

COM303: Digital Signal Processing

Lecture 19: Quantization

- ▶ quantization
- ▶ A/D and D/A converters
- ▶ oversampling

quantization

Overview:

- ▶ Quantization
- ▶ Uniform quantization and error analysis
- ▶ Clipping, saturation, companding

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- ▶ digital devices can only deal with integers (b bits per sample)
- ▶ we need to map the range of a signal onto a finite set of values
- ▶ irreversible loss of information \rightarrow quantization noise

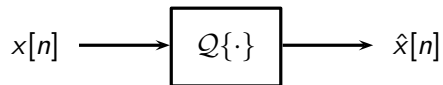
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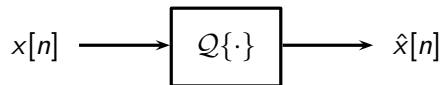
Quantization schemes



Several factors at play:

- ▶ storage budget (bits per sample)
- ▶ storage scheme (fixed point, floating point)
- ▶ properties of the input
 - range
 - probability distribution

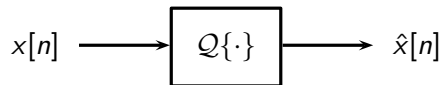
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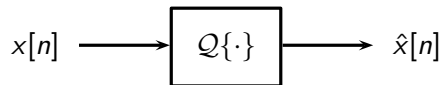
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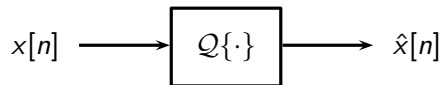
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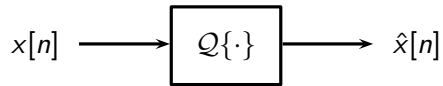
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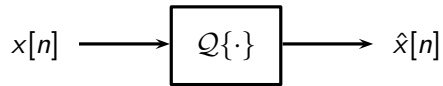
Scalar quantization



The simplest quantizer:

- ▶ each sample is encoded individually (hence *scalar*)
- ▶ each sample is quantized independently (memoryless quantization)
- ▶ each sample is encoded using R bits

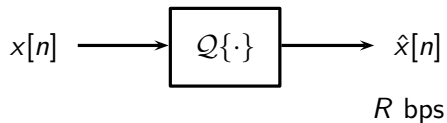
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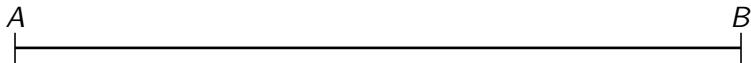
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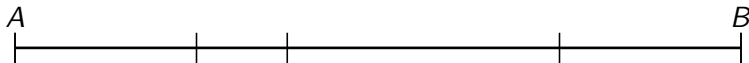
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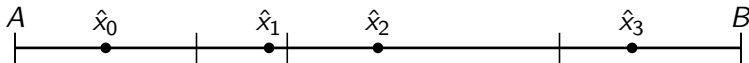
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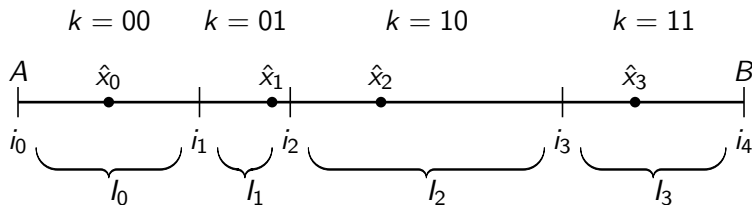
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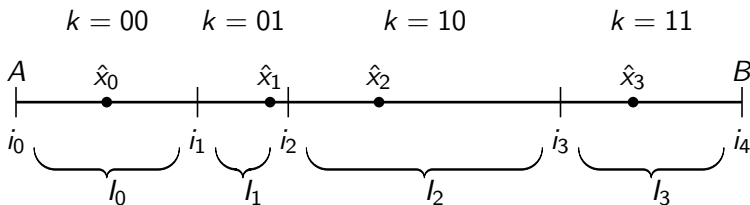
Example for $R = 2$:



- ▶ what are the optimal interval boundaries i_k ?
- ▶ what are the optimal quantization values \hat{x}_k ?

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Optimal Quantization

The optimal quantizer minimizes the energy of the quantization error:

$$e[n] = \mathcal{Q}\{x[n]\} - x[n] = \hat{x}[n] - x[n]$$

- ▶ model $x[n]$ as a stochastic process
- ▶ find the optimal i_k and \hat{x}_k that minimize $\sigma_e^2 = \mathbb{E}[e^2[n]]$
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Quantization MSE

$$\begin{aligned}\sigma_e^2 &= \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} (x - \mathcal{Q}\{x\})^2 f_x(x) dx \\ &= \sum_{k=0}^{2^R-1} \int_{i_k}^{i_{k+1}} (x - \hat{x}_k)^2 f_x(x) dx\end{aligned}$$

find global minimum wrt i_k, \hat{x}_k

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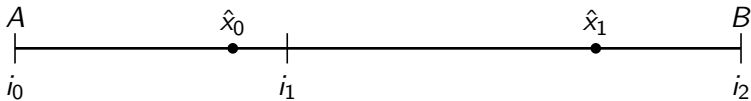
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Simple example: optimal one-bit quantizer



3 free parameters: $i_1, \hat{x}_0, \hat{x}_1$

Simple example: optimal one-bit quantizer

$$\sigma_e^2 = \int_A^{i_1} (x - \hat{x}_0)^2 f_x(x) dx + \int_{i_1}^B (x - \hat{x}_1)^2 f_x(x) dx$$

find $i_1, \hat{x}_0, \hat{x}_1$ such that

$$\frac{\partial \sigma_e^2}{\partial i_1} = \frac{\partial \sigma_e^2}{\partial \hat{x}_0} = \frac{\partial \sigma_e^2}{\partial \hat{x}_1} = 0$$

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little calculus reminder

$$\frac{\partial}{\partial t} \int_{\alpha}^t f(\tau) d\tau = \frac{\partial}{\partial t} [F(t) - F(\alpha)] = f(t)$$

Optimal one-bit quantizer: threshold

$$\begin{aligned}\frac{\partial \sigma_e^2}{\partial i_1} &= \frac{\partial}{\partial i_1} \left[\int_A^{i_1} (x - \hat{x}_0)^2 f_x(x) dx + \int_{i_1}^B (x - \hat{x}_1)^2 f_x(x) dx \right] \\ &= (i_1 - \hat{x}_0)^2 f_x(i_1) - (i_1 - \hat{x}_1)^2 f_x(i_1) = 0 \\ &\Rightarrow (i_1 - \hat{x}_0)^2 - (i_1 - \hat{x}_1)^2 = 0 \\ &\Rightarrow i_1 = \frac{\hat{x}_0 + \hat{x}_1}{2}\end{aligned}$$

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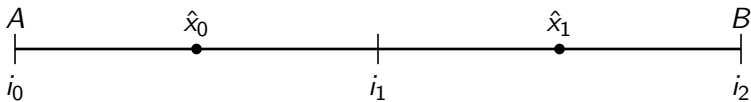
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Optimal one-bit quantizer



Uniform quantization of uniform input

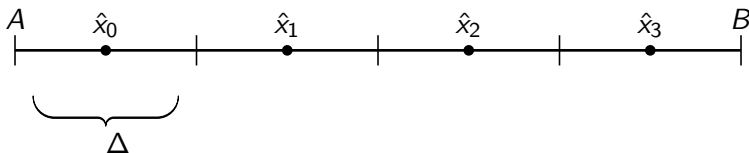
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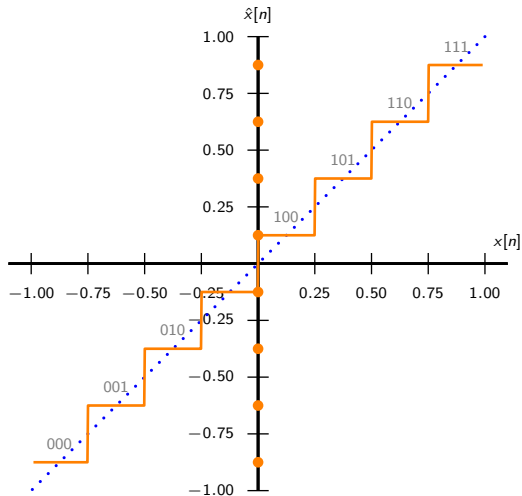
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Uniform 3-Bit quantization function



Uniform quantization of uniform input: error analysis

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$$f_x(s) = \frac{1}{B - A}$$

