



SAPIENZA  
UNIVERSITÀ DI ROMA

# Network Infrastructures

A.A. 2018-2019  
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## XDSL

- DSL (or xDSL), is a family of technologies that provide digital data transmission over the wires of a local telephone network.
- DSL originally stood for digital subscriber loop, although in recent years, many have adopted digital subscriber line as a more marketing-friendly term

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## xDSL Family

- ISDN Digital Subscriber Line (IDSL)
- High Data Rate Digital Subscriber Line (HDSL)
- Symmetric Digital Subscriber Line (SDSL), a standardized version of HDSL
- Asymmetric Digital Subscriber Line (ADSL), a version of DSL with a slower upload speed
- ADSL “lite” (or g.lite)
- Rate-Adaptive Digital Subscriber Line (RADSL)
- Very High Speed Digital Subscriber Line (VDSL)
- Very High Speed Digital Subscriber Line 2 (VDSL2), an improved version of VDSL

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## Reasons for xDSL market

- More than 600 million copper wires worldwide
- Growing requests for data transmissions (mainly access to IP networks)
- Competition
- Deregulation
- Growing needs for POTS in developing countries

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## **An example: copper wired access network Telecom Italia**

- Number of network terminations: 33.576.600
- Number of Central Offices: 11.000
- Number of Street Cabinets: 150.000
- Amount of cables: above 105.700.000 km-pairs
- Mean distance from a CO and a user: 1,5 Km  
(1,2 Km in urban areas)

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## **Some history**

- In the early 1980s, the idea of a digital subscriber line to provide access to an integrated services digital network (ISDN) was initiated
  - The initial throughput requirement was 160 kbit/s
  - Investigate even higher transmission throughputs approaching T1 speeds
  - The project was named High bit rate DSL (HDSL)
- Lately the interest towards asymmetry arose (for Video on Demand services)
- Joe Lechleider at Bellcore (now Telcordia Technologies) developed ADSL in 1988 by placing wideband digital signals above the existing baseband analog voice signal carried between telephone company central offices and customers on conventional twisted pair cabling

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## Current telco services

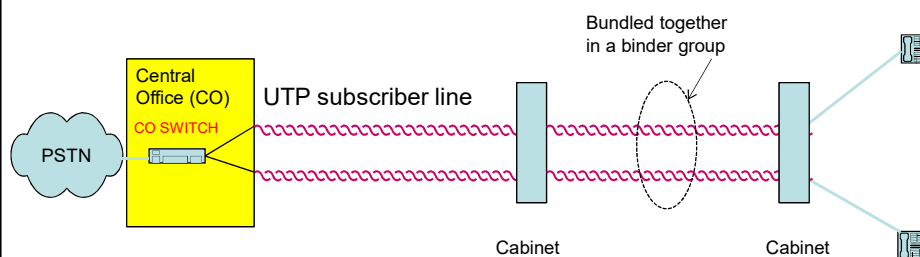
### ■ Bandwidth comparisons with phone wire

Service	Upper limit bandwidth
Voice service	3400Hz
ISDN(USA)	80kHz
ISDN(Germany)	120kHz
T1 Using 2B1Q	400kHz
ADSL	About 1MHz

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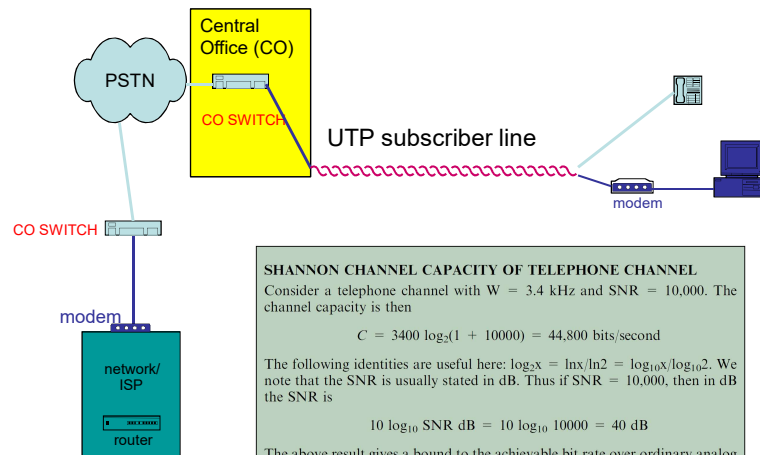
## Wiring Schematic pre-DSL



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## Analog (or V.90) modems



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## Current telco services

- Limitations of current telco networks to upgrade service:
  - Space of CO
  - Distance of user from CO
  - Internet problems for POTS and ISDN
  - Both types of data services use existing CO voice switch, not optimized for data
- Need to put data services to be handled by Data Communication equipment

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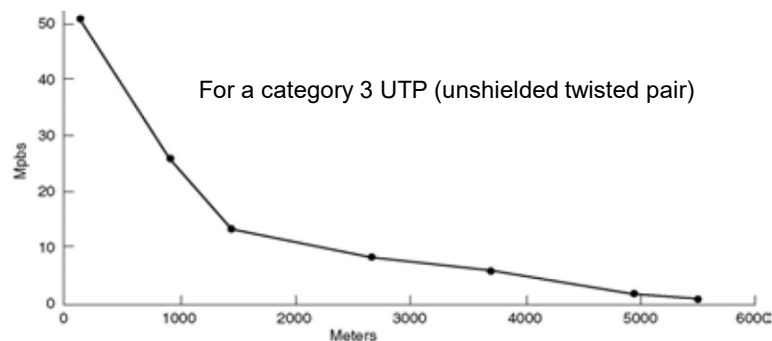
## xDSL variations

- X = Variations:
  - Speed and distance
  - Symmetry
  - Support for POTS
  - Location of equipment

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## Bandwidth as a function of meters



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## High Data Rate DSL: HDSL

- Most widely deployed form of DSL
- Created to provide leased-line T1 service
- Adaptive line equalization and 2B1Q (2 binary, 1 quaternary)
- Heavily used in cellular telephone buildouts
- Drawbacks:
  - No provision exists for analog voice
  - HDSL has crosstalks at both ends for symmetric
- HDSL-2 with a single wire pair is a promising alternative to HDSL with 2 or 4 wire pairs

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## Asymmetric DSL

- Original market driver: distribution of video on demand (VoD) (failed for this target)
- An ADSL local loop is for the exclusive use of the subscriber, with no contention for bandwidth on that local loop
- ADSL provides for passive transmission of analog voice service
- The distinguishing characteristic of ADSL over other forms of DSL is that the volume of data flow is greater in one direction than the other
- Providers usually market ADSL as a service for consumers to connect to the Internet in a relatively passive mode
  - able to use the higher speed direction for the "download" from the Internet but not needing to run servers that would require high speed in the other direction

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## Speed

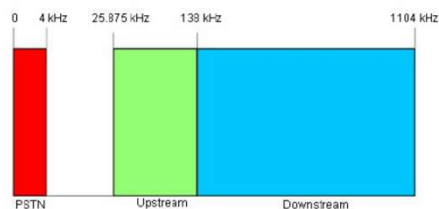
- Older ADSL standards can deliver 8 Mbit/s to the customer over about 2 km of unshielded twisted pair copper wire
- The latest standard, ADSL2+, can deliver up to 24 Mbit/s, depending on the distance from the central office

