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Problem 1)

- a) Due to the presence of $1/f^2$ noise, a whitening filter is necessary, that is a high pass filter with $f_p=f_c=2\text{MHz}$. The filter changes the shape of the signal, that becomes a sequence of four exponential pulses with amplitudes V_p , $-1/3V_p$, $+1/3V_p$ and $-V_p$, respectively. In this scenario, the matched filter can be designed following the known signal shape. With such filter, $V_{pmin}=23.8\mu\text{V}$.
- b) In this case it is necessary to keep the same whitening filter of point a) to avoid that $1/f$ noise contribution diverges with only a single GI. The single GI must be applied when the signal is higher and its optimized duration is $T_g=1.25\tau$. The resulting sensitivity is $V_{pmin}=39.4\mu\text{V}$.
With three GIs it is still convenient to keep the whitening filter and acquire the exponential signal on the first and the last pulse (amplitude $|V_p|$) and on one of the lower pulses. The gain must be tuned accordingly, while the optimized duration is $T_g=1.25\tau$ also in this case. With this acquisition strategy, $V_{pmin}=27.4\mu\text{V}$
- c) See theory.

Problem 2)

- a) Two active strain gauges can be used to acquire the signal of interest, while 2 additional dummy strain gauges could be used to remove unwanted components and/or for temperature compensation. Considering a Wheatstone bridge with a bias voltage of 3.3V , a low pass filter with a bandwidth of 10Hz and a zero setting every one hour, white noise is 39.6nV while $1/f$ noise is $1.57\mu\text{V}$. With such acquisition scheme, the minimum measurable deformation is $0.5\mu\text{strain}$.
- b) In this case the square wave modulation is preferable in terms of SNR. After demodulating the modulated signal, a gated integrator can be used in order to both provide a low pass filtering action and to filter out the disturbance. With $T_g=T_d=1/f_d=0.4\text{s}$ the disturbance can be filtered out, achieving a sensitivity as low as 3.4 nanostrain .
Comments:
 - achieving the theoretical extremely low sensitivity of point b) is unlikely in a real case because non idealities of the electronic components come into play.
 - this solution does not fully exploit the available signal because it is not necessary. Nevertheless, it is worth mentioning that a larger integration window ($T_g=0.8\text{s}$) and/or a boxcar could be used in a similar scenario to further improve the SNR.
- c) See theory.