A Project Report

On

"Signal Analysis Using Fourier and Laplace Transforms"

Submitted by
Sammeta Dinesh Kumar
Enrollment Number: 10BEE1077

Guided by
Supervisor: Prof. Febin Dayal

Department: EEE

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Abstract

Biomedical engineering, telecommunications, and control systems all heavily rely on signal processing.
The application of Fourier and Laplace transforms as mathematical tools for time and frequency domain analysis is examined in this study.

Python tools like NumPy, SciPy, SymPy, and Matplotlib were used to handle synthetic signals and ECG data (from the MIT-BIH Arrhythmia Database) to show:

A reduction in noise

Utilising filters

Analysis of the frequency spectrum

The study emphasises the use of digital signal processing (DSP), particularly ECG/EEG denoising, in biomedical settings.

Acknowledgements

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Introduction

In contemporary engineering, signal analysis is essential for managing real-world data, which frequently involves distortions and noise.
Laplace transforms offer a generalised framework for system modelling and stability research, whereas Fourier transforms enable us to analyse signals in the frequency domain.

This study demonstrates how filtering and modification techniques may clean noisy ECG data and uncover hidden patterns in biological signal analysis.

Literature Review

- **Oppenheim & Schafer (2010)**: Core DSP principles using Fourier methods.

- **Proakis & Manolakis (2007)**: Algorithms for practical DSP implementations.

- **MIT-BIH Arrhythmia Database (PhysioNet)**: Benchmark biomedical signals used in research.

Previous works emphasise the importance of computational methods in real-time signal analysis, motivating this project's Python-based approach.

Problem Statement

In the real world, ambient noise and electrical interference frequently taint biological signals (such as ECG/EEG).
Conventional manual filtering is ineffective and can skew important characteristics.
For quick, precise, and automatic noise reduction and analysis, a computational method is required.

Objectives

- Use Fourier transforms (FFT) to analyse spectra.
- Use Laplace transformations to depict the system.
- Low-pass filtering for biomedical noise reduction should be demonstrated.
- Display the findings in both frequency and temporal domains.

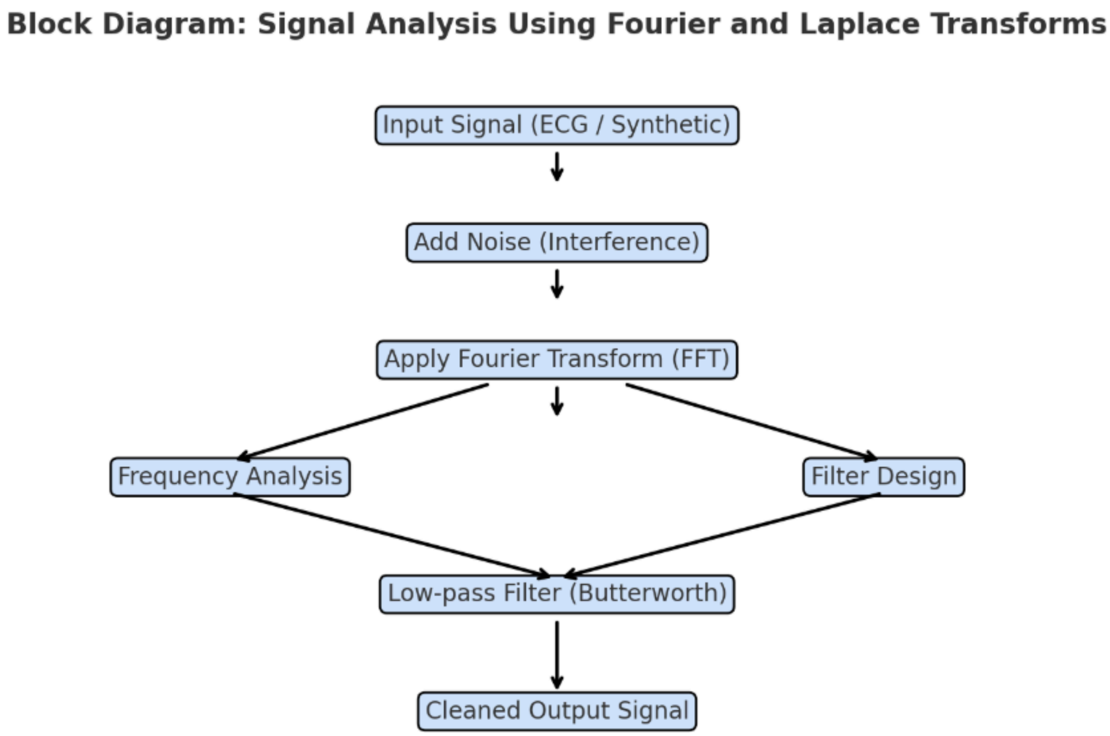
Methodology

Libraries & Tools
Python (Matplotlib, SciPy, SymPy, and NumPy)
MIT-BIH Arrhythmia Database dataset

Procedures

- Create artificially generated noise signals.
- To analyse frequency components, use FFT.
- To eliminate noise, create a Butterworth low-pass filter.
- Calculate symbolic Laplace transforms.
- See signals that have been filtered and those that have not.

