

Computer Vision (CS 419/619)

Image filtering in Frequency Domain  
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# Why talk about Fourier transforms?

- Convolution is point-wise multiplication in frequency space
  - Analyze which frequency components a particular filter lets through, e.g., *low-pass*, *high-pass* or *band-pass* filters
  - Leads to fast algorithms for convolution with large filters: Fast FFT
- Frequency space reveals structure at various scales
  - Noise is high-frequency
  - "Average brightness" is low-frequency
- Useful to understand how we resize/resample images
  - Sampling causes information loss
  - What is lost exactly?
  - What can we recover?

# Trigonometric Fourier Series

Any **periodic** function  $f(t)$  can be expressed as a weighted (infinite) sum of **sine** and **cosine** functions of increasing frequency:

If  $f(x)$  be a  $2\pi$ -periodic function which is integrable on  $[-\pi, \pi]$  with at most a finite number of maxima and minima and at most a finite number of discontinuities in the interval.

$$f(t) = \frac{a_0}{2} + \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} a_n \cos(nt) + \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} b_n \sin(nt)$$

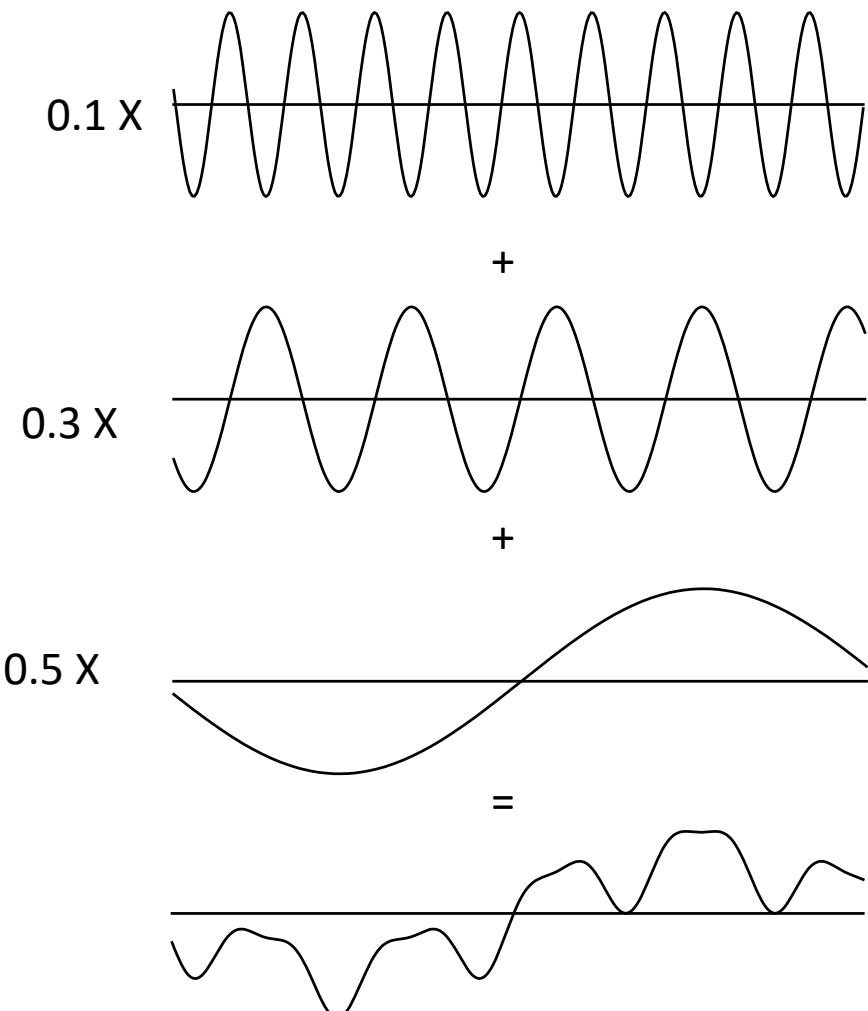
**basis functions**

where

$$a_n = \frac{1}{\pi} \int_{-\pi}^{\pi} f(t) \cos(nt) dt \quad b_n = \frac{1}{\pi} \int_{-\pi}^{\pi} f(t) \sin(nt) dt$$

coefficients of expansion

$n=1,2,3,\dots$



# Exponential Fourier Series

$$e^{\pm j\theta} = \cos(\theta) \pm j\sin(\theta)$$

$$f(x) = \sum_{n=-\infty}^{\infty} c_n e^{-inx}$$

$$c_n = \frac{1}{2\pi} \int_{-\pi}^{\pi} f(x) e^{inx} dx, \text{ where}$$

$$c_n = \frac{1}{2} (\color{red}{a_n + i b_n}), \quad n = 1, 2, \dots$$

$$c_n = \frac{1}{2} (\color{red}{a_{-n} - i b_{-n}}), \quad n = -1, -2, \dots$$

$$c_0 = \frac{\color{red}{a_0}}{2}$$

$$f(x) = \frac{a_0}{2} + \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \left( a_n \cos \frac{n\pi x}{L} + b_n \sin \frac{n\pi x}{L} \right) \text{ where } x \in [-L, L]$$

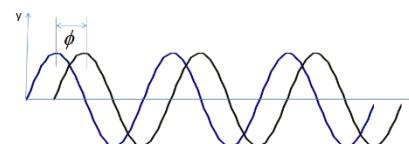
$$a_n = \frac{1}{L} \int_{-L}^L f(x) \cos \frac{n\pi x}{L} dx, \quad n = 0, 1, \dots,$$

$$b_n = \frac{1}{L} \int_{-L}^L f(x) \sin \frac{n\pi x}{L} dx, \quad n = 1, 2, \dots$$

$$f(x) \sim \sum_{n=-\infty}^{\infty} c_n e^{-in\pi x/L}$$

$$\text{where, } c_n = \frac{1}{2L} \int_{-L}^L f(x) e^{in\pi x/L} dx$$

# FT - Definitions

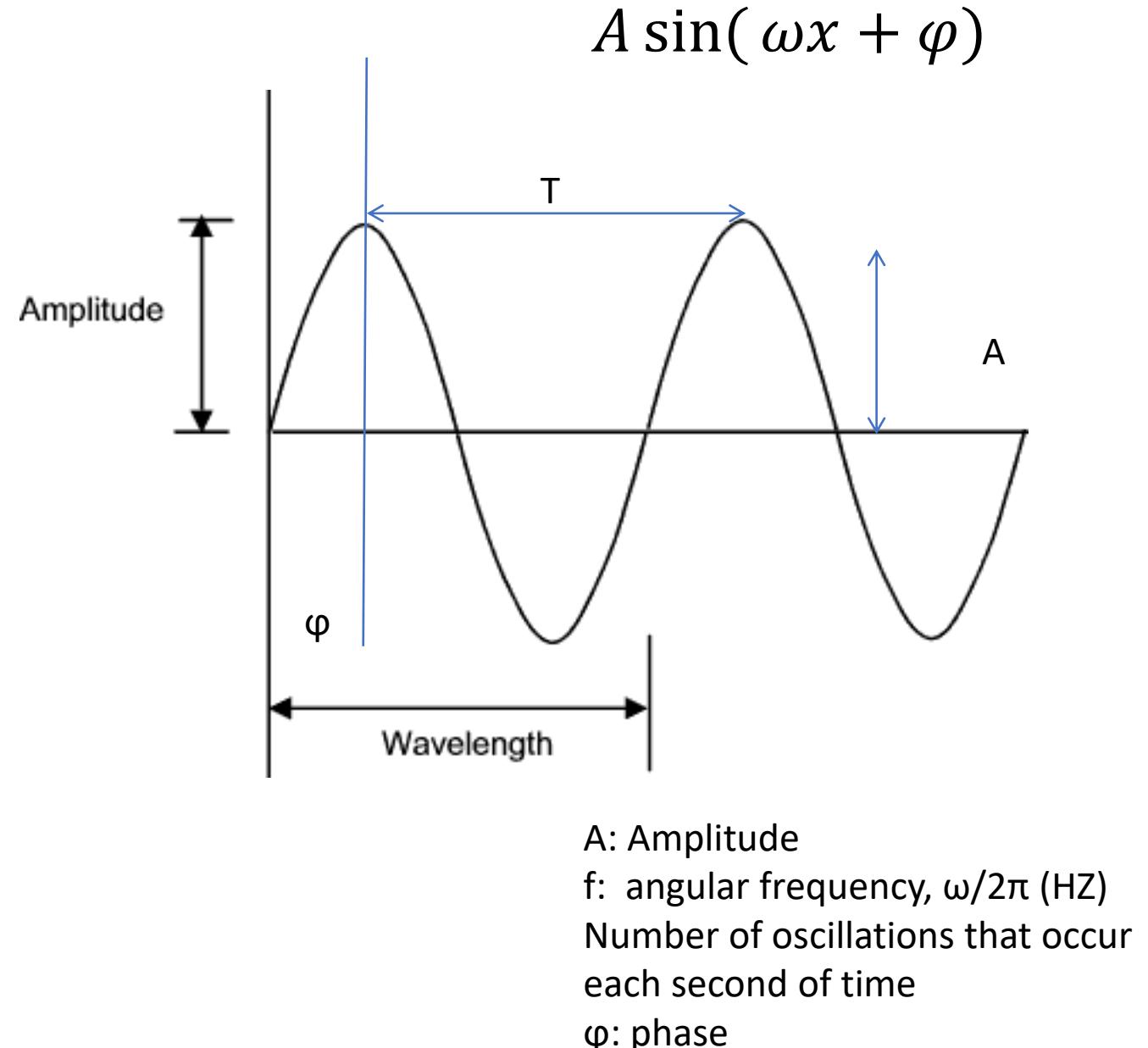
- In general,  $F(u)$  is a **complex function**:  $F(u) = R(u) + jI(u)$
- **Magnitude** of FT (or spectrum):  $|F(u)| = \sqrt{R^2(u) + I^2(u)}$  strength of different frequencies
- **Phase** of FT:  $\phi(F(u)) = \tan^{-1}\left(\frac{I(u)}{R(u)}\right)$  how sinusoidals line up (i.e., shift)
- **Magnitude-Phase** representation:  $F(u) = |F(u)|e^{j\phi(u)}$
- **Power** of f(x):  $P(u) = |F(u)|^2 = R^2(u) + I^2(u)$

Demo: <https://ipsa.swarthmore.edu/BackGround/phasor/phasor.html>

# Sine Wave

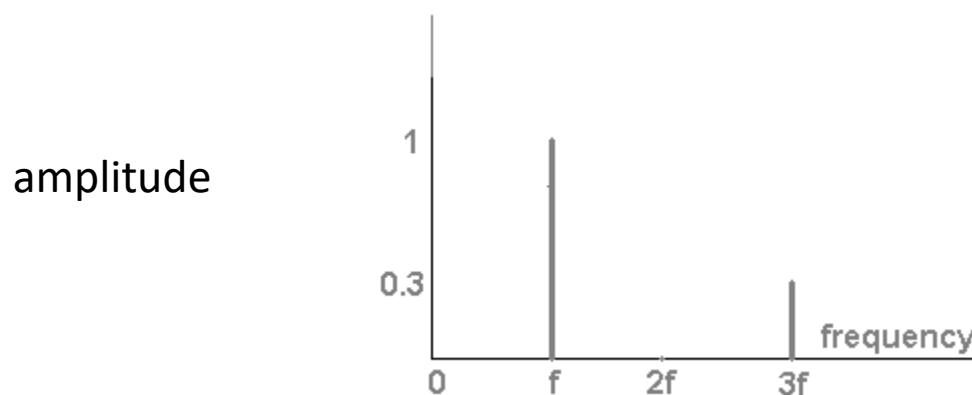
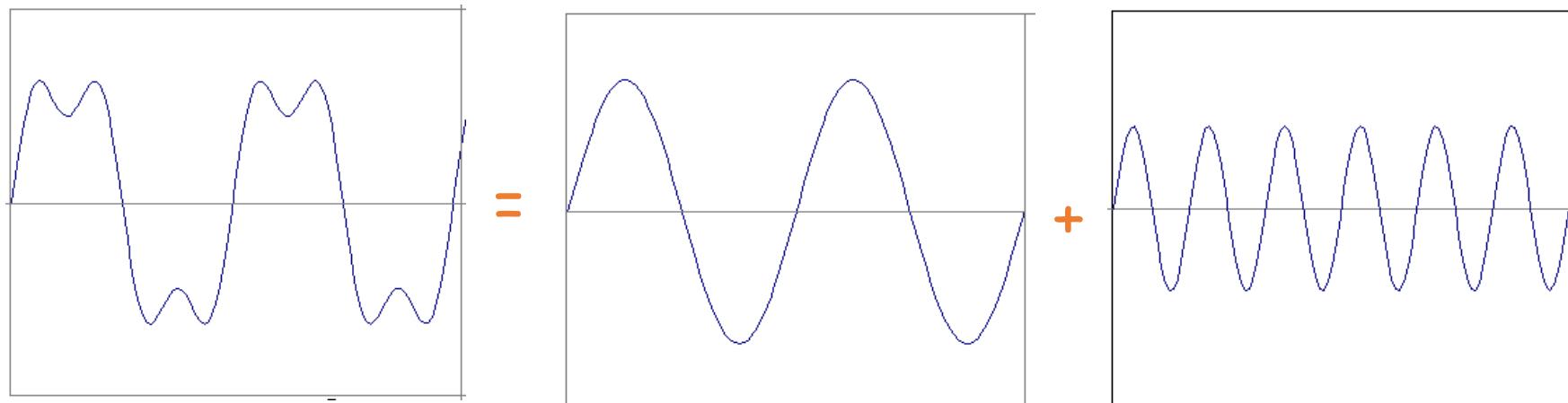
Why don't we represent the system with some other periodic signals?

- Sine wave is the only waveform that doesn't change shape when subject to a linear-time-invariant (LTI) system.  
Input sinusoids, output will be sinusoids.



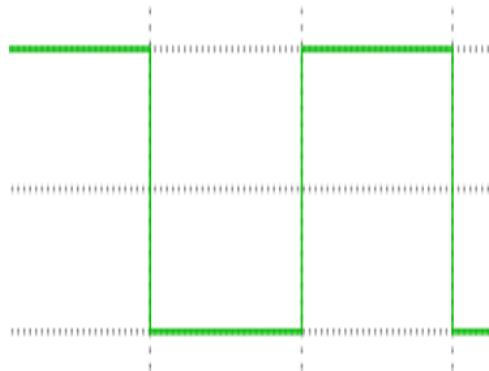
# Frequency Spectra

Example :  $g(t) = \sin(2\pi f t) + (1/3)\sin(2\pi(3f) t)$

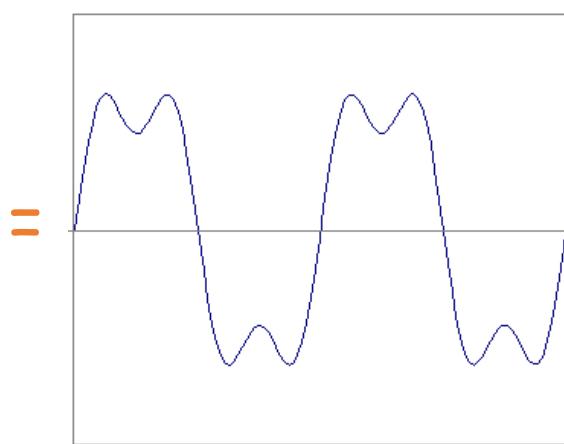
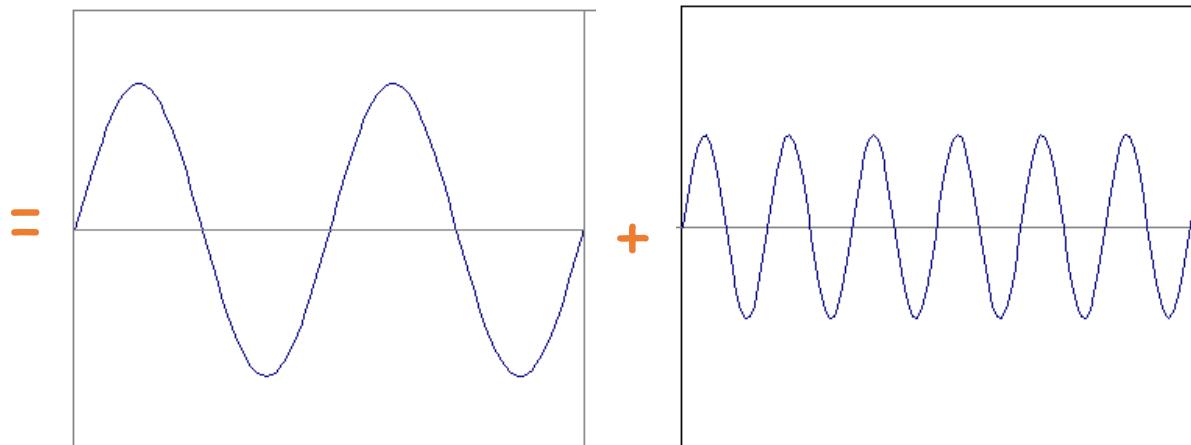
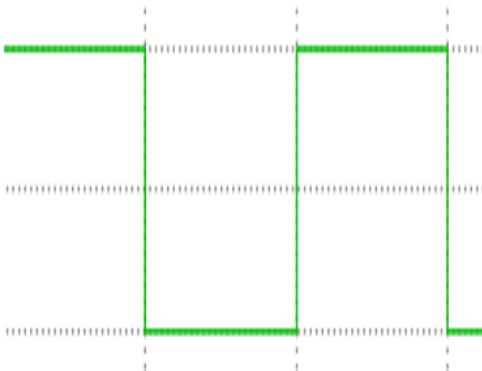


# Frequency Spectra

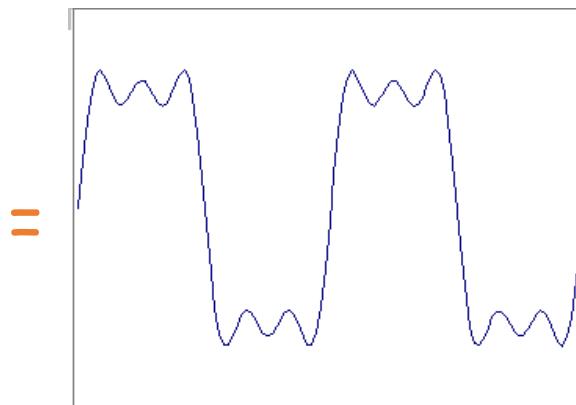
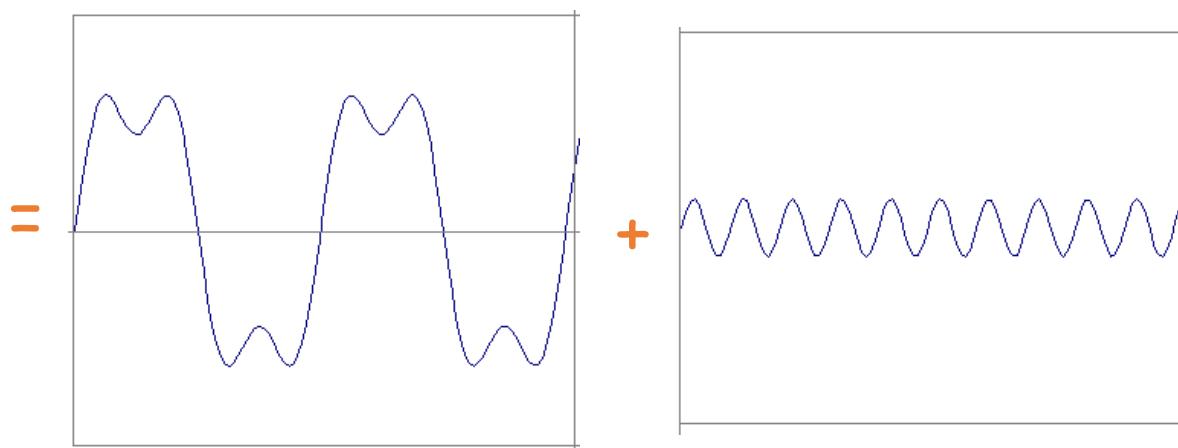
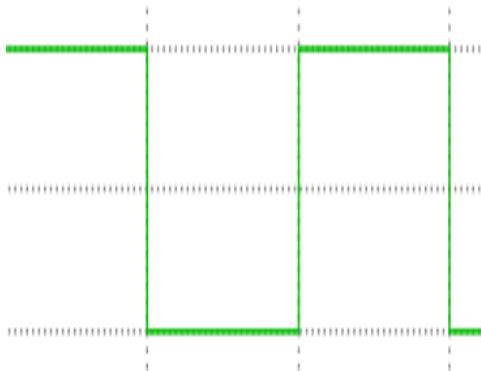
- Consider a square wave  $f(x)$



