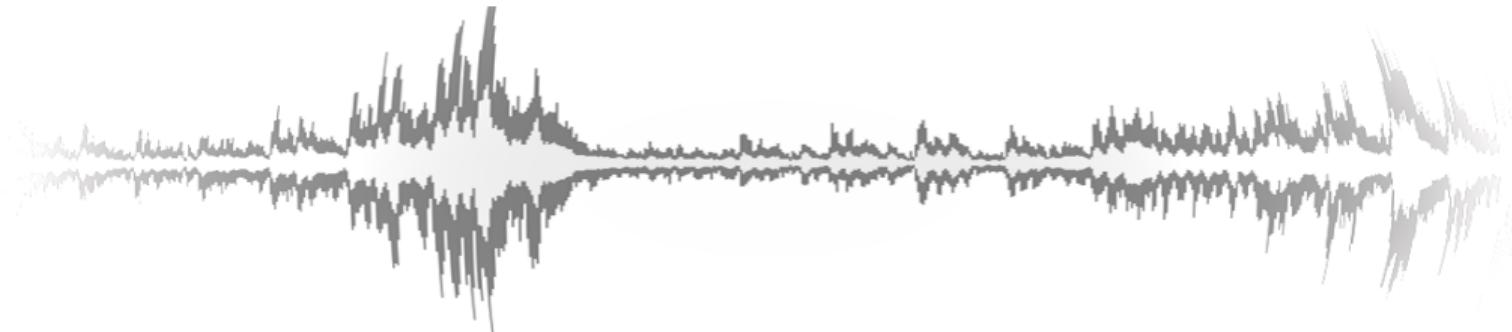


Digital Signal Processing for Music

Part 14: Improving (Re-)Quantization Quality

alexander lerch



introduction

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Quantization error properties are fixed, so there is no way of improving the quality. Is there??



introduction

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we will discuss three ways of “cheating” for better quality

- of quantization:
 - oversampling
 - noise-shaping
- of re-quantization/ word length reduction
 - dither
 - noise shaping

oversampling

introduction

- **oversampling:**

- ⇒ less steep anti-aliasing filters
- ⇒ ?

- remember **quantization error properties**

- ① white noise: flat spectrum
- ② noise power *sample rate independent*

$$\Rightarrow |Q(j\omega)|^2 \sim \frac{\Delta^2}{12 \cdot \omega_S}$$

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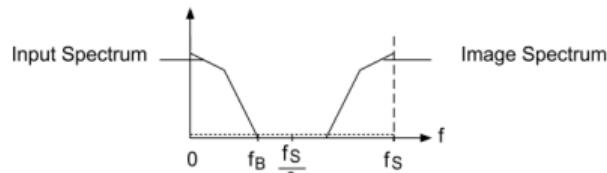
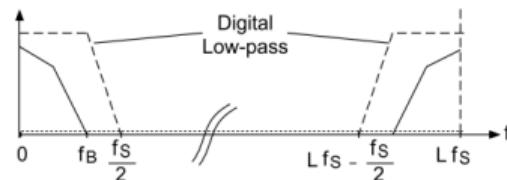
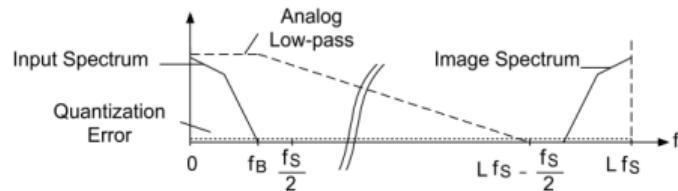
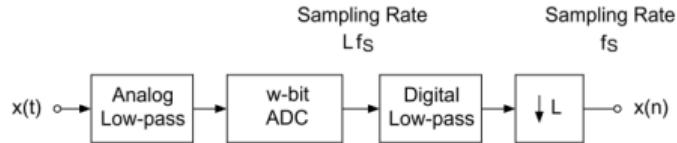
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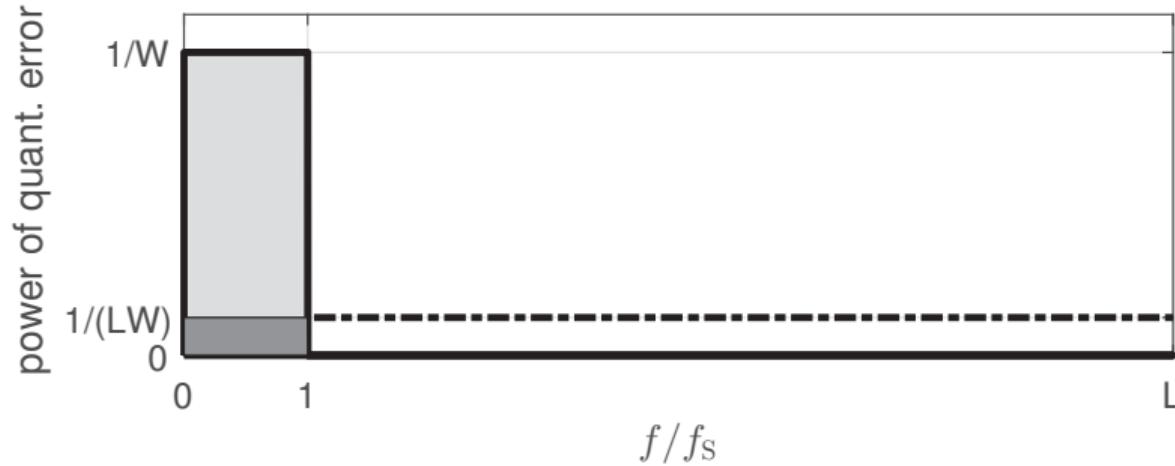
can oversampling take advantage of these properties to reduce quantization error power



oversampling visualization



oversampling visualization



oversampling

SNR gain

$$\begin{aligned}\omega_S^* &= L \cdot \omega_S \\ |Q(j\omega)|^2 &= \frac{\Delta^2}{12 \cdot \omega_S^*} \\ &= \frac{\Delta^2}{12 \cdot L \cdot \omega_S} \\ W_{Q,LP}^* &= \frac{\Delta^2}{12 \cdot L} \\ \Rightarrow & \\ SNR^* &= \end{aligned}$$

