Communications Toolbox Release Notes

The "Communications Toolbox 2.1 Release Notes" on page 1-1 describe the changes introduced in the latest version of the Communications Toolbox. The following topics are discussed in these Release Notes:

The Communications Toolbox Release Notes also provide information about the earlier versions of the product, in case you are upgrading from a version that was released prior to Release 12. If you are upgrading from a release earlier than Release 12, you should also see "Communications Toolbox 2.0 Release Notes" on page 2-1.

Printing the Release Notes

If you would like to print the Release Notes, you can link to a PDF version.

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Communications Toolbox 2.1 Release Notes

New Features

This section summarizes the new features and enhancements introduced in the Communications Toolbox 2.1.

If you are upgrading from a release earlier than Release 12.1, then you should see “New Features” on page 2-2 of the Communications Toolbox 2.0 Release Notes.

Galois Field Computations

The Communications Toolbox supports a new data type that allows you to manipulate arrays of elements of a Galois field having 2^m elements, where m is an integer between 1 and 16. When you use this data type, most computations have the same syntax that you would use to manipulate ordinary MATLAB arrays of real numbers. The consistency with MATLAB syntax makes the new Galois field capabilities easier to use than the analogous Release 12 capabilities. For information about the new Galois field capabilities, see “Galois Field Computations” in the Communications Toolbox documentation.

Enhancements for Reed-Solomon Codes

The functions in the table below allow you to encode and decode Reed-Solomon codes, including shortened Reed-Solomon codes. These functions enhance and replace the older Reed-Solomon coding functions in the Communications Toolbox.

Function	Purpose
`rsdec`	Reed-Solomon decoder
`rsenc`	Reed-Solomon encoder
`rsgenpoly`	Generator polynomial of Reed-Solomon code

When processing codes using these functions, you can control the generator polynomial, the primitive polynomial used to describe the Galois field containing the code symbols, and the position of the parity symbols.

For more information and examples, see “Block Coding” in the Communications Toolbox documentation.

Arithmetic Coding

The functions in the table below allow you to perform arithmetic coding.

Function	Purpose
`arithdeco`	Decode binary code using arithmetic decoding
`arithenco`	Encode a sequence of symbols using arithmetic coding

Major Bug Fixes

The Communications Toolbox 2.1 includes several bug fixes made since Version 2.0.1. You can see a list of the particularly important Version 2.1 bug fixes. If you are viewing these Release Notes in PDF form, please refer to the HTML form of the Release Notes, using either the Help browser or the MathWorks Web site and use the link provided.

If you are upgrading from a release earlier than Release 12.1, then you should see "Major Bug Fixes" on page 2-4 in the Communications Toolbox 2.0 Release Notes.

Upgrading from an Earlier Release

This section describes the upgrade issues involved in moving from the Communications Toolbox 2.0.1 to Version 2.1. This section discusses the following topics:

- "Updating Existing Galois Field Code"
- "Updating Existing Reed-Solomon M-Code" on page 1-10
- "Changes in Functionality" on page 1-13
- "Obsolete Functions" on page 1-13

If you are upgrading from a version earlier than 2.0.1, then you should see "Upgrading from an Earlier Release" on page 2-5 of the Communications Toolbox 2.0 Release Notes.

Updating Existing Galois Field Code

If your existing code performs computations in Galois fields having 2^m elements, where m is an integer between 1 and 16, then you might want to update your code to use the new Galois field capabilities.

Replacing Functions

The table below lists Release 12 functions that correspond to Release 13 functions or operators acting on the new Galois field data type. Compared to the syntax of their Release 12 counterparts, the syntaxes of the Release 13 functions are different, but generally easier to use.

Release 12 Function	Release 13 Function or Operator	Comments
`gfadd`	`+`	
`gfconv`	`conv`	
`gfcosets`	`cosets`	`cosets` returns a cell array, whereas `gfcosets` returns a NaN-padded matrix.
`gfdeconv`	`deconv`	

Release 12 Function	Release 13 Function or Operator	Comments
gfdiv	./	
gffilter	filter	Unlike gffilter, filter also returns the final states.
gflineq	\	
gfplus	+	
gfprimck	isprimitive	isprimitive detects primitivity but not reducibility.
gfprimdf	primpoly	
gfprimfd	primpoly	
gfrank	rank	
gfroots	roots	Unlike gfroots, roots indicates multiplicities of roots and can process polynomials in an extension field
gfsub	-	
gftuple	.^, log, polyval	See "Converting and Simplifying Formats Using R13 Galois Arrays" on page 1-9 for more details.

