

# PHYS 536

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## Session 4

Discrete Fourier transforms

Sampling theorem

Convolution and correlation

Digital filtering

1/12/2023

# Course syllabus and schedule – first part...

See : <http://courses.washington.edu/phys536/syllabus.htm>

Session	date	Day	Readings:	K=Kinsler, H=Heller	Topic
1	3-Jan	Tue	K ch. 1	H: Ch. 1, 2	Course intro, acoustics topics, overview of wave properties; pulses, transverse and longitudinal waves, overview of sound speeds
2	5-Jan	Thu	K ch. 1	H: Ch. 9, 10	harmonic oscillators: simple, damped, driven; complex exponential solutions, electrical circuit analogy, resonance, Q factor
3	10-Jan	Tue	K ch. 1	H: Ch. 3	Fourier methods: Fourier series, integrals, Fourier transforms, discrete FTs, sampling and aliasing
4	12-Jan	Thu	K. chs 10	H: Ch. 4, 11	Frequencies and aliasing; convolution and correlation; discrete convolution; digital filtering, optimal filters, FIR filters, noise spectra; power spectra. <b>REPORT 1 PROPOSED TOPIC</b>
5	17-Jan	Tue	K. ch. 2, 3, 4	H: Ch. 13, 15	waves in strings, bars and membranes; Acoustic wave equation; speed of sound; Harmonic plane waves, intensity, impedance.
6	19-Jan	Thu	K. Ch. 5, 6	H: Ch. 1	Spherical waves; transmission and reflection at interfaces
7	24-Jan	Tue	K. Ch. 8	H: Ch. 7	Radiation from small sources; Baffled simple source, piston radiation, pulsating sphere;
8	26-Jan	Thu	K: Ch. 10	H: Chs. 13-15	Near field, far field; Radiation impedance; resonators, filters
9	31-Jan	Tue	K. Ch. 9-10	H: Chs. 16-19	Musical instruments: wind, string, percussion
10	2-Feb	Thu	K. Ch 14		Transducers for use in air: Microphones and loudspeakers
11	7-Feb	Tue	K. Ch 11	H: Chs. 21-22	The ear, hearing and detection
12	9-Feb	Thu	K. Chs 5,11		Decibels, sound level, dB examples, acoustic intensity; noise, detection thresholds. <b>REPORT 1 PAPER DUE by 7 PM; REPORT 2 PROPOSED TOPIC DUE</b>

**Tonight**

# Announcements

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- **REMINDER: term paper #1 proposals are due TODAY!**
  - Still haven't heard from a few students
  - Remember: only 5 pages – NARROW your scope!
  - Please send me a brief email with
    - Topic chosen
    - Resources to be used in your study (books, journal articles, etc)
    - Format chosen: term paper or website
      - You can submit a 5p paper, or build a website with the same amount of content
      - For info on how to create a website @uw, see <https://sites.uw.edu/your-first-site/>

- For function **sampled** at  $N$  equally spaced  $t$  values,  
 $h_k(t) = h(k\Delta)$      $\Delta =$  sampling interval,     $k = 0 \dots N$ ,     $N$  even  
 Nyquist:  $f_c = \frac{1}{2\Delta} \rightarrow$  cannot find  $H(f)$  for  $|f| > f_c$
- With  $N$  points, we can only find  $N$  values of the Fourier transform: **discrete**  $H_n$ , not **continuous**  $H(f)$

$$f_n = \frac{n}{N\Delta}, \quad n = -\frac{N}{2} \dots 0 \dots +\frac{N}{2}$$

(looks like  $N + 1$   $f$ s, but  $f_{-N/2} = f_{+N/2}$  )

$$H(f) = \int_{-\infty}^{+\infty} h(t) \exp(i2\pi ft) dt \rightarrow \sum_{k=0}^{N-1} h_k \exp(i2\pi kn / N)\Delta$$

$$H_n = \sum_{k=0}^{N-1} h_k \exp\left(i2\pi k \frac{n}{N}\right) \approx \frac{H(f_n)}{\Delta}$$

- The discrete *inverse* transform is thus:

$$h_k = \frac{1}{N} \sum_{n=0}^{N-1} H_n \exp\left(-i 2\pi k \frac{n}{N}\right)$$

- Parseval's theorem** says “energy” is conserved between time and frequency domains:

$$\sum_k |h_k(t)|^2 = \frac{1}{N} \sum_n |H_n(f)|^2$$

Recall from your E&M class:  
wave *amplitude*  $E(t) \rightarrow$  *power*  $\sim |E|^2$

– Parseval's theorem (= “energy conservation”)

- Total power in signal:

$$P = \int_{-\infty}^{+\infty} |h(t)|^2 dt = \int_{-\infty}^{+\infty} |H(f)|^2 df$$

- Power at frequency  $f$ :

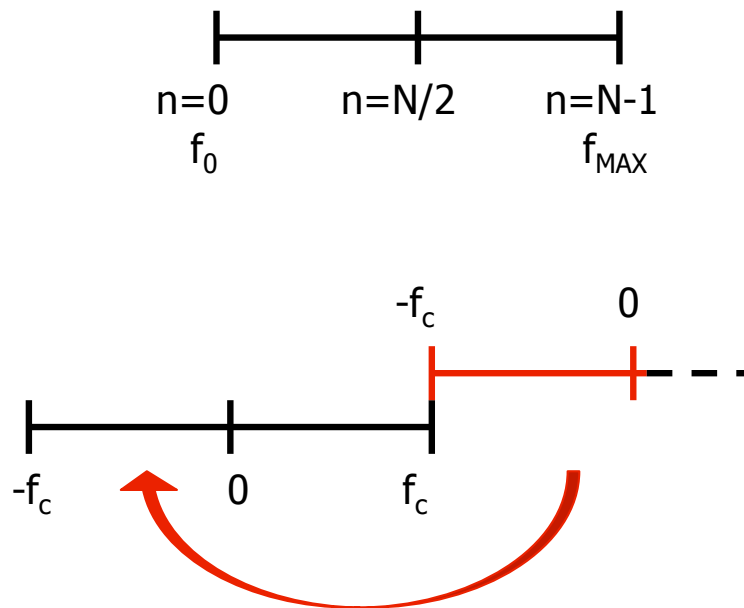
$$dP(f) = \int_{|f|}^{|f|+df} |H(f)|^2 df$$

- Power **Spectral Density (PSD)**

$$\frac{dP}{df} = |H(f)|^2 + |H(-f)|^2$$

# DFT: negative $f$ 's and Nyquist frequency

- Given  $N$  data samples  $h(t)$ , with  $\{t_n\}$ ,  $n=0\dots N-1$ 
  - Discrete FT produces  $N$  values of  $H(f)$ ,  $k=0\dots N-1$ ,  $f_{MAX}=1/\Delta$   
(Note: Discrete FT implicitly assumes  $h(t)$  is periodic)
  - But Nyquist limit allows only  $N/2$  frequencies:  $\max f_c = 1/2\Delta$
  - Solution:  
Treat these FT components as representing  $f_{-N/2} \dots f_{+N/2}$  where  $f_{-N/2} = f_{+N/2}$



# Negative and positive frequencies

- Mathematically, the continuous FT and inverse are defined *symmetrically*:

$$H(f) = \int_{-\infty}^{+\infty} h(t) \exp(i2\pi f t) dt \Leftrightarrow h(t) = \int_{-\infty}^{+\infty} H(f) \exp(-i2\pi f t) df$$

- So negative  $f$ 's are handled naturally
- But **discrete** transform sums are *periodic in  $n$* :

$$F_n = \sum_{k=0}^{N-1} f(t_k) \exp(i2\pi kn / N)$$

where  $k$  indexes  $N$  signal samples,  $k = 0 \dots N - 1$ ,

and  $n$  indexes  $N$  frequencies,  $n = (-N / 2) \dots 0 \dots (+N / 2)$

$\exp(i2\pi kn / N)$  is periodic in  $n$ , with period =  $N$ , so  $F_{-n} = F_{N-n}$

- Periodicity means  $f_{-N/2} = f_{+N/2}$ , so only get  $N$  **distinct**  $f$ 's
- **Note: "Fast Fourier Transform" (FFT)** = clever algorithm to minimize CPU time required for DFT-ing large sample sets
  - Requires  $N$  to be a power of 2 - otherwise, just a DFT

# Negative and positive frequencies

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- We can let  $n=0\dots N/2$  instead (symmetry wrt  $f(t_k)$  indexing)
- Then
  - $n=0 \rightarrow f=0$
  - $n=1 \rightarrow f=f_1$
  - $n=N/2 \rightarrow f=\pm f_c=f_1 N/2$
  - $n=(N/2)+1 \rightarrow$  negative freq  $f= -f_{c+1}$
  - $n=(N-1) \rightarrow -f_1$

example: say  $N=6$ , and  $\Delta=1$  ms: then  $f_c=1/2\Delta=0.5$  kHz

$f_{-3}=0.5\text{kHz}$ ,  $f_{-2}=-0.33\text{kHz}$ ,  $f_{-1}=0.16\text{kHz}$ ,  $f_0=0$  (DC),  $f_1=0.16\text{kHz}$ ,  
 $f_2=0.33\text{kHz}$ ,  $f_3=0.5\text{kHz}$

