

# **Introduction to Field Analysis Techniques: The Power Spectrum and Coherence**

## **Tutorial**

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SFN 2013

# Outline

- Tutorial: Hands on MATLAB examples
- An introduction ...
- Power spectrum
  - Frequency resolution
  - Nyquist frequency
  - Tapering
- Coherence
- Please ask questions

# Assumptions

## MATLAB

- Running on your computer.
- Basic knowledge
  - Loading variables, navigating directories, executing commands, indexing, etc.



# Get the data

- Download example data and code:

<http://math.bu.edu/people/mak/sfn-2013/>

## The Science of Large Data Sets: Spikes, Fields, and Voxels

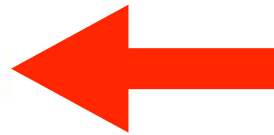
### Society for Neuroscience Short Course #2

#### Data

Download the data set for power spectrum analysis: [d1.mat](#)

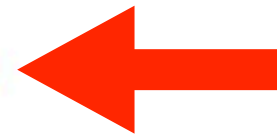
Download the data set for coherence analysis: [d2.mat](#)

Load this data set in MATLAB using the *load* command.



#### MATLAB code

Download an M-file that includes MATLAB code to analyze these data: [sfn\\_tutorial.m](#)



Tutorial slides : As a [PDF](#).

#### Software Links

[Chronux](#)

[EEGLab](#)

#### Book Links

[Matlab for Neuroscientists](#)

[Signal Processing for Neuroscientists](#)

[Observed Brain Dynamics](#)

Contact: [Email](#) Mark Kramer

# Load data

```
>> load d1.mat
```

Start time

Name ▲	Value	Min	Max
t	<1x1000 double>	0.00...	2
x	<1000x1 double>	-1.6...	..76...

Data from  
sensor

Time

1000 samples

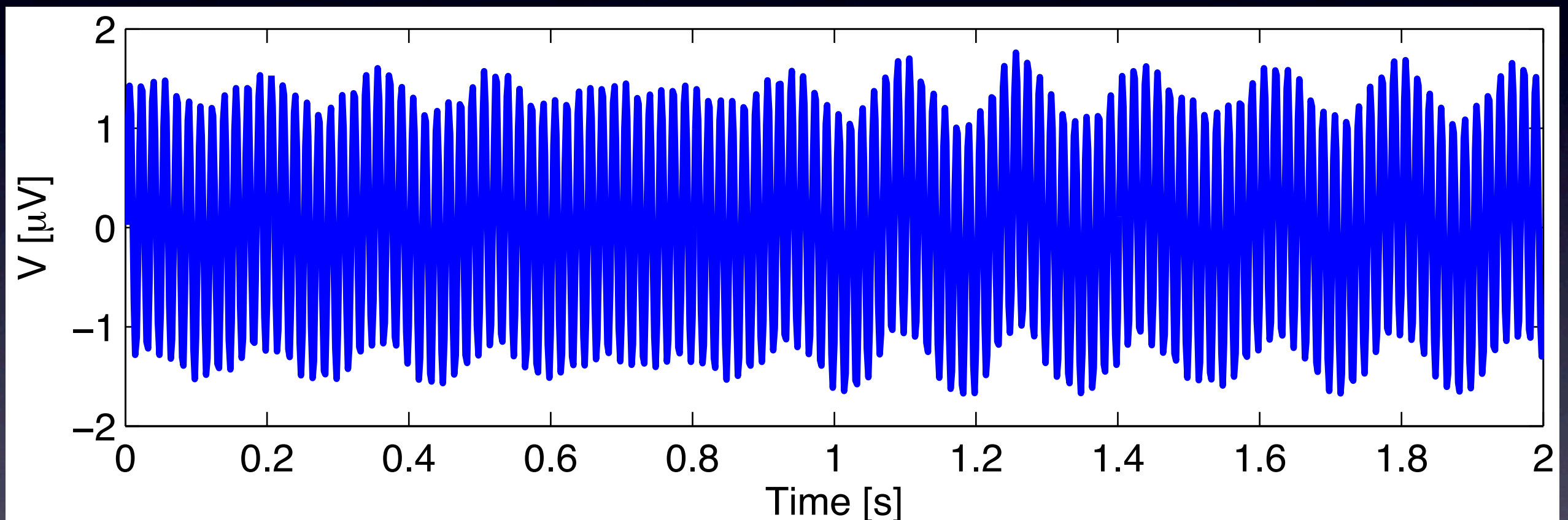
Stop time

# Load data & visualize

```
>> load d1.mat
```

```
>> plot(t,x)
```

```
>> T=2;
```



## Visual inspection:

- Rhythmic
- It's complicated
- How can characterize?

# Load data & visualize

Zoom in ...

```
>> hold on
```

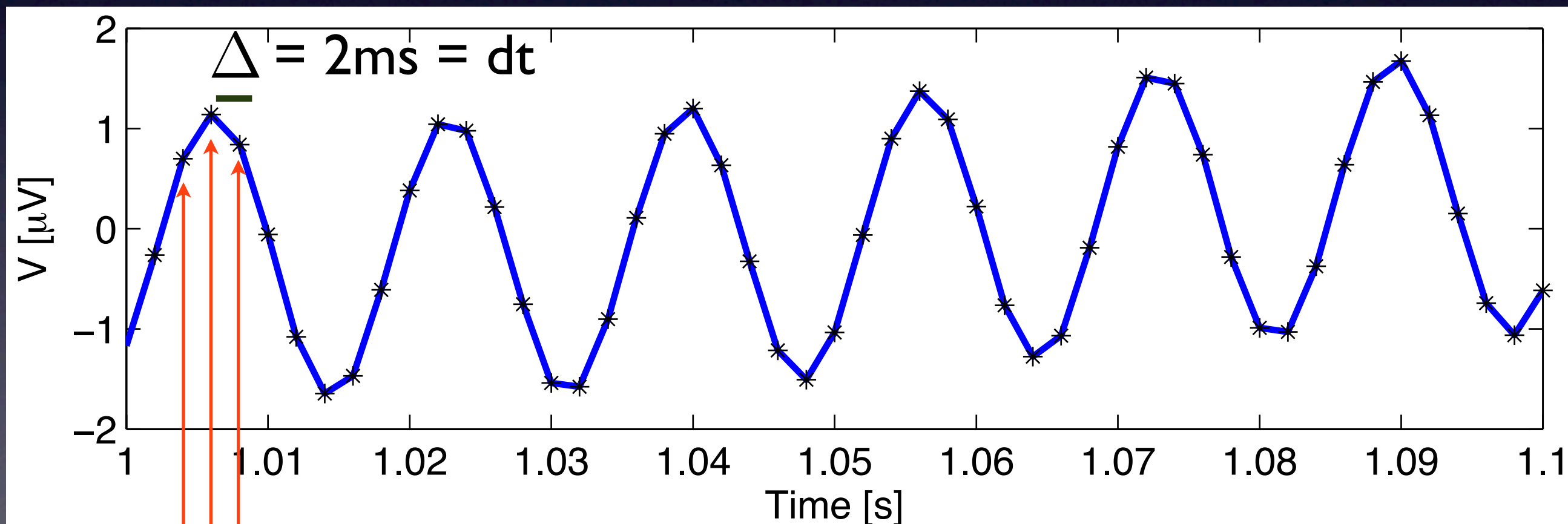
Hold the graphics window

```
>> plot(t,x, 'k*')
```

Plot as black \*

```
>> xlim([1 1.1])
```

Adjust x-axis



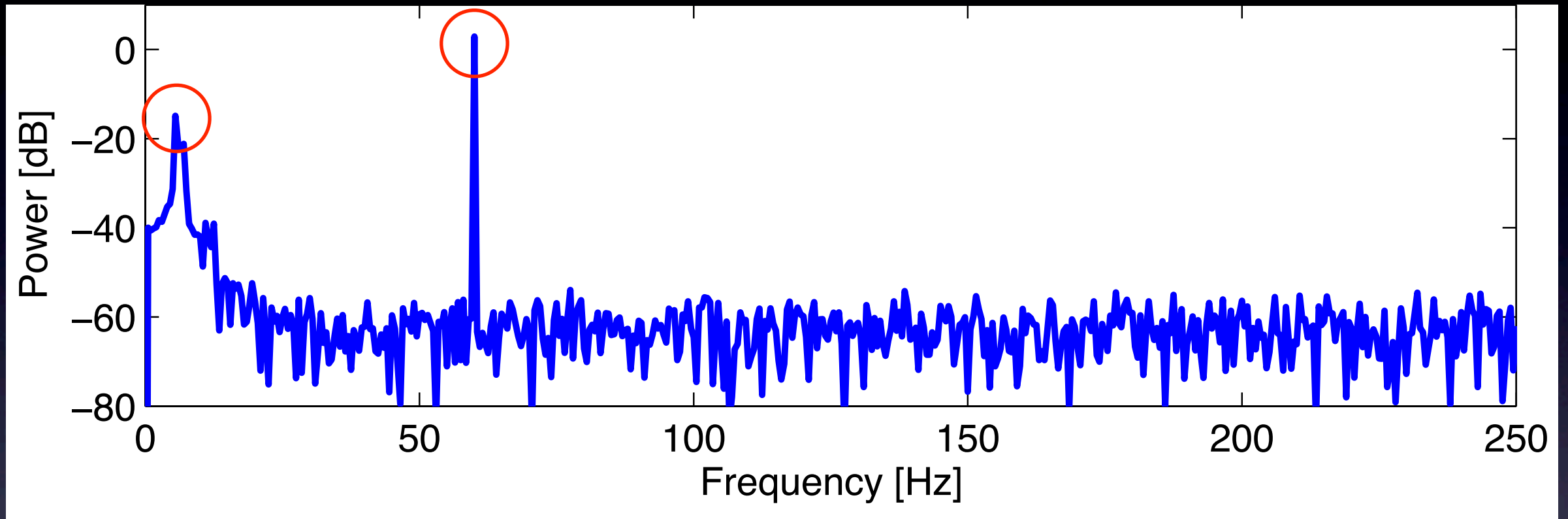
Discrete sampling

```
>> dt=0.002;
```



# Power spectrum

Our goal:



- Axes: Power [dB] vs Frequency [Hz]
- A simpler representation in frequency domain.  
Two peaks at ~5-8 Hz, 60 Hz
- How do we compute it?



# MATLAB code

Equation:  
(Power spectrum)

$$S_{xx,f} = \frac{2\Delta^2}{T} X_f X_f^*$$

Complex conjugate

Sampling interval  
(0.002 s)

Duration of recording (2 s)

Fourier transform of x at frequency f

MATLAB:

$$S_{xx} = 2 * dt^2 / T * \text{fft}(x) .* \text{conj}(\text{fft}(x))$$

# MATLAB code

```
Sxx=2*dt^2/T* fft(x).*conj(fft(x));
```

Compute the power.

