



Lecture9 The Kaiser Windows and the Optimal Approach for Type-1 FIR Design

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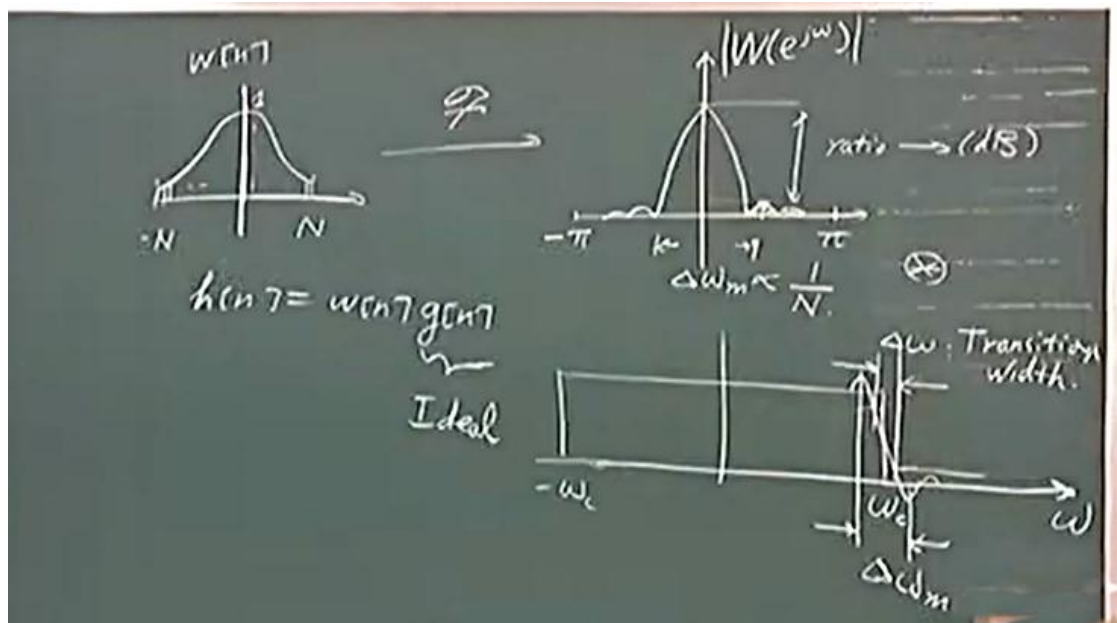
Lecture 9: The Kaiser Windows and the Optimal Approach for Type-1 FIR Design

Prof. Yi-Wen Liu

EE3660 Introduction to Digital Signal Processing
National Tsing Hua University

May 7, 2025

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The type I low-pass design

Consider the type I¹ low-pass filter with a cutoff frequency of ω_c . We first shift the ideal response to the right,

$$g[n] = \frac{\sin \omega_c(n-N)}{\pi(n-N)}.$$

Then, we design a filter by $h[n] = w[n]g[n]$, and the window function $w[n]$ is defined in $n = 0 : 2N$ as follows,

- Rectangular: $w[n] = 1$
- Hann: $w[n] = 0.5 - 0.5 \cos(\pi n/N)$
- Hamming: $w[n] = 0.54 - 0.46 \cos(\pi n/N)$, and
- Blackmann: $w[n] = 0.42 - 0.5 \cos(\pi n/N) + 0.08 \cos(2\pi n/N)$.

Also, $w[n] = 0$ elsewhere. These windows are called the cosine family of windows.

¹Definition of Type I: $h[M-n] = h[n]$ with M being an even number. See Sec. 5.7.3 of O&S.

Rivalry between the cosine and the Kaiser family

TABLE 7.2 COMPARISON OF COMMONLY USED WINDOWS

Type of Window	Peak Side-Lobe Amplitude (Relative)	Approximate Width of Main Lobe	Peak Approximation Error, $20 \log_{10} \delta$ (dB)	Equivalent Kaiser Window, β	Transition Width of Equivalent Kaiser Window
Rectangular	-13	$4\pi/(M+1)$	-21	0	$1.81\pi/M$
Bartlett	-25	$8\pi/M$	-25	1.33	$2.37\pi/M$
Hann	-31	$8\pi/M$	-44	3.86	$5.01\pi/M$
Hamming	-41	$8\pi/M$	-53	4.86	$6.27\pi/M$
Blackman	-57	$12\pi/M$	-74	7.04	$9.19\pi/M$

Remarks: Another family of windows can be constructed to outperform the cosine family for FIR filter design. The family of windows, called Kaiser windows, can be continuously tuned by a parameter $\beta \geq 0$.

Nevertheless, the cosine family is better suited for *blockwise processing* of streaming audio and speech. We will cover it near the end of this semester.

