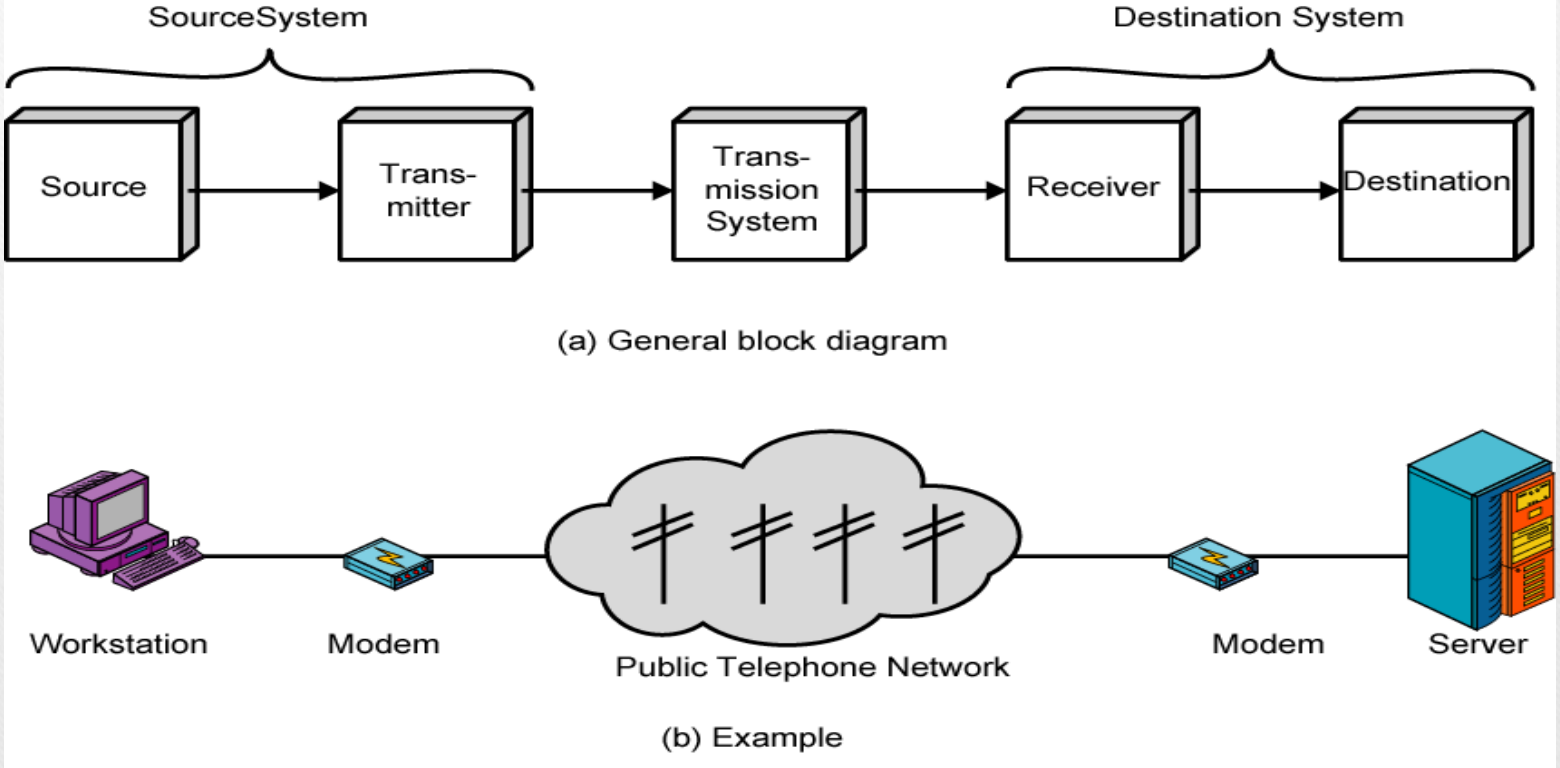
Data Communications

A Communications Model

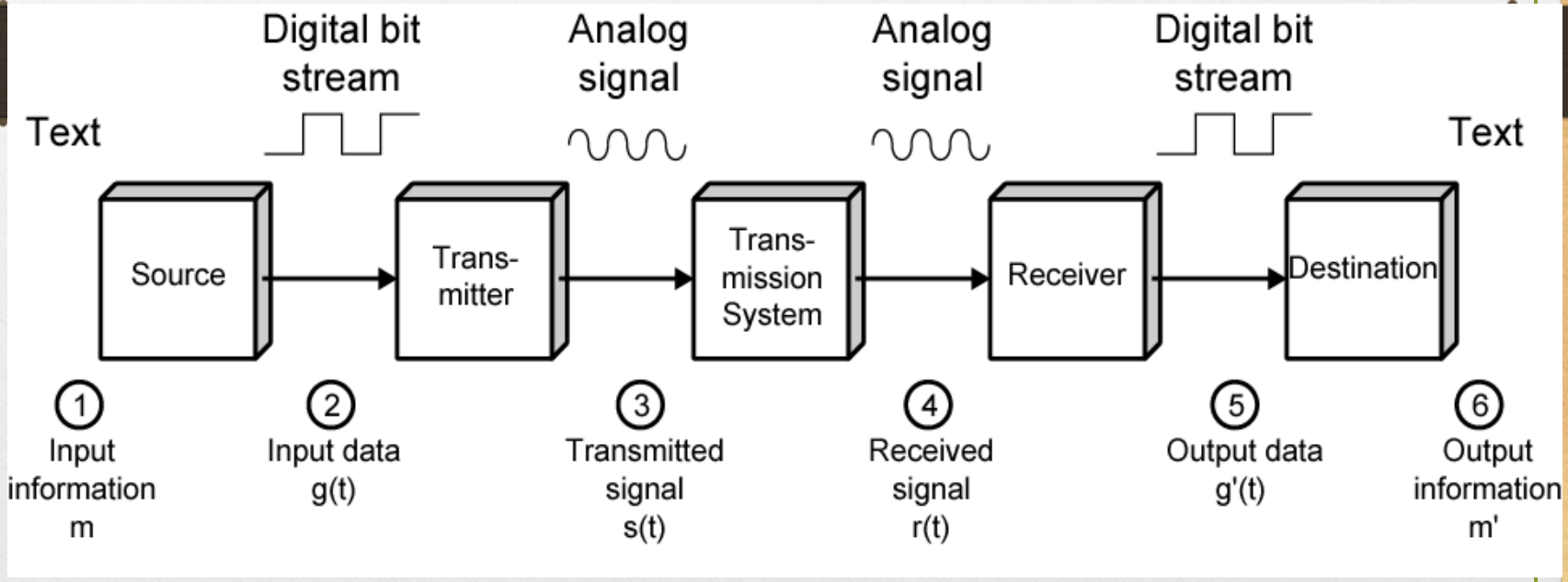
- Source
  - generates data to be transmitted
- Transmitter
  - Converts data into transmittable signals
- Transmission System
  - Carries data
- Receiver
  - Converts received signal into data
- Destination
  - Takes incoming data

Simplified Communications Model - Diagram



Simplified Data Communications Model

- segments between entities on each connection



Key points

- All forms of information can be represented by electromagnetic signals. Based on transmission medium and the comm. environment, either analog or digital signals can be used
- Any EM signal is made up of a # of constituent frequencies -> bandwidth of the signal
- Transmission impairment: attenuation, delay distortion, noise, etc.
- Design factors: signal bw, data rate of digital information, noise level, error rate.

