

3rd Slide Set

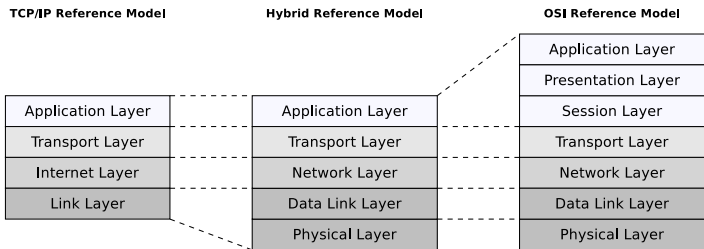
Computer Networks

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Physical Layer

- Functions of the Physical Layer
 - Bit transmission on wired or wireless transmission paths
 - Provides network technologies (e.g. Ethernet) and transmission media
 - Frames from the Data Link Layer are encoded with line codes into signals



Exercise sheet 2 repeats the contents of this slide set which are relevant for these learning objectives

- Devices: Repeater, Hub (Multiport Repeater)
- Protocols: Ethernet, Token Ring, WLAN, Bluetooth,...

Topology of Hubs

- **Physical topology**: Star network because of the cabling
- **Logical topology**: Bus network, because equal to a long cable, where all network devices are connected with, a Hub forwards incoming signals to all other interfaces
 - For this reason, each terminal device, which is connected to a Hub, can receive and analyze the entire traffic, passing the Hub
- Advantages of Hubs over the physical bus network topology:
 - Better reliability, because the failure of individual cable segments does not result in a complete network failure
 - Adding or removing network devices does not cause network interruptions
- All nodes in the network that are connected to a Hub, are located in the same **collision domain**

Cascading Hubs

- Hubs can be cascaded to allow a greater network expansion
- But Hubs cannot be cascaded infinitely
 - The **round-trip time (RTT)** must not be exceeded
 - This is the the period of time it takes for a Frame to be sent to the most distant point of the network plus the period of time it takes for an acknowledgment of that Frame to be received
 - The RTT depends on the data rate of the network
 - If the network becomes too large, the RTT will become too high
 - Then collisions occur more frequent and undetected collisions are possible

5-4-3 rule ⇐ applies only for Repeaters and Hubs!

- In a collision domain, 5 segments maximum can be connected
 - For this, a maximum of 4 Repeaters are used
 - Only at 3 segments, active senders (terminal devices) can be connected
-
- For Gigabit Ethernet (and faster standards), no more Hubs/Repeaters are specified

Non-Return-to-Zero (NRZ) – Baseline Wander

- Problem: Shift of the average signal level (**Baseline Wander**) when using NRZ
- The receiver distinguishes the physical signal levels by using the average signal level of a certain number of received signals
 - Signals below the average signal level, interprets the receiver as logical 0 bit
 - Signals above the average signal level, interprets the receiver as logical 1 bit
- When transmitting long sequences of logical 0 or 1 bits, the average signal level may shift so much, making it difficult to detect a change of the physical signal

Sources

- Steve Zdancewic (2004). <http://www.cis.upenn.edu/~cse331/Fall104/Lectures/CSE331-3.pdf>
- Charles Spurgeon, Joann Zimmerman. *Ethernet: The Definitive Guide*. O'Reilly (2014)

Detailed source, which explains baseline wander from the electrical engineering perspective

- Maxim Integrated (2008). *NRZ Bandwidth – LF Cutoff and Baseline Wander*. <http://pdfserv.maximintegrated.com/en/an/AN1738.pdf>

Avoid Baseline Wander

- In order to prevent **Baseline Wander**, when using a line code with 2 physical signal levels, the usage of both signal levels must be **distributed equally**
 - Therefore, the data to be transmitted must be encoded in a way, that the signal levels occur equally often
 - The data must be **scrambled**
- If a network technology uses 3 or 5 physical signal levels, the average signal level must match the middle signal level over the time

Non-Return-to-Zero – Clock Recovery

- Problem: **Clock Recovery** when using NRZ
- Even if the processes for encoding and decoding run on different computers, they need to be controlled by the same clock

You can imagine the local clock as an internal signal, switching from low to high. A low/high pair is a clock cycle

- In each clock cycle, the sender transmits a bit and the receiver receives a bit
- If the clocks of sender and receiver drift apart, the receiver may lose count during a sequence of logic 0 bits or 1 bits

Avoid the Problem of Clock Recovery

- One option: Using a **separate line, which transmits just the clock**

A network technology with a separate signal line just for the clock is the serial bus system I²C (Inter-Integrated Circuit)

But like comparable systems this bus system is only suited for local application and cannot be used to span large distances

- In computer networks, a separate signal line just for the clock is **not practical** because of the cabling effort
 - Instead, it is recommended to **increase the number of signal level changes** to enable the clock recovery from the data stream

The next slides present several line codes, which all...

