Table 17-1—TXVECTOR parameters

Parameter	Associate primitive	Value
LENGTH	PHY-TXSTART.request (TXVECTOR)	1–4095
DATATRATE	PHY-TXSTART.request (TXVECTOR)	6, 9, 12, 18, 24, 36, 48, and 54 Mb/s for 20 MHz channel spacing (Support of 6, 12, and 24 Mb/s data rates is mandatory.) 3, 4.5, 6, 9, 12, 18, 24, and 27 Mb/s for 10 MHz channel spacing (Support of 3, 6, and 12 Mb/s data rates is mandatory.) 1.5, 2.25, 3, 4.5, 6, 9, 12, and 13.5 Mb/s for 5 MHz channel spacing (Support of 1.5, 3, and 6 Mb/s data rates is mandatory.)
SERVICE	PHY-TXSTART.request (TXVECTOR)	Scrambler initialization; 7 null bits + 9 reserved null bits
TXPWR_LEVEL	PHY-TXSTART.request (TXVECTOR)	1–8

17.2.2.3 TXVECTOR SERVICE

The SERVICE parameter consists of 7 null bits used for the scrambler initialization and 9 null bits reserved for future use.

17.2.2.4 TXVECTOR TXPWR_LEVEL

The allowed values for the TXPWR_LEVEL parameter are in the range from 1 to 8. This parameter is used to indicate which of the available TxPowerLevel attributes defined in the MIB shall be used for the current transmission.

17.2.3 RXVECTOR parameters

The parameters listed in Table 17-2 are defined as part of the RXVECTOR parameter list in the PHY-RXSTART.indicate service primitive.

Table 17-2—RXVECTOR parameters

Parameter	Associate primitive	Value
LENGTH	PHY-RXSTART.indicate	1–4095
RSSI	PHY-RXSTART.indicate (RXVECTOR)	0–RSSI maximum

Table 17-2—RXVECTOR parameters *(continued)*

Parameter	Associate primitive	Value
DATARATE	PHY-RXSTART.request (RXVECTOR)	6, 9, 12, 18, 24, 36, 48, and 54 Mb/s for 20 MHz channel spacing (Support of 6, 12, and 24 Mb/s data rates is mandatory.) 3, 4.5, 6, 9, 12, 18, 24, and 27 Mb/s for 10 MHz channel spacing (Support of 3, 6, and 12 Mb/s data rates is mandatory.) 1.5, 2.25, 3, 4.5, 6, 9, 12, and 13.5 Mb/s for 5 MHz channel spacing (Support of 1.5, 3, and 6 Mb/s data rates is mandatory.)
SERVICE	PHY-RXSTART.request (RXVECTOR)	Null

17.2.3.1 RXVECTOR LENGTH

The allowed values for the LENGTH parameter are in the range from 1–4095. This parameter is used to indicate the value contained in the LENGTH field which the PLCP has received in the PLCP header. The MAC and PLCP will use this value to determine the number of octet transfers that will occur between the two sublayers during the transfer of the received PSDU.

17.2.3.2 RXVECTOR RSSI

The allowed values for the RSSI parameter are in the range from 0 through RSSI maximum. This parameter is a measure by the PHY of the energy observed at the antenna used to receive the current PPDU. RSSI shall be measured during the reception of the PLCP preamble. RSSI is intended to be used in a relative manner, and it shall be a monotonically increasing function of the received power.

17.2.3.3 DATARATE

DATARATE shall represent the data rate at which the current PPDU was received. The allowed values of the DATARATE are 6, 9, 12, 18, 24, 36, 48, or 54 Mb/s for 20 MHz channel spacing; 3, 4.5, 6, 9, 12, 18, 24, or 27 Mb/s for 10 MHz channel spacing; and 1.5, 2.25, 3, 4.5, 6, 9, 12, or 13.5 Mb/s for 5 MHz channel spacing.

17.2.3.4 SERVICE

The SERVICE field shall be null.

17.3 OFDM PLCP sublayer

17.3.1 Introduction

This subclause provides a convergence procedure in which PSDUs are converted to and from PPDUs. During transmission, the PSDU shall be provided with a PLCP preamble and header to create the PPDU. At the receiver, the PLCP preamble and header are processed to aid in demodulation and delivery of the PSDU.

17.3.2 PLCP frame format

Figure 17-1 shows the format for the PPDU including the OFDM PLCP preamble, OFDM PLCP header, PSDU, tail bits, and pad bits. The PLCP header contains the following fields: LENGTH, RATE, a reserved bit, an even parity bit, and the SERVICE field. In terms of modulation, the LENGTH, RATE, reserved bit, and parity bit (with 6 zero tail bits appended) constitute a separate single OFDM symbol, denoted SIGNAL, which is transmitted with the most robust combination of BPSK modulation and a coding rate of R = 1/2. The SERVICE field of the PLCP header and the PSDU (with 6 zero tail bits and pad bits appended), denoted as DATA, are transmitted at the data rate described in the RATE field and may constitute multiple OFDM symbols. The tail bits in the SIGNAL symbol enable decoding of the RATE and LENGTH fields immediately after the reception of the tail bits. The RATE and LENGTH fields are required for decoding the DATA part of the packet. In addition, the CCA mechanism can be augmented by predicting the duration of the packet from the contents of the RATE and LENGTH fields, even if the data rate is not supported by the STA. Each of these fields is described in detail in 17.3.3, 17.3.4, and 17.3.5.

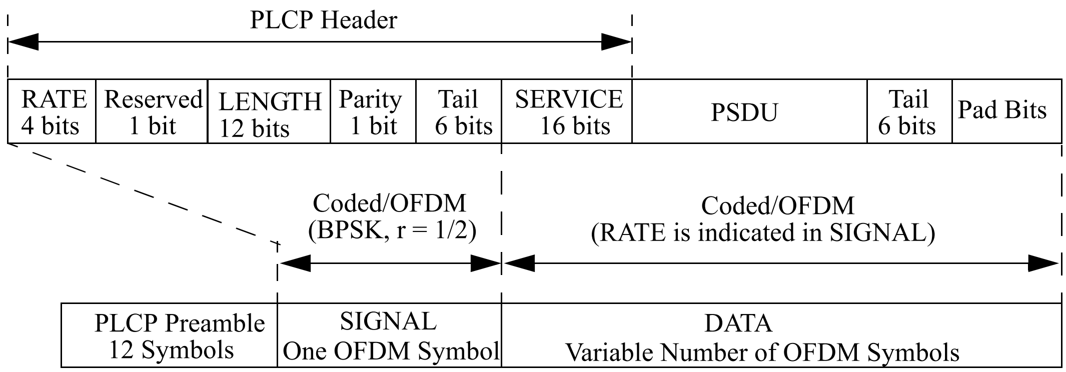

Figure 17-1—PPDU frame format

17.3.2.1 Overview of the PPDU encoding process

The encoding process is composed of many detailed steps, which are described fully in later subclauses, as noted below. The following overview intends to facilitate understanding the details of the convergence procedure:

a) Produce the PLCP Preamble field, composed of 10 repetitions of a "short training sequence" (used for AGC convergence, diversity selection, timing acquisition, and coarse frequency acquisition in the receiver) and two repetitions of a "long training sequence" (used for channel estimation and fine frequency acquisition in the receiver), preceded by a guard interval (GI). Refer to 17.3.3 for details.

b) Produce the PLCP header field from the RATE, LENGTH, and SERVICE fields of the TXVECTOR by filling the appropriate bit fields. The RATE and LENGTH fields of the PLCP header are encoded by a convolutional code at a rate of R = 1/2, and are subsequently mapped onto a single BPSK encoded OFDM symbol, denoted as the SIGNAL symbol. In order to facilitate a reliable and timely detection of the RATE and LENGTH fields, 6 zero tail bits are inserted into the PLCP header. The encoding of the SIGNAL field into an OFDM symbol follows the same steps for convolutional encoding, interleaving, BPSK modulation, pilot insertion, Fourier transform, and prepending a GI as described subsequently for data transmission with BPSK-OFDM modulated at coding rate 1/2. The contents of the SIGNAL field are not scrambled. Refer to 17.3.4 for details.