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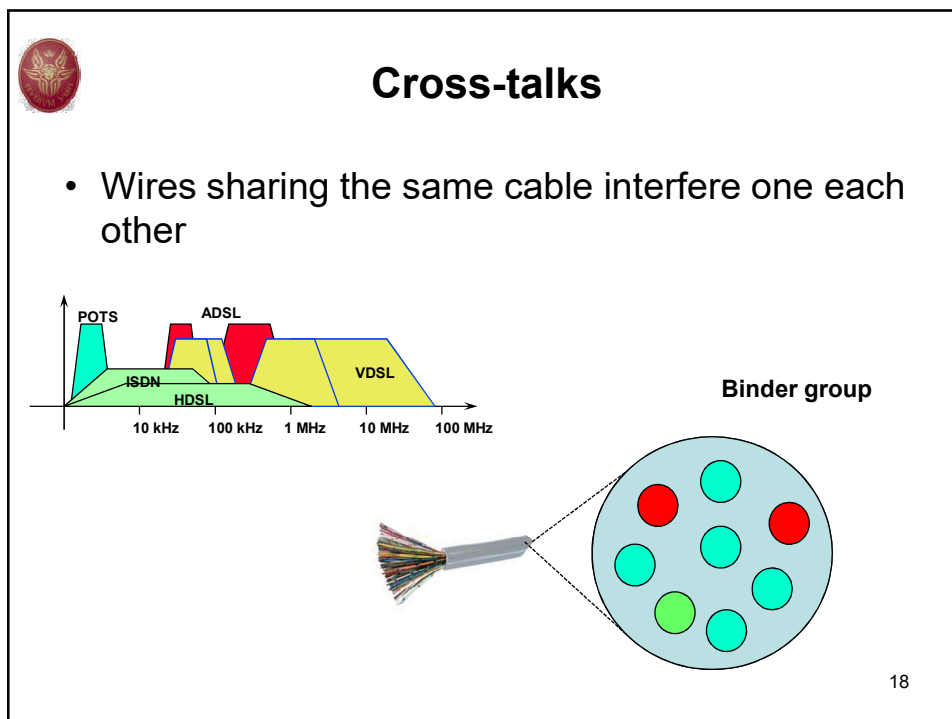
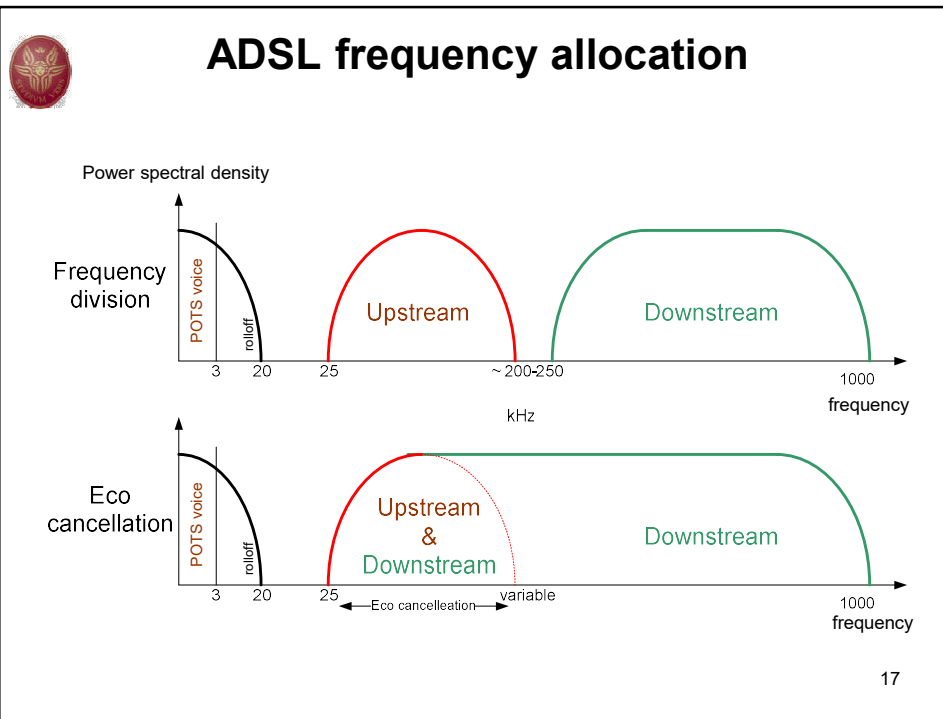
## ADSL frequency bands

- ADSL uses two separate frequency bands, referred to as the upstream and downstream bands
- The upstream band is used for communication from the end user to the telephone central office
- The downstream band is used for communicating from the central office to the end user.
- With standard ADSL, the band from 25.875 kHz to 138 kHz is used for upstream communication, while 138 kHz – 1104 kHz is used for downstream communication



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## ADSL and cross-talks

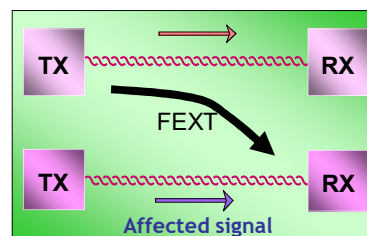
- Two kinds of cross-talk noise exist: far-end cross-talk (FEXT) and near-end cross-talk (NEXT).
- Depend on:
  - The power spectral density of the transmitted signal
  - The number of twisted pairs in the same cable
  - The overlapping of bandwidths of the useful signal and the interfering ones
- Crosstalk typically increases with frequency→ significant impairment for high speed DSL

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## FEXT

- FEXT is the cross-talk between a transmitter and a receiver placed on opposite sides of the cable
- FEXT signals travel the entire length of the channel
- Since for ADSL “short” cables are used, the signal carried on other pairs, even though coming from far away, are not strongly attenuated and create interferences that affect other pairs.
- To reduce this kind of noise a cable usually doesn't contain more than a dozen twisted pairs.



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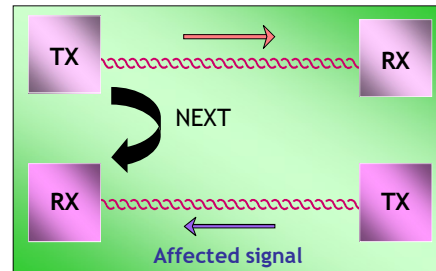


## NEXT

- NEXT is the cross-talk between a transmitter and a receiver placed on the same side of the cable;

Receiver's signals are softer than transmitter's one, since come from far away and thus there is a strong interference which reduces quality of useful received data.