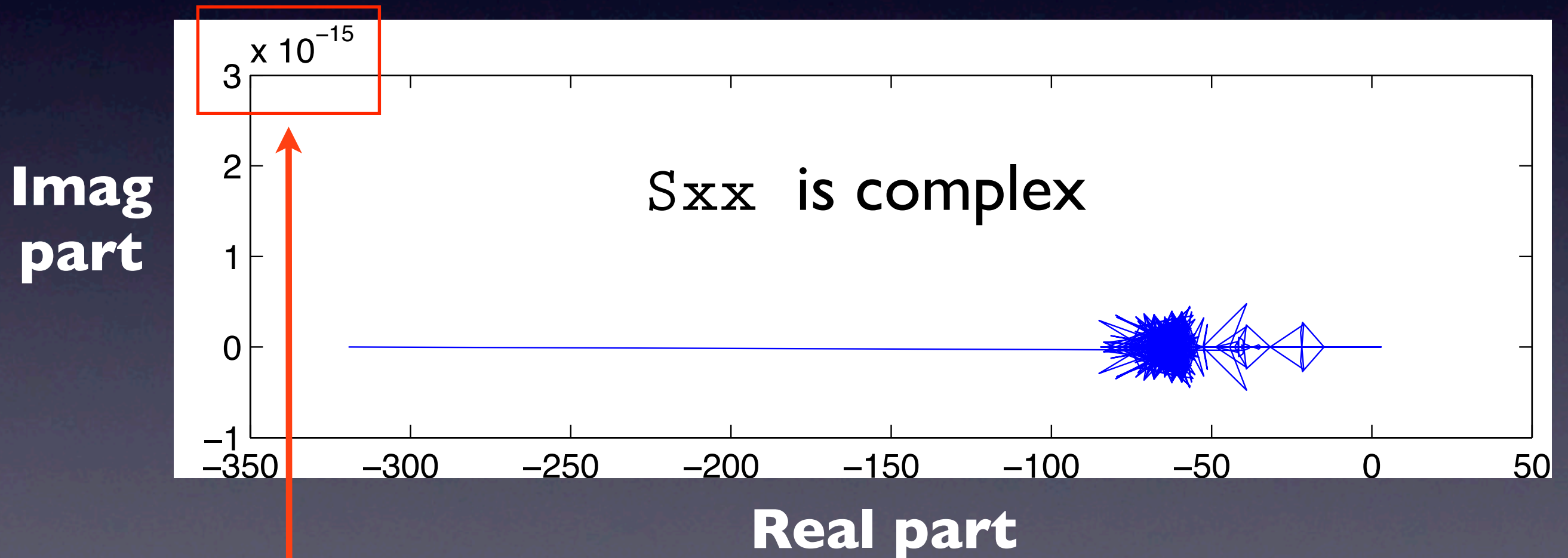
```
Sxx=10*log10(Sxx);
```

Use decibel scale.

```
plot(Sxx)
```

Plot it.

Hmm ...



Imaginary part is really tiny.

It's actually 0.

# MATLAB code

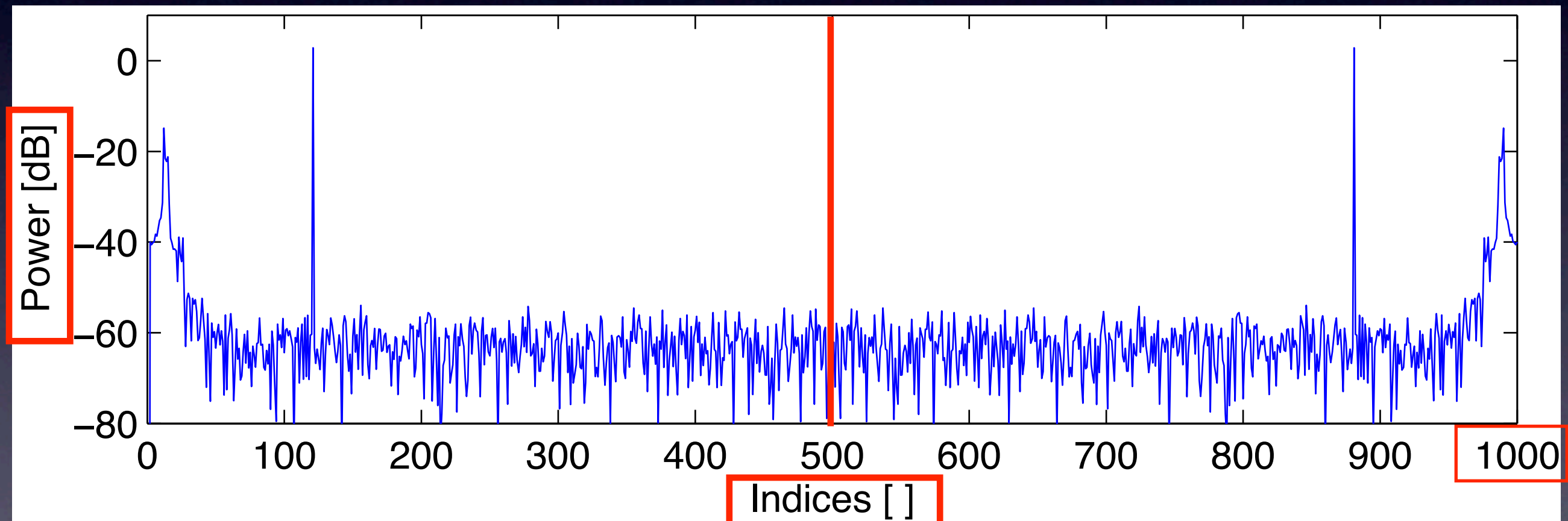
```
Sxx=2*dt^2/T*fft(x).*conj(fft(x));
```

```
Sxx=10*log10(real(Sxx));
```

Keep only the real part.

```
plot(Sxx)
```

Clue?



Matches

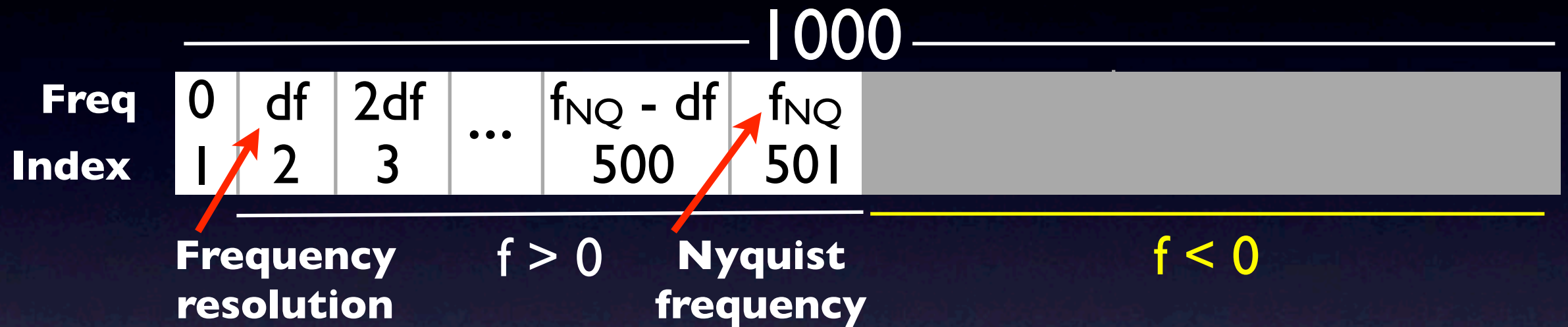
length of x

Incomplete: Label the x-axis.

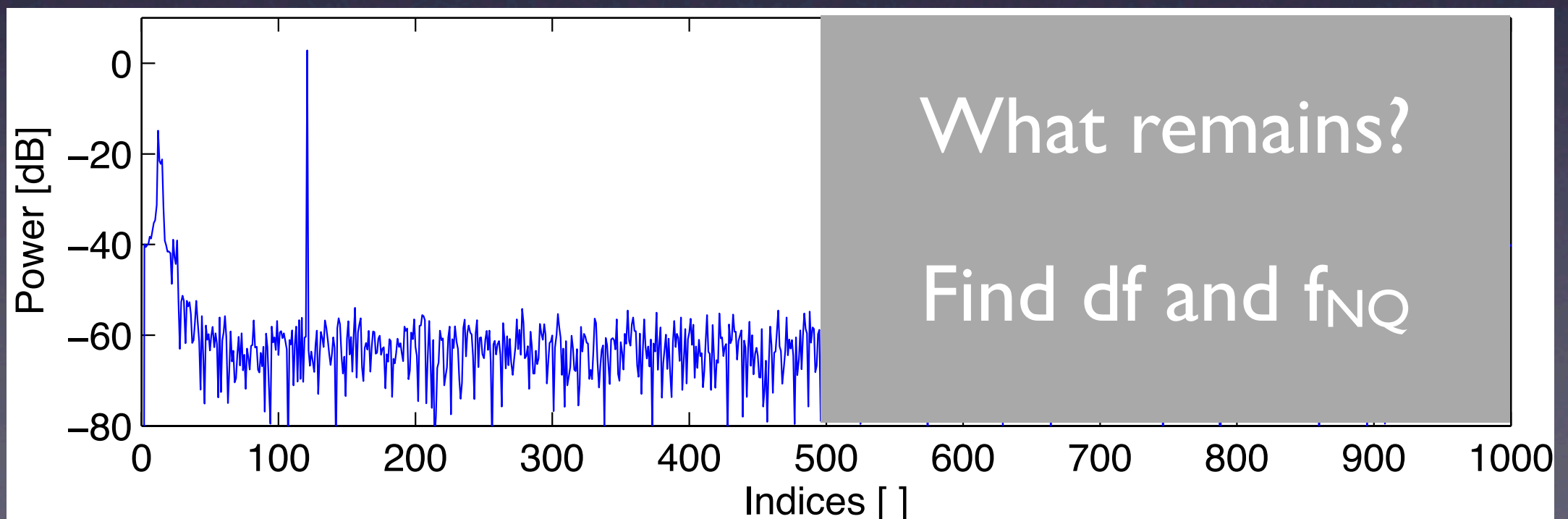


# Power spectrum x-axis

- Indices & frequencies related in a particular way ...  
Examine vector  $S_{xx}$ :



- Because data is real,  $f < 0$  is redundant.



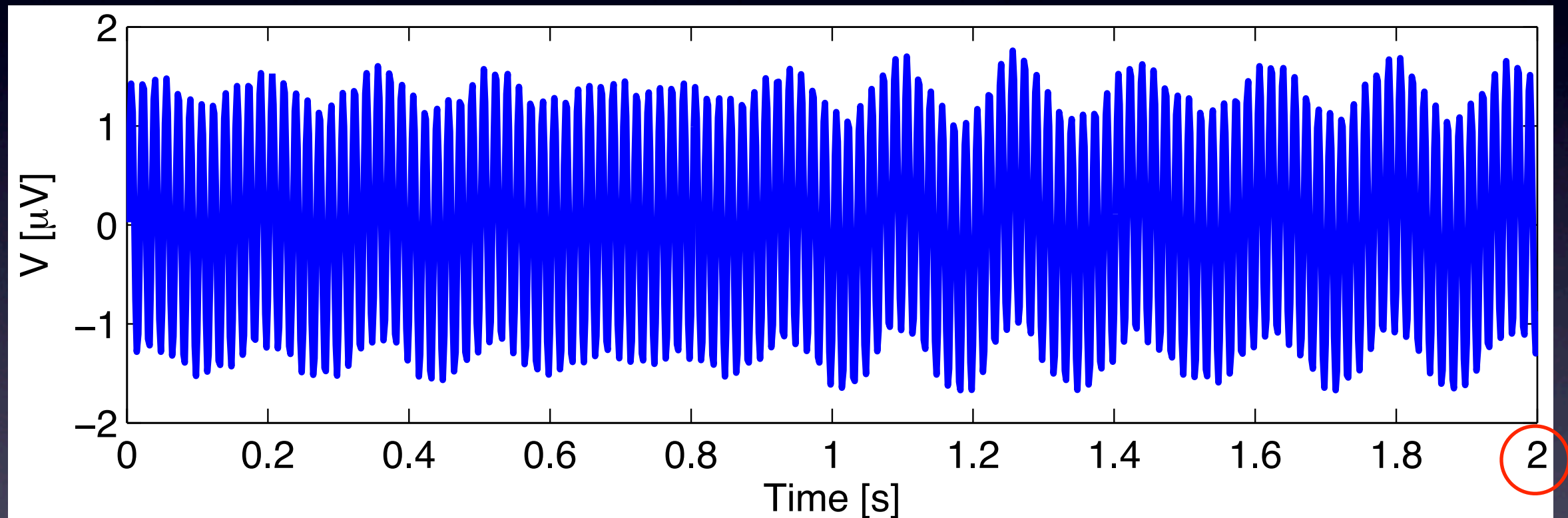
# Power spectrum x-axis

- What is  $df$ ?

$$df = \frac{1}{T}$$

where  $T$  = Total time of recording.

