



Ingegneria delle Telecomunicazioni

Satellite Communications

21. TOMTOM and beyond - GNSS Receiver Design

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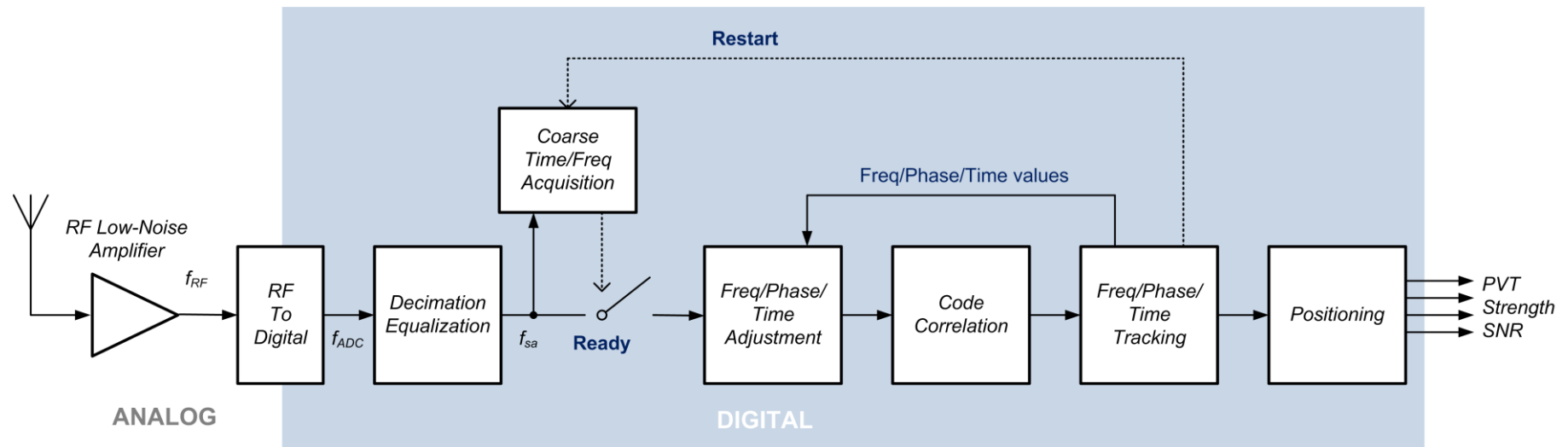
His(Her) Majesty TomTom GO, 2004

- GPS receiver
- Digital Maps
- Navigation SW
- User-Friendly GUI
 - Voice Directions
- Touch-screen Display

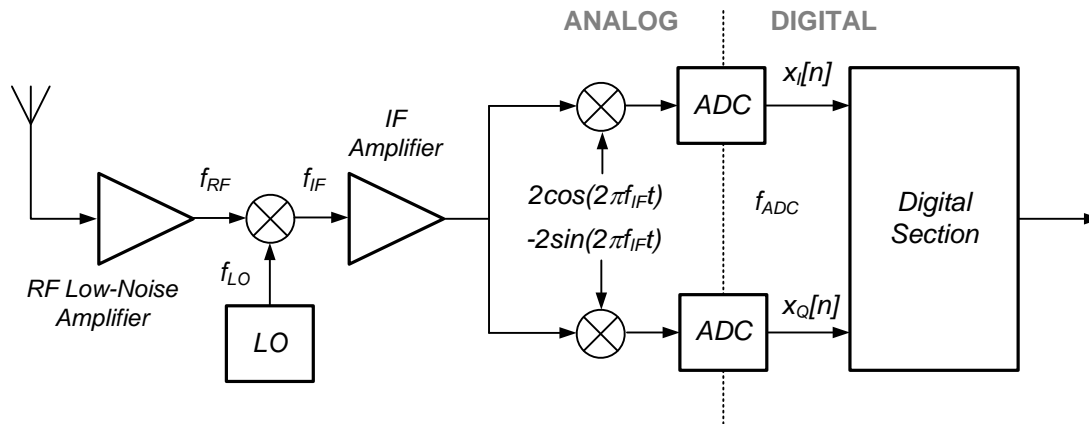


Basic Receiver Architecture

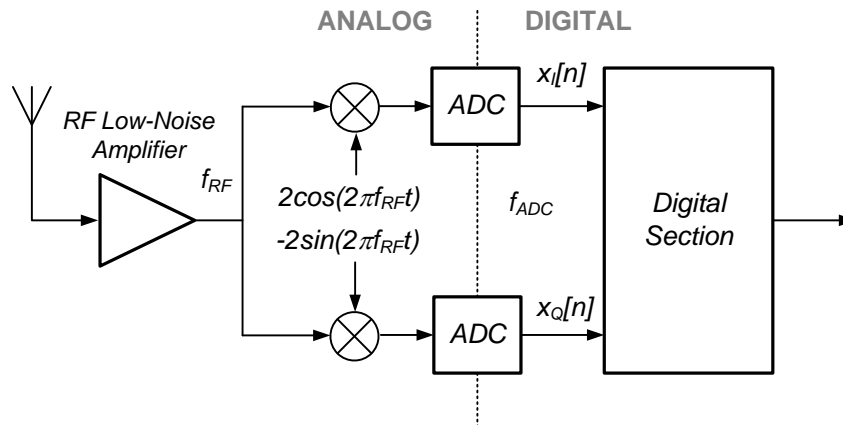
- Modern receivers perform all of the signal processing functions with DSP components and algorithms



Form RF to Digital - I

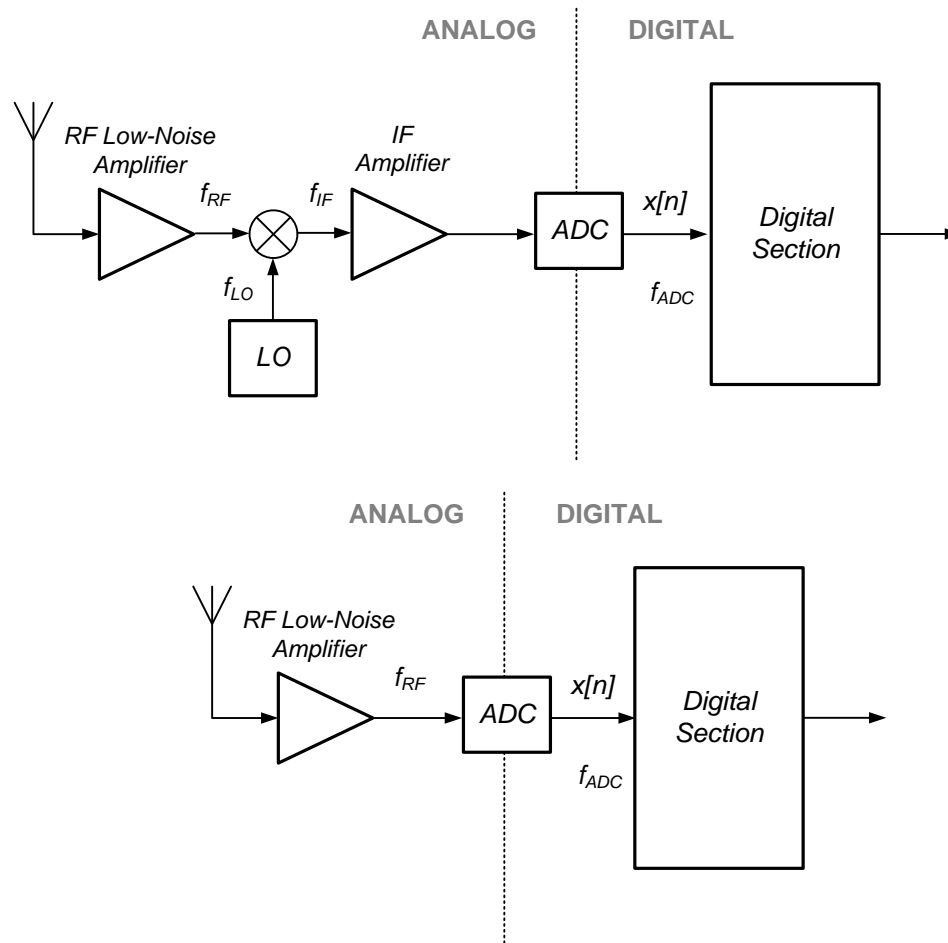


- I/Q BaseBand Sampling with IF Conversion



- I/Q BaseBand Sampling with Direct Baseband Conversion (aka ZERO-IF Architecture)

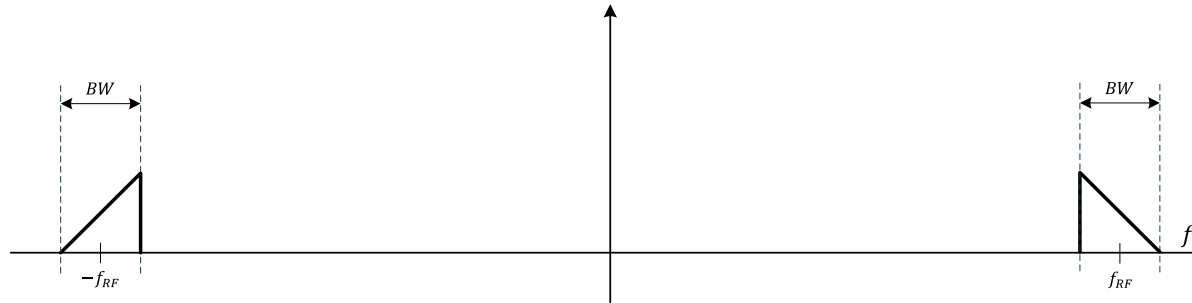
Form RF to Digital - II



- IF BandPass Sampling with Digital IF
- **Direct RF Sampling with Digital IF**

Band-Pass Sampling

- *Pass-band, real signal*
 - RF (passband) bandwidth BW
 - carrier frequency f_{RF}



**HERMITIAN
SYMMETRIC**

$$X(-f) = X(f)^*$$

- *Nyquist-sampling condition:*

$$f_s \geq 2B = 2 \left(f_{RF} + \frac{BW}{2} \right)$$
- *For navigation signals in L-band, this is unrealistic!*

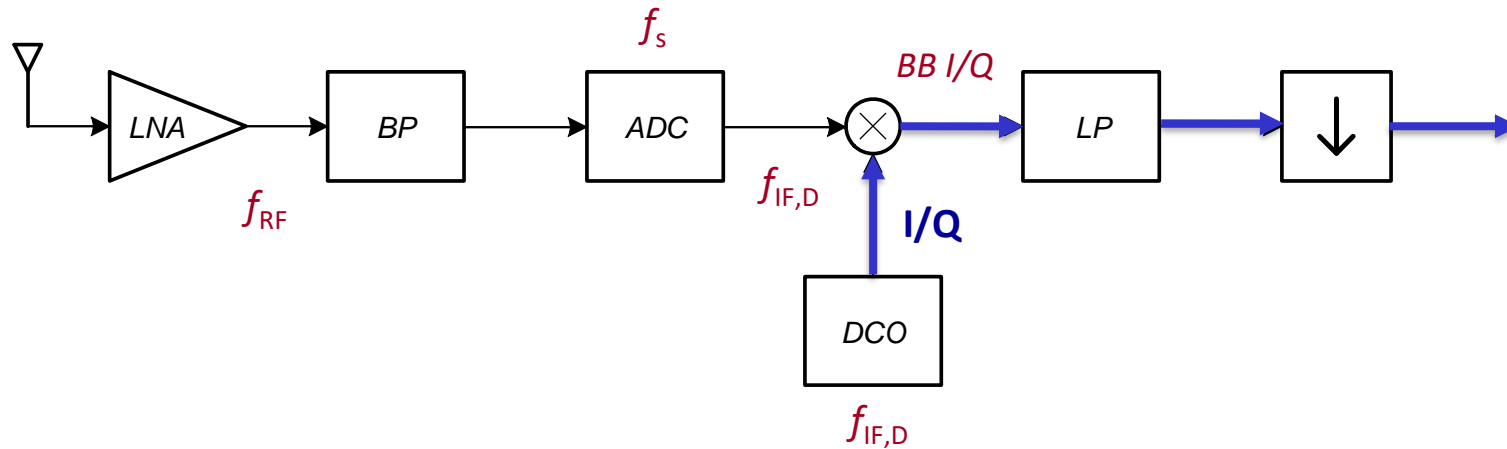
$$f_{RF} \in [1 \text{ GHz}, 2 \text{ GHz}] \quad \Rightarrow \quad f_s > 2 \div 4 \text{ GHz}$$