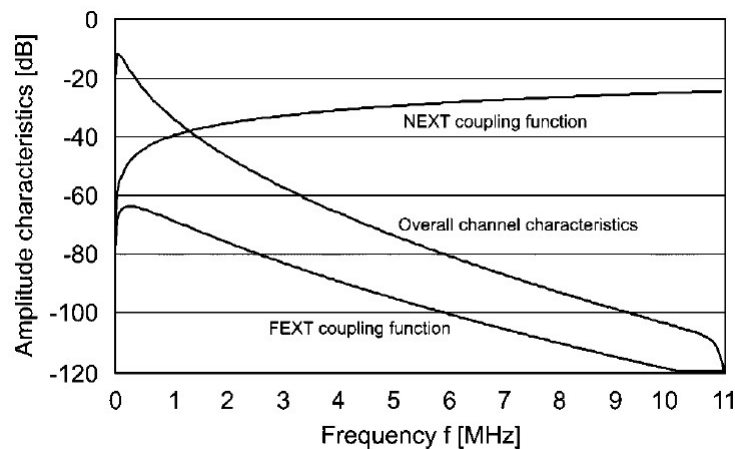
NEXT is one of the reason of the frequency division for upstream and downstream in ADSL.



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## Average NEXT and FEXT coupling functions

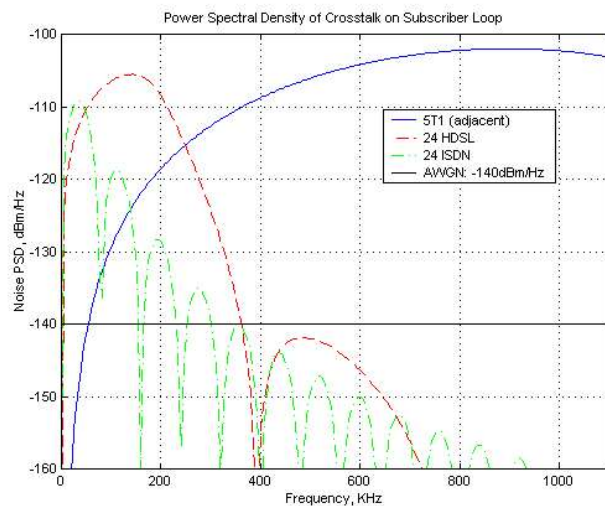


Local loop length= 1 Km

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## Crosstalk on Line



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## Status at an ADSL modem

Home > Connessione a banda larga > Connessione DSL

**Connessione DSL**

► Informazioni collegamento

Tempo di operatività: 0 giorni, 0:09:27

Tipo DSL: ITU-T G.992.5

Larghezza di banda (upload/download) [kbps/kbps]: 1.022 / 2.042

Dati trasferiti (inviati/ricevuti) [MB/MB]: 1,79 / 21,60

Potenza di output (upload/download) [dBm]: 12,0 / 19,2

Attenuazione linea (upload/download) [dB]: 19,7 / 35,5

Margine SN (upload/download) [dB]: 6,9 / 10,3

Sistema ID fornitore (locale/remoto): TMMB / ----

Chipset ID fornitore (locale/remoto): BDCM / BDCM

Perdita di framing (locale/remoto): 0 / 0

Perdita di segnale (locale/remoto): 0 / 0

Perdita di potenza (locale/remoto): 0 / 0

Perdita del collegamento (remoto): -

Secondi errore (locale/remoto): 0 / 0

Errori FEC (upload/download): 0 / 7.703

Errori CRC (upload/download): 0 / 0

Errori HEC (upload/download): 0 / 0

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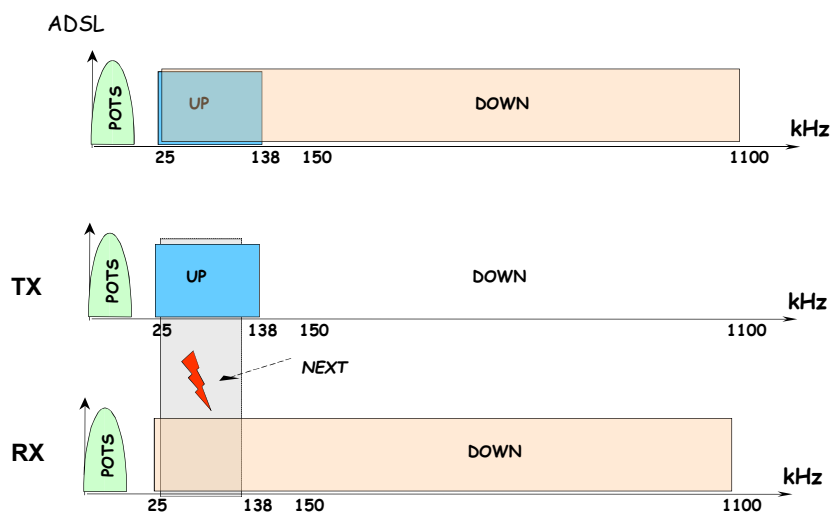
## Filtering: splitters

- It is necessary to install appropriate frequency filters at the customers premises to avoid interferences with the voice service
  - either a splitter is installed before connecting the line to phone / DSL modem
  - or DSL signal is "filtered off" at each phone by use of a low pass filter, also known as microfilter.

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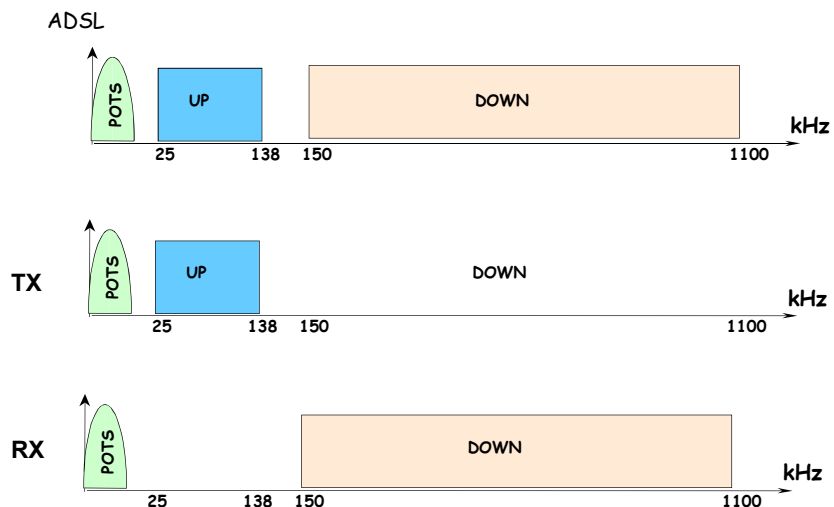
## Echo cancelled



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## Reduced NEXT or FDD



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## ADSL: Modulations

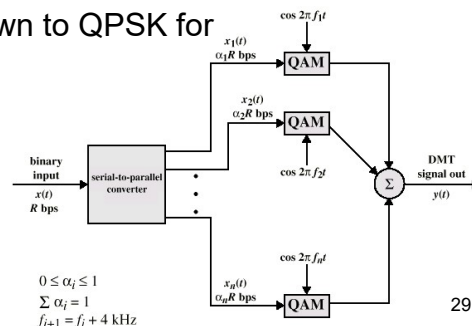
- Modulation: CAP
  - CAP stands for Carrier-less Amplitude/Phase modulation, and describes a version of QAM in which incoming data modulates a single carrier that is then transmitted down a telephone line.
  - The carrier itself is suppressed before transmission (it contains no information, and can be reconstructed at the receiver), hence the word “carrier-less” (single carrier but suppressed)