1 The Cosine-family Windows for Type-1 Design

2 The Kaiser Family of Windows

3 Formulating FIR Design as an Optimal Approximation Problem





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Definition and spectral properties

The Kaiser family of windows is expressed as follows,

$$w[n] = \frac{I_0\left(\beta \sqrt{1 - \left(\frac{n-N}{N}\right)^2}\right)}{I_0(\beta)},$$

where $N = \frac{M}{2}$, $n = 0 : M$, $\beta \geq 0$ is a parameter, and $I_0(\cdot)$ denotes the *zeroth-order modified Bessel function of the first kind*.

$$I_0(v) = 1 + \left(\frac{v}{2}\right)^2 + \frac{(v/2)^4}{(2!)^2} + \frac{(v/2)^6}{(3!)^2} + \dots$$

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Type I:

$h[M-n] = h[n], \forall n$
 M is even
 $(M=16)$

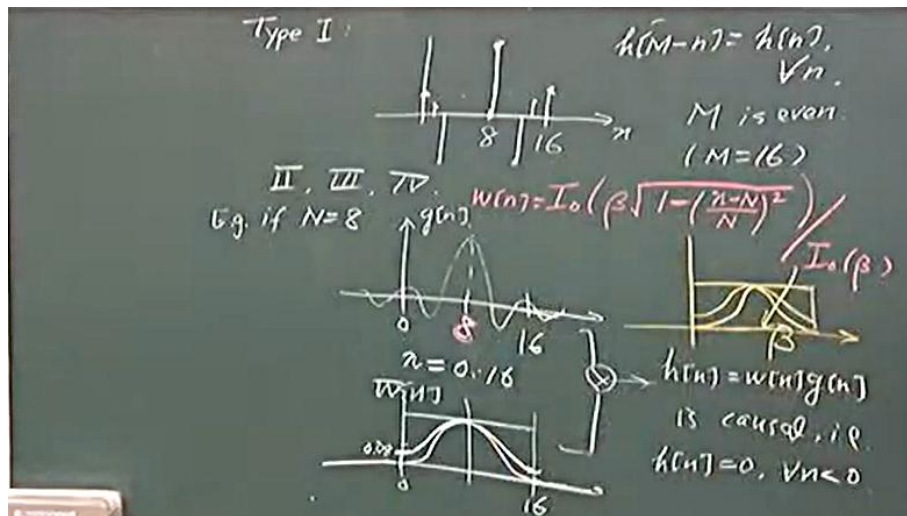
II, III, IV
 e.g. if $N=8$

$w[n] = \frac{I_0\left(\beta \sqrt{1 - \left(\frac{n-N}{N}\right)^2}\right)}{I_0(\beta)}$

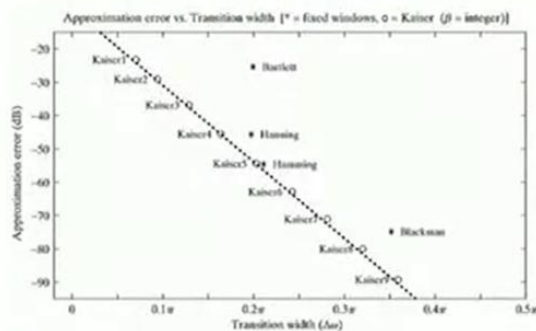
$g[n]$

$h[n] = w[n]g[n]$
 is causal, i.e.
 $h[n] = 0, \forall n < 0$





How to choose β and M according to the specs?



To design, first select a tolerance level for the approximation error ($= 20 \log_{10} \delta$). Then, find a β that may satisfy the specification. Finally, choose M to satisfy the transition width requirement.

Figure 1: The performance of Kaiser windows vs. fixed windows ($M = 32$ and $\omega_c = \pi/2$, see Fig. 7.33 of O&S).

- ① The Cosine-family Windows for Type-I Design
- ② The Kaiser Family of Windows
- ③ Formulating FIR Design as an Optimal Approximation Problem





Preparation

Constraints: Consider any arbitrary zero-phase type I filter $h[n]$ defined on $n = -N:N$ with $h[-n] = h[n]$.

Frequency response: $A(\omega) = H(e^{j\omega}) = h[0] + 2 \sum_{n=1}^N h[n] \cos(\omega n)$.

Goal: To minimize the following objective function:

$$\max_{\omega \in F} |E(\omega)|$$

where F denotes a union of passband(s) and stopband(s), and

$$E(\omega) = W(\omega) [H_d(e^{j\omega}) - A(\omega)]$$

contains the desired response $H_d(e^{j\omega}) \in \mathbb{R}$ and a flexible weighting function $W(\omega) > 0$.

Converting to a polynomial approximation problem

Define $x = \cos \omega$ and note that $A(\omega)$ can always be written as a polynomial of x in $[-1, 1]$. Denote the results conversion as

$$A(\omega) = h[0] + 2 \sum_{n=1}^N h[n] \cos(\omega n) = P(x) = \sum_{k=0}^N a_k x^k.$$

Remarks: $\cos(n\omega) := T_n(\cos \omega)$ and $T_n(x)$ is called the n^{th} order Chebyshev polynomial. E.g., $T_2(x) = 2x^2 - 1$.

Then, the problem formulation becomes to find the optimal N^{th} -order polynomial $\hat{P}(x)$:

$$\hat{P}(x) = \arg \min_{P_N(\mathbb{R})} \left(\max_{x \in \cos(F)} W_P(x) |D_P(x) - P(x)| \right)$$

where $W_P(x)$ is the weighting after converting to the x domain and $D_P(x)$ denotes the desired response in the x domain.