Converting Between Release 12 and Release 13 Representations of Field Elements

In some parts of your existing code, you might need to convert data between the exponential format supported in Release 12 and the new Galois array. The code example below performs such conversions on a sample vector that represents elements of GF(16).

```
% Sample data
m = 4; % For example, work in GF(2^4) = GF(16).
a_r12 = [2 5 0 -Inf]; % GF(16) elements in exponential format
```

```
% 1. Convert to the Release 13 Galois array.
A = gf(2,m); % Primitive element of the field
a_r13 = A.^(a_r12); % Positive exponents mean A to that power.
a_r13(find(a_r12 < 0)) = 0; % Negative exponents mean zero.

% 2. Convert back to the Release 12 exponential format.
m = a_r13.m; A = gf(2,m);
a_r12again = zeros(size(a_r13)); % Preallocate space in a matrix.
zerolocations = find(a_r13 == 0);
nonzerolocations = find(a_r13 ~= 0);
a_r12again(zerolocations) = -Inf; % Map 0 to negative exponent.
a_r12again(nonzerolocations) = log(a_r13(nonzerolocations));

% Check that the two conversions are inverses.
ck = isequal(a_r12,a_r12again)

ck =

     1
```

Converting Between Release 12 and Release 13 Representations of Polynomials

Release 12 and Release 13 use different formats for representing polynomials over GF(2^m). Release 12 represents a polynomial as a vector of coefficients in order of *ascending* powers. Depending on the context, each coefficient listed in the vector represents either an element in a prime field or the exponential format of an element in an extension field. Release 13 uses the conventions described below.

Primitive polynomials. The functions `gf`, `isprimitive`, and `primpoly` represent a primitive polynomial using an integer scalar whose binary representation lists the coefficients of the polynomial. The least significant bit is the constant term.

For example, the scalar 13 has binary representation 1101 and represents the polynomial $D^3 + D^2 + 1$.

Other polynomials. When performing arithmetic with, evaluating, or finding roots of a polynomial, or when finding a minimal polynomial of a field element, you represent the polynomial using a Galois vector of coefficients in order of *descending* powers. Each coefficient listed in the vector represents an element in the field using the representation described in “How Integers Correspond to Galois Field Elements”.

For example, the Galois vector `gf([1 1 0 1],1)` represents the polynomial $x^3 + x^2 + 1$. Also, the Galois vector `gf([1 2 3],3)` represents the polynomial $x^2 + Ax + (A+1)$, where A is a root of the default primitive polynomial for $GF(2^3)$. The coefficient of A+1 corresponds to the vector entry of 3 because the binary representation of 3 is 11.

Example Showing Conversions. The code example below might help you determine how to convert between the Release 12 and Release 13 formats for polynomials.

```
m = 3; % Work in GF(8).

poly_r12 = [1 1 0 1]; % 1+x+x^3, ascending order
poly_r13 = gf([1 0 1 1],m); % x^3+x+1 in GF(8), descending order

% R12 polynomials
pp_r12 = gfprimdf(m); % A primitive polynomial
mp_r12 = gfminpol(4,m); % The minimal polynomial of an element
rts_r12 = gfroots(poly_r12); % Find roots.

% R13 polynomials
pp_r13 = primpoly(m,'nodisplay'); % A primitive polynomial
mp_r13 = minpol(gf(4,m)); % The minimal polynomial of an element
rts_r13 = roots(poly_r13); % Find roots.

% R12 polynomials converted to R13 formats
% For primitive poly, change binary vector to decimal scalar.
pp_r12_conv = bi2de(pp_r12);
% For minimal poly, change ordering and make it a Galois array.
mp_r12_conv = gf(fliplr(mp_r12));
% For roots of polynomial, note that R12 answers are in
% exponential format. Convert to Galois array format.
rts_r12_conv = gf(2,m) .^ rts_r12;

% Check that R12 and R13 yield the same answers.
c1 = isequal(pp_r13,pp_r12_conv); % True.
c2 = isequal(mp_r13,mp_r12_conv); % True.
c3 = isequal(rts_r13,rts_r12_conv); % True.
```

