Acknowledgement: Wayne Stark EE455 Lecture Notes, University of Michigan
Course Information

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Lecture 1: Goals

- Know the difference between analog and digital communications

- Know the fundamental tradeoff between data rate, bandwidth, signal power and noise power in communicating binary information (bits) from a source to a destination
EM Spectrum

- **Long Wavelength/Low Frequency**
- **Short Wavelength/High Frequency**

### Wavelength (meters)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Radio</th>
<th>Microwave</th>
<th>Infrared</th>
<th>Ultraviolet</th>
<th>X-Ray</th>
<th>Gamma Ray</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

### Comparable size

- **Football field**
- **Humans**
- **Penny**
- **Pin head**
- **Bacteria**
- **Virus**
- **Water molecule**
- **Atom**
- **Atomic nuclei**

#### Visible

(0.7 - 0.4 μm)

- **100 kHz**
- **1 MHz**
- **10 MHz**
- **100 MHz**
- **1 GHz**
- **10 GHz**
- **100 GHz**

- **VLF**
- **LF**
- **MF**
- **HF**
- **VHF**
- **UHF**
- **SHF**
- **EHF**

- **Visible Light**

- **Infrared**
The goal of communication systems is to transfer information from one location to another at a distance away.

Circuits, electromagnetics, signal processing, microprocessors, and communication networks, ...
Communication Range

1cm, 1m, 10m, 1Km, 10Km, ..., 20 billion Km, ...

An AU is just the distance from Earth to the Sun, about 93 million miles.

http://voyager.jpl.nasa.gov/where/
Communication System

Source → Transmitter → Channel → Receiver → Destination

Transmitted signal → Received signal

Noise, interference, and distortion
Important Parameters

• The goal of communication systems is to transmit information from one location to another.

• This can be done in various ways which depends on certain resources.

• These include the energy, the noise, the channel conditions among others.

• Parameters: Power/Energy, Data Rate, Bandwidth, Distortion, Bit Error Probability
Digital vs. Analog

- An analog message is a physical quantity that varies with time, Usually in a smooth and continuous fashion. An analog communication system should deliver this waveform with a specified degree of fidelity.

- A digital message is an ordered sequence of symbols selected from a finite set of discrete elements. Since the information resides in discrete symbols, a digital communication system should deliver these symbols with a specified degree of accuracy in a specified amount of time.
Modulation

- Modulation involves two waveforms:
  A modulating signal that represents the message.
  A carrier wave that suits the particular application.

- A modulator systematically alters the carrier wave in correspondence with the variations of the modulating signal.

- The resulting modulated wave thereby “carries” the message information. We generally require that modulation be a reversible operation, so the message can be retrieved by the complementary process of demodulation.
Why Modulation?

• Efficient Transmission:
  Efficient radiation requires antennas whose physical dimension are at least 1/10\textsuperscript{th} of the signal’s wavelength.

• Un-modulated transmission of an audio signal containing frequency components down to 100Hz would require antennas ~300 km long. Modulated transmission at 100MHz, as in FM broadcasting, allows a practical antenna size of about one meter.

• Hardware limitations
• Noise and interference
• Frequency assignments
Digital vs. Analog

• Digital communication differs from analog communication in that in a digital communication system during any finite time interval there is a finite number of possible transmitted waveforms.

• In an analog communication system during any finite time interval there are a potentially infinite number of possible waveforms transmitted.
Digital vs. Analog

**ANALOG WIRELESS MICROPHONE**

- Audio signal
- Transmitter modulation turns audio signal into radio waves. Changes in audio amplitude and frequency are transformed into changes in radio wave frequency (hence, “FM” frequency modulated).
- Analog waveform varies in frequency continuously across its allowed bandwidth.
- Receiver demodulates radio waves and turns back to audio signal.

**DIGITAL WIRELESS MICROPHONE**

- Audio signal
- Transmitter modulation turns audio signal into radio waves. Changes in audio amplitude and frequency are transformed into changes in radio wave frequency (hence, “FM” frequency modulated).
- Digital waveform varies in frequency in brief bursts of changes, from one frequency value to another, with nothing in between.
- Receiver demodulates radio waves and turns back to audio signal.

http://blog.rfvenue.com/digital-wiireless-explored/
Digital vs. Analog

• In a digital communication system the receiver needs to decide, based on the received signal, which of the finite number of transmitted signals was sent.

