ELC 4350: Principles of Communication

Orthogonal Frequency-Division Multiplexing (OFDM)

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System Standards using OFDM

Wireless

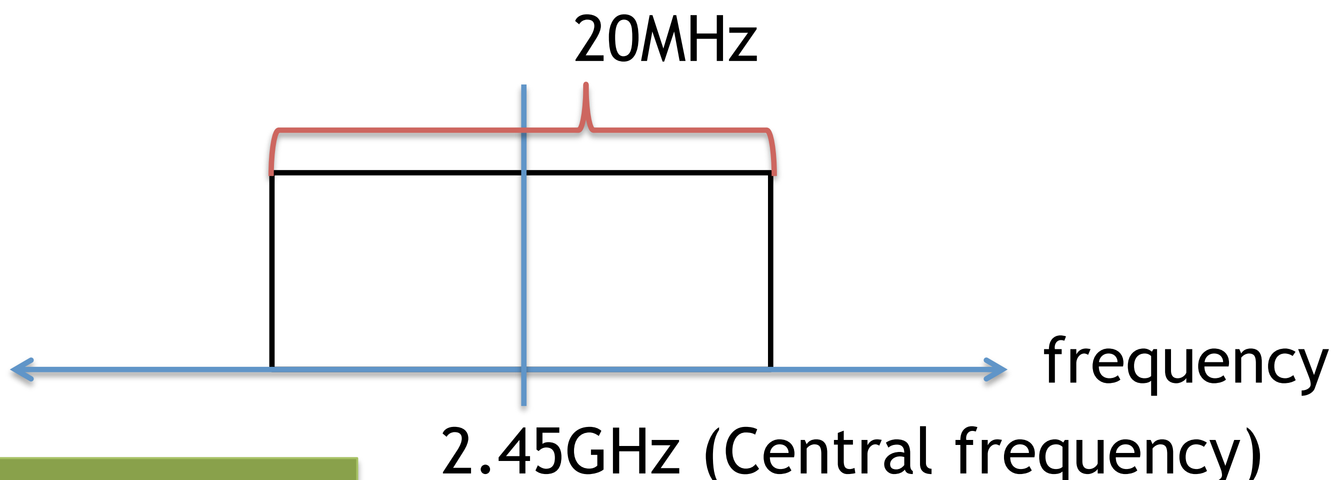
- IEEE 802.11a, g, j, n (WiFi) Wireless LANs
- IEEE 802.15.3a Ultra Wideband (UWB) Wireless PAN
- IEEE 802.16d, e (WiMAX), WiBro, and HiperMAN Wireless MANs
- IEEE 802.20 Mobile Broadband Wireless Access (MBWA)
- DVB (Digital Video Broadcast) terrestrial TV systems: DVB-T, DVB-H, T-DMB and ISDB-T
- DAB (Digital Audio Broadcast) systems: EUREKA 147, Digital Radio Mondiale, HD Radio, T-DMB and ISDB-TSB
- Flash-OFDM cellular systems
- 3GPP UMTS & 3GPP@ LTE (Long-Term Evolution), and 4G

Wireline

- ADSL and VDSL broadband access via POTS copper wiring
- MoCA (Multi-media over Coax Alliance) home networking
- PLC (Power Line Communication)

Motivation

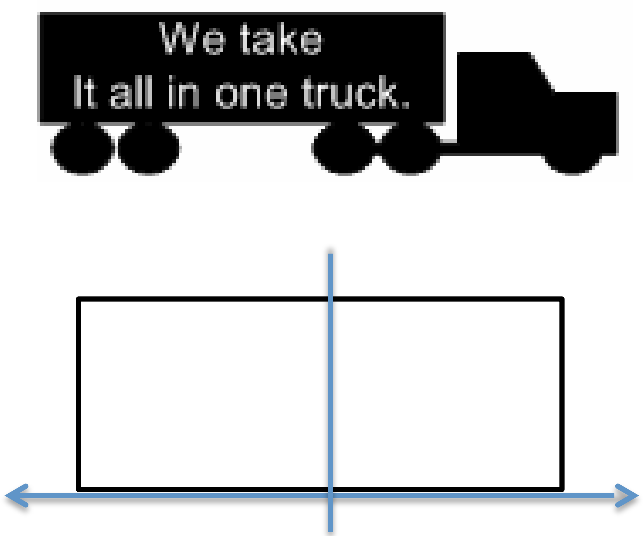
- Signal over wireless channel
  - y[n] = Hx[n]
- Work only for narrow-band channels, but not for wide-band channels
  - e.g., 20 MHz for 802.11



Capacity = BW * log(1+SNR)

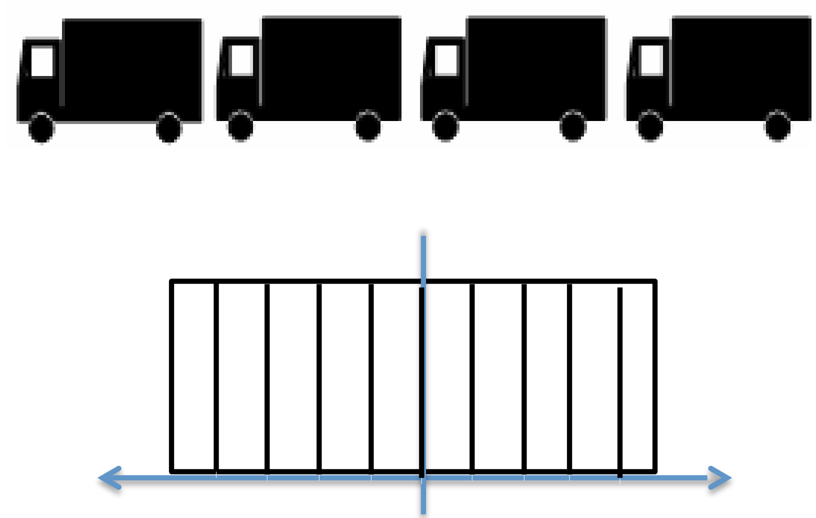
Basic Concept of OFDM

Wide-band channel



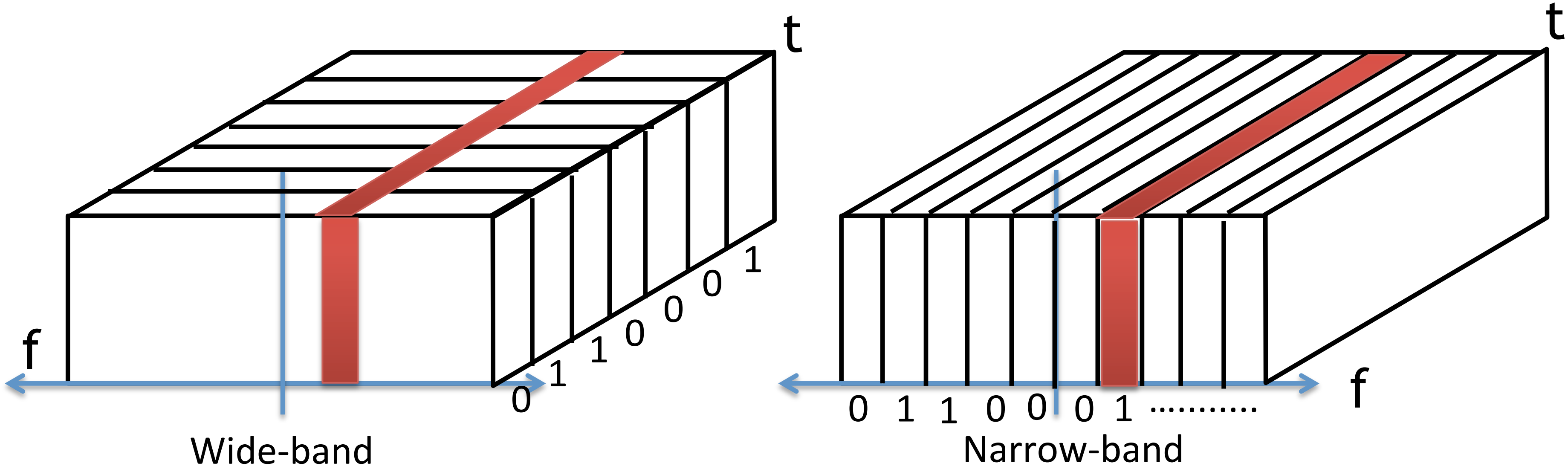
Send a sample using the entire band

Multiple narrow-band channels



Send samples concurrently using multiple **orthogonal sub-channels**

Why Multi-Carrier is Better?



- Multiple sub-channels (sub-carriers) carry samples sent at a lower rate
  - Almost same bandwidth with wide-band channel
- Only some of the sub-channels are affected by interferers or multi-path effect

Multiple Sub-Carriers

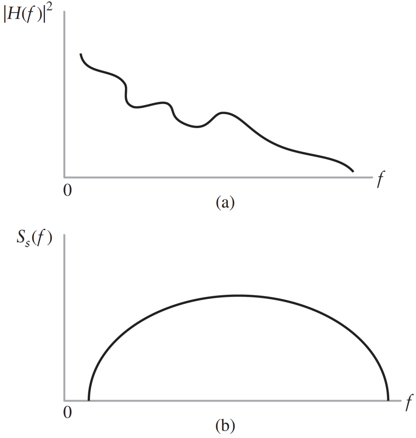
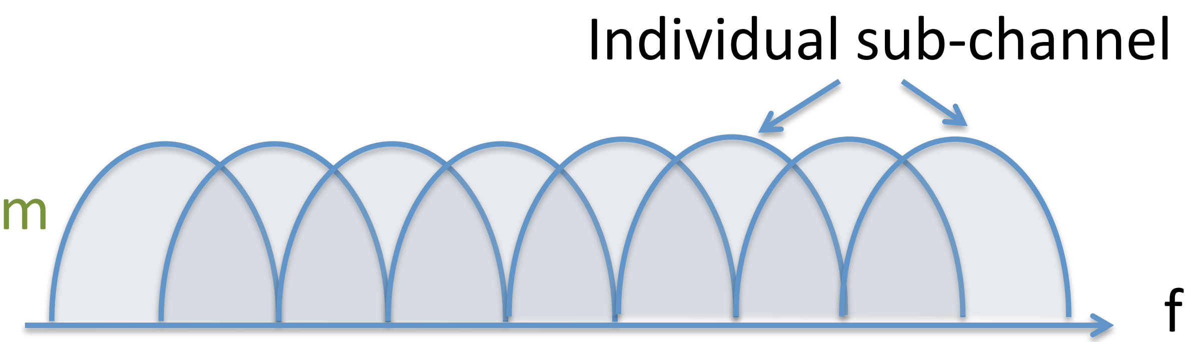


Figure: (a) Squared frequency response of channel. (b) Transmission power spectral density of single-carrier signal. (c) Transmission power spectral density of multi-carrier signal. (d) Received power spectral density of multi-carrier signal.

