



# Fast Track- Designing FIR Filters with Python

Dan Boschen  
September 2024

Content is derived from courses on DSP and Python taught by Dan Boschen

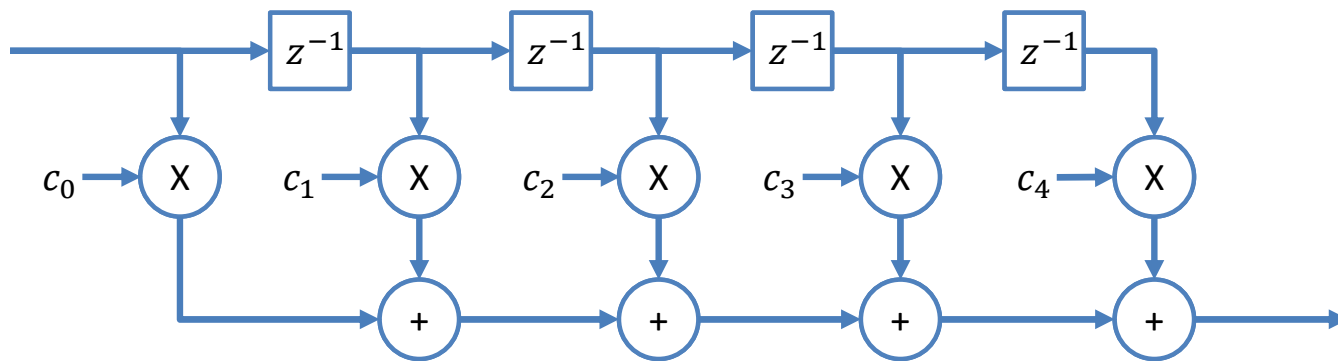
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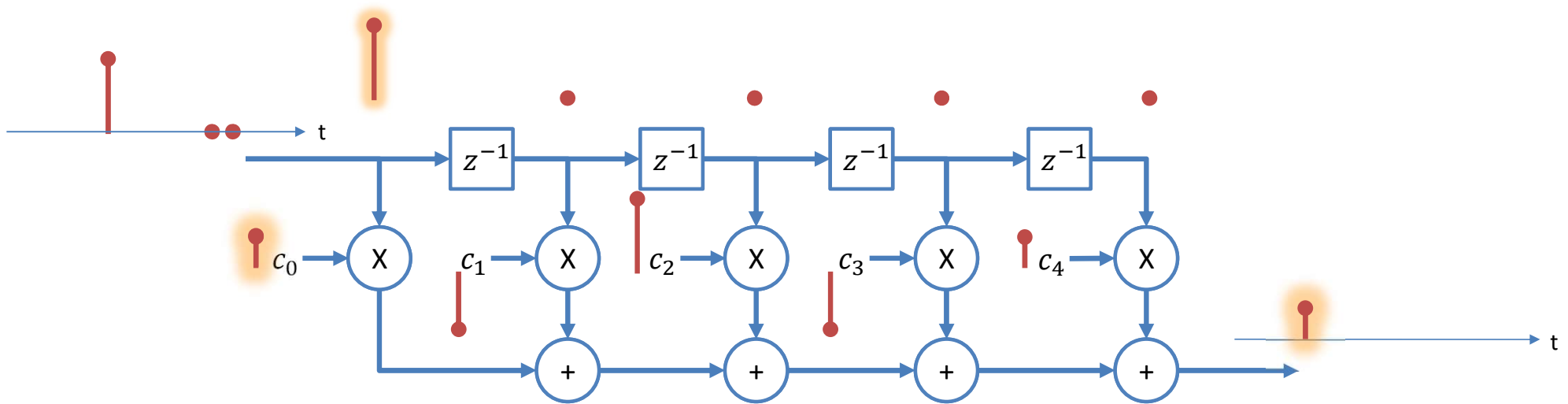
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# FIR Filters

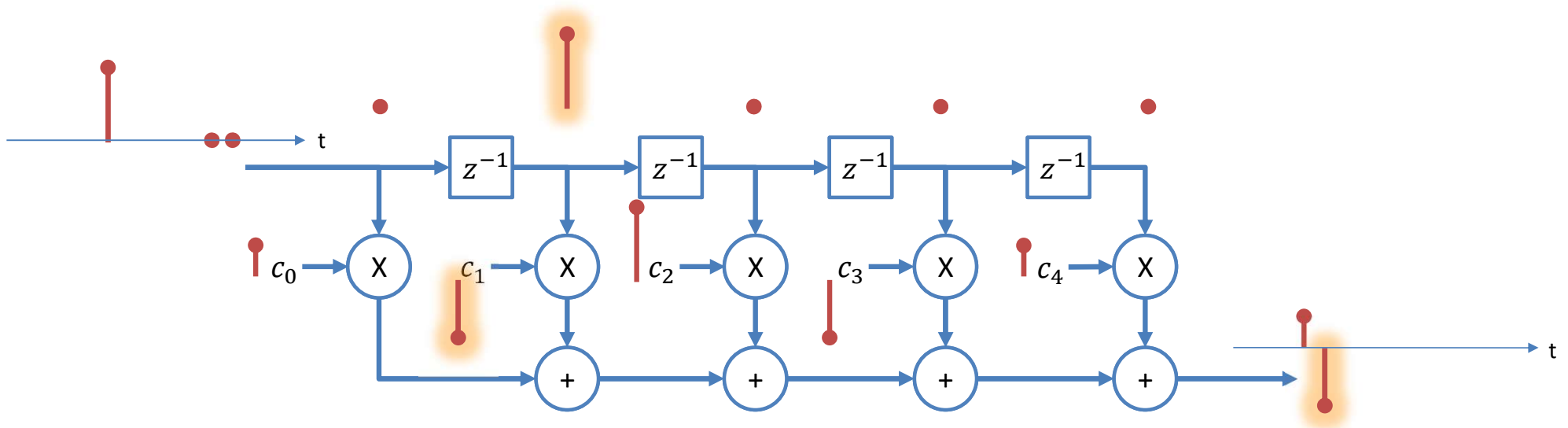


# FIR Filters



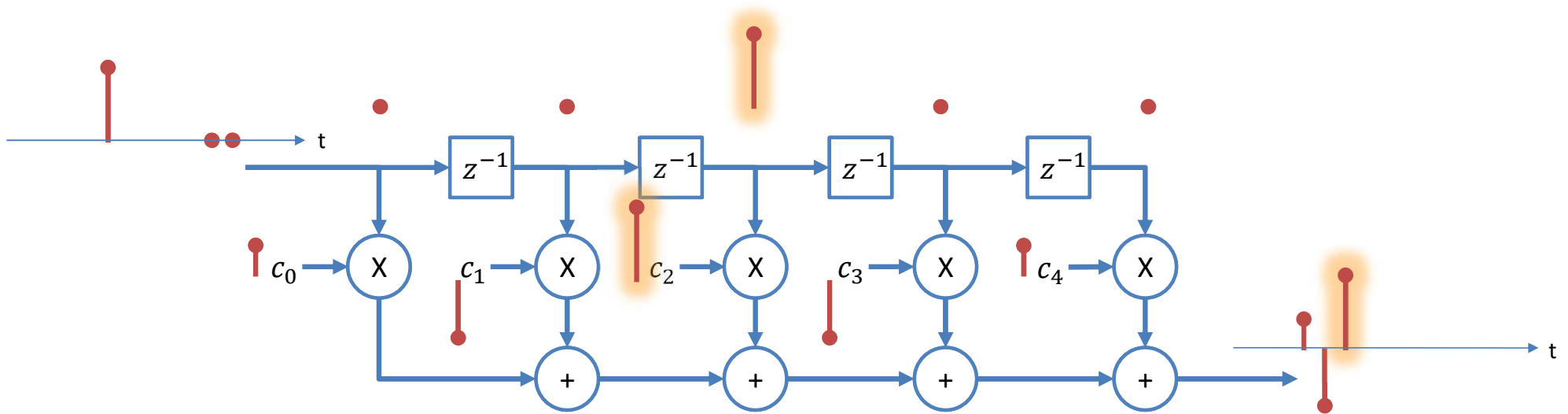
The Coefficients of the Filter is the **Impulse Response...**

# FIR Filters



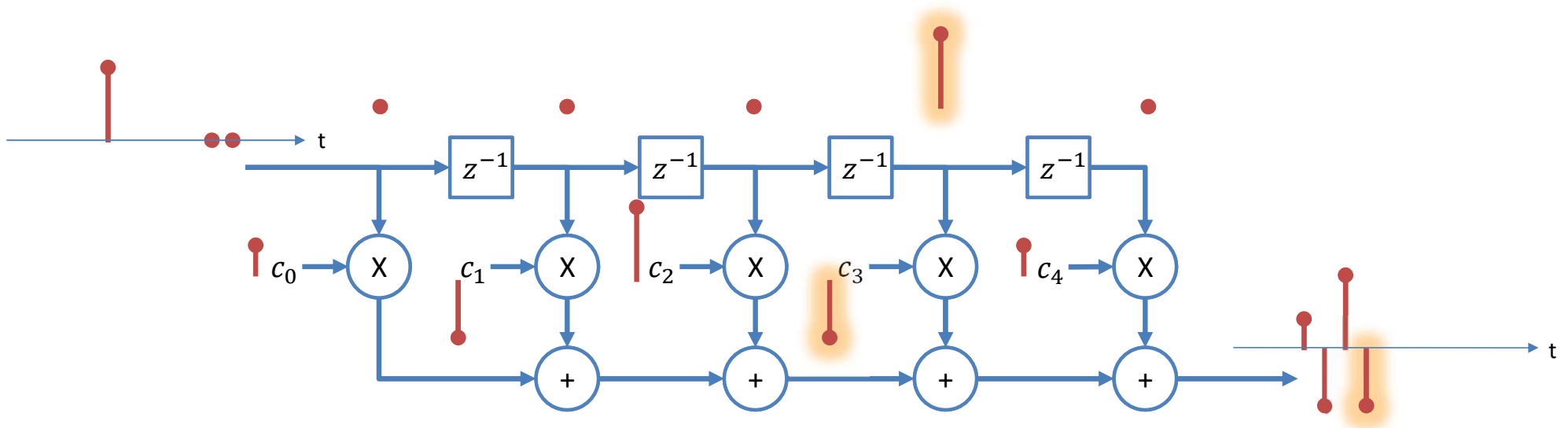
The Coefficients of the Filter is the **Impulse Response...**

# FIR Filters



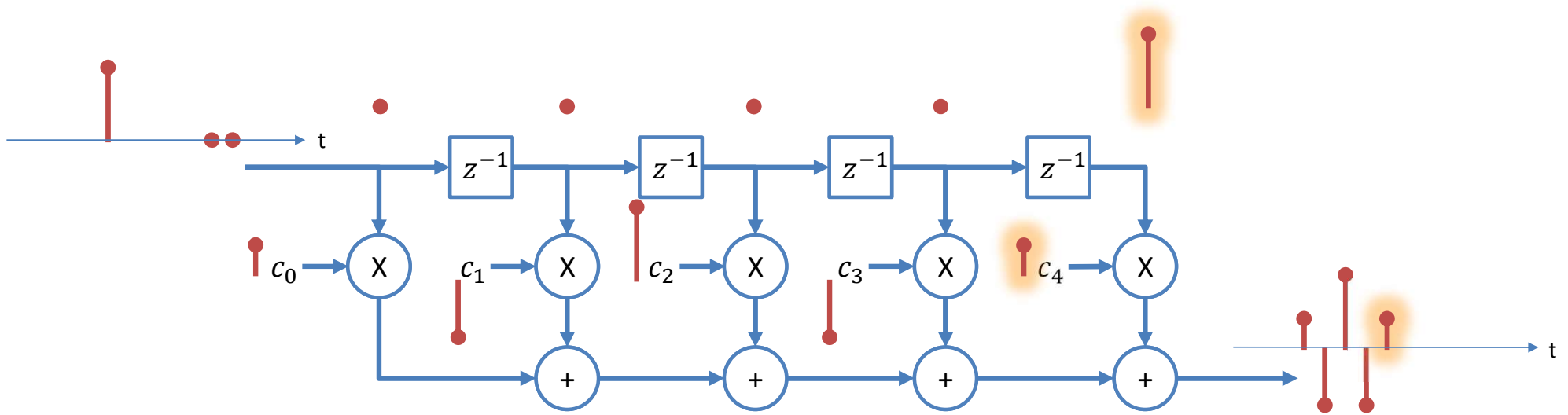
The Coefficients of the Filter is the **Impulse Response...**

