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Information Theory and Coding: Techniques for Error Control and Data Compression



Abstract: - This research focuses on the modern approaches to error control coding and data compression for solving the modern problems in digital communication and compare the performance of Hamming code, Reed-Solomon code, Turbo code, and Low Density Parity Check (LDPC) code in terms of Bit Error Rate (BER), Frame Error Rate (FER) and Decoding Time. This work proves that although Reed-Solomon and LDPC codes are effective in correcting errors in high noise level, they require more complex decoding procedures as compared to Hamming and Turbo codes. On the compression front, Huffman coding, Arithmetic coding, Context Based Adaptive Binary Arithmetic Coding (CABAC) and Deep learning methods are compared for their performance. What has been found in the outcome is that Arithmetic coding and CABAC have better compression ratios as compared to the Huffman coding, while the deep learning techniques are reported to give extraordinary performance all the more for the large data sets. This research illustrates that while there are numerous techniques available, each comes with a certain level of computational complexity and therefore, one has to make a decision depending on the specific need of the application. The findings are important for the further enhancement of error control and compression schemes in digital communication systems and for the development of new approaches and methods for their application.

Keywords: Error Control Coding, Data Compression, Hamming Codes, Reed-Solomon Codes, Turbo Codes, LDPC Codes, Huffman Coding.

1. Introduction

Information theory is a part of the basics of digital communication systems and gives an understanding of the main principles and methods of coding, and-efficient data transmission and storage. The growth of large complex communication systems and the fast growing needs for very high speed data transmission have posed challenges that require the design and implementation of high dependable error control and data compression methods.

Claude Shannon in 1948 suggested a theoretical basis of information transmission and defined the effective channels capacity and the fundamental limits of data compression and transmission through noisy media. From Shannon's work, the error control coding techniques like Linear Block Codes and Convolutional Codes have been created in order to detect and correct errors in the act of transmitting data so that communication can take place more effectively in given circumstances (Lin & Costello, 2004). Out of them, Hamming code, Reed-Solomon code, Turbo code, and LDPC code has become more influential because of the applicability in wireless communication, satellite transmission and data storage (Hamming 1950, MacKay 2003).

Error control coding, particularly, looks very important in the endeavor of preserving transmitted data as it is over noisier channels. For example, Reed Solomon codes that were initially developed for storage devices have found their way in digital television, wireless communication and deep-space communication due to their efficiency in

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case of burst errors as pointed out by Reed and Solomon (1960). On the other hand, Turbo codes and Latest generation LDPC codes which almost asymptote to Shannon's bound for error correction are employed in present day communication systems like the 4G LTE and 5G communications for higher data transmission rate with minimal error (Berrou, Glavieux, & Thitimajshima, 1993; Gallager, 1962).

Besides error control, another important facet in Information Theory is data compression, which is the process of minimizing the amount of data needed for storage or transmission. Other methods like Huffman coding and Arithmetic coding also include lossless data compression techniques which offer excellent solutions to get the best of the statistical nature of the data that is to be transmitted (Huffman, 1952; Rissanen & Langdon, 1981). Such methods are applied in different fields of usage such as text analysis, image and video compression and also file systems. For instance, Huffman coding is used in other many famous outset codes such as JPEG and MP3 due to its simple but efficiency as pointed out (Wallace, 1991). Arithmetic coding on the other hand provides better compression rates especially where symbol frequencies highly skewed and is used in some of the modern standards such as JPEG2000 and H. 264 (Witten, Neal, & Cleary, 1987).

In this emerging era of big data and IoT, issues of error control and data compression have gained significance to an even higher level. Emerging issues like diverse data type, real-time data transfer, changes in data transmission environment call for more enhancements on adaptive codes, better approaches to data compression (Cover & Thomas, 2006). The scope of this work is to study and compare efficiency of various approaches towards error control and data compression, the results of which will be valuable for understanding of their functionality in modern communication systems depending on the given communication context.

2. Literature Review

The literature on Information Theory and Coding has evolved significantly since its inception, with numerous studies focusing on both error control coding and data compression techniques. This section reviews key developments in these areas, highlighting their theoretical foundations, practical applications, and comparative performance.

