Section 5

Basics of Signal Processing

Eric Kelly
PIMS Data Analyst
Tal-Cut Company / NASA Glenn Research Center

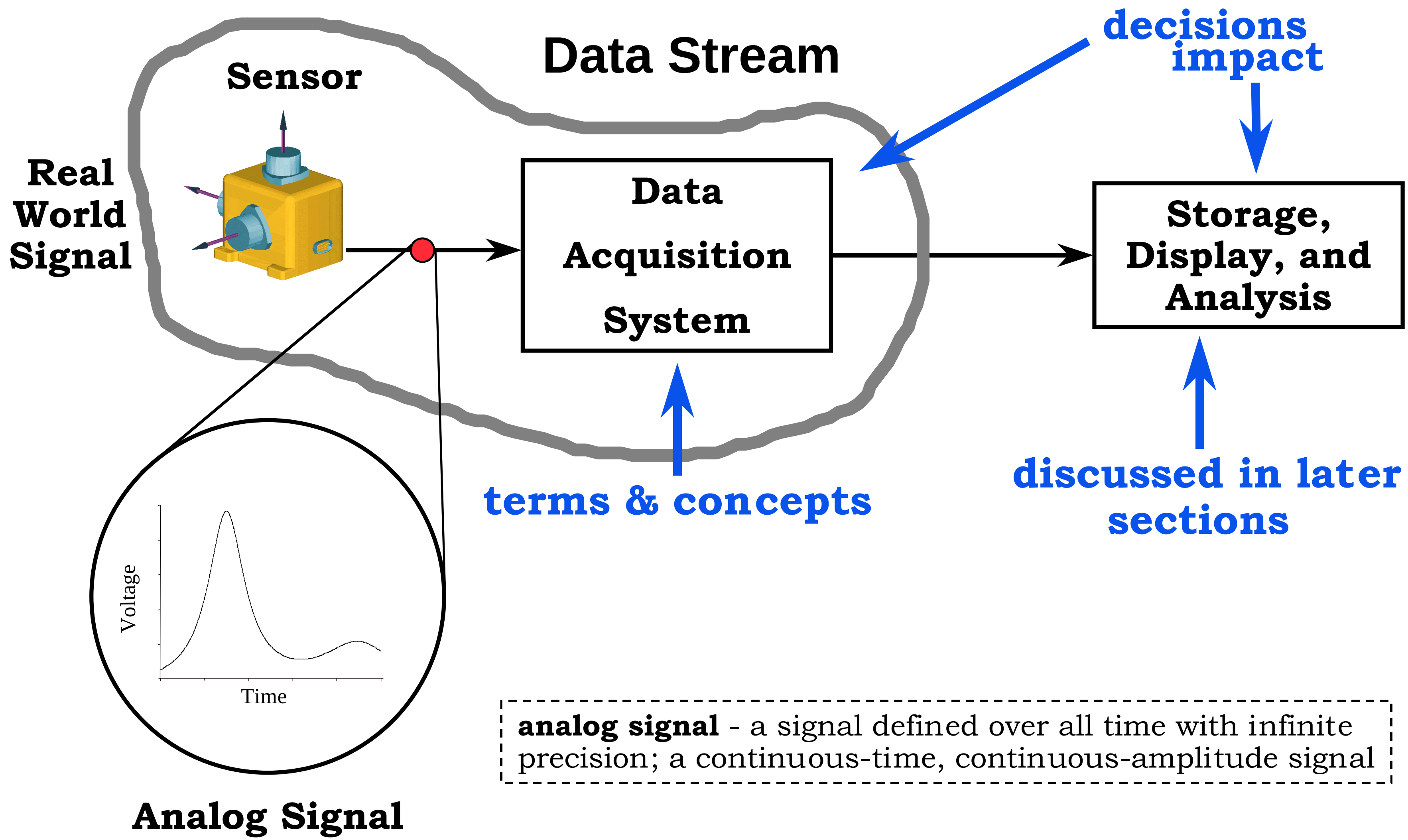
Outline

1. Block Diagram of Data Stream

2. Motivation for Analog-to-Digital Conversion

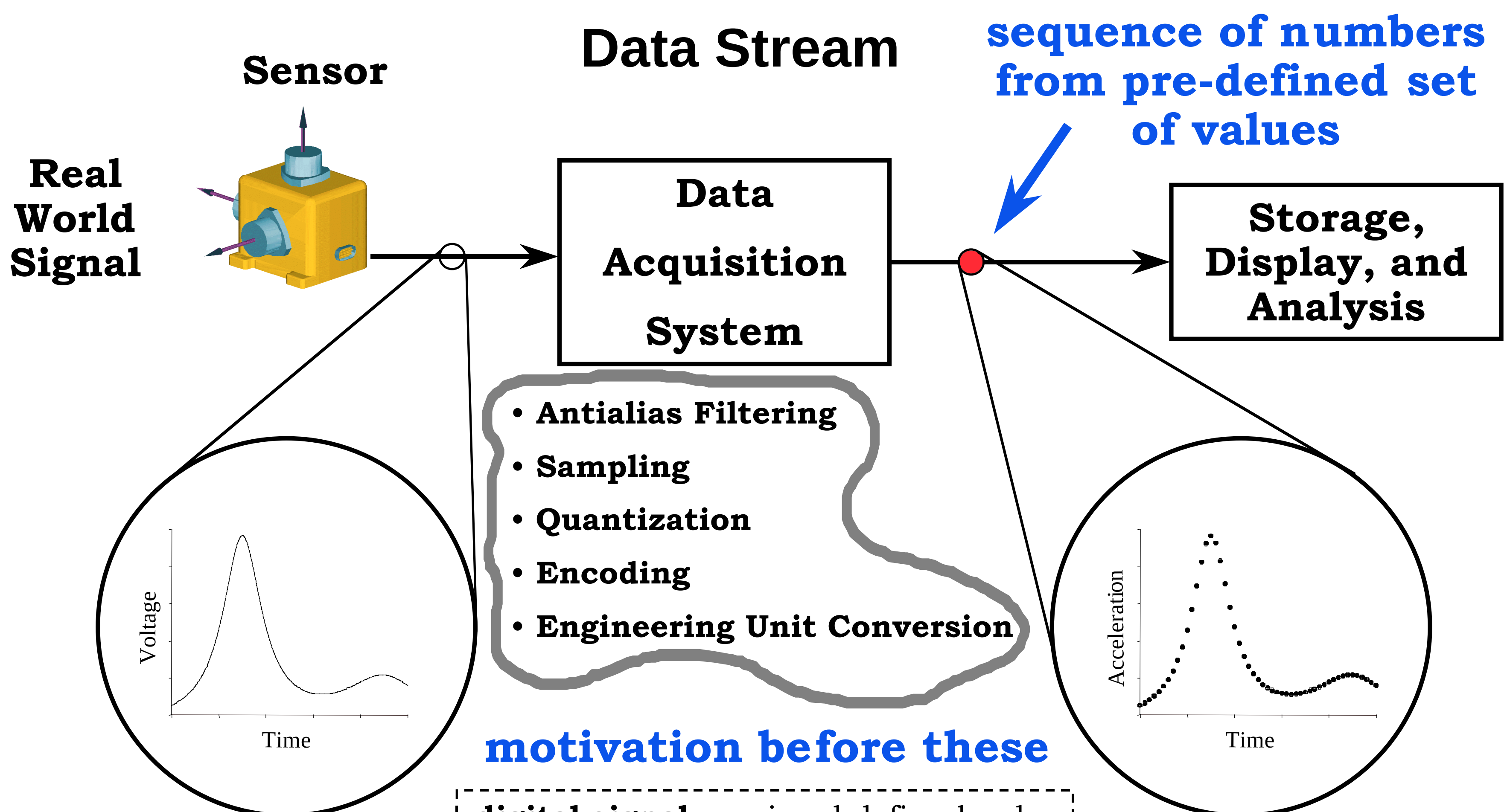
3. Basic Concepts
   - processing depends on and impacts the Principal Investigator

4. Tradeoffs and Summary



analog signal - a signal defined over all time with infinite precision; a continuous-time, continuous-amplitude signal

Basics of Signal Processing



Analog Signal

digital signal - a signal defined only at sampling times with finite precision; a discrete-time, discrete-amplitude signal

