

COMPUTER NETWORKS Physical Layer - Data Signals

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AGENDA

- Fundamentals of Data Signals
- Data Encoding
- Modulation

TRANSMITTING INFORMATION

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RECAP

Let's go again to the survey at <https://fra-uas.particifyapp.net/p/36002022>

RECAP: PHYSICAL LAYER

- **Transmits the ones and zeros**
	- **Physical connection to the network**
	- Conversion of data into signals
- Protocol and transmission medium specify among others:
	- The data encoding on the transmission medium
	- The directional dependence of data transmission
	- The mechanical and electronic aspects (e.g., access point plug design, pin usage)

OSI Reference Model

Application Layer

Presentation Layer

Session Layer

Transport Layer

Network Layer

Data Link Layer

Physical Layer

FUNDAMENTALS OF DATA SIGNALS

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THE TELEPHONE EXAMPLE

- Data is converted into a signal to be sent over a transmission channel
- A transmission channel consists of **access points** and the **physical medium** to carry the signal
- A signal is a **chronological sequence of physical values** measured on the medium

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PHYSICAL REPRESENTATION OF DATA

- A physical representation of data is called a signal
- It can be either
	- An analog signal \rightarrow a sequence of continuous values
	- A digital signal \rightarrow a sequence of discrete values
- The transmitter Network Interface Controller (NIC) acts as a **Co**der and **Dec**oder \rightarrow **CODEC**

CONTINUOUS VS. DISCRETE SIGNALS

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BASICS OF SIGNAL PROCESSING

- Periodic signals are the simplest signals
- Parameters for periodic signals:
	- Period T
	- Frequency $f=1/\overline{T}$
	- Amplitude $S(t)$
	- Phase ϕ

Examples

- Sine (period = 2π)
- Square wave
- Triangle wave
- Sawtooth wave

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FOURIER SERIES

Image source: Jörg Rech. Ethernet. Heise

- According to the Fourier series a square-wave signal consists of the sum of a set of oscillating functions
	- A square wave signal consists of a fundamental frequency and harmonics
	- Harmonics are integer multiples of the fundamental frequency
		- \circ They are often referred to as harmonics of the 3rd, 5th, 7th, etc. order
	- The more harmonics are taken into account, the more similar becomes the result with a square wave signal

Named in honour of the French mathematician and physicist Jean-Baptiste Joseph Fourier (1768-1830)

FOURIER SERIES AND BANDWIDTH

- To transmit a square-wave signal clearly via the transmission medium, at least the fundamental frequency and the harmonics of the 3rd and 5th order need to be transmitted
	- The harmonics of the 3rd and 5th order are necessary for keeping the square wave its rectangular shape and preventing that it looks rounded (see next slide)
	- \blacksquare In practice, the harmonics are more attenuated than the fundamental frequency
- The bandwidth, from the viewpoint of the transmission medium, is the range of frequencies which can be transmitted via the transmission medium without interferences

Images source: René Schwarz. Wikipedia (CC-BY-SA-1.0)

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FRANKFURT FOURIER SYNTHESIS OF A SQUARE-WAVE SIGNAL

Image source: René Schwarz. Wikipedia (CC-BY-SA-1.0)

- The **1st column** show the \bullet oscillation, which is added in the respective row.
- The **2nd column** show all so \bullet far recognized oscillations
- The **3rd column** show the \bullet accumulation of all oscillations so far
- The **4th column** shows the \bullet amplitude spectrum, normalized to the fundamental frequency

QUANTIZATION AND SAMPLING

In order to transmit data over a transmission medium, it needs to be …

- $...$ converted \longrightarrow Quantization
	- Computer networks deal with digital data \Rightarrow discrete values
	- Physical mediums are by nature analog ⇒ **continuous values**
	- Conversion from digital to analog values and vice versa is required
- ...measured -> Sampling
	- Computer networks deal with discrete time \Rightarrow discrete time
	- Physical mediums have a continuously varying state ⇒ **continuous time**
	- Periodical measurement of the physical medium is required

^{1.} Historically also called Nyquist-Shannon sampling theorem.

