

Human Body as a signal source

Signal processing

G.Schay, Biostatistics and informatics, 1. Dec. 2011.

Human Body as signal source

Signals in medicine

Information content of signals

Signal detection - transducers

Explained through examples
there are endless possibilities

Signals in medicine

Signal is something which carries Information

Human body as signal source: everything which is a signal, and comes from the body

Here in the cartoon:

Information : Head or Tail?

Signal:

- Optical: we simply look at the coin, and see the image
- Digital: after encoding: 1/0



"I wish I could be as calm as JB when it comes to making decisions."

$$H = p \cdot \log_2 \left(\frac{1}{p} \right)$$

Information content in Bits

Transmitting information – information coding

in general

Information source

encoding

Transmission channel

decoding

Information receiver destination

an example



Which side is up?



encoding

Sides : Head or Tail
into Numbers: 1,0

Speech, waves in the air, sms

decoding

1,0 → head, tail



Decide who wins



Signals in medicine

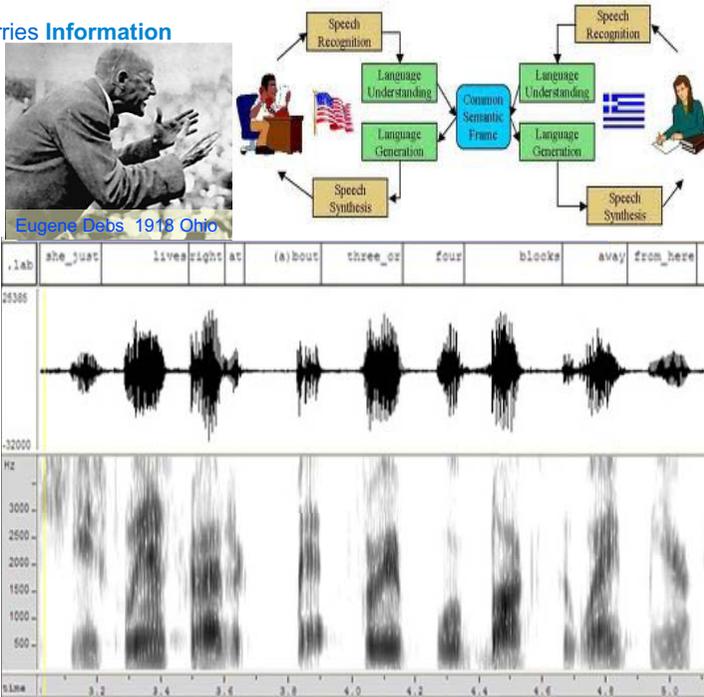
Signal is something which carries **Information**

Here in speech:

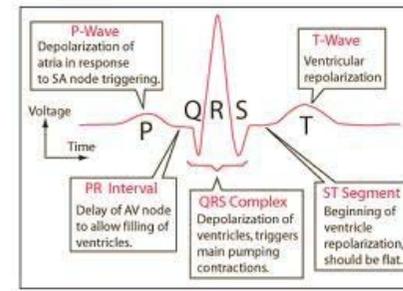
Information : „what we say”

Signal:

- **Audio:** pressure waves in the air
- **encoding:** electrical signal from Microphone
- **encoding:** formal grammar
- **decoding:** electrical to Mechanical (loudspeaker)
- **decoding:** natural language understanding



Signals in medicine



Information: Heart cycle

ECG: Electro CardioGraphy

Signal:

Original: voltage across points (eg. two arms)

Encoding: None, But **Filtering** required

Removal of unwanted portion of the signal



Signals in medicine

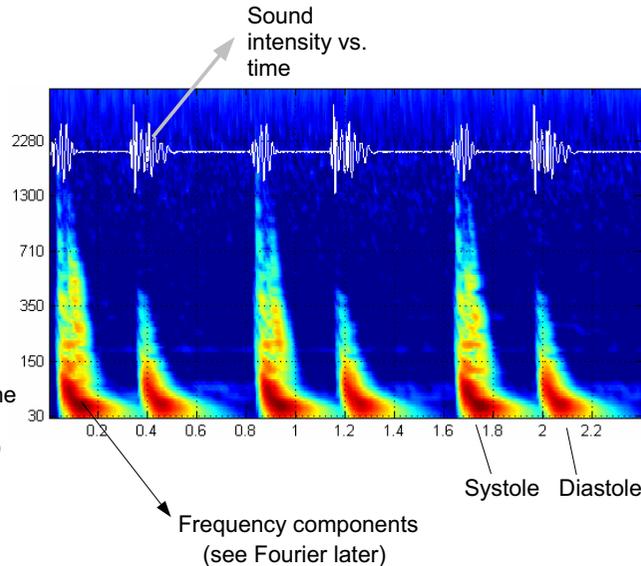
Heart beat

Signal:

Original: Acoustic waves (sound)

Encoded: electrical signal from the microphone.

Encoded: Coloured image on the computer screen (frequency spectrum)



Information: Heart cycle parameters, anatomical and flow problems.

Signals in medicine

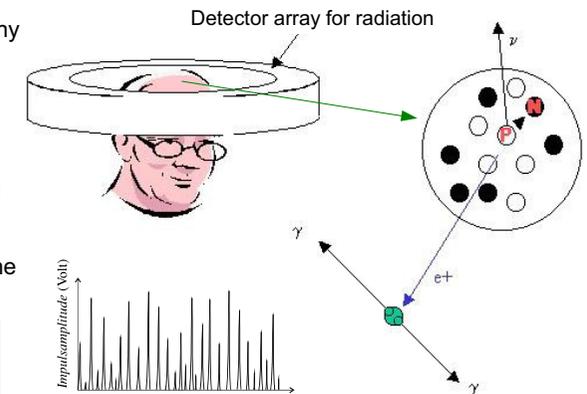
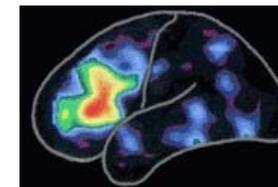
PET: Positron Emission Tomography

Signal:

Original: γ -photons

Encoded: electrical pulses from the detector.

Encoded: Coloured image on the computer screen



Information: Location of drug, labeling molecule, etc.

