



# **Pilot Symbol Based Detection and Synchronization for OFDM WLANs**

**Alan Coulson  
Communications Team  
Industrial Research Ltd  
New Zealand**

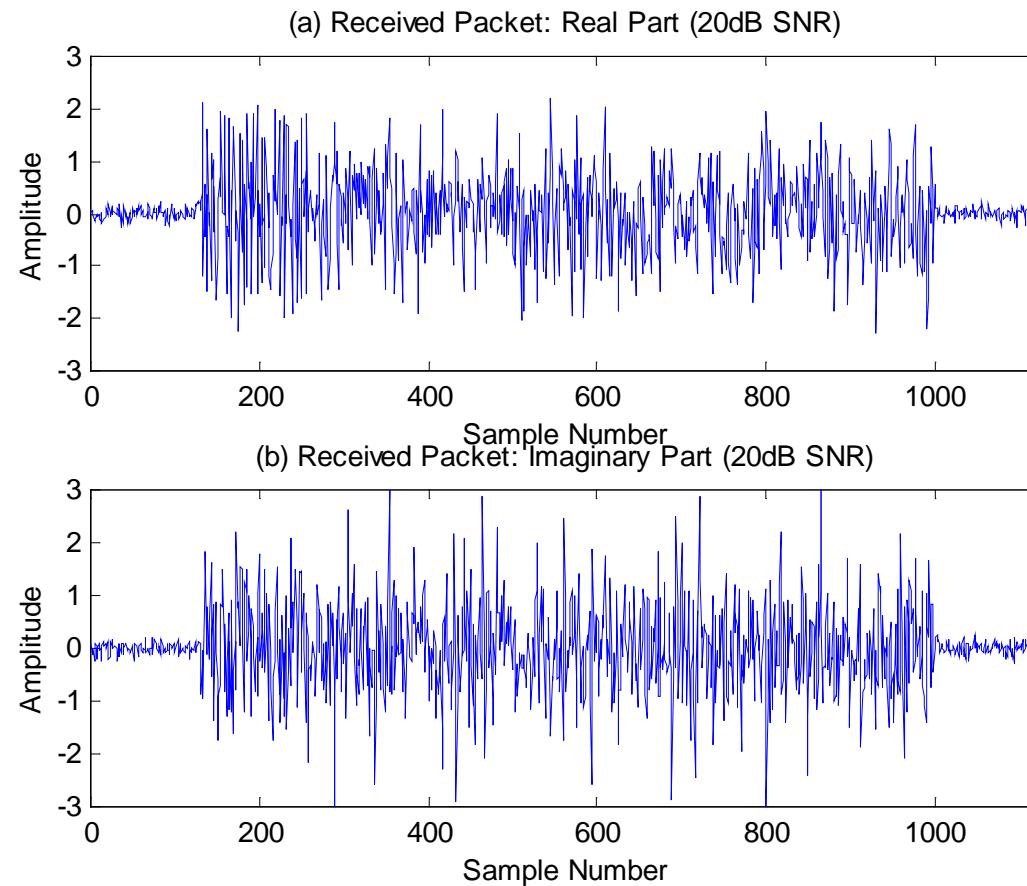


# Introduction

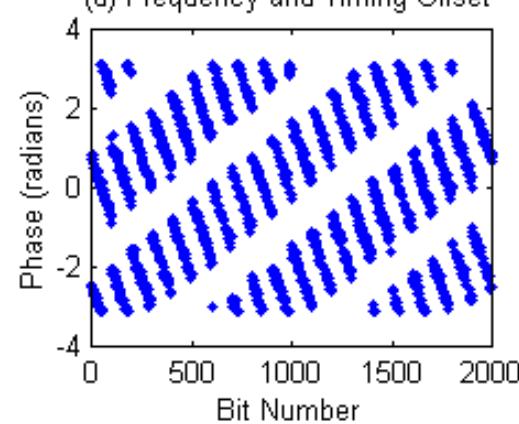
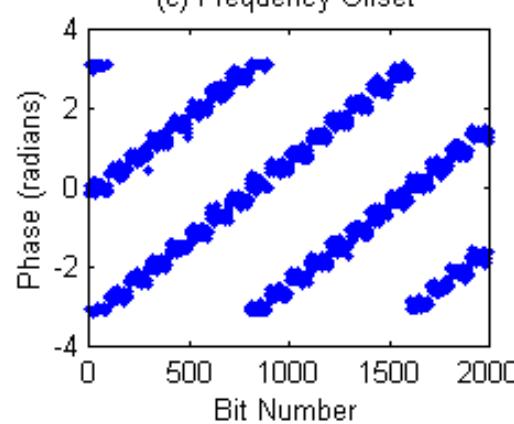
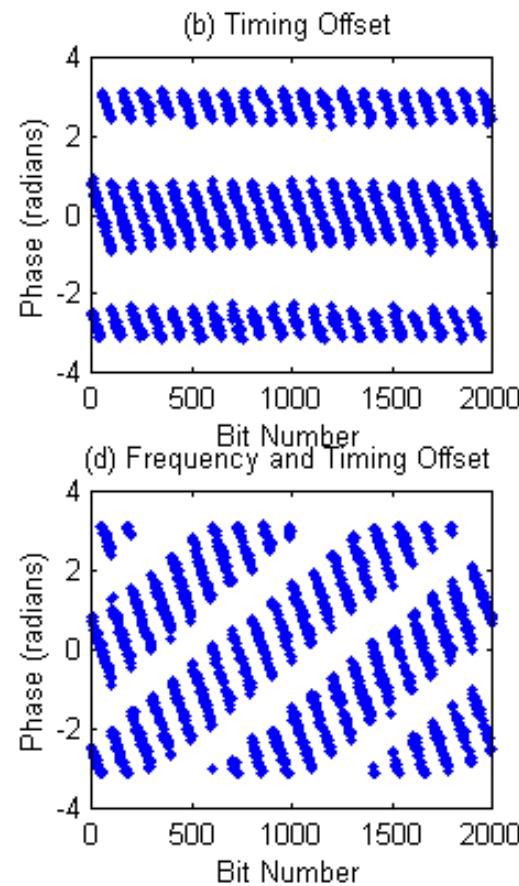
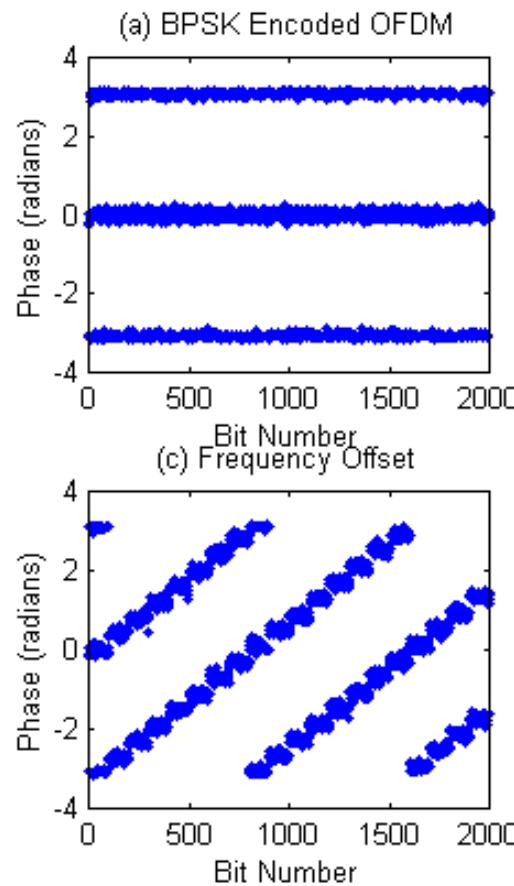
- **Detection and synchronization: problem definitions**
- **Pilot symbol assisted reception**
- **Correlation-based algorithms: descriptions**
- **Detection and synchronization: performance results**
- **Bit error rate performance: comparison of ideal, analytical and simulation results**



