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Lecture - Signal Encoding Techniques

📅 2025-09-29

🕒 11:00

👤 Asim



There is a deck of slides on Moodle introducing this module's structure & assessments, etc.

1.1 Introduction to Concepts

1.1.1 Computer Networks

Definitions

Computer Network A system that connects two or more computing devices for transmitting and sharing information (data)

There are a number of different activities which can be done on a network:

- Watching Videos
- Playing Games
- Sending and Receiving Messages (including not just text)
- Paying Bills

The core function of the network is to exchange data between interconnected devices.

1.1.2 Data & Signals

Data is the information which is transmitted between devices on the network. The type of the data depends on the context and may include:

- Video
- Audio
- Text
- Images

For data to be able to travel on the network - it has to be converted into digital or analog format. Once in either of these formats, the resultant data is known as *signals*.

Definitions

Signal Electromagnetic Waves that carry data

Analog Signal are signals which vary smoothly over time and have no fixed point to change at and don't have fixed levels

Discrete Signal are signals which maintain constant level for some time then then change to another constant level

Digital Signal are signals which have only two levels - one high to indicate on, or 1, and one low to indicate off, or 0

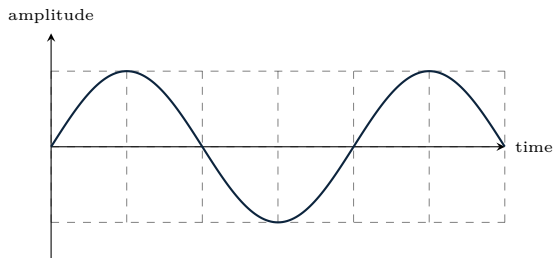


Figure 1.1: Analog Signal

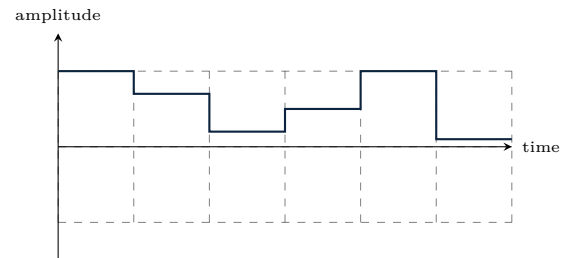


Figure 1.2: Discrete Signal

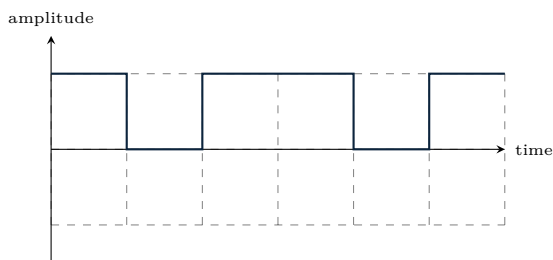


Figure 1.3: Digital Signal

1.2 Data Communications

Within a Data Communications Network - the data will convert between Digital and Analog data at various points. A *modem* may be used to complete this conversion.

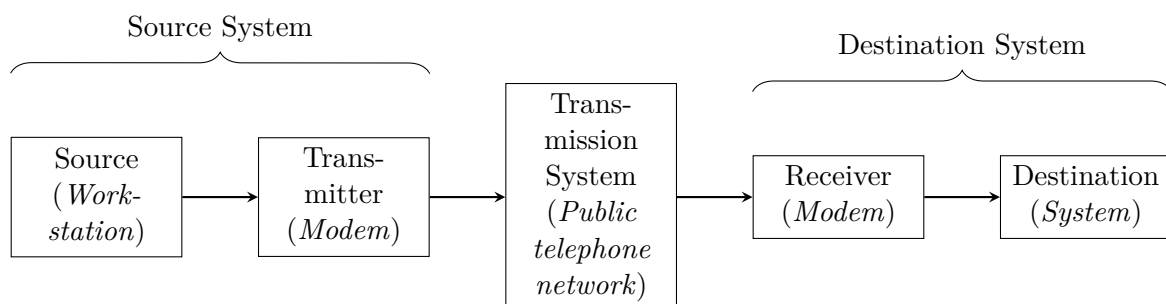


Figure 1.4: Block Diagram of Example Data Communications Signal Chain

In the above diagram, the *workstation* provides the *modem* with a digital signal. The modem then converts this digital signal into an analog signal which can be transmitted across the *Public Telephone Network* that uses analog signals. The receiving *modem* converts the signal to a digital format which the *server* receives.

In saying this, however, there are some devices which still work entirely on analog or digital signals.

For example, the analog telephone network including the switching and transmission is entirely analog. There is also the inverse whereby there are entirely digital signals are processed.

1.3 Digital-To-Digital Signal Encoding

Digital signals are transmitted such that an individual value is transmitted for a defined period of time called the *bit duration*. The *bit duration* is known to both the sender and receiver, allowing the receiver to correctly interpret the transmitted signal which the sender will always transmit at the beginning of the bit duration. We assume the sender and receiver are synchronised and therefore the clock or is not transmitted.

The move between two different defined voltages within the transmission is called the *transition*.

As digital signals are discrete (meaning there are defined, absolute data levels) encoding a digital signal as another digital signal is considerably simpler as we don't have to convert one data level to another.

1.3.1 Nonreturn to Zero Level (NRZ-L)

This method only has two levels of data transmitted. It works through mapping the high data level (1) and low data level (0) to a signal level:

- 0 - represented by a high level signal
- 1 - represented by a low level signal

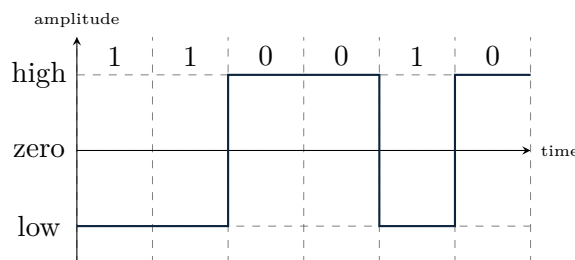


Figure 1.5: Example of NRZ-L Encoding using 110010

1.3.2 Nonreturn to Zero Inverted (NRZ-I)

This method is similar to NRZ-L in that it uses two levels of data transmitted: high and low. However it uses the transitions to define the data being transmitted. Looking at the bit following a transition point, even if there is no transition present:

- Where there is a transition (regardless of 1 to 0, or 0 to 1): the following signal bit is transmitted as is high
- Where there is not a transition (regardless of 1 to 1, or 0 to 0): the following signal bit is transmitted as low

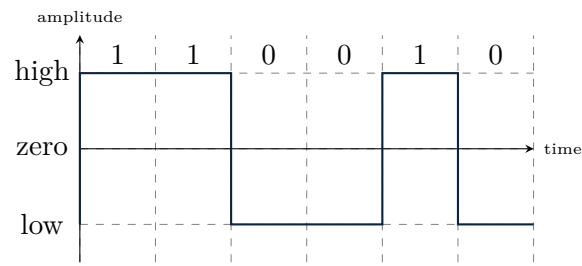


Figure 1.6: Example of NRZ-I Encoding using 110010

1.3.3 Bipolar-AMI

This has three signal levels: high, zero, and low. It works through setting the signal based on the bit to be transitioned to:

- 0 - represented by transmitting zero
- 1 - represented by alternating high and low values, regardless of if there is a 0 value in the middle

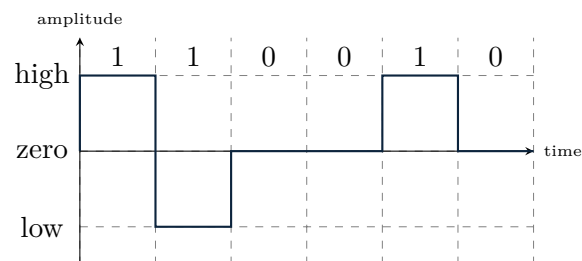


Figure 1.7: Example of Bipolar-AMI Encoding using 110010

1.3.4 Pseudoternary

This has three signal levels: high, zero, low. It works through setting the signal based on the bit to be transmitted:

- 0 - represented by alternating high and low values, regardless of if there is a 1 value in the middle of them
- 1 - represented by transmitting zero value

This is the inverse of Bipolar-AMI.

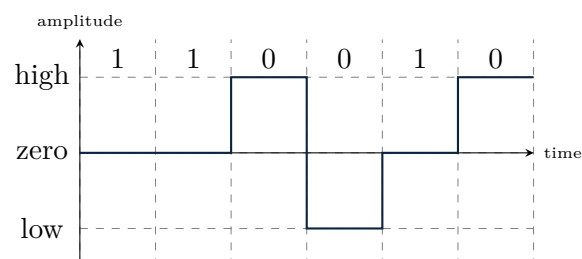


Figure 1.8: Example of Pseudoternary Encoding using 110010

1.3.5 Manchester

This has two signal levels: high and low. It works through having up-to two transitions per interval:

- 0 - represented by a transition from high to low in the middle of the interval (which for successive zeros will require a low-to-high transition at the start of the interval)
- 1 - represented by a transition from low to high in the middle of the interval (which for successive ones will require a high-to-low transition at the start of the interval)

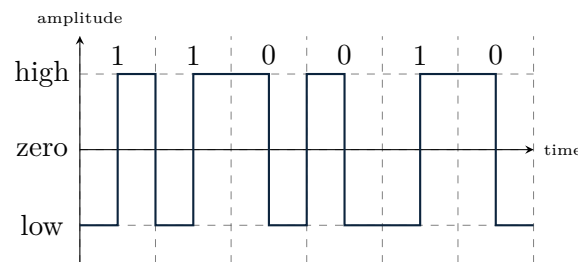


Figure 1.9: Example of Manchester Encoding using 110010

1.3.6 Differential Manchester

This has two signal levels: high and low. It works by always transitioning in the middle of the interval and then examining the transition at the beginning of the interval:

- 0 - represented by a transition at the beginning of the interval
- 1 - represented by no transition at the beginning of the interval

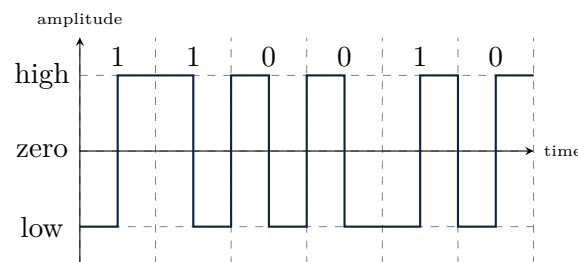


Figure 1.10: Example of Differential Manchester Encoding using 110010

1.3.7 Multi-Level Transmit 3 (MLT-3)

This uses three different signal levels: low, zero and high. It works by cycling through these states based on the bit to be transmitted:

- 0 - remain on the current signal level (regardless of signal level value)
- 1 - move to the next state in the cycle of signal levels (high - zero - low - zero repeat)

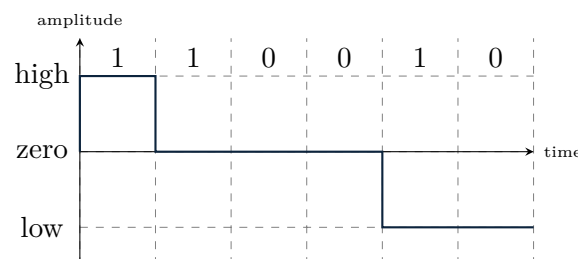


Figure 1.11: Example of MLT-3 Encoding using 110010

1.4 Electromagnetic Waves

Electromagnetic waves are the digital representation of an analog signal. They are considered to be smooth as they don't have fixed values. The key properties of any EM wave are as follows: Amplitude, Phase, Wavelength & Frequency.

