

# Contemporary Communication Systems



## Chapter 4

### Amplitude Modulation

M.F. Mesiya

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## What is Modulation?

- Signal processing by which a message or information-bearing signal  $s(t)$  is transformed into another signal to facilitate transmission over a communication channel (e.g., cellular, satellite, twisted wire pair [TWP])
- The message signal  $s(t)$  is transmitted through the communication channel by impressing it on a **carrier** signal

$$c(t) = A \cos(2\pi f_c t + \theta)$$

Amplitude →      Frequency      Phase

- **Amplitude Modulation** – amplitude of the carrier varied in accordance with the message signal
- **Frequency Modulation** – frequency of the carrier varied in accordance with the message signal
- **Phase Modulation** – phase of the carrier varied in accordance with the message signal

1/31/2013 2

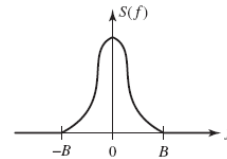
## Why Modulate?

- **Frequency translation** – Transfer the message signal  $s(t)$  to a new frequency slot depending upon the intended frequency of transmission
  - The frequency slot is determined by the frequency of the carrier
- **Channelization** – Enable **sharing** of a single communication (usually wideband) channel by several lower bandwidth signals/users
- **Practical equipment design** – Higher the transmitted signal frequency, the smaller the antenna size required
  - Narrowband electronics easier to realize
- **Noise performance improvement** – Increase the noise immunity in transmission by expanding the bandwidth of the transmitted signal

1/31/2013 3

## Low-pass Signals

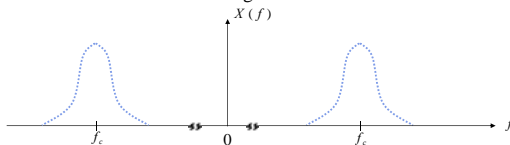
- **Low-pass (LP) signal** – spectral energy clustered around the DC or zero frequency
- All practical LP signals have a frequency above which their spectral components may be considered negligible
  - This frequency, denoted by  $B$ , is called the **bandwidth** of the LP signal



1/31/2013 4

## Bandpass Signals

- **Bandpass (BP) signal** – spectral components concentrated in the vicinity of a frequency  $f_c$ , which is usually much higher than the bandwidth of the signal



- **Amplitude-phase representation of a BP signal**

$$x(t) = A(t) \cos[2\pi f_c t + \psi(t)]$$

Amplitude or Envelope

Phase

1/31/2013 5

## Types of Amplitude Modulation

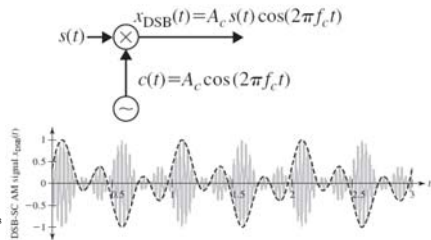
- Double-sideband, suppressed-carrier (DSB-SC) amplitude modulation (AM)
- Conventional AM
- Single-sideband AM (SSB-AM)
- Vestigial-sideband AM (VSB-AM)

1/31/2013 6

### Double-Sideband Suppressed-Carrier AM

- A double-sideband suppressed-carrier (DSB-SC) AM signal is obtained by multiplying the message signal  $s(t)$  with the carrier signal

$$x_{DSB}(t) = s(t)c(t) = A_c s(t) \cos(2\pi f_c t)$$



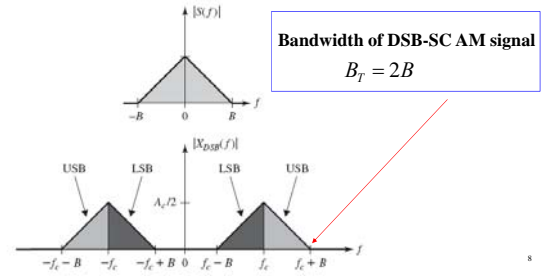
1/31/2013

7

### Spectrum of the DSB-SC AM Signal

$$X_{DSB}(f) = S(f) \otimes C(f) = \frac{A_c}{2} S(f) \otimes [\delta(f - f_c) + \delta(f + f_c)]$$

$$= \frac{A_c}{2} [S(f - f_c) + S(f + f_c)]$$



8

### Power Content of DSB-SC AM Signal

- Normalized average power  $P_x = \lim_{T \rightarrow \infty} \frac{1}{T} \int_{-T/2}^{T/2} x_{DSB}^2(t) dt$

$$= \lim_{T \rightarrow \infty} \frac{A_c^2}{2T} \int_{-T/2}^{T/2} s^2(t) \cos^2(2\pi f_c t) dt$$

$$= \frac{A_c^2}{2} \lim_{T \rightarrow \infty} \frac{1}{T} \int_{-T/2}^{T/2} s^2(t) [1 + \cos(4\pi f_c t)] dt$$

$$= \frac{A_c^2}{2} P_s$$

- $P_s$  = Average power in the baseband message waveform  $s(t)$
- $\frac{A_c^2}{2}$  = Unmodulated carrier power