Type I:
minimax problem



$$H(e^{j\omega}) = \sum_{n=-N}^N h[n] e^{-j\omega n}$$

$$= h[0] + 2 \sum_{n=1}^N h[n] \cos \omega n$$

Define $h[-n] = h[n]$ //

$$E(\omega) = \underbrace{W(\omega)}_{W(\omega) > 0, \forall \omega \in F} [\underbrace{H(e^{j\omega})}_{\text{desired}} - \underbrace{A(\omega)}_{\boxed{A(\omega)}}]$$

Design $\boxed{A(\omega)}$

s.t. $\max_{\omega \in F} |E(\omega)|$ is minimized.





$$A(\omega) = \underbrace{h[0]} + 2\underbrace{h[1]\cos\omega} + 2\underbrace{h[2]\cos 2\omega} + \dots + 2\underbrace{h[8]\cos 8\omega}$$

$\uparrow x = \cos\omega$
 $\quad \quad \quad \parallel \quad \quad \quad \parallel \quad \quad \quad \parallel$
 $\quad \quad \quad 2\cos^2\omega - 1 \quad \quad \quad 2x^2 - 1 \quad \quad \quad T_2(x)$

$$= P(x) = a_0 + a_1x + \dots + a_8x^8$$

Chebyshev Polynomial

$$A(\omega) = \underbrace{h[0]} + 2\underbrace{h[1]\cos\omega} + 2\underbrace{h[2]\cos 2\omega} + \dots + 2\underbrace{h[8]\cos 8\omega}$$

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$$= P(x) = a_0 + a_1x + \dots + a_8x^8$$

Chebyshev Polynomial

$$\hat{P}(x) = \arg \min_{\substack{P(x) \in P_N(\mathbb{R})}} \left(\max_{x \in \cos(\Gamma)} |D_p(x) - P(x)| \right)$$

Applying the alternation theorem to assess optimality (Fig. 7.43 in O&S)

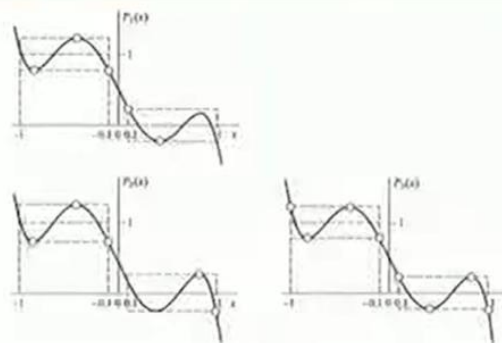


Figure 2: Suppose that $F_p = [-1, -0.1] \cup [0.1, 1]$, $D_p(x) = 1$ in $[-1, -0.1]$ (passband), and $D_p(x) = 0$ in $[0.1, 1]$ (stopband). Which one is optimal?





The alternation theorem

Let F_P denote a union of disjoint closed intervals of the real axis x . Then, the necessary and sufficient condition for a *unique*

$$\hat{P}(x) = \operatorname{argmin}_{P_N(\mathbb{R})} \left(\max_{x \in F_P} W_P(x) |D_P(x) - P(x)| \right)$$

is that there exist at least $N+2$ distinct values x_i in F_P , denoted as $x_1 < x_2 < \dots < x_{N+2}$ such that

$$E_P(x_i) = -E_P(x_{i+1}) = \pm \max_{x \in F_P} |E_P(x)|$$

for $i = 1, 2, \dots, N+1$. Here, $E_P(x) = W_P(x) [D_P(x) - P(x)]$.

Before we study how to find such a polynomial, let us visualize the theorem in the next few slides.

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Converting to a polynomial approximation problem

Define $x = \cos \omega$ and note that $A(\omega)$ can always be written as a polynomial of x in $[-1, 1]$. Denote the results conversion as

