

LoRa(WAN) Webinar LoRa – Modulation/Encoding

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These slides give an overview on the LoRa modulation and encoding. While the first slides are intended for general audience, the second part will explain modulation/encoding on a very detailed level, targeting advanced audience which want to generate/receive signals with their own hardware, like software defined radios.





Contents



- Spread Spectrum Basics
- LoRa Chirped Spread Spectrum
- LoRa Frame Format
- LoRa Encoding Scheme
- Airtime

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Spread Spectrum Basics

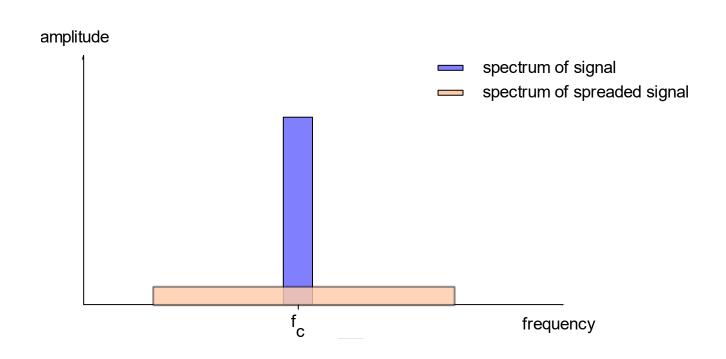


- Information is spread over frequency, high bandwidth
- Trade-off between data rate, bandwidth, and power

$$C = BW \log_2 \left(1 + \frac{S}{N} \right)$$

with

- C ... Channel Capacity $\left(\frac{bits}{s}\right)$
- BW ... Bandwidth (Hz)
- $\frac{S}{N}$... Signal to Noise ratio (1)



Direct Sequence Spread Spectrum

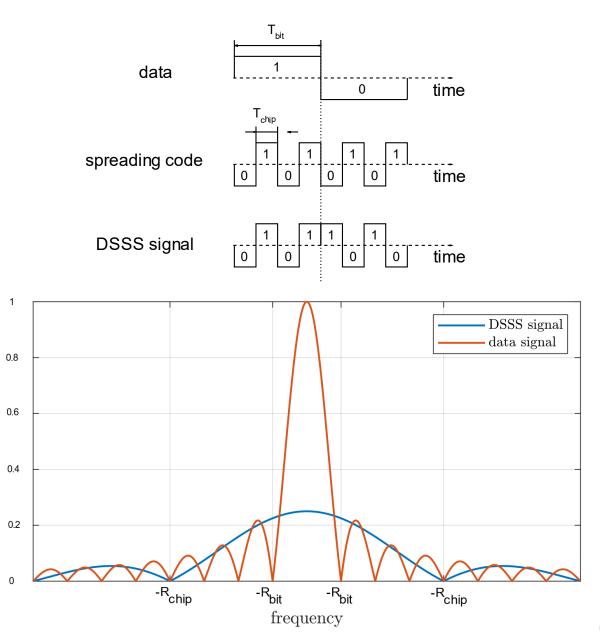


- Data signal is expanded by multiplying with pseudo random sequence spreading code
- Information is spread over frequency

$$R_{bit} = \frac{1}{T_{bit}}$$

$$R_{chip} = \frac{1}{T_{chip}}$$

amplitude



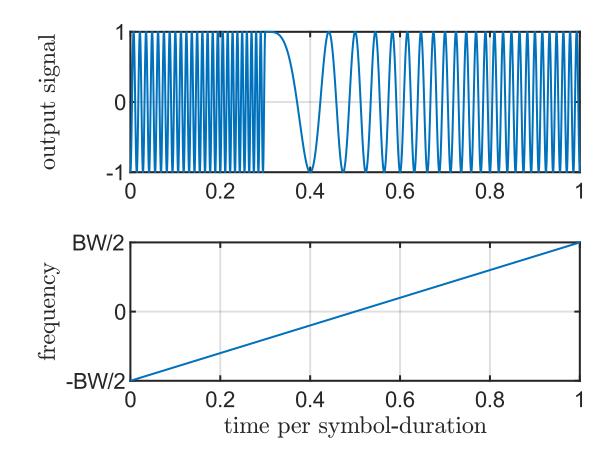
Contents



- Spread Spectrum Basics
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- LoRa Chirp: signal with linearly increasing frequency
- Chirp length is determined by the spreading factor SF
- Information is spread over time





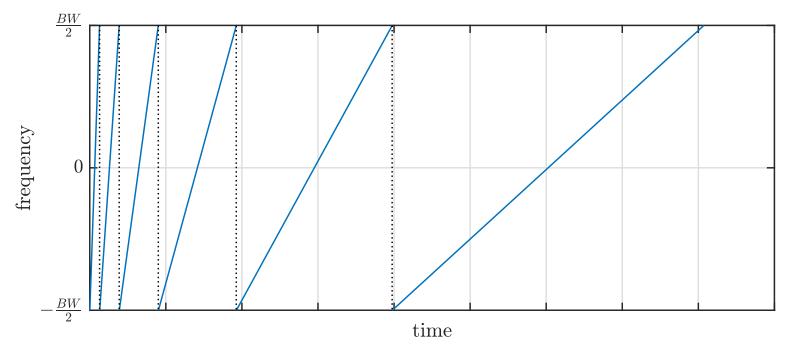
• Parameters defining the chirp:

• Spreading factor
$$SF = 7 \dots 12$$

• Bandwidth
$$BW = 125, 250, 500 \, kHz$$

• Code Rate
$$CR = \frac{4}{5}, \frac{4}{6}, \frac{4}{7}, \frac{4}{8}$$

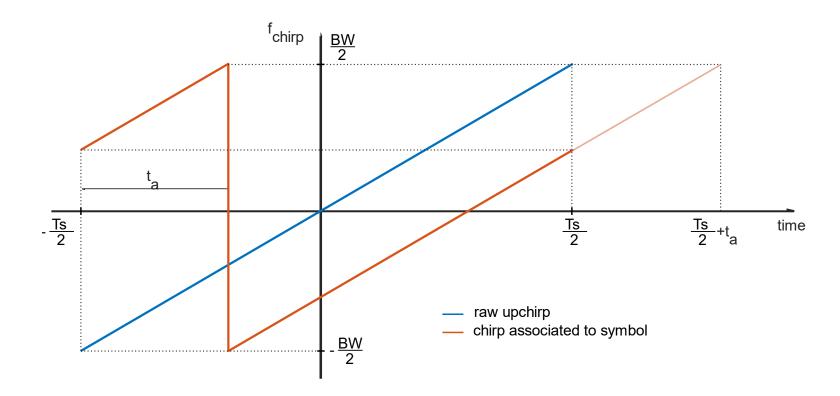
• Chirp length
$$T_S = \frac{2^{SF}}{BW}$$



LoRa chirps with $SF = 7 \dots 12$

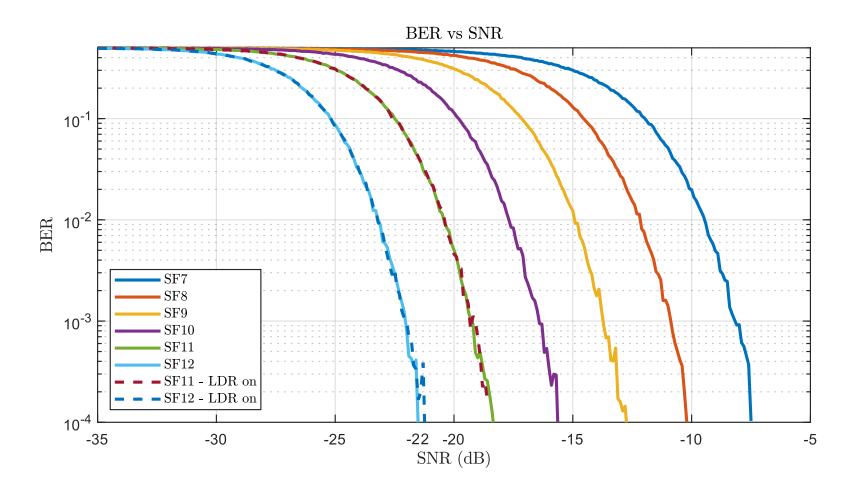


- Data encoded in cyclically shifted frequency ramp
- Symbol alphabet size $N = \begin{cases} SF & \text{with disabled low data rate mode} \\ SF 2 & \text{with enabled low data rate mode} \end{cases}$
- Symbol alphabet $a \in \{0, ..., M-1\}$





• Bit Error Ratio over Signal to Noise Ratio



• SNR = -22 dB for BER = 10^{-4} with SF = 12

LDR ... Low data rate mode



- Receiver Sensitivity: Receiving power at which a certain maximum BER is achieved
- Example:
 - $BW = 125 \, kHz$
 - Noise Figure NF = 6 dB
 - SF = 12
 - $SNR = -22 \, dB$ for $BER = 10^{-4}$
- $S = -174 + 10 \log_{10} BW + NF + SNR$ $S = -174 + 10 \log_{10} (125 \cdot 10^3) + 6 - 22 = -139 \, dBm$

• Link Budget:

• Antenna transmit power $P = +15 \ dBm$

Link Budget =
$$P - S = 15 dBm - (-139 dBm)$$

Link Budget = **154 dB**

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LoRa Frame Format



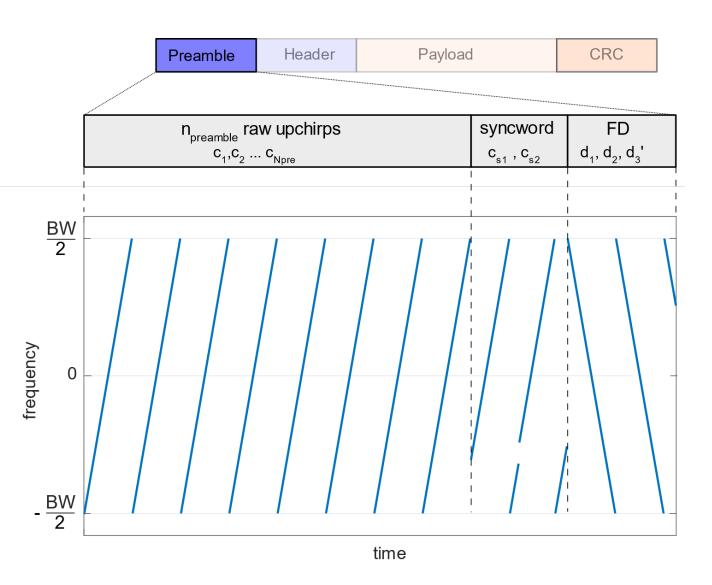
- Preamble
- Optional header
- Payload
- Cyclic redundancy check CRC

optional		optional	
Preamble	Header	Payload	CRC

Preamble



- $n_{preamble}$ raw upchirps $c_{1, c_{2, \dots}} c_{N_{pre}}$ for synchronization at receiver
- Syncword: two upchirps c_{s1} , c_{s2} , defining the mode of the communication. Public or private mode
- Frame Delimiter FD: 2.25 downchirps d_{2} , d_{2} , and d_{3} to end the preamble
 - d_3' describes the chirp with length $\frac{T_S}{4}$



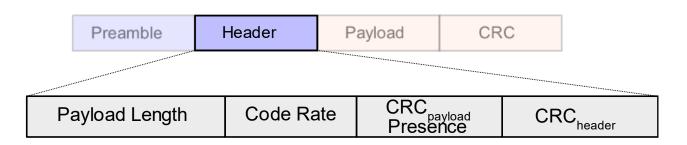
Header



Information included in Header:

•	Payload length	2 Bytes
•	Code Rate	3 Bit
•	Presence of a payload-CRC	1 Bit
•	Header-CRC	2 Bytes

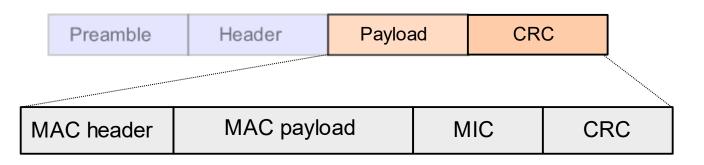
- Has a length of 8 symbols and is always encoded with highest code rate of $CR = \frac{4}{8}$
- 8 symbols include information of 56 ... 96 bit ,depending on spreading factor
- Unused space in the first 8 symbols is filled with payload data



Payload



- Payload length 0 ... 255 Byte
- MAC header: defines message type (data exchange, join request, ...)
- MAC Payload: either generic or LoRaWAN payload
- Every code rate possible
- Message Integrity Code MIC: Computed with the network session key
- Optional Cyclic Redundancy Check CRC: length 2 Bytes



Contents

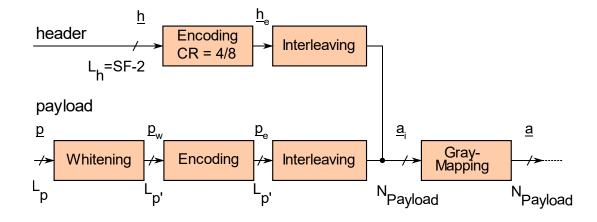


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LoRa Encoding



- Several encoding steps to increase resilience against interference
- Different treatment for header and payload
- Example with SF=8, CR=4/5, $L_p=2Byte$, and payload $\underline{p}=\begin{bmatrix}0 \times 00\\0 \times 00\end{bmatrix}$



Whitening



- Removes DC-bias in data; only payload gets whitened
- XOR with whitening sequence w

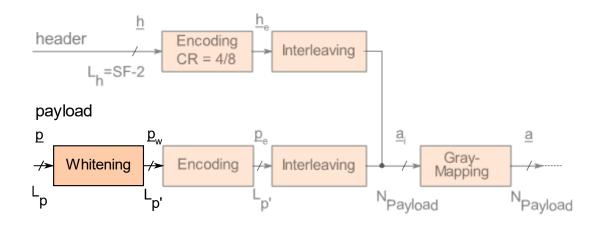
•
$$\underline{p_w} = \underline{p} \oplus \underline{w}$$

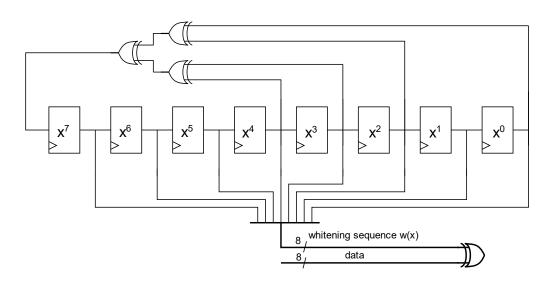
$$\underline{p_w} = \underline{p} \oplus \underline{w}$$

 Whitening sequence from linear feedback shift register with polynomial:

•
$$\underline{w}(x) = x^4 \oplus x^3 \oplus x^2 \oplus 1$$

$$\underline{w} = \begin{bmatrix} 0x & FE \\ 0x & FF \\ 0x & FF \end{bmatrix}$$
 first bytes of the whitening sequence





Whitening Example



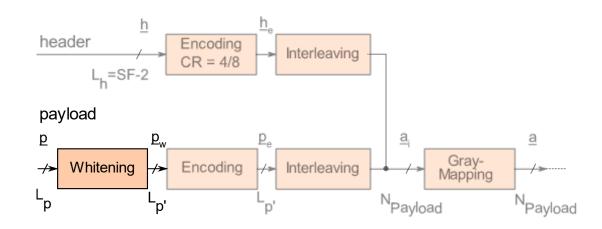
$$\underline{p} = \begin{bmatrix} 0x & 00 \\ 0x & 00 \end{bmatrix}$$

• Whitening sequence

$$\underline{w} = \begin{bmatrix} 0x FF \\ 0x FE \end{bmatrix}$$

Whitened payload

$$\underline{p_w} = \underline{p} \oplus \underline{w} = \begin{bmatrix} 0x \ FF \\ 0x \ FE \end{bmatrix}$$



Whitening Matlab Implementation

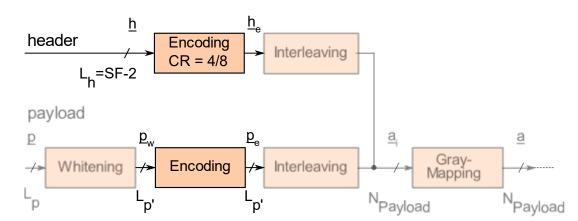


```
function p = compute whitening(p)
%COMPUTE WHITENING performs a whitening of the databytes p
    The function performs a whitenig of the databits p. The whitening
    sequence is computed with a LFSR with the polynomial:
    w(x) = x^4 x \text{ or } x^3 x \text{ or } x^2 x \text{ or } 1 \text{ and a starting value of } 0x FF
register = double(0xFF); % starting value of 0x FF
%perform whitening
for idx = 1 : length(p)
    p(idx) = bitxor(p(idx), register);
    feedback = mod(sum(dec2binvec(bitand(register, double(0xB8)))), 2);
    register = bitand(register * 2, double(0xFF)) + feedback;
end
```

Encoding



- Four different code-rates
 - CR = 4/5 parity check
 - CR = 4/6 shortened (4,7) Hamming code
 - CR = 4/7 (4,7) Hamming code
 - CR = 4/8 extended (4,7) Hamming code
- Header is always encoded with $\it CR=4/8$ and low data rate mode -> length $\it L_h=\it SF-2$ nibbles of 4 Bit
- Remaining space is filled with payload data
- Small payload may fit completely in header symbols
- Data $p_{\it w}$ transformed from Bytes to Nibbles of 4 Bit



Encoding



• Parity bits:

CR = 4/8
$$p_3$$
 p_2 p_1 p_0 d_3 d_2 d_1 d_0

CR = 4/7 p_2 p_1 p_0 d_3 d_2 d_1 d_0

CR = 4/6 p_1 p_0 d_3 d_2 d_1 d_0

CR = 4/5

• Parity bit calculation:

$$p_0 = d_0 \oplus d_1 \oplus d_2$$

$$p_1 = d_1 \oplus d_2 \oplus d_3$$

$$p_2 = d_0 \oplus d_1 \oplus d_3$$

$$p_3 = d_0 \oplus d_2 \oplus d_3$$

$$p_4 = d_0 \oplus d_1 \oplus d_2 \oplus d_3$$

Encoding



• Error correction capabilities:

Error Detection

bit error code rate	1	2	3	4
4/5				
4/6				
4/7				
4/8				

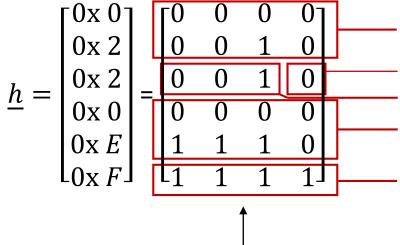
Error Correction

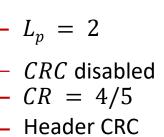
bit error code rate	1	2	3	4
4/5				
4/6				
4/7				
4/8				

Encoding Example



• Header $L_h = SF - 2 = 6$





header

Encoding

CR = 4/8

Payload

Publication

Publica

Remaining space is filled with Payload data

Payload

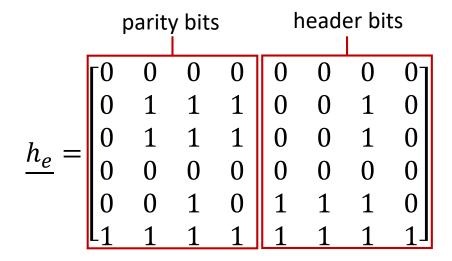
$$\underline{p_w} = \begin{bmatrix} 0x & F \\ 0x & F \\ 0x & E \\ 0x & F \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 1 & 1 & 1 \\ 1 & 1 & 1 & 1 \\ 0 & 1 & 1 & 1 \\ 1 & 1 & 1 & 1 \end{bmatrix}$$

$$\underline{p_w'} = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 1 & 1 & 1 \\ 0 & 1 & 1 & 1 \\ 1 & 1 & 1 & 1 \end{bmatrix}$$

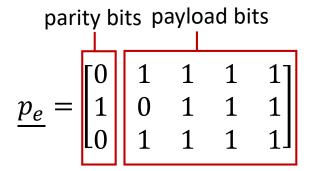
Encoding Example cont.