c) Calculate from RATE field of the TXVECTOR the number of data bits per OFDM symbol (N_{DBPS}), the coding rate (R), the number of bits in each OFDM subcarrier (N_{BPSC}), and the number of coded bits per OFDM symbol (N_{CBPS}). Refer to 17.3.2.2 for details.

d) Append the PSDU to the SERVICE field of the TXVECTOR. Extend the resulting bit string with zero bits (at least 6 bits) so that the resulting length will be a multiple of N_{DBPS}. The resulting bit string constitutes the DATA part of the packet. Refer to 17.3.5.3 for details.

e) Initiate the scrambler with a pseudo-random nonzero seed, generate a scrambling sequence, and XOR it with the extended string of data bits. Refer to 17.3.5.4 for details.

f) Replace the six scrambled zero bits following the data with six nonscrambled zero bits. (Those bits return the convolutional encoder to the zero state and are denoted as tail bits.) Refer to 17.3.5.2 for details.

g) Encode the extended, scrambled data string with a convolutional encoder (R = 1/2). Omit (puncture) some of the encoder output string (chosen according to "puncturing pattern") to reach the desired "coding rate." Refer to 17.3.5.5 for details.

h) Divide the encoded bit string into groups of N_{CBPS} bits. Within each group, perform an "interleaving" (reordering) of the bits according to a rule corresponding to the desired RATE. Refer to 17.3.5.6 for details.

i) Divide the resulting coded and interleaved data string into groups of N_{CBPS} bits. For each of the bit groups, convert the bit group into a complex number according to the modulation encoding tables. Refer to 17.3.5.7 for details.

j) Divide the complex number string into groups of 48 complex numbers. Each such group will be associated with one OFDM symbol. In each group, the complex numbers will be numbered 0 to 47 and mapped hereafter into OFDM subcarriers numbered –26 to –22, –20 to –8, –6 to –1, 1 to 6, 8 to 20, and 22 to 26. The subcarriers –21, –7, 7, and 21 are skipped and, subsequently, used for inserting pilot subcarriers. The 0 subcarrier, associated with center frequency, is omitted and filled with zero value. Refer to 17.3.5.9 for details.

k) Four subcarriers are inserted as pilots into positions –21, –7, 7, and 21. The total number of the subcarriers is 52 (48 + 4). Refer to 17.3.5.8 for details.

l) For each group of subcarriers –26 to 26, convert the subcarriers to time domain using inverse Fourier transform. Prepend to the Fourier-transformed waveform a circular extension of itself thus forming a GI, and truncate the resulting periodic waveform to a single OFDM symbol length by applying time domain windowing. Refer to 17.3.5.9 for details.

m) Append the OFDM symbols one after another, starting after the SIGNAL symbol describing the RATE and LENGTH fields. Refer to 17.3.5.9 for details.

n) Up-convert the resulting "complex baseband" waveform to an RF according to the center frequency of the desired channel and transmit. Refer to 17.3.2.4 and 17.3.8.1 for details.

An illustration of the transmitted frame and its parts appears in Figure 17-4 (in 17.3.3).

17.3.2.2 Modulation-dependent parameters

The modulation parameters dependent on the data rate used shall be set according to Table 17-3.

Table 17-3—Modulation-dependent parameters

Modulation	Coding rate (R)	Coded bits per subcarrier (N_{BPSC})	Coded bits per OFDM symbol (N_{CBPS})	Data bits per OFDM symbol (N_{DBPS})	Data rate (Mb/s) (20 MHz channel spacing)	Data rate (Mb/s) (10 MHz channel spacing)	Data rate (Mb/s) (5 MHz channel spacing)
BPSK	1/2	1	48	24	6	3	1.5
BPSK	3/4	1	48	36	9	4.5	2.25
QPSK	1/2	2	96	48	12	6	3
QPSK	3/4	2	96	72	18	9	4.5
16-QAM	1/2	4	192	96	24	12	6
16-QAM	3/4	4	192	144	36	18	9
64-QAM	2/3	6	288	192	48	24	12
64-QAM	3/4	6	288	216	54	27	13.5

17.3.2.3 Timing related parameters

Table 17-4 is the list of timing parameters associated with the OFDM PLCP.

Table 17-4—Timing-related parameters

Parameter	Value (20 MHz channel spacing)	Value (10 MHz channel spacing)	Value (5 MHz channel spacing)
N_{SD}: Number of data subcarriers	48	48	48
N_{SP}: Number of pilot subcarriers	4	4	4
N_{ST}: Number of subcarriers, total	52 ($N_{SD} + N_{SP}$)	52 ($N_{SD} + N_{SP}$)	52 ($N_{SD} + N_{SP}$)
Δ_F: Subcarrier frequency spacing	0.3125 MHz (=20 MHz/64)	0.15625 MHz (= 10 MHz/64)	0.078125 MHz (= 5 MHz/64)
T_{FFT}: Inverse Fast Fourier Transform (IFFT) / Fast Fourier Transform (FFT) period	3.2 µs ($1/\Delta_F$)	6.4 µs ($1/\Delta_F$)	12.8 µs ($1/\Delta_F$)
$T_{PREAMBLE}$: PLCP preamble duration	16 µs ($T_{SHORT} + T_{LONG}$)	32 µs ($T_{SHORT} + T_{LONG}$)	64 µs ($T_{SHORT} + T_{LONG}$)
T_{SIGNAL}: Duration of the SIGNAL BPSK-OFDM symbol	4.0 µs ($T_{GI} + T_{FFT}$)	8.0 µs ($T_{GI} + T_{FFT}$)	16.0 µs ($T_{GI} + T_{FFT}$)
T_{GI}: GI duration	0.8 µs ($T_{FFT}/4$)	1.6 µs ($T_{FFT}/4$)	3.2 µs ($T_{FFT}/4$)
T_{GI2}: Training symbol GI duration	1.6 µs ($T_{FFT}/2$)	3.2 µs ($T_{FFT}/2$)	6.4 µs ($T_{FFT}/2$)
T_{SYM}: Symbol interval	4 µs ($T_{GI} + T_{FFT}$)	8 µs ($T_{GI} + T_{FFT}$)	16 µs ($T_{GI} + T_{FFT}$)

Table 17-4—Timing-related parameters *(continued)*

Parameter	Value (20 MHz channel spacing)	Value (10 MHz channel spacing)	Value (5 MHz channel spacing)
T_{SHORT}: Short training sequence duration	8 µs ($10 \times T_{FFT}/4$)	16 µs ($10 \times T_{FFT}/4$)	32 µs ($10 \times T_{FFT}/4$)
T_{LONG}: Long training sequence duration	8 µs ($T_{GI2} + 2 \times T_{FFT}$)	16 µs ($T_{GI2} + 2 \times T_{FFT}$)	32 µs ($T_{GI2} + 2 \times T_{FFT}$)

17.3.2.4 Mathematical conventions in the signal descriptions

The transmitted signals will be described in a complex baseband signal notation. The actual transmitted signal is related to the complex baseband signal by the following relation:

$$r_{(RF)\langle t\rangle} = Re\{r\langle t\rangle \exp\langle j2\pi f_c t\rangle\} \tag{17-1}$$

where

$Re(.)$ represents the real part of a complex variable

f_c denotes the carrier center frequency

The transmitted baseband signal is composed of contributions from several OFDM symbols.

$$r_{PACKET}(t) = r_{PREAMBLE}(t) + r_{SIGNAL}(t - t_{SIGNAL}) + r_{DATA}(t - t_{DATA}) \tag{17-2}$$

The subframes of which Equation (17-2) are composed are described in 17.3.3, 17.3.4, and 17.3.5.9. The time offsets $t_{SUBFRAME}$ determine the starting time of the corresponding subframe; t_{SIGNAL} is equal to 16 µs for 20 MHz channel spacing, 32 µs for 10 MHz channel spacing, and 64 µs for 5 MHz channel spacing, and t_{DATA} is equal to 20 µs for 20 MHz channel spacing, 40 µs for 10 MHz channel spacing, and 80 µs for 5 MHz channel spacing.

