

# EECS4214

## Digital Communications

Sunila Akbar

Department of Electrical Engineering and Computer Science  
York University

January 8, 2025

# Lecture 2

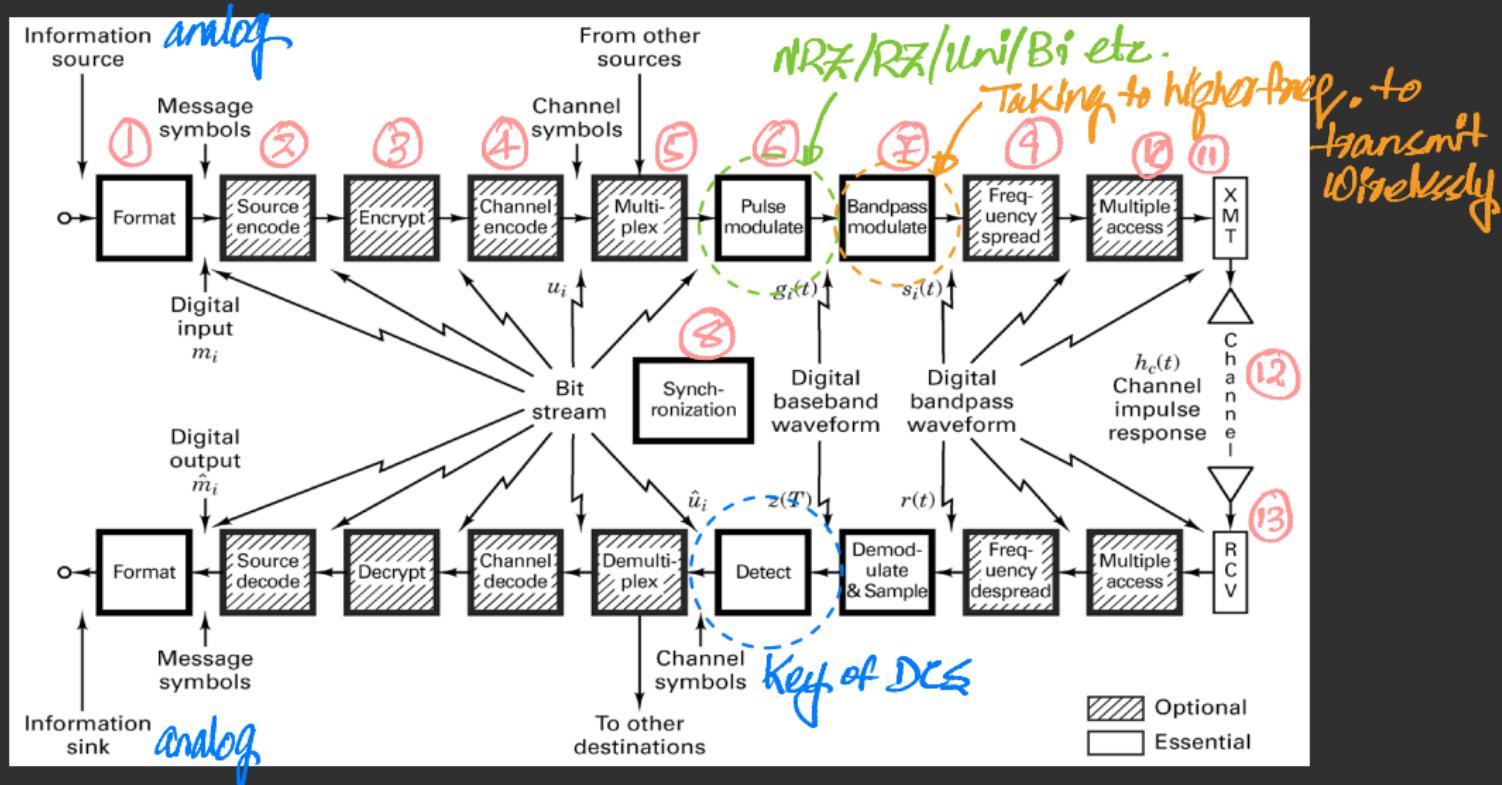
1 Digital Communication System

2 Communication Channel

3 Review of Probability Concepts (*Near helpline!*)

# Digital Communication System

# Block Diagram of Digital Communication System (DCS)



# Description of Each Block of DCS

## 1 Format

- will do in details*
- Transforms source information into bits
    - I ■ Sampling - makes signal discrete in time
    - II ■ Quantization - makes signal discrete in value (good quantizers are able to use few bits and minimize distortion)
    - III ■ PCM Coding - assign bits to the values
  - Ensure compatibility between source information and DCS

## 2 Source Encoder

- Remove redundant bits from message - Data Compression

Huffman / Shannon Fano  
Coding.