Terminology (1)

- Transmitter
- Receiver
- Medium
  - Guided medium
    - e.g. twisted pair, optical fiber, coaxial cable
  - Unguided medium
    - e.g. air, water, vacuum

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

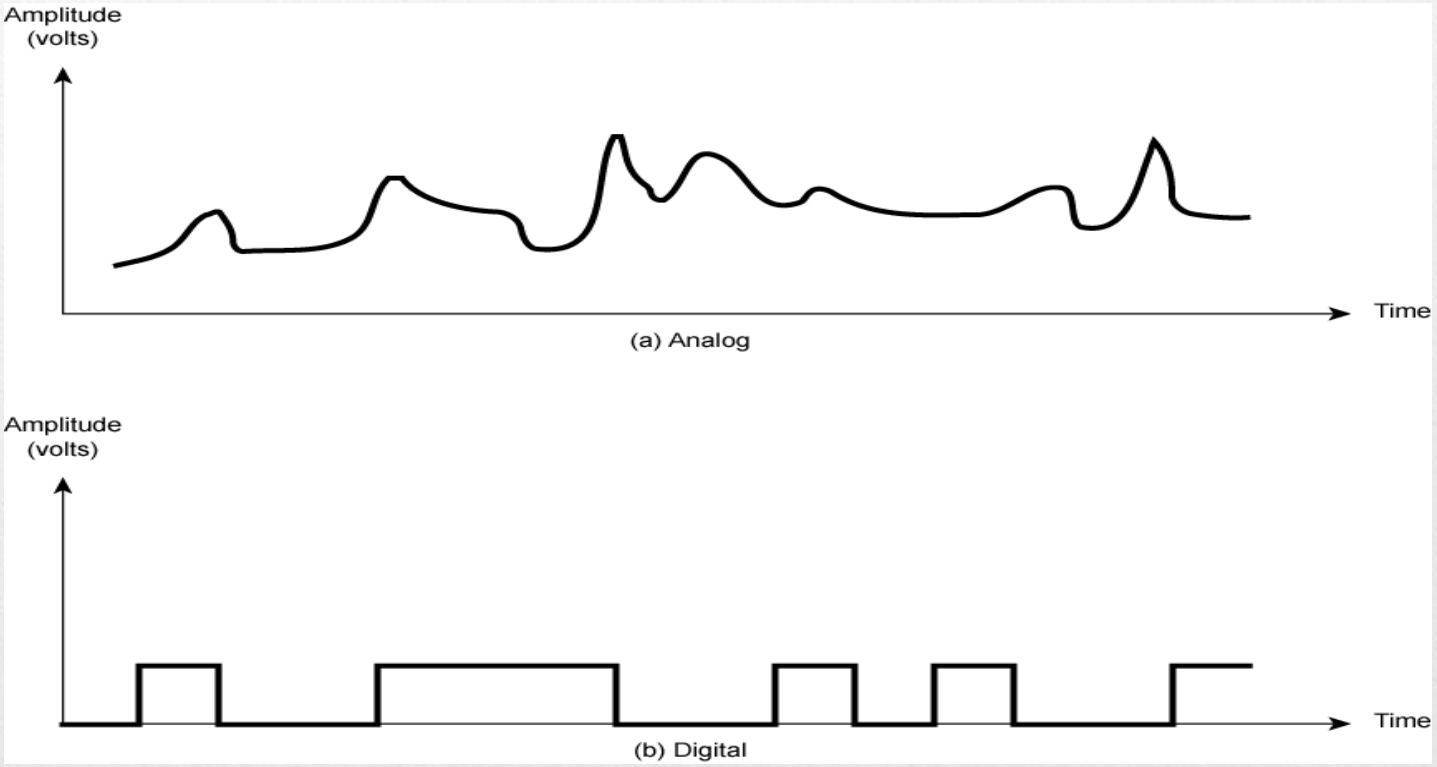
Terminology (3)

- Simplex
  - One direction
    - e.g. Television
- Half duplex
  - Either direction, but only one way at a time
    - e.g. police radio
- Full duplex
  - Both directions at the same time
    - e.g. telephone

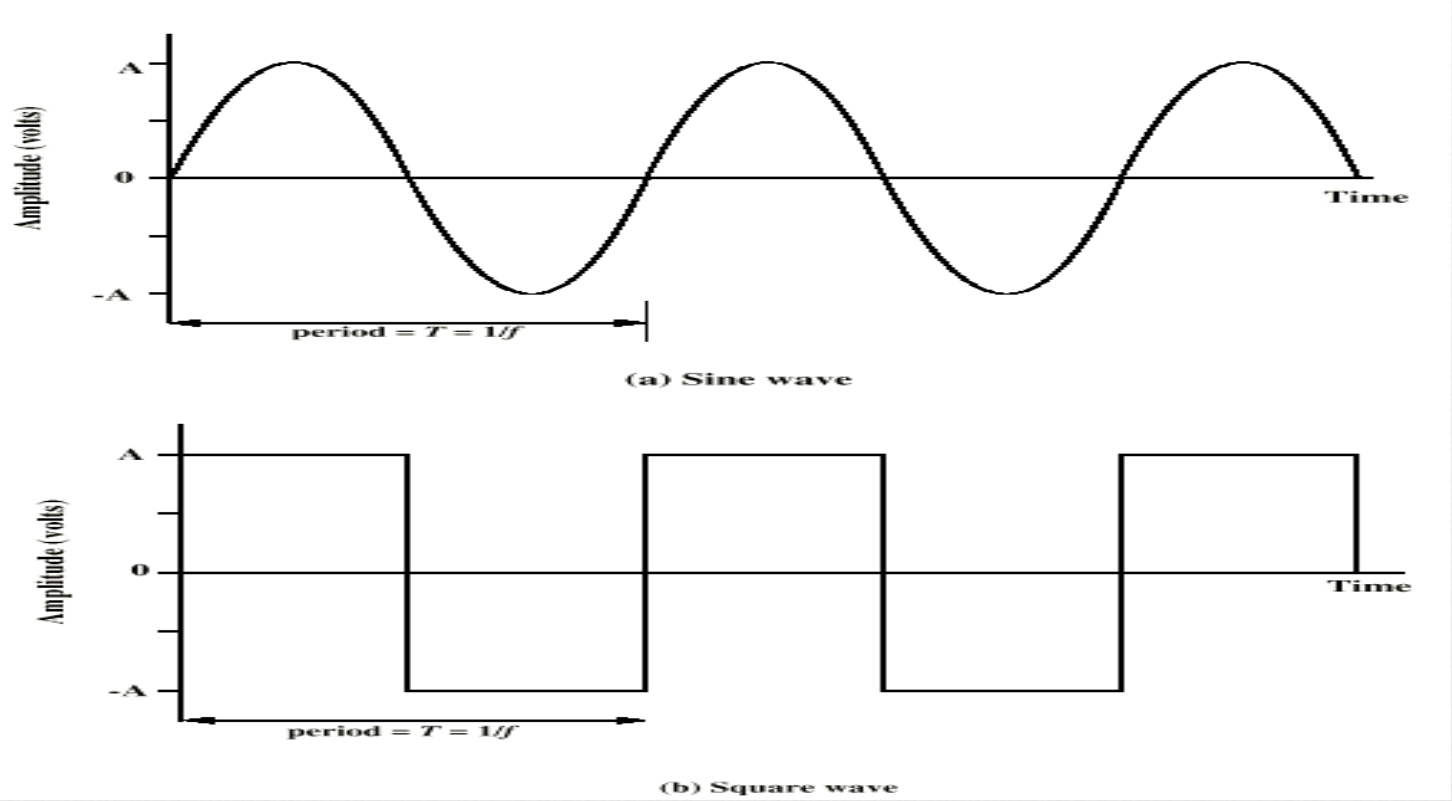
Frequency, Spectrum and Bandwidth

- Time domain concepts
  - Analog signal
    - Various in a smooth way over time, e.g, speech
  - Digital signal
    - Maintains a constant level then changes to another constant level, e.g., binary 1s and 0s
  - Periodic signal
    - Pattern repeated over time
  - Aperiodic signal
    - Pattern not repeated over time

