

Comparison of Terminated and Tailbiting Spatially Coupled LDPC Codes With Optimized Bit Mapping for PM-64-QAM

Christian Häger¹ Alexandre Graell i Amat¹ Fredrik Bränström¹
Alex Alvarado² Erik Agrell¹

¹Department of Signals and Systems, Chalmers University of Technology, Gothenburg, Sweden,

²Department of Electronic & Electrical Engineering, University College London, UK

{christian.haeger, alexandre.graell, fredrik.brannstrom, agrell}@chalmers.se, alex.alvarado@ieee.org}

European Conference on Optical Communications (ECOC)
Cannes, September 25, 2014



CHALMERS

Motivation

Motivation

- Large interest in designing **spectrally efficient** fiber-optical communication systems

Motivation

- Large interest in designing **spectrally efficient** fiber-optical communication systems
- **Spatially coupled low-density parity-check (SC-LDPC) codes** are powerful candidates for forward error correction (FEC)

Motivation

- Large interest in designing **spectrally efficient** fiber-optical communication systems
- **Spatially coupled low-density parity-check (SC-LDPC) codes** are powerful candidates for forward error correction (FEC)
- **Termination** responsible for excellent performance, but **results in rate loss** (i.e., higher FEC overhead, similar to conventional convolutional codes)

Motivation

- Large interest in designing **spectrally efficient** fiber-optical communication systems
- **Spatially coupled low-density parity-check (SC-LDPC) codes** are powerful candidates for forward error correction (FEC)
- **Termination** responsible for excellent performance, but **results in rate loss** (i.e., higher FEC overhead, similar to conventional convolutional codes)
- What about **tailbiting** SC-LDPC codes? **No termination**, hence **no rate loss**, but also “bad” performance (comparable to the underlying uncoupled regular LDPC block code)

Motivation

- Large interest in designing **spectrally efficient** fiber-optical communication systems
- **Spatially coupled low-density parity-check (SC-LDPC) codes** are powerful candidates for forward error correction (FEC)
- **Termination** responsible for excellent performance, but **results in rate loss** (i.e., higher FEC overhead, similar to conventional convolutional codes)
- What about **tailbiting** SC-LDPC codes? **No termination**, hence **no rate loss**, but also “bad” performance (comparable to the underlying uncoupled regular LDPC block code)
- Idea: use higher-order modulation format (here PM-64-QAM) with a tailbiting SC-LDPC code and **optimized allocation of coded bits from FEC to modulation bits**

Motivation

- Large interest in designing **spectrally efficient** fiber-optical communication systems
- **Spatially coupled low-density parity-check (SC-LDPC) codes** are powerful candidates for forward error correction (FEC)
- **Termination** responsible for excellent performance, but **results in rate loss** (i.e., higher FEC overhead, similar to conventional convolutional codes)
- What about **tailbiting** SC-LDPC codes? **No termination**, hence **no rate loss**, but also “bad” performance (comparable to the underlying uncoupled regular LDPC block code)
- Idea: use higher-order modulation format (here PM-64-QAM) with a tailbiting SC-LDPC code and **optimized allocation of coded bits from FEC to modulation bits**

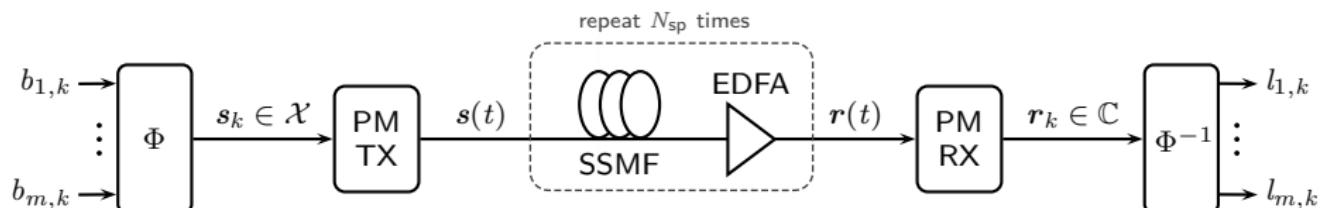
Main Result

Unequal error protection of a nonbinary modulation format can be used to significantly improve performance of tailbiting SC-LDPC codes. Comparable gap to capacity at a lower FEC overhead.

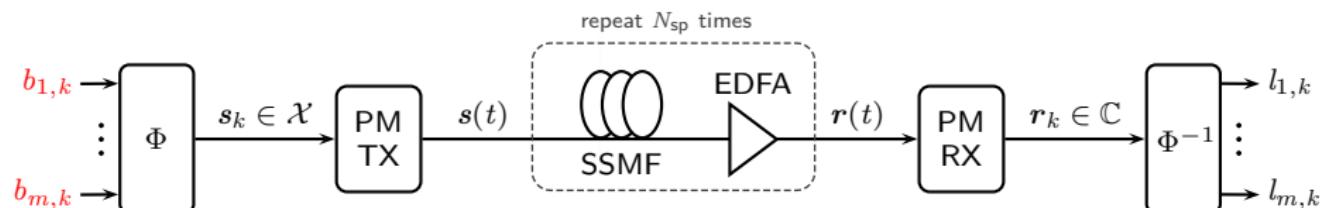
Outline

1. System Model
2. SC-LDPC Codes
3. Bit Mapper Optimization
4. Results
5. Conclusions

System Model

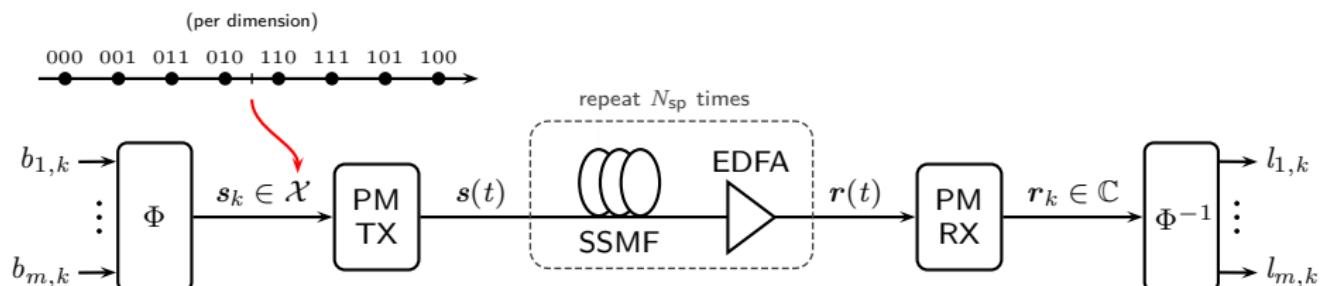


System Model



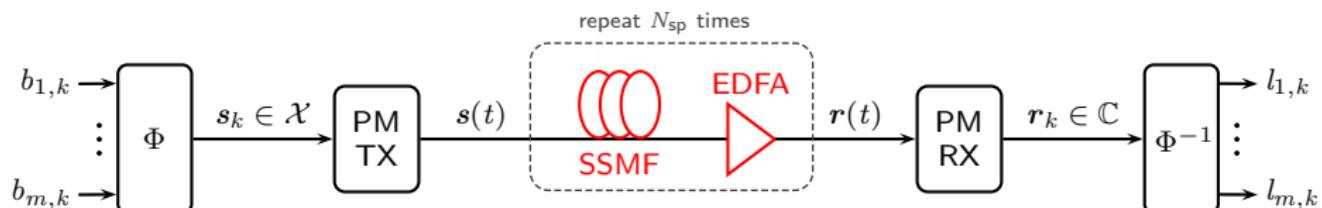
- Coded bits from the FEC encoder

System Model



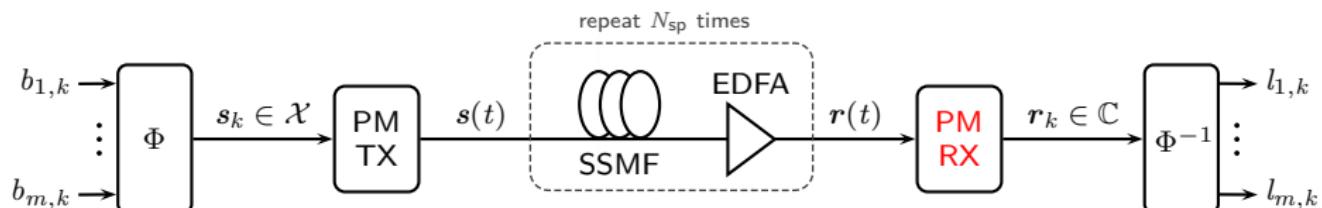
- Coded bits from the FEC encoder
- Modulator Φ : Gray-labeled PM-64-QAM

System Model



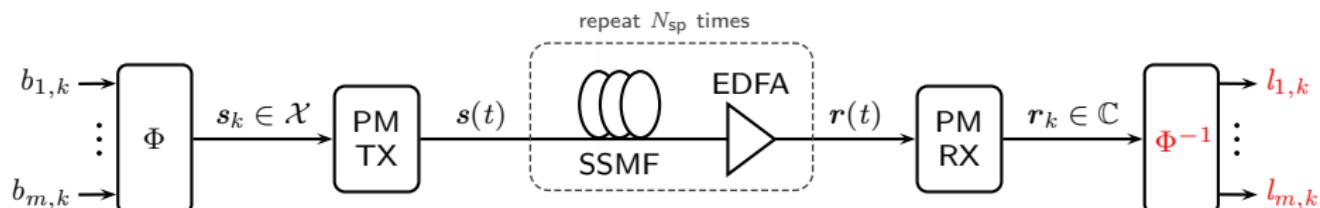
- Coded bits from the FEC encoder
- Modulator Φ : Gray-labeled PM-64-QAM
- Optical link: N_{sp} spans of standard single-mode fiber (SSMF) with lumped erbium-doped fiber amplifiers (EDFAs), no inline dispersion compensation

System Model



- Coded bits from the FEC encoder
- Modulator Φ : Gray-labeled PM-64-QAM
- Optical link: N_{sp} spans of standard single-mode fiber (SSMF) with lumped erbium-doped fiber amplifiers (EDFAs), no inline dispersion compensation
- Matched filter, sampling, equalization (electronic dispersion compensation)

System Model



- Coded bits from the FEC encoder
- Modulator Φ : Gray-labeled PM-64-QAM
- Optical link: N_{sp} spans of standard single-mode fiber (SSMF) with lumped erbium-doped fiber amplifiers (EDFAs), no inline dispersion compensation
- Matched filter, sampling, equalization (electronic dispersion compensation)
- Demodulator Φ^{-1} : log-likelihood ratio (LLR) computation

Spatially Coupled LDPC Codes

- Can be represented in terms of a protograph = **prototype graph**

Example:

Terminated

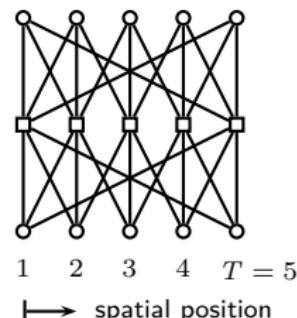
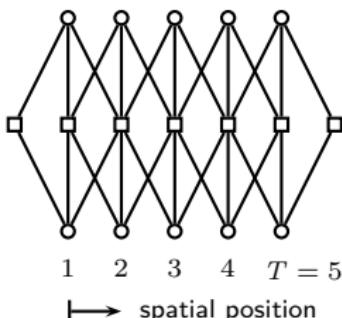
Tailbiting

Example:

Terminated

Tailbiting

proteograph

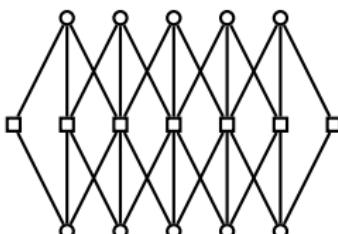


Example:

Terminated

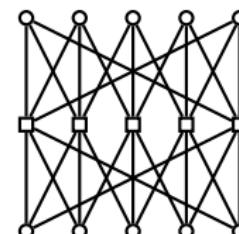
Tailbiting

protograph



base matrix

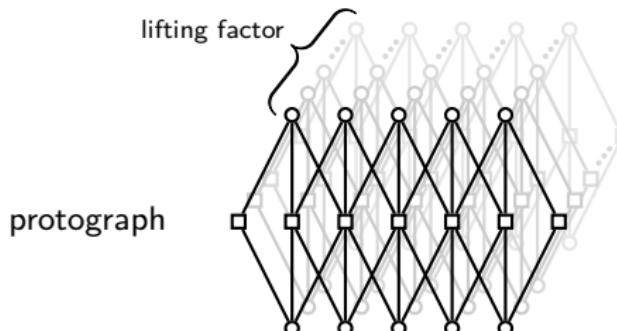
$$\begin{pmatrix} 1 & 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 1 & 1 & 1 & 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 1 & 1 & 1 & 1 & 1 & 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & 1 & 1 & 1 & 1 & 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 & 1 & 1 & 1 & 1 & 1 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 & 1 & 1 & 1 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 & 1 \end{pmatrix}$$



$$\begin{pmatrix} 1 & 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 & 1 & 1 & 1 \\ 1 & 1 & 1 & 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 & 1 \\ 1 & 1 & 1 & 1 & 1 & 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & 1 & 1 & 1 & 1 & 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 & 1 & 1 & 1 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 & 1 & 1 & 1 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 & 1 \end{pmatrix}$$

Example:

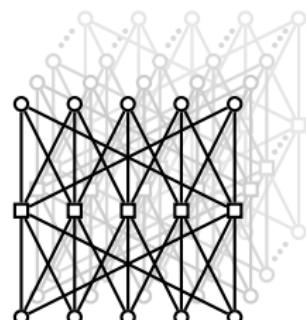
Terminated



base matrix

$$\begin{pmatrix} 1 & 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 1 & 1 & 1 & 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 1 & 1 & 1 & 1 & 1 & 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & 1 & 1 & 1 & 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 & 1 & 1 & 1 & 1 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 & 1 & 1 & 1 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 & 1 \end{pmatrix}$$

Tailbiting

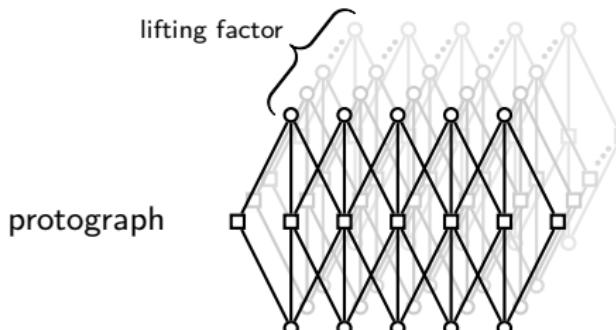


$$\begin{pmatrix} 1 & 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 & 1 & 1 & 1 \\ 1 & 1 & 1 & 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 & 1 \\ 1 & 1 & 1 & 1 & 1 & 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & 1 & 1 & 1 & 1 & 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 & 1 & 1 & 1 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 & 1 & 1 & 1 & 1 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 & 1 & 1 & 1 \end{pmatrix}$$

Example:

Terminated

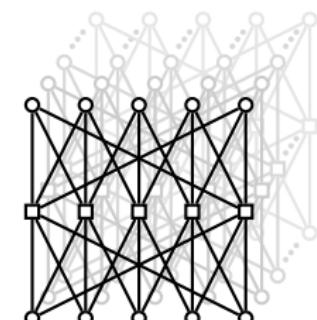
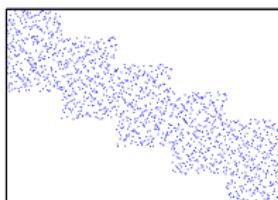
Tailbiting