# Description of Each Block of DCS

## 3 Encrypt

- To maintain privacy i.e., preventing unauthorized extraction of information (eavesdropping)
- To establish authentication i.e., preventing unauthorized injection of spurious signals (spoofing)

## 4 Channel Encoder

### *Error Detection & Correction.*

- Takes  $k$  information bits, adds  $(n - k)$  non-information bits in the signal to generate code word (or channel symbol) of length  $n$
- Additional bits are used for error detection error correction. [Redundancy  $n/k$  code rate =  $k/n$ ]

# Description of Each Block of DCS

## 5 Multiplexing

- Provides resource sharing by combining different signals/symbols

FDM/TDM.  
(T1 carrier)

## 6 Pulse Modulation

- Define Pulse Waveform (pulse shaping) *to avoid intersymbol interference!*
- Generate Baseband (low frequency) Waveform *RZ/NRZ/Un/Bi* etc.
- When pulse modulation is applied to binary symbols the resulting waveform is called **pulse-code-modulation (PCM waveform)**
  - In telephone applications these waveforms are called **line-codes**

# Description of Each Block of DCS

## 7 Bandpass Modulation

- take sig. to high freq. as per channel characteristics.

e.g. microwave  
Radio-Freq(RF)

:

GHz etc

- wireless medium.  
(atmosphere  
attenuates low  
frequencies)

- Baseband signal is frequency translated by a carrier wave
- Required to meet transmission characteristics of channel
- Few Types:
  - Amplitude Shift Keying (ASK)
  - Frequency Shift Keying (FSK)
  - Phase Shift Keying (PSK)

+ QAM

# Description of Each Block of DCS

## 8 Synchronization (and clock signal)

- Involved in the control of all signal processing within DCS
- It plays a role in regulating operation of every block

## 9 Frequency Spread

- Spread spectrum techniques are important for interference and privacy
- Share bandwidth resources

