

February 2, 2024

Audio Filter Design

ELEC-E5620 - Audio Signal Processing, Lecture #3

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Aalto University
School of Electrical
Engineering

Sound check 

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Course Schedule for 2024 (Periods III-IV)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 0. General issues (Vesa, Gloria & Eloi) | 12.1.2024 |
| 1. History and future of audio DSP (Vesa) | 19.1.2024 |
| 2. Digital filters in audio (Vesa) | 26.1.2024 |
|  3. Audio filter design (Vesa) | 2.2.2024  |
| 4. Analysis of audio signals (Eloi) | 9.2.2024 |
| 5. Audio effects processing (Vesa) | 16.2.2024 |
| * No lecture (Evaluation week for Period III) | *23.2.2024 |
| 6. Sound synthesis (Dr. Fabian Esqueda, Korg Germany, Berlin) | 1.3.2024 |
| 7. Artificial reverberation (Dr. Karolina Prawda, Aalto Acoustics Lab) | 8.3.2024 |
| 8. Physics-based sound synthesis (Dr. Max Schäfer, Univ. Erlangen) | 15.3.2024 |
| 9. Sampling rate conversion (Vesa) | 22.3.2024 |
| * No lecture (Spring Break/Easter) | *29.3.2024 |
| 10. Audio coding (Vesa) | 5.4.2024 |
| 11. BONUS: Machine learning in audio (Eloi & Gloria) | 12.4.2024 |

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Demo: Saturating Resonant Filter

Ivan Benc

Xiaojie Pi

Ruijie Wang

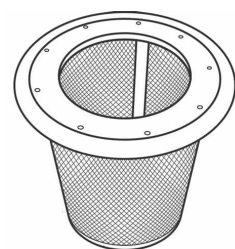
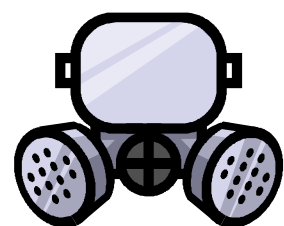
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Outline

- Introduction and motivation
- Properties of digital filters
- FIR or IIR?
- Error norms for filter design
- Auditory resolution
- FIR filter design
- IIR filter design
- Graphic equalizers



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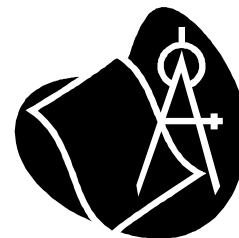
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Introduction & Motivation



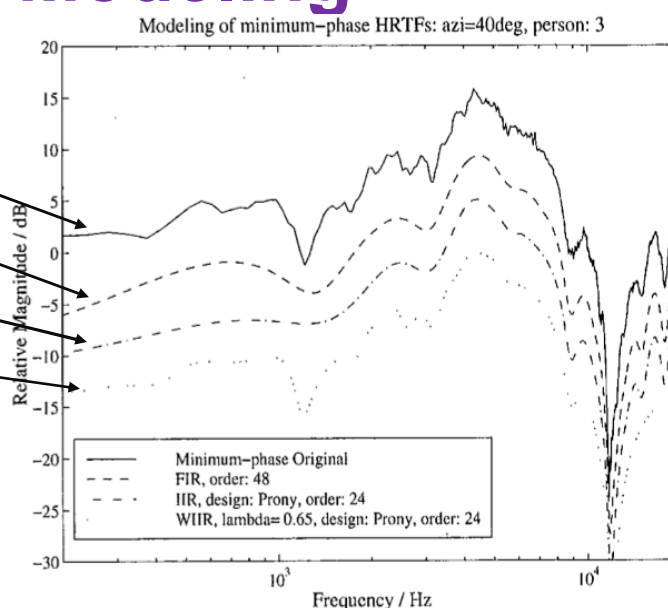
- Basic audio filters
 - Usually, straightforward low-order design in closed form (see lecture #2 on Digital Filters)
- More advanced filters needed in many real-life applications
 - Equalization of loudspeakers/headphones
 - Room correction (loudspeaker-room EQ)
 - Graphic equalization (for music production, concerts etc.)
 - HRTF (head-related transfer function) filters for 3-D sound
 - Digital musical instruments, e.g., piano soundboard, guitar or violin body
 - Reverberation algorithms (to adjust the T60 curve)
 - Modeling of signal frames, e.g. in audio coding

Example, HRTF Modeling

- A simple filter is insufficient

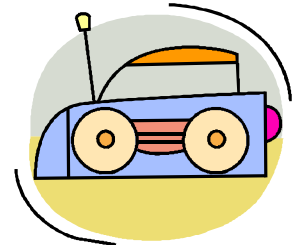
Target response
FIR, order 48
IIR, order 24
Warped IIR, order 24

• Source: Huopaniemi, J., Zacharov, N., and Karjalainen, M., Objective and Subjective Evaluation of Head-Related-Transfer Function Filter Design, 105th AES Convention



Introduction & Motivation 2

- Which application, what purpose?
 - Requirements help in choosing the design method
- General principle
 - **Quick** methods for real-time applications (aim at designing a low-order filter)
 - **Accurate** methods for off-line processing (high-order filters, when necessary)
- Things to remember in audio filter design
 - Frequency resolution of the hearing system is nonlinear (logarithmic): good at low, poor at high frequencies
 - Conventional "textbook" filter design techniques (lowpass, highpass, bandpass...) are usually unsuitable



Properties of Filters

- Convolution for linear and time-invariant (LTI) systems:

$$y[n] = h[n] * x[n]$$

Impulse response
of the filter

Input signal

$$\sum_{k=0}^M b_k z^{-k}$$

FIR part

- The same in Z-domain

$$Y(z) = H(z)X(z) \Leftrightarrow H(z) = \frac{Y(z)}{X(z)} = \frac{B(z)}{A(z)} = \sum_{k=0}^N a_k z^{-k}$$

All-pole part

Properties of Filters: Magnitude

- Frequency response
 - Replace z with $e^{j\omega}$
- Magnitude response
 - Take the absolute value
- In Matlab
 - `freqz.m`

$$H(e^{j\omega}) = \frac{B(e^{j\omega})}{A(e^{j\omega})}$$

$$|H(e^{j\omega})|$$

Properties of Filters: Phase

- Phase response
 - Radian phase shift
- Phase delay
 - Time delay of each sinusoidal component (in samples)
- Group delay
 - Time delay (in samples) of the amplitude envelope of a sinusoid at frequency ω
- In Matlab
 - `phasez.m`
 - `phasedelay.m`
 - `grpdelay.m`

$$\theta(\omega) = \arg\{H(e^{j\omega})\}$$

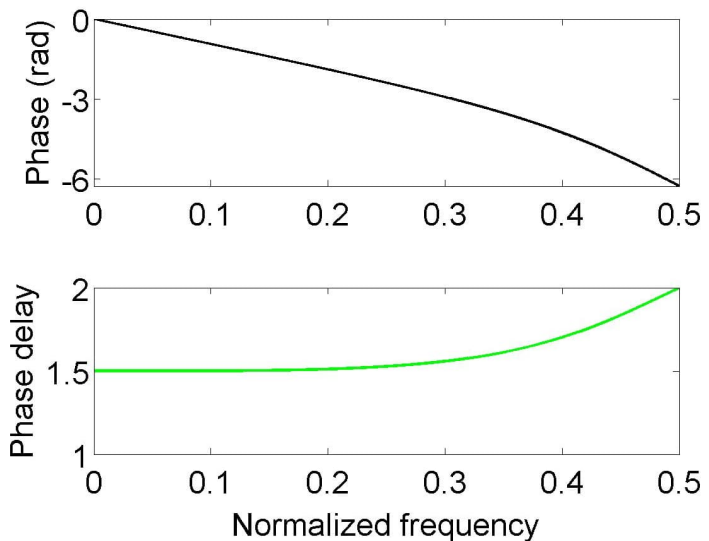
$$P(\omega) = -\frac{\theta(\omega)}{\omega}$$

$$D(\omega) = -\frac{d}{d\omega}\theta(\omega)$$

Phase Delay of a Digital Filter

- Phase response and phase delay
 - 2nd-order allpass filter

$$P(\omega) = -\frac{\theta(\omega)}{\omega}$$

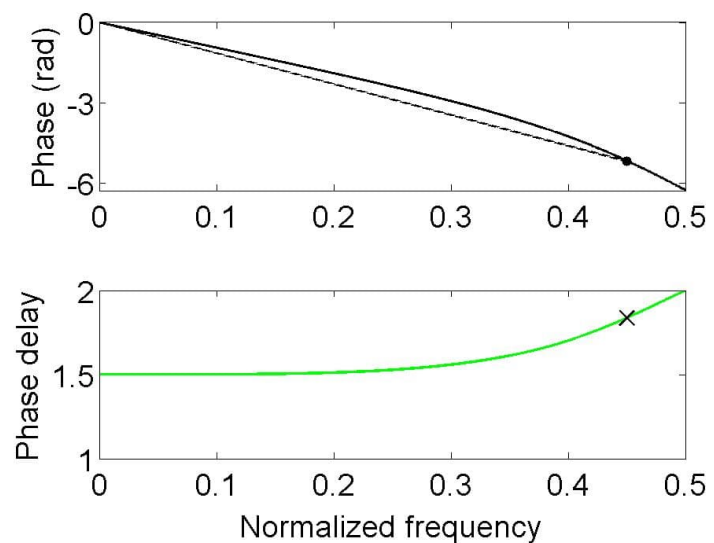


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Phase Delay of a Digital Filter (2)

- Phase delay is negative of the slope of a straight line fitted through 0 and $\theta(\omega)$:

$$\begin{aligned} P(\omega) &= -\frac{\theta(\omega)}{\omega} \\ &= \frac{0 - \theta(\omega)}{0 - \omega} \end{aligned}$$



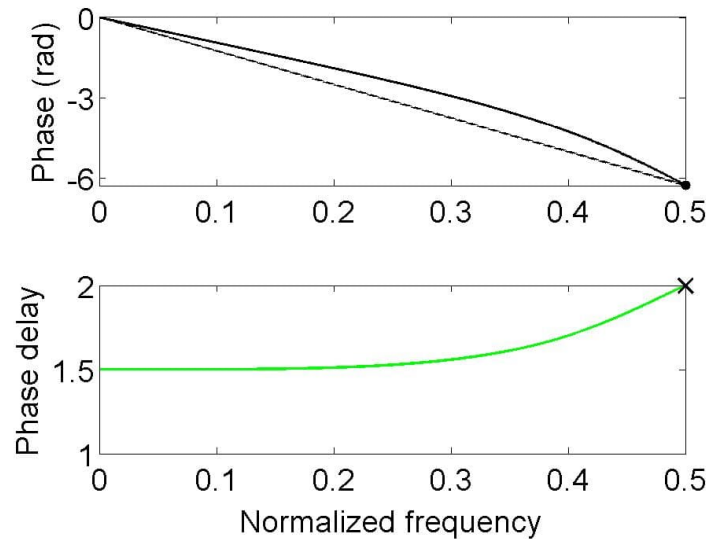
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Phase Delay of a Digital Filter (3)

