



STANFORD

Supplementary Lecture 3

Line Codes with Memory

January 13, 2026

JOHN M. CIOFFI

Hitachi Professor Emeritus (recalled) of Engineering

Instructor EE379A – Winter 2026

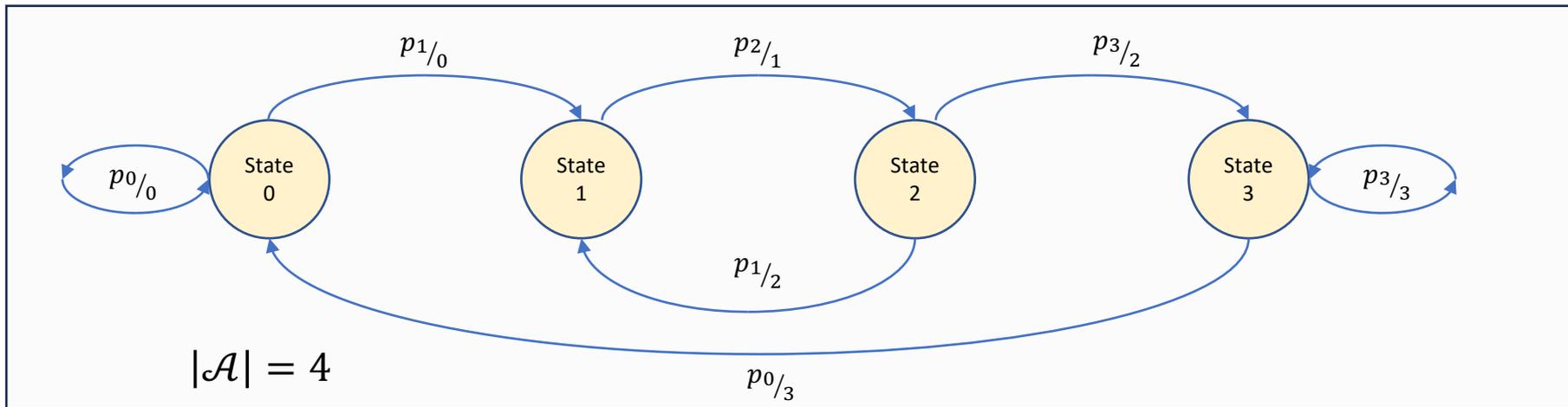
Announcements & Agenda

- See Appendix A on Markov Processes as well as Section 1.3.3.5
- Line Code Examples
 - Miller
 - Modified Miller
 - Run-Length-Limited Codes
- Near-Field Communication



Markov Process ~ State Machine or Graph

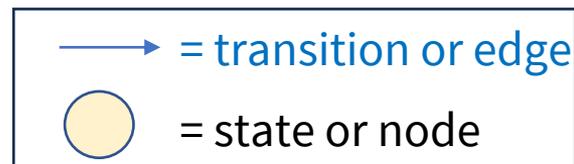
- Probability depends only on last step $p_{k/k-1, k-2, \dots, -\infty} = p_{k/k-1}$.
- Transition probability matrix P** and **state-machine** descriptions, with $|\mathcal{A}| = \#$ of states = matrix size.



$$P = \begin{bmatrix} p_{3/3} & p_{3/2} & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & p_{2/1} & 0 \\ 0 & p_{1/2} & 0 & p_{1/0} \\ p_{0/3} & 0 & 0 & p_{0/0} \end{bmatrix}$$

$$A = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 & 1 \\ 1 & 0 & 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix}$$

Adjacency matrix A



- Irreducible**, any state can eventually get to any other: $P \cdot \pi = \pi$ (eigen value 1, stationary distribution)

Some Markov basics

- When transitions/edges are symbol values, then maximum rate is $\log_M \left(\max_{\lambda}(\text{eig}(A)) \right)$, usually $M = 2$.
 - See Appendix A
- So, there is an encoder that maps input symbols to output symbols with some loss of forbidden string.
 - This leads to variable rate (but there is usually an average data rate with some "jitter" about it.
 - There is also correlation between successive symbols.
- Matrix X contains the symbol transmitted for each (j/i) in P (or A).

$$X = \begin{bmatrix} +1 & +1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & -1 & 0 \\ 0 & -1 & 0 & -1 \\ +1 & 0 & 0 & +1 \end{bmatrix}$$

- Matrices P^k and A^k correspond to k successive transitions.
- Matrix $X^{(k)}$ corresponds to a string of symbols on the corresponding transitions of P^k and A^k .



