

Probabilistic Shaping for Direct-Detection Optical Systems

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Abstract

- We study probabilistic shaping for direct-detection systems that modulate the intensity or Stokes vector and are limited by thermal or amplifier noise, obtaining analytical formulas for the optimal (non-Gaussian) input distributions and corresponding shaping gains.
- To download updated slides and the papers cited:

`ee.stanford.edu/~jmk/research/smfcom.html#dcs`



Acknowledgments

We gratefully acknowledge the support of

- Meta (previously Facebook)
- Analog Devices (previously Maxim Integrated)
- Marvell Technology (previously InPhi Corporation)
- LG Electronics
- Hewlett Packard
- University of California MICRO Program
- National Science Foundation
 - Grant DGE-1656518
 - Grant ECS-0335013
 - Grant ECS-9710065

Any opinions, findings, and conclusions or recommendations expressed here are those of the authors and do not necessarily reflect the views of the National Science Foundation.

Outline

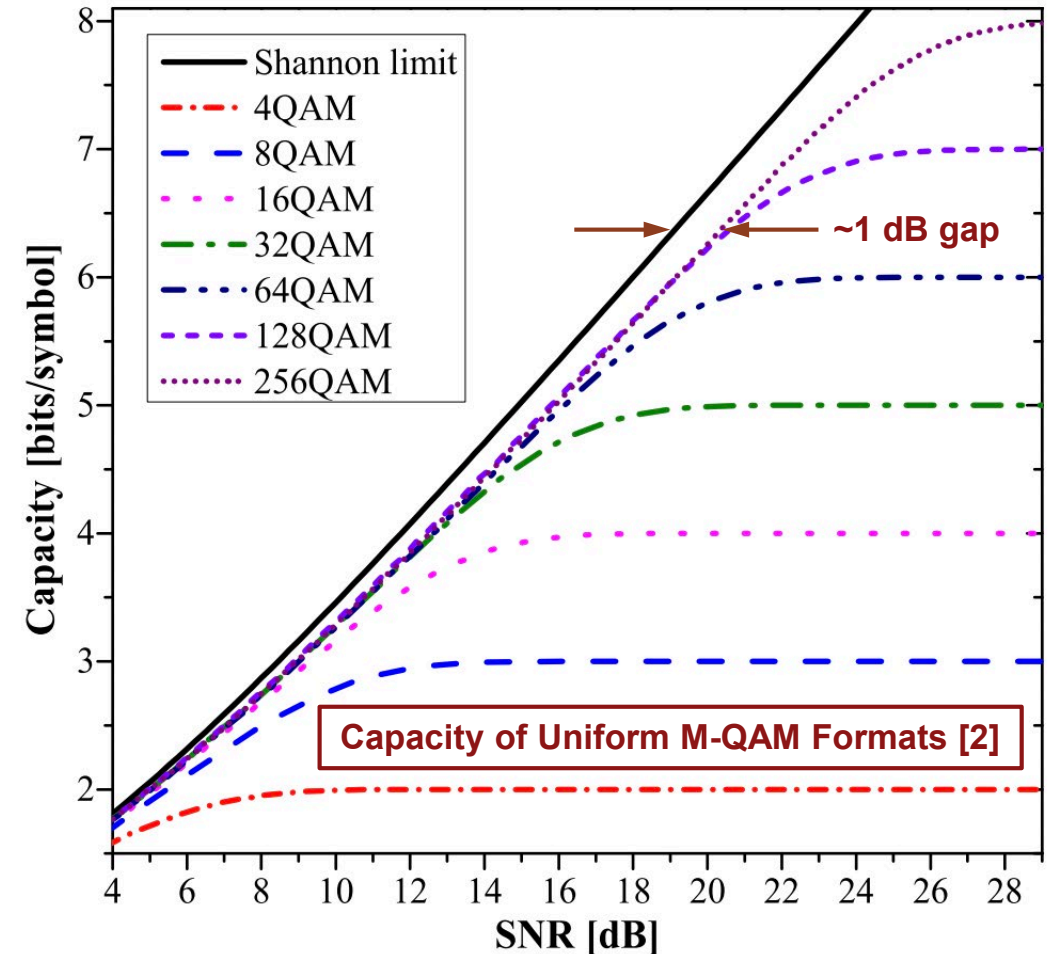
- Introduction
- Standard Coherent Detection
 - Shannon's Method **1948**
 - Forney's Method **1989**
- Direct Detection Methods
 - Standard Direct Detection, Thermal Noise **1999**
 - Standard Direct Detection, Amplifier Noise **2008**
 - Stokes Vector Detection, Thermal or Amplifier Noise **2023**
 - Kramers Kronig Detection, Amplifier Noise **2021**
- Discussion

Outline

- Introduction
 - Probabilistic Shaping
 - Assumptions and Performance Metrics
- Standard Coherent Detection
- Direct Detection Methods
- Discussion

Shaping for Coherent AWGN Channels

- Relevant for coherent detection in electrical or optical systems with additive Gaussian noise.
 - Includes amplifier noise or local oscillator shot noise.
- Capacity-achieving input distribution is Gaussian [1] (when modulation order not constrained).
- Uniform signaling does not achieve capacity. Subject to ~ 1 dB performance gap.
- Probabilistically shaped coded modulation
 - Provides a method to close the performance gap.
 - Enables rate-adaptive transmission without changing modulation order or codeword block length.



1. C. Shannon, Bell System Technical Journal **27.3** (1948).
2. Z. Qu and I. B. Djordjevic, IEEE Access **7** (2019).

Shaping for Direct-Detection Channels

- Would like to rigorously derive optimal input distribution and capacity for various direct-detection channels in optical communications.
- These cannot be computed exactly for several important direct-detection channels:
 - Standard intensity modulation / direct detection (SD) channel.
 - Stokes vector receiver (SVR) channel.
- A method developed by Forney and Wei [1] for coherent AWGN channels has been adapted to direct-detection channels. This allows us to compute the following, at least for high SNR:
 - Analytical input distributions that approach capacity.
 - Achievable gains compared to uniform input distributions.

the main subject of this talk

1. G. Forney and L. Wei, IEEE J. Sel. Areas Commun. 7 (1989).

Local Oscillator-Based vs. Direct Detection

Local Oscillator-Based Detection

- A received signal is mixed with light from a local oscillator laser to
 - Downconvert it to baseband.
 - Effectively amplify the signal.
 - Provide a phase reference.

Direct Detection

- No local oscillator laser is employed at the receiver.
- Detection may be aided by
 - Transmitting an unmodulated carrier with the modulated signal.
 - Mixing the received signal with a (potentially delayed or phase-shifted) copy of itself.

▪ *Local oscillator-based detection is not necessarily coherent.*

▪ *Direct detection is not necessarily noncoherent.*

Detection Methods in Optical Communications

LO-Based Detection Method	Direct Detection Method	Detects	Classification	Signal Dimensions (in 2 Polarizations)
Envelope detection	Standard direct detection	Intensity	Noncoherent	1 or 2
Delay-and-multiply detection	Delay interferometer detection	Differential phase shift	Differentially coherent	1 or 2
Polarization shift keying detection	3-D Stokes vector detection	Stokes parameters	Noncoherent + differentially coherent hybrid	3
Polarization shift keying & delay-and-multiply detection	4-D Stokes vector detection	Stokes parameters & differential phase shift	Noncoherent + differentially coherent hybrid	4
Standard coherent detection	Kramers Kronig detection	Field quadratures	Coherent	4

methods considered here

Adapted from:
 E. Ip, A. P. T. Lau,
 D. J. F. Barros
 and J. M. Kahn,
 Optics Express **16**
 (2008).

Assumptions and Performance Metrics in this Tutorial

Constraints

- Average optical power is constrained.
 - Short-reach: eye safety.
 - Long-haul: fiber nonlinearity, amplifier pump power.
- Peak optical power not constrained.
 - All systems have peak power constraints.
Fundamental studies start by considering average power constraint.
- Encoding and decoding complexity not constrained.

Impairments

- Consider one dominant additive noise, either:
 - Thermal noise: added to detected photo current.
 - Optical amplifier noise: added to optical electric field.
- Impairments not considered:
 - Inter-symbol interference, fiber nonlinearity, etc.

Performance Metrics

- Spectral efficiency measured in b/symbol, not b/s/Hz.
- Standard intensity modulation / direct detection systems
 - Intensity signals are non-negative.
 - There exist no band-limited, non-negative root-Nyquist pulses [1].
 - Standard direct detection systems cannot be strictly bandlimited while using matched filtering.
 - Rectangular pulses with 5-pole Bessel filters can achieve ~ 0.8 symbol/s/Hz.
- 3-D Stokes, Kramers Kronig, standard coherent systems
 - Signals can be bipolar.
 - Root-Nyquist pulses can approach 1 symbol/s/Hz.

1. S. Hranilovic, IEEE Trans. Commun. **55** (2007).

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Standard Coherent: Shannon's Method (1/2)

- The method finds an optimal input distribution maximizing the mutual information subject to an average power constraint.
- The standard coherent channel is relevant for coherent electrical or optical systems. Consider one polarization for simplicity.

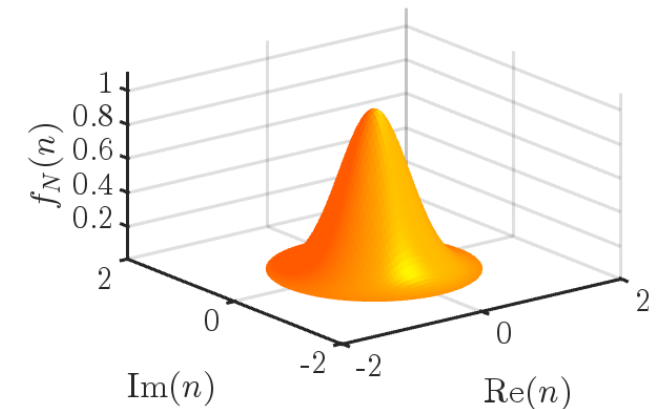
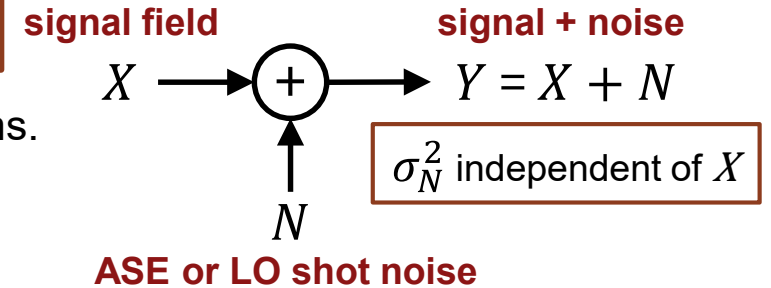
$$Y = X + N, \quad X, N, Y \in \mathbb{C}, \quad X, N \text{ independent}$$

$$N \text{ is Gaussian: } f_N(n) = \frac{1}{2\pi\sigma^2} \exp\left(-\frac{1}{2\sigma^2} \|n\|_2^2\right)$$

- Optimization problem

$$\begin{aligned} \max_{f_X(x)} I(X; Y) &= \max_{f_X(x)} h(Y) - h(Y|X) \\ &= \max_{f_X(x)} h(Y) - h(N) \end{aligned}$$

$$\text{s. t. } \int_{x \in \mathcal{X}} |x|^2 f_X(x) dx \leq \bar{P}$$



C. Shannon, Bell System Technical Journal **27.3** (1948).

Standard Coherent: Shannon's Method (2/2)

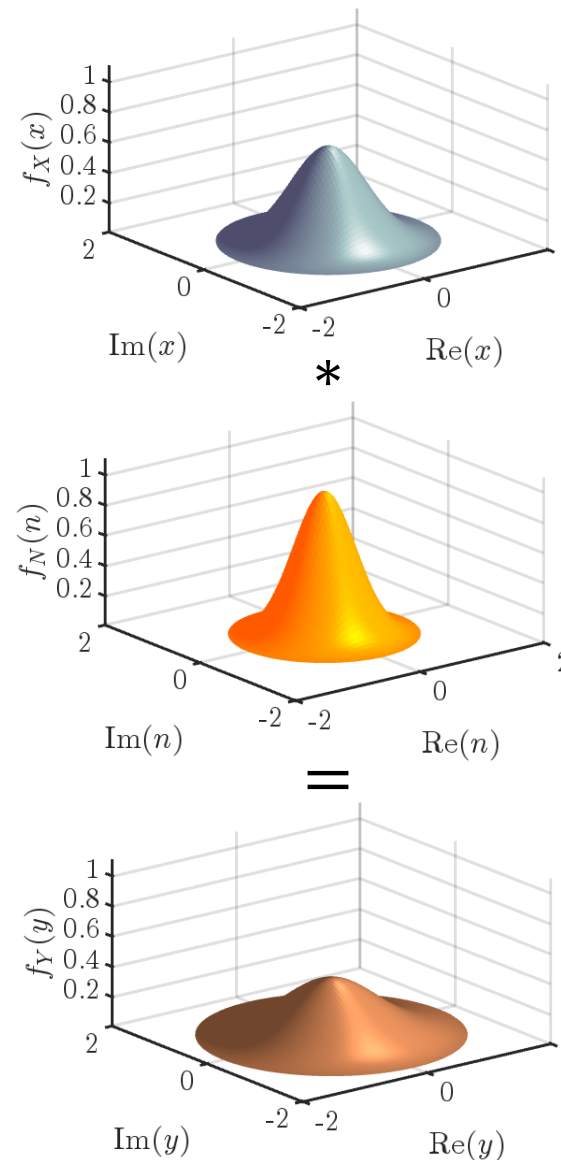
- By variational calculus, the maximum-entropy input distribution subject to an L^2 norm constraint is

$$f_X(x) = \frac{1}{2\pi\bar{P}} \exp\left(-\frac{1}{2\bar{P}} \|x\|_2^2\right) \Leftrightarrow X \sim \mathcal{CN}(0, \bar{P})$$

- When $X \sim \mathcal{CN}(0, \bar{P})$, then $Y \sim \mathcal{CN}(0, \bar{P} + 2\sigma^2)$.
 - $f_Y(y)$ is the maximum entropy distribution subject to an L^2 norm constraint.
 - Therefore, $X \sim \mathcal{CN}(0, \bar{P})$ is capacity achieving.

- Assuming an input distribution is $X \sim \mathcal{CN}(0, \bar{P})$, the capacity (in bits/symbol) is

$$C = h(Y) - h(N) = \log_2\left(\frac{\pi e(\bar{P} + 2\sigma^2)}{\pi e 2\sigma^2}\right) = \log_2\left(1 + \frac{\bar{P}}{2\sigma^2}\right)$$



C. Shannon, Bell System Technical Journal **27.3** (1948).

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Standard Coherent: Forney's Method

- The method assumes capacity-approaching, high-dimensional lattice codes. It finds an optimal bounding region minimizing the average power of the enclosed signal points while maintaining constant minimum distance.

- Forney's original method is applicable to coherent electrical or optical systems.

- Forney's original work addresses both lattice codes and bounding regions. We focus on the bounding regions.

- Constellation figure of merit for a constellation C (assuming all points in C are equally probable):

$$\text{CFM}(C) \triangleq \frac{d_{\min}^2(C)}{\bar{P}(C)} = \frac{\text{squared minimum Euclidean distance}}{\text{average power}}$$

- Variables implicit in the CFM:

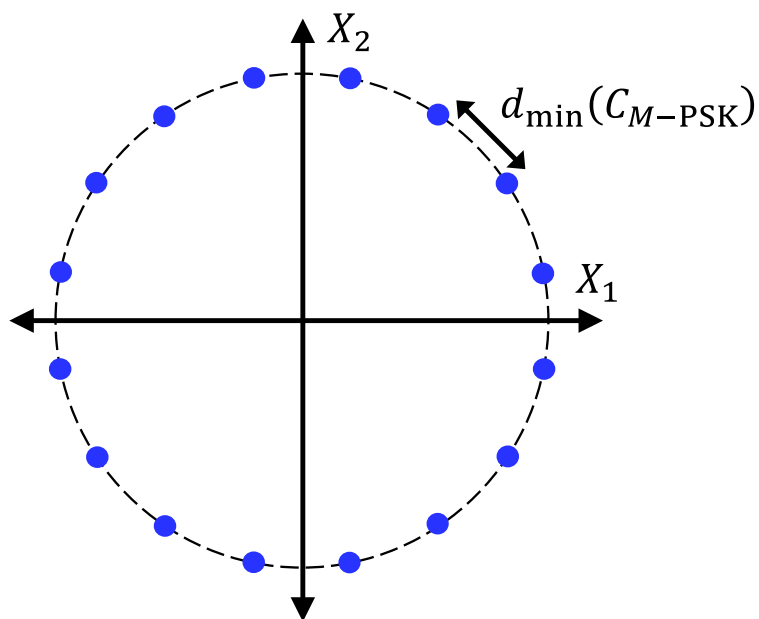
- N : number of dimensions of each signal point $X \in C$
- $|C|$: total number of messages in C

N and $|C|$ must be equated when comparing CFMs of different constellations.