- *Solution: **band-pass sampling** at reduced rate :*

$$f_s \approx 2BW$$

Direct Sampling Front-End Architecture

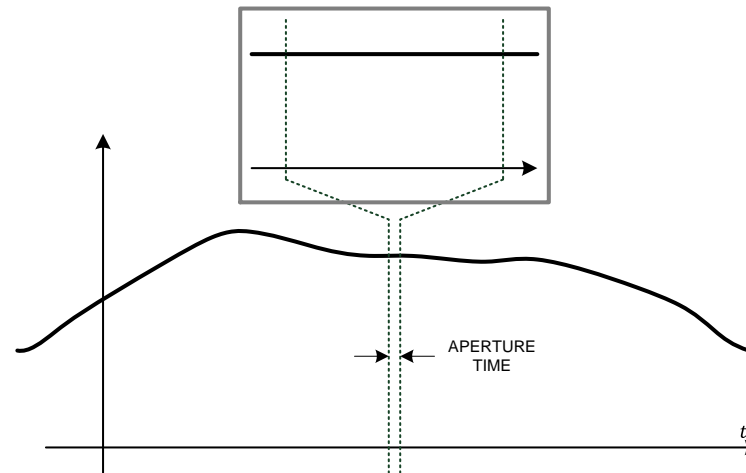
- Front-end architecture of direct-sampling receiver



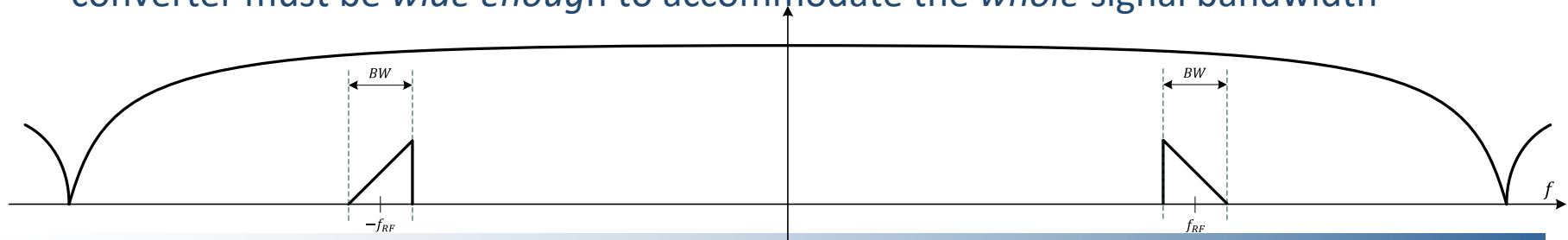
- RX signal from antenna is sampled **directly after LNA** and RF BP filter
 - no RF-to-IF downconversion stage / all-digital processing
- **Digital** IF $f_{IF,D}$ resulting from the interplay between f_{RF} and f_s (later on)
- **Digital** I/Q oscillator to convert the received signal at $f_{IF,D}$ to I/Q base-band
- low-pass filter to isolate the channel of interest
 - filter bandwidth is BW
- base-band decimation
 - base-band signal may be oversampled for many applications

Direct Sampling Requirements

- Any A/D converter is characterized by the *aperture time*, i.e., the time over which the signal must be stable (constant) to compute the digital output
 - it must be short enough to have correct signal sampling (constant level)



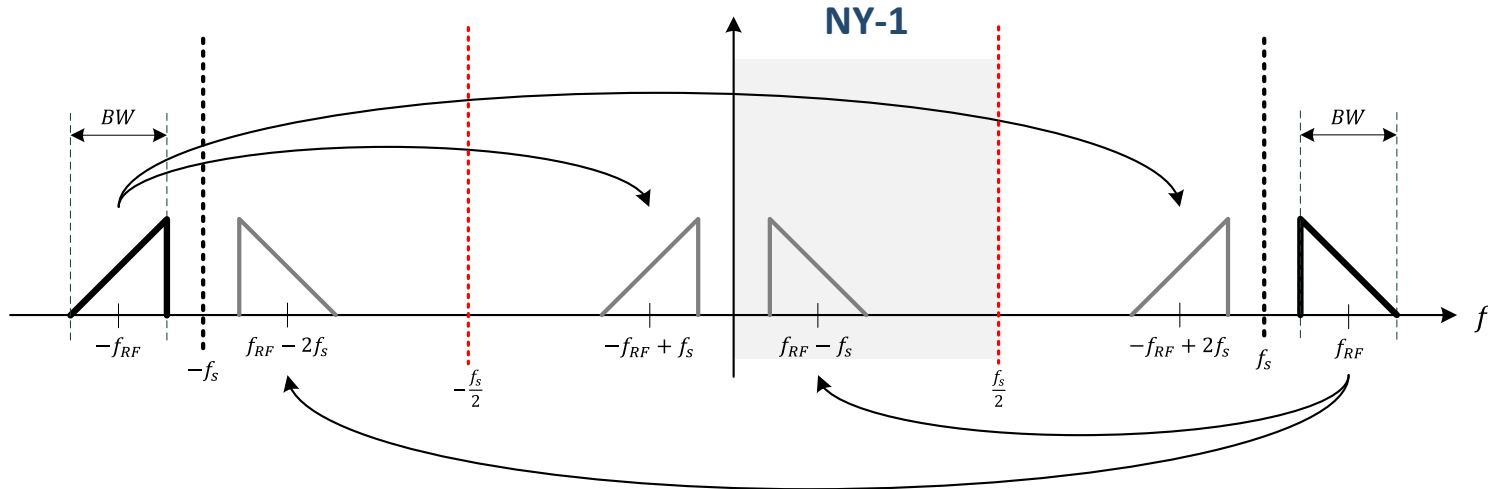
- In the frequency domain, this (also) means that the input bandwidth of the A/D converter must be *wide enough* to accommodate the *whole* signal bandwidth



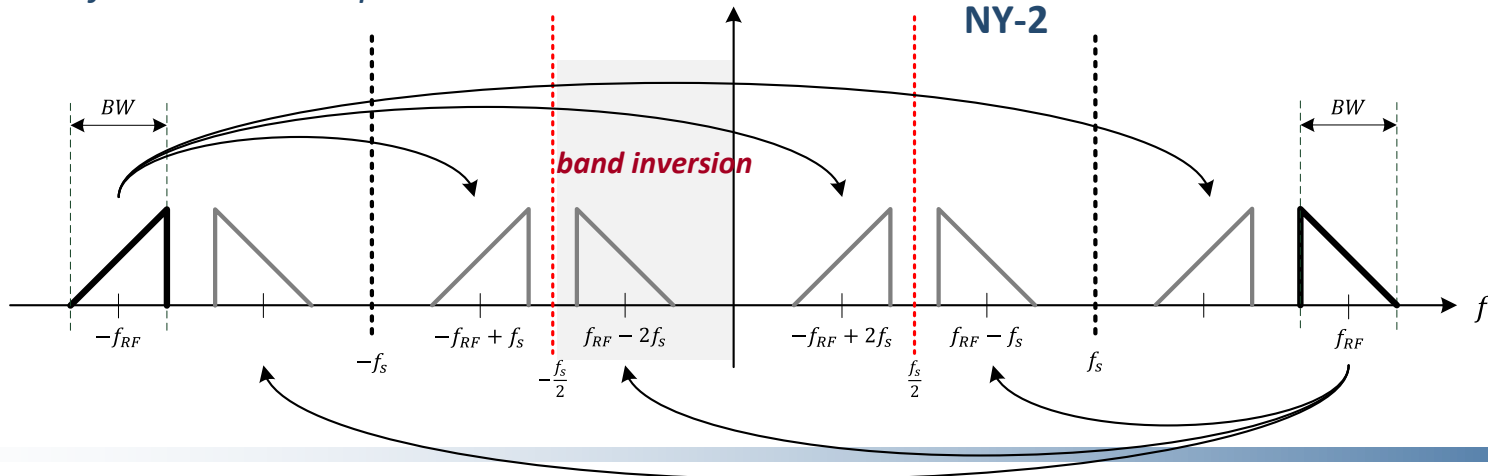
- $f_{RF} = 5$ MHz, BW=1 MHz
 - Conventional, Nyquist-rule $f_s = 2 * (5 + 0.5) = 11$ MHz
- Try $f_{RF} = 4$ MHz
 - ... and look at the digital bandwidth -2 MHz $< f < 2$ MHz
 - Find $f_{IF,D}$
- Then try $f_{RF} = 7$ MHz
 - ... and look at the digital bandwidth -3.5 MHz $< f < 3.5$ MHz
 - Find $f_{IF,D}$
 - Can you guess what happened ?

Pass-Band Sampling: Band Inversion

- case I: fundamental replica in NY-1 zone:

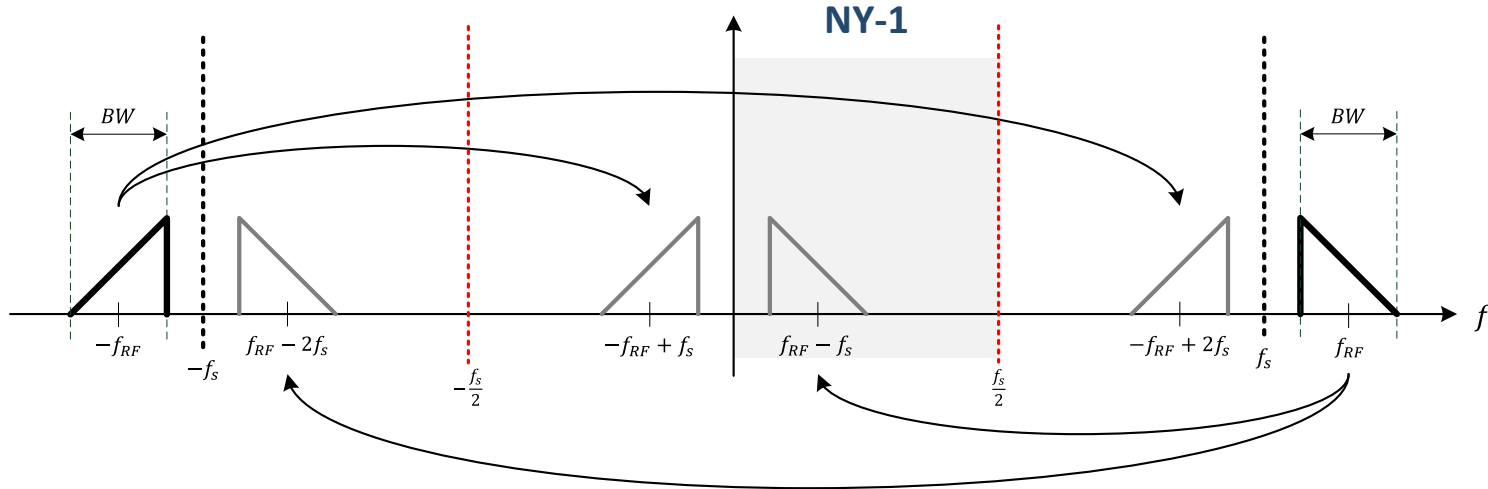


- case II: fundamental replica in NY-2 zone:



Pass-Band Sampling 1

- *case I: fundamental replica in NY-1 zone:*

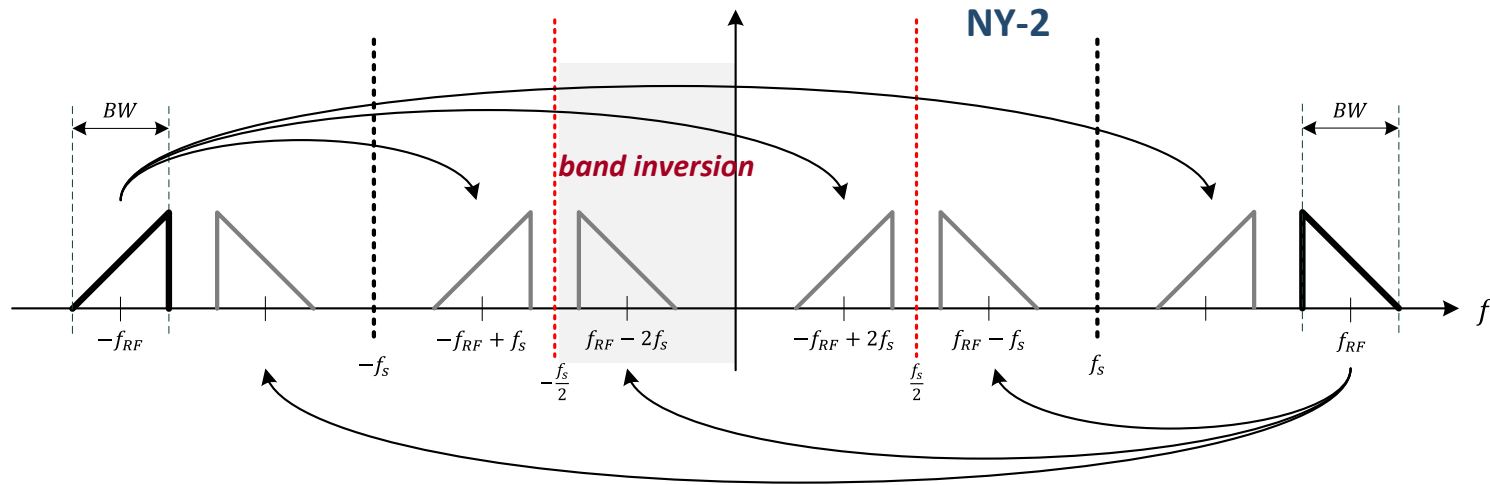


- The resulting Digital IF is derived from the relation $f_{IF,D} = f_{RF} - mf_s$ where m is integer and is such that $f_{IF,D}$ lies in the *POSITIVE HALF* of the digital bandwidth, $0 \leq f < f_s/2$

$$f_{IF,D} = f_{RF} - mf_s \quad \Rightarrow \quad f_{IF,D} = |f_{RF}|_{f_s}$$

Pass-Band Sampling 2: Band Inversion

- case II: fundamental replica in NY-2 zone:



The resulting Digital IF is again derived from the relation $f_{IF,D} = f_{RF} - mf_s$ where m is integer, but now it is in the *NEGATIVE HALF* of the digital bandwidth $-\frac{f_s}{2} \leq f < 0$

$$f_{IF,D} = f_{RF} - mf_s \Rightarrow f_{IF,D} = \left| f_{RF} \right|_{f_s} - f_s$$

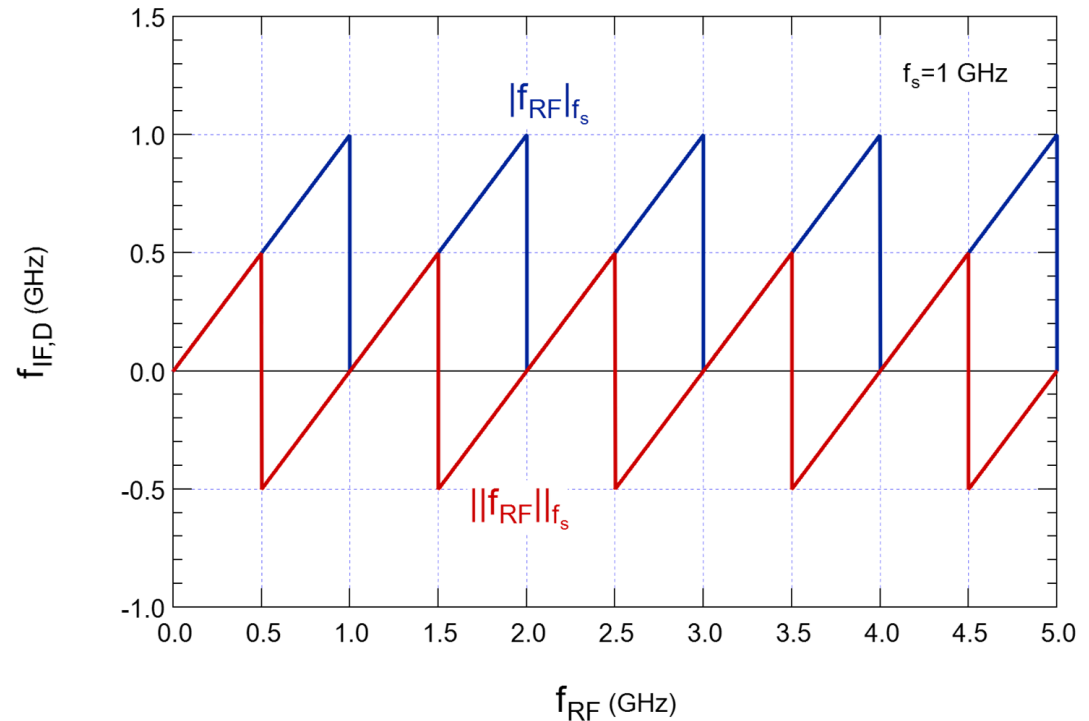
where the $-f_s$ term has the purpose of re-mapping the “modulus- f_s ” function to $-\frac{f_s}{2}, \frac{f_s}{2}$ instead of $0, f_s$ as in the mathematical definition (leading to a digital IF out of the digital bandwidth)

Pass-Band Sampling: Computing $f_{IF,D}$

We define a “modified”,
symmetrical modulus function

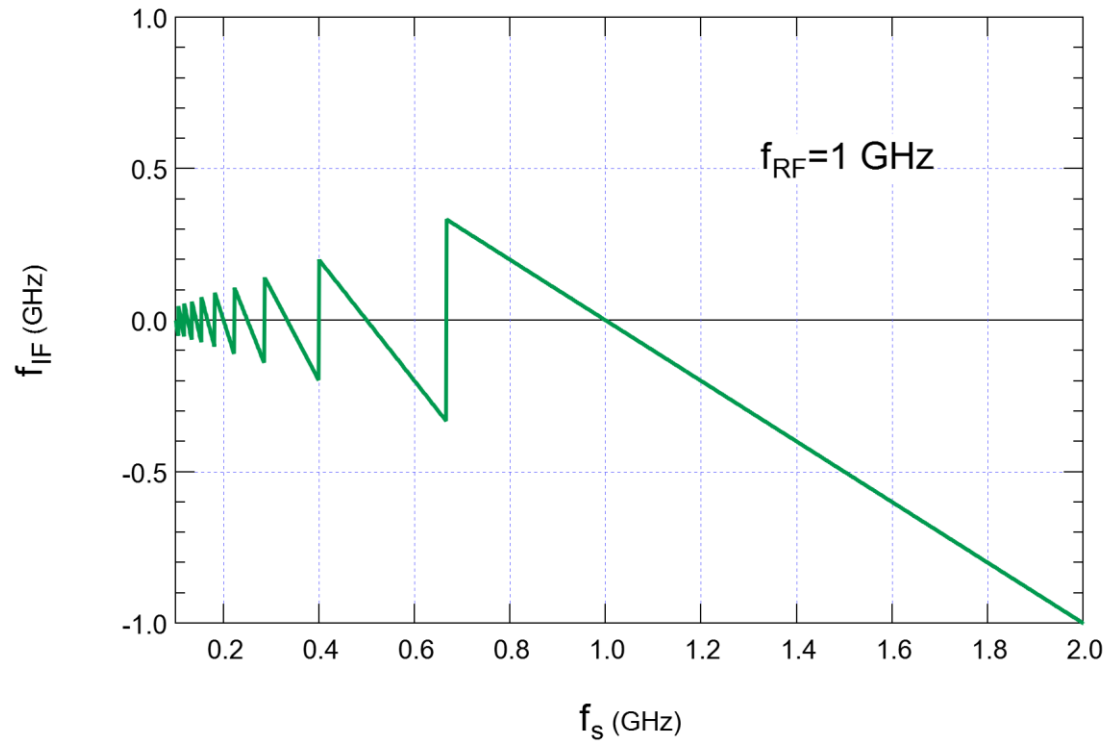
$$f_{IF,D} = \left\| f_{RF} \right\|_{f_s} \triangleq \left| f_{RF} + \frac{f_s}{2} \right|_{f_s} - \frac{f_s}{2} = \begin{cases} |f_{RF}|_{f_s} & , \quad |f_{RF}|_{f_s} \leq f_s / 2 \\ |f_{RF}|_{f_s} - f_s & , \quad |f_{RF}|_{f_s} > f_s / 2 \end{cases}$$

where the $-f_s/2$ term has the purpose of re-mapping the “modulus- f_s ” function to $[-f_s/2, f_s/2)$ instead of $[0, f_s)$ as in the mathematical definition. For short, we will call $f_{IF,D}$ just f_{IF}



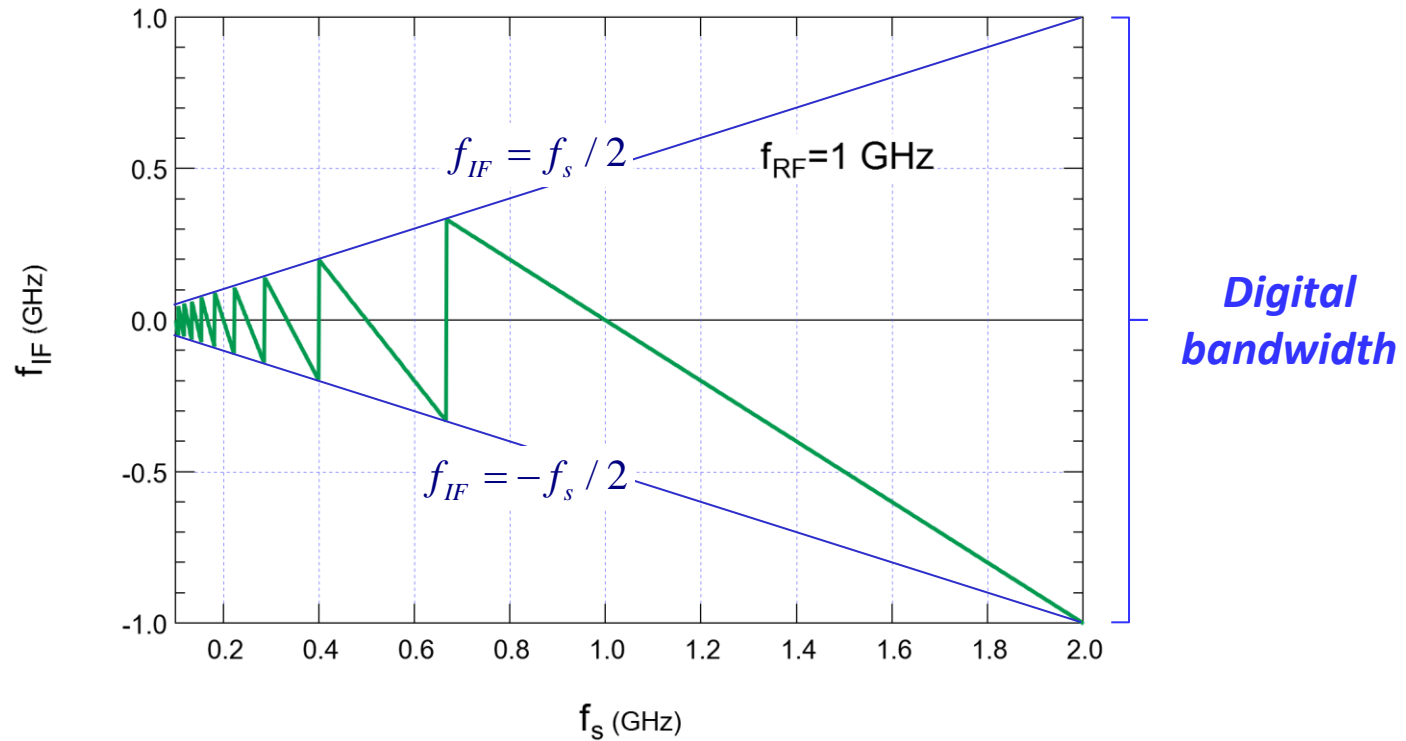
The “Modified Modulus” as a function of f_s