Converting and Simplifying Formats Using R13 Galois Arrays

If your existing code uses `gftuple` to convert between exponential and polynomial formats, or to simplify one of these formats, then the code example below might help you determine how to perform those tasks using the Release 13 Galois array.

```
% First define key characteristics of the field.
m = 4; % For example, work in GF(2^4) = GF(16).
A = gf(2,m); % Primitive element of the field

% 1. Simplifying a Polynomial Format
poly_big = 2^10 + 2^7;
% Want to refer to the element A^10 + A^7. However,
% cannot use gf(poly_big,m) because poly_big is too large.
poly1 = A.^10 + A.^7 % One way to define the element.
poly2 = polyval(de2bi(poly_big,'left-msb'),A); % Another way.
% The results show that A^10 + A^7 equals A^3 + A^2 in this
% field, using the binary representation of 12 as 1100.

% 2. Simplifying an Exponential Format
exp_big = 39;
exp_simple = log(A.^exp_big) % Simplest exponential format.
% The results show that A^39 equals A^9 in this field.

% 3. Converting from Exponential to Polynomial Format
expf1 = 7;
pf1 = A.^expf1
% The results show that A^7 equals A^3 + A + 1 in this
% field, using the binary representation of 11 as 1011.

% 4. Converting from Polynomial to Exponential Format
pf2 = 11; % Represents the element A^3 + A + 1
expf2 = log(gf(pf2,m))
% The results show that A^3 + A + 1 equals A^7 in this field.
```

The output is below.

```
poly1 = GF(2^4) array. Primitive polynomial = D^4+D+1 (19 decimal)
```

```
Array elements =

    12


exp_simple =

     9


pf1 = GF(2^4) array. Primitive polynomial = D^4+D+1 (19 decimal)

Array elements =

    11


expf2 =

     7
```

Updating Existing Reed-Solomon M-Code

If your existing M-code processes Reed-Solomon codes, then you might want to update it to use the enhanced Reed-Solomon capabilities. Below are some important points to keep in mind:

- Use `rsenc` instead of `rsenco`, `rsencode`, and `encode(...,'rs')`.
- Use `rsdec` instead of `rsdeco`, `rsdecode`, and `decode(...,'rs')`.
- Use `rsgenpoly` instead of `rspoly`.
- `rsenc` and `rsdec` use Galois arrays for the messages and codewords. To learn more about Galois arrays, see "Representing Elements of Galois Fields".
- `rsenc` and `rsdec` interpret symbols in a different way compared to the Release 12 functions. For an example showing how to convert between Release 12 and Release 13 interpretations, see "Converting Between Release 12 and Release 13 Representations of Code Data" on page 1-11.
- The Release 12 functions support three different data formats. The exponential format is most easily converted to the Release 13 format. To convert your data among the various Release 12 formats as you prepare to

upgrade to the new Release 13 functions, see “Converting Among Various Release 12 Representations of Coding Data” on page 1-12.

- `rsenc`, `rsdec`, and `rsgenpoly` use a Galois array in *descending* order to represent the generator polynomial argument. The commands below indicate how to convert generator polynomials from the Release 12 format to the Release 13 format.

```
n = 7; k = 3; % Examples of code parameters
m = log2(n+1); % Number of bits in each symbol
gp_r12 = rspoly(n,k); % R12 exponential format, ascending order
gp_r13 = gf(2,m).^fliplr(gp_r12); % Convert to R13 format.
```

- `rsenc` places (and `rsdec` expects to find) the parity symbols at the *end* of each word by default. To process codes in which the parity symbols are at the beginning of each word, use the string `'beginning'` as the last input argument when you invoke `rsenc` and `rsdec`.

