

## Decision and Estimation in Data Processing

## Chapter I. Random Signals

## I.1 Random variables

# Random variables

- ▶ A **random variable** is a variable that holds a value produced by a (partially) random phenomenon
  - ▶ basically it is *a name* attached to an arbitrary value
  - ▶ short notation: r.v.
- ▶ Typically denoted as  $X$ ,  $Y$  etc..
- ▶ Examples:
  - ▶ The value of a dice
  - ▶ The value of the voltage in a circuit
- ▶ The opposite = a **constant value**

# Realizations

- ▶ **A realization** = a single outcome of the random experiment
- ▶ **Sample space**  $\Omega$  = the set of all values that can be taken by a random variable  $X$ 
  - ▶ i.e. the set of all possible realizations
- ▶ Example: rolling a dice
  - ▶ The r.v. is denoted as  $X$
  - ▶ We might get a realization  $X = 3$
  - ▶ But we could have got any value from the sample space

$$\Omega = \{1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6\}$$

# Discrete and continuous random variables

- ▶ **Discrete** random variable: if  $\Omega$  is a discrete set
  - ▶ Example: value of a dice
- ▶ **Continuous** random variable: if  $\Omega$  is a continuous set
  - ▶ Example: a voltage value

# Discrete random variables

- ▶ Consider a discrete r.v.  $X$
- ▶ The **cumulative distribution function (CDF)** = the probability that the value of  $X$  is smaller or equal than the argument  $x$

$$F_X(x) = P\{X \leq x\}$$

- ▶ In Romanian: “*funcție de repartiție*”
- ▶ Example: CDF for a dice
- ▶ For discrete r.v., the CDF is “stairwise”

# Discrete random variables

- ▶ The **probability mass function (PMF)** = the probability that  $X$  has value  $x$

$$w_X(x) = P\{X = x\}$$

- ▶ Example: what is the PMF of a dice?
- ▶ Relation to CDF:

$$F(x) = \sum_{\text{all } t \leq x} w(t)$$



# Continuous random variables

- ▶ Consider a continuous r.v.  $X$
- ▶ The CDF of a continuous r.v. is defined identically:

$$F_X(x) = P\{X \leq x\}$$

- ▶ The derivative of the CDF is the **probability density function (PDF)**

$$w_X(x) = \frac{dF_X(x)}{dx}$$

$$F_X(x) = \int_{-\infty}^x w_X(t) dt$$

# Continuous random variables

- ▶ The PDF gives the probability that the value of  $X$  is in a small vicinity *epsilon* around  $x$ , divided by *epsilon*

$$\begin{aligned}w_X(x) &= \frac{dF_X(x)}{dx} = \lim_{\epsilon \rightarrow 0} \frac{F_X(x + \epsilon) - F_X(x - \epsilon)}{2\epsilon} \\&= \lim_{\epsilon \rightarrow 0} \frac{P(X \in [x - \epsilon, x + \epsilon])}{2\epsilon}\end{aligned}$$

# Probability of an exact value

- ▶ The probability that a continuous r.v.  $X$  is **exactly** equal to a value  $x$  is **zero**
  - ▶ because there are an infinity of possibilities (continuous)
  - ▶ That's why we can't define a probability mass function like for discrete
- ▶ The PDF gives the probability of being **in a small vicinity** around some value  $x$

# Probability and distribution

- ▶ Compute probability based on PDF (continuous r.v.):

$$P\{A \leq X \leq B\} = \int_A^B w_X(x) dx$$

- ▶ Compute probability based on PMF (discrete r.v.):

$$P\{A \leq X \leq B\} = \sum_{x=A}^B w_X(x)$$

# Graphical interpretation

- ▶ Probability that a r.v.  $X$  is between  $A$  and  $B$  is **the area below the PDF**
  - ▶ i.e. the integral from  $A$  to  $B$
- ▶ Probability that  $X$  is exactly equal to a certain value is zero
  - ▶ the area below a single point is zero

# Properties of PDF/PMF/CDF

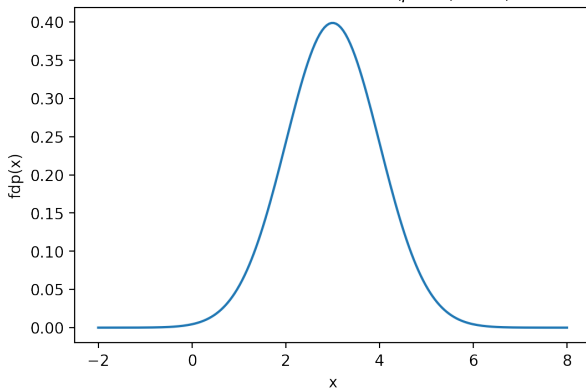
- ▶ The CDF is monotonously increasing (non-decreasing)
- ▶ The PDF/PMF are always  $\geq 0$
- ▶ The CDF starts from 0 and goes up to 1
- ▶ Integral/sum over all of the PDF/PMF = 1
- ▶ Some others, mention when needed

