

# GNSS Signal Structures

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# Introduction

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It's a pleasure to speak with you this morning. What follows are excerpts from three separate presentations.

Regards,

Tom Stansell

# Source Presentations

## GNSS Modernization and Interoperability

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Slide 1



## GNSS Signals, Spectra, and Receiver Fundamentals

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## Signal Structure, Interoperability, and Geometry

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Slide 3

# GNSS Modernization and Interoperability

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# The Goal of Interoperability



- ◆ Ideal interoperability allows navigation with **one signal each** from four or more systems with **no additional receiver cost or complexity**

Interoperable = Better Together than Separate

# Main Benefits of Interoperability

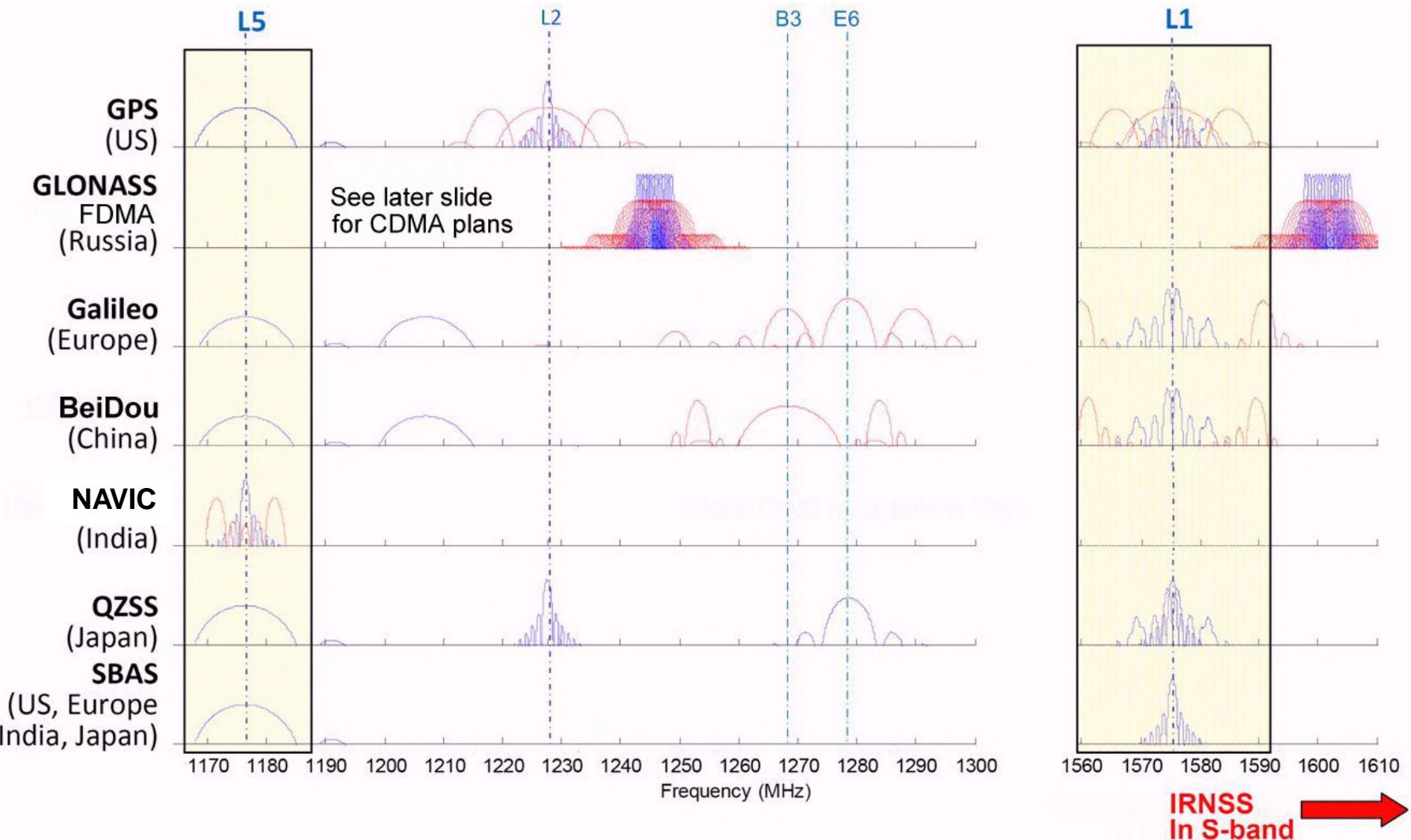
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**More Satellites → Better Geometry → Improves:**

- **Satellite coverage**
  - Navigate where could not before
- **Dilution of Precision**
  - Accuracy is better everywhere
  - Eliminates DOP holes (with open sky)
- **RAIM\***
  - Integrity checked everywhere, all the time
  - Eliminates RAIM holes (with open sky)
- **Phase ambiguity resolution**
  - For survey and machine control applications
- **Accuracy**
  - Allows higher elevation angle cutoff which reduces multipath, ionospheric, and tropospheric errors

\* Receiver Autonomous Integrity Monitoring

# Spectrum of GNSS Signals



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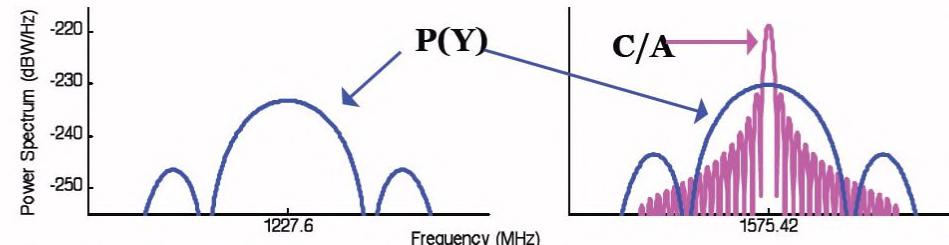
# **GPS Signals**



## GPS Signals (Cont'd)



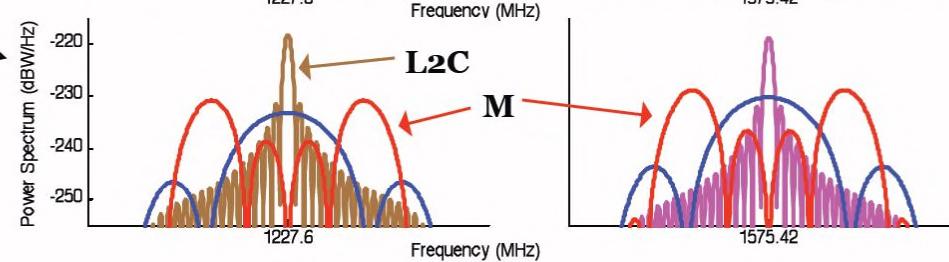
Legacy Signals →



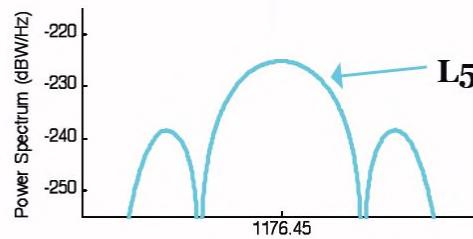
Block IIA, 1990



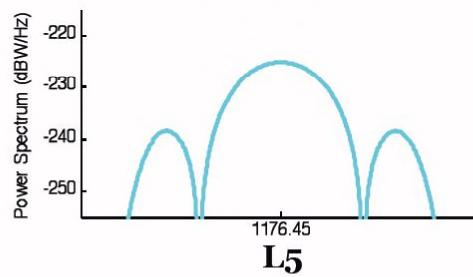
as of Dec 2005 →



Block IIR-M, 2005



Block IIF, 2010



Block III, 2018



(artist's concept)