All the subframes of the signal are constructed as an inverse Fourier transform of a set of coefficients, C_k, with C_k defined later as data, pilots, or training symbols in 17.3.3 through 17.3.5.

$$r_{SUBFRAME}(t) = w_{TSUBFRAME}(t) \sum_{k=-N_{ST}/2}^{N_{ST}/2} C_k \exp(j2\pi k\Delta_f)(t - T_{GUARD}) \tag{17-3}$$

The parameters Δ_F and N_{ST} are described in Table 17-4. The resulting waveform is periodic with a period of $T_{FFT} = 1/\Delta_F$. Shifting the time by T_{GUARD} creates the "circular prefix" used in OFDM to avoid ISI from the previous frame. Three kinds of T_{GUARD} are defined: for the short training sequence (= 0 µs), for the long training sequence (= T_{GI2}), and for data OFDM symbols (= T_{GI}). (Refer to Table 17-4.) The boundaries of the subframe are set by a multiplication by a time-windowing function, $w_{TSUBFRAME}(t)$, which is defined as a rectangular pulse, $w_T(t)$, of duration T, accepting the value $T_{SUBFRAME}$. The time-windowing function, $w_T(t)$, depending on the value of the duration parameter, T, may extend over more than one period, T_{FFT}. In particular, window functions that extend over multiple periods of the FFT are utilized in the definition of the preamble. Figure 17-2 illustrates the possibility of extending the windowing function over more than one period, T_{FFT}, and additionally shows smoothed transitions by application of a windowing function, as exemplified in Equation (17-4). In particular, window functions that extend over multiple periods of the FFT are utilized in the definition of the preamble.

$$w_T(t) = \begin{cases} \sin^2\left(\frac{\pi}{2}(0.5 + t/T_{TR})\right) & (-T_{TR}/2 < t < T_{TR}/2) \\ 1 & (T_{TR}/2 \le t < T - T_{TR}/2) \\ \sin^2\left(\frac{\pi}{2}(0.5 - (t - T)/T_{TR})\right) & (T - T_{TR}/2 \le t < T + T_{TR}/2) \end{cases} \tag{17-4}$$

In the case of vanishing T_{TR}, the windowing function degenerates into a rectangular pulse of duration T. The normative specifications of generating the transmitted waveforms shall utilize the rectangular pulse shape. In implementation, higher T_{TR} is typically implemented in order to smooth the transitions between the consecutive subsections. This creates a small overlap between them, of duration T_{TR}, as shown in Figure 17-2. The transition time, T_{TR}, is about 100 ns. Smoothing the transition is required in order to reduce the spectral sidelobes of the transmitted waveform. However, the binding requirements are the spectral mask and modulation accuracy requirements, as detailed in 17.3.9.2 and 17.3.9.6. Time domain windowing, as described here, is just one way to achieve those objectives. The implementer may use other methods to achieve the same goal, such as frequency domain filtering. Therefore, the transition shape and duration of the transition are informative parameters.

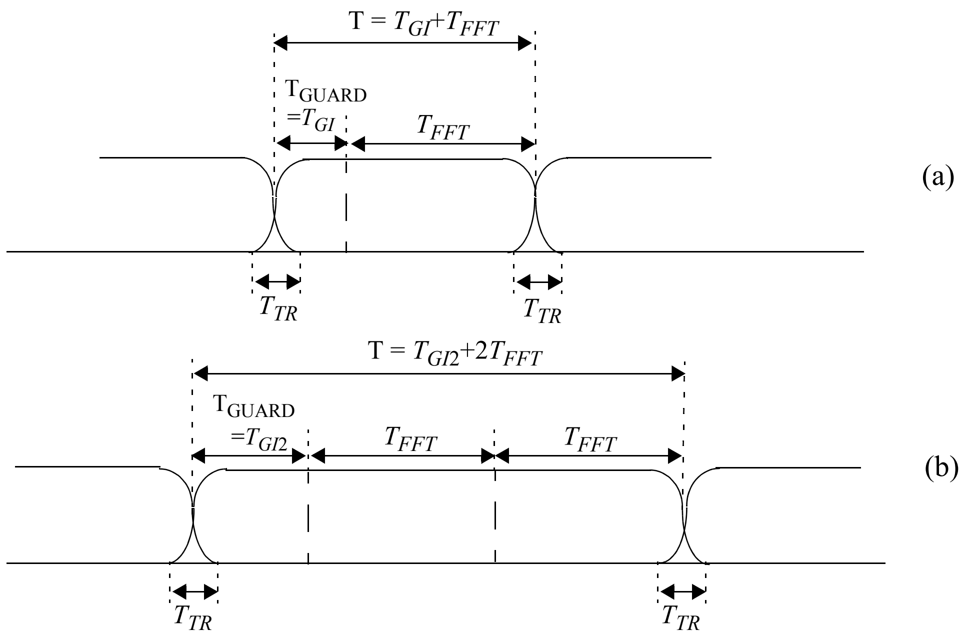

Figure 17-2—Illustration of OFDM frame with cyclic extension and windowing for (a) single reception or (b) two receptions of the FFT period

17.3.2.5 Discrete time implementation considerations

The following descriptions of the discrete time implementation are informational.

In a typical implementation, the windowing function will be represented in discrete time. As an example, when a windowing function with parameters T = 4.0 µs and a T_{TR} = 100 ns is applied, and the signal is sampled at 20 Msample/s, it becomes

$$w_T[n] = w_T(nT_S) = \begin{cases} 1 & 1 \le n \le 79 \\ 0.5 & 0,\ 80 \\ 0 & otherwise \end{cases} \tag{17-5}$$

The common way to implement the inverse Fourier transform, as shown in Equation (17-3), is by an IFFT algorithm. If, for example, a 64-point IFFT is used, the coefficients 1 to 26 are mapped to the same numbered IFFT inputs, while the coefficients –26 to –1 are copied into IFFT inputs 38 to 63. The rest of the inputs, 27 to 37 and the 0 (dc) input, are set to 0. This mapping is illustrated in Figure 17-3. After performing an IFFT, the output is cyclically extended to the desired length.

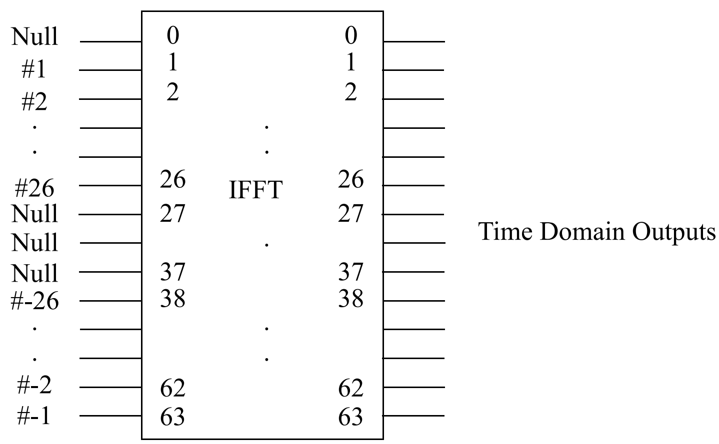

Figure 17-3—Inputs and outputs of inverse Fourier transform

17.3.3 PLCP preamble (SYNC)

The PLCP Preamble field is used for synchronization. It consists of 10 short symbols and two long symbols that are shown in Figure 17-4 and described in this subclause. The timings described in this subclause and shown in Figure 17-4 are for 20 MHz channel spacing. They are doubled for half-clocked (i.e., 10 MHz) channel spacing and are quadrupled for quarter-clocked (i.e., 5 MHz) channel spacing.

