

Pulse Shaping

Joint ICTP-IAEA School on Detector Signal Processing and Machine Learning for Scientific Instrumentation and Reconfigurable Computing

**Trieste – Italy
27 October – 7 November 2025**

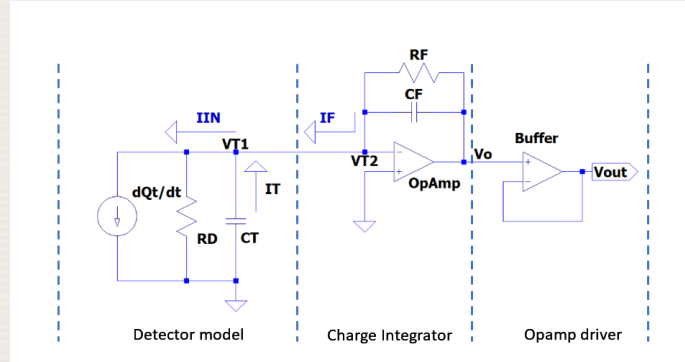
**M. Bogovac
IAEA, Vienna**



IAEA

International Atomic Energy Agency

Shape of the Detector Signal



$$I_{in}(t) = I_0 e^{-\frac{t}{\tau_2}}$$

$$I_{in}(s) = \frac{I_0}{s + \frac{1}{\tau_2}} \quad Q = I_0 \tau_2$$

$$H(s) = \frac{V_o(s)}{I_{in}(s)} = \frac{Z_F}{1 + \frac{1}{A\beta}}$$

$\beta = Z_T / (Z_T + Z_F)$ is feedback factor,
 A is the open loop gain, $A\beta \gg 1$

$$H(s) = \frac{V_o(s)}{I_{in}(s)} = \frac{Z_F}{1 + \frac{1}{A\beta}} \cong Z_F = \frac{R_F}{1 + s\tau_1}$$

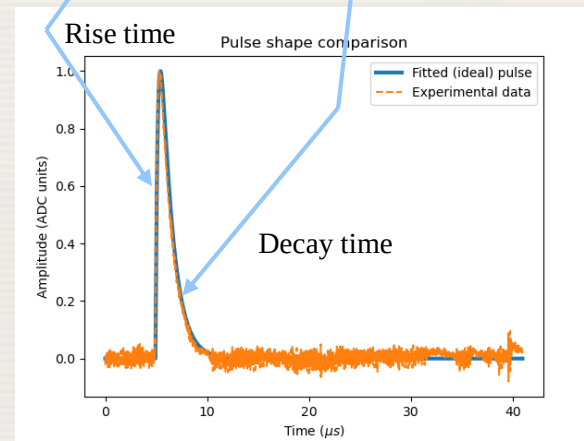
$$V(s) = H(s) I_{in}(s) = \frac{R_F}{s + \frac{1}{\tau_1}} \frac{I_0}{s + \frac{1}{\tau_2}}$$

$$L \left\{ \frac{b_1 b_2}{b_2 - b_1} (e^{-b_1 t} - e^{-b_2 t}) \right\} = \frac{b_1 b_2}{(b_1 + s)(b_2 + s)}$$

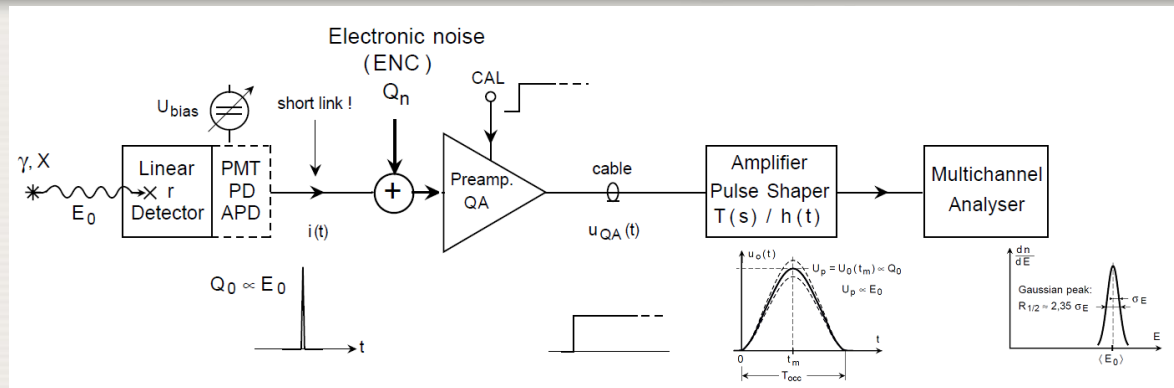
$$V_o(t) = \frac{Q}{C} \frac{\tau_1}{\tau_1 - \tau_2} \left(e^{-\frac{t}{\tau_1}} - e^{-\frac{t}{\tau_2}} \right)$$

$\tau_2 = \text{scintillator decay time}$

$$\tau_1 = \frac{1}{2\pi f_{c1}} = R_F C_F$$



Equivalent Noise Charge (ENC)



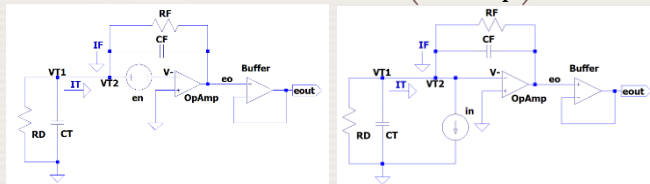
- The ENC is the number of electrons Q_n to be injected as a delta pulse into the electronic processor input in order to get at its output a pulse whose peak amplitude equals the root-mean-square noise there present.
- The ENC depends on the
 - 1) electronic noise sources present in the detector, bias and reset circuitry, amplifier itself,
 - 2) pulse shaping, which acts as a filter on the different noise sources.

Equivalent Noise Charge (ENC)

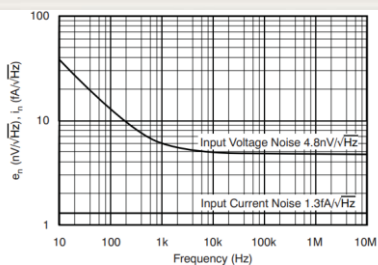
Noise at output of CSA:

$$e_o(s) = G_{in}(s)i_n(s) = \frac{1}{C_F s} i_n(s)$$

$$e_o(s) = G_{en}(s)e_n(s) = \left(1 + \frac{C_T}{C_F}\right) e_n(s)$$



$$V_{rms-PA}^2 = \int_0^\infty (|e_n G_{en}|^2 + |i_n G_{in}|^2) df$$



SOURCE	PARALLEL NOISE $A^2 \frac{df}{Hz}$	SERIES NOISE $V^2 \frac{df}{Hz}$
Detector	$q M^2 I_{ph} (1 + \gamma_{ph})$	white
Bus resistor	$2kT/R_b$	
Feedback resistor	$2kT/R_F$	
J-FET:		
gate current	$q I_G$	
channel thermal noise		$\frac{2kT}{R_n} \cdot \frac{2}{3}$
induced gate noise		$\frac{2kT}{R_n} \cdot \frac{1}{3} (C_{ox}/C_i)^2$
SUB-TOTAL	b	a
	violet	pink
J-FET		
Dielectrics	$d \cdot a $	$\gamma a $
TOTAL	$i_n^2 = b + d a = b$	$e_n^2 = a + \gamma a $