# FIR Filters



The Coefficients of the Filter is the **Impulse Response...**

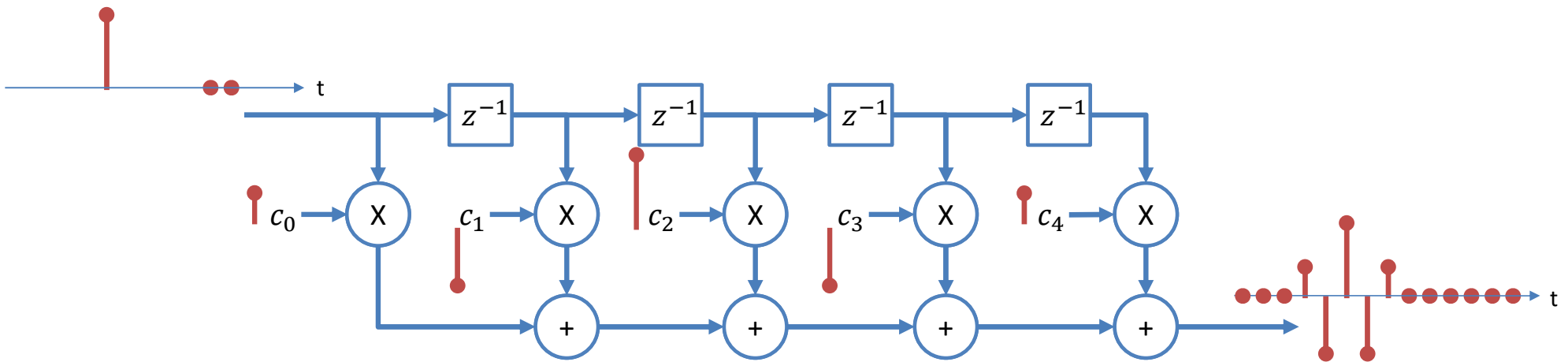
# FIR Filters



The Coefficients of the Filter is the **Impulse Response...**

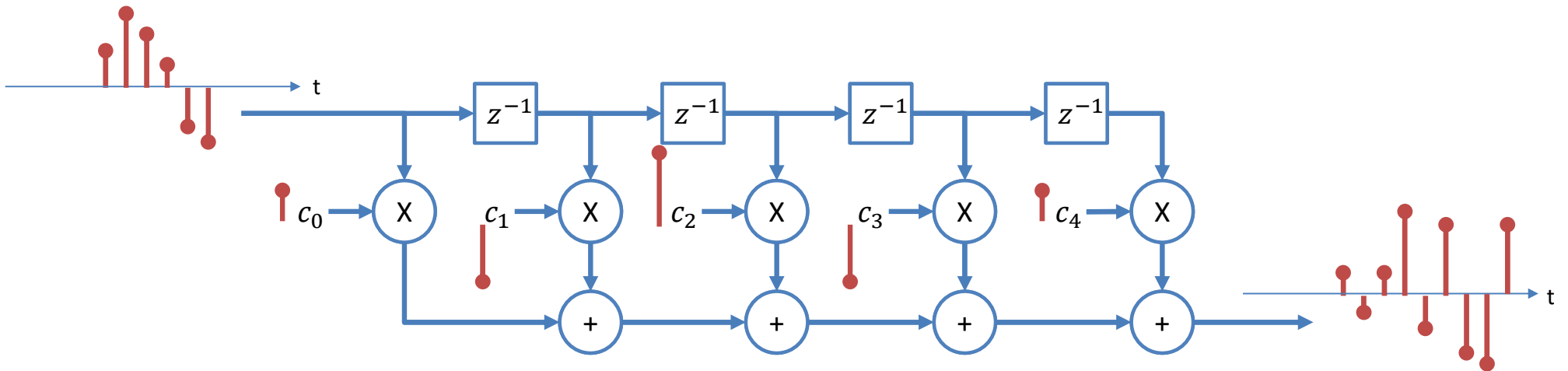


# FIR Filters

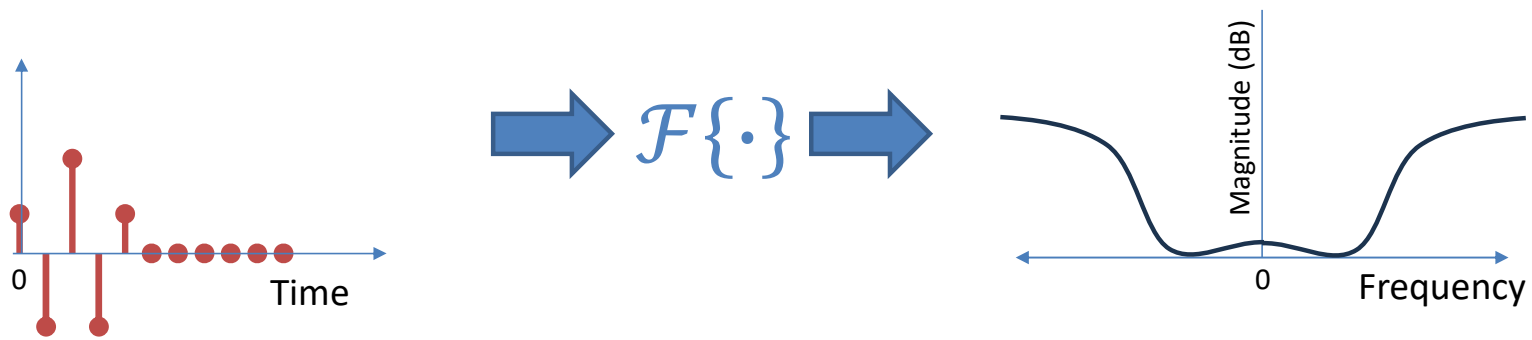


The Coefficients of the Filter is the **Impulse Response...**

# FIR Filters

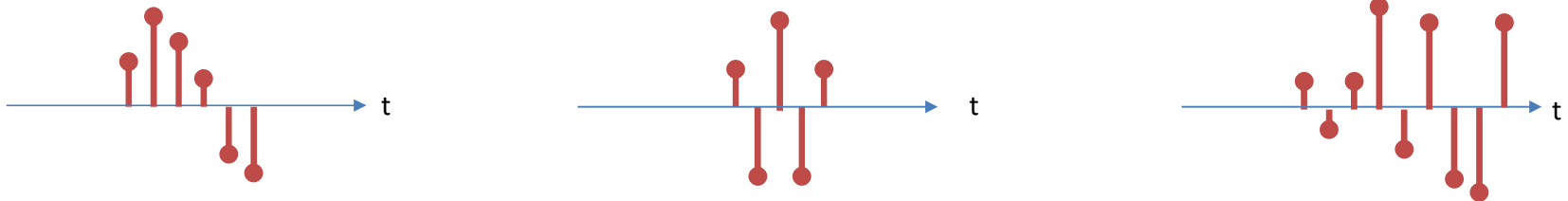


The output is the **convolution** of the input with the coefficients...

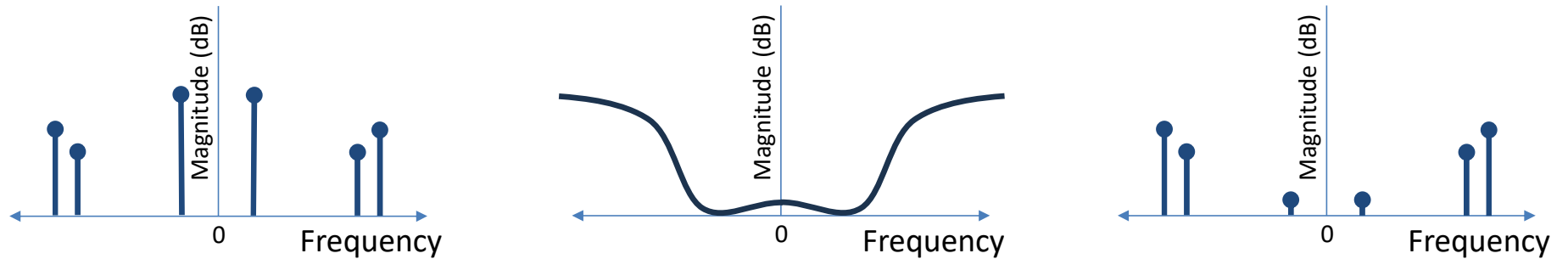


The Fourier Transform of the Impulse Response is the **Frequency Response**

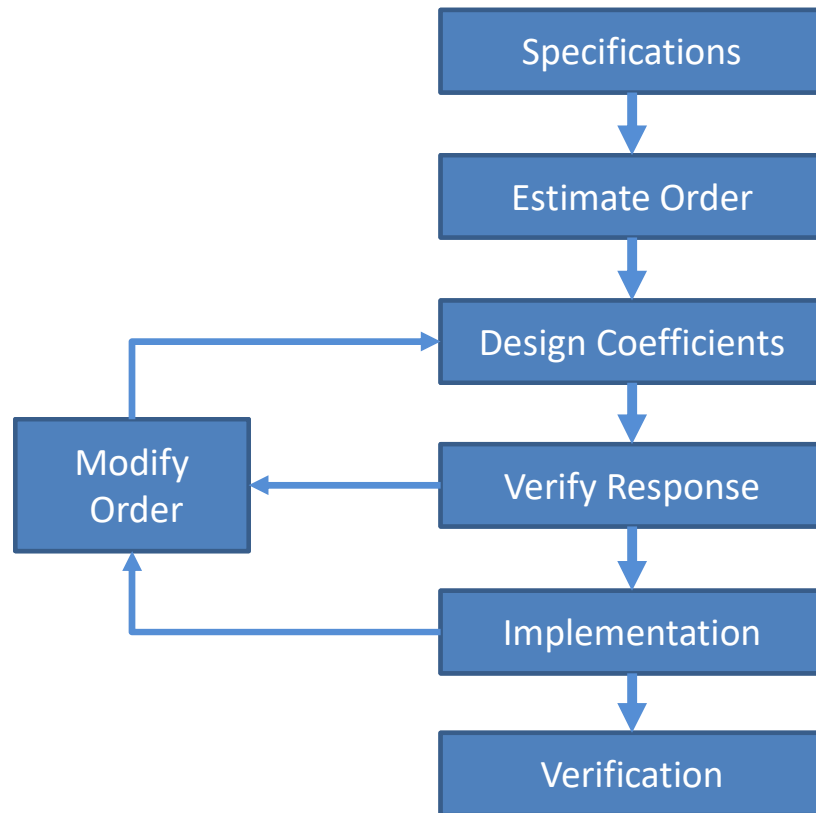
## Convolution in the time domain ...