G. Forney and L. Wei, IEEE J. Sel. Areas Commun. 7 (1989).

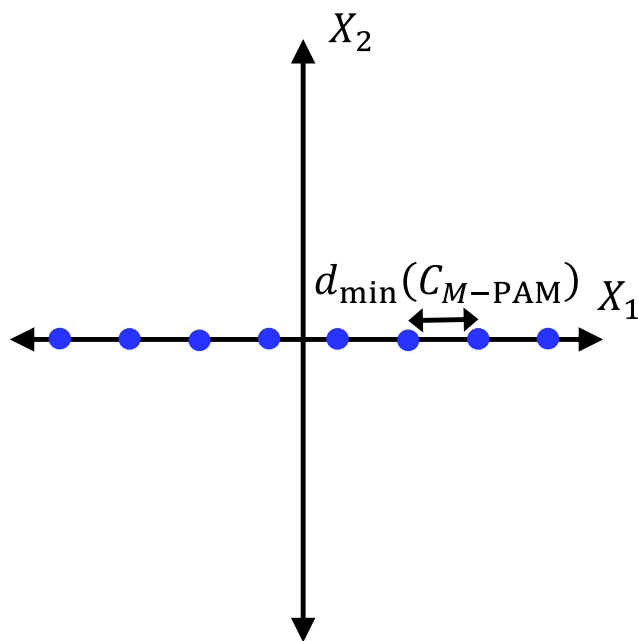
Constellation Figure of Merit Example

$C_{M\text{-PSK}}: M = 16$

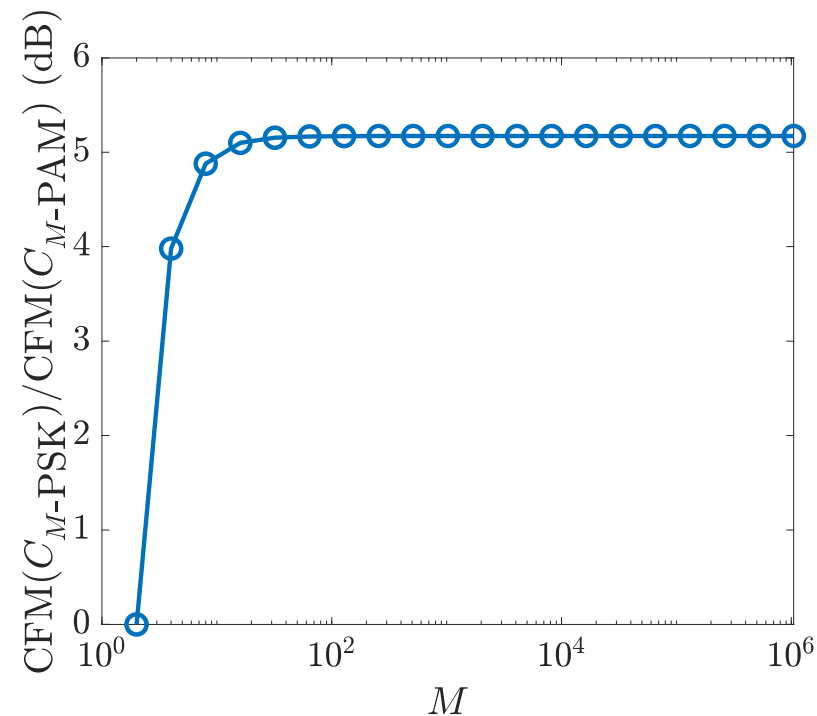


$$\begin{aligned} \text{CFM}(C_{M\text{-PSK}}) &= \frac{d_{\min}^2(C_{M\text{-PSK}})}{\bar{P}(C_{M\text{-PSK}})} \\ &= 4 \sin^2\left(\frac{\pi}{M}\right) \end{aligned}$$

$C_{M\text{-PAM}}: M = 8$



$$\begin{aligned} \text{CFM}(C_{M\text{-PAM}}) &= \frac{d_{\min}^2(C_{M\text{-PAM}})}{\bar{P}(C_{M\text{-PAM}})} \\ &= \frac{12}{M^2 - 1} \end{aligned}$$



$$\lim_{M \rightarrow \infty} \frac{\text{CFM}(C_{M\text{-PSK}})}{\text{CFM}(C_{M\text{-PAM}})} = \frac{\pi^2}{3} \approx 5.17 \text{ dB}$$

Lattice

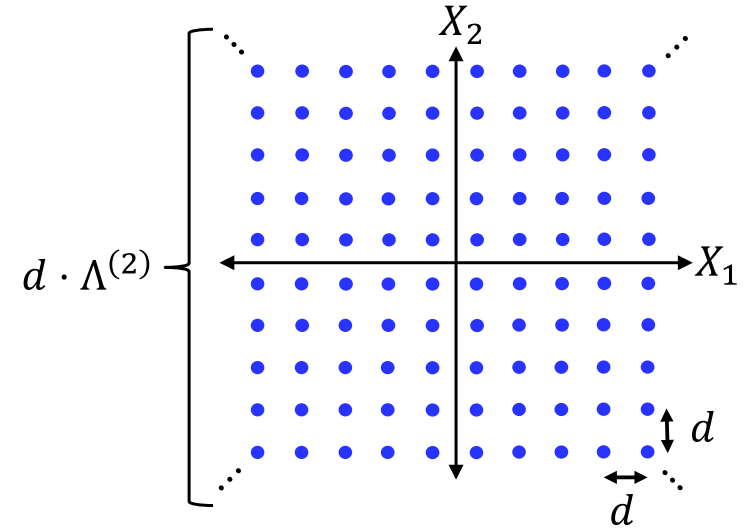
- All lattices are assumed to be symmetric about the origin.

Real Lattice

- N -D lattice $\Lambda^{(N)}$ is N -fold Cartesian product of 1-D lattice $\Lambda^{(1)}$:

$$\Lambda^{(1)} \triangleq \left\{ \dots, -\frac{5}{2}, -\frac{3}{2}, -\frac{1}{2}, \frac{1}{2}, \frac{3}{2}, \frac{5}{2}, \dots \right\}$$

- The lattice $d \cdot \Lambda^{(N)}$ has a minimum Euclidean distance d .

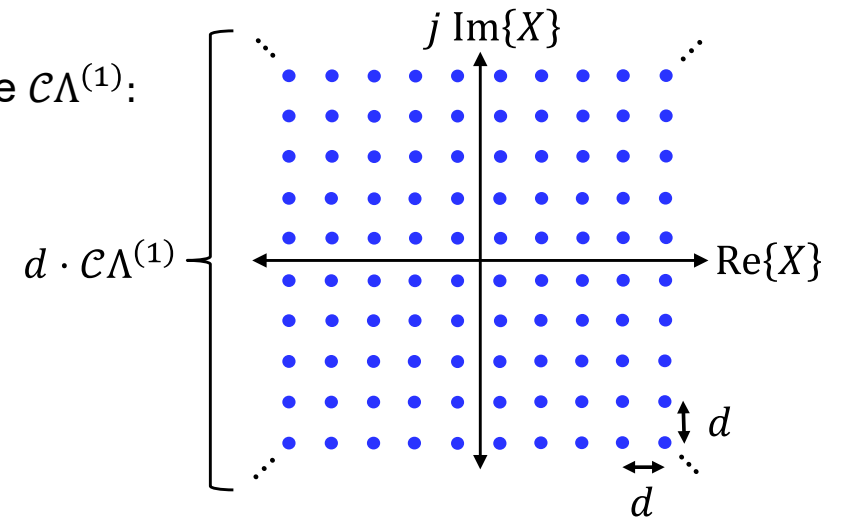


Complex Lattice

- N -D complex lattice $\mathcal{C}\Lambda^{(N)}$ is N -fold Cartesian product of 1-D complex lattice $\mathcal{C}\Lambda^{(1)}$:

$$\mathcal{C}\Lambda^{(1)} \triangleq \left\{ \begin{array}{c} \dots, -\frac{3}{2} - j\frac{1}{2}, -\frac{1}{2} - j\frac{1}{2}, \frac{1}{2} - j\frac{1}{2}, \frac{3}{2} - j\frac{1}{2}, \dots \\ \dots, -\frac{3}{2} + j\frac{1}{2}, -\frac{1}{2} + j\frac{1}{2}, \frac{1}{2} + j\frac{1}{2}, \frac{3}{2} + j\frac{1}{2}, \dots \end{array} \right\}$$

- The lattice $d \cdot \mathcal{C}\Lambda^{(N)}$ has a minimum Euclidean distance d .



Bounding Region

Reference Bounding Region

- The reference bounding region is an N -D hypercube:

$$\mathcal{R}_{\text{ref}}(N, A) = \left\{ X \in \mathbb{C}^N \mid \max_{i \in \{1, 2, \dots, N\}} \{ |\text{Re}\{X_i\}|, |\text{Im}\{X_i\}| \} = A \right\}$$

- The set of points enclosed by $\mathcal{R}_{\text{ref}}(N, A)$ is:

$$\mathbb{R}_{\text{ref}}(N, A) = \left\{ X = (x_1, x_2, \dots, x_N) \mid \|X\|_{\infty} \leq A \right\}$$

- The volume of the region enclosed by $\mathcal{R}_{\text{ref}}(N, A)$ is $\mathcal{V}_{\text{ref}}(N, A)$.

Optimal Bounding Region

- The optimal bounding region minimizes the average physical energy of the enclosed signal points subject to a constraint on the number of enclosed points.

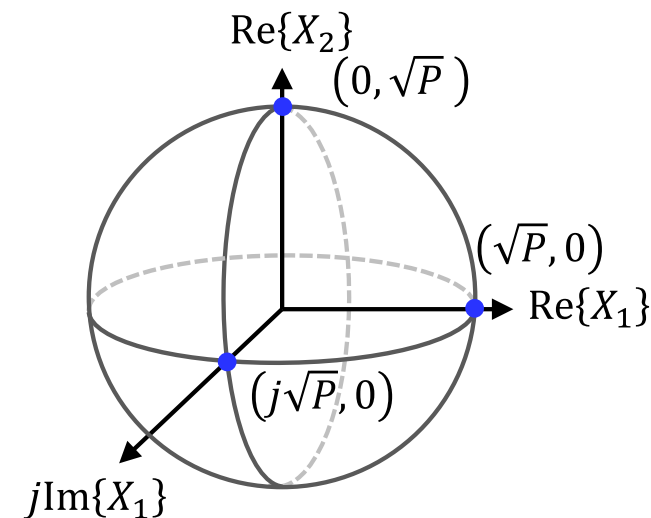
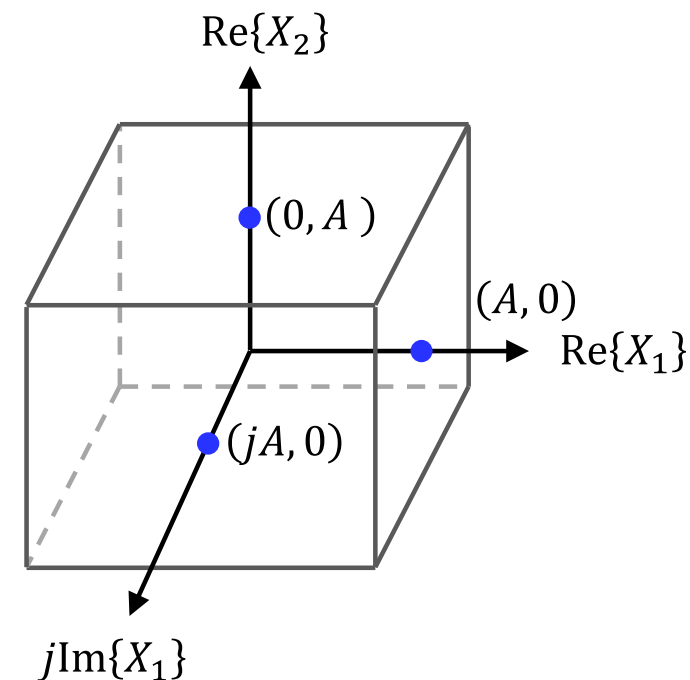
- The optimal bounding region for maximum physical energy P is:

$$\mathcal{R}_{\text{shaped}}(N, P) = \left\{ X \in \mathbb{C}^N \mid \|X\|_2^2 = P \right\}$$

- The set of points enclosed by the bounding region $\mathcal{R}_{\text{shaped}}(N, P)$ is:

$$\mathbb{R}_{\text{shaped}}(N, P) = \left\{ X \in \mathbb{C}^N \mid \|X\|_2^2 \leq P \right\}$$

- The volume of the region enclosed by $\mathcal{R}_{\text{shaped}}(N, P)$ is $\mathcal{V}_{\text{shaped}}(N, P)$.



Lattice Code Construction

- Consider $d \cdot \Lambda^{(N)}$, which is an N -D lattice with minimum Euclidean distance d .

- $\mathcal{C}_{\text{shaped}}$ and \mathcal{C}_{ref} are obtained as:

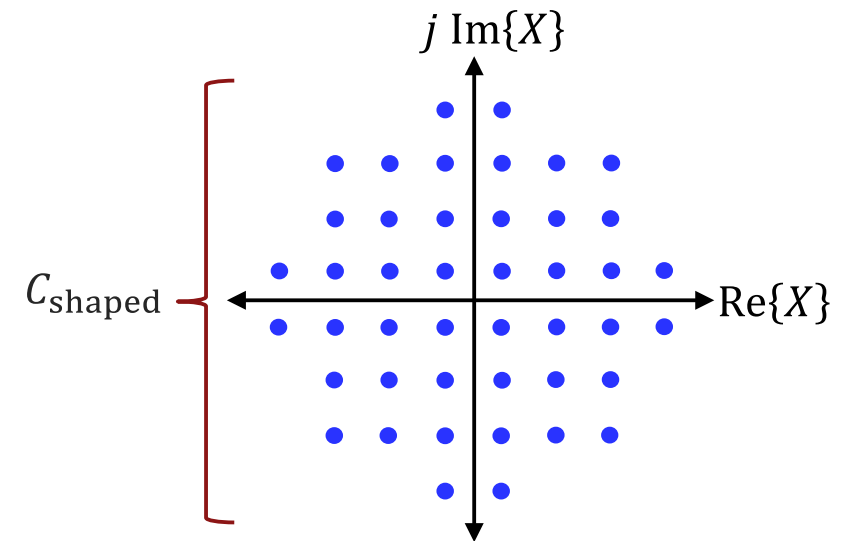
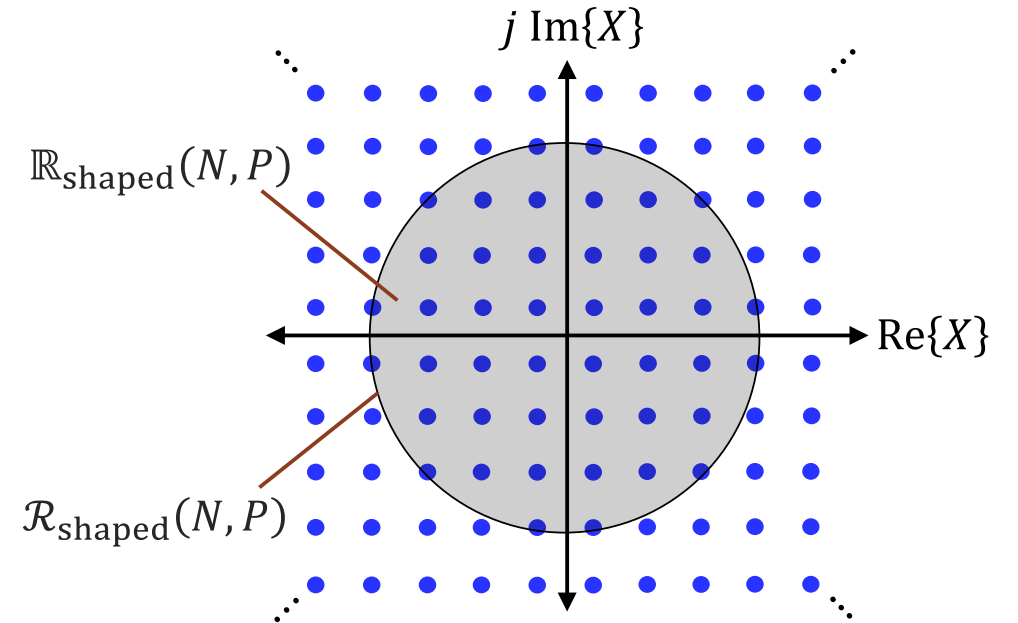
$$\mathcal{C}_{\text{shaped}} = \mathbb{R}_{\text{shaped}}(N, P) \cap d \cdot \mathcal{C}\Lambda^{(N)}$$

$$\mathcal{C}_{\text{ref}} = \mathbb{R}_{\text{ref}}(N, A) \cap d \cdot \mathcal{C}\Lambda^{(N)}$$

- The intersection selects signal points from $d \cdot \Lambda^{(N)}$ inside $\mathbb{R}_{\text{shaped}}(N, P)$ and $\mathbb{R}_{\text{ref}}(N, A)$ to construct $\mathcal{C}_{\text{shaped}}$ and \mathcal{C}_{ref} , respectively.