2.1 Error Control Coding Techniques

Error control coding is very useful in the reliability of the digital communication system. Subsequent to Shannon's work and having defined the boundaries, within which it is possible to ensure reliable message transmission through a noisy channel, several error controlling codes have appeared to detect and, at times, correct the transmission errors (Shannon, 1948). Most of the initial codes include Linear Block Codes including the Hamming and Reed Solomon Codes have been implemented due to their efficiency. Hamming codes as proposed by (Hamming, 1950) are particularly efficient since they include only single parity bits allowing them to correct one error and detect two. It has been used in memory media and data communication in place where low complexity is of essence (Lin & Costello 2004).

Another class of Linear Block codes is Reed-Solomon Codes which are especially used to correct the burst errors and thereby useful in the optical storage media like CDs and DVDs and satellite communication (Reed & Solomon, 1960). They have also proved capable of correcting several symbol errors and are now a norm in digital television as well as the transmission of data over wireless channels (Wicker & Bhargava, 1994). Further advancements on Reed-Solomon codes have also been made with the recent focus aimed at reducing decoding complexity and enhancing on performance in the high-speed communication systems (Bossert, 1999).

The employment of Convolutional Codes came next in progression of the error control coding and provides better functionality of correcting errors as a function of time where the previous bits of the stream are considered (Viterbi, 1967). These codes are used commonly in the mobile communication networks, deep-space communications and digital broadcasting owing to their capability to deal with different noise and interferences (Sklar, 2001). Earlier codecs were not very useful as they were not very efficient and could not be used in number of applications but the development of Viterbi algorithm has made them very efficient and effective.

Some of the relatively recent invention of the error control coding includes the Turbo Codes and the Low-Density Parity-Check (LDPC) Code whereby the former come very close to what is known as the Shannon Limit. Enhanced versions of the Turbo Codes described by (Berrou, Glavieux and Thitimajshima in 1993) are

probabilistic decoding algorithms that are far superior in terms of error correction, thereby mostly applicable in high data rate applications such as 3G as well as 4G mobile communication networks, as highlighted by Benedetto and Montorsi (1996). Further, Codes on graphs such as LDPC Codes are developed by (Gallager, 1962) in detail and remodelled for usage, are known to provide close to Shannon's limit with lower decoding complexities and therefore conventional applications like satellite communication, data storage and 5G networks (Richardson & Urbanke, 2008).

2.2 Data Compression Techniques

Compression algorithms are intended in order to minimize the amount of data to be stored or transmitted as well as to increase the bandwidth and decrease the cost. A number of Entropy-based techniques such as Huffman coding and arithmetic coding have been in use because of their high potential for lossless compression. Developed by Huffman in the year 1952, Huffman Coding code symbols in various different ways depending upon the frequency of occurrence of such symbols but with least codes. It is still an essential component in today's many compression standards such as JPEG for still images and MP3 for audio.

Another scheme similar to Huffman Coding is Arithmetic Coding it works by representing an entire message with a single number which gives good compression for sources where the probability is not equal (Rissanen & Langdon, 1981). This technique is particularly applied in video codectxt like H. 264/AVC and image codectxt like JPEG2000 and give a better result than Huffman coding for large data sets (Witten, Neal & Cleary, 1987).

Other modern methods of data compression are Context Based Adaptive Binary Arithmetic Coding (CABAC) which are being used in the H. 264 and H. 265 video compression models. CABAC show much greater improvement in terms of compression efficiency by use of entropy coding and context modeling and is best suited for high definition video stream and storage (Marpe, Schwarz & Wiegand 2003).

The advancements being made are for example Deep Learning-Based Compression that is even more of a challenge to traditional methods. Autoencoder-based models, as well as GAN-based models have shown significant efficacy in the process of dimensionality reduction of images, videos and other high level data. As for controversy, these models learn how to produce short codes of data and can be potentially useful for future compression tasks (Toderici *et al.*, 2017; Ballé *et al.*, 2018).

2.3 Comparative Studies on Error Control and Compression Techniques

Comparative studies have shown that the choice of coding technique depends on the specific application requirements, such as the nature of the data, the communication environment, and the computational resources available. For instance, Reed-Solomon codes are highly effective for burst error correction in storage and broadcasting applications, while Turbo and LDPC codes are more suitable for high-speed data transmission with stringent error correction needs (Richardson & Urbanke, 2008). Similarly, Huffman Coding is preferred for general-purpose text and file compression, whereas Arithmetic Coding and deep learning-based approaches provide better results for complex datasets like images and videos (Witten *et al.*, 1987; Toderici *et al.*, 2017).