$$f_{IF} = \left\| f_{RF} \right\|_{f_s}$$

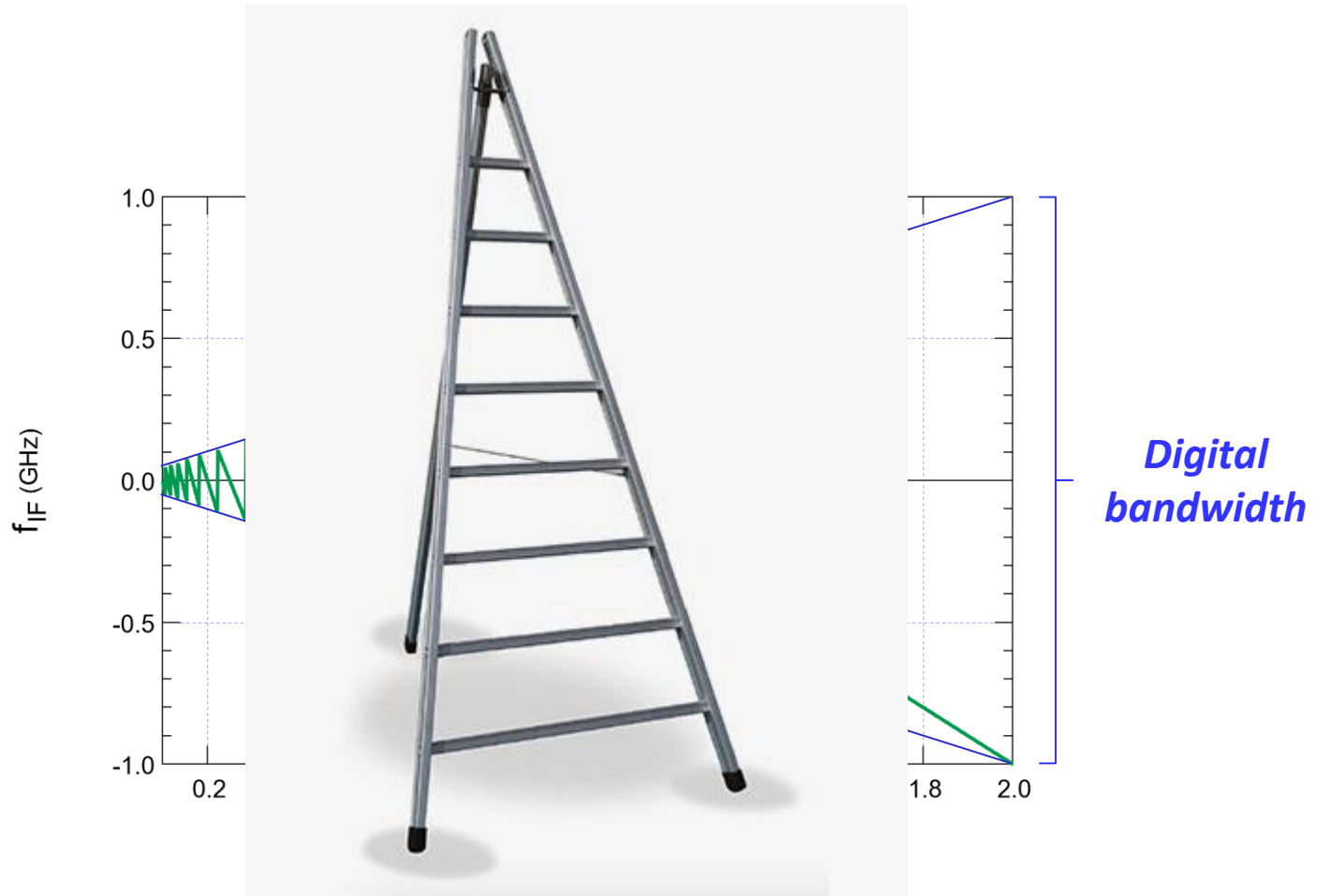


The “Modified Modulus” as a function of f_s

$$f_{IF} = \left\| f_{RF} \right\|_{f_s}$$



The “Modified Modulus” as a function of f_s



The Ladder Diagram I

- *Digital IF frequency:*

$$f_{IF} = \left\| f_{RF} \right\|_{f_s} = \left| f_{RF} + \frac{f_s}{2} \right|_{f_s} - \frac{f_s}{2} \quad (\text{Symmetric Modulus Function})$$

- *Case-I (NY-1):*

$$0 \leq f_{IF} < \frac{f_s}{2}$$

- *Just frequency conversion*

-

- *Case II (NY-2):*

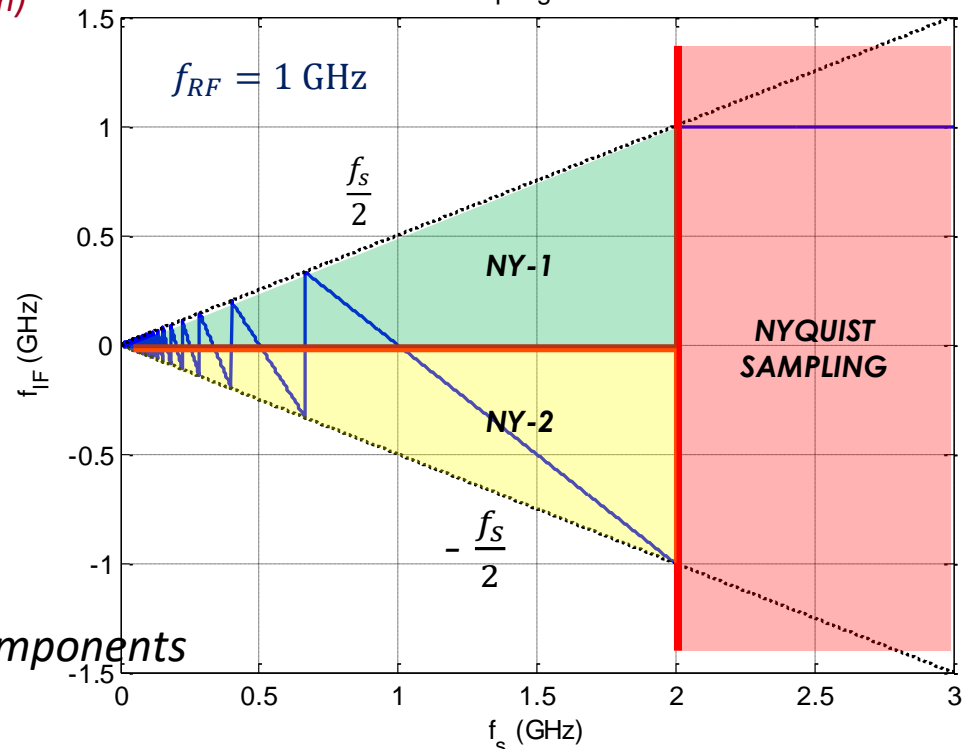
$$-\frac{f_s}{2} \leq f_{IF} < 0$$

- *Frequency conversion AND **band inversion**, i.e., f_{IF} can be considered positive but the Q components is sign-changed*

- *OK with f_{IF} , but what is the relation of f_s with the (bandpass) signal BW ?*

case study:
 $f_{RF} = 1 \text{ GHz}$

direct sampling: local carrier



Updated Nyquist Rule

- Selection of sampling rate
 - ***no aliasing within the signal bandwidth***

$$\begin{cases} f_{IF} + \frac{BW}{2} \leq \frac{f_s}{2} \\ f_{IF} - \frac{BW}{2} \geq 0 \end{cases}$$

$$f_{IF} > 0$$

$$\begin{cases} f_{IF} + \frac{BW}{2} \leq 0 \\ f_{IF} - \frac{BW}{2} \geq -\frac{f_s}{2} \end{cases}$$

$$f_{IF} < 0$$



$$\begin{cases} |f_{IF}| \geq \frac{BW}{2} \\ |f_{IF}| \leq \frac{f_s}{2} - \frac{BW}{2} \end{cases}$$

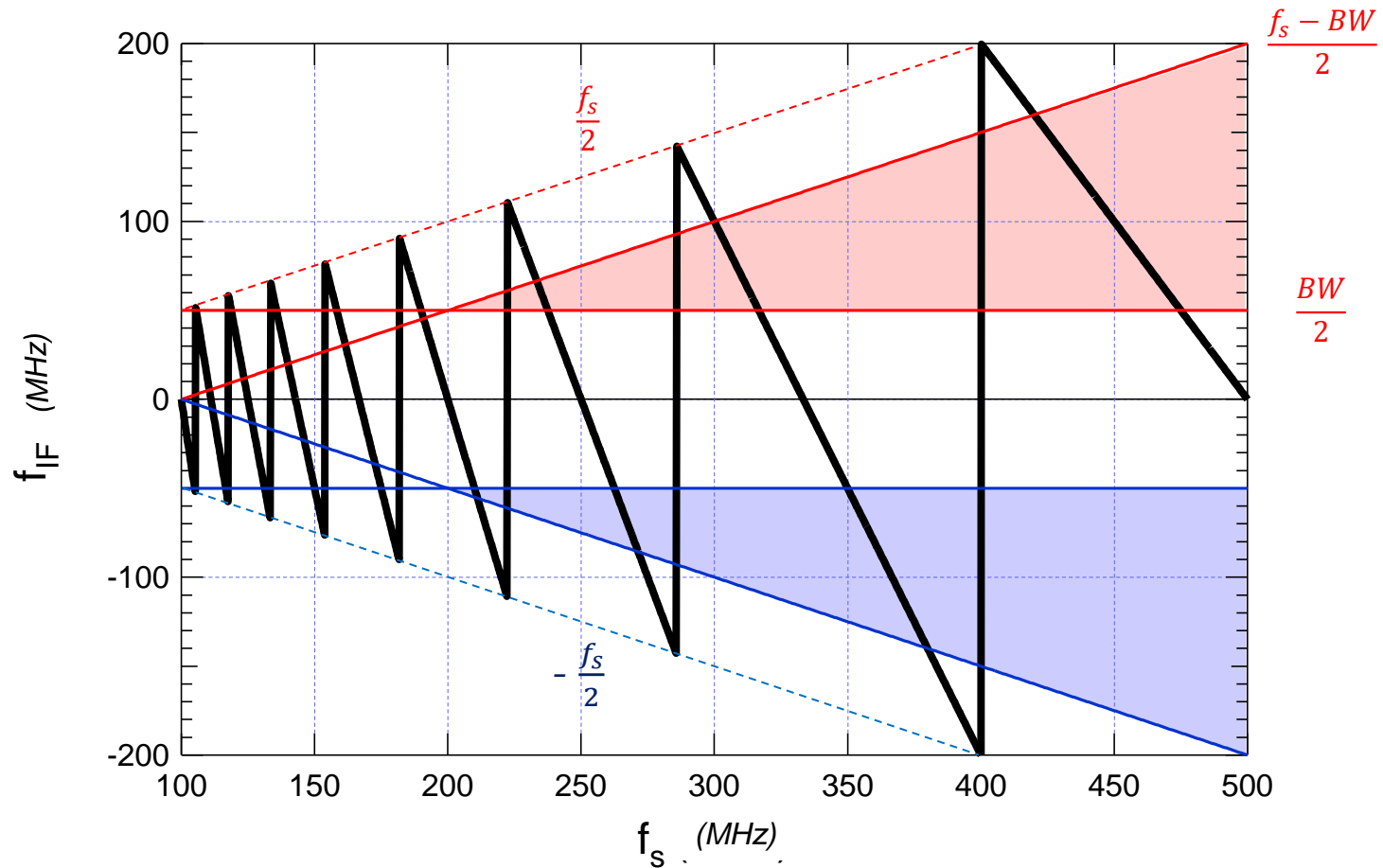


$$\frac{BW}{2} \leq |f_{IF}| \leq \frac{f_s}{2} - \frac{BW}{2}$$

- We can visualize the inequality on the Ladder diagram to actually find the allowed values of the digital carrier f_{IF} AND of the sampling frequency f_s