Digital Signal

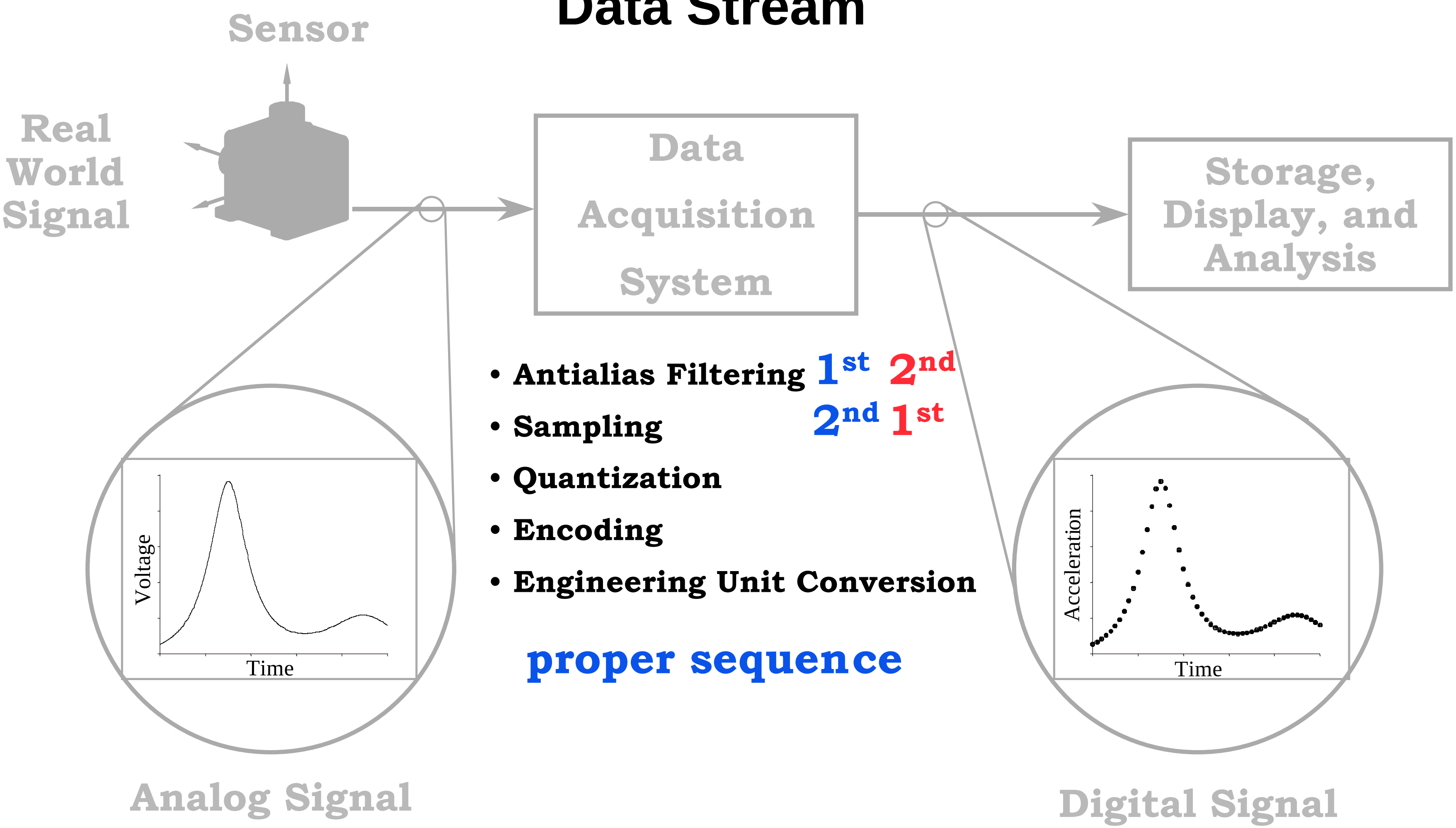
Motivation for Analog-to-Digital Conversion

- **Computers**
  - Flexibility. Software does the digital signal processing.
  - Take advantage of the full depth and breadth of processing tools available for this platform.
  - Processing performance does not vary with temperature or time.

- **Reproducibility**
  - No degradation when copying signal.

- **Other factors**

Data Stream



- **Antialias Filtering** 1st 2nd
- **Sampling** 2nd 1st
- **Quantization**
- **Encoding**
- **Engineering Unit Conversion**

