

# THE RESILIENCE AND ROBUSTNESS (AND HOPEFULLY RESPONSIBILITY) OF LINEAR ALGEBRA

## LECTURE 1

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7. [6 points] Write at least one complete sentence about the most interesting thing you learned this semester.

The most interesting thing I learned was nothing. This class was boring.

The following problem is from Tablet VAT 8389, from the Old Babylonian period, 2000–1600 BCE, as translated into English (Høyrup 2002):

*The total area of two fields is 1800 sar [unit of area], the rent for one is 2 silà [unit of volume] of grain per 3 sar, for the other is 1 silà per 2 sar, and the total rent on the first exceeds that on the other by 500 silà.*

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This is a system of linear equations.

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Gauss was far from the first European to use the method.

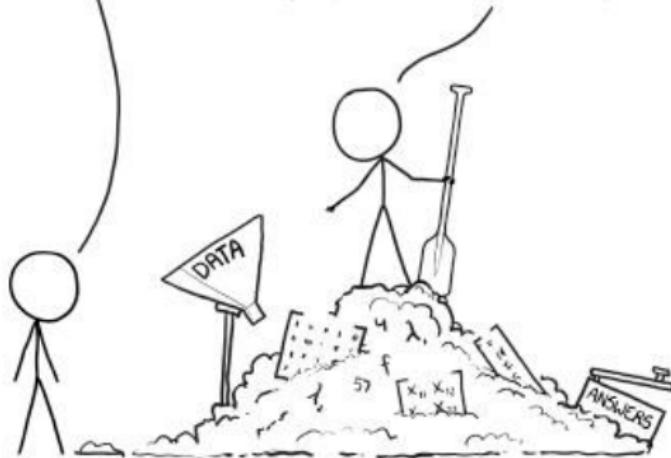
So, it is very much a misnomer to call it “Gaussian elimination.”

THIS IS YOUR MACHINE LEARNING SYSTEM?

YUP! YOU POUR THE DATA INTO THIS BIG  
PILE OF LINEAR ALGEBRA, THEN COLLECT  
THE ANSWERS ON THE OTHER SIDE.

WHAT IF THE ANSWERS ARE WRONG?

JUST STIR THE PILE UNTIL  
THEY START LOOKING RIGHT.



Source: <https://xkcd.com/1838/>

Linear algebra:

so **robust**,

so **resilient**.

# COURSE OUTLINE

- ▶ **Lecture 1**
  - ▶ Signals and vector spaces
  - ▶ Linear combinations
- ▶ **Lecture 2**
  - ▶ Inner product
  - ▶ Inner product as similarity
  - ▶ Moving average
  - ▶ Convolution and cross correlation
  - ▶ 2D convolution and cross correlation
- ▶ **Lecture 3**
  - ▶ Cosine similarity
  - ▶ Projection
  - ▶ Change of basis
  - ▶ Graph theory
- ▶ **Lecture 4**
  - ▶ Eigenvalues and eigenvectors
  - ▶ Principal component analysis
  - ▶ Responsibility vignette

# LECTURE OUTLINE

SIGNALS AND VECTOR SPACES

LINEAR COMBINATIONS

What is a vector?

In physics, one might think of an arrow that has a magnitude and direction.

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- ▶ the amount of red, green, and blue in a color pixel,
- ▶ a digital song, etc.

$\mathbb{R}^d$

Mathematicians label the ordered lists of  $d$  (real) numbers  $\mathbb{R}^d$ .

Written as columns and using **set builder notation**, we have

$$\mathbb{R}^d = \left\{ \begin{pmatrix} x_1 \\ x_2 \\ \vdots \\ x_d \end{pmatrix} \mid x_1, x_2, \dots, x_d \in \mathbb{R} \right\}.$$

# OPERATIONS ON $\mathbb{R}^d$

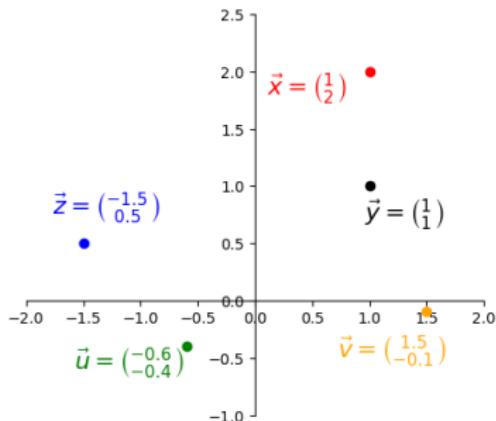
Two operations that mathematicians like to do to  $\mathbb{R}^d$  are  
**scalar multiplication** and **vector addition**:

for  $a \in \mathbb{R}$  and  $\vec{x}, \vec{y} \in \mathbb{R}^d$

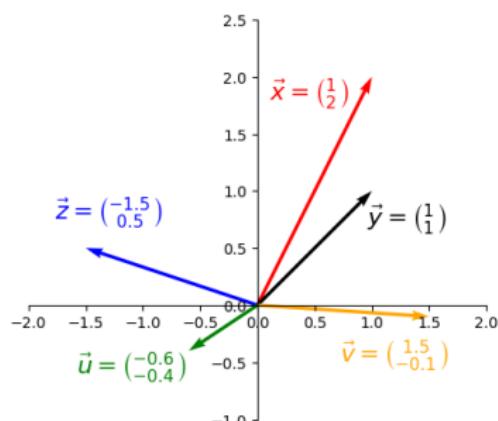
$$a \begin{pmatrix} x_1 \\ x_2 \\ \vdots \\ x_d \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} ax_1 \\ ax_2 \\ \vdots \\ ax_d \end{pmatrix} \quad \begin{pmatrix} x_1 \\ x_2 \\ \vdots \\ x_d \end{pmatrix} + \begin{pmatrix} y_1 \\ y_2 \\ \vdots \\ y_d \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} x_1 + y_1 \\ x_2 + y_2 \\ \vdots \\ x_d + y_d \end{pmatrix}.$$

These seemingly simple operations actually wield a lot of power.

