Wireless Communications & Networking

Michael Tsai 2025/05/05

Agenda

- Lecture: Basics of Wireless Communications
- Lab 11: Wireless Measurement
- HW10 will be announced today

Main Difference between Wired and Wireless

- Signal not "sealed" in the cable power loss over long distance & obstructions
 - Low Signal-to-Noise Ratio (SNR)
 - -> erroneous transmission
- Multi-path
 - Rapid signal fluctuation and self-interference
- Shared medium
 - Shared bandwidth & interference

Outline

- Modulation how to represent information with waveform
- Path loss power loss over distance
- Multi-path fading rapid power fluctuation & self-interference
- Multiplexing how to share
- Additional MAC designs
- Rate adaption
- What can we do (for WiFi systems)

The fundamental waveform - sinusoidal wave

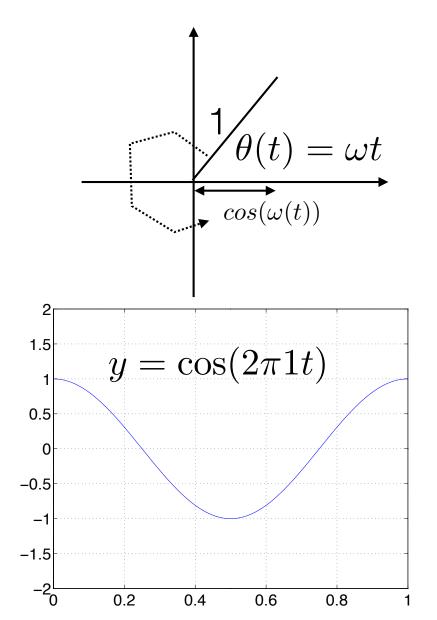
$$y = \cos(\omega t) = \cos(2\pi f t)$$

 ω : angular frequency (每單位時間轉多少弧度)

$$\omega = 2\pi f$$

f : frequency (Hz) (每單位時間轉多少2 pi, 圈)

How about $y = \cos(2\pi \cdot (2.4 \cdot 10^9) \cdot t)?$

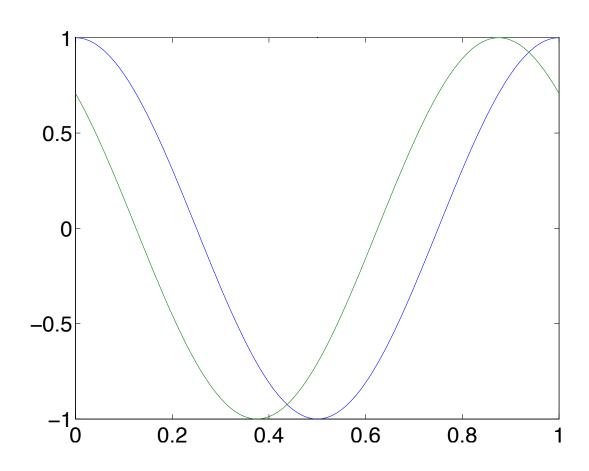


Sinusoidal Wave -Initial Phase

Initial phase created "shifted" waveform

$$y = \cos(2\pi f t + \phi)$$

$$\phi = \frac{\pi}{4}$$



Modulation -How to represent information?

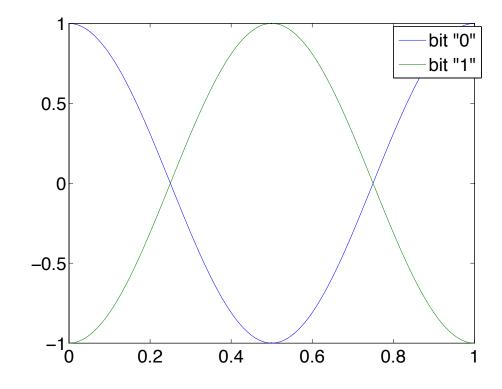
- Symbol: map to a number of bits
- Example: When one symbol map to:
 - 1 bit, then there are 2 kinds of symbol, mapping to "0" and "1"
 - 2 bits, then there are 4 kinds of symbol, mapping to "00", "01", "10", and "11"
- Each symbol corresponds to a particular waveform

