

6.300: Signal Processing

Communication Systems

Frequency Shift Property: $x(t)e^{j\omega_0 t} \iff X(\omega - \omega_0)$

Convolution Theorem: Convolution in one domain corresponds to multiplication in the other domain.

$$(f * g)(t) \iff F(\omega)G(\omega) \quad f(t)g(t) \iff \frac{1}{2\pi}(F * G)(\omega)$$

Sinusoidal Carrier Modulation: $s(t) = A \cos(\omega t - \phi)$

- amplitude modulation: time-varying $A = A(t)$
- frequency modulation: time-varying $\omega = \omega(t)$
- phase modulation: time-varying $\phi = \phi(t)$

March 19, 2026

Agenda for Recitation

- Time-frequency duality
- Modulation schemes: DSB-AM and SSB-SC
- Implementing a band-pass filter (BPF)

What questions do you have from lecture?

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- Time-frequency duality
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Time-Frequency Duality

Notice that the analysis and synthesis formulæ for Fourier transforms look very similar.

$$X(\omega) = \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} x(t)e^{-j\omega t} dt \quad x(t) = \frac{1}{2\pi} \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} X(\omega)e^{j\omega t} d\omega$$

Consequently, most of our results work “both ways” — with relatively minor adjustments. This is called **duality**.

Example: Given one transform pair, get another for free!

$$x(t) \iff X(\omega)$$

e.g.,

$$X(t) \iff 2\pi x(-\omega)$$

$$x(t) = e^{-|t|} \iff X(\omega) = \frac{2}{1 + \omega^2}$$

$$X(t) = \frac{2}{1 + t^2} \iff 2\pi x(-\omega) = 2\pi e^{-|\omega|}$$

Time-Frequency Duality

Convolution ($*$) in the time domain corresponds to multiplication (\times) in the frequency domain.

$$(f * g)(t) \iff F(\omega)G(\omega)$$

Likewise, multiplication (\times) in the time domain corresponds to convolution ($*$) in the frequency domain.

$$f(t)g(t) \iff \frac{1}{2\pi}(F * G)(\omega)$$

Convolution Theorem: Convolution in one domain corresponds to multiplication in the other domain.

$$(f * g)(t) \iff F(\omega)G(\omega) \quad f(t)g(t) \iff \frac{1}{2\pi}(F * G)(\omega)$$

Time-Frequency Duality

The **frequency shift property** follows directly from **Fourier transform pairs** and the **convolution theorem**.

$$\begin{aligned}x(t) &\iff X(\omega) \\e^{j\omega_c t} &\iff 2\pi\delta(\omega - \omega_c) \\x(t)e^{j\omega_c t} &\iff X(\omega - \omega_c)\end{aligned}$$

Of course, the frequency shift property also holds for multiplication by real-valued sinusoids, like $\cos(\omega_c t)$.

$$\begin{aligned}x(t) &\iff X(\omega) \\ \cos(\omega_c t) = \frac{1}{2}e^{j\omega_c t} + \frac{1}{2}e^{-j\omega_c t} &\iff \pi\delta(\omega - \omega_c) + \pi\delta(\omega + \omega_c) \\ x(t)\cos(\omega_c t) &\iff \frac{1}{2}X(\omega - \omega_c) + \frac{1}{2}X(\omega + \omega_c)\end{aligned}$$

The frequency shift property arises all the time in the analysis and design of communication systems.

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Amplitude Modulation: DSB-AM