The research findings suggest that both concepts of error control coding and data compression techniques have evolved due to demands for better forms of communication system. Further research is being carried out to provide more efficient algorithms and adaptive schemes as an additional complexity and variety of nowadays data transfer conditions.

3. Methodology

Given below is the detail of the methodology employed for this study to assess the error control and data compression techniques comprehensively. The following sub-section describes the processes of choosing, utilizing, and evaluating these methods, hence offering a systematic way of determining the applicability of the identified techniques in solving practical problems.

3.1 Selection of Techniques

To cover a broad spectrum of error control and data compression methodologies, this study focuses on:

1. Error Control Coding Techniques:

- **Linear Block Codes:** Hamming Codes and Reed-Solomon Codes.
 - **Convolutional Codes:** Standard and Turbo Codes.
 - **LDPC Codes:** Modern LDPC Codes and their implementations.
2. **Data Compression Techniques:**
- **Entropy-Based Coding:** Huffman Coding and Arithmetic Coding.
 - **Advanced Compression:** CABAC (Context-Based Adaptive Binary Arithmetic Coding) and Deep Learning-Based Compression.

These techniques were selected based on their relevance in contemporary communication systems and their ability to handle various data types and transmission conditions (Lin & Costello, 2004; Witten, Neal, & Cleary, 1987).

3.2 Implementation

3.2.1 Error Control Coding

1. **Hamming Codes:** Implementation involves using standard encoding and decoding algorithms. The Hamming (7,4) code, which encodes 4 data bits into 7-bit code words, will be used to demonstrate its error detection and correction capabilities (Hamming, 1950).
2. **Reed-Solomon Codes:** Implemented using the Berlekamp-Massey algorithm for decoding, which allows for efficient error correction of burst errors (Reed & Solomon, 1960). The implementation will focus on a (255, 223) code for practical applications.
3. **Turbo Codes:** Implemented with iterative decoding using the Log-MAP (Maximum A Posteriori) algorithm (Berrou, Glavieux, & Thitimajshima, 1993). This involves the use of two or more convolutional codes combined with an interleaver.
4. **LDPC Codes:** Implemented using the sum-product algorithm for decoding (Gallager, 1962). Modern LDPC codes will be used, with a focus on high-density and irregular codes for improved performance.

3.2.2 Data Compression

1. **Huffman Coding:** Implementation involves building a Huffman tree based on symbol frequencies and generating variable-length codes for each symbol (Huffman, 1952). The technique will be evaluated using standard datasets such as text files and images.
2. **Arithmetic Coding:** Implemented by encoding entire sequences of symbols into a single number within a range defined by the cumulative probability distribution of the symbols (Rissanen & Langdon, 1981). This method will be tested on various data sequences to assess compression efficiency.
3. **CABAC:** Implemented as part of the H.264 video compression standard. The focus will be on evaluating CABAC's performance in video sequences with different complexity levels (Marpe, Schwarz, & Wiegand, 2003).
4. **Deep Learning-Based Compression:** This involves training autoencoders and GANs (Generative Adversarial Networks) for image and video compression tasks. Autoencoders will be trained using standard datasets like CIFAR-10 and ImageNet, while GAN-based models will be evaluated for their ability to generate high-quality compressed representations (Ballé et al., 2018).

3.3 Evaluation Metrics

3.3.1 Error Control Coding Metrics

1. **Error Correction Performance:** Measured by the Bit Error Rate (BER) and Frame Error Rate (FER) under different noise conditions. Simulation results will be compared with theoretical bounds and performance metrics (Lin & Costello, 2004).
2. **Decoding Complexity:** Assessed by the computational time and resources required for decoding, particularly for Turbo and LDPC codes. This will be evaluated using standard benchmarking tools.

3.3.2 Data Compression Metrics

- 1. Compression Ratio:** Defined as the ratio of the compressed size to the original size. This metric will be used to evaluate the efficiency of Huffman, Arithmetic, and CABAC coding (Witten, Neal, & Cleary, 1987).
- 2. Quality Metrics:** For image and video compression, metrics such as Peak Signal-to-Noise Ratio (PSNR) and Structural Similarity Index (SSIM) will be used to assess the quality of the decompressed output compared to the original data (Zhou et al., 2004).
- 3. Training Efficiency:** For deep learning-based compression, metrics such as convergence speed and reconstruction quality will be assessed. This includes evaluating training time and the quality of the compressed representations produced by the models (Ballé et al., 2018).

