

# Rhythms

## **Analyzing Rhythms (Part 3)**

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# Today

Rhythms from spike trains

# Review

spectrum → which rhythms dominate a signal

$$S_{xx,j} \sim X_j X_j^*$$

**Frequency  
resolution**

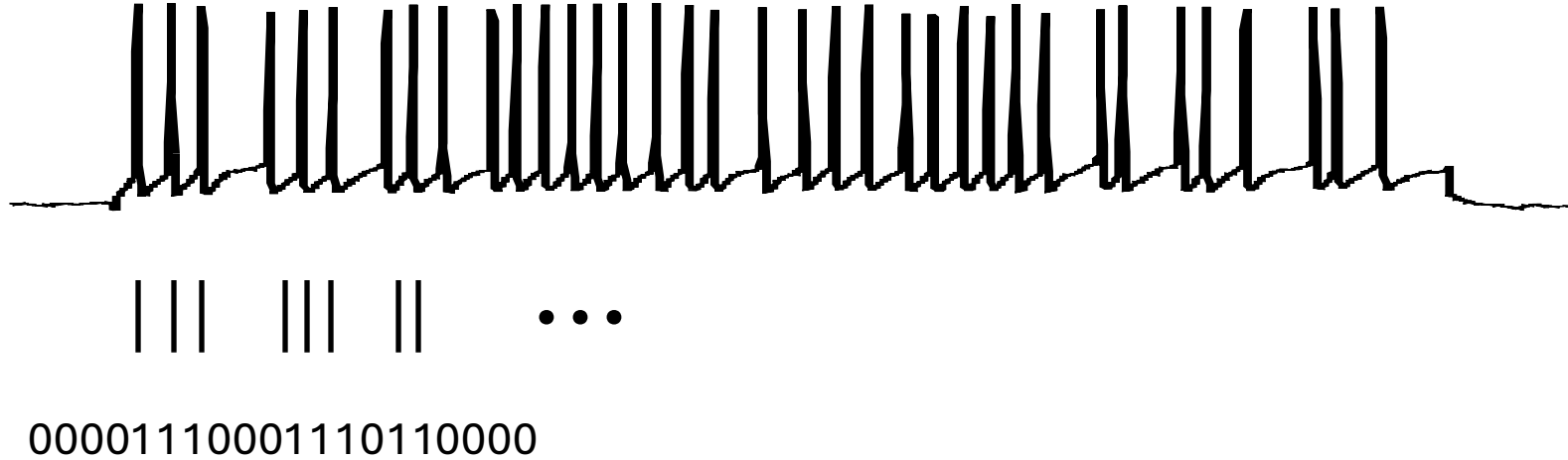
$$df = \frac{1}{T} \quad \leftarrow \text{Duration of recording}$$

**Nyquist  
frequency**

$$f_{\text{NQ}} = \frac{f_0}{2} \quad \leftarrow \text{Sampling frequency}$$

# Today

spikes



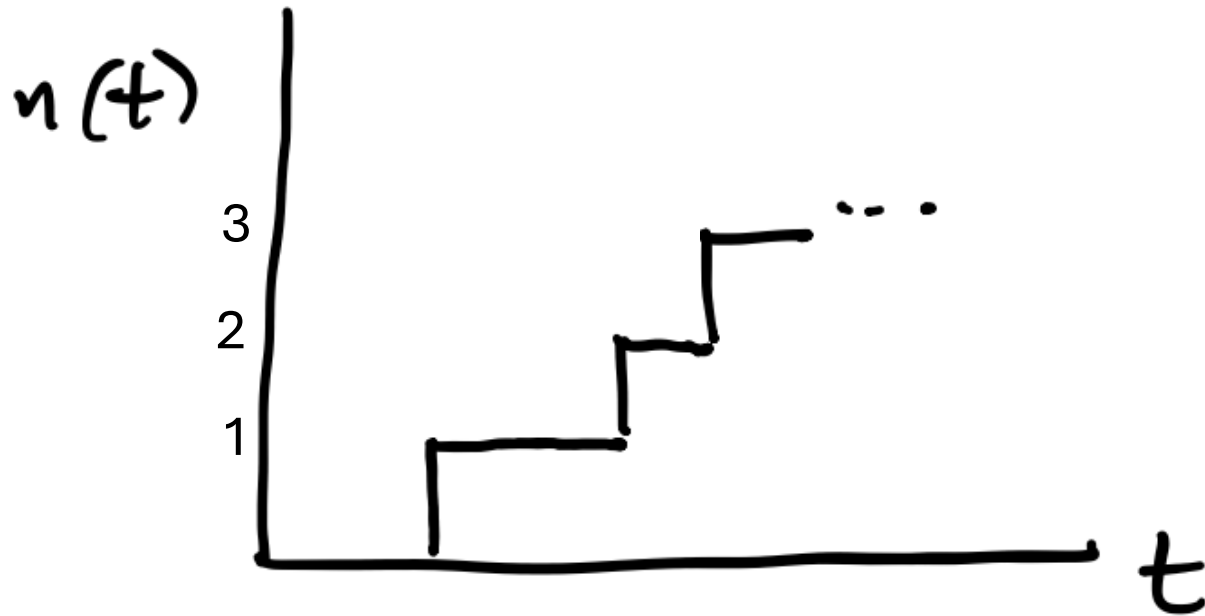
Define:

$$dn(t) = \begin{cases} 1 & \text{when a spike occurs in small time interval } \Delta \\ 0 & \text{otherwise} \end{cases}$$

# Why?

**Q:** Why  $dn(t)$  ?

**A:** Consider  $n(t)$  = the number of spikes that occur from 0 to  $t$ .



$dn(t)$  is the change in  $n(t)$

Either 0 or 1 when a spike occurs

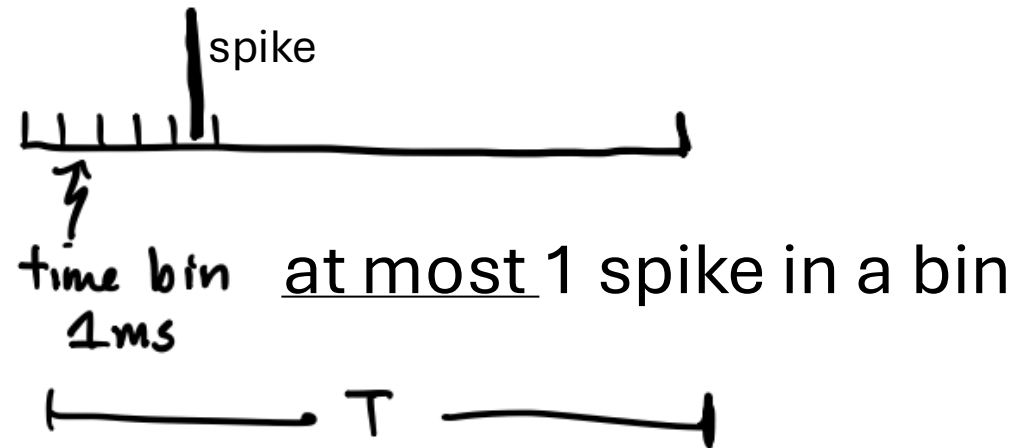
# Subtract the mean

Define:  $d\bar{n}(t) = dn(t) - \lambda_o \Delta$

where  $\lambda_o$  = mean spike rate

estimate  $\lambda_o$  from data  $= \frac{n(T)}{T}$    
  $\leftarrow$  number of spikes after total time  $T$    
  $\leftarrow$  total time

$\Delta$  = time bin (e.g., 1 ms)



$\lambda_o \Delta$  = expected number of spikes in a single time bin

# Autocovariance (spike train)

Given a spike occurred at time  $t$ , how likely is another spike at  $t+\tau$  ?

Idea: Compare spike train to a shifted version of itself ... match?

$$r_{xx}[L] = \frac{1}{N} \sum_{n=1}^{N-L} (x_{n+L} - \bar{x})(x_n - \bar{x})$$

Notation change

$$r_{nn}[\tau] = \frac{1}{N} \sum_t \underset{\substack{\uparrow \\ \# \text{ of obs}}}{\bar{x}_n(t)} \underset{\substack{\uparrow \\ \text{spike train (mean subtracted)}}}{\bar{x}_n(t+\tau)}$$

# Autocovariance (spike train)

Ex.



