Physical Layer: Theory

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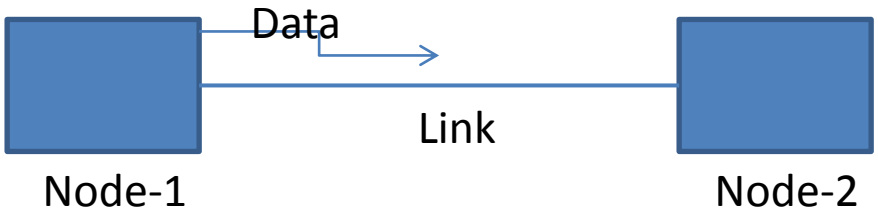
Recap

- Nodes generate data (bits: 1's and 0's)
- Links carry signals in the form of electromagnetic waves
- Task on hand: Convert data into signals
  - Process termed: Encoding/Modulation
- First: Some Theory



Link Characteristics

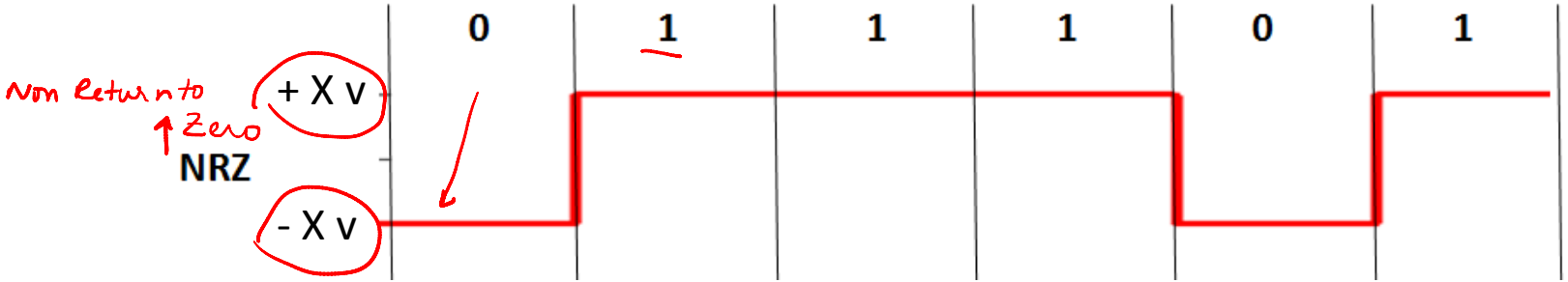
- Data Rate: How many bits per second can be transferred on the link? (expressed in bps,kbps,Mbps,Gbps)
- Loss rate: What is the probability of packet error (or bit error) rate on the link?
- Delay: How much time does it take for the bits to reach other end?

Simple Encoding

- Data: 101111011

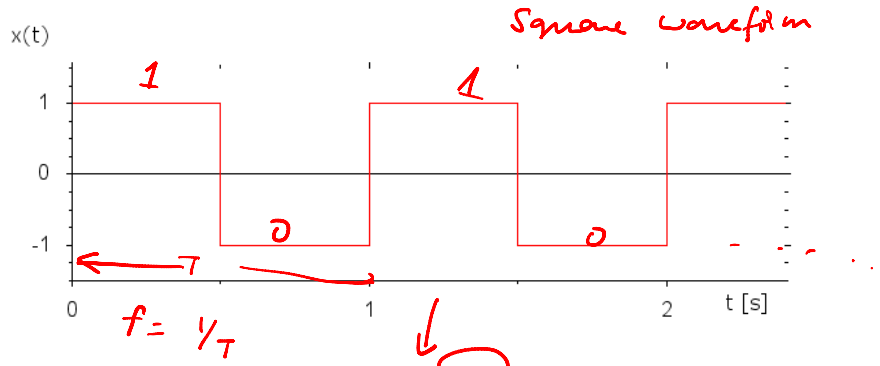
~~I will follow the wire, reach other end and convey the data in person~~

- How would you send the data over the wires?