1/31/2013

9

### Peak Envelope Power (PEP)

- Average power supplied by the modulator to a 1 ohm load during one carrier frequency cycle at the crest of the modulation envelope

$PEP_{DSB}$  = Power supplied by a sinusoidal waveform

with amplitude  $A_c \left[ \max s(t) \right]$

$$= \frac{A_c^2 \left[ \max s(t) \right]^2}{2}$$

- Sinusoidal modulating signal:  $s(t) = A_m \cos(2\pi f_m t)$

$$P_x = \frac{A_c^2 A_m^2}{4} \Rightarrow PEP_{DSB} = 2P_x$$

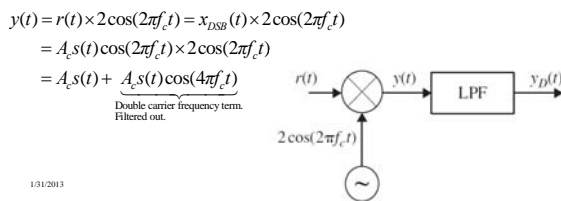
$$PEP_{DSB} = \frac{A_c^2 A_m^2}{2}$$

1/31/2013

10

### Coherent Demodulation of DSB-SC AM Signals

- Multiply the received signal  $r(t)$  by a locally generated carrier that is frequency- and phase-locked to the carrier used for modulation at the transmitter.
- Recover the message signal by passing the product through an ideal LP filter having a bandwidth  $B$ . The demodulation scheme is called **coherent**



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### Demodulation with Phase/Frequency Error

- Assume a frequency error  $\Delta f$  and phase offset  $\phi$  in the locally generated carrier at the demodulator. The multiplier output is

$$y(t) = r(t) \times 2 \cos[2\pi(f_c + \Delta f)t + \phi]$$

$$= A_c s(t) \cos(2\pi\Delta f t + \phi) + \underbrace{A_c s(t) \cos[2\pi(2f_c + \Delta f)t + \phi]}_{\text{Double carrier frequency term. Filtered out.}}$$

- The demodulated output is

$$y_D(t) = s(t) \cos(2\pi\Delta f t + \phi)$$

- For  $\Delta f = 0$ , the desired signal is scaled by a factor that depends on the phase offset  $\cos(\phi)$

- If  $\cos(\phi) = 45^\circ$ , the amplitude of the desired signal is reduced by  $\sqrt{2}$
- If  $\cos(\phi) = 90^\circ$ , the desired signal component vanishes

1/31/2013

12

### Conventional AM

- In the conventional AM, a portion of the sinusoidal carrier is added to the DSB-SC AM signal, which greatly simplifies the demodulation process

- The transmitted signal is given by

$$x_{AM}(t) = A_c \cos(2\pi f_c t) + s(t) \cos(2\pi f_c t) \\ = [A_c + s(t)] \cos(2\pi f_c t)$$

- We can express the conventional AM signal as

$$x_{AM}(t) = A_c [1 + m_a s_n(t)] \cos(2\pi f_c t)$$

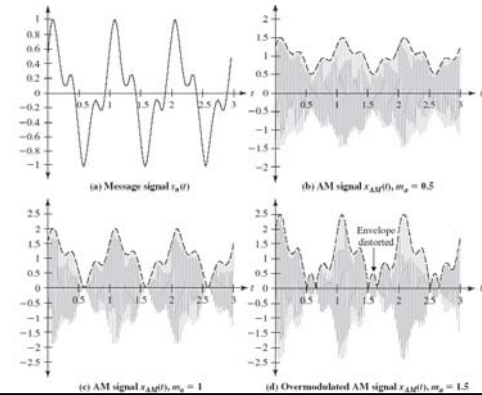
where  $s_n(t)$  is the Normalized message signal