Q.  $r_{nn}[0]$  ?

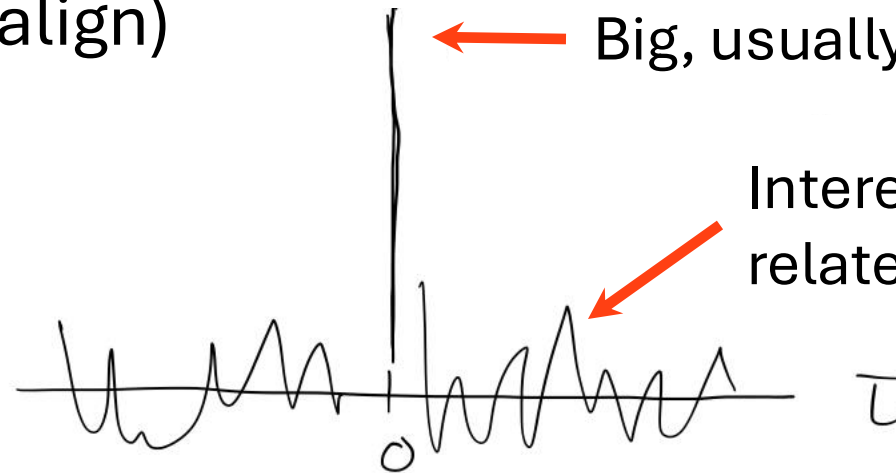


copy ( $\tau = 0$ )

$r_{nn}[0]$  = big (spikes align)

$r_{nn}[\neq 0] = ?$

Plot  $r_{nn}[\tau]$



← Big, usually ignore it

← Interesting (how spike now relates to future spikes)



# Autocovariance (spike train)

Remember: spectrum is the Fourier transform of the autocovariance

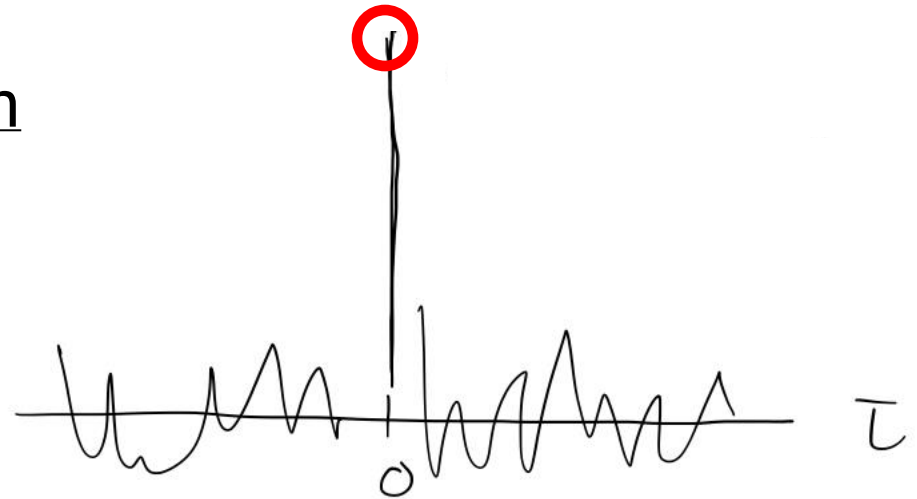
$$S_{xx,j} = 2 \Delta FT\{r_{xx}\}$$

function of frequency

function of time

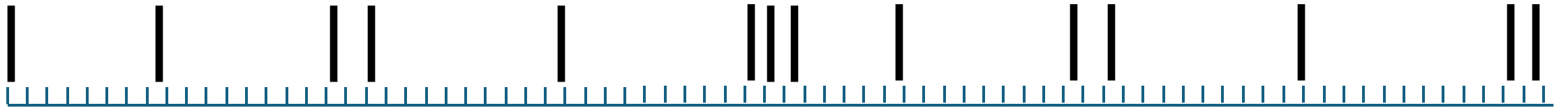
So, the peak at lag 0 impacts the spectrum