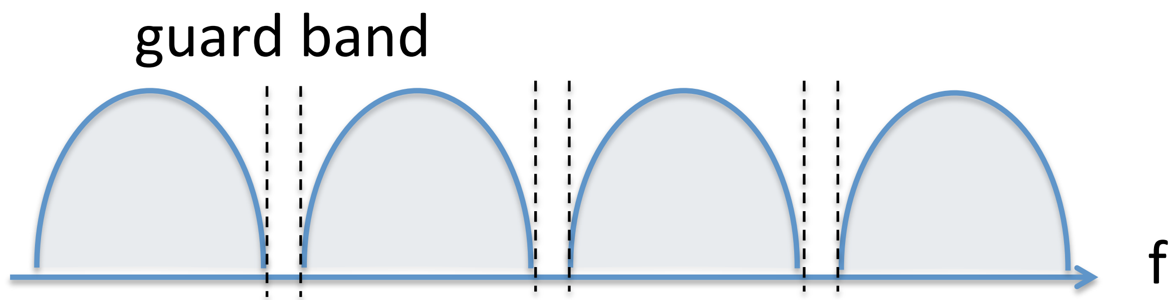
Importance of Orthogonality

- Why not just use FDM (frequency division multiplexing)
  - Not orthogonal

Leakage interference from adjacent sub-channels

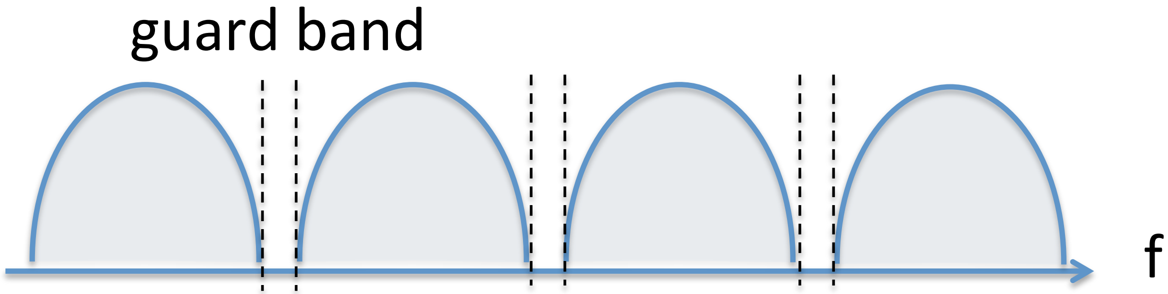


Guard bands protect leakage interference

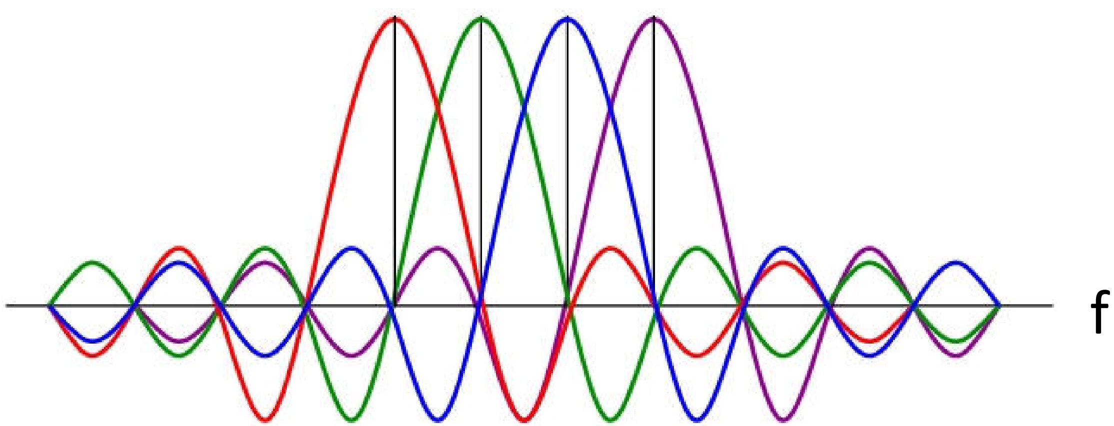


- Need guard bands between adjacent frequency bands → extra overhead and lower throughput

Difference between FDM and OFDM



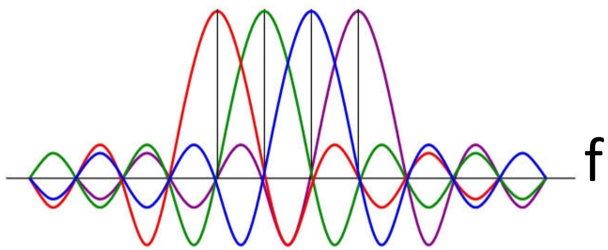
Frequency division multiplexing



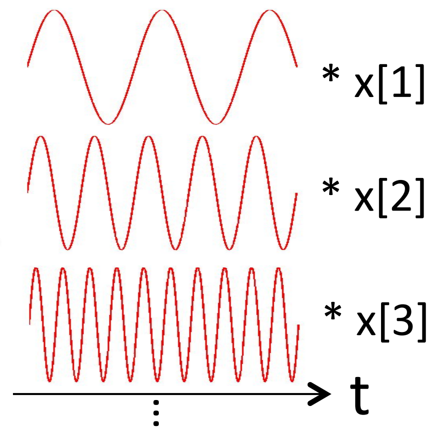
Orthogonal sub-carriers in OFDM

Don’t need guard bands

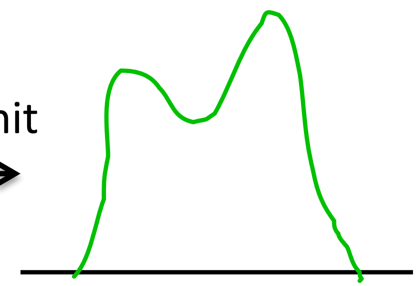
Orthogonal Frequency Division Modulation



IFFT



transmit

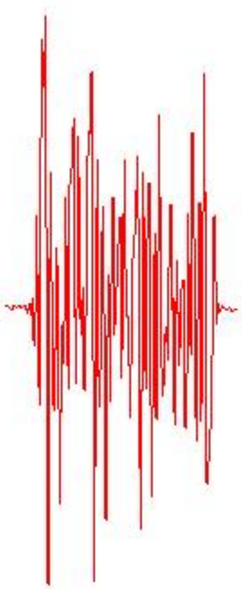


Data coded in frequency domain

Transformation to time domain:
each frequency is a sine wave
In time, all added up

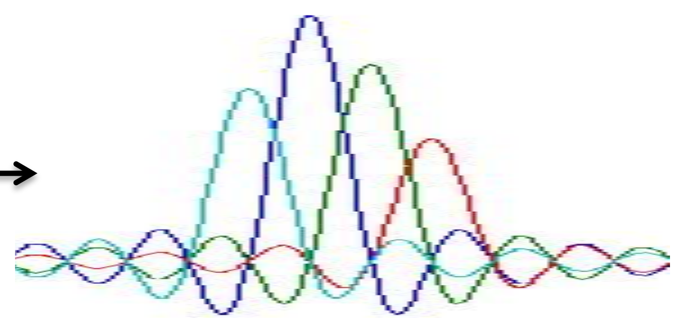
Channel frequency response

receive



Time domain signal

FFT



Frequency domain signal

Decode each subcarrier separately

OFDM Symbol

- Let there be N subcarriers with frequencies $\{f_n\}$ and information-carrying bits $\{b_n\}$. The nth subcarrier signal is

$$s_n(t) = b_n \exp(j2\pi f_n t), \quad 0 \leq t \leq T$$

- The multi-carrier signal over one OFDM symbol period can be represented by the sum over all subcarriers.

$$s(t) = \sum_{n=0}^{N-1} s_n(t) = \sum_{n=0}^{N-1} b_n \exp(j2\pi f_n t), \quad 0 \leq t \leq T$$

OFDM Symbol

- Sample the multi-carrier signal at intervals of T_s where $T_s = \frac{T}{N}$.

- Choose subcarrier frequency spacing $\Delta f = \frac{1}{T}$, therefore N discrete frequency bins $\{f_n\}$ with the nth frequency $f_n = \frac{n}{T}$.

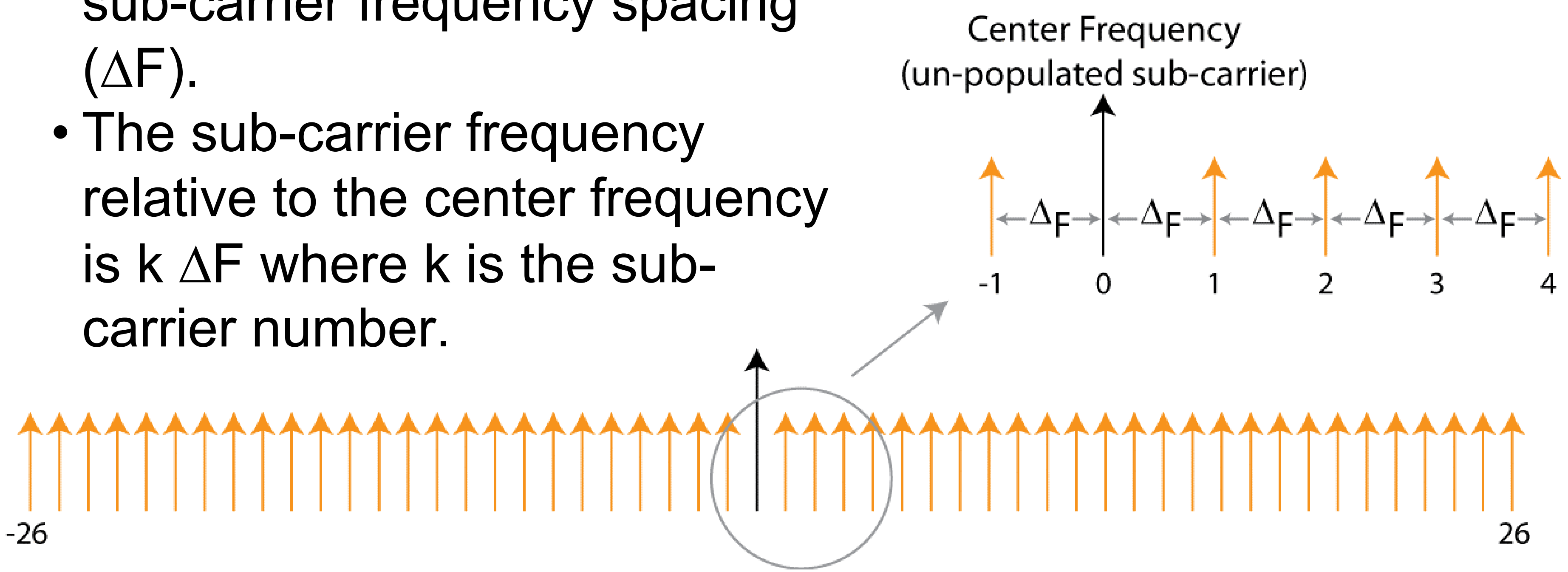
- The multi-carrier signal is

$$s(kT_s) = \sum_{n=0}^{N-1} b_k \exp\left(j2\pi \frac{kn}{N}\right)$$

Inverse discrete Fourier transform (IDFT) of the data steam $\{b_n\}$!