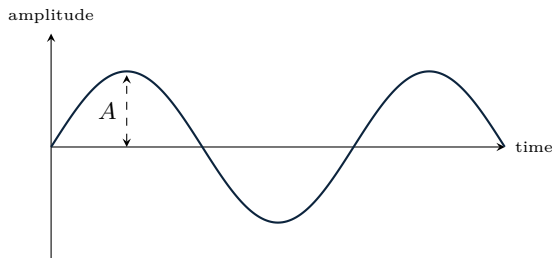


Figure 1.12: Electromagnetic Wave showing Amplitude (A)

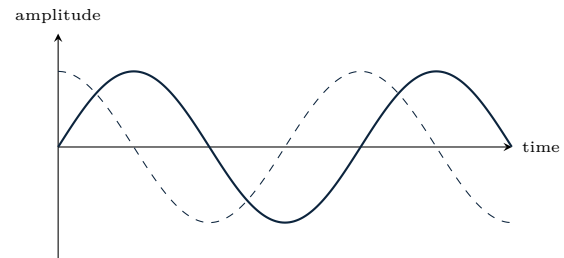


Figure 1.13: Electromagnetic Wave showing Phase (dashed)

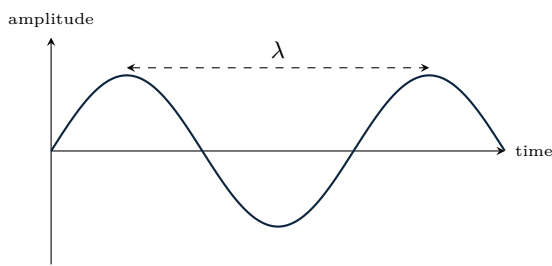


Figure 1.14: Electromagnetic Wave showing Wavelength (λ)

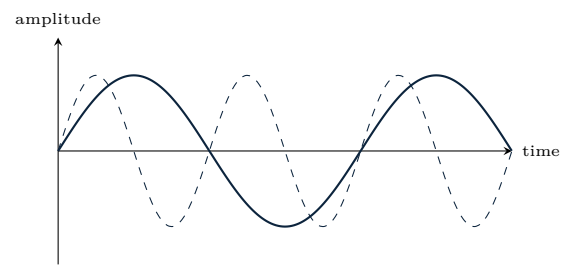


Figure 1.15: Electromagnetic Wave showing increased frequency (dashed)

1.4.1 Carrier Waves & Modulation

Definitions

Carrier Wave a continuous, periodic waveform that carries no information

A *carrier wave* is modified by an information-bearing signal to convey information. The modification can be by either changing: its amplitude, frequency, phase, or some combination of the three. The process of modifying a carrier wave is called *modulation*.

1.5 Digital Data, Analog Signals

There are many examples of where digital data has to be transmitted through an analog medium. The most well-known of which being the public telephone network. This is designed to transmit voices, within the frequency of 300 to 3400 Hz; therefore a problem is presented when a digital device is connected to the network. This problem is overcome by connecting the digital device to a Modem (Modulator-Demodulator) which converts digital data to analog signals and the other way around.

There are a number of different methods which can be used to convert digital data onto an analog signal. These methods employ a carrier wave for the digital data to be modulated onto. For the subsequent examples - it's assumed the carrier wave is a sine wave.

1.5.1 Amplitude-Shift Keying

Amplitude-Shift Keying (ASK) modulation works by modulating the digital signal onto the amplitude of the carrier wave. Meaning that the amplitude of the carrier wave is increased for a digital 0 and decreased for a digital 1.

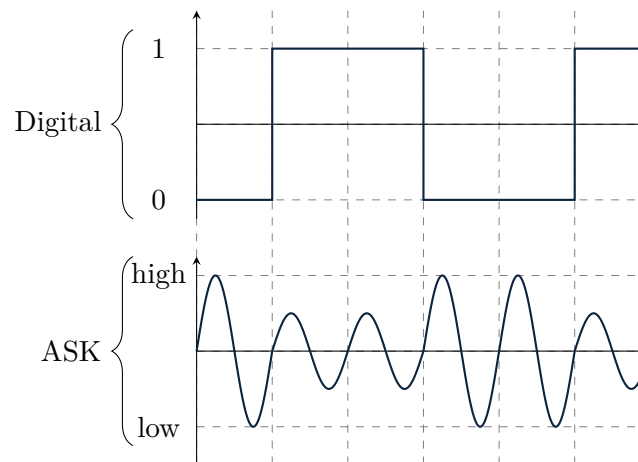


Figure 1.16: Example of ASK Modulation

1.5.2 Frequency-Shift Keying

Frequency-Shift Keying (FSK) modulation works by modulating the digital signal onto the frequency of the carrier wave. This means that the frequency of the carrier wave is increased for a digital 1 and decreased for a digital 0.

The sender and receiver may use different frequencies to allow full-duplex transmissions on the same channel. It is less susceptible to errors than ASK modulation is. FSK can be used for higher frequencies (3 - 30 MHz), radio and Local Area Network transmissions. It can also support Multiple Levels in MFSK.

The *bandwidth* of the transmission is the difference between the frequency of the high frequency (representing a 1) and the low frequency (representing a 0). Different frequency carrier waves will be used for sending and receiving on the same line.

The most common form of FSK is Binary FSK (BFSK) in which the two binary values are represented by two different frequencies near the carrier frequency:

- 0 - represented by $A \cos(2\pi f_1 t)$
- 1 - represented by $A \cos(2\pi f_2 t)$

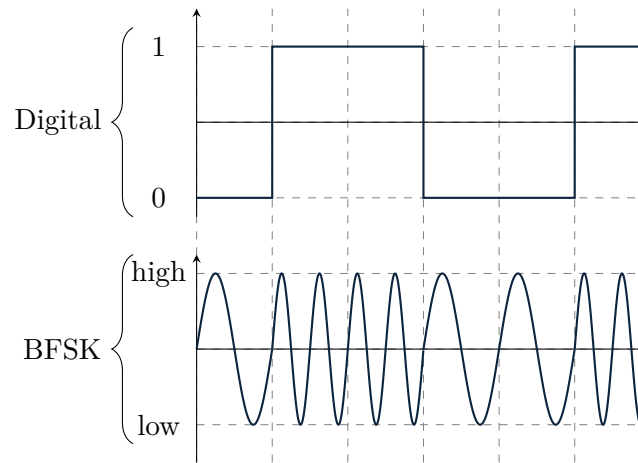


Figure 1.17: Example of BFSK Modulation

1.5.3 Phase Shift Keying

Phase Shift Keying (PSK) Modulation works by modulating the digital signal onto the phase of the carrier wave. This means that the phase of the carrier wave is adjusted to represent digital 0 and digital 1, respectively. There are two different types of PSK studied here.

1.5.3.1 Binary Phase Shift Keying

Binary PSK (BPSK) works by using two phases to represent two different binary digits (0 and 1) and shifting between them:

- 0 - represented by the sine wave $A \cos(2\pi ft + 180)$ which equals the sine wave $-A \cos(2\pi ft)$
- 1 - represented by the sine wave $A \cos(2\pi ft)$

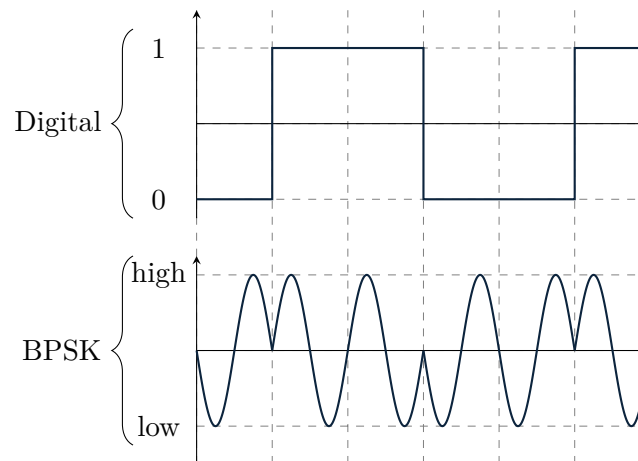


Figure 1.18: Example of BPSK Modulation

1.5.3.2 Differential Phase Shift Keying

Differential PSK (DPSK) works by referencing the previous bit in the current bit transmitted. DPSK removes the need for an accurate local oscillator phase at the receiver which is matched with the transmitter, because so long as the preceding phase is received correctly - the phase reference is accurate.

- 0 - send a signal similar to the previous one
- 1 - send a signal with phase shift as compared to the previous one

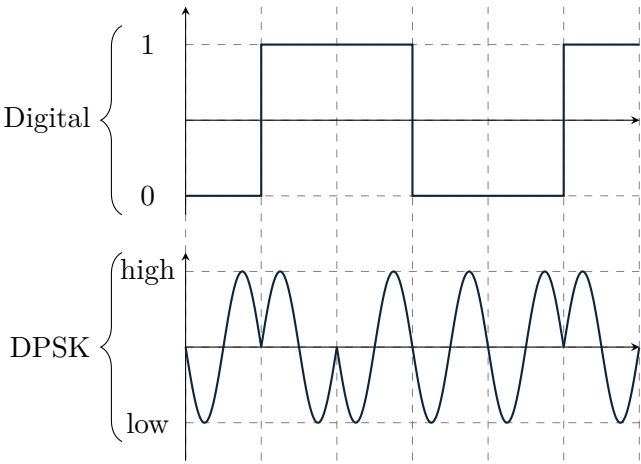


Figure 1.19: Example of DPSK Modulation

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Lecture - Spread Spectrum and Walsh Codes

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2.1 Communication Channels

There are two different types of Communications Channels (also sometimes referred to as *Communication Media* or *Transmission Media*).