# The Detection Problem



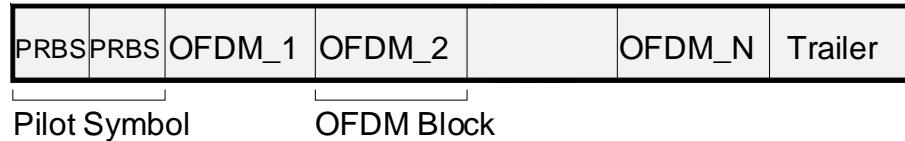
# The Synchronization Problem



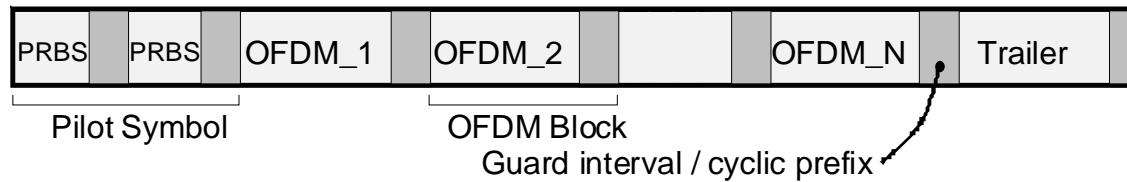
# The Tools

## 1. Pilot Symbol

(a) Basic OFDM Packet for Frequency Flat Fading Channel

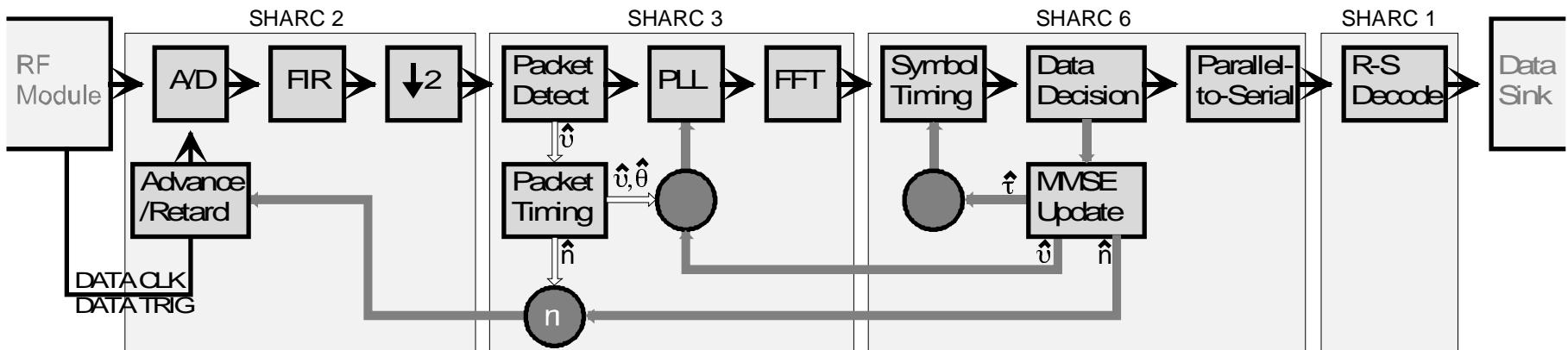


(b) OFDM Packet for Time-Dispersive (Frequency-Selective) Channel



# The Tools

## 2. OFDM Receiver Architecture



$$\text{Received Signal: } r^\delta(t) = \sum_n r(t) \exp(j[2\pi f_c t + \phi_n]) \quad (t-nT_{symbol})$$

# The Algorithms (1)

**Received sampled signal (flat fading),  $n$ th sample**

$$r_n = as(nT - \tau_s) e^{-j[2\pi\nu(nT - \tau_s) + \theta]} + \eta(nT)$$

**L length, L lag sliding window correlation product**

$$\begin{aligned} P_l &= \mathbf{r}_l^H \mathbf{r}_{l+L} \\ &\approx (L - |l|) a^2 S^2 e^{-j2\pi\nu LT} + \eta \end{aligned}$$

**L length, 0 lag sliding window correlation product**

$$\begin{aligned} R_l &= \mathbf{r}_l^H \mathbf{r}_l \\ &\approx L(a^2 S^2 + 2\sigma_w^2) + \text{Re}\{\eta\} \end{aligned}$$



# The Algorithms (2)

**Detection variable 1 (positive means detection)**

$$X_l = |P_l| - T_{C1} \sqrt{R_l R_{l+L}}$$

**Frequency offset estimate**

$$\hat{\nu} = \frac{1}{2\pi LT} \operatorname{atan} \left( \frac{\operatorname{Im}\{P_l\}}{\operatorname{Re}\{P_l\}} \right)$$

**L length matched filter correlation product**

$$Q_l = \mathbf{n}^H \mathbf{r}_l$$

$$\approx LaS^2 \operatorname{sinc} \left( l - \frac{\tau_s}{T} \right) e^{-j \left[ 2\pi\nu(lT - \tau_s) + \theta + \phi \frac{L-1}{2L} \right]} + \sqrt{L} S \eta$$



# The Algorithms (3)

**Detection variable 2 (positive means detection)**

$$Y_l = |Q_l + Q_{l+1}| - T_{C2} \sqrt{L} S \sqrt{R_l}$$

**Phase offset estimate**

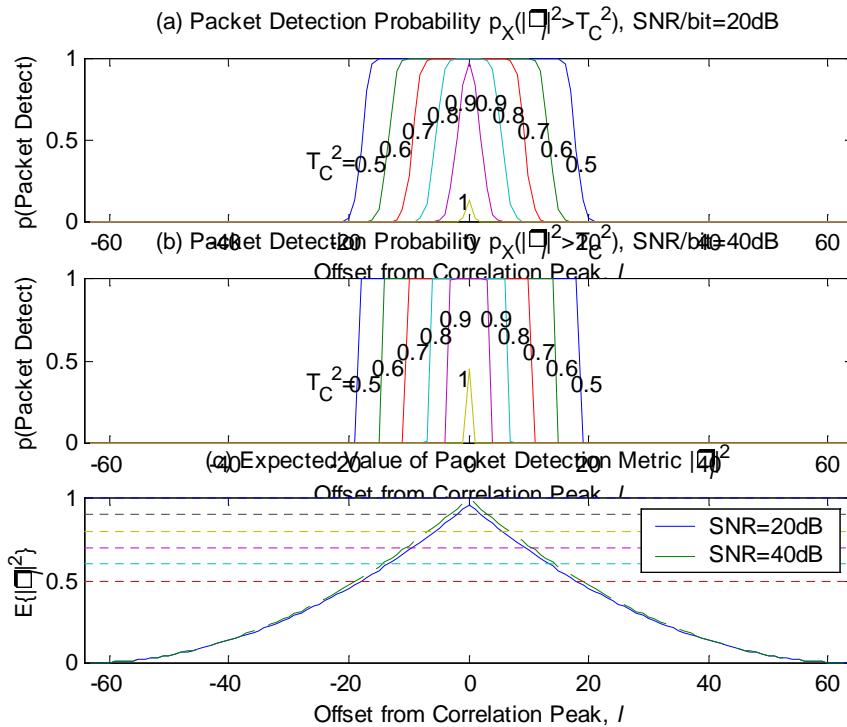
$$\hat{\theta} = \text{atan} \left( \frac{\text{Im}\{Q_l\}}{\text{Re}\{Q_l\}} \right)$$