# Description of Each Block of DCS

## 10 Multiple Access

- Provide resource sharing for remote users

## 11 Transmitter Front End (Channel Coupler) *Antenna + Amplifier etc.*

- Injects signal into the channel

# Description of Each Block of DCS

## 12 Channel

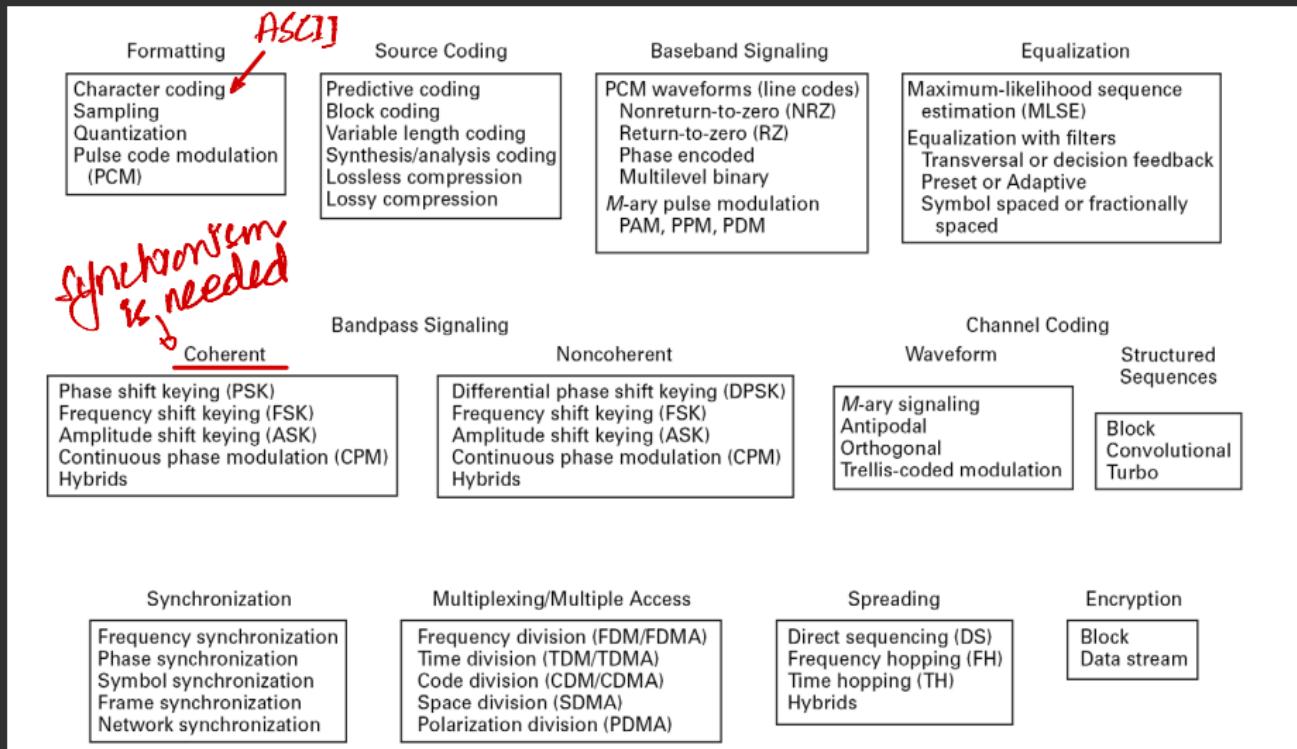
- Actual propagation medium
- The **wired** channel can be thought of as a Low Pass Filter (LPF)
  - Landlines, twisted-pair, coaxial cable, fiber-optic
- The **wireless** channel can be modeled as a frequency selective, time varying band-pass filter (BPF)
  - mobile phones, bluetooth, zigbee, infrared, X-ray
- The **Storage channels:** magnetic tape, magnetic disks, optical disks

# Description of Each Block of DCS

## 13 Receiver

- Recovers the original signal that was passed to the transmitter
-  ■ Use decision theory to decide which symbol was transmitted
- **Example:** For binary symbols, compare received power/amplitude to decide whether zero or one was transmitted
- All the steps (except detect) preformed at transmitter are reversed at the receiver side
  - Frequency Translation
  - Amplification and Filtering
  - Demodulation
  - Decoding and Error Correction
  - Reconstruction and Formatting

# Basic Digital Communication Transformations

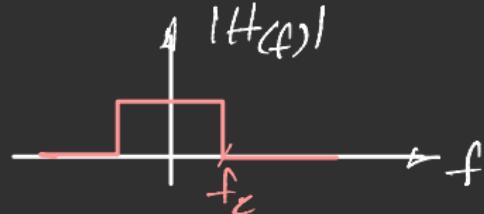


# Communication Channel

# Communication Channel

## Actual propagation medium

- The **wired** channel can be thought of as a Low Pass Filter (LPF)
  - High-frequency components in the signal experience greater attenuation due to physical properties of the medium, such as:
    - Resistance
    - Skin effect in wires
    - Dispersion in optical fibers
  - The cutoff frequency is determined by the physical properties of the medium and the length of the cable
  - Time-invariant (Physical Medium is Fixed, Stationary Transmitter and Receiver)
  - Examples: Telephone lines support baseband signals with a bandwidth of up to a few kHz, twisted-pair, coaxial cable, fiber-optic