FUNDAMENTALS OF QUANTIZATION

- Quantization approximates the full range of an analog signal into a finite number of discrete values \longrightarrow Analog-to-Digital Conversion (ADC)
- The approximation error is called the quantization error
- The entire range is divided into equal intervals \rightarrow the length of each interval is called quantization interval
- To recover an analog signal the center of the quantization interval is used for the \longrightarrow Digital-to-Analog Conversion (DAC)

SAMPLING, QUANTIZATION, AND CODING

- Sampling and Quantization
	- The analog signal is converted to a digital representation by periodical measurements and converted by dividing the analog signal range into quantization intervals
- Coding
	- The quantization intervals are assigned to a binary code

Author: Bjarne Skurdal

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SYMBOL RATE

The number of discrete values of a signal are denoted as …

- $n=2 \to$ binary
- $n=3 \rightarrow$ ternary
- $n=4 \rightarrow$ quaternary
- $n=8\rightarrow$ octonary
- $n=10 \rightarrow$ denary

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BIT RATE AND SYMBOL RATE

- The ratio between bit rate and symbol rate depends on the \rightarrow line encoding scheme used
- The line code specifies in computer networks the maximum number of signals that can be transmitted via the transmission media used
- The line code of a network technology is specified by the layer protocol used

DATA RATE

- The capacity of a channel is defined by the possible data rate
- Using symbols with multiple values increases the data rate

Hartley's law (1924) $\,$ maximum data rate[bit/s] = $2*H*log_{2}(V)$

- V : number of different symbol values
- H: the channel bandwidth in Hertz (Hz)

This equation gives the maximum data rate for a finitebandwidth noiseless channel

 \Rightarrow Given an unlimited amount of symbol levels an unlimited data rate can be achieved

IDEAL VS. REAL TRANSMISSION

"The fundamental problem of communication consists in reproducing on one side exactly or approximated a message selected on the other side."

Source: A Mathematical Theory of Communication, Bell Systems, 1948

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ATTENUATION

- The signals are subject to physical laws
	- This includes the attenuation (signal weakening)
	- **EXTERGHEE Attenuation weakens the amplitude of a signal more and more** over distance on all transmission media
		- \circ If the amplitude of a data signal has dropped below a certain value, it can no longer be clearly interpreted
	- Thus, the attenuation limits the maximum bridgeable distance for all transmission media
	- The **higher** the **frequency**, the **higher** is the **attenuation**

NOISE AND DISTORTION

- Typical sources for noise are
	- Thermal noise (also *Nyquist noise*)
	- **Intermodulation noise**
	- Crosstalk
	- **Impulse noise**
- Other distortions
	- Echoes
	- Extreme low frequency (ELF), e.g., *AC*
	- **Delay distorion**
	- …
- Plus attenuation, refraction, reflection ...
- Typical noise model: AWGN :
	- **Additive**
	- **Nhite Noise**
	- **Gaussian**

Also called **Gaussian Channel**

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BIT ERROR RATE

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DATA RATE ON A NOISY CHANNEL

- Any real existing channel is polluted by noise
- The achievable data rate depends on the relationship between signal strength and noise
	- ⇒ The Signal-to-Noise Ratio (SNR, S/N)

Shannon-Hartley theorem maximum data rate[bit/s] = $H * log_2(1 + S/N)$

- S : Signal strength
- N : Noise level
- H: the channel bandwidth in Hertz (Hz)

The SNR is commonly expressed in decibel (dB): $\mathsf{SNR}[\mathsf{dB}]$ = $10 * log_{10}(S/N)$

 \rightarrow The Shannon-Hartley theorem is the basis for the information theory.

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DATA ENCODING

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BASEBAND AND BROADBAND

- In **Baseband**
- In **Broadband**

- $A \rightarrow \text{modulation}$ is used to transmit the data over a carrier analog signal
- By using different carrier signals (frequencies), several transmissions can happen simultaneously
- \longrightarrow Mainly used in optical networks, in radio communication, and cable distribution systems
- Preferable over longer distances

ENCODING REQUIREMENTS

The encoding must be …

- robust: tolerate as much distortion as possible
- efficient: achieve the highest possible data transmission rate Using code words:
	- **binary** code: 2 states
	- **ternary** code: 3 states
	- **quaternary** code: 4 states (coding of two bits at the same time)
	- …
- synchronized: allow the receiver to keep in synch Synchronization can be achieved by:
	- transmission of an explicit clock signal
	- synchronize on certain points, e.g., start of character
	- self-synchronizing signal

WELL-KNOWN LINE ENCODINGS

- There are many ways to encode binary data onto a line
- Many different encodings are used in different technologies
- In the following we will review some of them but not consider all of them in detail
- It is **not important** to *memorize* the encoding schemes, but it is **important** to *understand* the principle

SIMPLEST ENCODING

How would you encode a binary signal?