Originally presented December 2008; Updated to current status and plans

# GPS Signals Summary

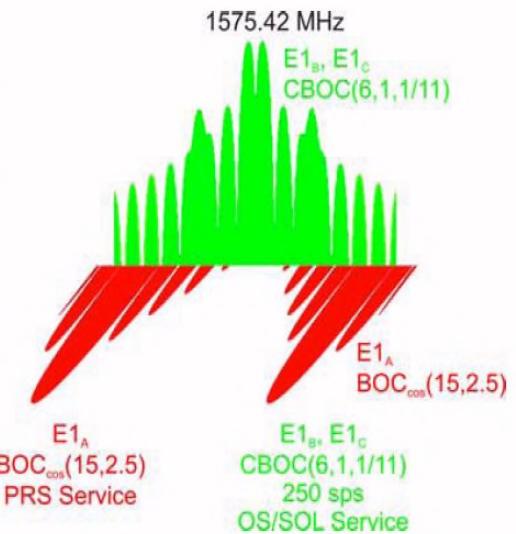
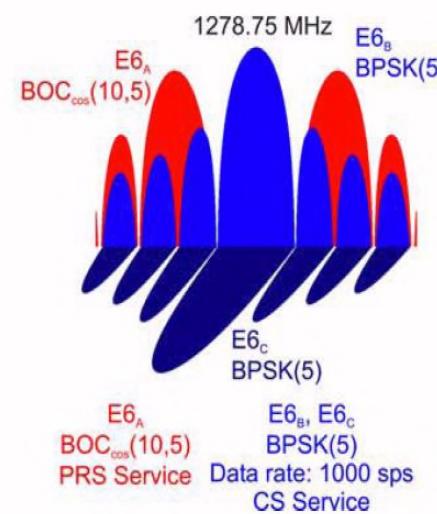
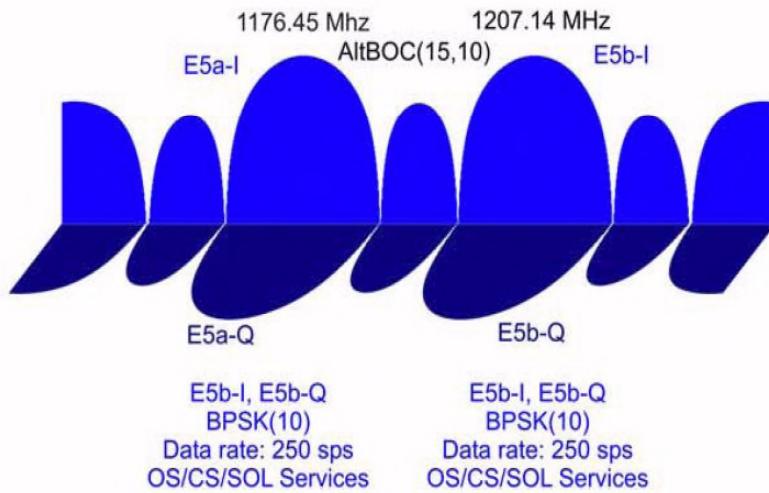
Band	Center Frequency	Signal	Waveform	Notes
L1	1575.42 MHz	C/A	BPSK(1)	Open Service
		P(Y)	BPSK(10)	
		L1C	TMBOC	Open Service, Separate Pilot and Data Channels
		M	BOC(10,5)	
L2	1227.6 MHz	P(Y)	BPSK(10)	
		L2C	BPSK(1)	Open Service, Separate Pilot and Data Channels
		M	BOC(10,5)	
L5	1176.45 MHz	L5	BPSK(10)	Open Service, Separate Pilot and Data Channels

---

# **Galileo Signals**



# Galileo Signal Baseline



- **E5: AltBOC(15,10) – 2 x BPSK(10)**
- **E6: BPSK(5) and BOC<sub>cos</sub>(10,5)**
- **E1: MBOC(6,1,1/11) and BOC<sub>cos</sub>(15,2.5)**
  - Latest joint EU/US decision to implement MBOC in 2007



Institute of Geodesy and Navigation  
Institut für Erdmessung und Navigation



# Galileo Signals Summary

<b>Band</b>	<b>Center Frequency</b>	<b>Signals</b>	<b>Waveform</b>	<b>Notes</b>
E1	1575.42 MHz	E1 OS	CBOC	Open Service, Separate Pilot and Data Channels
		PRS	BOC(15,2.5)	
E6	1278.75 MHz	CS	BPSK(5)	Commercial Service, Separate Pilot and Data Channels
		PRS	BOC(10,5)	
E5	1191.795 MHz	E5a & E5b	AltBOC(15,10)	Open Service, Separate Pilot and Data Channels

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# **QZSS Signals**

# QZSS Service

## QZSS Signals

Note: Some signal changes  
are being evaluated

	Frequency	Notes
L1-C/A	1575.42MHz	➤ Complete compatibility and interoperability with existing and future modernized GPS signals
L1C		
L2C	1227.6MHz	
L5	1176.45MHz	➤ Differential Correction data, Integrity flag, Ionospheric correction ➤ Almanac & Health for other GNSS SVs
L1-SAIF*	1575.42MHz	➤ Compatibility with GPS-SBAS
LEX	1278.75MHz	➤ Experimental Signal with higher data rate message (2Kbps) ➤ Compatibility & interoperability with Galileo E6 signal

\* L1-SAIF: L1-Submeter-class Augmentation with Integrity Function

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# **GLONASS**

## **Signal Plans**



# GLONASS Modernization



1982

2003

2011

2014

“Glonass”



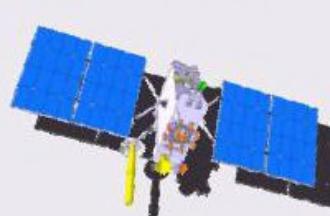
- 3 year design life
- Clock stability -  $5 \times 10^{-13}$
- Signals: L1SF, L2SF, L1OF, (FDMA)
- Totally launched 81 satellites
- Real operational life time 4.5 years

“Glonass-M”



- 7 year design life
- Clock stability  $1 \times 10^{-13}$
- Signals: Glonass + L2OF (FDMA)
- Totally launched 36 satellites
- Another 12 satellites ordered

“Glonass-K1”



- 10 year design life
- Unpressurized bus
- Expected clock stability  $\sim 10 \dots 5 \times 10^{-14}$
- Signals: Glonass-M + L3OC (CDMA) – test
- SAR

“Glonass-K2”

