What is a wavelet and why is it useful?

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- In today's world, most data and signals are in digital format: digital TV, movies, images, songs,...
- How to represent data effectively (as few numbers as possible)?
- How to detect the sharp changes in data?



Given a particular signal to you: [-21, -22, -23, -23, -25, 38, 36, 34]. If you are allowed to send out only one number about this signal, which number shall you choose?

Your answer(s):



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Your answer(s): Average

$$\frac{-21-22-23-23-25+38+36+34}{8}=-0.75.$$





What Is a Wavelet?

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Represent
$$[-21, -22, -23, -23, -25, 38, 36, 34]$$



What Is a Wavelet?

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- x = [-21, -22, -23, -23, -25, 38, 36, 34].
- Averages at level 1 (A1): -0.75,
- Average at level 2 (A2): -21.5, 21.5
- Averages at level 3 (A3): 0.75, -0.75, -14.25, 14.25.
- Averages at level 4 (A4): 0.5, -0.5, 0, 0, -31.5, 31.5, 1, -1.





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What Is a Wavelet?



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Reconstruction: A1 (1 number)



Reconstruction: A1 + A2 (2 numbers)



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Reconstruction: A1 + A2 + A3 (4 numbers)



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Reconstruction: A1 + A2 + A3 + A4 (8 numbers)



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What Is a Wavelet?

Comparison: Original-Reconstructed



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Comparison: Original



Reconstructed with 3 numbers by thresholding



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What Is a Wavelet?

Comparison: Original-Reconstructed



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How to compute wavelet coefficients fast?

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Are we missing something for wavelets? or can we expect more from wavelets?



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For applications, a fast computational algorithm is highly demanded!



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- Reconstruction: Apply subdivision scheme (prediction for doubling its size): [-0.75] → [-0.75, -0.75].



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