

ELEC4620 Assignment 1

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Question 1

The function for a rectangular pulse around $t = 0$, with amplitude A and width T , is:

$$h(t) = \begin{cases} A, & |t| < T/2 \\ 0, & |t| > T/2 \end{cases}$$

This is equivalently two step functions of equal magnitude and opposite sign at $t = \pm T/2$. Hence, the derivative of the rectangular pulse is composed of two impulses of equal magnitude and opposite sign, coinciding in time with the discontinuities in the pulse.

$$h'(t) = A\delta(t + \frac{T}{2}) - A\delta(t - \frac{T}{2})$$

Taking the Fourier transform of the derivative, which by definition is

$$\widehat{H'}(f) := \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} h'(t)e^{-j2\pi ft} dt$$

we aim to evaluate the following expression, split into two integrals for simplicity.

$$\widehat{H'}(f) = A \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} \delta(t + \frac{T}{2})e^{-j2\pi ft} dt - A \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} \delta(t - \frac{T}{2})e^{-j2\pi ft} dt$$

By definition of the Dirac delta, $\delta(t - T)$, for arbitrary T :

$$\delta(t - T) = \begin{cases} \infty, & t = T \\ 0, & t \neq T \end{cases} \quad \text{and} \quad \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} \delta(t - T)dt = 1$$

Therefore, the Fourier transform of the derivative simplifies to

$$\widehat{H'}(f) = Ae^{-j2\pi f(-T/2)} - Ae^{-j2\pi f(T/2)} = A \left[e^{j\pi fT} - e^{-j\pi fT} \right]$$

Finally, we can integrate in the time domain by dividing by $j2\pi f$ in the frequency domain.

$$H(f) = \frac{A}{j2\pi f} \left[e^{j\pi fT} - e^{-j\pi fT} \right]$$

Some re-arranging and substitutions can be performed to neaten the result, if desired:

$$H(f) = \frac{A}{\pi f} \sin(\pi T f) = AT \frac{\sin(\pi T f)}{\pi T f} = AT \text{sinc}(Tf)$$

Thus, we have derived the Fourier transform of a rectangular pulse.

We now repeat this procedure for a triangle function using a double derivative. The function for a triangular pulse around $t = 0$, with amplitude A and width T , is:

$$h(t) = \begin{cases} A(1 - 2|t|/T), & |t| \leq T/2 \\ 0, & |t| > T/2 \end{cases}$$

The first derivative produces a result composed of two rectangular pulses of equal magnitude and opposite sign, or equivalently three step functions.

$$h'(t) = \begin{cases} 2A/T, & -T/2 \leq t \leq 0 \\ -2A/T, & 0 \leq t \leq T/2 \\ 0, & |t| > T/2 \end{cases}$$

Hence, as before, the second derivative is composed of three impulses coinciding with the discontinuities in the first derivative.

$$h''(t) = \frac{2A}{T}\delta(t + \frac{T}{2}) - \frac{4A}{T}\delta(t) + \frac{2A}{T}\delta(t - \frac{T}{2})$$

The Fourier transform of the second derivative is therefore

$$\widehat{H''}(f) = \frac{2A}{T} \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} \delta(t + \frac{T}{2})e^{-j2\pi ft} dt - \frac{4A}{T} \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} \delta(t)e^{-j2\pi ft} dt + \frac{2A}{T} \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} \delta(t - \frac{T}{2})e^{-j2\pi ft} dt$$

Once again, using the definition of the Dirac delta, the Fourier transform simplifies to

$$\widehat{H''}(f) = \frac{2A}{T} \left[e^{-j2\pi f(-T/2)} - 2e^{-j2\pi f(0)} + e^{-j2\pi f(T/2)} \right]$$

and further to

$$\widehat{H''}(f) = \frac{2A}{T} \left[e^{j\pi fT} - 2 + e^{-j\pi fT} \right]$$

We can integrate twice in the time domain by dividing by $(j2\pi f)^2$ in the frequency domain.

$$H(f) = \frac{2A}{(j2\pi f)^2 T} \left[e^{j\pi fT} - 2 + e^{-j\pi fT} \right] = \frac{-A}{2\pi^2 f^2 T} \left[e^{j\pi fT} - 2 + e^{-j\pi fT} \right]$$

Finally, as with the rectangular pulse, we can re-arrange this result into a more familiar form:

$$H(f) = \frac{A}{\pi^2 f^2 T} (1 - \cos(\pi f T))$$

Thus, we have derived the Fourier transform of a triangular pulse.