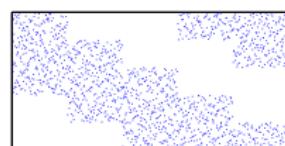
base matrix

$$\begin{pmatrix} 1 & 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 1 & 1 & 1 & 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 1 & 1 & 1 & 1 & 1 & 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & 1 & 1 & 1 & 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 & 1 & 1 & 1 & 1 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 & 1 & 1 & 1 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 & 1 \end{pmatrix}$$

parity-check matrix

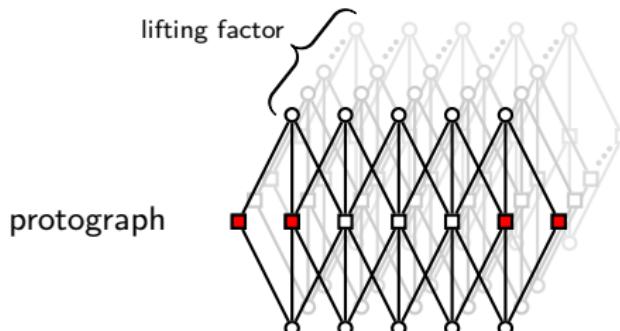


$$\begin{pmatrix} 1 & 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 & 1 & 1 & 1 \\ 1 & 1 & 1 & 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 & 1 \\ 1 & 1 & 1 & 1 & 1 & 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & 1 & 1 & 1 & 1 & 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 & 1 & 1 & 1 & 1 & 1 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 & 1 & 1 & 1 & 1 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 & 1 & 1 \end{pmatrix}$$

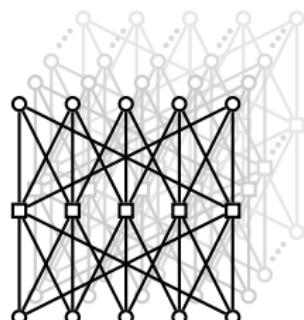


Example:

Terminated



Tailbiting



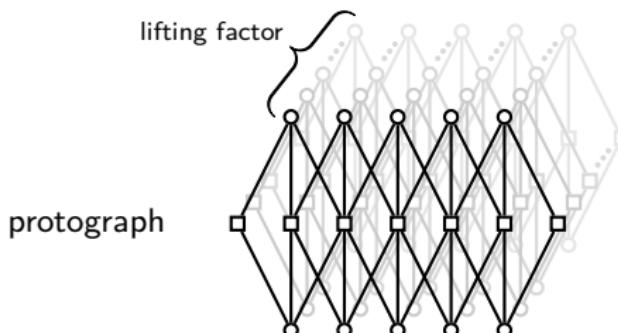
check node degrees

slightly irregular

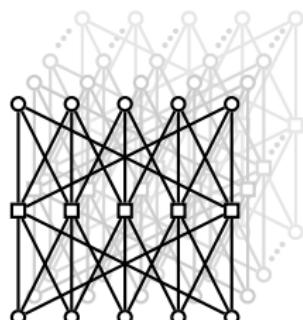
regular

Example:

Terminated



Tailbiting



check node degrees

slightly irregular

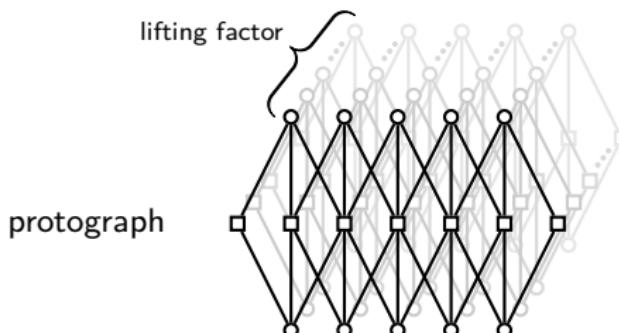
regular

performance

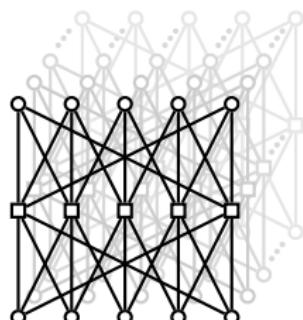
capacity-approaching
(wave effect)comparable to regular LDPC
(no wave effect)

Example:

Terminated



Tailbiting



check node degrees

slightly irregular

regular

performance

capacity-approaching
(wave effect)comparable to regular LDPC
(no wave effect)

rate

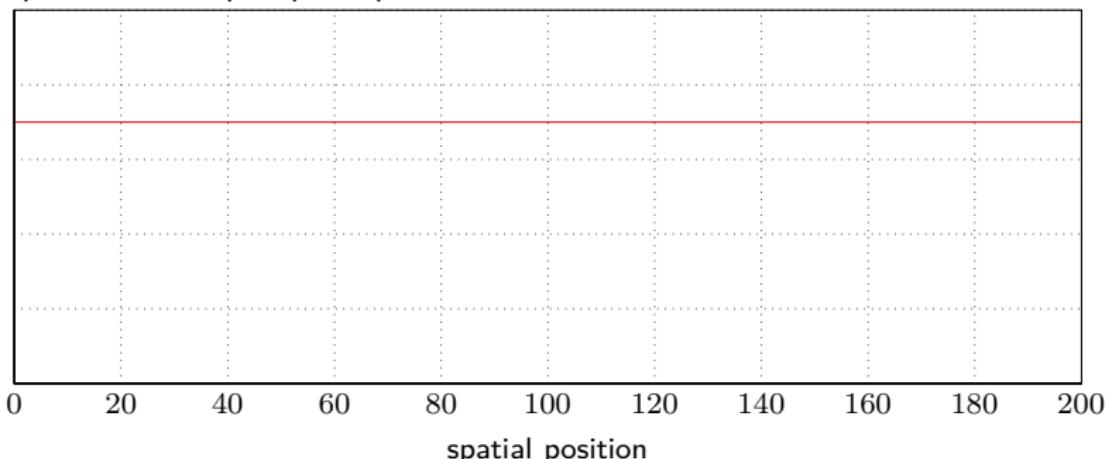
$$R(T) = R - R_{\text{loss}}(T)$$

$$R_{\text{loss}}(T) \rightarrow 0 \text{ as } T \rightarrow \infty$$

R (no rate loss)

