Basic Data Transmission

Terminology (1)

- Transmitter
- Receiver
- Medium
  - Guided medium
    - e.g. twisted pair, optical fiber
    - provides point-point link
  - Unguided medium
    - e.g. air, water, vacuum
    - Can provide point-point link, but is more like a broadcast medium

Terminology (2)

- Direct link
  - No intermediate devices
- Point-to-point
  - Direct link
  - Only 2 devices share link
- Multi-point
  - More than two devices share the link

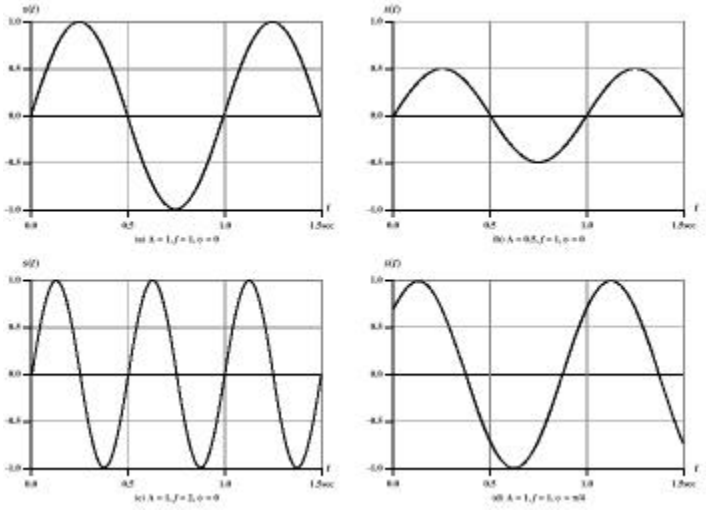
Terminology (3)

- Simplex
  - One direction
    - e.g. Television, Radio
- Half duplex
  - Either direction, but only one way at a time
    - e.g. Walkie Talkie
- Full duplex
  - Both directions at the same time
    - e.g. telephone, normal conversation

Sine Wave

- Peak Amplitude (A)
  - maximum strength of signal
  - volts
- Frequency (f)
  - Rate of change of signal
  - Hertz (Hz) or cycles per second
  - Period = time for one repetition (T)
  - T = 1/f
- Phase (ϕ)
  - Relative position in time

Varying Sine Waves



Wavelength

- Distance occupied by one cycle
- Distance between two points of corresponding phase in two consecutive cycles
- λ
- Assuming signal velocity *v*
  - $l = vT$
  - $lf = v$
  - $c = 3*10^8\ ms^{-1}$ (speed of light in free space)

Frequency Domain Concepts

- Signal usually made up of many frequencies
- Components are sine waves
- Can be shown (Fourier analysis) that any signal is made up of component sine waves
- Can plot frequency domain functions

Spectrum & Bandwidth

- Spectrum
  - range of frequencies contained in signal
- Absolute bandwidth
  - width of spectrum
- Effective bandwidth
  - Often just *bandwidth*
  - Narrow band of frequencies containing most of the energy
- Data Rate and Bandwidth
  - Any transmission system has a limited band of frequencies
  - This limits the data rate that can be carried

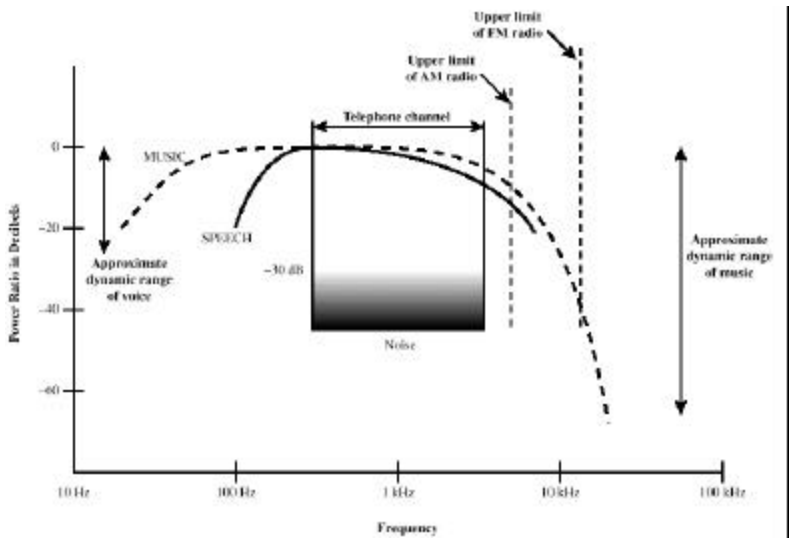
Analog and Digital Data Transmission

- Data
  - Entities that convey meaning
- Signals
  - Electric or electromagnetic representations of data
- Transmission
  - Communication of data by propagation and processing of signals

Data

- Analog
  - Continuous values within some interval
  - e.g. sound, video
- Digital
  - Discrete values
  - e.g. text, integers

Acoustic Spectrum (Analog)



Data and Signals

- Usually use digital signals for digital data and analog signals for analog data
- Can use analog signal to carry digital data
  - Modem
- Can use digital signal to carry analog data
  - Compact Disc audio

Digital Transmission

- Concerned with content
- Integrity endangered by noise, attenuation etc.
- Repeaters used
- Repeater receives signal
- Extracts bit pattern
- Retransmits
- Attenuation is overcome
- Noise is not amplified

Advantages of Digital Transmission

- Digital technology
  - Low cost LSI/VLSI technology
- Data integrity
  - Longer distances over lower quality lines
- Capacity utilization
  - High bandwidth links economical
  - High degree of multiplexing easier with digital techniques
- Security & Privacy
  - Encryption
- Integration
  - Can treat analog and digital data similarly