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Error analysis of the quantization error

fundamental assumptions:

- ▶ signal and quantization error are uncorrelated (ok-ish)
- ▶ quantization error process is white (stretch)

quantization noise acts as additive white noise

Error analysis

- ▶ error energy

$$\sigma_e^2 = \Delta^2/12, \quad \Delta = (B - A)/2^R$$

- ▶ signal energy

$$\sigma_x^2 = (B - A)^2/12$$

- ▶ signal to noise ratio

$$\text{SNR} = 2^{2R}$$

- ▶ in dB

$$\text{SNR}_{\text{dB}} = 10 \log_{10} 2^{2R} \approx 6R \text{ dB}$$

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The “6dB/bit” rule of thumb

- ▶ a compact disk has 16 bits/sample:

$$\max \text{SNR} = 96\text{dB}$$

- ▶ a DVD has 24 bits/sample:

$$\max \text{SNR} = 144\text{dB}$$

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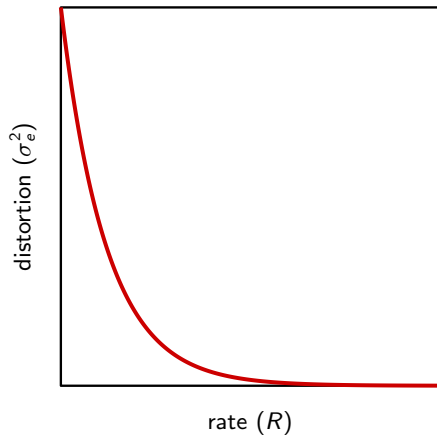
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Rate/Distortion Curve



Other quantization errors

If input is not bounded to $[A, B]$:

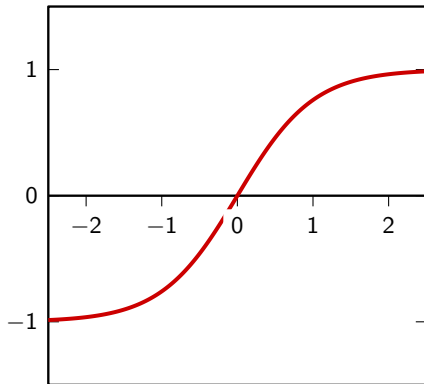
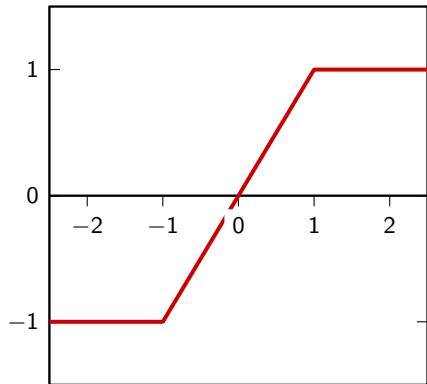
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- ▶ smoothly saturate input: this simulates the saturation curves of analog electronics

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Clipping vs saturation



Other quantization errors

If input is not uniform:

- ▶ use uniform quantizer and accept increased error.

For instance, if input is Gaussian:

$$\sigma_e^2 = \frac{\sqrt{3}\pi}{2} \sigma^2 \Delta^2$$

- ▶ use “companders”
- ▶ design optimal quantizer for input distribution, if known (Lloyd-Max algorithm)

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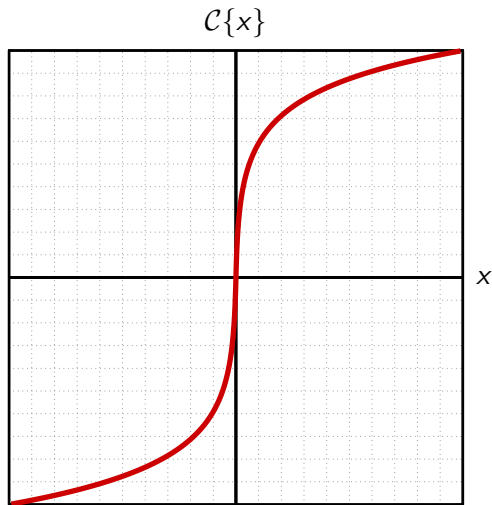
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μ -law compander

$$\mathcal{C}\{x[n]\} = \text{sgn}(x[n]) \frac{\ln(1 + \mu|x[n]|)}{\ln(1 + \mu)}$$



Lloyd-Max Quantizer design

$$\sigma_e^2 = \sum_{k=0}^{2^R-1} \int_{i_k}^{i_{k+1}} (x - \hat{x}_k)^2 f_x(x) dx$$

$$\text{A) } \frac{\partial \sigma_e^2}{\partial \hat{x}_k} = 0 \Rightarrow \hat{x}_k = \frac{\int_{i_{k-1}}^{i_k} x f_x(x) dx}{\int_{i_{k-1}}^{i_k} f_x(x) dx}$$

$$\text{B) } \frac{\partial \sigma_e^2}{\partial i_k} = 0 \Rightarrow i_k = \frac{\hat{x}_{k-1} + \hat{x}_k}{2}$$

Lloyd-Max Quantizer design

- ▶ start with a guess for the i_k
- ▶ solve A and B iteratively until convergence

A/D and D/A converters

Overview:

- ▶ Analog-to-digital (A/D) conversion
- ▶ Digital-to-analog (D/A) conversion

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From analog to digital

- ▶ sampling discretizes time
- ▶ quantization discretized amplitude
- ▶ how is it done in practice?

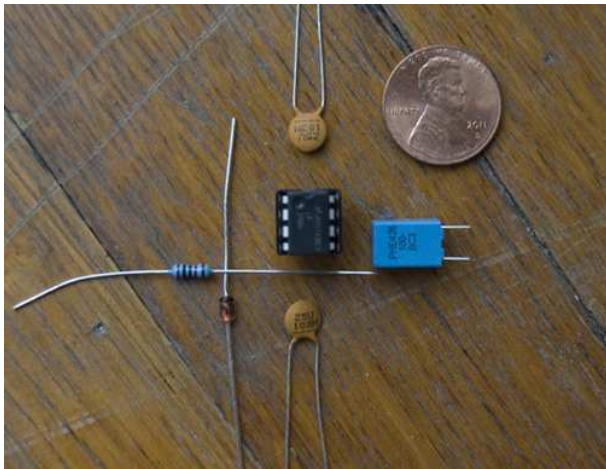
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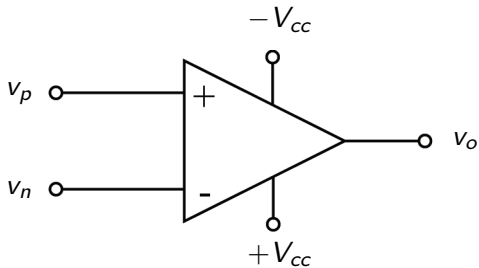
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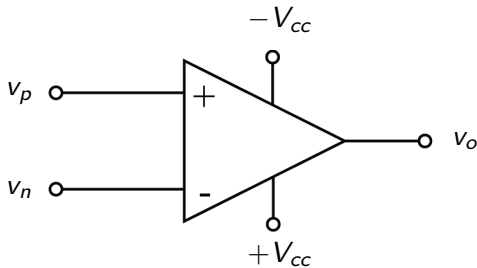


A tiny bit of electronics: the op-amp



$$v_o = G(v_p - v_n)$$

A tiny bit of electronics: the op-amp



$$v_o = G(v_p - v_n)$$

The two key properties

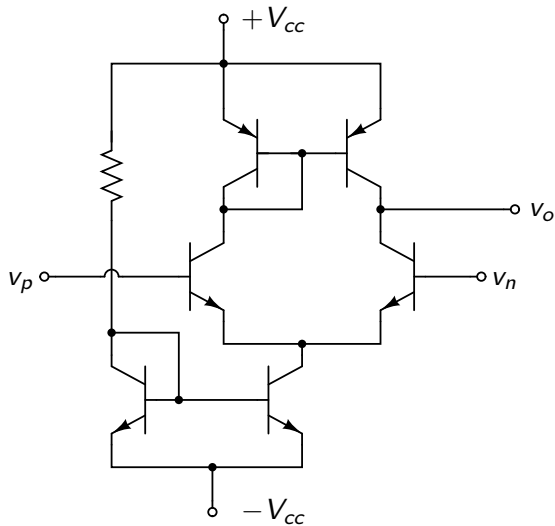
- ▶ infinite input gain ($G \approx \infty$)