# DRAWING VECTORS IN $\mathbb{R}^2$ AS POINTS AND ARROWS

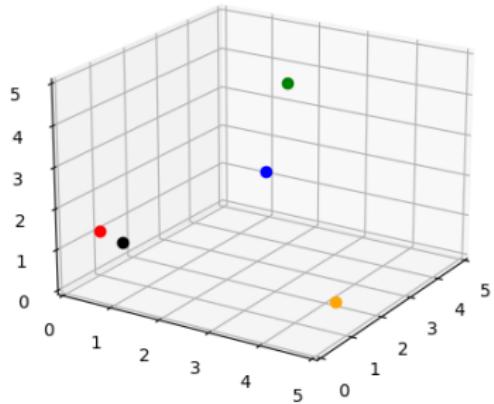


Vectors as points.

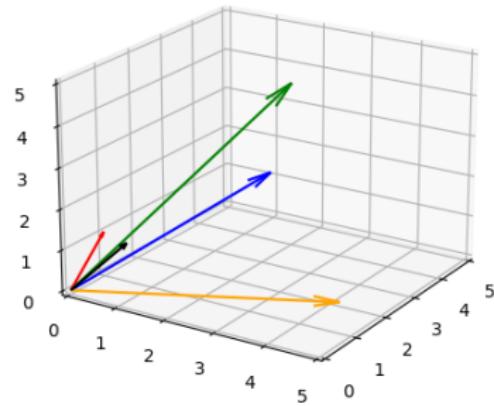


Vectors as arrows.

# DRAWING VECTORS IN $\mathbb{R}^3$ AS POINTS AND ARROWS



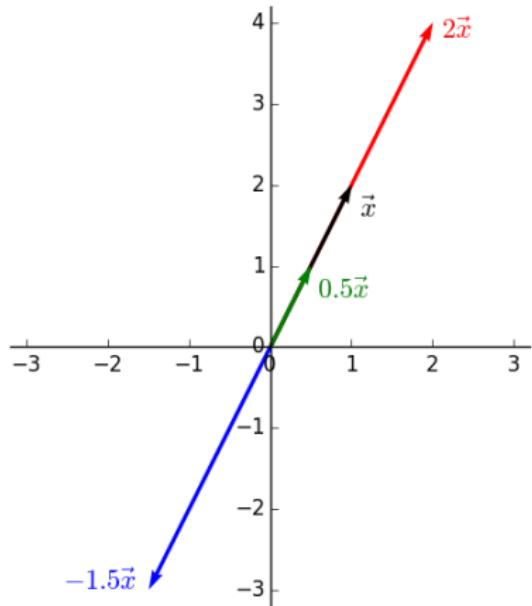
Vectors as points.



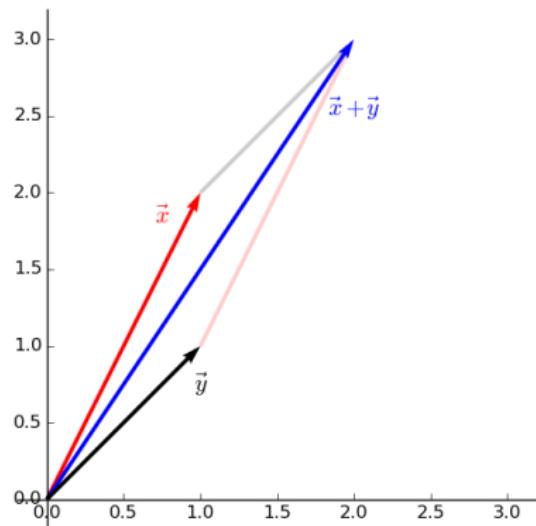
Vectors as arrows.

# ARROWS AND SCALING

$$\vec{x} = \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 2 \end{pmatrix} \quad 0.5\vec{x} = \begin{pmatrix} 0.5 \\ 1 \end{pmatrix} \quad 2\vec{x} = \begin{pmatrix} 2 \\ 4 \end{pmatrix} \quad -1.5\vec{x} = \begin{pmatrix} -1.5 \\ -3 \end{pmatrix}$$

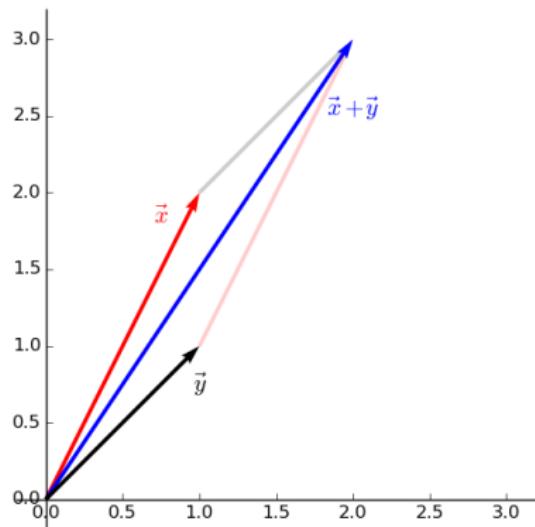


# ARROWS AND ADDING



$$\begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 2 \end{pmatrix} + \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 1 \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} 1+1 \\ 2+1 \end{pmatrix}.$$

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I.e., tip-to-tail

(Switch to Matlab)

# WHAT IS A VECTOR?

The mathematically rigorous answer is to first define a **vector space** and then define **vectors** as elements of a vector space.

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A set  $V$  with **linear** operators

- ▶ for  $\vec{u}, \vec{v} \in V$ ,  $\vec{u} + \vec{v} \in V$
- ▶ for  $s \in \mathbb{R}$  and  $\vec{v} \in V$ ,  $s\vec{v} \in V$ .

is called a **(real)<sup>1</sup> vector space** if it also follows all of the axioms on the next slide.