Transmission Impairments

- Signal received may differ from signal transmitted
- Digital - bit errors
- Caused by
  - Attenuation and attenuation distortion
  - Delay distortion
  - Noise

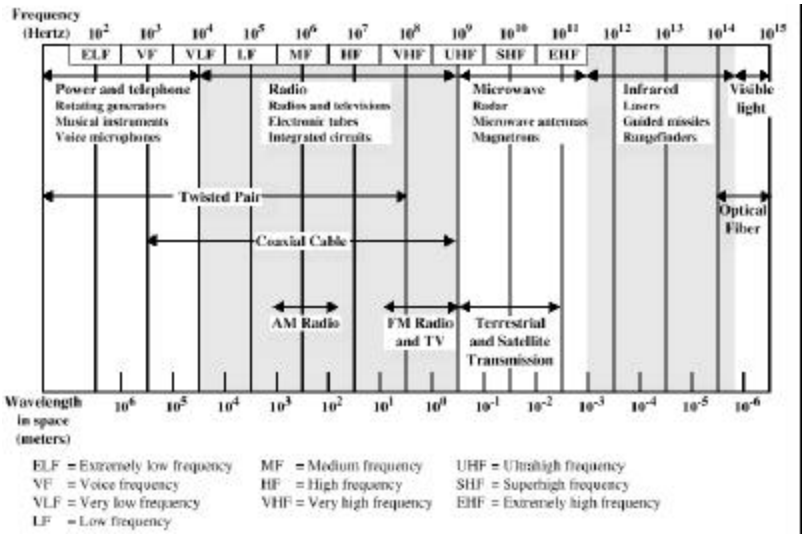
Channel Capacity

- Data rate
  - In bits per second
  - Rate at which data can be communicated
- Bandwidth
  - In cycles per second of Hertz
  - Constrained by transmitter and medium

Transmission Media: Design Factors

- Bandwidth
  - Higher bandwidth gives higher data rate
- Transmission impairments
  - Attenuation
- Interference
- Number of receivers
  - In guided media
  - More receivers (multi-point) introduce more attenuation

Electromagnetic Spectrum



Guided Transmission Media

- Twisted Pair
- Coaxial cable
- Optical fiber

Twisted Pair

—Separately insulated
—Twisted together
—Often "bundled" into cables
—Usually installed in building during construction

(a) Twisted pair

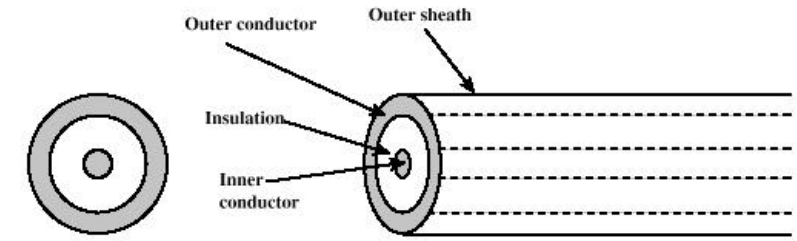
Twisted Pair - Applications

- Most common medium
- Telephone network
  - Between house and local exchange (subscriber loop)
- Within buildings
  - To private branch exchange (PBX)
- For local area networks (LAN)
  - 10Mbps or 100Mbps

Twisted Pair - Pros and Cons

- Cheap
- Easy to work with
- Low data rate
- Short range

Coaxial Cable

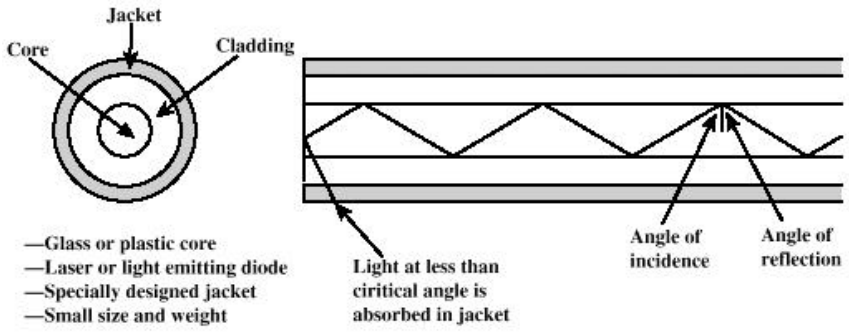


—Outer conductor is braided shield
—Inner conductor is solid metal
—Separated by insulating material
—Covered by padding

Coaxial Cable Applications

- Most versatile medium
- Television distribution
  - Ariel to TV
  - Cable TV
- Long distance telephone transmission
  - Can carry 10,000 voice calls simultaneously
  - Being replaced by fiber optic
- Short distance computer systems links
- Local area networks

Optical Fiber



Optical Fiber - Benefits

- Greater capacity
  - Data rates of hundreds of Gbps
- Smaller size & weight
- Lower attenuation
- Electromagnetic isolation
- Greater repeater spacing
  - 10s of km at least

Optical Fiber - Applications

- Long-haul trunks
- Metropolitan trunks
- Rural exchange trunks
- Subscriber loops
- LANs

Wireless Transmission

- Unguided media
- Transmission and reception via antenna
- Directional
  - Focused beam
  - Careful alignment required
- Omnidirectional
  - Signal spreads in all directions
  - Can be received by many antennae

Frequencies

- 2GHz to 40GHz
  - Microwave
  - Highly directional
  - Point to point
  - Satellite
- 30MHz to 1GHz
  - Omnidirectional
  - Broadcast radio
- 3×10^{11} to 2×10^{14}
  - Infrared
  - Local

Infrared

- Modulate noncoherent infrared light
- Line of sight (or reflection)
- Blocked by walls
- e.g. TV remote control, IRD port