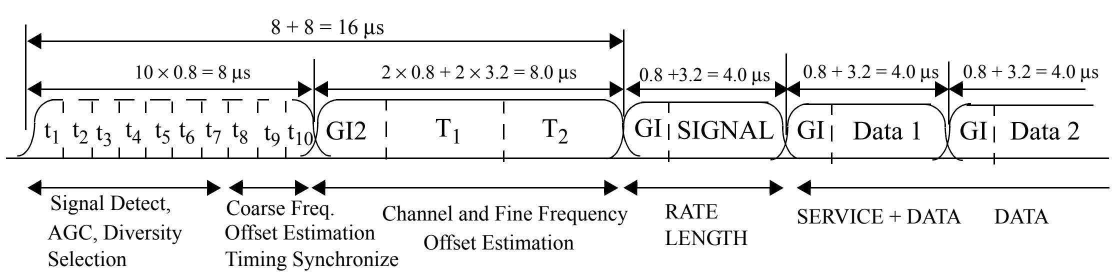

Figure 17-4—OFDM training structure

Figure 17-4 shows the OFDM training structure (PLCP preamble), where t_1 to t_{10} denote short training symbols and T_1 and T_2 denote long training symbols. The PLCP preamble is followed by the SIGNAL field and DATA. The total training length is 16 µs. The dashed boundaries in the figure denote repetitions due to the periodicity of the inverse Fourier transform.

A short OFDM training symbol consists of 12 subcarriers, which are modulated by the elements of the sequence S, given by

$$S_{-26,\,26} = \sqrt{(13/6)} \times \{0, 0, 1+j, 0, 0, 0, -1-j, 0, 0, 0, 1+j, 0, 0, 0, -1-j, 0, 0, 0, -1-j, 0, 0, 0, 1+j, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0, -1-j, 0, 0, 0, -1-j, 0, 0, 0, 1+j, 0, 0, 0, 1+j, 0, 0, 0, 1+j, 0, 0, 0, 1+j, 0,0\} \tag{17-6}$$

The multiplication by a factor of $\sqrt{(13/6)}$ is in order to normalize the average power of the resulting OFDM symbol, which utilizes 12 out of 52 subcarriers.

The signal shall be generated according to the following equation:

$$r_{SHORT}(t) = w_{TSHORT}(t) \sum_{k=-N_{ST}/2}^{N_{ST}/2} S_k \exp(j2\pi k\Delta_F t) \tag{17-7}$$

The fact that only spectral lines of $S_{-26:26}$ with indices that are a multiple of 4 have nonzero amplitude results in a periodicity of $T_{FFT}/4 = 0.8$ µs. The interval T_{SHORT} is equal to ten 0.8 µs periods (i.e., 8 µs).

Generation of the short training sequence is illustrated in Table G.2.

A long OFDM training symbol consists of 53 subcarriers (including a zero value at dc), which are modulated by the elements of the sequence L, given by

$$L_{-26,\,26} = \{1, 1, -1, -1, 1, 1, -1, 1, -1, 1, 1, 1, 1, 1, 1, -1, -1, 1, 1, -1, 1, -1, 1, 1, 1, 1, 0, 1, -1, -1, 1, 1, -1, 1, -1, 1, -1, -1, -1, -1, -1, 1, 1, -1, -1, 1, -1, 1, -1, 1, 1, 1, 1\} \tag{17-8}$$

A long OFDM training symbol shall be generated according to the following equation:

$$r_{LONG}(t) = w_{TLONG}(t) \sum_{k=-N_{ST}/2}^{N_{ST}/2} L_k \exp(j2\pi k\Delta_F (t - T_{G12})) \tag{17-9}$$

where

$T_{G\,12} = 1.6$ µs

Two periods of the long sequence are transmitted for improved channel estimation accuracy, yielding $T_{LONG} = 1.6 + 2 \times 3.2 = 8$ µs.

An illustration of the long training sequence generation is given in Table G.5.

The sections of short repetitions and long repetitions shall be concatenated to form the preamble

$$r_{PREAMBLE}(t) = r_{SHORT}(t) + r_{LONG}(t - T_{SHORT}) \tag{17-10}$$

17.3.4 SIGNAL field

The OFDM training symbols shall be followed by the SIGNAL field, which contains the RATE and the LENGTH fields of the TXVECTOR. The RATE field conveys information about the type of modulation and the coding rate as used in the rest of the packet. The encoding of the SIGNAL single OFDM symbol shall be performed with BPSK modulation of the subcarriers and using convolutional coding at R = 1/2. The encoding procedure, which includes convolutional encoding, interleaving, modulation mapping processes, pilot insertion, and OFDM modulation, follows the steps described in 17.3.5.5, 17.3.5.6, and 17.3.5.8, as used for transmission of data with BPSK-OFDM modulated at coding rate 1/2. The contents of the SIGNAL field are not scrambled.

The SIGNAL field shall be composed of 24 bits, as illustrated in Figure 17-5. The four bits 0 to 3 shall encode the RATE. Bit 4 shall be reserved for future use. Bits 5–16 shall encode the LENGTH field of the TXVECTOR, with the LSB being transmitted first.

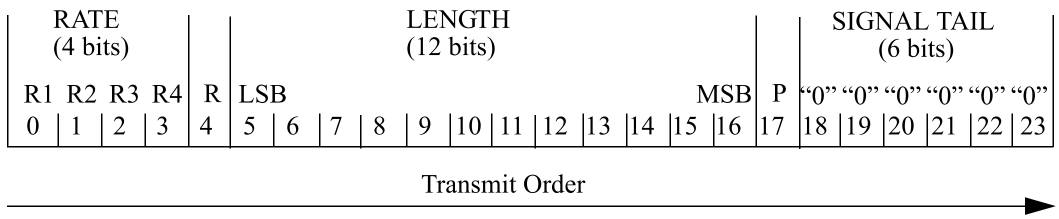

Figure 17-5—SIGNAL field bit assignment

The process of generating the SIGNAL OFDM symbol is illustrated in G.4.

17.3.4.1 RATE field

The bits R1–R4 shall be set, dependent on RATE, according to the values in Table 17-5.

Table 17-5—Contents of the SIGNAL field

R1–R4	Rate (Mb/s) (20 MHz channel spacing)	Rate (Mb/s) (10 MHz channel spacing)	Rate (Mb/s) (5 MHz channel spacing)
1101	6	3	1.5
1111	9	4.5	2.25
0101	12	6	3
0111	18	9	4.5
1001	24	12	6
1011	36	18	9
0001	48	24	12
0011	54	27	13.5

17.3.4.2 PLCP LENGTH field

The PLCP LENGTH field shall be an unsigned 12-bit integer that indicates the number of octets in the PSDU that the MAC is currently requesting the PHY to transmit. This value is used by the PHY to determine the number of octet transfers that will occur between the MAC and the PHY after receiving a request to start transmission. The transmitted value shall be determined from the LENGTH parameter in the

TXVECTOR issued with the PHY-TXSTART.request primitive described in 12.3.5.4. The LSB shall be transmitted first in time. This field shall be encoded by the convolutional encoder described in 17.3.5.5.

17.3.4.3 Parity (P), Reserved (R), and SIGNAL TAIL fields

Bit 4 shall be reserved for future use. Bit 17 shall be a positive parity (even parity) bit for bits 0–16. The bits 18–23 constitute the SIGNAL TAIL field, and all 6 bits shall be set to 0.

17.3.5 DATA field

The DATA field contains the SERVICE field, the PSDU, the TAIL bits, and the PAD bits, if needed, as described in 17.3.5.2 and 17.3.5.3. All bits in the DATA field are scrambled, as described in 17.3.5.4.

17.3.5.1 SERVICE field

The IEEE 802.11 SERVICE field has 16 bits, which shall be denoted as bits 0–15. The bit 0 shall be transmitted first in time. The bits from 0–6 of the SERVICE field, which are transmitted first, are set to zeros and are used to synchronize the descrambler in the receiver. The remaining 9 bits (7–15) of the SERVICE field shall be reserved for future use. All reserved bits shall be set to 0. Refer to Figure 17-6.

