

# A/D conversion as an error source. Fixed-point IIR filter design.

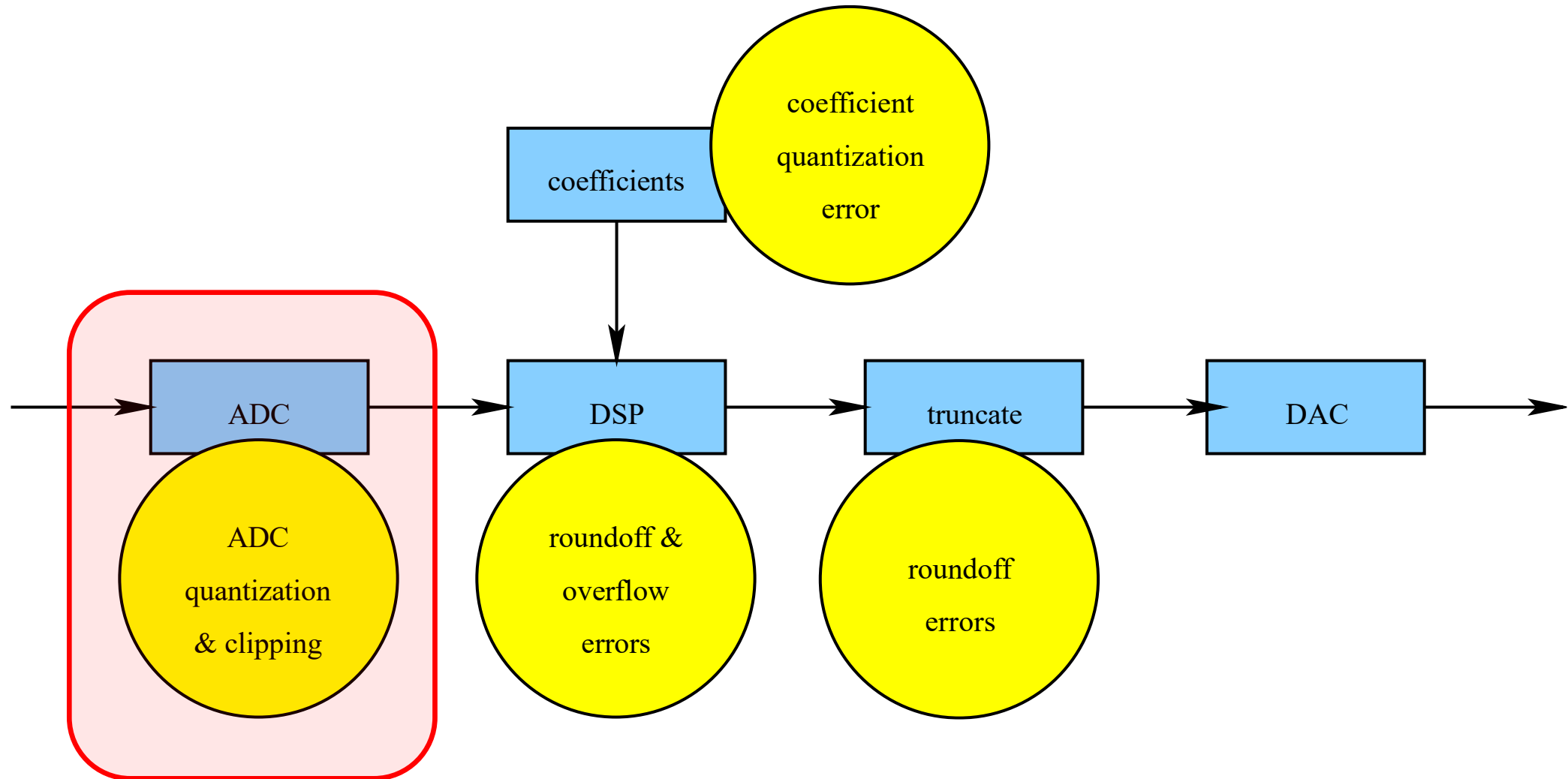
Signal Processing Systems Fall 2025

Lecture 5 (Monday 10.11.)

# Outline

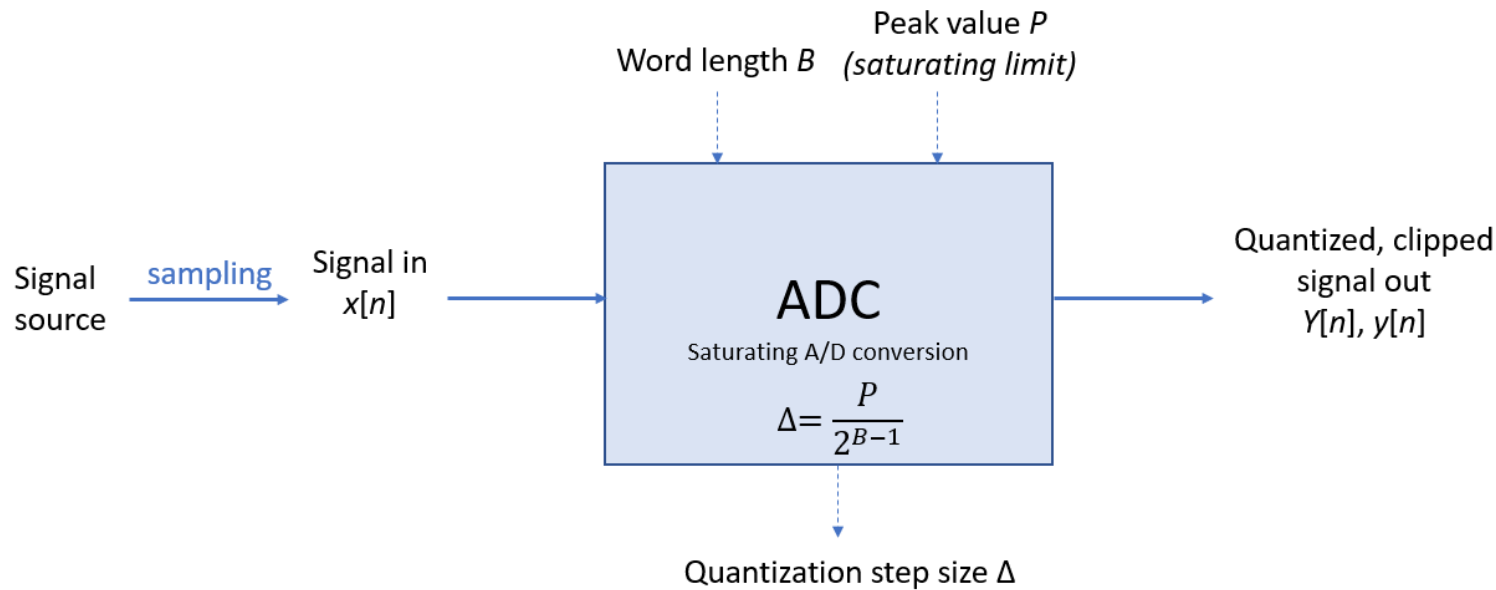
- A/D conversion as a noise source
  - Modelling ADC
  - Computing powers (using models / samples)
  - Crest factor, input noise floor, noise spectrum
- Fixed-point IIR filter design
  - Coefficient quantization & filter structure
  - Scoping of numerical ranges using Matlab's Fixed-Point Toolset
  - Second-order section (SOS) design
    - Input scaling
  - Experiments (with relation to ADC noise floor)

# 1. A/D conversion as a noise source



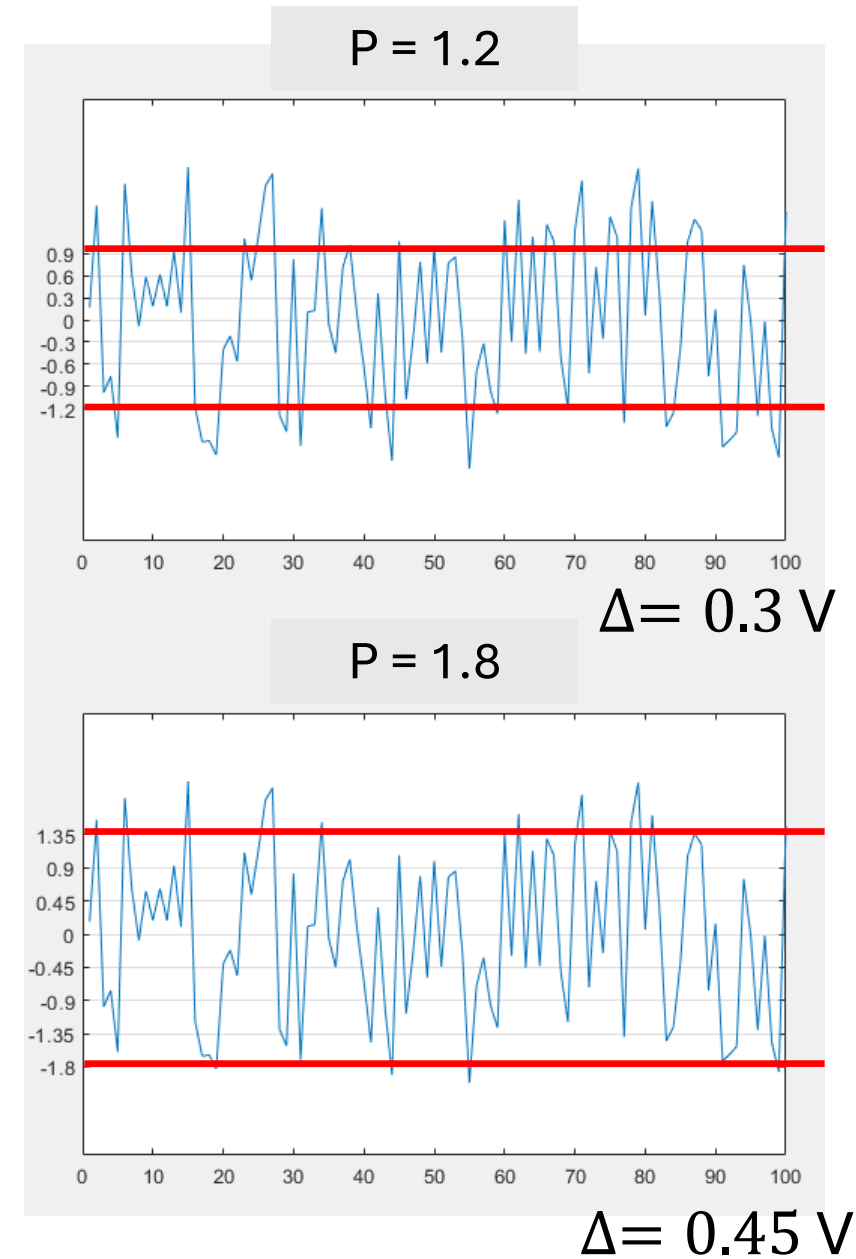
# 1.1. Model of A/D conversion

## Saturating ADC:



Larger  $P \Rightarrow$  less clipping, but larger  $\Delta$

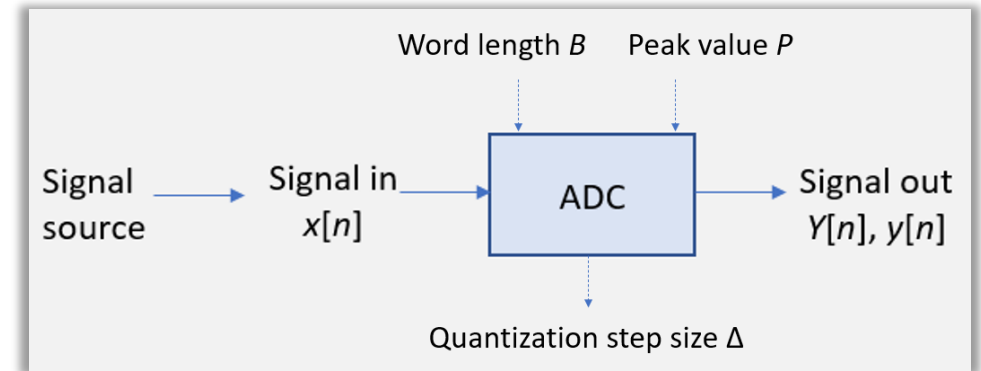
$B=3$  bits



# Model components

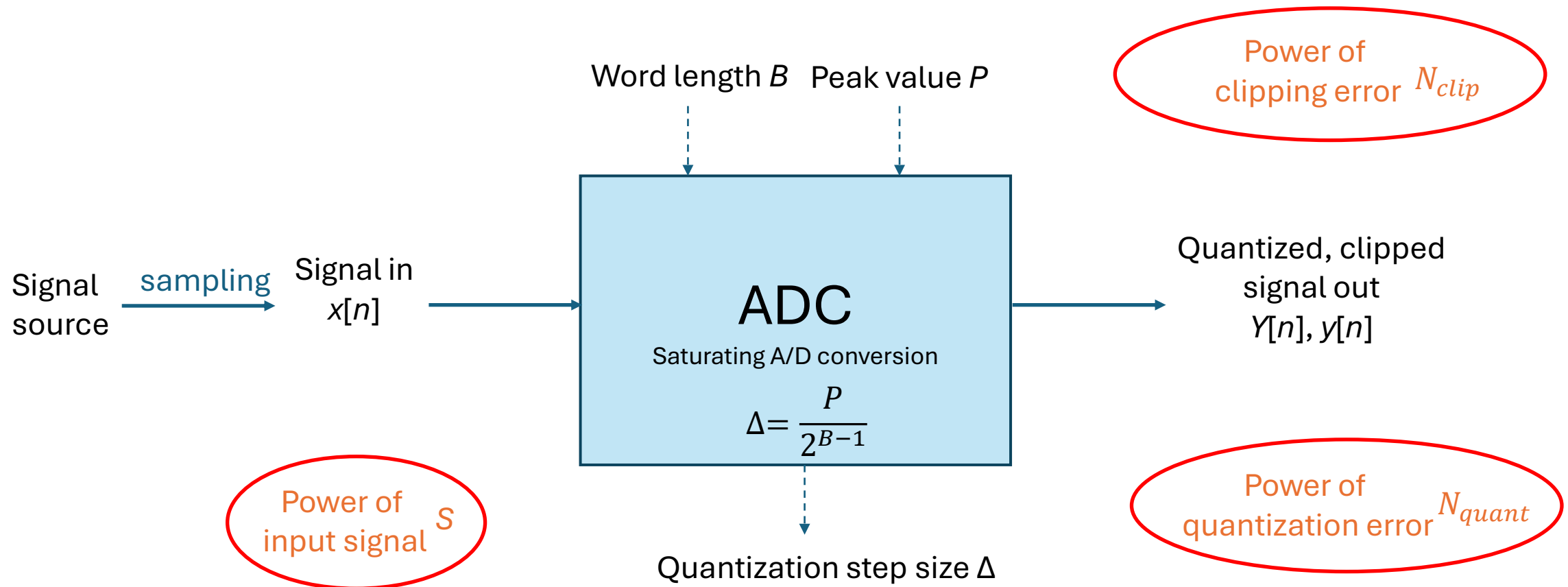
- Signal source
  - has certain characteristics, some quantities like power of the signal may be known (e.g. consider sine wave or Gaussian input)
- Input signal
  - sequence of samples,  $\mathbf{x}[n]$
- Output signal (quantized, clipped)
  - represented as two's complements integers  $\mathbf{Y}[n]$  ( $B$  bits)
  - values can be interpreted in terms of input signal levels,  $\mathbf{y}[n] = \Delta \mathbf{Y}[n]$ , where  $\Delta$  is the quantization step size
- Saturating ADC
  - peak absolute value  $P$  of input signal that clipping does not occur
  - quantization step size  $\Delta$  can be calculated from  $P$  and  $B$

$$\Delta = \frac{P}{2^{B-1}}$$



# Powers of interest

**Goal:** understand how signal/noise ratios change when  $B$  and  $P$  are adjusted



# Computing powers

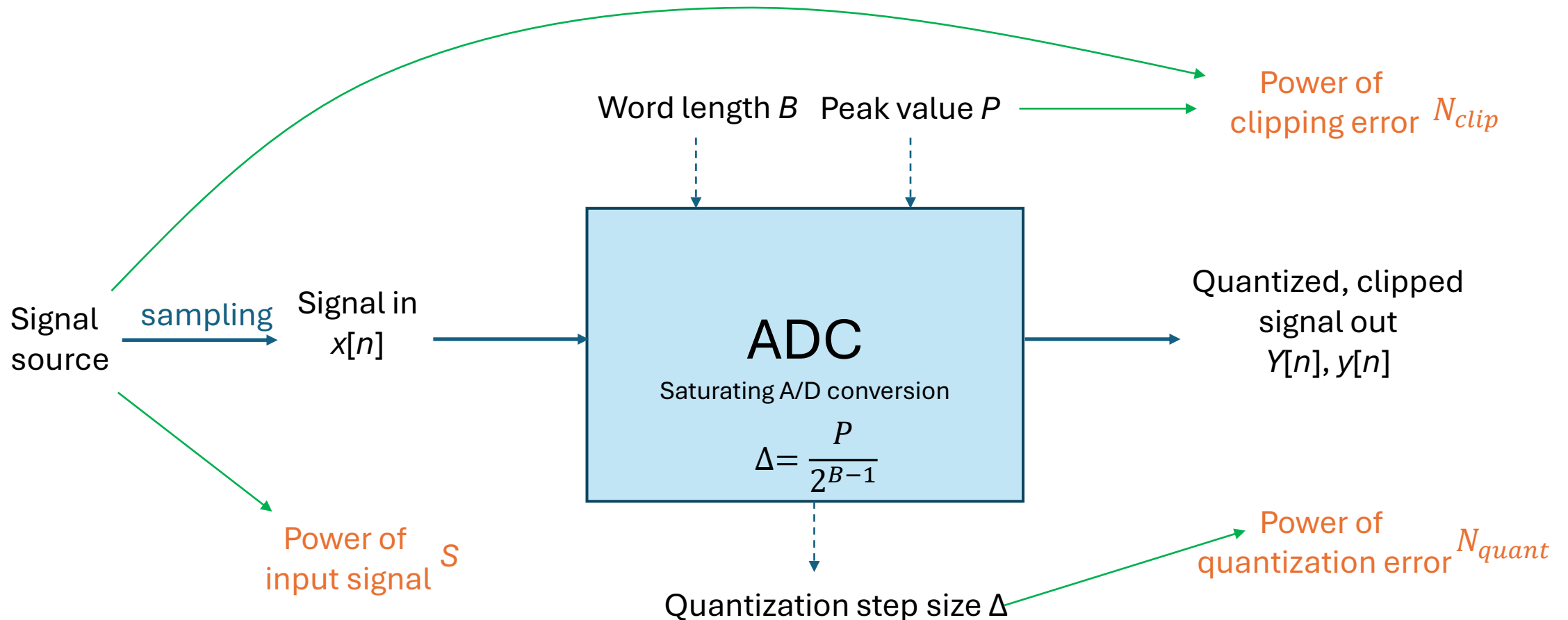
- Input signal power,  $S$ 
  - Evaluated either as (1) signal source characterization or (2) from given input samples  $x[n]$
- Quantization error power,  $N_{quant}$ 
  - Evaluated either from (1) statistical characterization i.e. uniform distribution over  $[-\Delta/2, +\Delta/2]$  or (2) from given unclipped output samples  $y[n]$  and corresponding input  $x[n]$
- Clipping error power,  $N_{clip}$ 
  - Computed using (1) signal source characterization and saturating peak  $P$  or (2) from given clipped output samples  $y[n]$  and corresponding input  $x[n]$

