
Data and Signals

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Data Communications

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Note



To be transmitted, data must be transformed to electromagnetic signals.

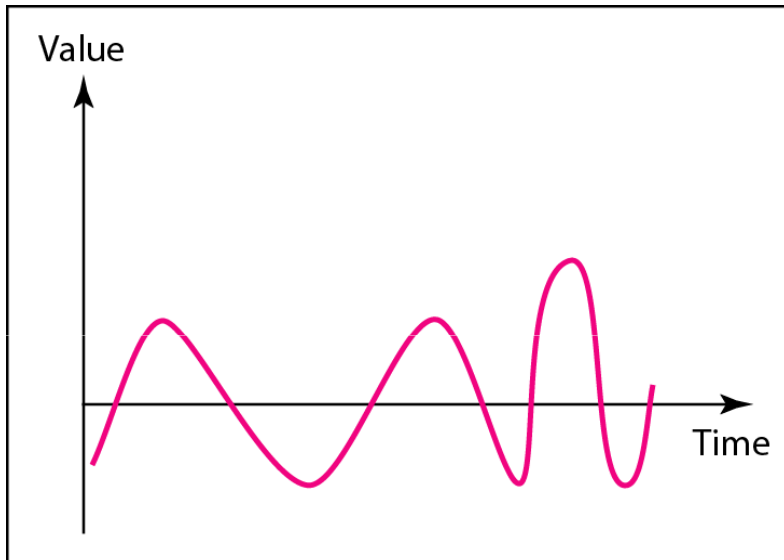


ANALOG AND DIGITAL

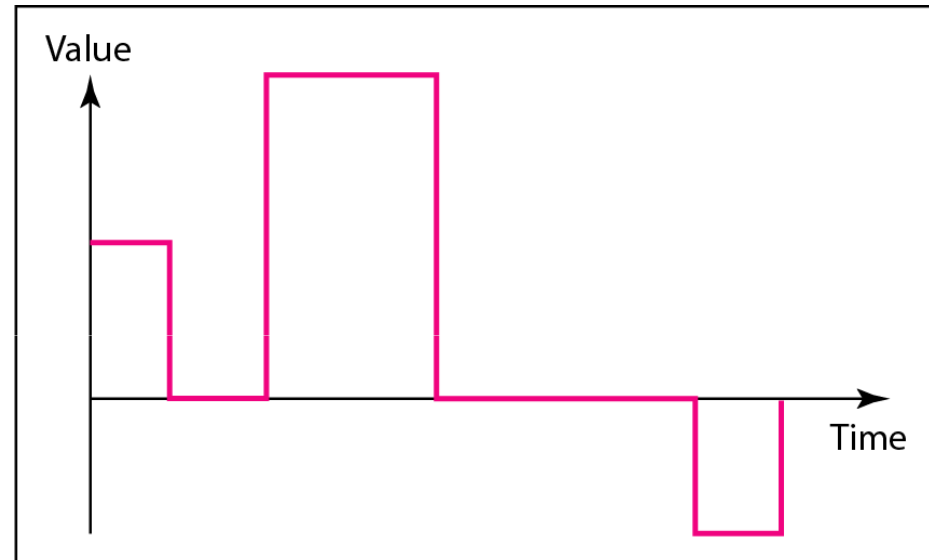
- Data can be **analog** or **digital**. The term **analog data** refers to information that is continuous; **digital data** refers to information that has discrete states. Analog data take on continuous values. Digital data take on discrete values.

- **Topics discussed in this section:**
 - Analog and Digital Data
 - Analog and Digital Signals
 - Periodic and Nonperiodic Signals