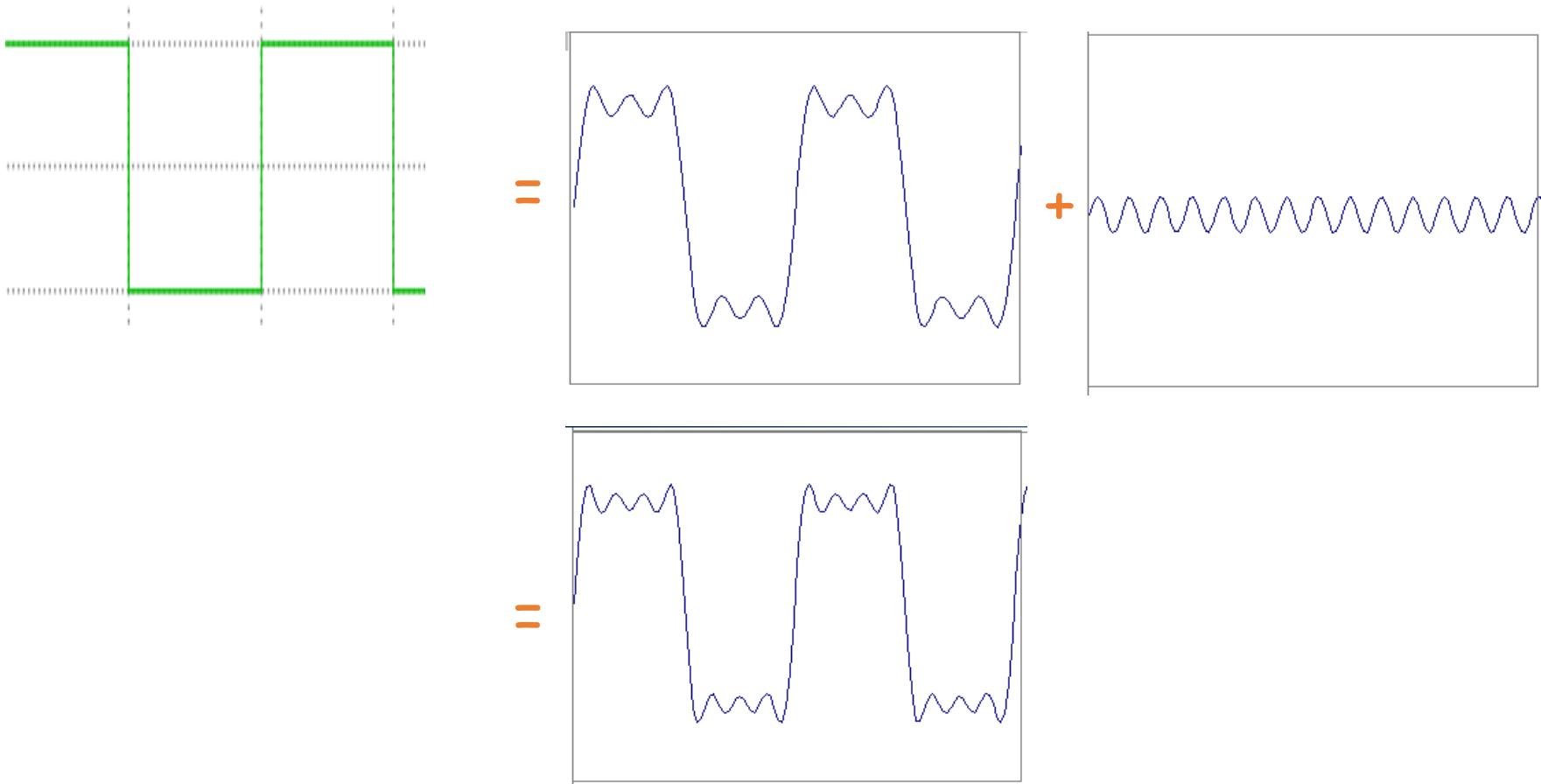
# Frequency Spectra



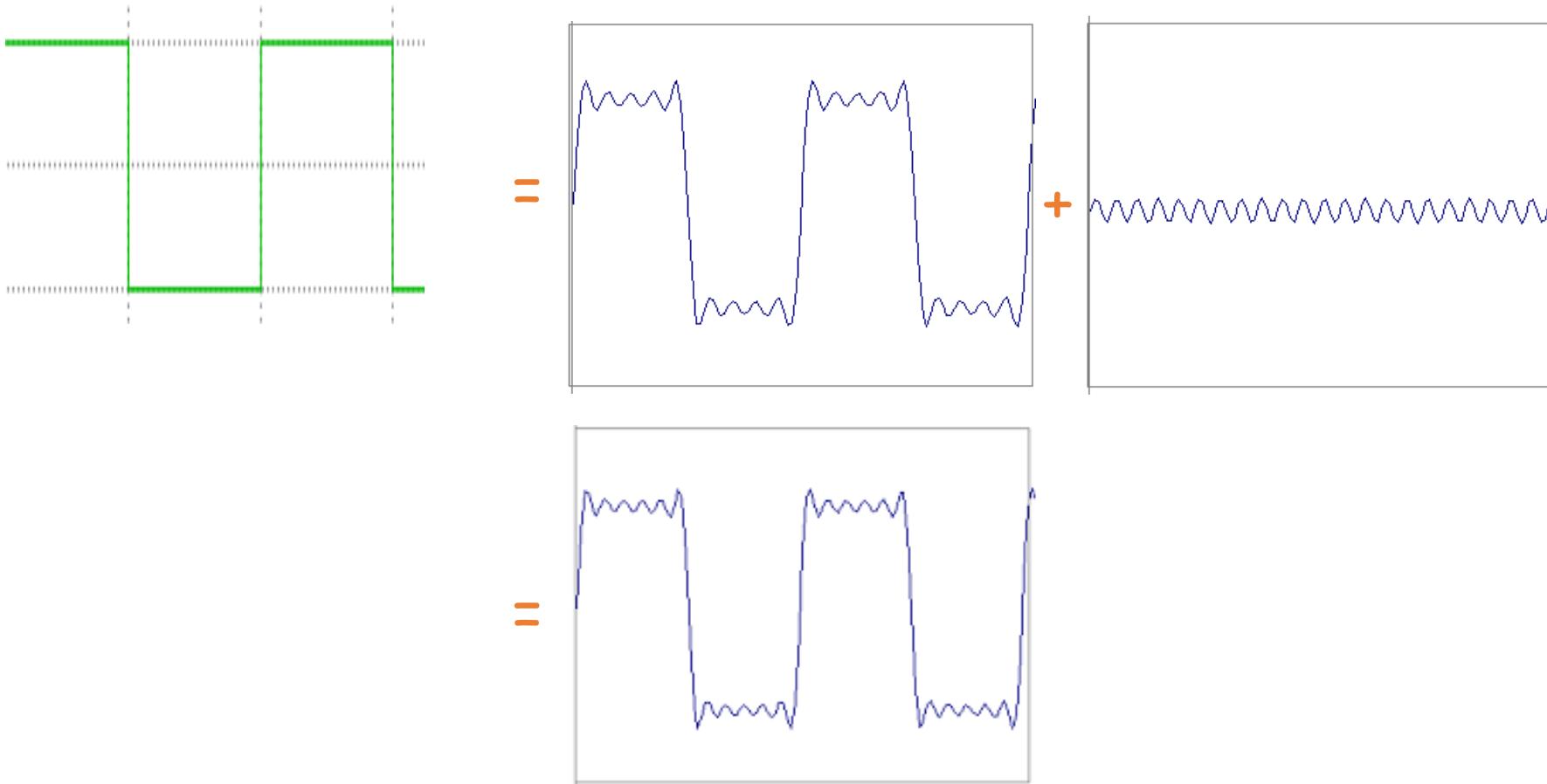
# Frequency Spectra



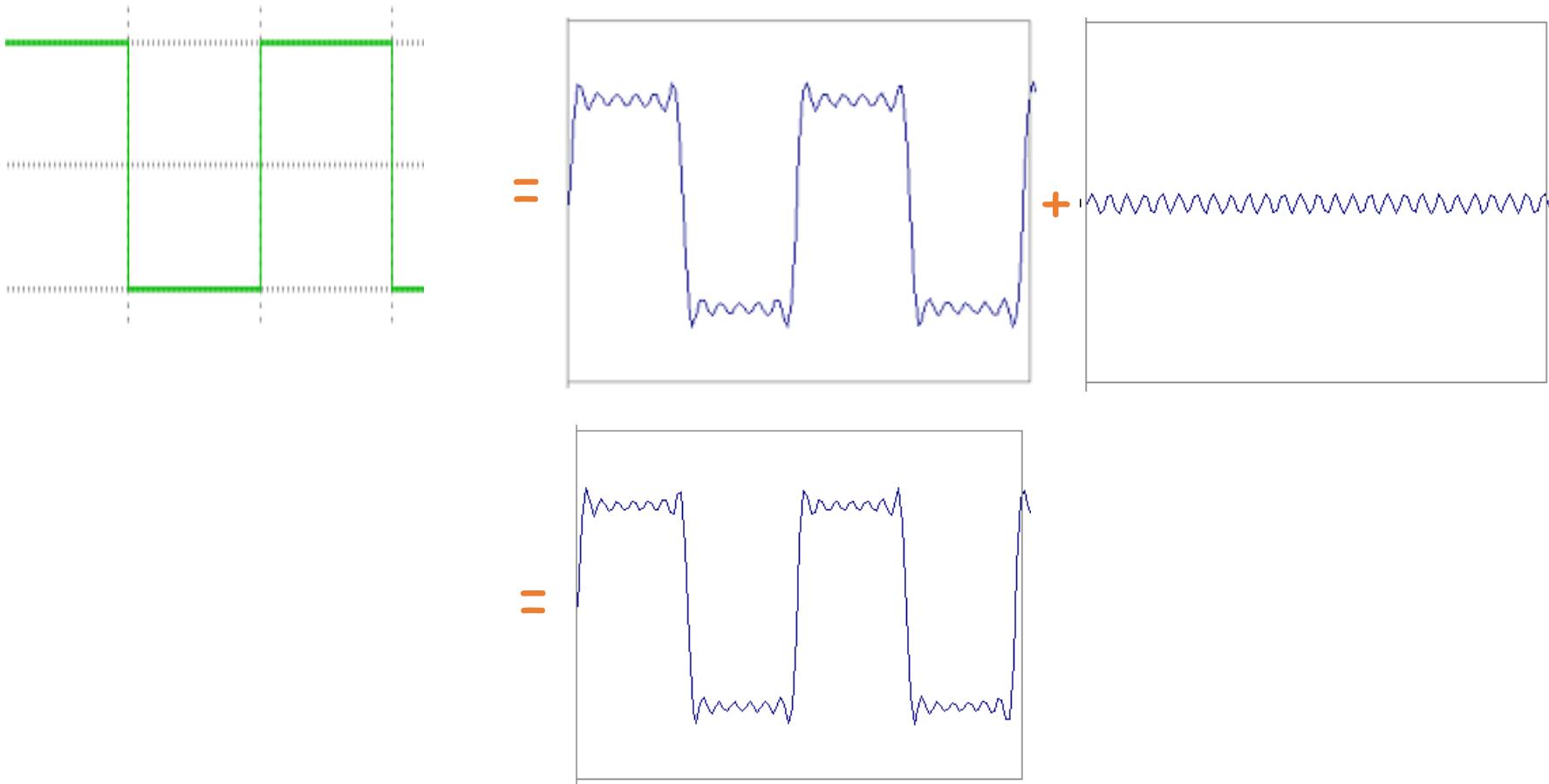
# Frequency Spectra



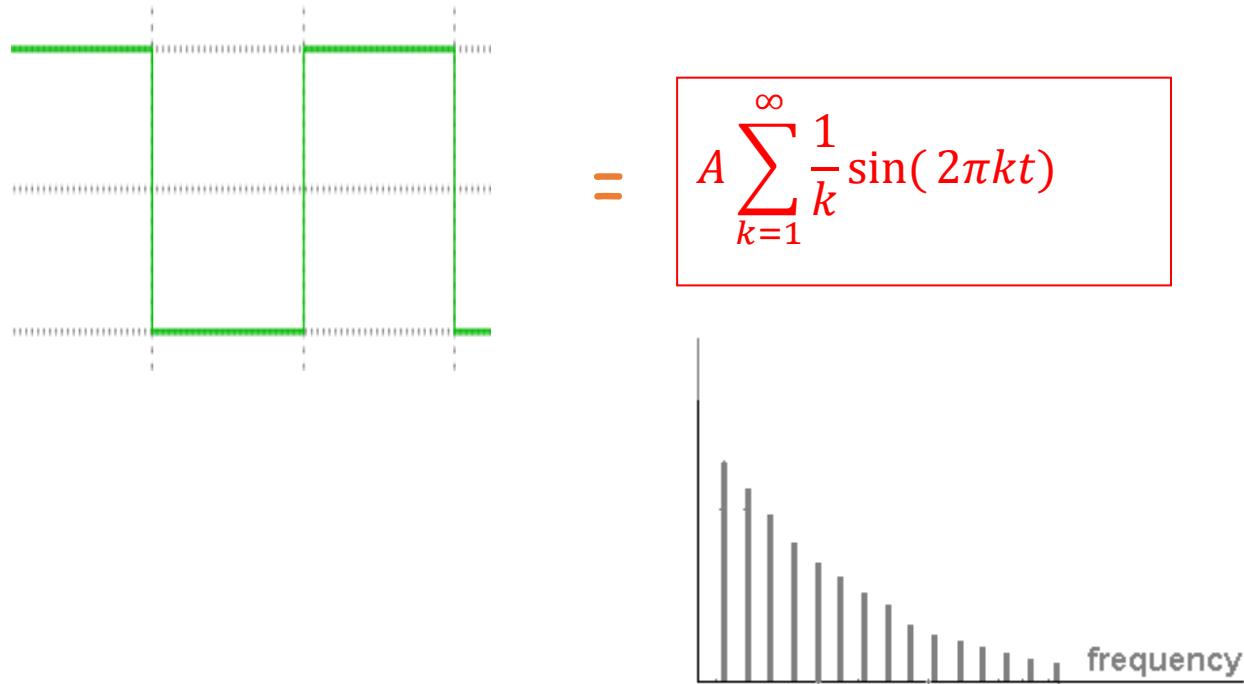
# Frequency Spectra



# Frequency Spectra



# Frequency Spectra



Demo: <https://meettechniek.info/additional/additive-synthesis.html>

# Fourier Transform

Fourier Transform

$$F(\omega) = \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} f(t)e^{-i\omega t} dt$$

Time  $f(t)$



Inverse Fourier transform

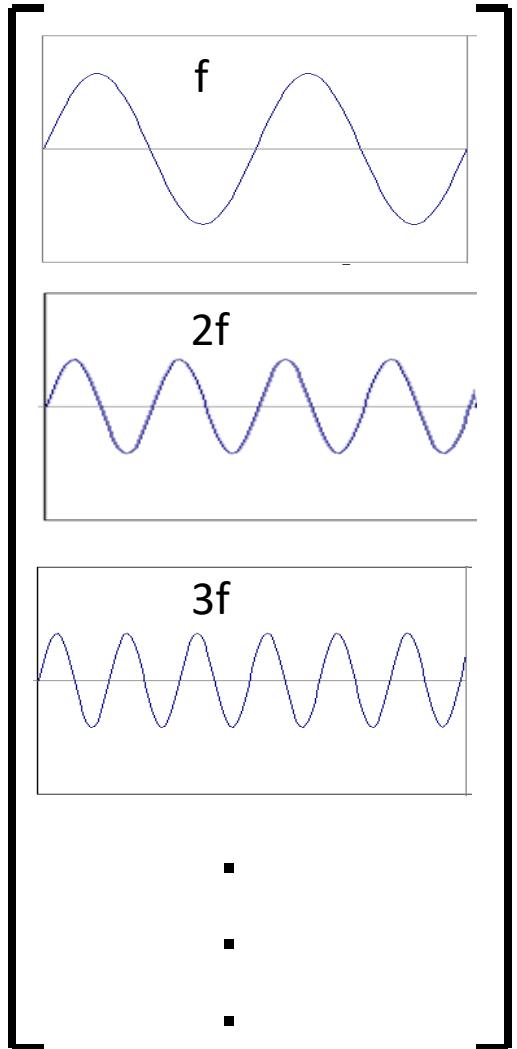
$$f(t) = \frac{1}{2\pi} \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} F(\omega)e^{i\omega t} dt$$

Frequency  $f(\omega)$

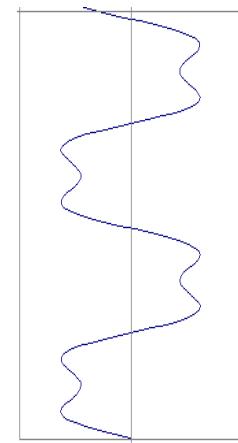
What is transformation? It is a mapping between two domains

# FT: Just a change of basis

$$M * f(x) = F(\omega)$$



\*

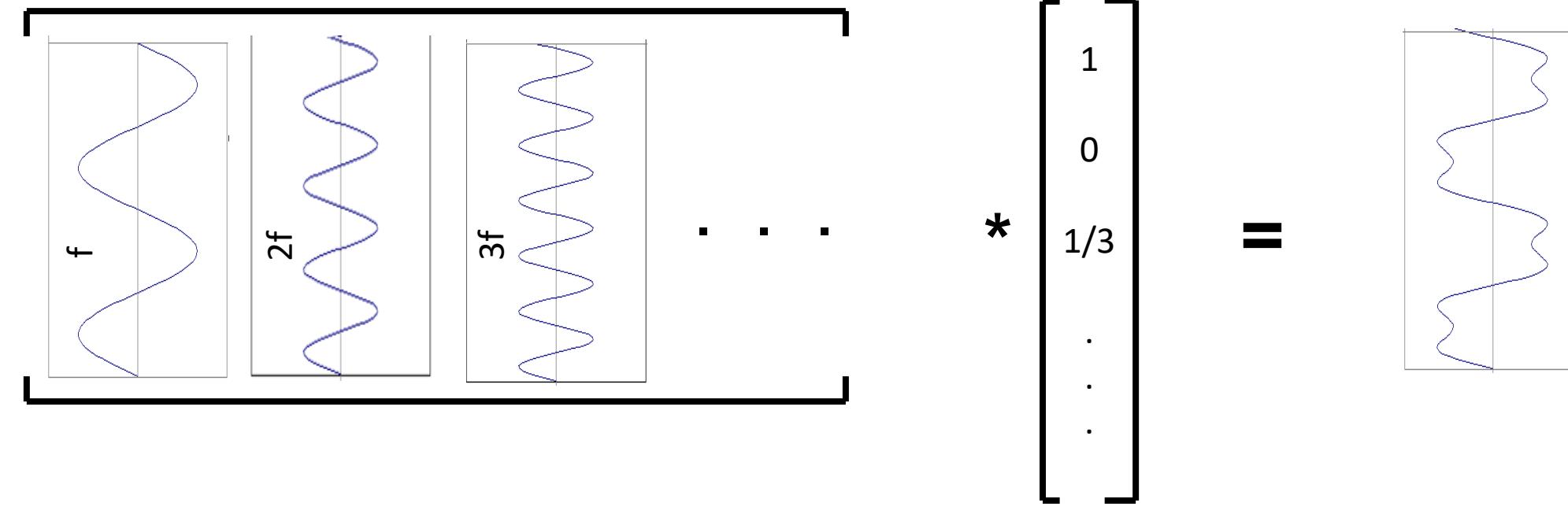


=

A vertical vector represented by a large black bracket. The entries are 1, 0,  $\frac{1}{3}$ , and three small black dots, indicating that there are more entries below the visible ones. This vector represents the output of the convolution operation.