oversampling

SNR gain

$$\omega_S^* = L \cdot \omega_S$$

$$|Q(j\omega)|^2 = \frac{\Delta^2}{12 \cdot \omega_S^*}$$

$$= \frac{\Delta^2}{12 \cdot L \cdot \omega_S}$$

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⇒

$$SNR^* =$$

oversampling

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oversampling

summary

oversampling

$$SNR = 6.02 \cdot w + c_S + 10 \cdot \log_{10}(L) \quad [dB]$$

- every doubling of f_S adds app. 3 dB SNR



dither

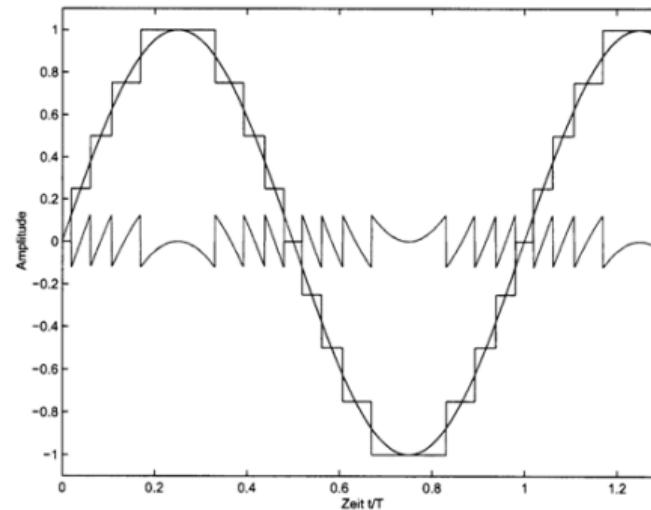
introduction 1/2

- previous assumption: **quantization error is white noise (rect)**
 - no correlation between signal and quantization error

dither

introduction 1/2

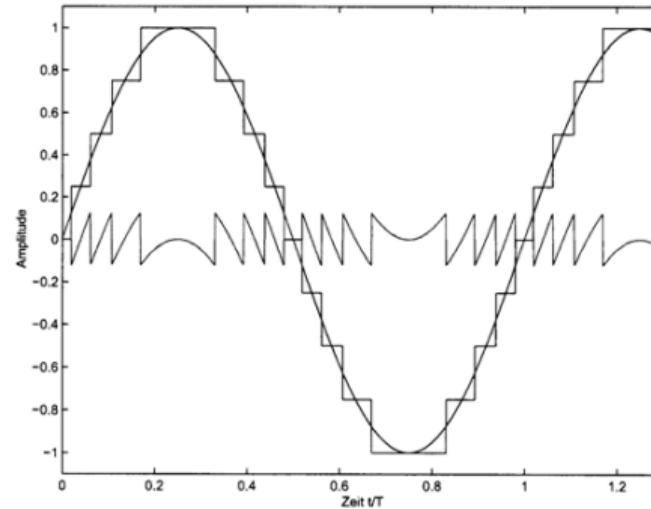
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 - low signal level
 - low signal frequency



dither

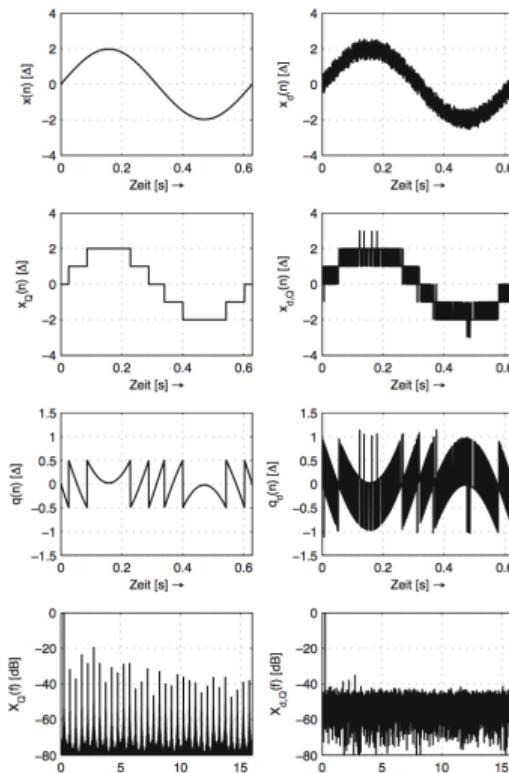
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- previous assumption: **quantization error is white noise** (rect)
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- solution:**
 - add noise before quantization: dither**

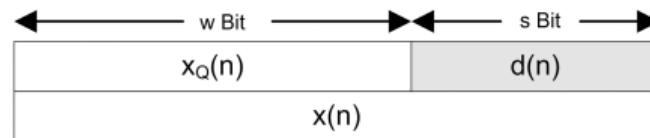
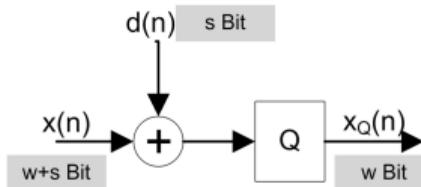


dither

introduction 2/2



dither process



dither

simple example

input signal: DC at $1.3 \cdot \Delta$

- **w/o dither:**

- output value: Δ
- *quantization error constant: $.3 \cdot \Delta$*

- **w/ dither ($-\Delta/2 \dots \Delta/2$):**

- signal is most frequently quantized to Δ ($p = 0.7$), but sometimes to $2 \cdot \Delta$ ($p = 0.3$)
 - *average output value: $1.3 \cdot \Delta$*
 - *quantization error varying between $0.3 \cdot \Delta$ and $0.7 \cdot \Delta$*

