CRIStAL
Centre de Recherche en Informatique, Signal et Automatique de Lille

Université de Lille

cnrs

The Kravchuk transform:

A novel covariant representation for discrete signals amenable to zero-based detection tests

July 12th 2022

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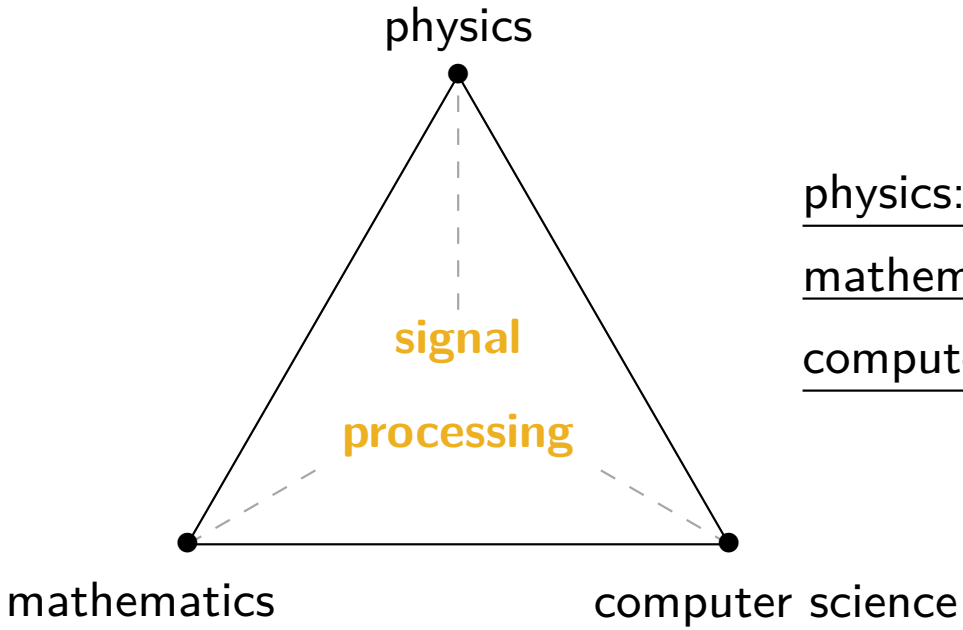
CRAN Seminar, Nancy

Signal processing aims to extract **information** from **real** data.

Data of very diverse types:

- measurements of a physical quantity,
- biological or epidemiological indicators,
- data produced by human activities.

The Golden triangle of signal processing



physics: modeling of phenomena

mathematics: formalization & evaluation

computer science: efficient implementation

inspired from P. Flandrin

Outline of the presentation

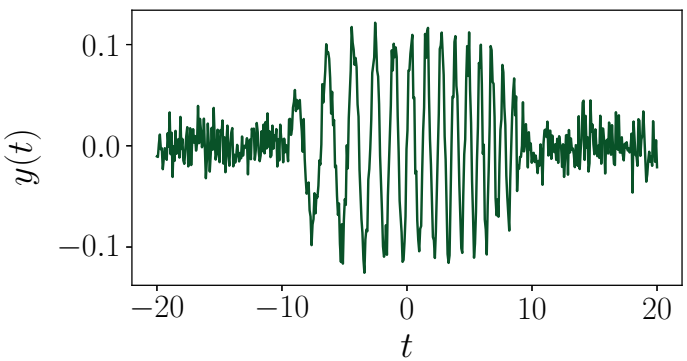
- Signal detection: the role of representations

- Time-frequency analysis: the Short-Time Fourier Transform
- Signal detection based on the spectrogram zeros - I
- Covariance principle and stationary point processes

- The Kravchuk transform and its zeros
- Numerical implementation of the Kravchuk transform
- Signal detection based on the spectrogram zeros - II

Time and frequency: two dual descriptions of temporal signals

A continuous finite energy **signal** is a function of time $y(t)$ with $y \in L^2_{\mathbb{C}}(\mathbb{R})$.



- electrical cardiac activity,
- audio recording,
- seismic activity,
- light intensity on a photosensor
- ...

Information of interest:

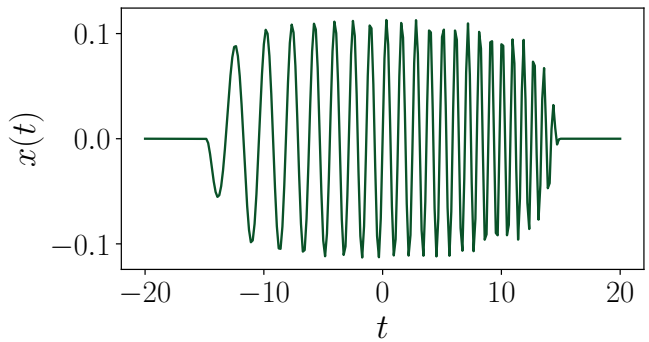
- time events, e.g., an earthquake and its replica
- frequency content, e.g., monitoring of the heart beating rate

time	**frequency**
ever-changing world	waves, oscillations, rhythms
marker of events and evolutions	intrinsic mechanisms

Signal-plus-noise observation model

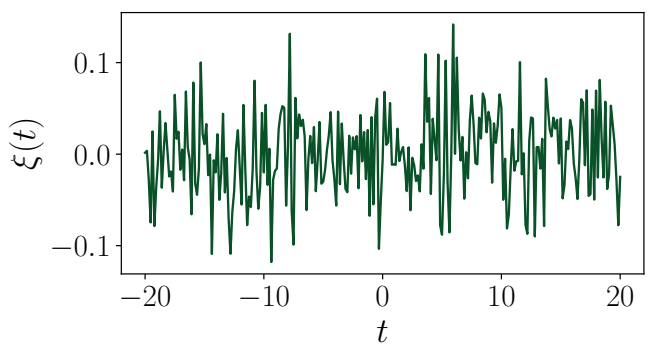
A **chirp** is a transient waveform modulated in amplitude and frequency:

$$x(t) = A_\nu(t) \sin\left(2\pi\left(f_1 + (f_2 - f_1)\frac{t+\nu}{2\nu}\right)t\right)$$



White noise is a random variable $\xi(t)$ such that

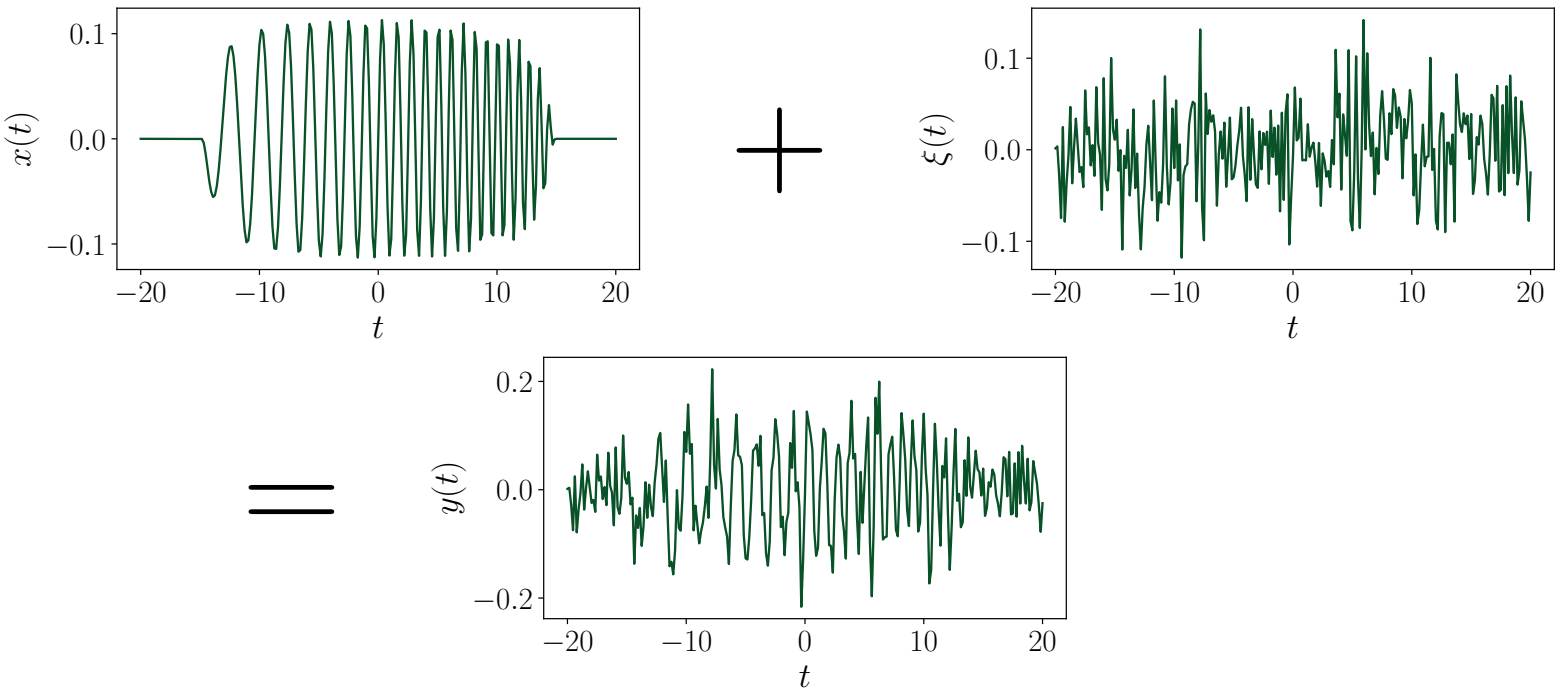
$$\mathbb{E}[\xi(t)] = 0 \quad \text{and} \quad \mathbb{E}[\overline{\xi(t)}\xi(t')] = \delta(t - t')$$



P. Flandrin: 'A signal is characterized by a structured organization.'

Signal-plus-noise observation model

Noisy observations $y(t) = \text{snr} \times x(t) + \xi(t)$

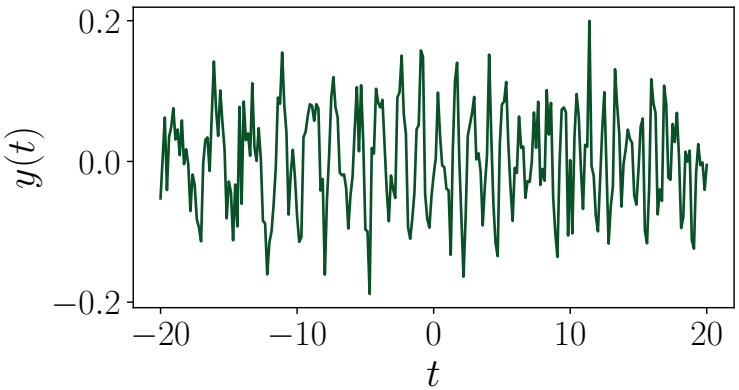


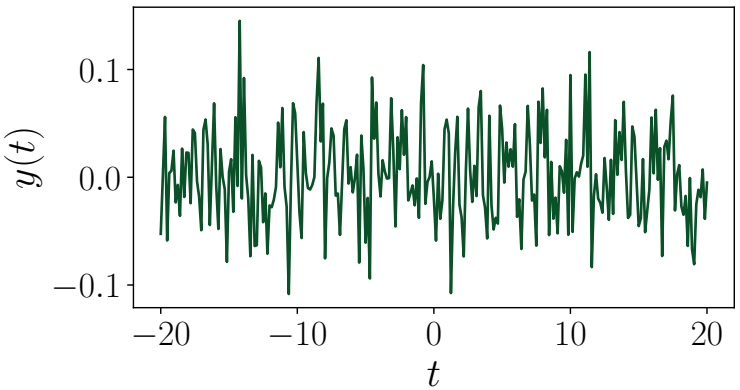
Signal processing task:

Given an observation $y(t)$

detection decides whether there is an underlying signal or only noise.

Direct observation

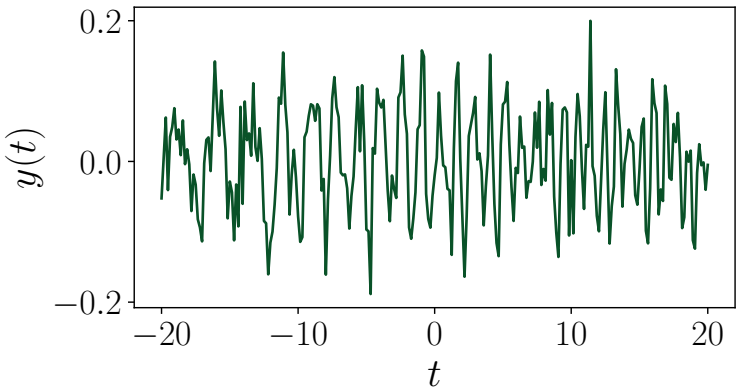


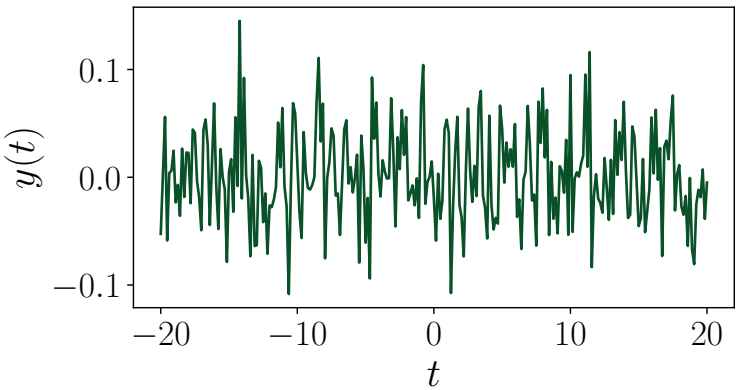


✗ hard to distinguish between oscillations and fluctuations

The role of representations in signal processing

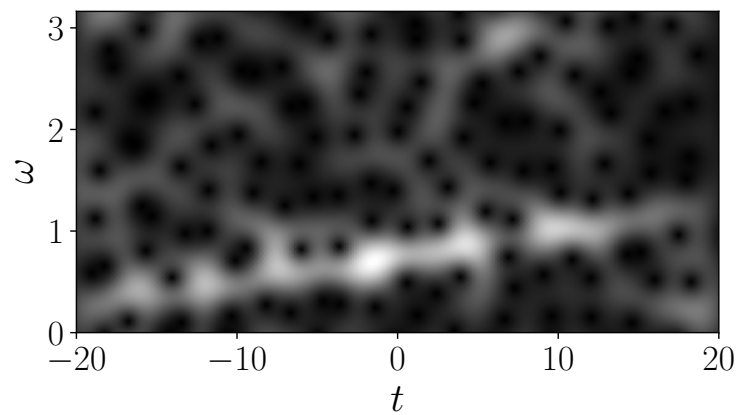
Direct observation

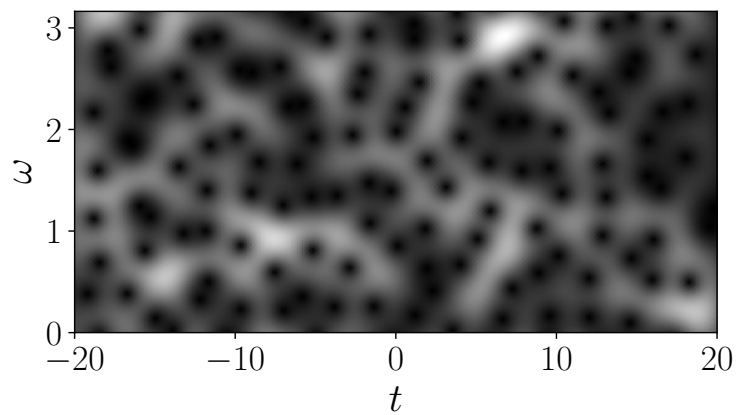




✗ hard to distinguish between oscillations and fluctuations

Time-frequency representation





✓ lines of local maxima: structures are simpler to capture

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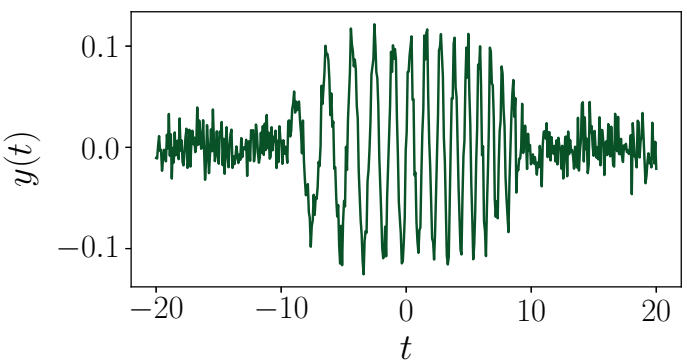
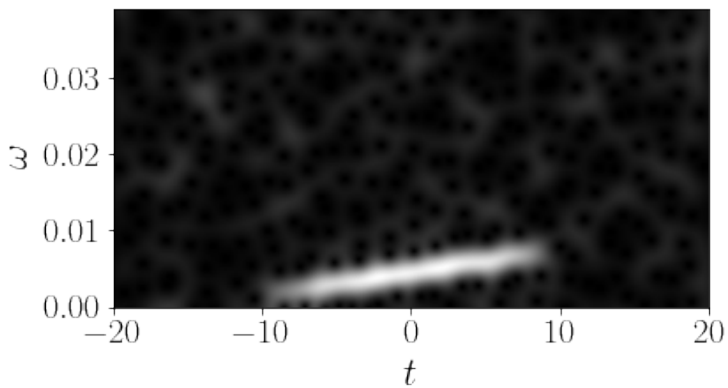
Time *and* frequency Short-Time Fourier Transform with window h:

$$V_h y(t,\omega) \triangleq \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} \overline{y(u)} h(u-t) \exp(-\mathrm{i}\omega u)\,\mathrm{d}u$$





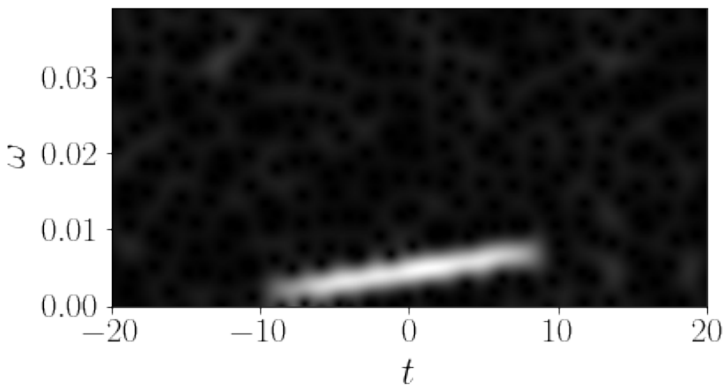
Energy density interpretation $S_h y(t,\omega) = |V_h y(t,\omega)|^2$ the *spectrogram*

$$\int \int_{-\infty}^{+\infty} S_h y(t,\omega)\,\mathrm{d}t \frac{\mathrm{d}\omega}{2\pi} = \int_{-\infty}^{+\infty} |x(t)|^2\,\mathrm{d}t \quad \text{if} \quad \|h\|_2^2 = 1$$

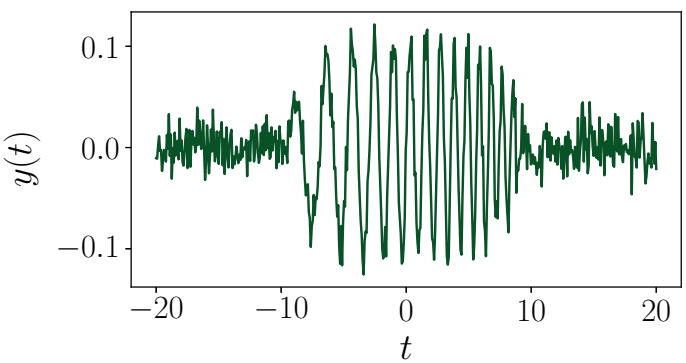
Signal, i.e., information of interest: regions of **maximal** energy.

