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Abstract

We prove the strong converse for the *N*-source Gaussian multiple access channel (MAC). In particular, we show that any rate tuple that can be supported by a sequence of codes with asymptotic average error probability less than one must lie in the Cover-Wyner capacity region. Our proof consists of the following. First, we perform an expurgation step to convert any given sequence of codes with asymptotic average error probability less than one to codes with asymptotic maximal error probability less than one. Second, we quantize the input alphabets with an appropriately chosen resolution. Upon quantization, we apply the wringing technique (by Ahlswede) on the quantized inputs to obtain further subcodes from the subcodes obtained in the expurgation step so that the resultant correlations among the symbols transmitted by the different sources vanish as the blocklength grows. Finally, we derive upper bounds on achievable sum-rates of the subcodes in terms of the type-II error of a binary hypothesis test. These upper bounds are then simplified through judicious choices of auxiliary output distributions. Our strong converse result carries over to the Gaussian interference channel under strong interference as long as the sum of the two asymptotic average error probabilities less than one.

Index Terms

Gaussian multiple access channel, Strong converse, Binary hypothesis testing, Expurgation, Wringing technique

I. INTRODUCTION

The multiple access channel (MAC) is one of the most well-studied problems in network information theory [1]. The capacity region of the discrete memoryless MAC was independently derived by Ahlswede [2] and Liao [3] in the early 1970s. In this paper, we are interested in the Gaussian version of this problem for which the channel output Y corresponding to the inputs (X_1, X_2, \ldots, X_N) is

$$Y = \sum_{i=1}^{N} X_i + Z,\tag{1}$$

where Z is standard Gaussian noise. We assume an average transmission power constraint of P_i corresponding to each transmitter $i \in \{1, 2, ..., N\}$. The capacity region was derived by Cover [4] and Wyner [5] and is the set of all rate tuples $(R_1, R_2, ..., R_N) \in \mathbb{R}^N_+$ that satisfy

$$\sum_{i \in T} R_i \le \frac{1}{2} \log \left(1 + \sum_{i \in T} P_i \right) \tag{2}$$

for all subsets $T \subseteq \{1, 2, ..., N\}$. For the N = 2 case, the pentagonal region of rate tuples in (2) is known as the *Cover-Wyner* region and is illustrated in Figure 1.

Despite our seemingly complete understanding of fundamental limits of the Gaussian MAC, it is worth highlighting that in the above-mentioned seminal works [2]–[5], it is assumed that the average error probability tends to zero as the length of the code grows without bound. This implies that those established converses are, in fact, *weak converses*. Fano's inequality [1, Sec. 2.1] is typically used as a key tool to establish such weak converses. In this work, we strengthen the results of Cover [4] and Wyner [5] and show that any rate tuple that can be supported by a sequence (in the blocklength) of Gaussian multiple access codes with asymptotic average error probability *strictly*

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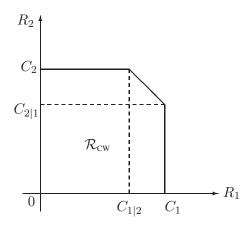


Fig. 1. Capacity region of the two-encoder Gaussian MAC [4], [5]. We use the shorthands $C_1 \triangleq \frac{1}{2}\log(1+P_1)$ and $C_{1|2} \triangleq \frac{1}{2}\log(1+P_1)$ $P_1/(1+P_2)$ and similarly for C_2 and $C_{2|1}$.

less than one (and not necessarily tending to zero) must lie in the Cover-Wyner region. This is a *strong converse* statement, akin to the work on strong converses for point-to-point channels by Wolfowitz [6]. It indicates that the boundary of the Cover-Wyner region designates a sharp phase transition of the smallest achievable asymptotic error probability, which is zero for any rate tuple inside the capacity region and one for any rate tuple outside the capacity region. Thus, this work augments our understanding of the first-order fundamental limit of the Gaussian MAC. Additionally, it may also serve as a stepping stone for studying the second-order asymptotics [7]–[10] or upper bounds (e.g., the sphere-packing bound) on the reliability function of the Gaussian MAC (cf. [11, Th. 4]).

A. Related Work

The study of MACs has a long history and we refer the reader to the excellent exposition in El Gamal and Kim [1, Ch. 4] for a thorough discussion. Dueck [12] proved the strong converse for the (two-source) discrete memoryless MAC using the the technique of blowing up decoding sets originally due to Ahlswede, Gács and Körner [13], combined with a novel strategy known as the *wringing technique*. The technique of blowing up decoding sets uses the so-called *blowing-up lemma* [13], [14] (see also [15, Ch. 5] or [16, Sec. 3.6]). This technique is useful for establishing strong converse results for memoryless channels with finite output alphabets.

Dueck's proof proceeds in three steps. First, Dueck expurgates an appropriate subset of codeword pairs to convert any given sequence of codes with asymptotic *average* error probability bounded away from one to a sequence of codes with asymptotic *maximal* error probability bounded away from one.¹ This expurgation step is performed so that the blowing-up lemma to be applied in the third step yields tight upper bounds on the sum-rate, which will then lead to the desired strong converse result. Unfortunately, the expurgation step introduces undesirable correlations among the codewords transmitted by the N encoders. Second, a wringing technique is introduced to wring out any residual dependence among the symbols transmitted by the N encoders by choosing a further subcode from each subcode obtained in the expurgation step. Wringing is necessary for establishing a tight sum-rate bound, because the sum-rate capacity of the MAC is expressed as the supremum of mutual information terms over all independent input distributions (the independence is due to the fact that the N encoders do not cooperate). Third, the blowing-up lemma is applied to the resultant subcode to yield a tight upper bound on the sum-rate.

Ahlswede [17] presented another strong converse proof for the (two-source) discrete memoryless MAC by modifying Dueck's wringing technique as well as replacing the use of the blowing-up lemma in Dueck's proof with an application of Augustin's non-asymptotic converse bound [18]. However, the proofs of Dueck and Ahlswede are specific to the discrete (finite alphabet) setting and it is not clear by examining the proofs that the same strong converse statement follows in a straightforward way for the Gaussian MAC with peak power constraints.

Another approach to proving the strong converse for a general MAC is due to Han [19], who used the information spectrum technique [20] to provide a general formula for MACs and stated a condition [19, Th. 6] for the strong converse to hold. However, unlike for the point-to-point setting [20, Sec. 3.6–3.7], the property is difficult to verify for various classes of memoryless MACs.

¹Although the capacity region of the Gaussian MAC is well-known when it is defined in terms of the average error probability [1], [4], [5], the determination of the capacity region is an open problem if it is defined in terms of the *maximal* error probability.

In view of the above works and the practical and theoretical importance of strong converse theorems, we are motivated to provide a self-contained proof for the strong converse of the Gaussian MAC.

B. Challenges in Establishing the Strong Converse and Our Strategies to Overcome Them

In this subsection, we discuss the challenges of leveraging existing techniques to prove the strong converse for the Gaussian MAC. In particular, we highlight the difficulties in directly using the ideas contained in Dueck's [12] and Ahlswede's [17] proofs. We also describe, at a high level, the strategy we employ to overcome these difficulties. Finally, we discuss some other auxiliary proof techniques.

1) Blowing-Up Lemma in Dueck's Proof [12] Cannot be Directly Extended to Continuous Alphabets: In Dueck's paper [12], he used a version of the blowing-up lemma, together with other tools, to prove the strong converse theorem for the discrete memoryless MAC. A crucial step in Dueck's proof involves the establishing of an upper bound on the list size of possible messages for every output sequence based on the blown-up decoding sets. If the resultant list size is too large (e.g., contains an exponential number of messages), the Dueck's technique cannot lead to the strong converse theorem. Since this crucial step heavily relies on the finiteness of the output alphabet and the output alphabet of the Gaussian MAC is uncountably infinite, it is not immediately apparent how to extend this step to the Gaussian case.

2) Wringing Technique in Ahlswede's Proof [17] Cannot be Directly Extended to Continuous Alphabets: As mentioned in the previous section, Ahlswede's proof [17] is based on a modification of Dueck's wringing technique and Augustin's non-asymptotic converse bound [18]. However, it is not apparent how to adapt his techniques to obtain a strong converse bound on the sum-rate. More specifically, Ahlswede's wringing technique (see Equation (5.3) in [17]) leads to the following sum-rate bound for any sequence of length-n codes whose asymptotic average error probability is bounded away from one:

$$R_1 + R_2 \le I(X_1, X_2; Y) + O\left(\frac{\log n}{\sqrt{n}}\right) |\mathcal{X}_1| |\mathcal{X}_2| |\mathcal{Y}|.$$
(3)

In (3), X_1 and X_2 are *independent* random variables. However, the bound in (3) is sensitive to the sizes of the input and output alphabets, which prevents us from directly extending Ahlswede's proof to the Gaussian case. Furthermore, there are no cost constraints in the discrete memoryless MAC and incorporating cost constraints does not seem to be trivial. A naïve strategy to extend Ahlswede's proof to the Gaussian case is to quantize the input and output alphabets of the Gaussian MAC so that $\mathcal{X}_1, \mathcal{X}_2$ and \mathcal{Y} depend on n and their cardinalities grow with n. Say we denote the quantized alphabets as $\hat{\mathcal{X}}_1^{(n)}, \hat{\mathcal{X}}_2^{(n)}$ and $\hat{\mathcal{Y}}^{(n)}$. This sequence of quantized alphabets and the corresponding channels will be designed to provide increasingly refined approximations to the Gaussian MAC as n increases. In designing $\hat{\mathcal{X}}_1^{(n)}, \hat{\mathcal{X}}_2^{(n)}$ and $\hat{\mathcal{Y}}^{(n)}$, we would also like to ensure that the power constraints are satisfied and the term $O\left(\frac{\log n}{\sqrt{n}}\right)|\hat{\mathcal{X}}_1^{(n)}||\hat{\mathcal{Y}}_2^{(n)}||$ in (3) vanishes as n tends to infinity. However, quantization arguments that are used to prove information-theoretic statements for continuous-valued alphabets are usually applied to the achievability parts of coding theorems. For example, a quantization argument is used in [1, Sec. 3.4.1] for leveraging the achievability proof for the discrete memoryless channel (DMC) with cost constraints to prove the achievability parts do not work for strong converse proofs because upon quantization, one has to ensure that the resultant asymptotic error probability is bounded away from one.

The reader is also referred to [21, Appendix D.6] for a complementary explanation of why Ahlswede's original wringing technique works for only MACs with finite alphabets but not the Gaussian MAC.

3) Remedy – Combining a Quantization Argument with the Wringing Technique: The difficulties in directly using Dueck's and Ahlswede's techniques led the authors to combine a novel quantization argument together with Ahlswede's wringing idea. We use a scalar quantizer of increasing precision in the blocklength to discretize (only) the input alphabets of the channel so that the Ahlswede's wringing technique can be performed on the quantized channel inputs for any given code whose asymptotic error probability is bounded away from one. In doing so, we obtain a sequence of subcodes whose asymptotic error probability is bounded away from one such that the resultant correlations among the codeword symbols transmitted by the different sources vanish as n increases. Note that if the quantizer's precision is too small or too large, the resultant upper bound on the sum-rate will be too loose and hence not useful in proving the strong converse. We discuss feasible choices of the quantizer's precision and

the parameters used in the wringing technique in Section V-H. In our proof, the quantizer's precision is chosen in such a way that the quantized input alphabets $\hat{\mathcal{X}}_i^{(n)}$ grow no faster than $O(n^{3/2})$. It turns out that this choice of quantization also allows us to control the approximation errors between the true channel inputs and the quantized ones uniformly.

4) Other Ingredients in Our Proof: In Ahlswede's proof of the strong converse for the discrete memoryless MAC, he appealed to a non-asymptotic converse bound by Augustin [18]. In our proof we use a conceptually similar non-asymptotic converse bound that is motivated by modern techniques relating binary hypothesis testing to channel coding. In particular, we use a form of the *meta-converse* [22, Sec. III-E] due to Wang, Colbeck and Renner [23, Lemma 1]. We derive a multi-user version of this non-asymptotic converse bound. After doing so, we choose the auxiliary conditional output distributions therein to be product distributions that approximate the *quantized* code distribution. We note that the flexibility of the choice of the output distributions is essential for proving the strong converse for the Gaussian MAC as we can allow these distributions to depend not only on the peak powers but also the chosen precision of the scalar quantizer (cf. Section I-B3).

C. Paper Outline

In the next subsection, we state the notation used in this paper. In Section II, we describe the system model and define the ε -capacity region of the Gaussian MAC. In Section III, we present the main result of the paper. We present a few preliminaries for the proof in Section IV. The complete proof is then presented in Section V. Section VI extends our strong converse result to the two-source two-destination Gaussian IC under strong interference.

D. Notation

We use the upper case letter X to denote an arbitrary (discrete or continuous) random variable with alphabet \mathcal{X} , and use a lower case letter x to denote a realization of X. We use X^n to denote the random tuple (X_1, X_2, \ldots, X_n) .

The following notations are used for any arbitrary random variables X and Y and any mapping g whose domain includes \mathcal{X} . We let $p_{X,Y}$ and $p_{Y|X}$ denote the probability distribution of (X,Y) (can be both discrete, both continuous or one discrete and one continuous) and the conditional probability distribution of Y given X respectively. We let $p_{X,Y}(x,y)$ and $p_{Y|X}(y|x)$ be the evaluations of $p_{X,Y}$ and $p_{Y|X}$ respectively at (X,Y) = (x,y). To avoid confusion, we do not write $\Pr\{X = x, Y = y\}$ to represent $p_{X,Y}(x,y)$ unless X and Y are both discrete. To make the dependence on the distribution explicit, we let $\Pr_{p_X}\{g(X) \in \mathcal{A}\}$ denote $\int_{x \in \mathcal{X}} p_X(x) \mathbf{1}\{g(x) \in \mathcal{A}\} dx$ for any real-valued function g and any set \mathcal{A} . The expectation and the variance of g(X) are denoted as $\mathbb{E}_{p_X}[g(X)]$ and $\operatorname{Var}_{p_X}[g(X)] = \mathbb{E}_{p_X}[(g(X) - \mathbb{E}_{p_X}[g(X)])^2]$ respectively, where we again make the dependence on the underlying distribution p_X explicit. We let $\mathcal{N}(\cdot; \mu, \sigma^2) : \mathbb{R} \to [0, \infty)$ denote the probability density function of a Gaussian random variable whose mean and variance are μ and σ^2 respectively. This means that

$$\mathcal{N}(z;\mu,\sigma^2) \triangleq \frac{1}{\sqrt{2\pi\sigma^2}} \exp\left(-\frac{(z-\mu)^2}{2\sigma^2}\right). \tag{4}$$

We will take all logarithms to base 2 throughout this paper. The Euclidean norm of a vector $x^n \in \mathbb{R}^n$ is denoted by $||x^n|| = \sqrt{\sum_{k=1}^n x_k^2}$.

II. GAUSSIAN MULTIPLE ACCESS CHANNEL

We consider a Gaussian MAC that consists of N sources and one destination. Let

$$\mathcal{I} \triangleq \{1, 2, \dots, N\} \tag{5}$$

be the index set of the sources (or encoders), and let d denote the destination (or decoder). The N message sources transmit information to the destination in n time slots (channel uses) as follows. For each $i \in \mathcal{I}$, node i chooses message

$$W_i \in \{1, 2, \dots, M_i^{(n)}\}$$
 (6)

and sends W_i to node d where $M_i^{(n)}$ denotes the message size. Based on W_i , each node *i* prepares a codeword $X_i^n \in \mathbb{R}^n$ to be transmitted and X_i^n should satisfy

$$\sum_{k=1}^{n} X_{i,k}^2 \le nP_i,$$

where P_i denotes the power constraint for the codeword transmitted by node *i*. Then for each $k \in \{1, 2, ..., n\}$, each node *i* transmits $X_{i,k}$ in time slot *k* and node d receives the real-valued symbol

$$Y_k = \sum_{i \in \mathcal{I}} X_{i,k} + Z_k,\tag{7}$$

where Z_1, Z_2, \ldots, Z_n are i.i.d. and Z_1 is a standard Gaussian random variable. After *n* time slots, node d declares $\{\hat{W}_i\}_{i\in\mathcal{I}}$ to be the transmitted $\{W_i\}_{i\in\mathcal{I}}$ based on Y^n .

To simplify notation, we use the following convention for any $T \subseteq \mathcal{I}$. For any random tuple (X_1, X_2, \ldots, X_N) , we let

$$X_T \triangleq (X_i \,|\, i \in T) \tag{8}$$

be its subtuple, whose generic realization and alphabet are denoted by x_T and

$$\mathcal{X}_T = \prod_{i \in T} \mathcal{X}_i \tag{9}$$

respectively. Similarly, for any $k \in \{1, 2, ..., n\}$ and any random tuple $(X_{1,k}, X_{2,k}, ..., X_{N,k}) \in \mathcal{X}_{\mathcal{I}}$, we let

$$X_{T,k} \triangleq (X_{i,k} \mid i \in T) \tag{10}$$

be its subtuple, whose realization is denoted by $x_{T,k}$. The following five definitions formally define a Gaussian MAC and its capacity region.

Definition 1: Let T be a non-empty subset in \mathcal{I} . An $(n, M_{\mathcal{I}}^{(n)}, P_{\mathcal{I}}, \mathcal{A}, T)$ -code for the Gaussian MAC, where $M_{\mathcal{I}}^{(n)} \triangleq (M_1^{(n)}, M_2^{(n)}, \dots, M_N^{(n)})$ and $P_{\mathcal{I}} \triangleq (P_1, P_2, \dots, P_N)$, consists of the following:

- 1) A message set $\mathcal{W}_i \triangleq \{1, 2, \dots, M_i^{(n)}\}$ at node *i* for each $i \in \mathcal{I}$.
- A support set of the message tuple W_I denoted by A ⊆ W_I where W_I is uniform on A. In addition, all the w_I's in A have the same w_{T^c}, i.e., there exists a w^{*}_{T^c} ∈ W_{T^c} such that for all w_I ∈ A, we have w_{T^c} = w^{*}_{T^c}. Define

$$\mathcal{A}_T \triangleq \{ w_T \in \mathcal{W}_T \, | \, \text{There exists a } \tilde{w}_{\mathcal{I}} \in \mathcal{A} \text{ such that } w_T = \tilde{w}_T \}$$
(11)

to be the support of W_T . Consequently, the message tuple W_T is uniform on \mathcal{A}_T .

3) An encoding function $f_i : \mathcal{W}_i \to \mathbb{R}^n$ for each $i \in \mathcal{I}$, where f_i is the encoding function at node i such that $X_i^n = f_i(W_i)$ and

$$\|f_i(w_i)\|^2 \le nP_i \tag{12}$$

for all $w_i \in W_i$. The set of codewords $\{f_i(1), f_i(2), \ldots, f_i(M_i^{(n)})\}$ is called the *codebook for* W_i . For each $i \in \mathcal{I}$, the finite alphabet

$$\mathcal{X}_i \triangleq \{x \in \mathbb{R} \mid x \text{ is a component of } f_i(w_i) \text{ for some } w_i \in \mathcal{W}_i\}$$
 (13)

is called the *support* of symbols transmitted by *i* because $f_i(\mathcal{W}_i) \subseteq \mathcal{X}_i^n$. Note that

$$|\mathcal{X}_i| \le n M_i^{(n)} \tag{14}$$

for each $i \in \mathcal{I}$ by (13).