Analogue & Digital Signals



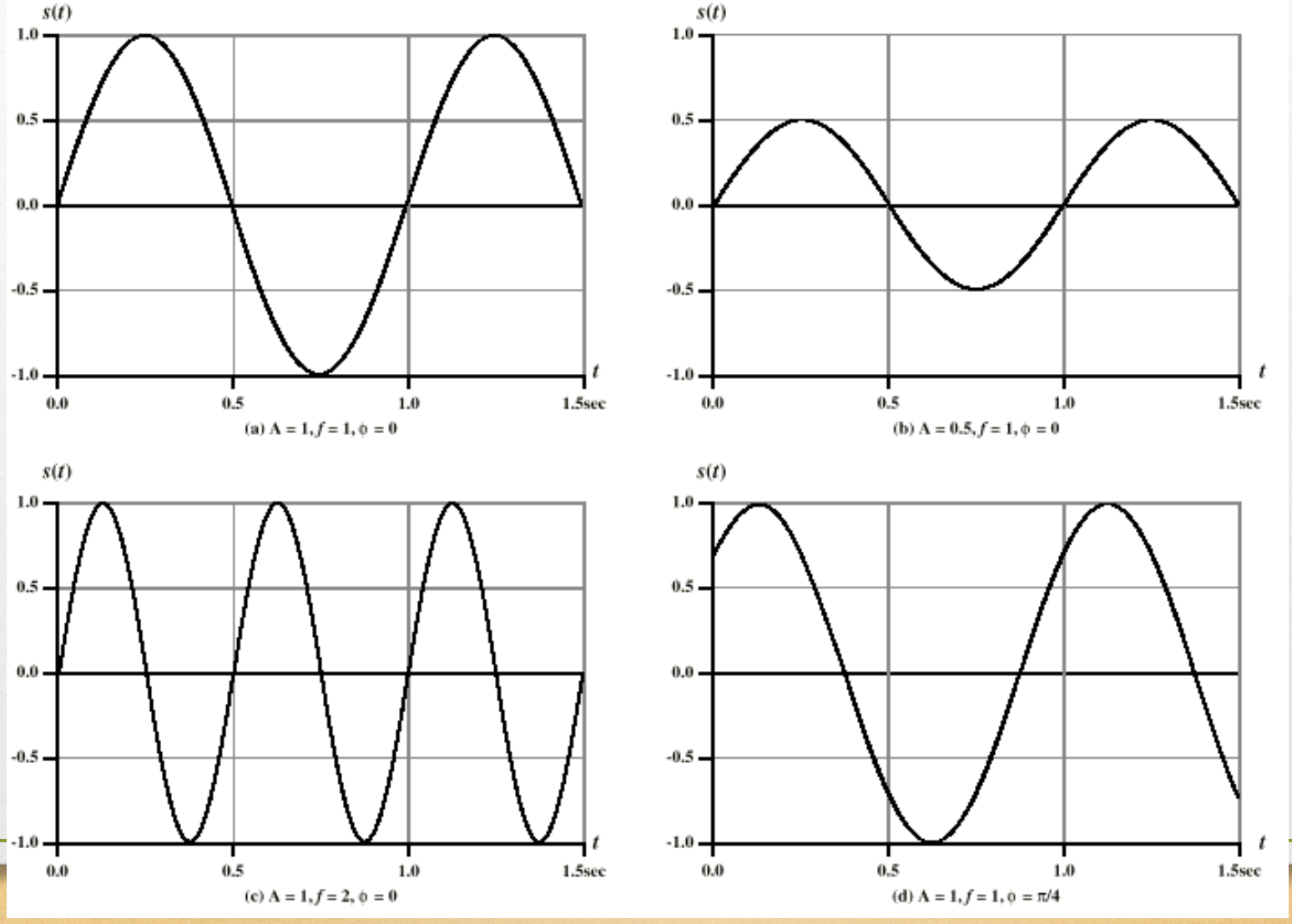
Periodic Signals



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
- Sine waves are important building blocks for other signals.

Varying Sine Waves



Wavelength

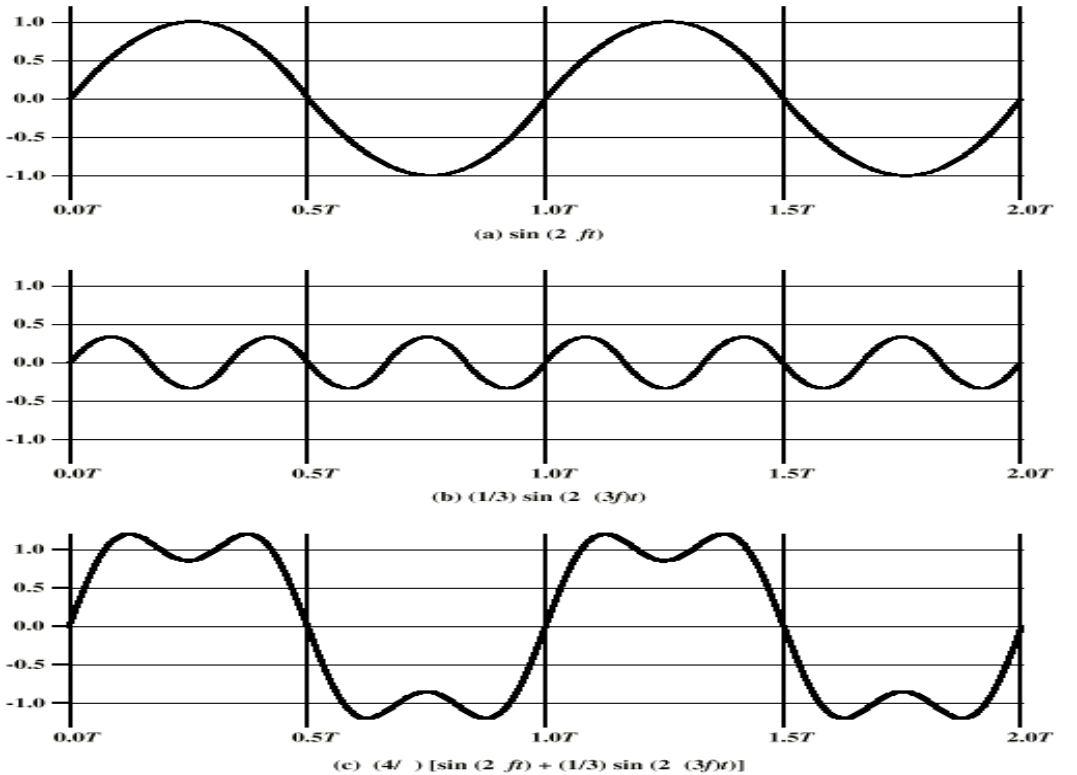
- Distance occupied by one cycle
- Distance between two points of corresponding phase in two consecutive cycles
- λ
- Assuming signal velocity *v*
  - $\lambda = vT$
  - $\lambda f = v = c$ *in free space*
  - $c = 3*10^{8} ms^{-1}$ (speed of light in free space)

