

# INTRODUCTION TO EECs II

## DIGITAL COMMUNICATION SYSTEMS

## 6.02 Fall 2014 Lecture #9

- Bit detection in AWG noise
  - On-off vs. bipolar
  - Single sample versus average
  - Hard decision versus soft

# Bit Detection in Noise

Recall that the receiver samples the value

$$y = x + w$$

in a particular bit slot (one sample per bit slot, for now),

where  $x$  is the transmitted value

$= V_0$  if the sender's codeword bit  $B=0$ , probability  $P_0$

$= V_1$  if the sender's codeword bit  $B=1$ , probability  $P_1$

$V_0 = 0$  and  $V_1 = V$  for on-off signaling

$V_0 = -V$  and  $V_1 = V$  for bipolar signaling

and

$w$  is the value of the additive channel noise in this bit slot.

# Conditional PDFs of received sample $Y$

- Think in terms of random variables,

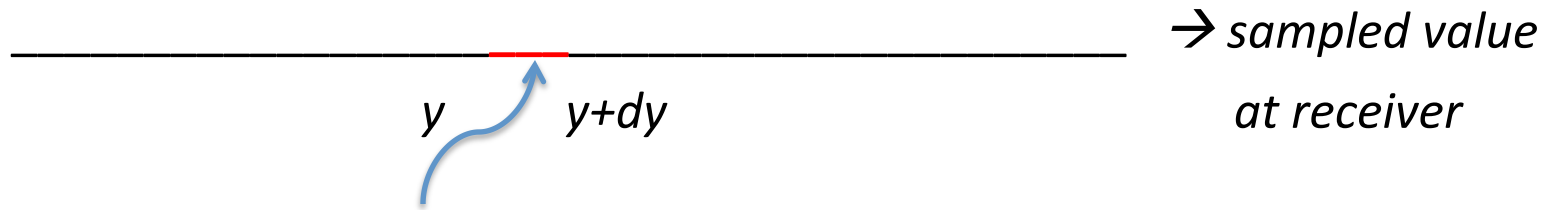
$$Y = X + W$$

with each of these taking specific values  $y, x, w$  in the particular bit slot.

( $X$  and  $W$  are assumed independent, i.e., knowing one tells us nothing about the other --- if the channel noise is signal-dependent, things get harder)

- How is  $Y$  distributed if  $B=0$  ?  $\rightarrow$  Described by **conditional PDF**  $f_{Y|B}(y/0)$
- How is  $Y$  distributed if  $B=1$  ?  $\rightarrow$  Described by **conditional PDF**  $f_{Y|B}(y/1)$
- What is  $f_{Y|B}(y/0)$  if  $W$  is Gaussian, mean 0, variance  $\sigma^2$  ?  
Gaussian, mean  $V_0$ , variance  $\sigma^2$
- What is  $f_{Y|B}(y/1)$  if  $W$  is Gaussian, mean 0, variance  $\sigma^2$  ?  
Gaussian, mean  $V_1$ , variance  $\sigma^2$

# Bit Detection with Min Probability of Error



What is the probability that the received sample falls in this interval of length  $dy$  ?

$$\begin{aligned} f_{Y|B}(y|0) dy & \quad \text{if } B=0 \\ f_{Y|B}(y|1) dy & \quad \text{if } B=1 \end{aligned}$$

What is the **probability of error** if receiver decides “0” when  $y$  lies here?

$$P_1 \cdot f_{Y|B}(y|1) dy$$

What is the **probability of error** if receiver decides “1” when  $y$  lies here ?

$$P_0 \cdot f_{Y|B}(y|0) dy$$

# So, for min P(error) ...

- Decide “1” for all  $y$  where  $P_1 \cdot f_{Y|B}(y|1) > P_0 \cdot f_{Y|B}(y|0)$
- Decide “0” for all  $y$  where  $P_1 \cdot f_{Y|B}(y|1) < P_0 \cdot f_{Y|B}(y|0)$
- And the associated **probability of error** is