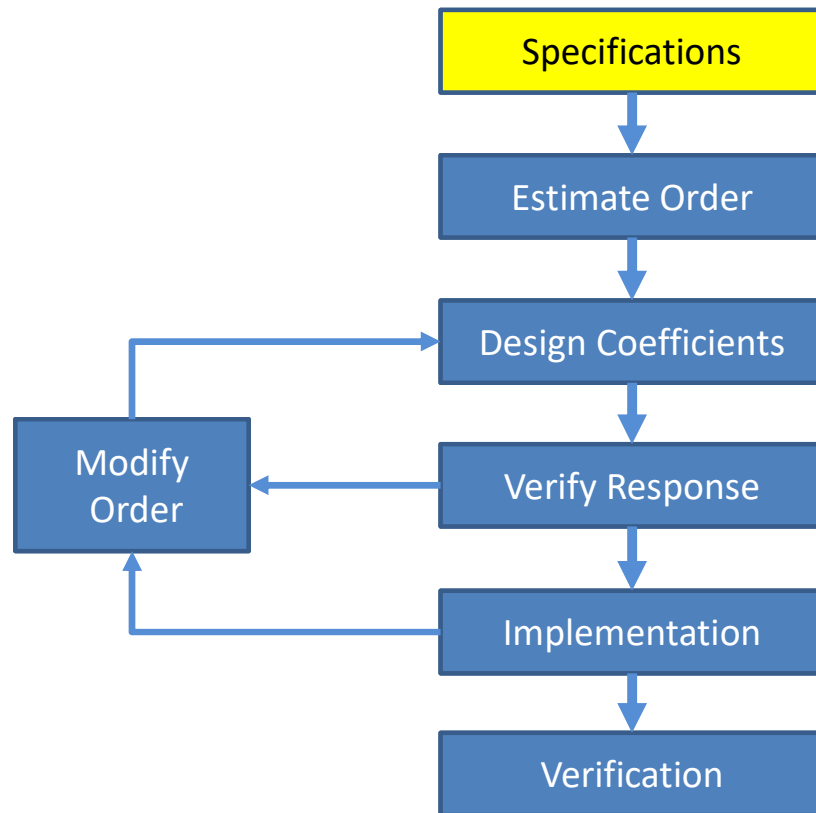
## ... is Multiplication in the frequency domain



# FIR Design Flow



# FIR Design Flow



# Filter Specification

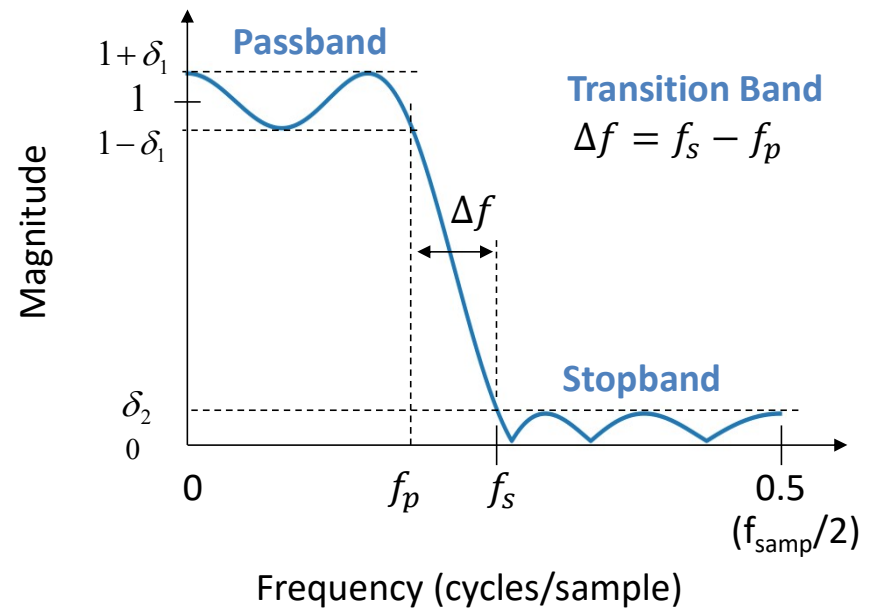
$f_p$ : **Passband edge frequency** (cycles/sample)

$\delta_1$ : **Peak Passband Ripple**, in dB:  $-20\log_{10}(1 - \delta_1)$

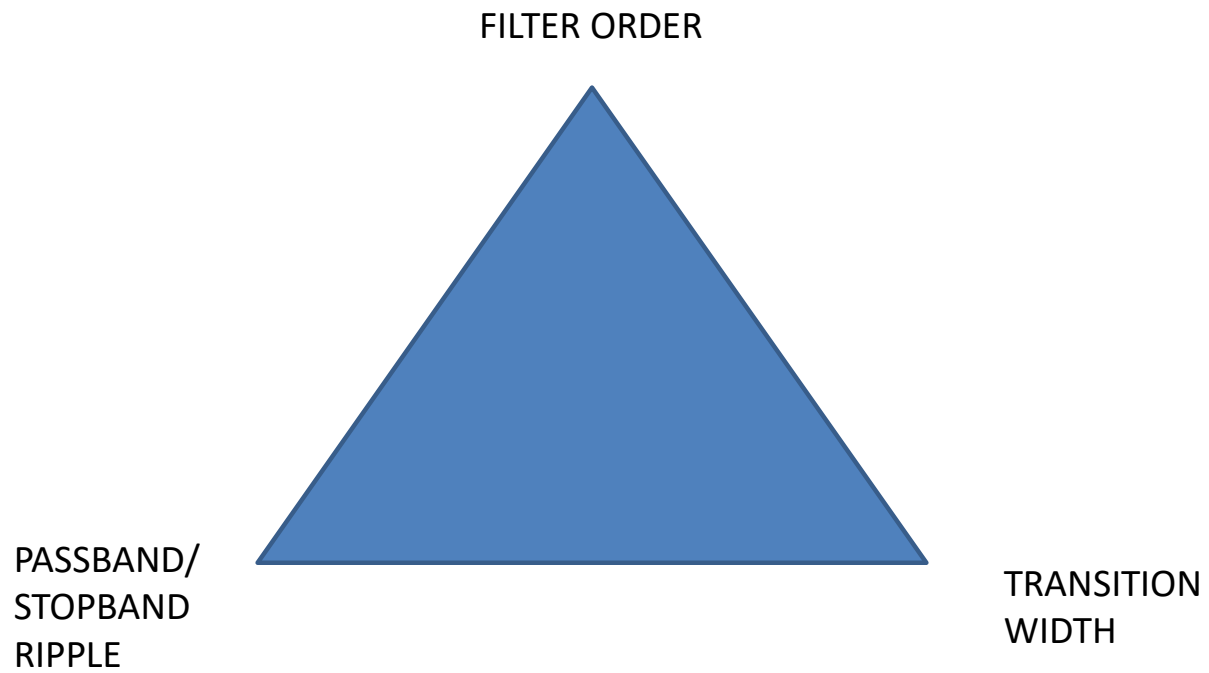
$f_s$ : **Stopband edge frequency** (cycles/sample)

$\delta_2$ : **Peak Stopband Ripple**, in dB (rejection):  $20\log_{10}(\delta_2)$

**Filter order:** Total time delay or processing constraint

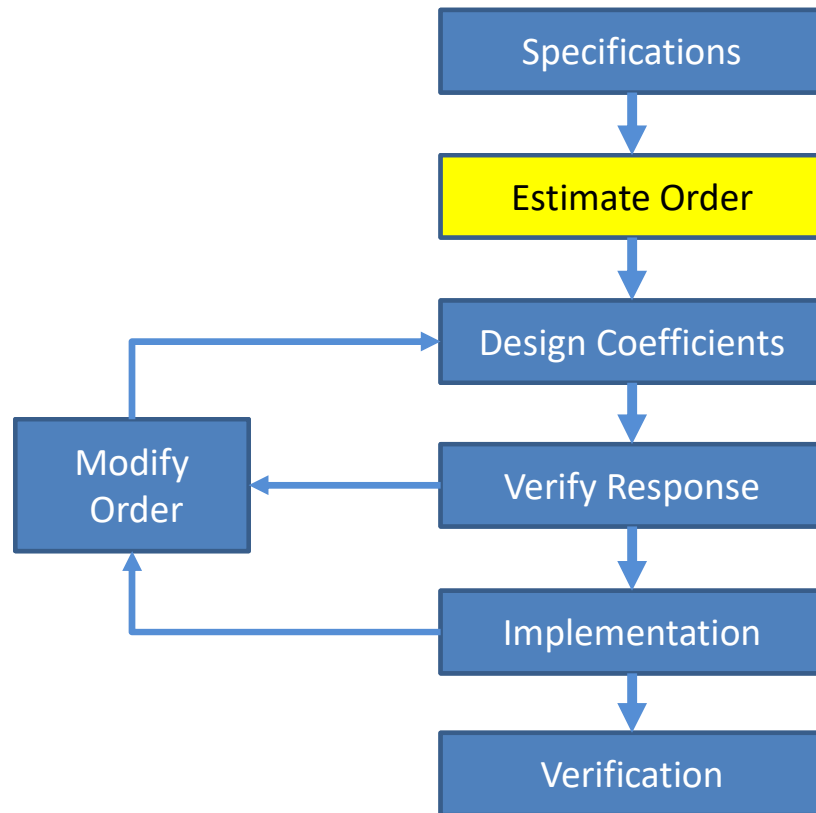


# Trade Space





# FIR Design Flow

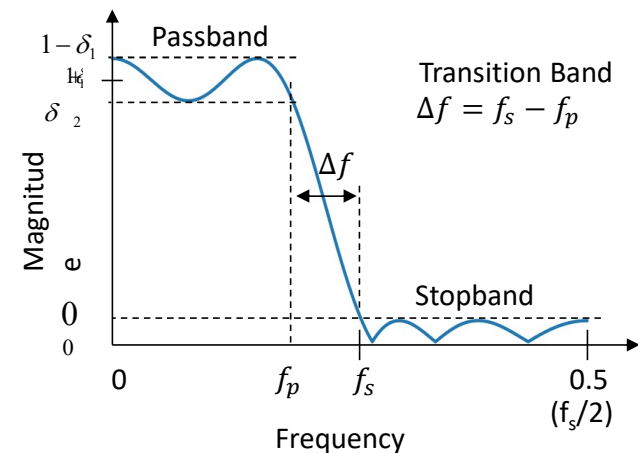


# Estimate Number of Coefficients

`scipy.signal.kaiserord`

| Kaiser's Estimators  |                                    |
|--|------------------------------------|
| Parks-McClellan Filters  | Kaiser Window Filters              |
| $\frac{-10\log_{10}(\delta_1\delta_2) - 13}{14.6(\Delta f)} + 1$ | $\frac{A - 8}{14.4(\Delta f)} + 1$ |

| fred harris Estimator    |
|--------------------------|
| $\frac{A}{22(\Delta f)}$ |



Where A is attenuation in dB as a positive number:

$$A = -20\log_{10}(\delta_2)$$

# Example

## Low Pass Filter

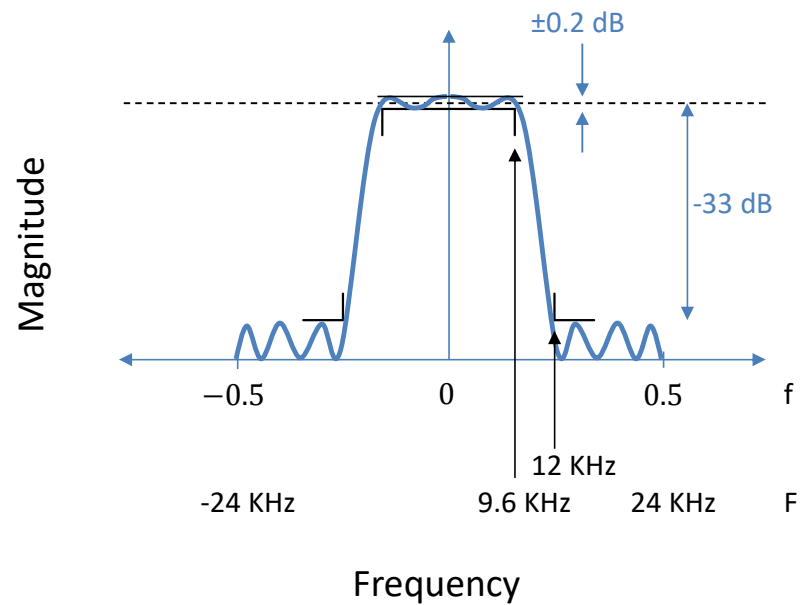
Passband ripple  $\pm 0.2$  dB

Stopband rejection: -33 dB

Sampling rate: 48 KHz

Passband edge: 9.6 KHz

Stopband edge: 12 KHz



# Example

## Low Pass Filter

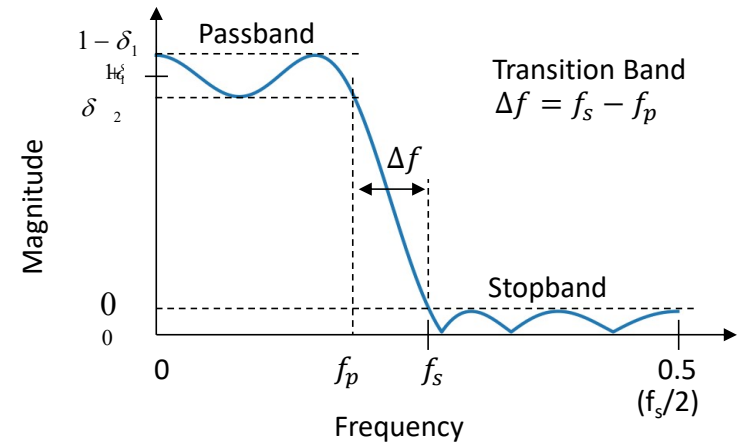
Passband ripple  $\pm 0.2$  dB  
 Stopband rejection: -33 dB  
 Sampling rate: 48 KHz  
 Passband edge: 9.6 KHz  
 Stopband edge: 12 KHz