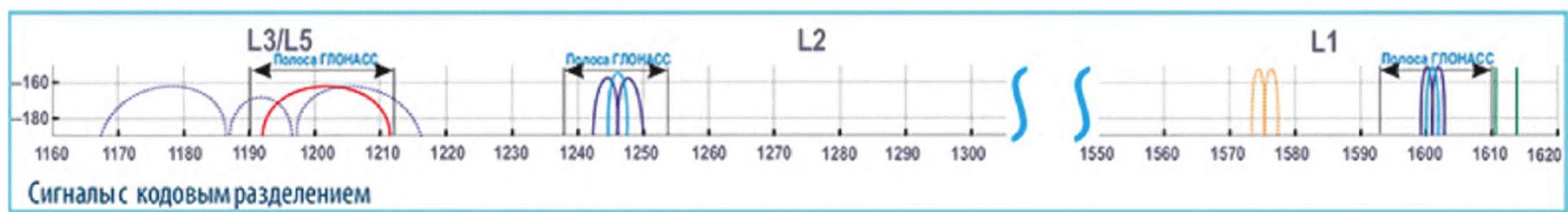
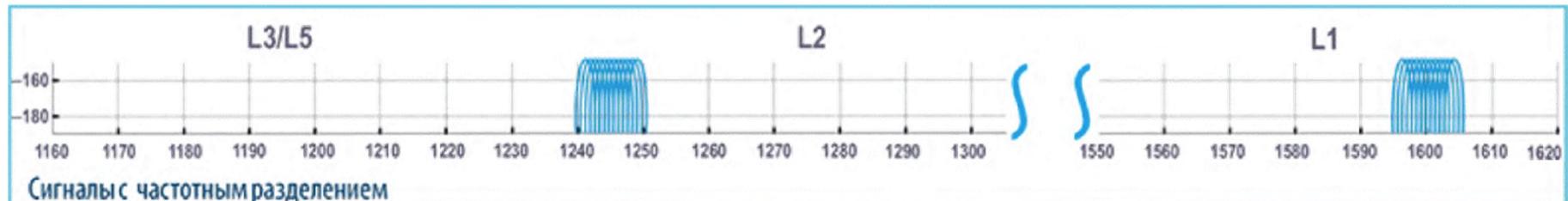


- 10 year design life
- Unpressurized
- Expected clock stability  $\sim 5 \dots 1 \times 10^{-14}$
- Signals: Glonass-M + full set of CDMA signals
- SAR

CDMA signals general structure already designed

# Future GLONASS Signal Spectrum

THE SPECTRUM OF NAVIGATION RADIO SIGNALS OF THE GLONASS SYSTEM



CHARACTERISTICS OF NAVIGATION RADIO SIGNALS OF THE GLONASS SYSTEM WITH CODE DIVISION

Range	Carrier frequency, MHz	Signal	Code length , symbols	Clock frequency, MHz	Modulation type	Transmission speed Cl, bit / s
L1	1 600,995	L10Cd	1 023	1,023	BPSK (1)	125
		L10Cp	4 092	1,023	BOC (1.1)	pilot signal
L2	1 248.06	L2 CSI	1 023	1,023	BPSK (1)	250
		L20Cp	4 092	1,023	BOC (1.1)	pilot signal
L3	1 202,025	L30Cd	10 230	10.23	BPSK (10)	100
		L30Cp	10 230	10.23	BPSK (10)	pilot



# **BeiDou**

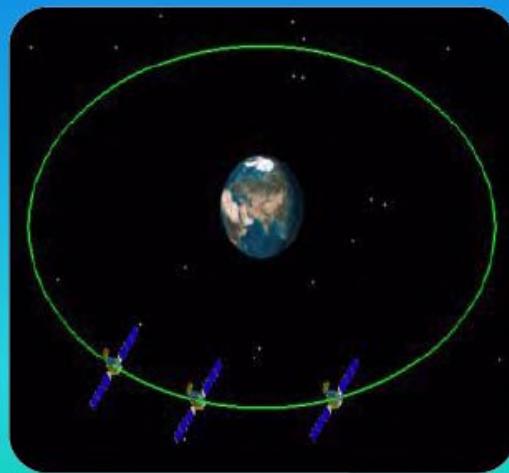
# **Signal Plans**

## **(From Several Presentations)**



## 2. Development Plan

**1<sup>st</sup> Step**



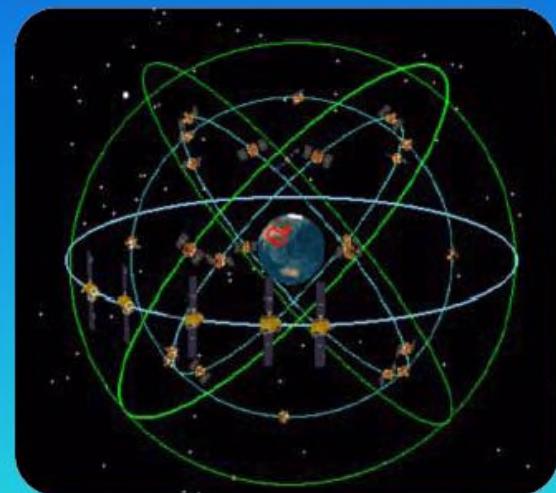
BeiDou Demonstration System

**2<sup>nd</sup> Step**



BeiDou Navigation Satellite System

**3<sup>rd</sup> Step**



BeiDou Navigation Satellite System

1994 1996 1998 2000 2002 2004 2006 2008 2010 2012 2014 2016 2018 2020



# Signal Characteristics

## ◆ Frequencies

B1: 1559.052~1591.788MHz

B2: 1166.22~1217.37MHz

B3: 1250.618~1286.423MHz

Till the year	Constellation	Signals (actual emission)
2012	<b>5GEO+5IGSO+4MEO</b> (Regional Service)	mainly <b>COMPASS Phase(CP) II</b> signals
2020	<b>5GEO+3IGSO+27MEO</b> (Global Service)	mainly <b>CP III</b> signals



# Signal Characteristics

◆ CP II: B1, B2, and B3 as below

Component	Carrier Frequency (MHz)	Chip Rate (cps)	Bandwidth (MHz)	Modulation Type	Service Type
B1(I)	1561.098	2.046	4.092	QPSK	Open
B1(Q)		2.046			Authorized
B2(I)	1207.14	2.046	24	QPSK	Open
B2(Q)		10.23			Authorized
B3	1268.52	10.23	24	QPSK	Authorized



## ◆ CP III: B1, B2 and B3 as below

Component	Carrier Frequency (MHz)	Chip Rate (cps)	Data/Symbol Rate (bps/sps)	Modulation Type	Service Type
B1-C <sub>D</sub>	1575.42	1.023	50/100	MBOC(6,1,1/11) “QBOC”	Open
B1-C <sub>P</sub>			No		
B1-A	1191.795	2.046	50/100	BOC (14, 2)	Authorized
B2a <sub>D</sub>			No		
B2a <sub>P</sub>	1268.52	10.23	25/50	AltBOC(15,10 )	Open
B2b <sub>D</sub>			No		
B2b <sub>P</sub>	1268.52	10.23	50/100	QPSK(10)	Authorized
B3			500bps		
B3-A <sub>D</sub>	1268.52	2.5575	50/100	BOC(15,2.5)	Authorized
B3-A <sub>P</sub>			No		