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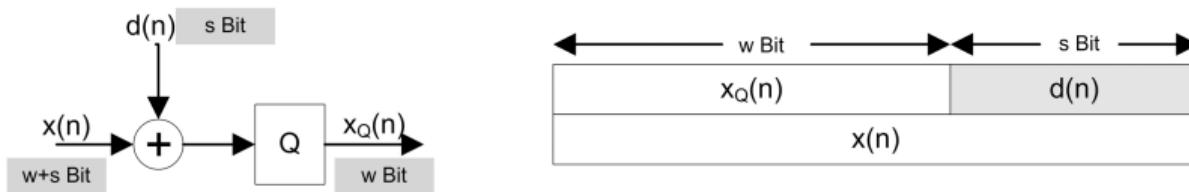
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dither properties



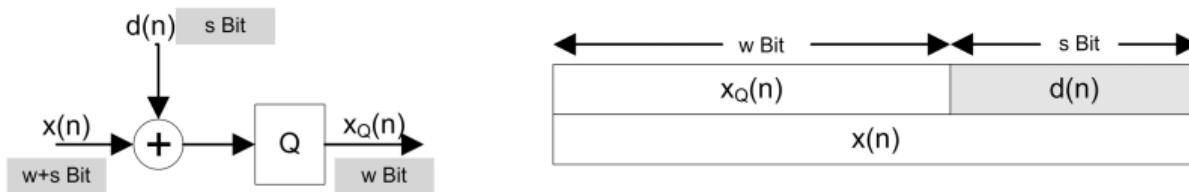
- dither: 2^s possible possible numbers
- in case of *uniform* dist \rightarrow

$$p_d(d_n) = \begin{cases} 2^{-s} & -2^{s-1} \leq n \leq 2^{s-1} - 1 \\ 0 & \text{else.} \end{cases}$$

- output (positive X)

$$x_Q(X + d_n) = \Delta \left\lfloor \frac{X + d_n}{\Delta} + 0.5 \right\rfloor$$

dither properties



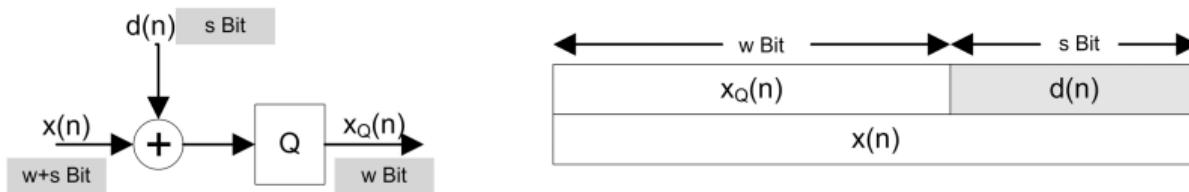
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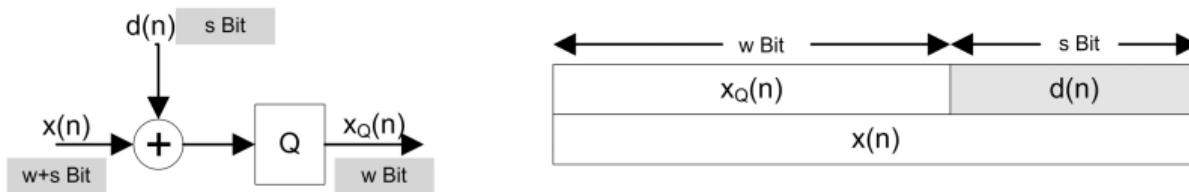
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dither

rectangular dither

dither with rect pdf, $-\Delta/2 \dots \Delta/2$, not quantized

$$x = 0 \cdot \Delta$$

$$\sigma_R(x) = \Delta \sqrt{(-0)^2 \cdot 1.0}$$

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$$\rightarrow \bar{x}_Q = 0.9\Delta,$$

$$= 0.3\Delta$$

$$\rightarrow \bar{x}_Q = 0,$$

dither

rectangular dither

dither with rect pdf, $-\Delta/2 \dots \Delta/2$, not quantized

$$x = 0 \cdot \Delta \rightarrow \bar{x}_Q = 0,$$

$$\sigma_R(x) = \Delta \sqrt{(-0)^2 \cdot 1.0} = 0.0\Delta$$

$$x = 0.1 \cdot \Delta \rightarrow \bar{x}_Q = 0.1\Delta,$$

$$\sigma_R(x) = \Delta \sqrt{(-0.1)^2 \cdot 0.9 + (0.9)^2 \cdot 0.1} = 0.3\Delta$$

$$x = 0.3 \cdot \Delta \rightarrow \bar{x}_Q = 0.3\Delta,$$

$$\sigma_R(x) = \Delta \sqrt{(-0.3)^2 \cdot 0.7 + (0.7)^2 \cdot 0.3} = 0.46\Delta$$

$$x = 0.5 \cdot \Delta \rightarrow \bar{x}_Q = 0.5\Delta,$$

$$\sigma_R(x) = \Delta \sqrt{(-0.5)^2 \cdot 0.5 + (0.5)^2 \cdot 0.5} = 0.5\Delta$$

$$x = 0.7 \cdot \Delta \rightarrow \bar{x}_Q = 0.7\Delta,$$

$$\sigma_R(x) = \Delta \sqrt{(-0.7)^2 \cdot 0.3 + (0.3)^2 \cdot 0.7} = 0.46\Delta$$

$$x = 0.9 \cdot \Delta \rightarrow \bar{x}_Q = 0.9\Delta,$$

$$\sigma_R(x) = \Delta \sqrt{(-0.9)^2 \cdot 0.1 + (0.1)^2 \cdot 0.9} = 0.3\Delta$$