- (more or less successful) try to solve the challenges of baseline wander and/or clock recovery
- must consider the limitations of the transmission medium used
 - Fiber-optic cables and wireless transmissions via infrared and laser provide just 2 physical signal levels
 - Copper cables and wireless transmissions via radio waves provide ≥ 2 physical signal levels

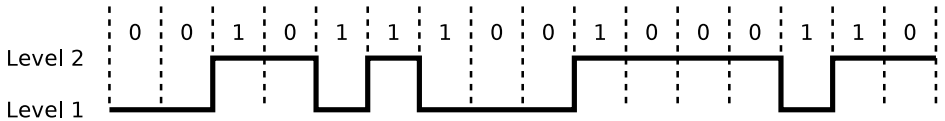
I will not discuss all Line Codes during Class!



- It makes no sense to show you all these line codes during class
 - It is not the best way to memorize the most important information about line codes
 - And it is boring
- Best practice is to do the line code related exercises from exercise sheet 2 by using the course material
 - I will assist you during the exercise sessions

Non-Return-to-Zero, Inverted (NRZI)

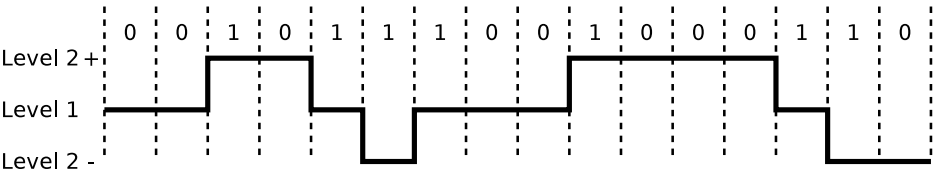
- Transmit a logical 1 bit \implies signal level change at the beginning of the clock
- Transmit a logical 0 bit \implies signal level remains unchanged for an entire clock
- **Clock recovery is impossible** for series of logical 0 bits
- The usage of the signal levels is not equally distributed
 - Therefore, **baseline wander can occur**



Implemented by Ethernet 100BASE-FX (Multi-mode fiber) and FDDI

Multilevel Transmission Encoding - 3 Levels (MLT-3)

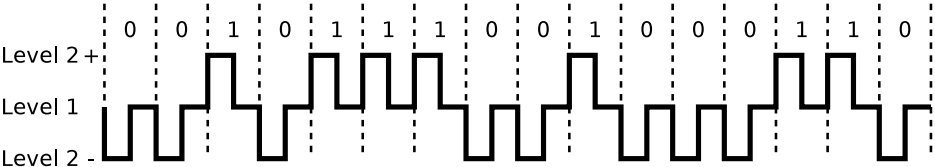
- This line code uses 3 signal levels +, 0 and -
 - If a logical 0 bit is transmitted, no signal level change takes place
 - A logical 1 bit is alternating encoded, according to the sequence [+ , 0 , - , 0]
- Just as for NRZI, the **clock recovery problem exists** with series of logical 0 bits and **baseline wander can occur**



Implemented by Ethernet 100BASE-TX

Return-to-Zero (RZ)

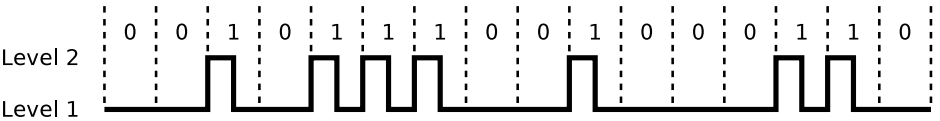
- RZ uses 3 signal levels too
 - Transmit a logical 1 bit \implies high signal level is transmitted for a half clock and then the signal level returns to the middle signal level
 - Transmit a logical 0 bit \implies low signal level is transmitted for a half clock and then the signal level returns to the middle signal level



- Advantage: Each transmitted bit causes a signal level change
 - Enables the receiver to do the **clock recovery** (synchronization)
- Drawbacks:
 - Requires **double as much bandwidth** compared with NRZ
 - **Baseline wander can occur** for series of logical 0 bits or 1 bits

