



# Introduction of Signals

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Office hours:

9:00-11:00 Wednesday

- Signals
  - Concept of signals
  - Signal classification
  - Energy and power signals
  - Signal operation
  - Elementary signals
- Systems
  - Concept of Systems
  - Systems classification

\*Chapter 1 in the textbook (Oppenheim)

- **Signal:**

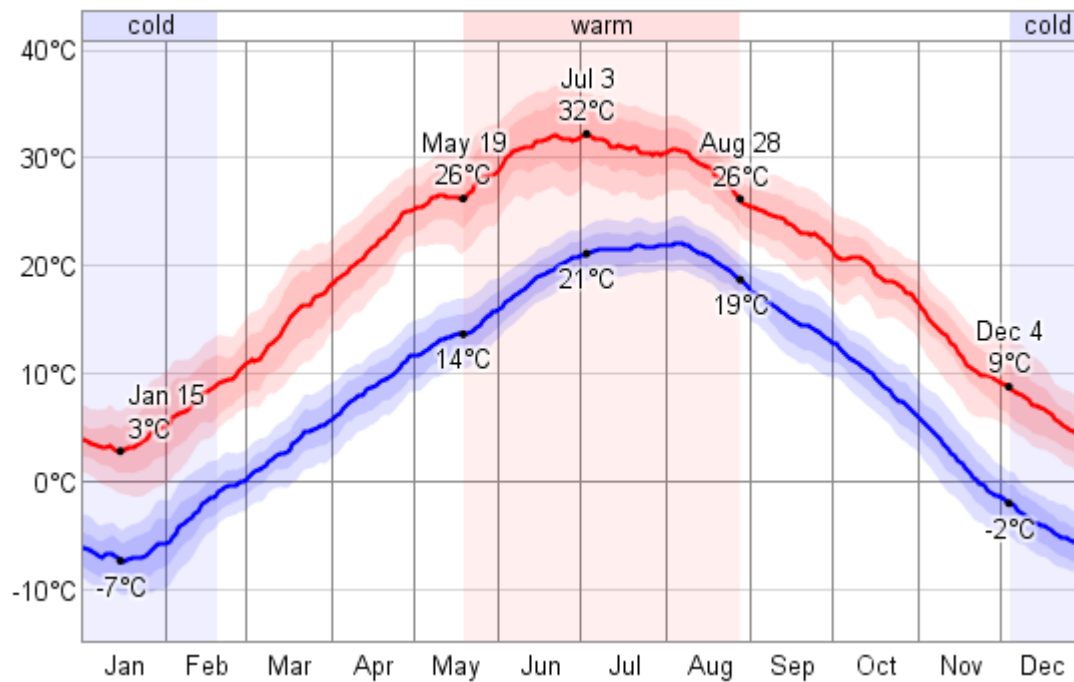
- Can be broadly defined as any **quantity** that **varies** as a **function** of time and/or space and has the ability to convey **information** about a certain **physical phenomenon**.



The electrocardiogram  
(ECG)

- **Signal:**

- Any series of **measurements** of a **physical quantity** is a signal (temperature measurements for instance).



Temperature in Xi'an, China

- **Signal:**

- Can be broadly defined as any **quantity** that **varies** as a **function** of time and/or space and has the ability to convey **information** about a certain **physical phenomenon**.
- Any series of **measurements** of a **physical quantity** is a signal (temperature measurements for instance).

- **Signal and perception:**

- **Signals:** allow us to see, hear, feel and consequently **act** → **information** is **transmitted** and carried in signals.

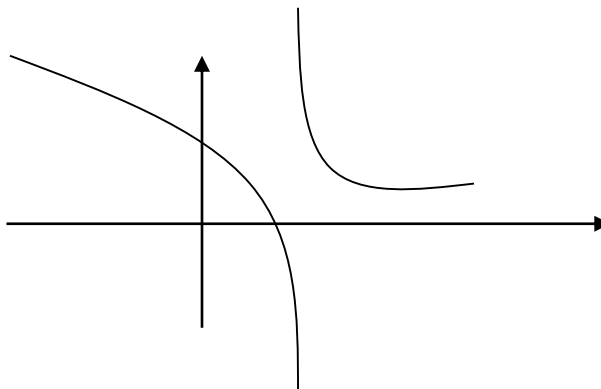
## Signal and perception:

- **Signals:** allow us to see, hear, feel and consequently **act** → **information** is **transmitted** and carried in signals.



## Signal representation:

- The most **convenient** way to represent a signal is via the **concept of a function**, let us say  $x(t)$ . In this notation:
  - $x(\cdot)$  represents the **dependent variable** related to the **physical phenomena** (e.g., temperature, voltage, pressure, etc.)
  - $t$  represents the **independent variable** (e.g., time, space, etc.).
- Roughly speaking, any **realizable function** can be considered as a signal.



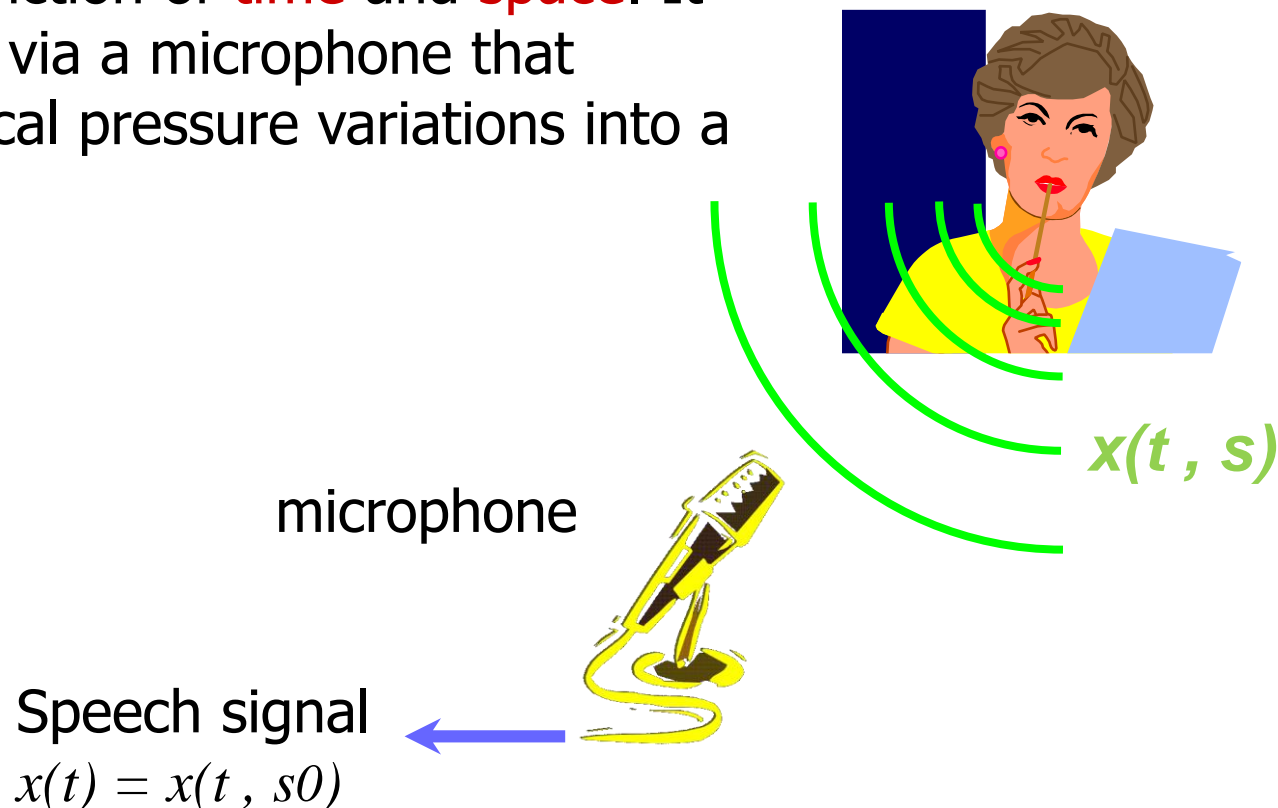


- **Examples of signals include:**

- **Electrical signals:** currents and voltages in AC circuits, radio communications signals, audio and video signals.
- **Mechanical signals:** sound or pressure waves, vibrations in a structure, earthquakes Seismograph.
- **Biomedical signals:** lung and heart monitoring, X-ray and other types of images.
- **Finance:** time variations of a stock value or a market index.

## Speech signal

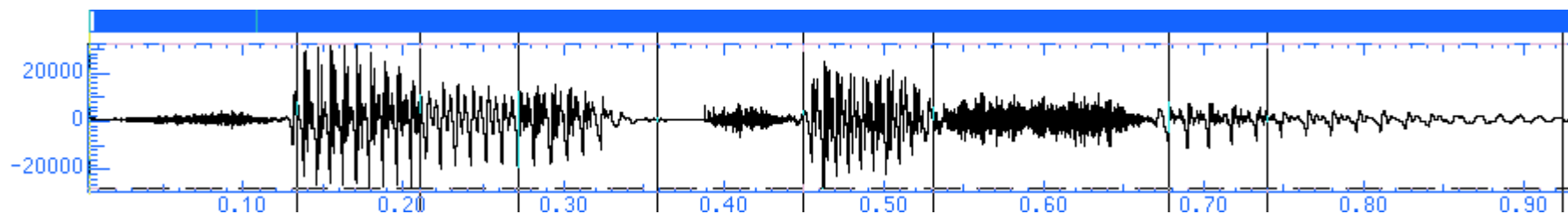
A speech signal consists of variations in air pressure as a function of **time** and **space**. It can be **captured** via a microphone that **translates** the local pressure variations into a voltage signal.



# Example of 1D signals

- **Speech signal**

- At a given **space position**: speech signals basically represents a continuous-time (CT) signal  $x(t)$



ph - o - n - e - t - i - c - i - a - n

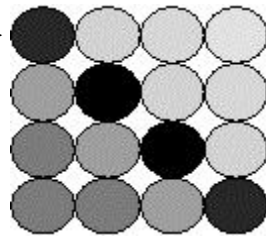
Automatic speech  
recognition

Phonetician: an expert in phonetics.

- Digital gray images: 2-D signals

- The **intensity** of the image at location  $(x, y)$

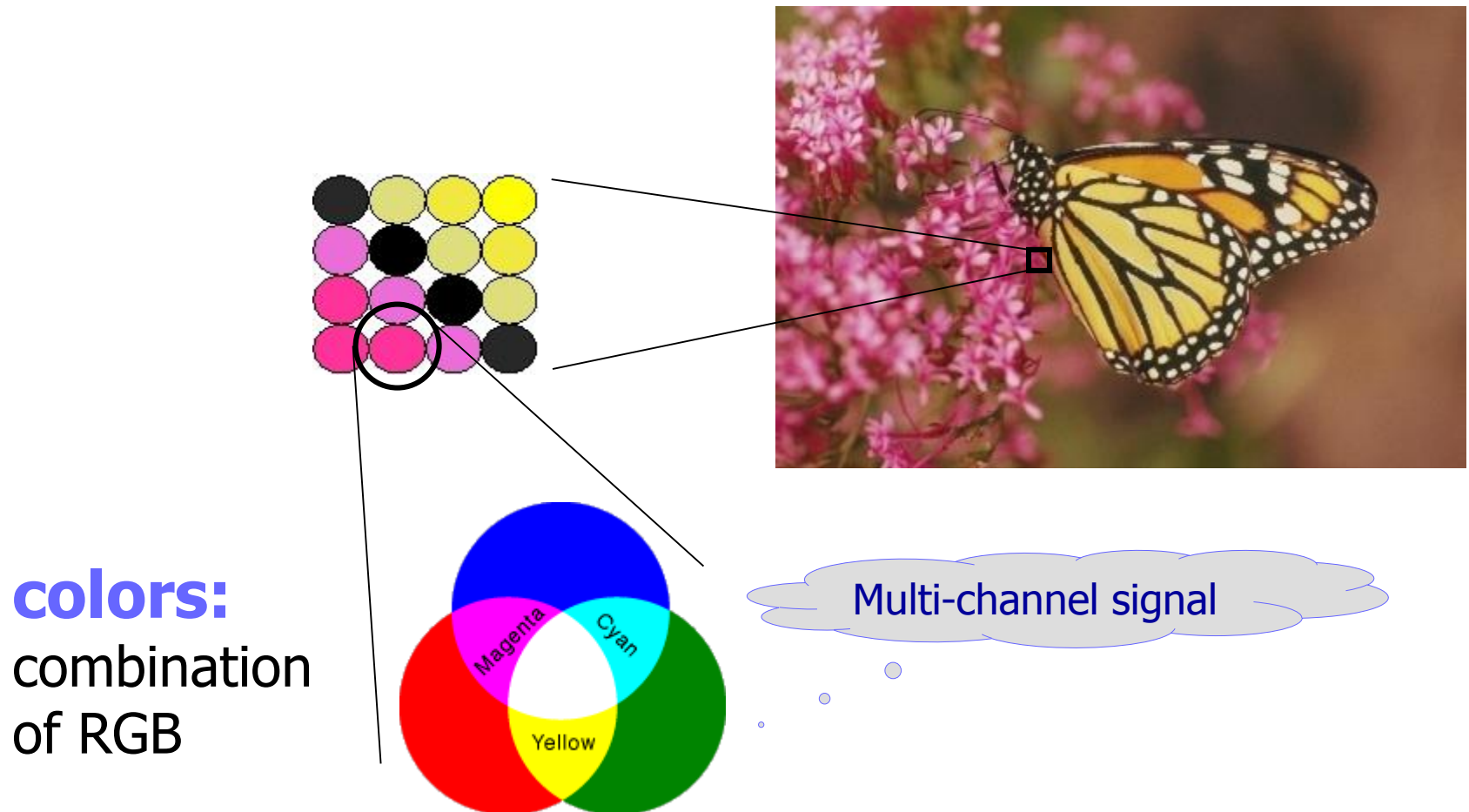
pixel  
or  
pel



● black  $p=0$     ● gray  $<P<$     ○ white  $p=255$

Acquired images are made up of a  
**discrete** number of points  
→ **discrete-space** signals