General spectrum calculation

- Encoder produces output bits at higher clock $1/T'$
- The autocorrelation for lag k that corresponds to P^k is

$$x(t) = A_0 \cdot \sum_{n=1}^N x'_n \cdot \phi\left(\frac{t}{T'}; \right)$$

$$r_{xx,k-1} = \sum_i \sum_j \pi_j \cdot P_{ji}^k \cdot \left(X_{ji}^{(k)} \cdot X_{ji}^{(1)*} \right) \quad \forall k = 1, \dots, \infty$$

- The prob-transition matrix has singular value decomposition
 - Appendices C and D.
- So then (algebra)

$$P = F \cdot \Lambda \cdot M^*, \text{ then } P^k = F \cdot \Lambda^n \cdot M^*$$

$$P^k = \sum_n \lambda_n^k \cdot \mathbf{f}_n \cdot \mathbf{m}_n^*,$$

$$r_{xx,k-1} = \sum_n c_{\lambda_n} \cdot \lambda_n^k$$

$$c_{\lambda_n} \triangleq \sum_{i,j} \pi_j \cdot \mathbf{f}_{i,n} \cdot \mathbf{m}_{n,j}^* \cdot X_{ji}^{(k)} \cdot X_{ji}^{(1)*}$$

- The power spectrum is

$$S_x(e^{-j2\pi \cdot f \cdot kT}) = \sum_{k=-\infty}^{\infty} r_{xx,k} \cdot e^{-j2\pi \cdot f \cdot kT} = -\sum_{n=1}^N c_{\lambda_n} + 2 \cdot \sum_{n=1}^N \frac{c_{\lambda_n}}{1 - \lambda_n \cdot e^{-j2\pi \cdot f \cdot T}}$$

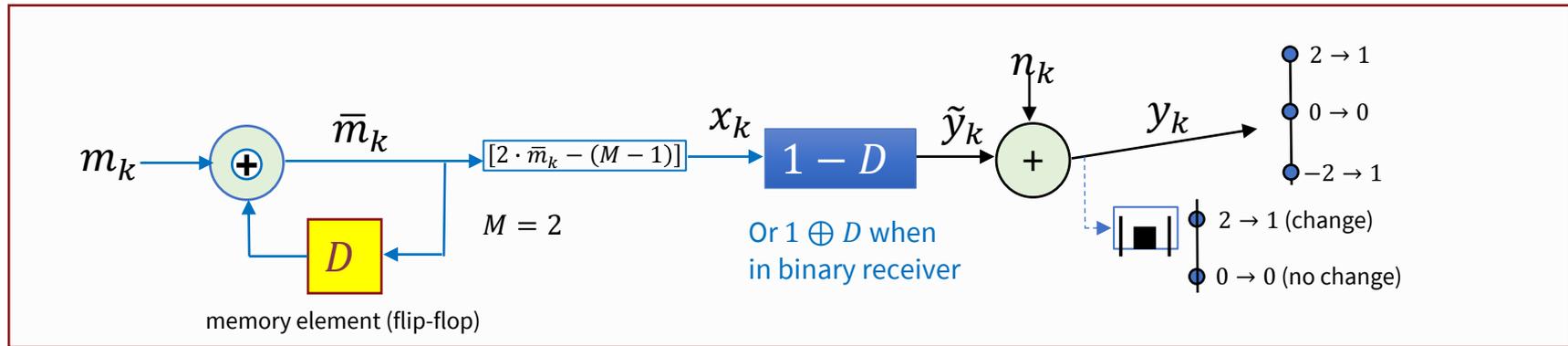


Line Code Examples

[Section 1.3.3](#)

Line Codes with Memory

- Simplest is the **differential encoder**.