- Notice that negative  $f$ 's (or  $n>N/2$ ) contain no new information, but must be taken into account when computing intensity (“power”):

$$P_n(f_n) = |H(f_n)|^2 + |H(-f_n)|^2, \quad n = 0\dots N/2$$



# DFT: Sampling theorem and Nyquist frequency

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- Sampling theorem:

“If a continuous function  $h(t)$ , sampled at an intervals,  $\Delta$ , is **bandwidth limited** to frequencies smaller in magnitude than  $f_c$ , so  $H(f) = 0$  for  $|f| \geq f_c$

Then  $h(t)$  is completely determined by its samples for  $\Delta < 1/(2f_c)$

- So: If the signal is **known** not to contain harmonics  $> f_c$  then the Fourier interpolation is an exact representation (and vice-versa!)
  - Often we have a signal that is bandwidth-limited (by amplifier or cable limitations)
    - sampling theorem tells us that the **entire information content** of the signal can be recorded by sampling it at a rate  $f_s = 2 f_c$
  - **Remarkable** because a continuous function seems to have infinitely more “information content” than the series
- But: if  $h(t)$  is **not** bandwidth limited to  $f \leq f_c$ , all the spectral power density **outside** of the frequency range  $-f_c \leq f \leq f_c$  is (falsely) pushed into that range: **aliasing**  
(more on this later)

- Fourier interpolation: we can derive  $f(t)$  from FT(sampled data):

– Example:

Step fn:  $y = \{1, 1, 1, 0, 0, 0\}$ , equally spaced on  $t = [0, 2\pi)$

$N = 6$ ,  $k = 0, 1, \dots, 5$ , and  $\{x_k\} = k(2\pi/6)$

$= \{0, 1.05, 2.09, 3.14, 4.19, 5.24\}$

Trigonometric interpolating function is

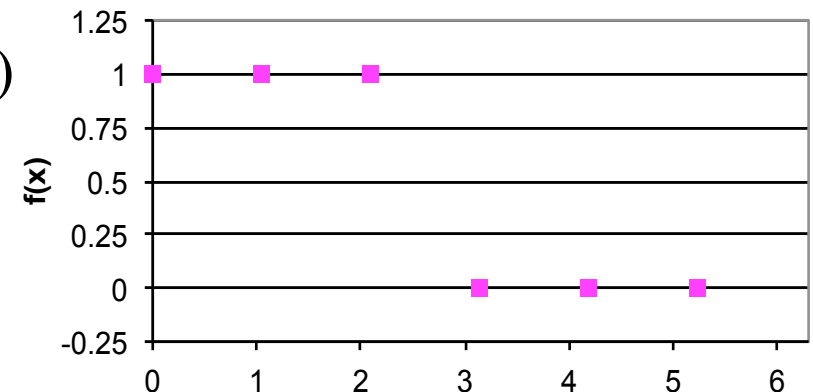
$$f_N(t) = \frac{a_0}{2} + \sum_{j=1}^{m-1} (a_j \cos(jt) + b_j \sin(jt)) + \frac{a_m}{2} \cos(mt)$$

Where  $m = N/2 \rightarrow N = 2m$  (assumes even number of pts)

$$a_j = \frac{2}{N} \sum_{k=0}^{N-1} y_k \cos(jt_k), \quad b_j = \frac{2}{N} \sum_{k=0}^{N-1} y_k \sin(jt_k)$$

$$\text{or } c_j = \frac{2}{N} \sum_{k=0}^{N-1} y_k \exp(i j t_k)$$

$$\rightarrow a_j = \text{Re}(c_j), \quad b_j = \text{Im}(c_j)$$

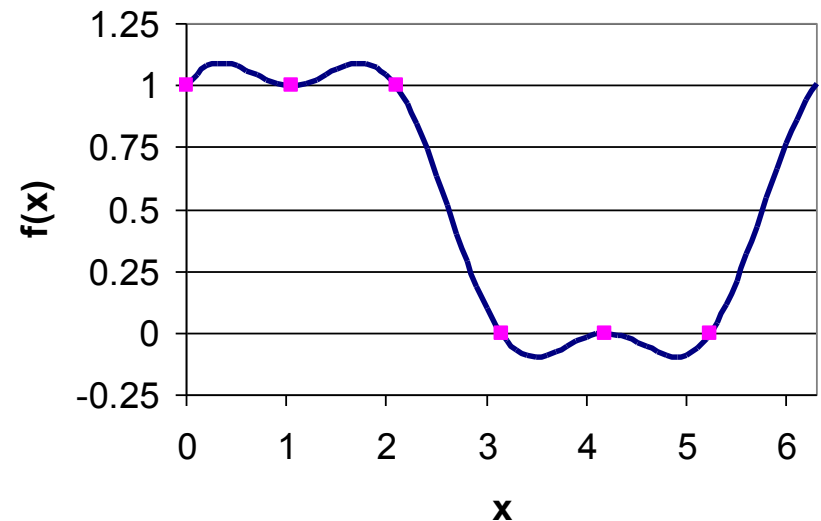


**Where's the step?**

Do we know?

# Example of frequency issues

- Let's revisit the earlier example of FT on a **sampled square wave**:
  - Data:  $y = \{1, 1, 1, 0, 0, 0\}$ , equally spaced on  $x = [0, 2\pi)$   
 $N = 6$ ,  $k = 0, 1 \dots 5$ ,  $\{x_k\} = k(2\pi/6)$   
 $= \{0, 1.05, 2.09, 3.14, 4.19, 5.24\}$
  - Notice that data are *assumed to be periodic* (basis of discrete FT), so  
 $"x_7" = 2\pi \rightarrow "y_7" = y_1 \dots$  (repeat)
  - Run DFT on these data, results are:
    - $Y_0 = 3.0$  (constant term, baseline)
    - $Y_1 = 1.0 + 1.73i$
    - $Y_2 = 0$
    - $Y_3 = 1.0$
    - $Y_4 = 0$  ( $= Y_{-2}$ )
    - $Y_5 = 1.0 - 1.73i$  ( $= Y_{-1}$ )
  - Here  $\Delta = 2\pi/6$ ,  $f_n = n/(N\Delta) = n/2\pi$ ,  $f_c = 1/(2\Delta)$ ,



# Example of frequency issues

- We can identify the frequencies in the discrete spectrum as  $f_0=0$ ,  $f_1=1/2\pi$ ,  $f_2=2/2\pi$ ,  $f_3=3/2\pi=f_c$  (Nyquist  $f$  in this example)  
But we are entitled to 6  $H(k)$  components for 6  $h(t)$  samples, so we get 2 more, corresponding to *negative* frequencies:

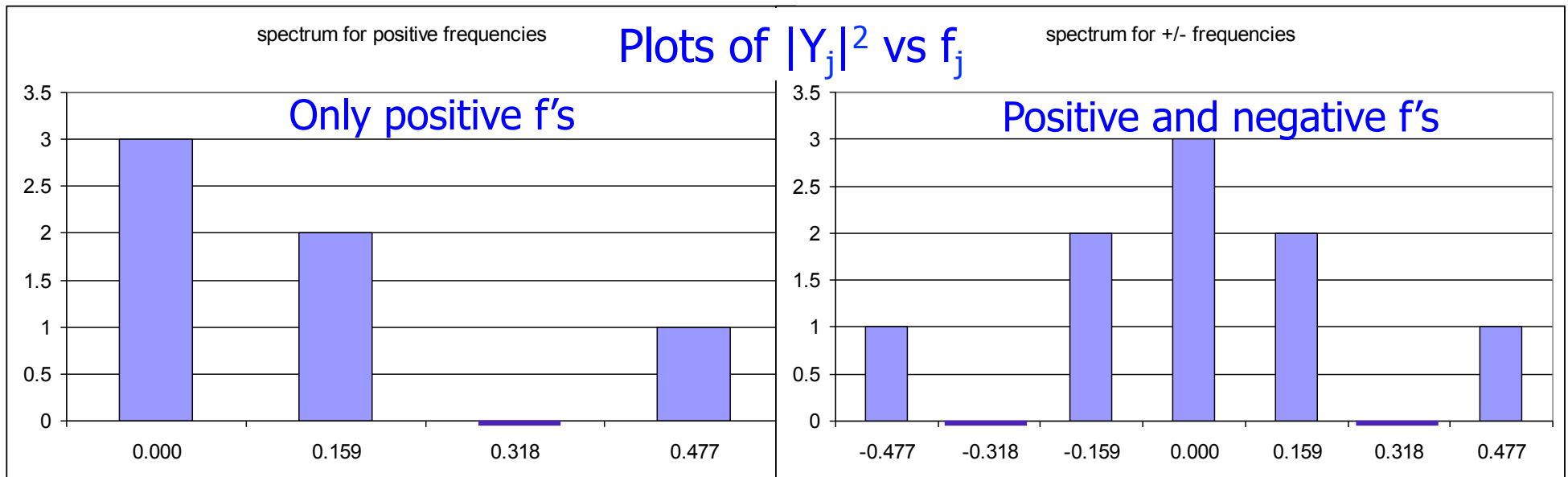
$$f_4 = f_{-2} = -2/2\pi, \quad f_5 = f_{-1} = -1/2\pi$$