Unipolar RZ Encoding

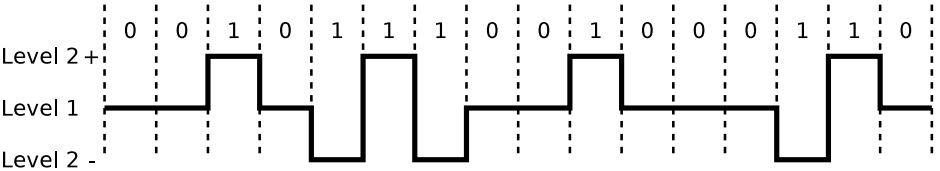
- Special form of return-to-zero (RZ)
 - Uses only 2 signal levels
 - Logical 0 bits are encoded as low signal level
 - Transmit a logical 1 bit \implies high signal level is transmitted for a half clock and then the signal level returns to the low signal level
- **Clock recovery is impossible** for series of logical 0 bits
- The usage of the different signal level is not equally distributed
 - Therefore **baseline wander can occur**



This line code is used for optical wireless data transmission via IrDA in the transmission mode SIR

Alternate Mark Inversion (AMI code) = Bipolar Encoding

- Uses 3 signal levels (+, 0 und -)
 - Logical 0 bits are encoded as middle signal level (0)
 - Logical 1 bits are alternating encoded as high (+) or low signal level (-)
- Benefit: **Baseline wander cannot occur**
- Drawback: **Clock recovery is impossible** for series of logical 0 bits
- Error detection is partly possible because the signal sequences ++, --, +0+ and -0- are illegal



AMI Line Code in Practice and Scramblers

The ISDN S_0 bus uses a modified version of the AMI line code

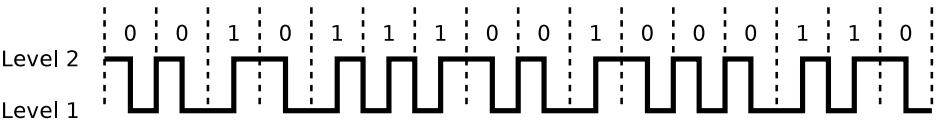
- With this variant, logical 1 bits are encoded as middle signal level and logical 0 bits are alternating encoded as high signal level or low signal level
- When the AMI line code is used, clock recovery is impossible for the receiver, if series of logical 0 bits are transmitted
 - For this reason, a **scrambler** is often used, after AMI line code encoding
 - A scrambler is a device, which modifies a bit stream according to a simple algorithm in a way, that it is simple to reverse back to the original bit stream
 - In this case, scramblers are used, to interrupt long series of logic 0 bits
 - This makes the clock recovery for the receiver possible

Bipolar With 8 Zeros Substitution (B8ZS)

- To avoid problems with long series of logic 0 bits, in practice, a slightly modified version of the AMI line code is used
⇒ **B8ZS**
- B8ZS prevents a loss of synchronization for longer series logical 0 bits by implementing 2 **modification rules** for sequences of 8 logical 0 bits
 - +00000000 is encoded as: +000+-0-+
 - -00000000 is encoded as: -000-+0+-
- In fact, both substitution rules are **code violations**
 - In both substitution rules, 2 positive and negative signal levels occur, one after another
 - This makes the substitutions for the receiver **recognizable**
- In contrast to AMI, **no scramblers are required**, when B8ZS is used
 - Reason: longer series of logical 0 bits are not a problem with B8ZS
- Just as with the AMI line code, **baseline wander cannot occur**

Manchester Encoding (1/2)

- Uses 2 signal levels
 - A logical 1 bit is encoded with a rising edge
 - Change from signal level 1 (low value) to signal level 2 (high value)
 - A logical 0 bit is encoded with a falling edge
 - Change from signal level 2 (high value) to signal level 1 (low value)
- If 2 identical bits follow each other, at the end of the bit cell, the signal level changes to the initial level
 - Bit cell = time period, that is reserved for the transmission of a single bit



10 Mbps Ethernet (e.g. 10BASE2 and 10BASE-T) uses this line code

Manchester Encoding (2/2)

