

SYMBOL ERROR PROBABILITY OF 16-QAM SYSTEM OVER AWGN AND RAYLEIGH FADING CHANNELS

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ABSTRACT

Wireless communication had transformed the mode of human interactions in recent times, distance is no longer a barrier as messages can be sent several miles apart within few seconds. In addition, the pervasive adoption of mobile communication system had engendered researchers to device new and effective technologies to enhance Quality of Service (QoS) offered by service providers. This is obvious in the deployment of trending mobile generations such as 2G, 3G and 4G systems for high speed voice and data services. Nevertheless, these systems are still embattled with unpredictable impairment such as noise in fading channels that impedes optimal system performance. In this paper, performance evaluation of 16-Quadrature Amplitude Modulation (16-QAM) system over Additive White Gaussian Noise (AWGN) and Rayleigh Channels using simulated and theoretical approach is presented. Theoretical mathematical expression for Symbol Error Rate (SER) was derived, and simulation was setup using MATLAB/SIMULINK for performance evaluation. The results show that SER is dependent on signal-noise-ratio (SNR) for both methods. However, SER was very high for Rayleigh channel as compared with AWGN.

Keywords: Symbol error probability, Quadrature amplitude modulation, Rayleigh fading, wireless communication, noise

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INTRODUCTION

The evolution of wireless communication in the last two decades had facilitated widespread adoption of wireless systems for effective means of disseminating information to one another on real time bases irrespective of distance. (Essop & Xu, 2015). Currently, many smart phones and mobile devices have up to eight radios optimized for receiving signals from different frequency bands, such as WiFi (2.4GHz), LTE (Long Time Evolution, 800 MHz), GSM (Global System for Mobile Communication, 900MHz), Bluetooth (2.4GHz), FM radio (100 MHz) and many more (Stewart, Barlee, Atkinson, & Crockett, 2015). However, certain unavoidable circumstances deter these systems from achieving optimum

performance. Inherently, a communication system consist of a transmitter, a channel and a receiver. The radio channel between the transmitter and receiver varies from line-of-sight to multipath fading channel due to obstruction from building, trees, mountains and other high objects. The randomness in the mobile channel is the core characteristic that make it differ from predictable stationary wired channel. In essence, communication channels suffer from impairments such as noise, attenuation, distortion, fading and interference that often results into receiving signals with errors (Proakis & Salehi, 2008). However, the characteristics of a communication channel determine which impairments apply to that particular channel and which are the determining

factors in the performance of the channel.

Noise is present in all communication channels and it is the major impairment in many communication systems, so the effect of noise on the reliability and performance of modulation systems cannot be ignored. It is therefore pertinent to investigate the isolated effect of noise on communication system using a simple model of noise such as Additive White Gaussian noise (AWGN) channel model to achieve the fundamental understanding of noise effects on digital systems. Similarly, Rayleigh distribution is adopted to describe the statistical fluctuations of signals received from a multipath fading channel. In literatures, symbol error probability of quadrature amplitude modulation (QAM) system over AWGN and fading channels such as Rayleigh fading channel were examine using different modeling approaches. In the paper (Kim, Kim, Jeong, Mun, & Lee, 1996), the authors derived the symbol error probability for QAM with L- fold space diversity in Rayleigh fading channels. They proposed two combining techniques, maximal ratio combining (MRC) and selection combining (SC), which overcomes the limitations of deriving the symbol error rate (SER) of QAM with two branch MRC space diversity. Analytical results showed that the probability of error decreases with the order of diversity, and the incremental diversity gain per additional branch decreases as the number of branches becomes larger. Hua Yu and co-worker in their paper (Yu & Wei, 2010), derived the exact SEP performance of cross QAM in Rayleigh flat fading channels. The closed-form SEP expression obtained is simple and details only basic functions. Furthermore, their simulation produced results similar to analytical results.