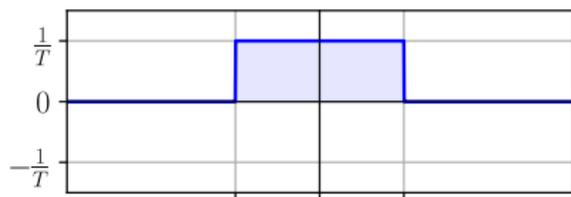
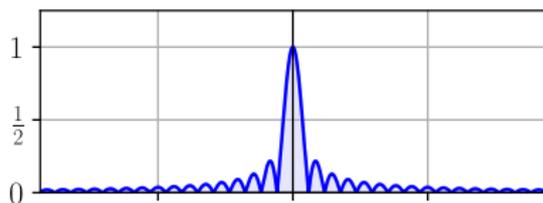
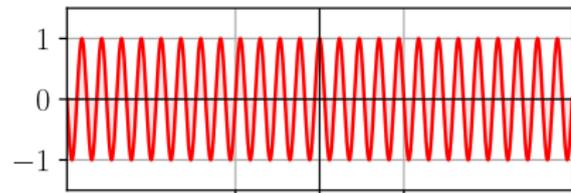
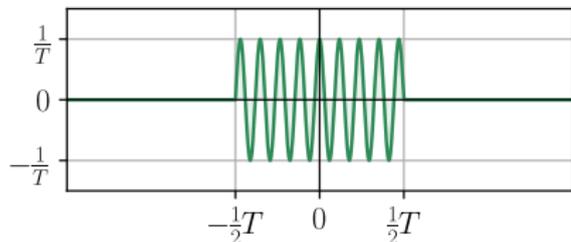
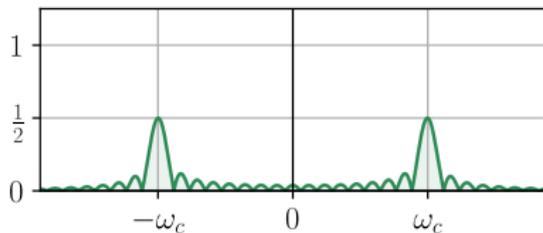
Double Sideband Amplitude Modulation (DSB-AM)

Push the signal of interest to a higher band of frequencies ($|\omega| \gg 0$) before transmission over the air.

$$\begin{aligned}x(t) &\iff X(\omega) \\ \cos(\omega_c t) &= \frac{1}{2}e^{j\omega_c t} + \frac{1}{2}e^{-j\omega_c t} \iff \pi\delta(\omega - \omega_c) + \pi\delta(\omega + \omega_c) \\ x(t)\cos(\omega_c t) &\iff \frac{1}{2}X(\omega - \omega_c) + \frac{1}{2}X(\omega + \omega_c)\end{aligned}$$

The signal $x(t)$ modulates the amplitude of $\cos(\omega_c t)$ — hence **amplitude modulation**. Also, the transform $X(\cdot)$ appears twice in the output — hence **double sideband**.

The fact that $X(\cdot)$ appears twice in the output reduces the number of messages that may be transmitted by a factor of two. Despite this, DSB-AM is still used in commercial AM radio. Simplicity often implies popularity.

$x(t)$  $|X(\omega)|$  $c(t) = \cos(\omega_c t)$  $|C(\omega)|$  $y(t) = x(t)c(t)$  $|Y(\omega)| = \left| \frac{1}{2\pi} (X * C)(\omega) \right|$ time t (seconds)frequency ω (radians per second)

Amplitude Modulation: DSB-AM

Is amplitude modulation linear? Is it time-invariant?

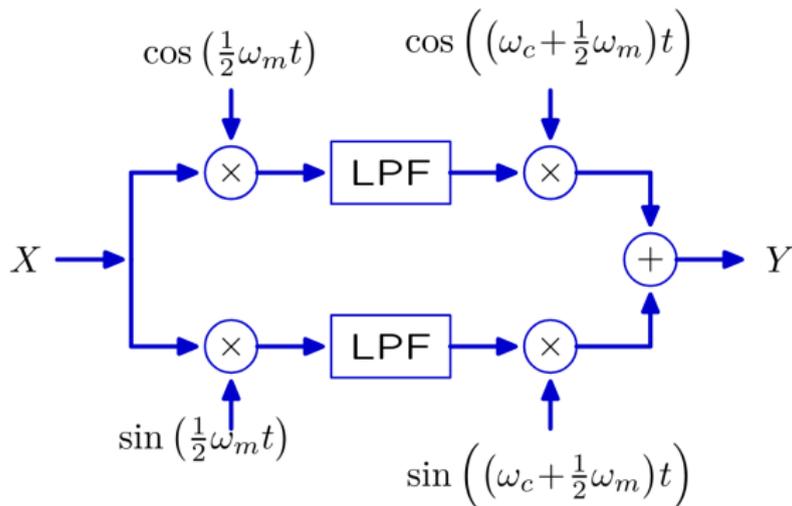
$$x(t) \rightarrow \boxed{\text{AM}} \rightarrow y(t) = x(t) \cos(\omega_c t)$$

Amplitude Modulation: SSB-SC

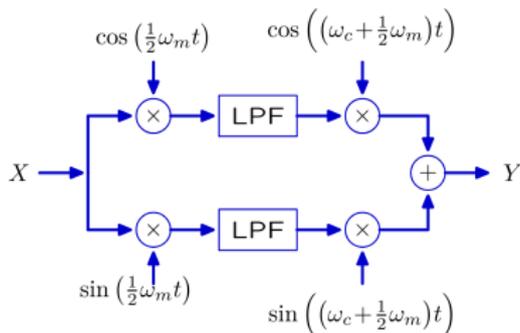
Single Sideband – Suppressed Carrier (SSB-SC)

Real-valued time-domain signals have symmetric transforms. So, we can infer “the left” from “the right.”

