Data Transformation (An Overview)

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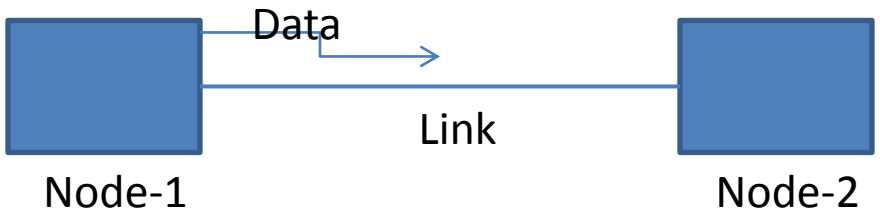
Recap

- Nodes generate data (bits: 1's and 0's)
- Links carry signals in the form of electromagnetic waves
- Learnt some theory: Signals and bandwidth, Shannon Theorem, goals of modulation
- Ready for: Converting data into signals



Two approaches

- Line Encoding (also called Digital Baseband Modulation)
  - Used in Ethernet, FDDI (fiber optics)
- Passband Modulation
  - Used in Wireless, ADSL

Line Encoding

- Convert bits to “high” and “low” signals (voltage or power levels)
  - Details to follow in another clip
- Uses: Ethernet and FDDI
- Advantages: Quite simple

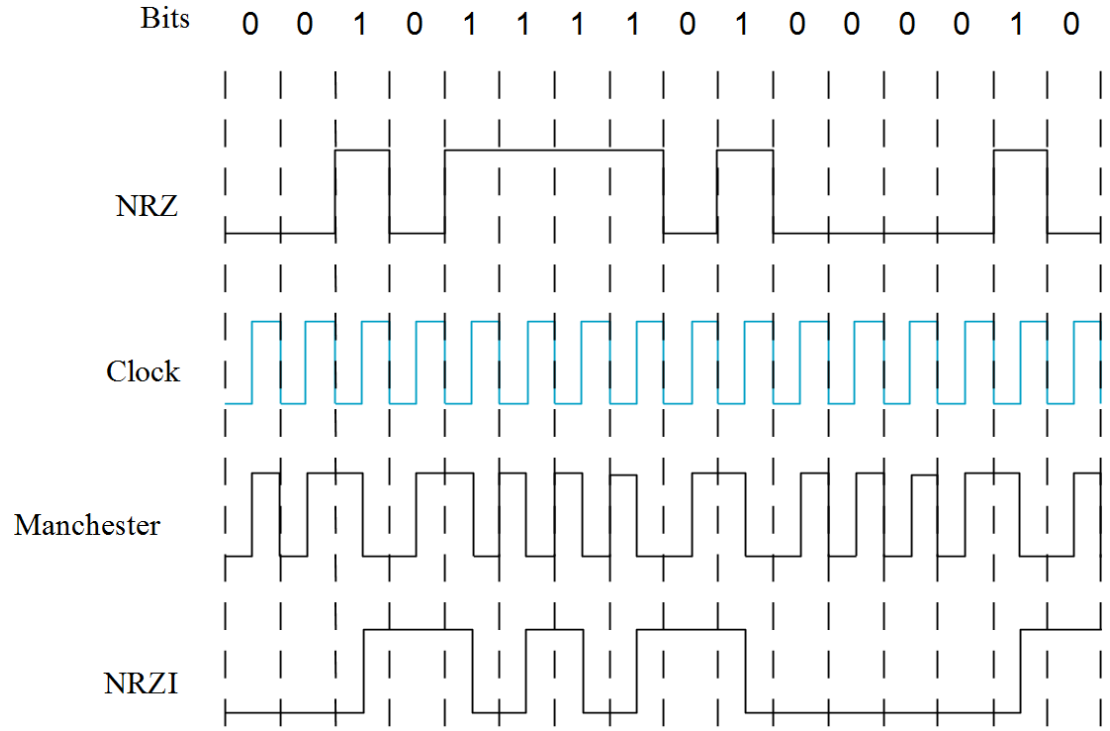


Fig from Computer Networks: A Systems Approach by Peterson and Davie

Limitations of Line Codes

- Bandwidth of line-coded signals is rather large (due to abrupt changes in signal) → Bandwidth of link (physical media) needs to be large
  - Alternatively if the link bandwidth is fixed, these signals undergo more distortion
- Presence of DC component hinders transmission
  - E.g. AC coupling via transformers not feasible

Limitations of Line Codes

- Baseband Modulation infeasible when signal has to be sent in designated spectrum band
  - E.g. WiFi (Wireless) allocated band is 2.4-2.4835Ghz.
  - ADSL: Data band can't overlap with voice band