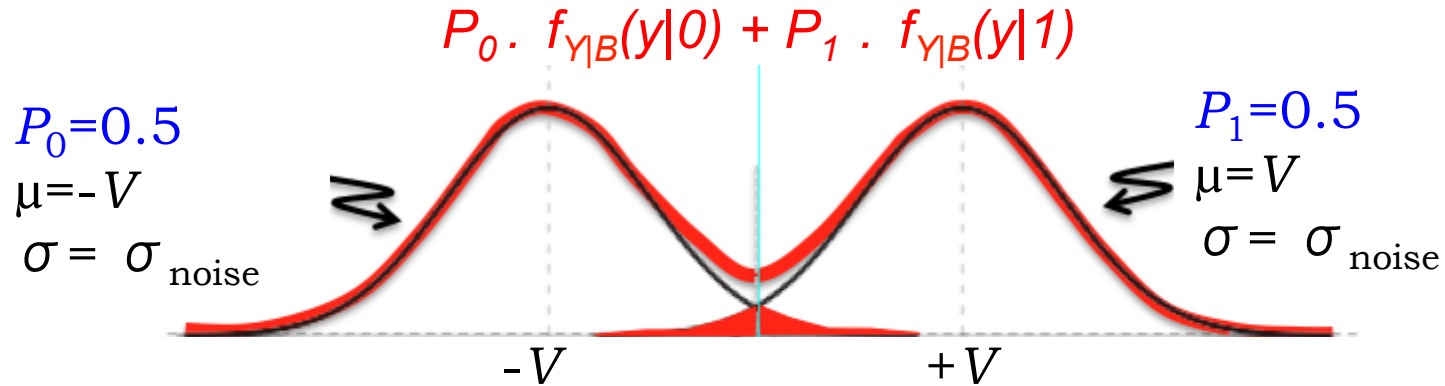
$$\int P_1 \cdot f_{Y|B}(y|1) dy \quad \text{over the decision region for “0”}$$

$$+ \int P_0 \cdot f_{Y|B}(y|0) dy \quad \text{over the decision region for “1”}$$

Simplifies when  $P_1 = P_0$ , and let's focus on that case.

- This is bit-by-bit detection, i.e., **hard detection** (not soft): the decision on this bit is made without regard for what's decided in other bit slots.

# Connecting the “SNR” and BER for Bipolar Signaling



$$P(\text{error}) = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2\pi\sigma^2}} \int_0^{\infty} e^{-(w - (-V))^2 / (2\sigma^2)} dw$$

$$= Q\left(\frac{V}{\sigma}\right)$$

$$Q(1.0) = 0.159, \quad Q(2.0) = 0.023, \quad Q(3.0) = 0.001$$

# The Q(.) Function --- Area in the Tail of a Standard Gaussian

$$Q(t) = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2\pi}} \int_t^{\infty} e^{-v^2/2} dv$$