Phase Shift Keying (PSK)

Binary Phase Shift Keying (BPSK, or 2-PSK)

$$s(t) = \cos(2\pi f_c t + 0)$$
 bit "0"

$$s(t) = \cos(2\pi f_c t + \pi) = -\cos(2\pi f_c t)$$
 bit "1"

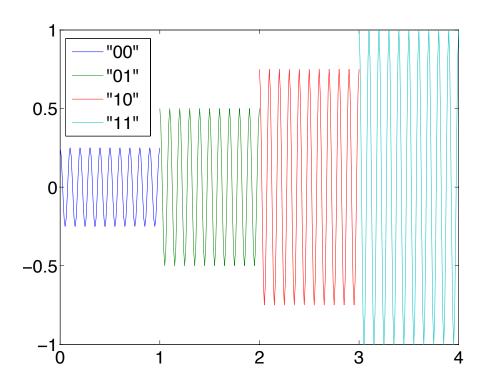


$$s(t) = \cos(2\pi f_c t + \phi_i)$$
$$\phi_i = \{0, \pi\}$$

Amplitude Shift Keying (ASK)

4-Amplitude Shift Keying (4-ASK)

$$s(t) = a_i \cos(2\pi f t)$$
 $a_i = \{\frac{1}{4}, \frac{2}{4}, \frac{3}{4}, 1\}$



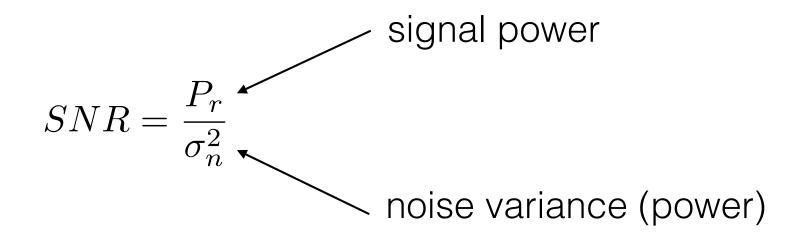
Q: Think about 8-ASK, what would the waveforms look like?

Power loss and noise

$$r(t) = \frac{1}{a(t)}s(t) + n(t)$$

n(t): noise

a(t): path loss



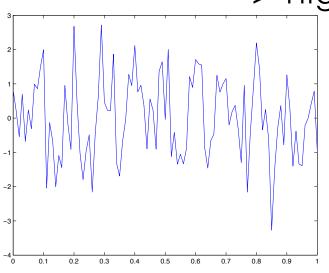
SNR versus Error Rate

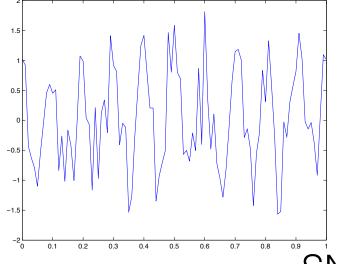
Low SNR —> hard to decode

SNR=0 dB

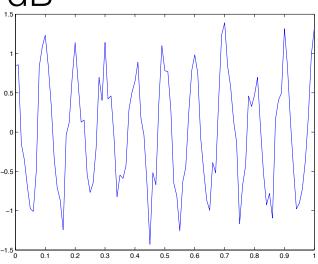
—> higher error rate

SNR=6 dB

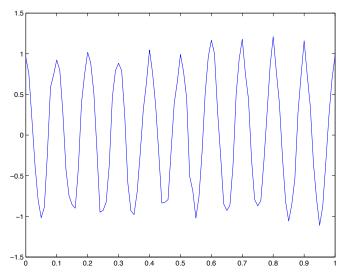




SNR=12 dB



SNR=20 dB



Path Loss

$$r(t) = \frac{1}{a(t)}s(t) + n(t)$$

- Noise level is usually fixed (given a particular environment)
- Path loss determines the SNR (and error rate)
- Path loss is usually determined by distance & obstruction



TX Antenna

EIRP= P_tG_t

RX Antenna

 $\cdot A_e$ Antenna gain G

$$G = \frac{4\pi}{\lambda^2} A_e$$

Power spatial density (W/m²)

$$\cdot \frac{1}{4\pi d^2}$$

$$P_r = \frac{P_t G_t A_e}{4\pi d^2} = \frac{P_t G_t G_r \lambda^2}{(4\pi d)^2}$$

