



# Lecture 11 Introduction to Spectral Estimation using Short-time

Lecture 11: Introduction to Spectral Estimation using Short-time Fourier Transform

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EE6641: Analysis and Synthesis of Audio Signals  
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<https://commons.wikimedia.org/w/index.php?curid=9391324>



```
f1 = 770;
f2 = 1336;
fs = 8000;
dur = 1;
A = 0.3;
tt = 0:dur*fs-1;
y1 = A*sin(2*pi*f1/fs*tt);
y2 = A*sin(2*pi*f2/fs*tt);
yDT = y1+y2;
```

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## A question and a story

- Why was it necessary for the buttons to sound?
- A surprising hack that used to work



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## Outlines

- The classic *dual tone multiple frequency* technology (Part A)
  - Choice of window
  - Resolution requirement
- Resolution vs. accuracy (Part B)
  - Interference vs. noise
- The *Fisher information* and the *Cramer-Rao bound* (Optional)\*



Part A: Let's begin spectral estimation!  
Dual Tone Multi-Frequency Decoding

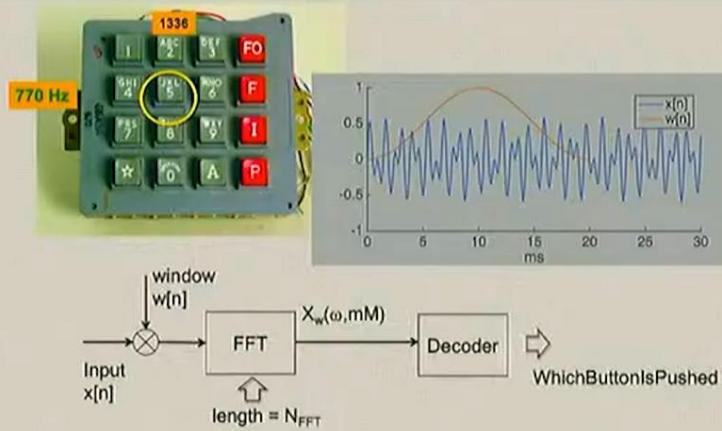


Diagram illustrating the Dual Tone Multi-Frequency Decoding process:

```

    graph LR
        Input[x[n]: dual-tone signal] --> Window((window w[n]))
        Window --> FFT[FFT]
        FFT -- X_w(omega, mM) --> Decoder[Decoder]
        Decoder --> Output[WhichButtonIsPushed]
        subgraph Labels
            Input
            Window
            FFT
            Decoder
            Output
            Length["length = NFFT"]
        end
    
```

$x[n] = A_1 \cos(2\pi f_1 nT + \phi_1) + A_2 \cos(2\pi f_2 nT + \phi_2)$

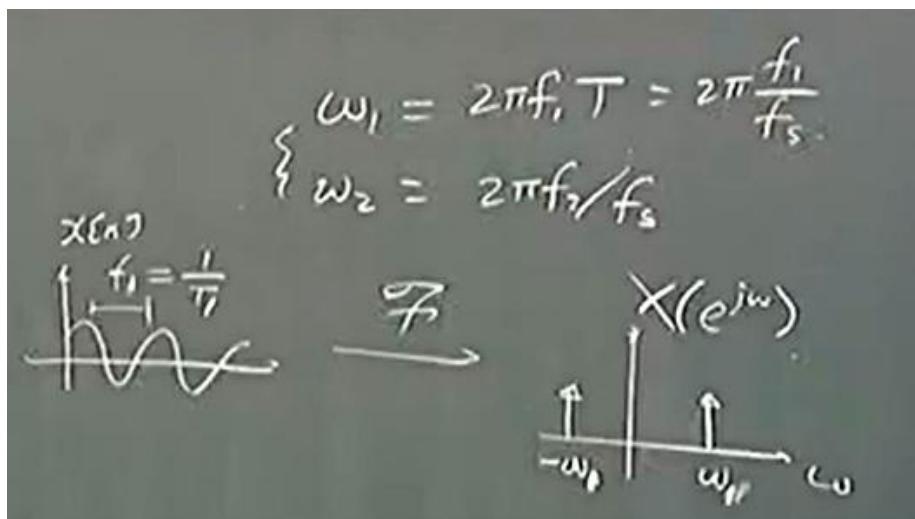
$$= \operatorname{Re}\{A_1 e^{j(2\pi f_1 nT + \phi_1)} + A_2 e^{j(2\pi f_2 nT + \phi_2)}\}$$