Signals in medicine

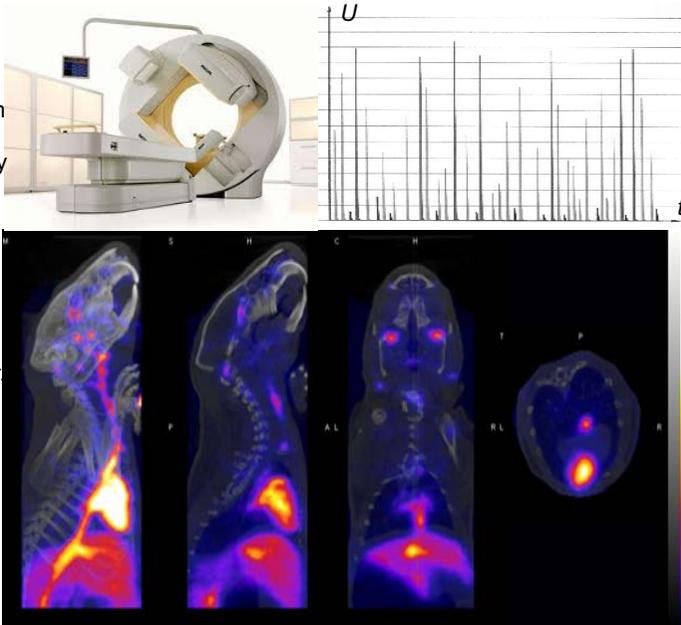
SPET-CT: Scanning Positron Emission Tomography Computer Tomography

Signal:
Original: γ -photons
X-ray photons

Encoded: electrical pulses
From the detector

Encoded: Coloured image

Information:
Anatomy (X-ray)
Label (disease, etc)



Signals in medicine

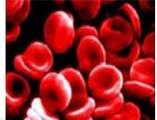
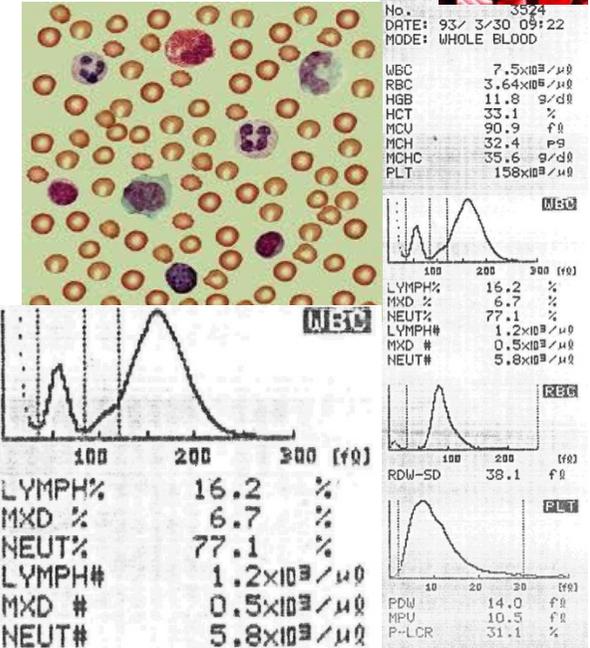
Heart beat

Signal:
Original: Cell types and count in unit volume

Encoded: electrical signal from the cell sorter.

Encoded: Areas under the histogram

Information: Blood composition



Signal processing

Types of signals

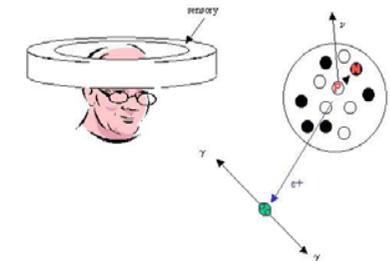
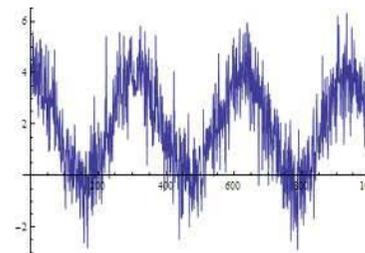
Electric signals – analog signal chain
(amplifier, frequency response, Fourier theorem)

Digital signal processing (DSP)

