

Turbo decoding of concatenated codes based on RS codes using adapted scaling factors

Es-said Azougaghe¹, Abderrazak Farchane¹, Said Safi¹ and Mostafa Belkasmi²

Abstract—Iteratively decoded block turbo codes are product codes that exhibit excellent performance with reasonable complexity. In this paper, a generalization of parallel concatenated block codes (GPCBs) based on RS codes is presented. We propose an efficient decoding algorithm with modifications of the Chase-Pyndiah algorithm is written by using Weighting factor α and Reliability factor β .

In this work, we studied the effect of diverse parameters such as the effect of various component codes, interleaver size (number of sub-blocks) and number of iterations. The simulation results shows the relevance of the adapted parameters to decode generalized parallel concatenated block codes based on RS codes. The proposed algorithm (MCP) using the adapted parameters performs better than the one using with empirical parameters (CP).

Index Terms—RS codes, Chase decoding, Modified Chase-Pyndiah Algorithm, iterative decoding, generalized parallel concatenated codes.

I. INTRODUCTION

There are many reasons that contributed to the massive interest in product codes. First of all, product codes have noticed a great growth as a result of the introduction of Turbo decoding. In addition to this, the product codes are very identical to concatenated codes as well as to multilevel codes in the sense that almost any solution that works for product codes can easily be compatible to concatenated codes and multilevel codes. Many scholars have suggested different computation methods of soft value for iterative decoding of product codes. A case in example can be found in the works of Pyndiah et al. [1] [2] [3] and [4] who proposed a new iterative decoding algorithm based on Chase decoding [5][6]. The obtained results for product codes based on BCH codes suggested that there is a similarity with those obtained by convolutional turbo codes. Likewise, the generalized parallel concatenated block (GPCB) codes can be seen to be similar to convolutional turbo codes in both encoding and decoding structures. Iterative decoding of concatenated codes uses long powerful codes, and keeps the decoder relatively simple. The length and power of these codes result in safety and durability of application.

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Our study is based on RS codes that we decode by using the Modified Chase-Pyndiah algorithm (MCP) [7][8]. Our contribution, in this work, lies in that we tested the application of the Modified Chase-Pyndiah SISO algorithm to decode the GPCB-RS codes based on RS CODES, and we investigated the impact of various component codes, the number of iterations, interleaver size, length and pattern using simulations with an adapted scaling factor to the circumstances of the decoder, namely β and α .

Relevant studies adapted scaling factor to the circumstances of the decoder. The adapted parameter can outperforms the previous empirical factor, except that the adapted parameter works without re-optimisation after every change in application. This can be noticed in the generalized serial concatenated block codes presented in [9] and parallel concatenated block codes in [10]. Unlike the aforementioned works that applied adapted scaling factor for BCH codes, our study applies this adapted parameter to decode GPCB-RS codes. We can compare our work with several recent works using turbo decoding for convolutional codes or block codes using experimental weighting parameters namely [11][12] [13] and [14], our result gave good performance at the level of the gold decoding gain close to the Shannon limits [15].

The remainder of this paper is structured as follows : Section II presents the encoder structure of the generalized parallel concatenated block codes. In Section III, we present the component decoder. We describe the iterative decoding of the GPCB codes, in Section IV. The simulation results are given in Section V. The last Section concludes this paper.

II. GENERALIZED PARALLEL CONCATENATED BLOCK CODES (GPCB)

1) CONSTRUCTION:

The Fig. 1 illustrates the construction of the generalized parallel concatenated block codes (GPCB). Here a block of $N = M \times k$ data symbols at the input of the encoder is subdivided to M sub-blocks each of k symbols. Each k symbols vector is encoded in order to produce n symbols codeword. The input block is scrambled by the interleaver -denoted by Π - before entering in the second encoder. The codeword of GPCB code, as shown in Fig. 2, consists of the input block followed by the parity check symbols of both encoders. In this contribution, several interleaving techniques were invoked such as random, helical, diagonal and primitive interleaver.

