Digital Radio Design with Matlab

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Abstract— In this work, a system of Digital Radio or Software-defined Radio was built and simulated. The approach was by building function blocks one-by-one. The simulation was done in Matlab. Impairments were included to make the simulation closer to the real life. The solution for each impairments or nonideal factors were provided and used to neutralize the nonideal effect.

Index Terms— Digital Radio, Software-defined Radio, Digital communication.

I. INTRODUCTION

DESIGN was done in two main phases. In the first phase, it was assumed that all the models were ideal. The main purpose of this phase is to make sure that all the blocks in the transmitter and receiver, including the channel, work. This idealized design also gave the big picture how the transmitter and receiver work. Figure 1 shows the block diagram of the design. The second phase includes some nonideal factors into the building blocks introduced in the first phase. This phase tried to simulate the implementation of digital radio in the real life with its nonideal issues, e.g., nonideal channel, noise, etc. This report mainly summarizes the result of the simulation for nonideal case. Table 1 summarizes all the nonideal factors discussed and its solutions.

Nonideal factors	Solutions
Phase offset	Carrier recovery
Noise	Matched filter and coding
Time offset of pulse shaping	Clock recovery
channel	equalizer

Table 1. Nonideal factors and its solutions.

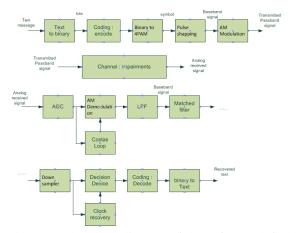


Figure 1. The block diagram of the software defined radio. A larger version is available at the end of this report.

Specification	
Symbol	4 PAM
Carrier Frequency	20 Hz
Oversampling factor	100
SRRC's width	0.5
F cut-off LPF	22 Hz
LPF's length	100
Coding	blockcode (5,2)

Table 2. Specification.

The rest of this report is organized as follows. Section II discusses the detail of each building blocks of the Software-defined Radio (SDR). Section III shows simulation result. In this section, a simple text is used as an input which later is transmitted, received, and decoded to get the original message. At the end, a short summary closes this report.

II. BUILDING BLOCKS

The detail of each building blocks is described here. The building blocks can be listed as follow.

A. TRANMITTER

- 1. Text to binary
- 2. Encode
- 3. Binary to 4PAM
- 4. Pulse shaping
- 5. AM modulation

B. CHANNEL: impairments

- 1. ISI
- 2. Gaussian noise
- 3. Frequency offset
- 4. Phase offset
- 5. Symbol period offset

C. RECEIVER

- 1. AGC
- 2. Costas Loop
- 3. AM demodulation
- 4. LPF
- 5. Matched filter
- 6. Clock recovery
- 7. Down sampler
- 8. Decision device
- 9. Decode
- 10. Binary to text

The discussion follows the flow from Figure 1.

A. TRANMITTER

1. Text to binary

Function: Translate the text into its binary representation (ASCII).

2. Encode

Function: Encode the binary into a certain format which is more noise resistance. Encoding results redundancy because the data is larger than the original. However, with this encoding, errors can be detected and corrected.

The format used in this encoding is called blockcode(5,2). This encoding forms packages from the original data. Each package contains 2 bits. Packages is multiplied with a matrix generator G. The multiplication will result unique 5 bit binary. The pairs are as follow.

 $00 \leftarrow \to 00000$

01 ←→01011

10 ←→10101

11 ←→11110

The matrix generator:

$$G = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 & 1 & 0 & 1 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 & 1 & 1 \end{bmatrix}$$

This discussion will be continued later in the decoding part.

3. Binary to 4PAM

Function: translate 2 bit binary into 4PAM.

If the transmission were done using binary format, it would be hard to distinguish between data '0' (bit zero) and no transmission. For this reason, 4 PAM format is used.

The conversion is described as follow.

00 ←→-3

01 ←→-1

10 ←→1

11 **←→**3

4. Pulse shaping

Function: converting the digital data into analog signal.