A (possibly stochastic) decoding function φ : ℝⁿ → A, which is used by node d to estimate the message tuple W_I, i.e., Ŵ_I = φ(Yⁿ).

If $\mathcal{A} = \mathcal{W}_{\mathcal{I}}$ and $T = \mathcal{I}$, then $W_{\mathcal{I}}$ is uniformly distributed on $\mathcal{W}_{\mathcal{I}}$, which implies that the N messages are mutually independent. Since $(n, M_{\mathcal{I}}^{(n)}, P_{\mathcal{I}}, \mathcal{W}_{\mathcal{I}}, \mathcal{I})$ -codes are of our main interest, they are also called $(n, M_{\mathcal{I}}^{(n)}, P_{\mathcal{I}})$ -codes for notational convenience. However, in the present work, it is necessary to allow \mathcal{A} and T to be strict subsets of

 $\mathcal{W}_{\mathcal{I}}$ and \mathcal{I} respectively so the generality afforded in the above definition is necessary. In this case, the N messages need not be independent. In the rest of this paper, if we fix a code with encoding functions $\{f_i | i \in \mathcal{I}\}$, then \mathcal{X}_i as defined in (13) denotes the support of symbols transmitted by each $i \in \mathcal{I}$.

Definition 2: A Gaussian MAC is characterized by the conditional probability density function $q_{Y|X_{II}}$ satisfying

$$q_{Y|X_{\mathcal{I}}}(y|x_{\mathcal{I}}) = \mathcal{N}\left(y; \sum_{i \in \mathcal{I}} x_i, 1\right)$$
(15)

for all $x_{\mathcal{I}} \in \mathbb{R}^N$ and all $y \in \mathbb{R}$ such that the following holds for any $(n, M_{\mathcal{I}}^{(n)}, P_{\mathcal{I}}, \mathcal{A}, T)$ -code: Let $p_{W_{\mathcal{I}}, X_{\mathcal{I}}^n, Y^n}$ be the probability distribution induced by the $(n, M_{\mathcal{I}}^{(n)}, P_{\mathcal{I}}, \mathcal{A}, T)$ -code. Then,

$$p_{W_{\mathcal{I}},X_{\mathcal{I}}^n,Y^n}(w_{\mathcal{I}},x_{\mathcal{I}}^n,y^n) = p_{W_{\mathcal{I}}}(w_{\mathcal{I}}) \left(\prod_{i\in\mathcal{I}} \mathbf{1}\{x_i^n = f_i(w_i)\}\right) \left(\prod_{k=1}^n p_{Y_k|X_{\mathcal{I},k}}(y_k|x_{\mathcal{I},k})\right)$$
(16)

for all $(w_{\mathcal{I}}, x_{\mathcal{I}}^n, y^n) \in \mathcal{A} \times \mathcal{X}_{\mathcal{I}}^n \times \mathbb{R}^n$ where

$$p_{Y_k|X_{\mathcal{I},k}}(y_k|x_{\mathcal{I},k}) \triangleq q_{Y|X_{\mathcal{I}}}(y_k|x_{\mathcal{I},k}).$$
(17)

Since $p_{Y_k|X_{\mathcal{I},k}}$ does not depend on k by (17) and (15), the channel is stationary.

For any $(n, M_{\mathcal{I}}^{(n)}, P_{\mathcal{I}}, \mathcal{A}, T)$ -code defined on the Gaussian MAC, let $p_{W_{\mathcal{I}}, X_{\mathcal{I}}^n, Y^n, \hat{W}_{\mathcal{I}}}$ be the joint distribution induced by the code. Since $\hat{W}_{\mathcal{I}}$ is a function of Y^n by Definition 1, it follows that

$$p_{W_{\mathcal{I}}, X_{\mathcal{I}}^{n}, Y^{n}, \hat{W}_{\mathcal{I}}} = p_{W_{\mathcal{I}}, X_{\mathcal{I}}^{n}, Y^{n}} p_{\hat{W}_{\mathcal{I}}|Y^{n}}, \tag{18}$$

which implies from (16) that

$$p_{W_{\mathcal{I}}, X_{\mathcal{I}}^{n}, Y^{n}, \hat{W}_{\mathcal{I}}} = p_{W_{\mathcal{I}}, X_{\mathcal{I}}^{n}} \left(\prod_{k=1}^{n} p_{Y_{k} | X_{\mathcal{I}, k}} \right) p_{\hat{W}_{\mathcal{I}} | Y^{n}}.$$
(19)

Definition 3: For an $(n, M_{\mathcal{I}}^{(n)}, P_{\mathcal{I}})$ -code defined on the Gaussian MAC, we can calculate according to (19) the average probability of decoding error which is defined as

$$\Pr\{\hat{W}_{\mathcal{I}} \neq W_{\mathcal{I}}\}.$$
(20)

An $(n, M_{\mathcal{I}}^{(n)}, P_{\mathcal{I}})$ -code with average probability of decoding error no larger than ε is called an $(n, M_{\mathcal{I}}^{(n)}, P_{\mathcal{I}}, \varepsilon)_{\text{avg-code.}}$ similarly for an $(n, M_{\mathcal{I}}^{(n)}, P_{\mathcal{I}}, \mathcal{A}, T)$ -code, we can calculate the *maximal probability of decoding error* defined as

$$\max_{w_{\mathcal{I}} \in \mathcal{A}} \Pr\{\hat{W}_T \neq W_T \mid W_{\mathcal{I}} = w_{\mathcal{I}}\}.$$
(21)

An $(n, M_{\mathcal{I}}^{(n)}, P_{\mathcal{I}}, \mathcal{A}, T)$ -code with maximal probability of decoding error no larger than ε is called an $(n, M_{\mathcal{I}}^{(n)}, P_{\mathcal{I}}, \mathcal{A}, T, \varepsilon)_{\text{max}}$ -code.

Definition 4: A rate tuple $R_{\mathcal{I}} \triangleq (R_1, R_2, \dots, R_N)$ is ε -achievable for the Gaussian MAC if there exists a sequence of $(n, M_{\mathcal{I}}^{(n)}, P_{\mathcal{I}}, \varepsilon_n)_{avg}$ -codes on the Gaussian MAC such that

$$\liminf_{n \to \infty} \frac{1}{n} \log M_i^{(n)} \ge R_i \tag{22}$$

for each $i \in \mathcal{I}$ and

$$\limsup_{n \to \infty} \varepsilon_n \le \varepsilon. \tag{23}$$

Definition 5: For each $\varepsilon \in [0, 1)$, the ε -capacity region of the Gaussian MAC, denoted by C_{ε} , is the set consisting of all ε -achievable rate tuples $R_{\mathcal{I}}$. The capacity region is defined to be the 0-capacity region C_0 .

III. MAIN RESULT

The following theorem is the main result in this paper. *Theorem 1:* Define

$$\mathcal{R}_{CW} \triangleq \bigcap_{T \subseteq \mathcal{I}} \left\{ R_{\mathcal{I}} \in \mathbb{R}^{N}_{+} \mid \sum_{i \in T} R_{i} \leq \frac{1}{2} \log \left(1 + \sum_{i \in T} P_{i} \right) \right\}.$$
(24)

Then for each $\varepsilon \in [0, 1)$,

$$\mathcal{C}_{\varepsilon} \subseteq \mathcal{R}_{\rm CW}.\tag{25}$$

We now present three remarks concerning Theorem 1.

1) Note that \mathcal{R}_{CW} is the Cover-Wyner [4], [5] region for an *N*-source Gaussian MAC. The theorem says that regardless of the admissible average error probability (as long as it is strictly smaller than 1), all achievable rate tuples must lie in \mathcal{R}_{CW} . Since all rate tuples in \mathcal{R}_{CW} are 0-achievable [1, Sec. 4.7], we have for every $\varepsilon \in [0, 1)$

$$C_{\varepsilon} = \mathcal{R}_{\rm CW}.\tag{26}$$

2) In fact, the proof allows us to additionally assert the following: For any non-vanishing average error probability $\varepsilon \in [0,1)$ and any subset $T \subseteq \mathcal{I}$, it can be shown that the sum-rate of the messages indexed by T of any sequence of $(n, M_{\mathcal{I}}^{(n)}, P_{\mathcal{I}}, \varepsilon_n)_{avg}$ -codes satisfying the constraint in (23) also satisfies

$$\limsup_{n \to \infty} \frac{1}{\sqrt{n \log n}} \left[\sum_{i \in T} \log M_i^{(n)} - \frac{n}{2} \log \left(1 + \sum_{i \in T} P_i \right) \right] \le \overline{\Upsilon}(\varepsilon, T, P_{\mathcal{I}}) < \infty$$
(27)

for some finite constant $\overline{\Upsilon}(\varepsilon, T, P_{\mathcal{I}})$. See (179) in the proof of Theorem 1. Even though the normalizing speed of $\sqrt{n \log n}$ is not the desired \sqrt{n} (as usually defined in second-order asymptotic analyses [7]), the techniques in this work may serve as a stepping stone to establish an outer bound for the second-order coding rate region [7] for the Gaussian MAC. The best inner bound for the second-order coding rates for the Gaussian MAC was established independently by Scarlett, Martinez, and Guillén i Fàbregas [8] and MolavianJazi and Laneman [9]. According to the inner bounds in [8], [9] and the relation between second-order coding rates and second-order asymptotics of sum-rates in [10],

$$\liminf_{n \to \infty} \frac{1}{\sqrt{n}} \left[\sum_{i \in T} \log M_i^{(n)} - \frac{n}{2} \log \left(1 + \sum_{i \in T} P_i \right) \right] \ge \underline{\Upsilon}(\varepsilon, T, P_{\mathcal{I}}) > -\infty$$
(28)

for some finite constant $\underline{\Upsilon}(\varepsilon, T, P_{\mathcal{I}})$. Our normalizing speed of $\sqrt{n \log n}$ in (27) is slightly better than in Ahlswede's work on the discrete memoryless MAC [17], which is $\sqrt{n} \log n$. We have attempted to optimize (reduce) the exponent of the logarithm $\zeta > 0$ in the normalizing speed $\sqrt{n} (\log n)^{\zeta}$. However, as we will discuss in Section V-H in the sequel, we are unable to use our proof technique to further reduce (improve) ζ from 1/2. For both the discrete and Gaussian MACs, it is challenging to prove that the exact normalizing speed of the second-order term is \sqrt{n} . This is, in part, due to the use of wringing technique in the converse part, which prevents one from obtaining a converse that matches the achievability in the rate of growth of the second-order term. Unless new techniques are invented to replace the wringing argument in the strong converse proof for the MAC (such techniques have remained elusive for over 30 years), the exact normalizing speed of the second-order term for the discrete and Gaussian MACs will remain an open problem.

In the next section, we will present a few preliminaries for the proof of Theorem 1, which will be detailed in Section V.

IV. PRELIMINARIES FOR THE PROOF OF THEOREM 1

A. Expurgation of Message Tuples

The following lemma is based on the technique of expurgating message tuples introduced by Dueck [12, Sec. II], and the proof is provided in the Appendix for completeness.

Lemma 1: Let $\varepsilon \in [0, 1)$. Suppose an $(n, M_{\mathcal{I}}^{(n)}, P_{\mathcal{I}}, \varepsilon)_{avg}$ -code for the Gaussian MAC is given. Then for each nonempty $T \subseteq \mathcal{I}$ such that

$$\left[\left(\frac{1-\varepsilon}{1+\varepsilon} \right) \prod_{i \in T} M_i^{(n)} \right] \ge \left(\frac{1-\varepsilon}{2(1+\varepsilon)} \right) \prod_{i \in T} M_i^{(n)}, \tag{29}$$

there exist a set $\mathcal{A} \subseteq \mathcal{W}_{\mathcal{I}}$ and an $\left(n, M_{\mathcal{I}}^{(n)}, P_{\mathcal{I}}, \mathcal{A}, T, \frac{1+\varepsilon}{2}\right)_{\max}$ -code such that

$$|\mathcal{A}_T| = |\mathcal{A}| \ge \left(\frac{1-\varepsilon}{2(1+\varepsilon)}\right) \prod_{i \in T} M_i^{(n)},\tag{30}$$

where \mathcal{A}_T is as defined in (11). As a consequence, if we let $p_{W_{\mathcal{I}},X_{\mathcal{I}}^n,Y^n,\hat{W}_{\mathcal{I}}}$ denote the probability distribution induced on the Gaussian MAC by the $(n, M_{\mathcal{I}}^{(n)}, P_{\mathcal{I}}, \mathcal{A}, T, \frac{1+\varepsilon}{2})_{\text{max}}$ -code, then we have for each $w_T \in \mathcal{A}_T$

$$p_{W_T}(w_T) \le \frac{1}{\prod_{i \in T} M_i^{(n)}} \cdot \left(\frac{2(1+\varepsilon)}{1-\varepsilon}\right).$$
(31)

Remark 1: Lemma 1 says that restricted to the set \mathcal{A}_T , the *i*th (for $i \in T$) codebooks have almost the same sizes as the original codebooks. In addition, the conditional probability of decoding error for each message tuple in this restricted codebook is upper bounded by $\frac{1+\varepsilon}{2}$, which is still smaller than one because $\varepsilon \in [0, 1)$. According to (31), the probability of each message tuple cannot be greater than its original value by a factor of $\left(\frac{2(1+\varepsilon)}{1-\varepsilon}\right)$.

B. Wringing Technique

The following lemma forms part of the wringing technique proposed by Ahlswede and its proof can be found in [17, Lemma 4].

Lemma 2: Let \mathcal{X} be a finite alphabet, let p_{X^n} and u_{X^n} be two probability mass functions defined on \mathcal{X}^n and let c > 0 be a real number such that

$$p_{X^n}(x^n) \le (1+c)u_{X^n}(x^n)$$
(32)

for all $x^n \in \mathcal{X}^n$. Fix any $0 < \lambda < 1$. Then for any $0 < \delta < c$, there exist ℓ natural numbers in $\{1, 2, \ldots, n\}$, denoted by t_1, t_2, \ldots, t_ℓ , and ℓ elements of \mathcal{X} denoted by $\bar{x}_{t_1}, \bar{x}_{t_2}, \ldots, \bar{x}_{t_\ell}$, such that the following three statements hold:

(I) $\ell \leq \frac{c}{\delta}$.

(II) $\Pr_{p_{X^n}} \{ (X_{t_1}, X_{t_2}, \dots, X_{t_\ell}) = (\bar{x}_{t_1}, \bar{x}_{t_2}, \dots, \bar{x}_{t_\ell}) \} \ge \lambda^{\ell}.$ (III) For all $k \in \{1, 2, \dots, n\} \setminus \{t_1, t_2, \dots, t_\ell\}$, we have

$$p_{X_{k}|X_{t_{1}},X_{t_{2}},...,X_{t_{\ell}}}(x_{k}|\bar{x}_{t_{1}},\bar{x}_{t_{2}},...,\bar{x}_{t_{\ell}}) \\ \leq \max\{(1+\delta)u_{X_{k}|X_{t_{1}},X_{t_{2}},...,X_{t_{\ell}}}(x_{k}|\bar{x}_{t_{1}},\bar{x}_{t_{2}},...,\bar{x}_{t_{\ell}}),\lambda\}$$
(33)

for all $x_k \in \mathcal{X}$.

The crux of Lemma 2 is in the identification of the event

$$\mathcal{F} \triangleq \{ (X_{t_1}, X_{t_2}, \dots, X_{t_\ell}) = (\bar{x}_{t_1}, \bar{x}_{t_2}, \dots, \bar{x}_{t_\ell}) \}$$
(34)

such that conditioned on \mathcal{F} , the distributions of the resultant codeword symbols transmitted in each time slot k can be approximated by u_{X_k} (cf. (33)). In the sequel where each X_k in Lemma 2 is substituted by $\hat{X}_{T,k}$ where $\hat{X}_{T,k}$ is some quantized version of $X_{T,k}$ to be specified later, the joint distribution $u_{\hat{X}_{T,k}}$ that approximates $p_{\hat{X}_{T,k}}$ will be chosen to be a product distribution (cf. (52)) with marginals $u_{\hat{X}_{i,k}}$. In order to use Lemma 2 for proving Theorem 1, an important step involves controlling the size of \mathcal{X} in Lemma 2. To this end, we use the following scalar quantizer to quantize the alphabet \mathcal{X}_i (in (13)) which is exponential in the blocklength n (cf. (14)) so that its quantized version is an alphabet whose size is polynomial in the blocklength.

Definition 6: Let L be a natural number and Δ be a positive real number, and let

$$\mathbb{Z}_{L,\Delta} \triangleq \{-L\Delta, (-L+1)\Delta, \dots, L\Delta\}$$
(35)

be a set of 2L+1 quantization points where Δ specifies the quantization precision. A scalar quantizer with domain $[-L\Delta, L\Delta]$ and precision Δ is the mapping

$$\Omega_{L,\Delta}: [-L\Delta, L\Delta] \to \mathbb{Z}_{L,\Delta}$$
(36)

such that

$$\Omega_{L,\Delta}(x) = \begin{cases} \lfloor x/\Delta \rfloor \Delta & \text{if } x \ge 0, \\ \lceil x/\Delta \rceil \Delta & \text{otherwise.} \end{cases}$$
(37)

In other words, $\Omega_{L,\Delta}(x)$ maps x to the closest quantized point whose value is smaller than or equal to x if $x \ge 0$, and to the closest quantized point whose value is larger than or equal to x if x < 0. In addition, define the scalar quantizer for a real-valued tuple as

$$\Omega_{L,\Delta}^{(n)}: [-L\Delta, L\Delta]^n \to \mathbb{Z}_{L,\Delta}^n$$
(38)

such that

$$\Omega_{L,\Delta}^{(n)}(x^n) \triangleq (\Omega_{L,\Delta}(x_1), \Omega_{L,\Delta}(x_2), \dots, \Omega_{L,\Delta}(x_n)).$$
(39)

By our careful choice of the quantizer in Definition 6, we have the following property for all $x \in \mathbb{R}$:

$$|\Omega_{L,\Delta}(x)| \stackrel{(37)}{=} \begin{cases} \lfloor x/\Delta \rfloor \Delta & \text{if } x \ge 0, \\ -\lceil x/\Delta \rceil \Delta & \text{otherwise} \end{cases}$$
(40)

$$= \begin{cases} \lfloor x/\Delta \rfloor \Delta & \text{if } x \ge 0, \\ \lfloor -x/\Delta \rfloor \Delta & \text{otherwise} \end{cases}$$
(41)

$$= \lfloor |x|/\Delta \rfloor \Delta \tag{42}$$

$$\leq |x|. \tag{43}$$

Although the following lemma looks similar to [17, Corollary 2] and they both rely on Lemma 2, the proof of the following lemma is more involved due to the additional consideration of the quantizer's precision and the quantized input symbols. If the quantizer's precision is too small or too large, then the resultant bound obtained from the following lemma will not be useful in proving the strong converse. See Section V-H for a detailed discussion on the appropriate choice for the quantizer's precision.

