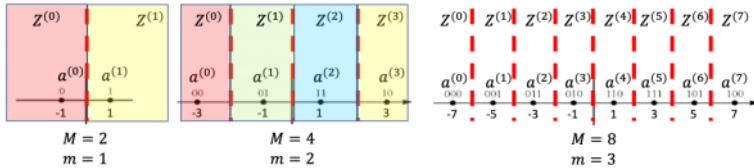


## Decision strategy



- Adopting the maximum likelihood criterion, we can partition the signal space in *zone of decisions*, where zone  $Z^{(i)}$  is the set of points that are closer to the symbol  $a^{(i)}$  than to any other symbol

$$Z^{(i)} = \{x | d(x, a^{(i)}) < d(x, a^{(j)}), j \neq i, j = 1, \dots, M\}$$



The decision threshold are in the midpoints of the segment connecting any two adjacent symbols. For example, for  $M = 4$  the thresholds are in  $-2, 0$  and  $2$ .

$$x(m) = a^{(i)} + n(m)$$

$$x(m) \in \mathcal{N}(a^{(i)}, \sigma^2)$$

## PAM error probability

- Even if the maximum likelihood decision strategy is optimal, the receiver still make errors due to the presence of noise.
- The error probability is averaged over all the symbol of the constellation

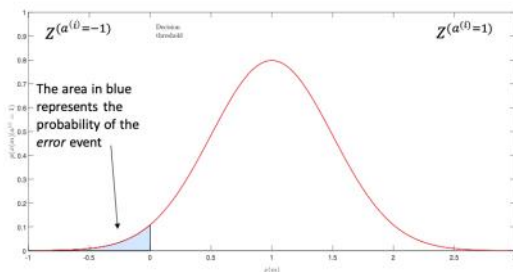
$$P_e = \lim_{N^{(s)} \rightarrow \infty} \frac{N_e^{(s)}}{N^{(s)}} = \frac{1}{M} \sum_{i=0}^{M-1} P(e | a^{(i)})$$

where  $N_e^{(s)}$  is the number of symbol errors and  $N^{(s)}$  is the number of transmitted symbols.

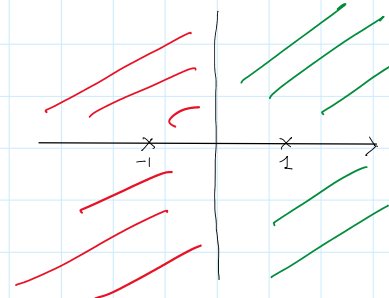
- The probability of error  $P(e | a^{(i)})$  is the probability that, having transmitted  $a^{(i)}$ , the decision variable  $x(m)$  does not fall in the decision region  $Z^{(i)}$ .

## PAM error probability

- To compute  $P(e | a^{(i)})$  we assume that the transmitted symbol is  $a_m = a^{(i)}$ , so that it is  $x(m) = a^{(i)} + n(m)$  and the probability of error is  $P(e | a^{(i)}) = \Pr\{x(m) \notin Z^{(i)} | a_m = a^{(i)}\}$



2-PAM



if  $x(m) > 0$   
 $\Rightarrow \hat{a}_m = 1$   
 else  
 $\hat{a}_m = -1$

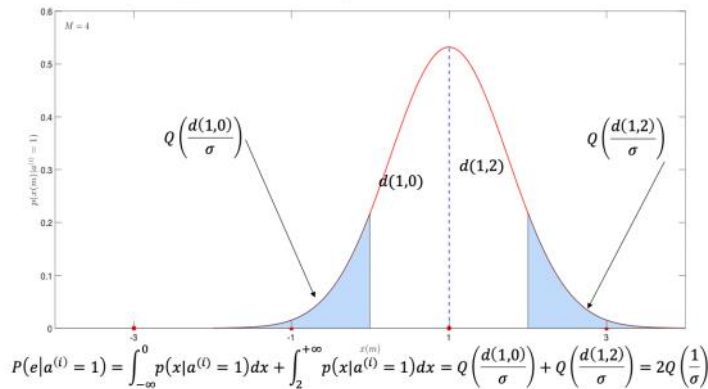
$$x(m) < 0$$

$$P(e | a^{(i)}) \Rightarrow P\{x(m) < 0 | a_m = -1\}$$

$$\Pr\{x(m) < 0 | a_m = -1\} = \int_0^\infty p(x(m) | a_m = -1) dx(m) \Rightarrow \text{We can use Q function } Q(x)$$

$$Q(x) = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2\pi}} \int_x^{+\infty} e^{-t^2/2} dt$$