In addition, (Chy & Khaliluzzaman, 2015), investigated the evaluation of signal-to-noise ratio (SNR) in terms of constant bit error rate on AWGN, Rayleigh and Rician fading channels. The simulation showed that, Rician shows better performance as compared to AWGN and Rayleigh. (Omijeh & Eyo, 2016) performed a comparative study of bit error rate of different M-ary (M-PAM, M-PSK, and M-QAM) (M = 2, 4, 8, 16, 32, and 64) Modulation Techniques in AWGN Channel. The analysis of the graphical illustration of Eb/No vs BER of these M- PSK schemes showed that increase in the value of M causes a corresponding

increase in the error rate. This paper present an in-depth analysis of 16-QAM system over AWGN and Rayleigh channels using simulation and theoretical approach. QAM modulation technique is a two dimensional modulation technique and it requires two orthonormal basis functions which allows two different signals to be sent simultaneously on the same carrier frequency. In other words, the amplitude is allowed to vary with the phase. Interestingly, QAM is a digital communication modulation technique extensively used in modern wireless communication system, such as WiMax, LTE, WCDMA, HSDPA/HSUPA, etc. (Ezea, Adebuseyi, Ofusori, & Ezea, 2018; Ndujiuba, Oni, & Ibaze, 2015) and investigating its performance is sequential to achieving improved voice and data services in contemporary communication systems.

Mathematical Model of QAM system

Quadrature Amplitude Modulation is a popular system of attaining high data rates in bandwidth channels that are limited. It is characterized by two data signals that are 90° out of phase with each other. M-ary QAM has become dominant over the years due to the high spectral efficiency. For a QAM system, the transmitted signal can be expressed as follows:

$$s_m(t) = \text{Re}[(A_{mi} + jA_{mq})g(t)e^{j2\pi ft}] = A_{mi}g(t)\cos 2\pi ft - A_{mq}g(t)\sin 2\pi ft \quad (1)$$

where A_{mi} and A_{mq} are the information bearing signal amplitudes of the quadrature carriers and $g(t)$ is the signal pulse shape.

In vector representation,

$$s_m = (s_{mi} + s_{mq}) \\ = (A_{mi} \sqrt{\frac{E_g}{2}}, A_{mq} \sqrt{\frac{E_g}{2}})$$

where E_g = energy content of signal $g(t)$ for bandpass signal.

$$E_m = \|s_m\|^2 = \frac{E_g}{2} (A_{mi}^2 + A_{mq}^2)$$

where E_m is the energy content of $s_m(t)$ (2)
The Euclidean distance between any pair of signal vector in QAM is

$$d_{mn} = \sqrt{\|s_m - s_n\|^2} = \sqrt{\frac{E_g}{2} [(A_{mi} - A_{ni})^2 + (A_{mq} - A_{nq})^2]}$$

where S_m and S_n are the signal vectors at point m and n , respectively.

For a case of rectangular constellation as shown in Fig 1, the minimum distance (d_{\min}) between adjacent points

$$d_{\min} = \sqrt{\frac{6 \log_2 M}{M-1} E_{b \text{ avg}}} \quad (3)$$

(Proakis & Salehi, 2008)
 $E_{b \text{ avg}}$ = average signal energy.

Error Probability of QAM System

Using rectangular constellation, M -ary QAM = $2 \sqrt{M}$ -ary PAM. The probabilities of correct decision in QAM is the product of correct decision of the two PAM systems.

$$\text{i.e. } P_{cM-QAM} = P_{c\sqrt{M}-PAM}^2 = (1 - P_{e\sqrt{M}-PAM})^2$$

Where P_{cM-QAM} = probability of correct decision for QAM

$P_{c\sqrt{M}-PAM}$ = probability of correct decision for PAM

$P_{e\sqrt{M}-PAM}$ = Symbol error probability (SEP) or probability of wrong decision for PAM

$$\therefore P_{eM-QAM} = 1 - (1 - P_{e\sqrt{M}-PAM})^2 = 2P_{e\sqrt{M}-PAM} \left(1 - \frac{1}{2} P_{e\sqrt{M}-PAM}\right) \quad (5)$$

P_{eM-QAM} = Symbol error probability (SEP) for QAM

But

$$P_e = \sum_m p_m P[\text{error}|_m] = \text{symbol error probability.}$$

For equiprobable signal $P_e = \frac{1}{M} \sum_m P[\text{error}|_m]$

In PAM systems there are $(M-2)$ inner point and 2 outer points in the constellation. Therefore there two forms of errors as thus:

$$P_{ein} = P[n > \frac{1}{2} d_{\min}] \text{ and } P_{eout} = \frac{1}{2} P_{ein}$$

for inner and outer point respectively

$$\text{Hence } P_{eM-PAM} = \frac{1}{M} [(M-1)P_{ein} + 2P_{eout}] \quad (7)$$

AWGN Channel Model

Additive White Gaussian Noise channel can be model using standard normal random variable, having a probability density function:

$$f_X(x) = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2\pi}} e^{-x^2/2} \quad (8)$$

