

Question

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asked 24th Apr, 2015

**Ali Nisar**

onational University of Computer and Emerging Sciences

How to select an optimal window for Short Time Fourier Transform ?

How to select an optimal window for STFT for different audio signals. For a signal with frequency contents from 10 Hz to 300 Hz what will be the appropriate window size ? similarly for a signal with frequency contents 2000 Hz to 20000 Hz, what will be the optimal window size ?

If the window size is 10 ms then this will give you a frequency resolution of about 100 Hz. If the frequency contents in the signal lies from 100 Hz to 20000 HZ then 10 ms will be the appropriate window size ? or we should go for some other window size because of 20000 Hz content in a signal ?

It is the "uncertainty principle" of the Fourier Transform. You can either have high time or high resolution in frequency but not both at the same time. The window size has to trade off between the two.

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**Ando Soares Schlindwein**  
University of Leicester

13th Jan, 2017

Zero padding does not increase frequency resolution. Frequency resolution is approximately  $1/T_0$  where  $T_0$  is the time over which you collected the signal.  $T_0 = NT$ , where  $N$  is the number of samples and  $T$  is the sampling period. Zero padding does produce an interpolated spectrum but it does not increase frequency resolution. Apart from that what zero padding is good and useful.

✉ Ramón Beltrán Blázquez  
University of Zaragoza

5th May, 2015

To detect 10 Hz in your audio signal, you need that at least one period of the signal is in the selected window, ie, 100msec. All the frequencies above 10Hz will be resolved with that window size. For a 2000Hz signal you will need a 0.5msec window.

For this resolution you will need to increase number of points to compute the FFT. If it is a discrete representation, and the frequency bins are uniformly distributed in the spectrum of your signal and the distance between two adjacent frequency bins is  $F_s/N$ , where  $N$  is the number of points in your FFT and  $F_s$  is the sampling frequency. If  $F_s$  is fixed (as is usually the case), to increase the resolution you need more FFT points. With a fixed temporal window size you can increase the resolution by zero-padding the signal and then performing the FFT.

Recommendations

✉ Ariel Gordon  
Independent Researcher

24th Apr, 2015

Since a signal carrying information is in principle a non-stationary process. The concept of stationarity, which a signal is only applicable for short time intervals, the so-called stationary process.

Recommendations

✉ Porteous

26th Apr, 2015

For 'discrete wavelet analysis' instead then it would select the most optimal window and change the window length as you increased the frequency. This will be reduced as you change the frequency.

Recommendation

✉ André Soares Schlindwein  
University of Leicester

30th Apr, 2015

Now the relationship between window length and frequency resolution and that you can have high resolution in time or high resolution in frequency but not both at the same time. This is almost all you need to know. Now, to help you decide you also need to think about the spectral content of the signal along time (the spectral 'sampling' is like a spectrum). For audio signals window lengths of 5 ms to 20 ms are normally chosen, this is bang on the money and is a great start.

Recommendations

✉ Friend  
Signal Systems

1st May, 2015

Read C Heyser's papers at the Audio Engineering Society web site [www.aes.org](http://www.aes.org). He developed a series of transforms that developed the Heyser Transform, of which an special case. Kind of a 'General Theory of Relativity' for audio signals. Also see the