- ▶ zero input current

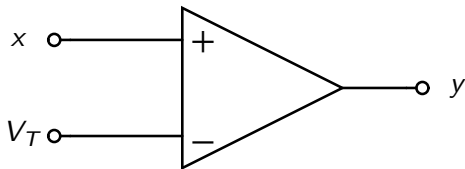
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Inside the box

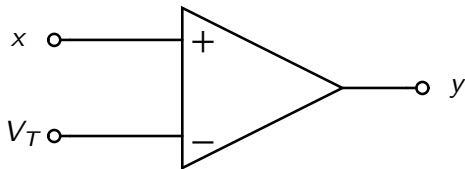


The op-amp in open loop: comparator



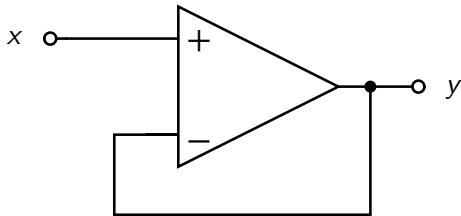
$$y = \begin{cases} +V_{cc} & \text{if } x > V_T \\ -V_{cc} & \text{if } x < V_T \end{cases}$$

The op-amp in open loop: comparator



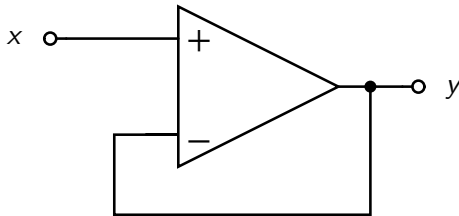
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The op-amp in closed loop: buffer



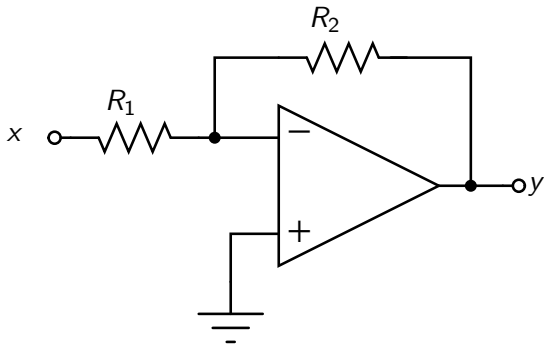
$$y = x$$

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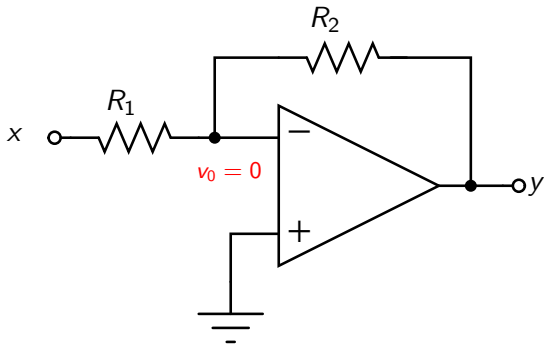


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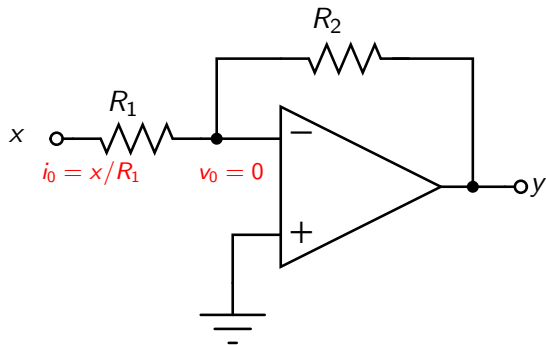
The op-amp in closed loop: inverting amplifier



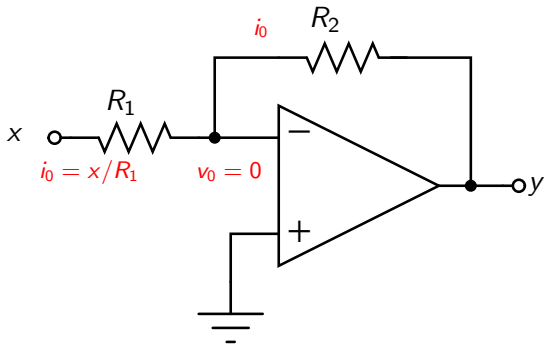
The op-amp in closed loop: inverting amplifier



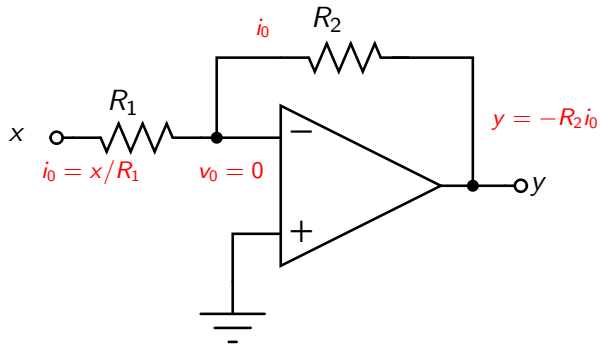
The op-amp in closed loop: inverting amplifier



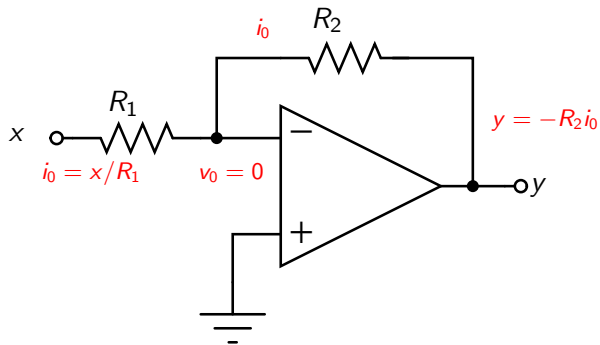
The op-amp in closed loop: inverting amplifier



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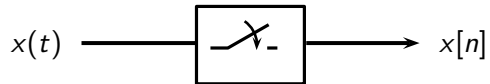


