

## IS IT POSSIBLE TO DETECT THE PRESENCE OF A SUPERWEAK SIGNAL IN SOME TRENDLESS SEQUENCE?

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**Abstract.** This research proposes a brand-new approach based on the modified POLS (Procedure of the Optimal Linear Smoothing). The concept is based on an iterative process that consists of two crucial steps: (a) smoothing an initial trendless sequence successively, and (b) subtracting the smoothed replica at each iterative step. In terms of the traditional noise/signal ratio, this suggested method enables the setting of completely new records. At least this ratio as it is estimated on available data is equaled to – 100 dB and even less. Md-POLS formula allows to receive resolution about +3dB and therefore to detect the presence of the super weak signal. The method is rather universal and can be applied to wide class of trendless sequences. One requirement is important. The tested sequence should have sufficient number of stable digits after dividing point. It implies to use ADC with high resolution. It will open new possibilities in chemistry (detection of different "traces" in the given solutes) and detection of different early-stage diseases, in radio-electronics, in optics where detection of small signals plays a central role etc.

**Key words:** RF – random fluctuations; TS – trendless sequence; SWS – super weak signal; SRA – sequence of the ranged amplitudes; SNR – signal-to-noise ratio, Md-POLS – modified Procedure of the Optimal Linear Smoothing.

### Introduction and formulation of the problem

Under super weak signal (SWS) the author understands small perturbations when their signal to noise ratio defined as

$$SNR = 10 \cdot \lg \left( \frac{Rg(Sgn)}{Rg(Ts)} \right) \leq -100dB, \quad (1)$$

$$Rg(f) = \max(f) - \min(f).$$

In this case, the range of the trendless sequence, where SWS can be found, is defined by  $Rg(Ts)$ , but the range of the given deterministic signal is determined by  $Rg(Sgn)$  in frequency range  $Rg(f)$ . Because equation (1) implies the ratio of amplitudes of their quadratic values if the matching ratio of powers is taken into consideration, this formula can be regarded as preferable to conventional ones. It is clear that the detection of weak signals is a major issue in many natural and technical sciences, and it is actually a "friend-foe" general problem solution also. In medical, this issue involves converting cardiograms and other recorded data into other (...) grams in order to detect minor deviations. In chemistry, it is closely linked to the detection of hidden traces in the given solutes. No sense to innumerate of different radio-electronics and photonic/laser applications where this problem plays a central role.

Analysis of different publications devoted to this subject shows that the  $SNR=0$  serves as a specific "red line" dividing the devices with  $SNR > 0$  where the noise influence is suppressed from the devices with  $SNR < 0$  when the noise influence becomes predominant. To the best author's knowledge, he did not find in literature the papers where  $SNR < -60$  dB detection of a small signal inside noisy data is considered (that implies the presence of a signal with the range of amplitudes of the order  $10^{-6}$  to the range of the noise having the unit order). Highly likely, these types

of publications are not available in open Internet access. However, papers that are close to the goal stated in the paper's title need to be reminded of this. It is preferable to group these studies according to the SNR value that was attained. The author of the paper [1] based it on Karhunen–Loève transformation yielded an SNR of  $-3\text{dB}$ . The authors of the research [2] assert that if the SNR is  $-5\text{dB}$ , they may extract the signal using the DOA (direction of arrival) approximated approach. By using unique experimental techniques, the authors of the works [3,5] improved the sensitivity of common commercial receivers if the SNR falls between 5 and 20 dB. The authors of the research [4] asserted that they could get a distinct signal for the range of the SNR in the interval  $[-6.5, 18.5]$  dB by using the various locations of satellite signals sensors. The receiver's relative location in relation to the satellite position has a significant impact on this ratio. Using techniques identical to those described in paper [4], Chinese scientists obtained acceptable SNR from the several satellites in the interval  $[8.7, 19.5]$  dB in paper [6]. As can be seen from these studies, the authors of the aforementioned papers were able to detect the presence of weak signals down to  $-6.5$  dB by employing experimental and signal processing techniques. In this paper the author proposes the completely new signal processing method that can be used by many researchers working in this area. It is instructive to formulate the following problem.

*Is it possible to detect quantitatively the presence of the SWS when the influence of the random fluctuations (RF) becomes essential and SNR achieves the unbelievable values  $-100\text{dB}$  or even less?*

By another words, it means that when the given noise background normalized to the unit value the level of the signal should have range of amplitudes of the order  $10^{-10}$  or even less. Attentive analysis shows that this problem can be solved and the positive answer will be found. When a SWS can be discovered, the Md-POLS approach allows the starting ratio to be increased up to acceptable ratios (SNR  $[-2,2]$ ). This indicates that the Md-POLS method's "power" allows for a sensitivity increase of 10–12 orders of magnitude from its original SNR level!