Friis formula & path loss exponent

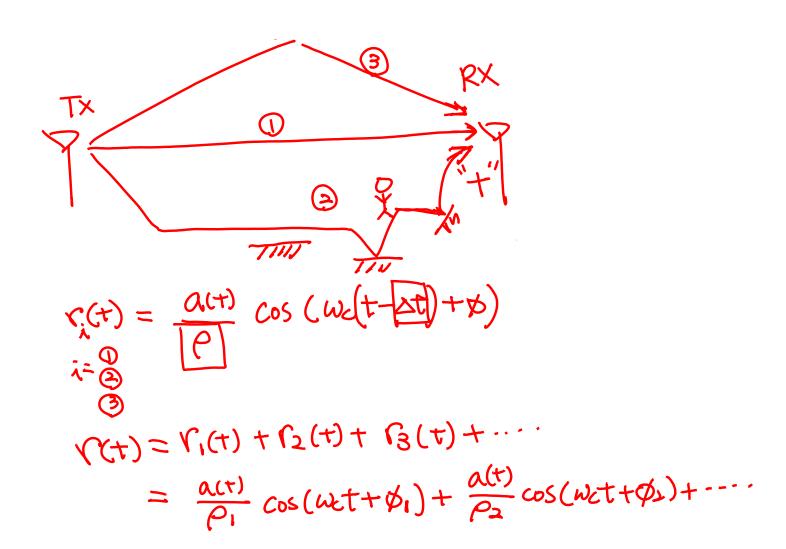
 Free space path loss exponent = 2 (power attenuates with a factor of 1/d²)

- Higher frequency signal experiences larger path loss (with the same antenna gain)
- In reality, $P_r \propto rac{1}{d^{\gamma}}$

 γ : path loss exponent

Environment	Path-loss Exponent
Free-space	2
Urban area cellular radio	2.7-3.5
Shadowed urban cellular radio	3-5
In building LOS	1.6 to 1.8
Obstructed in building	4 to 6
Obstructed in factories	2 to 3

Multi-(propagation-)path



Multi-path —> power fluctuation (fading)

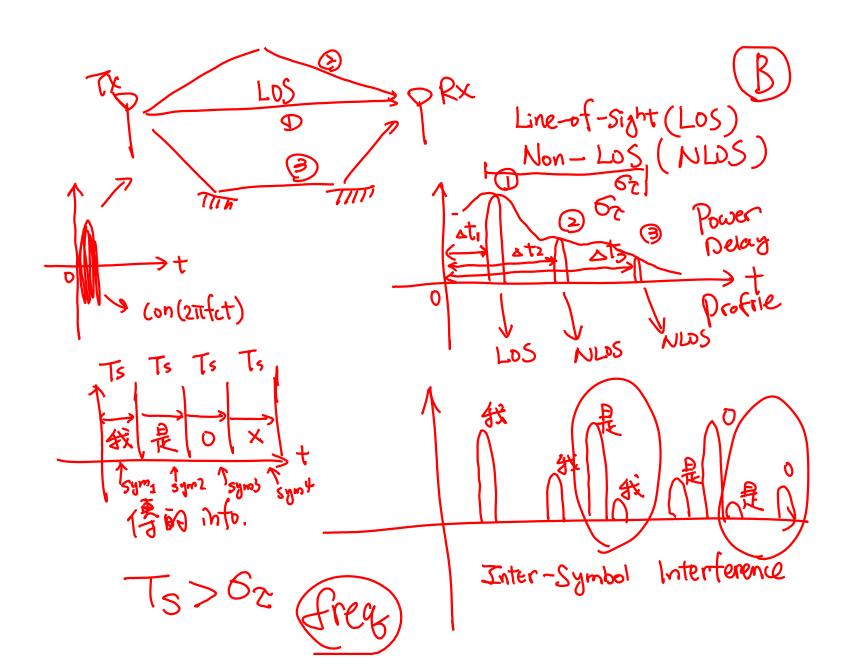
$$V_{0}(t) = \cos(\omega t)$$

$$V_{0}(t) = \cos(\omega t)$$

$$V_{0}(t) = \cos(\omega t)$$

$$V_{0}(t) = \cos(\omega t) + v_{0}(t)$$

Multi-path —> inter symbol interference



Multiplexing - how to share the medium

- Wireless channel is a broadcast channel
 —> when you transmits, "everyone can hear"
- Duplexing: allows TX & RX to both happen Multiplexing: allows multiple sets of TX and RX to both happen
- Examples of multiplexing methods:
 Spatial, frequency, and time multiplexing

