SAXONY EGYPT UNIVERSITY
FOR APPLIED SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

Networks and Communications Technologies

Course code: ECT 141

Lecture (4)

INTRODUCED BY: DR. SARA MAHMOUD

1) Wavelength and period

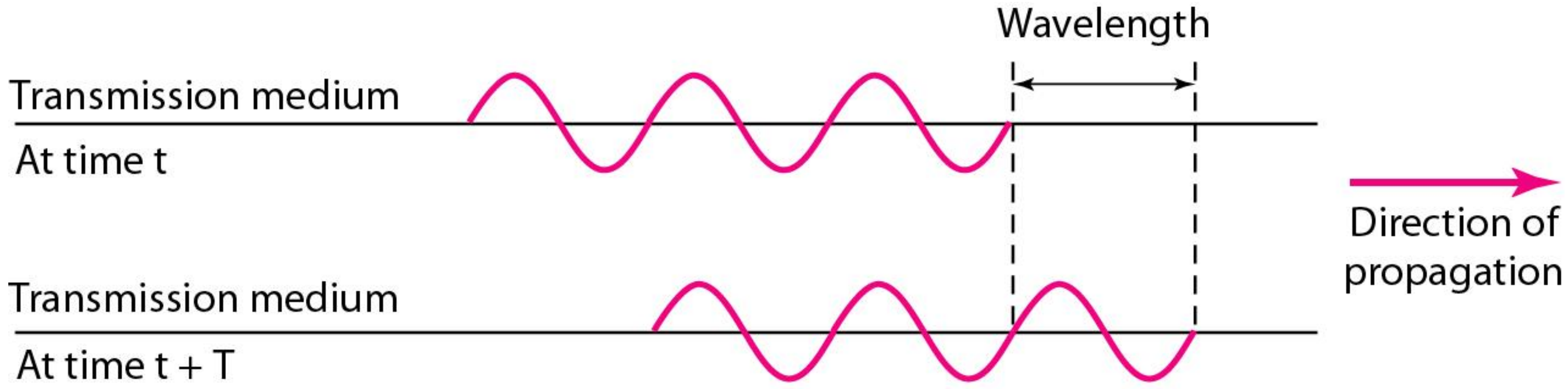
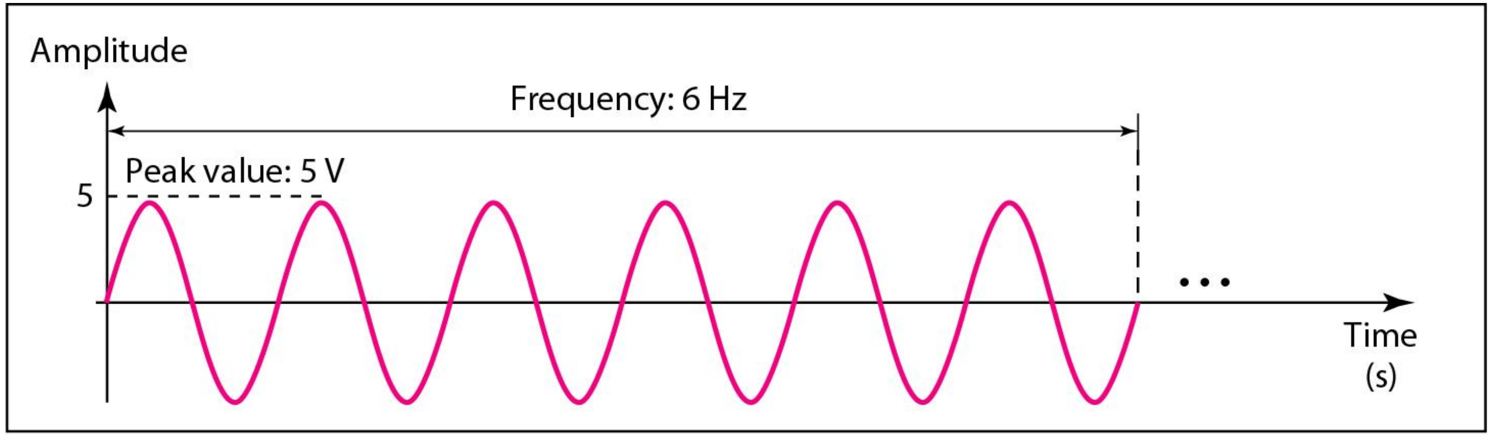
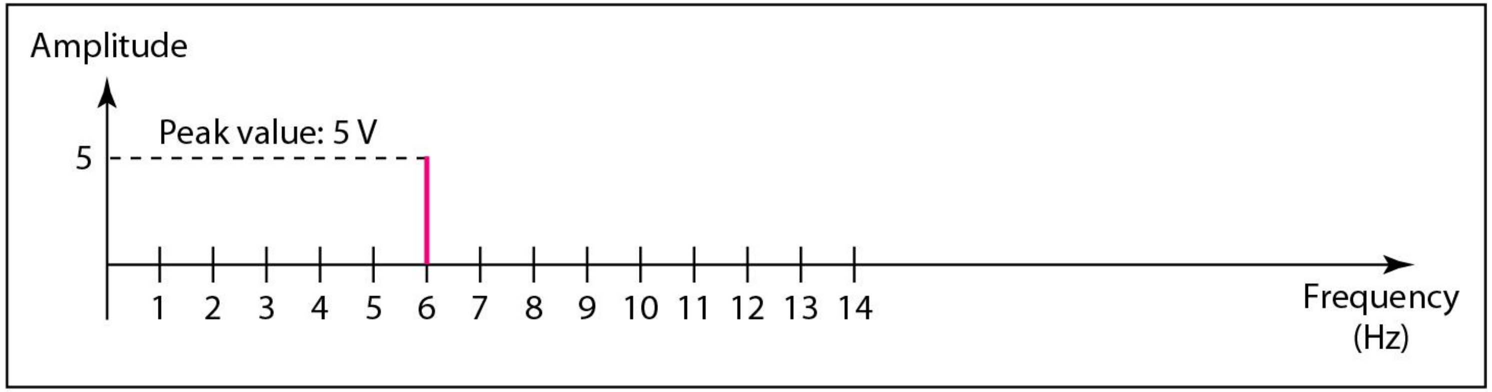


