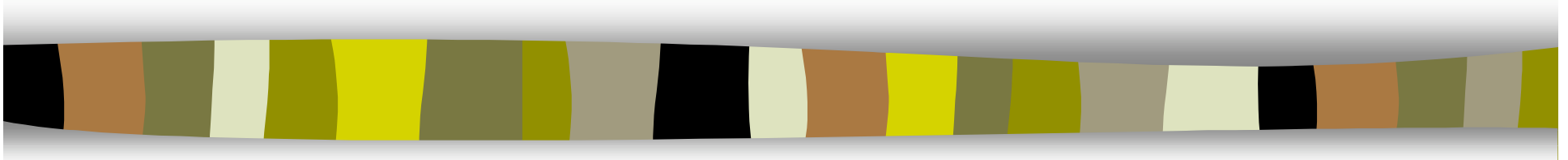


# ***More on the Reliability Function of the BSC***



Alexander Barg  
DIMACS, Rutgers University

Andrew McGregor  
University of Pennsylvania



# Some Definitions

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- No matter what code we use there is the possibility of making errors - for a given rate of transmission there is some degree of error that is inherent to the channel itself.



# Making Decoding Errors

- **Maximum Likelihood Decoding:** When we receive a word  $y$  we'll guess that the sent codeword is the codeword that lies closest to it.
- For each codeword  $x$  we define the **Voronoi region**:
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$$P_e(x) = P_x(\{0,1\}^n \setminus D(x))$$



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- The *average error probability of decoding* is
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  - We present a new lower bound for this quantity, or equivalently, an upper bound on the *reliability function* or *error exponent* of the channel:
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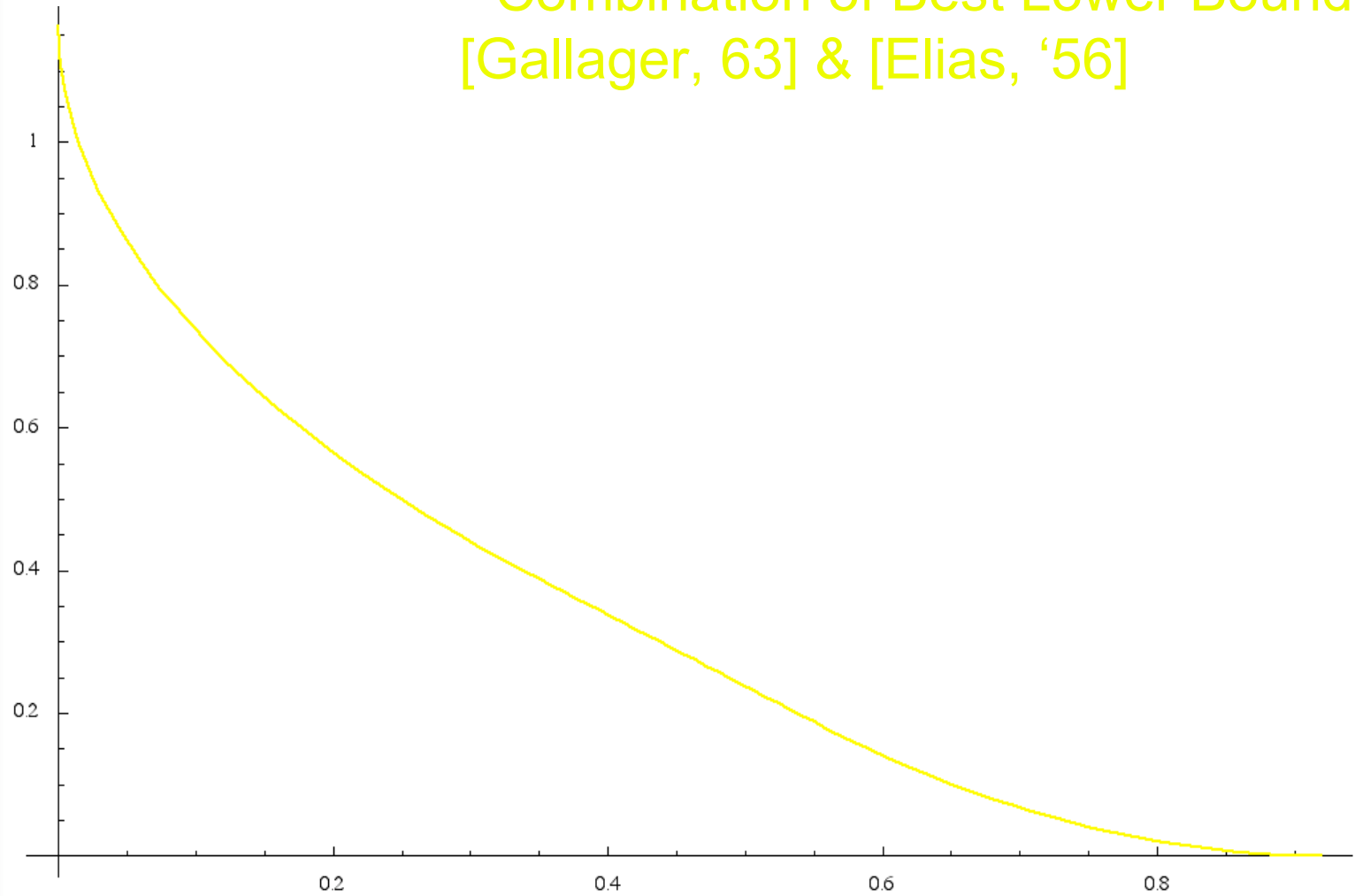
$$E(R, p) = -\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{1}{n} \log \left[ \min_{C: R(C) > R} P_e(C) \right]$$