Denoising in the time-frequency plane: $y = \text{snr} \times x + \xi$, $\text{snr} = 2$

spectrogram

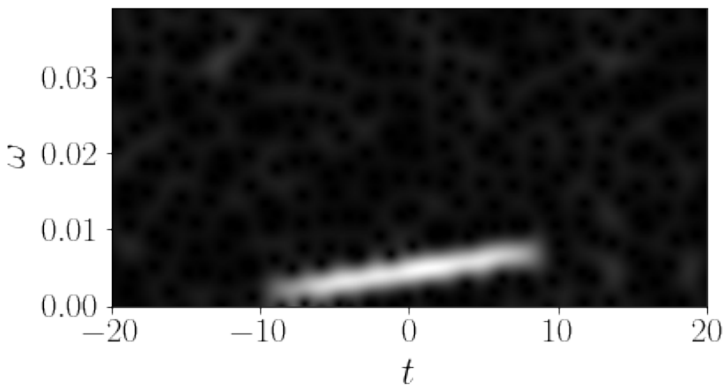


noisy observation

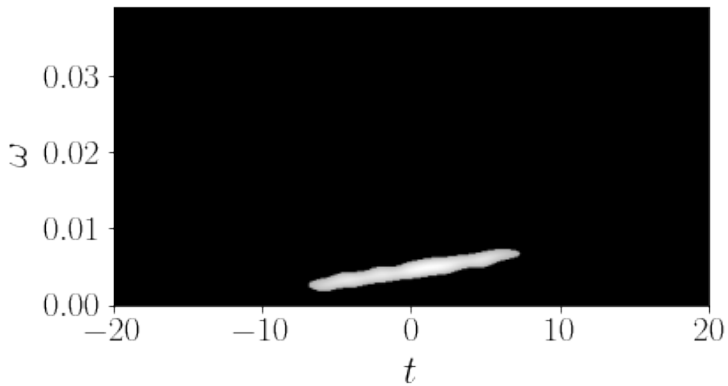


(Meignen et al., 2017)

spectrogram



only maxima



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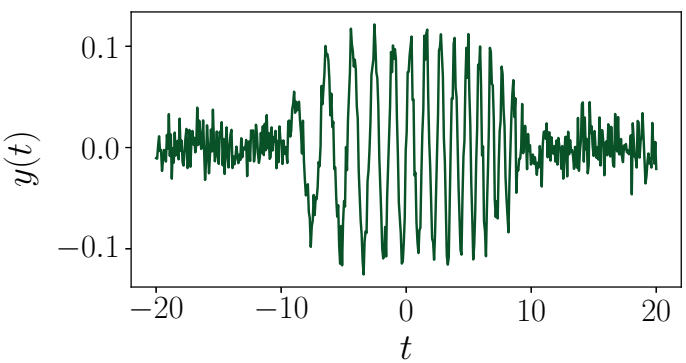
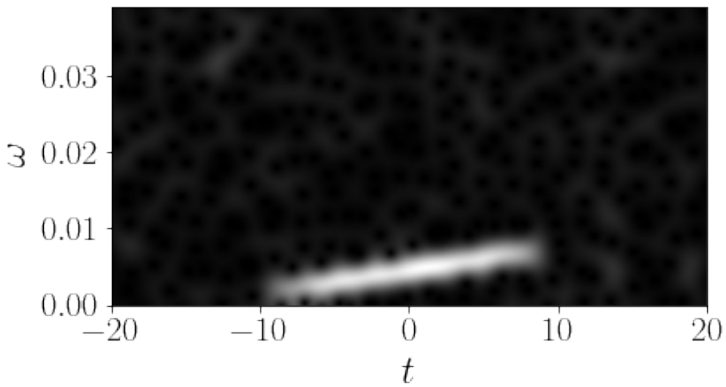


Inversion formula $$y(t) = \int \int_{-\infty}^{+\infty} \overline{V_h y(u,\omega)} h(t-u) \exp(\mathrm{i}\omega u) \, \mathrm{d}u \frac{\mathrm{d}\omega}{2\pi}$$

spectrogram



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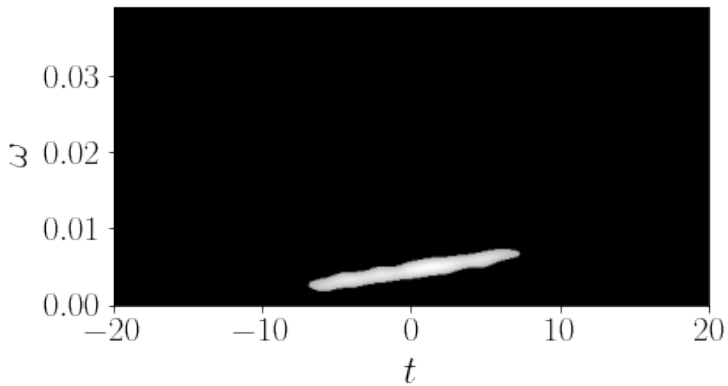

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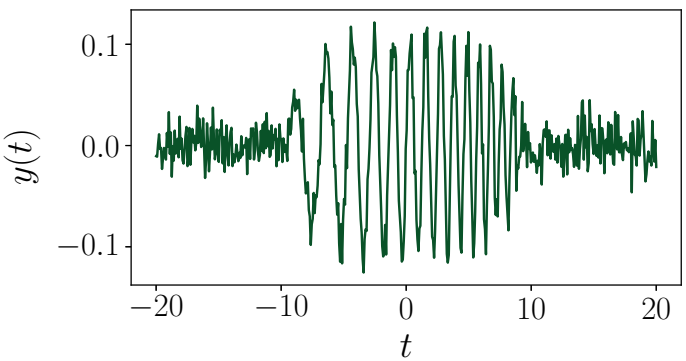
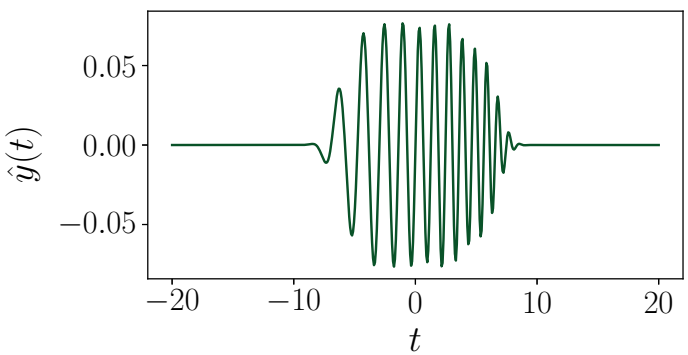


estimate



Denoising in the time-frequency plane: $y = \text{snr} \times x + \xi$, $\text{snr} = 0.5$

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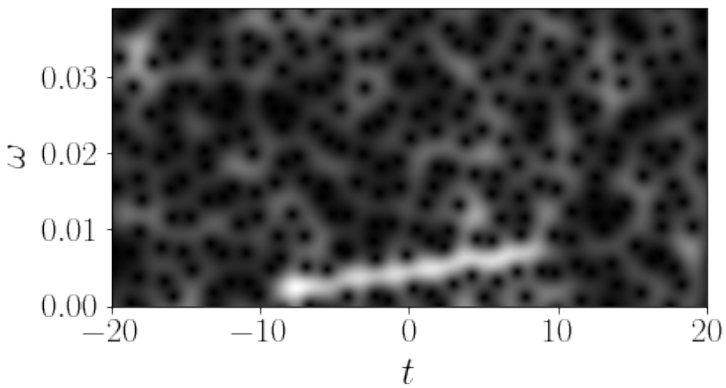
spectrogram



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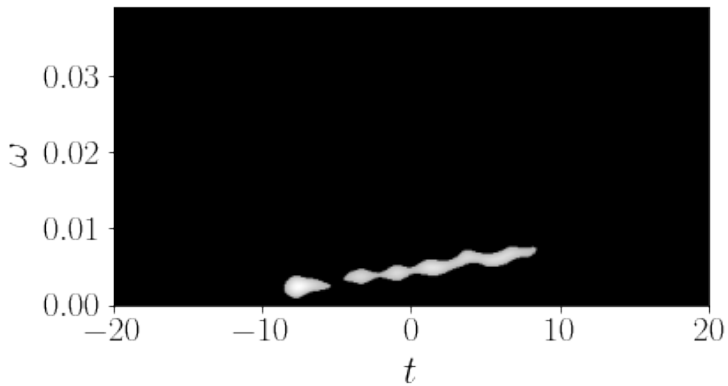

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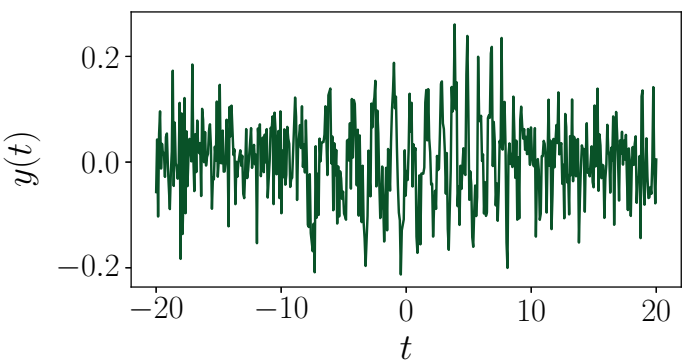

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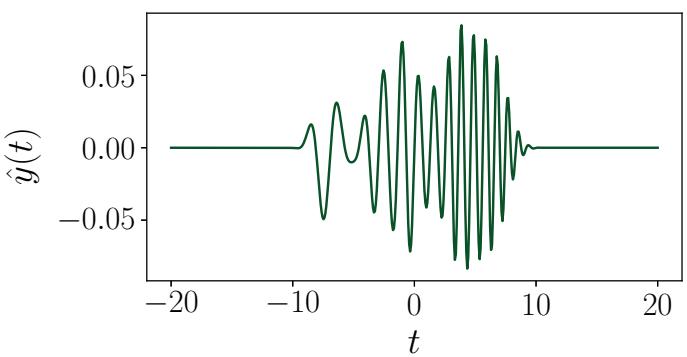

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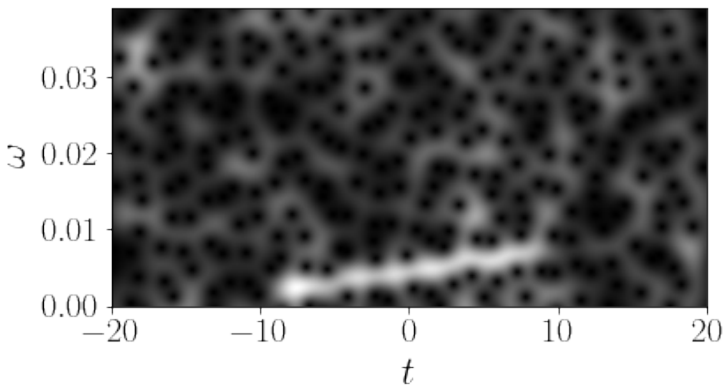

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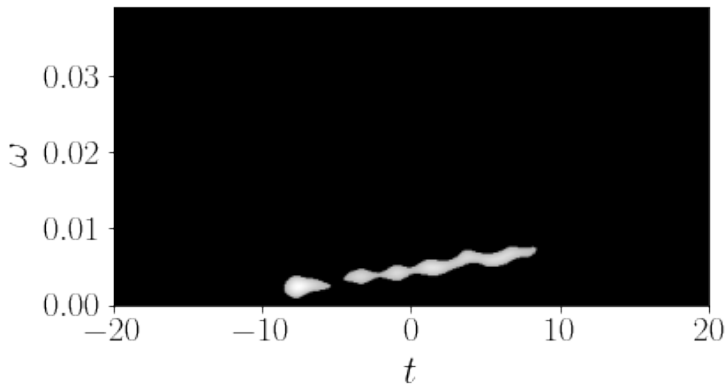

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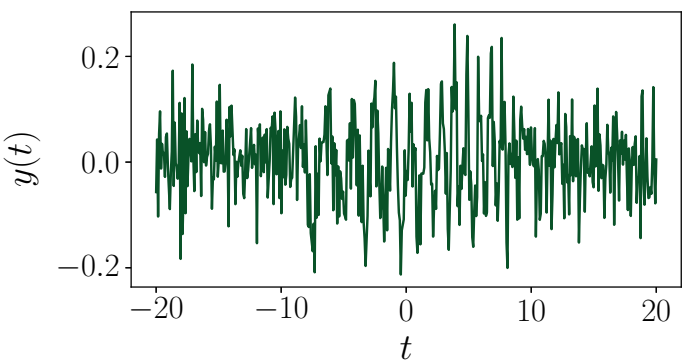

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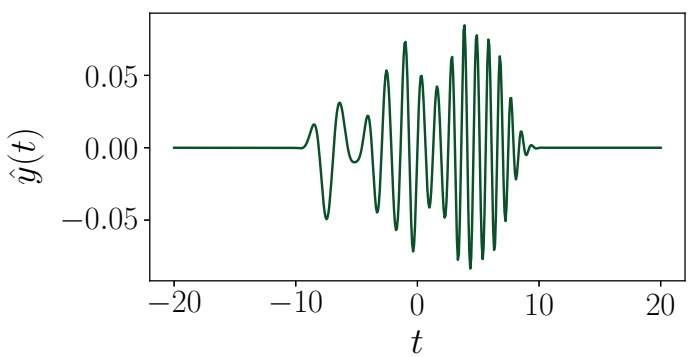

Maxima extraction: *reassignment, synchrosqueezing, ridge extraction*

(Meignen et al., 2017)

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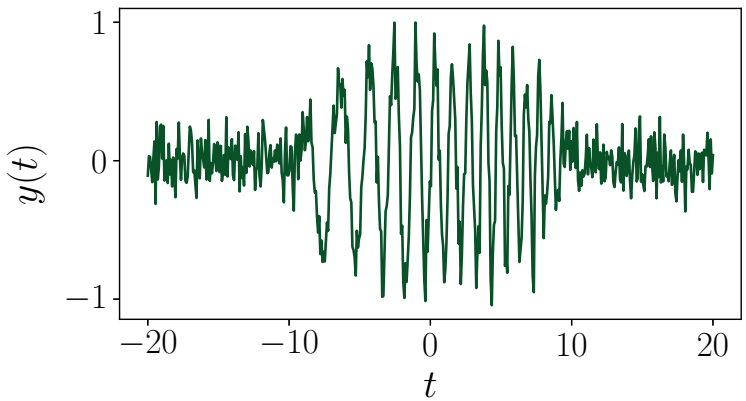
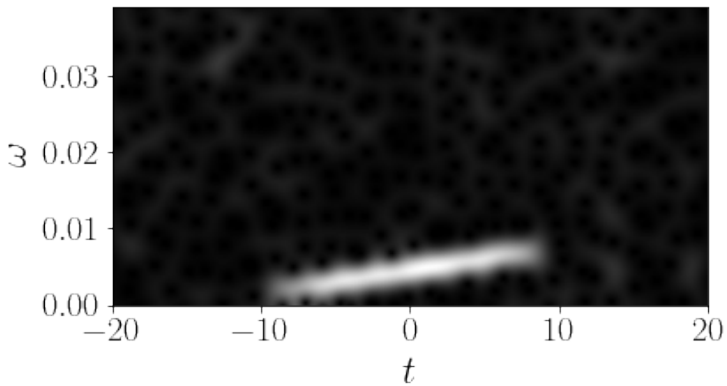
Restriction to the **circular Gaussian window**: $g(t) = \pi^{-1/4} \mathrm{e}^{-t^2/2}$

Look for the zeros, i.e., the points (t_i, ω_i) such that $|V_g y(t_i, \omega_i)|^2 = 0$.





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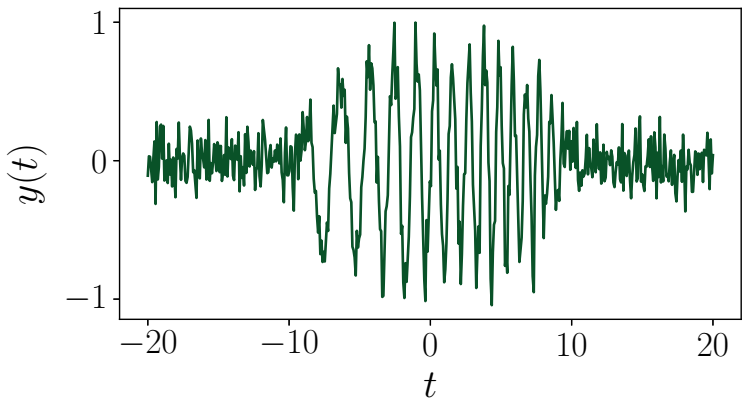

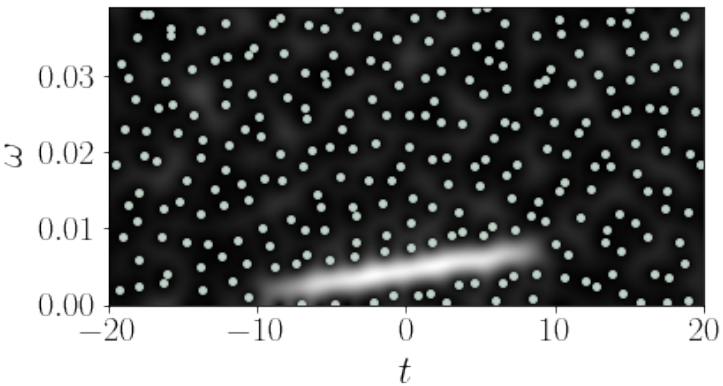

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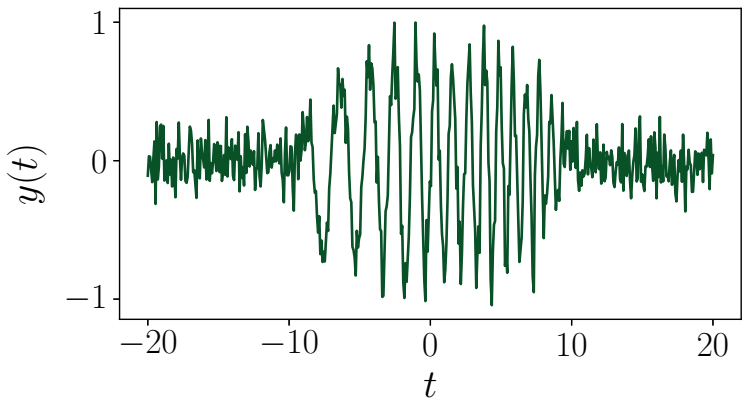

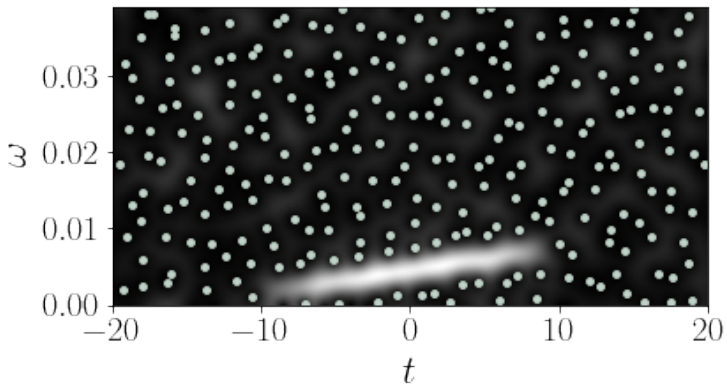

Observations: (Gardner & Magnasco, 2006), (Flandrin, 2015)

- Zeros are repelled by the signal.
- In the noise region zeros are evenly spread.
- There exists a short-range repulsion between zeros.