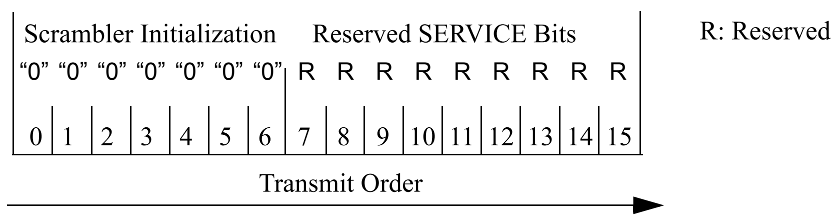

Figure 17-6—SERVICE field bit assignment

17.3.5.2 PPDU TAIL field

The PPDU TAIL field shall be six bits of zero, which are required to return the convolutional encoder to the zero state. This procedure improves the error probability of the convolutional decoder, which relies on future bits when decoding and which may be not be available past the end of the message. The PLCP tail bit field shall be produced by replacing six scrambled zero bits following the message end with six nonscrambled zero bits.

17.3.5.3 Pad bits (PAD)

The number of bits in the DATA field shall be a multiple of N_{CBPS}, the number of coded bits in an OFDM symbol (48, 96, 192, or 288 bits). To achieve that, the length of the message is extended so that it becomes a multiple of N_{DBPS}, the number of data bits per OFDM symbol. At least 6 bits are appended to the message, in order to accommodate the TAIL bits, as described in 17.3.5.2. The number of OFDM symbols, $\mathrm{N_{SYM}}$; the number of bits in the DATA field, $\mathrm{N_{DATA}}$; and the number of pad bits, $\mathrm{N_{PAD}}$, are computed from the length of the PSDU (LENGTH) as follows:

$$\mathrm{N_{SYM}} = \mathrm{Ceiling}\ ((16 + 8 \times \mathrm{LENGTH} + 6)/N_{DBPS}) \qquad (17\text{-}11)$$

$$\mathrm{N_{DATA}} = \mathrm{N_{SYM}} \times N_{DBPS} \qquad (17\text{-}12)$$

$$\mathrm{N_{PAD}} = \mathrm{N_{DATA}} - (16 + 8 \times \mathrm{LENGTH} + 6) \qquad (17\text{-}13)$$

The function ceiling (.) is a function that returns the smallest integer value greater than or equal to its argument value. The appended bits ("pad bits") are set to zeros and are subsequently scrambled with the rest of the bits in the DATA field.

An example of a DATA field that contains the SERVICE field, DATA, tail, and pad bits is given in G.5.1.

17.3.5.4 PLCP DATA scrambler and descrambler

The DATA field, composed of SERVICE, PSDU, tail, and pad parts, shall be scrambled with a length-127 frame-synchronous scrambler. The octets of the PSDU are placed in the transmit serial bit stream, bit 0 first and bit 7 last. The frame synchronous scrambler uses the generator polynomial *S(x)* as follows, and is illustrated in Figure 17-7:

$$S(x) = x^7 + x^4 + 1 \tag{17-14}$$

The 127-bit sequence generated repeatedly by the scrambler shall be (leftmost used first), 00001110 11110010 11001001 00000010 00100110 00101110 10110110 00001100 11010100 11100111 10110100 00101010 11111010 01010001 10111000 1111111, when the all ones initial state is used. The same scrambler is used to scramble transmit data and to descramble receive data. When transmitting, the initial state of the scrambler will be set to a pseudo-random nonzero state. The seven LSBs of the SERVICE field will be set to all zeros prior to scrambling to enable estimation of the initial state of the scrambler in the receiver.

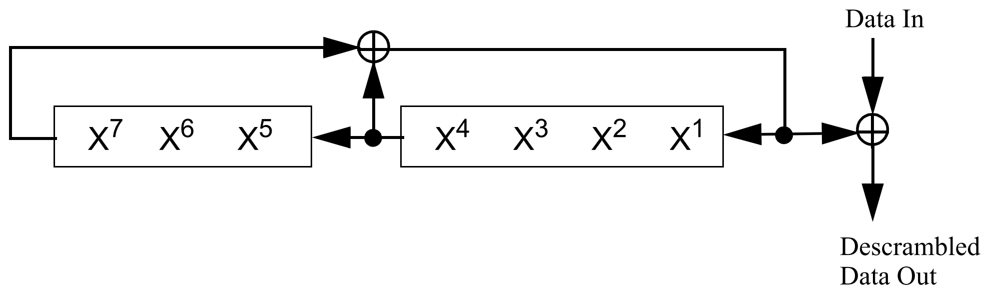

Figure 17-7—Data scrambler

An example of the scrambler output is illustrated in G.5.2.

17.3.5.5 Convolutional encoder

The DATA field, composed of SERVICE, PSDU, tail, and pad parts, shall be coded with a convolutional encoder of coding rate R = 1/2, 2/3, or 3/4, corresponding to the desired data rate. The convolutional encoder shall use the industry-standard generator polynomials, $g_0 = 133_8$ and $g_1 = 171_8$, of rate R = 1/2, as shown in Figure 17-8. The bit denoted as "A" shall be output from the encoder before the bit denoted as "B." Higher rates are derived from it by employing "puncturing." Puncturing is a procedure for omitting some of the encoded bits in the transmitter (thus reducing the number of transmitted bits and increasing the coding rate) and inserting a dummy "zero" metric into the convolutional decoder on the receive side in place of the omitted bits. The puncturing patterns are illustrated in Figure 17-9. Decoding by the Viterbi algorithm is recommended.

An example of encoding operation is shown in G.6.1.

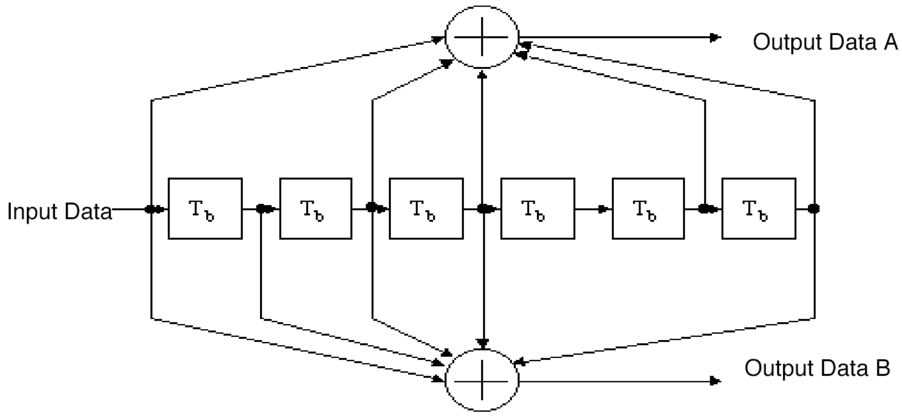

Figure 17-8—Convolutional encoder (k = 7)

17.3.5.6 Data interleaving

All encoded data bits shall be interleaved by a block interleaver with a block size corresponding to the number of bits in a single OFDM symbol, N_{CBPS}. The interleaver is defined by a two-step permutation. The first permutation ensures that adjacent coded bits are mapped onto nonadjacent subcarriers. The second ensures that adjacent coded bits are mapped alternately onto less and more significant bits of the constellation and, thereby, long runs of low reliability (LSB) bits are avoided.

The index of the coded bit before the first permutation shall be denoted by k; i shall be the index after the first and before the second permutation; and j shall be the index after the second permutation, just prior to modulation mapping.

The first permutation is defined by the rule

$$i = (N_{CBPS}/16)\ (k \bmod 16) + \mathrm{floor}(k/16) \qquad k = 0,1,\ldots,N_{CBPS} - 1 \tag{17-15}$$

The function floor (.) denotes the largest integer not exceeding the parameter.

The second permutation is defined by the rule

$$j = s \times \mathrm{floor}(i/s) + (i + N_{CBPS} - \mathrm{floor}(16 \times i/N_{CBPS})) \bmod s \qquad i = 0,1,\ldots\ N_{CBPS} - 1 \tag{17-16}$$

The value of s is determined by the number of coded bits per subcarrier, N_{BPSC}, according to

$$s = \max(N_{BPSC}/2,1) \tag{17-17}$$

The deinterleaver, which performs the inverse relation, is also defined by two permutations.

