

College of Engineering  
Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering

332:322

**Principles of Communications Systems**  
Quiz I

Spring 2008

*There are 3 questions. You have the class period to answer them. Show all work. Answers given without work will receive no credit. GOOD LUCK!*

1. (50 points) **Amplitude Modulation**

- (a) (20 points) Let  $m(t) = e^{-t}u(t)$  where  $u(t)$  is the unit step function. Let  $r(t) = m(t) \cos 2\pi f_c t$  where  $f_c \gg 1$ . Provide an analytic expression for  $R(f)$  the Fourier transform of  $r(t)$  and carefully sketch  $|R(f)|$ .
- (b) (10 points) Carefully describe at least two different methods by which  $m(t)$  can be recovered from  $r(t)$ . You must justify your answers.
- (c) (10 points) Let

$$g(t) = \sqrt{\frac{1}{2\pi\sigma^2}} e^{-\frac{t^2}{2\sigma^2}}$$

with Fourier transform

$$G(f) = e^{-2f^2\sigma^2}$$

We form a periodic carrier signal

$$\phi(t) = \sum_{k=-\infty}^{\infty} g(t - \frac{k}{f_c})$$

where  $f_c$  is the (fundamental) carrier frequency. Assume some general (i.e., different from the previous parts) program material  $m(t)$  band limited to  $B \ll f_c$ . If  $\sigma \ll \frac{1}{f_c}$ , can  $m(t)$  always be recovered from  $r(t) = m(t)\phi(t)$  using an envelope detector? Carefully and analytically discuss why/why not.

- (d) (10 points) Suppose the diode in the envelope detector is faulty and functions as a simple resistor. Is the output of the envelope detector still  $m(t)$ ? Always or never?

2. (50 points) **AM/FM/SchmeshM:**

**Hermaphrodites Inc.** has just introduced their new modulation system. They take band limited non-negative program material  $m(t)$  and form the signal

$$r(t) = m(t) \sin \left( 2\pi f_c t + \beta \int_0^t m(\tau) d\tau \right)$$

We assume that the bandwidth of  $m(t)$  is  $B \ll f_c$  and  $\beta$  is arbitrary so long as  $\sin(2\pi f_c t + \beta \int_0^t m(\tau) d\tau)$  is always a high speed signal.

- (a) (25 points) Is  $r(t)$  an example of amplitude modulation? What is the output of an envelope detector with  $r(t)$  as its input? Justify your answer.
- (b) (25 points) Is  $r(t)$  an example of frequency modulation? What is the approximate bandwidth of  $r(t)$ ?

3. (50 points) **Cora, Marty and the FM Radio Station:**

Cora the communications engineer has decided to open her own FM radio station. Unfortunately, the transmission tower is home to one Martin T. Sciuridae, a squirrel and Cora's arch nemesis. Marty learns Cora is the new owner and sets out to sabotage her transmissions.

Assume Cora transmits

$$r(t) = \cos\left(2\pi f_c t - \beta \int_0^t m(\tau) d\tau\right)$$

and that the transmission is wideband FM. Cora's customers use the usual discriminators followed by envelope detectors as receivers.

Marty whips out a signal generator and corrupts  $r(t)$  as

$$\tilde{r}(t) = \cos\left(2\pi f_c t - \beta \int_0^t m(\tau) d\tau\right) - \left(\beta \int_0^t m(\tau) d\tau\right) \sin\left(2\pi f_c t - \beta \int_0^t m(\tau) d\tau\right)$$

- (a) (10 points) Calculate the output of the differentiator in Cora's listeners' receivers.
- (b) (15 points) Does Marty's devilish plan work? Why/why not?
- (c) (15 points) Cora learns of Marty's scheme and makes  $\beta \gg 2\pi f_c$ . She then tells her listeners to modify their receivers by placing a hard limiter after the output of the differentiator to produce

$$s(t) = \begin{cases} 1 & \frac{d\tilde{r}(t)}{dt} > 0 \\ 0 & \text{o.w.} \end{cases}$$

Rewrite  $s(t)$  in terms of  $\cos\left(2\pi f_c t - \beta \int_0^t m(\tau) d\tau\right)$ ?

- (d) (10 points) Cora then asks her listeners to route  $s(t)$  into another FM receiver. Is Marty's devilish plan foiled? Why/why not?

**HINT:** Where is the program material represented in an FM signal? Is that information preserved or corrupted by hard limiting?