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Cimple approach

Advantage: Very simple and efficient

isadı **Disadvantage**: \bullet

- When transmitting a long series of logical θ bits or logical 1 bits, the) +5V physical signal level does not change When transmitting a long series of logical 0 bits or logical 1 bits, the
- **This results in 2 problems:**
- **Baseline Wander Baseline Wander**
- **developed by Bosch in the 1980s for connection connection control devices in cars in**

BASELINE WANDER

- **Problem**: Shift of the average signal level
- The receiver distinguishes the physical signal levels by using the average signal level of a certain number of received signals
	- Signals **below** the average signal level, interprets the receiver as logical 0
	- Signals **above** the average signal level, interprets the receiver as logical 1
- When transmitting long sequences of logical 0 or 1 bits, the average signal level may shift so much, making it difficult to detect a change of the physical signal

AVOID BASELINE WANDER

- In order to prevent Baseline Wander, when using a line code with 2 physical signal levels, the usage of both signal levels must be distributed equally
	- Therefore, the data to be transmitted must be encoded in a way, that the signal levels occur equally often

The data must be scrambled

• If a network technology uses 3 or 5 physical signal levels, the average signal level must match the middle signal level over the time

CLOCK RECOVERY

- **Problem**: Recover the clock signal from the transmission
- Even if the processes for encoding and decoding run on different computers, they need to be controlled by the same **clock**

You can imagine the local clock as an internal signal, switching from low to high. A low/high pair is a clock cycle

- In each clock cycle, the sender transmits a bit and the receiver receives a bit
- If the clocks of sender and receiver drift apart, the receiver may lose count during a sequence of logic 0 or 1

AVOID THE PROBLEM OF CLOCK RECOVERY One option: Using a separate line, which transmits just the clock

The next slides present several line codes, which all…

- system I C (Inter-Integrated Circuit) But like comparable systems this bus system • (more or less successful) try to solve the challenges of baseline wander and/or clock recovery
- \parallel must consider the limitations of the transmission medium compared because of the cabling effort of the must consider the limitations of the transmission medium used
	- Fiber-optic cables and wireless transmissions via infrared and laser provide just 2 physical signal levels
		- Copper cables and wireless transmissions via radio waves can provide more physical signal levels

- Similar to NRZ
	- Encode 1 as voltage level change
	- Encode 0 as missing voltage level change

Property:

- Same advantages as for NRZ, but the disadvantages only occur for sequences of zeroes
	- ⇒ Therefore, baseline wander can occur

Sometimes called **differential NRZ**

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MULTILEVEL TRANSMISSION ENCODING - 3 LEVELS (MLT-3)

- This line code uses 3 signal levels +, 0 and -
	- If a logical 0 is transmitted, no signal level change takes place
	- A logical 1 is alternating encoded, according to the sequence $[+, \mathcal{O}, -, \mathcal{O}]$
- Just as for NRZI, the clock recovery problem exists with series of logical 0 and baseline wander can occur

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RETURN TO ZER

- RZ uses 3 signal levels
	- Transmit a logical 1 \Longrightarrow high signal level is transmitted for **a half clock** and then the signal level returns to the middle signal level
	- Transmit a logical 0 \Longrightarrow low signal level is transmitted for **a half clock** and then the signal level returns to the middle signal level
- **Advantage**: Each transmitted bit causes a signal level change
	- Enables the receiver to do the clock recovery (synchronization)
- **Drawbacks**: \bullet
	- Requires double as much bandwidth compared with NRZ
	- Baseline wander can occur for series of logical 0 or 1

- Special form of return-to-zero (RZ)
	- Uses only 2 signal levels
		- Logical 0 bits are encoded as low signal level
		- Transmit a logical 1 bit \Longrightarrow high signal level is transmitted for a half clock and then the signal level returns to the low signal level
- Clock recovery is impossible for series of logical 0 bits
- The usage of the different signal level is not equally distributed
	- **Therefore baseline wander can occur**