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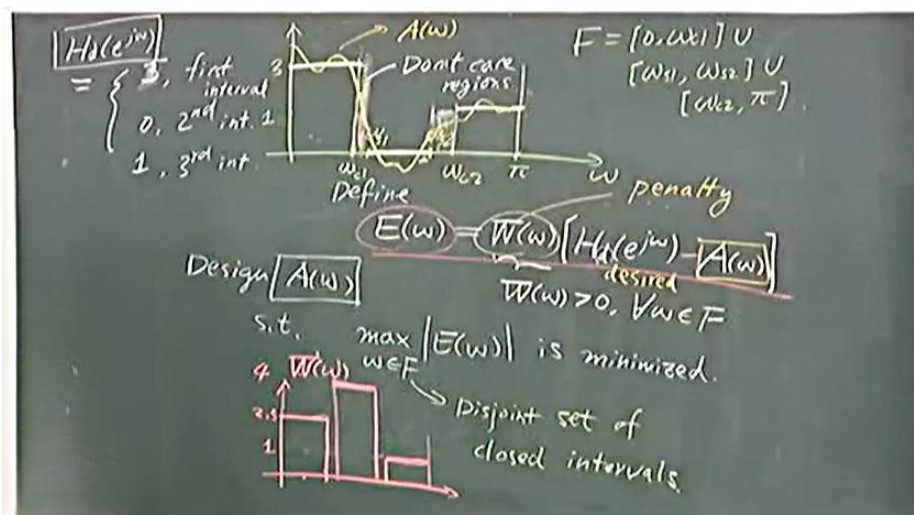
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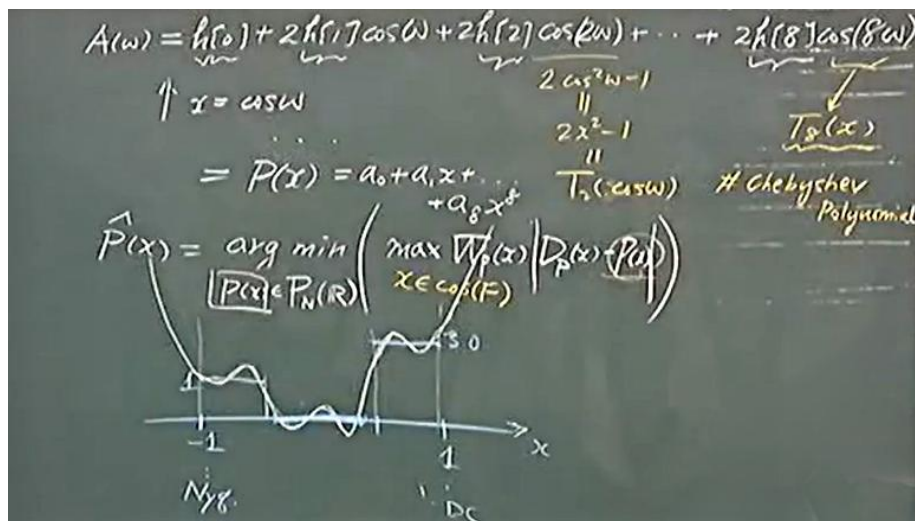
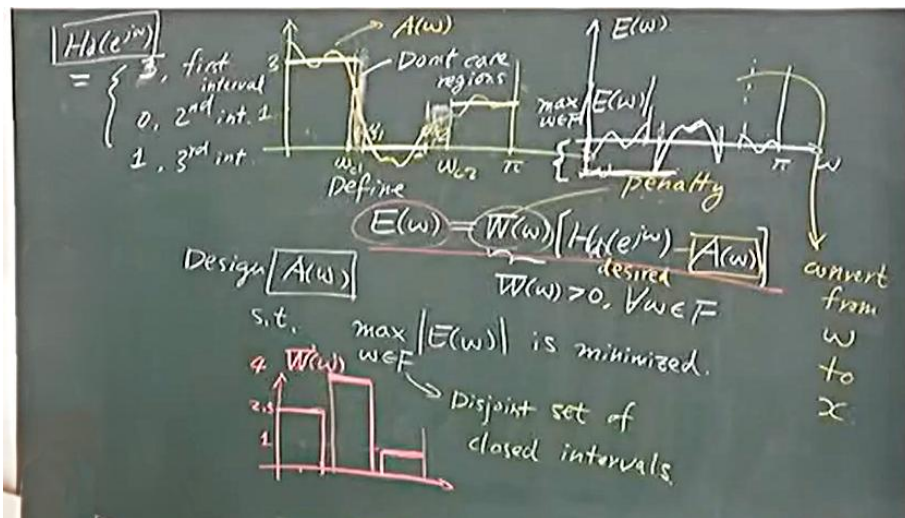
Then, the problem formulation becomes to find the optimal N^{th} -order polynomial $\hat{P}(x)$:

$$\hat{P}(x) = \operatorname{argmin}_{P_N(\mathbb{R})} \left(\max_{x \in \cos(F)} W_P(x) |D_P(x) - P(x)| \right)$$

where $W_P(x)$ is the weighting after converting to the x domain and $D_P(x)$ denotes the desired response in the x domain.

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Applying the alternation theorem to assess optimality (Fig. 7.43 in O&S)

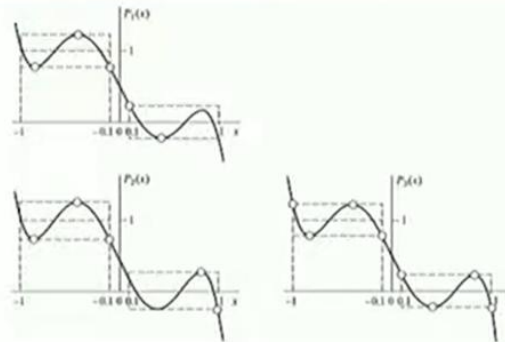


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The Contents: Family Windows for Type-1 Design The Kaiser Family of Windows Formulating FIR Designs as an Optimal Approximation Problem The Parks-McClellan (P-M) algorithm

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Goal: To minimize the following objective function:

$$\max_{\omega \in F} |E(\omega)|$$

where F denotes a union of passband(s) and stopband(s), and

$$E(\omega) = W(\omega)[H_d(e^{j\omega}) - A(\omega)] \quad (1)$$

contains the desired response $H_d(e^{j\omega}) \in \mathbb{R}$ and a flexible weighting function $W(\omega) > 0$.

Type 1:

$h[M-n] = h[n]$
 $0 \leq n \leq M$

$M = 2N$

$h[-n] = h[n]$

$H_d(\omega)$

1

ω_c ω_s π ω





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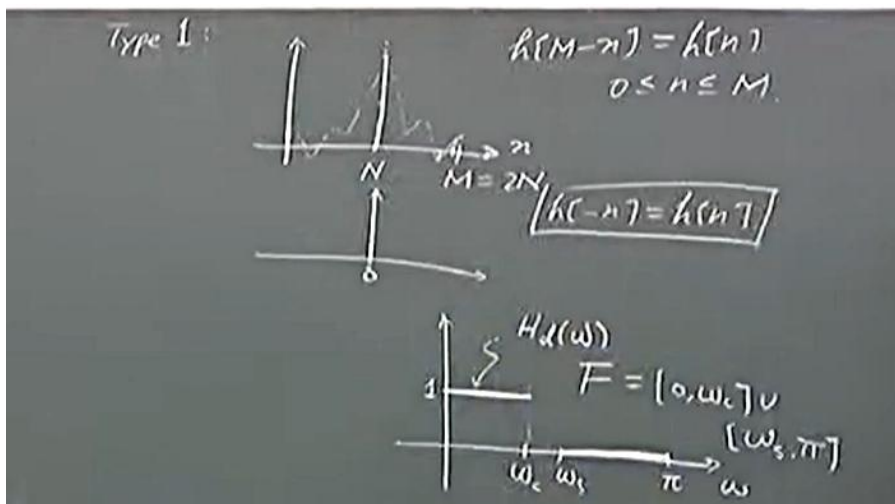
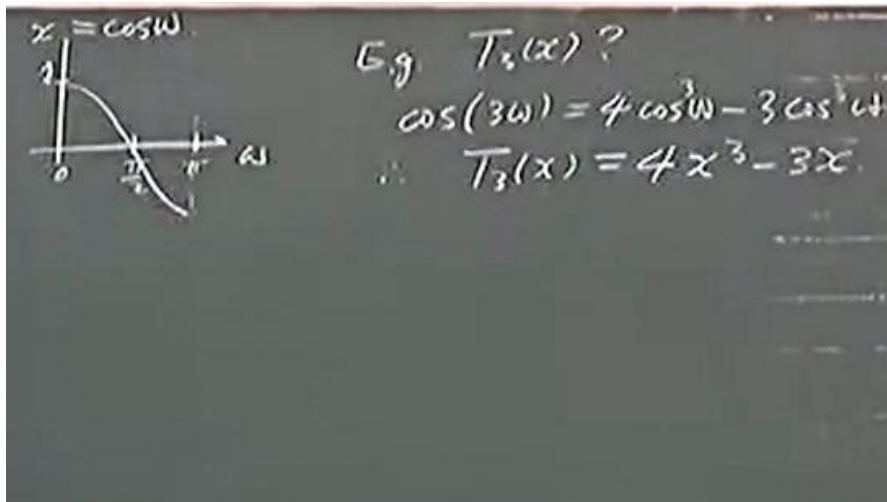
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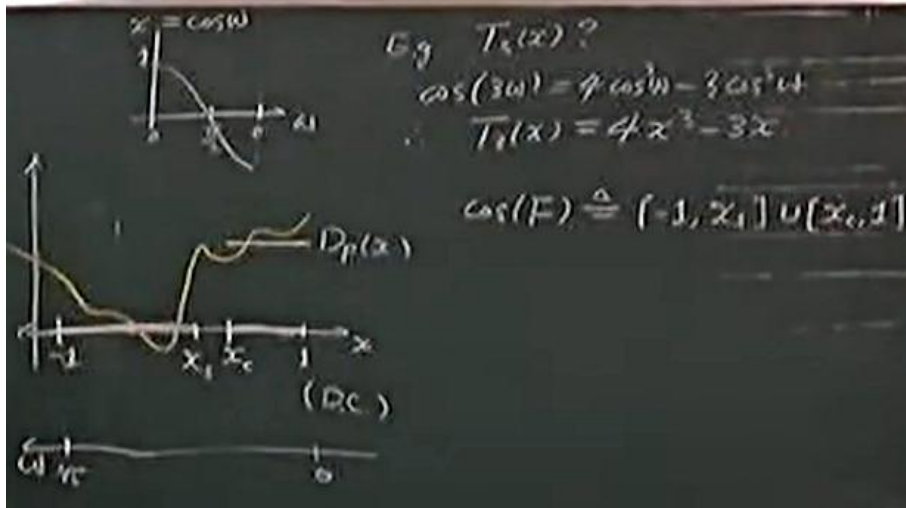
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The Converse Family Windows for Type-I Design The Kaiser Family of Windows Formulating FIR Design as an Optimal Approximation Problem The Parks-McClellan (P.M.) algorithm



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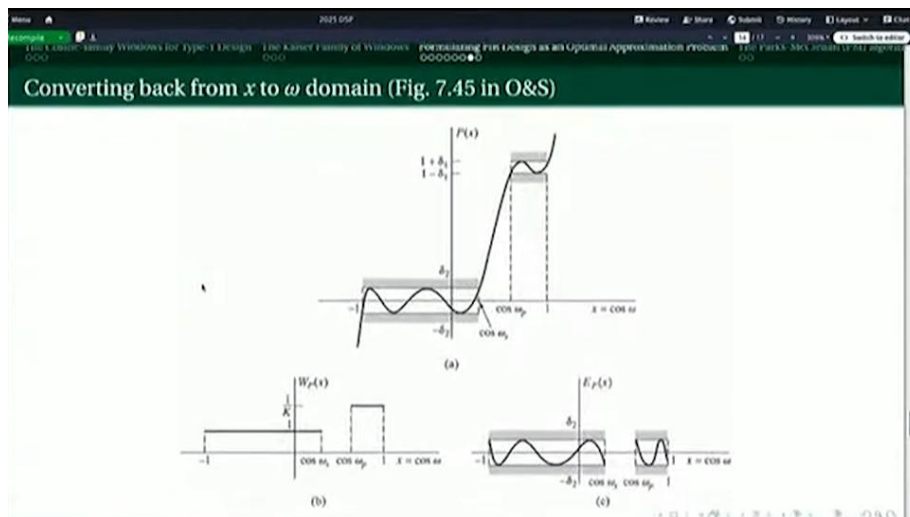
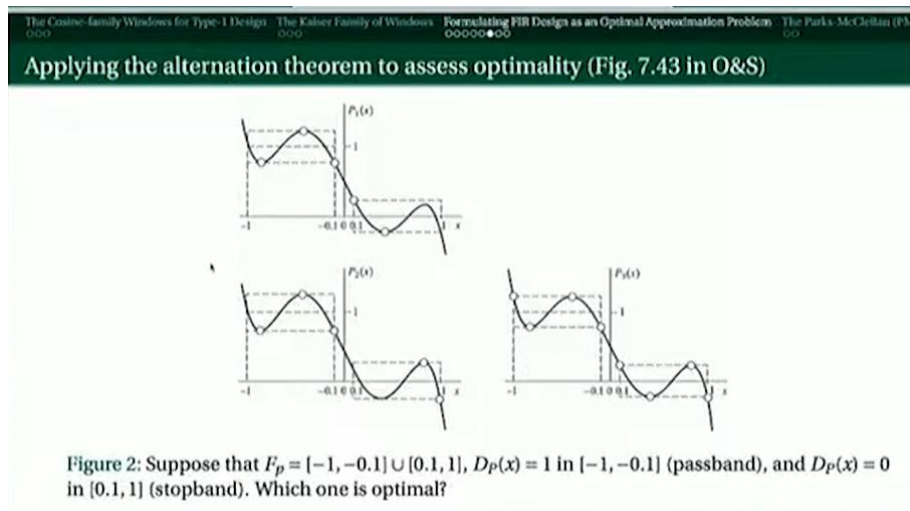
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11