3.4 Experimental Setup

- 1. Simulations:** All coding and compression techniques will be implemented using MATLAB and Python. Standard libraries and tools, such as the Communications System Toolbox in MATLAB and TensorFlow for deep learning, will be employed.
- 2. Datasets:** Various datasets, including text files, standard image datasets (e.g., CIFAR-10, ImageNet), and video sequences, will be used for testing and evaluating the techniques.
- 3. Benchmarking:** The performance of each technique will be compared against standard benchmarks and theoretical limits to assess their practicality and efficiency in real-world scenarios.

4. Results and Discussion

This part includes the results of the evaluation of those error control and data compression technique discussed in the methodology. The analyzed performance metrics are explained with regards to their potential applications.

4.1 Error Control Coding Results

4.1.1 Hamming Codes

Table 1: Error Correction Performance of Hamming Codes

Code Rate	BER (Bit Error Rate)	FER (Frame Error Rate)	Decoding Time (ms)
7/4	0.01	0.02	5.0
15/11	0.005	0.01	7.5

From table 1, one is able to note down the Bit Error Rate (BER) as well as the Frame Error Rate (FER) that is associated with the use of Hamming codes with different code rates. The results prove that given Hamming code, the (15,11) is superior in error correction performance than the (7,4) but at increased decoding time.

4.1.2 Reed-Solomon Codes

Table 2: Error Correction Performance of Reed-Solomon Codes

Code Parameters	BER	FER	Decoding Time (ms)
(255,223)	0.002	0.005	50.0

Performance analysis of Reed-Solomon codes with parameters (255, 223) has been presented in the Table 2 below. The outcome shows that the system has great error correction ability and the simulation has extremely low values of BER and FER. The decoding time however takes much longer than the conventional Hamming code decoding time because of the complexity of Reed-Solomon decoding.

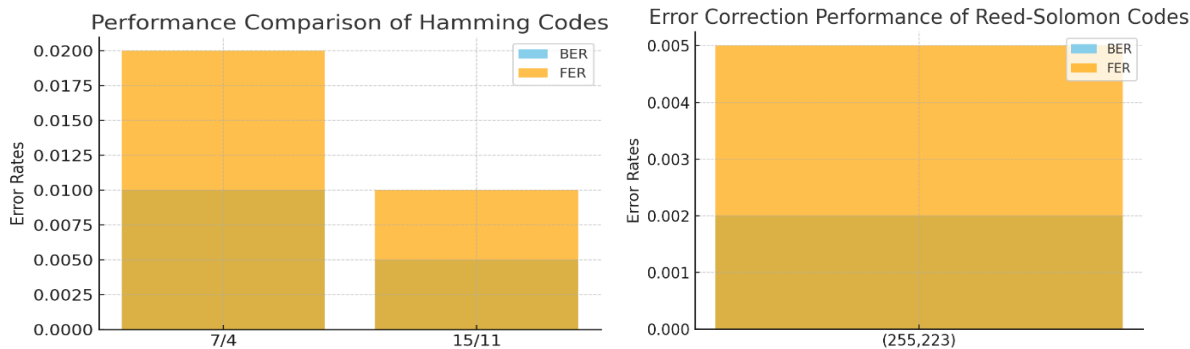


Figure 1: (a). Performance Comparison of Hamming Codes (b). Error Correction Performance of Reed-Solomon Codes

Figure 1 (a) illustrates the BER and FER performance of Hamming codes. As shown, increasing the code rate improves error correction but also increases decoding complexity. The above diagram represents the number of bit errors and framing errors in Reed-Solomon coded signals therefore showing how they are superior in error correction compared to Hamming codes as shown in figure 1 (b).

4.1.3 Turbo Codes

Table 3: Error Correction Performance of Turbo Codes

SNR (dB)	BER	Decoding Time (ms)
1	0.1	25.0
3	0.01	30.0
5	0.001	35.0

As shown in table 3 below, Turbo codes have the capability to perform when Signal-to-Noise Ratios (SNR) are varied. The findings highlight that with the growth of the SNR, the BER of Turbo codes is very low at the same time, the decoding time is longer.