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## Bounds on the Error Exponent:

- Combination of Best Lower Bounds:  
[Gallager, 63] & [Elias, '56]

$E(R,p)$



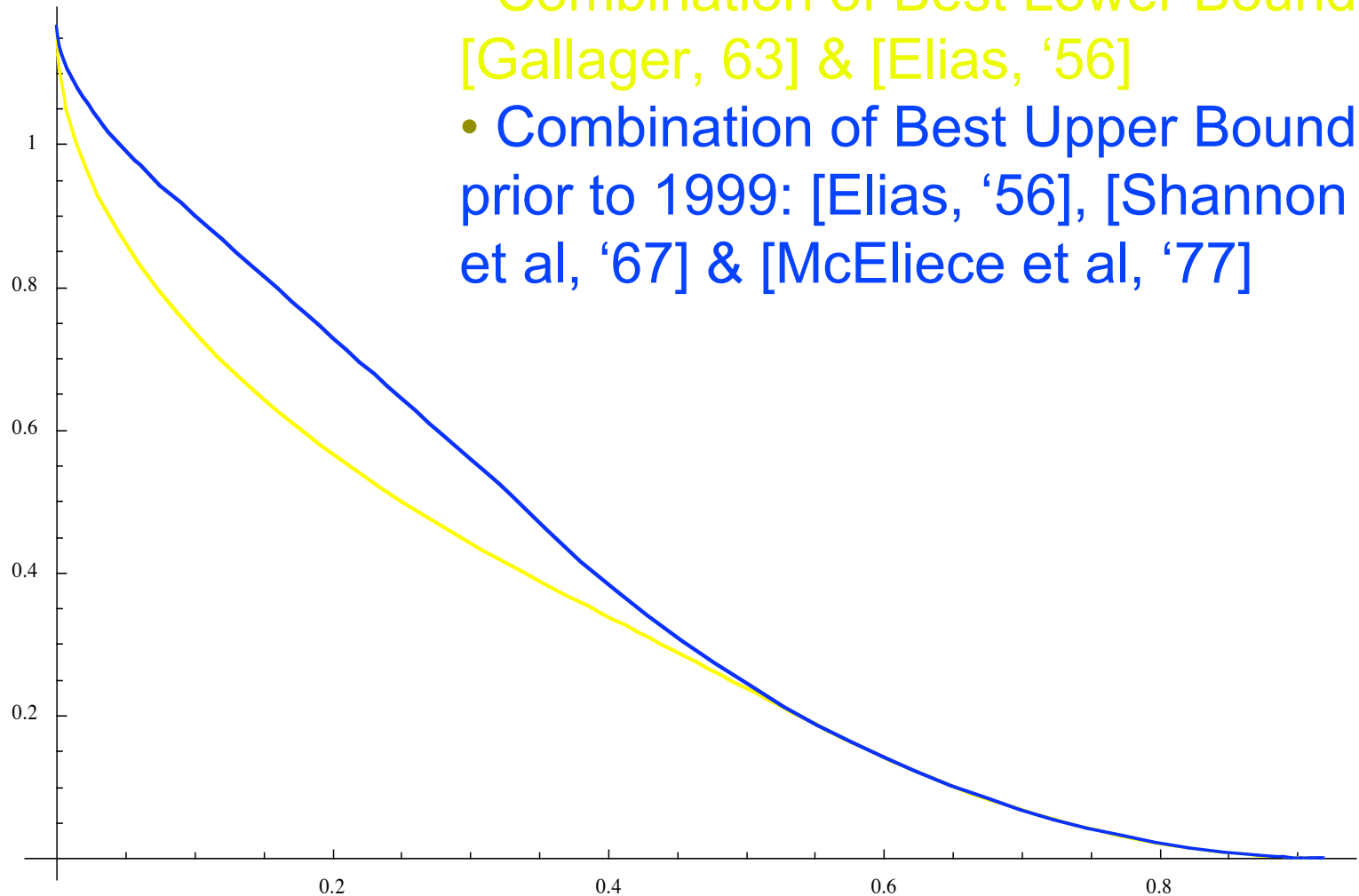
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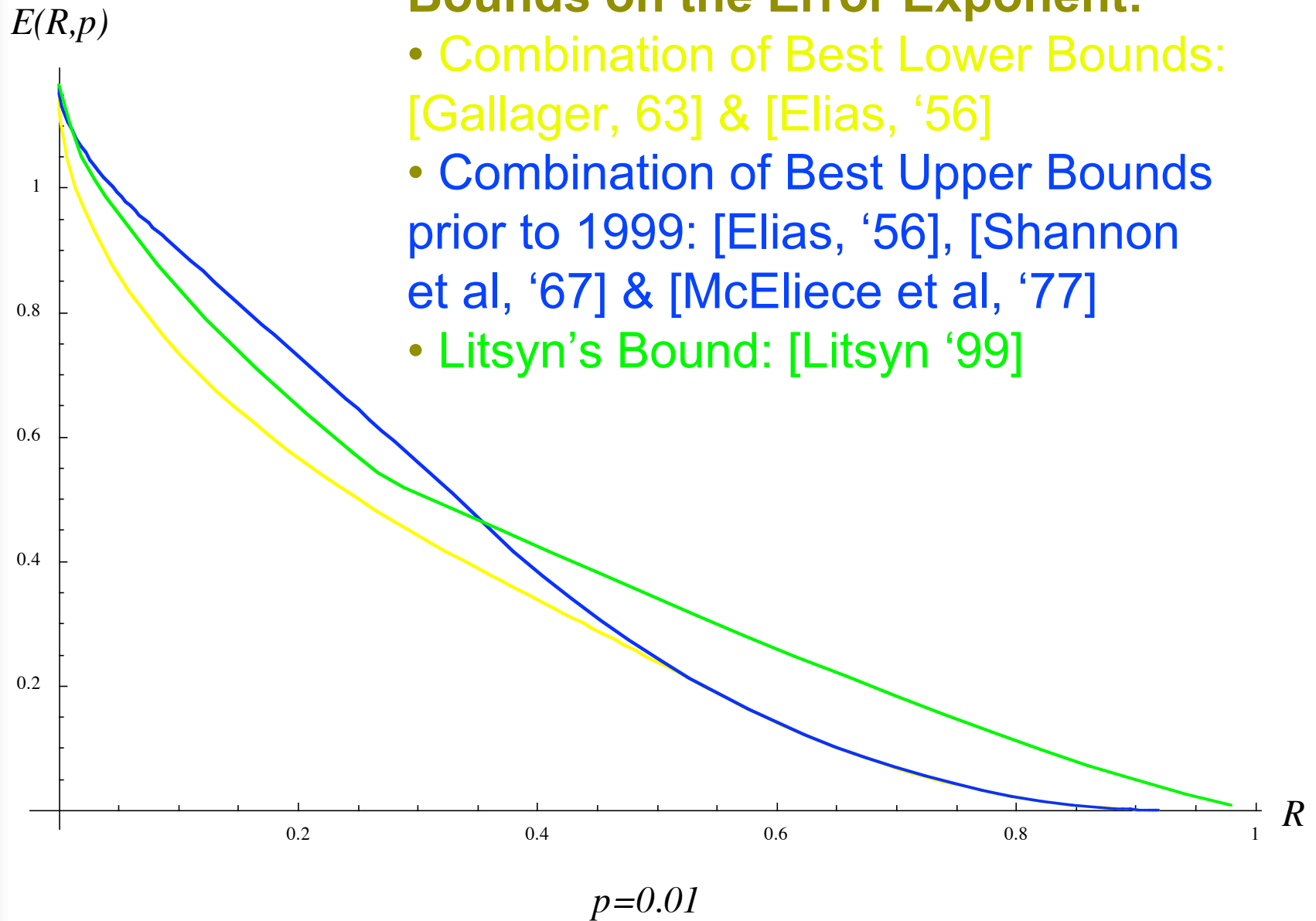