Restriction to the **circular Gaussian window**: $g(t) = \pi^{-1/4} \mathrm{e}^{-t^2/2}$

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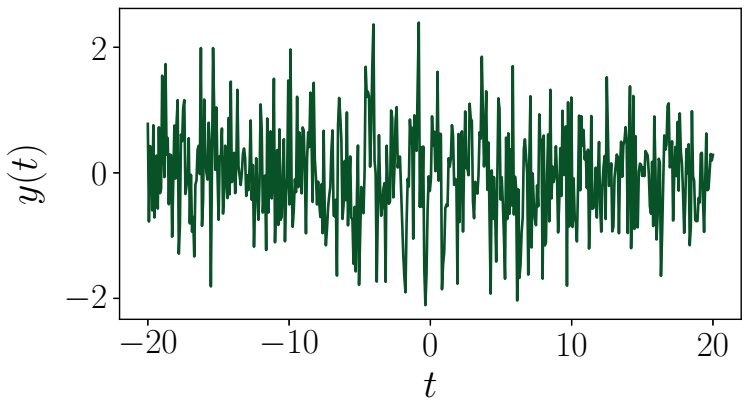

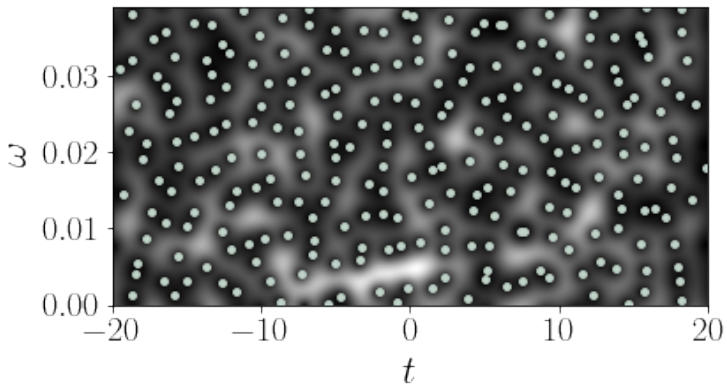

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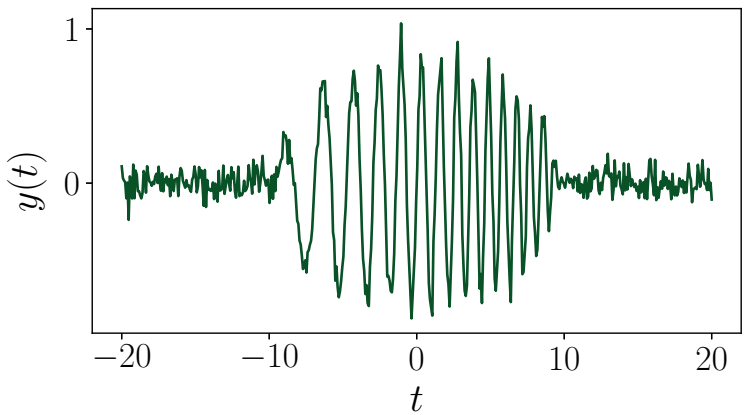

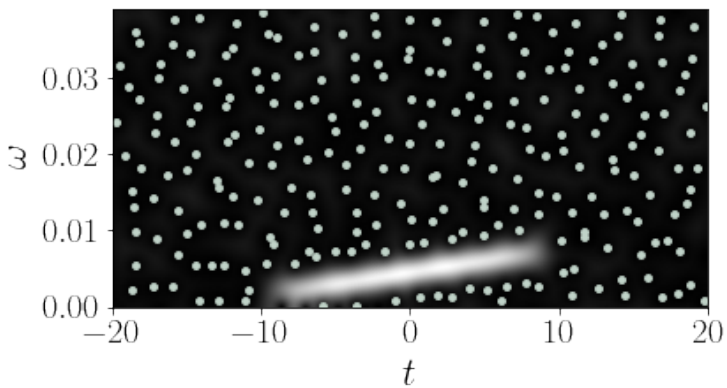

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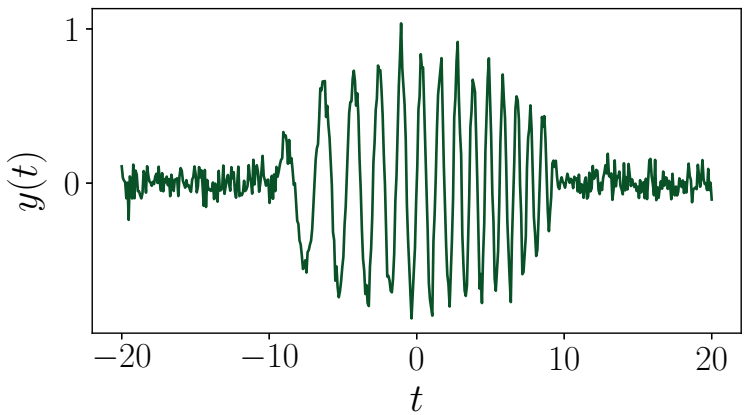

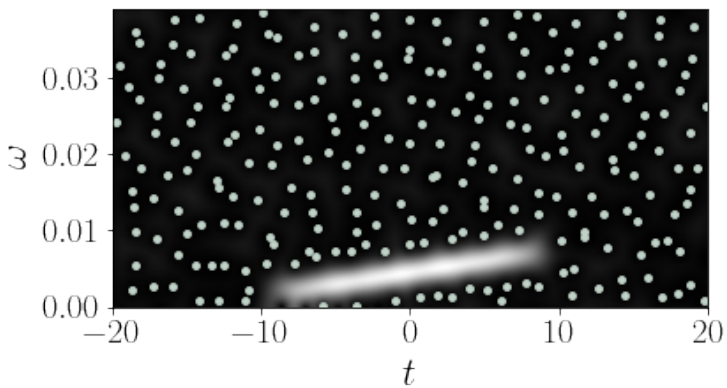

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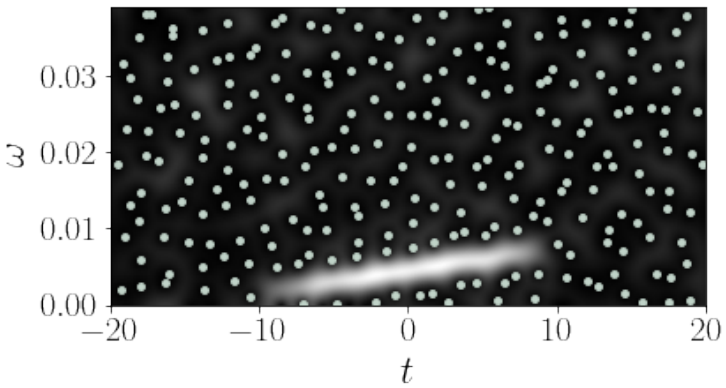
What can be said theoretically about the zeros of the spectrogram?

Unorthodox time-frequency analysis: spectrogram zeros

Idea assimilate the time-frequency plane with $\mathbb{C}$ through $z = (\omega + \mathrm{i}t)/\sqrt{2}$



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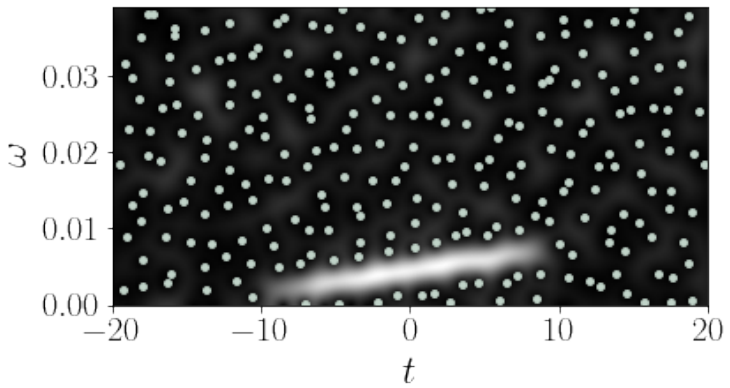

Bargmann factorization

$$V_g y(t,\omega) = \mathrm{e}^{-|z|^2/2}\mathrm{e}^{-\mathrm{i}\omega t/2} By(z)$$

g the circular Gaussian window

Bargmann transform of the signal y

$$By(z) \triangleq \pi^{-1/4}\mathrm{e}^{-z^2/2} \int_{\mathbb{R}} \overline{y(u)} \exp\left(\sqrt{2}uz - u^2/2\right) \mathrm{d}u,$$

By is an **entire** function, almost characterized by its infinitely many zeros:

$$By(z) = z^m \mathrm{e}^{C_0 + C_1 z + C_2 z^2} \prod_{n\in\mathbb{N}} \left(1 - \frac{z}{z_n}\right) \exp\left(\frac{z}{z_n} + \frac{1}{2}\left(\frac{z}{z_n}\right)^2\right).$$

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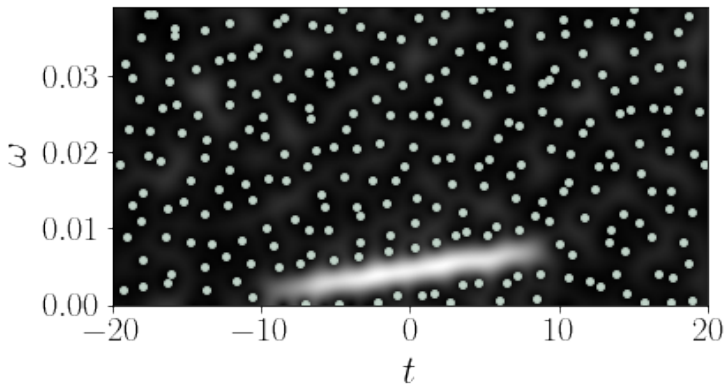


Bargmann factorization

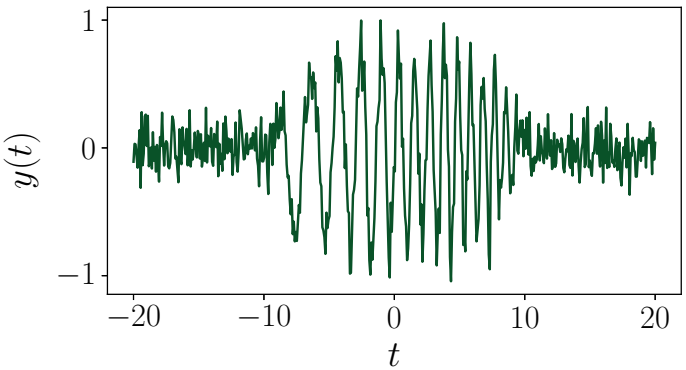
$$V_g y(t,\omega) = \mathrm{e}^{-|z|^2/2}\mathrm{e}^{-\mathrm{i}\omega t/2} B y(z)$$

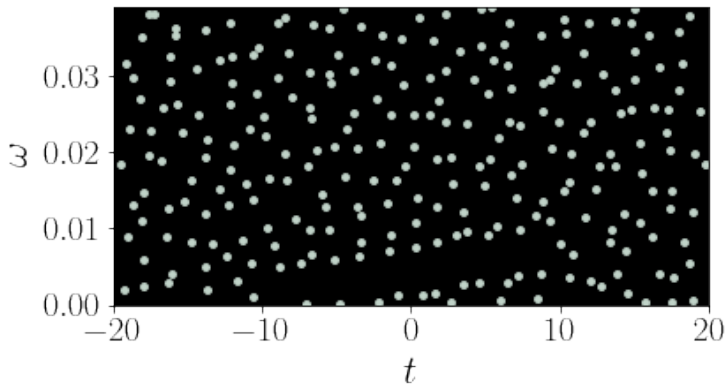
g the circular Gaussian window

Theorem The zeros of the Gaussian spectrogram $V_g y(t,\omega)$

- coincide with the zeros of the **entire** function By,
- hence are **isolated** and constitute a **Point Process**,
- which almost completely **characterizes** the spectrogram.

(Flandrin, 2015)





Advantages of working with the zeros

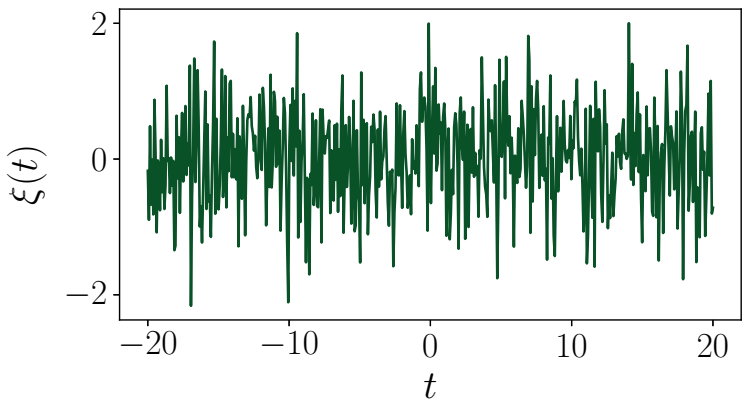
- Easy to find compared to relative maxima.
- Form a robust pattern in the time-frequency plane.
- Require little memory space for storage.
- Efficient tools were recently developed in **stochastic geometry**.

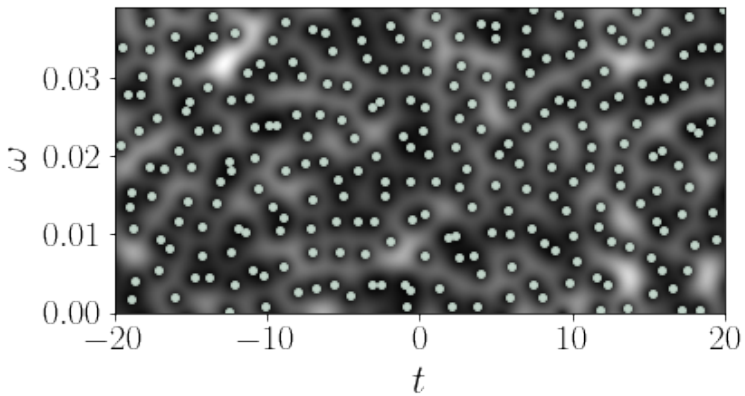
Signal detection based on the spectrogram zeros

(Bardenet, Flamant & Chainais, 2020)

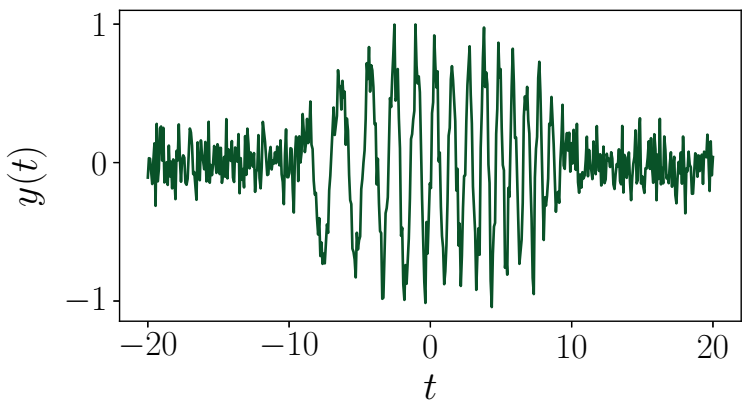
- $\mathbf{H}_0$ white noisy only, i.e., $y(t) = \xi(t)$
- $\mathbf{H}_1$ presence of a signal, i.e., $y(t) = \text{snr} \times x(t) + \xi(t), \quad \text{snr} > 0$

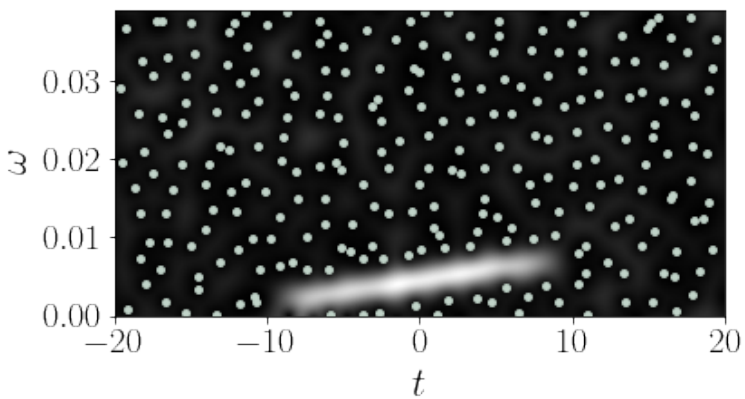
null hypothesis





alternative hypothesis





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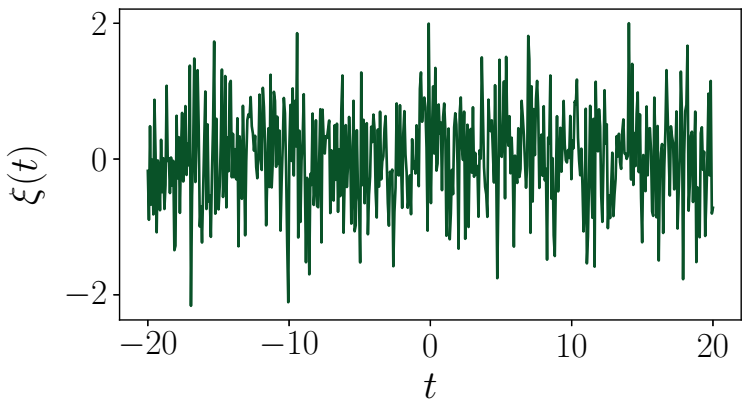

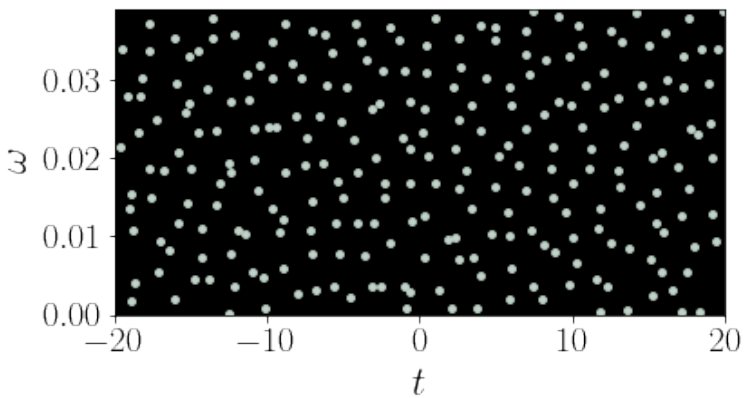

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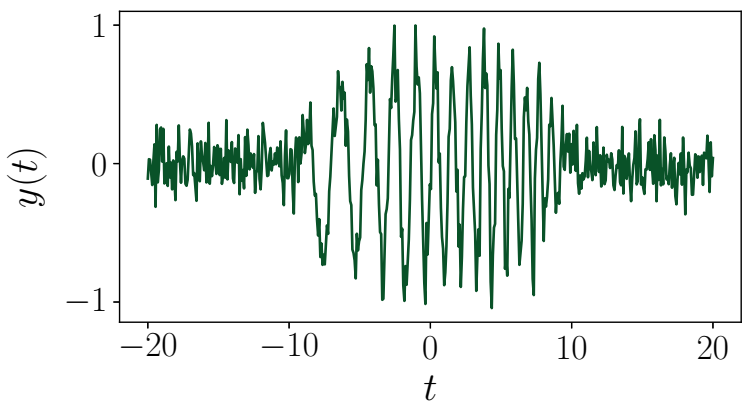
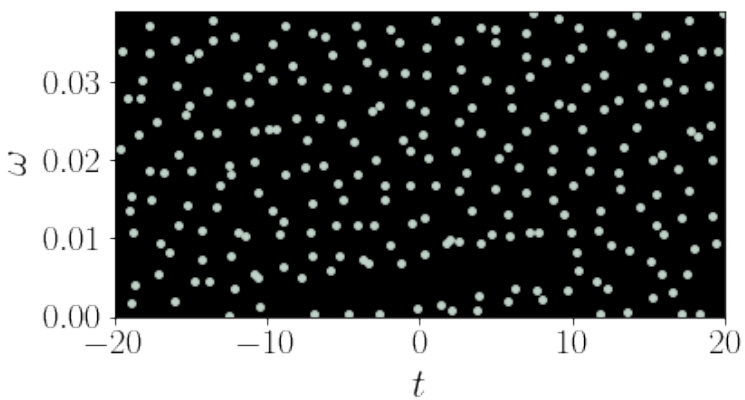
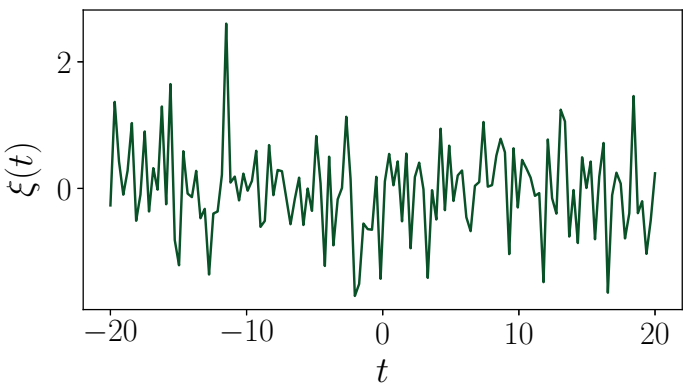