The op-amp in closed loop: inverting amplifier

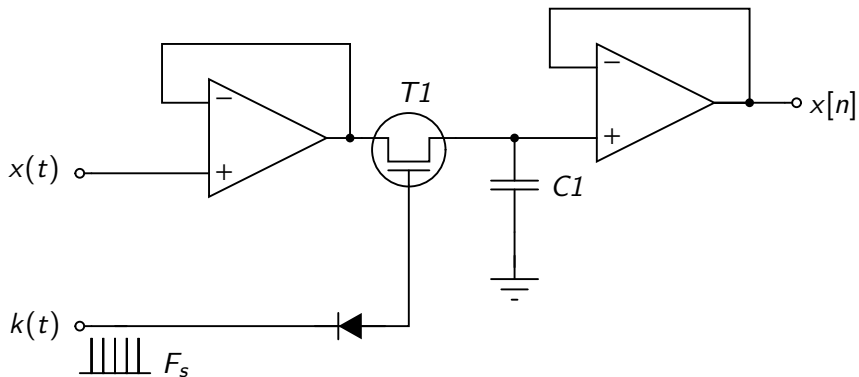


$$y = -(R_2/R_1)x$$

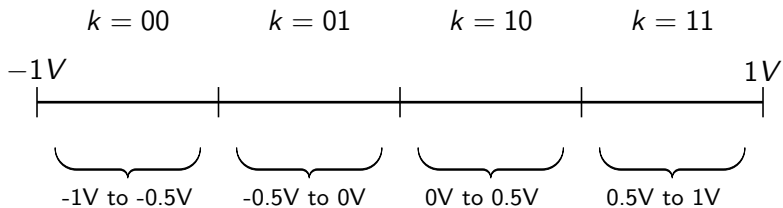
A/D Converter: Sampling



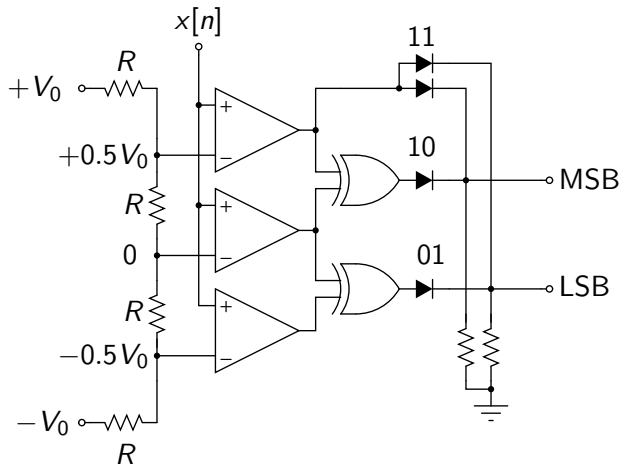
A/D Converter: Sample & Hold



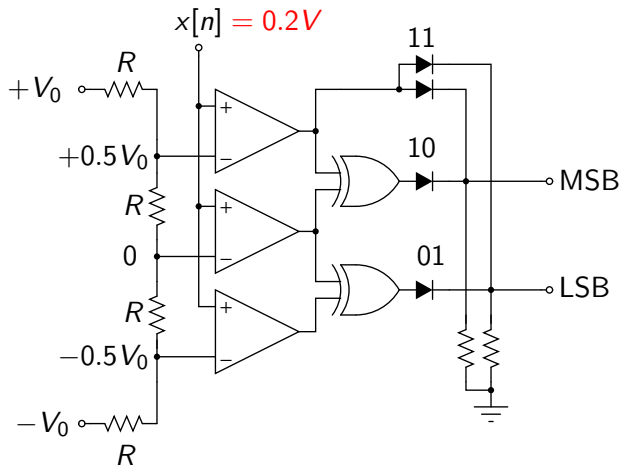
A/D Converter: Quantization



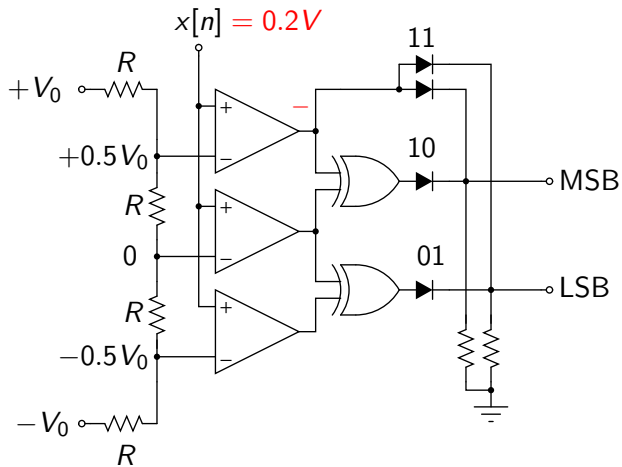
A/D Converter: 2-Bit Quantizer



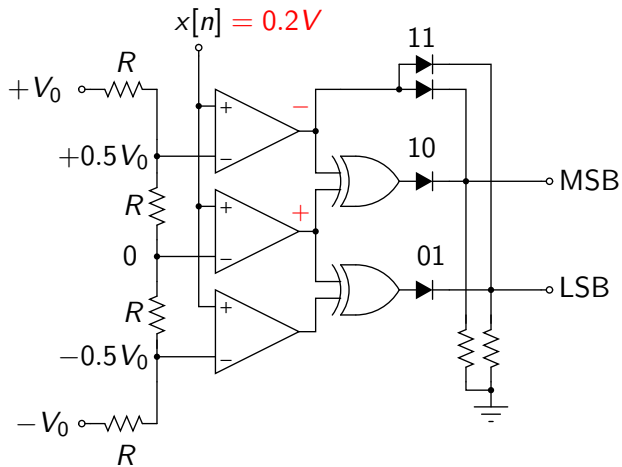
A/D Converter: 2-Bit Quantizer



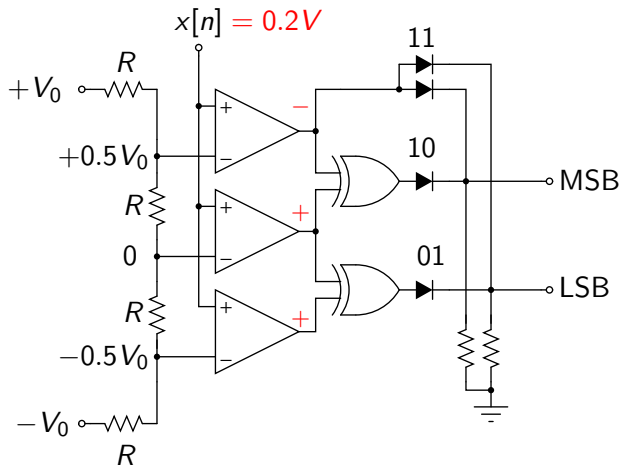
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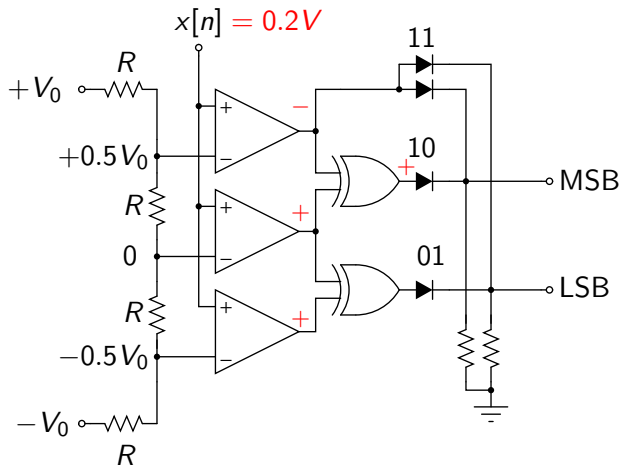
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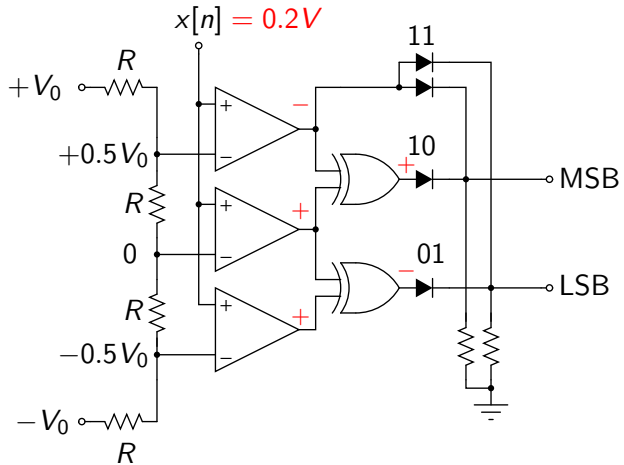
A/D Converter: 2-Bit Quantizer



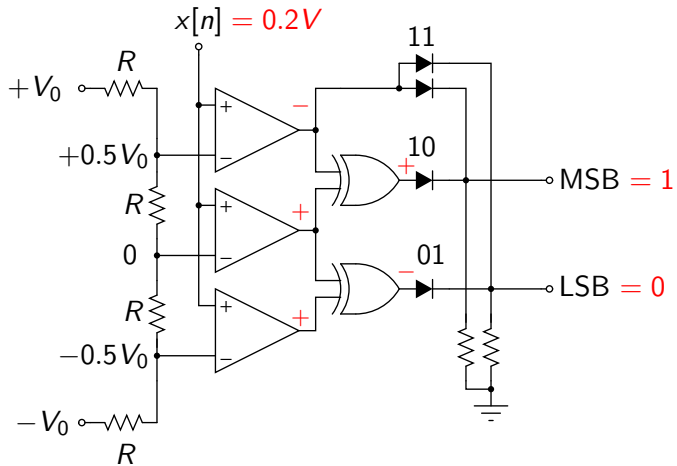
A/D Converter: 2-Bit Quantizer



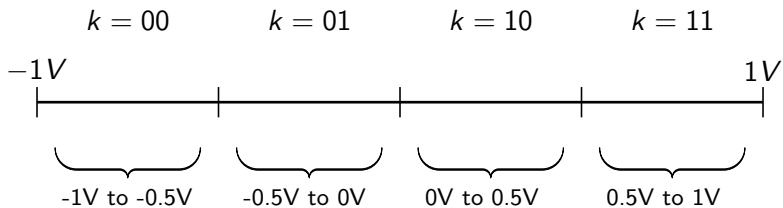
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A/D Converter: 2-Bit Quantizer