proper sequence

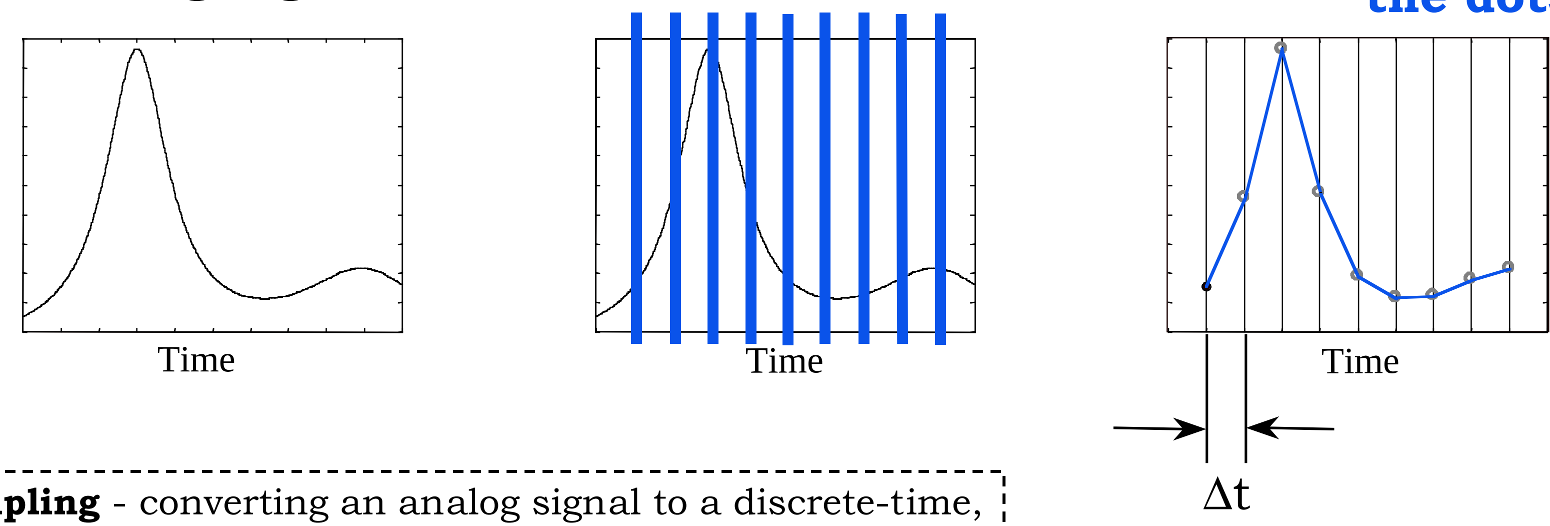
Sampling

has critical implications regarding the information our measurements contain

Analog Signal

discretization

connect the dots

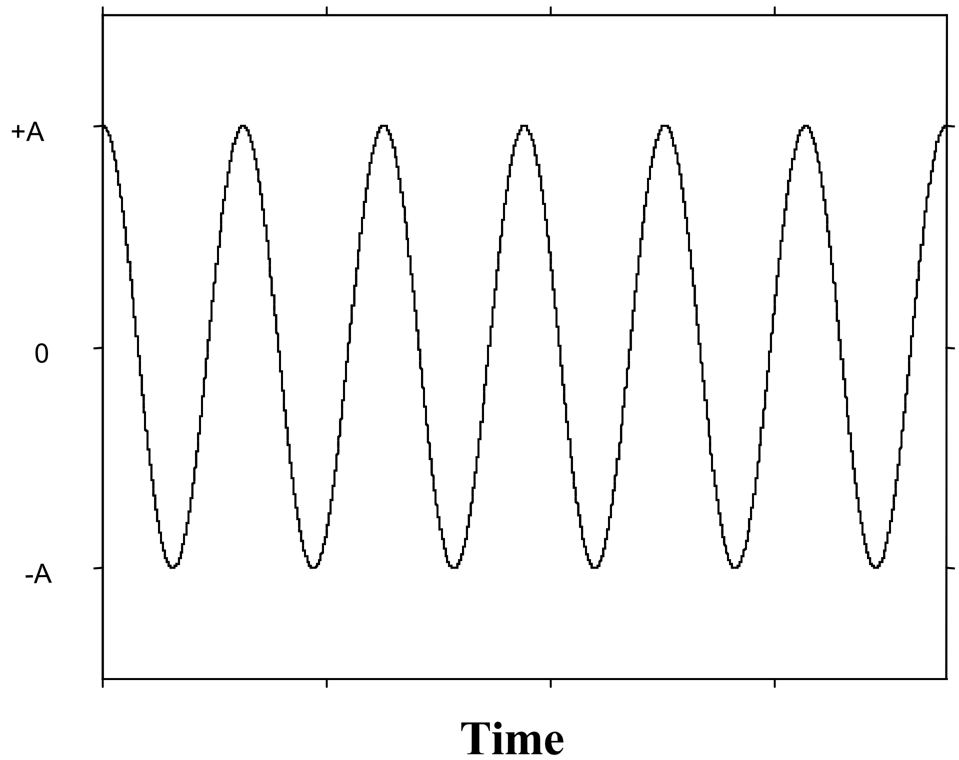


sampling - converting an analog signal to a discrete-time, continuous-amplitude signal

$$f_s = 1/\Delta t$$

sample rate (f_s) - frequency with which analog signal is sampled (samples per second)