# The normal distribution

- Probability density function

$$w(x) = \frac{1}{\sigma\sqrt{2\pi}} e^{-\frac{(x-\mu)^2}{2\sigma^2}}$$

The normal distribution  $\mathcal{N}(\mu = 3, \sigma = 1)$



# The normal distribution

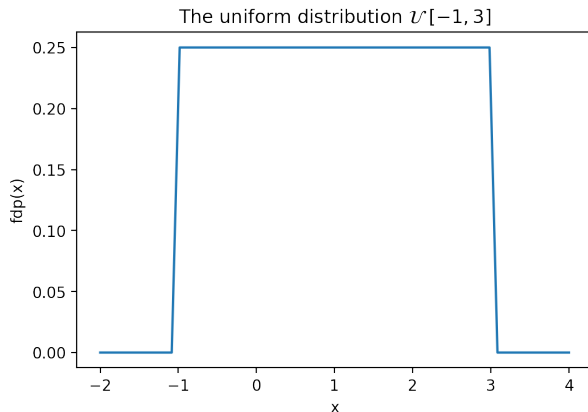
- ▶ Has two parameters:
  - ▶ **Average value**  $\mu$  = “center” of the function
  - ▶ **Standard deviation**  $\sigma$  = “width” of the function
- ▶ The front constant is just for normalization (ensures that integral = 1)
- ▶ Extremely often encountered in real life
- ▶ Any real value is possible ( $w(x) > 0, \forall x \in \mathbb{R}$ )
- ▶ Usually denoted as  $\mathcal{N}(\mu, \sigma)$



# The uniform distribution

- The probability density function = constant, between two endpoints

$$w(x) = \begin{cases} \frac{1}{b-a}, & x \in [a, b] \\ 0, & \text{elsewhere} \end{cases}$$



# The uniform distribution

- ▶ Has two parameters: the limits  $a$  and  $b$  of the interval
- ▶ The “height” of the function is  $\frac{1}{b-a}$ , for normalization
- ▶ Very simple
- ▶ Only values from the interval  $[a, b]$  are possible
- ▶ Denoted as  $\mathcal{U} [a, b]$

## Other distributions

- ▶ Many other distributions exist, relevant for particular applications

## R.v. as functions of other r.v.

- ▶ A function applied to a r.v. produces another r.v.
- ▶ Examples: if  $X$  is a r.v. with distribution  $\mathcal{U}[0, 10]$ , then
  - ▶  $Y = 5 + X$  is another r.v., with distribution  $\mathcal{U}[5, 15]$
  - ▶  $Z = X^2$  is also another r.v.
  - ▶  $T = \cos(X)$  is also another r.v.
- ▶ Reason: since  $X$  is random, the values  $Y$ ,  $Z$ ,  $T$  are also random
- ▶  $X$ ,  $Y$ ,  $Z$ ,  $T$  are not independent
  - ▶ A certain value of one of them automatically implies the value of the others

# Exercise

Exercise:

- ▶ If  $X$  is a r.v. with distribution  $\mathcal{U} [0, \pi]$ , compute the probability density of a r.v.  $Y$  defined as

$$Y = \cos(X)$$

# Computing probabilities for the normal distribution

- ▶ How to compute  $\int_a^b$  for a normal distribution?
  - ▶ Can't be done with algebraic formula, non-elementary function
- ▶ Use *the error function*:

$$\operatorname{erf}(z) = \frac{2}{\sqrt{\pi}} \int_0^z e^{-t^2} dt$$

- ▶ The CDF of a normal distribution  $\mathcal{N}(\mu, \sigma^2)$

$$F(X) = \frac{1}{2} \left( 1 + \operatorname{erf} \left( \frac{x - \mu}{\sigma \sqrt{2}} \right) \right)$$

- ▶ The values of  $\operatorname{erf}()$  are available / are computed numerically
  - ▶ e.g. on G<sup>O</sup>ogle, search for  $\operatorname{erf}(0.5)$
- ▶ Other useful values:
  - ▶  $\operatorname{erf}(-\infty) = -1$
  - ▶  $\operatorname{erf}(\infty) = 1$

# Exercise

Exercise:

- ▶ Let  $X$  be a r.v. with distribution  $\mathcal{N}(3, 2)$ . Compute the probability that  $X \in [2, 4]$

# Multiple random variables

- ▶ Consider a system with two continuous r.v.  $X$  and  $Y$
- ▶ Joint cumulative distribution function:

$$F_{XY}(x_i, y_j) = P\{X \leq x_i \cap Y \leq y_j\}$$

- ▶ Joint probability density function:

$$w_{XY}(x_i, y_j) = \frac{\partial^2 P_{XY}(x_i, y_j)}{\partial x \partial y}$$

- ▶ The joint PDF gives the probability that the values of the two r.v.  $X$  and  $Y$  are in a vicinity of  $x_i$  and  $y_i$  **simultaneously**
- ▶ Similar for discrete r.v.: the joint PMF

$$w_{XY}(x, y) = P\{X = x \cap Y = y\}$$



# Independent random variables

- ▶ Two v.a.  $X$  and  $Y$  are **independent** if the value of one of them does not influence in any way the value of the other
- ▶ For independent r.v., the probability that  $X = x$  and  $Y = y$  is the product of the two probabilities
- ▶ Discrete r.v.:

$$w_{XY}(x, y) = w_X(x) \cdot w_Y(y)$$

$$P\{X = x \cap Y = y\} = P\{X = x\} \cdot P\{Y = y\}$$

- ▶ Relation holds for CDF / PDF / PMF, continuous or discrete r.v.
- ▶ Same for more than two r.v.

# Independent random variables

Exercise:

- ▶ Compute the probability that three r.v.  $X$ ,  $Y$  and  $Z$  i.i.d.  $\mathcal{N}(-1, 1)$  are all positive simultaneously
  - ▶ ***i.i.d*** = “independent and identically distributed”

# Statistical averages

- ▶ R.v. are described by statistical averages (“*moments*”)
- ▶ The average value (moment of order 1)
- ▶ Continuous r.v.:

$$\bar{X} = E\{X\} = \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} x \cdot w_X(x) dx$$

- ▶ Discrete r.v.:

$$\bar{X} = E\{X\} = \sum_{x=-\infty}^{\infty} x \cdot w_X(x)$$

- ▶ (Example: the entropy of  $H(X)$  = the average value of the information)
- ▶ Usual notation:  $\mu$

# Properties of the average value

- ▶ Computing the average value is a **linear** operation
  - ▶ because the underlying integral / sum is a linear operation

- ▶ Linearity

$$E\{aX + bY\} = aE\{X\} + bE\{Y\}$$

- ▶ Or:

$$E\{aX\} = aE\{X\}, \forall a \in \mathbb{R}$$

$$E\{X + Y\} = E\{X\} + E\{Y\}$$

- ▶ No proof given here

# Average squared value

- ▶ Average squared value = average value of the squared values
- ▶ Moment of order 2
- ▶ Continuous r.v.:

$$\overline{X^2} = E\{X^2\} = \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} x^2 \cdot w_X(x) dx$$

- ▶ Discrete r.v.:

$$\overline{X^2} = E\{X^2\} = \sum_{-\infty}^{\infty} x^2 \cdot w_X(x)$$

- ▶ Interpretation: average of squared values = average energy of a signal

# Dispersion (variance)

- ▶ Dispersion (variance) = average squared value of the difference to the average value
- ▶ Continuous r.v.:

$$\sigma^2 = \overline{\{X - \mu\}^2} = \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} (x - \mu)^2 \cdot w_X(x) dx$$

- ▶ Discrete r.v.:

$$\sigma^2 = \overline{\{X - \mu\}^2} = \sum_{-\infty}^{\infty} (x - \mu)^2 \cdot w_X(x)$$

- ▶ Interpretation: how much do the values vary around the average value
  - ▶  $\sigma^2 = \text{large}$ : large spread around the average value
  - ▶  $\sigma^2 = \text{small}$ : values are concentrated around the average value

# Relation between the three values

- Relation between the average value, the average squared value, and the dispersion:

$$\begin{aligned}\sigma^2 &= \overline{\{X - \mu\}^2} \\ &= \overline{X^2 - 2 \cdot X \cdot \mu + \mu^2} \\ &= \overline{X^2} - 2\mu\overline{X} + \mu^2 \\ &= \overline{X^2} - \mu^2\end{aligned}$$

