UNIT:1

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Introduction to Signal:

A signal is a function that conveys information about a phenomenon. In electronics ,it refers to any time varying voltage, current or electromagnetic wave that carries information.

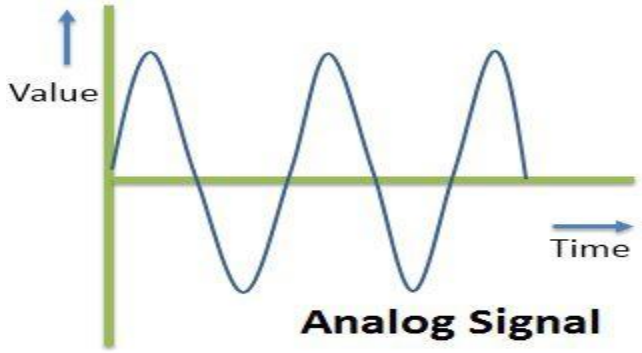
There are following two types of Signals:

a) Analog
b) Digital

a) Analog Signal:

Analog signal is a kind of continuous wave form that changes over time. An analog signal is further classified into simple and composite signals. A simple analog signal is a sine wave that cannot be decomposed further. On the other hand, a composite analog signal can be further decomposed into multiple sine waves.

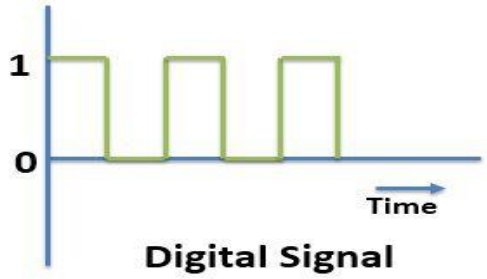
An analog signal is described using amplitude, period or frequency and phase. Amplitude marks the maximum height of the signal. Frequency marks the rate at which signal is changing. Phase marks the position of the wave with respect to time zero.



An analog signal is not immune to noise hence, it faces distortion and decrease the quality of transmission. The range of value in an analog signal is not fixed.

b) Digital Signal:

Digital signals also carry information like analog signals but is somewhat is different from analog signals. Digital signal is noncontinuous, discrete time signal. Digital signal carries information or data in the binary form i.e. a digital signal represent information in the form of bits. Digital signal can be further decomposed into simple sine waves that are called harmonics. Each simple wave has different amplitude, frequency and phase. Digital signal is described with bit rate and bit interval. Bit interval describes the time require for sending a single bit. On the other hand, bit rate describes the frequency of bit interval.



A digital signal is more immune to the noise; hence, it hardly faces any distortion. Digital signals are easier to transmit and are more reliable when compared to analog signals. Digital signal has a finite range of values. The digital signal consists 0s and 1s.

Comparison Chart

BASIS FOR COMPARISON	ANALOG SIGNAL	DIGITAL SIGNAL
Basic	An analog signal is a continuous wave that changes over a time period.	A digital signal is a discrete wave that carries information in binary form.
Representation	An analog signal is represented by a sine wave.	A digital signal is represented by square waves.
Description	An analog signal is described by the amplitude, period or frequency, and phase.	A digital signal is described by bit rate and bit intervals.
Range	Analog signal has no fixed range.	Digital signal has a finite number i.e. 0 and 1.
Distortion	An analog signal is more prone to distortion.	A digital signal is less prone to distortion.
Transmit	An analog signal transmit data in the form of a wave.	A digital signal carries data in the binary form i.e. 0 and 1.
Example	The human voice, analog electronic devices is the best example of an analog signal	Signals used for transmission in a computer are the digital signal. Computers, CDs, DVDs, and other digital electronic devices.

Comparison chart of Analog and Digital System:

Basis of Comparison	Analog System	Digital System
Technology	Analog technology records waveforms as they are.	Samples analog waveforms into a limited set of numbers and records them.
Data transmissions	Subjected to deterioration by noise during transmission and write/read cycle.	Can be noise-immune without deterioration during transmission and write/read cycle.
Response to Noise	More likely to get affected reducing accuracy	Less affected since noise response are analog in nature
Flexibility	Analog hardware is not flexible.	Digital hardware is flexible in implementation.
Uses	Can be used in analog devices only. Best suited for audio and video transmission.	Best suited for Computing and digital electronics.
Applications/ Example	Thermometer	PCs, PDAs
Bandwidth	Analog signal processing can be done in real time and consumes less bandwidth.	There is no guarantee that digital signal processing can be done in real time and consumes more bandwidth to carry out the same information.
Memory	Stored in the form of wave signal	Stored in the form of binary bit
Power	Analog instrument draws large power	Digital instrument draws only negligible power
Cost	Low cost and portable	Cost is high and not easily portable
Impedance	Low	High order of 100 megaohm
Errors	Analog instruments usually have a scale which is cramped at lower end and give considerable observational errors.	Digital instruments are free from observational errors like parallax and approximation errors.

Due to above comparisons the digital systems are more preferred rather than analog System.

Advantages of digital system:

- Have made possible many scientific, industrial, and commercial advances that would have been unattainable otherwise.
- Less expensive
- More reliable
- Easy to manipulate
- Flexibility and Compatibility
- Information storage can be easier in digital computer systems than in analog ones. New features can often be added to a digital system more easily too.

Disadvantages of digital system:

- Use more energy than analog circuits to accomplish the same tasks, thus producing more heat as well.
- Digital circuits are often fragile, in that if a single piece of digital data is lost or misinterpreted, the meaning of large blocks of related data can completely change.
- Digital computer manipulates discrete elements of information by means of a binary code.
- Quantization error during analog signal sampling.

Applications/Use:

- Very much everything you see nowadays are the application of Digital system.

IMPORTANT QUESTION FROM THIS UNIT FOR PU:

1) Define analog and digital signal? Why digital system is preferred over analog system
2) Differences between analog system and digital system? Write Application of digital system too.