Using (8) and noise variable n with zero mean and variance

$$\sigma^2 = \frac{N_0}{2}, \text{ where } N_0 \text{ is the noise component}$$

$$\Rightarrow P_{ein} = \frac{1}{\sqrt{\pi N_0}} \int_{-\infty}^x e^{-\frac{(d_{\min}/2)^2}{N_0}} dn$$

where dn = distance of noise variable.

$$\text{Let } x = \frac{-d_{\min}}{\sqrt{2N_0}}, \quad x = \frac{-d(d_{\min})}{\sqrt{2N_0}} = dx,$$

$$dn = d(d_{\min}) = -\sqrt{2N_0} dx \quad (9)$$

By changing boundary using (9)

$$P_{ein} = \frac{-2}{\sqrt{2\pi}} \int_{-\infty}^{-\frac{d_{\min}}{\sqrt{2N_0}}} e^{-\frac{x^2}{2}} dx = \frac{2}{\sqrt{2\pi}} \int_{\frac{d_{\min}}{\sqrt{2N_0}}}^{\infty} e^{-\frac{x^2}{2}} dx$$

$$P_{ein} = 2Q\left(\frac{d_{\min}}{\sqrt{2N_0}}\right), \quad P_{eout} = \frac{P_{ein}}{2} = Q\left(\frac{d_{\min}}{\sqrt{2N_0}}\right) \quad (10)$$

Using (10) in (7)

$$P_{eM-PAM} = \frac{1}{M} [2(M-1)Q\left(\frac{d_{\min}}{\sqrt{2N_0}}\right) + 2Q\left(\frac{d_{\min}}{\sqrt{2N_0}}\right)] = 2\left(1 - \frac{1}{M}\right)Q\left(\frac{d_{\min}}{\sqrt{2N_0}}\right)$$

$$\text{Hence } P_{e\sqrt{M}-PAM} = 2\left(1 - \frac{1}{\sqrt{M}}\right)Q\left(\frac{d_{\min}}{\sqrt{2N_0}}\right) \quad (11)$$

Putting (11) into (5)

$$P_{eM-QAM} = 4\left(1 - \frac{1}{\sqrt{M}}\right)Q\left(\frac{d_{\min}}{\sqrt{2N_0}}\right) \left[1 - \left(1 - \frac{1}{\sqrt{M}}\right)Q\left(\frac{d_{\min}}{\sqrt{2N_0}}\right)\right] \quad (12)$$

Substituting (3) into (12)

$$P_{eM-QAM} = 4\left(1 - \frac{1}{\sqrt{M}}\right)Q\left(\sqrt{\frac{3 \log_2 M}{M-1} \frac{E_{b \text{ avg}}}{N_0}}\right) - 4\left(1 - \frac{1}{\sqrt{M}}\right)^2 Q^2\left(\sqrt{\frac{3 \log_2 M}{M-1} \frac{E_{b \text{ avg}}}{N_0}}\right) \quad (13)$$

For 16 QAM, $M=16$, (16) becomes

$$P_{e16-QAM-AWGN} = 3Q\left(\sqrt{\frac{4}{5} \frac{E_{b \text{ avg}}}{N_0}}\right) - \frac{9}{4} Q^2\left(\sqrt{\frac{4}{5} \frac{E_{b \text{ avg}}}{N_0}}\right) \quad (14)$$

$$\text{But } Q(x) = \frac{1}{2} \text{erfc}\left(\frac{x}{\sqrt{2}}\right)$$

$$\text{Hence, } P_{e16-QAM-AWGN} = 1.5 \text{erfc}\left(\sqrt{0.4 \frac{E_{b \text{ avg}}}{N_0}}\right) - 1.125 \text{erfc}^2\left(\sqrt{0.4 \frac{E_{b \text{ avg}}}{N_0}}\right) \quad (15)$$

(15) is the expression for theoretical Symbol Error Probability (SEP) for 16QAM in AWGN channel