Definitions

Guided Media Wired (Bounded) Media (i.e Twisted Pair, Coaxial, Fibre Optic)

Unguided Media Wireless Media (i.e. Microwave, Radio Wave. Cellular, Infrared, Satellite)

Within Guided Media, the electromagnetic waves are guided along a physical path. The medium can be considered to be *point-to-point* if it provides a direct link between two devices and those two devices are the only devices sharing the medium.

Unguided media is the opposite - where the electromagnetic waves are not guided through any physical containment, rather they transmit through air, vacuum or seawater.

The term *Direct Link* is used to refer to a transmission path where the signal is transmitted directly from sender to receiver without any intermediate devices. This can apply to both guided and unguided media. A *multipoint guided configuration* is a configuration such that more than two devices share the same medium.

A transmission may be simplex, half duplex or full duplex.

Definitions

Simplex a transmission in which signals are only transmitted in one direction; one station is the transmitter and the other is the receiver.

Half-Duplex a transmission in which both stations can transmit and receive but only one can transmit at one time therefore

Full-Duplex a transmission in which both stations can transmit and receive at the same time; which requires a medium is required for signals to be transmitted in both directions at the same time

In a full-duplex transmission system there may sometimes be an overlap in the frequency ranges used for each direction of transmission. This is sometimes acceptable and sometimes not - depending on the application. In any case, the overlap would be at the very edges of the frequency range; however this would still cause some interference.



There is a diagram detailing the frequencies used for different unguided transmissions available both in the slides on Moodle & in the textbook on page 109.

2.2 Interference and Noise

Often with transmissions - our signal may be interrupted in some way. This will alter the signal being transmitted which could change the data it represents - therefore garbling the resultant wave. Often this interference will come from *noise*.

Definitions

Interference The combination of two or more electromagnetic waveforms to form a resultant wave in which the displacement is either reinforced or cancelled

Noise An unwanted signal which is combined with desired signal

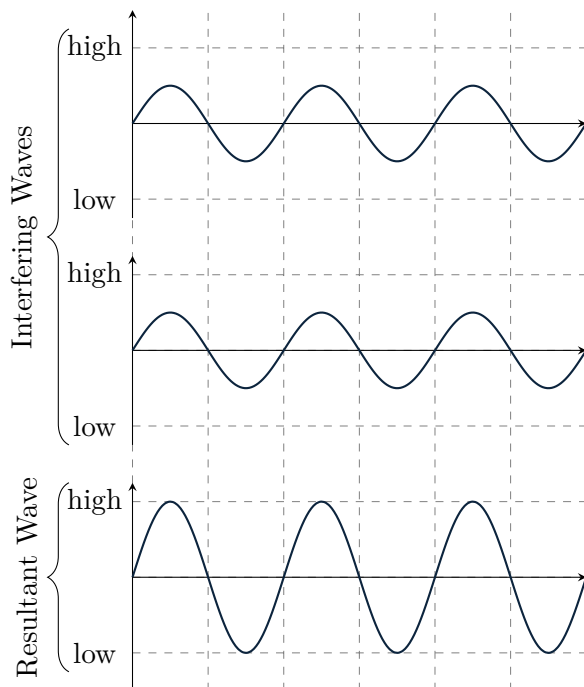


Figure 2.1: Constructive Interference

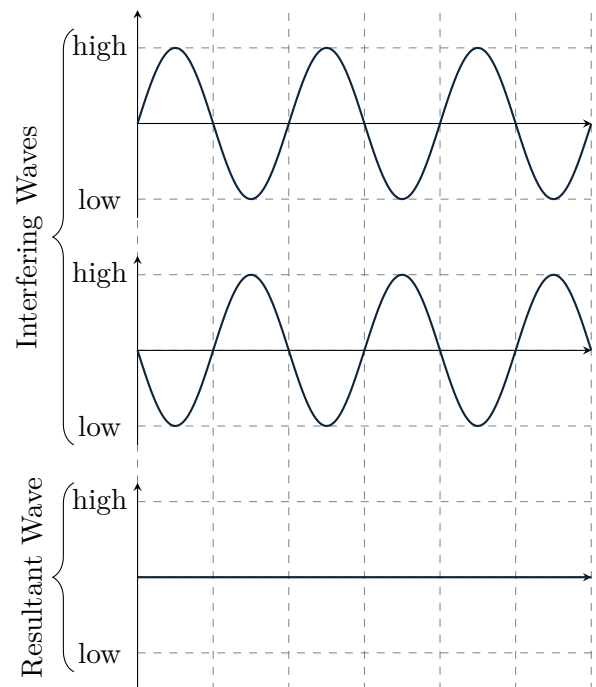


Figure 2.2: Destructive Interference

As we can see in the above figure, where we have two waves which are of the same phase interfering with each other - they will *interfere constructively* to increase the amplitude of the resultant wave. However where two waves in opposite phase interfere with each other - they will *interfere destructively* to effectively cancel each other out and the resultant wave has no amplitude.

For any data transmission, the received signal will consist of the transmitted signal, modified by the various distortions used by the transmission system, plus additional unwanted signals that are inserted somewhere between transmission and reception (which is referred to as *noise*).

Noise can be divided into four categories:

- Thermal Noise
- Intermodulation Noise

- Crosstalk
- Impulse Noise

2.3 Basic Definitions

Definitions

Data Rate The rate, in bits per second (bps), at which data can be communicated

Error The reception of a 1 where 0 was transmitted, or the reception of a 0 when a 1 was transmitted

Error Rate The rate at which errors occur

Frequency Bandwidth The difference between the upper and lower frequencies in a continuous band of frequencies

Channel Capacity The maximum rate at which information can be transmitted through a communication channel

Signal to Noise Ratio (SNR) The ratio of the signal power to the noise power, measured in Decibels $10 \log_{10} \frac{\text{signal power}}{\text{noise power}}$

The *Channel Capacity* can be calculated using:

$$C = 2B \log_2 M$$

Where C is the channel capacity; B is the bandwidth; M is the signal or voltage levels.

The Nyquist Bandwidth Theory stipulates that if the rate of signal transmission is $2B$ then a signal with frequencies no greater than B is sufficient to carry the signal rate. The converse is also true. This limitation is due to the effect of intersymbol interference, which is produced by delay distortion. This is in essence based on the Nyquist Sampling Theorem (flashback to A-Level Electronics).

From this we can see that permitting all other things being equal, when we double the bandwidth - we double the error rate. The error rate then only gets worse as we increase the data rate because a higher data rate will mean the bits are shorter so more bits are affected by a given pattern of noise. Mathematician *Claude Shannon* tied these into a formula:

$$C = B \log_2(1 + SNR)$$

Where C is the capacity of the channel in bps and B is the bandwidth of the channel in Hertz.

2.4 Multiplexing

Definitions

Multiplexing A technique that allows the simultaneous transmission of multiple signals through the same channel or link; several signals are combined into a single composite signal

2.4.1 Frequency Division Multiplexing

In Frequency Division Multiplexing (FDM), the different message signals are modulated onto different carrier frequencies. This then means the signals being transmitted are separate from each other in

the frequency domain. These modulated signals are then combined together to form the composite signal and this signal is sent over the shared medium or channel. To avoid the interference between the different message signals, a guard band is also kept between the message signals.

On the transmitter end, the signals to be transmitted are modulated onto the different carrier frequencies. Then on the receiver end - the frequencies first pass through a Band Pass Filter (definition not required for this module), then through the demodulator, then finally through a low pass filter (again, definition not needed in this module). The band pass filter is used to separate the specific signal from the composite signal, and the low pass filter is used to filter out the higher frequencies introduced as part of the FDM process.

2.4.2 Time Division Multiplexing

In Time Division Multiplexing (TDM), the channel is divided into several time slots, and each signal allocated during its time slot. As a result - several signals share the channel without interfering with each other.

2.5 Spread Spectrum

When transmitting our analog signals (whether these originated as digital or analog), we can spread the signal over a wider bandwidth to avoid jamming and frequency interception.

Spread Spectrum is a technique used by military and intelligence applications which is also used in Wireless and Cordless networks. There are a number of different techniques which can be used, we will explore 3 of them.

Definitions

Pseudorandom Noise (PN) is a deterministic sequence of bits which satisfies one or more of the standard tests for statistical randomness while being repeatable after a period

2.5.1 Frequency Hopping Spread Spectrum

In Frequency Hopping Spread Spectrum (FHSS), the signal is broadcast over a number of different radio frequencies, and the frequency used is changed at a fixed intervals which are generally extremely short (i.e. $1ms$). The receiver will hop between the different frequencies used in sync with the transmitter.

If the transmission is compromised, then the attacker would only hear unintelligible blips of the transmission. It would also thwart attempts to jam the signal as the attacker would only be able to block a few bits of the signal.

FHSS transmission systems tend to work with the binary data being fed into a modulator using a digital-to-analog encoding scheme (for example FSK or BPSK). The resultant signal is centred in a frequency. A PN source serves as an index into a table of frequencies; this is the spreading code. Each k bits of the PN source specifies one of the carrier frequencies. At each pre-agreed interval, a new carrier frequency is selected. This frequency is then modulated by the signal produced from the initial modulator to produce a new signal with the same shape, but now centred on the selected carrier frequency.

On reception - the spread spectrum signal is demodulated using the same sequence of frequencies derived from the PN source, and then demodulated to produce the output data.

2.5.2 Direct Sequence Spread Spectrum

Direct Sequence Spread Spectrum (DSSS) works by encoding a single bit to be transmitted (i.e. 1) as a multi-bit sequence (i.e. 0110) using a spreading code. The *spreading code* spreads the signal across a wider frequency band in direct proportion to the number of bits used. Which means that a 4-bit spreading code spreads 1-bit of signal across a frequency band which is 4 times greater than a 1-bit spreading code. Of course, it doesn't have to be a 4-bit spreading code; it could be 10-bit or 20-bit.