The Ladder Diagram II

- Case study: $f_{RF}=1$ GHz and $BW=100$ MHz



Sample Design: GNSS Direct-Sampling Front-End

N.	RIMS V3 Req	Satellite System	Band	Lower/Upper	Signal	Carrier (MHz)	Carrier_BB (MHz)	ID_Comb_Carrier-BW	ID_BW_RF	BW @ RF (MHz)
1	Baseline	GALILEO	E5a	Lower	E5aI-E5aQ	1176,45	-135,55	1	1	20,46
2	Baseline	GPS	L5	Lower	I5-Q5	1176,45	-135,55	1	1	20,46
3	Baseline	GEO	L5	Lower	L5I-L5Q	1176,45	-135,55	1	1	20,46
4	Expandability	HEO	L5	Lower	L5I-L5Q	1176,45	-135,55	1	1	20,46
5	Expandability	GALILEO	E5b	Lower	E5bI-E5bQ	1207,14	-104,86	2	1	20,46
6	Optional	BEIDOU	E5b	Lower	B2I	1207,14	-104,86	2	1	20,46
7	Optional	GALILEO	E5	Lower	E5	1191,795	-120,205	3	2	40,92
8	Baseline	GPS	L2	Lower	L2CM/L2CL	1227,6	-84,4	4	1	20,46
9	Baseline	GPS	L2	Lower	L2P	1227,6	-84,4	4	1	20,46
10	Optional	GLONASS	L2	Lower	L2OF	1246	-66	5	3	7
11	Expandability	GALILEO	E6	Lower	E6B-E6C	1278,75	-33,25	6	4	10,23
12	Baseline	GALILEO	E1	Upper	E1B-E1C	1575,42	-64,58	7	5	24,552
13	Baseline	GPS	L1	Upper	L1CA	1575,42	-64,58	8	6	30,69
14	Expandability	GPS	L1	Upper	L1C-D/P	1575,42	-64,58	8	6	30,69
15	Baseline	GEO	L1	Upper	L1I-L1Q	1575,42	-64,58	8	6	30,69
16	Expandability	HEO	L1	Upper	L1I-L1Q	1575,42	-64,58	8	6	30,69
17	Optional	GLONASS	L1	Upper	L1OF	1602	-38	9	7	9
18	Optional	BEIDOU	L1	Upper	B1I	1561,098	-78,902	10	1	20,46

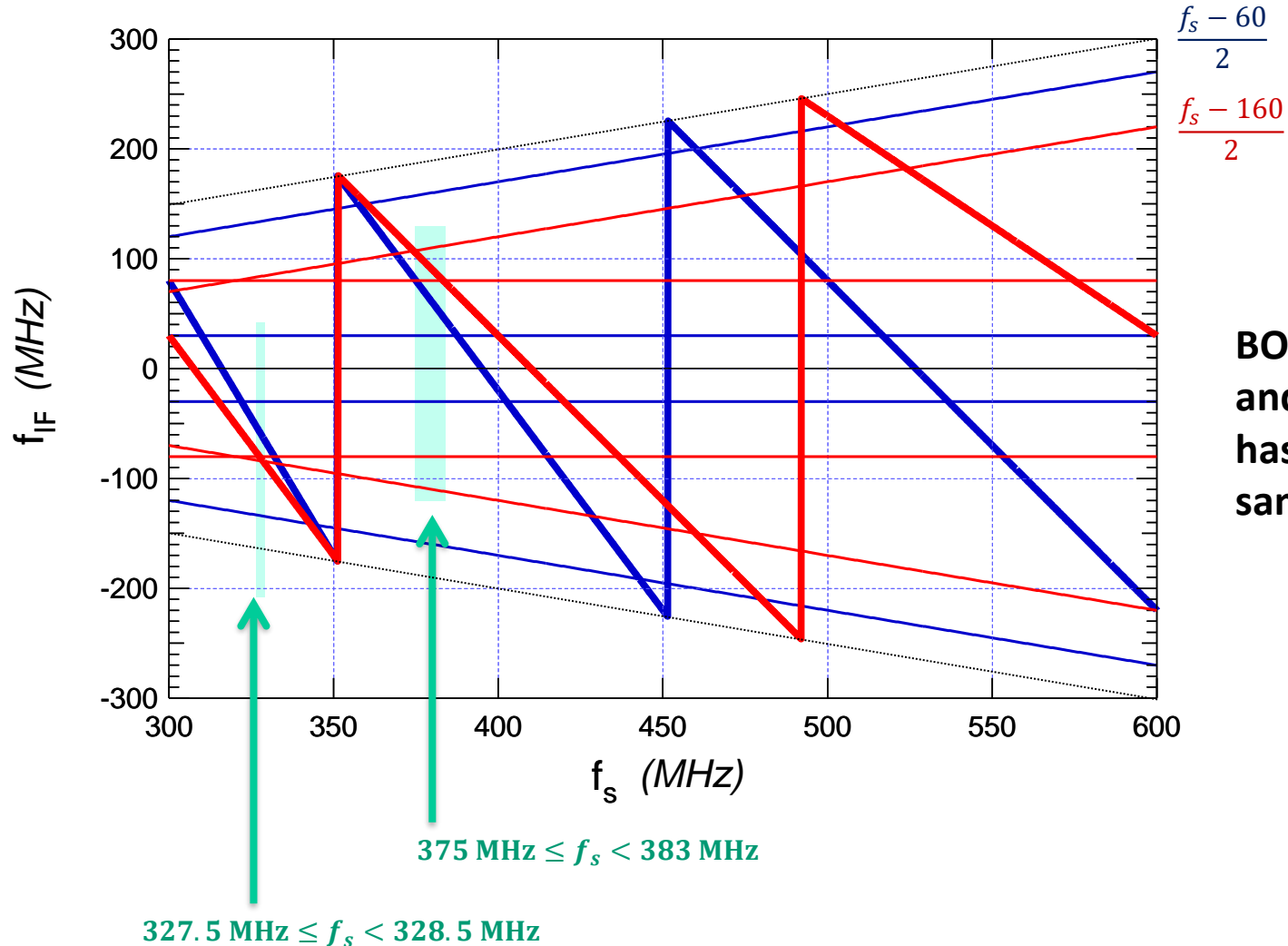
- *Lower-band:*

- SIS from 1 to 11 (1150 to 1310 MHz)
- $BW_L = 160 \text{ MHz}$; $f_{RF,L} = 1230 \text{ MHz}$

- *Upper-band*

- SIS from 12 to 18 (1550 to 1610 MHz)
- $BW_U = 60 \text{ MHz}$; $f_{RF,U} = 1580 \text{ MHz}$

GNSS Direct-Sampling Front-End: Ladder(s)



BOTH ladders (lower and upper bands) has to work at the same time !

GNSS Direct-Sampling Front-End: Final Choice

- Selection of sampling rate: Ladder diagram
 - requirement: no aliasing of the signal bandwidth

$$NY-1 \begin{cases} f_{IF} + \frac{BW}{2} \leq \frac{f_s}{2} \\ f_{IF} - \frac{BW}{2} \geq 0 \end{cases}$$

$$NY-2 \begin{cases} f_{IF} + \frac{BW}{2} \leq 0 \\ f_{IF} - \frac{BW}{2} \geq -\frac{f_s}{2} \end{cases}$$



$$\begin{cases} |f_{IF}| \geq \frac{BW}{2} \\ |f_{IF}| \leq \frac{f_s}{2} - \frac{BW}{2} \end{cases}$$

Lowest-frequency solution (NY-2):

$$327.5 \text{ MHz} \leq f_s < 328.5 \text{ MHz}$$



$$f_s = 328 \text{ MHz}$$

next solution (NY-1):

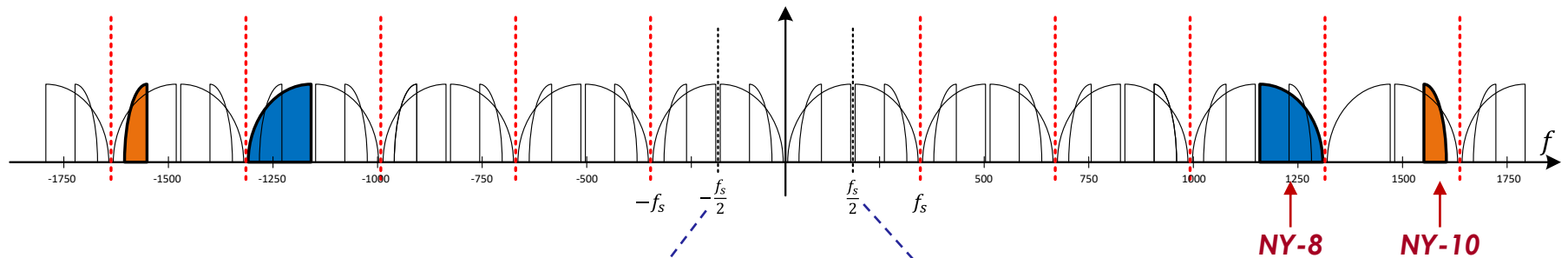
$$375 \text{ MHz} \leq f_s < 383 \text{ MHz}$$



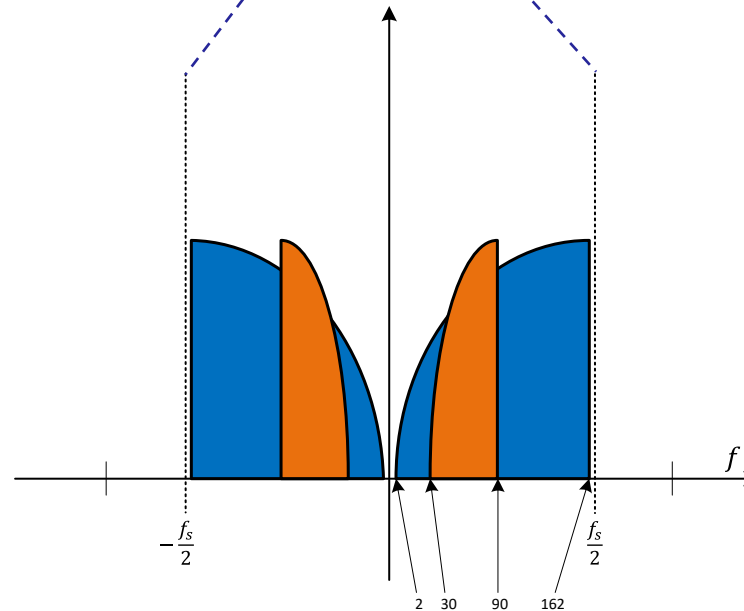
$$\frac{BW}{2} \leq |f_{IF}| \leq \frac{f_s}{2} - \frac{BW}{2}$$

GNSS Direct-Sampling Front-end: Spectra

- Sampling frequency $f_s = 328$ MHz



- Upper-band:
 - $[-90; -30]$ MHz
 - $f_{IF,U} = -60$ MHz
- Lower-band:
 - $[-162; -2]$ MHz
 - $f_{IF,L} = -82$ MHz



Basic Modeling of the I/Q received signal

- N_{sat} : number of satellites in visibility (*elevation larger than ≈ 10 degrees*)
- i : satellite identifier
- C_i : received signal power
- τ_i : time of flight in the user time scale
- Δf_i : Doppler shift
- θ_i : carrier phase

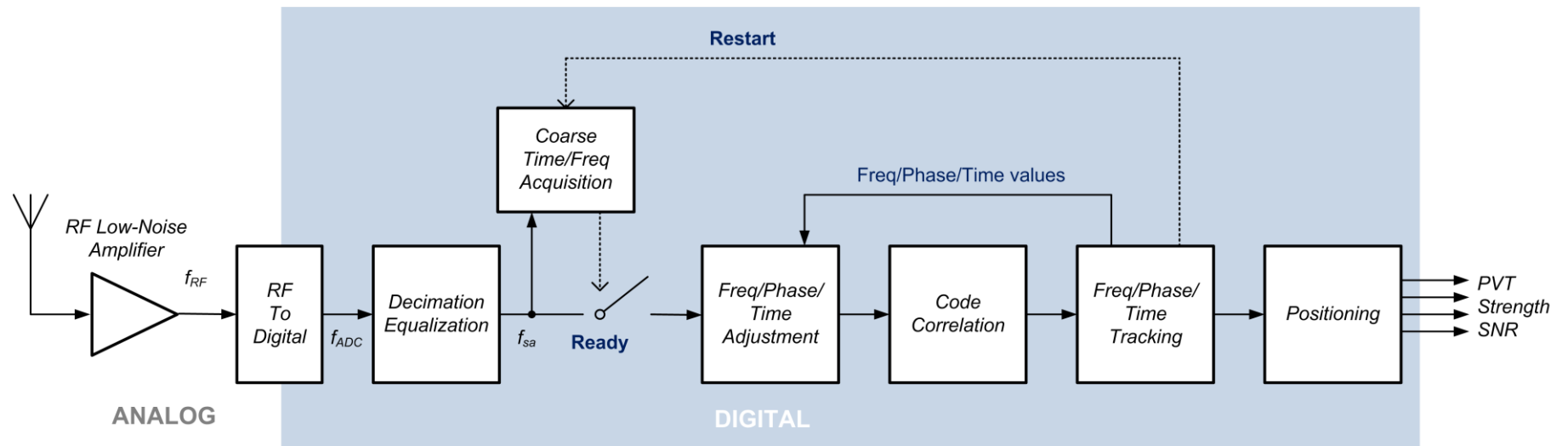
$$r(t) = \sum_{i=1}^{N_{sat}} \sqrt{2C_i} s_i(t - \tau_i) \exp \left[j \left(2\pi \Delta f_i t + \theta_i \right) \right] + w(t)$$