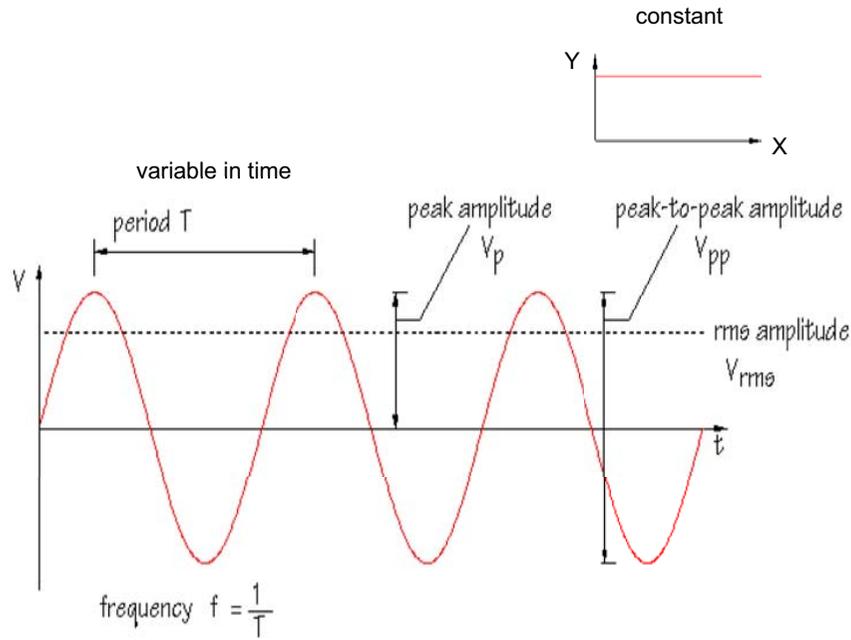
Types of signals

Electric

Not electric

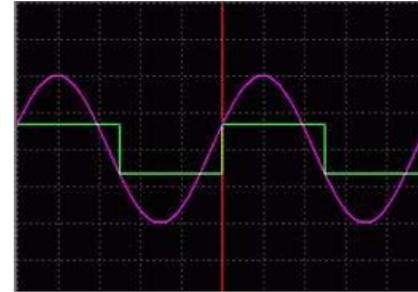


Types of signals

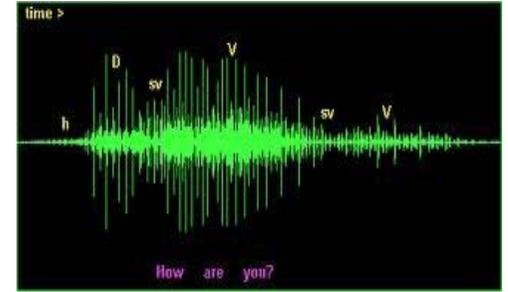


Types of signals

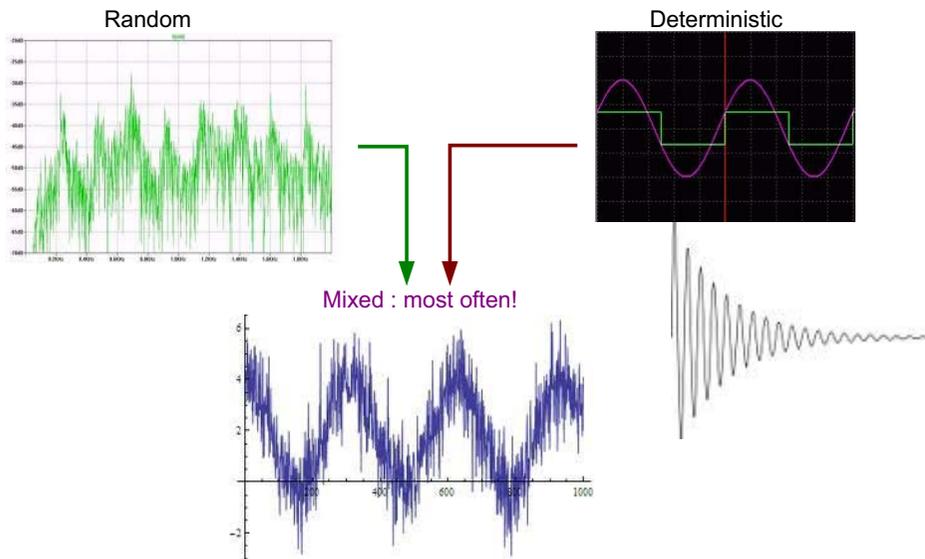
Periodic



Not periodic

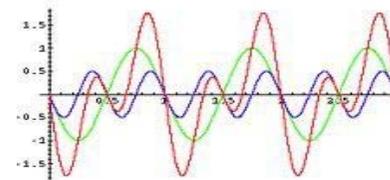


Types of signals

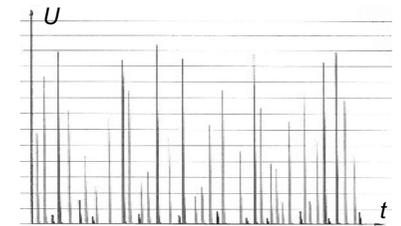


Types of signals

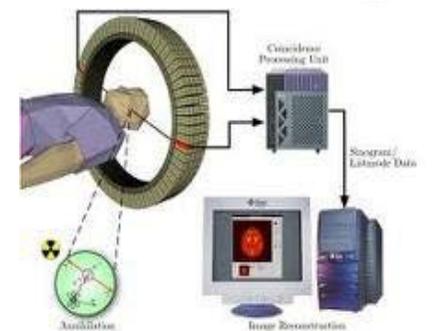
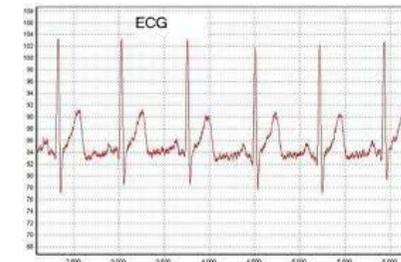
Continuous



Pulses

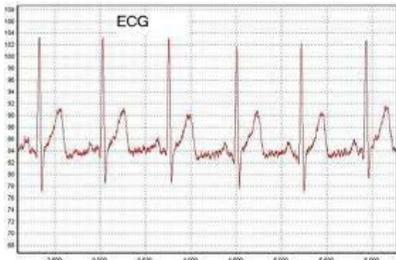


ECG



Types of signals

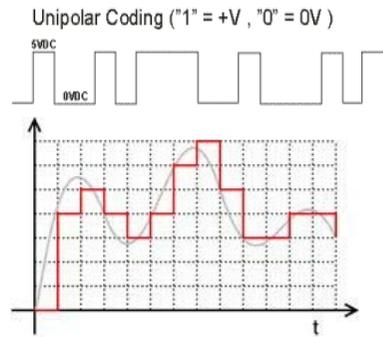
Analog



Theoretically unlimited resolution in time and magnitude (measurement system limit only)

Digital

1 0 0 1 0 1 1 1 0 0 1 0 0 0 1 0 1



Digital: represented with numbers
Finite resolution

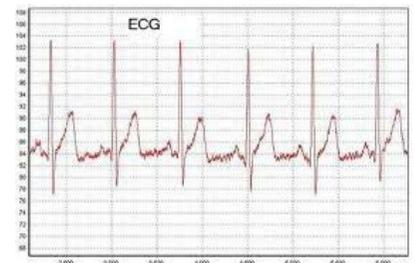
Digital signals are a form of **encoding**: digital to electrical, electrical to digital

Information content of signals

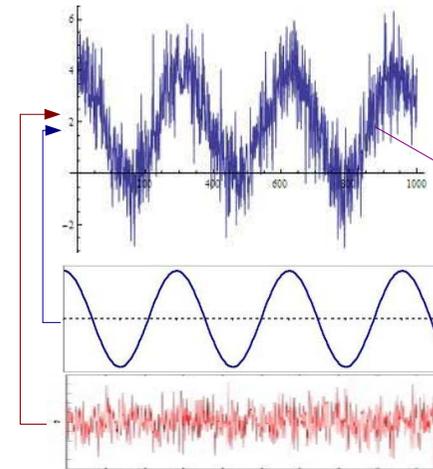
Analog signals – infinite information content?

Do we really need **unlimited** resolution?

Do we even **have** unlimited resolution in real-life analog signals?



Theoretically unlimited resolution in time and magnitude (measurement system limit only)



No!

We always have a real signal as:

$$S = \text{Information} + \text{Noise}$$

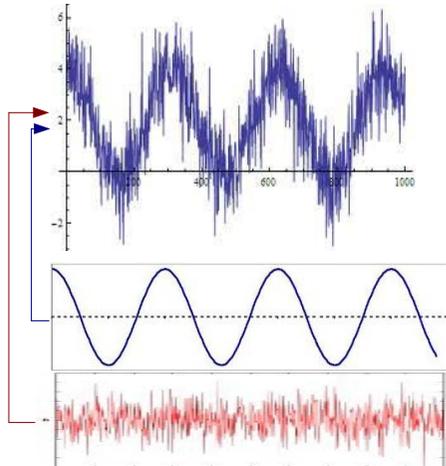
Information

+

Noise

Information content of signals

Analog signals – infinite information content?



We have Information + Noise

Goal: **Preserve and transport information** without increasing the noise content.

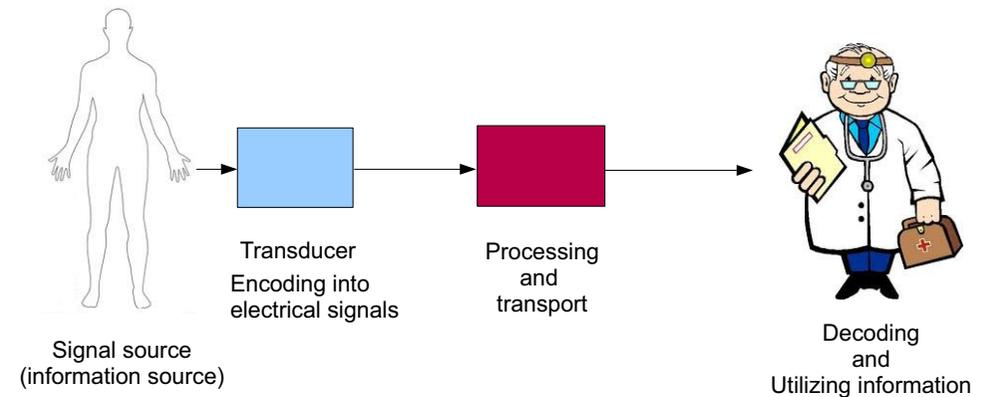
Information $U = A_{\text{inf}} \cdot \cos(\omega t + \phi)$