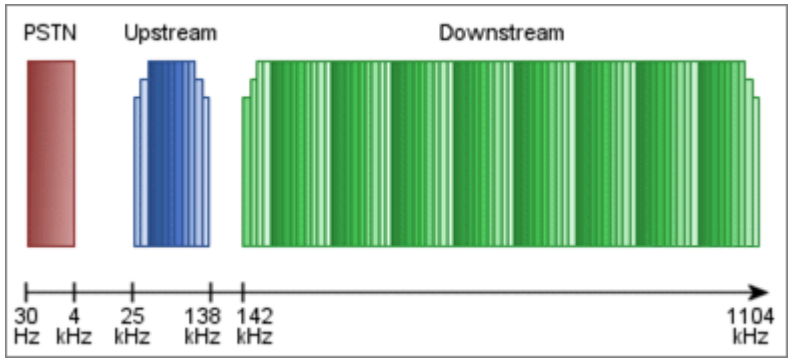


Fig from broadbandmadeeasy.com

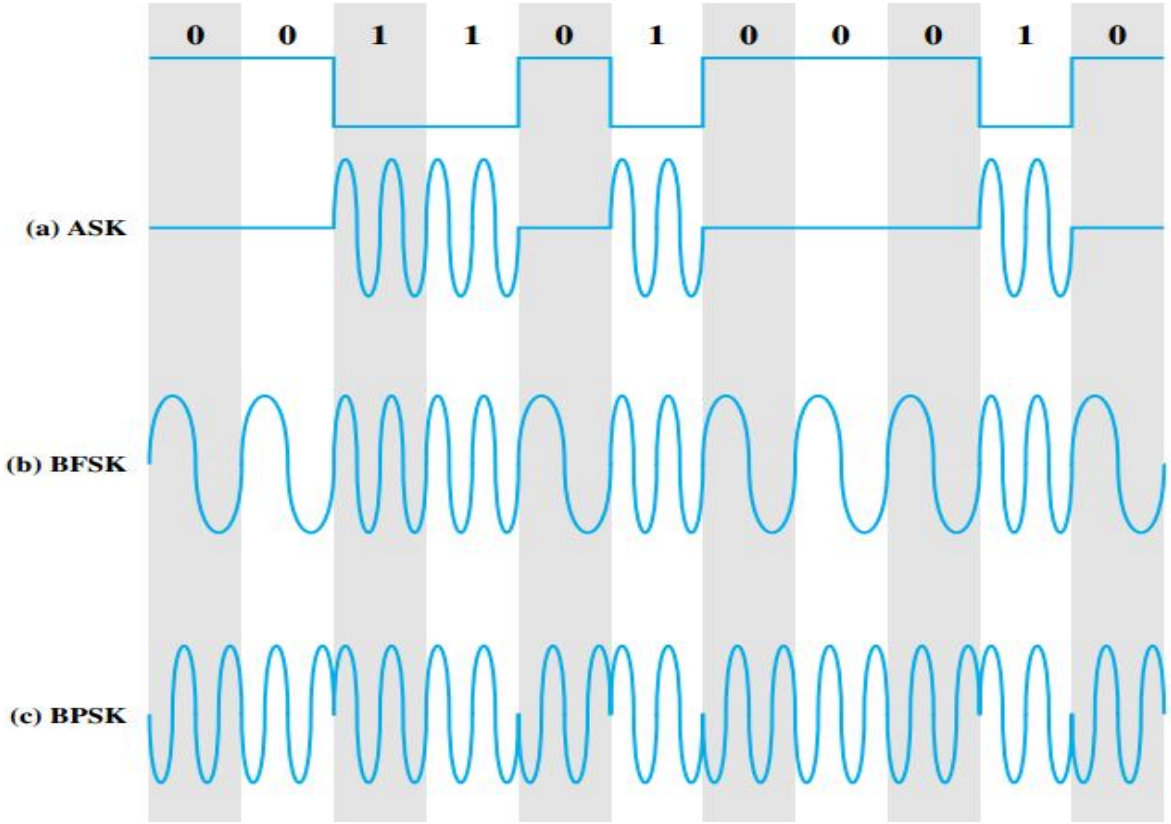
End Result: Line codes are often used where SNR is high.

Passband Modulation

- Embed information in the amplitude, frequency or phase of a carrier signal [sinusoid: $\cos(2*pi*f_c*t)$]
  - Carrier frequency: f_c
  - Spectrum centered around carrier frequency
- Used in Wireless and ADSL

Passband Modulation

- ASK: Amplitude Shift Keying
- BFSK: Binary Frequency Shift Keying
- BPSK: Binary Phase Shift Keying



Summary

- Two approaches of data transformation:
  - Line Coding: Works only short distances (not very efficient)
    - Will cover a few popular line coding techniques (E.g. codes used in Ethernet)
  - Passband Modulation: Helps shift signal to desired frequency band
    - Very sophisticated techniques exist that achieve high bandwidth efficiency (not the focus of this course)