Two ways of evaluating signal powers in each case:

- (1) model-based      \*analysis\*
- (2) sample-based

# (1) Powers: model-based computation

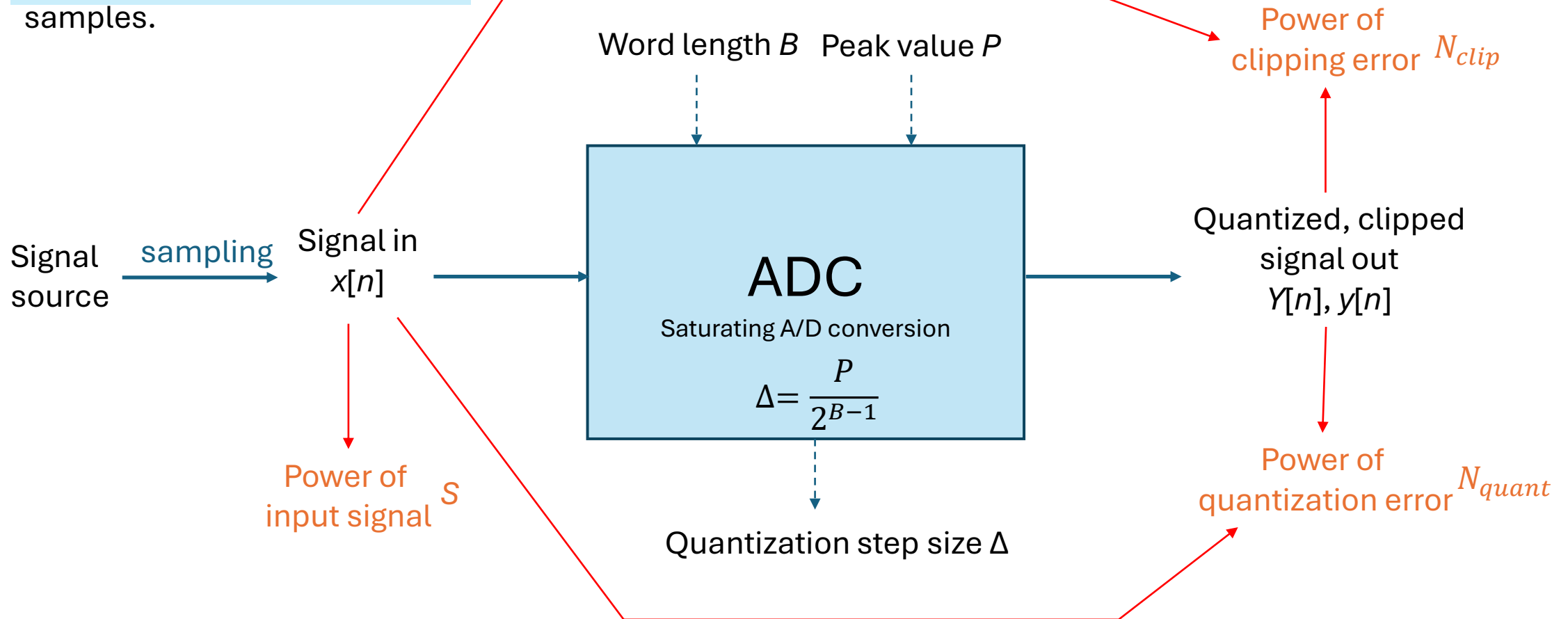
Powers are computed from mathematical / statistical characterizations of the process.





## (2) Powers: sample-based computation

Powers are computed from ADC input and output samples.



# Example. Gaussian input

## (1) From model:

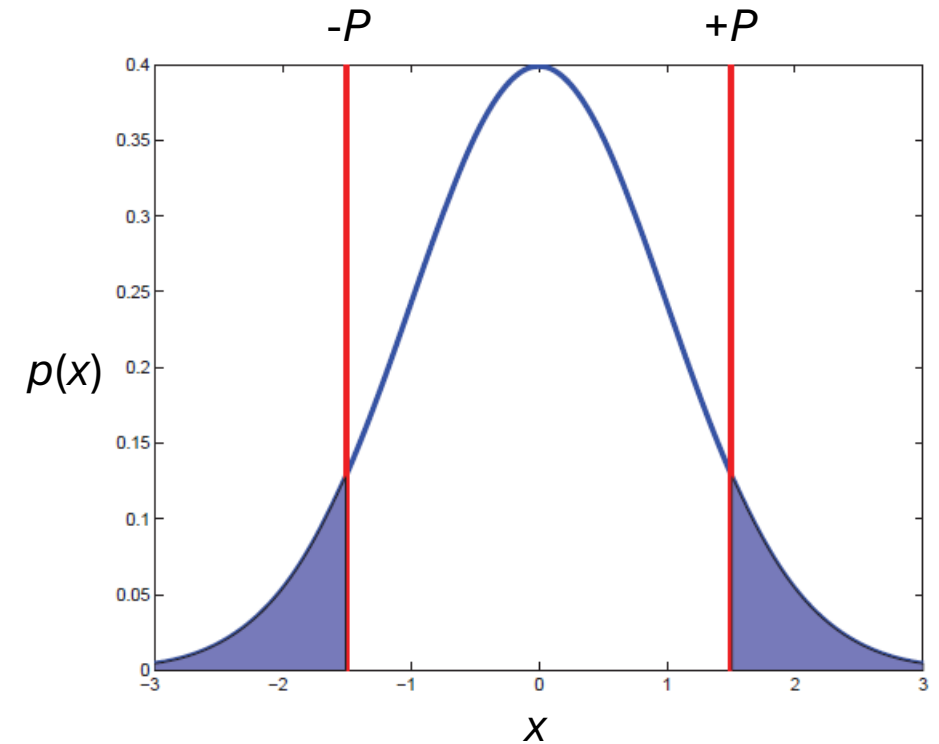
Signal source characterized by its probability density function (pdf)

Signal power  $S = \sigma^2$  Variance

Clipping error power  $N_{clip} = S - \int_{-P}^{+P} x^2 p(x) dx$

Quantization error power  $N_{quant} = \frac{1}{\Delta} \int_{-\Delta/2}^{+\Delta/2} x^2 dx = \frac{\Delta^2}{12}$

$$\Delta = \frac{P}{2^{B-1}}$$



## (2) From samples:

$$S = \frac{1}{N} \sum x[n]^2$$

$$N_{clip} = \frac{1}{N} \sum_{n \in clip} (y[n] - x[n])^2$$

$$N_{quant} = \frac{1}{N} \sum_{n \in noclip} (y[n] - x[n])^2$$

## 1.2. Crest factor (CF)

- Property of the input signal, defined as

$$CF_{\text{SIG}} = 10 \log_{10} \frac{Q^2}{S}$$

$Q$  : peak value of the signal

(or value exceeded with some low probability)

$S$  : input signal power =  $\text{RMS}^2$  (RMS = root mean square)

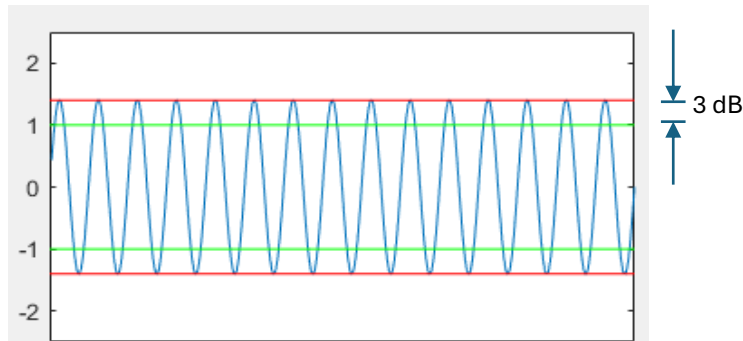
- Quantifies how large deviations from RMS value there can be at the ADC input
- ADC configuration must tolerate those deviations
  - Adjust saturating limit  $P$  properly
  - Then, no clips or just few

# Crest factor examples

$$CF_{\text{SIG}} = 10 \log_{10} \frac{Q^2}{S} \text{ [dB]}$$

Q : peak value of the signal  
(or value exceeded with some low probability)  
S : input signal power =  $\text{RMS}^2$  (RMS = root mean square)

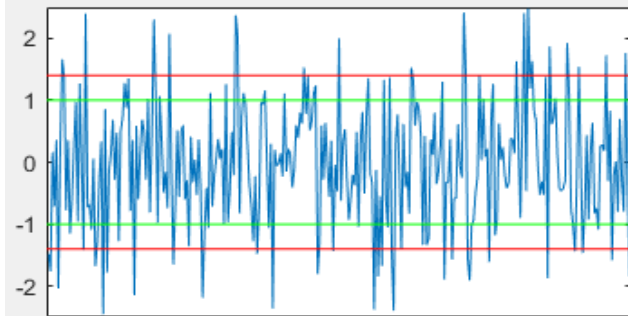
Sinusoid



$$\text{RMS} = \frac{Q}{\sqrt{2}}$$

$$CF_{\text{SIG}} = 10 \log \frac{Q^2}{Q^2/2} = 10 \log 2 = 3.01 \text{ dB}$$

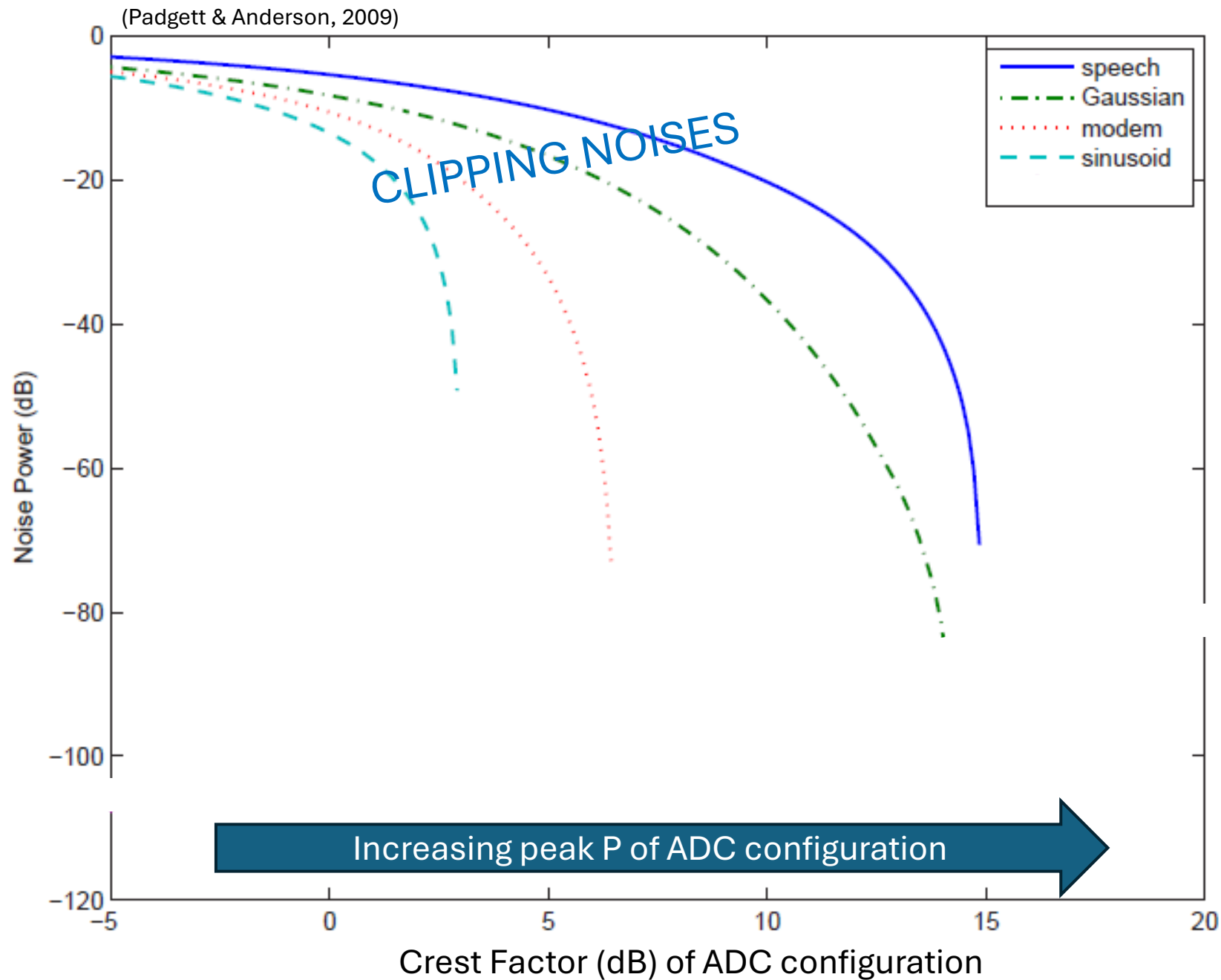
Gaussian  
signal



Event  $|x[n]| > 3.29\sigma$  occurs with probability 0.001.

Set  $Q = 3.29\sigma$  in the equation =>

$$CF_{\text{SIG}} = 10 \log \frac{(3.29\sigma)^2}{\sigma^2} = 20 \log 3.29 = 10.34 \text{ dB}$$

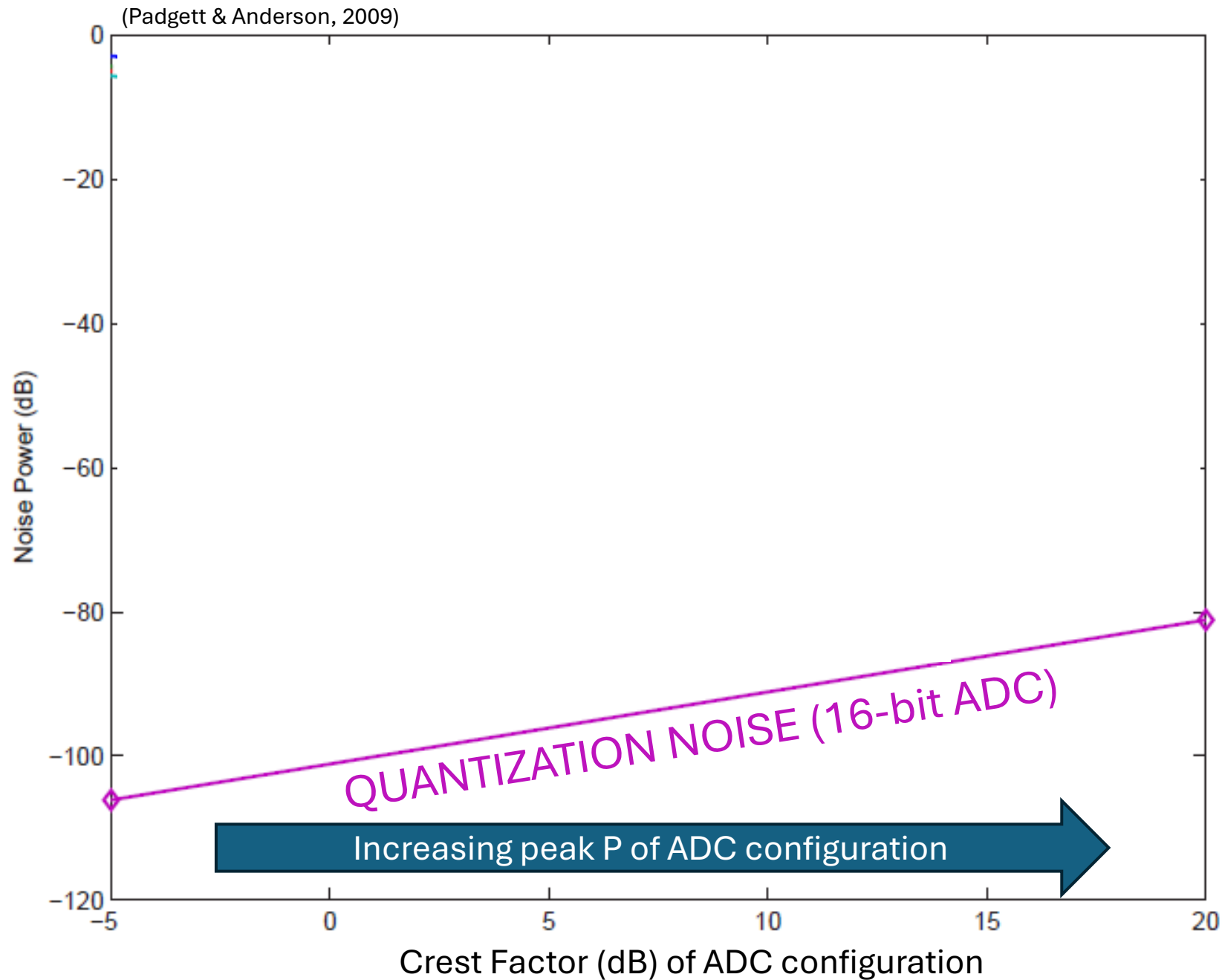


With increasing peak P level clipping noises drop.

It depends on the signal how much P must be increased.

Speech signal has heavier tails than Gaussian.