$$s_n(t) = \frac{s(t)}{\max_t |s(t)|}, \quad \min_t |s(t)| \neq 0$$

1/31/2013

13

### Conventional AM Waveforms



14

### Modulation Index

- The parameter  $m_a$  determines the extent to which the carrier has been amplitude-modulated. It is called the **modulation index** and is defined as

$$m_a = \frac{\max_t |s(t)|}{A_c}$$

- We observe from the figure that the envelope of the modulated signal  $x_{AM}(t)$  is always positive, and hence retains the shape of the message signal  $s_n(t)$  if

$$m_a \leq 1$$

- Therefore, the message signal  $s_n(t)$  can be easily recovered from  $x_{AM}(t)$  by using a simple envelope detector

1/31/2013

15

### Spectrum of the Conventional AM Signal

- The spectrum of the AM signal  $x_{AM}(t)$  is given by

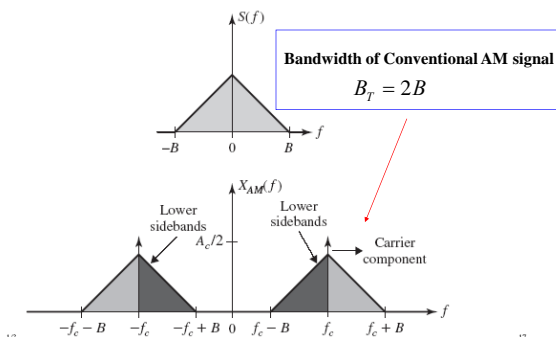
$$X_{AM}(f) = \mathfrak{T}\{A_c [1 + m_a s_n(t)] \cos(2\pi f_c t)\} \\ = \mathfrak{T}\{A_c \cos(2\pi f_c t)\} + \mathfrak{T}\{A_c m_a s_n(t) \cos(2\pi f_c t)\} \\ = \frac{A_c}{2} [\delta(f - f_c) + \delta(f + f_c)] + \frac{A_c m_a}{2} [S_n(f - f_c) + S_n(f + f_c)]$$

- Observe impulses at  $\pm f_c$  indicating presence of the carrier component in the modulated signal spectrum. It is wasted power because it does not carry any information.
- The message signal information is conveyed in the sidebands of the AM signal spectrum.
- Note that the spectrum of a conventional AM signal occupies twice the bandwidth of the message signal

1/31/2013

16

### Spectrum of the Conventional AM Signal (contd)



1/31/2013

17

### Power Content of Conventional AM Signal

- Normalized average power of a conventional AM signal

$$P_x = \frac{A_c^2}{2} + \frac{A_c^2 m_a^2}{2} P_{s_n}$$

Power in the carrier component

Signal power

$$\eta = \frac{\text{Signal power}}{\text{Total Power}} = \frac{(m_a A_c)^2 P_{s_n} / 2}{A_c^2 / 2 + (m_a A_c)^2 P_{s_n} / 2} = \frac{m_a^2 P_{s_n}}{1 + m_a^2 P_{s_n}} \leq 0.5$$

Power or modulation efficiency

- Peak envelope power (PEP) of a conventional AM signal

$$PEP_{AM} = \frac{A_c^2}{2} \left( \max_t [1 + m_a s_n(t)] \right)^2$$

1/31/2013

18

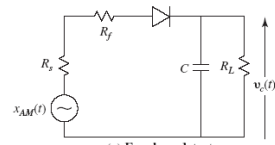
### Envelope Detection

- Suitable for conventional AM signals
- Does not require generation of a coherent carrier at the receiver
- Simple hardware: diode, resistor, capacitor
- Will work with suppressed carrier modulation systems if the receiver inserts a carrier

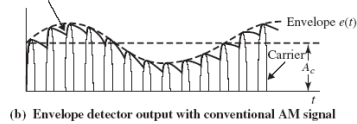
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19

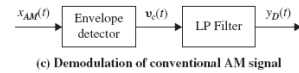
### Demodulation of Conventional AM Signal