- Phase delay is negative of the slope of a straight line fitted through 0 and $\theta(\omega)$:

$$P(\omega) = -\frac{\theta(\omega)}{\omega}$$

$$= \frac{0 - \theta(\omega)}{0 - \omega}$$

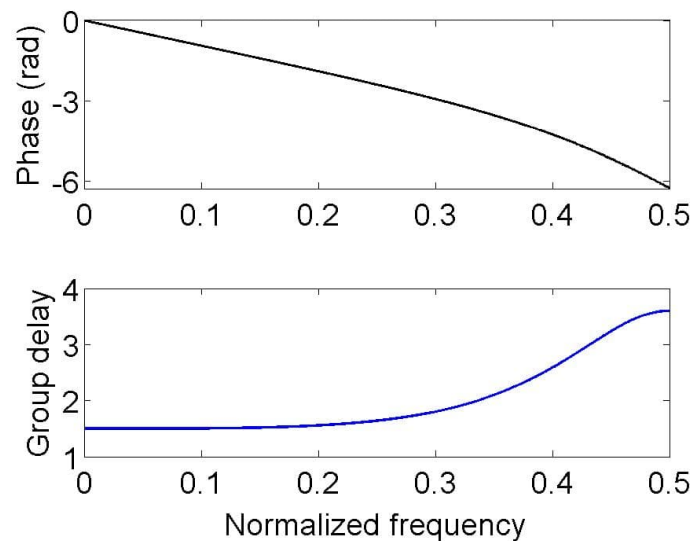


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Group delay of a Digital Filter

- Phase response and group delay
 - The same 2nd-order allpass filter as before

$$D(\omega) = -\frac{d}{d\omega} \theta(\omega)$$

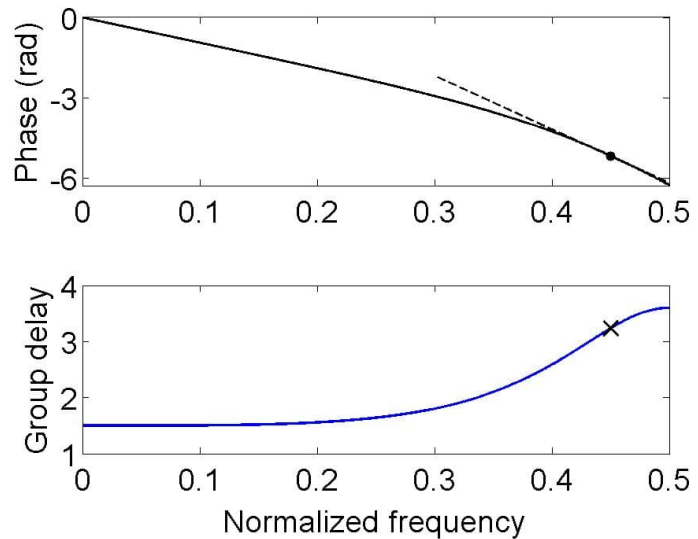


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Group delay of a Digital Filter (2)

- Group delay is -1 times the local gradient of the phase function $\theta(\omega)$

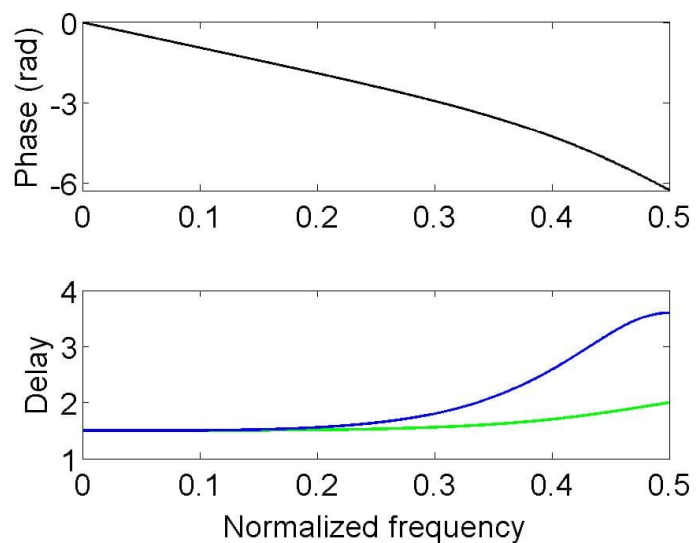
$$D(\omega) = -\frac{d}{d\omega} \theta(\omega)$$



Phase Delay vs. Group delay

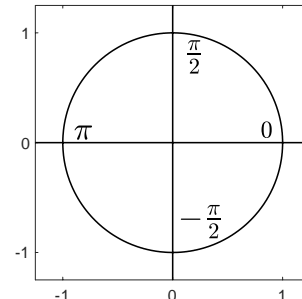
- Phase delay = Group delay, when the phase function is linear (here: at low freqs)
- Otherwise: Phase delay \neq Group delay (here: at mid & high freqs)

— Group delay
— Phase delay



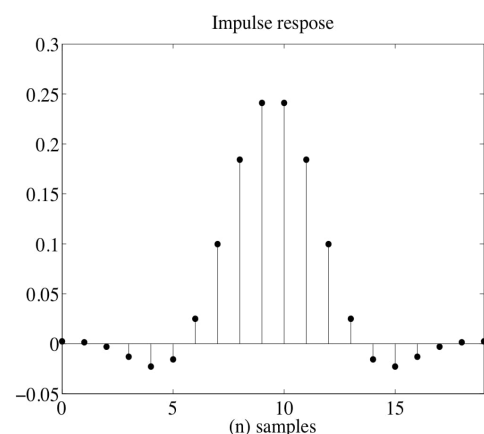
How to Present the Digital Frequency Axis?

- Radians
 - Sampling frequency = $2\pi \rightarrow$ Axis $[0, \pi]$
- Normalized
 - Sampling frequency = 1 \rightarrow Axis $[0, 0.5]$
 - Easy to convert to Hz by multiplying by the sampling frequency
- Matlab (default, but not a great choice)
 - Sampling frequency = 2 \rightarrow Axis $[0, 1]$
- Hz
 - E.g., if the sampling frequency is 44.1 kHz \rightarrow Axis $[0, 22.05]$ kHz



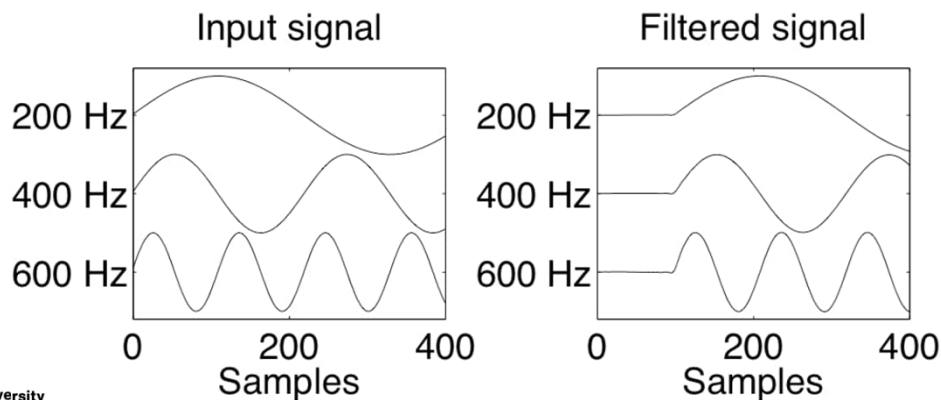
Phase Characteristics (1)

- Linear phase
 - Easy to obtain using FIR filters
 - Symmetric impulse response
 - Phase delay = group delay
 - Sometimes desirable, but why?
- Zero phase
 - Special case of a linear-phase filter
 - Impulse response symmetric w.r.t. 0 \rightarrow noncausal!
 - Possible offline: `filtfilt.m`



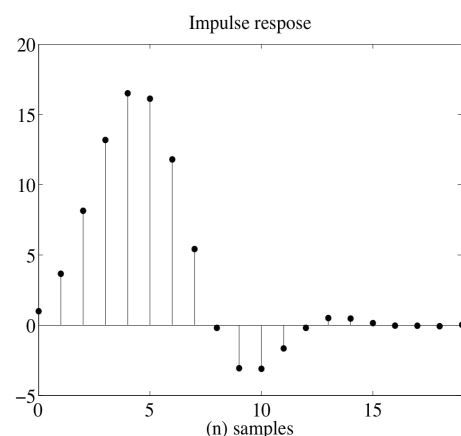
Linear Phase in Practice

- Linear phase → constant phase delay at all frequencies
 - In the example here, the filter causes 100 samples of delay

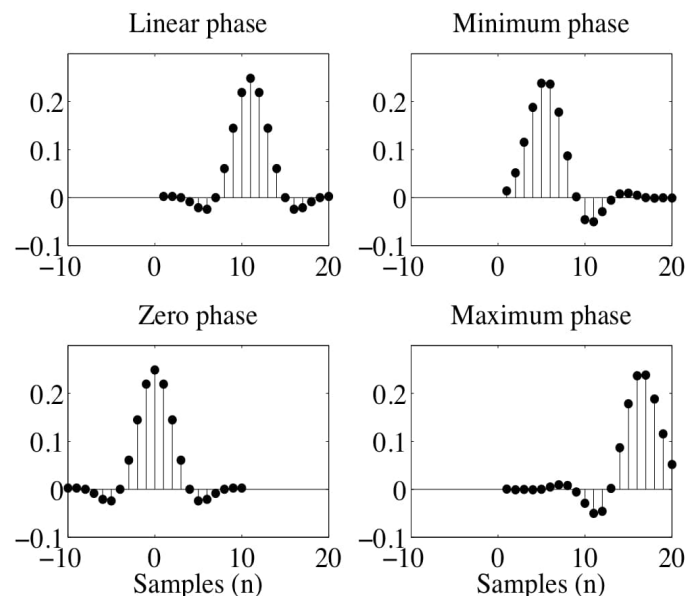


Phase Characteristics (2)

- Minimum phase**
 - No zeros outside the unit circle
 - Often desirable, why?
 - Releases energy as fast as possible for the given magnitude response
 - Always stable and causal
 - Also its inverse filter is stable
- Maximum phase**
 - All zeros outside the unit circle (or on the unit circle)
 - Time-reversed version of the minimum-phase system



Impulse Response with Different Phase



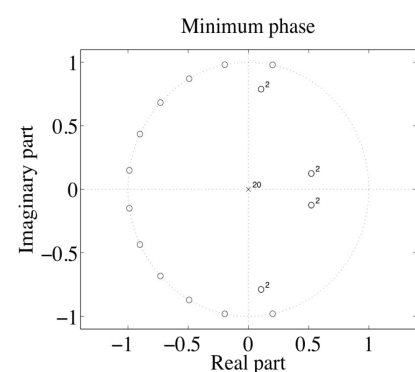
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How to Construct a Minimum Phase?

- Option #1: Mirroring the Zeros
 - Zeros outside the unit circle are relocated to inside the unit circle

$$z = re^{j\theta}, r > 1 \rightarrow z = \frac{e^{j\theta}}{r}$$

- Not feasible when the filter order is large, because then it's difficult or impossible to find the zeros (*i.e.*, roots of a polynomial)



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How to Construct a Minimum Phase?

- Option #2: The Hilbert Transform Method
 - Logarithm of the magnitude response and the phase function of a minimum-phase system are Hilbert transform pairs
 - To convert a filter to minimum-phase: Replace the filter's phase response with the Hilbert transform of its log magnitude response!
 - The Hilbert transform shifts the phase of the input signal by 90 degrees (π radians)
 - See: https://ccrma.stanford.edu/~jos/sasp/Minimum_Phase_Filter_Design.html

How to Construct a Minimum Phase?