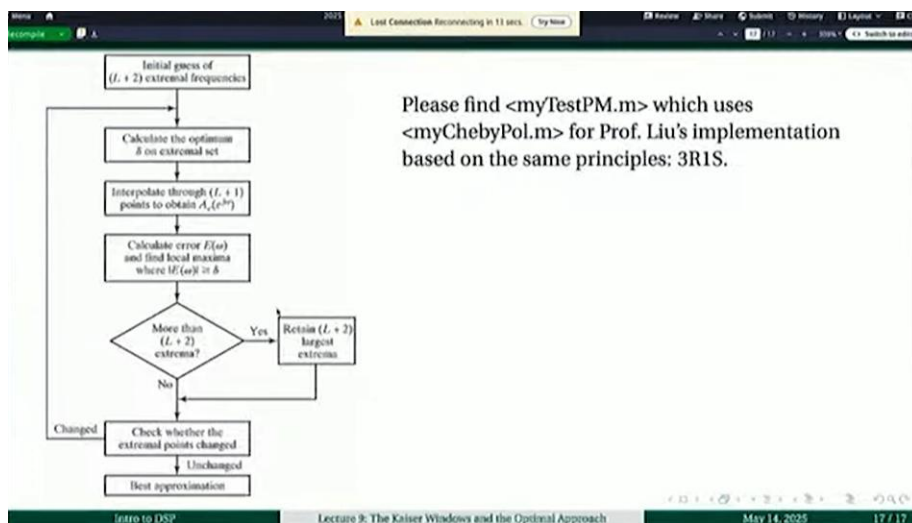
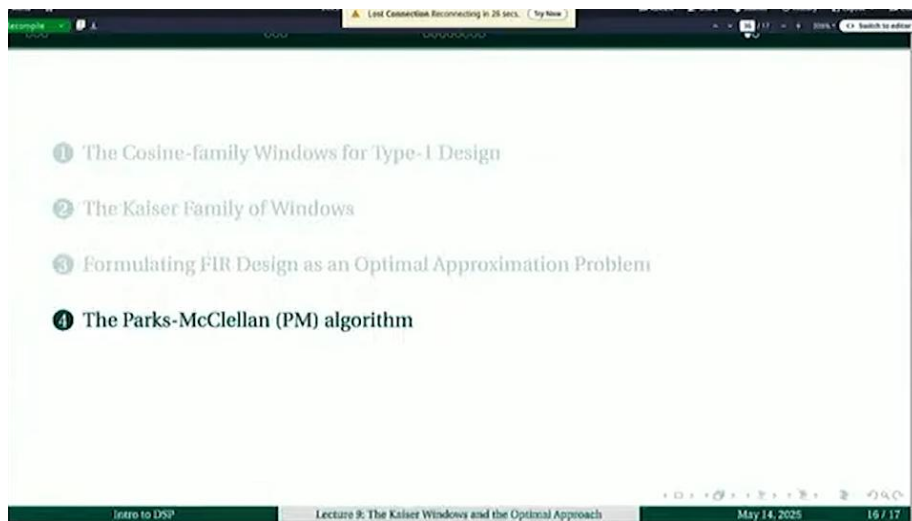


The Cosine family Windows for Type-1 Design The Kaiser Family of Windows Formulating FIR Design as an Optimal Approximation Problem The Parks-McClellan (P.M.) algorithm

Summary

- The optimal approximation approach provides a unified framework for designing low-pass, high-pass, band-pass, band-reject filters, and so on.
- It also gives us the flexibility to vary the tolerance level between different bands.
- The search for the optimal polynomial involves 3 'R' steps and 1 'S' step: Random guess, Refinement, Repeat, and a Stopping criterion. We will explain it next.





