

Homework 1

Due: October 15

Directions: You can collaborate but try it yourself or you will find the exam hard. No late homeworks. This one is a lot of work but it will really teach you the main ideas of the Physical layer. Don't worry if you can't solve them all, but put down your ideas. Will grade **one** of Problems 1, 2, 3, or 4. The last is for exam practice only but we will provide solutions.

1. Nyquist Limit: This will take some work but at the end you should have a good idea about how bits are sampled, and what inter-symbol interference means. Figure 1 shows the response of a wire to two input bits, a slow bit of width 2 μsec and a fast bit of width 1 μsec . The response to **both** slow and fast bits (this shows that the wire cannot respond faster than once every 2 μsec , its Nyquist limit) is shown at the bottom of Figure 1. Note that I have chosen to make the response a triangular approximation to the *sinc* function we studied in class. It rises to 4 Volts in 1 μsec , falls to 0 after 2 μsec . It then falls to -2 Volts at 2.5 μsec , climbs to 0 V at 3 μsec , rises to 2 V again at 3.5 μsec , and finally falls to zero at 4 μsec . Unlike the real *sinc* function, this idealized output goes to 0 after 4 μsec .

Assume that a 1 is encoded as a 4-Volt signal, and a 0 is encoded as 0 Volts. Assume that the output of the bit input to any circuit is always 0 V over all time. If at any sampling instant, the receiver measures a voltage of 2 Volts or more, it assumes it has received a 1; else it assumes it has received a 0. The sender is going to send just 3 bits: 101.

- **A.** First assume the sender sends bits at the slow rate of once every 2 μsec . Use graph paper and color pens (or a program) to draw the 3 bits: the first bit as red, the second in blue, and the third in black (using these colors will help the grader). Assume the sender sends its 3 bits at times 0, 2 μsec , and 4 μsec . The sampling instants the receiver uses are 1 μsec , 3 μsec and 5 μsec . At any sampling instant, the receiver measures the output voltage as the sum of the voltage values of the red, blue, and black waves. Write down the measured outputs. What bits does the receiver output?
- **B.** Repeat the same process you did in Part A but this time using the 'fast bit' of width 1 μsec (you are now signaling at the fabled Nyquist limit). The sender now sends its bits at times 0, 1 μsec , and 2 μsec and the receiver samples at 1 μsec , 2, and 3 μsec . Write down the measured outputs. What bits does the receiver output?
- **C.** Repeat the same process you did in Parts A and B except with a 'super-sonic' bit whose width is 0.5 μsec . The output response to the supersonic input bit is exactly the same as for the fast and slow bits. The sender now sends its bits at

times 0, 0.5 usec, and 1 usec and the receiver samples at 1 usec, 1.5 usec, and 2 usec. Clearly, the sender is being cheeky and you should see intersymbol interference (at which sampling instants?). What bits does the receiver output?

2. **Clock Recovery:** The first problem taught you output distortions can cause intersymbol interference if you send too fast. However, we assumed in Problem 1 that the sender and receiver clocks were perfectly synchronized. In reality, they are not and we need clock synchronization. In Problem 3 you will simulate the effect of clock recovery on some bits sent using 4-5 encoding using a clock synchronization algorithm I give you below.

Assume the preamble has been received and the receiver is basically in sync except for possible clock drift. Thus the receiver is sampling according to its current clock (see figure 2) and should be expecting transitions only at what it thinks are bit boundaries (see dotted lines in figure). However, because of clock drift the actual transitions may be a little off (see the solid line in Figure 2).

Remember that in 4-5 encoding you are guaranteed to get at least one transition in every 5 consecutive bits; however, you may get up to 5 transitions. Pseudocode for the receiver clock recovery algorithm is as follows.

Receiver Code

Data

Structures:

T: real constant; (* nominal time to send a bit, input to program *)
P: real; (* predicted next time at which a transition might occur *)
A: real; (* actual real time at which a transition occurs *)
lag: real; (* difference between predicted and expected *)

After preamble is detected:

```
Initialize real time clock to start at  
0; lag = 0;  
P = 0;  
StartTimer (T/2);  
Wait (TimerExpiry);
```

```
Do until end of  
frame P = P + T +
```

```

lag;
Output (SampleSignal); (* output sampled value when timer expires *)
StartTimer (T + lag);
Wait (Timer Expiry);
In parallel with Wait look for a Transition if
    any If Transition is detected at actual time
    A
        lag = A - P; (* difference between real and predicted *)
end

```

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You are going to run this code assuming a nominal bit time of 1 usec (e.g., $T = 1 \text{ usec}$) and a sender who is sending 5% slower than the receiver. Thus the sender sends his first bit from 0 to 1.05, the second bit from 1.05 to 2.1, the third from 2.1 to 3.15. Without doing any clock recovery or lag adjustment the receiver would sample at what it thinks is the middle of a bit and so at 0.5, 1.5 etc. We would like to see what happens on the ten bit sequence 0001101110 with and without clock recovery. Assume a 0 is encoded as 0 volts and a 1 as 1 volt.

