4. Fourier Analysis and Applications

4.1 Introduction

- A signal can be viewed from two different standpoints:
- the frequency domain
- the time domain
- Any signal can be fully described in either of these domains
- go between the two by using a tool called the Fourier transform. Why the frequency domain ?
- may be simpler to analyse signal in frequency domain

Fourier techniques have many applications

- optics: diffraction, interference
- audio: synthesis
- communications: filtering
- spectroscopy and dynamics: use of ultrafast lasers
- physics experiments: filtering noise, deconvolution

4. Fourier Analysis and Applications 4.2 Fourier series Periodic signal x(t) can be represented by a Fourier series expansion: $x(t) = a_0 + 2\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \left[a_n \cos\left(\frac{2\pi nt}{T_0}\right) + b_n \sin\left(\frac{2\pi nt}{T_0}\right) \right]$ where T_0 is the fundamental period of the signal The cos and sin functions are used as basis functions • obey orthogonality relations $\int_{-T_0/2}^{T_0/2} \cos\left(\frac{2\pi nt}{T_0}\right) \sin\left(\frac{2\pi nt}{T_0}\right) dt = 0$ $\int_{-T_0/2}^{T_0/2} \cos\left(\frac{2\pi nt}{T_0}\right) \cos\left(\frac{2\pi nt}{T_0}\right) dt = \begin{cases} T_0/2 & \text{for } m = n \\ 0 & \text{for } m \neq n \end{cases}$ $\int_{-T_0/2}^{T_0/2} \sin\left(\frac{2\pi nt}{T_0}\right) \sin\left(\frac{2\pi nt}{T_0}\right) dt = \begin{cases} T_0/2 & \text{for } m = n \\ 0 & \text{for } m \neq n \end{cases}$

Integrate basis functions over single period enables determination of mean value of the signal, $a_{\rm 0}$





- $\mathbf{x}(t)$ has finite number of discontinuities, minima and maxima over the fundamental period
- $\int_{-\tau_n/2}^{\tau_0/2} |x(t)| dt < \infty$ that is, x(t) is absolutely integrable





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4.1 Complex Fourier series (cont) The coefficients are given by $c_n = \frac{1}{T_0} \int_{-T_0/2}^{T_0/2} \mathbf{x}(t) e^{-j2\pi nt/T_0} dt$

Can write these complex coefficients as $c_n = |c_n| e^{j\phi_n}$ where $\phi_n = \arg(c_n)$ is the phase.

- amplitude spectrum plot of |c_n| against frequency
- phase spectrum plot of \u03c6_n against frequency

4.4 Power in periodic signals

Recall that average power of a periodic signal over one period is $P = \frac{1}{T_0} \int_{-T_0/2}^{T_0/2} |x(t)|^2 dt$

It can be shown (Parseval's theorem) that if represent x(t) by complex exponential Fourier series, then can write power as:

$$P = \frac{1}{T_0} \int_{-T_0/2}^{T_0/2} |\mathbf{x}(t)|^2 dt = \sum_{n=-\infty}^{\infty} |c_n|^2$$

4. Fourier Analysis and Applications Example

Find complex exponential Fourier representation of $x(t) = 2\sin(t)\cos(t)$.

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4.5 Fourier transform

Conventionally we denote :

- signal in time domain x(t)
- signal in frequency domain X(f)
- can also write $X(\omega)$ where $\omega = 2\pi f$
- The Fourier transform and inverse Fourier transform enable us to pass back and forth between the time and frequency domains: Fourier transform

 $x(t) \xrightarrow{\text{rourier transform}} X(f)$

The Fourier transform of a signal x(t) is given by

$$X(f) = \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} x(t) \exp(-j2\pi ft) dt$$

and the inverse Fourier transform of X(f) by

$x(t) = \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} X(f) \exp(j2\pi f t) df$

To be able to find FT of given signal x(t) Dirichlet conditions are sufficient, but not strictly necessary, for example in the case of the unit impulse function:

4. Fourier Analysis and Applications 4.5 Fourier transform (cont) Example Find the Fourier transforms of (a) $\delta(t)$ and (b) $\delta(t-a)$.