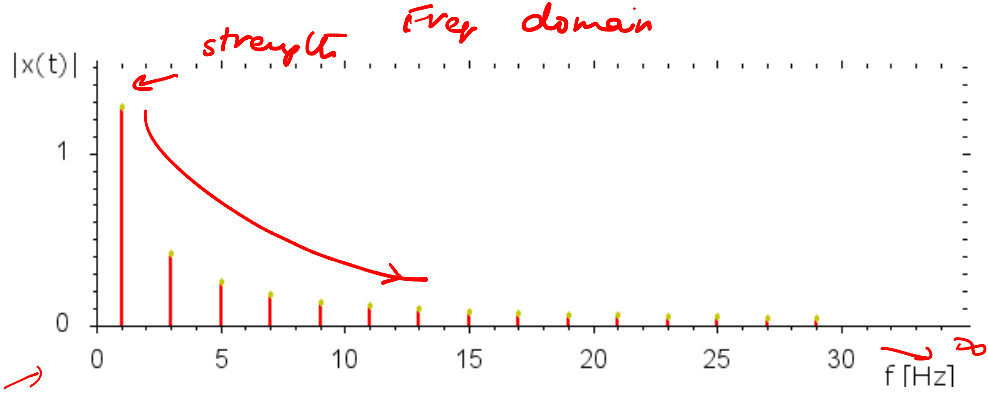
Signals and Bandwidth

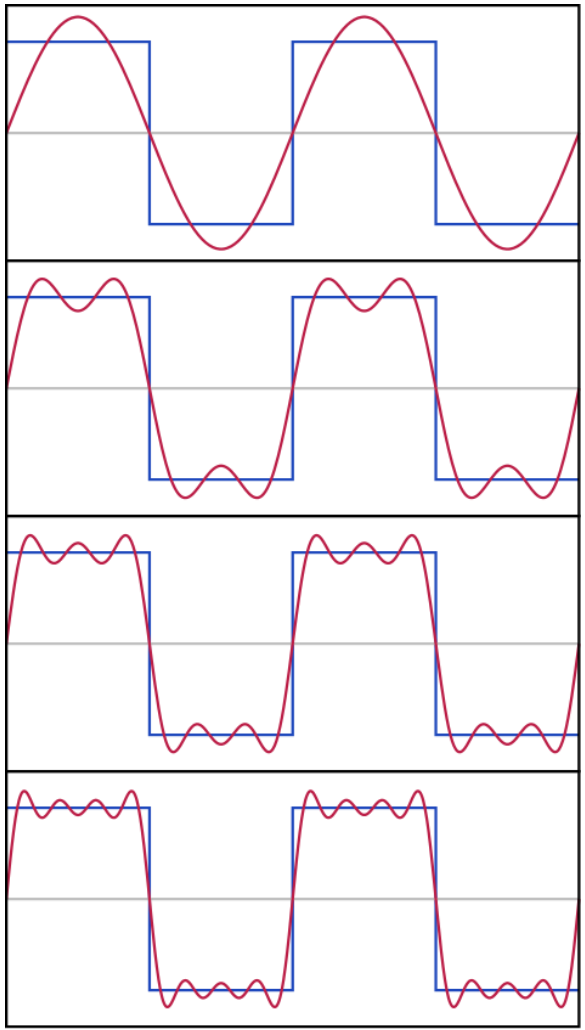
- Fourier Analysis shows that any signal can be decomposed to sinusoids of different amplitude, frequency and phases



$$s(t) = A \times \frac{4}{\pi} \times \sum_{k\ \text{odd}, k=1}^{\infty} \frac{\sin(2\pi k f t)}{k}$$

f, 3f, 5f, 7f . . .