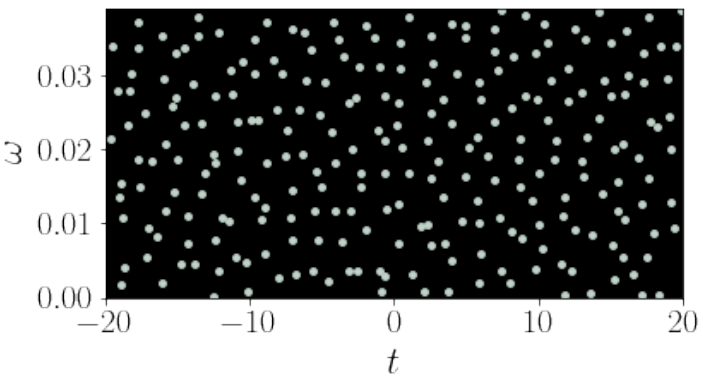


Continuous complex white Gaussian noise

(Bardenet et al., 2020), (Bardenet & Hardy, 2020)

$$\xi(t) = \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \xi[n] h_n(t), \ \xi[n] \sim \mathcal{N}_{\mathbb{C}}(0,1), \quad \{h_n, k = 0, 1, \ldots\} \text{ Hermite functions}$$





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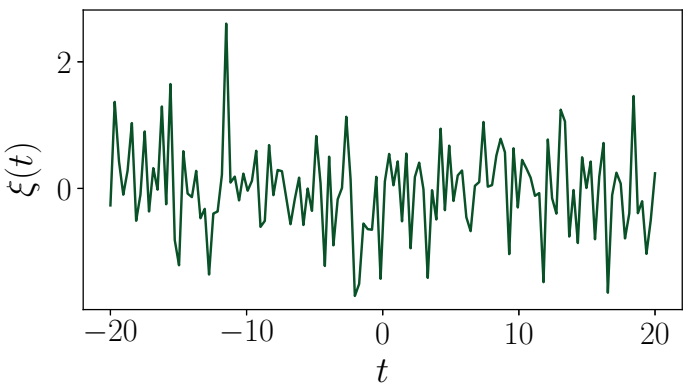
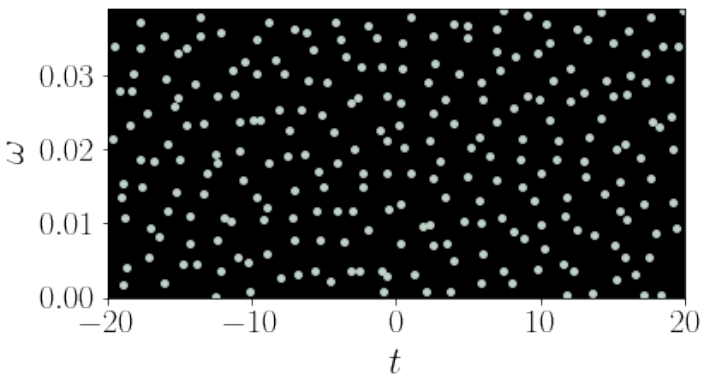
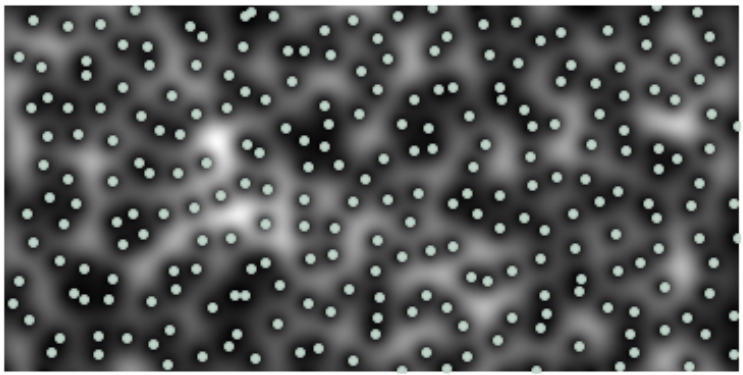




Theorem $V_g\xi(t,\omega) = \mathrm{e}^{-|z|^2/4}\mathrm{e}^{-\mathrm{i}\omega t/2}\,\mathrm{GAF}_{\mathbb{C}}(z)$ (Bardenet & Hardy, 2021)

$\mathrm{GAF}_{\mathbb{C}}(z) = \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \xi[n] \frac{z^n}{\sqrt{n!}}$ the *planar Gaussian Analytic Function* and $z = \frac{\omega + \mathrm{i}t}{\sqrt{2}}$.

The zeros of the planar Gaussian Analytic Function



$$V_g\xi(t,\omega) \overset{\text{non-vanishing}}{\propto} \mathrm{GAF}_{\mathbb{C}}(z)$$

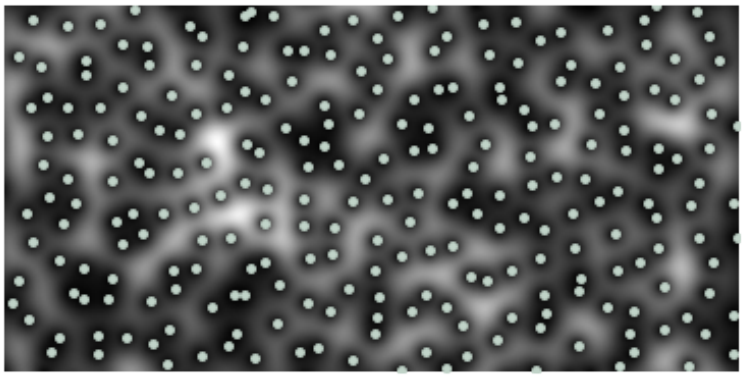
$$z = (\omega + \mathrm{i}t)/\sqrt{2}$$

Zeros of $\mathrm{GAF}_{\mathbb{C}}$: random set of points forming a **Point Process** characterized by a probability distribution on point configurations

Properties of the Point Process of the zeros of $\mathrm{GAF}_{\mathbb{C}}$:

- invariant under the isometries of $\mathbb{C}$, i.e., **stationary**,
- has a uniform density $\rho^{(1)}(z) = \rho^{(1)} = 1/\pi$,
- explicit two-point correlation function $\rho^{(2)}(z, z') = \rho^{(2)}(|z - z'|)$,
- scaling of the *hole probability*: $r^{-4} \log p_r \to -3\mathrm{e}^2/4$, as $r \to \infty$

$$p_r = \mathbb{P}(\text{no point in the disk of center 0 and radius } r)$$



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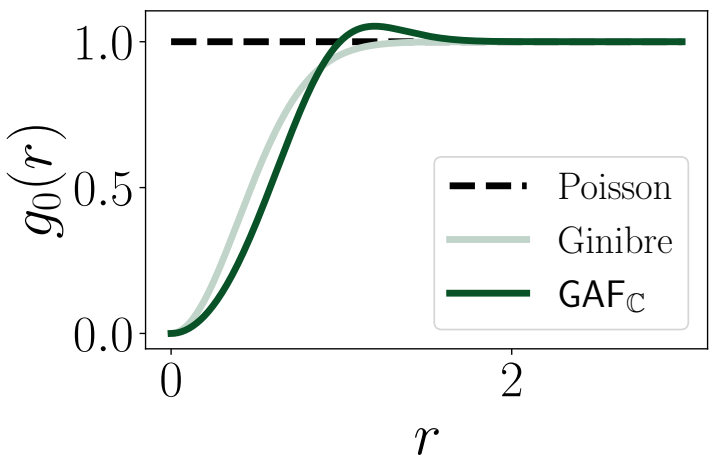


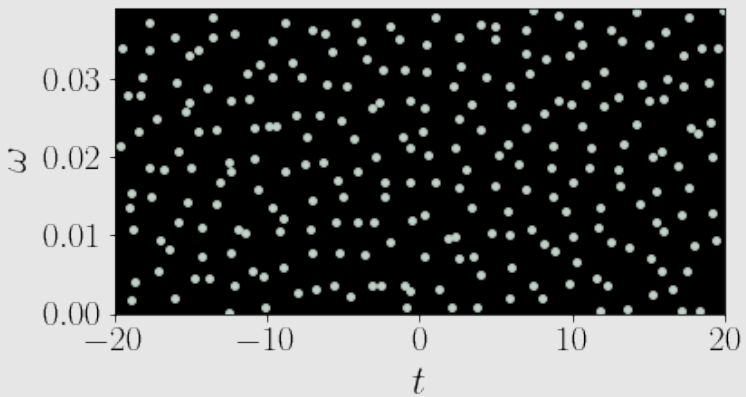
Pair correlation $\rho^{(2)}(z,z')\mathrm{d}z\mathrm{d}z' =$

$$\mathbb{P}\left(1 \text{ point in } B(z,\mathrm{d}z) \text{ and } 1 \text{ in } B(z',\mathrm{d}z')\right)$$

The point process of the zeros of the spectrogram is not **determinantal**.

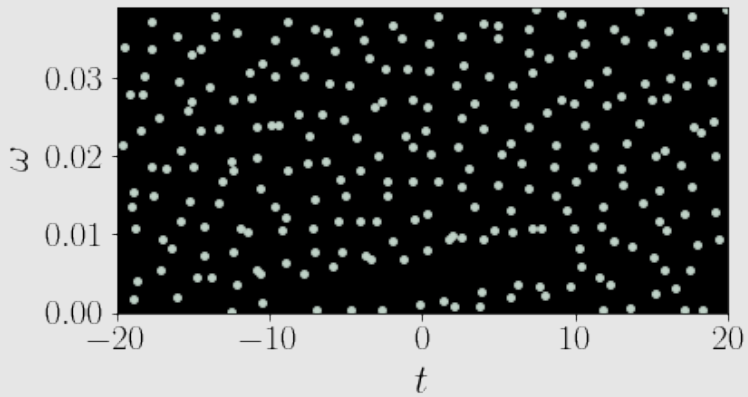
Purpose: summary statistic s, such that for $y = \text{snr} \times x + \xi$

$\mathbb{E}[s(y)|\mathbf{H}_0]$ small



$\text{snr} = 0$

$\mathbb{E}[s(y)|\mathbf{H}_1]$ large

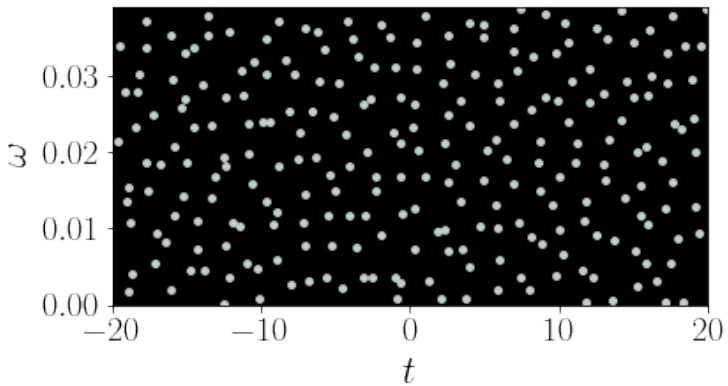


$\text{snr} > 0$

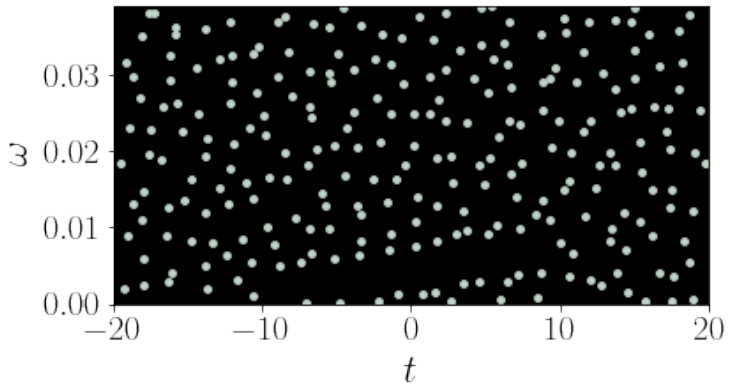
'**Large value of $s(y)$ is a strong indication that there is a signal.**'

Tools from **stochastic geometry** to capture spatial statistics of the zeros.

Unorthodox path: zeros of Gaussian Analytic Functions

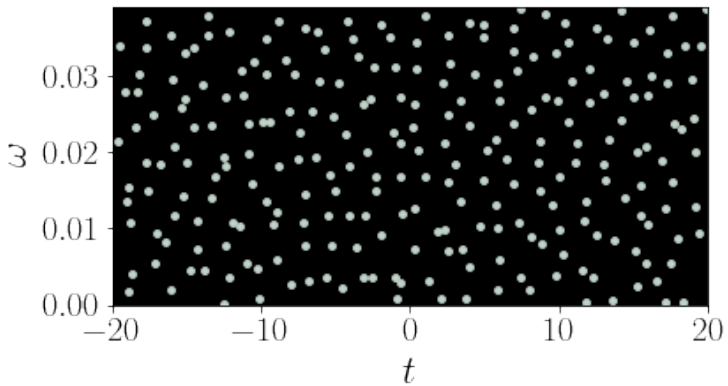


snr $= 0$



snr > 0

The signal creates **holes** in the zeros pattern: **sedond order** statistics.



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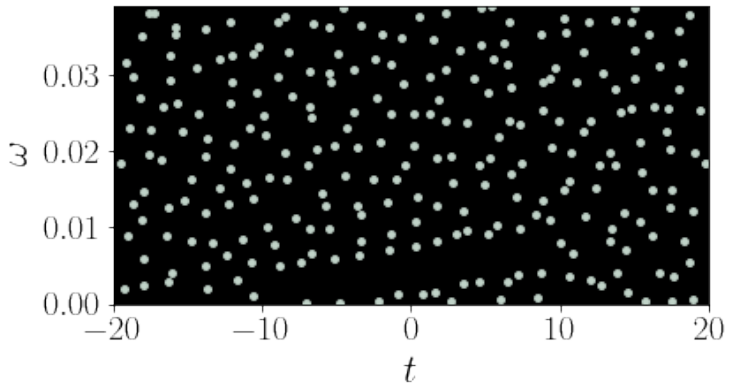

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A functional statistic: the empty space function

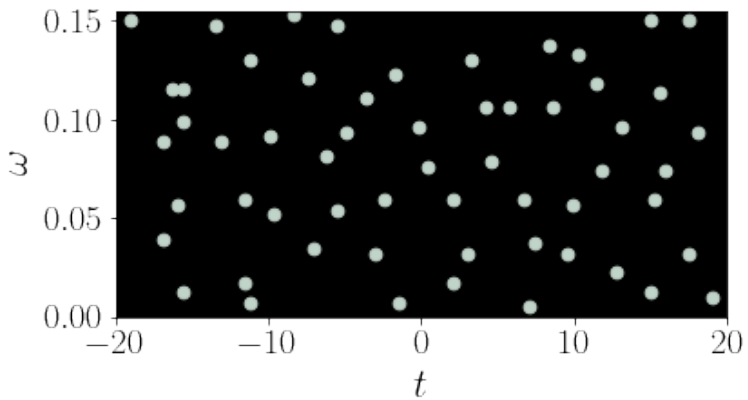
Z a stationary point process, z_0 any reference point

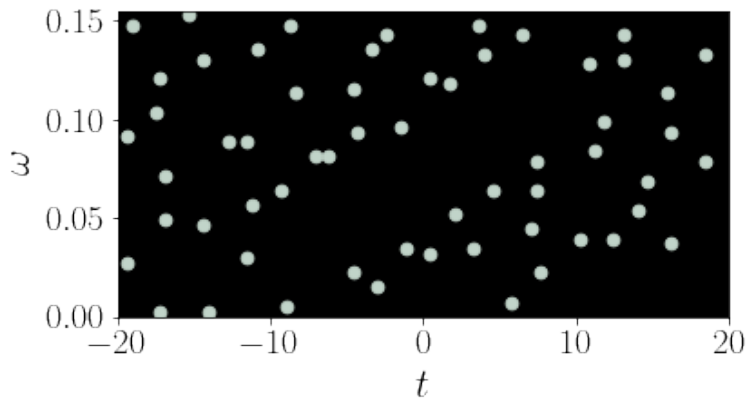
$$F(r) = \mathbb{P}\left(\inf_{z_i \in Z} \mathrm{d}(z_0, z_i) < r\right)$$

$\rightarrow$ probability to find a zero at distance less than r from z_0

Estimation of the F-function of a **stationary** Point Process (Møller, 2007)

$$F(r) = \mathbb{P}\left(\inf_{z_i \in Z} \mathrm{d}(z_0, z_i) < r\right) : \textbf{ empty space function}$$





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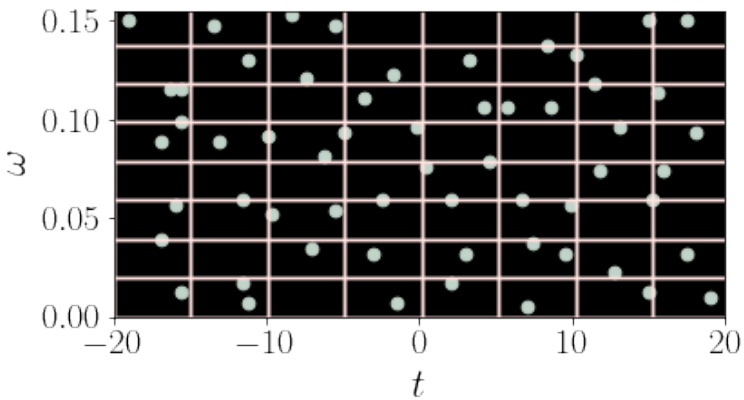
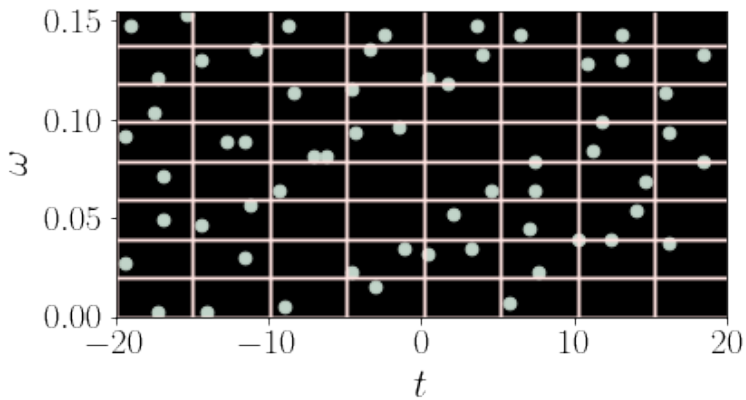
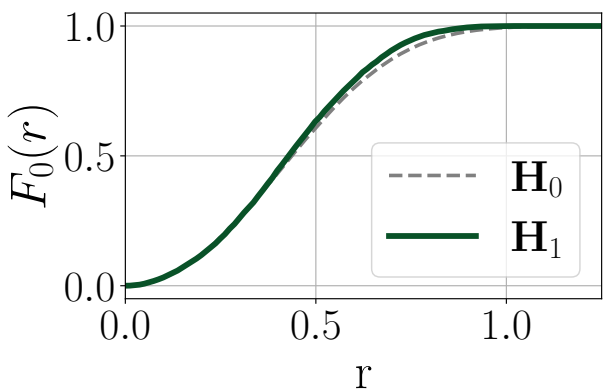




$$\widehat{F}(r) = \frac{1}{N_\#} \sum_{j=1}^{N_\#} \mathbf{1}\left(\inf_{z \in \textbf{Zeros}} \mathrm{d}\left(z_j, z\right) < r\right)$$



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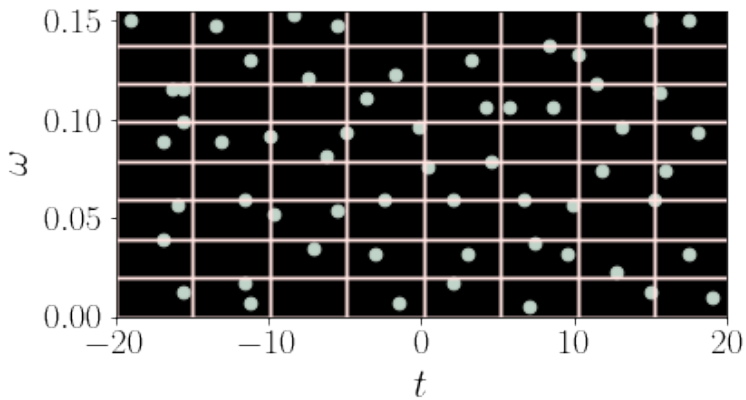