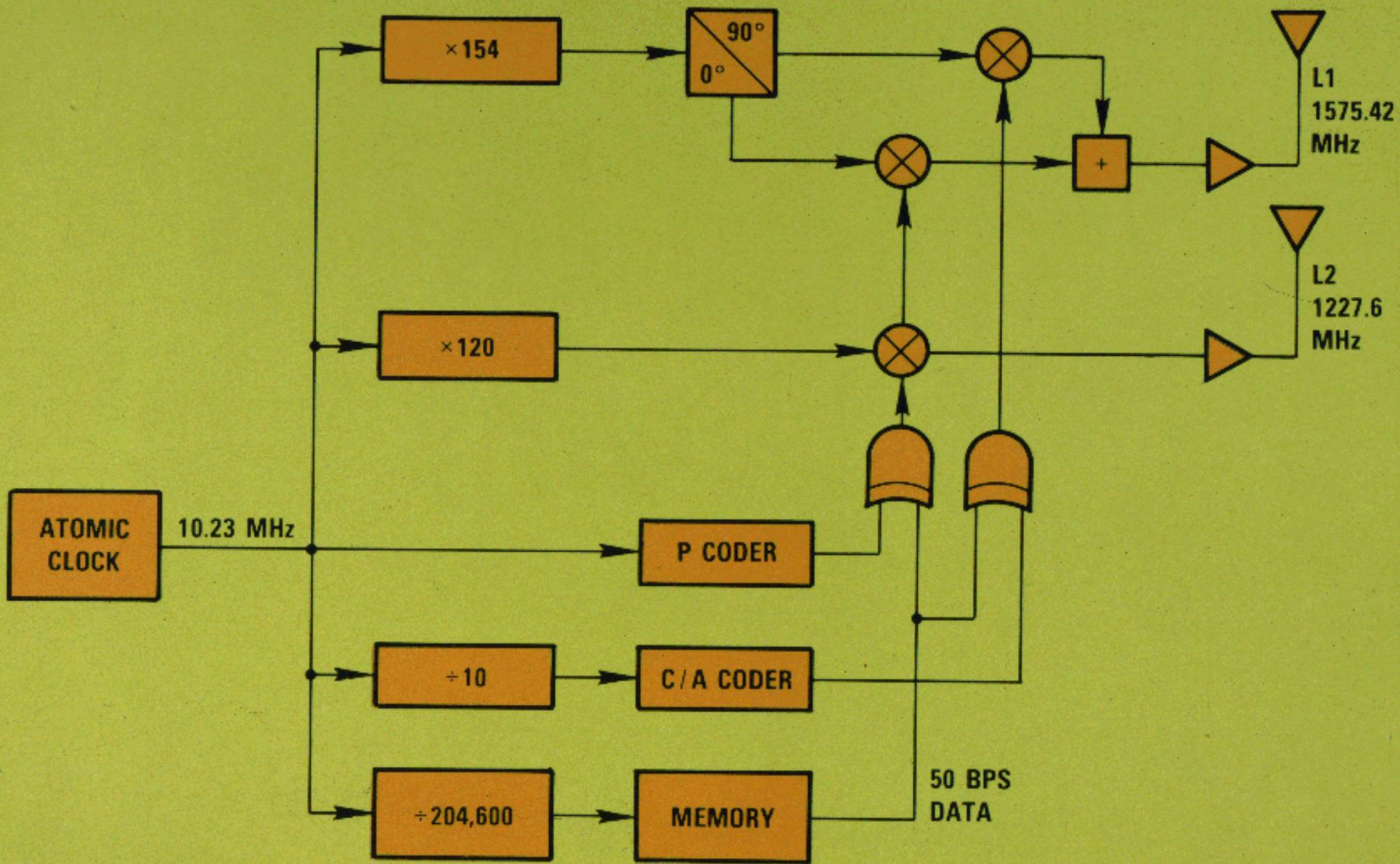


International Committee on  
Global Navigation Satellite Systems

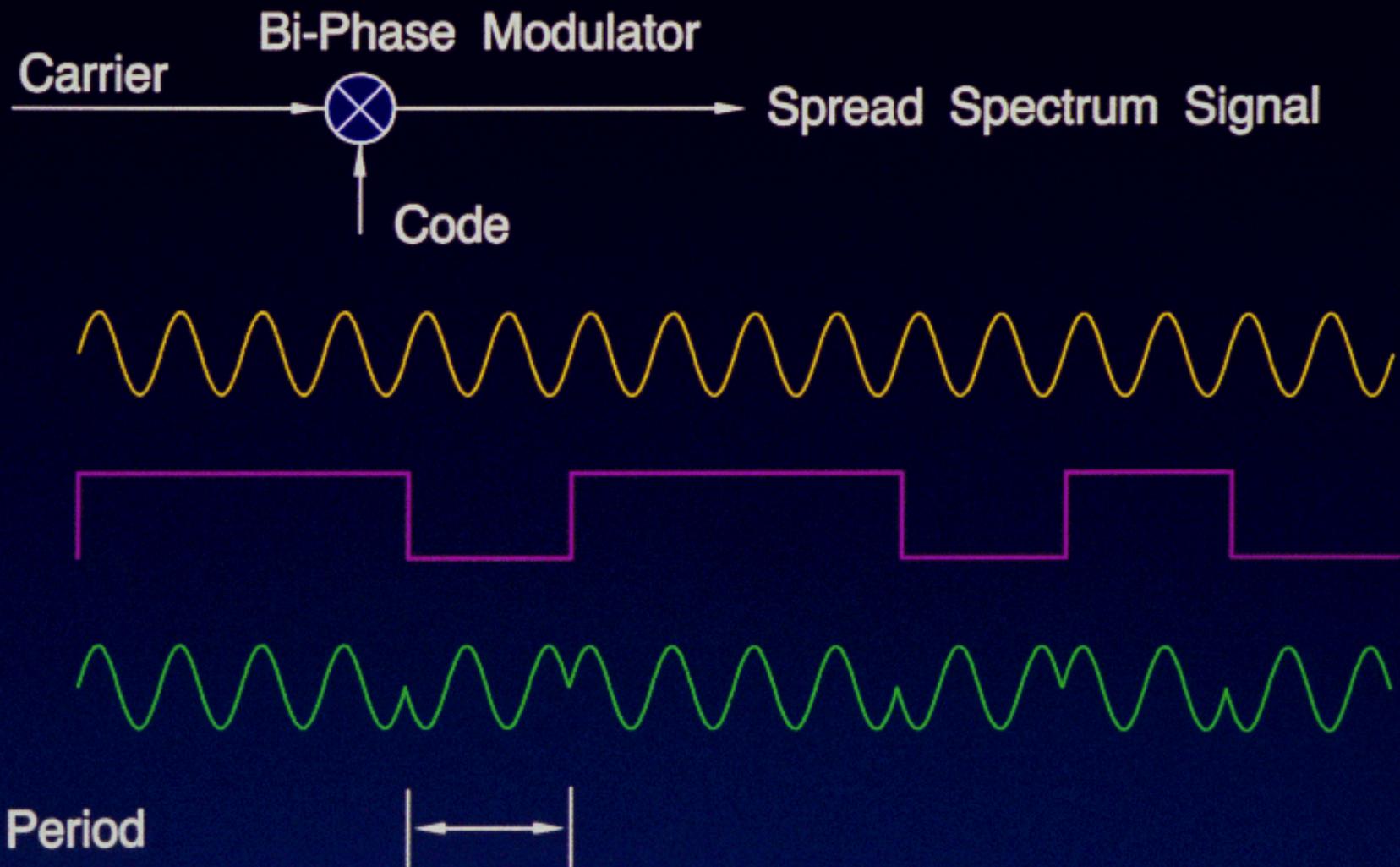
# GNSS Signals, Spectra, and Receiver Fundamentals