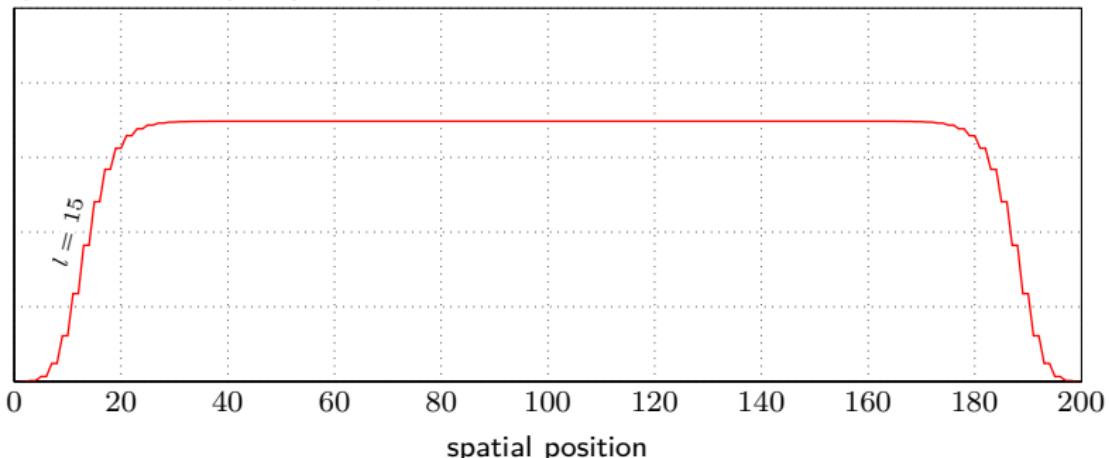
Decoding Wave

predicted BER per spatial position



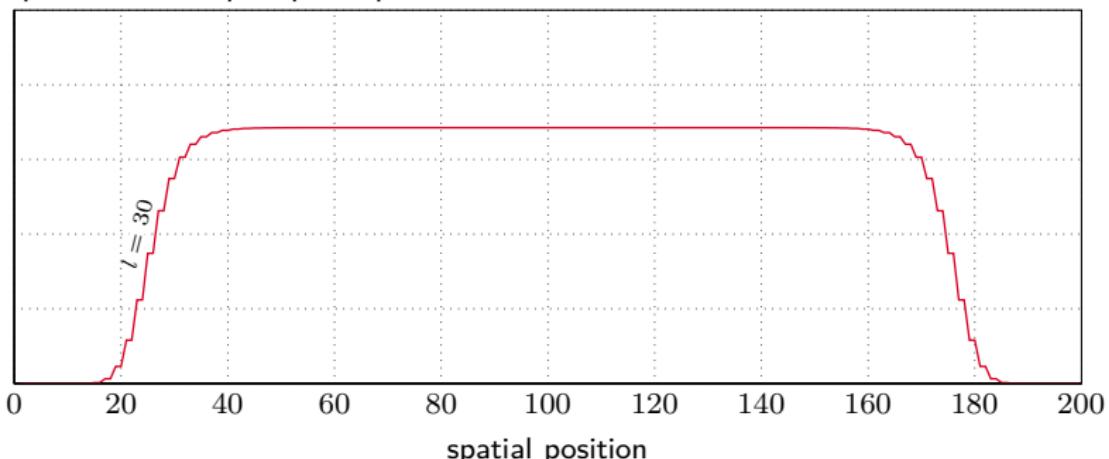
Decoding Wave

predicted BER per spatial position



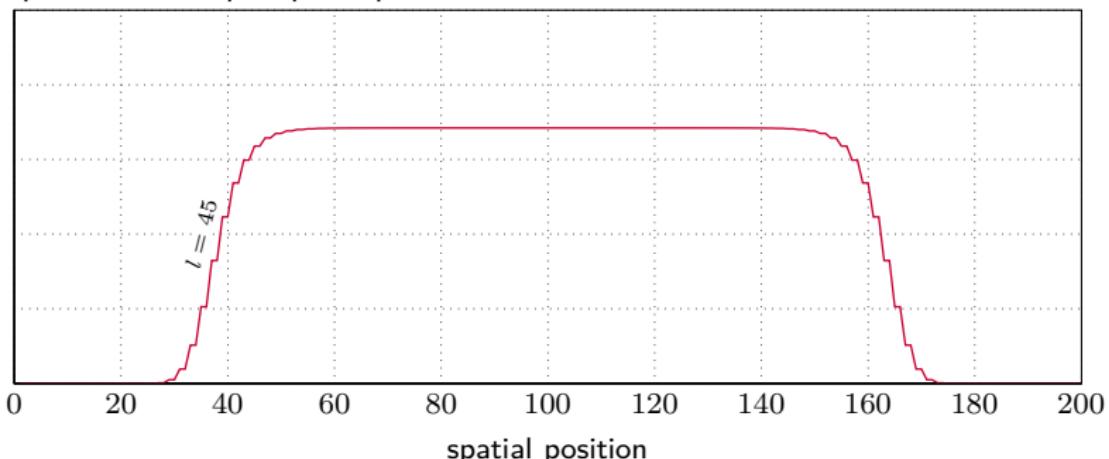
Decoding Wave

predicted BER per spatial position



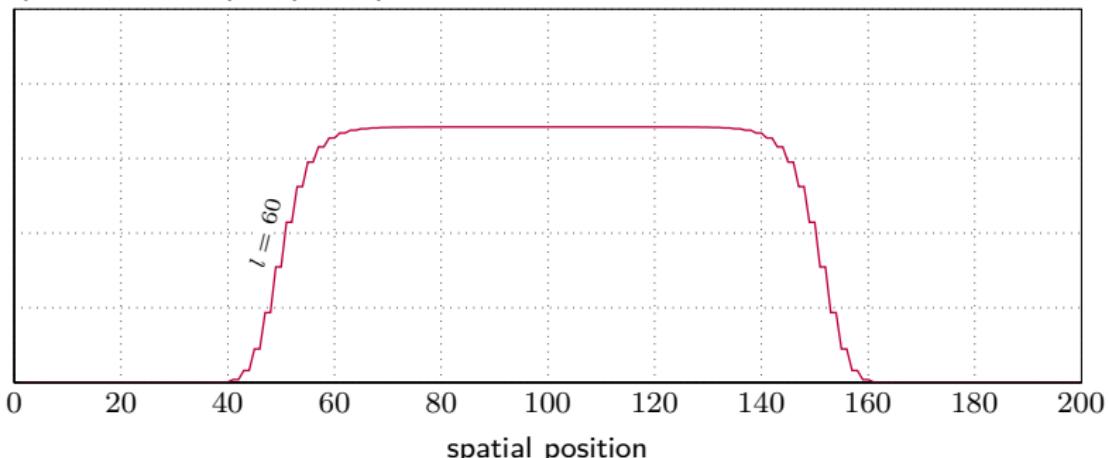
Decoding Wave

predicted BER per spatial position



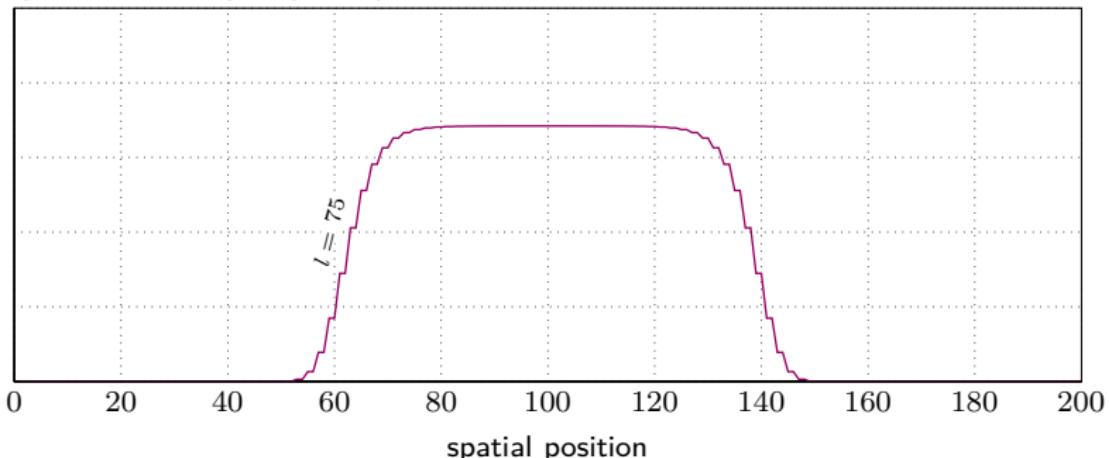
Decoding Wave

predicted BER per spatial position



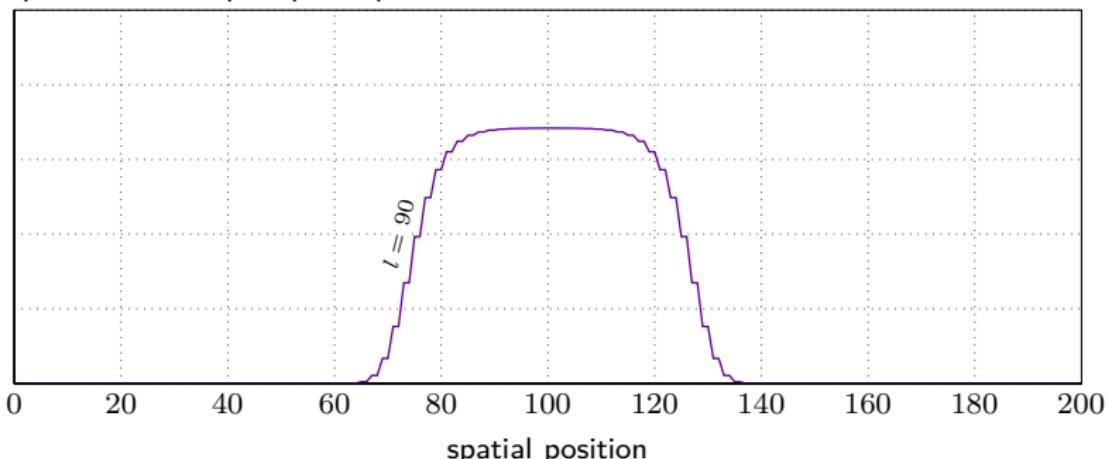
Decoding Wave

predicted BER per spatial position



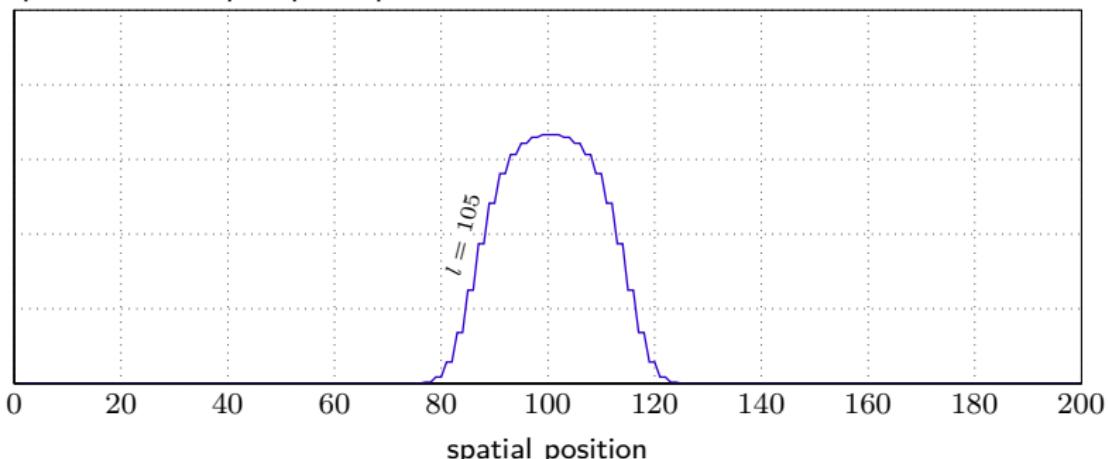
Decoding Wave

predicted BER per spatial position



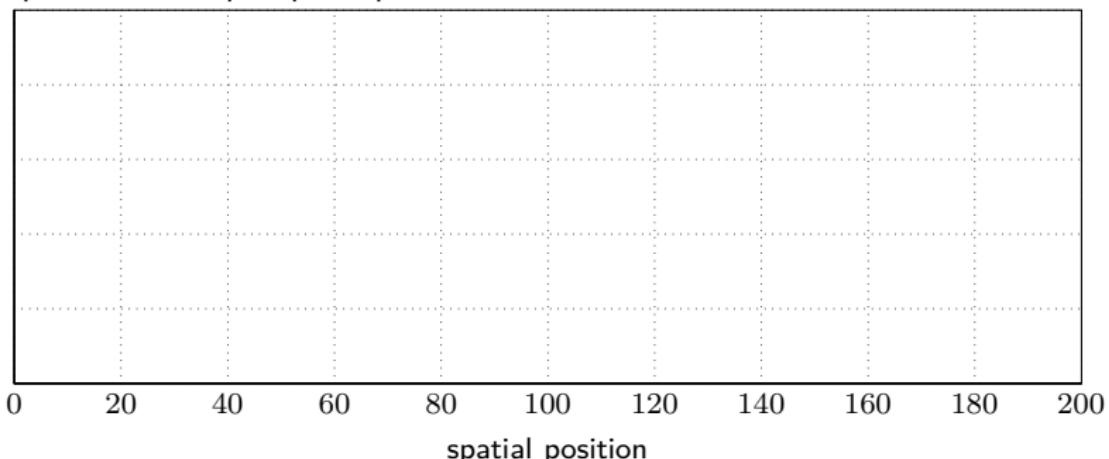
Decoding Wave

predicted BER per spatial position



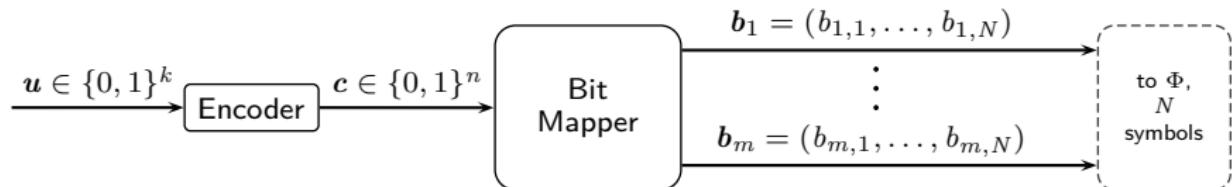
Decoding Wave

predicted BER per spatial position

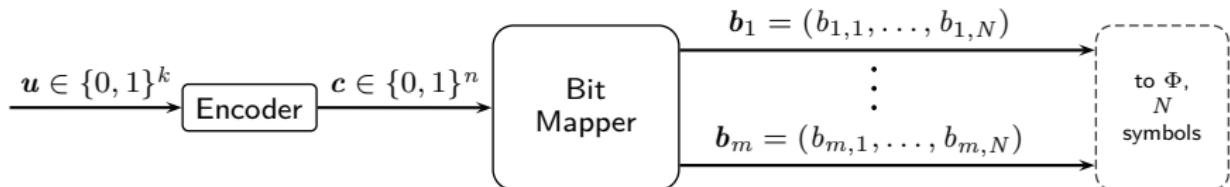


Successful decoding!

Bit Mapper

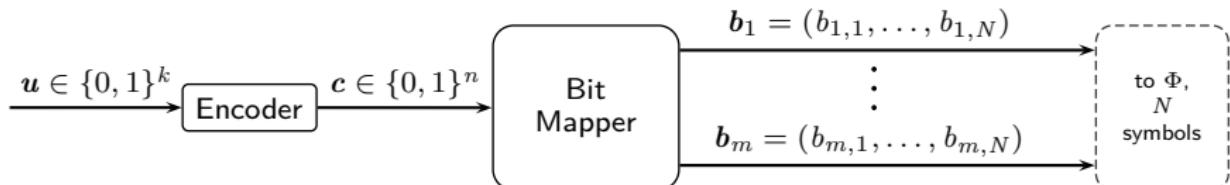


Bit Mapper



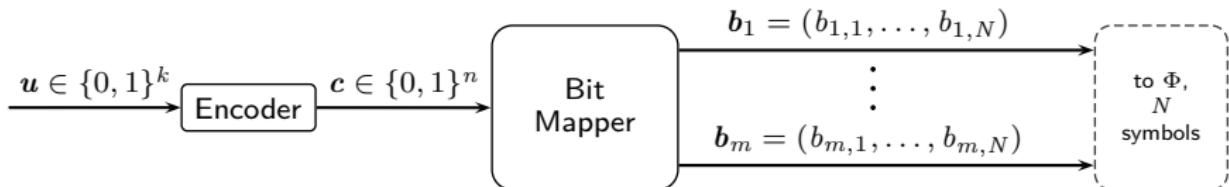
- Bit mapper determines allocation of n coded bits to m modulation bits ($N = n/m$)

Bit Mapper



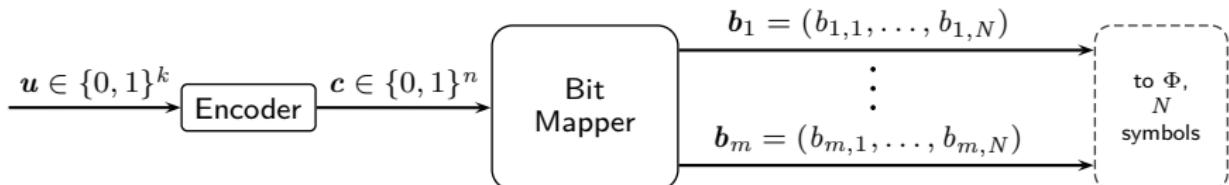
- Bit mapper determines allocation of n coded bits to m modulation bits ($N = n/m$)
- Each protograph variable node (VN) corresponds to M coded bits in c

Bit Mapper



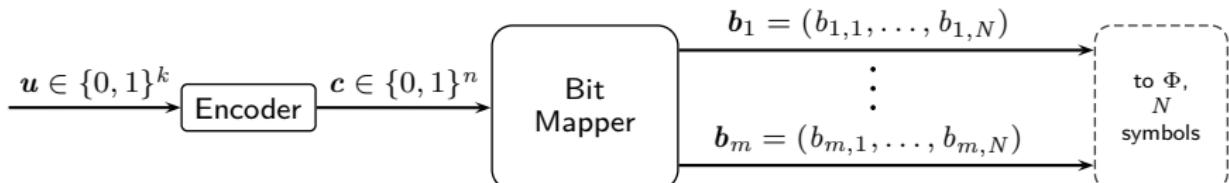
- Bit mapper determines **allocation of n coded bits to m modulation bits** ($N = n/m$)
- Each **protograph variable node (VN)** corresponds to M coded bits in \mathbf{c}
- **Fractional assignment of protograph VNs to modulation bits** via matrix $\mathbf{A} = [a_{i,j}] \in \mathbb{R}^{m \times L}$, where $a_{i,j}$ = fraction of coded bits corresponding to VN j to be allocated to modulation bit i

Bit Mapper



- Bit mapper determines **allocation of n coded bits to m modulation bits** ($N = n/m$)
- Each **protograph variable node (VN)** corresponds to M coded bits in \mathbf{c}
- **Fractional assignment of protograph VNs to modulation bits** via matrix $\mathbf{A} = [a_{i,j}] \in \mathbb{R}^{m \times L}$, where $a_{i,j}$ = fraction of coded bits corresponding to VN j to be allocated to modulation bit i
- **Baseline (sequential or random) bit mapper** with $a_{i,j} = 1/m, \forall i, j$

Bit Mapper



- Bit mapper determines **allocation of n coded bits to m modulation bits** ($N = n/m$)
- Each **protograph variable node (VN)** corresponds to M coded bits in \mathbf{c}
- **Fractional assignment of protograph VNs to modulation bits** via matrix $\mathbf{A} = [a_{i,j}] \in \mathbb{R}^{m \times L}$, where $a_{i,j}$ = fraction of coded bits corresponding to VN j to be allocated to modulation bit i
- **Baseline (sequential or random) bit mapper** with $a_{i,j} = 1/m, \forall i, j$
- **\mathbf{A} is optimized based on modified protograph extrinsic transfer function (P-EXIT) analysis** (predicts BER for $M \rightarrow \infty$)

Optimization Results

Optimization Results

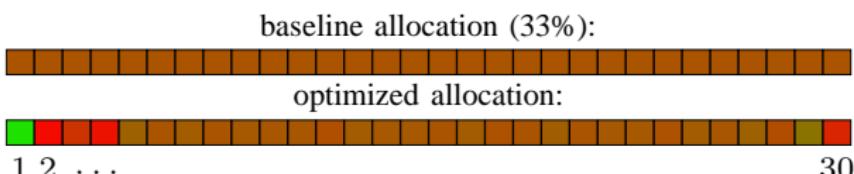
- **SC-LDPC code parameters:** spatial length = 30, lifting factor = 3000, rate terminated = 0.741, rate tailbiting = 0.75

Optimization Results

- **SC-LDPC code parameters:** spatial length = 30, lifting factor = 3000, rate terminated = 0.741, rate tailbiting = 0.75
- **Windowed decoder:** windows size = 5, iterations per window = 10

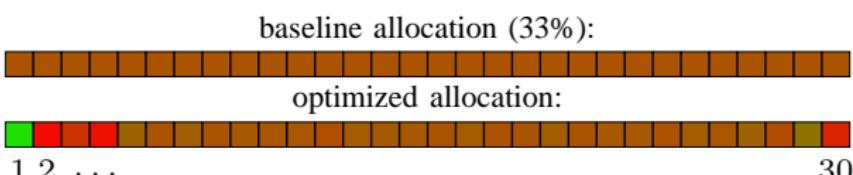
Optimization Results

- **SC-LDPC code parameters:** spatial length = 30, lifting factor = 3000, rate terminated = 0.741, rate tailbiting = 0.75
- **Windowed decoder:** windows size = 5, iterations per window = 10
- **Allocation of the coded bits of the tailbiting code to the least protected modulation bits** of PM-64-QAM (green = 100%, red = 0%)



Optimization Results

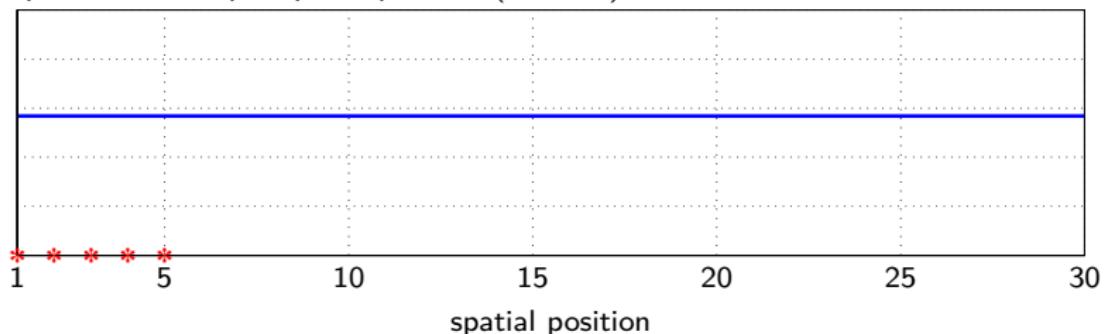
- **SC-LDPC code parameters:** spatial length = 30, lifting factor = 3000, rate terminated = 0.741, rate tailbiting = 0.75
- **Windowed decoder:** windows size = 5, iterations per window = 10
- **Allocation of the coded bits of the tailbiting code to the least protected modulation bits** of PM-64-QAM (green = 100%, red = 0%)



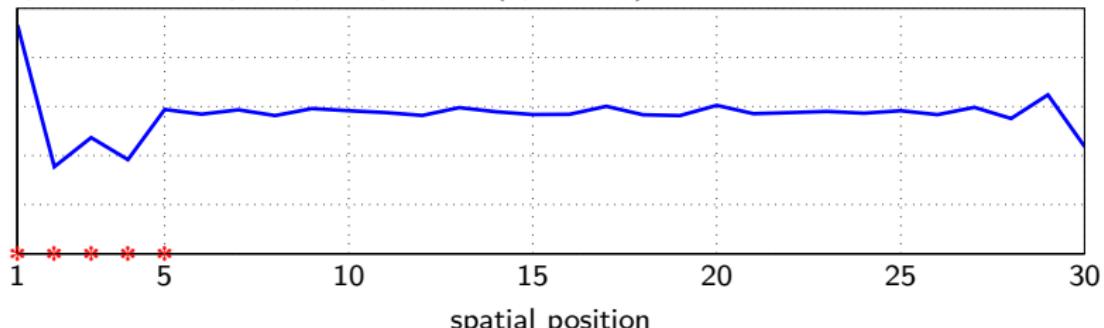
- **Locally improved decoding convergence** in the first spatial position leads to wave-like decoding behavior, similar to terminated SC-LDPC codes

Decoding Behavior For The Same SNR

predicted BER per spatial position (baseline)

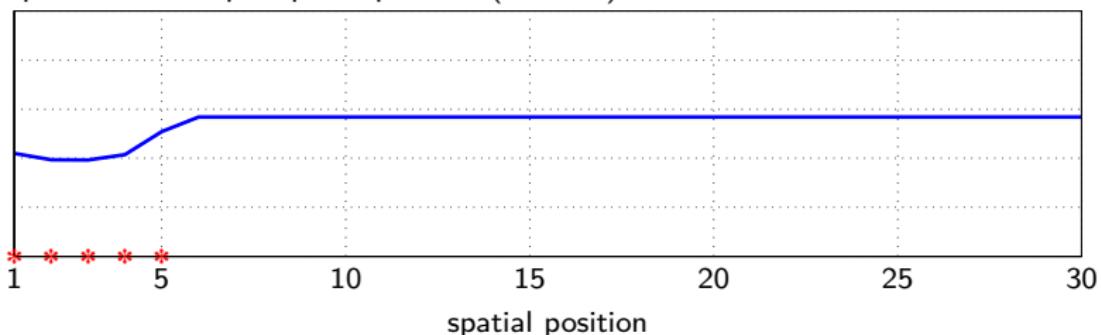


predicted BER per spatial position (optimized)