Fourier transform pairs

Shorthand notation to denote signal in time domain and its Fourier transform - a Fourier transform pair: $x(t) \rightleftharpoons X(f)$

So for the impulse functions in the last example we can write





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 broadening in time of a signal x(t) causes a compression of frequency of X(t)

• for
$$x(t) \rightleftharpoons X(t)$$
, then $x(at) \rightleftharpoons \frac{1}{|a|} X\left(\frac{t}{a}\right)$

leads to constant time-bandwidth product, see later



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4.6 Properties of the Fourier transform (cont)
Superposition principle
• FT is linear $ax_1(t) + bx_2(t) \rightleftharpoons aX_1(t) + bX_2(t)$
Duality
 useful when computing FTs
• $\mathbf{x}(t) \rightleftharpoons \mathbf{X}(f) \Rightarrow \mathbf{X}(t) \rightleftharpoons \mathbf{x}(-f)$
Differentiation and integration
Inverse FT: $x(t) = \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} X(f) \exp(j2\pi ft) df$
$\frac{dx}{dt} = \frac{d}{dt} \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} X(f) \exp(j2\pi ft) df$
$\frac{dx}{dt} = \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} \frac{d}{dt} X(f) \exp(j2\pi ft) df = j2\pi f \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} X(f) \exp(j2\pi ft) df$
Thus if $x(t) \rightleftharpoons X(f) \Rightarrow \frac{dx}{dt} \rightleftharpoons j2\pi fX(f)$
If $X(0) = 0 \implies \int_{-\infty}^{t} x(\tau) d\tau \rightleftharpoons \frac{1}{j2\pi f} X(f)$
• differentiation in t domain \leftrightarrow multiplication by $j2\pi f$ in freq. domain

• integration in *t* domain \leftrightarrow division by $i2\pi f$ in freq. domain



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4.7 Spectrum plots

- In general, FT of a signal x(t) is a complex function, so can write X(t) in polar representation, that is:
- $X(f) = |X(f)| e^{j\phi}$
- where |X(f)| is the amplitude of X(f) and $\phi = \arg(X(f))$ is the phase • plot of |X(f)| is known as the amplitude spectrum of the signal
- plot of $\phi = \arg(X(f))$ is known as the phase spectrum of the signal

Exercise

Suppose the FT of some signal is

$$X(f) = \frac{1}{2+if}$$

Plot the amplitude and phase spectra.

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4.8 Parseval's theorem

• the energy content of a signal is equivalent to the energy spectral density of the signal, found by integrating $|X(t)|^2$

•
$$\int_{-\infty}^{\infty} |x(t)|^2 dt = \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} |X(t)|^2 dt = \frac{1}{2\pi} \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} |X(\omega)|^2 d\omega$$

 alternative statement: the total average power of a periodic signal is equal to the sum of the average powers in all of its harmonic components (cf Fourier series representation)

•
$$P_k = \frac{1}{T} \int_0^T \left| a_k e^{jk\omega_0 t} \right|^2 dt = \frac{1}{T} \int_0^T \left| a_k \right|^2 dt = \left| a_k \right|^2$$

- *P_k* = *P_{-k}* so the total power of the *k*th harmonic components of the signal (i.e. the total power at frequency *ka*₀) is 2*P_k*
- total average signal power is given in the frequency domain by the Parseval theorem therefore as

•
$$P = \frac{1}{T} \int_0^T |x(t)|^2 dt = \sum_{k=-\infty}^{\infty} |a_k|^2$$

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4.11 Filters

- A filter allows a specified range of frequencies to pass through and suppresses all other frequencies.
 - band: a given range of frequencies
 - passband : band of frequencies allowed through filter
 - stopband: band of frequencies suppressed by the filter
 - can describe filters by frequency response function H(f)

