CAT 7A CHANNEL ANALYSIS

IEEE 802.3 Next Generation BASE-T study group, Phoenix, Jan 2013

Stephen Bates – PMC-Sierra



SUPPORTERS

Valerie Maguire, Siemon.

Brad Booth, Dell.

Yakov Belopolsky, Bel Stewart Connector.

Alan Flatman, LAN Technologies.

Will Bliss, Broadcom.

Dariush Dabiri, APM.



THE DATASETS

Measured data for 20, 30 and 50m 2-connector category 7A channels out to 2.5GHz. Data provided by Siemon.

- Insertion Loss
- 100m, 4-connector Channel IL Limit Line (extrapolated from 1 GHz to 2.5 GHz).
- Return Loss
- PSNEXT
- PSFEXT



CHANNEL CONFIGURATION





THE 50M DATA

- The suck out at ~1200MHz means we should avoid putting Nyquist here. Note it violates the 100m IL extrapolated limit line.
- Outer shielding means Alien XT is not a concern.
- Very good PSNEXT and PSFEXT levels (still >20dB down on signal even at 1GHz).
- RL crosses IL at less than 500MHz.
- Implies echo will dominate impairments at receiver.





CAPACITY - 50M

- We can use the Shannon-Hartley equation to determine the capacity assuming a given bandwidth.
- Assume flat-band transmit power spectrum. 3dBm TX power.
- Since we know echo, NEXT and FEXT we can cancel it.
- Note kink at the "suck out"; we can carry no information there.
- Need 10Gb/s to achieve 40Gb/s over 4 pairs.
- I would like to target 50% (15Gb/s) more capacity (more than 10GBASE-T).



- Note that echo cancellation is mandatory (no surprise there). XT cancellers may not be mandatory.
- "Realistic" assumes we cancel by about 40dB.



CHANNEL – 20M





CAPACITY – 20M





CHANNEL – 30M





CAPACITY - 30M





OBSERVATIONS/CONCLUSIONS

- 20-30m feasible with realistic cancellers
- 2GBaud makes sense

11

• Not possible to operate at 50m with 1GHz BW without compromising capacity margin.



OBSERVATIONS/CONCLUSIONS

- The lack of Alien XT makes the problem much more tractable. All major noise sources can now be cancelled.
- Significant echo energy implies echo canceller will dominate area of the receiver and will need to do some cancellation before ADC (to reduce dynamic range requirements of ADC).
- With realistic cancellation it appears to make sense to set the BW at about 1GHz. This agrees with conclusions in Will Bliss' presentation from Geneva (Sept 2012). [See bliss_01a_0912.pdf]. This keeps bandwidth below the suck-out.



OBSERVATIONS/CONCLUSIONS

- PHY digital power will be dominated by echo cancellers.
- A Baud rate of about 2 GBaud is 2.5 times faster than 10GBASE-T. Implies each sample needs to convey 4/2.5=1.6 more bits/Baud. This is non-trivial.
- This analysis is applicable to the installed base of category 7A cabling where an IL artifact is known to exist at approximately 1200 MHz.
- The location and bandwidth of the category 7A artifact is fairly consistently (+/- 100 MHz) between manufacturers
- IL artifacts exist in the installed base of category 6A cabling, but they are inconsistent and can occur between 500 MHz and 1 GHz.
- As currently proposed, CAT8 will have worse PSNEXT and PSFEXT than CAT 7A.

13

