Sensors, Signals and Noise

COURSE OUTLINE

- Introduction
- Signals and Noise
- Filtering
- Sensors and associated electronics

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Set-Up for Sensor Measurements



Mathematical Description of Signals

- Time domain and frequency domain analysis
- Energy signals and correlation functions
- Energy Spectrum
- Power signals, Correlation Functions and Power Spectrum

- Book: Fourier transform and properties
- Book: Crosscorrelation and Convolution



Time domain and frequency domain analysis of signals

Signals: mathematical description

- **Signals** = electric variables *x* (voltage, current ...) that carry information
- In the domain of time t: **deterministic** functions x = x(t)





In the domain of frequency *f* (Fourier transform domain) can be considered linear superposition (sum) of elementary sinusoid components

Signal Recovery, 2024/2025 – Signals

Ivan Rech

LIDAR application





Example: rectangular pulse



RECALL FONDAMENTI DI SEGNALI E TRASMISSIONE

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FONDAMENTI DI SEGNALI E TRASMISSIONE

1. Segnali e sistemi continui

Segnali continui: scalino, impulso, esponenziali complessi, operazioni elementari sui segnali. Sistemi Lineari Tempo-Invarianti: risposta impulsiva, convoluzione, correlazione. Rappresentazione dei segnali nel dominio della frequenza: trasformata e serie di Fourier. Densità spettrale di energia e potenza.

Dal tempo continuo al tempo discreto: teorema del campionamento, ricostruzione ed equivocazione nel tempo e nelle frequenze.

Trasformata di Fourier di Segnali discreti, energia, DFT.

2. Probabilità, processi casuali

Introduzione: definizioni, variabili casuali discrete e continue. Distribuzione e densità.

Probabilità condizionate: statistica indipendenza, regola di Bayes.

Prove ripetute (Bernoulli) e teoremi limite. Valori medi, quantili, momenti e correlazione.

Distribuzioni notevoli: normale, uniforme, binomiale, Poisson, esponenziale.

3. Processi casuali

Processi casuali: realizzazioni e medie d'insieme. Stazionarietà ed ergodicità.

Autocorrelazione e spettro di potenza. Predizione. Processi attraverso sistemi lineari.

Esempi e applicazioni: Rumore bianco e di quantizzazione.

Densità spettrale di processi modulati in fase e processi ciclostazionari. Stima spettrale non parametrica: periodogramma.

4. Informazione e trasmissione

Codifica di sorgente: quantizzazione, codifica di Huffman e misura dell'Informazione.

Trasmissione numerica in banda base: il canale di trasmissione, simboli e bit. Codifica PCM.

Trasmissione M-PAM interferenza tra simboli, effetto del rumore, probabilità di errore, il filtro adattato ed impulsi di Nyquist.

Ivan Rech

Trasmissione in banda traslata e con portanti in quadratura (QAM).



Recall: frequency domain

Signals as linear superposition (sum) of elementary sinusoid components

$$x(t) = \int_{-\infty}^{+\infty} X(f) e^{i2\pi ft} df$$

- *X*(*f*) = Fourier transform of x(t)
- X(f) is complex : Module and Phase (or Real and Imaginary parts)

$$X(f) = F[x(t)] = \int_{-\infty}^{+\infty} x(t) e^{-i2\pi ft} dt$$

Recall: Convolution

Constant-parameter linear filters (NO switches, NO time-variant components!!) are characterized by



The input $x(\alpha)$ can be described as a **linear superposition** (sum) of elementary **\delta-pulses** of amplitude $x(\alpha)d\alpha$

THEREFORE

the output y(t) can be described as a **linear superposition** (sum) of elementary **\delta-pulse responses** $x(\alpha)d\alpha h(t-\alpha)$

$$y(t) = x(\alpha) * h(\alpha) = \int_{-\infty}^{+\infty} x(\alpha)h(t-\alpha)d\alpha$$



Signal Recovery, 2024/2025 – Signals

Recall: Computing the convolution

$$y(t) = \int_{-\infty}^{+\infty} x(\alpha)h(t-\alpha)d\alpha$$





Recall: Computing the convolution



How does it change the convolution changing the exponential decay time?



