

# **DATA COMMUNICATION**

## **E-CONTENTS**

# UNIT 1

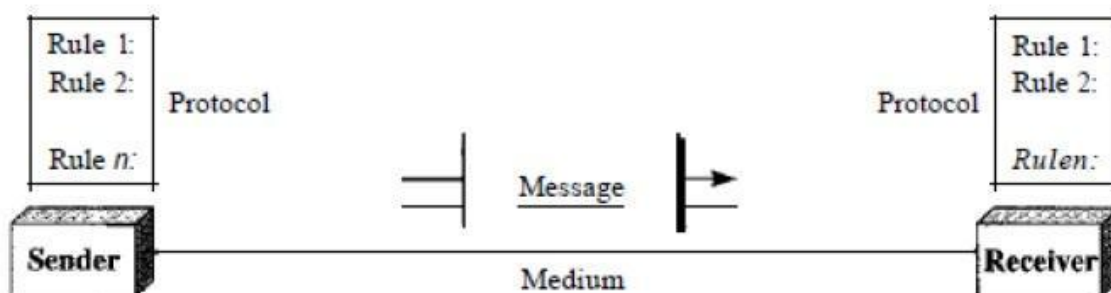
## INTRODUCTION

Data communications are the exchange of data between two devices via some form of transmission medium such as a wire cable. For data communications to occur, the communicating devices must be part of a communication system made up of a combination of hardware (physical equipment) and software (programs). The effectiveness of a data communications system depends on four fundamental characteristics: delivery, accuracy, timeliness, and jitter.

1. **Delivery.** The system must deliver data to the correct destination. Data must be received by the intended device or user and only by that device or user.
2. **Accuracy.** The system must deliver the data accurately. Data that have been altered in transmission and left uncorrected are unusable.
3. **Timeliness.** The system must deliver data in a timely manner. Data delivered late are useless. In the case of video and audio, timely delivery means delivering data as they are produced, in the same order that they are produced, and without significant delay. This kind of delivery is called *real-time* transmission.
4. **Jitter.** Jitter refers to the variation in the packet arrival time. It is the uneven delay in the delivery of audio or video packets.

### **Components:**

A data communications system has five components.



**1. Message.** The message is the information (data) to be communicated. Popular forms of information include text, numbers, pictures, audio, and video.

**2. Sender.** The sender is the device that sends the data message. It can be a computer, workstation, telephone handset, video camera, and so on.

**3. Receiver.** The receiver is the device that receives the message. It can be a computer, workstation, telephone handset, television, and so on.

**4. Transmission medium.** The transmission medium is the physical path by which a message travels from sender to receiver. Some examples of transmission media include twisted-pair wire, coaxial cable, fiber-optic cable, and radio waves

**5. Protocol.** A protocol is a set of rules that govern data communications. It represents an agreement between the communicating devices.

## **DATA TRANSMISSION MODES**

Communication between two devices can be simplex, half-duplex, or full-duplex.

### **Simplex:**

In simplex mode, the communication is unidirectional, as on a one-way street. Only one of the two devices on a link can transmit; the other can only receive. Keyboards and traditional monitors are examples of simplex devices. The keyboard can only introduce input; the monitor can only accept output. The simplex mode can use the entire capacity of the channel to send data in one direction.

### **Half-Duplex:**

In half-duplex mode, each station can both transmit and receive, but not at the same time. When one device is sending, the other can only receive, and vice versa. In a half-duplex transmission, the entire capacity of a channel is taken over by whichever of the two devices is transmitting at the time. Walkie-talkies and CB (citizens band) radios are both half-duplex systems. The half-duplex mode is used in cases where there is no need for communication in both directions at the same time; the entire capacity of the channel can be utilized for each direction.

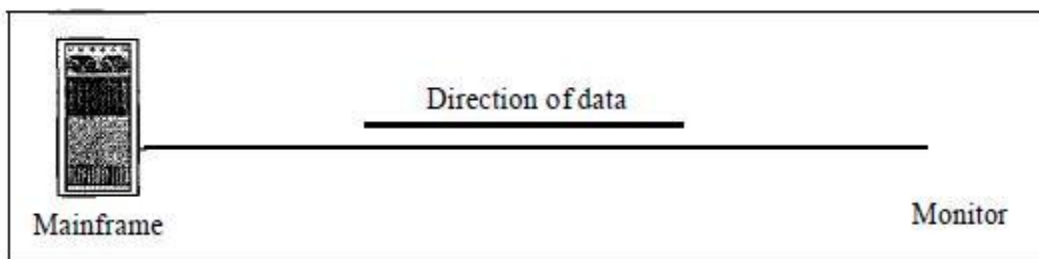
### Full-Duplex:

In full-duplex both stations can transmit and receive simultaneously. The full-duplex mode is like a two way street with traffic flowing in both directions at the same time. In full-duplex mode, signals going in one direction share the capacity of the link: with signals going in the other direction. One common example of full-duplex communication is the telephone network. When two people are communicating by a telephone line, both can talk and listen at the same time. The full-duplex mode is used when communication in both directions is required all the time. The capacity of the channel, however, must be divided between the two directions.

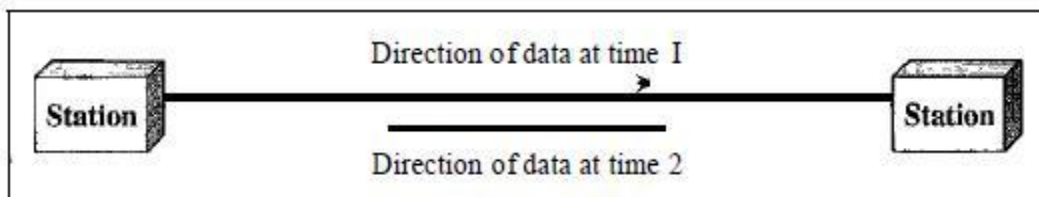
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### *Data flow (simplex, half-duplex, and full-duplex)*

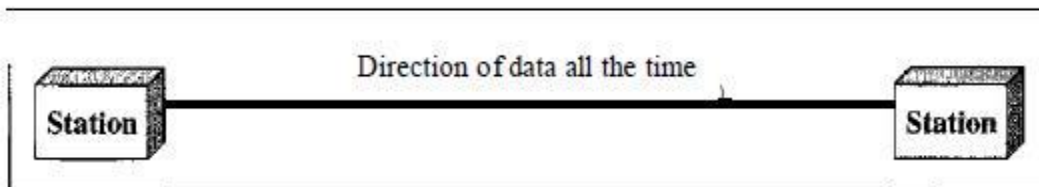
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a. Simplex



b. Half-duplex



c. Full-duplex

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# **NETWORKS**

A network is a set of devices (often referred to as *nodes*) connected by communication links. A node can be a computer, printer, or any other device capable of sending and/or receiving data generated by other nodes on the network.

## **Network Criteria**

A network must be able to meet a certain number of criteria. The most important of these are performance, reliability, and security.

### **Performance:**

Performance can be measured in many ways, including transit time and response time. Transit time is the amount of time required for a message to travel from one device to another. Response time is the elapsed time between an inquiry and a response. The performance of a network depends on a number of factors, including the number of users, the type of transmission medium, the capabilities of the connected hardware, and the efficiency of the software.

### **Reliability:**

Network reliability is measured by the frequency of failure, the time it takes a link to recover from a failure, and the network's robustness in a catastrophe.

### **Security:**

Network security issues include protecting data from unauthorized access, protecting data from damage and development, and implementing policies and procedures for recovery from breaches and data losses.

# **PHYSICAL STRUCTURES**

**TYPES OF CONNECTIONS:** A network is two or more devices connected through links.

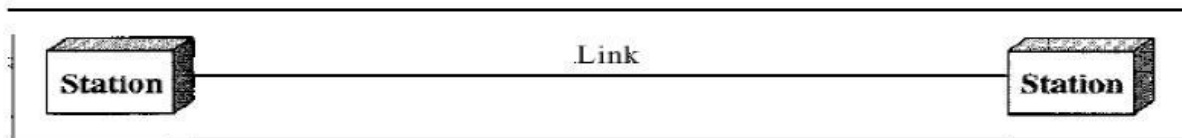
A link is a communications pathway that transfers data from one device to another. There are two possible types of connections: point-to-point and multipoint.

## Point-to-Point

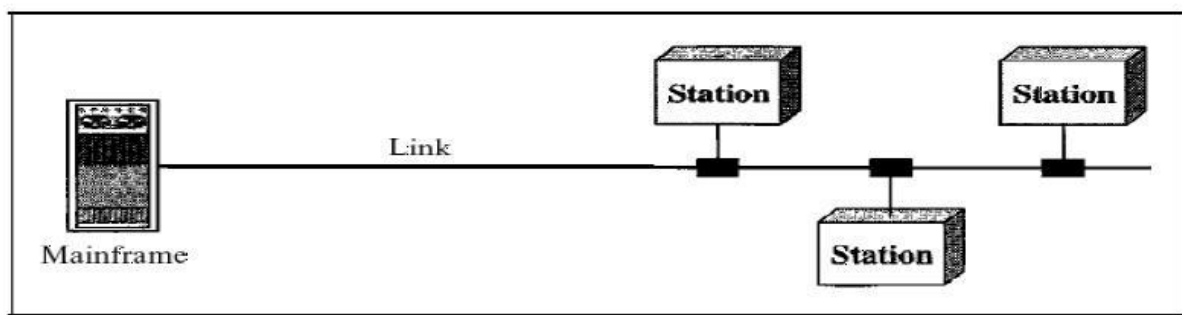
A point-to-point connection provides a dedicated link between two devices. The entire capacity of the link is reserved for transmission between those two devices. Most point-to-point connections use an actual length of wire or cable to connect the two ends, but other options, such as microwave or satellite links, are also possible. When you change television channels by infrared remote control, you are establishing a point-to-point connection between the remote control and the television's control system.

## Multipoint

A multipoint (also called multidrop) connection is one in which more than two specific devices share a single link. In a multipoint environment, the capacity of the channel is shared, either spatially or temporally. If several devices can use the link simultaneously, it is a *spatially shared* connection. If users must take turns, it is a *timeshared* connection.



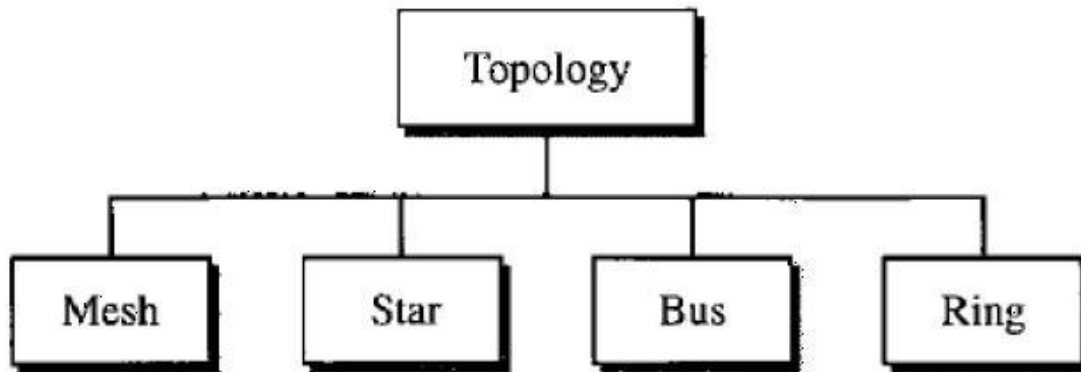
a. Point-to-point



b. Multipoint

## **PHYSICAL TOPOLOGY:**

The term *physical topology* refers to the way in which a network is laid out physically. One or more devices connect to a link; two or more links form a topology. The topology of a network is the geometric representation of the relationship of all the links and linking devices (usually called nodes) to one another. There are four basic topologies possible: mesh, star, bus, and ring.



1. **Mesh**: In a mesh topology, every device has a dedicated point-to-point link to every other device. The term *dedicated* means that the link carries traffic only between the two devices it connects. To find the number of physical links in a fully connected mesh network with  $n$  nodes, we first consider that each node must be connected to every other node. Node 1 must be connected to  $n - 1$  nodes, node 2 must be connected to  $n - 1$  nodes, and finally node  $n$  must be connected to  $n - 1$  nodes. We need  $n(n - 1)$  physical links. However, if each physical link allows communication in both directions (duplex mode), we can divide the number of links by 2. In other words, we can say that in a mesh topology, we need  $n(n - 1) / 2$  duplex-mode links. To accommodate that many links, every device on the network must have  $n - 1$  input/output ports to be connected to the other  $n - 1$  stations.

### **Advantages:**

1. The use of dedicated links guarantees that each connection can carry its own data load, thus eliminating the traffic problems that can occur when links must be shared by multiple devices.
2. A mesh topology is robust. If one link becomes unusable, it does not incapacitate the entire system.

3. There is the advantage of privacy or security. When every message travels along a dedicated line, only the intended recipient sees it. Physical boundaries prevent other users from gaining access to messages.

4. Point-to-point links make fault identification and fault isolation easy. Traffic can be routed to avoid links with suspected problems. This facility enables the network manager to discover the precise location of the fault and aids in finding its cause and solution.

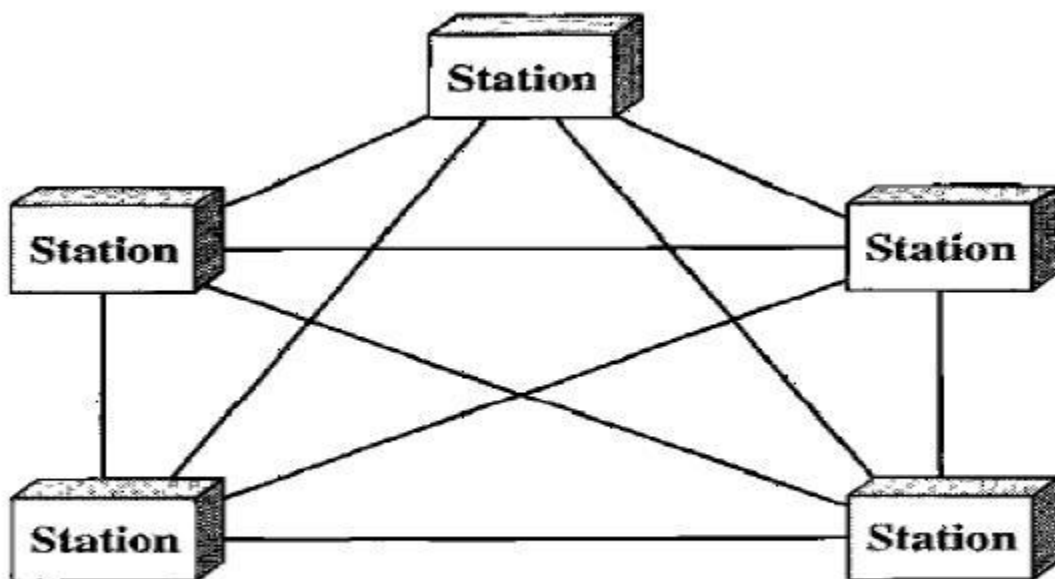
### **Disadvantages:**

1. Disadvantage of a mesh are related to the amount of cabling because every device must be connected to every other device.