Signal and Noise at output of Shaper:

$$S_{max} = G \frac{Q}{C_F}$$

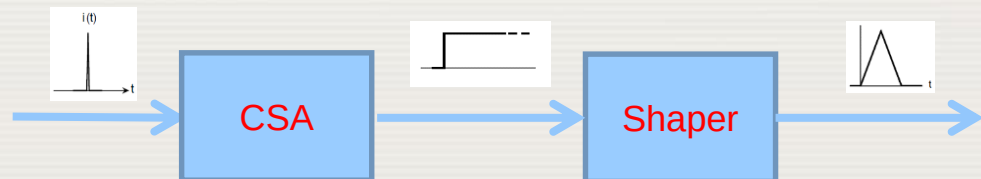
$$V_{rms-SA}^2 = \int_0^\infty (|e_n G_{en} T|^2 + |i_n G_{in} T|^2) df$$

$$V_{rms-SA}^2 = \frac{G^2}{2\pi} \int_0^\infty \left(|e_n|^2 \left(1 + \frac{C_T}{C_F}\right)^2 + |i_n|^2 \frac{1}{|\omega C_F|^2} \right) |T(i\omega)|^2 d\omega$$

$$\frac{S}{N} = \frac{S_{max}}{\sqrt{V_{rms-SA}^2}} = \frac{Q}{\sqrt{\frac{1}{\pi} \int_0^\infty \left(|e_n|^2 (C_F + C_T)^2 + |i_n|^2 \frac{1}{\omega^2} \right) |T(i\omega)|^2 d\omega}}$$

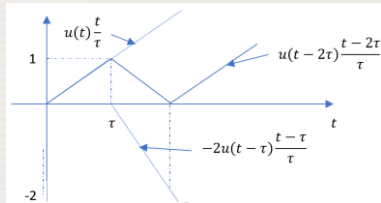
$$ENC = Q_{ENC} = \sqrt{\frac{1}{\pi} \int_0^\infty \left(|e_n|^2 (C_F + C_T)^2 + |i_n|^2 \frac{1}{\omega^2} \right) |T(i\omega)|^2 d\omega}$$

$$ENC^2 = Q_{ENC}^2 = \frac{1}{\pi} \int_0^\infty \left[\left(b + \frac{c}{\omega}\right) (C_F + C_T)^2 + a \frac{1}{\omega^2} \right] |T(i\omega)|^2 d\omega$$



Equivalent Noise Charge (ENC) for triangular shaper

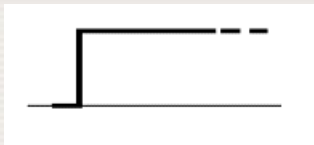
Output signal from Shaper:



$$L(f(t)) = \frac{(1 - e^{-\tau s})^2}{\tau s^2}$$

$$f(t) = u(t) \frac{t}{\tau} - 2u(t - \tau) \frac{t - \tau}{\tau} + u(t - 2\tau) \frac{t - 2\tau}{\tau}$$

Input signal into CSA:



$$g(t) = u(t) \quad L(g(t)) = \frac{1}{s}$$

Calculation of Transfer function:

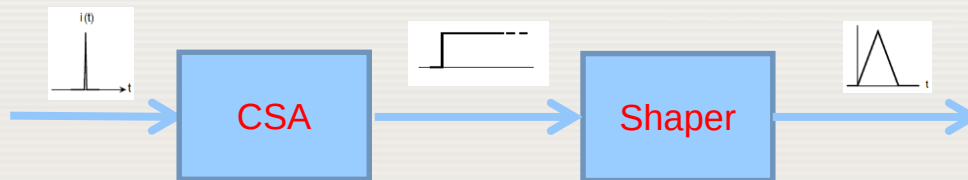
$$T(s) = \frac{L(f(t))}{L(g(t))} = \frac{(1 - e^{-\tau s})^2}{\tau s}$$

$$|T(i\omega)|^2 = 16 \frac{\sin^4(\frac{\tau\omega}{2})}{(\tau\omega)^2}$$

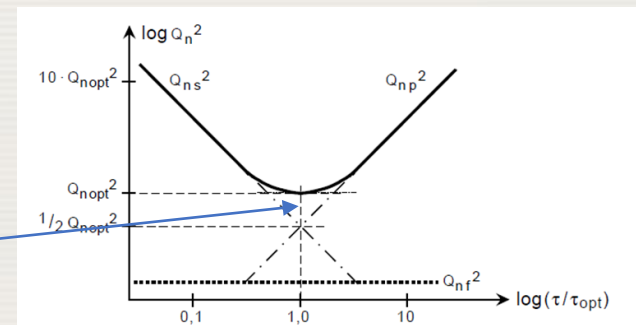
Calculation of ENC Integral

$$ENC^2 = \frac{1}{\pi} \int_0^\infty \left[\left(b + \frac{c}{\omega} \right) (C_F + C_T)^2 + a \frac{1}{\omega^2} \right] |T(i\omega)|^2 d\omega$$

$$ENC^2 = \frac{2b(C_F + C_T)^2}{\tau} + \frac{2a}{3} \tau + \frac{4 \ln 2}{\pi} (C_F + C_T)^2 c$$



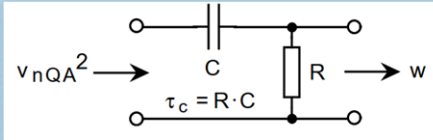
$$\text{for } c = 0 \Rightarrow ENC_{min} = \left(\sqrt[4]{4/3} \right) 2C_t \sqrt{ab}$$