---

<sup>1</sup>replacing  $\mathbb{R}$  some other field like  $\mathbb{C}$  or  $\mathbb{F}_q$  also yields a vector space

## REQUIREMENTS (“AXIOMS”)

$$s(\vec{u} + \vec{v}) = s\vec{u} + s\vec{v} \quad (s + t)\vec{u} = s\vec{u} + t\vec{u} \quad (\text{Distributive})$$

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 (Associative)

$$\vec{u} + \vec{v} = \vec{v} + \vec{u}$$

(Commutative)

# MATRICES

An  $(m \times n)$ -matrix of numbers is a table

$$\mathbf{M} = \begin{pmatrix} M_{1,1} & M_{1,2} & \dots & M_{1,n} \\ M_{2,1} & M_{2,2} & \dots & M_{2,n} \\ \vdots & \vdots & \ddots & \vdots \\ M_{m,1} & M_{m,2} & \dots & M_{m,n} \end{pmatrix}$$

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Matrices require:

number of rows  $\times$  number of columns.

(Mnemonic device to remember: ROW $\ell$  COL “roll coll”)

## VECTOR OPERATIONS ON MATRICES

Scalar multiplication of a matrix involves multiplying each entry of the matrix by the given scalar.

$$-2 \begin{pmatrix} 3.6 & 2 & 1.1 \\ 0 & 0 & -0.3 \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} -7.2 & -4 & -2.2 \\ 0 & 0 & 0.6 \end{pmatrix}$$

Addition of two matrices (of the same size) involves adding each corresponding pair of entries.

$$\begin{pmatrix} 3.6 & 2 & 1.1 \\ 0 & 0 & -0.3 \end{pmatrix} + \begin{pmatrix} -0.2 & 0 & 3.4 \\ -1 & 1 & 0 \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} 3.4 & 2 & 4.5 \\ -1 & 1 & -0.3 \end{pmatrix}$$

# IMAGES AS MATRICES



Above is an **800 × 850** matrix of numbers between **0** and **255**.

- ▶ **0** appears as black.
- ▶ **255** appears as white.
- ▶ Values between **0** and **255** are used for grays.

## WARNING:

Since the kinds of things we like to do to digital images are typically “vector-y”

(i.e., “linear things” like scalar multiplication and component-wise addition)

and not “matrix-y”

(i.e., “bilinear things”),

some people get angry if digital images are called “matrices.”

(Switch to Matlab)

A **tensor** is a collection  $\Gamma$  of data indexed by  $\ell$  numbers:

$$1 \leq i_1 \leq d_1, \quad \dots, \quad 1 \leq i_\ell \leq d_\ell$$

.

The **valence** is the number  $\ell$ , i.e., the number of indices.

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To be really mathematically correct, a tensor also requires associated **multilinear** operations.

An  $m \times n$  matrix is a tensor of valence **2** with dimensions  $m$  and  $n$ .

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Sometimes in data science, people use these facts to sound cooler.

# RGB

One common way to encode color is with **RGB** (red-green-blue), a triple of numbers, either between **0** and **255** or **0** and **1**.

The first number tells “how much” red, the second green, the third blue.

All being **255** (or **1**) yields white.

All being **0** yields black.

# IMAGES AS TENSORS<sup>2</sup>



Recall a color pixel in RGB is  
 $\vec{p} = (r, g, b)$ .

Put colors in a grid and you get  
a rectangular picture.

So in total

row  $\times$  column  $\times$  color

A color image is a tensor.

---

<sup>2</sup>same warning as before

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Any single vector addition

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Adding different amounts of static to the grayscale image

Creating a grayscale image from color channels

Any single vector addition

Any scalar multiplication

# GETTING MATHY

Let  $V$  be a vector space.

A **linear combination** of vectors  $\vec{v}_1, \dots, \vec{v}_n \in V$  is

$$s_1\vec{v}_1 + \dots + s_n\vec{v}_n = \sum_{i=1}^n s_i\vec{v}_i$$

for some choice of scalars  $s_1, \dots, s_n \in \mathbb{R}$ .

Representing data as linear combinations of special vectors can be very informative.

The upper left pixel of Pete Dog has the values **120, 101, 68**.

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We can think of this is a linear combination of

$$\begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 0 \\ 0 \end{pmatrix} \text{ pure red}, \quad \begin{pmatrix} 0 \\ 1 \\ 0 \end{pmatrix} \text{ pure green}, \quad \text{and} \quad \begin{pmatrix} 0 \\ 0 \\ 1 \end{pmatrix} \text{ pure blue},$$

where the coefficient of the first vector tells us **how much** red is at the location (i.e., **120/255**),

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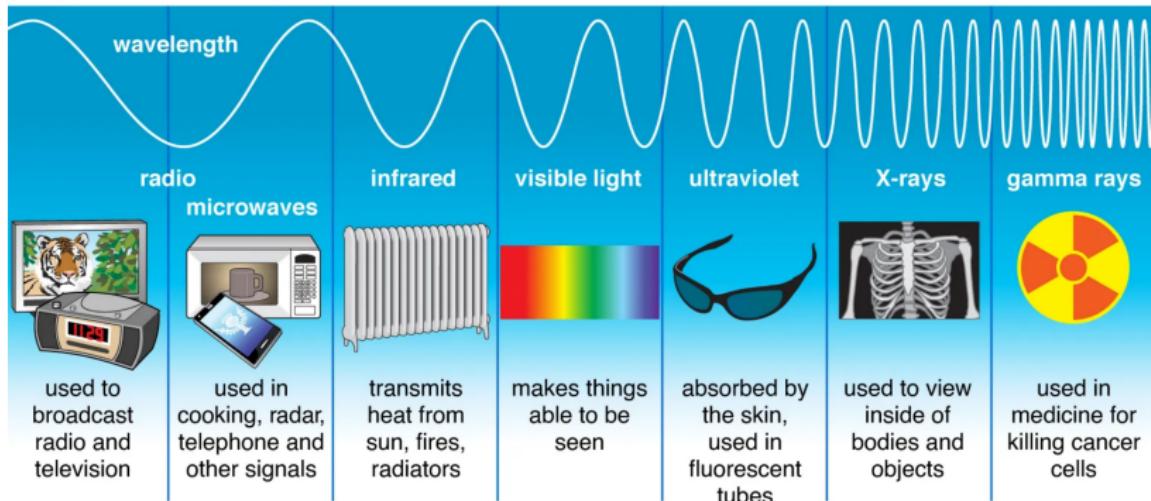
where the coefficient of the first vector tells us **how much** red is at the location (i.e., **120/255**),

the coefficient of the second vector tells us how much green is at the location (**101/255**), and

the last coefficient tells us how much blue is there (**68/255**).