- Colored images: are 2-D signals with respect to spatial variables



- **Video sequences:**

- Is a collection of 2-D images called frames



Frame 1



51



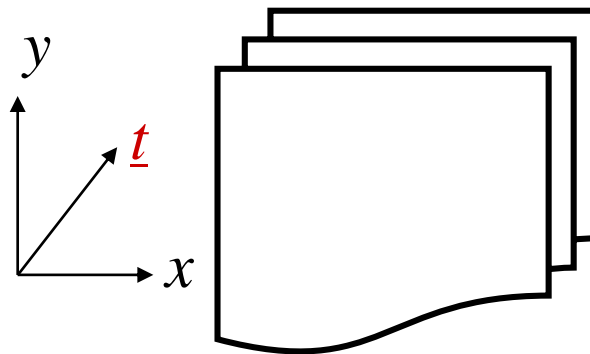
71



91



111



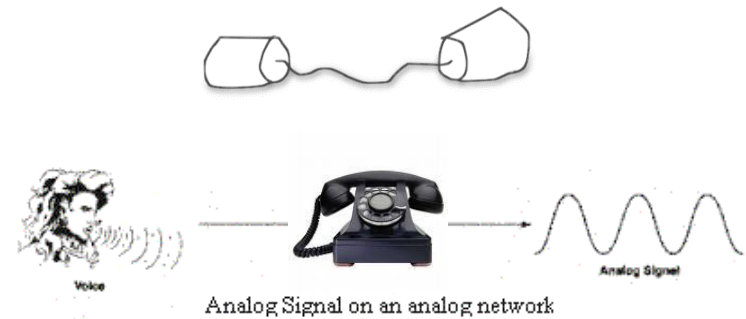
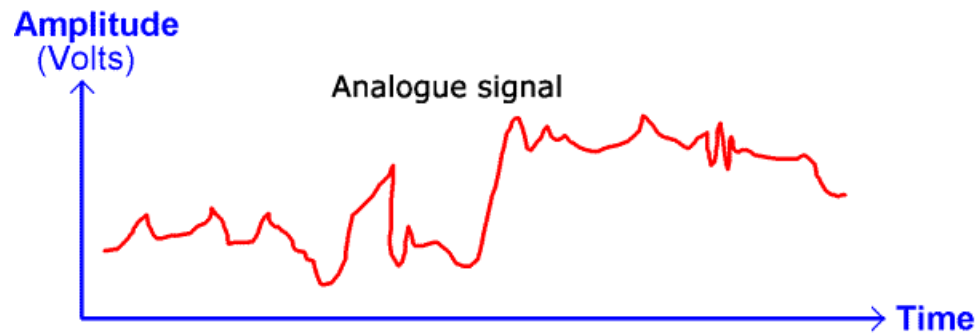


# Signal classification

Continuous (Analogue)	↔	Discrete (Digital)
Periodic	↔	Non-periodic
Deterministic	↔	Random
Symmetric (Odd/Even)	↔	Asymmetric
Finite energy	↔	Finite power



- Analogue and Digital



- Distinctions can be made at different levels based on their properties :

Continuous (Analogue)

Periodic

Deterministic

Symmetric (Odd/Even)

Finite energy



Discrete (Digital)

Aperiodic (non Periodic)

Random

Asymmetric

Finite power

- **Periodic:**

- A periodic signal is a function of time that **repeat** itself **every** certain **period** of time  $T \neq 0$  :

$$\text{if } x(t+T) = x(t) \text{ for all } t$$

- The **fundamental period** is the **smallest** value of time for which the equation holds true, and it is **simply** known as the period.

$$x(t+nT) = x(t), n \text{ is an integer}$$

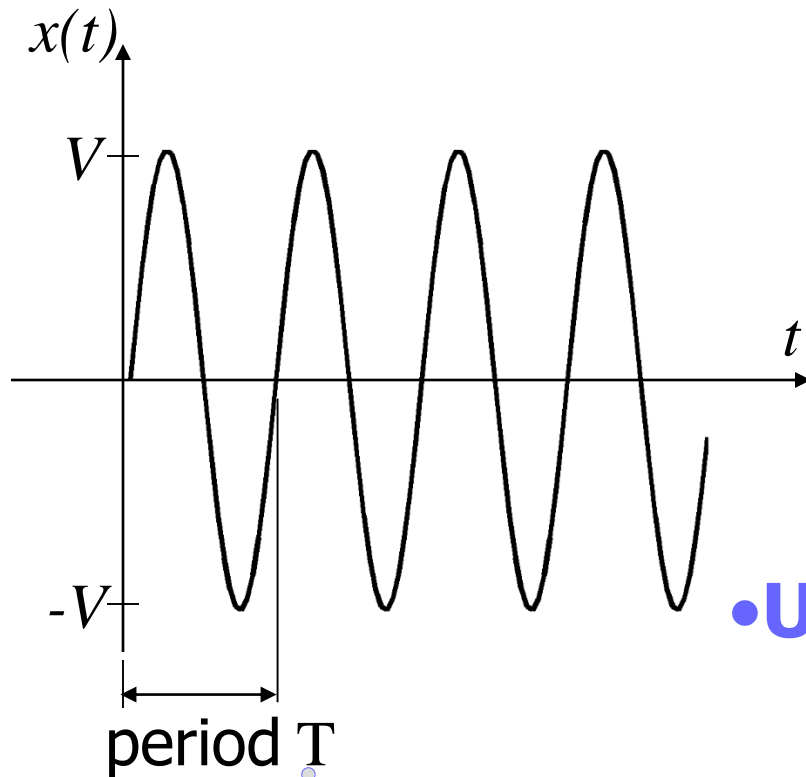
- The **fundamental frequency** of the periodic signal,  $x(t)$ , is  $f=1/T$

- **Non-periodic:** if  $x(t+T) \neq x(t)$  for whatever  $T \neq 0$ ;

**Examples?**

- No truly periodic signal exist. (physically)
- Why periodic signal are important?
  - The reason for studying periodic functions is because we do not have to (or sometime we are unable to) specify the beginning or end point of a “repeating” signal.

- **Sine Wave ( Sinusoid )**



amplitude                      phase

↓                                      ↓

$$x(t) = V \sin(\omega t + \theta)$$

↑                                      ↑

sine wave                      frequency  
in radians/second

- **Units**

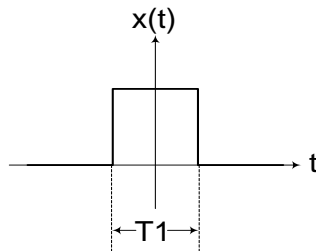
- Period:  $T$  [s (second)]
- Frequency:  $f$  [1/second] or [Hz (hertz)]
- Phase: [radians]

What is the relationship  
between  $T$ ,  $f$  and  $\omega$  ?

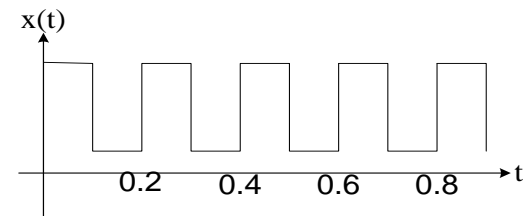
# Periodicity

Periodic signals are mathematical abstraction!

Non-periodic signal  
(rectangular pulse function)



Periodic signal  
(Rectangular waveform)

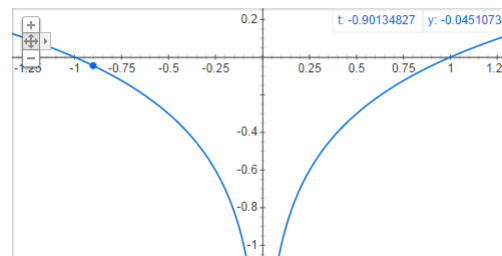


## • Are the following CT signals periodic or non-periodic?

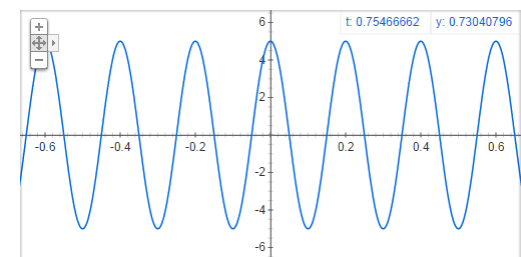
1.  $\log(|t|)$
2.  $\sin(t - 5)$
3.  $5 \cos(2\pi 5t)$
4.  $\sin(t^2)$

*Test yourself*

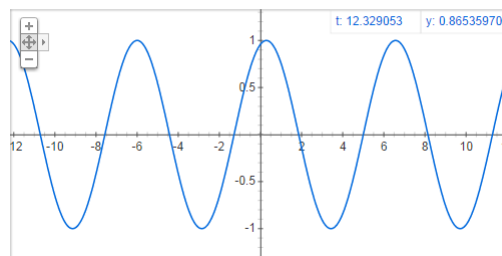
Graph for  $\log(\text{abs}(t))$



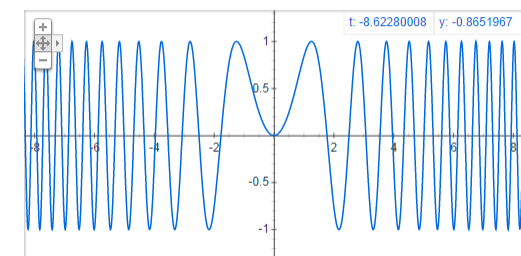
Graph for  $5 \cos(2\pi 5t)$



Graph for  $\sin(t-5)$



Graph for  $\sin(t^2)$



- **Distinctions** can be made at **different levels** (for example: whether  $x(t)$  is considered to be deterministic or random in nature):

Continuous (Analogue)	↔	Discrete (Digital)
Periodic	↔	Aperiodic (non Periodic)
<b>Deterministic</b>	↔	<b>Random</b>
Symmetric (Odd/Even)	↔	Asymmetric
Finite energy	↔	Finite power

- **Deterministic and random signals :**

- If the signal can be **described** by a **mathematical** equation, it is a deterministic signal
- If we know how the signal will **behave** in **future** then it is **deterministic**
- Otherwise it is called a random signal



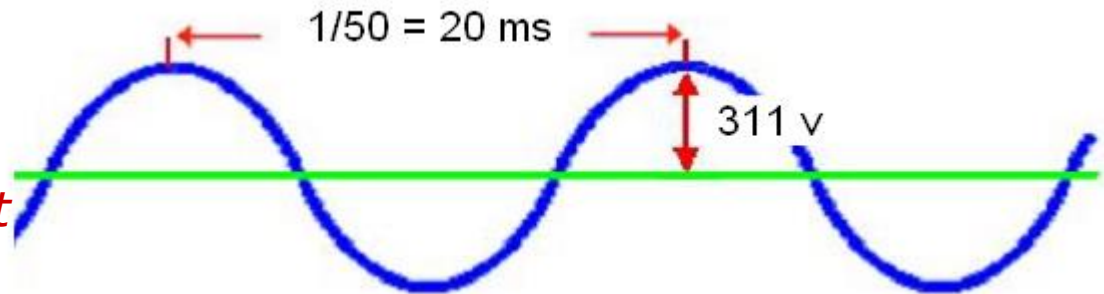
- **Deterministic and random signals**

$$x(t) = \sqrt{2}220 \cos(2\pi 50 t)$$

RMS = ?  
Peak-to-peak voltage?