Figure The time-domain and frequency-domain plots of a sine wave



a. A sine wave in the time domain (peak value: 5 V, frequency: 6 Hz)

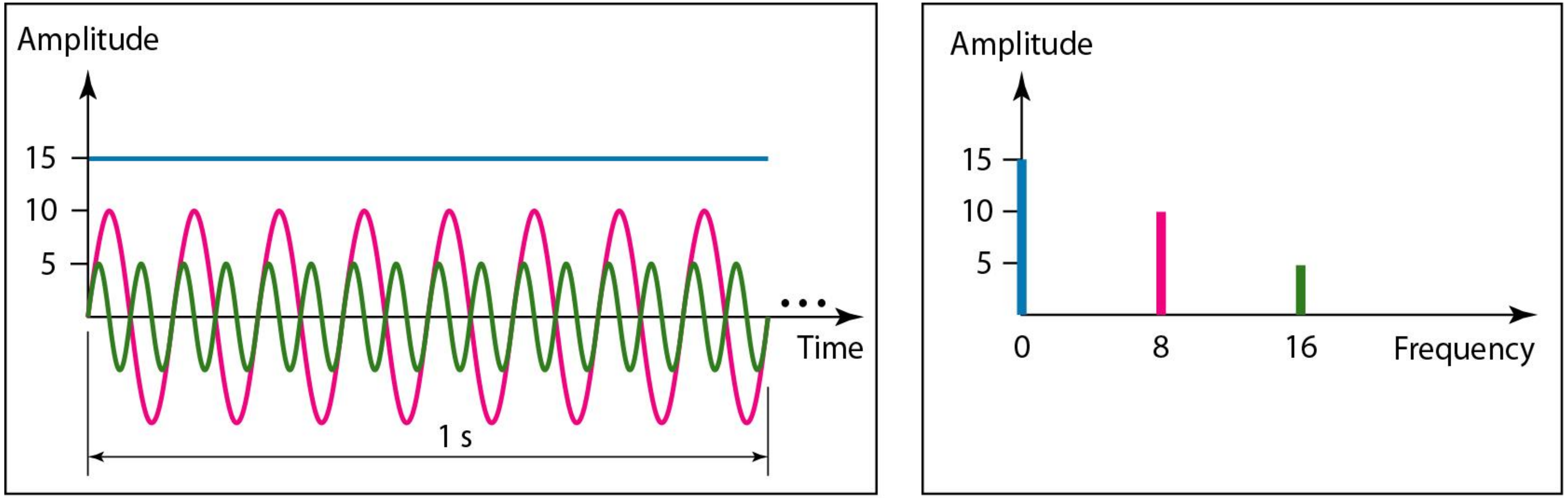


b. The same sine wave in the frequency domain (peak value: 5 V, frequency: 6 Hz)

A complete sine wave in the time domain can be represented by one single spike in the frequency domain.

The frequency domain is more compact and useful when we are dealing with more than one sine wave. For example, The next figure will show three sine waves, each with different amplitude and frequency. All can be represented by three spikes in the frequency domain.

The time domain and frequency domain of three sine waves



a. Time-domain representation of three sine waves with frequencies 0, 8, and 16

b. Frequency-domain representation of the same three signals

SAXONY EGYPT UNIVERSITY
FOR APPLIED SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

Note

A single-frequency sine wave is not useful in data communications;
we need to send a composite signal, a signal made of many simple sine waves.

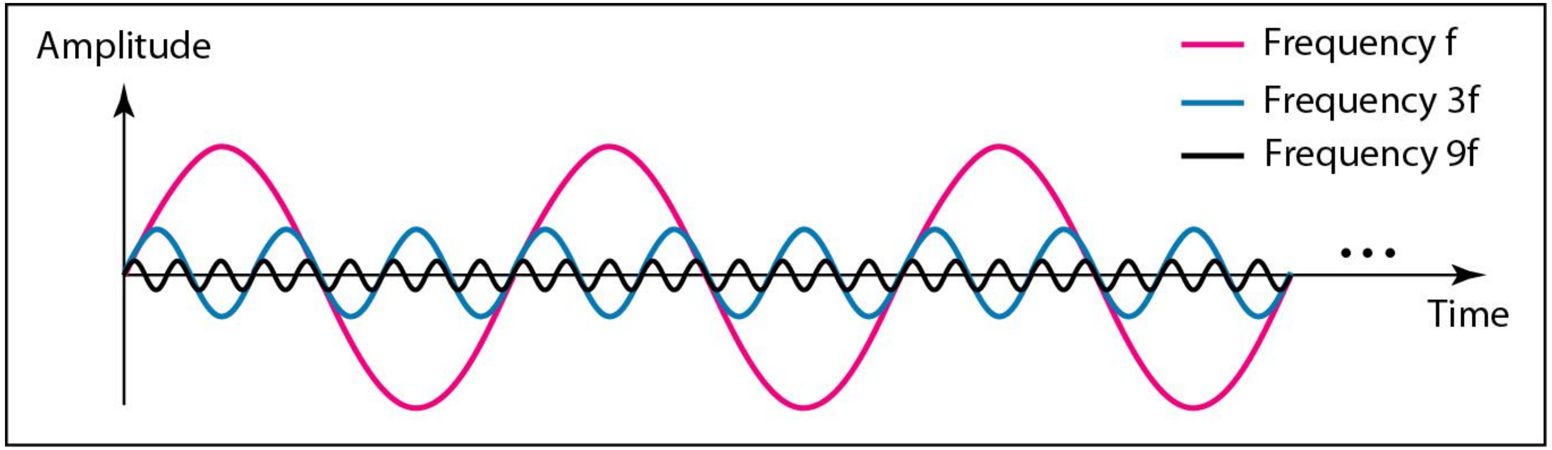
Note

According to Fourier analysis, any composite signal is a combination of simple sine waves with different frequencies, amplitudes, and phases.