## PAM error probability



Properties of distance  $d(x, y)$

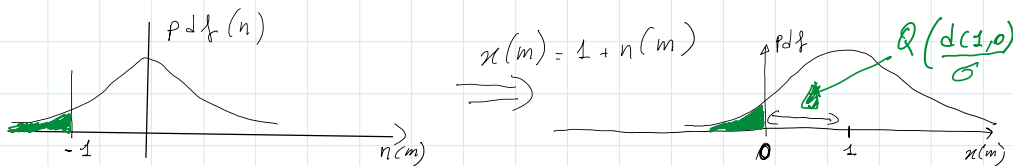
$$d(x, y) = d(y, x)$$

$$d(x, y) \geq 0$$

$$d(x, y) = 0 \Leftrightarrow x = y$$

$$d(x, z) \leq d(x, y) + d(y, z)$$

$$\underline{x(m)} \in \mathcal{N}(1, \sigma^2)$$



## PAM error probability: Q-function

- The Q-function computes the integral of the *tail* of a Gaussian distribution.
- The probability that  $x \in \mathcal{N}(m, \sigma^2)$  is smaller than  $t_1$  or larger than  $t_2$  are the integral of Gaussian tails and they are computed as

$$\left. \begin{aligned} \int_{-\infty}^{t_1} pdf(x) dx &= Q\left(\frac{m - t_1}{\sigma}\right) \\ \int_{t_2}^{+\infty} pdf(x) dx &= Q\left(\frac{t_2 - m}{\sigma}\right) \end{aligned} \right\} = Q\left(\frac{d(t_i, m)}{\sigma}\right), i = 1, 2$$

- In our case,  $m$  is the symbol  $a^{(i)}$  and  $t_1$  or  $t_2$  are the detection thresholds.
- The main properties of the Q-function are  
 $Q(-\infty) = 1, Q(\infty) = 0, Q(0) = 0.5, Q(-x) = 1 - Q(x).$

## PAM error probability

- 2-PAM

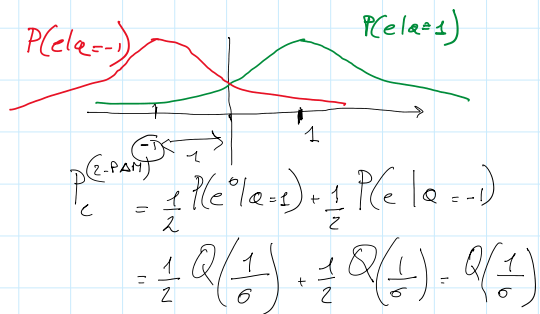
$$P_e^{(2-PAM)} = \frac{1}{2} \left( Q\left(\frac{d(-1, 0)}{\sigma}\right) + Q\left(\frac{d(1, 0)}{\sigma}\right) \right) = Q\left(\frac{1}{\sigma}\right)$$

- 4-PAM

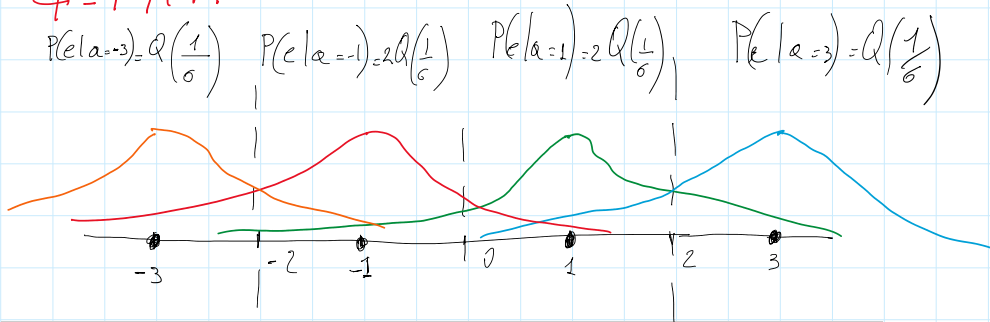
$$P_e^{(4-PAM)} = \frac{1}{4} \left( Q\left(\frac{d(-3, -2)}{\sigma}\right) + Q\left(\frac{d(-1, -2)}{\sigma}\right) + Q\left(\frac{d(-1, 0)}{\sigma}\right) + Q\left(\frac{d(1, 0)}{\sigma}\right) + Q\left(\frac{d(1, 2)}{\sigma}\right) + Q\left(\frac{d(3, 2)}{\sigma}\right) \right) = \frac{3}{2} Q\left(\frac{1}{\sigma}\right)$$

2-PAM





## 4-PAM



## PAM symbol error probability

- It is often useful to express the  $P_e$  in terms of  $E_s/N_0$ .

- 2-PAM:  $E_s = \frac{2^2-1}{6} = \frac{1}{2} \Rightarrow 2E_s = 1$  and  $\sigma^2 = N_0$ , and  $\frac{1}{\sigma} = \sqrt{\frac{1}{\sigma^2}} = \sqrt{\frac{2E_s}{N_0}}$ .

$$P_e^{(2-PAM)} = Q\left(\sqrt{\frac{2E_s}{N_0}}\right)$$

- 4-PAM:  $E_s = \frac{4^2-1}{6} = \frac{5}{2} \Rightarrow \frac{2}{5}E_s = 1$ , and  $\frac{1}{\sigma} = \sqrt{\frac{1}{\sigma^2}} = \sqrt{\frac{2E_s}{5N_0}}$ .