f → fundamental freq
$= \frac{1}{T}$

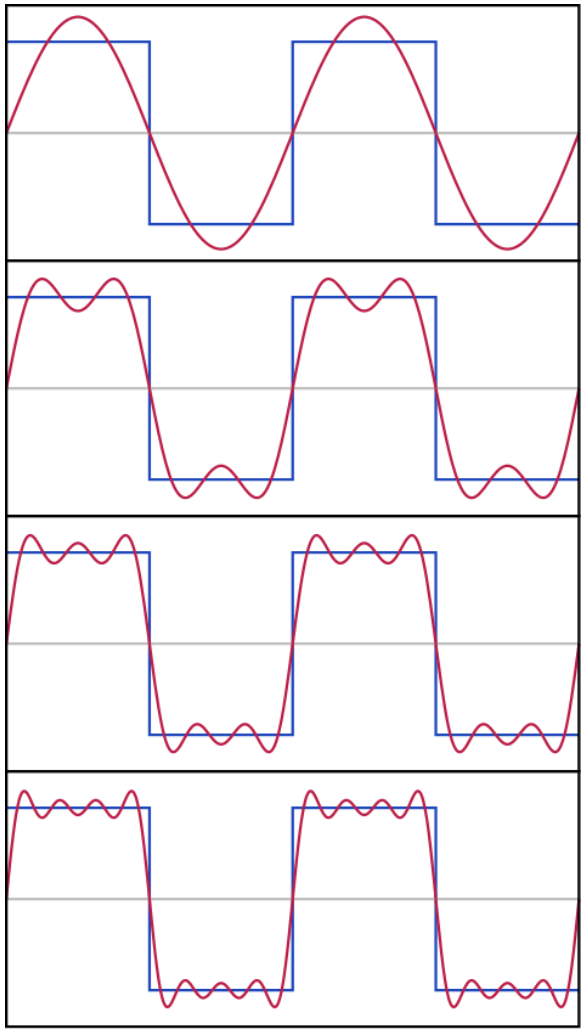
$$(4/\pi)\,[\sin(2\pi ft)]$$

$$(4/\pi)\,[\sin(2\pi ft) + (1/3)\sin(2\pi(3f)t)]$$

f, 3f

$$(4/\pi)\,[\sin(2\pi ft) + (1/3)\sin(2\pi(3f)t) + (1/5)\sin(2\pi(5f)t)]$$

$$(4/\pi)\,[\sin(2\pi ft) + (1/3)\sin(2\pi(3f)t) + (1/5)\sin(2\pi(5f)t) + (1/7)\sin(2\pi(7f)t)]$$



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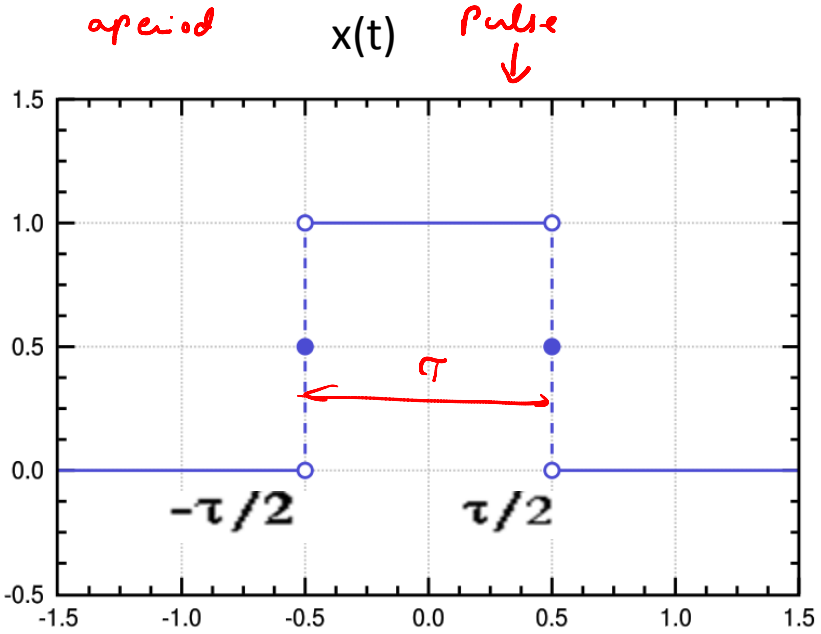
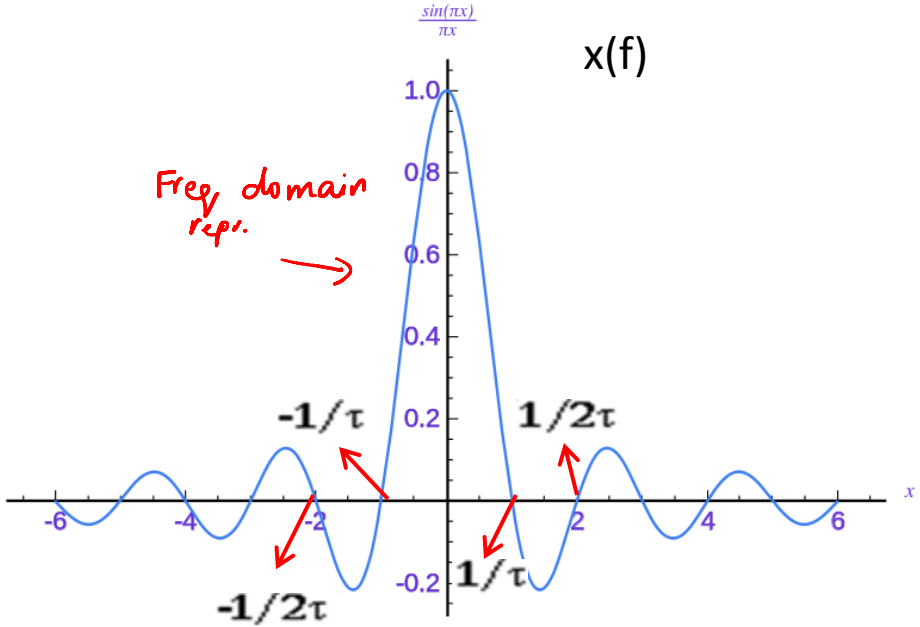
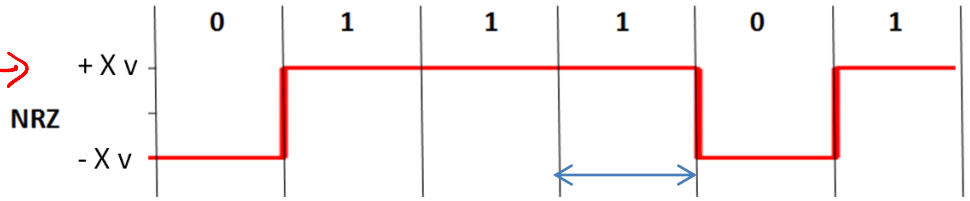