# Sum of random variables

- ▶ Sum of two or more **independent** r.v. is also a r.v.
- ▶ Its distribution = the **convolution** of the distributions of the two r.v.
- ▶ If  $Z = X + Y$

$$w(z) = w(x) \star w(y)$$

- ▶ Particular case: if  $X$  and  $Y$  are normal r.v., with  $\mathcal{N}(\mu_X, \sigma_X^2)$  and  $\mathcal{N}(\mu_Y, \sigma_Y^2)$ , then:
  - ▶  $Z$  is also a normal r.v., with  $\mathcal{N}(\mu_Z, \sigma_Z^2)$ , having:
  - ▶ average = sum of the two averages:  $\mu_Z = \mu_X + \mu_Y$
  - ▶ dispersion = sum of the two dispersions:  $\sigma_Z^2 = \sigma_X^2 + \sigma_Y^2$



## I.2 Random processes

# Random process

- ▶ A **random process** = a sequence of random variables indexed in time
- ▶ **Discrete-time** random process  $f[n]$  = a sequence of random variables at discrete moments of time
  - ▶ e.g.: a sequence 50 of throws of a dice, the daily price on the stock market
- ▶ **Continuous-time** random process  $f(t)$  = a continuous sequence of random variables at every moment
  - ▶ e.g.: a noise voltage signal, a speech signal
- ▶ Every sample from a random process is a (different) random variable!
  - ▶ e.g.  $f(t_0)$  = value at time  $t_0$  is a r.v.

# Realizations of random processes

- ▶ A **realization** of the random process = a particular sequence of realizations of the underlying r.v.
  - ▶ e.g. we see a given noise signal on the oscilloscope, but *we could have seen any other realization just as well*
- ▶ When we consider a random process = we consider the set of all possible realizations

# Distributions of order 1 of random processes

- ▶ Every sample  $f(t_1)$  from a random process is a random variable
  - ▶ with CDF  $F_1(x; t_1)$
  - ▶ with PDF  $w_1(x; t_1) = \frac{dF_1(x; t_1)}{dx}$
- ▶ The sample at time  $t_2$  is a different random variable with **possibly different** functions
  - ▶ with CDF  $F_1(x; t_2)$
  - ▶ with PDF  $w_1(x; t_2) = \frac{dF_1(x; t_2)}{dx}$
- ▶ These functions specify how the value of one sample is distributed
- ▶ The index  $w_1$  indicates we consider a single random variable from the process (distributions of order 1)
- ▶ Same for discrete-time random processes

## Distributions of order 2

- ▶ A pair of random variables  $f(t_1)$  and  $f(t_2)$  sampled from the random process  $f(t)$  have
  - ▶ joint CDF  $F_2(x_i, x_j; t_1, t_2)$
  - ▶ joint PDF  $w_2(x_i, x_j; t_1, t_2) = \frac{\partial^2 F_2(x_i, x_j; t_1, t_2)}{\partial x_i \partial x_j}$
- ▶ These functions specify how the pair of values is distributed (distributions of order 2)
- ▶ Same for discrete-time random processes

# Distributions of order $n$

- ▶ Generalize to  $n$  samples of the random process
- ▶ A set of  $n$  random variables  $f(t_1), \dots, f(t_n)$  sampled from the random process  $f(t)$  have
  - ▶ joint CDF  $F_n(x_1, \dots, x_n; t_1, \dots, t_n)$
  - ▶ joint PDF  $w_n(x_1, \dots, x_n; t_1, \dots, t_n) = \frac{\partial^2 F_n(x_1, \dots, x_n; t_1, \dots, t_n)}{\partial x_1 \dots \partial x_n}$
- ▶ These functions specify how the whole set of  $n$  values is distributed (distributions of order  $n$ )
- ▶ Same for discrete-time random processes

# Statistical averages

Random processes are characterized using statistical / temporal averages (*moments*)

## 1. Average value

$$\overline{f(t_1)} = \mu(t_1) = \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} x \cdot w_1(x; t_1) dx$$

## 2. Average squared value (*valoarea patratica medie*)

$$\overline{f^2(t_1)} = \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} x^2 \cdot w_1(x; t_1) dx$$

# Statistical averages - variance

## 3. Variance (= *dispersia*)

$$\sigma^2(t_1) = \overline{\{f(t_1) - \mu(t_1)\}^2} = \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} (x - \mu(t_1))^2 \cdot w_1(x; t_1) dx$$

- ▶ The variance can be computed as:

$$\begin{aligned}\sigma^2(t_1) &= \overline{\{f(t_1) - \mu(t_1)\}^2} \\ &= \overline{f(t_1)^2 - 2f(t_1)\mu(t_1) + \mu(t_1)^2} \\ &= \overline{f^2(t_1)} - \mu(t_1)^2\end{aligned}$$

- ▶ Note:

- ▶ these three values are calculated across all realizations, at time  $t_1$
- ▶ they characterize only the sample at time  $t_1$
- ▶ at a different time  $t_2$ , the r.v.  $f(t_2)$  is different so all average values might be different



# Statistical averages - autocorrelation

## 4. The autocorrelation function

$$R_{ff}(t_1, t_2) = \overline{f(t_1)f(t_2)} = \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} x_1 x_2 w_2(x_1, x_2; t_1, t_2) dx_1 dx_2$$

## 5. The correlation function (for different random processes $f(t)$ and $g(t)$ )

$$R_{fg}(t_1, t_2) = \overline{f(t_1)g(t_2)} = \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} x_1 y_2 w_2(x_1, y_2; t_1, t_2) dx_1 dy_2$$

### ► Note:

- these functions may have different values for a different pair of values  $(t_1, t_2)$

# Temporal averages

- ▶ What to do when we only have access to a single realization  $f^{(k)}(t)$ ?
- ▶ Compute values **for a single realization**  $f^{(k)}(t)$ , **across all time moments**

## 1. Temporal average value

$$\overline{f^{(k)}(t)} = \mu^{(k)} = \lim_{T \rightarrow \infty} \frac{1}{T} \int_{-T/2}^{T/2} f^{(k)}(t) dt$$

## 2. Temporal average squared value

$$\overline{[f^{(k)}(t)]^2} = \lim_{T \rightarrow \infty} \frac{1}{T} \int_{-T/2}^{T/2} [f^{(k)}(t)]^2 dt$$

## 3. Temporal variance

$$\sigma^2 = \overline{\{f^{(k)}(t) - \mu^{(k)}\}^2} = \lim_{T \rightarrow \infty} \frac{1}{T} \int_{-T/2}^{T/2} (f^{(k)}(t) - \mu^{(k)})^2 dt$$

- ▶ The variance can be computed as:

$$\sigma^2 = \overline{[f^{(k)}(t)]^2} - [\mu^{(k)}]^2$$

- ▶ Note:

- ▶ these values do not depend anymore on time  $t$  (integrated)

# Temporal autocorrelation

## 4. The temporal autocorrelation function

$$\begin{aligned} R_{ff}(t_1, t_2) &= \overline{f^{(k)}(t_1 + t)f^{(k)}(t_2 + t)} \\ &= \lim_{T \rightarrow \infty} \frac{1}{T} \int_{-T/2}^{T/2} f^{(k)}(t_1 + t)f^{(k)}(t_2 + t)dt \end{aligned}$$

## 5. The temporal correlation function (for different random processes $f(t)$ and $g(t)$ )

$$\begin{aligned} R_{fg}(t_1, t_2) &= \overline{f^{(k)}(t_1 + t)g^{(k)}(t_2 + t)} \\ &= \lim_{T \rightarrow \infty} \frac{1}{T} \int_{-T/2}^{T/2} f^{(k)}(t_1 + t)g^{(k)}(t_2 + t)dt \end{aligned}$$

# Statistical and temporal averages

- ▶ Statistical averages are usually the relevant values
- ▶ But in real life, we can only compute the temporal values
- ▶ Fortunately, in many cases they are the same (ergodicity, see later)

# Stationary random processes

- ▶ All the statistical averages are dependent on the time
  - ▶ i.e. they might be different for a sample at  $t_2$
- ▶ **Stationary** random process = when all statistical averages are **identical if we shift the time origin** (e.g. delay the signal)
- ▶ Equivalent definition: if all the PDF are identical when shifting the time origin

$$w_n(x_1, \dots, x_n; t_1, \dots, t_n) = w_n(x_1, \dots, x_n; t_1 + \tau, \dots, t_n + \tau)$$

- ▶ Basically, nothing should depend on the time  $t$

# Strict-sense and wide-sense stationary

- ▶ Strictly stationary / strongly stationary / strict-sense stationary:
  - ▶ relation holds for every  $n$
- ▶ Weakly stationary / wide-sense stationary:
  - ▶ relation holds only for  $n = 1$  and  $n = 2$  (the most used)

# Consequences of stationarity

- ▶ For  $n = 1$ :

$$w_1(x_i; t_1) = w_1(x_i; t_2) = w_1(x_i)$$

- ▶ The average value, average squared value, variance of a sample are all **identical** for any time  $t$

$$\overline{f(t)} = \text{constant}, \forall t$$

$$\overline{f^2(t)} = \text{constant}, \forall t$$

$$\sigma^2(t) = \text{constant}, \forall t$$



# Consequences of stationarity

- ▶ For  $n = 2$ :

$$w_2(x_i, x_j; t_1, t_2) = w_2(x_i, x_j; 0, t_2 - t_1) = w_2(x_i, x_j; t_2 - t_1)$$