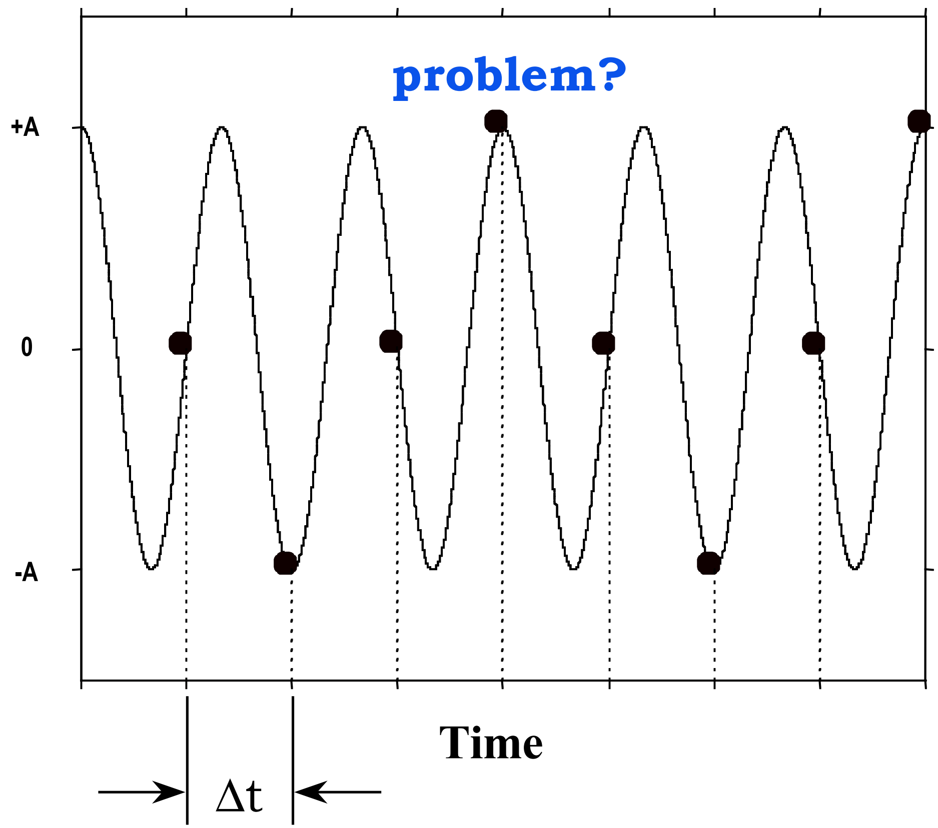
Sampling



harmless-looking sinusoid

Real World (Analog) Signal of Interest

Sampling



sample it

Discretized Signal

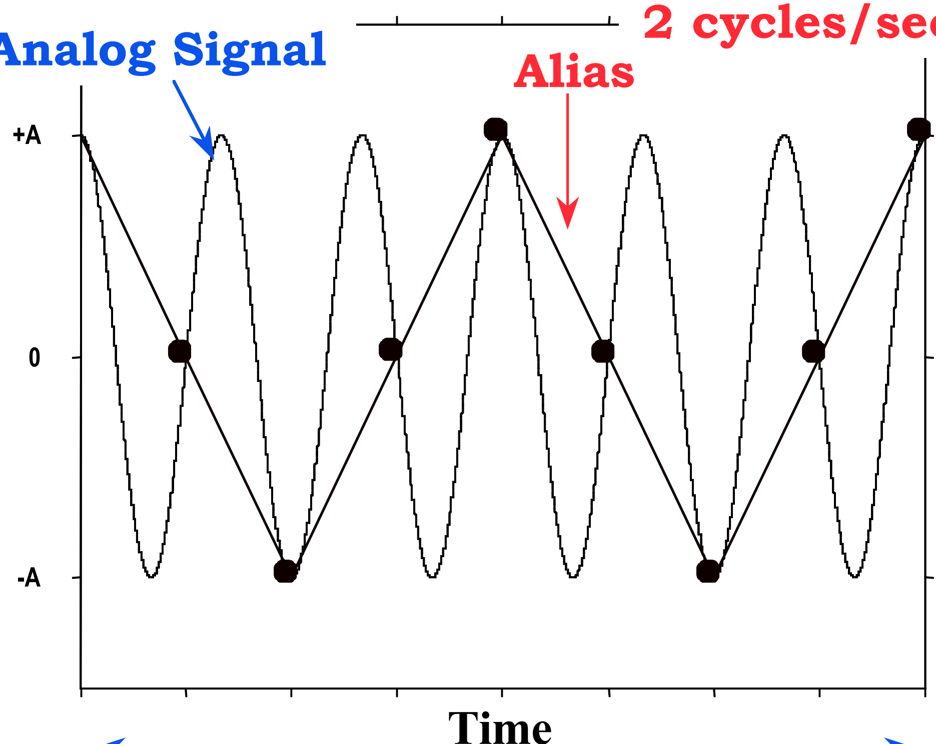
Sampling

6 cycles/sec.

Analog Signal

2 cycles/sec.

Alias



span of 1 second

How do we enforce this if we are taking measurements of real world signals and do not know the exact nature of their content or behavior?

How do we avoid aliasing?