**Q.** How?



# Autocovariance (spike train)

**Ex.** Random spiking at a fixed rate



N samples, time step  $\Delta$

each moment in time: a (biased) coin flip

No dependence on past or future

**Q.** What is the autocovariance  $r_{nn}[\tau]$ ?

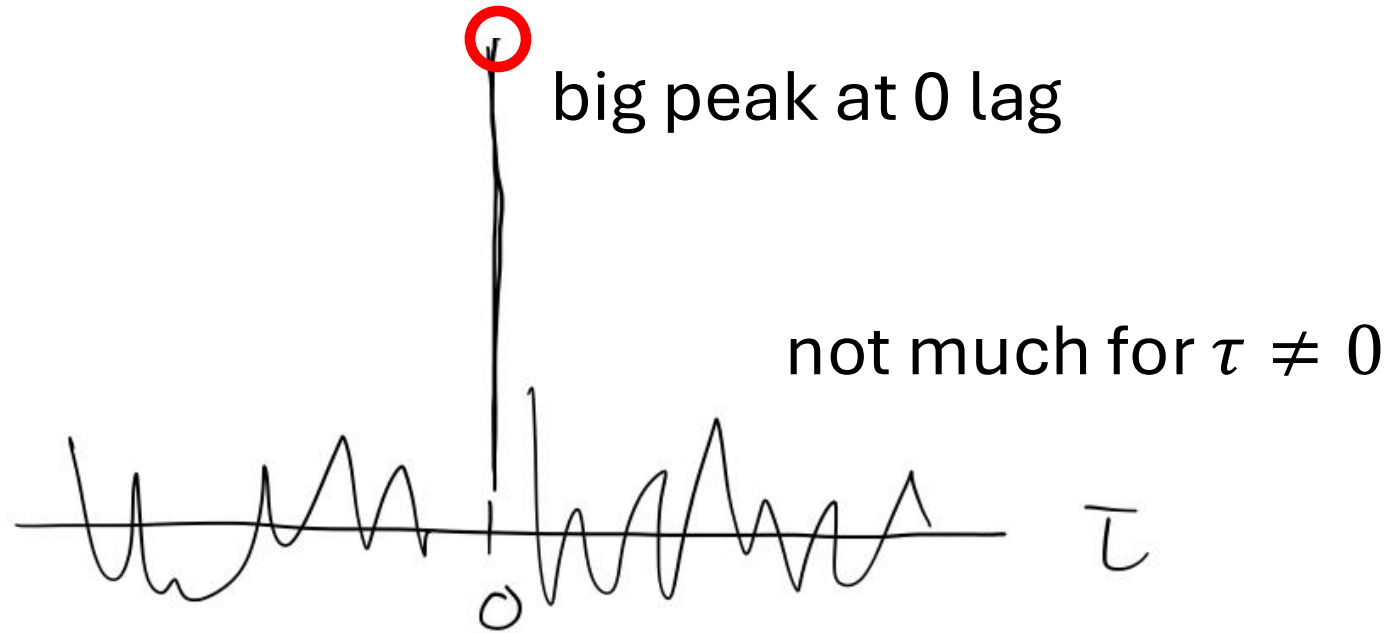
**Q.** What is the spectrum  $S_{nn,j}$ ?

# Autocovariance (spike train)

**Ex.** Random spiking at a fixed rate



Plot  $r_{nn}[\tau]$



**Q.** What is  $r_{nn}[0]$  ?

# Autocovariance (spike train)

**Ex.** Random spiking at a fixed rate

**Q.** What is  $r_{nn}[0]$  ?

$$r_{nn}[0] = \frac{1}{N} \sum_t \underbrace{d\bar{n}(t)^2}_{\substack{\approx 0 \text{ or } 1}} \approx \frac{\text{total \# spikes}}{\text{total \# time bins}} = \frac{n(T)}{N}$$