- Option #3: Cepstral Windowing
 - Cepstrum is the inverse Fourier transform of the log of the spectrum

$$c(n) = F^{-1}\{\log|H(z)|\}$$
 - F^{-1} is the inverse Discrete Fourier Transform (DFT)
 - Deleting the left side of the cepstrum modifies the phase so that the signal becomes minimum-phase

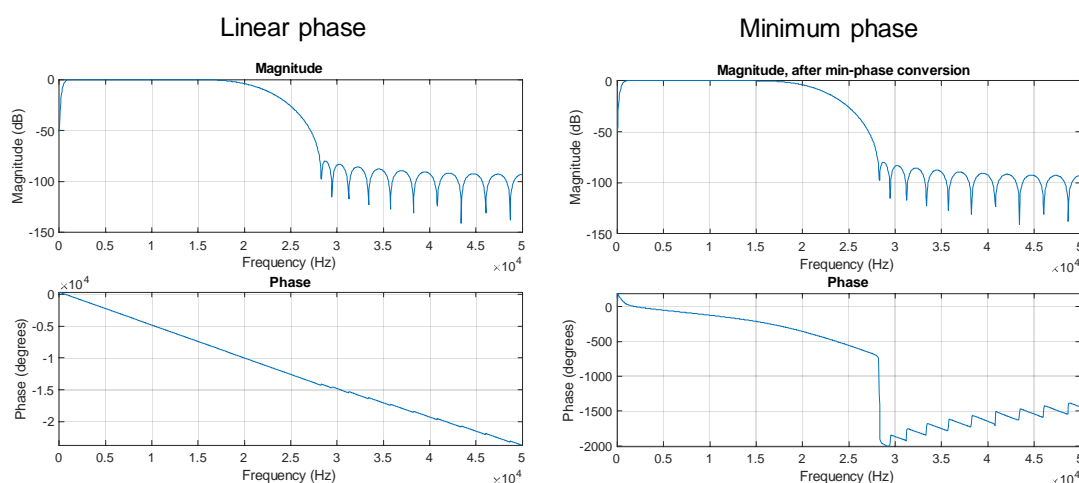
$$\hat{c}(n) = c(n)w(n)$$
 - The window $w(n)$ is a unit-step function (selecting the right half)
 - The minimum-phase impulse response is obtained with DFT.

$$h_{\text{mp}}(n) = F^{-1}\{e^{F\{\hat{c}(n)\}}\}$$
 - Download the codes (`minphase_rceps.m`, `minphase_hilbert.m`) from MyCourses and try!
 - See also: https://ccrma.stanford.edu/~jos/fp/Creating_Minimum_Phase_Filters.html

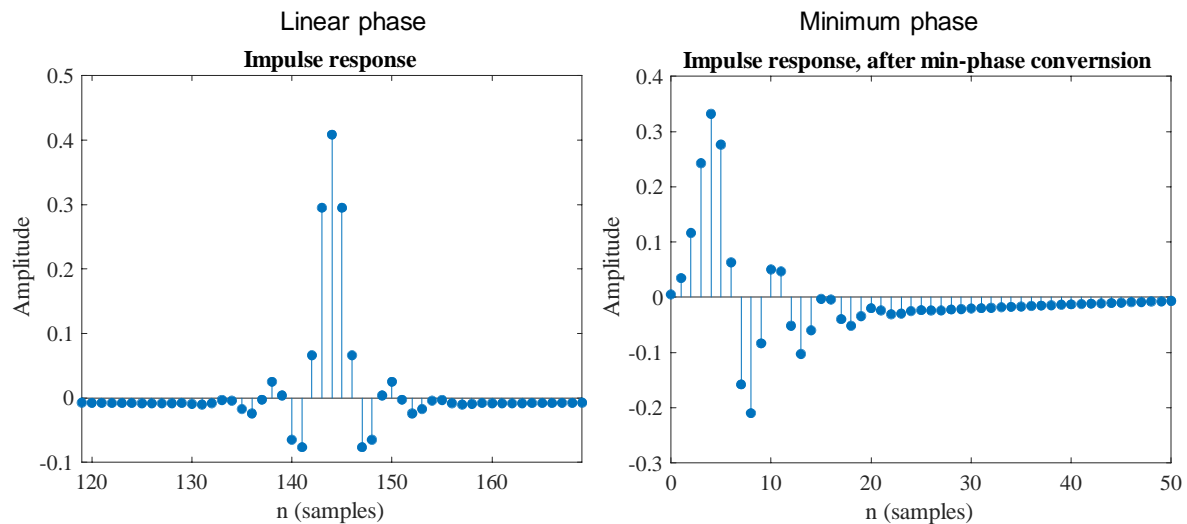
Linear-Phase/Minimum-Phase FIR Filter

- Loudspeaker model
 - Low corner frequency (highpass): ≈ 500 Hz order 256
 - High corner frequency (lowpass): ≈ 20 kHz order 32
- For plotting: `freqz.m`, `impz.m`, `zplane.m`
 - Pay attention to the frequency normalization!
- Download the code (`LS_FIR_demo.m`) from MyCourses!

Linear-Phase/Minimum-Phase FIR Filter

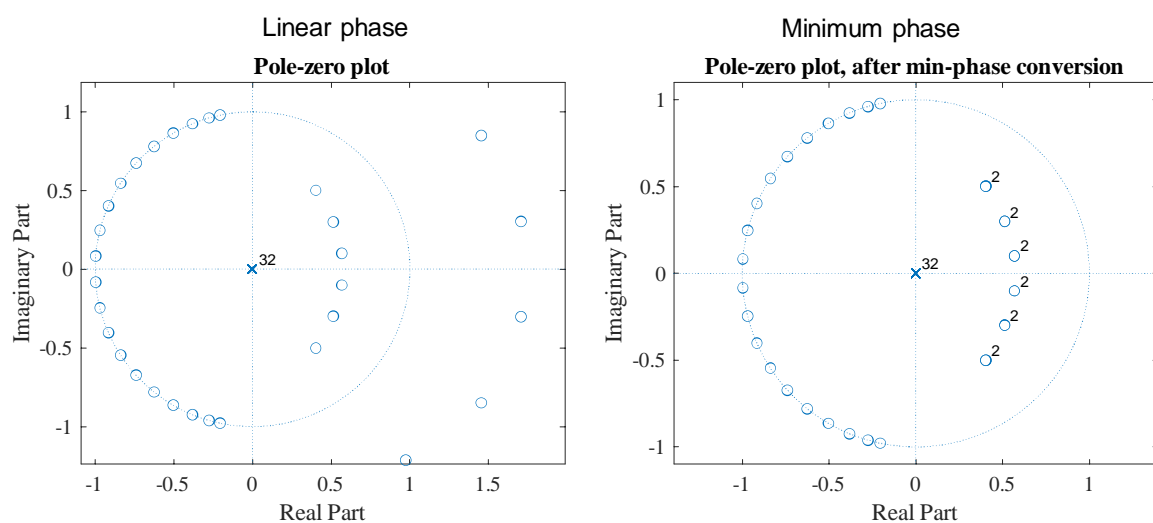


Linear-Phase/Minimum-Phase FIR Filter



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Linear-Phase/Minimum-Phase FIR Filter



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Filter Design Problem

- How to approximate the target response with a digital filter
- Minimize the frequency-response error:

$$E(e^{j\theta}) = H(e^{j\theta}) - \hat{H}(e^{j\theta})$$

Error = target – approximation

- In digital filter design, L_p norms are often used
 - L_2 leads to the least-squares design
 - L_∞ leads to the Chebyshev (minimax) design



Least-squares (L_2) Norm

$$E_2(e^{j\omega}) = \|H(e^{j\omega}) - \hat{H}(e^{j\omega})\|_2^2 \triangleq \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} |h(n) - \hat{h}(n)|^2$$

- Many popular filter design techniques, such as Prony's method, use this method (`prony.m` in Matlab)
- An easy LS FIR filter design method is to truncate the impulse response of the ideal filter
 - By including the largest samples, you minimize the squared error!

Solving FIR Filter Coefficients in LS Design

- If \mathbf{h} is the desired response vector, $\boldsymbol{\varepsilon}$ is the frequency response error vector, and \mathbf{F} is the discrete Fourier transform (DFT) matrix
- Minimize the squared error to design coefficients $\hat{\mathbf{h}}$:

$$\mathbf{F}\hat{\mathbf{h}} = \mathbf{h} + \boldsymbol{\varepsilon}$$

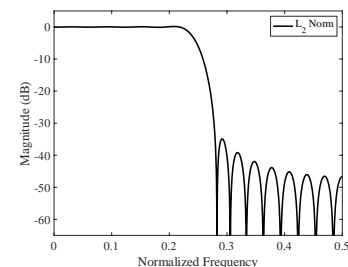
$$\min \|\boldsymbol{\varepsilon}\|^2 = \min \|\mathbf{F}\hat{\mathbf{h}} - \mathbf{h}\|^2$$

$$\frac{\partial}{\partial \mathbf{h}} (\mathbf{F}\hat{\mathbf{h}} - \mathbf{h})(\mathbf{F}\hat{\mathbf{h}} - \mathbf{h})^T = 0$$

$$\frac{\partial}{\partial \mathbf{h}} (\hat{\mathbf{h}}^T \mathbf{F}^T \mathbf{F} \hat{\mathbf{h}} - 2\mathbf{h}^T \mathbf{F} \hat{\mathbf{h}} + \mathbf{h}^T \mathbf{h}) = \mathbf{F}^T \mathbf{F} \hat{\mathbf{h}} - \mathbf{F}^T \mathbf{h} = 0$$

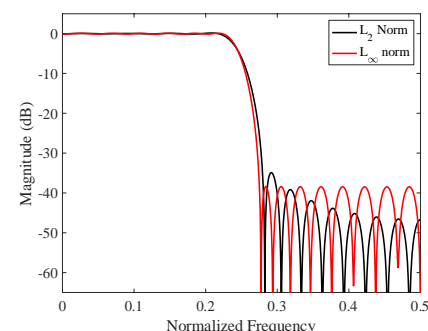
$$\Leftrightarrow \hat{\mathbf{h}} = (\mathbf{F}^T \mathbf{F})^{-1} \mathbf{F}^T \mathbf{h} \quad \text{“pseudoinverse”}$$

Matlab: `hhat = F \backslash h`



Chebyshev (L_∞) Norm

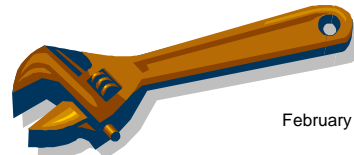
- Chebyshev (minimax) norm:
 - Minimize the maximum component of the error norm
 - Requires an iteration loop and an end rule (for selected accuracy)
 - The error function will be “equiripple”



$$E_\infty(e^{j\omega}) = \|H(e^{j\omega}) - \hat{H}(e^{j\omega})\|_\infty \triangleq \max_{-\pi < \omega < \pi} |H(e^{j\omega}) - \hat{H}(e^{j\omega})|$$