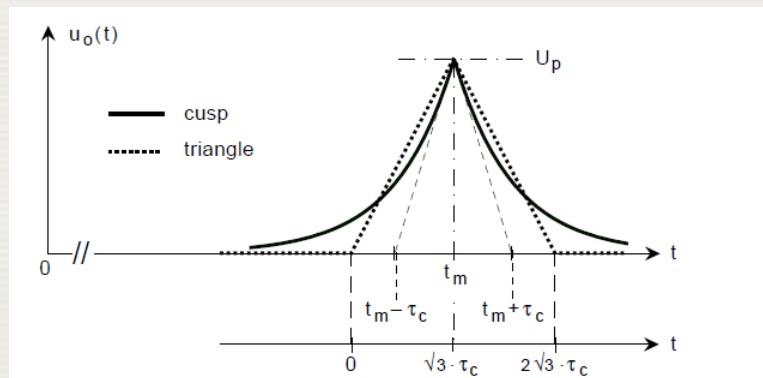
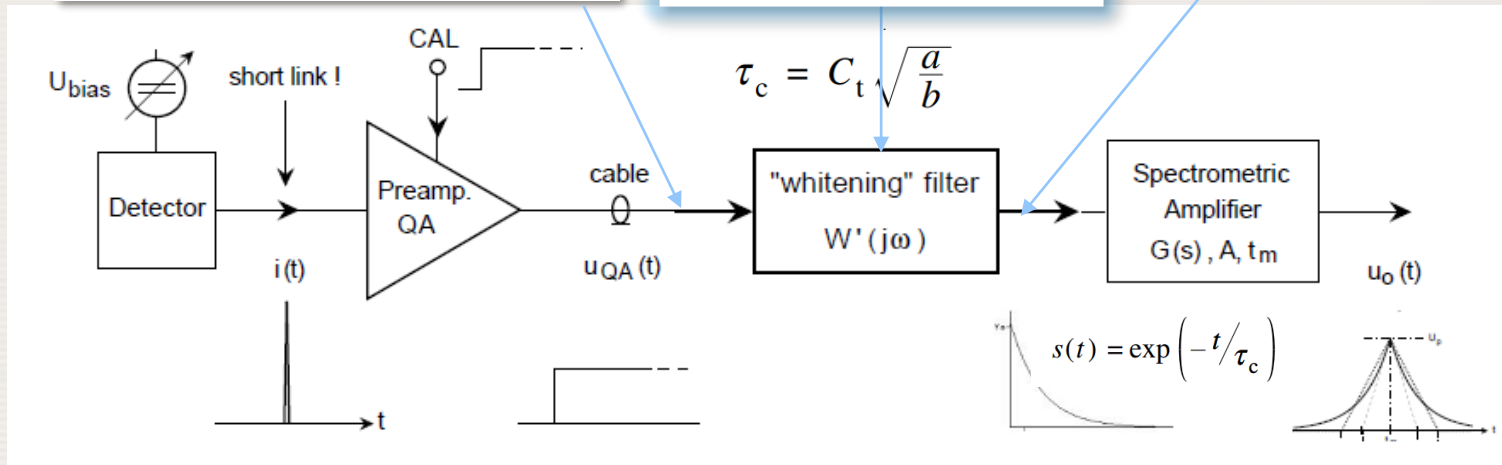
Optimal Filtering (cusp filter)

$v = \text{input noise}$

$$v_{nQA}^2(\omega) = \frac{1}{C_t^2} \left(a C_t^2 + \frac{b}{\omega^2} + \cancel{\frac{c}{|\omega|} C_t^2} \right)$$



$w = \text{output white noise}$



$$u_0(t) = \int_{-\infty}^{+\infty} s(\tau) \cdot s(t + \tau) d\tau = \exp\left(-|t|/\tau_c\right)$$

$$ENC_{cusp} = 2C_t\sqrt{ab}$$

$$\text{for } \tau_c = C_t\sqrt{\frac{a}{b}}$$

$$ENC_{triangle} = \left(\sqrt[4]{4/3}\right) 2C_t\sqrt{ab} \quad \text{for } \tau_c = \sqrt{3} \tau_c$$

$$\frac{ENC_{triangle}}{ENC_{cusp}} = \sqrt[4]{4/3} = 1.07$$

Cusp shaper is 7% better than triangle

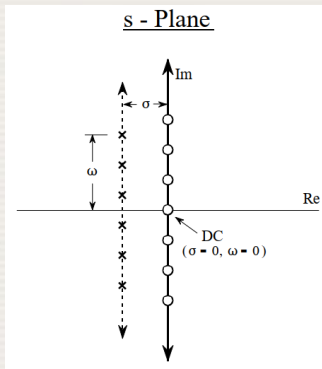
Comparison between shapers

	Definition of τ	τ_{opt}	F	Reference	RMS flicker noise ¹⁹ (arbitrary scale)
Infinite cusp (Subsection 4.3.2)	—	—	1.00	(9, 14)	—
Triangular	Total duration = τ	$2\sqrt{3} \tau_c$	1.075	(15, 17, 19)	1.665
DL-RC	Total delay time = 1.036τ RC time constant = τ	$1.29 \tau_c$	1.098	(15, 17, 19)	1.626
Gaussian			1.120	(16, 18, 19)	1.773
Semi-Gaussian CR-(RC) ⁴	CR time constant = τ RC time constant = τ	$0.378 \tau_c$	1.165	(16, 19, 20)	1.810
CR-(RC) ²	CR time constant = 1.06τ RC time constant = τ	$0.57 \tau_c$	1.215	(15, 16, 19)	1.847
CR-RC (Subsection 4.4.1)	CR time constant = τ RC time constant = τ	τ_c	1.359	(9, 14)	1.992
(CR) ² -(RC) ⁴			1.380	(20)	
(CR) ² -RC	CR time constant = 1.38τ RC time constant = τ	$1.40 \tau_c$	1.410	(15, 20)	—

Filtering Math

s-transform

$$X(s) = \int_{t=-\infty}^{\infty} x(t) e^{-st} dt$$

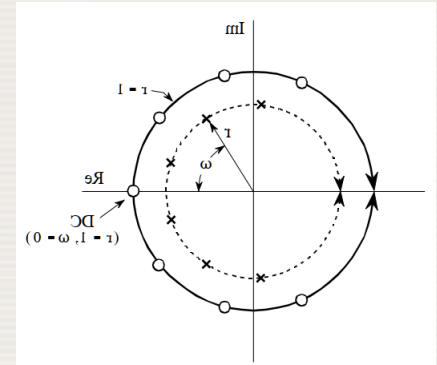


$F(s)$ is the Laplace transform of $f(t)$, and $F(z)$ is the z-transform of $f(kT)$. Note: $f(t) = 0$ for $t < 0$.