$$\delta_1 = 10^{0.2/20} - 1 = 0.023$$

$$\delta_2 = 10^{-33/20} = 0.022$$

$$f_p = \frac{9600}{48000} = 0.2$$

$$f_s = \frac{12000}{48000} = 0.25$$



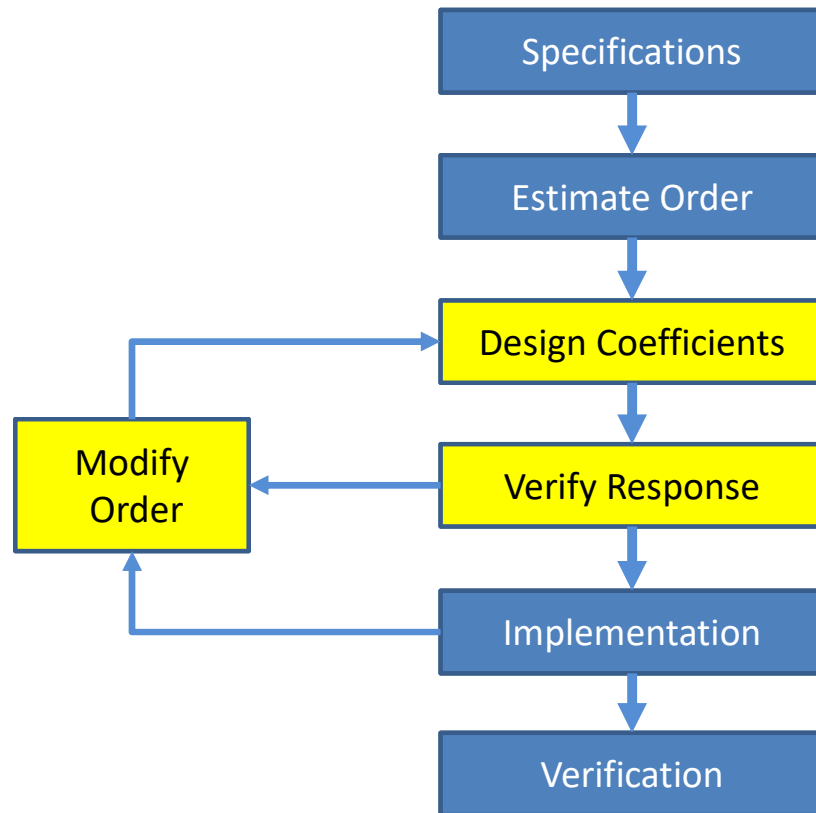
Kaiser:

$$N \cong \frac{-10 \log_{10}(\delta_1 \delta_2) - 13}{14.6(\Delta f)} + 1 = \frac{-10 \log_{10}(0.022 \cdot 0.023) - 13}{14.6 \cdot 0.05} = 28.3$$

fred harris:

$$N \cong \frac{A}{22(\Delta f)} = \frac{33}{22 \cdot 0.05} = 30$$

# FIR Design Flow



# Direct FIR Realizations

Window method

Frequency Sampling

Equiripple (Parks-McClellan or Remez)

Least-Squares

# Direct FIR Realizations

## Window method

Frequency Sampling

Equiripple (Parks-McClellan or Remez)

Least-Squares

# Truncate and Window

Simple

Non-optimal

Typical windows

Bartlett, Modified Bartlett-Hanning (“Barthann”), Blackman, Blackman-harris, Bohman, Chebyshev, Cosine, DPSS, Flat Top, Gaussian, Hamming, Hann, Kaiser, Nutall, Parzen (de la Valle-Poussin), Boxcar, Taylor, Cosine-tapered (Tukey), Triangular

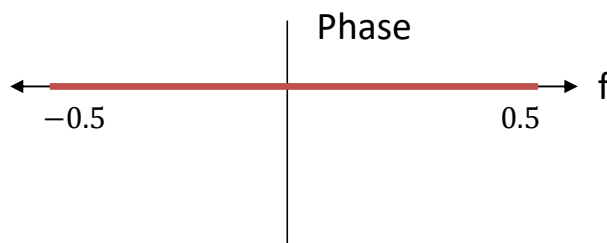
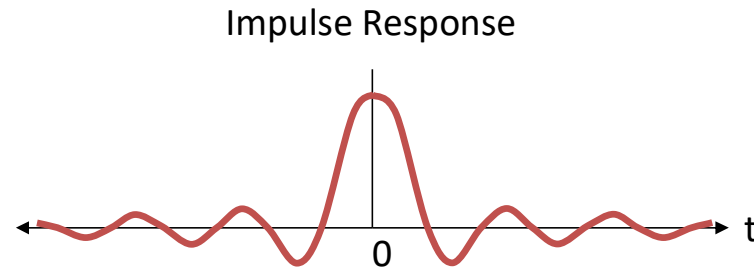
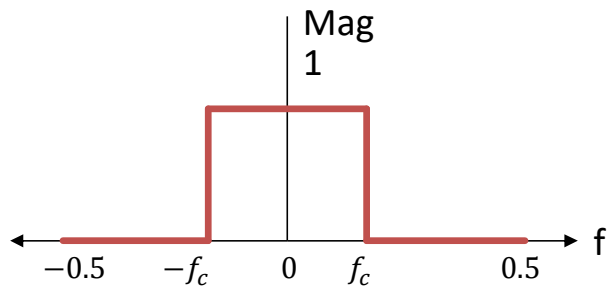
All of these windows are available in Python!

<https://docs.scipy.org/doc/scipy/reference/signal.windows.html>



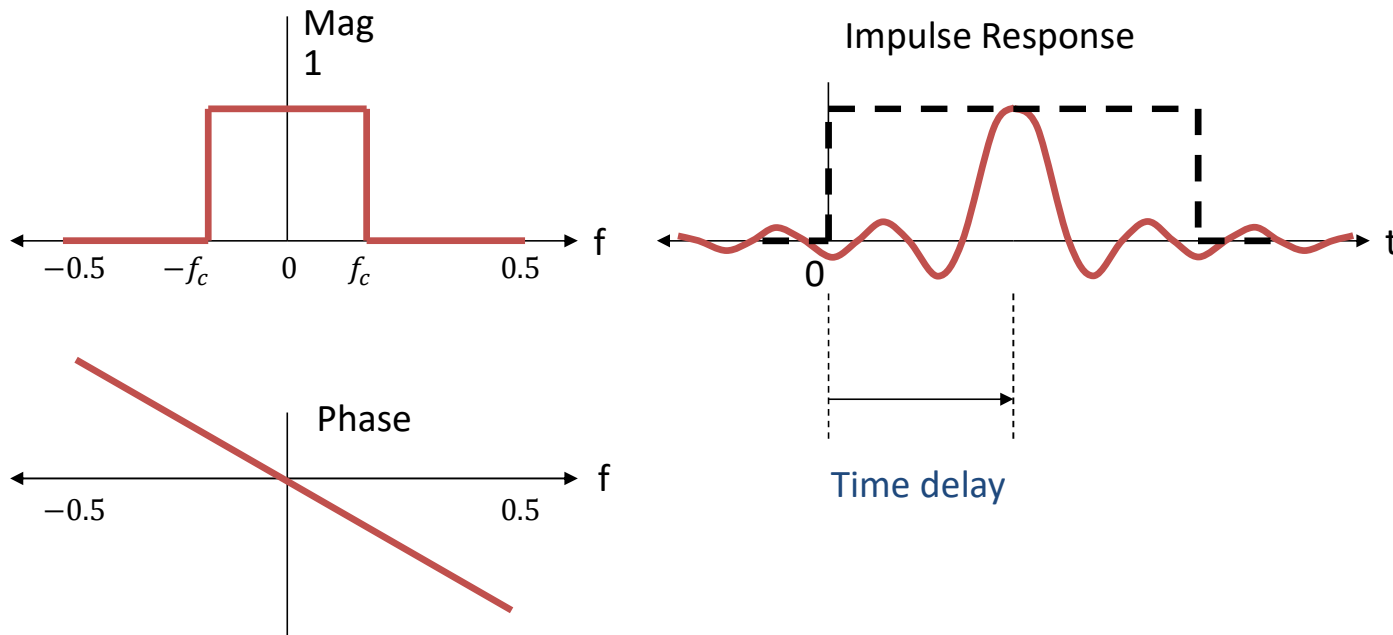
# Ideal Lowpass Filter

$$H(f) = 1, 0 \leq |f| \leq f_c$$
$$H(f) = 0, |f| > f_c$$



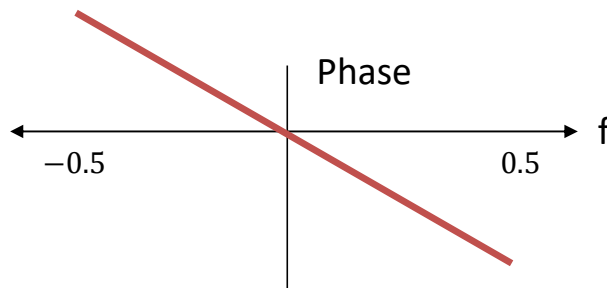
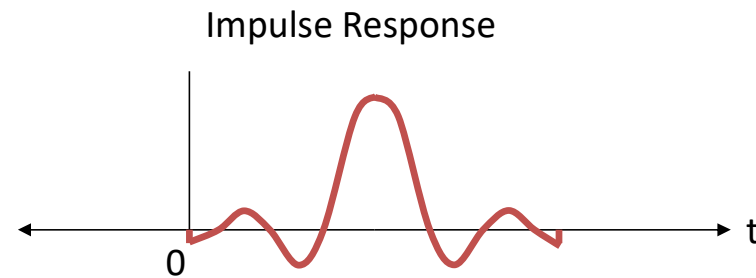
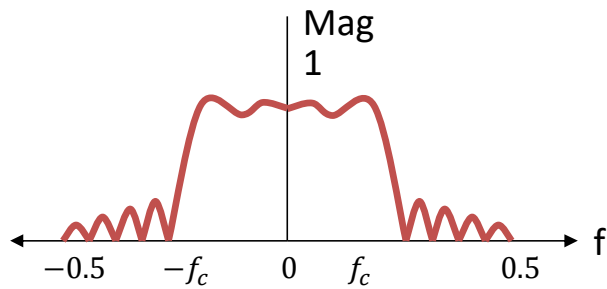
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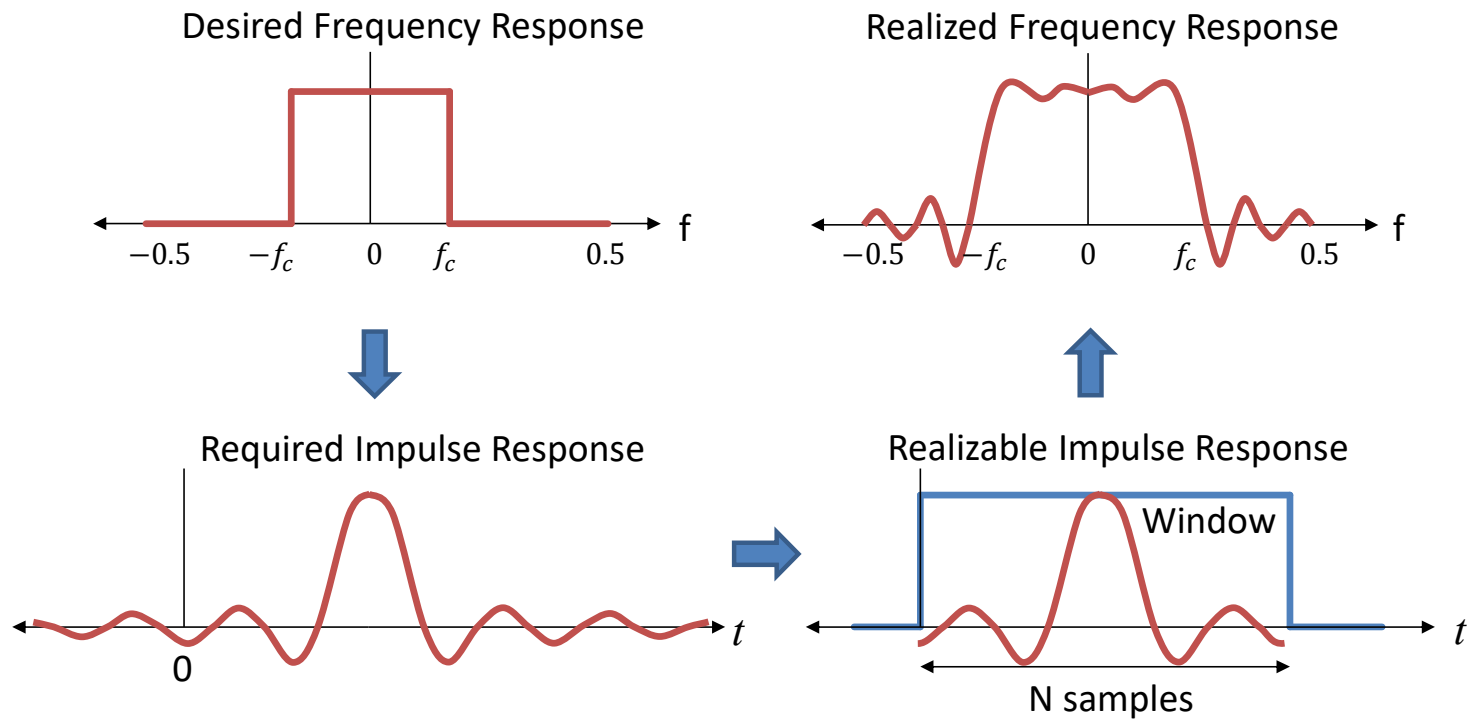