+

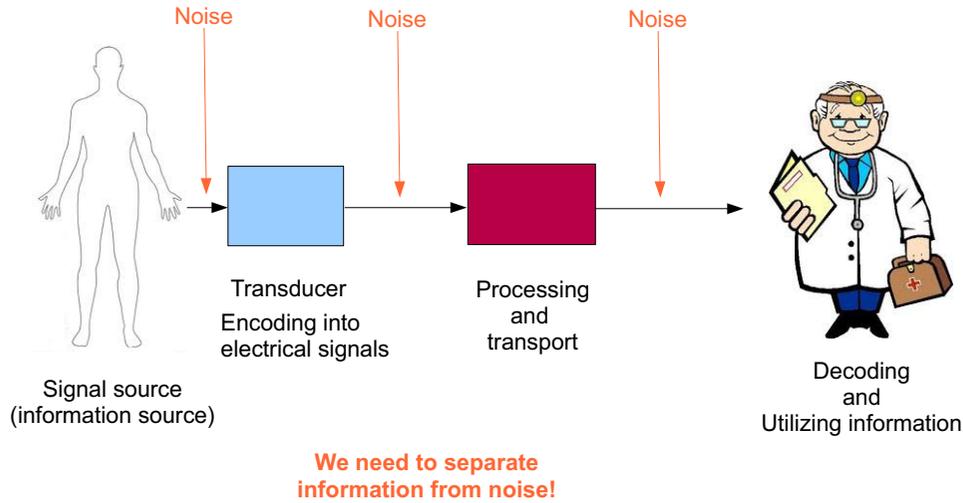
Noise $\text{Noise}(t) = A_{\text{noise}} \cdot \text{Random}(t)$

Medical signal chain

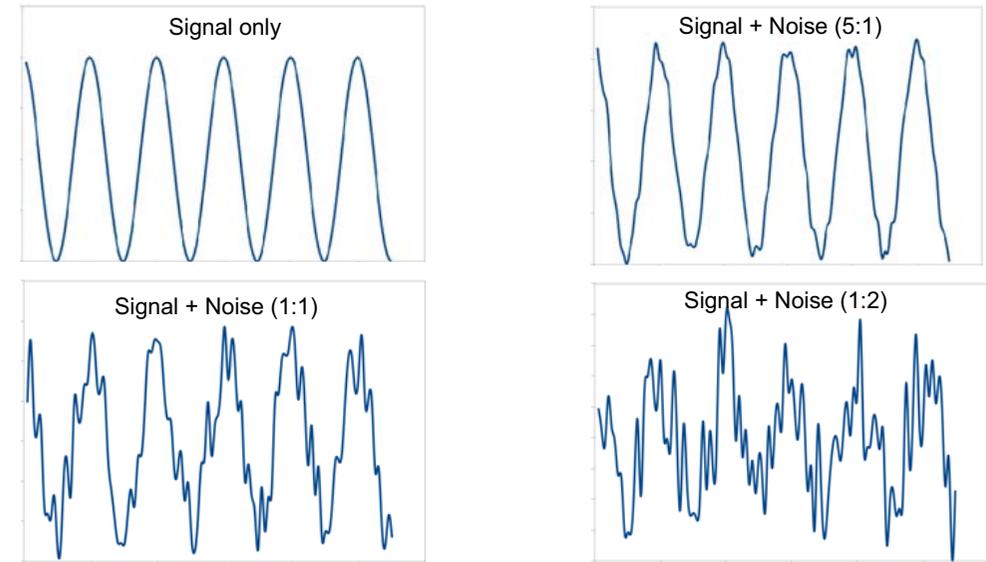
Transporting and processing signals



Transporting and processing signals



Transporting and processing signals



Transporting and processing signals

Amplifiers

Task: amplify signal, without addition of noise
(only transport information)

Combat noise in the chain: Amplify the signal at the beginning!

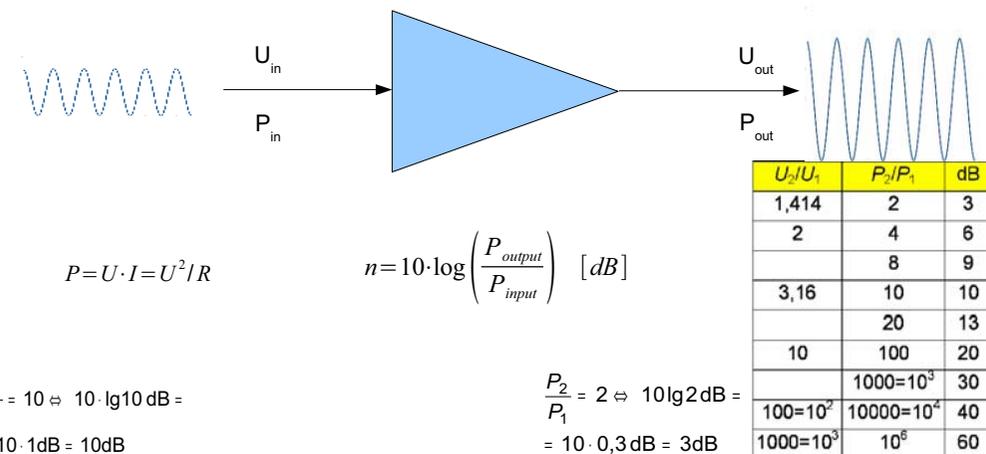
In real-life no amplifier is ideal, they always distort the signal

We need to characterize amplifiers, and other signal-transporting / processing elements of the signal chain.

Analysis of amplifiers

The technique is applicable to any transport/coding!

Basic analysis: amplifier gain



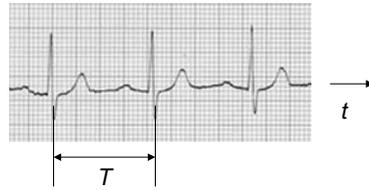
$$\frac{P_2}{P_1} = 10 \Leftrightarrow 10 \cdot \lg 10 \text{ dB} = 10 \cdot 1 \text{ dB} = 10 \text{ dB}$$

$$\frac{P_2}{P_1} = 2 \Leftrightarrow 10 \lg 2 \text{ dB} = 10 \cdot 0,3 \text{ dB} = 3 \text{ dB}$$

Analysis of amplifiers - complex signals

Fourier theorem: Any arbitrary (periodic) signal can be split into sine/cosine functions with varying frequency and amplitude OR from a set of such functions it can be recovered

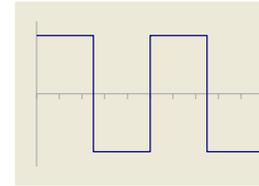
$$Signal(t) \leftrightarrow \sum_i A_i \cdot \sin(\omega_i t) + B_i \cos(\omega_i t)$$



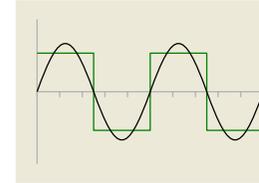
Where in the case of periodic signals $\omega_i = k \cdot f$, $f = 1/T$ and $k = 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, \dots$

Base frequency ↑ ↑ overtones

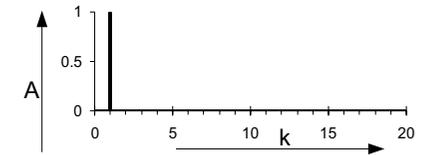
Analysis of amplifiers - Fourier theorem $Signal(t) \leftrightarrow \sum_i A_i \cdot \sin(\omega_i t) + B_i \cos(\omega_i t)$