Before transmitting the digital data, it must be converted into analog signal. Pulse shaping generates an analog signal whose values represent the digital data. In this design, the Square Root Raised Cosine (SRRC) function was used to shape the pulse. The SRRC equation is written as follow.

$$srrc(t) = \begin{cases} \frac{1}{\sqrt{T}} \frac{\sin\left(\frac{\pi(1-\beta)t}{T}\right) + \left(\frac{4\beta t}{T}\right)\cos\left(\frac{\pi(1+\beta)t}{T}\right)}{\left(\frac{\pi t}{T}\right)\left(1 - \left(\frac{\beta t}{T}\right)^2\right)} & \dots & t \neq 0, t \neq \pm \frac{T}{4\beta} \end{cases} \\ srrc(t) = \begin{cases} \frac{1}{\sqrt{T}} \left(1 - \beta + \left(\frac{4\beta}{\pi}\right)\right) & \dots & t = 0 \end{cases} \\ \frac{1}{\sqrt{T}} \left(1 - \beta + \left(\frac{4\beta}{\pi}\right)\right) & \dots & t = 0 \end{cases} \\ \frac{\beta}{\sqrt{2T}} \left[\left(1 + \frac{2}{\pi}\right)\sin\left(\frac{\pi}{4\beta}\right) + \left(1 - \frac{2}{\pi}\right)\cos\left(\frac{\pi}{4\beta}\right)\right] & \dots & t = \pm \frac{T}{4\beta} \end{cases}$$

5. AM modulation

Function: modulate the analog signal into a passband signal.

Efficient transmission requires an antennae with length of 1/10 of the wavelength. So higher carrier

frequency transmission requires shorter antennae. However, simulation using higher carrier frequency require more computational recourse. In this work, the carrier frequency was 20 Hz, much lower than the recommended carrier frequency (2 MHz according to M6 Specification).

B. CHANNEL: impairments

1. Fading

Fading effect simulate the moving transmitter and/or receiver.

2. Inter-symbol Interference (ISI)

ISI describe the overlapping of 2 symbols due to wider pulse width during pulse shaping.

3. Gaussian noise

Noise in the channel which is modeled as a Gaussian noise.

4. Frequency offset

This impairment describes the difference between the frequency in the transmitter and receiver.

5. Phase offset

This impairment describes the difference between the phase in the transmitter and receiver.

6. Symbol period offset

This impairment can cause inaccurate sampling time.

C. RECEIVER

1. AGC

Function: neutralize the fading effect.

AGC neutralize the fading by keeping the signal at a certain power.

2. Costas Loop

Function: estimate the phase of the transmitter oscillator so the receiver oscillator has negligible phase difference.

The Costas Loop diagram is shown in Figure 2.

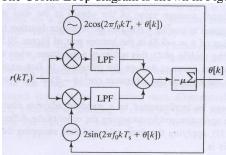


Figure 2. Costas Loop diagram.

3. AM demodulation

Function: demodulate passband signal into baseband signal. The phase estimated by the Costas Loop is used here.

4. LPF

Function: filtering the baseband signal.

The demodulation creates the baseband signal and some artifact at higher frequency. This LPF is used to get the baseband signal.

The transfer function of the LPF is written below.

$$Y(z) = \frac{b(1) + b(2)z^{-1} + \dots + b(nb+1)z^{-nb}}{1 + a(2)z^{-1} + \dots + a(na+1)z^{-na}}X(z)$$

The cut off frequency of this filter is 22 Hz

5. Matched filter

Function: increase SNR.

To maximize the SNR, the same filter used in the pulse shaping in the transmitter must be used in the receiver. In this case, it is the SCCR function.

6. Clock recovery

Function: estimate the frequency offset.

It is important to sampling the signal at the right time to get a correct information. Frequency offset can make the system sample at the wrong time.

7. Down sampler

Function: converting the baseband signal into the symbol frequency.

This is required so the amplitude of the signal can be determined later by the decision device.

8. Decision device

Function: translate the amplitude value into 4 PAM.

9. Decode

Function: translate the 4 PAM into binary.

The binary data is multiplied with matrix H^{T} .

$$H^{T} = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 & 1 \\ 0 & 1 & 1 \\ 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix}$$

If there is no errors, the product of two matrix would result 0. In case there are some errors, subtract the corresponded value found in the error table from the multiplication result. This subtraction result would be one of the four possible 5-digit values describe in the transmitter. (See Encode part.)

This method can also correct maximum 1 wrong bit out of 5. Coding also increase the security of the transmission.