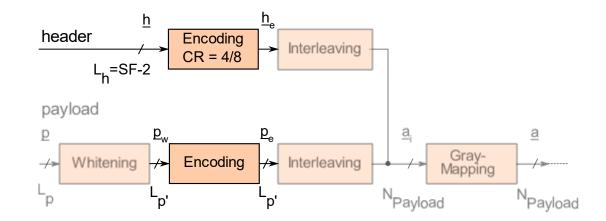


• Header CR = 4/8



• Payload CR = 4/5





Encoding Matlab Implementation



```
function codewords = encoder(B, CR)
%ENCODE Data encoding
%    This function encodes the input data from
%    matrix B with code rate:
%    CR = 1 ... code rate 4/5
%    CR = 2 ... code rate 4/6
%    CR = 3 ... code rate 4/7
%    CR = 4 ... code rate 4/8

len = size(B, 1);
N = CR;
k = 4;
codewords = zeros(len, k);
P = zeros(k, N - k);
I = logical(eye(k));
```

```
%Create generator matrix G
if CR > 5
    for idx = 1 : 4
        P(idx, 1) = xor(xor(I(idx, 1), I(idx, 2)), I(idx, 3));
        P(idx, 2) = xor(xor(I(idx, 2), I(idx, 3)), I(idx, 4));
        P(idx, 3) = xor(xor(I(idx, 1), I(idx, 2)), I(idx, 4));
        P(idx, 4) = xor(xor(I(idx, 1), I(idx, 3)), I(idx, 4));
    end
    %Create generator matrix for CR = 1 ... 3
    G=[I P(1 : 4, 1 : (CR - 4))]; elseif CR == 5
    for idx = 1:4
        P(idx, 1) = xor(xor(I(idx, 1), I(idx, 2)), xor(I(idx, 3), I(idx, 4)));
    end
    G=[I P];
               %Create generator matrix for CR = 4
end
%Generation of codewords
for idx1 = 1 : len
    for idx2 = 1 : N
         %multiplication data with generator matrix c = u * G
         codewords(idx1, idx2) = mod(sum(B(idx1, :).*G(:, idx2)'), 2);
    end
end
end
```

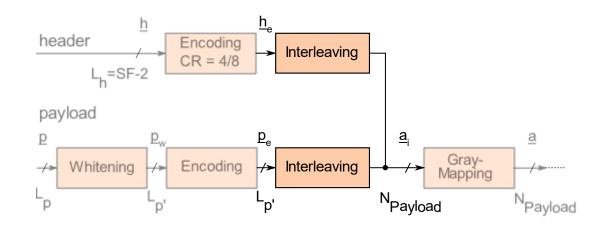
Interleaver

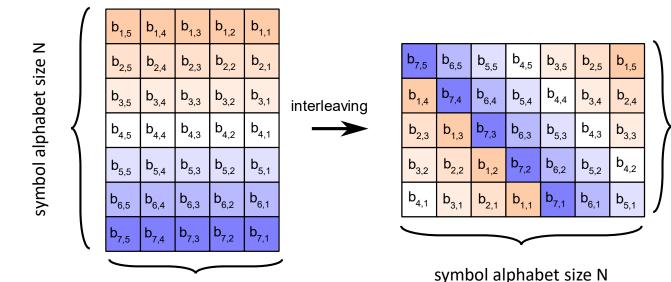


Diagonal interleaver

codeword length

- Multiple bit errors caused by one symbol are highly correlated
- Spreads multiple bit errors over multiple codewords -> decorrelation





symbol alphabet size:

$$N = \begin{cases} SF & \text{disabled low data rate mode} \\ SF - 2 & \text{enabled low data rate mode} \end{cases}$$