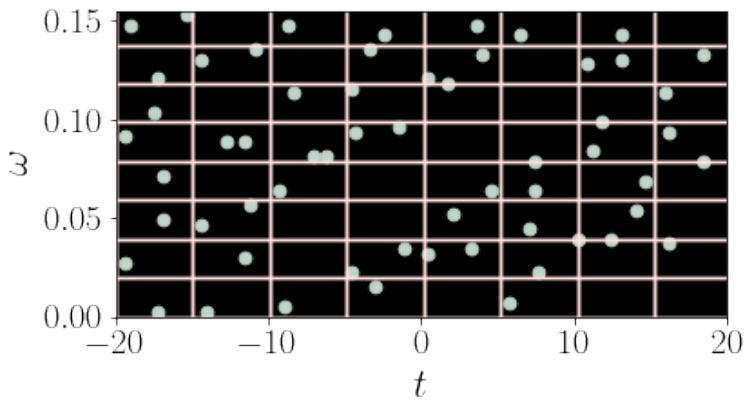

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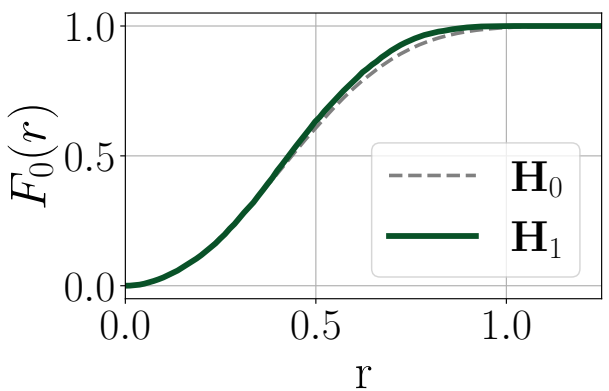
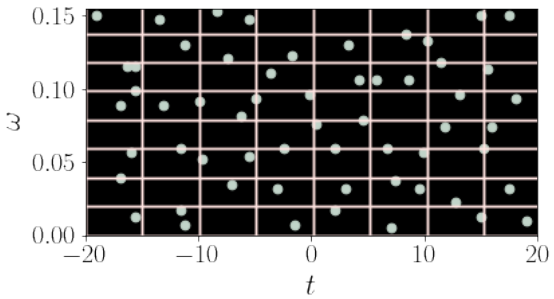
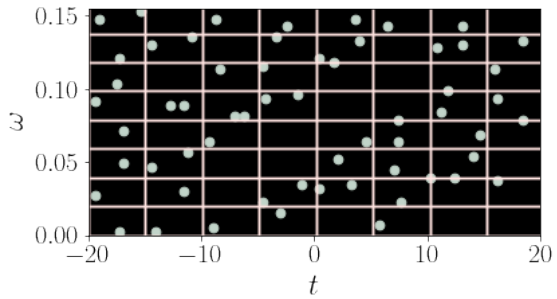
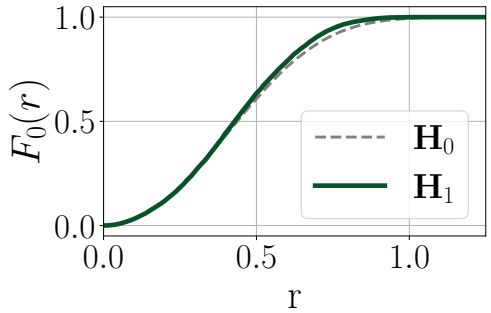


- Monte Carlo envelope test based on the discrepancy between $\widehat{F}$ and F_0

Monte Carlo envelope test







$$s(\boldsymbol{y}) = \sqrt{\int_0^{r_{\max}} \left| \widehat{F}_{\boldsymbol{y}}(r) - F_0(r) \right|^2 \, \mathrm{d}r},$$

Test settings: α level of significance, m number of samples under $\mathbf{H}_0$

Index k, chosen so that $\alpha = k/(m+1)$

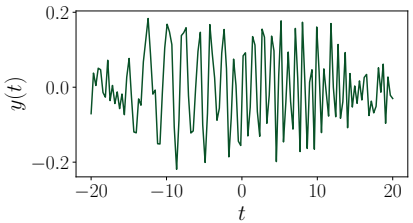
(i) generate m independent samples of complex white Gaussian noise;

(ii) compute their summary statistics $s_1 \geq s_2 \geq \ldots \geq s_m$;

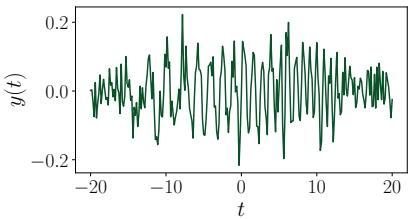
(iii) compute the summary statistic of the observation $\boldsymbol{y}$ under concern;

(iv) if $s(\boldsymbol{y}) \geq s_k$, then reject the null hypothesis with confidence $1 - \alpha$.

Detection of a noisy chirp of duration $2\nu = 30$ s



$N = 128$



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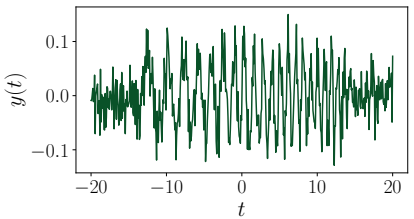
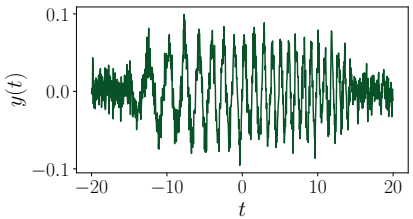


$N = 512$



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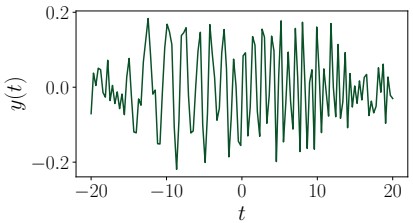
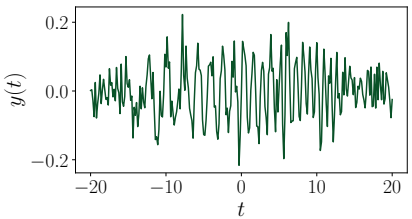
Detection of a noisy chirp of duration $2\nu = 30$ s



$N = 128$



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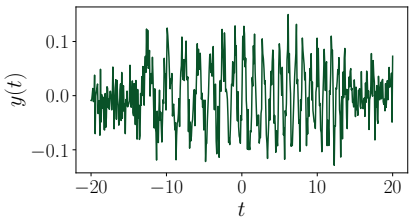

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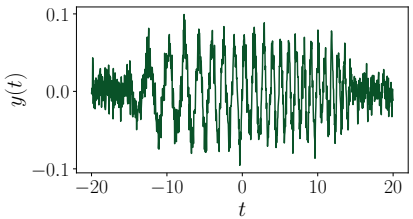

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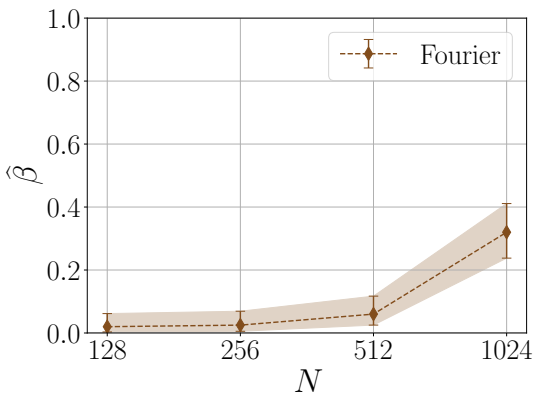
Performance: power of the test computed over 200 samples



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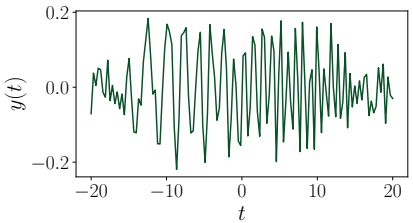

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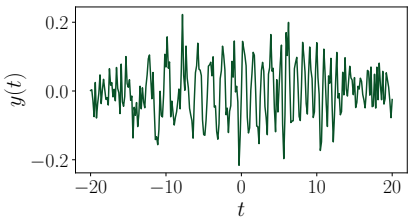

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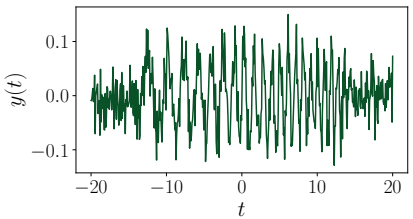

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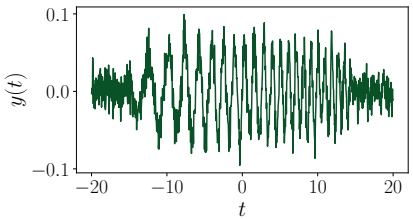

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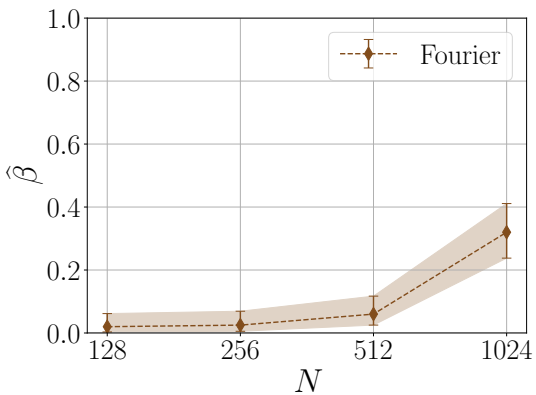
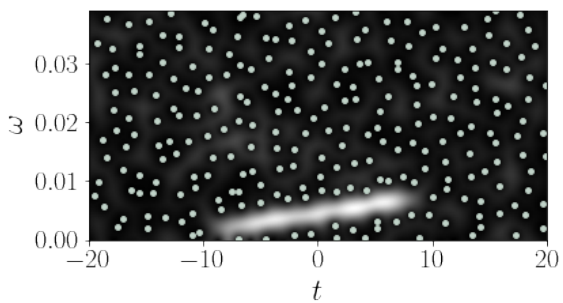


✓ Fast Fourier Transform

✗ low detection power

✗ requires large number of samples



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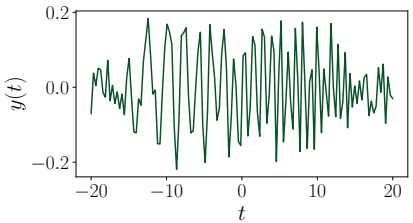

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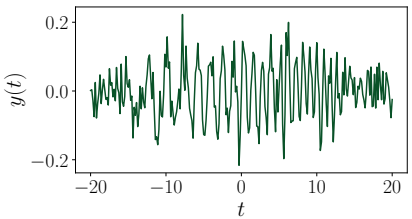

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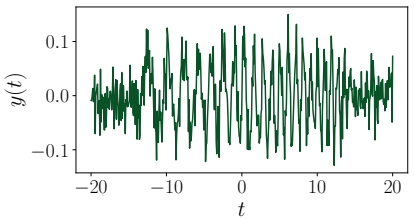

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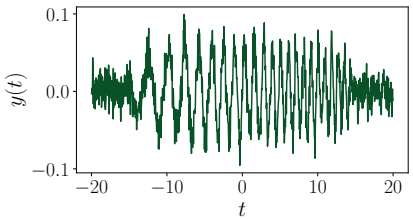

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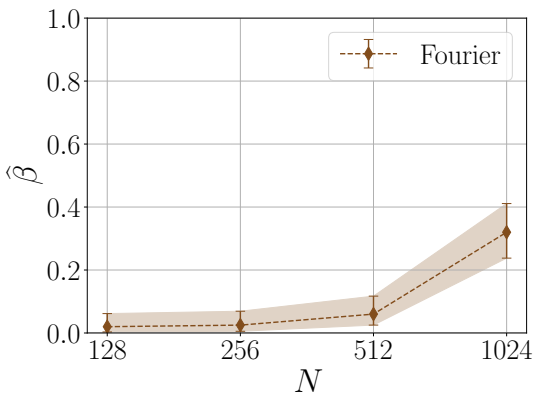

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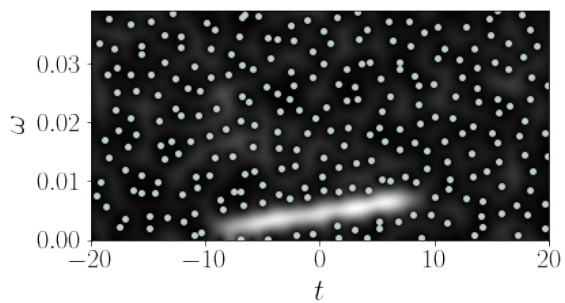


Limitations:

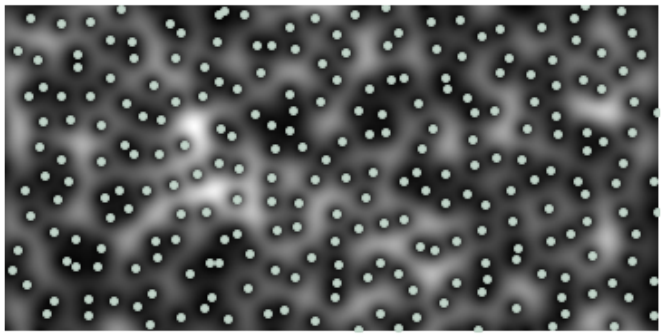
- necessary discretization of the STFT: arbitrary resolution
- observe only a bounded window: edge corrections to compute $\widehat{F}(r)$

Other Gaussian Analytic Functions, other transforms?

Short-Time Fourier Transform

$$V_g\xi(t,\omega) \propto \mathrm{GAF}_{\mathbb{C}}(z) = \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \xi[n] \frac{z^n}{\sqrt{n!}}$$

Unbounded phase space $\mathbb{C}$



$\rightarrow$ edge corrections

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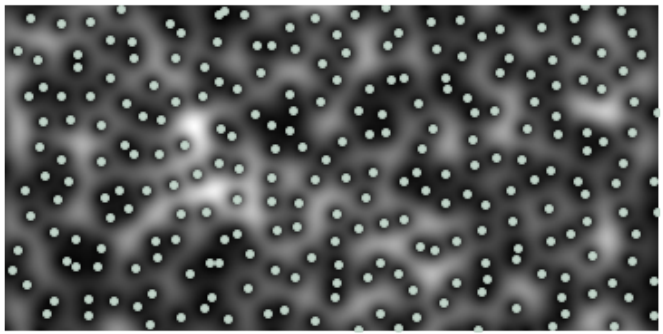


$\rightarrow$ edge corrections

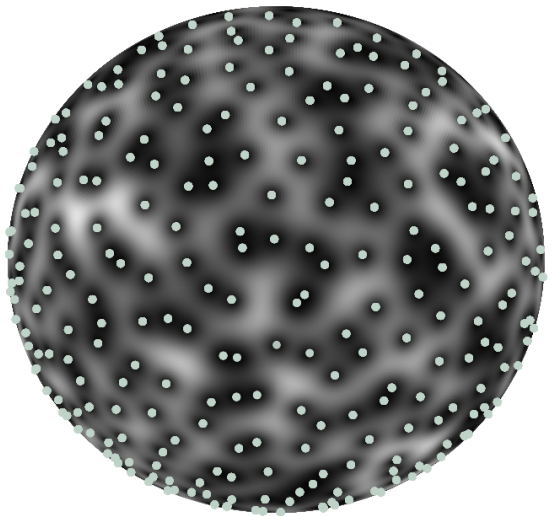
New transform?

$$? \quad \propto \mathrm{GAF}_{\mathbb{S}}(z) = \sum_{n=0}^{N} \xi[n] \sqrt{\binom{N}{n}} z^n$$

stereographic projection $z = \cot(\vartheta/2)\mathrm{e}^{\mathrm{i}\varphi}$

$\rightarrow$ spherical coordinates $(\vartheta, \varphi) \in S^2$

Compact phase space S^2?



$\rightarrow$ no border!

Outline of the presentation

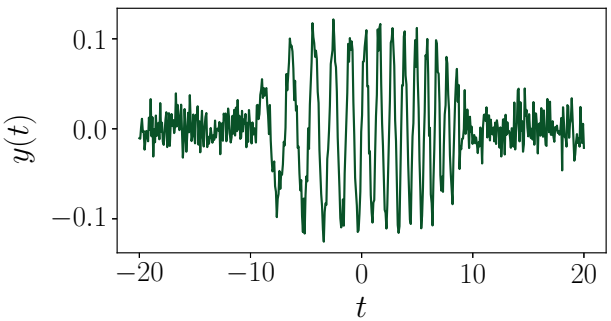
- Signal detection: the role of representations

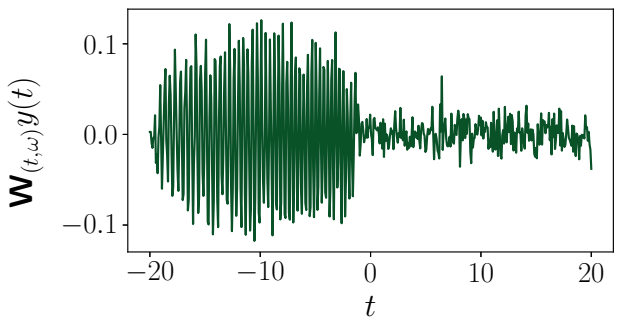
- Time-frequency analysis: the Short-Time Fourier Transform
- Signal detection based on the spectrogram zeros - I
- Covariance principle and stationary point processes

- The Kravchuk transform and its zeros
- Numerical implementation of the Kravchuk transform
- Signal detection based on the spectrogram zeros - II

Time and frequency shifts

$$\boldsymbol{W}_{(t,\omega)} y(u) = e^{-\mathrm{i}\omega u} y(u - t)$$





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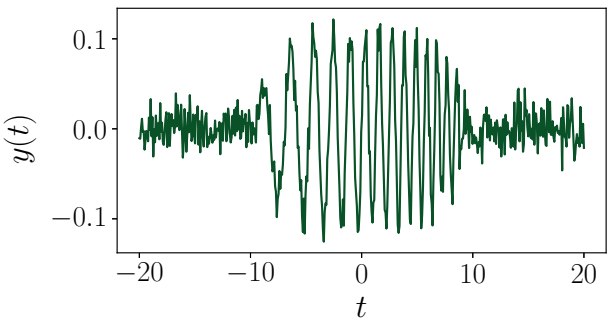
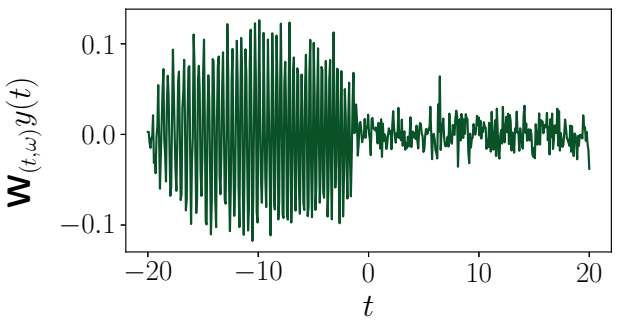
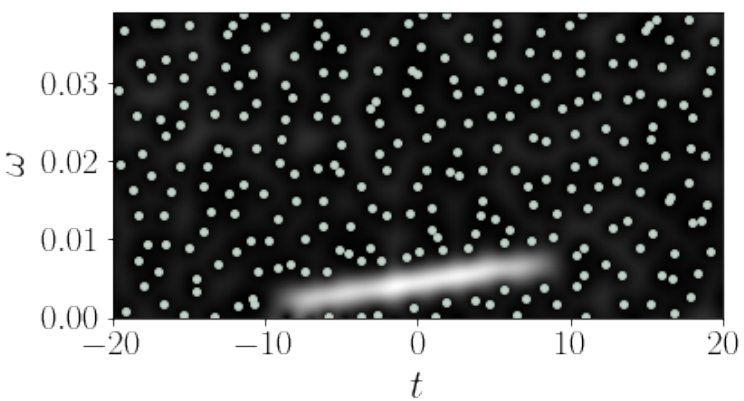
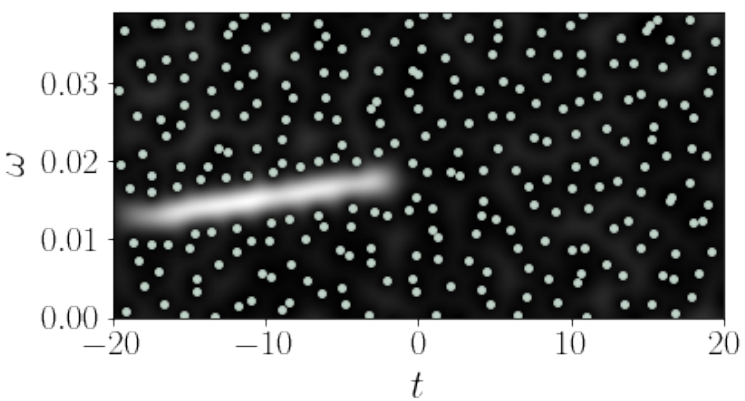




$$V_h[\boldsymbol{W}_{(t,\omega)}y](t',\omega') \overset{\text{(covariance)}}{=} \mathrm{e}^{-\mathrm{i}(\omega'-\omega)t}\, V_h y(t'-t,\omega'-\omega),$$