# ELECTROMAGNETIC SPECTRUM

## Types of Electromagnetic Radiation



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Image source:

<https://www.britannica.com/science/electromagnetic-spectrum>

## MULTI- AND HYPERSPECTRAL IMAGING

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Full color image: **3 wavelength bands** measured per location

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Hyperspectral image:  $\approx 100+$  wavelength bands measured per location

## MULTI- AND HYPERSPECTRAL IMAGING

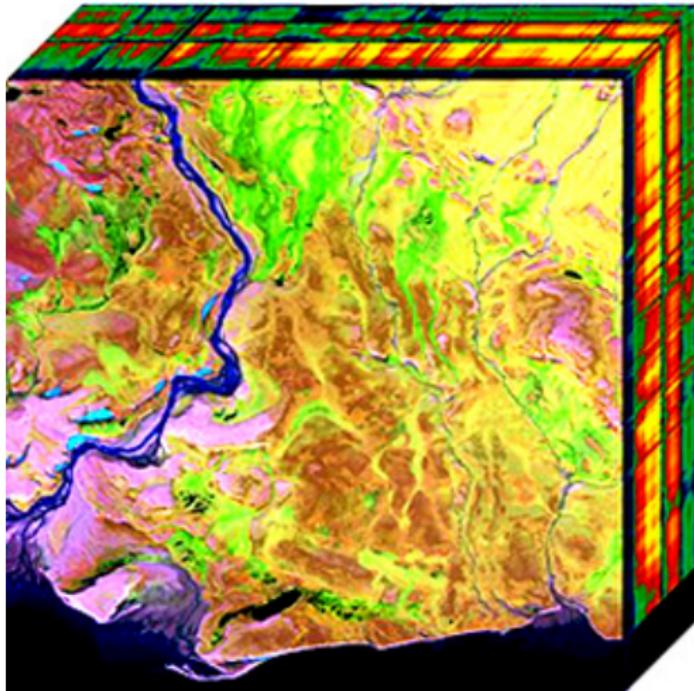
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Full color image: **3 wavelength bands** measured per location

Multispectral image:  $\approx 3 - 10$  wavelength bands measured per location

Hyperspectral image:  $\approx 100+$  wavelength bands measured per location

Each results in an  $m \times n \times w$  tensor, where  
 $m$  and  $n$  are the number of rows and columns in each slice  
(i.e., representing the geographical location of the data reading)  
and  $w$  is the number of wavelength bands measured.

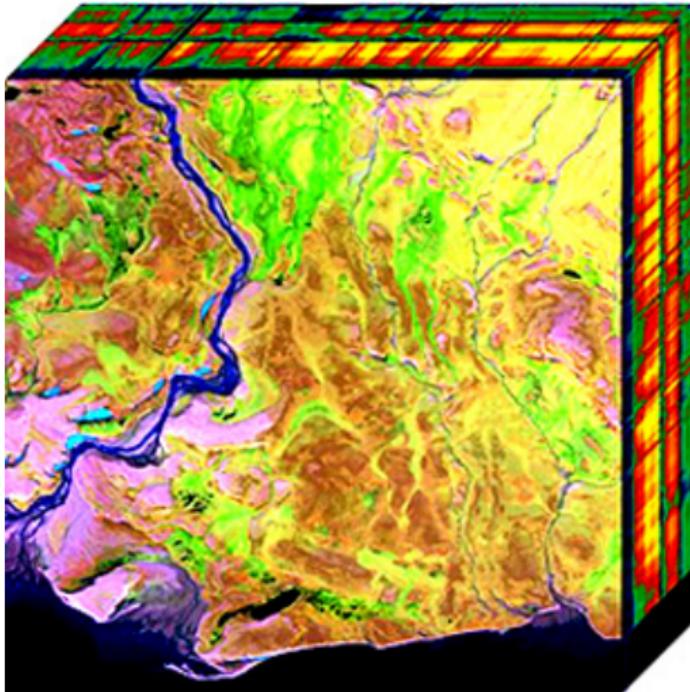


Hyperspectral data cube with  $w = 700$ . Dr. Nicholas M. Short, Sr., NASA  
<https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:HyperspectralCube.jpg>



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This is known as **false color**, where color is added to aid human visualization of data not representing the visible spectrum.



Hyperspectral data cube with  $w = 700$ . Dr. Nicholas M. Short, Sr., NASA  
<https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:HyperspectralCube.jpg>

Each location is represented by a vector with  $w$  entries (here **700**) called a **voxel** or **hypervoxel**.

Typically, the linear information we seek from a **hyperspectral data cube** comes from linear operations on the voxels.

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e.g., how much is in some narrow band of near infrared or ultraviolet, etc.

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However, the power comes from representing each voxel as a linear combination of a different set of vectors than the ones with one **1** and six hundred ninety nine **0**'s.

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Now imagine you have a similar vector  $\vec{y}$  representing pure pavement and another  $\vec{z}$  representing soil.

