**Part 1**

*Method*

To create a process that will approximate a sine wave with minimal SFDR at an arbitrary, I first consider the phase values which are input to the sinusoidal function over the first 50 periods of the signal. This value is expressed by , where is the fractional frequency. If we let so that the phase value begins at 0, we can iterate over the rest of the phases and find the point at which the phase best approximates 0 again. This will tell us the point at which the signal can be ‘re-read’ with very little distortion because the transition from ‘0’ back to the beginning of the digital readout (technically, back to the second sample, after zero) will be the most seamless. I make the assumption that a minimized distortion of phase over will result in a minimal distortion of SFDR.

*Time Domain Results*

Figure 1 shows the result using this method to find the best index at which to repeat for the case of fractional frequency

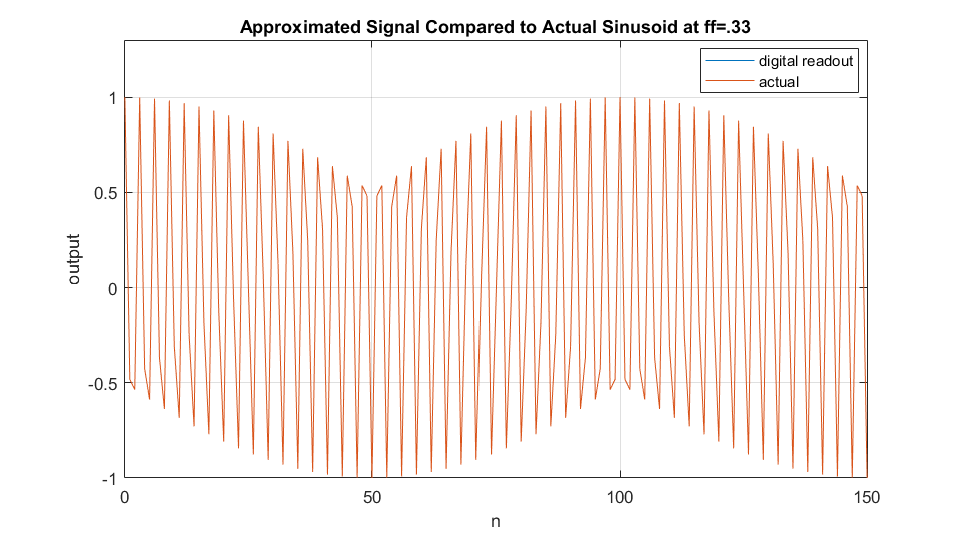


Figure 1 - Time-domain readout compared to the sinusoid it approximates, ff=.33

From Figure 1, we see that the algorithm has successfully selected a repetition point which succeeds in imitating a true sinusoidal signal at least for a short duration of 150 samples. Figure 2 shows the error of the signal compared to a true sinusoid for the first 500 periods of that sinusoid.

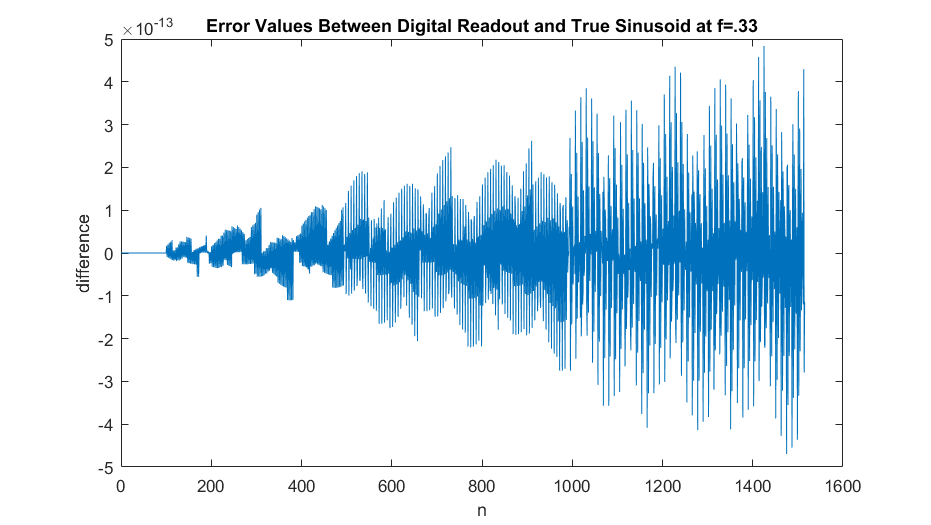


Figure 2 - Digital readout error

Figure 2 shows that the error of the digital readout system is quite small in magnitude, although it accumulates over time. This makes sense considering that the phase of the generated signal gradually drifts from that of the target signal every time the readout is repeated.