Notice that  $|Y_4| = |Y_2|$  and  $|Y_5| = |Y_1|$

If we use the indexing  $-N/2 \dots +N/2$ , we get

$$f_{-3}=3/2\pi, \quad f_{-2}= -2/2\pi, \quad f_{-1}= -1/2\pi, \quad f_0=0,$$

$$f_1 = 1/2\pi, \quad f_2 = 2/2\pi, \quad f_3=3/2\pi \quad (7 \text{ n' s but } 6 \text{ f' s})$$



# Summary of FT properties

- Note: for **real** signal  $f(t)$ :  $F(-f) = F^*(f)$  (\* = conjugate)
  - So, if  $F(f)$  does not contain any  $\delta$ -functions (i.e. discrete sinusoids)  
 $|F(-f)|^2 = |F(f)|^2 \rightarrow PSD = 2|F(f)|^2$
  - Parseval's thm  $\rightarrow$  RMS  $f(t) = \text{area under PSD}$

- Summary:

$\{f(t_k)\}$ ,  $k = 0, 1 \dots N-1$      $N$  samples of signal at intervals  $\Delta$

$\{F_n\}$ ,  $n = -\frac{N}{2} \dots 0 \dots \frac{N}{2}$     Discrete Fourier transform of  $h$

$F_n = \textit{Amplitudes}$  in frequency domain ("spectrum" of  $f$ ):

$F(f_n) \approx F_n \Delta$ , with frequencies  $f_n = \frac{n}{N\Delta}$ ,  $-f_c \leq f_n \leq f_c$ ,  $f_c = \frac{1}{2N}$

$$F(f) = \int_{-\infty}^{+\infty} f(t) \exp(i2\pi ft) dt \rightarrow F_n = \sum_{k=0}^{N-1} f_k \exp\left(i2\pi k \frac{n}{N}\right)$$

# Summary of DFT properties

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**Limited information:** we have only

$N$  numbers for  $f(t_k) \rightarrow N$  numbers for  $F_n$  ( $F_{-N/2} = F_{N/2}$ )

*Amplitude*  $F_n$  exists from  $f = -f_c$  to  $f_c$ , but

*spectrum* only has meaning for  $f = 0$  to  $f_c$ :

$$P_n(f_n) = |F(f_n)|^2 + |F(-f_n)|^2$$

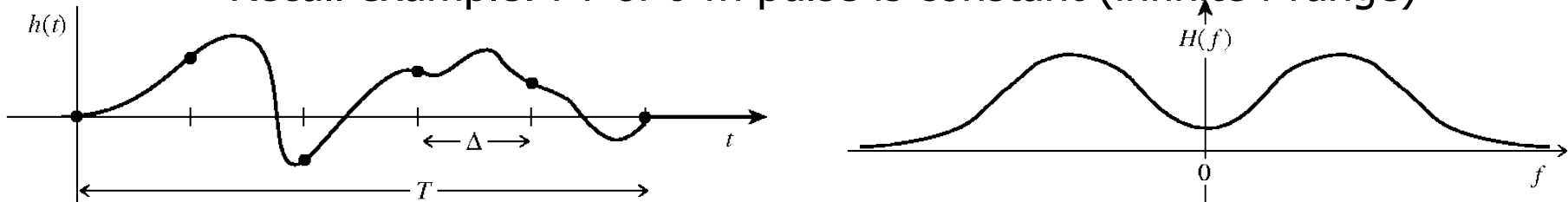
With  $\{f_n\}$  real,  $\{F_n\}$  will be all reals (eg, if  $f(t)$  is odd, cos series), or all imaginaries (if  $f$  is even, sin series)

$F_n$  is assumed to be periodic, with period  $N$ , so  $F_{-n} = F_{N-n}$

$$\left. \begin{array}{l} n = 0 \dots \frac{N}{2} \rightarrow f = 0 \dots f_c \\ n = \frac{N}{2} \dots (N-1) \rightarrow f = -f_c \dots 0 \end{array} \right\} \left\{ \begin{array}{l} \text{Note: } \pm f_c = f_{N/2} \text{ so we can have} \\ \text{both } k \text{ and } n \text{ run from } 0 \dots (N-1) \end{array} \right.$$

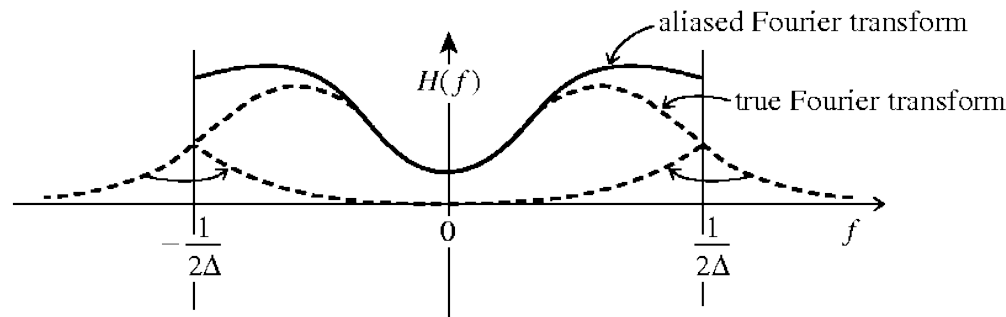
# Understanding frequencies and aliasing

- Let's review the **meaning of frequencies in FTs**
  - Signal* occupies limited range of t: **finite sampling**
  - We know FT connects **limited** t range to **broad** freq range
    - Recall example: FT of  $\delta$ -fn pulse is constant (*infinite* f range)



- But  $N$  samples of  $f(t)$  can only give  $N/2$  samples of  $F(f)$  (Nyquist)
  - f-range limited to  $\pm f_c$ 
    - $f_c$  defined by range  $T$  ("period") and  $N$ :  $\rightarrow f_1 = 1/T, f_c = (N/2)f_1$
  - True** spectrum must have **broader** tails
    - "Power" (area under tails of true f spectrum) will get **aliased** into the limited f range of the discrete spectrum

Figs. from  
*Numerical Recipes*



# Applying Fourier methods: Convolution and correlation

- Given 2 signals,  $g(t)$  and  $h(t)$

$$g * h = \int_{-\infty}^{+\infty} g(t')h(t - t')dt' = \text{convolution of } g \text{ and } h$$

Note: minus sign

multiply  $g$  by *shifted*  $h$  and integrate (notice  $g * h = f(t)$ )

Then  $g * h = h * g$ , and

$$FT(g * h) = \int_{-\infty}^{+\infty} \exp(i2\pi ft)dt \int_{-\infty}^{+\infty} g(t')h(t - t')dt'$$

So  $FT(g * h) = G(f)H(f)$  Convolution theorem

FT of *convolution*  $\Leftrightarrow$  simple *product* of FTs in  $f$  - domain

Similarly :  $\text{corr}(g, h) = \int_{-\infty}^{+\infty} g(t'+t)h(t')dt' = \text{correlation of } g \text{ and } h$

Note: plus sign

$$\text{corr}(g, h) = FT\{G(f)H(-f)\}$$

For real functions  $g, h$ ,  $H(-f) = H^*(f)$

so  $\text{corr}(g, h) \underset{FT}{\Leftrightarrow} G(f)H^*(f)$

## Common applications

- **Convolution**: describes effect of a *filter* on a signal
- **Correlation**: identify and *locate* a *specified waveform* in noisy signal



# Convolution and correlation in signal processing

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- Convolution and correlation are mathematically similar but have **different interpretations**:

$$\text{convolution } g * h = \int_{-\infty}^{+\infty} g(t')h(t - t')dt' \leftrightarrow G(f)H(f)$$