# SIMPLIFIED GPS SATELLITE BLOCK DIAGRAM

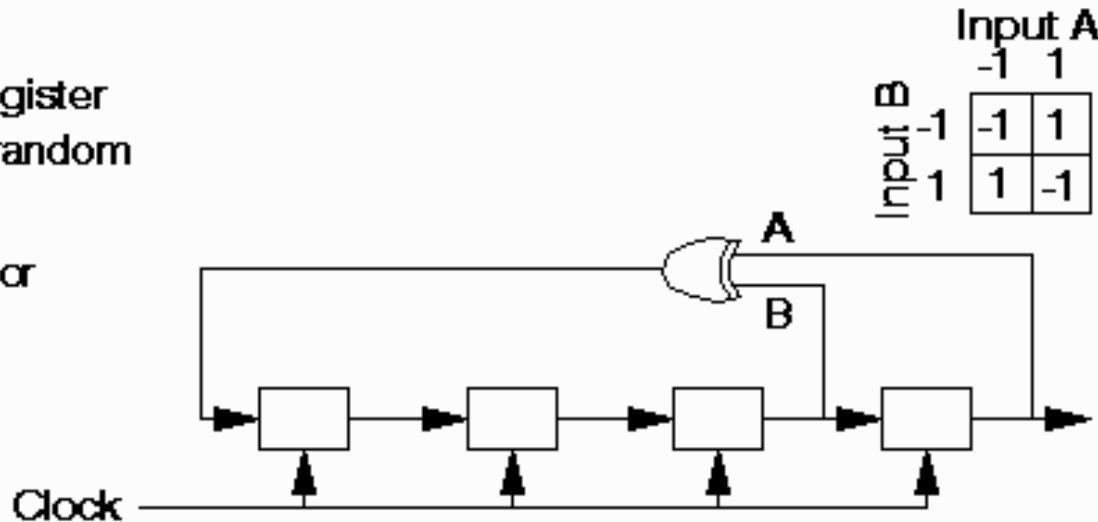


# PN MODULATION



# Simple Pseudorandom Code Generator

Four Bit  
Shift Register  
Pseudorandom  
Code  
Generator

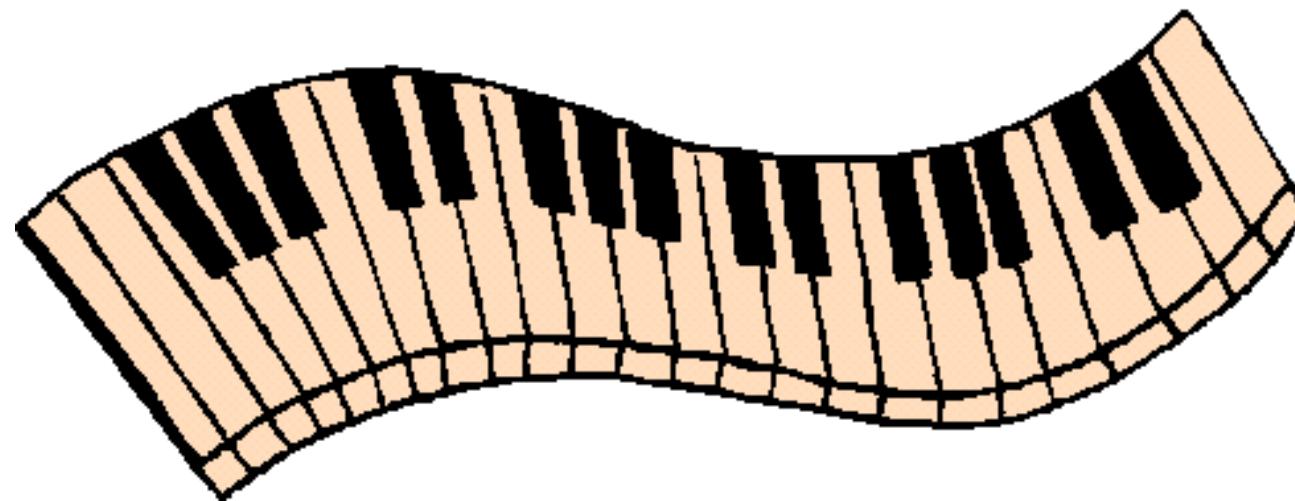


1	1	1	1
-1	1	1	1
-1	-1	1	1
-1	-1	-1	1
1	-1	-1	-1
-1	1	-1	-1
-1	-1	1	-1
1	-1	-1	1
1	1	-1	-1
-1	1	1	-1
1	-1	1	1
1	1	-1	1
1	1	1	-1
1	1	1	1

$$\begin{aligned} \text{Code length} &= \\ (2^N - 1) &= \\ (2^4 - 1) &= 15 \end{aligned}$$

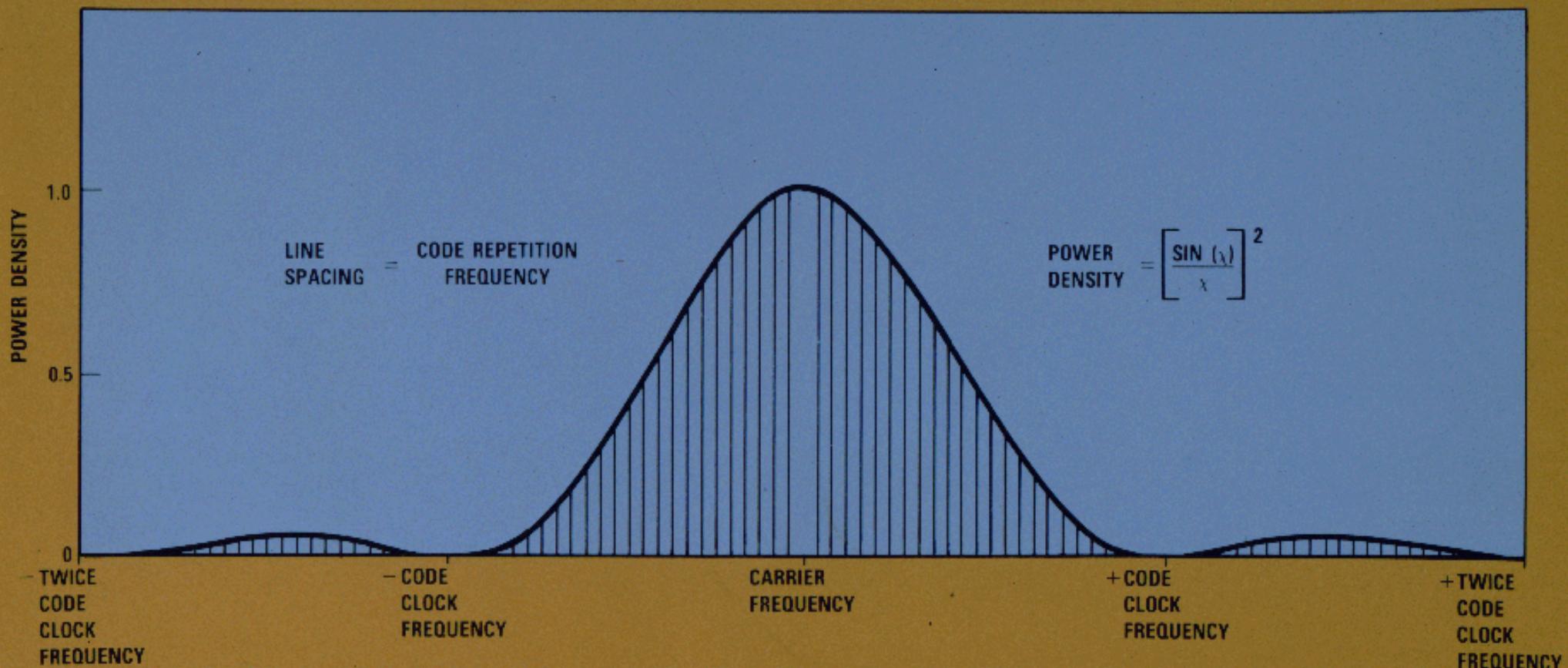
$$\begin{aligned} \text{C/A Code length} &= \\ (2^N - 1) &= \\ (2^{10} - 1) &= 1023 \end{aligned}$$