Ex:



MATLAB: `>> df = 1/T;`

Q: How do we improve frequency resolution?

A: Increase  $T$  or record for longer time.

# Power spectrum x-axis

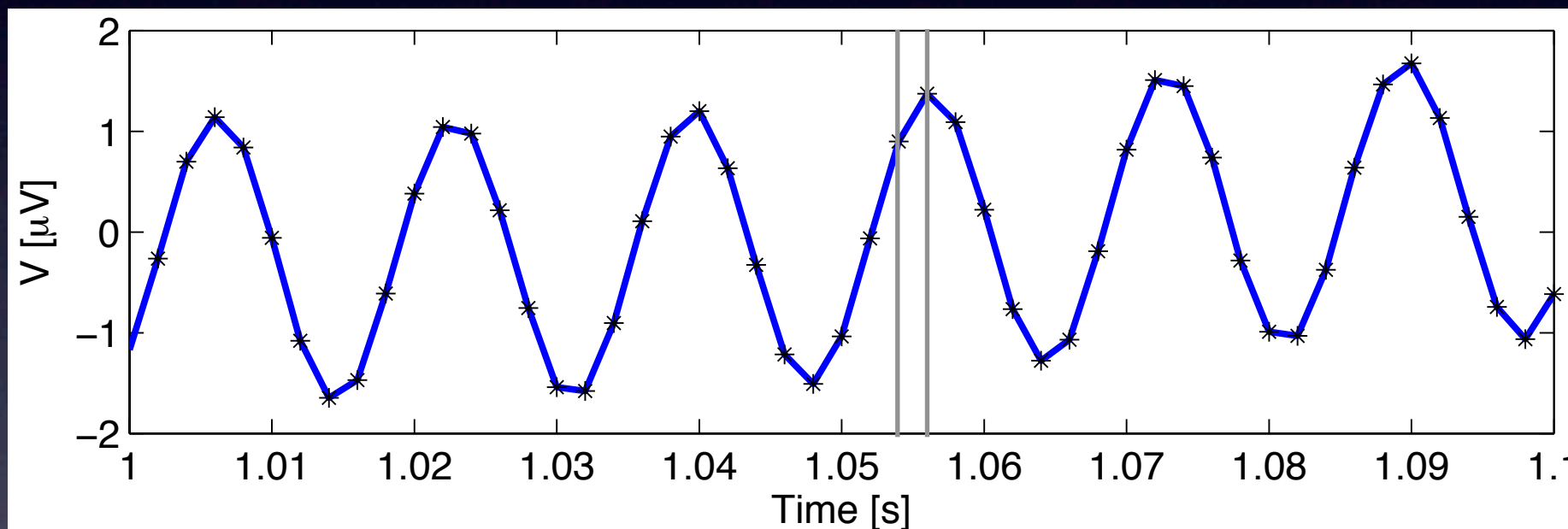
- What is  $f_{\text{NQ}}$ ?

$$f_{\text{NQ}} = \frac{f_0}{2}$$

The Nyquist frequency  
where  $f_0$  = sampling frequency.

Ex:

Sampling interval:  $dt = 2 \text{ ms}$



Sampling frequency:

$$f_0 = 1/dt$$

$$f_0 = 500 \text{ Hz}$$

$$f_{\text{NQ}} = 250 \text{ Hz}$$

MATLAB: `>> fNQ =  $\frac{f_0}{2}$ ;`

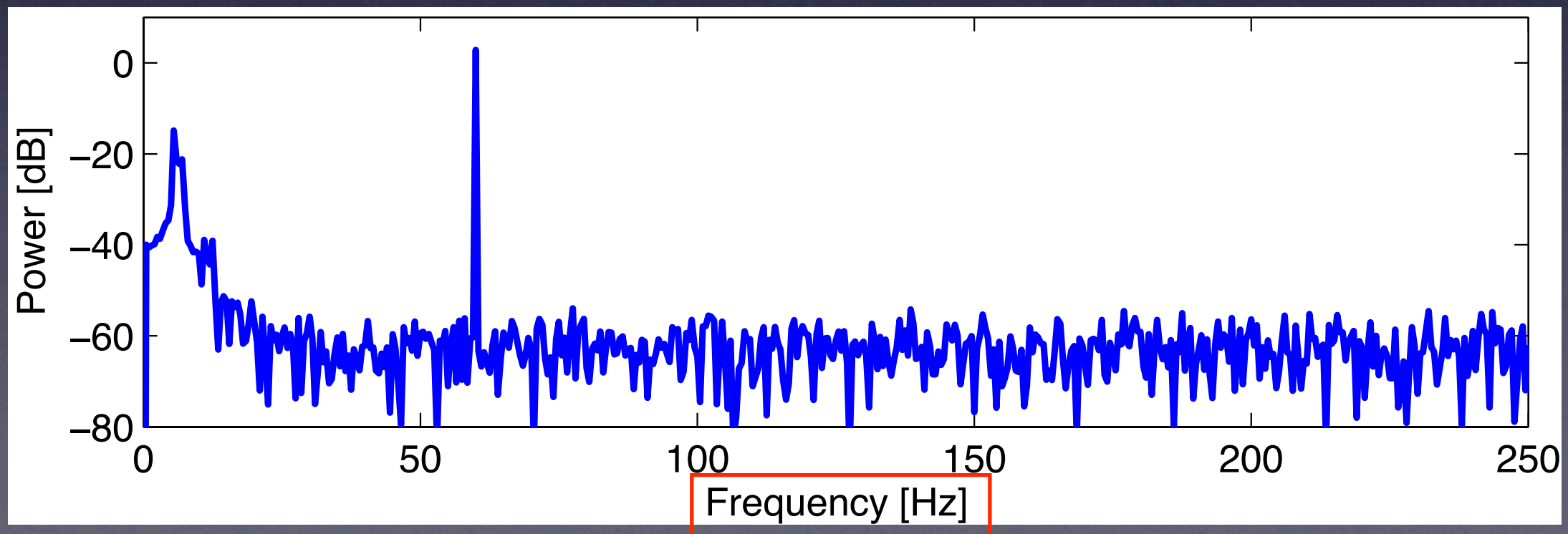
Q: How do we increase the Nyquist frequency?

A: Increase the sampling rate  $f_0$ .



# MATLAB code

```
>> Sxx = 2*dt^2/T * fft(x).*conj(fft(x));  
>> Sxx = 10*log10(Sxx);  
>> Sxx = Sxx(1:length(x)/2+1);           First half of pow  
>> df = 1/T;   fNQ = 1/dt/2;           Define df & fNQ  
>> faxis = (0:df:fNQ);                 Frequency axis  
>> plot(faxis, Sxx);   ylim([-80 10])
```



# Summary

```
>> Sxx=2*dt^2/T*fft(x).*conj(fft(x));
```

**Frequency  
resolution**

$$df = \frac{1}{T}$$

**Nyquist  
frequency**

$$f_{\text{NQ}} = \frac{f_0}{2}$$

```
>> df = 1/T;
```

```
>> fNQ=1/dt/2;
```

- For finer frequency resolution: record more data.
- To observe higher frequencies: increase sampling rate.
- Built-in routines: 

```
>> periodogram(...)
```

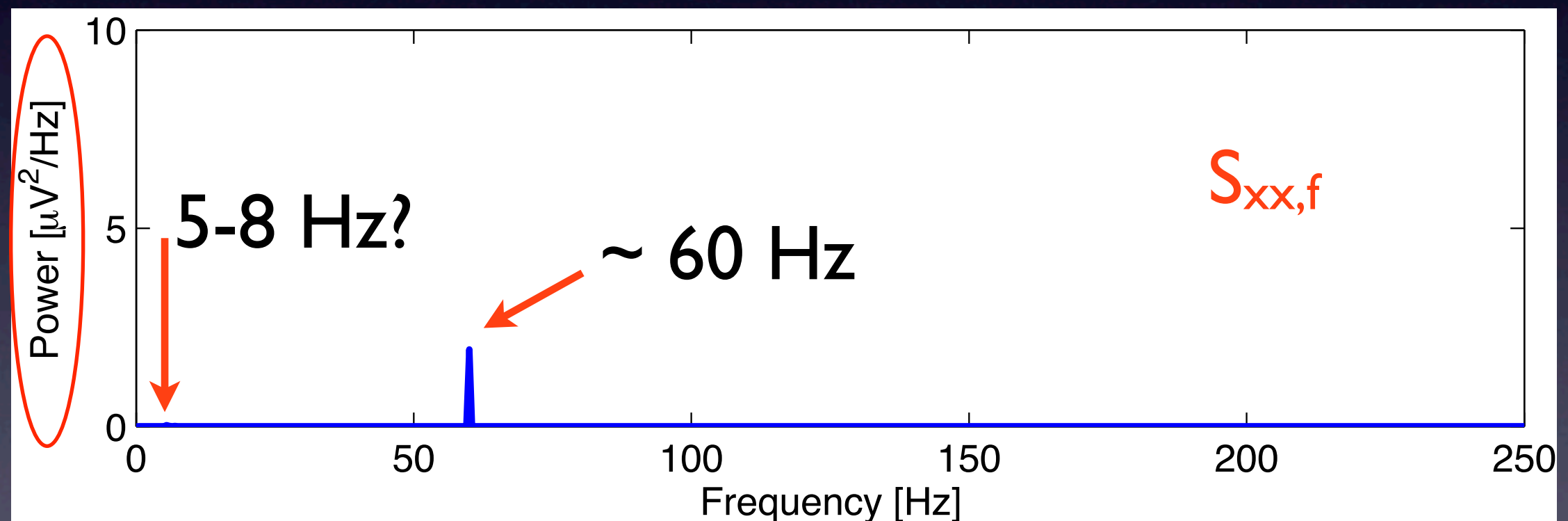
  
**Requires Signal Processing Toolbox**
- Many subtleties ...

# Power spectrum

A note on scale ...

~~$\gg S_{xx} = 10 * \log_{10}(S_{xx}) ;$~~  Decibel scale

Consider not using the decibel scale ...



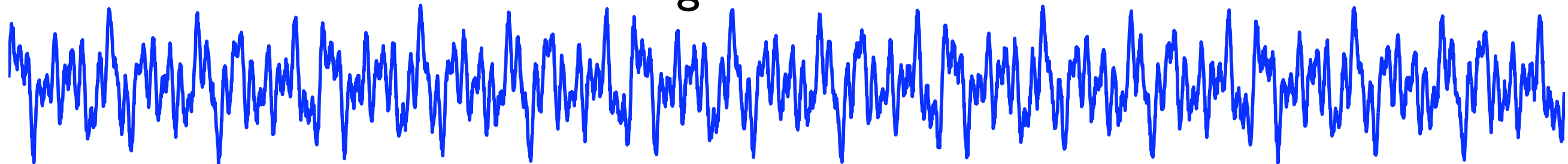
- Use decibel scale to reveal low power features.