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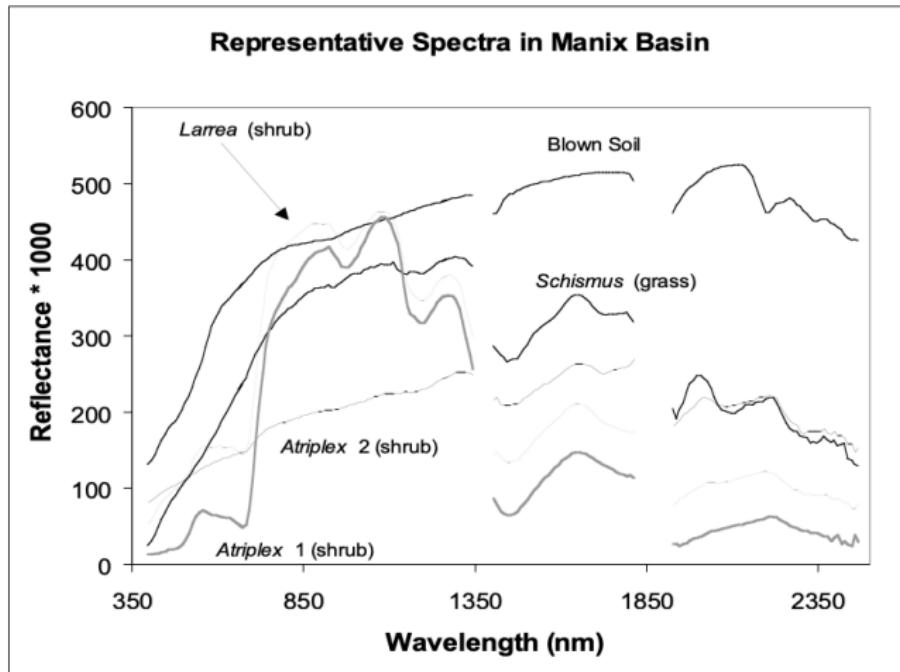
Now imagine you have a similar vector  $\vec{y}$  representing pure pavement and another  $\vec{z}$  representing soil.

If a voxel can be written as a linear combination like

$$0.7\vec{x} + 0.1\vec{y} + 0.2\vec{z},$$

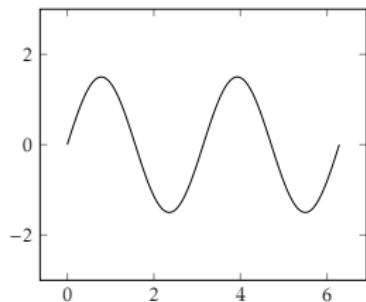
then you might assume that location has a lot of grass, a bit of pavement, and some soil, maybe a patch of grass with a curb at the edge.

Typically, the endmembers are more specific than just “grass.”

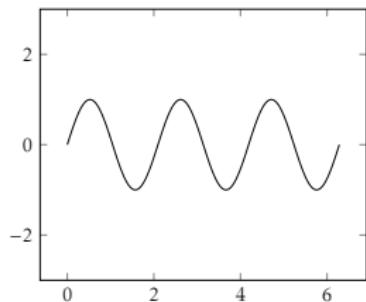


Representative spectra (endmembers) in the Manix Basin spectral library. Okin et al.  
1999

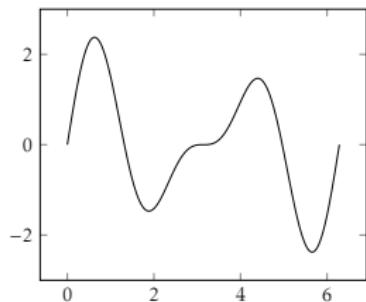
It can also be beneficial to think of music vectors as being linear combinations of vectors representing pure tones.



$$1.5 \sin(2x)$$

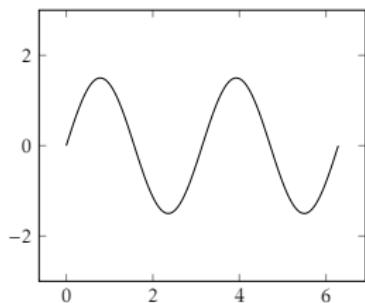


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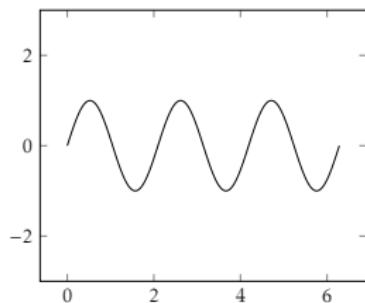


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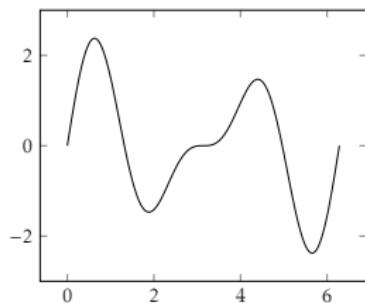
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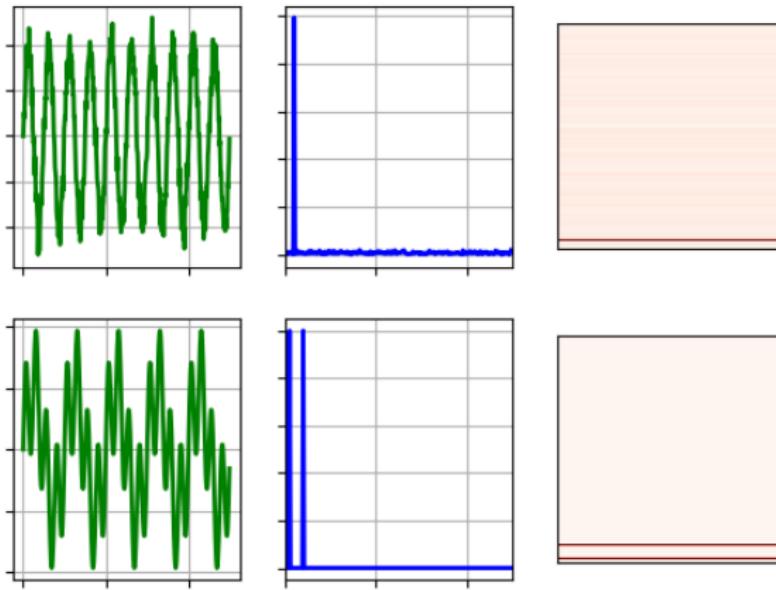


$$1.5 \sin(2x) + \sin(3x)$$

We could represent the mixture of two pure tones above as a vector like

$$(0 \ 0 \ 1.5 \ 1 \ 0 \ \dots \ 0),$$

where there is a **1.5** in the spot for  **$\sin(2x)$**  and **1** in the spot for  **$\sin(3x)$**  but zeros in spots corresponding to  **$\sin(kx)$**  for  **$k \neq 2, 3$** .