(a) Envelope detector



(b) Envelope detector output with conventional AM signal



(c) Demodulation of conventional AM signal

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20

### Hilbert Transform

- The **Hilbert transform**  $\hat{x}(t)$  of the signal  $x(t)$  is defined as the signal whose frequency components are all phase shifted by  $-\pi/2$  radians

$$\hat{x}(t) = \mathcal{H}\{x(t)\}$$

- **Examples**

$$x_1(t) = A \cos(2\pi f_c t + \phi) \xrightarrow{\mathcal{H}} A \cos\left(2\pi f_c t + \phi - \frac{\pi}{2}\right) = A \sin(2\pi f_c t + \phi)$$

$$x_2(t) = A \sin(2\pi f_c t + \phi) \xrightarrow{\mathcal{H}} A \sin\left(2\pi f_c t + \phi - \frac{\pi}{2}\right) = -A \cos(2\pi f_c t + \phi)$$

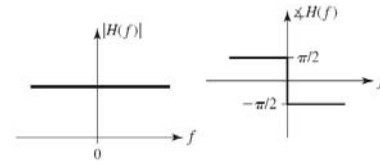
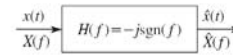
- For an arbitrary signal,  $\hat{x}(t)$  is obtained by passing  $x(t)$  through a filter with transfer function

$$H(f) = -j \operatorname{sgn}(f)$$

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21

### Hilbert Transform in Frequency Domain



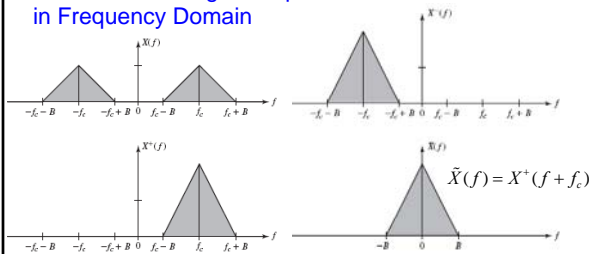
FT of  $\hat{x}(t)$

$$\hat{X}(f) = X(f)H(f) = -j \operatorname{sgn}(f)X(f) = \begin{cases} -jX(f), & f > 0 \\ 0, & f = 0 \\ jX(f), & f < 0 \end{cases}$$

1/31/2013

22

### Alternative BP Signal Representations in Frequency Domain



$$X^+(f) = X(f)[1 + \operatorname{sgn}(f)] = \begin{cases} 2X(f) & f > 0 \\ 0 & f < 0 \end{cases}$$

$$X^-(f) = X(f)[1 - \operatorname{sgn}(f)] = \begin{cases} 0 & f > 0 \\ 2X(f) & f < 0 \end{cases}$$

1/31/2013

23

### Alternative Representations of BP Signals

- **Quadrature carrier representation**

$$x(t) = I(t) \cos(2\pi f_c t) - Q(t) \sin(2\pi f_c t)$$

$$\text{In-phase component: } I(t) = A(t) \cos \psi(t)$$

$$\text{Quadrature component: } Q(t) = A(t) \sin \psi(t)$$

$$A(t) = \sqrt{I^2(t) + Q^2(t)}, \quad \psi(t) = \tan^{-1} \left( \frac{Q(t)}{I(t)} \right)$$

- **Complex envelope representation**

$$\hat{x}(t) \square I(t) + jQ(t)$$

Complex envelope of  $x(t)$

- Equivalent LP ("phasor") representation for the BP waveform  $x(t)$  in terms of its in-phase ( $I$ ) and quadrature ( $Q$ ) components

1/31/2013

24

### Alternative Representations of BP Signals (contd)

- Analytic signal representation

$$x^+(t) = \tilde{x}(t)e^{j2\pi f_c t}$$

- It is easy to prove that

$$x(t) = \text{Re}\{x^+(t)\}$$

$$\hat{x}(t) = \text{Im}\{x^+(t)\}$$

$$x^+(t) = x(t) + j\hat{x}(t)$$

$$x^-(t) = [x^+(t)]^* = x(t) - j\hat{x}(t)$$

- Also

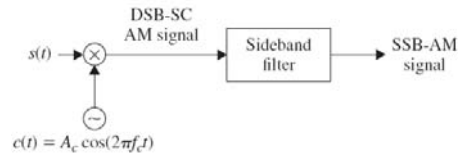
$$\tilde{x}(t) = x^+(t)e^{-j2\pi f_c t}$$

1/31/2013

25

### Single-Sideband AM

- Both DSB-SC and Conventional AM systems require a channel bandwidth of  $B_T = 2B$  Hz
- The transmission of either sideband is sufficient to reconstruct the message signal  $s(t)$  at the receiver.
- We may reduce the transmitted bandwidth to  $B$  Hz by filtering out either the upper or the lower sideband