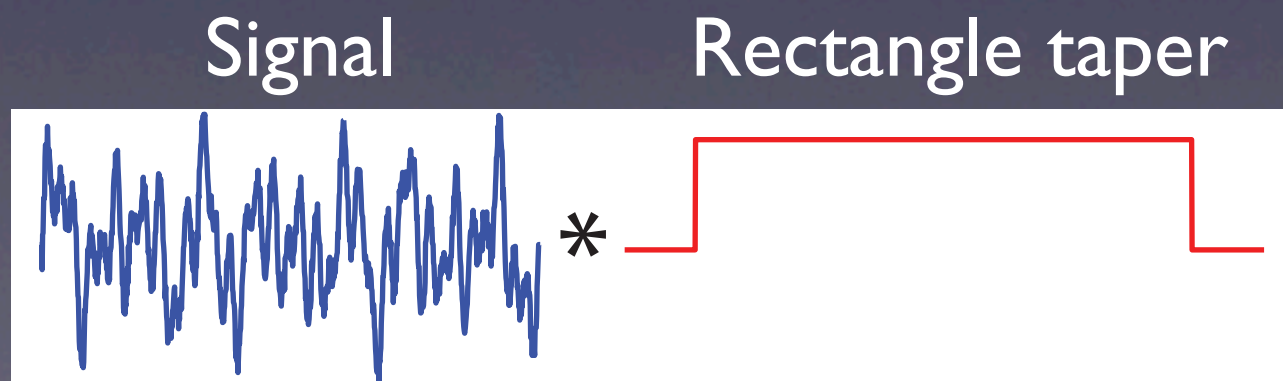
# Tapers

- Doing nothing, we make an implicit taper choice ...

... Data goes on forever ...

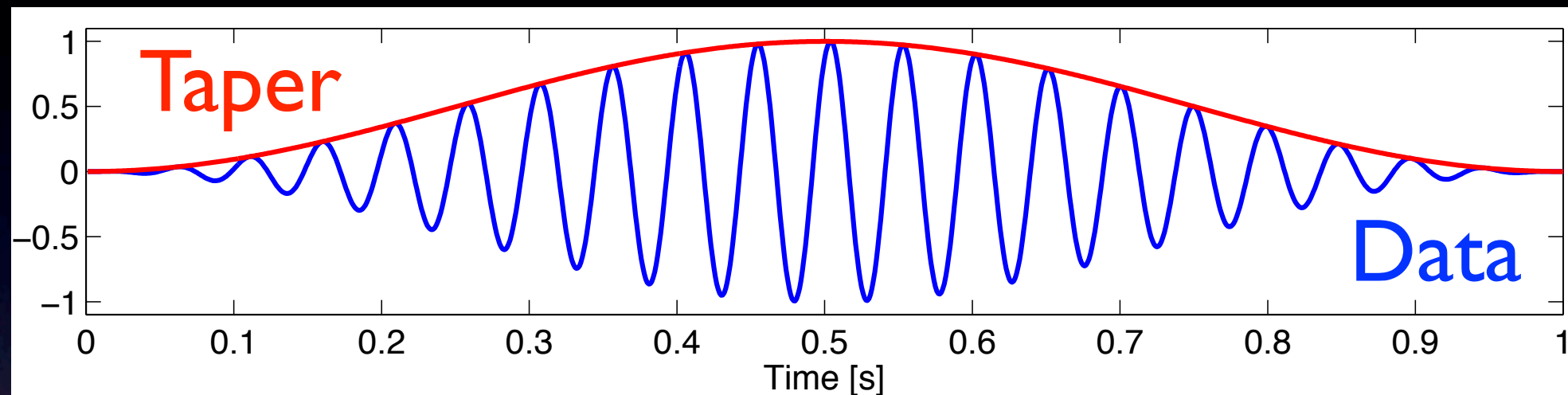


What we're observing:

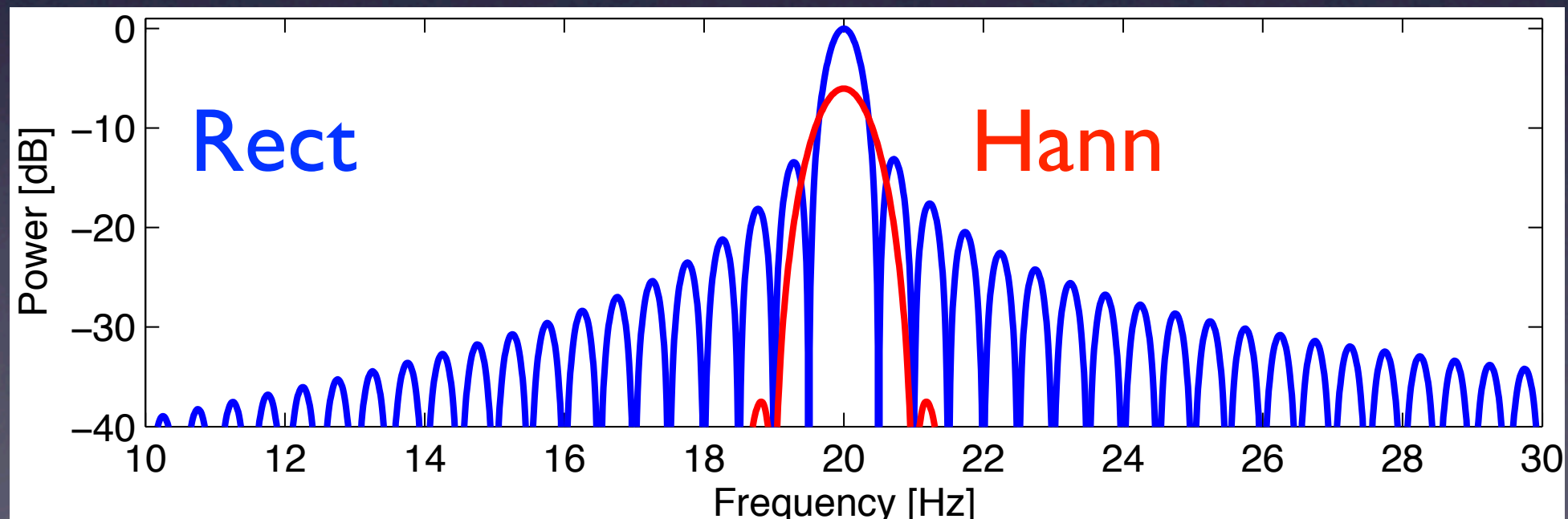


# Hann taper

- Idea: smooth the sharp edges of rectangle taper.



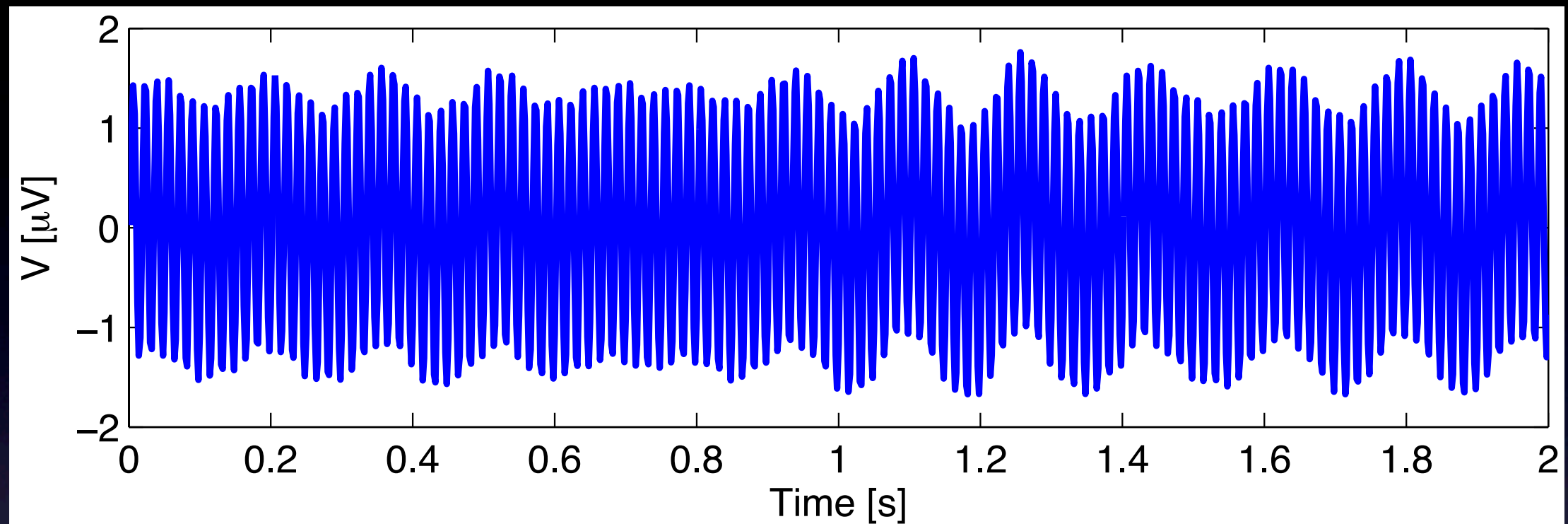
- Compute power spectrum of tapered data.



Taper reduces the “sidelobes”.