- The minimum distances of $\mathcal{C}_{\text{shaped}}$ and \mathcal{C}_{ref} are equal:

$$d_{\min}(\mathcal{C}_{\text{shaped}}) = d_{\min}(\mathcal{C}_{\text{ref}})$$



Continuous Approximation

- The continuous approximation replaces the lattice by a continuum. This becomes increasingly accurate as $|C_{\text{shaped}}|$ or $|C_{\text{ref}}| \rightarrow \infty$.
- $|C_{\text{shaped}}|$ and $|C_{\text{ref}}|$ are replaced by $\mathcal{V}_{\text{shaped}}(N, P)$ and $\mathcal{V}_{\text{ref}}(N, A)$.
- The average power expressions $\bar{P}(C)$ are expressed as integrals:

$$\bar{P}(C_{\text{shaped}}) = \frac{1}{|C_{\text{shaped}}|} \sum_{X \in C_{\text{shaped}}} \|X\|_2^2 \cong \frac{1}{\mathcal{V}_{\text{shaped}}(N, P)} \int_{X \in \mathbb{R}_{\text{shaped}}(N, P)} \|X\|_2^2 dX$$

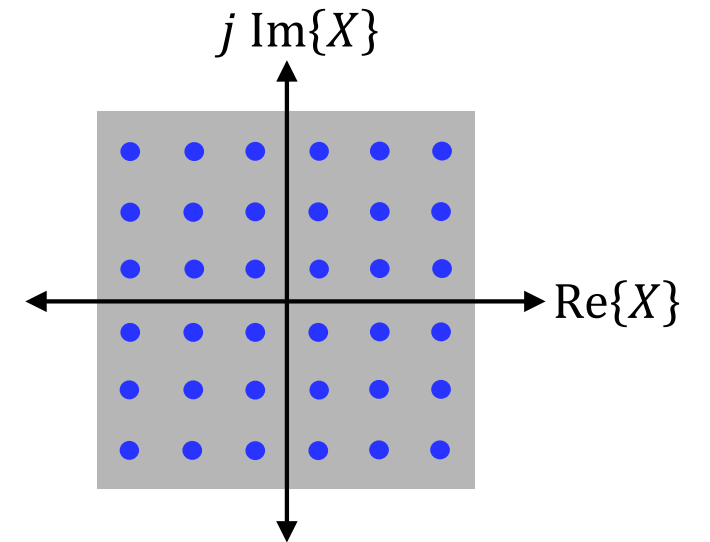
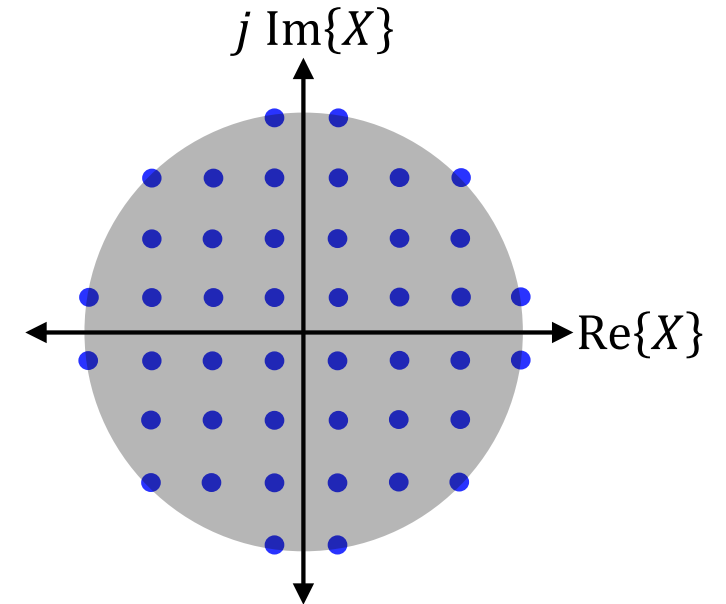
$$\bar{P}(C_{\text{ref}}) = \frac{1}{|C_{\text{ref}}|} \sum_{X \in C_{\text{ref}}} \|X\|_2^2 \cong \frac{1}{\mathcal{V}_{\text{ref}}(N, A)} \int_{X \in \mathbb{R}_{\text{ref}}(N, A)} \|X\|_2^2 dX$$

- Enclosed volumes:

$$\mathcal{V}_{\text{shaped}}^{(\text{SC})}(N, P) = \frac{(\pi P)^N}{N!}, \quad \mathcal{V}_{\text{ref}}^{(\text{SC})}(N, A) = (4A^2)^N$$

- Average powers:

$$\bar{P}_{\text{shaped}}^{(\text{SC})}(N, P) = \frac{P}{N+1}, \quad \bar{P}_{\text{ref}}^{(\text{SC})}(A) = \frac{2}{3}A^2$$



Induced Marginal Distribution (1/3)

- The shaping region $\mathbb{R}_{\text{shaped}}(N, P)$ can be partitioned into disjoint subsets by conditioning on a value in a basic dimension:

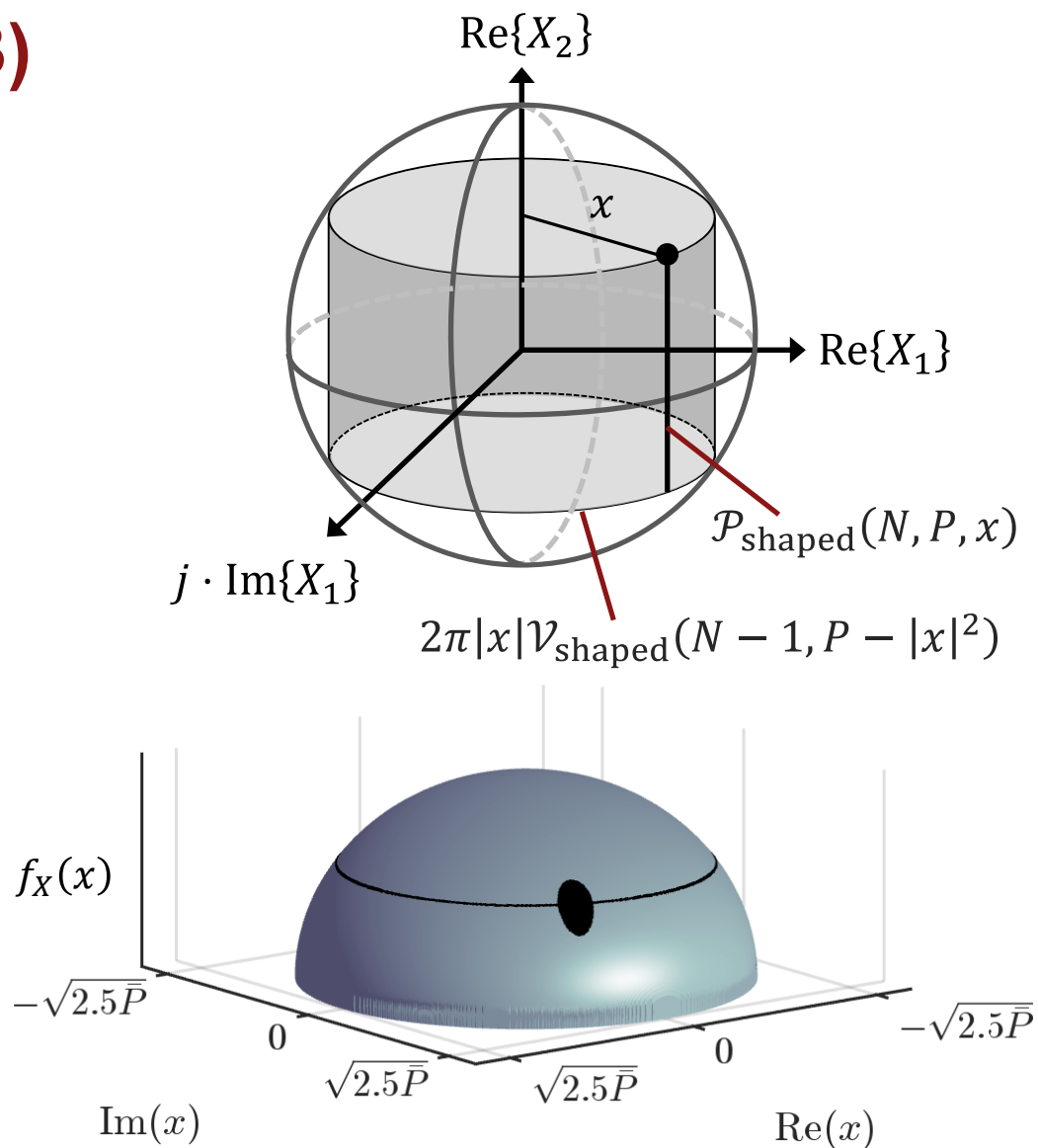
$$\mathcal{P}_{\text{shaped}}(N, P, x) \triangleq \{\mathbf{X} \in \mathbb{R}_{\text{shaped}}(N, P) \mid X_1 = x\}$$

- The volume of $\mathcal{P}_{\text{shaped}}(N, P, x)$ is

$$\mathcal{V}_{\text{shaped}}(N - 1, P - |x|^2)$$

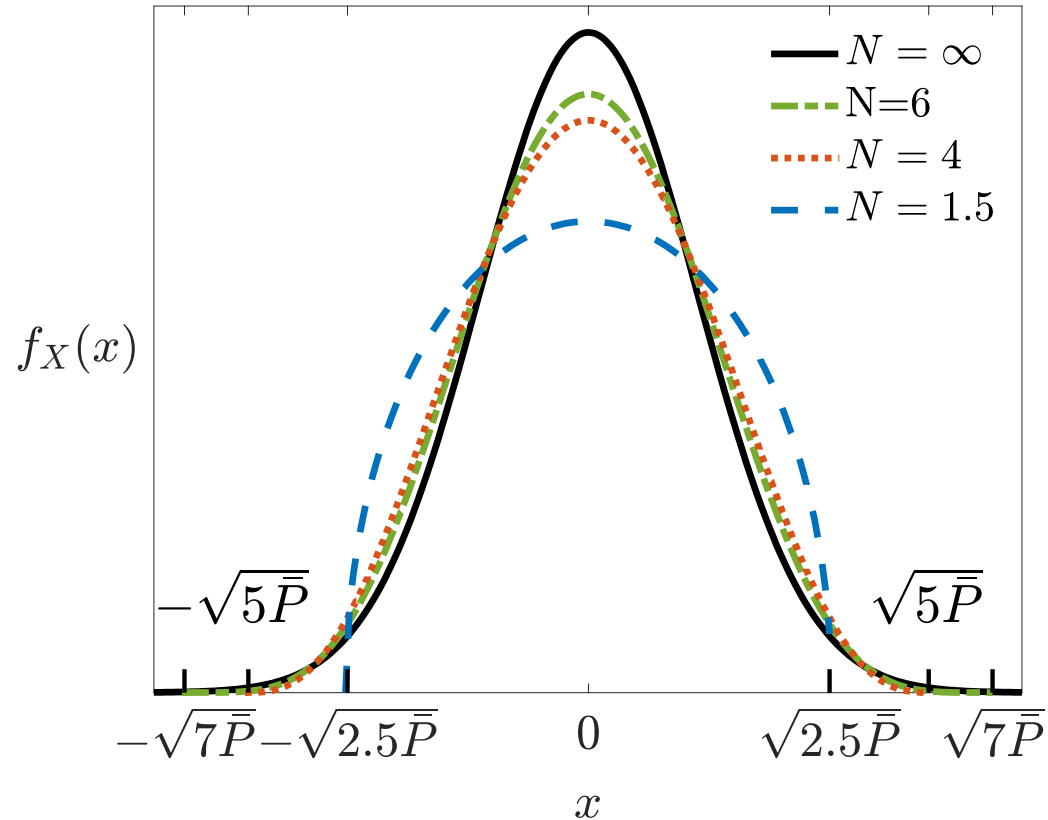
- The induced probability density is proportional to the volume of the partition in $N - 1$ dimensions:

$$f_X(x) \propto \mathcal{V}_{\text{shaped}}(N - 1, P - |x|^2)$$



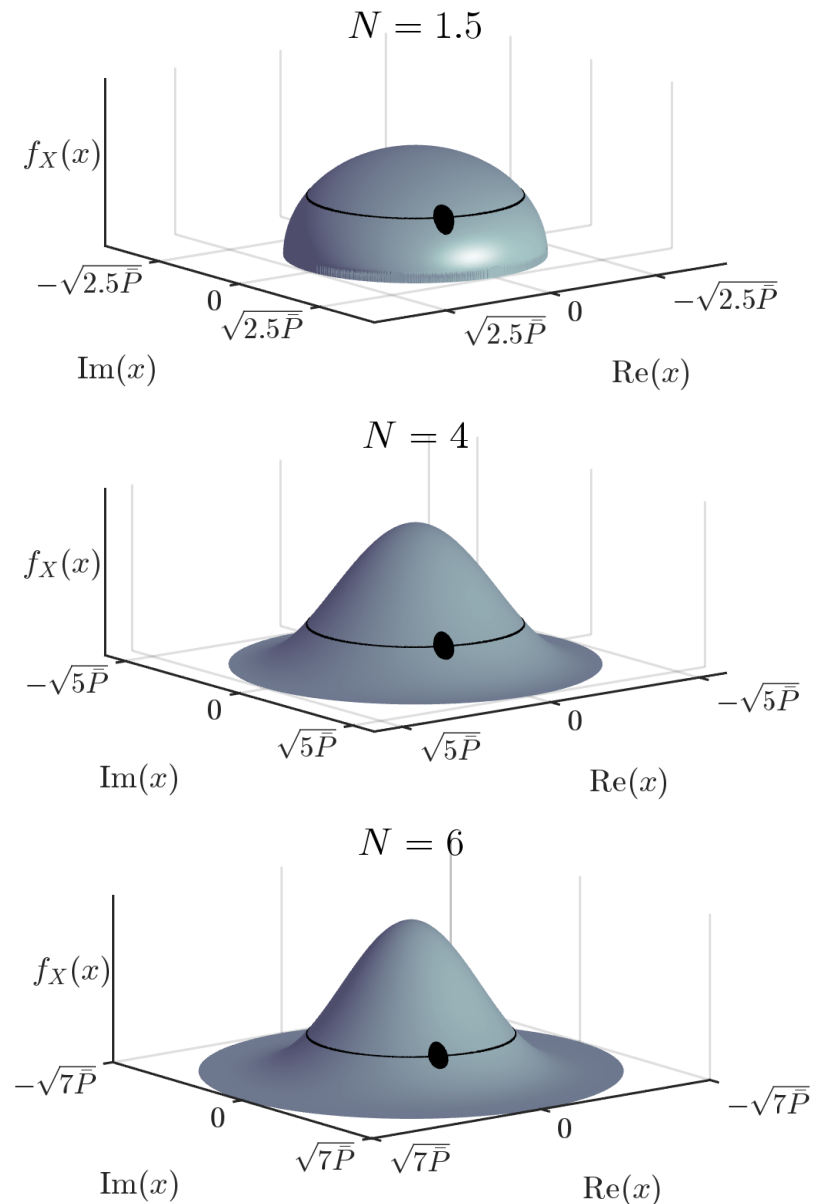
Induced Marginal Distribution (2/3)

Induced distribution in one real dimension for various N



- Peak-to-average power ratio:

$$P = (N + 1)\bar{P}_{\text{shaped}}^{(\text{SC})}(N, P)$$



Induced Marginal Distribution (3/3)

Optimal Induced Distribution

$$f_X(x) \propto \mathcal{V}_{\text{shaped}}^{(\text{SC})}(N-1, P - |x|^2) = \left(1 - \frac{|x|^2}{(N+1)\bar{P}_{\text{shaped}}^{(\text{SC})}(N, P)} \right)^{N-1}$$
$$\Rightarrow \lim_{N \rightarrow \infty} f_X(x) \propto \exp(-|x|^2/\beta)$$

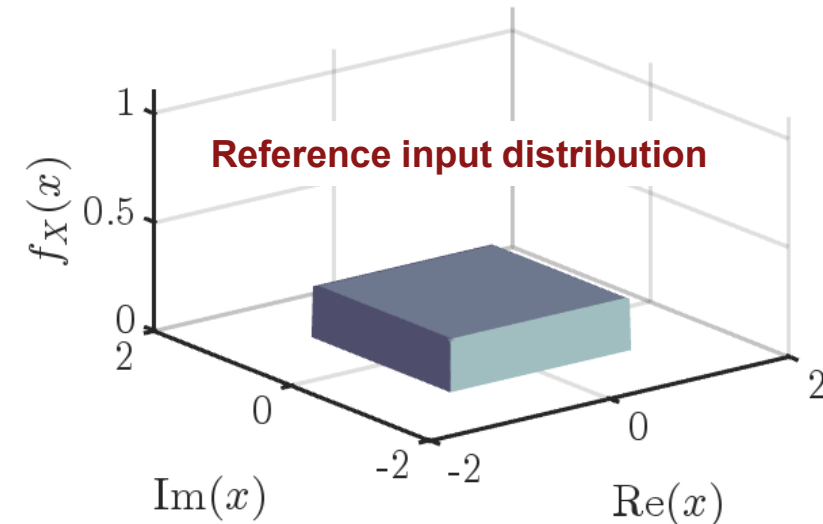
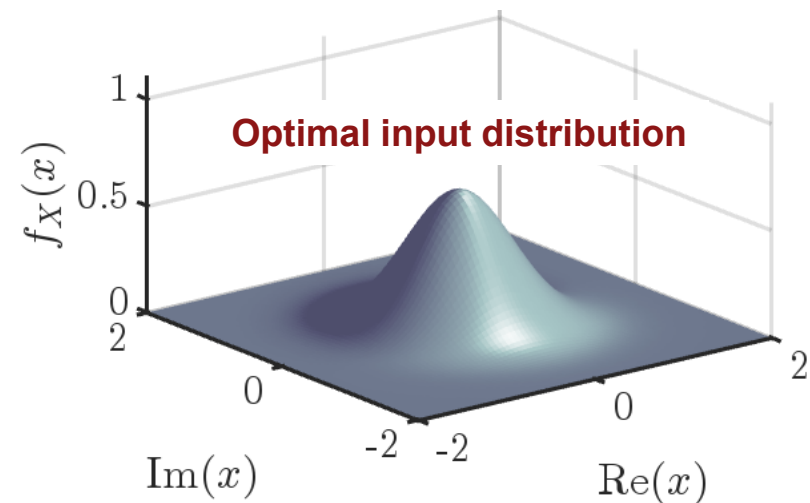
- The optimal input distribution is Gaussian in complex electric field.