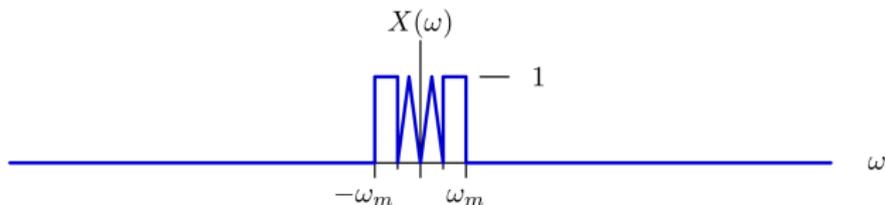
- Shift the left half of X (lower sideband) to the left.
- Shift the right half of X (upper sideband) to the right.



Amplitude Modulation: SSB-SC

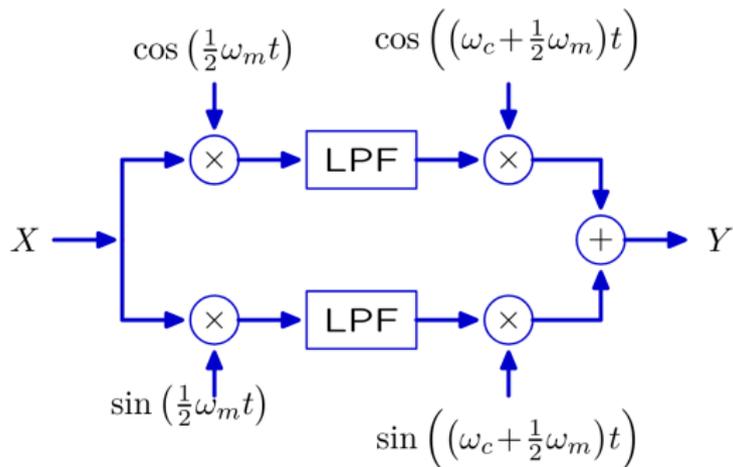


Let $\omega_c \gg \omega_m$. Assume that each low-pass filter (LPF) is ideal, has cut-off frequency $\frac{1}{2}\omega_m$, and has a DC gain of 2. $X(\omega)$ is shown below. Sketch $Y(\omega)$.



Amplitude Modulation: SSB-SC

Single Sideband – Suppressed Carrier (SSB-SC)



Takeaway: The SSB-SC scheme conserves bandwidth. It lets us transmit twice as many messages over a given medium as naïve DSB-AM would.

Sinusoidal Carrier Modulation

Amplitude modulation (AM) is one type of **sinusoidal carrier modulation**. There are other types, too.

Consider a sinusoidal carrier $s(t) = A \cos(\omega_c t - \phi)$.

- **amplitude modulation:** time-varying $A = A(t)$
- **frequency modulation:** time-varying $\omega_c = \omega_c(t)$
- **phase modulation:** time-varying $\phi = \phi(t)$

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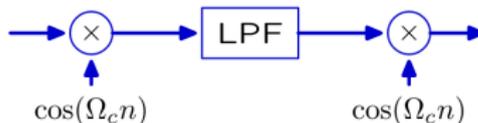
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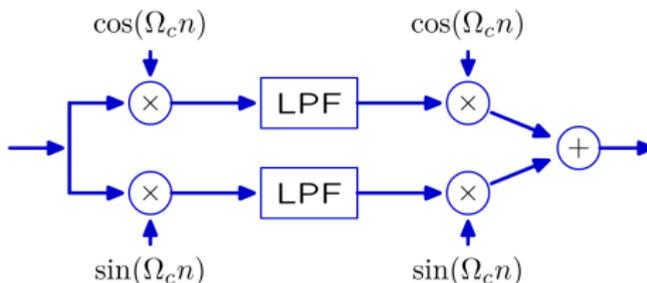
Band-Pass Filter (BPF)

Band-pass filters play a role in many communication systems. Which of the following systems implement a band-pass filter?

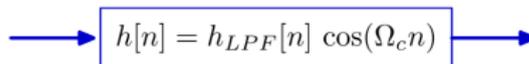
System 1



System 2



System 3



Lessons Learned

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