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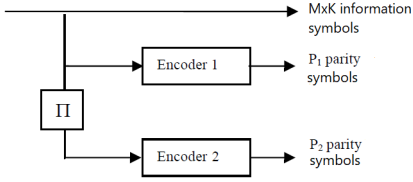


Fig. 1. Encoder structure of GPCB

A systematic GPCB code is based on two component systematic block codes, C_1 with parameters (n_1, k) and C_2 with parameters (n_2, k) . Viewing the coding scheme of 1 as single GPCB encoder, the length of the information-word to be encoded by the GPCB code is given by the size of the interleaver $N = M \times k$. The first encoder produces $P_1 = M \times (n_1 - k)$ parity check symbols. The second encoder produces $P_2 = M \times (n_2 - k)$ parity check symbols. Thus the total number of parity symbols generated by the GPCB encoder is: $P = P_1 + P_2 = M \times (n_1 + n_2 - 2 \times k)$. The length of the GPCB codeword is given by: $L = N + P = M \times (n_1 + n_2 - k)$. Consequently, the code rate of the GPCB codes can be computed by: $R = \frac{N}{L} = \frac{k}{(n_1 + n_2 - k)}$. This implies that the GPCB code rate is independent of the interleaver size N .

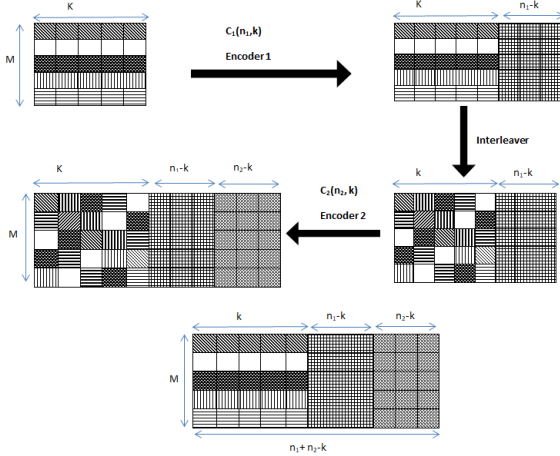


Fig. 2. Systematic GPCB encoding

2) SOFT DECODING of RS code:

If we consider the transmission of block coded binary symbols $\{-1, +1\}$ using BPSK signaling over a Gaussian channel, the sequence R at the input of the RS decoder has the following expression: $R = E + B$

where :

$$R = \begin{pmatrix} r_{11} & \cdots & r_{1j} & \cdots & r_{1n} \\ \vdots & \vdots & r_{ij} & \vdots & \vdots \\ r_{m1} & \cdots & r_{mj} & \cdots & r_{mn} \end{pmatrix}$$

is the received sample word,

$$E = \begin{pmatrix} e_{11} & \cdots & e_{1j} & \cdots & e_{1n} \\ \vdots & \vdots & e_{ij} & \vdots & \vdots \\ e_{m1} & \cdots & e_{mj} & \cdots & e_{mn} \end{pmatrix}$$

is the transmitted word,

$$B = \begin{pmatrix} b_{11} & \cdots & b_{1j} & \cdots & b_{1n} \\ \vdots & \vdots & b_{ij} & \vdots & \vdots \\ b_{m1} & \cdots & b_{mj} & \cdots & b_{mn} \end{pmatrix}$$

are Additive White Gaussian Noise (AWGN) samples of standard deviation σ . Decoding the received sequence R according to the maximum likelihood criteria is given by :

$$D = C^i \quad \text{if} \quad Pr(E = C^i | R) > Pr(E = C^l | R) \quad \forall l \neq i \quad (1)$$

where:

$$C^i = \begin{pmatrix} c_{11}^i & \cdots & c_{1j}^i & \cdots & c_{1n}^i \\ \vdots & \vdots & c_{ij}^i & \vdots & \vdots \\ c_{m1}^i & \cdots & c_{mj}^i & \cdots & c_{mn}^i \end{pmatrix}$$

is the i^{th} code word of code C with parameters (n, i) and

$$D = \begin{pmatrix} d_{11} & \cdots & d_{1j} & \cdots & d_{1n} \\ \vdots & \vdots & d_{ij} & \vdots & \vdots \\ d_{m1} & \cdots & d_{mj} & \cdots & d_{mn} \end{pmatrix}$$

The decision corresponding to maximum likelihood transmitted sequence conditionally to R .