Rayleigh Channel Model

For Rayleigh channel, SEP can be expressed as follows:

$$P_{Ray} = \int_0^{\infty} P_e(\gamma) P_{\gamma}(\gamma) d\gamma \quad (16)$$

$P_e(\gamma)$ is the conditional SEP, for 16-QAWGN, $P_e(\gamma) = P_{e16-QAM_AWGN}(\gamma)$

$$P_{e16-QAM_AWGN}(\gamma) = 3Q\left(\sqrt{\frac{4}{5}}\gamma\right) - \frac{9}{4}Q^2\left(\sqrt{\frac{4}{5}}\gamma\right) \quad (17)$$

$$P_{\gamma}(\gamma) = \frac{1}{\gamma_0} e^{-\frac{\gamma}{\gamma_0}} \quad (18)$$

γ and γ_0 are Signal-to-noise ratio (SNR) and average SNR, respectively

$$\text{Also } Q(x) = \frac{1}{\pi} \int_0^{\frac{\pi}{2}} e^{-\left[\frac{x^2}{2\sin^2\theta}\right]} d\theta \quad (19)$$

$$Q^2(x) = \frac{1}{\pi} \int_0^{\frac{\pi}{4}} e^{-\left[\frac{x^2}{2\sin^2\theta}\right]} d\theta \quad (20) \quad (\text{Marvin K. Simon, 2000})$$

Using (17), (19) and (20) in (16)

$$P_{e16-QAM_Rayleigh} = \frac{3}{\pi} \int_0^{\frac{\pi}{2}} \int_0^{\infty} e^{-\left[\frac{0.8\gamma}{2\sin^2\theta}\right]} P_{\gamma}(\gamma) d\gamma - \frac{9}{4\pi} \int_0^{\frac{\pi}{4}} \int_0^{\infty} e^{-\left[\frac{0.8\gamma}{2\sin^2\theta}\right]} P_{\gamma}(\gamma) d\gamma \quad (21)$$

$$\text{Let } F_{\gamma}(s) = \int_0^{\infty} e^{-s\gamma} P_{\gamma}(\gamma) d\gamma \quad \text{a replica of Laplace Transform} \quad (22a)$$

$$F_{\gamma}(s) = \int_0^{\infty} e^{-s\gamma} \frac{1}{\gamma_0} e^{-\frac{\gamma}{\gamma_0}} d\gamma = \frac{1}{1+s\gamma_0} \quad (22b)$$

Let $s = \frac{0.8}{2\sin^2\theta}$ and comparing (22a) and (22b) with (21)

$$\begin{aligned} P_{e16-QAM_Rayleigh} &= \frac{3}{\pi} \int_0^{\frac{\pi}{2}} F_{\gamma}\left(\frac{0.8\gamma}{2\sin^2\theta}\right) d\theta - \frac{9}{4\pi} \int_0^{\frac{\pi}{4}} F_{\gamma}\left(\frac{0.8\gamma}{2\sin^2\theta}\right) d\theta \\ &= \frac{3}{\pi} \int_0^{\frac{\pi}{2}} \left(1 + \frac{0.8\gamma_0}{2\sin^2\theta}\right)^{-1} d\theta - \frac{9}{4\pi} \int_0^{\frac{\pi}{4}} \left(1 + \frac{0.8\gamma_0}{2\sin^2\theta}\right)^{-1} d\theta \\ &= P_{e16-QAM_Rayleigh}(1) - P_{e16-QAM_Rayleigh}(2) \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned} P_{e16-QAM_Rayleigh}(1) &= \frac{3}{\pi} \int_0^{\frac{\pi}{2}} \left(1 + \frac{0.8\gamma_0}{2\sin^2\theta}\right)^{-1} d\theta \\ &= \frac{3}{2} - \frac{3}{\pi} \int_0^{\frac{\pi}{2}} \left(\frac{0.8\gamma_0}{2\sin^2\theta + 0.8\gamma_0}\right) d\theta \end{aligned} \quad (23)$$

$$\text{Let } \tan\theta = t, \frac{dt}{d\theta} = \sec^2\theta = 1 + \tan^2\theta = 1 + t^2, d\theta = \frac{1}{1+t^2} dt \text{ and } \sin\theta = \frac{t}{\sqrt{1+t^2}} \quad (24)$$

