Digital Data Acquisition System





DAQ, ADC, DAC, and more alphabet soup





Image: All About Electronics

Analog to Digital Converters (ADCs) take a analog (continuous) signal and create a digital representation of it





Image: EDN

Let's look at some of the effects of ADC bit depth and sampling rate

volts per bit = $\frac{\text{range}}{2^n - 1}$



We often look at the SNR and ENOB

$SNR_{qe} = (6.02N_{bits}) + 1.76dB$

$ENOB = \frac{SNR - 1.76dB}{6.02dB}$



Oversampling is an effective strategy to increase the effective number of bits





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Noise shaping is another way many ADCs reduce the noise you see in your signal Oversampling





Image: Analog Devices

Be careful of filters in the ADC introducing artifacts though!





DACs go the other way, creating a voltage for a digital input value





Image: Electronics Tutorials

Pulse width modulation





Image: Electronics Tutorials

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Signal conditioning is amplification and filtering of the signal to get the best SNR possible

Analog Filters

Digital Filters







Image: WikiPedia

You'll explore analog filters in the labs, but we classify them into two main categories with a third "fake" category





Image: WikiPedia, Maxim Integrated

It is helpful to remember the basic types of filters that we generally employ though





Image: Electronics Tutorials

The most common filter you'll apply is the anti-aliasing filter

CONSULTING & INSTRUMENTATION



Image: National Instruments, mrpc