# ECE 1250 Lecture notes Signals



#### Sine waves



### **Periodic waves**

Fourier series: Any periodic waveform can be represented by a series of sinewaves of different frequencies.



Notice that the frequency spectrum shows the amplitudes of the harmonics, but not the phases.



fundamental + 3rd, 5th, & 7th harmonics

You need bandwith to transmit information

## Sine waves are "pretend" signals

Although sine waves are not really signals, we use them to simulate signals all the time, both in calculations and in the lab. This makes sense because all signals can be thought of as being made up of a spectrum of sine waves.

However, if we change the waveform in any non-periodic way, then the spectrum will no longer be just lines, and we'll have bandwidth.

Just turning the sine wave on and off in some unpredictable way,

Makes the specturm widen

0

f <sub>600</sub> (Hz)

f



(Hz) 200 400 600 The faster things happen, the wider the bandwidth. The sharper the edges, the higher the frequencies. Obviously these two phenomina are related.

To get the spectrum of a "random" waveform you must take the Fourier Transform instead of the Fourier series.

### Signal Processing

Amplification, creating a duplicate of a signal which has more power than the original.

Filtering low-pass, high-pass, band-pass, band-reject, notch, etc...

Modulation, demodulation AM, FM, phase

Multiplexing, frequency, time

Analog to Digital Conversion (ADC), Digital to Analog Conversion (DAC)

Etc...

#### Amplification



We can talk about voltage gain, current gain, and power gain.

All amplifiers must have the potential for power gain (will depend on the "load") -- Transformers are NOT amplifiers Of course this means that all amplifiers must be connected to a power supply!

Amplifiers don't make a signal bigger, they actually make a bigger <u>copy</u> of the original. If the copy is exact, then there is no "distortion". All real amplifiers have some distortion.

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# Modulation, demodulation



### Multiplexing

Frequency multiplexing (Like radio stations which each use a different carrier frequency)

Time multiplexing (Used with digital signals, the bits of one signal are sent for a short time, then the bits of another, then another, and so forth.)

# Filtering



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#### Frequency response

The "response" of a system or circuit is the output for a given input.

A "transfer function" is a mathmatical description of how the output is related to the input.



"Block diagram"

output = Transfer function x input

or... Transfer function =  $\frac{\text{output}}{\text{input}}$ 

No real system or circuit treats all frequencies the same, so all real transfer functions are functions of frequency.

Transfer function =  $H(\omega)$  or H(f) or, Transfer function = H(s)

The transfer function can be used to describe the "frequency response" of a circuit. That is, how does the circuit respond to inputs of different frequencies.



# **Digital Signals**



But now we know that sharp edges = high frequencies and no system has a perfect frequency response.



digital circuits use thresholds to tell a "high" from a "low". Some levels may not be defined either way.

Behind all digital signals there are really analog signals.

### Analog - to - digital conversion (ADC or A/D converter or A to D converter)

Neglecting the underlying analog nature of digital signals for the moment...

An analog signal can be represented by numbers.





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usually contains a filter and a sample & hold as well as an ADC

### Digital - to - analog conversion

(DAC or D/A converter or D to A converter)

Take those digits and turn them back into voltage levels.

Filter the result to get a close representation to what you started with.

In fact, if the sampling rate is at least twice the highest frequency found in the input signal and the filter is a perfect low-pass filter, then the output can be exactly the same as the input ( $\pm$  the quantization error). This is the "Nyquist" theorem.

More "bits" = less quantization error, less "noise"

Faster sampling rate = higher frequency response





If this voltage is hooked to a resistor, as shown



How much energy is transferred to the resistor during 6 seconds?

$$W_L = 0.24 \cdot W \cdot 6 \cdot sec$$
  $W_L = 1.44 \cdot joule$ 

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