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Complex white Gaussian noise $\widetilde{\xi} = \boldsymbol{W}_{(t,\omega)}\xi$

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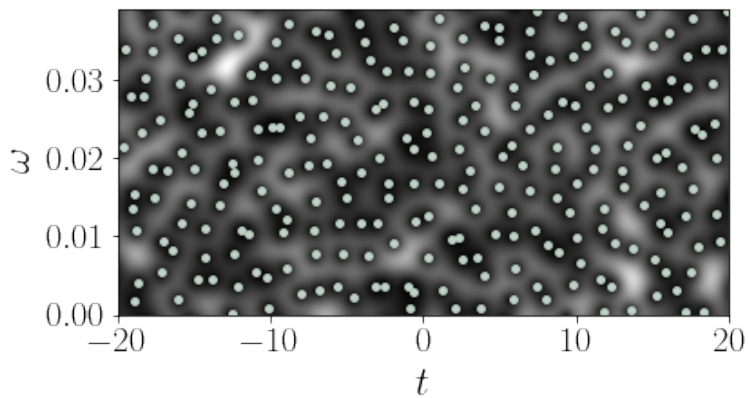

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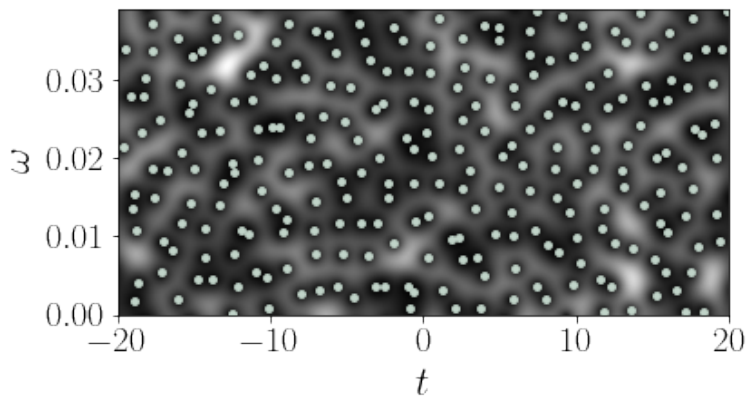

Covariance is the key to get **stationarity**: how to get covariant transforms?

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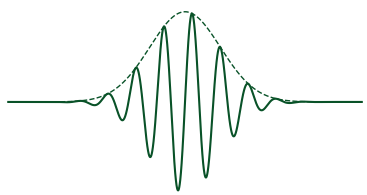

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Coherent state interpretation $\{\boldsymbol{W}_{(t,\omega)}h,\ t,\omega\in\mathbb{R}\}$ covariant family

$$V_h y(t,\omega) = \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} \overline{y(u)}h(u-t)\exp(-\mathrm{i}\omega u)\,\mathrm{d}u = \langle y, \boldsymbol{W}_{(t,\omega)}h\rangle$$

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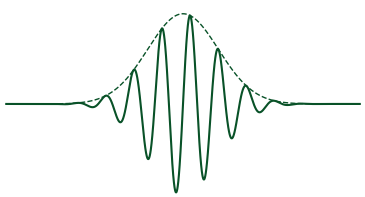

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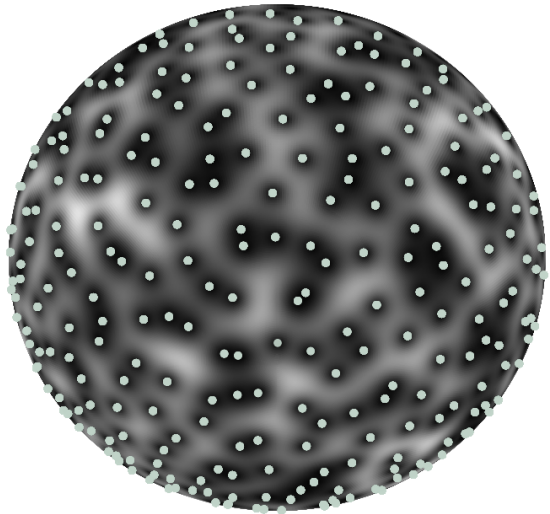
The Kravchuk transform: covariance under $\mathrm{SO}(3)$



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Coherent state interpretation $\quad \boldsymbol{y} \in \mathbb{C}^{N+1}$

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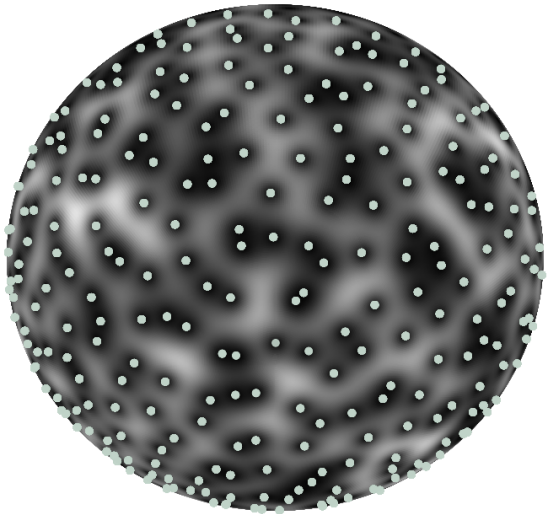
$\vartheta \in [0, \pi], \varphi \in [0, 2\pi]$



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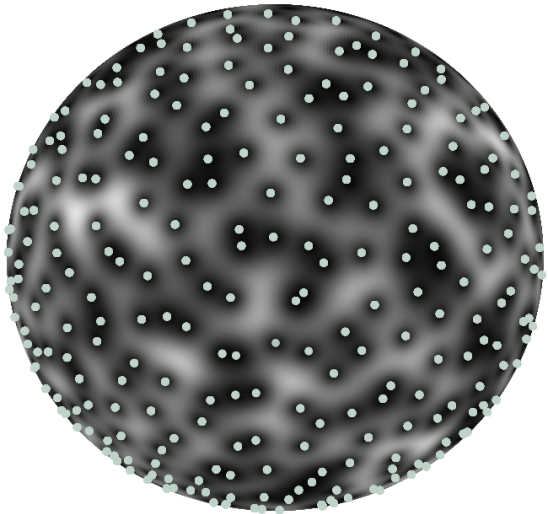

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$\mathrm{SO}(3)$ **coherent states** (Gazeau, 2009)

$$\boldsymbol{\Psi}_{\vartheta,\varphi} = \sum_{n=0}^{N} \sqrt{\binom{N}{n}} \left(\cos\frac{\vartheta}{2}\right)^{n} \left(\sin\frac{\vartheta}{2}\right)^{N-n} \mathrm{e}^{\mathrm{i}n\varphi} \boldsymbol{q}_n = \boldsymbol{R}_{\boldsymbol{u}(\vartheta,\varphi)} \boldsymbol{\Psi}_{(0,0)},$$

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$$T\boldsymbol{y}(\vartheta,\varphi) = \langle \boldsymbol{y}, \boldsymbol{\Psi}_{(\vartheta,\varphi)} \rangle$$

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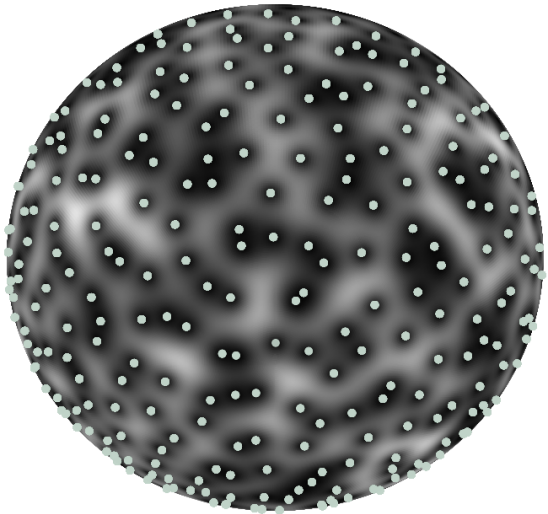

$\mathrm{SO}(3)$ **coherent states** (Gazeau, 2009)

$$\boldsymbol{\Psi}_{\vartheta,\varphi} = \sum_{n=0}^{N} \sqrt{\binom{N}{n}} \left(\cos\frac{\vartheta}{2}\right)^{n} \left(\sin\frac{\vartheta}{2}\right)^{N-n} \mathrm{e}^{\mathrm{i}n\varphi} \boldsymbol{q}_n = \boldsymbol{R}_{\boldsymbol{u}(\vartheta,\varphi)} \boldsymbol{\Psi}_{(0,0)},$$

Kravchuk transform $\quad \{\boldsymbol{q}_n, n = 0,1,...,N\}$ the *Kravchuk functions*

$$T\boldsymbol{y}(z) = \frac{1}{\sqrt{(1+|z|^2)^N}} \sum_{n=0}^{N} \langle \boldsymbol{y}, \boldsymbol{q}_n \rangle \sqrt{\binom{N}{n}} z^n, \quad z = \cot(\vartheta/2)\mathrm{e}^{\mathrm{i}\varphi}$$

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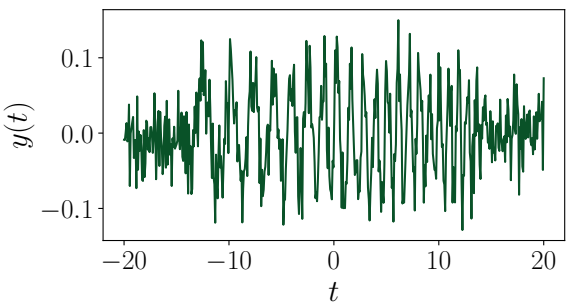

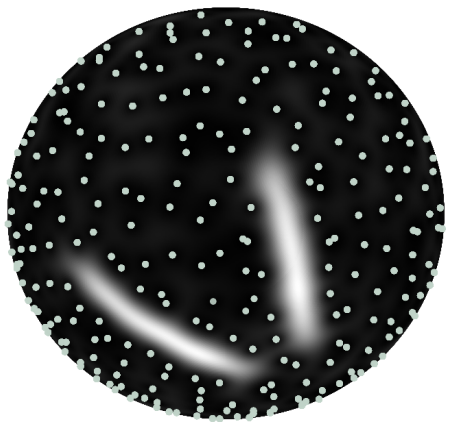

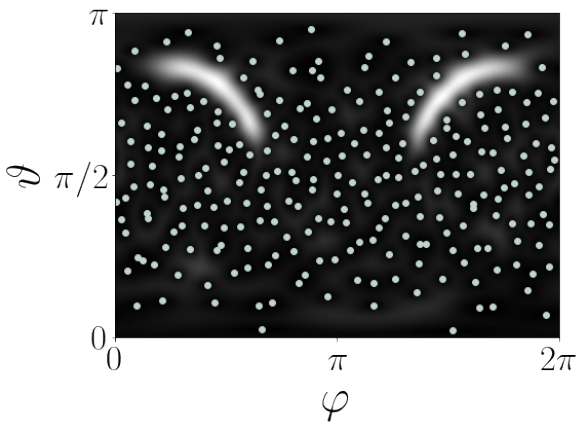

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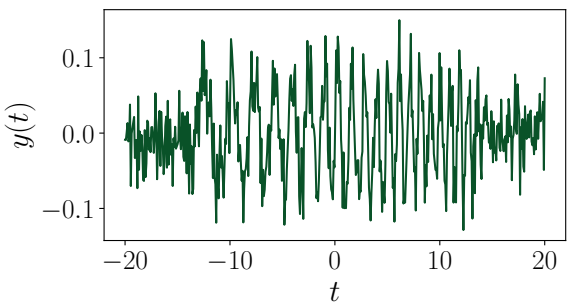

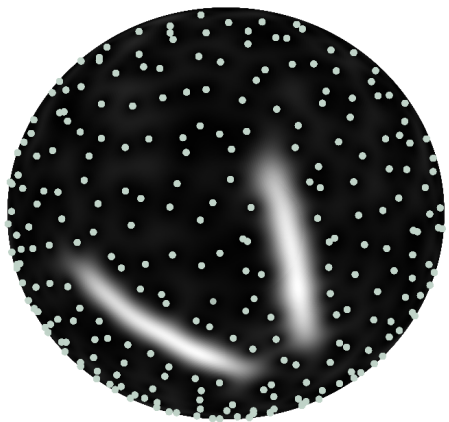

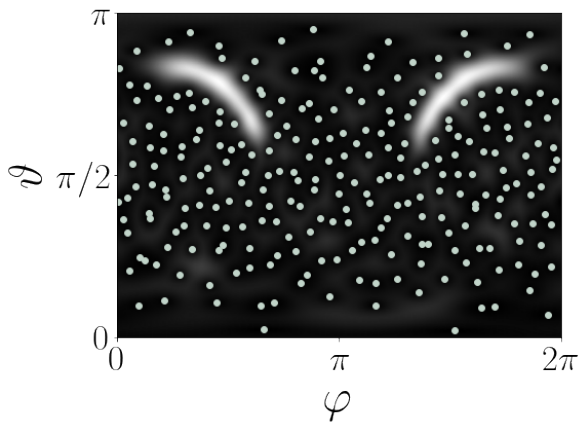

Theorem $T\boldsymbol{\xi}(\vartheta, \varphi) = \sqrt{(1+|z|^2)}^{-N} \mathrm{GAF}_{\mathbb{S}}(z), \qquad z = \cot(\vartheta/2)\mathrm{e}^{\mathrm{i}\varphi}$

$\mathrm{GAF}_{\mathbb{S}}(z) = \sum_{n=0}^{N} \boldsymbol{\xi}[n] \sqrt{\binom{N}{n}} z^n$ the *spherical Gaussian Analytic Function*

(Pascal & Bardenet, 2022)

Outline of the presentation

- Signal detection: the role of representations

- Time-frequency analysis: the Short-Time Fourier Transform
- Signal detection based on the spectrogram zeros - I
- Covariance principle and stationary point processes

- The Kravchuk transform and its zeros
- Numerical implementation of the Kravchuk transform
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Kravchuk transform $\{\boldsymbol{q}_n, n = 0, 1, ..., N\}$ the Kravchuk basis

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$\rightarrow$ first: basis change, i.e., computation of $\langle \boldsymbol{y}, \boldsymbol{q}_n \rangle = \sum_{\ell=0}^{N} \overline{\boldsymbol{y}[\ell]} q_n(\ell; N)$

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Evaluation of Kravchuk functions $q_n(\ell; N) = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2^N}} \sqrt{\binom{N}{n}} Q_n(\ell; N) \sqrt{\binom{N}{\ell}}$

$$(N-n)Q_{n+1}(t; N) = (N-2t)Q_n(t; N) - nQ_{n-1}(t; N),$$

$\{Q_n(t; N), n = 0, 1, \ldots, N\}$ orthogonal family of Kravchuk polynomials

$$\sum_{\ell=0}^{N} \binom{N}{\ell} Q_n(\ell; N) Q_{n'}(\ell; N) = 2^N \binom{N}{n}^{-1} \delta_{n,n'}$$

Evaluation of Kravchuk functions

(i) recursion to compute the Kravchuk polynomials

$$(N-n)Q_{n+1}(t;N) = (N-2t)Q_n(t;N) - nQ_{n-1}(t;N),$$

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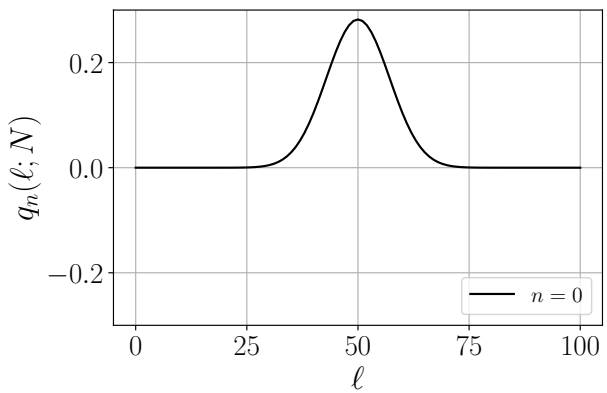

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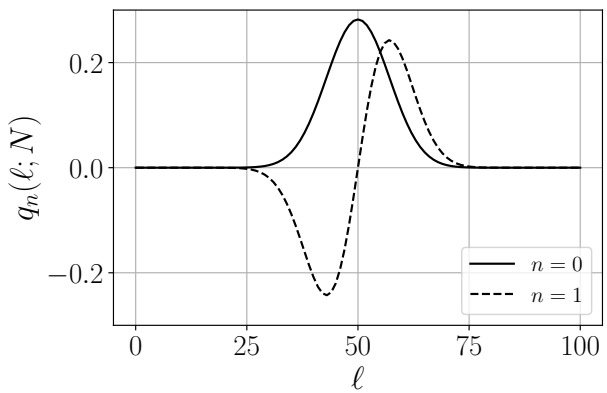

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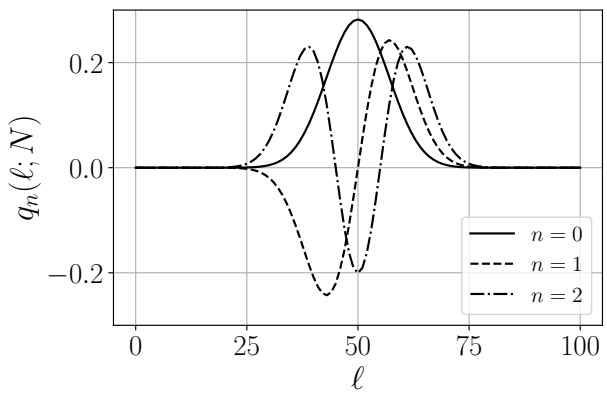

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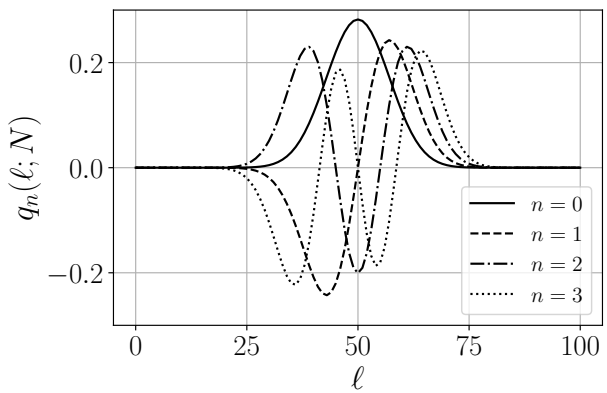

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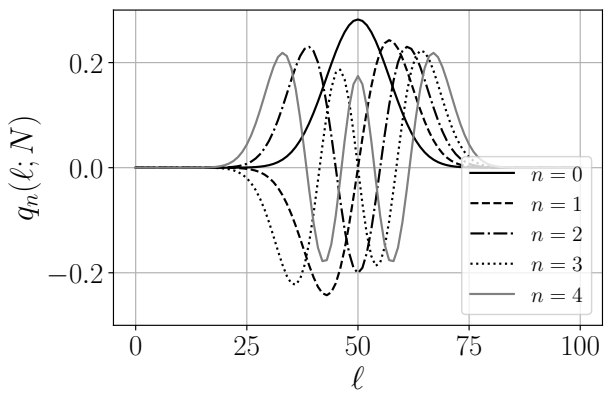

