



# Index of FFT lab on Intuition Drill

## Lab 1 — Meet the Players: $f_0$ , $f_s$ , and $N$

**Focus:** How signal frequency ( $f_0$ ), sampling frequency ( $f_s$ ), and number of samples ( $N$ ) connect.

**Goal:** Understand  $\Delta f = f_s / N$  and how it decides bin spacing.

**Drill:** Pick  $N = 8$ ,  $f_s = 8$  Hz  $\rightarrow \Delta f = 1$  Hz. Place a 2 Hz sine and see it *exactly* in bin 2.

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## Lab 2 — When the Bins Fit Like Lego

**Focus:** Perfect bin alignment (integer multiples of  $\Delta f$ ).

**Goal:** See how a signal with exactly  $k \cdot \Delta f$  Hz frequency lands in one bin with no leakage.

**Drill:** Keep  $f_s = 32$  Hz,  $N = 8 \rightarrow \Delta f = 4$  Hz. Try signals at 4 Hz, 8 Hz, 12 Hz.

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## Lab 3 — When the Lego Bricks Don't Fit

**Focus:** Spectral leakage.

**Goal:** Observe what happens when  $f_0$  is *not* a bin frequency.

**Drill:** With  $f_s = 32$  Hz,  $N = 8 \rightarrow \Delta f = 4$  Hz, put  $f_0 = 5$  Hz and see the spread in bins.

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## Lab 4 — The Window Effect

**Focus:** Why the FFT assumes the signal repeats forever.

**Goal:** Show how the rectangular window causes leakage, and how Hamming/Hann windows reduce it.

**Drill:** Use same 5 Hz case from Chapter 3, compare no window vs. Hann.

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## Lab 5 — Time–Frequency Tradeoff

**Focus:** How  $N$  controls resolution.

**Goal:** See  $\Delta f$  get smaller as  $N$  grows, improving your ability to separate close frequencies.

**Drill:** Compare  $N = 8$  vs.  $N = 64$  for two signals at 10 Hz and 11 Hz.

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## Lab 6 — The Mirror World

**Focus:** Positive and negative frequencies.

**Goal:** Understand `fft` output and symmetry for real signals.

**Drill:** Plot `np.fft.fftfreq` and watch bins  $> f_s/2$  become negative.

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## Lab 7 — Phase is Not Just Decoration

**Focus:** Interpreting FFT phase output.

**Goal:** Connect time-domain shift with phase change in frequency domain.

**Drill:** Delay a sine wave by  $\frac{1}{4}$  cycle and see a  $90^\circ$  phase shift in its bin.

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## Lab 8 — DC: The Quiet Tenant at 0 Hz

**Focus:** Why bin 0 means “average value.”

**Goal:** Add a constant offset to your signal and see it appear only at bin 0.

**Drill:** Sine wave vs. sine wave + 3.

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## Lab 9 — Aliasing: Folding Beyond Nyquist

**Focus:** What happens when  $f_0 > f_s/2$ .

**Goal:** Show how high-frequency signals masquerade as lower ones.

**Drill:**  $f_s = 32$  Hz, generate  $f_0 = 20$  Hz and 28 Hz; watch folding.

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## Lab 10 — Building the FFT Reflex

**Focus:** Putting it all together to read FFT plots like a story.

**Goal:** Predict before running: location, height, width, and phase of peaks.

**Drill:** Randomly choose  $f_0$ ,  $f_s$ ,  $N$  — predict FFT outcome, then verify.