Having derived the Fourier transforms of the two functions, we are interested in comparing the rates at which their magnitudes decrease as frequency increases. We note the only term contributing to a change in magnitude with frequency is the $1/f$ term for the rectangular pulse, and the $1/f^2$ term for the triangular pulse.

Indeed, in general, if a function has discontinuities in the n^{th} derivative, the sidelobes of its Fourier transform will fall off as $1/f^{n+1}$. Intuitively, this is because the function must be derived $n + 1$ times to obtain a number of impulses which can be Fourier transformed without yielding any frequency-dependent coefficients. The transform of the derivative is then integrated $n + 1$ times by dividing by $(j2\pi f)^{n+1}$; hence, the term $1/f^{n+1}$ is produced.

Figure 1.1 presents the Fourier transforms of the rectangular and triangular pulses, enabling a visual comparison of the rates at which their sidelobes fall off.

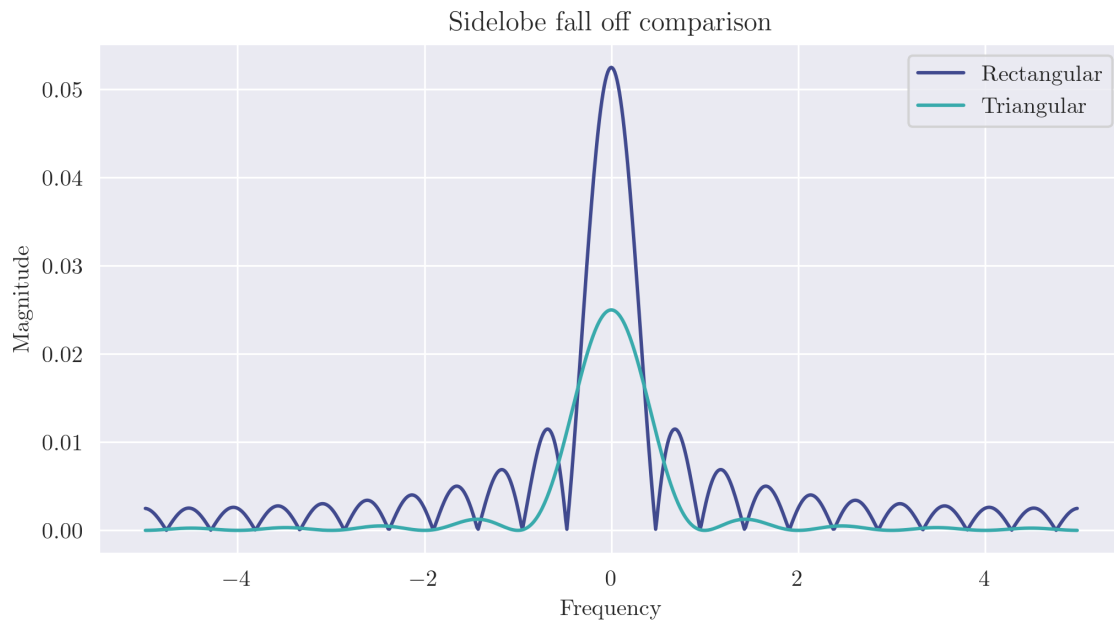


Figure 1.1: Fourier transform sidelobe fall off comparison: rectangular and triangular pulses.

Question 2

Question 3

Question 4

Question 5