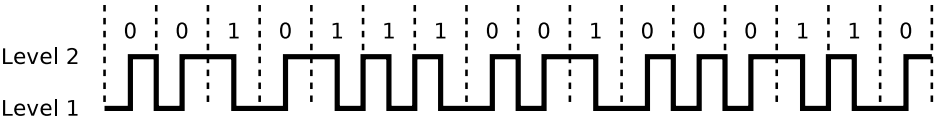
- Advantages:
 - Signal level changes happen all the time to allow clock recovery
⇒ **Clock recovery is no problem** for the receiver
 - The usage of the signal levels is equally distributed
⇒ **baseline wander cannot occur**
- Drawback: The transmission of a single bit requires on average 1.5 signal level changes

Because the number of level changes is a limiting factor of the transmission medium, modern network technologies don't use the Manchester encoding as line code

- For this line code, the bit rate is half the baud rate
 - Therefore, the efficiency of the line code is only 50 % compared to NRZ
- **Bitrate:** Transferred payload bits per time unit
- **Baud Rate:** Transferred symbols per second

Manchester II Encoding

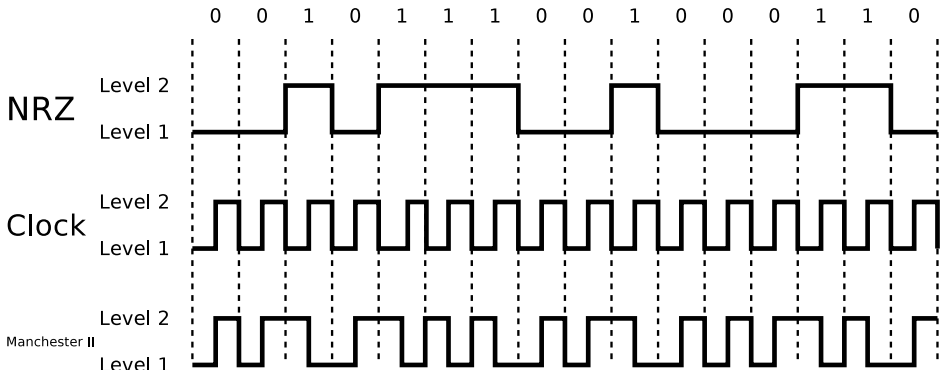
- This line code is the opposite of the Manchester encoding
 - Manchester encoding:
 - Transition from high to low signal corresponds to a logical 0 bit
 - Transition from low to high signal corresponds to a logical 1 bit
 - Manchester II encoding:
 - Transition from low to high signal corresponds to a logical 0 bit
 - Transition from high to low signal corresponds to a logical 1 bit
- Just as for the Manchester encoding, **clock recovery is possible** for the receiver and **baseline wander cannot occur** because the usage of the signal levels is distributed equally



Manchester II Code

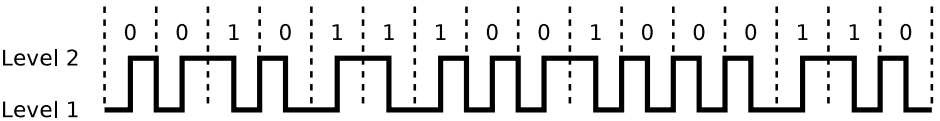
A	B	A XOR B
0	0	0
0	1	1
1	0	1
1	1	0

- The Manchester II encoding is calculated via exclusive or (XOR) of the NRZ encoded data and the clock



Differential Manchester Encoding

- Also called **Conditional DePhase encoding (CDP)**
 - Transmit a logical 1 bit \implies only in the middle of the bit cell changes the signal level
 - Transmit a logical 0 bit \implies a change of the signal level will take place at the beginning and in the middle of the bit cell
- In this variant of the Manchester encoding too, ...
 - is **clock recovery possible** for the receiver and
 - **baseline wander cannot occur**
- Depending on the initial signal level, **2 signal sequences, inverse to each other, are possible**



Token Ring (IEEE 802.5) uses this line code

Summary

- All line codes presented so far have drawbacks
- ① **Baseline wander**
 - Problem with series of logical 0 bits and 1 bits when NRZ is used
 - Problem with series of logical 0 bits when NRZI, MLT-3, Unipolar RZ and AMI are used
- ② **Clock recovery**
 - Not guaranteed when NRZ, NRZI, MLT-3, Unipolar RZ and AMI are used
- ③ **Lack of efficiency**
 - With the variants of the Manchester encoding