Number	$F(s)$	$f(kT)$	$F(z)$
1	1	$\delta(t)$, unit impulse	1
2	e^{-ks}	$\delta(t - k_0T)$	z^{-k_0}
3	$\frac{1}{s}$	$1(kT)$	$\frac{z}{z-1}$
4	$\frac{1}{s^2}$	kT	$\frac{Tz}{(z-1)^2}$
5	$\frac{1}{s^3}$	$\frac{1}{2!}(kT)^2$	$\frac{T^2}{2} \left[\frac{z(z+1)}{(z-1)^3} \right]$
6	$\frac{1}{s+a}$	e^{-akt}	$\frac{z}{z - e^{-aT}}$
7	$\frac{1}{(s+a)^2}$	$kT e^{-akt}$	$\frac{Tz e^{-aT}}{(z - e^{-aT})^2}$
8	$\frac{a}{s(s+a)}$	$1 - e^{-akt}$	$\frac{z(1 - e^{-aT})}{(z-1)(z - e^{-aT})}$
9	$\frac{a}{s^2(s+a)}$	$\frac{1}{a}(akt - 1 + e^{-akt})$	$\frac{z[(aT - 1 + e^{-aT})z + (1 - e^{-aT} - aT e^{-aT})]}{a(z-1)^2(z - e^{-aT})}$
10	$\frac{b-a}{(s+a)(s+b)}$	$e^{-akt} - e^{-bkt}$	$\frac{(e^{-aT} - e^{-bT})z}{(z - e^{-aT})(z - e^{-bT})}$
11	$\frac{s}{(s+a)^2}$	$(1 - akt)e^{-akt}$	$\frac{z[z - e^{-aT}(1 + aT)]}{(z - e^{-aT})^2}$
12	$\frac{(b-a)s}{(s+a)(s+b)}$	$b e^{-bkt} - a e^{-akt}$	$\frac{z[z(b-a) - (b e^{aT} - a e^{bT})]}{(z - e^{-aT})(z - e^{-bT})}$

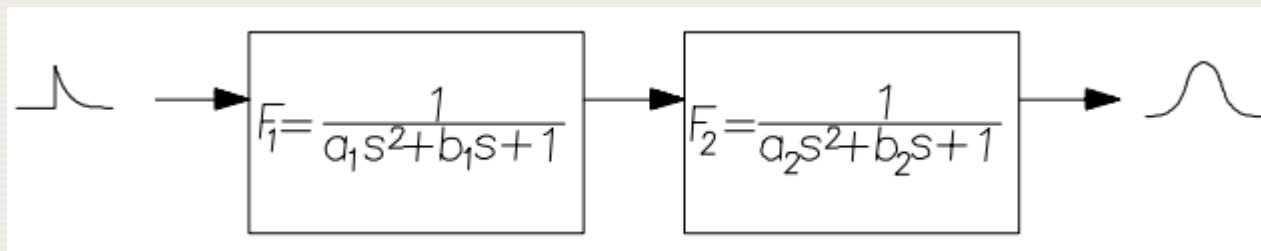
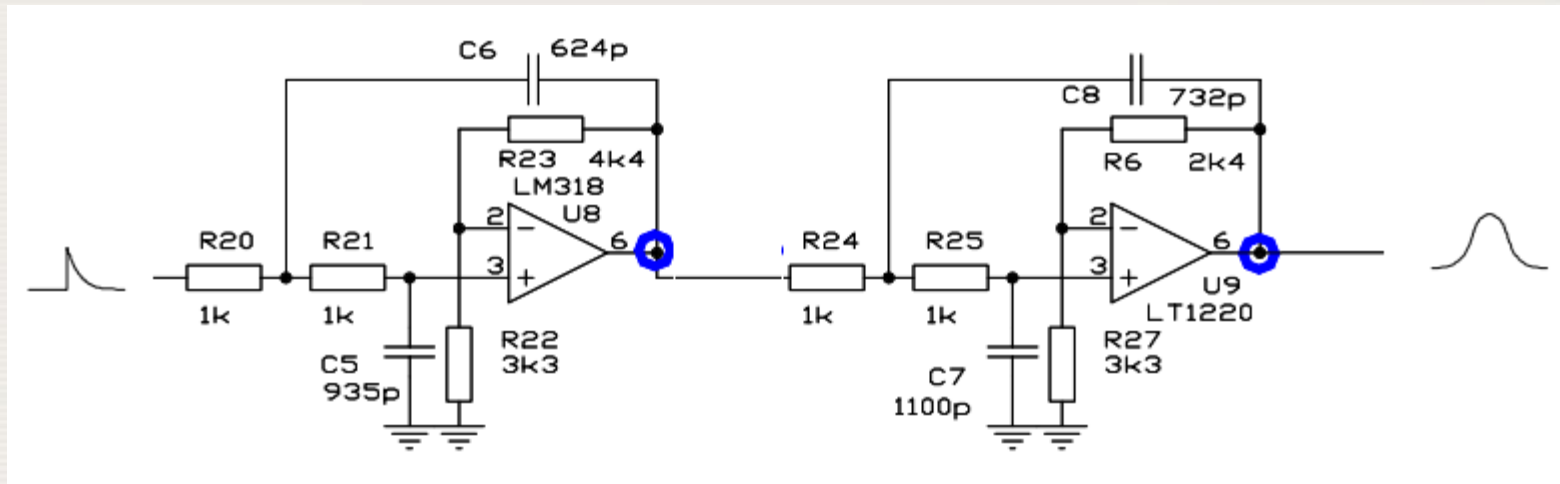
z-transform

$$X(z) = \sum_{n=-\infty}^{\infty} x[n] z^{-n}$$



Analog domain

Sallen – Key Complex Pole Filtering



$$F = \frac{1}{a s^2 + b s + 1} \quad \text{or} \quad F = \frac{\lambda^2 + \omega^2}{[s + (\lambda + i\omega) \cdot (s - (\lambda + i\omega))]}$$

Z transform – IIR Filter



$$y[n] = a_0x[n] + a_1x[n-1] + a_2x[n-2] + \dots + b_1y[n-1] + b_2y[n-2] + b_3y[n-3] + \dots$$

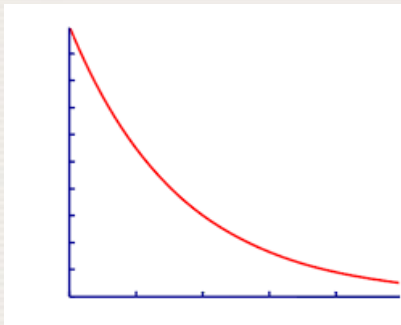
- Transfer function $H(z) = Y[z]/X[z]$

$$H[z] = \frac{a_0 + a_1z^{-1} + a_2z^{-2} + a_3z^{-3} + \dots}{1 - b_1z^{-1} - b_2z^{-2} - b_3z^{-3} - \dots}$$

From Exp to Triangle, Trapezoid

Exponential

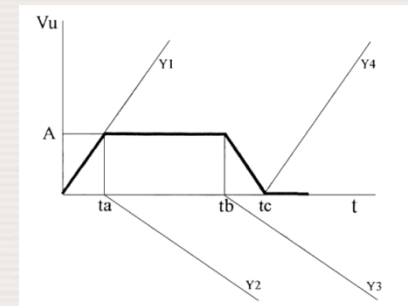
$$y_n = e^{-\frac{nT_{clk}}{\tau}}$$



$$X(z) = \frac{A_0}{1 - e^{-T/\tau} z^{-1}}$$

Traingle/Trapezoid

$$y_n = \frac{A_0}{n_a} h_n - \frac{A_0}{n_a} (n - n_a) h_{n-n_a} - \frac{A_0}{n_a} (n - n_b) h_{n-n_b} + \frac{A_0}{n_a} (n - n_b - n_a) h_{n-n_b-n_a}$$



$$Y(z) = \frac{A_0}{n_a} z^{-1} \frac{1 - z^{-n_a}}{1 - z^{-1}} \frac{1 - z^{-n_b}}{1 - z^{-1}}$$

$$H(z) = \frac{Y(z)}{X(z)} = \frac{1}{n_a} z^{-1} (1 - e^{-T/\tau} z^{-1}) \left(\frac{1 - z^{-n_a}}{1 - z^{-1}} \right) \left(\frac{1 - z^{-n_b}}{1 - z^{-1}} \right)$$

