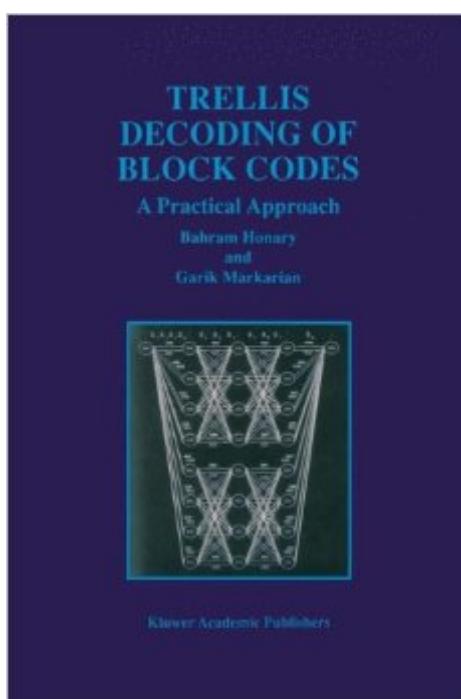


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Trellis Decoding Of Block Codes: A Practical Approach (The Kluwer International Series In Engineering And Computer Science, 391)



Synopsis

It is a great pleasure to be asked to write the Preface for this book on trellis decoding of error correcting block codes. The subject is extremely significant both theoretically and practically, and is very timely because of recent developments in the microelectronic implementation and range of application of error-control coding systems based on block codes. The authors have been notably active in signal processing and coding research and development for several years, and therefore very well placed to contribute to the state of the art on the subject of trellis decoding. In particular, the book represents a unique approach to many practical aspects of the topic. As the authors point out, there are two main classes of error control codes: block codes and convolutional codes. Block codes came first historically and have a well-developed mathematical structure. Convolutional codes came later, and have developed heuristically, though a more formal treatment has emerged via recent developments in the theory of symbolic dynamics. Maximum likelihood (ML) decoding of powerful codes in both these classes is computationally complex in the general case; that is, ML decoding fails into the class of NP-hard computational problems. This arises because the decoding complexity is an exponential function of key parameters of the code.

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