# Rectangular Window

$$H(f) = 1, 0 \leq |f| \leq f_c$$
$$H(f) = 0, |f| > f_c$$

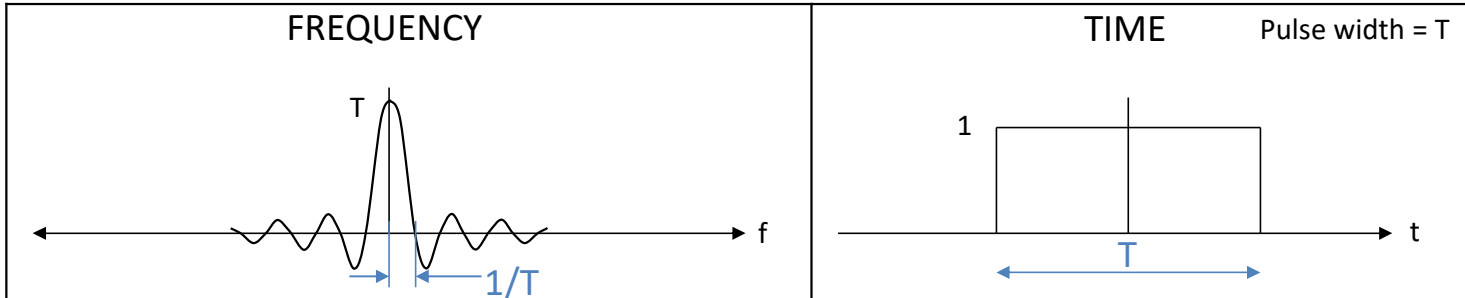


# Rectangular Window

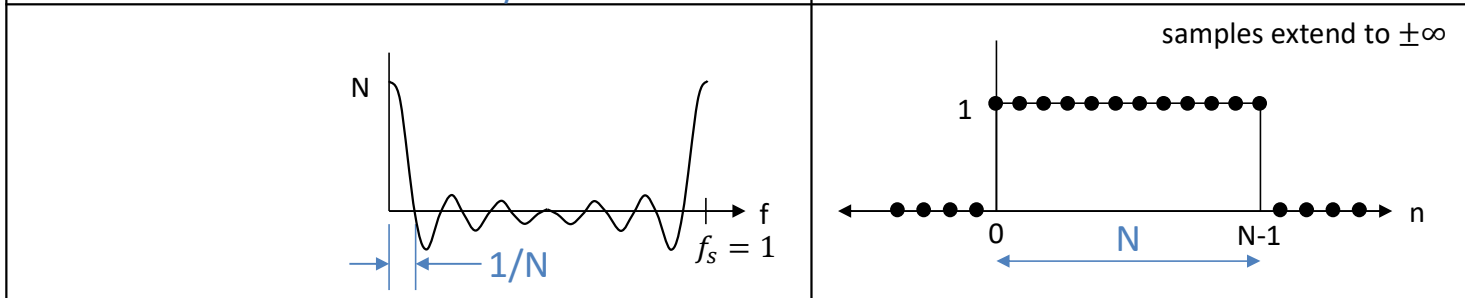


# Transform Review

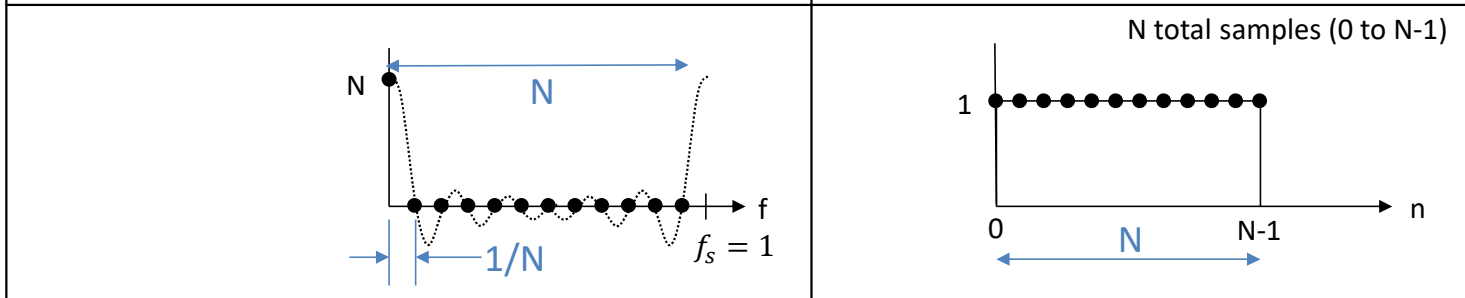
Fourier Transform (FT)



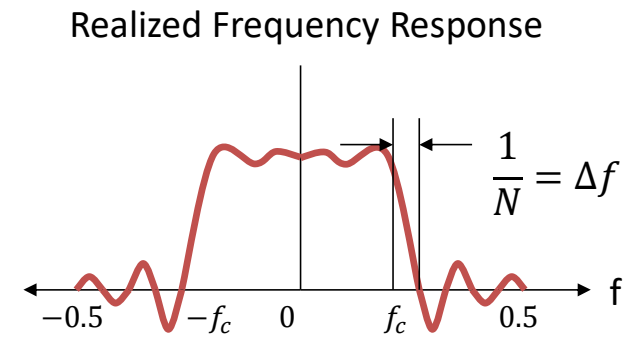
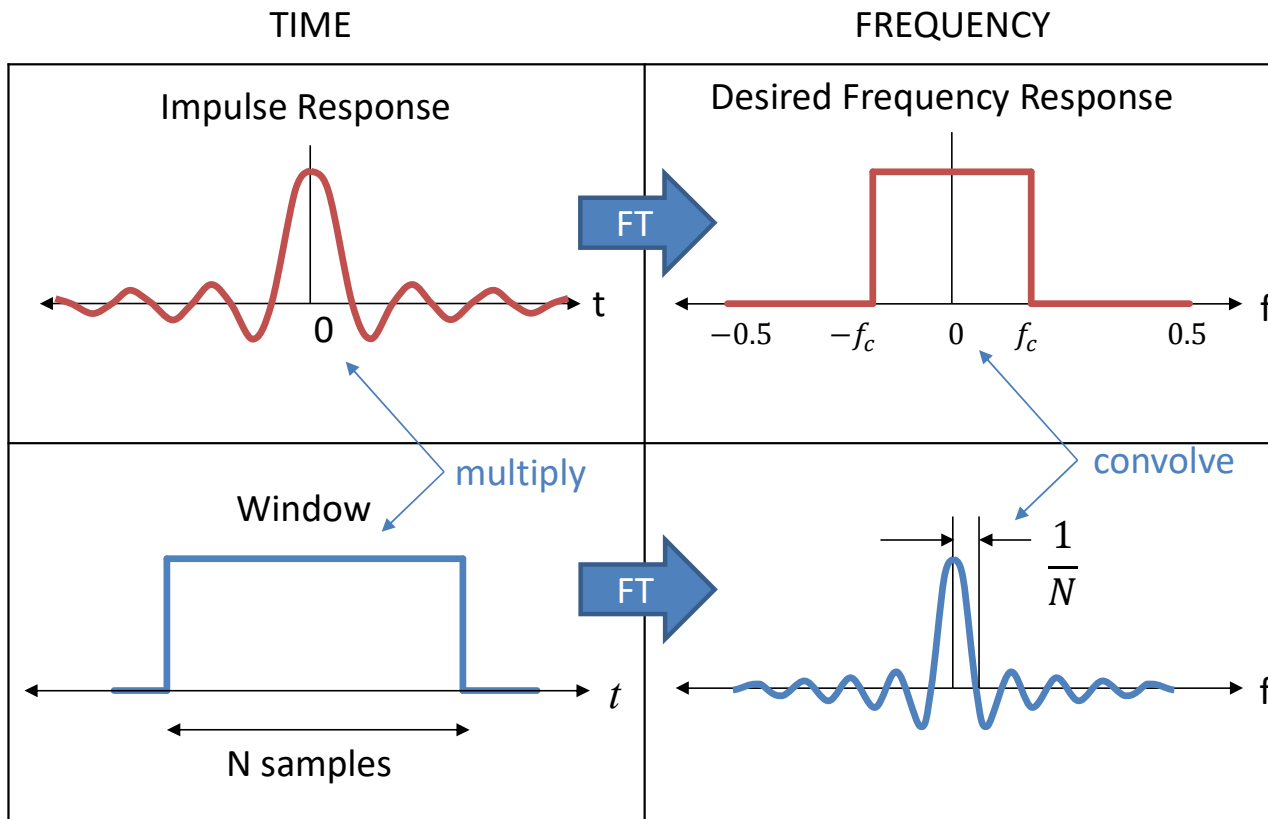
Discrete-Time Fourier Transform (DTFT)



Discrete Fourier Transform (DFT, FFT)



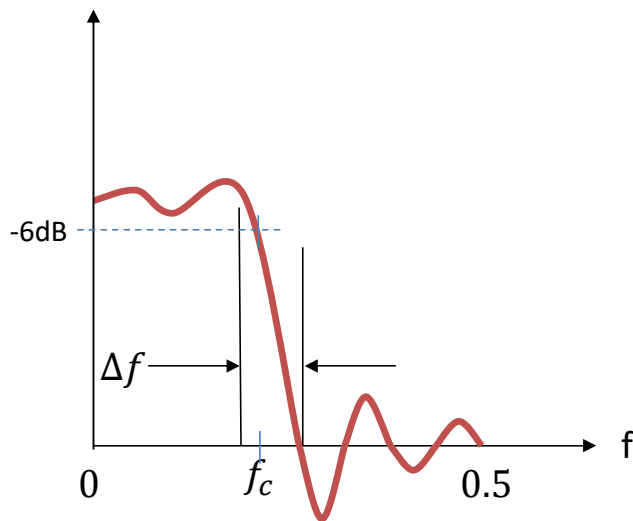
# Rectangular Window



$$N = \frac{1}{\Delta f}$$

# Rectangular Window

$N = \frac{1}{\Delta f}$  coefficients required to complete transition band

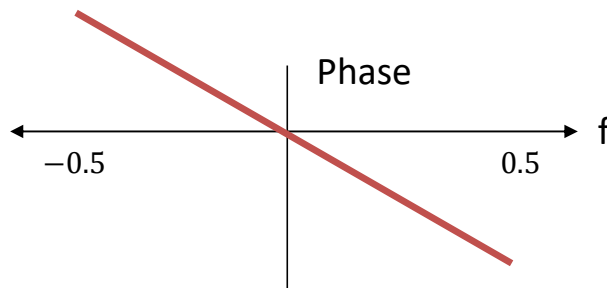
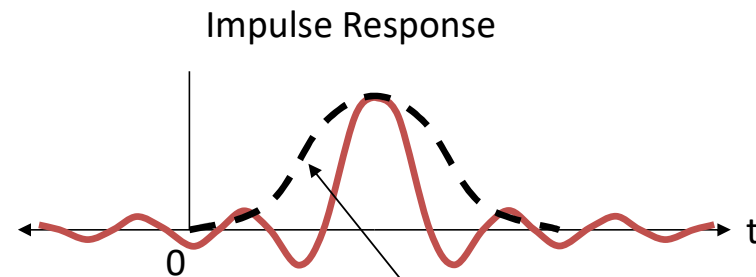
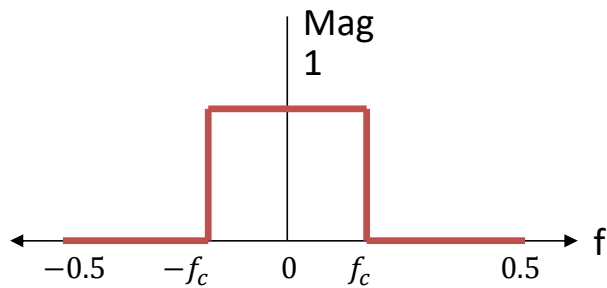


| Kaiser's Estimators  |                                    |
|--|------------------------------------|
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| fred harris Estimator            |
|----------------------------------|
| $N \cong \frac{A}{22(\Delta f)}$ |