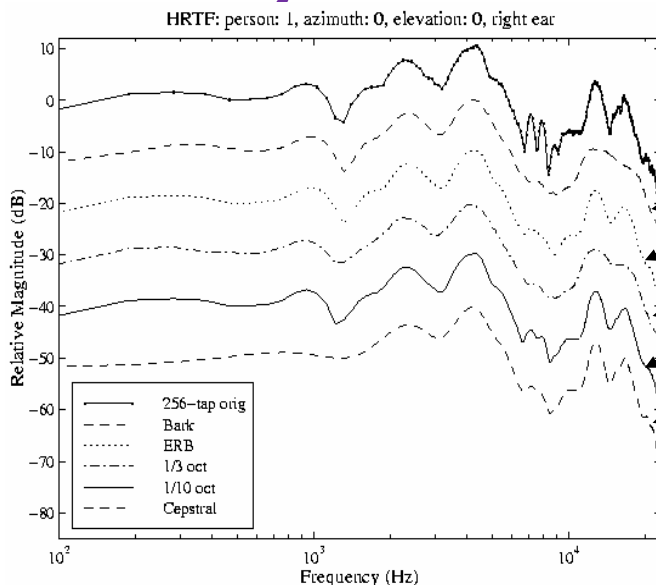
Auditory Resolution

- Account for the properties of the human hearing
 - Linear or non-uniform frequency scale, e.g., critical bands (in Bark)
 - The domain in which the error is matched (e.g., loudness or T60 domain)
- Tools
 - Auditory smoothing: Average of the spectrum with a sliding window (the window size should increase with frequency, as in octaves or Barks)
 - Weighting functions: Suppress less important frequencies in the error (e.g., weighting proportional to Bark bandwidths)
 - Frequency warping: Expand the important frequency range; shrink the less important range



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Auditory Smoothing



Example target response

- ERB & Bark smoothing (Equivalent Rectangular Bandwidth)
- 1/3 and 1/10-octave smoothing
- Cepstral smoothing

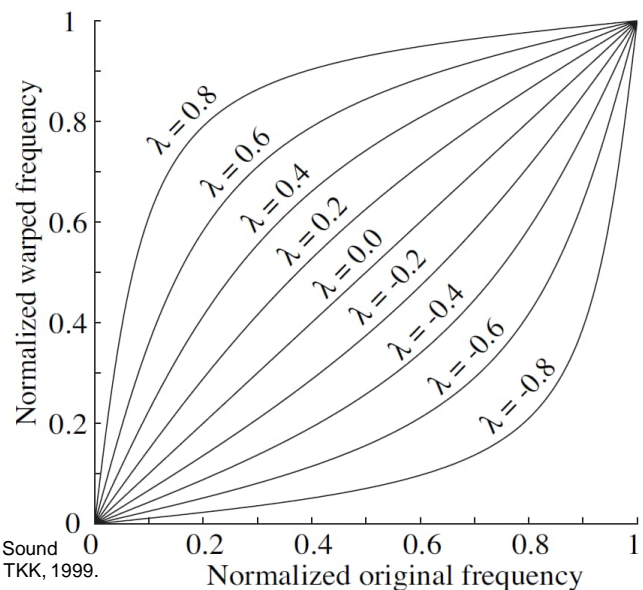
Source: Huopaniemi, J.
Virtual Acoustics and 3-D Sound
in Multimedia Signal Processing.
Doctoral Thesis, TKK, 1999.

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Frequency Warping

- Frequency scale warping before designing the filter
 - Replace the unit delay with a first-order allpass filter
 - λ is the warping parameter

$$z^{-1} \rightarrow \frac{z^{-1} - \lambda}{1 - \lambda z^{-1}}$$

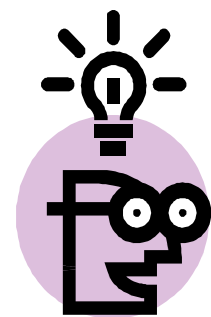


Source: Huopaniemi, J. Virtual Acoustics and 3-D Sound in Multimedia Signal Processing. Doctoral Thesis, TKK, 1999.

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Properties of Warped Filters

- Allpass filter \rightarrow flat magnitude response with frequency-dependent group delay
- If $\lambda = 0.7661$ ($f_s = 48$ kHz), the warping closely matches the Bark scale (Smith & Abel 1999)
- Design the filter in warped frequency domain \rightarrow stretch the important frequencies



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How to Warp?

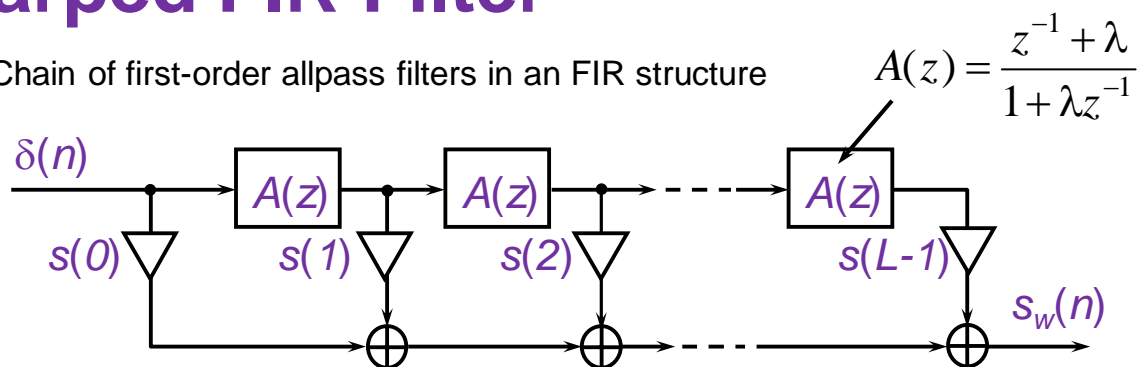
- Implement the filter in the warped frequency domain
 - WFIR or WIIR structures
 - More accuracy, but more computation as well
 - In WIIR structure the delay-free loops must be avoided → remap coefficients
- Unwarp the warped transfer function to a standard filter



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Warped FIR Filter

- Chain of first-order allpass filters in an FIR structure



- $s(n)$ is the signal to be warped, $\delta(n)$ is an impulse, $s_w(n)$ is the warped signal
- The extent of warping is determined by λ
 - With $\lambda = 0$, the warped FIR filter becomes a standard FIR filter

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Windowing Methods for FIR Filters

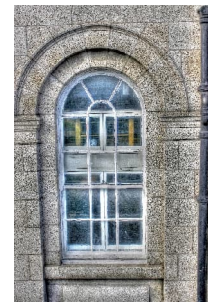
- Truncate the impulse response using a window function
- Many choices for windowing functions!
- Suitable for modeling measured/estimated impulse responses in audio
- In Matlab: `fir1.m`

Frequency Sampling Method

- Sample the target frequency response uniformly (magnitude & phase)
- Reflect it to the negative frequencies: same magnitude, opposite phase
- Use Inverse DFT (IDFT) to obtain the filter coefficients
- The length of the IDFT specifies the filter length
- Check the frequency response with zero-padded DFT
- Note: there will be “don’t care” regions between the sample points
- In Matlab: `fir2.m`

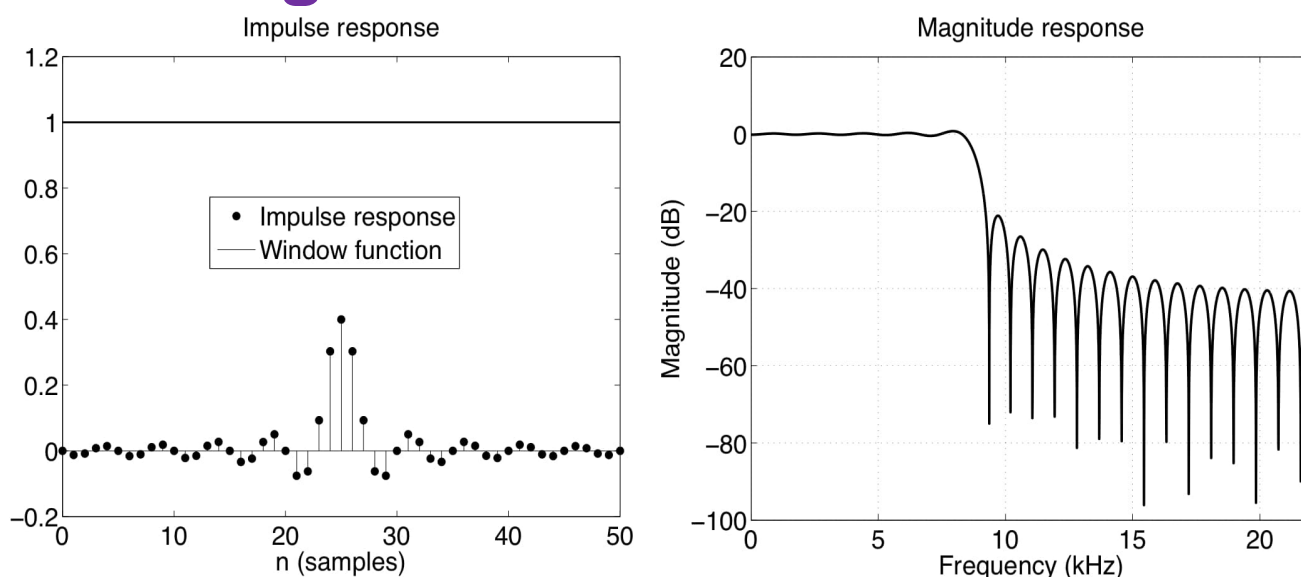
Properties of Window Functions

- Rectangular window
 - Minimizes the truncated time-domain L_2 norm
 - Gibbs's phenomenon (passband ripple)
 - Low sidelobe rejection
 - Steep transition band
- Other window functions
 - Hann
 - Hamming
 - Blackman
 - ...