For received samples corrupted by AWGN, decoding rule (1) is simplified into : $D = C^i$ if $|R - C^i|^2 < |R - C^l|^2 \quad \forall l \neq i$ where:

$$|R - C^i|^2 = \sum_{j=1}^n \sum_{f=1}^l (r_{jf} - c_{jf}^i)^2$$

III. COMPONENT DECODER

We choose as component decoder the Modified Chase-Pyndiah algorithm [7]. This decoder works as follows: The decoder starts by generating a set of codewords which are in the vicinity of the received vector R . Then, among those codewords, it selects the nearest codeword from R in term of Euclidean distance. By doing that it tries to determine the most likelihood codeword. The reliability of the decoded bits is given by the log likelihood ratio (LLR) of the decision d_{if} which is defined by:

$$LLR_{if} = \ln \left(\frac{Pr(e_{jf} = +1 | R)}{Pr(e_{jf} = -1 | R)} \right) \quad (2)$$

Where $e_{j f}$ is the binary element in position (j, f) of the transmitted code word E , $1 \leq j \leq n$ et $1 \leq f \leq m$. Using the bayes rule and taking into account that the noise is Gaussian,

$$LLR_{i f} = \log \left(\frac{\sum_{q \in S_j^{+1}} \exp \left(-\frac{|R - C^q|^2}{2\sigma^2} \right)}{\sum_{q \in S_j^{-1}} \exp \left(-\frac{|R - C^q|^2}{2\sigma^2} \right)} \right) \quad (3)$$

where S_j^i represent the set of codewords having a bit equal to i ($i = 1$) in position j . $LLR_{i f}$ can be approximated, in the case of the AWGN, by: The expression of the can be approximated, in the case of the AWGN, by:

$$LLR_{i f} = \frac{1}{2\sigma^2} \left[|R - C^{min(-1)}|^2 - |R - C^{min(+1)}|^2 \right] \quad (4)$$

Where $c_{j f}^{min(+1)}$ and $c_{j f}^{min(-1)}$ are two codewords at minimum Euclidean distance from R with $c_{j f}^{min(+1)} = +1$ and $c_{j f}^{min(-1)} = -1$, $c_{j f}^{min(+1)}$ and $c_{j f}^{min(-1)}$ are chosen among the subset of code word given by Chase algorithm. By expanding relation 4 we obtain:

$$LLR_{i f} = \frac{2}{\sigma^2} \left(r_{j f} + \sum_{x=1, x \neq j}^n \sum_{z=1, z \neq f}^n r_{x z} c_{x z}^{min(+1)} \rho_{x z} \right)$$

Where

$$((x, z) \neq (j, f)) \quad \rho_{x z} = \begin{cases} 0, & \text{if } c_{x z}^{min(+1)} = c_{x z}^{min(-1)} \\ 1, & \text{if } c_{x z}^{min(+1)} \neq c_{x z}^{min(-1)} \end{cases}$$

If we normalize the approximated LLR of $d_{i f}$ with respect to $\frac{2}{\sigma^2}$ we obtain:

$$r'_{j f} = \left(\frac{\sigma^2}{2} \right) LLR_{i f} = r_{j f} + w_{j f}$$

The estimated normalized LLR of decision $d_{i f}$, $r'_{j f}$ is given by input samples $r_{j f}$ plus $w_{j f}$ which is independent of $r_{j f}$. The LLR of $r'_{j f}$ is an estimation of the soft decision of the RS decoder.

To compute the normalized $LLR_{i f}$, of binary elements at the output RS decoder, we must first select the codeword at minimum Euclidean distance from R . Let $C^{min(+i)}$ be this code word, $C^{min(+i)}$ has a binary element i at position (j, f) ($i = \pm 1$). Then we look for codeword $C^{min(+i)}$ at minimal Euclidean distance from R among the codeword subset obtained by Chase algorithm.

$C^{min(-i)}$ must have $-i$ as binary element at position (j, f) . If the $C^{min(+i)}$ codeword is found, the soft decision $r'_{j f}$ can be computed using the relation given below:

$$r'_{j f} = \left(\frac{M^{min(-i)} - M^{min(i)}}{4} \right) c_{j f}^{min(i)}$$

Where $M^{min(-i)}$ and $M^{min(i)}$ represent respectively the $c_{j f}^{min(-i)}$ Euclidean distance from R and $c_{j f}^{min(i)}$ Euclidean distance from R .