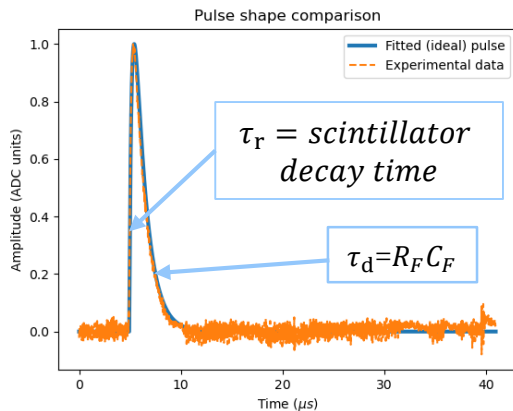
C. Imperiale, A. Imperiale / Measurement 30 (2001) 49–73

Second pole correction

Input signal

$$V(t) = \frac{Q}{C} \frac{\tau_d}{\tau_d - \tau_r} \left(e^{-\frac{t}{\tau_d}} - e^{-\frac{t}{\tau_r}} \right)$$

$$V(s) = \frac{Q}{C} \frac{1}{\left(s + \frac{1}{\tau_d}\right) \left(s + \frac{1}{\tau_r}\right)}$$



Trapezoidal Filter Transfer function

$$H(z) = \frac{1}{n_a} \frac{e^{\frac{T_{clk}}{\tau_d} m} - e^{\frac{T_{clk}}{\tau_r} m}}{e^{\frac{T_{clk}}{\tau_d}} - e^{\frac{T_{clk}}{\tau_r}}} \left(1 - e^{\frac{T_{clk}}{\tau_d}} z^{-1} \right) \left(1 - e^{\frac{T_{clk}}{\tau_r}} z^{-1} \right) \frac{1 - z^{-n_a}}{1 - z^{-1}} \frac{1 - z^{-n_b}}{1 - z^{-1}}$$

$$m = \begin{cases} m_1 = \text{ceil} \left(\frac{1}{T_{clk}} \frac{\tau_d \tau_r}{\tau_d - \tau_r} \ln \frac{\tau_d}{\tau_r} \right) & f(m_1 T_{clk}) > f(m_2 T_{clk}) \\ m_2 = \text{floor} \left(\frac{1}{T_{clk}} \frac{\tau_d \tau_r}{\tau_d - \tau_r} \ln \frac{\tau_d}{\tau_r} \right) & f(m_1 T_{clk}) < f(m_2 T_{clk}) \end{cases}$$

$$n_a = \frac{t_{\text{trapez_peaking}}}{T_{clk}}$$

$$n_b = \frac{t_{\text{trapez_flat_top}}}{T_{clk}}$$

τ_d = input signal decay time

τ_r = input signal rise time

T_{clk} = clock period

From Exp to Triangle, Trapezoid

¹V. Jordanov et al NIM A345 (1994)337

$$H(z) = \frac{z^{-1}}{n_a} (1 - z^{-n_a})(1 - z^{-n_b}) \left(\frac{1 - e^{-\frac{T_{clk}}{\tau_d} z^{-1}}}{1 - z^{-1}} \right) \left(\frac{1}{1 - z^{-1}} \right)$$

Original work notations¹

$$d^{k,l}(n) = v(n) - v(n-k) - v(n-l) + v(n-k-l), \quad (1)$$

$$p(n) = p(n-1) + d^{k,l}(n), \quad n \geq 0, \quad (2)$$

$$r(n) = p(n) + M d^{k,l}(n), \quad (3)$$

$$s(n) = s(n-1) + r(n), \quad n \geq 0, \quad (4)$$

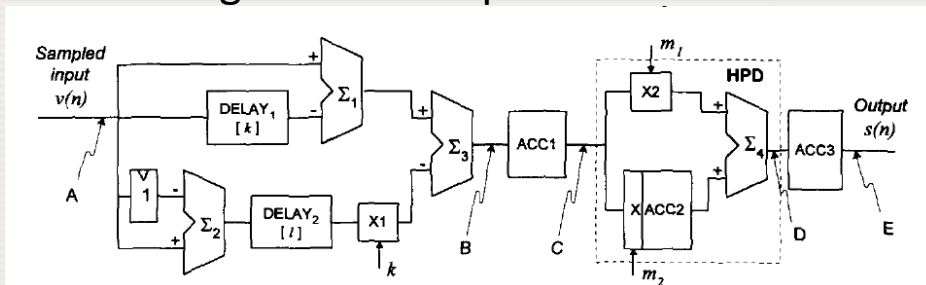
This work notations

$$d_n = x_n - x_{n-n_a} - x_{n-n_b} + x_{n-n_a-n_b}$$

$$p_n = p_{n-1} + d_n \quad M = 1/(e^{T_{clk}/\tau_d} - 1)$$

$$s_n = s_{n-1} + r_n$$

Original work implementation



From Exp to Triangle, Trapezoid

²A. Georgiev and W. Gast

IEEE Trans Nucl Sci 40-4(1993)770

$$H(z) = \frac{Y(z)}{X(z)} = \frac{z^{-1} \left(\frac{(1 - e^{-T/\tau} z^{-1})(1 - z^{-n_a})}{1 - z^{-1}} \right)}{\left(\frac{1 - z^{-n_b}}{1 - z^{-1}} \right)}$$

Original work notations²

$$G(n) = \sum_{j=n-M}^n g(j) = U(n) - U(n-M) + (1-k) \sum_{j=n-M}^{n-1} U(j) \\ \text{for any } n > z+M \quad (9)$$

$$G_e = \frac{1}{L} \sum_{n=z+R}^{z+M} G(n) = \\ = \frac{1}{L} \sum_{n=z+R}^{z+M} \sum_{j=n-M}^n g(j); \quad (11)$$