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## ADSL: Modulations

- Modulation: DMT (Discrete Multi-Tone)  
(multicarrier)
  - 256 sub-bands of 4,3125 kHz each, so occupying 1.024MHz
  - Each sub-band is QAM64 modulated for clean sub-bands, down to QPSK for noisier lines

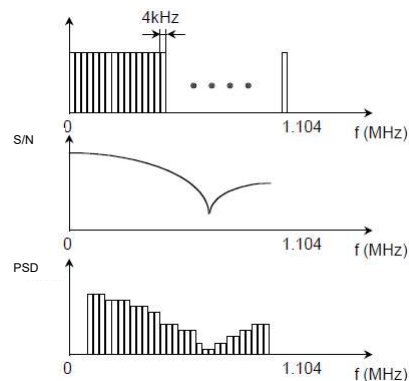


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## Principle of DMT modulation

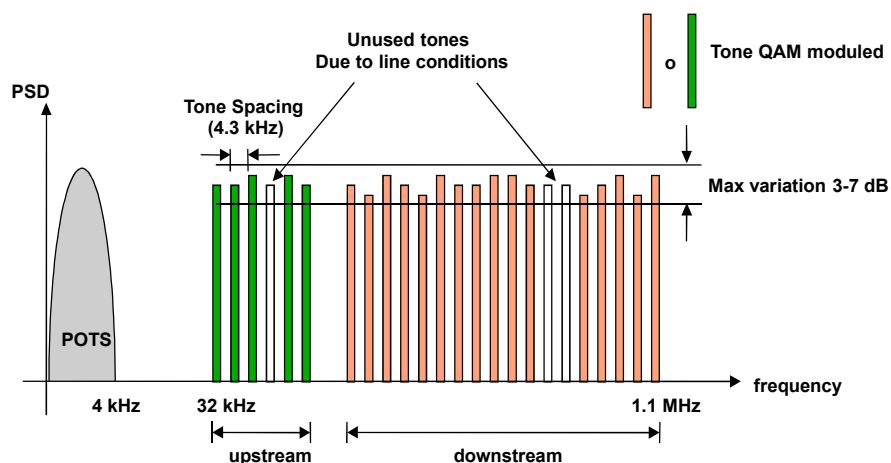
- Divide the operational ADSL bandwidth into very small subchannels
- Discrete carriers (or tones) are used in the center of each data subchannel
- These carriers are used to transmit data independently in each subcarrier by means of a specified QAM modulation.



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## DMT modulation



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## DMT modulation

- Independent subchannels can be manipulated individually with consideration of the line conditions
- If a subchannel is experiencing external interference it may not be used in favor of other subchannels
- DTM can dynamically adapt the data rate to the line conditions
- Theoretical maximum upstream bandwidth:
  - $25 \text{ channels} \times 15 \text{ bit/s/Hz/channel} \times 4 \text{ KHz} = 1.5 \text{ Mbit/s}$
- Theoretical maximum downstream bandwidth:
  - $249 \text{ channels} \times 15 \text{ bit/s/Hz/channel} \times 4 \text{ KHz} = 14.9 \text{ Mbit/s}$

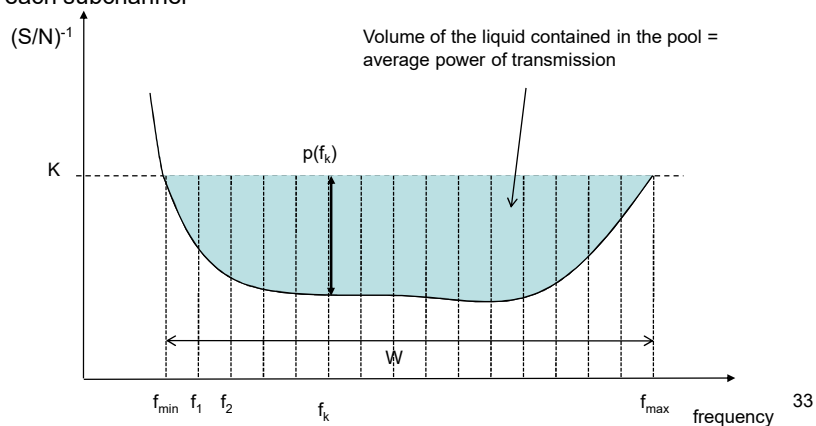
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## Water filling

- The signal power for each subcarrier is determined as the depth of the liquid in a pool
- Knowing the discrete values of  $p(f_k)$  for each subcarrier  $f_k$  one may deduce the number of bit per symbol to associate to the QAM constellation used in each subchannel



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## ADSL: Modulation

- CAP and DMT compared for ADSL (see next Table)
  - Adaptive equalizer is required for CAP since noise characteristics vary significantly across the frequency passband.
  - DMT has the speed advantage over CAP
- DSP advances will enable the technologies to converge in cost and function

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## Comparison of CAP and DMT for ADSL

	CAP	DMT
Power consumption	Lower, fewer gates	Higher peak/average, but will likely narrow gap
Forward carriers	1	256
Return carriers	1	32
Increment	320 Kb	32 Kb
Adaptive equalizers	Needed	None
Licensing	Globespan	Many sources
Standardization	In process	ITU and ANSI
Key competitors	Globespan, Paradyne, Westell	Conexant, Cisco, Alcatel, Amati (now Texas Instruments), Westell, Efficient Networks

CAP: Carrierless AM/PM  
DMT: Discrete Multi-Tone

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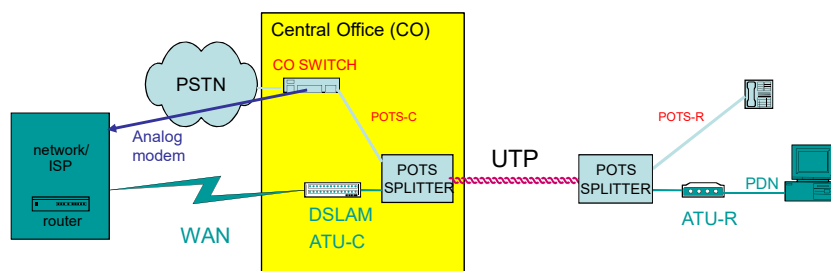
## ADSL: Architecture

- CAP and DMP are coming together on further architectural elements of an ADSL system
- ADSL Forum provides much information ([www.adsl.com](http://www.adsl.com))
- Content providers transmit information to the CO over the A9 interface (not shown) and the A4 interface.
- ATU-C: ADSL Transmission Unit – CO
  - Embedded in a line card in the DSLAM
  - One ATU-C per subscriber