Frequency Domain Concepts

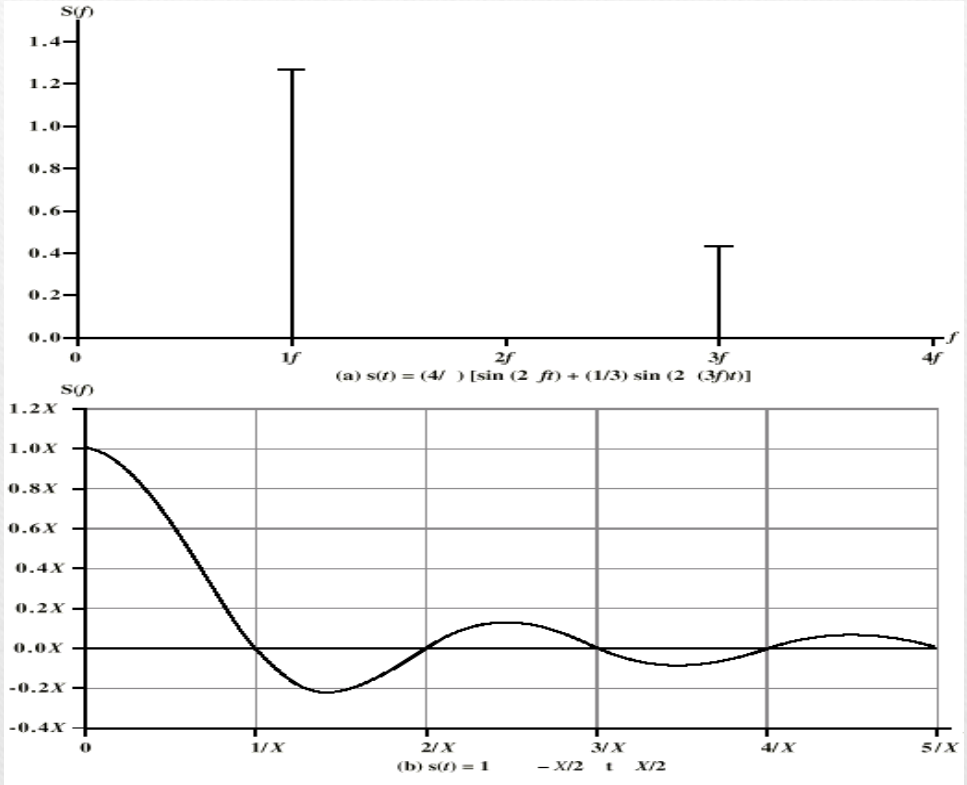
- Signal usually made up of many frequencies
- Components are sine waves
- Can be shown (Fourier analysis) that any signal is made up of component sine waves
- Can plot frequency domain functions

Addition of Frequency Components (T=1/f)

This is a time-domain illustration.



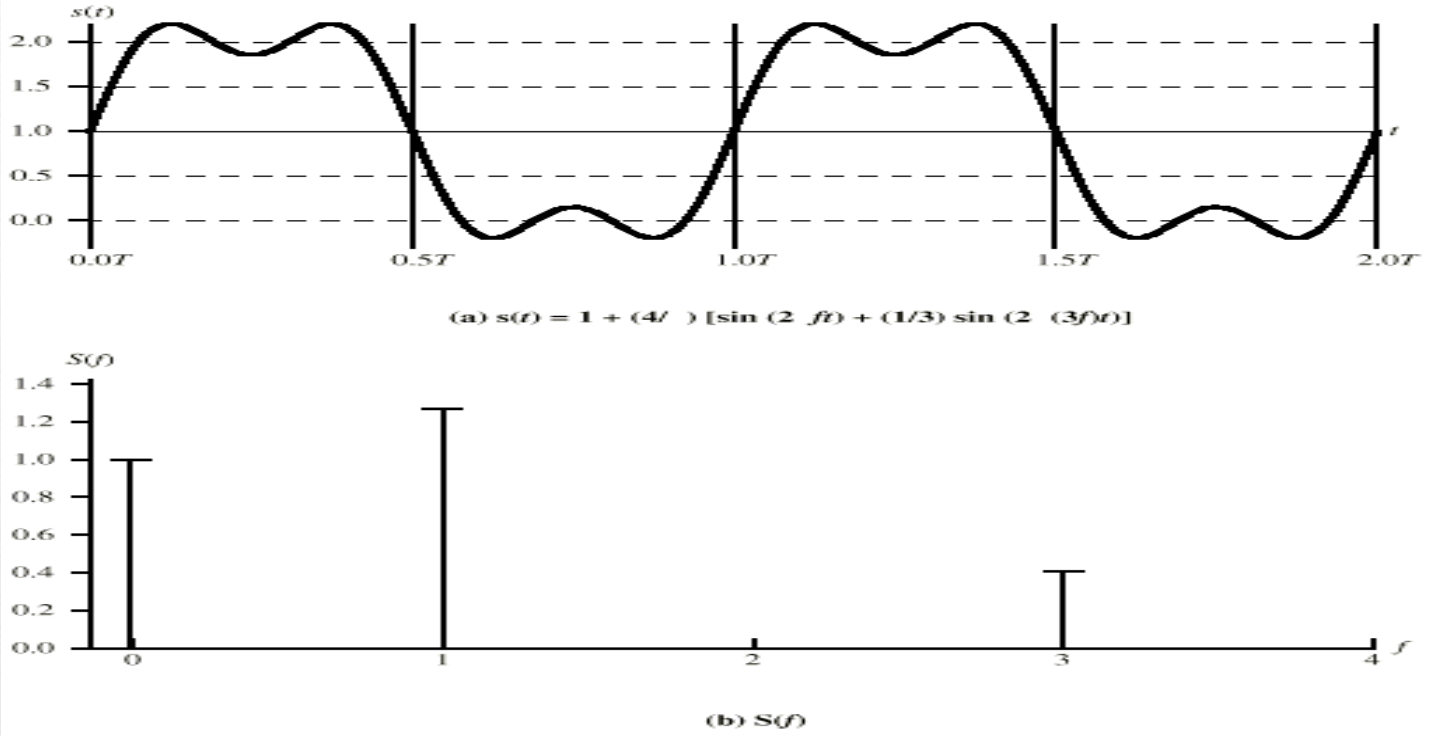
Frequency Domain Representations



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
- DC Component
  - Component of zero frequency

Signal with DC Component



Data Rate and Bandwidth

- Any transmission system has a limited band of frequencies
- This limits the data rate that can be carried
- We will see two limits later