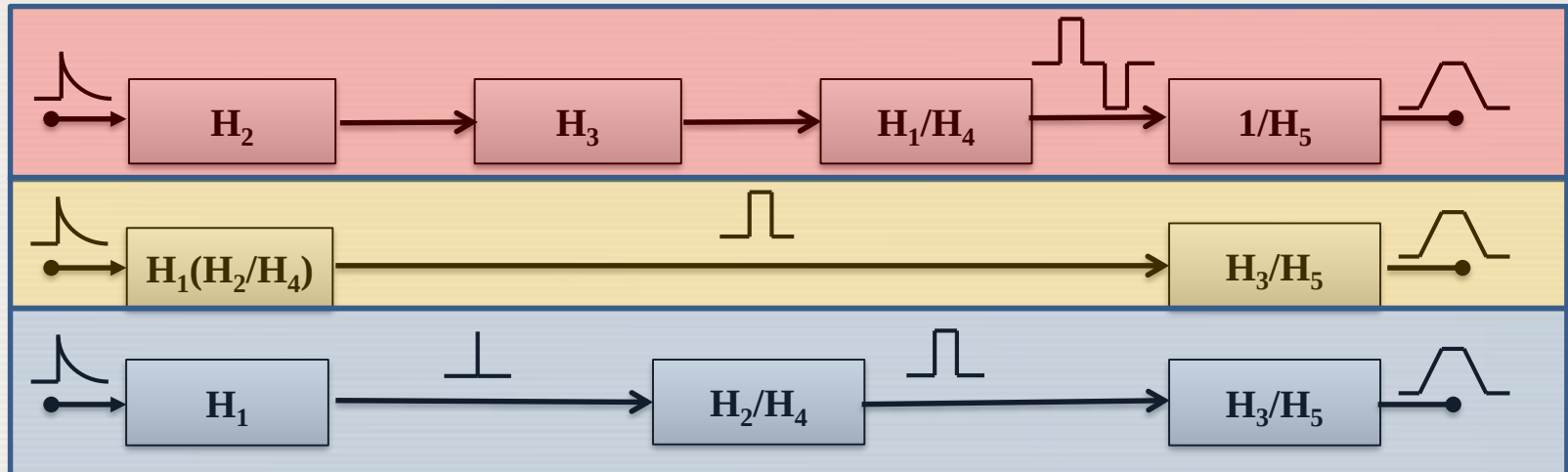
This work notations

$$MWD_k = x_k - x_{k-n_a} + (1 - e^{-\frac{T_{clk}}{\tau_d}}) \sum_{i=k-n_a}^{k-1} x_i$$

$$G_k = \frac{1}{n_a} \sum_{i=1}^{n_b} MWD_{k-i}$$

From Exp to Triangle, Trapezoid

$$H(z) = \frac{H_1(z)H_2(z)H_3(z)}{H_4(z)H_5(z)} = \frac{(1 - e^{-T/\tau}z^{-1})(1 - z^{-n_a})(1 - z^{-n_b})}{(1 - z^{-1})(1 - z^{-1})}$$



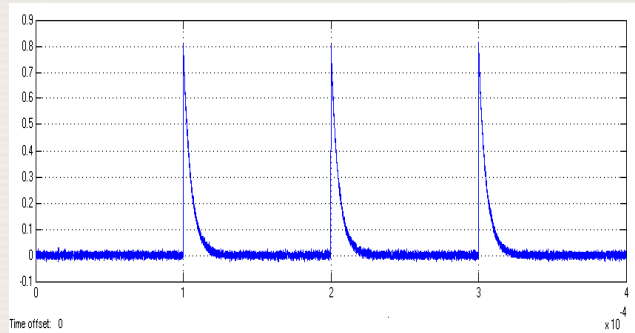
¹V. Jordanov et al *NIM A*345 (1994)337

²A. Georgiev and W. Gast *IEEE Trans Nucl Sci* 40-4(1993)770

Lab exercise (Impulse unfolding)

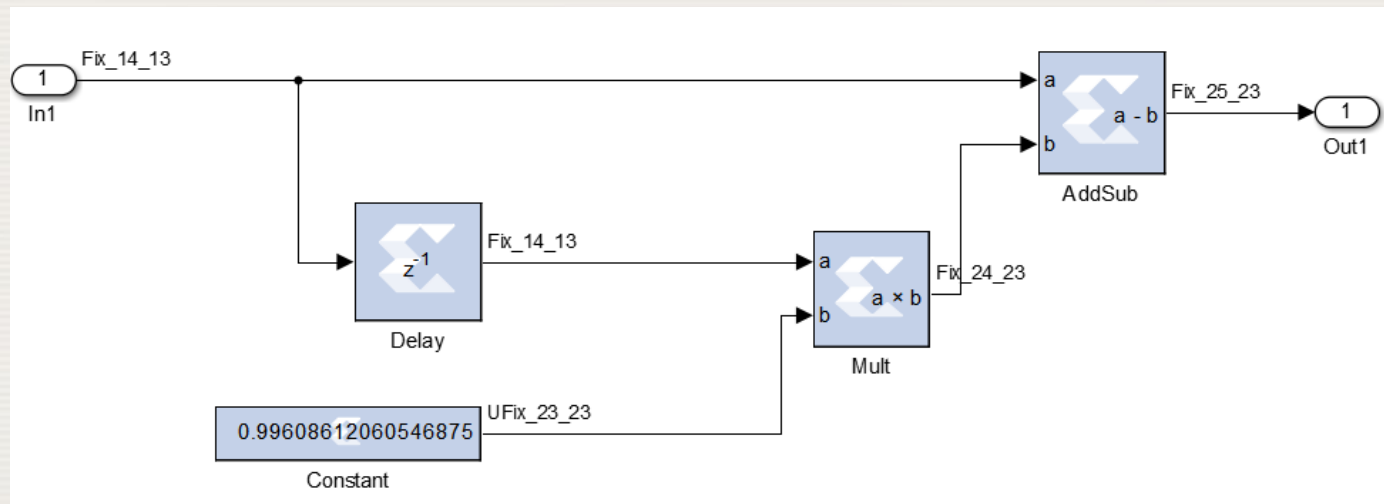
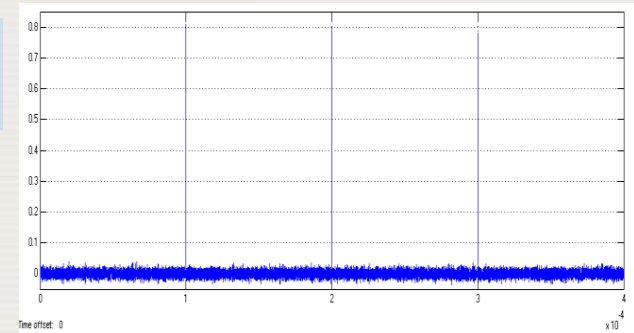
$$H(z) = (1 - e^{-T/\tau}z^{-1}) \frac{1 - z^{-n_a}}{1 - z^{-1}} \frac{1 - z^{-n_b}}{1 - z^{-1}}$$