$$P_e^{(4-PAM)} = \frac{3}{2} Q\left(\sqrt{\frac{2E_s}{5N_0}}\right)$$

## PAM bit error probability

- To have a fair comparison, the modulation performance are expressed in terms of *bit error probability*  $P_e^{(b)}$  as function of  $E_b/N_0$ .
- The energy  $E_b$  per bit is computed as the energy per symbol divided by the number of bits per symbol

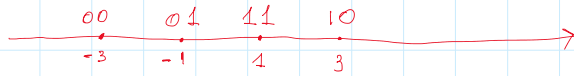
$$E_b = \frac{E_s}{\log_2 M}$$

- Although one symbol carries  $\log_2 M$  bits, it is reasonable to assume that in a well-designed system (*Gray mapping* and medium-high SNR) a symbol error causes *only one-bit errors*.
- If  $N^{(b)}$  and  $N_e^{(b)}$  are the number of transmitted bits and the number of bit errors, the bit error probability is computed as

$$P_e^{(b)} = \lim_{N^{(b)} \rightarrow \infty} \frac{N_e^{(b)}}{N^{(b)}} \approx \lim_{N^{(s)} \rightarrow \infty} \frac{N_e^{(s)}}{\log_2 M N^{(s)}} = \frac{1}{\log_2 M} \lim_{N^{(s)} \rightarrow \infty} \frac{N_e^{(s)}}{N^{(s)}} = \frac{1}{\log_2 M} P_e.$$

With Gray encoding, adjacent PAM symbols map sequence of bits that are different of only one position. For example a possible Gray

that are different of only one position  
 For example a possible Gray encoding strategy for 4-PAM is



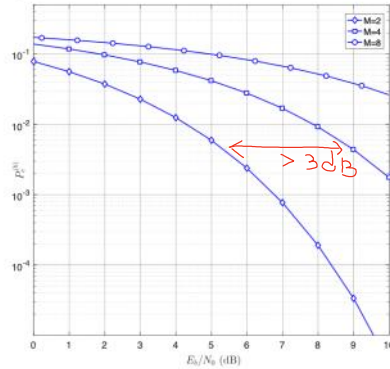
## PAM bit error probability

- 2-PAM:  $M = 2$ ,  $m = 1$  bit per symbol  $\Rightarrow P_e^{(b)} = P_e, E_b = E_s$

$$P_e^{(2-PAM),b} = Q\left(\sqrt{\frac{2E_b}{N_0}}\right)$$

- 4-PAM:  $M = 4$ ,  $m = 2$  bit per symbol  $\Rightarrow P_e^{(b)} = \frac{1}{2} P_e, E_b = \frac{1}{2} E_s$

$$P_e^{(4-PAM),b} = \frac{3}{4} Q\left(\sqrt{\frac{4E_b}{5N_0}}\right)$$



$$P_e^{2-PAM,b} = Q\left(\sqrt{\frac{2E_b}{N_0}}\right)$$

$$P_e^{4-PAM,b} = \frac{3}{4} Q\left(\sqrt{\frac{4E_b}{5N_0}}\right)$$

$$Q\left(\sqrt{\frac{2E_b}{N_0}}\right) \text{ vs. } Q\left(\sqrt{\frac{4E_b}{5N_0}}\right)$$

$$2 \frac{E_b}{N_0} \text{ vs. } \frac{4}{5} \cdot \frac{E_b}{N_0} \Rightarrow \text{quadruplo } > 2 \times (3 \text{ dB})$$

## Digital communications

### Quadrature modulations (QAM)

## Quadrature modulations

- In analog modulations, QAM is obtained by transmitting two orthogonal DSB signals  $m_I(t), m_Q(t)$  and the complex envelope is

$$\tilde{s}_{QAM}(t) = m_I(t) + jm_Q(t)$$

- Quadrature PAM is obtained exactly in the same manner by transmitting two PAM signals in quadrature  $m_I(t) = \sum_i a_i g_T(t - iT)$  and  $m_Q(t) = \sum_i b_i g_T(t - iT)$ , with  $a_i, b_i$  PAM symbols.

- The QAM signal is

$$s_{QAM}(t) = \sum_i (a_i + jb_i) g_T(t - iT) = \sum_i c_i g_T(t - iT)$$

and the QAM complex symbols take the form  $c_i = a_i + jb_i$ .

$$s_{QAM}(t) = \underbrace{\sum_m a_m g_T(t - mT)}_{\text{In-phase comp.}} + j \underbrace{\sum_m b_m g_T(t - mT)}_{\text{Quadrature comp.}}$$

PAM  $\Rightarrow$  symbols on real

QAM  $\Rightarrow$  symbols on complex ( $c_m = a_m + jb_m$ )

# QAM symbols

- Because QAM is the combination of two orthogonal PAM, the values of  $M_{QAM} = M_{PAM}^2$  are squared powers of 2, i.e.  $m$  is always even.
  - If the two PAMs have  $M_{PAM} = 4$  symbols then the QAM has  $M_{QAM} = 16$  symbols, if  $M_{PAM} = 8$  then  $M_{QAM} = 64$ .

GRAY MAPPED

16-QAM  
combination  
of 2 4-PAM