# Code Modulation Spreads the Spectrum



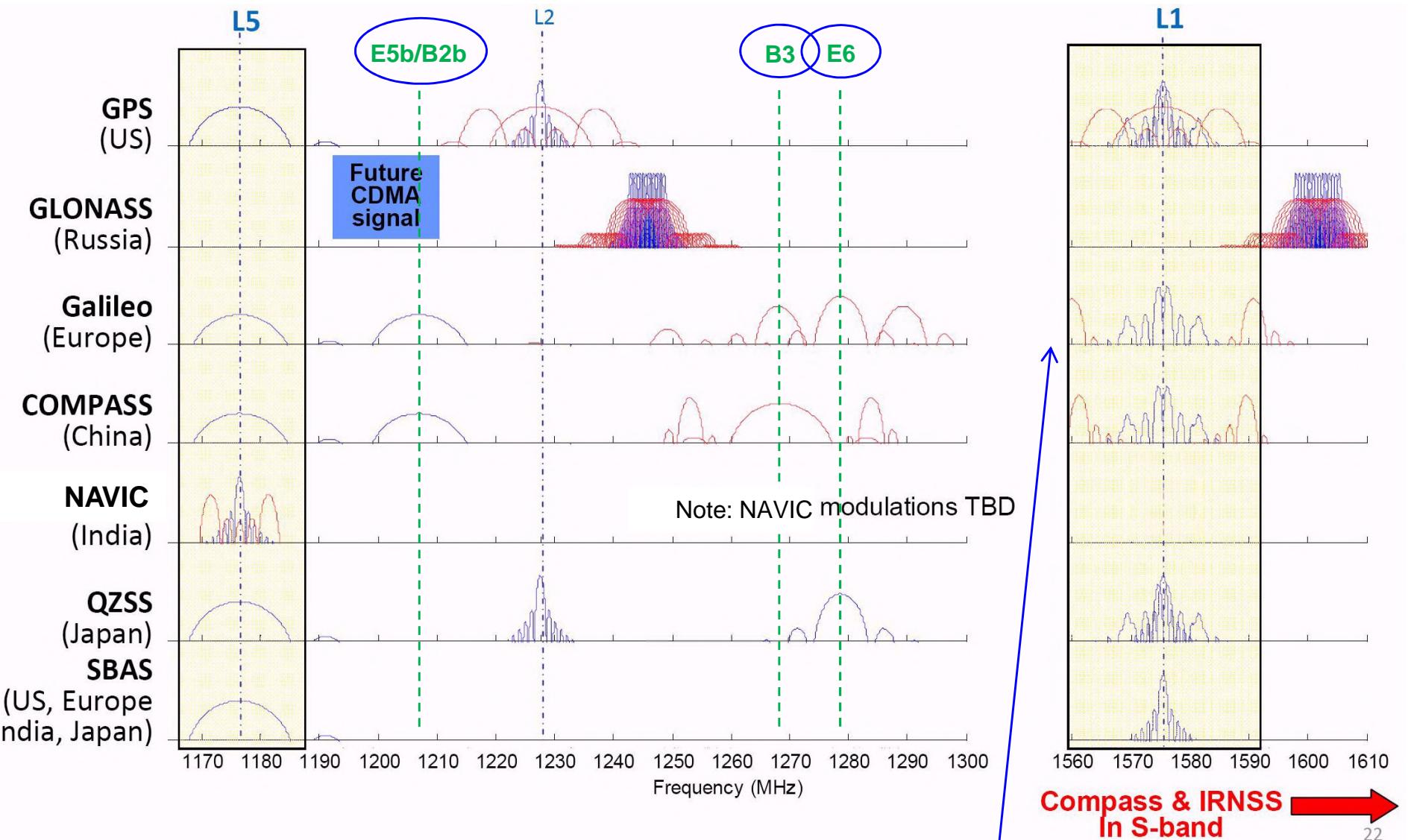


# SPREAD SPECTRUM POWER DENSITY



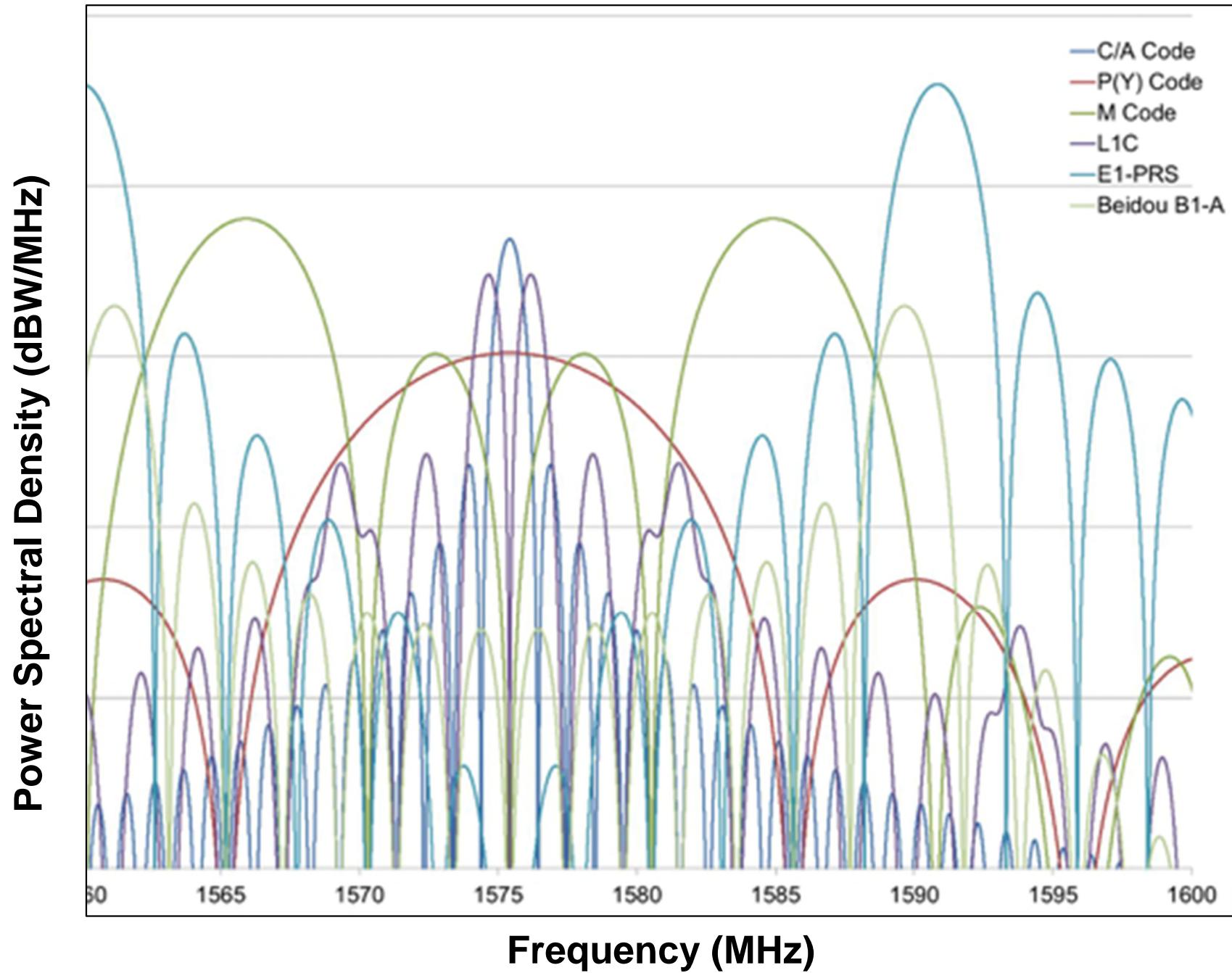
Frequency Domain

# GNSS Spectra

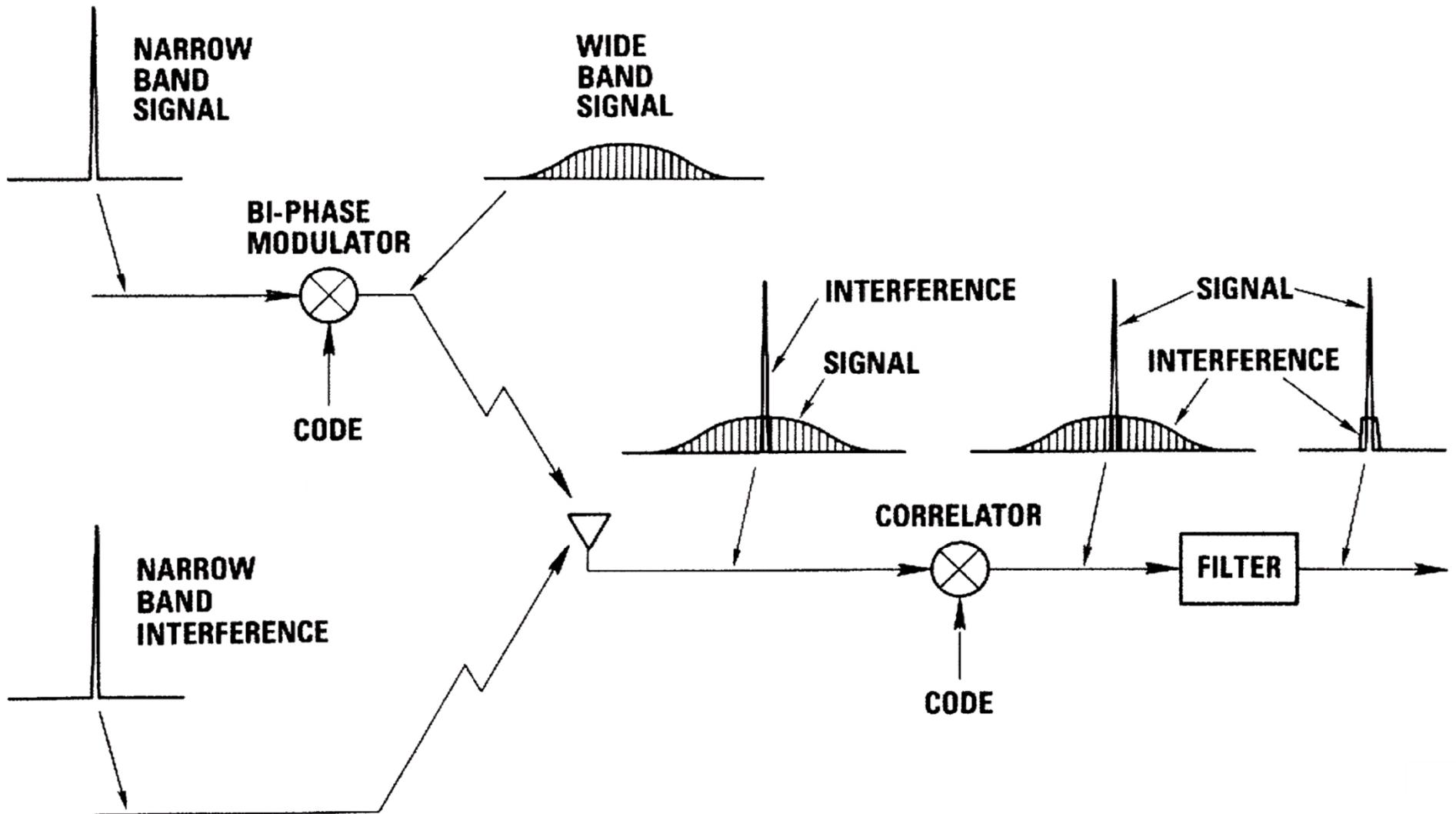


L1, L2, & L5 are paramount, but also GLONASS, PRS, E5b, B3, & E6

# GNSS L1 Spectrum

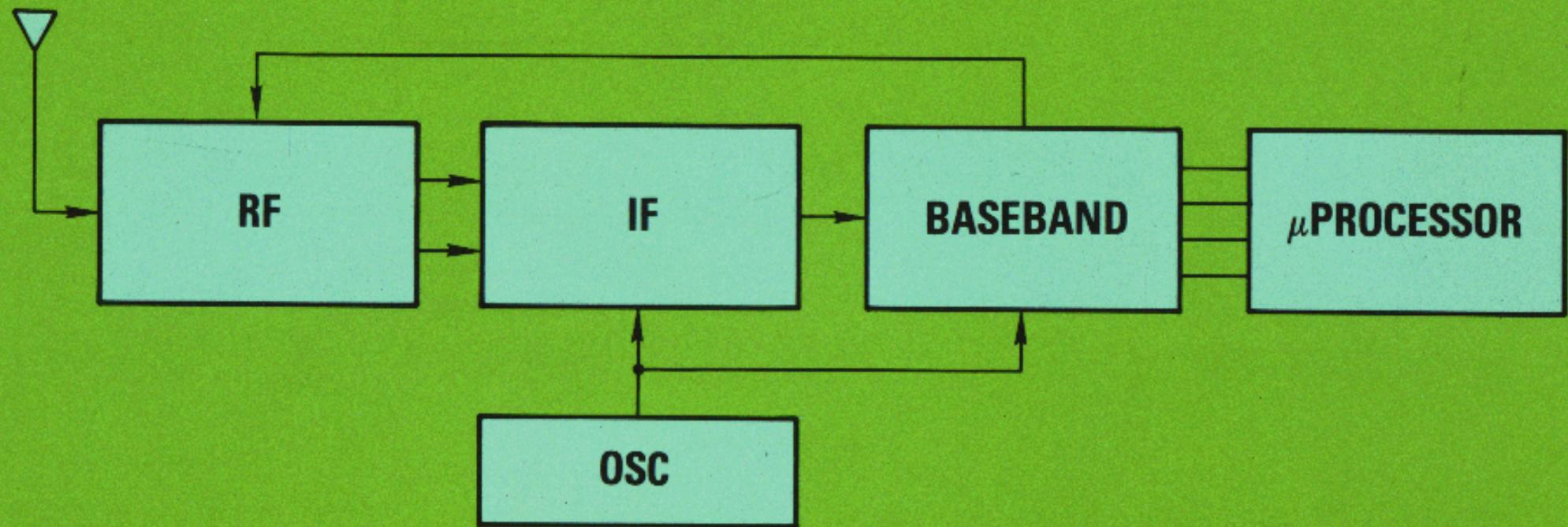


# Receiver Signal Processing





# CORE GPS CHIP SET



# 27 Years with Just 3 GPS Signals

Signal/SV	IIR			
L1 C/A	✓		Direct civil access to C/A code	
L1 P(Y)	✓			
L1 M				
L1C				
L2 P(Y)	✓		Indirect civil access by codeless and semi-codeless means	
L2C				
L2 M				
L5				

1978 to  
2005

# IIR-M Satellites Added Three More

Signal/SV	IIR	IIR-M		
L1 C/A	✓	✓		
L1 P(Y)	✓	✓		
L1 M		✓		
L1C				
L2 P(Y)	✓	✓		
L2C		✓		
L2 M		✓		
L5				

Direct civil access  
to L2C code

1978 to  
2005

2005

# IIF Satellites Added L5

Signal/SV	IIR	IIR-M	IIF	
L1 C/A	✓	✓	✓	
L1 P(Y)	✓	✓	✓	
L1 M		✓	✓	
L1C				
L2 P(Y)	✓	✓	✓	
L2C		✓	✓	
L2 M		✓	✓	
L5			✓	

Safety  
service  
in  
ARNS  
band

1978 to  
2005

2005

2010

# GPS III Will Add L1C

Signal/SV	IIR	IIR-M	IIF	III
L1 C/A	✓	✓	✓	✓
L1 P(Y)	✓	✓	✓	✓
L1 M		✓	✓	✓
L1C	Better performance			✓
L2 P(Y)	✓	✓	✓	✓
L2C		✓	✓	✓
L2 M		✓	✓	✓
L5			✓	✓

1978 to  
2005

2005

2010

2018?

