SNDR Target in Transmit Linearity Test

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Linearity Test - Background

- A MGBASE-T1 transmitter has to maintain a minimum level of linearity to ensure proper operation of the far-end receiver
- Test mode 4 is to make sure that a transmitter is compliant with this minimum distortion requirement
- There has been minimal discussion within 802.3ch task force on how to measure the nonlinearity and what the passing bar should be
- Options considered are:
  - No test
  - Similar to 1000BASE-T1
  - Similar to 100GBASE-KP4 (adopted)

Linearity Test - Procedure

- Transmit a known PRBS test pattern and measure at MDI
- Do a linear fit and find the pulse response $P(k)$
- Calculate the nonlinearity σ_e^2 as the power of the difference of MDI signal and the linear fit
- Measure random noise power σ_n^2 by measuring the variance of repeated patterns
- Calculate SNDR as $10 \times log_{10}\left(\frac{P_{max}^2}{\sigma_e^2+\sigma_n^2}\right)$
- Pass criterion: SNDR > 31 dB

Linearity Test - Concerns

- Definition of the test is scattered across many clauses (149, 94, 85, 92, 75) which makes the specification prone to misinterpretation
- Test pattern is designed based on the transmit machinery of 100GBASE-KP4 which may not be readily fitting MGBASE-T1
- Designed for simplex system (100G) and not duplex (MGT1)
- SNDR, as defined, does not represent the true signal-to-noise ratio
- SNDR limits are very restricting
- SNDR limit is the same for all rates

SNDR Definition

- SNDR is defined as $\text{SNDR}_{\text{TM}} = 10 \times log_{10}\left(\frac{P_{max}^2}{\sigma_e^2+\sigma_n^2}\right)$
- While the denominator is a reasonable representation of the noise power, the numerator is not signal power

$$\text{Signal power} = \frac{\sum P^2(k)}{M} \times \frac{5}{9}$$ ← PAM4 power (-2.6 dB)

$$P_{max}^2 \leq \frac{\sum P^2(k)}{M}$$ (M: oversampling factor in measurement)

$$\text{SNDR}_{\text{real}} \leq \text{SNDR}_{\text{TM}} - 2.6 \text{ dB}$$

SNDR Limit

- The pass limit for $SNDR_{TM}$ is 31 dB
- This means that a compliant transmitter can have a transmit $SNDR_{real}$ of as low as 28.4 dB
- A compliant transmitter can reduce the operating margin of the far-end receiver significantly

SNR Requirements for MGBASE-T1

- Target bit-error rate: 10^{-12}
- Modulation: PAM4
- Assuming the coding gain from Reed-Solomon covers for implementation margin and non-Gaussian input noise sources such as
  - Impulse noise
  - DFE error propagation
  - EMI effects

Required slicer SNR = 24 dB

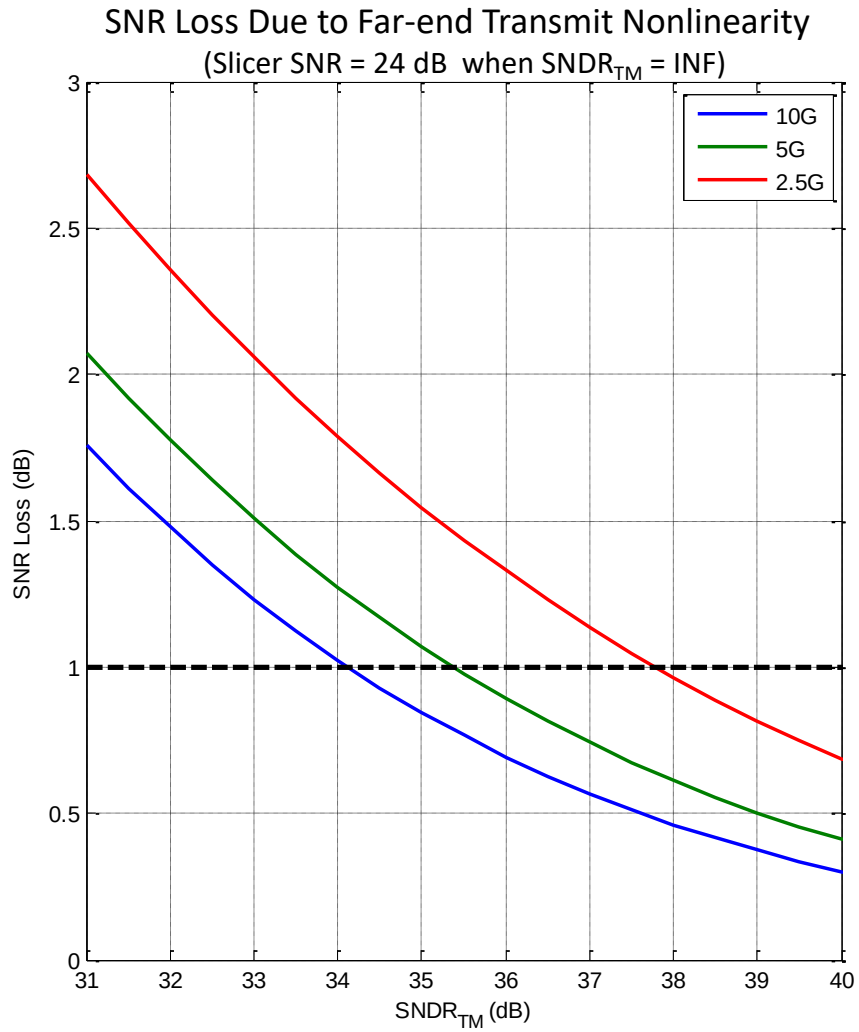
Transmitter Nonlinearity and SNR Loss

Transmit $SNDR_{TM}$ level that limits the SNR loss to 1 dB

10G: 38 dB

5G: 36 dB

2.5G: 34 dB



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