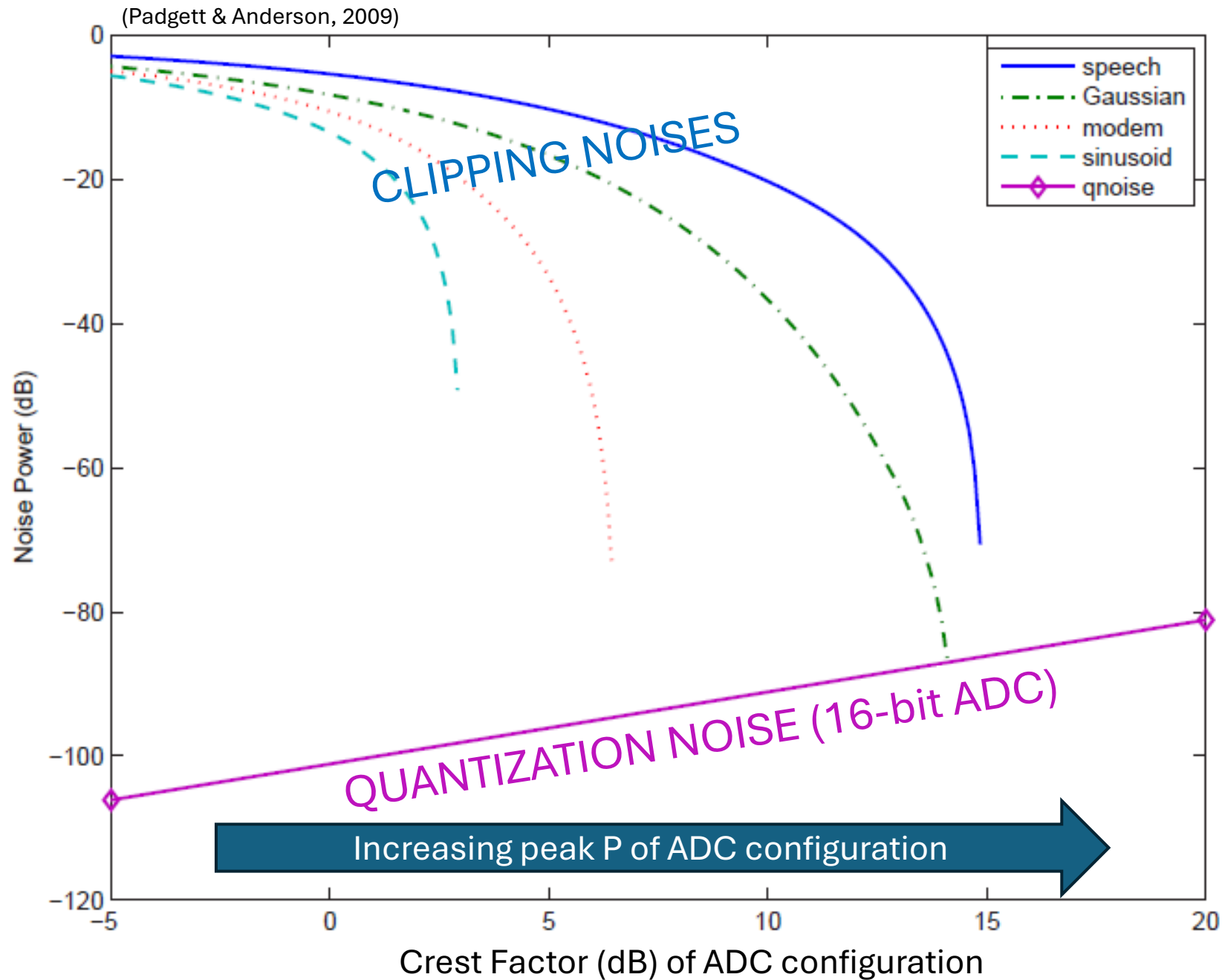
$$CF_{ADC} = 10 \log_{10} \frac{P^2}{S} [\text{dB}]$$



With increasing peak P level quantization noise increases as quantization level difference increases.

$$\Delta = \frac{P}{2^{B-1}}$$

$$CF_{\text{ADC}} = 10 \log_{10} \frac{P^2}{S} \text{ [dB]}$$



Considering ADC noise, optimum tuning of  $P$  is at the crossing point of these two noises.

$$CF_{\text{ADC}} = 10 \log_{10} \frac{P^2}{S} \text{ [dB]}$$

# Matlab example

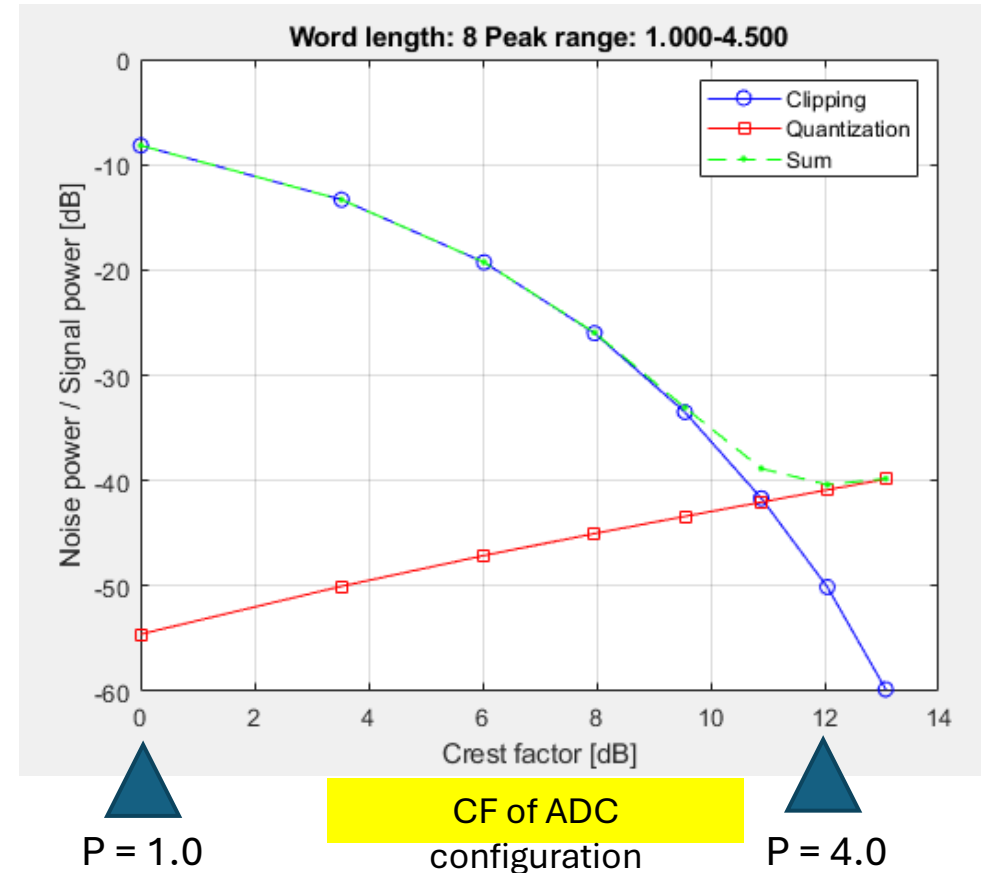
- Two Matlab files (given in Moodle):

- saturatingADC.m
- crestFactorPlot.m

```
% Gaussian signal with variance 1  
x = randn(1,1000000);  
Ps = 1.0:0.5:4.5; % ADC peaks P  
B = 8; % ADC output word length  
crestFactorPlot(x,Ps,B);
```

We see that clipping and quantization noise powers are similar when ADC is tuned for CF = 11 dB (ADC peak  $P = 3.5\sigma$ ).

Perhaps this is a good choice for ADC peak value as quantization and clipping noises are in balance.



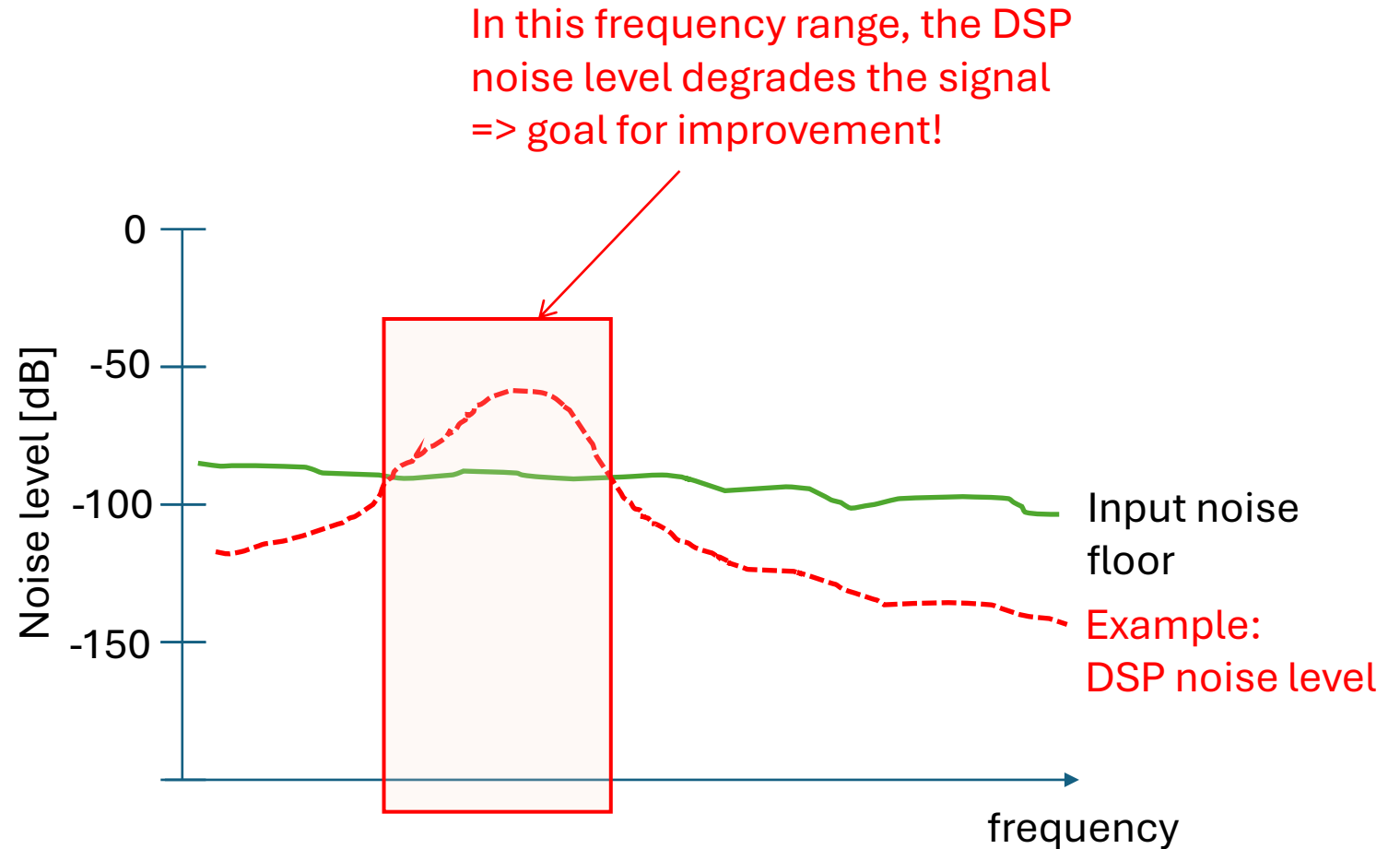


# 1.3. Input noise floor

The noise induced by A/D conversion and inherent noise in the analog input set up a noise floor for processing.

For the signal processing output, we cannot get above this level.

So, this input noise floor can set up a goal for DSP design: **keep the noise at the level of input noise!**



# 1.4. Spectrum of the quantization noise

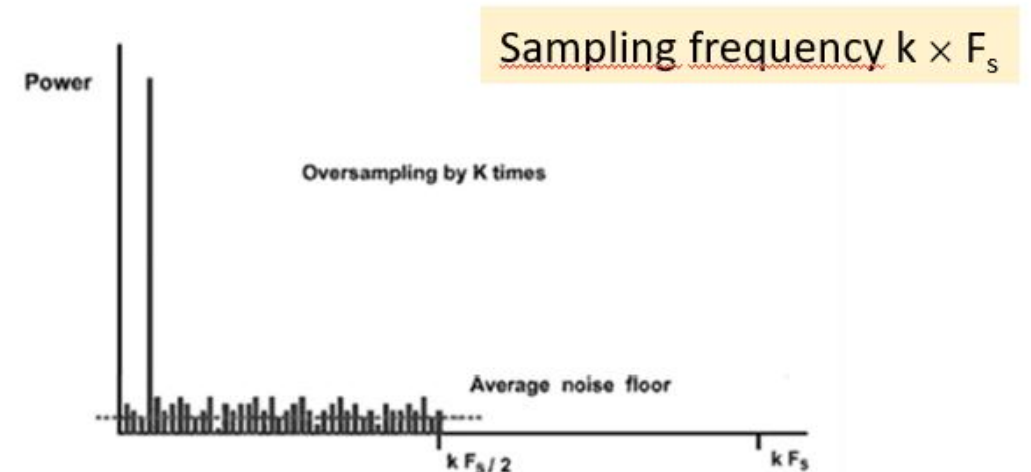
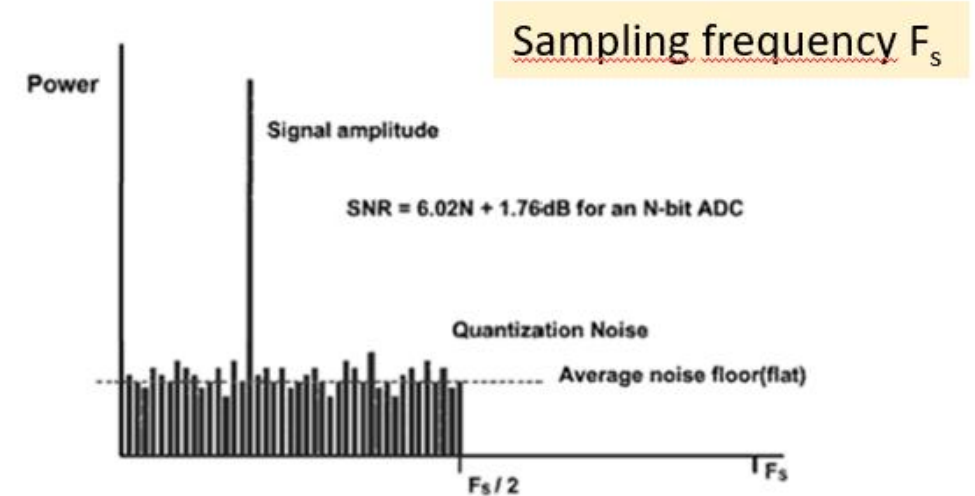
- Spectrum of the ADC quantization noise is approximately flat
- The power spectral density (PSD) for sample rate  $F_s$  is

$$S(f) = \frac{N_{quant}}{F_s}$$

where

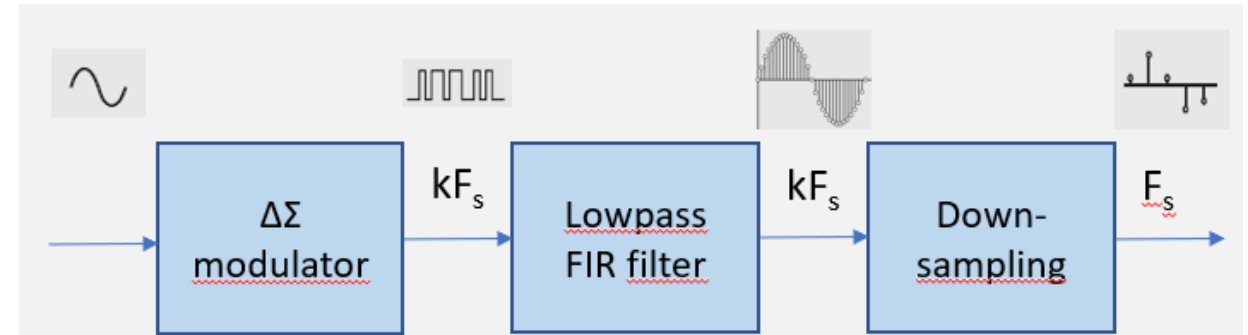
$$N_{quant} = \frac{1}{\Delta} \int_{-\Delta/2}^{+\Delta/2} x^2 dx = \frac{\Delta^2}{12}$$

- **Note:** If sampling rate is increased, noise floor becomes lower

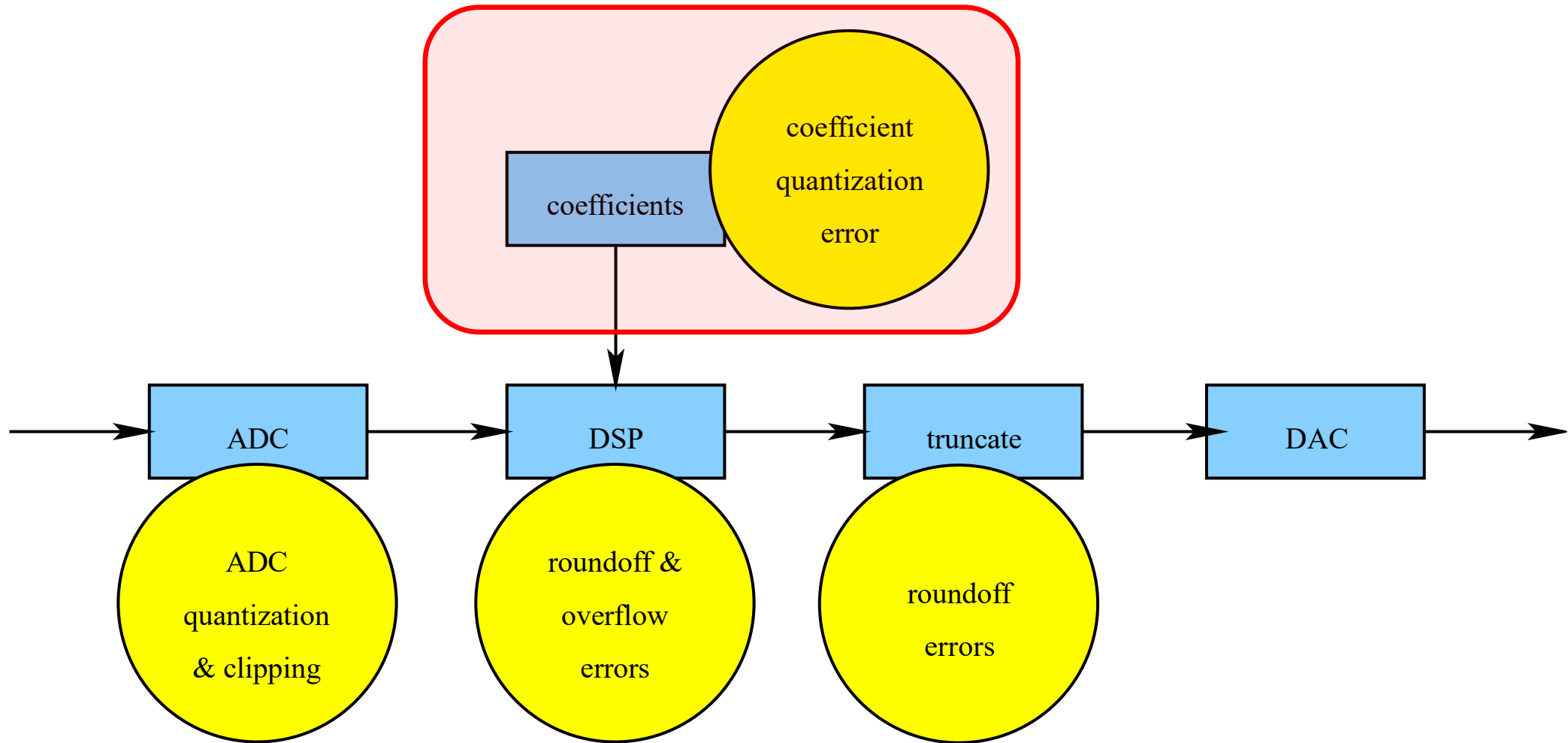


# Oversampling ADC

- Exploit this notion about sample rate and noise floor
- Oversampling ADC is a combination of
  - High-frequency sampling
  - A/D conversion
  - Decimation to lower the sample rate
- Extreme: One can even use one-bit ADC with very high sampling rate
  - $\Delta\Sigma$  modulator
- Result: ADC quantization noise reduced
- Common technique in audio signal processing
- A multirate technique: more on this later