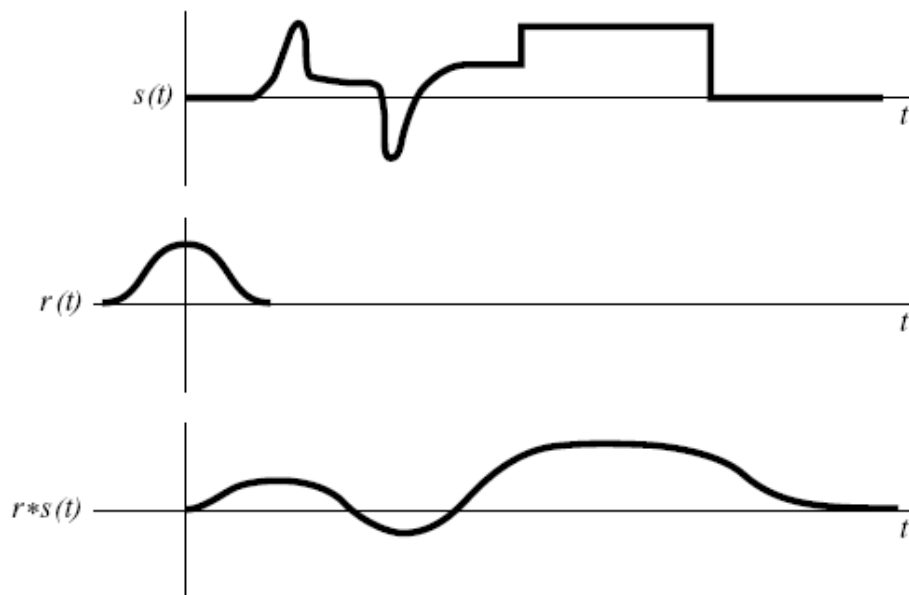
$$\text{correlation } \text{corr}(g, h) = \int_{-\infty}^{+\infty} g(t + t')h(t')dt' \leftrightarrow G(f)H^*(f)$$

- Convolution = smearing or smoothing “signal”  $h(t)$  with “filter”  $g(t)$ 
  - Typically  $g$  covers *smaller* range than  $h$  (shorter time span or fewer samples)
- Correlation = checking for common features (modulo some unknown *shift*  $\Delta x$ ) between 2 signals
  - Typically  $g$  and  $h$  have  $\sim$ same sample size
  - *Autocorrelation* = check for **cyclic behavior** in signal itself
    - Important tool in acoustics (more later)

# Convolution

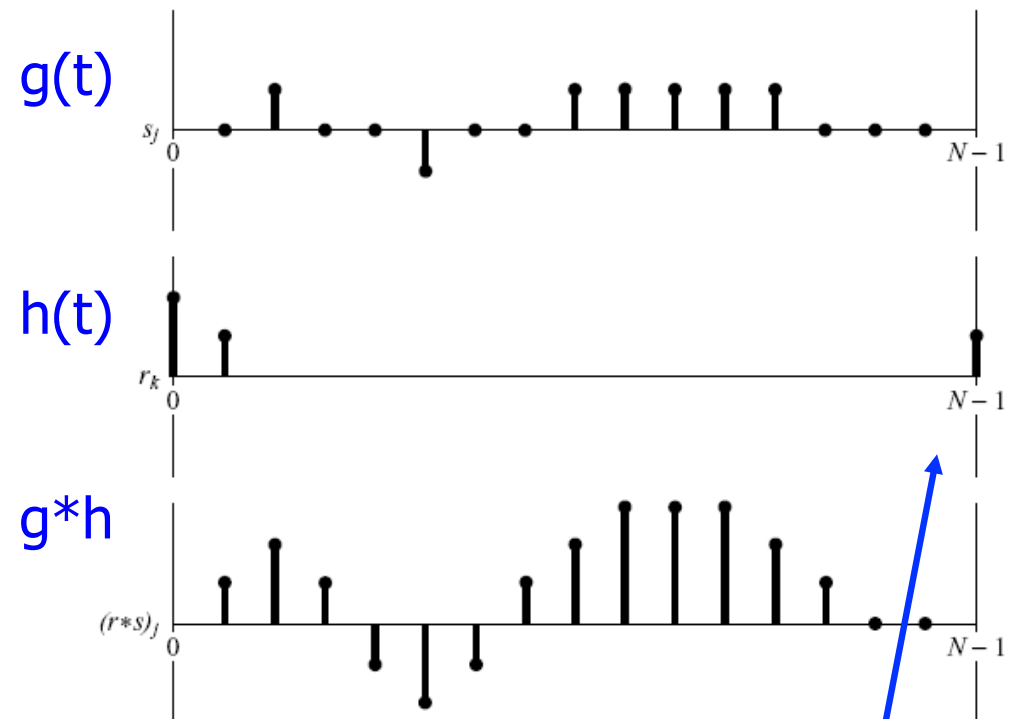
- For each value  $t'$  within the selected  $t$  range, multiply  $g(t')$  by  $h(t-t')$  and add up contributions:

Continuous version:



NR fig. 13.1.1

Discrete version



note wraparound of  $g(t)$

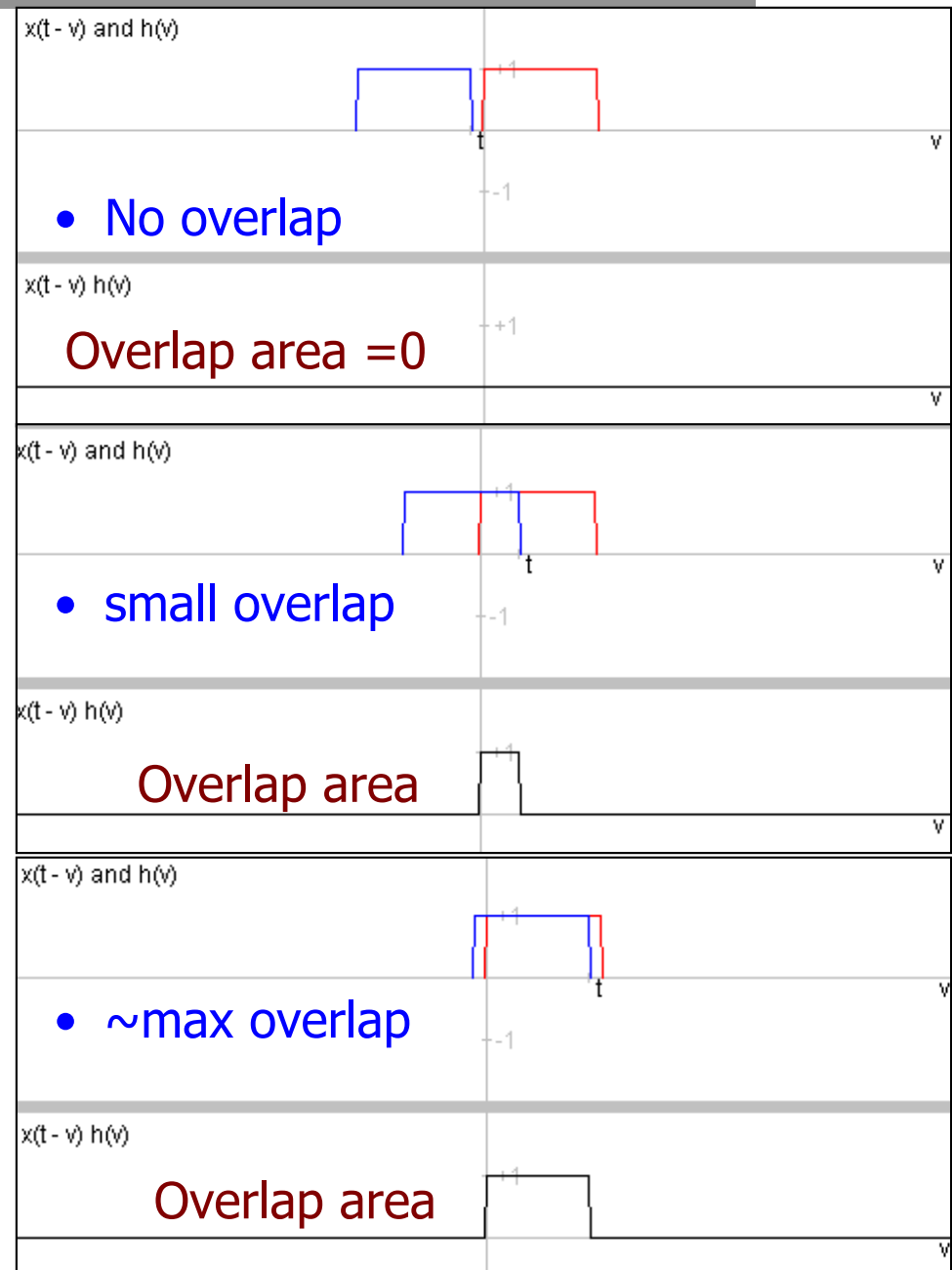
# Convolution

Convolution amounts to calculating **overlap** vs **displacement** and integrating:

Example: Convolution of 2 square pulses,  $x(v)$  and  $h(v)$

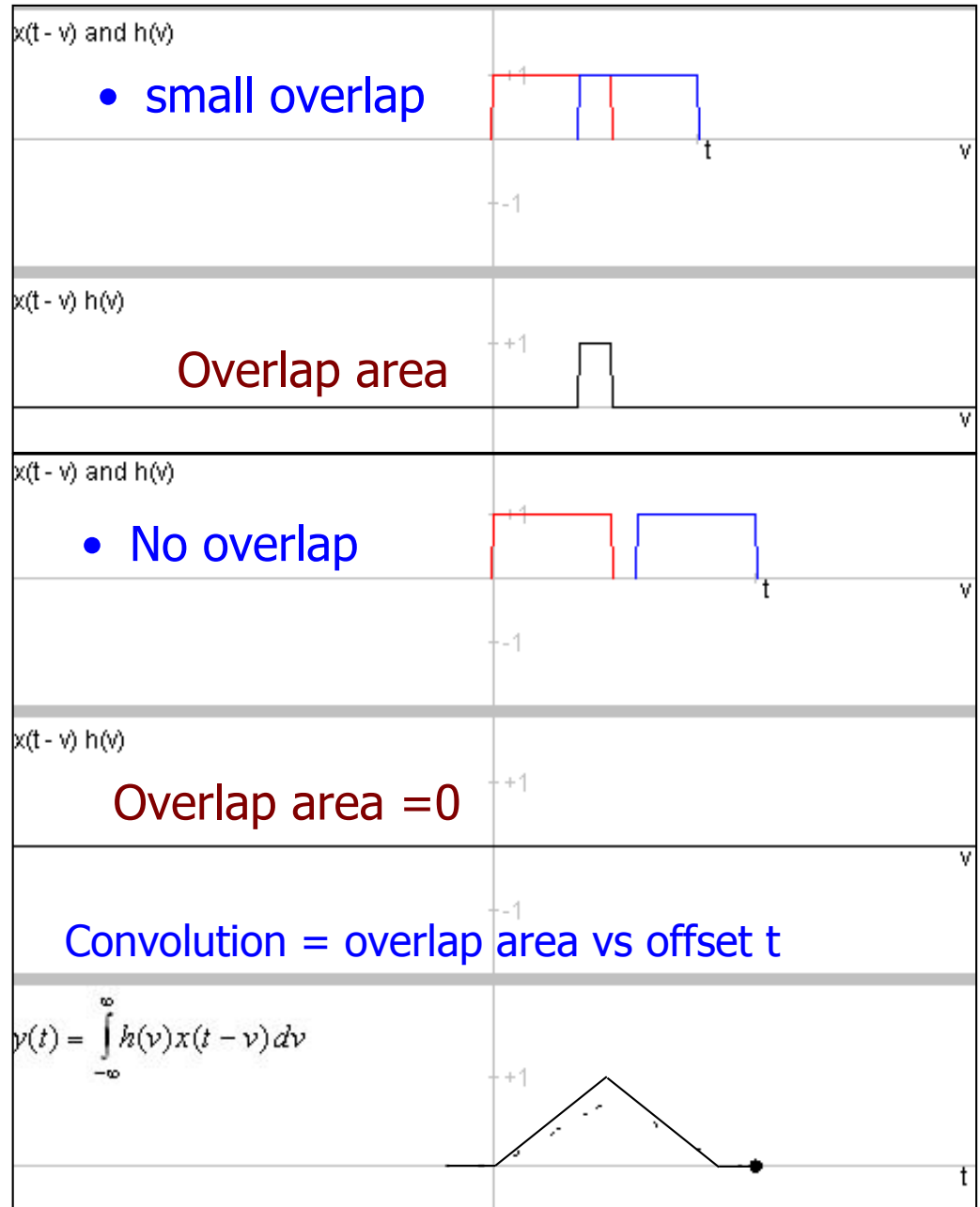
(see <http://www.jhu.edu/~signals/convolve/> )

In these plots,  $t$ =**offset** of  $h(v)$  relative to  $x(v)$   
(reversed!)



# Convolution (continued)

- past max overlap:



small overlap again

No overlap again

Plot of overlap area vs offset  $t$   
 = Convolution vs  $t$

# Discrete convolutions and correlations

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## Discrete Convolution:

- Application: model effect of a filter (or any process) on a known input signal
  - Electrical signal passed through transmission line
  - Point-source (eg, distant star) imaged in optical system
  - Physical process in detector with systematic error
- For periodic signal  $g = s(t)$  (N samples), and
- Response  $h = r(t)$  with **finite** shorter duration ( $M \leq N$  samples):
  - *Finite impulse response* = **FIR** (important case in signal analysis)
  - Calculating  $(g*h)$  is really simple! Time shift is just change of index:

$$(g * h)_j = \sum_{k=-M/2+1}^{M/2} s_{j-k} r_k = FT(G_j H_j)$$

- Just sum of products of *shifted* elements of  $g$  &  $h(t)$
- Can be implemented on a specialized DSP chip for real-time apps
- Can also be implemented in hardware as a *FIR filter* with **only passive components**

# Discrete convolutions and correlations

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## Discrete Correlation:

- Application: search for pattern in a data stream
  - Search for **specified signal** in noise
  - Test for **similarity of signals** (in time-series sense)
- Very similar to convolution, but typically  $M=N$

– Discrete corr:

$$\text{corr}(g, h)_j = \sum_{k=0}^{N-1} g_{j+k} h_k = FT(G_k H_k^*)$$

- Notice index shift has + sign instead of -
- $\text{corr}(g, h)$  vs  $t$  (=“lag”) : **correlogram**
  - $\text{corr}(g, h)$  is large when  $g \sim h$  at lag  $t$  (location of  $h$  in signal stream  $g$ )
- **Wiener-Khinchin Theorem**: autocorrelation is Fourier dual of signal's power spectral density PSD:

$$\text{corr}(h, h) \leftrightarrow |H(f)|^2$$

# Autocorrelation

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- **Wiener-Khinchin Theorem:**  $corr(h, h) \leftrightarrow |H(f)|^2$ 
  - Meaning (as with all FT pairs): if the autocorrelation is narrow, the PSD will be broad
- **“Uncertainty principle”** :
  - $\Delta t$  = width of autocorrelation in time,  $\Delta f$  = width of PSD in frequency
  - Then  $\Delta f \Delta t \sim \text{constant}$
  - (analogous to QM uncertainty principle  $\Delta x \Delta p \sim \text{constant}$ , and from the same source: in QM,  $x$  and  $p$  are dual spaces  $\rightarrow$  FT partners)
- Chorus effect, and fast echoes:
  1. If members of a chorus could all sing a given note without vibrato, we would hear it as **one voice** (with greater amplitude)
    - Real chorus sounds pleasantly complex, but we recognize the note
    - Variations between voices **broaden** the signal’s autocorrelation, so PSD is relatively narrow
  2. If a sound is repeated after a very short delay (few msec) we cannot register it as separate, but it “colors” the sound by altering autocorrelation – **room echoes do this**

# Example of convolution

- Example of convolution (this is from optics, but same idea for  $f(t)$ ):
  - *Scene* is imaged by lens with limited aperture: clips off higher *spatial frequencies*
  - *Point spread function* = *impulse response* of lens (image of ideal mathematical point) (acoustic equivalent: FT of a sharp bang)
  - Convolution = apply PSF to *each point of input* scene and add to get resulting image

Simplest possible scene  
= uniform bright disk  
(sharp edge)

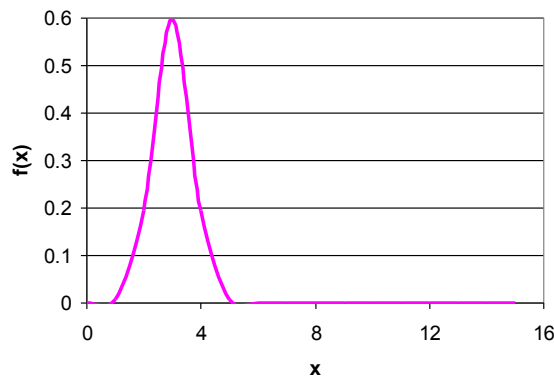
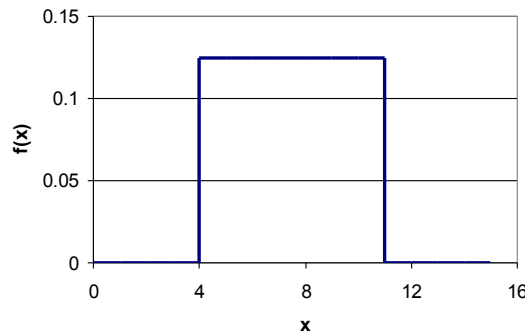
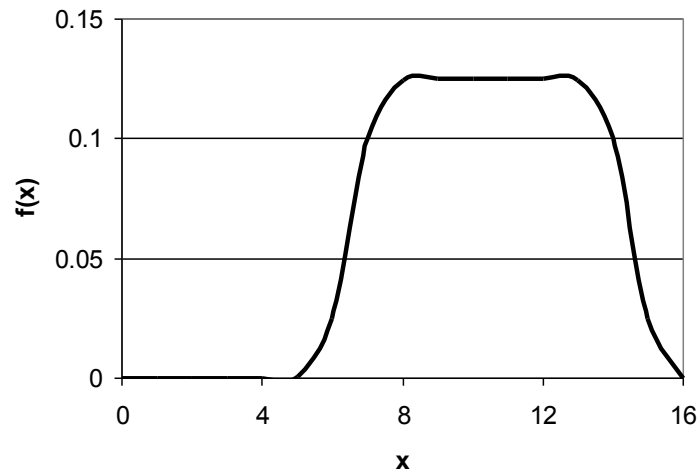