**Timing offset estimate:**

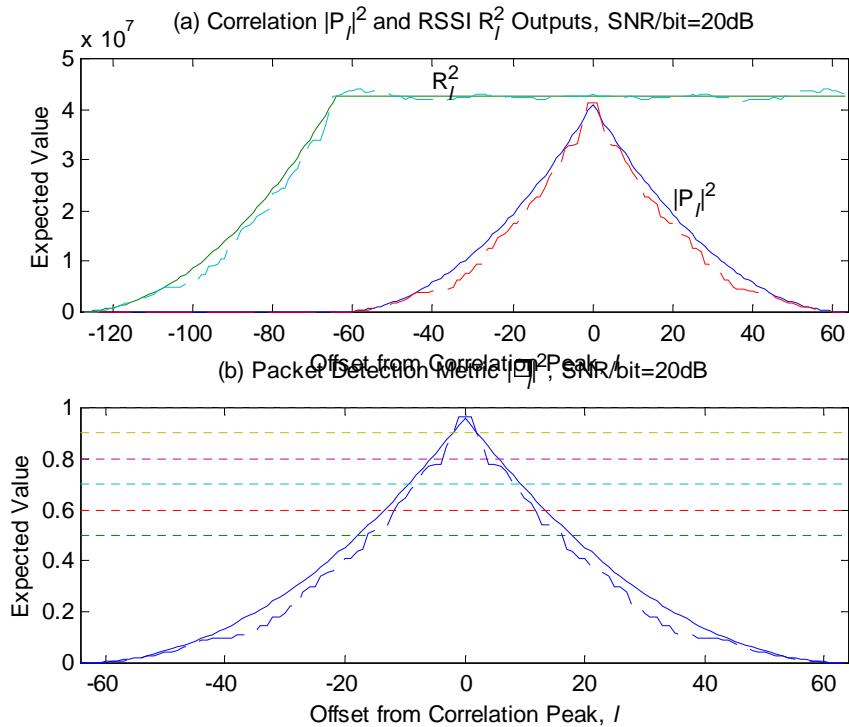
**MMSE fit to phase of frequency domain data**