- ▶ The autocorrelation function depends only on the **time difference**  $\tau = t_2 - t_1$  between the samples

$$R_{ff}(t_1, t_2) = R_{ff}(0, t_2 - t_1) = R_{ff}(\tau) = \overline{f(t)f(t + \tau)}$$

- ▶ Is the average value of a product of two samples time  $\tau$  apart
- ▶ Depends on a single value  $\tau =$  time difference of the two samples

# Consequences of stationarity

- ▶ Same for correlation function between two different r.p
- ▶ Depends only on the **time difference**  $\tau = t_2 - t_1$  between the samples

$$R_{fg}(t_1, t_2) = R_{fg}(0, t_2 - t_1) = R_{fg}(\tau) = \overline{f(t)g(t + \tau)}$$

- ▶ Is the average value of a product of two samples time  $\tau$  apart

# Ergodic random processes

- ▶ In practice, we have access to a single realization
- ▶ **Ergodic** random process = the temporal averages on any realization are equal to the statistical averages
- ▶ We can compute / estimate all averages from a single realization (any)
  - ▶ the realization must be very long (length  $\rightarrow \infty$ ) for precise results
- ▶ Realizations are all similar to the others, statistically
  - ▶ a single realization is characteristic of the whole process

# Ergodic random processes

- ▶ Most random processes we care about are ergodic and stationary
  - ▶ e.g. noises
- ▶ Example of non-ergodic process:
  - ▶ throw a dice, then the next 50 values are identical to the first
  - ▶ a single realization is not characteristic

## I.3 More on autocorrelation

# The Power Spectral Density of a random process

- ▶ The Power Spectral Density (PSD)  $S_{ff}(\omega)$  is the power of the random process at every frequency  $f$  ( $\omega = 2\pi f$ )
- ▶ The PSD describes how the power of a signal is distributed in frequency
  - ▶ e.g. some random processes have more power at low frequency, others at high frequency etc.
- ▶ The power in the frequency band  $[f_1, f_2]$  is equal to  $\int_{f_1}^{f_2} S_{ff}(\omega) d\omega$
- ▶ The whole power of the signal is  $\int_{-\infty}^{\infty} S_{ff}(\omega) d\omega$
- ▶ The PSD is basically a measurable quantity
  - ▶ it can be determined experimentally
  - ▶ it is important in practical (engineering) applications

# The Wiener-Khinchin theorem

- ▶ *Rom: teorema Wiener-Hincin*

Theorem:

- ▶ **The Power Spectral Density = the Fourier transform of the autocorrelation function**

$$S_{ff}(\omega) = \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} R_{ff}(\tau) e^{-j\omega\tau} d\tau$$

$$R_{ff}(\tau) = \frac{1}{2\pi} \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} S_{ff}(\omega) e^{j\omega\tau} d\omega$$

- ▶ No proof
- ▶ Makes a relation between two rather different domains
  - ▶ autocorrelation function: a *statistical* property
  - ▶ PSD function: a *physical* property (relevant for engineering purposes)

# White noise

- ▶ White noise = a random process with autocorrelation function equal to a Dirac function

$$R_{ff}(\tau) = \delta(\tau)$$

- ▶ Any two different samples ( $\tau \neq 0$ ) have zero correlation (are uncorrelated)
  - ▶ they do not vary similarly
- ▶ Power spectral density = Fourier transform of a Dirac = a constant
  - ▶ has equal power at all frequencies up to  $\infty$
- ▶ In real life, power goes to 0 for very high frequencies
  - ▶ “*band-limited white noise*”
  - ▶ Samples which are very close are necessarily somewhat correlated
- ▶ White noise can have almost any distribution
  - ▶ normal, uniform etc.



# Properties of the autocorrelation function

1. Is even

$$R_{ff}(\tau) = R_{ff}(-\tau)$$

- ▶ Proof: change variable in definition

2. At infinite it goes to a constant

$$R_{ff}(\infty) = \overline{f(t)}^2 = \text{const}$$

- ▶ Proof: two samples separated by  $\infty$  are independent

3. Is maximum in 0

$$R_{ff}(0) \geq R_{ff}(\tau)$$

- ▶ Proof: start from  $\overline{(f(t) - f(t + \tau))^2} \geq 0$
- ▶ Interpretation: different samples might vary differently, but a sample always varies identically with itself