Lemma 3: Suppose we are given an $(n, M_{\mathcal{I}}^{(n)}, P_{\mathcal{I}}, \mathcal{A}', T, \frac{1+\varepsilon}{2})_{\text{max}}$ -code such that

$$|\mathcal{A}'_T| = |\mathcal{A}'| \ge \left(\frac{1-\varepsilon}{2(1+\varepsilon)}\right) \prod_{i \in T} M_i^{(n)}$$
(44)

and

$$p'_{W_T}(w_T) \le \frac{1}{\prod_{i \in T} M_i^{(n)}} \cdot \left(\frac{2(1+\varepsilon)}{1-\varepsilon}\right)$$
(45)

for each $w_T \in \mathcal{A}'_T$ where $p'_{W_{\mathcal{I}}, X^n_{\mathcal{I}}, Y^n, \hat{W}_{\mathcal{I}}}$ denotes the probability distribution induced on the Gaussian MAC by the $(n, M_{\mathcal{I}}^{(n)}, P_{\mathcal{I}}, \mathcal{A}', T, \frac{1+\varepsilon}{2})_{\text{max}}$ -code. Then, there exists an $(n, M_{\mathcal{I}}^{(n)}, P_{\mathcal{I}}, \mathcal{A}, T, \frac{1+\varepsilon}{2})_{\text{max}}$ -code with

$$\mathcal{A}_T| = |\mathcal{A}| \ge n^{\frac{-4|T|(1+3\varepsilon)}{(1-\varepsilon)}\sqrt{\frac{n}{\log n}}} \left(\frac{1-\varepsilon}{2(1+\varepsilon)}\right) \prod_{i \in T} M_i^{(n)}$$
(46)

such that the following holds: Let $p_{W_{\mathcal{I}},X_{\mathcal{I}}^n,Y^n,\hat{W}_{\mathcal{I}}}$ denote the probability distribution induced on the Gaussian MAC by the $(n, M_{\mathcal{I}}^{(n)}, P_{\mathcal{I}}, \mathcal{A}, T, \frac{1+\varepsilon}{2})_{\text{max}}$ -code. In addition, let

$$\hat{X}_{i}^{n} = \Omega_{\left\lceil n\sqrt{nP_{i}} \right\rceil, n^{-1}}^{(n)}(X_{i}^{n}), \tag{47}$$

define the alphabet

$$\hat{\mathcal{X}}_i \triangleq \mathbb{Z}_{\left[n\sqrt{nP_i}\right], n^{-1}} \tag{48}$$

for each $i \in T$ (\hat{X}_i^n is always in the domain of $\mathbb{Z}_{\lceil n\sqrt{nP_i}\rceil,n^{-1}}^n$ because of (47), (43) and (12), and hence $\hat{X}_i^n \in \hat{X}_i^n$), define

$$\hat{\mathcal{X}}_T \triangleq \prod_{i \in T} \hat{\mathcal{X}}_i \tag{49}$$

and define

$$p_{W_{\mathcal{I}},X_{\mathcal{I}}^{n},\hat{X}_{\mathcal{T}}^{n},Y^{n},\hat{W}_{\mathcal{I}}}(w_{\mathcal{I}},x_{\mathcal{I}}^{n},\hat{x}_{T}^{n},y^{n},\hat{w}_{\mathcal{I}}) \\ \triangleq p_{W_{\mathcal{I}},X_{\mathcal{I}}^{n},Y^{n},\hat{W}_{\mathcal{I}}}(w_{\mathcal{I}},x_{\mathcal{I}}^{n},y^{n},\hat{w}_{\mathcal{I}}) \prod_{i\in T} \mathbf{1} \left\{ \hat{x}_{i}^{n} = \Omega_{\left\lceil n\sqrt{nP_{i}} \right\rceil,n^{-1}}^{(n)}(x_{i}^{n}) \right\}$$

$$(50)$$

for all $(w_{\mathcal{I}}, x_{\mathcal{I}}^n, \hat{x}_T^n, y^n, \hat{w}_{\mathcal{I}}) \in \mathcal{A} \times \mathcal{X}_{\mathcal{I}}^n \times \hat{\mathcal{X}}_T^n \times \mathbb{R}^n \times \mathcal{A}$. Then there exists a distribution $u_{\hat{X}_T^n}$ defined on $\hat{\mathcal{X}}_T^n$ where

$$|\hat{\mathcal{X}}_T| \le n^{\frac{3|T|}{2}} \prod_{i \in T} (2\sqrt{P_i} + 3) \tag{51}$$

such that for all $k \in \{1, 2, ..., n\}$, we have

$$p_{\hat{X}_{T,k}}(\hat{x}_{T,k}) \le \max\left\{ \left(1 + \sqrt{\frac{\log n}{n}} \right) \prod_{i \in T} u_{\hat{X}_{i,k}}(\hat{x}_{i,k}), \frac{1}{n^{4|T|}} \right\}$$
(52)

for all $\hat{x}_{T,k} \in \hat{\mathcal{X}}_T$ and

$$\sum_{i\in T}\sum_{k=1}^{n} \mathbb{E}_{u_{\hat{X}_{i,k}}}\left[\hat{X}_{i,k}^{2}\right] \leq \sum_{i\in T} nP_{i}.$$
(53)

Before presenting the proof of Lemma 3, we would like to stress the following two important implications of Lemma 3.

(i) By identifying a certain event

$$\mathcal{G} \triangleq \{ (\hat{X}_{T,t_1}, \hat{X}_{T,t_2}, \dots, \hat{X}_{T,t_\ell}) = (\bar{x}_{T,t_1}, \bar{x}_{T,t_2}, \dots, \bar{x}_{T,t_\ell}) \}$$
(54)

(whose probability is quantified in (70) in the following proof), we can find a subcode such that for each time slot k, the resultant probability distribution of the quantized vector of transmitted symbols $\hat{X}_{T,k} = (\hat{X}_{i,k} | i \in T)$ can be approximated by a product distribution $\prod_{i \in T} u_{\hat{X}_{i,k}}$ as in (52). This is the essence of the wringing technique [12], [17] which involves approximating the joint distribution of the random variables corresponding to the different encoders with a product distribution. By approximating $\hat{X}_{T,k}$ with a product distribution, we effectively wring out the dependence among the collection of random variables $\{\hat{X}_{i,k} | i \in T\}$.

(ii) The alphabet size of the quantized transmitted symbol $\hat{X}_{T,k}$ grows no faster than polynomially in *n* as in (51). Our quantization strategy that results in the polynomial growth of the alphabet sizes of the quantized symbols appears to be an important and necessary step, because the original alphabet size $|\mathcal{X}_T|$ could be exponentially large in *n* (cf. (14)). Furthermore, the controlled growth of $|\hat{\mathcal{X}}_T|$ ensures that $\Pr{\mathcal{G}}$ does not decay to zero exponentially fast as shown in (70) in the following proof and hence the asymptotic rates of the resultant subcode are the same as that of the original code. An important point to note here is the following: We are able to lower bound the probability $\Pr{\mathcal{G}}$ because we defined \mathcal{G} in terms of the quantized random variables (rather than the original ones). The application of the wringing technique on the quantized random variables is one of the major contributions of the present work.

Proof of Lemma 3: Let $p'_{W_{\mathcal{I}},X_{\mathcal{I}}^n,Y^n,\hat{W}_{\mathcal{I}}}$ be the probability distribution induced on the Gaussian MAC by the $\left(n, M_{\mathcal{I}}^{(n)}, P_{\mathcal{I}}, \mathcal{A}', T, \frac{1+\varepsilon}{2}\right)_{\text{max}}$ -code that satisfies (44) and (45), and let

$$p'_{W_{\mathcal{I}},X_{\mathcal{I}}^{n},\hat{X}_{T}^{n},Y^{n},\hat{W}_{\mathcal{I}}}(w_{\mathcal{I}},x_{\mathcal{I}}^{n},\hat{x}_{T}^{n},y^{n},\hat{w}_{\mathcal{I}}) \\ \triangleq p'_{W_{\mathcal{I}},X_{\mathcal{I}}^{n},Y^{n},\hat{W}_{\mathcal{I}}}(w_{\mathcal{I}},x_{\mathcal{I}}^{n},y^{n},\hat{w}_{\mathcal{I}}) \prod_{i\in T} \mathbf{1} \left\{ \hat{x}_{i}^{n} = \Omega_{\lceil n\sqrt{nP_{i}}\rceil,n^{-1}}^{(n)}(x_{i}^{n}) \right\}.$$

$$(55)$$

Define a probability mass function $u'_{W_T,X_T^n,\hat{X}_T^n}$ as

$$u'_{W_{T},X_{T}^{n},\hat{X}_{T}^{n}}(w_{T},x_{T}^{n},\hat{x}_{T}^{n}) \triangleq \prod_{i \in T} \frac{\mathbf{1}\left\{x_{i}^{n} = f_{i}(w_{i})\right\} \cdot \mathbf{1}\left\{\hat{x}_{i}^{n} = \Omega_{\lceil n\sqrt{nP_{i}}\rceil,n^{-1}}^{(n)}(x_{i}^{n})\right\}}{M_{i}^{(n)}}$$
(56)

for all $(w_T, x_T^n, \hat{x}_T^n) \in \mathcal{W}_T \times \mathcal{X}_T^n \times \hat{\mathcal{X}}_T^n$ (cf. (13) and (48)), where f_i represents the encoding function for W_i of the $(n, M_{\mathcal{I}}^{(n)}, P_{\mathcal{I}}, \mathcal{A}', T, \frac{1+\varepsilon}{2})_{\text{max}}$ -code (cf. Definition 1). The distribution $u'_{W_T, X_T^n, \hat{X}_T^n}$ is well-defined (the probability masses sum to one) through (56) because

$$\sum_{\substack{(w_T, x_T^n, \hat{x}_T^n) \in \\ \mathcal{W}_T \times \mathcal{X}_T^n \times \hat{\mathcal{X}}_T^n}} u'_{W_T, X_T^n, \hat{X}_T^n}(w_T, x_T^n, \hat{x}_T^n)$$
(57)

$$\stackrel{(56)}{=} \sum_{w_T \in \mathcal{W}_T} \prod_{i \in T} \frac{1}{M_i^{(n)}} \sum_{x_T^n \in \mathcal{X}_T^n} \prod_{i \in T} \mathbf{1} \left\{ x_i^n = f_i(w_i) \right\} \sum_{\hat{x}_T^n \in \hat{\mathcal{X}}_T^n} \prod_{i \in T} \mathbf{1} \left\{ \hat{x}_i^n = \Omega_{\lceil n\sqrt{nP_i} \rceil, n^{-1}}^{(n)}(x_i^n) \right\}$$
(58)

$$= 1.$$
 (59)

Using (56), we obtain

$$u'_{W_T, X_T^n, \hat{X}_T^n} = \prod_{i \in T} u'_{W_i, X_i^n, \hat{X}_i^n}$$
(60)

where

$$u'_{W_{i},X_{i}^{n},\hat{X}_{i}^{n}}(w_{i},x_{i}^{n},\hat{x}_{i}^{n}) = \frac{1}{M_{i}^{(n)}} \cdot \mathbf{1}\left\{x_{i}^{n} = f_{i}(w_{i})\right\} \cdot \mathbf{1}\left\{\hat{x}_{i}^{n} = \Omega_{\left\lceil n\sqrt{nP_{i}}\right\rceil,n^{-1}}^{(n)}(x_{i}^{n})\right\}$$
(61)

for all $(w_i, x_i^n, \hat{x}_i^n) \in \mathcal{W}_i \times \mathcal{X}_i^n \times \hat{\mathcal{X}}_i^n$. We will use Lemma 2 to prove the existence of a subcode of the $(n, M_{\mathcal{I}}^{(n)}, P_{\mathcal{I}}, \mathcal{A}', T, \frac{1+\varepsilon}{2})_{\text{max}}$ -code such that the subcode satisfies (46), (52) and (53) for some $u_{\hat{X}_T^n}$ defined on $\hat{\mathcal{X}}_T^n$. To this end, we first consider the following chain of inequalities for each $\hat{x}_T^n \in \hat{\mathcal{X}}_T^n$ such that $p'_{\hat{X}_T^n}(\hat{x}_T^n) > 0$:

$$p'_{\hat{X}_{T}^{n}}(\hat{x}_{T}^{n}) = \sum_{w_{T} \in \mathcal{A}'_{T}, x_{T}^{n} \in \mathcal{X}_{T}^{n}} p'_{W_{T}, X_{T}^{n}, \hat{X}_{T}^{n}}(w_{T}, x_{T}^{n}, \hat{x}_{T}^{n})$$
(62)

$$=\sum_{w_T\in\mathcal{A}'_T, x_T^n\in\mathcal{X}_T^n} p'_{W_T}(w_T) p'_{X_T^n, \hat{X}_T^n | W_T}(x_T^n, \hat{x}_T^n | w_T)$$
(63)

$$\stackrel{\text{(a)}}{=} \sum_{w_T \in \mathcal{A}'_T, x_T^n \in \mathcal{X}_T^n} p'_{W_T}(w_T) \prod_{i \in T} \left(\mathbf{1} \left\{ x_i^n = f_i(w_i) \right\} \cdot \mathbf{1} \left\{ \hat{x}_i^n = \Omega^{(n)}_{\lceil n\sqrt{nP_i} \rceil, n^{-1}}(x_i^n) \right\} \right) \tag{64}$$

$$\leq \sum_{w_T \in \mathcal{A}'_T, x_T^n \in \mathcal{X}_T^n} \frac{1}{\prod_{i \in T} M_i^{(n)}} \cdot \left(\frac{2(1+\varepsilon)}{1-\varepsilon}\right) \prod_{i \in T} \left(\mathbf{1}\left\{x_i^n = f_i(w_i)\right\} \cdot \mathbf{1}\left\{\hat{x}_i^n = \Omega_{\left\lceil n\sqrt{nP_i} \right\rceil, n^{-1}}^{(n)}(x_i^n)\right\}\right)$$

$$(65)$$

$$\stackrel{(56)}{=} \frac{2(1+\varepsilon)}{1-\varepsilon} \sum_{w_T \in \mathcal{A}'_T, x^n_T \in \mathcal{X}^n_T} u'_{W_T, X^n_T, \hat{X}^n_T}(w_T, x^n_T, \hat{x}^n_T)$$
(66)

$$\leq \frac{2(1+\varepsilon)}{1-\varepsilon} \sum_{w_T \in \mathcal{W}_T, x_T^n \in \mathcal{X}_T^n} u'_{W_T, X_T^n, \hat{X}_T^n}(w_T, x_T^n, \hat{x}_T^n)$$
(67)

$$=\frac{2(1+\varepsilon)}{1-\varepsilon}\cdot u'_{\hat{X}^n_T}(\hat{x}^n_T)$$
(68)

where (a) follows from (16) and (55). It follows from (68) and Lemma 2 with the identifications

$$\mathcal{X} \triangleq \hat{\mathcal{X}}_T, \qquad c \triangleq \frac{1+3\varepsilon}{1-\varepsilon}, \qquad \lambda \triangleq \frac{1}{n^{4|T|}}, \qquad \delta \triangleq \sqrt{\frac{\log n}{n}}$$
 (69)

that there exist ℓ natural numbers in $\{1, 2, ..., n\}$, denoted by $t_1, t_2, ..., t_\ell$, and ℓ real-valued |T|-dimensional tuples in $\hat{\mathcal{X}}_T$, denoted by $\bar{x}_{T,t_1}, \bar{x}_{T,t_2}, ..., \bar{x}_{T,t_\ell}$, such that the following three statements hold:

(I)
$$\ell \leq \left(\frac{1+3\varepsilon}{1-\varepsilon}\right) \sqrt{\frac{n}{\log n}}.$$

(II) $\Pr_{p'_{\hat{X}n}} \left\{ (\hat{X}_{T,t_1}, \hat{X}_{T,t_2}, \dots, \hat{X}_{T,t_\ell}) = (\bar{x}_{T,t_1}, \bar{x}_{T,t_2}, \dots, \bar{x}_{T,t_\ell}) \right\} \geq \frac{1}{n^{4|T|\ell}}.$
(III) For all $k \in \{1, 2, \dots, n\} \setminus \{t_1, t_2, \dots, t_\ell\},$ we have
(70)

$$p'_{\hat{X}_{T,k}|\hat{X}_{T,t_{1}},\hat{X}_{T,t_{2}},...,\hat{X}_{T,t_{\ell}}}(\hat{x}_{T,k}|\bar{x}_{T,t_{1}},\bar{x}_{T,t_{2}},...,\bar{x}_{T,t_{\ell}}) \\ \leq \max\left\{ \left(1 + \sqrt{\frac{\log n}{n}} \right) u'_{\hat{X}_{T,k}|\hat{X}_{T,t_{1}},\hat{X}_{T,t_{2}},...,\hat{X}_{T,t_{\ell}}}(\hat{x}_{T,k}|\bar{x}_{T,t_{1}},\bar{x}_{T,t_{2}},...,\bar{x}_{T,t_{\ell}}), \frac{1}{n^{4|T|}} \right\}$$
(71)

$$\overset{(60)}{=} \max\left\{ \left(1 + \sqrt{\frac{\log n}{n}} \right) \prod_{i \in T} u'_{\hat{X}_{i,k}|\hat{X}_{i,t_1},\hat{X}_{i,t_2},\dots,\hat{X}_{i,t_\ell}} (\hat{x}_{i,k}|\bar{x}_{i,t_1},\bar{x}_{i,t_2},\dots,\bar{x}_{i,t_\ell}), \frac{1}{n^{4|T|}} \right\}$$
(72)

for all $\hat{x}_{T,k} \in \mathcal{X}_T$.

Using Statement (II), Statement (III) and (44), we can construct an $\left(n, M_{\mathcal{I}}^{(n)}, P_{\mathcal{I}}, \mathcal{A}, T, \frac{1+\varepsilon}{2}\right)_{\text{max}}$ -code by collecting all the codewords $x_{\mathcal{I}}^n$ for the $\left(n, M_{\mathcal{I}}^{(n)}, P_{\mathcal{I}}, \mathcal{A}', T, \frac{1+\varepsilon}{2}\right)_{\text{max}}$ -code which satisfy

$$(\hat{x}_{T,t_1}, \hat{x}_{T,t_2}, \dots, \hat{x}_{T,t_\ell}) = (\bar{x}_{T,t_1}, \bar{x}_{T,t_2}, \dots, \bar{x}_{T,t_\ell})$$
(73)

such that the following two statements hold:

- (i) $|\mathcal{A}_T| = |\mathcal{A}| \ge n^{-4|T|\ell} \left(\frac{1-\varepsilon}{2(1+\varepsilon)}\right) \prod_{i \in T} M_i^{(n)}.$
- (ii) Let $p_{W_{\mathcal{I}},X_{\mathcal{I}}^{n},Y^{n},\hat{W}_{\mathcal{I}}}$ denote the probability distribution induced on the Gaussian MAC by the $(n, M_{\mathcal{I}}^{(n)}, P_{\mathcal{I}}, \mathcal{A}, T, \frac{1+\varepsilon}{2})_{\text{max}}$ -code, and let

$$p_{W_{\mathcal{I}},X_{\mathcal{I}}^{n},\hat{X}_{\mathcal{I}}^{n},Y^{n},\hat{W}_{\mathcal{I}}}(w_{\mathcal{I}},x_{\mathcal{I}}^{n},\hat{x}_{\mathcal{I}}^{n},y^{n},\hat{w}_{\mathcal{I}}) \\ \triangleq p_{W_{\mathcal{I}},X_{\mathcal{I}}^{n},Y^{n},\hat{W}_{\mathcal{I}}}(w_{\mathcal{I}},x_{\mathcal{I}}^{n},y^{n},\hat{w}_{\mathcal{I}}) \prod_{i\in T} \mathbf{1} \left\{ \hat{x}_{i}^{n} = \Omega_{\lceil n\sqrt{nP_{i}}\rceil,n^{-1}}^{(n)}(x_{i}^{n}) \right\}.$$

$$(74)$$

Then,

$$\Pr_{p_{\hat{X}_{T}^{n}}}\left\{\bigcap_{m=1}^{\ell} \{\hat{X}_{T,t_{m}} = \bar{x}_{T,t_{m}}\}\right\} = 1,$$
(75)

and we have for all $k \in \{1, 2, ..., n\} \setminus \{t_1, t_2, ..., t_\ell\}$

$$p_{\hat{X}_{T,k}}(\hat{x}_{T,k}) \le \max\left\{ \left(1 + \sqrt{\frac{\log n}{n}} \right) \prod_{i \in T} u'_{\hat{X}_{i,k}|\hat{X}_{i,t_1} = \bar{x}_{i,t_1}, \hat{X}_{i,t_2} = \bar{x}_{i,t_2}, \dots, \hat{X}_{i,t_\ell} = \bar{x}_{i,t_\ell}}(\hat{x}_{i,k}), \frac{1}{n^{4|T|}} \right\}$$
(76)

for all $\hat{x}_{T,k} \in \mathcal{X}_T$.