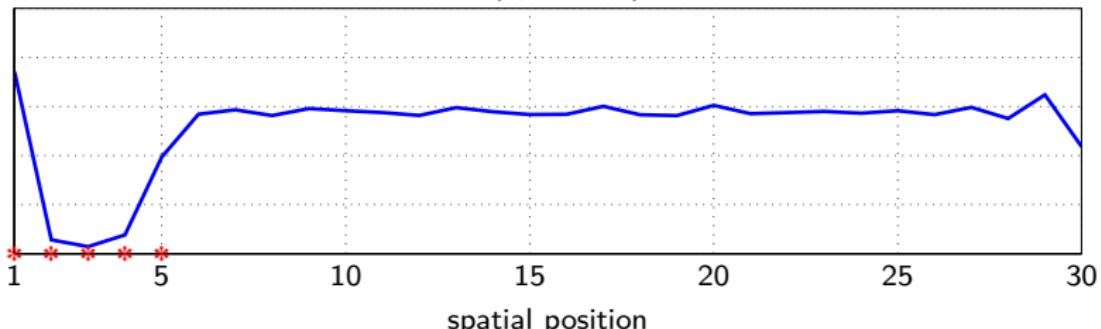


Decoding Behavior For The Same SNR

predicted BER per spatial position (baseline)

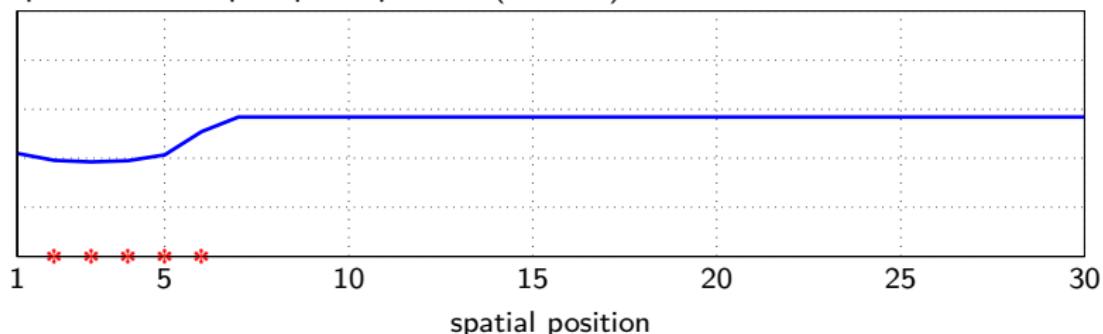


predicted BER per spatial position (optimized)

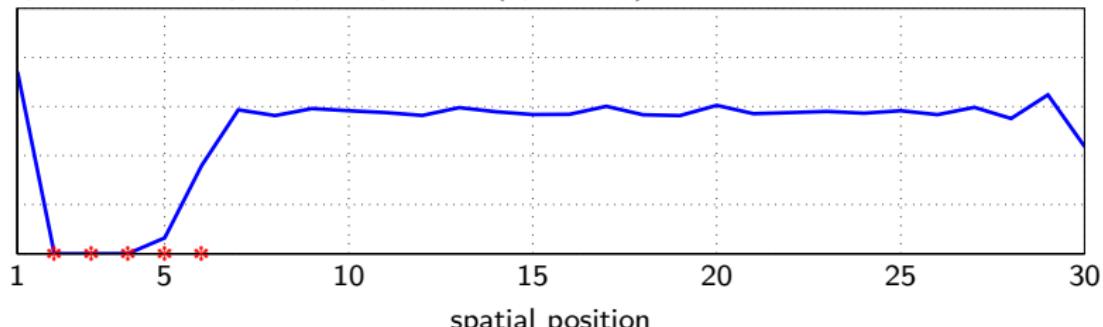


Decoding Behavior For The Same SNR

predicted BER per spatial position (baseline)

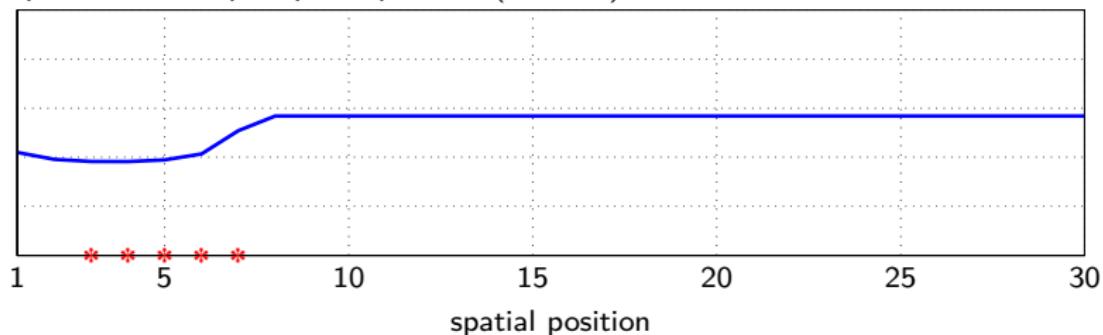


predicted BER per spatial position (optimized)

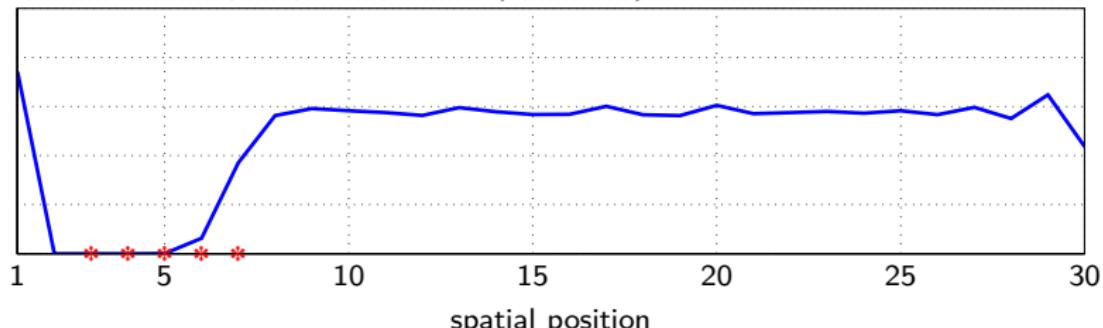


Decoding Behavior For The Same SNR

predicted BER per spatial position (baseline)

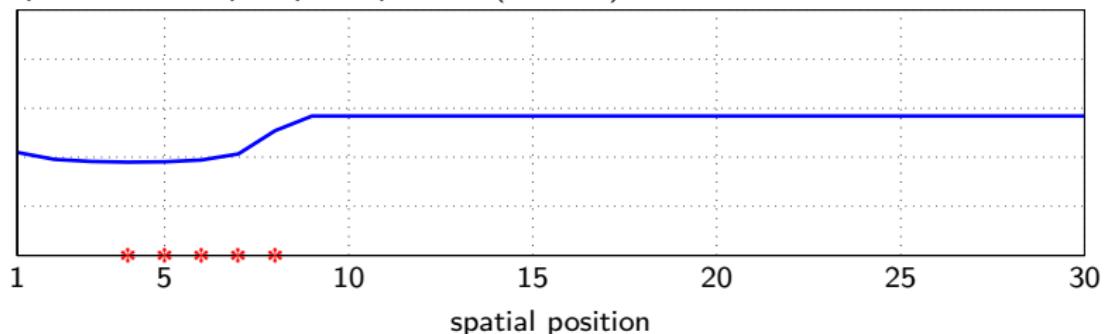


predicted BER per spatial position (optimized)

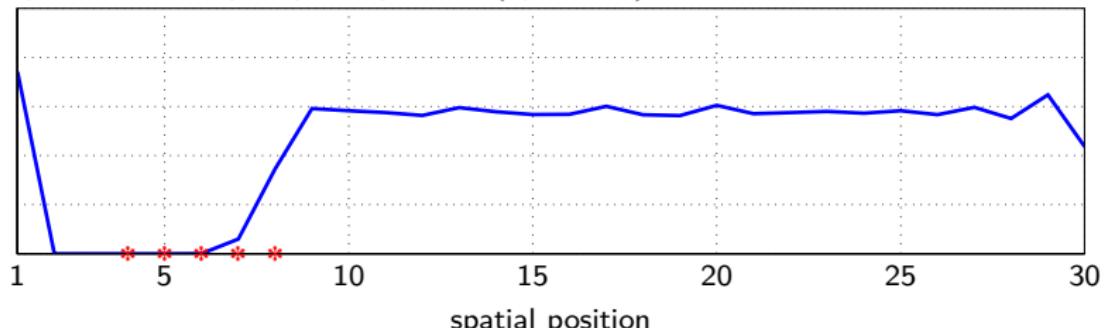


Decoding Behavior For The Same SNR

predicted BER per spatial position (baseline)

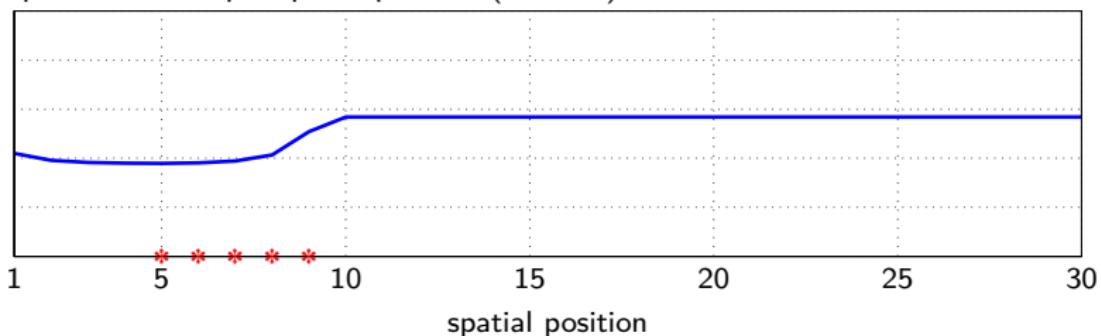


predicted BER per spatial position (optimized)

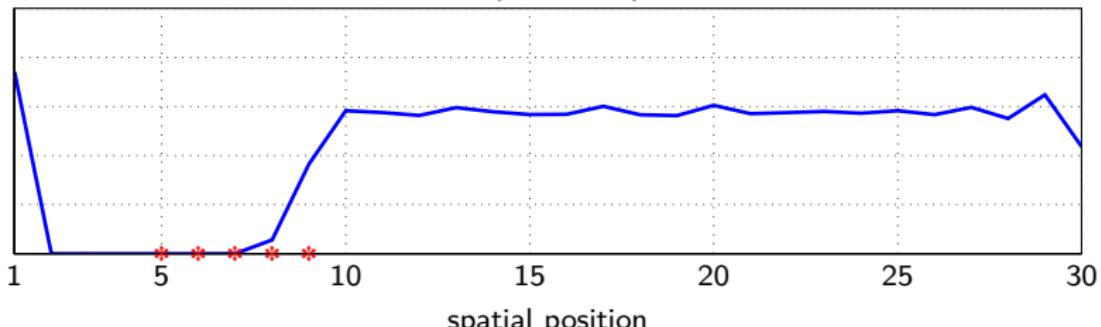


Decoding Behavior For The Same SNR

predicted BER per spatial position (baseline)

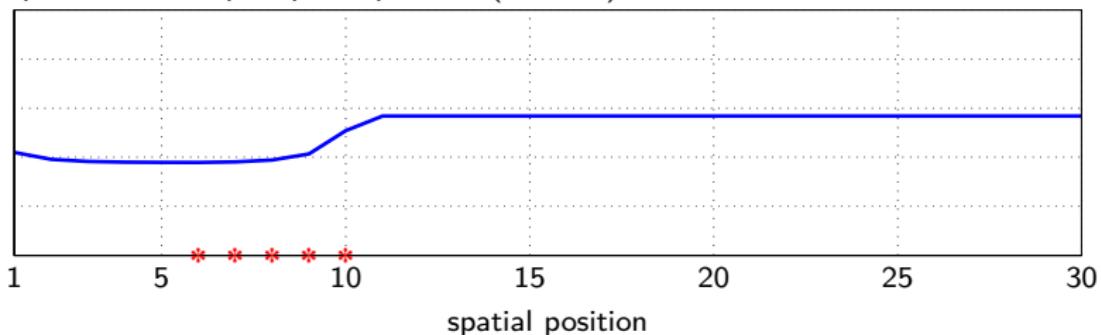


predicted BER per spatial position (optimized)

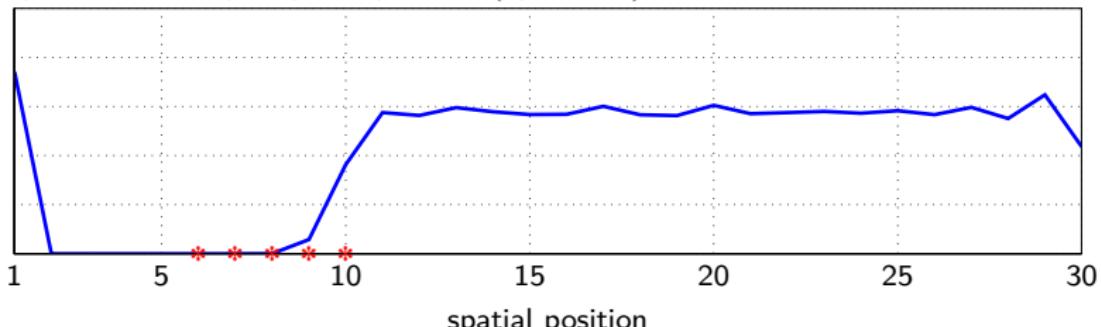


Decoding Behavior For The Same SNR

predicted BER per spatial position (baseline)

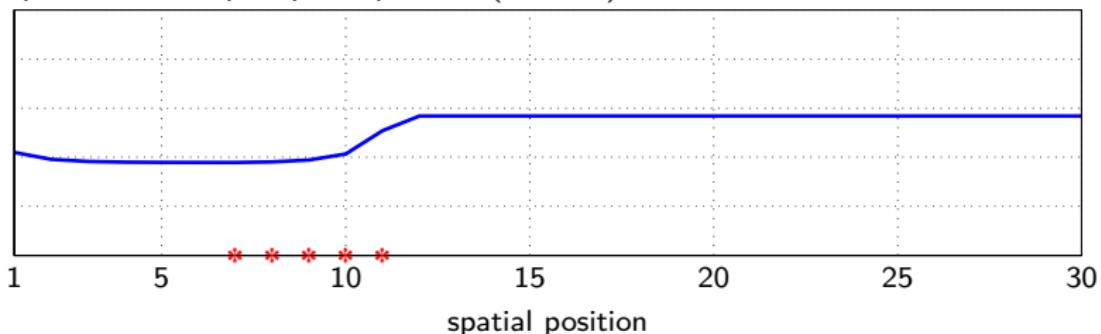


predicted BER per spatial position (optimized)

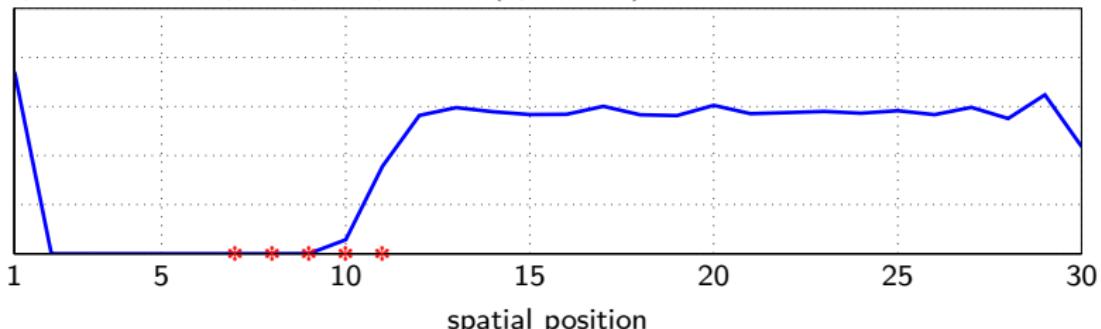


Decoding Behavior For The Same SNR

predicted BER per spatial position (baseline)