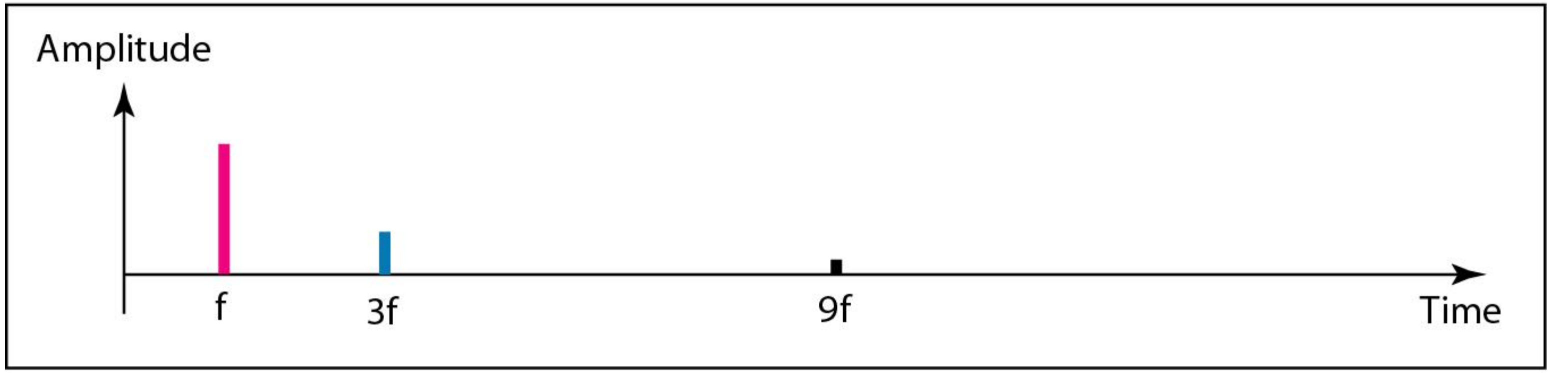
Note

If the composite signal is periodic, the decomposition gives a series of signals with discrete frequencies;
if the composite signal is nonperiodic, the decomposition gives a combination of sine waves with continuous frequencies.