Else we use the relation: $r'_{j f} = \left(\frac{1}{2} \sigma_R + |r_{i j}| \right) c_{j f}^{min(i)}$ where σ_R is the standard deviation of the decoder input sequence R .

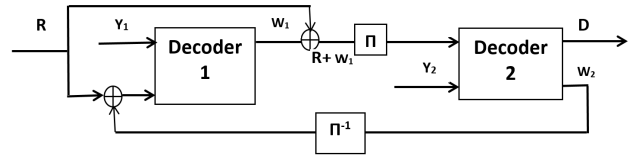


Fig. 3. Iterative decoding structure for the GPCB codes

IV. ITERATIVE DECODING OF GPCB CODES

A. GPCB decoder

The decoding of the GPCB codes is iterative. The decoder structure is shown in Fig. 3. An iteration consists in using two component decoders serially. The first one uses the systematic information and the first parity check symbols in order to generate extrinsic information W as in the Modified Chase-Pyndiah algorithm. This extrinsic information is used to update the reliabilities of the systematic information which will be interleaved and feed into the second decoder with the second parity check symbols received from the channel. The second decoder also generates the extrinsic information using Chase-Pyndiah decoder, and then updates the reliabilities of the systematic information for the second time. The updated reliabilities will be desinterleaved and feed again into first decoder, for the next iteration. The process resumes until a maximum number of iterations is reached.

B. Parameters α and β

1) *Weighting factor α* : To reduce the dependency of α on the product code, the mean absolute value of the extrinsic information $|W|$ is normalized to one. The evolution of α with the decoding number is:

$$\alpha = [0.00, 0.01, 0.08, 0.12, 0.16, 0.20, 0.24, 0.28, 0.32, 0.36, 0.40, 0.44, 0.48, 0.52, 0.56, 0.60, 0.61, 0.67, 0.70, 0.72]$$

2) *Reliability factor β* : To operate under optimal conditions, the reliability factor should be determined as a function of the BER. For practical considerations, we have fixed the evolution of β with the decoding step to the following values: β with the decoding number is:

$$\beta = [0.56, 0.60, 0.64, 0.68, 0.72, 0.76, 0.80, 0.82, 0.86, 0.88, 0.90, 0.91, 0.93, 0.95, 0.97, 0.99, 0.99, 1.00, 1.00, 1.00]$$

We have determined the values of α and β empirically [16]. The later parameters play a crucial role to have good performance. So, the better parameters you have the better performance you will gain. Therefore, we should carefully determine these parameters. To obtain good parameters, we choose some condition for which codes are sensitive. Thus, we take the parameter M equal to 100, and relatively high component code length.

We begin our process by setting the number of iterations in 1, and vary the value of α , where $0 < \alpha < 1$, in order to have good performance, and keep the value of α which gives the best BER (bit error rate). Next, we vary the value of the

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parameter β , where $0 < \beta < 1$, in the same way. Once the good parameters are chosen, for the first iteration, we increment the number of iterations, and we look for the good ones for the second iteration. Then we come back without decrementing the number of iterations so as to adjust the parameters α and β for eventual improvement of the performance. Afterwards, we increment the number of iterations and repeat again the same process until a maximal number of iterations is reached. The coefficients α and β used in Chase-Pyndiah algorithm are listed in table V.

C. Adapted parameter $\alpha(p)$

1) *Parameter $\alpha(p)$* : The role of the parameter $\alpha(p)$ is vital in the decoding performance. In the works [2][9][16] and [17], this parameter was experimentally predetermined. Its values are chosen such as the $BER = 10^{-5}$ is attained with the minimum number of iterations. This process is too hard. We have adapted the parameters to the circumstances of the product codes and turbo like-codes to overcome this problem. The following formula gives the expression of $\alpha(p)$:

$$\alpha(p) = \frac{1}{\sigma_{W(p-1)}^2}$$

where $\sigma_{W(p-1)}^2$ denote the variance of the extrinsic information delivered by the previous decoder. The performance obtained by using the adapted parameter $\alpha(p)$ is comparable to those obtained by the predetermined parameter. Therefore, we don't need to re-optimize this parameter if we change the application.