# IFT: Just a change of basis

$$M^{-1} * F(\omega) = f(x)$$



# FT and DFT

The FT of continuous function,  $f(t)$  is

$$F(\omega) = \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} f(t) e^{-i\omega t} dt$$

or,  $F(u) = \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} f(t) e^{-i2\pi ut} dt$

$$e^{i\theta} = \cos(\theta) + i\sin(\theta)$$

$$F(u).\text{real} = \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} f(t) \cos(-2\pi ut) dt$$

$$F(u).\text{imaginary} = \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} f(t) \sin(-2\pi ut) dt$$

The FT of continuous function,  $f(x, y)$  is

$$F(u, v) = \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} f(x, y) e^{-i2\pi(ux+vy)} dx dy$$

$$e^{i\theta} = \cos(\theta) + i\sin(\theta)$$

The FT of discrete function,  $f(x)$  with  $N$  value is

$$F(\omega) = \sum_{x=0,1,\dots,N-1} f(x) e^{-i\omega \frac{x}{N}}$$

or,  $F(u) = \sum_{x=0,1,\dots,N-1} f(x) e^{-i2\pi u \frac{x}{N}}$

$$e^{i\theta} = \cos(\theta) + i\sin(\theta)$$

$$F(u).\text{real} = \sum_{x=0,1,\dots,N-1} f(x) \cos(-2\pi u \frac{x}{N}) dt$$

$$F(u).\text{imaginary} = \sum_{x=0,1,\dots,N-1} f(x) \sin(-2\pi u \frac{x}{N}) dt$$

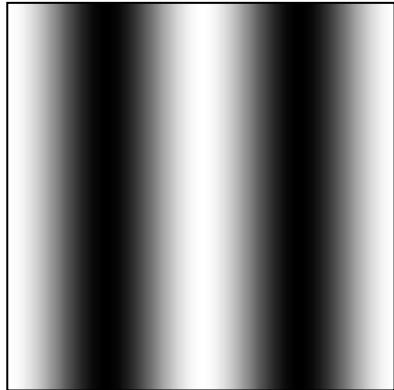
$$F(u).\text{real} = \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} f(x, y) \cos(-2\pi(ux + vy)) dx dy$$

$$F(u).\text{imaginary} = \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} f(x, y) \sin(-2\pi(ux + vy)) dx dy$$

# Spatial Frequency in Image

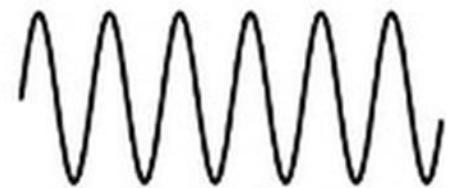
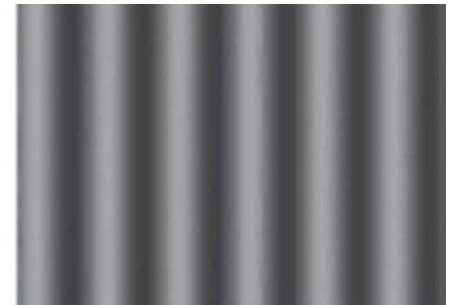
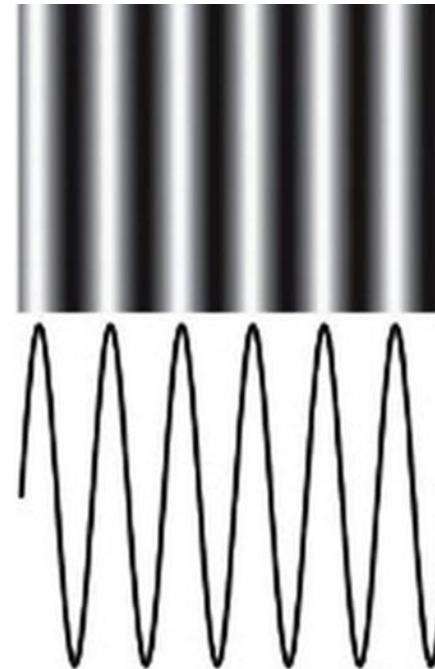
The spatial frequency is a measure of how often sinusoidal components (as determined by the Fourier transform) of the structure repeat per unit of distance.

Spatial domain



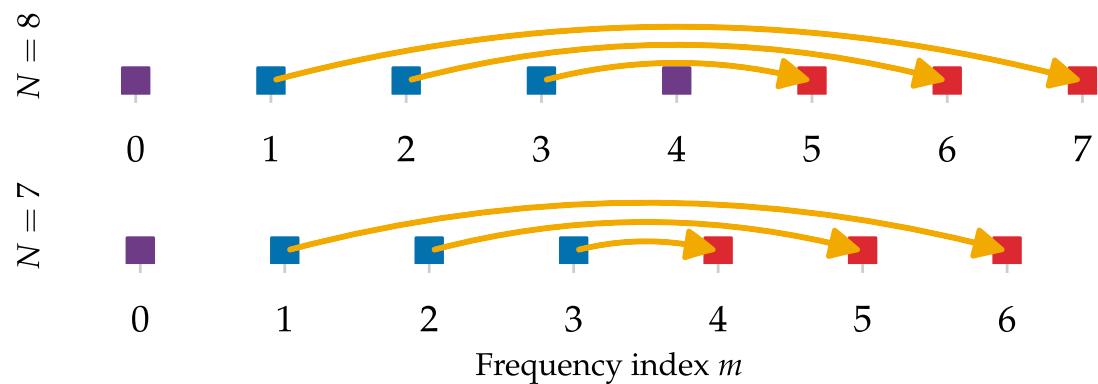
Fourier domain

Think how it will look?



Demo: <https://bigwww.epfl.ch/demo/ip/demos/FFT/>

# Conjugate symmetry



The DFT conjugate symmetry property relates  $X[m]$  with  $X[N-m]$  (arrows). Indices  $m=0$  and  $m=N/2$  (if  $N$  is even) are only related to themselves.

If the signal length is even (top,  $N=8$ ), then the first  $M=1+N/2$  components are sufficient to determine all  $N$  components.

If the signal length is odd (bottom,  $N=7$ ), then  $M=1+(N-1)/2$  are sufficient.

Now give a try for previous example....

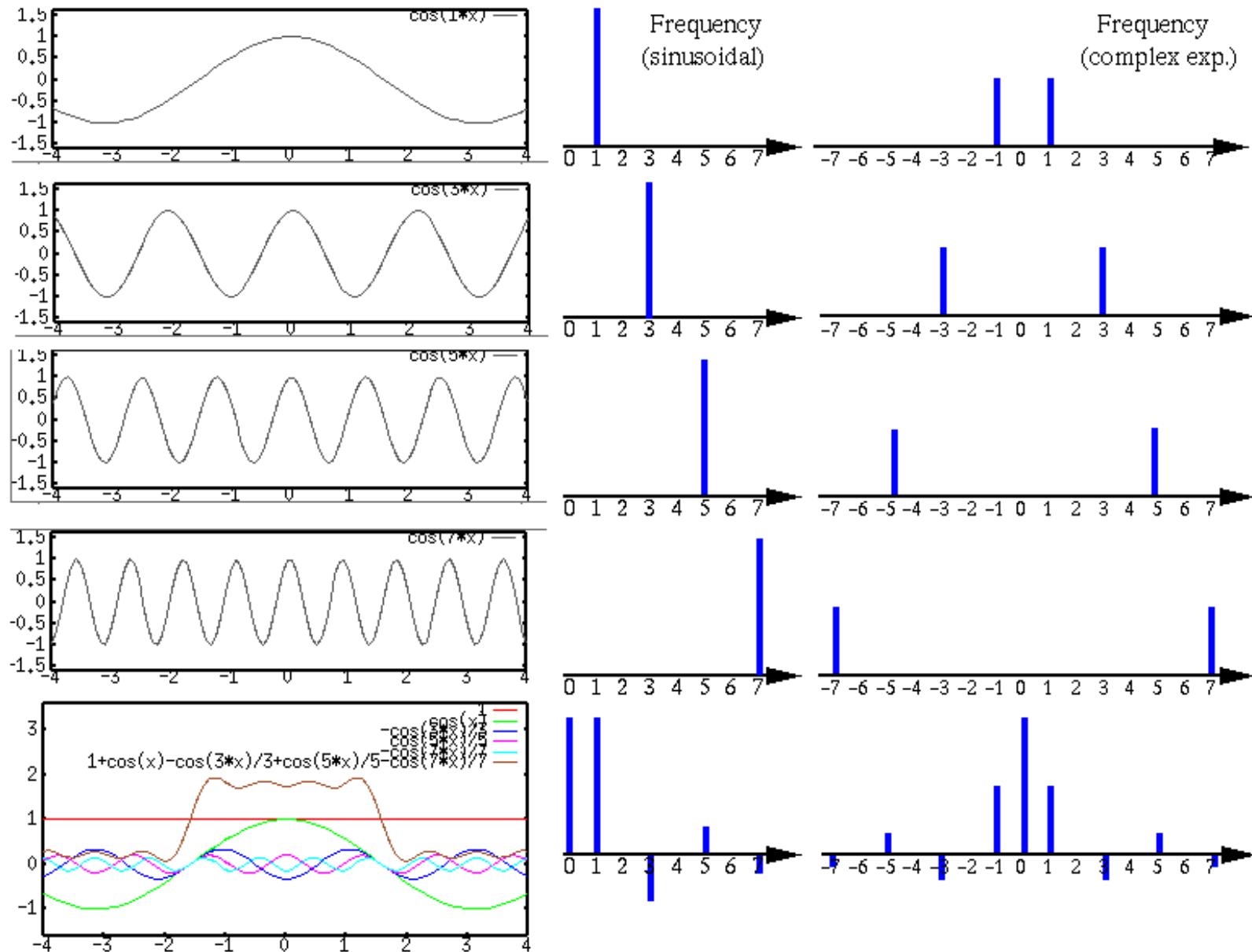
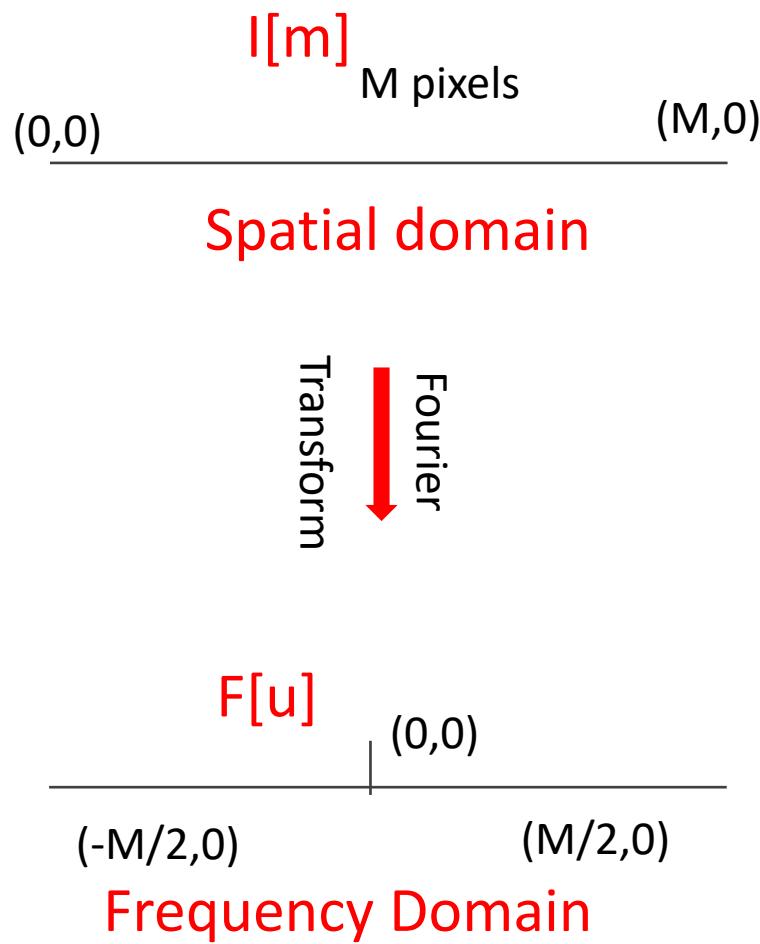
DFT component  $X[m]$  is the complex conjugate of component  $X[N-m]$  (and vice versa): their real parts are identical, and their imaginary parts are negatives of each-other.

$$\begin{aligned} e^{-j \cdot \theta} &= \cos(-\theta) + j \cdot \sin(-\theta) \\ &= \cos(\theta) - j \cdot \sin(\theta) \\ &= \overline{e^{j \cdot \theta}} \end{aligned}$$

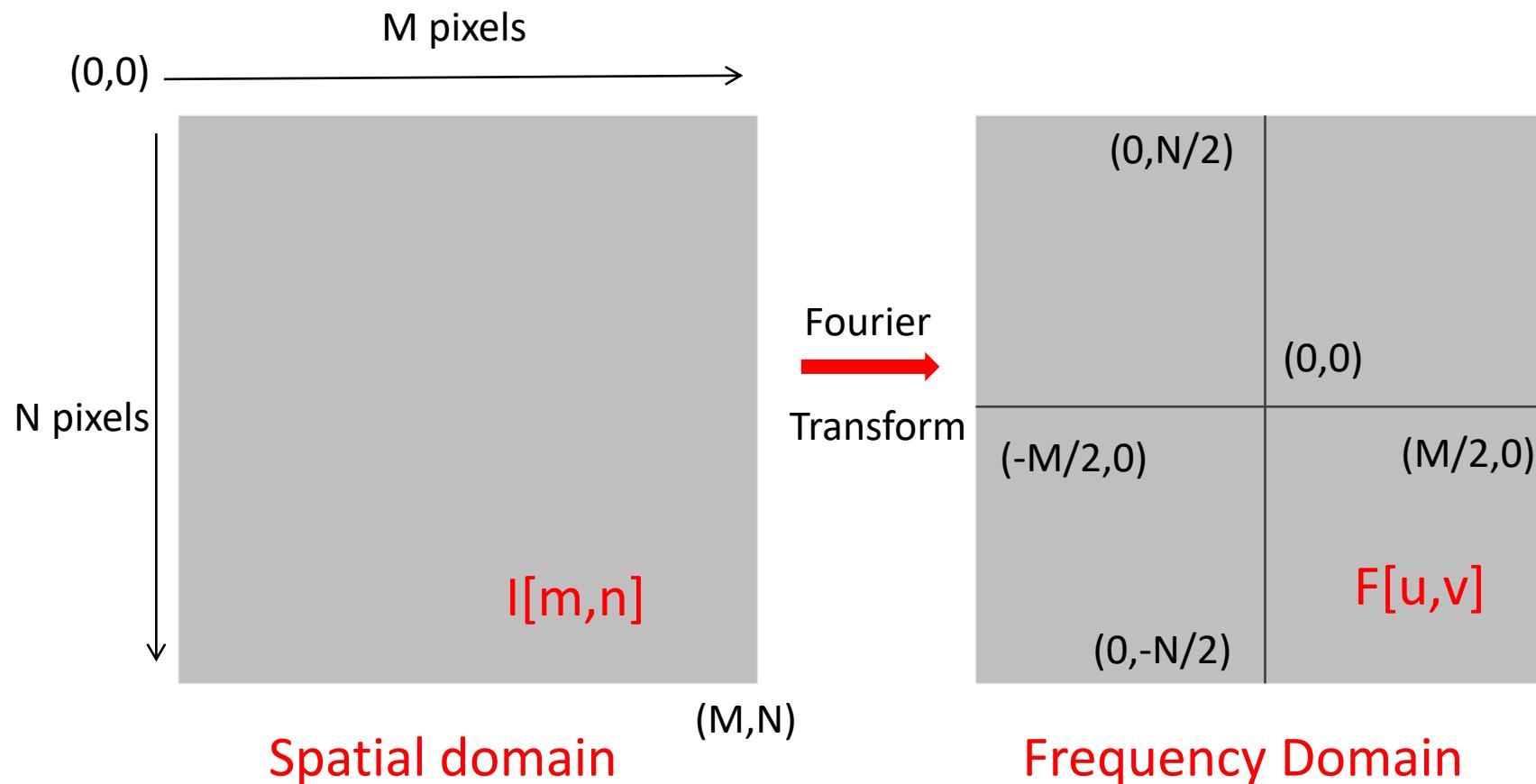
$$\begin{aligned} \exp\left(-j \cdot \omega \cdot \frac{N-m}{N}\right) &= \exp\left(+j \cdot \omega \cdot \frac{m-N}{N}\right) && \text{cancelling negatives} \\ &= \exp\left(j \cdot \omega \cdot \frac{m}{N}\right) && \text{add rotations } \omega \cdot N/N \\ &= \overline{\exp\left(-j \cdot \omega \cdot \frac{m}{N}\right)} && \text{conjugation.} \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned} X[N-m] &= \sum_{n=0}^{N-1} x[n] \cdot \exp\left(-j \cdot \omega \cdot \frac{N-m}{N}\right) \\ &= \sum_{n=0}^{N-1} x[n] \cdot \overline{\exp\left(-j \cdot \omega \cdot \frac{m}{N}\right)} \\ &= \sum_{n=0}^{N-1} x[n] \cdot \exp\left(-j \cdot \omega \cdot \frac{m}{N}\right) \\ &= \overline{X[m]}. \end{aligned}$$