*Frequency Domain Results*

Figure 3 presents the resulting signal in the time domain using both Hamming and Blackman windows.

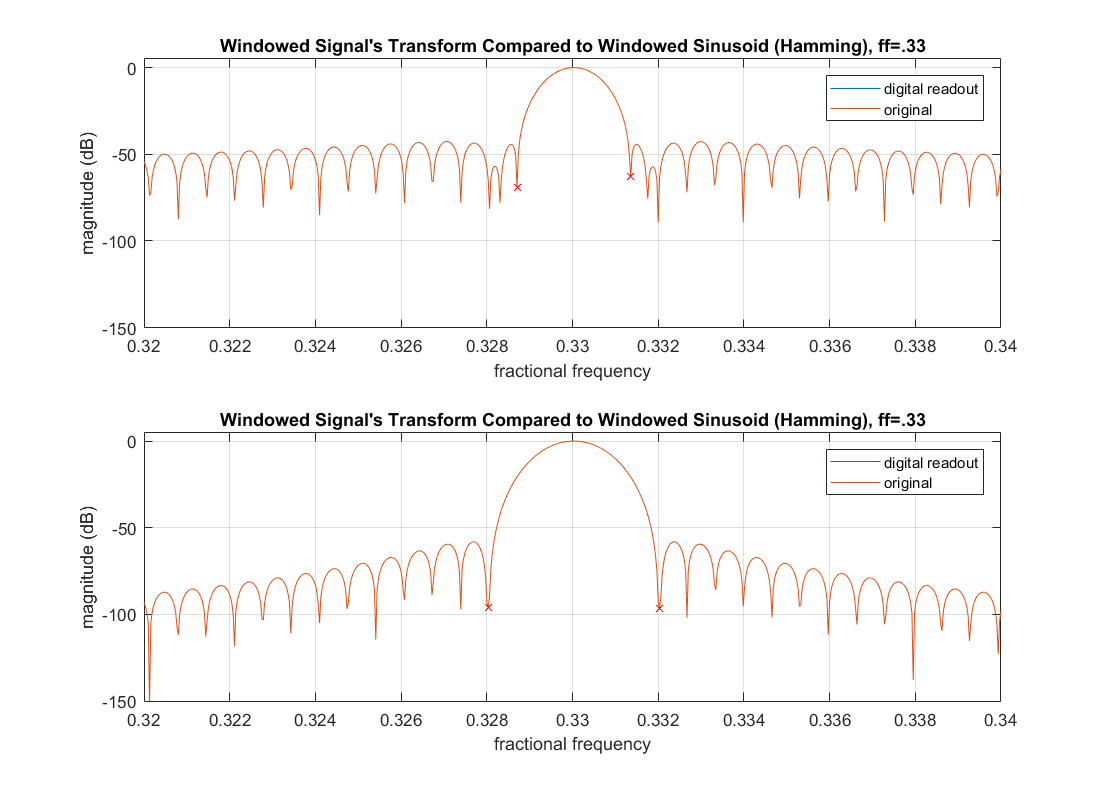


Figure 3 - Comparing the frequency domains using different windows

First, we can make some observations about the window shape themselves. We know that the plots shown in Figure 3 are just scaled and shifted versions of the windows represented in the frequency-domain. This is because we multiplied the windows by a sinusoidal signal and then took the DFT of the result. This operation corresponds to convolving the transform of the window against the transform of a sinusoid which is a scaled and shifted pair of delta functions. The result of this convolution is a pair of scaled and shifted windows. Figure 3 focuses on the frequencies around , so the other transform of the window at is not visible. We can see that the Hamming window has a very narrow main lobe compared to the Blackman window, while the Blackman window drops off much faster and farther than the Hamming window does once outside of the main lobe.