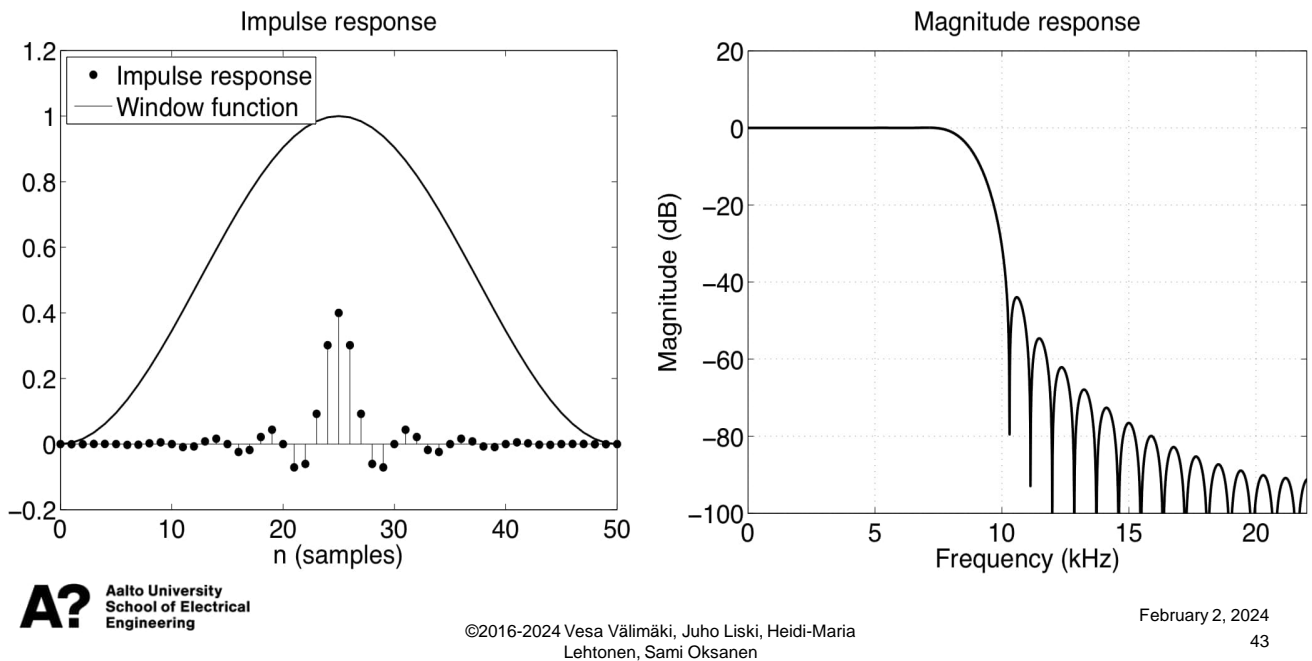
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Rectangular window



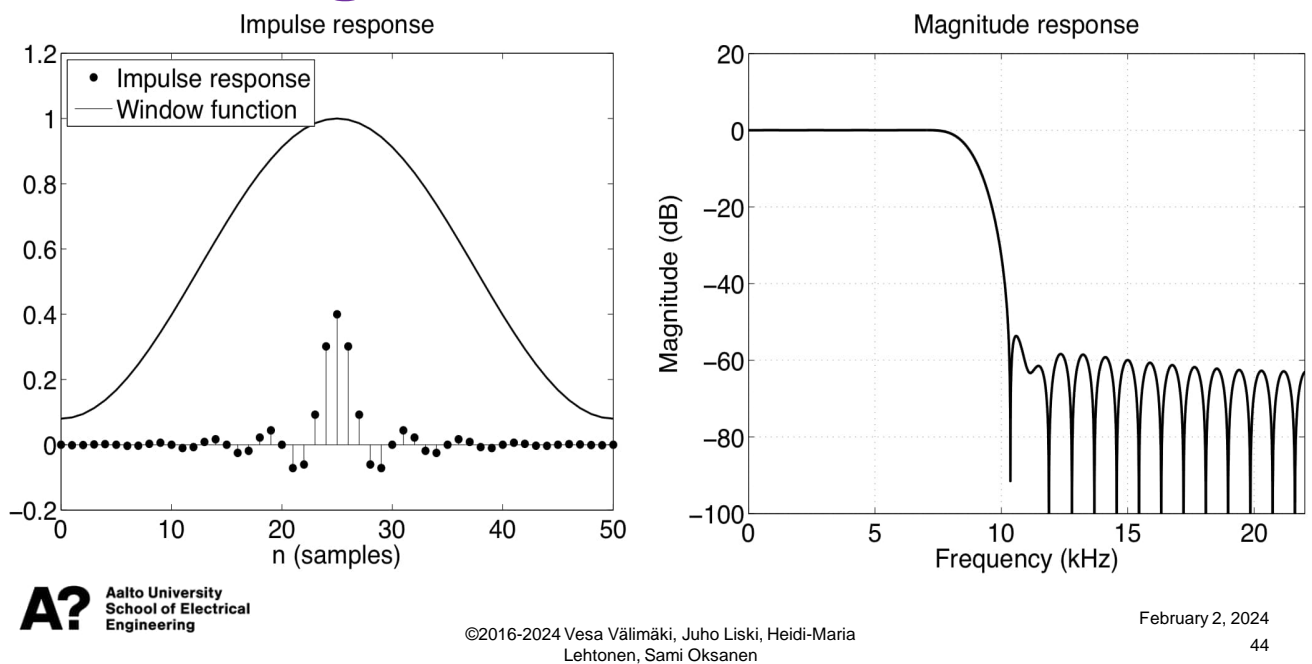
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Hann window



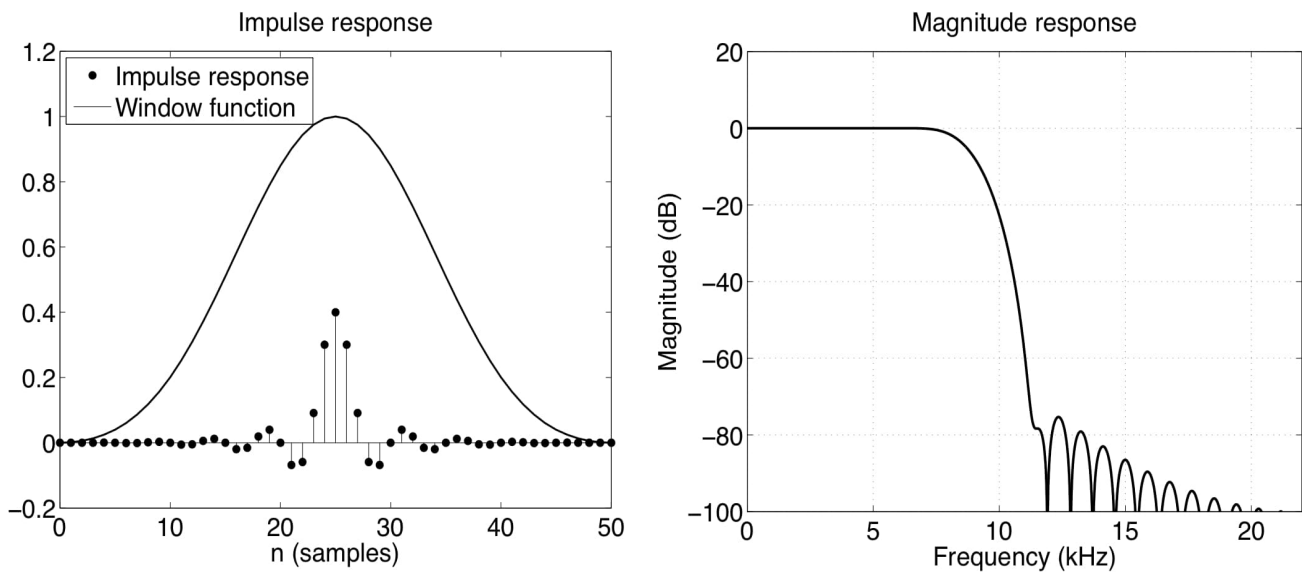
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Hamming window



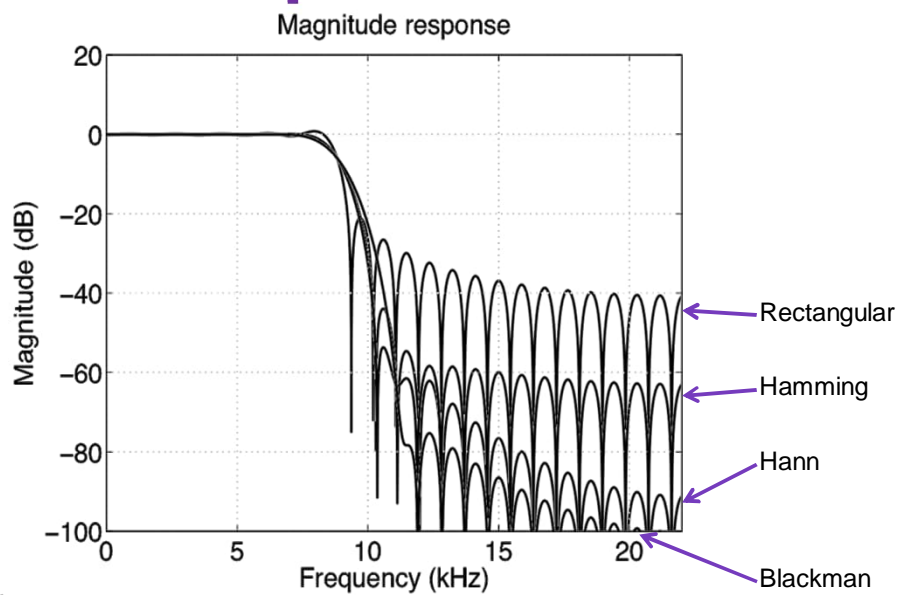
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Blackman window



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Window Comparison



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Weighted LS FIR Filter Design

- Using a non-negative weight function W , minimize

$$E = \sum_{k=0}^{L-1} W(\omega_k) |H(\omega_k) - \hat{H}(\omega_k)|^2$$

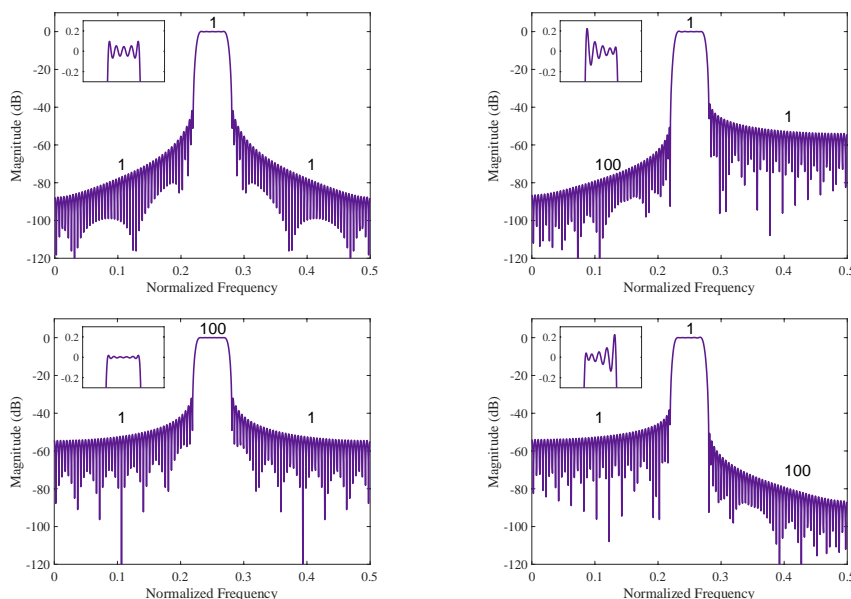
- Again, minimize the squared error:

$$\hat{\mathbf{h}} = (\mathbf{F}^T \mathbf{W} \mathbf{F})^{-1} \mathbf{F}^T \mathbf{W} \mathbf{h}^T$$

- Give more weight to important points
 - Frequency ranges of interest



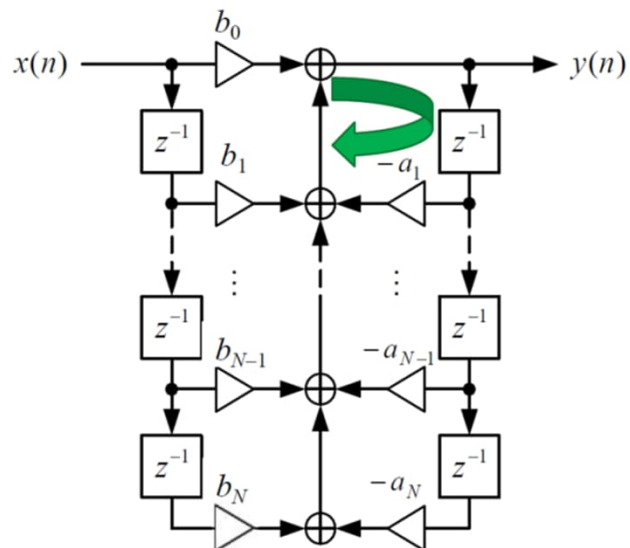
Weighted LS FIR Filter Design



firls.m
Least-squares
linear-phase FIR
filter design

IIR Filter Design Methods

- Linear prediction
- Prony's method
- Fixed-pole IIR filters
 - Balazs Bank 2007, 2008
- Graphic equalization