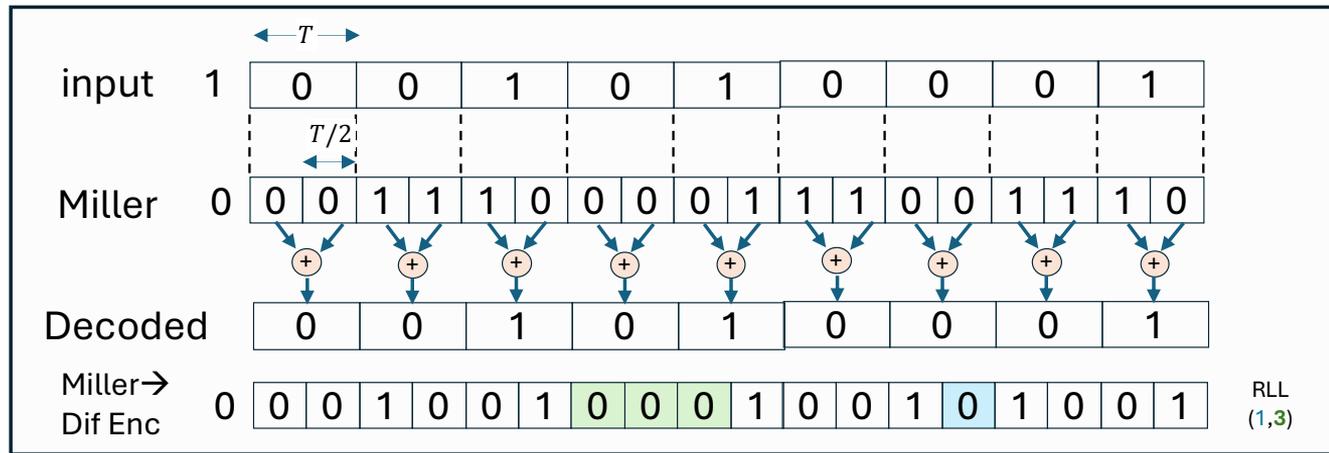


- The rule: $m_k = 1$, change output ; $m_k = 0$, no change.
- $1 - D$ in channel, then it is an **AC-Coupled Channel**.
 - Simple detectors look for a change (this not ML – ML comes later in Chapter 7 on Viterbi Detection).
 - Energy out $\rightarrow 1$; no energy $\rightarrow 0$; detector just samples the output at symbol/bit rate
- $1 - D$ in receiver after ML for binary, then the system is ML and differentially encoded
 - This measures change in successive outputs after ML (“hard decoding”) to 1 or 0 stream.
 - Can be generalized to $M > 2$, see Section 3.8.4 that generalizes this precoder (L17).



Miller Code

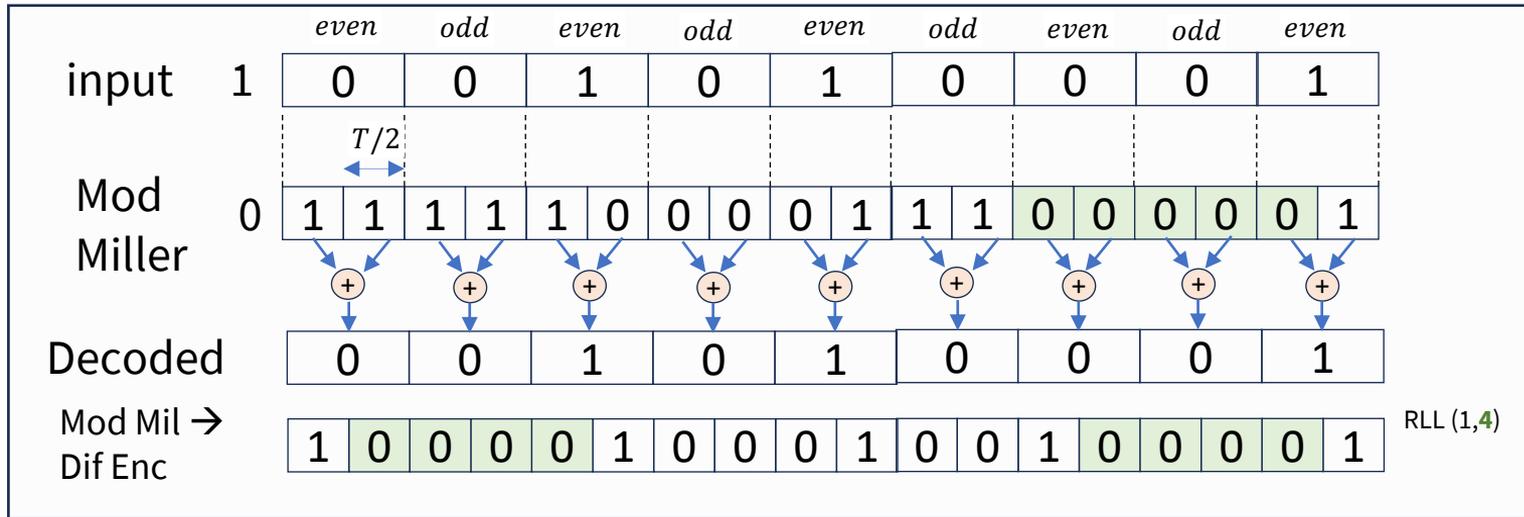
- Adds memory to RZ ($\bar{b} = \frac{1}{2}$).
- 2 output bits (symbol) per input bit
- 0 keeps same level
- 1 changes in middle



- Encoder retains previous last output-bit's polarity, unless both it & current input bit are 0.
 - In this latter case, the two current output bits have same value, but opposite polarity from last output bit.
- Miller is used on AC-coupled channels so Miller outputs are differentially encoded.
 - Receiver decodes on output energy or not, i.e. a "transition."
- Miller code (with D.E.) spaces such transitions – RLL(1,3) – **run-length-limited (RLL)**.