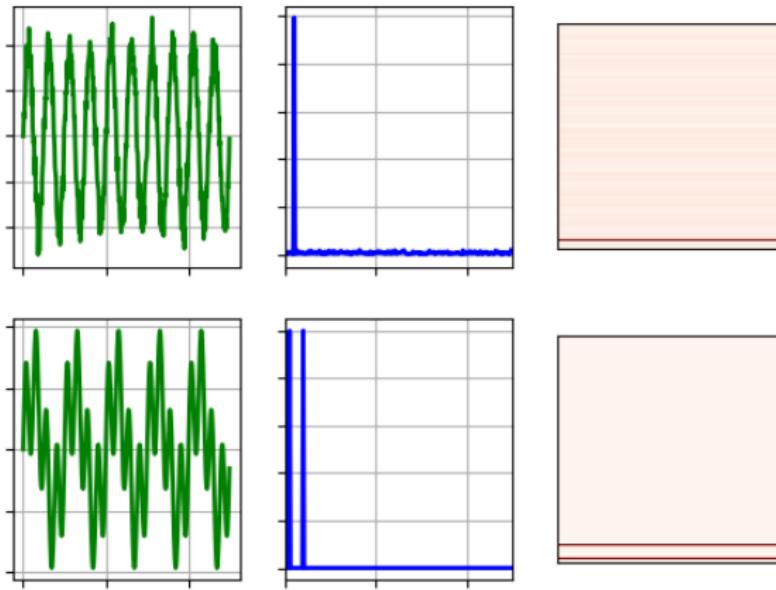


Left-to-right:

Visualization of sound vector in green.

Visualization of the coefficients of the sound as a linear combination of sinusoids in blue.

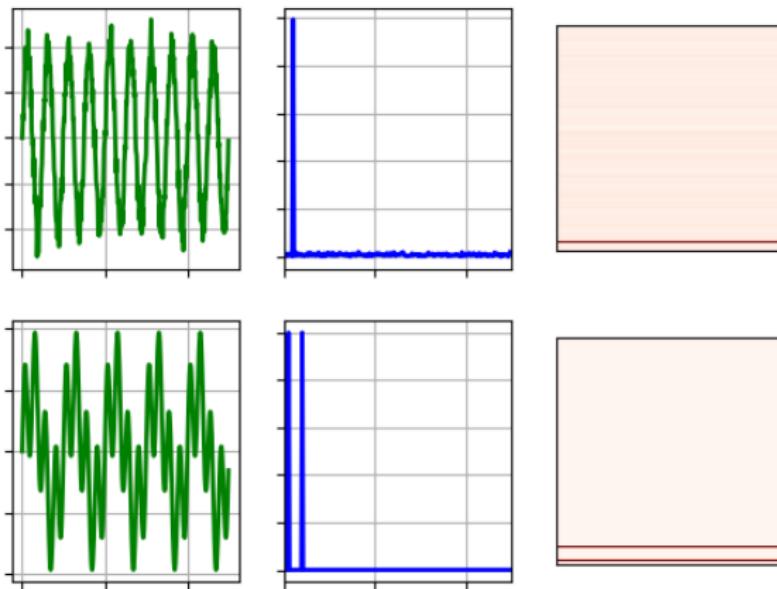
A blown-up heat map of the linear combination coefficients.



In the top row, we have a pure tone with static noise.

There's one big number which is the coefficient of the dominant tone.

Then there are many varying small coefficients representing the noise.

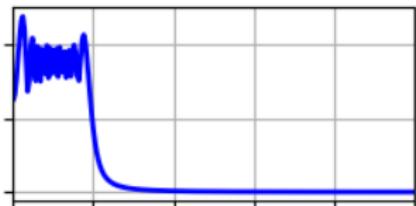
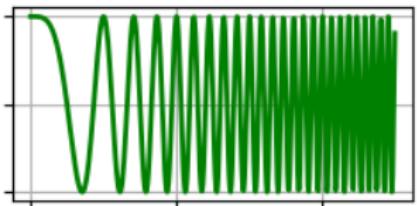
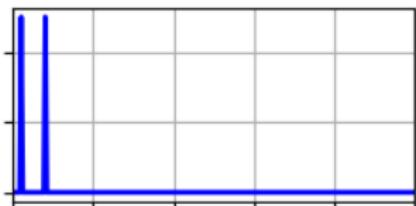
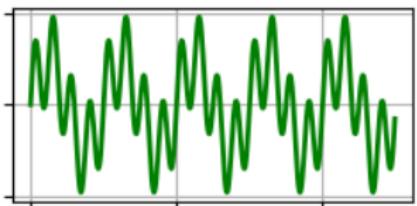
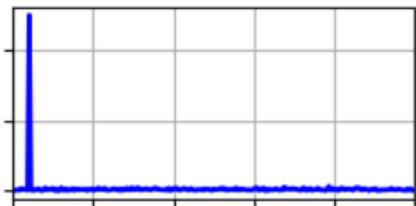
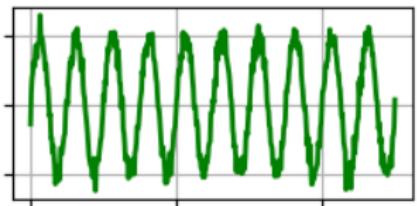


In the bottom row, we have a mixture of two tones like before.  
Two big numbers which are the coefficients of the two tones.  
Then all other coefficients are zero.