$$= \frac{A_1}{2} e^{j(2\pi f_1 nT + \phi_1)} + \frac{A_2}{2} e^{j(2\pi f_2 nT + \phi_2)} + \text{complex conjugates}$$

$$X(\omega) = \frac{A_1}{2} e^{j\phi_1} \delta(\omega - \omega_1) + \frac{A_2}{2} e^{j\phi_2} \delta(\omega - \omega_2) + \text{negative frequency part}$$

Question:





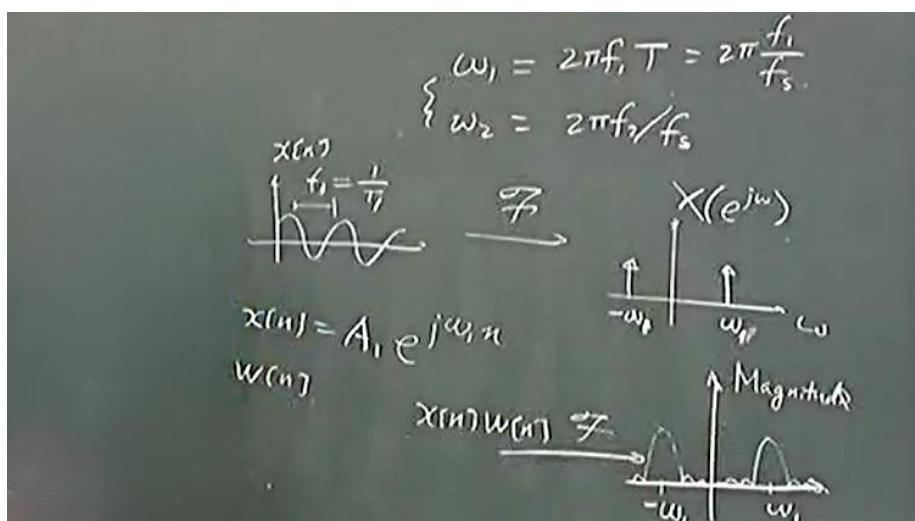
Spectral effects of windowing the pure tones

