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THE COMMUNICATIONS HANDBOOK

Editor-in-Chief

Jerry D. Gibson

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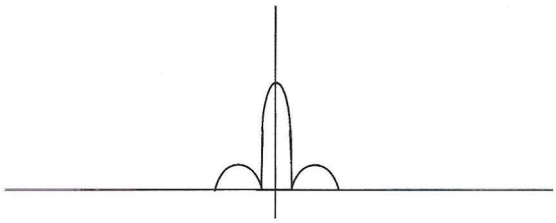

FIGURE 16.6(a)

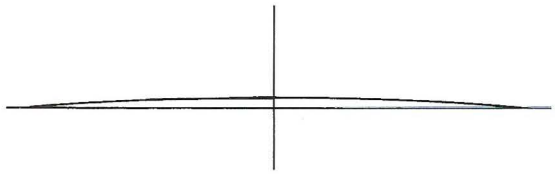

FIGURE 16.6(b)

floor, we have not lowered its power (i.e., we have merely spread its power over a wider frequency range). Thus, if the radiometer integrates over a sufficiently long period of time, it will eventually determine the presence of the transmitted signal buried in the noise. The key point, of course, is that the use of the spreading makes the interceptor's task much more difficult, since he has no knowledge of the spreading code and, thus, cannot despread the signal.

Commercial

Multiple Access Communications

From the perspective of commercial applications, probably the most important use of spread spectrum communications is as a multiple accessing technique. When used in this manner, it becomes an alternative to either frequency division multiple access (FDMA) or time division multiple access (TDMA) and is typically referred to as either code division multiple access (CDMA) or spread spectrum multiple access (SSMA). When using CDMA, each signal in the set is given its own spreading sequence. As opposed to either FDMA, wherein all users occupy disjoint frequency bands but are transmitted simultaneously in time, or TDMA, whereby all users occupy the same bandwidth but transmit in disjoint intervals of time, in CDMA, all signals occupy the same bandwidth and are transmitted simultaneously in time; the different waveforms in CDMA are distinguished from one another at the receiver by the specific spreading codes they employ.

Since most CDMA detectors are correlation receivers, it is important when deploying such a system to have a set of spreading sequences that have relatively low-pairwise cross-correlation between any two sequences in the set. Further, there are two fundamental types of operation in CDMA, synchronous and asynchronous. In the former case, the symbol transition times of all of the users are aligned; this allows for orthogonal sequences to be used as the spreading sequences and, thus, eliminates interference from one user to another. Alternately, if no effort is made to align the sequences, the system operates asychronously; in this latter mode, multiple access interference limits the ultimate channel capacity, but the system design exhibits much more flexibility.

CDMA has been of particular interest recently for applications in wireless communications. These applications include cellular communications, personal communications services (PCS), and wireless local area networks. The reason for this popularity is primarily due to the performance that spread spectrum waveforms display when transmitted over a multipath fading channel.

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Microcellular Radio Communications

Raymond Steele
Southampton University and Multiple Access Communications Ltd.

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82.1 Introducing Microcells

In mobile radio communications an operator will be assigned a specific bandwidth W in which to operate a service. The operator will, in general, not design the mobile equipment, but purchase equipment that has been designed and standardized by others. The performance of this equipment will have a profound effect on the number of subscribers the network can support, as we will show later. Suppose the equipment requires a radio channel of bandwidth B. The operator can therefore fit $N_T = W/B$ channels into the allocated spectrum W.

Communications with mobiles are made from fixed sites, known as base stations (BSs). Clearly, if a mobile travels too far from its BS, the quality of the communications link becomes unacceptable. The perimeter around the BS where acceptable communications occur is called a cell and, hence, the term cellular radio. BSs are arranged so that their radio coverage areas, or cells, overlap, and each BS may be given $N = N_T/M$ channels. This implies that there are M BS and each BS uses a different set of channels.

The number N_T is relatively low, perhaps only 1000. As radio channels cannot operate with 100% utilization, the cluster of BSs or cells has fewer than 1000 simultaneous calls. In order to make the business viable, more users must be supported by the network. This is achieved by repeatedly reusing the channels. Clusters of BSs are tessellated with each cluster using the same N_T channels. This means that there are users in each cluster using the same frequency band at the same time, and inevitably there will be interference. This interference is known as cochannel interference. Cochannel cells, i.e., cells using the same channels, must be spaced sufficiently far apart for the interference levels to be acceptable. A mobile will therefore receive the wanted signal of power S and a total interference power of I, and the signal-to-interference ratio (SIR) is a key system design parameter.

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