# Results: Detection 1

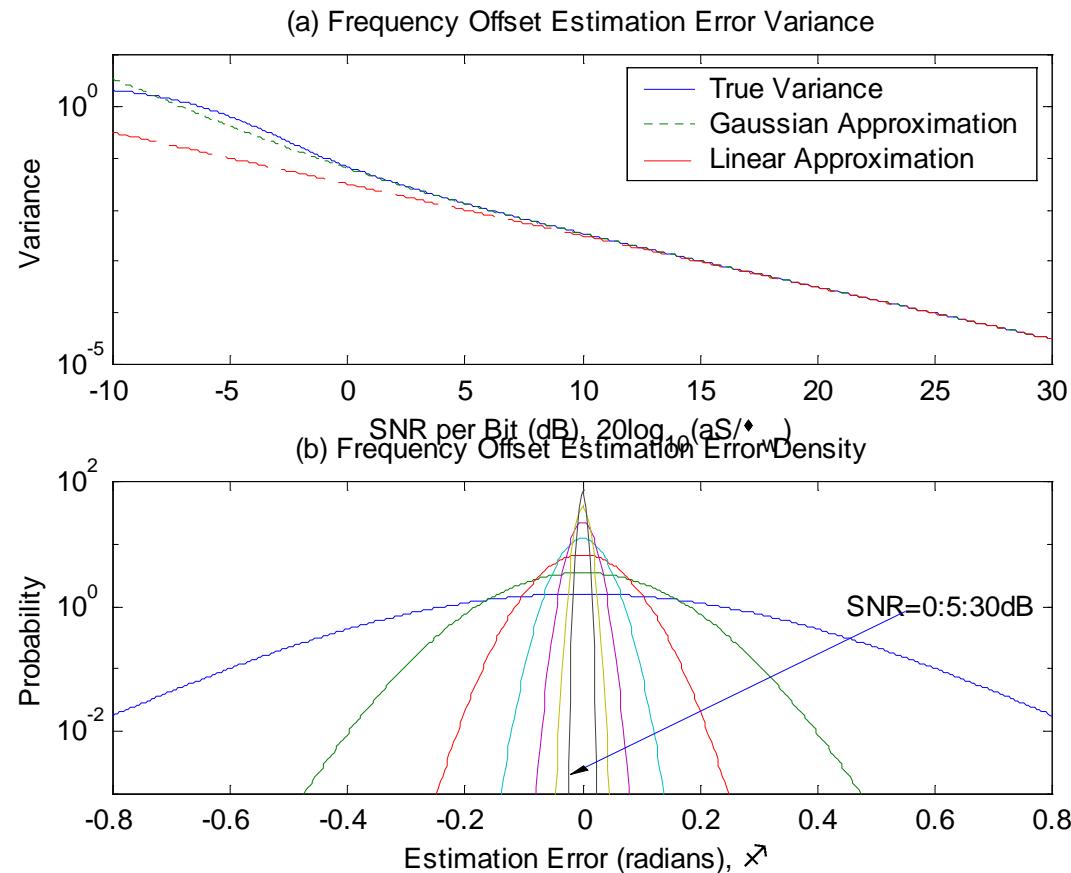
## 1. Detection statistics



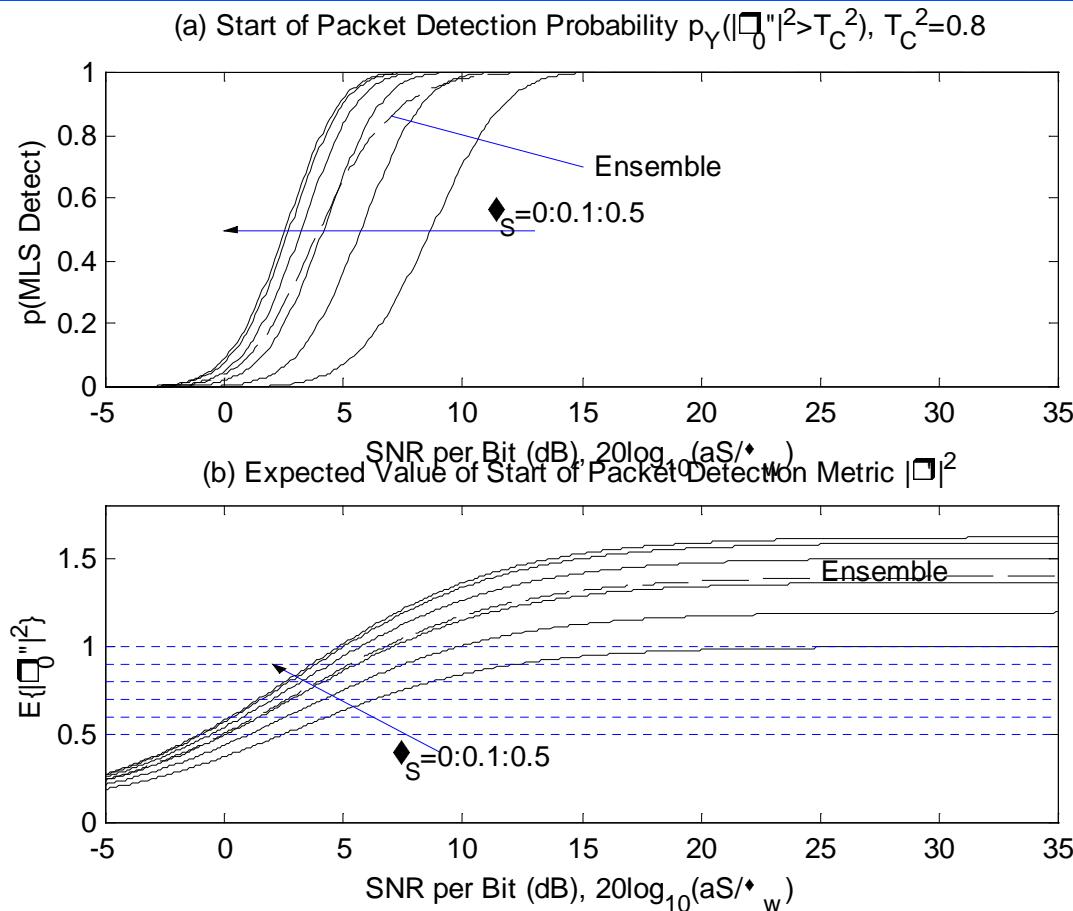
## 2. Experimental comparison



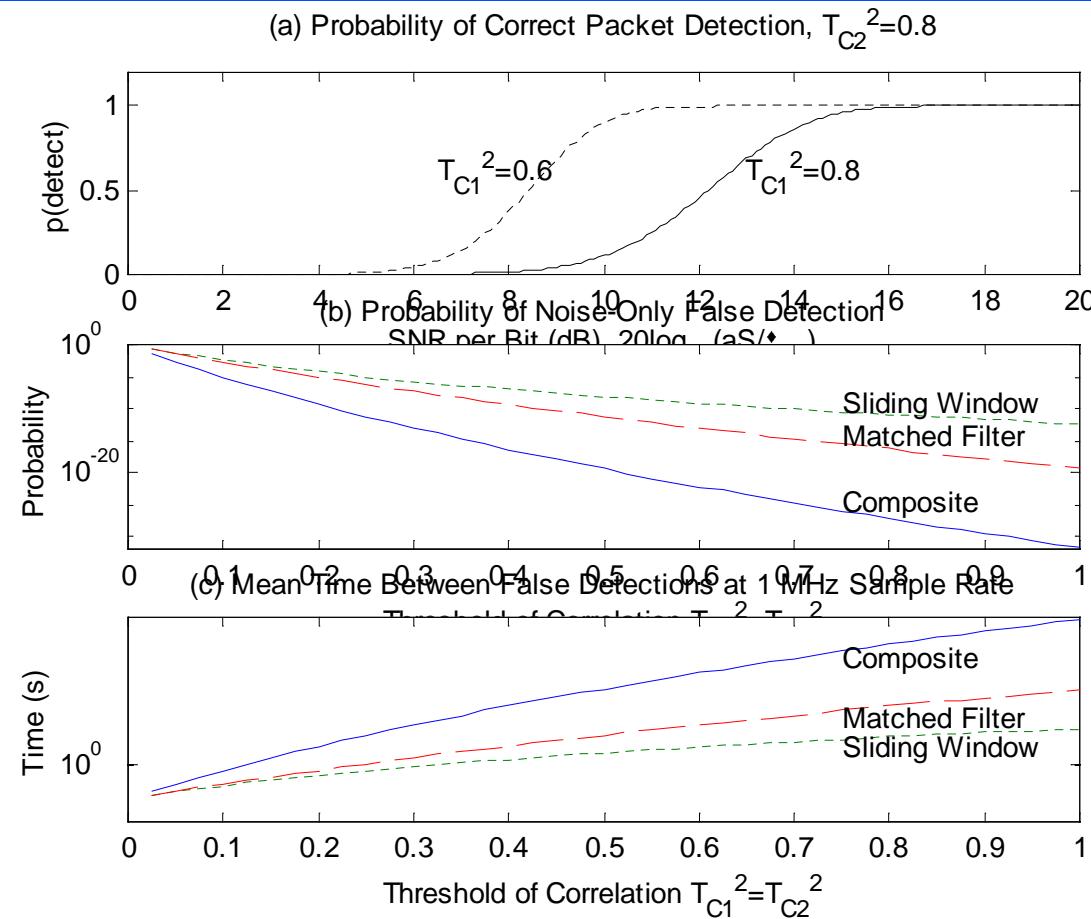
# Results: Frequency Offset Estimation



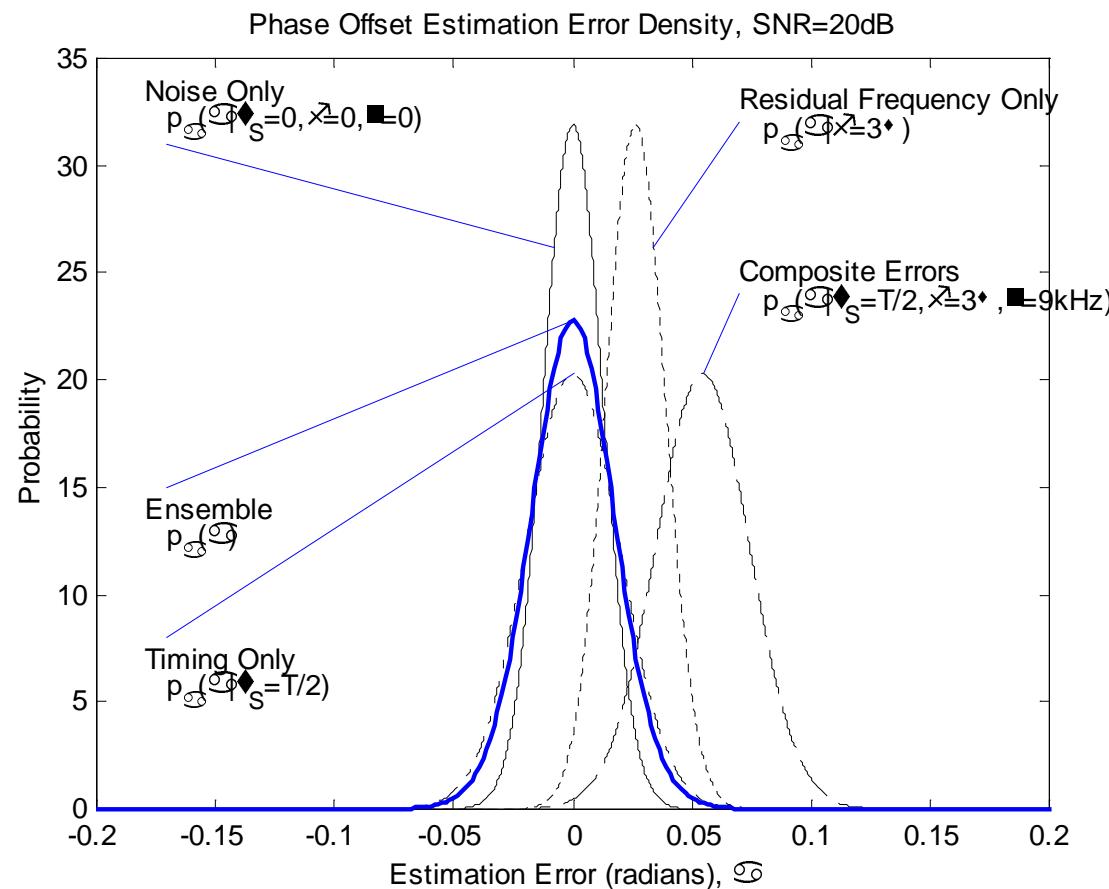
# Results: Detection 2



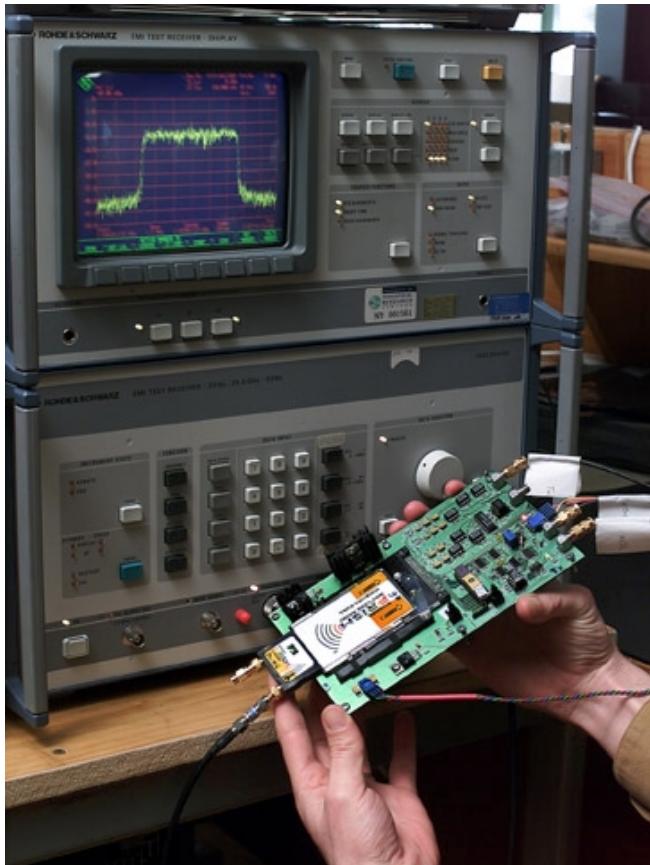