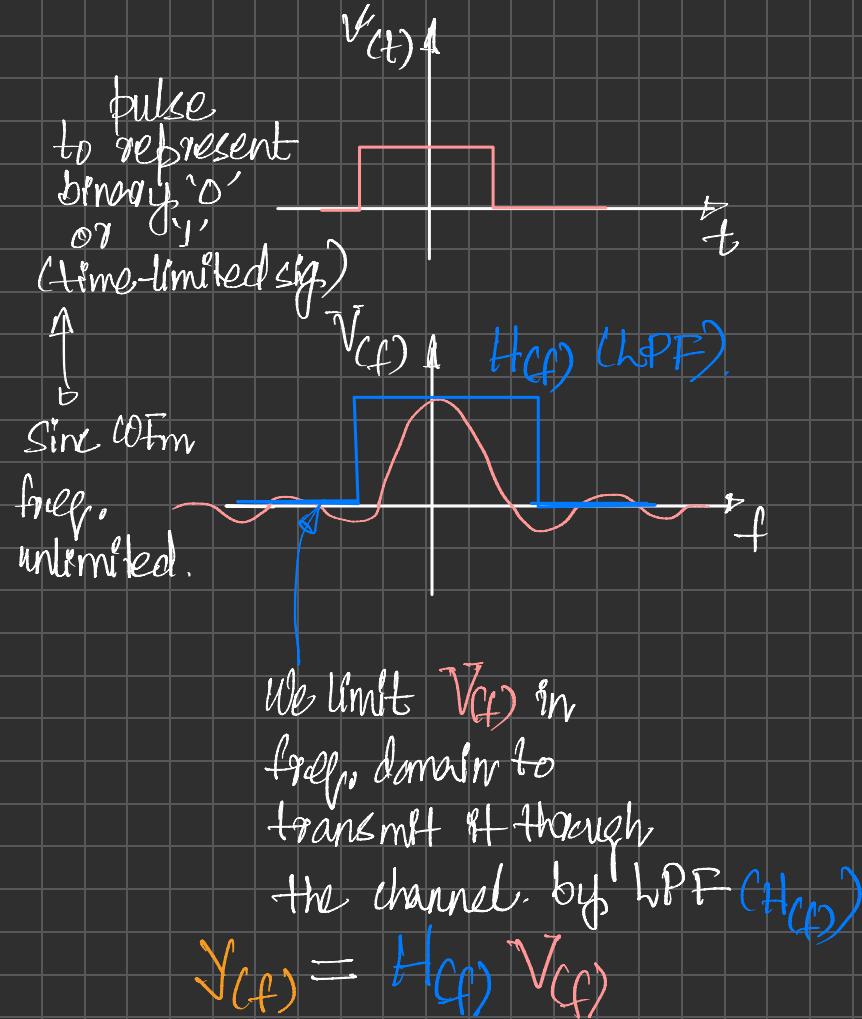
# Communication Channel

- The **wireless** channel can be modeled as a frequency selective, time varying band-pass filter (BPF)
  - Frequency-selective due to multipath fading (reflection, diffraction, and scattering)
  - Time varying
    - The transmitter, receiver, or surrounding environment may be in motion
    - Doppler shift
  - Examples: mobile phones, bluetooth, zigbee, infrared, X-ray

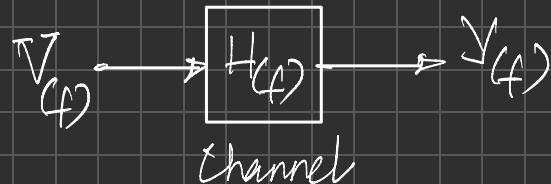
# Communication Distortion

- Broadly of two types:
  - **Additive** – channel output contains other signals beyond the input signal (examples, noise, interference)
  - **Non-Additive** – attenuation, spectral modification/filtering, non-linear distortion

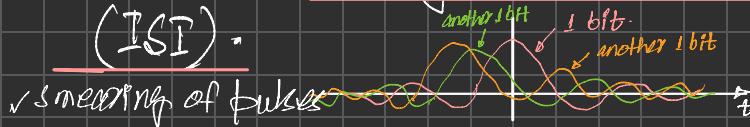
*Next Page.*



- ✓ channel is also either a LPF (Wired) or a BPF (Wireless)



- ✓ Now the freq.-limited sig. result into time-unlimited sig.
- ✓ This results in smearing of pulses
- ✓ Called Inter-Symbol Interference (ISI).
- ✓ smearing of pulses



# Noise in Communication Systems

- Unwanted electrical signals that are always present in electrical systems e.g. spark plug ignition noise, switching transients, and other radiating electromagnetic signals
- Noise due to thermal agitation of electrons in electronic circuits (known as thermal noise) is the most dominant in communication systems
- Can describe thermal noise as a Zero-mean Gaussian random process

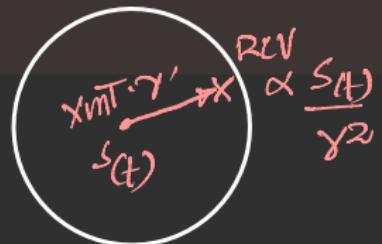
Additive White Gaussian Noise (AWGN): In later lecture.