$$x = 1 \cdot \Delta \rightarrow \bar{x}_Q = 0,$$

$$\sigma_R(x) = 0$$

dither

rectangular dither

dither with rect pdf, $-\Delta/2 \dots \Delta/2$, not quantized

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dither

rectangular dither

dither with rect pdf, $-\Delta/2 \dots \Delta/2$, not quantized

$$\begin{aligned}
 x &= 0 \cdot \Delta & \rightarrow \bar{x}_Q &= 0, \\
 \sigma_R(x) &= \Delta \sqrt{(-0)^2 \cdot 1.0} & &= 0.0\Delta \\
 x &= 0.1 \cdot \Delta & \rightarrow \bar{x}_Q &= 0.1\Delta, \\
 \sigma_R(x) &= \Delta \sqrt{(-0.1)^2 \cdot 0.9 + (0.9)^2 \cdot 0.1} & &= 0.3\Delta \\
 x &= 0.3 \cdot \Delta & \rightarrow \bar{x}_Q &= 0.3\Delta, \\
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 x &= 0.9 \cdot \Delta & \rightarrow \bar{x}_Q &= 0.9\Delta, \\
 \sigma_R(x) &= \Delta \sqrt{(-0.9)^2 \cdot 0.1 + (0.1)^2 \cdot 0.9} & &= 0.3\Delta \\
 x &= 1 \cdot \Delta & \rightarrow \bar{x}_Q &= 0, \\
 \sigma_R(x) &= 0
 \end{aligned}$$

dither

rectangular dither

dither with rect pdf, $-\Delta/2 \dots \Delta/2$, not quantized

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$$x = 1 \cdot \Delta \rightarrow \bar{x}_Q = 0,$$

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dither

triangular dither

dither with tri pdf, $-\Delta \dots \Delta$, not quantized

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$$\sigma_R(x) = 0.5\Delta$$

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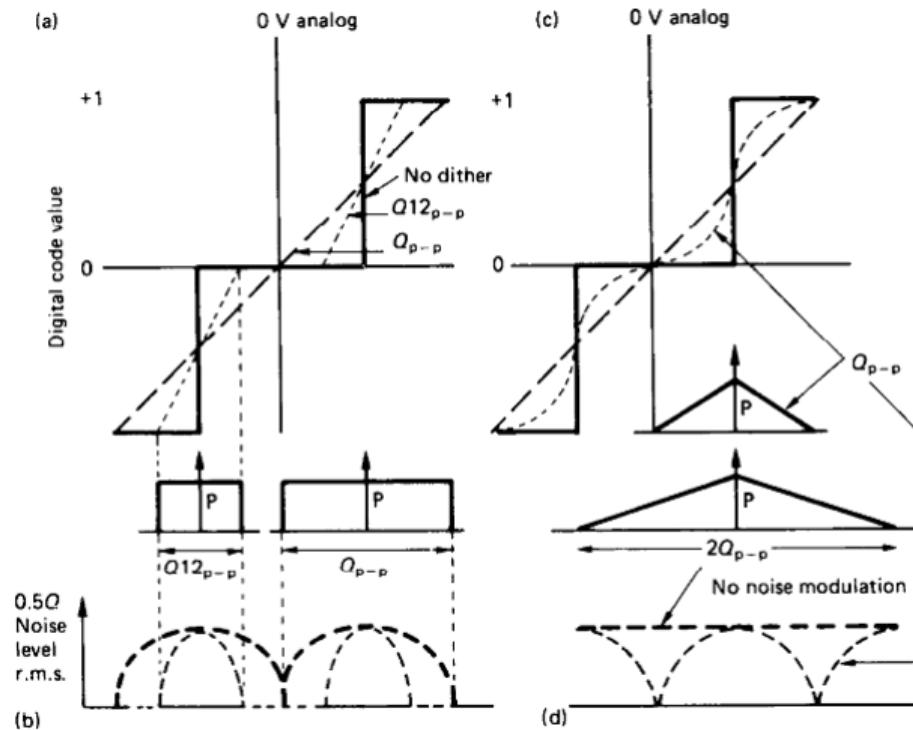
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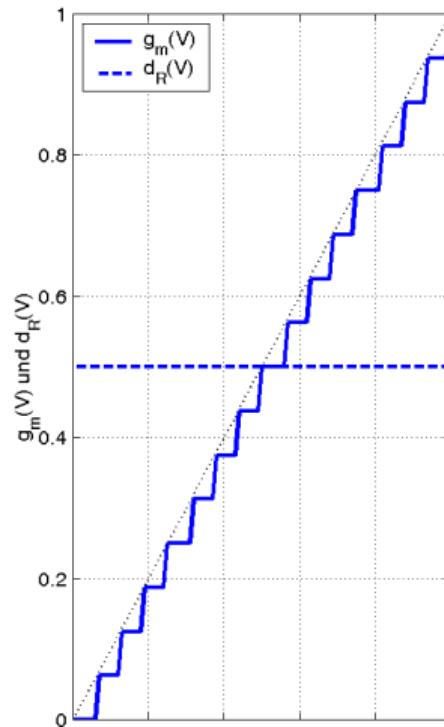
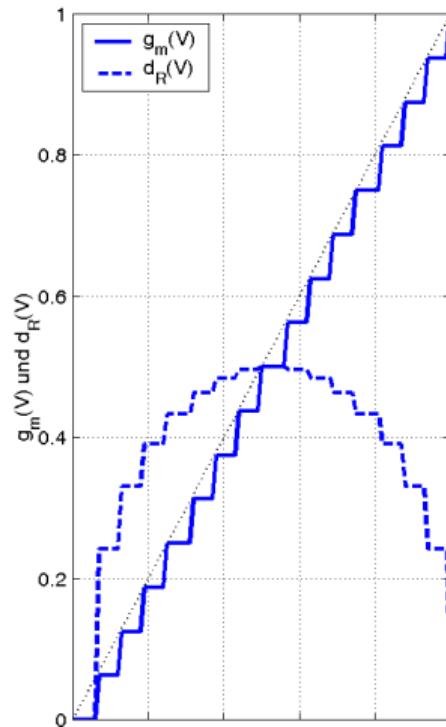
dither