Original signal



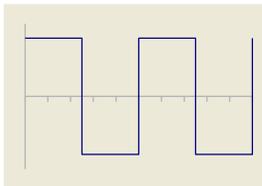
k=1



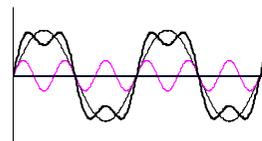
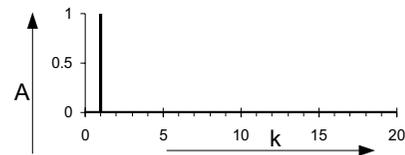
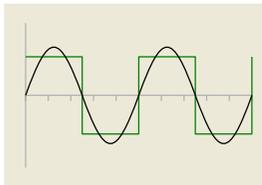
Spectrum

Amplitudes vs k (or frequency)

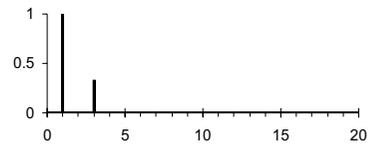
Analysis of amplifiers - Fourier theorem $Signal(t) \leftrightarrow \sum_i A_i \cdot \sin(\omega_i t) + B_i \cos(\omega_i t)$



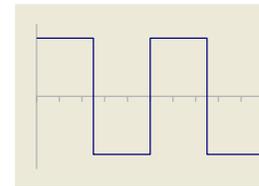
Original signal



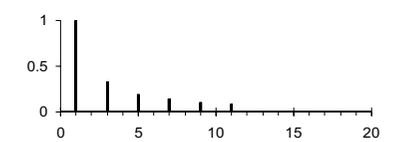
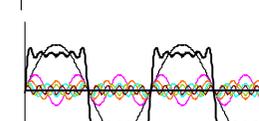
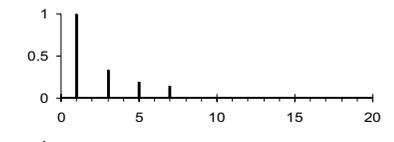
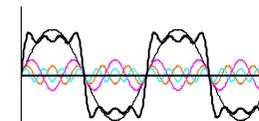
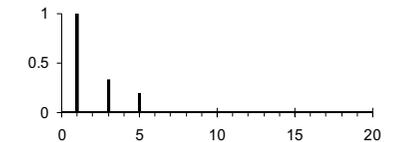
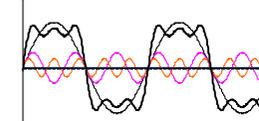
k=1,2,3



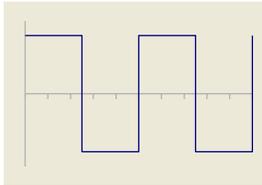
Analysis of amplifiers - Fourier theorem $Signal(t) \leftrightarrow \sum_i A_i \cdot \sin(\omega_i t) + B_i \cos(\omega_i t)$



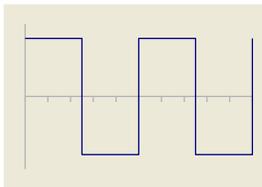
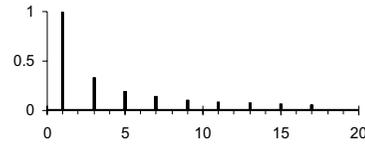
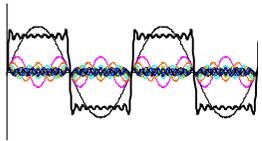
Original signal



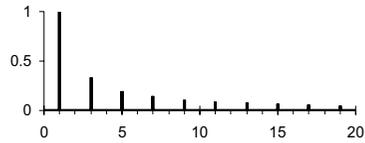
Analysis of amplifiers - Fourier theorem $Signal(t) \leftrightarrow \sum_i A_i \cdot \sin(\omega_i t) + B_i \cos(\omega_i t)$



Original signal



Infinite number of components

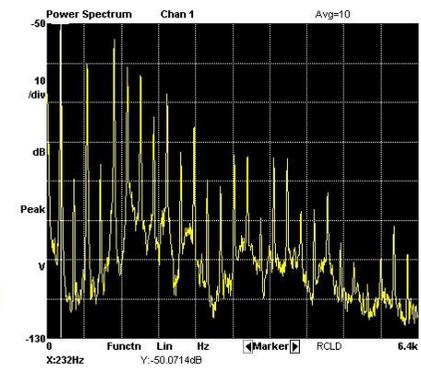
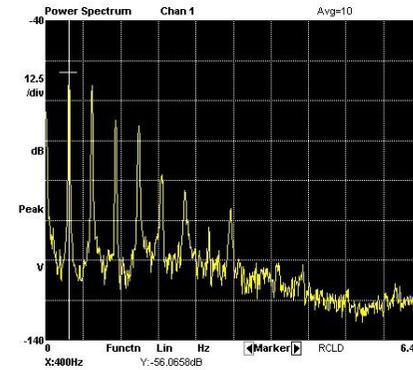


But: they are all related, so information is the same!

Analysis of amplifiers - Fourier theorem $Signal(t) \leftrightarrow \sum_i A_i \cdot \sin(\omega_i t) + B_i \cos(\omega_i t)$

Non-periodic signals: Fourier transform

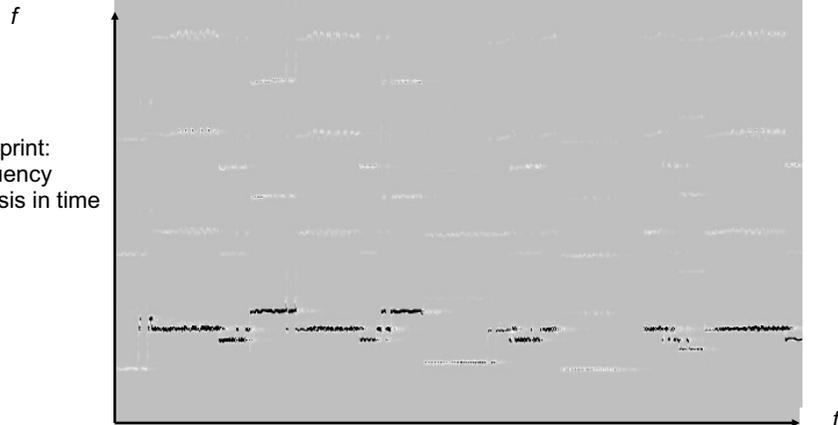
$$F(\omega) = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2\pi}} \cdot \int_{-\infty}^{+\infty} f(t) e^{i\omega t} dt$$



Analysis of amplifiers - Fourier theorem $Signal(t) \leftrightarrow \sum_i A_i \cdot \sin(\omega_i t) + B_i \cos(\omega_i t)$

Non-periodic signals: Fourier transform

$$F(\omega) = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2\pi}} \cdot \int_{-\infty}^{+\infty} f(t) e^{i\omega t} dt$$