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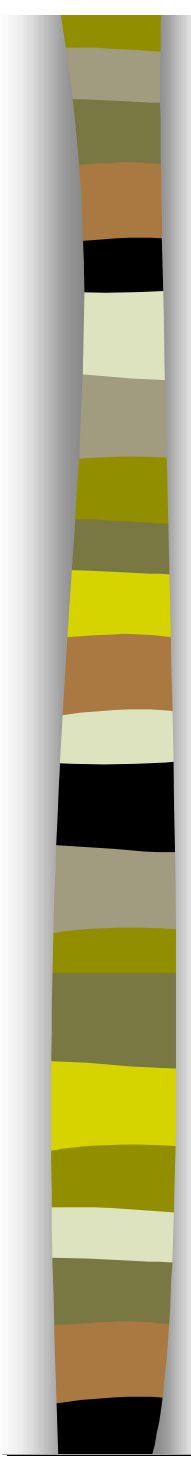
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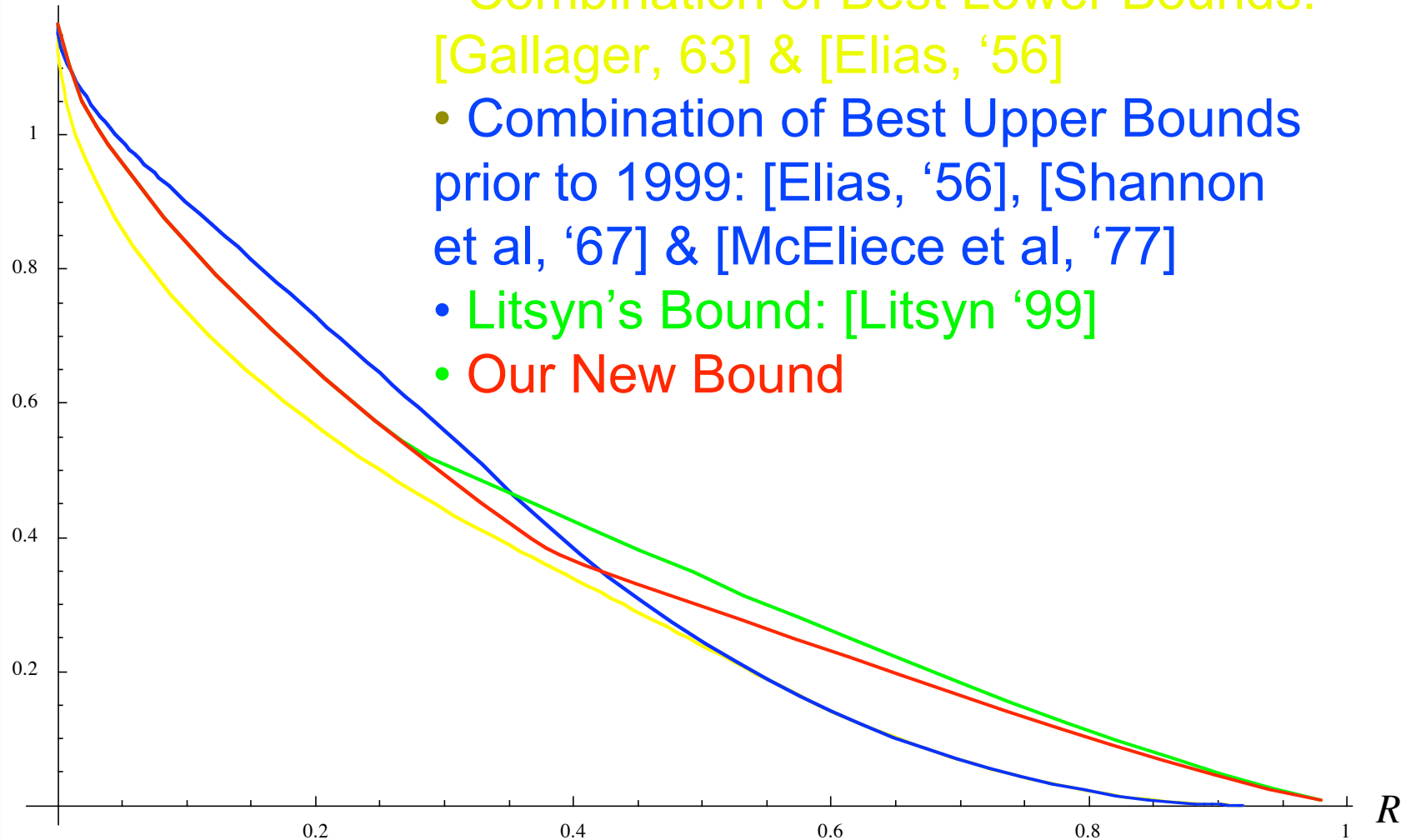
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- Our New Bound

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# Litsyn's Distance Distribution Bound

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For any code  $C$  of rate  $R$  there exists a  $w$  such that