Shape Gain

- Equating volumes $\mathcal{V}_{\text{shaped}}^{(\text{SC})}(N, P) = \mathcal{V}_{\text{ref}}^{(\text{SC})}(N, P)$, the shape gain is

$$\gamma_s = \lim_{N \rightarrow \infty} \frac{\bar{P}_{\text{ref}}^{(\text{SC})}(A)}{\bar{P}_{\text{shaped}}^{(\text{SC})}(N, P)} = \frac{\pi e}{6} \approx 1.53 \text{ dB}$$

- The Gaussian distribution improves energy efficiency by ~1.5 dB.



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Standard Coherent: Implementation (1/2)

Discrete Input Distributions

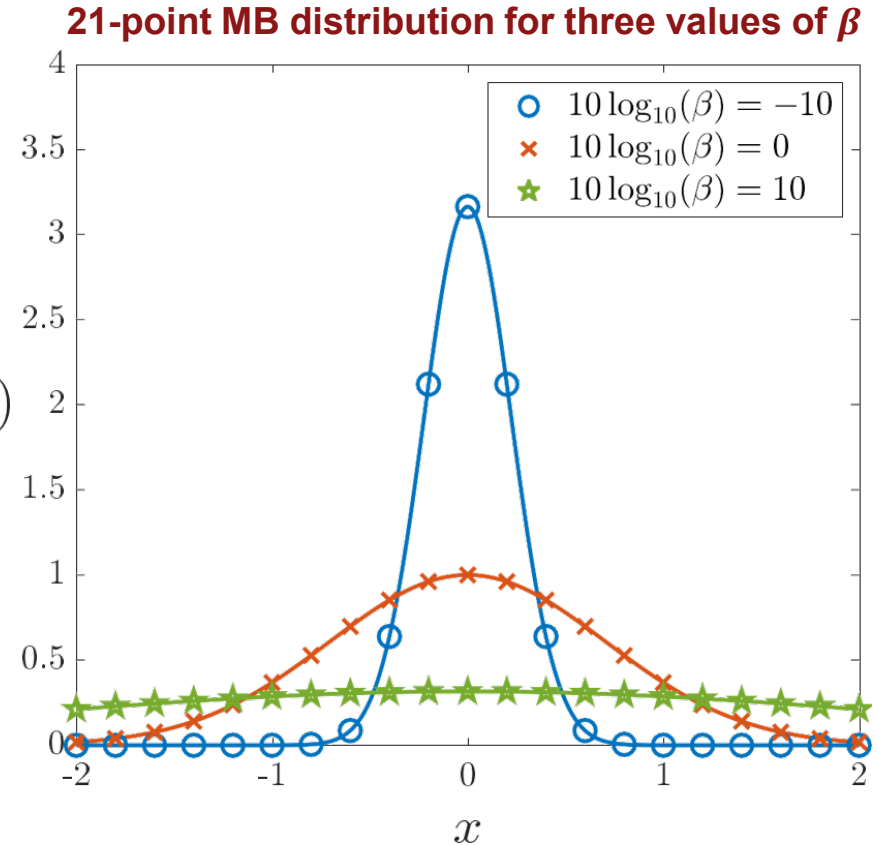
- Discrete constellations must be used in practice.
- Can numerically compute the optimal discrete distribution using Blahut-Arimoto algorithm [1], [2].
- Can employ Maxwell-Boltzmann distribution [3] for discrete x :

$$P_X(x) \triangleq \exp(-\|x\|^2/\beta) / Z(\beta), \quad Z(\beta) \triangleq \sum_{x \in \mathcal{C}} \exp(-\|x\|^2/\beta)$$

- Parameterized by a shaping parameter $\beta \geq 0$:
 - β controls the tradeoff between energy efficiency and bit rate.
 - $\beta \rightarrow \infty$ as $\text{SNR} \rightarrow \infty$ (approaches a uniform distribution).
- MB distribution usually close to optimal at high SNR.
- N -D MB distribution is separable:

$$P_{\mathbf{X}}(\mathbf{x}) = \frac{1}{Z(\beta)} \exp(-\|\mathbf{x}\|^2/\beta) = \frac{1}{Z(\beta)} \prod_{i=1}^N \exp(-x_i^2/\beta)$$

$f_X(x)$



- S. Arimoto, IEEE Trans. Inf. Theory **18** (1972).
- R. Blahut, IEEE Trans. Inf. Theory **18** (1972).
- F. Kschischang and S. Pasupathy, IEEE Trans. Inf. Theory **9** (1993).

Standard Coherent: Implementation (2/2)

Probabilistic Amplitude Shaping

- PAS architecture combines a distribution matcher (DM) with forward error correction (FEC).
- Advantages
 - Capacity achieving and can be integrated with existing FEC schemes.
 - Enables rate adaptation without changing the FEC block length.
- Drawbacks
 - Requires a probability distribution that can be partitioned into pairs of points with equal probabilities.

Distribution Matcher

- Constant composition distribution matcher [1].
 - Maps to fixed-composition sequences.
- Shell shaping [2].
 - Maps to sequences with a maximum physical energy.
 - Can have superior performance when the bit sequence is short.
 - Can have high complexity, especially for long block lengths.

1. G. Böcherer, *et al.*, IEEE Trans. Commun. **63** (2015).

2. A. Amari, *et al.*, J. Lightw. Technol. **37** (2019).

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 - Standard Direct Detection, Amplifier Noise
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Transition to Direct Detection

Shannon's Method

- Optimization problems can be stated, but resulting Lagrangians cannot be solved analytically.

Forney's Method

- Forney's original method for standard coherent detection used a uniform lattice in electric field coordinates.
- The binary error probability between any two N -D signal points depends only on the Euclidean distance between them.

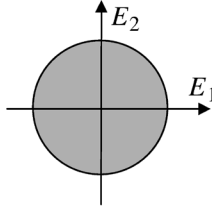
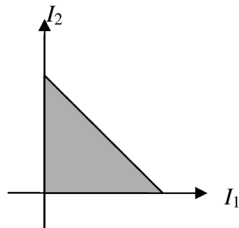
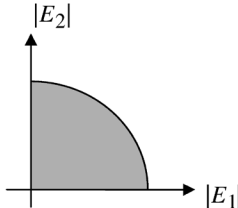
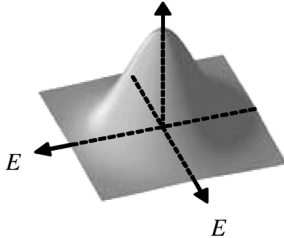
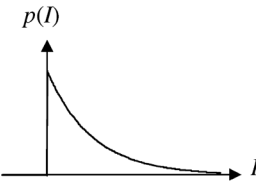
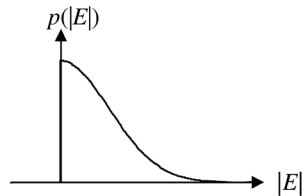
Natural Coordinates

- Enable extension of Forney's method to direct-detection optical channels [1], [2].
- Define the uniform lattice in natural coordinates, in which the binary error probability is a decreasing function of Euclidean distance, at least asymptotically at high SNR.

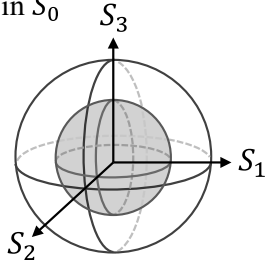
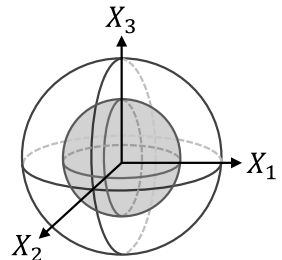
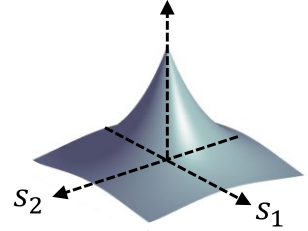
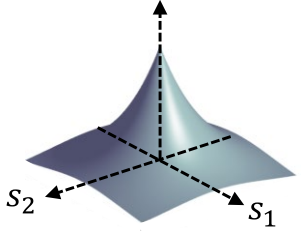
- The natural coordinates depend on
 - Detection method.
 - Noise distribution.
 - Decision rule.

1. D. Shiu and J. M. Kahn, IEEE Trans. Inf. Theory **45** (1999).
2. W. Mao and J. M. Kahn, IEEE Trans. Commun. **56** (2008).

Shaping Results Summary (1/2)

Detection Method & Dominant Noise	Coherent Detection, Amplifier or LO Shot Noise	Noncoherent Detection, Thermal Noise	Noncoherent Detection, Amplifier or LO Shot Noise
Natural Coordinates	2-D electric field $E = \{E_1, E_2\}$	1-D electric field intensity $I = E ^2$	1-D electric field magnitude $ E $
Optimal Shaping Region	N -sphere centered at the origin 	Nonnegative orthant bounded by N -simplex 	Nonnegative orthant bounded by N -sphere 
Induced Optimal Signaling Distribution in Constituent Constellation	$p(E) = \frac{1}{\pi P} \exp\left(-\frac{ E ^2}{P}\right),$ $E = (E_1, E_2)$ $p(E_1, E_2)$ 	$p(I) = \frac{1}{P} \exp\left(-\frac{I}{P}\right),$ $I \geq 0$ 	$p(E) = \sqrt{\frac{2}{\pi P}} \exp\left(-\frac{ E ^2}{2P}\right),$ $ E \geq 0$ 
Ultimate Shape Gain	$\pi e/6 = 1.53$ dB	$e/2 = 1.33$ dB	$\pi e/6 = 1.53$ dB
Optimal Distribution	Complex circular Gaussian	Exponential	Half-Gaussian
Key Works	Forney <i>et al.</i> , 1984-89 Calderbank & Ozarow, 1990 Kschischang & Pasupathy, 1993	Shiu & Kahn, 1999 Hranilovic & Kschischang, 2003	Mao & Kahn, 2008

Shaping Results Summary (2/2)

Detection Method & Dominant Noise	Stokes Vector Receiver, Thermal Noise	Stokes Vector Receiver, Amplifier Noise
Natural Coordinates	3-D Stokes vector $\mathbf{S} = \{S_1, S_2, S_3\}$	3-D scaled Stokes vector $\mathbf{X} = \{X_1, X_2, X_3\} = \{S_1, S_2, S_3\}/\sqrt{S_0}$
Optimal Shaping Region	Non-negative orthant bounded by N -simplex in S_0 	N -sphere centered at the origin 
Induced Optimal Signaling Distribution in Constituent Constellation	$p(\mathbf{S}) \propto \exp(-S_0/\beta)$ $f_{S_1 S_3}(s_1 0)$ 	$p(\mathbf{S}) \propto \exp(-S_0/\beta)$ $f_{S_1 S_3}(s_1 0)$ 
Ultimate Shape Gain	$\sim 0.961^3 \sqrt{\pi e} / 3 \approx 1.056$ dB	$\pi e / 6 \approx 1.53$ dB
Optimal Distribution	3-D exponential	3-D exponential
Key Works	H. Jia, E. Liang and J. M. Kahn, (2023).	H. Jia, E. Liang and J. M. Kahn, (2023).

Outline

- Introduction
- Standard Coherent Detection
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 - Stokes Vector Detection, Thermal or Amplifier Noise
 - Kramers Kronig Detection, Amplifier Noise
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Standard Direct Detection, Thermal Noise (1/3)

Determine natural coordinates

$$Y = I + N, \quad I \in \mathbb{R}_+, \quad Y, N \in \mathbb{R}, \quad N \sim \mathcal{N}(0, \sigma_{\text{th}}^2)$$

- For intensities $I_1, I_2 \in \mathbb{R}_+$, binary error probability for an ML detector is

$$P_e = Q\left(\frac{\|I_1 - I_2\|_2}{2\sigma_{\text{th}}}\right).$$

- The natural coordinates are electric field intensities.

Find optimal and reference bounding regions

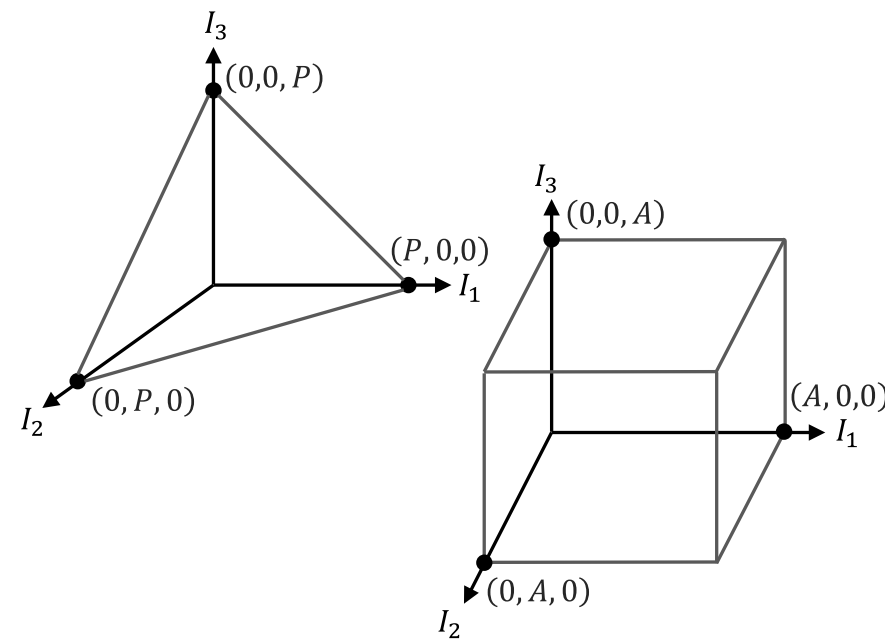
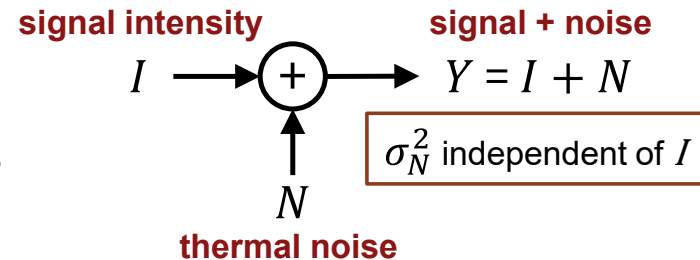
$$\mathcal{R}_{\text{shaped}}^{(\text{SD,th})}(N, P) = \{\mathbf{I} \in \mathbb{R}_+^N \mid \|\mathbf{I}\|_1 = P\}, \quad \mathcal{R}_{\text{ref}}^{(\text{SD,th})}(N, P) = \{\mathbf{I} \in \mathbb{R}_+^N \mid \|\mathbf{I}\|_\infty = A\}$$

Compute enclosed volumes

$$\mathcal{V}_{\text{shaped}}^{(\text{SD,th})}(N, P) = \frac{P^N}{N!}, \quad \mathcal{V}_{\text{ref}}^{(\text{SD,th})}(N, A) = A^N$$

Compute average powers

$$\bar{P}_{\text{shaped}}^{(\text{SD,th})}(N, P) = \frac{P}{N+1}, \quad \bar{P}_{\text{ref}}^{(\text{SD,th})}(A) = \frac{A}{2}$$



D. Shiu and J. M. Kahn, IEEE Trans. Inf. Theory **45** (1999).

Standard Direct Detection, Thermal Noise (2/3)

Compute shape gain (for equal volumes)