$$Q(-t) = 1 - Q(t)$$

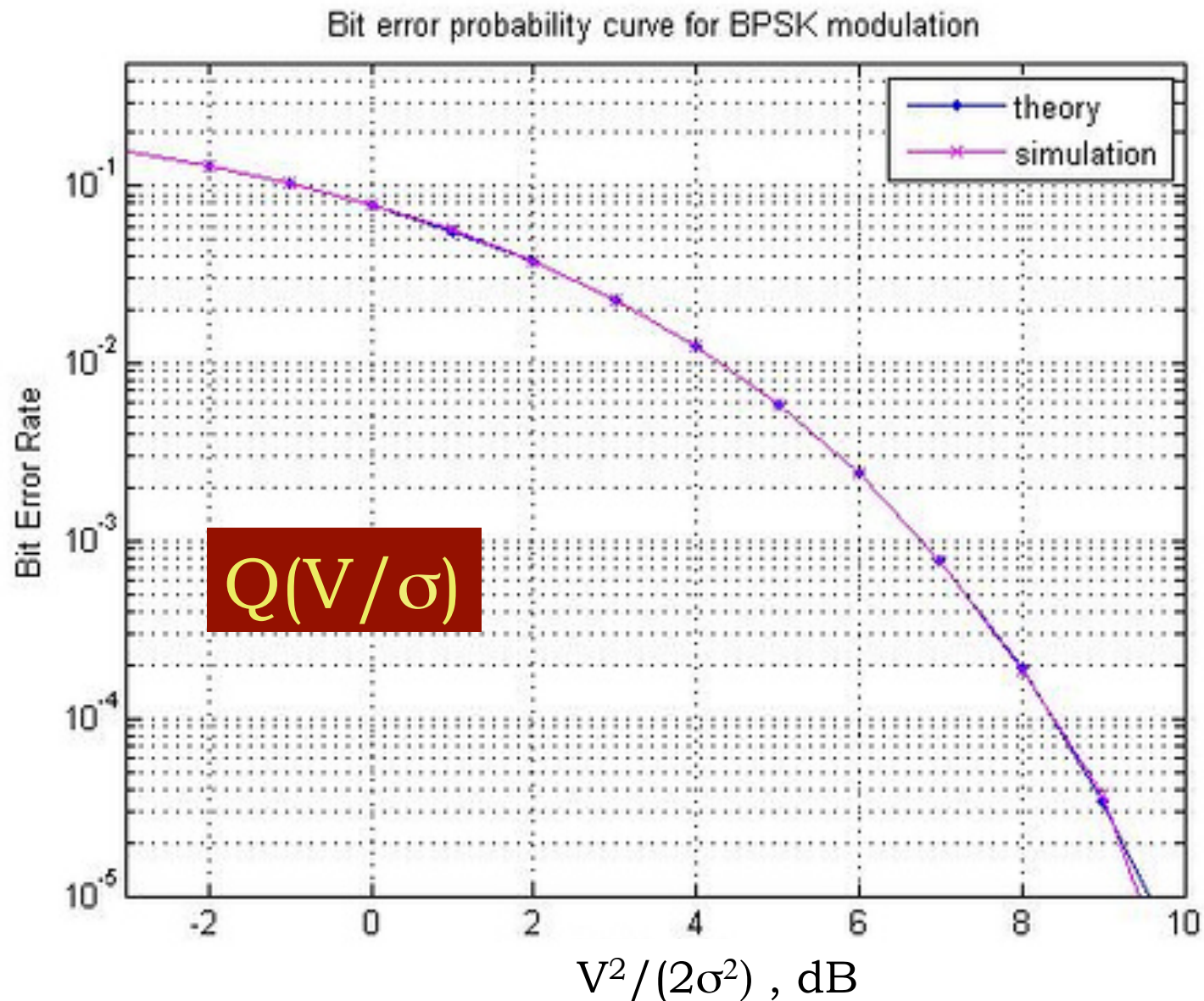
$$\frac{t}{(1+t^2)} \frac{e^{-t^2/2}}{\sqrt{2\pi}} < Q(t) < \frac{1}{t} \frac{e^{-t^2/2}}{\sqrt{2\pi}}, \quad t > 0$$