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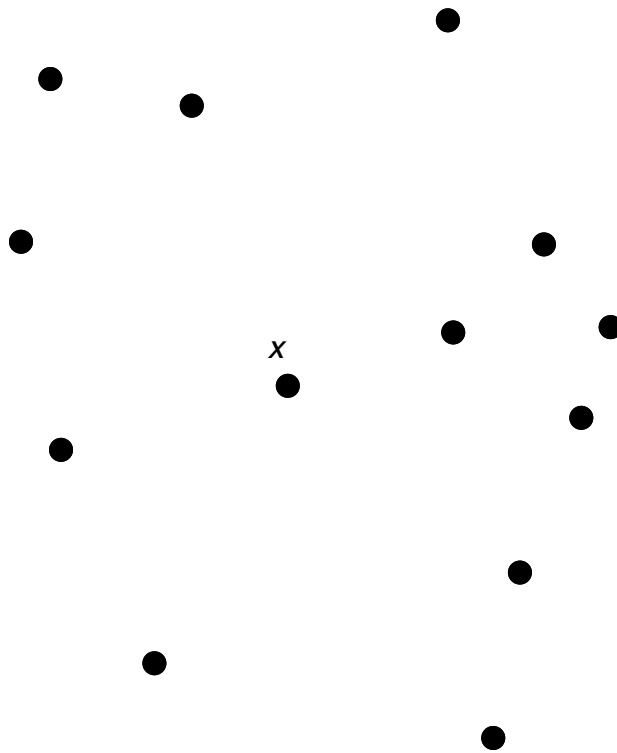
- Litsyn's Distance Distribution Bound:  
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$$B_w(x) \geq \mu(R, w)$$

---



# Estimating $P_e(x)$

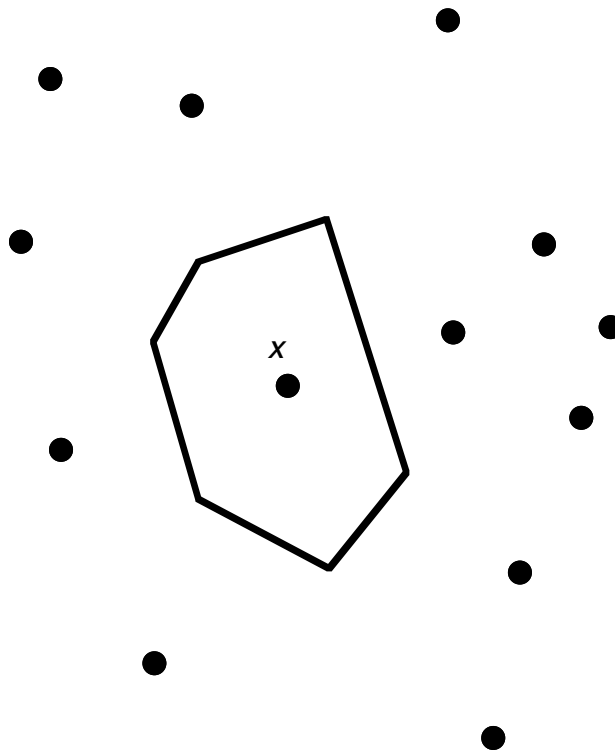


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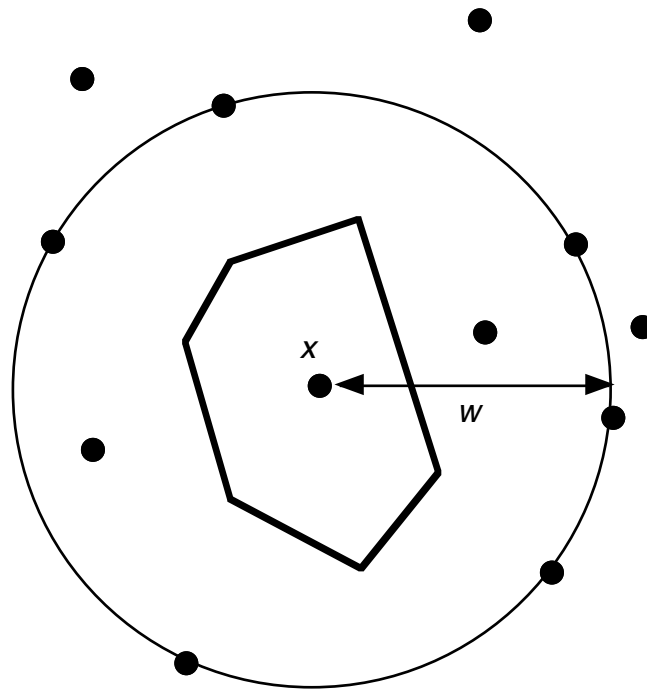
*The Voronoi Region*



$$P_e(x) = \sum_{y \in C: d(y, x_j) \leq d(y, x) \text{ for some } x_j \in C} p^{d(y, x)} (1 - p)^{n - d(y, x)}$$