linearization and noise modulation 1/2



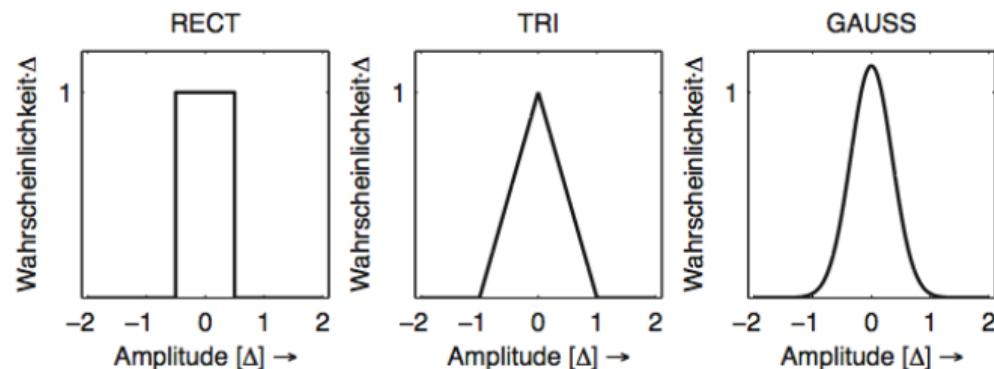
dither

linearization and noise modulation 2/2



dither

noise properties 1/3



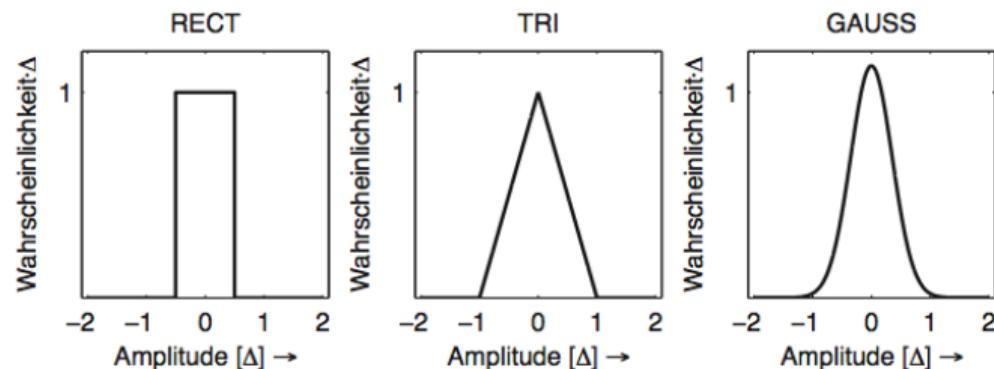
$$d_{\text{RECT}}(n) = d(n)$$

$$d_{\text{TRI}}(n) = d_{\text{RECT},1}(n) + d_{\text{RECT},2}(n)$$

$$d_{\text{HP}}(n) = d(n) - d(n-1)$$

dither

noise properties 1/3



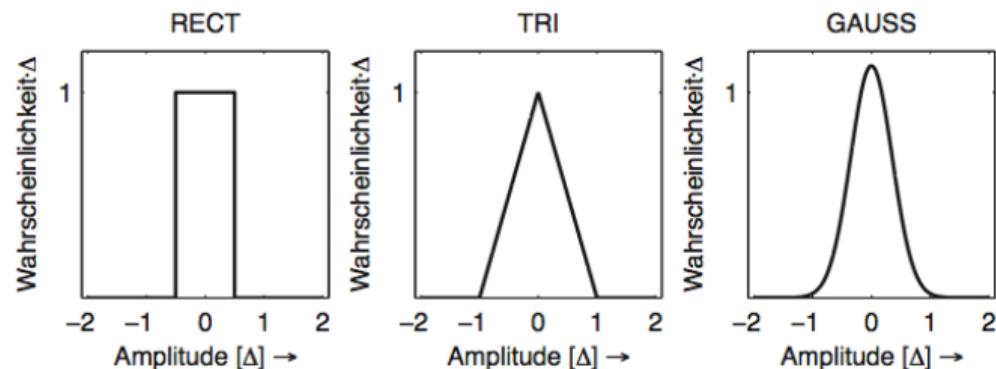
$$d_{\text{RECT}}(n) = d(n)$$

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dither

noise properties 1/3



$$d_{\text{RECT}}(n) = d(n)$$

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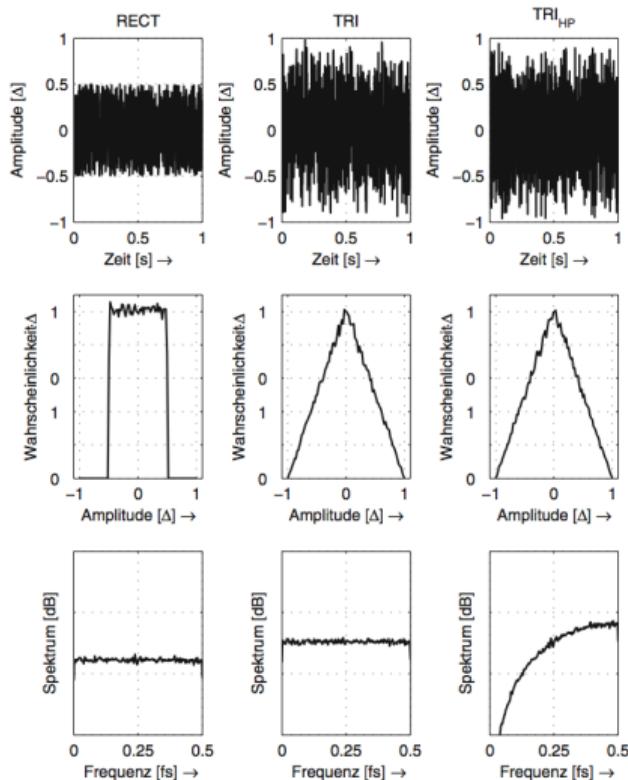
$$d_{\text{HP}}(n) = d(n) - d(n-1)$$

1

¹note that the gaussian shaped PDF is **not** related to d_{HP}

dither

noise properties 2/3



dither

noise properties 3/3

How does the SNR change by adding dither?



dither

noise properties 3/3



How does the SNR change by adding dither?

noise power of d_{RECT} & d_{TRI}

$$W_{\text{RECT}} = \frac{\Delta^2}{12}$$

$$W_{\text{TRI}} = \frac{\Delta^2}{6}$$

dither

noise properties 3/3



How does the SNR change by adding dither?