## 2. IIR filter coefficient quantization

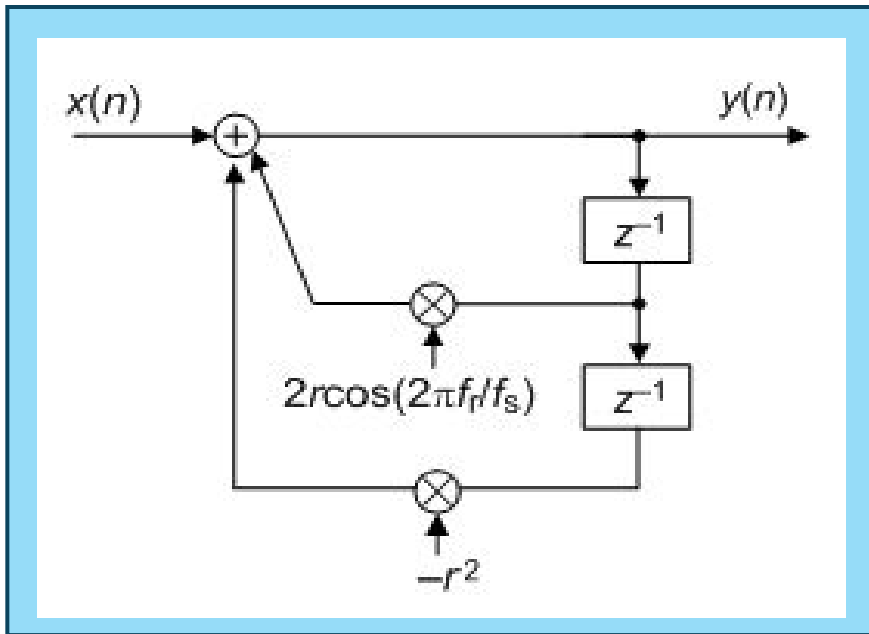


# Problem

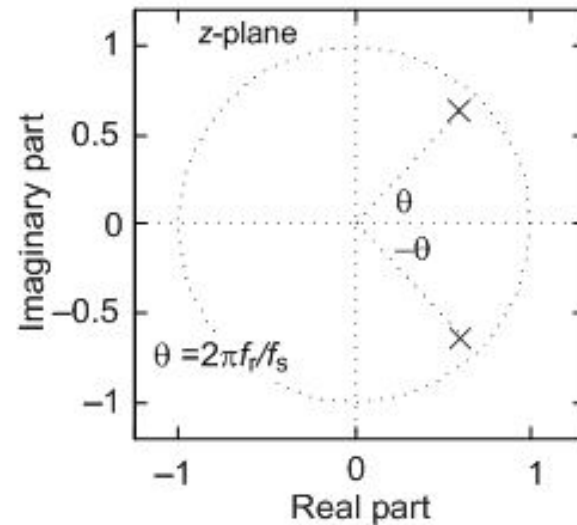
- When we quantize IIR filter coefficients
  - What happens to the response of the filter?
  - Is the filter still stable?
- How to find optimal solutions?
  - Not just coefficient quantization, also choice of implementation structure important
- Considering two cases
  - 2nd order IIR resonator
  - High-order IIR filter

# Case 1: 2nd order IIR resonator

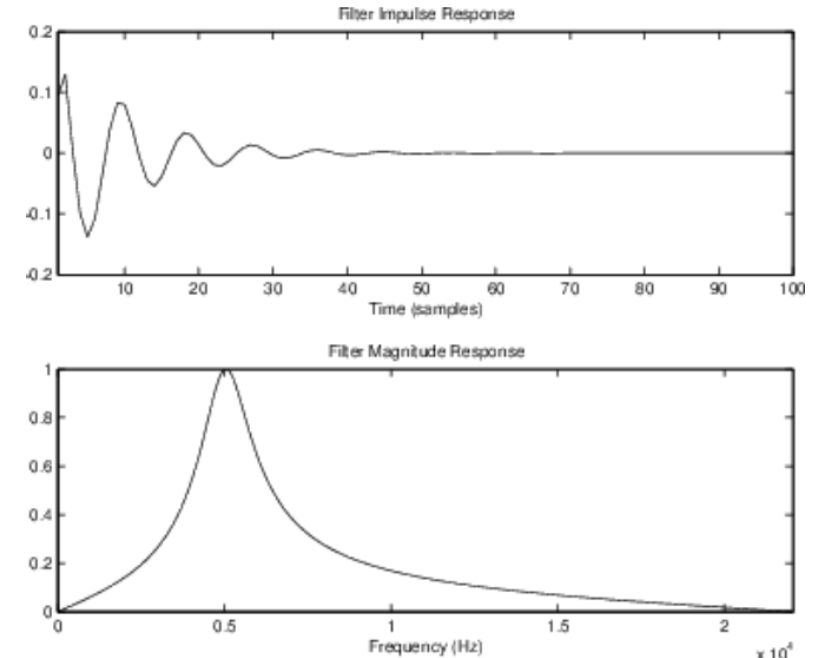
- Resonator: impulse response of the filter is a damped sinusoid with frequency  $f_r$  and damping factor  $r$
- Is a band-pass filter



Poles



Response

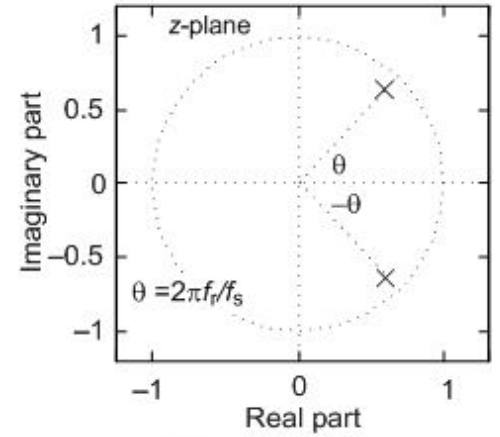


# 2nd order IIR resonator

- The transfer function of the filter is of form

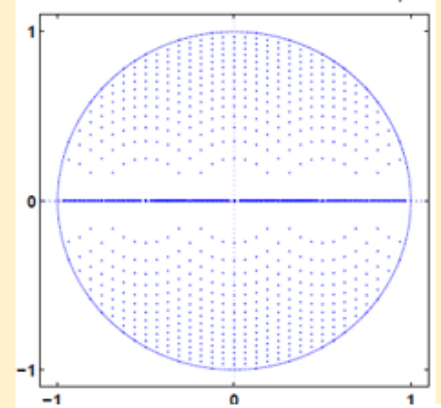
$$H(z) = \frac{1}{1 - a_1 z^{-1} - a_2 z^{-2}}$$

- The filter has complex-conjugate roots (poles) at  $z = r e^{\pm j\theta}$ , where  $\theta = 2\pi f_r / f_s$
- In direct fixed-point implementation, we need to quantize  $a_1 = 2r \cos \theta$  and  $a_2 = -r^2$ 
  - But: not full control of pole positions
  - Observable sparsities in pole position plots
  - Especially low-pass ( $f_r$  close to 0) and high-pass ( $f_r$  close to  $f_s/2$ ) filters are harder to realize - longer word lengths needed

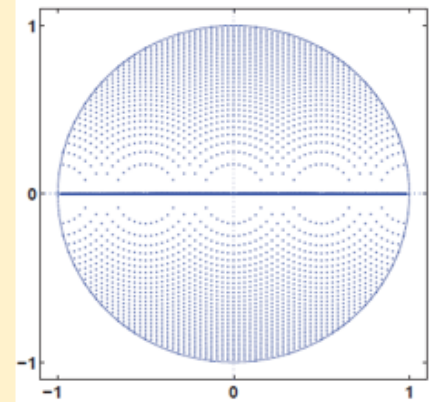


Available  
pole positions

5-bit  
coefficients



6-bit  
coefficients

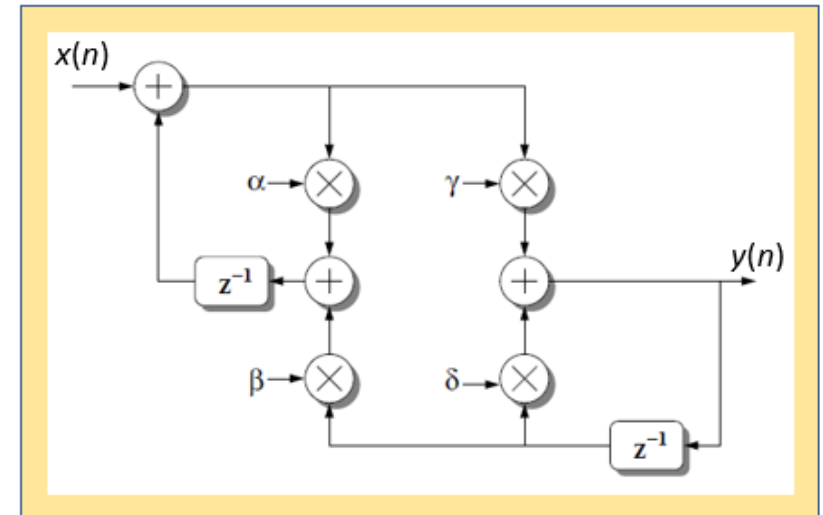


# 2nd order coupled form IIR

- Provides a solution to resonator implementation problems
  - note: four multiplications instead of two
- The transfer function is

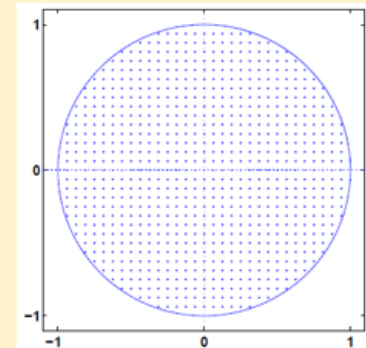
$$H(z) = \frac{\gamma}{1 - (\alpha + \delta)z^{-1} - (\beta\gamma - \alpha\delta)z^{-2}}$$

- Setting  $\alpha = \delta = r \cos \theta$  and  $\beta = -\gamma = r \sin \theta$ , we get resonator's transfer function (up to scaling  $\gamma$ )
- Quantization of coefficients ( $\alpha, \beta, \gamma, \delta$ ) leads to **rectangular grid** of pole positions

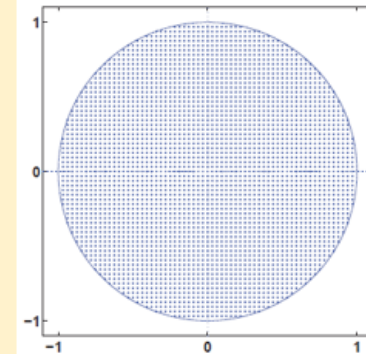


Available  
pole positions

5-bit  
coefficients



6-bit  
coefficients



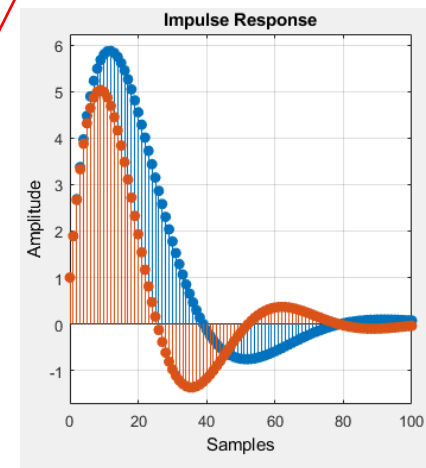
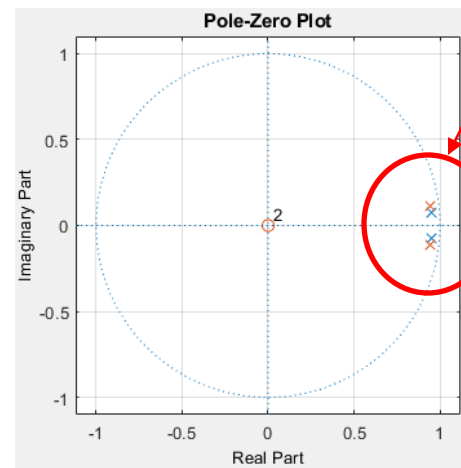
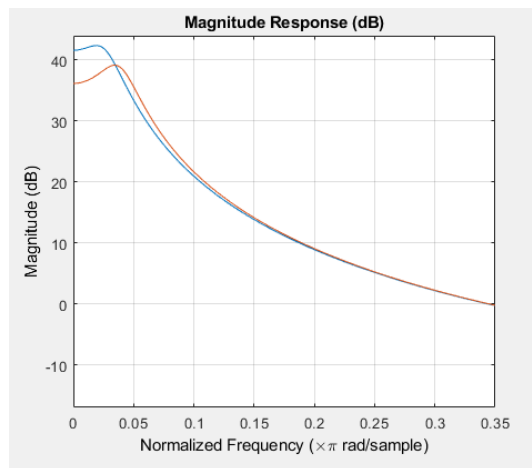
Discussed in <https://www.dsprelated.com/showarticle/183.php>



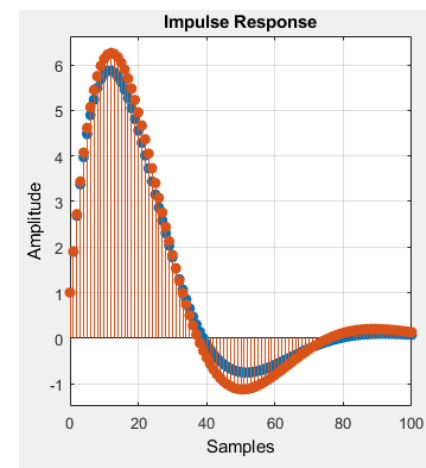
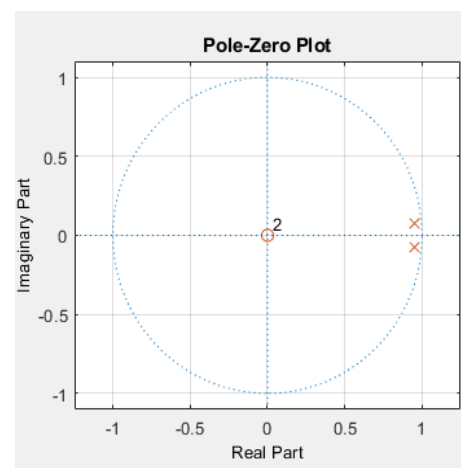
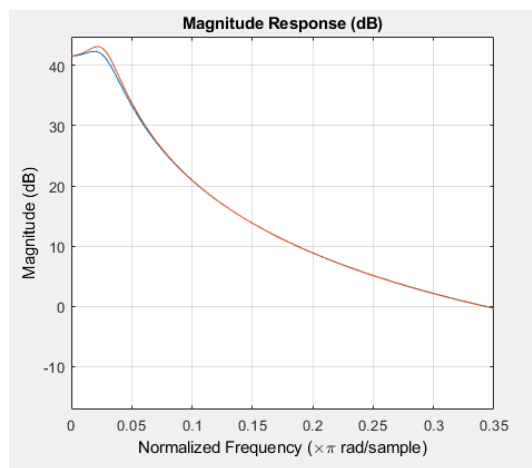
# Example. Resonator for $f_r = f_s/80, r = 0.95$

$$\theta = 0.025\pi.$$

**Direct form** fixed-point  
s8.6 format



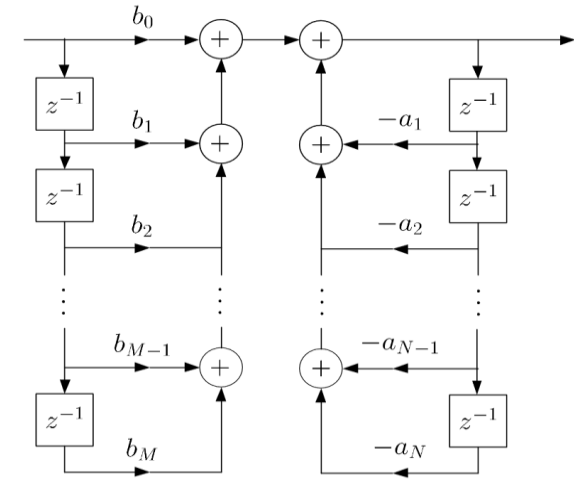
**Coupled form** fixed-point  
s8.6 format



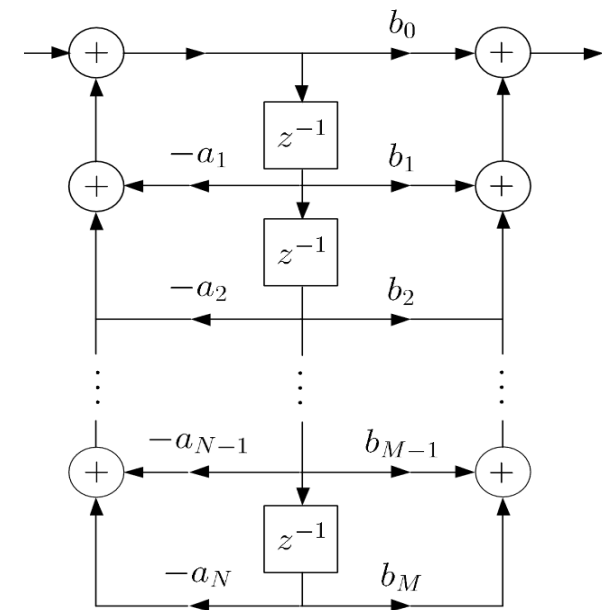
— floating-point filter  
— fixed-point filter

## Case 2: high-order IIR filters

- Direct form implementations are problematic. Reason:
  - Typically, we want to use the same fixed-point format for all numerator coefficients and another one for all denominator coefficients
  - However, the **magnitude of the coefficients may vary a lot**, and then the precision of some coefficients can become too low



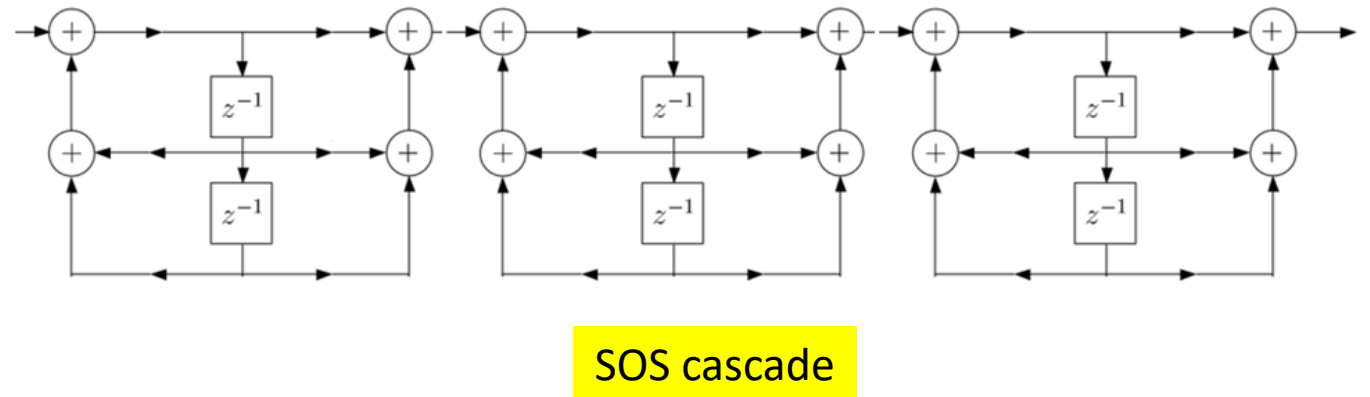
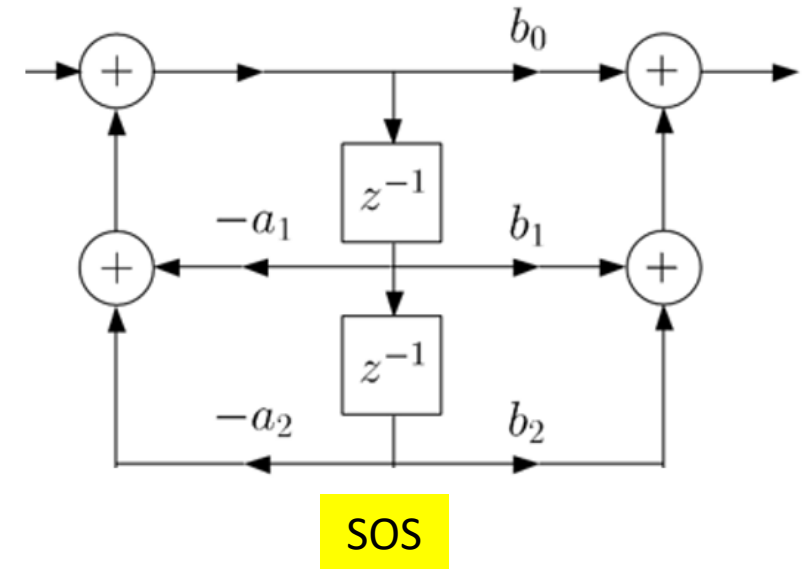
Direct form 1