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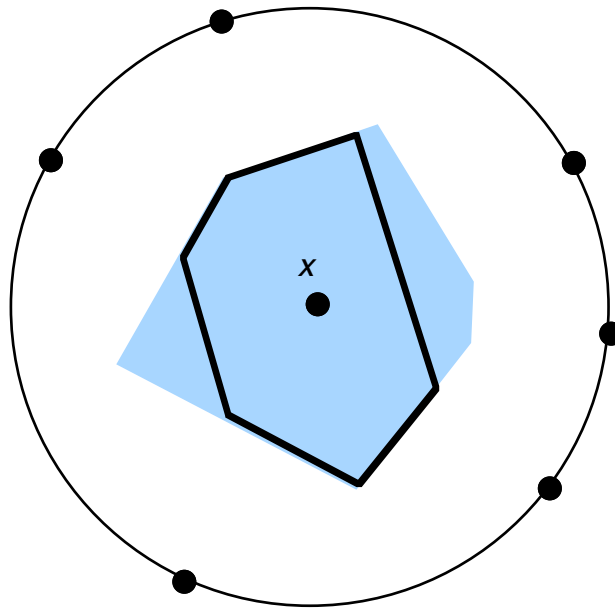
*Use the distance distribution result...*



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*Approximating the Voronoi Region...*

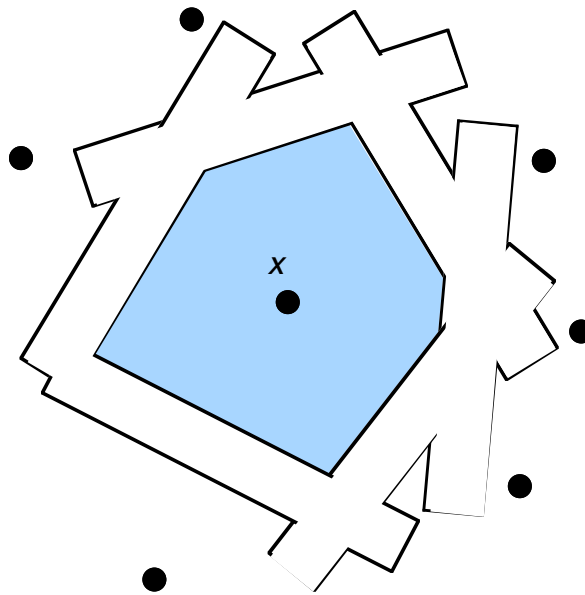


$$P_e(x) \cong \sum_{y \in C: d(y, x_j) \leq d(y, x) \text{ for some } x_j \in C \text{ where } d(x, x_j) = w} p^{d(y, x)} (1 - p)^{n - d(y, x)}$$



# Estimating $P_e(x)$

*Introducing the  $X_j$ ...*



For each neighbour  $x_j$  define a set  $X_j$  such that

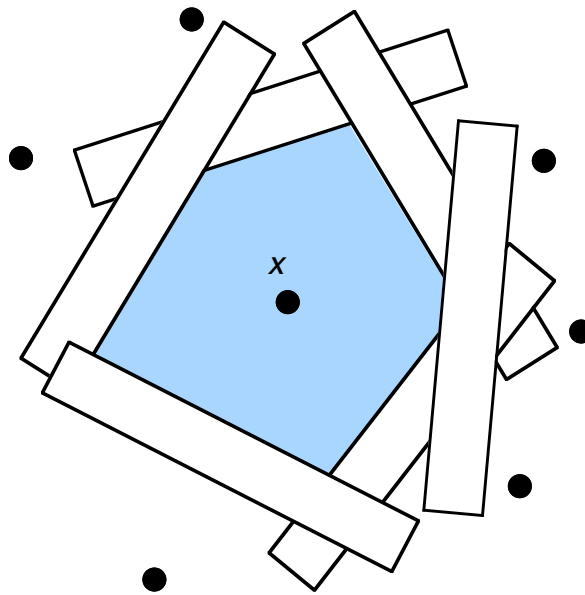
$$y \in X_j \Rightarrow$$

$$d(y, x_j) \leq d(y, x)$$

$$P_e(x) \geq P_x\left(\bigcup_{j:d(x,x_j)=w} X_j\right)$$

# Estimating $P_e(x)$

“Pruning” the  $X_j$ ...