Putting all the expressions in (24) in (23)

$$\begin{aligned} P_{e16-QAM_Rayleigh}(1) &= \frac{3}{2} - \frac{3}{\pi} 0.8\gamma_0 \int_0^{\frac{\pi}{2}} \frac{1+t^2}{0.8\gamma_0 + (2+0.8\gamma_0)t^2} \times \frac{1}{1+t^2} dt \\ &= \frac{3}{2} \left(1 - \sqrt{\frac{0.8\gamma_0}{2+0.8\gamma_0}}\right) \end{aligned}$$

Using the same approach for $P_{e16-QAM_Rayleigh}(2)$,

$$P_{e16-QAM_Rayleigh}(2) = \frac{9}{16} \left[1 - \sqrt{\frac{0.8\gamma_0}{2+0.8\gamma_0}} \left(\frac{4}{\pi} \tan^{-1} \sqrt{\frac{2+0.8\gamma_0}{0.8\gamma_0}}\right)\right]$$

Hence,

$$P_{e16-QAM_Rayleigh} = \frac{3}{2} \left(1 - \sqrt{\frac{0.8\gamma_0}{2+0.8\gamma_0}}\right) - \frac{9}{16} \left[1 - \sqrt{\frac{0.8\gamma_0}{2+0.8\gamma_0}} \left(\frac{4}{\pi} \tan^{-1} \sqrt{\frac{2+0.8\gamma_0}{0.8\gamma_0}}\right)\right] \quad (25)$$

(25) is the expression for theoretical Symbol Error Probability (SEP) for 16QAM in Rayleigh channel

MATLAB Simulation

The simulation for the purpose of achieving the aim of this research is done using MATLAB / Simulink model. Function were also developed and employed to carry out the experiment. The Simulink model is shown in Fig. 2 and Fig. 3. As illustrated, random integers were generated to represent transmitted symbols which were modulated using rectangular QAM modulator object before transmitting over AWGN and Rayleigh channels object models. The code snippet of the simulation is as follows:

```
for i = 1:length(EbNo)
    received Signal Awgn = awgn (data Mod, Eb No Lin(I),'
    measured'); s Plot Fig = scatter plot (received Signal
    Awgn,1,0,'g');
    hold on
    scatter plot (dataMod,1,0,'k*',sPlotFig)
    title(['Constellation of Transmitted Symbols for SNR =
    ',num2str(EbNoLin(i)), ' in AWGN channel']);
    data Symbols Out Awgn = qamdemod (received Signal
    Awgn, M,0, 'bin');
    [sym Error Num(i), sym Error Ratio(i)] = symerr (data
    Symbols In, data Symbols Out Awgn);
    end sym Error Ratio Ray leigh=[];
    for i = 1:11,
    sym Error Ratio Ray leigh= [symError Ratio Ray leigh
    QAM_rayleigh 2 (M, Eb No (i))];
    end figure(1);
```



```

semilogy (EbNo, symError Ratio,'xr-', 'Line width',2);
hold on;
xlabel ('Eb / No (dB)');
ylabel ('SER');
title ('SER Vs Eb / No plot for 16-QAM Modulation in
AWGN and Rayleigh Channel!');
figure(1);
semilogy (EbNo, Pe_sim, 'g-+', 'Line width',2);
% Theoretical SER
SER_16QM_AWGN = 3*qfunc(sqrt(0.8*EbNoLin2))-
(9/4)*qfunc(sqrt(0.8*EbNoLin2)).*
qfunc(sqrt(0.8*EbNoLin2));
Semilogy (EbNo,SER_16QM_AWGN,'b-+', 'Linewidth',2);
SER_16QM_Rayleigh = 1.5.*(1 - sqrt ((0.8.*EbNoLin2).
/(2+0.8.*EbNoLin2)))- 0.5625.*(1 -sqrt ((0.8.*EbNoLin2).
/(2+0.8.*EbNoLin2)).*((4/pi).*atan(sqrt((2+0.8.*EbNoLin
)/(0.8.*EbNoLin2)))));
semilogy (EbNo,SER_16QM_Rayleigh,'y-
+', 'Linewidth',2);
grid on; legend ('AWGN Sim', 'Rayleigh Sim', 'AWGN
Theory', 'Rayleigh Theory');