A common method for encoding DSS is to combine the digital data input signal with a *Pseudorandom Noise (PN)* sequence (the individual bits within are called *chips*). The combined output signal is then referred to as a *chip sequence*.

In reality, this encoding process works by combining the digital data input signal with the Chip Sequence using an Exclusive Or (XOR) operation.

$$0 \oplus 0 = 0$$

$$0 \oplus 1 = 1$$

$$1 \oplus 0 = 1$$

$$1 \oplus 1 = 0$$

This produces a *combination bit stream* which has the data rate of the spreading code sequence, so therefore has a higher bandwidth than the information stream.

Example: DSSS

If we take the first bit we want to transmit, 0, and the first four bits of PN sequence 0110; we then perform the XOR operation for each of them:

$$0 \oplus 0 = 0$$

$$0 \oplus 1 = 1$$

$$0 \oplus 1 = 1$$

$$0 \oplus 0 = 0$$

This gives us the transmitted spread-sequence representing our first bit: 0110. This process is then continued for all bits to be transmitted.

On the receiving end, the receiver has the same PN sequence so they can perform an XOR function on the received signal and PN sequence:

$$0 \oplus 0 = 0$$

$$1 \oplus 1 = 0$$

$$1 \oplus 1 = 0$$

$$0 \oplus 0 = 0$$

The un-spread single bit output is then the output of the XOR. In this case, that would be 0. Obviously, this decoding process is repeated for as many bits as needed.



There is an alternative representation of DSSS using a graph to represent the different signals in the Slides available on Moodle.

2.5.3 Code Division Multiple Access Spread Spectrum

Code Division Multiple Access (CDMA) is a multiplexing technique used with spread spectrum.

To understand how CDMA works, we first have to understand how *Walsh Code* works. Walsh Code is a matrix from which codes can be taken by reading the rows of the matrix. The Walsh matrix starts with the general structure:

$$W_1 = (-1)$$

We can then double n to provide larger matrices, for the events in which we need longer sequences of chip codes.

$$W_{2n} = W_2 = \begin{pmatrix} W_1 & W_1 \\ W_1 & \overline{W_1} \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} -1 & -1 \\ -1 & +1 \end{pmatrix}$$

Obviously, this can be taken further to see a 4×4 matrix which is a common size we will interact with in this module.

$$W_{2n} = W_4 = \begin{pmatrix} W_2 & W_2 \\ W_2 & \overline{W_2} \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} -1 & -1 & -1 & -1 \\ -1 & +1 & -1 & +1 \\ -1 & -1 & +1 & +1 \\ -1 & +1 & +1 & -1 \end{pmatrix}$$

CDMA works by taking the data signal, with a bit-rate R , and selecting a unique code of n chips according to the Walsh Matrix; for example *row 1 for a; row 2 for b; etc.* Then if a the user, k , sends a 1 - the transmitter sends the chip code c_k ; alternatively if the user k sends a 0 - the transmitter sends the chip code $\overline{c_k}$ (which may also be represented in this module as c'_k).

The signal to be transmitted is the built by summing the “columns” of chip codes (i.e. all first indexes summed for A, B, C & D; all second indexes summed for A, B, C & D; etc; in a situation where 4 signals are being transmitted together). The receiver then decodes this signal by performing inner-product-multiplication for the user k . This works by them taking the original Chip Code (not the inverted chip where a -1 has been transmitted) and multiplying each element with the corresponding element in the received signal (i.e. first element of chip code multiplied with first received bit, etc). The output from these multiplications are then summed together, and where the result is the number of bits in the chip code, n : a 1 was transmitted; and where the result is $-n$: a 0 was transmitted.

Example: CDMA

If we take the following users to have the following Chip Codes:

- User A Chip Codes: $(-1, -1, -1, -1)$
- User B Chip Codes: $(-1, +1, -1, +1)$
- User C Chip Codes: $(-1, -1, +1, +1)$
- User D Chip Codes: $(-1, +1, +1, -1)$

Case 1

User A sends 1, user B sends 1, user C sends 1, and user D sends 0 (represented as -1).

We sum their chip codes, for A, B, and C - these are as specified above; however for D we need to invert the chip codes because D is transmitting a 0 (-1).

$$\begin{aligned} A + B + C + D' &= (-1, -1, -1, -1) + (-1, +1, -1, +1) + (-1, -1, +1, +1) + (+1, -1, -1, +1) \\ &= (-2, -2, -2, 2) \end{aligned}$$

The receiver will receive this and perform an inner product multiplication using the Chip Code

of A.

$$\begin{aligned}
 f &= (-2, -2, -2, 2) \times (-1, -1, -1, -1) \\
 &= (-2 \times -1) + (-2 \times -1) + (-2 \times -1) + (2 \times -1) \\
 &= 2 + 2 + 2 - 2 \\
 &= 4
 \end{aligned}$$

Which therefore confirms that A is sending a bit 1.

Case 2

User A sends 0 (-1), user B sends 1, user C sends 1, and user D sends 0 (-1).

We sum their chip codes, this time inverting A and D because they're transmitting 0s.

$$\begin{aligned}
 A + B + C + D' &= (+1, +1, +1, +1) + (-1, +1, -1, +1) + (-1, -1, +1, +1) + (+1, -1, -1, +1) \\
 &= (0, 0, 0, 4)
 \end{aligned}$$

Then we can find what the receiver decodes using A's chip code.:

$$\begin{aligned}
 f &= (0, 0, 0, 4) \times (-1, -1, -1, -1) \\
 &= (0 \times -1) + (0 \times -1) + (0 \times -1) + (4 \times -1) \\
 &= 0 + 0 + 0 - 4 \\
 &= -4
 \end{aligned}$$

As this results to $-n$ (remembering n is the length of the users chip codes) - we know that A transforms to bit 0.

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Lecture - Security

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3.1 Security Requirements

Within *Network Security* there are three important requirements. The three requirements work together to ensure that network transmissions are of a good security standard.

Definitions

Confidentiality Ensuring that only authorised parties can read the message; therefore restricting unauthorised third parties from accessing it

Integrity Ensuring that the transmitted message is exactly the same as the received message and that only authorised parties can modify, delete, or reply to the message

Availability Ensuring the message is available on demand to authorised parties only

3.2 Attack Types

There are two main types of attack used.

Definitions

Passive Attacks Adversaries analyse the traffic or read message content

Active Attacks Adversaries modify the message content, deny the service to a request, replay to a message and masquerade (pretend to be a different entity)

We can attempt to overcome the threats using cryptography to encrypt the message on the transmitter's side, and then ensure that only the designated recipient can decode the message.

The message we want to encrypt, known as the *plaintext*, is transformed by a function that is parametrised by a *key*. The output of the encryption process, known as the *ciphertext*, is then transmitted. If this ciphertext is intercepted by the adversary, they are unable to directly interpret it as they do not know what the key used in the encryption process was. However, it may be possible for the adversary to crack the cipher depending on the encryption method used.

There is a standard notation for the plaintext, ciphertext and keys. $C = E_K(P)$ is used to represent the encryption, E of the plaintext, P using the key, K which results in the ciphertext, C . The decryption is defined as $P = D_K(C)$ where the plaintext, P , is the result of applying the decryption, D , with the key, K , on the ciphertext, C .

3.3 Encryption Techniques

There are a number of Encryption Techniques used commonly.

3.3.1 Substitution cipher

In a *substitution cipher*, each letter or group of letters is directly replaced by another letter or group of letters which disguises it.

A well-known example of this is the Ceaser Cipher.

Example: Substitution Cipher

If we take the following substitution:

Plaintext:	a b c d e f h g i j k l m n o p q r s t u v w x y z
Ciphertext:	Q W E R T Y U I O P A S D F G H J K L Z X C V B N M

Figure 3.1: Substitution Matrix

We can see how we convert from plaintext to ciphertext.

For example, taking the plaintext *attack* - we get the ciphertext *QZZQEA*; or taking the plaintext *london*, we get the Ciphertext *SGFRGF*.

Using a standard alphabet with 26 characters, assuming we only use lowercase letters, then there are 4×10^{26} possible combinations. Which on a computer with one million CPU cores - can take up to 10,000 years to crack.

3.3.2 Transposition Cipher

In a *transposition cipher*, we take a key and use this key to design a grid which we populate with our plaintext, working row-by-row. We then read the ciphertext from the grid reading column-by-column in alphabetical order of the key's letter.

Example: Transposition Cipher

If we take the plaintext *pleasetransferonemilliondollarstomyswissbankaccountsixtwo* and the key *MEGABUCK*.

We start by writing out the key at the top of the grid, and assigning a number to each column. In our case, the numbers are assigned in ascending order of the alphabet.

M	E	G	A	B	U	C	K
7	4	5	1	2	8	3	6

Figure 3.2: Transposition Cipher Matrix with Key and Number shown

We can then take our plaintext and write that into the matrix working down the rows. We pad the end of the string to fill out the last row entirely, in our case we're using the start characters of the alphabet.

```

M E G A B U C K
7 4 5 1 2 8 3 6
p l e a s e t r
a n s f e r o n
e m i l l i o n
d o l l a r s t
o m y s w i s s
b a n k a c c o
u n t s i x t w
o t w o a b c d

```

Figure 3.3: Transposition Cipher Matrix with plaintext added

To get the ciphertext out of the matrix, we read from the matrix vertically in order of the column numbers: *afllksoselawaiatoossctclnmomantesilyntwrnntsowdpaedobuoerircxb*.

To decode the message, a similar process is followed: setup the matrix by writing the key, and the column numbers; then write in the ciphertext in columns based on the order of the numbers; then read rows to obtain the plaintext.

3.4 Symmetric Encryption

Symmetric Encryption is an encryption method in which the sender and receiver both use the same key to encode and decode the message. This is where it's alternative name, *shared key encryption* comes from.

Symmetric Encryption works through taking the plaintext input which is then encrypted using the key, K . The encryption algorithm will perform various substitutions or transformations on the plaintext, which will be key-dependent. This means that the same plaintext, with two different keys and the same encryption algorithm will produce two different ciphertexts. The ciphertext is then transmitted to the receiver. The receiver then decrypts the message using that pre-shared-key, K . The decryption algorithm is effectively the encryption algorithm run in reverse. This gives them the plaintext.