For each neighbour  $x_j$  assign a priority  $n_j$  at random. Let

$$Y_j = X_j \setminus \bigcup_{k:n_k > n_j} X_k$$

$$P_e(x) \geq \sum_{j:d(x,x_j)=w} P_x(Y_j)$$



# Estimating $P_e(x)$

*Applying the Reverse Union Bound...*

The Reverse Union Bound:

Giving us our final shape of our bound:

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$$\begin{aligned} P_x(Y_j) &= P_x\left(X_j \setminus \bigcup_{k:n_k > n_j} X_k\right) \\ &\geq P_x(X_j) \left(1 - \sum_{k:n_k > n_j} P_x(X_k | X_j)\right) \end{aligned}$$

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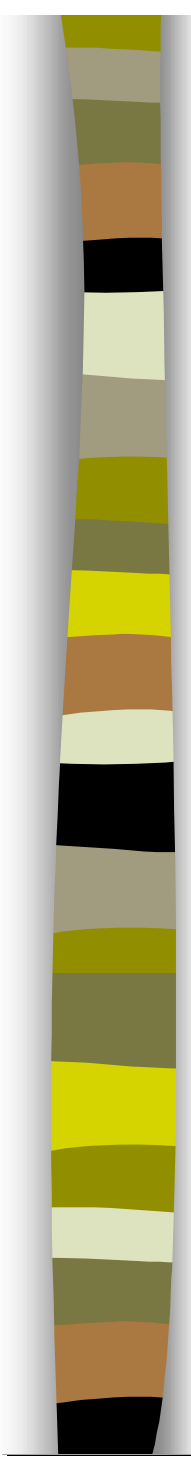
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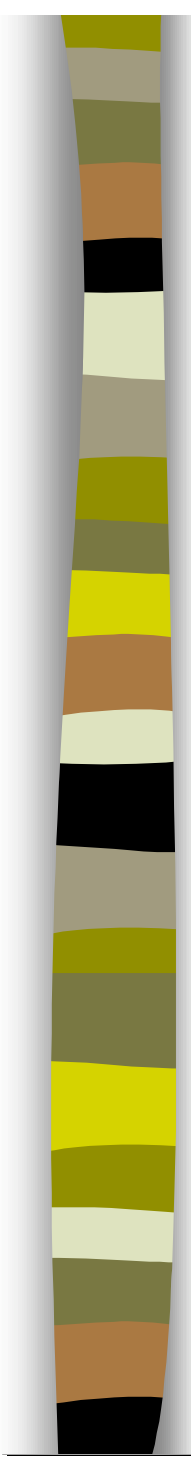
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- Now look across the entire code. Let  $X_{ij}$  and  $Y_{ij}$  be the sets for the neighbourhood of codeword  $x_i$ .
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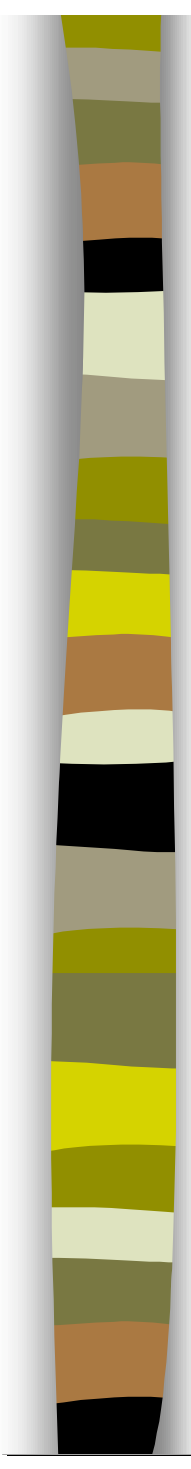
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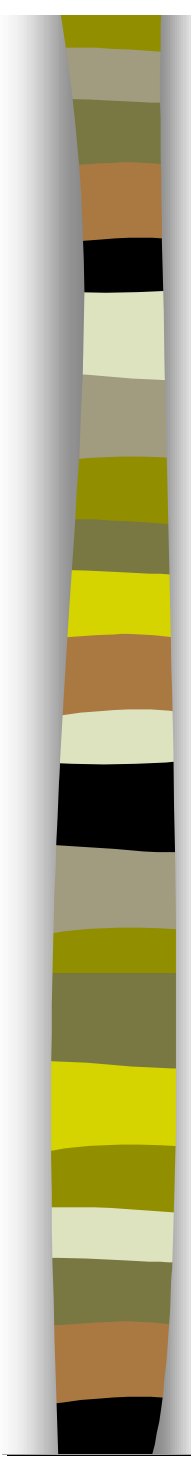
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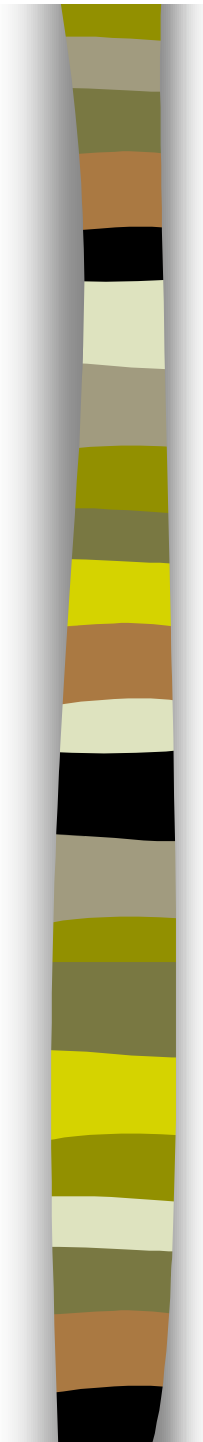
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  - I.e., either we had to do a lot of pruning or we didn’t have to do a lot of pruning.
-