Spatial Multiplexing

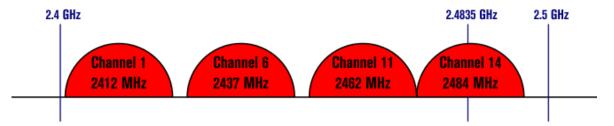
O Spatial Multiplexing (Spatial Reuse)

TXI
$$P(t) = S_1(t) + S_2(t)$$
 $S_2(t) = S_2(t)$
 $S_2(t) = S_2(t)$

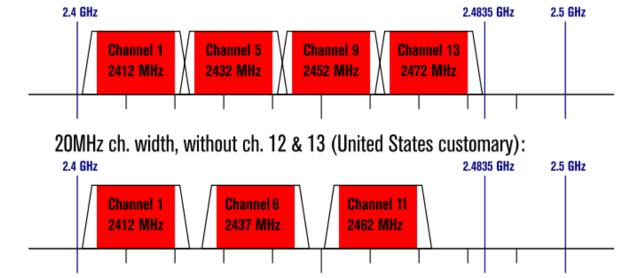
Frequency-Division Multiplexing

Non-Overlapping Channels for 2.4 GHz WLAN

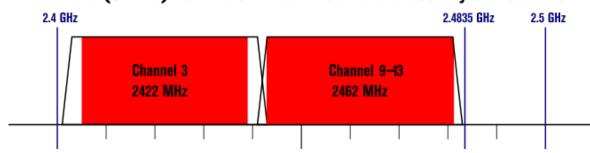
802.11b (DSSS) channel width 22 MHz



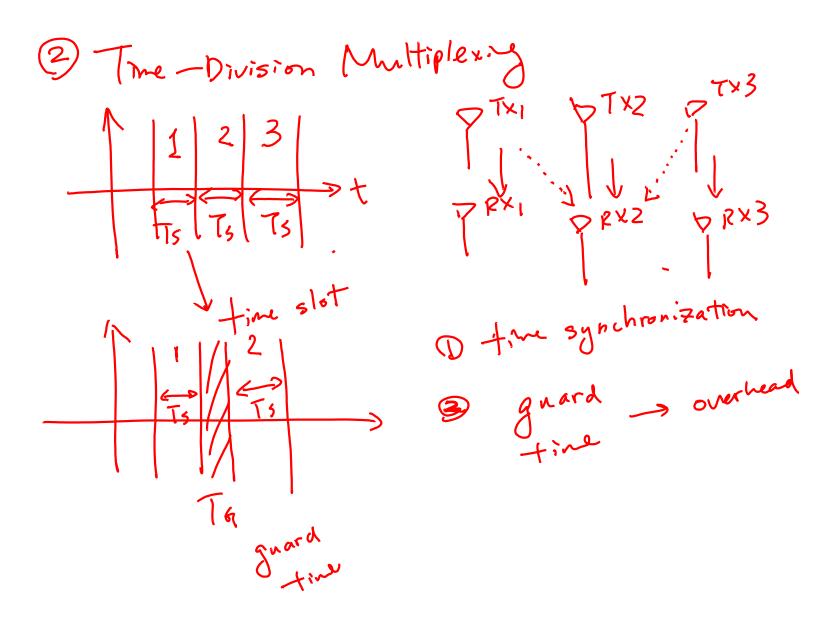
802.11g/n (OFDM) 20 MHz ch. width - 16.25 MHz used by sub-carriers