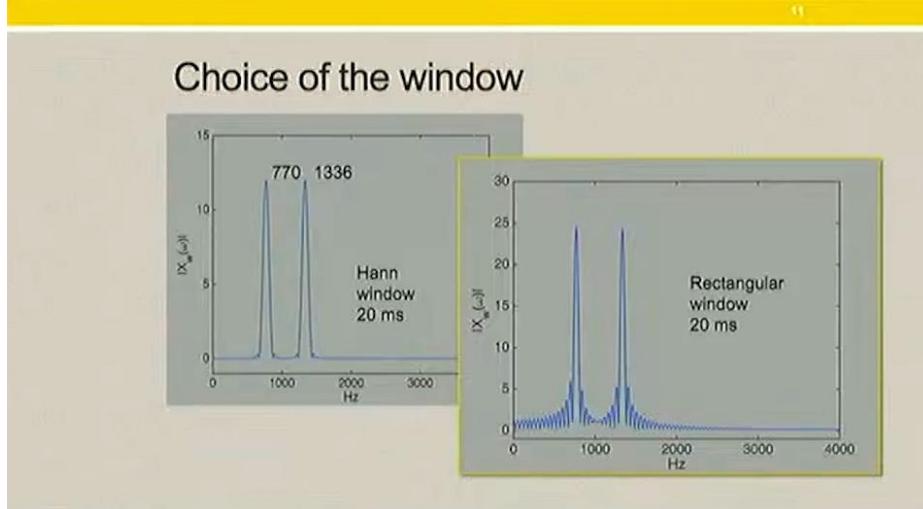
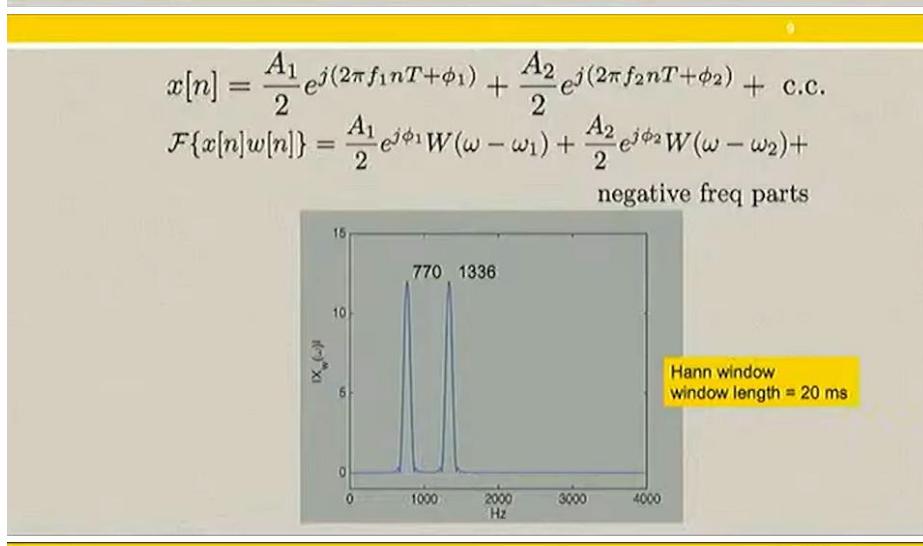
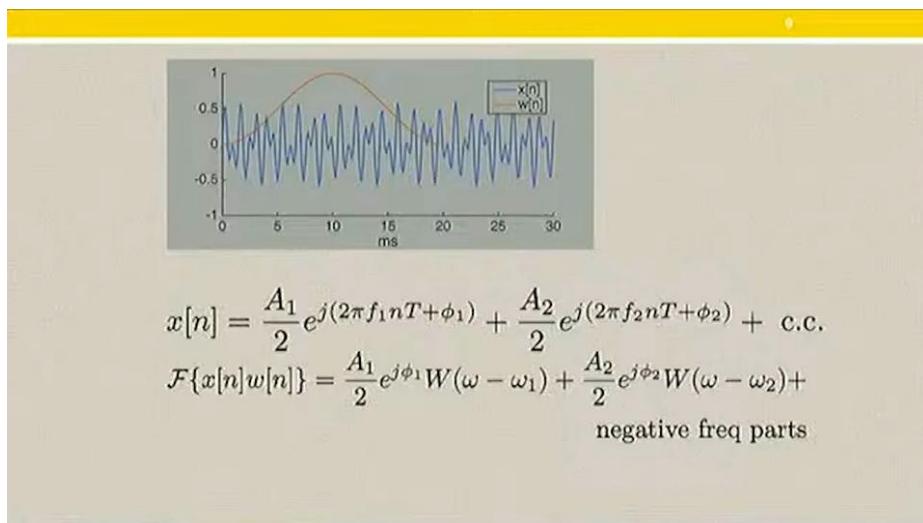
$$x[n] = \frac{A_1}{2} e^{j(2\pi f_1 n T + \phi_1)} + \frac{A_2}{2} e^{j(2\pi f_2 n T + \phi_2)} + \text{c.c.}$$