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## ADSL reference model



POTS Splitter: separates POTS from DSL signals

ATU-R: ADSL Termination Unit – Remote side

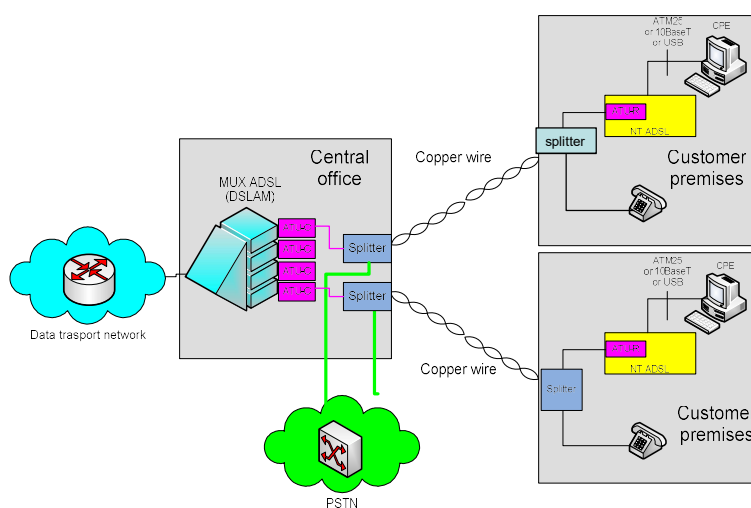
ATU-C: ADSL Termination Unit Central office side

DSLAM: DSL Access Multiplexer

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## More Detail on an End-to-End Design



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## ADSL: Principles of Operation

- Two services
  - Transparent access to legacy voice service
  - High-speed digital service
- Voice service
  - POTS splitters used in home shunt the frequencies below 3400Hz to POTS wiring
  - Frequencies above the voice band are for high-speed data service to get to the ATU-R

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## ADSL: Architecture

- ATU-R: ADSL Transmission Unit – Remote
  - Supports a multidrop or shared-home topology
- ATU-C: ADSL Transmission Unit – Central
  - ATU-C and ATU-R engage in physical-layer negotiations between the home and the CO and they can be considered modems
  - Keep management statistics, such as SNR at the physical layer; packet counts at the network layer, receive software updates; and be remotely manageable by the carrier
- POTS splitter (PS)
  - A low-pass/high-pass filter

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## ADSL: Architecture

- ATU-C and ATU-R operations
  - Concerned with physical layer
  - Frequency allocation:
    - » Bandwidth on the phone wire is divided into three parts:
      - Legacy analog POTS service: below 3400Hz
      - Upstream digital service: 25-200kHz
      - Downstream digital service: 25/250-1000kHz (Echo cancellation/FDM: frequency division multiplexing)
  - Echo cancellation
    - » Both sides talk at the same time
    - » More bandwidth efficiently than FDM
    - » More complex and expensive
  - Rate adaption

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## CPE interfaces

- 10baseT
  - 10Mbit/s on a 100m twisted pair
  - widely available on PCs
- ATM25
  - 25Mbit/s on a 100m twisted pair
  - Point-to-point
  - Not very common
  - More expensive
- USB
  - 12Mbit/s till 30m
  - widely available on new generation PCs
- Wi-Fi

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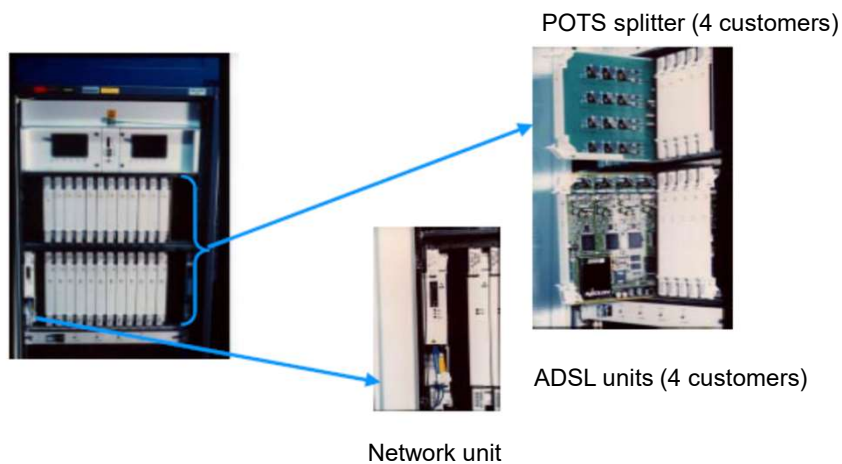
## ADSL: Architecture

- DSL Access Multiplexer (DSLAM)
  - Primary functions:
    - » House a set of ATU-C interfaces
    - » Multiplex traffic
    - » Demultiplex traffic
    - » Negotiate line speed
    - » Serve as a central management platform
  - Locations:
    - » CO, adjacent site to CO, remote terminal, customer premises
  - Current DSALMs may include up to a few hundreds

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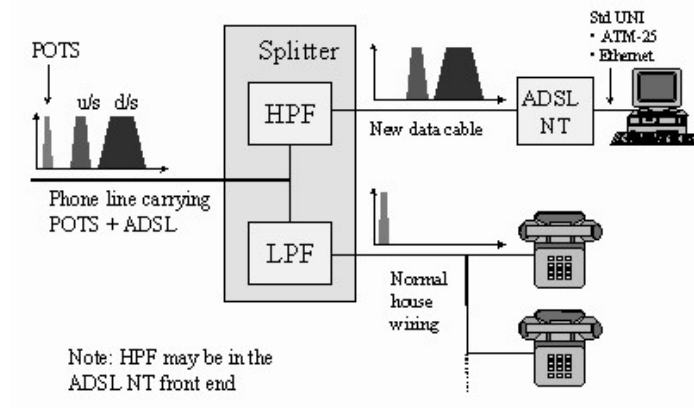
## CO elements



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## In-home configuration



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## Splitters

Splitter separates POTS from DSL signals

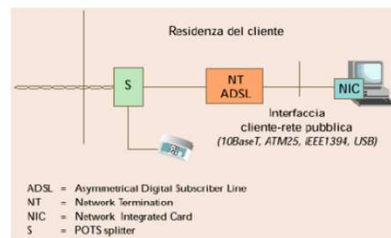
- Must guarantee lifeline POTS services
- Hence usually passive filter
- Must block impulse noise (e.g. ring) from phone into DSL
- It is not a simple cascade of a lowpass [0, 25 KHz] filter with a passband [25 KHz, 1,104 kHz] filter but a multiband (or hybrid) filter

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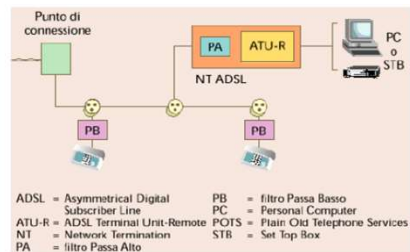
## Splitter

- Splittered



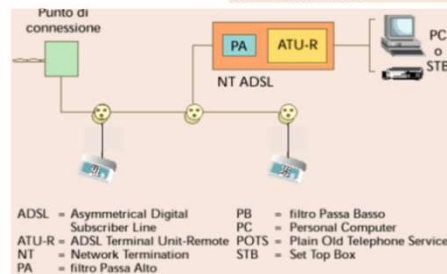
ADSL = Asymmetrical Digital Subscriber Line  
NT = Network Termination  
NIC = Network Integrated Card  
S = POTS splitter