To denote a shared public key between A and B , we may see the key notated as K_{AB+} .

We can see an example of a Symmetric Encryption in the DES encryption method.

3.4.1 DES

The *Data Encryption Standard*, or DES, is a symmetric-key encryption algorithm which was developed in the 1970s and has been hugely influential in modern-day cryptography.

The plaintext input for DES is always 64-bits in length, and the key is always 56-bits. If the total plaintext needing to be encrypted using DES is longer than 64-bits then it gets chunked into 64-bit chunks so then the DES algorithm can process its 64-bit blocks.

The DES algorithm works by taking the 56-bit key and generating 16 sub-keys from it. These 16 sub-keys are each used for their own round of encryption, therefore the DES algorithm encrypts the plaintext 16 times through a sequence iterating on the output of the previous as the input to the next. The keys are used in reverse order - meaning K_{16} is used on the first iteration, K_{15} on the second, and so on until K_1 is used on the final iteration.

DES works through the 16 rounds of encryption following a modified *Feistel Network* structure. This works by taking the plaintext and splitting it into two substrings of equal length. One half of the key is

passed to the F-Function (Feistel Function) which performs Expansion, Key-Mixing, Substitution and Permutation operations on the input and that round's key. The output from the F-Function then gets XOR'd with the other half of the input string. The next round is then prepared by feeding the output from the XOR operation into the next F-Function, and the input to the current round's F-Function to the next rounds XOR. There are 16 rounds of this in total. The final ciphertext is created by concatenating the output of the final XOR with the output of the penultimate XOR operation (which fed into the F-Function, the output from which fed into the input to the final XOR operation).



There is a diagram explaining the Feistel Network in the slides on Moodle.

3.4.2 3DES

The *Triple Data Encryption Standard*, or 3DES, is a symmetric-key encryption algorithm which applies the DES algorithm three times to each block.

3DES works with three keys, K_1 , K_2 , and K_3 . It will use K_1 on the first round of DES encrypting the data. Then the second round of DES will decrypt the data using K_2 . The third and final round of DES will encrypt the data using K_3 . The middle decryption doesn't return the data to the plaintext state, as $K_1 \neq K_2$.

Decryption follows the same encryption process but in reverse: decrypting with K_3 , encrypting with K_2 before decrypting with K_1 .

3.4.3 AES

The *Advanced Encryption Standard*, or AES, is a symmetric-key encryption algorithm which was designed to replace DES.

AES supports three different key lengths: 128-bit, 192-bit and 256-bit. Similarly to how DES works on 64-bits of data at a time, AES works on 128-bit blocks of data and will perform n rounds depending on the different key-length used. 128-bit keys get 10 rounds, 192-bit keys get 12 rounds and 256-bit keys get 14 rounds.

3.5 Asymmetric Encryption

Asymmetric Encryption is an encryption method where the sender and receiver both use different keys to encode and decode the message. This is where its alternative name, *Public Key Encryption* comes from.

The sender encrypts the plaintext with the receiver's public key to produce the ciphertext. The ciphertext is then transmitted over the network to the receiver. The receiver uses their private key to decrypt the message thus producing the plaintext.

The public key of the receiver is made available to anyone who wants to send the receiver a message. The public key of anyone is restricted to them and them alone - leaking of a public key would mean that an adversary could decode the message. Due to the receiver's public keys being required to be able to send the receiver a message - senders will have as many public keys as the number of people they send messages to.

A major flaw with this model is that an adversary could intercept the public-key encoded message and stop it from reaching the receiver. Whilst they couldn't read that message, they could spoof that message by sending their own payload encoded with the receiver's public key. The receiver would receive this and decode it.

Their keys may be notated as follows:

- Senders public key: K_{A+}

- Senders private key: K_{A-}
- Receivers public key: K_{B+}
- Receivers private Key: K_{B-}

We can see an example of the Asymmetric Encryption in the RSA algorithm.

3.5.1 RSA

The *Rivest-Shamir-Adleman* cryptosystem, or RSA, is a public-key cryptosystem which was developed in 1973 at GCHQ.

RSA works through taking two large prime numbers where their product is used to form the public key (along with other values used). The original prime numbers are kept secret. Then anyone can use the public key to encrypt the message. The message is transformed using mathematical operations which involve the public key. On the receiving end - only the corresponding private key can decrypt the message. The decryption process involves the original prime factors to reverse the encryption.

The RSA process can be formalised below:

1. Chose two large primes, p and q .
2. $n = p \times q$ and $z = (q - 1) \times (q - 1)$
3. Choose a number relatively prime to z and call it d
4. Find e such that $e \times d = 1 \pmod{z}$
5. To encrypt a message, P , compute $C = P^e \pmod{n}$
6. To decrypt the ciphertext, C , compute $P = C^d \pmod{n}$
7. The public key is (e, n) and the private key is (d, n) .

Example: RSA

We can see the above steps with real numbers substituted in below:

1. Let $p = 3$ and $q = 11$
2. Therefore $n = 33$ and $z = 20$
3. Let $d = 7$
4. We can calculate e using $e \times 7 = 1 \pmod{20}$ which sets $e = 3$
5. We can encrypt our message, for example 19 by performing $C = 19^3 \pmod{33} = 28$
6. We can decrypt the ciphertext, in this example 28 by performing $P = 28^7 \pmod{33} = 19$
7. This means we know that the public key was $(3, 33)$ and the private key was $(7, 33)$.



There is a more fleshed-out example of the RSA process for the string "SUZANNE" in the slides on Moodle.

3.6 Ensuring Confidentiality

As we have already seen - we need to ensure confidentiality within the transmission to ensure that adversaries cannot intercept and access the message.

3.6.1 Within a Symmetric Encryption Network

As both the sender and the receiver share the same private key (K_{AB}), the adversary cannot decode the message as they do not have the key.

The sender encodes the plain text message into a cipher text $C = E_{K_{AB}}(M)$. Only the receiver, who has the key, is able to decrypt it using $P = D_{K_{AB}}(E_{K_{AB}}(M))$

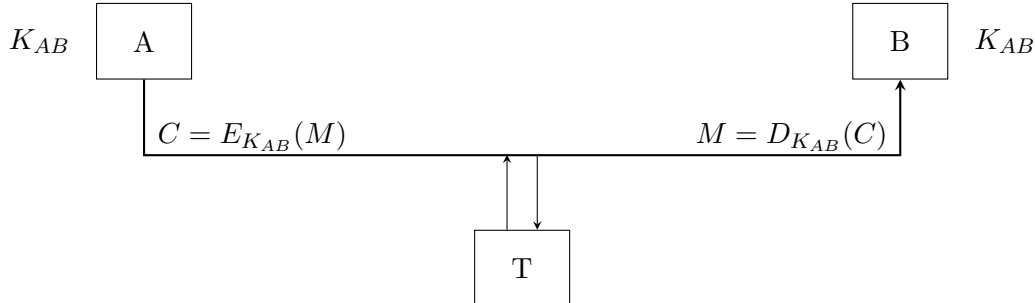


Figure 3.4: Example of Symmetric Key Encryption with a sender, A, receiver, B, and adversary, T showing confidentiality

As we can see in the above example, the adversary, T , can send messages onto the transmission network however these are not encrypted so B knows they have not come from A . T can also consume the ciphertext from the transmission network, however they can't decrypt it as they do not have the key.

3.6.2 Within an Asymmetric Encryption Network

The adversary is not able to read the transmitted message.

Both the sender (A) and receiver (B) compute their own private keys (K_{A-} , K_{B-}) and public keys (K_{A+} , K_{B+}). The public keys are advertised on the network.

When a transmission occurs - the sender will use the receivers public key to encrypt the message $C = E_{K_{B+}}(P)$. Therefore only the receiver can decode the message using their private key $P = D_{K_{B-}}(C)$, alternatively shown as $P = D_{K_{B+}}(E_{K_{B-}}(P))$.

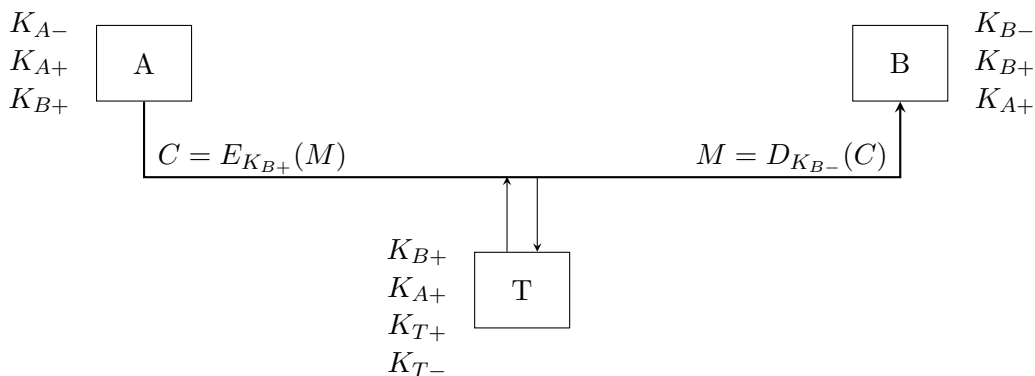


Figure 3.5: Example of Asymmetric Key Encryption with a sender, A, receiver, B, and adversary, T showing confidentiality

As we can see in the above figure, the adversary, T can read whatever is on the transmission network however as it's been encoded using K_{B+} which requires the use of K_{B-} to decode it - they cannot decode it. T can, however, block the message from A (C) from being transmitted and transmit their

own message in its place which is encrypted using K_{B+} which makes it look like A sent it, because T has B 's public key in their keyring.

3.7 Ensuring Integrity

We have to ensure integrity of our transmitted messages to ensure that the user who says they transmitted the message are actually the person who transmitted the message. This is for in the event that an adversary intercepts and replaces a message transmitted from Sender to Receiver with a message sent from adversary to Receiver pretending it was from the original sender.

3.7.1 Digital Signatures

The use of a *Digital Signature*, or *Reverse Public Key* is a method of ensuring integrity which removes confidentiality from the encryption process.

Digital Signatures work by the sender encrypting the message using their private key (K_{A-}). The receiver then uses the public key of the sender (K_{A+}) to decrypt the received message. This means that then the sender and only the sender can encrypt messages, however anyone on the network who has the senders public key is also able to decrypt the message. This therefore means that any adversaries on the network cannot change the contents of the message.