Remember the mean spike rate:  $\lambda_0 = \frac{n(T)}{T}$  so  $n(T) = \lambda_0 T$

$$r_{nn}[0] = \frac{\lambda_0 T}{N} \leftarrow T = N \Delta$$

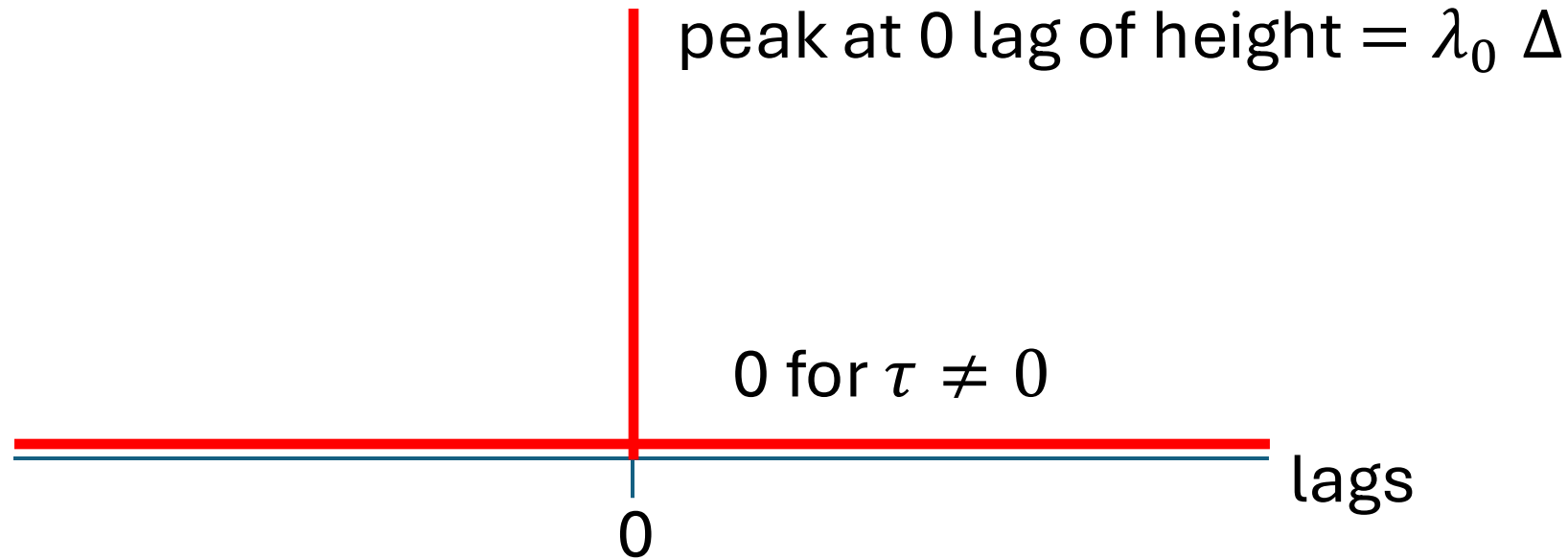
$$r_{nn}[0] = \lambda_0 \Delta$$

expected number of spikes in a time bin

# Autocovariance (spike train)

**Ex.** Random spiking at a fixed rate

Plot idealized  $r_{nn}[\tau]$



$$r_{nn}[\tau] = \lambda_0 \Delta \delta[\tau] \text{ where } \delta[\tau] = \begin{cases} 1 & \text{when } \tau = 0 \\ 0 & \text{otherwise} \end{cases}$$