# Ideal Channel Model

$\gamma$ : distance b/w Tx & Rx!

$$r(t) = As(t) + n(t),$$

↑  
Attenuation



where

- $r(t)$  is the received signal
- $A$  is the **attenuation** (in wireless transmissions, transmit power typically decreases as inverse of square distance)
- $s(t)$  is the transmitted signal
- $n(t)$  is the **additive noise** (in wireless transmissions, typically we refer to additive white Gaussian noise which is random)

# Linear Time Invariant (LTI) Channel Model

in freq. domain:  $A S_{f2} \cdot H_{f2}$

$$r(t) = \underbrace{A s(t)}_{h(t) - \text{time invariant}} * h(t) + n(t), \text{ where } h(t) \text{ is the impulse response of the channel}$$

- Attenuation, additive noise, modification of frequency spectrum due to filter characteristics of the channel
- Linear filter can change only magnitude and phase
- Channel's impulse response remains constant during communication period
- Examples

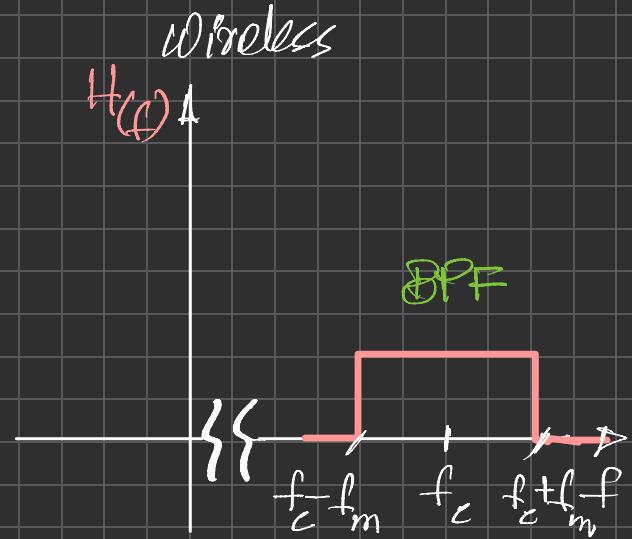
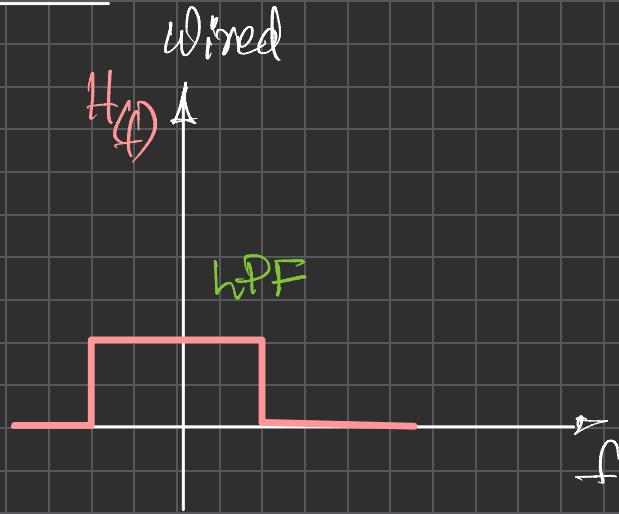
- Twisted Pair ( $\sim 100$  kHz)
- Coaxial ( $\sim 100$  MHz)
- Optical waveguide ( $\sim 100$  GHz)

}

$h(t)$  - time invariant

Filtering: Channel can have a bandwidth that is small compared to the signal bandwidth (e.g., in a telephone channel). Subsequently, transmitted pulses will vary in shape and smeared out in time causing inter-symbol interference (ISI). *as explained in the earlier slide!*

Channel



$f_m$ : max<sup>m</sup> freq. component  
of msg. sig.

$f_c$ : carrier freq.

$f_c \ggg f_m$ .

→ To transmit wirelessly

# Linear Time Variant (LTV) Channel Model

W/L

$$r(t) = As(t) * \underbrace{h(t, \tau)}_{\text{Time-variant}} + n(t)$$

where  $h(t, \tau)$  is the impulse response and  $\tau$  is the path delay

Time-variant

## Multi-path Fading:

- Signal amplitude can change in a random fashion
- Time-varying channels cause signal fading
- Different signal components can fade at different levels and this often causes random filtering of the signals (hence ISI)