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

Analog and Digital Data

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

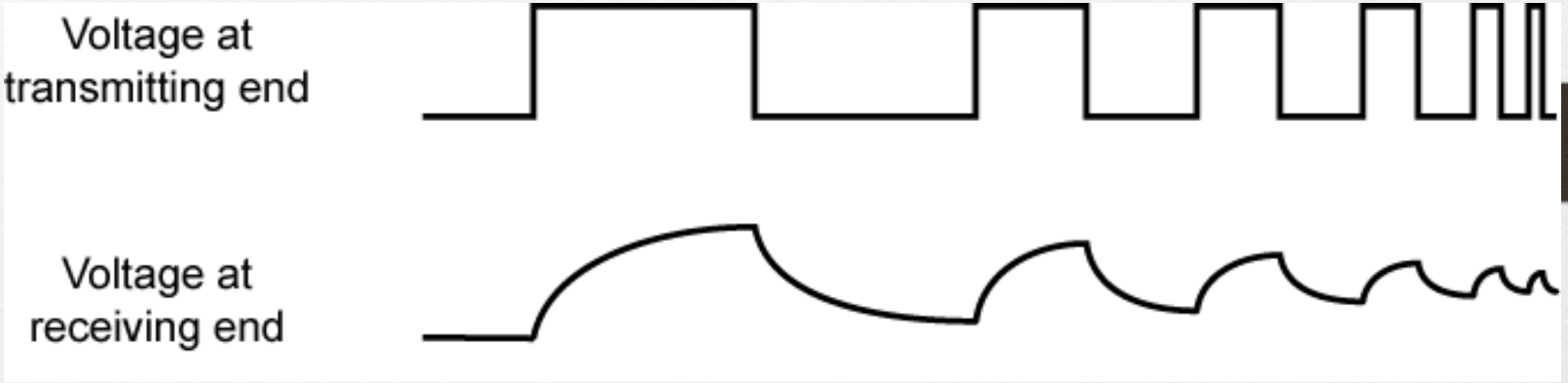
Analog and Digital Signals

- Means by which data are propagated
- Analog
  - Continuously variable
  - Various media
    - wire, fiber optic, space
  - Speech bandwidth 100Hz to 7kHz
  - Telephone bandwidth 300Hz to 3400Hz
  - Video bandwidth 4MHz
- Digital
  - Use two DC components

Advantages & Disadvantages of Digital

- Cheaper
- Less susceptible to noise
- Greater attenuation
  - Pulses become rounded and smaller
  - Leads to loss of information

Attenuation of Digital Signals



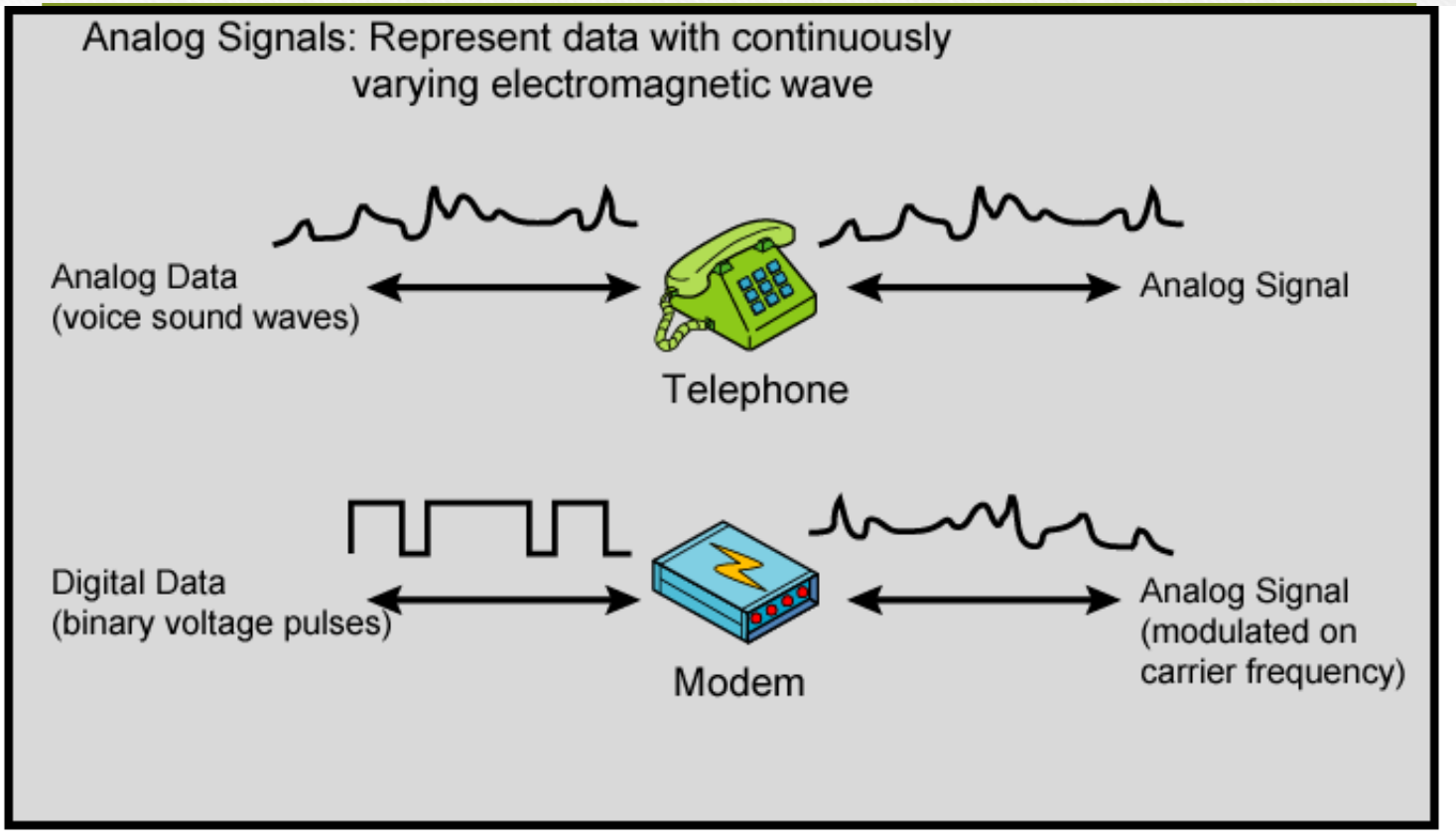
Binary Digital Data

- From computer terminals etc.
- Two dc components
- Bandwidth depends on data rate