Sub Carrier Spacing

- The sub-carriers are spaced at regular intervals called the sub-carrier frequency spacing (ΔF).
- The sub-carrier frequency relative to the center frequency is k ΔF where k is the sub-carrier number.



OFDM Transmitter and Receiver

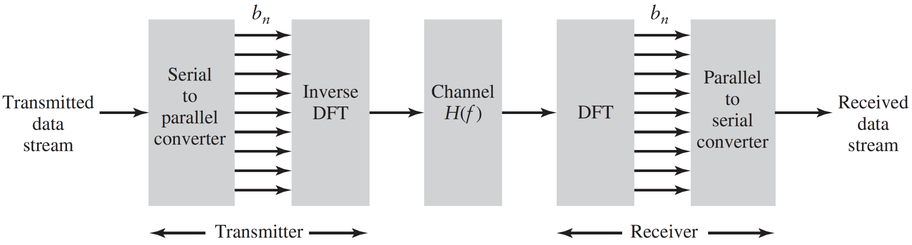
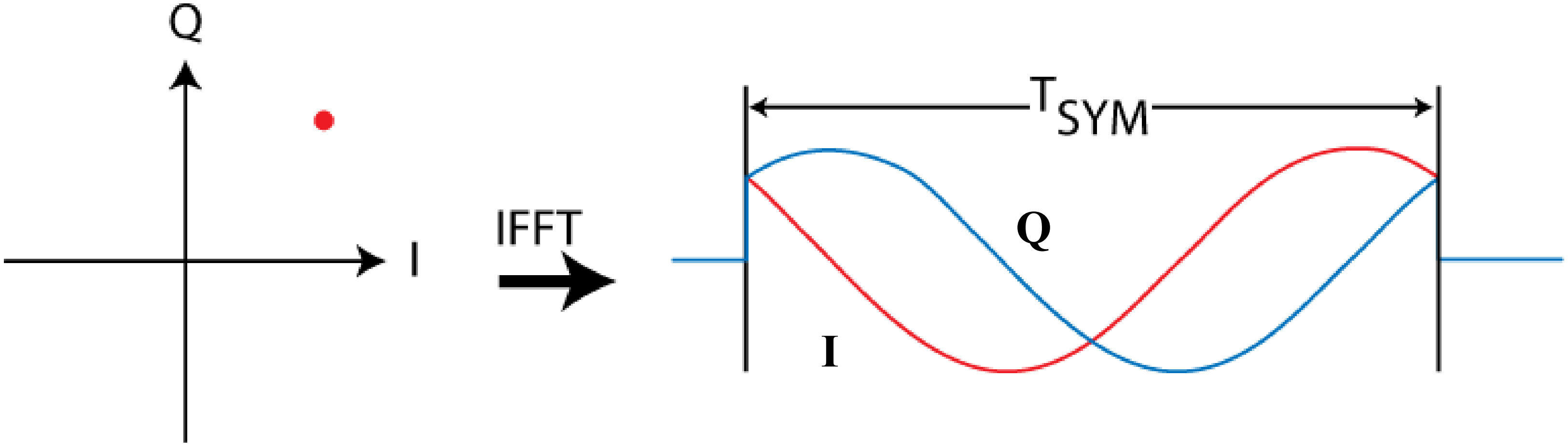
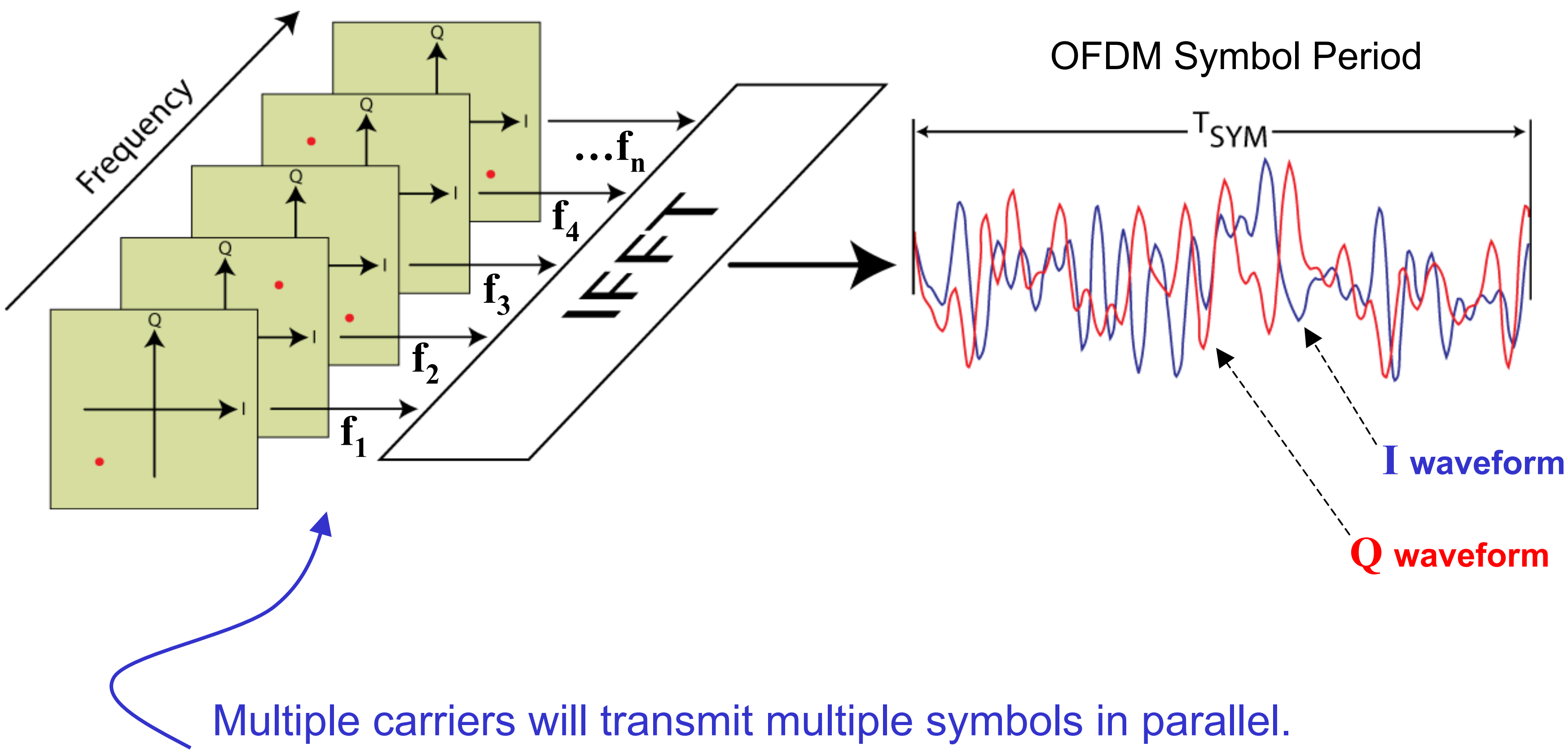


Figure: Block diagram of OFDM system.

Symbol to Waveform Traditional
– Serial Symbol Transmissions



Symbol to Waveform OFDM
– Parallel Symbol Transmissions



Multiple carriers will transmit multiple symbols in parallel.
Carriers may have different modulations – BPSK, QPSK… 64QAM.

Orthogonality of Sub-Carriers

- The subcarriers are orthogonal over a symbol period T. That is

$$\sum_{n=0}^{N-1} \exp\left(j2\pi\frac{kn}{N}\right)\exp\left(-j2\pi\frac{ln}{N}\right) = 0, \quad k \neq l$$

- Consequently, there is no interference between the subcarriers even though they overlap significantly.