Image = convolution ( $r*s$ )  
(edges of disk become fuzzy)



Point spread function = Gaussian  
(impulse response of lens)



original



Lens output  
(convolved with  
PSF of lens)



# Applications of digital convolution in acoustics

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Reverberation: effects of multiple reflections of a sound source arriving at listener's location, in a given room or other enclosure

- Direct sound arrives first, followed by direct reflections, then multipath reflections

## Convolution Reverb

- Simulate effect of room acoustics on a digitized sound stream (eg music)
  - Get impulse response of room using sharp noise (like a gunshot)
  - Convolve IR with signal of interest
  - Can predict how music will sound in room

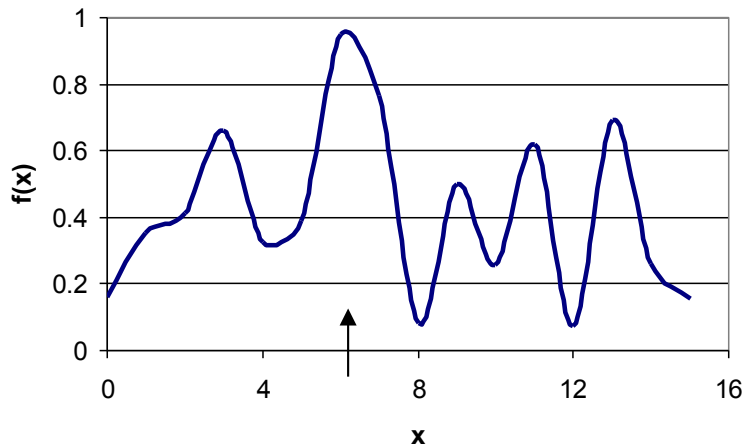
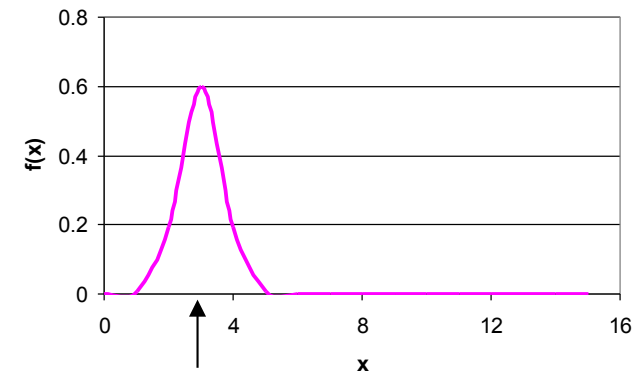
## Digital Reverb

- Apply any desired set of delays and frequency dependent effects to a digital signal stream
  - Use specialized electronics, or computer software, to filter, attenuate and delay multiple copies of original signal
  - at lag  $t$  (location of  $h$  in signal stream  $g$ )

# Example of correlation

- Example of correlation from acoustic signal processing
  - Gaussian-shaped sonar pulse is buried in noisy data stream
  - Find **arrival time** of pulse

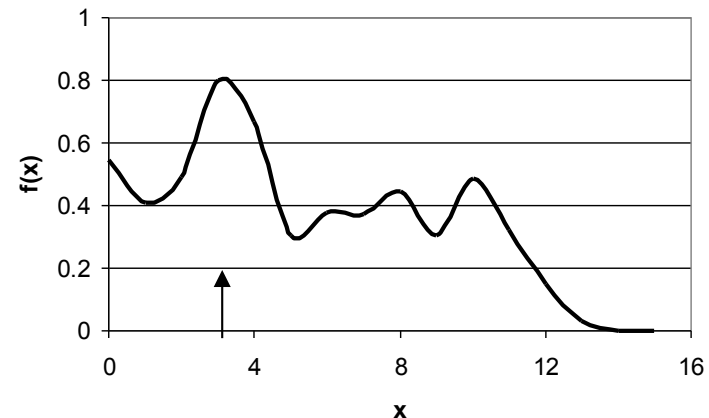
Gaussian-shaped pulse **model**:  
Starts at  $x=1$ , centered at  $x=3$



Pulse buried in white noise  
(25% signal, 75% noise)  
Here, pulse starts at  $x=4$ , centered at  $x=6$

## Correlogram:

Peak location shows arrival time  
of pulse is at  $x' = 3$  in correlation  
 $4 - 1 = 3$  is "lag" relative to model function,  
so pulse center is located at  $x = 3 + 3 = 6$   
in signal stream (position in model + lag  
in correlation)



# Filters in signal processing

Typically we

Measure signal  $s(t)$  (e.g., voltage vs time from microphone)

FTs:

Assume  $s(t)=u(t)*r(t)$

→  $S(f)$

$u(t)$ = true underlying signal

→  $U(f)$

$r(t)$ = measuring system's response fn

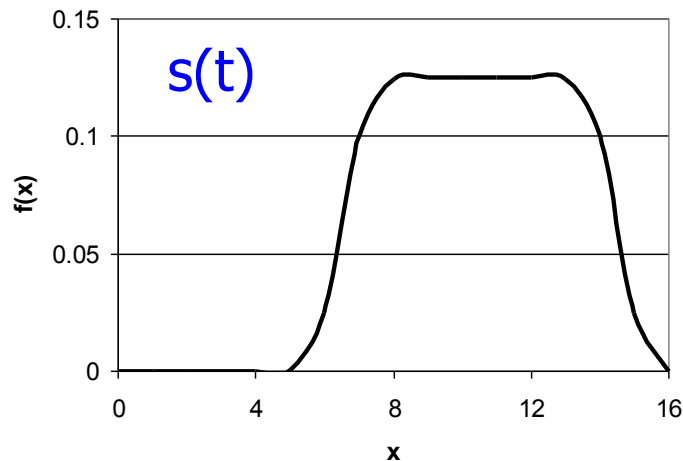
→  $R(f)$

Then  $S(f)=U(f)R(f)$  (simple product of FTs)

So  $U(f)=S(f)/R(f)$  ( $S=FT[s(t)]$ ,  $R=FT[r(t)]$ )

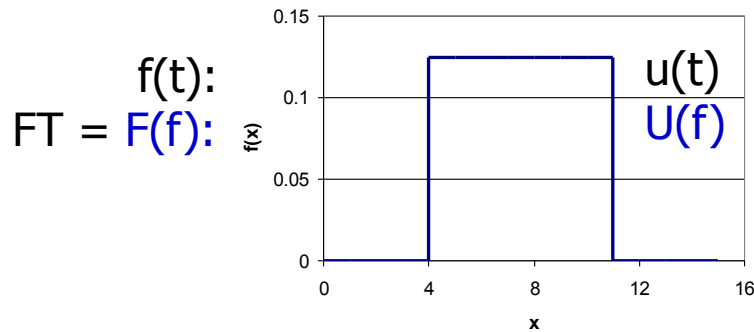
$u(t)=FT^{-1}[U(f)]$  (deconvolve to recover true signal)

This describes the action of a *filter* on a signal

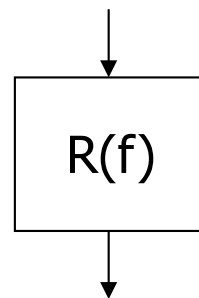
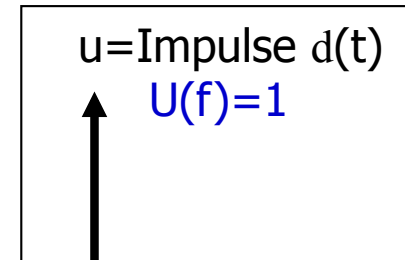


$$S(f)=U(f)R(f)$$

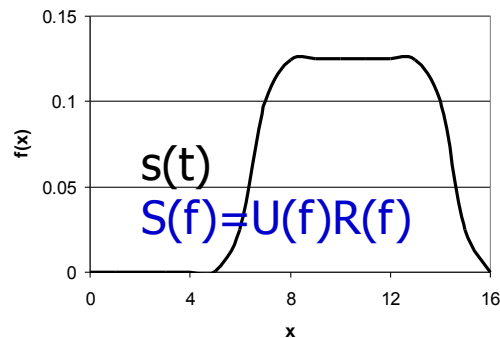
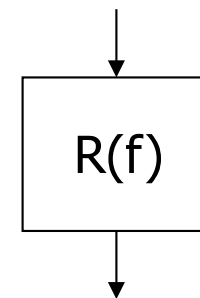
# signal processing acts like a filter