• In an analog communication system the receiver needs to estimate, based on the received signal, what was the transmitted signal.

• The performance measure for digital communication systems is usually the probability of making an error in deciding which waveform was transmitted.
Advantages of Digital

• Ease of regeneration of signals in a series of regenerative repeaters,

• The flexibility of circuitry available for processing digital signals (DSPs, VLSI),

• The ability to store information in digital format in various media (e.g. DVD, CD, RAM, Hard Disk),

• Many source are digital (e.g. data files).
Power

• Clearly the more power available the more reliable communication is possible.

• However, the goal is to reduce the required transmission power so that talk time is maximized.

• Power levels of radios vary from less than a milliWatt to 1MWatt.

• Performance generally depends on the received power (not the transmit power) which depends on how far apart the transmitter and receiver are located.
Data Rate

• The goal is large data rates.

• For a fixed amount of power as the data rate increases the energy transmitted per bit will decrease because of decreased transmission time for each bit.

• The data rate can be as low as several kbps to transmit speech to 10’s of Gbps for data.
Bandwidth

• The bandwidth is the amount of frequency spectrum available for use.

• Generally the FCC allocates spectrum and provides some type of mask for which the radios emissions must fall within.

• The larger the bandwidth the more independent fades across frequencies and thus better averaging is possible.

• The available bandwidth might be 3kHz for voice-band telephone lines and as high as 10’s of GHz.
Distortion

• For analog sources such as speech or video the distortion between the original source and the reproduction of the original signal at the destination is often a performance measure of interest.

• The mean-squared error is one often used performance measure for distortion.
Bit Error Probability

• Different sources require different error probabilities (also call bit error rates).
• Bit error rates vary between $10^{-2}$ and $10^{-4}$
First Fundamental Tradeoff

Source \[\rightarrow\] Whatever + Whatever \[\rightarrow\] Sink

011011 \[\rightarrow\] Whatever \[\rightarrow\] P Watts W Hz 011011

R bps

AWGN with PSD \[N_0/2\]
Assumptions

- The source produces equally likely data bits (0s and 1s) at rate $R$ bits/second.
- We transmit a signal (waveform) such that the received power is $P$. 
- The transmitted signal has bandwidth $W$ (Hz).
- Noise is added to the transmitted signal. The noise is white (power at all frequencies of interest), Gaussian and has power spectral density $N_0/2$ Watts/Hz. This is called an additive white Gaussian noise channel.
- We can allow any delay or complexity.
First Fundamental Tradeoff

- In 1948 Claude Shannon (U of M EE/Math graduate) published a paper in which he determined the tradeoff between data rate, bandwidth, signal power and noise power for reliable communications for an additive white Gaussian noise channel. Let
  - $W$ be the bandwidth (in Hz),
  - $R$ be the data rate (in bits per second),
  - $P$ be the received signal power (in Watts),
  - $N_0/2$ the noise power spectral density (in Watts/Hz).
- Then reliable communication is possible provided

$$R < W \log_2 \left( 1 + \frac{P}{N_0 W} \right)$$
Capacity

For large values of $W$ the maximum rate (capacity) approaches

$$\lim_{W \to \infty} W \log_2 \left(1 + \frac{P}{N_0 W}\right) = \frac{P}{N_0 \ln(2)} = 1.4426 \left(\frac{P}{N_0}\right)$$

Let $E_b$ be the energy transmitted per bit of information. Then

$$E_b = \frac{P}{R} \quad \text{or} \quad P = E_b R$$

Using this relation we can express the capacity formula as

$$\frac{R}{W} < \log_2 \left(1 + \frac{E_b R}{N_0 W}\right)$$
Inverting this we obtain

\[
\frac{E_b}{N_o} > \frac{2^\frac{R}{W} - 1}{\frac{R}{W}}
\]
Capacity

\[ \frac{E_b}{N_o} > \frac{2^W - 1}{\frac{R}{W}} \]

- Reliable communication is possible with bandwidth efficiency \( R/W \) provided that the signal-to-noise ratio, \( E_b/N_o \), is larger than the right hand side of the equation.

- For small values of \( R/W \) the smallest value of \( E_b/N_o \) where reliable communication is possible is \( \ln(2) = 0.693 \). That is,

\[ \lim_{R \to 0} \frac{2^W - 1}{\frac{R}{W}} = \ln(2) \]
Capacity

Achievable

Not Achievable
Capacity

Rate (bps/Hz)

Eb/No(dB)

-1.59dB

Achievable

Not Achievable

High Energy, High Data Rate Bandwidth Limited Region

Low Energy, Low Data Rate Energy Limited Region
dB or not dB?