This line code is used for optical wireless data transmission via IrDA in the transmission mode SIR

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- Uses 2 signal levels
	- A logical 1 is encoded with a **rising edge**
		- Change from signal level 1 (low value) to signal level 2 (high value)
	- A logical 0 is encoded with a **falling edge**
		- Change from signal level 2 (high value) to signal level 1 (low value)
- If 2 identical bits follow each other, at the end of the bit cell, the signal level changes to the initial level
	- B Bit cell = time period, that is reserved for the transmission of a single bit

10 Mbps Ethernet (e.g. 10BASE2 and 10BASE-T) uses this line code

MANCHESTER CODE PROPERTIES

Advantages:

- Signal level changes happen all the time to allow clock recovery \Longrightarrow Clock recovery is no problem for the receiver
- The usage of the signal levels is equally distributed
	- \Longrightarrow baseline wander cannot occur
- **Disadvantage**: The transmission of a single bit requires on average 1.5 signal level changes

Because the number of level changes is a limiting factor of the transmission medium, modern network technologies do not use the Manchester encoding as line code

- For this line code, the bit rate is half the baud rate
	- Therefore, the efficiency of the line code is only 50 % compared to NRZ

DIFFERENTIAL MANCHESTER CODE

Level 2 Level 1

- Also called **Conditional DePhase encoding (CDP)**
	- Transmit a logical $1 \Longrightarrow$ only in the middle of the bit cell changes the signal level
	- Transmit a logical $0 \Longrightarrow$ a change of the signal level will take place at the beginning and in the middle of the bit cell
- In this variant of the Manchester encoding, too,...
	- clock recovery is possible for the receiver and
	- **E** baseline wander cannot occur
- Depending on the initial signal level, **2 signal sequences, inverse to each other, are possible**

Token Ring (IEEE 802.5) uses this line code

MANCHESTER II ENCODING

- This line code (also called Biphase-L) is the opposite of the Manchester encoding
	- Manchester encoding:
		- Transition from high to low signal corresponds to a logical 0 bit
		- Transition from low to high signal corresponds to a logical 1 bit
	- Manchester II encoding:
		- Transition from low to high signal corresponds to a logical 0 bit
		- Transition from high to low signal corresponds to a logical 1 bit
- Just as for the Manchester encoding, clock recovery is possible for the receiver and because the usage of the signal levels is distributed equally

MANCHESTER II CODE

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ALTERNATE MARK INVERSION (AMI CODE)

- Also called Bipolar Encoding
- Uses 3 signal levels $(+, 0 \text{ und } -)$
	- Logical 0 bits are encoded as middle signal level (0)
	- Logical 1 bits are alternating encoded as high $(+)$ or low signal level $(-)$
- **Benefit**: Baseline wander cannot occur
- **Drawback**: Clock recovery is impossible for series of logical 0 bits
- Error detection is partly possible because the signal sequences $+$, $--$, $+0+$ and $-0-$ are illegal

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AMI LINE CODE IN PRACTICE AND SCRAMBLERS

 $\mathsf{ISDN}\left(S_{0}\right)$ bus uses a modified version of the AMI line code

With this variant, logical 1 bits are encoded as middle signal level and logical 0 bits are alternating encoded as high signal level or low signal level

To allow for clock recovery a is often used, after AMI line code encoding

 \Rightarrow A scrambler is a device, which modifies a bit stream according to a simple algorithm in a way, that it is simple to reverse back to the original bit stream

• In this case, scramblers are used, to interrupt long series of logic 0 bits

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INTERIM CONCLUSION

All line codes presented so far have drawbacks

1. Baseline wander

Problem with series of logical and when NRZ is used 0 1 U
. → Possible Solution: encode groups of bits

Problem with series of logical with series of logical when \mathcal{S} , where \mathcal{S} are \mathcal{S} and \mathcal{S} are \mathcal{S} are \mathcal{S} are \mathcal The objective is to achieve the positive characteristics of the \parallel with reflected energy Manchester encoding and a high efficiency at the same time

- Not guaranteed when NRZ, NRZI, MLT-3, or Unipolar RZ are used
- 3. Lack of efficiency
	- With the variants of the Manchester encoding