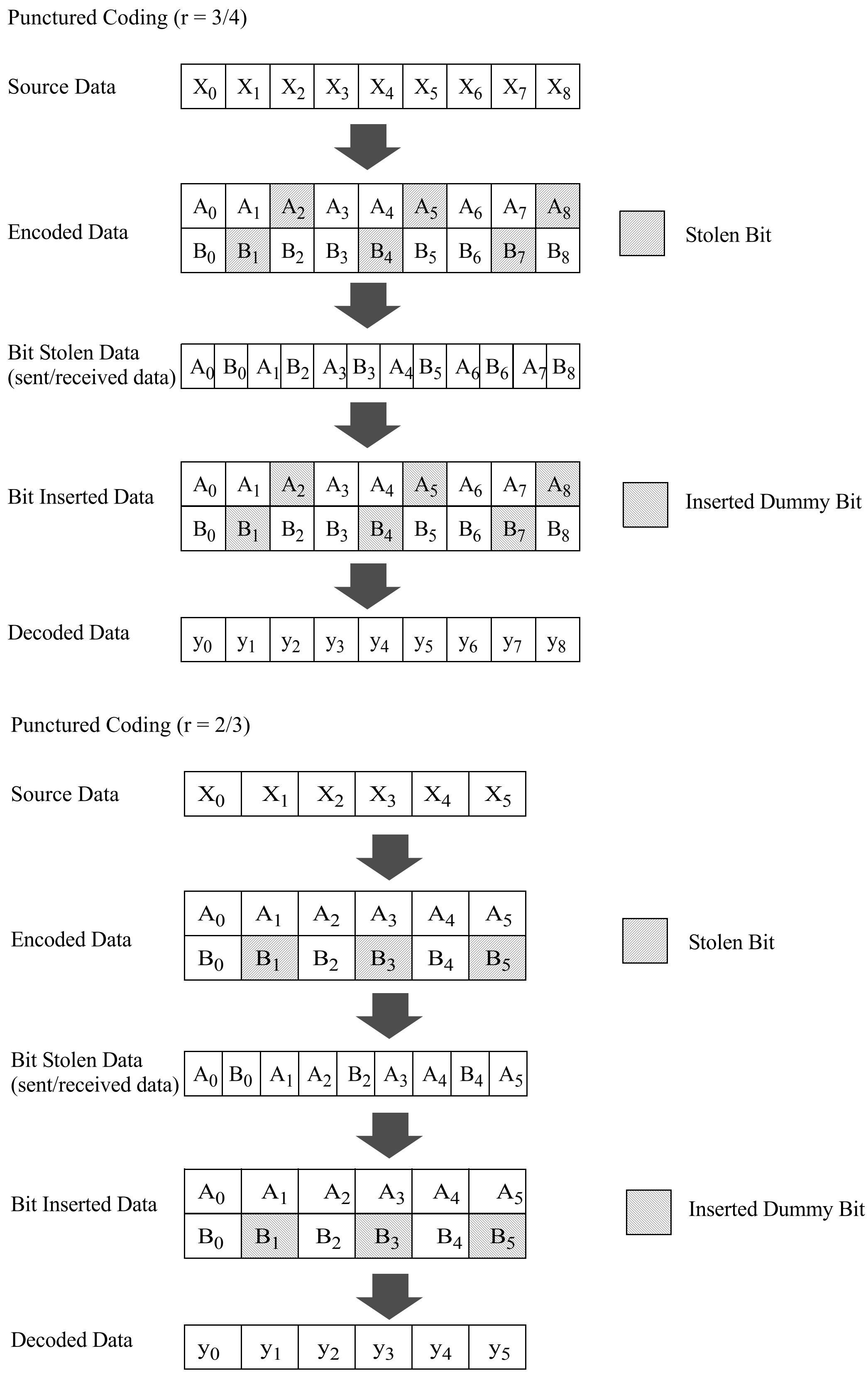

Figure 17-9—Example of the bit-stealing and bit-insertion procedure (r = 3/4, 2/3)

Here the index of the original received bit before the first permutation shall be denoted by j; i shall be the index after the first and before the second permutation; and k shall be the index after the second permutation, just prior to delivering the coded bits to the convolutional (Viterbi) decoder.

The first permutation is defined by the rule

$$i = s \times \text{floor}(j/s) + (j + \text{floor}(16 \times j/N_{CBPS})) \bmod s \qquad j = 0,1,\ldots N_{CBPS} - 1 \tag{17-18}$$

where
s is defined in Equation (17-17).

This permutation is the inverse of the permutation described in Equation (17-16).

The second permutation is defined by the rule

$$k = 16 \times i - (N_{CBPS} - 1)\text{floor}(16 \times i/N_{CBPS}) \qquad i = 0,1,\ldots N_{CBPS} - 1 \tag{17-19}$$

This permutation is the inverse of the permutation described in Equation (17-15).

An example of interleaving operation is illustrated in G.6.2.

17.3.5.7 Subcarrier modulation mapping

The OFDM subcarriers shall be modulated by using BPSK, QPSK, 16-QAM, or 64-QAM, depending on the RATE requested. The encoded and interleaved binary serial input data shall be divided into groups of N_{BPSC} (1, 2, 4, or 6) bits and converted into complex numbers representing BPSK, QPSK, 16-QAM, or 64-QAM constellation points. The conversion shall be performed according to Gray-coded constellation mappings, illustrated in Figure 17-10, with the input bit, b_0, being the earliest in the stream. The output values, d, are formed by multiplying the resulting (I+jQ) value by a normalization factor K_{MOD}, as described in Equation (17-20).

$$d = (I + jQ) \times K_{MOD} \tag{17-20}$$

The normalization factor, K_{MOD}, depends on the base modulation mode, as prescribed in Table 17-6. Note that the modulation type can be different from the start to the end of the transmission, as the signal changes from SIGNAL to DATA, as shown in Figure 17-1. The purpose of the normalization factor is to achieve the same average power for all mappings. In practical implementations, an approximate value of the normalization factor can be used, as long as the device conforms with the modulation accuracy requirements described in 17.3.9.6.

Table 17-6—Modulation-dependent normalization factor K_{MOD}

Modulation	K_{MOD}
BPSK	1
QPSK	$1/\sqrt{2}$
16-QAM	$1/\sqrt{10}$
64-QAM	$1/\sqrt{42}$