10. Binary to text

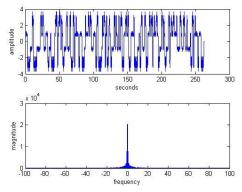
Function: translate the ASCII into text.

III. SIMULATION

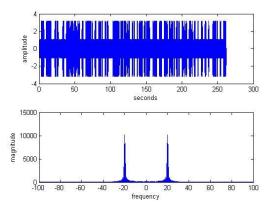
The Matlab code was written to simulate the nonideal transmission and decode back in the receiver to get the original text.

The transmitted text: "A0Oh well whatever Nevermindl". The simulation result reported below follows the process sequence described in the block diagram in Figure 1.

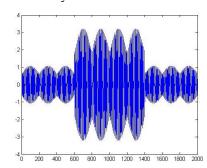
1. Encoding text into 4 PAM



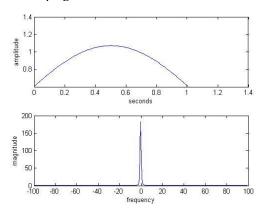
2. Modulated signal



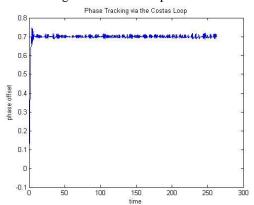
3. The first 10 symbols from the modulated signal



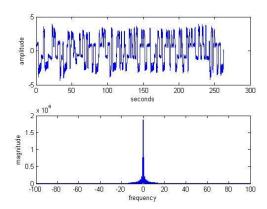
4. Pulse shaping



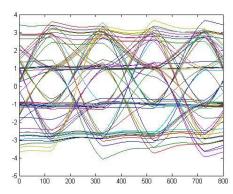
Phase tracking with Costas Loop



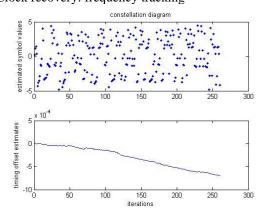
6. Demodulated signal



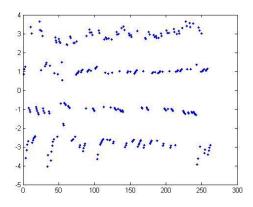
7. Eye diagram after matched filter



8. Clock recovery: frequency tracking



9. 4 PAM Data (after decoding)



This is the resulted text in the receiver:

ytext =

A0Oh wmll whatever Nevermindl

percentage_symbol_errors =

1.1450

It can be seen there was 1 wrong character. This is caused by the bad result in the frequency tracking. From the picture in the Clock recovery section, it can be seen the system could not estimate and track the frequency offset. It deviates far from zero. Such offset caused the decision device to misinterpret the amplitude. This is shown in the resulted 4 PAM signal in the diagram above (No. 9). There are some points which are located far from the correct 4 PAM values (+3, +1, -1, -3).

Other parts of the system work well. For example, the carrier recovery which successfully track the phase offset and the LPF that filters out the higher frequency signal.

IV. SUMMARY

The system works perfectly under the condition close to ideal. If there were so many impairments, the clock recovery block could not track the frequency offset correctly. This caused bad 4 PAM signal i.e., data points were spread out about the correct 4 PAM values (+3, +1, -1, -3).

V. REFERENCES

C.R. Johnson and W.A. Sethares, *Telecommunications Breakdown:*Concepts of Communication Transmitted via Software-Defined Radio,
Prentice Hall, 2003.