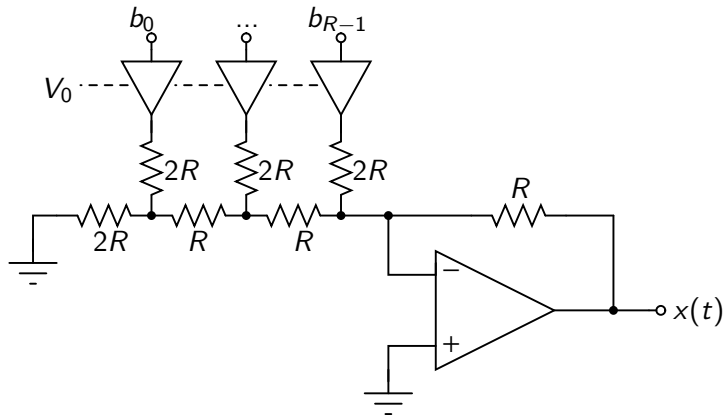
A/D Converter: Quantization



$$x_B[n] = b_{R-1}b_{R-2} \dots b_1b_0$$

$$\hat{x}[n] = \sum_{k=0}^{R-1} \frac{V_0}{2^k} b_k$$

D/A Converter



oversampling

Oversampling

▶ oversampled A/D

- reduce quantization error

▶ oversampled D/A

- use cheaper hardware for interpolation

Oversampling

- ▶ oversampled A/D
 - reduce quantization error
- ▶ oversampled D/A
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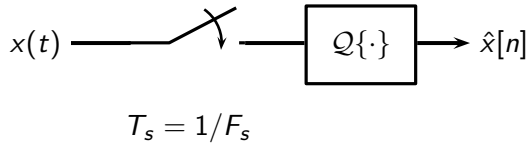
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- ▶ oversampled A/D
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Oversampling

- ▶ oversampled A/D
 - reduce quantization error
- ▶ oversampled D/A
 - use cheaper hardware for interpolation

Oversampled A/D



$$\hat{x}[n] = x[n] + e[n]$$

Oversampled A/D

Key assumptions:

$e[n]$ i.i.d. process, independent of $x[n]$

$$P_e(e^{j\omega}) = \frac{\Delta^2}{12} \quad \text{over } [-\pi, \pi] \text{ (no aliasing)}$$

Key observation:

$$X(e^{j\omega}) = F_s X\left(\frac{\omega}{2\pi} F_s\right)$$

Oversampled A/D

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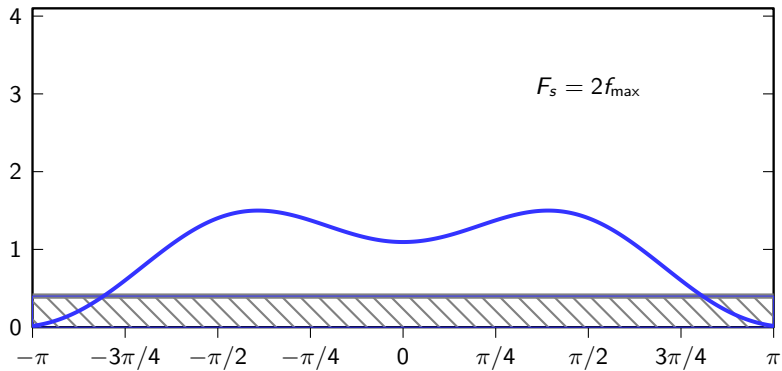
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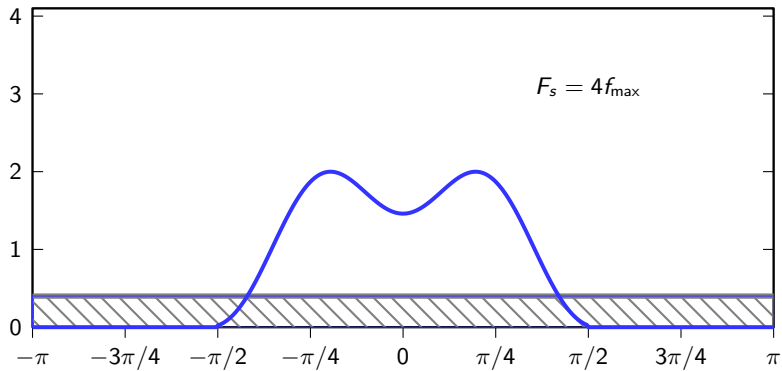
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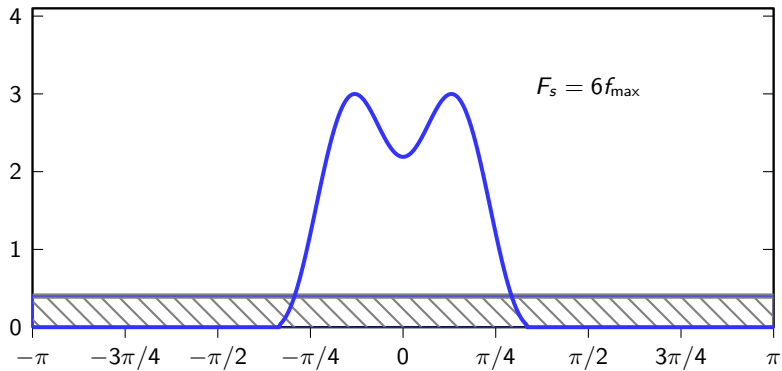
Oversampled A/D



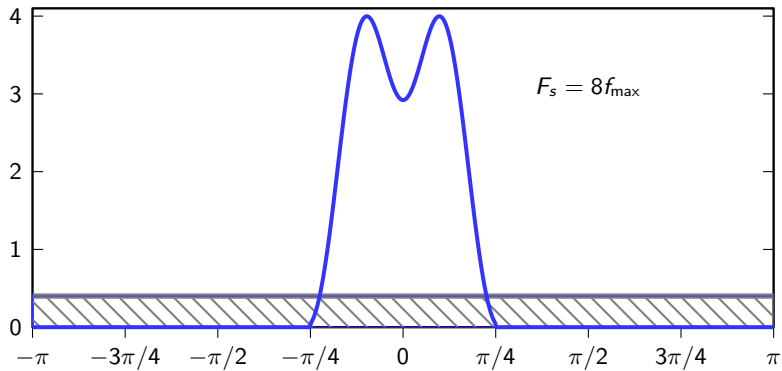
Oversampled A/D



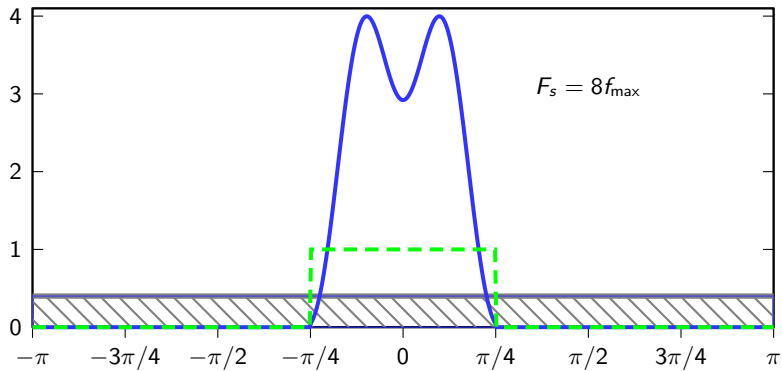
Oversampled A/D



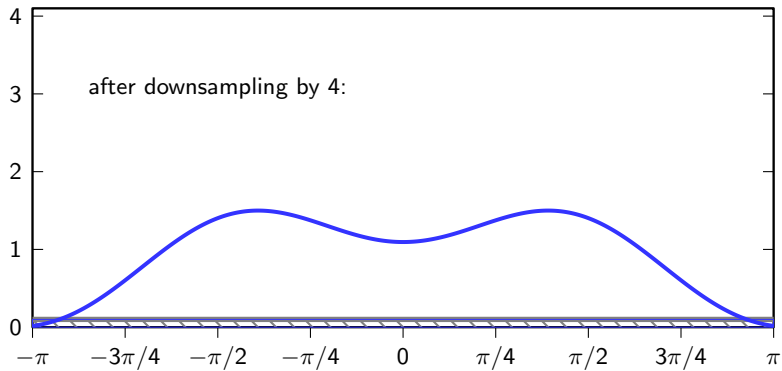
Oversampled A/D



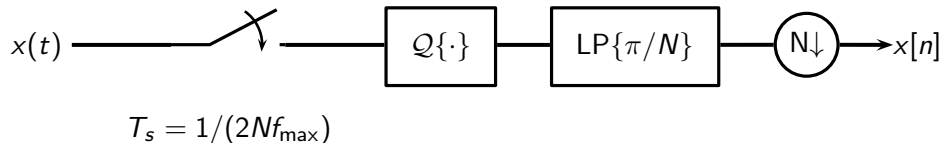
Oversampled A/D



Oversampled A/D



Oversampled A/D



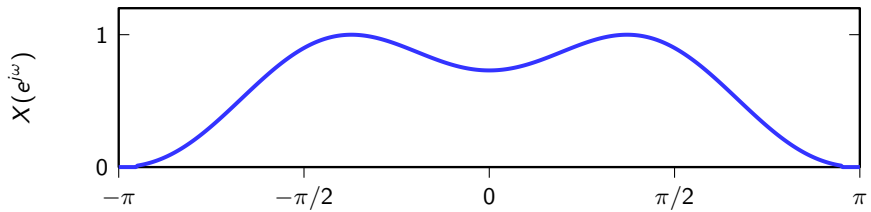
- ▶ $\text{SNR}_O \approx N \text{SNR}$
- ▶ 3dB per octave (doubling of F_s)
- ▶ but key assumption (independence) breaks down fast...