Direct form 2 (canonic)

## Case 2: high-order IIR filters

- The solution is to consider cascaded second-order section (SOS) implementations
  - Coefficients of each section have relatively small range
  - Note: not first-order sections as we want to avoid complex arithmetic – 2nd order SOS has real coefficients

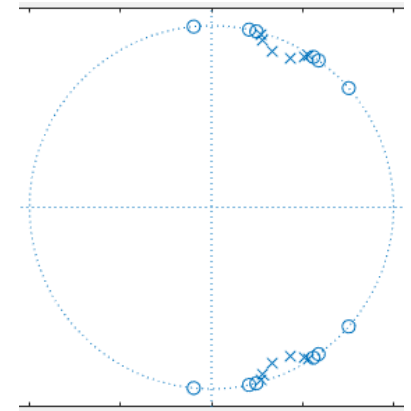
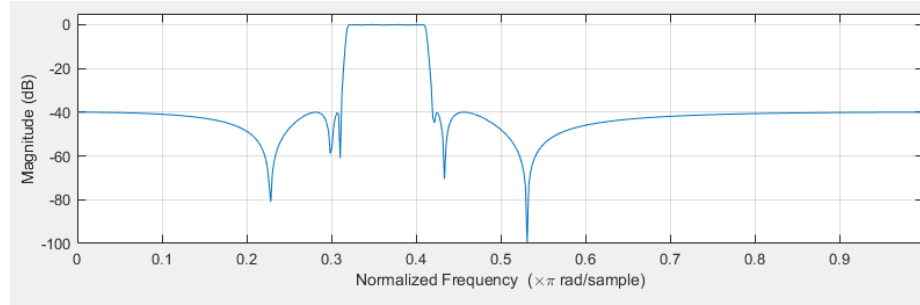


# Example. elliptic bandpass filter (order 12)

## Specification

- passband cut-offs 0.32, 0.41 ( $\times F_s/2$ )
- passband ripple 0.1 dB
- stopband attenuation 40 dB

Property: fast transition in gain



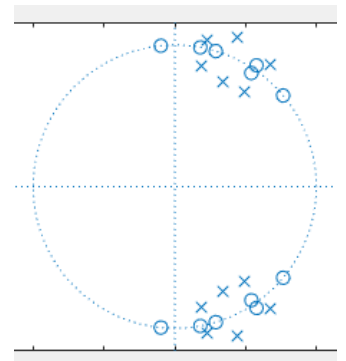
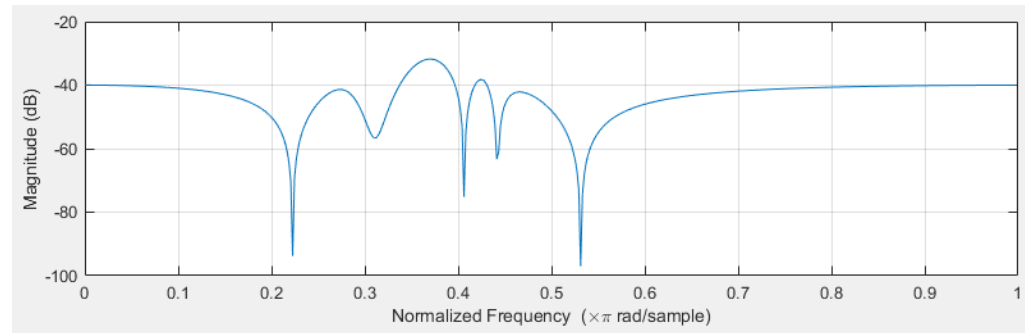
Designed using matlab: `[b,a] = ellip(6,0.1,40,[0.32,0.41])`

➡

| numerator<br>$b$ [0...12] | denominator<br>$a$ [0...12] |
|---------------------------|-----------------------------|
| 0.010402294826284         | 1.0000000000000000          |
| -0.046981738177133        | -4.736891331870121          |
| 0.140584418862936         | 14.770074008149525          |
| -0.291587543984709        | -31.339008666596676         |
| 0.483154936264528         | 52.290097782458098          |
| -0.638421915199626        | -68.277884768136573         |
| 0.705123004845763         | 73.209425975402013          |
| -0.638421915199625        | -63.111029848304227         |
| 0.483154936264528         | 44.673344222037109          |
| -0.291587543984708        | -24.741797451330484         |
| 0.140584418862936         | 10.774944914870538          |
| -0.046981738177132        | -3.191627411828423          |
| 0.010402294826284         | 0.622743578239246           |

Large variation in magnitude

Trying 16-bit fixed-point quantization, one format for  $a$  and one for  $b$ , that is, s16.15 for  $b$  and s16.8 for  $a$



No passband, not even stable!

# Solution: Cascaded SOS implementation

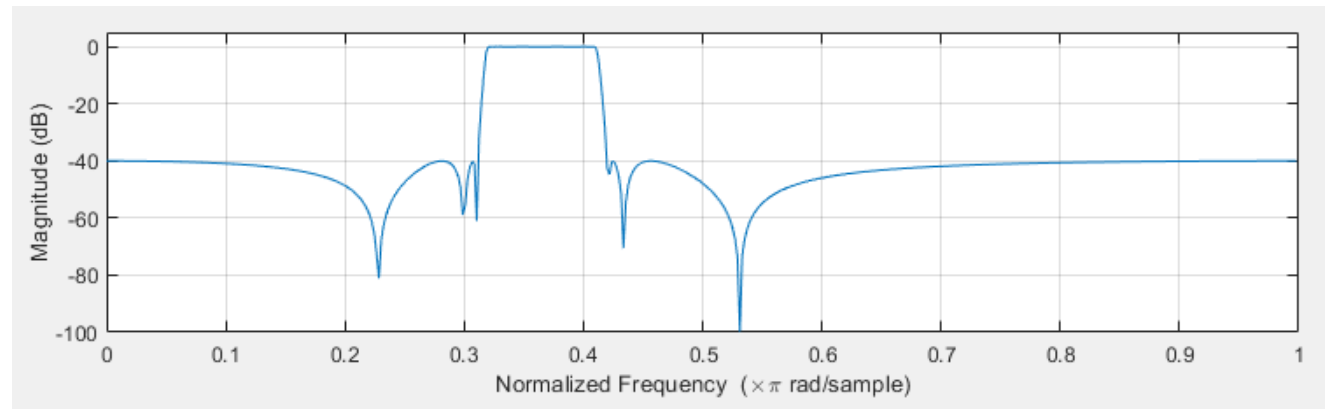
Matlab:

```
[b,a] = ellip(6,0.1,40,[0.32,0.41])  
[SOS,G] = tf2sos(b,a)
```

|                | $b[0]$ | $b[1]$             | $b[2]$             |   | $a[0]$             | $a[1]$            | $a[2]$ |
|----------------|--------|--------------------|--------------------|---|--------------------|-------------------|--------|
| 6 SOS sections | 1      | 0.195430137972181  | 1.0000000000000039 | 1 | -0.664513985463847 | 0.852588727845048 |        |
|                | 1      | -1.508636017182940 | 0.9999999999999994 | 1 | -0.873355320444148 | 0.860012128003494 |        |
|                | 1      | -0.412640684596677 | 0.9999999999998724 | 1 | -0.564681165798558 | 0.932247834363709 |        |
|                | 1      | -1.177232208175213 | 1.0000000000000585 | 1 | -1.019134004433838 | 0.939497814911048 |        |
|                | 1      | -0.492675670575205 | 1.0000000000001395 | 1 | -0.543644167472686 | 0.983728242794488 |        |
|                | 1      | -1.120723792458221 | 0.9999999999999252 | 1 | -1.071562688257045 | 0.985740948417509 |        |

Gain G: 0.010402294826284

Trying 16-bit fixed-point quantization, one format for  $a$  and  $b$ , s16.14. Gain quantized separately as s16.21

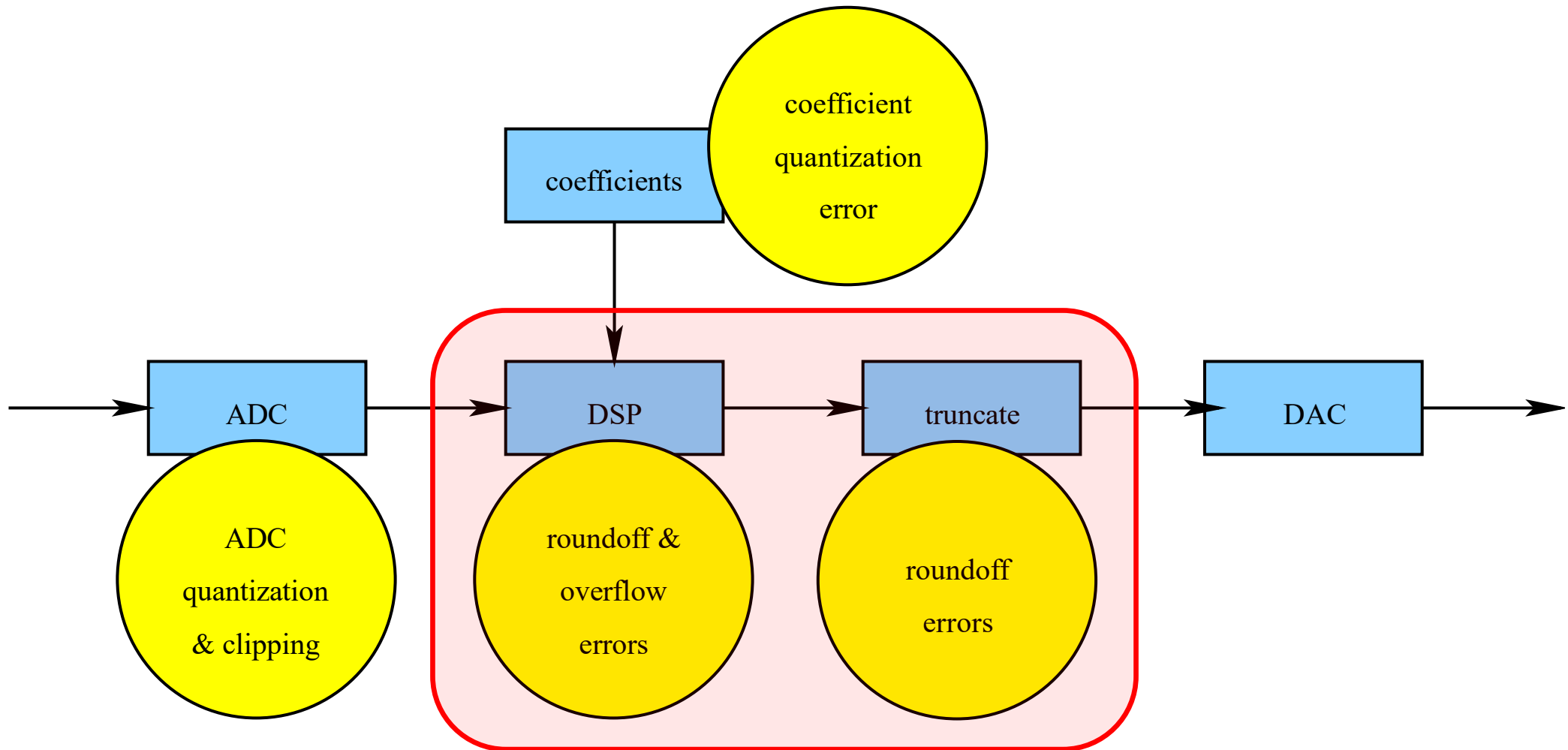


Very close to the ideal floating-point response 😊

# Lesson

- To deal with coefficient quantization effects, fixed-point IIR filter design typically requires **special flow of computations**
  - It's not just coefficient quantization
  - Problem is due to limited dynamic range of fixed-point numbers
- Another example of having special structures for fixed-point computation
  - recall matrix inversion and use of decomposition techniques (see Lecture 3)

### 3. Quantized IIR filter: signal processing error



# In the following

Implementing fixed-point IIR filter simulation takes effort.

To grasp some ideas, let us consider implementation of second-order-section (SOS) IIR filter on a DSP platform.

- Word length tunings in the platform possible.
- Learning how **input scaling** is used to deal with the overflow problems.
- Then, we consider **choice of fixed-point types** for different points on the data path.
- Based on this, **Matlab code for simulating** the system written.
- Finally, some simulation **experiments** to study effects



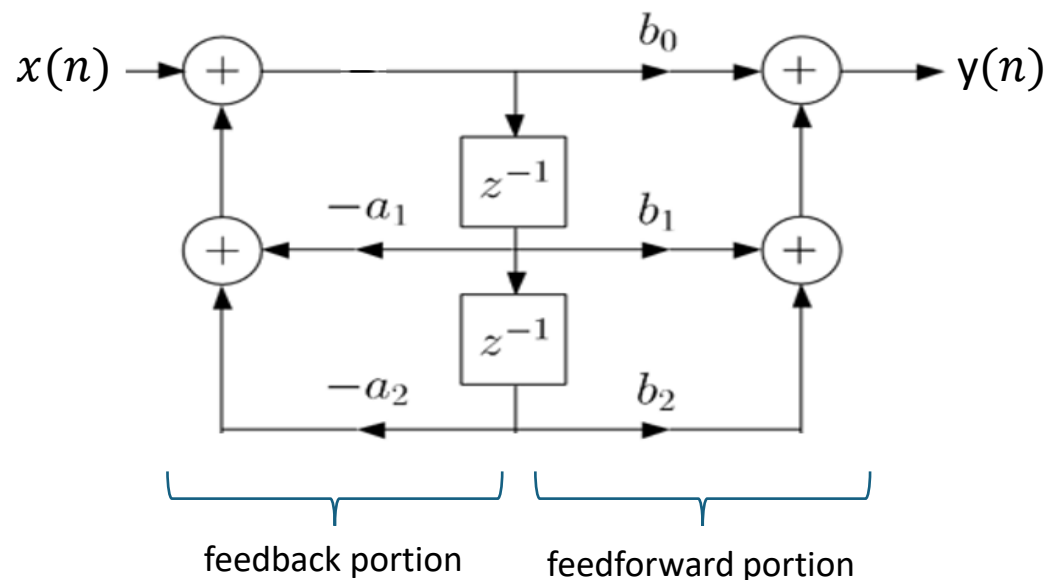
### 3.1. Problem: Implementing a second-order IIR filter

SOS is very useful and common component in fixed-point IIR filter implementations.

SOS transfer function:

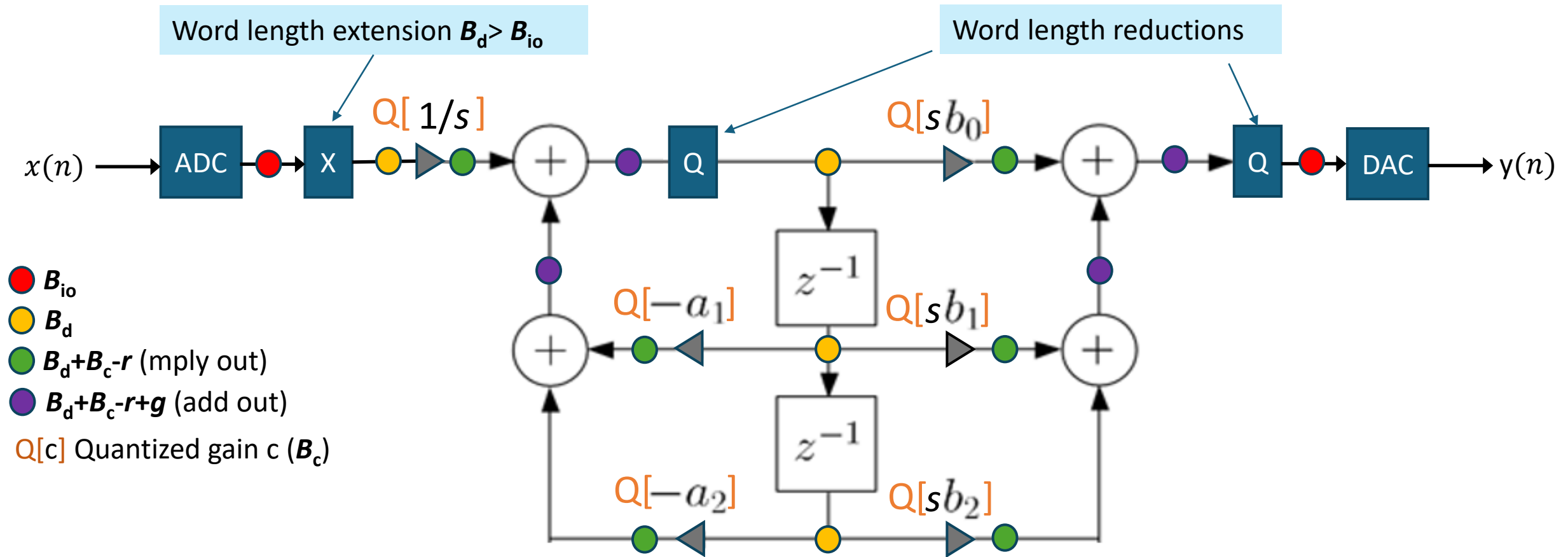
$$H(z) = \frac{b_0 + b_1 z^{-1} + b_2 z^{-2}}{1 + a_1 z^{-1} + a_2 z^{-2}}$$