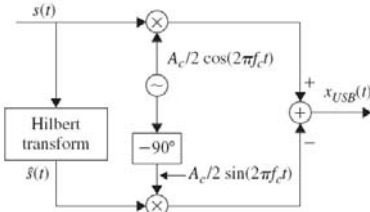
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26

### Phasing Method

$$x_{USB}(t) = \frac{A_c}{2} \{s(t) \cos(2\pi f_c t) - \hat{s}(t) \sin(2\pi f_c t)\}$$

$$x_{LSB}(t) = \frac{A_c}{2} \{s(t) \cos(2\pi f_c t) + \hat{s}(t) \sin(2\pi f_c t)\}$$



1/31/2013

27

### Phasing Method in Frequency Domain

- We can express a USB-AM signal as

$$\begin{aligned} x_{USB}(t) &= \frac{A_c}{2} \text{Re}\{s^+(t)e^{j2\pi f_c t}\} = \frac{A_c}{4} \{s^+(t)e^{j2\pi f_c t} + s^{++}(t)e^{-j2\pi f_c t}\} \\ &= \frac{A_c}{4} \{s^+(t)e^{j2\pi f_c t} + s^-(t)e^{-j2\pi f_c t}\} \end{aligned}$$

- Taking FT of both sides, the spectrum of can be expressed as

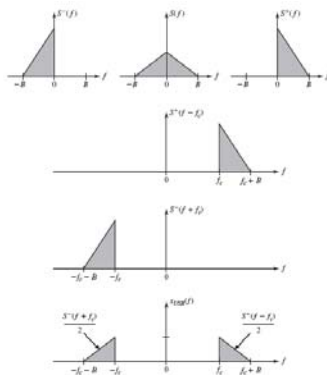
$$X_{USB}(f) = \frac{A_c}{2} \left\{ \frac{S^+(f-f_c)}{2} + \frac{S^-(f+f_c)}{2} \right\}$$

Positive frequency portion of  $S(f)$  shifted in frequency by  $f_c$       Negative frequency portion of  $S(f)$  shifted in frequency by  $f_c$

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28

### Phasing Method in Frequency Domain (contd)



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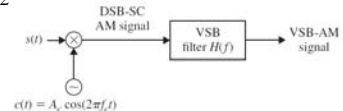
29

### Vestigial-sideband (VSB) AM

- VSB-AM relaxes the requirement of eliminating the second sideband
  - Allows a portion ("vestige") of the unwanted sideband to appear at the output of the modulator
- A VSB-AM signal is generated by partially suppressing one of the sidebands of a DSB-SC signal by a sideband-shaping filter

$$x_{VSB}(t) = x_{DSB}(t) \otimes h(t) = [A_c s(t) \cos(2\pi f_c t)] \otimes h(t)$$

$$X_{VSB}(f) = \frac{A_c}{2} [S(f-f_c) + S(f+f_c)] H(f)$$



1/31/2013

30

### Coherent Demodulation of VSB-AM

- Multiply the VSB signal by the coherent carrier  $2\cos(2\pi f_c t)$   

$$y(t) = x_{VSB}(t) \times 2\cos(2\pi f_c t)$$
- In the frequency domain, the output signal can be expressed as  

$$Y(f) = [X_{VSB}(f - f_c) + X_{VSB}(f + f_c)]$$
- Substituting for  $X_{VSB}(f)$  yields  

$$Y(f) = \frac{A_c}{2} \left\{ \begin{aligned} &S(f) [H(f - f_c) + H(f + f_c)] \\ &+ [S(f - 2f_c)H(f - f_c) + S(f + 2f_c)H(f + f_c)] \end{aligned} \right\}$$
- The LP filter in the demodulator removes the message signal terms in multiplier output translated to frequencies  $f = \pm 2f_c$

1/31/2013

31

### VSB-AM (contd)

- The demodulator LP filter passes through the message signal spectrum  $S(f)$  without any distortion if the VSB filter  $H(f)$  satisfies the property

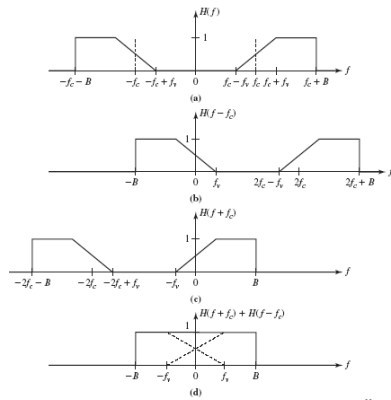
$$H(f - f_c) + H(f + f_c) = C \quad |f| \leq B$$