Decomposition of a composite periodic signal in the time and frequency domains

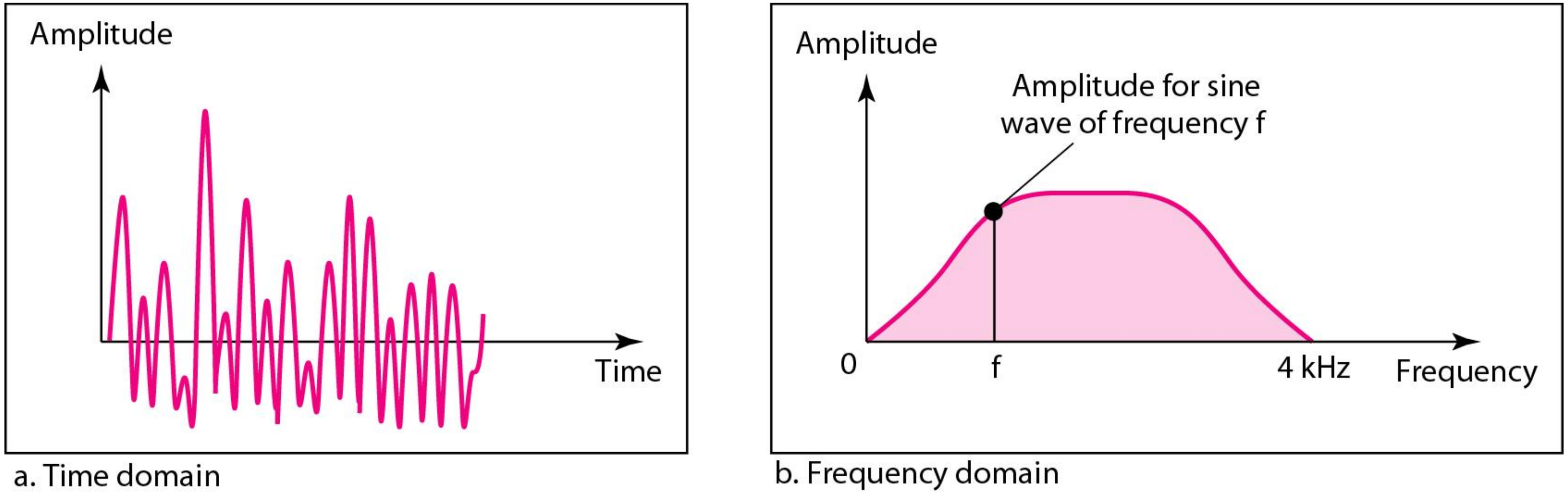


a. Time-domain decomposition of a composite signal



b. Frequency-domain decomposition of the composite signal

The time and frequency domains of a nonperiodic signal



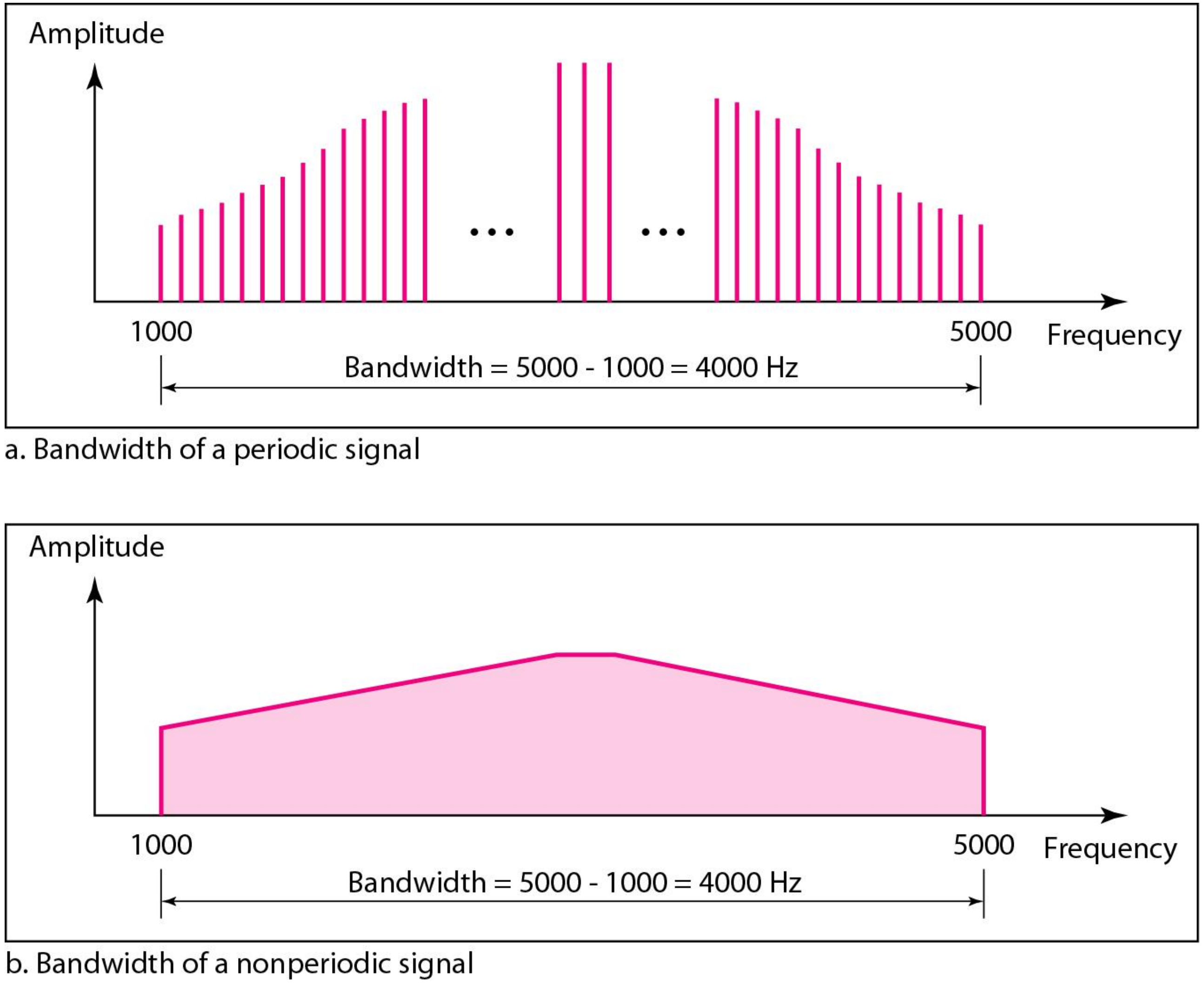
This figure shows a nonperiodic composite signal. It can be the signal created by a microphone or a telephone set when a word or two is pronounced. In this case, the composite signal cannot be periodic, because that implies that we are repeating the same word or words with exactly the same tone.

2) Bandwidth

Note

The bandwidth of a composite signal is the difference between the highest and the lowest frequencies contained in that signal.

The bandwidth of periodic and nonperiodic composite signals



Example 3.10

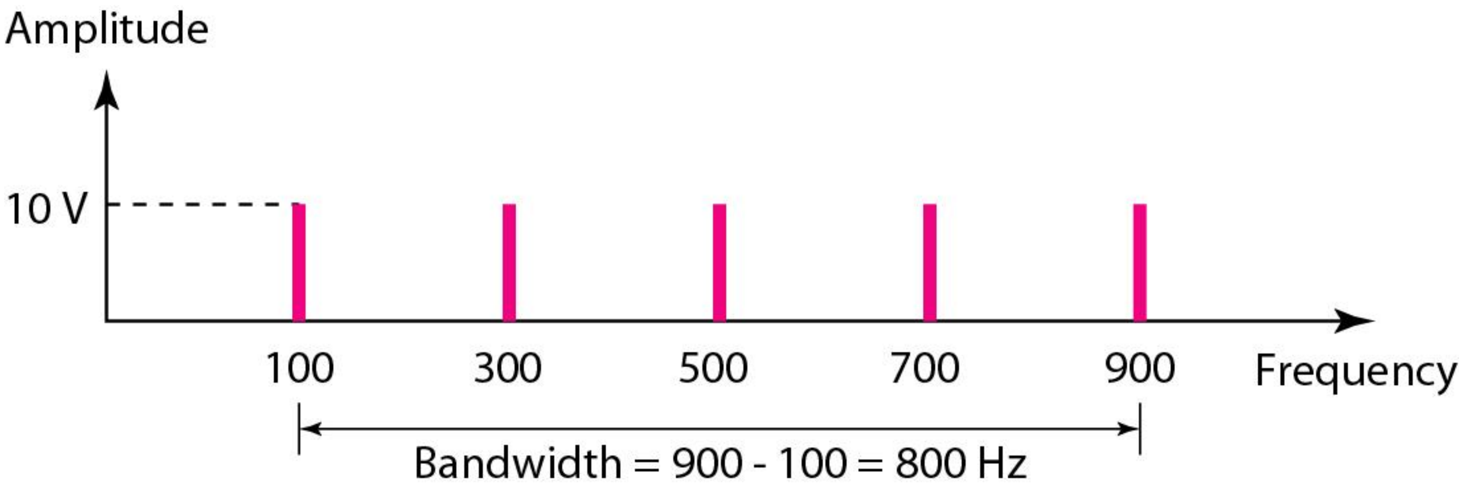
If a periodic signal is decomposed into five sine waves with frequencies of 100, 300, 500, 700, and 900 Hz, what is its bandwidth? Draw the spectrum, assuming all components have a maximum amplitude of 10 V.

Solution

Let f_h be the highest frequency, f_l the lowest frequency, and B the bandwidth. Then

$$\boxed{B = f_h - f_l = 900 - 100 = 800 \text{ Hz}}$$

The spectrum has only five spikes, at 100, 300, 500, 700, and 900 Hz (see Figure 3.13).