## Canonic direct form II –based implementation

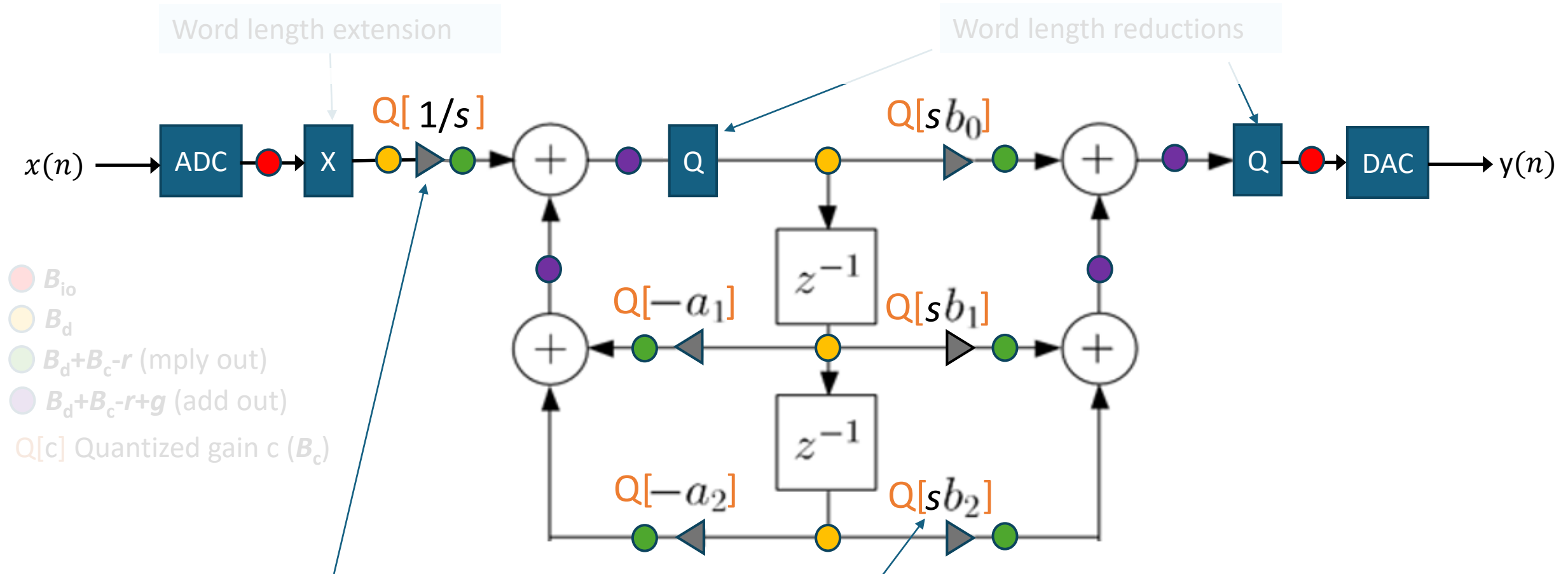


- Assumed DSP platform:
  - Integer arithmetic
  - $B_{io}$ -bit I/O
  - $B_d$ -bit registers for delays
  - $B_c$ -bit memories for coefficients (incl. pre-scaling factor)
  - Multiplier output is  $(B_d+B_c-r)$ -bit ( $r$  is the number of LSB bits discarded from the result by rounding)
  - Sums stored into  $(B_d+B_c-r+g)$ -bit accumulators ( $g$  is the number of guard bits); saturating adder used

# Signal flow with DSP platform details



# Pre-scaling

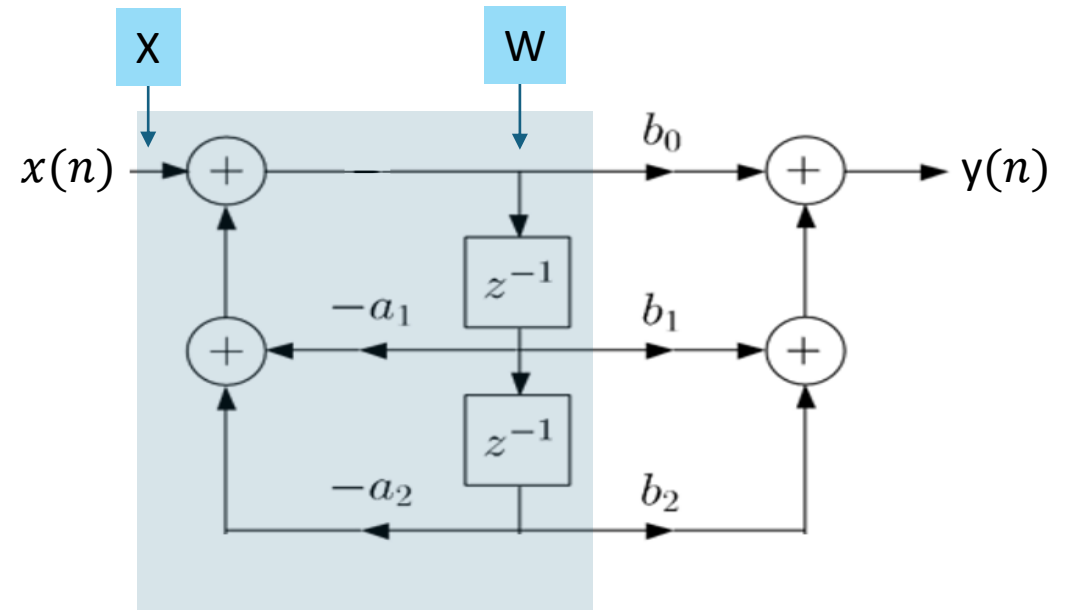


One additional multiplication:

$1/s$  A **pre-scaling** factor ( $<1$ ) that is used to reduce/avoid overflows in the feedback portion  
 Compensation for it is done in scaling of feedforward coefficients

## 3.2. Scaling for overflow control

- $x(n) \in [-1, +1)$
- We reduce the input range so that overflows in the feedback portion are reduced or even avoided completely
- To find the pre-scaling  $1/s$ , we consider the response at point **W** to the impulse at point **X**
  - Transfer function  $H'(z)$
  - A norm of its impulse response  $f(n)$  provides the gain  $s$  that we compensate for
  - There are various norms that can be applied, computed in time or frequency domain



$$H'(z) = \frac{W(z)}{X(z)} = \frac{1}{1 + a_1 z^{-1} + a_2 z^{-2}}$$

# Three common norms for scaling

- **$L_1$  norm** applied to impulse response  $f(n)$ 
  - $s = \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} |f(n)|$
  - Overflow avoided, but may be too conservative
- **$L_2$  norm** applied to impulse response
  - $s = \sqrt{\sum_{n=0}^{\infty} f^2(n)}$
  - Provides better SNR than previous one (if overflows do not occur)
- **$L_{\infty}$  norm** applied to frequency response  $F(w)$ 
  - $s = \max |F(w)|$
  - Overflow with full scale sinusoidal input avoided
- Relationship:  $L_2 < L_{\infty} < L_1$

L2 : Closed form solution for SOS

$$s = \sqrt{\frac{1}{1-a_2^2-a_1^2(1-a_2)/(1+a_2)}}$$

Matlab:

```
f = impz(1,[1,a1,a2])
L1 = norm(f,1)
L2 = norm(f,2)
F = freqz(1,[1,a1,a2])
Linf = max(abs(F))
```

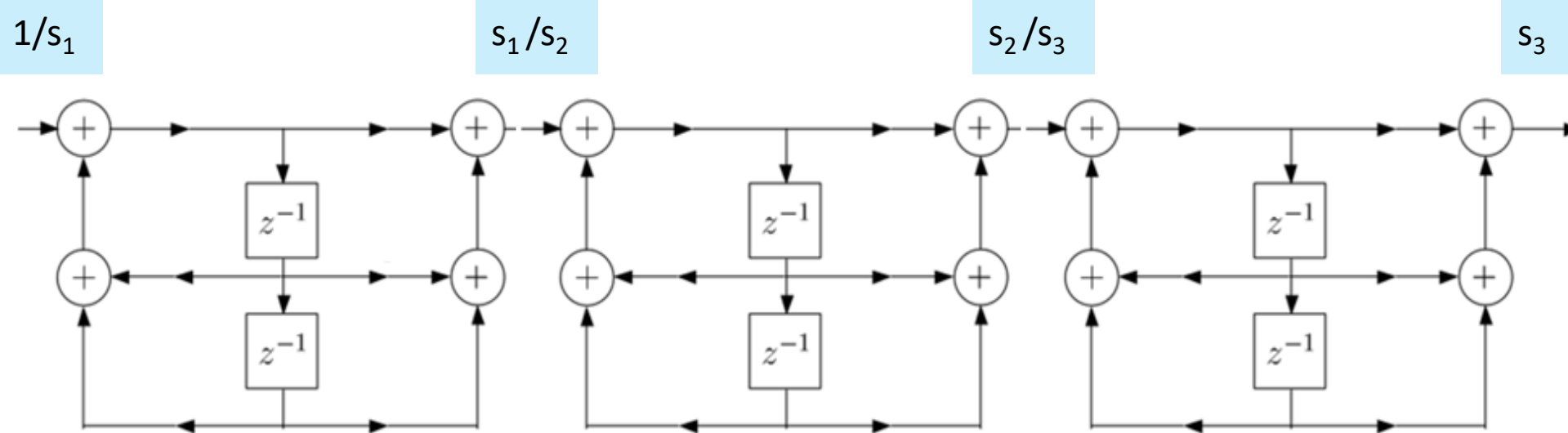
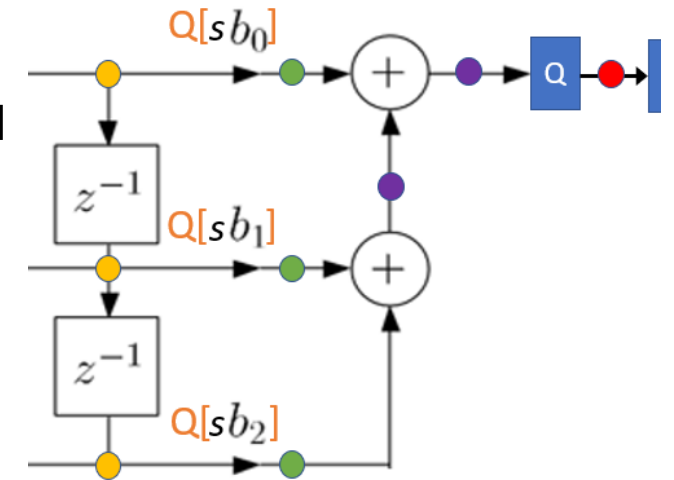
Note:

```
L2 = norm(F,2)/sqrt(numel(F))
```

# Notes on scaling COMPENSATION for $1/s$ ?

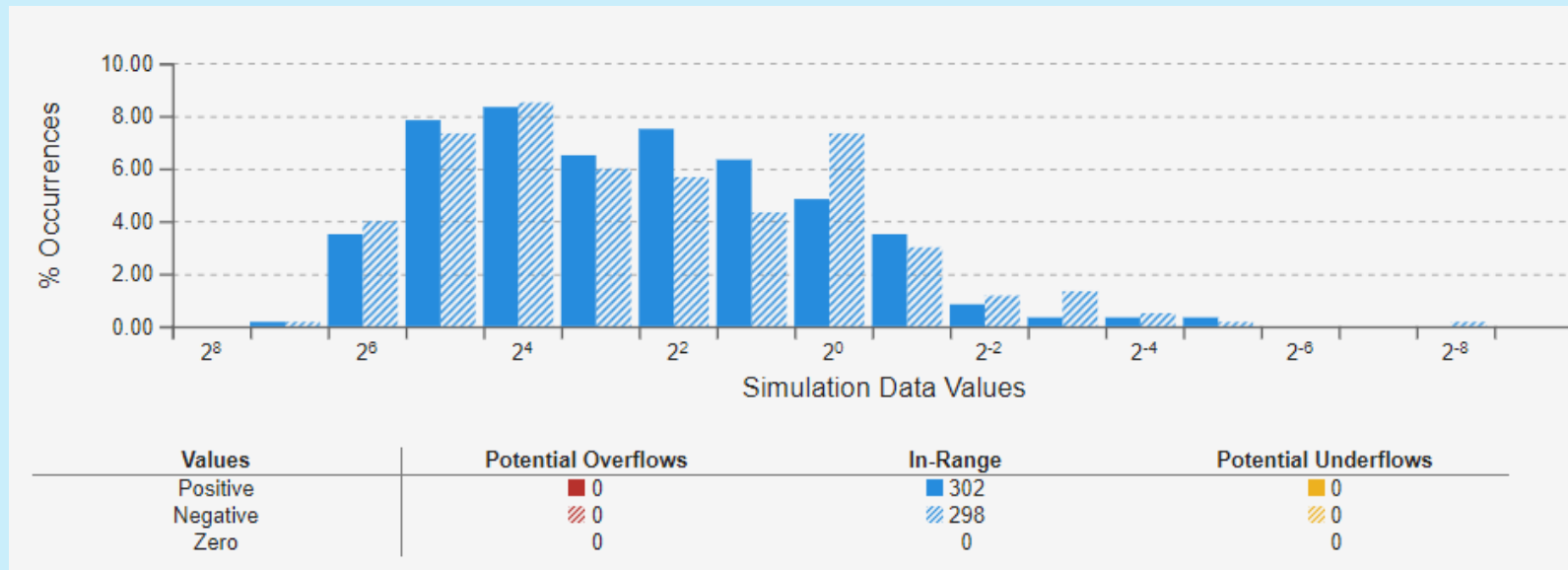
Alternatives

- **Scaling of feedforward coefficients  $b_i$  by  $s \Rightarrow$  filter gain unchanged**
- A scaling factor  $\neq s$  might be used for them
  - What is the range of the multiplier/accumulator outputs?
- Scaling of  $b_i$  might also be neglected
  - Do scaling before rounding to output word length (extra multiplication)
  - In SOS cascades, integrate it to pre-scaling of the following SOS



# Tool: NumericTypeScope

- A tool in Fixed Point Toolbox
- Can visualize what kind of values observed for a variable
  - If it has fixed-point type, provides information about overflows and underflows => information on adjusting word and fraction lengths

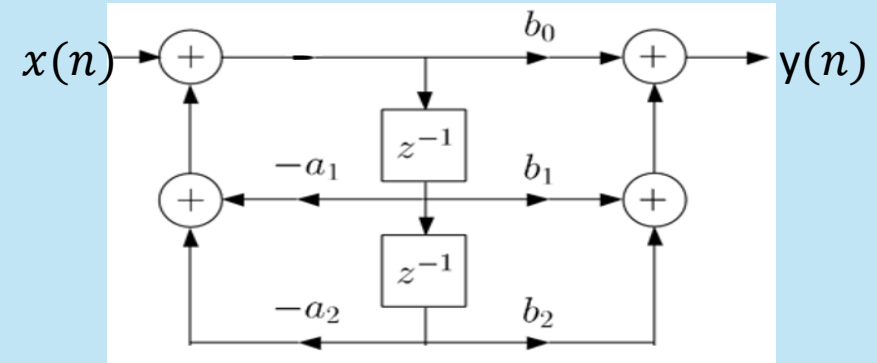


Interpretation: the bars labeled  $2^k$  corresponds to observed magnitudes  $2^k \leq |x| < 2^{k+1}$

# Input scaling

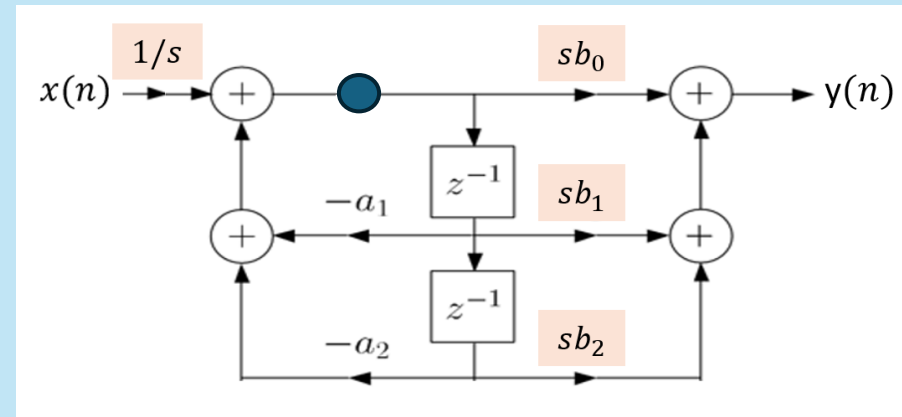
The idea is to prevent overflows in feedback section (e.g., keep results below 1)

```
for k=1:length(x)
    z0 = x(k) - a1 * z1 - a2 * z2;
    y(k) = b0 * z0 + b1 * z1 + b2 * z2;
    z2 = z1; z1 = z0;
end
```



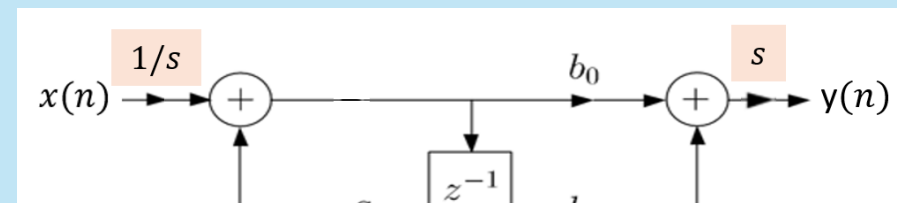
pre-scaling, compensation by scaled feedforward coefficient

```
for k=1:length(x)
    z0 = si * x(k) - a1 * z1 - a2 * z2;
    y(k) = sb0 * z0 + sb1 * z1 + sb2 * z2;
    z2 = z1; z1 = z0;
end
```



pre-scaling, compensation by post-multiplication

```
for k=1:length(x)
    z0 = si * x(k) - a1 * z1 - a2 * z2;
    siy = b0 * z0 + b1 * z1 + b2 * z2;
    y(k) = s * siy;
    z2 = z1; z1 = z0;
end
```

