

**Notes # 5.**

**Discrete uncertainty principle**

[1] *Discrete Fourier transform:*

$$y = \{y_k\}_{k=0}^{N-1} \in \mathbb{C}^N; \quad \mathcal{F}_N : y \mapsto Y = \{Y_n\}_{n=0}^{N-1} = \mathcal{F}_N y,$$

$$Y_n = \frac{1}{N} \sum_{k=0}^{N-1} y_k \omega_N^{-kn}, \quad \text{where } \omega_N = e^{2i\pi/N}.$$

[2] *Parseval identity:*

$$\sum_{k=0}^{N-1} |y_k|^2 = N \sum_{n=0}^{N-1} |Y_n|^2.$$

[3] *Support of a signal:*

$$\text{supp } y = \{k, y_k \neq 0\}, \quad |\text{supp } y| = \text{number of elements of supp } y$$

[4] *Formulation of the uncertainty principle:*

$$|\text{supp } y| |\text{supp } Y| \geq N.$$

[5] *Proof:*

For each  $n = 0, 1, \dots, N-1$

$$\begin{aligned} |Y_n| &\leq \frac{1}{N} \sum_{k \in \text{supp } y} |y_k| \quad \underbrace{\leq}_{\text{Schwarz inqty}} \quad \frac{1}{N} \left( \sum_{k \in \text{supp } y} |y_k|^2 \right)^{1/2} (|\text{supp } y|)^{1/2} \\ &\quad \underbrace{=}_{\text{Parseval idnty}} \quad \frac{1}{N} \left( N \sum_{l=0}^{N-1} |Y_l|^2 \right)^{1/2} (|\text{supp } y|)^{1/2} = \\ &\quad \left( \frac{1}{N} \right)^{1/2} \left( \sum_{l \in \text{supp } Y} |Y_l|^2 \right)^{1/2} (|\text{supp } y|)^{1/2}. \end{aligned}$$

So, for each  $n$ ,

$$|Y_n|^2 \leq \frac{1}{N} |\text{supp } y| \sum_{l \in \text{supp } Y} |Y_l|^2.$$

Now sum this with respect to all  $n \in \text{supp } Y$  taking into account that the right-hand side is independent of  $n$ :

$$\left( \sum_{n \in \text{supp } Y} |Y_n|^2 \right) \leq \frac{1}{N} \left( \sum_{l \in \text{supp } Y} |Y_l|^2 \right) |\text{supp } y| |\text{supp } Y|.$$

This yields the desired inequality.