# Results: Composite Detection



# Results: Phase Offset Estimation



# Demonstration System

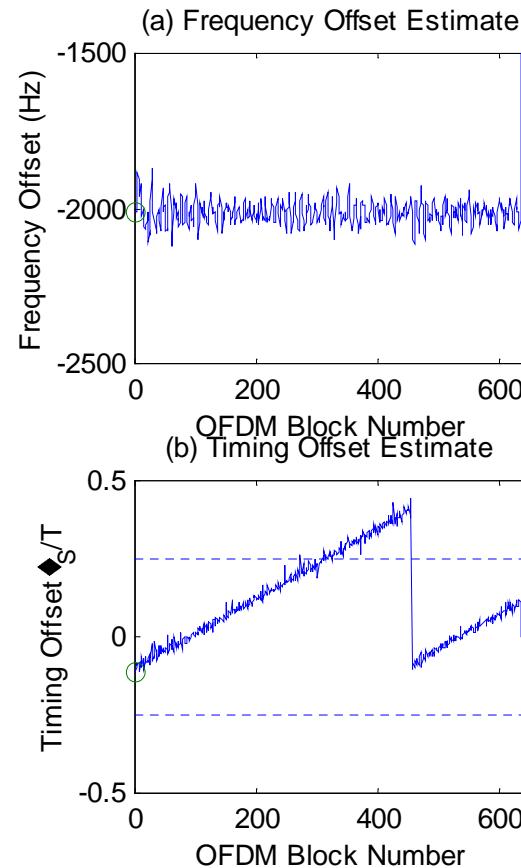


OFDM Tx spectrum

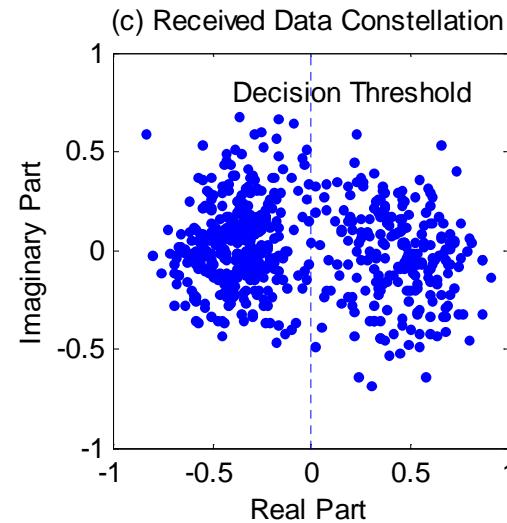
Prototype set-up



# Results: Experimental Data 1

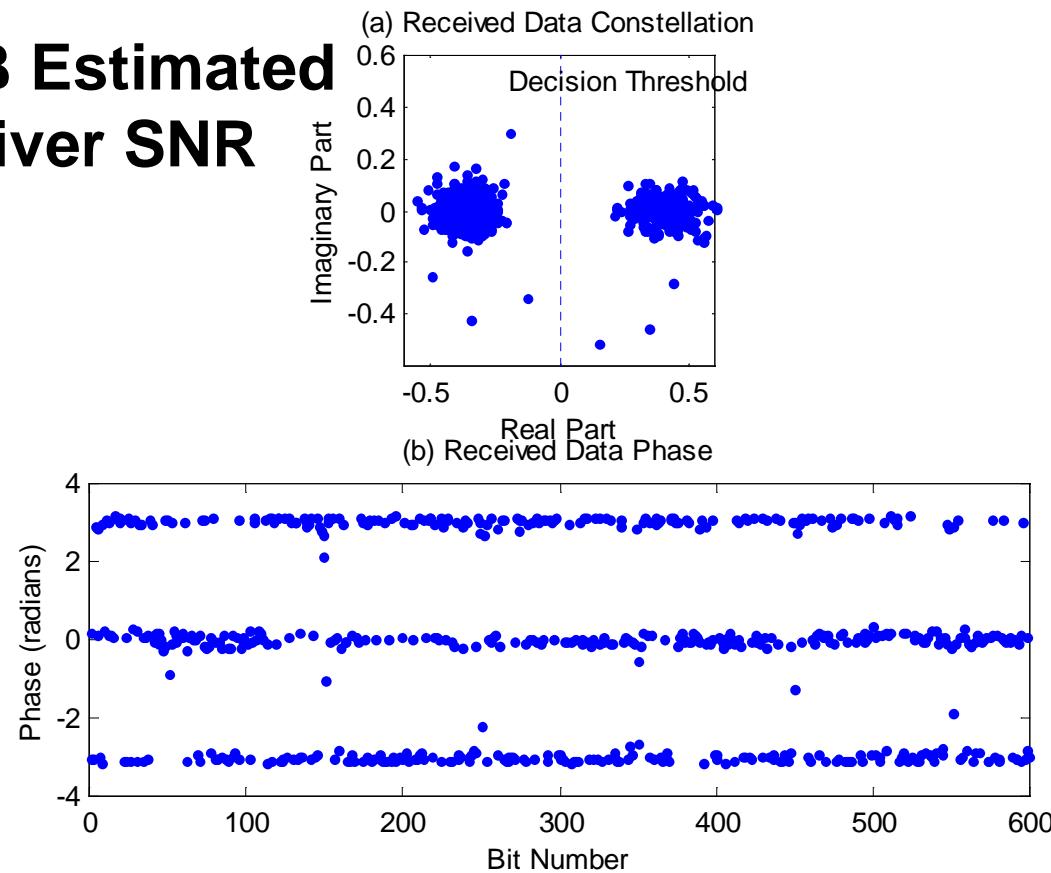