# Alternate Window

$$H(f) = 1, 0 \leq |f| \leq f_c$$
$$H(f) = 0, |f| > f_c$$

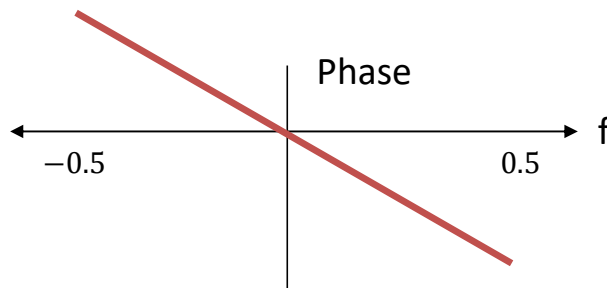
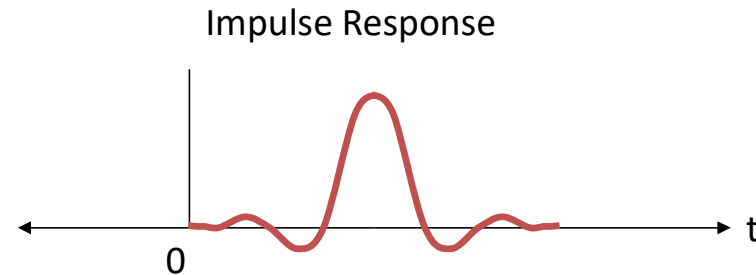
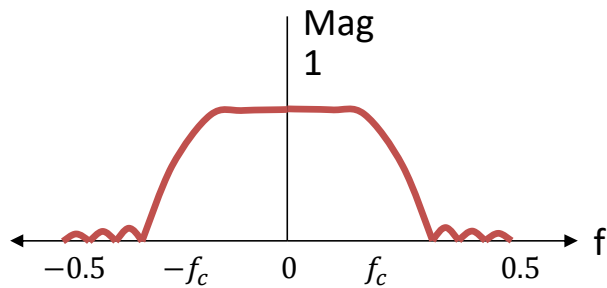


Kaiser, Hamming, Hann, etc...



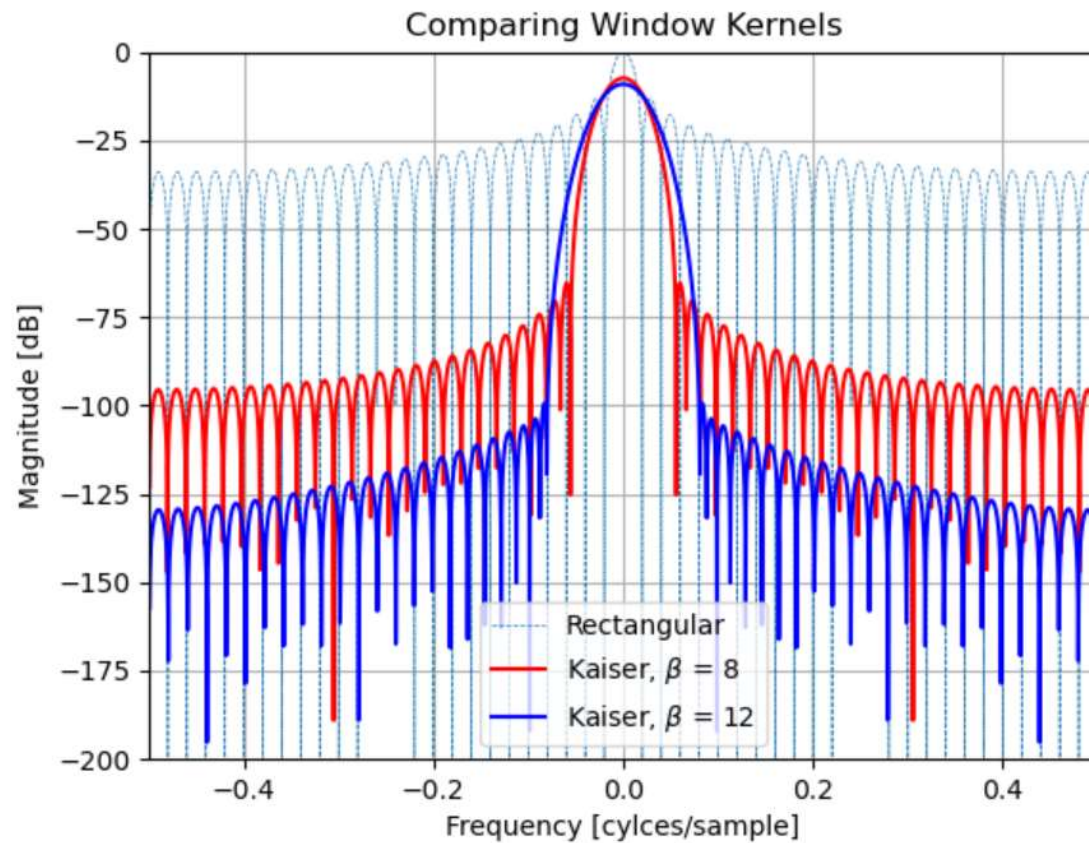
# Alternate Window

$$H(f) = 1, 0 \leq |f| \leq f_c$$
$$H(f) = 0, |f| > f_c$$



Reduced passband  
and stopband ripple!  
...But wider transition band  
for a given length N

# DTFT of the Kaiser Window



# Window Summary

Establish desired frequency response

Determine impulse response (using Inverse Fourier Transform)

Sample, truncate and window



Estimate number of taps and Kaiser beta:

**`scipy.signal.kaiserord`**

Create filter coefficients

**`scipy.signal.firwin`** OR

**`scipy.signal.firwin2`**

# Direct FIR Realizations

Window method

**Frequency Sampling**

Equiripple (Parks-McClellan or Remez)

Least-Squares

# Frequency Sampling

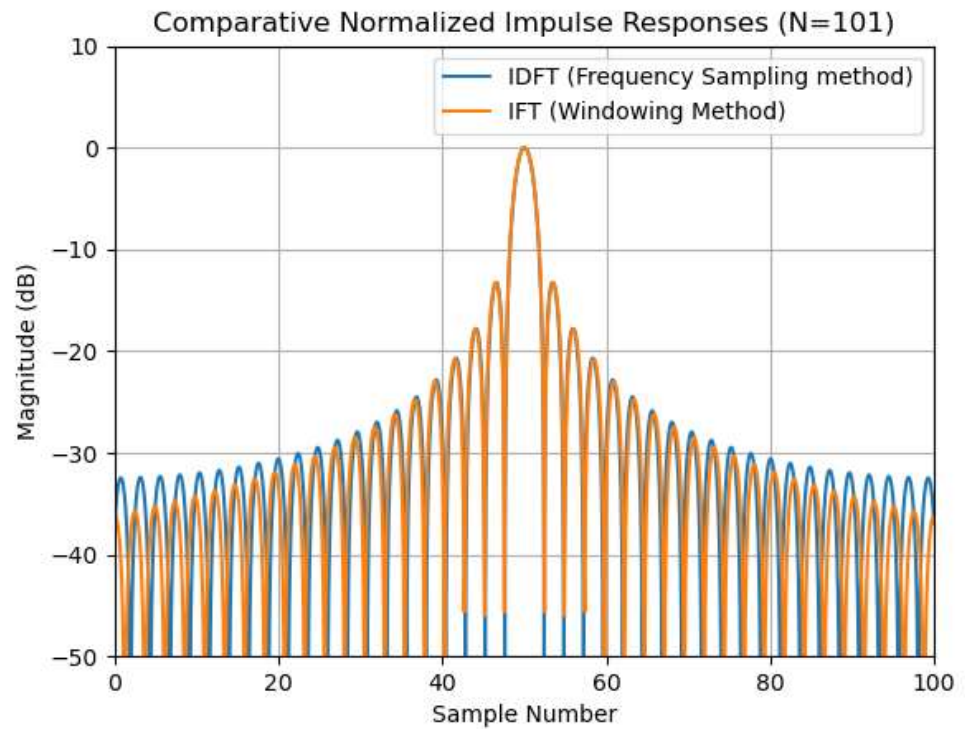
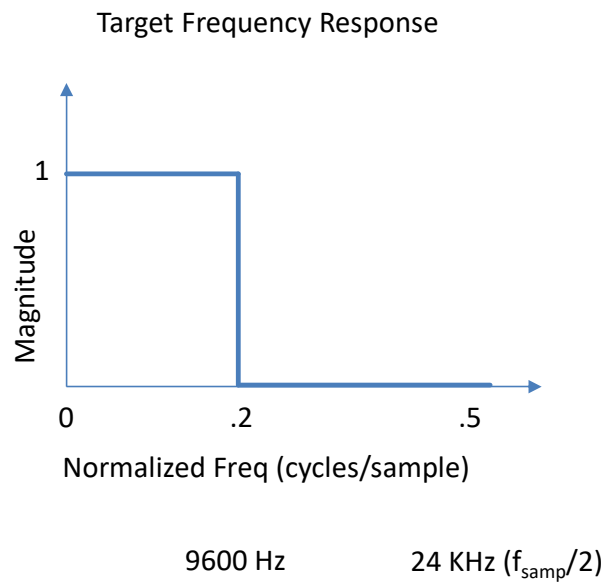
## Very simple

Coefficients are the Inverse DFT of the sampled frequency response.  
(In contrast to Inverse FT for Windowing method).