Since for each $k \in \{t_1, t_2, \ldots, t_\ell\}$

$$p_{\hat{X}_{T,k}}(\hat{x}_{T,k}) \stackrel{(75)}{=} \mathbf{1}\left\{\hat{x}_{T,k} = \bar{x}_{T,k}\right\} = \prod_{i \in T} u'_{\hat{X}_{i,k}|\hat{X}_{i,t_1} = \bar{x}_{i,t_1}, \hat{X}_{i,t_2} = \bar{x}_{i,t_2}, \dots, \hat{X}_{i,t_\ell} = \bar{x}_{i,t_\ell}}(\hat{x}_{i,k}) \tag{77}$$

for all $\hat{x}_{T,k} \in \hat{\mathcal{X}}_T$, it follows from (76) that the following statement holds:

(iii) For all $k \in \{1, 2, \dots, n\}$, we have

$$p_{\hat{X}_{T,k}}(\hat{x}_{T,k}) \le \max\left\{ \left(1 + \sqrt{\frac{\log n}{n}} \right) \prod_{i \in T} u'_{\hat{X}_{i,k}|\hat{X}_{i,t_1} = \bar{x}_{i,t_1}, \hat{X}_{i,t_2} = \bar{x}_{i,t_2}, \dots, \hat{X}_{i,t_\ell} = \bar{x}_{i,t_\ell}}(\hat{x}_{i,k}), \frac{1}{n^{4|T|}} \right\}$$
(78)

for all $\hat{x}_{T,k} \in \hat{\mathcal{X}}_T$.

Consequently, (46) follows from Statement (i) and Statement (I), and (52) follows from Statement (iii) by letting

$$u_{\hat{X}_{T}^{n}} \triangleq \prod_{k=1}^{n} \prod_{i \in T} u'_{\hat{X}_{i,k}|\hat{X}_{i,t_{1}} = \bar{x}_{i,t_{1}}, \hat{X}_{i,t_{2}} = \bar{x}_{i,t_{2}}, \dots, \hat{X}_{i,t_{\ell}} = \bar{x}_{i,t_{\ell}}}.$$
(79)

It remains to prove the upper bounds on $|\hat{\mathcal{X}}_T|$ and $\sum_{i \in T} \sum_{k=1}^n \mathbb{E}_{u_{\hat{X}_{i,k}}} \left[\hat{X}_{i,k}^2 \right]$ in (51) and (53) respectively. To prove (51), we consider

$$|\hat{\mathcal{X}}_{T}| \stackrel{(48)}{=} \prod_{i \in T} \left(2 \left\lceil n\sqrt{nP_{i}} \right\rceil + 1 \right)$$
(80)

$$\leq \prod_{i \in T} \left(2n^{3/2} \sqrt{P_i} + 3 \right) \tag{81}$$

$$\leq n^{\frac{3|T|}{2}} \prod_{i \in T} (2\sqrt{P_i} + 3).$$
(82)

To prove (53), we first use (56) and (12) to obtain

$$\Pr_{u'_{X_T^n, \hat{X}_T^n}} \left\{ \sum_{i \in T} \sum_{k=1}^n X_{i,k}^2 \le \sum_{i \in T} nP_i \right\} = 1.$$
(83)

Since $\hat{X}_{i,k}^2 \leq X_{i,k}^2$ for all $i \in T$ and all $k \in \{1, 2, \dots, n\}$ by (55) and (43), it follows from (83) that

$$\Pr_{u'_{\hat{X}_{T}^{n}}}\left\{\sum_{i\in T}\sum_{k=1}^{n}\hat{X}_{i,k}^{2}\leq\sum_{i\in T}nP_{i}\right\}=1.$$
(84)

Consequently,

$$\sum_{k \in T} \sum_{k=1}^{n} \mathbf{E}_{u_{\hat{X}_{i,k}}} \left[\hat{X}_{i,k}^{2} \right]$$

$$\stackrel{(79)}{=} \sum_{i \in T} \sum_{k=1}^{n} \mathbf{E}_{u'_{\hat{X}_{i,k} \mid \hat{X}_{i,t_{1}} = \bar{x}_{i,t_{1}}, \hat{X}_{i,t_{2}} = \bar{x}_{i,t_{2}}, \dots, \hat{X}_{i,t_{\ell}} = \bar{x}_{i,t_{\ell}}} \left[\hat{X}_{i,k}^{2} \right]$$
(85)

$$\stackrel{(60)}{=} \sum_{i \in T} \sum_{k=1}^{n} \mathcal{E}_{u'_{\hat{X}_{T,k}|\hat{X}_{T,t_1}=\bar{x}_{T,t_1},\hat{X}_{T,t_2}=\bar{x}_{T,t_2},\dots,\hat{X}_{T,t_\ell}=\bar{x}_{T,t_\ell}} \left[\hat{X}_{i,k}^2 \right]$$
(86)

$$=\sum_{i\in T}\sum_{k=1}^{n} \mathbb{E}_{u_{\hat{X}_{T}^{n}|\hat{X}_{T,t_{1}}=\bar{x}_{T,t_{1}},\hat{X}_{T,t_{2}}=\bar{x}_{T,t_{2}},\dots,\hat{X}_{T,t_{\ell}}=\bar{x}_{T,t_{\ell}}}\left[\hat{X}_{i,k}^{2}\right]$$
(87)

$$= \mathbb{E}_{u_{\hat{X}_{T}^{n} \mid \hat{X}_{T,t_{1}} = \bar{x}_{T,t_{1}}, \hat{X}_{T,t_{2}} = \bar{x}_{T,t_{2}}, \dots, \hat{X}_{T,t_{\ell}} = \bar{x}_{T,t_{\ell}}} \left[\sum_{i \in T} \sum_{k=1}^{n} \hat{X}_{i,k}^{2} \right]$$
(88)

$$\stackrel{(84)}{\leq} \sum_{i \in T} nP_i \,. \tag{89}$$

C. Binary Hypothesis Testing

The following definition concerning the non-asymptotic fundamental limits of a simple binary hypothesis test is standard. See for example [22, Sec. III-E].

Definition 7: Let p_X and q_X be two probability distributions on some common alphabet \mathcal{X} . Let

$$\mathcal{Q}(\{0,1\}|\mathcal{X}) \triangleq \{r_{Z|X} \mid Z \text{ and } X \text{ assume values in } \{0,1\} \text{ and } \mathcal{X} \text{ respectively}\}$$

be the set of randomized binary hypothesis tests between p_X and q_X where $\{Z = 0\}$ indicates the test chooses q_X , and let $\delta \in [0, 1]$ be a real number. The minimum type-II error in a simple binary hypothesis test between p_X and q_X with type-I error no larger than $1 - \delta$ is defined as

$$\beta_{\delta}(p_X \| q_X) \triangleq \inf_{\substack{r_{Z|X} \in \mathcal{Q}(\{0,1\}|\mathcal{X}):\\ \int_{x \in \mathcal{X}} r_{Z|X}(1|x)p_X(x) \, \mathrm{d}x \ge \delta}} \int_{x \in \mathcal{X}} r_{Z|X}(1|x)q_X(x) \, \mathrm{d}x.$$
(90)

The existence of a minimizing test $r_{Z|X}$ is guaranteed by the Neyman-Pearson lemma.

We state in the following lemma and proposition some important properties of $\beta_{\delta}(p_X || q_X)$, which are crucial for the proof of Theorem 1. The proof of the following lemma can be found in, for example, the paper by Wang, Colbeck, and Renner [23, Lemma 1].

Lemma 4: Let p_X and q_X be two probability distributions on some alphabet \mathcal{X} , and let g be a function whose domain contains \mathcal{X} . Then, the following two statements hold:

1. Data processing inequality (DPI):

$$\beta_{\delta}(p_X \| q_X) \le \beta_{\delta}(p_{g(X)} \| q_{g(X)}).$$
(91)

2. For all $\xi > 0$,

$$\beta_{\delta}(p_X \| q_X) \ge \frac{1}{\xi} \left(\delta - \int_{x \in \mathcal{X}} p_X(x) \mathbf{1} \left\{ \frac{p_X(x)}{q_X(x)} \ge \xi \right\} \, \mathrm{d}x \right).$$
(92)

The proof of the following proposition is similar to Lemma 3 in [23] and therefore omitted.

Proposition 5: Let $p_{U,V}$ be a probability distribution defined on $\mathcal{W} \times \mathcal{W}$ for some finite alphabet \mathcal{W} . In addition, let q_V be a distribution defined on \mathcal{W} , and let

$$\alpha = \max_{u \in \mathcal{W}} \Pr\{V \neq u | U = u\}$$
(93)

be a real number in [0, 1) where (U, V) is distributed according to $p_{U,V}$. Then for each $u \in \mathcal{W}$,

$$\beta_{1-\alpha}(p_{V|U=u}||q_V) \le q_V(u). \tag{94}$$

V. PROOF OF THEOREM 1

A. Expurgation to Obtain a Maximum Error Code

Let $\varepsilon \in [0,1)$ and suppose $R_{\mathcal{I}}$ is an ε -achievable rate tuple. By Definition 4, there exists a $\gamma \in [0,1)$ and a sequence of $(n, M_{\mathcal{I}}^{(n)}, P_{\mathcal{I}}, \varepsilon_n)_{avg}$ -codes such that

$$\varepsilon_n \le \gamma$$
 (95)

for all sufficiently large n and

$$\liminf_{n \to \infty} \frac{1}{n} \log M_i^{(n)} \ge R_i \tag{96}$$

for each $i \in \mathcal{I}$. Fix a non-empty set $T \subseteq \mathcal{I}$. Our goal is to prove that

$$\sum_{i \in T} R_i \le \frac{1}{2} \log \left(1 + \sum_{i \in T} P_i \right).$$
(97)

Since (97) holds trivially if $\sum_{i \in T} R_i = 0$, we assume without loss of generality that

$$\sum_{i\in T} R_i > 0. \tag{98}$$

It follows from (96) and (98) that

$$\left\lfloor \left(\frac{1-\gamma}{1+\gamma}\right) \prod_{i \in T} M_i^{(n)} \right\rfloor \ge \frac{1}{2} \left(\frac{1-\gamma}{1+\gamma}\right) \prod_{i \in T} M_i^{(n)}$$
(99)

for all sufficiently large n. Fix a sufficiently large n and the corresponding $(n, M_{\mathcal{I}}^{(n)}, P_{\mathcal{I}}, \varepsilon_n)_{\text{avg}}$ -code for the Gaussian MAC such that (95) and (99) hold. Using Lemma 1, Lemma 3 and Definition 1, there exists an $(n, M_{\mathcal{I}}^{(n)}, P_{\mathcal{I}}, \mathcal{A}, T, \frac{1+\gamma}{2})_{\text{max}}$ -code, which induces a probability distribution on the Gaussian MAC denoted by $p_{W_{\mathcal{I}}, X_{\mathcal{I}}^n, Y^n, \hat{W}_{\mathcal{I}}}$, such that the following four statements hold:

(i) For all $w_{\mathcal{I}} \in \mathcal{A}$ and all $w_T \in \mathcal{A}_T$,

$$p_{W_{\mathcal{I}}}(w_{\mathcal{I}}) = \frac{1}{|\mathcal{A}|} \text{ and } p_{W_T}(w_T) = \frac{1}{|\mathcal{A}_T|}.$$
 (100)

- (ii) There exists a $w_{T^c}^* \in \mathcal{W}_{T^c}$ such that for all $w_{\mathcal{I}} \in \mathcal{A}$, we have $w_{T^c} = w_{T^c}^*$.
- (iii) The support of W_T satisfies

$$|\mathcal{A}_T| = |\mathcal{A}| \ge n^{\frac{-4|T|(1+3\gamma)}{(1-\gamma)}\sqrt{\frac{n}{\log n}}} \left(\frac{1-\gamma}{2(1+\gamma)}\right) \prod_{i \in T} M_i^{(n)}.$$
(101)

(iv) Define

$$p_{W_{\mathcal{I}},X_{\mathcal{I}}^{n},\hat{X}_{T}^{n},Y^{n},\hat{W}_{\mathcal{I}}}(w_{\mathcal{I}},x_{\mathcal{I}}^{n},\hat{x}_{T}^{n},y^{n},\hat{w}_{\mathcal{I}}) \\ \triangleq p_{W_{\mathcal{I}},X_{\mathcal{I}}^{n},Y^{n},\hat{W}_{\mathcal{I}}}(w_{\mathcal{I}},x_{\mathcal{I}}^{n},y^{n},\hat{w}_{\mathcal{I}}) \prod_{i\in T} \mathbf{1} \left\{ \hat{x}_{i}^{n} = \Omega_{\left\lceil n\sqrt{nP_{i}} \right\rceil,n^{-1}}^{(n)}(x_{i}^{n}) \right\}$$
(102)

for all $(w_{\mathcal{I}}, x_{\mathcal{I}}^n, \hat{x}_T^n, y^n, \hat{w}_{\mathcal{I}}) \in \mathcal{A} \times \mathcal{X}_{\mathcal{I}}^n \times \hat{\mathcal{X}}_T^n \times \mathbb{R}^n \times \mathcal{A}$, where

$$\hat{\mathcal{X}}_T \triangleq \prod_{i \in T} \mathbb{Z}_{\left\lceil n\sqrt{nP_i} \right\rceil, n^{-1}}$$
(103)

and

$$\hat{\mathcal{X}}_{T}| \le n^{\frac{3|T|}{2}} \prod_{i \in T} (2\sqrt{P_i} + 3).$$
(104)

Then there exists a distribution $u_{\hat{X}_{T}^{n}}$ defined on $\hat{\mathcal{X}}_{T}^{n}$ such that for all $k \in \{1, 2, ..., n\}$, we have

$$p_{\hat{X}_{T,k}}(\hat{x}_{T,k}) \le \max\left\{ \left(1 + \sqrt{\frac{\log n}{n}} \right) \prod_{i \in T} u_{\hat{X}_{i,k}}(\hat{x}_{i,k}), \frac{1}{n^{4|T|}} \right\}$$
(105)

for all $\hat{x}_{T,k} \in \hat{\mathcal{X}}_T$ and

$$\sum_{i\in T}\sum_{k=1}^{n} \mathbb{E}_{u_{\hat{X}_i}}\left[\hat{X}_{i,k}^2\right] \le \sum_{i\in T} nP_i.$$

$$(106)$$

Note that $p_{W_{\mathcal{I}},X_{\mathcal{I}}^n,Y^n,\hat{W}_{\mathcal{I}}}$ is not the distribution induced by the original $(n, M_{\mathcal{I}}^{(n)}, P_{\mathcal{I}}, \varepsilon_n)_{\text{avg}}$ -code but rather it is induced by the expurgated $(n, M_{\mathcal{I}}^{(n)}, P_{\mathcal{I}}, \mathcal{A}, T, \frac{1+\gamma}{2})_{\text{max}}$ -code.