# Modernized Signal Structures

- The most important improvements in GNSS signal structures since 1978 have been adopted for essentially every new and modernized signal
  - Including GPS, Galileo, BeiDou, and QZSS
  - Hopefully also for NAVIC and GLONASS CDMA
- The improvements are (a) to have a data-less pilot carrier and (b) to use Forward Error Control (FEC) to enhance data reception
- There are many other variations, e.g.,
  - Binary Offset Carrier (BOC) combinations, spreading code structures, FEC techniques, power split between data and pilot channels, symbol interleaving, etc.
  - Each has a purpose, e.g., spectrum separation

# Signal Structure, Interoperability, and Geometry

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23 January 2018  
ICG Workshop, Bangkok, Thailand

# Disclaimer

*The views and opinions expressed herein are those of the author and do not necessarily reflect the official policy or position of The Aerospace Corporation or of any agency of the U.S. government.*

Portions of this work have been sponsored  
by The Aerospace Corporation

# The Most Important Ingredient

- Only Navigation by Satellite can provide **excellent Geometry**
  - *Continuous, worldwide, four dimensional, with excellent accuracy*
  - *GDOP, Geometric Dilution of Precision, and its important children:*
    - PDOP, HDOP, VDOP, and TDOP
  - *Although the satellite signals may be weak, the geometry is strong*
- No terrestrial navigation aid delivers “the most important ingredient”
- Do users need better geometry than GPS alone can provide?
- The answer is a definite “YES” as demonstrated by:
  - *Widespread use of GLONASS in products from consumer mobile phones to commercial survey and machine control products*
    - In spite of the difficulty of using GLONASS FDMA with GPS CDMA
  - *Plus widespread development of receivers to use all available GNSS*
- Aircraft at altitude and ships at sea may not need more than GPS
  - *But integrity by A-RAIM requires many more satellites*
- Users subject to signal blockage or outage do need more satellites
- Thus, the second most important ingredient is signal interoperability
  - Enabling the best geometry by using every interoperable satellite signal

# Signal Structure and Interoperability Considerations

- Interoperability is in the eye of the beholder
- For example, L1C and E1 OS have identical center frequencies and identical spectra, but almost everything else is different

Signal	Spreading Code Length (chips)	Spreading Code Duration	Modulation	Channel with BOC(6,1)	Data Power Percent	Pilot Power Percent	Symbol Rate	Bit Rate	Forward Error Correction	Pilot Overlay Code Duration	Message Frame Length
L1C	10,230	10 ms	TMBOC	Pilot	25%	75%	100 SPS	50 BPS	LDPC	18 sec	18 sec
E1 OS	4,092	4 ms	CBOC	Both	50%	50%	250 SPS	125 BPS	Convolutional	100 ms	720 sec

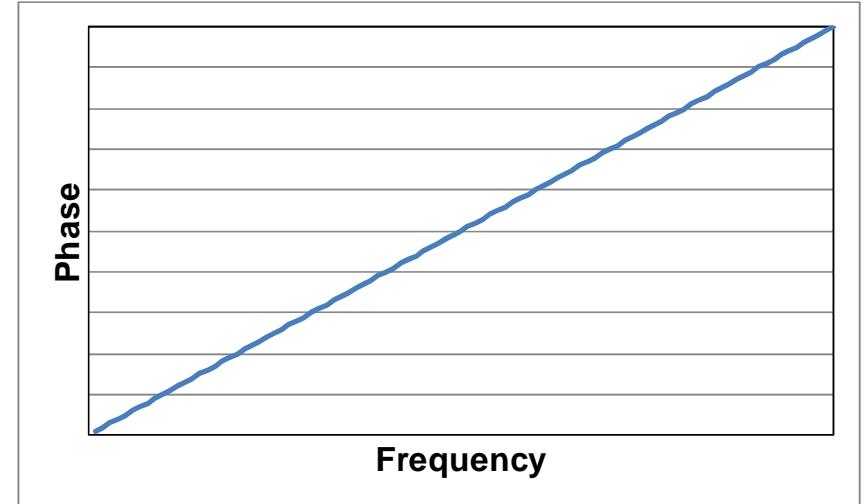
- Receivers will handle the differences and hide them from the user
  - *The user will experience better performance due to more satellites*
- However, different types of receivers will take advantage of some of the signal differences between systems
  - *Identical center frequency is important for high precision receivers and for bandwidth limited GNSS antennas on aircraft*
  - *Many receivers will use GPS L1 C/A for fast signal acquisition but the other signal structures for navigation, positioning, and timing*

# Predicting the Future

- If there are three global interoperable GNSS constellations in 2020
  - *GPS, Galileo, and BeiDou, with a total of 72 to 90 operational satellites*
- 1. Use of GLONASS FDMA will decrease for precision applications
  - *The current demand for more satellites will be satisfied by interoperable CDMA signals, leaving little demand for the more difficult FDMA signals*
- 2. Users will not say “this is my GNSS” or “this is my BeiDou”
  - *There will be few if any GPS-only or BeiDou-only or Galileo-only receivers*
  - *Users won’t know and they won’t care where the signals originate*
  - *They will just enjoy the better performance provided by better geometry*
  - *And they probably will continue to call their device a “GPS” (sorry!)*
- 3. Special, unique, or “orphan” signals will be little used
  - *Use of GPS L2C will decline because no other GNSS provides it*
  - *The standard dual-frequency pair will become 1575.42 and 1176.45 MHz*
  - *E5b and B2b will be little used, whereas E5a and B2a will be widely used*
    - A lively discussion topic!

# Future Decrease in High Precision FDMA Use

- A pure “time delay”  $\Delta t$  is characterized by a linear slope of phase versus frequency
$$\Delta\varphi / \Delta f = \Delta\varphi / (\Delta\varphi / \Delta t) = \Delta t$$
- However, a bandpass filter must rapidly attenuate signals outside the bandpass region
- This introduces nonlinearities in phase versus frequency, especially at the band edges
- In high precision applications it is desirable for every signal from every satellite to experience the same nonlinearities so there are no time delay differences between signals due to receiver filtering
- This will be true if every signal has the same center frequency
- Because this is not true for GLONASS FDMA signals, very careful calibration of each channel is required for near-precision results
- This is why high precision use of GLONASS FDMA will likely decrease substantially with deployment of Galileo and BeiDou



# Growth Continues and Should Accelerate

- Application growth is fueled primarily by the private sector
  - *Heavily regulated products, e.g., for aviation and the military, are slow to change and generally lag in innovation (sad but true)*
- Factors that encourage innovation and application growth:
  - *Competition, Moore's law, opportunity, fear, and the profit motive*
- What in the future will stimulate growth:
  - *Much better GNSS geometry improves availability, continuity, integrity, and accuracy, especially in difficult environments*
    - Urban canyons, real canyons, open pit mining, even aviation
  - *A-RAIM will become practical and begin to displace SBAS use*
  - *Ambiguity resolution for Real Time Kinematic (RTK) in survey and machine control will become almost instantaneous and more reliable*
    - Improved vertical accuracy will displace some laser plane requirements
- Alternate means to communicate message parameters will promote “instant navigation” for all applications (push to navigate)