Whatever the architecture, at the output of the **RF to Digital** Section:

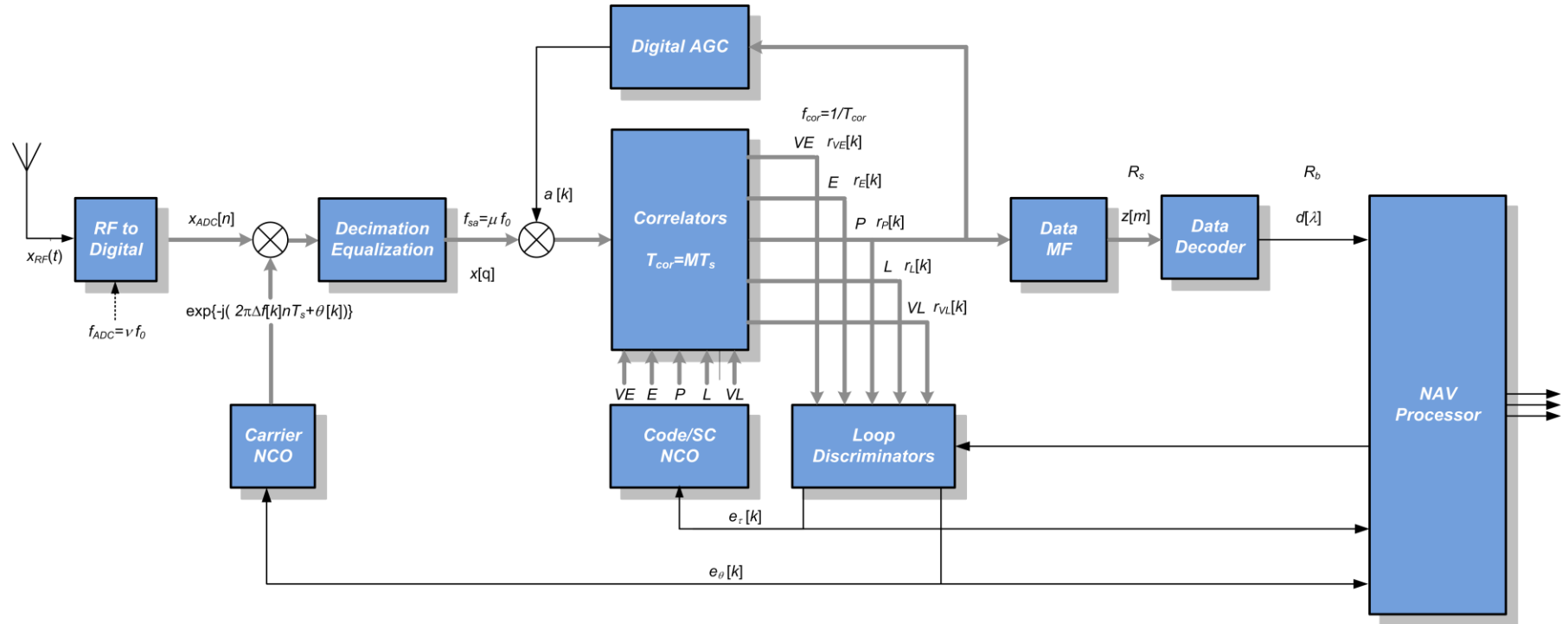
$$x_{ADC}[n] = \sum_{i=1}^{N_{sat}} \sqrt{2C_i} s_i(nT_s - \tau_i) \exp \left[j \left(2\pi \Delta f_i nT_s + \theta_i \right) \right] + w[nT_s]$$

Basic Receiver Architecture

- Modern receivers perform all of the signal processing functions with DSP components and algorithms



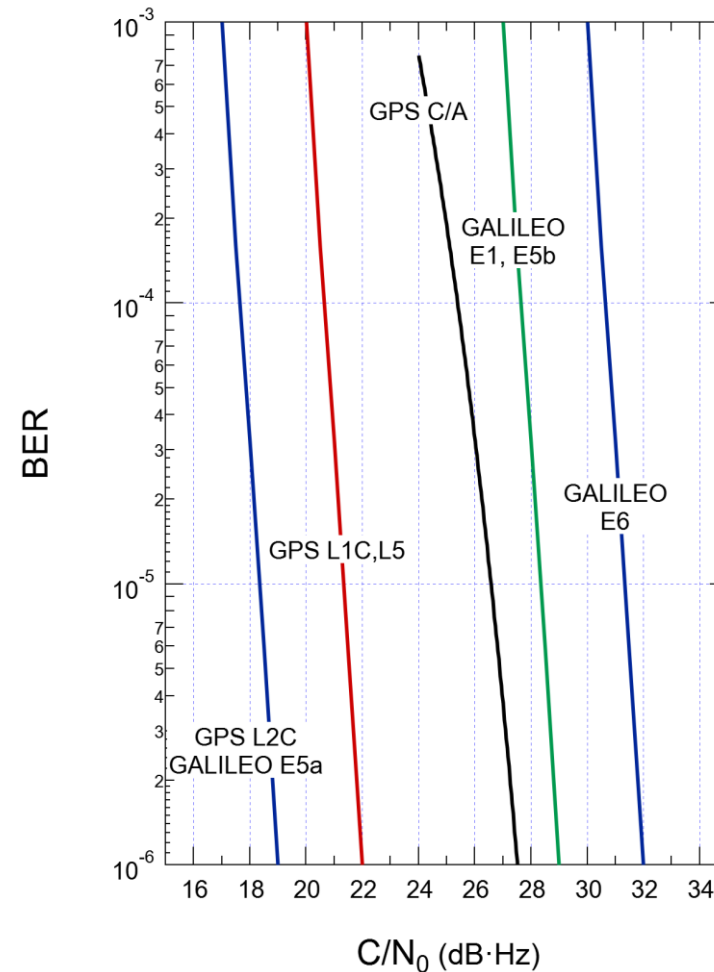
Detailed Receiver Architecture



*VE=Very Early, E=Early, L=Late, VL=Very Late correlations for the DLL
P=Prompt for Data Detection (may also be used for the DLL)*

NAV Message Data Reception

- Data detection performance depend on the bit-rate and on the kind of channel coding that is used on the different carriers/channels/systems



A Case Study: Code Delay Tracking

- $N_{sat}=1$
- $i=1$ satellite identifier
- $C_1=1/2$ received signal power
- $\tau_1=\tau$ time of flight in the user time scale
- $\Delta f_i=0$ Doppler shift
- $\theta_i=0$ carrier phase
- Pilot signal only (no Q component needed)

$$r(t) = \sqrt{2C} c(t - \tau) + w(t)$$

Let us concentrate on delay tracking...

Ranging Code Tracking

To maximize $\int_0^{T_0} r(t)c(t - \tilde{\tau})dt$ we do:

$$\frac{d}{d\tilde{\tau}} \int_0^{T_0} r(t)c(t - \tilde{\tau})dt = 0 \Rightarrow \int_0^{T_0} r(t) \frac{d}{d\tilde{\tau}} c(t - \tilde{\tau})dt = 0$$

$$\frac{d}{d\tilde{\tau}} c(t - \tilde{\tau}) \cong -\frac{c(t - \tilde{\tau} + \Delta) - c(t - \tilde{\tau} - \Delta)}{2\Delta} \Rightarrow \int_0^{T_0} r(t) \frac{c(t - \tilde{\tau} + \Delta) - c(t - \tilde{\tau} - \Delta)}{2\Delta} dt = 0$$

$$\int_0^{T_0} r(t)c(t - \tilde{\tau} + \Delta)dt - \int_0^{T_0} r(t)c(t - \tilde{\tau} - \Delta)dt = 0$$

T_0 is the correlation (observation) time

$$e(\tilde{\tau}) = \int_0^{T_0} r(t)c(t - \tilde{\tau} + \Delta)dt - \int_0^{T_0} r(t)c(t - \tilde{\tau} - \Delta)dt$$

Early correlation

$\tilde{\tau}$

Late correlation

Can be computed Real-Time on the k -th correlation interval $[(k-1)T_0, kT_0]$

$$e(\tilde{\tau}[k-1]) = \int_{(k-1)T_0}^{kT_0} r(t)c(t - \tilde{\tau}[k-1] + \Delta)dt - \int_{(k-1)T_0}^{kT_0} r(t)c(t - \tilde{\tau}[k-1] - \Delta)dt$$

the variable k runs at the correlation time T_0

Recursive delay estimation

- We know that the current estimate is correct (optimum) *iff* the feedback signal $e(\hat{\tau}[k-1])$ is zero, so that the estimate is maximum-likelihood.
- BUT, the feedback signal is in general NOT 0 - we can use this feedback signal (aka *discriminator output*) to recursively update the current estimate and find a better one:

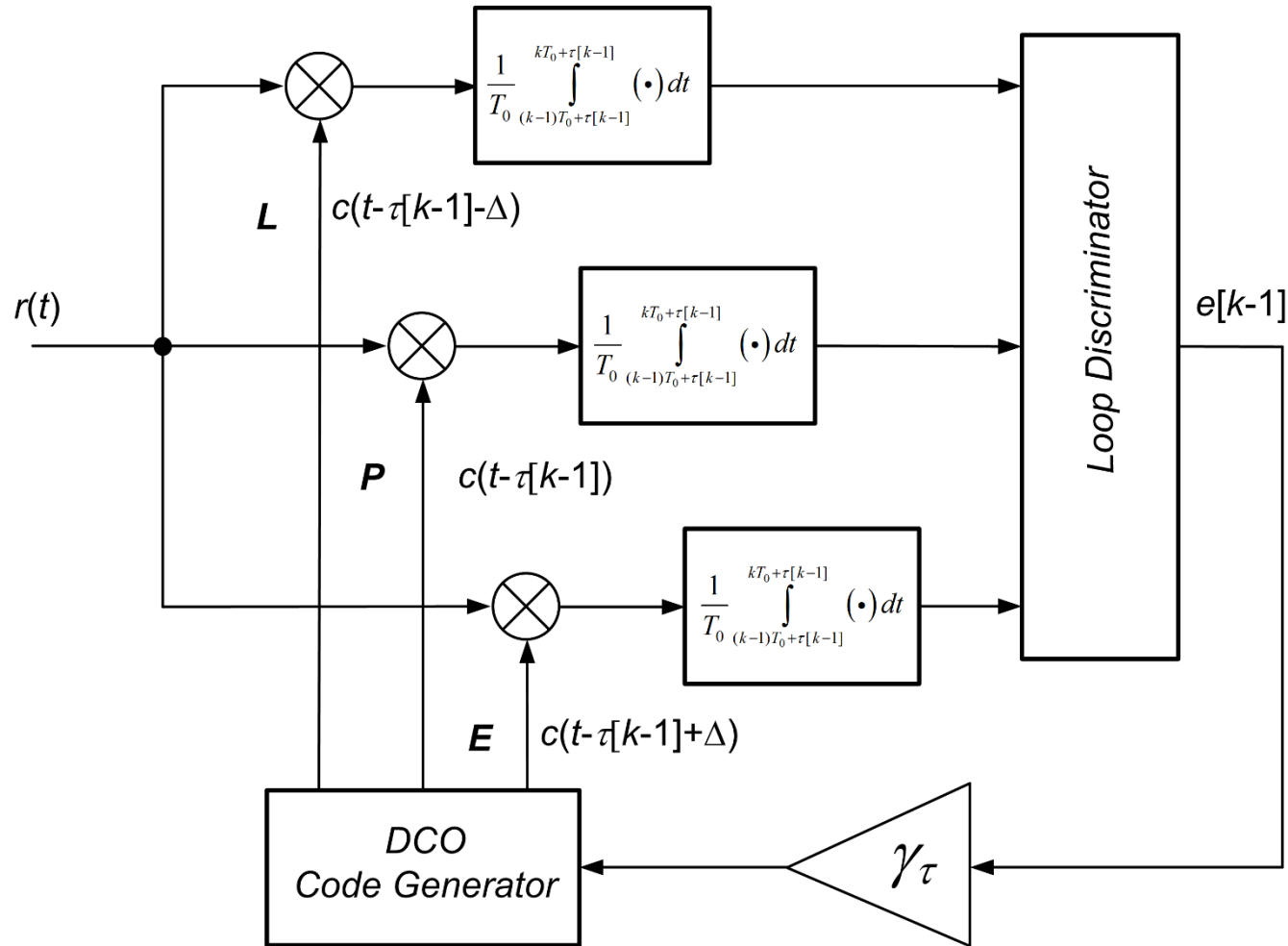
$$\hat{\tau}[k] = \hat{\tau}[k-1] - \gamma e[k-1]$$

where, for short,

$$e[k-1] \triangleq e(\hat{\tau}[k-1])$$

- This is the equation of a *negative feedback control loop* that finds an equilibrium at steady state whenever $e[k-1]=0 \rightarrow$ finds the (optimum) ML delay estimate !
- The constant γ is a *stepsize* (the *gain* of the feedback loop) that dictates the magnitude of the feedback correction term