Design of the filter – Stage I

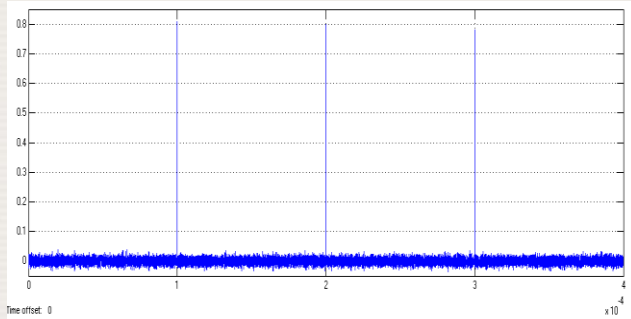


$$H(z) = (1 - e^{-\frac{T_{clk}}{\tau_d}} z^{-1})$$

$$y_n = x_n - e^{-\frac{T_{clk}}{\tau_d}} x_{n-1}$$



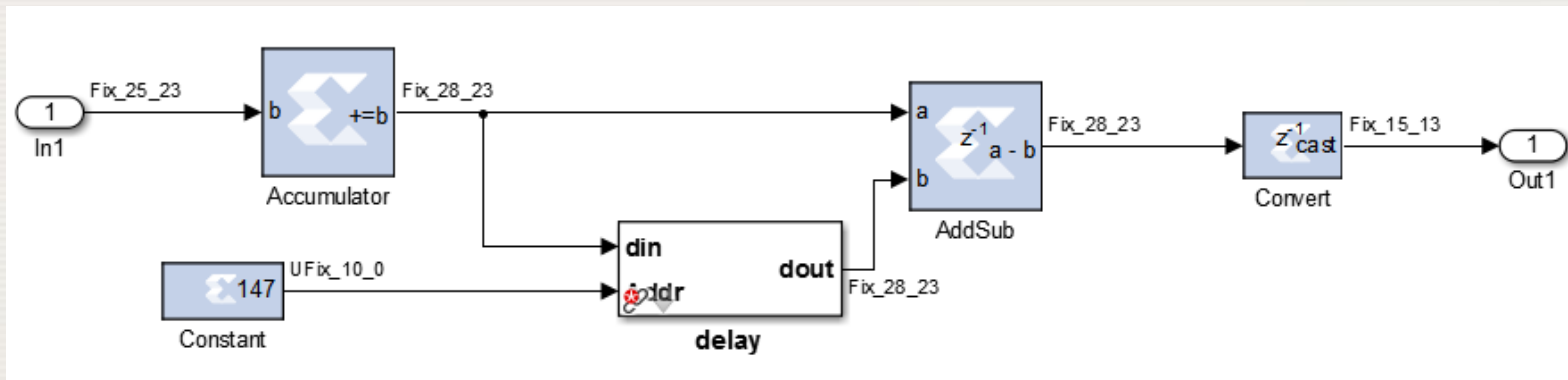
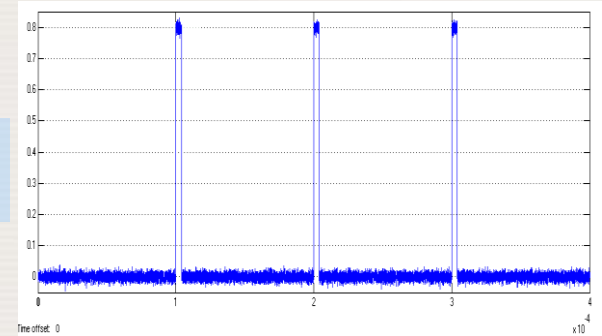
Design of the filter – Stage II



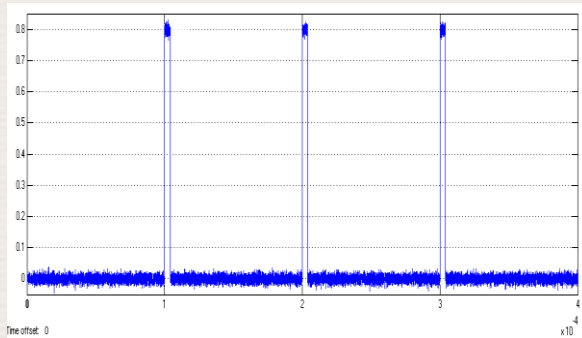
$$H_2(z) = \frac{1}{1-z^{-1}} (1 - z^{-n_a})$$

$$y_n = y_{n-1} + x_n$$

$$z_n = y_n - y_{n-n_a}$$



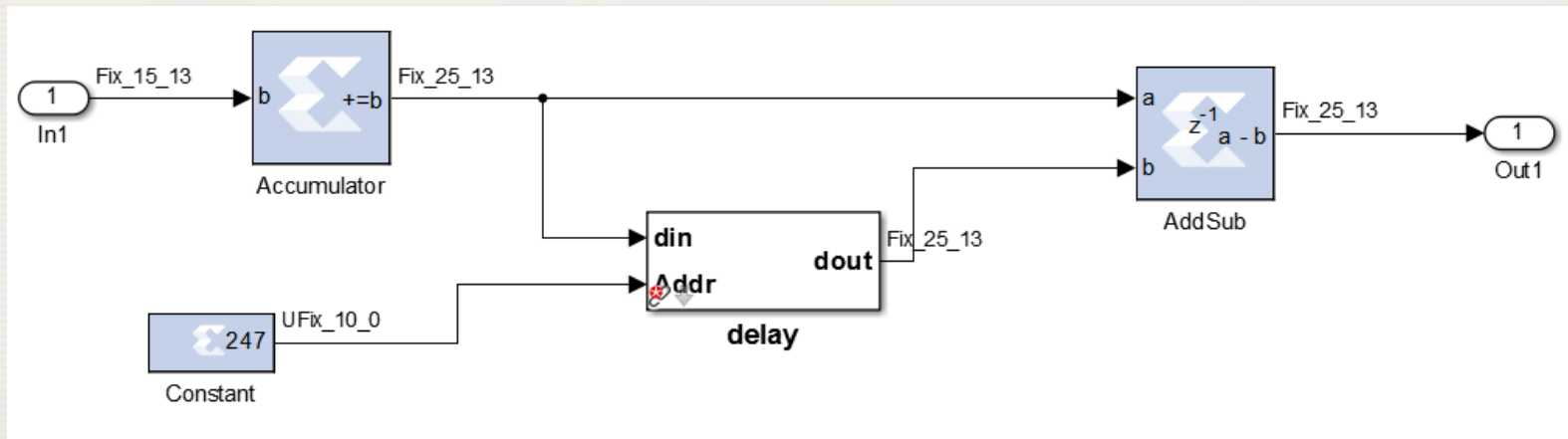
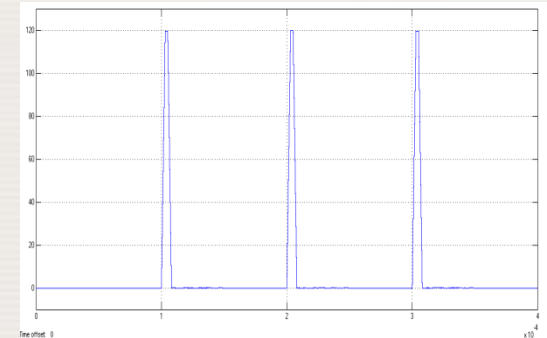
Design of the filter – Stage III