Orthogonality of Sub-carriers

Encode: frequency-domain samples → (IFFT) time-domain sample

$$x(t) = \sum_{k=-N/2}^{N/2-1} X[k] e^{j2\pi kt/N}$$

Time-domain   Frequency-domain

$$X[k] = \frac{1}{N} \sum_{t=N/2}^{N/2-1} x(t) e^{-j2\pi kt/N}$$

Decode: time-domain samples → (FFT) frequency-domain sample

Orthogonality of any two bins : $\sum_{t=N/2}^{N/2-1} e^{j2\pi kt/N} e^{-j2\pi pt/N} = 0, \forall p \neq k$

OFDM Example

- Say we use BPSK and 4 sub-carriers to transmit a stream of samples

1, 1, -1, -1, 1, 1, 1, -1, 1, -1, -1, -1, -1, 1, -1, -1, -1, 1,…

- Serial to parallel conversion of samples

Frequency-domain signal

	c1	c2	c3	c4
symbol1	1	1	-1	-1
symbol2	1	1	1	-1
symbol3	1	-1	-1	-1
symbol4	-1	1	-1	-1
symbol5	-1	1	1	-1
symbol6	-1	-1	1	1

IFFT →

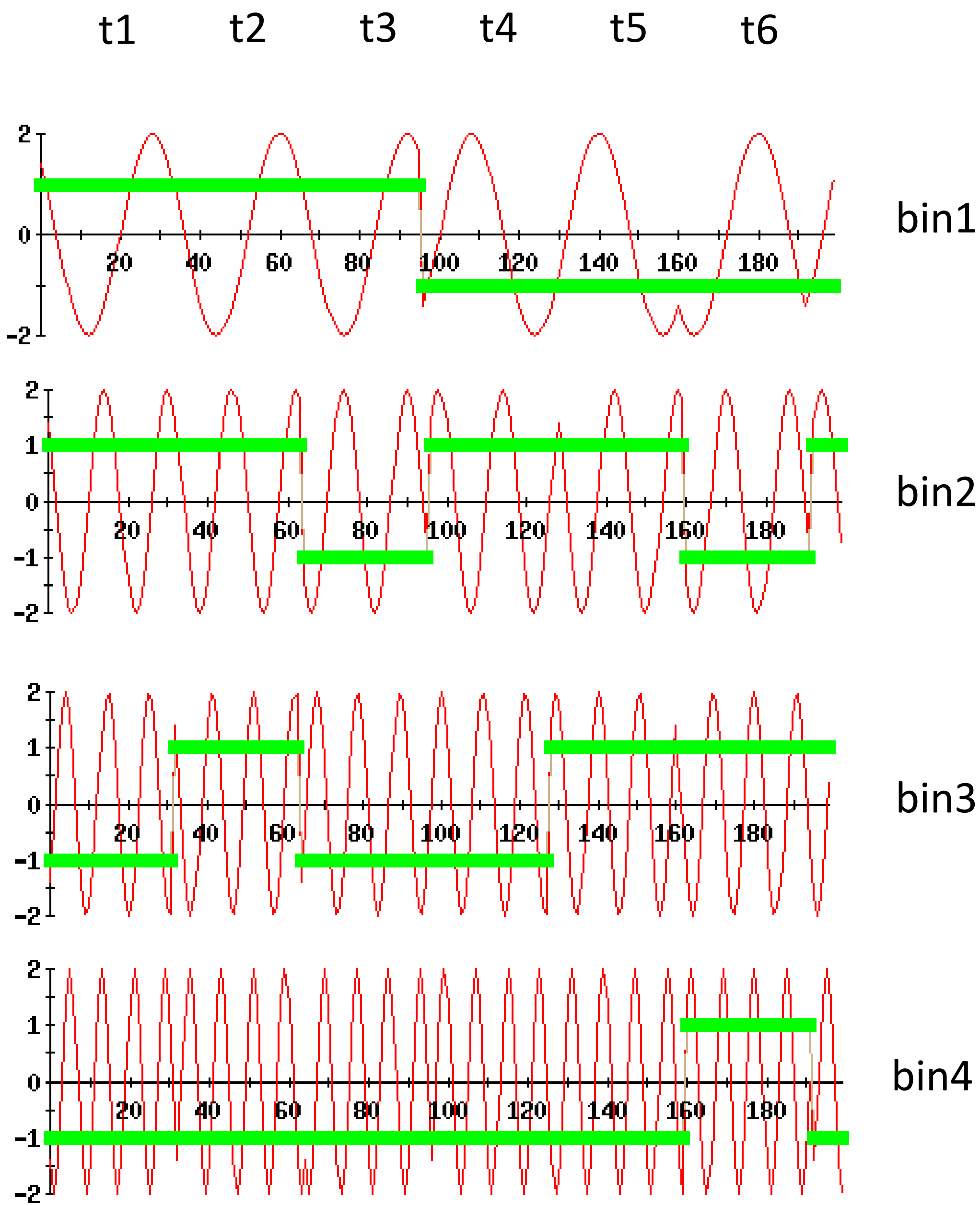
Time-domain signal

0	2 - 2i	0	2 + 2i
2	0 - 2i	2	0 + 2i
-2	2	2	2
-2	0 - 2i	-2	0 + 2i
0	-2 - 2i	0	-2 + 2i
0	-2 + 2i	0	-2 - 2i

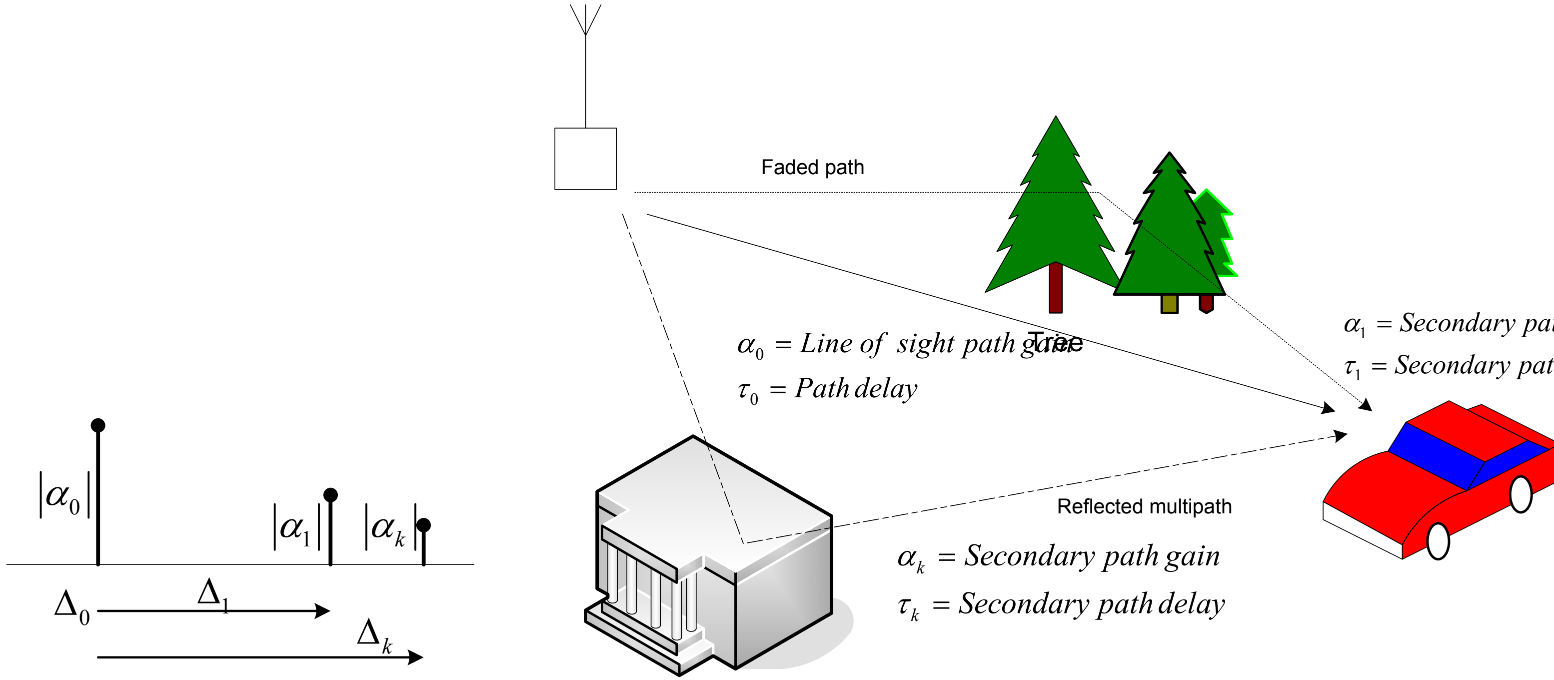
- Parallel to serial conversion, and transmit time-domain samples

0, 2 - 2i, 0, 2 + 2i, 2, 0 - 2i, 2, 0 + 2i, -2, 2, 2, 2, -2, 0 - 2i, -2,
0 + 2i, 0, -2 - 2i, 0, -2 + 2i, 0, -2 + 2i, 0, -2 - 2i, …

symbol1	1	1	-1	-1
symbol2	1	1	1	-1
symbol3	1	-1	-1	-1
symbol4	-1	1	-1	-1
symbol5	-1	1	1	-1
symbol6	-1	-1	1	1



Multi-Path Effect

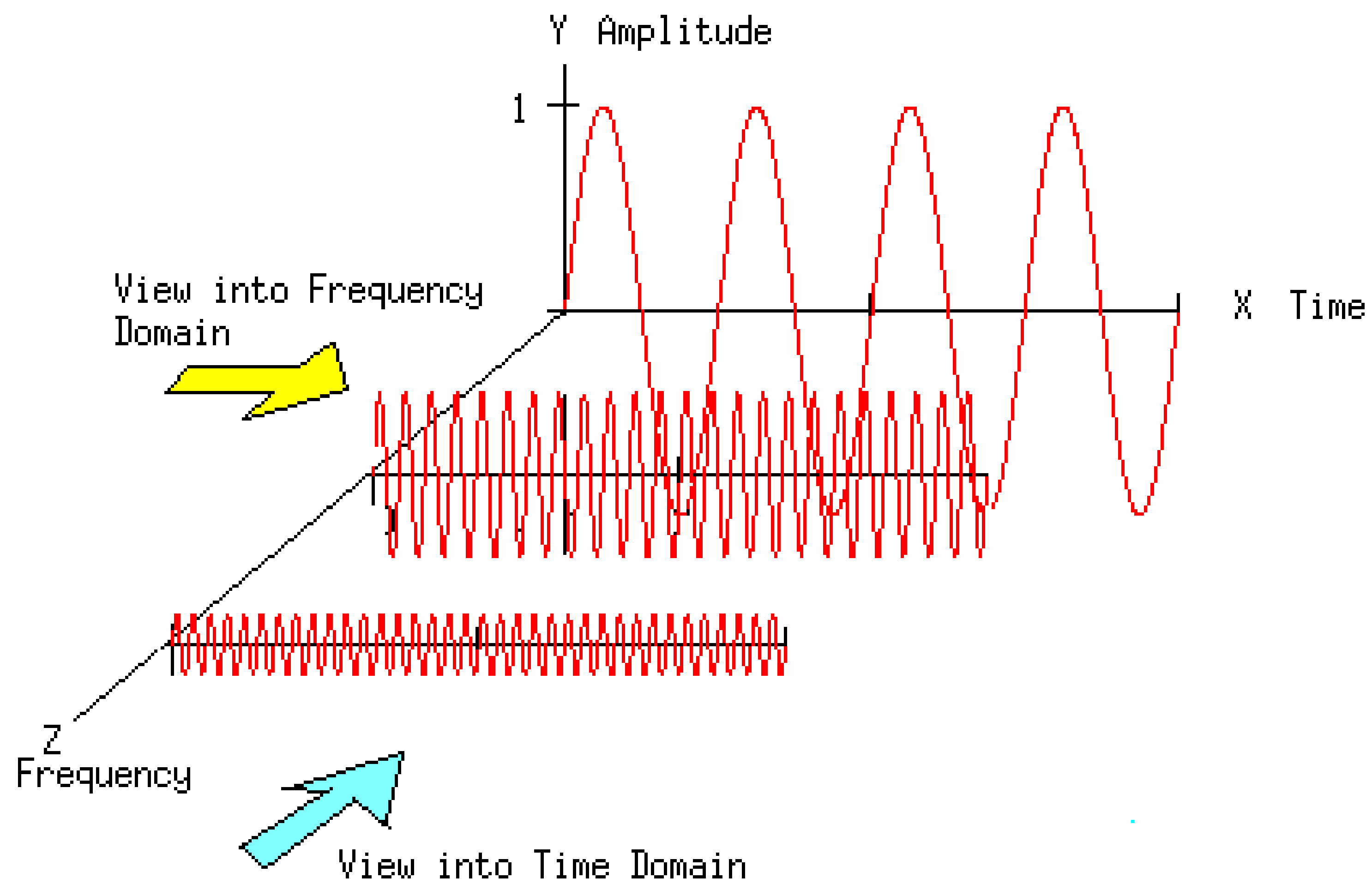


$$y(t) = h(0)x(t) + h(1)x(t-1) + h(2)x(t-2) + \cdots$$
$$= \sum_{\Delta} h(\Delta)x(t-\Delta) = h(t) \otimes x(t)$$