The Delay-Lock "Loop" (DLL)



Early/Late Correlation Values

Received signal

$$r(t) = \sqrt{2C} \cdot c(t - \tau) + w(t)$$

$$e^{\pm}(\hat{\tau}[k-1]) = \int_{(k-1)T_0}^{kT_0} r(t)c(t - \hat{\tau}[k-1] \pm \Delta)dt \quad \text{Early/Late Correlations}$$

$$= \sqrt{2C} \int_{(k-1)T_0}^{kT_0} c(t - \tau)c(t - \hat{\tau}[k-1] \pm \Delta)dt + \int_{(k-1)T_0}^{kT_0} w(t)c(t - \hat{\tau}[k-1] \pm \Delta)dt$$

$$= \sqrt{2C} R_c(\hat{\tau}[k-1] - \tau \mp \Delta) + W^{\pm}[k-1]$$

Code Autocorrelation Function

Gaussian RVs

- Let us disregard noise for the moment, and let us define the estimation *error*

$$\varepsilon[k] \triangleq \hat{\tau}[k] - \tau$$

- The feedback signal (discriminator output) is therefore

$$\begin{aligned} e[k-1] &= e^+(\hat{\tau}[k-1]) - e^-(\hat{\tau}[k-1]) \\ &= \sqrt{2C} \cdot \left[R_c(\varepsilon[k-1] - \Delta) - R_c(\varepsilon[k-1] + \Delta) \right] = e(\varepsilon[k-1]) \end{aligned}$$

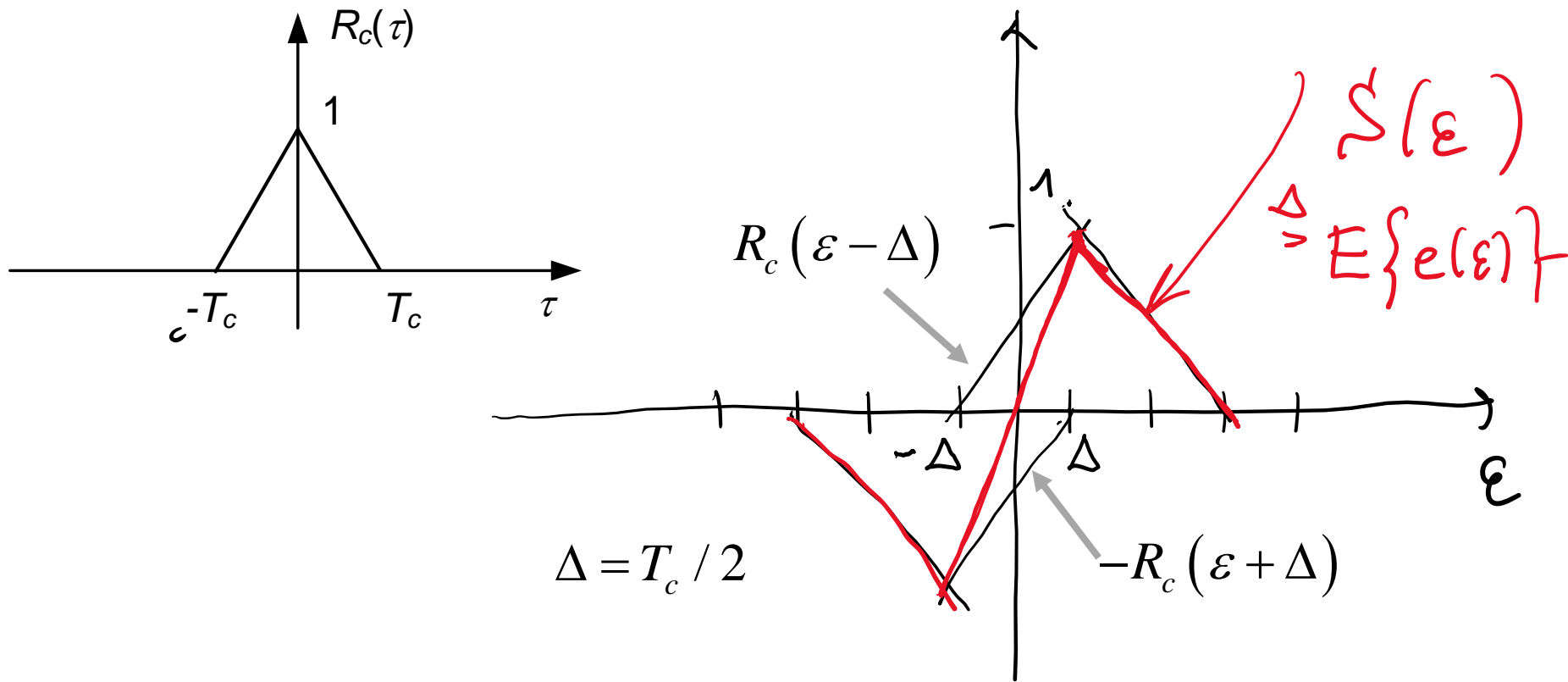
that depends on the estimation *error* $\varepsilon[k-1]$ – it is an *estimation error detector*

- The value of e as a function of a *fixed* estimation error ε (and without noise) is called the *discriminator characteristics* or *S-curve* of the estimator (loop)

$$S(\varepsilon) = e[k-1] \Big|_{\varepsilon[k-1]=\varepsilon} = \sqrt{2C} \cdot \left[R_c(\varepsilon - \Delta) - R_c(\varepsilon + \Delta) \right]$$

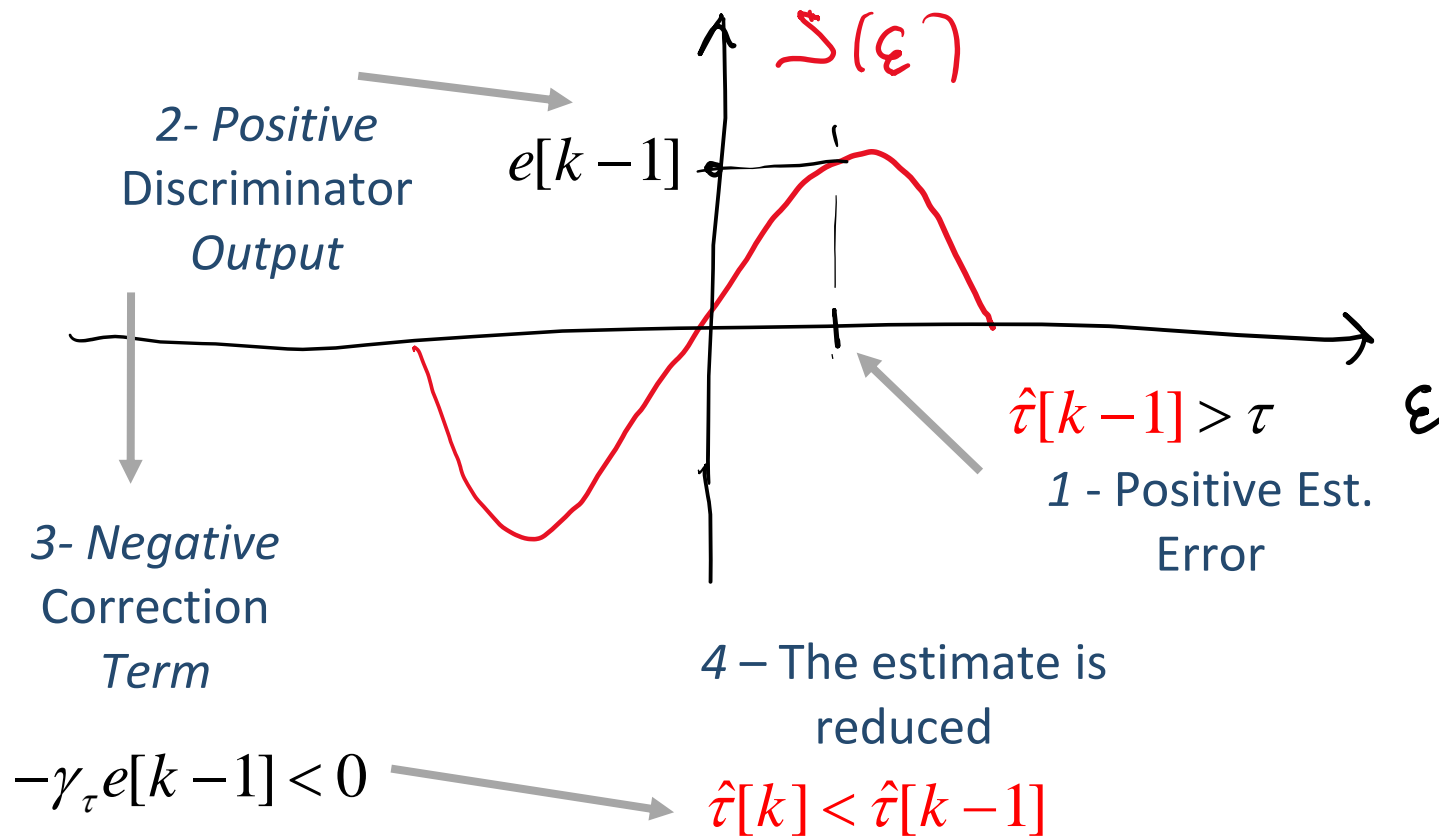
The S-curve

$$S(\varepsilon) = e[k-1] \Big|_{\varepsilon[k-1]=\varepsilon} = \sqrt{2C} \cdot [R_c(\varepsilon - \Delta) - R_c(\varepsilon + \Delta)]$$



Negative Feedback Loop

$$\hat{\tau}[k] = \hat{\tau}[k-1] - \gamma_{\tau} e[k-1]$$



- In addition to the useful term, the discriminator output also contains *noise*

$$\begin{aligned}
 e[k-1] &= e^+(\hat{\tau}[k-1]) - e^-(\hat{\tau}[k-1]) \\
 &= \sqrt{2C} \cdot \left[R_c(\varepsilon[k-1] - \Delta) - R_c(\varepsilon[k-1] + \Delta) \right] \\
 &\quad + \left[W^+[k-1] - W^-[k-1] \right] = S(\varepsilon[k-1]) + W[k-1]
 \end{aligned}$$

so the successive estimates $\hat{\tau}[k]$ will be *noisy* as well

$$\hat{\tau}[k] = \hat{\tau}[k-1] - \gamma \left(S(\varepsilon[k-1]) + W[k-1] \right)$$

- Large values of γ give a “fast” loop that is ready to react to large errors and drive back the estimate towards the correct value, but also enhance the effect of noise and provide a larger *error variance* σ_ε^2