- Distributed splitters



ADSL = Asymmetrical Digital Subscriber Line  
PB = filtro Passa Basso  
PC = Personal Computer  
ATU-R = ADSL Terminal Unit-Remote  
NT = Network Termination  
PA = filtro Passa Alto  
POTS = Plain Old Telephone Services  
STB = Set Top Box

- Splitterless (g.lite)

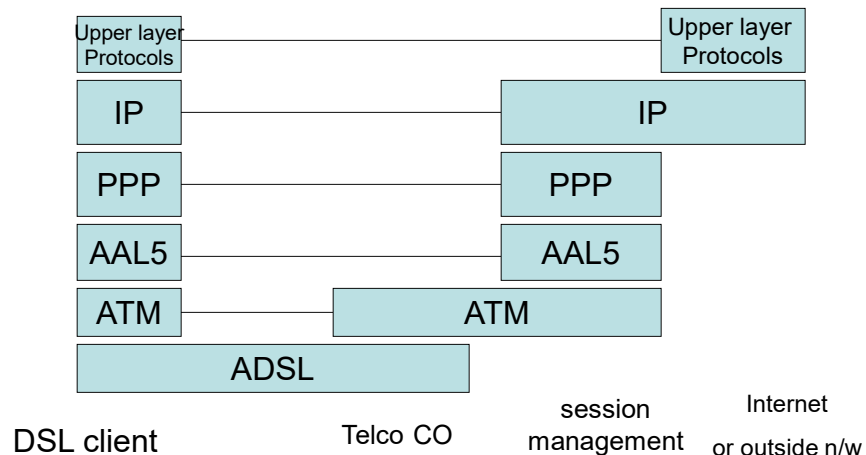


ADSL = Asymmetrical Digital Subscriber Line  
PB = filtro Passa Basso  
PC = Personal Computer  
ATU-R = ADSL Terminal Unit-Remote  
NT = Network Termination  
PA = filtro Passa Alto  
POTS = Plain Old Telephone Services  
STB = Set Top Box

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## ADSL Protocol Architecture



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## ADSL Architecture – user side

PC with ATM/ADSL adapter

Application
TCP/IP
Encapsulation
AAL5/ATM
ADSL

ADSL

PC with Ethernet adapter

Application
TCP/IP
Ethernet

Bridging modem

Ethernet bridging	
Ethernet	RFC1483
	ATM
	ADSL

ADSL

PC with Ethernet adapter

Application
TCP/IP
Ethernet

Routing modem

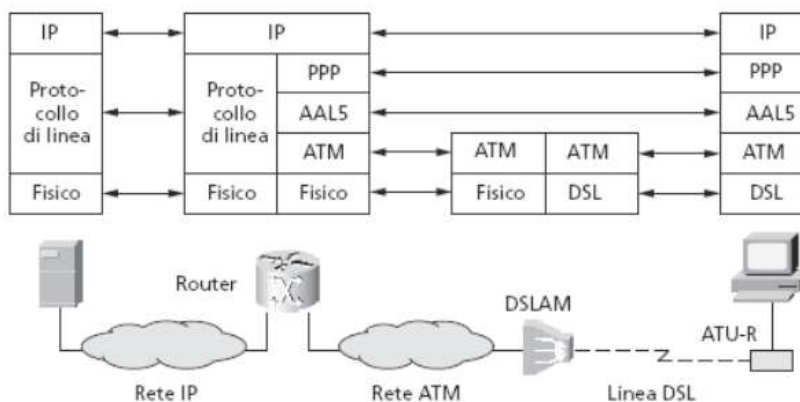
IP routing	
Ethernet	Encapsulation
	ATM
	ADSL

ADSL

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## ADSL Architecture – network side

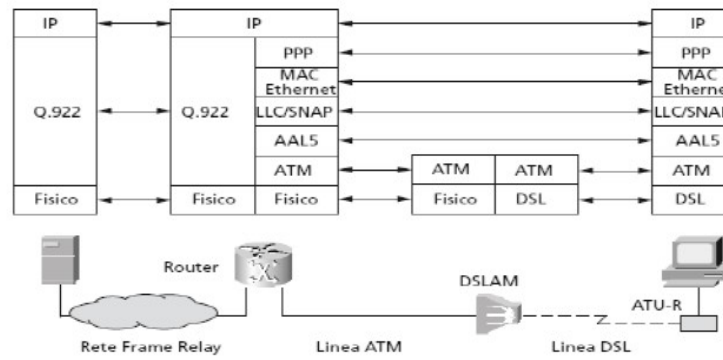


(da A. Pattavina, Reti di Telecomunicazione, 2° ed.)

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## ADSL Architecture – network side



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## ADSL: Principles of Operation

- Bit rate negotiation
  - Between ATU-R and ATU-C
  - Four start-up rate options, multiple of 32kbps
  - The entire process is about to take 12~20s (retaining period)
- Autoconfiguration
  - Configuring IP addresses & software filters to ATU-R

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## ADSL: Principles of Operation

- Benefits and challenges of rate adaption
  - Increases bit rate for customers with good phone wire
  - Covers greater distances for service providers
- Challenges:
  - Technical:
    - » What metrics, algorithms and measurements?
    - » Agreement on different ATU-Rs and ATU-Cs
    - » How to synchronize information?
- Marketing:
  - How to set pricing and bandwidth guarantees?

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## Very high data rate DSL

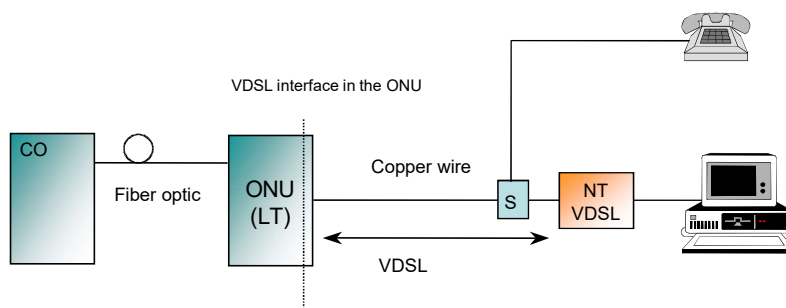
- VDSL pushes to the limit what can be transmitted over 24-gauge copper pairs.
- Service options:

– Upstream	Downstream	Distance
– 12.96 Mbps	12.96 Mbps	1000 m
– 2 Mbps	25.92 Mbps	1000 m
– 25.84 Mbps	25.92 Mbps	300 m
– 2 Mbps	51.84 Mbps/STS-1	300 m
- Key to fastest bit rate possible is to have the shortest possible length of copper wire