$$\Leftrightarrow \quad Y(f) = H(f)X(f)$$

time-domain

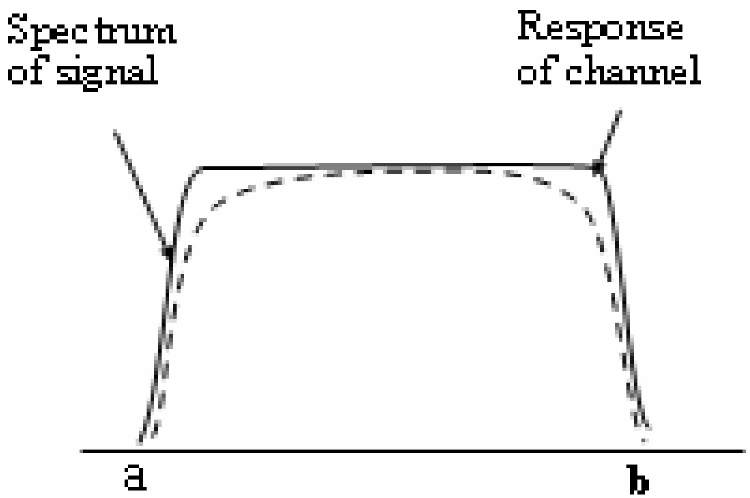
frequency-domain

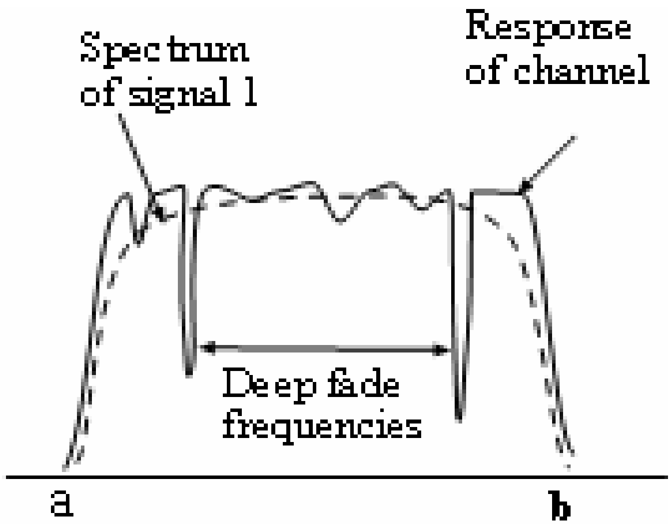


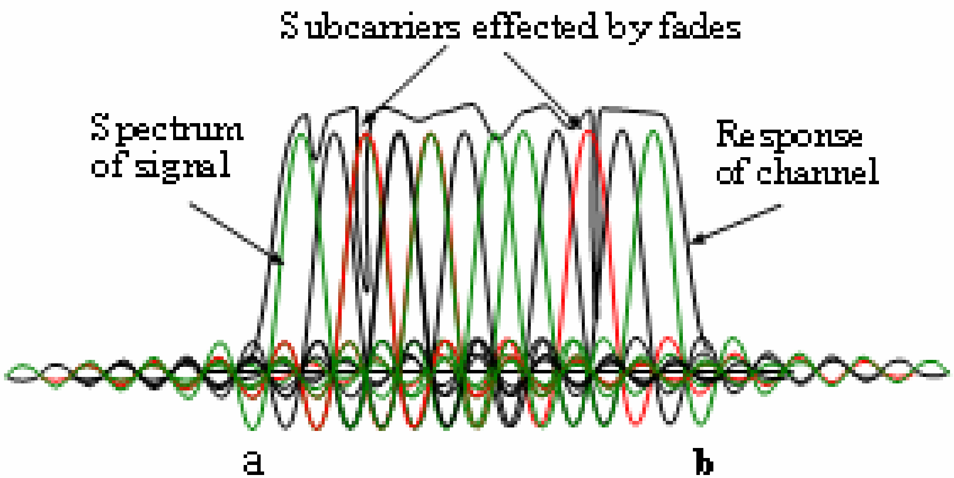
Current symbol + delayed-version symbol

→ Signals are deconstructive in only certain frequencies

Frequency Selective Fading



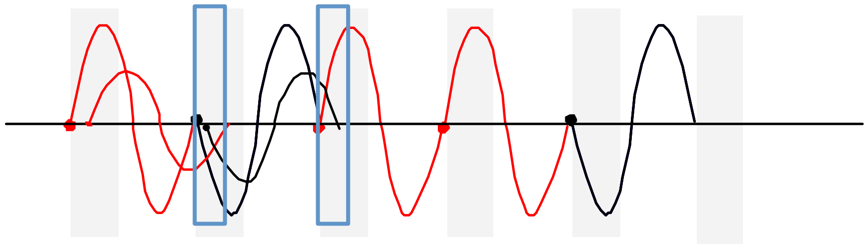




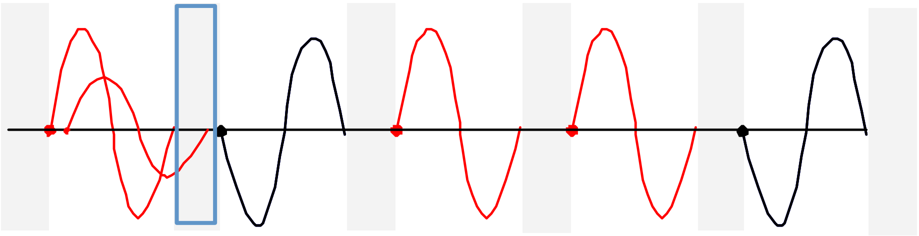
Frequency selective fading: Only some sub-carriers get affected

Inter Symbol Interference (ISI)

- The delayed version of a symbol overlaps with the adjacent symbol



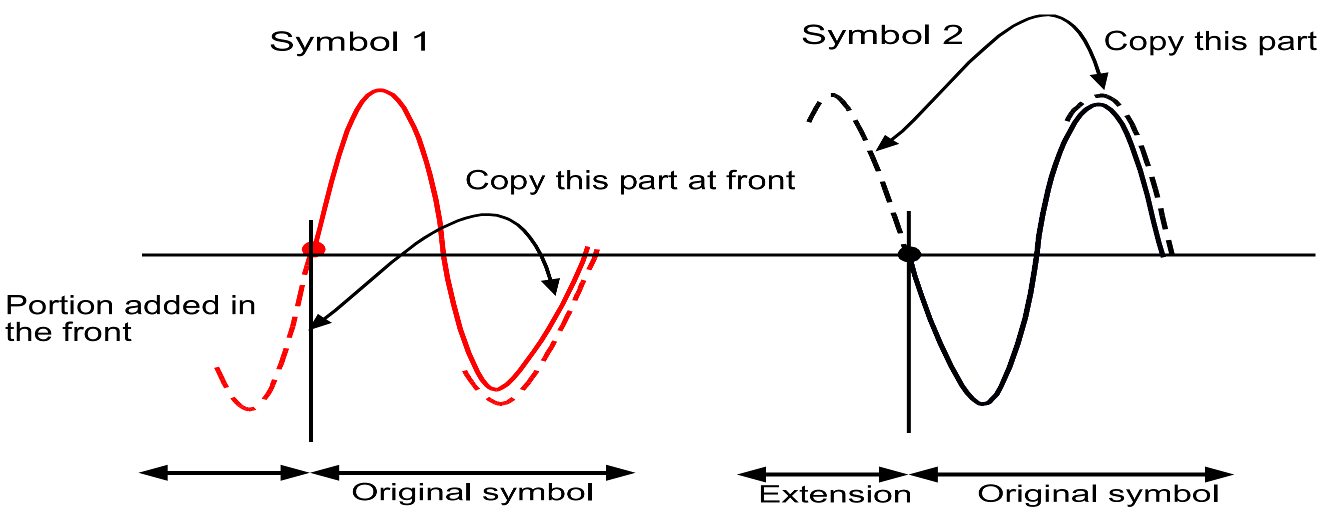
- One simple solution to avoid this is to introduce a guard-band



Guard band

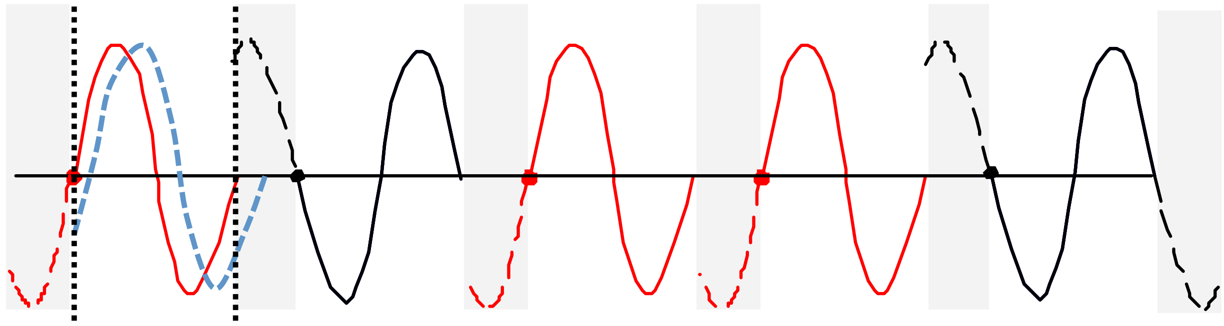
Cyclic Prefix (CP)