# Frequency Spectra for 1D signals

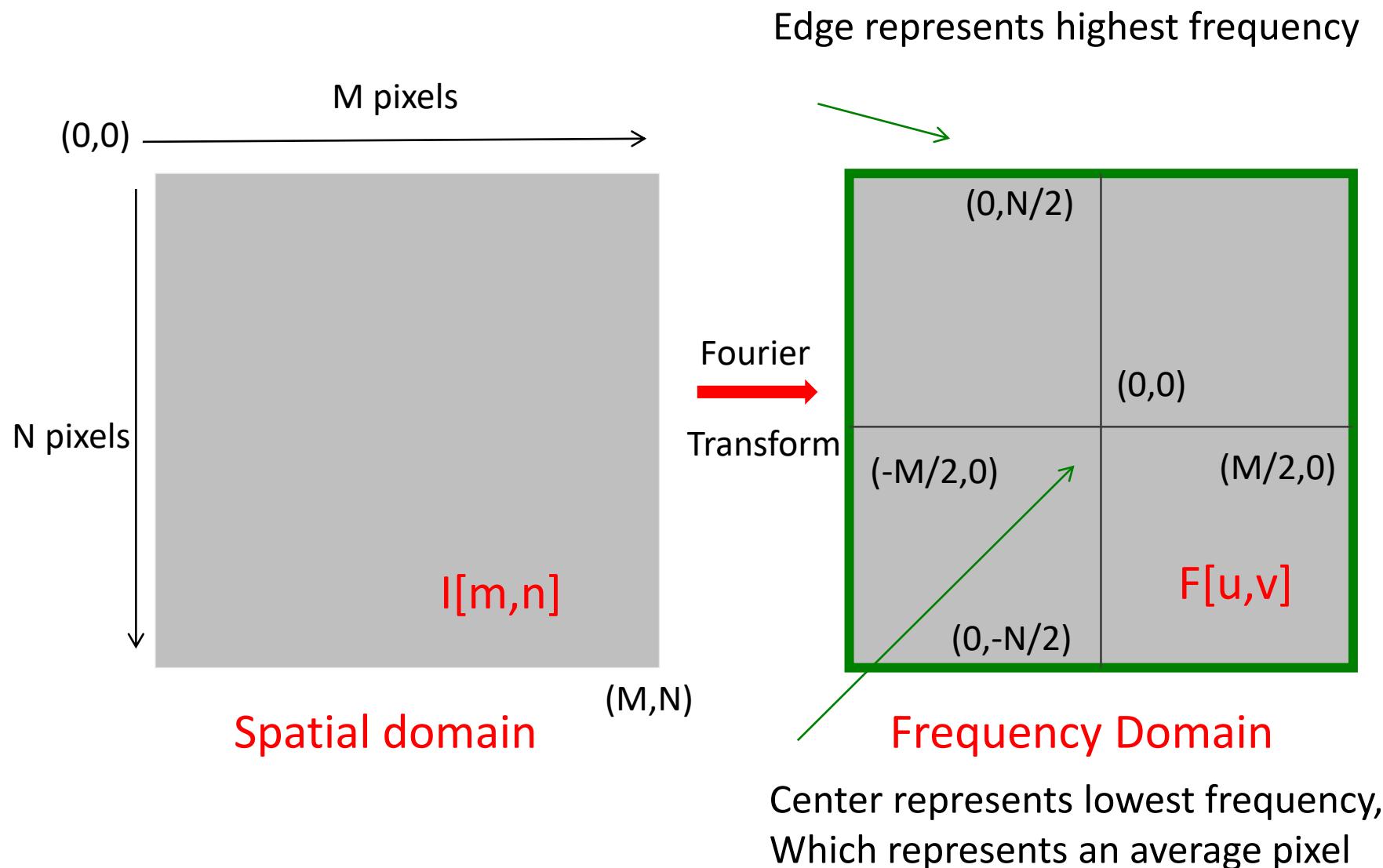


# Fourier Transform of Images

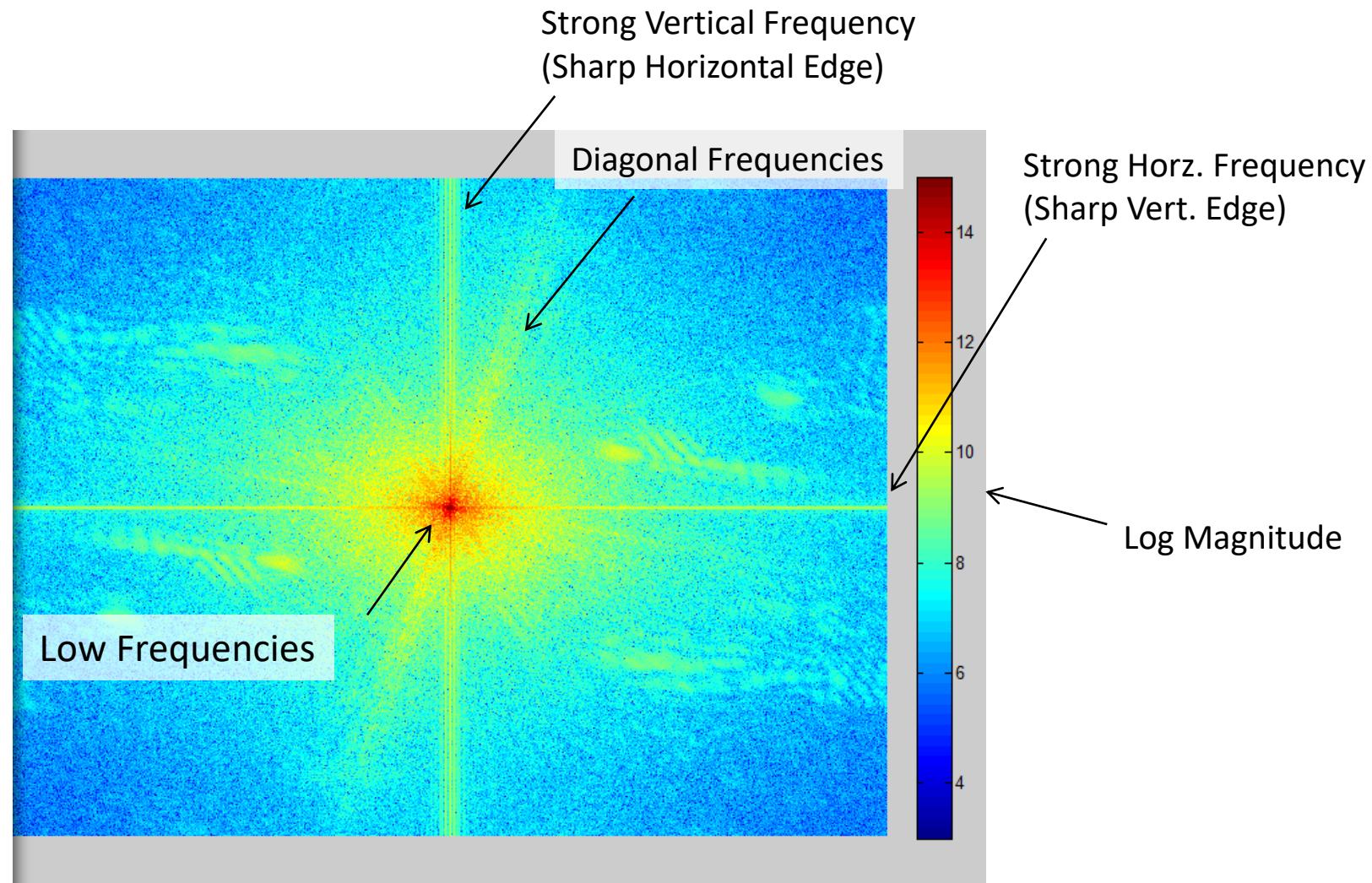


2D FFT can be composed as two discrete Fourier Transforms in 1 dimension

# Fourier Transform of Images

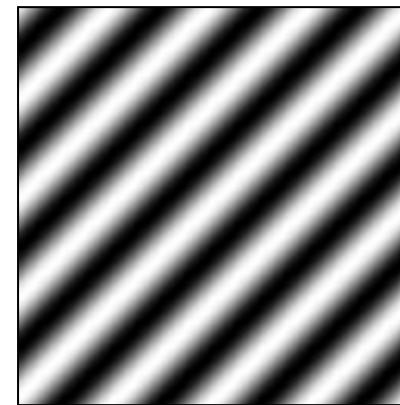
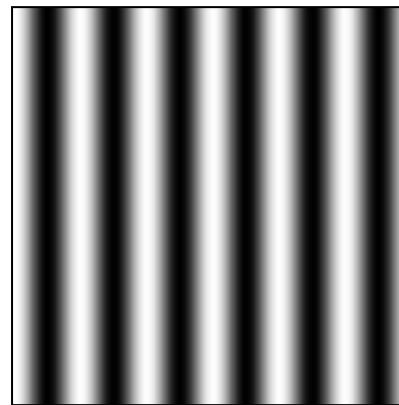
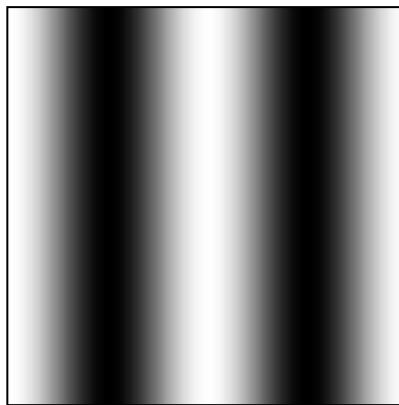


# Fourier Transform of Image: Example

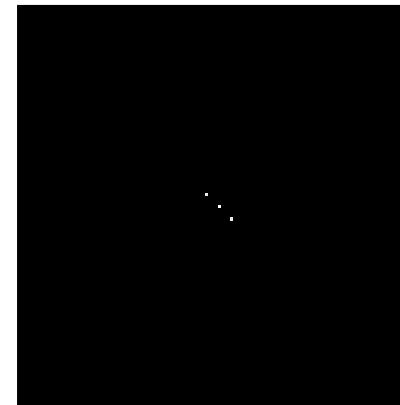
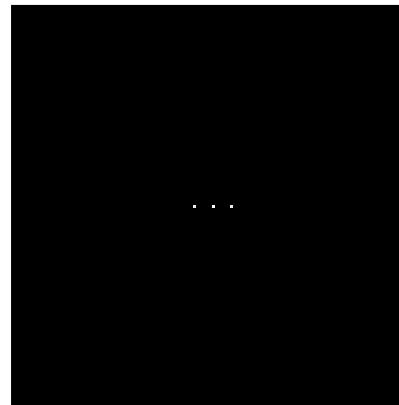
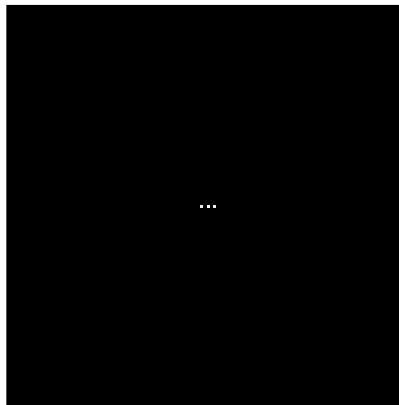


# Fourier analysis in images

Intensity  
Image



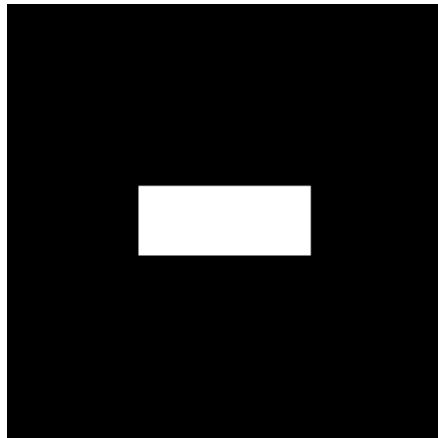
Fourier  
Image



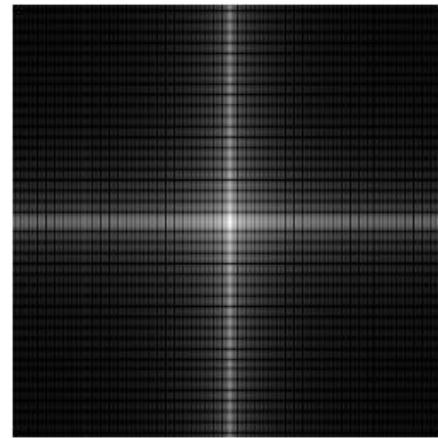
# Fourier Transform: properties

## Rotation

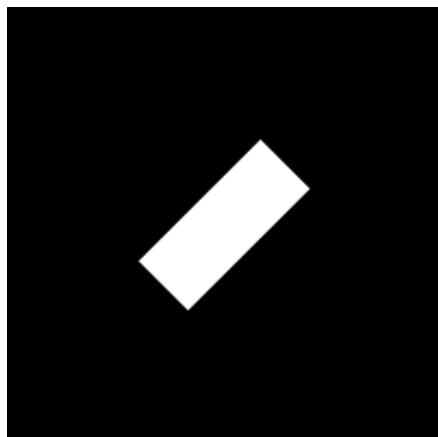
- If an image is rotated by a certain angle  $\vartheta$ , its 2D FT will be rotated by the same angle.



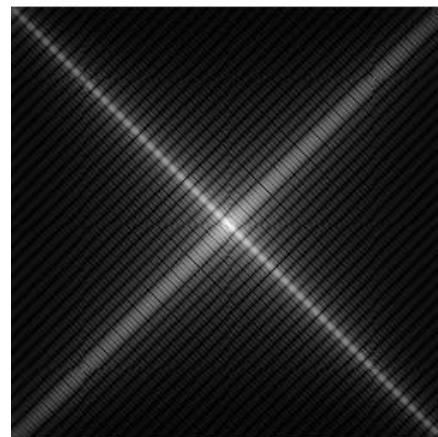
(a)



(b)

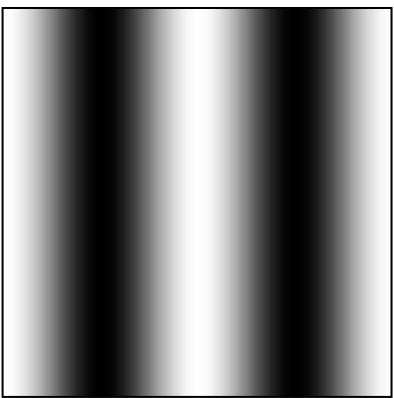


(c)

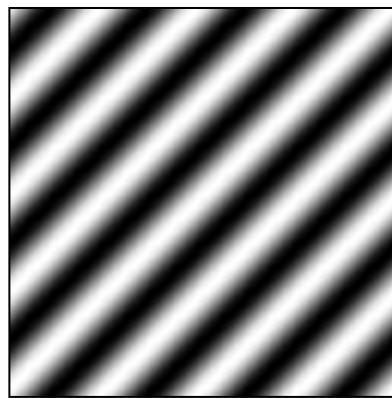
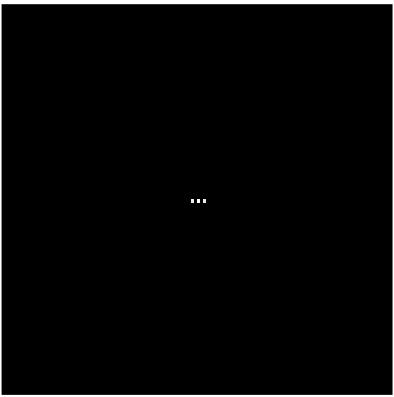


(d)

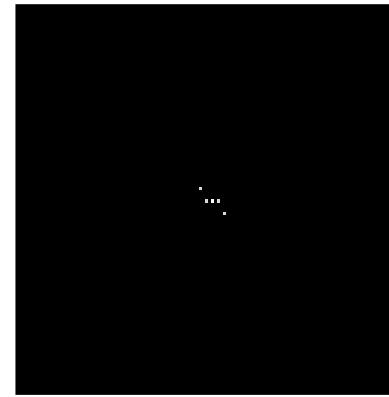
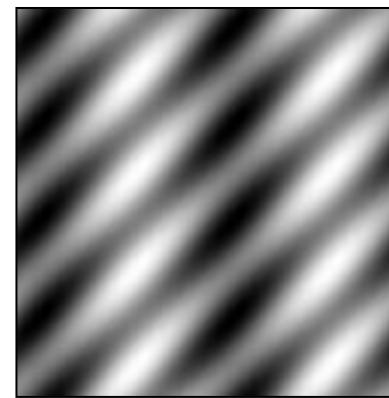
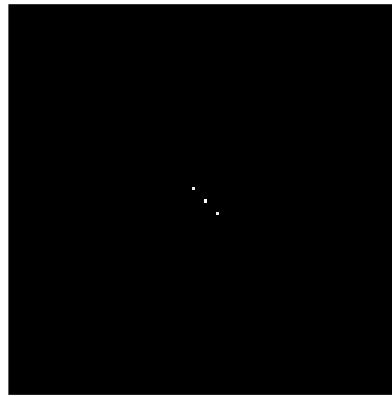
# Signals can be composed



+



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<http://sharp.bu.edu/~slehar/fourier/fourier.html#filtering>

More: <http://www.cs.unm.edu/~brayer/vision/fourier.html>

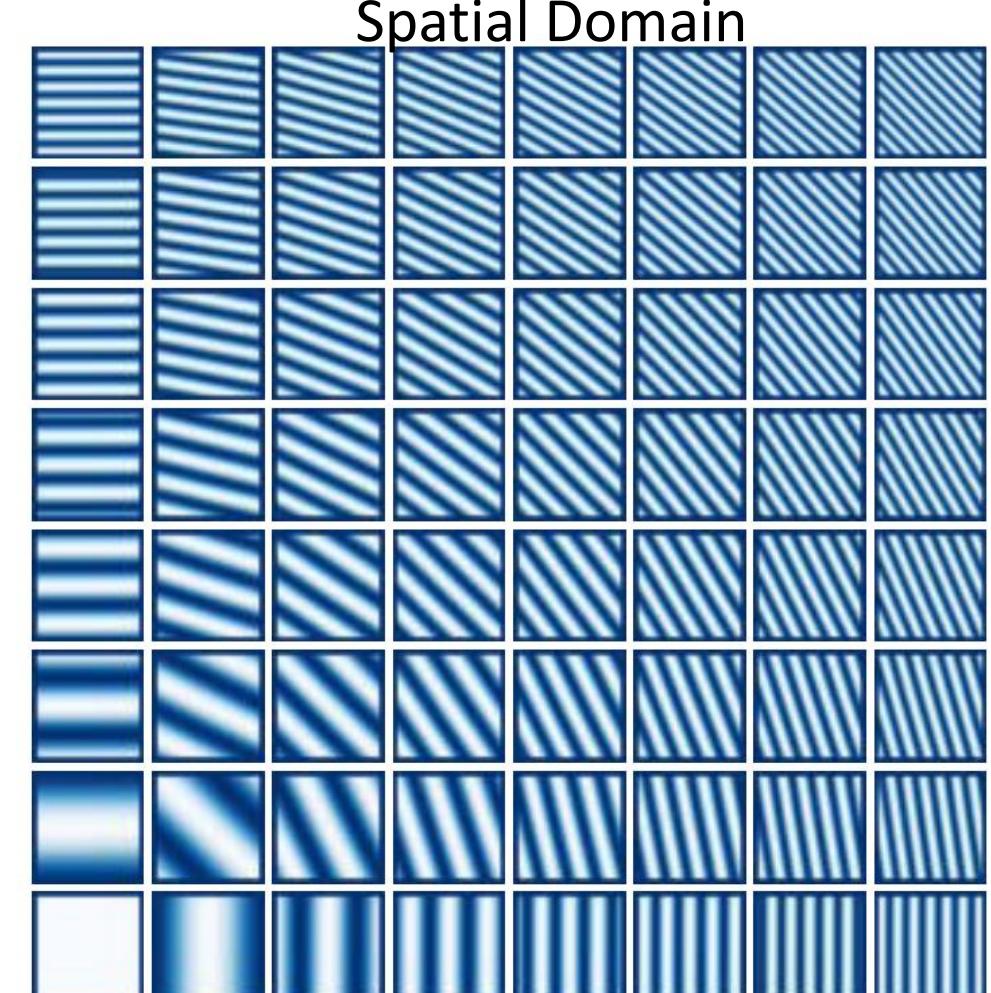
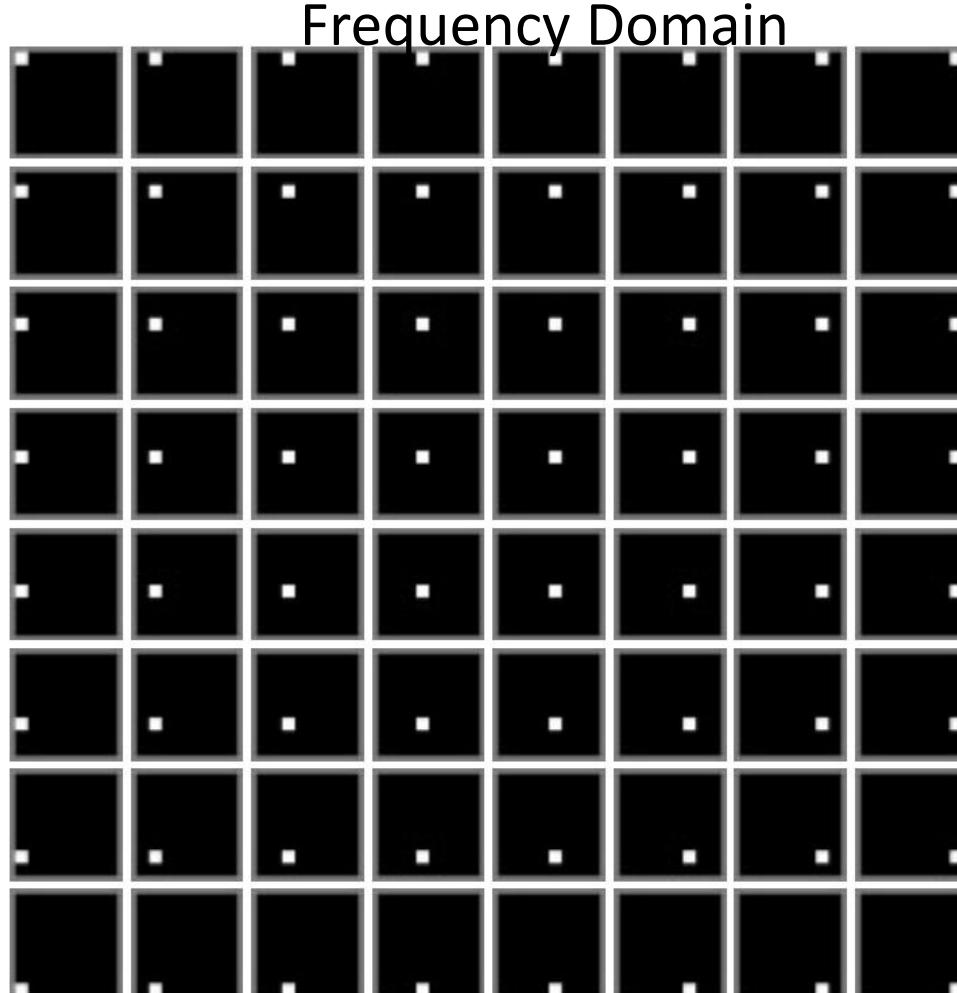
# Fourier Bases

Teases away ‘fast vs. slow’ changes in the image.



