TSN: Lecture 21
Block Coding

Topics Covered

- Block Coding
- Redundancy

Block Coding

- For a code to be capable of error detection, we need to add redundancy, i.e., extra bits to the data bits.
- Synchronization also requires redundancy - transitions are important in the signal flow and must occur frequently.
- Block coding is done in three steps: division, substitution and combination.
- It is distinguished from multilevel coding by use of the slash - xB/yB.
- The resulting bit stream prevents certain bit combinations that when used with line encoding would result in DC components or poor sync. quality.

Note

Block coding is normally referred to as *m*B/*n*B coding; it replaces each *m*-bit group with an *n*-bit group.

Figure 4.14 *Block coding concept*

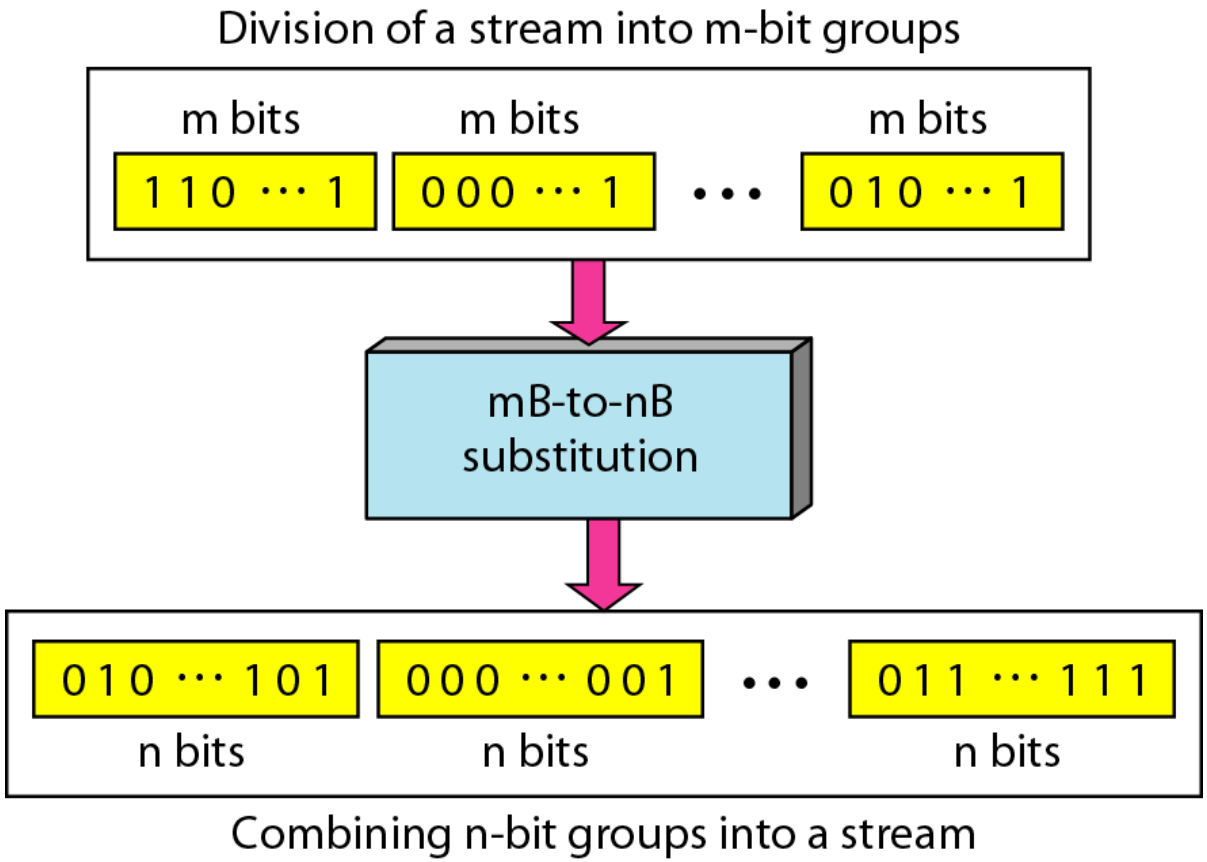


Figure 4.15 *Using block coding 4B/5B with NRZ-I line coding scheme*

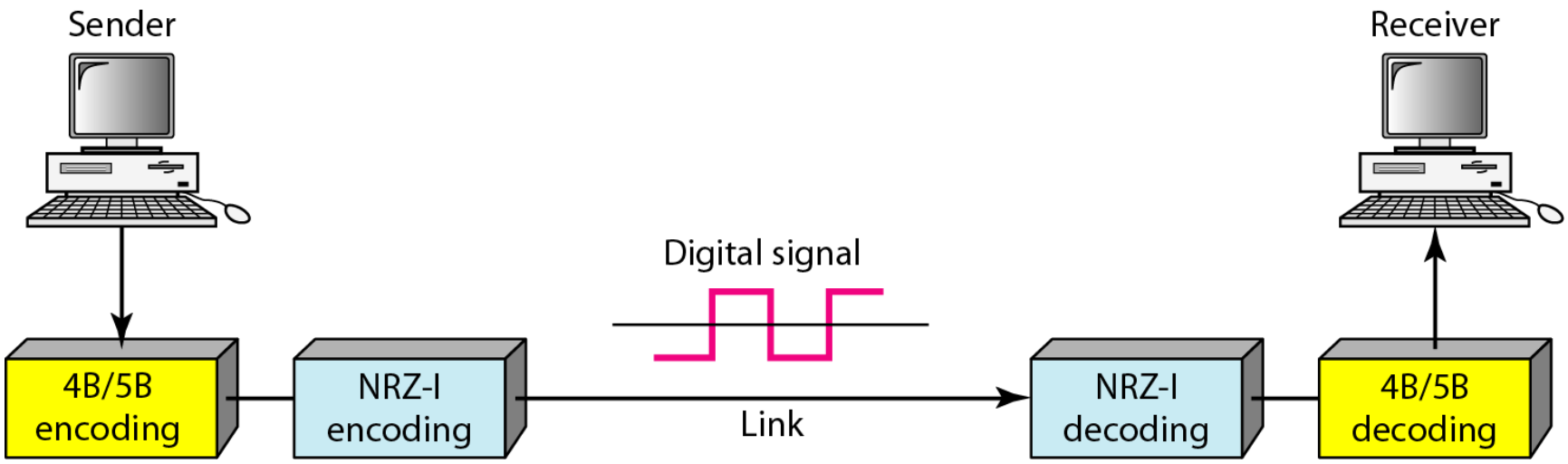
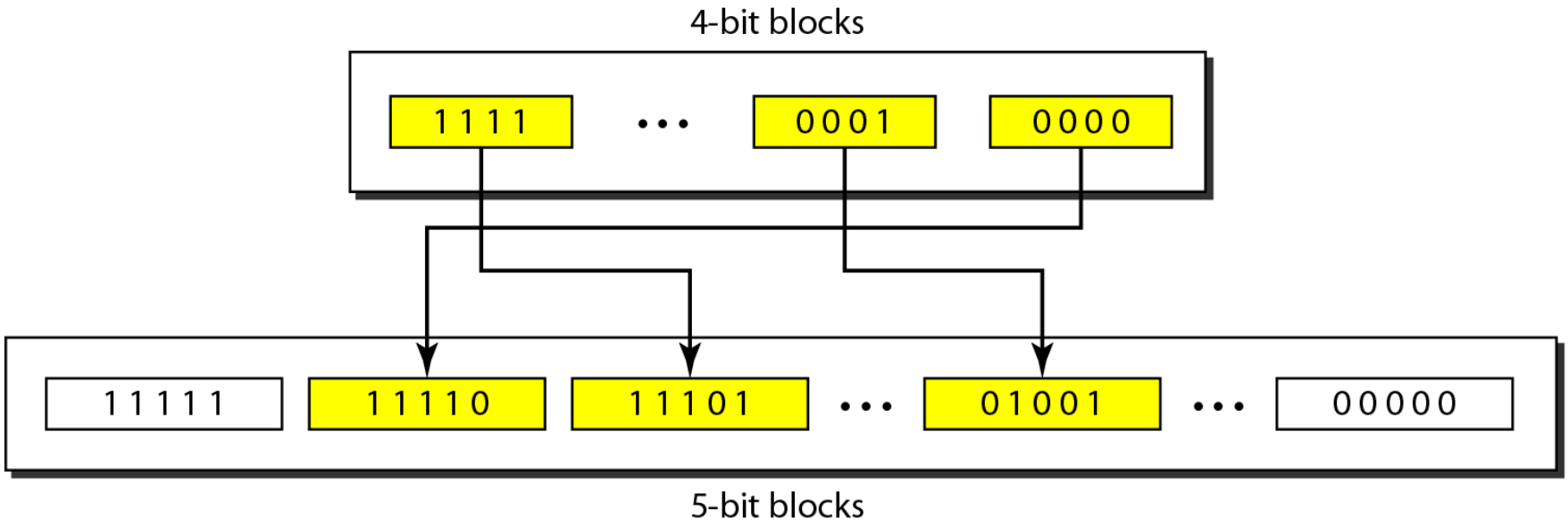