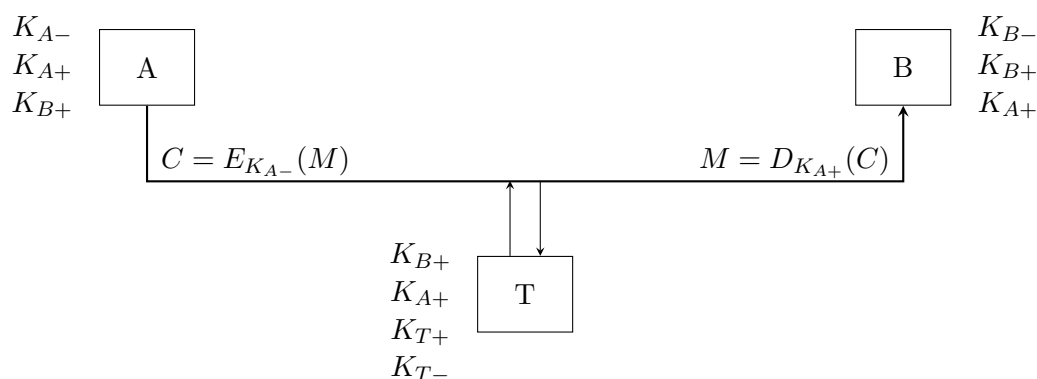


Figure 3.6: Example of Asymmetric Key Encryption with a sender, A, receiver, B, and adversary, T showing Integrity through use of Digital Signatures

3.7.2 Message Digests

The *Message Digests* method works through producing a short fingerprint of the message, which is a hash of the message, represented as $H(M)$. The hash function works by encrypting a small block for the message which is the function of the document. The hash of two different messages will always be different and it is impossible to find M from $H(M)$.

The hash is encrypted with the senders private key, while the message itself is not encrypted. The hash therefore serves as a signature verifying the origin of the document, content and sequencing. This works because the adversary does not have the senders private key, so they cannot spoof a hash value. This method has no confidentiality as the content of the message is transmitted as plaintext, meaning an adversary can read the contents of the message.

On the receiving end - the received message is hashed using the same hashing function, H , and this is compared to the decrypted hash transmitted from the sender. If the two values are the same, then the message is as intended; otherwise it is known that the message has been tampered with.

Popular examples of message digest functions are MD5 and SHA-1.

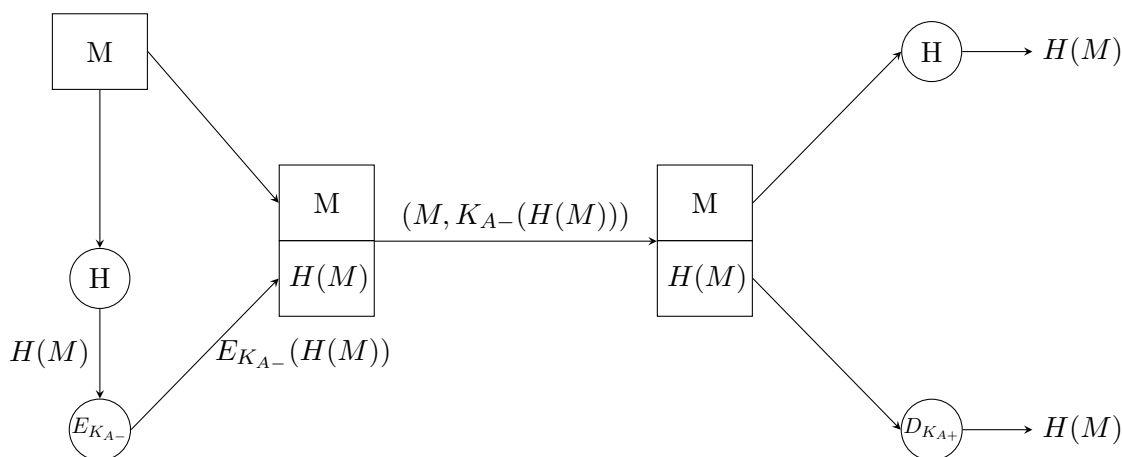


Figure 3.7: Example of Message Digests transmission

3.8 Authentication

Authentication verifies that the messages came from an authentic source. Authentication can be achieved by conventional techniques:

- Private Key for authentication source
- Error detection and sequencing for message alteration
- Timestamp for messages delayed

Authentication is important because it shows that the message has come from a trusted, authentic source. Adversaries may record the messages and then re-play messages at a later time which they have captured. This would look like it's coming from the right person as they are correctly encrypted using the correct keys - however in reality it's a retransmission. This type of attack is called a *Play-Back Attack*

3.8.1 Symmetric Key Authentication

Authentication can be introduced to the symmetric-key encryption model through the following steps:

1. Sender sends their ID (i.e. a password) to receiver
2. Receiver responds with a one-time random number (called a *nonce*). The adversary as well as the sender could pick up the nonce R_B .
3. The sender encrypts using the private shared key, K_{AB} and sends this back to the receiver. The adversary may also pick this up, however they cannot decrypt because they don't have the key. The receiver decrypts the message and now knows they are talking to the sender.
4. The sender sends their own Nonce number, R_A to the receiver. The receiver encrypts this and sends it back to the sender. Only the sender can decrypt this, again because shared keys, and they now know they are talking to the sender.

This prevents playback because of the session established between the sender and the receiver. If the adversary tried to re-send a message later in time - the session would most likely have expired and so the receiver of that message would know to discard because it's not valid any more.

3.8.2 Public Key Authentication

In what can only be described as *the pinnacle of this lecture*, we will now see how Confidentiality, Integrity and Availability are maintained while transmitting secure messages across a communications

network.

Public Key Authentication involves three parties: the sender, the receiver and the PKI (*Public Key Infrastructure*). The PKI is a centralised repository for public keys for devices on a given network. The Sender and Receiver's public keys are submitted to the PKI through an authentication-heavy trust-laden process (which we don't need to know about in this module).

The Public Key Authentication process is numbered below (now featuring A and B rather than sender and receiver):

1. A sends a request for B's public key to the PKI
2. PKI returns B's public key to the A (K_{B+})
3. Encrypted with the B's public key, A sends B their identification and a Nonce: $K_{B+}(A, R_A)$
4. B then requests A's public key from the PKI
5. The PKI sends B A's public key (K_{A+})
6. B now sends A their Nonce, A's Nonce, and a shared key to use for this session - all of which gets encrypted with A's public key: $K_{A+}(R_B, R_A, K_S)$
7. A receives this and decodes it using their private key, and then returns just B's nonce encrypted with the shared session key to B: $K_S(R_B)$

A authenticates B when they receive R_A in step 6. This proves it's a fresh message, not playback. B authenticates A when they receive R_B in step 7.

The adversary can fabricate a message at step 3, but as soon as A receives the wrong R_A back in step 6 - the session will be terminated.

The session key will be used as a private key for the duration of the communication; therefore achieving what we know to be the most secure form of communication. The short-lived session keys prevent playback because if an adversary attempts to play back a message, its session will have expired so the message is discarded.

Page 4

Lecture - Local Area Networks (Ethernet)

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A *Local Area Network (LAN)* is a network which covers a small geographical area. They are commonly found in homes and offices, where their function is most apparent: provide personal computers and workstations the ability to easily share data between one another at a high rate of transfer. A LAN also enables users to access other devices such as printers, modems or local servers. LANs are generally privately owned. As LANs cover a small geographical area. Within LANs, noise and errors are minimised.

Moving up in scale, we find the *Metropolitan Area Network (MAN)* which is a class of network which serves a large geographical area between 5 and 50 kilometers in range. This could include several buildings such as a University Campus, or even up to a small city. MANs are larger than LANs and generally will provide their communication by fibre optic cable rather than copper. They mostly work at layer 2 (data link) of the OSI model.

At the top of the size scale - we find the *Wide Area Network (WAN)* which is the biggest class of networks. A WAN connects LANs and MANs together. The most common example of a WAN is the *internet*.

4.1 Topologies

Definitions

Topology A representation of the layout of the network

4.1.1 Bus Topology

In the bus topology, all the connected devices attach directly through to the linear transmission medium, known as the bus. There are specialist connectors used at the junction between the branch to device and the bus itself.

A transmission from any station will travel down the length of the medium in both directions and can be received by all other stations. At the end of the bus, there are terminators which absorb any signal, removing it from the bus.

We can see this arrangement in the below figure where the black squares represent the devices connected to the bus and the red squares represent the terminators on the end of the bus.

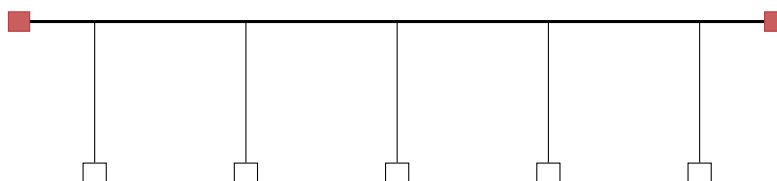


Figure 4.1: Example of a Bus Topology

There are two problems with this arrangement:

- As all transmission will be received by all other stations - there is a need for regulation over demarcating which transmission is relevant to which stations
- There is a need for there to be some regulation over the transmission - to minimise collisions between transmissions where two or more stations are simultaneously transmitting; and to prevent a single station broadcasting for a long period of time preventing other stations from transmitting.

These problems are resolved through breaking the data to be transmitted into *frames*, which contain a header that contains the control information, including a stations unique identifier.

The Carrier Sense Multiple Access Collision Detection (CSMA/CD) protocol can be used to detect and retransmit data lost to a collision.

4.1.2 Star Topology

In the star topology, all the stations connect via a bi-direction connection to a central node. Generally, there are two alternatives for the central node to minimise a single point of failure in the network.

An example of a single-centre-node star topology can be seen in the below diagram. The central switch is represented by the green circle, while the individual workstations are represented by black squares.

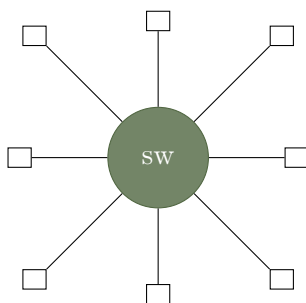


Figure 4.2: Example of a Star Topology

One approach for the operation of the star topology is for the transmission of the frame to be initially from the transmitting station, received by the hub, which then broadcasts to all other connected stations. Only one station will actually want this message to be transmitted to them. In this option - the central node would be a hub.