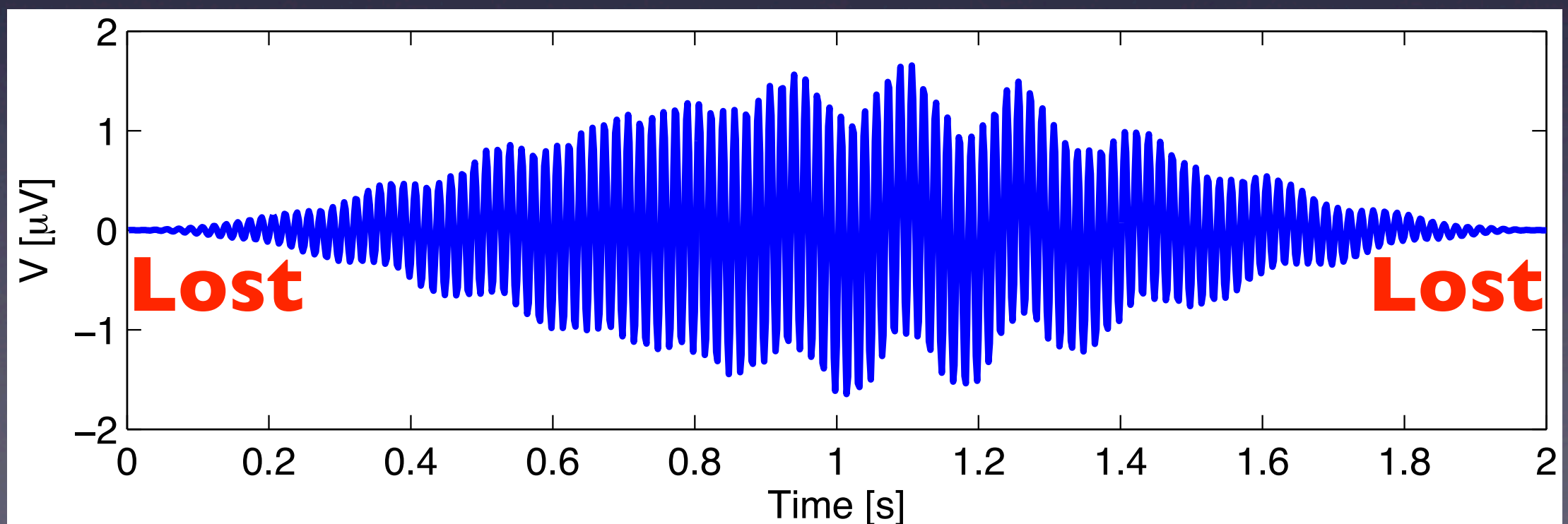
# Ex: Hann taper

$x =$



MATLAB: `>> xh = hann(length(x)) .* x;`

$xh =$

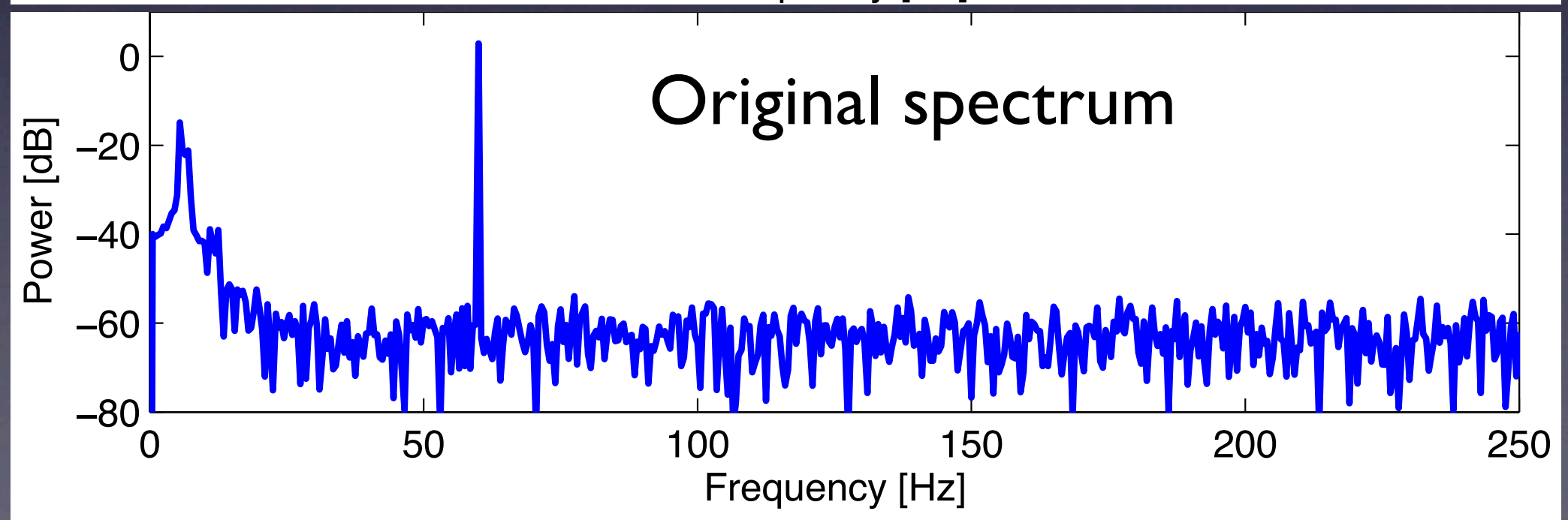
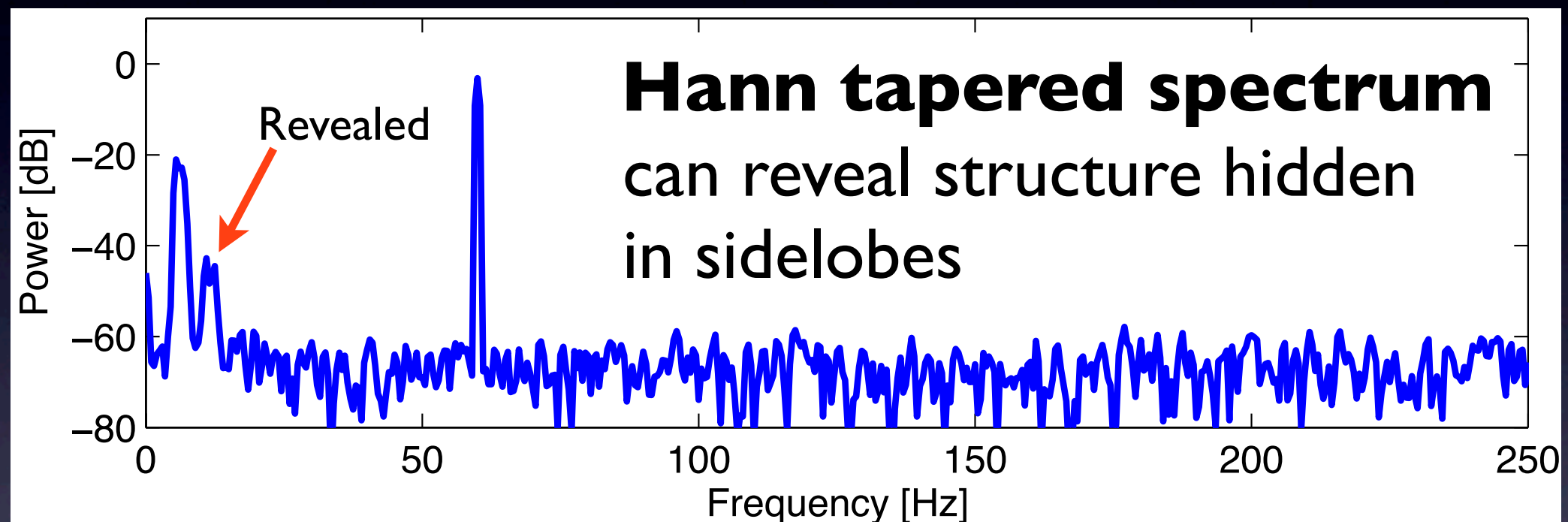




# Ex: Hann taper

Compute the power spectrum of Hann tapered data

```
>> Sxx = 2*dt^2/T * fft(xh) .* conj(fft(xh));
```



# Multi-sensor data

Download data: <http://math.bu.edu/people/mak/sfn-2013/>

## The Science of Large Data Sets: Spikes, Fields, and Voxels

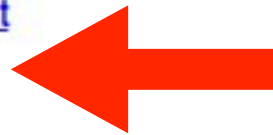
Society for Neuroscience Short Course #2

### Data

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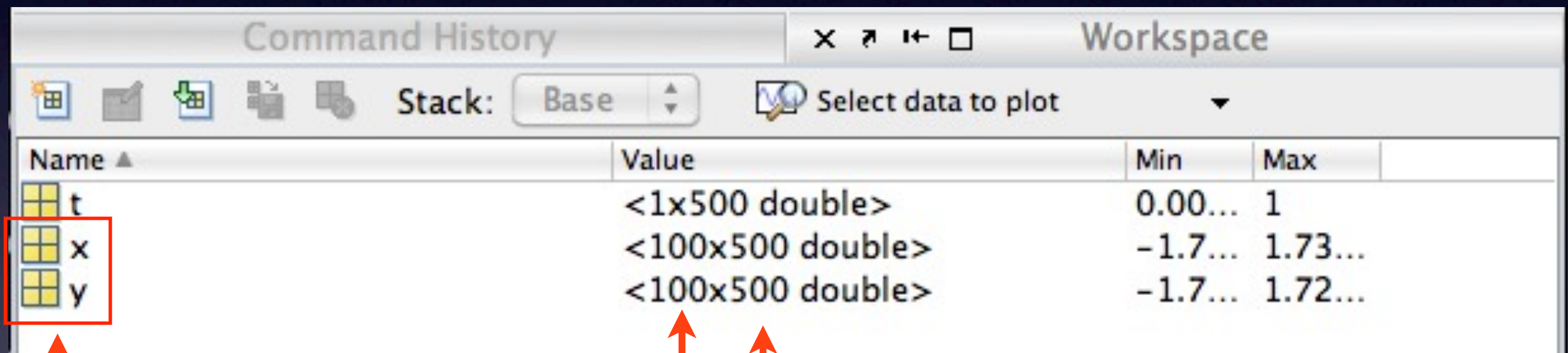
Contact: [Email](#) Mark Kramer

# Multi-sensor data

Download data: <http://math.bu.edu/people/mak/sfn-2013/>

```
>> clear
```

```
>> load d2.mat
```



Name ▲	Value	Min	Max
t	<1x500 double>	0.00...	1
x	<100x500 double>	-1.7...	1.73...
y	<100x500 double>	-1.7...	1.72...

Data from  
2 sensors

Trials

100  
total  
trials

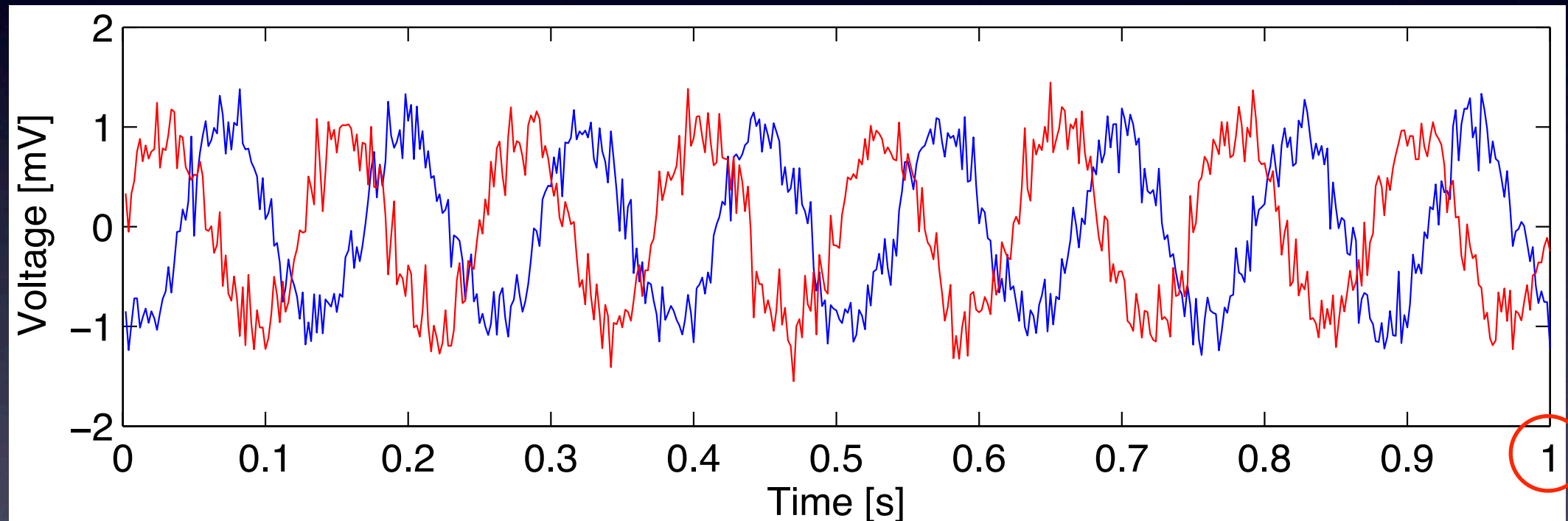
Time

500 time samples  
per trial



# Visualize

```
>> plot(t,x(1,:))           Sensor x, first trial.
>> hold on
>> plot(t,y(1,:), 'r')     Sensor y, first trial.
>> hold off
```