Comparison of analog and digital signals



a. Analog signal



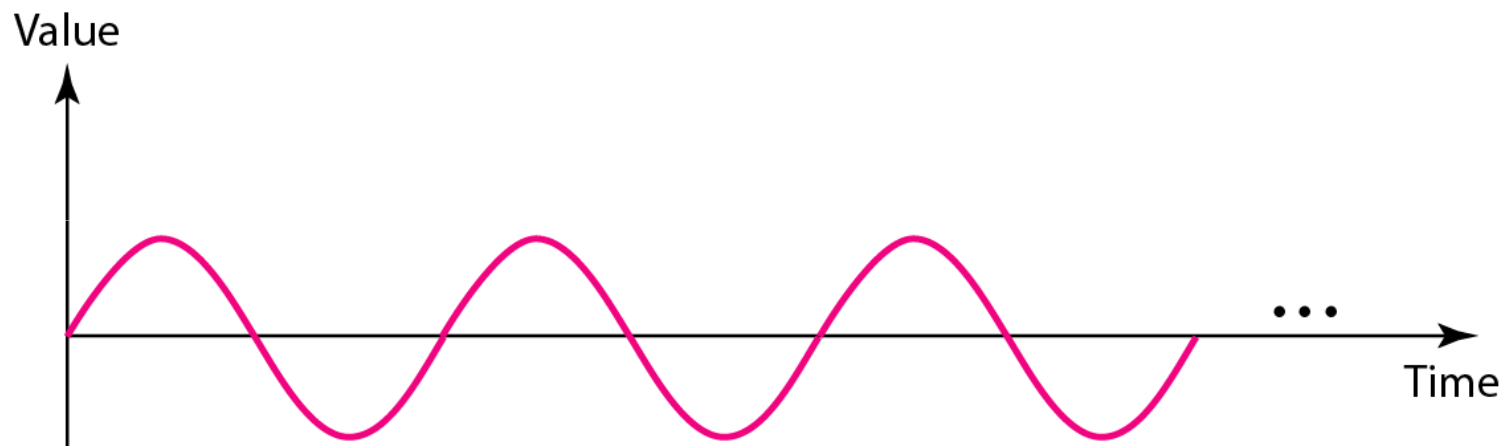
b. Digital signal

PERIODIC ANALOG SIGNALS

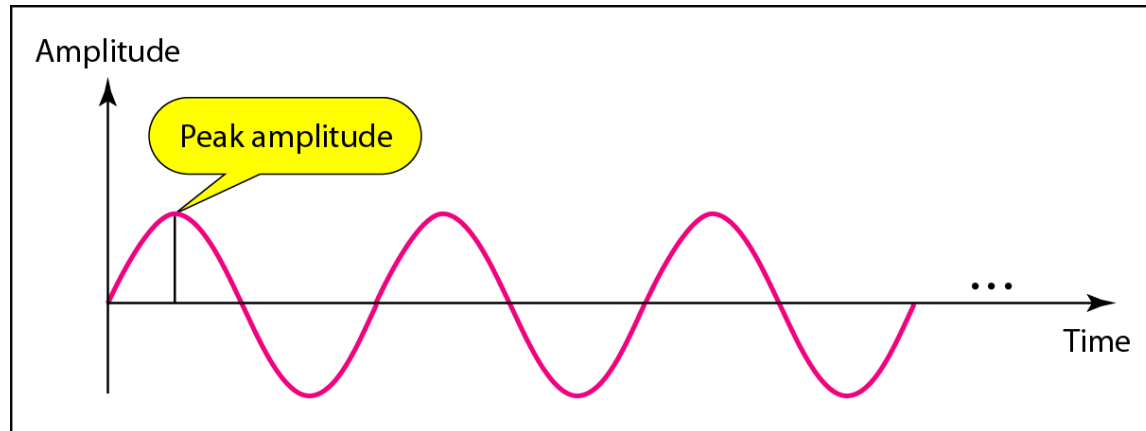
- In data communications, we commonly use periodic analog signals and non-periodic digital signals. Periodic analog signals can be classified as simple or composite. A simple periodic analog signal, a sine wave, cannot be decomposed into simpler signals. A composite periodic analog signal is composed of multiple sine waves.

- **Topics discussed in this section:**
 - Sine Wave
 - Wavelength
 - Time and Frequency Domain
 - Composite Signals
 - Bandwidth

