

# CENG 422

Design and Managment of Computer Networks Lecture Notes

Ege Özkan

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# Chapter 1

## Data and Signals - October 20, 2020

To be transmitted, data must be transformed to electronic signals. Data can be *analog* or it could be *digital*.

**Analog Data** is the information that is continuous. It may have a range of infinite values. They tend to be periodic.

**Digital Data** is the information that has discrete states. It can only have a limited number of values. They tend to be non-periodic.

### 1.1 Signal Types

#### 1.1.1 Periodic Analog Signals

Periodic analog signals can be classified as *simple* or *composite*. Two signals may have the same phase and frequency but different amplitudes. The frequency determines the amount of repeats a signal has in a time period.

A period is the amount of time (in seconds) a signal needs to complete 1 cycle, given as  $T = \frac{1}{f}$  where  $f$  is the frequency.

Frequency is the rate of change with respect to time. Change in a short span of time means high frequency. Otherwise a low frequency. If a frequency does not change at all, its frequency is zero. If the change is instantaneous, it is infinite.

The wavelength describes the distance a signal can travel during a period.

The waves may be represented using only their frequency domains, simplifying their graphs significantly.

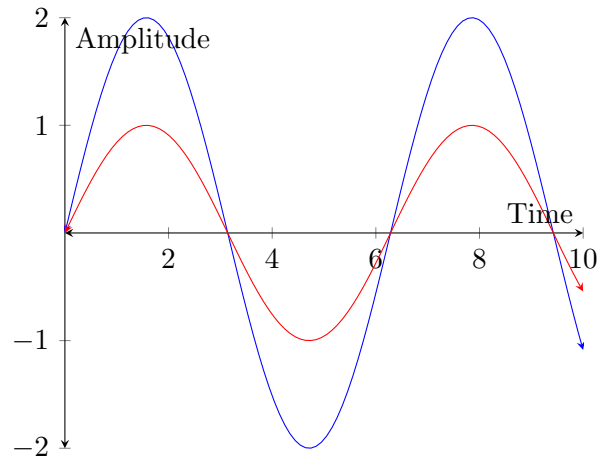


Figure 1.1: Two waves with sample phase and frequency but different amplitude.

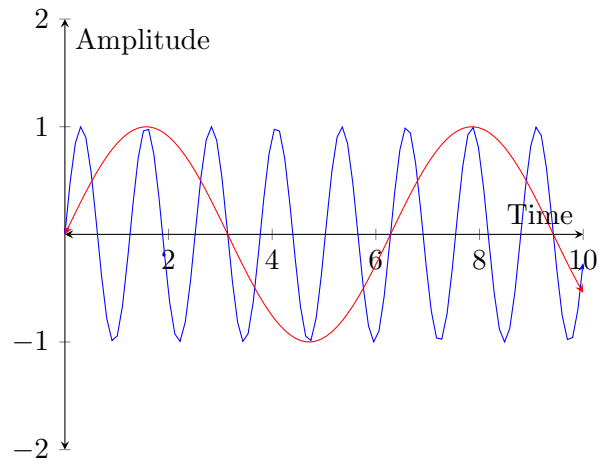


Figure 1.2: Two waves with sample amplitude and phase but different frequency.

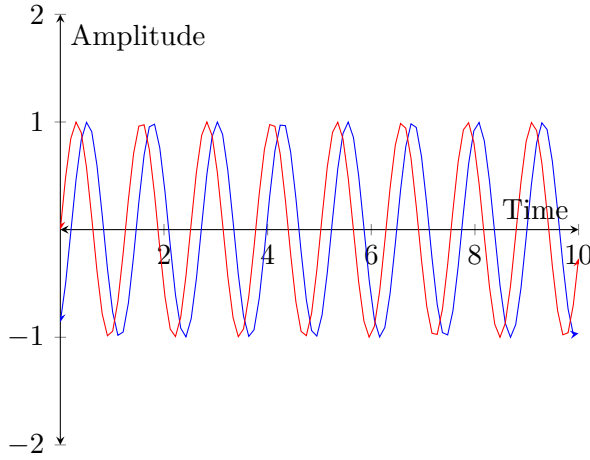


Figure 1.3: Two waves with same amplitude and frequency but different phase.

### Composite Signals

According to Fourier analysis, any composite signal consists of simpler signals. If the composite signal is periodic, the decomposition gives a series of signals with discrete frequencies. If the composite signal is nonperiodic, the decomposition gives a combination of sine waves with continuous frequencies.

The *bandwidth* of a signal is the difference between the maximum frequency and the minimum frequency it consists of.

$$B = f_h - f_l \quad (1.1)$$

#### 1.1.2 Digital Signals

In digital signals, the amplitude is divided into levels, as the number of levels increase, so does the speed of the transmission. The **bitrate** represents the number of bits sent per second. Number of bits that can fit in a number of levels if the number of levels are  $n_L$  is:

$$n_B = \log_2 n_L \quad (1.2)$$

A **bit length** is the distance that a bit occupies on the transmission medium. Transmission speed times bitrate.

$$L_B = v \times r_b \quad (1.3)$$

A periodic digital signal occupies an infinite amount of discrete frequencies. Whereas non-periodic digital signals (which most of them are.) occupy

a continuous range of infinite frequencies.

**Baseband transmission** is sending a digital signal through a channel without changing it to analog first.

A digital signal necessitates a low-pass channel, a channel that starts from 0Hz.

In general, any transmission loses *some* information with regards to the wave form of the signal, to preserve the shape of the signal completely, one needs a low-pass channel with an infinite or very wide bandwidth. Sometimes, the digital signal may have to be converted to corresponding analog signals to preserve information.

The required bitrate for a bandwidth of  $b$  is at minimum  $\frac{b}{2}$ . To acquire better results, one can multiply this number with harmonic sequences.

**Bandpass** is a channel with a limited range of frequencies  $f_1 < f < f_2$ . A digital signal cannot pass through a bandpass, as it is not a lowpass channel, therefore, the signal is first converted to analog, sent through the channel and then converted back to the digital. These include telephone lines.

## 1.2 Transmission Impairment

**Attenuation** is the loss of amplitude in the medium, and an amplifier can be used to mitigate this issue. The loss and gain can be calculated with the dB unit.

**Distortion** Due to the difference of behaviour of the medium for different frequencies, parts of the composite signal may arrive out of phase, or different.

**Noise** They may be **Thermal Noise** due to the random motion of electrons in the wire. **Induced Noise** is noise due to motors or appliances in the environment. **Crosstalk Noise**, effect of one wire on the other and **Impulse Noise** is a sudden spike in electricity in the wire. The quality of the medium can be calculated via the SNR (Signal-to-Noise Ratio), higher the SNR, higher the quality of the signal.

## 1.3 Data Rate Limits

A very important consideration in communication is how fast the data can be sent, in bits per second, over a channel. Keep in mind that, increasing the levels of a signal may reduce the reliability of the system.

### 1.3.1 Formulas

Maximum data rate of a channel for a noiseless channel is the Nyquist formula  $L \times n_B \times \log_2 L$  and for a noisy channel is the Shannon Formula, Capacity = bandwidth  $\times \log_2(1 + \text{SNR})$

## 1.4 Performance

The bandwidth can be calculated in hertz or in bits per second. **Bandwidth** is the number of bits that can fit into a channel. **Delay** is the time taken for a signal to travel from the source to the destination.