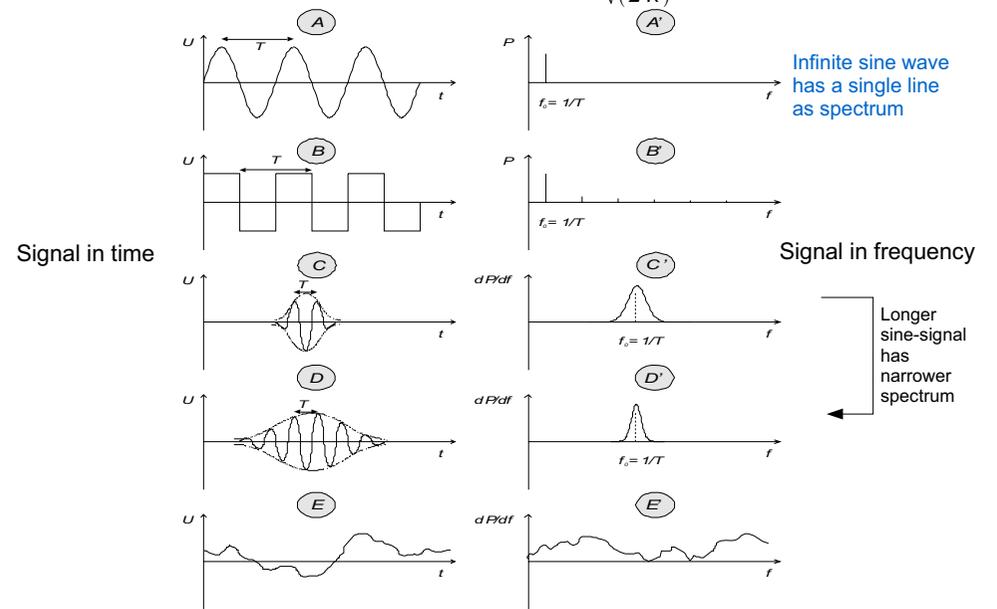


Voiceprint:
Frequency
analysis in time

Analysis of amplifiers - Fourier theorem $Signal(t) \leftrightarrow \sum_i A_i \cdot \sin(\omega_i t) + B_i \cos(\omega_i t)$

Non-periodic signals: Fourier transform

$$F(\omega) = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2\pi}} \cdot \int_{-\infty}^{+\infty} f(t) e^{i\omega t} dt$$



Analysis of amplifiers - Fourier theorem

$$Signal(t) \leftrightarrow \sum A_i \sin(\omega_i t) + B_i \cos(\omega_i t)$$

Non-periodic signals: Fourier transform

$$F(\omega) = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2\pi}} \cdot \int_{-\infty}^{+\infty} f(t) e^{i\omega t} dt$$

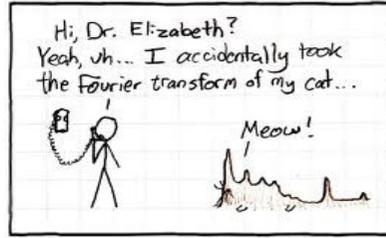
Any signal is just a representation of information

We can have many pictures of the same

Time-based (more conventional)

or

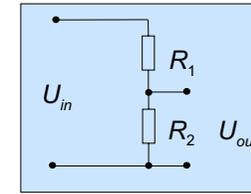
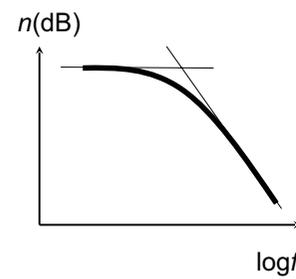
Frequency-based
(useful, but a bit abstract)



Fourier-transform is the „art of engineering“
(Picasso: La Crucifixion)

Analysis of amplifiers - Transfer function of filters

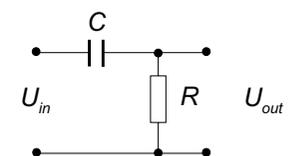
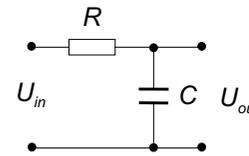
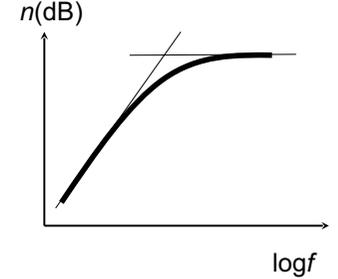
Low-pass filter



$$U_{output} = U_{input} \cdot \frac{R_2}{R_1 + R_2}$$

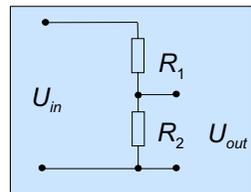
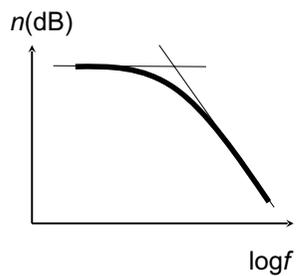
Substitute one R with C

High-pass filter



Analysis of amplifiers - Transfer function of filters

Low-pass filter

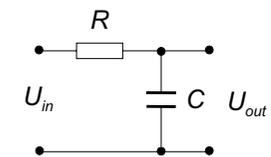
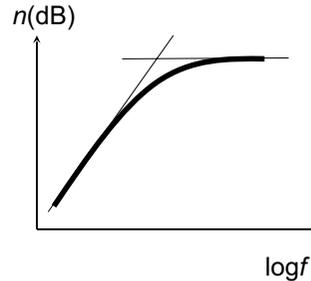


$$U_{output} = U_{input} \cdot \frac{R_2}{R_1 + R_2}$$

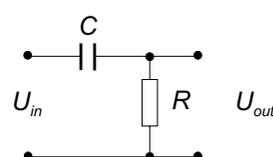
Substitute one R with C

$$R_c = \frac{1}{C\omega}$$

High-pass filter

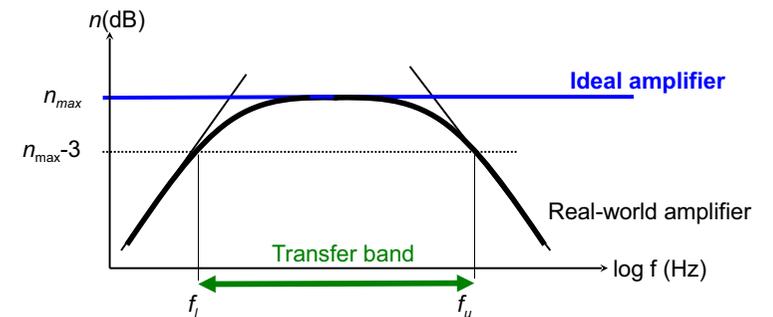


$$U_{out} = \frac{1}{\sqrt{1 + R^2 C^2 \omega^2}} \cdot U_{input}$$



$$U_{out} = \frac{RC\omega}{\sqrt{1 + R^2 C^2 \omega^2}} \cdot U_{input}$$

Analysis of amplifiers - Transfer function of amplifiers

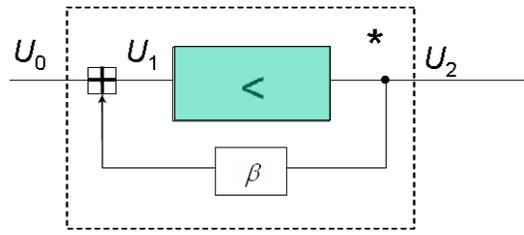


Amplifiers are not ideal, they have input and output capacitance, etc.

The output signal may *not* contain all frequency components!