An alternative operation method for the central node is to act as a *frame switching* device. This is where the frame is buffered in the node and then retransmitted on an outgoing link to the destination station. In this option - the central node would be a switch.

4.2 OSI and IEEE 802.x Protocol Layers

The *Open Systems Interconnection* (OSI) Model is a reference model developed by the ISO that provides a common basis for the coordination of standards development for the purpose of system interconnection. This model underpins all network communications - giving a standard 7-layer stack taking the data to be transmitted from the application to the medium, and vice versa on the receiving end.

The IEEE 802 LAN Committee have developed a sub-architecture to the OSI architecture, focusing on the lower-level LAN transmissions. The IEEE 802 LAN architecture focuses on the lowest two layers of the OSI model: physical and data-link.

4.2.1 Physical Layer

The lowest level of the OSI model maps directly to the lowest level of the IEEE 802 LAN architecture, both calling it the *physical* layer as this is the layer closest to the transmission medium. The physical layer of the IEEE 802 LAN architecture includes the following functions:

- Encoding / decoding of signals
- Preamble generation / removal (used for synchronisation)
- Bit transmission / reception
- Transmission medium specification
- Topology specification

Note that the last two bullet points are not present in the OSI physical layer, as they are recognised in that model as being below the scope of the OSI model. They are included in the IEEE 802 LAN model because they are considered to be of critical importance to the design of the LAN.

4.2.2 Data Link Layer

Working up the OSI model, after the physical layer comes the *data link* layer. This layer provides the following functions:

- Governing access to the LAN transmission medium
- On transmission - assemble the data into a *frame* with address and error-detection fields (more on these later)
- On reception - disassemble the frame and perform address recognition and error detection
- Providing an interface to the higher layers, performing flow and error control

Within the IEEE 802 LAN architecture - the data link layer is subdivided into two different layers: the LLC and MAC. The IEEE has this separation because the OSI model doesn't include the logic required to manage access to the shared-medium at layer 2, as well as that there may be multiple MAC options for the same LLC.

4.2.2.1 LLC Layer

The *Logical Link Control* (LLC) layer is the “higher” of the two layers and it's primary purpose is to interface with the higher layers, performing flow control and error control.

In the bigger picture - data is passed down the protocol stack to the LLC which appends control information as a header. This creates a LLC *protocol data unit* (PDU). The entire LLC PDU is then passed down to the MAC layer.

4.2.2.2 MAC Layer

The *Medium Access Control* (MAC) layer is the “lower” of the two layers. It sits between the LLC and physical layer. The MAC layer handles the following functions:

- On the transmission end - assemble the transmission frame (adding addresses and error detection)
- On the receiving end - disassemble the received frame (removing the addresses, performing error detection using the provided data)
- Perform Medium Access Control (governing access to the transmission medium)

The MAC layer takes the LLC PDU passed down from above and forms a MAC frame with it through appending control information at the front and back of the packet.

4.3 MAC: Ethernet Access Protocol

The *Media Access Control* Protocol is a protocol for sharing the bus or hub.

Only a single station can transmit at the time. If two stations attempt to transmit at the same time, then there will be a collision.

When a collision occurs - a message is transmitted on the bus to state that there is a collision. Then the station will wait a random back off time which will be a value between 0s and the maximum random back off time. The maximum back time can be calculated using the back off algorithm

$$2^n - 1 \times \text{slot time}$$

where n is the number of collisions. After waiting the random back off time, the station then attempts to retransmit. In the event that there is excessive collision, where $n = 15$, the error is reported up the OSI model to the upper layers.

The Slot Time is calculated based on the time it would take for 512 bits to be transmitted. For example on a 10Mbps transmission line, it will take $51.2\mu\text{sec}$ to transmit 512 bits.

4.4 Networking Devices

In LANs there are key networking components which make the network function.

4.4.1 Bridge Operations

A bridge will connect two different similar LANs together where they use the same protocols. Due to this, the amount of processing which the bridge does is minimal. Some bridges are capable of mapping from one MAC format to another (for example to interconnect a Ethernet using LAN to a token-ring using LAN).

Bridges increase the reliability of the network, as it subdivides the network into smaller units. This reduces the impact potential if one part of the network fails. It increases performance by having multiple bus topologies so multiple frames can be transmitted at the same time. It can also increase the security of the network, as it may be needed for some segments of the network to be encrypted, but others not. Finally, bridges can interconnect multiple networks in different geographical locations where it would be impractical to run a single Bus topology through.

4.4.2 Routing in LANs

When a bridge receives a frame from the transmitting network - it must decide whether to forward it or not. Furthermore, if the bridge is connected to more than two LANs then it must decide which LAN to forward the frame onto.

Within LANs - fixed routing is where the routing table has manual entries entered for the different destinations on the network. This requires manual updating when there is a change on the network, for example if a station is removed.

Dynamic routing can also be used which is where the routing table is dynamically generated and is automatically updated to reflect changes to the network.

4.4.3 Hubs

Hubs act as a repeater - when a single station transmits, the hub repeats this signal on all other outgoing links to every other station.

If two stations transmit at the same time, there will be a collision. Multiple levels of hub can be configured in a hierarchical configuration, therefore each hub can have a mixture of stations and other hubs attached to it. This fits well with building wiring practices.

4.4.4 Switches

In contrast to Hubs, Switches work by forwarding the frame to the appropriate destination only. They take the frame, review the destination address and forward based on that.

Some switches work at layer 3 and have some routing capabilities, or the ability to work with IP addresses. Other switches work at later 2 and use the MAC address to define destination.

There are two different techniques which can be used by switches for receiving, processing and transmitting the packets. Both introduce small amounts of delay.

Store and Forward works by receiving the packet, then once fully received, it is processed to identify which port the data will be transmitted out of. SF delay is calculated as follows:

$$\text{Store \& Forward Delay} = \frac{L}{R} + \text{Switch Latency (MAC processing)} + \frac{L}{R} + \text{propagation delay of cable} + \text{propagation delay of cable}$$

Within switch delay calculations - there is a common metric which we need to be aware of. This is commonly represented in shorthand as L/R . The full calculation can be seen below:

$$\frac{L}{R} = \frac{\text{length of frame}}{\text{rate of transmission}}$$

Example: Store and Forward Calculations

If we take that the packets have a length $L = 10000$, the transmission rate is 100Mbps, the switch has a propagation time of $3\mu\text{sec}$, and a latency of $4.8\mu\text{sec}$. We can find the time for transmission.

First we find the L/R value:

$$\frac{L}{R} = \frac{10000}{100} = 100\mu\text{sec}$$

We can then substitute this into the above formula.

$$100 + 4.8 + 100 + 3 + 3 = 218.8\mu\text{sec}$$

Virtual Cut Through works by reading the first bits of the packet as they are being received, then as soon as it's identified the port to transmit out of - the switch begins transmitting the packet out. This means that virtual cut through is considerably quicker than store and forward as there is no delay while waiting for the entire packet to be received by the switch before it transmits it. This can be seen in the delay algorithm.

$$\text{Virtual Cut Through Delay} = \frac{L}{R} + \text{Switch Latency (MAC processing)} + \text{propagation delay of cable}$$

Example: Virtual Cut Through Calculations

If we take that the packets have a length $L = 10000$, the transmission rate is 100Mbps and a latency of $4.8\mu\text{sec}$. We can find the time for transmission.

First we find the L/R value:

$$\frac{L}{R} = \frac{10000}{100} = 100\mu\text{sec}$$

We can then substitute this into the above formula.

$$100 + 3 + 4.8 = 107.8\mu\text{sec}$$

4.5 Ethernet Frame Format

The Ethernet Frame is the thing which is transmitted on Ethernet-protocol-using networks. It has a number of different fields each with a set size:

Preamble Additional information, for example Manchester Encoding which is used to synchronise the clock of the receiver

FD Frame Delimiter - to signal the start of the frame

Length Data length in bytes.

Pad Additional data inserted to ensure that the frame is the minimum size (46 bytes)

CRC Checksum used to detect errors on the frame

56	8	48	48	16	0-12000	0-368	32
preamble	FD	desti- nation	source	length	data	pad	CRC

Figure 4.3: Ethernet Frame showing field size in bits

Frames have a minimum data length of 46 bytes (368 bits). If the data is shorter than this, for example 100 bits, padding will be added to the frame to make up to the minimum data length. Obviously data can be longer than 368 bits minimum, as long as it's within the 12000 bit maximum.

Frame size can be calculated using the lengths of the fields of the frame:

$$\text{Frame size} = \text{Destination} + \text{Source} + \text{Length} + \text{Data} + \text{Padding} + \text{CRC}$$

As above, the 'frame size' doesn't actually include all the values. It doesn't include the preamble or the FD. These values are added when working out the packet size. Packet size can be calculated as follows:

$$\text{Packet Size} = \text{Frame size} + \text{Preamble} + \text{FD}$$

Example: Frame Length Calculations

For the following payload (data) values, calculate the Padding, Frame size & packet sizes.

Payload	Padding	Frame	Packet
0	368	$48 + 48 + 16 + 0 + 368 + 32 = 512$	$576 = 512 + 56 + 8$
100	268	$48 + 48 + 16 + 100 + 268 + 32 = 512$	$576 = 512 + 56 + 8$
368	0	$48 + 48 + 16 + 368 + 0 + 32 = 512$	$576 = 512 + 56 + 8$
1000	0	$48 + 48 + 16 + 1000 + 0 + 32 = 1144$	$1208 = 1144 + 56 + 8$

Table 4.1: Frame & Packet size calculations

4.6 Broadcast Domains

The *broadcast domain* is the set of devices which receive broadcast frames from each other.

A *broadcast* is a special message on a network designated for all devices on that network to receive.

The MAC address in the frame indicates this fact. Broadcasts are generally used for purposes such as network management or transmitting an alert to lots of devices.

Broadcasts are the opposite to a *unicast* message which is destined for a single device on the network - as the intended recipient's MAC address is in the destination field of the frame.

4.7 Virtual LANs

Virtual Local Area Networks (VLANs) are a logical group of devices within a LAN.

VLANs combine workstations and network devices into a single broadcast domain regardless of the physical LAN segment they are attached to. Where traffic needs to travel from one VLAN to another VLAN - routing is required. Routers can be implemented as separate devices so that traffic from one VLAN to another is directed to a router, or the router logic can be implemented as part of the LAN switch.