It is preferable to provide a straightforward response to the question posed above in order to wrap up this section. Under what circumstances might a SWS be detected? Assume that the level of the initial  $TS$  is  $Rg(Ts)=1$  and that the range of a detected signal is initially  $Rg(Sgn)=a \cdot 10^{-s} \equiv 10^{-\bar{s}}$ . When we enter these values into (1), we get  $SNR = -10 \cdot \bar{s}$ . In this instance, it is impossible to detect the intended signal. The following minimal value,  $Rg(Ts)=b \cdot 10^{-n} \equiv 10^{-\bar{n}}$  can be reached by lowering the original  $TS$  limit, using expression (2) shown in next section. When we enter these estimates into (1), we get  $SNR = 10 \cdot (\bar{n} - \bar{s})$ . Consequently, we arrive to a straightforward conclusion. If the embedded SWS satisfies to relationship  $SNR = 10 \cdot (\bar{n} - \bar{s}) > 0$  it is detectable; if  $SNR = 10 \cdot (\bar{n} - \bar{s}) \leq 0$  it cannot be detected. These straightforward inequalities eliminate any uncertainty regarding the supplied SWS's detection potential.

### The solution of the problem

In order to solve this problem, we use the POLS (procedure of the optimal linear smoothing) that it was used earlier [7,8] for elimination of a possible trend located inside a "confidence tube". The original and previously proposed formula that will be used in this paper is modernized and can be rewritten in the form:

$$Y_j(w, p) = \frac{\sum_{i=1}^N K\left(\frac{\Delta_{ji}}{w}\right) y_i}{\sum_{i=1}^N K\left(\frac{\Delta_{ji}}{w}\right)}, \quad (2)$$

$$K(u) = F\left(-|u|^p\right), \quad \Delta_{ji} = x_j - x_i.$$

Here  $w$ - is the parameter of the window smoothing,  $p$  is defined as the acceleration parameter. The function  $K(u)$  determines the smoothing kernel. In this paper we associate the kernel  $K(u)$  with exponential function that was used earlier in papers [7,8]. For the best author's knowledge expression (2) is *original* and never appeared in papers used by other authors. The verification of expression (2) on available data confirms the following observation, namely; if  $p$  lies in the interval  $[0,1]$  then the smoothing process becomes slow, while for the interval  $[1,6]$  the smoothing process accelerates. It is interesting to underscore the limiting values of the window smoothing parameter  $w$ . For  $w \gg 1$  the smoothed function  $Y(w \gg 1, p) \approx \text{mean}(y)$ , while for  $w \rightarrow 0$   $Y(w \rightarrow 0, p) \approx y$  and the smoothing property disappears. Despite its precision, the final limiting case highlights some noteworthy characteristics that were overlooked in the first place. These characteristics are linked to the discrete nature of the functions  $Y_j$  and  $y_j$  ( $j=1,2,\dots,N$ ), which in turn dictates how expression (2) behaves specifically for  $p > 1$  and at small values of  $w$  (near zero), where a specific "competition" between small distance  $\Delta_{ji}$  and  $w$  takes place. Consequently, expression (2) can be used to verify the suggested challenge (1) and find the desired answer for detection of a SWS.

### Verification of (2) on available data

We use the available meteorological data as a noise background. A detailed discussion of these facts is not required; readers who are curious about them can find it in the study [9]. The only thing that matters to us about the registration of gases  $\text{CH}_4$ ,  $\text{CO}_2$ , and  $\text{H}_2\text{O}$  streams in the atmosphere is that there are enough digits (close to 10) following the dividing point. Fig. 1 demonstrates the initial TS and SWS that is embedded inside. We distinguish the chosen stream, which is shown in Fig. 1(a), in order to remove a concealed trend by differentiation procedure. Fig. 1(b) displays the little signal's particular form.