# Properties of the autocorrelation function

4. Value in 0 = the power of the random process

$$R_{ff}(0) = \frac{1}{2\pi} \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} S_{ff}(\omega) d\omega$$

- Proof: Put  $\tau = 0$  in inverse Fourier transform of Wiener-Khinchin theorem

5. Variance = difference between values at 0 and  $\infty$

$$\sigma^2 = R_{ff}(0) - R_{ff}(\infty)$$

- Proof:  $R_{ff}(0) = \overline{f(t)^2}$ ,  $R_{ff}(\infty) = \overline{f(t)}^2$

# Autocorrelation of filtered random processes

- ▶ Consider a stationary random process applied as input to a LTI system
  - ▶ either continuous-time: input  $x(t)$ , system  $H(s)$ , output  $y(t)$
  - ▶ or discrete-time: input  $x[n]$ , system  $H(z)$ , output  $y[n]$
- ▶ How does the autocorrelation of  $y$  depend on that of the input  $x$ ?
- ▶  $y$  is the convolution of  $x$  and the impulse response  $h$

# Computations

- ▶ For discrete-time processes

$$\begin{aligned} R_{yy}(\tau) &= \overline{y[n]y[n+\tau]} \\ &= \overline{\sum_{k_1=-\infty}^{\infty} h[k_1]x[n-k_1] \sum_{k_2=-\infty}^{\infty} h[k_2]x[n+\tau-k_2]} \\ &= \sum_{k_1=-\infty}^{\infty} \sum_{k_2=-\infty}^{\infty} h[k_1]h[k_2] \overline{x[n-k_1]x[n+\tau-k_2]} \\ &= \sum_{k_1=-\infty}^{\infty} \sum_{k_2=-\infty}^{\infty} h[k_1]h[k_2]R_{xx}[\tau-k_1+k_2] \end{aligned}$$

- ▶ From Wiener-Hincin theorem:

$$S_{ff}(\omega) = \sum_{\tau=-\infty}^{\infty} R_{ff}(\tau)e^{-j\omega\tau}$$

# Computations

- Therefore

$$S_{yy}(\omega) = \sum_{\tau=-\infty}^{\infty} \sum_{k_1=-\infty}^{\infty} \sum_{k_2=-\infty}^{\infty} h[k_1]h[k_2]R_{xx}[\tau - k_1 + k_2]e^{-j\omega\tau}$$

- Change of variable:  $\tau - k_1 + k_2 = u$

- then  $\tau = u + k_1 - k_2$

$$\begin{aligned} S_{yy}(\omega) &= \sum_{u=-\infty}^{\infty} \sum_{k_1=-\infty}^{\infty} \sum_{k_2=-\infty}^{\infty} h[k_1]h[k_2]R_{xx}[u]e^{-j\omega(u+k_1+k_2)} \\ &= \sum_{u=-\infty}^{\infty} R_{xx}[u]e^{-j\omega u} \sum_{k_1=-\infty}^{\infty} h[k_1]e^{-j\omega k_1} \sum_{k_2=-\infty}^{\infty} h[k_2]e^{j\omega k_2} \\ &= S_{xx}(\omega) \cdot H(\omega) \cdot H^*(\omega) \\ &= S_{xx}(\omega) \cdot |H(\omega)|^2 \end{aligned}$$

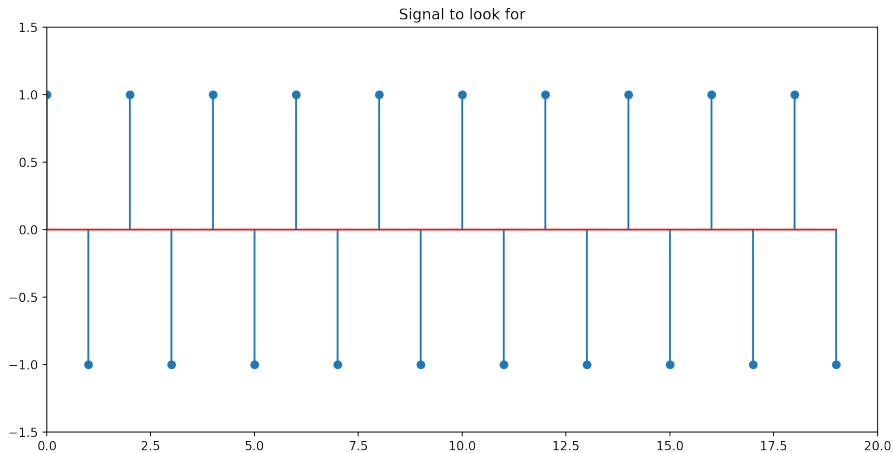
$$S_{yy}(\omega) = S_{xx}(\omega) \cdot |H(\omega)|^2$$