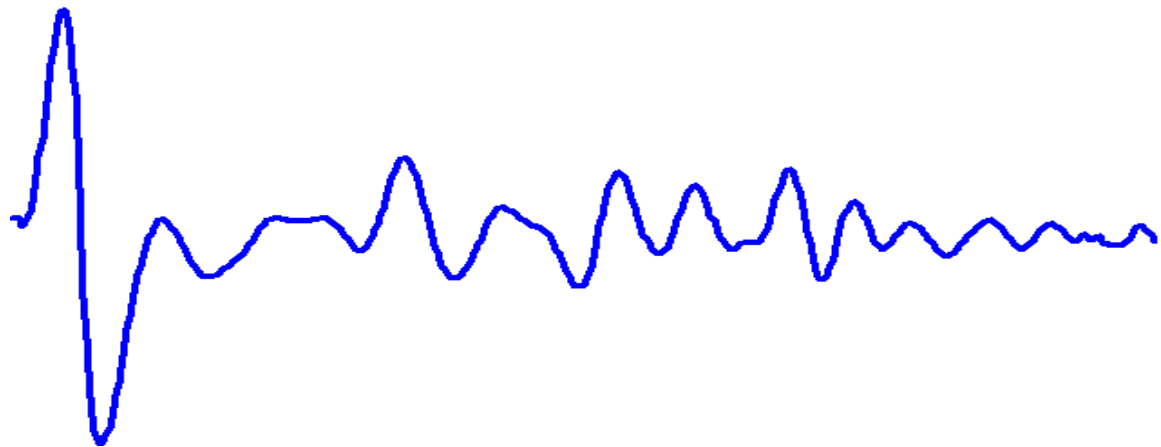
Deterministic  
(and periodic)

*AC : Alternating current*



Random

*Is the temperature  
random or  
deterministic signal?*

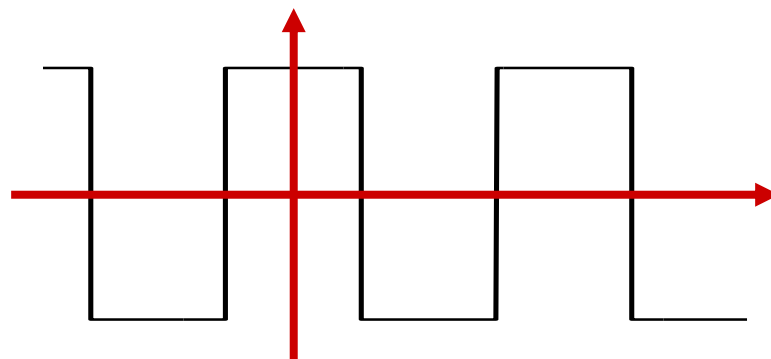


# Types of signals

Continuous (Analogue)	↔	Discrete (Digital)
Periodic	↔	Aperiodic (non Periodic)
Deterministic	↔	Random
Symmetric (Odd/Even)	↔	Asymmetric
Finite energy	↔	Finite power

- **Even symmetric signal**

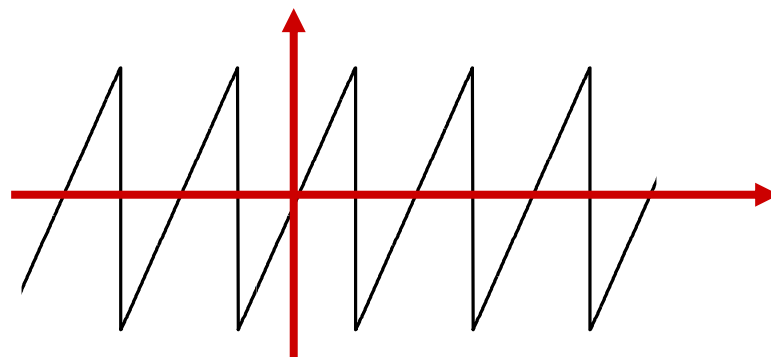
- A CT signal  $x(t)$  for which  $x(-t) = x(t)$  and for all  $t$



- **Odd symmetric signal**

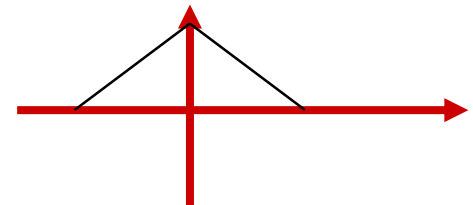
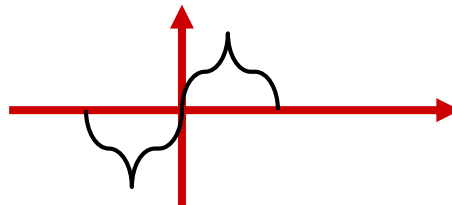
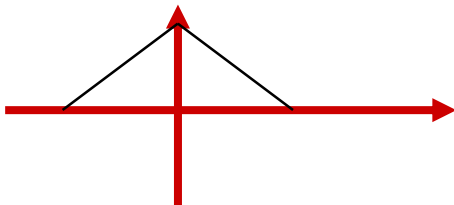
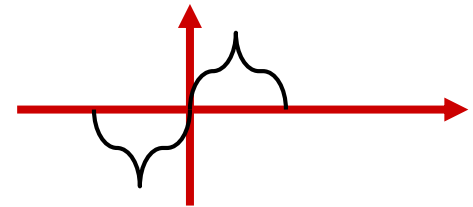
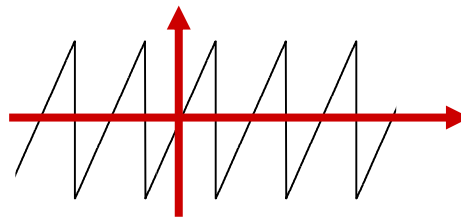
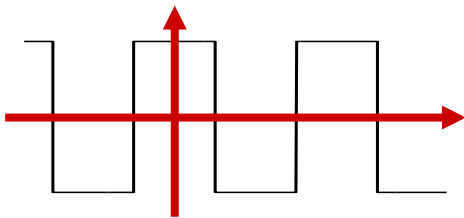
- A CT  $x(t)$  for which  $x(-t) = -x(t)$  for all  $t$

$$x(0) = ?$$



# Even and odd signals

- The product of even functions is ...???
- The product of odd functions is ...???
- The product of an odd and even function is ...???





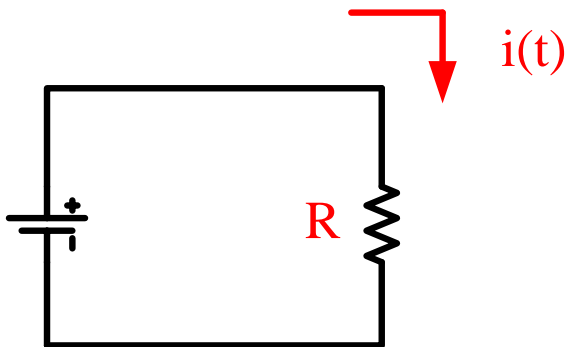
# Energy and power of signals

– Distinctions can be made at different :

Continuous (Analogue)	↔	Discrete (Digital)
Periodic	↔	Aperiodic (non Periodic)
Deterministic	↔	Random
Symmetric (Odd/Even)	↔	Asymmetric
Finite energy	↔	Finite power

- **Energy:**

- The idea of the “**size**” of a signal is crucial to many applications.
- The first **concept** to be introduced is the “**energy**” of a signal



$$\varepsilon(i) = R \int_{-\infty}^{+\infty} |i(t)|^2 dt$$

$$\varepsilon(u) = \frac{1}{R} \int_{-\infty}^{+\infty} |u(t)|^2 dt$$

$$R = 1$$



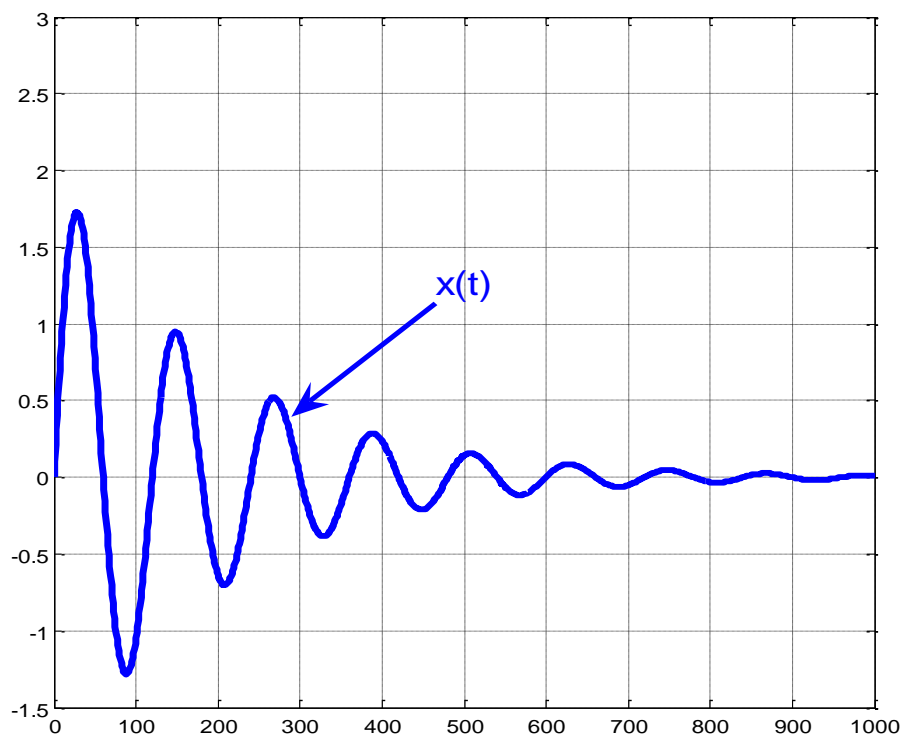
- **Energy:**

- This concept can be generalized to complex signal

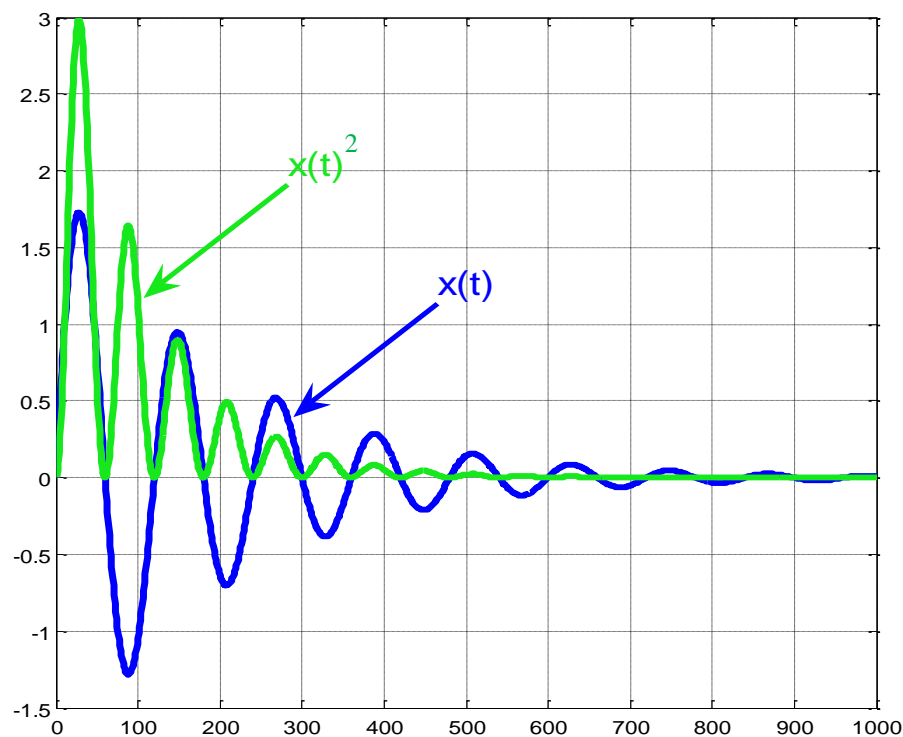
$$\varepsilon(x) = \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} |x(t)|^2 dt$$

- Energy

$$\varepsilon(x) = \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} |x(t)|^2 dt$$