Image as a  
sum of basis  
images

$f_y$   
 $f_x$



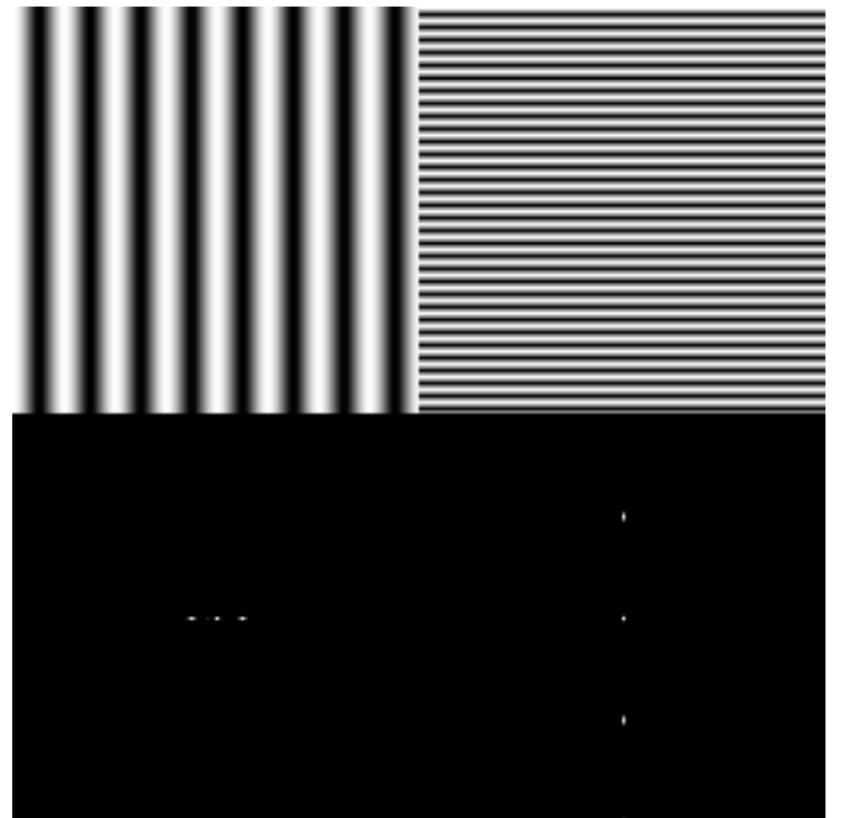
This change of basis is the Fourier Transform

# Fourier analysis in images

The abs gives you the magnitude of the complex FFT output, and using a log scale gives you much more dynamic range when displaying the magnitudes using 8 bit grey scale pixels.

The logarithmic scale is most commonly used in spectrum analyzers and allows the user to view a wide range of amplitudes, making it easier to identify weaker signals.

If you linearly stretch the values from max=white to min=black, you will see only one pixel white, and the rest will be black or nearly black. The log transform allows viewing values with such large difference in magnitude



# Phase and Magnitude

FT stores these at each frequency:

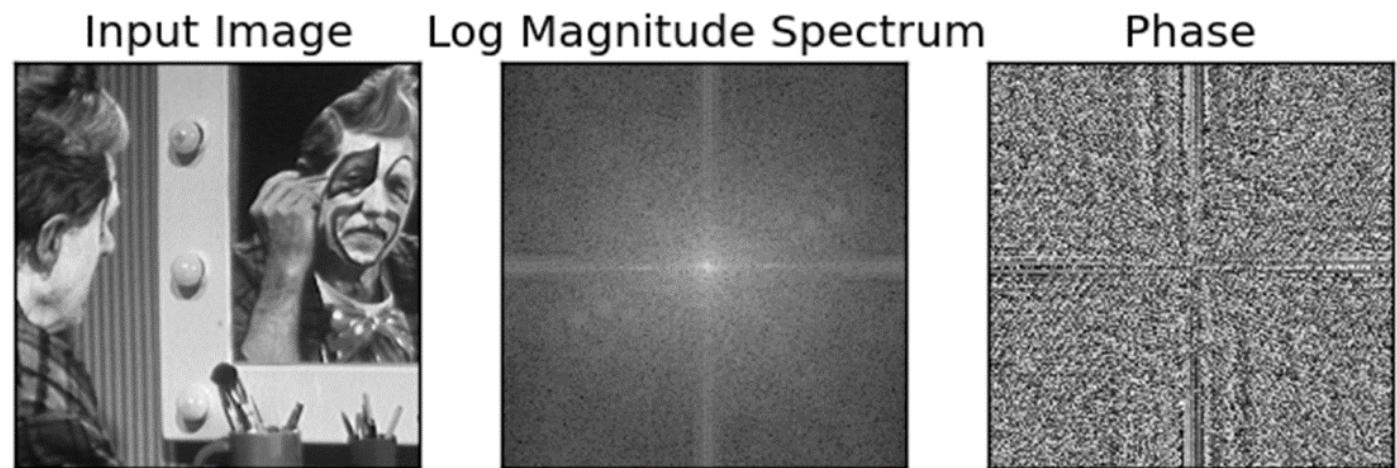
- Magnitude ( $M$ ) encodes how much signal there is at a particular frequency
- Phase ( $\varphi$ ) encodes spatial information (indirectly)

$$M = \pm\sqrt{R(\omega)^2 + I(\omega)^2}$$

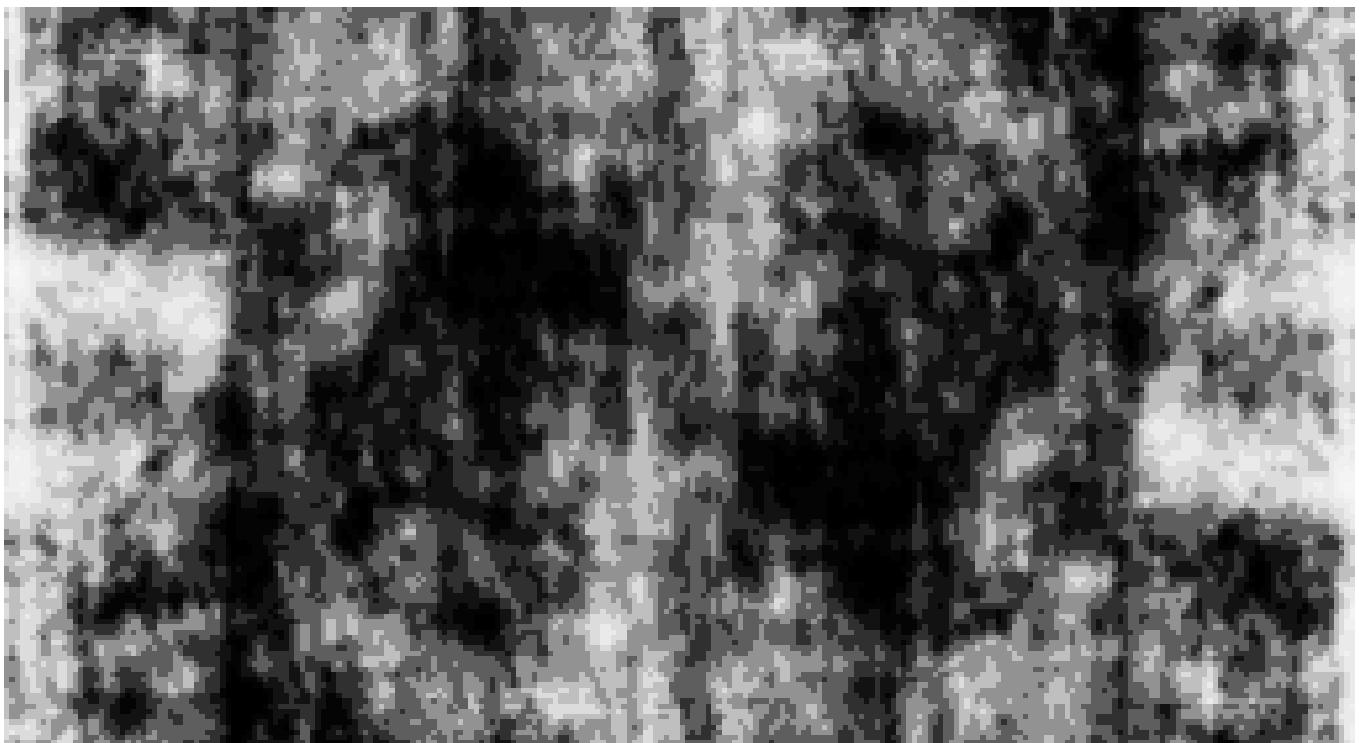
$$\varphi = \tan^{-1} \frac{I(\omega)}{R(\omega)}$$

What happens if you reverse Fourier without the phase?

- Open an image
- Compute magnitude and phase of image
- Reverse the ONLY magnitude back
- Image histogram equalize the reversed FFT image
- Display the image
- What happens?



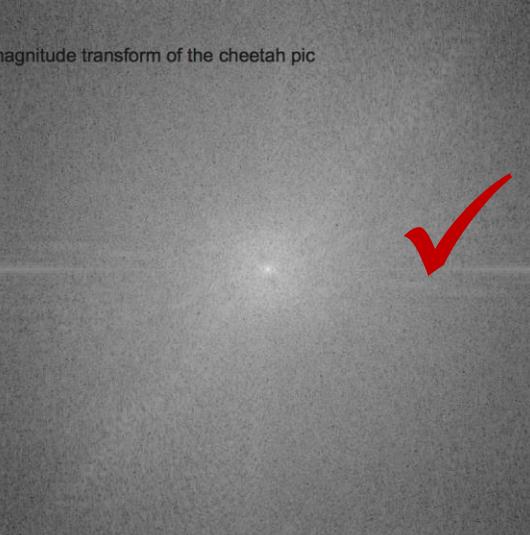
Same frequency, abstract nonsense



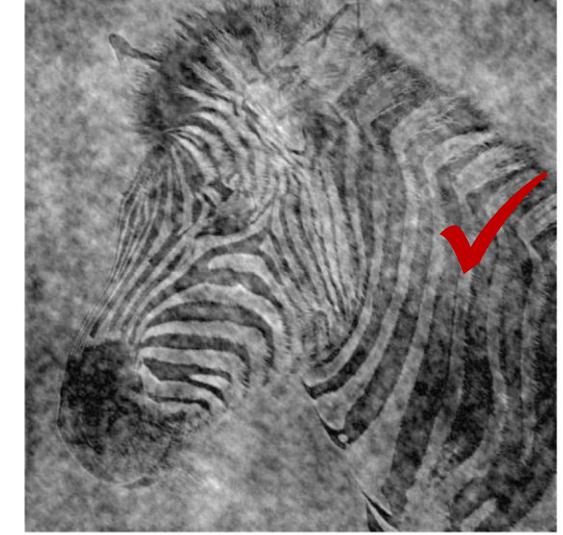
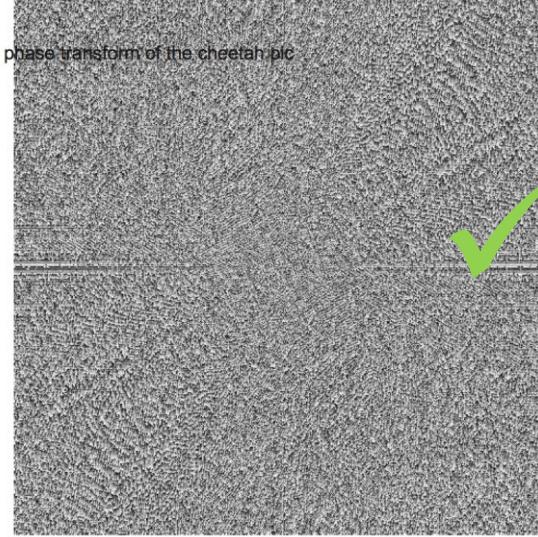
# Phase and Magnitude



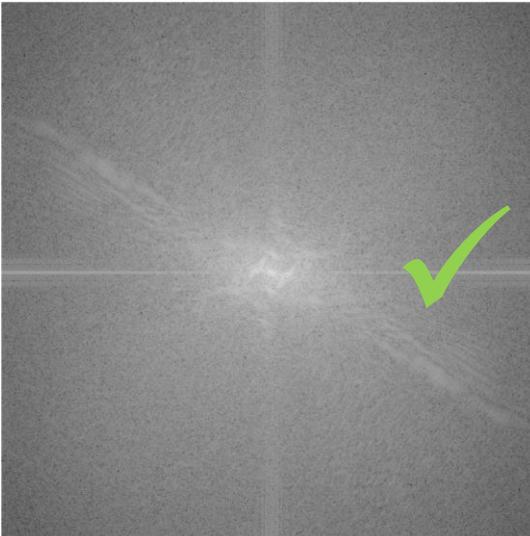
This is the magnitude transform of the cheetah pic



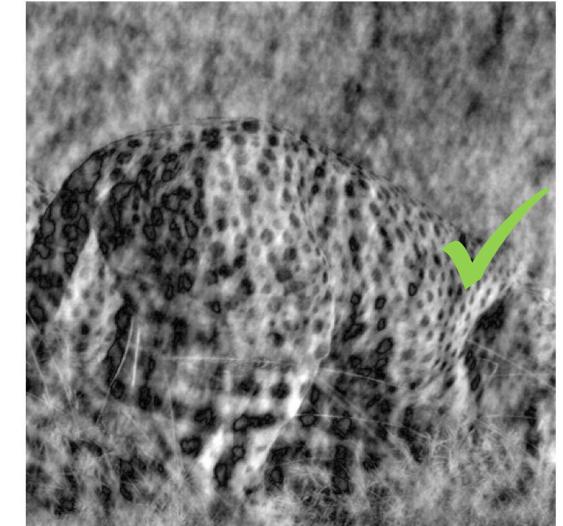
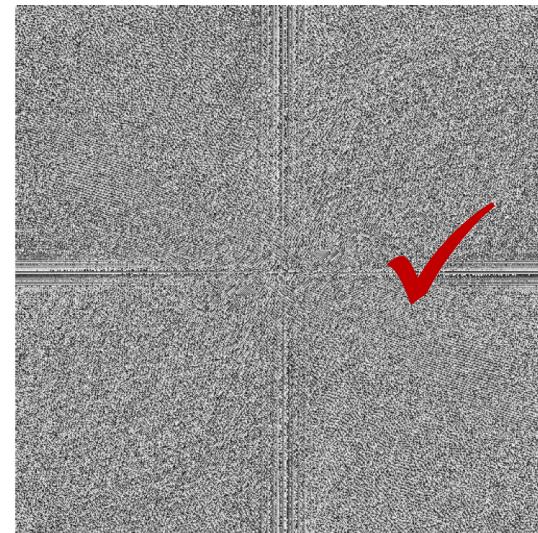
This is the phase transform of the cheetah pic



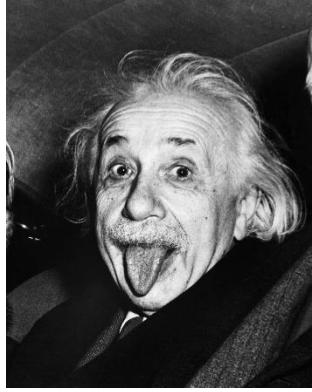
This is the magnitude transform of the zebra pic



This is the phase transform of the zebra pic

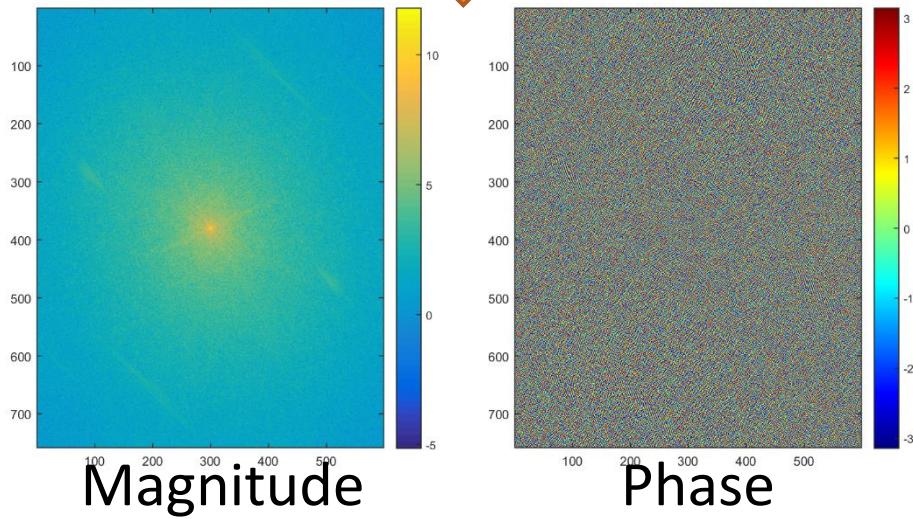


# Phase vs. Magnitude



Intensity image

FFT



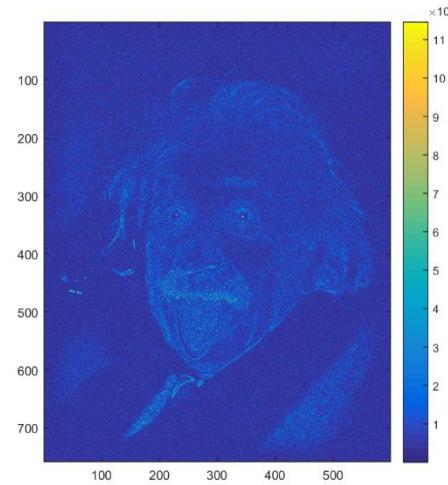
Magnitude

Phase

Use random magnitude



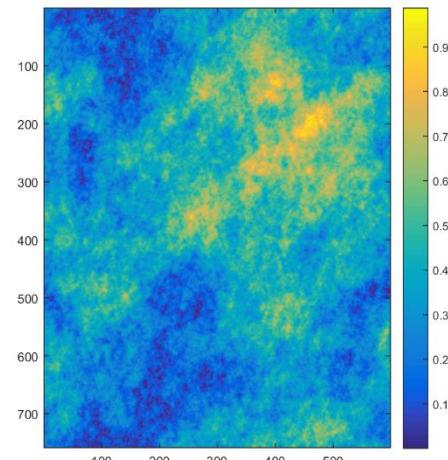
Inverse FFT



Use random phase



Inverse FFT



# Frequency Filtering: Main Steps

1. Take the FT of  $f(x)$ :  $F(f(x))$
2. Manipulate frequencies by applying some filter:  $D(F(f(x)))$
3. Convert back to spatial domain:  $\hat{f}(x) = F^{-1}(D(F(f(x))))$

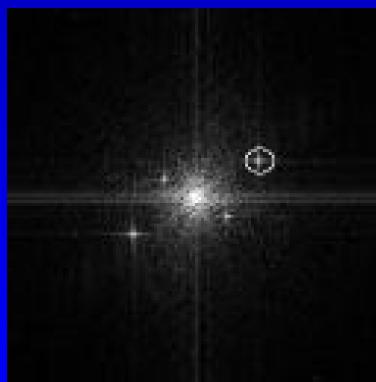
Let's look at some examples....

## Noise Removal

FFT



Noise Pattern  
Stands Out as  
Four Spikes



Edit FFT



Inverse  
FFT

Four Noise  
Spikes Removed

Source: [www.mediacy.com/apps/fft.htm](http://www.mediacy.com/apps/fft.htm), Image Pro Plus FFT Example. Last seen online in 2004.