Distortion, information loss / alteration

Analysis of amplifiers - Transfer function of amplifiers



Feedback in amplifiers
Modification of **gain** and **Transfer function**

(a) $U_1 = U_0 + \beta U_2$ (b) $A_U = \frac{U_2}{U_1}$ Amplifier gain

(c) $A_U^* = \frac{U_2}{U_0} = \frac{U_1 A_U}{U_0} = \frac{(U_0 + \beta U_2) A_U}{U_0} = A_U + \beta \frac{U_2}{U_0} A_U = A_U + \beta A_U^* A_U$

$A_U^* - \beta A_U^* A_U = A_U$ $A_U^* = \frac{A_U}{1 - \beta A_U}$ Gain with feedback circuit

- $\beta > 0$: positive feedback
- $\beta < 0$: negative feedback
- $A_U \beta = 1$: oscillator (output without input signal: signal generator)

Analysis of amplifiers - Transfer function of amplifiers

Gain Bandwidth Product

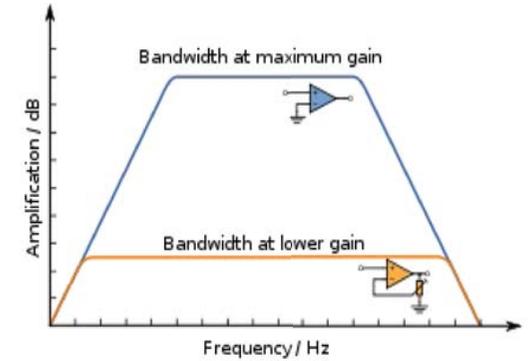
Gain · Bandwidth = constant

The available power to the amplifier can either be put to use as:

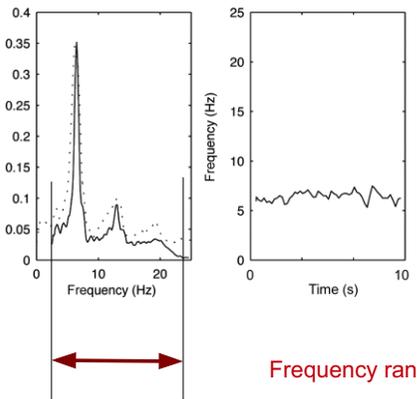
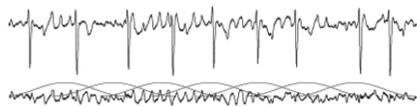
high signal gain over a limited bandwidth

or

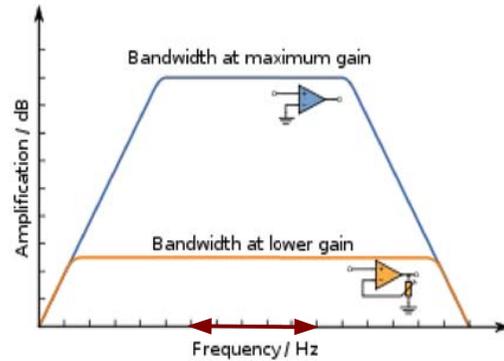
limited gain over a wide bandwidth.



Analysis of amplifiers - Transfer function of amplifiers



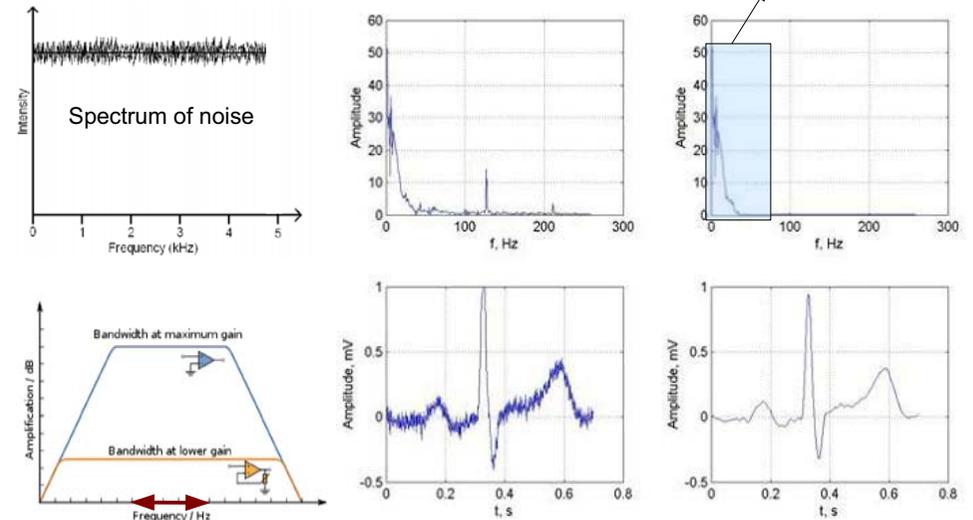
Frequency range of the signal must match the bandwidth!
Information preservation = spectrum preservation



Analysis of amplifiers - Transfer function of amplifiers

During analog signal transport at every stage noise will be added! → degradation

Just transport that part of the spectrum which contains the information!



Digital signals – A/D conversion (ADC)

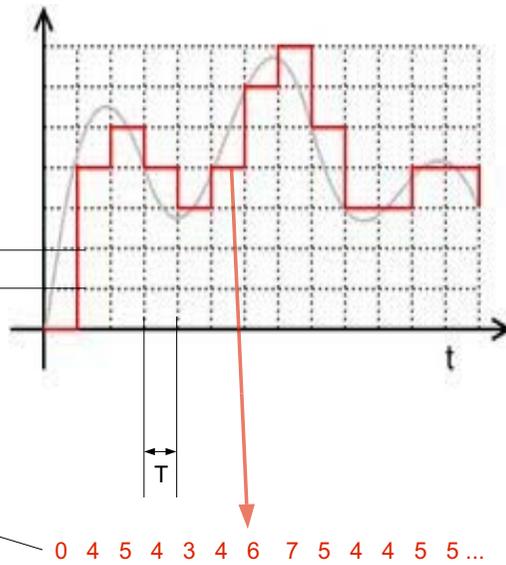
The analog signal can be represented by numbers:

We measure the signal every T seconds, and transmit the result only.

Measurement accuracy
(how many bits)

Digital signals are discrete
in time and in value

Numbers can be transported / stored
or processed losslessly!

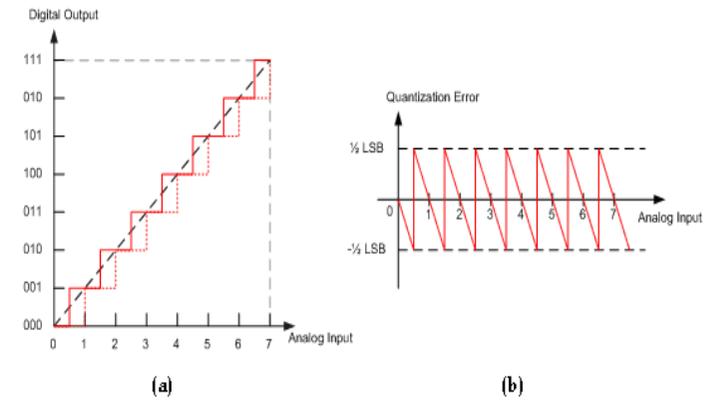


Digital signals - Quantization

Digital signals are discrete
in time and in value

What happens to the original parts between?

They get lost!