Converting Between Release 12 and Release 13 Representations of Code Data

To help you update your existing M-code that processes Reed-Solomon codes, the example below illustrates how to encode data using the new `rsenc` function and the earlier `rsenco` function.

```
% Basic parameters for coding
m = 4; % Number of bits per symbol in each codeword
t = 2; % Error-correction capability
n = 2^m-1; k = n-2*t; % Message length and codeword length
w = 10; % Number of words to encode in this example

% Lookup tables to translate formats between rsenco and rsenc
p2i = [0 gf(2,m).^[0:2^m-2]]; % Galois vector listing powers
i2p = [-1 log(gf(1:2^m-1,m))]; % Integer vector listing logs

% R12 method, exponential format
% Exponential format uses integers between -1 and 2^m-2.
mydata_r12 = randint(w,k,2^m)-1;
code_r12 = rsenco(mydata_r12,n,k,'power'); % * Encode the data. *
% Convert any -Inf values to -1 to facilitate comparisons.
code_r12(isinf(code_r12)) = -1;
code_r12 = reshape(code_r12,n,w)'; % One codeword per row
```

```
% R12 method, decimal format
% This yields same results as R12 exponential format.
mydata_r12_dec = mydata_r12 + 1; % Convert to decimal.
code_r12_dec = rsenco(mydata_r12_dec,n,k,'decimal'); % Encode.
code_r12_dectoexp = code_r12_dec - 1; % Convert to exponential.
c1 = isequal(code_r12,code_r12_dectoexp); % True.

% R12 method, binary format
% This yields same results as R12 exponential format.
mydata_r12_bin = de2bi(mydata_r12_dec',m); % Convert to binary.
code_r12_bin = rsenco(mydata_r12_bin,n,k,'binary'); % Encode.
code_r12_bintoexp = reshape(bi2de(code_r12_bin),n,w)' - 1;
c2 = isequal(code_r12,code_r12_bintoexp); % True.

% R13 method
mydata_r13 = fliplr(mydata_r12); % Reverse the order.
% Convert format, using +2 to get in the right range for indexing.
mydata_r13 = p2i(mydata_r13+2);
code_r13 = rsenc(mydata_r13,n,k); % * Encode the data. *
codeX = double(code_r13.x); % Retrieve data from Galois array.
% Convert format, using +1 to get in the right range for indexing.
codelogX = i2p(codeX+1);
codelogX = fliplr(codelogX); % Reverse the order again.

c3 = isequal(code_r12,codelogX) % True.

c3 =

     1
```

Converting Among Various Release 12 Representations of Coding Data

These rules indicate how to convert among the exponential, decimal, and binary formats that the Release 12 Reed-Solomon functions support:

- To convert from decimal format to exponential format, subtract one.
- To convert from exponential format to decimal format, replace any negative values by -1 and then add one.

- To convert between decimal and binary formats, use `de2bi` and `bi2de`. The right-most bit is the most significant bit in this context.

The commands below illustrate these conversions.

```
msgbin = randint(11,4); % Message for a (15,11) = (2^4-1, 11) code
msgdec = bi2de(msgbin)'; % Binary to decimal
msgexp = msgdec - 1; % Decimal to exponential
codeexp = rsenco(msgexp,15,11,'power');
codeexp(find(codeexp < 0)) = -1; % Use -1 consistently.
codedec = codeexp + 1; % Exponential to decimal
codebin = de2bi(codedec); % Decimal to binary
```

Changes in Functionality

The table below lists functions whose behavior has changed.

Function	Change in Functionality
`wgn`	The default measurement unit is the dBW, formerly documented as “dB.” To specify this unit explicitly in the syntax, set the *powertype* input argument to `'dBW'`, not `'dB'`. The output of the function is unaffected by this change in syntax.

Obsolete Functions

The table below lists functions that are obsolete. Although they are included in Release 13 for backward compatibility, they might be removed in a future release. The second column lists functions that provide similar functionality. In some cases, the similar function requires different input arguments or produces different output arguments, compared to the original function.

Function	Similar Function
`gfplus`	+ operator for Galois arrays
`rsdeco`	`rsdec`
`rsdecode`	`rsdec`

Function	Similar Function
rsenco	rsenc
rsencode	rsenc
rspoly	rsgenpoly

Known Software and Documentation Problems

You can see a list of known software and documentation problems in Version 2.1. If you are viewing these Release Notes in PDF form, please refer to the HTML form of the Release Notes, using either the Help browser or the MathWorks Web site and use the link provided.

2

Communications Toolbox 2.0 Release Notes

New Features

The Communications Toolbox 2.0 and the Communications Blockset 2.0 are now separate products (that is, the Communications Toolbox no longer includes blocks).

This section introduces the new features and enhancements added in the Communications Toolbox 2.0 since the Communications Toolbox 1.4.

Note The Communications Blockset is described in a separate section.

Convolutional Coding Functions

The Communications Toolbox processes feedforward and feedback convolutional codes that can be described by a trellis structure or a set of generator polynomials. It uses the Viterbi algorithm to implement hard-decision and soft-decision decoding. These new functions support convolutional coding:

- `convenc` creates a convolutional code from binary data.
- `vitdec` decodes convolutionally encoded data using the Viterbi algorithm.
- `poly2trellis` converts a polynomial description of a convolutional encoder to a trellis description.
- `istrellis` checks if the input is a valid trellis structure representing a convolutional encoder.