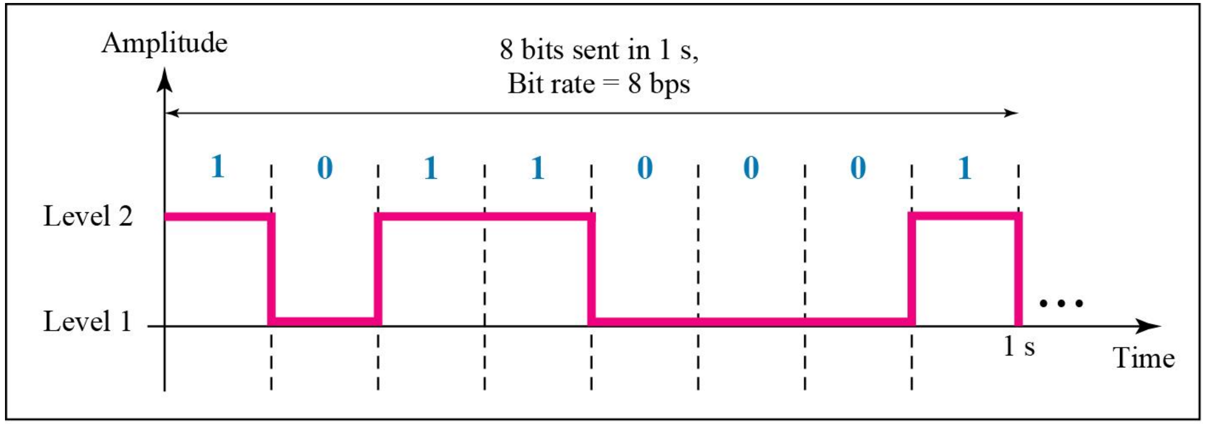
DIGITAL SIGNALS

In addition to being represented by an analog signal, information can also be represented by a digital signal. For example, a 1 can be encoded as a positive voltage and a 0 as zero voltage. A digital signal can have more than two levels. In this case, we can send more than 1 bit for each level.

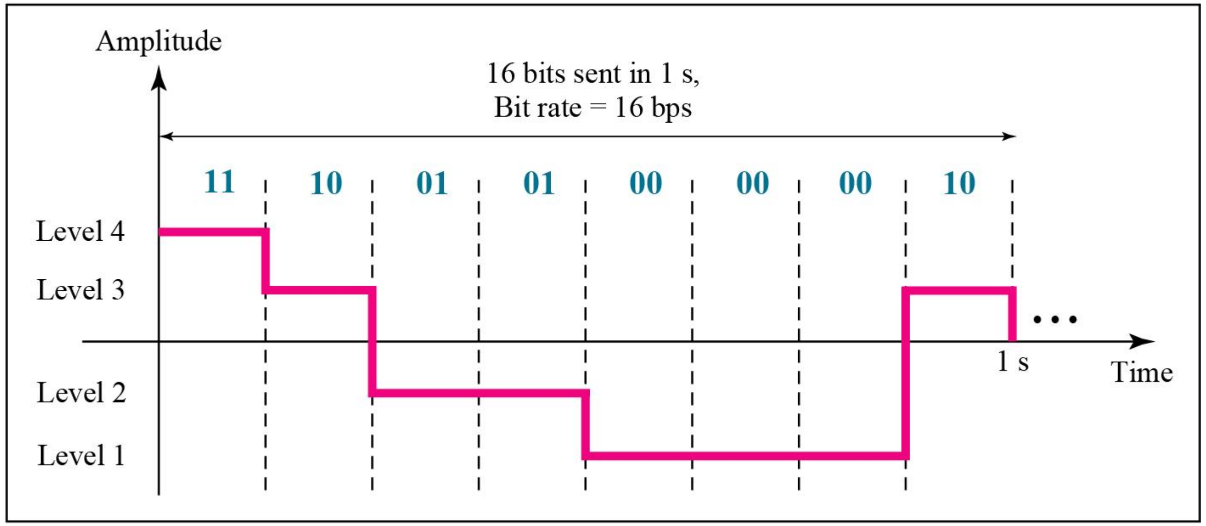
Topics discussed in this section:

Bit Rate
Bit Length
Digital Signal as a Composite Analog Signal

Two digital signals: one with two signal levels and the other with four signal levels



a. A digital signal with two levels



b. A digital signal with four levels

Example 3.16

A digital signal has eight levels. How many bits are needed per level? We calculate the number of bits from the formula

$$\text{Number of bits per level} = \log_2 8 = 3$$

Each signal level is represented by 3 bits.

Example

A digital signal has nine levels. How many bits are needed per level?
We calculate the number of bits by using the formula.

Each signal level is represented by 3.17 bits. However, this answer is not realistic. The number of bits sent per level needs to be an integer as well as a power of 2. For this example, 4 bits can represent one level.

Example (Bit Rate)

Assume we need to download text documents at the rate of 100 pages per minute. What is the required bit rate of the channel?

Solution

A page is an average of 24 lines with 80 characters in each line. If we assume that one character requires 8 bits, the bit rate is

$$100 \times 24 \times 80 \times 8 = 1{,}636{,}000 \text{ bps} = 1.636 \text{ Mbps}$$

TRANSMISSION IMPAIRMENT

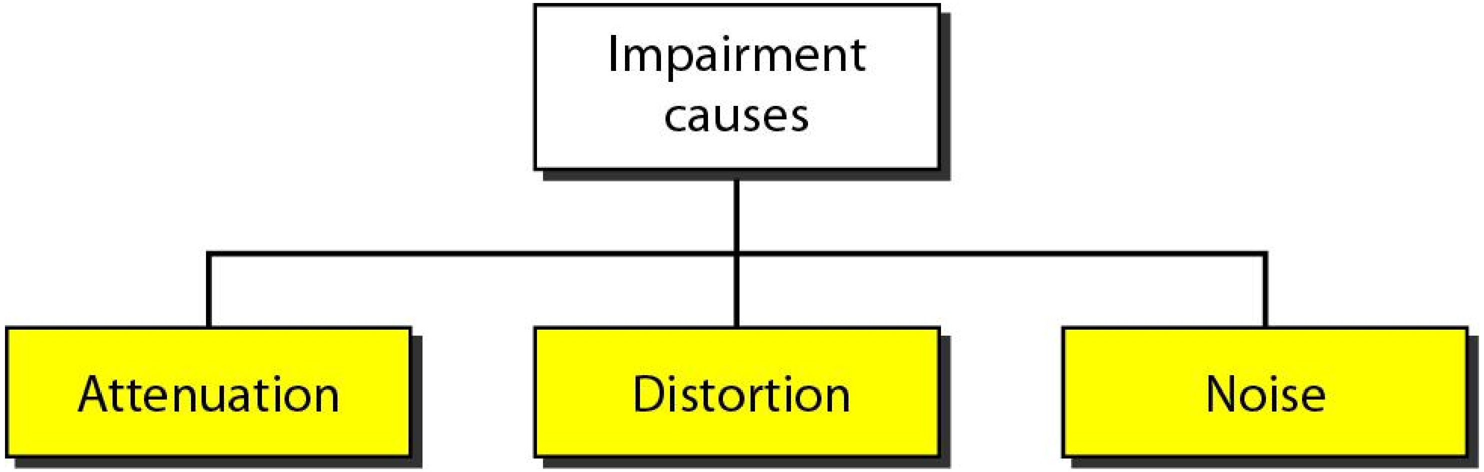
- Signals travel through transmission media, which are not perfect.
- The imperfection causes signal impairment.
- This means that the signal at the beginning of the medium is not the same as the signal at the end of the medium.
- What is sent is not what is received.