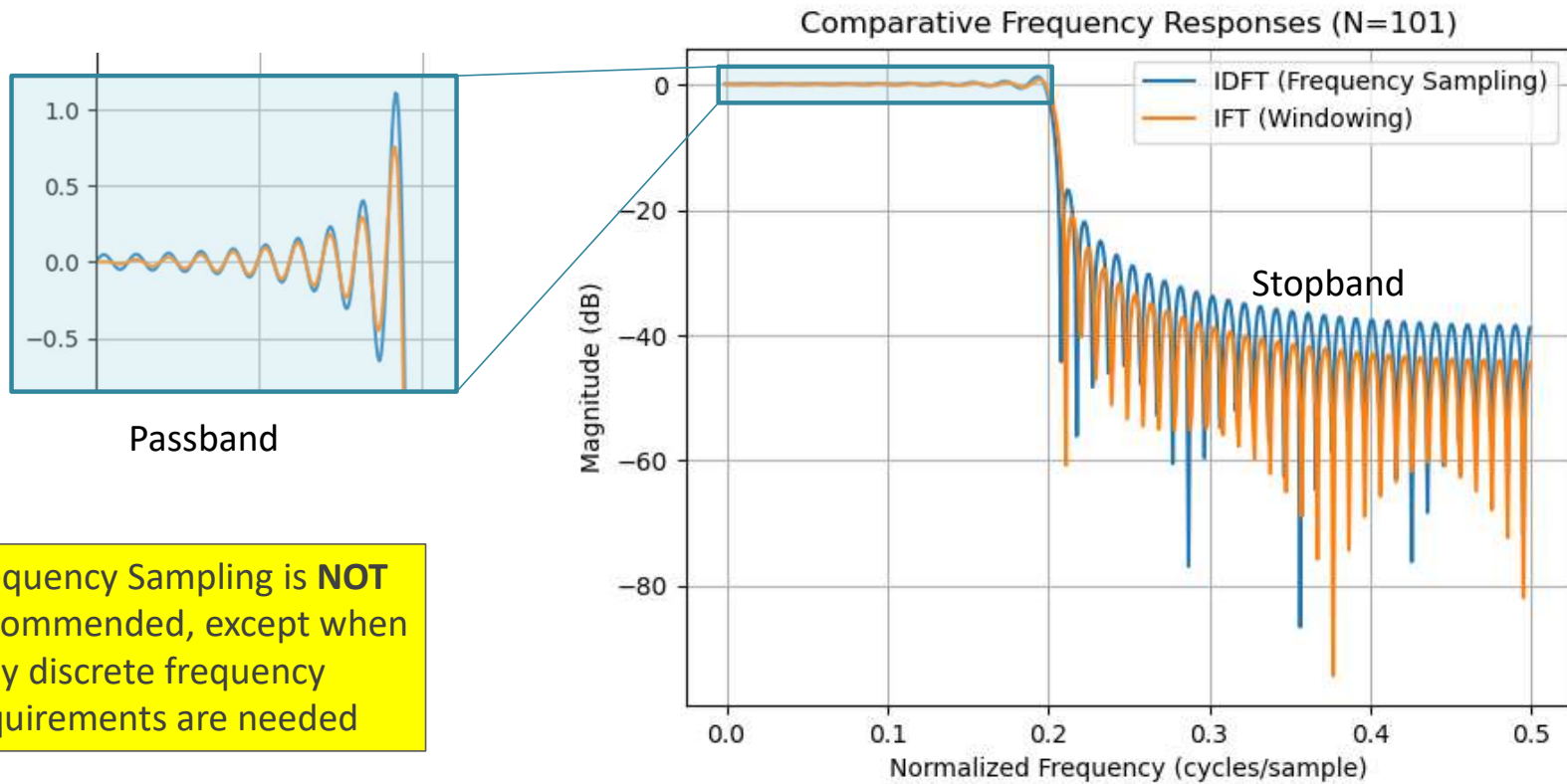
## Sub-optimal

Longer filter length required over optimized approaches.  
Will be exact at frequency sample locations.  
Larger ripple in between.

# Frequency Sampling Example



# Frequency Sampling



Frequency Sampling is **NOT** recommended, except when only discrete frequency requirements are needed

# Direct FIR Realizations

Window method

Frequency Sampling

**Equiripple (Parks-McClellan or Remez)**

**Least-Squares**



# Optimized Algorithms

## **Equiripple (Parks-McClellan, Remez)**

“best” in the mini-max sense: minimize the maximum error

Ideally suited when a specific tolerance must be met

Smallest peak error in passband and stopband

## **Least Squares**

“best” in the least squares sense: minimize the least square error

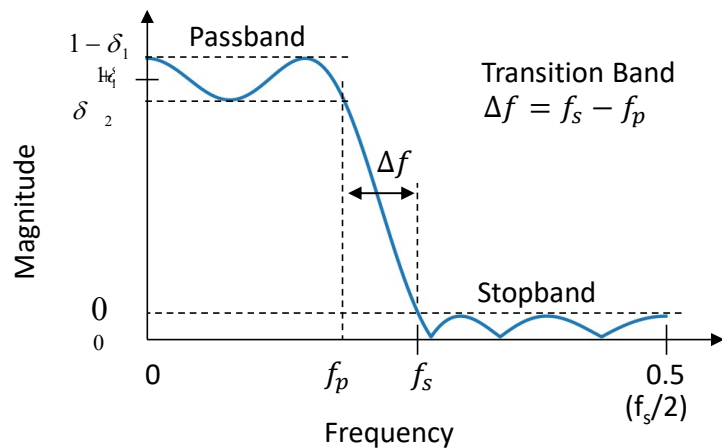
Will have greater excursions from target than Equiripple, but lower rms error overall.

Smallest stopband energy and rms passband error

# Design Tools for Optimized Algorithms

|               | Python<br>scipy.signal | MATLAB | Octave |
|---------------|------------------------|--------|--------|
| Equiripple    | remez                  | firpm  | remez  |
| Least Squares | firls                  | firls  | firls  |

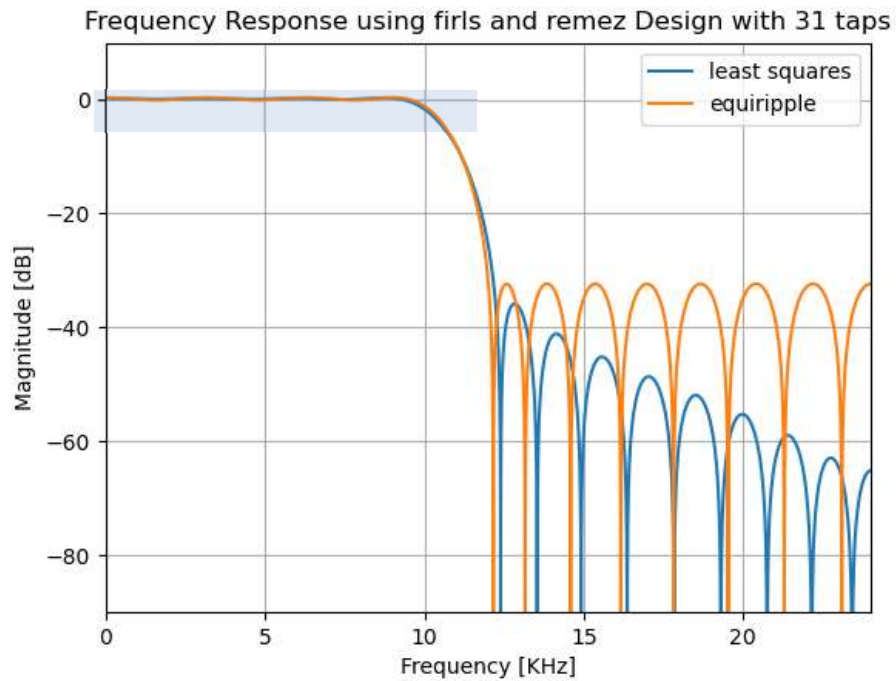
# Design Tools for Optimized Algorithms



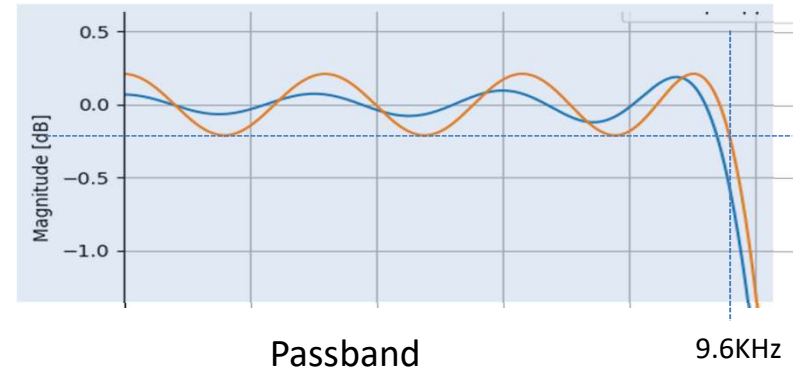
```
# bands (nyq = 1 for firls, nyq = 0.5 for remez)
ls_bands = [0, 2*pass_edge, 2*stop_edge, nyq]
remez_bands = [0, pass_edge, stop_edge, nyq]

ls_coeff = sig.firls(n_taps, ls_bands, [1,1,0,0])
remez_coeff = sig.remez(n_taps, remez_bands, [1, 0])
```

# Example



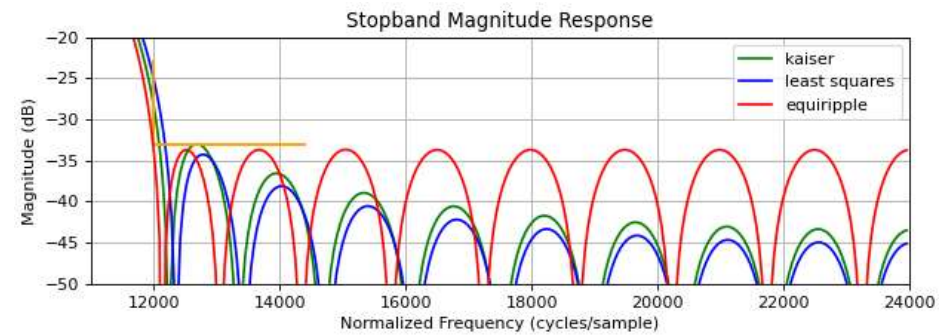
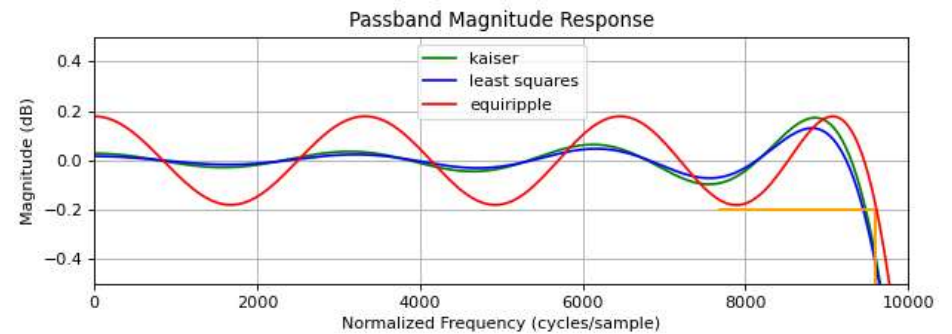
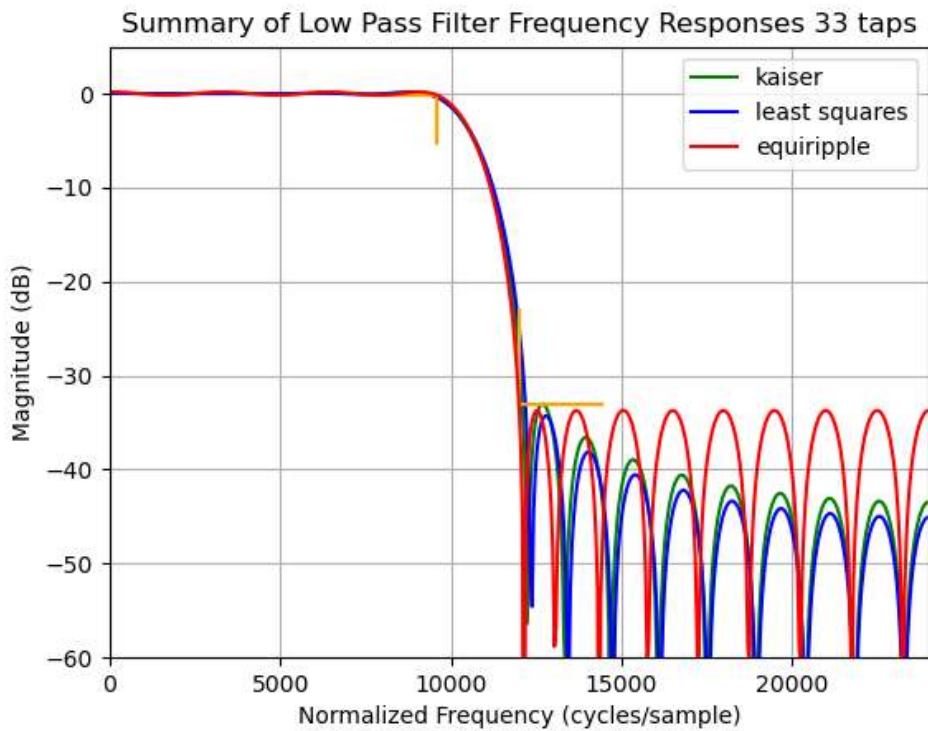
Equiripple vs Least-Squared