```

Result and Discussion

In order to evaluate SEP of 16-QAM system over AWGN and Rayleigh fading channels, the values of SEP with respect to ratio of bit energy to noise power spectral density (E_b/N_o) which is a function of SNR is noted and recorded. As shown in Fig. 6, the plot of SEP over E_b/N_o details the effect of SNR on performance of the system. It is observed that for both theoretical and simulation models, SEP reduces as SNR increases over the two channels. It is also germane to note that simulation results trail that of theoretical expression closely, confirming the correctness of the results. However, SEP is higher in Rayleigh channel as compared to AWGN channel. Consequently, wireless systems have poor SEP performance because of fading. This is also corroborated with the constellation plot of Fig. 4 and Fig. 5 which depicts the signal received over AWGN and Rayleigh channel at SNR value of 22.0206 respectively. The constellations reveal that information containing signal can still be detected for AWGN with simple processing which is not achievable with the same SNR in Rayleigh channel. In essence, to achieve the performance of AWGN over Rayleigh channel, signal power needs to be increased in the multiple of thousands of power required to transmit over wired system. This in turn incur high cost and complexity on system design and implementation.

Conclusions

This paper has thoroughly considered the performance of 16-QAM system over two fundamental channel models V is: AWGN and Rayleigh using simulated and theoretical approach. Mathematical expressions were derived for SEP of 16QAM system over both channels using probability and communication theories. Also, Matlab functions were developed to model and generate symbol error rate probability (SEP) data of each channel for performance analysis. Using these theoretical and simulated data, plot of SEP against the signal to noise ratio (SNR) was presented. It was observed that the system has better performance over AWGN channel as compared with Rayleigh channel. The result validated known challenges of poor performance of communication systems over wireless channels. To enjoy high throughput and better spectra efficiency, scheme such as diversity and maximum ratio combining (MCR) can be employed for multiple-input multiple-output (MIMO) systems to neutralise the effective of multipath fading.