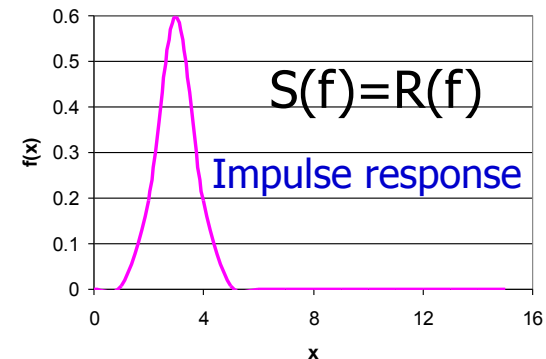
Idealized  
input signal



System acts  
like a filter  
described by  $R(f)$



Observed  
output signal



To find  $R(f)$ , we input an impulse  $u(t)$ :  $U(f) = \text{flat}$  (all  $f'$  s present)  
 Then output spectrum  $S(f) = \text{filter characteristic } R(f)$

- $R(f) = \text{Impulse response}$

# Digital filtering

- So far we have assumed *offline* filtering in f-domain (in a computer)
  - “*Acausal*”: we have the full signal history in hand, a priori
- Often must do *realtime* filtering in t-domain (in the field!)
  - “*Causal*”: we have only the current and a few recent samples
  - Historically: used analog devices: capacitors, inductors, transistors; or lenses, apertures, filters...
  - Currently: digital filtering using DSP chips or fast devices (GHz rates)

- Linear filter: 
$$\{\{f(t_k)\}\}_n = \sum_{k=0}^M c_k t_{n-k} + \sum_{j=1}^N d_j f(t_{n-j})$$

- Output at  $t=n\Delta$  is function of
  - Previous  $M+1$  **inputs**
  - Previous  $N$  **outputs**
- If  $N=0$  (no **feedback**), *non-recursive* filter
  - FIR filter:  $y \rightarrow 0$ , after  $x \rightarrow 0$   
(**Finite Impulse Response**)
- If  $N>0$ ,  $f=$  *recursive* filter
  - IIR (infinite impulse response):  
Infinite impulse response possible: feedback  $\rightarrow$  output may howl!  
Sharper filtering, but at cost of potential instability

For FIR filters

$$g(f) = FT(f(t)) = \sum_{k=0}^M c_k \exp(-i2\pi fk\Delta)$$

So  $FT^{-1}[g]$  gives  $c_k = \text{fn of } g(f_k)$ :

- Get  $M$  frequency points with an  $M$ -point sample window

# Optimal filtering

- Usually system introduces *noise* as well as distortion of signals
  - Measured signal is  $c(t) = s(t) + n(t)$  (where  $s=u*r$ )
- We want an *optimal filter*  $\phi(f)$  which removes noise and recovers  $u(t)$  via deconvolution of system response  $R(f)$

$$s(t) = \text{FT}^{-1}[C(f)*\phi(f)]$$

$$U(f) = S(f)/R(f) = C(f)\phi(f)/R(f)$$

- Unlike  $R(f)$ , we cannot determine noise precisely (noise = *stochastic process*)
  - Cannot find *exact*  $\phi(f)$  directly, like  $R(f)$
  - *Estimate*  $U(f)$  using (e.g.) *least squares* (LSQ) criterion:

$$\tilde{U}(f) \approx U_{TRUE} \text{ in sense of LSQ} \rightarrow \text{minimize } \int_{-\infty}^{+\infty} |\tilde{U}(f) - U_{TRUE}|^2 df$$

$$|\tilde{U}(f) - U_{TRUE}|^2 = \left| \frac{(S + N)\phi}{R} - \frac{S}{R} \right|^2 \quad \text{Notice that}$$

$n(t)$  and  $s(t)$  are *uncorrelated* by definition (else  $n(t)$  is not noise!)

# Optimal filtering

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$$\begin{aligned} \text{to minimize } \int_{-\infty}^{+\infty} \left| \tilde{U}(f) - U_{TRUE} \right|^2 df &= \int_{-\infty}^{+\infty} \left| \frac{(S + N)\varphi}{R} - \frac{S}{R} \right|^2 df \\ &= \int_{-\infty}^{+\infty} \frac{1}{|R|^2} \left\{ |S|^2 |\varphi - 1|^2 + |N|^2 |\varphi|^2 \right\} df \end{aligned}$$

(  $n(t)$  and  $s(t)$  are uncorrelated, so cross terms integrate to 0 )

$$\text{Minimize integrand: } \frac{\partial}{\partial \varphi} \left\{ |S|^2 |\varphi - 1|^2 + |N|^2 |\varphi|^2 \right\} = 0$$

$$\rightarrow \varphi(f) = \frac{|S(f)|^2}{|S(f)|^2 + |N(f)|^2}$$

- Notice  $\phi(f)$  **does not depend** on  $R(f)$
- Problem: we **need**  $S(F)$  and  $N(F)$  but have only the FT of their **sum**,  $C(f) = \text{FT}[s(t) + n(t)]$

# Noise spectra

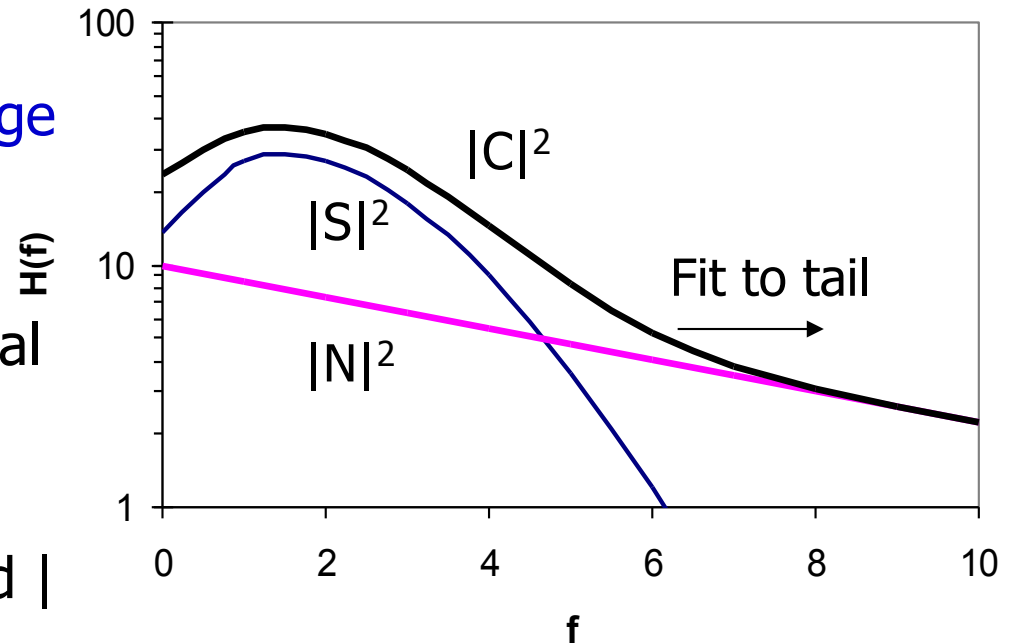
- Must make an *hypothesis* about the form of  $n(t)$ 
  - Typically choose one of:
    - **Flat** spectrum (white noise, Johnson\* noise)
    - **Exponential** spectrum (pink noise, "1/f noise")
    - **Power-law** noise (eg,  $1/f^2$  = red noise)
- Study the spectrum of raw measurements  $C(f)$ :

\* first observed by J. Johnson in 1926. He described his findings to H. Nyquist, who explained them - both worked at Bell Labs.

(Power of  $f$  = 0 for white, 1 for pink, 2 for red)

Usually signal  $S(f)$  has **limited  $f$  range**

- Fit hypothesis to **tail of  $C$** , where  $N$  dominates
- **Extrapolate** fit back into signal range to estimate  $N$
- Estimate  $|S|^2 = |C|^2 - |N|^2$
- Use fitted  $|N|^2$  and estimated  $|S|^2$  to find  $\phi(f)$





