

EE 230  
Lecture 43

Data Converters

Review from Last Time:

# Amplitude Quantization

Unwanted signals in the output of a system are called noise.

Distortion

Smooth nonlinearities

Frequency attenuation

Large Abrupt Nonlinearities

Signals coming from other sources

Movement of carriers in devices

Interference from electrical coupling

Interference from radiating sources

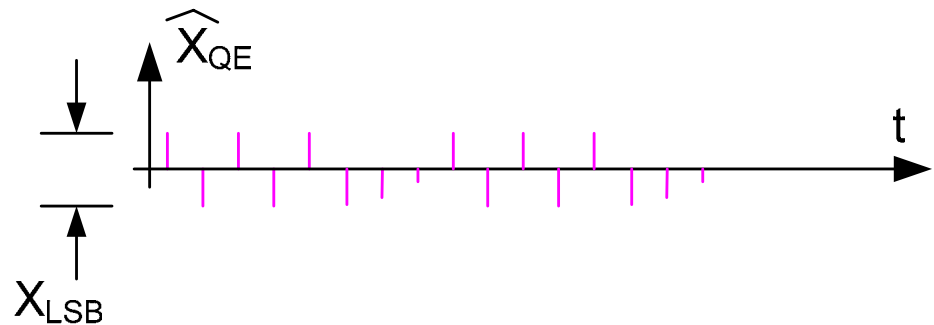
Undesired outputs inherent in the data conversion process itself

Review from Last Time:

# Characterization of Quantization Noise

## Sinusoidal excitation

- Consider an ADC (clocked)



Theorem: If  $n(t)$  is a random process, then  $V_{\text{RMS}} \cong \sqrt{\sigma^2 + \mu^2}$

provided that the RMS value is measured over a large interval where the parameters  $\sigma$  and  $\mu$  are the standard deviation and the mean of  $\langle n(kT) \rangle$

This theorem can thus be represented as

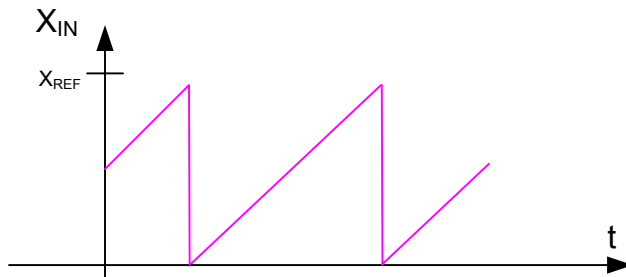
$$V_{\text{RMS}} \cong \sqrt{\frac{1}{T_L} \int_{t_1}^{t_1+T_L} n^2(t) dt} \cong \sqrt{\sigma^2 + \mu^2}$$

where  $T$  is the sampling interval and  $T_L$  is a large interval

Review from Last Time:

# Characterization of Quantization Noise

## Saw tooth excitation



$$X_{Q-RMS} \cong \frac{X_{LSB}}{\sqrt{12}}$$

$$SNR = 2^n$$

$$SNR_{dB} = 6.02n$$

## Sinusoidal excitation



$$SNR = 1.225 \cdot 2^n$$

$$SNR_{dB} = 6.02n + 1.76$$

Although derived for an ADC, same expressions apply for DAC

SNR for saw tooth and for triangle excitations are the same

SNR for sinusoidal excitation larger than that for saw tooth by 1.76dB

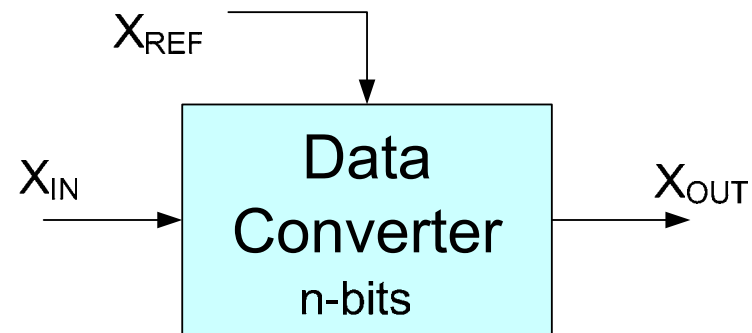
SNR will decrease if input is not full-scale

Equivalent Number of Bits (ENOB) often given relative to quantization noise  $SNR_{dB}$

Remember – quantization noise is inherent in an ideal data converter!

Review from Last Time:

# Equivalent Number of Bits (ENOB)



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

$$ENOB = \frac{SNDR - 1.76}{6.02}$$

These definitions of ENOB are based upon noise or noise and distortion

Some other definitions of ENOB are used as well – e.g. if one is only interested in distortion, an ENOB based upon distortion can be defined.

ENOB is useful for determining whether the number of bits really being specified is really useful

# Engineering Issues for Using Data Converters

## 1. Inherent with Data Conversion Process

- Amplitude Quantization
  - Time Quantization
- (Present even with Ideal Data Converters)

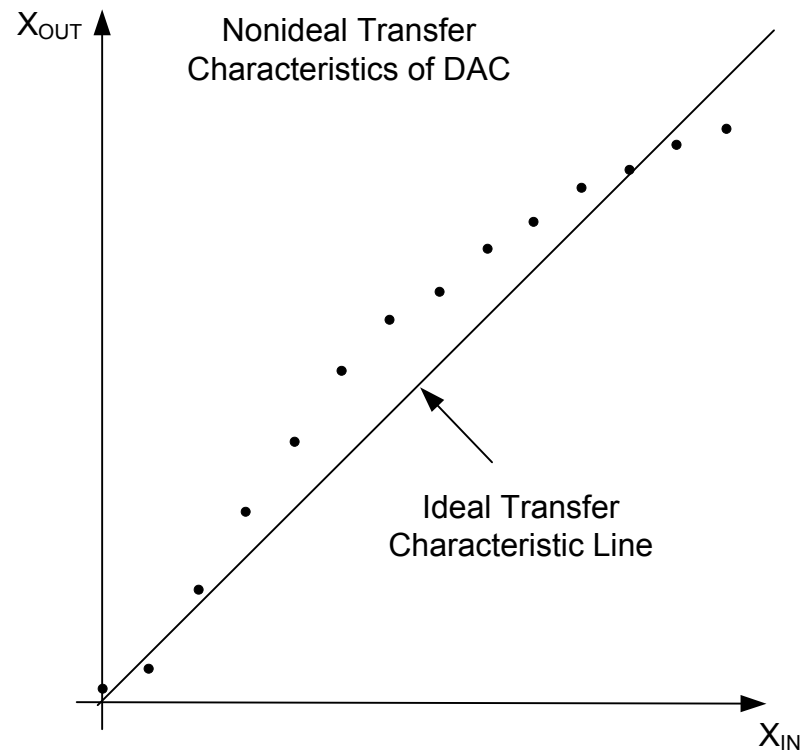
## → 2. Nonideal Components

- Uneven steps
  - Offsets
  - Gain errors
  - Response Time
  - Noise
- (Present to some degree in all physical Data Converters)

How do these issues ultimately impact performance ?