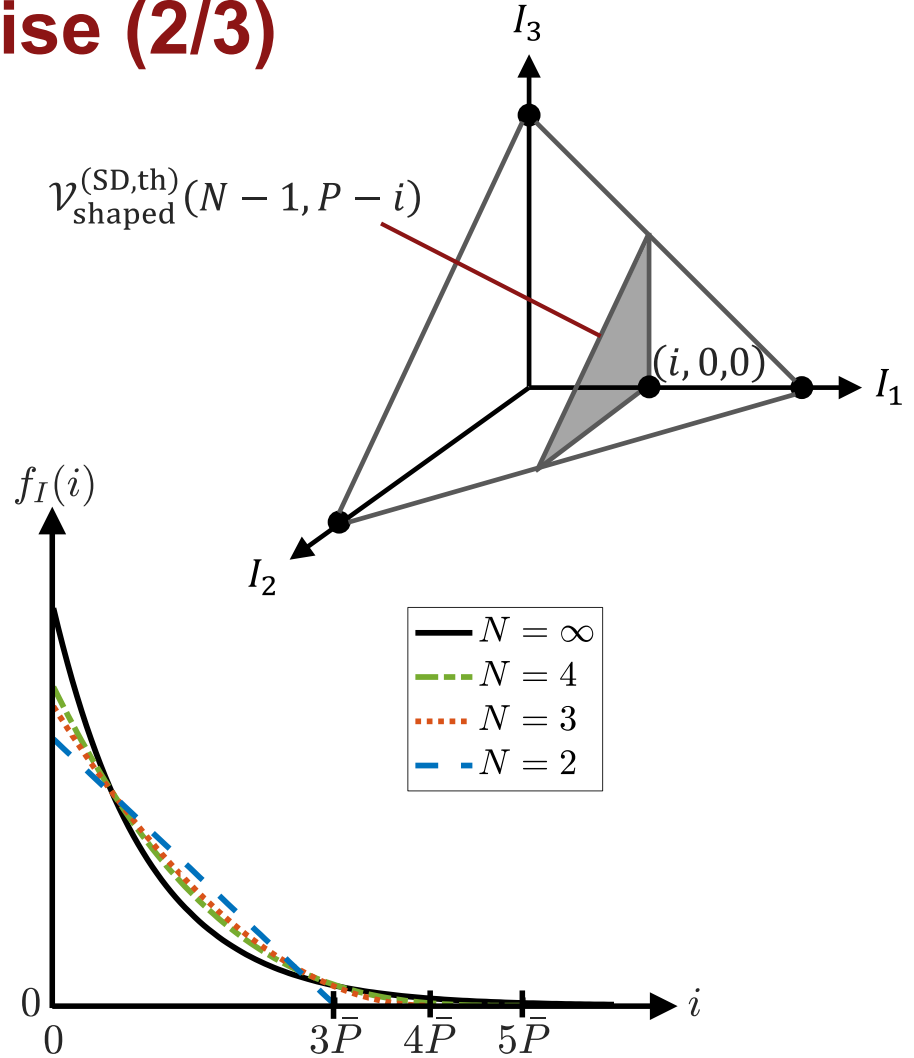
$$\gamma_s = \lim_{N \rightarrow \infty} \frac{\bar{P}_{\text{ref}}^{(\text{SD,th})}(A)}{\bar{P}_{\text{shaped}}^{(\text{SD,th})}(N, P)} = \frac{e}{2} \approx 1.33 \text{ dB}$$

Compute induced distribution in one basic dimension

$$f_I(i) \propto \mathcal{V}_{\text{shaped}}^{(\text{SD,th})}(N - 1, P - i)$$

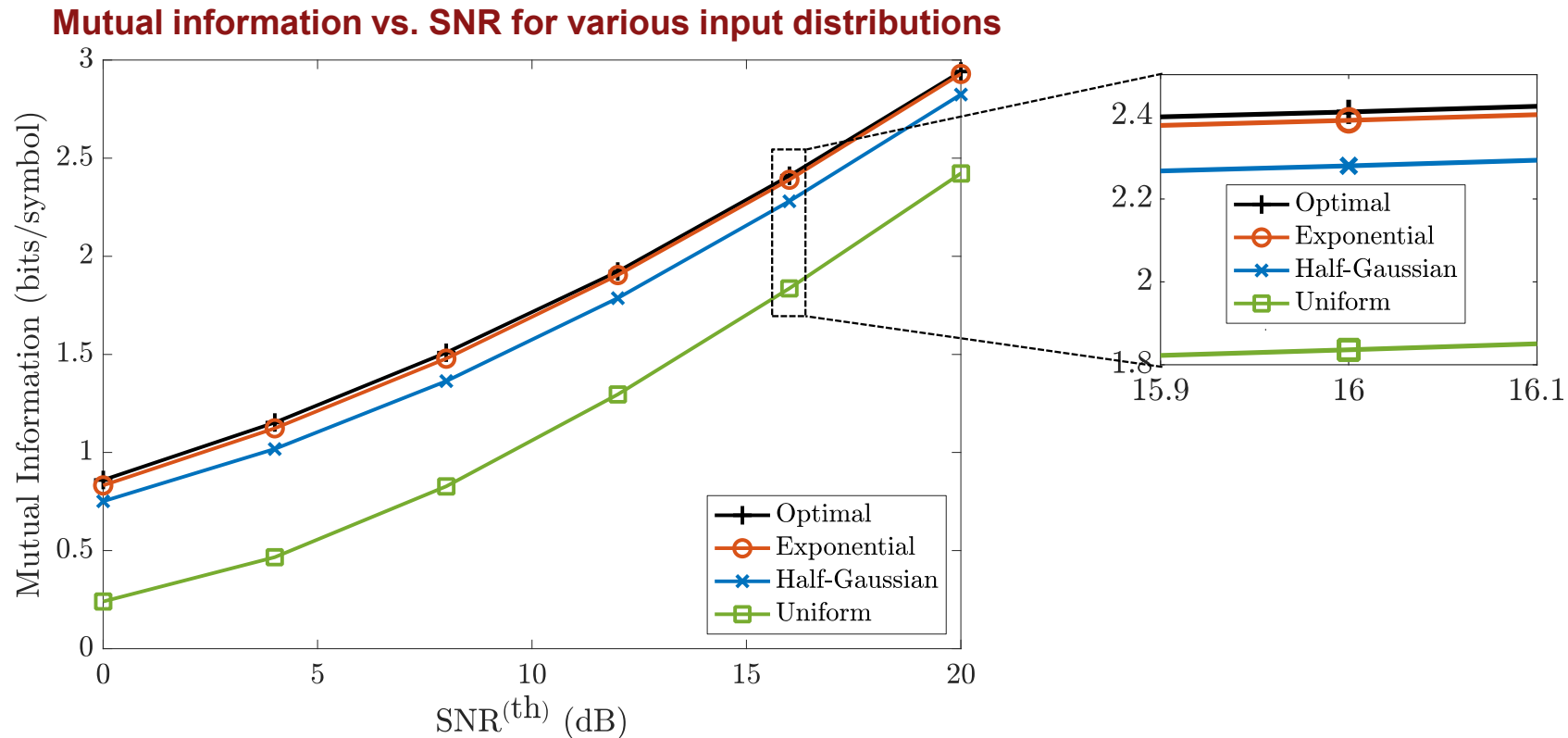
$$\Rightarrow \lim_{N \rightarrow \infty} f_I(i) \propto \exp(-i/\beta), \quad i \geq 0$$

- Optimal input distribution is an exponential in electric field intensity.



D. Shiu and J. M. Kahn, IEEE Trans. Inf. Theory **45** (1999).

Standard Direct Detection, Thermal Noise (3/3)



- Optimal distribution computed using Blahut-Arimoto algorithm with many intensity levels.
- Exponential outperforms half-Gaussian.
- Optical power gains (half the SNR^(th) gains) substantially exceed $\gamma_s = 1.33$ dB at finite SNR^(th).

D. Shiu and J. M. Kahn,
IEEE Trans. Inf. Theory **45** (1999).

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Standard Direct Detection, Amplifier Noise (1/3)

Determine natural coordinates

$$Y = |X + N|^2, \quad X, N \in \mathbb{C}, \quad Y \in \mathbb{R}_+, \quad N \sim \mathcal{CN}(0, 2\sigma_{\text{amp}}^2)$$

- Approximate decision threshold for field magnitudes $|X_1|, |X_2|$:

$$Y_D \approx \frac{|X_1|^2 |X_2| + |X_1| |X_2|^2}{|X_1| + |X_2|} = |X_1| |X_2|$$

- Using Y_D , the approximate binary error probability is $P_e \approx Q\left(\frac{|||X_1| - |X_2|||_2}{2\sigma_{\text{amp}}}\right)$.

- The natural coordinates are electric field magnitudes.

- Can assume $X = |X| \in \mathbb{R}_+$ without loss of generality.

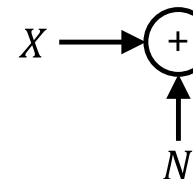
Find optimal and reference bounding regions

$$\mathcal{R}_{\text{shaped}}^{(\text{SD,amp})}(N, P) = \{\mathbf{X} \in \mathbb{R}_+^N \mid \|\mathbf{X}\|_2^2 = P\}, \quad \mathcal{R}_{\text{ref}}^{(\text{SD,amp})}(N, P) = \{\mathbf{X} \in \mathbb{R}_+^N \mid \|\mathbf{X}\|_\infty = A\}$$

Compute enclosed volumes

$$\mathcal{V}_{\text{shaped}}^{(\text{SD,amp})}(N, P) = \frac{1}{\Gamma\left(\frac{N}{2} + 1\right)} \frac{(\pi P)^{N/2}}{2^N}, \quad \mathcal{V}_{\text{ref}}^{(\text{SD,amp})}(N, A) = A^N$$

signal field



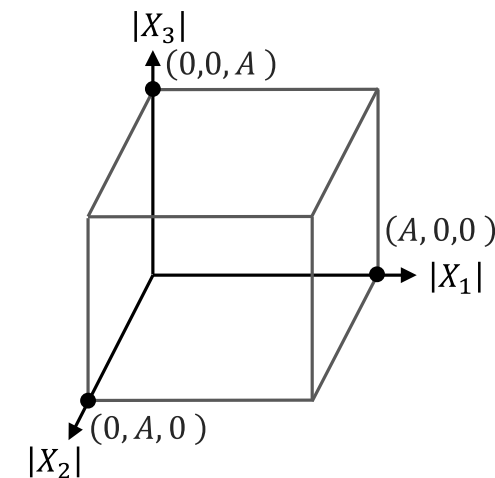
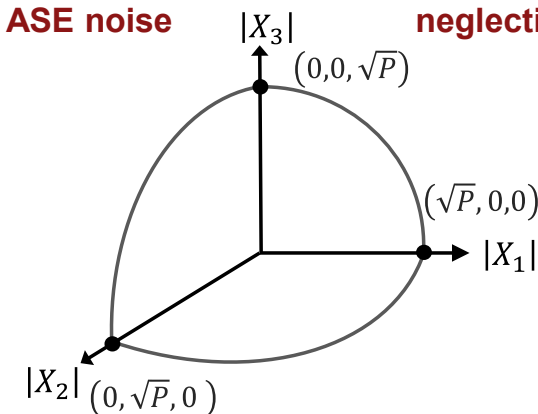
signal + signal-ASE beat noise

$$Y = |X + N|^2 \approx |X|^2 + 2\text{Re}(X^*N)$$

$$\sigma_{2\text{Re}(X^*N)}^2 \propto |X|^2$$

ASE noise

neglecting ASE-ASE beat noises



W. Mao and J. M. Kahn, IEEE Trans. Commun. **56** (2008).

Standard Direct Detection, Amplifier Noise (2/3)

Compute average powers

$$\bar{P}_{\text{shaped}}^{(\text{SD,th})}(N, P) = \frac{P}{N + 2}, \quad \bar{P}_{\text{ref}}^{(\text{SD,th})}(A) = \frac{A^2}{3}$$

Compute shape gain (for equal volumes)

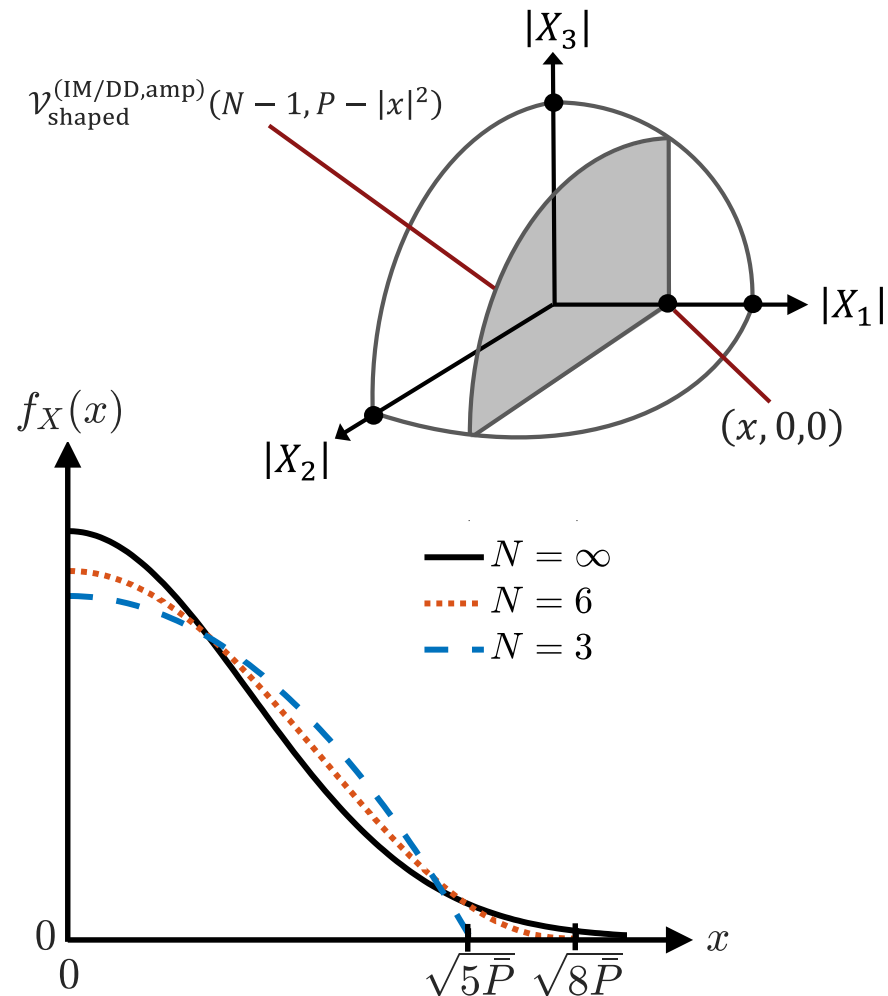
$$\gamma_s = \lim_{N \rightarrow \infty} \frac{\bar{P}_{\text{ref}}^{(\text{SD,amp})}(A)}{\bar{P}_{\text{shaped}}^{(\text{SD,amp})}(N, P)} = \frac{\pi e}{6} \approx 1.53 \text{ dB}$$

Compute induced distribution in one basic dimension

$$f_X(x) \propto \mathcal{V}_{\text{shaped}}^{(\text{SD,amp})}(N - 1, P - |x|^2)$$

$$\Rightarrow \lim_{N \rightarrow \infty} f_X(x) \propto \exp(-x^2/\beta), \quad x \geq 0$$

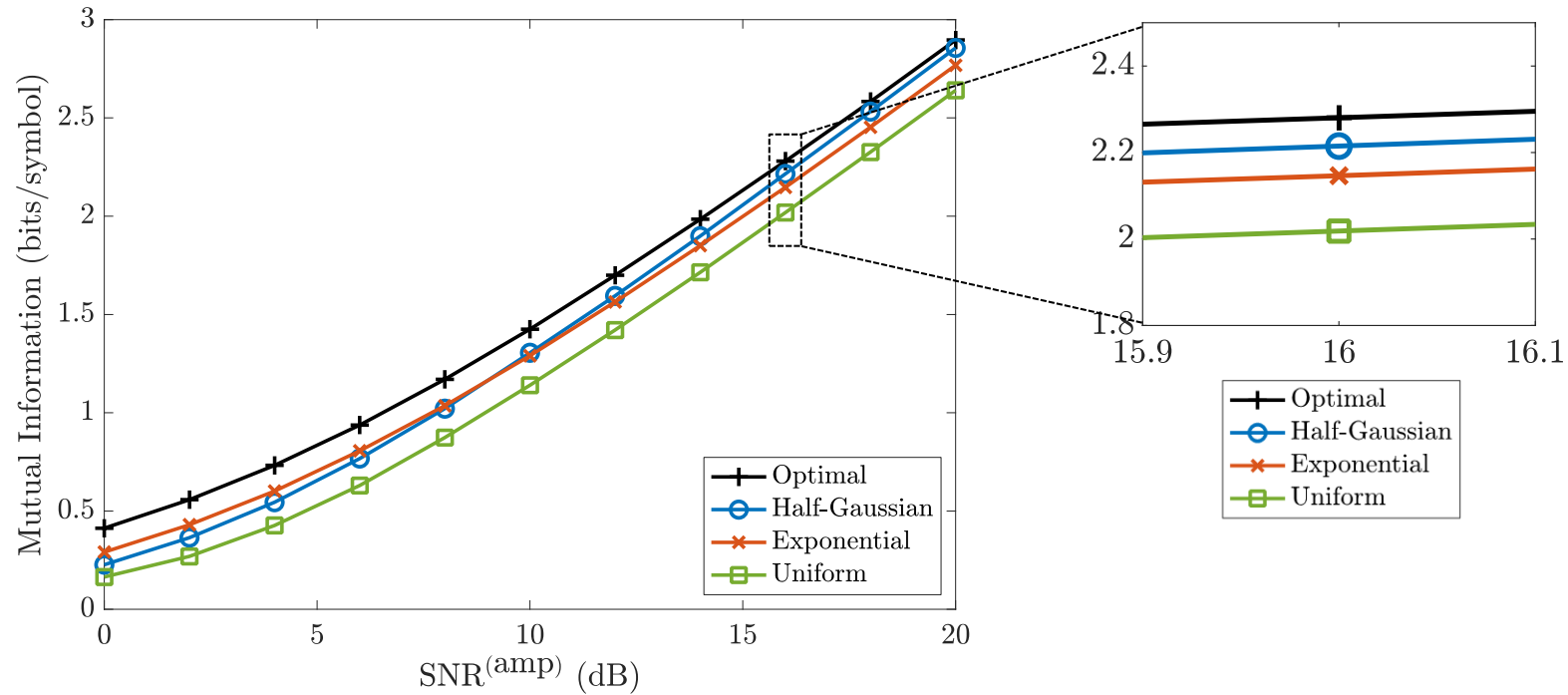
- Optimal input distribution is half-Gaussian in electric field magnitude.



