



IDENTIFYING DATA

Digital Communications

Subject	Digital Communications		
Code	V05G300V01914		
Study programme	Degree in Telecommunications Technologies Engineering		
Descriptors	ECTS Credits	Choose	Year
	6	Optional	4th
Teaching language	English		
Department	Signal Theory and Communications		
Coordinator	Pérez González, Fernando		
Lecturers	Mosquera Nartallo, Carlos Pérez González, Fernando		
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General description	This course covers the fundamentals of modulations that are used in practically all modern communication standards, including digital terrestrial television, WiFi, fourth-generation mobile communications (LTE), digital radio, visible light communications (LiFi).		

Contents, teaching and exams are in English. Students may participate in classes and answer to exams preferably in English, but Spanish and Galician are also accepted.

Competencies

Code	
B4	CG4: The ability to solve problems with initiative, to make creative decisions and to communicate and transmit knowledge and skills, understanding the ethical and professional responsibility of the Technical Telecommunication Engineer activity.
B9	CG9: The ability to work in multidisciplinary groups in a Multilanguage environment and to communicate, in writing and orally, knowledge, procedures, results and ideas related with Telecommunications and Electronics.
B12	CG12 The development of discussion ability about technical subjects
C71	(CE71/OP14) The ability to analyze the physical layer in modern digital communications systems.
D2	CT2 Understanding Engineering within a framework of sustainable development.
D4	CT4 Encourage cooperative work, and skills like communication, organization, planning and acceptance of responsibility in a multilingual and multidisciplinary work environment, which promotes education for equality, peace and respect for fundamental rights.

Learning outcomes

Expected results from this subject	Training and Learning Results		
Acquire the intuition and needed math skills to understand the role played by diversity in improving the provision of communication systems.	B4 B9 B12	C71	D2
Develop the capability of analyzing the physical layer of current telecommunication systems.	B4 B9 B12	C71	D2
Handle the necessary tools to understand the different aspects of the physical layer of communications system a system and put them to practice when it comes to simulating, designing or dimensioning.	B4 B9 B12	C71	D2
Strengthen the capacity to follow a technical class in English.	B9 B12	C71	D4

Contents

Topic	
Subject 1: Multicarrier modulations	1. Introduction. 2. Analog and digital OFDM modulations 3. Diagram of an OFDM transmitter. 4. Effect of the channel on the received signal. 5. Diagram of an OFDM receiver. 6. OFDM seen as a block process.
Subject 2: Equalization, coding and synchronization in multicarrier modulations.	1. Pilot carriers. 2. ZF and MMSE equalization. 3. Zero-padding methods. 4. Coded OFDM (COFDM). 5. Carrier synchronization algorithms. 6. Timing recovery algorithms. 7. Channel state information estimation.
Subject 3: Advanced digital communications.	1. Convolutional coding. 2. Trellis coding. 3. Advanced channel coding: turbo and LDPC codes.
Subject 4: Applications	1. Digital Radio/TV standards. 2. OFDM wireless communications standards. 3. OFDM cable communications standards. 4. OFDM in visible light communications.

Planning

	Class hours	Hours outside the classroom	Total hours
Laboratory practices	14.4	57.6	72
Supervised work	7.2	0	7.2
Lecturing	19	21	40
Short answer tests	2	0	2
Practices report	0	14.4	14.4
Essay	0	14.4	14.4

*The information in the planning table is for guidance only and does not take into account the heterogeneity of the students.