It would be very boring if there was only one sound all of the time.

Sounds typically change over time.

# MESSY



# SHEET MUSIC

1  
E se crista li to ro to      yosen tí como cru ji a      Antes de ca er se la sue lo

4  
ya sa bía que se rompi a      es tá par pa de an do      la luz del des canst ílo

7  
u na vez en la es ca le ra      al guien cru zan do el pa si llo      ma la men te

10  
ma la men te      mal, muy mal, muy mal, muy mal, muy mal      ma la men te

13

Sheet music. Source: <https://musescore.com/user/28683468/scores/5328385>

We would like a visualization like sheet music, where the horizontal direction is time and the vertical frequency/tone.

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The basic idea of a spectrogram is to zoom in on a short time period of the signal and approximate it as well as possible as a linear combination of sines.

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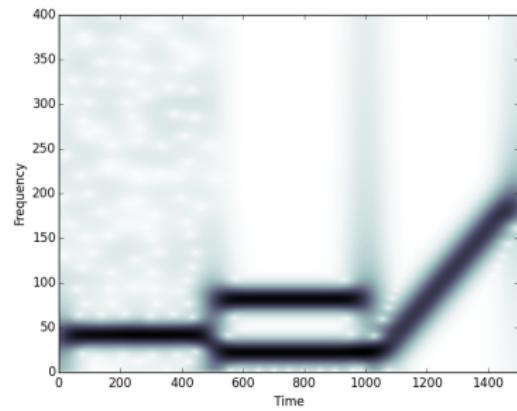
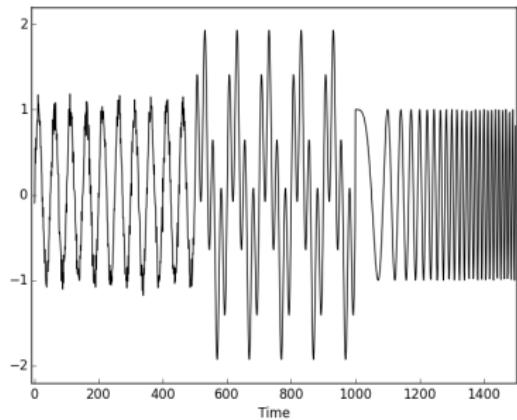
Visualize the coefficients of the linear combination as a vertical strip with colors corresponding to different values.

We would like a visualization like sheet music, where the horizontal direction is time and the vertical frequency/tone.

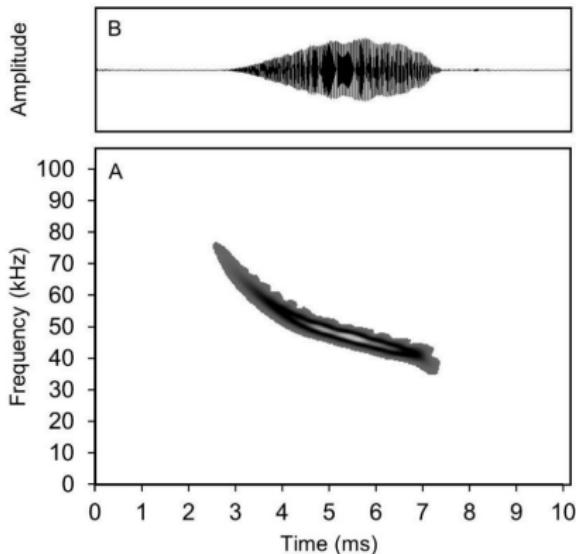
The basic idea of a spectrogram is to zoom in on a short time period of the signal and approximate it as well as possible as a linear combination of sines.

Visualize the coefficients of the linear combination as a vertical strip with colors corresponding to different values.

Glue the vertical strips together horizontally to create a **2D** heat map of all of the linear combination coefficients over short time frames.

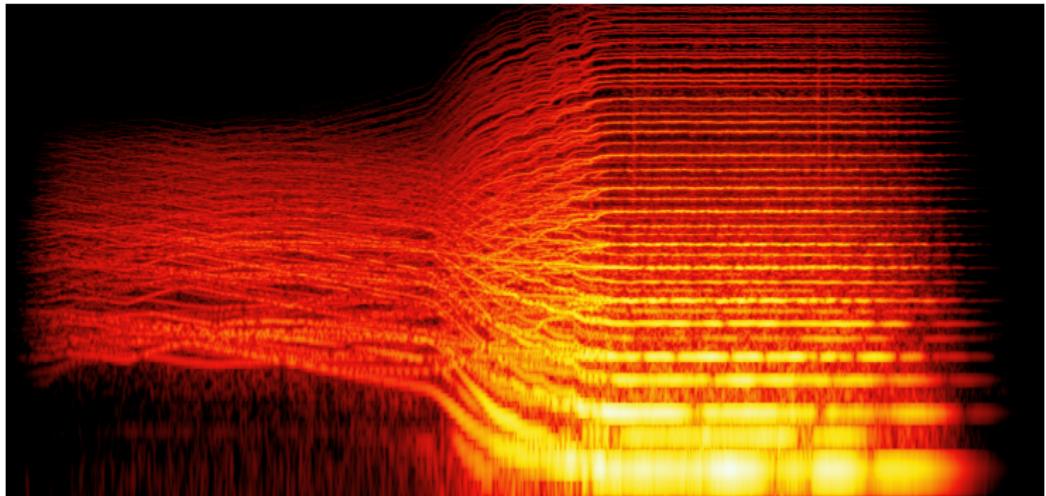


Left: A signal with three components over time. Right: Its spectrogram.