2. Installation and reconnection are difficult.

3. The sheer bulk of the wiring can be greater than the available space (in walls, ceilings, or floors) can accommodate.

4. The hardware required to connect each link (I/O ports and cable) can be prohibitively expensive.





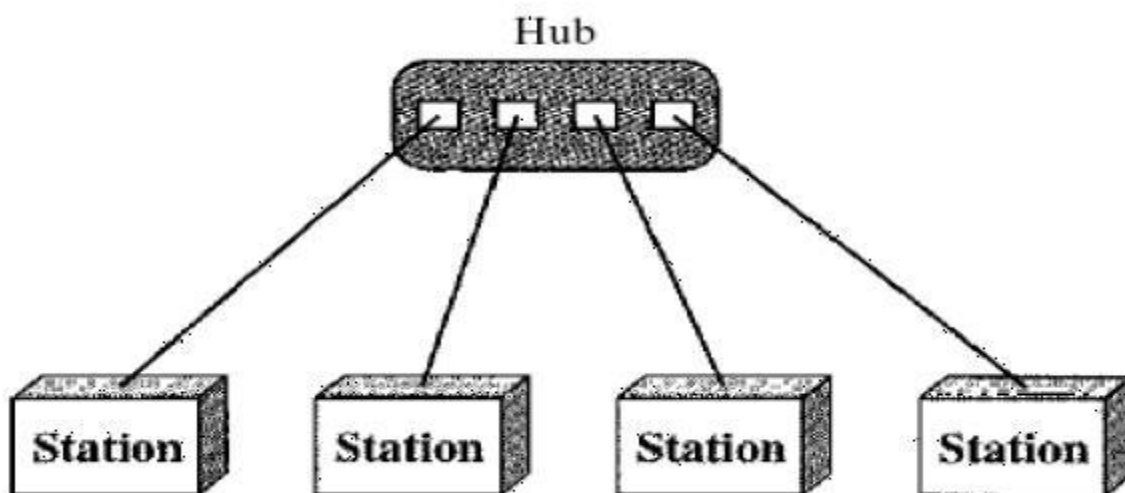
2. **Star Topology:** In a star topology, each device has a dedicated point-to-point link only to a central controller, usually called a hub. The devices are not directly linked to one another. Unlike a mesh topology, a star topology does not allow direct traffic between devices. The controller acts as an exchange: If one device wants to send data to another, it sends the data to the controller, which then relays the data to the other connected device .

**Advantages:**

1. A star topology is less expensive than a mesh topology. In a star, each device needs only one link and one I/O port to connect it to any number of others.
2. Easy to install and reconfigure.
3. Far less cabling needs to be housed, and additions, moves, and deletions involve only one connection: between that device and the hub.
4. Other advantage include robustness. If one link fails, only that link is affected. All other links remain active. This factor also lends itself to easy fault identification and fault isolation. As long as the hub is working, it can be used to monitor link problems and bypass defective links.

**Disadvantages:**

One big disadvantage of a star topology is the dependency of the whole topology on one single point, the hub. If the hub goes down, the whole system is dead. Although a star requires far less cable than a mesh, each node must be linked to a central hub. For this reason, often more cabling is required in a star than in some other topologies (such as ring or bus).



**3. BUS:** A bus topology is multipoint. One long cable acts as a **backbone** to link all the devices in a network. Nodes are connected to the bus cable by drop lines and taps. A drop line is a connection running between the device and the main cable. A tap is a connector that either splices into the main cable or punctures the sheathing of a cable to create a contact with the metallic core. As a signal travels along the backbone, some of its energy is transformed into heat. Therefore, it becomes weaker and weaker as it travels farther and farther. For this reason there is a limit on the number of taps a bus can support and on the distance between those taps.

**Advantages:**

Advantages of a bus topology include ease of installation. Backbone cable can be laid along the most efficient path, then connected to the nodes by drop lines of various lengths. In this way, a bus uses less cabling than mesh or star topologies. In a star, for example, four network devices in the same room require four lengths of cable reaching all the way to the hub. In a bus, this redundancy is eliminated. Only the backbone cable stretches through the entire facility. Each drop line has to reach only as far as the nearest point on the backbone.

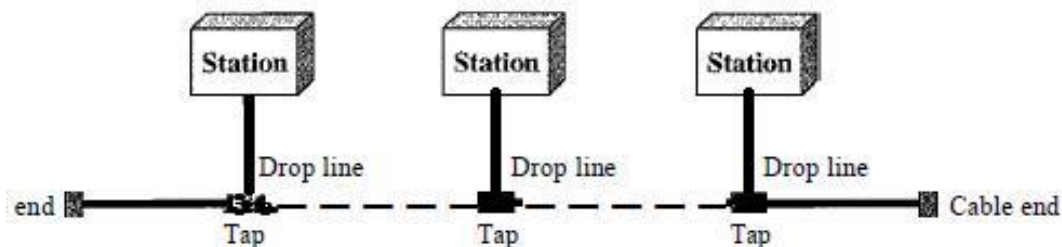
**Disadvantages:**

Disadvantages include difficult reconnection and fault isolation. A bus is usually designed to be optimally efficient at installation. It can therefore be difficult to add new devices. Signal reflection at the taps can cause degradation in quality. This degradation can be controlled by limiting the number and spacing of devices connected to a given length of cable. Adding new devices may therefore require modification or replacement of the backbone. In addition, a fault or break in the bus cable stops all transmission, even between devices on the same side of the problem. The damaged area reflects signals back in the direction of origin, creating noise in both directions.

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*A bus topology connecting three stations*

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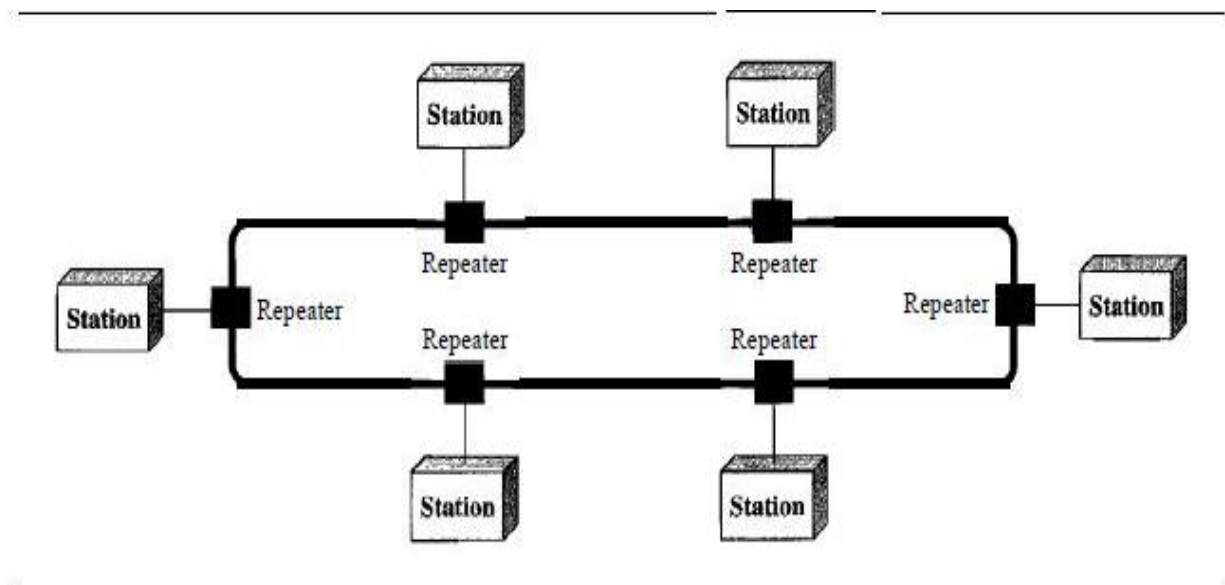
**4. RING:** In a ring topology, each device has a dedicated point-to-point connection with only two devices on either side of it. A signal is passed along the ring in one direction, from device to device, until it reaches its destination. Each device in the ring incorporates a repeater. When a device receives a signal intended for another device, its repeater regenerates the bits and passes them along.

**Advantages:**

A ring is relatively easy to install and reconfigure. Each device is linked to only its immediate neighbors (either physically or logically). To add or delete a device requires changing only two connections. The only constraints are media and traffic considerations (maximum ring length and number of devices). In addition, fault isolation is simplified. Generally in a ring, a signal is circulating at all times. If one device does not receive a signal within a specified period, it can issue an alarm. The alarm alerts the network operator to the problem and its location.

**Disadvantages:**

Unidirectional traffic can be a disadvantage. In a simple ring, a break in the ring (such as a disabled station) can disable the entire network. This weakness can be solved by using a dual ring or a switch capable of closing off the break. Ring topology was prevalent when IBM introduced its local-area network Token Ring. Today, the need for higher-speed LANs has made this topology less popular.



## **NETWORK CATEGORIES**

### **Local Area Networks (LAN):**

Local area networks, generally called LANs, are privately-owned networks within a single building or campus of up to a few kilometers in size. They are widely used to connect personal computers and workstations in company offices and factories to share resources (e.g., printers) and exchange information. LANs are distinguished from other kinds of networks by three characteristics:

- (1) Their size,
- (2) Their transmission technology, and
- (3) Their topology.

LANs are restricted in size, which means that the worst-case transmission time is bounded and known in advance. Knowing this bound makes it possible to use certain kinds of designs that would not otherwise be possible. It also simplifies network management. LANs may use a transmission technology consisting of a cable to which all the machines are attached, like the telephone company party lines once used in rural areas. Traditional LANs run at speeds of 10 Mbps to 100 Mbps, have low delay (microseconds or nanoseconds), and make very few errors. Newer LANs operate at up to 10 Gbps.

### **Metropolitan Area Network (MAN):**

A metropolitan area network, or MAN, covers a city. The best-known example of a MAN is the cable television network available in many cities. This system grew from earlier community antenna systems used in areas with poor over-the-air television reception. In these early systems, a large antenna was placed on top of a nearby hill and signal was then piped to the subscribers' houses. At first, these were locally-designed, ad hoc systems. Then companies began jumping into the business, getting contracts from city governments to wire up an entire city. The next step was television programming and even entire channels designed for cable only. Often these channels were highly specialized, such as all news, all sports, all cooking, all gardening, and so on. But from their inception until the late 1990s, they were intended for television reception only. Cable television is not the only MAN. Recent developments in high-speed wireless Internet access resulted in another MAN, which has been standardized as IEEE 802.16.

### **Wide Area Network (WAN):**

A wide area network, or WAN, spans a large geographical area, often a country or continent. It

contains a collection of machines intended for running user (i.e., application) programs. These machines are called as hosts. The hosts are connected by a communication subnet, or just subnet for short. The hosts are owned by the customers (e.g., people's personal computers), whereas the communication subnet is typically owned and operated by a telephone company or Internet service provider. The job of the subnet is to carry messages from host to host, just as the telephone system carries words from speaker to listener. Separation of the pure communication aspects of the network (the subnet) from the application aspects (the hosts), greatly simplifies the complete network design. In most wide area networks, the subnet consists of two distinct components: transmission lines and switching elements. Transmission lines move bits between machines. They can be made of copper wire, optical fiber, or even radio links. In most WANs, the network contains numerous transmission lines, each one connecting a pair of routers. If two routers that do not share a transmission line wish to communicate, they must do this indirectly, via other routers. When a packet is sent from one router to another via one or more intermediate routers, the packet is received at each intermediate router in its entirety, stored there until the required output line is free, and then forwarded. A subnet organized according to this principle is called a store-and-forward or packet-switched subnet. Nearly all wide area networks (except those using satellites) have store-and-forward subnets. When the packets are small and all the same size, they are often called cells. The principle of a packet-switched WAN is so important. Generally, when a process on some host has a message to be sent to a process on some other host, the sending host first cuts the message into packets, each one bearing its number in the sequence. These packets are then injected into the network one at a time in quick succession. The packets are transported individually over the network and deposited at the receiving host, where they are reassembled into the original message and delivered to the receiving process. Not all WANs are packet switched. A second possibility for a WAN is a satellite system. Each router has an antenna through which it can send and receive. All routers can hear the output from the satellite, and in some cases they can also hear the upward transmissions of their fellow routers to the satellite as well. Sometimes the routers are connected to a substantial point-to-point subnet, with only some of them having a satellite antenna. Satellite networks are inherently broadcast and are most useful when the broadcast property is important.

## **Unit 2**

### **DATA AND SIGNALS**

#### **ANALOG AND DIGITAL DATA**

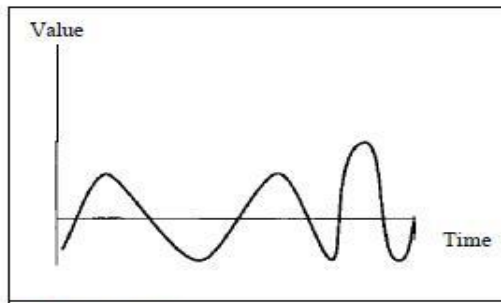
**Analog Data:** The term **analog data** refers to information that is continuous; For example, an analog clock that has hour, minute, and second hands gives information in a continuous form; the movements of the hands are continuous. Analog data, such as the sounds made by a human voice, take on continuous values. When someone speaks, an analog wave is created in the air. This can be captured by a microphone and converted to an analog signal or sampled and converted to a digital signal.

**Digital Data:**

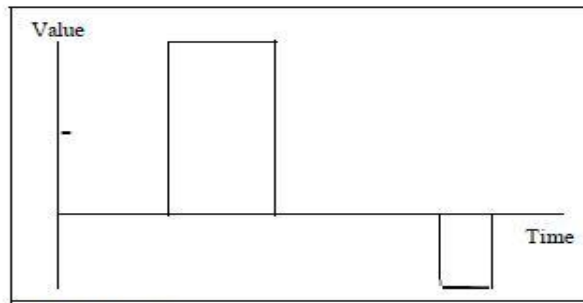
**Digital data** refers to information that has discrete states. For example, a digital clock that reports the hours and the minutes will change suddenly from 8:05 to 8:06. Digital data takes on discrete values. For example, data are stored in computer memory in the form of 0s and 1s. They can be converted to a digital signal or modulated into an analog signal for transmission across a medium.

**Analog and Digital Signals:**

Like the data they represent, signals can be either analog or digital. An analog signal has infinitely many levels of intensity over a period of time. As the wave moves from value *A* to value *B*, it passes through and includes an infinite number of values along its path. A digital signal, on the other hand, can have only a limited number of defined values. Although each value can be any number, it is often as simple as 1 and 0. The simplest way to show signals is by plotting them on a pair of perpendicular axes. The vertical axis represents the value or strength of a signal. The horizontal axis represents time. Figure below illustrates an analog signal and a digital signal. The curve representing the analog signal passes through an infinite number of points. The vertical lines of the digital signal, however, demonstrate the sudden jump that the signal makes from value to value.



a. Analog signal



b. Digital signal

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### **Periodic and Nonperiodic Signals:**

A periodic signal completes a pattern within a measurable time frame, called a period, and repeats that pattern over subsequent identical periods. The completion of one full pattern is called a cycle. A nonperiodic signal changes without exhibiting a pattern or cycle that repeats over time.

### **PERIODIC ANALOG SIGNALS:**

Periodic analog signals can be classified as simple or composite. A simple periodic analog signal, a sine wave, cannot be decomposed into simpler signals. A composite periodic analog signal is composed of multiple sine waves.

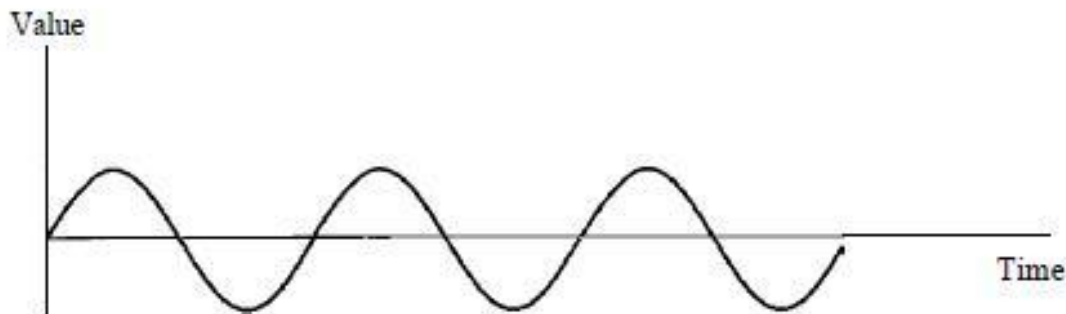
### **Sine Wave**

The sine wave is the most fundamental form of a periodic analog signal. When we visualize it as a simple oscillating curve, its change over the course of a cycle is smooth and consistent, a continuous, rolling flow. Figure below shows a sine wave. Each cycle consists of a single arc above the time axis followed by a single arc below it.

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### *A sine wave*

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## **Characteristics of Signals:**

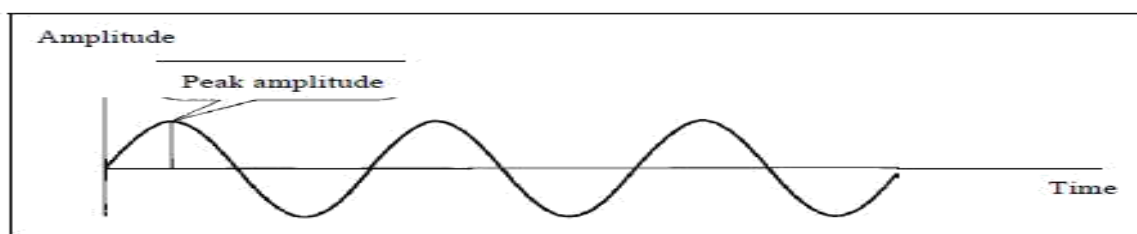
### **1. Peak Amplitude**

The peak amplitude of a signal is the absolute value of its highest intensity, proportional to the energy it carries. For electric signals, peak amplitude is normally measured in *volts*. Figure below shows two signals and their peak amplitude

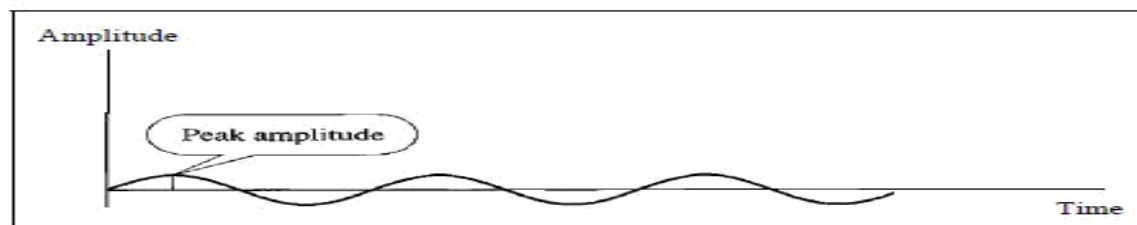
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*Two signals with the same phase and frequency, but different amplitudes*

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a. A signal with high peak amplitude



b. A signal with low peak amplitude

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## 2. Period and Frequency

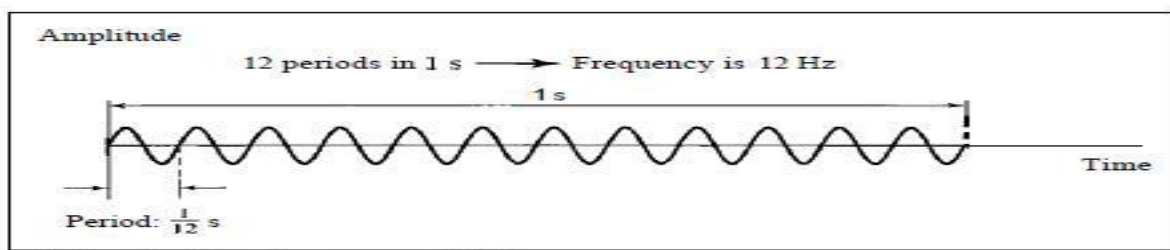
Period refers to the amount of time, in seconds, a signal needs to complete 1 cycle.

Frequency refers to the number of periods in 1 s. Note that period and frequency are just one characteristic defined in two ways. Period is the inverse of frequency, and frequency is the inverse of period, as the following formulas show.

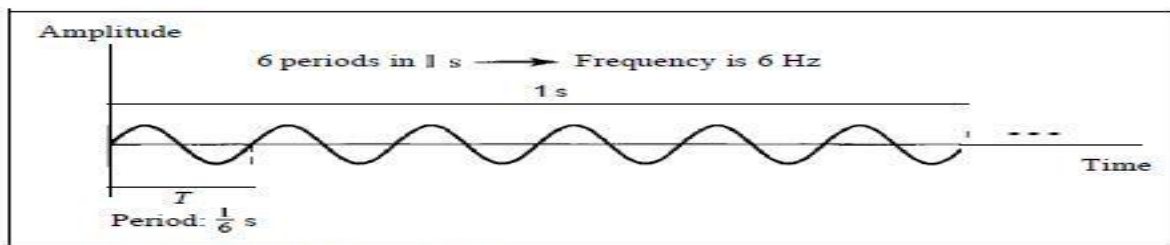
$$f=1/T \quad \text{and} \quad T=1/f$$

Period is formally expressed in seconds. Frequency is formally expressed in Hertz (Hz), which is cycle per second.

*Two signals with the same amplitude and phase, but different frequencies*



a. A signal with a frequency of 12 Hz

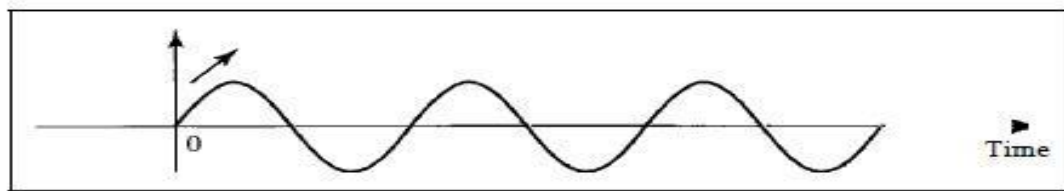


b. A signal with a frequency of 6 Hz

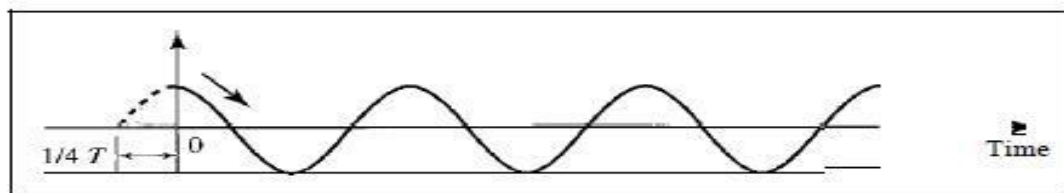
### 3. Phase

The term phase describes the position of the waveform relative to time 0. If we think of the wave as something that can be shifted backward or forward along the time axis, phase describes the amount of that shift. It indicates the status of the first cycle. Phase is measured in degrees or radians [ $360^\circ$  is  $2\pi$  rad;  $1^\circ$  is  $2\pi/360$  rad, and 1 rad is  $360/(2\pi)$ ]. A phase shift of  $360^\circ$  corresponds to a shift of a complete period; a phase shift of  $180^\circ$  corresponds to a shift of one-half of a period; and a phase shift of  $90^\circ$  corresponds to a shift of one-quarter of a period.

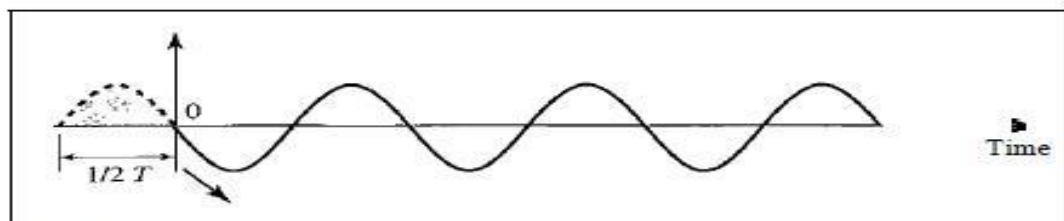
*Three sine waves with the same amplitude and frequency, but different phases*



a. 0 degrees



b. 90 degrees



c. 180 degrees

- I. A sine wave with a phase of  $0^\circ$  starts at time 0 with a zero amplitude. The amplitude is increasing.
- II. A sine wave with a phase of  $90^\circ$  starts at time 0 with a peak amplitude. The amplitude is decreasing.
- III. A sine wave with a phase of  $180^\circ$  starts at time 0 with a zero amplitude. The amplitude is decreasing.

#### 4. Wavelength

Wavelength is another characteristic of a signal traveling through a transmission medium.

Wavelength binds the period or the frequency of a simple sine wave to the propagation speed of the medium. While the frequency of a signal is independent of the medium, the wavelength depends on both the frequency and the medium. Wavelength is a property of any type of signal.

In data communications, we often use wavelength to describe the transmission of light in an optical fiber. The wavelength is the distance a simple signal can travel in one period. Wavelength can be calculated if one is given the propagation speed (the speed of light) and the period of the signal. However, since period and frequency are related to each other, if we represent wavelength by  $\lambda$ , propagation speed by  $c$  (speed of light), and frequency by  $f$ , we get

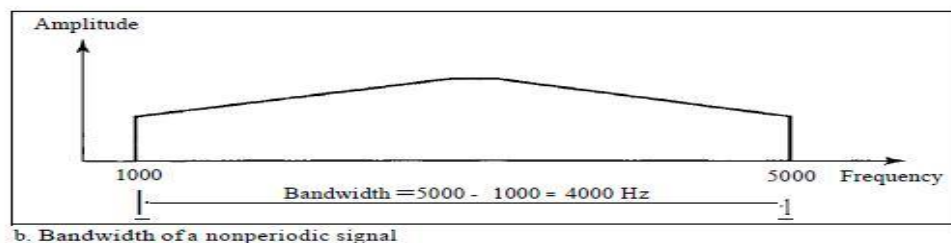
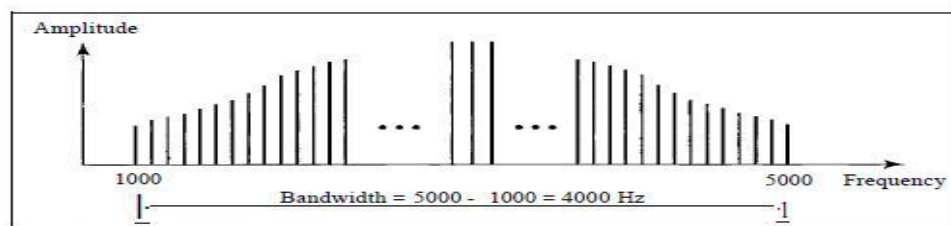
Wavelength = Propagation speed \* Period = propagation speed/frequency

$$\lambda = c/f$$

The wavelength is normally measured in micrometers (microns) instead of meters.

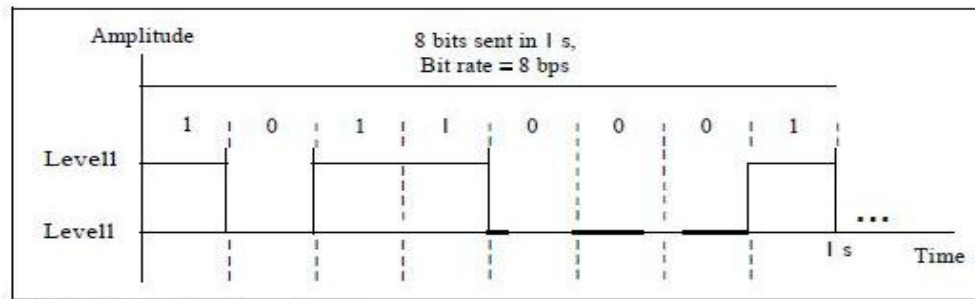
#### Bandwidth

The range of frequencies contained in a composite signal is its bandwidth. The bandwidth is normally a difference between two numbers. For example, if a composite signal contains frequencies between 1000 and 5000, its bandwidth is 5000 - 1000, or 4000. Figure below shows the concept of bandwidth. The figure depicts two composite signals, one periodic and the other nonperiodic. The bandwidth of the periodic signal contains all integer frequencies between 1000 and 5000 (1000, 1001, 1002, ...). The bandwidth of the nonperiodic signals has the same range, but the frequencies are continuous.

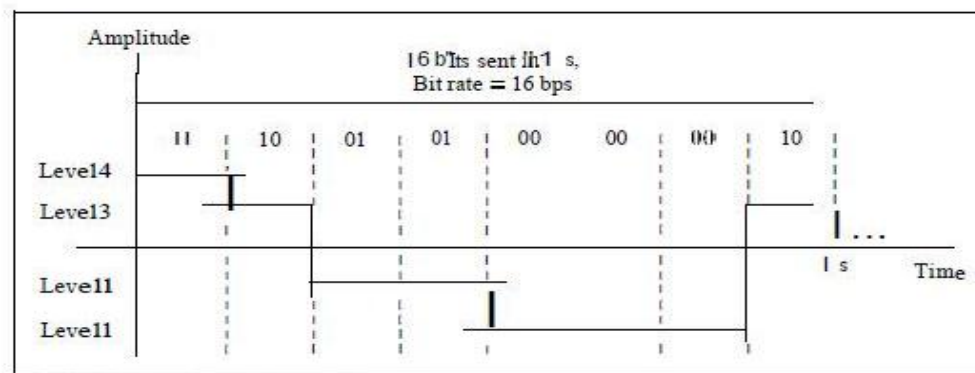


## DIGITAL SIGNALS

In addition to being represented by an analog signal, information can also be represented by a digital signal. For example, a 1 can be encoded as a positive voltage and a 0 as zero voltage. A digital signal can have more than two levels. In this case, we can send more than 1 bit for each level. Figure below shows two signals, one with two levels and the other with four.



a. A digital signal with two levels



b. A digital signal with four levels

We send 1 bit per level in part a of the figure and 2 bits per level in part b of the figure. In general, if a signal has  $L$  levels, each level needs  $\log_2 L$  bits.

## Bit Rate

Most digital signals are nonperiodic, and thus period and frequency are not appropriate characteristics. Another *term-bit rate* is used to describe digital signals. The bit rate is the number of bits sent in 1s, expressed in bits per second (bps).

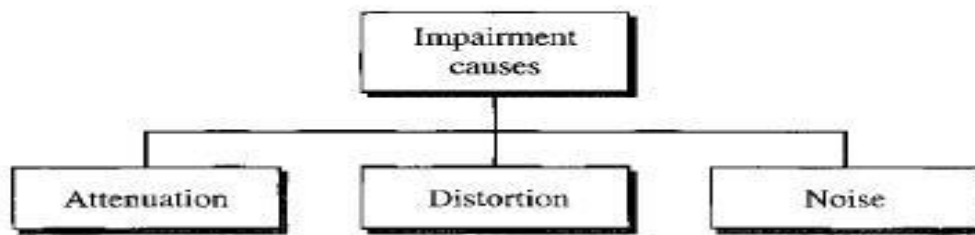
# TRANSMISSION IMPAIRMENT

Signals travel through transmission media, which are not perfect. The imperfection causes signal impairment. This means that the signal at the beginning of the medium is not the same as the signal at the end of the medium. What is sent is not what is received. Three causes of impairment are attenuation, distortion, and noise.

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## *Causes of impairment*

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### **1. Attenuation**

Attenuation means a loss of energy. When a signal, simple or composite, travels through a medium, it loses some of its energy in overcoming the resistance of the medium. That is why a wire carrying electric signals gets warm, if not hot, after a while. Some of the electrical energy in the signal is converted to heat. To compensate for this loss, amplifiers are used to amplify the signal. Attenuation is measured in terms of Decibels.

The decibel (dB) measures the relative strengths of two signals or one signal at two different points. Note that the decibel is negative if a signal is attenuated and positive if a signal is amplified.

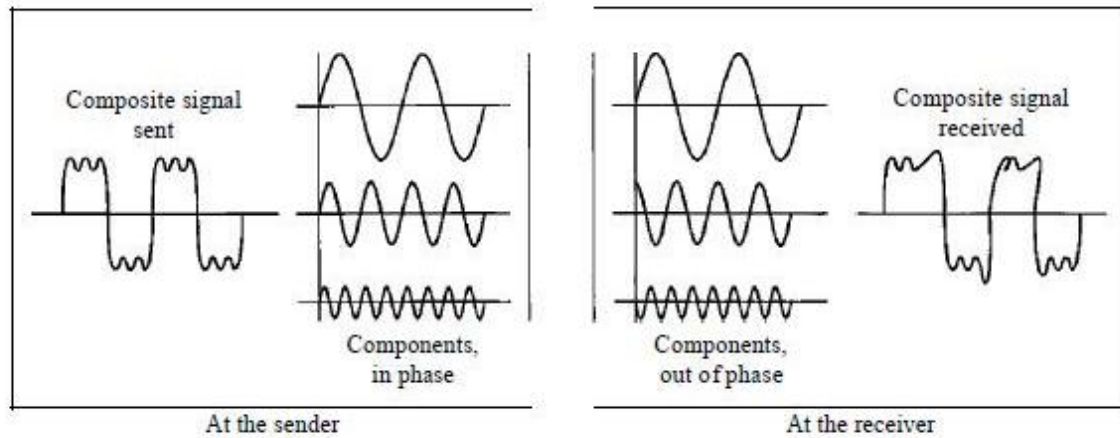
$$\text{dB} = 10 \log_{10} P_2/P_1$$

Variables  $P_1$  and  $P_2$  are the powers of a signal at points 1 and 2, respectively.

### **2. Distortion:**

Distortion means that the signal changes its form or shape. Distortion can occur in a composite signal made of different frequencies. Each signal component has its own propagation speed through a medium and, therefore, its own delay in arriving at the final destination. Differences in delay may create a difference in phase if the delay is not exactly the same as the period duration. In other words, signal components at the receiver have phases different from what they had at the

sender. The shape of the composite signal is therefore not the same. Figure below shows the effect of distortion on a composite signal.



### 3. Noise

Noise is another cause of impairment. Several types of noise, such as thermal noise, induced noise, crosstalk, and impulse noise, may corrupt the signal. Thermal noise is the random motion of electrons in a wire which creates an extra signal not originally sent by the transmitter. Induced noise comes from sources such as motors and appliances. These devices act as a sending antenna, and the transmission medium acts as the receiving antenna. Crosstalk is the effect of one wire on the other. One wire acts as a sending antenna and the other as the receiving antenna. Impulse noise is a spike (a signal with high energy in a very short time) that comes from power lines, lightning, and so on.

#### Signal-to-Noise Ratio (SNR)

The signal-to-noise ratio is defined as

$$\text{SNR} = \text{Average Signal power} / \text{Average Noise Power}$$

SNR is actually the ratio of what is wanted (signal) to what is not wanted (noise). A high SNR means the signal is less corrupted by noise; a low SNR means the signal is more corrupted by noise. Because SNR is the ratio of two powers, it is often described in decibel units, SNR dB, defined as

$$\text{SNR}_{\text{dB}} = 10 \log_{10} \text{SNR}$$

## **PERFORMANCE**

The following measures are often considered important:

**Bandwidth** commonly measured in bits/second is the maximum rate that information can be transferred

**Throughput** is the actual rate that information is transferred

**Latency** the delay between the sender and the receiver decoding it, this is mainly a function of the signals travel time, and processing time at any nodes the information traverses

**Jitter** variation in packet delay at the receiver of the information

**Error rate** the number of corrupted bits expressed as a percentage or fraction of the total sent

### **Bandwidth**

The available channel bandwidth and achievable signal-to-noise ratio determine the maximum possible throughput. It is not generally possible to send more data than dictated by the Shannon-Hartley Theorem.

### **Throughput**

Throughput is the number of messages successfully delivered per unit time. Throughput is controlled by available bandwidth, as well as the available signal-to-noise ratio and hardware limitations. Throughput for the purpose of this article will be understood to be measured from the arrival of the first bit of data at the receiver, to decouple the concept of throughput from the concept of latency.

### **Latency**

The speed of light imposes a minimum propagation time on all electromagnetic signals.

### **Jitter**

Jitter is the undesired deviation from true periodicity of an assumed periodic signal in electronics and telecommunications. Jitter may be observed in characteristics such as the frequency of successive pulses, the signal amplitude, or phase of periodic signals.

### **Error rate**

In digital transmission, the number of bit errors is the number of received bits of a data stream over a communication channel that have been altered due to noise, interference, distortion or bit synchronization errors.

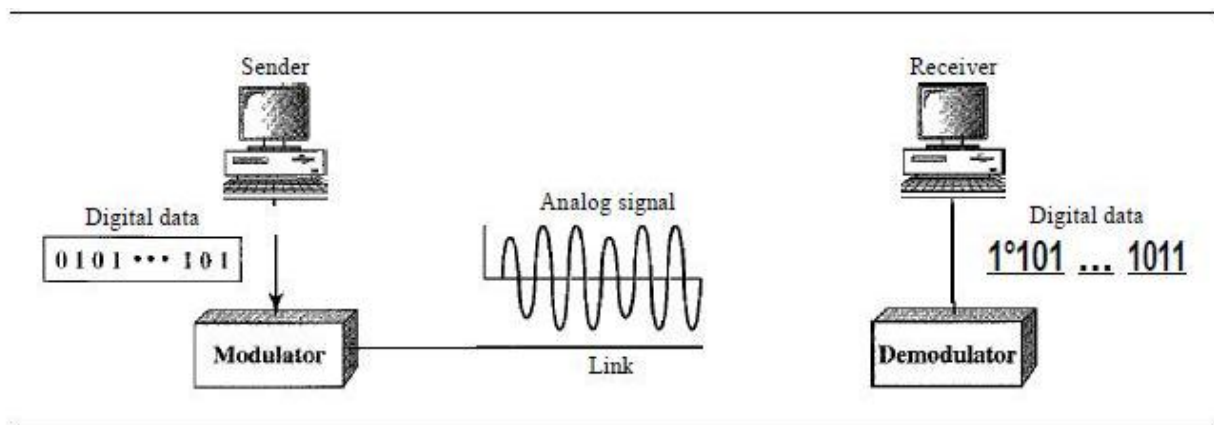
The bit error rate or bit error ratio (BER) is the number of bit errors divided by the total number of transferred bits during a studied time interval. BER is a unitless performance measure, often expressed as a percentage.



## UNIT 3

### DIGITAL TO ANALOG TRANSMISSION

**Digital-to-analog conversion** is the process of changing one of the characteristics of an analog signal based on the information in digital data. Figure below shows the relationship between the digital information, the digital-to-analog modulating process, and the resultant analog signal.



A sine wave is defined by three characteristics: amplitude, frequency, and phase. When we vary anyone of these characteristics, we create a different version of that wave. So, by changing one characteristic of a simple electric signal, we can use it to represent digital data. Any of the three characteristics can be altered in this way, giving us at least three mechanisms for modulating digital data into an analog signal: amplitude shift keying (ASK), frequency shift keying (FSK), and phase shift keying (PSK).

#### Aspects of Digital-to-Analog Conversion

Before we discuss specific methods of digital-to-analog modulation, two basic issues must be reviewed: bit and baud rates and the carrier signal.

#### Data Element Versus Signal Element

Data element as the smallest piece of information to be exchanged, the bit. We also defined a signal element as the smallest unit of a signal that is constant.

### Data Rate Versus Signal Rate

We can define the data rate (bit rate) and the signal rate (baud rate). The relationship between them is

$$S = N/r \text{ baud}$$

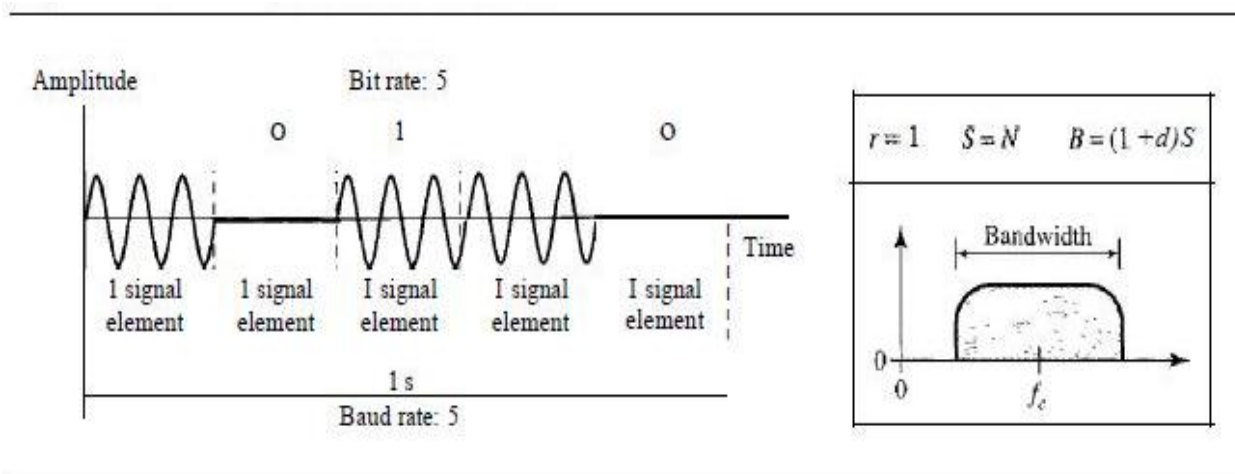
where  $N$  is the data rate (bps) and  $r$  is the number of data elements carried in one signal element. The value of  $r$  in analog transmission is  $r = \log_2 L$ , where  $L$  is the type of signal element, not the level.

### Carrier Signal

In analog transmission, the sending device produces a high-frequency signal that acts as a base for the information signal. This base signal is called the carrier signal or carrier frequency. The receiving device is tuned to the frequency of the carrier signal that it expects from the sender. Digital information then changes the carrier signal by modifying one or more of its characteristics (amplitude, frequency, or phase). This kind of modification is called modulation (shift keying).

### 1. Amplitude Shift Keying (ASK)

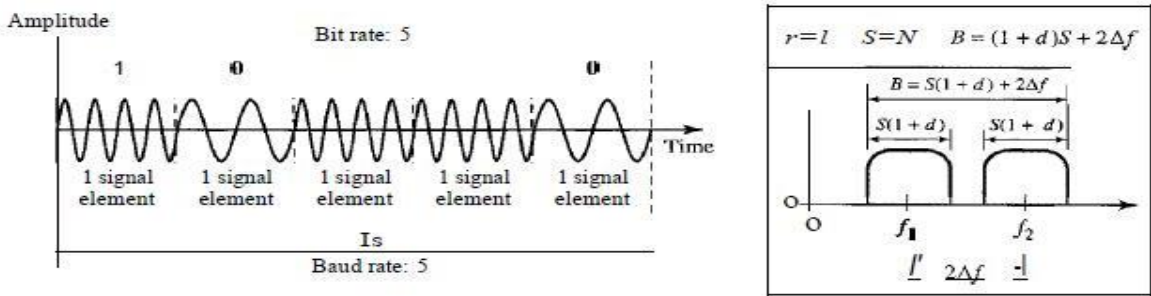
In amplitude shift keying, the amplitude of the carrier signal is varied to create signal elements. Both frequency and phase remain constant while the amplitude changes. Although we can have several levels (kinds) of signal elements, each with a different amplitude, ASK is normally implemented using only two levels. This is referred to as binary amplitude shift keying or *on-off keying* (OOK). The peak amplitude of one signal level is 0; the other is the same as the amplitude of the carrier frequency. Figure below gives a conceptual view of binary ASK.



## 2. Frequency Shift Keying (FSK)

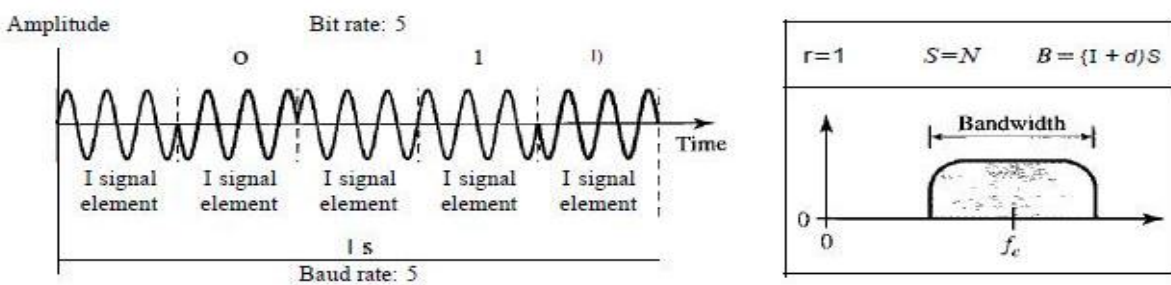
In frequency shift keying, the frequency of the carrier signal is varied to represent data. The frequency of the modulated signal is constant for the duration of one signal element, but changes for the next signal element if the data element changes. Both peak amplitude and phase remain constant for all signal elements.

One way to think about binary FSK (or BFSK) is to consider two carrier frequencies. In Figure below, we have selected two carrier frequencies,  $f_1$  and  $f_2$ . We use the first carrier if the data element is 0; we use the second if the data element is 1. However, note that this is an unrealistic example used only for demonstration purposes. Normally the carrier frequencies are very high, and the difference between them is very small.



## 3. Phase Shift Keying (PSK)

In phase shift keying, the phase of the carrier is varied to represent two or more different signal elements. Both peak amplitude and frequency remain constant as the phase changes. Today, PSK is more common than ASK or FSK. The simplest PSK is binary PSK, in which we have only two signal elements, one with a phase of  $0^\circ$ , and the other with a phase of  $180^\circ$ . Figure below gives a conceptual view of PSK.



## Analog to Analog Conversion –

Analog-to-analog conversion, or modulation, is the representation of analog information by an analog signal. It is a process by virtue of which a characteristic of carrier wave is varied according to the instantaneous amplitude of the modulating signal. This modulation is generally needed when a **bandpass channel** is required. Bandpass is a range of frequencies which are transmitted through a bandpass filter which is a filter allowing specific frequencies to pass preventing signals at unwanted frequencies.

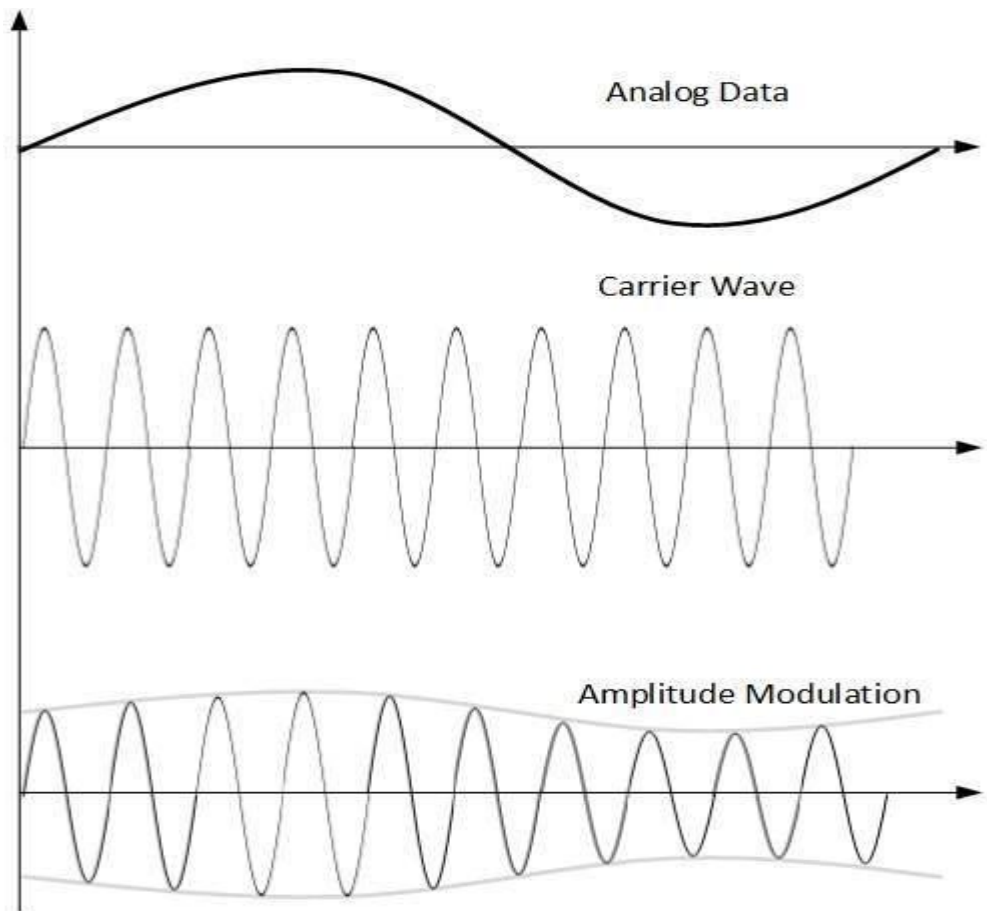
Analog to Analog conversion can be done in three ways:

1. Amplitude Modulation

2. Frequency Modulation
3. Phase Modulation

### **Amplitude Modulation**

In this modulation, the amplitude of the carrier signal is modified to reflect the analog data.

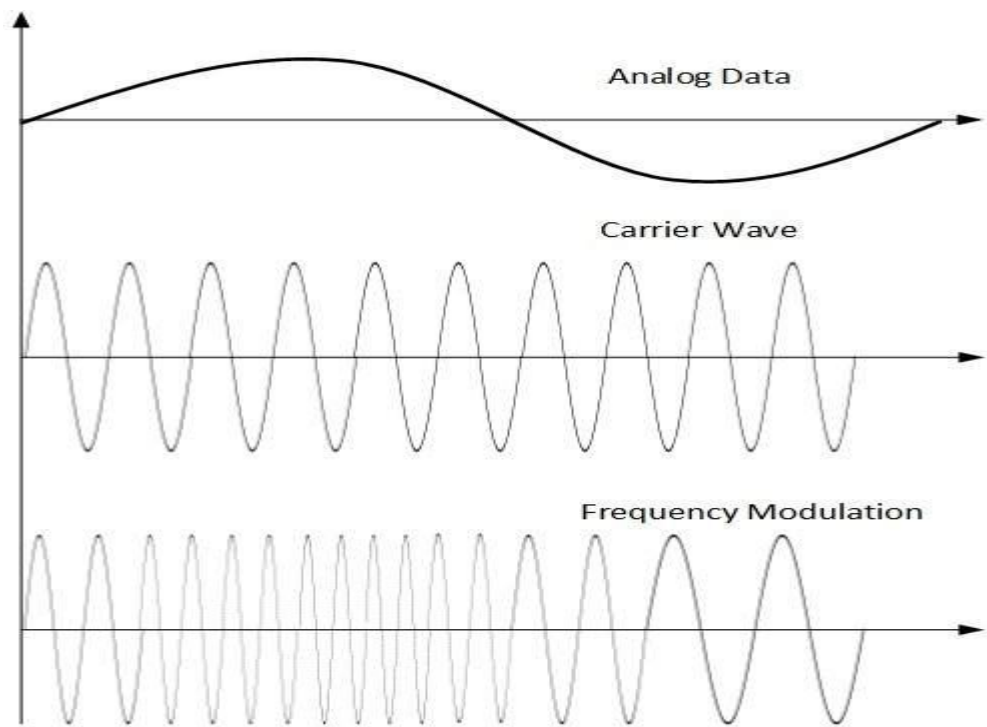


Amplitude modulation is implemented by means of a multiplier. The amplitude of modulating signal (analog data) is multiplied by the amplitude of carrier frequency, which then reflects analog data.

The frequency and phase of carrier signal remain unchanged.

### **Frequency Modulation**

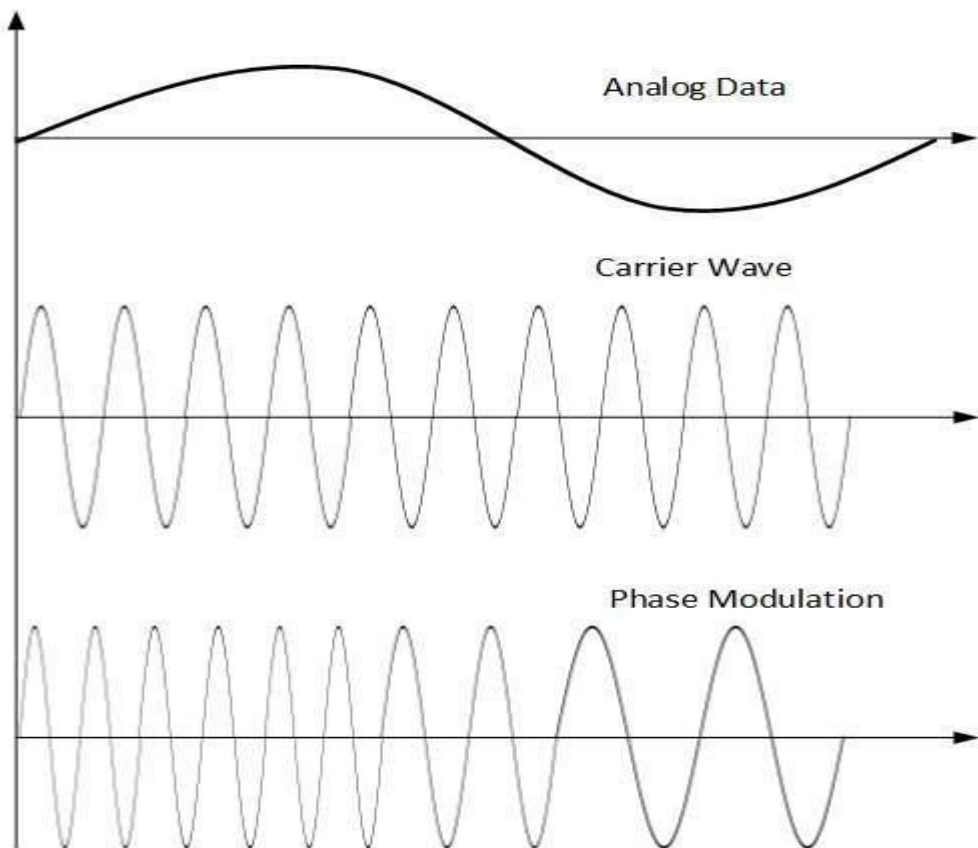
In this modulation technique, the frequency of the carrier signal is modified to reflect the change in the voltage levels of the modulating signal (analog data).



The amplitude and phase of the carrier signal are not altered.

- **Phase Modulation**

In the modulation technique, the phase of carrier signal is modulated in order to reflect the change in voltage (amplitude) of analog data signal.



Phase modulation is practically similar to Frequency Modulation, but in Phase modulation frequency of the carrier signal is not increased. Frequency of carrier is signal is changed (made dense and sparse) to reflect voltage change in the amplitude of modulating signal.

Data or information can be stored in two ways, analog and digital. For a computer to use the data, it must be in discrete digital form. Similar to data, signals can also be in analog and digital form. To transmit data digitally, it needs to be first converted to digital form.

## Digital-to-Digital Conversion

This section explains how to convert digital data into digital signals. It can be done in two ways, line coding and block coding. For all communications, line coding is necessary whereas block coding is optional.

### Line Coding

The process for converting digital data into digital signal is said to be Line Coding. Digital data is found in binary format. It is represented *stored* internally as series of 1s and 0s.

Digital signal is denoted by discrete signal, which represents digital data. There are three types of line coding schemes available:

### Uni-polar Encoding

Unipolar encoding schemes use single voltage level to represent data. In this case, to represent binary 1, high voltage is transmitted and to represent 0, no voltage is transmitted. It is also called Unipolar-Non-return-to-zero, because there is no rest condition i.e. it either represents 1 or 0

## **Polar Encoding**

Polar encoding scheme uses multiple voltage levels to represent binary values. Polar encodings is available in four types:

- **Polar Non-Return to Zero *PolarNRZ***

It uses two different voltage levels to represent binary values. Generally, positive voltage represents 1 and negative value represents 0. It is also NRZ because there is no rest condition.

NRZ scheme has two variants: NRZ-L and NRZ-I

NRZ-L changes voltage level at when a different bit is encountered whereas NRZ-I changes voltage when a 1 is encountered.

- **Return to Zero *RZ***

Problem with NRZ is that the receiver cannot conclude when a bit ended and when the next bit is started, in case when sender and receiver's clock are not synchronized.

RZ uses three voltage levels, positive voltage to represent 1, negative voltage to represent 0 and zero voltage for none. Signals change during bits not between bits.

- **Manchester**

This encoding scheme is a combination of RZ and NRZ-L. Bit time is divided into two halves. It transits in the middle of the bit and changes phase when a different bit is encountered.

- **Differential Manchester**

This encoding scheme is a combination of RZ and NRZ-I. It also transits at the middle of the bit but changes phase only when 1 is encountered.



## **Bipolar Encoding**

Bipolar encoding uses three voltage levels, positive, negative and zero. Zero voltage represents binary 0 and bit 1 is represented by altering positive and negative voltages.

This way the original number of bits is increased. It is called Block Coding.

Block coding is represented by slash notation,  $mB/nB$ . Means,  $m$ -bit block is substituted with  $n$ -bit block where  $n > m$ . Block coding involves three steps:

Division,

Substitution

Combination.

## **Analog-to-Digital Conversion**

Microphones create analog voice and camera creates analog videos, which are treated as analog data. To transmit this analog data over digital signals, we need analog to digital conversion.

Analog data is a continuous stream of data in the wave form whereas digital data is discrete. To convert analog wave into digital data, we use Pulse Code Modulation *PCM*.

PCM is one of the most commonly used method to convert analog data into digital form. It involves three steps:

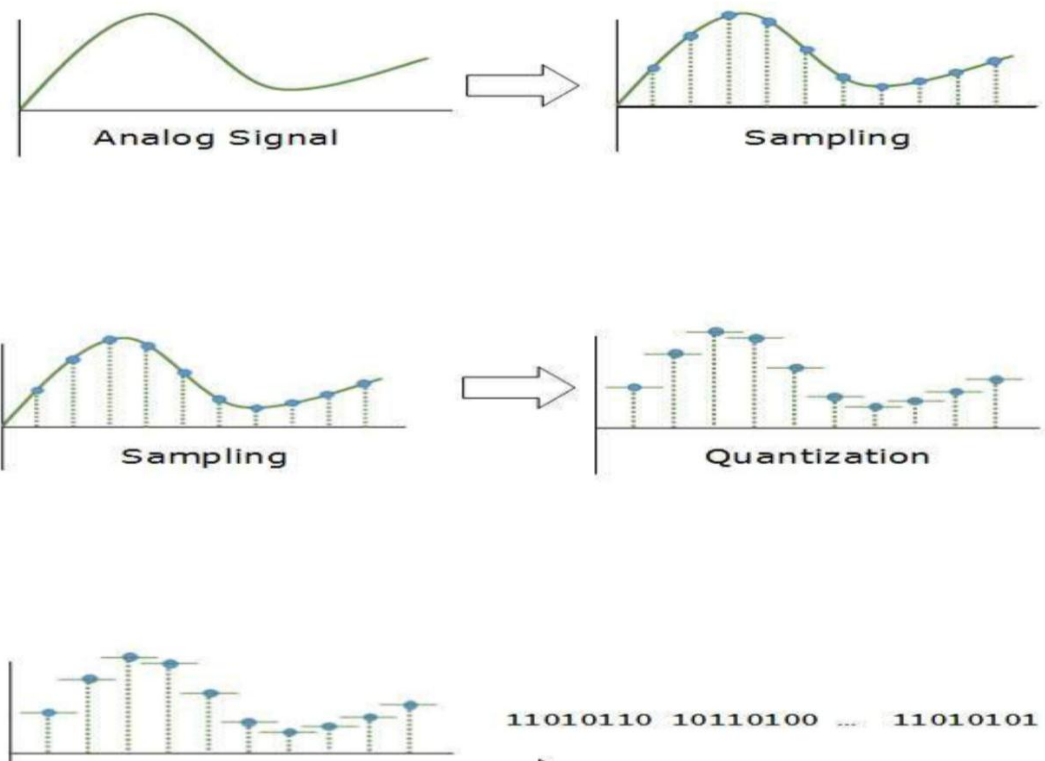
Sampling

Quantization

Encoding.

## **Sampling**

The analog signal is sampled every  $T$  interval. Most important factor in sampling is the rate at which analog signal is sampled. According to Nyquist Theorem, the sampling rate must be at least two times of the highest frequency of the signal.



## Quantization

Sampling yields discrete form of continuous analog signal. Every discrete pattern shows the amplitude of the analog signal at that instance. The quantization is done between the maximum amplitude value and the minimum amplitude value. Quantization is approximation of the instantaneous analog value

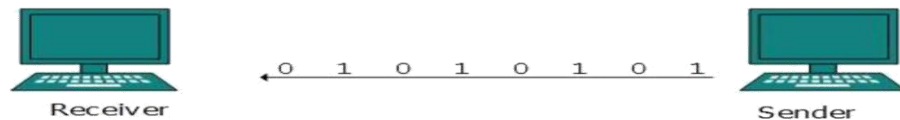
## Encoding

In encoding, each approximated value is then converted into binary format.

## Transmission Modes

The transmission mode decides how data is transmitted between two computers. The binary data in the form of 1s and 0s can be sent in two different modes: Parallel and Serial.

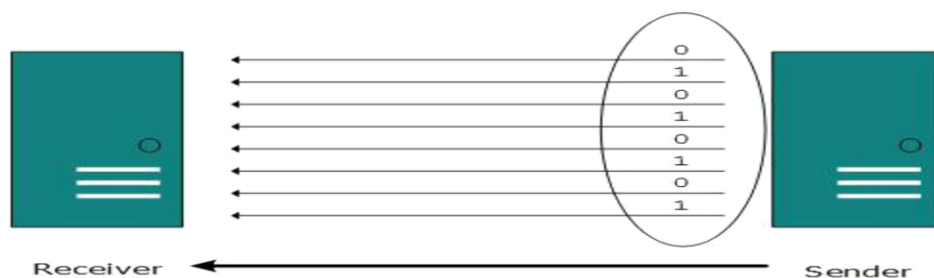
### Parallel Transmission



The binary bits are organized in-to groups of fixed length. Both sender and receiver are connected in parallel with the equal number of data lines. Both computers distinguish between high order and low order data lines. The sender sends all the bits at once on all lines. Because the data lines are equal to the number of bits in a group or data frame, a complete group of bits *dataframe* is sent in one go. Advantage of Parallel transmission is high speed and disadvantage is the cost of wires, as it is equal to the number of bits sent in parallel.

### Serial Transmission

In serial transmission, bits are sent one after another in a queue manner. Serial transmission requires only one communication channel.



Serial transmission can be either asynchronous or synchronous.

### **Asynchronous Serial Transmission**

It is named so because there's no importance of timing. Data-bits have specific pattern and they help receiver recognize the start and end data bits. For example, a 0 is prefixed on every data byte and one or more 1s are added at the end.

Two continuous data-frames *bytes* may have a gap between them.

### **Synchronous Serial Transmission**

Timing in synchronous transmission has importance as there is no mechanism followed to recognize start and end data bits. There is no pattern or prefix/suffix method. Data bits are sent in burst mode without maintaining gap

between bytes 8 – *bits*. Single burst of data bits may contain a number of bytes. Therefore, timing becomes very important.

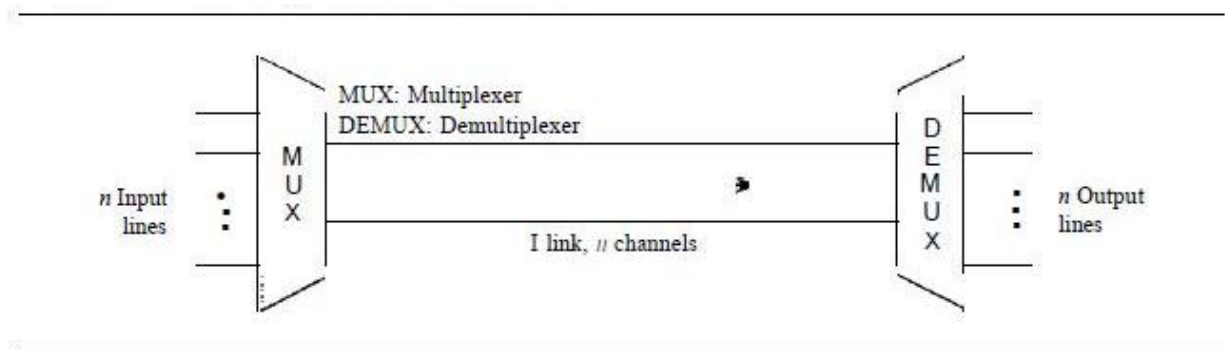
It is up to the receiver to recognize and separate bits into bytes. The advantage of synchronous transmission is high speed, and it has no overhead of extra header and footer bits as in asynchronous transmission.

## UNIT 4

### MULTIPLEXING

Whenever the bandwidth of a medium linking two devices is greater than the bandwidth needs of the devices, the link can be shared. Multiplexing is the set of techniques that allows the simultaneous transmission of multiple signals across a single data link.

In a multiplexed system,  $n$  lines share the bandwidth of one link. Figure below shows the basic format of a multiplexed system. The lines on the left direct their transmission streams to a multiplexer (MUX), which combines them into a single stream (many-to-one). At the receiving end, that stream is fed into a demultiplexer (DEMUX), which separates the stream back into its component transmissions (one-to-many) and directs them to their corresponding lines. In the figure, the word link refers to the physical path. The word channel refers to the portion of a link that carries a transmission between a given pair of lines. One link can have many ( $n$ ) channels.



There are three basic multiplexing techniques: frequency-division multiplexing, wavelength-division multiplexing, and time-division multiplexing. The first two are techniques designed for analog signals, the third, for digital signals.

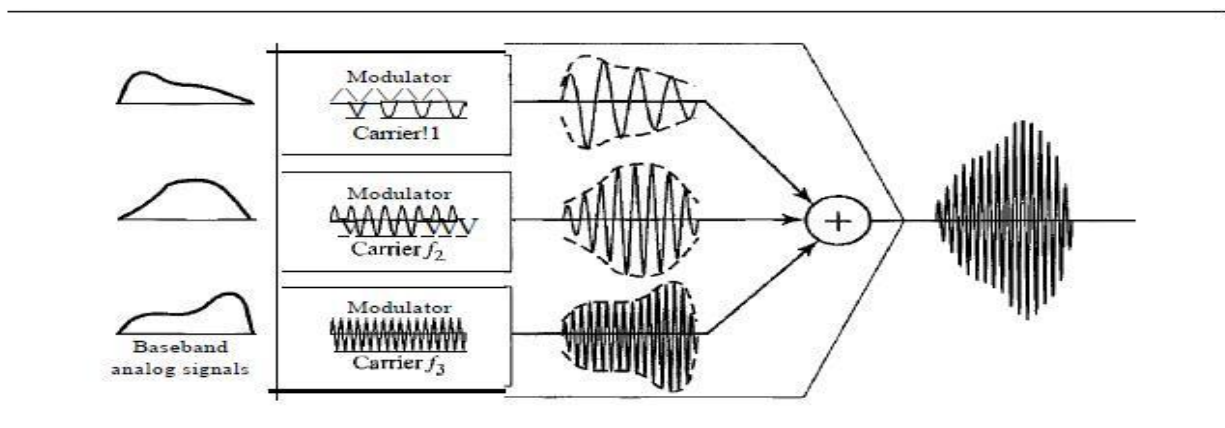
#### **1. Frequency-Division Multiplexing**

Frequency-division multiplexing (FDM) is an analog technique that can be applied when the bandwidth of a link (in hertz) is greater than the combined bandwidths of the signals to be transmitted. In FDM, signals generated by each sending device modulate different carrier frequencies. These modulated signals are then combined into a single composite signal that can be transported by the link. Carrier frequencies are separated by sufficient bandwidth to accommodate the modulated signal. These bandwidth ranges are the channels through which the various signals travel. Channels can be separated by strips of unused bandwidth-guard bands-to

prevent signals from overlapping. In addition, carrier frequencies must not interfere with the original data frequencies.

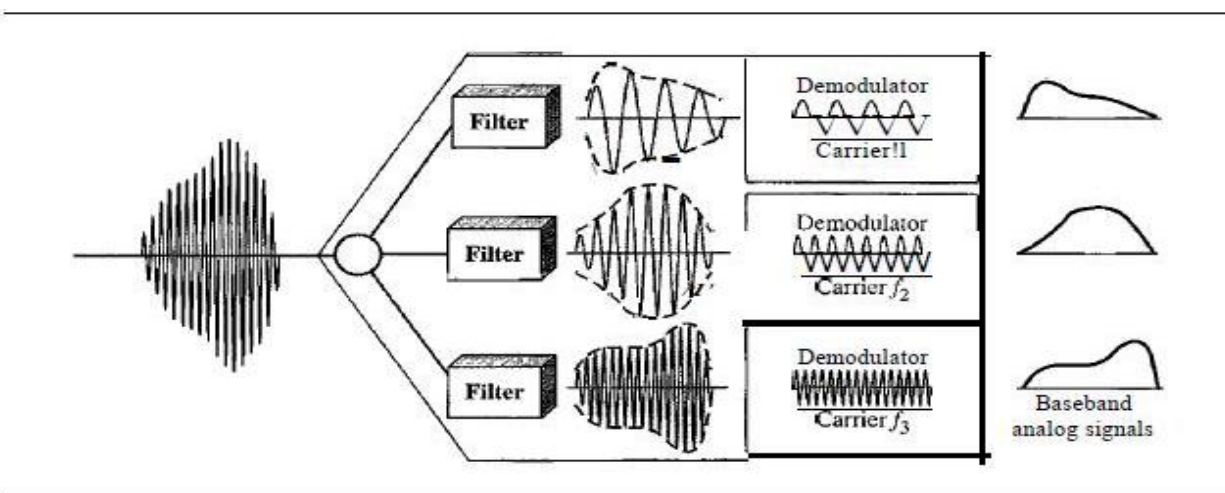
### ***Multiplexing Process***

Figure below is a conceptual illustration of the multiplexing process. Each source generates a signal of a similar frequency range. Inside the multiplexer, these similar signals modulates different carrier frequencies. The resulting modulated signals are then combined into a single composite signal that is sent out over a media link that has enough bandwidth to accommodate it.



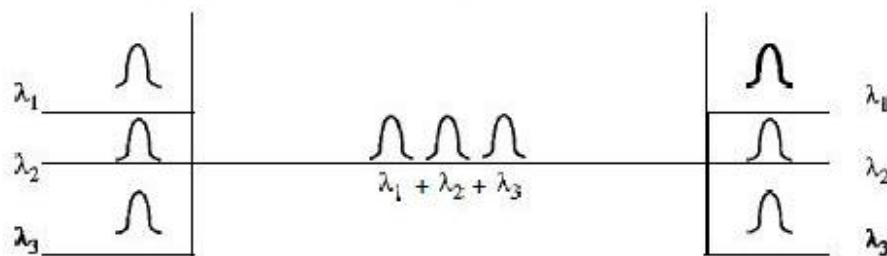
### ***Demultiplexing Process***

The demultiplexer uses a series of filters to decompose the multiplexed signal into its constituent component signals. The individual signals are then passed to a demodulator that separates them from their carriers and passes them to the output lines. Figure below is a conceptual illustration of demultiplexing process.



## 2. Wavelength-Division Multiplexing

Wavelength-division multiplexing (WDM) is designed to use the high-data-rate capability of fiber-optic cable. The optical fiber data rate is higher than the data rate of metallic transmission cable. Using a fiber-optic cable for one single line wastes the available bandwidth. Multiplexing allows us to combine several lines into one. WDM is conceptually the same as FDM, except that the multiplexing and demultiplexing involve optical signals transmitted through fiber-optic channels. The idea is the same: We are combining different signals of different frequencies. The difference is that the frequencies are very high. Figure below gives a conceptual view of a WDM multiplexer and demultiplexer. Very narrow bands of light from different sources are combined to make a wider band of light. At the receiver, the signals are separated by the demultiplexer.

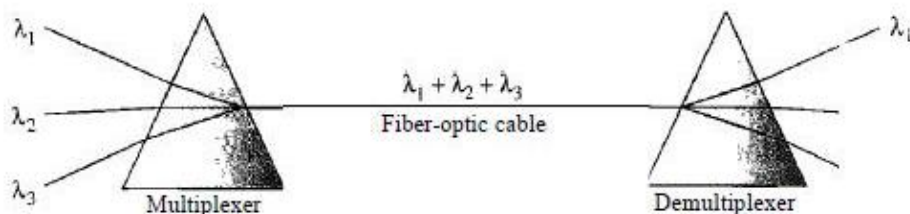


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WDM is an analog multiplexing technique to combine optical signals.

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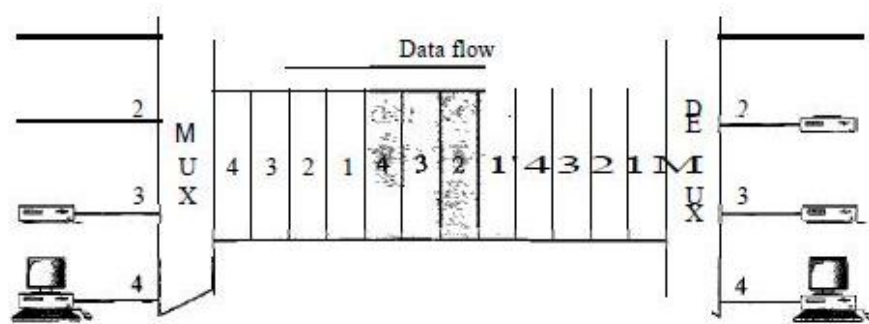
Although WDM technology is very complex, the basic idea is very simple. We want to combine multiple light sources into one single light at the multiplexer and do the reverse at the demultiplexer. The combining and splitting of light sources are easily handled by a prism.



One application of WDM is the SONET network in which multiple optical fiber lines are multiplexed and demultiplexed.

### **3. Time-Division Multiplexing**

Time-division multiplexing (TDM) is a digital process that allows several connections to share the high bandwidth of a line. Instead of sharing a portion of the bandwidth as in FDM, time is shared. Each connection occupies a portion of time in the link. Figure below gives a conceptual view of TDM. Note that the same link is used as in FDM; here, however, the link is shown sectioned by time rather than by frequency. In the figure, portions of signals 1, 2, 3, and 4 occupy the link sequentially.



Note that in Figure above we are concerned with only multiplexing, not switching. This means that all the data in a message from source 1 always go to one specific destination, be it 1, 2, 3, or 4. The delivery is fixed and unvarying..



## UNIT 5

### TRANSMISSION MEDIA

A transmission **medium** can be broadly defined as anything that can carry information from a source to a destination. For example, the transmission medium for two people having a dinner conversation is the air. The air can also be used to convey the message in a smoke signal or semaphore. For a written message, the transmission medium might be a mail carrier, a truck, or an airplane.

In data communications the definition of the information and the transmission medium is more specific. The transmission medium is usually free space, metallic cable, or fiber-optic cable. The information is usually a signal that is the result of a conversion of data from another form.

#### Guided Media

Guided media, which are those that provide a conduit from one device to another, include twisted-pair cable, coaxial cable, and fiber-optic cable. A signal traveling along any of these media is directed and contained by the physical limits of the medium. Twisted-pair and coaxial cable use metallic (copper) conductors that accept and transport signals in the form of electric current. Optical fiber is a cable that accepts and transports signals in the form of light.

#### 1. Twisted-Pair Cable

A twisted pair consists of two conductors (normally copper), each with its own plastic insulation, twisted together, as shown in Figure below.



One of the wires is used to carry signals to the receiver, and the other is used only as a ground reference. The receiver uses the difference between the two. In addition to the signal sent by the sender on one of the wires, interference (noise) and crosstalk may affect both wires and create unwanted signals. If the two wires are parallel, the effect of these unwanted signals is not the

same in both wires because they are at different locations relative to the noise or crosstalk sources (e.g., one is closer and the other is farther). This results in a difference at the receiver. By twisting the pairs, a balance is maintained. For example, suppose in one twist, one wire is closer to the noise source and the other is farther; in the next twist, the reverse is true. Twisting makes it probable that both wires are equally affected by external influences (noise or crosstalk). This means that the receiver, which calculates the difference between the two, receives no unwanted signals. The unwanted signals are mostly canceled out. From the above discussion, it is clear that the number of twists per unit of length (e.g., inch) has some effect on the quality of the cable.

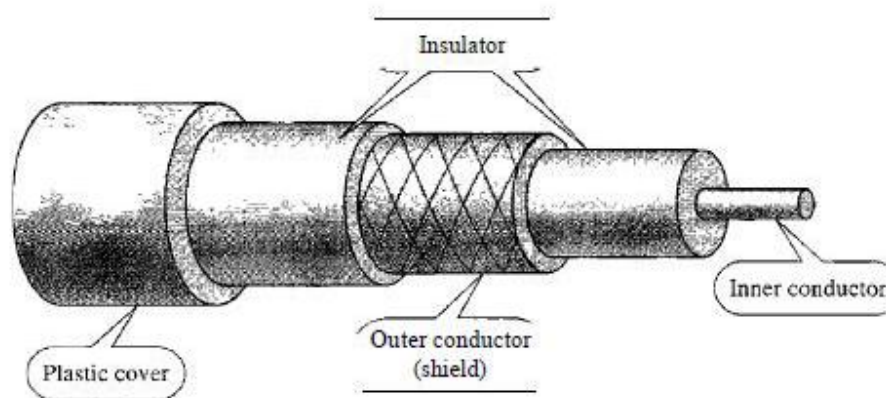
### ***Applications***

Twisted-pair cables are used in telephone lines to provide voice and data channels. The local loop-the line that connects subscribers to the central telephone office-commonly consists of unshielded twisted-pair cables. The DSL lines that are used by the telephone companies to specific. The transmission medium is usually free space, metallic cable, or fiber-optic cable. The information is usually a signal that is the result of a conversion of data from another form.

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## 2. Coaxial Cable

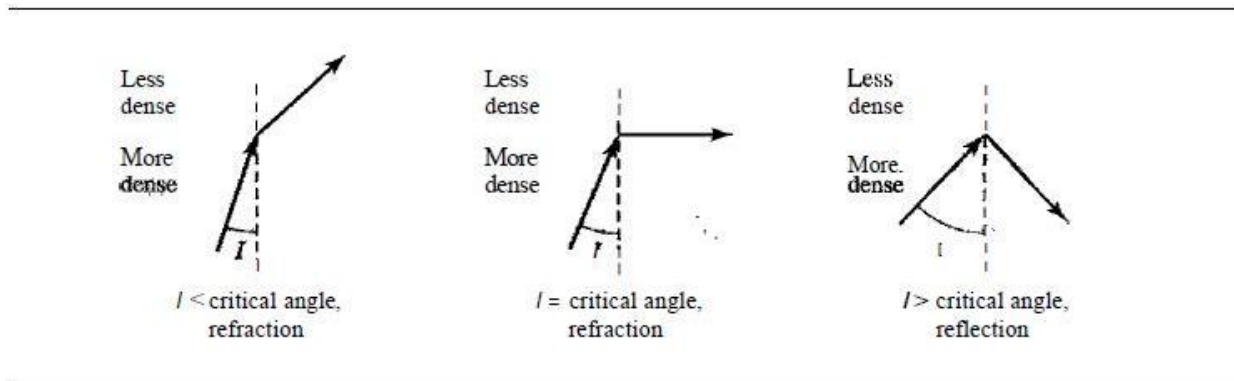
Coaxial cable (or *coax*) carries signals of higher frequency ranges than those in twisted pair cable, in part because the two media are constructed quite differently. Instead of having two wires, coax has a central core conductor of solid or stranded wire (usually copper) enclosed in an insulating sheath, which is, in turn, encased in an outer conductor of metal foil, braid, or a combination of the two. The outer metallic wrapping serves both as a shield against noise and as the second conductor, which completes the circuit. This outer conductor is also enclosed in an insulating sheath, and the whole cable is protected by a plastic cover



### ***Applications***

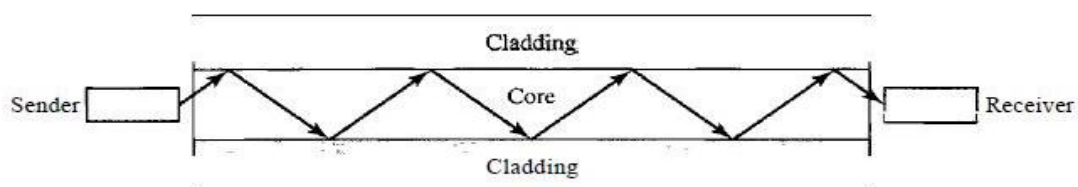
Coaxial cable was widely used in analog telephone networks where a single coaxial network could carry 10,000 voice signals. Later it was used in digital telephone networks where a single coaxial cable could carry digital data up to 600 Mbps. However, coaxial cable in telephone networks has largely been replaced today with fiber-optic cable. Cable TV networks also use coaxial cables. In the traditional cable TV network, the entire network used coaxial cable. Later, however, cable TV providers replaced most of the media with fiber-optic cable; hybrid networks use coaxial cable only at the network boundaries, near the consumer premises. Cable TV uses RG-59 coaxial cable. Another common application of coaxial cable is in traditional Ethernet LANs. Because of its high bandwidth, and consequently high data rate, coaxial cable was chosen for digital transmission in early Ethernet LANs.

3. **Fiber Optic Cable:** A fiber-optic cable is made of glass or plastic and transmits signals in the form of light. To understand optical fiber, we first need to explore several aspects of the nature of light. Light travels in a straight line as long as it is moving through a single uniform medium. If a ray of light traveling through one substance suddenly enters another substance (of a different density), the ray changes direction. Figure below shows how a ray of light changes direction when going from a more dense to a less dense substance.



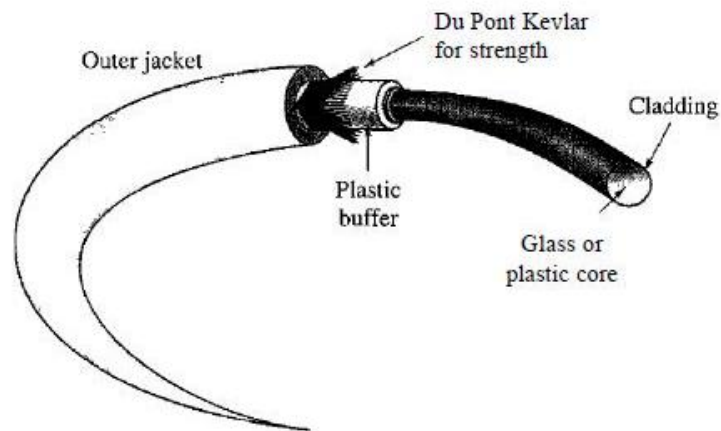
As the figure shows, if the angle of incidence  $I$  (the angle the ray makes with the line perpendicular to the interface between the two substances) is less than the critical angle, the ray refracts and moves closer to the surface. If the angle of incidence is equal to the critical angle, the light bends along the interface. If the angle is greater than the critical angle, the ray reflects (makes a turn) and travels again in the denser substance. Note that the critical angle is a property of the substance, and its value differs from one substance to another.

Optical fibers use reflection to guide light through a channel. A glass or plastic core is surrounded by a cladding of less dense glass or plastic. The difference in density of the two materials must be such that a beam of light moving through the core is reflected off the cladding instead of being refracted into it.



### ***Cable Composition***

Figure below shows the composition of a typical fiber-optic cable. The outer jacket is made of either PVC or Teflon. Inside the jacket are Kevlar strands to strengthen the cable. Kevlar is a strong material used in the fabrication of bulletproof vests. Below the Kevlar is another plastic coating to cushion the fiber. The fiber is at the center of the cable, and it consists of cladding and core.



### ***Applications***

Fiber-optic cable is often found in backbone networks because its wide bandwidth is cost-effective. Today, with wavelength-division multiplexing (WDM), we can transfer data at a rate of 1600 Gbps. The SONET network provides such a backbone. Some cable TV companies use a combination of optical fiber and coaxial cable, thus creating a hybrid network. Optical fiber provides the backbone structure while coaxial cable provides the connection to the user premises. This is a cost-effective configuration since the narrow bandwidth requirement at the user end does not justify the use of optical fiber. Local-area networks such as 100Base-FX network (Fast Ethernet) and 1000Base-X also use fiber-optic cable.

### ***Advantages and Disadvantages of Optical Fiber***

#### **Advantages**

Fiber-optic cable has several advantages over metallic cable (twisted pair or coaxial).

- a. **Higher bandwidth.** Fiber-optic cable can support dramatically higher bandwidths (and hence data rates) than either twisted-pair or coaxial cable. Currently, data rates and bandwidth

utilization over fiber-optic cable are limited not by the medium but by the signal generation and reception technology available.

b. **Less signal attenuation.** Fiber-optic transmission distance is significantly greater than that of other guided media. A signal can run for 50 km without requiring regeneration. We need repeaters every 5 km for coaxial or twisted-pair cable.

c. **Immunity to electromagnetic interference.** Electromagnetic noise cannot affect fiber-optic cables.

d. **Resistance to corrosive materials.** Glass is more resistant to corrosive materials than copper.

e. **Light weight.** Fiber-optic cables are much lighter than copper cables.

f. **Greater immunity to tapping.** Fiber-optic cables are more immune to tapping than copper cables. Copper cables create antenna effects that can easily be tapped.

### **Disadvantages**

There are some disadvantages in the use of optical fiber.

a. **Installation and maintenance.** Fiber-optic cable is a relatively new technology. Its installation and maintenance require expertise that is not yet available everywhere.

b. **Unidirectional light propagation.** Propagation of light is unidirectional. If we need bidirectional communication, two fibers are needed.

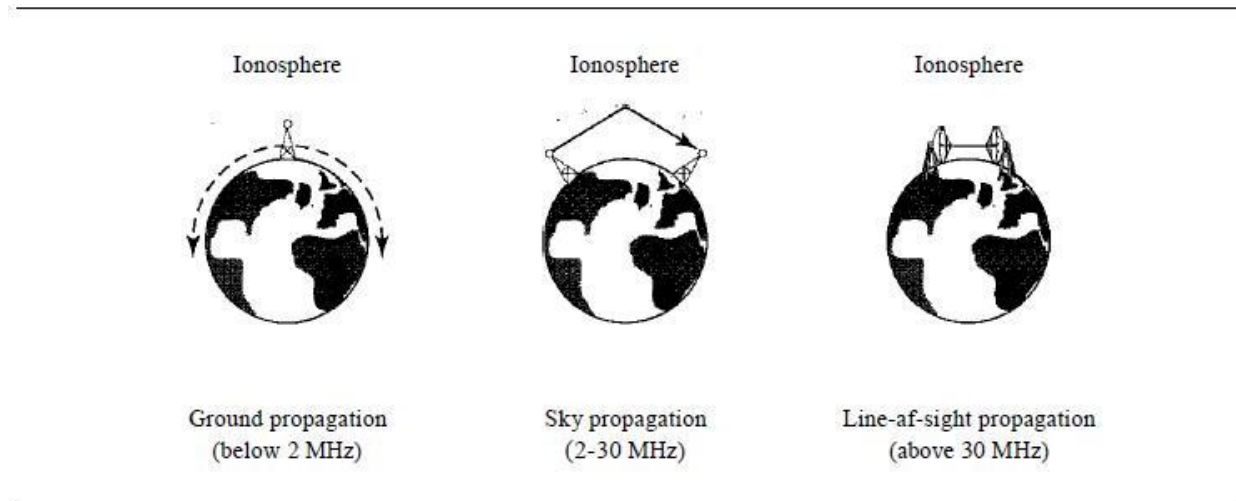
c. **Cost.** The cable and the interfaces are relatively more expensive than those of other guided media. If the demand for bandwidth is not high, often the use of optical fiber cannot be justified.

### **UNGUIDED MEDIA: WIRELESS**

Unguided media transport electromagnetic waves without using a physical conductor. This type of communication is often referred to as wireless communication. Signals are normally broadcast through free space and thus are available to anyone who has a device capable of receiving them.

Unguided signals can travel from the source to destination in several ways: ground propagation, sky propagation, and line-of-sight propagation, as shown in Figure 7.18. In ground propagation, radio waves travel through the lowest portion of the atmosphere, hugging the earth. These low-frequency signals emanate in all directions from the transmitting antenna and follow the curvature of the planet. Distance depends on the amount of power in the signal: The greater the power, the greater the distance. In sky propagation, higher-frequency radio waves radiate upward into the ionosphere where they are reflected back to earth. This type of transmission allows for greater distances with lower output power. In line-of-sight propagation, very high-frequency

signals are transmitted in straight lines directly from antenna to antenna. Antennas must be directional, facing each other, and either tall enough or close enough together not to be affected by the curvature of the earth. Line-of-sight propagation is tricky because radio transmissions cannot be completely focused.



## **1. Radio Waves**

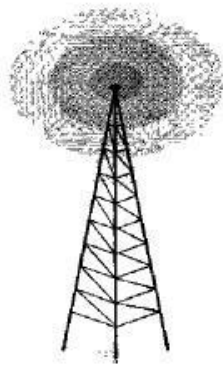
Waves ranging in frequencies between 3 kHz and 1 GHz are called radio waves. Radio waves, for the most part, are omnidirectional. When an antenna transmits radio waves, they are propagated in all directions. This means that the sending and receiving antennas do not have to be aligned. A sending antenna sends waves that can be received by any receiving antenna. The omnidirectional property has a disadvantage, too. The radio waves transmitted by one antenna are susceptible to interference by another antenna that may send signals using the same frequency or band. Radio waves, particularly those waves that propagate in the sky mode, can travel long distances. This makes radio waves a good candidate for long-distance broadcasting such as AM radio. Radio waves, particularly those of low and medium frequencies, can penetrate walls. This characteristic can be both an advantage and a disadvantage. It is an advantage because, for example, an AM radio can receive signals inside a building. It is a disadvantage because we cannot isolate a communication to just inside or outside a building. The radio wave band is relatively narrow, just under 1 GHz, compared to the microwave band. When this band is divided into sub bands, the sub bands are also narrow, leading to a low data rate for digital communications.

### ***Omnidirectional Antenna***

Radio waves use omnidirectional antennas that send out signals in all directions. Based on the wavelength, strength, and the purpose of transmission, we can have several types of antennas. Figure 7.20 shows an omnidirectional antenna.

### ***Applications***

The omnidirectional characteristics of radio waves make them useful for multicasting, in which there is one sender but many receivers. AM and FM radio, television, maritime radio, cordless phones, and paging are examples of multicasting.



## **2. Microwaves**

Electromagnetic waves having frequencies between 1 and 300 GHz are called microwaves. Microwaves are unidirectional. When an antenna transmits microwave waves, they can be narrowly focused. This means that the sending and receiving antennas need to be aligned. The unidirectional property has an obvious advantage. A pair of antennas can be aligned without interfering with another pair of aligned antennas. The following describes some characteristics of microwave propagation:

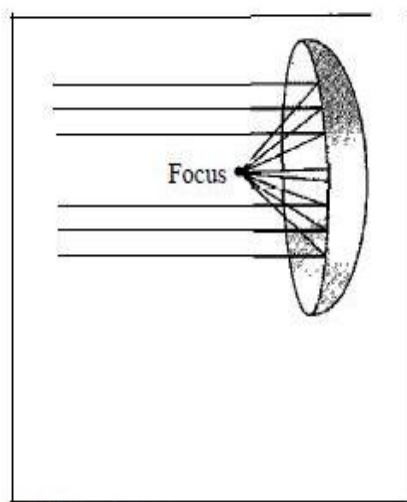
- a. Microwave propagation is line-of-sight. Since the towers with the mounted antennas need to be in direct sight of each other, towers that are far apart need to be very tall. The curvature of the earth as well as other blocking obstacles do not allow two short towers to communicate by using microwaves. Repeaters are often needed for long distance communication.
- b. Very high-frequency microwaves cannot penetrate walls. This characteristic can be a disadvantage if receivers are inside buildings.



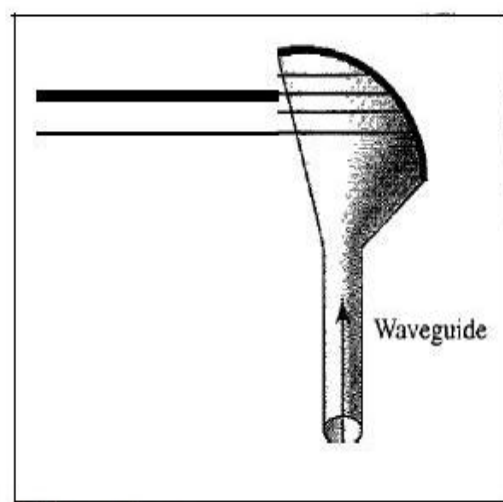
- c. The microwave band is relatively wide, almost 299 GHz. Therefore wider sub bands can be assigned, and a high data rate is possible
- d. Use of certain portions of the band requires permission from authorities.

### ***Unidirectional Antenna***

Microwaves need unidirectional antennas that send out signals in one direction. Two types of antennas are used for microwave communications: the parabolic dish and the horn. A parabolic dish antenna is based on the geometry of a parabola: Every line parallel to the line of symmetry (line of sight) reflects off the curve at angles such that all the lines intersect in a common point called the focus. The parabolic dish works as a funnel, catching a wide range of waves and directing them to a common point. In this way, more of the signal is recovered than would be possible with a single-point receiver. Outgoing transmissions are broadcast through a horn aimed at the dish. The microwaves hit the dish and are deflected outward in a reversal of the receipt path. A horn antenna looks like a gigantic scoop. Outgoing transmissions are broadcast up a stem (resembling a handle) and deflected outward in a series of narrow parallel beams by the curved head. Received transmissions are collected by the scooped shape of the horn, in a manner similar to the parabolic dish, and are deflected down into the stem.



a. Dish antenna



b. Horn antenna

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### **3. Infrared**

Infrared waves, with frequencies from 300 GHz to 400 THz (wavelengths from 1 mm to 770 nm), can be used for short-range communication. Infrared waves, having high frequencies, cannot penetrate walls. This advantageous characteristic prevents interference between one system and another; a short-range communication system in one room cannot be affected by another system in the next room. When we use our infrared remote control, we do not interfere with the use of the remote by our neighbors. However, this same characteristic makes infrared signals useless for long-range communication. In addition, we cannot use infrared waves outside a building because the sun's rays contain infrared waves that can interfere with the communication.

#### ***Applications***

The infrared band, almost 400 THz, has an excellent potential for data transmission. Such a wide bandwidth can be used to transmit digital data with a very high data rate. The *Infrared Data Association* (IrDA), an association for sponsoring the use of infrared waves, has established standards for using these signals for communication between devices such as keyboards, mice, PCs, and printers. For example, some manufacturers provide a special port called the IrDA port that allows a wireless keyboard to communicate with a PC. The standard originally defined a data rate of 75 kbps for a distance up to 8 m. The recent standard defines a data rate of 4 Mbps.

Infrared signals defined by IrDA transmit through line of sight; the IrDA port on the keyboard needs to point to the PC for transmission to occur.

## UNIT 6

### ERROR DETECTION AND CORRECTION

#### INTRODUCTION

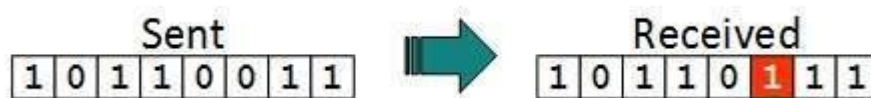
There are many reasons such as noise, cross-talk etc., which may corrupt during transmission. The upper layers work on some generalized view of network architecture and are not aware of actual hardware data processing. Hence, the upper layers expect error-free transmission between the systems. Most of the applications would not function expectedly if they receive erroneous data. Applications such as voice and video may not be that affected and with some errors they may still function well.

Data-link layer uses some error control mechanism to ensure that frames (data bit streams) are transmitted with certain level of accuracy. But to understand how errors are controlled, it is essential to know what types of errors may occur.

#### Types of Errors

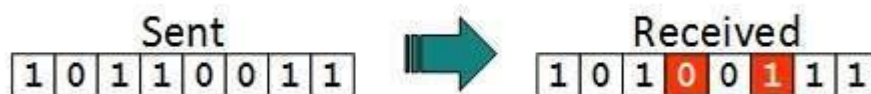
There may be three types of errors:

- **Single bit error**



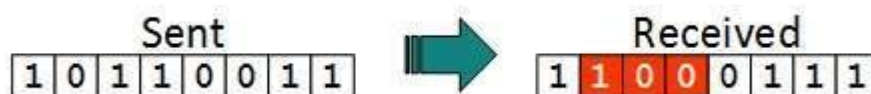
In a frame, there is only one bit, anywhere though, which is corrupt.

- **Multiple bits error**



Frame is received with more than one bits in corrupted state.

- **Burst error**



Frame contains more than 1 consecutive bits corrupted.

Error control mechanism may involve two possible ways:

- Error detection
- Error correction

## Error Detection

Errors in the received frames are detected by means of Parity Check and Cyclic Redundancy Check (CRC). In both cases, few extra bits are sent along with actual data to confirm that bits received at other end are same as they were sent. If the counter-check at receiver' end fails, the bits are considered corrupted.

### Parity Check

One extra bit is sent along with the original bits to make number of 1s either even in case of even parity, or odd in case of odd parity.

The sender while creating a frame counts the number of 1s in it. For example, if even parity is used and number of 1s is even then one bit with value 0 is added. This way number of 1s remains even. If the number of 1s is odd, to make it even a bit with value 1 is added.

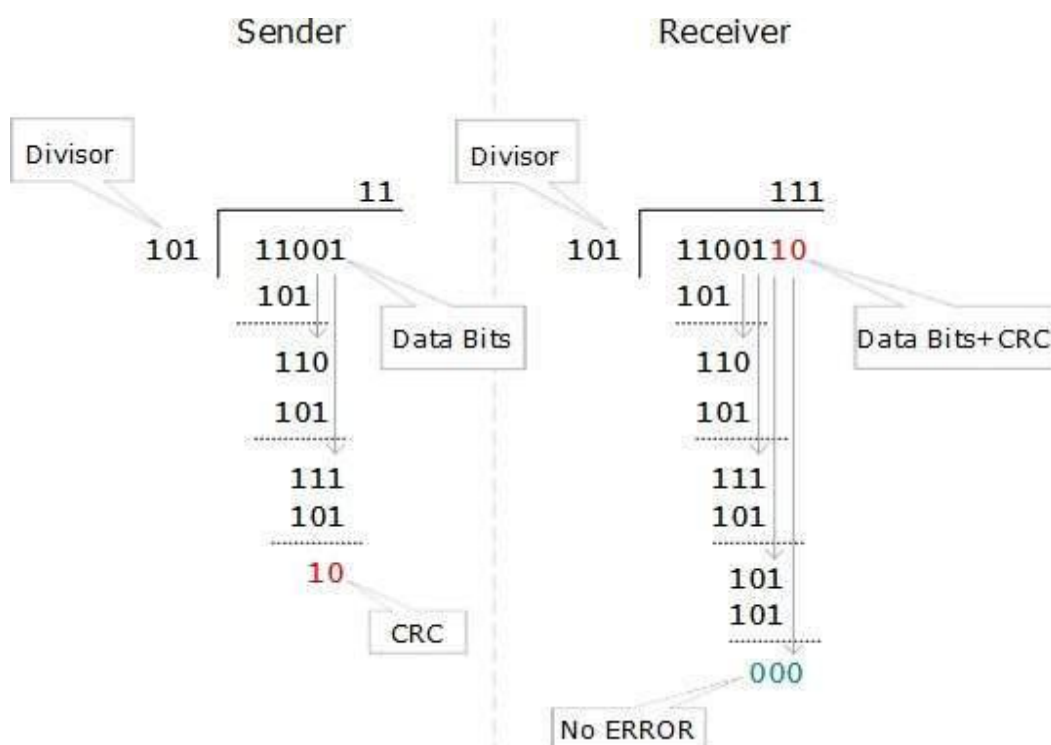


The receiver simply counts the number of 1s in a frame. If the count of 1s is even and even parity is used, the frame is considered to be not-corrupted and is accepted. If the count of 1s is odd and odd parity is used, the frame is still not corrupted.

If a single bit flips in transit, the receiver can detect it by counting the number of 1s. But when more than one bits are erroneous, then it is very hard for the receiver to detect the error.

### Cyclic Redundancy Check (CRC)

CRC is a different approach to detect if the received frame contains valid data. This technique involves binary division of the data bits being sent. The divisor is generated using polynomials. The sender performs a division operation on the bits being sent and calculates the remainder. Before sending the actual bits, the sender adds the remainder at the end of the actual bits. Actual data bits plus the remainder is called a codeword. The sender transmits data bits as codewords.



At the other end, the receiver performs division operation on codewords using the same CRC divisor. If the remainder contains all zeros the data bits are accepted, otherwise it is considered as there some data corruption occurred in transit.

## Error Correction

In the digital world, error correction can be done in two ways:

- **Backward Error Correction** When the receiver detects an error in the data received, it requests back the sender to retransmit the data unit.
- **Forward Error Correction** When the receiver detects some error in the data received, it executes error-correcting code, which helps it to auto-recover and to correct some kinds of errors.

The first one, Backward Error Correction, is simple and can only be efficiently used where retransmitting is not expensive. For example, fiber optics. But in case of wireless transmission retransmitting may cost too much. In the latter case, Forward Error Correction is used.

To correct the error in data frame, the receiver must know exactly which bit in the frame is corrupted. To locate the bit in error, redundant bits are used as parity bits for error detection. For example, we take ASCII words (7 bits data), then there could be 8 kind of information we need: first seven bits to tell us which bit is error and one more bit to tell that there is no error.

For  $m$  data bits,  $r$  redundant bits are used.  $r$  bits can provide  $2^r$  combinations of information. In  $m+r$  bit codeword, there is possibility that the  $r$  bits themselves may get corrupted. So the number of  $r$  bits used must inform about  $m+r$  bit locations plus no-error information, i.e.  $m+r+1$ .

$$2^r \geq m+r+1$$