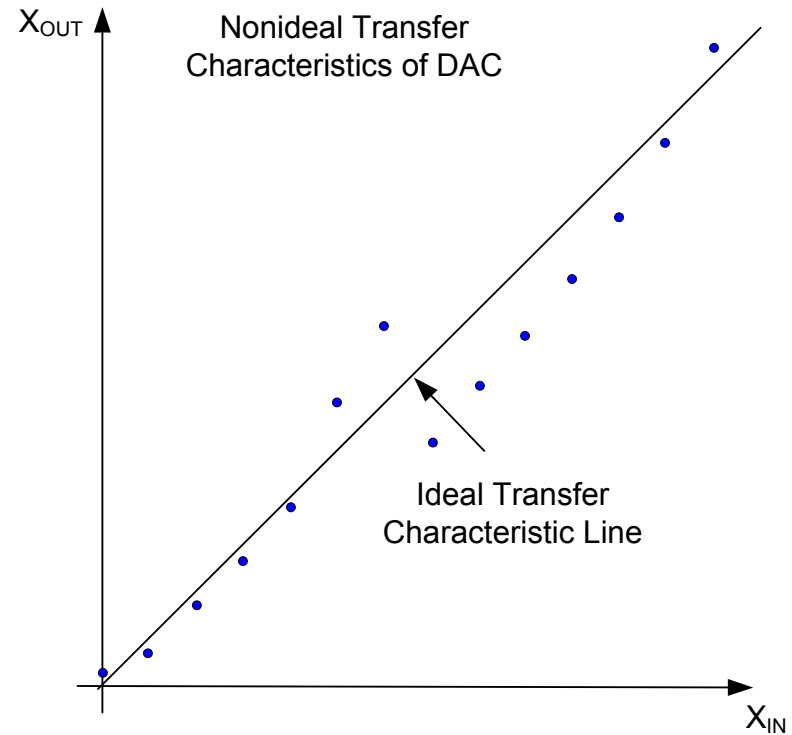
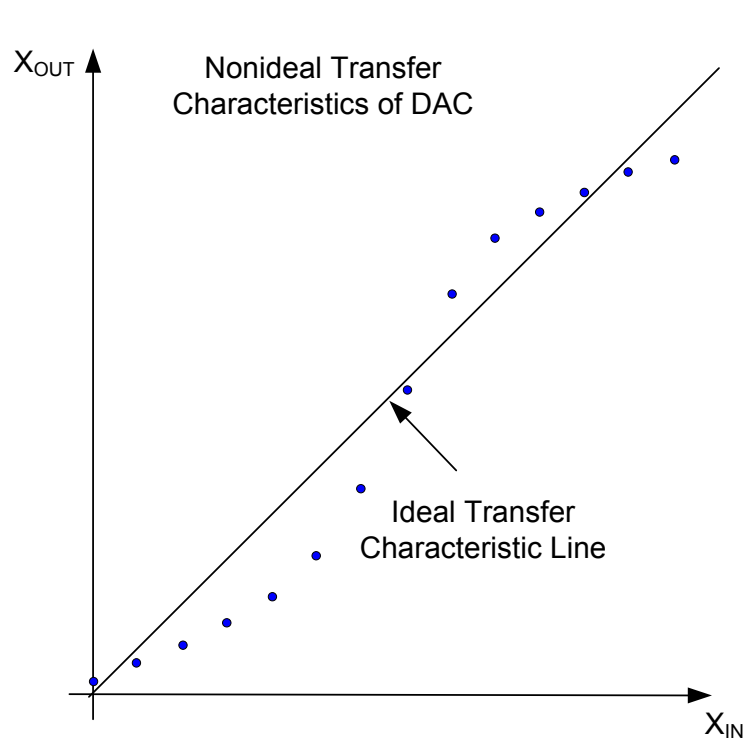
# Nonideal Transfer Characteristics

Uneven Steps



# Nonideal Transfer Characteristics

## Uneven Steps

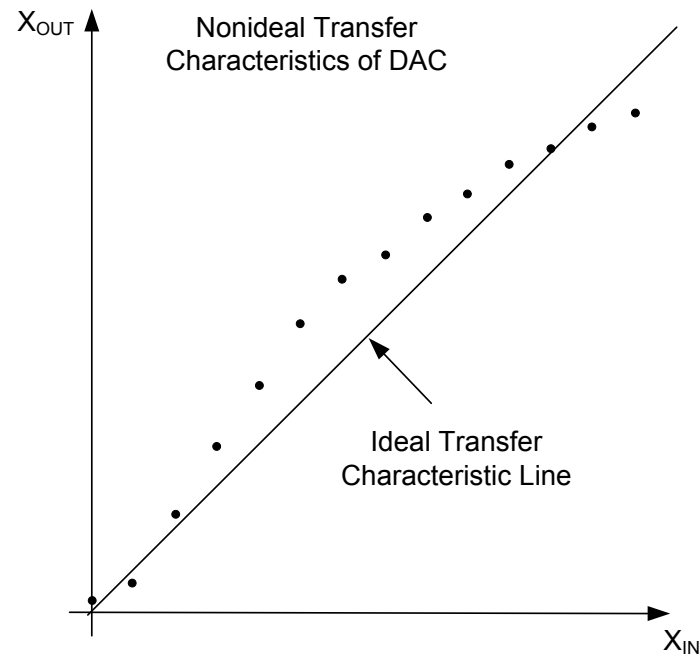


Actual transfer characteristics can vary considerably from one device to another



# Nonideal Transfer Characteristics

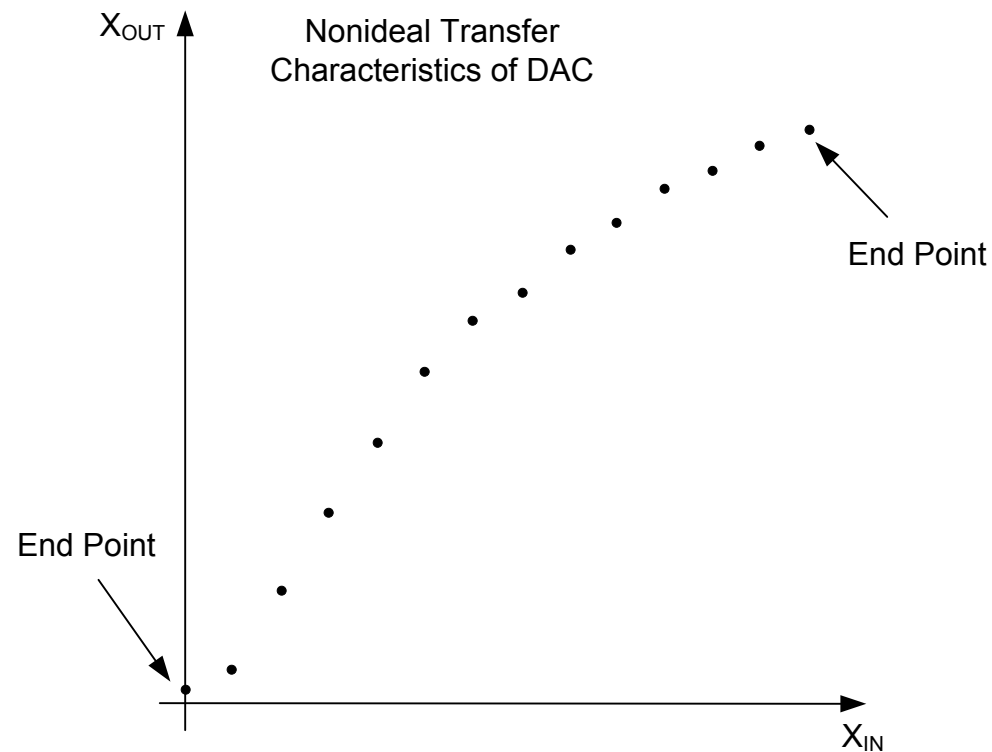
## Uneven Steps



This is termed a nonlinearity in the data converter

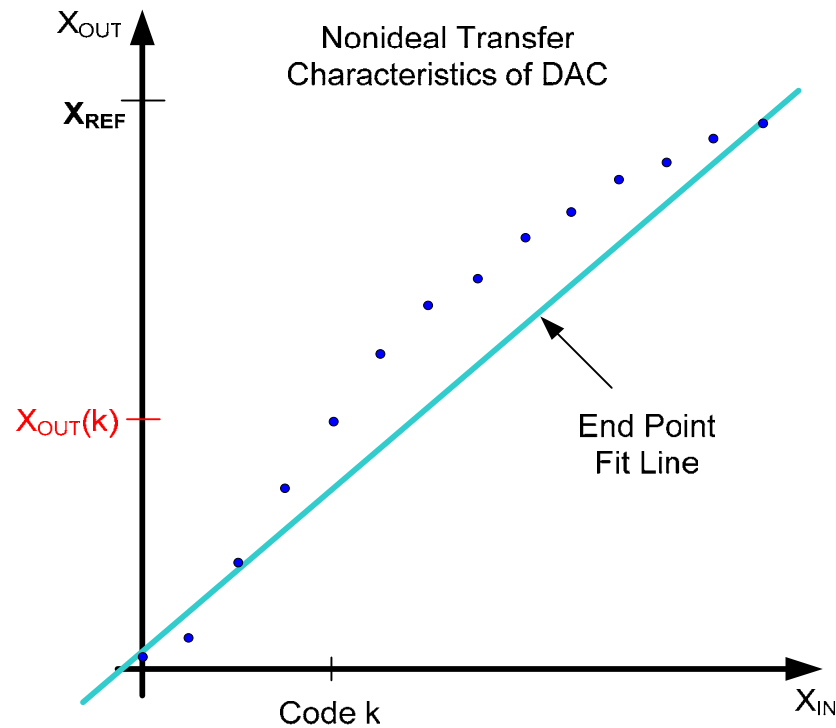
Linearity metrics (specifications) include INL, DNL, THD and SFDR