B. Lower Bounding the Error Probability using Binary Hypothesis Testing

Now, let

$$s_{W_{\mathcal{I}}, X_{\mathcal{I}}^n, Y^n, \hat{W}_{\mathcal{I}}} \triangleq p_{W_{\mathcal{I}}, X_{\mathcal{I}}^n} \left(\prod_{k=1}^n s_{Y_k | X_{T^c, k}} \right) p_{\hat{W}_{\mathcal{I}} | Y^n}$$
(107)

be a distribution such that for each $k \in \{1, 2, ..., n\}$, the auxiliary conditional output distribution is chosen to be

$$s_{Y_k|X_{T^c,k}}(y_k|x_{T^c,k}) = \mathcal{N}\left(y_k; \sum_{i\in T} \mathbb{E}_{u_{\hat{X}_{i,k}}}[\hat{X}_{i,k}] + \sum_{j\in T^c} x_{j,k}, 1 + \sum_{i\in T} P_i\right)$$
(108)

for all $x_{T^c,k} \in \mathcal{X}_{T^c}$ and $y_k \in \mathbb{R}$. It can be seen from (107) and (108) that $s_{W_{\mathcal{I}},X_{\mathcal{I}}^n,Y^n,\hat{W}_{\mathcal{I}}}$ depends on the choice of T we fixed at the start of the proof and the distribution $u_{\hat{X}_T^n}$ in Statement (iv). We shall see later that this choice of $s_{W_{\mathcal{I}},X_{\mathcal{I}}^n,Y^n,\hat{W}_{\mathcal{I}}}$, in particular the mean of the distribution in (108) namely $\sum_{i\in T} E_{u_{\hat{X}_{i,k}}}[\hat{X}_{i,k}] + \sum_{j\in T^c} x_{j,k}$, combined with Proposition 5 and Lemma 4 enables us to prove (97). We do not index $s_{W_{\mathcal{I}},X_T^n,\hat{W}_{\mathcal{I}}}$ by T nor $u_{\hat{X}_T^n}$ for notational brevity. To simplify notation, let $\bar{\gamma} \triangleq (1+\gamma)/2$ be the maximal probability of decoding error of the $(n, M_{\mathcal{I}}^{(n)}, P_{\mathcal{I}}, \mathcal{A}, T, \frac{1+\gamma}{2})_{max}$ -code, where $\bar{\gamma} < 1$ because $\gamma < 1$. Then for each $w_{\mathcal{I}} \in \mathcal{A}$, since

$$s_{W_{\mathcal{I}}}(w_{\mathcal{I}}) \stackrel{(107)}{=} p_{W_{\mathcal{I}}}(w_{\mathcal{I}}) \stackrel{(100)}{>} 0, \tag{109}$$

it follows from Proposition 5 and Definition 1 with the identifications $U \equiv W_T$, $V \equiv \hat{W}_T$, $p_{U,V} \equiv p_{W_T,\hat{W}_T|W_{T^c}=w_{T^c}}$, $q_V \equiv s_{\hat{W}_T | W_{T^c} = w_{T^c}}$ and $\alpha \equiv \max_{w_{\mathcal{I}} \in \mathcal{A}} \Pr\{\hat{W}_T \neq w_T | W_{\mathcal{I}} = w_{\mathcal{I}}\} \le \bar{\gamma}$ that

$$\beta_{1-\bar{\gamma}}(p_{\hat{W}_{T}|W_{\mathcal{I}}=w_{\mathcal{I}}}\|s_{\hat{W}_{T}|W_{T^{c}}=w_{T^{c}}}) \leq \beta_{1-\alpha}(p_{\hat{W}_{T}|W_{\mathcal{I}}=w_{\mathcal{I}}}\|s_{\hat{W}_{T}|W_{T^{c}}=w_{T^{c}}})$$
(110)

$$\leq s_{\hat{W}_T|W_{T^c}}(w_T|w_{T^c}). \tag{111}$$

C. Using the DPI to Introduce the Channel Inputs and Output

Consider the following chain of inequalities for each $w_{\mathcal{I}} \in \mathcal{A}$:

$$\beta_{1-\bar{\gamma}}(p_{\hat{W}_{\mathcal{I}}|W_{\mathcal{I}}=w_{\mathcal{I}}}\|s_{\hat{W}_{\mathcal{I}}|W_{T^{c}}=w_{T^{c}}})$$

$$\stackrel{(a)}{\geq} \beta_{1-\bar{\gamma}}(p_{Y^{n},\hat{W}_{\mathcal{I}}|W_{\mathcal{I}}=w_{\mathcal{I}}} \| s_{Y^{n},\hat{W}_{\mathcal{I}}|W_{T^{c}}=w_{T^{c}}})$$
(112)

$$= \beta_{1-\bar{\gamma}} (p_{Y^{n}|W_{\mathcal{I}}=w_{\mathcal{I}}} p_{\hat{W}_{\mathcal{I}}|Y^{n},W_{\mathcal{I}}=w_{\mathcal{I}}} \| s_{Y^{n},\hat{W}_{\mathcal{I}}|W_{T^{c}}=w_{T^{c}}})$$
(113)

$$\stackrel{(0)}{=} \beta_{1-\bar{\gamma}}(p_{Y^{n}|W_{\mathcal{I}}=w_{\mathcal{I}}}p_{\hat{W}_{\mathcal{I}}|Y^{n}}\|s_{Y^{n},\hat{W}_{\mathcal{I}}|W_{T^{c}}=w_{T^{c}}})$$
(114)

$$\geq \beta_{1-\bar{\gamma}} \left(p_{\hat{W}_{\mathcal{I}}|Y^{n}} p_{X_{\mathcal{I}}^{n}, Y^{n}|W_{\mathcal{I}}=w_{\mathcal{I}}} \| p_{X_{T}^{n}|X_{T^{c}}^{n}, W_{\mathcal{I}}=w_{\mathcal{I}}} s_{X_{T^{c}}^{n}, Y^{n}, \hat{W}_{\mathcal{I}}|W_{T^{c}}=w_{T^{c}}} \right)$$

$$(115)$$

$$\stackrel{(107)}{=} \beta_{1-\bar{\gamma}} \left(p_{\hat{W}_{\mathcal{I}}|Y^{n}} p_{X_{\mathcal{I}}^{n},Y^{n}|W_{\mathcal{I}}=w_{\mathcal{I}}} \left\| p_{X_{T}^{n}|X_{T^{c}}^{n},W_{\mathcal{I}}=w_{\mathcal{I}}} p_{X_{T^{c}}^{n}|W_{T^{c}}=w_{T^{c}}} p_{\hat{W}_{\mathcal{I}}|Y^{n}} \prod_{k=1}^{r} s_{Y_{k}|X_{T^{c},k}} \right)$$

$$(116)$$

$$\stackrel{\text{(d)}}{=} \beta_{1-\bar{\gamma}} \left(p_{\hat{W}_{\mathcal{I}}|Y^n} p_{X_{\mathcal{I}}^n, Y^n|W_{\mathcal{I}}=w_{\mathcal{I}}} \left\| p_{X_{\mathcal{I}}^n|X_{\mathcal{I}^c}^n, W_{\mathcal{I}}=w_{\mathcal{I}}} p_{X_{\mathcal{I}^c}^n|W_{\mathcal{I}}=w_{\mathcal{I}}} p_{\hat{W}_{\mathcal{I}}|Y^n} \prod_{k=1}^n s_{Y_k|X_{\mathcal{I}^c}, k} \right)$$
(117)

$$= \beta_{1-\bar{\gamma}} \left(p_{\hat{W}_{\mathcal{I}}|Y^{n}} p_{X_{\mathcal{I}}^{n}, Y^{n}|W_{\mathcal{I}}=w_{\mathcal{I}}} \left\| p_{X_{\mathcal{I}}^{n}|W_{\mathcal{I}}=w_{\mathcal{I}}} p_{\hat{W}_{\mathcal{I}}|Y^{n}} \prod_{k=1}^{n} s_{Y_{k}|X_{T^{c},k}} \right)$$
(118)

$$\stackrel{(16)}{=} \beta_{1-\bar{\gamma}} \left(p_{X_{\mathcal{I}}^{n}|W_{\mathcal{I}}} = w_{\mathcal{I}}} p_{\hat{W}_{\mathcal{I}}|Y^{n}} \prod_{k=1}^{n} p_{Y_{k}|X_{\mathcal{I},k}} \right\| p_{X_{\mathcal{I}}^{n}|W_{\mathcal{I}}} = w_{\mathcal{I}}} p_{\hat{W}_{\mathcal{I}}|Y^{n}} \prod_{k=1}^{n} s_{Y_{k}|X_{T^{c},k}} \right), \tag{119}$$

where

- (a) follows from the DPI of $\beta_{1-\bar{\gamma}}$ by introducing the channel output Y^n .
- (b) follows from the fact that

$$W_{\mathcal{I}} \to Y^n \to \hat{W}_{\mathcal{I}} \tag{120}$$

- forms a Markov chain under the distribution $p_{W_{\mathcal{I}},Y^n,\hat{W}_{\mathcal{I}}}$. (c) follows from the DPI of $\beta_{1-\bar{\gamma}}$ by introducing the channel input $X_{\mathcal{I}}^n$.
- (d) follows from Definition 1, which says $X_{T^c}^n$ is a function of W_{T^c} .

D. Relaxation via Chebyshev's Inequality

Following (119), we consider

$$p_{X_{\mathcal{I}}^{n},Y^{n},\hat{W}_{\mathcal{I}}|W_{\mathcal{I}}=w_{\mathcal{I}}} \stackrel{(19)}{=} p_{X_{\mathcal{I}}^{n}|W_{\mathcal{I}}=w_{\mathcal{I}}} p_{\hat{W}_{\mathcal{I}}|Y^{n}} \prod_{k=1}^{n} p_{Y_{k}|X_{\mathcal{I},k}},$$
(121)

and we obtain from Lemma 4 and (121) that for each $w_{\mathcal{I}} \in \mathcal{A}$ and each $\xi_{w_{\mathcal{I}}} > 0$,

$$\beta_{1-\bar{\gamma}} \left(p_{X_{\mathcal{I}}^{n}|W_{\mathcal{I}}=w_{\mathcal{I}}} p_{\hat{W}_{\mathcal{I}}|Y^{n}} \prod_{k=1}^{n} p_{Y_{k}|X_{\mathcal{I},k}} \left\| p_{X_{\mathcal{I}}^{n}|W_{\mathcal{I}}=w_{\mathcal{I}}} p_{\hat{W}_{\mathcal{I}}|Y^{n}} \prod_{k=1}^{n} s_{Y_{k}|X_{T^{c},k}} \right) \\ \geq \frac{1}{\xi_{w_{\mathcal{I}}}} \left(1 - \bar{\gamma} - \Pr_{p_{X_{\mathcal{I}}^{n},Y^{n},\hat{W}_{\mathcal{I}}|W_{\mathcal{I}}=w_{\mathcal{I}}}} \left\{ \prod_{k=1}^{n} \frac{p_{Y_{k}|X_{\mathcal{I},k}}(Y_{k}|X_{\mathcal{I},k})}{s_{Y_{k}|X_{T^{c},k}}(Y_{k}|X_{T^{c},k})} \geq \xi_{w_{\mathcal{I}}} \right\} \right).$$
(122)

Combining (111), (119) and (122), we obtain for each $w_{\mathcal{I}} \in \mathcal{A}$ and each $\xi_{w_{\mathcal{I}}} > 0$

$$s_{\hat{W}_{T}|W_{T^{c}}}(w_{T}|w_{T^{c}}) \geq \frac{1}{\xi_{w_{\mathcal{I}}}} \left(1 - \bar{\gamma} - \Pr_{p_{X_{\mathcal{I}}^{n},Y^{n}|W_{\mathcal{I}}=w_{\mathcal{I}}}} \left\{ \prod_{k=1}^{n} \frac{p_{Y_{k}|X_{\mathcal{I},k}}(Y_{k}|X_{\mathcal{I},k})}{s_{Y_{k}|X_{T^{c},k}}(Y_{k}|X_{T^{c},k})} \geq \xi_{w_{\mathcal{I}}} \right\} \right),$$
(123)

which implies that

$$\log\left(\frac{1}{s_{\hat{W}_{T}|W_{T^{c}}}(w_{T}|w_{T^{c}})}\right)$$

$$\leq \log\xi_{w_{\mathcal{I}}} - \log\left(1 - \bar{\gamma} - \Pr_{p_{X_{\mathcal{I}}^{n},Y^{n}|W_{\mathcal{I}}=w_{\mathcal{I}}}}\left\{\sum_{k=1}^{n}\log\left(\frac{p_{Y_{k}|X_{\mathcal{I},k}}(Y_{k}|X_{\mathcal{I},k})}{s_{Y_{k}|X_{T^{c},k}}(Y_{k}|X_{T^{c},k})}\right) \geq \log\xi_{w_{\mathcal{I}}}\right\}\right).$$
(124)

For each $w_{\mathcal{I}} \in \mathcal{A}$, let

$$\log \xi_{w_{\mathcal{I}}} \triangleq \mathbf{E}_{p_{X_{\mathcal{I}}^{n},Y^{n}|W_{\mathcal{I}}}=w_{\mathcal{I}}} \left[\sum_{k=1}^{n} \log \left(\frac{p_{Y_{k}|X_{\mathcal{I},k}}(Y_{k}|X_{\mathcal{I},k})}{s_{Y_{k}|X_{T^{c},k}}(Y_{k}|X_{T^{c},k})} \right) \right] + \sqrt{\frac{2}{1-\bar{\gamma}}} \operatorname{Var}_{p_{X_{\mathcal{I}}^{n},Y^{n}|W_{\mathcal{I}}}=w_{\mathcal{I}}} \left[\sum_{k=1}^{n} \log \left(\frac{p_{Y_{k}|X_{\mathcal{I},k}}(Y_{k}|X_{\mathcal{I},k})}{s_{Y_{k}|X_{T^{c},k}}(Y_{k}|X_{T^{c},k})} \right) \right]$$
(125)

Using Chebyshev's inequality, it follows from (125) that for each $w_\mathcal{I} \in \mathcal{A}$

$$\Pr_{p_{X_{\mathcal{I}}^{n},Y^{n}|W_{\mathcal{I}}=w_{\mathcal{I}}}}\left\{\sum_{k=1}^{n}\log\left(\frac{p_{Y_{k}|X_{\mathcal{I},k}}(Y_{k}|X_{\mathcal{I},k})}{s_{Y_{k}|X_{T^{c},k}}(Y_{k}|X_{T^{c},k})}\right) \ge \log\xi_{w_{\mathcal{I}}}\right\} \le \frac{1-\bar{\gamma}}{2},\tag{126}$$

which implies from (124) that

$$\log\left(\frac{1}{s_{\hat{W}_T|W_{T^c}}(w_T|w_{T^c})}\right) \le \log\xi_{w_{\mathcal{I}}} + \log\left(\frac{2}{1-\bar{\gamma}}\right).$$
(127)

Since $t \mapsto \log \frac{1}{t}$ is convex for t > 0, by Jensen's inequality

$$\sum_{w_{\mathcal{I}}\in\mathcal{A}} p_{W_{\mathcal{I}}}(w_{\mathcal{I}}) \log\left(\frac{1}{s_{\hat{W}_{T}|W_{T^{c}}}(w_{T}|w_{T^{c}})}\right) \ge \log\left(\frac{1}{\sum_{w_{\mathcal{I}}\in\mathcal{A}} p_{W_{\mathcal{I}}}(w_{\mathcal{I}})s_{\hat{W}_{T}|W_{T^{c}}}(w_{T}|w_{T^{c}})}\right).$$
(128)

We have

$$\sum_{w_{\mathcal{I}}\in\mathcal{A}} p_{W_{\mathcal{I}}}(w_{\mathcal{I}}) s_{\hat{W}_{T}|W_{T^{c}}}(w_{T}|w_{T^{c}}) \stackrel{(100)}{=} \frac{1}{|\mathcal{A}|} \sum_{w_{\mathcal{I}}\in\mathcal{A}} s_{\hat{W}_{T}|W_{T^{c}}}(w_{T}|w_{T^{c}})$$
(129)

$$\stackrel{\text{(a)}}{=} \frac{1}{|\mathcal{A}|} \sum_{w_T \in \mathcal{A}_T} s_{\hat{W}_T | W_{T^c}}(w_T | w_{T^c}^*) \tag{130}$$

$$\leq \frac{1}{|\mathcal{A}|} \sum_{w_T \in \mathcal{W}_T} s_{\hat{W}_T | W_{T^c}}(w_T | w_{T^c}^*) \tag{131}$$

$$=\frac{1}{|\mathcal{A}|}\tag{132}$$

where (a) follows from the definition of A_T in (11) and the fact stated in Statement (ii) that $w_{T^c} = w_{T^c}^*$ for all $w_{\mathcal{I}} \in \mathcal{A}$. Using (128) and (132), we obtain

$$\sum_{w_{\mathcal{I}}\in\mathcal{A}} p_{W_{\mathcal{I}}}(w_{\mathcal{I}}) \log\left(\frac{1}{s_{\hat{W}_{T}|W_{T^{c}}}(w_{T}|w_{T^{c}})}\right) \ge \log|\mathcal{A}|.$$
(133)

Taking expectation with respect to $p_{W_{\mathcal{I}}}$ on both sides of (127) and applying (133), we obtain

$$\log |\mathcal{A}| \le \left(\sum_{w_{\mathcal{I}} \in \mathcal{A}} p_{W_{\mathcal{I}}}(w_{\mathcal{I}}) \log \xi_{w_{\mathcal{I}}}\right) + \log \left(\frac{2}{1 - \bar{\gamma}}\right).$$
(134)

E. Simplification of Log-Likelihood Terms

In order to simplify (134), we will simplify the log-likelihood term in $\log \xi_{w_{\mathcal{I}}}$ defined in (125). To this end, we first let $x_i^n(w_i) \triangleq f_i(w_i)$ (f_i is the encoding function at node *i* defined in Definition 1) and we also let $x_{i,k}(w_i)$ denote the k^{th} component of $x_i^n(w_i)$ for each $i \in \mathcal{I}$ and each $k \in \{1, 2, ..., n\}$ such that

$$x_i^n(w_i) = (x_{i,1}(w_i), x_{i,2}(w_i), \dots, x_{i,n}(w_i)).$$
(135)

In addition, we let

$$x_{\mathcal{I},k}(w_{\mathcal{I}}) \triangleq (x_{1,k}(w_1), x_{2,k}(w_2), \dots, x_{N,k}(w_N)),$$
(136)

and we let

$$x_{T^c,k}(w_{T^c}) \triangleq (x_{j,k}(w_j) \mid j \in T^c)$$
(137)

be a subtuple of $x_{\mathcal{I},k}(w_{\mathcal{I}})$. Similarly, let

$$x_{\mathcal{I}}^{n}(w_{\mathcal{I}}) \triangleq (x_{1}^{n}(w_{1}), x_{2}^{n}(w_{2}), \dots, x_{N}^{n}(w_{N})),$$
 (138)

and let

$$x_{T^c}^n(w_{T^c}) \triangleq (x_j^n(w_j) \mid j \in T^c)$$
(139)

be a subtuple of $x_{\mathcal{I}}^n(w_{\mathcal{I}})$. Using the fact that X_i^n is a function of W_i for all $i \in \mathcal{I}$ and the notations defined above, we obtain from (125) that

$$\log \xi_{w_{\mathcal{I}}} = \mathbb{E}_{p_{Y^{n}|W_{\mathcal{I}}=w_{\mathcal{I}},X_{\mathcal{I}}^{n}=x_{\mathcal{I}}^{n}(w_{\mathcal{I}})}} \left[\sum_{k=1}^{n} \log \left(\frac{p_{Y_{k}|X_{\mathcal{I},k}}(Y_{k}|x_{\mathcal{I},k}(w_{\mathcal{I}}))}{s_{Y_{k}|X_{T^{c},k}}(Y_{k}|x_{T^{c},k}(w_{T^{c}}))} \right) \right] + \sqrt{\frac{2}{1-\bar{\gamma}} \operatorname{Var}_{p_{Y^{n}|W_{\mathcal{I}}=w_{\mathcal{I}},X_{\mathcal{I}}^{n}=x_{\mathcal{I}}^{n}(w_{\mathcal{I}})}}{\left[\sum_{k=1}^{n} \log \left(\frac{p_{Y_{k}|X_{\mathcal{I},k}}(Y_{k}|x_{\mathcal{I},k}(w_{\mathcal{I}}))}{s_{Y_{k}|X_{T^{c},k}}(Y_{k}|x_{T^{c},k}(w_{T^{c}}))} \right) \right]}, \quad (140)$$

which implies from (16) that

$$\log \xi_{w_{\mathcal{I}}} = \mathbb{E}_{\prod_{k=1}^{n} p_{Y_{k}|X_{\mathcal{I},k}=x_{\mathcal{I},k}(w_{\mathcal{I}})}} \left[\sum_{k=1}^{n} \log \left(\frac{p_{Y_{k}|X_{\mathcal{I},k}}(Y_{k}|x_{\mathcal{I},k}(w_{\mathcal{I}}))}{s_{Y_{k}|X_{T^{c},k}}(Y_{k}|x_{T^{c},k}(w_{T^{c}}))} \right) \right] + \sqrt{\frac{2}{1-\bar{\gamma}} \operatorname{Var}_{\prod_{k=1}^{n} p_{Y_{k}|X_{\mathcal{I},k}=x_{\mathcal{I},k}(w_{\mathcal{I}})}} \left[\sum_{k=1}^{n} \log \left(\frac{p_{Y_{k}|X_{\mathcal{I},k}}(Y_{k}|x_{\mathcal{I},k}(w_{\mathcal{I}}))}{s_{Y_{k}|X_{T^{c},k}}(Y_{k}|x_{T^{c},k}(w_{T^{c}}))} \right) \right]}, \quad (141)$$

which then implies that

$$\log \xi_{w_{\mathcal{I}}} = \sum_{k=1}^{n} \mathbb{E}_{p_{Y_{k}|X_{\mathcal{I},k}}=x_{\mathcal{I},k}(w_{\mathcal{I}})} \left[\log \left(\frac{p_{Y_{k}|X_{\mathcal{I},k}}(Y_{k}|x_{\mathcal{I},k}(w_{\mathcal{I}}))}{s_{Y_{k}|X_{T^{c},k}}(Y_{k}|x_{T^{c},k}(w_{T^{c}}))} \right) \right] + \sqrt{\frac{2}{1-\bar{\gamma}} \sum_{k=1}^{n} \operatorname{Var}_{p_{Y_{k}|X_{\mathcal{I},k}}=x_{\mathcal{I},k}(w_{\mathcal{I}})} \left[\log \left(\frac{p_{Y_{k}|X_{\mathcal{I},k}}(Y_{k}|x_{\mathcal{I},k}(w_{\mathcal{I}}))}{s_{Y_{k}|X_{T^{c},k}}(Y_{k}|x_{T^{c},k}(w_{T^{c}}))} \right) \right]} .$$
(142)