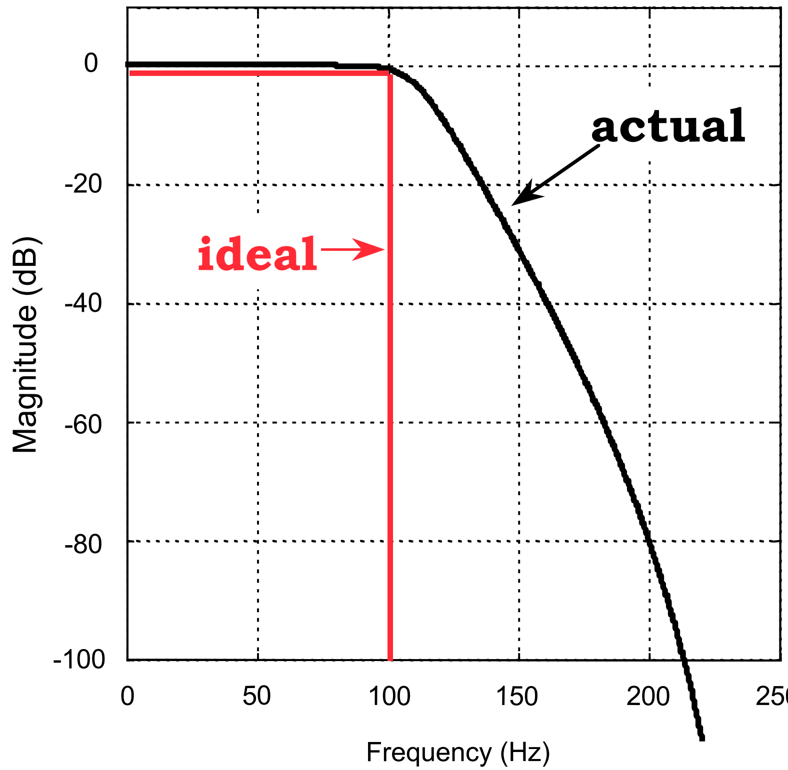
aliasing - high frequency signals manifested as low frequency signals

Nyquist criteria - sample rate at least twice highest frequency contained in the signal of interest

Antialias Filtering

pass without attenuation or amplification below cutoff frequency

total attenuation above cutoff frequency



Frequency response of a lowpass (antialiasing) filter

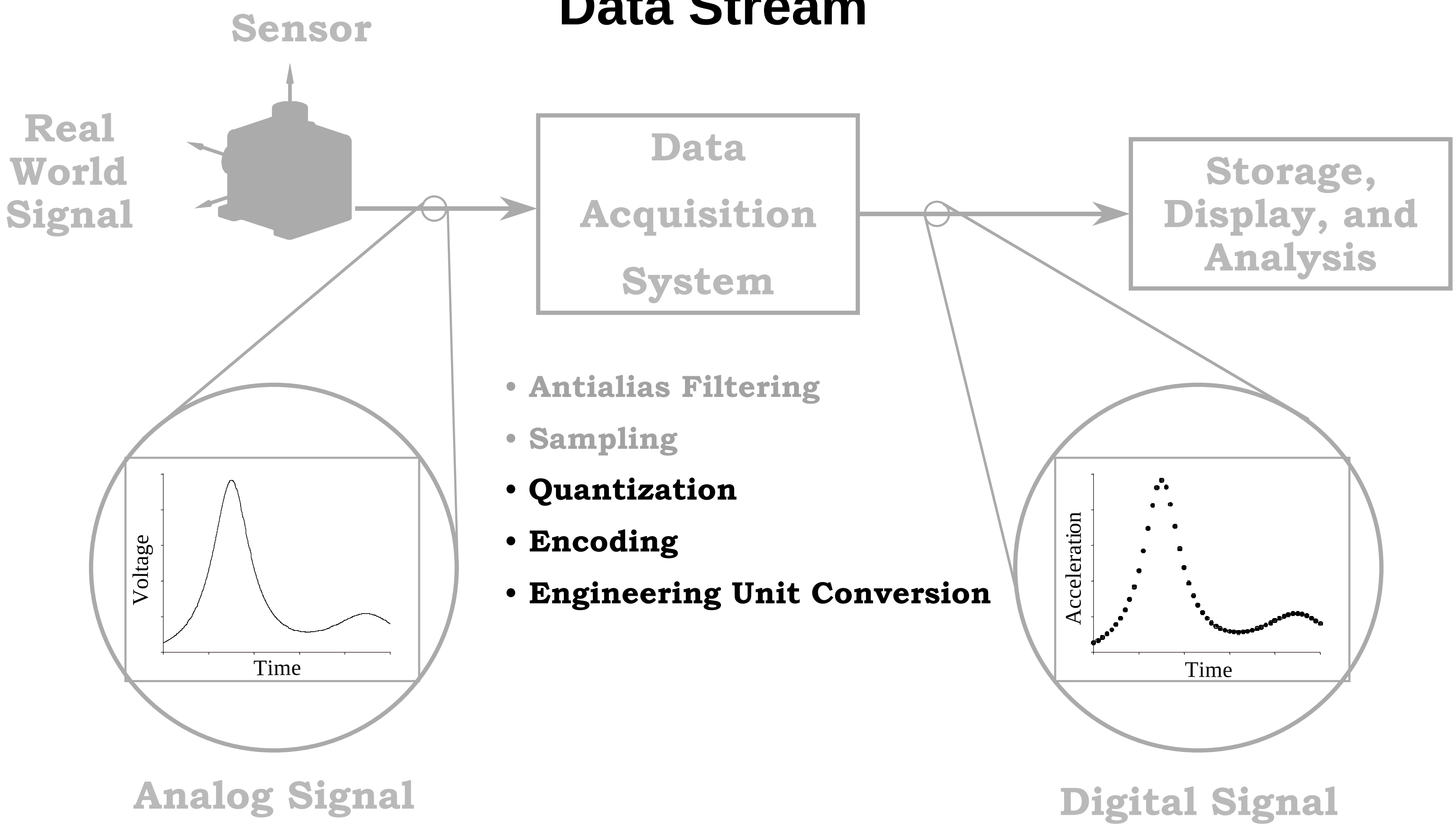
Why does cutoff, f_c, matter?