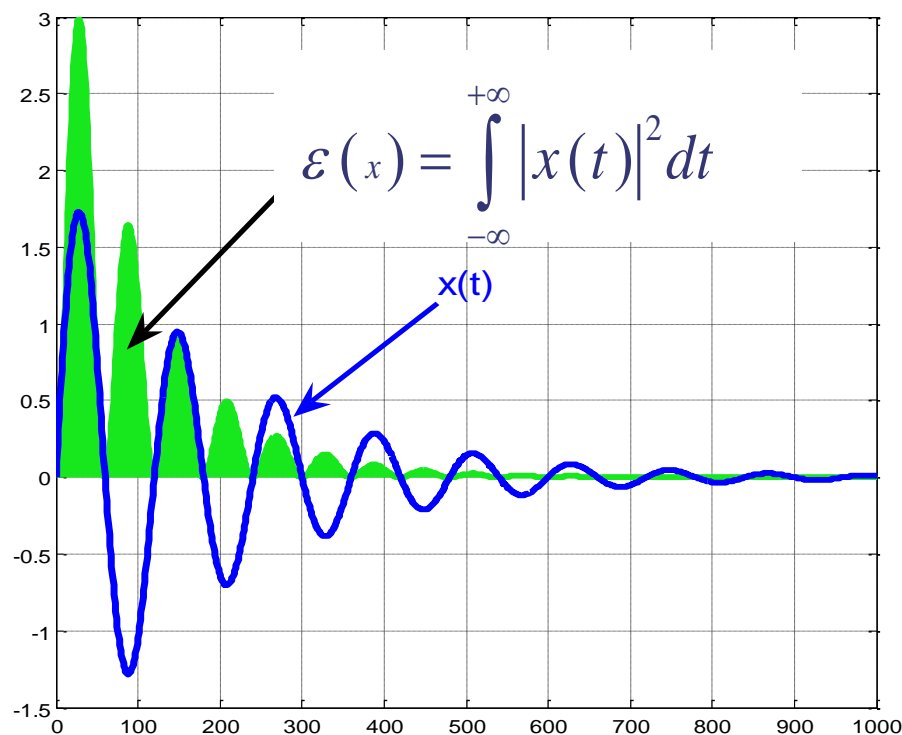


- Energy



$$\varepsilon(x) = \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} |x(t)|^2 dt$$

- Energy



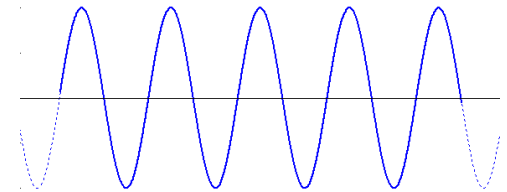
$$\varepsilon(x) = \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} |x(t)|^2 dt$$

Is  $\varepsilon(x)$  finite?

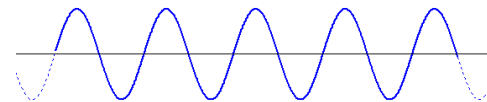
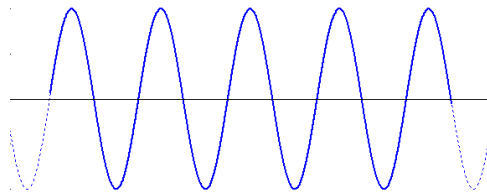
So, it is a  
finite energy signal

- **Energy of signals :**

- What if the signal does not decay?



In this case we have **infinite energy** for such signal.



Is the left hand signal “**stronger**” than the right one ?

This leads us to the following concept : **signal power**

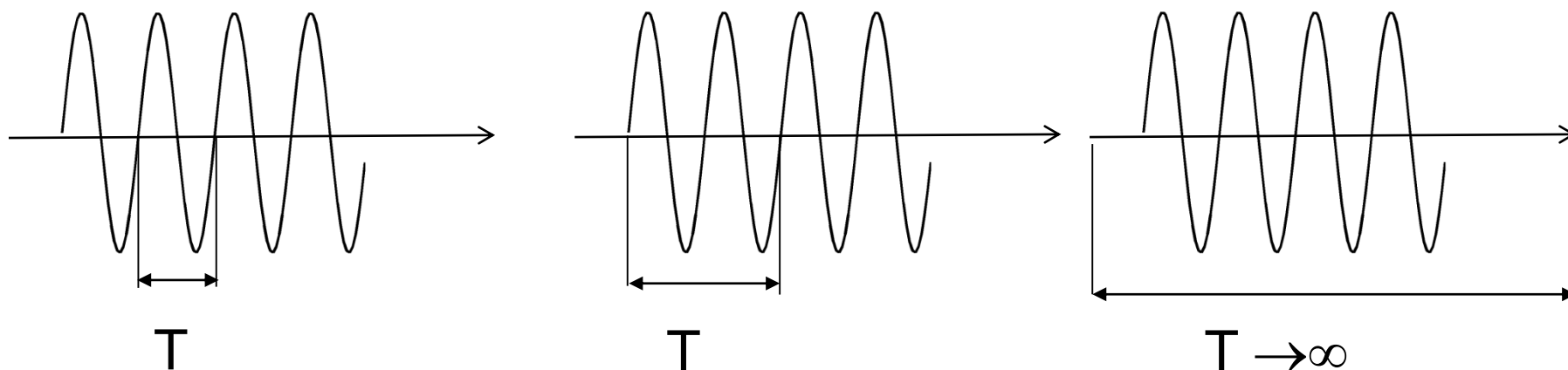
- **Power:**

- Power is the **time average** of the energy (**energy per unit time**).

Continuous-time signal  $x(t)$

$$P(x) \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} \lim_{T \rightarrow \infty} \frac{1}{T} \int_{-T/2}^{T/2} |x(t)|^2 dt$$

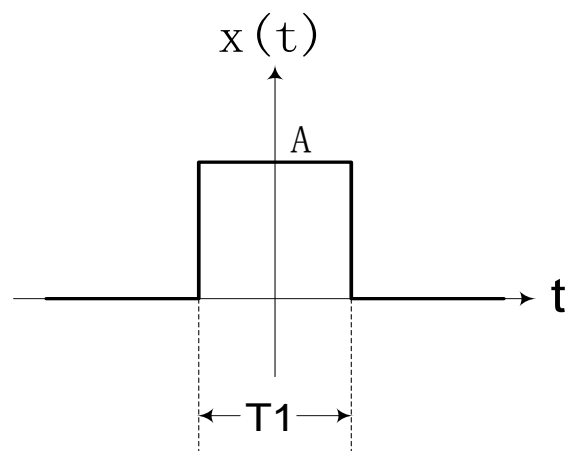
- **Power of a periodic signal (period is T):**
  - Power is a **time average** of energy ...



$$P(x) = \frac{1}{T} \int_{-T/2}^{T/2} |x(t)|^2 dt$$

- **Example :**

- Find the total energy of this rectangular pulse

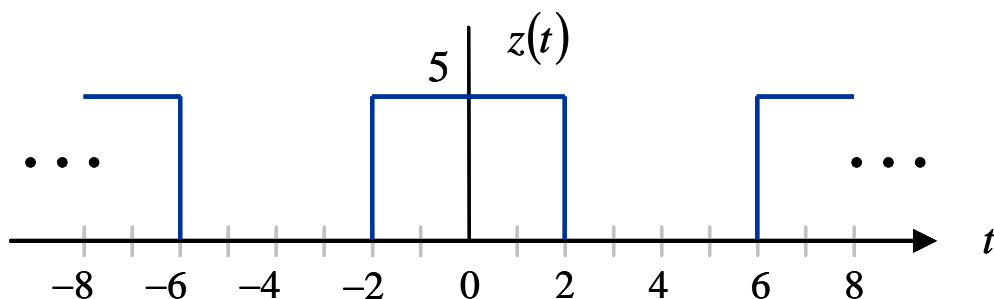


$$\begin{aligned} E &= \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} |x|^2(t) dt \\ &= \int_{-T_1/2}^{T_1/2} A^2 dt \\ &= A^2 T_1 \end{aligned}$$



- **Example :**

- Find the average power of this signal



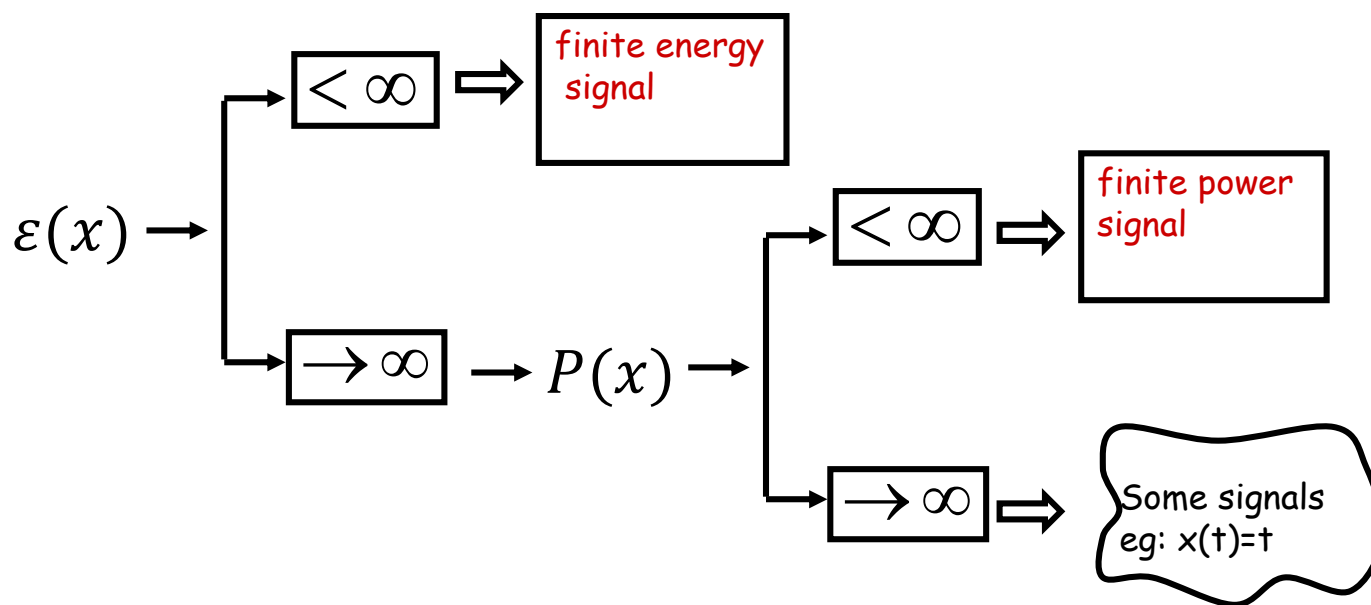
$$P(z) = \frac{1}{T} \int_{-T/2}^{T/2} |z(t)|^2 dt$$

$$P = \frac{1}{8} \int_{-4}^4 |z(t)|^2 dt = \frac{1}{8} \int_{-2}^2 5^2 dt = \frac{100}{8} = 12.5$$

- **Energy vs. Power**

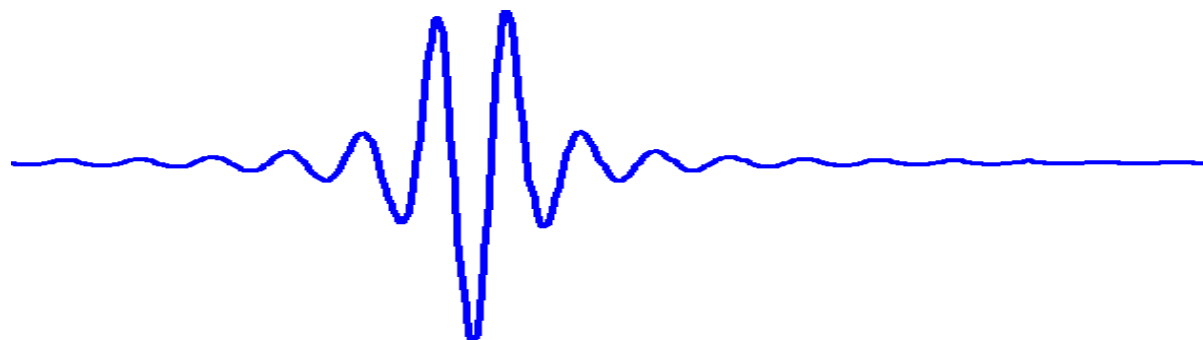
- "Energy signals" have finite energy → zero average power.
- "Power signals" have finite and non-zero power → infinite energy.
- In real life all signals have finite energy, because they are related to some physical phenomenon, and as a consequence they have limited amplitude and duration. In fact, when the stimulant phenomenon stops the signal begins to decay.