W. Mao and J. M. Kahn, IEEE Trans. Commun. **56** (2008).

Standard Direct Detection, Amplifier Noise (3/3)

Mutual information vs. SNR for various input distributions



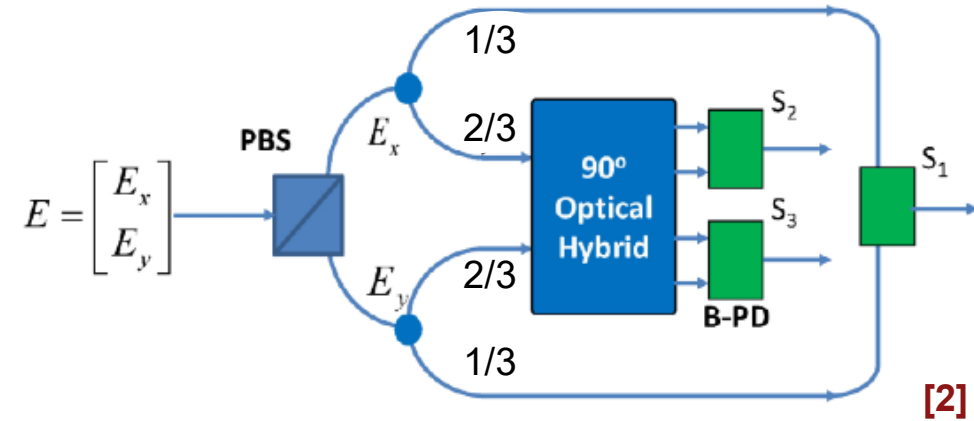
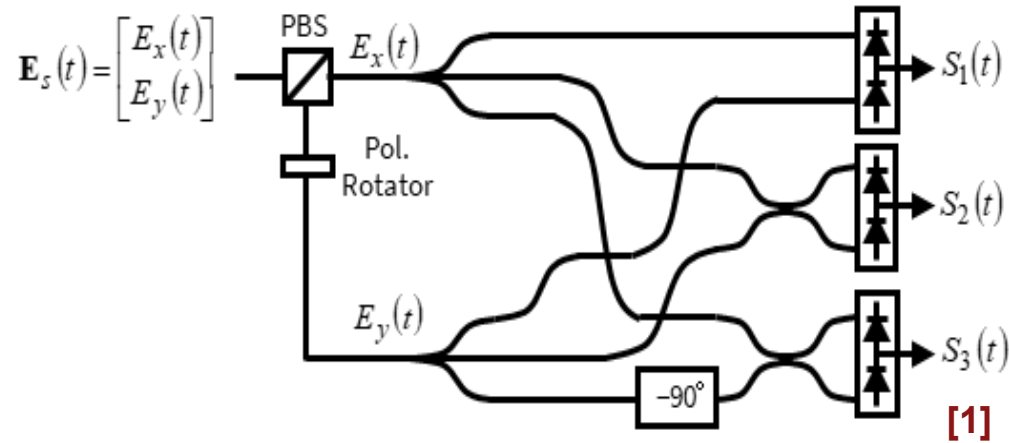
- Optimal distribution computed using Blahut-Arimoto algorithm with many intensity levels [2].
- Half-Gaussian outperforms exponential at high SNR, where signal-ASE beat noise is dominant.

1. W. Mao and J. M. Kahn, IEEE Trans. Commun. **56** (2008).
2. K.-P. Ho, IEEE Photon. Technol. Lett. **17** (2005).

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Stokes Vector Receiver



Stokes vector detection

- Hybrid between noncoherent and differentially coherent detection.

Canonical configurations shown

- Directly yield three Stokes parameters with identical signal gains and noise distributions.
- Minimize number of electrical outputs and analog-digital converters.

1. E. Ip, A. P. T. Lau, D. J. F. Barros and J. M. Kahn, Optics Express **16** (2008).
2. W. Shieh, H. Khodakarami and D. Che, APL Photonics **1** (2016).

Stokes Vector Receiver: Thermal Noise (1/3)

Determine natural coordinates

$$\mathbf{S}_D^{(\text{th})} = \mathbf{S} + \frac{1}{\zeta} \mathbf{H}^H \mathbf{N}^{(\text{th})}, \quad \mathbf{S}, \mathbf{S}_D^{(\text{th})}, \mathbf{N}^{(\text{th})} \in \mathbb{R}^3, \quad \mathbf{N}^{(\text{th})} \sim \mathcal{N}(0, \sigma_{\text{th}}^2 \mathbf{I}_3), \quad \mathbf{H} \in \text{O}(3)$$

- For Stokes vectors $\mathbf{S}_1, \mathbf{S}_2$, binary error probability for ML detector:

$$P_e = Q\left(\frac{\|\mathbf{S}_1 - \mathbf{S}_2\|_2}{2\sigma_{\text{th}}}\right).$$

- The natural coordinates are the Stokes vector space $\{S_1, S_2, S_3\}$.

Find optimal and reference bounding regions

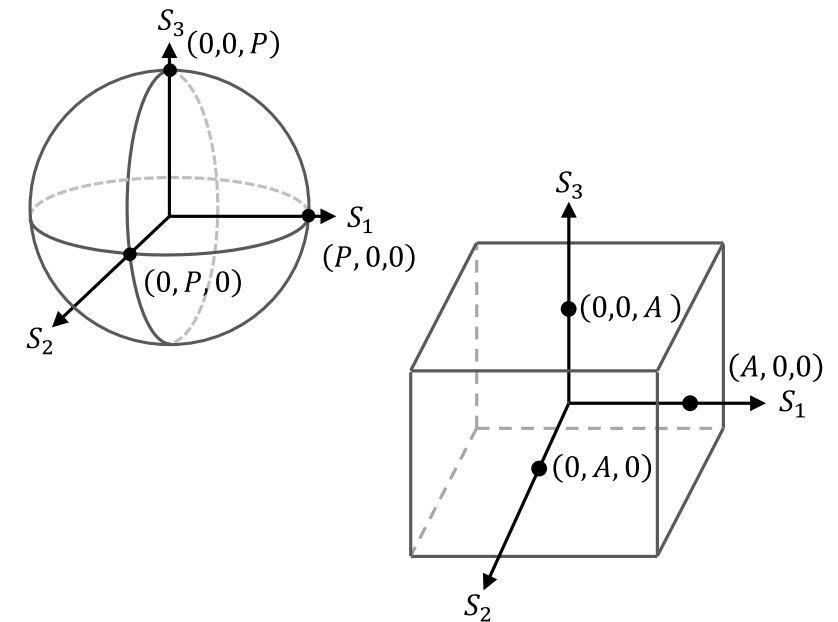
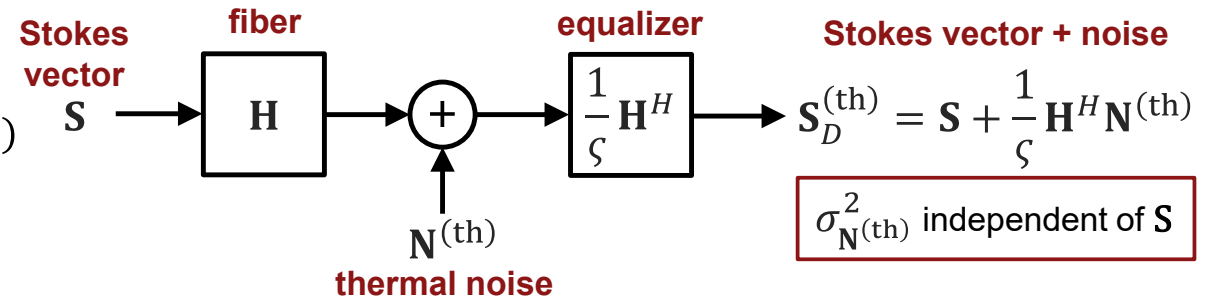
$$\mathcal{R}_{\text{shaped}}^{(\text{SVR,th})}(N, P) = \{\mathbf{S} \in \mathbb{R}^{3N} \mid \sum_{i=1}^N \|\mathbf{S}_i\|_2 = P\}, \quad \mathcal{R}_{\text{ref}}^{(\text{SVR,th})}(N, P) = \{\mathbf{S} \in \mathbb{R}^{3N} \mid \|\mathbf{S}\|_\infty = A\}$$

Compute enclosed volumes

$$\mathcal{V}_{\text{shaped}}^{(\text{SVR,th})}(N, P) = \frac{1}{\Gamma(3N + 1)} (8\pi)^N P^{3N}, \quad \mathcal{V}_{\text{ref}}^{(\text{SVR,th})}(N, A) = (2A)^{3N}$$

Compute average powers

$$\bar{P}_{\text{shaped}}^{(\text{SVR,th})}(N, P) = \frac{3}{3N + 1} P, \quad \bar{P}_{\text{ref}}^{(\text{SVR,th})}(A) \approx 0.961A \leq A$$



H. Jia, E. Liang and J. M. Kahn, J. Lightw. Technol. **15** (2023).

Stokes Vector Receiver: Thermal Noise (2/3)

Compute shape gain (for equal volumes)

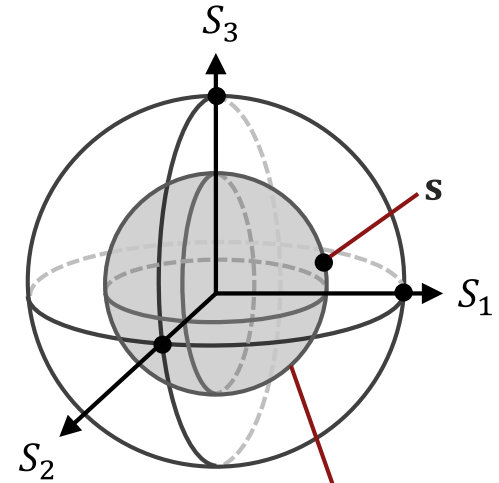
$$\gamma_s = \lim_{N \rightarrow \infty} \frac{\bar{P}_{\text{ref}}^{(\text{SVR,th})}(A)}{\bar{P}_{\text{shaped}}^{(\text{SVR,th})}(N, P)} = 0.961 \frac{e}{3} \sqrt[3]{\pi} \approx 1.056 \text{ dB} \leq \frac{e}{3} \sqrt[3]{\pi} \approx 1.23 \text{ dB}$$

Compute induced distribution in one basic dimension

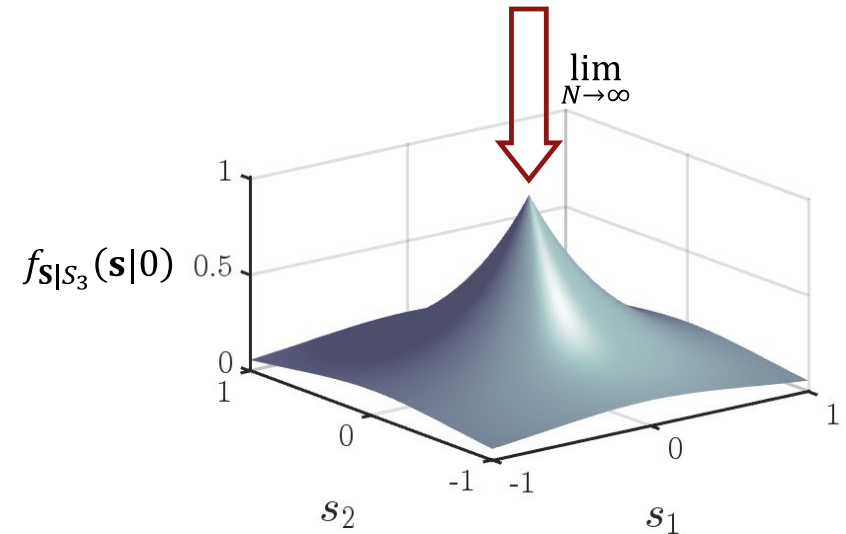
$$f_{\mathbf{s}}(\mathbf{s}) \propto \mathcal{V}_{\text{shaped}}^{(\text{SVR,th})}(N - 1, P - \|\mathbf{s}\|_2)$$

$$\Rightarrow \lim_{N \rightarrow \infty} f_{\mathbf{s}}(\mathbf{s}) \propto \exp(-\|\mathbf{s}\|_2/\beta) \propto \exp(-s_0/\beta)$$

- Optimal 3-D input distribution is an exponential in the L² norm of the Stokes vector.



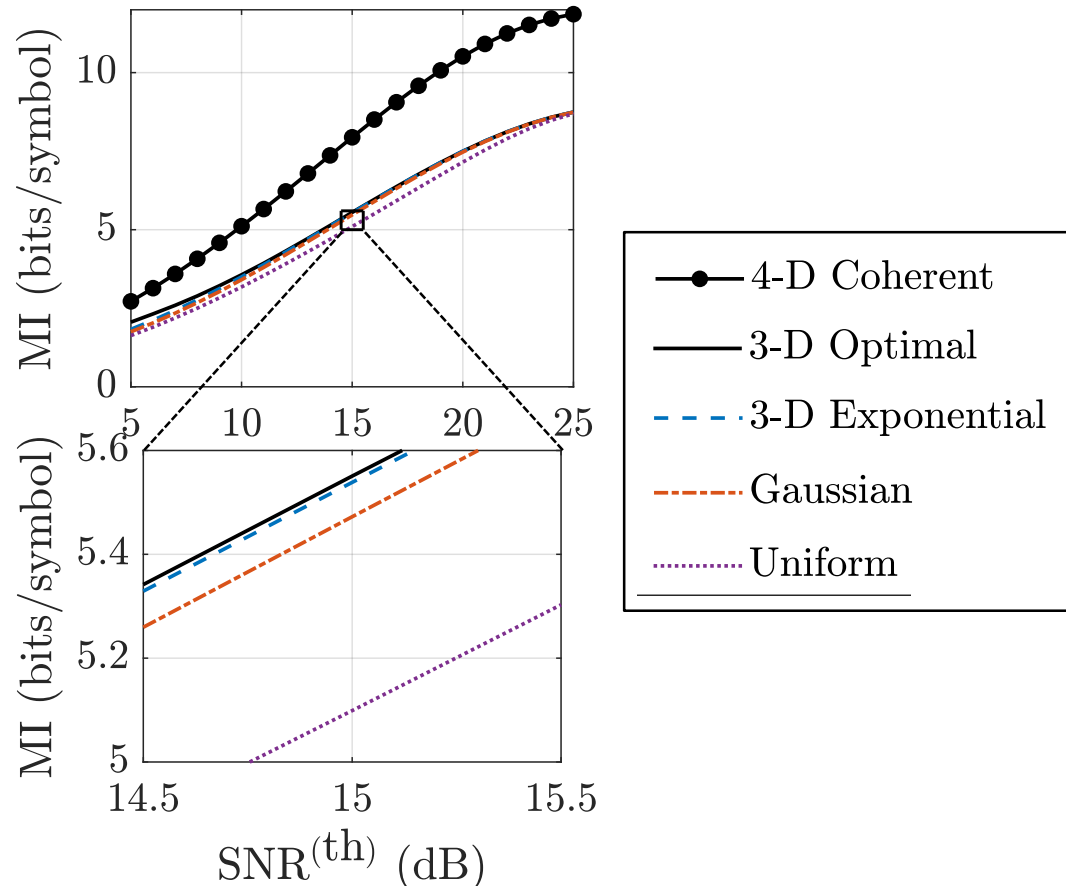
$$4\pi \|\mathbf{s}\|_2^2 \cdot \mathcal{V}_{\text{shaped}}^{(\text{SVR,th})}(N - 1, P - \|\mathbf{s}\|_2)$$



H. Jia, E. Liang and J. M. Kahn, J. Lightw. Technol. **15** (2023).

Stokes Vector Receiver: Thermal Noise (3/3)

Mutual information vs. SNR for various input distributions



Using Stokes vector receiver unless noted otherwise:

- **4-D Coherent:** standard coherent receiver, input optimized using Blahut-Arimoto (BA) algorithm on dense 4-D lattice.
 - **3-D Optimal:** input optimized using BA algorithm on dense 3-D lattice.
 - **3-D Exponential:** 3-D exponential $\exp(-\|\mathbf{s}\|_2/\beta)$ with numerical optimization of parameter β .
 - **Gaussian:** 3-D Gaussian $\exp(-\|\mathbf{s}\|_2^2/\beta)$ with numerical optimization of parameter β .
 - **Uniform:** independent uniform distribution on each Stokes parameter.
- 3-D exponential outperforms Gaussian and performs close to 3-D optimal.