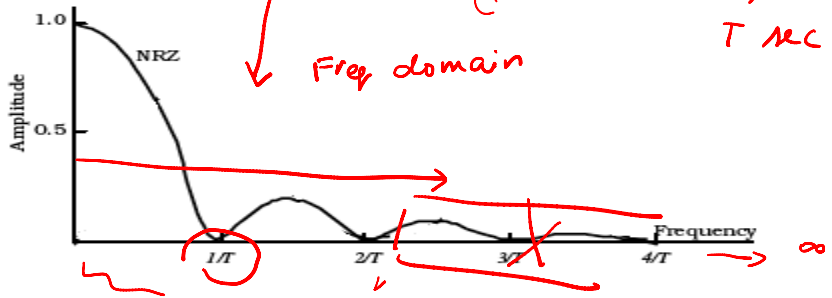


Fourier Transform

NRZ bandwidth

- Spectrum of a signal: Range of frequencies it contains
- Bandwidth: width of the spectrum
  - First Null Bandwidth = 1/T

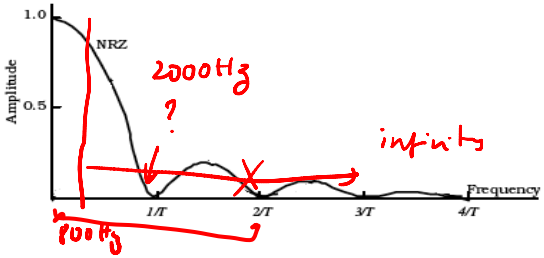




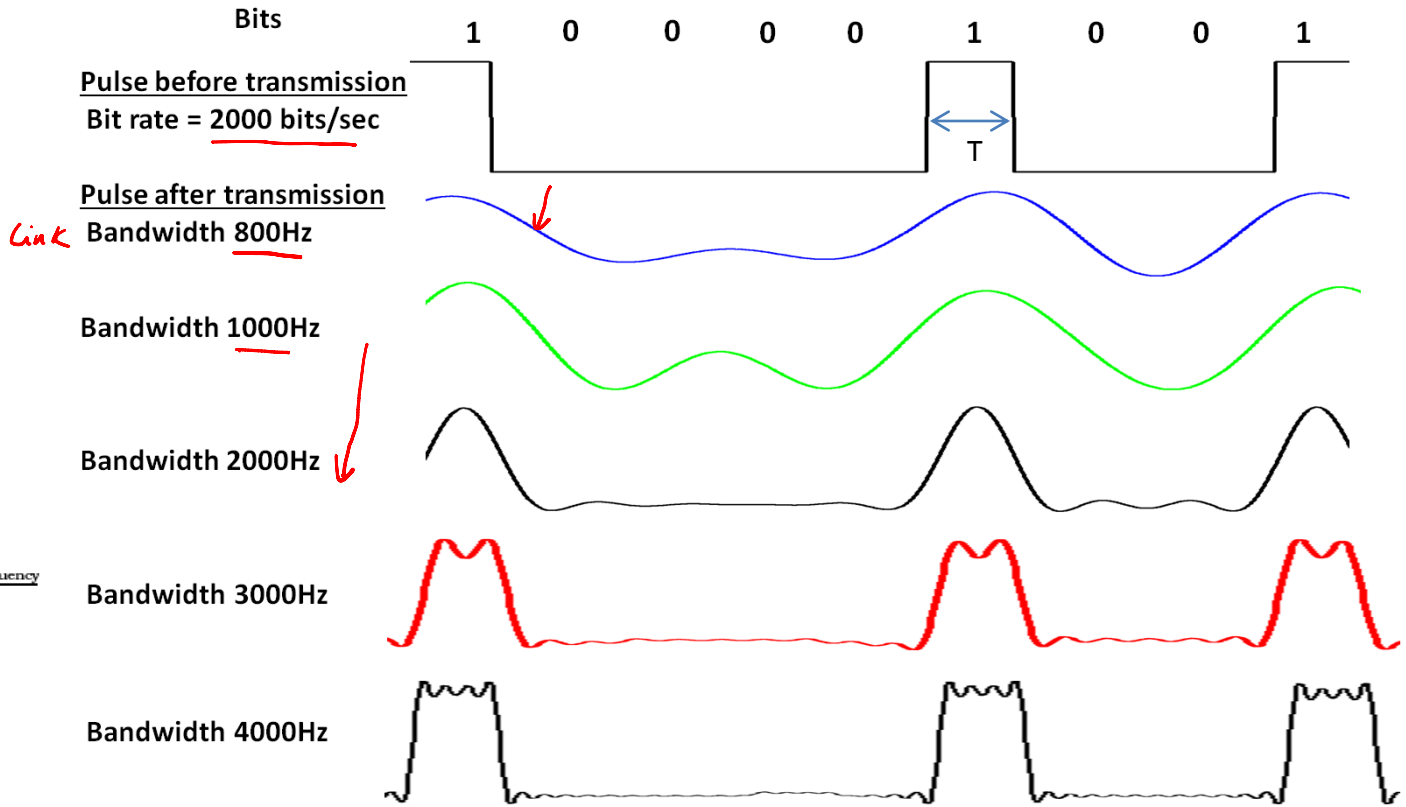
Spectrum of a random NRZ signal

Link Bandwidth

- How much link bandwidth do I need to recover signal?