- For acceleration data, besides sensor location, the cutoff frequency (f_c) is one of most important decisions you make. It should be greater than the highest frequency that is of interest or concern to you.
- Higher f_c means higher f_s, but limitations on the transmission bandwidth, storage, and processing resources put a limit on f_s.

antialias filtering - lowpass (bandlimit) analog signal to reduce effects of aliasing

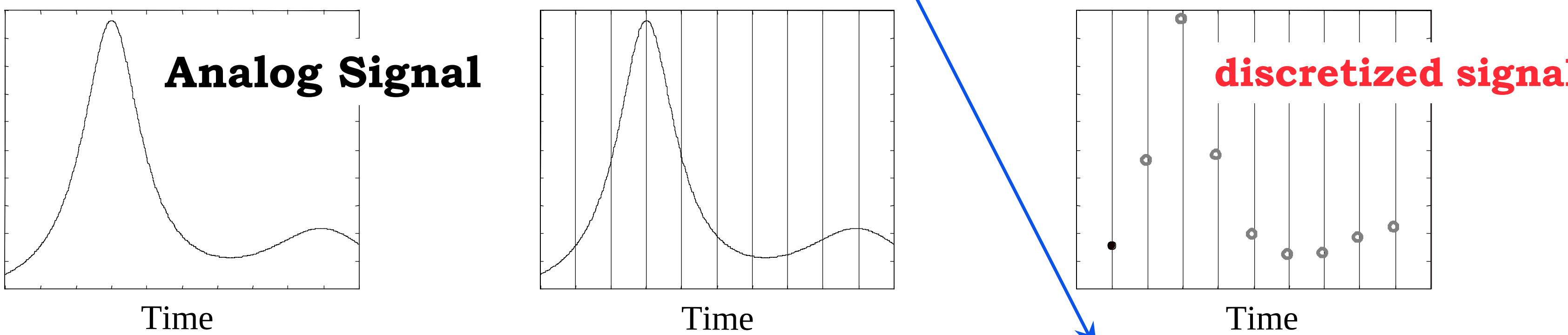
cutoff frequency (f_c) - highest frequency of interest

Data Stream



- Antialias Filtering
- Sampling
- **Quantization**
- **Encoding**
- **Engineering Unit Conversion**