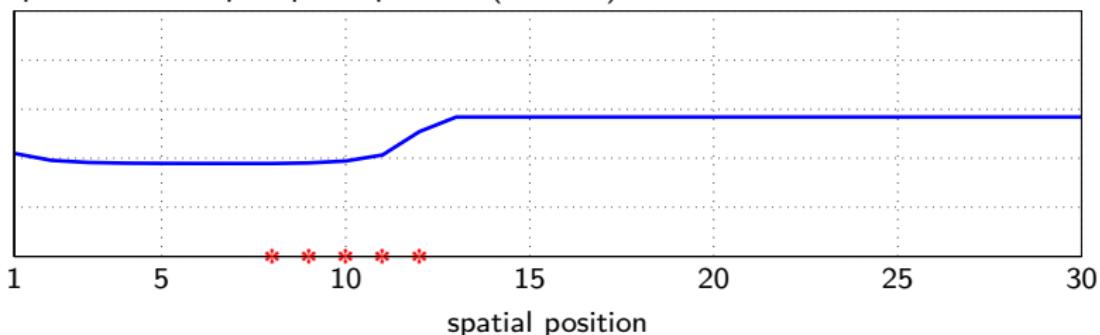


predicted BER per spatial position (optimized)

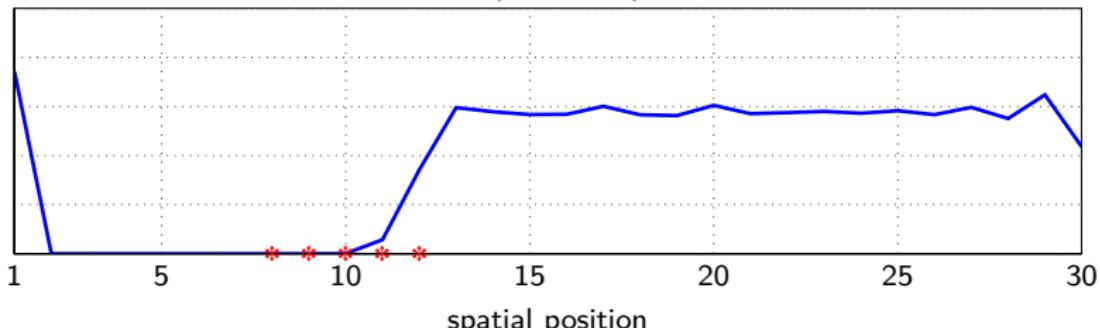


Decoding Behavior For The Same SNR

predicted BER per spatial position (baseline)

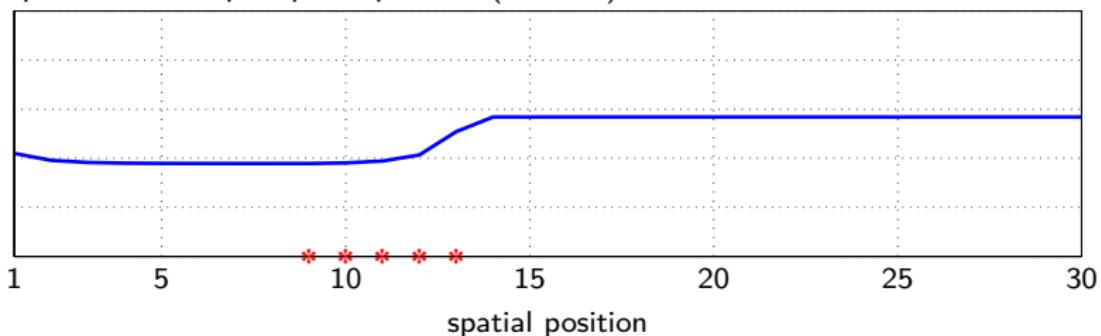


predicted BER per spatial position (optimized)

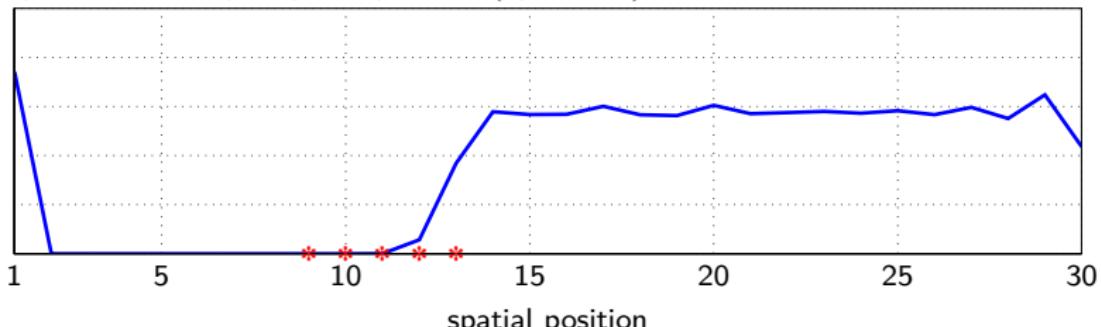


Decoding Behavior For The Same SNR

predicted BER per spatial position (baseline)

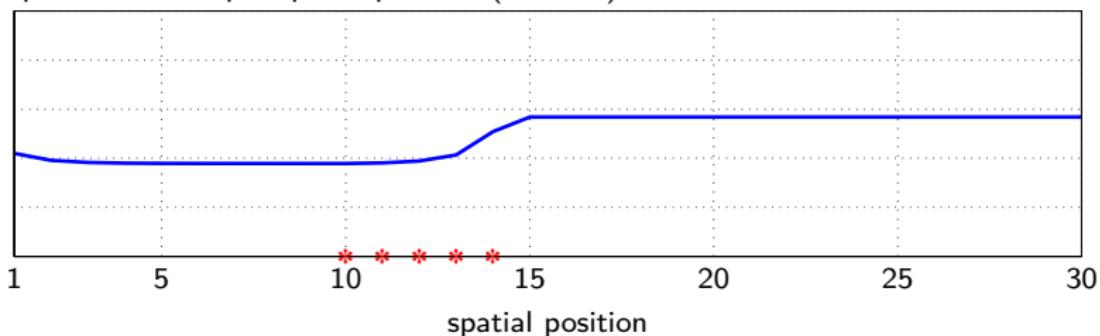


predicted BER per spatial position (optimized)

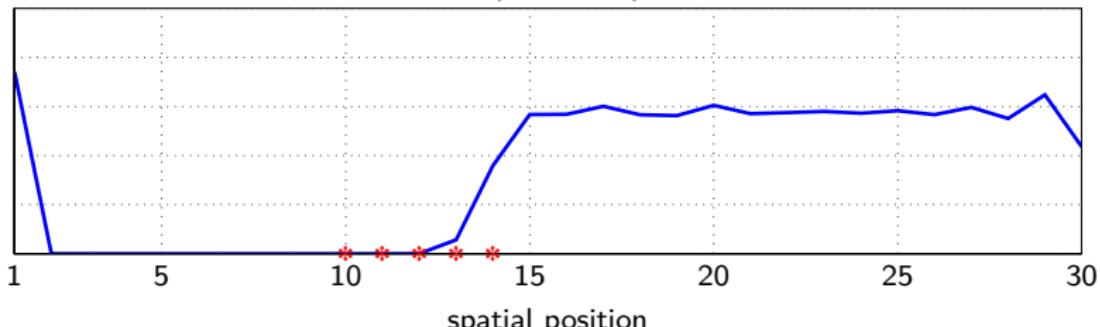


Decoding Behavior For The Same SNR

predicted BER per spatial position (baseline)

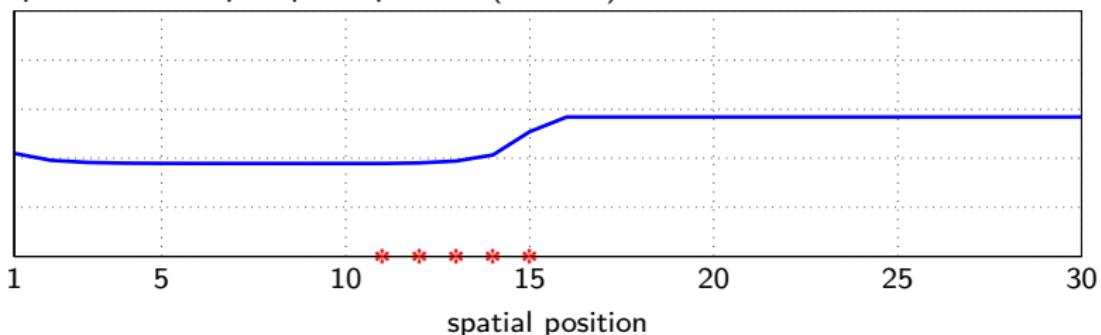


predicted BER per spatial position (optimized)

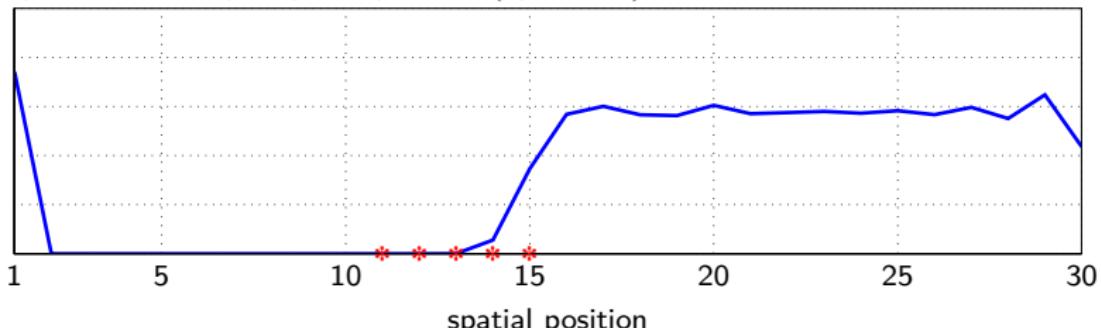


Decoding Behavior For The Same SNR

predicted BER per spatial position (baseline)

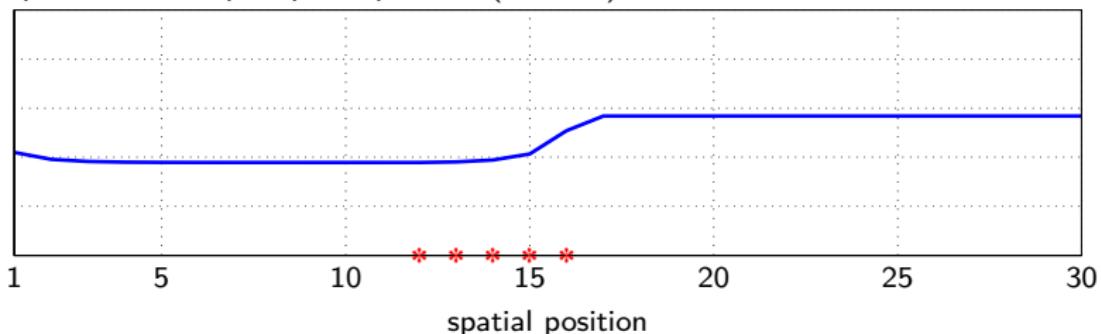


predicted BER per spatial position (optimized)

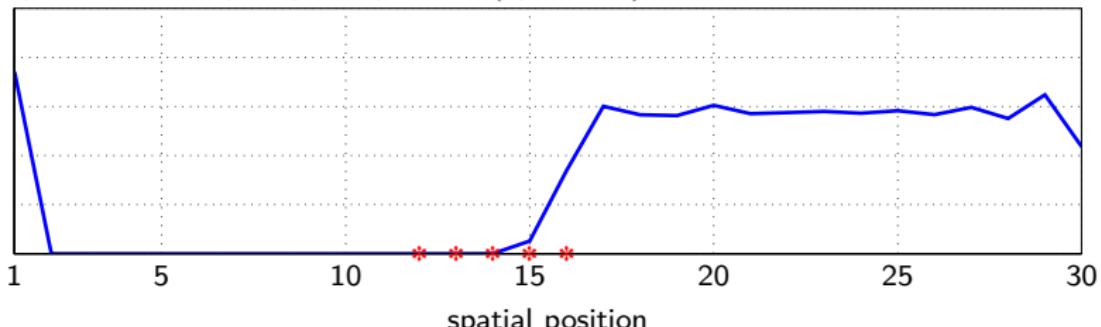


Decoding Behavior For The Same SNR

predicted BER per spatial position (baseline)

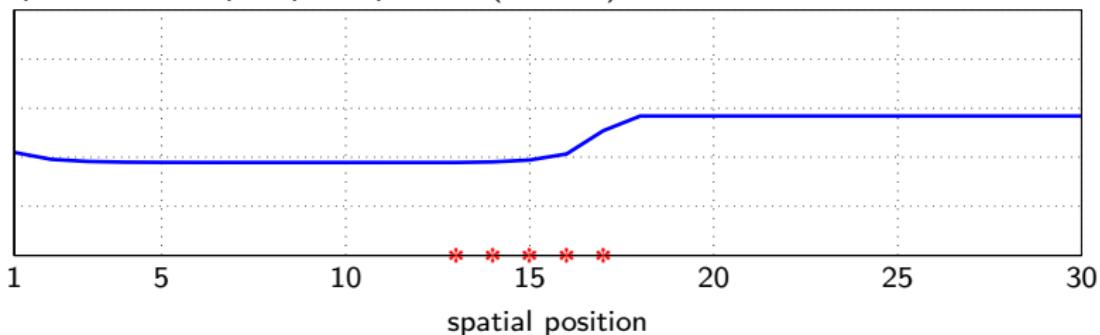


predicted BER per spatial position (optimized)

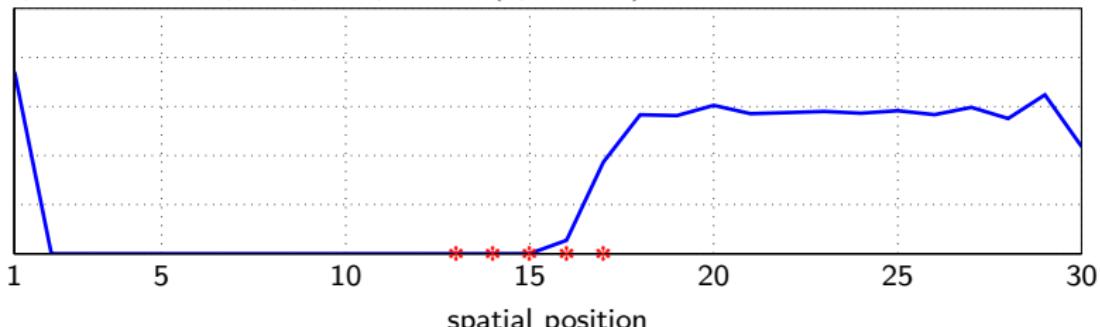


Decoding Behavior For The Same SNR

predicted BER per spatial position (baseline)

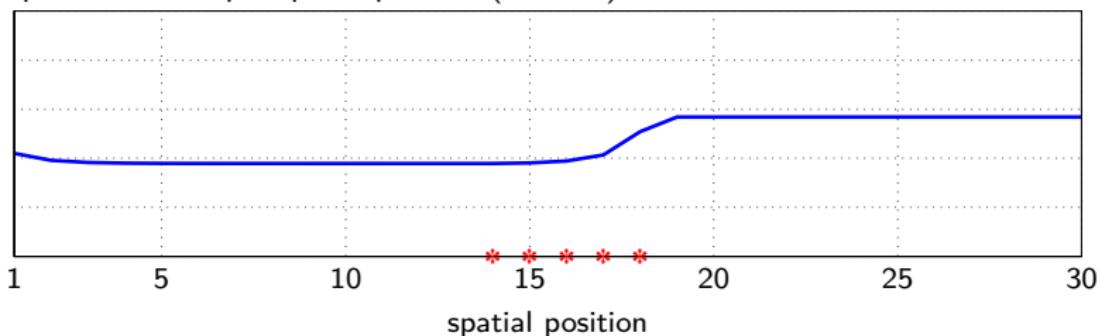


predicted BER per spatial position (optimized)