Linear Prediction

- Also used in Linear Predictive Coding (LPC)
- Powerful analysis technique, especially in speech processing
- Predict the next sample as a linear combination of previous samples
- Many applications
 - Spectral envelope estimation
 - Pitch prediction
 - Signal modeling for sound synthesis
 - Detection of clicks in audio restoration



LPC Coefficients

- Compute the next sample as a linear combination of the previous samples

$$\hat{x}(n) = \sum_{k=1}^P a_k x(n-k)$$

- Minimize the expected value of the mean-squared prediction error

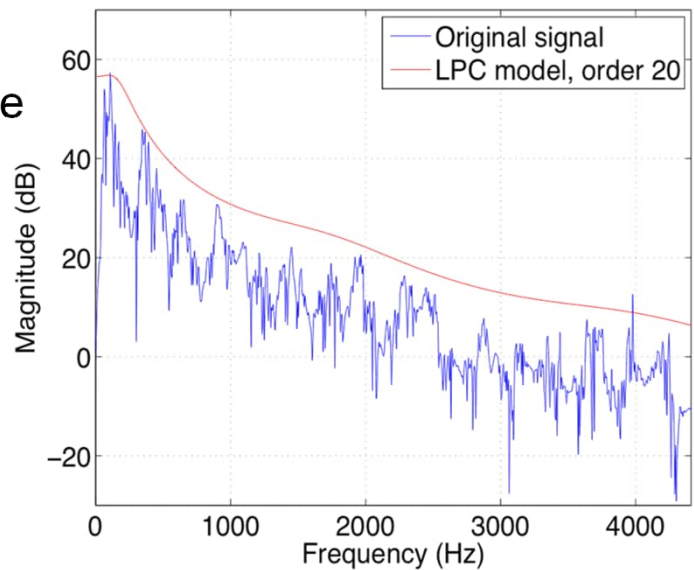
$$E\{e_n^2\} = E\{(x(n) - \hat{x}(n))^2\}$$

LPC Model

- Analysis
 - Use the autocorrelation or covariance method to obtain prediction coefficients
 - FIR filter with prediction coefficients is an inverse filter, which whitens the input signal (decorrelation)
 - Autocorrelation method → minimum phase
- Synthesis
 - Prediction coefficients used in an all-pole IIR filter yield a filter with the spectral characteristics of the input signal
- In Matlab: `lpc.m`

Piano Soundboard Modeling with LPC, $N = 20$

- (Recorded) target response



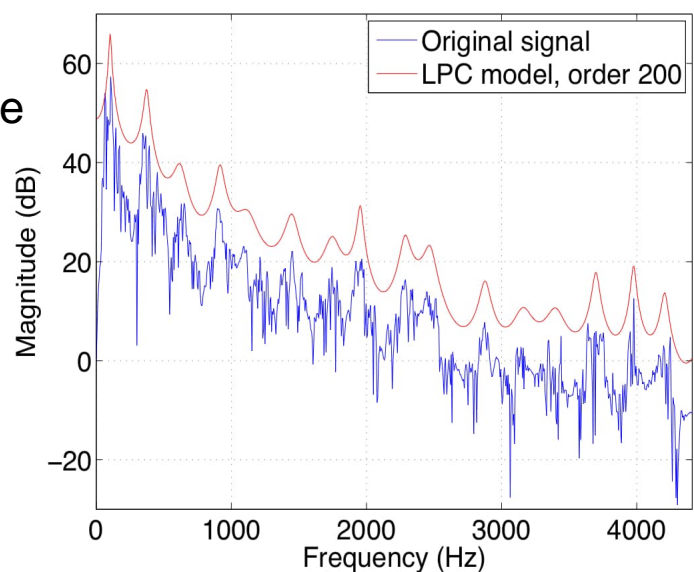
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Piano Soundboard Modeling with LPC, $N = 200$

- (Recorded) target response



- Modeled



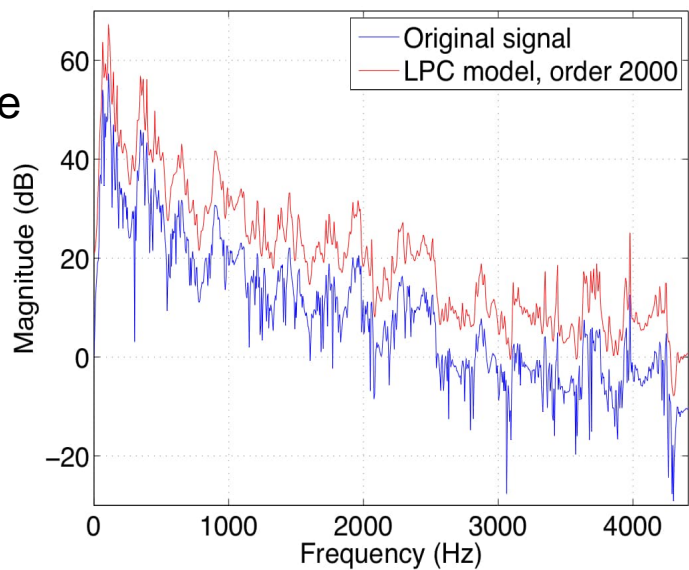
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Piano Soundboard Modeling with LPC, $N = 2000$

- (Recorded) target response



- Modeled

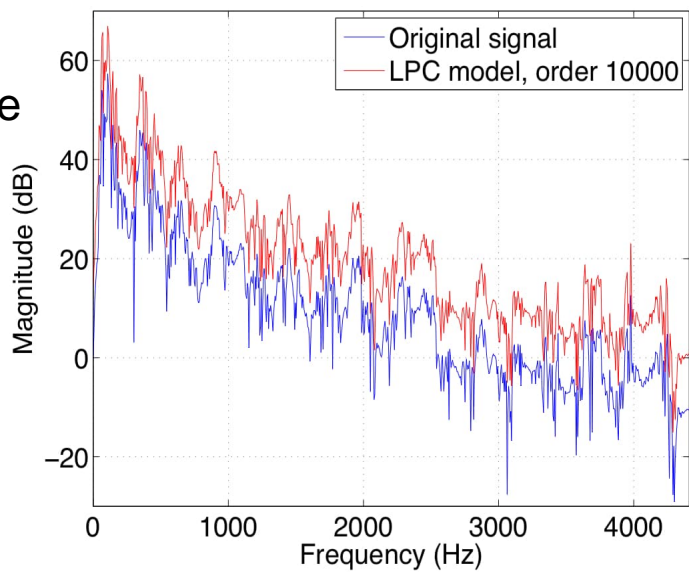


Piano Soundboard Modeling with LPC, $N = 10000$

- (Recorded) target response



- Modeled



Prony's Method

- Design an IIR filter from a given impulse response
- Solve denominator (all-pole IIR) coefficients using linear prediction of order N
- Solve numerator (FIR) coefficients by matching the $M + 1$ first samples of the impulse response
- In Matlab: `prony.m`

$$H(z) = \frac{B(z)}{A(z)}$$

$$\sum_{k=0}^N a_k z^{-k}$$

$$\sum_{k=0}^M b_k z^{-k}$$

“Duel of Digital Filters”

- Why is a FIR filter better?
- Why is an IIR filter better?
- ...in audio applications
- Brainstorm in small groups:
 - Some groups collect advantages of **FIR** filters
 - Other groups collect advantages of **IIR** filters
 - Please list your ideas, so that we can write them down



“Duel of Digital Filters”



FIR Advantages

- Always stable
- Linear phase

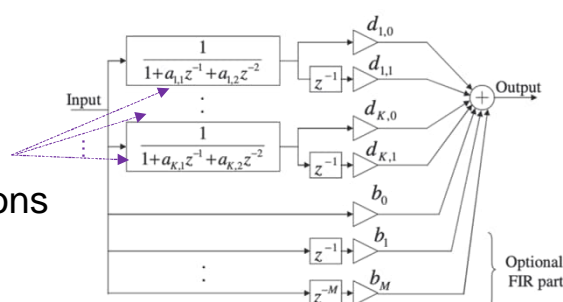
IIR Advantages

- More efficient computationally
- Smaller order
- Parametric control possible
- Analog-like phase response
- Good for real-time applications

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Fixed-Pole IIR Filters

- Perceptually-motivated parallel IIR structure proposed by Bank (2007)
- First, select pole frequencies, e.g. logarithmically: they form basis functions
- Then, solve zeros with LS method, as weights for the basis functions (d_0, d_1)
- That's the final implementation directly; no conversions needed
- Still, the efficiency and resolution can be as good as with warped filters

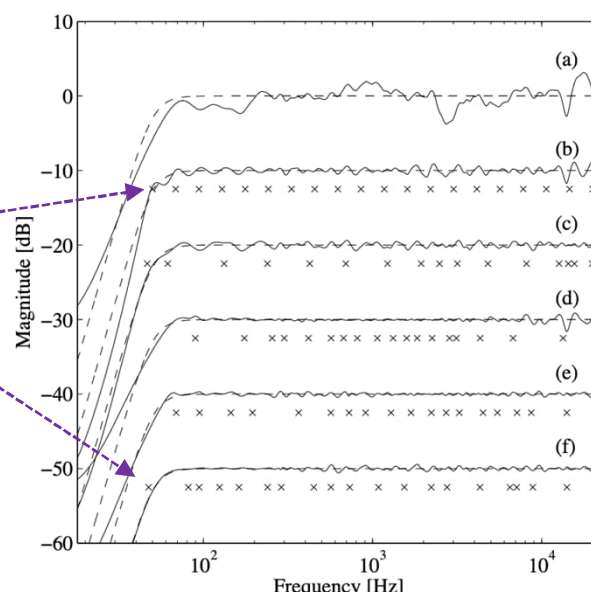


Source: B. Bank, Audio Equalization with Fixed-Pole Parallel Filters: An Efficient Alternative to Complex Smoothing, *Journal of AES*, 2013

Fixed-Pole IIR Filters

- Frequency resolution can be controlled by the pole positions (x)
 - Logarithmic pole positions gives a logarithmic frequency resolution
 - Alternatively, the resolution can be tweaked manually (arbitrarily) to fit the target response

B. Bank, "Loudspeaker and room response equalization using parallel filters: Comparison of pole positioning strategies," in *Proc. AES 51st Int. Conf.*, 2013.