H. Jia, E. Liang and J. M. Kahn, J. Lightw. Technol. **15** (2023).

SVR: Amplifier Noise-Limited Regime (1/3)

Determine natural coordinates

- Ignoring spontaneous-spontaneous beat noise:

$$\mathbf{S}_D^{(\text{amp})} = \mathbf{S} + \frac{1}{\zeta} \mathbf{H}^H \tilde{\mathbf{N}}^{(\text{amp})},$$

$$\mathbf{S}, \mathbf{S}_D^{(\text{amp})}, \tilde{\mathbf{N}}^{(\text{amp})} \in \mathbb{R}^3, \quad \tilde{\mathbf{N}}^{(\text{amp})} | \mathbf{S} \sim \mathcal{N}(0, 4\sigma_{\text{amp}}^2 \sqrt{\zeta} S_0 \mathbf{I}_3), \quad \mathbf{H} \in O(3)$$

- Scaled Stokes vector:

$$[X_1, X_2, X_3]^T = [S_1, S_2, S_3]^T / \sqrt{S_0}$$

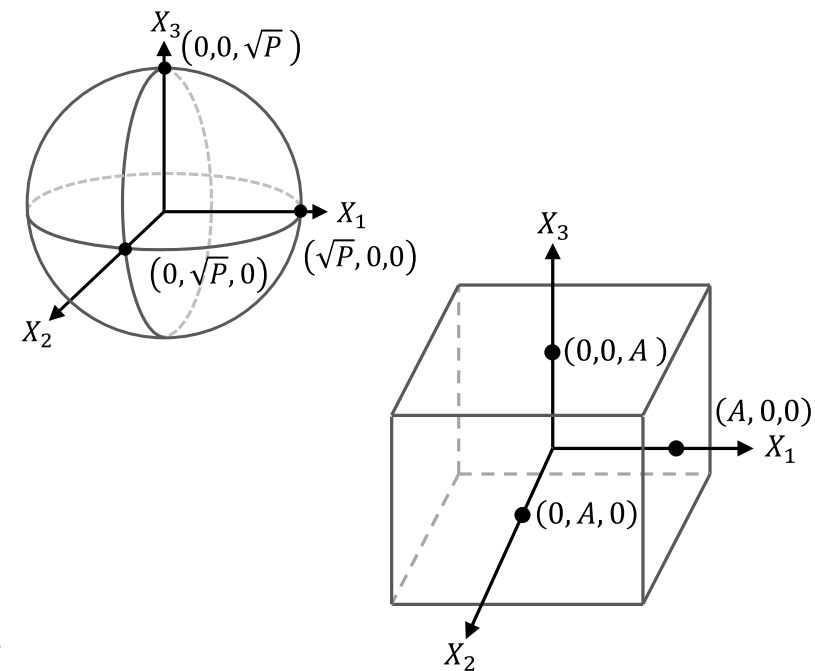
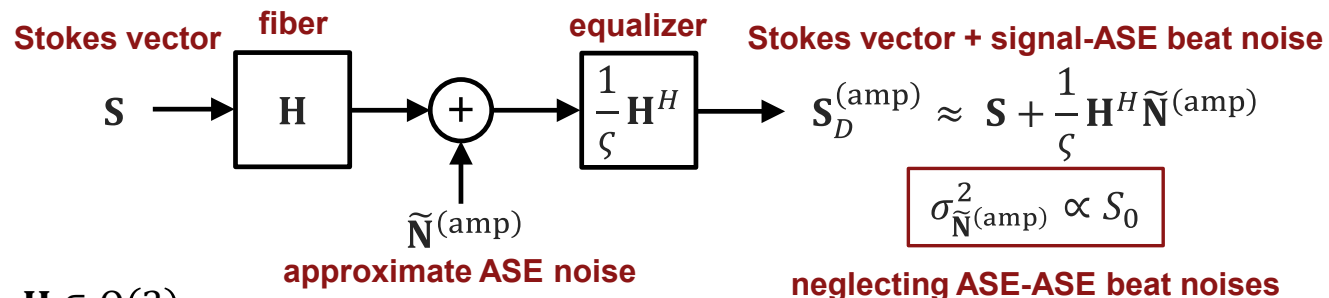
- For Stokes vectors $\mathbf{S}_1, \mathbf{S}_2$, binary error probability for approximate ML detector:

$$P_e = Q\left(\frac{\|\mathbf{S}_1 - \mathbf{S}_2\|_2}{2\sigma_{\text{amp}}(\sqrt{S_{1,0}} + \sqrt{S_{2,0}})}\right) \approx Q\left(\frac{\|\mathbf{X}_1 - \mathbf{X}_2\|_2}{4\sigma_{\text{amp}}}\right).$$

- The natural coordinates are the scaled Stokes vector space $\{X_1, X_2, X_3\}$.

Find optimal and reference bounding regions

$$\mathcal{R}_{\text{shaped}}^{(\text{SVR}, \text{amp})}(N, P) = \{\mathbf{X} \in \mathbb{R}^{3N} \mid \|\mathbf{X}\|_2^2 = P\}, \quad \mathcal{R}_{\text{ref}}^{(\text{SVR}, \text{amp})}(N, P) = \{\mathbf{X} \in \mathbb{R}^{3N} \mid \|\mathbf{X}\|_\infty = A\}$$



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SVR: Amplifier Noise-Limited Regime (2/3)

Compute enclosed volumes

$$\mathcal{V}_{\text{shaped}}^{(\text{SVR,amp})}(N, P) = \frac{\pi^{3N/2}}{\Gamma(3N/2 + 1)} (P)^{3N/2}, \quad \mathcal{V}_{\text{ref}}^{(\text{SVR,amp})}(N, A) = (2A)^{3N}$$

Compute average powers

$$\bar{P}_{\text{shaped}}^{(\text{SVR,amp})}(N, P) = \frac{3}{3N + 2} P, \quad \bar{P}_{\text{ref}}^{(\text{SVR,amp})}(A) = A^2$$

Compute shape gain (for equal volumes)

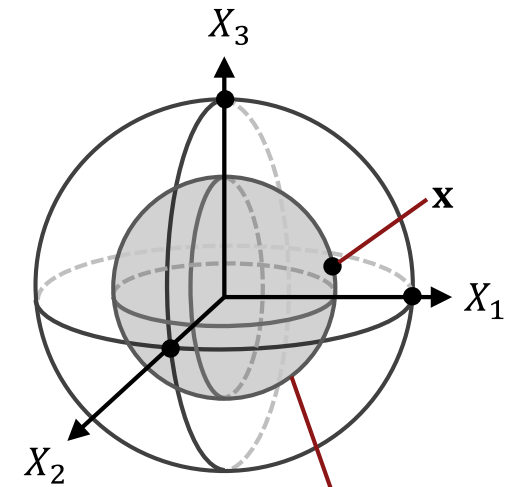
$$\gamma_s = \lim_{N \rightarrow \infty} \frac{\bar{P}_{\text{ref}}^{(\text{SVR,amp})}(A)}{\bar{P}_{\text{shaped}}^{(\text{SVR,amp})}(N, P)} = \frac{\pi e}{6} \approx 1.53 \text{ dB}$$

Compute induced distribution in one basic dimension

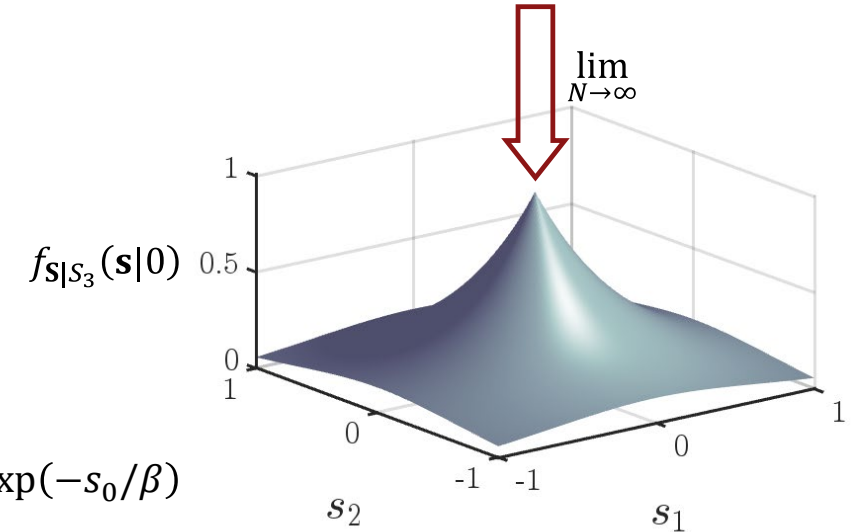
$$f_{\mathbf{X}}(\mathbf{x}) \propto \mathcal{V}_{\text{shaped}}^{(\text{SVR,amp})}(N - 1, P - \|\mathbf{x}\|_2^2)$$

$$\lim_{N \rightarrow \infty} f_{\mathbf{X}}(\mathbf{x}) \propto \exp(-\|\mathbf{x}\|_2^2/\beta) \Rightarrow \lim_{N \rightarrow \infty} f_{\mathbf{S}}(\mathbf{s}) \propto \frac{1}{\|\mathbf{s}\|_2^{3/2}} \exp(-\|\mathbf{s}\|_2/\beta) \approx \exp(-\|\mathbf{s}\|_2/\beta) = \exp(-s_0/\beta)$$

- At high SNR, optimal 3-D input distribution is approximately exponential in L^2 norm of Stokes vector.



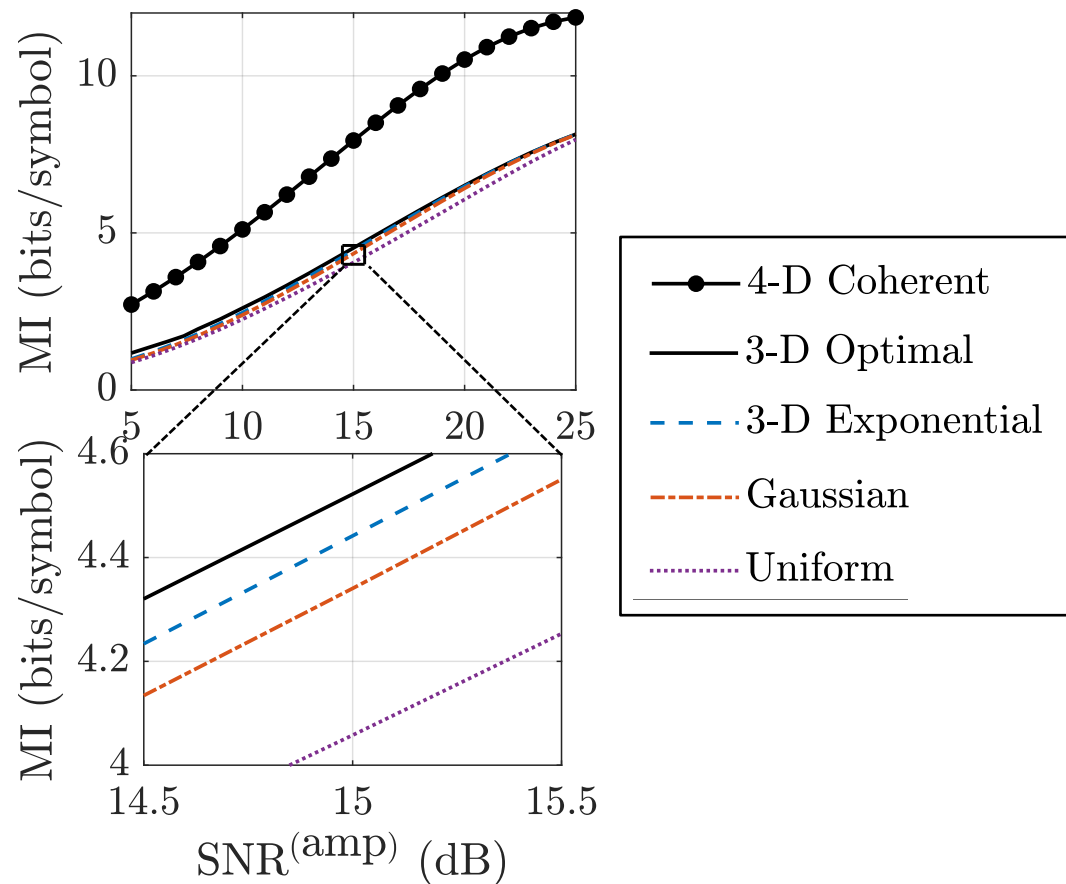
$$4\pi \|\mathbf{x}\|_2^2 \cdot \mathcal{V}_{\text{shaped}}^{(\text{SVR,th})}(N - 1, P - \|\mathbf{x}\|_2^2)$$



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SVR: Amplifier Noise-Limited Regime (3/3)

Mutual information vs. SNR for various input distributions

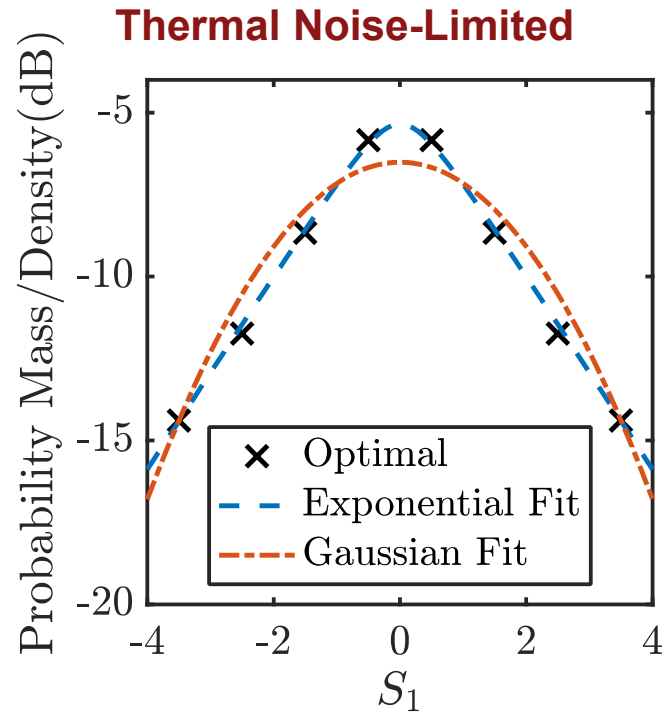


Using Stokes vector receiver unless noted otherwise:

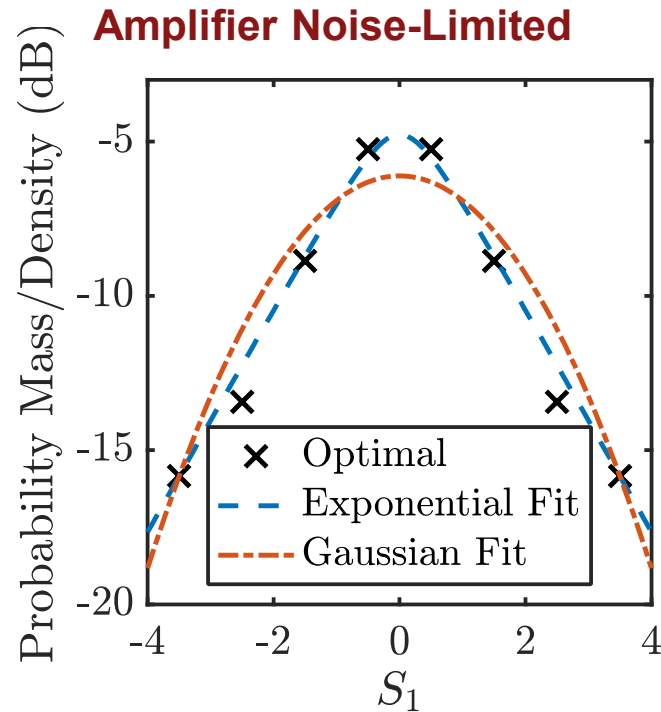
- Performance evaluation includes ASE-ASE beat noises.
 - **4-D Coherent:** standard coherent receiver, input optimized using Blahut-Arimoto (BA) algorithm on dense 4-D lattice.
 - **3-D Optimal:** input optimized using BA algorithm on dense 3-D lattice.
 - **3-D Exponential:** 3-D exponential $\exp(-\|\mathbf{s}\|_2/\beta)$ with numerical optimization of parameter β .
 - **Gaussian:** 3-D Gaussian $\exp(-\|\mathbf{s}\|_2^2/\beta)$ with numerical optimization of parameter β .
 - **Uniform:** independent uniform distribution on each Stokes parameter.
- 3-D exponential outperforms Gaussian and performs close to 3-D optimal.