Three causes of impairment are attenuation, distortion, and noise.

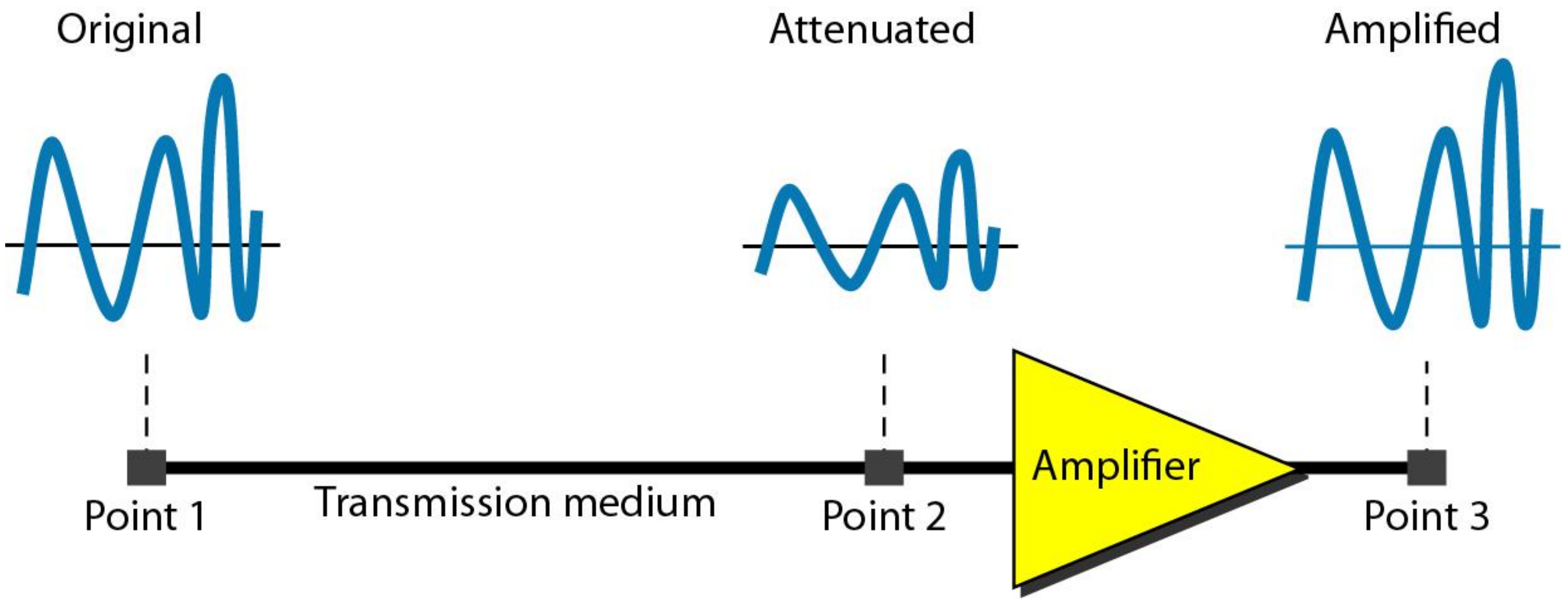
Topics discussed in this section:

Attenuation
Distortion
Noise

Figure 3.25 Causes of impairment



Attenuation



Example 3.26

Suppose a signal travels through a transmission medium and its power is reduced to one-half. This means that P2 is (1/2)P1. In this case, the attenuation (loss of power) can be calculated as

$$10 \log_{10} \frac{P_2}{P_1} = 10 \log_{10} \frac{0.5 P_1}{P_1} = 10 \log_{10} 0.5 = 10(-0.3) = -3 \text{ dB}$$

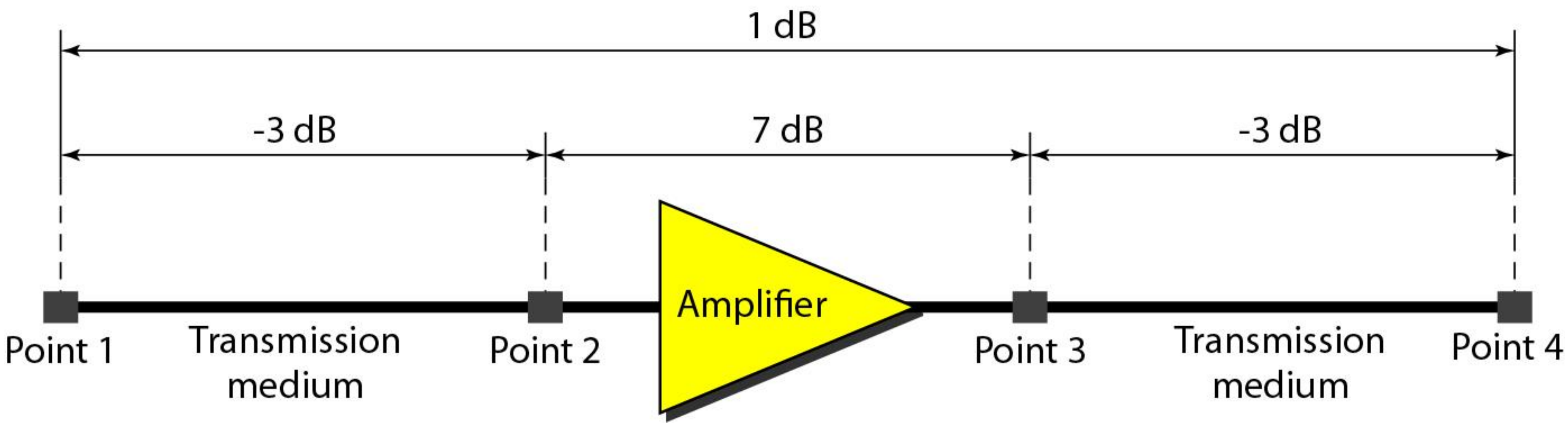
A loss of 3 dB (–3 dB) is equivalent to losing one-half the power.