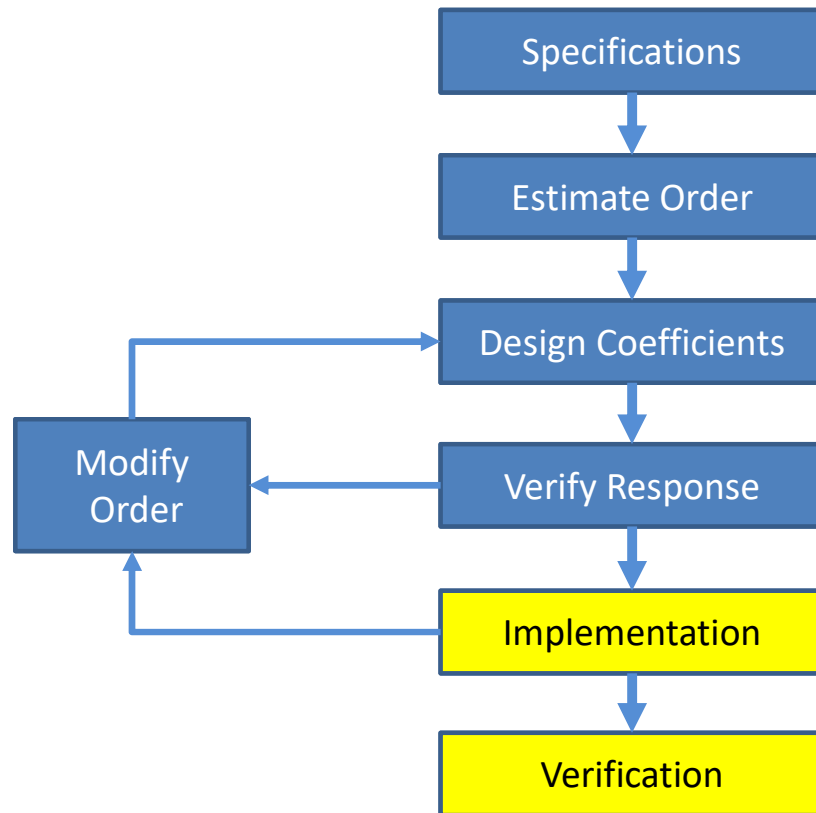
9.6 KHz Pass  
12 KHz Stop  
Fs=48 KHz  
N = 31

```
ls_bands = [0, 9.6/2.4, 12/24, 1]  
remez_bands = [0, 9.6/48, 12/48, 0.5]
```

# Performance Summary of Design Methods



# FIR Design Flow



# FIR Implementation and Verification

Further details specific to FIR Implementation and Verification and much more are covered in the upcoming course:

**"DSP For Wireless Communications"**

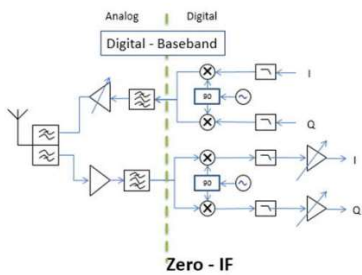
Starting October 10, 2024, through the Boston IEEE



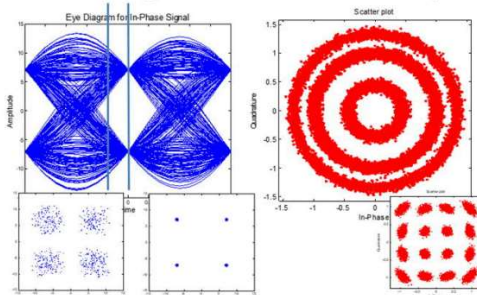
Sign-up Link: <https://ieeeboston.org/courses/>

# Want more DSP?

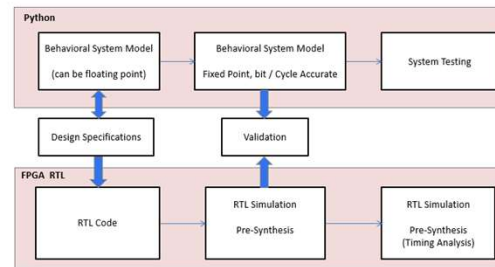
Radio Architectures



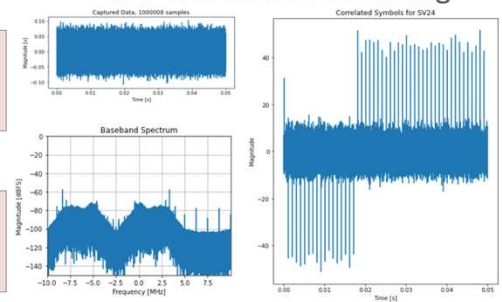
Timing and Carrier Recovery



Python for Verification



GPS Waveform Processing



“DSP For Software Radio”

“Python Applications for Digital Design and Signal Processing”



Sign-up Link: <https://dsprelated.com/courses>



# Python Tools



**SciPy**

**matplotlib**



**NumPy**

# References

Alan V. Oppenheim, Alan S. Willsky, with S. Hamid. *Signals and Systems*, Prentice Hall

fred harris, "On the use of windows for harmonic analysis with the discrete Fourier transform," in *Proceedings of the IEEE*, vol. 66, no. 1, pp. 51-83, Jan. 1978, doi: 10.1109/PROC.1978.10837.

Ronald W. Schafer, John R. Buck. *Discrete-Time Signal Processing*, Prentice-Hall Signal Processing Series by Alan V. Oppenheim

John G. Proakis, Dimitris K Manolakis. *Digital Signal Processing: Principles, Algorithms and Applications*, Prentice Hall

Paulo S. R. Diniz, Eduardo A.B. da Silva, Sergio L. Netto, *Digital Signal Processing, System Analysis and Design*, Cambridge University Press

S.K. Mitra (1998). *Digital Signal Processing: A Computer-Based Approach*, McGraw-Hill, New York, NY

T.W. Parks and C.S. Burrus (1987). *Digital Filter Design*, New York: Wiley Interscience

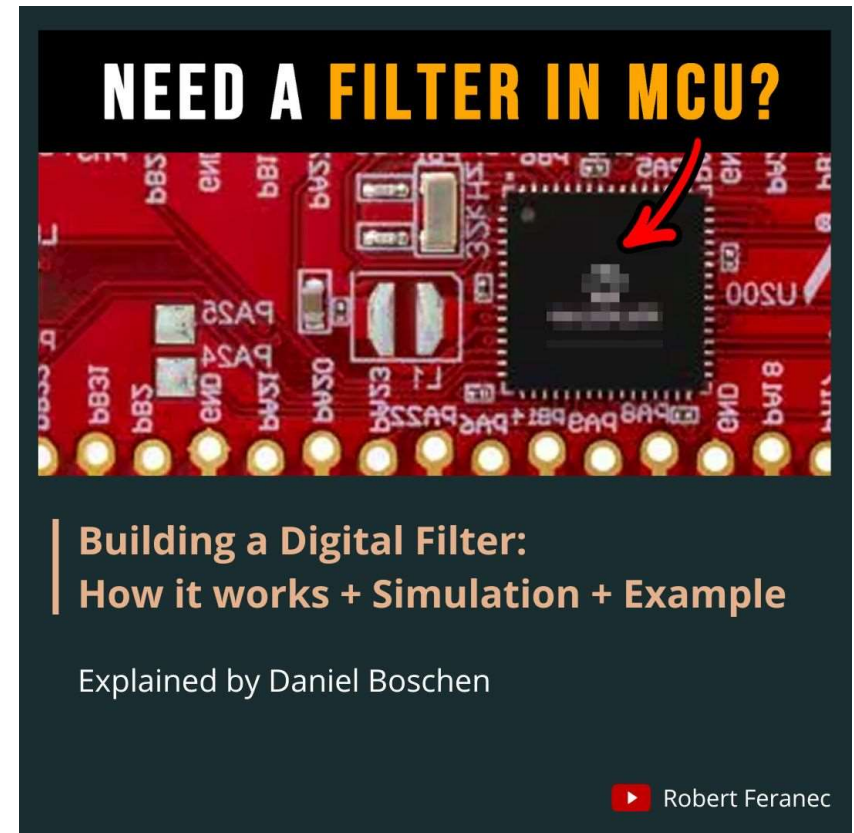
# BACK-UP SLIDES

# IIR Notch Filter on a SAM-E51 Processor

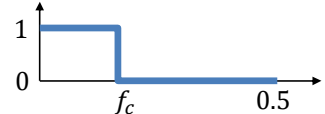
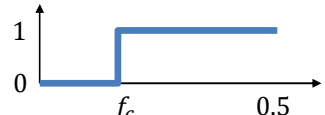
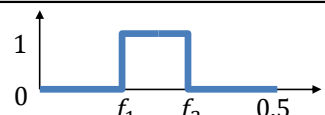
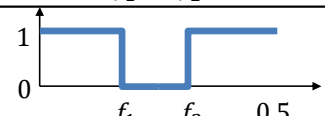
A very simple explanation and demo of digital filters.

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Aq\\_SOvR1Sxs&t=1s](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Aq_SOvR1Sxs&t=1s)

(or Google "Robert Feranec Boschen Filter")



# Impulse Responses for Ideal Filters

| Filter Type                   | Impulse Response   | Frequency Response<br>$f_s = 1$  |
|-------------------------------|--|--|
| Lowpass,<br>$h_{LP}[f_c, n]$  | $2f_c \text{sinc}(2f_c n), \quad -\infty \leq n \leq \infty$                         |   |
| Highpass,<br>$h_{HP}[f_c, n]$ | $h_{HP}[f_c, n] = h_{LP}[(0.5 - f_c), n](-1)^n \quad -\infty \leq n \leq \infty$     |   |
| Bandpass,<br>$h_{BP}[f_c, n]$ | $h_{LP}[f_2, n] - h_{LP}[f_1, n], \quad -\infty \leq n \leq \infty$                  |   |
| Bandstop,<br>$h_{BS}[f_c, n]$ | $1 - 2(f_2 - f_1), \quad n = 0$<br>$h_{LP}[f_1, n] - h_{LP}[f_2, n], \quad n \neq 0$ |  |

$$\text{sinc}(x) = \frac{\sin(\pi x)}{\pi x}$$

# Impulse Responses for Ideal Filters

| Filter Type                 | Impulse Response  | Frequency Response<br>$f_s = 1$ |
|-----------------------------|---|---------------------------------|
| Differentiator,<br>$h_d[n]$ | $0, \quad n = 0$ $\frac{(-1)^n}{n}, \quad n \neq 0$         |                                 |
| Hilbert,<br>$h_H[n]$        | $0, \quad n = 0$ $\frac{1 - (-1)^n}{\pi n}, \quad n \neq 0$ |                                 |

# Estimate Beta and Order

Estimate of number of taps and beta using Kaiser Window:

$$\alpha_s = -20 \log_{10}(\delta_2)$$

$$\beta = 0.1102(\alpha_s - 8.7) \text{ for } \alpha_s > 50$$

$$= 0.5842(\alpha_s - 21)^{0.4} + 0.07886(\alpha_s - 21) \text{ for } 21 < \alpha_s \leq 50$$

$$= 0 \text{ for } \alpha_s < 21$$

$$N = \frac{\alpha_s - 8}{2.285 \Delta \omega}$$

“Digital Signal Processing – A Computer Based Approach” – Sanjit K Mitra

# Using Parks-McClellan to Design Non-Linear Phase

From: <https://dspguru.com/dsp/tricks/using-parks-mcclellan-to-design-non-linear-phase-fir-filter/>

DSP Trick: Using Parks-McClellan to Design a Non-Linear Phase FIR Filter

From: ericj@primenet.com.nospam (Eric Jacobsen) Subject: DSP Trick - Using P-M to design a non-linear phase FIR filter. Date: 23 Oct 1999 00:00:00 GMT Newsgroups: comp.dsp THIS WORK IS PLACED IN THE PUBLIC DOMAIN

It is possible to use the Parks-McClellan algorithm to design FIR filters with non-linear phase response. For example, a FIR filter with the equivalent response of a Butterworth filter can be designed using the P-M routine.

First, take a common Butterworth description like that in Parks and Burrus where  $H(x)$  is a complex function. Create two PM input grids using the real and imaginary components of the Butterworth response. Use PM (or “remez” or whatever it’s called on your favorite system) to design two FIR filters using the respective input grids, but turn the ‘Hilbert’ switch on for the one derived from the imaginary component. Sum the results, i.e., add together the  $n$ th coefficients of each filter to create a single  $N$ -tap filter.

The resulting FIR filter (assuming you’ve done your job to make sure everything converges) will have the desired response from the original expression used to generate the PM input grids.

Eric Jacobsen Minister of Algorithms



# Linear Phase FIR Types

| Type | Length | Symmetry  | Filter   | Example     |
|------|--------|-----------|----------|-------------|
| I    | Odd    | Symmetric | Any      | [1 2 1]     |
| II   | Even   | Symmetric | Not High | [1 2 2 1]   |
| III  | Odd    | Anti-Symm | Band     | [1 0 -1]    |
| IV   | Even   | Anti-Symm | Not Low  | [1 2 -2 -1] |

# Title Banner for Jupyter



Fast Track- Designing FIR  
Filters with Python

Dan Boschen