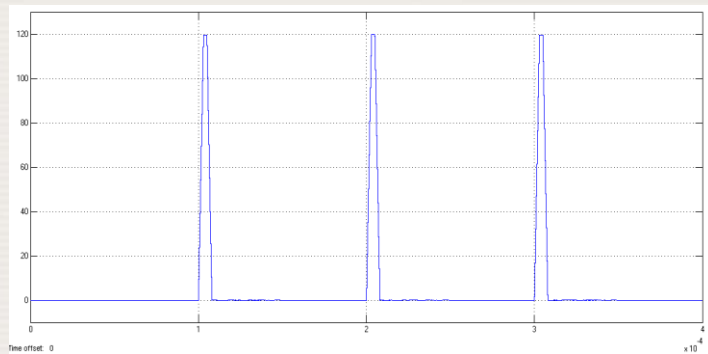
$$H_2(z) = \frac{1}{1-z^{-1}} (1 - z^{-n_b})$$

$$y_n = y_{n-1} + x_n$$

$$z_n = y_n - y_{n-n_b}$$

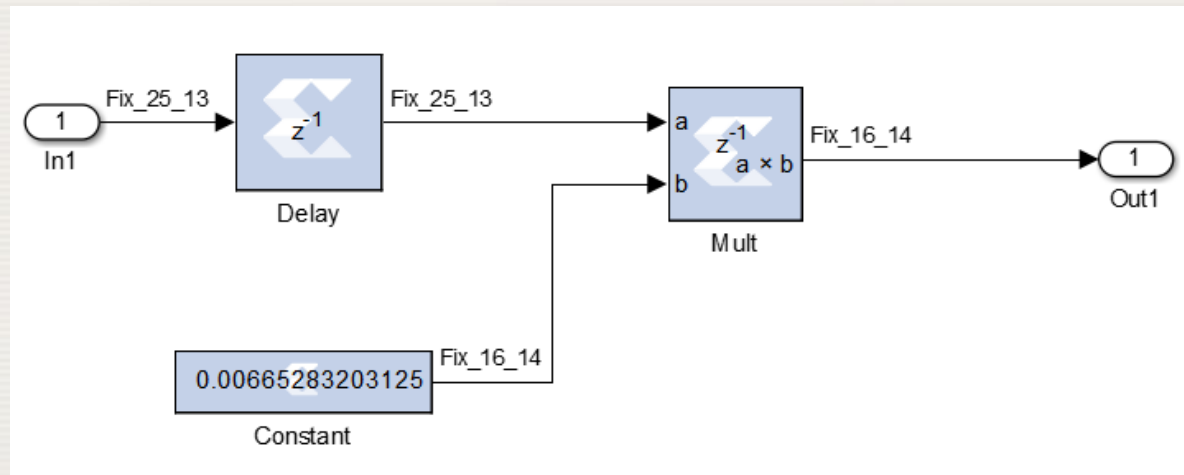
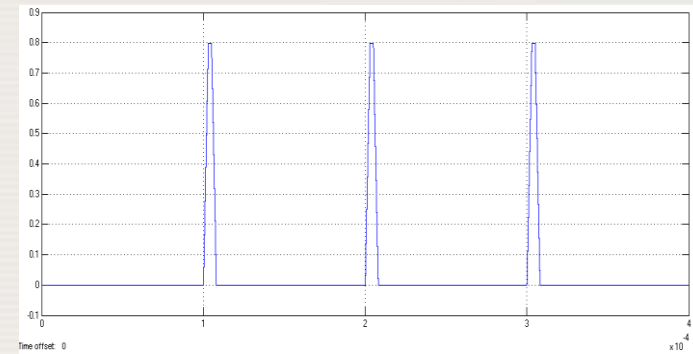


Design of the filter – Stage IV



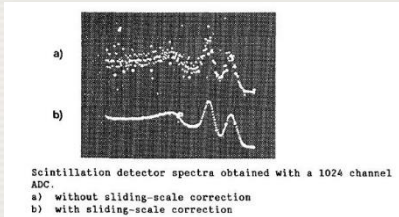
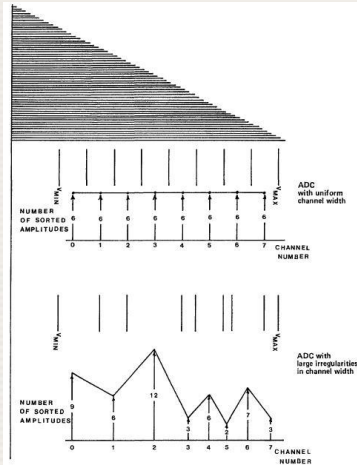
$$H_3(z) = \frac{z^{-1}}{n_a}$$

$$y_n = \frac{1}{n_a} x_{n-1}$$



Design of the filter – Precision

Analog system with MCA/ADC without Sliding scale



Digital MCA filter

Stage	Gain at DC	Element	Sign	Width	Precision	Overflow	Digital noise
I	$1 - b_{10} = 1 - e^{-\frac{T_{clk}}{\tau_d}} \approx \frac{T_{clk}}{\tau_d}$	Coefficient b_{10}	unsigned	$B_m = B + B_{n_a}$	$B_m = B + B_{n_a}$		
		Multiplier	signed	$B + B_{n_a} + 1$	$B + B_{n_a}$		
		Subtractor	signed	$B + B_{n_a} + 2$	$B + B_{n_a}$		
II	$n_a = \frac{\tau_p}{\tau_d}$	Accumulator		$B + B_{n_a} + 2 + B_{st}$		wrap	$\approx 2 \frac{2^{-2B}}{12}$
		Subtractor	signed	$B + B_{n_a} + 2 + B_{st}$	$B + B_{n_a}$	wrap	
		Converter	signed	$B + 2$	B		
III	$n_b = \frac{\tau_p + \tau_{ft}}{T_{clk}}$	Accumulator				wrap	$\approx 2n_b \frac{2^{-2B}}{12}$
		Subtractor	signed	$B + B_{n_b} + 2$	B	wrap	
IV	$\frac{1}{n_a} = \frac{T_{clk}}{\tau_p}$	Multiplier	signed	$B + 2$	$B + 1$		$\approx \frac{2n_b}{n_a^2} \frac{2^{-2B}}{12}$
		Mult n_{a_inv}	unsigned	18	18		

- Error sources

- rounding/truncation of the filter coefficient b_{10}
- ADC quantization
- finite precision multiplication

- Variance at the output of stage IV

- Example:

- ADC 14 bit, $\tau_d = 5\mu sec$, $\tau_p = 3\mu sec$, $\tau_{ftop} = 2 T_{clk} = 20 nsec$:

$$\sigma_4^2 = \frac{2^{-2 \times 16.5}}{12}$$

$$2 \frac{2^{-2B}}{12}$$

$$n_a \frac{2^{-2Bm}}{12}$$

$$2n_b \frac{2^{-2B}}{12}$$