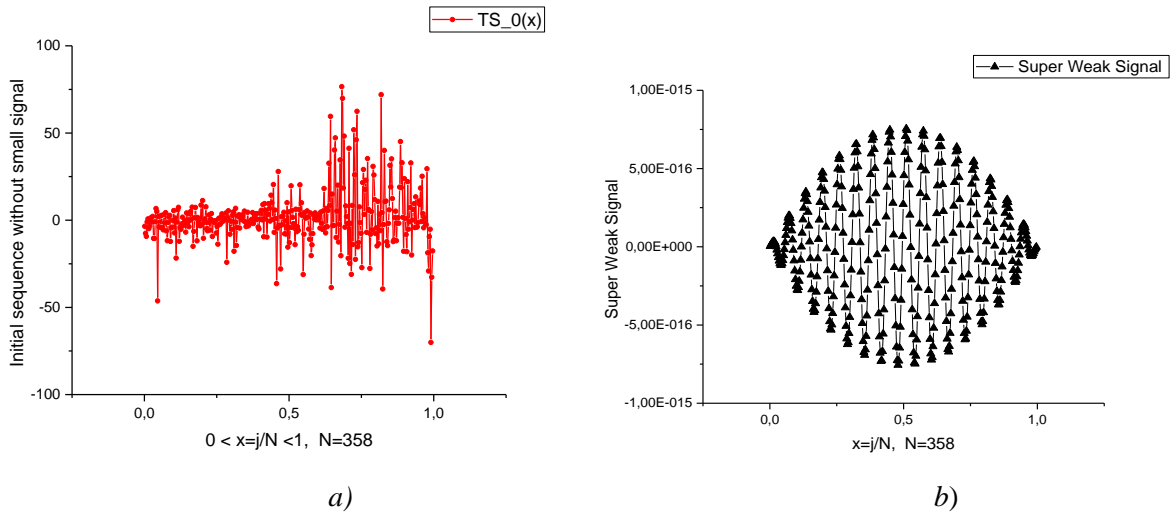


Fig. 1. Demonstration the initial TS (a) and the form of the SWS (b) taken in the form of the wave packet:

(a) we show the trendless sequence  $\text{TS}_0(x)$  that is considered as initial TS. It has 358 data points with range of amplitudes  $R_g=146.7$ .

(b) then we add to the  $\text{TS}_0(x)$  a small signal that is depicted as SWS

The functional form of this wave packet is the following:

$$\text{SWS}(x) = [A \cos(\omega x) + B \sin(\omega x)] x(1-x). \quad (3)$$

This wave packet has the following parameters ( $A=5.21 \cdot 10^{-16}$ ,  $B=5.55 \cdot 10^{-16}$ ,  $\omega=100$ ). We add this wave packet to initial signal that is shown on Fig. 1 (a). In order to avoid a simple additive signal, we add this small supplement by nonlinear way

$$TS\_1(x) = \left[ SWS(x) + \frac{TS\_0(x) \cdot SWS(x)}{Range(TS\_0(x))} \right] + TS\_0(x). \quad (4)$$

A tiny additive is present in the trendless sequence provided by expression (4), but it is entirely concealed within it. Since expression (4) graphically coincides with Fig. 1 (a), it is pointless to illustrate it. The NOCFASS (NOOrthogonal Combined Fourier Analysis of the Smoothed Signals), which was successfully used in research [10], makes sense since, in our opinion, it is crucial to improve the informative presentation of the initial signal in Fig. 1 (a). One can utilize only a portion of the modes situated to the right of the F-spectrum central axis by moving the traditional F-spectrum to the left  $\pi$ -angle. The shifted F-transformation and the truncated spectrum are shown by Fig.2. It incorporates on two parts that are shown below.

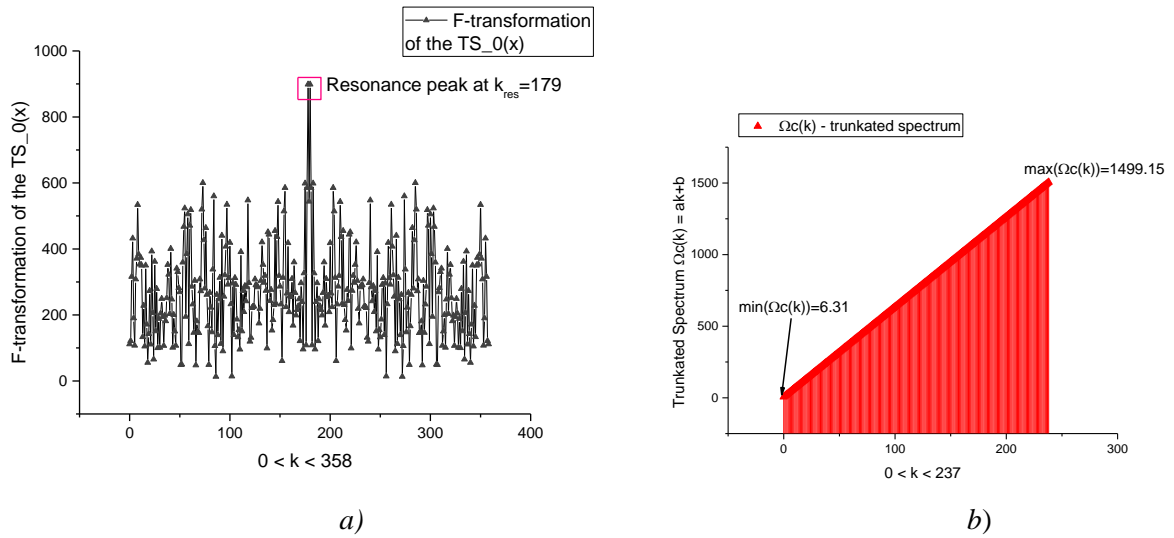


Fig. 2. The shifted F-transformation and the truncated spectrum:

- (a) we demonstrate the F-spectrum in terms of sizeless modes ( $0 < Vect < 358$ ). The central mode is located at  $K/2=179$ . For the fitting of the  $TS_0(x)$  with maximal accuracy (Relative error =  $10^{-14}$  %) it is sufficient to use practically all (237) modes located on the right-hand side of the shifted F-spectrum;
- (b) we demonstrate the truncated spectrum  $6.32 < \Omega_c(k) < 1499.15$  that provides the desired fit.