- Use graph paper to draw a waveform of the 10 bits sent by the sender
- If the receiver does not run the clock recovery code, how far off is the sampling by the 10-th bit?
- On the picture of the waveform you drew, draw the sampling instants and values of lag assuming the receiver uses the pseudocode above for clock recovery and there is no noise.
- Now suppose there is a sharp noise spike of 1V at time 0.4 usec. How would it affect your sampling times?
- Finally, suppose there is a sharp noise spike of 1V at time 2.4 usec. How would it affect your sampling times?

3. **Eye Patterns:** Figure 3 shows the response of two wires to the same input signal. The input signal is shown as a pattern of rectangular pulses. Assume that the pattern keeps repeating. The interval between the vertical dotted lines represents one bit time. The two outputs $S1$ and $S2$ are shown using dotted back lines. Notice that $S1$ closely follows the input and all rise and fall times are symmetrical. However, $S2$ represents the output of a more 'sluggish' wire (i.e., a wire with less bandwidth) and so takes longer to track the input signal. Notice that the rise and fall times in $S2$ are also data dependent – it takes longer to rise to a 1 after two zeroes than it does after a single zero.

Using graph paper draw the signals $S1$ and $S2$ (you don't have to measure the signal values from Figure 2; use any values that gives you roughly the same shape as the figures in Figure

2. Then draw the eye pattern for these two signals. From your figures, deduce what would

happen to the eye pattern if the input signal was run through a wire with even less bandwidth (than the wire which produced $S2$) such that intersymbol interference starts occurring

4. **Coding Techniques:** Consider a 4-level system in which you have voltage levels 4, -2, 2, -4.

Suppose that the Nyquist rate limits you to sending one symbol every usec (microsecond). Suppose you want to send two bits every usec.

- How would do it? (Don't worry if your answer is very simple; it's meant to be easy.)
- Does your coding scheme guarantee transitions?

- Is it DC balanced?

Next, assume you want a DC balanced code but you want to transmit as many bits per second as possible subject to this requirement.

- Devise the best DC-balanced code you can find. Describe it. (Hint: recall the way AMI obtained a DC balanced code, and generalize slightly.)
- How many real bits can you transmit per usec?
- Can you guarantee transitions for clock recovery?
- What is the maximum amount of noise (in volts) your coding scheme can tolerate?

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5. **Modal Dispersion in Fiber:** The last figure shows a multimode fiber. Assume that every 1 is encoded as a pulse of light that splits into two signals, one of which goes the direct route and the other goes by a long route (bouncing all the way). Suppose the time taken for the longest route is 150 nsec and the time taken for the shortest route is 110 nsec. What is the maximum bit rate we can use on the fiber without causing intersymbol interference? What happens if we double the length of the fiber link? (This has nothing to do with the Nyquist limit which is high for fiber).