Fixed-Pole IIR Filters

- When the poles are set \rightarrow linear optimization problem
- Least-squares solution can be used to solve zeros!

$$\mathbf{h}_t = \mathbf{M}\mathbf{p},$$

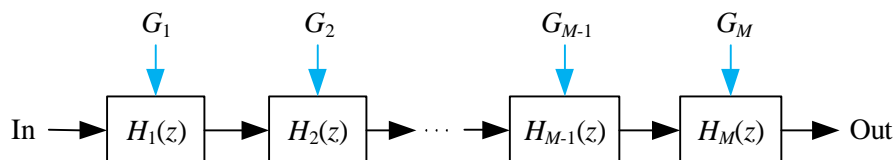
where \mathbf{h}_t is the target impulse response, \mathbf{M} is the modeling signal matrix, and \mathbf{p} contains the zeros (and FIR part coeffs.)

$$\mathbf{p}_{\text{opt}} = (\mathbf{M}^T \mathbf{M})^{-1} \mathbf{M}^T \mathbf{h}_t$$

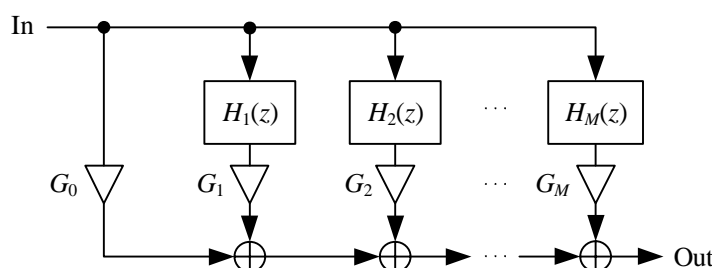
- Design can be done either in the time or frequency domain
 - Matrix \mathbf{M} contains either impulse responses or the transfer functions of the all-pole second-order sections (basis functions)
 - In frequency domain: magnitude-only design & frequency-dependent weighting

Graphic Equalizer Design

- Cascade structure: use equalizing filters; well understood today

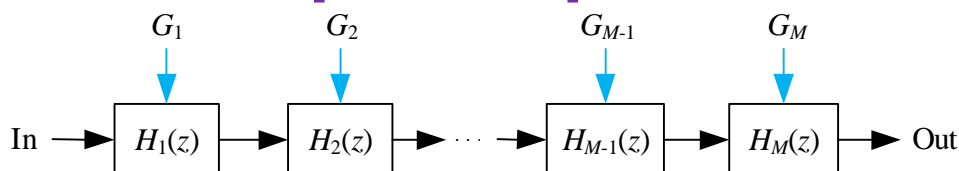


- Parallel structure: band of resonator (bandpass) filters; difficult to design



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Cascade Graphic Equalizer

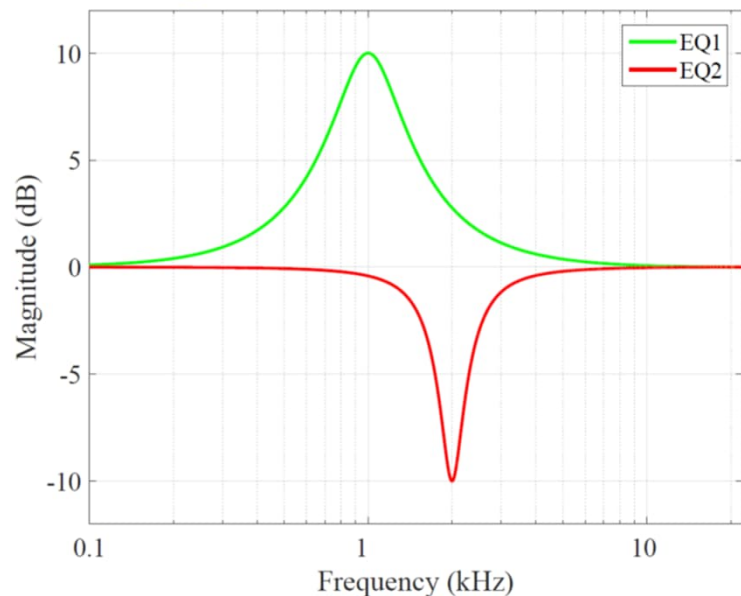


- Each subfilter is an equalizing filter with fixed f_c and Q
- Gain G_k at each peak can be adjusted (elsewhere ≈ 0 dB)
- Logarithmic frequency division is used, which is closely related to the auditory frequency resolution
- Problem: **interaction** between bands...

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Cascade Graphic Equalizer, Ex. #1

- Two EQ filters
 - EQ1: $f_c = 1$ kHz & $G = 10$ dB
 - EQ2: $f_c = 2$ kHz & $G = -10$ dB

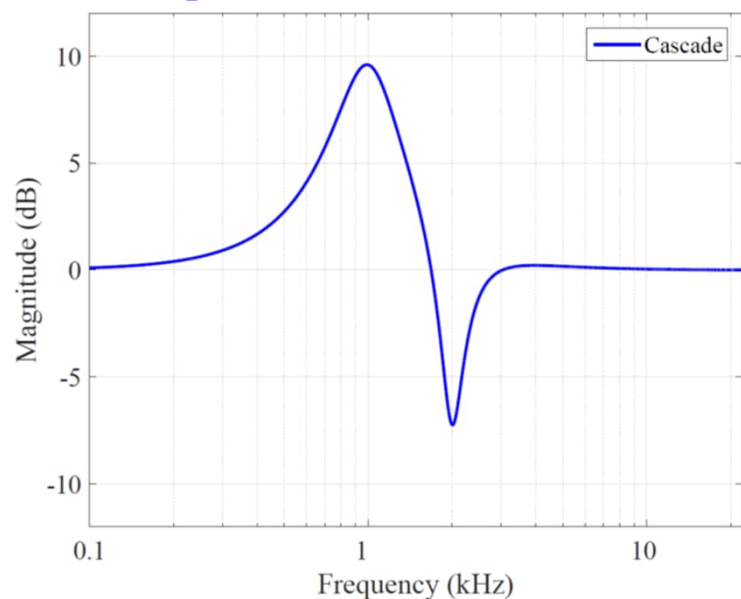


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Cascade Graphic Equalizer, Ex. #1

- Responses interact so the overall response is biased:

~~10 dB and -10 dB~~
9.6 dB and -7.1 dB



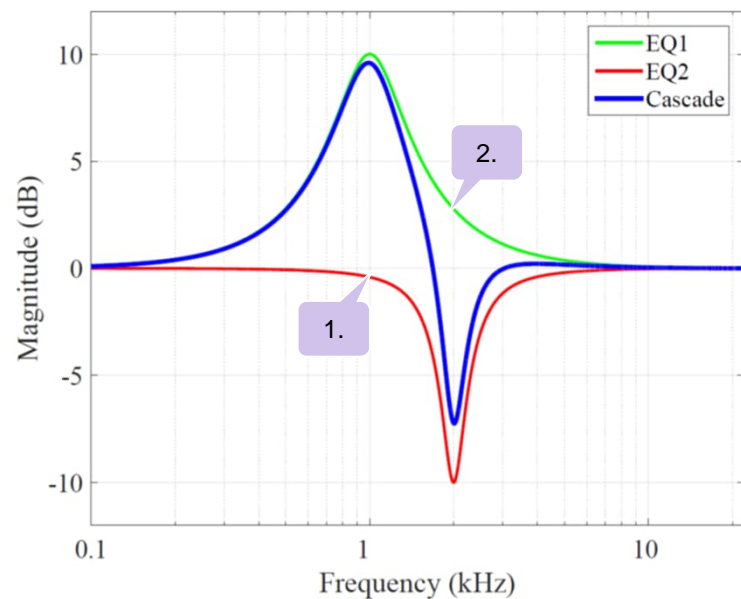
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Cascade Graphic Equalizer, Ex. #1

- Interaction problem:

1. Gain of EQ2 at 1 kHz is < 0 dB
2. Gain of EQ1 at 2 kHz is > 0 dB

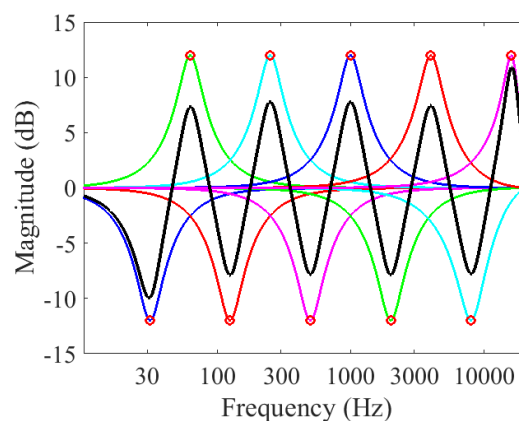
- Both filters affect the gain at all frequencies!!!
(not only around their center frequency)



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Cascade Graphic EQ for Octave Bands

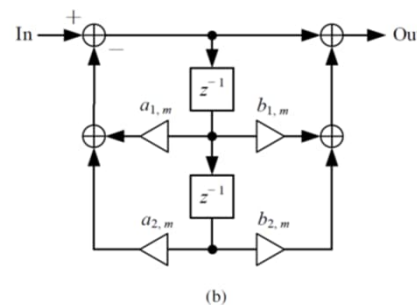
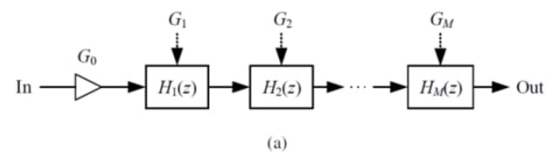
- Naïve design leads to severe approximation problems
 - Filter gains = command gains



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Novel Cascade Graphic EQ Design

- It is desirable to use 2nd-order band filters
- The most accurate cascade design uses different peak filter shapes than previously (Välimäki & Liski 2017, Liski *et al.* 2019)
- The magnitude response is optimized at center frequencies and at intermediate frequencies

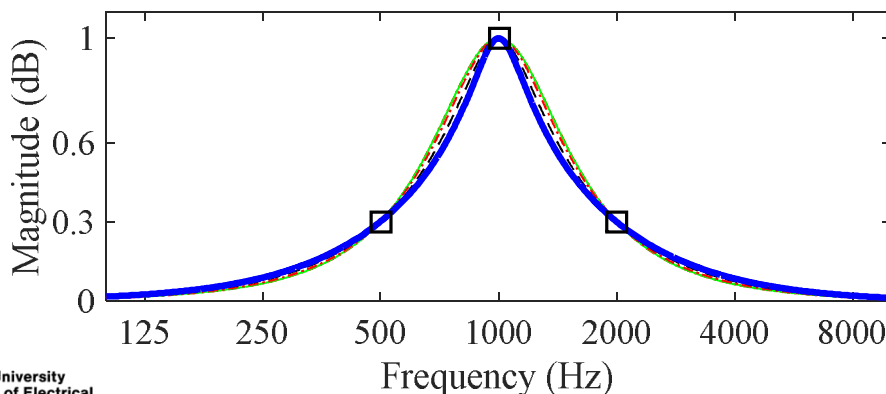


Second-order cell $H_k(z)$

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Cascade GEQ with Variable-Q Filters

- Force the magnitude response to be “constant” at its f_c and the 2 neighboring f_c ’s (Välimäki & Liski 2017)
- Approximately constant basis functions are obtained