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SVR: Exponential vs. Gaussian Fit in Both Noise Regimes



▪ SNR = 20 dB

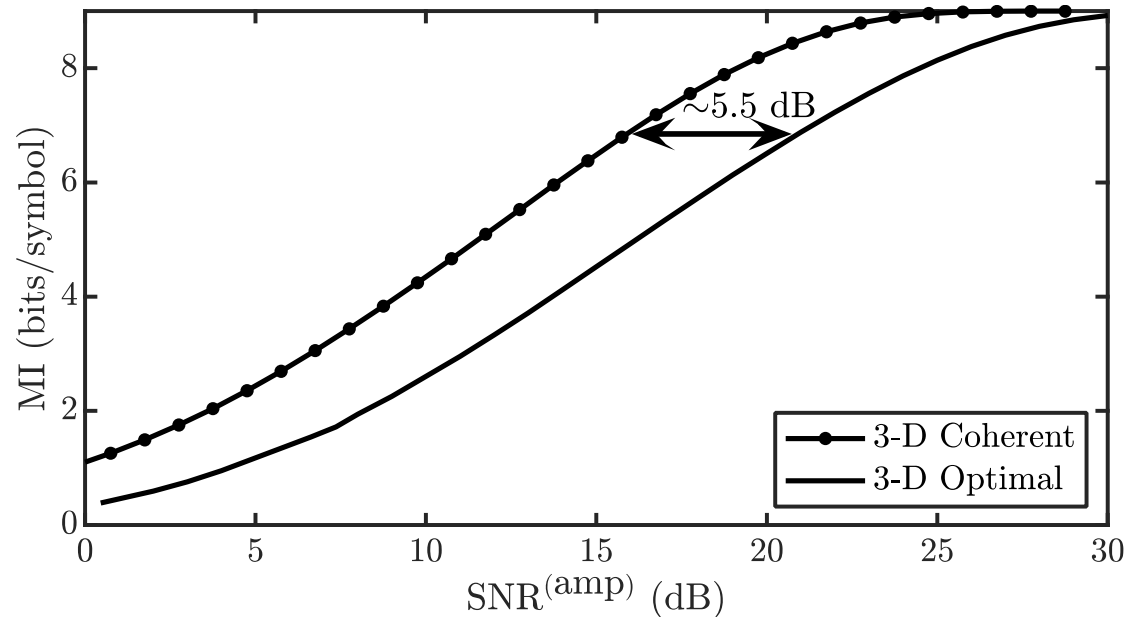


▪ $S_2 = S_3 = 0.5$

- **Optimal:** $8 \times 8 \times 8$ constellation optimized using BA algorithm.
- **Exponential and Gaussian:** fitted to minimize L^1 norm of error.
- Exponential fits better than Gaussian in both noise regimes.

H. Jia, E. Liang and J. M. Kahn, J. Lightw. Technol. **15** (2023).

SVR vs. 3-D Coherent in Amplifier Noise-Limited Regime



- **3-D Coherent:** standard coherent using three of four available dimensions, i.e., setting $E_{2Q} = 0$.
- **3-D Optimal:** SVR with input distribution designed using Blahut-Arimoto algorithm.
- Adjust signal powers and noise variances to correspond to equal optical SNRs [1].

Origin of gap: noise enhancement

- In coherent receiver, each component of photocurrent is corrupted only by noise in one polarization and one quadrature.
- In Stokes receiver, each component of photocurrent is corrupted by noises in both polarizations and quadratures.
- Can analytically upper-bound the performance gap by 6 dB [1].

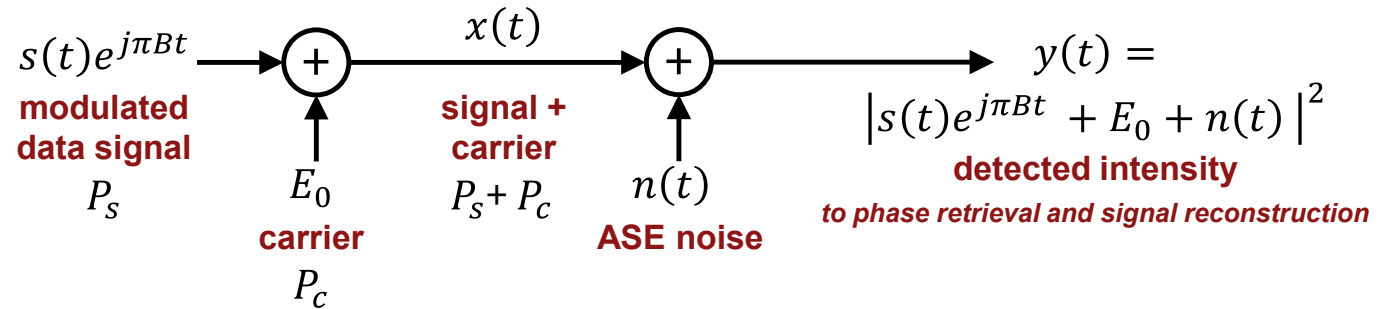
1. H. Jia, E. Liang and J. M. Kahn, J. Lightw. Technol. **15** (2023).

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 - Standard Direct Detection, Amplifier Noise
 - Stokes Vector Detection, Thermal or Amplifier Noise
 - **Kramers Kronig Detection, Amplifier Noise**
- Discussion

Kramers-Kronig Detection, Amplifier Noise-Limited Regime

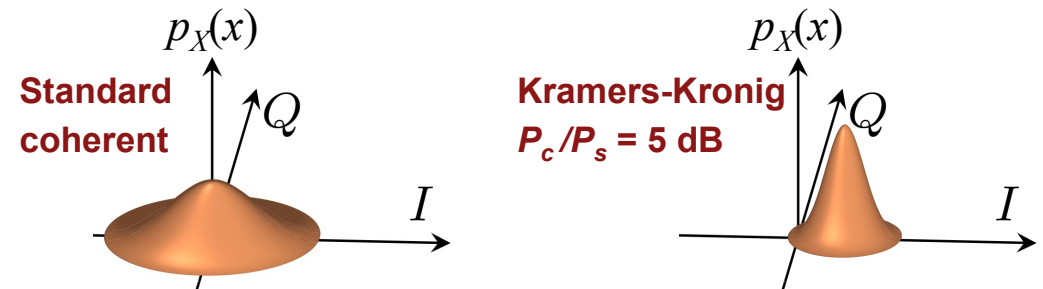
- Transmitted signal is $x(t) = s(t)e^{j\pi Bt} + E_0$.
- Modulated data $s(t)e^{j\pi Bt}$ and carrier E_0 do not overlap, so total power is $P_s + P_c$. Assume P_c is sufficient to avoid phase retrieval errors.



- Carrier E_0 conveys no information and $e^{j\pi Bt}$ preserves information. Optimal distribution for $s(t)$ satisfies

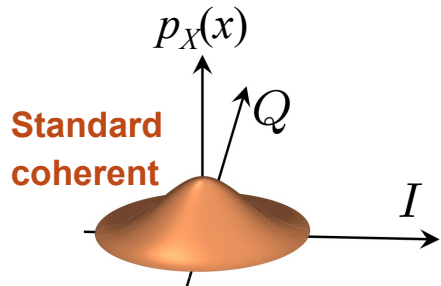
$$\max_{p_S(s)} I(S, Y) \quad \text{s.t.} \quad P_S \leq P_{\max} - P_C.$$

- Optimal $p_S(s)$ is complex circular Gaussian. Optimal $p_X(x)$ is shifted complex circular Gaussian.
- At each SNR, can optimize P_c / P_s numerically to maximize $I(X, Y)$ while achieving low phase error.

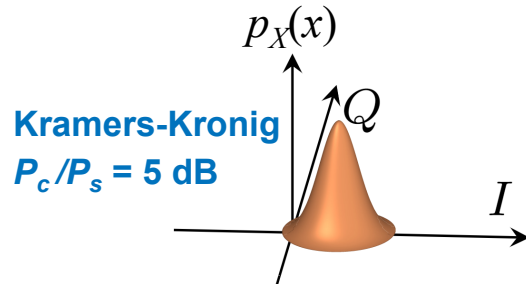


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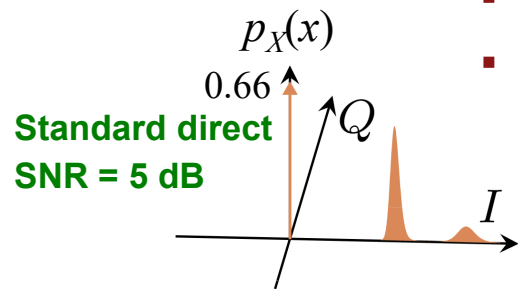
KK vs. Standard Coherent or Direct Detection, Amplifier Noise



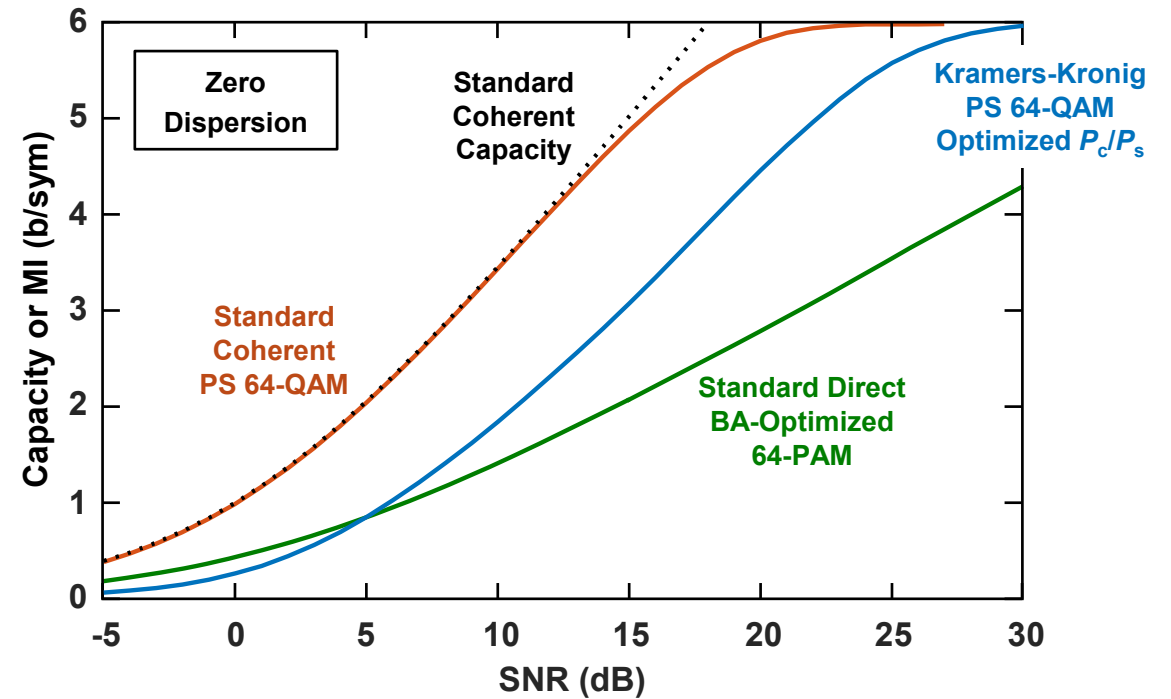
- Provides 2 real dimensions.
- Outperforms KK by 5 to 6 dB.



- Provides ~ 1.8 real dimensions; must increase P_c/P_s as increase SNR.
- Cannot use zero intensity level.
- Outperforms SD for SNR > 5 dB.



- Provides 1 real dimension.
- Can use zero intensity level, which has least noise.
- Outperforms KK for SNR < 5 dB.

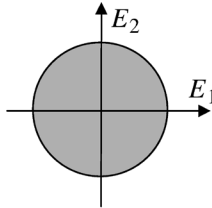
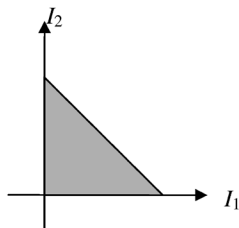
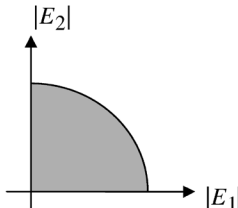
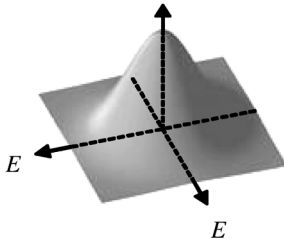
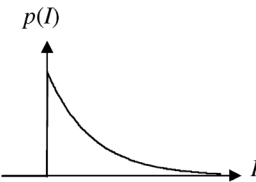
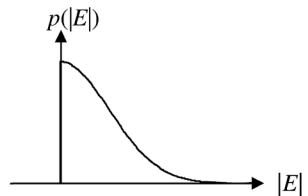


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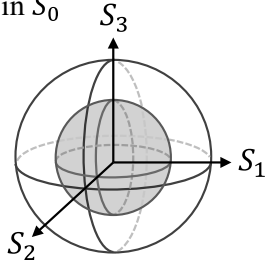
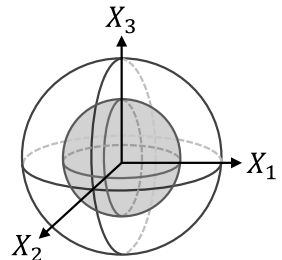
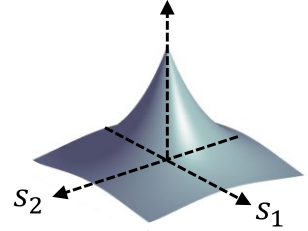
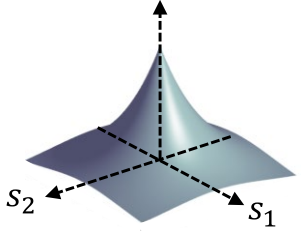
Outline

- Introduction
- Standard Coherent Detection
- Direct Detection Methods
- Discussion
 - Summary of Direct Detection Shaping Results
 - Implementation of Shaping with Direct Detection
 - References

Shaping Results Summary (1/2)

Detection Method & Dominant Noise	Coherent Detection, Amplifier or LO Shot Noise	Noncoherent Detection, Thermal Noise	Noncoherent Detection, Amplifier or LO Shot Noise
Natural Coordinates	2-D electric field $E = \{E_1, E_2\}$	1-D electric field intensity $I = E ^2$	1-D electric field magnitude $ E $
Optimal Shaping Region	N -sphere centered at the origin 	Nonnegative orthant bounded by N -simplex 	Nonnegative orthant bounded by N -sphere 
Induced Optimal Signaling Distribution in Constituent Constellation	$p(E) = \frac{1}{\pi P} \exp\left(-\frac{ E ^2}{P}\right),$ $E = (E_1, E_2)$ $p(E_1, E_2)$ 	$p(I) = \frac{1}{P} \exp\left(-\frac{I}{P}\right),$ $I \geq 0$ 	$p(E) = \sqrt{\frac{2}{\pi P}} \exp\left(-\frac{ E ^2}{2P}\right),$ $ E \geq 0$ 
Ultimate Shape Gain	$\pi e/6 = 1.53$ dB	$e/2 = 1.33$ dB	$\pi e/6 = 1.53$ dB
Optimal Distribution	Complex circular Gaussian	Exponential	Half-Gaussian
Key Works	Forney <i>et al.</i> , 1984-89 Calderbank & Ozarow, 1990 Kschischang & Pasupathy, 1993	Shiu & Kahn, 1999 Hranilovic & Kschischang, 2003	Mao & Kahn, 2008

Shaping Results Summary (2/2)

Detection Method & Dominant Noise	Stokes Vector Receiver, Thermal Noise	Stokes Vector Receiver, Amplifier Noise
Natural Coordinates	3-D Stokes vector $\mathbf{S} = \{S_1, S_2, S_3\}$	3-D scaled Stokes vector $\mathbf{X} = \{X_1, X_2, X_3\} = \{S_1, S_2, S_3\}/\sqrt{S_0}$
Optimal Shaping Region	Non-negative orthant bounded by N -simplex in S_0 	N -sphere centered at the origin 
Induced Optimal Signaling Distribution in Constituent Constellation	$p(\mathbf{S}) \propto \exp(-S_0/\beta)$ $f_{S_1 S_3}(s_1 0)$ 	$p(\mathbf{S}) \propto \exp(-S_0/\beta)$ $f_{S_1 S_3}(s_1 0)$ 
Ultimate Shape Gain	$\sim 0.961^3 \sqrt{\pi e} / 3 \approx 1.056$ dB	$\pi e / 6 \approx 1.53$ dB
Optimal Distribution	3-D exponential	3-D exponential
Key Works	H. Jia, E. Liang and J. M. Kahn, (2023).	H. Jia, E. Liang and J. M. Kahn, (2023).

Implementation of Shaping with Direct Detection (1/2)

Obtaining a finite discrete distribution

- Sample the continuous distribution and adjust the shaping parameter (typically β) to maximize MI.
or
- Use Blahut-Arimoto algorithm to optimize the discrete distribution.

Implementation of Shaping with Direct Detection (2/2)

		Losslessly Separable into 1-D Distributions		Not Losslessly Separable into 1-D Distributions
Symmetric Distribution	1	Kramers Kronig (Gaussian)	3	SVR Thermal (3-D exponential) SVR Amplifier (3-D exponential)
Asymmetric Distribution	2	SD Thermal (1-D exponential) SD Amplifier (1-D half-Gaussian)		

1. Use PAS with CCDM (or other DM)

- Separate into independent 1-D distributions and use a separate DM for each 1-D distribution.

2. Use a suboptimal solution

- PAS / CCDM (or other DM):** modify target distribution to achieve pairwise symmetry [1].
or
- Non-PAS scheme:** see [2] for an overview.

3. Use PAS with CCDM (or other DM)

- Directly implement one DM for the 3-D distribution (lossless).
or
- Separate into independent 1-D distributions and use a separate DM for each 1-D distribution (lossy).

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Thank You!

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6. W. Mao and J. M. Kahn, "Lattice codes for amplified direct-detection optical systems," IEEE Transactions on Communications, vol. 56, no. 7, pp. 1137-1145, July 2008.

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