Link Channels and ISI

- 20-30dB loss at 3GHz
- How bad is that?
- Two related issues:
  - (1) Noise and min. signal amplitude
  - (2) Intersymbol interference

Impact of ISI

- Middle sample is corrupted by 0.2 trailing ISI (from previous symbol) and 0.1 leading ISI (from next symbol)
- Total ISI: 0.3 total ISI
- Middle symbol incorrectly detected

Equalization

- ISI is proportional to TX swing
  - Generally can't just boost signal to overcome it
- Solution: Equalization
  - If channel applies filter $H(s)$
  - Pass the signal through another filter $H^{-1}(s)$

Inter-symbol interference (ISI)

- Channel is low pass
  - Short TX pulses get spread out

Equalization cont’d

- Link channel basically low-pass
  - Equalizer boosts high frequency, attenuates low frequency