# Characterization of Nonlinearities



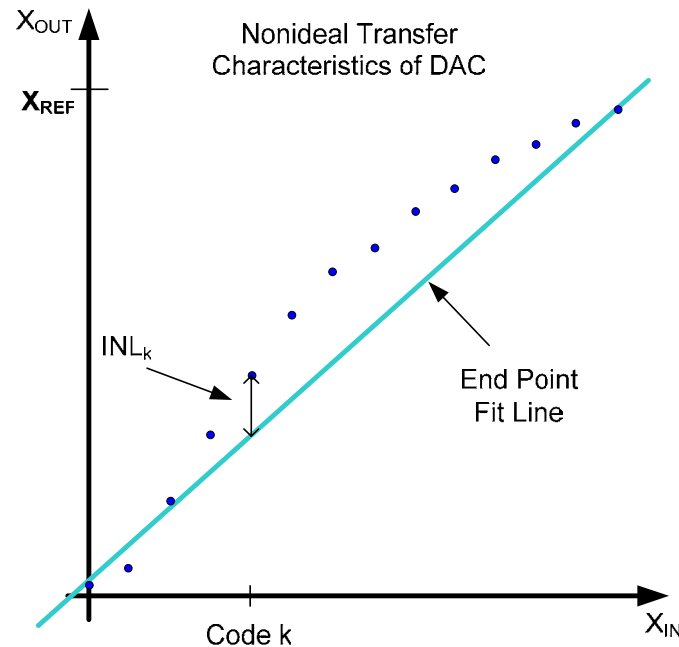
End points are the outputs at the two extreme Boolean inputs

# Characterization of Nonlinearities



End point fit line

# Characterization of Nonlinearities



Linearity metrics:  
→ INL  
DNL  
THD  
SFDR

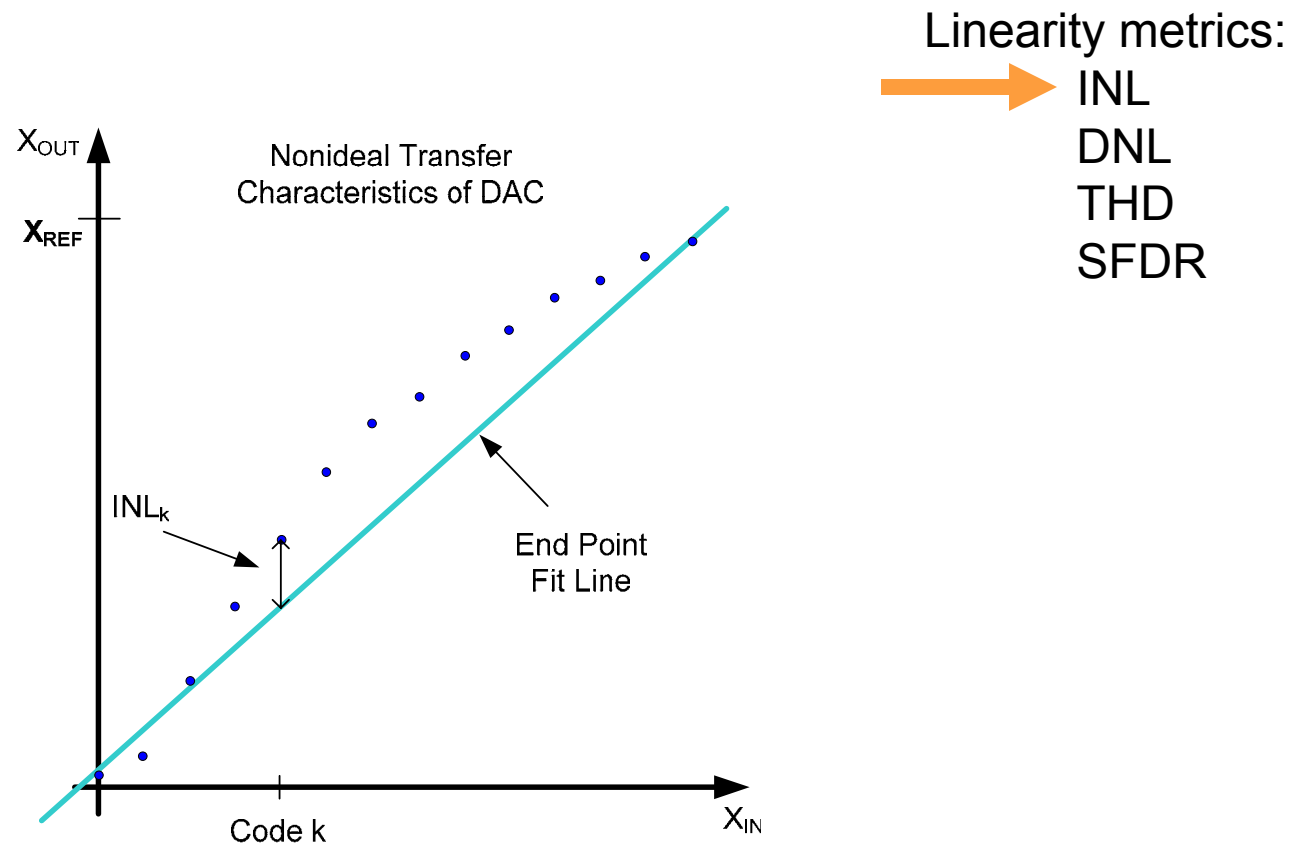
## Integral Nonlinearity (INL)

Measure of worst-case deviation from linear

Define the INL at any input code k by:

$$INL_k = X_{OUT}(k) - X_{FIT}(k)$$

# Integral Nonlinearity (INL)



Define the INL by:

$$INL = \max_{1 \leq k \leq N} \{ |INL_k| \}$$

# Integral Nonlinearity (INL)

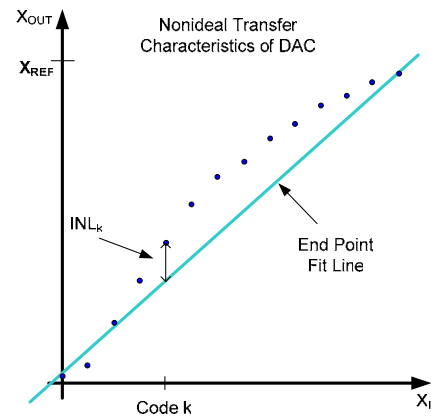
$$INL = \max_{1 \leq k \leq N} \{ |INL_k| \}$$

Often expressed in LSB:

$$INL_{LSB} = \frac{INL}{X_{LSBF}}$$

where

$$X_{LSBF} = \frac{X_{OUT}(N) - X_{OUT}(1)}{N-1}$$



Linearity metrics:



INL  
DNL  
THD  
SFDR

# Integral Nonlinearity (INL)

$$INL = \max_{1 \leq k \leq N} \{ |INL_k| \}$$

Often expressed in LSB:

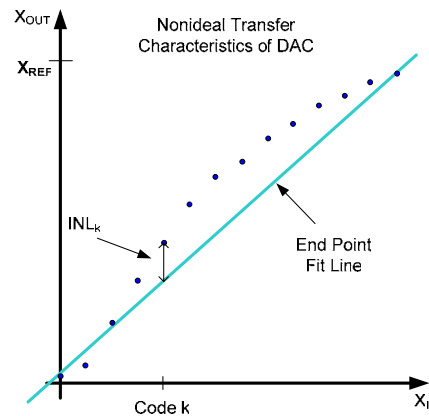
$$INL_{LSB} = \frac{INL}{X_{LSBF}}$$

where

$$X_{LSBF} = \frac{X_{OUT}(N) - X_{OUT}(1)}{N-1}$$

but

$$X_{LSBF} = \frac{X_{OUT}(N) - X_{OUT}(1)}{N-1} \approx \frac{X_{REF}}{2^n}$$

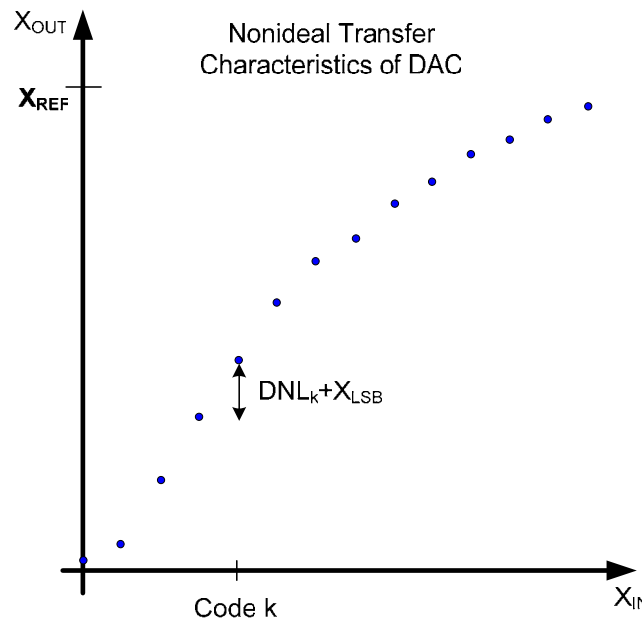


Linearity metrics:

INL  
DNL  
THD  
SFDR

$$INL_{LSB} \approx 2^n \frac{INL}{X_{REF}}$$

# Characterization of Nonlinearities



Linearity metrics:

INL  
DNL  
THD  
SFDR

## Differential Nonlinearity (DNL)

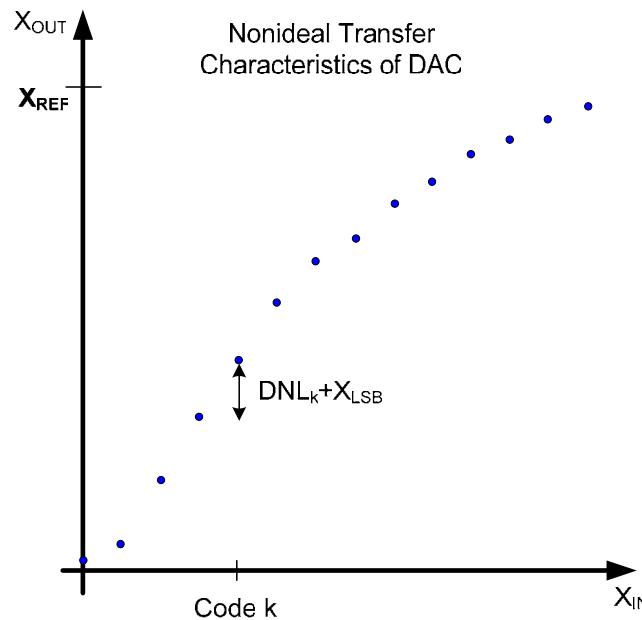
Measure of worst-case resolving capabilities

Define the DNL at any input code k by:

$$DNL_k = X_{OUT}(k) - X_{OUT}(k-1) - X_{LSBF} \cong X_{OUT}(k) - X_{OUT}(k-1) - X_{LSB}$$



# Differential Nonlinearity (DNL)



Linearity metrics:

INL  
DNL  
THD  
SFDR



$$DNL_k \cong X_{OUT}(k) - X_{OUT}(k-1) - X_{LSB}$$

$$DNL = \max_{1 < k \leq N} \{ |DNL_k| \}$$

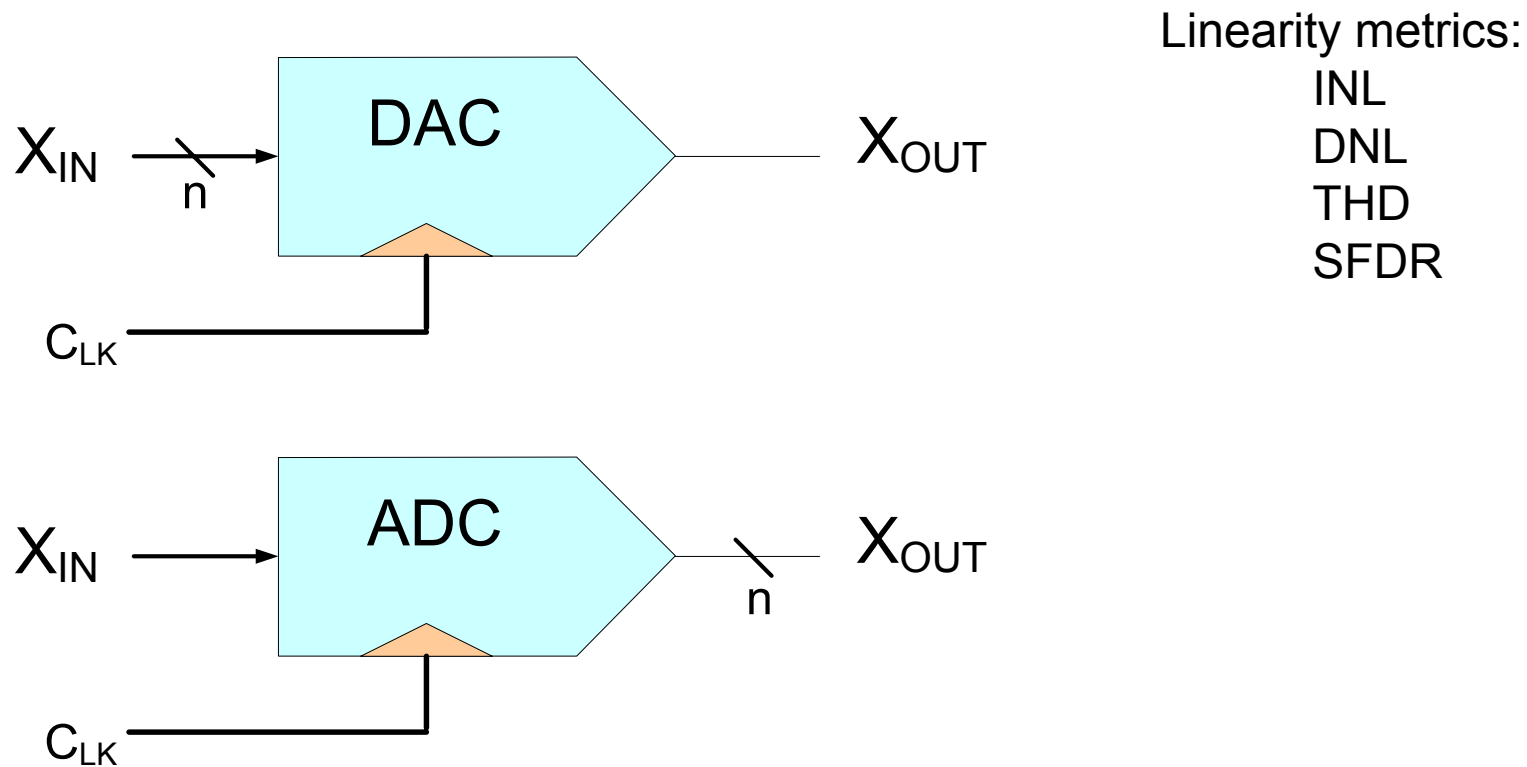
Often expressed in LSB

$$DNL_{LSB} = \frac{DNL}{X_{LSBF}}$$



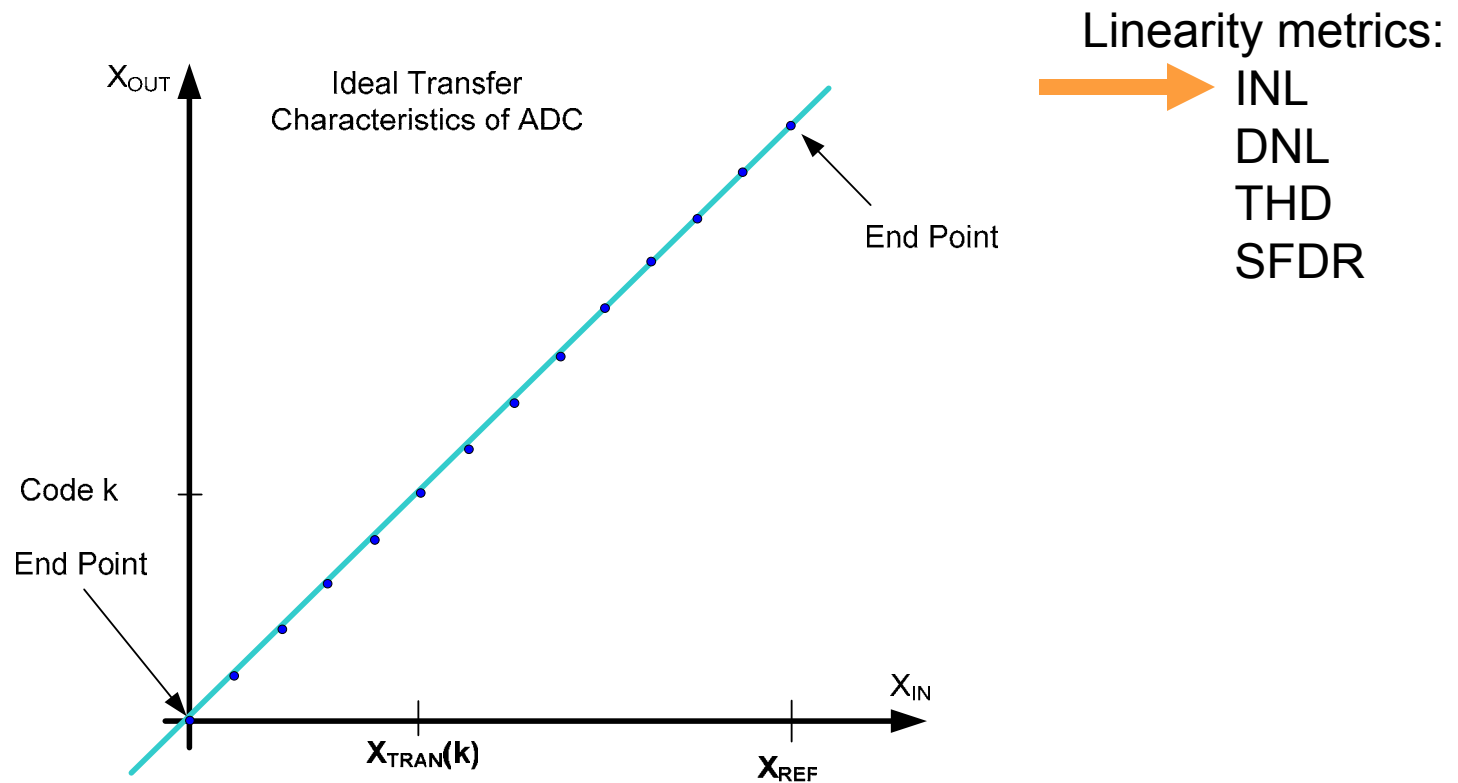
$$DNL_{LSB} \cong 2^n \frac{DNL}{X_{REF}}$$