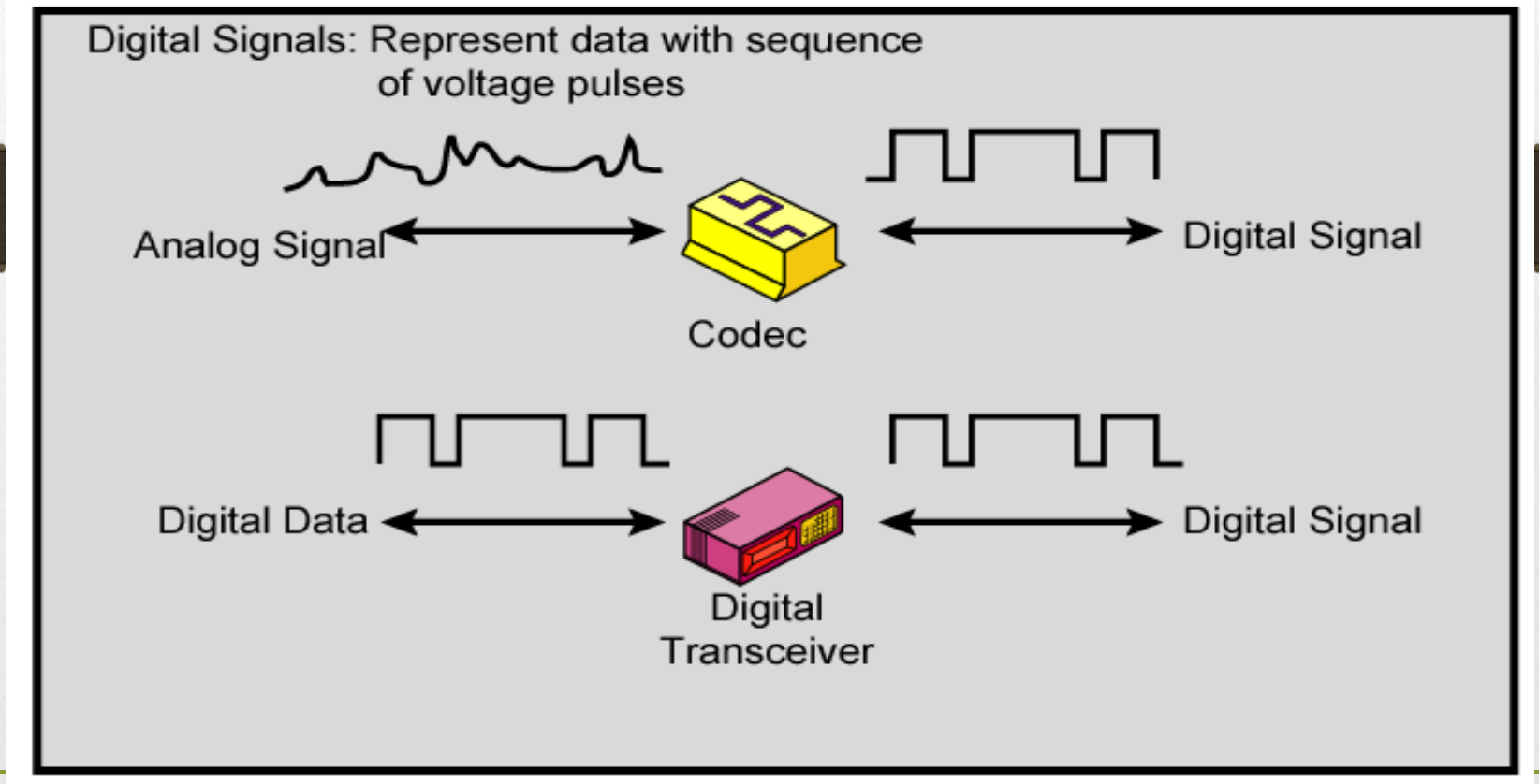
Data and Signals

- 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

Analog Signals Carrying Analog and Digital Data



Digital Signals Carrying Analog and Digital Data



Analog Transmission

- Analog signal transmitted without regard to content
- May be analog or digital data
- Attenuated over distance
- Use amplifiers to boost signal
- Also amplifies noise

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
- Analog - degradation of signal quality
- Digital - bit errors
- Caused by
  - Attenuation and attenuation distortion
  - Delay distortion
  - Noise

Attenuation

- Signal strength falls off with distance
- Depends on medium
- Received signal strength:
  - must be enough to be detected
  - must be sufficiently higher than noise to be received without error
- Attenuation is an increasing function of frequency

Delay Distortion

- Only in guided media
- Propagation velocity varies with frequency

Noise (1)

- Additional signals inserted between transmitter and receiver
- Thermal
  - Due to thermal agitation of electrons
  - Uniformly distributed
  - White noise
- Intermodulation
  - Signals that are the sum and difference of original frequencies sharing a medium

Noise (2)

- Crosstalk
  - A signal from one line is picked up by another
- Impulse
  - Irregular pulses or spikes
  - e.g. External electromagnetic interference
  - Short duration
  - High amplitude

Decibels

- Decibel is a measure of the ratio between two signal levels

$$G_{dB} = 10 \log_{10} \frac{P_{out}}{P_{in}}$$

- Reason to use decibels
  - Signal strength often falls off exponentially, so loss is easily expressed in terms of the decibel
  - Net gain/loss in a cascaded transmission path can be calculated with simple addition and subtraction.

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

Nyquist Bandwidth

- If rate of signal transmission is 2B then signal with frequencies no greater than B is sufficient to carry signal rate
- Given bandwidth B, highest signal rate is 2B
- Given binary signal, data rate supported by B Hz is 2B bps
- Can be increased by using M signal levels
- $C = 2B \log_2 M$
- Noise-free channel

Shannon Capacity Formula

- Consider data rate, noise and error rate
- Faster data rate shortens each bit so burst of noise affects more bits
  - At given noise level, high data rate means higher error rate
- Signal to noise ratio (SNR) (in decibels)
- $SNR_{db} = 10 \log_{10}(signal/noise)$
- Capacity $C = B \log_2(1+SNR)$
- This is error free capacity

Transmission Media: Overview

- Guided - wire
- Unguided - wireless
- Characteristics and quality determined by medium and signal
- For guided, the medium is more important
- For unguided, the bandwidth produced by the antenna is more important
- Key concerns are data rate and distance

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

Guided Transmission Media

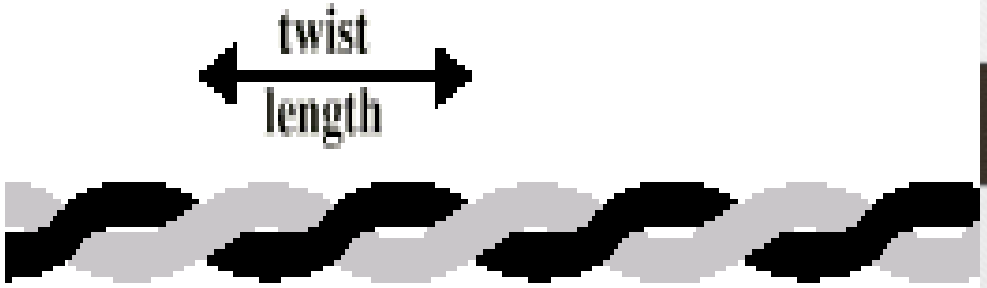
- Twisted Pair
- Coaxial cable
- Optical fiber

Transmission Characteristics of Guided Media

	Frequency Range	Typical Attenuation	Typical Delay	Repeater Spacing
Twisted pair (with loading)	0 to 3.5 kHz	0.2 dB/km @ 1 kHz	50 μs/km	2 km
Twisted pairs (multi-pair cables)	0 to 1 MHz	0.7 dB/km @ 1 kHz	5 μs/km	2 km
Coaxial cable	0 to 500 MHz	7 dB/km @ 10 MHz	4 μs/km	1 to 9 km
Optical fiber	186 to 370 THz	0.2 to 0.5 dB/km	5 μs/km	40 km

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

Twisted Pair - Transmission Characteristics

- Analog
  - Amplifiers every 5km to 6km
- Digital
  - Use either analog or digital signals
  - repeater every 2km or 3km
- Limited distance
- Limited bandwidth (1MHz)
- Limited data rate (100MHz)
- Susceptible to interference and noise