Example 3.28

One reason that engineers use the decibel to measure the changes in the strength of a signal is that decibel numbers can be added (or subtracted) when we are measuring several points (cascading) instead of just two. In Figure 3.27 a signal travels from point 1 to point 4. In this case, the decibel value can be calculated as

$$\boxed{dB = -3 + 7 - 3 = +1}$$

Figure 3.27 Decibels for Example 3.28



Example 3.27

A signal travels through an amplifier, and its power is increased 10 times. This means that $P_2 = 10P_1$. In this case, the amplification (gain of power) can be calculated as

$$\boxed{10 \log_{10} \frac{P_2}{P_1} = 10 \log_{10} \frac{10P_1}{P_1}}$$

$$\boxed{= 10 \log_{10} 10 = 10(1) = 10 \text{ dB}}$$

Example 3.29

Sometimes the decibel is used to measure signal power in milliwatts. In this case, it is referred to as dB_m and is calculated as $dB_m = 10 \log10 P_m$, where P_m is the power in milliwatts. Calculate the power of a signal with $dB_m = -30$.

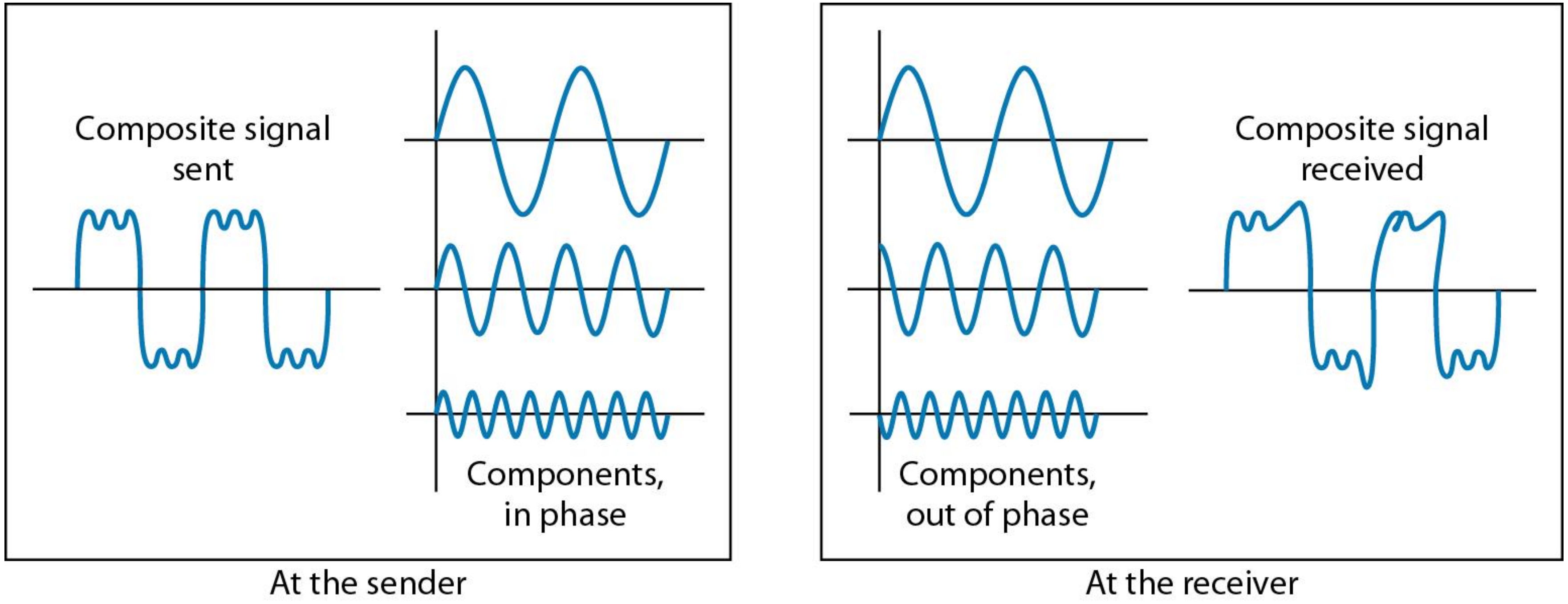
Solution

We can calculate the power in the signal as

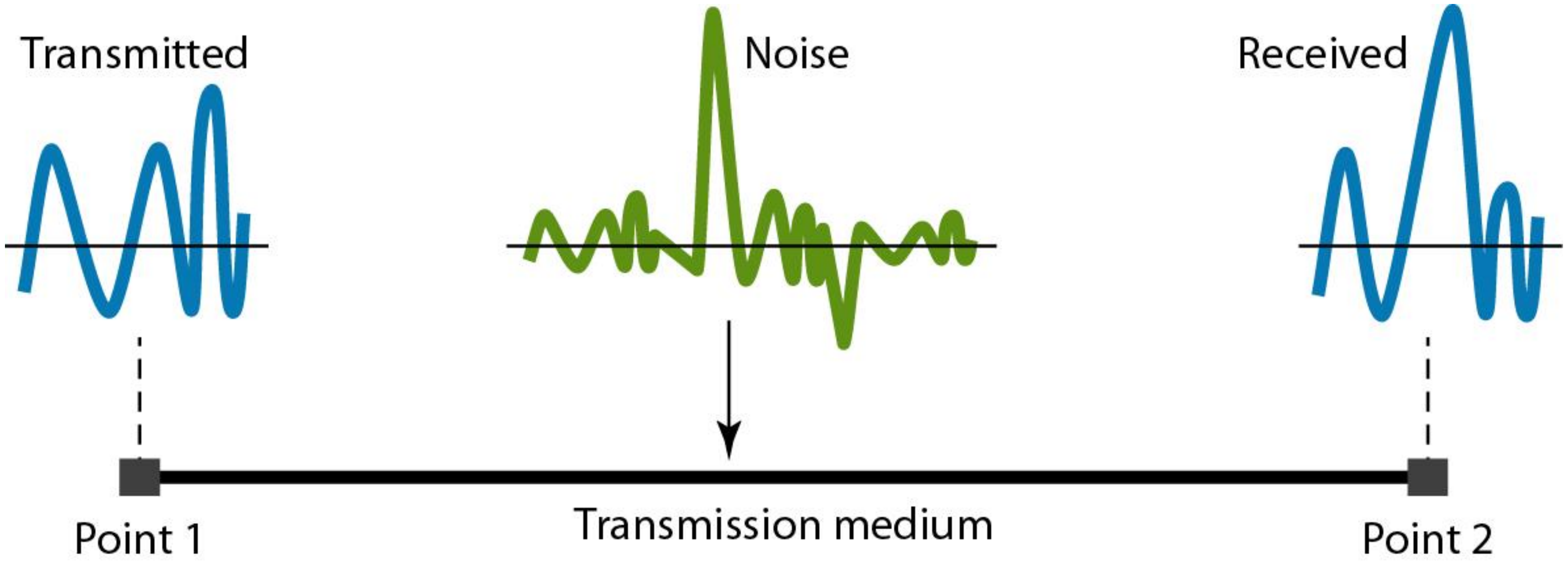
$$\mathrm{dB_m} = 10 \log_{10} P_m = -30$$

