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Abstract			
Purpose			
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Constellation Errors and Receiver SNR

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Introduction

The required constellation errors for the OFDM PHY (section 8.4.9.1.2 table 116bi) are too high. For instance, the required constellation error for QAM64 rate $\frac{3}{4}$ is 34.4dB. This may be beyond the capabilities of some low cost radio chip sets.

These values are derived tables by adding 10dB to the receiver SNR values (8.4.10.1 table 116bk). The problem is that the required SNR values are also too high. This may be OK for receiver sensitivity (i.e. maintain some implementation margin) but we should not derive the transmitter requirements from these relaxed values, or we may over specify the transmitter.

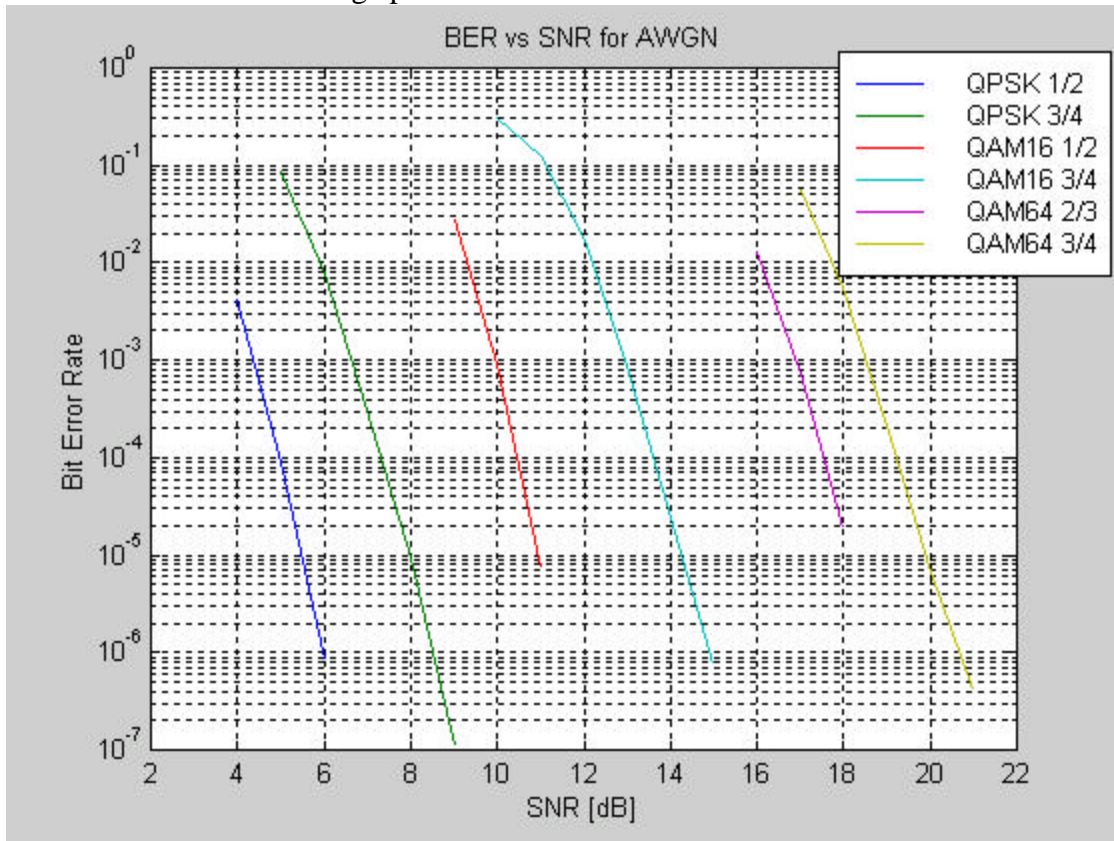
We agree with the concept of requiring constellation errors to be 10dB above receiver SNR. This results in a degradation of 0.4dB for the AWGN and more in the case of multipath. We should, however, use realistic SNR values.

Realistic SNR values

To determine the realistic SNR values the result of simulations are shown. The simulation conditions are:

1. Mandatory CC+RS coding.
2. Full BW
3. 400 bytes packets. 20K packets were simulated. (64Mbits)
4. Channel estimation from preamble.
5. No frequency offsets, quantization effects phase noise etc. (These are considered part of implementation loss).

The results are shown in the graph and table below¹.



Modulation	Coding rate	Required SNR for BER=1e-6 [dB]
QPSK	1/2	6
QPSK	3/4	8.5

¹ Note: Sometimes the curves stops at 10⁻⁵. This is because simulation steps were 1dB and the RS+CC error curves decay rapidly.

QAM16	$\frac{1}{2}$	11.5
QAM16	$\frac{3}{4}$	15
QAM64	$\frac{2}{3}$	18.5
QAM64	$\frac{3}{4}$	21

Table 1 Required SNR values

Recommended transmitter constellation error

The new constellation error based on table 1 is given below

Modulation	Coding rate	Required constellation error. [dB]
QPSK	$\frac{1}{2}$	-16
QPSK	$\frac{3}{4}$	-18.5
QAM16	$\frac{1}{2}$	-21.5
QAM16	$\frac{3}{4}$	-25
QAM64	$\frac{2}{3}$	-28.5
QAM64	$\frac{3}{4}$	-31

Receiver SNR

It is recommended to drop the E_b/N_0 column from table 116bk. Because:

- E_b/N_0 does not belong here.
- No information is given how E_b/N_0 is converted to SNR.
- Strangely enough, E_b/N_0 does not depend on the coding rate.

The SNR values should be updated based on table 1 above.