**10 dB Estimated Receiver SNR**



# Results: Experimental Data 2

**20 dB Estimated  
Receiver SNR**



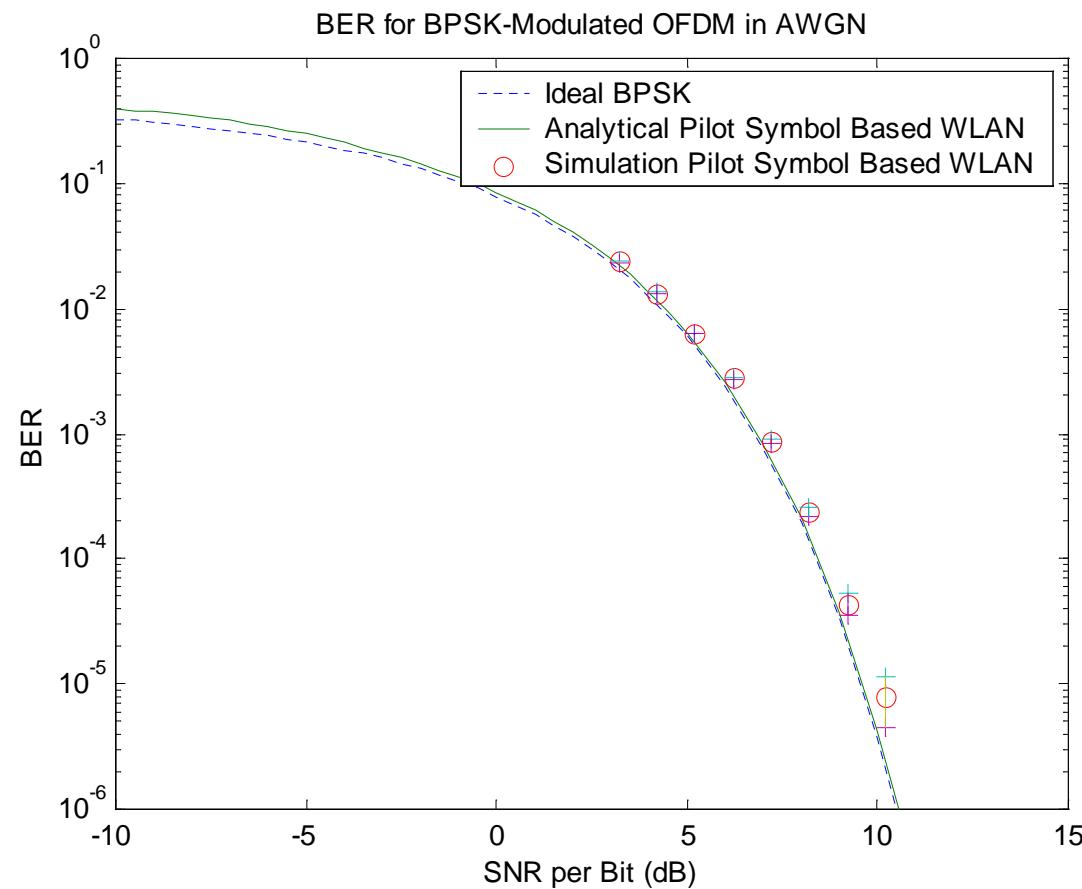
## Bit Error Rate Performance: Analytical

BER for BPSK OFDM with frequency-, phase- and timing-offset estimation errors in an AWGN channel is

$$p_e(\gamma_b) = \int_{-\pi}^{\pi} \int_{-\pi}^{\pi} \int_{-T/2}^{T/2} \frac{1}{2} \operatorname{erfc} \left( \frac{\mu w_0 w_P w_T}{\sqrt{2(\sigma^2 + \sigma_{ISI}^2)}} \right) \\ \times p_\tau(\tau) p_\alpha(\alpha) p_\phi(\phi) d\tau d\alpha d\phi.$$

where second line functions are densities of parameter estimation errors

# Bit Error Rate Performance: Results



# Summary

- **Detection and synchronization: fundamental to WLAN operation**
- **Pilot symbol assisted reception using correlation-based algorithms: analysis facilitates setting of key threshold parameters**
- **Bit error rate performance: analytical and simulation results closely approach ideal BPSK in an AWGN channel.**