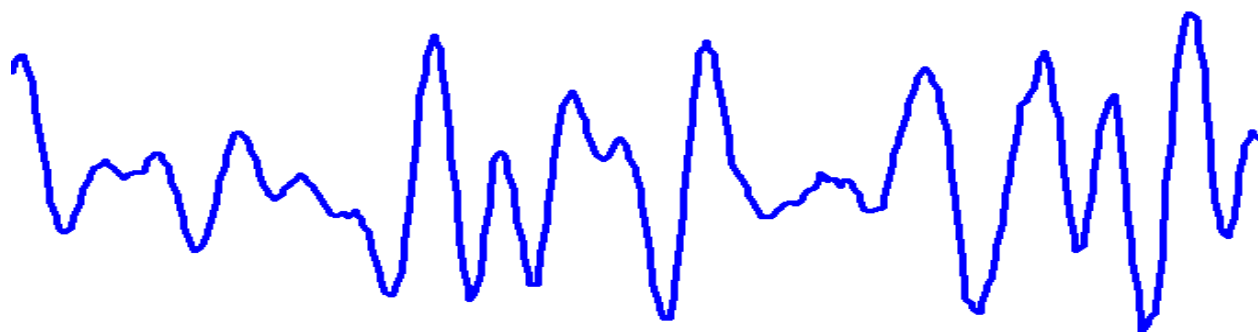


- **Energy and Power Signals**

Energy signal



Power signal



- A signal can **usually** be **described** by one word from each row from the following:

Continuous (Analogue)	↔	Discrete (Digital)
Periodic	↔	Aperiodic
Deterministic	↔	Random
Finite energy	↔	Finite power
Symmetric (Odd/Even)	↔	Asymmetric

- Plot an example of a continuous-time periodic, deterministic, odd symmetric and finite power signal.

# Test yourself

This one is a bit tricky, it depends on how you look at it.  
The temperature information exists all the time, so it can be regarded as continuous signal.  
However, when you use an electronic instrument to measure it, the measured result is a discrete signal.



Continuous (Analogue)



Discrete (Digital)



Periodic



Aperiodic



Deterministic



Random



Finite energy



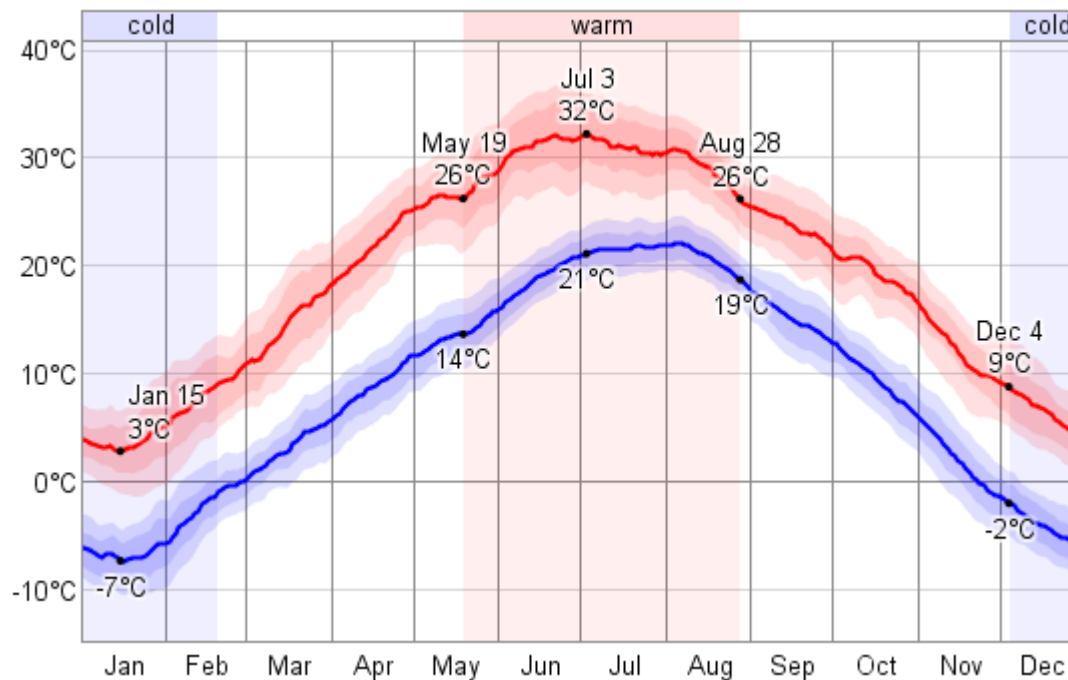
Finite power



Symmetric (Odd/Even)

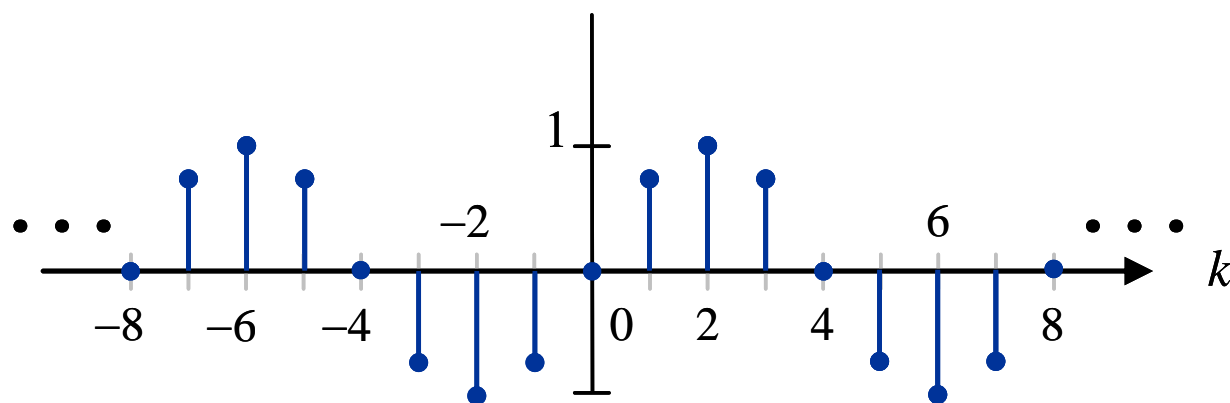


Asymmetric



# Test yourself

Continuous (Analogue)	$\longleftrightarrow$	Discrete (Digital) ✓
Periodic ✓	$\longleftrightarrow$	Aperiodic
Deterministic ✓	$\longleftrightarrow$	Random
Finite energy	$\longleftrightarrow$	Finite power ✓
Symmetric (Odd/Even) ✓	$\longleftrightarrow$	Asymmetric





# Signal Operations

Transformations of the independent variable



# Test yourself

Listen to this sound...

$f(t)$

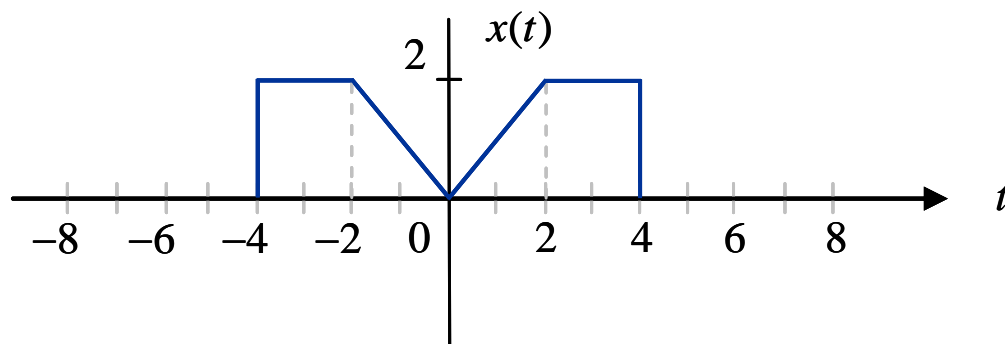


Which of the following describing function is correct?

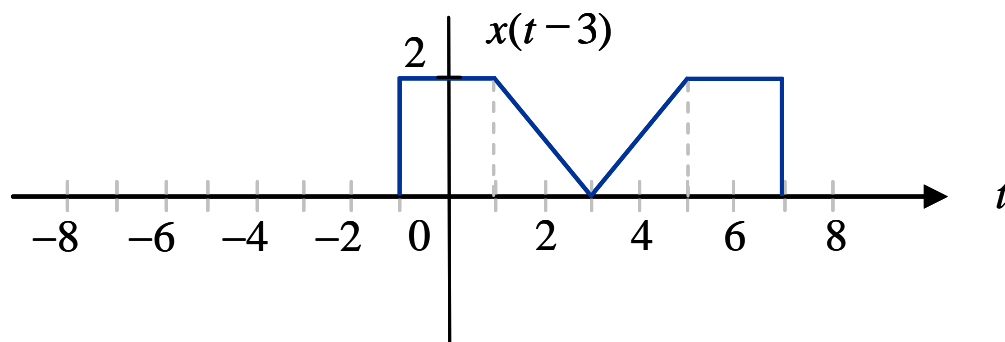
Sound 1:  $f_2(t) = 3f(t)$

Sound 2:  $f_3(t) = f(0.5 t)$

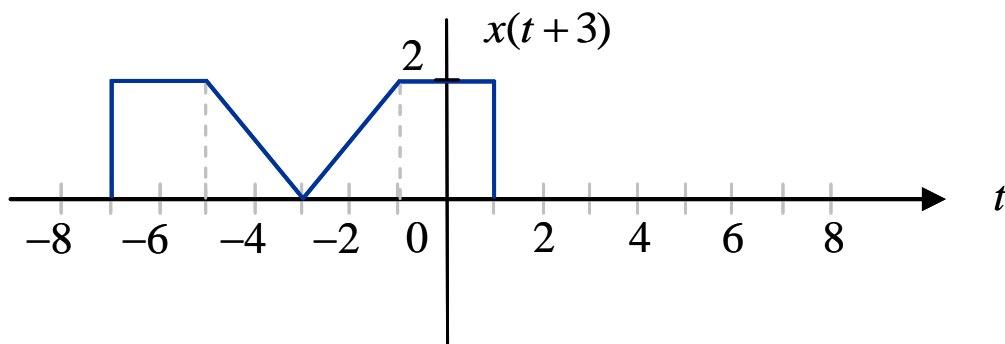
# Time shifting



$$\phi(t) = x(t + T)$$

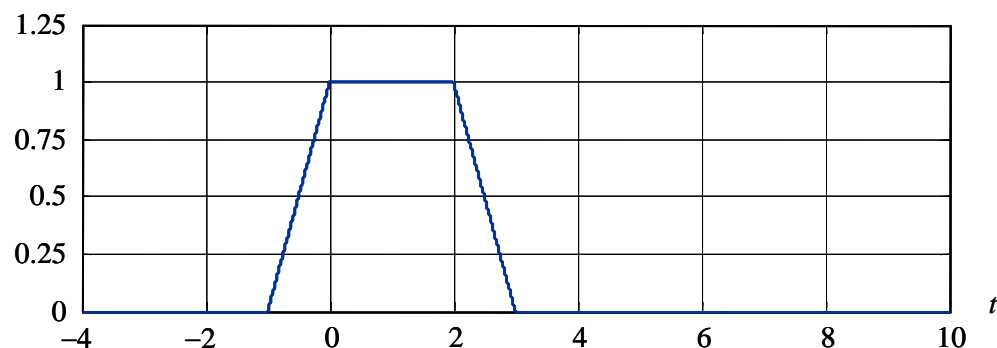


$T < 0$  shift to the right  
(delayed)

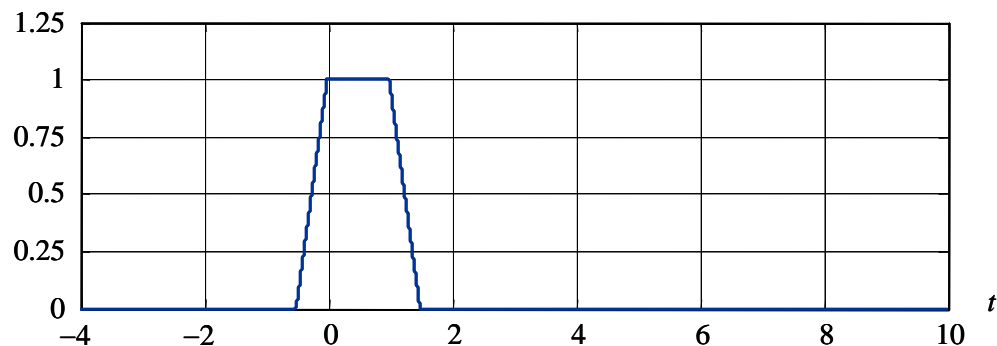


$T > 0$  shift to the left  
(advanced)