Possible Solution: Line Codes that encode Groups of Bits

- Modern network technologies encode the bit stream first with a line code that. . .
 - works **efficient**,
 - **ensures clock recovery** and
 - **avoids baseline wander**
- These encodings **improve** the bit stream in a way, that an encoding afterwards with the line codes NRZ, NRZI and MLT-3 does not result in any problems
- Examples of line codes, which improve the bit stream first, are 4B5B, 5B6B and 8B10B
 - These line codes encode fixed-size input blocks into fixed-size output blocks
- The objective is to achieve the positive characteristics of the Manchester encoding and a high efficiency at the same time

4B5B Encoding

- Maps groups of 4 payload bits onto groups of 5 code bits
 - With 5 bits, 32 different encodings are possible
 - Only 16 encodings are used for data (0–9 and A–F)
 - Some of the remaining 16 encodings are used for connection control
 - Because of the additional bit, added to each group of 4 bits payload, the output is increased by factor 5/4
 - Efficiency of the 4B5B encoding: 80%
 - Each 5-bit encoding has a maximum of a single leading 0 bit and in the output data stream, a maximum of three 0 bits in a row
 - Therefore, **clock recovery** for the receiver is **possible**
 - After the encoding with 4B5B, **another encoding** e.g. with NRZI or MLT-3 takes place
 - If 4B5B is combined with NRZI (for 2 signal levels) or with MLT-3 (for 3 signal levels), **baseline Wander cannot occur**
- Ethernet 100BASE-TX: After 4B5B, a further encoding with MLT-3 takes place
 - FDDI and Ethernet 100BASE-FX: After 4B5B, a further encoding with NRZI takes place

4B5B Encoding (Table)

Label	4B	5B	Function
0	0000	11110	0 hexadecimal (Payload)
1	0001	01001	1 hexadecimal (Payload)
2	0010	10100	2 hexadecimal (Payload)
3	0011	10101	3 hexadecimal (Payload)
4	0100	01010	4 hexadecimal (Payload)
5	0101	01011	5 hexadecimal (Payload)
6	0110	01110	6 hexadecimal (Payload)
7	0111	01111	7 hexadecimal (Payload)
8	1000	10010	8 hexadecimal (Payload)
9	1001	10011	9 hexadecimal (Payload)
A	1010	10110	A hexadecimal (Payload)
B	1011	10111	B hexadecimal (Payload)
C	1100	11010	C hexadecimal (Payload)
D	1101	11011	D hexadecimal (Payload)
E	1110	11100	E hexadecimal (Payload)
F	1111	11101	F hexadecimal (Payload)
Q	—	00000	Quiet (the line is gone dead) ⇒ Signal loss
I	—	11111	Idle (the line is idle) ⇒ Pause
J	—	11000	Start (Part 1)
K	—	10001	Start (Part 2)
T	—	01101	Stop (Part 1)
R	—	00111	Stop (Part 2) ⇒ Reset
S	—	11001	Set
H	—	00100	Halt (transmission failure)

- The missing 5-bit combinations are invalid because they contain more than a single leading 0 bits or more than two 0 bits in a row

If Fast Ethernet 100BASE-TX is used, frames begin with JK and end with TR

5B6B Encoding (1/2)

- Maps groups of 5 payload bits onto groups of 6 code bits
 - Of the 32 possible 5-bit words, 20 are mapped to 6-bit words that contain an equal number of 1 bits and 0 bits
⇒ **neutral inequality** (*balanced*)
 - For the remaining twelve 5-bit words, a variant with two 1 bits and four 0 bits and a variant with four 1 bits and two 0 bits exist
⇒ **positive or negative inequality** (*unbalanced*)
- As soon as the first 5-bit word without neutral inequality need to be encoded, the variant with the positive inequality is used
 - For encoding the next 5-bit word without neutral inequality, the variant with the negative inequality is used
 - The variants with positive or negative inequality alternate

5B6B Encoding (2/2)

- After the encoding with 5B6B, another encoding with NRZ takes place
 - This is possible, because if 5B6B is used, **clock recovery is possible** for the receiver and **baseline wander cannot occur**
- Advantage compared to the Manchester encoding: higher baud rate
 - Efficiency: $5/6 = 83.\bar{3}\%$

5B6B is used by Fast Ethernet 100Base-VG

5B6B Encoding (Table)

5B	6B neutral	6B positive	6B negative	5B	6B neutral	6B positive	6B negative
00000		001100	110011	10000		000101	111010
00001	101100			10001	100101		
00010		100010	101110	10010		001001	110110
00011	001101			10011	010110		
00100		001010	110101	10100	111000		
00101	010101			10101		011000	100111
00110	001110			10110	011001		
00111	001011			10111		100001	011110
01000	000111			11000	110001		
01001	100011			11001	101010		
01010	100110			11010		010100	101011
01011		000110	111001	11011	110100		
01100		101000	010111	11100	011100		
01101	011010			11101	010011		
01110		100100	011011	11110		010010	101101
01111	101001			11111	110010		