**Q.** What is the spectrum?

# Autocovariance (spike train)

**Ex.** Random spiking at a fixed rate

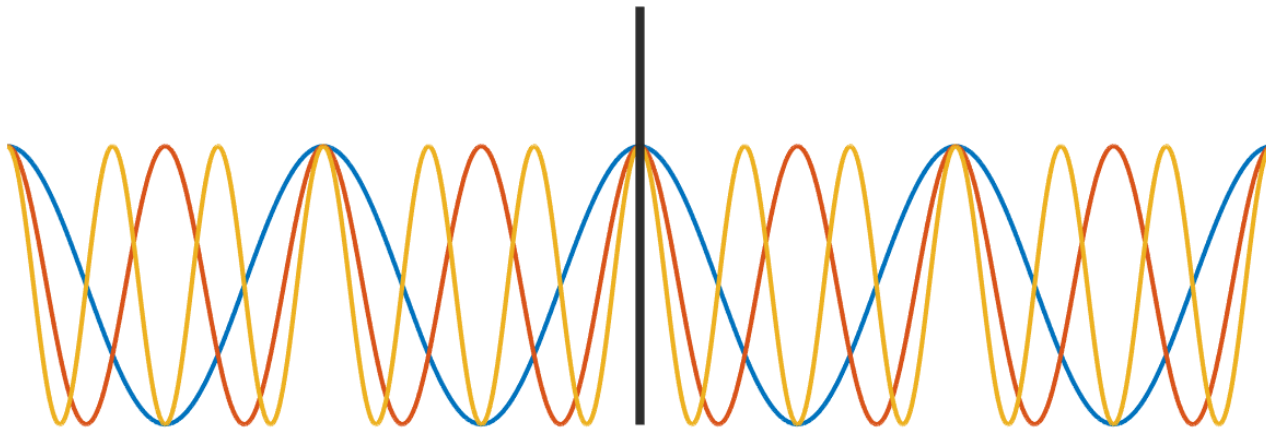
**Q.** What is the spectrum?

Use  $S_{nn,j} = 2 \Delta FT\{r_{nn}\} = 2 \Delta FT\{\lambda_0 \Delta \delta[\tau]\}$

In our case, we need  $FT\{\delta[\tau]\}$

**Q.** What frequency sinusoids do we need?

**A.** All the frequencies



in our example

$$r_{nn}[\tau] = \lambda_0 \Delta \delta[\tau]$$



$$FT\{\delta[\tau]\} = 1$$

Need contribution from each frequency to capture this sharp event

# Autocovariance (spike train)

**Ex.** Random spiking at a fixed rate

**Q.** What is the spectrum?

$$S_{nn,j} = 2 \Delta FT\{r_{nn}\}$$



$$S_{nn,j} = 2 \Delta FT\{\lambda_0 \Delta \delta[\tau]\}$$

$$r_{nn}[\tau] = \lambda_0 \Delta \delta[\tau]$$

$$S_{nn,j} = 2 \Delta (\lambda_0 \Delta) FT\{\delta[\tau]\}$$

$$S_{nn,j} = 2 \Delta^2 \lambda_0 \quad 1$$

$$S_{nn,j} = 2 \Delta^2 \lambda_0$$

This is the spectrum of random spiking at fixed rate

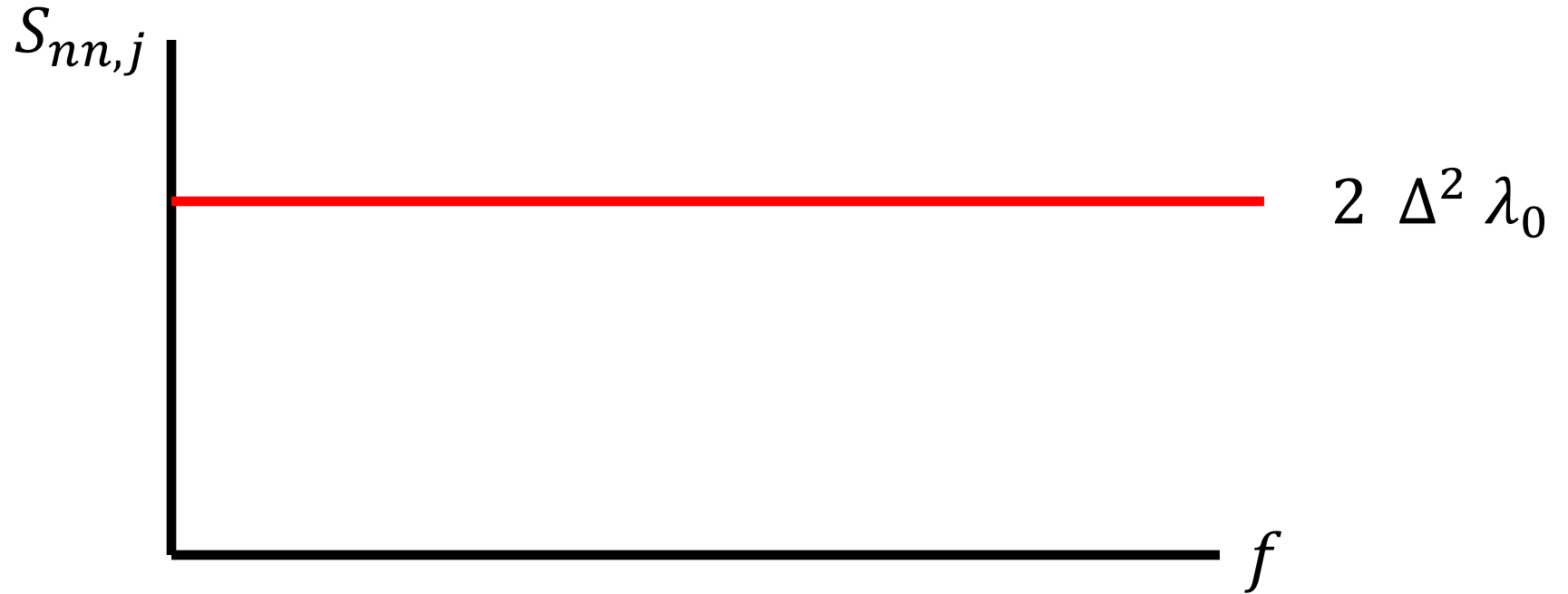
# Autocovariance (spike train)