## Visual inspection:

- Rhythmic

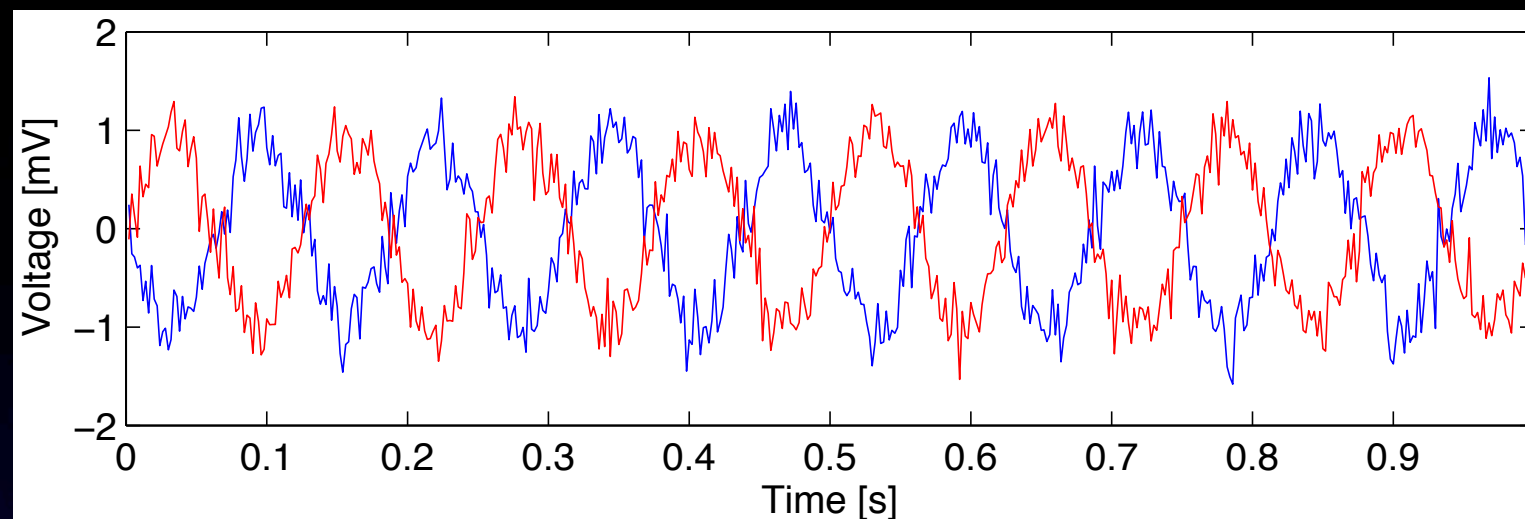
```
>> T=1;
```

```
>> dt=0.002;
```

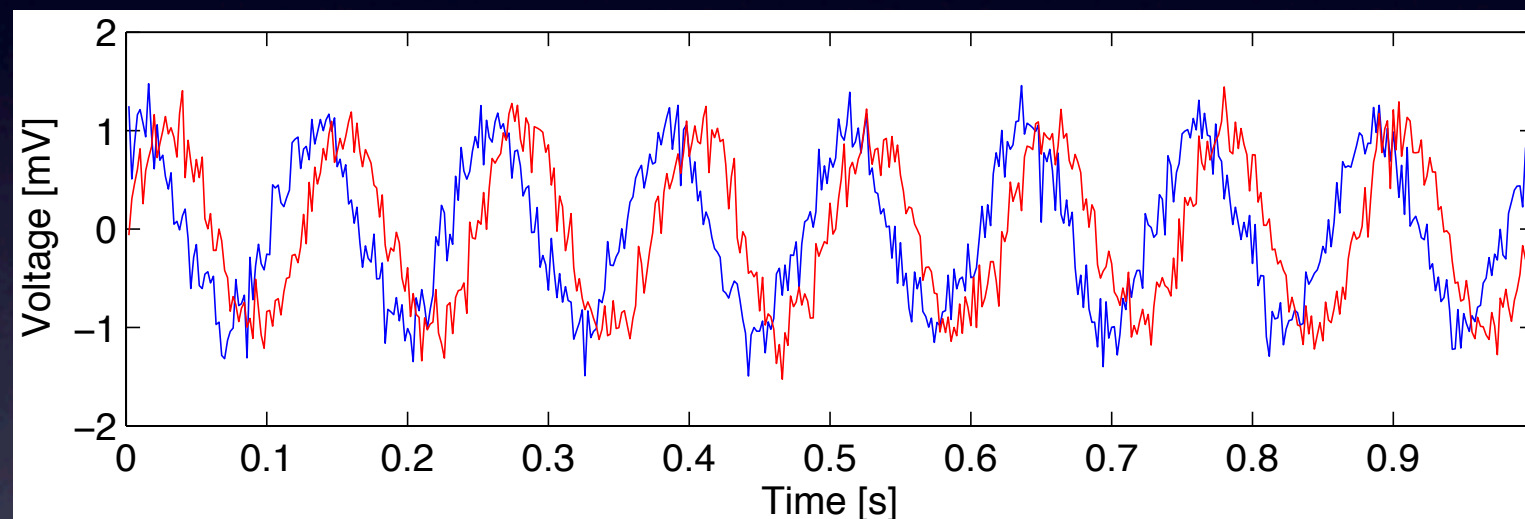
- Q: Are the signals at the two sensors “related”?

# Visualize

Trial 2

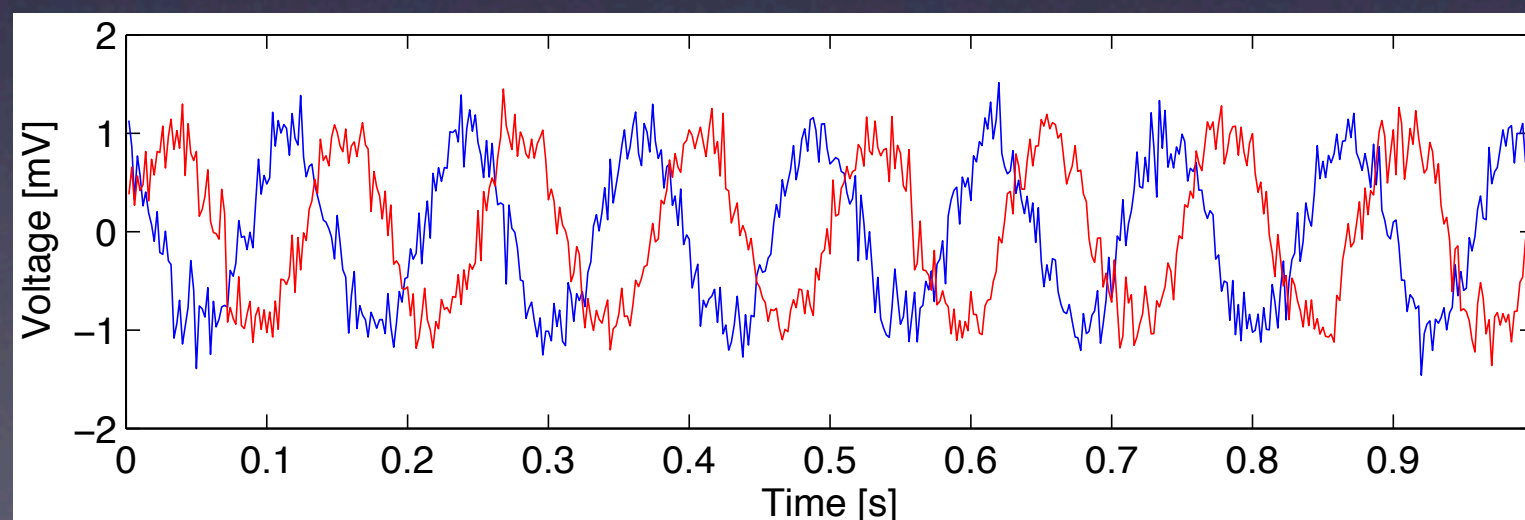


Trial 3



...

Trial 100



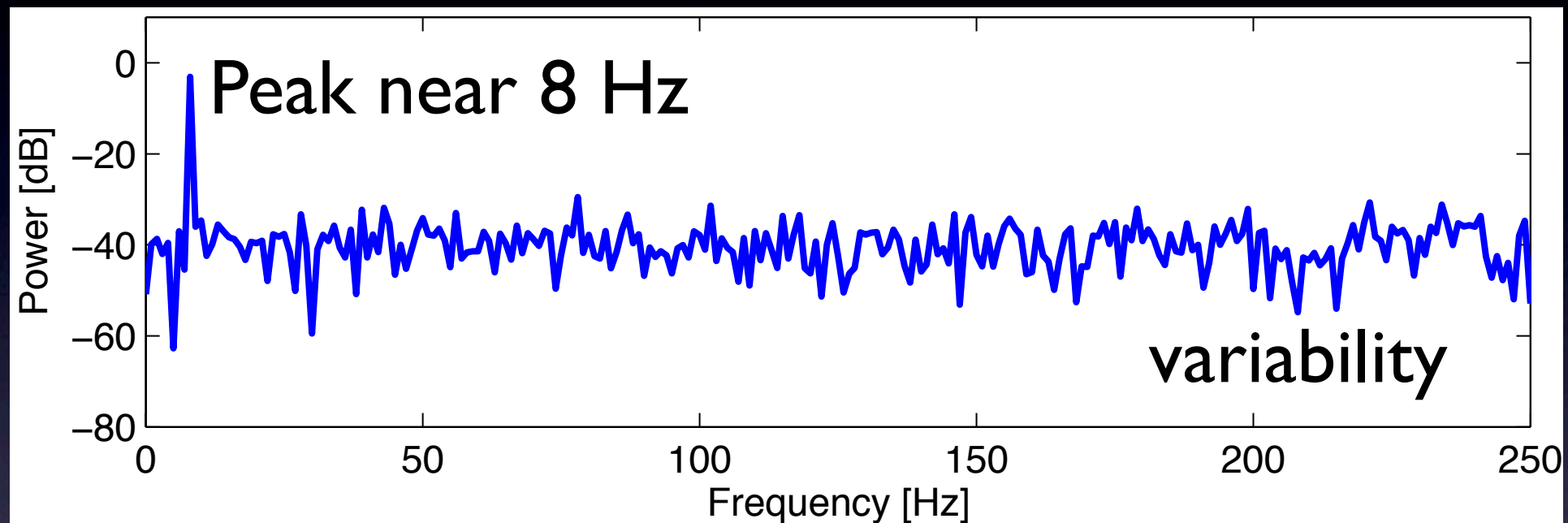
• They're rhythmic ...