2) *Parameter β* : In case of absence of competitor all the code words have an element c_j equal to d_j . This means that all codewords vote for the same decision. In this case the reliability produced by the decoder must follow the fact that all the words agree on the same decision d_j . This can be translated by the following relation:

$$\gamma_{d_j} = \beta \cdot d_j$$

where

$$\beta = (\sigma_\lambda + |\lambda_j|)$$

where σ_λ is the standard deviation of the decoder input sequence R .

V. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

In this Section, the performances of generalized parallel concatenated block codes based on RS codes are evaluated. Transmission over the additive white Gaussian noise (AWGN) in channel and binary antipodal modulation are used. We are interested in the information bit error rate (BER) for different signal to noise ratios per information bit $\frac{E_b}{N_0}$ in dB. There are many parameters which affect the performance of GPCB-RS codes when decoded with iterative decoder. Accordingly, we studied the effects of the following parameters on the decoder performance, namely the number of decoding iterations, the component codes and interleaver size and patterns. The simulation parameters are summarized in this table V:

TABLE I
SIMULATION PARAMETERS

Parameter	Value
Modulation	BPSK
Environnement	The C Language
Channel	AWGN
Interleaver	Random interleaver (default) Diagonal interleaver Primitive interleaver Helical interleaver
Elementary decoder	Chase-Pyndiah
Iterations	from 1 to 10 (default)
Interleaver size	$1 \times k, 10 \times k, 100 \times k, 300 \times k$

A. Effect of iterations

In this part of simulations we compare between the algorithm of Chase-Pyndiah (CP) which uses the empirical parameters and the version of this algorithm which we modified by using the adapted parameters, called algorithm Modified Chase-Pyndiah (MCP).

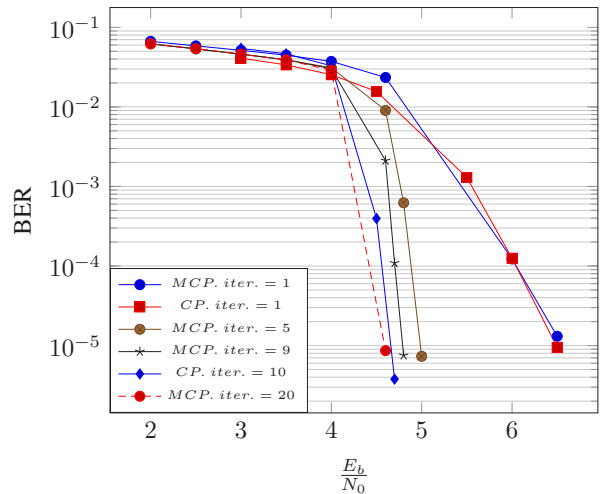


Fig. 4. Effect of iterations on iterative decoding of GPCB-RS(67, 59) Code, with M=100, over AWGN channel

Fig. 4 shows the performance of the code GPCB-RS (67, 59), with $M = 100$. This figure shows that the slope of curves and coding gain are improved by increasing the number of iterations. After the 10th iteration, the amelioration of the coding gain becomes negligible for Chase-Pyndiah decoder (CP), whereas the Modified Chase-Pyndiah decoder (MCP) can go up to the 20th iteration.

B. Effect of the parameter M

The Fig. 5 shows the effect of the multi-block M . The gain reaches 1.4dB as we pass from $M = 1$ to $M = 10$, decreases to 0.4dB between $M = 10$ to $M = 100$ and becomes negligible beyond $M = 100$. This demonstrates how effective is the multi-block M .