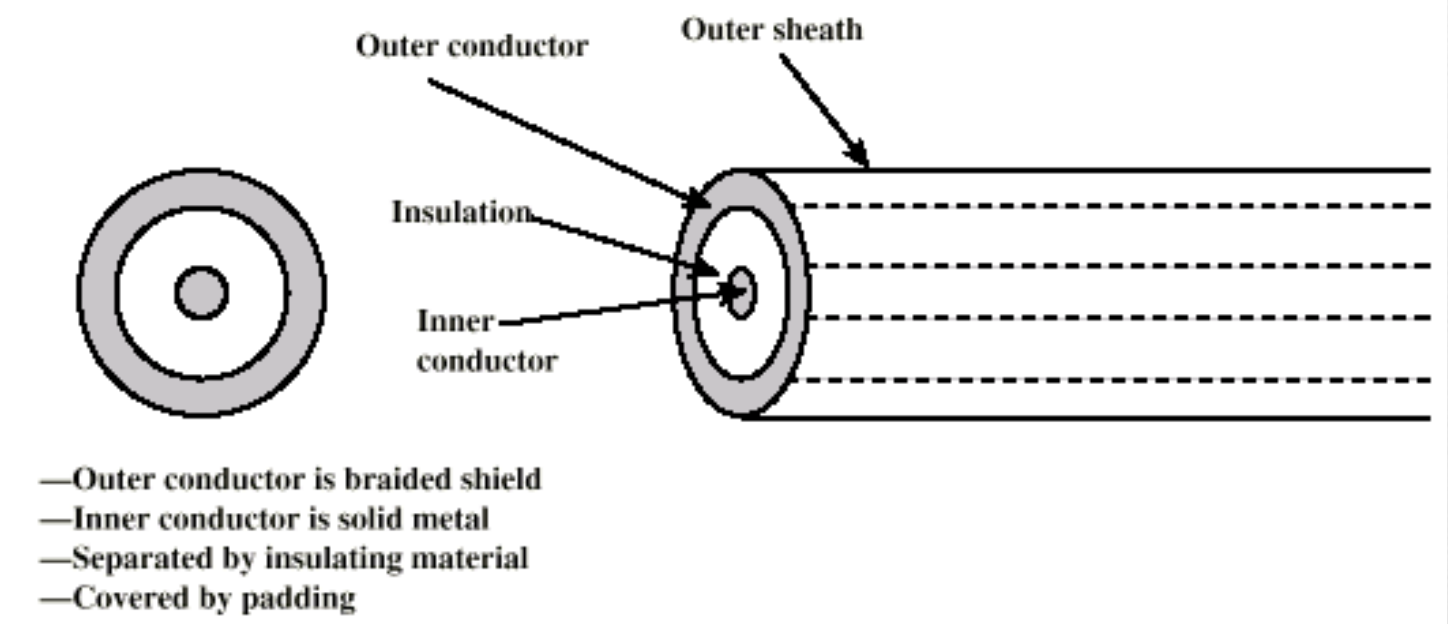
Unshielded and Shielded TP

- Unshielded Twisted Pair (UTP)
  - Ordinary telephone wire
  - Cheapest
  - Easiest to install
  - Suffers from external EM interference
- Shielded Twisted Pair (STP)
  - Metal braid or sheathing that reduces interference
  - More expensive
  - Harder to handle (thick, heavy)

UTP Categories

- Cat 3
  - up to 16MHz
  - Voice grade found in most offices
  - Twist length of 7.5 cm to 10 cm
- Cat 4
  - up to 20 MHz
- Cat 5
  - up to 100MHz
  - Commonly pre-installed in new office buildings
  - Twist length 0.6 cm to 0.85 cm

Coaxial Cable



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

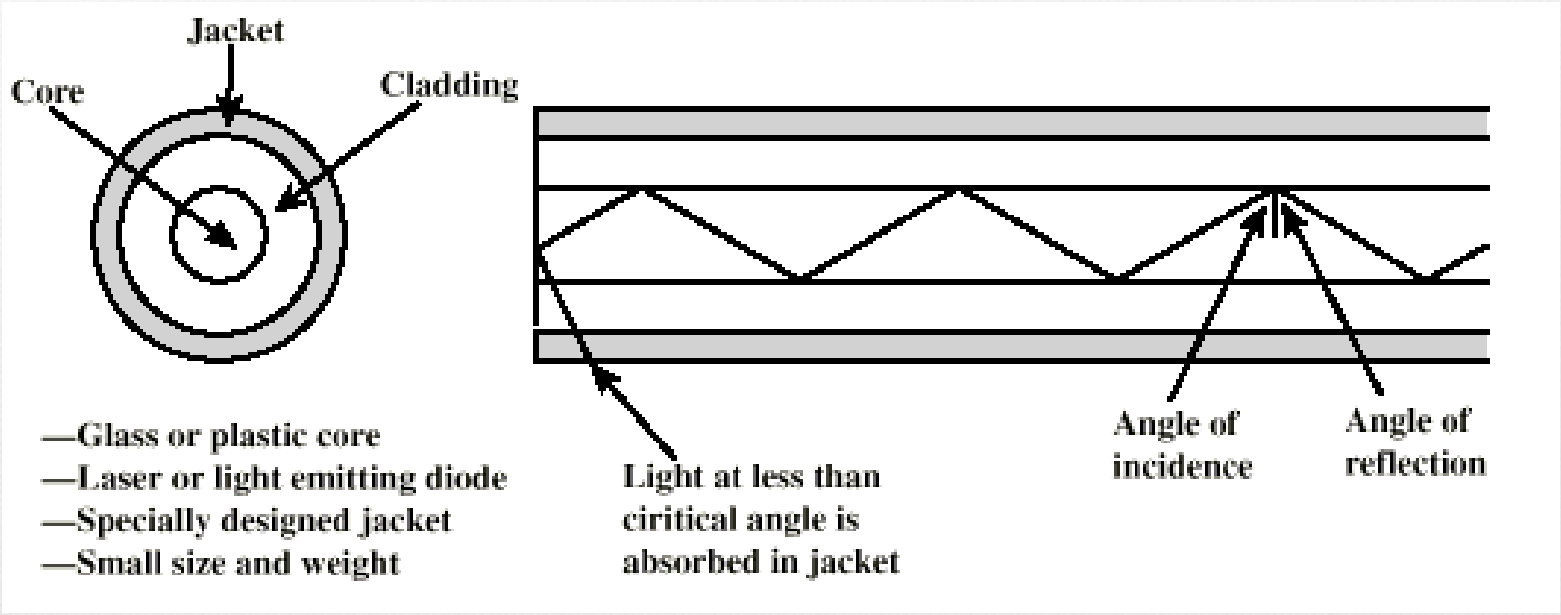
Coaxial Cable Applications

- 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

Coaxial Cable - Transmission Characteristics

- Analog
  - Amplifiers every few km
  - Closer if higher frequency
  - Up to 500MHz
- Digital
  - Repeater every 1km
  - Closer for higher data rates

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

Optical Fiber - Transmission Characteristics

- Act as wave guide for 10^{14} to 10^{15} Hz
  - Portions of infrared and visible spectrum
- Light Emitting Diode (LED)
  - Cheaper
  - Wider operating temp range
  - Last longer
- Injection Laser Diode (ILD)
  - More efficient
  - Greater data rate
- Wavelength Division Multiplexing