Following (142), we use (17), (15) and (108) to obtain

$$\log\left(\frac{p_{Y_{k}|X_{\mathcal{I},k}}(Y_{k}|x_{\mathcal{I},k}(w_{\mathcal{I}}))}{s_{Y_{k}|X_{T^{c},k}}(Y_{k}|x_{T^{c},k}(w_{T^{c}}))}\right)$$

$$=\frac{1}{2}\log\left(1+\sum_{i\in T}P_{i}\right)+\frac{\log e}{2(1+\sum_{i\in T}P_{i})}\left(-\left(\sum_{i\in T}P_{i}\right)\left(Y_{k}-\sum_{i\in \mathcal{I}}x_{i,k}(w_{i})\right)^{2}\right)$$

$$+2\left(\sum_{i\in T}(x_{i,k}(w_{i})-\mathbf{E}_{u_{\hat{x}_{i,k}}}[\hat{X}_{i,k}])\right)\left(Y_{k}-\sum_{i\in \mathcal{I}}x_{i,k}(w_{i})\right)+\left(\sum_{i\in T}(x_{i,k}(w_{i})-\mathbf{E}_{u_{\hat{x}_{i,k}}}[\hat{X}_{i,k}])\right)^{2}\right).$$
(143)

For each $w_{\mathcal{I}} \in \mathcal{A}$ and each $k \in \{1, 2, ..., n\}$, it follows from Definition 2 that $Y_k - \sum_{i \in \mathcal{I}} x_{i,k}(w_i)$ is a standard normal random variable if Y_k is distributed according to $p_{Y_k|X_{\mathcal{I},k}=x_{\mathcal{I},k}(w_{\mathcal{I}})}$, which then implies that

$$E_{P_{Y_k|X_{\mathcal{I},k}=x_{\mathcal{I},k}(w_{\mathcal{I}})}} \left[\log \left(\frac{p_{Y_k|X_{\mathcal{I},k}}(Y_k|x_{\mathcal{I},k}(w_{\mathcal{I}}))}{s_{Y_k|X_{T^c,k}}(Y_k|x_{T^c,k}(w_{T^c}))} \right) \right]$$

$$\stackrel{(143)}{=} \frac{1}{2} \log \left(1 + \sum_{i \in T} P_i \right) + \frac{\log e}{2(1 + \sum_{i \in T} P_i)} \left(- \left(\sum_{i \in T} P_i \right) + \left(\sum_{i \in T} (x_{i,k}(w_i) - E_{u_{\hat{X}_{i,k}}}[\hat{X}_{i,k}]) \right)^2 \right)$$

$$(144)$$

and

$$\begin{aligned} \operatorname{Var}_{p_{Y_{k}|X_{\mathcal{I},k}=x_{\mathcal{I},k}(w_{\mathcal{I}})}} \left[\log \left(\frac{p_{Y_{k}|X_{\mathcal{I},k}}(Y_{k}|x_{\mathcal{I},k}(w_{\mathcal{I}}))}{s_{Y_{k}|X_{T^{c},k}}(Y_{k}|x_{T^{c},k}(w_{T^{c}}))} \right) \right] \\ \stackrel{(143)}{=} \left(\frac{\log e}{2(1+\sum_{i\in T}P_{i})} \right)^{2} \operatorname{Var}_{p_{Y_{k}|X_{\mathcal{I},k}=x_{\mathcal{I},k}(w_{\mathcal{I}})}} \left[-\left(\sum_{i\in T}P_{i}\right) \left(Y_{k}-\sum_{i\in \mathcal{I}}x_{i,k}(w_{i})\right)^{2} \right. \\ \left. + 2\left(\sum_{i\in T}(x_{i,k}(w_{i})-\operatorname{E}_{u_{\hat{X}_{i,k}}}[\hat{X}_{i,k}])\right) \left(Y_{k}-\sum_{i\in \mathcal{I}}x_{i,k}(w_{i})\right) \right] \\ \left. = \frac{\left((\sum_{i\in T}P_{i})^{2}+2\left(\sum_{i\in T}(x_{i,k}(w_{i})-\operatorname{E}_{u_{\hat{X}_{i,k}}}[\hat{X}_{i,k}])\right)^{2}\right)(\log e)^{2}}{(146)} \end{aligned}$$

$$\frac{+2\left(\sum_{i\in T} (x_{i,k}(w_i) - \mathbb{E}_{u_{\hat{X}_{i,k}}}[X_{i,k}])\right)}{2(1 + \sum_{i\in T} P_i)^2}.$$
(146)

Define

$$|P_T| \triangleq \sum_{i \in T} P_i \tag{147}$$

and

$$\bar{x}_{i,k}(w_i) \triangleq x_{i,k}(w_i) - \mathcal{E}_{u_{\bar{X}_{i,k}}}[\hat{X}_{i,k}].$$
(148)

Combining (134), (142), (144), (146), (147) and (148), we obtain for each $w_{I} \in A$

$$\log |\mathcal{A}| \leq \frac{n}{2} \log (1 + |P_T|) + \frac{\sum_{w_{\mathcal{I}} \in \mathcal{A}} p_{W_{\mathcal{I}}}(w_{\mathcal{I}}) \left(-n|P_T| + \sum_{k=1}^n \left(\sum_{i \in T} \bar{x}_{i,k}(w_i) \right)^2 \right) \log e}{2(1 + |P_T|)} + \frac{\sum_{w_{\mathcal{I}} \in \mathcal{A}} p_{W_{\mathcal{I}}}(w_{\mathcal{I}}) \sqrt{\left(n|P_T|^2 + 2\sum_{k=1}^n \left(\sum_{i \in T} \bar{x}_{i,k}(w_i) \right)^2 \right)} \log e}{(1 + |P_T|) \sqrt{1 - \bar{\gamma}}} + \log \left(\frac{2}{1 - \bar{\gamma}} \right),$$
(149)

which implies from Jensen's inequality ($t \mapsto \sqrt{t}$ is concave for $t \ge 0$) that

$$\log |\mathcal{A}| \leq \frac{n}{2} \log (1 + |P_T|) + \frac{\left(-n|P_T| + \sum_{k=1}^n \sum_{w_{\mathcal{I}} \in \mathcal{A}} p_{W_{\mathcal{I}}}(w_{\mathcal{I}}) \left(\sum_{i \in T} \bar{x}_{i,k}(w_i)\right)^2\right) \log e}{2(1 + |P_T|)} + \frac{\sqrt{n|P_T|^2 + 2\sum_{k=1}^n \sum_{w_{\mathcal{I}} \in \mathcal{A}} p_{W_{\mathcal{I}}}(w_{\mathcal{I}}) \left(\sum_{i \in T} \bar{x}_{i,k}(w_i)\right)^2} \log e}{(1 + |P_T|)\sqrt{1 - \bar{\gamma}}} + \log\left(\frac{2}{1 - \bar{\gamma}}\right).$$
(150)

In the following, we will obtain an upper bound on the crucial term $\sum_{k=1}^{n} \sum_{w_{\mathcal{I}} \in \mathcal{A}} p_{W_{\mathcal{I}}}(w_{\mathcal{I}}) \left(\sum_{i \in T} \bar{x}_{i,k}(w_i)\right)^2$ which appears in the second and third terms on the right-hand-side of (150).

F. Introducing the Quantized Input Distribution to Simplify the Upper Bound

Following (150), we consider for each $k \in \{1, 2, \ldots, n\}$

$$\sum_{w_{\mathcal{I}}\in\mathcal{A}} p_{W_{\mathcal{I}}}(w_{\mathcal{I}}) \left(\sum_{i\in T} \bar{x}_{i,k}(w_i)\right)^2$$
$$= \sum_{w_{T}\in\mathcal{A}_{T}} p_{W_{T}}(w_{T}) \left(\sum_{i\in T} \bar{x}_{i,k}(w_i)\right)^2 \sum_{w_{T^c}\in\mathcal{W}_{T^c}} p_{W_{T^c}|W_{T}}(w_{T^c}|w_{T})$$
(151)

$$=\sum_{w_T\in\mathcal{A}_T} p_{W_T}(w_T) \left(\sum_{i\in T} \bar{x}_{i,k}(w_i)\right)^2$$
(152)

$$\leq \sum_{w_T \in \mathcal{W}_T} p_{W_T}(w_T) \left(\sum_{i \in T} \bar{x}_{i,k}(w_i) \right)^2.$$
(153)

Since X_i^n is a function of W_i for each $i \in T$, it follows from (148) that for each $k \in \{1, 2, ..., n\}$

$$\sum_{w_T \in \mathcal{W}_T} p_{W_T}(w_T) \left(\sum_{i \in T} \bar{x}_{i,k}(w_i) \right)^2 = \sum_{x_{T,k} \in \mathcal{X}_T} p_{X_{T,k}}(x_{T,k}) \left(\sum_{i \in T} \left(x_{i,k} - \mathcal{E}_{u_{\bar{x}_{i,k}}}[\hat{X}_{i,k}] \right) \right)^2,$$
(154)

which implies from (153) that

$$\sum_{w_{\mathcal{I}}\in\mathcal{A}} p_{W_{\mathcal{I}}}(w_{\mathcal{I}}) \left(\sum_{i\in T} \bar{x}_{i,k}(w_i)\right)^2 \le \sum_{x_{T,k}\in\mathcal{X}_T} p_{X_{T,k}}(x_{T,k}) \left(\sum_{i\in T} \left(x_{i,k} - \mathcal{E}_{u_{\hat{x}_{i,k}}}[\hat{X}_{i,k}]\right)\right)^2.$$
(155)

Recalling the definition of \hat{X}_T^n and $\hat{\mathcal{X}}_T^n$ in (102) and (103) respectively, we write for each $k \in \{1, 2, ..., n\}$

$$\begin{split} &\sum_{x_{T,k}\in\mathcal{X}_{T}} p_{X_{T,k}}(x_{T,k}) \left(\sum_{i\in T} \left(x_{i,k} - \mathcal{E}_{u_{\tilde{X}_{i,k}}}[\hat{X}_{i,k}] \right) \right)^{2} \\ &= \sum_{x_{T,k}\in\mathcal{X}_{T}, \hat{x}_{T,k}\in\hat{X}_{T}} p_{X_{T,k}, \tilde{X}_{T,k}}(x_{T,k}, \hat{x}_{T,k}) \left(\sum_{i\in T} \left(x_{i,k} - \hat{x}_{i,k} + \hat{x}_{i,k} - \mathcal{E}_{u_{\tilde{X}_{i,k}}}[\hat{X}_{i,k}] \right) \right)^{2} \\ &= \sum_{x_{T,k}\in\mathcal{X}_{T}, \hat{x}_{T,k}\in\hat{X}_{T}} p_{X_{T,k}, \tilde{X}_{T,k}}(x_{T,k}, \hat{x}_{T,k}) \left(\sum_{i\in T} (x_{i,k} - \hat{x}_{i,k}) \right)^{2} \\ &+ 2 \sum_{x_{T,k}\in\mathcal{X}_{T}, \hat{x}_{T,k}\in\hat{X}_{T}} p_{X_{T,k}, \tilde{X}_{T,k}}(x_{T,k}, \hat{x}_{T,k}) \left(\sum_{i\in T} (x_{i,k} - \hat{x}_{i,k}) \right) \left(\sum_{i\in T} (\hat{x}_{i,k} - \mathcal{E}_{u_{\tilde{X}_{i,k}}}[\hat{X}_{i,k}]) \right) \\ &+ \sum_{\hat{x}_{T,k}\in\hat{\mathcal{X}}_{T}} p_{\hat{X}_{T,k}}(\hat{x}_{T,k}) \left(\sum_{i\in T} (\hat{x}_{i,k} - \mathcal{E}_{u_{\tilde{X}_{i,k}}}[\hat{X}_{i,k}]) \right)^{2} \\ &\leq \sum_{x_{T,k}\in\mathcal{X}_{T}, \hat{x}_{T,k}\in\hat{\mathcal{X}}_{T}} p_{X_{T,k}, \hat{X}_{T,k}}(x_{T,k}, \hat{x}_{T,k}) \left| \sum_{i\in T} (x_{i,k} - \hat{x}_{i,k}) \right|^{2} \\ &+ 2 \sum_{x_{T,k}\in\mathcal{X}_{T}, \hat{x}_{T,k}\in\hat{\mathcal{X}}_{T}} p_{X_{T,k}, \hat{X}_{T,k}}(x_{T,k}, \hat{x}_{T,k}) \left| \sum_{i\in T} (x_{i,k} - \hat{x}_{i,k}) \right|^{2} \\ &+ 2 \sum_{x_{T,k}\in\mathcal{X}_{T}, \hat{x}_{T,k}\in\hat{\mathcal{X}}_{T}} p_{X_{T,k}, \hat{X}_{T,k}}(x_{T,k}, \hat{x}_{T,k}) \left| \sum_{i\in T} (x_{i,k} - \hat{x}_{i,k}) \right| \left| \sum_{i\in T} (\hat{x}_{i,k} - \mathcal{E}_{u_{\tilde{X}_{i,k}}}[\hat{X}_{i,k}]) \right| \\ &+ \sum_{\hat{x}_{T,k}\in\hat{\mathcal{X}}_{T}} p_{\hat{X}_{T,k}}(\hat{x}_{T,k}) \left(\sum_{i\in T} (\hat{x}_{i,k} - \mathcal{E}_{u_{\tilde{X}_{i,k}}}[\hat{X}_{i,k}]) \right)^{2} \end{split}$$
(158)

$$\leq \sum_{x_{T,k}\in\mathcal{X}_{T},\hat{x}_{T,k}\in\hat{\mathcal{X}}_{T}} p_{X_{T,k},\hat{X}_{T,k}}(x_{T,k},\hat{x}_{T,k}) \left(\sum_{i\in T} |x_{i,k} - \hat{x}_{i,k}|\right)^{2} \\ + 2\sum_{x_{T,k}\in\mathcal{X}_{T},\hat{x}_{T,k}\in\hat{\mathcal{X}}_{T}} p_{X_{T,k},\hat{X}_{T,k}}(x_{T,k},\hat{x}_{T,k}) \left(\sum_{i\in T} |x_{i,k} - \hat{x}_{i,k}|\right) \left(\sum_{i\in T} (|\hat{x}_{i,k}| + \mathbb{E}_{u_{\hat{X}_{i,k}}}[|\hat{X}_{i,k}|])\right) \\ + \sum_{\hat{x}_{T,k}\in\hat{\mathcal{X}}_{T}} p_{\hat{X}_{T,k}}(\hat{x}_{T,k}) \left(\sum_{i\in T} (\hat{x}_{i,k} - \mathbb{E}_{u_{\hat{X}_{i,k}}}[\hat{X}_{i,k}])\right)^{2}$$
(159)

$$\stackrel{\text{(a)}}{\leq} \frac{|T|^2}{n^2} + \frac{4|T|}{\sqrt{n}} \left(\sum_{i \in T} \sqrt{P_i} \right) + \sum_{\hat{x}_{T,k} \in \hat{\mathcal{X}}_T} p_{\hat{X}_{T,k}}(\hat{x}_{T,k}) \left(\sum_{i \in T} (\hat{x}_{i,k} - \mathcal{E}_{u_{\hat{X}_{i,k}}}[\hat{X}_{i,k}]) \right)^2$$
(160)

where (a) follows from the facts below for each $i \in T$, each $k \in \{1, 2, ..., n\}$ and each $x_{i,k} \in \mathcal{X}_i$ (recall the definition of $\hat{x}_{i,k}$ in (102)):

$$|x_{i,k} - \hat{x}_{i,k}| \stackrel{(37)}{\leq} \frac{1}{n}$$
 (161)

and

$$|\hat{x}_{i,k}| \stackrel{(43)}{\leq} |x_{i,k}| \stackrel{(12)}{\leq} \sqrt{nP_i}.$$
 (162)

G. Approximating the Quantized Input Distribution by a Product Distribution

In order to bound the last term in (160), we use the bound in (105) for bounding $p_{\hat{X}_{T,k}}(\hat{x}_{T,k})$ in terms of $u_{\hat{X}_{T,k}}(\hat{x}_{T,k})$ to obtain

$$\sum_{\hat{x}_{T,k}\in\hat{\mathcal{X}}_{T}} p_{\hat{X}_{T,k}}(\hat{x}_{T,k}) \left(\sum_{i\in T} (\hat{x}_{i,k} - \mathbf{E}_{u_{\hat{X}_{i,k}}}[\hat{X}_{i,k}]) \right)^{2} \\
\leq \sum_{\hat{x}_{T,k}\in\hat{\mathcal{X}}_{T}} \left(\left(1 + \sqrt{\frac{\log n}{n}} \right) \prod_{i\in T} u_{\hat{X}_{i,k}}(\hat{x}_{i,k}) + \frac{1}{n^{4|T|}} \right) \left(\sum_{i\in T} (\hat{x}_{i,k} - \mathbf{E}_{u_{\hat{X}_{i,k}}}[\hat{X}_{i,k}]) \right)^{2} \\
= \sum_{\hat{x}_{T,k}\in\hat{\mathcal{X}}_{T}} \left[\left(1 + \sqrt{\frac{\log n}{n}} \right) \prod_{i\in T} u_{\hat{X}_{i,k}}(\hat{x}_{i,k}) \left(\sum_{i\in T} (\hat{x}_{i,k} - \mathbf{E}_{u_{\hat{X}_{i,k}}}[\hat{X}_{i,k}]) \right)^{2} \\
+ \frac{1}{n^{4|T|}} \left(\sum_{i\in T} (\hat{x}_{i,k} - \mathbf{E}_{u_{\hat{X}_{i,k}}}[\hat{X}_{i,k}]) \right)^{2} \right]$$
(163)

for each $k \in \{1, 2, ..., n\}$. The bound in (164) consists of two distinct terms which we now bound separately. Consider the following two chains of inequalities for each $k \in \{1, 2, ..., n\}$:

$$\sum_{\hat{x}_{T,k}\in\hat{\mathcal{X}}_{T}} \left(\prod_{i\in T} u_{\hat{X}_{i,k}}(\hat{x}_{i,k}) \right) \left(\sum_{i\in T} (\hat{x}_{i,k} - \mathbf{E}_{u_{\hat{X}_{i,k}}}[\hat{X}_{i,k}]) \right)^{2}$$

$$= \sum_{i\in T} \mathbf{E}_{u_{\hat{X}_{i,k}}} \left[(\hat{X}_{i,k} - \mathbf{E}_{u_{\hat{X}_{i,k}}}[\hat{X}_{i,k}])^{2} \right]$$

$$\leq \sum_{i\in T} \mathbf{E}_{u_{\hat{X}_{i,k}}} \left[\hat{X}_{i,k}^{2} \right]$$
(165)
(166)

and

$$\sum_{\hat{x}_{T,k}\in\hat{\mathcal{X}}_{T}} \left(\sum_{i\in T} (\hat{x}_{i,k} - \mathbf{E}_{u_{\hat{X}_{i,k}}} [\hat{X}_{i,k}]) \right)^{2} \\ \leq \sum_{\hat{x}_{T,k}\in\hat{\mathcal{X}}_{T}} \left(|T| \max_{i\in T} \left\{ |\hat{x}_{i,k} - \mathbf{E}_{u_{\hat{X}_{i,k}}} [\hat{X}_{i,k}]| \right\} \right)^{2}$$
(167)

$$= |T|^{2} \sum_{\hat{x}_{T,k} \in \hat{\mathcal{X}}_{T}} \max_{i \in T} \left\{ (\hat{x}_{i,k} - \mathcal{E}_{u_{\hat{X}_{i,k}}}[\hat{X}_{i,k}])^{2} \right\}$$
(168)

$$\leq |T|^2 \sum_{\hat{x}_{T,k} \in \hat{\mathcal{X}}_T} \sum_{i \in T} (\hat{x}_{i,k} - \mathcal{E}_{u_{\hat{X}_{i,k}}} [\hat{X}_{i,k}])^2$$
(169)

$$\stackrel{\text{(a)}}{\leq} 2|T|^2 \sum_{\hat{x}_{T,k} \in \hat{\mathcal{X}}_T} \sum_{i \in T} \left(\hat{x}_{i,k}^2 + (\mathbf{E}_{u_{\hat{X}_{i,k}}} [\hat{X}_{i,k}])^2 \right)$$
(170)

$$\stackrel{(162)}{\leq} 2|T|^2 \sum_{\hat{x}_{T,k} \in \hat{\mathcal{X}}_T} \sum_{i \in T} 2nP_i \tag{171}$$

^(b)
$$\leq 4n|T|^2|P_T||\hat{\mathcal{X}}_T|$$
 (172)

$$\stackrel{104)}{<} 4n^{3|T|} |T|^2 |P_T| \prod_{i \in T} (2\sqrt{P_i} + 3), \tag{173}$$

where

(a) follows from the fact that $(a - b)^2 \le 2a^2 + 2b^2$ for all real numbers a and b. (b) follows from the definition of $|P_T|$ in (147).