noise power of d_{RECT} & d_{TRI}

$$W_{\text{RECT}} = \frac{\Delta^2}{12}$$
$$W_{\text{TRI}} = \frac{\Delta^2}{6}$$

⇒ SNR of dithered full scale signal:

$$SNR_{\text{RECT}} = SNR_{\text{normal}} - 3.01 \text{ [dB]}$$

$$SNR_{\text{TRI}} = SNR_{\text{normal}} - 4.77 \text{ [dB]}$$

dither

audio examples

		sine	speech	music
		trunc		
8 bit		rect		
		tri		
		trunc		
4 bit		rect		
		tri		
		trunc		
2 bit		rect		
		tri		
		trihp		

noise shaping

Z-transform quick and dirty

Z	time
$X(z)$	\leftrightarrow $x(i)$
$X(z) \cdot z^{-k}$	\leftrightarrow $x(n - k)$

transfer function:

$$H(z) = \frac{out}{in} = \frac{Y(z)}{X(z)}$$

spectrum

$$H(j\Omega) = H(z|_{z=e^{j\Omega}})$$

noise shaping

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noise shaping

noise shaping introduction

idea:

- filter quantization error, shape its frequency response

- ⇒ move power to high frequencies
- ⇒ less recognizable in lower frequencies

noise shaping

noise shaping introduction

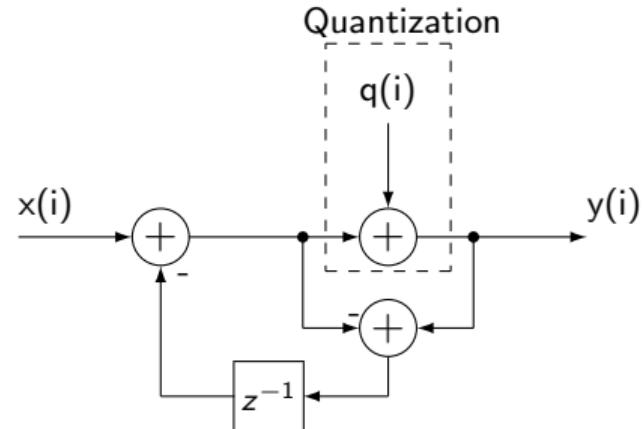
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noise shaping

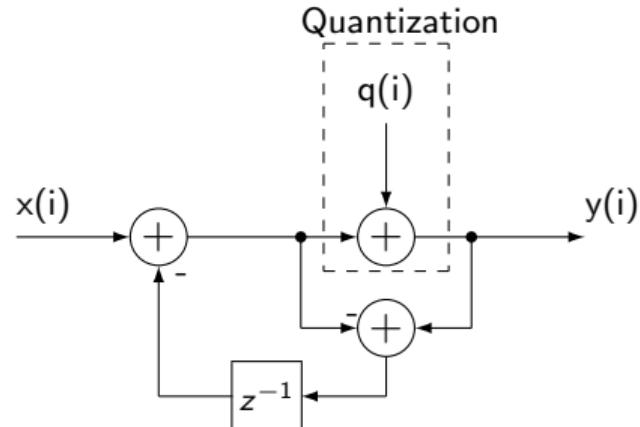
first order noise shaping 1/2



$$\begin{aligned} y(i) &= [x(i) - q(i-1)]_Q \\ &= x(i) - q(i-1) + q(i) \end{aligned}$$

noise shaping

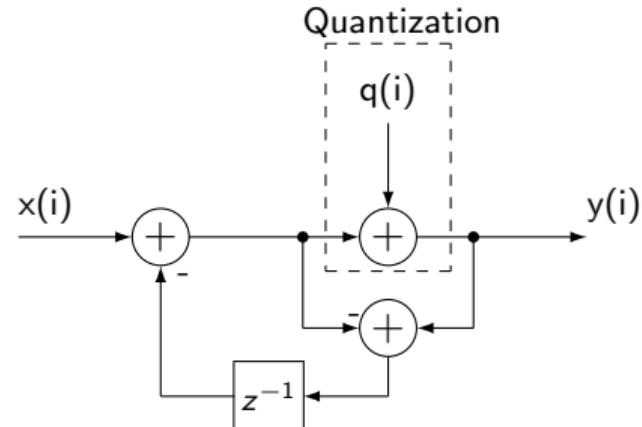
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noise shaping

first order noise shaping 1/2



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noise shaping

first order noise shaping 2/2

$$\begin{aligned}y(i) &= x(i) - q(i-1) + q(i) \\Y(z) &= X(z) - z^{-1} \cdot Q(z) + Q(z) \\&= X(z) + \underbrace{(1 - z^{-1})}_{H_Q(z)} \cdot Q(z)\end{aligned}$$

⇒

$$\begin{aligned}H_Q(z) &= 1 - z^{-1} \\|H_Q(j\Omega)| &= |1 - e^{-j\Omega}| \\&= 2 \cdot \left| \sin \left(\frac{\Omega}{2} \right) \right|\end{aligned}$$

noise shaping

first order noise shaping 2/2

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first order noise shaping 2/2

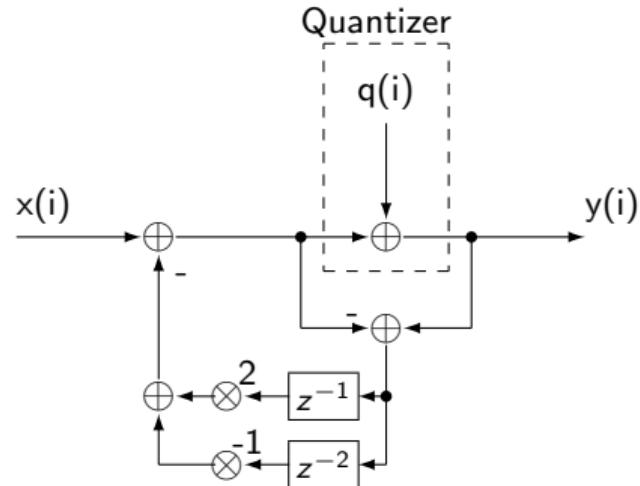
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noise shaping