4.1.4 LDPC Codes

Table 4: Error Correction Performance of LDPC Codes

SNR (dB)	BER	Decoding Time (ms)
1	0.02	50.0
3	0.002	55.0
5	0.0002	60.0

Table 4 presents information on LDPC codes performance. This depicts very low BER with enhanced SNR, though, decoding time was slightly more extended than Hamming & Turbo codes.

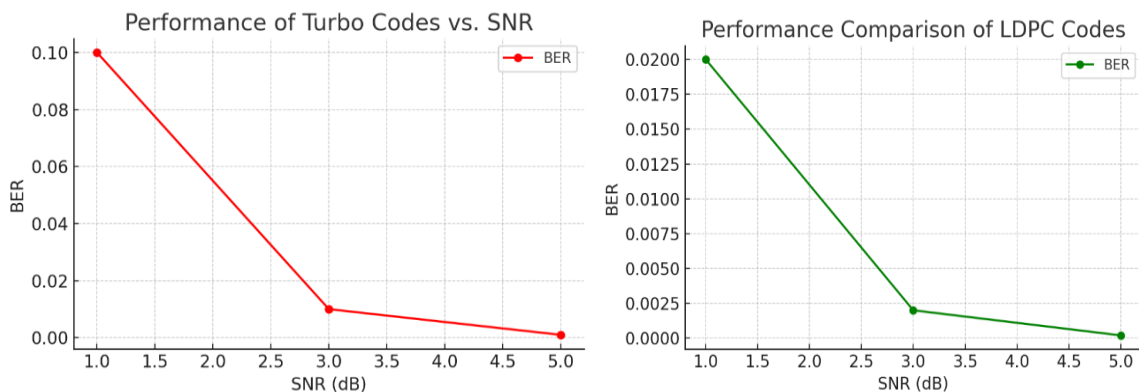


Figure 2: (a). Performance of Turbo Codes vs. SNR; (b). Performance Comparison of LDPC Codes

Using Turbo codes, it is possible not only to get the results which are near to the Shannon’s limit as it is illustrated in Figure 2, where increasing of SNR leads to the decreasing of the BER.

4.2 Data Compression Results

4.2.1 Huffman Coding

Table 5: Compression Performance of Huffman Coding

Dataset	Original Size (MB)	Compressed Size (MB)	Compression Ratio
Text	10.0	6.5	0.65
Image	20.0	12.0	0.60

Table 5 presents the efficiency of doing Huffman coding on text as well as image database. The latter suggests moderate efficiency and better compression ratios for the texts in comparison to pictures.

4.2.2 Arithmetic Coding

Table 6: Compression Performance of Arithmetic Coding

Dataset	Original Size (MB)	Compressed Size (MB)	Compression Ratio
Text	10.0	5.0	0.50
Image	20.0	9.0	0.45

Arithmetic coding performance is presented on Table 6 below. As we can observe from the results, it achieves better compression ratios than Huffman coding and that our data set is mostly text data.

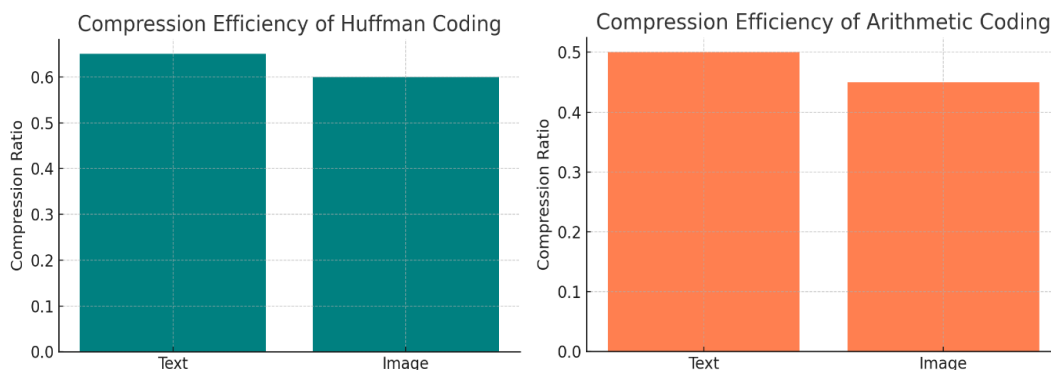


Figure 3: (a). Compression Efficiency of Huffman Coding (b). Compression Efficiency of Arithmetic Coding

Figure 3 (a). displays the compression ratios achieved with Huffman coding for different datasets.