Combining (164), (166) and (173), we obtain for each $k \in \{1, 2, \dots, n\}$

$$\sum_{\hat{x}_{T,k}\in\hat{\mathcal{X}}_{T}} p_{\hat{X}_{T,k}}(\hat{x}_{T,k}) \left(\sum_{i\in T} (\hat{x}_{i,k} - \mathcal{E}_{u_{\hat{X}_{i,k}}}[\hat{X}_{i,k}]) \right)^{2} \\ \leq \left(1 + \sqrt{\frac{\log n}{n}} \right) \sum_{i\in T} \mathcal{E}_{u_{\hat{X}_{i}}} \left[\hat{X}_{i,k}^{2} \right] + 4n^{-|T|} |T|^{2} |P_{T}| \prod_{i\in T} (2\sqrt{P_{i}} + 3),$$
(174)

which implies from (155) and (160) that

$$\sum_{w_{\mathcal{I}}\in\mathcal{A}} p_{W_{\mathcal{I}}}(w_{\mathcal{I}}) \left(\sum_{i\in T} \bar{x}_{i,k}(w_{i})\right)^{2} \leq \frac{|T|^{2}}{n^{2}} + \frac{4|T|}{\sqrt{n}} \left(\sum_{i\in T} \sqrt{P_{i}}\right) + \left(1 + \sqrt{\frac{\log n}{n}}\right) \sum_{i\in T} \mathbf{E}_{u_{\hat{x}_{i}}} \left[\hat{X}_{i,k}^{2}\right] + 4n^{-|T|}|T|^{2}|P_{T}| \prod_{i\in T} (2\sqrt{P_{i}} + 3).$$
(175)

Using (175) and (53) and recalling that $|T| \ge 1$ (because T is non-empty), we obtain

$$\sum_{k=1}^{n} \sum_{w_{\mathcal{I}} \in \mathcal{A}} p_{W_{\mathcal{I}}}(w_{\mathcal{I}}) \left(\sum_{i \in T} \bar{x}_{i,k}(w_i) \right)^2 \le n |P_T| + \sqrt{n \log n} |P_T| + 4\sqrt{n} |T| \left(\sum_{i \in T} \sqrt{P_i} \right) + 4|T|^2 |P_T| \prod_{i \in T} (2\sqrt{P_i} + 3) + \frac{|T|^2}{n}.$$
(176)

To simplify notation, let

$$\kappa_1 \triangleq 4|T| \left(\sum_{i \in T} \sqrt{P_i}\right) \quad \text{and} \quad \kappa_2 \triangleq 4|T|^2 |P_T| \prod_{i \in T} (2\sqrt{P_i} + 3)$$
(177)

be two constants that are independent of n. Then, we combine (150) and (176) to yield

$$\log |\mathcal{A}| \leq \frac{n}{2} \log (1+|P_T|) + \frac{\left(\sqrt{n\log n}|P_T| + \sqrt{n\kappa_1 + \kappa_2 + n^{-1}}|T|^2\right)\log e}{2(1+|P_T|)} + \frac{\sqrt{n|P_T|(|P_T|+2) + 2\sqrt{n\log n}}|P_T| + 2\sqrt{n\kappa_1 + 2\kappa_2 + 2n^{-1}}|T|^2\log e}{(1+|P_T|)\sqrt{1-\bar{\gamma}}} + \log\left(\frac{2}{1-\bar{\gamma}}\right).$$
(178)

Combining (101) and (178), we obtain

$$\left(\frac{-4|T|(1+3\bar{\gamma})}{1-\bar{\gamma}}\right)\sqrt{n\log n} + \log\left(\frac{1-\bar{\gamma}}{2(1+\bar{\gamma})}\right) + \sum_{i\in T}\log M_i^{(n)} \\
\leq \frac{n}{2}\log\left(1+|P_T|\right) + \frac{\left(\sqrt{n\log n}|P_T| + \sqrt{n\kappa_1 + \kappa_2 + n^{-1}}|T|^2\right)\log e}{2(1+|P_T|)} \\
+ \frac{\sqrt{n|P_T|(|P_T|+2) + 2\sqrt{n\log n}|P_T| + 2\sqrt{n\kappa_1 + 2\kappa_2 + 2n^{-1}}|T|^2}\log e}{(1+|P_T|)\sqrt{1-\bar{\gamma}}} + \log\left(\frac{2}{1-\bar{\gamma}}\right).$$
(179)

Dividing both sides of (179) by n and taking limit inferior as n goes to infinity, we obtain from (96) that (97) holds as desired. This completes the proof of Theorem 1.

H. Discussion on the Choices of the Quantizer's Precision and the Parameters Used in the Wringing Technique in (69)

Our choice of δ in (69) has been optimized in the following sense. If δ is chosen such that $\delta = o\left(\sqrt{\frac{\log n}{n}}\right)$, then the second-order term on the RHS of (179) would be $\omega\left(\sqrt{n\log n}\right)$ (cf. (105) and (163)), which then leads to an upper bound on $\sum_{i \in T} \log M_i^{(n)}$ with a looser (larger) second-order term $\omega(\sqrt{n\log n})$; if δ is chosen such that $\delta = \omega\left(\sqrt{\frac{\log n}{n}}\right)$, then the magnitude of the first term on the LHS of (179) would be $\omega\left(\sqrt{n\log n}\right)$ (cf. (101)), which then leads to an upper bound on $\sum_{i \in T} \log M_i^{(n)}$ with a looser second-order term $\omega(\sqrt{n\log n})$ (cf. (101)), which then leads to an upper bound on $\sum_{i \in T} \log M_i^{(n)}$ with a looser second-order term $\omega(\sqrt{n\log n})$. Hence our choice of $\delta = \sqrt{\frac{\log n}{n}}$ "balances" the rates of growth of the two second-order terms in (179). In this sense, our choice of δ is optimal.

We now discuss the choice of the quantizer's precision $\Delta_n = 1/n$ as shown in (103). Based on this choice of Δ_n , we note that any choice of λ in (69) satisfying $\lambda n^{3|T|+1} = o(\sqrt{n \log n})$ does not affect the second-order term of the resultant upper bound on $\sum_{i \in T} \log M_i^{(n)}$ implied by (179). In particular, the current choice $\lambda = \frac{1}{n^{4|T|}}$ stated in (69) leads to the rightmost term in (105), which contributes to the fourth constant term in (176) as well as the constant term on the RHS of (179).

If the quantizer's precision is chosen to be some other Δ'_n , then it can be seen by inspecting (161), the upper bound obtained at step (a) in the chain of inequalities leading to (160), (176) and (178) that the second-order term of resultant upper bound on $\sum_{i \in T} \log M_i^{(n)}$ is $\Omega\left(\max\{\sqrt{n \log n}, \Delta'_n n^{3/2}\}\right)$. In particular, if Δ'_n is chosen such that $\Omega(\frac{1}{n^a}) \leq \Delta'_n \leq O\left(\frac{\sqrt{\log n}}{n}\right)$ for any fixed $a \geq 1$, we can follow similar calculations (with a slight modification of λ) to conclude that the second-order term of the upper bound on $\sum_{i \in T} \log M_i^{(n)}$ is proportional to $\sqrt{n \log n}$. As explained in the second remark after Lemma 3, as long as Δ'_n decays to zero no faster than polynomially in n, then $|\hat{X}_T|$ grows at most polynomially fast in n, which will ensure that the asymptotic rates of the resultant sequence of subcodes obtained from the wringing step are the same as that of the original sequence of codes. However, if Δ'_n decays to zero exponentially fast (i.e., $\Delta'_n = O(2^{-nb})$ for some b > 0), then $|\hat{X}_T|$ will grow exponentially fast in n and the RHS of (70) will decay exponentially rather than polynomially fast. This in turn causes the asymptotic rates of the resultant sequence of subcodes to decrease by a positive quantity, thus resulting in a loose first-order term on the RHS of the final inequality (179) (which does not match the corresponding term in the Cover-Wyner capacity region). Therefore, with this choice of Δ'_n , the strong converse cannot be shown.

VI. INTERFERENCE CHANNEL UNDER STRONG INTERFERENCE REGIME

The capacity region of a two-source two-destination Gaussian interference channel (IC) under strong interference was derived by Han and Kobayashi [24] and Sato [25]. Let P_1, P_2 be the received signal-to-noise ratios and let I_1, I_2 be the received interference-to-noise ratios [1, Sec. 6.4]. Under the formulation of the Gaussian IC under strong interference, it is assumed that $I_2 \ge P_1$ and $I_1 \ge P_2$. Under this condition, the capacity region was shown in [24, Th. 5.2] to be the Han-Kobayashi region

$$\mathcal{R}_{\text{HK-S}} \triangleq \left\{ (R_1, R_2) \in \mathbb{R}^2_+ \middle| \begin{array}{l} R_1 \leq \frac{1}{2}\log(1+P_1), \\ R_2 \leq \frac{1}{2}\log(1+P_2), \\ R_1 + R_2 \leq \min\{\frac{1}{2}\log(1+P_1+I_1), \frac{1}{2}\log(1+P_2+I_2)\} \end{array} \right\}.$$
(180)

By applying Theorem 1 to each of the decoders of the two-source two-destination Gaussian IC, we can show that the corresponding $(\varepsilon_1, \varepsilon_2)$ -capacity region $C_{\varepsilon_1, \varepsilon_2}$ is outer bounded as

$$\mathcal{C}_{\varepsilon_1,\varepsilon_2} \subseteq \mathcal{R}_{\text{HK-S}} \tag{181}$$

as long as $\varepsilon_1 + \varepsilon_2 < 1$, where ε_i characterizes the asymptotic average probability of destination *i* decoding message *i* wrongly. Since the rate pairs in \mathcal{R}_{HK-S} are (0,0)-achievable via simultaneous non-unique decoding [1, Sec. 6.4], we have

$$\mathcal{C}_{\varepsilon_1,\varepsilon_2} = \mathcal{R}_{\text{HK-S}} \tag{182}$$

as long as $\varepsilon_1 + \varepsilon_2 < 1$. The strong converse (in fact, the complete second-order asymptotics) for the Gaussian IC under the more restrictive condition of strictly very strong interference was shown by Le, Tan, and Motani [26]. In the rest of this section, we will describe the formulation of the Gaussian IC under strong interference and present in Section VI-B the corresponding strong converse result.

A. Problem Formulation and Main Result

We follow the standard setting of the Gaussian IC under strong interference as given in [24, Sec. V]. The Gaussian IC under strong interference consists of two sources, denoted by s_1 and s_2 respectively, and two destinations, denoted by d_1 and d_2 respectively. For each $i \in \{1, 2\}$, s_i chooses a message W_i and transmits X_i^n in n time slots, and d_i receives Y_i^n in n time slots and declares \hat{W}_i to be the transmitted W_i . The channel law in each time slot k is

$$\begin{bmatrix} Y_{1,k} \\ Y_{2,k} \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & g_{12} \\ g_{21} & 1 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} X_{1,k} \\ X_{2,k} \end{bmatrix} + \begin{bmatrix} Z_{1,k} \\ Z_{2,k} \end{bmatrix},$$
(183)

where g_{21} and g_{12} are two real constants characterizing the channel gains of the interference links, and $\{(Z_{1,k}, Z_{2,k})\}_{k=1}^n$ are *n* independent copies of a Gaussian random vector denoted by (Z_1, Z_2) (Z_1 and Z_2 need not be independent) such that

$$E[Z_1] = E[Z_2] = 0$$
 (184)

and

$$E[Z_1^2] = E[Z_2^2] = 1.$$
 (185)

For each $i \in \{1, 2\}$, the codewords transmitted by s_i should satisfy the peak power constraint

$$\Pr\left\{\|X_{i}^{n}\|^{2} \le nP_{i}\right\} = 1$$
(186)

for some $P_i > 0$. We assume that the IC is under strong interference, i.e., $g_{12}^2 \ge 1$ and $g_{21}^2 \ge 1$, which implies that

$$I_1 \triangleq g_{12}^2 P_2 \ge P_2 \tag{187}$$

and

$$I_2 \triangleq g_{21}^2 P_1 \ge P_1,\tag{188}$$

where I_1 and I_2 characterize the interference power received at d_1 and d_2 respectively (cf. (183)). The Gaussian IC is characterized by some conditional probability density function $q_{Y_1,Y_2|X_1,X_2}$ and we define the Gaussian IC in

a similar way to a Gaussian MAC (cf. Definition 2) such that (183), (184) and (185) hold. In addition, we define a length-n code for the Gaussian IC as follows.

Definition 8: An $(n, M_1^{(n)}, M_2^{(n)}, P_1, P_2)$ -code for the Gaussian IC consists of the following:

- 1) A message set $\mathcal{W}_i \triangleq \{1, 2, \dots, M_i^{(n)}\}$ at node *i* for each $i \in \{1, 2\}$, where W_i is uniform on \mathcal{W}_i .
- 2) An encoding function $f_i : \mathcal{W}_i \to \mathbb{R}^n$ for each $i \in \{1, 2\}$, where f_i is the encoding function at node i such that $X_i^n = f_i(W_i)$ and $||f_i(w_i)||^2 \le nP_i$ for all $w_i \in \mathcal{W}_i$.
- A (possibly stochastic) decoding function φ_i : ℝⁿ → W_i for each i ∈ {1,2}, where φ_i is used by node d_i to estimate W_i, i.e., Ŵ_i = φ_i(Yⁿ_i).

We define an $(n, M_1^{(n)}, M_2^{(n)}, P_1, P_2, \varepsilon_1, \varepsilon_2)_{\text{avg}}$ -code as follows.

Definition 9: For an $(n, M_1^{(n)}, M_2^{(n)}, P_1, P_2)$ -code defined on the Gaussian IC, the average probability of decoding error for W_i is defined for each $i \in \{1, 2\}$ as

$$\Pr\{\hat{W}_i \neq W_i\}.\tag{189}$$

An $(n, M_1^{(n)}, M_2^{(n)}, P_1, P_2)$ -code with $\Pr\{\hat{W}_1 \neq W_1\} \leq \varepsilon_1$ and $\Pr\{\hat{W}_2 \neq W_2\} \leq \varepsilon_2$ is called an $(n, M_1^{(n)}, M_2^{(n)}, P_1, P_2, \varepsilon_1, \varepsilon_2)_{avg}$ -code.

For each $\varepsilon_1 \in [0, 1)$ and each $\varepsilon_2 \in [0, 1)$, we define an $(\varepsilon_1, \varepsilon_2)$ -achievable rate pair as in Definition 4, and we define the $(\varepsilon_1, \varepsilon_2)$ -capacity region, denoted by $\mathcal{C}_{\varepsilon_1, \varepsilon_2}$, to be the set of $(\varepsilon_1, \varepsilon_2)$ -achievable rate pairs. The following theorem is the main result in this section.

Theorem 2: For each $\varepsilon_1 \in [0,1)$ and each $\varepsilon_2 \in [0,1)$ such that $\varepsilon_1 + \varepsilon_2 < 1$,

$$\mathcal{C}_{\varepsilon_1,\varepsilon_2} = \mathcal{R}_{\text{HK-S}}.$$
(190)

B. Proof of Theorem 2

We need the following definitions and lemma before presenting the proof of Theorem 2. The definition below concerning a multicast code differs from Definition 8 in the decoding functions only, but we state the whole definition for clarity. Essentially, a multicast code for the Gaussian IC is the same as a standard code except that each decoder must output estimates of *both* messages.

Definition 10: An $(n, M_1^{(n)}, M_2^{(n)}, P_1, P_2)$ -multicast code for the Gaussian IC consists of the following:

- 1) A message set $\mathcal{W}_i \triangleq \{1, 2, \dots, M_i^{(n)}\}$ at node *i* for each $i \in \{1, 2\}$, where W_i is uniform on \mathcal{W}_i .
- 2) An encoding function $f_i : \mathcal{W}_i \to \mathbb{R}^n$ for each $i \in \{1, 2\}$, where f_i is the encoding function at node i such that $X_i^n = f_i(W_i)$ and $||f_i(w_i)||^2 \le nP_i$ for all $w_i \in \mathcal{W}_i$.
- 3) A (possibly stochastic) decoding function $\varphi_i : \mathbb{R}^n \to \mathcal{W}_1 \times \mathcal{W}_2$ for each $i \in \{1, 2\}$, where φ_i is used by node d_i to estimate both W_1 and W_2 such that the pair of message estimates is $(\hat{W}_{1,d_i}, \hat{W}_{2,d_i}) \triangleq \varphi_i(Y_i^n)$.