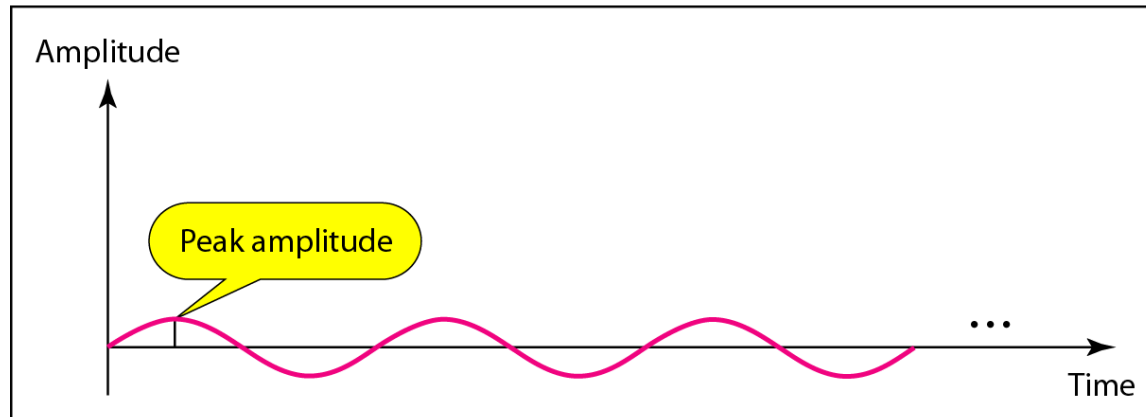
A sine wave



Two signals with the same phase and frequency, but different amplitudes



a. A signal with high peak amplitude



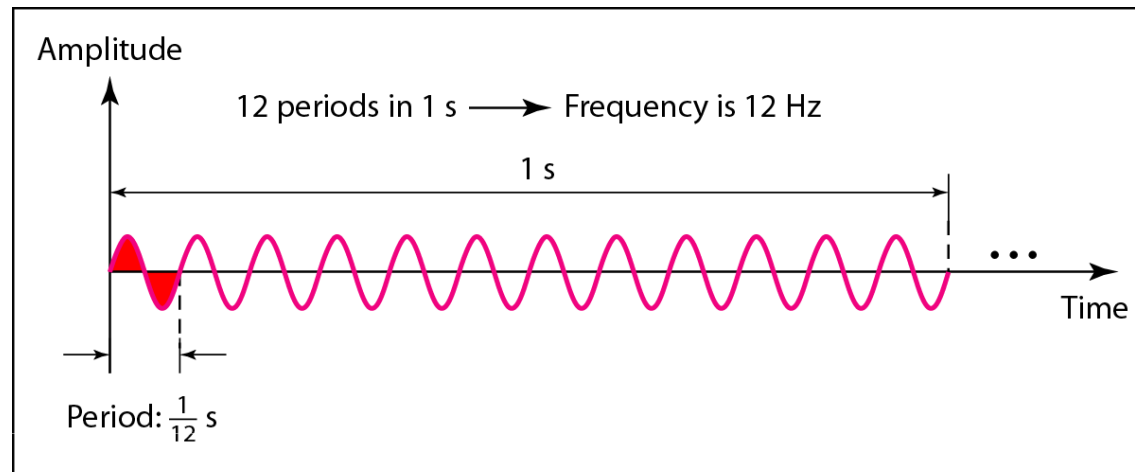
b. A signal with low peak amplitude

Note

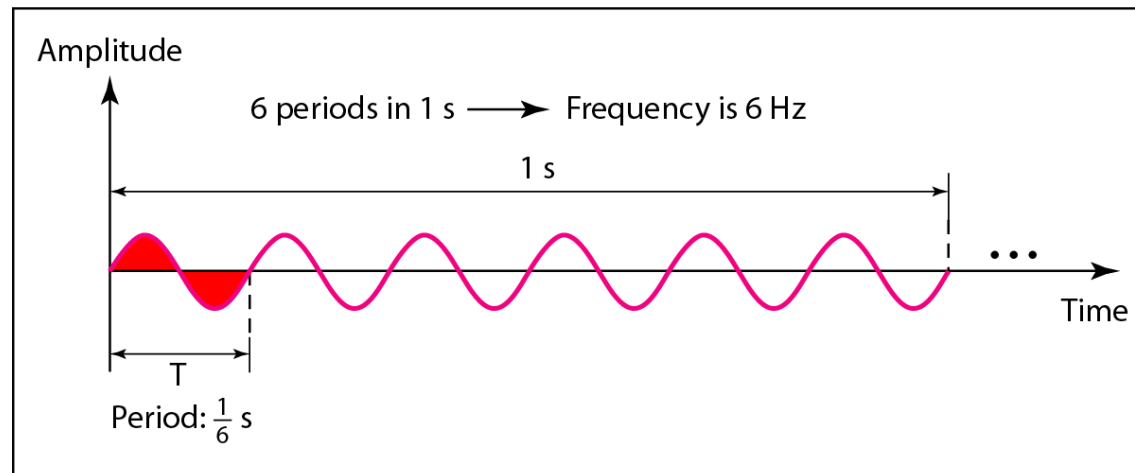
Frequency and period are the inverse of each other.