# Characterization of Nonlinearities

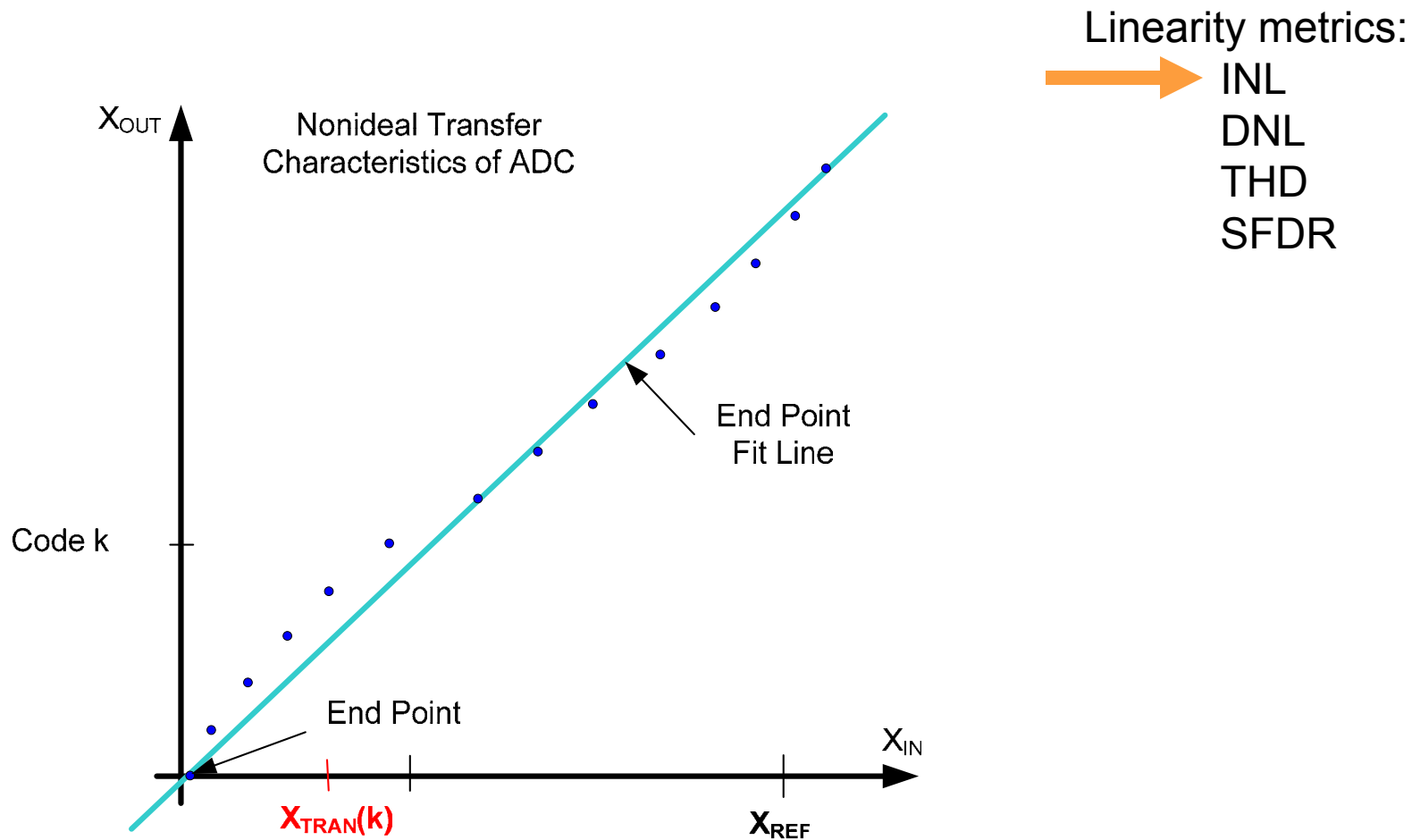


Linearity Metrics for ADC and DAC are Analogous to Each Other

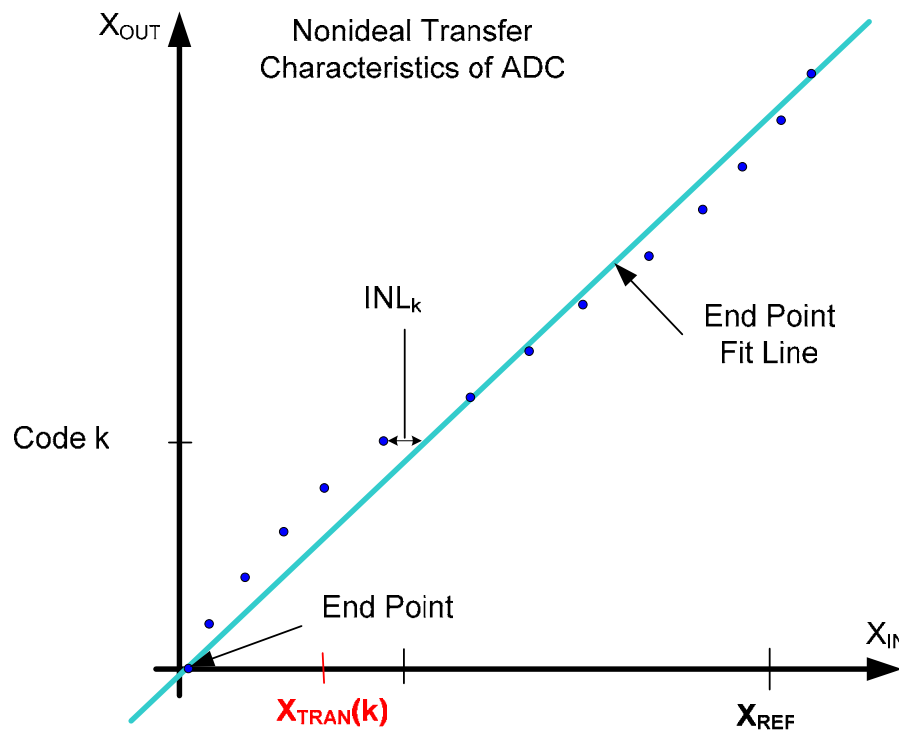
# Integral Nonlinearity (INL)



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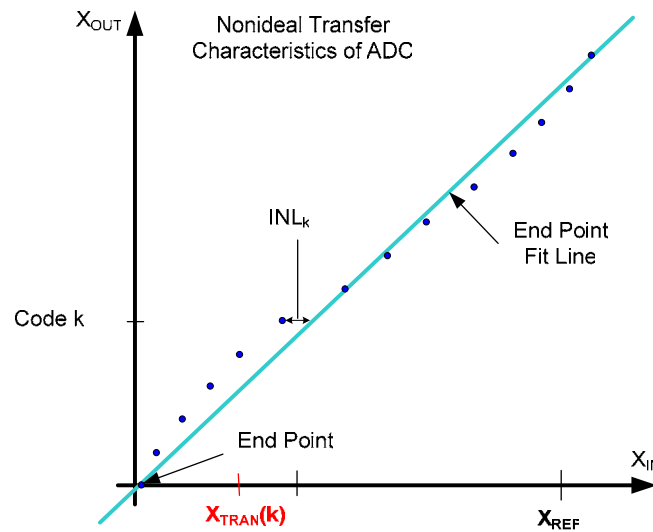


Linearity metrics:  
 → INL  
 DNL  
 THD  
 SFDR

$$INL_k = X_{TRAN}(k) - X_{FIT}(k)$$

$$X_{FIT}(k) = X_{TRAN}(1) + \left( \frac{k-1}{N-2} \right) \frac{X_{TRAN}(N-1) - X_{TRAN}(1)}{N-2}$$

# Integral Nonlinearity (INL)



Linearity metrics:  
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$$INL_k = X_{TRAN}(k) - X_{FIT}(k)$$

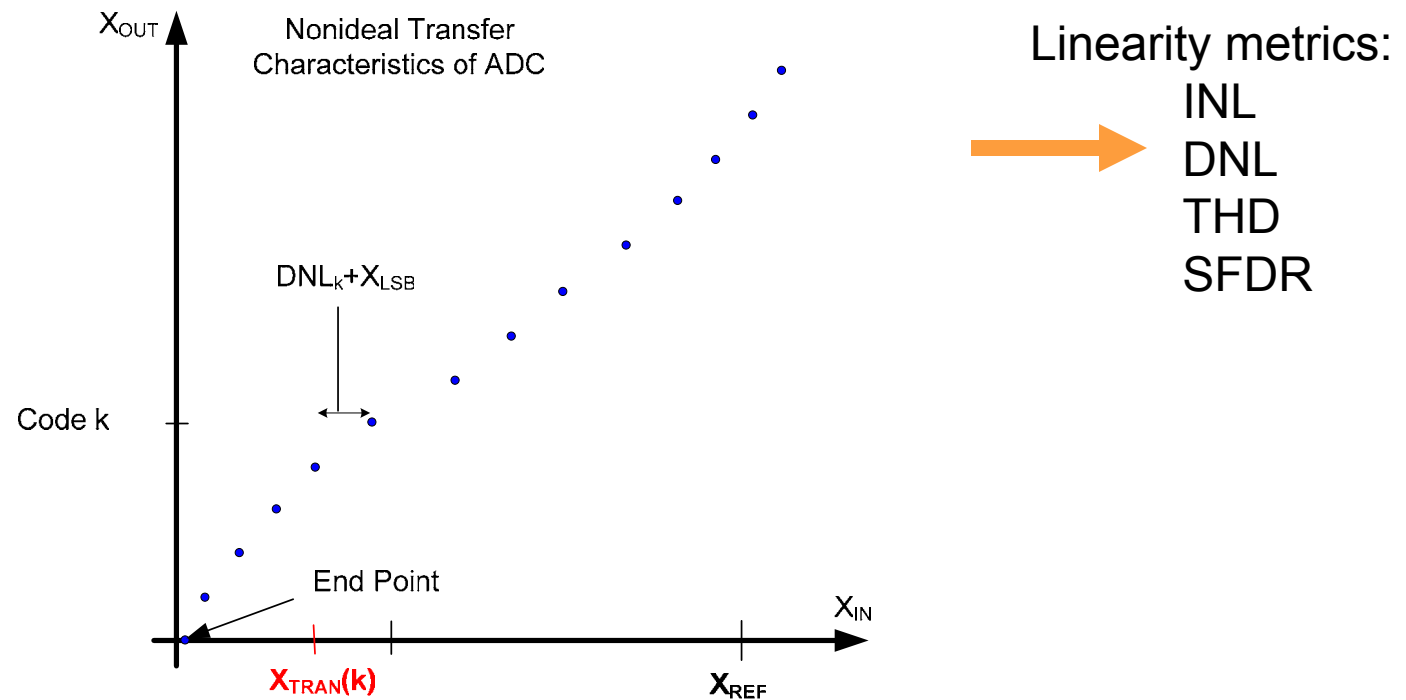
$$INL = \max_{1 \leq k \leq N} \{ |INL_k| \}$$