*Determining SFDR*

It is worth noting that, for , the readout signal so closely approximates the original that the effects of the windows are more prominent than the signal’s distortion. If we were to find the SFDR of this signal naively by comparing the main lobe against the sidelobes, we would be essentially measuring a property that is inherent to the windowing function and not the signal of interest.

Instead, we can first calculate the distortion power that is a result of the digital readout approximation by taking the magnitude of the differences between the window frequency representation and the signal frequency representation.

The two red ‘X’ marks on each subplot of Figure 3 denote the boundaries of the main lobe as determined by locate\_mainlobelims, a custom function I wrote (see accompanying files). This utility will assist in determining the SFDR by enabling me to make a distinction between the main lobe and the sidelobes.

My method for determining the SFDR is simply to take the maximum value within the main lobe and compare it against the maximum value among all frequencies of the distortion signal. The distortion signal calculated using both window types is shown below in Figure 4.

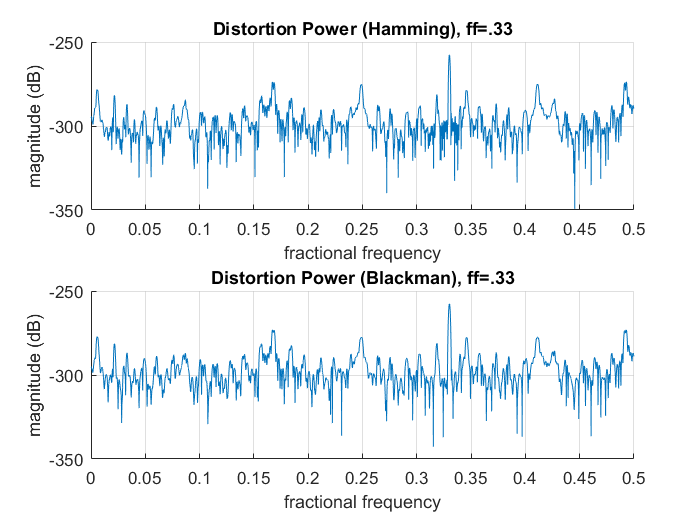


Figure 4 - The frequency content of the distortion signal

Interestingly, the fractional frequency of the sinusoid is frequency at which the distortion power is highest.

The output of my code provides the calculated SFDR of the generated signal for both the Hamming and Blackman windows.

SFDR\_HAMMING =

257.5824

SFDR\_BLACKMAN =

257.5978

The consistent results of this calculation appear to show that this method of calculating SFDR is impacted very little by the windowing method used. This would suggest that the calculated SFDR of roughly 257.6 dB is inherent to the signal.

**Part 2**

To calculate the total distortion of the signal, we have only to find the power of the distortion signal shown in Figure 4. Because these signals vary slightly depending on the window used, I will calculate the total distortion for both windows.

Incomplete, add some sound math

**Part 3**

Figure 5 shows both the total distortion and the spurious free dynamic range for a set of 100 random fractional frequencies. In addition, the SFDR and TD for is included. Note the difference between the two y axes.