E.g., $N=$

$$\begin{bmatrix} 1 & x_1 & x_1^2 & \dots & -1 \\ 1 & x_2 & x_2^2 & \dots & -1 \\ \vdots & \vdots & \vdots & \ddots & \vdots \\ 1 & x_N & x_N^2 & \dots & -1 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} a_0 \\ \vdots \\ a_5 \\ \delta \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ \vdots \\ 0 \\ \delta \end{bmatrix}$$

For each $j=1,2,3,\dots,N$

$$P(x_j) = \sum_{k=0}^5 a_k x_j^k - D_p(x) = \begin{bmatrix} \pm \delta \end{bmatrix}$$
$$\begin{cases} a_0 + a_1 x_1 + a_2 x_1^2 + \dots + a_5 x_1^5 = (\delta) \\ a_0 + a_1 x_2 + a_2 x_2^2 + \dots + a_5 x_2^5 = (-\delta) \\ a_0 + a_1 x_5 + a_2 x_5^2 + \dots + a_5 x_5^5 = 1 + \delta \end{cases}$$





```

% EE3660 Intro to DSP
% An attempt to implement the Parks-McClellan algorithm from scratch
% Yi-Men Liu
% May 2025
clear; close all;
omega_c = 0.3*pi;
omega_s = 0.4*pi;
xc = cos(omega_c);
xs = cos(omega_s);
omega_init = [0.05 0.12 0.17 omega_c/pi omega_s/pi 0.48 0.7 0.92 1]*pi;
%omega_init = [0.03 0.05 0.12 0.17 0.26 omega_c/pi omega_s/pi 0.5 0.65 0.7 0.92 1]*pi; % L+2 frequencies
omega_init = omega_init(:);
L = length(omega_init)-2;
x_init = cos(omega_init);
x_prev = zeros(size(x_init));

x_current = sort(x_init);
tol = 1e-4;

BigMatrix = zeros(L+2,L+2);
Hd = zeros(L+2,1);
iternum = 1;

while max(abs(x_prev-x_current)) > tol
    for kk = 1:L+1
        BigMatrix(kk,kk) = x_current.^(kk-1);
    end
    BigMatrix(:,end) = ((-1).^(0:L+1))';
    for kk = 1:L+2
        if x_current(kk) >= xc % passband
            Hd(kk) = 1;
        elseif x_current(kk) <= xs % stopband
            Hd(kk) = 0;
        end
    end
    x_prev = x_current;
    x_current = sort(x_init);
end

```

```

Hd = zeros(L+2,1);
iternum = 1;

while max(abs(x_prev-x_current)) > tol
    for kk = 1:L+1
        BigMatrix(kk,kk) = x_current.^(kk-1);
    end
    BigMatrix(:,end) = ((-1).^(0:L+1))';
    for kk = 1:L+2
        if x_current(kk) >= xc % passband
            Hd(kk) = 1;
        elseif x_current(kk) <= xs % stopband
            Hd(kk) = 0;
        end
    end
    tmpCoeff = BigMatrix\Hd;
    delta = abs(tmpCoeff(end));

    figure(1);
    xx = -1.05:0.01:1.05;
    xthispower = ones(size(xx));
    yy = tmpCoeff(1)+ones(size(xx)); % constant term
    for kk = 1:L
        xthispower = xthispower.*xx;
        yy = yy + tmpCoeff(kk+1)*xthispower;
    end
    plot(xx,yy,'LineWidth',2); hold on;
    line([xc 1],1,1,'color','k');
    line([-1 xs],0,0,'color','k');
    line([xc 1],[1+delta 1-delta],'linestyle','--','color','k');
    line([xc 1],[1-delta 1-delta],'linestyle','--','color','k');
    line([-1 xs],[1-delta 1-delta],'linestyle','--','color','k');
    line([-1 xs],[1+delta 1+delta],'linestyle','--','color','k');
end