Methodologies

	Description
Laboratory practices	Lab practices will consist in the demodulation of Digital Radio Mondiale (DRM) signals. This will allow students to practically implement some of the concepts seen in the lectures: OFDM, demodulations, synch recovery,... Competences: CG4, CG9, CG12, CE71, CT2, CT4
Supervised work	Guided work with design considerations for a practical system based on OFDM. Competencias: CG4, CG9, CG12, CE71, CT2, CT4
Lecturing	The course is structured in four main subjects that revolve around the concept of multicarrier modulations. Each subject will be taught through lectures in the classroom. Competences: CG4, CG9, CG12, CE71, CT2, CT4

Personalized attention

Methodologies	Description
Lecturing	The teachers will provide individualized and personalized attention to students during the course, solving their doubts and questions. Doubts will be answered in presential form (during the master session, or during the office hours). Office hours will be given at the beginning of the course and published in the subject's webpage.
Laboratory practices	The teachers will provide individualized and personalized attention to students during the course, solving their doubts and questions. Doubts will be answered in presential form (during the office hours). Office hours will be given at the beginning of the course and published in the subject's webpage.
Supervised work	The teachers will provide individualized and personalized attention to students during the course, solving their doubts and questions. Doubts will be answered in presential form (during the office hours). Office hours will be given at the beginning of the course and published in the subject's webpage.
Tests	Description

Practices report	The teachers will provide individualized and personalized attention to students during the course, solving their doubts and questions. Doubts will be answered in presential form (during the office hours). Office hours will be given at the beginning of the course and published in the subject's webpage.
Essay	The teachers will provide individualized and personalized attention to students during the course, solving their doubts and questions. Doubts will be answered in presential form (during the office hours). Office hours will be given at the beginning of the course and published in the subject's webpage.

Assessment

Description	Qualification	Training and Learning Results		
Short answer tests Final exam with short questions on the contents of the subject, that will include also some questions on the projects. Evaluated competences: CG4, CG9, CG12, CE71, CT2.	20	B4 B9 B12	C71	D2
Practices report Deliverables for the lab project. 50% of the final grade corresponds to tasks associated to a lab project. Along the course there will be six milestones, corresponding to each of the stages for the Matlab implementation of a simplified OFDM receiver. The weight given to each of these tasks is the following: Task 1 (Demodulation to baseband): 5% Task 2 (Mode detection and temporal alignment): 5% Task 3 (Frequency error correction): 10% Task 4 (Frame synchronization): 10% Task 5 (Channel estimation and equalization - I): 10% Task 6 (Channel estimation and equalization - II): 10% Evaluated competences: CG4, CG9, CG12, CE71, CT2, CT4.	50	B4 B9 B12	C71	D2 D4
Essay Short report related to one of the digital communications standards/systems that employ the techniques seen in the lectures. The report will consist of the answers to a list of questions that will be handed at the beginning of the course, related to practical design aspects of a digital communications system using OFDM. Evaluated competences: CG4, CG9, CE71, CT2.	30	B4 B9	C71	D2

Other comments on the Evaluation

In those cases in where the student decides not to carry out the continuous evaluation tasks, the final score will be solely based on the exam with short questions of the subject. This applies as well to the second call.

In case of collective reports, the respective contribution of each student must be clearly stated, and the final score will be personalized as a function of such contribution. An interview with the lecturer may be required in order to assess the individual contributions.

Once the student turns in any of the deliverables, he/she will be considered to be following the continuous evaluation track. Any student that chooses the continuous evaluation track will get a final score, regardless of he/she takes the final exam.

Continuous evaluation tasks cannot be redone after their corresponding deadlines, and are only valid for the current year.

Sources of information

Basic Bibliography

M. Engels, Ed, **Wireless OFDM Systems. How to make them work?**, Springer-Verlag,
Antonio Artés, Fernando Pérez González, Carlos Mosquera et al., **Comunicaciones Digitales**, Pearson,

Complementary Bibliography

Ye Li, G.L. Stuber, **Orthogonal Frequency Division Multiplexing for Wireless Communications**, Springer-Verlag,
J.R. Barry, E.A. Lee, D.G. Messerschmitt, **Digital Communication**, Kluwer,

Recommendations

Subjects that it is recommended to have taken before

Principles of Digital Communications/V05G300V01613