# Fourier Transform and Convolution

Let  $g = f * h$

Then 
$$\begin{aligned} G(u) &= \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} g(x) e^{-i2\pi ux} dx \\ &= \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} f(\tau) h(x - \tau) e^{-i2\pi ux} d\tau dx \\ &= \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} [f(\tau) e^{-i2\pi u\tau} d\tau] [h(x - \tau) e^{-i2\pi u(x - \tau)} dx] \\ &= \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} [f(\tau) e^{-i2\pi u\tau} d\tau] \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} [h(x') e^{-i2\pi ux'} dx'] \\ &= F(u)H(u) \end{aligned}$$

Convolution in spatial domain

$\iff$  Multiplication in frequency domain

# Fourier Transform and Convolution

$$\begin{array}{ccc} \text{Spatial Domain (x)} & \longleftrightarrow & \text{Frequency Domain (u)} \\ g = f * h & \longleftrightarrow & G = FH \\ g = fh & \longleftrightarrow & G = F * H \end{array}$$

So, we can find  $g(x)$  by Fourier transform

$$\begin{array}{ccccccccc} g & = & f & * & h \\ \uparrow \text{IFT} & & \downarrow \text{FT} & & \downarrow \text{FT} \\ G & = & F & \times & H \end{array}$$

# Image Processing using FT and Convolution

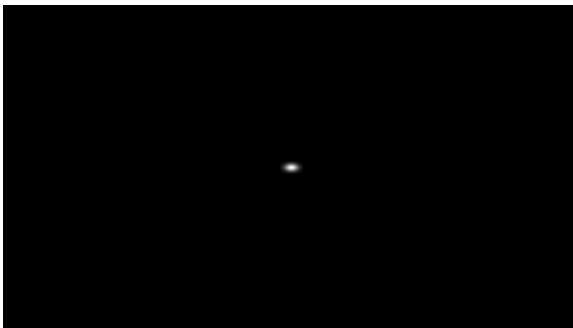
Convolution is Multiplication  
in Fourier Domain

$$f(x,y)$$



$$|F(s_x, s_y)|$$

$$h(x,y)$$



$$|H(s_x, s_y)|$$

$$g(x,y)$$



$$|G(s_x, s_y)|$$

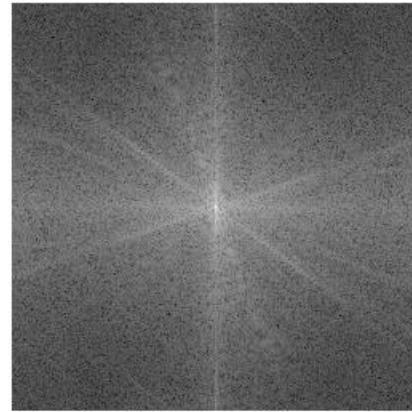
Example of Low pass filtering

# Image Processing using FT and Convolution

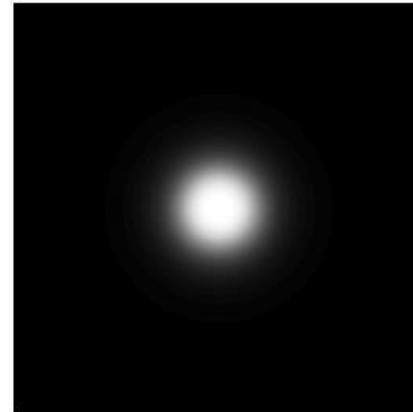
Original image



FFT of original image



Low-pass filter

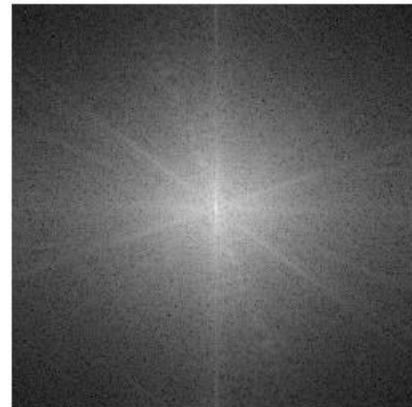


Let the low frequencies pass and eliminating the high frequencies.

Low-pass image



FFT of low-pass image



Generates image with overall shading, but not much detail

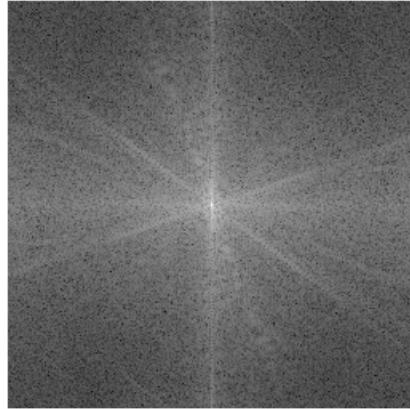
Another example of Low pass filtering

# Image Processing using FT and Convolution

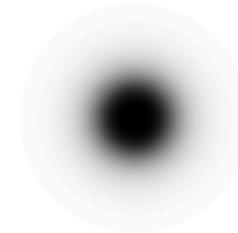
Original image



FFT of original image



High-pass filter

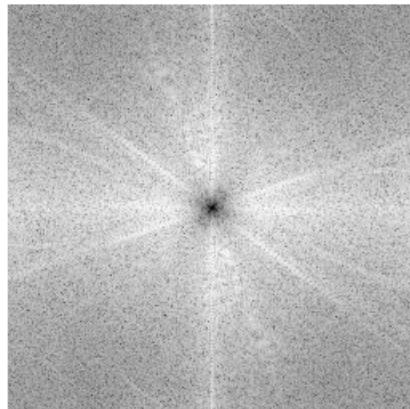


Lets through the high frequencies (the detail), but eliminates the low frequencies (the overall shape). It acts like an edge enhancer.

High-pass image



FFT of high-pass image



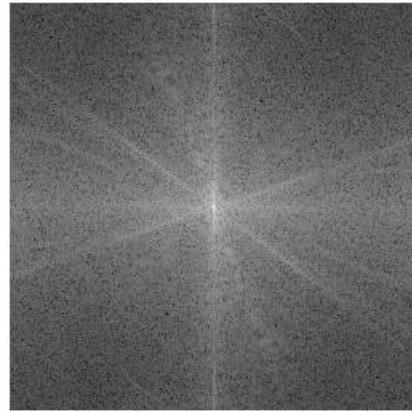
An example of High pass filtering

# Image Processing using FT and Convolution

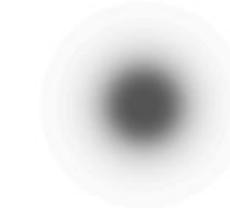
Original image



FFT of original image



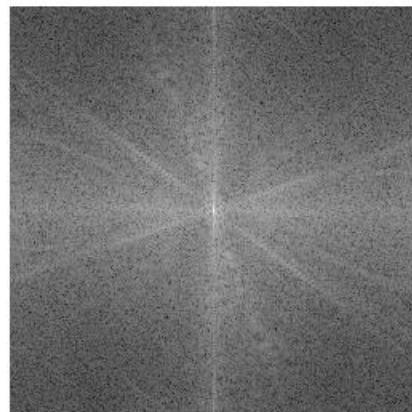
High-boost filter



High boosted image

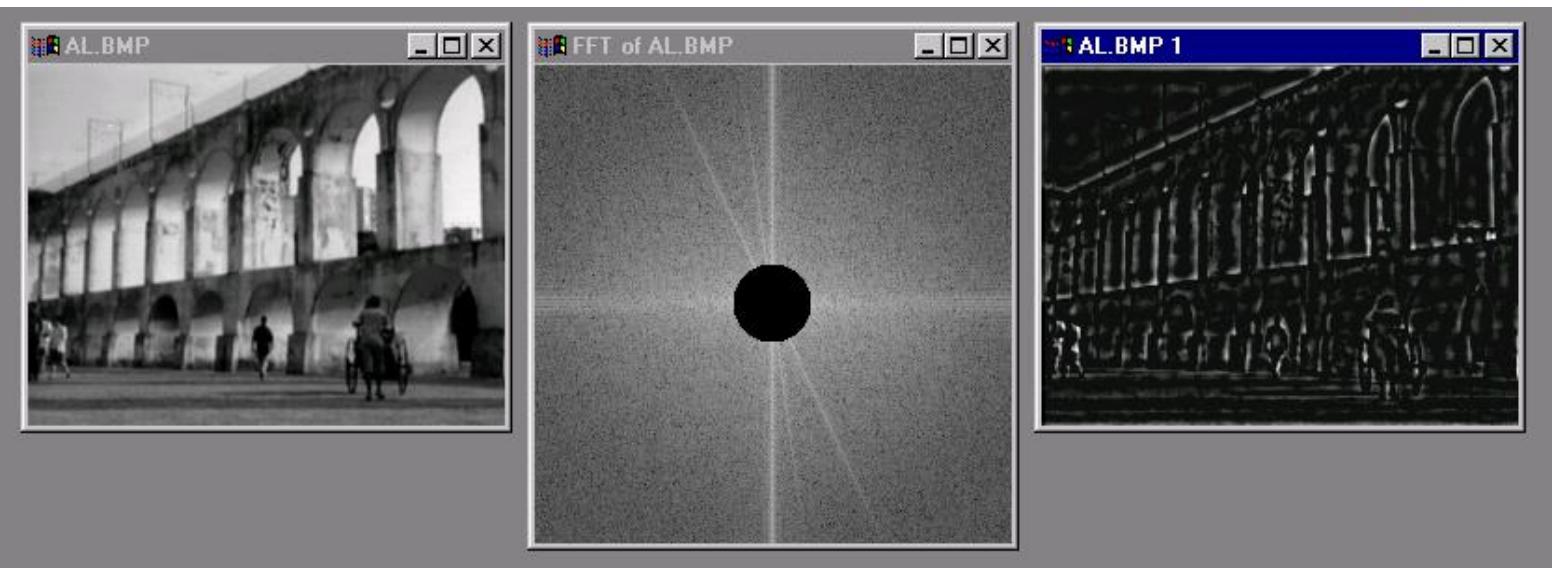


FFT of high boosted image



An example of boosting high frequencies

# Information in frequencies of FT



# Information in frequencies of FT

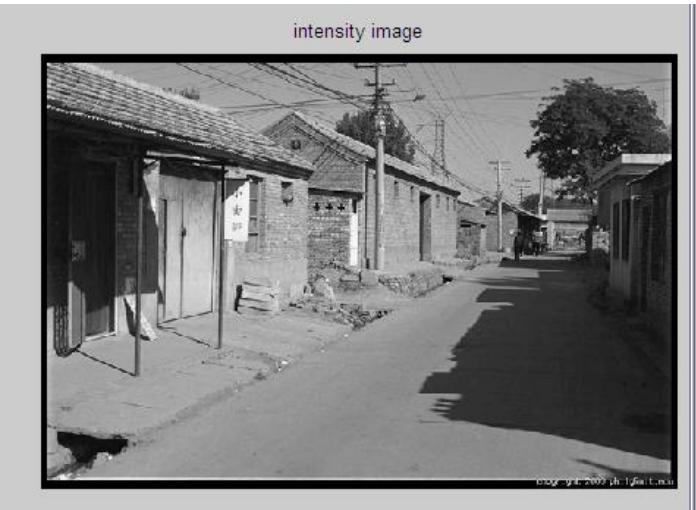


# Filtering

- We pixel-wise multiply the DFT (Discrete Fourier Transform) of the input image by the DFT of the filter
- Frequencies where the magnitude of the response of the filter are now zero (black in the images) will be removed.

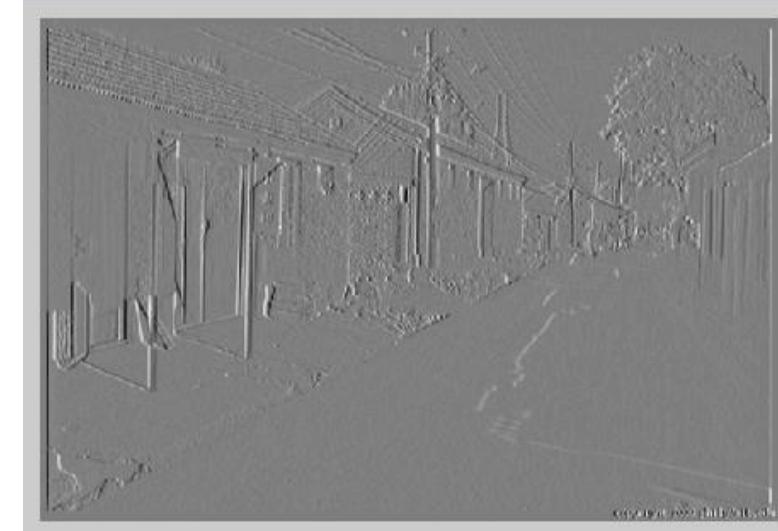
# Filtering in spatial domain

1	0	-1
2	0	-2
1	0	-1

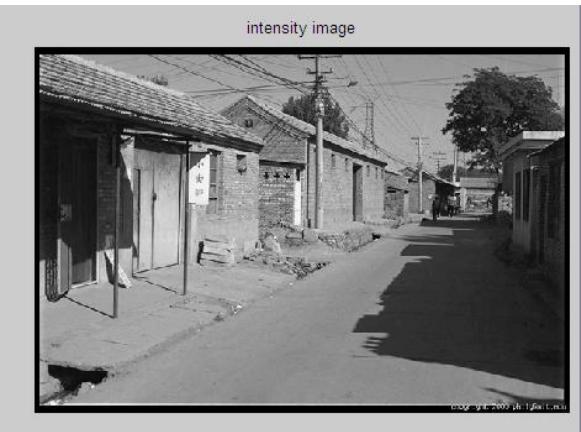


$$\ast =$$

A 3x3 kernel for edge detection, represented as a grid of three vertical bars of increasing gray levels. This kernel is used to detect horizontal edges in the image.

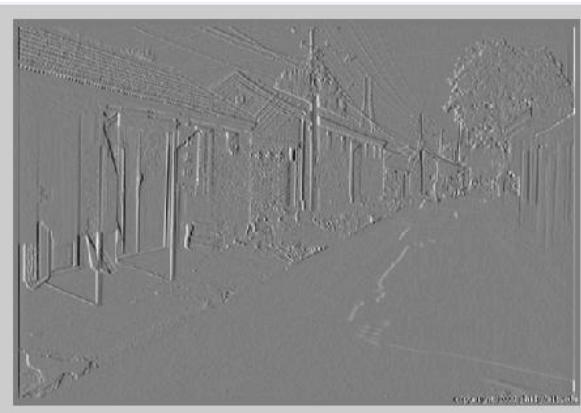
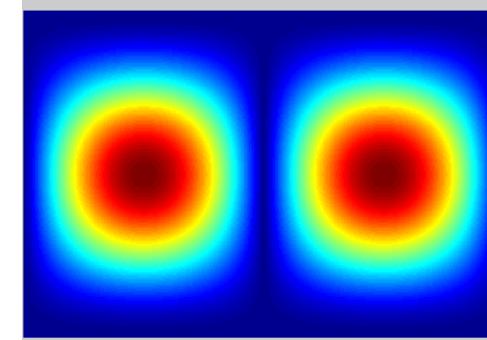
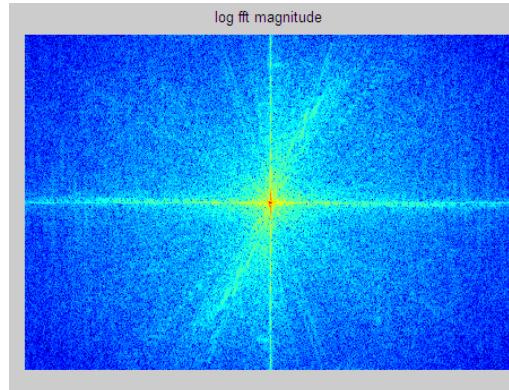


# Filtering in frequency domain



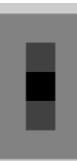
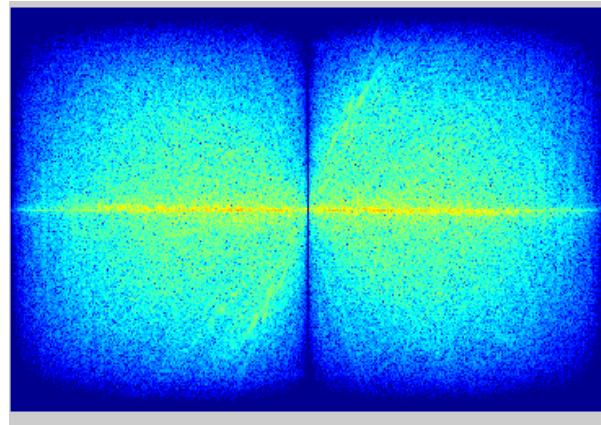
FFT

A blue arrow points from the intensity image to the next stage in the process.



Inverse FFT

A blue arrow points from the filtered image back to the final output image, indicating the completion of the inverse FFT process.



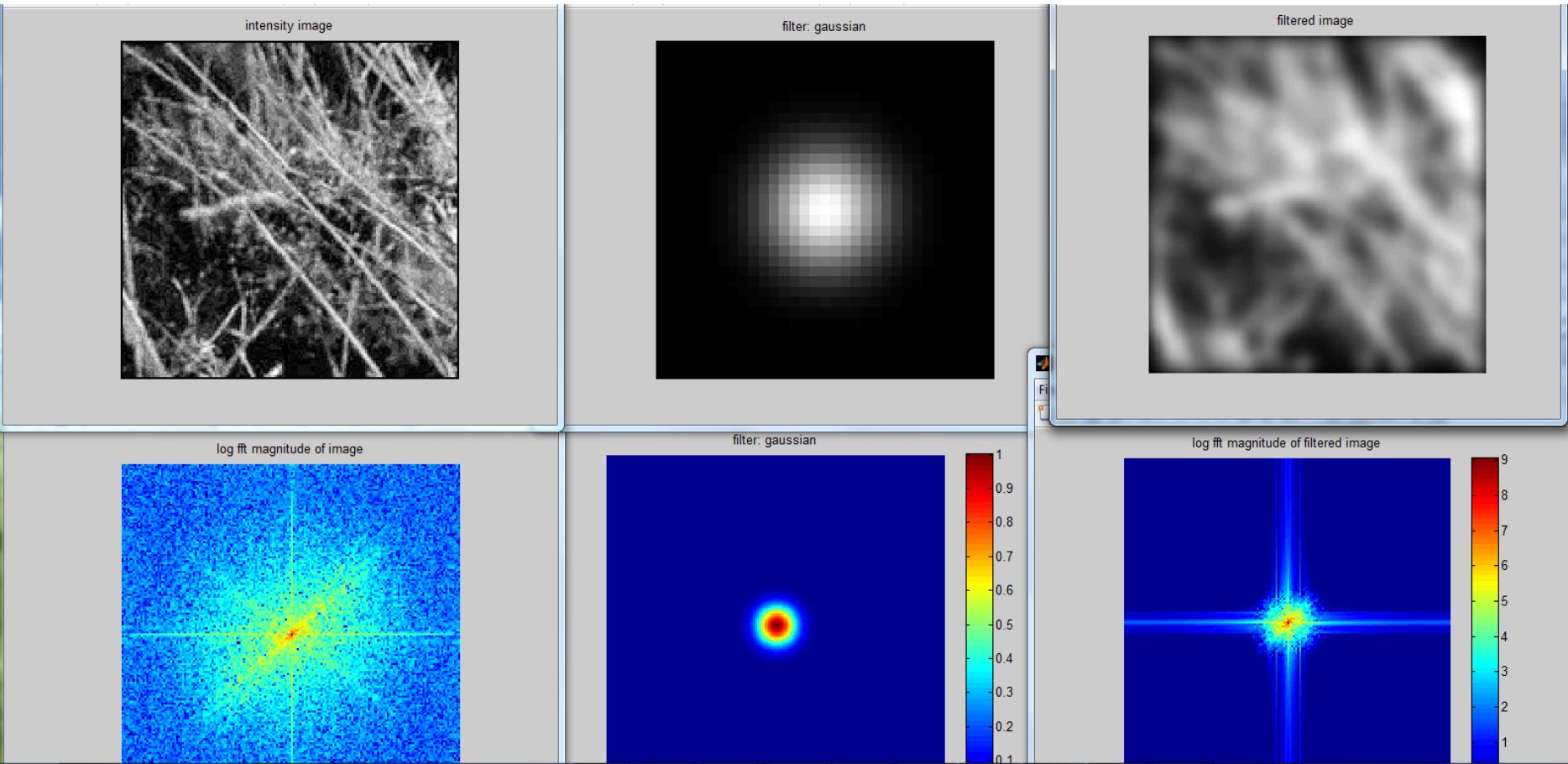
FFT

A blue arrow points from the small icon to the log FFT magnitude image, indicating the direction of the Fourier Transform operation.