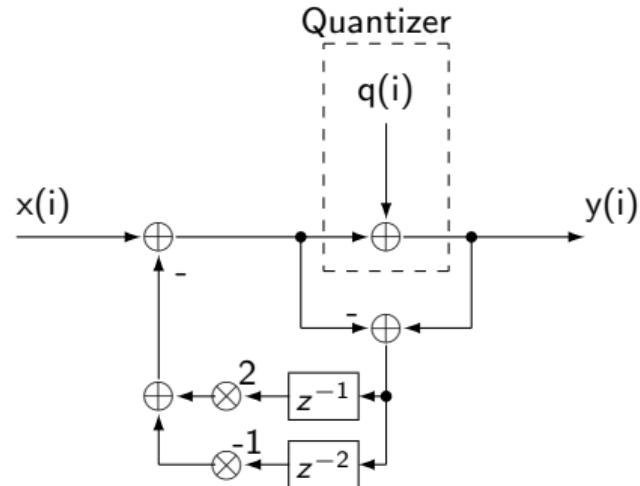
second order noise shaping 1/2



$$\begin{aligned}y(i) &= [x(i) - 2 \cdot q(i-1) + q(i-2)]_Q \\&= x(i) - 2 \cdot q(i-1) + q(i-2) + q(i)\end{aligned}$$

noise shaping

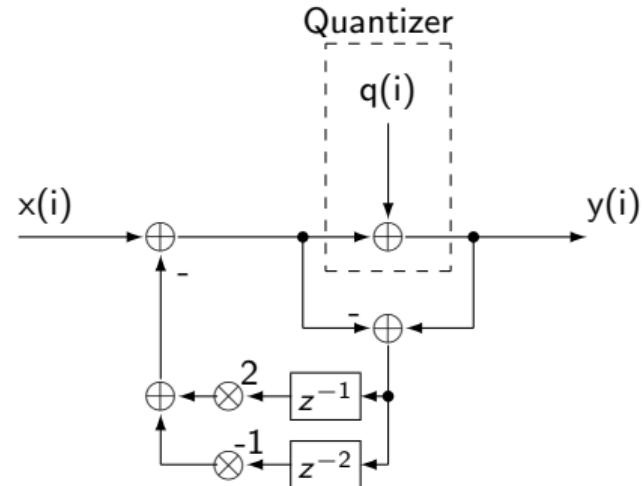
second order noise shaping 1/2



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noise shaping

second order noise shaping 2/2

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without derivation: nth order noise shaping

$$\begin{aligned}Y(z) &= X(z) + (1 - z^{-1})^n \cdot Q(z) \\&\Rightarrow \\H_Q(z) &= (1 - z^{-1})^n\end{aligned}$$

noise shaping

second order noise shaping 2/2

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noise shaping

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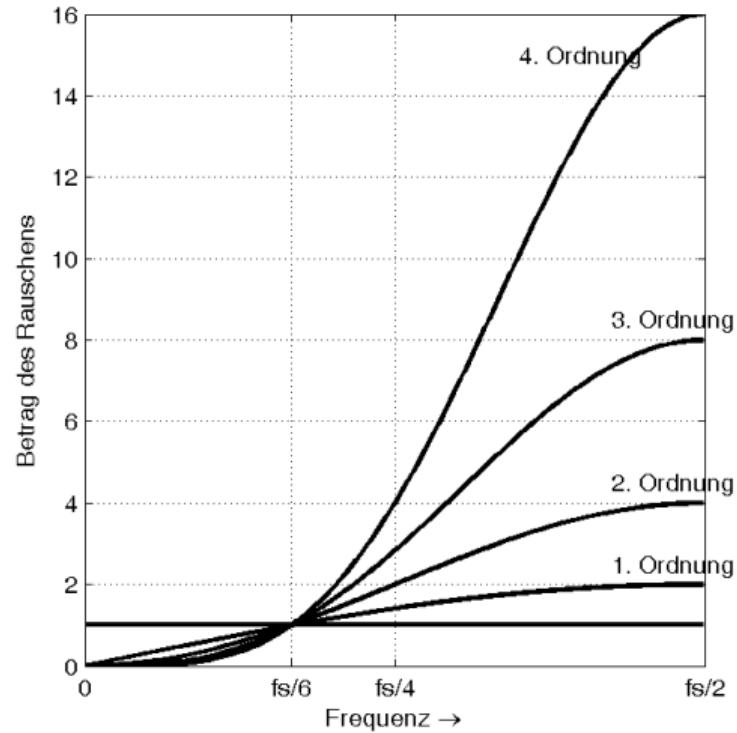
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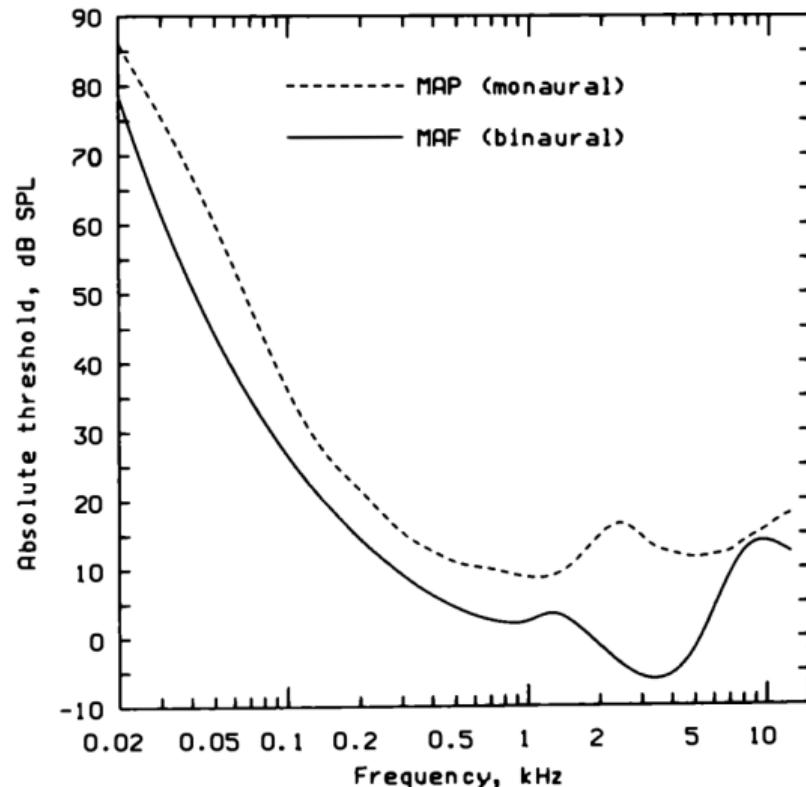
noise shaping