When the range of values for energy or power are vast we usually employ a dB scale. The conversion is

$$\frac{E_b}{N_o} (dB) = 10 \log_{10} \left( \frac{E_b}{N_o} \right)$$

The smallest signal-to-noise ratio for reliable communication (at low rates) is

$$\frac{E_b}{N_o} > \log(2) = 0.693$$

$$\frac{E_b}{N_o} (dB) > 10 \log_{10} (0.693) = -1.59 dB$$
dBW, dBm

Sometimes absolute power levels are also expressed in dB’s by referencing them to either 1W or 1mW. When referencing to 1W the dB units are written as dBW. When referencing to 1mW the dB units are written as dBm. So, for example

\[
100\text{Watts} = 10 \log_{10} \left( \frac{100\text{Watts}}{1\text{Watt}} \right) = 20\text{dBW} \\
= 10 \log_{10} \left( \frac{100\text{Watts}}{1\text{mWatt}} \right) = 50\text{dBm}
\]

\[
10\text{Watts} = 10 \log_{10} \left( \frac{10\text{Watts}}{1\text{Watt}} \right) = 10\text{dBW} \\
= 10 \log_{10} \left( \frac{10\text{Watts}}{1\text{mWatt}} \right) = 40\text{dBm}
\]
\[ dBW, \ dBm \]

\[ 1Watts = 10 \log_{10} \left( \frac{1Watts}{1Watt} \right) = 0dBW \]
\[ = 10 \log_{10} \left( \frac{1Watts}{1mWatt} \right) = 30dBm \]

\[ 0.1Watts = 10 \log_{10} \left( \frac{0.1Watts}{1Watt} \right) = -10dBW \]
\[ = 10 \log_{10} \left( \frac{-0.1Watts}{1mWatt} \right) = 20dBm \]

\[ 0.01Watts = 10 \log_{10} \left( \frac{0.01Watts}{1Watt} \right) = -20dBW \]
\[ = 10 \log_{10} \left( \frac{0.01Watts}{1mWatt} \right) = 10dBm \]

\[ 0.001Watts = 10 \log_{10} \left( \frac{0.001Watts}{1Watt} \right) = -30dBW \]
\[ = 10 \log_{10} \left( \frac{0.001Watts}{1mWatt} \right) = 0dBm \]
Notes

• The capacity formula only provides a tradeoff between energy efficiency and bandwidth efficiency. Complexity is essentially infinite, as is delay. The model of the channel is rather benign in that no signal fading is assumed to occur.

• The capacity theorem says that we can communicate with error probability near zero at rates below the capacity or equivalently at values of $\frac{E_b}{N_0}$ above a threshold.
Example

Telephone modems use about 3000Hz and have P/No of 74dB. What rate is possible?

\[
\frac{P}{N_o} = 10^{\left(\frac{74}{10}\right)} = 23829000
\]

\[
C = 3000 \log_2 \left(1 + \frac{23829000}{3000}\right)
\]

\[
= 3000 \log_2 \left(1 + 7943\right)
\]

\[
= 38.867 kbps
\]
Wireless Applications

- Paging
- Digital Cordless Phones
- Digital Cellular
- Packet Radio
- Wireless Local Area Networks
- Low Earth Orbit Satellites (e.g. GPS)

Generally these systems are power or energy limited rather than bandwidth limited in that they must operate on batteries.
Wired Applications

- Telephone Modems
- DSL (Digital Subscriber Loop)
- Cable Modems
- Ethernet
- Optical Fiber

Generally these systems are bandwidth limited rather than power or energy limited since they are typically powered from an AC power source.
Analog Cellular

- Analog cellular systems were in widespread use from the early 1980’s to the mid 1990’s. but are not being used anymore (in the US).
- All of these systems used FM (frequency modulation) with FDMA (frequency division multiple access).
Industrial Scientific and Medical (ISM) Bands

- Frequencies:
  - 902-928 MHz,
  - 2400-2483 MHz,
  - 5725-5850 MHz
- The data rates vary from around 10 kbps to 100 Mbps.
Other wireless systems

- IEEE 802.11 a,b,g,n,h
- WiMax
- UWB
- GPS
- LTE
- **BLE**
- IEEE 802.15.4
Team Formation