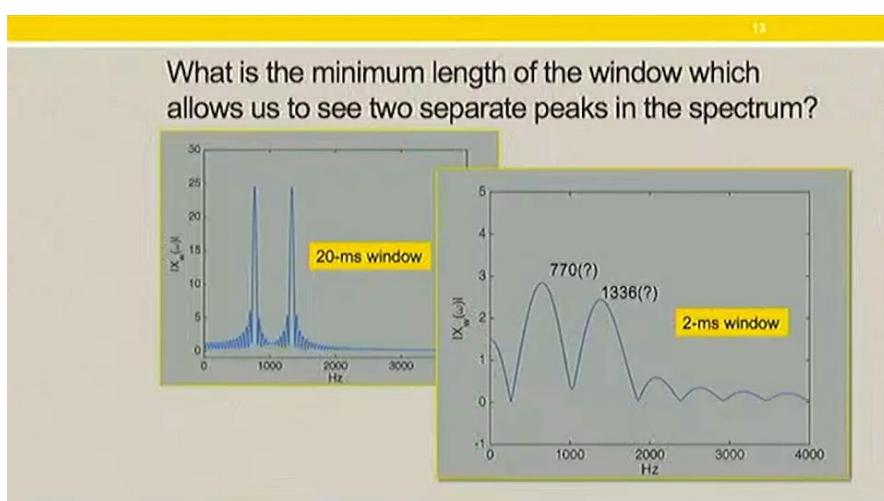
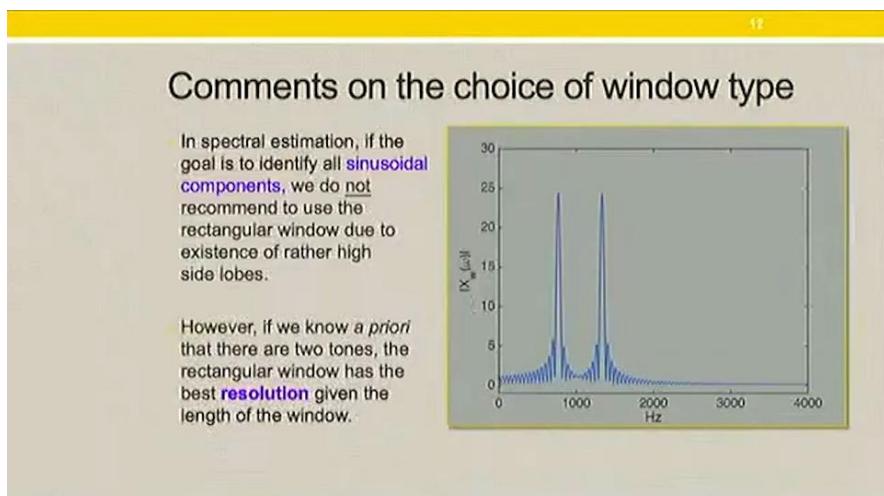
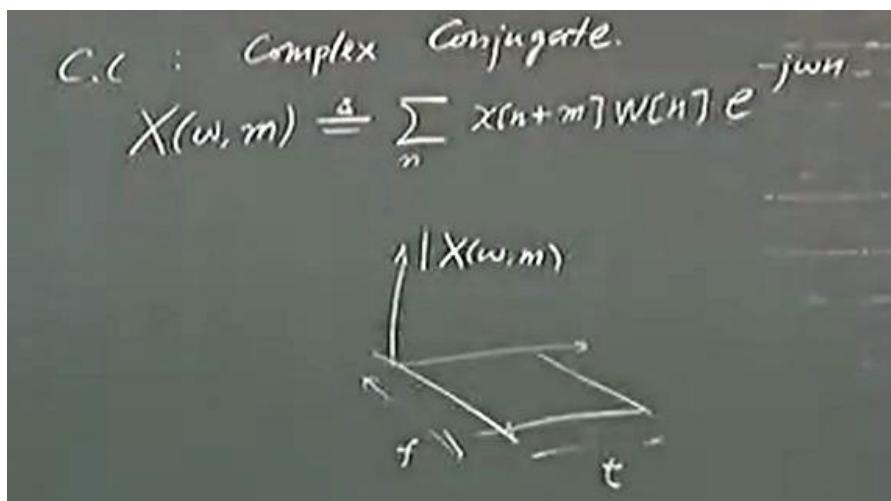
$$\mathcal{F}\{x[n]w[n]\} = \frac{A_1}{2} e^{j\phi_1} W(\omega - \omega_1) + \frac{A_2}{2} e^{j\phi_2} W(\omega - \omega_2) + \text{negative freq parts}$$

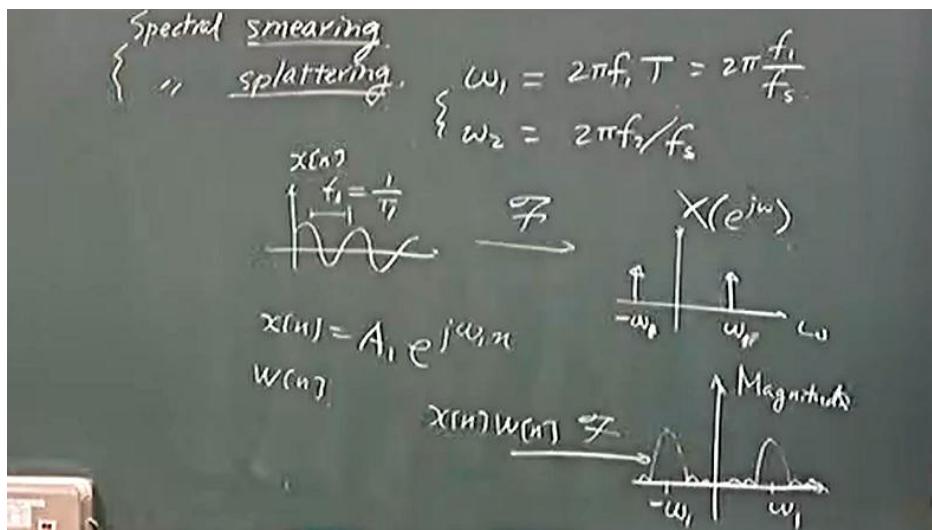
To compare:

$$X(\omega) = \frac{A_1}{2} e^{j\phi_1} \delta(\omega - \omega_1) + \frac{A_2}{2} e^{j\phi_2} \delta(\omega - \omega_2) + \text{negative frequency part}$$



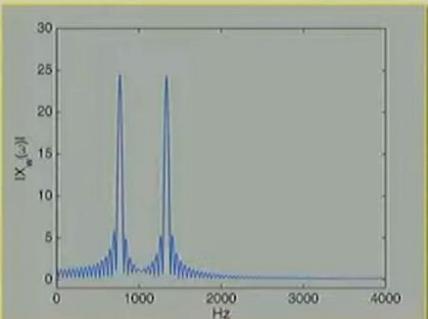






### Comments on the choice of window type

- In spectral estimation, if the goal is to identify all **sinusoidal components**, we do **not** recommend to use the rectangular window due to existence of rather high side lobes.
- However, if we know *a priori* that there are two tones, the rectangular window has the best **resolution** given the length of the window.



### Remarks on the resolution in frequency

- Since the mainlobe width in the spectrum of a window is inversely proportional to the duration of the window in time, we need to use a **sufficiently long window** so as to **resolve** two spectral components.

$$(\Delta f) \propto (\Delta t)^{-1}$$

E.g.,  $f_1 = 770$  Hz,  $f_2 = 1336$  Hz  
 $\Rightarrow \Delta f = 566$  Hz,  $1/\Delta f = 1.8$  ms.



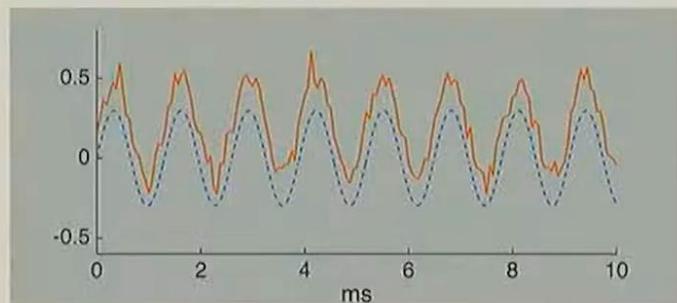
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Question: Pressing the buttons – how fast is too fast?



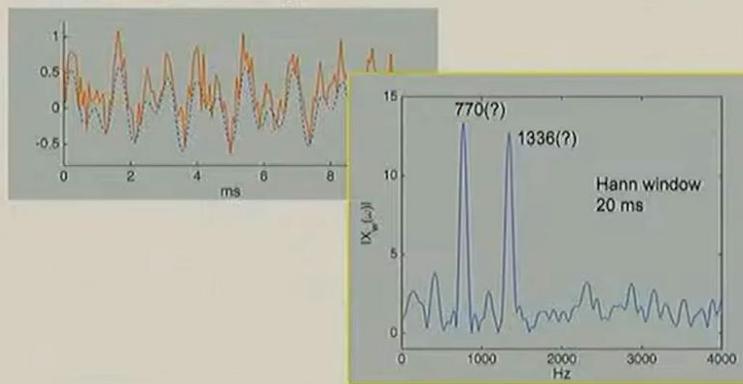
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All observations are subject to noise



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Noise inevitably affects the **accuracy** of estimation, even when **resolution** is good enough



**Summary:**

Resolution and accuracy are two different issues

- Resolution is a concern against **interference** from concurrent sinusoidal components.

- Accuracy is a concern against **noise**.