Table 4.2 *4B/5B mapping codes*

Data Sequence	*Encoded Sequence*	*Control Sequence*	*Encoded Sequence*
0000	11110	Q (Quiet)	00000
0001	01001	I (Idle)	11111
0010	10100	H (Halt)	00100
0011	10101	J (Start delimiter)	11000
0100	01010	K (Start delimiter)	10001
0101	01011	T (End delimiter)	01101
0110	01110	S (Set)	11001
0111	01111	R (Reset)	00111
1000	10010		
1001	10011		
1010	10110		
1011	10111		
1100	11010		
1101	11011		
1110	11100		
1111	11101		

Figure 4.16 *Substitution in 4B/5B block coding*



Redundancy

- A 4 bit data word can have 24 combinations.
- A 5 bit word can have 25=32 combinations.
- We therefore have 32 - 26 = 16 extra words.
- Some of the extra words are used for control/signalling purposes.

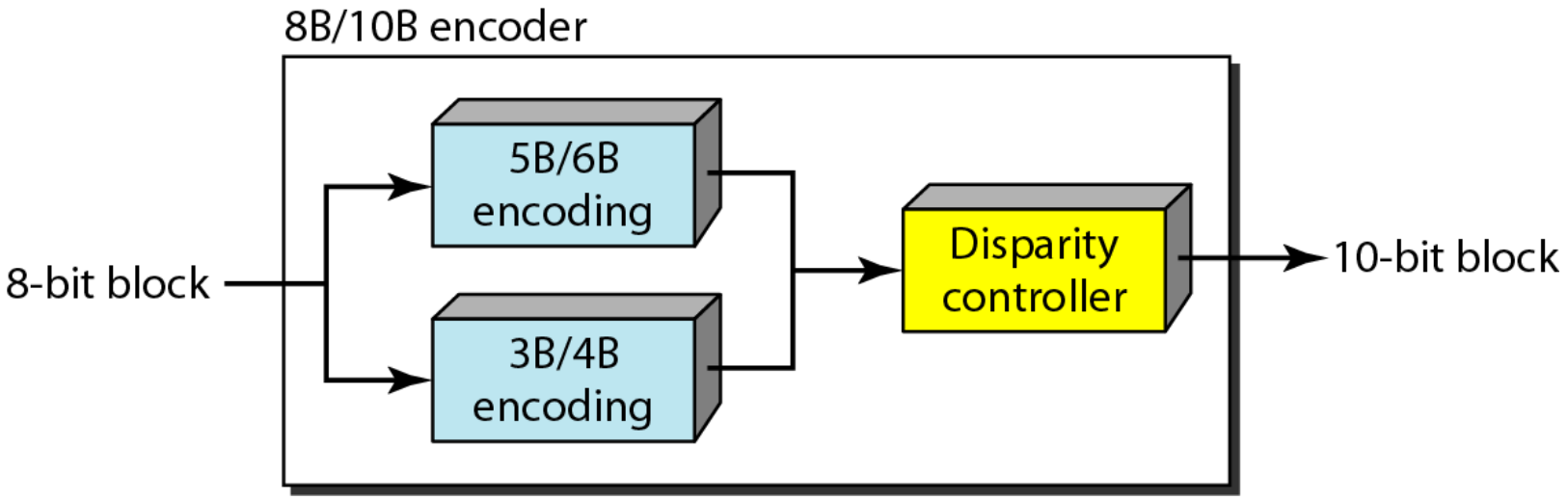
Example 4.5

We need to send data at a 1-Mbps rate. What is the minimum required bandwidth, using a combination of 4B/5B and NRZ-I or Manchester coding?

Solution

First 4B/5B block coding increases the bit rate to 1.25 Mbps. The minimum bandwidth using NRZ-I is N/2 or 625 kHz. The Manchester scheme needs a minimum bandwidth of 1.25 MHz. The first choice needs a lower bandwidth, but has a DC component problem; the second choice needs a higher bandwidth, but does not have a DC component problem.

Figure 4.17 *8B/10B block encoding*



More bits - better error detection

- The 8B10B block code adds more redundant bits and can thereby choose code words that would prevent a long run of a voltage level that would cause DC components.