# Tail probability of a general Gaussian in terms of the Q(.) function

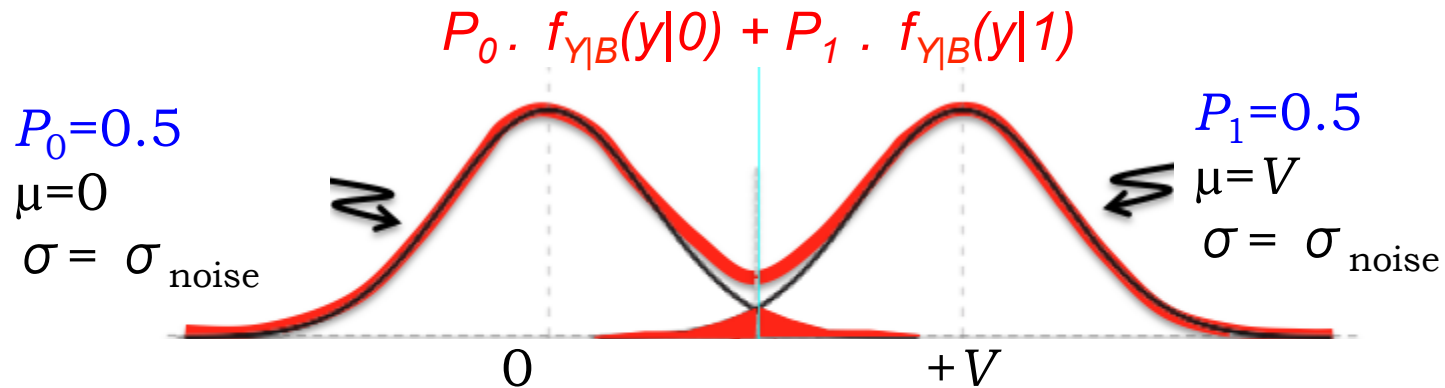
$$\frac{1}{\sqrt{2\pi\sigma^2}} \int_t^{\infty} e^{-(v-\mu)^2/(2\sigma^2)} dv$$
$$= Q\left(\frac{t-\mu}{\sigma}\right)$$



# Bit Error Rate for Bipolar Signaling Scheme with Single-Sample Decision



# Comparison to On-Off Signaling



$$P(\text{error}) = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2\pi\sigma^2}} \int_{V/2}^{\infty} e^{-w^2/(2\sigma^2)} dw$$

$$= Q\left(\frac{V}{2\sigma}\right)$$

On-off has worse BER (e.g, if 0.023 for bipolar, then 0.159 for on-off), but half the average power (and average energy per bit), also simpler demodulation. Even increasing  $V$  to  $V\sqrt{2}$  to use the same average power as bipolar, the on-off BER is worse,  $Q(V/(\sigma\sqrt{2}))$ .

# Gaussian noise, $P_1 \neq P_0$

- Recall our optimal test:
- Decide “1” for all  $y$  where  $P_1 \cdot f_{Y|B}(y|1) > P_0 \cdot f_{Y|B}(y|0)$
- Decide “0” for all  $y$  where  $P_1 \cdot f_{Y|B}(y|1) < P_0 \cdot f_{Y|B}(y|0)$

So substitute in the expressions for the two Gaussian densities, simplify algebraically, and take the natural log of both sides (since the natural log is a monotone increasing function, this doesn't change the inequality signs). The result simplifies to:

Decide “1” if  $y > \delta$  and decide “0” if  $y < \delta$ , where the threshold  $\delta$   
in the case of **bipolar signaling** is  $\delta = (\sigma^2 / (2V)) \ln(P_0 / P_1)$   
and for **on-off signaling** is  $\delta = (V/2) + (\sigma^2 / V) \ln(P_0 / P_1)$   
(These expressions simplify to the values we expect for  $P_1 = P_0$ )

# Can we do better?

- Can we do better by amplifying the received measurement?

i.e., use

$$g.Y = g.(X+W)$$

to get

$$Y' = X' + W'$$

What are the two conditional densities involved now?

Have we improved things?

=> **No**, because SNR doesn't change: We multiply the means by  $g$ , but we also multiply the standard deviations of the noise by  $g$ .

# But we can do better!

- Why just take a single sample from a bit slot?
- Instead, **average M samples in the bit slot, with independent noise components:**

$$y[n] = \pm V + w[n] \quad \text{so} \quad \mathbf{avg} \{y[n]\} = \pm V + \mathbf{avg} \{w[n]\}$$

(Recall that we are assuming no distortion, so the underlying signal values  $x[n]$  are assumed to be the same across all M samples.)

- **Claim:**  $\mathbf{avg} \{w[n]\}$  is still Gaussian, still has mean 0, but its variance is now  $\sigma^2/M$  instead of  $\sigma^2$ , so

**"SNR" is increased by a factor of M**

(The sum of independent Gaussian random variables is Gaussian --- makes sense if you think of the central limit theorem representation of a Gaussian.)