$$INL_{LSB} = \frac{INL}{X_{LSBF}}$$



$$INL_{LSB} \cong 2^n \frac{INL}{X_{REF}}$$

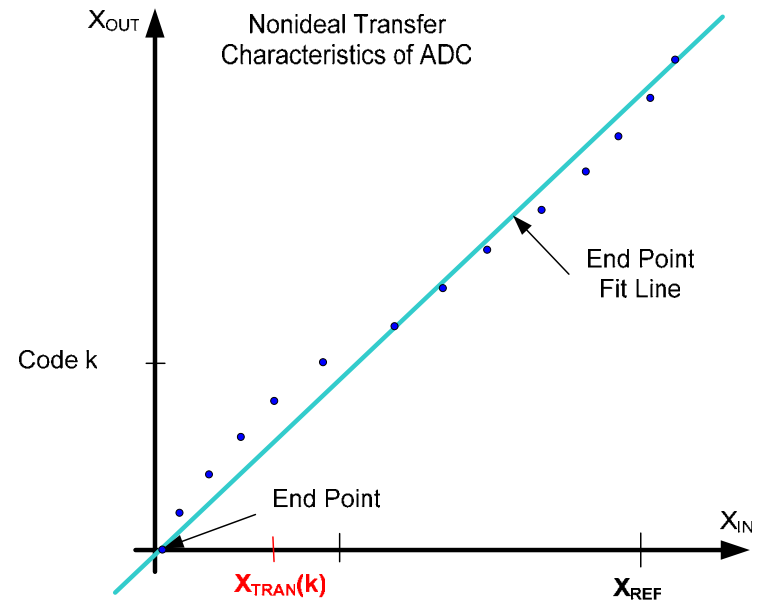
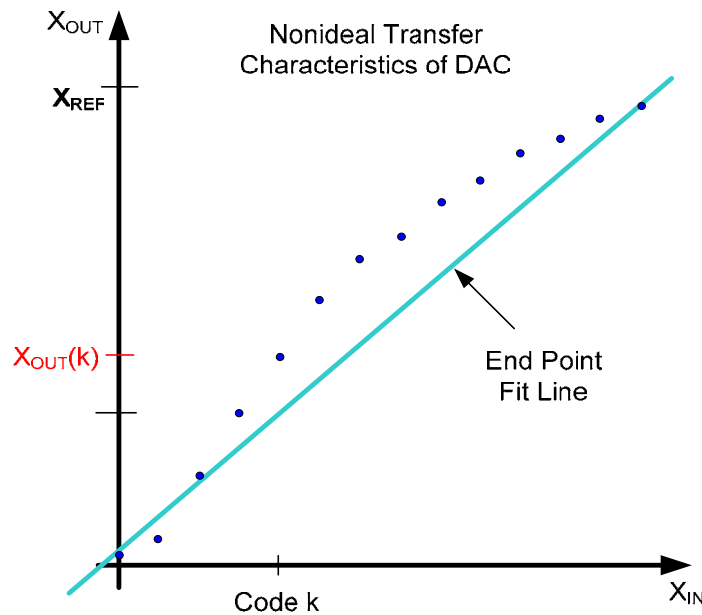
# Differential Nonlinearity (DNL)



$$DNL_k \cong X_{TRANS}(k) - X_{TRANS}(k-1) - X_{LSB}$$

$$DNL = \max_{1 < k \leq N} \{ |DNL_k| \}$$

# Equivalent Number of Bits -ENOB (based upon linearity)

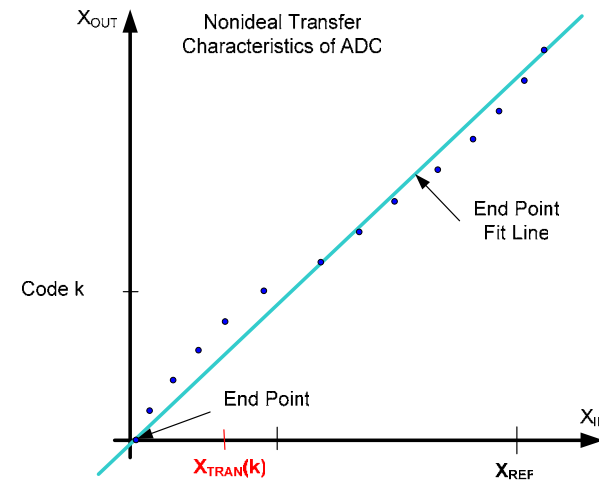
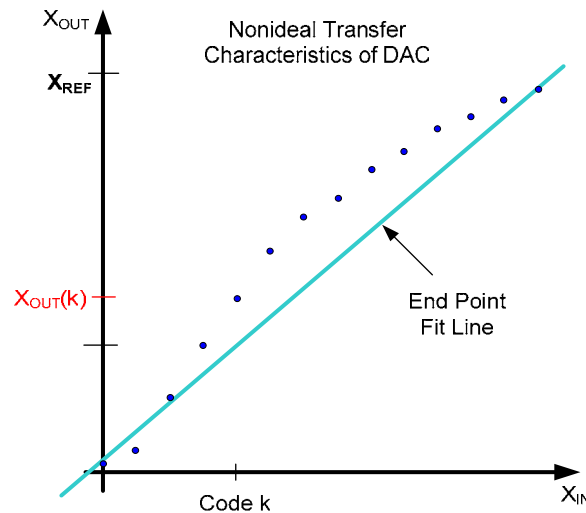


Generally expect INL to be less than  $\frac{1}{2}$  LSB

If INL larger than  $\frac{1}{2}$  LSB, effective resolution is less than specified resolution



# Equivalent Number of Bits -ENOB (based upon linearity)



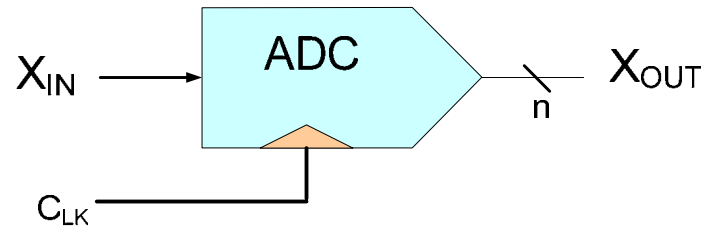
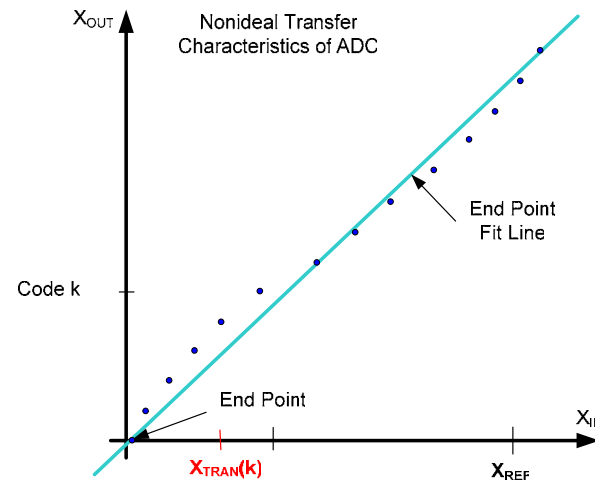
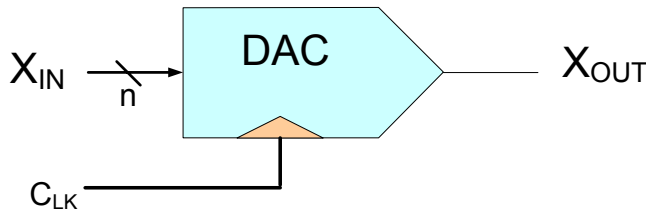
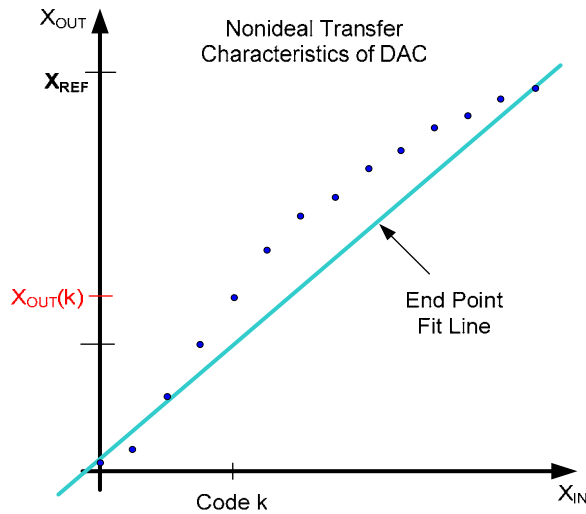
If  $v$  is the INL in LSB

$$ENOB = n-1 - \frac{\log_{10} v}{\log_{10} 2}$$

$v$        $res$

0.5	$n$
1	$n-1$
2	$n-2$
4	$n-3$
8	$n-4$
16	$n-5$

# Spectral Characterization



Linearity metrics:

INL

DNL

THD

SFDR



$$X_{IN} = X_M \sin(\omega t + \theta)$$

If nonlinearities present,  $X_{OUT}$  given by

$$X_{OUT} = A_0 + A_1 \sin(\omega t + \theta + \gamma_1) + \sum_{k=2}^{\infty} A_k \sin(k\omega t + \theta + \gamma_k)$$

# Spectral Characterization

$$X_{IN} = X_M \sin(\omega t + \theta)$$

$$X_{OUT} = A_0 + A_1 \sin(\omega t + \theta + \gamma_1) + \sum_{k=2}^{\infty} A_k \sin(k\omega t + \theta + \gamma_k)$$

$A_k$ ,  $k > 1$  are all spectral distortion components

Generally only first few terms are large enough to represent significant distortion

$$THD = \frac{\sum_{k=2}^{\infty} A_k^2}{A_1^2}$$

$$THD_{dB} = 10 \log_{10} \left( \frac{\sum_{k=2}^{\infty} A_k^2}{A_1^2} \right)$$

$$SFDR = \frac{|A_1|}{\max_{1 < k} \{|A_k|\}}$$

$$SFDR_{dB} = 20 \log_{10} \left( \frac{|A_1|}{\max_{1 < k} \{|A_k|\}} \right)$$

# Spectral Characterization

$$X_{\text{IN}} = X_{\text{M}} \sin(\omega t + \theta)$$

$$X_{\text{OUT}} = A_0 + A_1 \sin(\omega t + \theta + \gamma_1) + \sum_{k=2}^{\infty} A_k \sin(k\omega t + \theta + \gamma_k)$$

Generally  $X_{\text{M}}$  is chosen nearly full-scale and input is offset by  $X_{\text{REF}}/2$

$$X_{\text{IN}} = \frac{X_{\text{REF}}}{2} + \left( \frac{X_{\text{REF}}}{2} - \varepsilon \right) \sin(\omega t + \theta)$$

Direct measurement of  $A_k$  terms not feasible

$A_k$  generally calculated from a large number of samples of  $X_{\text{OUT}}(t)$

# Spectral Characterization

$$X_{\text{IN}} = X_M \sin(\omega t + \theta)$$

$$X_{\text{OUT}} = A_0 + A_1 \sin(\omega t + \theta + \gamma_1) + \sum_{k=2}^{\infty} A_k \sin(k\omega t + \theta + \gamma_k)$$

Key theorem useful for spectral characterization

**Theorem:** If a periodic signal  $x(t)$  with period  $T=1/f$  is band-limited to frequency  $hf$  and if the signal is sampled  $N$  times over an integral number of periods,  $N_P$ , then

$$|A_m| = \frac{2}{N} |X(mN_P + 1)| \quad \text{for } 0 \leq m \leq h-1$$

where  $\langle X(k) \rangle_{k=1}^{N-1}$  is the DFT of the sampled sequence  $\langle x(kT_s) \rangle_{k=1}^{N-1}$  where  $T_s$  is the sampling period.

$$T_s = \frac{T \cdot N_P}{N}$$

# Spectral Characterization

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- This theorem is usually not stated although widely used
- Often this theorem is misunderstood or misused
- If hypothesis not exactly satisfied, major problems with trying to use this theorem

# Spectral Characterization

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$$X_{OUT} = A_0 + A_1 \sin(\omega t + \theta + \gamma_1) + \sum_{k=2}^{\infty} A_k \sin(k\omega t + \theta + \gamma_k)$$

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## Key theorem useful for spectral characterization

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- Usually  $N_p$  is a prime number (e.g. 11, 21, 29, 31)
- If  $N$  is a power of 2, the Fast Fourier Transform (FFT) is a computationally efficient method for calculating the DFT
- Often  $N=4096, 65,536, \dots$
- FFT is available in Matlab and as subroutines for C++



# Spectral Characterization

Key theorem useful for spectral characterization

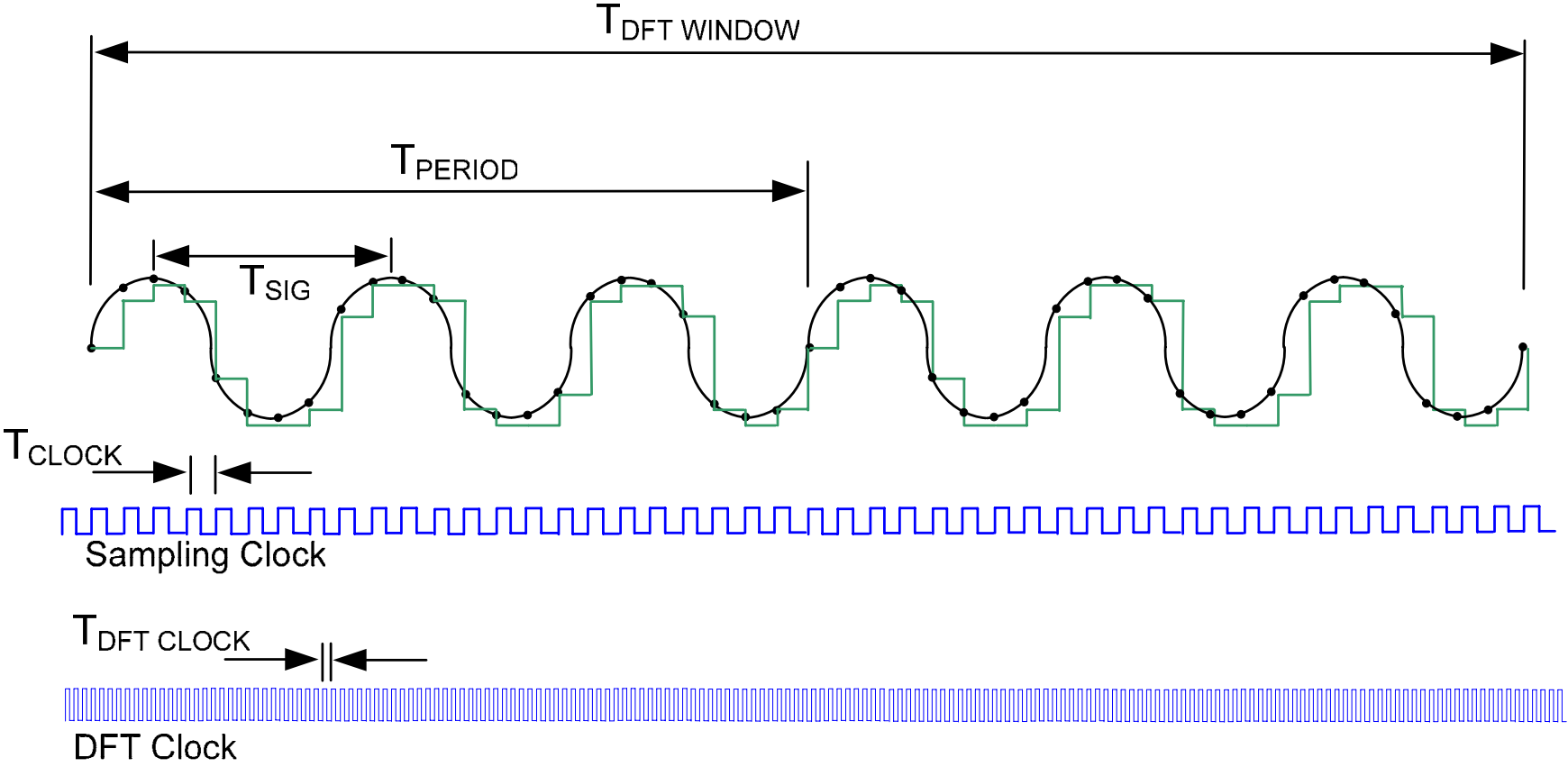
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$A_0, A_1, A_2, A_3, \dots$  are the magnitudes of the DFT elements  $X(0), X(N_p+1), X(2N_p+1), X(3N_p+1), \dots$  respectively

# Spectral Characterization



# Spectral Characterization