Modified Miller Code



- Modified Miller allows slightly longer strings of zeros (no transition), up to 4 and
 - is slightly more low pass.
 - Two successive input 0's → one follows the normal Miller polarity inversion, while the other does not.
- Raises question of matching “modulation” (~basis) functions to channel.

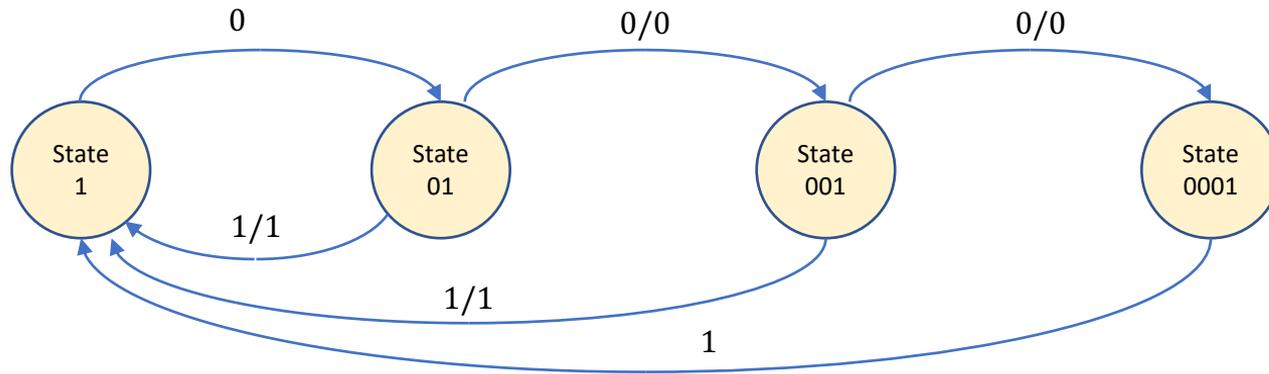


RLL – Miller example

- Miller Encoder outputs → differential encoder
- (1 is change, 0 is stay same) → ACC channel

State Transition

- Adjacency matrix A
- Conditional probability matrix P



```
>> A =
    0  1  0  0
    0  0  1  0
    0  0  0  1
    1  1  1  0
>> transpose(eig(A)) % =
    1.4656 -1.0000 cplx)
log2(ans(1)) % = 0.5515
```

Allows $\bar{b} \leq .5515$ (so $\frac{1}{2}$)

RLL (1,3) Code “= Miller,” but it really need a mapping to actual input bits so that $\bar{b} = 1/2$ is maintained.

```
>> P % =
    0  0.50  0  0
    0  0  0.50  0
    0  0  0  1.00
    1.00 0.50  0.50  0
[V,D]=eig(P);
>> transpose(diag(D)) % =
    1.0000 -0.7718 -0.1141 cplx
pstat=V(:,1);
pstat=pstat/sum(pstat);
```

- transpose(pstat) % = 0.0909 0.1818 0.3636 0.3636
- (1/11)*[1 2 4 4] % = 0.0909 0.1818 0.3636 0.3636
- This is stationary distribution

You could do this for any RLL: st diagram, A, pstat



Iterating the state machine

- The new adjacency matrix is easy A^k

```
>> A^2 % =      >> A^3 % =      >> A^4 % =      >> A^5 % =
  0  0  1  0      0  0  0  1      1  1  1  0      0  1  1  1
  0  0  0  1      1  1  1  0      0  1  1  1      1  1  2  1
  1  1  1  0      0  1  1  1      1  1  2  1      1  2  2  2
  0  1  1  1      1  1  2  1      1  2  2  2      2  3  4  2
```