In Fig.3 we demonstrate the fit of the initial signal, realized in the frame of the NOCFASS. It includes also the amplitudes modulus and phases distributions, respectively.

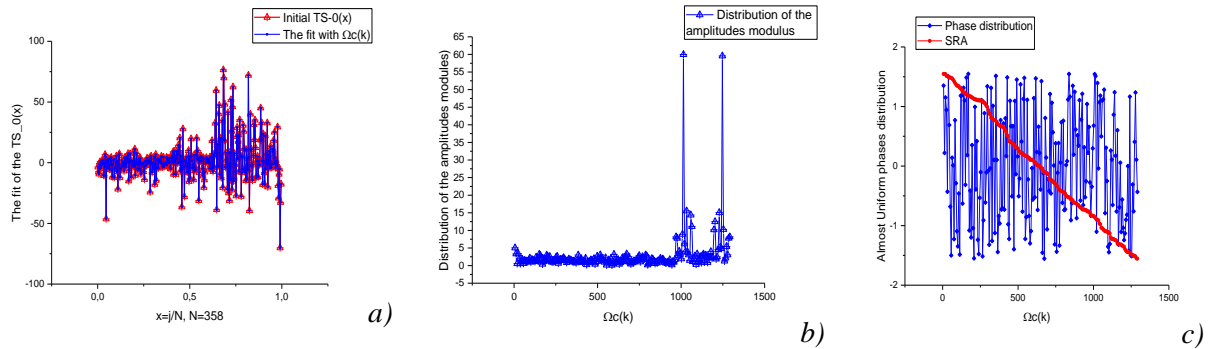


Fig. 3. The fit of the initial signal  $TS_0(x)$ , realized in the frame of the NOCFASS:

- (a) we demonstrate the fit of  $TS_0(x)$  realized with exceptional accuracy (Rel.err =  $10^{-14}$  %);

(b) we show the modulus amplitude distribution  $Amd_k = \sqrt{Ac_k^2 + As_k^2}$  for this TS;

- c) we show the phase distribution  $Ph_k = \tan^{-1}(As_k/Ac_k)$ . The solid red line shows the sequence of the range amplitudes (SRA). As one can see from this figure it is expressed by the segment of the straight line. It means that the phase distribution  $Ph_k$  coincides practically with uniform distribution

The fitting function is given by conventional expression

$$\begin{aligned}
 F(x) &= A_0 + \sum_{k=1}^K \left[ A c_k \cos(\Omega c(k) \cdot x) + A s_k \sin(\Omega c(k) \cdot x) \right] = \\
 &\equiv A_0 + \sum_{k=1}^K \left[ A m d_k \cos(\Omega c(k) \cdot x - P h_k) \right], \\
 A m d_k &= \sqrt{A c_k^2 + A s_k^2}, \quad P h_k = \tan^{-1} \left( \frac{A s_k}{A c_k} \right), \\
 \Omega c(k) &= \Omega c(0) + \frac{k}{K} (\Omega c(K) - \Omega c(0)), \\
 \Omega c(0) &= 6.32, \quad \Omega c(K) = 1499.15.
 \end{aligned} \tag{5}$$

In the same manner we treat the TS-1(x) with small supplement. The details are shown by Fig.4.

In Fig.4 below we demonstrate the fit of the initial signal, realized in the frame of the NOCFASS. It includes also the amplitudes modulus  $A m d_k = \sqrt{A c_k^2 + A s_k^2}$  and phases distribution  $P h_k = \tan^{-1}(A s_k / A c_k)$ , respectively. All these three figures contain the deformed SWS that is shown in Fig.1(b) above.

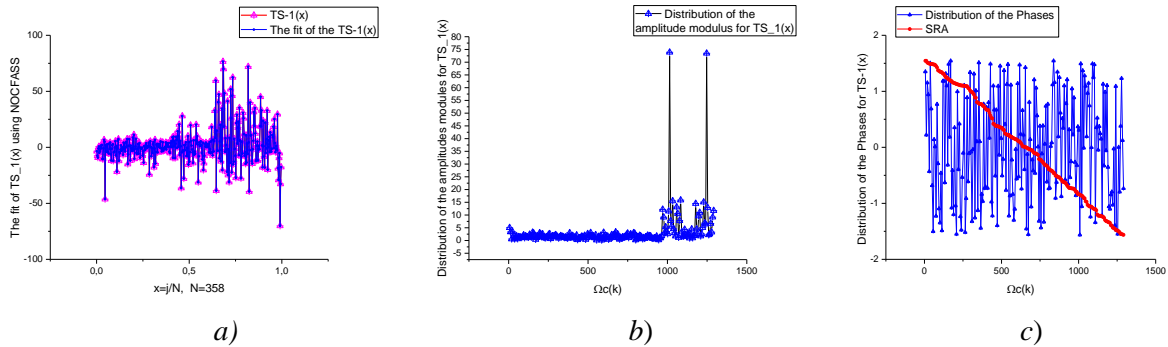


Fig. 4. The fit of the initial signal TS\_1(x), realized in the frame of the NOCFASS:

(a) we demonstrate the fit of TS\_1(x) realized with same exceptional accuracy (Rel.err =  $10^{-14}$  %);

(b) we show the modulus amplitude distribution  $A m d_k = \sqrt{A c_k^2 + A s_k^2}$  for this TS;

(c) we show the phase distribution  $P h_k = \tan^{-1}(A s_k / A c_k)$ . The solid red line demonstrates the sequence of the range amplitudes (SRA). As one can notice again that it is expressed by the segment of the straight line. It means that the phase distribution coincides practically with uniform distribution

Now we have two important informative plots  $A m d_k$  and  $P h_k$  (depicted in fig. 3 and fig. 4) that should be compared with each other in terms of expression (2). As it has been mentioned above the principle of application (2) can be expressed by the following algorithm: "smooth – subtract".

Let us consider firstly the comparison of the modulus  $A m d_k = \sqrt{A c_k^2 + A s_k^2}$  and  $P h_k$  distributions, accordingly, in the frame of expression (2). For certainty, we put  $p=2$ ,  $F$  coincides with exponential function and will change the value of the smoothing window in the interval  $w \in [0, 10]$ . The corresponding ranges behavior of the smoothed  $A m d_k$  and  $P h_k$  are shown in Fig.5 a), b).

Fig.5 demonstrates the ranges distributions vs. the smoothing parameter  $w$  for modulus amplitudes and phases, respectively; for the curves with SWS (connected red balls) and without SWS (marked by the connected black squared)

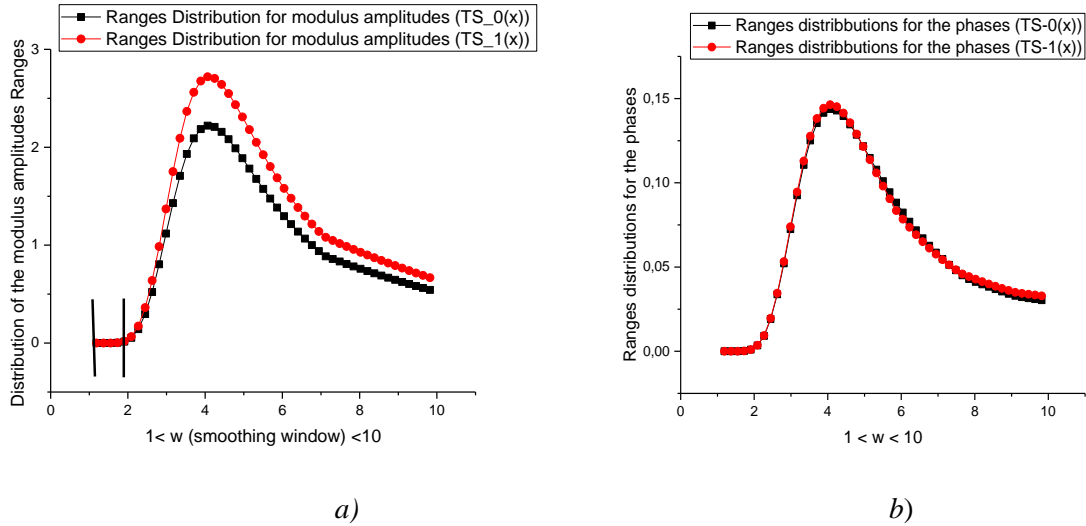


Fig. 5. The ranges distributions vs the smoothing parameter  $w$  for modulus amplitudes and phases:

- (a) It is shows the ranges distributions behavior with respect to the value of the smoothing window that is located in the interval  $w \in [1,10]$ . The black connected squared refers to the  $TS_0(x)$  and red connected balls to the  $TS_1(x)$ . The differences between these curves are noticeable;
- (b) The same behavior is similar for the Ranges distributions of phases. However, the most interesting region for detection of the SWS is located in the interval  $[0,2]$ . It is separated on the figure (a) by two bolded vertical lines

Let us put  $w=1.01$ . Figure 6 demonstrates this result at small values of the  $w=1.01$ .

