

INTRODUCTION TO EECS II  
**DIGITAL  
 COMMUNICATION  
 SYSTEMS**

# 6.02 Fall 2013 Lecture #9

- Revisit/expand story on bit detection in noise
- Introduction to modulation and demodulation
- Modeling the channel

# Bit Detection in Noise

We've decided it's easier to tell you the full story rather than a partial one!  
So:

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  $V_1 = V_p$  for on-off signaling

$V_0 = -V_p$  and  $V_1 = V_p$  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**,

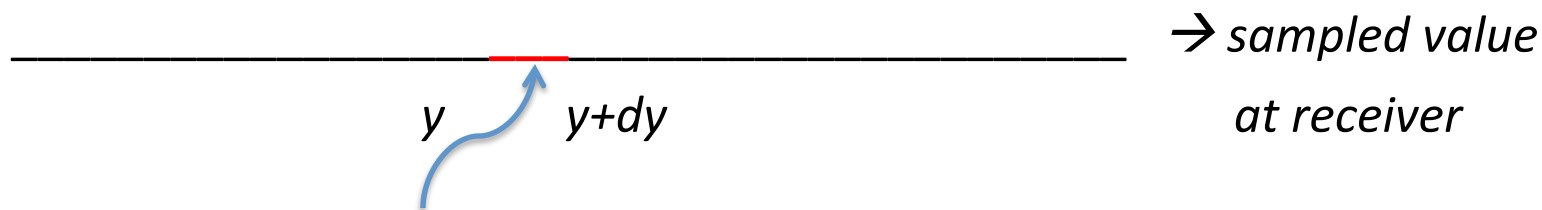
$$Y = X + W$$

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  $dy$  ?

$$f_{Y|B}(y|0) dy \quad \text{if } B=0$$

$$f_{Y|B}(y|1) dy \quad \text{if } B=1$$

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

$$\int p_1 \cdot f_{Y|B}(y|1) dy \quad \text{over the “0” region}$$

$$+ \int p_0 \cdot f_{Y|B}(y|0) dy \quad \text{over the “1” region}$$

- This is bit-by-bit detection, i.e., **hard detection** (not soft)