- So is new prob transition matrix P^k

```
>> P^2 % =      >> P^3 % =      >> P^4 % =
  0  0  0.25  0      0  0  0.25      0.25  0.1250  0.1250  0
  0  0  0  0.5000    0.50  0.25  0.25  0      0  0.2500  0.1250  0.2500
  1.00 0.5000  0.5000  0      0  0.50  0.25  0.50    0.50  0.2500  0.5000  0.2500
  0  0.5000  0.2500  0.5000  0.50  0.25  0.50  0.25    0.25  0.3750  0.2500  0.5000
```

- But the symbol matrix X expands to strings $X^{(k)}$

```
>> X % =      >> X^(2) % =
  0 -1 0 0      0 0 [-1 -1] 0
  0 0 -1 0      0 0 0 [-1 -1]
  0 0 0 1      [1 -1] [1 -1] [1 -1] 0
  1 1 1 0      0 [-1 1] [-1 1] [-1 1]
```

Non-zero prob transitions can have up to 2 symbols (k in general)



Matlab programs to compute

- Inputs are P and X

markov_psd_transition_closedform

PSD of a stationary Markov transition-output process:

$y_t = X(s_t, s_{t-1})$

with column-stochastic transition matrix:

$P(i,j) = \Pr\{s_t=i \mid s_{t-1}=j\}$

Inputs

P NxN, column-stochastic (columns sum to 1)

X NxN, emission on transition $j \rightarrow i$ is $X(i,j)$

f frequency grid

- if Fs empty: normalized cycles/sample (typically [0,0.5])

- if Fs given: Hz (typically [0,Fs/2])

If omitted/empty: generated as `linspace(0,0.5,nfft)` or `linspace(0,Fs/2,nfft)`

Fs sampling rate in Hz (optional; default [])

remove_mean true removes DC impulse (subtract $|\mu|^2$) (default true)

nfft number of frequency samples if f omitted (default 4096)

Output struct out:

out.pistat stationary distribution ($P \cdot \text{pistat} = \text{pistat}$)

out.mu mean $E[y_t]$

out.R0 $R[0] = E[|y_t|^2]$

out.f frequency grid (same as input or generated)

out.S PSD on that grid (nonnegative clipped)

- Because the output 1's correspond to transitions in writing,
 - which means a differential encoder follows the state machine
- Double number of states (so to 8 states from 4)

```
> function P = rll_coil_P(lmin, lmax, a)
```

rll_coil_P Markov chain for RLL(lmin,lmax) with NRZI-like polarity flips on '1'.

States: (r,+) and (r,-), $r = 0..lmax$.

Column-stochastic: $P(i,j) = \Pr\{\text{next}=i \mid \text{prev}=j\}$.

Inputs

lmin, lmax : integers with $0 \leq lmin \leq lmax$

a : probabilities of writing '1' in the "free" region $r=lmin..lmax-1$.

- If scalar: same probability used for all eligible r.

- If vector: length must be $(lmax - lmin)$, where

a(1) corresponds to $r=lmin$,

a(2) corresponds to $r=lmin+1, \dots$, up to $r=lmax-1$.