- Resolution:  $(\Delta f) \propto (\Delta t)^{-1}$  Remarks:  $A^2/\sigma^2$  is the **signal to noise ratio** (SNR)

- Accuracy:  $(\Delta f)^2 \propto (\Delta t)^{-3} \cdot \frac{\sigma^2}{A^2}$

**Question:**

how do we approach the limit of (frequency) estimation?

$$(\Delta f)^2 \propto (\Delta t)^{-3} \cdot \frac{\sigma^2}{A^2}$$

- Suggestion: use quadratic interpolation in the *log spectrum*
- Fisher information and Cramer-Rao bound (CRB)

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**4D: The Fisher information and the Cramer-Rao bound**

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## Problem formulation:

## Parameter estimation from noisy observation

$$\mathbf{x} = \mathbf{s} + \mathbf{u} \in \mathbb{R}^N$$

$$\mathbf{s} = \mathbf{s}(\theta)$$

$$\mathbf{u} \sim f_{\mathbf{u}}(\cdot)$$

$\theta$ : parameter. random vector, noise

$\mathbf{s}$ : parameterized signal.

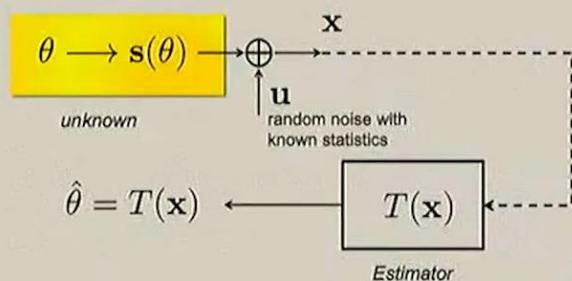
$$\mathbf{x} \sim f(\mathbf{x}; \theta)$$

Question:

How do we best estimate  $\theta$  by looking at  $\mathbf{x}$ ?

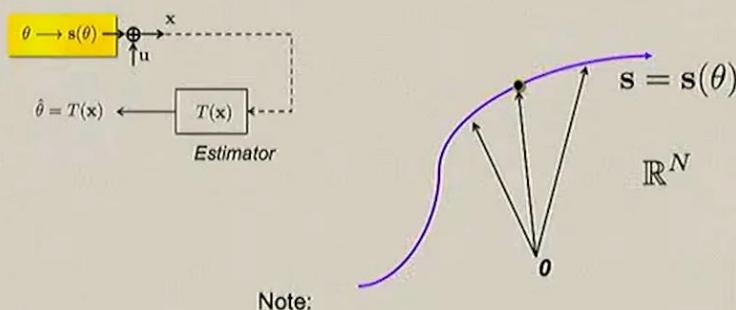
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## Parameter estimation block diagram