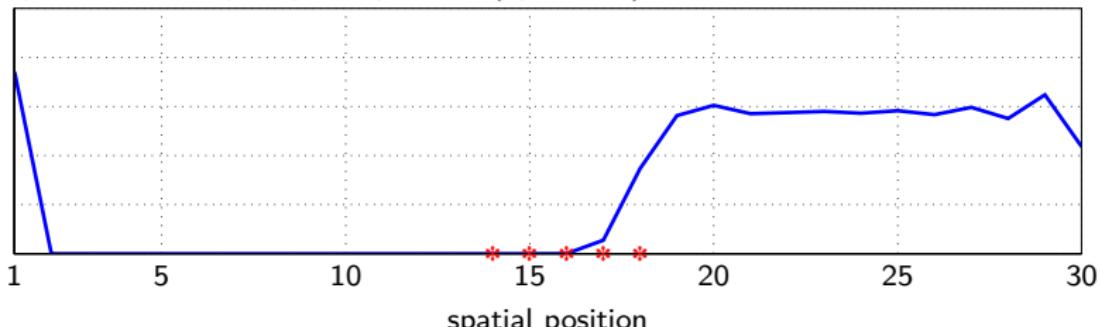


Decoding Behavior For The Same SNR

predicted BER per spatial position (baseline)

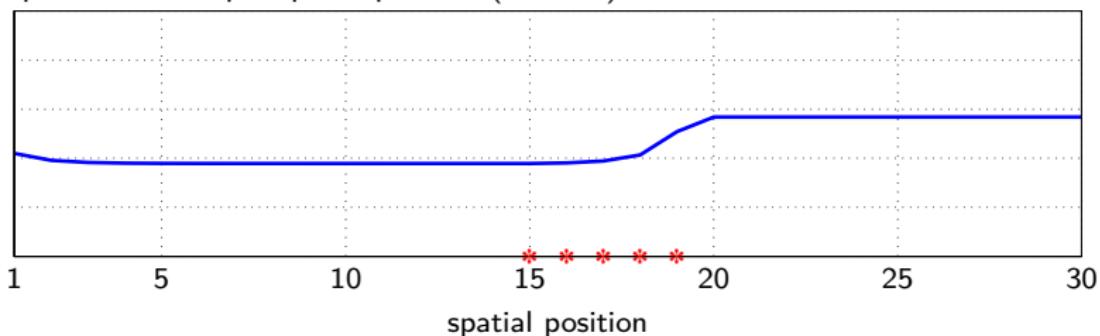


predicted BER per spatial position (optimized)

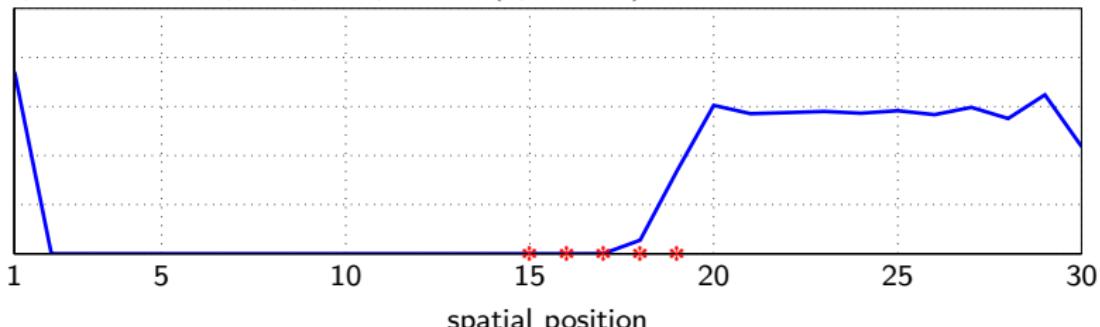


Decoding Behavior For The Same SNR

predicted BER per spatial position (baseline)

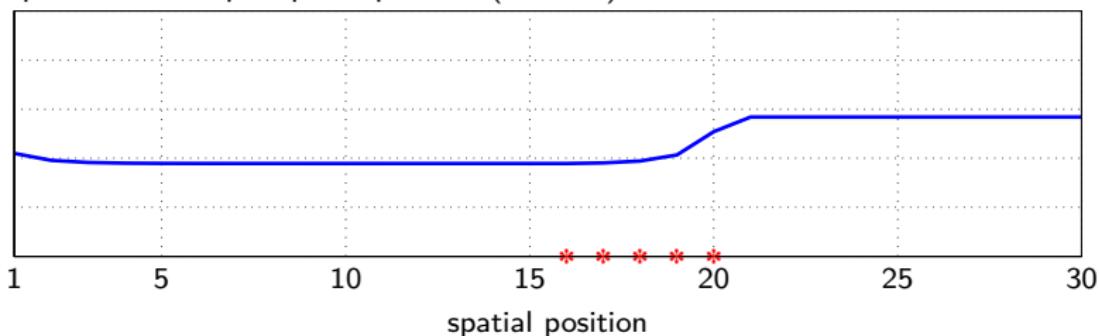


predicted BER per spatial position (optimized)

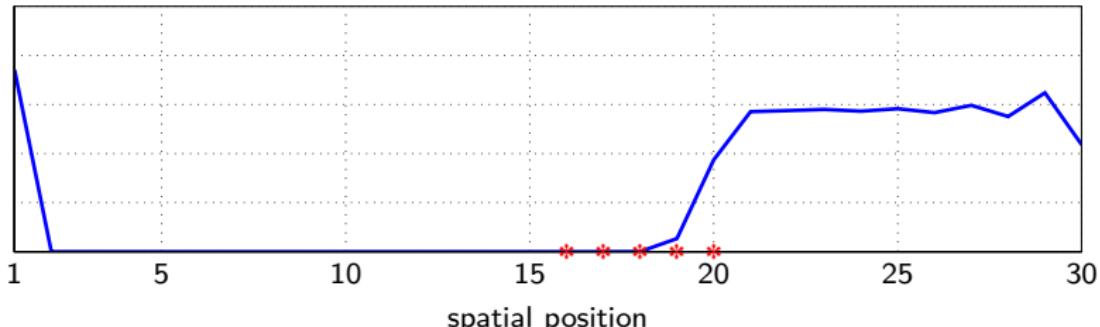


Decoding Behavior For The Same SNR

predicted BER per spatial position (baseline)

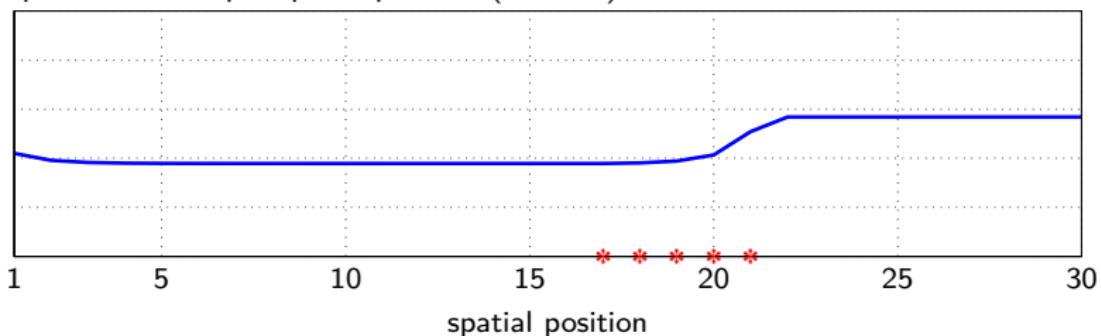


predicted BER per spatial position (optimized)

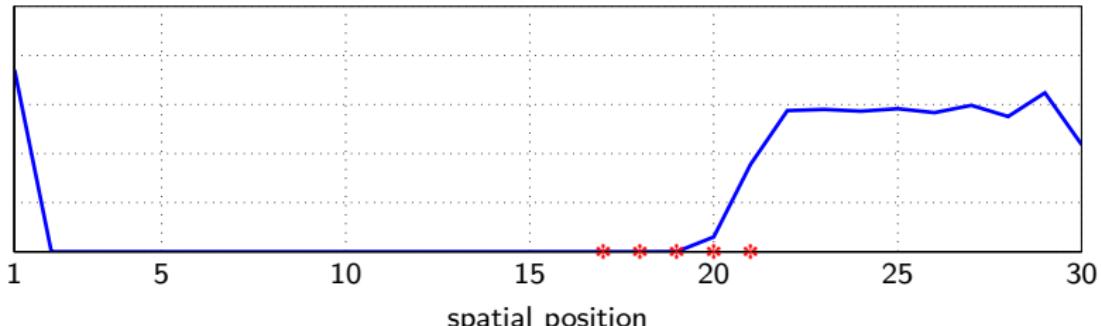


Decoding Behavior For The Same SNR

predicted BER per spatial position (baseline)

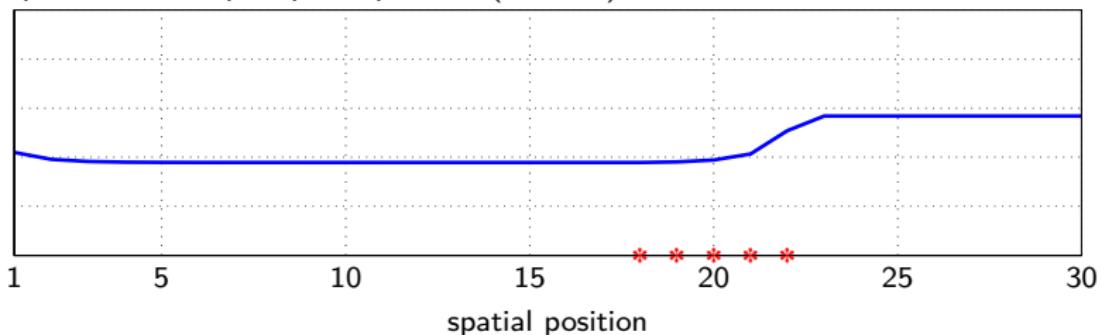


predicted BER per spatial position (optimized)

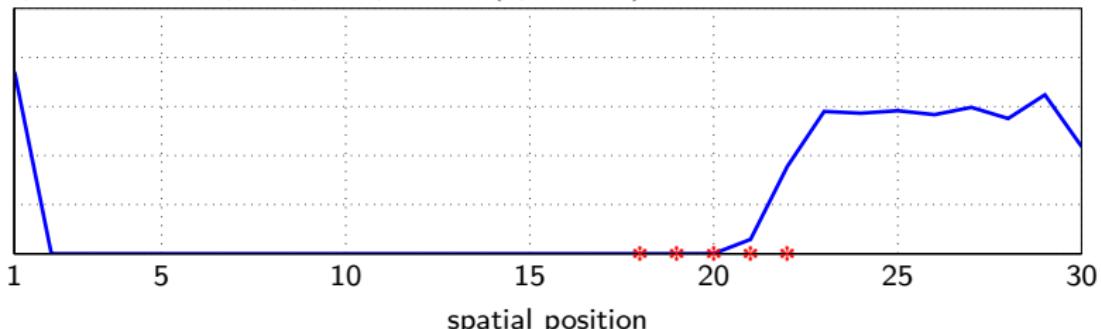


Decoding Behavior For The Same SNR

predicted BER per spatial position (baseline)

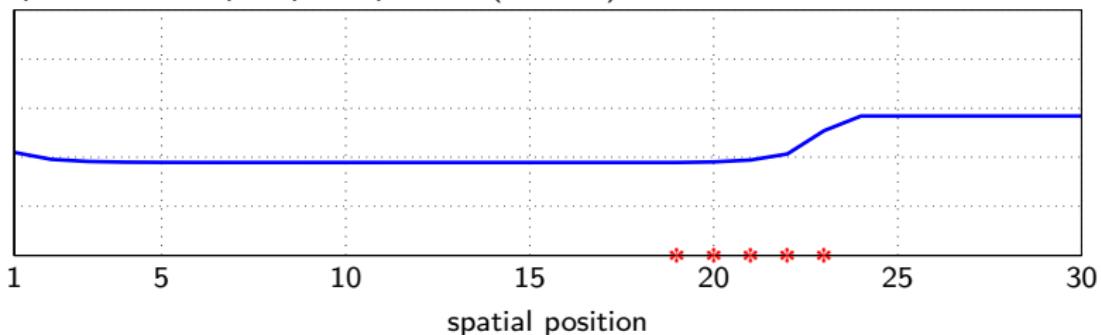


predicted BER per spatial position (optimized)

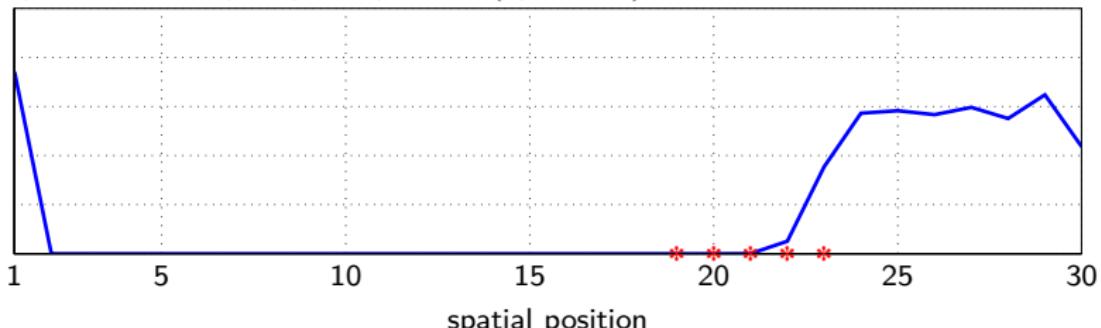


Decoding Behavior For The Same SNR

predicted BER per spatial position (baseline)

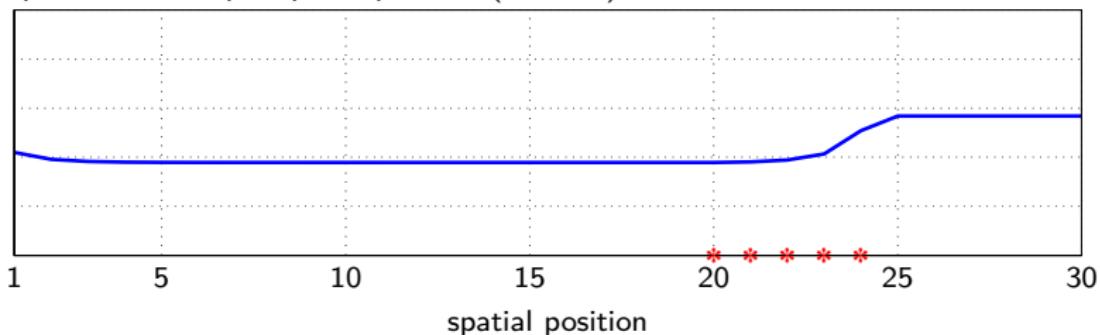


predicted BER per spatial position (optimized)

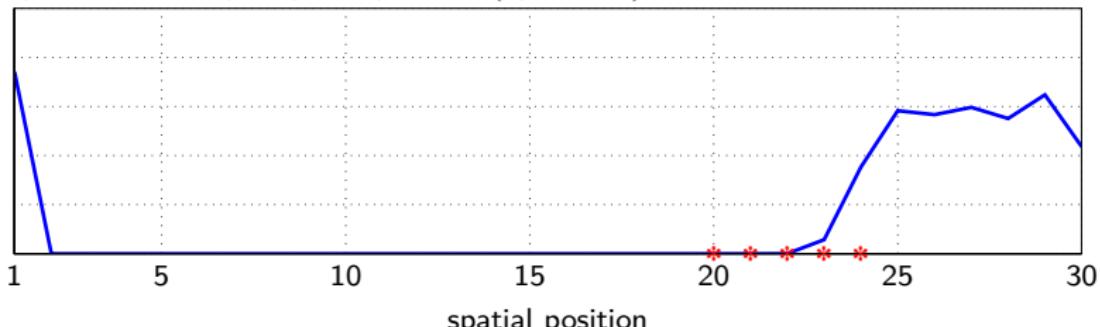


Decoding Behavior For The Same SNR

predicted BER per spatial position (baseline)

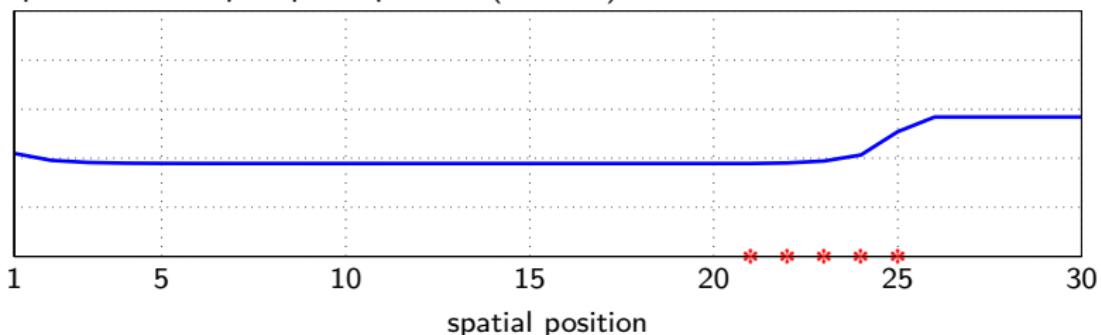


predicted BER per spatial position (optimized)

