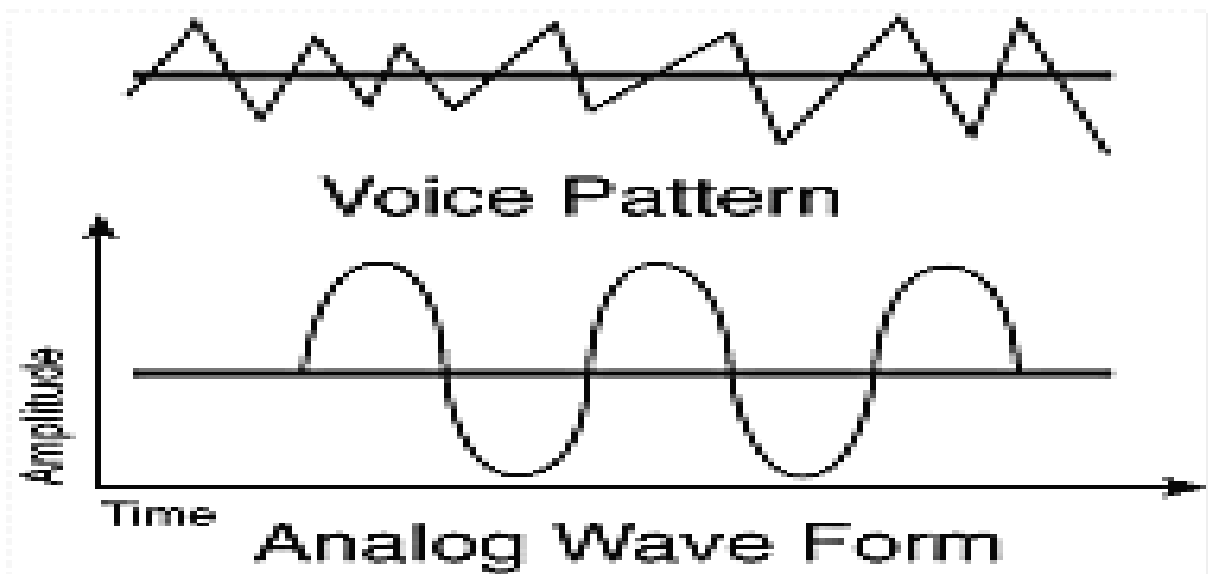


Analog Transmission

An analog wave form (or signal) is characterized by being continuously variable along amplitude and frequency. In the case of telephony, for instance, when you speak into a handset, there are changes in the air pressure around your mouth. Those changes in air pressure fall onto the handset, where they are amplified and then converted into current, or voltage fluctuations. Those fluctuations in current are an analog of the actual voice pattern—hence the use of the term *analog* to describe these signals



Digital Transmission

Digital transmission is quite different from analog transmission. For one thing, the signal is much simpler. Rather than being a continuously variable wave form, it is a series of discrete pulses, representing one bits and zero bits.

Each computer uses a coding scheme that defines what combinations of ones and zeros constitute all the characters in a character set (that is, lowercase letters, uppercase letters, punctuation marks, digits, keyboard control functions).