higher order noise shaping



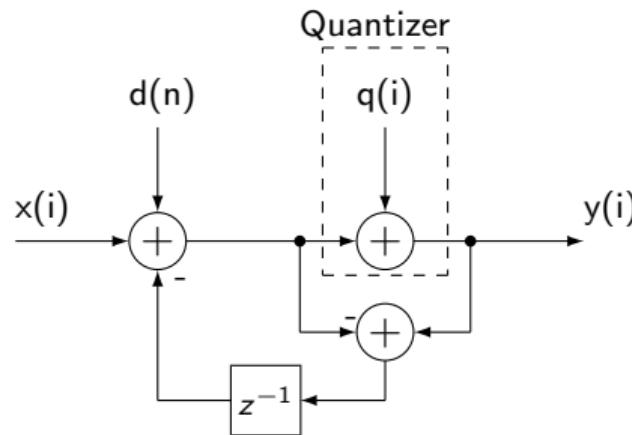
noise shaping

arbitrary noise shaping transfer functions

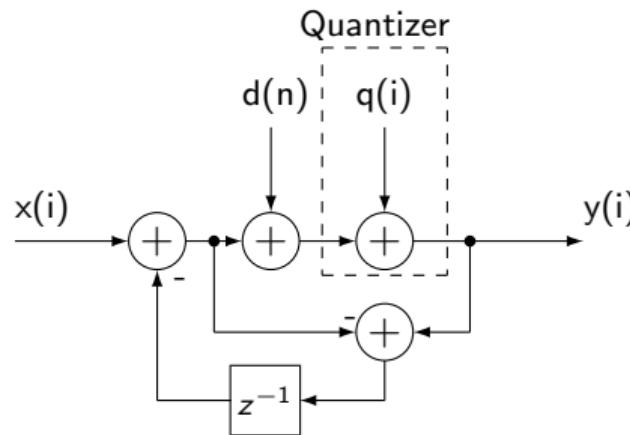


noise shaping

dither & noise shaping 1/3



System A



System B

noise shaping

dither & noise shaping 2/3

System A

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noise shaping

dither & noise shaping 2/3

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noise shaping

dither & noise shaping 3/3

System B

$$\begin{aligned}y(i) &= [x(i) + d(n) - q(i-1) - d(n-1)]_Q \\&= x(i) - q(i-1) + q(i) - d(n-1) + d(n)\end{aligned}$$

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noise shaping

dither & noise shaping 3/3

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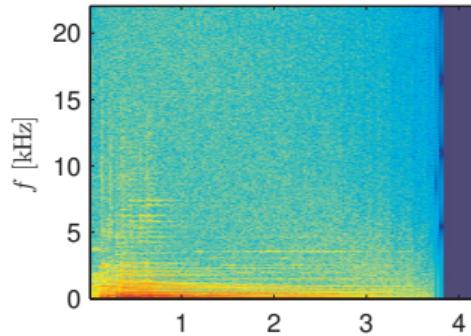
noise shaping audio examples

- 16 bit: 
- 8 bit: 
- 8 bit dither: 
- 8 bit standard noise shaping: 
- 8 bit powerful noise shaping: 

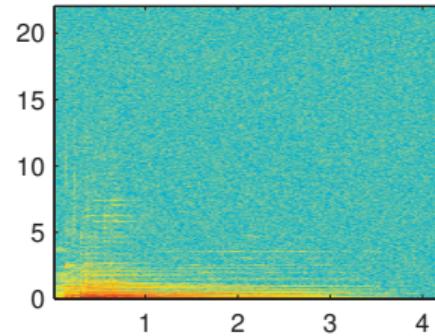
noise shaping

noise shaping spectrograms

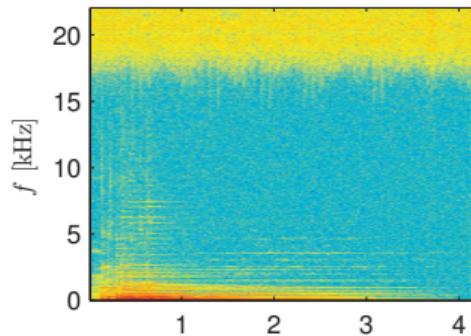
Trunc



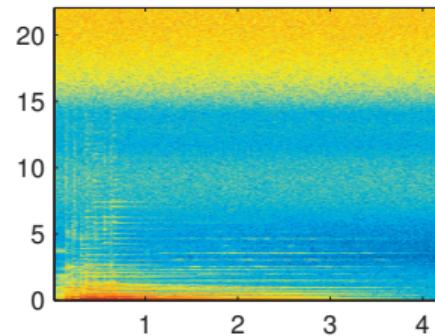
Dither



UV22



POW-R



summary

quantization: summary

three ways of improving the (re-)quantization error

● oversampling

- reduces quantization error power in the audible band
- *process:* oversampling → filtering → downsampling

● dither

- reduces correlation of error and signal for low amplitude signals
- increases the power of the quantization error slightly
- *process:* add triangular shaped low-level noise before word-length reduction

● noise-shaping

- reduces the audibility of the quantization error by shifting it to high frequencies
- works best at high sample rates
- *process:* feedback the quantization error

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