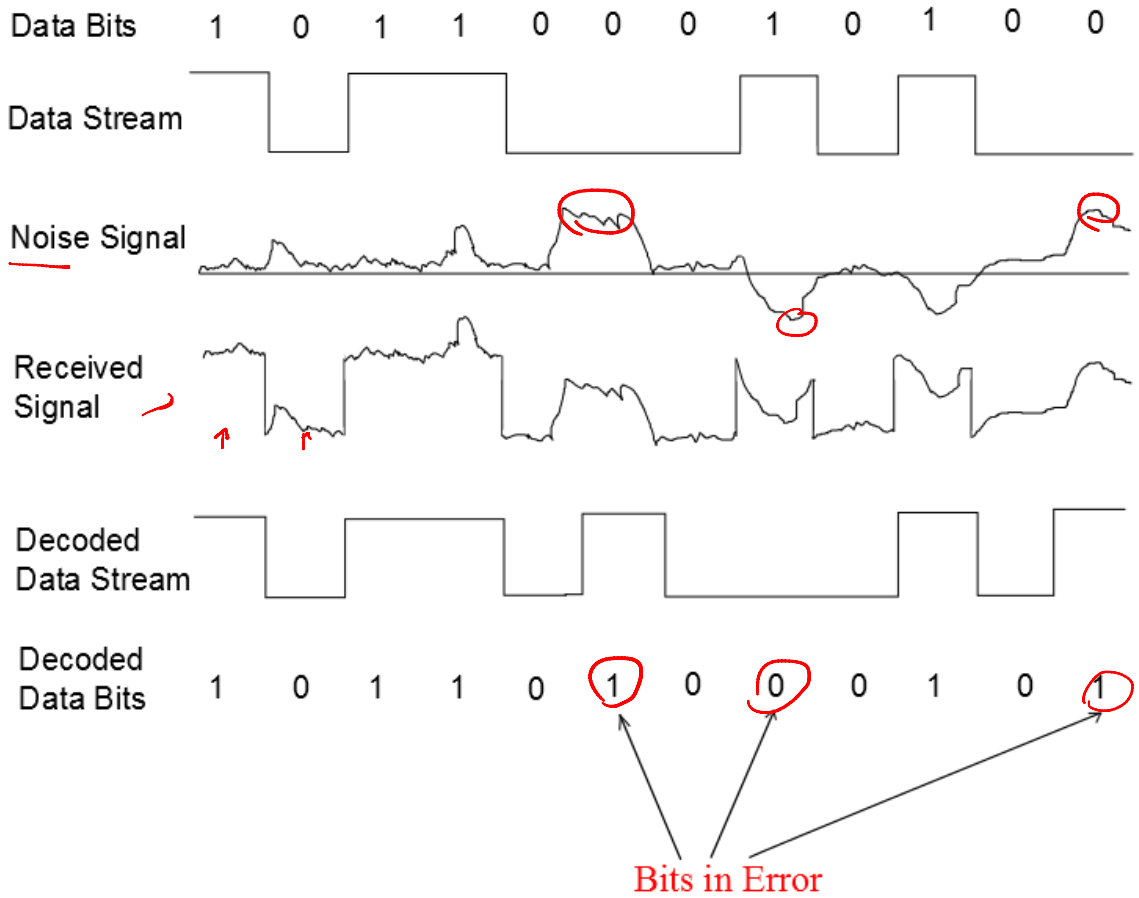
Random NRZ Signal Bandwidth



Nyquist Rate

- The number of independent pulses that could be put through a channel per unit time is limited to twice the bandwidth of the channel
- $f_p <= 2B$
  - f_p is pulse rate (number of pulses/sec)
  - B is bandwidth of the channel
- Example: Binary pulse with rate 2000 bps needs link bandwidth of at least 1000 Hz

Effect of Noise



2000bit/sec
1000 Hz
infinite link BW

Shannon's Theorem

- Provides an upper bound to the capacity (bps) of a link
- $C = B \log_2 (1 + S/N)$ bits/sec
  - C: capacity (bps), B: channel bandwidth (Hz), S/N: signal to noise ratio
  - S/N often expressed in dB, $10\log_{10}(S/N)$