# Time scaling

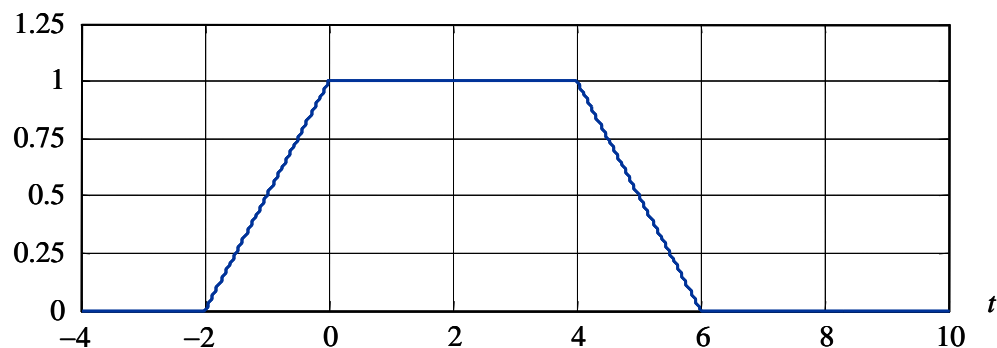


$$\phi(t) = x(ct)$$



$$c > 1$$

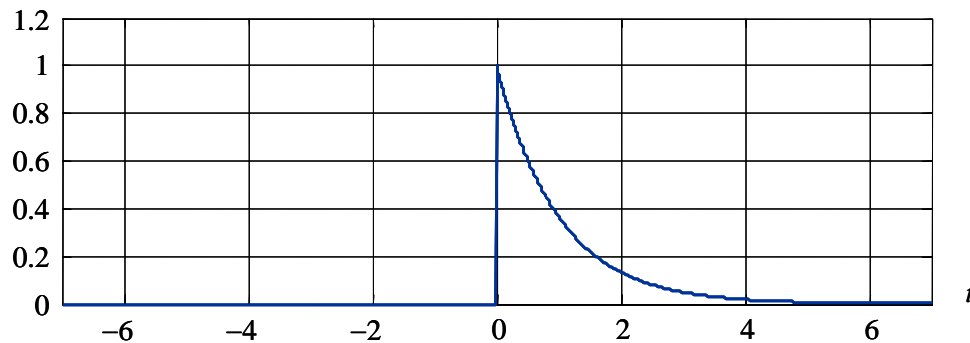
Signal is compressed



$$0 < c < 1$$

Signal is expanded

# Time inversion

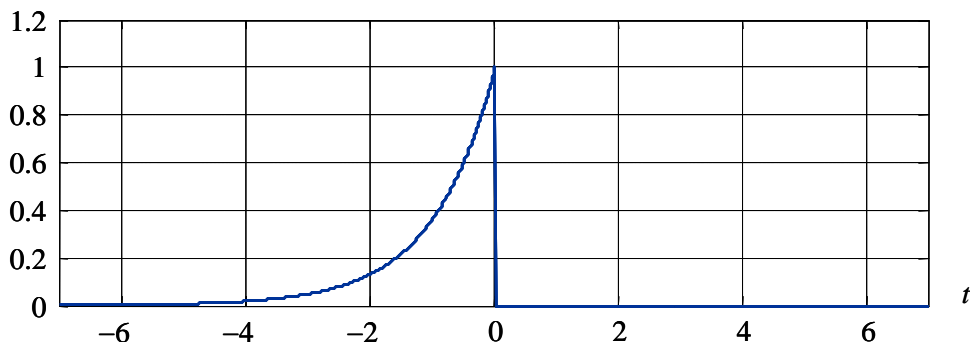


$$\phi(t) = x(-t)$$

Time inversion A.K.A.

Time reversal, reflection

Inversion is performed  
About vertical axis



$$x(t) \Rightarrow x(at - b)$$

(1) Time shift  $x(t)$  by  $b$  to obtain  $x(t - b)$   
Time scale  $x(t - b)$  by  $a$  to obtain  $x(at - b)$

(2) Time scale  $x(t)$  by  $a$  to obtain  $x(at)$   
Time shift  $x(at)$  by  $\frac{b}{a}$  to obtain  $x(at - b)$

Example:  $x(2t - 6)$



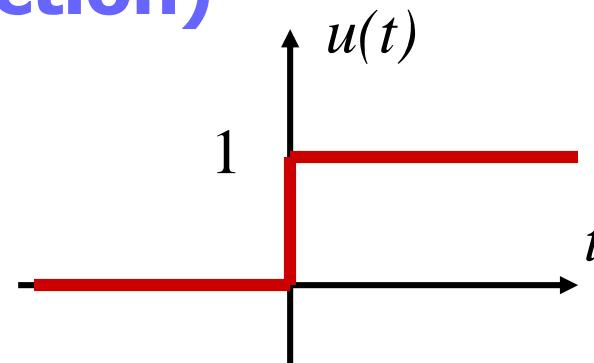
# Elementary signals

- **Some elementary signals:**

- Step Function.
- Rectangular Pulse Function
- Impulse Function.
- Sinc Function.
  
- Ramp Function.
- Exponential Signals.
- Sinusoidal Signals.

- **Step Function (unit step function)**

$$u(t) = \begin{cases} 1, & t > 0 \\ 0, & t < 0 \end{cases}$$



- This function is useful to evidence signal **starting time**.
- Plot the following signals:

$$u(t - 1)$$

$$u(t + 1)$$

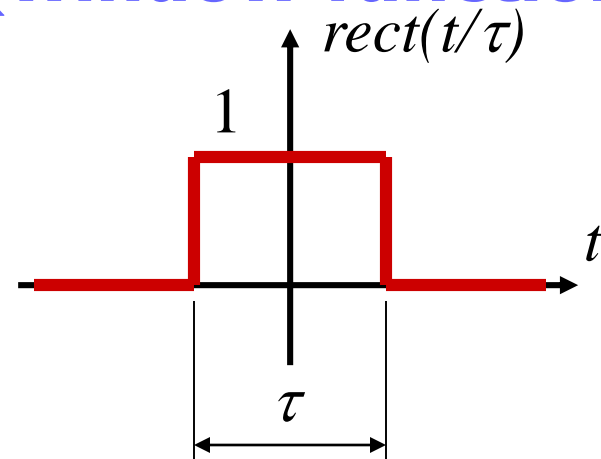
$$u^2(t)$$

$$u(t + 0.5) u(t - 0.5)$$



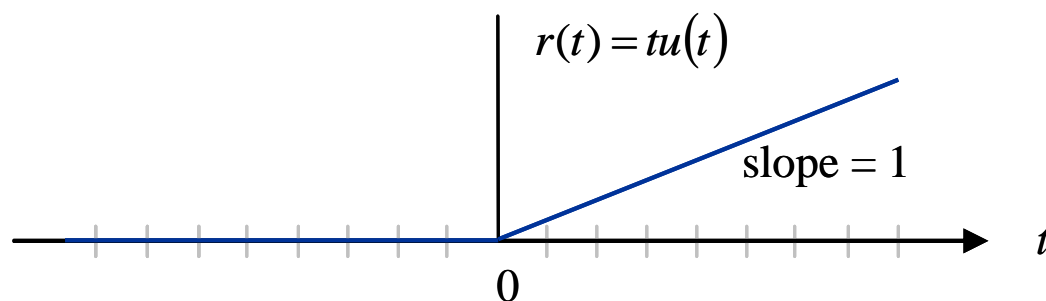
- Rectangular pulse function (window function)

$$\text{rect}\left(\frac{t}{\tau}\right) = \begin{cases} 1, & |t| \leq \tau/2 \\ 0, & \text{otherwise} \end{cases}$$

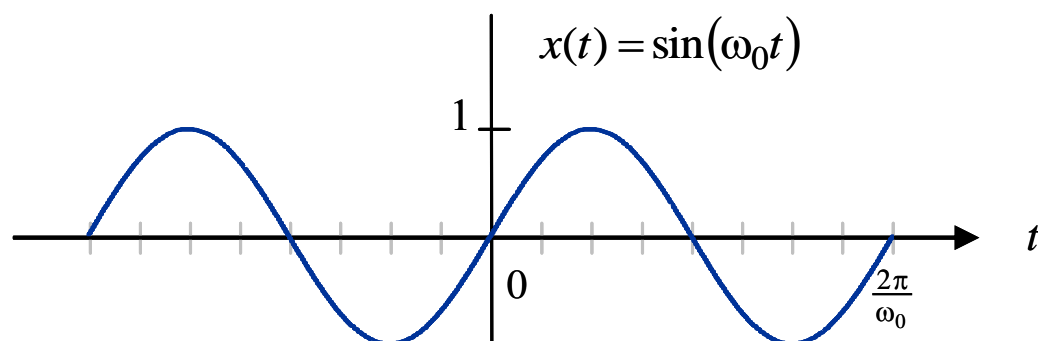


- It is commonly used as **wind**owing function
- How it is possible to write  $\text{rect}(t/\tau)$  using step function ?

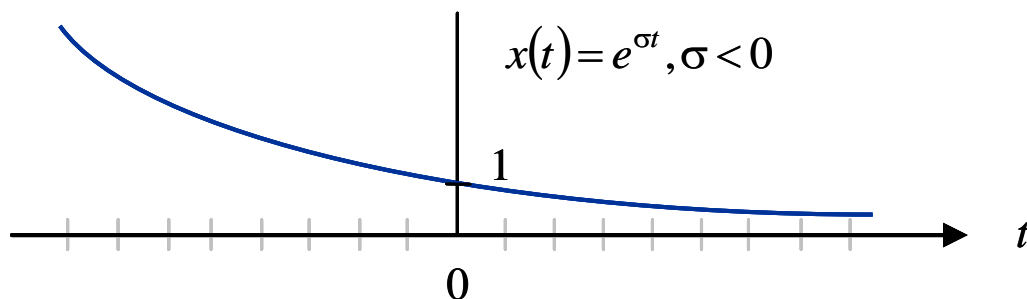
# Elementary signals



– Ramp Function.



– Sinusoidal Signals.



– Exponential Signals.

- **Impulse Function (Dirac delta):**

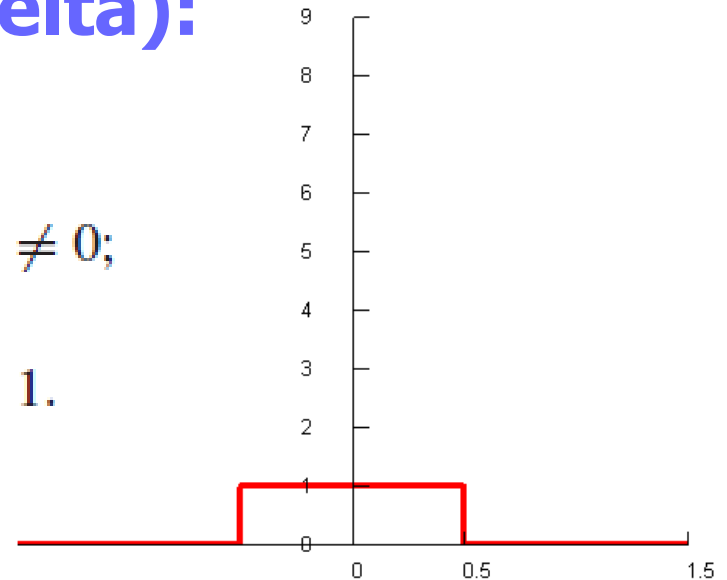
- Describes **ideal impulses**

- (1) amplitude

$$\delta(t) = 0, \quad t \neq 0;$$

- (2) area enclosed

$$\int_{-\infty}^{\infty} \delta(t) dt = 1.$$



$$x(t)\delta(t - t_0) = ? \quad x(t_0)\delta(t - t_0)$$

$$\int_{-\infty}^t \delta(\tau) d\tau = ? \quad u(t)$$

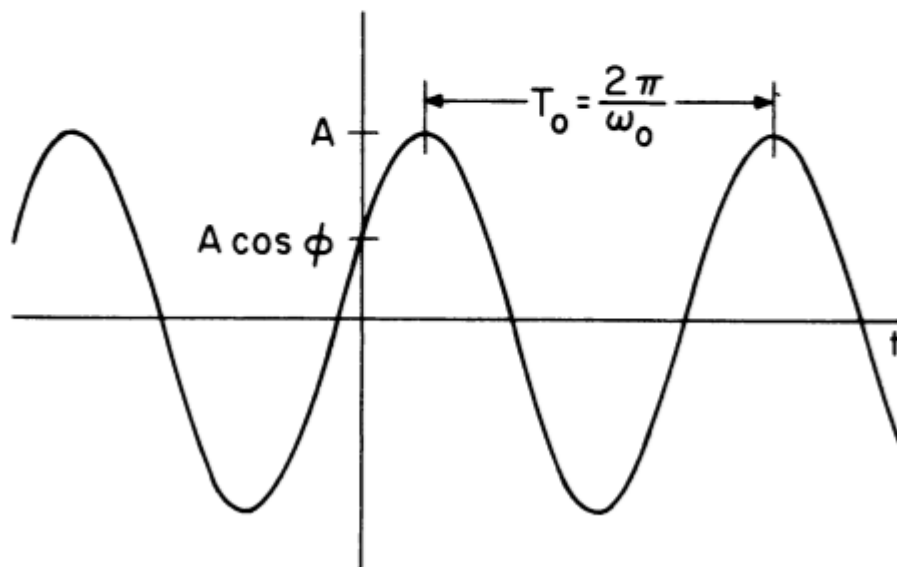
$$\int_{-\infty}^{\infty} x(t)\delta(t - t_0) dt = ? \quad x(t_0)$$



- Have finite time duration
- Are continuous
- Are real-valued
- *Occupy finite frequency spectrum !*

## CONTINUOUS-TIME SINUSOIDAL SIGNAL

$$x(t) = A \cos(\omega_0 t + \phi)$$



### TRANSPARENCY

#### 2.1

Continuous-time sinusoidal signal indicating the definition of amplitude, frequency, and phase.