<u>codeword length:</u>

codeword length

• 5 bit for
$$CR = \frac{4}{5}$$

• 6 bit for
$$CR = \frac{4}{6}$$

• 7 bit for
$$CR = \frac{4}{7}$$

• 8 bit for
$$CR = \frac{4}{8}$$

Interleaver Matlab Implementation

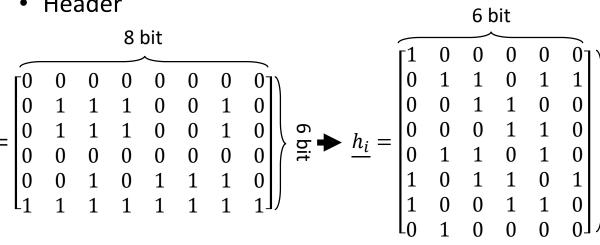


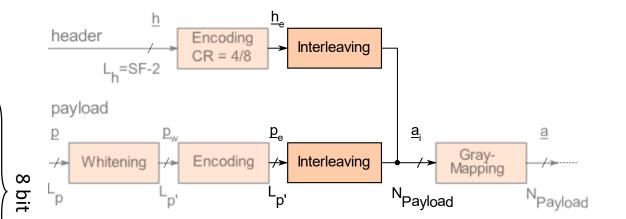
```
function B int = interleave(B)
%INTERLEAVE interleaves the binary codeblock B
    This function performs the diagonal interleaving of the codeblock B. It transoforms
    the binary matrix B of size symbol alphabet times codeword length (N x CR + 4) to the binary
    matrix B int of size codeword length times symbol alphabet size (CR + 4 x N)
c = size(B, 1);
s = size(B, 2);
bin interleaved1 = zeros(c, s);
B int = zeros(c, s);
%perform interleaving
for idx1 = 1 : c
    for idx2 = 1 : s
        bin interleaved1(idx1, idx2) = B(c - (idx1 - 1), idx2);
    end
end
for idx1 = 1 : c
    for idx2 = 1 : s
        B int(idx1, idx2)=bin interleaved1(1 + mod(idx1 - idx2, c), idx2);
    end
end
B int = fliplr(B int.');
end
```

Interleaver Example









Payload CR

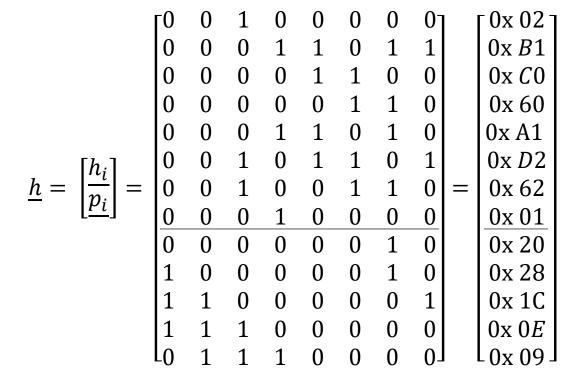
$$\underline{p_i} = \overbrace{ \begin{bmatrix} 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 1 & 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 \\ 1 & 1 & 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 1 & 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \end{bmatrix} }^{5}$$

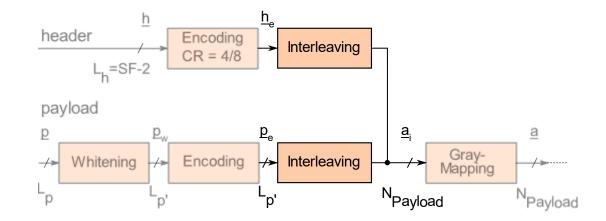
Payload is extended with random data to get a block of data with symbol alphabet size N times codeword length

Interleaver Example cont.



Header and payload is stacked to form codewords a_i



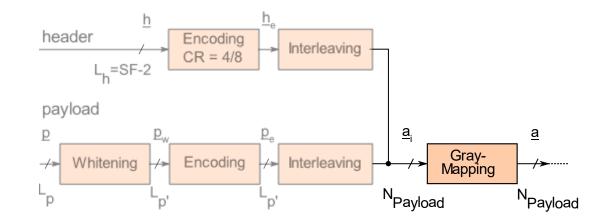


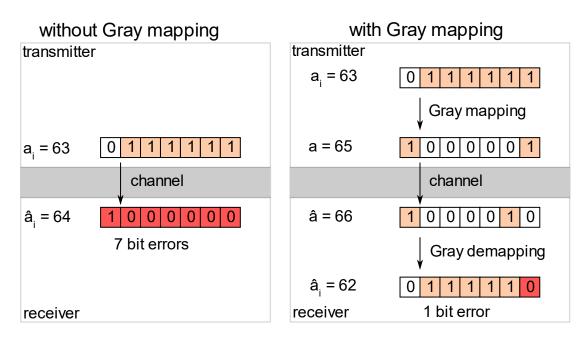
Gray Mapping



- Erroneous symbol most likely mistaken with adjacent symbol.
- Gray code maps a bit sequence such that two successive values differ by just one bit

$$a_{j} = \begin{cases} a_{i}(j,k) & \text{for } k = 0 \\ a_{i}(j,k) \oplus a_{i}(j,k-1) & \text{else} \end{cases}$$

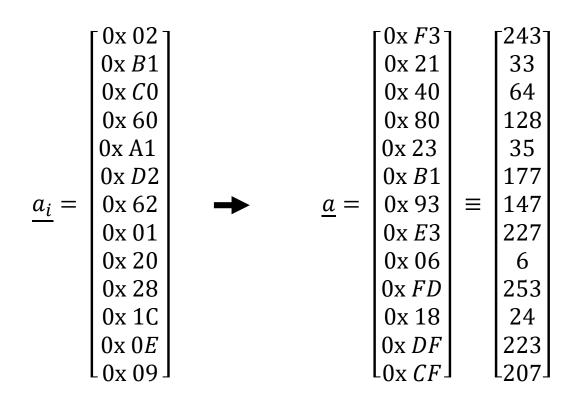


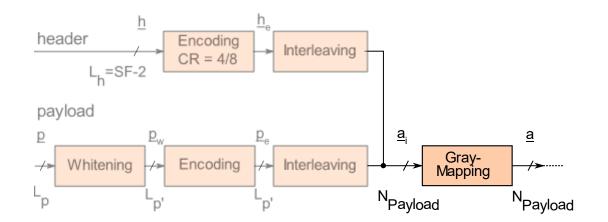


Receiver mistakes symbol a_i with adjacent symbol $\hat{a}_i = a_i + 1$

Gray Mapping Example







Gray Mapping Matlab Implementation

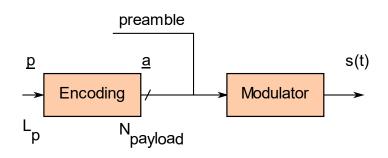


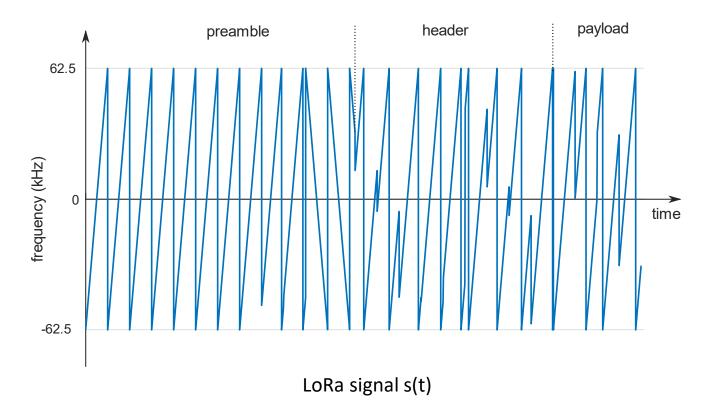
```
function g = bin2gray(b)
%BIN2GRAY performs a Gray mapping of the binary vector b
   The function performs a Gray mapping of the binary vector b according
   to:
% g i = b i for i = 0
% g i = b i xor g i-1 else
len = size(b, 2);
q(len) = b(len);
for idx = 1 : len - 1
   x = xor(b(len - idx + 1), b(len - idx));
   g(len - idx) = x;
end
end
```

Modulator



- After encoding steps, the preamble is added
- The symbols are modulated to the signal





Modulator Matlab Implementation



```
function iqdata = LoRa modulator(symbols, SF, PL, syncword, ovs)
%LORA MODULATOR creates a LoRa signal
    This function crates a LoRa signal for the vector symbols with the
    spreading factor SF, the preamble length PL, the syncword, and the
   oversampling factor ovs.
iqdata = [];
phaseacc = 0;
%create preamble chirps
for preamble = 1 : PL
    [chirp, phaseacc] = lora chirpsignal(0, SF, 'up', ovs, phaseacc);
    iqdata = [iqdata chirp];
end
%create syncword chirps
[chirp, phaseacc] = lora chirpsignal(floor(syncword/16)*8 , SF, 'up', ovs, phaseacc);
iqdata = [iqdata chirp];
[chirp, phaseacc] = lora chirpsignal(mod(syncword,16)*8 , SF, 'up', ovs, phaseacc);
iqdata = [iqdata chirp];
%create 2.25 frame delimiter downchirps
[chirp, phaseacc] = lora chirpsignal(0, SF, 'down', ovs, phaseacc);
iqdata = [iqdata chirp];
[chirp, phaseacc] = lora chirpsignal(0, SF, 'down', ovs, phaseacc);
iqdata = [iqdata chirp];
[chirp, phaseacc] = lora chirpsignal(0, SF, 'down quarter', ovs, phaseacc);
iqdata = [iqdata chirp];
%create chirps for the input symbols
for sym = symbols
    [chirp, phaseacc] = lora chirpsignal(sym, SF, 'up', ovs, phaseacc);
    iqdata = [iqdata chirp];
end
```