Wireless Transmission Frequencies

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

Antennas

- Electrical conductor (or system of..) used to radiate electromagnetic energy or collect electromagnetic energy
- Transmission
  - Radio frequency energy from transmitter
  - Converted to electromagnetic energy
  - By antenna
  - Radiated into surrounding environment
- Reception
  - Electromagnetic energy impinging on antenna
  - Converted to radio frequency electrical energy
  - Fed to receiver
- Same antenna often used for both

Radiation Pattern

- Power radiated in all directions
- Not same performance in all directions
- Isotropic antenna is (theoretical) point in space
  - Radiates in all directions equally
  - Gives spherical radiation pattern

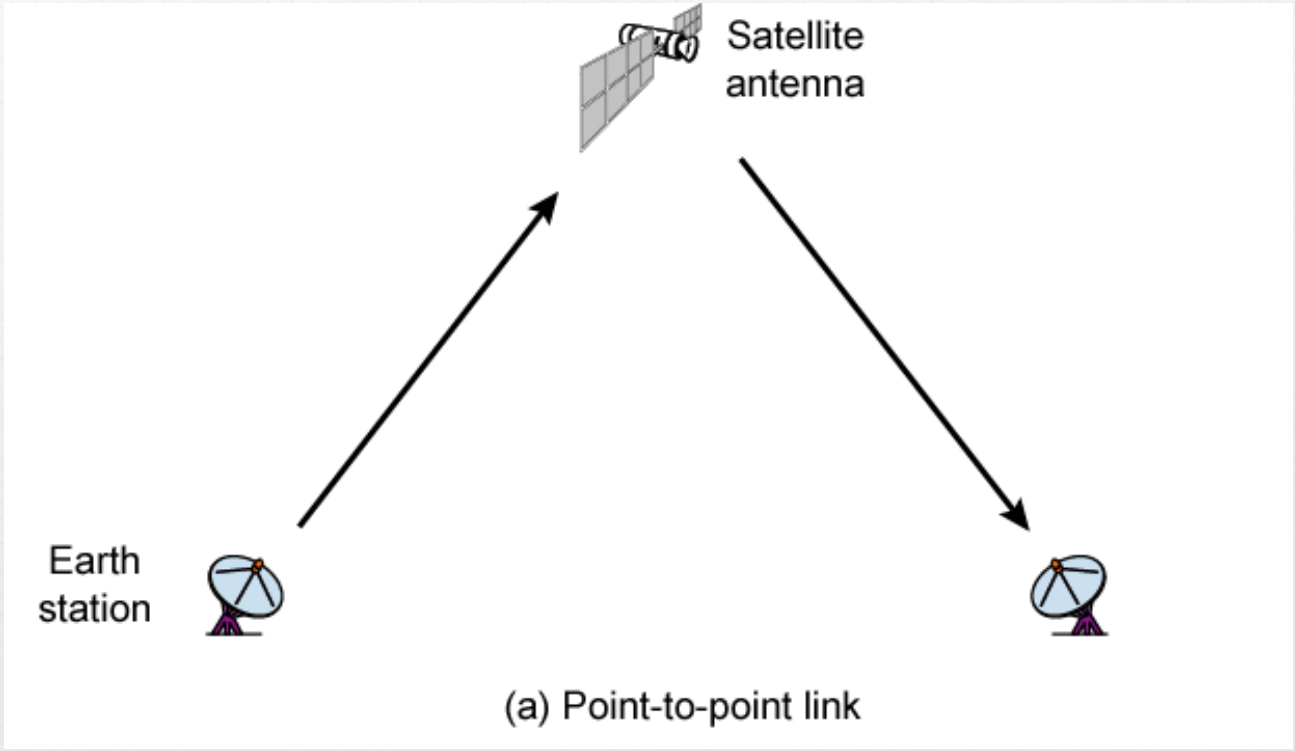
Terrestrial Microwave

- Parabolic dish
- Focused beam
- Line of sight
- Long haul telecommunications
- Higher frequencies give higher data rates

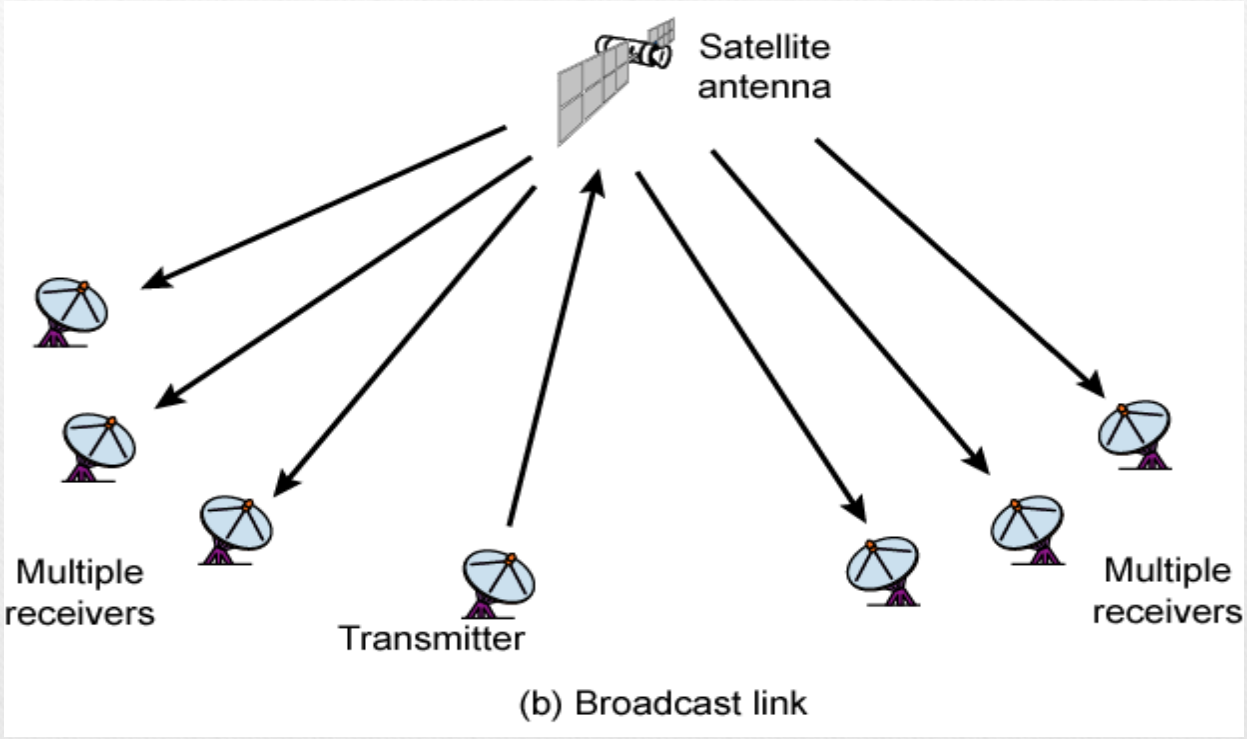
Satellite Microwave

- Satellite is relay station
- Satellite receives on one frequency, amplifies or repeats signal and transmits on another frequency
- Requires geo-stationary orbit
  - Height of 35,784km
- Television
- Long distance telephone
- Private business networks

Satellite Point to Point Link



Satellite Broadcast Link



Broadcast Radio

- Omnidirectional
- FM radio
- UHF and VHF television
- Line of sight
- Suffers from multipath interference
  - Reflections

Infrared

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