$$f = \frac{1}{T} \quad \text{and} \quad T = \frac{1}{f}$$

Two signals with the same amplitude and phase, but different frequencies



a. A signal with a frequency of 12 Hz



b. A signal with a frequency of 6 Hz

Units of period and frequency

<i>Unit</i>	<i>Equivalent</i>	<i>Unit</i>	<i>Equivalent</i>
Seconds (s)	1 s	Hertz (Hz)	1 Hz
Milliseconds (ms)	10^{-3} s	Kilohertz (kHz)	10^3 Hz
Microseconds (μ s)	10^{-6} s	Megahertz (MHz)	10^6 Hz
Nanoseconds (ns)	10^{-9} s	Gigahertz (GHz)	10^9 Hz
Picoseconds (ps)	10^{-12} s	Terahertz (THz)	10^{12} Hz

Example

- The power we use at home has a frequency of 60 Hz. The period of this sine wave can be determined as follows:

$$T = \frac{1}{f} = \frac{1}{60} = 0.0166 \text{ s} = 0.0166 \times 10^3 \text{ ms} = 16.6 \text{ ms}$$

Example

- The period of a signal is 100 ms. What is its frequency in kilohertz?

Solution

- First we change 100 ms to seconds, and then we calculate the frequency from the period (1 Hz = 10⁻³ kHz).

$$100 \text{ ms} = 100 \times 10^{-3} \text{ s} = 10^{-1} \text{ s}$$
$$f = \frac{1}{T} = \frac{1}{10^{-1}} \text{ Hz} = 10 \text{ Hz} = 10 \times 10^{-3} \text{ kHz} = 10^{-2} \text{ kHz}$$


Frequency

- Frequency is the rate of change with respect to time.
 - Change in a short span of time means high frequency.
 - Change over a long span of time means low frequency
-

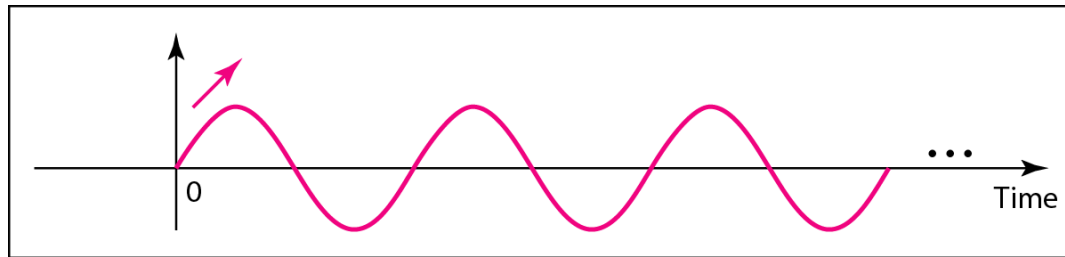


Note

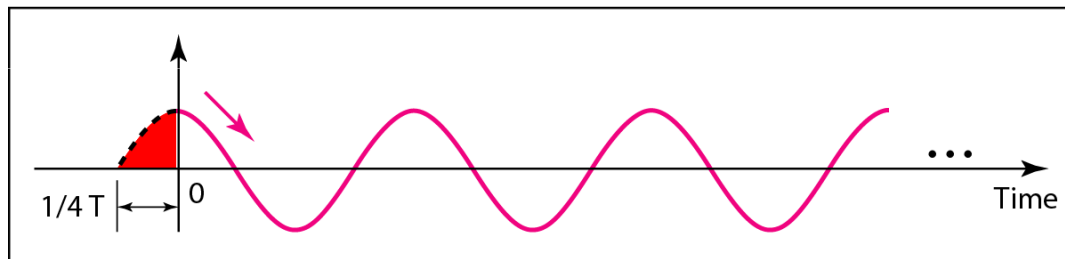
Phase describes the position of the waveform relative to time 0.



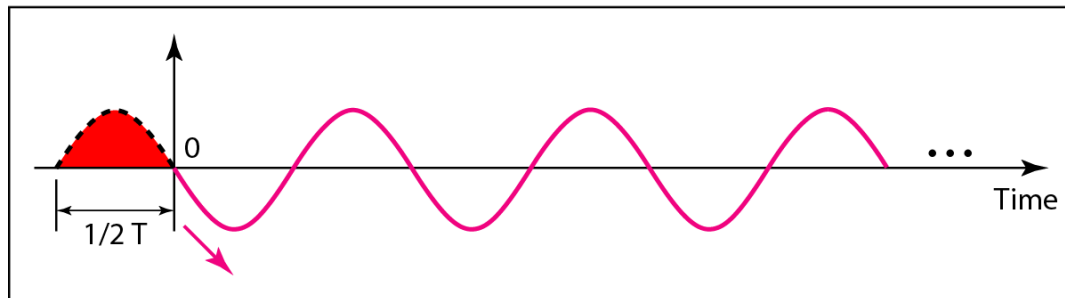
Three sine waves with the same amplitude and frequency, but different phases