- Periodic:

$$x(t) = x(t + T_o) \quad \text{period} \triangleq \text{smallest } T_o$$

$$A \cos[\omega_o t + \phi] = A \cos[\omega_o t + \underbrace{\omega_o T_o}_{2\pi m} + \phi]$$

$$T_o = \frac{2\pi m}{\omega_o} \Rightarrow \text{period} = \frac{2\pi}{\omega_o}$$

- Time Shift  $\Leftrightarrow$  Phase Change

$$A \cos[\omega_o (t + t_o)] = A \cos[\omega_o t + \omega_o t_o]$$

$$A \cos[\omega_o (t + t_o) + \phi] = A \cos[\omega_o t + \omega_o t_o + \phi]$$

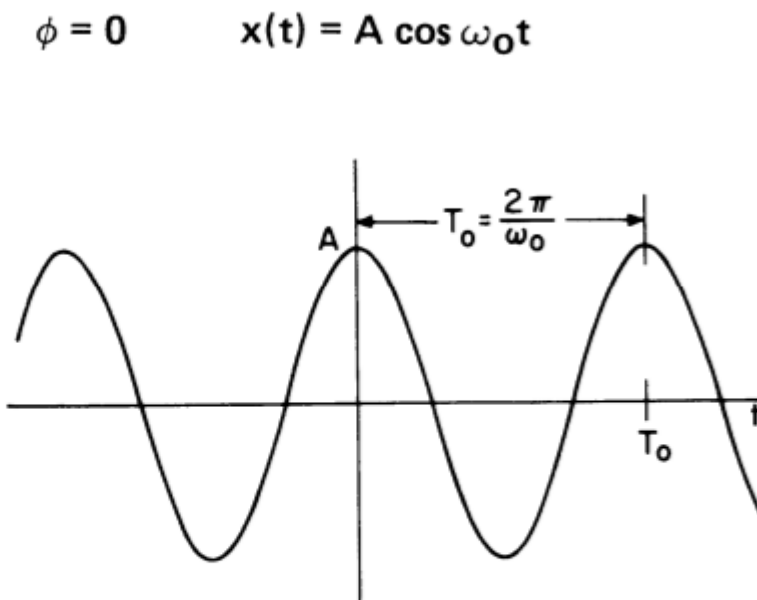
**TRANSPARENCY****2.2**

Relationship between a time shift and a change in phase for a continuous-time sinusoidal signal.

## TRANSPARENCY

### 2.3

Illustration of the signal  $A \cos \omega_0 t$  as an even signal.



Periodic:  $x(t) = x(t + T_0)$

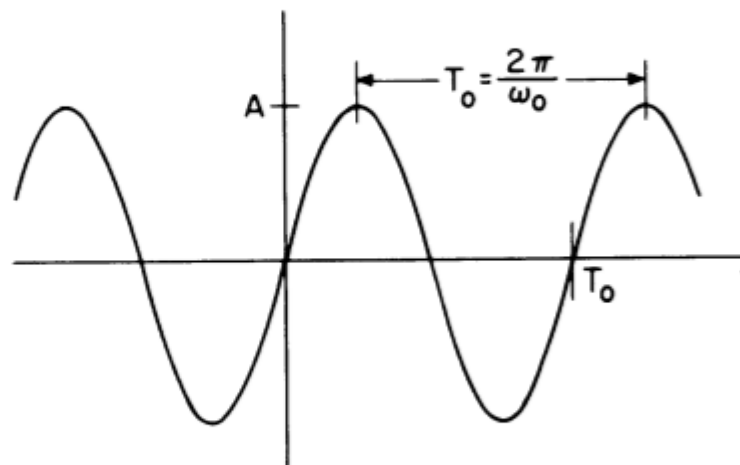
Even:  $x(t) = x(-t)$

## TRANSPARENCY

### 2.4

Illustration of the signal  $A \sin \omega_0 t$  as an odd signal.

$$\phi = -\frac{\pi}{2} \quad x(t) = \begin{cases} A \cos(\omega_0 t - \frac{\pi}{2}) \\ A \sin \omega_0 t \\ A \cos[\omega_0(t - \frac{T_0}{4})] \end{cases}$$



Periodic:  $x(t) = x(t + T_0)$

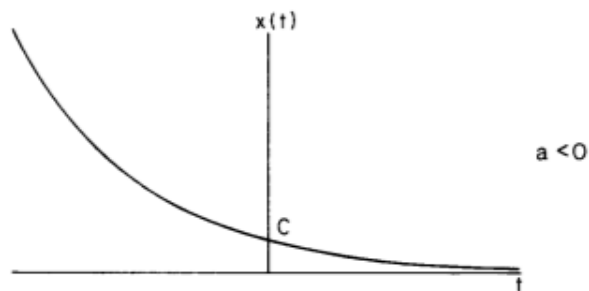
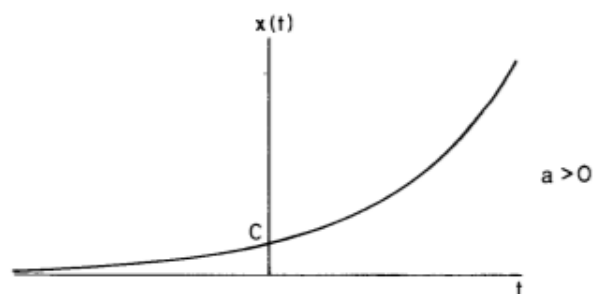
Odd:  $x(t) = -x(-t)$



## REAL EXPONENTIAL: CONTINUOUS-TIME

$$x(t) = Ce^{at}$$

C and a are real numbers



Time Shift  $\Leftrightarrow$  Scale Change

$$Ce^{a(t+t_0)} = Ce^{at_0} e^{at}$$

## TRANSPARENCY

2.14

Illustration of continuous-time real exponential signals.

## TRANSPARENCY

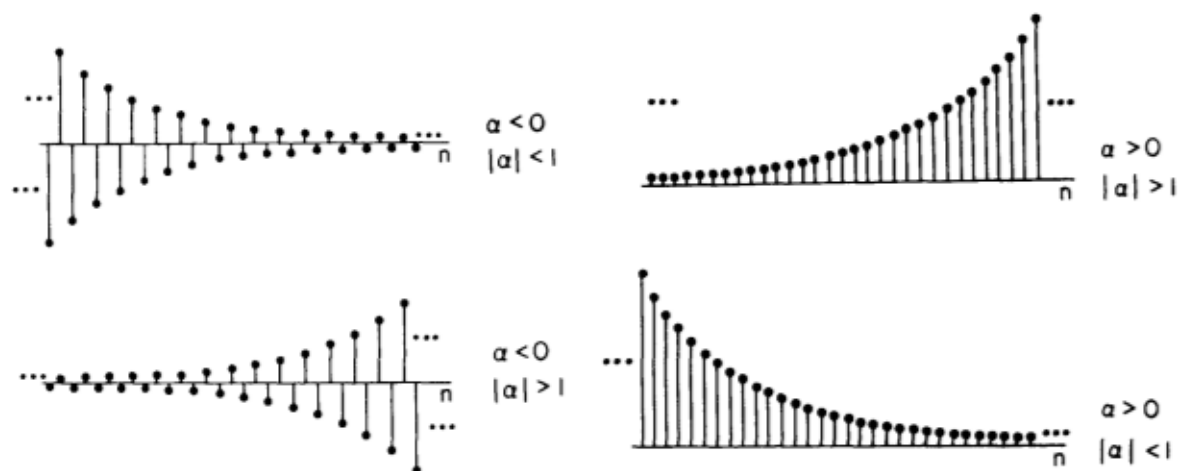
2.15

Illustration of  
discrete-time real  
exponential  
sequences.

### REAL EXPONENTIAL: DISCRETE-TIME

$$x[n] = Ce^{\beta n} = C\alpha^n$$

$C, \alpha$  are real numbers



**TRANSPARENCY****2.16**

Continuous-time  
complex exponential  
signals and their  
relationship to  
sinusoidal signals.

**COMPLEX EXPONENTIAL: CONTINUOUS-TIME**

$$x(t) = Ce^{at}$$

**C and a are complex numbers**

$$C = |C| e^{j\theta}$$

$$a = r + j\omega_0$$

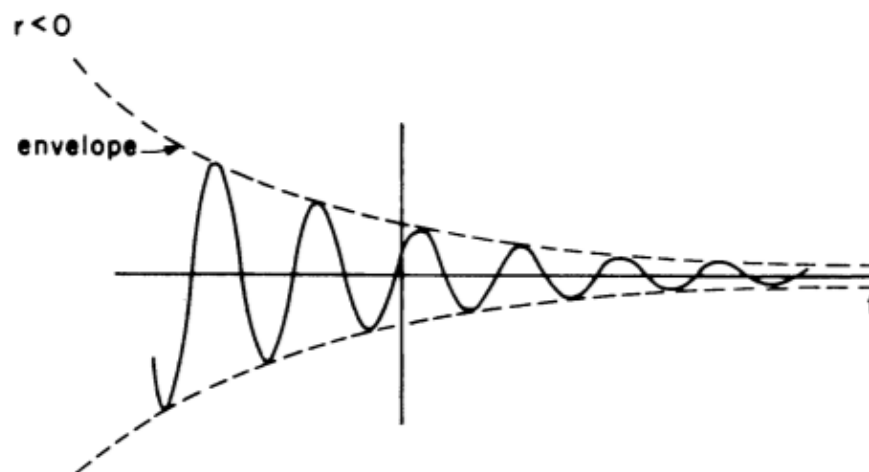
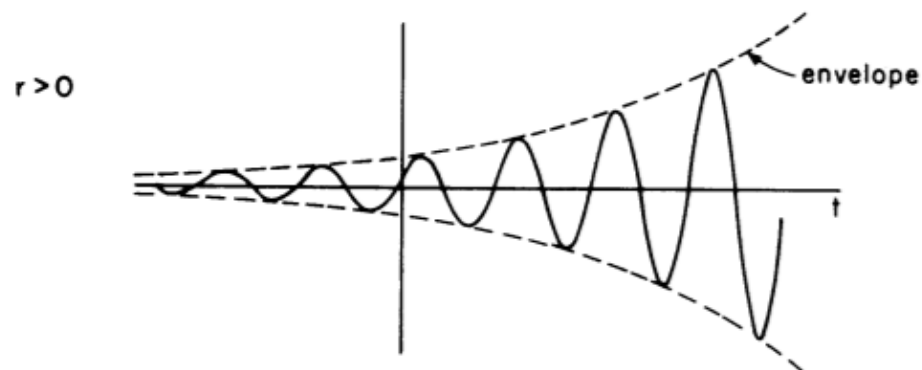
$$x(t) = |C| e^{j\theta} e^{(r + j\omega_0)t}$$

$$= |C| e^{rt} \underbrace{e^{j(\omega_0 t + \theta)}}_{\text{sinusoidal}}$$

$$\text{Euler's Relation: } \cos(\omega_0 t + \theta) + j \sin(\omega_0 t + \theta) = e^{j(\omega_0 t + \theta)}$$

$$x(t) = |C| e^{rt} \cos(\omega_0 t + \theta) + j |C| e^{rt} \sin(\omega_0 t + \theta)$$

# Elementary signals

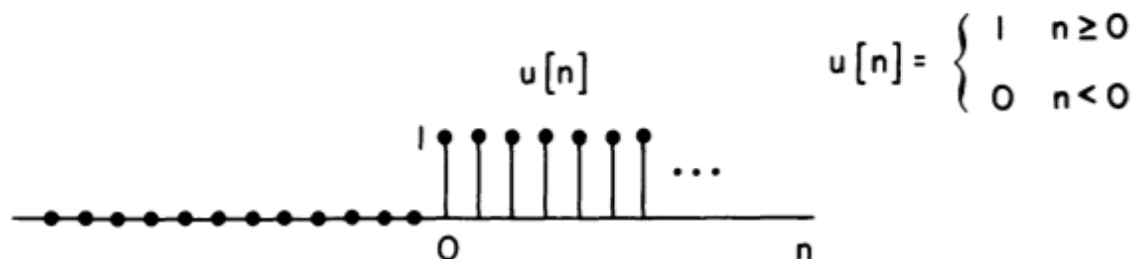


## TRANSPARENCY

2.17

Sinusoidal signals with exponentially growing and exponentially decaying envelopes.