    - E.g. 30dB corresponds to a ratio of 1000
- Example: Data over telephone line calculation
- B = 3300Hz – 300Hz = 3000Hz; S/N = 1000 (30db); C ~ 30kbps

Implications

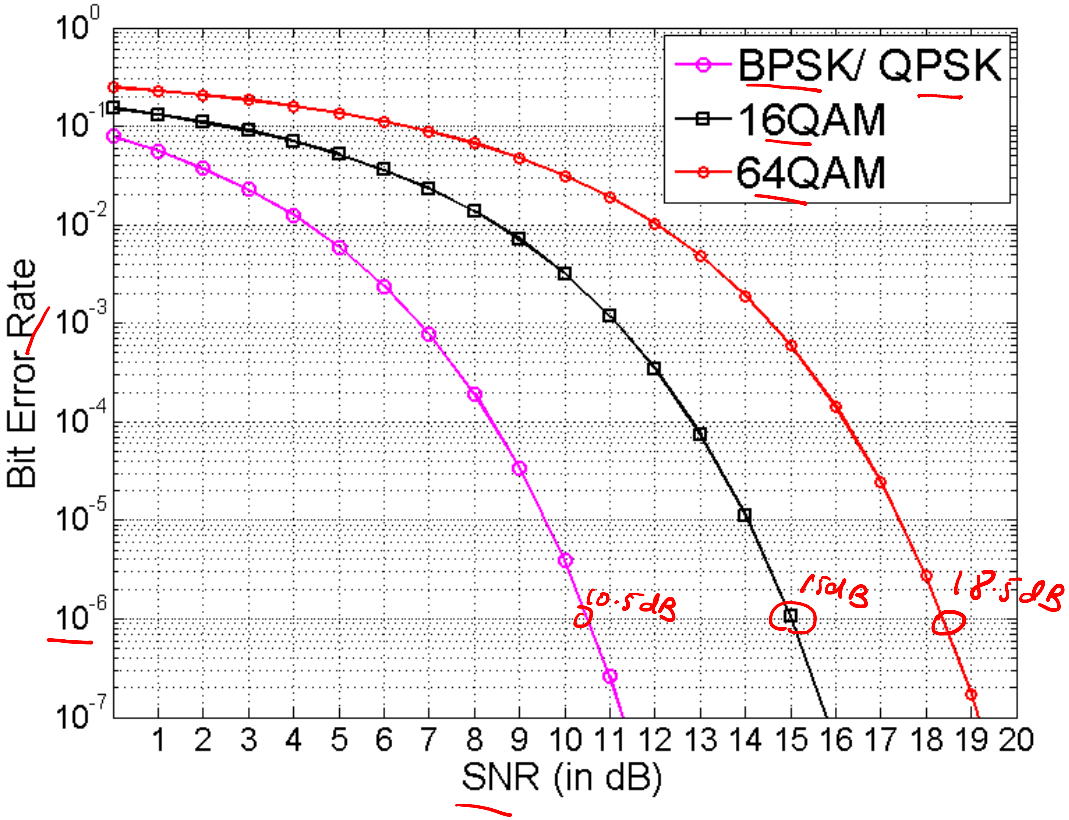
- If R < C, there exists a coding technique which permits transmission of data with arbitrary small error
  - The theorem does not specify how to reach this bound
  - Real systems rarely achieve this upper bound
  - E.g. WiFi: 64-QAM Modulation operating in 20Mhz bandwidth needs SNR of 27dB for packet error rate under 10% to provide 54Mbps
    - R is 54Mbps rate, B is 20Mhz band,, C is 124Mbps
- If R > C, the probability of error increases without bound