# The $Q(\cdot)$ Function --- Area in the Tail of a Standard Gaussian

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

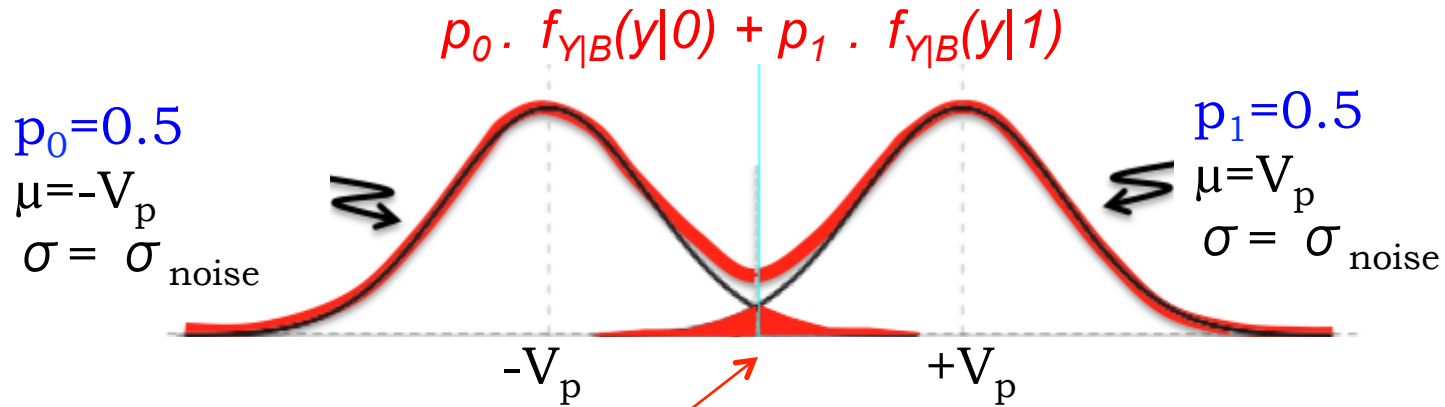
$$Q(-t) = 1 - Q(t)$$

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

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

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

# Connecting the “SNR” and BER for Bipolar Signaling



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

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

$$= Q\left(\sqrt{\frac{2E_s}{N_0}}\right)$$

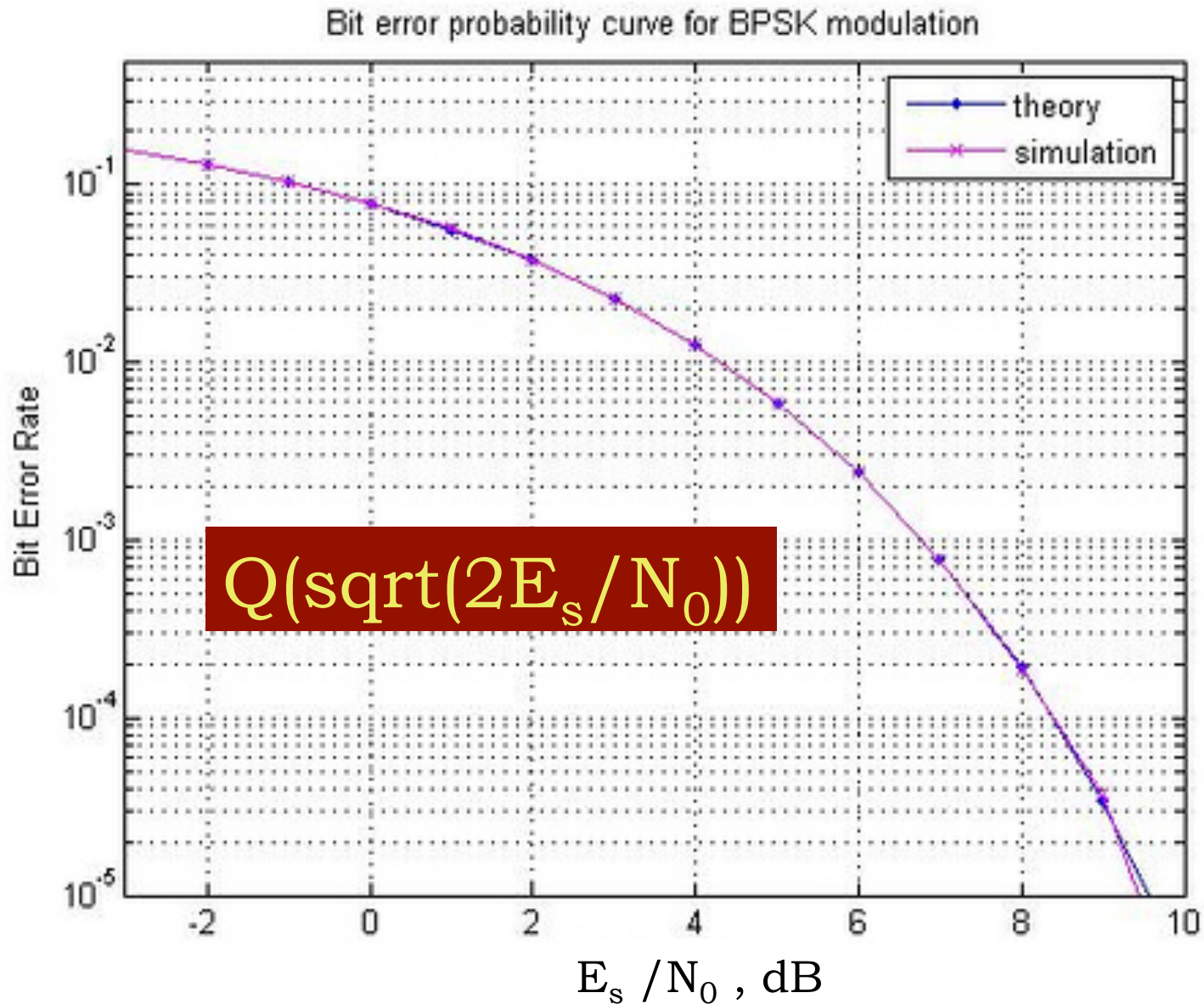
$$V_p = \sqrt{E_s}$$

$$2\sigma^2 = N_0$$

$$\text{"SNR"} = E_s / N_0$$



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



# Noise Model for iid Process $w[n_j]$

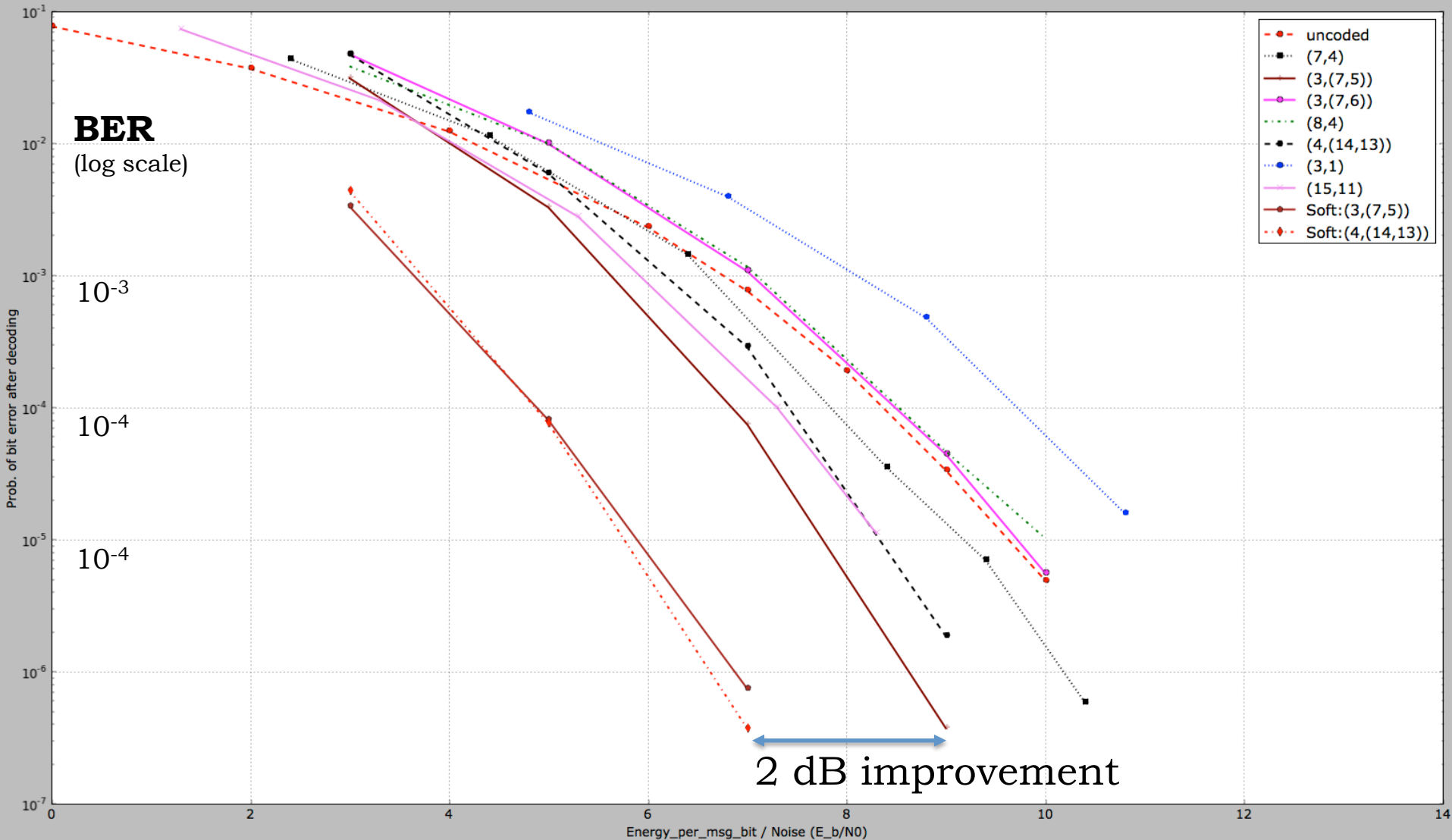
- Assume each  $w[n_j]$  is distributed as a Gaussian random variable  $W$ , with **mean 0** and **variance  $\sigma^2$** , and independently of  $w[.]$  at sample times in all other bit slots.
- Under the iid assumption

$$P(w_a < w[n_1] < w_b \text{ and } w_c < w[n_2] < w_d)$$
$$= \int_{w_a}^{w_b} f_W(\alpha) d\alpha \cdot \int_{w_c}^{w_d} f_W(\beta) d\beta$$

etc. --- i.e., **individual PDFs multiply** for **independent** continuous random variables (just as probabilities multiply for independent discrete events) --- so in Gaussian case **exponents add**.

→ Justifies soft-decision decoding with sum-of-squares metric

# Soft Decoding Beats Hard Decoding



# But we can do better!

- Why just take a single sample from a bit interval?
- Instead, **average  $M$  ( $\leq L$ ) samples with independent noise components:**

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

- **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  $M$**

- Same analysis and formulas as before, but now with

$$\sigma^2 \rightarrow \sigma^2/M, \quad \text{or equivalently}$$

$$\text{sample energy } E_s \rightarrow \text{bit (or symbol) energy } E_b = M \cdot E_s$$

# Implications for Signaling Rate

- As the noise intensity increases, we need to slow down the signaling rate, i.e., increase the number of samples per bit ( $L$ ), to get higher energy in the ( $M \leq L$ ) 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 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**.