Modified from Slide: Hoiem

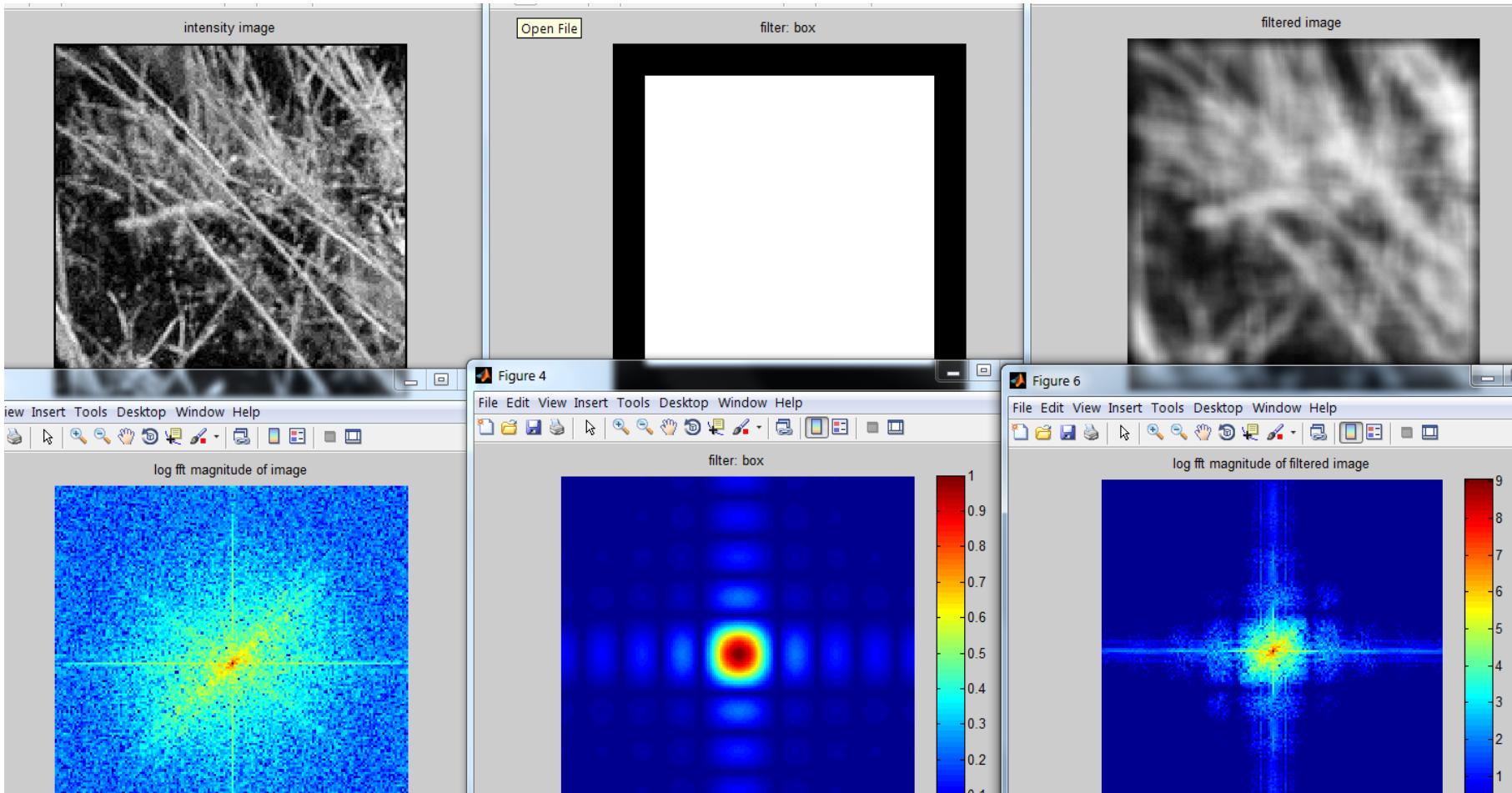
# Filtering in frequency domain

Gaussian



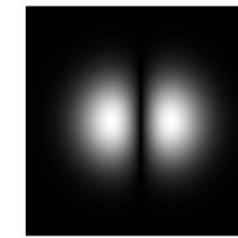
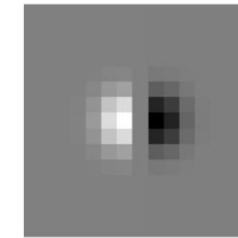
# Filtering in frequency domain

## Box Filter



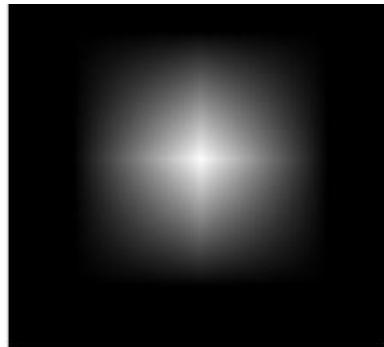
## Vocabulary

Band-pass Filter:

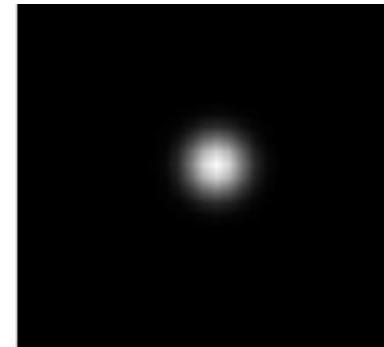


# Filtering in frequency domain

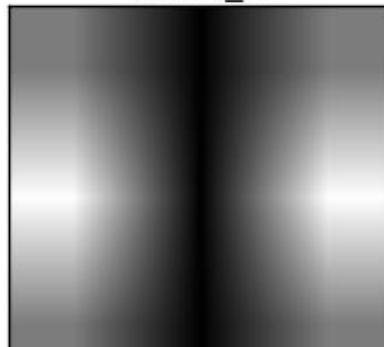
Mean filter



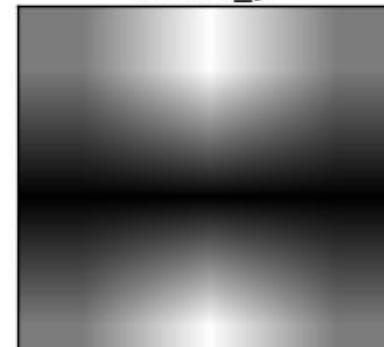
Gaussian Filter



sobel\_x

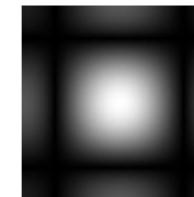


sobel\_y

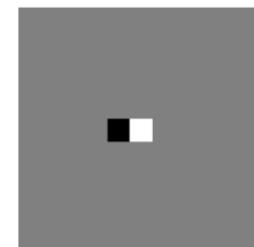


Low Pass Filter:

1/9	1/9	1/9
1/9	1/9	1/9
1/9	1/9	1/9



High-pass Filter:



# Low-pass and high-pass filtering

Remove high frequencies with a *low pass* filter

- A blur filter!
- *Could also be called a ‘high cut’ filter (but few do)*

Counterpart: *high pass* filter

- Only keeps the high frequencies
- Edge detection (Sobel) is an example high pass filter

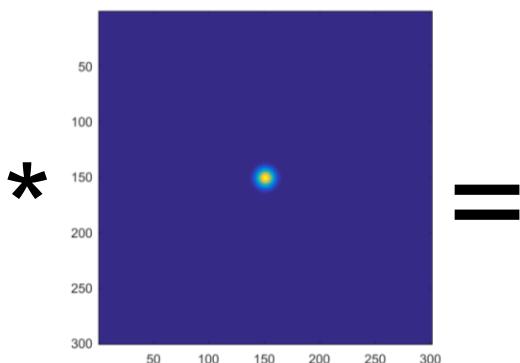
Related: *band pass / band stop (or notch)* filter

- Only affect *specific* frequencies
- How could we construct one with linear filters?

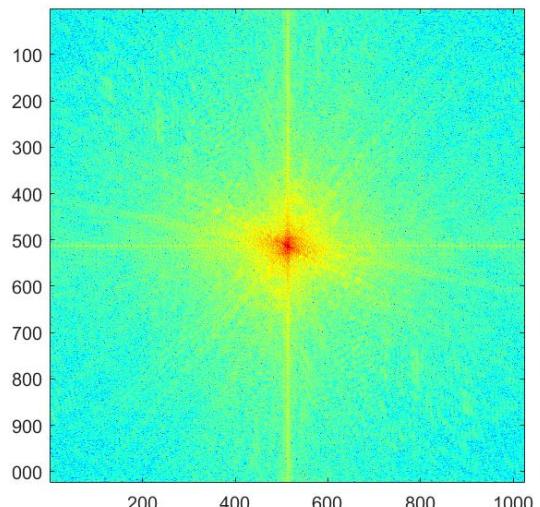
# Is convolution invertible?

- If convolution is just multiplication in the Fourier domain, isn't deconvolution just division?
- Sometimes, it clearly is invertible (e.g. a convolution with an identity filter)
- In one case, it clearly isn't invertible (e.g. convolution with an all zero filter)
- What about for common filters like a Gaussian?

# Convolution

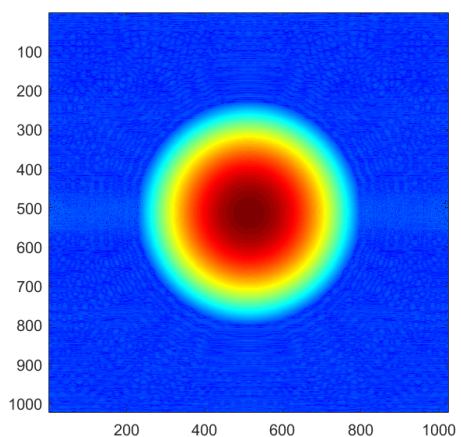


FFT 

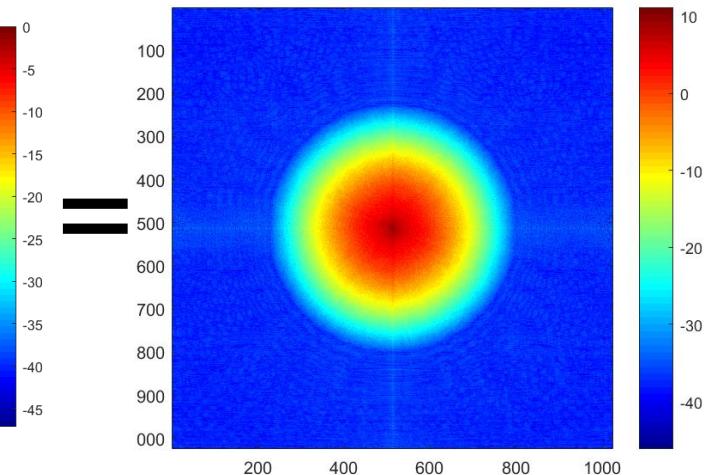


$\cdot X$

FFT 

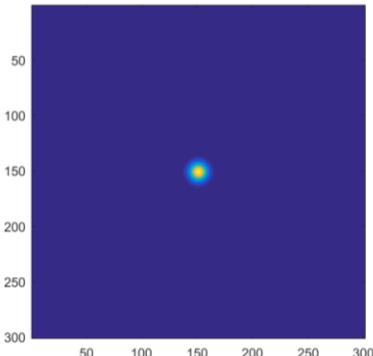


iFFT 

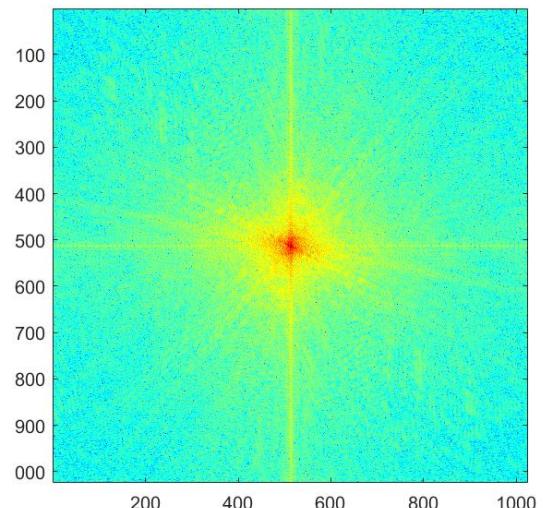


Hays

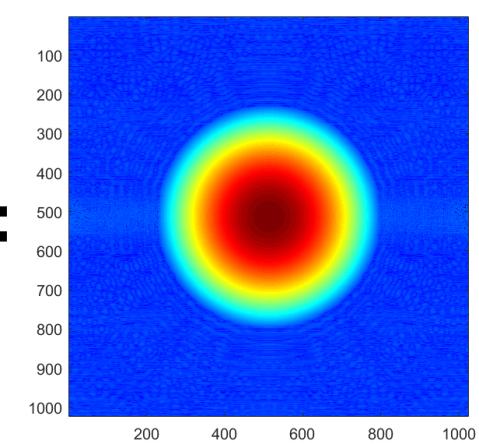
# Deconvolution?



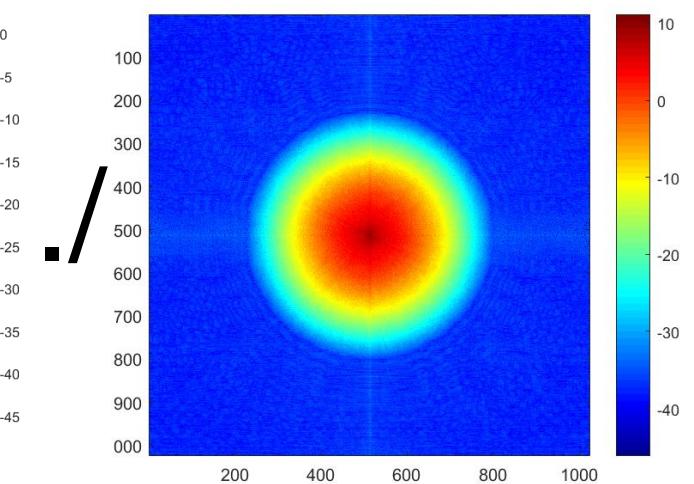
iFFT



FFT

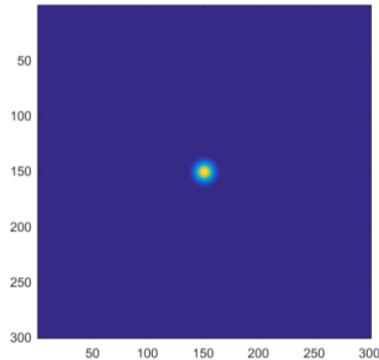


FFT



Hays

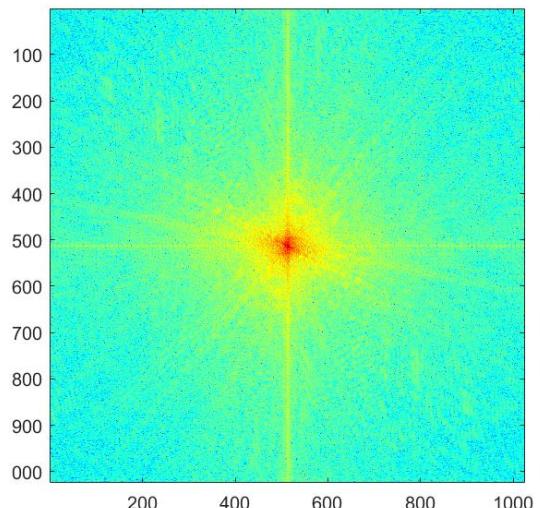
# But under more realistic conditions



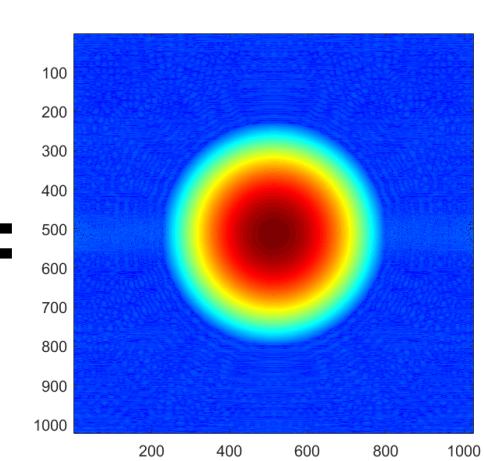
Random noise, .000001 magnitude



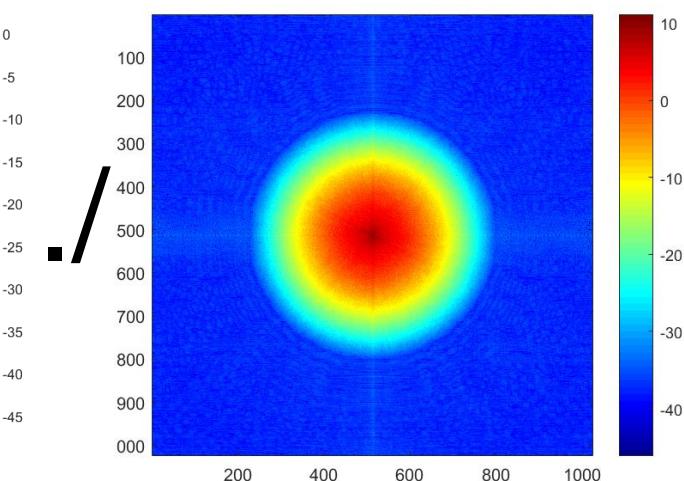
iFFT 



FFT 

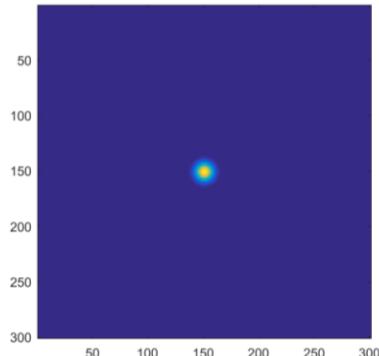


FFT 



Hays

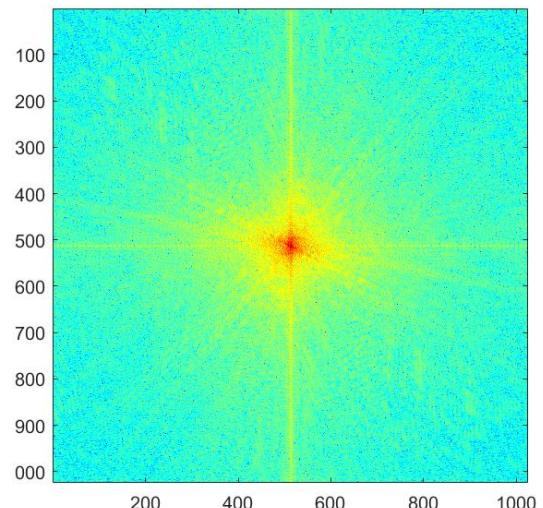
# But under more realistic conditions



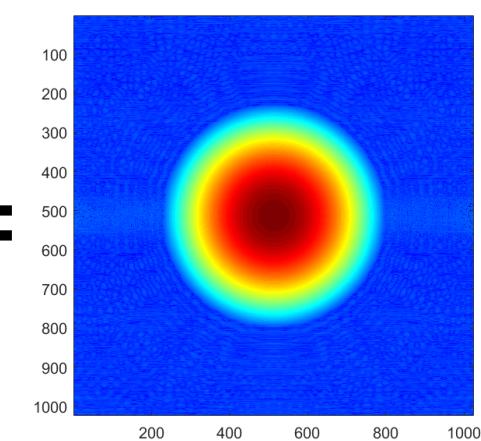
Random noise, .0001 magnitude



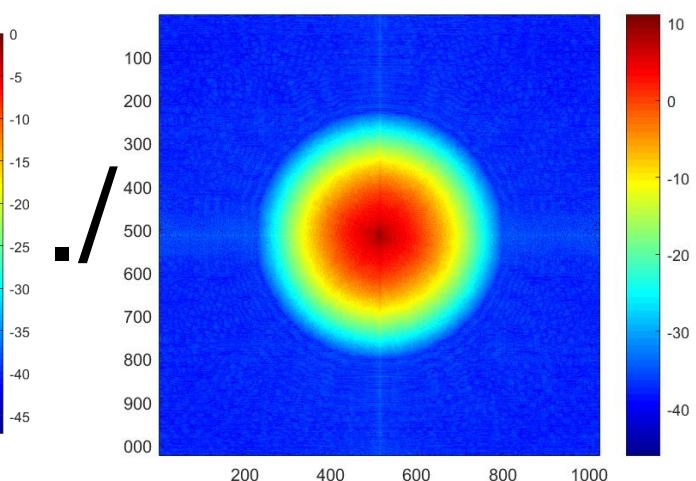
iFFT  
↑



FFT  
↓

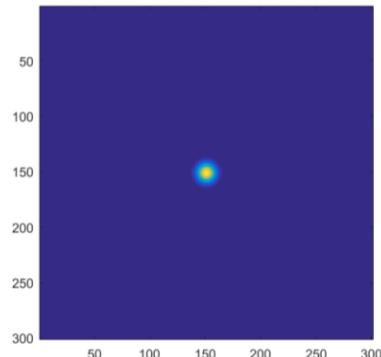
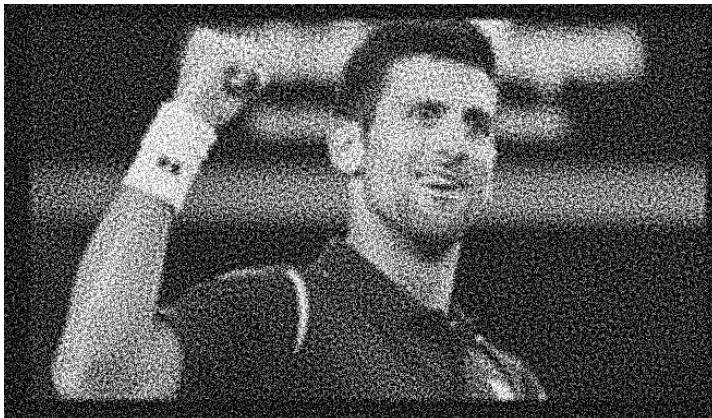


