6.003: Signals and Systems

Modulation

December 6, 2011

Communications Systems

Signals are not always well matched to the media through which we wish to transmit them.

signal	applications
audio	telephone, radio, phonograph, CD, cell phone, MP3 $$
video	television, cinema, HDTV, DVD
internet	coax, twisted pair, cable TV, DSL, optical fiber, E/M

Modulation can improve match based on frequency.

Amplitude Modulation

Amplitude modulation can be used to match audio frequencies to radio frequencies. It allows parallel transmission of multiple channels.



Superheterodyne Receiver

Edwin Howard Armstrong invented the superheterodyne receiver, which made broadcast AM practical.



Edwin Howard Armstrong also invented and patented the "regenerative" (positive feedback) circuit for amplifying radio signals (while he was a junior at Columbia University). He also invented wide-band FM.

Amplitude, Phase, and Frequency Modulation

There are many ways to embed a "message" in a carrier.

Amplitude Modulation (AM) + carrier: $y_1(t) = (x(t) + C) \cos(\omega_c t)$ Phase Modulation (PM): $y_2(t) = \cos(\omega_c t + kx(t))$ Frequency Modulation (FM): $y_3(t) = \cos\left(\omega_c t + k \int_{-\infty}^t x(\tau) d\tau\right)$

PM: signal modulates instantaneous phase of the carrier.

$$y_2(t) = \cos(\omega_c t + kx(t))$$

FM: signal modulates instantaneous frequency of carrier.

$$y_3(t) = \cos\left(\omega_c t + \underbrace{k \int_{-\infty}^t x(\tau) d\tau}_{\phi(t)}\right)$$
$$\omega_i(t) = \omega_c + \frac{d}{dt}\phi(t) = \omega_c + kx(t)$$

Frequency Modulation

Compare AM to FM for $x(t) = \cos(\omega_m t)$.

AM: $y_1(t) = x(t) + C \cos(\omega_c t) = (\cos(\omega_m t) + 1.1) \cos(\omega_c t)$



Advantages of FM:

- constant power
- no need to transmit carrier (unless DC important)
- bandwidth?

Frequency Modulation

Early investigators thought that narrowband FM could have arbitrarily narrow bandwidth, allowing more channels than AM.

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Small $k \rightarrow$ small bandwidth. Right?

Frequency Modulation

Early investigators thought that narrowband FM could have arbitrarily narrow bandwidth, allowing more channels than AM. Wrong!

$$y_{3}(t) = \cos\left(\omega_{c}t + k \int_{-\infty}^{t} x(\tau)d\tau\right)$$
$$= \cos(\omega_{c}t) \times \cos\left(k \int_{-\infty}^{t} x(\tau)d\tau\right) - \sin(\omega_{c}t) \times \sin\left(k \int_{-\infty}^{t} x(\tau)d\tau\right)$$

If
$$k \to 0$$
 then
 $\cos\left(k \int_{-\infty}^{t} x(\tau)d\tau\right) \to 1$
 $\sin\left(k \int_{-\infty}^{t} x(\tau)d\tau\right) \to k \int_{-\infty}^{t} x(\tau)d\tau$
 $y_{3}(t) \approx \cos(\omega_{c}t) - \sin(\omega_{c}t) \times \left(k \int_{-\infty}^{t} x(\tau)d\tau\right)$

Bandwidth of narrowband FM is the same as that of AM! (integration does not change the highest frequency in the signal)

Find the Fourier transform of a PM/FM signal.

$$y(t) = \cos(\omega_c t + mx(t)) = \cos(\omega_c t + m\sin(\omega_m t))$$

 $= \cos(\omega_c t) \cos(m \sin(\omega_m t))) - \sin(\omega_c t) \sin(m \sin(\omega_m t)))$



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Fourier transform of first part.

$$x(t) = \sin(\omega_m t)$$

$$y(t) = \cos(\omega_c t + mx(t)) = \cos(\omega_c t + m\sin(\omega_m t))$$

$$= \underbrace{\cos(\omega_c t) \cos(m\sin(\omega_m t)))}_{y_a(t)} - \sin(\omega_c t) \sin(m\sin(\omega_m t)))$$

$$|Y_a(j\omega)| \qquad m = 50$$

$$\underbrace{\int_{\omega_c} \frac{\omega_c}{100\omega_m}}_{U_a}$$

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Fourier transform of second part.

Fourier transform.



Frequency Modulation

Wideband FM is useful because it is robust to noise.



FM generates a redundant signal that is resilient to additive noise.

Summary

Modulation is useful for matching signals to media.

Examples: commercial radio (AM and FM)

Close with unconventional application of modulation – in microscopy.

6.003 Microscopy

Dennis M. Freeman Stanley S. Hong Jekwan Ryu Michael S. Mermelstein Berthold K. P. Horn

6.003 Model of a Microscope



Microscope = low-pass filter

Phase-Modulated Microscopy





Modulated illumination enables low-pass system (eyes) to detect high spatial frequencies



Modulated illumination enables low-pass system (eyes) to detect high spatial frequencies

Images are 2 dimensional \rightarrow need 2D Fourier Transform



many frequencies + many orientations = many images



Standing-wave illumination spectrum



Thanks to M. Mermelstein





Twinkling decoded into sub-pixel image





Courtesy of Stanley Hong, Jekwan Ryu, Michael Mermelstein, and Berthold K. P. Horn. Used with permission.

Measurement of PSF



(Cross section, not to scale)

Measurement of PSF



Measurement of PSF



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