$$\log_{10} P_m = -3 \qquad P_m = 10^{-3}\ \mathrm{mW}$$

Distortion

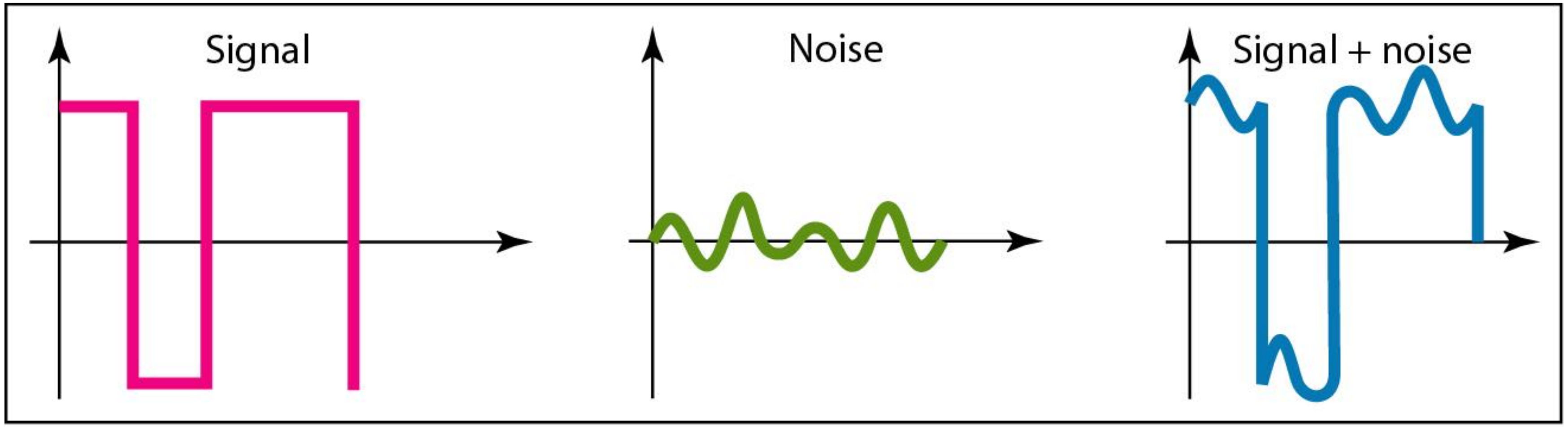

Composite signal
sent
Components,
in phase
At the sender
Composite signal
received
Components,
out of phase
At the receiver

Noise

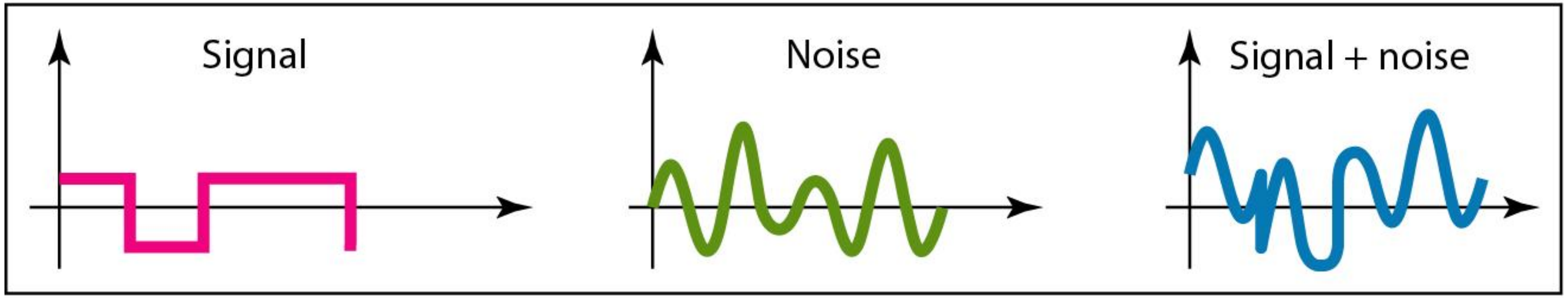


Transmitted
Noise
Received
Point 1
Transmission medium
Point 2

Signal to Noise Ratio Two cases of SNR: a high SNR and a low SNR



a. Large SNR



b. Small SNR

Example 3.31

The power of a signal is 10 mW and the power of the noise is 1 μW; what are the values of SNR and SNR_{dB} ?

Solution

The values of SNR and SNRdB can be calculated as follows:

$$\text{SNR} = \frac{10{,}000\ \mu\text{W}}{1\ \text{mW}} = 10{,}000$$

$$\text{SNR}_{\text{dB}} = 10 \log_{10} 10{,}000 = 10 \log_{10} 10^4 = 40$$

Example 3.32

The values of SNR and SNRdB for a noiseless channel are

$$\boxed{\begin{aligned} \text{SNR} &= \frac{\text{signal power}}{0} = \infty \\ \text{SNR}_{\text{dB}} &= 10 \log_{10} \infty = \infty \end{aligned}}$$

We can never achieve this ratio in real life; it is an ideal.