## If $S$ was not substantially sized...

- Just remove codewords in  $S$  from the code!
- Then in the remaining code we have for all  $Y_{ij}$

$$P_i(Y_{ij}) \geq P_i(X_{ij})/2$$

- Hence, modulo constant factors, the average error probability satisfies

$$P_e(C,p) \geq A(w)\mu(w)$$

- where  $A(w) = P_i(X_{ij})$
-



# If $S$ was substantially sized...

- Consider

where

- Consider a codeword  $x_j$  such that  $K_{ij} > 1/2$ . Then there exists an  $l'$  such that

$$B_{l'}(x_j) > 1/(2nB(w, l'))$$

- The upshot of  $S$  being substantial is that we discover a **nuisance level**  $l_1$ , such that

$$P_e(x_j) \geq A(w)/B(w, l_1)$$

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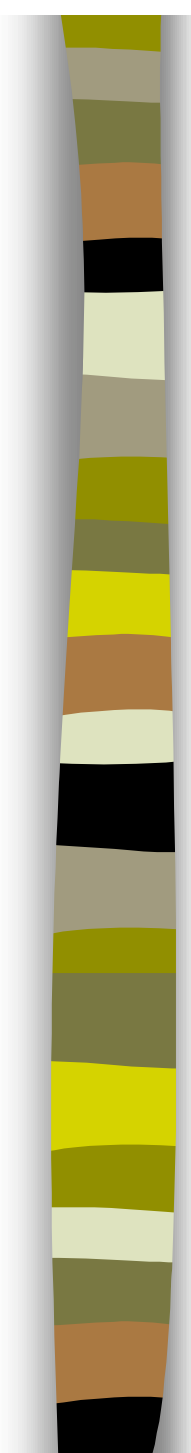
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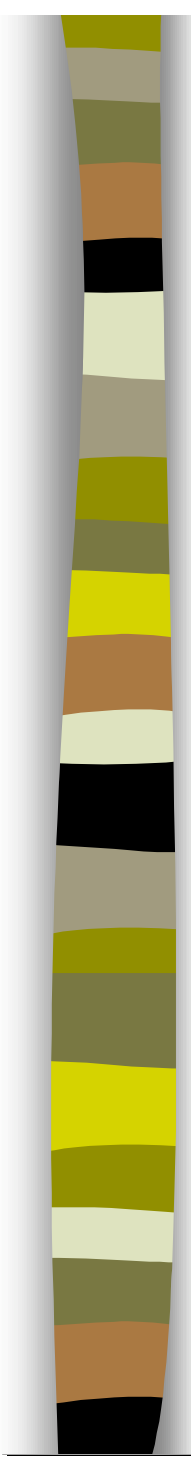
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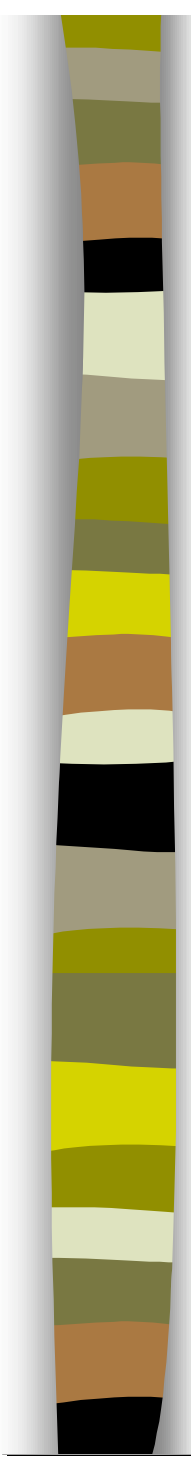
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## Our Bound

- Continuing in this way we eventually get

$$P_e(C, p) \geq \min \left[ A(w) \mu(w), \frac{A(l)}{B(w, l)} \right]$$

where  $0 \leq l \leq w \leq \delta_{LP} n$

- Minimizing over  $l$  and  $w$  gives us our final bound.
-



# Random Linear Codes

- It can be shown that, with high probability, the weight distribution of a random linear code converges to

$$B_w = \exp[n(R + h(w) - 1)]$$

- Using this instead of Litsyn's expression  $\mu$  leads us to believe that the expurgation bound

$$E(R, p) \geq -\delta_{GV}(p)/2 \log 2p(1-p)$$

is tight for a random linear code for very low rates.

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