We define an $(n, M_1^{(n)}, M_2^{(n)}, P_1, P_2, \varepsilon_1, \varepsilon_2)_{avg}$ -multicast code as follows. Note that the multicast code is used for the Gaussian IC but not a general multicast channel.

Definition 11: For an $(n, M_1^{(n)}, M_2^{(n)}, P_1, P_2)$ -multicast code defined on the Gaussian IC, the average probability of decoding error at destination d_i is defined for each $i \in \{1, 2\}$ as

$$\Pr\left\{\left\{\hat{W}_{1,\mathbf{d}_i}\neq W_1\right\}\cup\left\{\hat{W}_{2,\mathbf{d}_i}\neq W_2\right\}\right\}.$$
(191)

An $(n, M_1^{(n)}, M_2^{(n)}, P_1, P_2)$ -multicast code with average probability of decoding error at destination d_i no larger than ε_i for each $i \in \{1, 2\}$ is called an $(n, M_1^{(n)}, M_2^{(n)}, P_1, P_2, \varepsilon_1, \varepsilon_2)_{avg}$ -code.

The following lemma plays a crucial role in extending our strong converse result for the Gaussian MAC to the Gaussian IC under strong interference, because it relates the error probabilities for standard codes defined for the Gaussian IC in Definition 9 to the error probabilities for multicast-codes defined for the Gaussian IC in Definition 11.

Lemma 6: For each $(n, M_1^{(n)}, M_2^{(n)}, P_1, P_2, \varepsilon_1, \varepsilon_2)_{avg}$ -code for the Gaussian IC, there exists an $(n, M_1^{(n)}, M_2^{(n)}, P_1, P_2, \varepsilon_1 + \varepsilon_2, \varepsilon_1 + \varepsilon_2)_{avg}$ -multicast code for the Gaussian IC.

Proof: Suppose we are given an $(n, M_1^{(n)}, M_2^{(n)}, P_1, P_2, \varepsilon_1, \varepsilon_2)_{avg}$ -code whose encoding and stochastic decoding functions are denoted by (f_1, f_2) and (φ_1, φ_2) respectively (cf. Definition 8). Let $p_{W_1, W_2, X_1^n, X_2^n, Y_1^n, Y_2^n, Z_1^n, Z_2^n}$ be the probability distribution induced by the $(n, M_1^{(n)}, M_2^{(n)}, P_1, P_2, \varepsilon_1, \varepsilon_2)_{avg}$ -code. By Definition 9, we have for each $i \in \{1, 2\}$

$$\Pr_{p_{W_i,Y_i^n}} \left\{ \varphi_i(Y_i^n) \neq W_i \right\} \le \varepsilon_i \,, \tag{192}$$

which implies from (183) that

$$\Pr_{p_{W_1,W_2,Z_1^n}} \left\{ \varphi_1(f_1(W_1) + g_{12}f_2(W_2) + Z_1^n) \neq W_1 \right\} \le \varepsilon_1$$
(193)

and

$$\Pr_{p_{W_1,W_2,Z_2^n}} \left\{ \varphi_2(g_{21}f_1(W_1) + f_2(W_2) + Z_2^n) \neq W_2 \right\} \le \varepsilon_2 \,. \tag{194}$$

In the rest of the proof, we construct new stochastic decoding functions at d_1 and d_2 , denoted by φ'_1 and φ'_2 respectively, such that (φ_1, φ'_1) and (φ_2, φ'_2) can be viewed as the stochastic decoding functions of an $(n, M_1^{(n)}, M_2^{(n)}, P_1, P_2, \varepsilon_1 + \varepsilon_2, \varepsilon_1 + \varepsilon_2)_{avg}$ -multicast code. To this end, we first define \tilde{Z}_1^n and \tilde{Z}_2 to be n independent copies of the standard normal random variable such that \tilde{Z}_1^n , \tilde{Z}_2^n and $(X_1^n, X_2^n, Y_1^n, Y_2^n, Z_1^n, Z_2^n)$ are independent. In addition, there exist $w_1^* \in \mathcal{W}_1$ and $w_2^* \in \mathcal{W}_2$ such that

$$\Pr_{p_{W_1,W_2,Y_2^n}} \left\{ \varphi_2(Y_2^n) \neq W_2 | W_1 = w_1^* \right\} = \arg\min_{w_1 \in \mathcal{W}_1} \Pr_{p_{W_1,W_2,Y_2^n}} \left\{ \varphi_2(Y_2^n) \neq W_2 | W_1 = w_1 \right\}$$
(195)

and

$$\Pr_{p_{W_1,W_2,Y_1^n}}\left\{\varphi_1(Y_1^n) \neq W_1 | W_2 = w_2^*\right\} = \arg\min_{w_2 \in \mathcal{W}_2} \Pr_{p_{W_1,W_2,Y_1^n}}\left\{\varphi_1(Y_1^n) \neq W_1 | W_2 = w_2\right\},$$
(196)

which implies from (193) and (194) that

$$\Pr_{p_{W_2, Z_2^n}} \left\{ \varphi_2(g_{21} f_1(w_1^*) + f_2(W_2) + Z_2^n) \neq W_2 \right\} \le \varepsilon_2$$
(197)

and

$$\Pr_{p_{W_1,Z_1^n}} \left\{ \varphi_1(f_1(W_1) + g_{12}f_2(w_2^*) + Z_1^n) \neq W_1 \right\} \le \varepsilon_1 \,. \tag{198}$$

Then, we define the stochastic decoders

$$\varphi_1'(Y_1^n) \triangleq \varphi_2\left(g_{21}f_1(w_1^*) + \frac{Y_1^n - f_1(\varphi_1(Y_1^n))}{g_{12}} + \sqrt{1 - \frac{1}{g_{12}^2}}\tilde{Z}_2^n\right)$$
(199)

and

$$\varphi_2'(Y_2^n) \triangleq \varphi_1\left(\frac{Y_2^n - f_2(\varphi_2(Y_2^n))}{g_{21}} + g_{12}f_2(w_2^*) + \sqrt{1 - \frac{1}{g_{21}^2}}\tilde{Z}_1^n\right),\tag{200}$$

where the randomness properties of the stochastic functions originate from not only φ_1 and φ_2 but also \tilde{Z}_1^n and \tilde{Z}_2^n . Since

$$g_{21}f_1(w_1^*) + f_2(W_2) + Z_2^n \tag{201}$$

and

$$g_{21}f_1(w_1^*) + \frac{Y_1^n - f_1(W_1)}{g_{12}} + \sqrt{1 - \frac{1}{g_{12}^2}\tilde{Z}_2^n}$$
(202)

have the same distribution by (183), it follows from (197) and (199) that

$$\Pr_{p_{W_1,W_2,Z_1^n,\tilde{Z}_2^n}} \left\{ \left\{ \varphi_1'(Y_1^n) \neq W_2 \right\} \cap \left\{ \varphi_1(Y_1^n) = W_1 \right\} \right\}$$

$$\leq \Pr_{p_{W_1,W_2,Z_1^n,\tilde{Z}_2^n}} \left\{ \varphi_2 \left(g_{21}f_1(w_1^*) + \frac{Y_1^n - f_1(W_1)}{g_{12}} + \sqrt{1 - \frac{1}{g_{12}^2}} \tilde{Z}_2^n \right) \neq W_2 \right\}$$

$$\leq \varepsilon_2 .$$
(203)
(204)

$$\Pr_{p_{W_1,W_2,Z_1^n,\tilde{Z}_2^n}} \left\{ \varphi_1(Y_1^n) \neq W_1 \text{ or } \varphi_1'(Y_1^n) \neq W_2 \right\} \\
= \Pr_{p_{W_1,W_2,Z_1^n}} \left\{ \varphi_1(Y_1^n) \neq W_1 \right\} + \Pr_{p_{W_1,W_2,Z_1^n,\tilde{Z}_2^n}} \left\{ \left\{ \varphi_1'(Y_1^n) \neq W_2 \right\} \cap \left\{ \varphi_1(Y_1^n) = W_1 \right\} \right\} \\
\leq \varepsilon_1 + \varepsilon_2.$$
(206)

Following similar procedures for deriving (206), we obtain the following inequality by using (183), (198) and (200):

$$\Pr_{p_{W_1, W_2, Z_1^n, \tilde{Z}_1^n}} \left\{ \varphi_2(Y_2^n) \neq W_2 \text{ or } \varphi_2'(Y_2^n) \neq W_1 \right\} \le \varepsilon_1 + \varepsilon_2.$$
(207)

Replacing the decoding functions of the $(n, M_1^{(n)}, M_2^{(n)}, P_1, P_2, \varepsilon_1, \varepsilon_2)_{avg}$ -code with (φ_1, φ'_1) and (φ_2, φ'_2) and keeping the encoding functions unchanged, we conclude from (206) and (207) that the resultant code is an $(n, M_1^{(n)}, M_2^{(n)}, P_1, P_2, \varepsilon_1 + \varepsilon_2, \varepsilon_1 + \varepsilon_2)_{avg}$ -multicast code.

We are now ready to prove the strong converse theorem for the Gaussian IC under strong interference.

Proof of Theorem 2: Fix $\varepsilon_1 > 0$ and $\varepsilon_2 > 0$ such that

$$\varepsilon_1 + \varepsilon_2 < 1.$$
 (208)

As discussed at the beginning of Section VI, it follows from Theorem 5.2 in [24] that $C_{0,0} = \mathcal{R}_{HK-S}$ where the quantities I_1 and I_2 in \mathcal{R}_{HK-S} are defined in (187) and (188) respectively. Since $C_{0,0} \subseteq C_{\varepsilon_1,\varepsilon_2}$ for all non-negative real numbers ε_1 and ε_2 by definition,

$$\mathcal{R}_{\text{HK-S}} \subseteq \mathcal{C}_{\varepsilon_1, \varepsilon_2}. \tag{209}$$

Therefore, it suffices to prove

$$\mathcal{C}_{\varepsilon_1,\varepsilon_2} \subseteq \mathcal{R}_{\text{HK-S}}.$$
(210)

To this end, fix a rate pair $(R_1, R_2) \in C_{\varepsilon_1, \varepsilon_2}$. By definition, there exists a sequence of $(n, M_1^{(n)}, M_2^{(n)}, P_1, P_2, \varepsilon_1^{(n)}, \varepsilon_2^{(n)})_{\text{avg}}$ -codes such that

$$\liminf_{n \to \infty} \frac{1}{n} \log M_i^{(n)} \ge R_i \tag{211}$$

and

$$\limsup_{n \to \infty} \varepsilon_i^{(n)} \le \varepsilon_i \tag{212}$$

for each $i \in \{1, 2\}$. It then following from Lemma 6 and (212) that there exists a sequence of $(n, M_1^{(n)}, M_2^{(n)}, P_1, P_2, \tilde{\varepsilon}_1^{(n)}, \tilde{\varepsilon}_2^{(n)})_{\text{avg}}$ -multicast codes such that

$$\limsup_{n \to \infty} \tilde{\varepsilon}_i^{(n)} \le \varepsilon_1 + \varepsilon_2 \tag{213}$$

for each $i \in \{1, 2\}$.

Construct a subnetwork of the Gaussian IC formed by deleting d_2 as well as the links connecting to it. By inspection, the resultant subnetwork is a two-source Gaussian MAC and the sequence of $(n, M_1^{(n)}, M_2^{(n)}, P_1, P_2, \tilde{\varepsilon}_1^{(n)}, \tilde{\varepsilon}_2^{(n)})_{avg}$ -multicast codes for the Gaussian IC induces a sequence of $(n, M_1^{(n)}, M_2^{(n)}, P_1, P_2, \tilde{\varepsilon}_1^{(n)})_{avg}$ -codes for the two-source Gaussian MAC. It then follows from (211) and (213) that (R_1, R_2) is $(\varepsilon_1 + \varepsilon_2)$ -achievable for the two-source Gaussian MAC, which implies from Theorem 1, (208) and (183) that

$$R_1 \le \frac{1}{2} \log \left(1 + P_1 \right), \tag{214}$$

$$R_2 \le \frac{1}{2} \log \left(1 + g_{12}^2 P_2 \right) \tag{215}$$

and

$$R_1 + R_2 \le \frac{1}{2} \log \left(1 + P_1 + g_{12}^2 P_2 \right).$$
(216)

Similarly, if we repeat the above procedures for the other two-source Gaussian MAC resulting from deleting d_1 from the Gaussian IC, we obtain

$$R_1 \le \frac{1}{2} \log \left(1 + g_{21}^2 P_1 \right), \tag{217}$$

$$R_2 \le \frac{1}{2} \log \left(1 + P_2 \right) \tag{218}$$

and

$$R_1 + R_2 \le \frac{1}{2} \log \left(1 + g_{21}^2 P_1 + P_2 \right).$$
(219)

Combining the bounds in (214), (216), (218), (219), the capacity region in (180), and the strong interference conditions in (187) and (188), we have $(R_1, R_2) \in \mathcal{R}_{HK-S}$. Consequently, the outer bound in (210) holds, and the theorem follows from (210) and the inner bound stated in (209).

APPENDIX

Proof of Lemma 1: Suppose an $(n, M_{\mathcal{I}}^{(n)}, P_{\mathcal{I}}, \varepsilon)_{\text{avg}}$ -code is given for some $\varepsilon \in [0, 1)$, and let

$$e_{w_{\mathcal{I}}} \triangleq \Pr\{\hat{W}_{\mathcal{I}} \neq w_{\mathcal{I}} \mid W_{\mathcal{I}} = w_{\mathcal{I}}\}$$
(220)

be the probability of decoding error given that $w_{\mathcal{I}}$ is the message tuple transmitted by the sources. Then by choosing $w_{\mathcal{I}}$ one by one in an increasing order of $e_{w_{\mathcal{I}}}$, we can construct a set $\mathcal{D} \subseteq \mathcal{W}_{\mathcal{I}}$ such that

$$\Pr\{\hat{W}_{\mathcal{I}} \neq w_{\mathcal{I}} \mid W_{\mathcal{I}} = w_{\mathcal{I}}\} \le \frac{1+\varepsilon}{2}$$
(221)

for all $w_{\mathcal{I}} \in \mathcal{D}$ and

$$|\mathcal{D}| \ge \left\lfloor \left(\frac{1-\varepsilon}{1+\varepsilon}\right) \prod_{i \in \mathcal{I}} M_i^{(n)} \right\rfloor.$$
(222)

This is essentially an expurgation argument. The bound in (221) means that there exists an $(n, M_{\mathcal{I}}^{(n)}, P_{\mathcal{I}}, \mathcal{D}, \mathcal{I}, \frac{1+\varepsilon}{2})_{\text{max}}$ code such that (222) holds. Fix a nonempty $T \subseteq \mathcal{I}$. Define

$$\mathcal{D}_{w_{T^c}} \triangleq \{ \tilde{w}_{\mathcal{I}} \in \mathcal{D} \, | \, \tilde{w}_{T^c} = w_{T^c} \}$$
(223)

for each $w_{T^c} \in \mathcal{W}_{T^c}$ such that

$$\sum_{T^c \in \mathcal{W}_{T^c}} |\mathcal{D}_{w_{T^c}}| = |\mathcal{D}|.$$
(224)

Since $|\mathcal{W}_{T^c}| = \prod_{i \in T^c} M_i^{(n)}$, it follows from (222) and (224) that there exists a $w_{T^c}^* \in \mathcal{W}_{T^c}$ such that

w

$$|\mathcal{D}_{w_{T^c}^*}| \ge \left\lfloor \left(\frac{1-\varepsilon}{1+\varepsilon}\right) \prod_{i\in T} M_i^{(n)} \right\rfloor,\tag{225}$$

or otherwise we would obtain the following chain of inequalities which would eventually contradict (222):

$$|\mathcal{D}| \stackrel{(224)}{=} \sum_{w_{T^c} \in \mathcal{W}_{T^c}} |\mathcal{D}_{w_{T^c}}| \tag{226}$$

$$< |\mathcal{W}_{T^c}| \left\lfloor \left(\frac{1-\varepsilon}{1+\varepsilon}\right) \prod_{i\in T} M_i^{(n)} \right\rfloor$$
 (227)

$$=\prod_{i\in T^{c}} M_{i}^{(n)} \left\lfloor \left(\frac{1-\varepsilon}{1+\varepsilon}\right) \prod_{i\in T} M_{i}^{(n)} \right\rfloor$$
(228)

$$\leq \left\lfloor \left(\frac{1-\varepsilon}{1+\varepsilon}\right) \prod_{i \in \mathcal{I}} M_i^{(n)} \right\rfloor,\tag{229}$$

29

which contradicts (222). Due to (225), we can construct an $(n, M_{\mathcal{I}}^{(n)}, P_{\mathcal{I}}, \mathcal{D}_{w_{T^c}}, T, \frac{1+\varepsilon}{2})_{\text{max}}$ -code based on the $(n, M_{\mathcal{I}}^{(n)}, P_{\mathcal{I}}, \mathcal{D}, \mathcal{I}, \frac{1+\varepsilon}{2})_{\text{max}}$ -code such that they have the same message sets, encoding functions and decoding function and differ in only the support set of the message tuple $W_{\mathcal{I}}$ (cf. Definition 1). In particular, the second statement in Definition 1 is satisfied because of the following reasons:

- 1) By construction, $W_{\mathcal{I}}$ is uniform on $\mathcal{D}_{w_{T^c}^*}$.
- 2) For all $w_{\mathcal{I}} \in \mathcal{D}_{w_{T^c}^*}$, we have $w_{T^c} = w_{T^c}^*$ by (223).

Let $\mathcal{A} \triangleq \mathcal{D}_{w_{T^c}^*}$. It remains to show that (30) and (31) hold for the $\left(n, M_{\mathcal{I}}^{(n)}, P_{\mathcal{I}}, \mathcal{A}, T, \frac{1+\varepsilon}{2}\right)_{\text{max}}$ -code. Recalling the definition of \mathcal{A}_T in (11), we obtain from (223) that

$$|\mathcal{A}| = |\mathcal{A}_T| = |\mathcal{D}_{w_{T^c}^*}|,\tag{230}$$

which implies from (225) that

$$|\mathcal{A}| = |\mathcal{A}_T| \ge \left\lfloor \left(\frac{1-\varepsilon}{1+\varepsilon}\right) \prod_{i \in T} M_i^{(n)} \right\rfloor.$$
(231)

Consequently, (30) follows from (230), (231) and (29). It remains to prove (31). To this end, let $p_{W_{\mathcal{I}},X_{\mathcal{I}}^n,Y^n,\hat{W}_{\mathcal{I}}}$ denote the probability distribution induced on the Gaussian MAC by the $(n, M_{\mathcal{I}}^{(n)}, P_{\mathcal{I}}, \mathcal{A}, T, \frac{1+\varepsilon}{2})_{\text{max}}$ -code, where

$$p_{W_T}(w_T) = \frac{1}{|\mathcal{A}_T|} \tag{232}$$

for all $w_T \in A_T$ by Definition 1. Using (232) and (30), we obtain

$$p_{W_T}(w_T) \le \frac{1}{\prod_{i \in T} M_i^{(n)}} \cdot \left(\frac{2(1+\varepsilon)}{1-\varepsilon}\right)$$
(233)

for each $w_T \in \mathcal{A}_T$.

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