**Ex.** Random spiking at a fixed rate

**Q.** What is the spectrum?

$$S_{nn,j} = 2 \Delta^2 \lambda_0$$

Plot it





# Spectrum (spike train)

Use autocovariance to gain intuition

Alternative: compute spectrum directly.

$$S_{nn,j} = \frac{2\Delta^2}{T} D_j D_j^*$$

Fourier transform of **spike train**

$$D_j = \sum_{n=1}^N d\bar{n}(t) \exp(-2\pi i f_j t_n)$$

complex exponentials at frequency  $f_j$

Like our approach for “fields”  
- new notation

spike train with mean subtracted

# Autocovariance (spike train)

**Ex.** Random spiking at a fixed rate

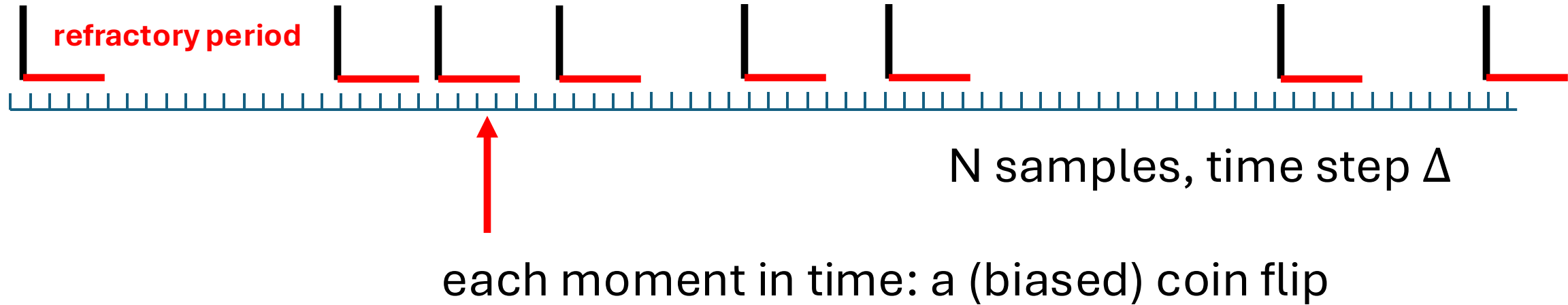
**Q.** What is the autocovariance?

**Q.** What is the spectrum?

*Python*

# Autocovariance (spike train)

Ex. Random spiking with refractory period.



Q. What is the autocovariance  $r_{nn}[\tau]$ ?

Q. What is spectrum  $S_{nn,j}$  ?

# Autocovariance (spike train)

**Ex.** Random spiking with refractory period.

**Q.** What is the autocovariance  $r_{nn}[\tau]$ ?

[sketch]

# Autocovariance (spike train)

**Ex.** Random spiking with refractory period.

**Q.** What is spectrum  $S_{nn,j}$  ?

[sketch]

# Autocovariance (spike train)

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*Python*