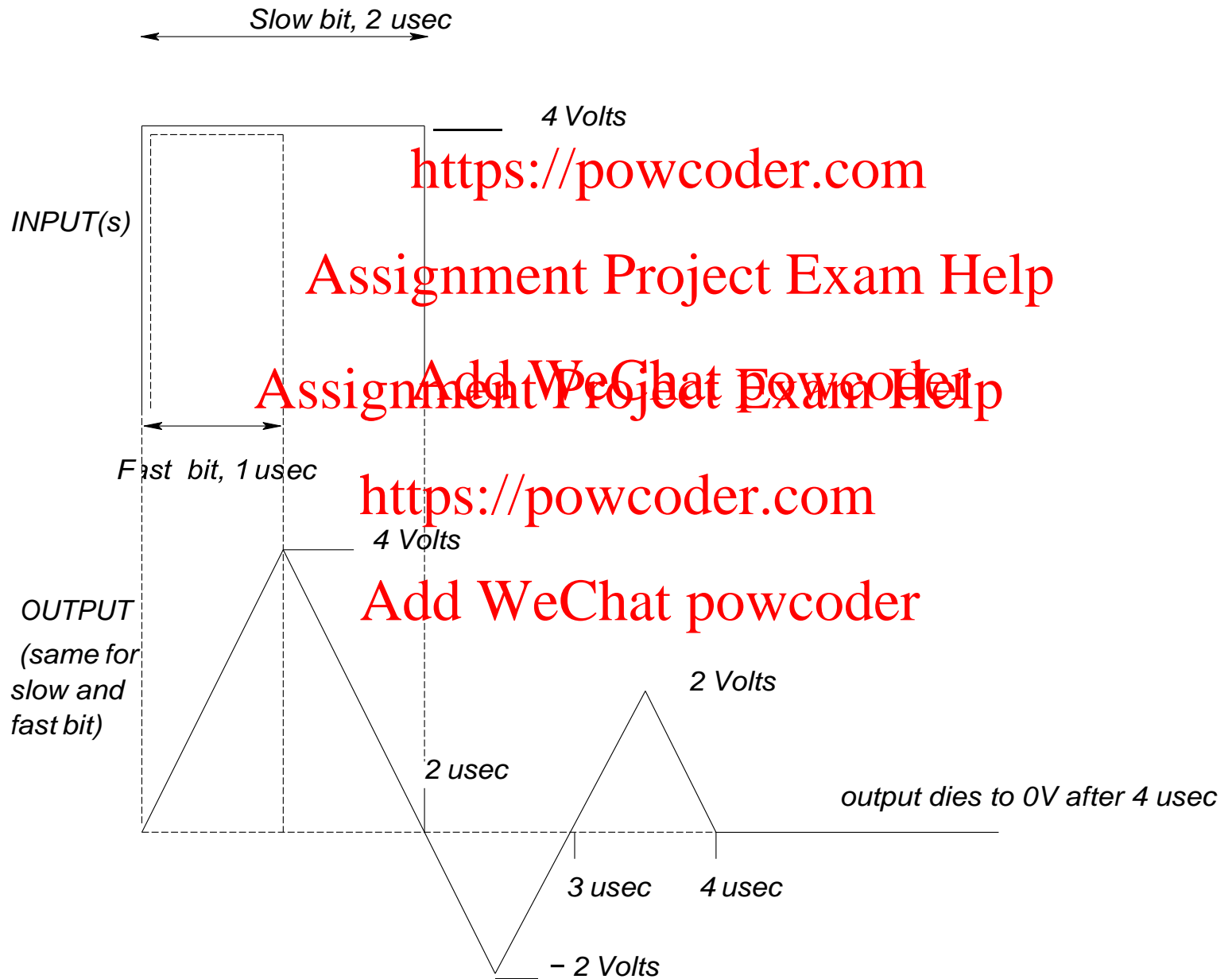
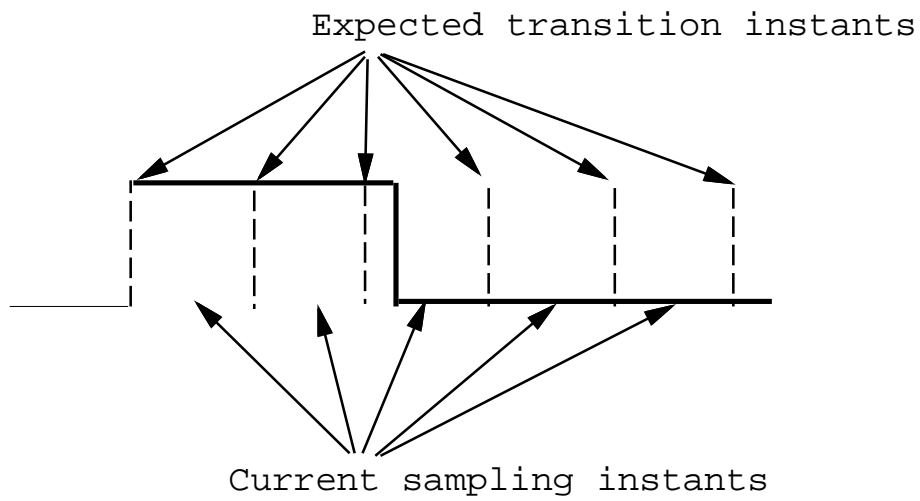


Figure 1:

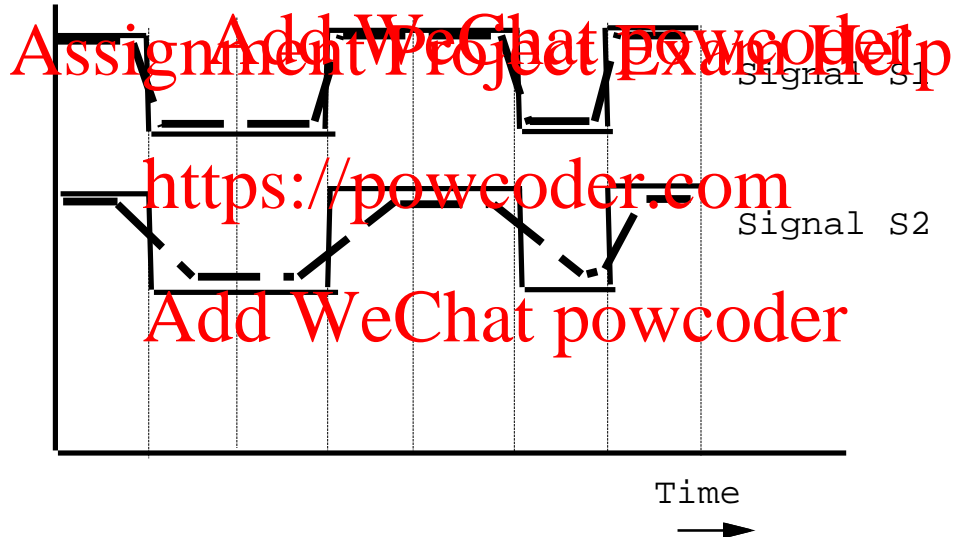


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Figure 2:

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Voltage



Figure

3:

