Fundamentals of Electrical Engineering

Digital Communication Receivers

- Optimal digital receiver
- Performance comparison for signal set choices



Digital Communication Model

Analog message







Receiver Front-end

• Because channel delay and when the transmitter started are unknown, the receiver must *synchronize* to bit-interval boundaries



Received signal



Correlation Receiver



$$\widehat{b}(n) = \arg\max_{i} \int_{nT}^{(n+1)T} r(t)s_i(t-nT) dt$$





What happens when a "0" is sent and it is received with no noise?

$$\int_{nT}^{(n+1)T} r(t)s_0(t-nT) dt = A^2T \qquad \Leftarrow \\ \int_{nT}^{(n+1)T} r(t)s_1(t-nT) dt = -A^2T$$





When noise and attenuation are present while a "0" is sent,

$$\int_{nT}^{(n+1)T} r(t)s_0(t-nT) dt = \alpha A^2 T + \int_{nT}^{(n+1)T} n(t)s_0(t-nT) dt$$
$$\int_{nT}^{(n+1)T} r(t)s_1(t-nT) dt = -\alpha A^2 T + \int_{nT}^{(n+1)T} n(t)s_1(t-nT) dt$$

Non-zero probability that the bit choice is wrong







Correlation Receiver Performance

Receiver probability of error affected by...

- Signal set choice $\int_0^T [s_0(t) s_1(t)]^2 dt$
- Channel attenuation
- Variability of the noise (N_0)
- Probability distribution of the noise



Correlation Receiver Performance





Digital Communication

- Digital communication systems are not perfect: a noisy channel introduces bit errors with some probability
- Signal set choice can have significant impact on performance
- As the received signal becomes increasingly noisy, probability of error approaches 1/2
- How small should P_e be? Assuming a datarate of R bits/s and $P_e = \frac{1}{R}$ means, on the average, one error/second!