Iterative Estimation ERROR Analysis

$$\hat{\tau}[k] = \hat{\tau}[k-1] - \gamma e[k-1]$$

Subtracting the true value τ we get the (recursive) ESTIMATION ERROR EQUATION

$$\varepsilon[k] = \varepsilon[k-1] - \gamma e[k-1]$$

still running at estimation time T_0

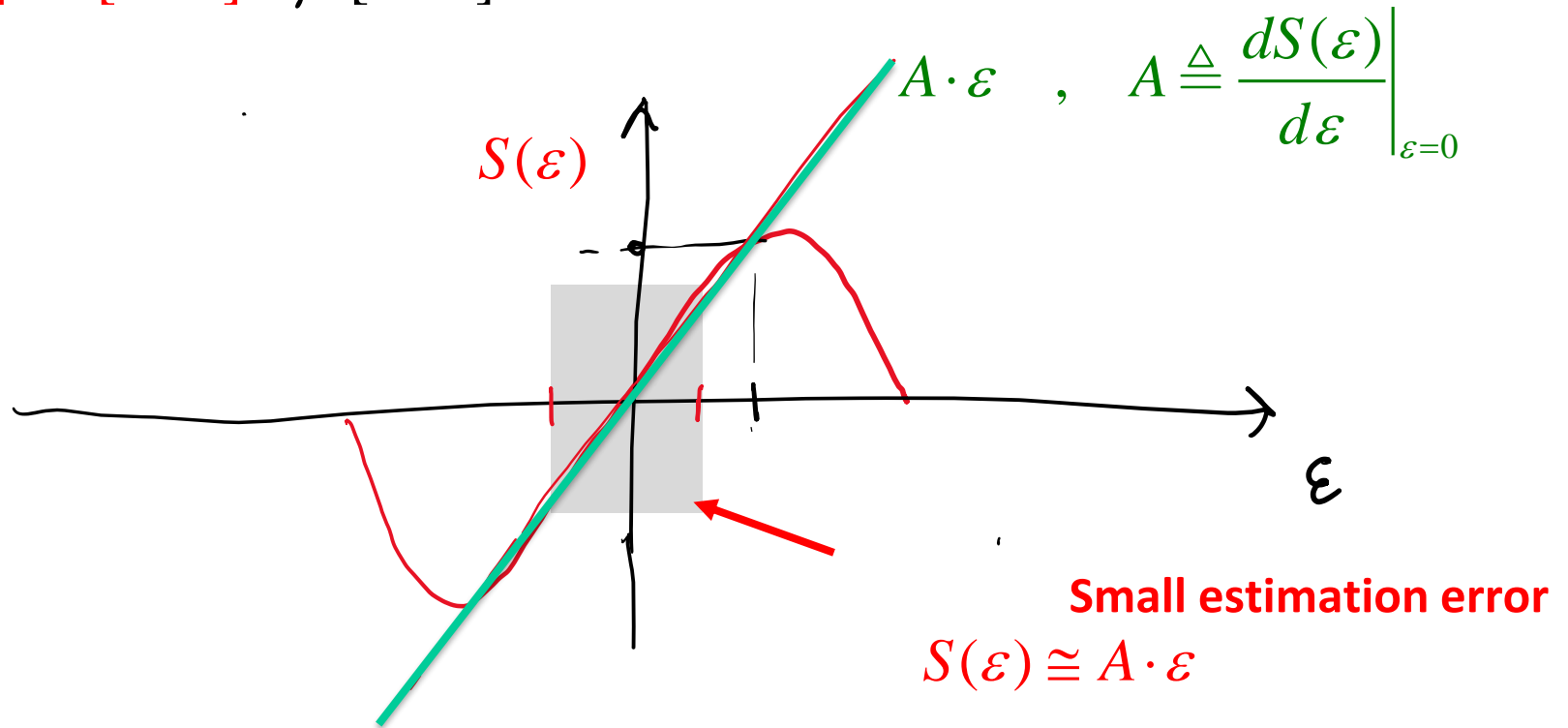
LOOP Noise

$$\varepsilon[k] = \varepsilon[k-1] - \gamma S(\varepsilon[k-1]) - \gamma W[k-1]$$

LOOP Error Function

Estimate Variance: Linearized Loop

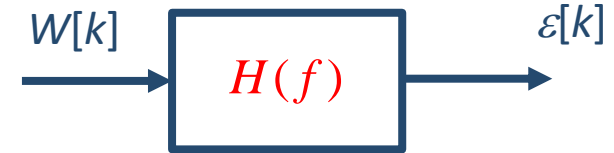
$$\varepsilon[k] = \varepsilon[k-1] - \gamma e[k-1]$$



$$\varepsilon[k] \cong \varepsilon[k-1] - \gamma (A\varepsilon[k-1] + W[k-1]) \quad , \quad W[k-1] = W^+[k-1] - W^-[k-1]$$

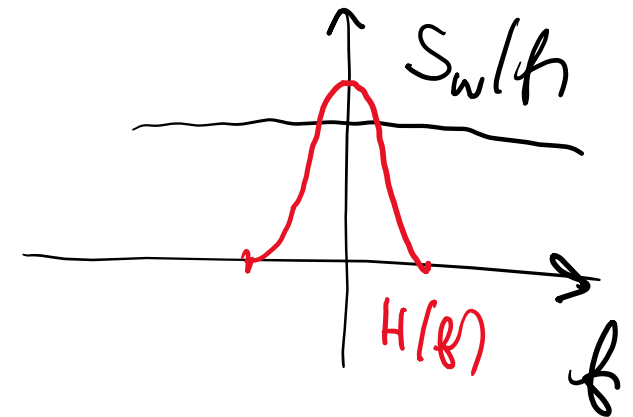
Linearized First Order Loop

$$\varepsilon[k] = (1 - \gamma A)\varepsilon[k - 1] - \gamma A \frac{W[k - 1]}{A}$$



It is equivalent to a (narrowband) FIRST-ORDER IIR Filter operating at a rate $1/T_0$

$$\sigma_{\tau}^2 = \sigma_{\varepsilon}^2 = 2B_N T_0 \left. \frac{S_w(f)}{A^2} \right|_{f=0}$$



with an equivalent *noise bandwidth*

$$B_N T_0 = \frac{\gamma A}{2(2 - \gamma A)} \cong \frac{\gamma A}{4}$$

For GPS C/A, $\Delta = T_c / 2$

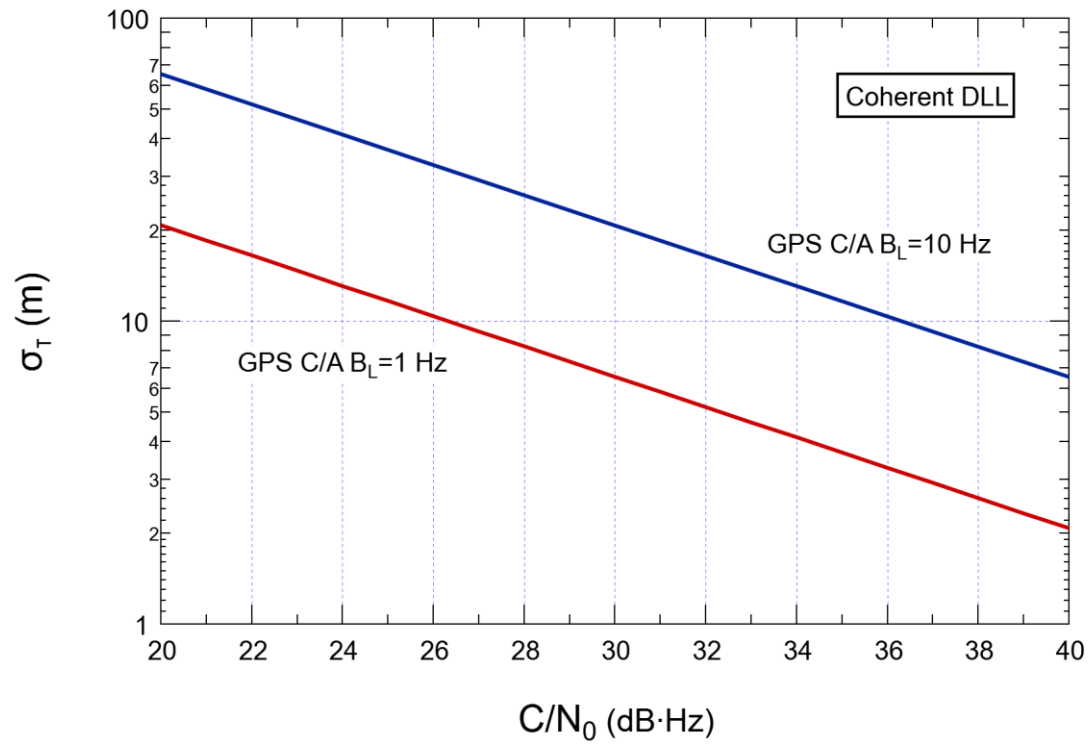
$$A = \frac{2}{T_c} \sqrt{2C} \quad , \quad S_w(f) = \sigma_w^2$$

$$\begin{aligned} \sigma_w^2 &= E\{W^2\} = E\{(W^+ - W^-)^2\} = E\{(W^+)^2\} + E\{(W^-)^2\} - 2E\{W^+W^-\} \\ &= \frac{N_0}{T_0} + \frac{N_0}{T_0} - 0 \end{aligned}$$

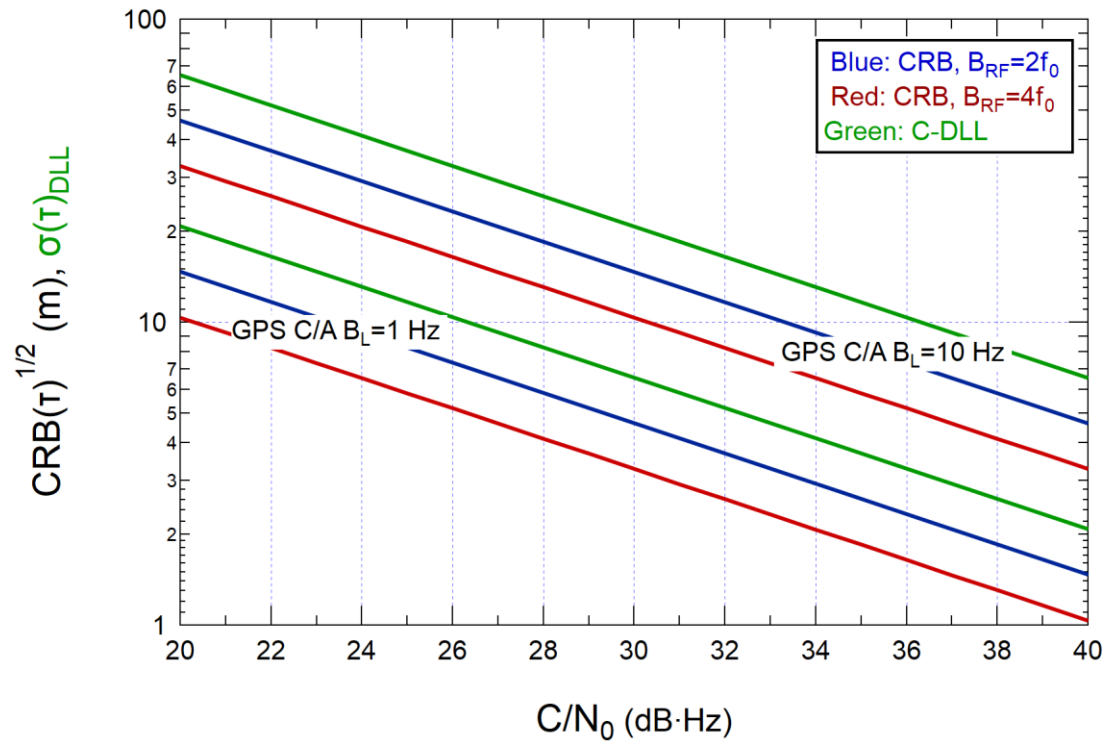
$$\sigma_\varepsilon^2 = 2B_N T_0 \frac{2N_0 / T_0}{2C} \frac{T_c^2}{4} = T_c^2 \frac{B_N}{2C / N_0}$$

$$\sigma_\tau [m] = c T_c \sqrt{\frac{B_N}{2C / N_0}}$$

Coherent DLL Accuracy



Coherent DLL Accuracy



Visualizing the Loop Bandwidth

- Linearized loop error equation **with noise**

$$\varepsilon[k] = (1 - \gamma A)\varepsilon[k-1] + \frac{\gamma}{A}W[k-1] \quad , \quad \gamma A \cong 4B_N T_0 \ll 1$$

The loop bandwidth also impacts on the steady-state error variance (aka *jitter*)