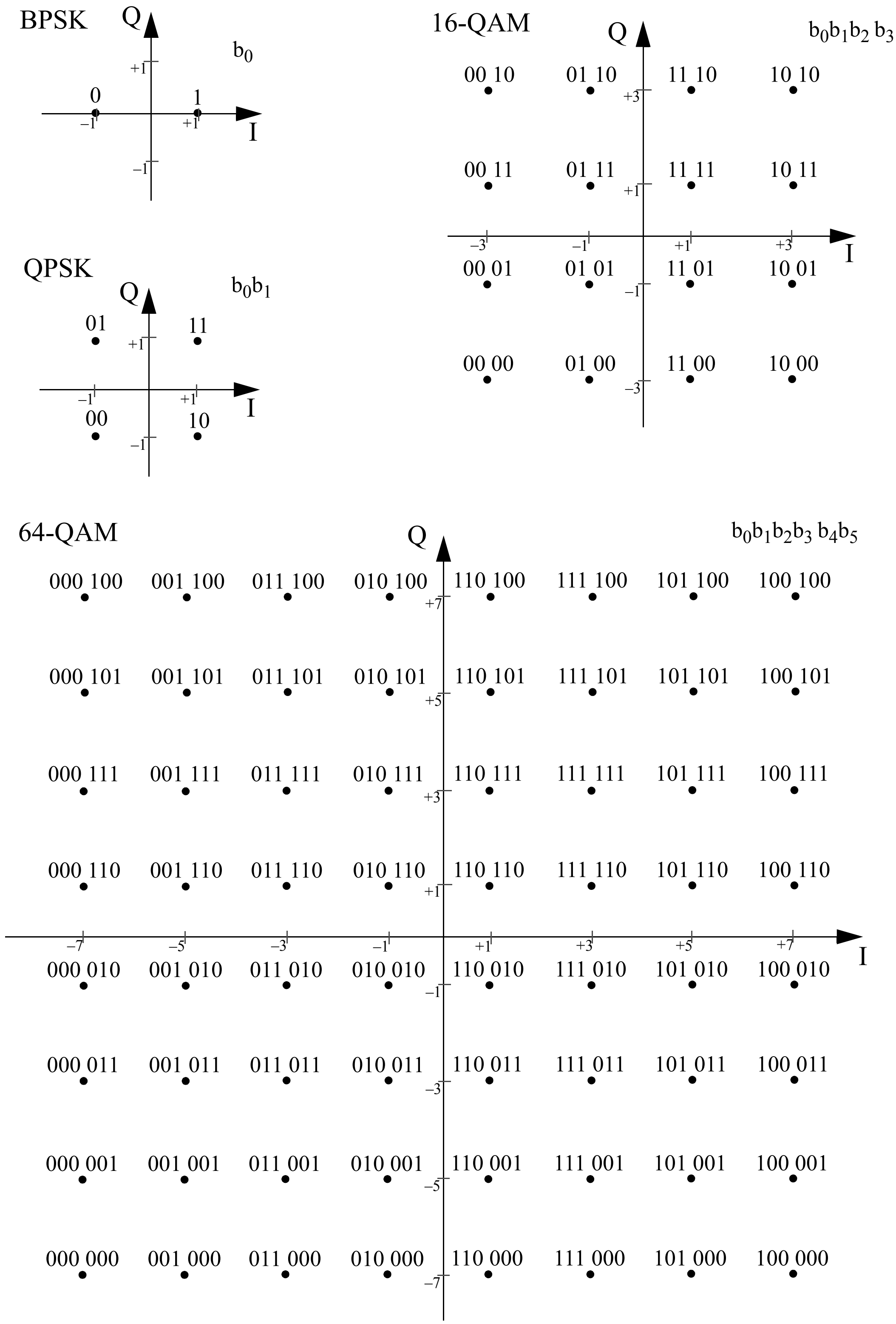

Figure 17-10—BPSK, QPSK, 16-QAM, and 64-QAM constellation bit encoding

For BPSK, b_0 determines the I value, as illustrated in Table 17-7. For QPSK, b_0 determines the I value and b_1 determines the Q value, as illustrated in Table 17-8. For 16-QAM, b_0b_1 determines the I value and b_2b_3 determines the Q value, as illustrated in Table 17-9. For 64-QAM, $b_0b_1b_2$ determines the I value and $b_3b_4b_5$ determines the Q value, as illustrated in Table 17-10.

Table 17-7—BPSK encoding table

Input bit (b_0)	I-out	Q-out
0	–1	0
1	1	0

Table 17-8—QPSK encoding table

Input bit (b_0)	I-out
0	–1
1	1

Input bit (b_1)	Q-out
0	–1
1	1

Table 17-9—16-QAM encoding table

Input bits (b_0 b_1)	I-out
00	–3
01	–1
11	1
10	3

Input bits (b_2 b_3)	Q-out
00	–3
01	–1
11	1
10	3

Table 17-10—64-QAM encoding table

Input bits (b_0 b_1 b_2)	I-out
000	–7
001	–5
011	–3
010	–1
110	1
111	3
101	5
100	7

Input bits (b_3 b_4 b_5)	Q-out
000	–7
001	–5
011	–3
010	–1
110	1
111	3
101	5
100	7

17.3.5.8 Pilot subcarriers

In each OFDM symbol, four of the subcarriers are dedicated to pilot signals in order to make the coherent detection robust against frequency offsets and phase noise. These pilot signals shall be put in subcarriers –21, –7, 7, and 21. The pilots shall be BPSK modulated by a pseudo-binary sequence to prevent the generation of spectral lines. The contribution of the pilot subcarriers to each OFDM symbol is described in 17.3.5.9.

17.3.5.9 OFDM modulation

The stream of complex numbers is divided into groups of $N_{SD} = 48$ complex numbers. This shall be denoted by writing the complex number $d_{k,n}$, which corresponds to subcarrier k of OFDM symbol n, as follows:

$$d_{k,n} \equiv d_{k + N_{SD} \times n}, \qquad k = 0, \ldots N_{SD} - 1,\ n = 0, \ldots N_{SYM} - 1 \tag{17-21}$$

The number of OFDM symbols, N_{SYM}, was introduced in 17.3.5.3.

An OFDM symbol, $r_{DATA,n}(t)$, is defined as

$$r_{DATA,n}(t) = w_{TSYM}(t)\left(\sum_{k=0}^{N_{SD}-1} d_{k,n} \exp((j2\pi M(k)\Delta_F(t - T_{GI})) + p_{n+1} \sum_{k=-N_{ST}/2}^{N_{ST}/2} P_k \exp(j2\pi k\Delta_F(t - T_{GI}))\right) \tag{17-22}$$

where the function, $M(k)$, defines a mapping from the logical subcarrier number 0 to 47 into frequency offset index -26 to 26, while skipping the pilot subcarrier locations and the 0^{th} (dc) subcarrier.

$$M(k) = \begin{cases} k - 26 & 0 \le k \le 4 \\ k - 25 & 5 \le k \le 17 \\ k - 24 & 18 \le k \le 23 \\ k - 23 & 24 \le k \le 29 \\ k - 22 & 30 \le k \le 42 \\ k - 21 & 43 \le k \le 47 \end{cases} \tag{17-23}$$

The contribution of the pilot subcarriers for the n^{th} OFDM symbol is produced by inverse Fourier transform of sequence P, given by

$$P_{-26,26} = \{0, 0, 0, 0, 0, 1, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0, 1, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0, 1, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0, -1, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0\} \tag{17-24}$$

The polarity of the pilot subcarriers is controlled by the sequence, p_n, which is a cyclic extension of the 127 elements sequence and is given by

$$p_{0..126v} = \{1,1,1,1,\ -1,-1,-1,1,\ -1,-1,-1,-1,\ 1,1,-1,1,\ -1,-1,1,1,\ -1,1,1,-1,\ 1,1,1,1,\ 1,1,-1,1,\\ 1,1,-1,1,\ 1,-1,-1,1,\ 1,1,-1,1,\ -1,-1,-1,1,\ -1,1,-1,-1,\ 1,-1,-1,1,\ 1,1,1,1,\ -1,-1,1,1,\\ -1,-1,1,-1,\ 1,-1,1,1,\ -1,-1,-1,1,\ 1,-1,-1,-1,\ -1,1,-1,-1,\ 1,-1,1,1,\ 1,1,-1,1,\ -1,1,-1,1,\\ -1,-1,-1,-1,\ -1,1,-1,1,\ 1,-1,1,-1,\ 1,1,1,-1,\ -1,1,-1,-1,\ -1,1,1,1,\ -1,-1,-1,-1,\ -1,-1,-1\} \quad (17\text{-}25)$$

The sequence p_n can be generated by the scrambler defined by Figure 17-7 when the all ones initial state is used, and by replacing all 1's with –1 and all 0's with 1. Each sequence element is used for one OFDM symbol. The first element, p_0, multiplies the pilot subcarriers of the SIGNAL symbol, while the elements from p_1 on are used for the DATA symbols.

The subcarrier frequency allocation is shown in Figure 17-11. To avoid difficulties in D/A and A/D converter offsets and carrier feedthrough in the RF system, the subcarrier falling at DC (0^{th} subcarrier) is not used.

