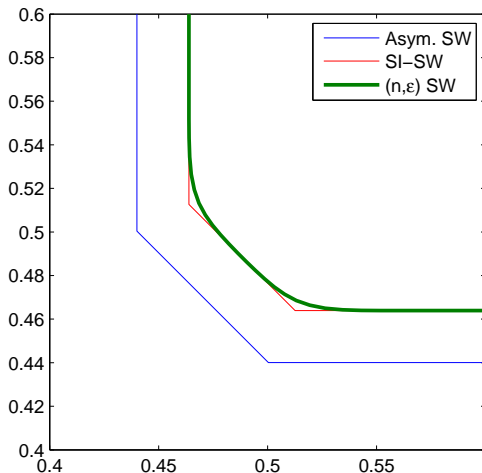


# $(n, \epsilon)$ -Slepian-Wolf Region

$$p(x_1, x_2) = \begin{bmatrix} 0.7 & 0.1 \\ 0.1 & 0.1 \end{bmatrix}$$

$$\epsilon = 0.1$$

$$n = 1000$$

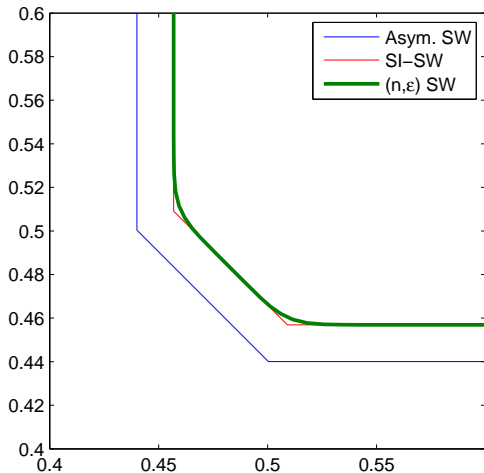


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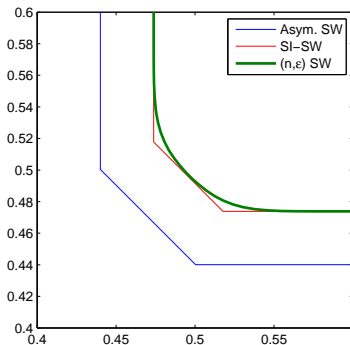
$$p(x_1, x_2) = \begin{bmatrix} 0.7 & 0.1 \\ 0.1 & 0.1 \end{bmatrix}$$

$$\epsilon = 0.1$$

$$n = 2000$$

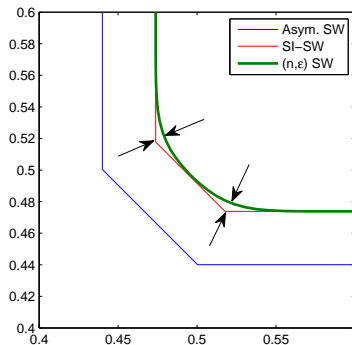


# $(n, \epsilon)$ -Slepian-Wolf vs $(n, \epsilon)$ -side-information SW



Proposition (T.-Kosut (2012))

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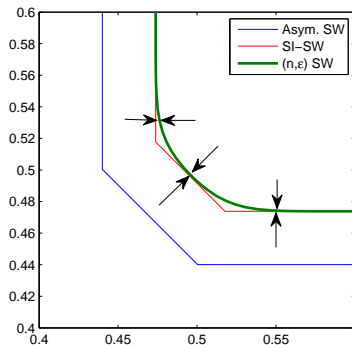


## Proposition (T.-Kosut (2012))

- At corner points, distance is  $\frac{c}{\sqrt{n}}$  for some  $0 < c < \infty$ .



# $(n, \epsilon)$ -Slepian-Wolf vs $(n, \epsilon)$ -side-information SW



## Proposition (T.-Kosut (2012))

- At corner points, distance is  $\frac{c}{\sqrt{n}}$  for some  $0 < c < \infty$ .
- Away from corner points, distance is  $\exp(-\Theta(n))$

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- Given a pair of rates in the interior of the SW region, we can ask what blocklength is needed to achieve a tolerable error probability

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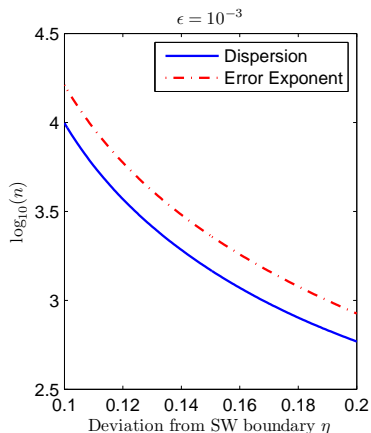
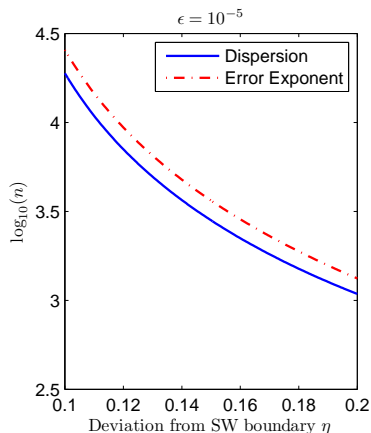
where  $E(R_1, R_2) > 0$  iff  $(R_1, R_2)$  is in the interior of the SW region

- Compare the two methods

Dispersion:  $n_D := \min \{n : \mathbb{P}(\mathbf{Z} \leq \sqrt{n}(\mathbf{R} - \mathbf{H})) \geq 1 - \epsilon\}$

Error Exponent:  $n_E := \left\lceil \frac{1}{E(R_1, R_2)} \log \left( \frac{3}{\epsilon} \right) \right\rceil$

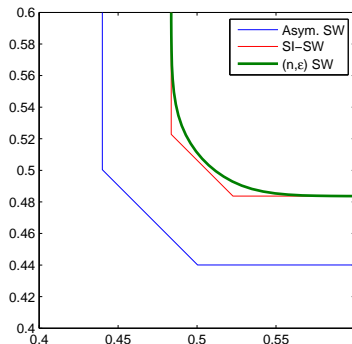
# Comparison to Error Exponent Analysis



Prediction of required blocklength  $n$  by dispersion analysis (the Gaussian approximation) is **much smaller** than error exponent analysis!

# Summary

- Characterization of  $(n, \epsilon)$ -Slepian-Wolf rate region up to  $O(\frac{\log n}{n})$
- All existing Slepian-Wolf results are corollaries of our theorem
- Required use of dispersion **matrix**
- Region differs substantively from the SI-SW only at corner points



# Extensions

- Achievability technique is exceedingly **general**
- Can be applied to get inner bounds to the discrete memoryless
  - 1 **Multiple-access channel**
  - 2 **Asymmetric broadcast channel** (with degraded message sets)
  - 3 **Interference channel**
  - 4 **Transmitting correlated sources over a MAC** (Cover-El Gamal-Salehi, 1980)
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- However, other than the Slepian-Wolf problem, it is difficult to use **information spectrum** methods to get converses for other  $(n, \epsilon)$ -regions in network information theory.