Oversampled D/A

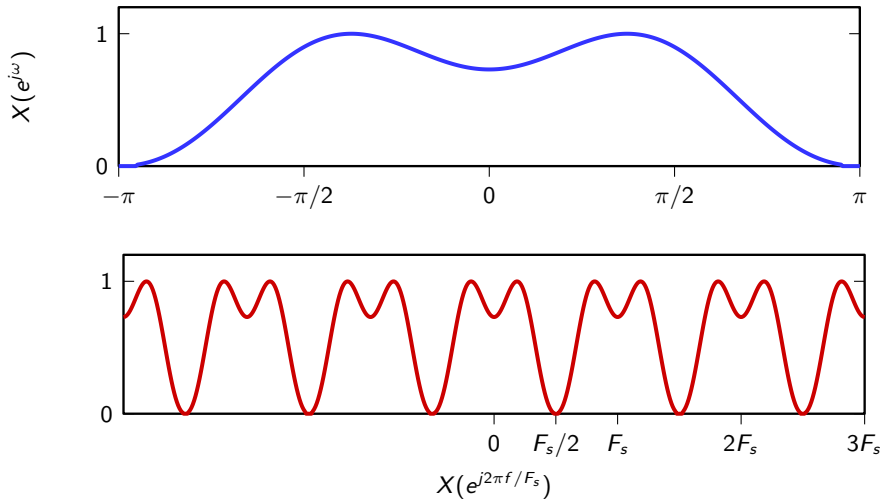
Sinc interpolation:

$$X_c(f) = \frac{1}{F_s} X(e^{j2\pi f/F_s}) \operatorname{rect}\left(\frac{f}{F_s}\right)$$

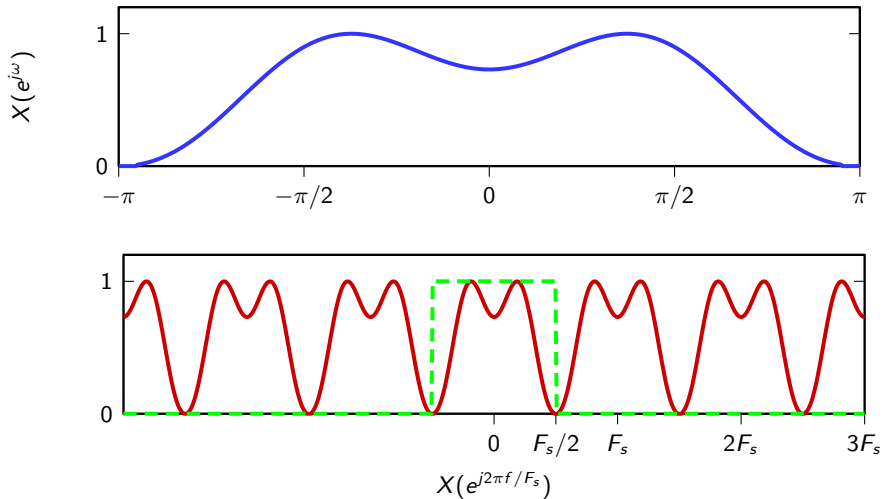
Sinc interpolation



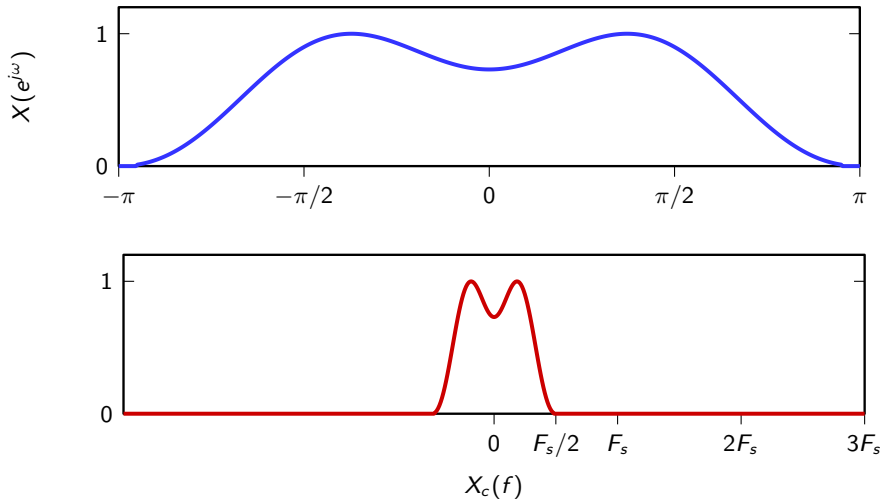
Sinc interpolation



Sinc interpolation



Sinc interpolation



Oversampled D/A

In general:

$$X_c(f) = \frac{1}{F_s} X(e^{j2\pi f/F_s}) I\left(\frac{f}{F_s}\right)$$

The cheapest (hence most common) interpolator is the zero-order hold:

$$i_0(t) = \text{rect}(t)$$

$$I_0(f) = \text{sinc}(f)$$

Oversampled D/A

In general:

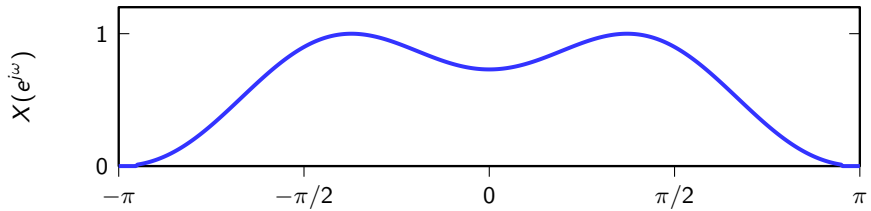
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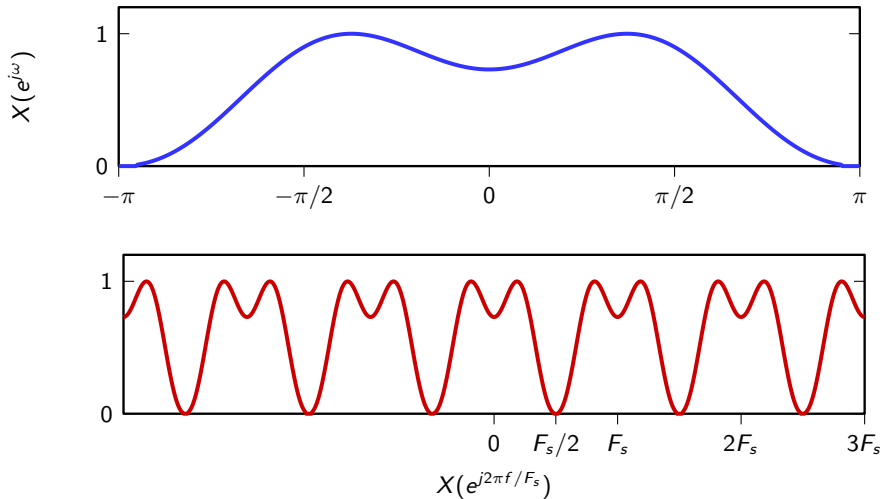
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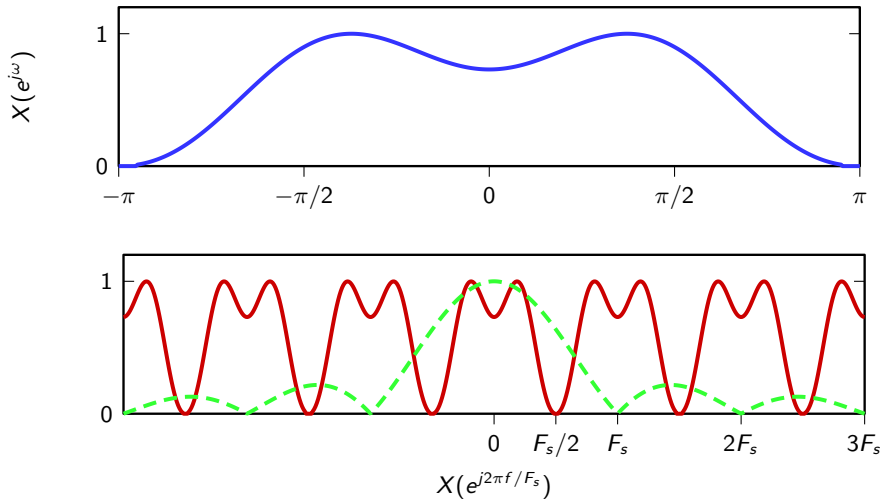
ZOH interpolation