- This is called **vestigial symmetry condition**
- Figure displays a frequency response of a VSB filter that truncates the lower sideband of the DSB-SC signal
- Observe that the VSB filter roll off characteristic exhibits *odd* symmetry in the transition width of  $2f_v$  ( $f_v \ll B$ ) around the carrier frequency  $f_c$
- VSB+C** – a variant of VSB where a carrier component is added to the VSB signal. It can now be demodulated using an envelope detector like a Conventional AM signal

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32

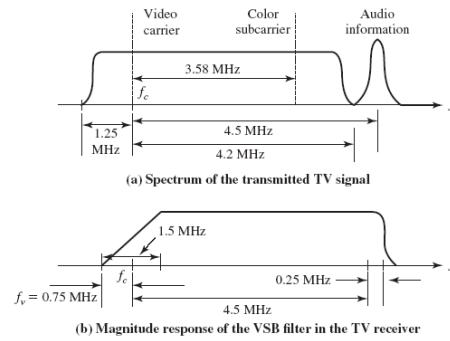
### VSB-AM Filter



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33

### Analog TV Broadcasting Format



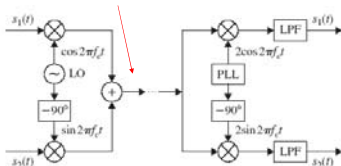
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34

### Quadrature Carrier Multiplexing

- Transmit two message signals in the *same* frequency slot by using quadrature (orthogonal) carriers
- $s_1(t)$  modulates **in-phase** carrier  $\cos(2\pi f_c t)$  to produce the DSB signal  $s_1(t)\cos(2\pi f_c t)$
- $s_2(t)$  modulates **quadrature** carrier  $\sin(2\pi f_c t)$  to produce the DSB signal  $s_2(t)\sin(2\pi f_c t)$

$$x_{QAM}(t) = s_1(t)\cos(2\pi f_c t) + s_2(t)\sin(2\pi f_c t)$$



1/31/2013

35

### Coherent Demodulation

- Multiply  $x_{QAM}(t)$  with  $2\cos(2\pi f_c t)$  and recover the message signal  $s_1(t)$  by LP filtering the resulting signal

$$x_{QAM}(t) \times 2\cos(2\pi f_c t) = s_1(t)[1 + \underbrace{\cos(4\pi f_c t)}_{\text{Double frequency terms - Filtered out}}] + s_2(t)\sin(4\pi f_c t)$$

- Similarly, the message signal  $s_2(t)$  is recovered by multiplying with  $2\sin(2\pi f_c t)$  and then LP filtering the output
- Thus two baseband signals, each of bandwidth  $B$  Hz, can be transmitted simultaneously without any distortion over the same frequency channel of bandwidth  $2B$  Hz by using orthogonal carriers
- Quadrature-carrier multiplexing, therefore, achieves the bandwidth efficiency of SSB-AM.

1/31/2013

36

## Multiplexing

- Process of combining multiple user signals into a composite signal such that individual signals can be separated at the receiving end without any distortion
- There are several common methods for signal multiplexing:
  - **Frequency division multiplexing (FDM)**
  - **Time division multiplexing (TDM)**
  - **Code division multiplexing (CDM)**
  - **Spatial multiplexing**
    - Antenna direction
    - Signal polarization
- TDM and CDM schemes are used in the transmission of digital signals
- FDM and Spatial multiplexing may be used for the transmission of either analog or digital signals

37

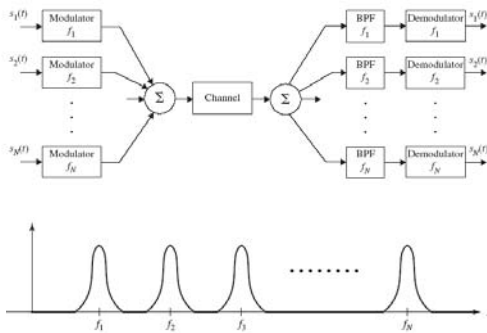
## Frequency Division Multiplexing (FDM)

- The total system bandwidth is divided into nonoverlapping frequency slots, called **channels**
  - Each user is assigned a unique channel to prevent interference during simultaneous signal transmissions. Tradeoff between adjacent channel interference versus # of users assigned to share the frequency band
  - **Guard bands** = spacing between users
- For example, commercial AM broadcasting
  - The standard AM radio signal occupies 10 kHz in 535 – 1605 kHz band.
  - Multiplexing allows to carry multiple radio signals (voice and music programming) simultaneously over the AM band