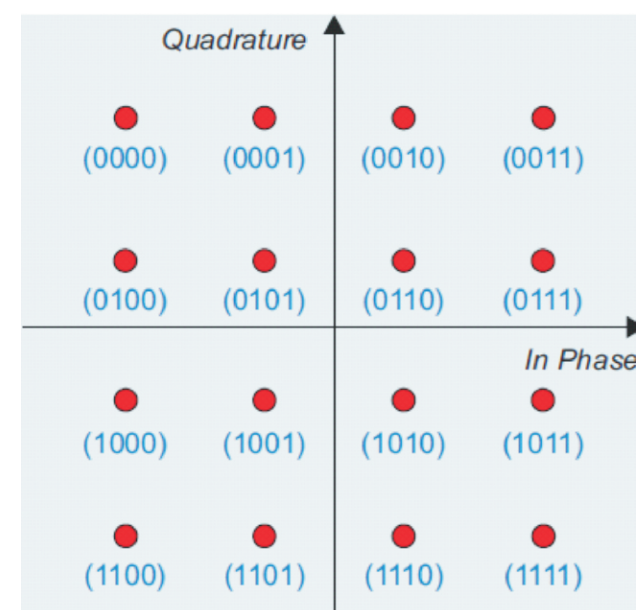


Fig. 1: 16-QAM Rectangular Constellation

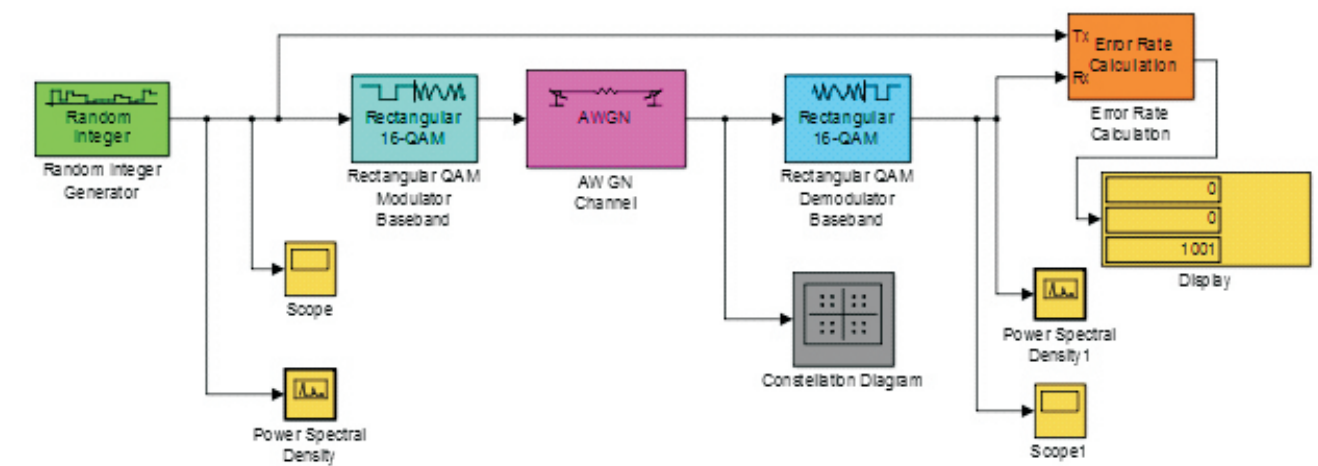


Fig. 2: Simulink Model of 16-QAM over AWGN Channel

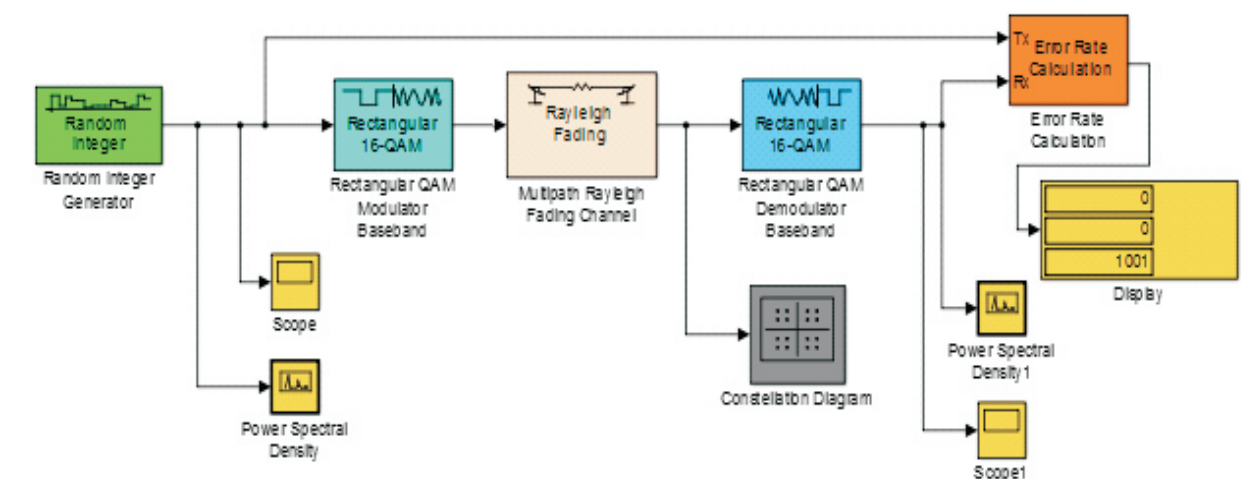


Fig. 3: Simulink Model of 16-QAM over Rayleigh Channel

Constellation of Transmitted Symbols for SNR = 22.0206 in AWGN channel

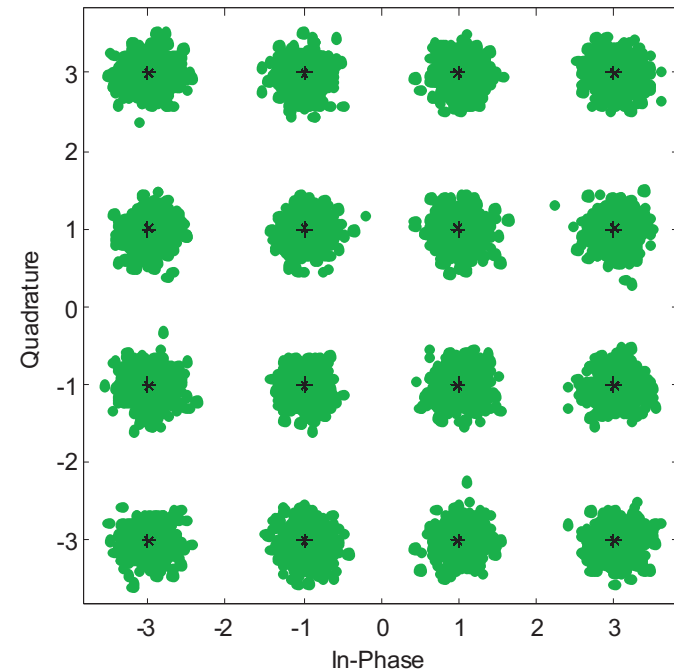