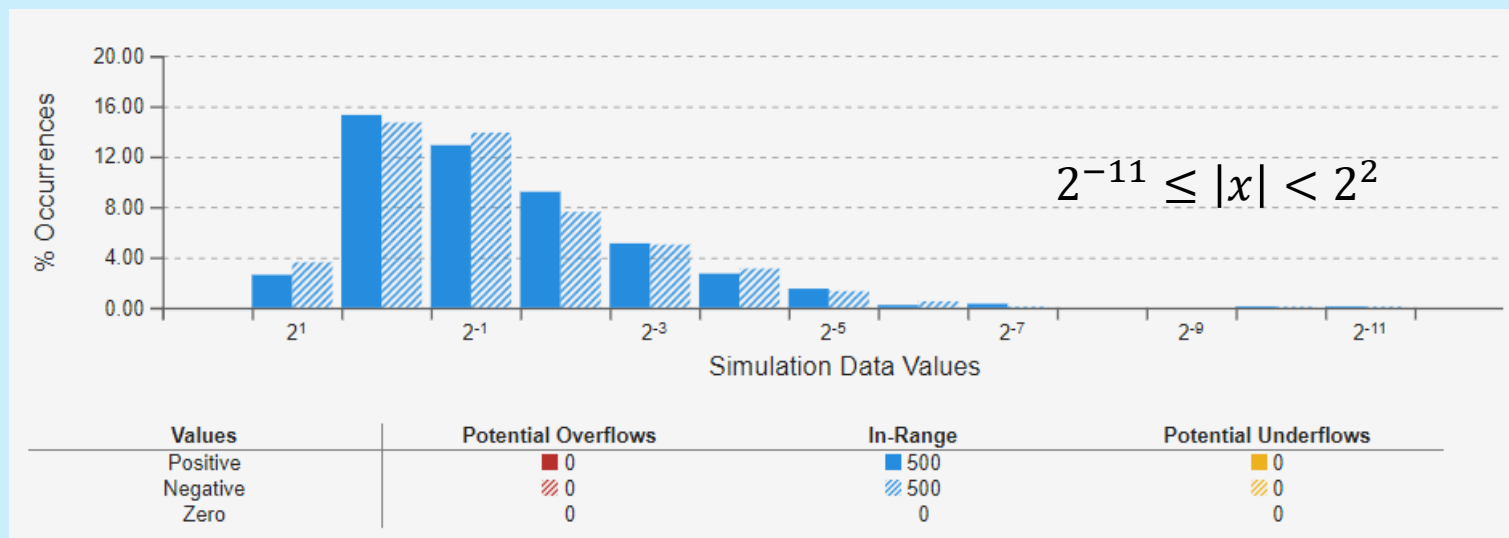




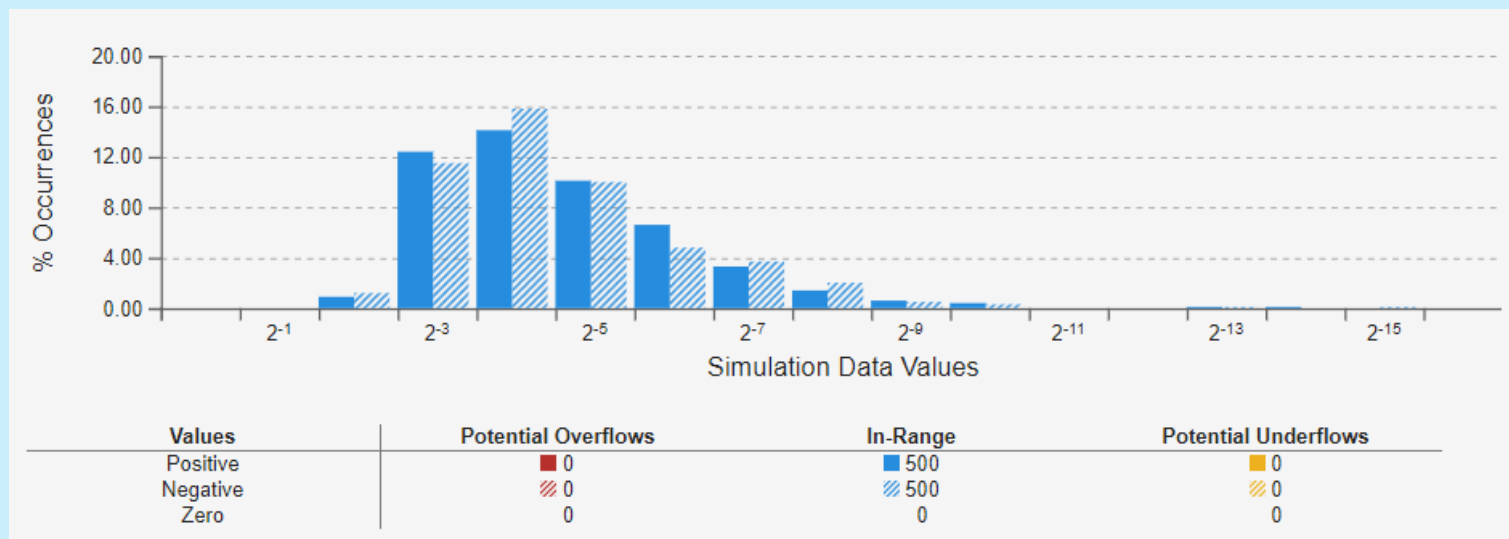
# Example

- scopeDemo.mlx
- Delay register variable ranges
- If one needs to keep delay register values below 1, probably latter solution would work

No scaling



Prescaling with s = 10

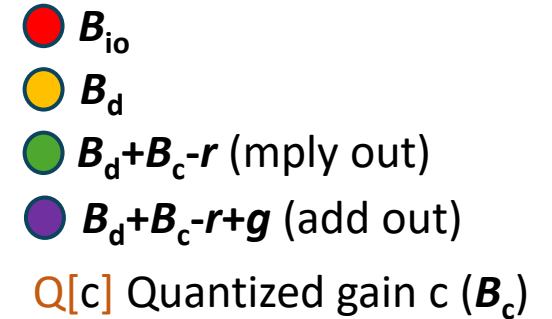


Range

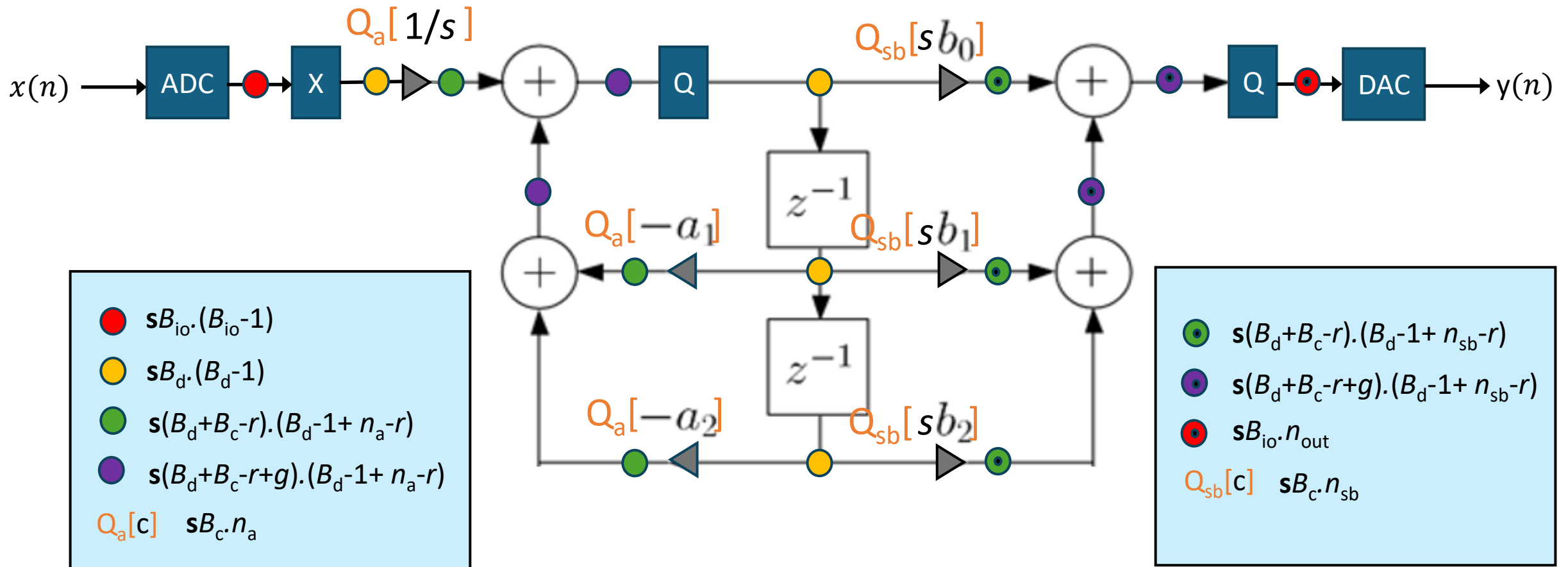
$$2^{-15} \leq |x| < 2^{-1}$$

## 3.3. Data path: fixed-point formats

- In previous, only **word lengths** of DSP platform were given
- We must make decisions related to the **fraction lengths**
  - In some cases, we can infer them
  - Some decisions require simulation studies
- Fraction lengths are defined for
  - 1) Input: assuming range  $(-1, +1)$  so the fraction length is  $B_{i_o}-1$
  - 2) Output: set by user,  $n_{out}$  depends on the observed gain of the filter
  - 3) Delay-line: pre-scaling  $\Rightarrow$  range  $(-1, +1)$  assumed so the fraction length is  $B_d-1$
  - 4) Coefficients: separate choice of fraction length ( $n_a, n_{sb}$ ) for feedback/-forward portions
    - Guided by the range of coefficients  $\{1/s, a_1, a_2\}$  and  $\{sb_0, sb_1, sb_2\}$
  - 5) Multiplier output: choice of fraction length is guided by inputs and amount of LSB reduction  $r$
  - 6) Adder output: follows from the multiplier output format
    - one or two guard bits  $g$  may be added, but they do not affect the fraction length

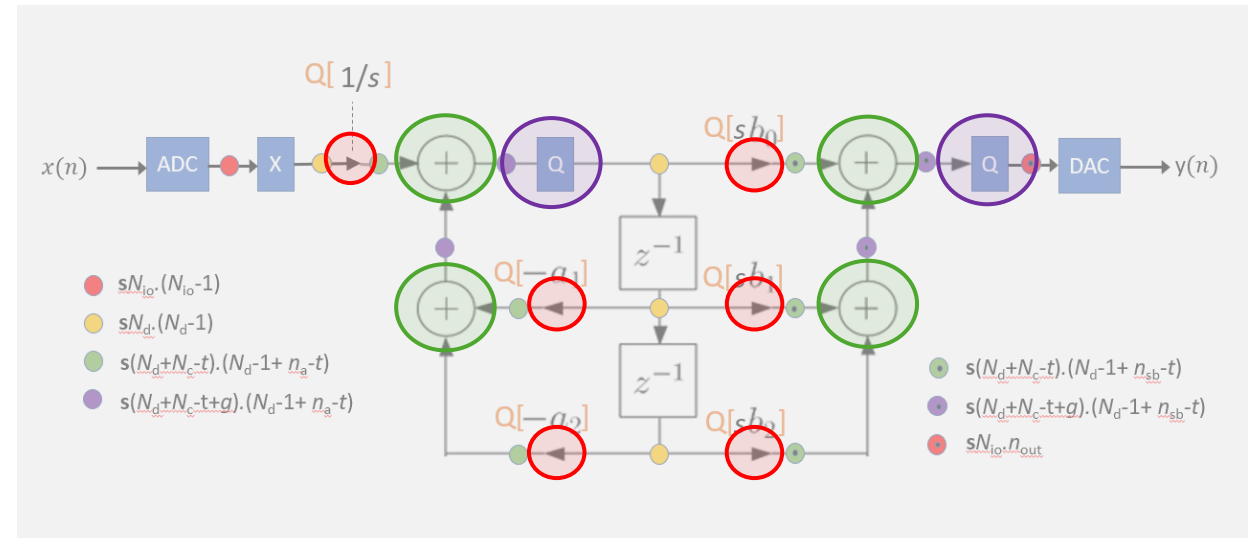


# Signal flow with fixed-point **sp.n** formats



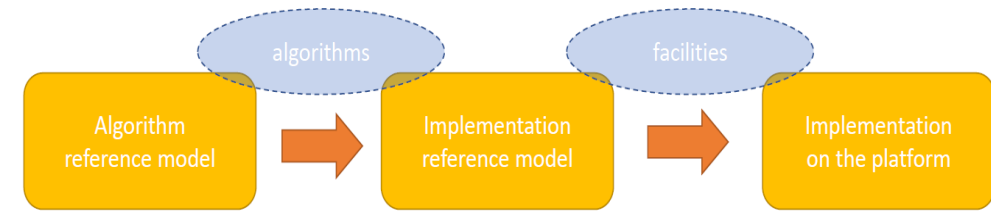
# Summary of noise sources

- Multiplications ○
  - Source of round-off errors
  - Only if  $r > 0$ , that is, if we drop LSBs by truncation (or some other rounding)
- Additions ○
  - Potential source of overflow errors
- Conversions ○
  - Q blocks before the delay line and DAC
  - round-off errors, overflow errors possible
- In addition, coefficient quantizations have effect on DSP noise (change response from optimal)



## 3.4. Simulator for experiments

- To experiment with the implementation outlined in the preceeding, some Matlab code were written, utilizing Fixed Point Toolbox
  - The code, **SOSsimulator.m**, is provided in zip package
  - Example of an **implementation reference model**



```
% SOSsimulator   Simulate a second-order section
%
% << Syntax >>
%   h = SOSsimulator(b,a,sp,[Bi,Bc,Bd],r,g,no,mround,ground)
%
% << Arguments >>
%   b       Numerator coefficients : [b(0),b(1),b(2)]
%   a       Denominator coefficients : [a(0),a(1),a(2)]
%   sp      Scaling factor : computation method ('L1t', 'L2t', 'Lif') or a numeric value
%           - note: coefficients "b" are multiplied by this factor, input by 1/sp
%   Bi,Bc,Bd Word length used for I/O, coefficients and delay memories
%           - multiplier outputs have word length Bc+Bd
%           - adder outputs have word length Bc+Bd+g
%   r       Number of bits discarded at multiplier output
%           - if r > 0, there will be round-off errors in multiplications
%   g       Number of accumulator guard bits (0-2)
%           - if necessary, can be used to prevent overflows in additions
%   no      Number of fraction bits used for output
%   mround  Multiplier rounding method : 'floor', 'nearest', 'round', 'zero' or 'convergent'
%           - see fimath RoundingMethod for meaning
%           - note: 'floor' is same as truncation, which would be easiest to implement in HW
%   ground  Rounding method for word length reduction (Q) blocks
%   h       Output: structure of access function handles
```

## SOSsimulator.m 's procedure for setting up a fixed-point implementation for SOS filter

### 1. Quantize the feedback coefficients

- \* **Design parameter:** word length used for coefficients ( $p_c$ )
- \* Determine the fraction length under the assumption that all feedback coefficients must use the same format
- \* Quantize coefficients  $a_1$  and  $a_2$

### 2. Set the scaling factor

- \* The transfer function analyzed is  $H'(z) = \frac{1}{1+a_1z^{-1}+a_2z^{-2}}$ .
- \* **Design parameter:** Select one of the norms of  $H'(z)$  or provide some other value
- \* Quantize pre-scaling factor  $1/s$  using the format used for feedback coefficients

### 3. Scale and quantize the feedforward coefficients

- \* **Design parameter:** word length used for coefficients ( $p_c$ )
- \* To compensate for pre-scaling, multiply feedforward coefficients by inverse of the quantized pre-scaling factor
- \* Determine the fraction length under the assumption that all scaled feedforward coefficients must use the same format
- \* Quantize coefficients  $sb_0$ ,  $sb_1$  and  $sb_2$

### 4. Determine fixed-point formats on the data paths

- \* **Design parameters:**  $p_{io}$ ,  $p_d$ ,  $p_c$ ,  $t$ ,  $g$ , and  $n_o$
- \* Input format is  $sp_{io} \cdot (p_{io}-1)$ , where  $p_{io}$  is the word length for input/output
- \* Delay memory format is  $sp_d \cdot (p_d-1)$ , where  $p_d$  is the word length for internal memory
- \* Multiplier output formats:  $s(p_c + p_d - t) \cdot (n + p_d - 1 - t)$ , where  $n$  depends on the portion (feedback/-forward) of the filter
- \* Accumulator formats:  $s(p_c + p_d - t + g) \cdot (n + p_d - 1 - t)$ , where  $g$  is the number of guard bits used
- \* Output format is  $sp_{io} \cdot n_o$ , where  $n_o$  is the fraction length chosen by the user

### Simulate using test signals and repeat with other design parameters, if not satisfactory

- \* Simulation interests: Overflows and underflows at acceptable level? SNR acceptable? Resource use optimal?
- \* Compare to floating-point!

## 3.5. Experiments\*

In the experiments, a low-pass SOS filter is constructed with the command

```
>> [b,a] = ellip(2,0.5,20,0.4);
```

Frequency response of the filter on the right. Passband cutoff is at  $0.4 \times F_s / 2$ , stopband cutoff at  $0.7 \times F_s / 2$ , and stopband attenuation 20 dB.

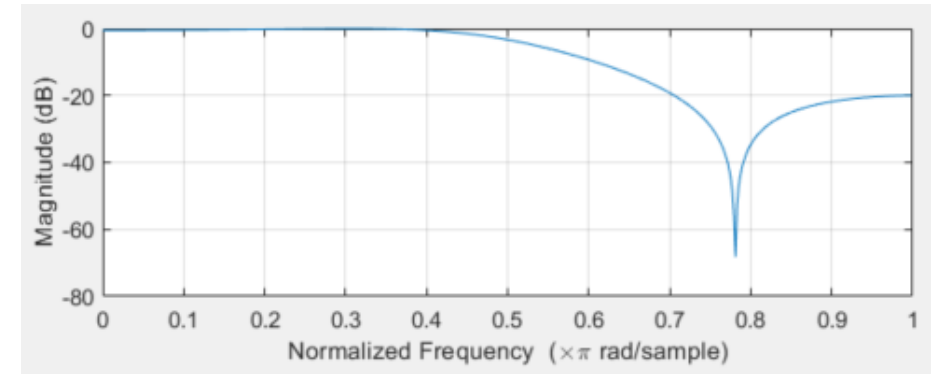
Three experiments:

Experiment 1 – truncation versus rounding

Experiment 2 – required precision of multiplications

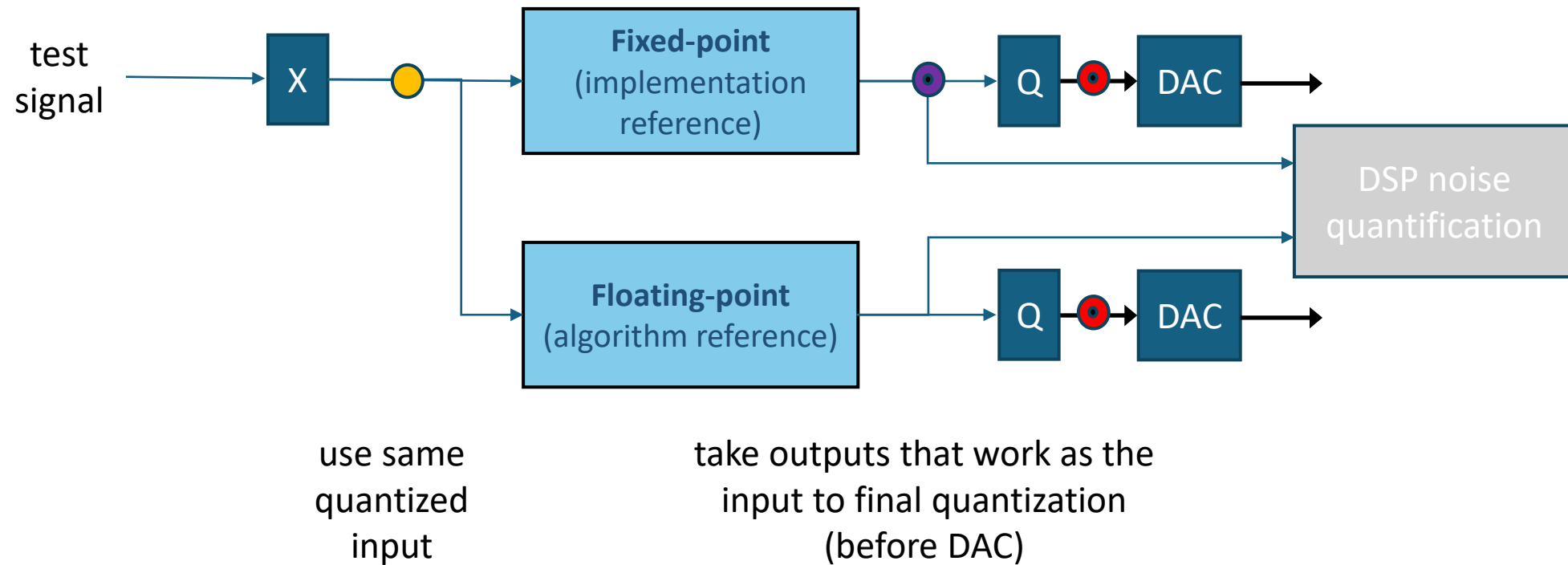
Experiment 3 – error correlations with periodic signals

Fixed-point constructs are compared to the full-precision floating-point filter, which can be simulated with Matlab's **filter** command.