# Representing spectra

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- Recall that for  $N$  samples  $\{c_j\}_N$  we get

$$FT[c(t)] = C_k = \sum_{j=0}^{N-1} c_j \exp(i2\pi jk / N)$$

$C_k$  is *complex amplitude* at frequencies

$$f_k = \frac{k}{N\Delta} = 0 \dots f_{NYQUIST} = \frac{1}{2\Delta}$$

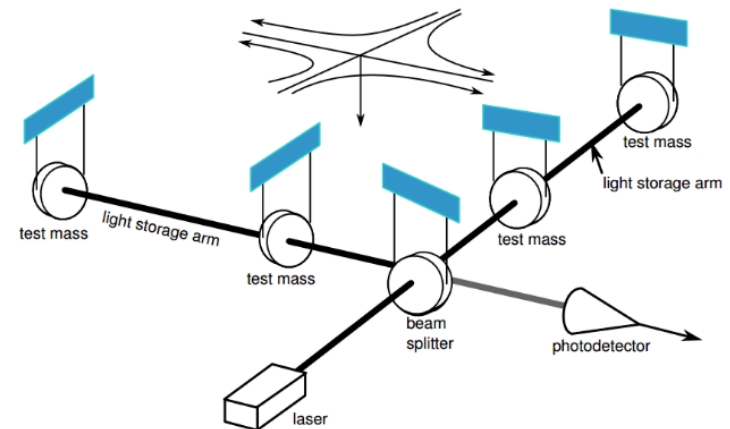
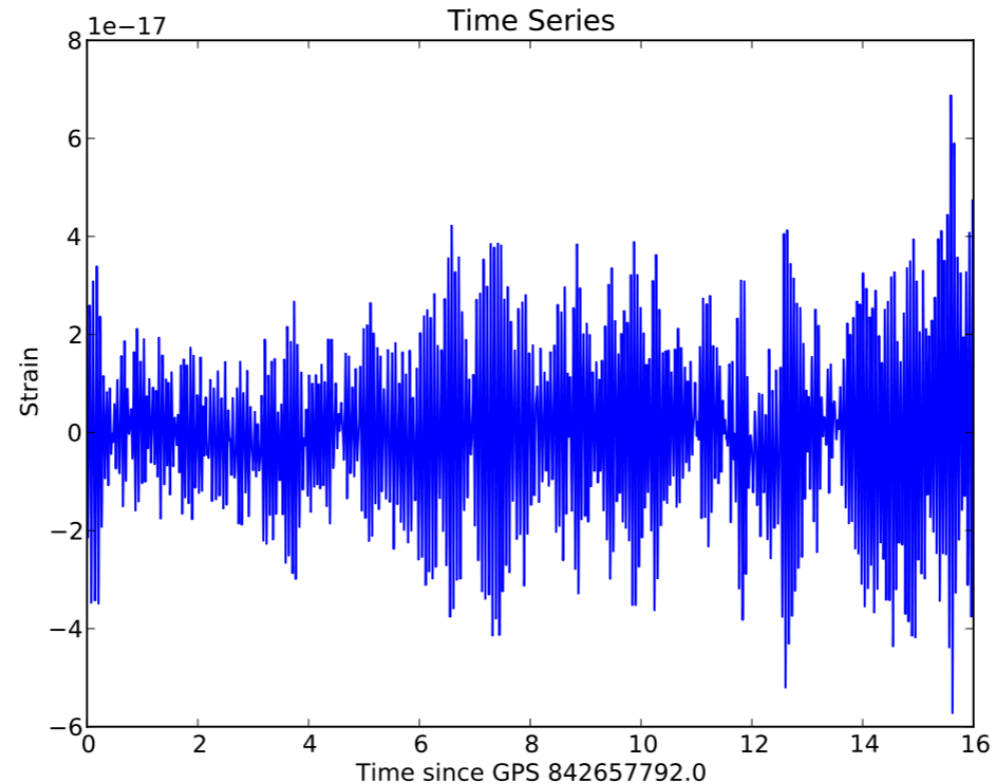
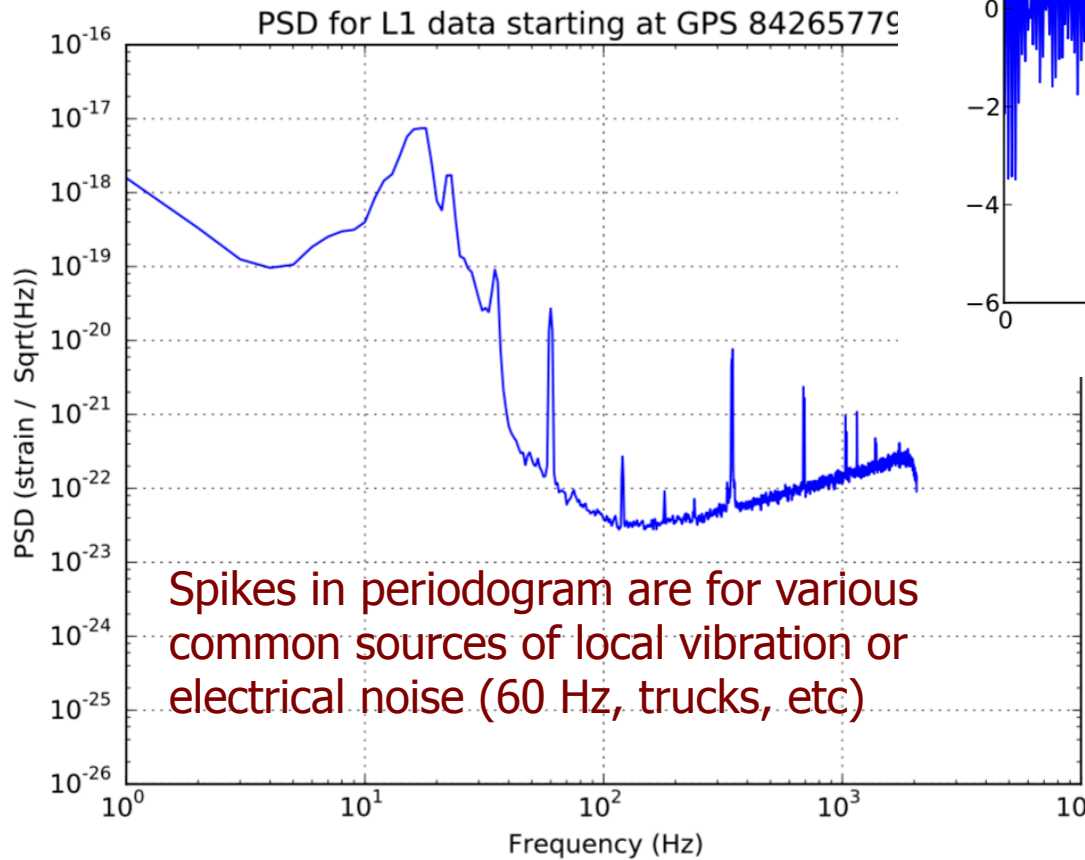
- How to describe the “power” at a given  $f_k$ ?
  - Simple **intensity** calculation (plot = “**periodogram**”)

$$P_k(f_k) = \frac{1}{N^2} \left\{ |C_k|^2 + |C_{N-k}|^2 \right\}$$

Note:  $C_{N-k}$  term is absent for  $k = 0$  and  $N/2$

# Representing spectra

- Example: random example of the signal stream and corresponding periodogram from LIGO gravitational wave detector at Hanford, WA



# Representing spectra

---

Parseval's theorem says

$$\sum |c_j(t)|^2 = \frac{1}{N} \sum |C_k(f)|^2 \rightarrow N^2 \sum P_k(f_k) = N \sum |c_j(t)|^2$$

$$\text{So } \sum P_k(f_k) = \frac{1}{N} \sum |c_j(t)|^2 \quad \text{i.e.,}$$

$\sum P_k(f_k) =$  mean squared amplitude of signal in t-domain

$$\rightarrow \sum P_k(f_k) = \int_0^T |c(t)|^2 dt$$

- Note we get discrete  $C_k$ , **not** a continuous  $C(f)$ 
  - Sampled data  $\rightarrow$  sampled spectrum
- Each  $C_k$  contains “power” (area under  $C(f)$ ) for a *bin* in frequency
  - Like histogram vs probability density function

# Frequency resolution vs bandwidth

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- Fourier analysis reminds us of “conservation of information”: you never get something for free
  - $f_c$  (Nyquist  $f$ ) depends only on **sampling rate**:  $f_c = 1/2\Delta$
  - Number of frequencies sampled within  $0 \rightarrow f_c$  (frequency resolution) depends only on **number of samples  $N$**
  - So:
    - Increasing **length** of sample does not improve **bandwidth**
      - For  $\Delta = 1 \mu\text{s}$ ,  $f_c = 0.5 \text{ MHz}$  regardless of whether we take 1 sec or 1 year of data
    - Increasing **rate** of sampling does not improve frequency **resolution** of the spectrum
      - For 100 samples, we get 100 points on the spectrum, whether we sample at 1 Hz or 1 MHz
    - **Neither** increasing rate nor sample size improves **accuracy** of continuous spectrum estimation from discrete spectra

# Frequency resolution vs bandwidth

---

- We can improve accuracy or resolution, but not both
  - “It can be shown” that **variance on spectrum estimate is  $P_k^2(f_k)$** , so  **$\sigma = 100\%$** , regardless of N or  $\Delta$ 
    - Trick to improve **accuracy**:  
We can break N samples into K distinct sets of M (so  $MK=N$ ) and find spectrum for each set, then **average over K estimates**
    - Breaking set of N samples into K **distinct** sets gives **independent** subsamples, so
      - error on mean is  $\sim \text{sqrt}(K) \cdot \text{sigma}$
      - Improved **accuracy**, **at cost of f resolution**