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38

## FDM (contd)

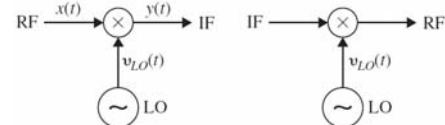


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39

## Frequency Translation

- Frequency translation – move a signal from one carrier frequency to another
  - A necessary step in the design of communication transmitters and receivers
  - Performed by a multiplier (called **mixer**) that multiplies the input BP signal by a fixed amplitude sinusoidal output from a **local oscillator (LO)**



(a) Down-conversion mixer (b) Up-conversion mixer

1/31/2013

40

## Down-conversion Mixer

- Let  
RF or High Frequency input:  $x_{RF}(t) = A(t) \cos[2\pi f_c t + \psi(t)]$   
LO output:  $v_{LO}(t) = V_o \cos(2\pi f_{LO} t)$
- The mixer output is  
 $y(t) = x_{RF}(t) \times v_{LO}(t)$   
$$= \frac{A(t)V_o}{2} \left\{ \cos[2\pi f_{IF} t + \psi(t)] + \underbrace{\cos[2\pi(f_c + f_{LO})t + \psi(t)]}_{\text{Filtered out by IF filter}} \right\}$$
- Note that the mixer translates the input signal at frequency  $f_c$  to the intermediate frequency ( $f_{IF}$ )

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41

## Down-conversion Mixer (contd)

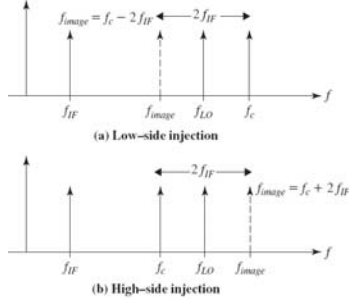
- **Low-side injection** – LO frequency below the RF or carrier frequency  
 $f_{LO} = f_c - f_{IF}$
- **High-side injection** – LO frequency above the RF or carrier frequency  
 $f_{LO} = f_c + f_{IF}$
- For the low-side injection, for a given choice of  $f_{IF}$ , the input frequency  $f_c - 2f_{IF}$  is also converted to the same IF frequency
- Similarly, for the high-side injection, the input frequency  $f_c + 2f_{IF}$  is also converted to the same IF frequency.

1/31/2013

42

## Image Frequencies

- These frequencies that are separated from the desired frequencies by  $2f_{IF}$  are called **image frequencies**

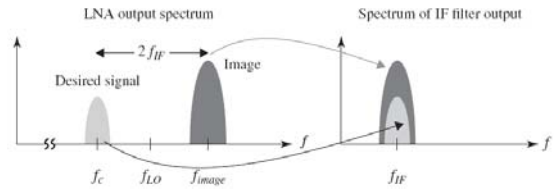


1/31/2013

43

## Image Rejection

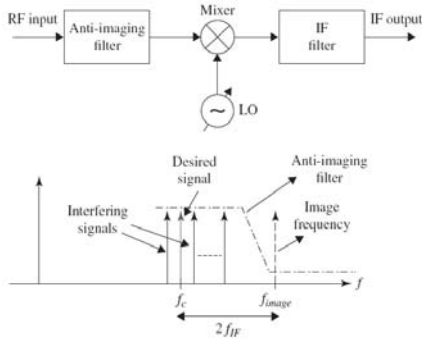
- Images cause interference in the reception of the desired signal
  - Noise and interference at the image frequency is also transferred to IF thereby corrupting the desired signal
- To avoid the corruption of the desired signal, place an image-reject filter immediately before the mixer



1/31/2013

44

## Image Rejection (contd)



1/31/2013

45

## Communication Receivers

- Extract the desired signal in the presence of noise and interfering signals. Key functions include:
  - **Reception/amplification.** Low-noise amplification in the front end for improved sensitivity
    - **Sensitivity** is a measure of a receiver's ability to receive weak signals in the presence of noise with an acceptable signal-to-noise ratio
  - **Channel or signal selection.** Tuning of the desired signal (frequency slot) from the received signal that may contain other signals in addition to noise
    - **Selectivity** is the measure of the ability of a receiver to select a particular frequency or a particular band of frequencies and reject all other unwanted frequencies.
  - **Demodulation.** Recovering the original baseband message signal