- However, we don't know the delay spread exactly
  - The hardware doesn't allow blank space because it needs to send out signals continuously
- Solution: Cyclic Prefix
  - Make the symbol period longer by copying the tail and glue it in the front

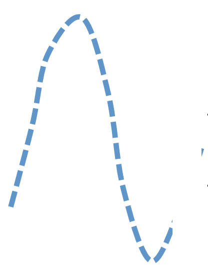
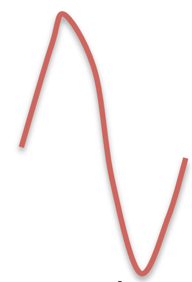


In 802.11, CP:data = 1:4

Cyclic Prefix (CP)



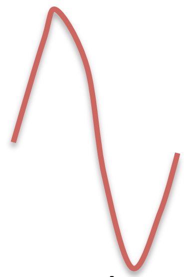
- Because of the usage of FFT, the signal is periodic

FFT() = $\exp(-2j\pi_{\Delta} f)$*FFT()

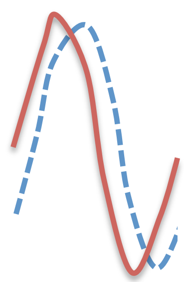
delayed version — original signal

- Delay in the time domain corresponds to rotation in the frequency domain
  - Can still obtain the correct signal in the frequency domain by compensating this rotation

Cyclic Prefix (CP)

w/o multipath $y(t) \rightarrow FFT($  $) \rightarrow Y[k] = H[k]X[k]$

original signal

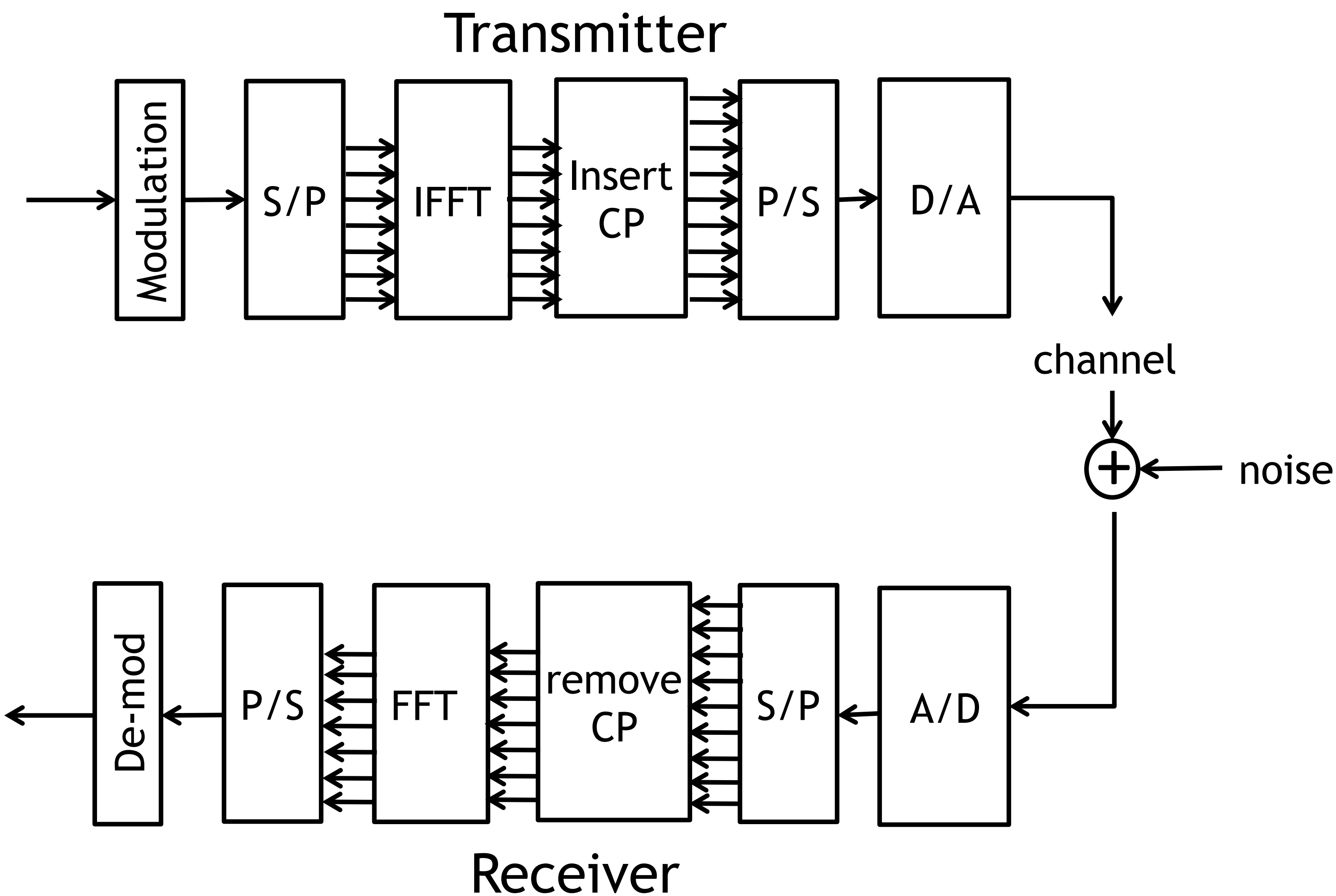
w multipath $y(t) \rightarrow FFT($  $) \rightarrow Y[k] = \alpha(1+\exp(-2j\pi_{\Delta}k))*X[k]$

$= H'[k]X[k]$

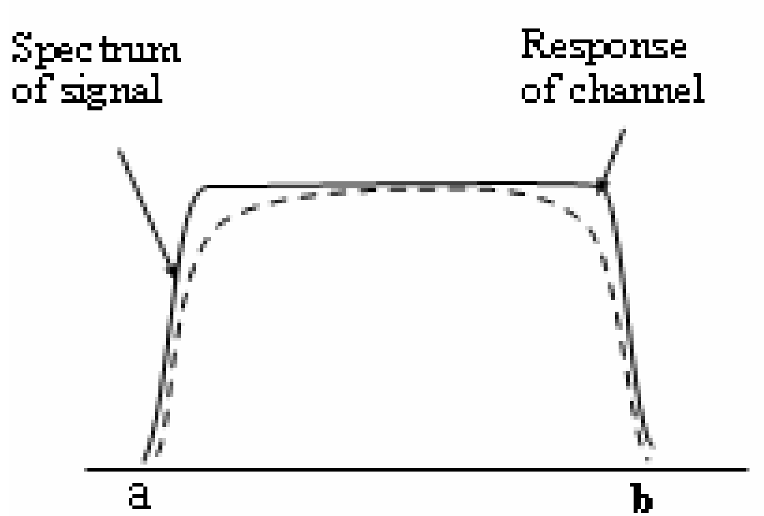
original signal + delayed-version signal

Lump the phase shift in H

OFDM Diagram



Unoccupied Subcarriers

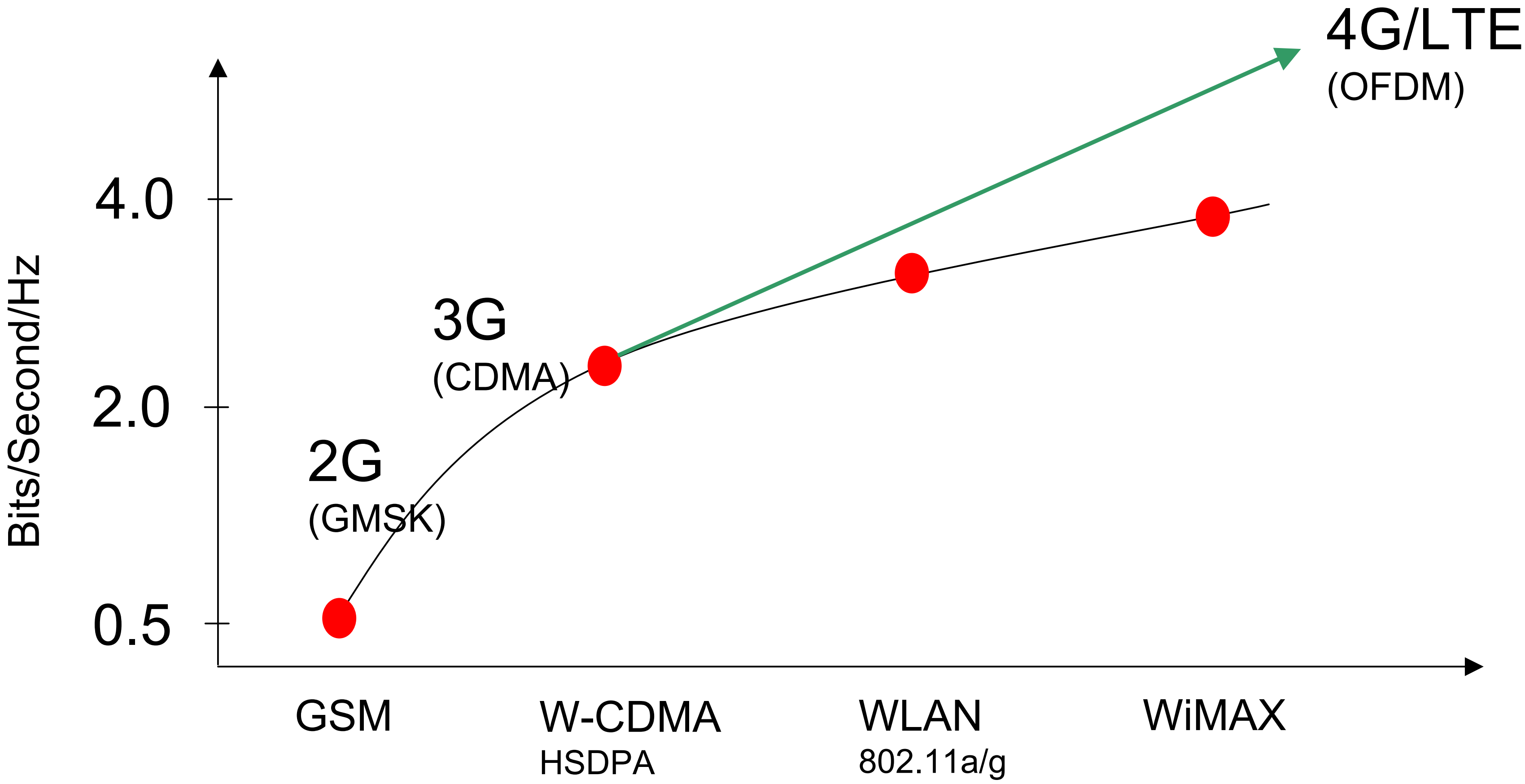


- Edge sub-carriers are more vulnerable to errors under discrete FFT
  - Frequency might be shifted due to noise or multi-path
- Leave them unused
  - In 802.11, only 48 of 64 bins are occupied bins
- Is it really worth to use OFDM when it costs so many overheads (CP, unoccupied bins)?