# Power spectrum

For a single trial ... same as before

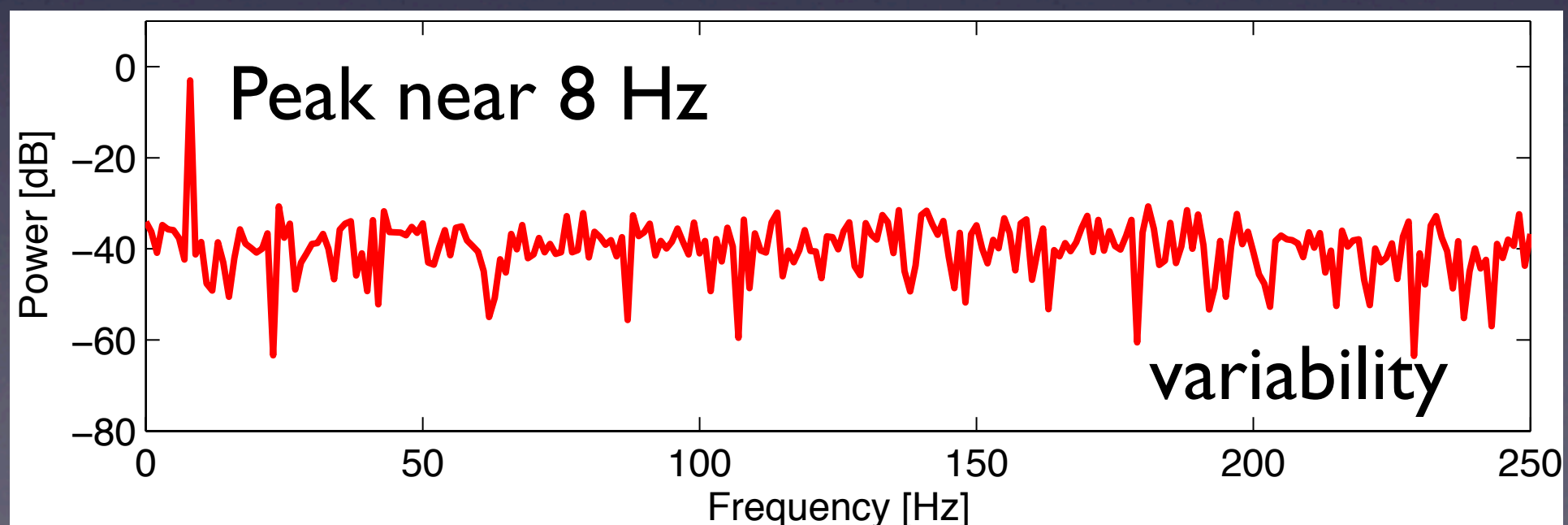
$$S_{xx} = 2 * dt^2 / T * \text{fft}(x(1, :)) .* \text{conj}(\text{fft}(x(1, :)))$$

**Power spectrum**  
of x for  
Trial 1



$$S_{yy} = 2 * dt^2 / T * \text{fft}(y(1, :)) .* \text{conj}(\text{fft}(y(1, :)))$$

**Power spectrum**  
of y for  
Trial 1





# Power spectrum

Averaged across trials ...

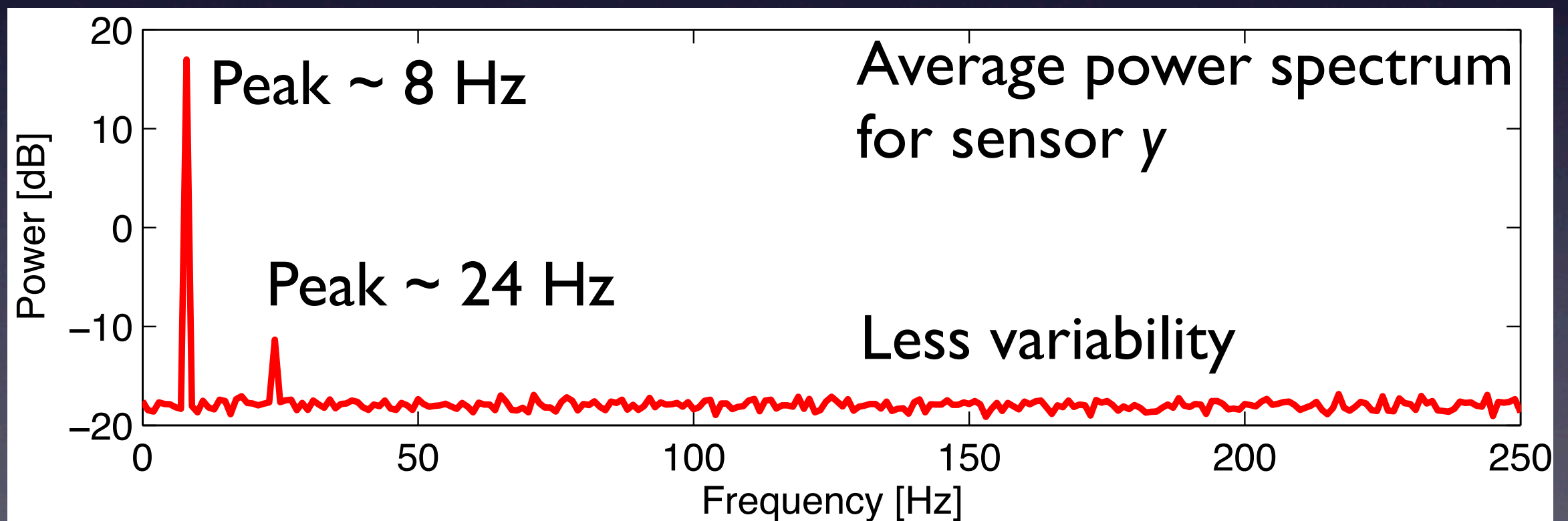
```
for k=1:K
```

```
    x0 = x(k, :); Get the data for trial k ... and compute the power spectrum
```

```
    Sxx = Sxx + 2*dt^2/T* fft(x0).*conj(fft(x0));
```

```
end
```

↑  
Accumulate in the sum.



- Q: Are the signals at the two sensors “related”?

# Coherence

Equation:

Cross-spectrum

Trial average

between  $x, y$  at  
frequency  $f$

Absolute value

$$K_{xy,f} = \frac{|\langle S_{xy,f} \rangle|}{\sqrt{\langle S_{xx,f} \rangle \langle S_{yy,f} \rangle}}$$

Power  
spectrum of  $x$   
at frequency  $f$

averaged across  
trials.

Power  
spectrum of  $y$   
at frequency  $f$

averaged across  
trials.

We know:

# Coherence

Equation (cross spectrum):

Complex conjugate

$$\langle S_{xy,f} \rangle = \frac{2\Delta^2}{T} \frac{1}{K} \sum_{k=1}^K X_{f,k} Y_{f,k}^*$$

The equation is annotated with colored boxes and arrows: a green box around the angle brackets and  $S_{xy,f}$  is labeled "Trial average"; an orange box around  $\frac{2\Delta^2}{T}$  is labeled "Number of trials"; another orange box around  $\frac{1}{K}$  is labeled "Sum over trials"; a purple box around  $X_{f,k}$  is labeled "Fourier transform of x & y at frequency f, trial k"; a green box around  $Y_{f,k}^*$  is labeled "Complex conjugate". Arrows point from the text labels to their corresponding parts in the equation.

MATLAB:

```
for k=1:K
```

```
Sxy(k,:) = ...
```

```
2*dt^2/T
```

```
* fft(x(k,:))
```

```
* conj(fft(y(k,:)));
```

```
end
```

Number of trials

Sum over trials

Fourier transform of x & y at frequency f, trial k



# Coherence

```
K = size(x,1);
N = size(x,2);
```

Helpful variables: # trials  
# time points

```
Sxx = zeros(K,N);
Syy = zeros(K,N);
Sxy = zeros(K,N);
```

Create variables to save the spectra.

```
for k=1:K
    Sxx(k,:) = 2*dt^2/T * fft(x(k,:)) .* conj(fft(x(k,:)));
    Syy(k,:) = 2*dt^2/T * fft(y(k,:)) .* conj(fft(y(k,:)));
    Sxy(k,:) = 2*dt^2/T * fft(x(k,:)) .* conj(fft(y(k,:)));
end
```

For each trial ...

Power x  
Power y  
Cross spectra

```
Sxx = Sxx(:,1:N/2+1);
Syy = Syy(:,1:N/2+1);
Sxy = Sxy(:,1:N/2+1);
```

Keep the positive frequencies.

```
Sxx = mean(Sxx,1);
Syy = mean(Syy,1);
Sxy = mean(Sxy,1);
```

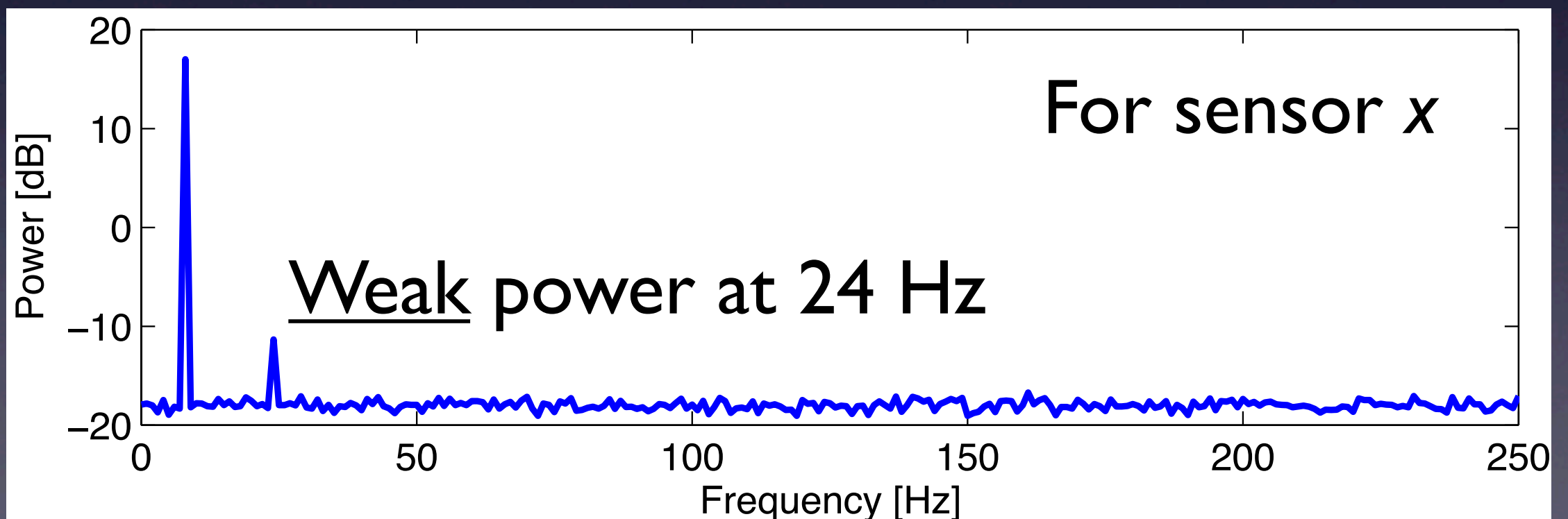
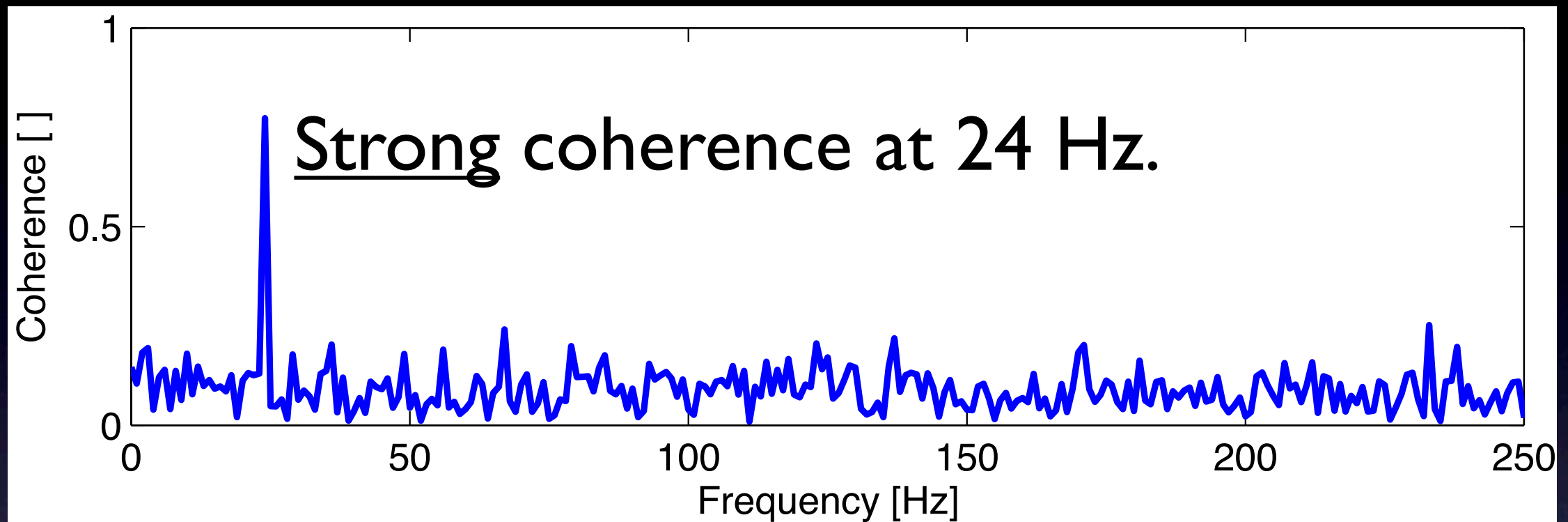
Average across trials.

```
cohr = abs(Sxy) ./ (sqrt(Sxx) .* sqrt(Syy));
```