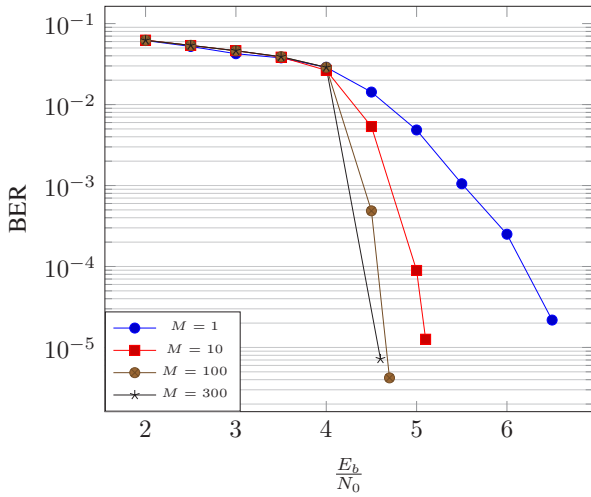


Fig. 5. Effect of the parameter M on iterative decoding of GPCB-RS(67, 59) code, over AWGN channel

C. Interleaver structure effect

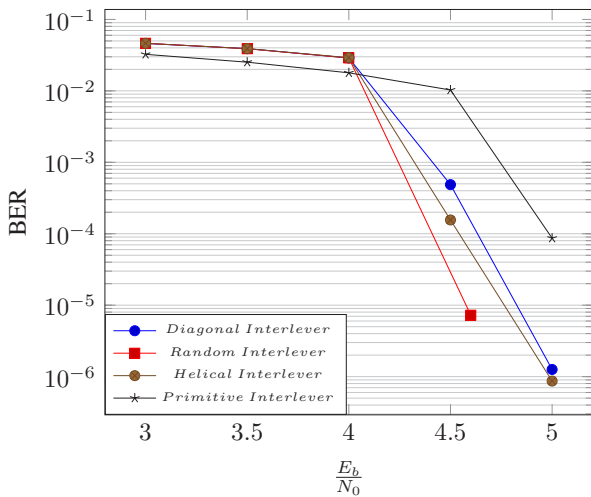


Fig. 6. Interleaver structure effect on Iterative decoding of GPCB-RS(67, 59) Code, with $M=100$, over AWGN channel To

To study the influence of the interleaver pattern on the GPCB-RS codes performance, we have evaluated the BER versus $\frac{E_b}{N_0}$ of the GPCB-RS (67, 59) code using different interleaver structures such as diagonal, helical, primitive and random interleaver with parameter $M = 100$. The Fig. 6 shows the performance results. according to this figure we observe that the Random interleaver outperforms the other ones by about $0.5dB$ at $TEB = 10^{-5}$.

D. Effect of multi-blocs

To evaluate the performance of the generalized parallel concatenated block codes, we compare the coding gain at the 20th iteration of the following codes GPCB-RS (67, 59), GPCB-RS (131, 123), with the same code rate 0.82 and the parameter $M = 100$. The performance is shown in

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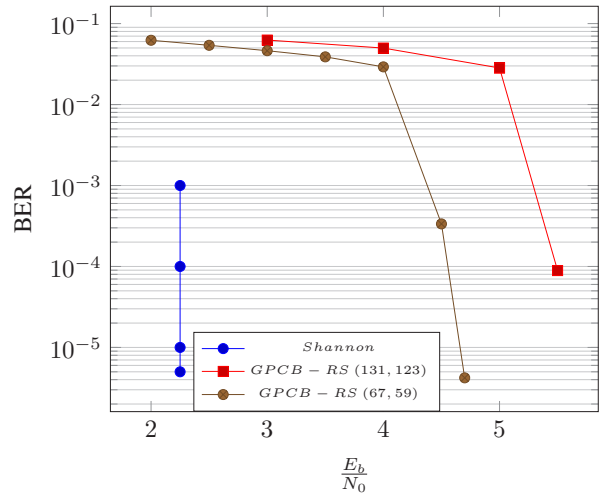


Fig. 7. Effect of multi-blocs on iterative decoding of GPCB codes

Fig. 7. From this figure, we observe that the performance becomes worse with increasing the length of the component code. The GPCB-RS (69,57), GPCB-RS (131, 123) codes are respectively 2.3, 2.8 away from their Shannon limits.

VI. CONCLUSION

In this paper, we have extended the work that has been done to decode generalized concatenated block codes based on BCH codes for RS codes. We have used adapted parameters in order to avoid determining its value empirically. The simulation results show that the adapted parameters are effective, as it can be demonstrated in the asymptotic performance. This work can be extended to produce codes and generalized serially concatenated block based on RS codes adopting the adapted parameters.

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