4B/5B CODE

- After the encoding with 4B5B, another encoding e.g. with NRZI or MLT-3 takes place
	- If 4B5B is combined with NRZI (for 2 signal levels) or with MLT-3 (for 3 signal levels), baseline Wander cannot occur
	- Ethernet 100BASE-TX: After 4B5B, a further encoding with MLT-3 takes place
	- FDDI and Ethernet 100BASE-FX: After 4B5B, a further encoding with NRZI takes place

4B5B ENCODING (TABLE)

• The missing 5-bit combinations are invalid because they contain more than a single leading 0 bits or more than two 0 bits in a row

If Fast Ethernet 100BASE-TX is used, frames begin with JK and end with TR

H — 00100 Halt (transmission failure)

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5B6B ENCODING

- After the encoding with 5B6B, another encoding with NRZ takes place
	- This is possible, because if 5B6B is used, **clock recovery is possible** for the receiver and **baseline wander cannot occur**
- Advantage compared to the Manchester encoding: higher baud rate
	- Efficiency: $5/6 = 83.\overline{3}\%$

5B6B is used by Fast Ethernet 100Base-VG

5B6B ENCODING (TABLE)

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8B10B ENCODING

- After the encoding with 8B10B, another encoding via NRZ takes place
	- **Baseline wander cannot occur**, because some of the $2^8 = 256$ possible 8-bit words can be encoded in 2 different ways

This way, inequalities are compensated

- Each 10-bit encoding contains at least 3 signal level changes and at the latest after 5 clock cycles, the signal level changes
	- This **enables** the receiver **to do clock recovery**

Used by Gigabit-Ethernet 1000Base-CX, -SX, -LX, FibreChannel, InfiniBand, DisplayPort, FireWire 800 (IEEE 1394b) and USB 3.0

8B6T ENCODING

In contrast to 4B5B, 5B6B and 8B10B, which only *improve* the payload and require an encoding with NRZ(I) or MLT-3 afterwards, 8B6T encoded data **can be used directly for transmission**

Fast-Ethernet 100BASE-T4 uses this line code

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8B6T ENCODING (TABLE)

etc.

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 Specifies if the clock recovery is possible with this line code. 1

 Ratio of bit rate (payload in bits per time) and baud rate (signal changes per second). $\overline{2}$

MODULATION

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BASEBAND AND BROADBAND

- In **Baseband**
- In **Broadband**
	- $A \rightarrow \text{modulation}$ is used to transmit the data over a carrier analog signal
	- By using different carrier signals (frequencies), several transmissions can happen simultaneously
	- \longrightarrow Mainly used in optical networks, in radio communication, and cable distribution systems
	- Preferable over longer distances

f : Frequency T : Duration of one oscillation, period

 ϕ : Phase

 \overline{A} : Amplitude

The data is modulated into a carrier frequency

X

Not modulated signal

Electromagnetic signal:

 $s(t) = A * sin(2 * \pi * f * t + \phi)$

→ **Modem** = **Mo**dulation-**Dem**odulation process

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Carrier frequency (sin)

modulated signal

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- Technically easy to realize
- Does not need much bandwidth
- Not very robust against distortion
- Often used in optical transmission (\rightarrow low noise)

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| FREQUENCY SHIFT KEYING (FSK) | | |
|--|-----|---|
| Bit value | 1 | 0 |
| $s(t) = A * sin(2 * \pi * f * t + \phi)$ | | |
| Frequency Modulation (discrete, Frequency Shift Keying, FSK) | | |
| www | www | |

- *Waste* of frequencies
- Needs a lot of bandwidth
- Initial principle used in data transmission on phone lines

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- Complex demodulation process
- Robust against distortion
- Best generic solution

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ADVANCED PSK TECHNIQUES

- Quadrature Phase Shift Keying (QPSK)
- Binary Phase Shift Keying (BPSK)
- Carrier-less Amplitude Phase Modulation (CAP/QAM)
- Differential Phase Shift Keying (DPSK)

SUMMARY

You should now be able to answer the following questions:

- How can data be transmitted over different transmission media?
- What does quantization, sampling, encoding, and modulation mean?
- Why do we need line codes, which properties are important, and which typical line codes exist?
- How can data signals be modulated onto a carrier frequency?