Bat chirp as an amplitude graph (top) and as a spectrogram (bottom).  
Source: Erin E. Fraser et. al. Bat Echolocation Research: A handbook  
for planning and conducting acoustic studies, 2020

# THX DEEP NOTE



THX Deep Note Spectrogram. Image source:  
<https://beautifulspectrograms.tumblr.com/>

# YOUTUBE SPECTROGRAMS

THX Deep Note

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mjnM-Iw\\_pfo](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mjnM-Iw_pfo)

Aphex Twin –

$$\Delta M_i^{-1} = -\alpha \sum_{n=1}^N D_i[n] \left[ \sum_{j \in C[i]} F_{ji}[n-1] + F \text{ext}_i[n^{-1}] \right]$$

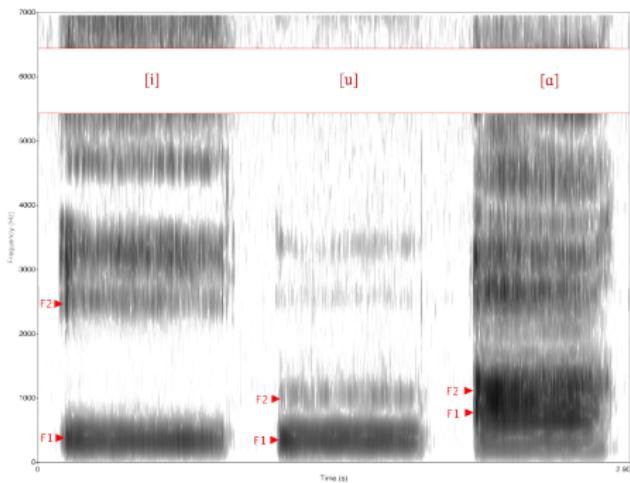
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=M9xMuPWAZW8>

Wisp – Hnipian

<https://beautifulspectrograms.tumblr.com/> and

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4zM0VPMQIak>

# FORMANT ANALYSIS



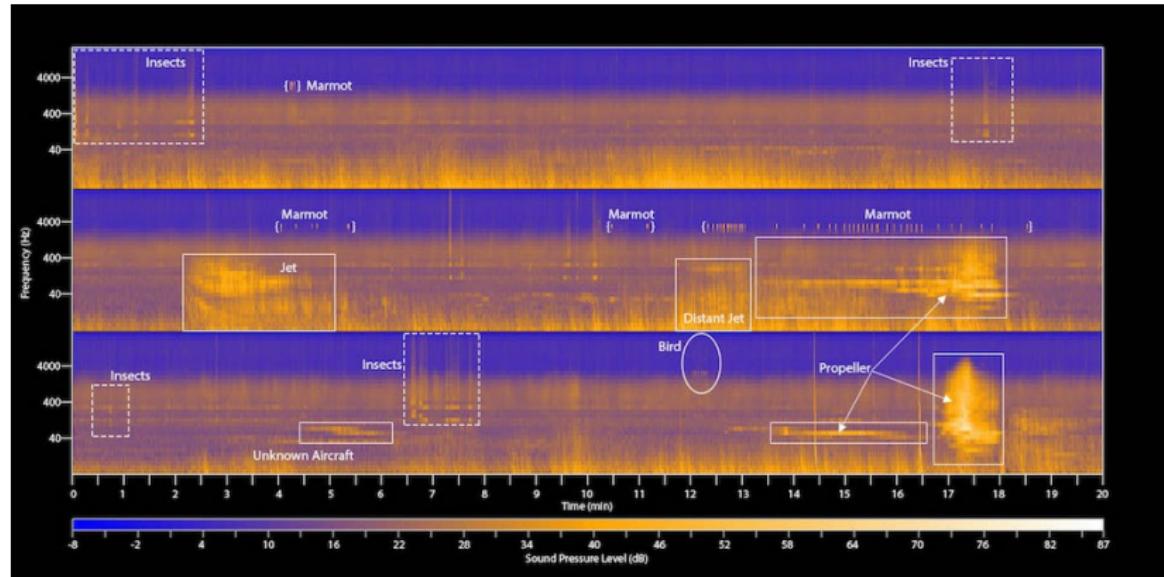
(In English) the two lowest frequency bands are sufficient to determine the vowel.

These are called the *formants*.

Spectrogram of the American English vowels [i, u, a] as pronounced by a native from Louisiana demonstrating the frequencies of first and second formants. Source:

[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:Spectrogram\\_-iua-.png](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:Spectrogram_-iua-.png)

# SOUNDSCAPE



Soundscape of Mount Rainier, showing marmot, bird, insect and aircraft noises.  
Source: [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:Mount\\_Rainier\\_soundscape.jpg](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:Mount_Rainier_soundscape.jpg)

## SOME USES IN APPS

### Spotify

Part of Spotify's recommender system algorithm involves mapping songs to spectrograms to determine genres.

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### Shazam

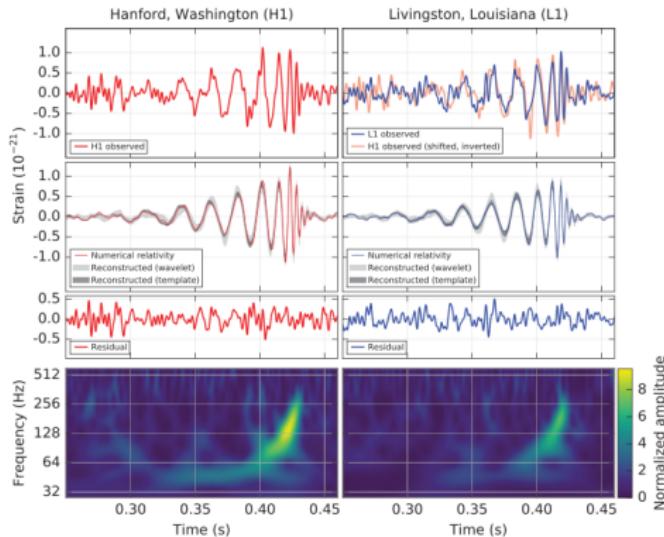
The first step in Shazam's algorithm (called "perceptual hashing") to determine what song is being played is to compute a spectrogram.

# GRAVITATIONAL WAVES

PRL 116, 061102 (2016)

PHYSICAL REVIEW LETTERS

week ending  
12 FEBRUARY 2016



Abbott et al. 2016 Physical Review Letters