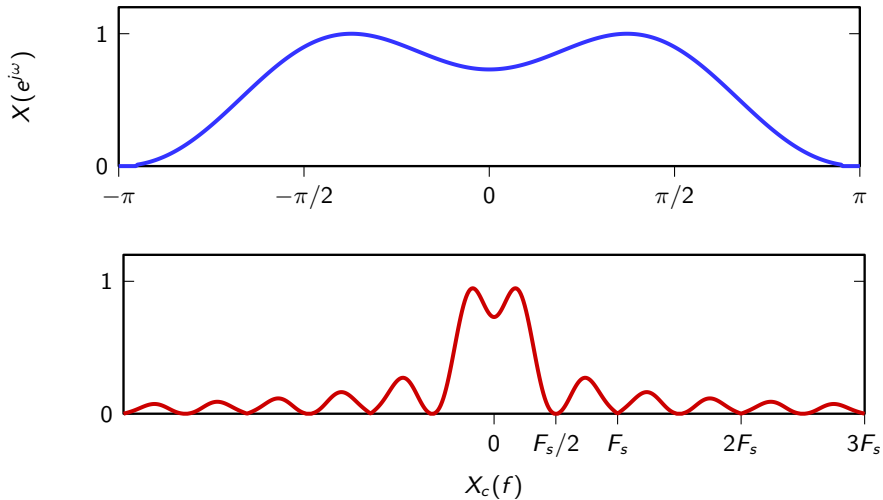
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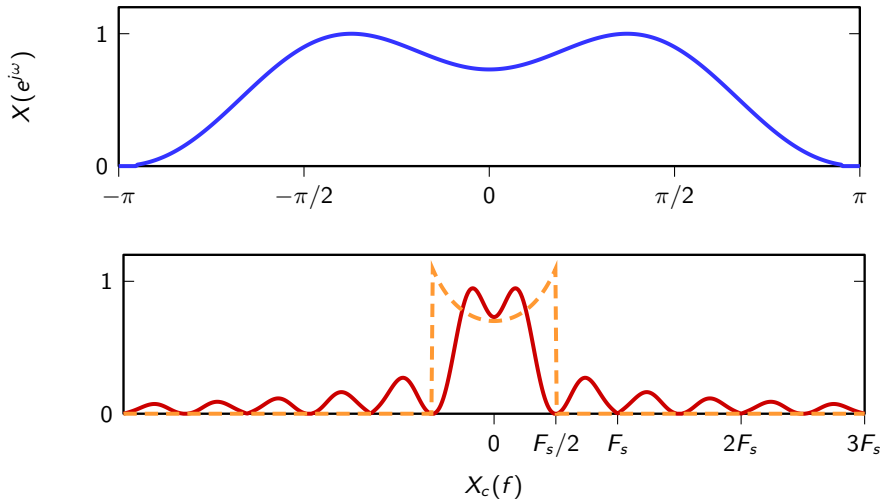
ZOH interpolation



ZOH interpolation



ZOH interpolation

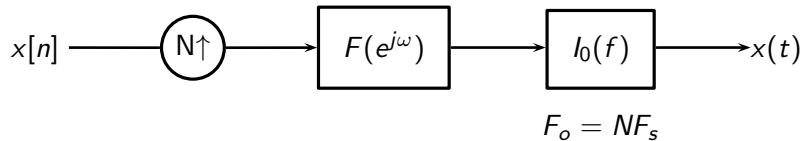


Oversampled A/D

key problems:

- ▶ we need to undo the in-band distortion in the analog domain
- ▶ we have a significant out-of-band distortion
- ▶ only advantage: minimal D/A rate

Oversampled D/A



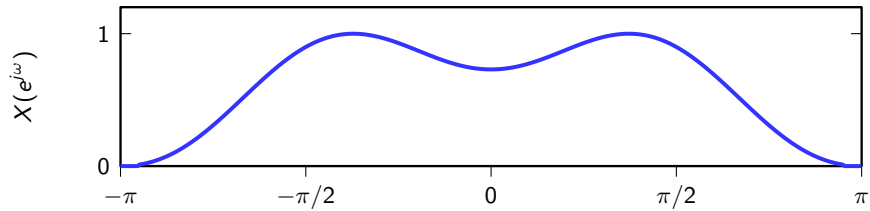
Oversampled D/A

consider a N -upsampled and interpolated version of $x[n]$:

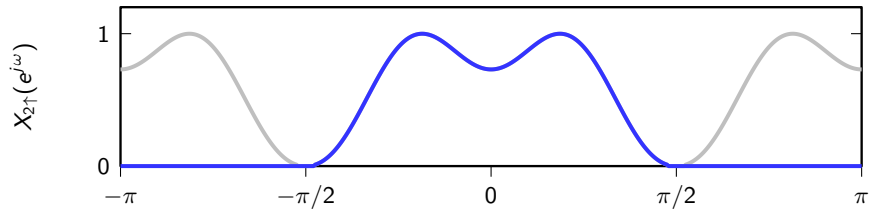
$$X_o(e^{j\omega}) = X_{N\uparrow}(e^{j\omega}) F(e^{j\omega}) = X(e^{j\omega N}) F(e^{j\omega})$$

- ▶ $F(e^{j\omega}) = N \operatorname{rect}(\omega N / (2\pi)) C(e^{j\omega})$
- ▶ rect matches the upsampler
- ▶ $C(e^{j\omega})$ compensates for zoh in-band distortion

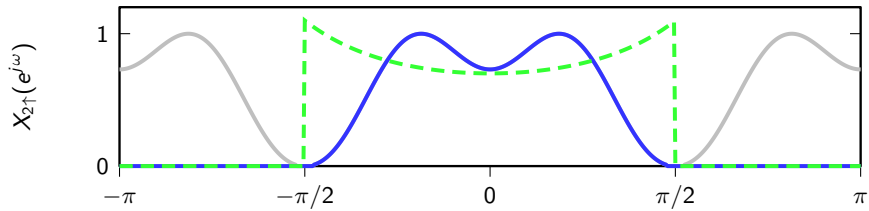
Oversampled D/A ($N = 2$)



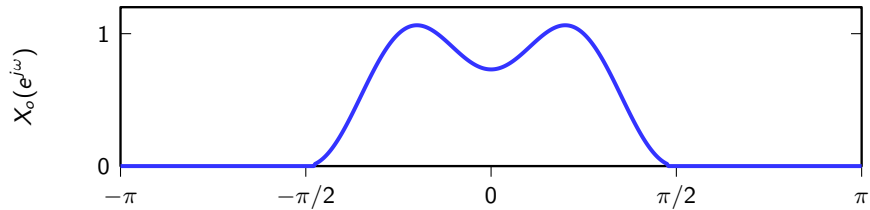
Oversampled D/A ($N = 2$)



Oversampled D/A ($N = 2$)



Oversampled D/A ($N = 2$)



Oversampled D/A

interpolate $x_o[n]$ with $F_o = NF_s$:

$$\begin{aligned}X_o(f) &= \frac{1}{F_o} X_o(e^{j2\pi f/F_o}) I_0\left(\frac{f}{F_o}\right) \\&= \frac{1}{F_o} \left[X(e^{j\omega N}) F(e^{j\omega}) \right]_{\omega=2\pi f/F_o} I_0\left(\frac{f}{F_o}\right) \\&= \frac{N}{F_o} \left[X(e^{j\omega N}) \operatorname{rect}\left(\frac{\omega N}{2\pi}\right) C(e^{j\omega}) \right]_{\omega=2\pi f/F_o} I_0\left(\frac{f}{F_o}\right) \\&= \frac{1}{F_s} X(e^{j2\pi f/F_s}) \operatorname{rect}\left(\frac{f}{F_s}\right) C(e^{j2\pi f/F_o}) I_0\left(\frac{f}{F_o}\right) \\&= X(f) \quad \text{for } |f| < F_s/2\end{aligned}$$

Oversampled D/A

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Oversampled D/A

interpolate $x_o[n]$ with $F_o = NF_s$:

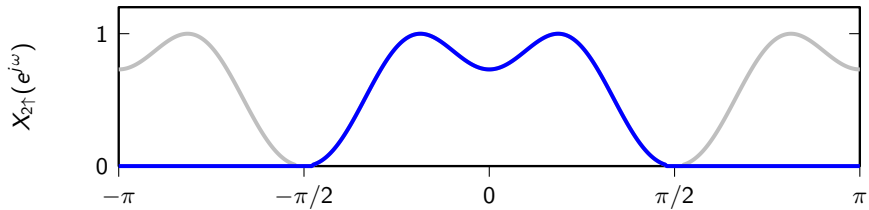
$$\begin{aligned}X_o(f) &= \frac{1}{F_o} X_o(e^{j2\pi f/F_o}) l_0\left(\frac{f}{F_o}\right) \\&= \frac{1}{F_o} \left[X(e^{j\omega N}) F(e^{j\omega}) \right]_{\omega=2\pi f/F_o} l_0\left(\frac{f}{F_o}\right) \\&= \frac{N}{F_o} \left[X(e^{j\omega N}) \operatorname{rect}\left(\frac{\omega N}{2\pi}\right) C(e^{j\omega}) \right]_{\omega=2\pi f/F_o} l_0\left(\frac{f}{F_o}\right) \\&= \frac{1}{F_s} X(e^{j2\pi f/F_s}) \operatorname{rect}\left(\frac{f}{F_s}\right) C(e^{j2\pi f/F_o}) l_0\left(\frac{f}{F_o}\right) \\&= X(f) \quad \text{for } |f| < F_s/2\end{aligned}$$

Oversampled D/A

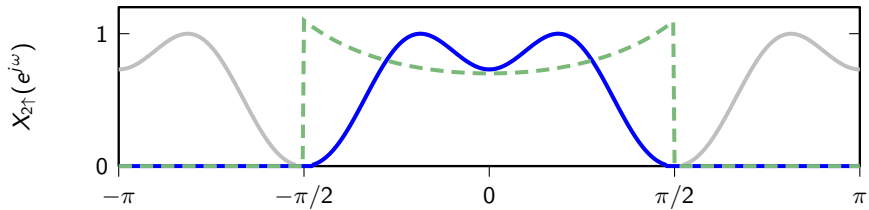
interpolate $x_o[n]$ with $F_o = NF_s$:

$$\begin{aligned}X_o(f) &= \frac{1}{F_o} X_o(e^{j2\pi f/F_o}) l_0\left(\frac{f}{F_o}\right) \\&= \frac{1}{F_o} \left[X(e^{j\omega N}) F(e^{j\omega}) \right]_{\omega=2\pi f/F_o} l_0\left(\frac{f}{F_o}\right) \\&= \frac{N}{F_o} \left[X(e^{j\omega N}) \operatorname{rect}\left(\frac{\omega N}{2\pi}\right) C(e^{j\omega}) \right]_{\omega=2\pi f/F_o} l_0\left(\frac{f}{F_o}\right) \\&= \frac{1}{F_s} X(e^{j2\pi f/F_s}) \operatorname{rect}\left(\frac{f}{F_s}\right) C(e^{j2\pi f/F_o}) l_0\left(\frac{f}{F_o}\right) \\&= X(f) \quad \text{for } |f| < F_s/2\end{aligned}$$

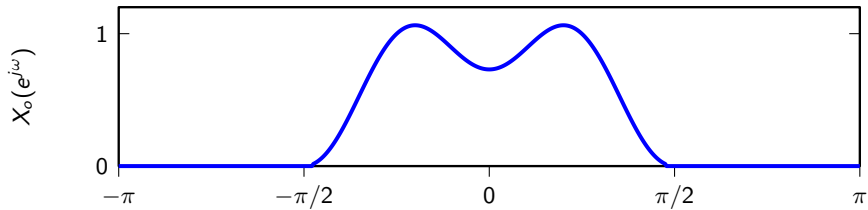
Oversampled D/A, using a ZOH ($N = 2$)



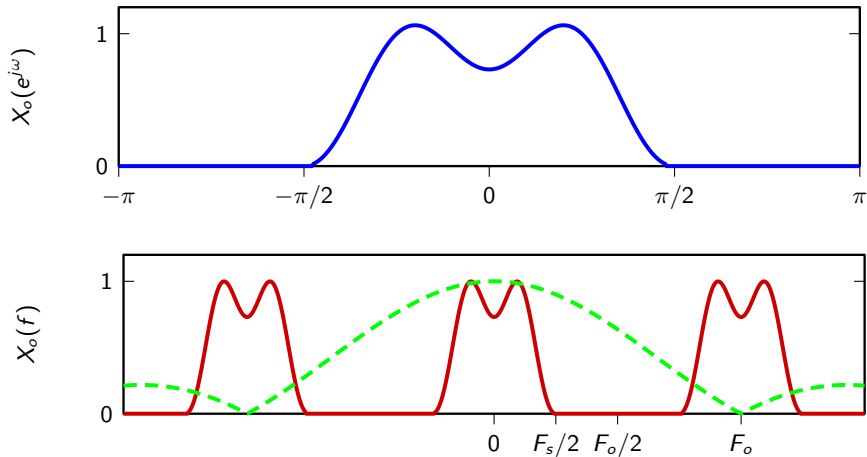
Oversampled D/A, using a ZOH ($N = 2$)



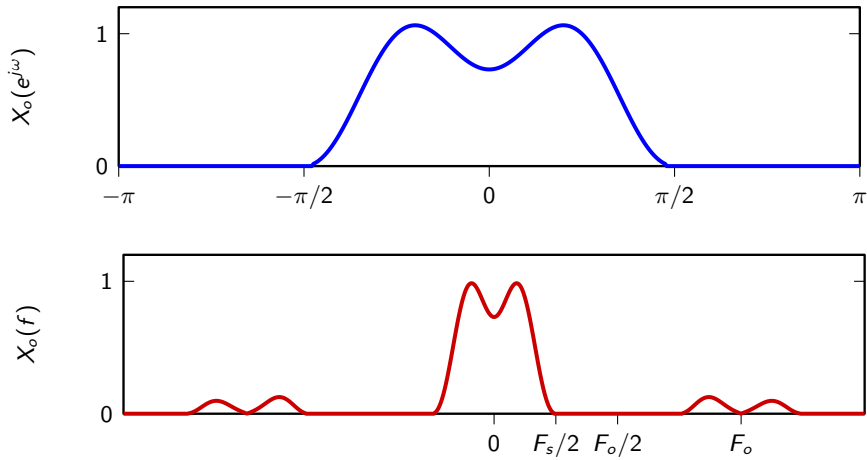
Oversampled D/A, using a ZOH ($N = 2$)



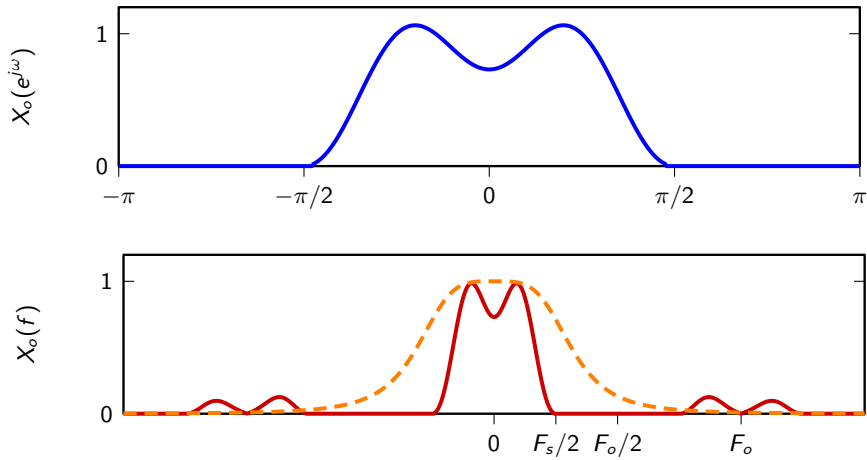
Oversampled D/A, using a ZOH ($N = 2$)



Oversampled D/A, using a ZOH ($N = 2$)



Oversampled D/A, using a ZOH ($N = 2$)



Oversampled A/D

key points:

- ▶ we can pre-compensate the in-band distortion in the digital domain
- ▶ we can interpolate with a cheap ZOH
- ▶ the higher the upsampling, the cheaper the analog lowpass needed to eliminate out-of-band distortion
- ▶ only price: higher D/A rate