Appendix

1. TRANSMITTER: CHANNEL: RECEIVER

```
clear all
% specification of impairments
cng=input('channel noise gain: try 0, 0.6 or 2 :: ');
cdi=input('channel multipath: 0 for none, 1 for mild or 2 for harsh ::
fo =input('tranmsitter mixer freq offset in %: try 0 or 0.01 :: ');
po =input('tranmsitter mixer phase offset in rad: try 0, 0.7 or 0.9 ::
toper=input('baud timing offset as % of symb period: try 0, 20 or 30 ::
so=input('symbol period offset: try 0 or 1 :: ');
                                                                                              ');
%TRANSMITTER
  % encode text string as T-spaced PAM (+/-1, +/-3) sequence str2='01234 I wish I were an Oscar Mayer wiener 56789 '; str3 = 'AOOh well whatever Nevermindl '; str4 - 'Awall'.
n=text2bin(str3);
                                   % change text into 7 bit binary using text2bin
                     ,
%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%
% encode
% biner to 4-PAM
% biner to 4-PAM
j=1; mpam=zeros(1,ceil(length(coded_txt)/2));
for i=1:2:length(coded_txt)-1
    if coded_txt(i:i+1)==[0,0], mpam(j)=-3; end
    if coded_txt(i:i+1)==[0,1], mpam(j)=-1; end
    if coded_txt(i:i+1)==[1,0], mpam(j)=1; end
    if coded_txt(i:i+1)==[1,1], mpam(j)=3; end
    i=i+1.
                                                            % and then into 4-PAM
   j=j+1;
end
  N=length(mpam);
                                                             % 4-level signal of length N
% SRRC pulse filter with T/M-spaced impulse response
L=0.5; p=(14.0)*srrc(L,0.3,M,0.4);
x=filter(p,1,mup);
figure(1), plotspec(x,1/M)
                                                             % blip pulse of width M
                                               % convolve pulse shape with data
% baseband signal spectrum
                        % am modulation
t=1/M:1/M:length(x)/M;
                                               % T/M-spaced time vector
fc=20; % carrier frequency c=cos(2*pi*(fc*(1+0.01*fo))*t+po); % carrier with offsets relative to rec osc
                                               % modulate message with carrier
figure(2),plot(r(1:10*M));
figure(3), plotspec(r,1/M);
figure(4), plotspec(p,1/M);
%CHANNEL
%IMPAIRMENT : FADING
% apply profile to transmitted signal vector
if cdi < 0.5,
   mc=[1 0 0];
elseif cdi<1.5</pre>
                                        % channel ISI
                                        % distortion-free channel
  mc=[1 \text{ zeros}(1,M) \ 0.28 \text{ zeros}(1,2.3*M) \ 0.11]; \% \text{ mild multipath channel}
  mc=[1 \text{ zeros}(1,M) 0.28 \text{ zeros}(1,1.8*M) 0.44]; % harsh multipath channel
end
mc=mc/(sqrt(mc*mc'));
                                        % normalize channel power
                                        % filter transmitted signal through channel
% add Gaussian channel noise
dv=filter(mc,1,r);
nv=dv+cng*(randn(size(dv)));
to=floor(0.01*toper*M);
                                        % fractional period delay in sampler
% delay in on-symbol designation
% modified time vector with delayed message start
% receiver sampler timing offset (delay)
rnv=nv(1+to:end);
rt=(1+to)/M:1/M:length(nv)/M;
rM=M+so;
%RECEIVER
```

```
% automatic gain control (AGC)
g=zeros(1,lr); g(1)=1;
nr=zeros(1,lr);
mu=0.0003;
for i=1:lr-1
    nr(i)=g(i)*r(i);
    g(i+1)=g(i)-mu*(nr(i)^2-ds);
end
                                    % initialize gain
                                    % stepsize
                                    % AGC output
                                    % adapt gain
                                      % received signal is still called r
rnv=nr;
% pllconverge.m simulate costas loop
% input rsc from pulrecsig.m
rpll=rnv;
fl=100; ff=[0 .01 .02 1]; fa=[1 1 0 0];
h=remez(fl,ff,fa);
                                                   % rsc is from pulrecsig.m
                                                % LPF design
% algorithm stepsize
mu = .003:
                                             % assumed freq. at receiver
% initialize estimate vector
% initialize buffers for LPFs
fc=20:
theta=zeros(1,length(t)); theta(1)=0;
zs=zeros(1,fl+1); zc=zeros(1,fl+1);
for k=1:length(t)-1
  r k=1:length(t)-1
    zs=[zs(2:fl+1), 2*rpll(k)*sin(2*pi*fc*t(k)+theta(k))];
zc=[zc(2:fl+1), 2*rpll(k)*cos(2*pi*fc*t(k)+theta(k))];
lpfs=fliplr(h)*zs'; lpfc=fliplr(h)*zc'; % new output of filters theta(k+1)=theta(k)-mu*lpfs*lpfc; % algorithm update
figure(5),plot(t,theta),
title('Phase Tracking via the Costas Loop')
xlabel('time'); ylabel('phase offset')
theta;
phoff = theta;
               %am demodulation of received signal sequence r
% synchronized cosine for mixing
x3=2*filter(b,1,x2);
                                          % LPF and scale downconverted signal
figure(6),plotspec(x3,1/M)
             % receive filter H sub R
                                                                      %clock recovery algorithm
xcl = v; n = N; l = L;
tnow=l*M+1; tau=0; xs=zeros(1,n);
tausave=zeros(1,n); tausave(1)=tau; i=0;
                                                 % initialize variables
mu=0.003;
                                                 % algorithm stepsize
                                                 % time for derivative % run iteration
while tnow<length(xcl)-2*1*M
i=i+1;</pre>
delta=0.1;
  dx=x_deltap-x_deltam;
qx=quantalph(xs(i),[-3,-1,1,3]);
tau=tau+mu*dx*(qx-xs(i));
                                                 % quantize xs to nearest 4-PAM symbol
% alg update: DD
% save for plotting
  tnow=tnow+M; tausave(i)=tau;
figure(8), subplot(2,1,1), plot(xs(1:i-2), 'b.')
                                                          % plot constellation diagram
title('constellation diagram');
ylabel('estimated symbol values')
% plot trajectory of tau
tausave:
   % LSequalizer.m find a LS equalizer f for the channel b n=3; re=n; % length of equalizer - 1
delta=3:
                                       % use delay <=n*length(b)
p=length(re)-delta;
RE=toeplitz(re(n+1:p),re(n+1:-1:1)); % build matrix R
SE=re(n+1-delta:p-delta)'; % and vector SE
f=inv(RE'*RE)*RE'*SE % calculate equalizer f
```