Compute coherence.



# Coherence



- High power does not imply high coherence

# Coherence

**Q:** What is the coherence between two signals for a single trial?

**Claim:** 1 for all frequencies.

**MATLAB:**

```
x0 = x(1,:);
y0 = y(1,:);
```

Select data from the first trial.

```
Sxx = 2*dt^2/T * fft(x0) .* conj(fft(x0));
Syy = 2*dt^2/T * fft(y0) .* conj(fft(y0));
Sxy = 2*dt^2/T * fft(x0) .* conj(fft(y0));
```

Power x  
Power y  
Cross spectra

```
Sxx = Sxx(1:N/2+1);
Syy = Syy(1:N/2+1);
Sxy = Sxy(1:N/2+1);
```

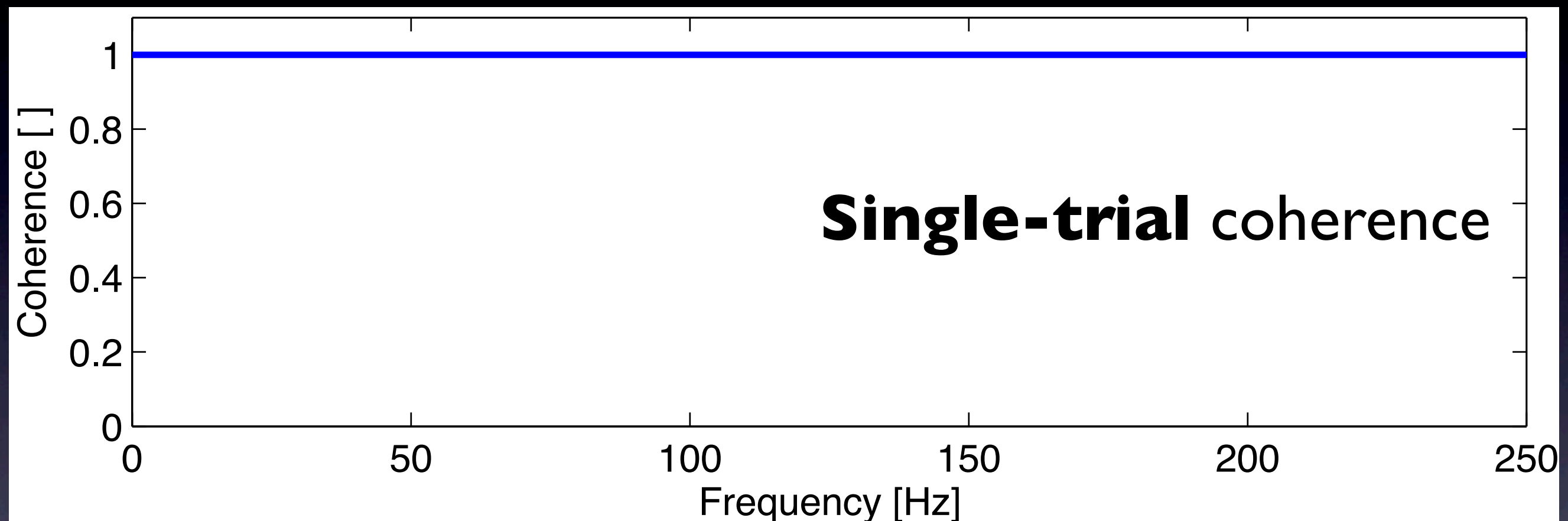
Keep the positive frequencies.

```
cohr = abs(Sxy) ./ (sqrt(Sxx) .* sqrt(Syy));
```

Compute coherence.

# Coherence

Compute the result:



Observation: Perfect coherence for all frequencies.

Maybe data unique ...

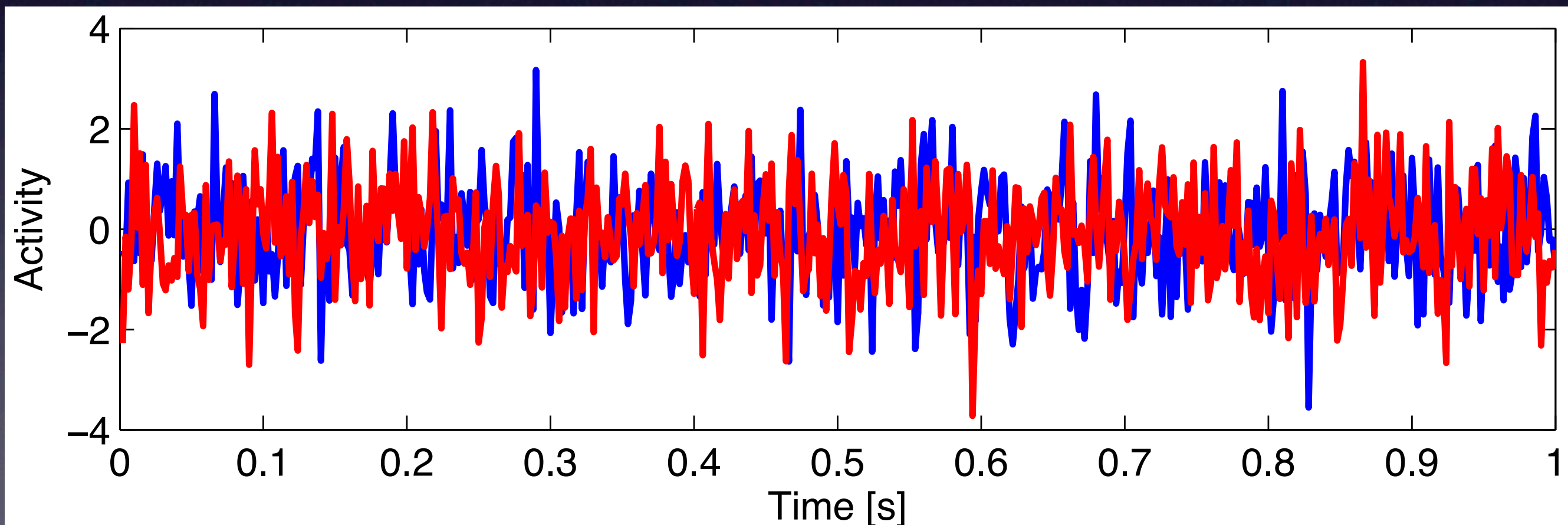
# Coherence

Q: What is the coherence between two signals for a single trial?

Consider “artificial” random data.

$x_0 = \text{randn}(1, N)$  ; Sensor x, one trial of random data.

$y_0 = \text{randn}(1, N)$  ; Sensor y, another trial of random data.

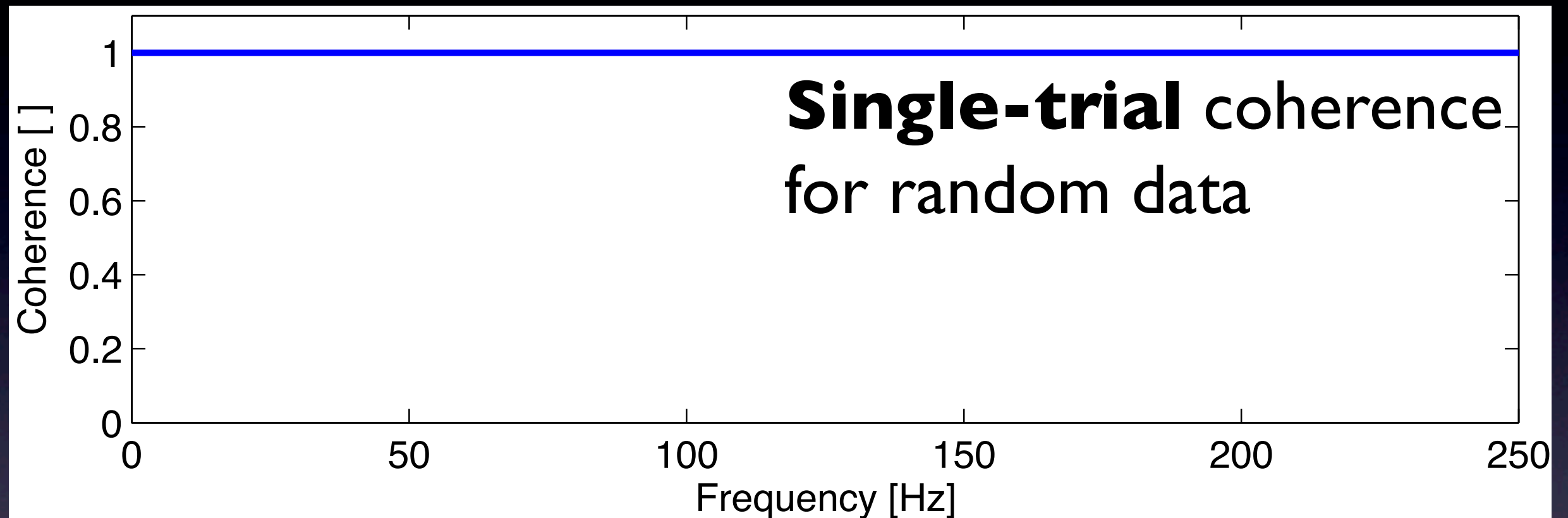


Are these two signals coherent?



# Coherence

Compute the result:



Observation: Perfect coherence for all frequencies.  
Two sensors are coherent “across trials”  
for a single trial.

*Alternative:* multi-taper method.

# Conclusions

In MATLAB:

- Power spectrum
- Coherence

Only scratched the surface ...

*MATLAB for Neuroscientists, Wallisch et al*  
*Observed Brain Dynamics, Mitra & Bokil*  
*Chronux.org, EEGLab*

*Spectral Analysis and Time Series, Priestley*  
*Spectral Analysis for Physical Applications,*  
*Percival & Walden*

Stay tuned ...

*Kramer, Eden 2014-15*