Fig. 4: Constellation of Transmitted Symbols over AWGN

Constellation of Transmitted Symbols for SNR = 22.0206 in Rayleigh channel

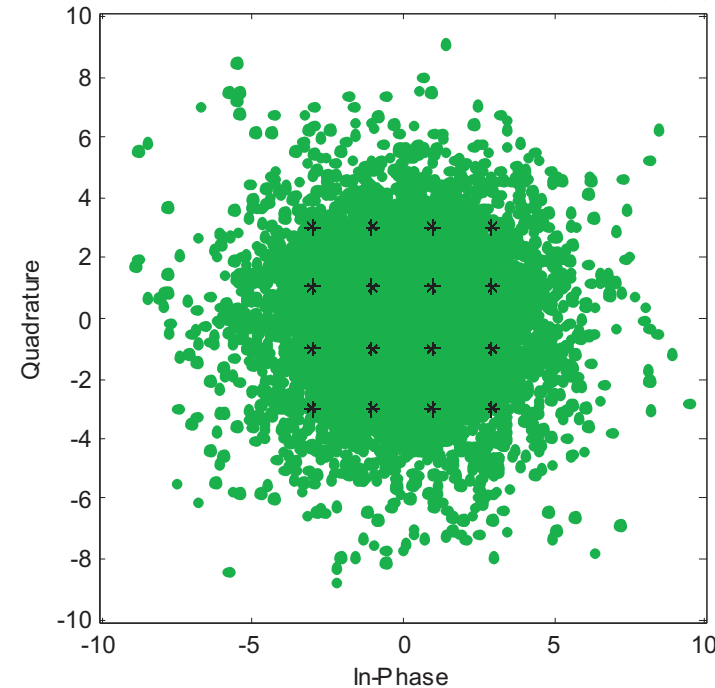


Fig.5: Constellation of Transmitted Symbols over Rayleigh

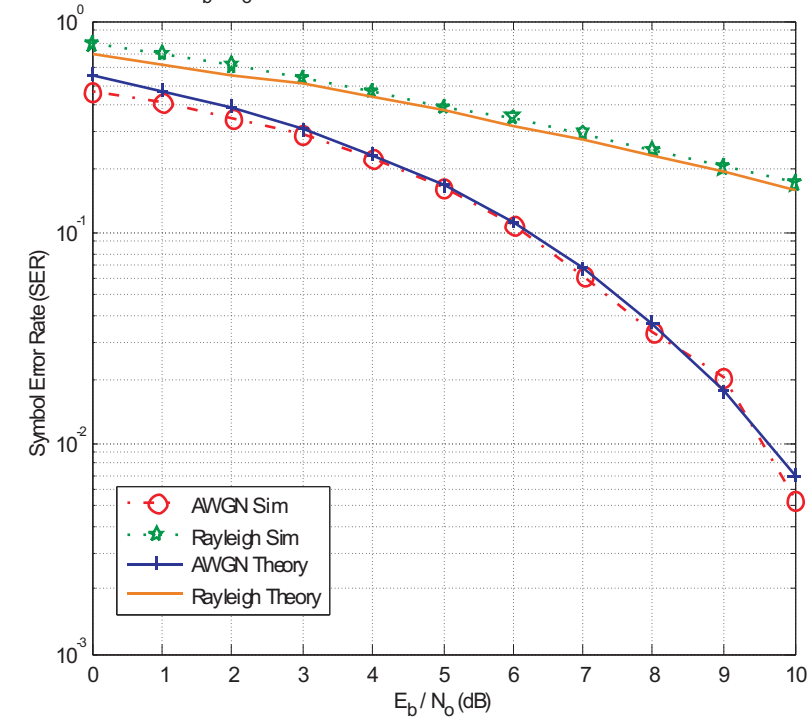
SER Vs E_b/N_0 plot for 16-QAM Modulation over AWGN and Rayleigh Channel

Fig. 6: SER versus Eb/No Plot

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