FFT  
↓



Hays

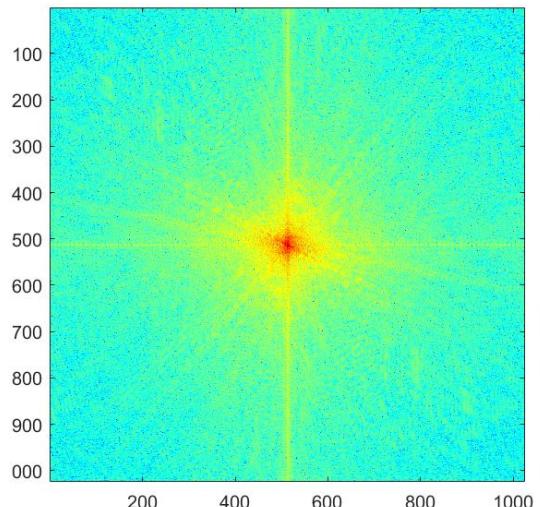
# But under more realistic conditions



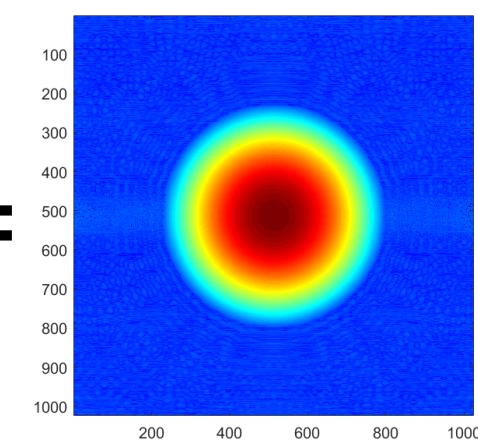
Random noise, .001 magnitude



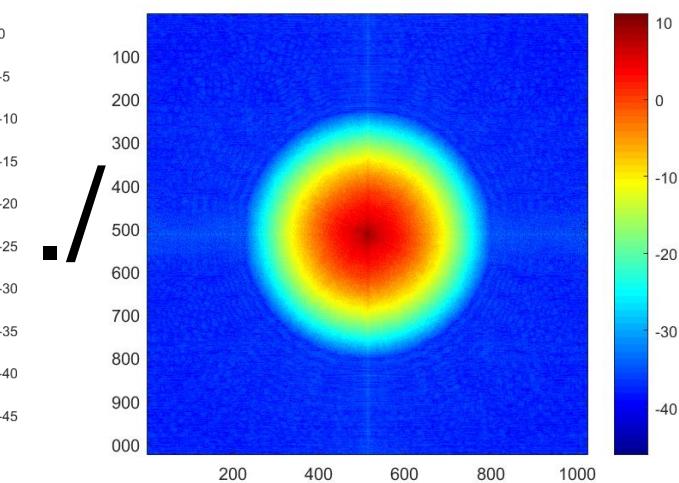
iFFT 



FFT 



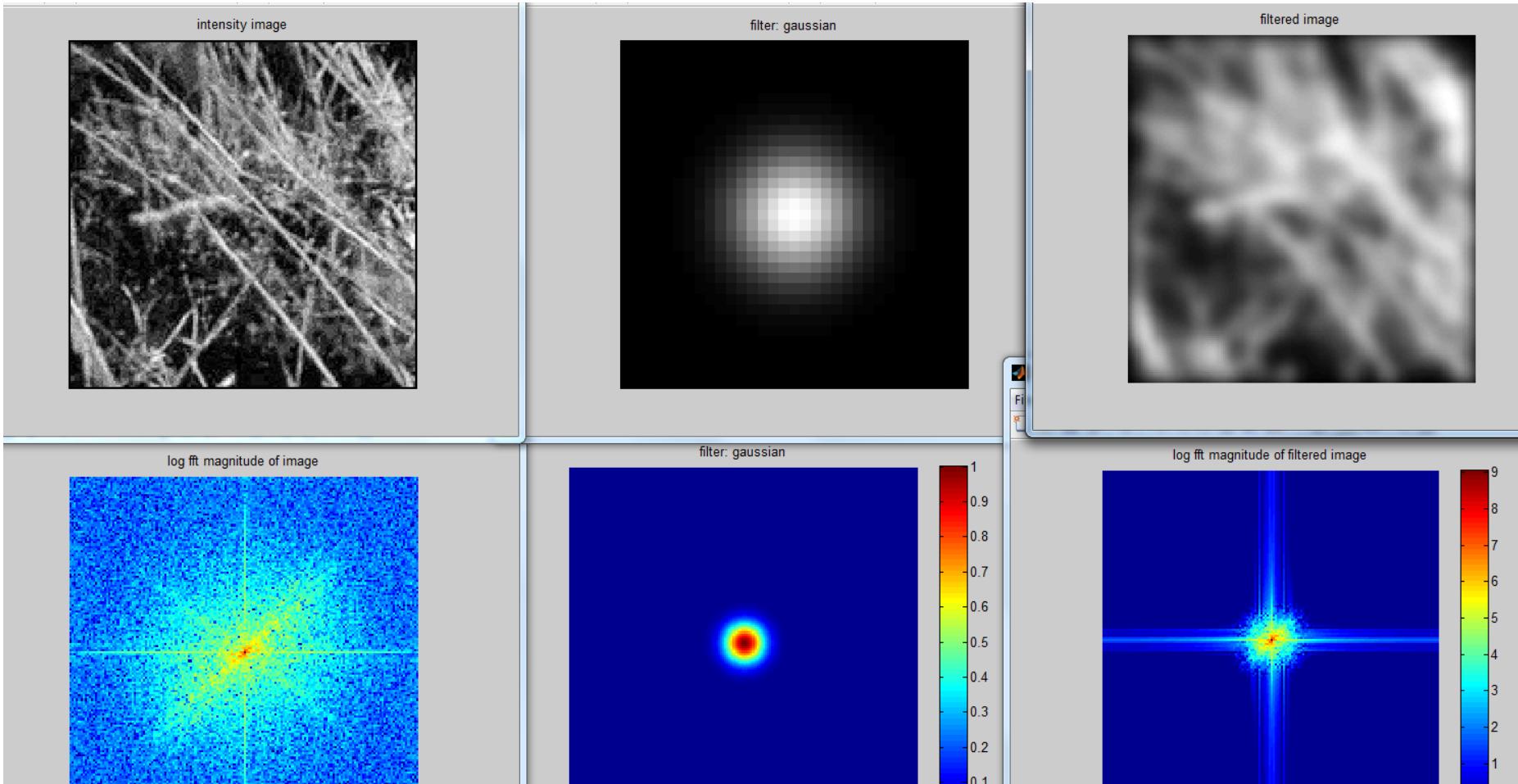
FFT 



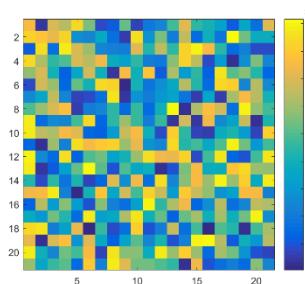
Hays

# But you can't invert multiplication by 0!

- A Gaussian is only zero at infinity...



# With a random filter...



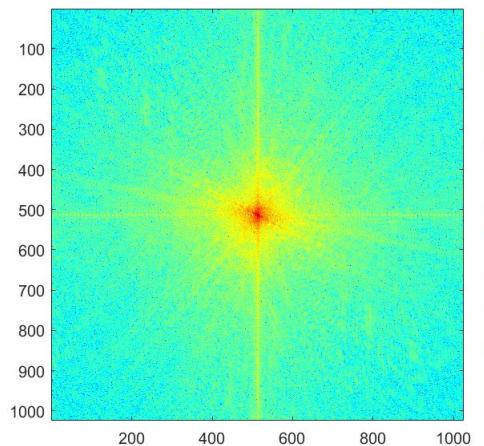
Random noise, .001 magnitude



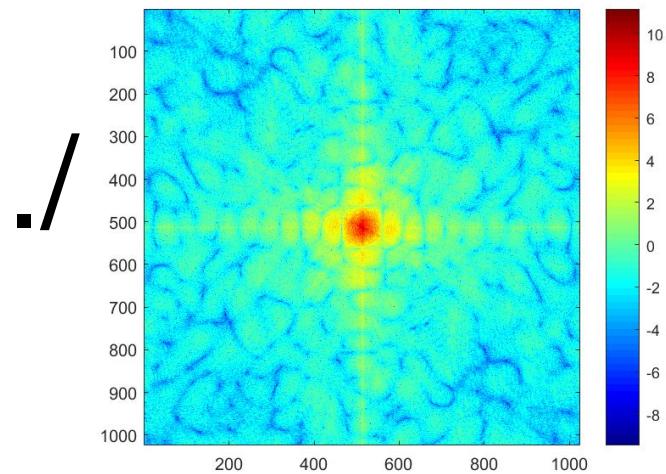
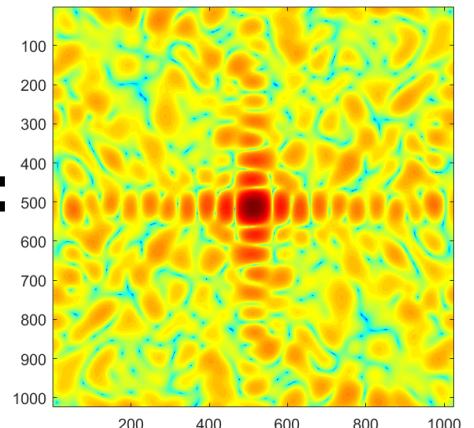
iFFT

FFT

FFT



=



# Deconvolution is hard.

- Active research area.
- Even if you know the filter (non-blind deconvolution), it is still hard and requires strong *regularization* to counteract noise.
- If you don't know the filter (blind deconvolution), then it is harder still.

# Things to Remember

Sometimes it helps to think of images and filtering in the frequency domain

- Fourier analysis

Can be faster to filter using FFT for large images

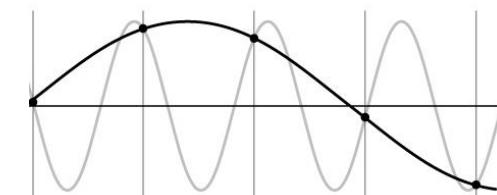
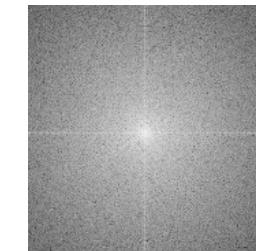
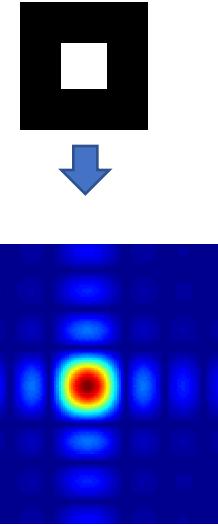
- $N \log N$  vs.  $N^2$  for convolution/correlation

Images are mostly smooth

- Basis for compression

Remember to low-pass before sampling

- Otherwise you create aliasing



# Review of Filtering

## Filtering in frequency domain

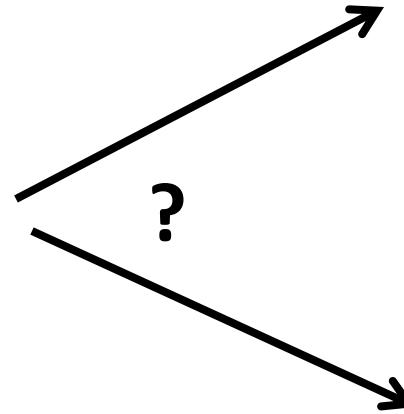
- Can be faster than filtering in spatial domain (for large filters)
- Can help understand effect of filter
- Algorithm:
  1. Convert image and filter to Fourier domain (e.g., `numpy.fft.fft2()`)
  2. Element-wise multiply their decompositions
  3. Convert result to spatial domain with inverse Fourier transform (e.g., `numpy.fft.ifft2()`)

# Hybrid Image



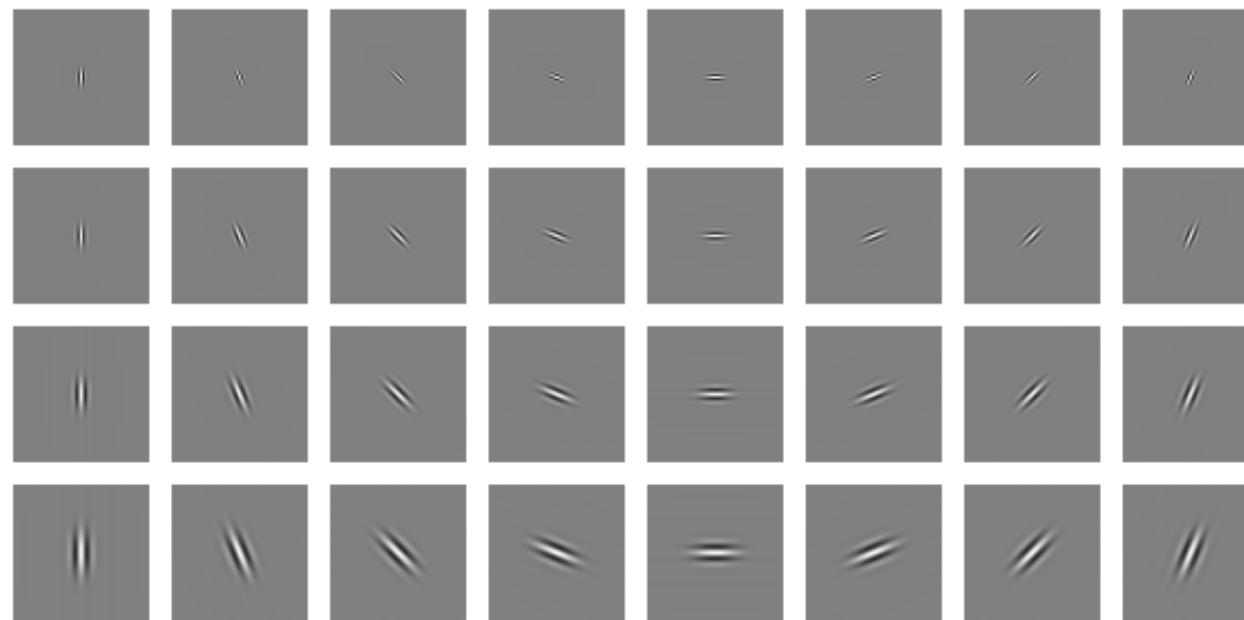
- Hybrid image =  
 $\text{Low-Freq( Image A )} + \text{Hi-Freq( Image B )}$

# Why do we get different, distance-dependent interpretations of hybrid images?



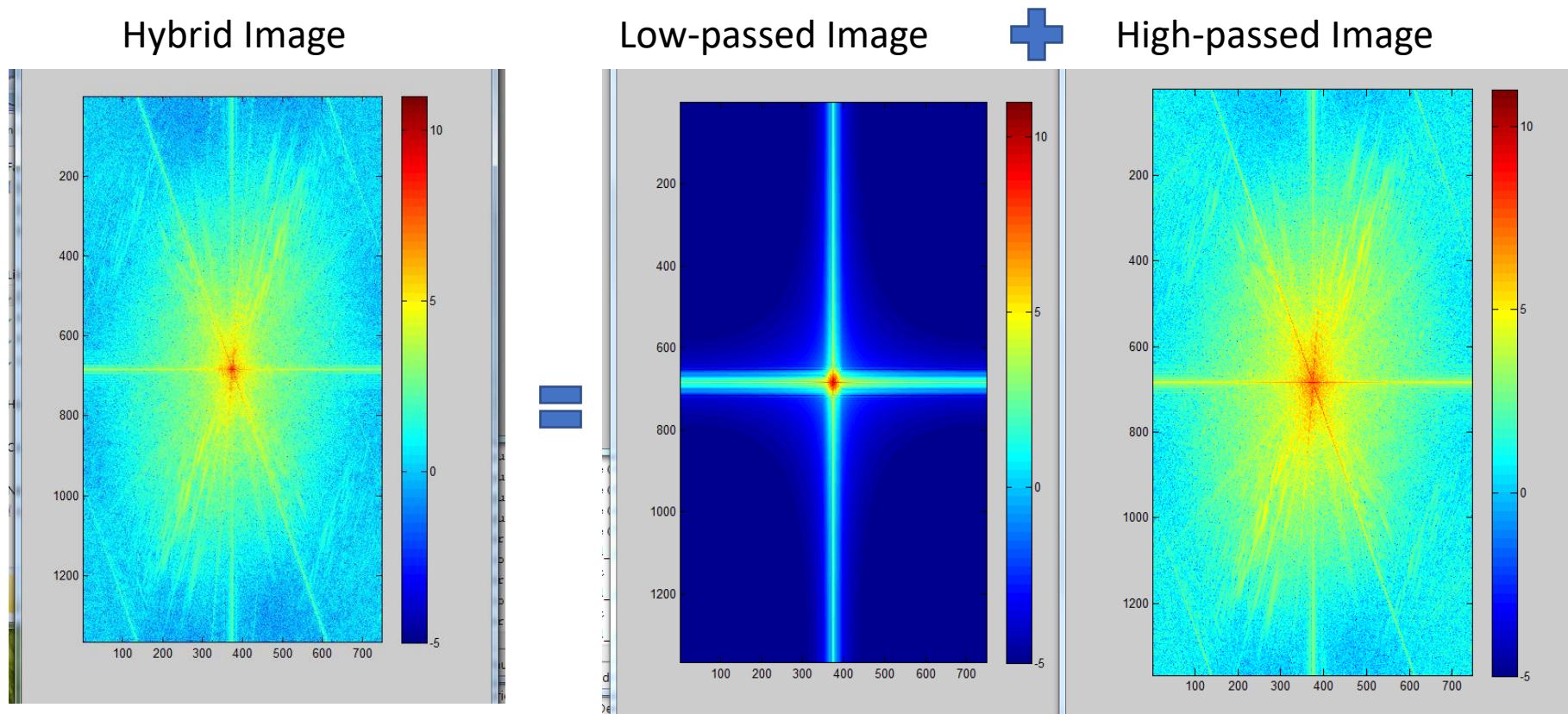
# Clues from Human Perception

- Early processing in humans filters for various orientations and scales of frequency
- Perceptual cues in the mid-high frequencies dominate perception
- When we see an image from far away, we are effectively subsampling it



Early Visual Processing: Multi-scale edge and blob filters

# Hybrid Image in FFT



# Three views of image filtering

- Image filters in spatial domain
  - Filter is a mathematical operation on values of each patch
  - Smoothing, sharpening, measuring texture
- Image filters in the frequency domain
  - Filtering is a way to modify the frequencies of images
  - Denoising, sampling, image compression
- Templates and Image Pyramids
  - Filtering is a way to match a template to the image
  - Detection, coarse-to-fine registration