



Maximum Likelihood (ML)

C.PRISCILLA,AP/ECE

Definition

- **The Maximum Likelihood (ML) method selects the signal parameters that maximize the probability of receiving the observed data.**

Working Principle

- Assumes a statistical model of the received signal
- Evaluates all possible transmitted signals
- Chooses the signal that best explains the received antenna data
- Often assumes **Gaussian noise**

Mathematical Formulation

The ML estimate is:

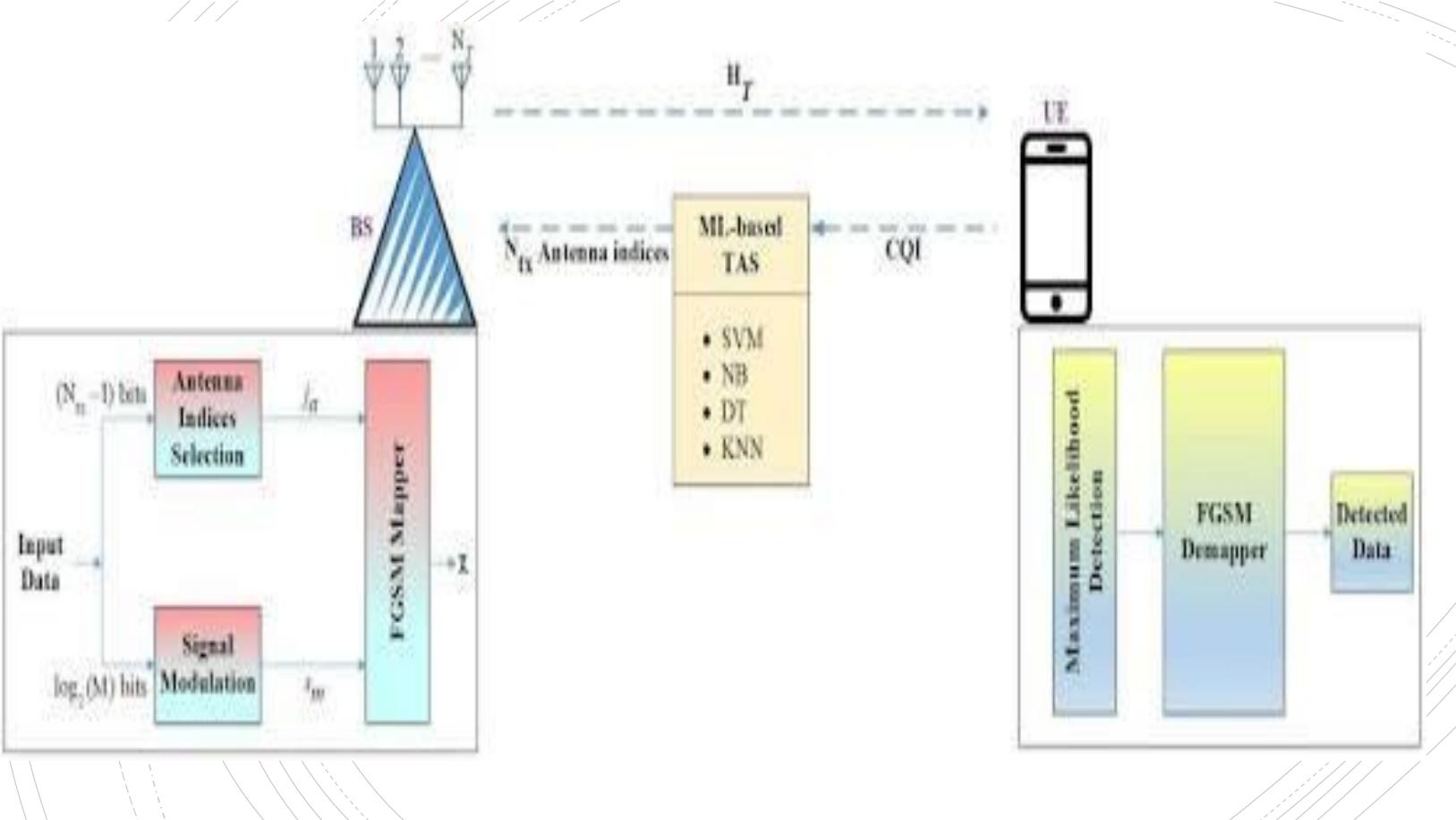
$$\hat{s} = \arg \max_s P(y|s)$$

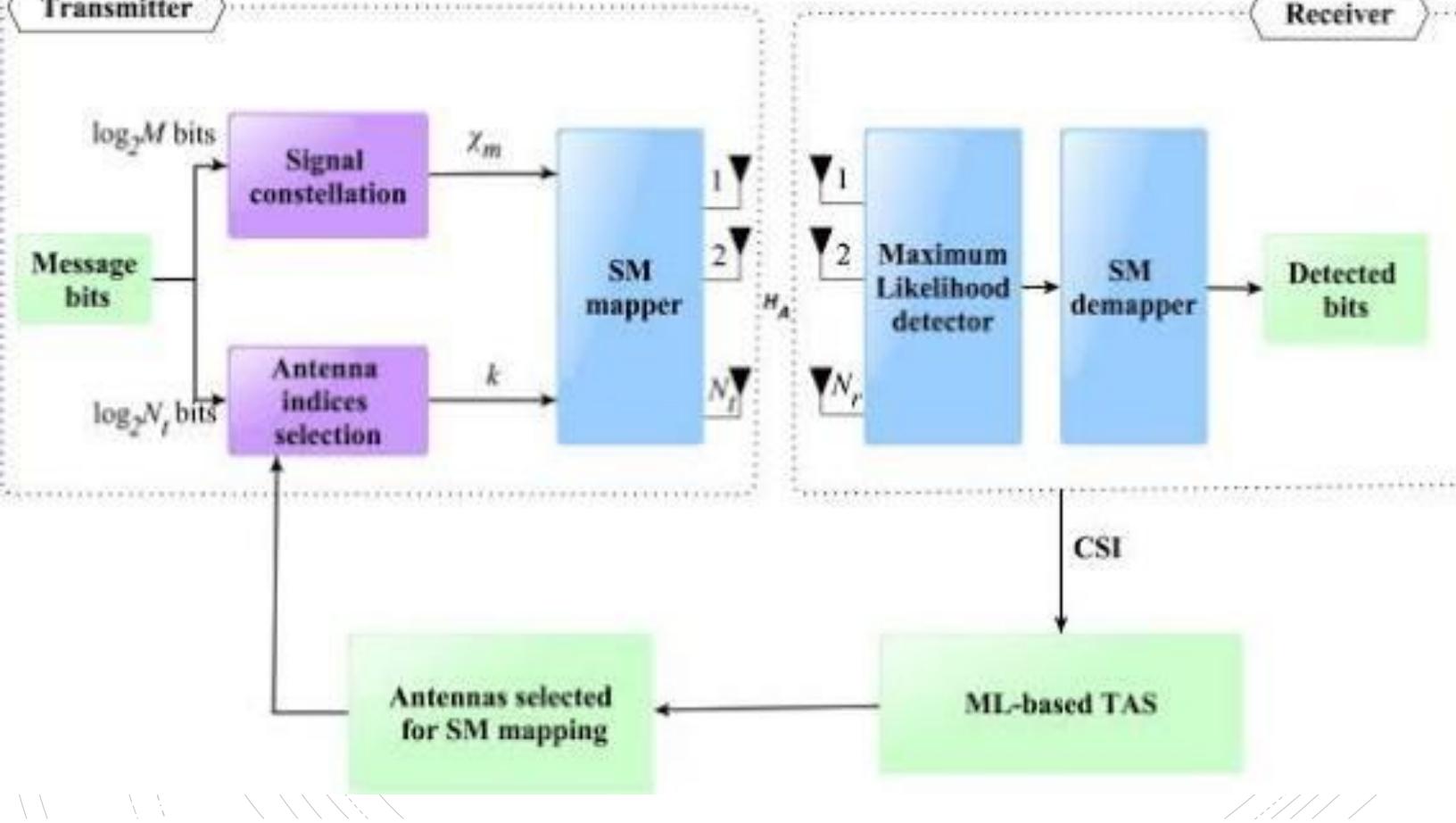
For Gaussian noise, this becomes a minimum distance problem:

$$\hat{s} = \arg \min_s \|y - Hs\|^2$$

where:

- y = received signal vector
- H = channel/array response matrix
- s = transmitted signal vector





Advantages

- Statistically optimal detection
- Minimum probability of error
- Excellent performance in low-noise environments

Limitations

- Very high computational complexity
- Not suitable for real-time large antenna systems
- Requires accurate channel knowledge

Applications

- Signal detection
- Channel estimation
- Radar and sonar systems