## UNIT STEP FUNCTION: DISCRETE-TIME



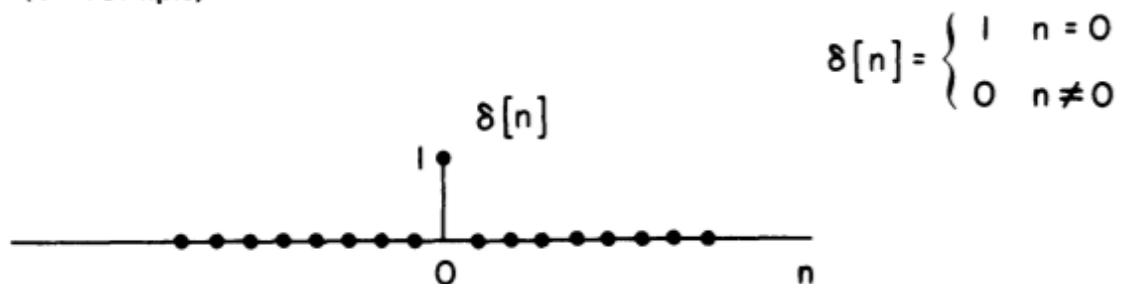
## TRANSPARENCY

### 3.1

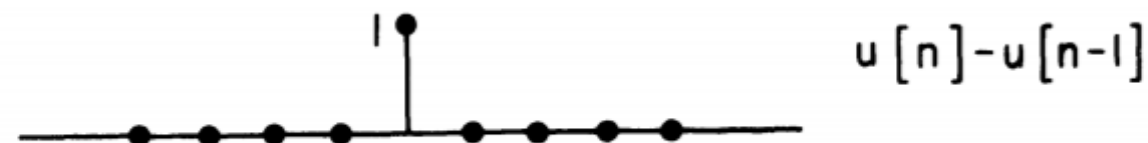
Discrete-time unit step and unit impulse sequences.

## UNIT IMPULSE FUNCTION: DISCRETE-TIME

(Unit Sample)



$$\delta[n] = u[n] - u[n-1]$$



## TRANSPARENCY

### 3.2

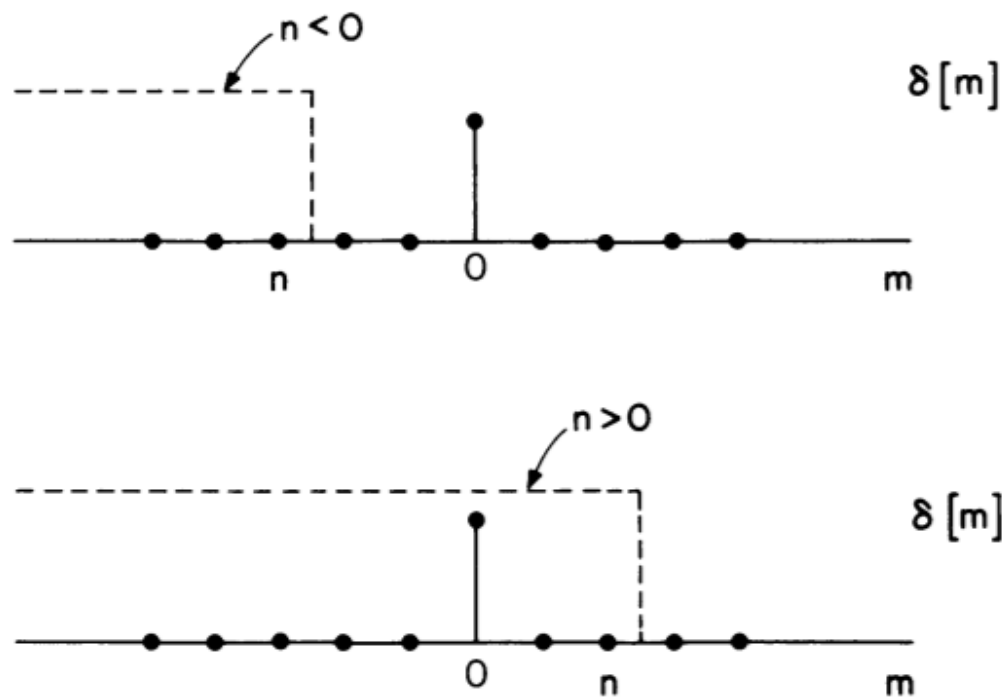
The unit impulse sequence as the first backward difference of the unit step sequence.

$$u[n] = \sum_{m=-\infty}^n \delta[m]$$

## TRANSPARENCY

### 3.3

The unit step sequence as the running sum of the unit impulse.

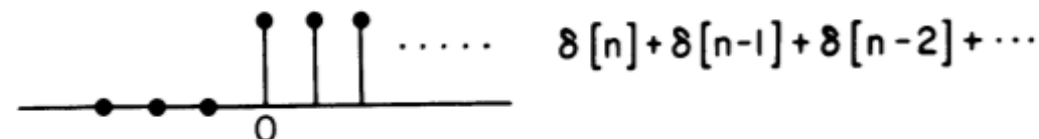
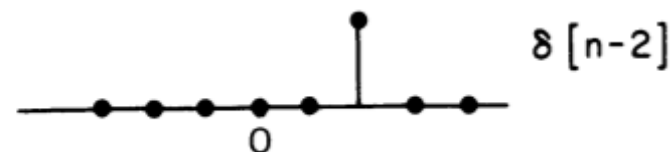
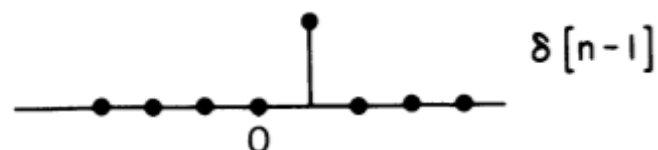
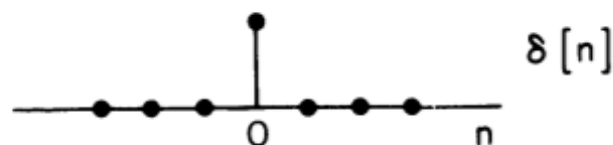


## TRANSPARENCY

### 3.4

The unit step sequence expressed as a superposition of delayed unit impulses.

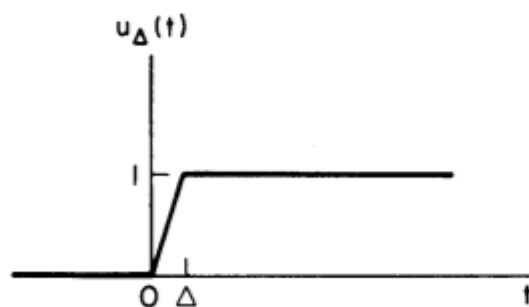
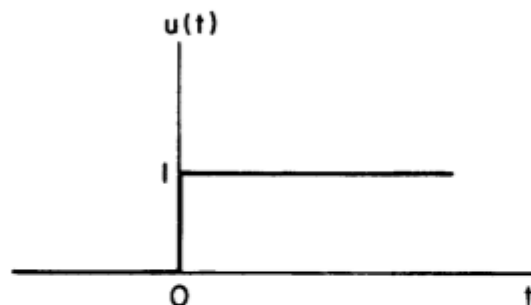
$$u[n] = \sum_{k=0}^{\infty} \delta[n-k]$$





## UNIT STEP FUNCTION : CONTINUOUS - TIME

$$u(t) = \begin{cases} 0 & t < 0 \\ 1 & t > 0 \end{cases}$$



$$u(t) = u_{\Delta}(t) \text{ as } \Delta \rightarrow 0$$

## TRANSPARENCY

3.5

The continuous-time unit step function.

## UNIT IMPULSE FUNCTION

$$\delta(t) = \frac{du(t)}{dt}$$

$$\delta_{\Delta}(t) = \frac{du_{\Delta}(t)}{dt}$$

$$\delta(t) = \delta_{\Delta}(t) \text{ as } \Delta \rightarrow 0$$

### TRANSPARENCY

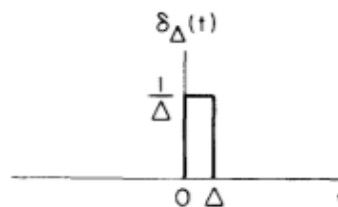
#### 3.6

The definition of the unit impulse as the derivative of the unit step.

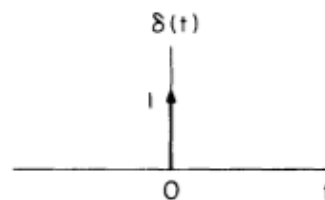
## TRANSPARENCY

### 3.7

Interpretation of the continuous-time unit impulse as the limiting form of a rectangular pulse which has unit area and for which the pulse width approaches zero.



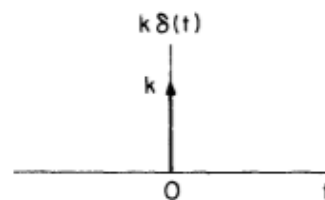
$$\text{area} = 1$$



$$\text{height} = \infty$$

$$\text{width} = 0$$

$$\text{area} = 1$$



## TRANSPARENCY

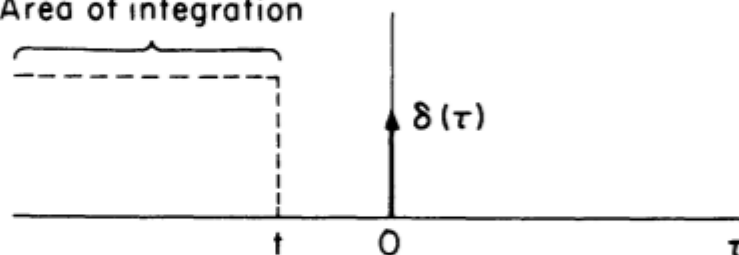
3.8

The unit step expressed as the running integral of the unit impulse.

$$\delta(t) = \frac{du(t)}{dt}$$

$$u(t) = \int_{-\infty}^t \delta(\tau) d\tau$$

Area of integration



Area of integration



# Summary

- ❖ Concept of signals
- ❖ Signal classification
- ❖ Signal operation
- ❖ Elementary signals

## Textbook Page 57

- 1.3
- 1.6
- 1.21

1.3. Determine the values of  $P_\infty$  and  $E_\infty$  for each of the following signals:

(a)  $x_1(t) = e^{-2t}u(t)$

(b)  $x_2(t) = e^{j(2t+\pi/4)}$

(c)  $x_3(t) = \cos(t)$

(d)  $x_1[n] = (\frac{1}{2})^n u[n]$

(e)  $x_2[n] = e^{j(\pi/2n+\pi/8)}$

(f)  $x_3[n] = \cos(\frac{\pi}{4}n)$

1.6. Determine whether or not each of the following signals is periodic:

(a)  $x_1(t) = 2e^{j(t+\pi/4)}u(t)$

(b)  $x_2[n] = u[n] + u[-n]$

(c)  $x_3[n] = \sum_{k=-\infty}^{\infty} \{\delta[n-4k] - \delta[n-1-4k]\}$

Determine if the following CT signals are even, odd, or neither even nor odd. In the latter case, evaluate and sketch the even and odd components of the CT signals:

(i)  $x_1(t) = 2 \sin(2\pi t)[2 + \cos(4\pi t)];$

(ii)  $x_2(t) = t^2 + \cos(3t);$

(iii)  $x_3(t) = \exp(-3t) \sin(3\pi t);$

(iv)  $x_4(t) = t \sin(5t);$

(v)  $x_5(t) = tu(t);$

(vi) 
$$x_6(t) = \begin{cases} 3t & 0 \leq t < 2 \\ 6 & 2 \leq t < 4 \\ 3(-t + 6) & 4 \leq t \leq 6 \\ 0 & \text{elsewhere.} \end{cases}$$