VLAN membership is not constrained by physical location - as they are entirely logical. This means there is a need to define VLAN membership, for which there are a number of different approaches:

- Membership by port group - each switch in the LAN configuration contains two types of port (trunk to connect switches together, or access port which connects the switch to an end system). This approach is advantageous as it's relatively easy to configure however the network manager must reconfigure the port when it is needed for a different device to connect to it.
- Membership by MAC address - a MAC address is assigned to be a member of a designated VLAN. This is advantageous as the right VLAN will always be used when the same device connects to the network, however in situations where intermediary devices (such as docking stations) are used - these also have to have their MAC address configured into the right VLAN.
- Membership based on protocol information - VLAN membership can be assigned based on IP address, transport protocol information, or even higher-layer protocol information. This is flexible, but does require switches to examine portions of the MAC frame above the MAC layer which can have degrade performance.

4.8 IEEE 802.3 10Mbps

So far in this lecture we've been discussing 10 Mbps speed networks, which are painfully slow and out-dated.

There are a number of alternative physical layer mediums, which can be seen in the below table.

	10BASE5	10BASE2	10BASE-T	10BASE-FP
Transmission Medium	Coaxial Cable (50Ω)	Coaxial cable (50Ω)	Unshielded Twisted pair	850-nm optical fibre pair
Signalling Technique	Baseband (Manchester)	Baseband (Manchester)	Baseband (Manchester)	Manchester / on-off
Topology	Bus	Bus	Star	Star
Maximum Segment Length (m)	500	185	100	500
Nodes per segment	100	30	-	33
Cable diameter (mm)	10	5	0.4-0.6	62.5/125 μm

Table 4.2: Comparison of IEEE 802.3 10Mbps physical layer medium alternatives

Network speed can increase up to 10 Gbps Ethernet, which is seen in the core backbone of networks; or even up to 100 Gbps Ethernet which is seen in the core of datacentres or large server farms.

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Lecture - Wireless LANs

📅 2025-11-10

🕒 11:00

👤 Asim

5.1 What is a Wireless LAN?

Wireless LANs (WLAN) are an extension of a wired LAN, as we saw last week. Wireless LANs allow the client devices to connect wirelessly to the LAN as the name would suggest.

Within wireless LAN architecture - there is a backbone wired LAN which supports the wired components within the LAN and provides one or more bridges or routers to link with other networks. There is also a *control module* (CM) which acts as an interface to a WLAN, often seen as the “Router” in a small domestic LAN or a Wireless Access Point (AP) in a larger LAN.

The CM includes either bridge or router functionality to link the WLAN to the backbone. They also include some sort of control logic, such as a polling or token-passing scheme to regulate the access from the end-systems.

When discussing WLANs, we refer to *user modules* (UM), which are the end-user devices. They can be stand-alone devices such as Laptops or Smartphones, etc. Alternatively, UMs can also be wireless receiver devices which output a wired LAN signal which allows devices to have a wired connection.

5.1.1 Large WLANs

In larger networks - there can be multiple control modules, each interconnected by a wired LAN. Each control module supports a number of wireless end systems within their transmission systems (often between 100 and 300m for enterprise APs). Where there are multiple control modules on a network - they each have to have their own frequencies assigned, to prevent interference. When moving from one cell, the coverage area of a CM, to another cell and staying connected to the same network - the CMs will hand off the device providing a seamless experience for the end-user.

In multi-cell networks - a single cell is referred to as a *basic service set*. The entire wireless network including the LAN backbone is referred to as the *extended service set*.

5.1.2 Ad-Hoc WLANs

The final type of WLAN we may come across is an *Ad-Hoc Wireless LAN*. In this topology, there is no fixed infrastructure (i.e. CMs, APs, etc). Rather, a collection of stations within a range of each other may dynamically configure themselves into a temporary network of peer-to-peer communications.

5.2 WLAN Requirements

There are a number of requirements for a WLAN to be effective and efficient.

Throughput The MAC protocol should make efficient use of the wireless medium to maximise capacity

Number of Nodes WLANs may need to support hundreds of nodes across multiple cells

Connection to backbone LAN There should be a good quality connection to the backbone LAN. For infrastructure WLANs - this is accomplished through CMs

Service Area Typically, the coverage area for a WLAN is between 100 and 300m

Battery Power Consumption Often the devices connecting to a WLAN are battery powered - it is important that the battery isn't drained through connecting to a WLAN. Typical WLAN implementations have features to reduce power consumption when not using the network (i.e. a sleep mode)

Transmission Robustness and Security WLANs can be vulnerable to interference and network eavesdropping. The design of WLAN must permit reliable transmission even in a noisy environment and should provide some level of security from eavesdropping.

License Free Operation WLANs should operate within available frequency-bands which do not require the purchase of special licenses

Handoff / Roaming The MAC protocol used in the WLAN should enable mobile stations to move from one cell to another

Dynamic Configuration The MAC addressing and network management aspects of the WLAN should permit dynamic and automated addition, deletion and relocation of end systems without disruption to other users.

5.3 IEEE 802.11

The IEEE 802.11 protocol is the main protocol used for communications within the wireless network. This is the protocol which is commonly known as Wi-Fi. There have been many variations and subsequent discoveries, which are represented by a letter, or multiple letters on the end of the name - such as 802.11ax.

Definitions

Associated Stations Connected devices to a WLAN

Access Point Provides access to the distribution system for associated stations

Basic Service Set (BSS) Set of stations controlled by a single coordinator

Extended Service Set (ESS) A set of one or more connected BSSs

Distribution Systems (DS) A system used to interconnect a set of BSSs and integrated LANs to create an ESS

Frame MAC protocol data unit

5.3.1 Architecture



diagram of IEEE 802.11 architecture
add explanation from slides on what this is and how it works.

5.3.2 Services

The IEEE 802.11 protocol specifies a number of services.



add from table on slides - turn into sentences. include explanation about what each one does.

5.4 Access Control

There is a need within WLANs to control who can communicate on the network and when. This is to prevent collisions in the wireless network.

There are two modes in which WLANs can operate. Both of these operate at the MAC layer.



add diag from slides
add something about the pcf vs dcf and what they mean: ie dcf means ap is in sleep mode so all distributed vs when in pcf the ap is controlling the comms (contention-free mode).

5.4.1 Point Coordination Function

Point Coordination Function (PCF) is a centralised control which provides a contention free service (for example base stations to a backbone). PCF sits on top of the contentious DCF function.

PCF works by the base station polling the other stations asking them if they have frames to transmit, guaranteeing no collision. The base station sends a beacon frame (between 10 and 100 times a second) which invites stations to sign in. The frame contains information such as hopping frequencies, dwell time, clock synchronisation, etc. When a station is signed in, it is guaranteed a fraction of the bandwidth (therefore making it possible to get quality of service) in a round-robin time-share style. The base station also manages the power; through putting some stations in a standby mode until awakened by a reception.

When polling, the Point Coordinator makes use of *PCF Interframe Space* (PIFS) which is smaller than *DCF Interframe Space* (DIFS). The point coordinator can seize the medium and lock out all asynchronous traffic while it issues polls and receives responses.

When a station is polled, it may respond with a *Short Interframe Space* (SIFS) which are smaller than PIFS or DIFS and are designed for this situation.



sifs?
notes on slides talk about this.
slide 20
rts (request to send), cts (clear to send) - at least acknowledge the acronym.

5.4.2 Distributed Coordination Function

The *Distributed Coordination Function* (DCF) makes use of the CSMA/CA (Carrier Sense Multiple Access with Collision Avoidance) protocol. In this protocol - where a station has a MAC frame to transmit, it listens to the medium. If the medium is idle, the station may transmit; otherwise the station must wait for the current transmission to complete before transmitting.

DCF doesn't include a collision detection function (i.e. CSMA/CD) because collision detection isn't practical on a wireless network. The dynamic range of the signals on the medium is very large, meaning that a transmitting station cannot effectively distinguish incoming weak signals from noise and the effects of its own transmission.

DCF makes use of a set of delays that amount to a priority scheme.



finish lecture from slides.

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Lecture - Bluetooth networks

📅 2025-11-17

🕒 11:00

👤 Asim

A *Bluetooth Network* is another type of Local Area Network. It is similar to an ad-hoc network, in that there is no fixed organisation, or fixed access point.

Bluetooth can be seen in many different applications including the following:

- Wireless headphones
- Wireless, bluetooth, mouse
- Wireless gaming controller

Bluetooth is a universal radio interface for ad-hoc wireless connectivity. It interconnects computers, their peripherals, handheld devices, PDAs and mobile phones. The bluetooth technology is embedded into devices, with a target cost of less than £5/device or can be sold as a separate USB antenna, costing less than £20/device.

Bluetooth has a short range, between 10m and 100m maximum and therefore uses very low power. The license for transmission is free under the Industrial Scientific and Medicine (ISM) band at 2.54GHz, and requires no registration. There are also no regulations which keep the cost low.

Voice and data transmissions are transmitted at about 1Mbps, or for Bluetooth 2.0 and later it reaches about 3Mbps.

6.1 Piconet

A *Piconet* is a collection of devices which are connected with a bluetooth connection. Within a single Piconet, there is a maximum of 8 devices; with one acting as a master and the remaining devices acting as a slave. The devices are connected in an ad-hoc manner and synchronised to the same hopping sequence.

There are 79 different frequencies which are used in the hopping sequence in a random order, which has been determined by the master. The benefit of using this frequency hopping is that it provides security (see frequency hopping from an earlier lecture); and that the changing in frequency should prevent interference between Piconets which are near each other in geographical locations.

Each Piconet has a unique hopping pattern to avoid interference with other Piconets. If a device wants to join a specific Piconet, it must synchronise with the same pattern.



piconet states from notes on slides

6.2 Scatternets

A *Scatternet* is a collection of multiple Piconets. This means that a device which is part of a Scatternet - is able to be participate in more than one Piconets at once. A device which is in more than one Piconet is known as a *bridge device*, and can either be master in one, slave in one, master in both, or slave in both.

Slaves transmit once permission has been granted by the master using Time Division Multiplexing (TDM) access. This means that each slave gets a round-robin-like slice of time to broadcast its message, and after all the other broadcasting devices have had a chance to transmit - it loops around again.¹

¹See more in 'Spectrum Spread and Walsh Codes' lecture