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## VDSL Architecture

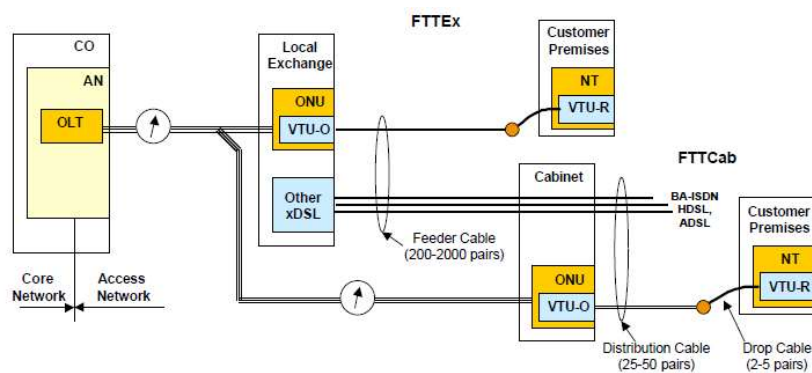


ONU: Optical Network Unit  
S: POTS splitter  
NT VDSL: Network termination VDSL

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## Typical configuration

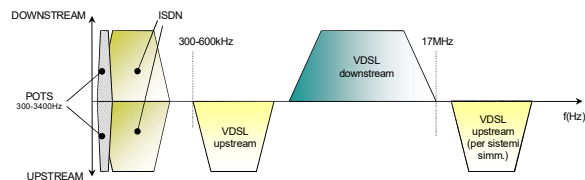


AN - access network  
ONU - optical network unit  
VTU - VDSL transmission unit

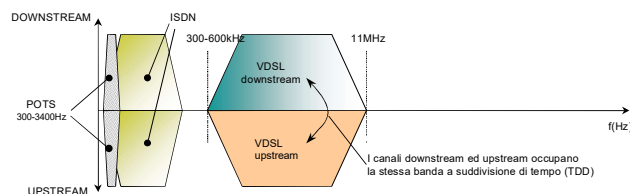
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## VDSL



**FDD  
solution**



**TDD  
solution**

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## Comparison between ADSL and VDSL

	Full-Rate ADSL	VDSL
POTS/ISDN, therefore requiring splitters	Yes	Yes, VDSL subscriber unit will be powered from the home, but will revert to network powering in the event of a power outage.
Modulation technique	DMT, using 256 bands with 4 kHz spacing	DMT, CAP, or QAM DMT modulation would use 256 bands with 40 kHz spacing, or 2048 bands with 4 kHz spacing
Dual latency	Yes	Yes
Spectrum Allocation	Up to 1 MHz	Up to 30 MHz
Downstream bit rate	Various up to 6 Mbps	Various up to 51.84 Mbps
Upstream bit rate	Various up to T1	2 to 3 Mbps
Standardization	ANSI T1.E1 ADSL Forum ITU G.992.1	ANSI T1.E1 ADSL Forum ITU SG 15, G.vdsl, G.993
Distance to ONU	Up to 5000 meters	300 to 1000 meters

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## DSL comparison

	Modulation Scheme	Downstream Bit Rate	Upstream Bit Rate	POTS Support	Comments
ISDN	2B1Q	64 Kbps, 128 Kbps	64 Kbps, 128 Kbps	No	ANSI T1.601 Uses 4B3Q coding in some European countries
IDSL	2B1Q	128 Kbps	128 Kbps	No	Uses ISDN TA
HDSL	2B1Q	Up to 2 Mbps	Up to 2 Mbps	No	Uses four wires; current T1 service
HDSL-2	PAM-16	2 Mbps	2 Mbps	No	Uses two wires; not rate-adaptable
SDSL (ETSI)	2B1Q	2 Mbps	2 Mbps	Yes	Uses two wires; rate adaptable
G.Lite	DMT	2 Mbps	512 Kbps	Yes	ITU G.992.2
ADSL	CAP	1.5 Mbps to 6 Mbps	64 Kbps to 800 Kbps	Yes	Mostly Paradyne
ADSL	DMT	1.5 Mbps to 7 Mbps	64 Kbps to 800 Kbps	Yes	ANSI T1.413
Multiple Virtual Line (MVL)	CAP	768 Kbps	768 Kbps	Yes	Paradyne
One Megabit Modem	QAM	1 Mbps	320 Kbps	Yes	Proprietary to Northern Telecom; resides in Nortel loop carrier system
VDSL	QAM/CAP DMT	12.96 Mbps to 51.84 Mbps	1.5 Mbps to 3 Mbps	Yes	Range of 300 meters for top speeds; ANSI T1.E1.4, ETSI and ITU Study Group 15

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## XDSL family

Family	Racc. ITU	Name	Data	Maximum capacity (Mbit/s)
ADSL	G.992.1	G.dmt	1999	7 down 0.8 up
ADSL2	G.992.3	G.dmt.bis	2002	8 down 1 up
ADSL2+	G.992.5	ADSL2plus	2003	24 down 1 up
ADSL-RE	G.992.3	Reach Extended	2003	8 down 1 up
SHDSL	G.991.2	G.SHDSL	2003	5,6 up/down
VDSL	G.993.1	Very-High-data-rate DSL	2004	55 down 15 up
VDSL2-LR	G.993.2	Very-High-data-rate DSL2 Long Reach	2005	55 down 30 up
VDSL2-SR	G.993.2	Very-High-data-rate DSL2 Short Reach	2005	100 up/down

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## Challenges to xDSL

- Technical:
  - Loop qualification
  - Crosstalk: shared media creates a loss of QoS
  - Bridged taps: a legacy of phone wiring installation practices of Y form, which can be a significant impairment for DSL services for the echo
  - Powering remote terminals
  - Spectral masking
  - Impulse noise
  - ATU-R maintenance

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## Challenges to xDSL

- Industry:
  - Regulatory issues
  - Broadcast video
  - Home networking
- Successive factors:
  - How many systems will be updated to DSL for POTS services?
  - How many loops qualify?
  - .....

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## Some References

- [http://www.cisco.com/univercd/cc/td/doc/cisintwk/ito\\_doc/adsl.htm](http://www.cisco.com/univercd/cc/td/doc/cisintwk/ito_doc/adsl.htm)
- <http://www.adsl.com>
- Book: [Balaji Kumar](#), [Padmanand Warriar](#) "XDSL Architecture", Publisher: **McGraw-Hill** Companies (October 25, 1999)
- Book: Maurice Gagnaire "Broadband Local Loops for High-Speed Internet Access" (Artech House Telecommunications Library) (2003)

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## Appendix: Point to Point Protocol: summary

- PPP -designed for simple links to transport packets between two peers
- PPP encapsulation provides for multiplexing of different network-layer protocols simultaneously over the same link
- PPP provides a Link Control Protocol (LCP) which negotiates the establishment and termination of a PPP link.
- LCP also negotiates the options for encapsulation format, authentication and link quality monitoring

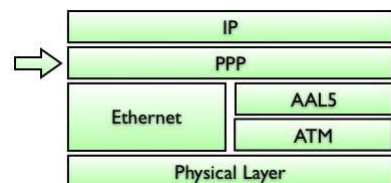
64





## PPP

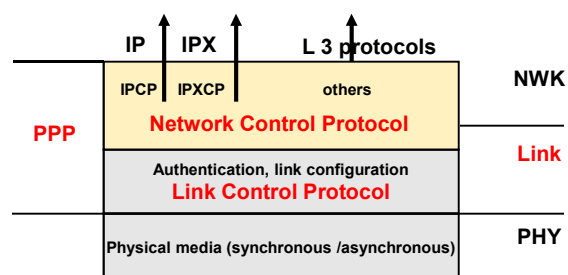
- It is used together with ADSL for its ability to directly connect the user to the Central Office of its ISP and its important functions like: authentication, authorization, automatic configuration of network interfaces and DHCP support.
- In the majority of European countries ADSL is based on the ATM protocol so PPP is encapsulated inside ATM cells (PPPoA).
- Nonetheless ADSL can stand on top of Ethernet and be encapsulated in Ethernet Frames (PPPoE).