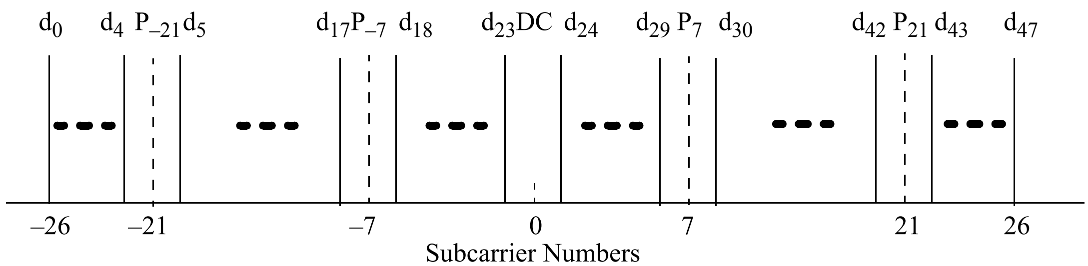

Figure 17-11—Subcarrier frequency allocation

The concatenation of N_{SYM} OFDM symbols can now be written as

$$r_{DATA}(t) = \sum_{n=0}^{N_{SYM}-1} r_{DATA,n}(t - nT_{SYM}) \quad (17\text{-}26)$$

An example of mapping into symbols is shown in G.6.3, as well as the scrambling of the pilot signals (see G.7). The final output of these operations is also shown in G.8.

17.3.6 CCA

PLCP shall provide the capability to perform CCA and report the result to the MAC. The CCA mechanism shall detect a "medium busy" condition with a performance specified in 17.3.10.5. This medium status report is indicated by the primitive PHY_CCA.indicate.

17.3.7 PLCP data modulation and modulation rate change

The PLCP preamble shall be transmitted using an OFDM modulated fixed waveform. The IEEE 802.11 SIGNAL field, BPSK-OFDM modulated with coding rate 1/2, shall indicate the modulation and coding rate that shall be used to transmit the MPDU. The transmitter (receiver) shall initiate the modulation (demodulation) constellation and the coding rate according to the RATE indicated in the SIGNAL field. The MPDU transmission rate shall be set by the DATARATE parameter in the TXVECTOR, issued with the PHY-TXSTART.request primitive described in 17.2.2.

17.3.8 PMD operating specifications (general)

General specifications for the BPSK OFDM, QPSK OFDM, 16-QAM OFDM, and 64-QAM OFDM PMD sublayers are provided in 17.3.8.1 through 17.3.8.8. These specifications apply to both the receive and transmit functions and general operation of the OFDM PHY.

17.3.8.1 Outline description

The general block diagram of the transmitter and receiver for the OFDM PHY is shown in Figure 17-12. Major specifications for the OFDM PHY are listed in Table 17-11.

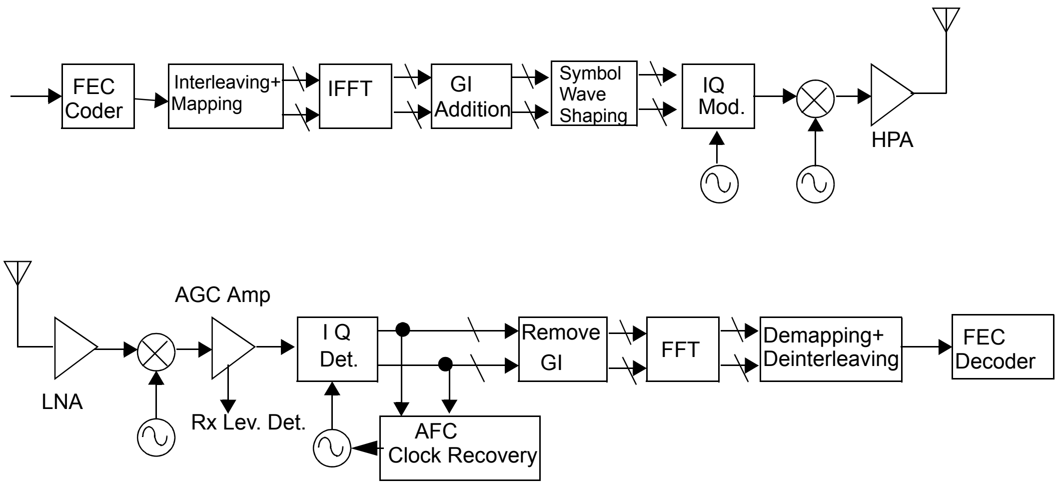

Figure 17-12—Transmitter and receiver block diagram for the OFDM PHY

Table 17-11—Major parameters of the OFDM PHY

Information data rate	**6, 9, 12, 18, 24, 36, 48, and 54 Mb/s (6, 12, and 24 Mb/s are mandatory) (20 MHz channel spacing)**	**3, 4.5, 6, 9, 12, 18, 24, and 27 Mb/s (3, 6, and 12 Mb/s are mandatory) (10 MHz channel spacing)**	**1.5, 2.25, 3, 4.5, 6, 9, 12, and 13.5 Mb/s (1.5, 3, and 6 Mb/s are mandatory) (5 MHz channel spacing)**
Modulation	BPSK OFDM QPSK OFDM 16-QAM OFDM 64-QAM OFDM	BPSK OFDM QPSK OFDM 16-QAM OFDM 64-QAM OFDM	BPSK OFDM QPSK OFDM 16-QAM OFDM 64-QAM OFDM
Error correcting code	K = 7 (64 states) convolutional code	K = 7 (64 states) convolutional code	K = 7 (64 states) convolutional code
Coding rate	1/2, 2/3, 3/4	1/2, 2/3, 3/4	1/2, 2/3, 3/4
Number of subcarriers	52	52	52
OFDM symbol duration	4.0 µs	8.0 µs	16.0 µs
GI	0.8 µs* (T_{GI})	1.6 µs (T_{GI})	3.2 µs (T_{GI})
Occupied bandwidth	16.6 MHz	8.3 MHz	4.15 MHz

*Refer to 17.3.2.4.

17.3.8.2 Regulatory requirements

WLANs implemented in accordance with this standard are subject to equipment certification and operating requirements established by regional and national regulatory administrations. The PMD specification establishes minimum technical requirements for interoperability, based upon established regulations at the time this standard was issued. These regulations are subject to revision, or may be superseded. Requirements that are subject to local geographic regulations are annotated within the PMD specification. Regulatory requirements that do not affect interoperability are not addressed in this standard. Implementers are referred to the regulatory sources in Annex I for further information. Operation in countries within defined regulatory domains may be subject to additional or alternative national regulations.

17.3.8.3 Operating channel frequencies

17.3.8.3.1 Operating frequency range

The OFDM PHY shall operate in the 5 GHz band, as allocated by a regulatory body in its operational region. Spectrum allocation in the 5 GHz band is subject to authorities responsible for geographic-specific regulatory domains (e.g., global, regional, and national). The particular channelization to be used for this standard is dependent on such allocation, as well as the associated regulations for use of the allocations. These regulations are subject to revision, or may be superseded.

In some regulatory domains, several frequency bands may be available for OFDM PHY-based WLANs. These bands may be contiguous or not, and different regulatory limits may be applicable. A compliant OFDM PHY shall support at least one frequency band in at least one regulatory domain. The support of specific regulatory domains, and bands within the domains, shall be indicated by PLME attributes dot11RegDomainsSupported and dot11FrequencyBandsSupported.

17.3.8.3.2 Channel numbering

Channel center frequencies are defined at every integral multiple of 5 MHz above Channel starting frequency. The relationship between center frequency and channel number is given by Equation (17-27):

$$\text{Channel center frequency} = \text{Channel starting frequency} + 5 \times n_{ch} \text{ (MHz)} \tag{17-27}$$

where

$n_{ch} = 0,1,\ldots200$

Channel starting frequency is defined as dot11ChannelStartingFactor × 500 kHz or is defined as 5 GHz for systems where dot11RegulatoryClassesRequired is false or not defined.

For example, dot11ChannelStartingFactor = 10000 indicates that Channel zero center frequency is 5.000 GHz. The value NULL for n_{ch} shall be reserved, and a channel center frequency of 5.000 GHz shall be indicated by dot11ChannelStartingFactor = 8000 and n_{ch} = 200. An SME managing multiple channel sets can change the channel set being managed by changing the value of dot11ChannelStartingFactor.

This definition provides a unique numbering system for all channels with 5 MHz between center frequencies, as well as the flexibility to define channelization sets for all current and future regulatory domains.