- Same analysis and formulas as before, but now with  $\sigma^2 \rightarrow \sigma^2/M$ , or equivalently, sample energy  $V^2 \rightarrow$  bit (or symbol) energy  $E_b = M.V^2$  for same  $\sigma^2$  as before.  $Q(V/\sigma) \rightarrow Q(M^{1/2} V/\sigma)$

# Implications for Signaling Rate

- As the noise intensity increases and/or signal strength decreases, we need to slow down the signaling rate, i.e., increase the number of samples per bit ( $M$ ), to get a higher SNR in the samples extracted from a bit interval, if we wish to maintain the same error performance.
  - e.g. Voyager 2 was transmitting at 115 **kilobits**/s when it was near Jupiter in 1979. When it was over 9 billion miles away, 13 light hours away from the sun, twice as far away from the sun as Pluto, it was transmitting at only 160 **bits**/s. The received power at the Deep Space Network antennas on earth when Voyager was near Neptune was on the order of  $10^{-16}$  watts!! --- 20 billion times smaller than an ordinary digital watch consumes. The received power now is estimated at less than  $10^{-19}$  watts.

# Flipped bits can have serious consequences!

- “On **November 30, 2006**, a telemetered command to *Voyager 2* was **incorrectly decoded** by its on-board computer—in a random error—as a command to turn on the electrical heaters of the spacecraft's magnetometer. These heaters remained turned on until December 4, 2006, and during that time, there was a resulting high temperature above 130 °C (266 °F), significantly higher than the magnetometers were designed to endure, and a sensor rotated away from the correct orientation. It has not been possible to fully diagnose and correct for the damage caused to the *Voyager 2*'s magnetometer, although efforts to do so are proceeding.”
- “On **April 22, 2010**, *Voyager 2* encountered scientific data format problems as reported by the [Associated Press](#) on May 6, 2010. On **May 17, 2010**, [JPL](#) engineers revealed that a **flipped bit** in an on-board computer had caused the issue, and scheduled a bit reset for May 19. On **May 23, 2010**, *Voyager 2* has resumed sending science data from deep space after engineers fixed the flipped bit.”

[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Voyager\\_2](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Voyager_2)

# The moral of the story is ...

... if you're doing appropriate/optimal processing at the receiver, your effective SNR (and therefore your error performance) in the case of iid Gaussian noise is determined --- through the  $Q(\cdot)$  function --- by the ratio of **bit (or symbol) energy** (not sample energy) to **noise variance**.

In the presence of channel distortion, optimum processing is more complicated than just averaging, because the received signal component  $r[n]$  no longer equals  $x[n]$ , is no longer constant across the bit slot, and in fact contains contributions from bits in other slots (inter-symbol interference). This is dealt with optimally by more careful choice of  $x[n]$  and (“matched”) filtering at the receiver before sampling – more than we have time for in 6.02. We shall proceed more pragmatically in this class: arrange signaling characteristics so that we have some number  $M$  of good samples for averaging in each bit slot.



# AWGN Model for Noise Process $w[n]$

- Now let's look across multiple bits.
  - Assume each  $w[n]$  is distributed as a Gaussian random variable  $W$ , with **mean 0** and **variance  $\sigma^2$** , and **independently** of  $w[.]$  at all other sample times
- ⇒ the iid Gaussian model, or  
Additive White Gaussian Noise (AWGN) model
- For joint PDF, **individual PDFs multiply** for **independent** continuous random variables (just as probabilities multiply for independent discrete events) --- so in Gaussian case **exponents add**.

# Soft-decision Decoding

We could defer decision at each bit slot, look at probability of whole sequence of bits, i.e., multiply probabilities, then maximize over all possible bit sequences => **soft-decision decoding**.

Or, equivalently, maximize log probability.

=> In the case of AWGN, this gives **soft-decision decoding with sum-of-squares metric**.

# Soft Decoding Beats Hard Decoding