802.11n (OFDM) 40 MHz ch. width - 33.75 MHz used by sub-carriers

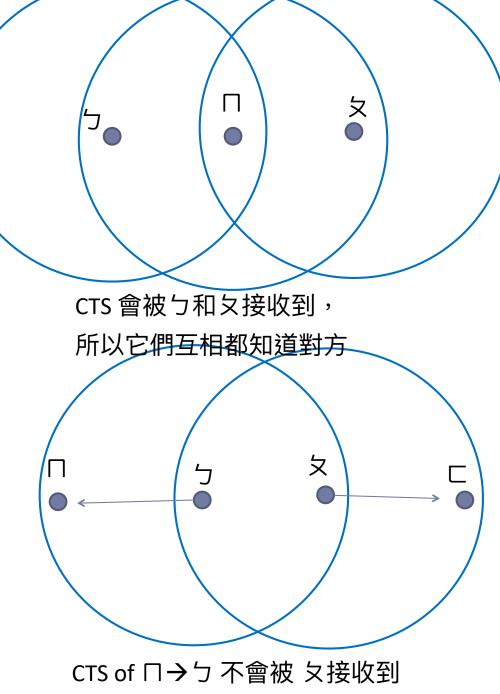


Time-Division Multiplexing

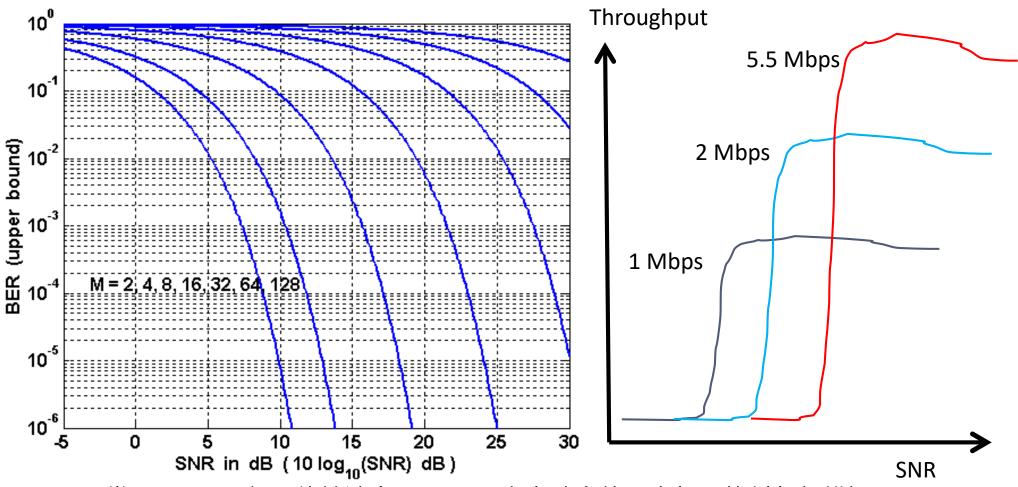


Additional MAC Design for Collision Avoidance

- IEEE 802.11 (WiFi)
- Handshake四部曲
 - RTS (Request to send)
 - CTS (Clear to send)
 - Data
 - ACK (Acknowledgement)
- 使用 NAV (Network Allocation Vector)
 - 在CTS中標示需要保留通道的時間 (虛擬CSMA)



Rate Adaptation



- 當SNR不足,但是傳輸速率(data rate)太高時會使一大部分的封包都錯誤
- 一般作法:
 - 當出現連續封包錯誤時,降低傳輸速率一級。
 - 當出現連續封包正確時,提升傳輸速率一級。
- 問題: 當封包出現連續錯誤時,並無法確定是因為SNR太低! (可能是碰撞!)
- 降速→相同大小封包傳更久→更容易碰撞!

What can / can't we do (to improve WiFi systems)?

- Can't:
 - Wireless channel (time variation, ISI)
 - Type of modulation (standard)
- Can:
 - Bandwidth (20/40/80/160 MHz)
 - Frequency (2.4 GHz, 5 GHz, channel assignment)
 - Data rate (e.g., 1 Mbps, 2 Mbps, 5.5 Mbps, etc.)
- Planning:
 - Transmission power
 - Location of the AP (distance, obstruction)
 - Traffic throttling

How do we add more system capacity?

- We can add more APs!
- But TX power (AP/client) needs to be scaled down.
- Otherwise:
 - Collision
 - Back-off (MAC)
 - Rate adaption algorithm selects a lower rate