1/31/2013

46

## Types of Receivers

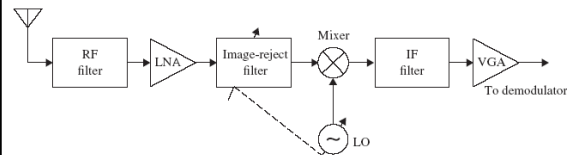
- Superheterodyne receivers
- Direct-conversion receivers
- Low IF receivers

1/31/2013

47

## Superheterodyne Receiver

- Most popular type of communication receiver
  - Used for AM/FM & TV broadcasting, cellular & satellite systems, radars, GPS, etc.
- **Main idea** – downconvert RF signal to some fixed lower IF, then amplify it and demodulate





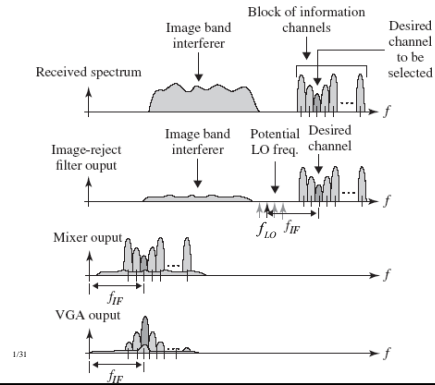
### Superheterodyne Receiver

- **Low-noise amplifier (LNA)** – amplifies a weak RF signal coming out of the antenna. Rejects the image frequency. Bandwidth much wider than the signal bandwidth
- **Image-reject Mixer** – together with the local oscillator downconverts the RF signal to the IF
- **Local oscillator** – allows tuning the receiver to a desired channel
- **IF amplifier** – amplifies the IF signal significantly (up to  $10^6$ ) and rejects adjacent channel signals and interference (frequency selectivity). Bandwidth same as the signal's
  - Provides **automatic gain control (AGC)** – adjusts the IF amplifier gain according to the signal level (keeps the average signal amplitude almost constant)
- **Detector (demodulator)** – demodulates (recovers) the message signal

1/31/2013

49

### Spectra at various stages in a superhet receiver

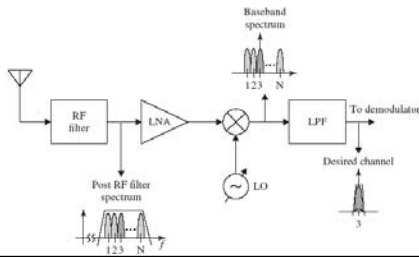


1/31

50

### Direct-Conversion or zero-IF (ZIF) Receiver

- Down-convert RF signal with a center frequency of many GHz to baseband in one step, hence the name **zero-IF (ZIF)**
- This approach removes the IF stage from the receiver and eliminates the need for image rejection

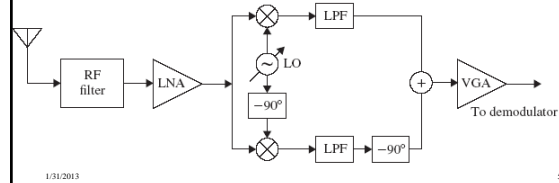


1/31/2013

51

### Low-IF Receiver

- DC offset problems in a zero-IF receiver eliminated
- Down-convert the desired RF signal to a low IF– one or two channel bandwidths away from DC
- Low-IF receiver is able to eliminate the off-chip IF SAW filter
- Implemented as RF CMOS ICs
  - Wireless LAN (WLAN), Bluetooth, and GSM



1/31/2013

52

### Comparison of Amplitude Modulation Schemes

Type of Modulation	Transmission Bandwidth	Power Efficiency	Equipment Complexity	Comment
DSB-SC	$2B$	100%	Medium	Coherent demodulator only
Conventional AM	$2B$	$< 50\%$	Low	Envelope detector can be used
SSB	$B$	100%	High	Coherent demodulator only; complex sideband filtering required at modulator
SSB + C	$B$	Depends upon the magnitude of the carrier	Medium	Envelope detector can be used; complex sideband filtering required at modulator
VSB	$B + f_c, f_c/B \approx 0.2 - 0.3$	100%	Medium	Coherent demodulator required
VSB + C	$B + f_c, f_c/B \approx 0.2 - 0.3$	Depends upon the magnitude of the carrier	Low	Envelope detector can be used

1/31/2013

53