- ▶ The PSD of  $y$  = the PSD of  $x$  multiplied with the squared amplitude response of the filter
- ▶ Same relation is valid for continuous processes as well

# Applications of (auto)correlation

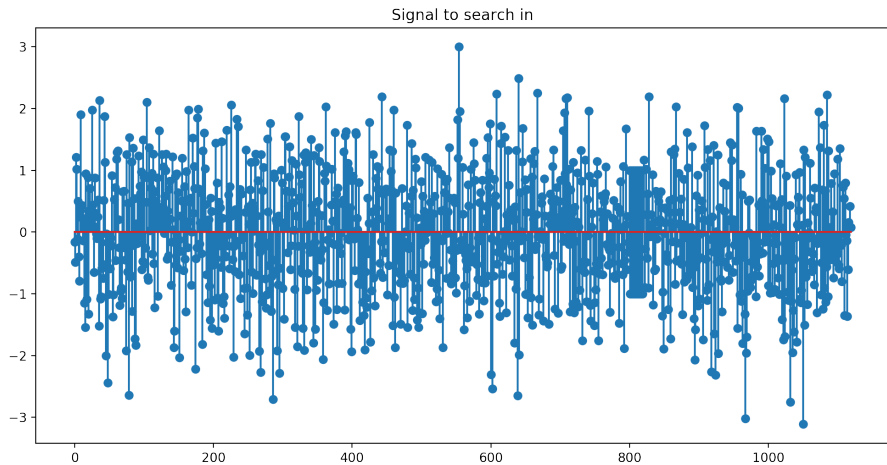
- ▶ Searching for a certain part in a large signal
- ▶ Correlation of two signals = measure of **similarity** of the two signals
  - ▶ The correlation function measures the similarity of a signal with all the shifted versions of the other
  - ▶ Example at blackboard
- ▶ Correlation can be used to locate data
  - ▶ The (auto)correlation function has large values when the two signals match
  - ▶ Large value when both positive and negative areas match,
  - ▶ Small values when they don't match

# The signal to look for

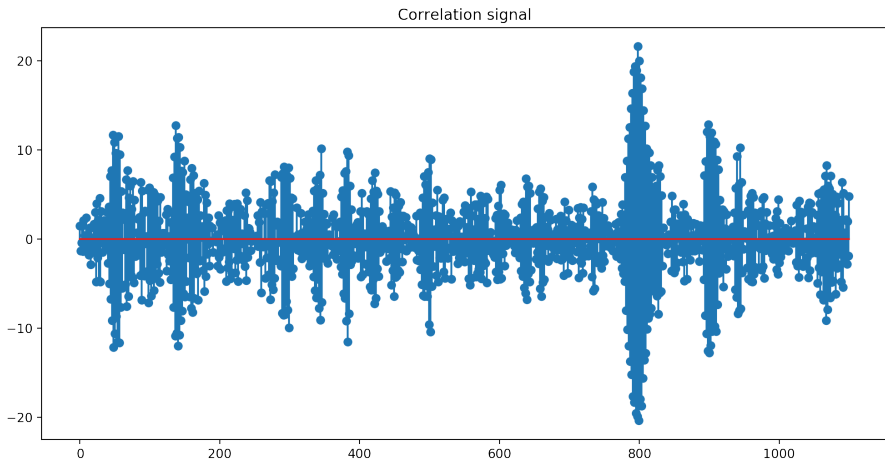




# The complete signal



# Correlation result



# System identification

- ▶ Determining the impulse response of an unknown LTI system
- ▶ Based on correlation between input and output of the system



Figure 1: System identification setup

# System identification

$$\begin{aligned} R_{fg}(\tau) &= \overline{f[n]g[n+\tau]} \\ &= \overline{f[n] \sum_{k=-\infty}^{\infty} h[k]f[n+\tau-k]} \\ &= \sum_{k=-\infty}^{\infty} h[k] \overline{f[n]f[n+\tau-k]} \\ &= \sum_{k=-\infty}^{\infty} h[k] R_{ff}[\tau-k] \\ &= h[\tau] \star R_{ff}[\tau] \end{aligned}$$

- ▶ If the input  $f$  is **white noise** with power  $A$ ,  $R_{ff}[n] = A \cdot \delta[n]$ , and

$$R_{fg}(\tau) = h[\tau] \star R_{ff}[\tau] = A \cdot h[\tau] \star \delta[\tau] = A \cdot h[\tau]$$

- ▶ Then the correlation is proportional with the impulse response of the unknown system