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## PPP: protocol architecture



### •LCP

- Establishment, control and termination of the link
  - Parameters negotiation (kind of authentication, compression, ...)
  - Authentication
  - Control and termination of the link

### •NCP

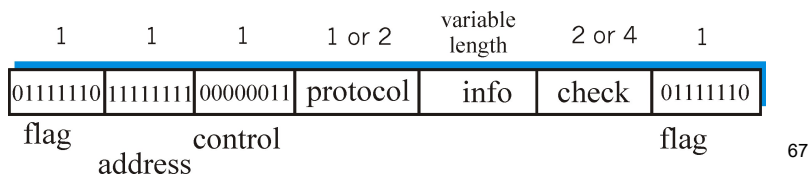
- Family of protocols used to configure the network layers
  - Configuration of specific parameters of the network layers
  - A different module for each different network protocol

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## PPP Encapsulation

- The Protocol field identifies the datagram encapsulated in the information field.
- Information field contains the datagram and could be zero or more octets up to a Maximum Receive Unit (MRU)
- The default MRU value is 1500 octets, though it could vary by negotiation
- The Information field may be padded up to the MRU number of octets



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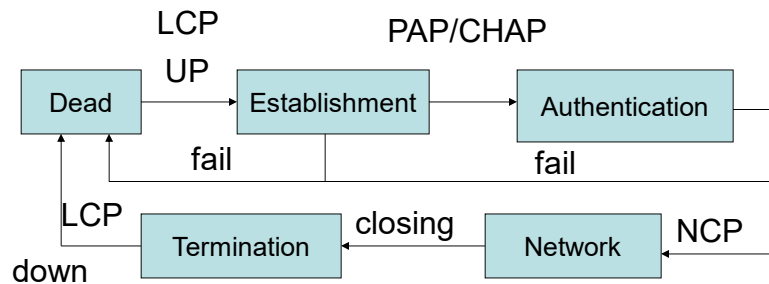
## PPP Encapsulation

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## PPP Link Operation.



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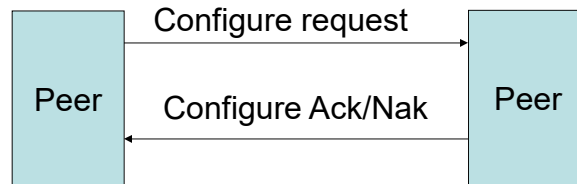
## Link Establishment

- Link establishment phase uses the Link control protocol.
  - Link Configuration Options
    - » The Maximum Receive Unit size.
    - » Authentication and protocol to be used for authentication
    - » Protocol Field Compression
    - » Link quality monitoring
    - » Magic number option for detecting looped back links.
    - » Address and Control field compression

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## Link Establishment Process



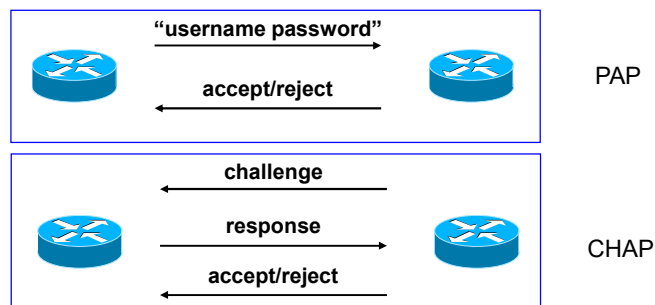
- The configure-request message is sent to request a link establishment and it contains the various options requested.
- This request is responded with a Configure-Ack if the negotiation is accepted.
- A Configure-Nak is sent if the negotiation is not acceptable and it suggests an acceptable negotiation.

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## Authentication

- Authentication Option uses Password Authentication Protocol (PAP) or Challenge Handshake Authentication Protocol (CHAP).
- The protocol used depends on negotiation.
- CHAP uses a one-way hashing algorithm which is known only to the user, to respond to a challenge sent by the authenticator.
- CHAP is more secure than PAP.

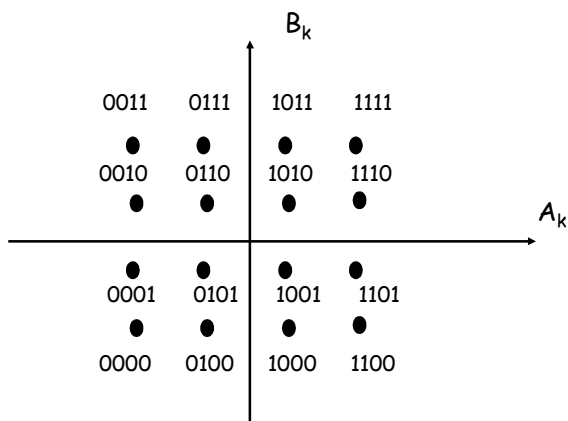


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## QAM constellation

- 16 QAM

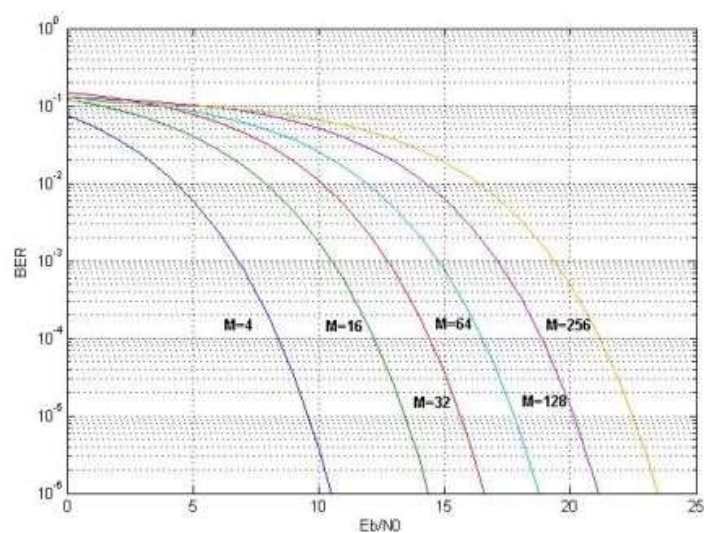


16 constellation symbols in T sec  
(4 bit/symbol)

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## QAM



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