Energy signals and correlation functions

Signal Energy

The Energy *E* of a signal *x(t)* is defined as

$$E = \lim_{T \to \infty} \int_{-T}^{T} x^{2}(\alpha) d\alpha = \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} x^{2}(\alpha) d\alpha$$

Signals *x*(*t*) with finite *E* are called **energy-signals**. Typical example: **pulse signals**

INTUITIVE VIEW OF ENERGY:

Let x(t) be a voltage pulse on a unitary resistance $R=1 \Omega$,

Power= V^2/R then E is the energy dissipated in R by the pulse





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Signal Auto-Correlation Function (Energy-type)

$$k_{xx}(\tau) = \lim_{T \to \infty} \int_{-T}^{T} x(\alpha) x(\alpha + \tau) d\alpha = \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} x(\alpha) x(\alpha + \tau) d\alpha$$

$k_{xx}(\tau)$ gives the **degree of similarity** of x(t) with itself **shifted by** τ

Energy = Autocorrelation at zero-shift

$$k_{xx}(0) = E$$



Signal Auto-Correlation Function (Energy-type)



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POLITECNICO DI MILANO

Signal Cross-Correlation Function (Energy-type)

$$k_{xy}(\tau) = \lim_{T \to \infty} \int_{-T}^{T} x(\alpha) y(\alpha + \tau) d\alpha = \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} x(\alpha) y(\alpha + \tau) d\alpha$$

- x(t) and y(t) are **two different** signals of energy-type
- k_{xy}(τ) gives the degree of similarity of x(t)
 with y(t) shifted by τ to left (towards earlier time)
- Various denominations for $k_{xy}(\tau)$:

Cross-Correlation function of x and y

Mutual-Correlation function of x and y

Cross-Correlation obtained by Convolution

Convolution

x * y = z(T)

is different from Crosscorrelation $k_{xy}(T)$

However

Convolution with first term reversed

$$x(-a) * y(a) = u(T)$$

is equal to Crosscorrelation

$$u(T) = k_{xy}(T)$$

$$k_{xy}(T) = x(-a) * y(a)$$



Cross-Correlation obtained by Convolution



Energy Spectrum

Energy Spectrum

Energy signal $x(\alpha)$ with Fourier transform X(f): by Parseval's theorem

$$E = \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} x^{2}(\alpha) d\alpha = \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} |X(f)|^{2} df = 2 \int_{0}^{\infty} |X(f)|^{2} df$$

 $S_x(f) = |X(f)|^2$ is called the **Energy Spectrum** of the signal $x(\alpha)$

INTUITIVE VIEW OF ENERGY SPECTRUM:

- (1) Let x(t) be voltage on a unitary resistance $R=1 \Omega$
- (2) x(t) = sum of sinusoid components with frequency f and amplitude |X(f)|df
- (3) Sinusoids are orthogonal functions : No power from multiplication of differentcomponents (different f)

Every component (at frequency f) contributes an energy:

$$dE=2 |X(f)|^2 df$$



Energy Spectrum

• Alternative definition of the Energy Spectrum is

$$S_{x} = F[k_{xx}]$$



• Knowing that $k_{xx} = x(-\alpha) * x(\alpha)$ we see that the two definitions are consistent

 $S_x = F[k_{xx}] = F[x(-\alpha) * x(\alpha)] = X(-f)X(f) = X^*(f)X(f) = |X(f)|^2$

and by a basic property of Fourier transforms

$$E = k_{xx}(0) = \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} S_x(f) df = \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} |X(f)|^2 df$$



Example of Energy, Autocorrelation and Energy Spectrum

$$-VT$$
¹



Exponential pulse: $x(t) = V_P e^{-t/T_P}$ $X(f) = V_P T_P \frac{1}{1+i2\pi f T_P}$



Autocorrelation function:

Energy:

 $k_{xx}(\tau) = V_P^2 \frac{T_P}{2} e^{-|\tau|/T_P}$

 $E = k_{xx}(0) = V_P^2 \frac{T_P}{2}$

 $S_{x}(f) = |X(f)|^{2} = V^{2}{}_{p}T^{2}{}_{p}\frac{1}{1+(2\pi fT_{p})^{2}}$



Energy Spectrum:

Energy:

 $\mathsf{E} = \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} S_x(f) df = V_P^2 \frac{T_P}{2}$

Power signals, Correlation Functions and Power Spectrum

Signal Power

For signals x(t) that have NOT finite energy $E \rightarrow \infty$ (DC, sinusoids, periodic signals, etc.) the **Power** *P* is defined as the time-average

$$P = \lim_{T \to \infty} \int_{-T}^{T} \frac{x^2(\alpha)}{2T} d\alpha$$

Parseval theorem is valid for the entire integral $\int_{-\infty}^{+\infty}$ but NOT for the truncated integral \int_{-T}^{+T}