a. 0 degrees

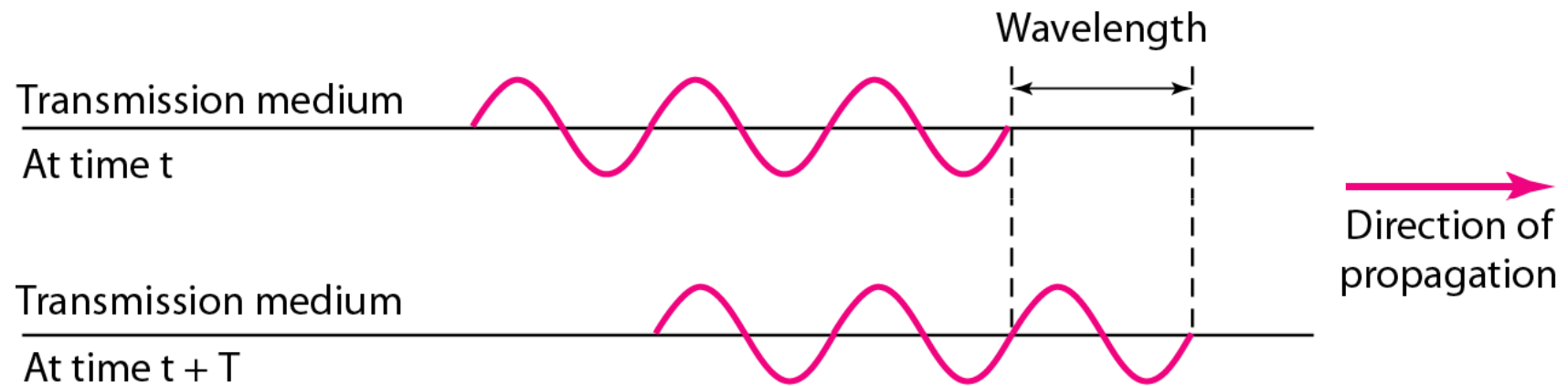


b. 90 degrees

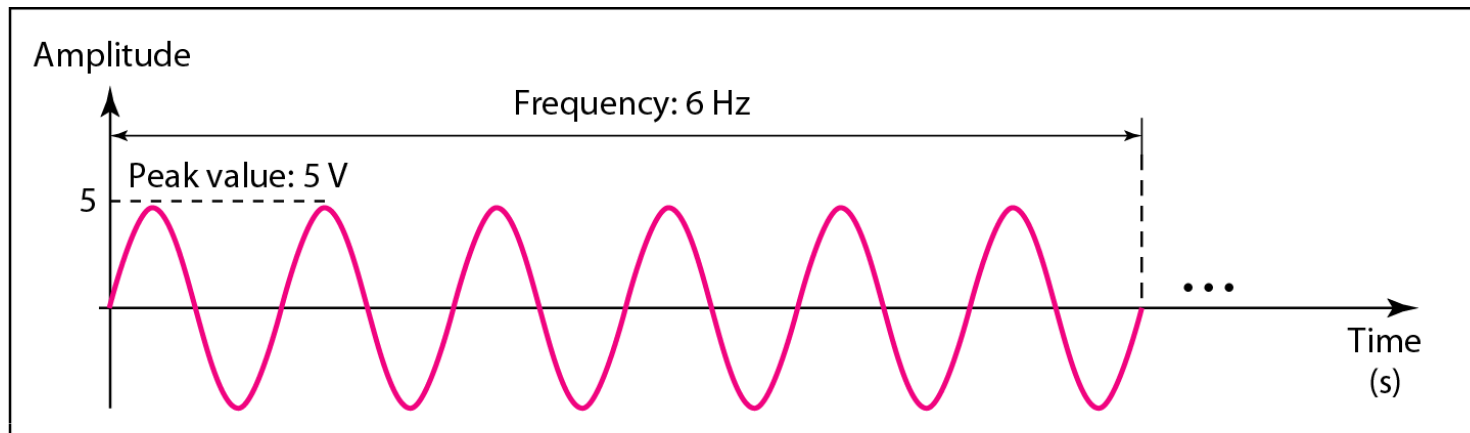


c. 180 degrees

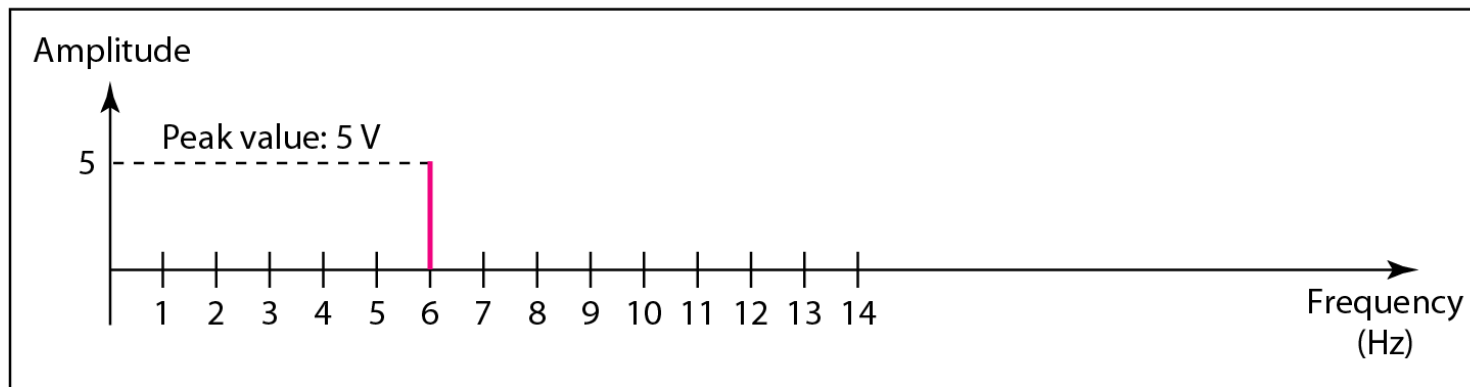
Wavelength and period



The time-domain and frequency-domain plots of a sine wave

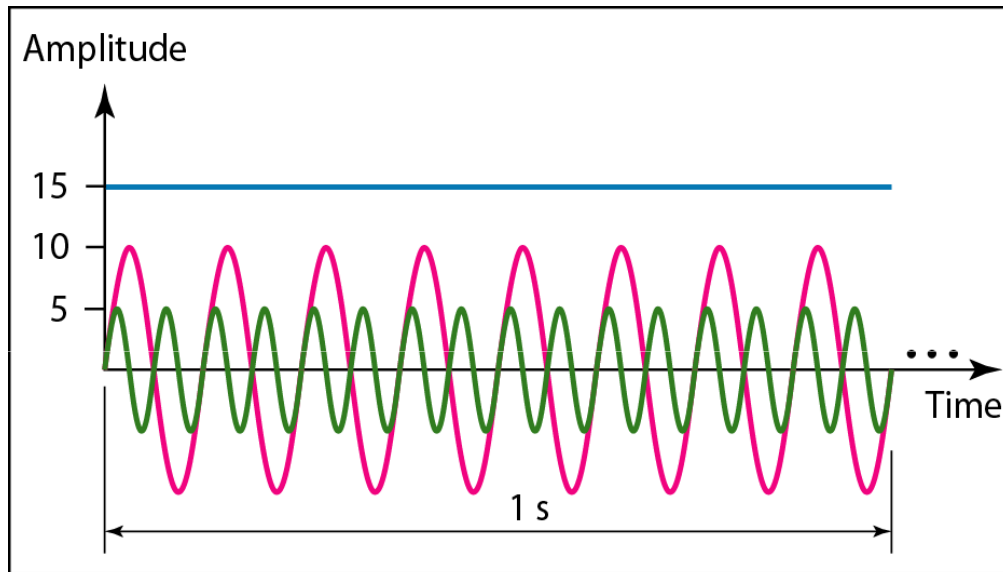


a. A sine wave in the time domain (peak value: 5 V, frequency: 6 Hz)