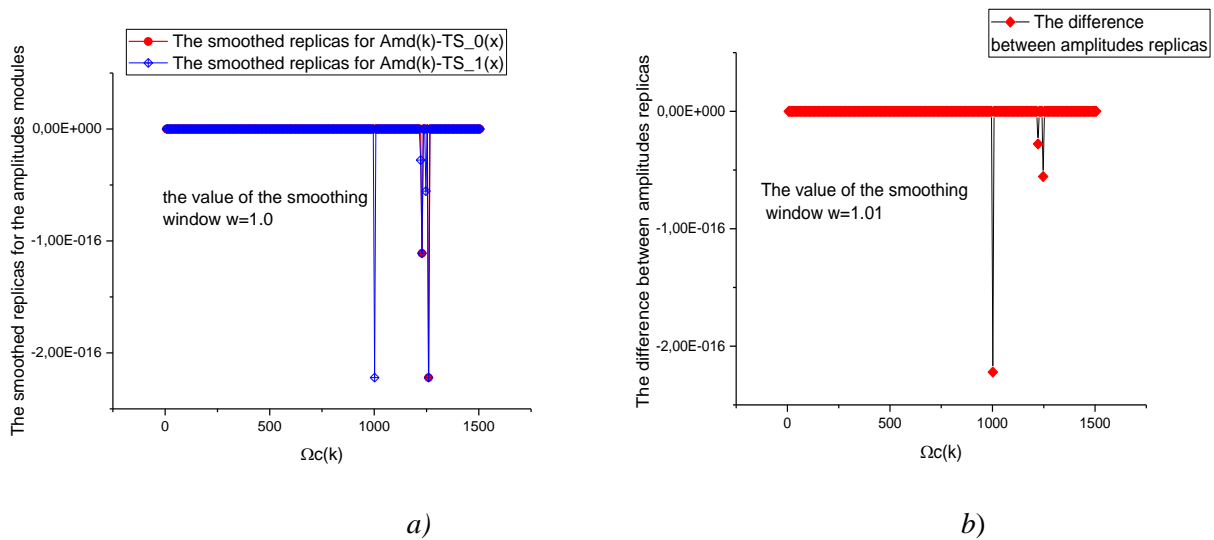


Fig. 6. Demonstration of operation result at small values of the  $w=1.01$ :

- (a) we put together the smoothed replicas of  $Amd_k$ . ( $w=1.01$ );
- (b) the difference between them is shown. It is convenient to compare the result of Md-POLS method in terms of SNR (initial (as a priori estimated) and final one) that is given by expression (1). The successive increasing of the SNR is given in Table 1

Table 1. The values of SNR achieved in the result of Md-POLS application

$w$	SNR for $Amd_k$	SNR for $Ph_k$
3.0	0.881	0.091
2.0	0.888	0.092
1.01	3.011	0.127
1.0	0.0	0.173
0.9	0.0	0.0

Comments. As one can notice from these results the value of the smoothing window  $w=1.01$  is the critical one. Slightly changing of this value shows the limit for SNR resolution related to amplitudes modules and demonstrates the limit ( $w=1.0$ ) for SNR ( $Ph_k$ ). This table demonstrates also a specific "digital" limit ( $w=0.9$ ) for detection of the presence SWS in the given TS.

In Fig.7 we demonstrate the phase distributions for the TS with SWS and without one together with the differences between them.

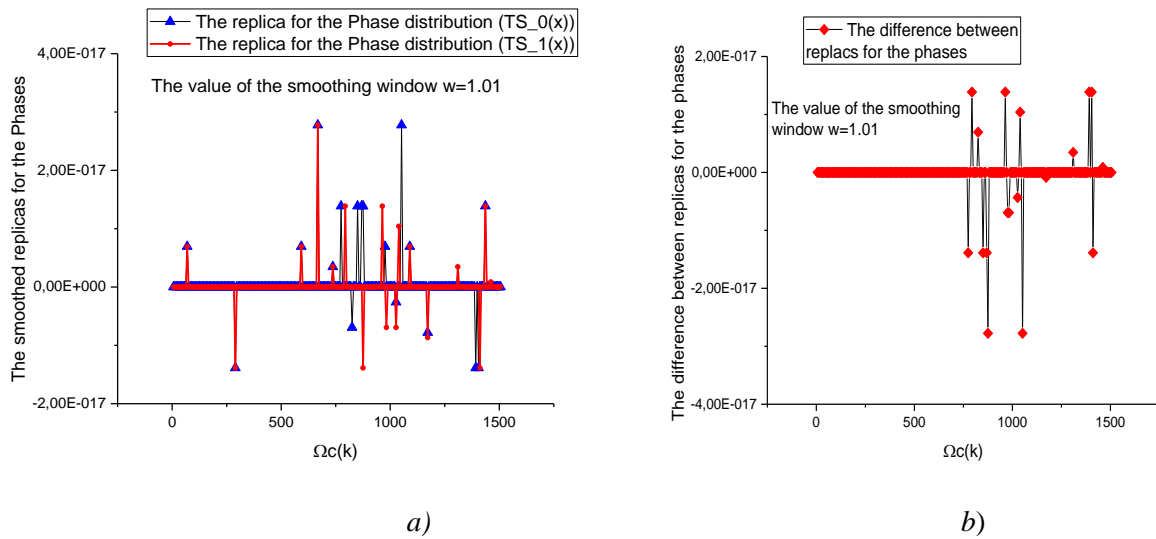


Fig. 7. Phase distributions for the TS with SWS and without one together with the differences between them:

- (a) We put together the smoothed replicas for the Phases distribution  $Ph_k$  ( $w=1.01$ );
- (b) The difference between is convenient to compare the result of Md-POLS method in terms of SNR (initial (as a priori estimated) and final one) that is given by expression (1).