# Evaluation setup (1)

Following setup is used in order to make output comparison fair





# Evaluation setup (2)

- **Sine wave test signal**

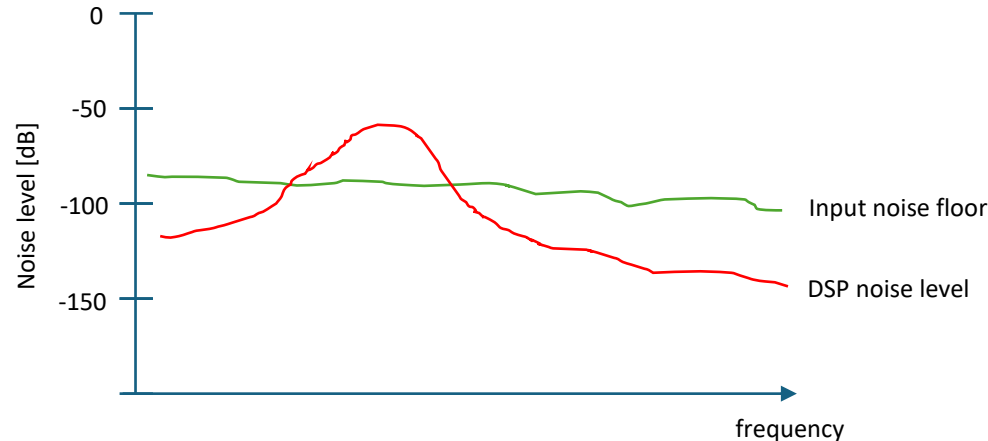
- Varying frequency within the range  $(0, F_s/2)$

- **ADC noise at output**

- Evaluated in order to compare the DSP noise to ADC noise
- Model-based formula used

- Plotting ratio  $\frac{\text{noise power}}{\text{signal power}}$  [dB]

- Recall earlier noise floor figure:



$$x(n) = \sin(2\pi f n + r)$$

where  $f \in (0, 1/2)$  and  $r$  is a small random phase shift

$$\sigma_{OA}^2 = \sigma_A^2 \sum_{k=0}^{\infty} h^2(k) \quad \sigma_A^2 = \frac{2^{-2B}}{3}$$

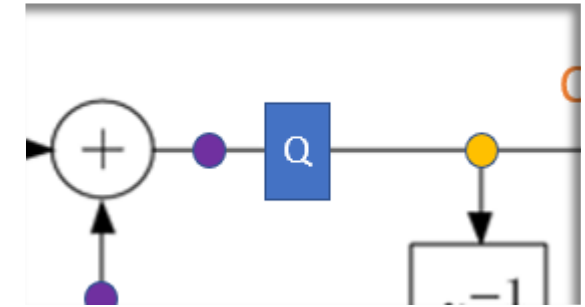
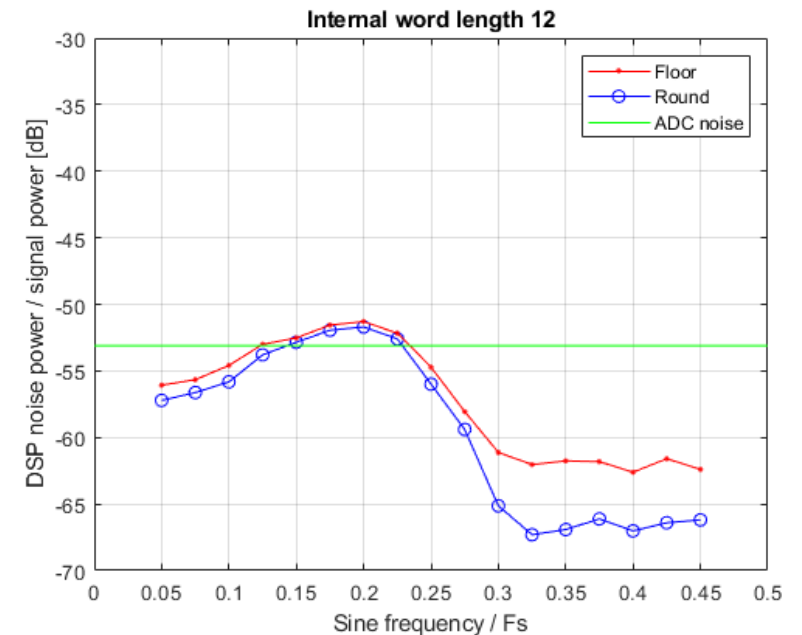
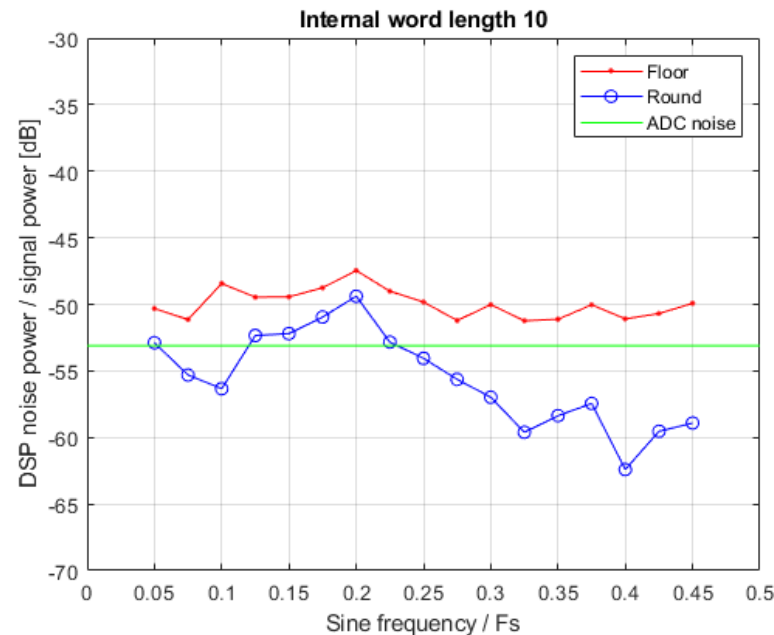
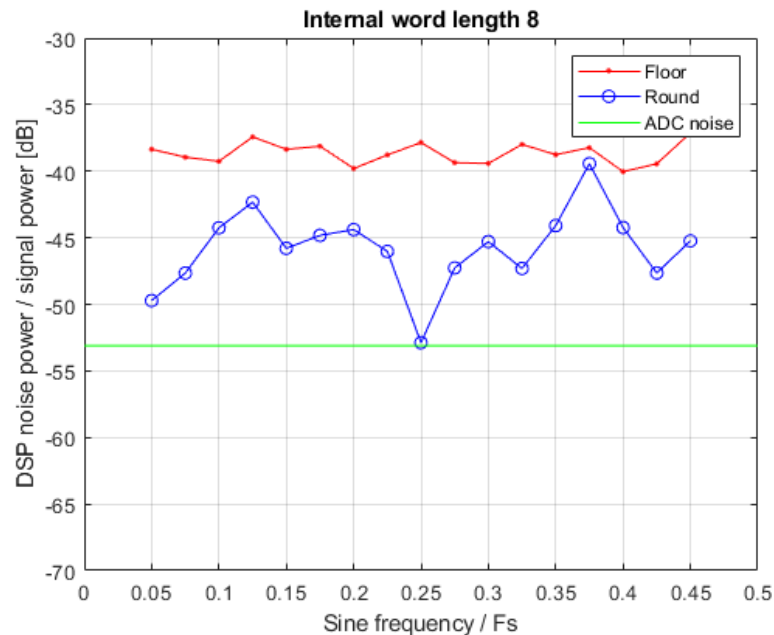
where  $h(k)$  is impulse response of the filter and  $B$  is the ADC word length.

\*Code for following experiments, **SOSexperiments.m**, is in zip package

# Experiment 1 – truncation study

- Quantization by truncation (= floor) is biased. Does it show up?
- Small experiment, where we compare truncation to rounding
- 8-bit ADC, 8-bit coefficients
- **delay register word length ( $N_d$ )** varied from 8 to 12 bits
- Result:

$$N_d = 8$$

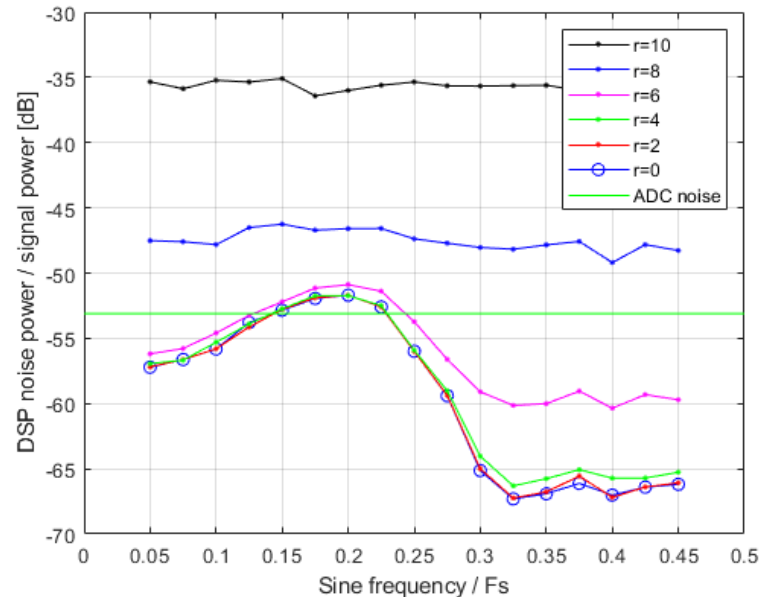


Truncation/rounding point

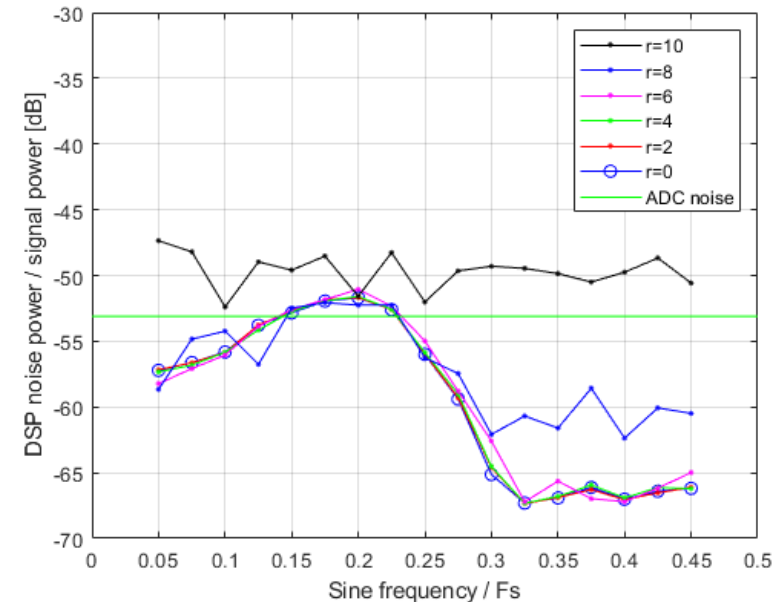
# Experiment 2 – precision of multiplications

- How much can we discard LSB bits in multiplication?
- Experiment where we increase the parameter  $r$ , which controls discarding
- Delay register word length set to 12 bits, Q operation uses rounding
- Multiplier output word length  $(20 - r)$ , testing for  $r = 0, 2, 4, 6, 8, 10$  (floor / round)
- Result:

Floor:



Round:



More bits can be discarded in the case of rounding. Compare results with  $r = 8$

# Experiment 3 – error correlations

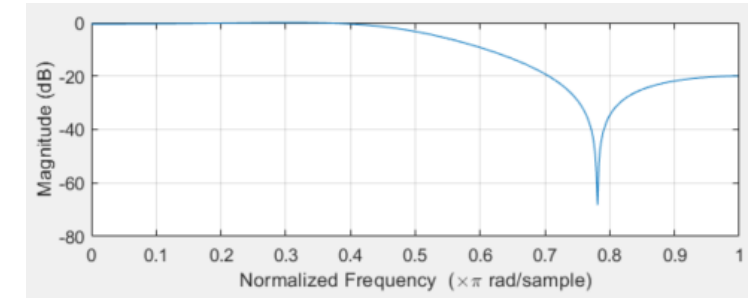
- DSP error spectra of periodic and aperiodic signals compared

- The test signal

$$x(n) = \sin(2\pi f n + r)$$

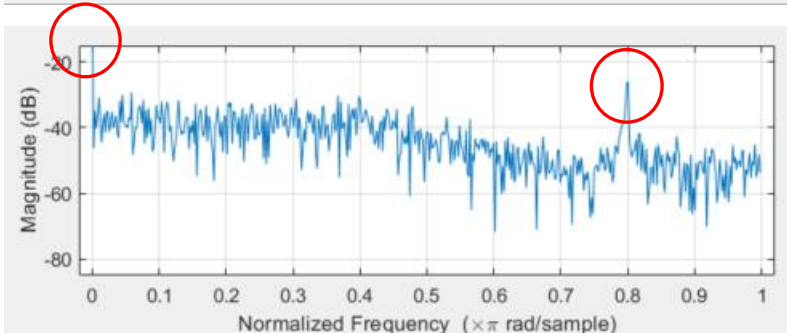
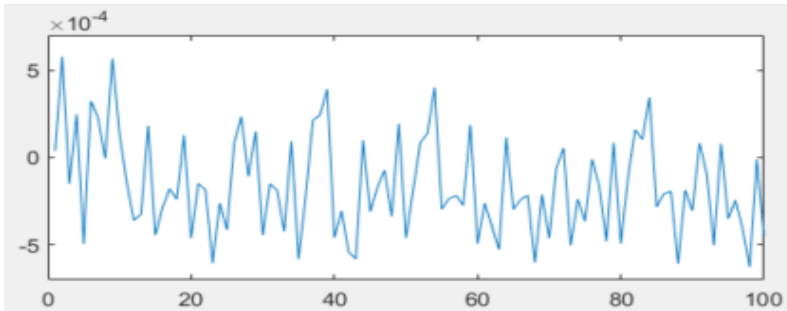
where  $f \in (0, 1/2)$  and  $r$  is a phase shift

- Comparison for sine frequency  $f = 0.4$ :

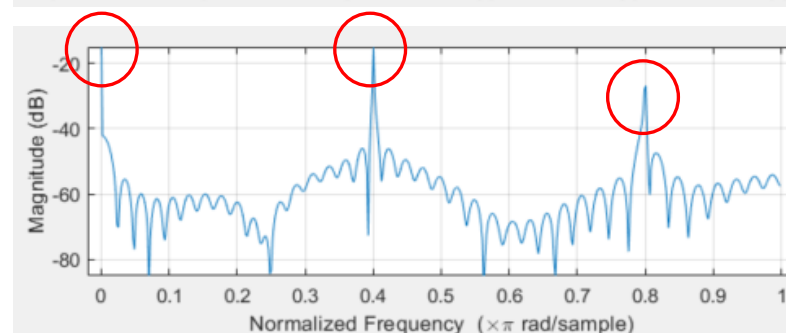
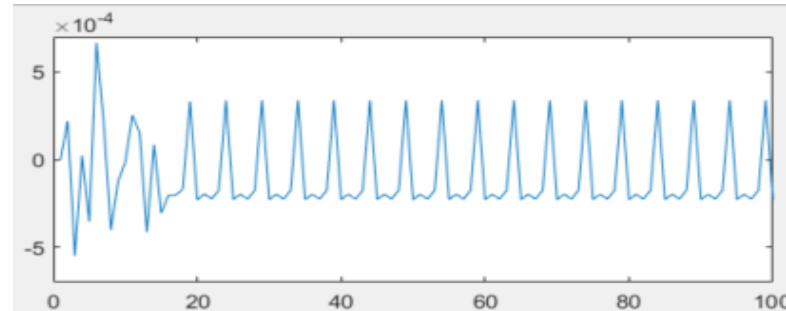


Response of the filter

With **random** phase shift  $r$



With **zero** phase shift  $r$  ( $r=0$ )

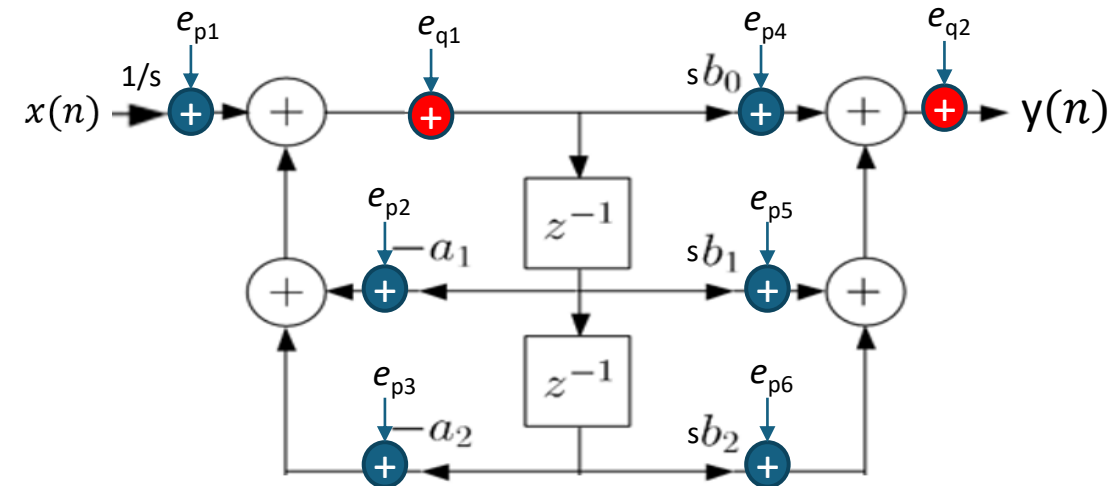


Error correlations cause peaks to the error spectra


Error at zero frequency : dc bias in output

## 3.6. Model-based analysis\*

- The alternative for simulation-based approach was the analytic approach
- In analysis, noise sources have certain assumed statistics (spectrally white, independent)
- Effect at the filter output computed
  - the impulse response from the noise source to the output must be determined
  - Uncorrelated => effects of noise sources summed up
- Note 1: moving an added input across a sum has no effect
  - Direct effect of  $e_{p4}$ ,  $e_{p5}$ ,  $e_{p6}$ ,  $e_{q2}$  at output
- Note 2: many noise sources have the same transfer function
  - $e_{p1}$ ,  $e_{p2}$ ,  $e_{p3}$ ,  $e_{q1}$  have the same path through the filter
- See Ifeachor & Jervis (2002) for in-depth discussion



 = noise due to word length reduction

 = noise due to product quantization ( $r > 0$ )

# Summary

- A/D conversion
  - Tuning – Finding balance between quantization and clipping noises
  - Noise floor – Setting target for quality of signal processing
- IIR filter coefficient quantization
  - Filter stability must be addressed
  - Need to consider structure of computation
- IIR filter processing
  - Multiple fixed-point formats involved
  - Scaling of input data helps to prevent overflows in feedback sections
  - NumericTypeScope in Matlab FPT provides a tool for analyzing data collected during floating-point or fixed-point simulation