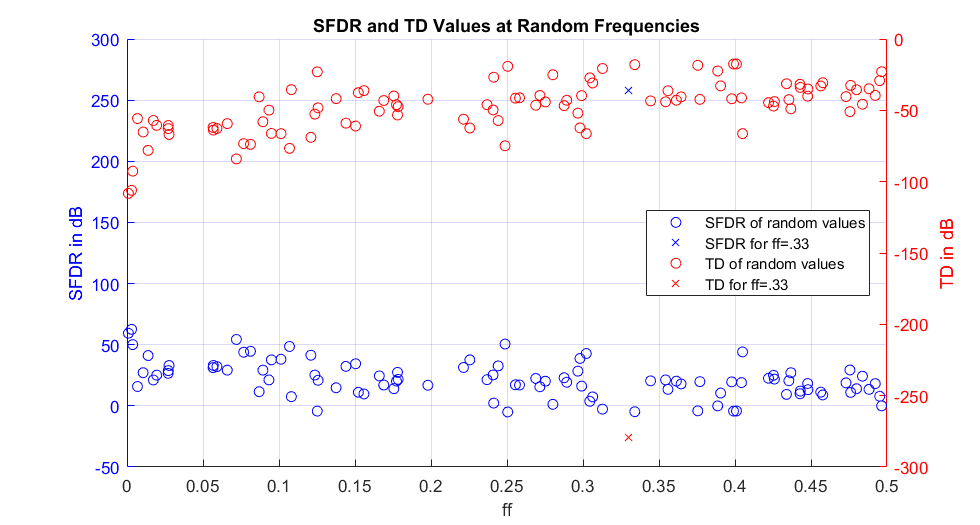


Figure 5 - SFDR and TD of random values plotted over fractional frequency

The most noticeable fact illustrated in Figure 5 is that the point is a hugely outstanding outlier with extremely high SFDR and extremely low TD that is unlike any of the randomly generated points. I assume that this is because .33 is a ‘more’ rational number than the other numbers that were randomly generated. As an example, the fractional frequency with the lowest SFDR is . A sinusoid with a fractional frequency of .33 has a phase that can be expressed as or .

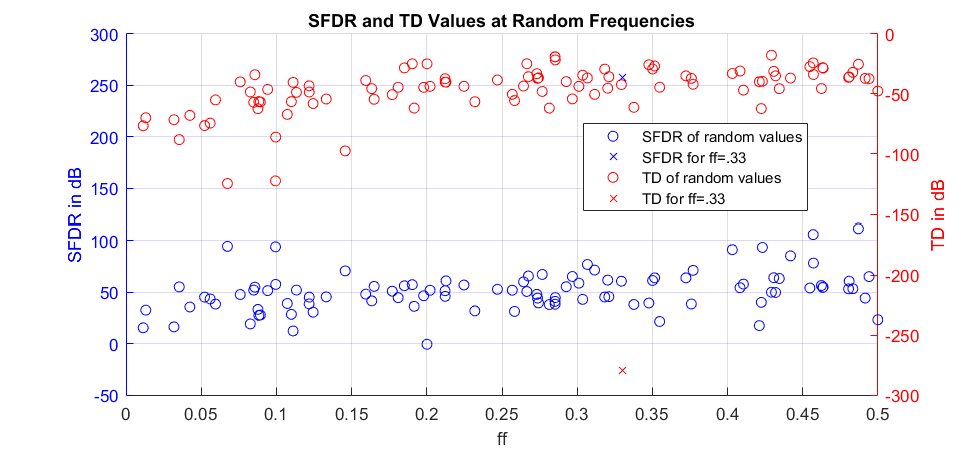
If we let be 100, we obtain a phase that is divided evenly by , satisfying the requirements stated earlier. By contrast, there is no such small value of that will satisfy the same conditions for . This is why I believe all of the signals with randomly generated frequencies perform far worse than a signal with a ‘nice’ fractional frequency.

Another interesting trend shown in Figure 5 is that the TD notably increases and SFDR notably decreases as fractional frequency increases. I believe this is because we were permitted to search within the space of 50 periods to find a solution that best minimizes distortion. Naturally, signals of a lower fractional frequency have more samples per period. As a result, my algorithm had more points over over which to search for a suitable point to repeat the sinusoid.

Finally, Figure 5 shows that the SFDR and the TD seem to ‘mirror’ one another in a peculiar way. Qualitatively, this makes some since because I would expect the TD and SFDR to be inversely related to one another. I am surprised at how exact the mirroring seems to be, however.

**Part 4**

Now with a LUT that is limited to 1024 memory locations, the search space for the best point to repeat the sinusoid is no longer a function of period length. This will likely hamper the ‘advantage’ that the lower frequency signals had in Part 3. Figure 6 shows the results.



As expected, the SFDR has changed from trending down over ff to trending upwards. Forcing a constant-length lookup table means that signals of higher frequency are able to iterate for more than 50 periods which increases the chances that we will find a more optimal point at which to repeat the sinusoidal signal. Oddly, the mirroring of Figure 5 is far less evident in Figure 6. This may be in part due to the fact that my algorithm reduces the amount of zero-padding that is done when the original signal is reduced in size. This may mean that some resolution is lost in the frequency domain representation, in turn leading to less precise mirroring of the values.

**Part 5**