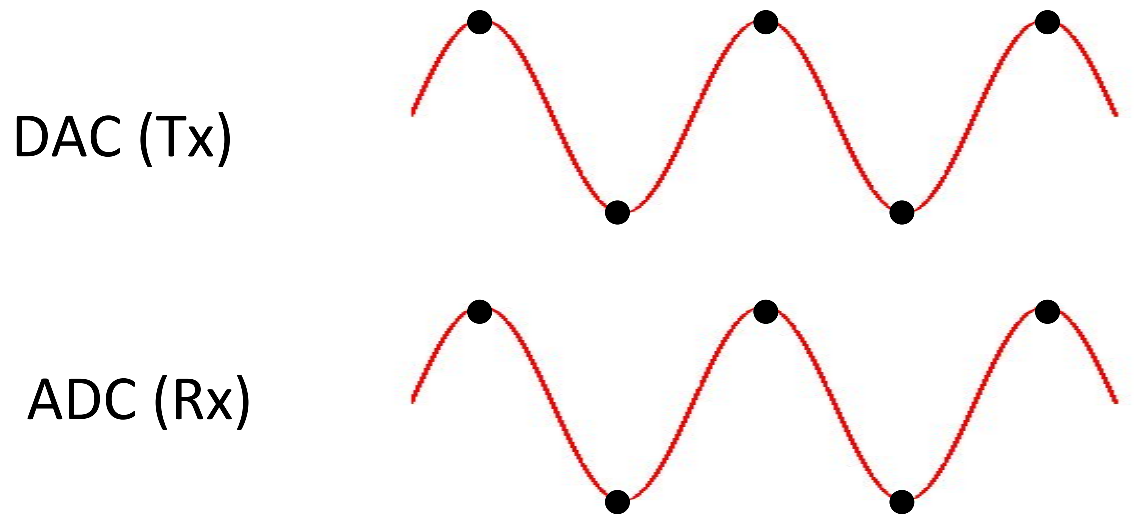
Why Orthogonal Frequency Division Multiplex?

- **High spectral efficiency –** provides more data services.
- **Resiliency to RF interference –** good performance in unregulated and regulated frequency bands
- **Lower multi-path distortion –** works in complex indoor environments as well as at speed in vehicles.

Spectrally Efficiency – OFDM

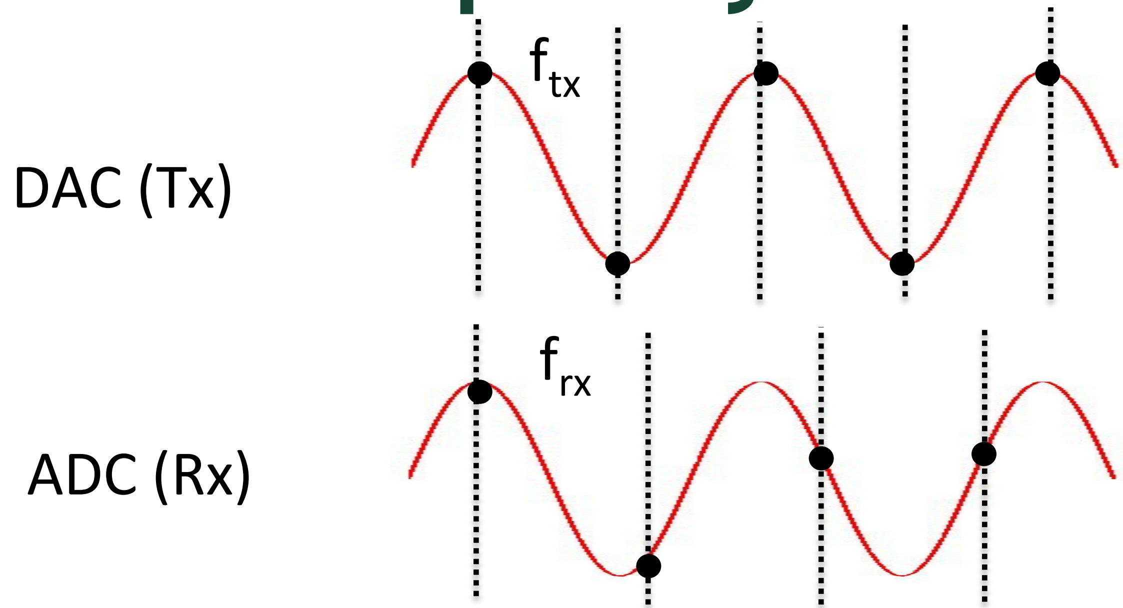


Synchronization



- DAC (at Tx) and ADC (at Rx) never have exactly the sampling period
  - A slow shift of the symbol timing point, which rotates subcarriers
  - Intercarrier interference (ICI), which causes loss of the orthogonality of the subcarriers

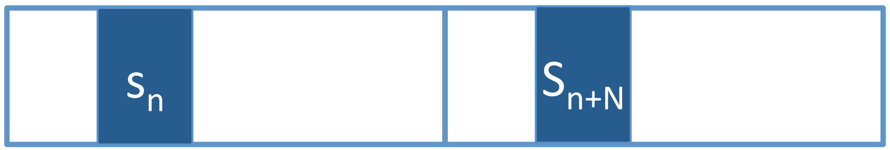
Carrier Frequency Offset (CFO)



- The oscillators of Tx and Rx are not typically tuned to identical frequencies
  - Up-convert baseband signal s_n to passband signal $y_n = s_n * e^{j2\pi f_{tx} n T_s}$
  - Down-convert passband signal y_n back to $r_n = s_n * e^{j2\pi f_{tx} n T_s} * e^{-j2\pi f_{rx} n T_s} = s_n * e^{j2\pi f_{\Delta} n T_s}$
  - Error accumulates

Correct CFO in Time Domain

$r_n = s_n * e^{j2\pi f_\Delta n T_s}$ $\quad$ $r_{n+N} = s_{n+N} * e^{j2\pi f_\Delta (n+N) T_s}$



Symbol 1 $\quad$ Symbol 2

$$r_n r_{n+N}^* = s_n e^{j2\pi f_\Delta n T_s} s_{n+N}^* e^{-j2\pi f_\Delta (n+N) T_s}$$