The successive increasing of the SNR is given in Table 1 shown above.

We chose the TS with expected SNR (after embedding a small signal) into  $TS_0(x)$  equaled to  $-169.87$ . The corresponding TS is shown in Fig. 1 (a).

The following statement is worth emphasizing. Every TS with an identical incorporated SWS has a unique sensitivity. As an illustration, we use TS with SNR (expected) =  $-166.01$ . The calculated results for another TS are shown below in Table 2.

Table 2. The values of SNR achieved in the result of Md-POLS application for another TS

$w$	SNR for $Amd_k$	SNR for $Ph_k$
3.0	-1.257	0.351
2.0	-1.259	0.352
1.02	-3.011	-0.337
1.01	0.0	-1.251
0.9	0.0	0.0

## Results and Discussion

In this section we should emphasize some attractive features of the Md-POLS method.

1. It makes to identify a possible SWS that could be hidden inside the designated TS. It is sensitive to the number of fixed digits after the division point.

2. It must be detected by raising the initial SNR (anticipated value) by many orders of magnitude, which corresponds to the SWS (expected value). One can surpass the 16-order-of-magnitude limit in the instance under consideration. It indicates that for the specified TS, the SNR may be increased from  $-160$  dB up to  $+3$  dB or even more. The Md-POLS technique becomes an essential tool for recognizing a broad class of disguised SWS as a result of this real data.

3. It is necessary to emphasize the following peculiarity of this method that was found during these numeric calculations. Each TS has its own sensitivity for detection of the SWS. In order to "percept" it we demonstrate the following pictures.

Fig. 8 demonstrates some interesting features in their behavior at the small values of the smoothing parameter  $w$ .

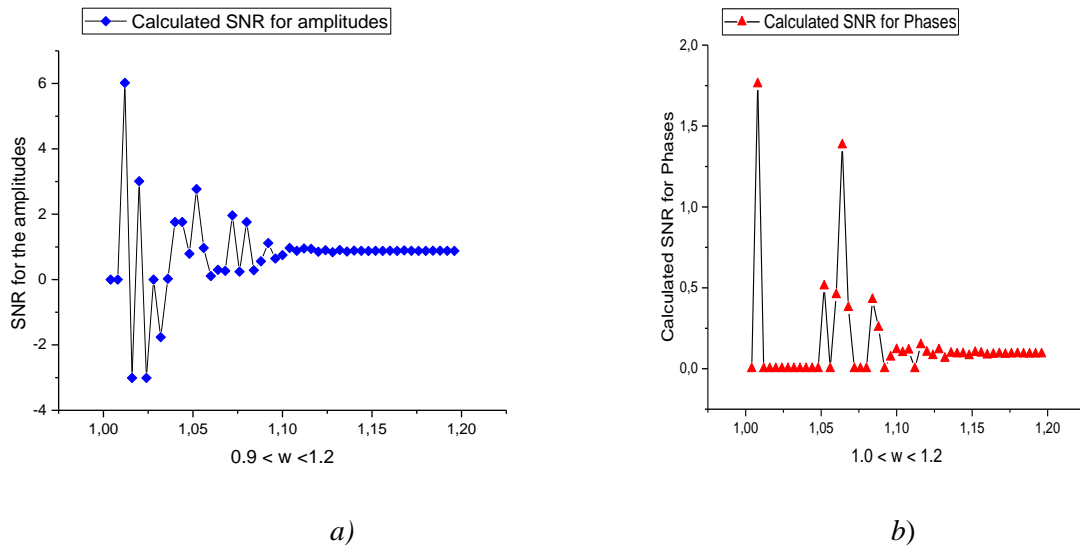


Fig. 8. Behavior of expected SNR ratio. TS is near  $-160$  dB:

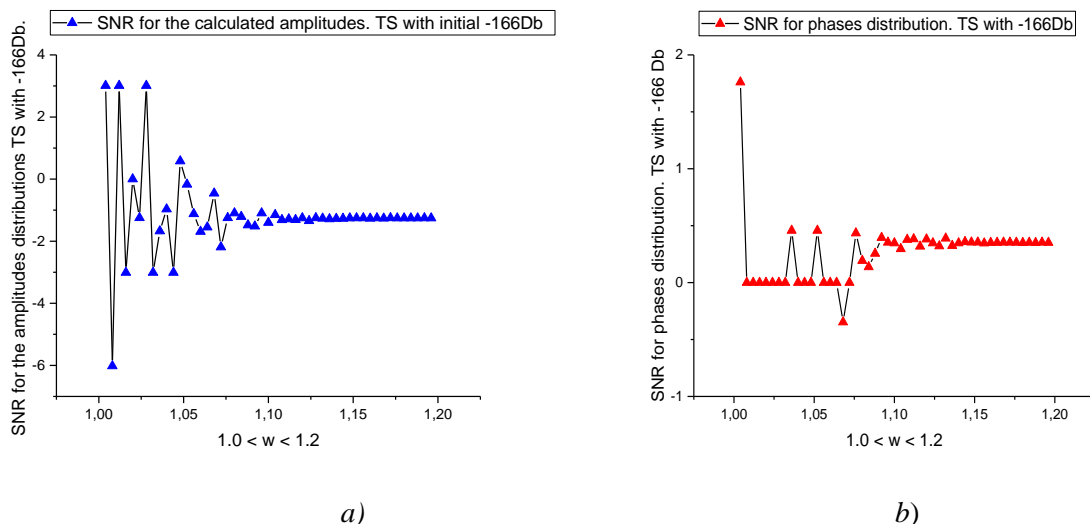
(a) one can see the behavior of the final SNR with respect to the value of the smoothing window in the small interval  $[0.9-1.2]$  close to zero. This behavior was calculated for the  $Amd_k$ ;

(b) similar plot is given for the phases  $Ph_k$  ratios calculated for the same interval  $[1.0-1.2]$ .

One can notice that this behavior is not uniform. There are regions where SNR achieves maximal value as 6 dB (on the left) and 1.7 dB (for the right plot).

Let us take another TS. This TS is randomly taken from the given data. Initial expected SNR ratio is  $-166$  dB. Similar plots for this chosen sequence are shown on Fig. 9. Fig. 9 demonstrates some interesting features in their behavior at the small values of the smoothing parameter  $w$ . It is taken another TS for comparison with Fig.8.





Figs. 9: Behavior of expected SNR. TS is near  $-166$  dB:

(a) one can see the behavior of the final SNR with respect to the value of the smoothing window  $w$  in the same small interval  $[1.0-1.2]$ . This behavior was calculated for the  $Amd_k$ ;

(b) Similar plot is given for the phases  $Ph_k$  distribution ratios.

One can notice that this behavior is not uniform and does not coincide with Fig. 8 (a, b).

There are own regions where SNR achieves maximal value as 3 dB (a) and 1.9 dB (b)

The final sensitivity of any chosen TS to detect the SWS embedded within it is determined by the particular distributions of the close amplitudes and phases, as can be seen from a comparison of the last figures.

These obtained results prompt to make the following basic conclusion. Special attention should be paid to obtaining a *stable background* (reproducibility of an experiment plays a crucial role!) serving as a particular detector to record any small signal that may appear outside the confidence "tube" of the background due to an uncounted SWS. This recorded perturbation can assist in detecting the desired "signal" that separates the new "quality" from the random fluctuations contained within the "reference" background.

The author sincerely hopes that this knowledge on this intriguing technique will lead to new opportunities for the detection of a broad class of different SWS in many natural disciplines.

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## ВОЗМОЖНО ЛИ ОБНАРУЖИТЬ НАЛИЧИЕ СВЕРХСЛАБОГО СИГНАЛА В НЕКОТОРОЙ ПОСЛЕДОВАТЕЛЬНОСТИ БЕЗ ТРЕНДА?

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**Аннотация.** В данной работе предлагается принципиально новый подход на основе обновленной методики POLS (Procedure of the Optimal Linear Smoothing). Концепция основана на итеративном процессе, который состоит из двух важнейших шагов: (а) последовательного сглаживания исходной бестрендовой последовательности и (б) вычитания сглаженной реплики на каждом итеративном шаге. С точки зрения традиционного соотношения шум/сигнал предлагаемый метод позволяет устанавливать совершенно новые рекорды. По крайней мере, это соотношение, по имеющимся данным, составляет  $-100$  dB и даже меньше. Эта формула Md-POLS позволяет получить разрешение около  $+3$  dB и, следовательно, обнаружить наличие SWS. Метод достаточно универсален и может быть применен к широкому классу последовательностей без тренда. Важно одно требование. Тестируемая последовательность должна иметь достаточное количество стабильных цифр после точки деления. Это подразумевает использование АЦП с высоким разрешением. Это откроет новые возможности в химии (обнаружение различных «следов» в данных растворах) и обнаружение различных заболеваний на ранней стадии, в радиоэлектронике, в оптике, где обнаружение малых сигналов играет центральную роль и т. д.

**Ключевые слова.** RF- случайные колебания; TS- последовательность без тренда; SWS- сверхслабый сигнал; SRA- последовательность ранжированных амплитуд; SNR- отношение сигнал/шум; Md-POLS – модернизированная процедура оптимального линейного сглаживания.

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