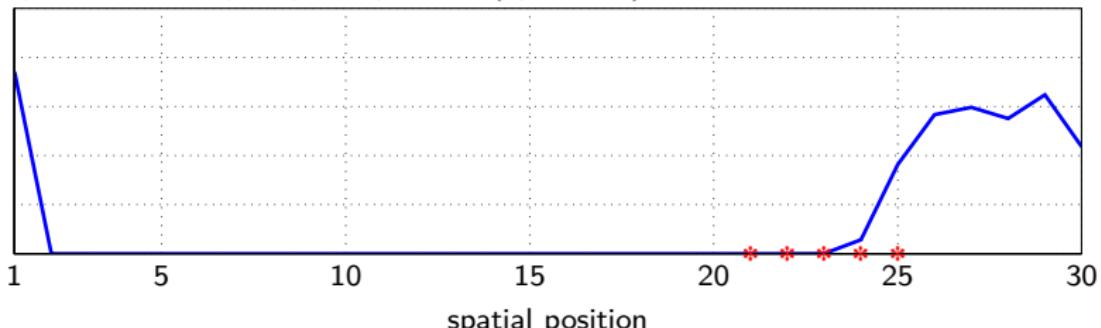


Decoding Behavior For The Same SNR

predicted BER per spatial position (baseline)

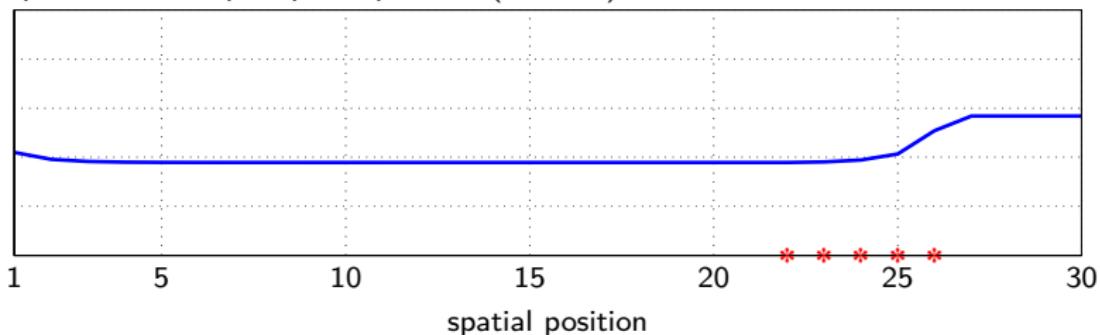


predicted BER per spatial position (optimized)

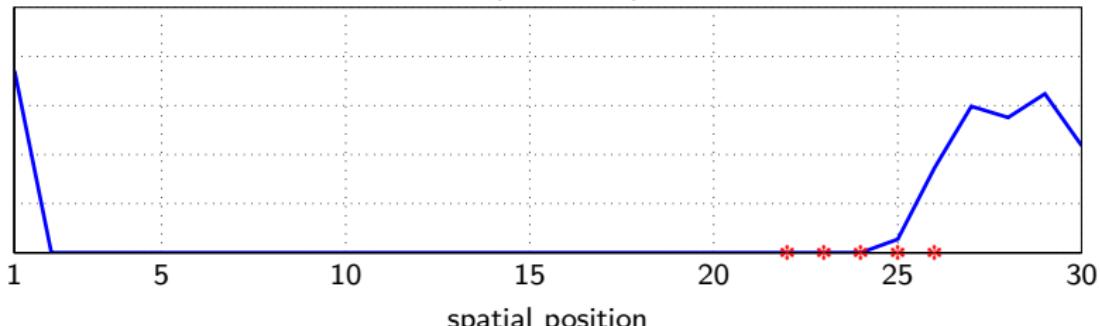


Decoding Behavior For The Same SNR

predicted BER per spatial position (baseline)

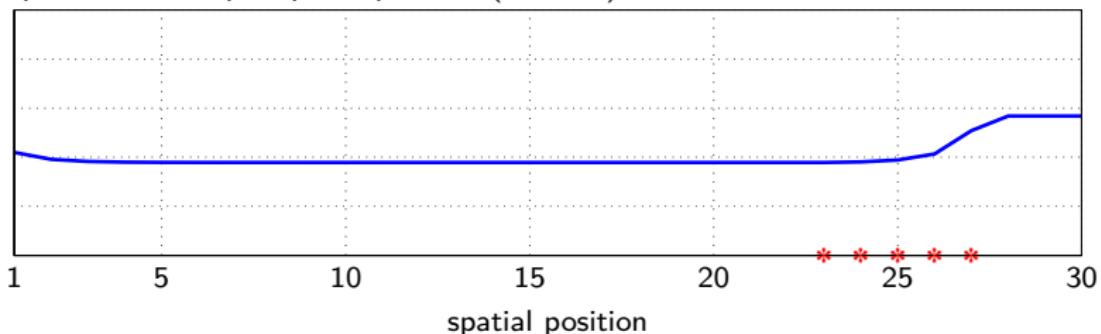


predicted BER per spatial position (optimized)

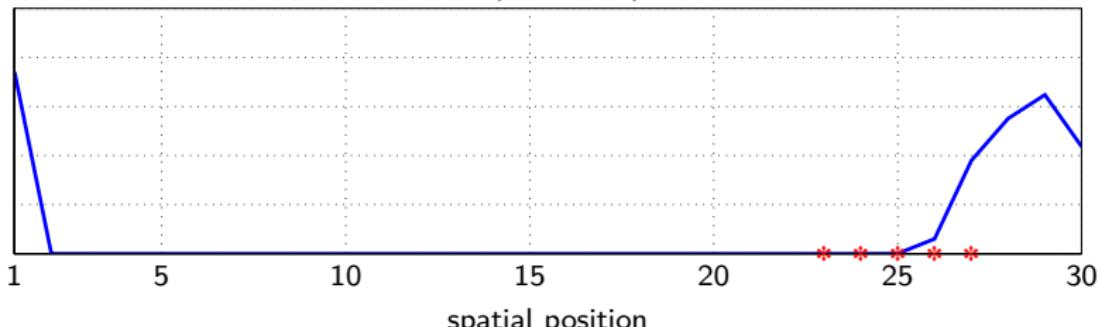


Decoding Behavior For The Same SNR

predicted BER per spatial position (baseline)

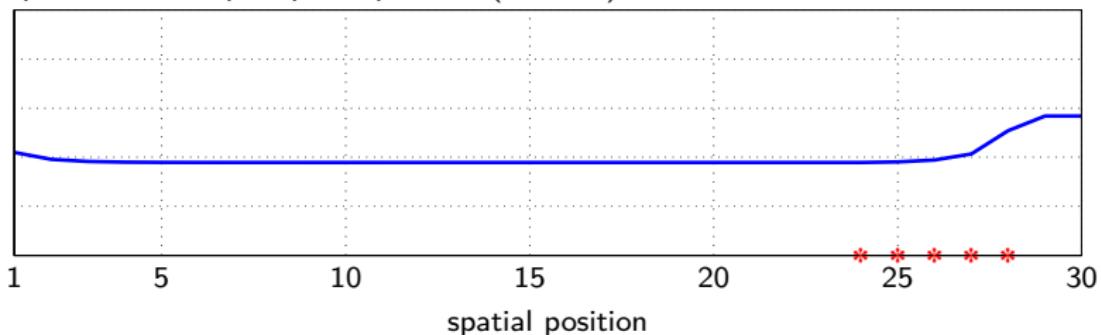


predicted BER per spatial position (optimized)

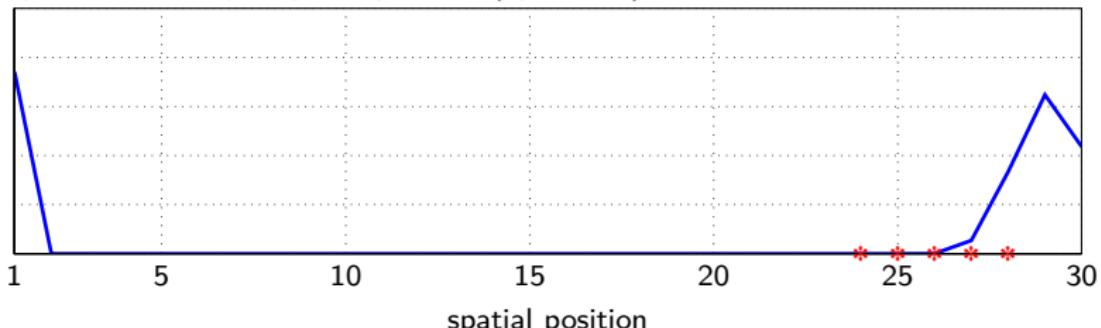


Decoding Behavior For The Same SNR

predicted BER per spatial position (baseline)

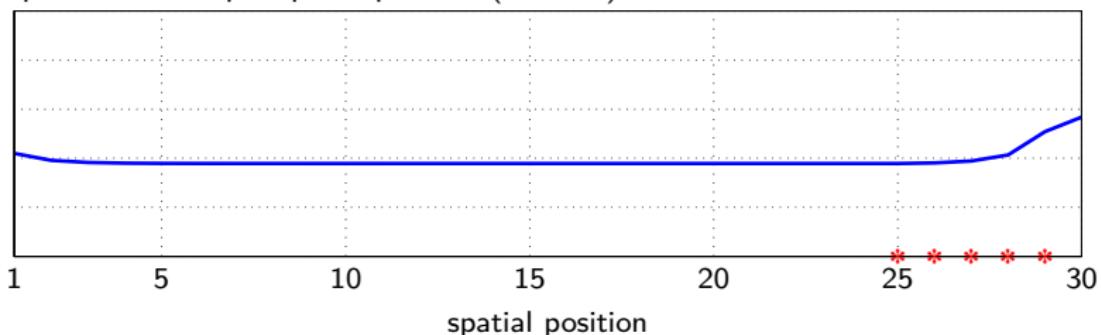


predicted BER per spatial position (optimized)

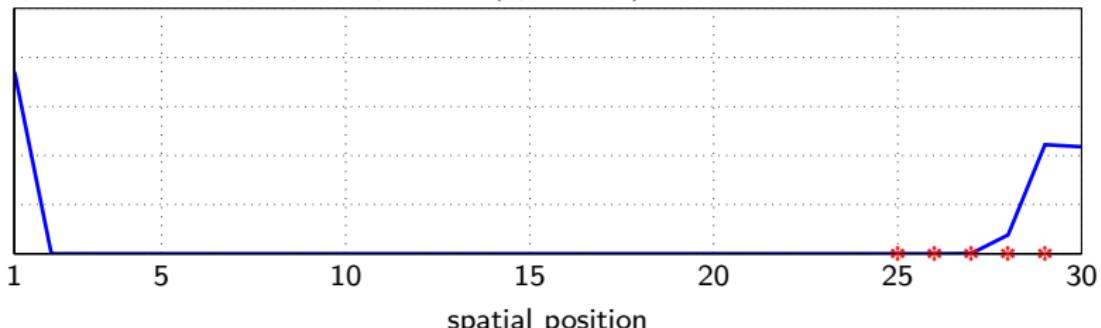


Decoding Behavior For The Same SNR

predicted BER per spatial position (baseline)

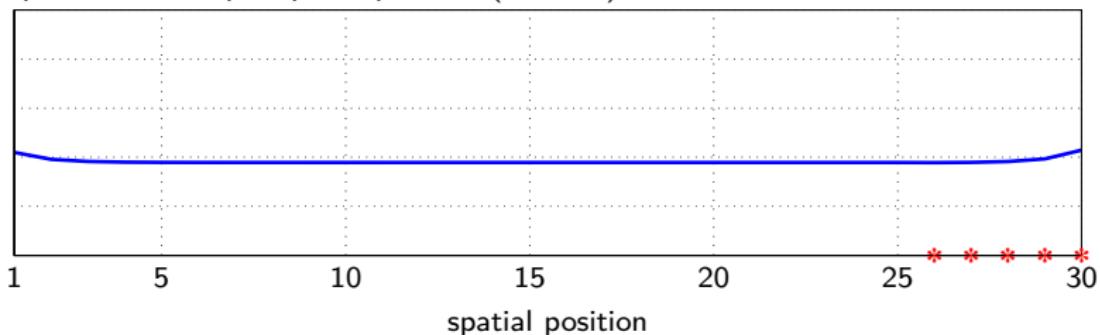


predicted BER per spatial position (optimized)

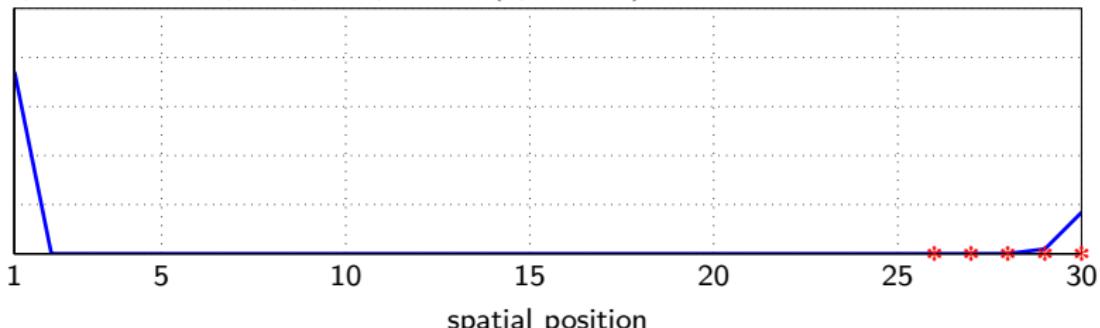


Decoding Behavior For The Same SNR

predicted BER per spatial position (baseline)

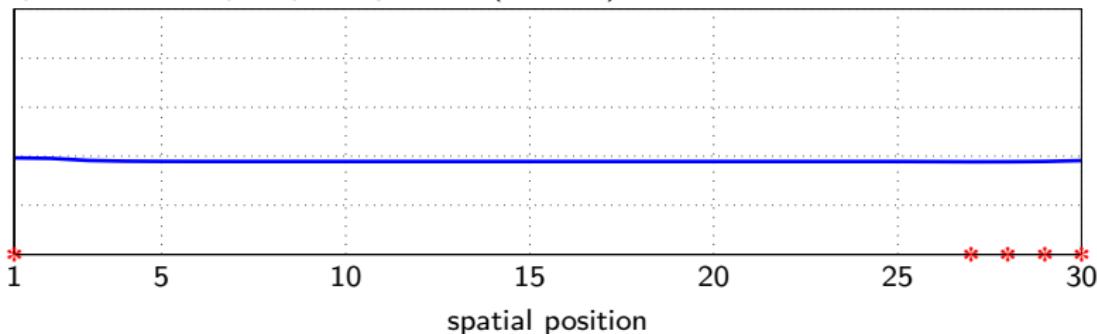


predicted BER per spatial position (optimized)

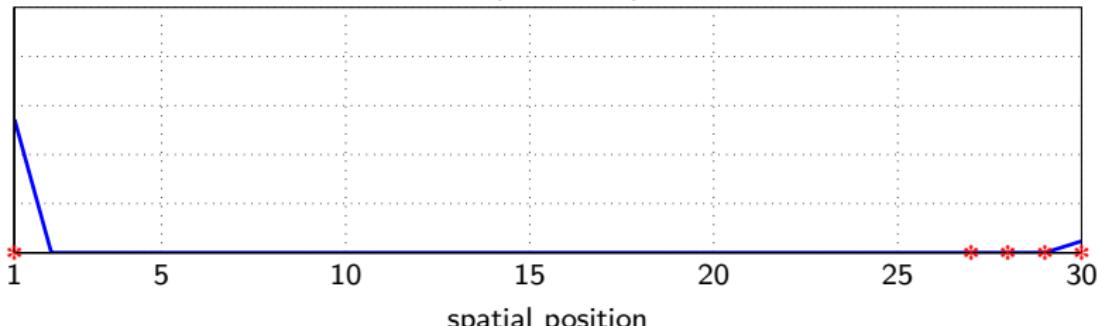


Decoding Behavior For The Same SNR

predicted BER per spatial position (baseline)