$$= e^{-j2\pi f_\Delta N T_s} s_n s_{n+N}^*$$

$$= e^{-j2\pi f_\Delta N T_s} \left| s_n \right|^2$$

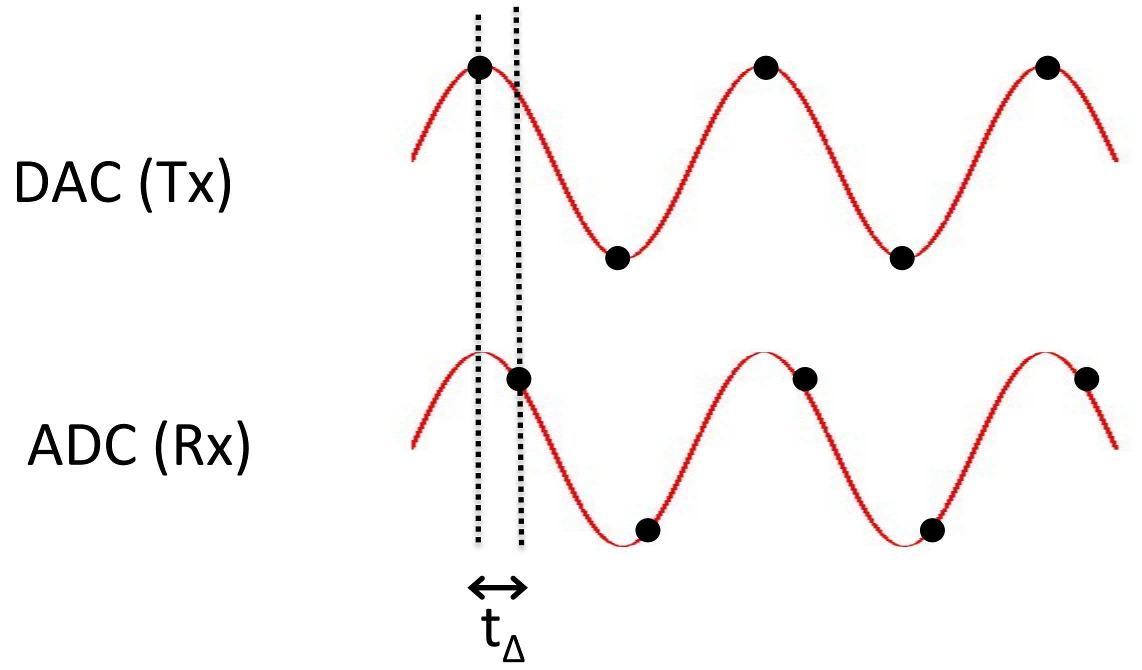
$$z = \sum_{n=1}^{L} r_n r_{n+N}^*$$

$$= \sum_{n=1}^{L} e^{-j2\pi f_\Delta N T_s} s_n s_{n+N}^*$$

$$= e^{-j2\pi f_\Delta N T_s} \sum_{n=1}^{L} \left| s_n \right|^2$$

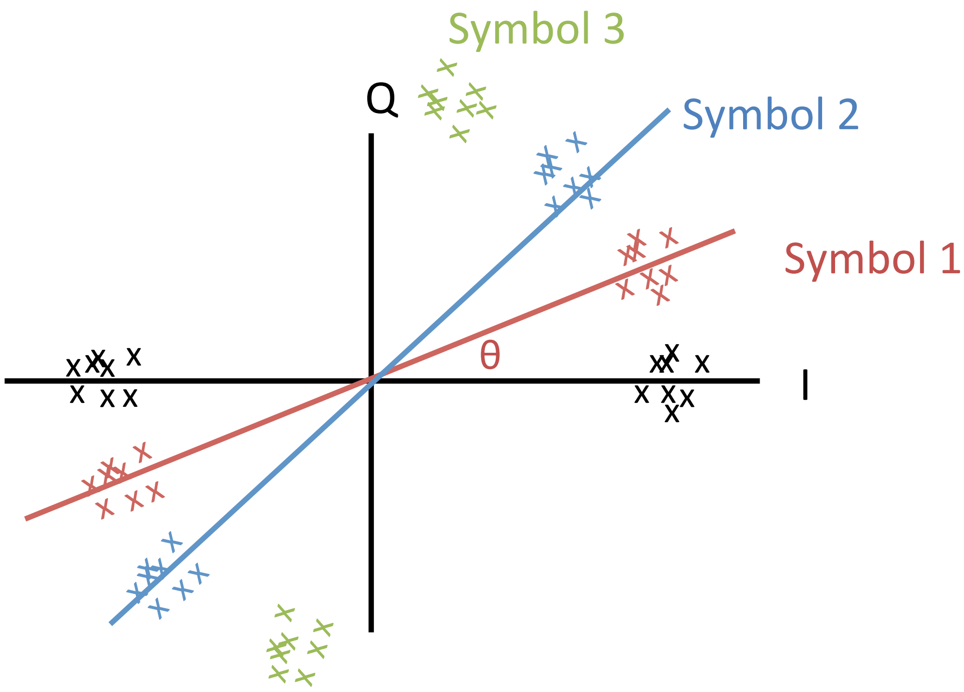
$$f_\Delta = \frac{1}{2\pi N T_s} \angle z$$

Sampling Frequency Offset (SFO)



- The transmitter and receiver may sample the signal at slightly different offset
  - Rotate the signal
- $Y_i = H_i X_i * e^{j2\pi t_\Delta i N_s / N_{fft}}$
- All subcarriers experience the same sampling delay, but have different frequencies

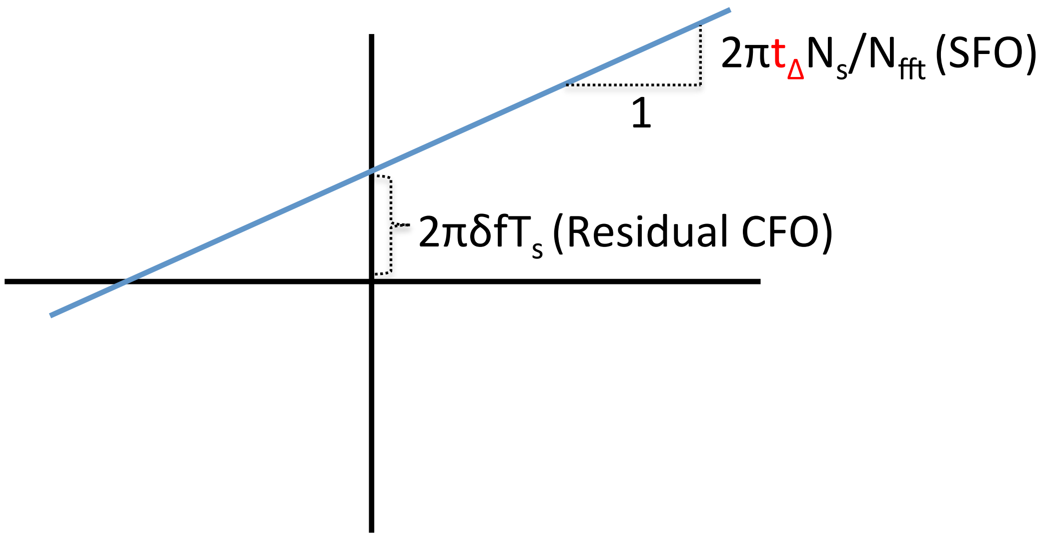
Sample Rotation due to SFO



Ideal BPSK signals (No rotation)

Signals keep rotating

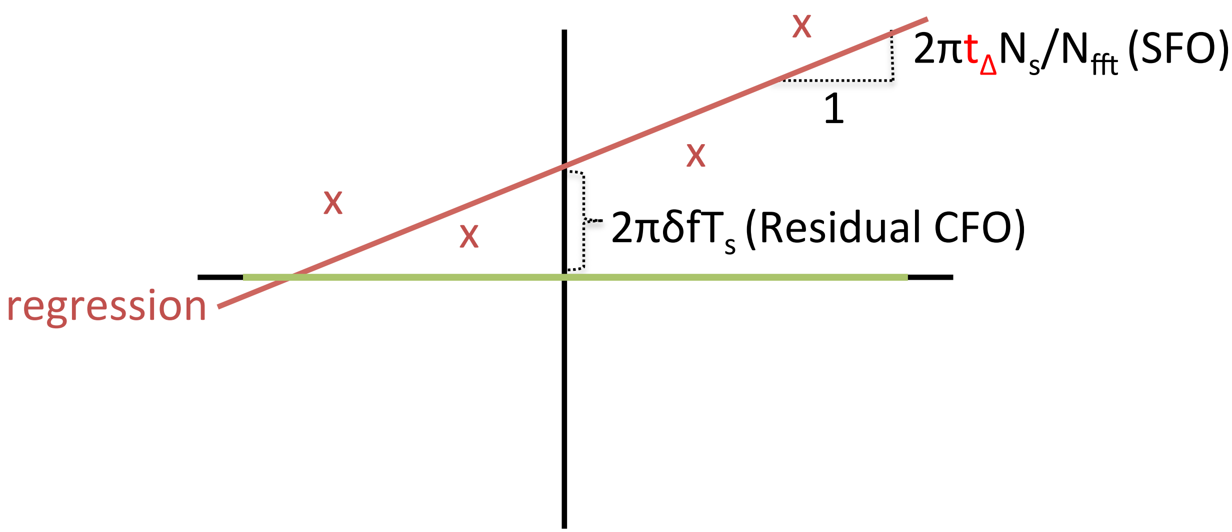
Correct SFO in Frequency Domain



Change in phase between Tx and Rx after CFO correction

- SFO: slop; residual CFO: intersection of y-axis

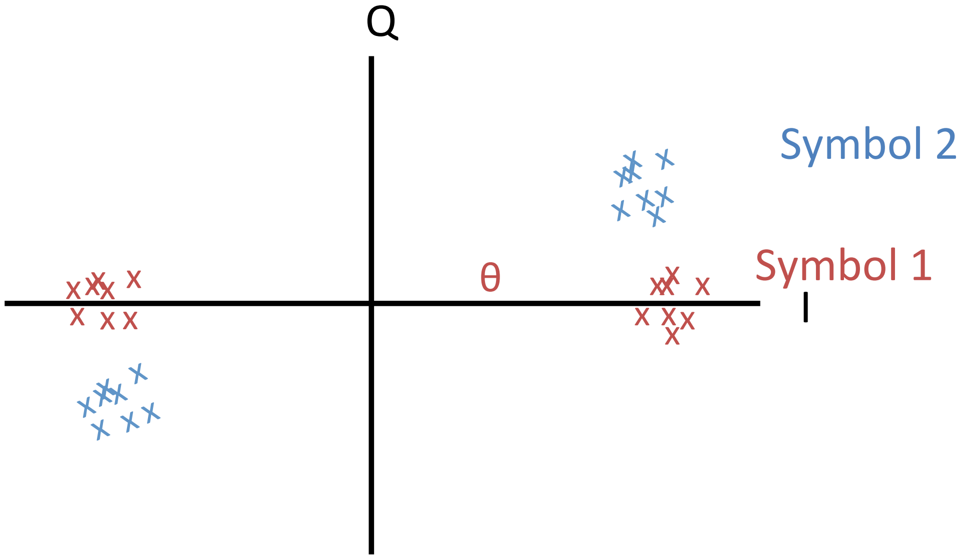
Data-aided Phase Tracking



Change in phase between Tx and Rx after CFO correction

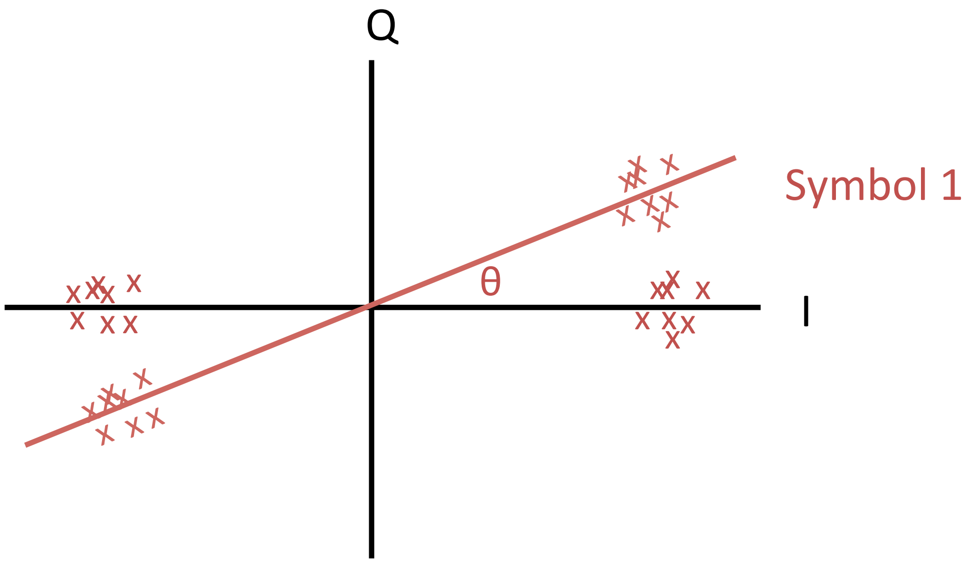
- Using pilot bits (known samples) to compute $H_i{*}e^{j2\pi t\Delta i N_s/N_{fft}}=Y_{i/}X_i$
- Find the phase change experienced by the pilot bits using regression
- Update $H_{l\,=}\,H_i{*}e^{j2\pi t\Delta i N_s/N_{fft}}$ for every symbol

After Phase Tracking



After correction

Nondata-aided Phase Tracking



OFDM Diagram