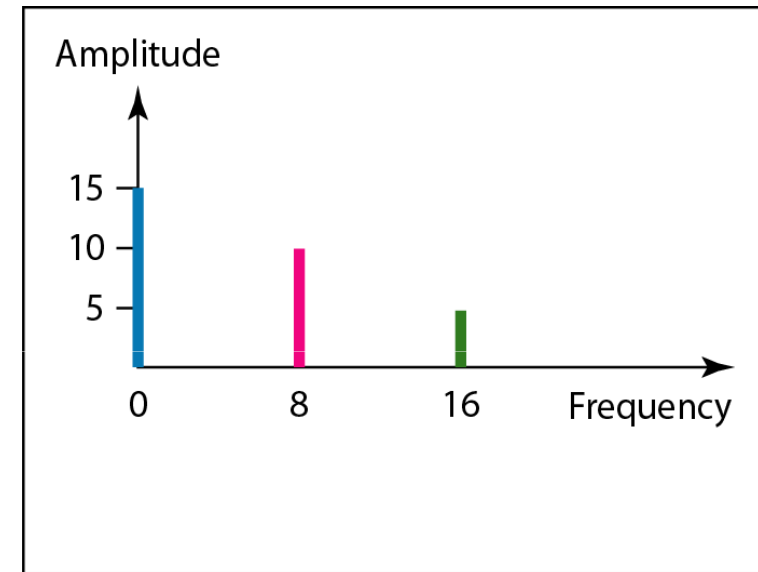


b. The same sine wave in the frequency domain (peak value: 5 V, frequency: 6 Hz)

