

## ERes Function

ERes (Enhanced Resolution) filtering increases vertical resolution, allowing you to distinguish closely spaced voltage levels. The instrument's ERes function is similar to smoothing the signal with a simple, moving-average filter, but is more efficient concerning bandwidth and pass-band filtering. Use ERes:

- On single acquisitions or where the data is slowly repetitive (and you cannot use averaging).
- To reduce noise on noticeably noisy signals when you do not need to perform noise measurements.
- As a low-pass filter. The ERes filter rejects high-frequency components from the signal. The higher the bit enhancement, the lower the resulting bandwidth.
- When performing high-precision voltage measurements (e.g., zooming with high vertical gain).

### Setting Up ERes

To apply ERes as a Math function:

1. Follow the usual steps to [set up a math function](#), selecting **Eres** from the **Filter** submenu.
2. Touch the **Trace On** checkbox.
3. On the **Eres** subdialog, select the number of **bits** of improvement from the pop-up menu.

### How ERes Is Applied

The instrument's ERes feature improves vertical resolution by a fixed amount for each filter. This real increase in resolution occurs whether or not the signal is noisy, or whether it is single-shot or repetitive. The signal-to-noise ratio (SNR) improvement depends on the form of the noise in the original signal. ERes filtering decreases the bandwidth of the signal, filtering out some of the noise.

The instrument's constant phase finite impulse response (FIR) filters provide fast computation, excellent step response in 0.5 bit steps, and minimum bandwidth reduction for resolution improvements of between 0.5 and 3 bits. Each step corresponds to a bandwidth reduction factor of two, allowing easy control of the bandwidth resolution trade-off.

Resolution Increase	-3 dB Bandwidth (x Nyquist)	Filter Length (Samples)
0.5	0.5	2
1.0	0.241	5
1.5	0.121	10
2.0	0.058	24
2.5	0.029	51
3.0	0.016	117

With low-pass filters, the actual SNR increase obtained in any particular situation depends on the power spectral density of the noise on the signal.



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The improvement in SNR corresponds to the improvement in resolution if the noise in the signal is white (evenly distributed across the frequency spectrum). If the noise power is biased towards high frequencies, the SNR improvement will be better than the resolution improvement.

The opposite may be true if the noise is mostly at lower frequencies. SNR improvement due to the removal of coherent noise signals—feed-through of clock signals, for example—is determined by the fall of the dominant frequency components of the signal in the passband. This is easily ascertained using spectral analysis. The filters have a precisely constant zero-phase response. This has two benefits. First, the filters do not distort the relative position of different events in the waveform, even if the events' frequency content is different. Second, because the waveforms are stored, the delay normally associated with filtering (between the input and output waveforms) can be exactly compensated during the computation of the filtered waveform.

The filters have been given exact unity gain at low frequency. ERes should therefore not cause overflow if the source data is not overflowed. If part of the source trace were to overflow, filtering would be allowed, but the results in the vicinity of the overflowed data—the filter impulse response length—would be incorrect. This is because in some circumstances an overflow may be a spike of only one or two samples, and the energy in this spike may not be enough to significantly affect the results. It would then be undesirable to disallow the whole trace.



**Note:** While ERes improves the resolution of a trace, it cannot improve the accuracy or linearity of the original quantization. The pass-band causes signal attenuation for signals near the cut-off frequency. The highest frequencies passed may be slightly attenuated. Perform the filtering on finite record lengths. Data is lost at the start and end of the waveform and the trace ends up slightly shorter after filtering. The number of samples lost is exactly equal to the length of the impulse response of the filter used: between 2 and 117 samples. Normally this loss (just 0.2 % of a 50,000 point trace) is not noticed. However, you might filter a record so short that no data is output. In that case, however, the instrument would not allow you to use the ERes feature.