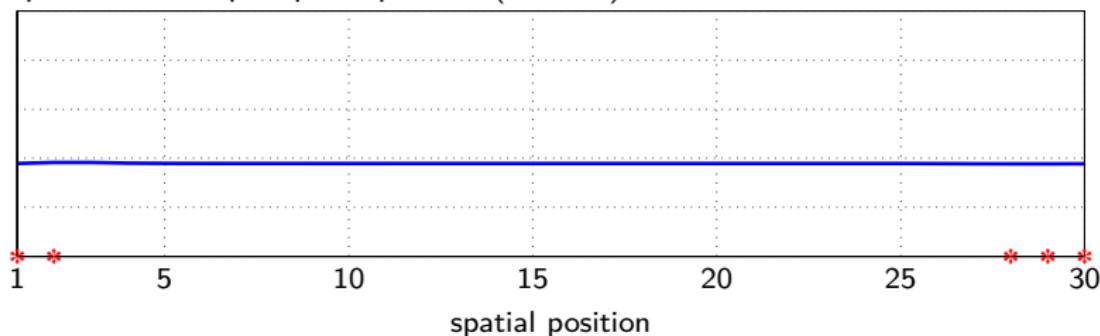


predicted BER per spatial position (optimized)

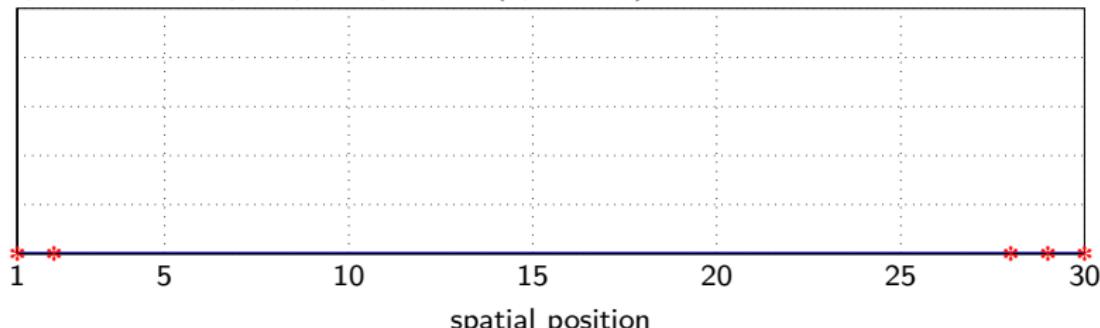


Decoding Behavior For The Same SNR

predicted BER per spatial position (baseline)

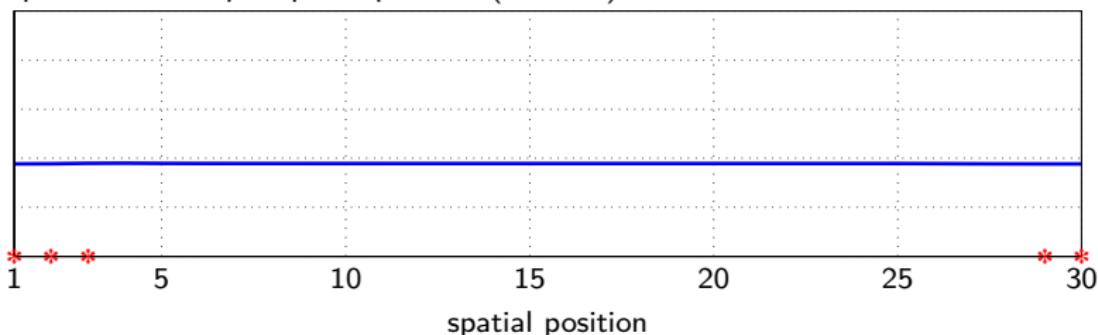


predicted BER per spatial position (optimized)

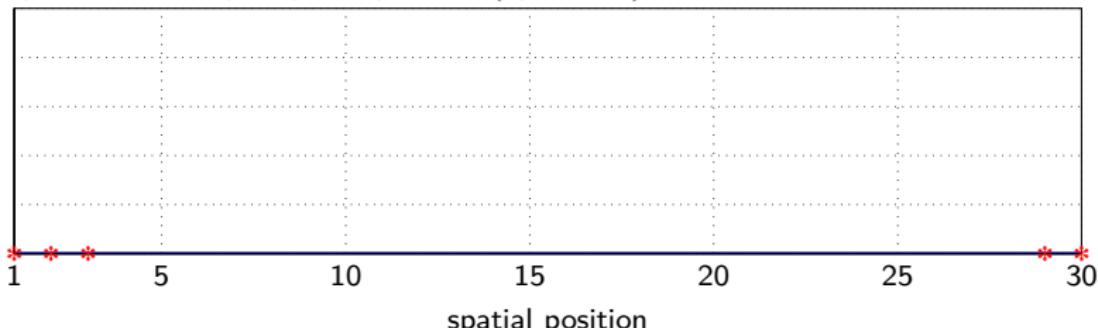


Decoding Behavior For The Same SNR

predicted BER per spatial position (baseline)

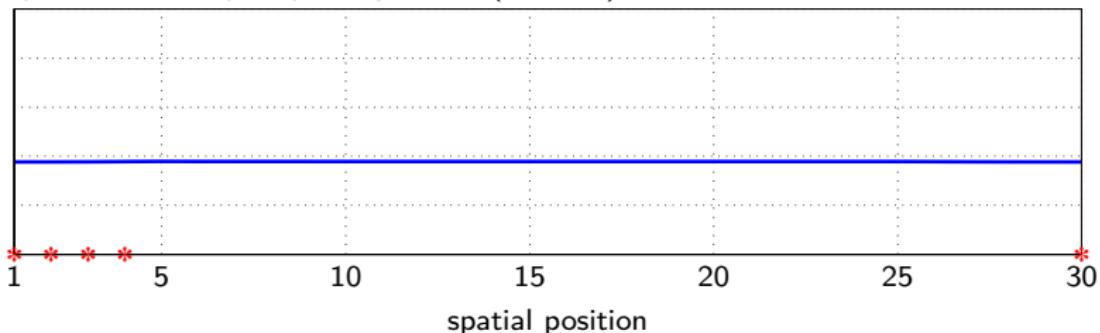


predicted BER per spatial position (optimized)

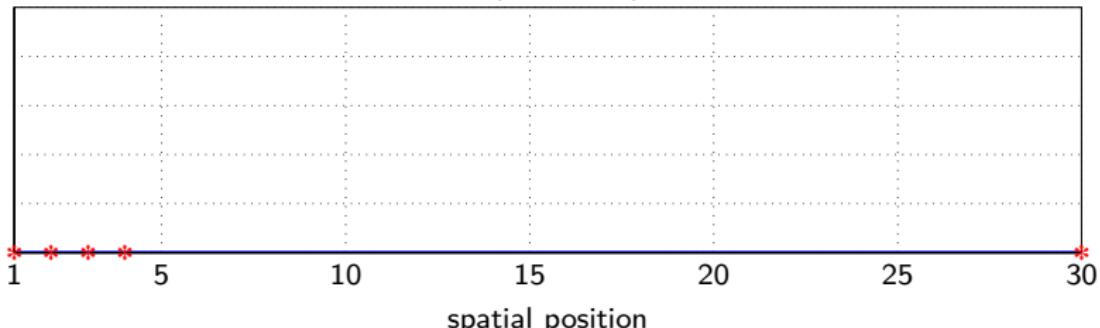


Decoding Behavior For The Same SNR

predicted BER per spatial position (baseline)

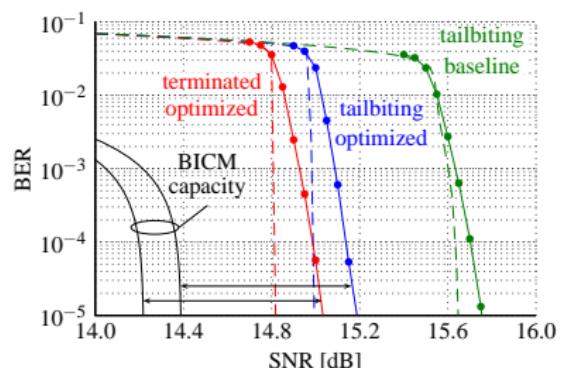


predicted BER per spatial position (optimized)

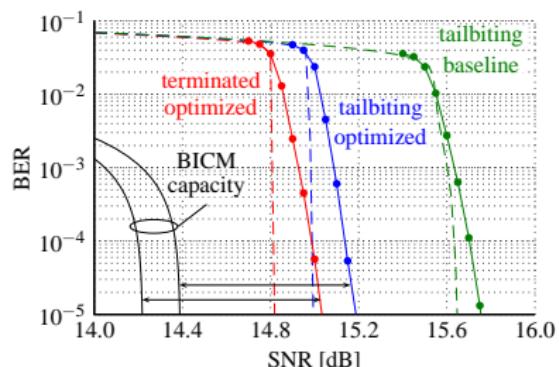


Simulation Results

Simulation Results

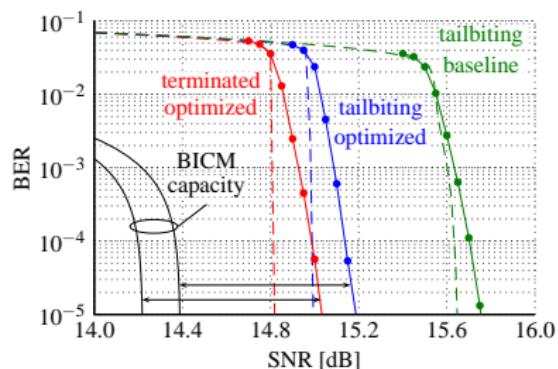


Simulation Results



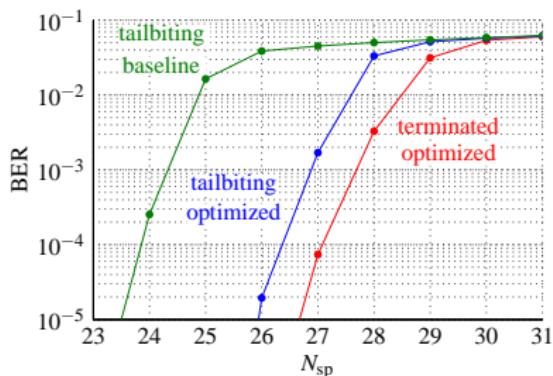
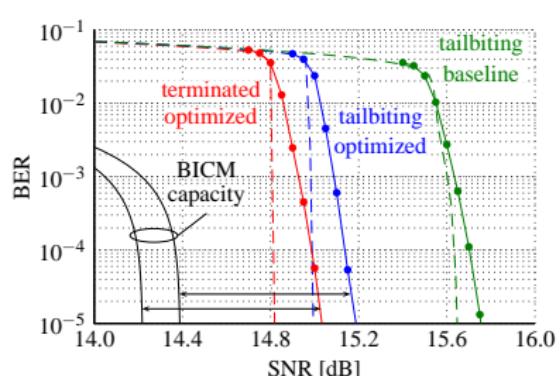
- Gain of ≈ 0.55 dB at a BER of 10^{-5} for AWGN channel

Simulation Results



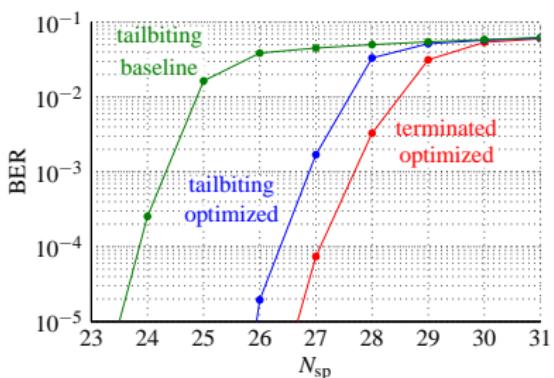
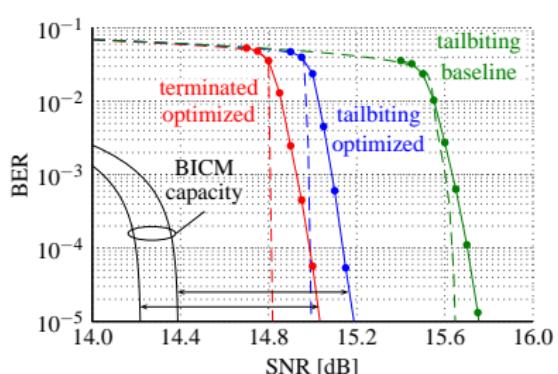
- Gain of ≈ 0.55 dB at a BER of 10^{-5} for AWGN channel
- Approximately the same gap to the BICM capacity for both optimized systems

Simulation Results



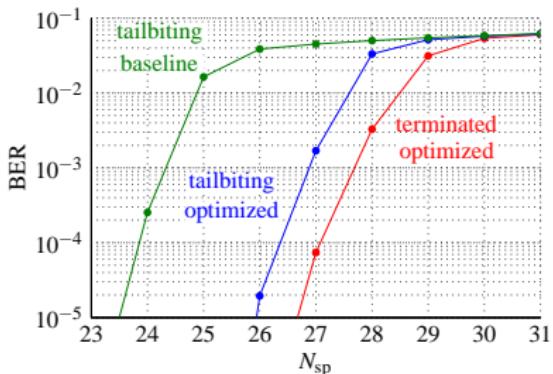
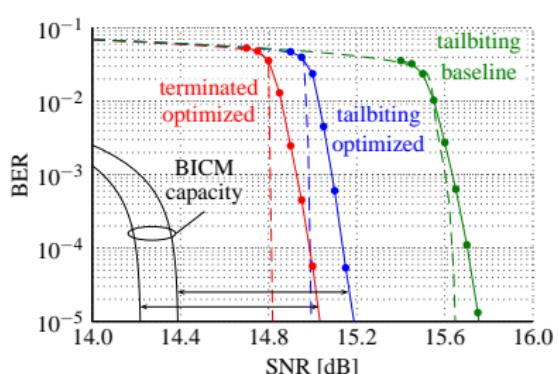
- Gain of ≈ 0.55 dB at a BER of 10^{-5} for AWGN channel
- Approximately the same gap to the BICM capacity for both optimized systems
- Nonlinear propagation at 40 Gbaud with 70 km spans (split-step Fourier simulation)

Simulation Results



- Gain of ≈ 0.55 dB at a BER of 10^{-5} for AWGN channel
- Approximately the same gap to the BICM capacity for both optimized systems
- Nonlinear propagation at 40 Gbaud with 70 km spans (split-step Fourier simulation)
- 0.55 dB gain translates into ≈ 3 span increase (13%)

Simulation Results



- Gain of ≈ 0.55 dB at a BER of 10^{-5} for AWGN channel
- Approximately the same gap to the BICM capacity for both optimized systems
- Nonlinear propagation at 40 Gbaud with 70 km spans (split-step Fourier simulation)
- 0.55 dB gain translates into ≈ 3 span increase (13%)
- Terminated code enables longer reach, at the expense of 1.2% decrease in spectral efficiency

Conclusions

Conclusions

1. Unequal error protection of a nonbinary modulation format can be used to significantly improve performance of tailbiting SC-LDPC codes

Conclusions

1. Unequal error protection of a nonbinary modulation format can be used to significantly improve performance of tailbiting SC-LDPC codes
2. With optimized bit allocation, terminated and tailbiting codes are competitive, i.e., spectral efficiency can be traded for transmission reach, at similar gap to capacity.

Conclusions

1. Unequal error protection of a nonbinary modulation format can be used to significantly improve performance of tailbiting SC-LDPC codes
2. With optimized bit allocation, terminated and tailbiting codes are competitive, i.e., spectral efficiency can be traded for transmission reach, at similar gap to capacity.

Thank you!