Error Rate

- What is the probability of bit error on a link?
- Function of received SNR and type of modulation
- For a given modulation, charts of SNR vs BER are often provided

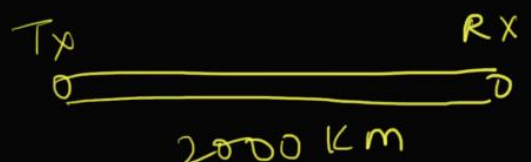
Bit Error Rate (BER)

- Packet Error Rate (PER) = $1-(1-BER)^N$, where N is the size of packet in bits
  - BER 10^{-8}, PER = 0.008%
- Typical BERs:
  - Wireless ~ 10^{-6}, Twisted Pair ~ 10^{-8}, Fiber-optics ~ 10^{-9} to 10^{-12}



Propagation Delay

- Time required for a bit to propagate from beginning of link to end of the link
  - Depends on speed of light in the medium (S) & distance (D)
    - speed of light: $2* 10^8$ to $3 * 10^8$ m/s
  - Formula: D/S
- Note that Transmission delay(TD) is different from propagation delay
  - TD(sec) = Length of the packet (bits)/Data rate(bps)

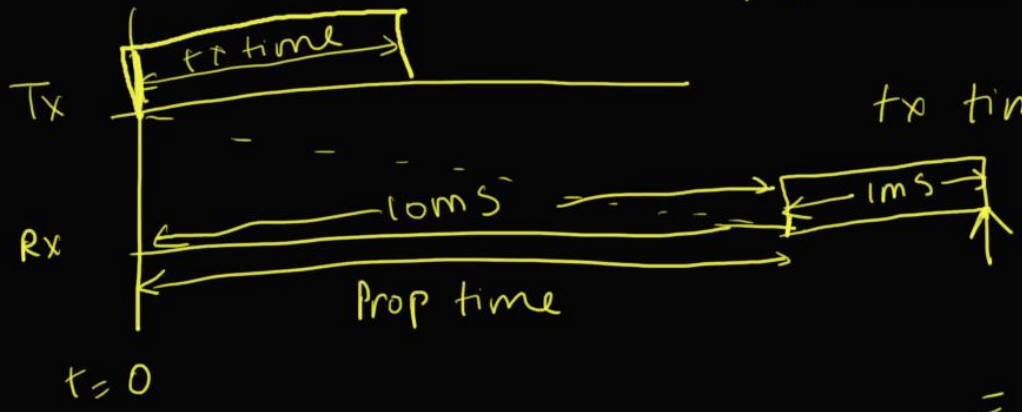


$D = 2000\ Km = 2 \times 10^6\ m$

$S = 2 \times 10^8\ m/s$

$R = 1\ Mbps = 10^6\ bps$

$P = 1000\ bits$



$$\text{tx time} = \frac{P}{R} = \frac{1000}{10^6} = 1\ ms$$

$$\text{Prop time} = D/S$$

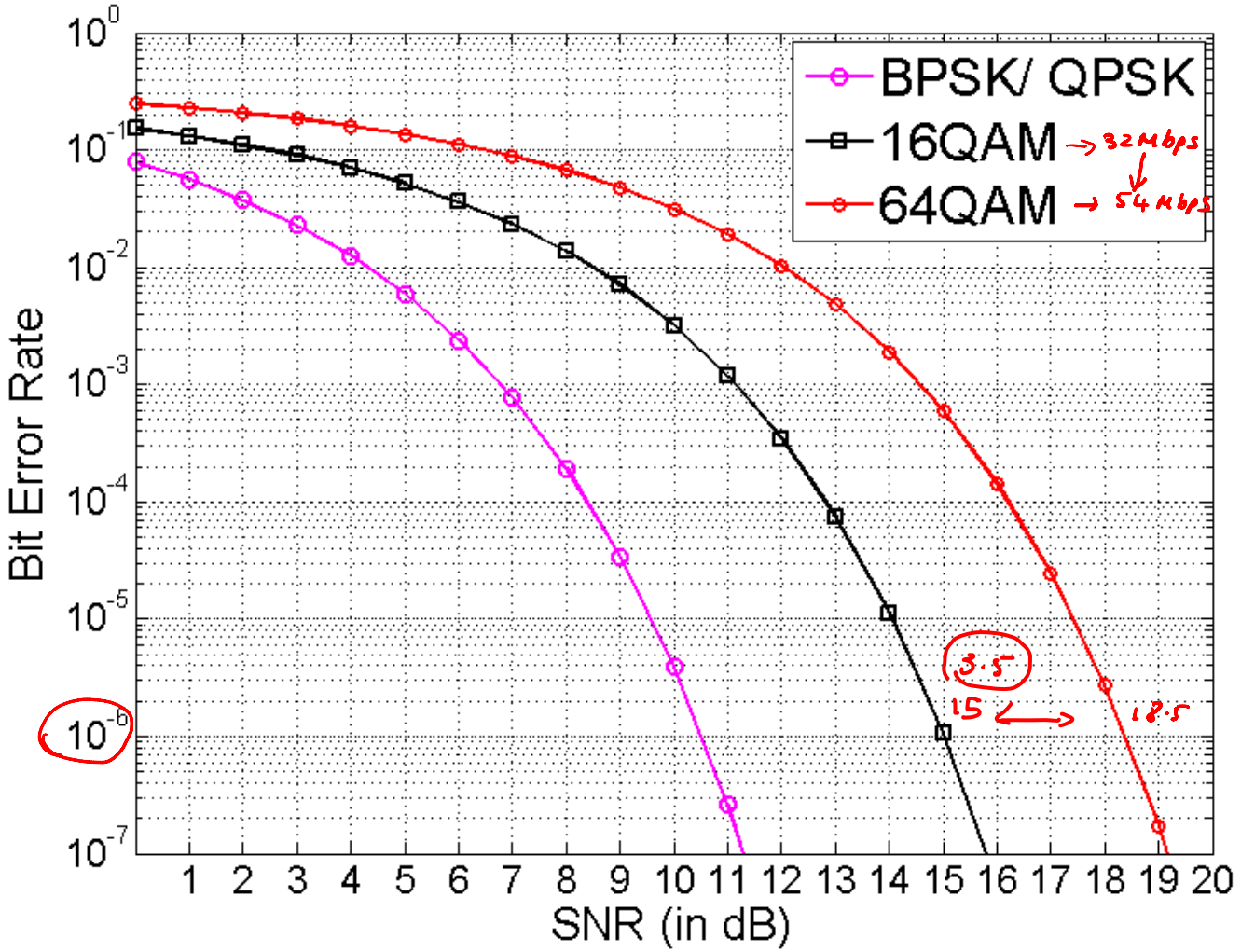
$$= \frac{2 \times 10^6}{2 \times 10^8} = 10\ ms$$

$10\ ms + 1\ ms$

$= 11\ ms \leftarrow$ fully receive the packet

Goals of Modulation

- Bandwidth Efficiency: Data-rate/bandwidth-required, bps/Hz
  - Goal: Try to reach Shannon limit
  - Real Systems: Ranges from 0.001 to 16
- Power Efficiency: Energy per bit/N_o
  - N_o is noise power spectral density
  - Goal: Minimize SNR required for a given BER
- Tradeoff bandwidth efficiency and power efficiency
  - Can achieve high BW only at the expense of more energy per bit


BPSK/ QPSK
16QAM → 32 Mbps
64QAM → 54 Mbps
Bit Error Rate
SNR (in dB)
10^{0}
10^{-1}
10^{-2}
10^{-3}
10^{-4}
10^{-5}
10^{-6}
10^{-7}
1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20
13.5
15
18.5

Summary

- Signals and frequency domain representation (bandwidth they occupy)
- How many bits per sec can be sent on a link?
  - Upper bounded by Shannon theorem
  - In reality, depends on medium and modulation
- What is the packet error rate?
  - Function of BER which is determined by SNR and modulation
- Signal corresponding to a bit takes time to propagate
  - Propagation delay is function of speed of light in medium and distance
- Goals of Modulation