

An introduction to Information Theory

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Lecture #7B: Universal Source Coding-II: Lempel-Ziv Welch Algorithm (LZW)



Outline of the lecture

- LZW encoding



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- LZW decoding



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- Same dictionary is created at the encoder as well as decoder with list of phrases represented by an integer index.
- Initially the dictionary is initialized to all length-one phrases (q of them).
- Codeword is a pair representing $(C(w) \cdot w_k)$ where $C(w)$ is the code (index in the dictionary) of the prefix of the new phrase and w_k is the innovation symbol.



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- $\lceil \log |D_n| \rceil$ bits can be used to represent codewords where $|D_n|$ is the size of the dictionary at time n .
- Alternatively, Elias coding of positive numbers can be used to represent codewords where smaller indices can be used for recent phrases (reverse order of dictionary).



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- Problem: Use LZW algorithm to encode a 24-bit sequence,

$$W_1^{24} = \{001011011000011011011000\}$$



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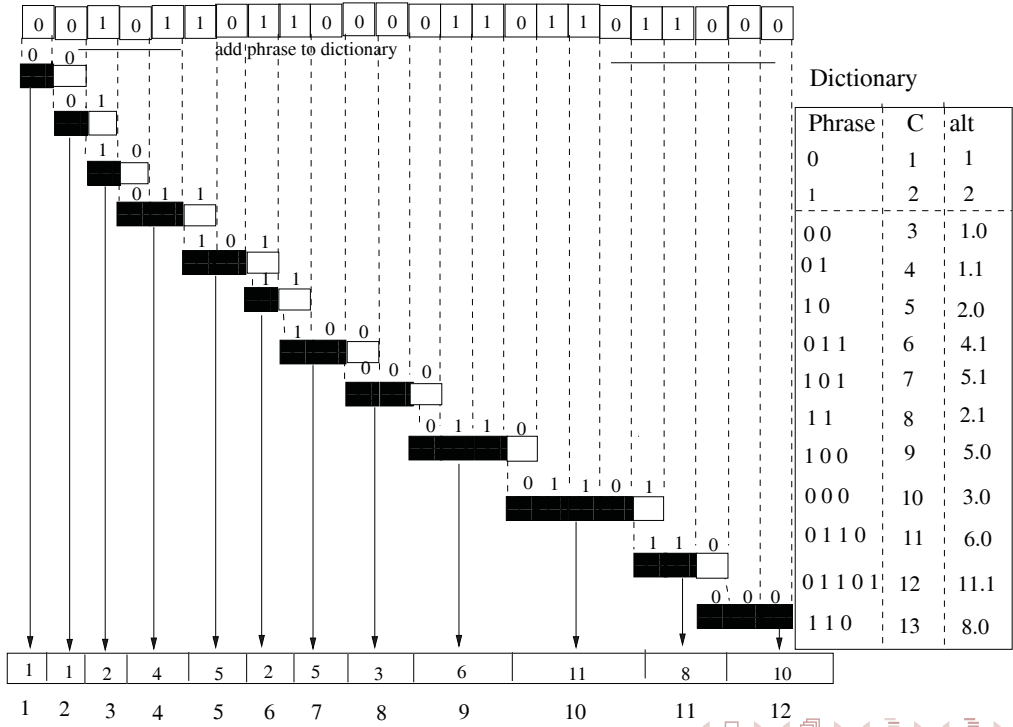
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- Solution: Encoding procedure is shown in a table (next frame).



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- At the beginning of decoding, dictionary is initialized with codewords corresponding to the source alphabet.
- A phrase is added to the decoder dictionary after each new codeword is received except the first codeword.
- Every received codeword represents a prefix of a new entry into the dictionary . The innovation symbol for this entry is determined from the first symbol of the next decoded codeword.



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- Problem: Use LZW algorithm to decode the received codeword sequence,

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