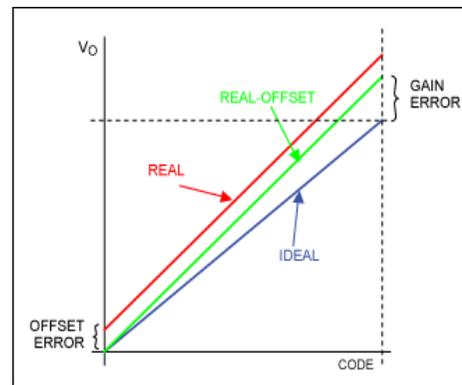


Digital signals – Restoration (DAC)

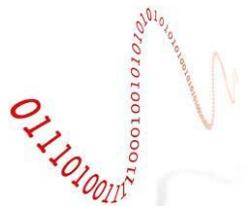
Recovery of analog signals:

Digital to analog converter

This is easily realized to be near-ideal
Many-bits, fast DAC-s are cheap



Pitfalls to avoid

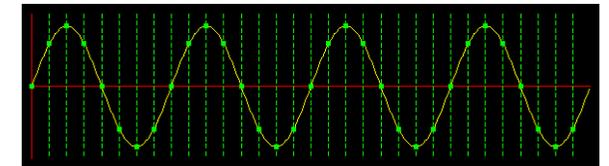


Digital signals – Sampling of sine waves

For non-sine signals: „first apply Fourier, then sample each sine”

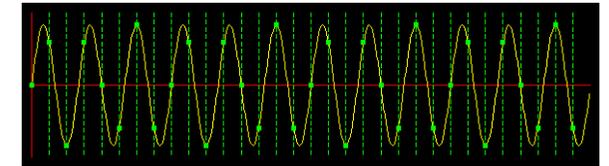
$f = 1000$ Hz
 $f_s = 8000$ Hz

No problem



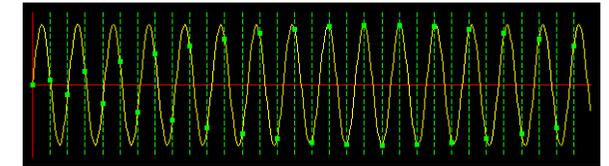
$f = 3000$ Hz
 $f_s = 8000$ Hz

Still no problem



$f = 3900$ Hz
 $f_s = 8000$ Hz

Still no problem

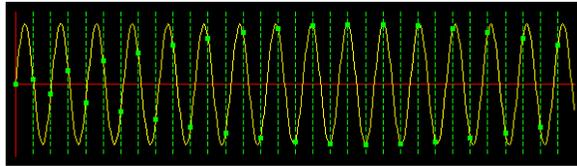


Digital signals – Sampling of sine waves

For non-sine signals: „first apply Fourier, then sample each sine”

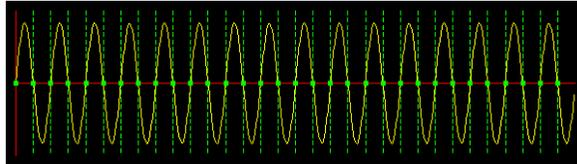
$f = 3900 \text{ Hz}$
 $f_s = 8000 \text{ Hz}$

Still no problem



$f = 4000 \text{ Hz}$
 $f_s = 8000 \text{ Hz}$

Signal lost!

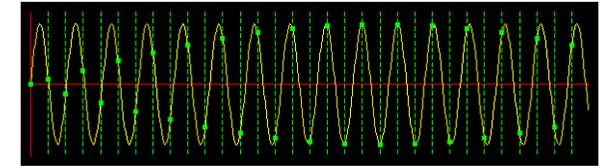


Nyquist theorem: sampling frequency must be at least 2x the frequency of the sine

Digital signals – Nyquist

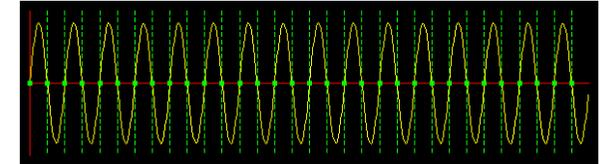
Nyquist theorem: sampling frequency must be at least 2x the frequency of the sine

good
 $f = 3900 \text{ Hz}$
 $f_s = 8000 \text{ Hz}$
Still no problem

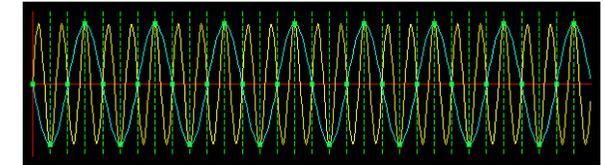


$f = 4000 \text{ Hz}$
 $f_s = 8000 \text{ Hz}$

Signal lost!

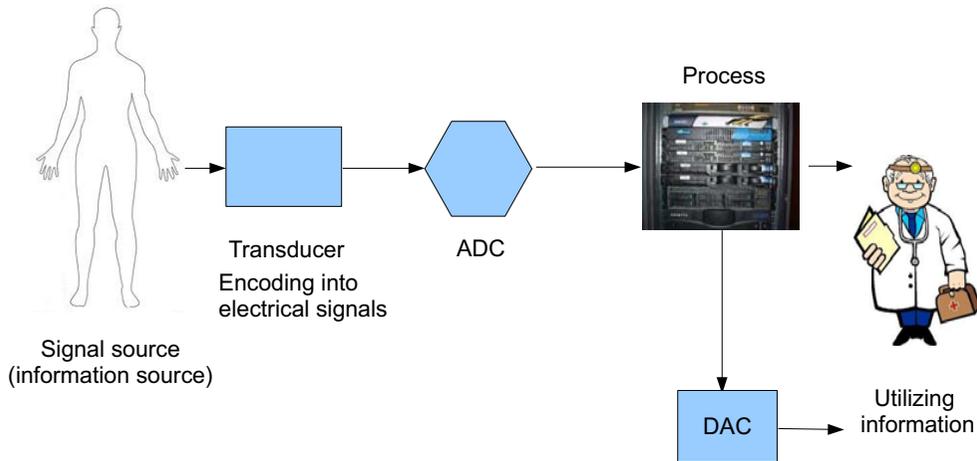


bad
 $f = 6000 \text{ Hz}$
 $f_s = 8000 \text{ Hz}$
Signal lost!
Aliasing



Artefact sine appears instead of the real input

Digital signals – Digital Signal Processing

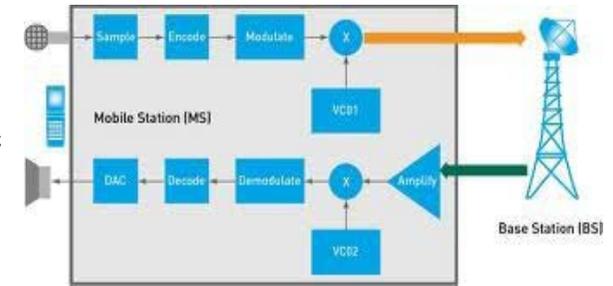


DSP in everyday life

Digital data can be further manipulated : encoded/decoded/compressed,etc.

Cell phone

Sample, encode,transmit,decode,DAC



CD/DVD player

Light:digital 1010110...

DAC: from stream of numbers
Analog music / video