Example:

```
P = rll_coil_P(1,3,[a1 a2]); % produces (1,3) code
```

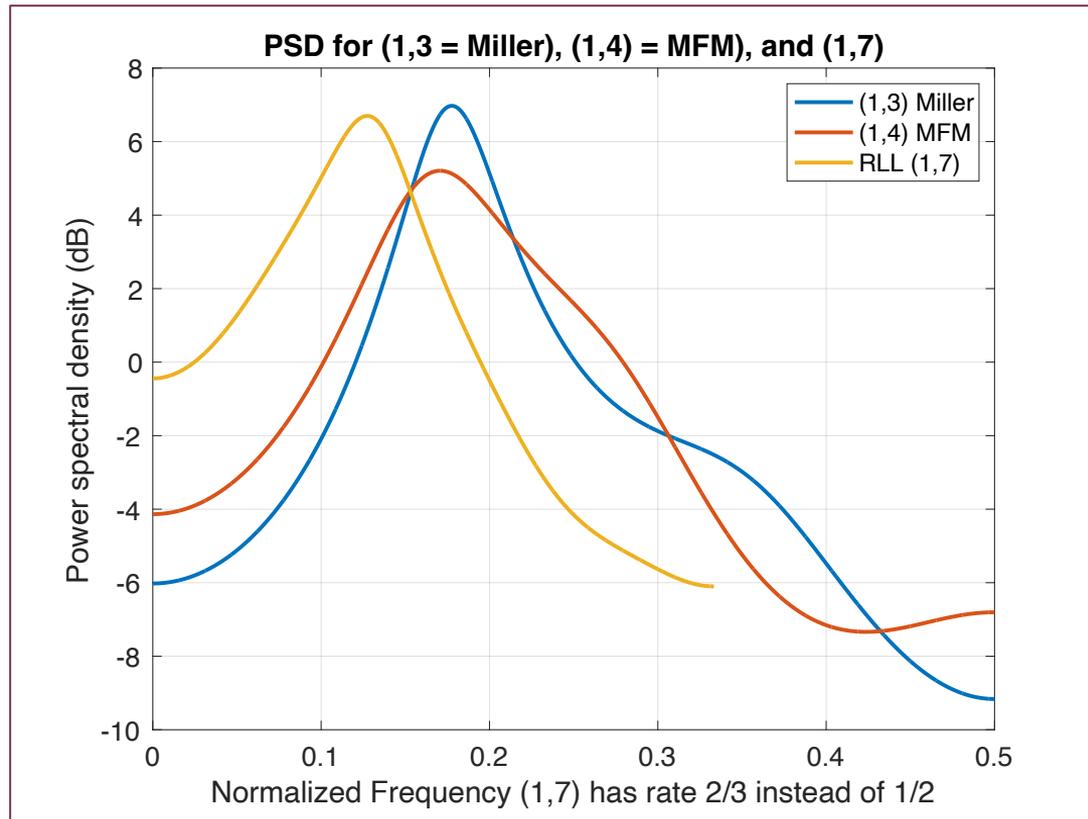


Power Spectra of (1,3),(1,4), (1,7)

```
P8 = rll_coil_P(1, 3)
l = 1;
xstate = l * [+1 +1 +1 +1 -1 -1 -1 -1].';
X8 = repmat(xstate, 1, 8);
out8 = markov_psd_transition_closedform(P8, X8)
P10 = rll_coil_P(1, 4)
xstate = l * [+1 +1 +1 +1 +1 -1 -1 -1 -1].';
>> X10 = repmat(xstate, 1, 10);
out10 = markov_psd_transition_closedform(P10, X10)
P16 = rll_coil_P(1, 7)
xstate = l * [+1 +1 +1 +1 +1 +1 +1 -1 -1 -1 -1 -1 -1 -1].';
>> X16 = repmat(xstate, 1, 16);
>> out16 = markov_psd_transition_closedform(P16, X16)
plot(out8.f, 10*log10(out8.S), out8.f, 10*log10(out10.S), (2/3)*ou
t8.f, 10*log10(out16.S))
```

- The (1,7) is relaxed and can be implemented with 3 bits out for every 2 input bits ($\bar{b} = \frac{2}{3}$)

The (1,7) is better match to an AC-coupled channel with lowpass.



Near-Field Communication Line Codes

Section 1.3.3

ASK

- **Amplitude-Shift Keying** – BPSK with nonzero mean, but retains carrier. Values are 0 and $\sqrt{2 \cdot \mathcal{E}_x}$.
- ASK loses 3 dB (like binary orthogonal, and is essentially equivalent to that)
 - ML detector is bandpass filter with sampler at symbol rate (carrier frequency need not be known)
- ASK = 100% ASK
- 10% ASK - the two levels are $\sqrt{2 \cdot \mathcal{E}_x}$ and $.9 \cdot \sqrt{2 \cdot \mathcal{E}_x}$. Loses 20 dB w.r.t. 100% and 23 dB w.r.t. BPSK.
 - Carrier is always on so it can “power” a passive receiver’s detector (and be used to power local xmit also)
- **Near-Field Communication**
 - The distance is roughly less than the wavelength (Fresnel distance, this is physics) OR
 - The receiver is close enough that it receives enough carrier power to operate (this is commercial NFC today)



Near-Field Comms (ISO Standards)

Standard	data rate (kbps)	downlink mod	uplink mod
14443 Type A	106	100% ASK mod Miller	load modulation
14443 Type B	106	10% ASK (NRZ)	BPSK 847.5 kHz subcar
18092 Passive	106	100% ASK	BPSK load mod 847.5 kHz subcar
18092 Passive	212 424	10% ASK	ASK load mod
18092 Active	106	100% ASK	100% ASK
18092 Active	212 424	10% ASK	10% ASK

- **13.56 MHz NFC carrier** - divided by powers of 2 (simple flip-flop-based counters) by up to 128
 - Divide by 16 (847.5 kHz) – sub-carrier offset to 13.56 MHz
 - Divide by 128 (~106 kHz) – symbol rate





End Lecture S3