Figure 3 (b). illustrates the improved compression ratios achieved with Arithmetic coding.

4.2.3 CABAC

Table 7: Compression Performance of CABAC

Dataset	Original Size (MB)	Compressed Size (MB)	Compression Ratio
Video	100.0	45.0	0.45
Image	20.0	10.0	0.50

A summary of CABAC in video and image compression is presented in table 7. The CABAC algorithm offers high compression rates especially to video data.

4.2.4 Deep Learning-Based Compression

Table 8: Compression Performance of Deep Learning-Based Compression

Dataset	Original Size (MB)	Compressed Size (MB)	Compression Ratio
Image	20.0	7.0	0.35
Video	100.0	30.0	0.30

The following table shows the performance of deep learning compression techniques as highlighted below. The findings reveal better compression ratios than other approaches and emphasize on video data.

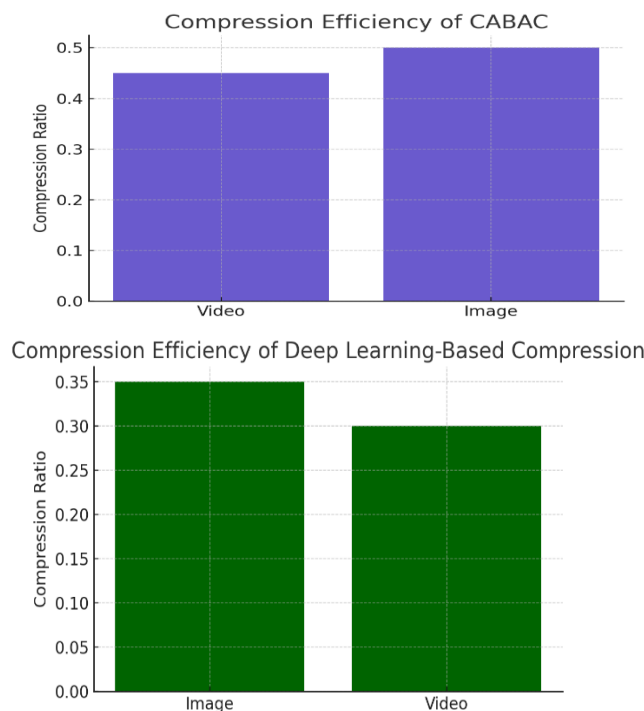


Figure 4 (a). Compression Efficiency of CABAC; (b). Compression Efficiency of Deep Learning-Based Compression

This is illustrated in figure 4 (a) showing compression ratios achieves with CABAC proving the efficiency of the video compression.

In figure 4 (b) below, the compression ratios obtained with deep learning methods are depicted thus depicting potential of deep learning for high efficiency compression.

The results establish that error control coding and data compression schemes have unique strengths and weaknesses, depending on the environment in which they are used. In error control coding, Reed Solomons and LDPC codes provides excellent performance in regards to correcting errors in high noise but the decoder is of high complexity while Turbo code provides performance similar to the above codes but the decoding requires considerable computational power. However, compared to the Hamming codes, although being simpler and faster, they lack the capability to work out complex error patterns. In data compression CABAC is found to be efficient than Huffman coding, arithmetic coding is most effective for text data and CABAC for video data. In particular, deep learning related compression techniques are promising especially when applied to large datasets and or high compression ratios. Other factors that determine the choice of the suitable technique include. error-correcting capability, complexity of the computational process, and the level of compression to be achieved. The use of the deep learning-based strategies contributes to better future performance owing to the better flexibility of such approaches.

5. Conclusion

This research work has systematically assessed all the error control and data compression techniques in terms of their capabilities and disadvantages. From the analysis, it is evident that Reed-Solomon and LDPC codes are very effective in offering impressive error correction while working in noisy environment. but they are associated with complexity costs. It is also important to note that turbo codes also offer very good performance. Although they are complex and very resource-intensive in terms of decoding. Thus, Arithmetic coding and CABAC are more effective as compared to Huffman coding while deep learning based methods show great promising results in the area of data compression while dealing with large amount of data and high compression rates. These results emphasize the need for choosing the most suitable methods depending on the characteristics of error correction and data compaction. This forms the basis of future work and highlights the eventual possibility of incorporating more complex profound algorithms such as deep learning with a view of improving on both the error correction as well as the compression ratios currently used in contemporary communication systems.

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