Electrical Engineering Department University of Delaware Technical Report 95-8-1 August 1995

## An Optimal Linear Receiver and Codec for a Class of Radiotelegraph Signals

David L. Mills Revised February 1996

## **Abstract**

This report describes a digital modem for narrowband, direct printing radiotelegraph signals commonly used for data communications in the decametric (3-30 MHz) radio spectrum. The digital modem functions as an ideal linear receiver/codec which replaces older analog modems used with conventional radio transceivers and printing devices. The modem uses advanced filtering and decoding techniques made possible with modern digital signal processing chips operating at speeds of 10 MIPS or higher. The design includes FIR filters and interleaved matched filters at RF, nonlinear estimators and classifiers at baseband, and symbol correlators individually matched to the signalling code alphabet in the decoders. A full set of buffering, transceiver/printer control and parameter adjustment commands is included.

While intended primarily as a design exercise in the application of modern DSP technology to conventional radio systems, this report can be useful, for example, as a tutorial exercise in a laboratory course in computer engineering or digital signal processing. The report includes a detailed description of the algorithms used at the RF, baseband and codec stages of processing, as well as a discussion and comparison with related designs based on older analog technology. It can be used as the basis for a sequence of laboratory experiments, for example, by modifying software modules used for specific purposes.

Keywords: digital signal processing, ideal linear receiver, matched filter decoder, Viterbi algorithm, narrowband direct printing radiotelegraph.

Sponsored by: Electrical Engineering Department, University of Delaware.

## **Table of Contents**

1.	Introduction	
2.	Design Approach	. 2
3.	Hardware Functional Description	. 3
4.	Software Functional Description	. 5
4.1.	RF Bandpass Filtering and Limiting Functions	. 6
4.2.	Channel Filters	. 8
4.3.	Baseband Processing	10
4.4.	RTTY Decoder	13
4.5.	SITOR Decoder	15
4.6.	Transmitter Signal Generation	17
4.7.	Character Buffering and Translation Operations	
4.8.	Half/Full-Duplex Modes	
5.	Implementation Overview	
6.	Performance Assessment	
6.1.	Analytical Performance Analysis	
6.2.	Simulation Results	
6.3.	Proof of Performance	
7.	Conclusions	
8.	References	
A.	Appendix A. Operating Notes	
A.1.	Tuning Instructions	
A.2.	Command Interpretation	
A.3.	LED Indicators	
A.4.	Oscilloscope Signals	
A.5.	Bugs	
В.	Appendix B. Word Error Rate for Asynchronous Radiotelegraph Signals	
B.1.	Introduction	
B.2.	RTTY Decoder Variants	
B.3.	Markov Models	
B.4.	Discussion of Results	
C.	Appendix C. Modem Data Carrier Detector Signal	
С.	Appendix C. Wodeni Butu Currier Betector biginar	10
	List of Figures	
Figure 1	. DSP-93 Hardware Functional Diagram	. 4
Figure 2	. Software Block Diagram	. 5
Figure 3	. 170-Hz Bandpass Filter Response	. 7
Figure 4	. 850-Hz Bandpass Filter Response	. 7
Figure 5	. Mark/Space Channel Filters	. 8
Figure 6	. 850-Hz IIR Discriminator Response	. 9
	. 170-Hz Matched Filter Discriminator Response	
Figure 8	. RTTY Signal Structure	10
	. Automatic Threshold Compensator	
	0. Carrier Gate	
Figure 1	1. RTTY Decoder	13

Figure 12. CCIR 476 Signal Structure	16
Figure 13. SITOR Decoder	17
Figure 14. Transmitter Encoder/AFSK Synthesizer	18
Figure 15. Duplex Modes	20
Figure 16. Computed Bit and Word Error Probabilities	24
Figure 17. Simulated Predection Filters and Demodulator	26
Figure 18. Simulated SITOR Decoder	27
Figure 19. Simulated RTTY Decoder	28
Figure 20. Test Message - Digital Modem	29
Figure 21. Test Message - Analog Modem	30
Figure A1. DSP93 Front Panel	37
Figure B1. Asynchronous Character Framing	39
Figure B2. Markov Model for Case 2	41
Figure B3. Transition Probability Matrices	42
Figure B4. Word Error Rate vs. Bit Error Rate	44
Figure C1. Simulated SITOR Decoder	
Figure C2. Simulated RTTY Decoder	48
List of Tables	
Table A1. Command Summary	35
Table A2. Command Summary (Continued)	
Table B1. Word Error Probabilities	