For more information about using these functions, see “Convolutional Coding” in the *Communications Toolbox User’s Guide*.

Gaussian Noise Functions

These new functions create Gaussian noise:

- `awgn` adds white Gaussian noise to the input signal to produce a specified signal-to-noise ratio.
- `wgn` generates white Gaussian noise with a specified power, impedance, and complexity.

Other New Functions

These functions are also new in Release 12:

- `eyediagram` plots an eye diagram.
- `marcumq` implements the generalized Marcum Q function.
- `oct2dec` converts octal numbers to decimal numbers.
- `randerr` generates bit error patterns. This is similar to the obsolete function `randbit`, but it accepts a more intuitive set of input arguments and uses an upgraded random number generator.
- `randsrc` generates random matrices using a prescribed alphabet.
- `scatterplot` produces a scatter plot.
- `syndtable` generates syndrome decoding tables. This is similar to the obsolete function `htruthtb`, but it is not limited to single-error-correction codes.

Enhancements to Existing Functions

The following functions have been enhanced in Release 12:

- `biterr` and `symerr` provide a third output argument that indicates the results of individual comparisons. These functions also provide more comprehensive support for comparisons between a vector and a matrix.
- `de2bi` and `bi2de` use an optional input flag to indicate the ordering of bits. If you omit the flag from the list of input arguments, then the default behavior matches that of Release 11.
- `randint` can operate without input arguments. Also, it can accept a negative value for the optional third input argument.

Major Bug Fixes

The Communications Toolbox includes several bug fixes, including the following descriptions (online only) of particularly important bug fixes.

Upgrading from an Earlier Release

This section describes the upgrade issues involved in moving from the Communications Toolbox 1.4 (Release 11) to the Communications Toolbox 2.0.

Changes in Functionality

The table below lists functions whose behavior has changed.

Function	Change in Functionality
`bi2de`	Distinguishes between rows and columns as input vectors. Treats column vector as separate numbers, not as digits of a single number. To adapt your existing code, transpose the input vector if necessary.
`biterr`	Input argument `k` must be large enough to represent all elements of the input arguments `x` and `y`.
`biterr`, `symerr`	Distinguish between rows and columns as input vectors. To adapt your existing code, transpose the input vector if necessary.
	Use different strings for the input argument that controls row-wise and column-wise comparisons.
	Produce vector, not scalar, output if one input is a vector. See these functions' reference pages for more information.
`de2bi`	Second input argument, if it appears, must not be smaller than the number of bits in any element of the first input argument. Previously, the function produced a truncated binary representation instead of an error. To adapt your existing code, specify a sufficiently large number for the second input argument and then truncate the answer manually.
`ddemod`	Default behavior uses no filter, not a Butterworth filter. Regardless of filtering, the function uses an integrator to perform demodulation.

Function	Change in Functionality
dmod, ddemod, dmodce, ddemodce, modmap, demodmap	For frequency shift keying method, the default separation between successive frequencies is Fd, not 2*Fd/M. For minimum shift keying method, the separation between frequencies is Fd/2, not Fd.
encode, decode	No longer support convolutional coding. Use convenc and vitdec instead.
gflineq	If the equation has no solutions, then the function returns an empty matrix, not a matrix of zeros.
randint	Uses state instead of seed to initialize random number generator. See rand for more information about initializing random number generators.
rcosflt	The 'wdelay' flag is superfluous. The function now behaves as the Release 11 function behaved with the 'wdelay' flag. For more information about changes in rcosflt, see http://www.mathworks.com/support/solutions/data/30549.shtml.

Obsolete Functions

The table below lists functions that are obsolete. Although they are included in Release 12 for backward compatibility, they might be removed in a future release. Where applicable, the second column lists functions that provide similar functionality. In some cases, the similar function requires different arguments or produces different results compared to the original function.

Function	Similar Function, if Any
commgui	
convdeco	vitdec
convenco	convenc
eyescat	eyediagram, scatterplot

Function	Similar Function, if Any
flxor	bitxor
gen2abcd	
htruthtb	syndtable
imp2sys	
oct2gen	
randbit	randerr
sim2gen	
sim2logi	
sim2tran	
viterbi	vitdec