For computing P in f domain instead of truncated integral we use truncated signal $x_T(t)$

$$x_T(\alpha) = x(\alpha)$$
 for $|\alpha| \le T$
 $x_T(\alpha) = 0$ for $|\alpha| > T$

We can thus exploit Parseval theorem: with $X_T(f) = F[x_T(\alpha)]$ we get

$$P = \lim_{T \to \infty} \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} \frac{x_T^{2}(\alpha)}{2T} d\alpha = \lim_{T \to \infty} \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} \frac{|X_T(f)|^2}{2T} df = \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} \lim_{T \to \infty} \frac{|X_T(f)|^2}{2T} df$$

The <u>Power Spectrum</u> of the signal $x(\alpha)$ is defined as the integrand

$$S_x(f) = \lim_{T \to \infty} \frac{|X_T(f)|^2}{2T}$$
 and $P = \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} S_x(f) df$

Signal Auto-Correlation Function (Power-type)

Just like power P, the autocorrelation of power signals is defined as time-average

$$K_{xx}(\tau) = \lim_{T \to \infty} \int_{-T}^{T} \frac{x(\alpha)x(\alpha + \tau)}{2T} d\alpha \qquad \text{note that} \qquad P = K_{xx}(0)$$

Also here we use truncated signal $x_{\tau}(\alpha)$ instead of truncated integral \int_{-T}^{T}

$$K_{xx}(\tau) = \lim_{T \to \infty} \int_{-T}^{T} \frac{x(\alpha)x(\alpha + \tau)}{2T} d\alpha = \lim_{T \to \infty} \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} \frac{x_T(\alpha)x_T(\alpha + \tau)}{2T} d\alpha$$

<u>NB1</u>: for finite T it is $\int_{-T}^{T} x(\alpha) x(\alpha + \tau) d\alpha \neq \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} x_T(\alpha) x_T(\alpha + \tau) d\alpha$ but for $\lim_{T \to \infty}$ the = is valid

$$K_{xx}(\tau) = \lim_{T \to \infty} \frac{k_{xx,T}(\tau)}{2T}$$

An alternative definition of signal <u>Power Spectrum</u> is

$$S_x = F[K_{xx}(\tau)]$$



The two definitions are consistent

$$S_{x}(f) = F[K_{xx}(\tau)] = F[\lim_{T \to \infty} \frac{k_{xx,T}(\tau)}{2T}] = \lim_{T \to \infty} \frac{F[k_{xx,T}(\tau)]}{2T} = \lim_{T \to \infty} \frac{|X_{T}(f)|^{2}}{2T}$$

and

$$P = K_{xx}(0) = \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} S_x(f) df$$



Signal Cross-Correlation Function (Power-type)

$$K_{xy}(\tau) = \lim_{T \to \infty} \int_{-T}^{T} \frac{x(\alpha)y(\alpha + \tau)}{2T} d\alpha = \lim_{T \to \infty} \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} \frac{x_T(\alpha)y_T(\alpha + \tau)}{2T} d\alpha$$

x(t) and y(t) are two different signals, both power-type

$K_{xy}(\tau)$ measures the degree of similarity of x(t) with y(t) shifted by τ to left (towards earlier time)

If even only one of the two signals x(t) and y(t) is energy-type the energy type cross-correlation $k_{xy}(\tau)$ must be employed

(in fact, the power-type crosscorrelation vanishes $K_{xy}(\tau) = 0$ and the energy-type crosscorrelation $k_{xy}(\tau)$ is finite).

Energy-type (pulses etc.)

Energy $E = \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} x^2(\alpha) d\alpha$

Autocorrelation

$$k_{xx}(\tau) = \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} x(\alpha) x(\alpha + \tau) d\alpha$$

Energy spectrum

 $S_{x,e} = F[k_{xx}(\tau)] = |X(f)|^2$

and

$$E = \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} S_{x,e}(f) df$$

Power-type (periodic waveforms etc.)

Power
$$P = \lim_{T \to \infty} \int_{-T}^{T} \frac{x^2(\alpha)}{2T} d\alpha$$

Autocorrelation

$$K_{xx}(\tau) = \lim_{T \to \infty} \int_{-T}^{T} \frac{x(\alpha)x(\alpha + \tau)}{2T} d\alpha$$

Power spectrum

$$S_{x,p} = F[K_{xx}(\tau)] = \lim_{T \to \infty} \frac{\left|X_T(f)\right|^2}{2T}$$

and

$$P = \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} S_{x,p}(f) df$$

Ivan Rech