```

```

ylabel('A(x)');
xlim([-1.05 1.05]);
setFontSizeForAll(14);
pause;
hold off;
% Find L extrema of y(x) by identifying g(x) = dy/dx first.
power = 1:L; power = power(:);
dydxCoeff = tmpCoeff(power+1).*power; % a1 + (2*a2)x + (3*a3)x^2+...+(L*aL)x^(L-1)
% Find locations where 1st derivative vanishes
x_new = roots(dydxCoeff(end:-1:1));
x_new = sort(x_new);

% Decide whether to include endpoints (that is x=1 and -1)
if x_new(1) < -1
    x_new(1) = -1;
    x_new = [x_new; 1];
elseif x_new(end)>1
    x_new(end) = 1;
    x_new = [-1; x_new];
else
    % Need to decide which of the end point to include.
    % Choose the one with the larger error.
    err_at_1 = sum(tmpCoeff(1:L+1))-1;
    err_at_minus1 = sum(tmpCoeff(1:L+1)).*(-1).^(0:L+1);
    if abs(err_at_minus1) > abs(err_at_1)
        x_new = [-1;x_new];
    else
        x_new = [x_new; 1];
    end
end
x_new = [x_new; xc; xs];
% x_new = [x_new; xc; xs];

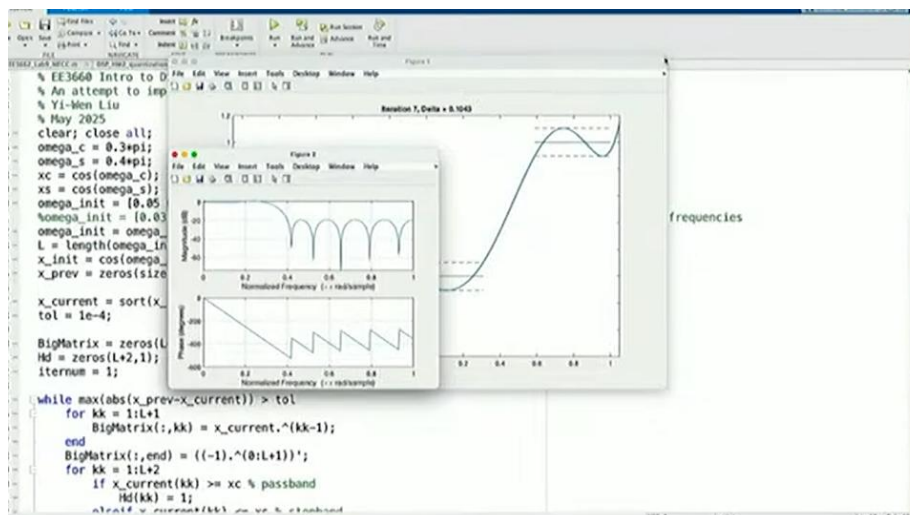
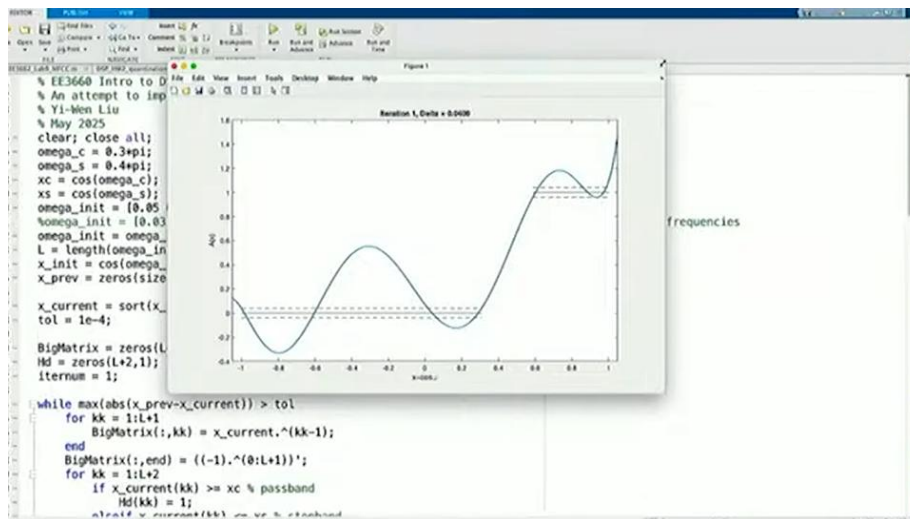
```





```
if x_new(1) < -1
    x_new(1) = -1;
    x_new = [x_new; 1];
elseif x_new(end) > 1
    x_new(end) = 1;
    x_new = [-1; x_new];
else
    % Need to decide which of the end point to include.
    % Choose the one with the larger error.
    err_at_1 = sum(tapCoeff(1:L+1))-1;
    err_at_minus1 = sum(tapCoeff(1:L+1).*(-1).^(0:L));
    if abs(err_at_minus1) > abs(err_at_1)
        x_new = [-1; x_new];
    else
        x_new = [x_new; 1];
    end
end
x_new = [x_new; xc; xs];
x_new = sort(x_new);
x_prev = x_current;
x_current = x_new;
iternum = iternum + 1;
end

W = myChebPol(L);
a = tapCoeff(1:end-1);
b = W*a;
h = [1/2*b(end:-1:2); b(1); 1/2*b(2:end)];
figure(2)
freqz(h)
```





Big Matrix $\begin{bmatrix} x_1 & x_1^2 & -1 \\ 1 & x_2 & x_2^2 & -1 \\ 1 & x_3 & x_3^2 & -1 \end{bmatrix}$ $\begin{bmatrix} a_0 \\ a_1 \\ a_2 \\ \delta \end{bmatrix}$ $\begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ 0 \\ 0 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix}$ H_1

For each $j = 1, 2, 3 \dots$ x_j $\cos(\omega_j)$

$P(x_j) = \sum_{k=0}^5 (a_k) x_j^k$ $P(x) = \pm \delta$

$\begin{cases} a_0 + a_1 x_1 + a_2 x_1^2 + \dots + a_5 x_1^5 = (\delta) \\ a_0 + a_1 x_2 + a_2 x_2^2 + \dots + a_5 x_2^5 = (-\delta) \\ a_0 + a_1 x_3 + a_2 x_3^2 + \dots + a_5 x_3^5 = 1 + \delta \end{cases}$

$y = P'(x)$
 $\frac{dy}{dx} = P'(x)$
 $\downarrow$
 $dy/dx \text{ Coeff}$
 $\downarrow$
 [coeff]
 $\{x_1, \dots, x_6\}$
 $\{x_7, \dots, x_5\}$

To go back to w .

$\hat{P}(x) = a_0 + a_1 x + \dots + a_7 x^7$
 $= A(w) = (h[0]) + 2 \sum_{n=1}^7 (h[n]) \cos(nw)$
 $= h[0] + 2 \sum_{n=1}^7 h[n] T_n(\cos w)$
 $= h[0] + 2 \sum_{n=0}^7 h[n] T_n(x)$

$T_0 = 1$
 $T_1(x) = x$
 $T_2(x) = 2x^2 - 1$