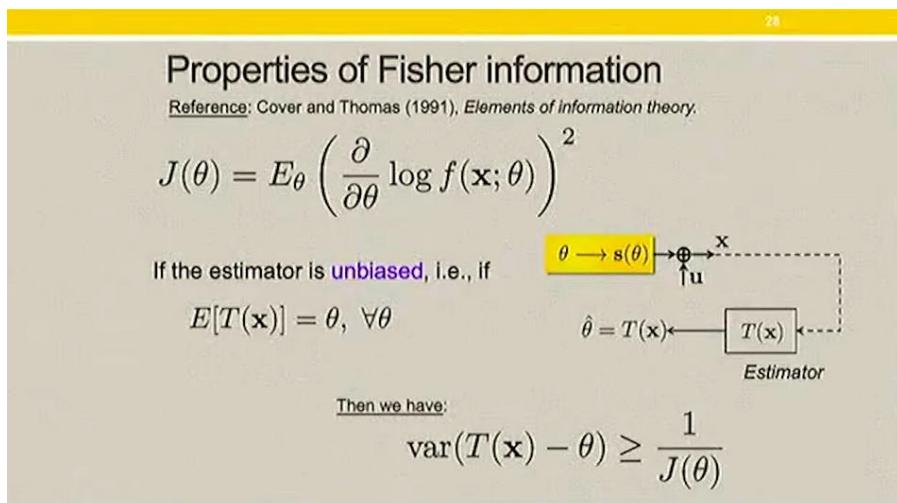
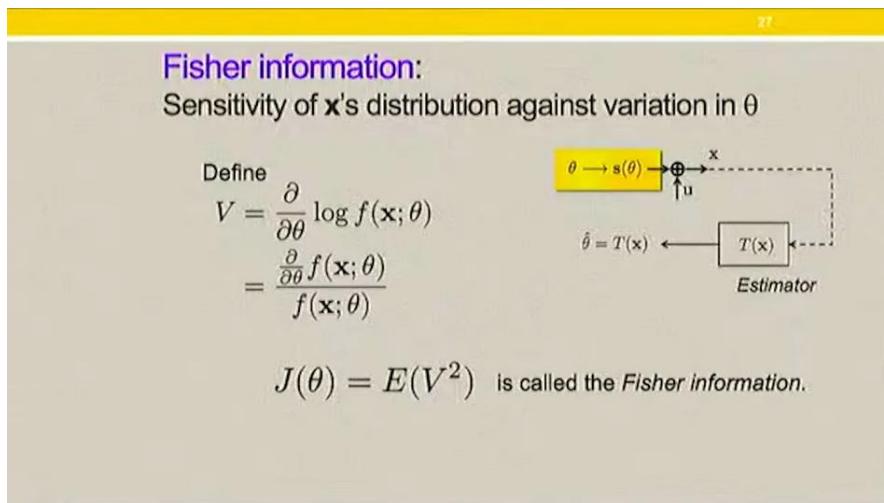
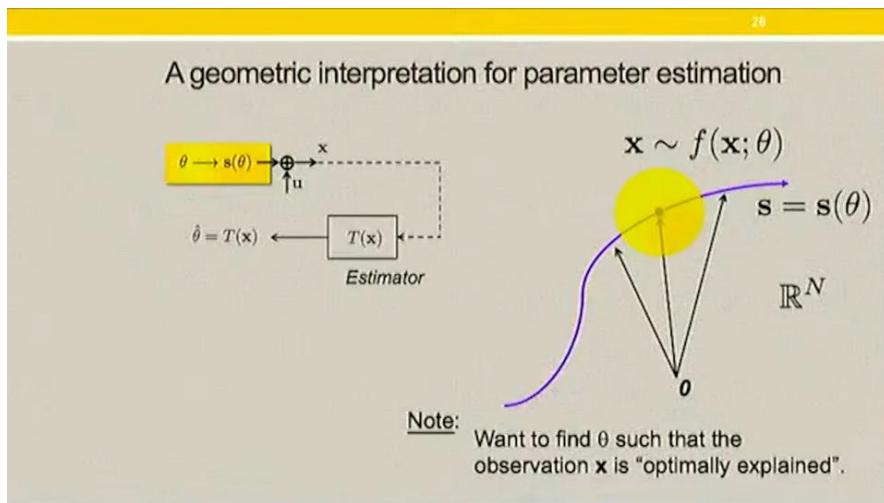
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## A geometric interpretation for parameter estimation



Note:







## Example: single-frequency estimation

Signal model:

$$s[n] = A \cos(\omega n + \phi), n = 0, 1, 2, \dots, N-1$$

Noise model: Additive white Gaussian noise (AWGN)

$$u[n] \sim \mathcal{N}(0, \sigma^2), \text{i.i.d.}$$

Mission:

from  $\mathbf{x} = (x[0], x[1], \dots, x[N-1])^T$ , find  $\omega$ .

## Single-frequency estimation under AWGN

Reference: Rife & Boorstyn (1974). IEEE Trans. Info. Theory, 20(5), 591-598.

$$\begin{aligned} \log f(\mathbf{x}; \omega) &= C + \frac{-1}{2\sigma^2} \sum_{n=0}^{N-1} (x[n] - A \cos(\omega n + \phi))^2 \\ J(\omega) &= E\left(\partial_\omega \log f(\mathbf{x}; \omega)\right)^2 \\ &= \frac{A^2}{\sigma^2} Q_3(N) \quad \leftarrow Q_3(N) \text{ is a third-order polynomial.} \end{aligned}$$

$$\text{Therefore, } E(\hat{\theta} - \theta)^2 \geq \text{CRB} = \frac{1}{J(\omega)} \propto \frac{\sigma^2}{A^2 N^3}$$

when  $N$  is sufficiently large.