We can group filters into four categories:

- Low pass filter: allows low frequencies to pass through to output, rejects high frequencies
- High pass filter: suppresses low frequencies, allows high frequencies to pass through
- Band pass: allows a band of frequencies through, rejects frequencies that fall below of above the band
- Band stop: opposite of band pass filter, rejects frequencies that fall in a particular range

Ideal filters: transition from stop to pass band is immediate

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4.11 Filters (cont)

System bandwidth

Bandwidth of ideal bandpass filter is difference between the two cutoff frequencies used to define the pass band (ω_1 and ω_2 with $\omega_1 < \omega_2$).

- bandwidth *B* is given by $B = \omega_1 \omega_2$
- midband frequency is $\omega_0 = (\omega_1 + \omega_2)/2$
- \bullet if $B<<\omega_{\!0}$ we say that the filter is a narrowband filter

For non-ideal filters owing to the transition band it is not possible to define the bandwidth so simply.

- instead, define 3-dB bandwidth
- find frequency $\omega_{\rm B}$ at which $|H(\omega)| = \frac{|H(\omega_0)|}{\sqrt{2}}$
- if frequency at which this condition is met $w_{\rm B}$ then 3-dB bandwidth given by $w_{\rm B}-w_{\rm 0}$

Fourier analysis and applications

Fourier series

1. Find the complex exponential Fourier series representation of $x(t) = \frac{4}{\pi} (\sin t + \sin 3t)$.

2. Digital Sine Wave Generator (long!)

A programmable digital signal generator generates a sinusoidal waveform by filtering the staircase approximation to a sine wave shown in the figure:



(a) Find the complex Fourier series coefficients c_k of the periodic signal x(t). Show that the even harmonics vanish. Express x(t) as a Fourier series.

(b) Write x(t) using the real form of the Fourier series.

$$x(t) = a_0 + 2\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \left[a_n \cos\left(\frac{2\pi nt}{T_0}\right) + b_n \sin\left(\frac{2\pi nt}{T_0}\right) \right] \equiv a_0 + 2\sum_{k=1}^{\infty} \left[a_k \cos\left(k\omega_0 t\right) + b_k \sin\left(k\omega_0 t\right) \right]$$

(c) Design an ideal lowpass filter that will produce the perfect sinusoidal waveform $y(t) = \sin\left(\frac{2\pi}{T}t\right)$ at its output with x(t) as its input. Sketch its frequency response and specify its gain K and cutoff frequency α .

with x(t) as its input. Sketch its frequency response and specify its gain K and cutoff frequency ω_c .

Fourier transforms

3. Sketch the following signal and find its Fourier transform: $x(t) = (1 - e^{-|t|})[u(t + 1) - u(t - 1)]$. Show that $X(j\omega)$ is real and even.

4. Show that the Fourier transform of a Gaussian pulse in the time domain $x(t) = e^{-\pi t^2}$ is a Gaussian pulse in the frequency domain.

Filters

5. Consider the periodic function of the example in section 4 of the lecture notes where $x(t) = t^2$, -1 < t < 1 was extended on the real line. Suppose this signal is passed through an ideal low pass filter described by

 $|H(\omega)| = \begin{cases} 1 & |\omega| \le 3\pi \\ 0 & |\omega| > 3\pi \end{cases}$. Find the output signal y(t) for this filter. Consider what happens if the cutoff frequency is

reduced to $\omega_c = 2\pi$.

Hint: in the lectures, we found that the Fourier series expansion of the input signal was given by

 $x(t) = \frac{1}{3} - \frac{4}{\pi^2} \cos \pi t + \frac{1}{\pi^2} \cos 2\pi t - \frac{4}{9\pi^2} \cos 3\pi t + \dots$ If you can, plot the original function, and the various unfiltered and filtered Fourier series representations to compare them.