8B10B Encoding

- Maps groups of 8 payload bits onto groups of 10 code bits
 - Thus, the efficiency is 80%
- Each 8B10B encoding is composed in a way, that in the groups of 10 code bits either...
 - Five 0 bits and five 1 bits occur \implies neutral inequality
 - Six 0 bits and four 1 bits occur \implies positive inequality
 - Four 0 bits and six 1 bits occur \implies negative inequality
- After the encoding with 8B10B, another encoding via NRZ takes place
 - **Baseline wander cannot occur**, because some of the $2^8 = 256$ possible 8-bit words can be encoded in 2 different ways
 - This way, inequalities are compensated
- Each 10-bit encoding contains at least 3 signal level changes and at the latest after 5 clock cycles, the signal level changes
 - This **enables** the receiver **to do clock recovery**

Used by Gigabit-Ethernet 1000Base-CX, -SX, -LX, FibreChannel, InfiniBand, DisplayPort, FireWire 800 (IEEE 1394b) and USB 3.0

8B6T Encoding

- 8B6T = Binary 6 Ternary
 - Useful for network technologies, that use > **2 signal levels**
- This line code encodes 8-bit blocks as groups of 6 symbols, where each one can represent the state -, 0 or +
 - The symbols of the states represent electrical signal levels
- The encoding is carried out by using a table, which contains all $2^8 = 256$ possible 8-bit combinations
 - The table shows, that the output of 8B6T makes **baseline wander impossible**, and the frequent signal level changes make **clock recovery possible** for the receiver
- In contrast to 4B5B, 5B6B and 8B10B, which only *improve* the payload and require an encoding with NRZ(I) or MLT-3 afterwards, 8B6T encoded data **can be used directly for transmission**

Fast-Ethernet 100BASE-T4 uses this line code

8B6T Encoding (Table)

8-bit sequence	8B6T code	8-bit sequence	8B6T code	8-bit sequence	8B6T code
00	+--00+-	10	+0+--0	20	00-++-
01	0+--+0	11	++0-0-	21	---+00+
02	+--0+-0	12	+0+-0-	22	++-0+-
03	-0++-0	13	0++-0-	23	++-0-+
04	-0+0+-	14	0+--0-	24	00+0-+
05	0+--0+	15	++00--	25	00+0+-
06	+--0-0+	16	+0+0--	26	00-00+
07	-0+-0+	17	0++0--	27	---+++-
08	--+00+-	18	0+-0+-	28	-0-++0
09	0-++-0	19	0+-0-+	29	--0+0+
0A	--+0+-0	1A	0+---+-	2A	-0-+0+
0B	+0-+-0	1B	0+-00+	2B	0---+0+
0C	+0-0+-	1C	0-+00+	2C	0---+0+
0D	0-+-0+	1D	0-++++-	2D	--00++
0E	--+0-0+	1E	0-+0-+	2E	-0-0++
0F	+0--0+	1F	0-+0+-	2F	0--0++

etc.

Summary

Line code	Signal levels	Baseline wander possible	Signal level change	Self-synchronizing ¹	Efficiency ²	Directly transferable	Additional encoding
NRZ	2	yes	at changes	no	100%	no	—
NRZI	2	yes	for 1-bits	no	75%	no	—
MLT-3	3	yes	for 1-bits	no	100%	no	—
RZ	3	yes	always	yes	50%	no	—
Unip. RZ	2	yes	for 1-bits	no	75%	no	—
AMI	3	no	for 1-bits	no	100%	no	Scrambler
B8ZS	3	no	for 1-bits	yes	100%	yes	—
Manchester	2	no	always	yes	50%	yes	—
Manchester II	2	no	always	yes	50%	yes	—
Diff. Manch.	2	yes	always	yes	50%	yes	—
4B5B	2	yes	—	yes	80%	no	NRZI or MLT-3
5B6B	2	no	—	yes	$83.\bar{3}\%$	no	NRZ
8B10B	2	no	—	yes	80%	no	NRZ
8B6T	3	no	—	yes	100%	yes	—

¹ Specifies if the clock recovery is possible with this line code.

² Ratio of bit rate (payload in bits per time) and baud rate (signal changes per second).