Quantization

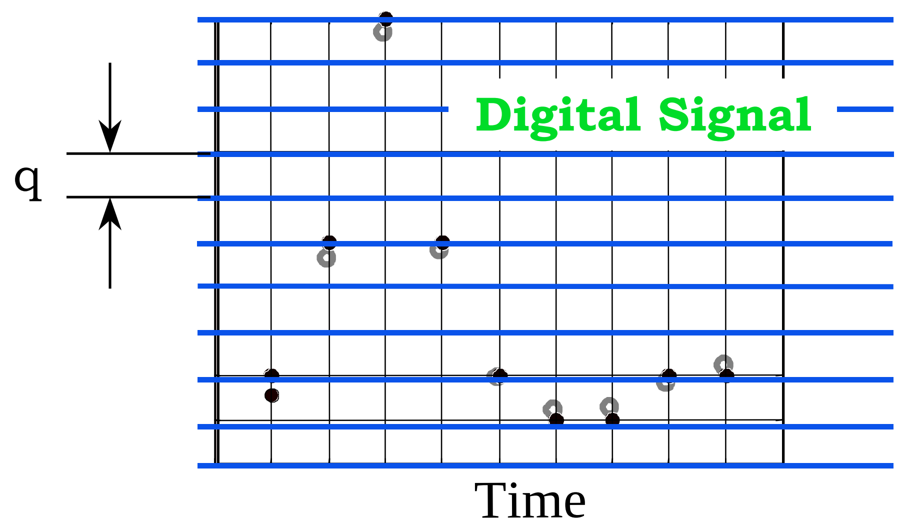


digitization

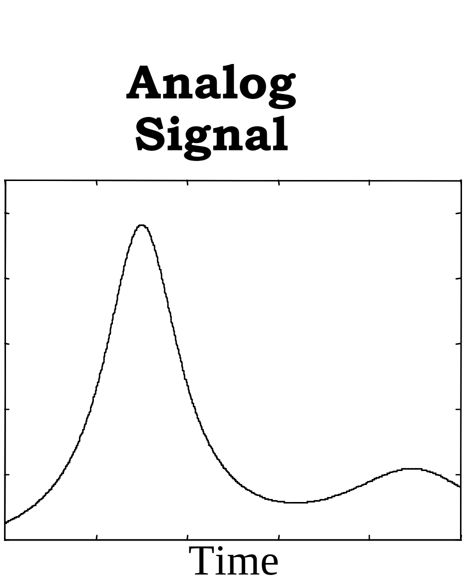
quantization - conversion of discrete-time, continuous-amplitude signal to discrete-time, discrete-amplitude signal

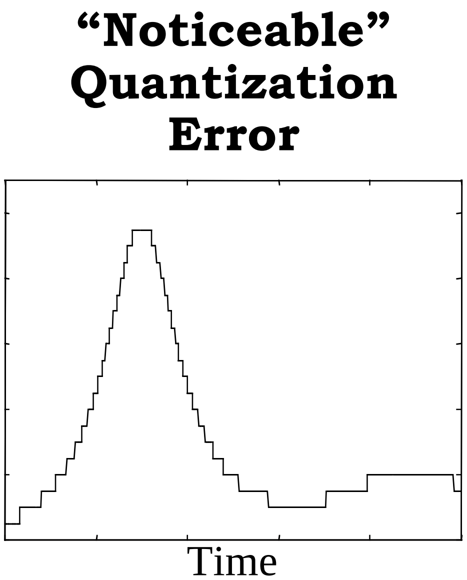
$$q = V_{fs}/(2^b-1)$$

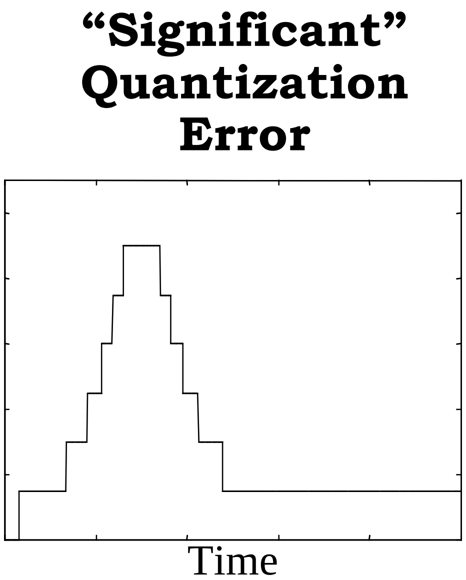
b = # of bits



Quantization





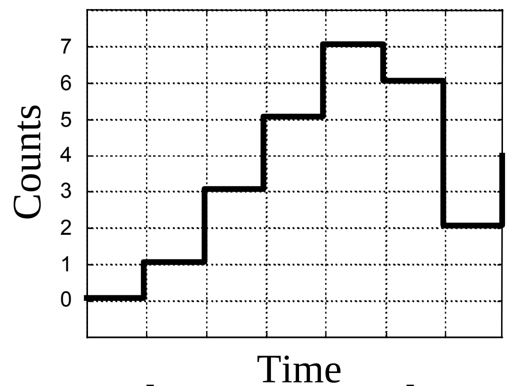


some imprecision

even more imprecision

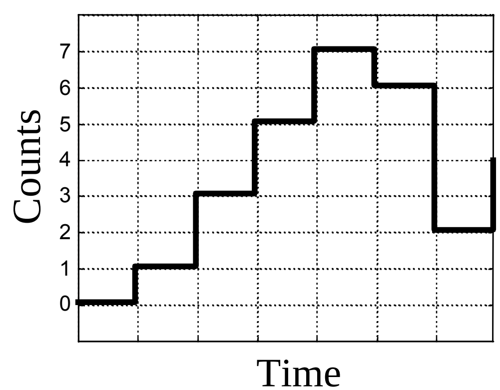
Encoding & Engineering Unit Conversion

- **Encoding** - assigning unique codes to the quantized samples



codes	
0	000
1	001
2	010
3	011
4	100
5	101
6	110
7	111

- **Engineering Unit Conversion** - translation of encoded values to desired “final” representation



codes		μg
0	000	0
1	001	5
2	010	10
3	011	15
4	100	20
5	101	25
6	110	30
7	111	35

Tradeoffs and Summary

Analog-to-Digital Conversion - computer processing is the motivation

1. Antialias Filtering
   - lowpass filter → leads to loss of high frequency information
2. Sampling
   - sample rate ← transmission, storage, and processing
   - discretization in time → aliasing
3. Quantization
   - digitization of amplitude → precision limited by number of bits
4. Encoding
5. Engineering Unit Conversion