The time domain and frequency domain of three sine waves



a. Time-domain representation of three sine waves with frequencies 0, 8, and 16

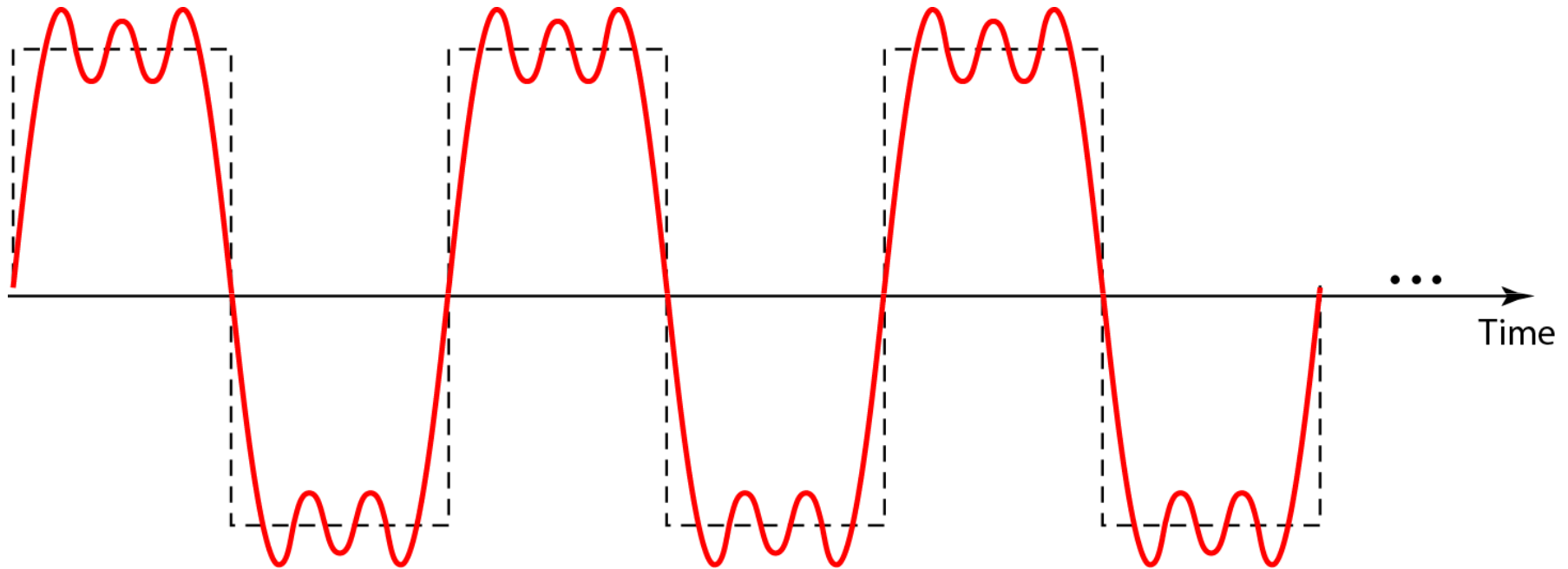


b. Frequency-domain representation of the same three signals

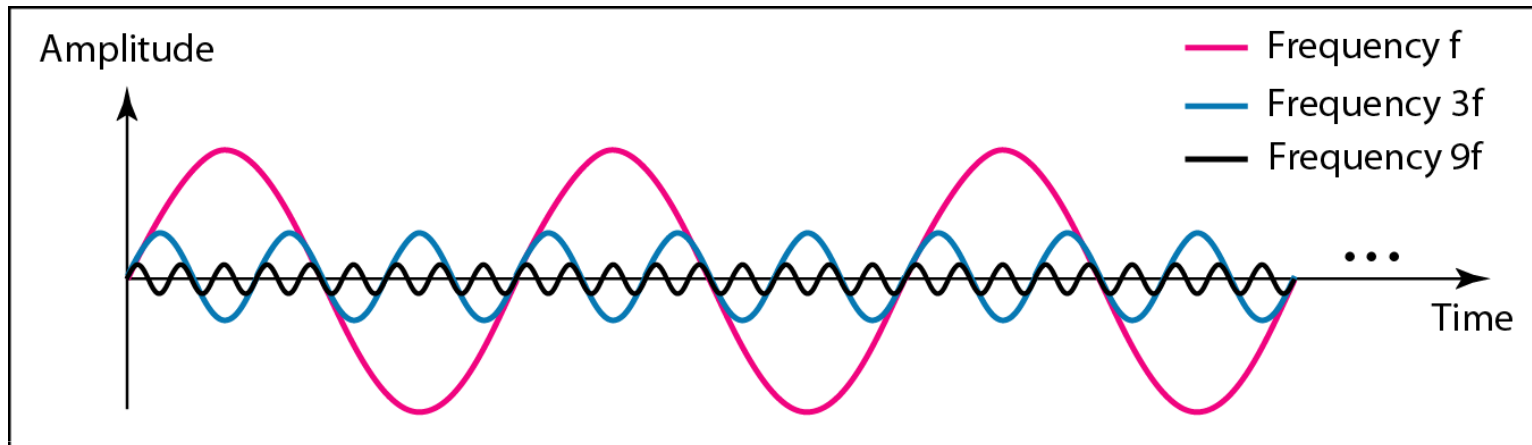
Signals and Communication

- A single-frequency sine wave is not useful in data communications
- We need to send a composite signal, a signal made of many simple sine waves.
- According to Fourier analysis, any composite signal is a combination of simple sine waves with different frequencies, amplitudes, and phases.

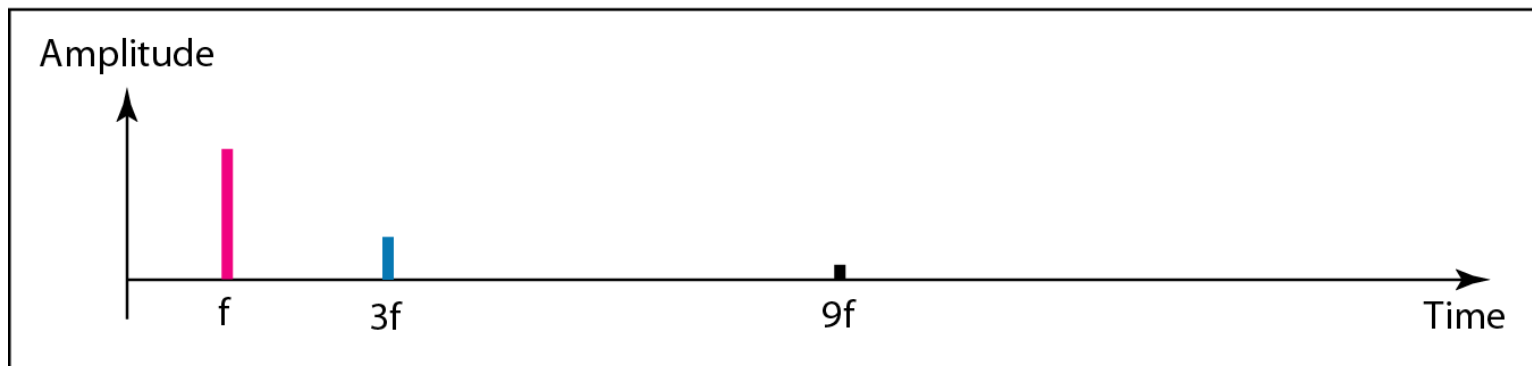
A composite periodic signal



Decomposition of a composite periodic signal in the time and frequency domains



a. Time-domain decomposition of a composite signal



b. Frequency-domain decomposition of the composite signal

Bandwidth and Signal Frequency

- The bandwidth of a composite signal is the difference between the highest and the lowest frequencies contained in that signal.



Example

- If a periodic signal is decomposed into five sine waves with frequencies of 100, 300, 500, 700, and 900 Hz, what is its bandwidth? Draw the spectrum, assuming all components have a maximum amplitude of 10 V.

Solution

- Let f_h be the highest frequency, f_l the lowest frequency, and B the bandwidth. Then

$$B = f_h - f_l = 900 - 100 = 800 \text{ Hz}$$

- The spectrum has only five spikes, at 100, 300, 500, 700, and 900 Hz

The bandwidth for Example