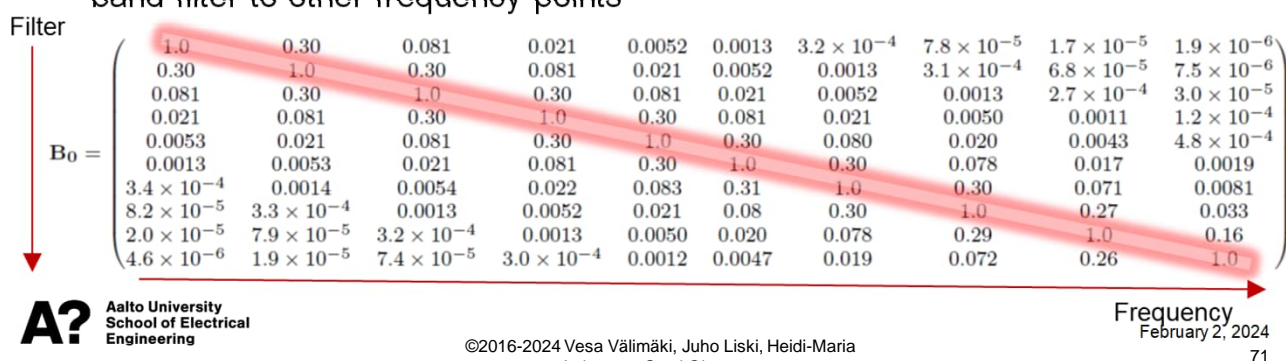


Normalized
magnitude
responses of
filters with
different gain
(-12 dB...12 dB)

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Interaction Matrix

- Interaction matrix **B** shows how much each band filter leaks to neighboring bands (Oliver & Jot 2015; Välimäki & Liski 2017)
- Computed with discrete-time Fourier transform, when the band filters are adjusted to a prototype gain
- Matrix **B** is normalized so that it shows how much 1 dB of gain leaks from each band filter to other frequency points



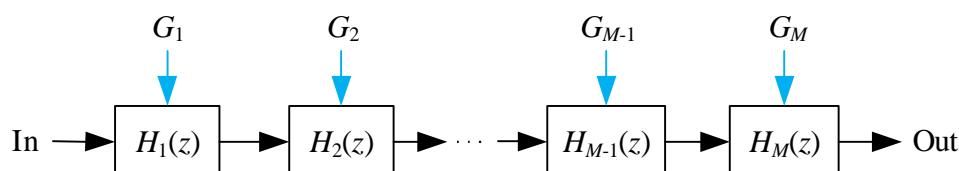
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Cascade GEQ Based on 2nd-Order Filters

- Use inverse matrix of **B** to solve the optimal dB-gains in the least-squares (LS) sense

$$\mathbf{g}_{\text{opt}} = \mathbf{B}^{-1} \mathbf{g}$$

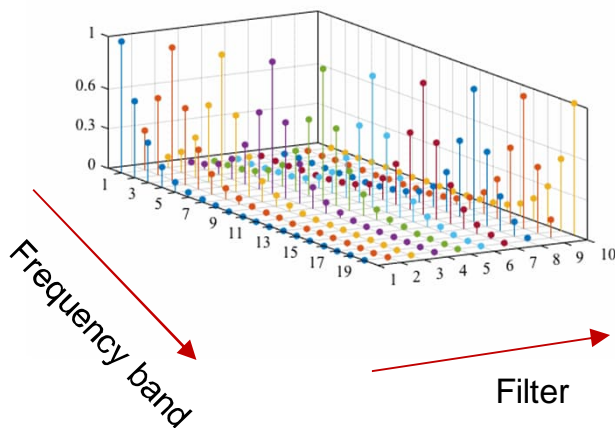
- After optimization: filter gains \neq command gains



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Graphic Equalizer Design Using Interaction Matrix

Interaction matrix \mathbf{B}



Optimize dB gains in LS sense using pseudoinverse:

$$\mathbf{g} = (\mathbf{B}^T \mathbf{B})^{-1} \mathbf{B}^T \mathbf{t}_1,$$

where

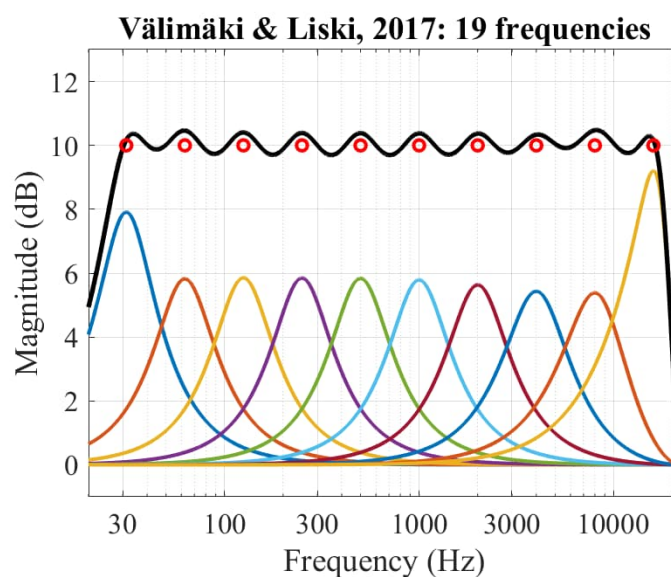
\mathbf{t}_1 = target gains (dB)

\mathbf{B} = interaction matrix

\mathbf{g} = optimized filter gains (dB)

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Octave Equalizer: Välimäki & Liski 2017

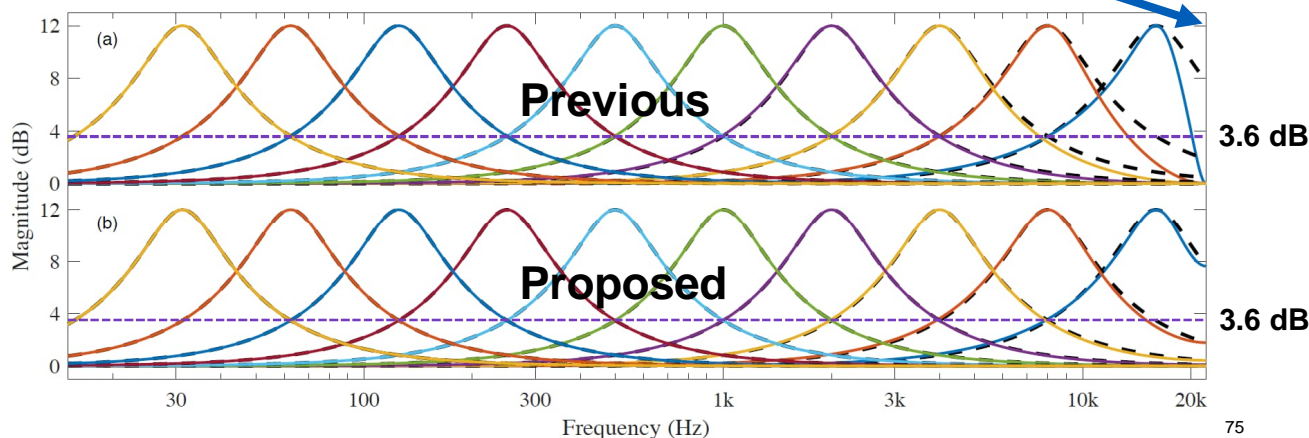


Peak gains of band filters are now very different from target gains ○

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Design with Symmetric Band Filters

- The latest version of the GEQ design (Liski *et al.*, IEEE WASPAA-19) uses symmetric filters having a prescribed Nyquist gain: the ripple is reduced to about 0.8 dB
- The ideal target curve (---) is obtained with oversampling



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Conclusions

- Properties of filters: magnitude and phase
 - Phase delay and group delay are identical when the phase is linear; otherwise, they are different
- Various audio filter design methods are available
 - For FIR filters: Least squares, weighted least squares, frequency sampling, impulse response truncation/windowing
 - The magnitude and phase responses of the FIR filter can be tuned independently
 - For IIR filters: linear prediction, Prony's method, fixed-pole design, graphic EQ
- Auditory resolution can be applied
 - With frequency weighting or warping or with a log frequency scale
- The most suitable method depends on the applications
- Typical design problems are equalizers, HRTF filters, reverberation algorithms, and musical-instrument responses

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Literature

- Easily accessible online book (check this out!)
 - Smith, J. O., "Introduction to Digital Filters with Audio Applications," <http://ccrma.stanford.edu/~jos/filters/>
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 - Parks, T. W. and Burrus, C. S. Digital Filter Design. John Wiley & Sons, 1987.
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 - A. Härmä, M. Karjalainen, L. Savioja, V. Välimäki, U. K. Laine, and J. Huopaniemi, "Frequency-warped signal processing for audio applications," Journal of the Audio Engineering Society, vol. 48, no. 11, pp. 1011–1031, Nov. 2000.
 - Smith, J. O. III and Abel, J. S. "The Bark and ERB bilinear transforms," IEEE Trans. Speech and Audio Process., Vol. 7, No. 6, pp. 697–708, Nov. 1999.
- Graphic equalizers
 - J. Liski, "Equalizer Design for Sound Reproduction," DSc thesis, Aalto University, 2020.

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- J. S. Abel and D. P. Berners, "Filter design using second-order peaking and shelving sections," in *Proc. Int. Computer Music Conf.*, Miami, FL, USA, Nov. 2004.
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- B. Bank, "Warped, Kautz, and Fixed-Pole Parallel Filters: A Review," *J. Audio Eng. Soc.*, vol. 70, no. 6, pp. 414–434, (2022 June). <https://doi.org/10.17743/jaes.2022.0016>
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- J. Huopaniemi, *Virtual Acoustics and 3-D Sound in Multimedia Signal Processing*. Doctoral thesis. Report no. 53 / Helsinki University of Technology, Laboratory of Acoustics and Audio Signal Processing. Espoo, Finland, 1999.
- R. J. Oliver and J.-M. Jot, "Efficient multi-band digital audio graphic equalizer with accurate frequency response control," in *Proc. AES 139th Conv.*, New York, NY, USA, Oct. 2015.
- Lehtonen, H.-M., Rauhala, J., and Välimäki, V. "Sparse multi-stage loss filter design for waveguide piano synthesis," In *Proc. IEEE Workshop on Applications of Signal Processing to Audio and Acoustics*, pp. 331–334, New Paltz, NY, USA, October 16–19, 2005.
- J. Liski, J. Rämö, and V. Välimäki and, "Graphic equalizer design with symmetric biquad filters," in *Proc. IEEE WASPAA*, Oct. 2019.
- V. Välimäki and J. D. Reiss, "All about audio equalization: Solutions and frontiers," *Appl. Sci.*, vol. 6, no. 5, p. 129, May 2016.
- V. Välimäki and J. Liski, "Accurate cascade graphic equalizer," *IEEE Signal Processing Letters*, vol. 24, no. 2, pp. 176–180, Feb. 2017.

Learning Diary by Next Thursday



- Here are some tips what you could do this time (one of them, not all)
- Convert a linear-phase FIR filter to minimum phase using the Hilbert transform and/or cepstral windowing method and create plots to compare
- Auditory smoothing: compare what a few smoothing techniques can do to a “random” magnitude response, such as 1/3-octave smoothing
- Compare the effect of different window functions on the DFT spectrum (`fft.m`) of a pure tone or another signal (to truncate it)
- Compare two or more digital filters: the impulse response, the magnitude & phase responses (`freqz.m`), and/or the group delay (`grpdelay.m`), and the poles and zeros (`zplane.m`) could be plotted and studied

Learning Diaries – Submitting Code

- Ensure that all files, including audio and functions, are included in the submitted material
- Verify that the code runs successfully before submission
- When submitting functions, include a file demonstrating their usage
- When renaming files, declare the file extension accurately
- Utilize file compression in .zip format whenever possible
- Avoid using external packages.