Chirp-Creation Matlab Implementation



```
function [chirp, phaseacc] = lora chirpsignal(symbol, SF,
chirpmode, ovs, phaseacc)
%LORA CHIRPSIGNAL creates a LoRa chirp
    The function lora chirpsignal creates a chirp representing
   the input symbol with the spreading factor SF, oversampling
   factor ovs, starting phase paseacc, and the chirpmode:
    chirpmode = "UP"
                                upchirp
    chirpmode = "DOWN"
                                downchirp
    chirpmode = "DOWN QUATER"
                                downchirp with 1/4 symbol length.
N = 2 ^ SF;
NN = N * ovs;
fMin = -pi / ovs;
fMax = pi / ovs;
fStep = (2 * pi) / (N * ovs * ovs);
f0 = (2 * pi * symbol) / NN;
f = fMin + f0;
%define length for mode "DOWN QUATER"
if isequal(upper(chirpmode), 'DOWN QUARTER')
    NN = NN / 4;
end
chirp = zeros(1, NN);
```

```
%create upchirp
if isequal(upper(chirpmode), 'UP')
    for idx = 1 : NN
        if f > fMax
            f = f - (fMax - fMin);
        end
        phaseacc = phaseacc + f;
        chirp(idx) = exp(1i * phaseacc);
        f = f + fStep;
    end
end
%create downchirp
if isequal(upper(chirpmode), 'DOWN') || isequal(upper(chirpmode),
'DOWN QUARTER')
    for idx = 1 : NN
        if f > fMax
            f = f - (fMax - fMin);
        end
        phaseacc = phaseacc - f;
        chirp(idx) = exp(1i * phaseacc);
        f = f + fStep;
    end
end
```



payload $\underline{p} = \begin{bmatrix} 0x & 00 \\ 0x & 00 \end{bmatrix}$

Same Example with SF = 11:

• Whitening:

whitening sequence
$$\underline{w} = \begin{bmatrix} 0x FF \\ 0x FE \end{bmatrix}$$

$$\underline{p_w} = \underline{p} \oplus \underline{w} = \begin{bmatrix} 0x \ FF \\ 0x \ FE \end{bmatrix}$$



Same Example with SF = 11:

• **Encoding:** $L_h = SF - 2 = 9$

payload
$$\underline{p} = \begin{bmatrix} 0x & 00 \\ 0x & 00 \end{bmatrix}$$

whole payload data fits in remaining space in header

$$\underline{p_w} = \begin{bmatrix} 0x & F \\ 0x & F \\ 0x & E \\ 0x & F \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 1 & 1 & 1 \\ 1 & 1 & 1 & 1 \\ 0 & 1 & 1 & 1 \\ 1 & 1 & 1 & 1 \end{bmatrix} \longrightarrow \underline{p_w'} = 0 \longrightarrow \underline{p_e} = 0$$



Same Example with SF = 11:

payload $\underline{p} = \begin{bmatrix} 0x & 00 \\ 0x & 00 \end{bmatrix}$

• Interleaving:



Same Example with SF = 11:

• Gray Mapping:

mple with
$$SF=11$$
: payload $\ \, \underline{p}=\begin{bmatrix} 0 \mathrm{x} \ 0 \mathrm{x} \ 0 \mathrm{g} \end{bmatrix}$

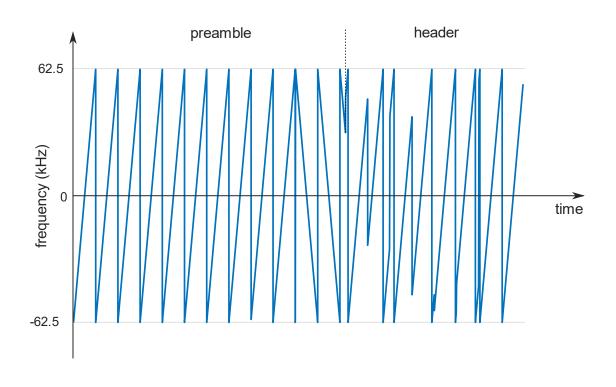
$$\underline{a_i} = \begin{bmatrix} 0x & 471 \\ 0x & 3F0 \\ 0x & C70 \\ 0x & C30 \\ 0x & 650 \\ 0x & F61 \\ 0x & 291 \end{bmatrix} \longrightarrow \underline{a_i} = \begin{bmatrix} 0x & 7A1 \\ 0x & 2A0 \\ 0x & 750 \\ 0x & 820 \\ 0x & 460 \\ 0x & 5B1 \\ 0x & 911 \\ 0x & C11 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 1692 \\ 648 \\ 348 \\ 160 \\ 400 \\ 1748 \\ 1124 \\ 1136 \end{bmatrix}$$



Same Example with SF = 11:

payload
$$\underline{p} = \begin{bmatrix} 0x & 00 \\ 0x & 00 \end{bmatrix}$$

• Resulting signal:



Contents



- Spread Spectrum Basics
- LoRa Chirped Spread Spectrum
- LoRa Frame Format
- LoRa Encoding Scheme
- Airtime

Airtime

-CR



• Payload Length
$$N_{payload} = 8 + max \Bigg(\left| \frac{\text{(8PL-4SF+28+16CRC-20H)}}{\text{4N}} \right| \frac{4}{\text{CR+4}}, 0 \Bigg)$$
 with:

Code rate ($CR = 1 \dots 4$ representing code rates 4/5, 4/6, 4/7, and 4/8)

```
PL Payload length
SF Spreading factor
CRC-presence
H implicit mode H = 1, explicit mode H = 0
N Symbol alphabet size
```

• Airtime of a LoRa signal: $T_{LoRa} = \left[N_{preamble} + N_{payload} \right] T_s$

Airtime