Block Diagram:



Implementation:

Methodology

Libraries & Tools

- Python
- NumPy – for numerical computations
- SciPy – for signal processing and filter design
- Matplotlib – for visualization (time & frequency domain plots)
- SymPy – for symbolic mathematics (Laplace transform)
- MIT-BIH Arrhythmia Database (from PhysioNet) – biomedical signal dataset

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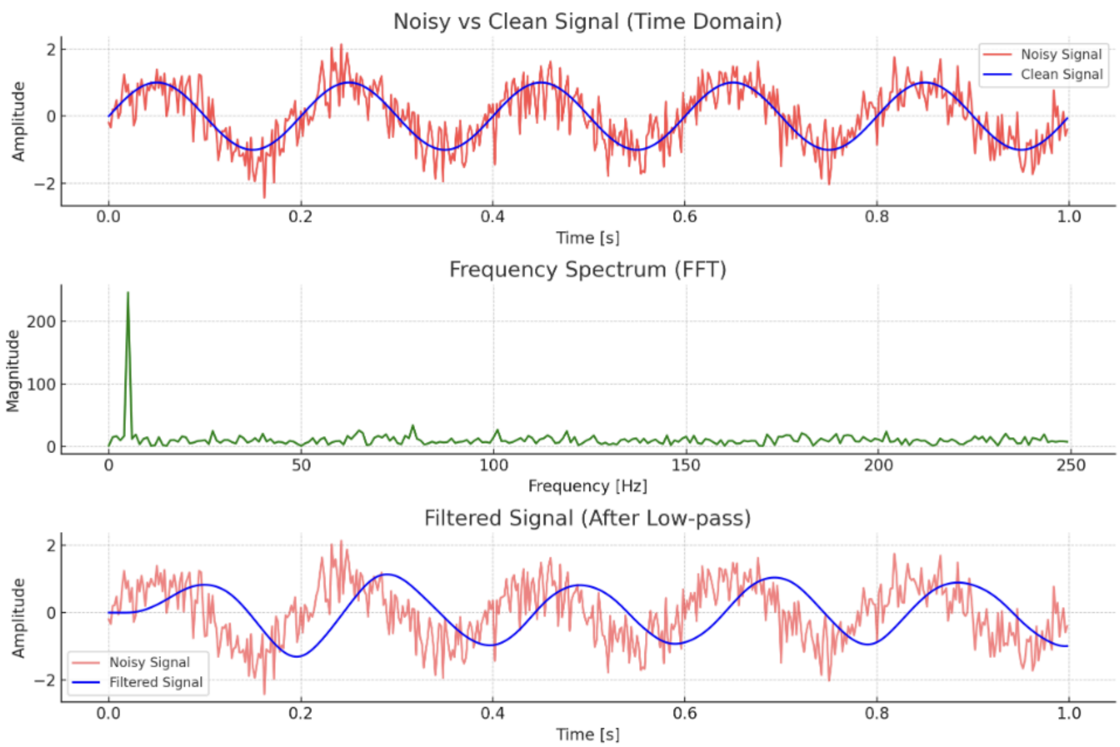
Procedures

1. Signal Generation
   - Import ECG samples from the MIT-BIH Arrhythmia Database.
   - Alternatively, create synthetic signals (e.g., sine waves) to simulate biomedical signals.
   - Add Gaussian/random noise to replicate real-world noisy biomedical signals.
2. Fourier Transform (FFT) Analysis
   - Apply Fast Fourier Transform (FFT) to convert the time-domain noisy signal into the frequency domain.
   - Plot the magnitude spectrum to identify dominant frequencies and noise components.
3. Filter Design – Butterworth Low-pass Filter
   - Use SciPy's butter and lfilter functions to design a low-pass Butterworth filter.
   - Set an appropriate cutoff frequency (e.g., 10–20 Hz for ECG signals) to retain useful components while suppressing noise.
   - Apply the filter to the noisy signal to obtain a cleaned signal.
4. Laplace Transform (Symbolic Analysis)
   - Use SymPy to compute Laplace transforms of system equations.
   - Derive transfer functions representing system response and filter behaviour.
   - (Optional) Generate pole-zero plots for system stability and filtering characteristics.
5. Visualization & Comparison
   - Plot the original clean signal, noisy signal, and filtered signal in the time domain.
   - Plot the frequency spectrum (FFT) before and after filtering.
   - Compare results to highlight the effectiveness of the Fourier and Laplace transforms in signal analysis.

Results & Analysis

- Noisy ECG signal (time domain)
- FFT spectrum (frequency domain)
- Filtered ECG signal after low-pass filtering



Applications & Advantages

- ECG/EEG biomedical signal denoising
- Filtering in telecommunications
- Modelling of control systems

Limitations & Future Scope

- Code is reliant on earlier library versions (environment from 2011).
- Modern Python versions may have different results.
- Upcoming projects:

- Acquisition of signals in real time
- The adaptive filters based on AI/ML
- Biomedical monitoring via the cloud

Conclusion

The research effectively illustrated how Fourier and Laplace transforms are used in signal analysis. The paper demonstrated the significance of DSP in biomedical applications by fusing theoretical underpinnings with real-world Python implementation. Even if dependency updates would be necessary in contemporary situations, the project nonetheless serves as a powerful illustration of basic programming, signal processing, and problem-solving abilities.

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