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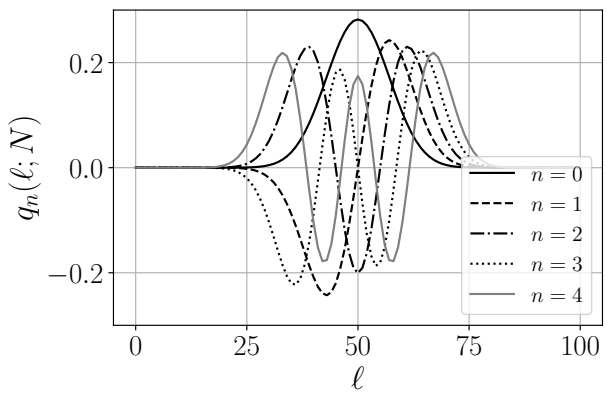

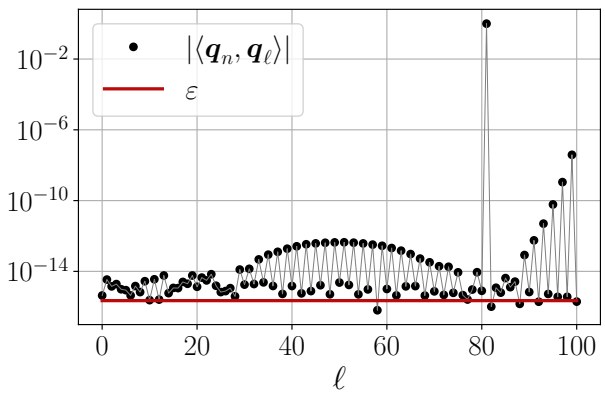

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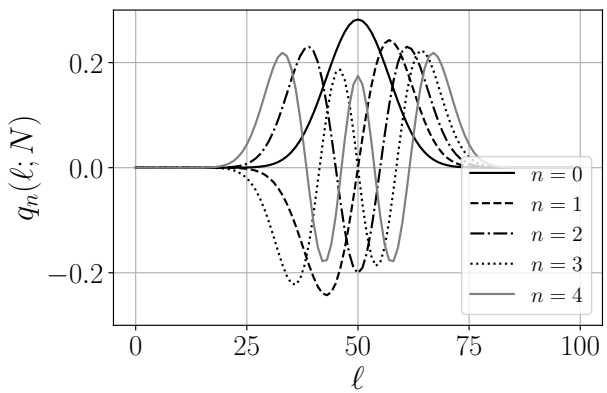
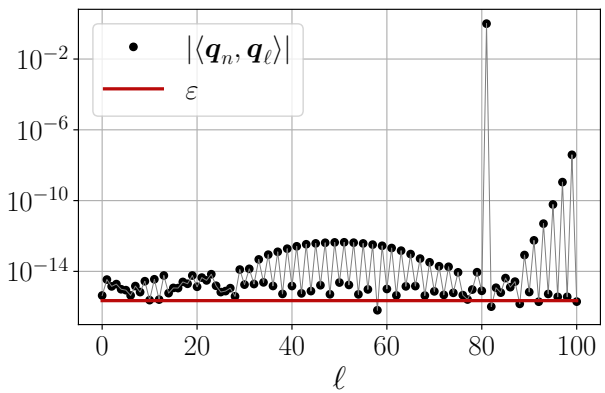




$\rightarrow$ estimated basis is **not orthogonal**! Not possible to compute $\langle \boldsymbol{y}, \boldsymbol{q}_n \rangle$.

Kravchuk transform $\{\boldsymbol{q}_n, n = 0, 1, ..., N\}$ the Kravchuk basis

$$T\boldsymbol{y}(z) = \frac{1}{\sqrt{(1+|z|^2)^N}} \sum_{n=0}^{N} \left(\sum_{\ell=0}^{N} \overline{\boldsymbol{y}[\ell]} q_n(\ell; N) \right) \sqrt{\binom{N}{n}} z^n \rightarrow \text{intractable}$$

A generative function for Kravchuk polynomials

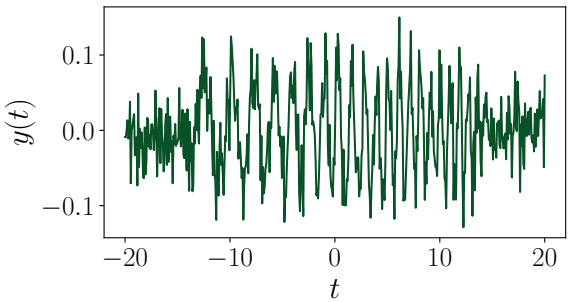
$$\sum_{n=0}^{N} \binom{N}{n} Q_n(\ell; N) z^n = (1-z)^\ell (1+z)^{N-\ell}$$

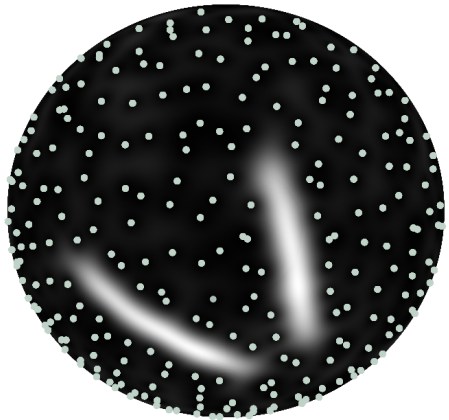
$$\Longrightarrow \quad \sum_{n=0}^{N} \sqrt{\binom{N}{n}} q_n(\ell; N) z^n = \sqrt{\binom{N}{\ell}} \frac{(1-z)^\ell (1+z)^{N-\ell}}{\sqrt{2^N}}$$

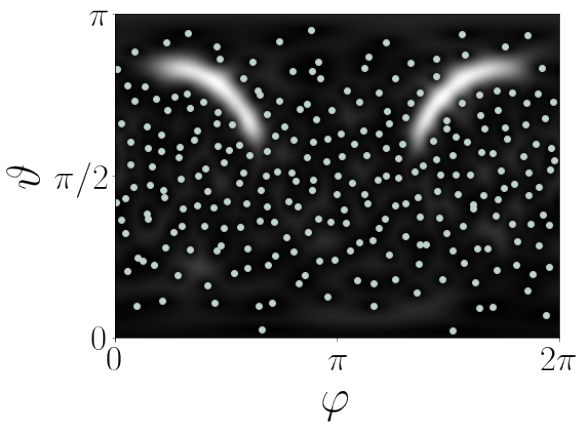
$$T\boldsymbol{y}(z) = \frac{1}{\sqrt{(1+|z^2|)^N}} \sum_{\ell=0}^{N} \sqrt{\binom{N}{\ell}} \overline{\boldsymbol{y}[\ell]} \frac{(1-z)^\ell (1+z)^{N-\ell}}{\sqrt{2^N}}$$

✗ no more Fast Fourier Transform algorithm using $z^n = \cot(\vartheta/2)^n \mathrm{e}^{in\varphi}$

Detection of the zeros of the Kravchuk spectrogram $|T\boldsymbol{y}(z_i)|^2 = 0$







Advantage compared to Fourier: can tune the resolution of phase space.

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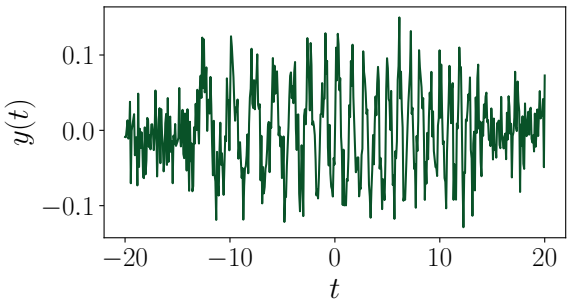

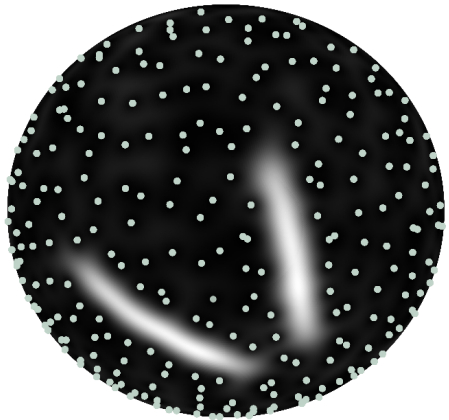

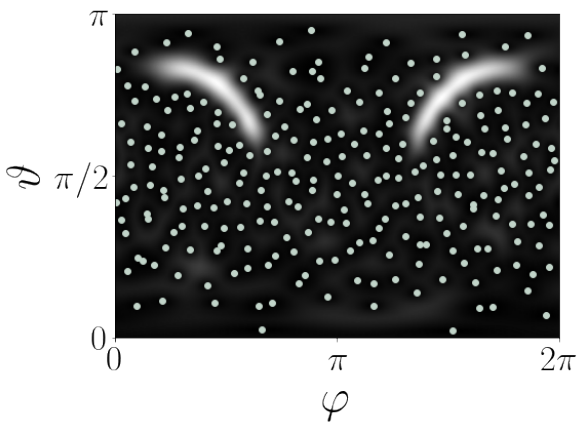

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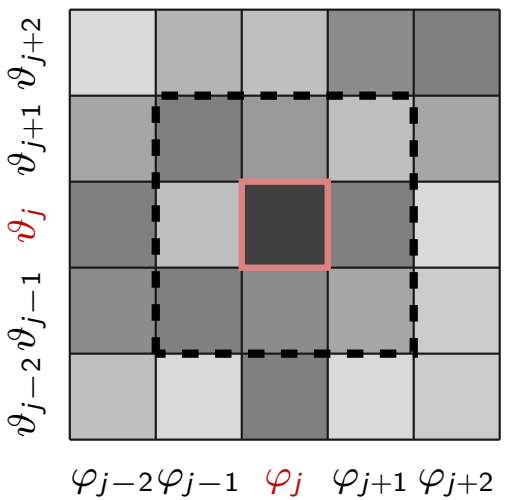
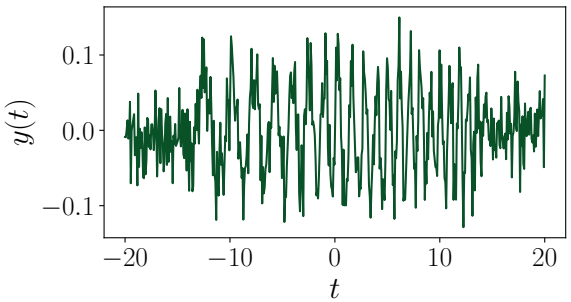
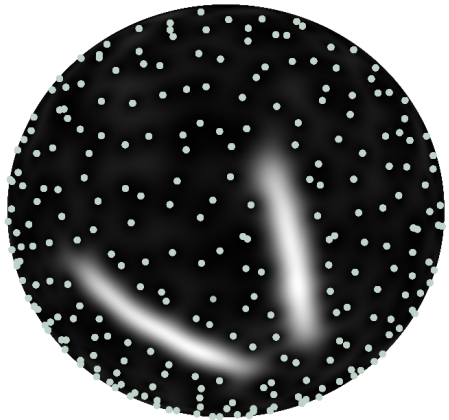
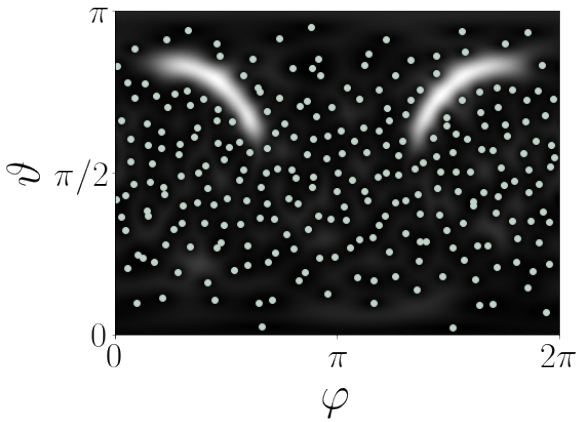


Minimal Grid Neighbors

Detection of the zeros of the Kravchuk spectrogram $|T\boldsymbol{y}(z_i)|^2 = 0$







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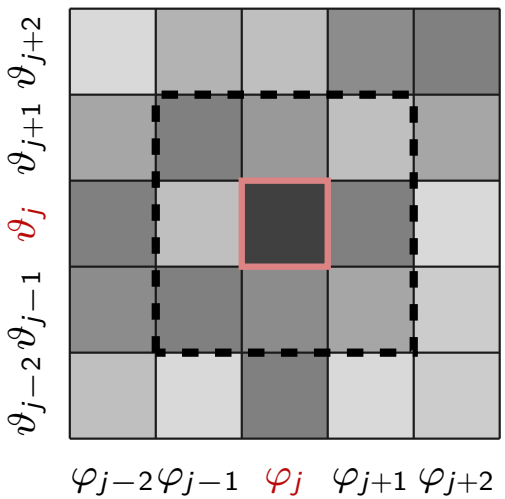

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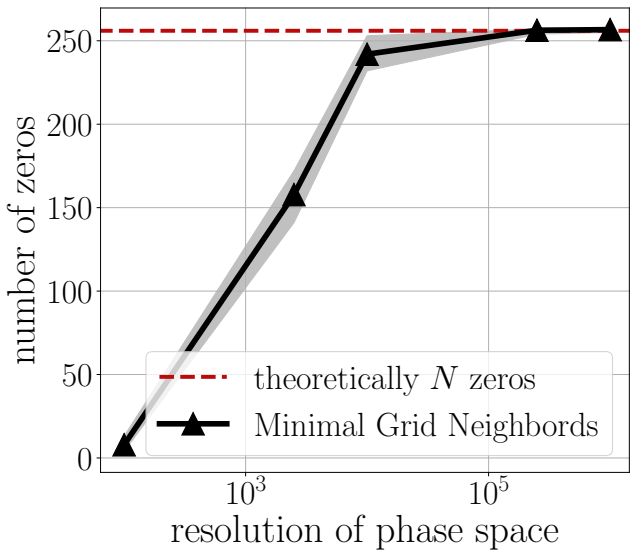

Proposition: all local minima of $|T\boldsymbol{y}(z)|^2$ are zeros.

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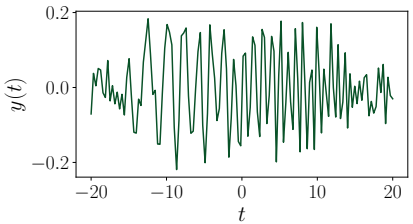
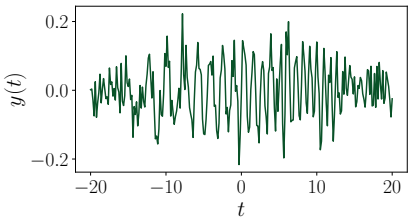
Detection of a noisy chirp of duration $2\nu = 30$ s



$N = 128$



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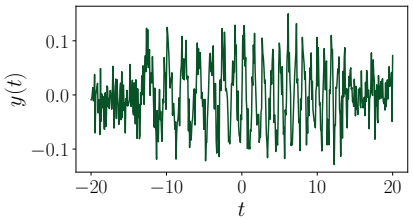

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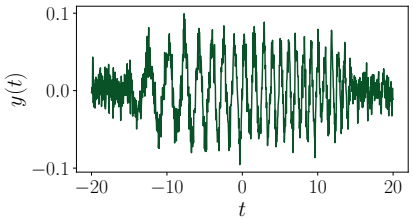

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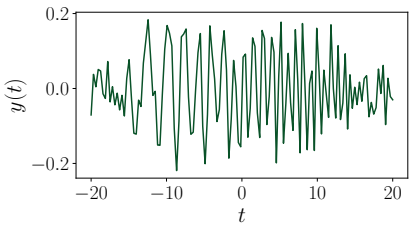

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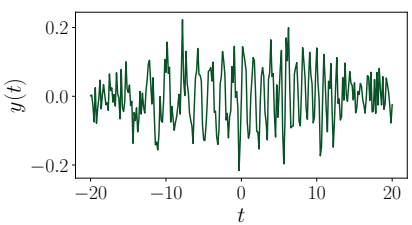

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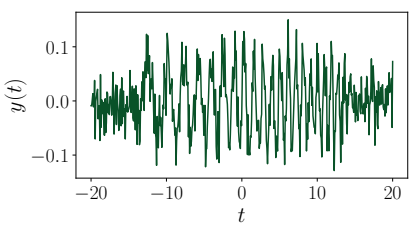

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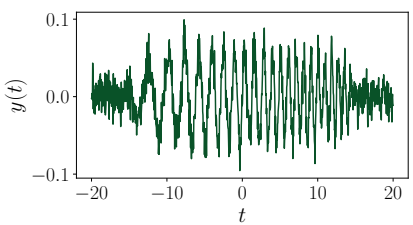
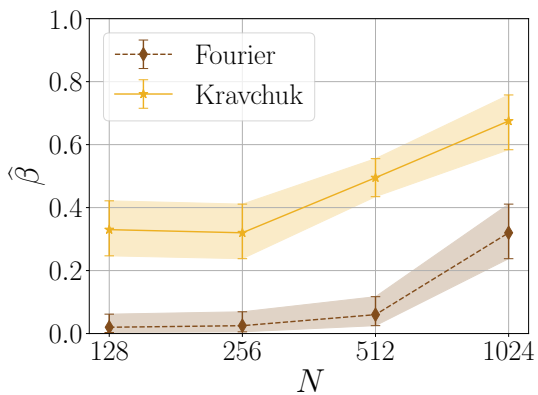
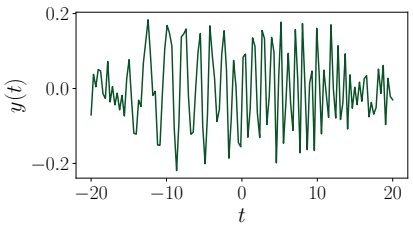


$N = 1024$

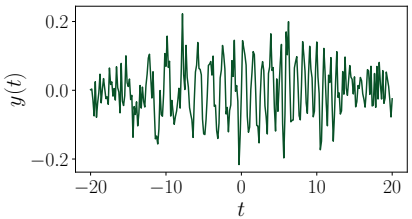
Performance: power of the test computed over 200 samples



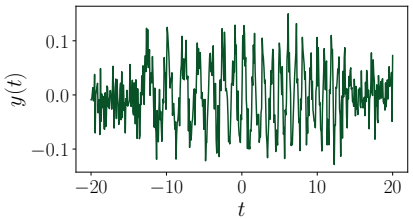
Detection of a noisy chirp of duration $2\nu = 30$ s



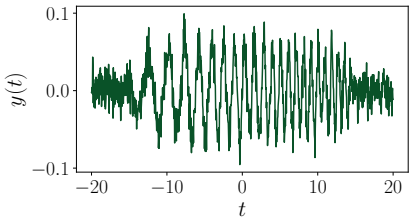
$N = 128$



$N = 256$

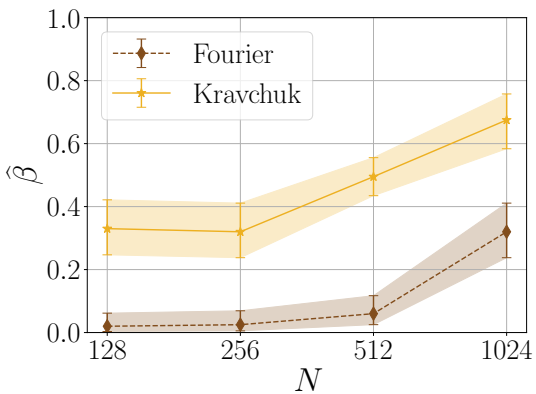


$N = 512$



$N = 1024$

Performance: power of the test computed over 200 samples

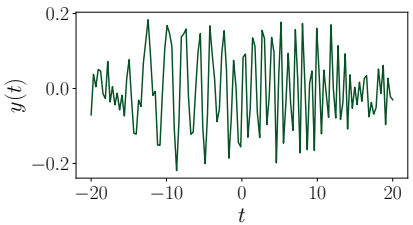


✓ higher detection power

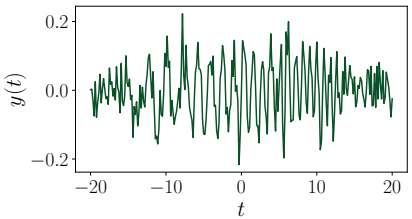
✓ more robust to small N

✗ no fast algorithm yet

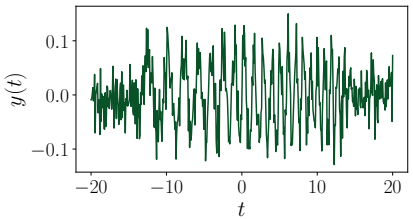
Detection of a noisy chirp of duration $2\nu = 30$ s