2. Function block: blockcode52_encode

```
0 0 1 0 0;
1 0 0 0 0;
1 1 0 0 0;
mod_dat = mod(m, 10);
nmod = 0;
 if(mod_dat \sim 0)
      nmod = 10 - mod_dat;
for(j=1:nmod)
       dat(m+j) = 0;
m = length(dat);
k=1;
for i=1:2:m
   c=mod([dat(i) dat(i+1)]*g,2); % build codeword
for j=1:length(c)
   if rand<p, c(j)=-c(j)+1; end % flip bits with prob p</pre>
   y(k+1) = c(2);

y(k+2) = c(3);

y(k+3) = c(4);
    y(k+3) = c(4);

y(k+4) = c(5);

k = k + 5;
% kl=1;
% for i=1:2:m

    y1(1) = y(k1);
    y1(2) = y(k1+1);
    y1(3) = y(k1+2);
    y1(4) = y(k1+3);
    y1(5) = y(k1+4);
    k1 = k1+5;
    eh=mod(y1*h',2);
    ehind=eh(1)*4+eh(2)*2+eh(3)+1;
    well error
    y1=mod(y1-e,2);
    for j=1:max(size(x))
    if y1==cw(j,:), z(i:i+1)=x(j,:); end
    end
                                                         % multiply by parity check h'
% turn syndrome into index
% error from syndrome table
% add e to correct errors
                                                         % recover message from codewords
%
       end
% end
%err=sum(abs(z-dat))
                                                      % how many errors occurred
```

3. Function block: blockcode52_decode

```
% blockcode52.m Part 1: Definition of (5,2) binary linear block code% the generator and
parity check matrices

function z=blockcode52_decode(y);
% blockcode52.m Part 2: encoding and decoding data
%m=10000;
%length of message
%dat=0.5*(sign(rand(1,m)-0.5)+1); % m random 0s and 1s
m = length(y);
mod_dat = mod(m, 10);
nmod = 0;
if(mod_dat ~= 0)
    nmod = 10 - mod_dat;
end

for(j=1:nmod)
    y(m+j) = 0;
end

p=.0;
m = length(y)/2.5;
%Decoding
kl=1:m
for i=1:2:m
    y1(1) = y(k1);
    y1(2) = y(k1+1);
    y1(2) = y(k1+1);
    y1(3) = y(k1+2);
    y1(4) = y(k1+3);
    y1(5) = y(k1+4);
    k1 = k1+5;
eh=mod(y1*h, 2);
ehind=eh(1)*4+eh(2)*2+eh(3)+1;
    delication of the control of the cont
```

4. Block Diagram