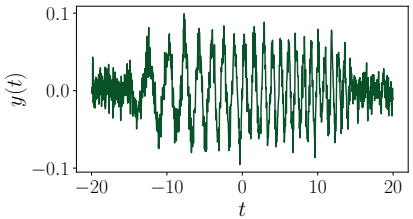
$N = 128$



$N = 256$

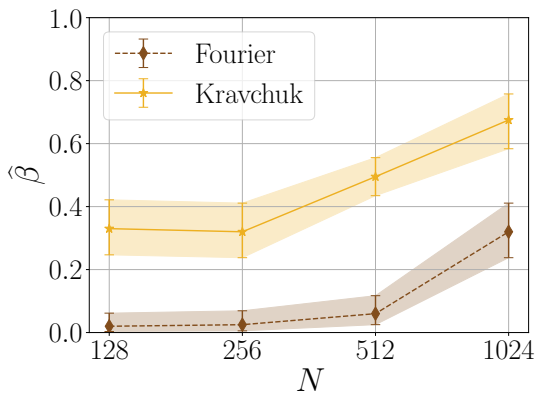


$N = 512$



$N = 1024$

Performance: power of the test computed over 200 samples



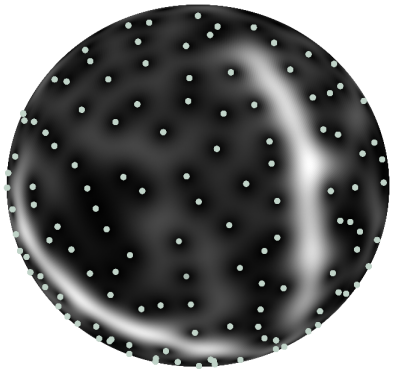
✓ higher detection power

✓ more robust to small N

✗ no fast algorithm yet

Advantages of using Kravchuk vs. Fourier spectrogram

- intrinsically encoded resolution: no need for prior knowledge
- compact phase space: no edge correction



Take home messages

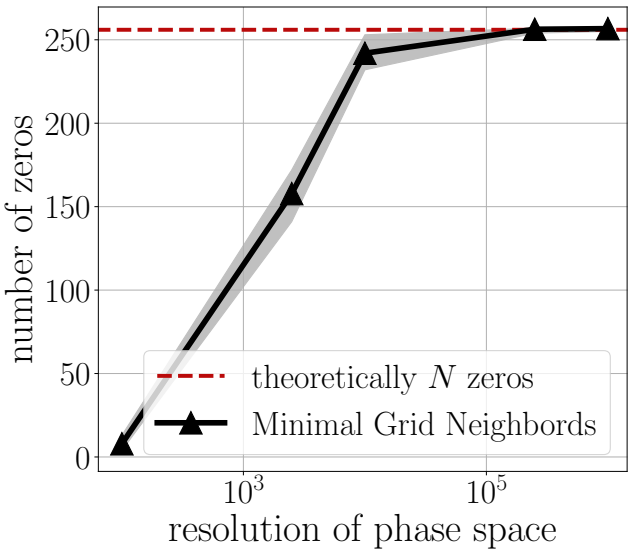
- Novel covariant discrete Kravchuk transform $T\boldsymbol{y}(\vartheta, \varphi)$
  - Interpreted as a coherent state decomposition
  - Representation on a compact phase space
  - Zeros of the Kravchuk spectrogram of white noise fully characterized
- Signal detection based on spectrogram zeros
  - Preliminary work using the zeros of the Fourier spectrogram
  - Significant improvement using the Kravchuk spectrogram

Pascal & Bardenet, 2022: `arxiv:2202.03835`
`GitHub: bpascal-fr/kravchuk-transform-and-its-zeros`

Work in progress and perspectives

- Interpretation of the action of $\mathrm{SO}(3)$ on $\mathbb{C}^{N+1}$
- Implementation of the inversion formula: denoising based on zeros
- Design of a Kravchuk FFT counterpart
- Convergence of Kravchuk toward the Fourier spectrogram as $N \to \infty$

Opening: can the Kravchuk spectrogram have multiple zeros?



Spherical Gaussian Analytic Function

$$\mathrm{GAF}_{\mathbb{S}}(z) = \sum_{n=0}^{N} \xi[n] \sqrt{\binom{N}{n}} z^n$$

with $\xi[n] \sim \mathcal{N}_{\mathbb{C}}(0,1)$ i.i.d.

$\rightarrow$ only **simple** zeros

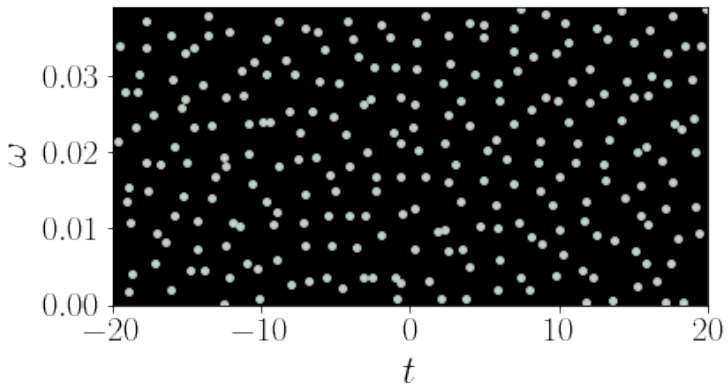
General case $$T\boldsymbol{y}(z) = \sqrt{(1+|z|^2)}^{-N} \sum_{n=0}^{N} \sqrt{\binom{N}{n}} (\mathbf{Q}\boldsymbol{y})[n] z^n$$

If $\boldsymbol{y}$ deterministic, such that $(\mathbf{Q}\boldsymbol{y})[n] = \sqrt{\binom{N}{n}} a^{N-n} b^n, a \in \mathbb{C}, b \in \mathbb{C}^*$,

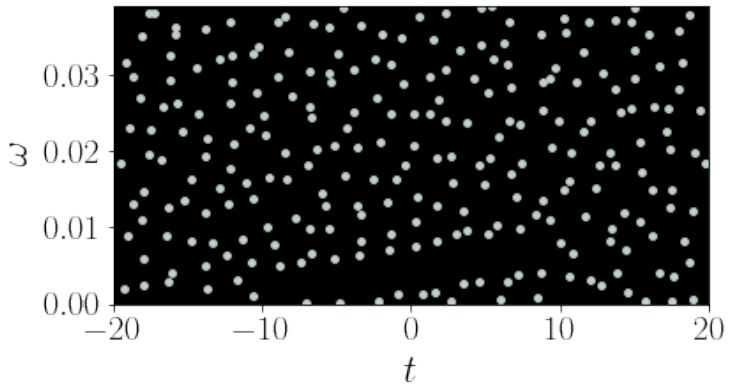
$$\sqrt{(1+|z|^2)}^{-N} \sum_{n=0}^{N} \sqrt{\binom{N}{n}} (\mathbf{Q}\boldsymbol{y})[n] z^n = (a+bz)^N$$

$\rightarrow -a/b$ multiple root of order of degeneracy N

Unorthodox path: zeros of Gaussian Analytic Functions



snr $= 0$



snr > 0

The signal creates **holes** in the zeros pattern: **sedond order** statistics.

Functional statistics:

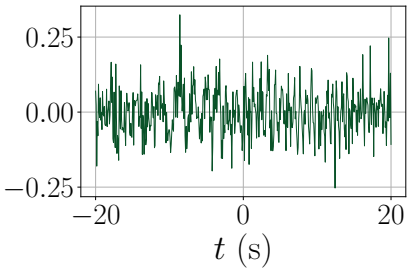
- the empty space function

  $F(r) = \mathbb{P}\left(\inf_{z_i \in Z} \mathrm{d}(z_0, z_i) < r\right)$: **probability to find a zero at less than** r

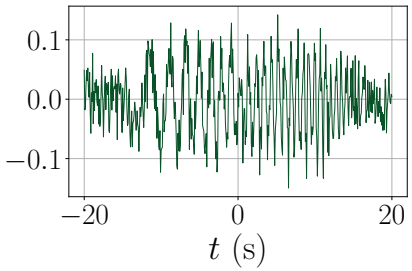
- Ripley's K-function

  $K(r) = 2\pi \int_0^r s g_0(s)\,\mathrm{d}s$: **expected # of pairs at distance less than** r

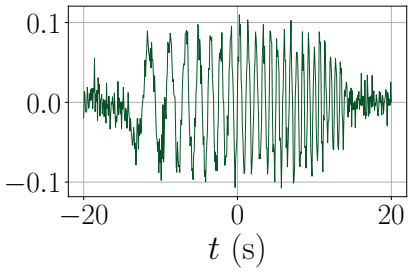
Detection test: choice of the functional statistic



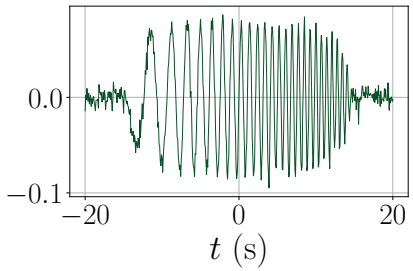
snr $= 0.5$



snr $= 1$

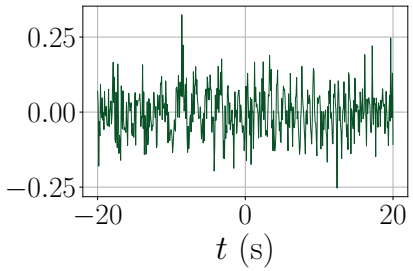


snr $= 2$

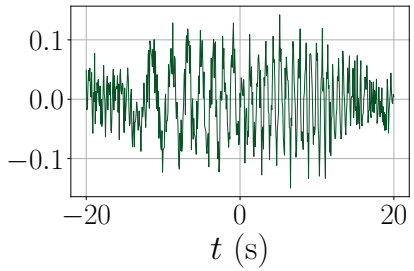


snr $= 5$

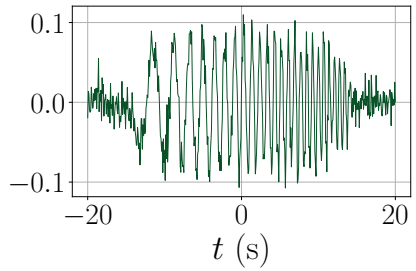
Detection test: choice of the functional statistic



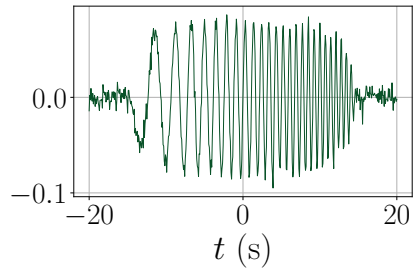
snr = 0.5



snr = 1

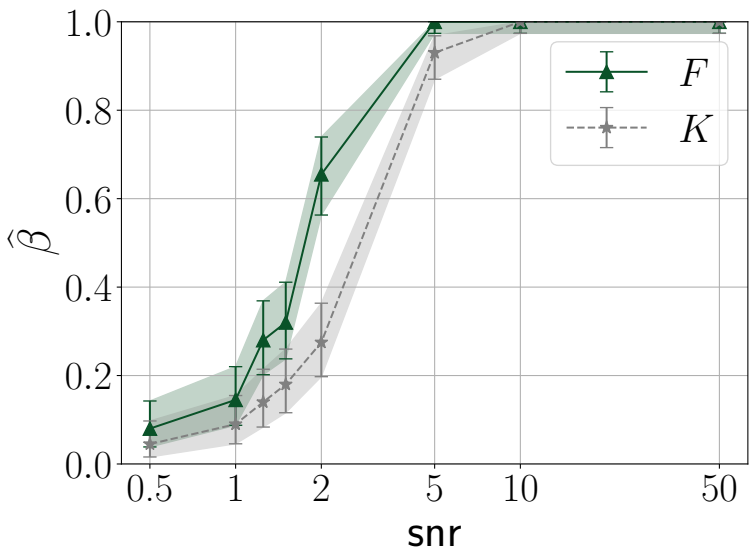


snr = 2

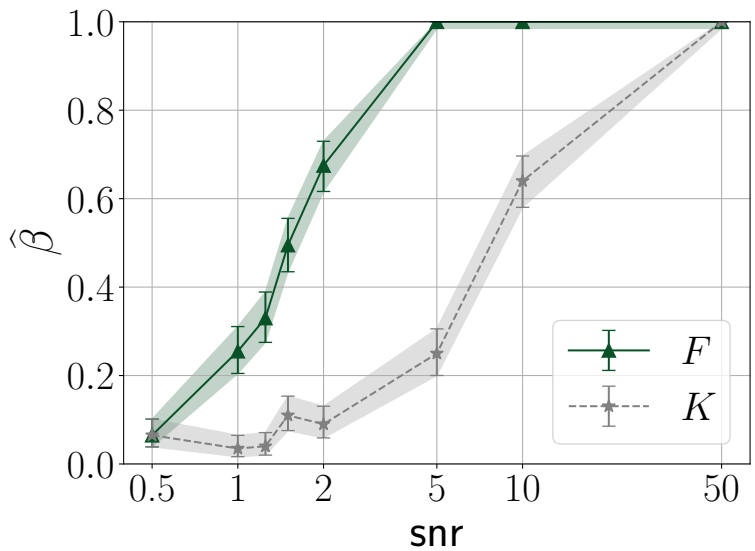


snr = 5

Ripley's K functional vs. empty space functional F



$N + 1 = 257$ points

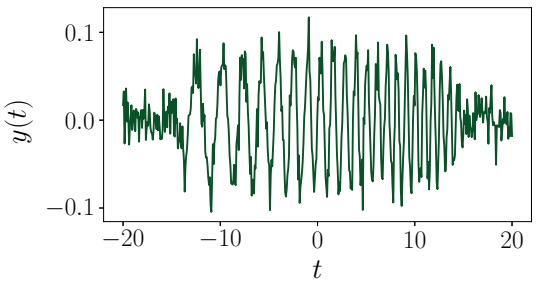


$N + 1 = 513$ points

Detection test: snr and relative duration of the signal

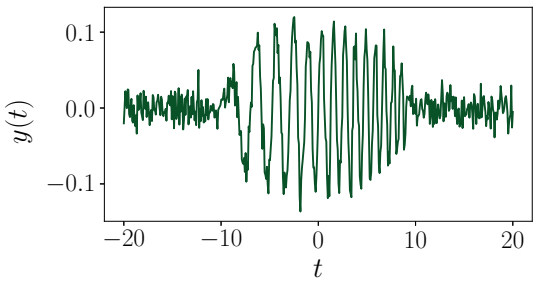
Fixed observation window of 40 **s**

long time event



duration $2\nu = 30$ s

short time event

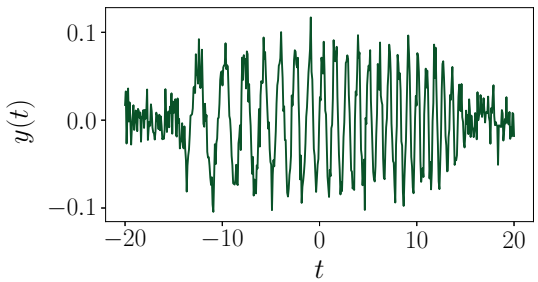


duration $2\nu = 20$ s

Detection test: snr and relative duration of the signal

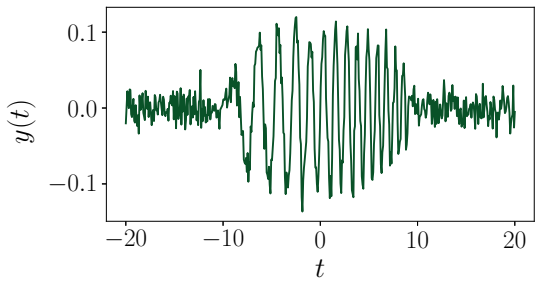
Fixed observation window of 40 **s**

long time event



duration $2\nu = 30$ s

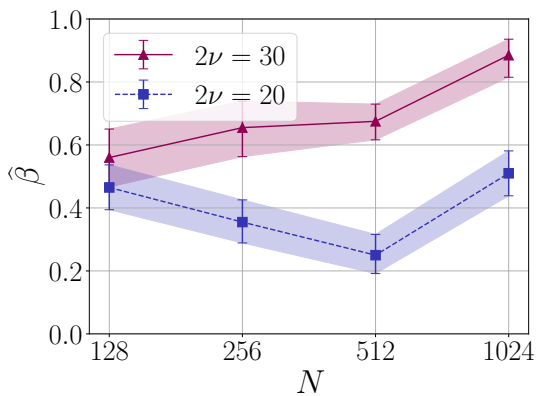
short time event



duration $2\nu = 20$ s

Robustness to small number of samples and short duration.

medium noise level

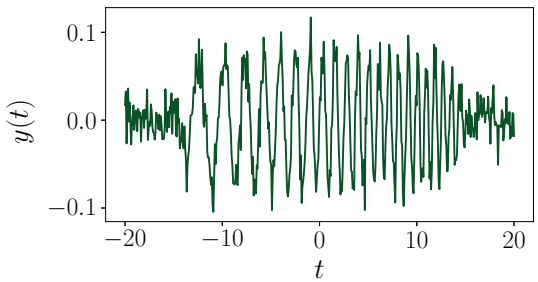


snr $= 2$

Detection test: snr and relative duration of the signal

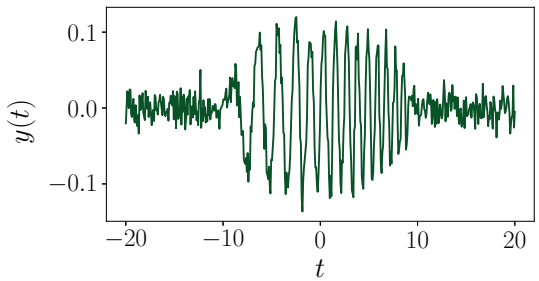
Fixed observation window of 40 **s**

long time event



duration $2\nu = 30$ s

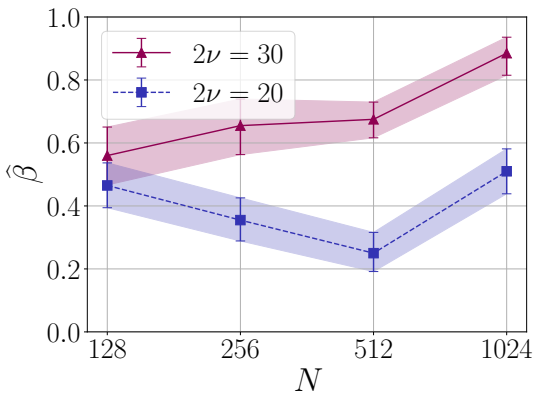
short time event



duration $2\nu = 20$ s

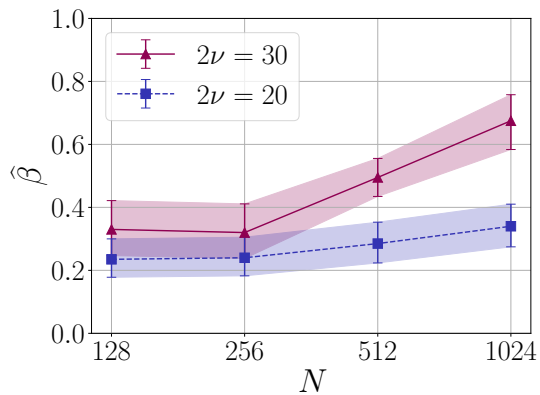
Robustness to small number of samples and short duration.

medium noise level



snr $= 2$

high noise level



snr $= 1.5$