Assignment 6: The Fourier Transform

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1 Problem 1

Assuming the hint, we have

$$\lim_{|\xi| \to \infty} \hat{f}(\xi) = \lim_{\xi' \to 0} \frac{1}{2} \int_{\mathbb{R}^n} (f(\xi)) - f(\xi) - f(\xi) \exp(-2\pi i x \cdot \xi) dx$$

But as an immediate consequence, this yields

$$\left| \hat{f}(\xi) \right| = \left| \int_{\mathbb{R}^n} (f(x) - f(x - \xi')) \exp(-2\pi i x \cdot \xi) \, dx \right|$$

$$\leq \int_{\mathbb{R}^n} |f(x) - f(x - \xi')| |\exp(-2\pi i x \cdot \xi)| \, dx$$

$$\leq \int_{\mathbb{R}^n} |f(x) - f(x - \xi')| \, dx$$

$$\to 0,$$

which follows from continuity in L^1 since $f(x - \xi') \to f(x)$ as $\xi' \to 0$. It thus only remains to show that the hint holds, and that $\xi' \to 0$ as $\xi \to \infty$.

2 Problem 2

2.1 Part (a)

Assuming an interchange of integrals is justified, we have

$$\widehat{(}f * g)(\xi) \coloneqq \int \int f(x - y)g(y) \exp(-2\pi x \cdot \xi) \ dy \ dx$$

$$=? \int \int f(x - y)g(y) \exp(-2\pi x \cdot \xi) \ dx \ dy$$

$$= \int \int f(t) \exp(-2\pi i(x - y) \cdot \xi)g(y) \exp(-2\pi iy \cdot \xi) \ dx \ dy$$

$$(t = x - y, \ dt = \ dx)$$

$$= \int \int f(t) \exp(-2\pi it \cdot \xi)g(y) \exp(-2\pi iy \cdot \xi) \ dt \ dy$$

$$= \int f(t) \exp(-2\pi it \cdot \xi) \left(\int g(y) \exp(-2\pi iy \cdot \xi) \ dy\right) \ dt$$

$$= \int f(t) \exp(-2\pi it \cdot \xi) \widehat{g}(\xi) \ dt$$

$$= \widehat{g}(\xi) \int f(t) \exp(-2\pi it \cdot \xi) \ dt$$

$$= \widehat{g}(\xi) \widehat{f}(\xi).$$

It thus remains to show that this swap is justified.

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2.2 Part (b)

We'll use the following lemma: if $\hat{f} = \hat{g}$, then f = g almost everywhere.

2.2.1 (i)

By part 1, we have

$$\widehat{f * g} = \widehat{f}\widehat{g} = \widehat{g}\widehat{f} = \widehat{g * f},$$

and so by the lemma, f * g = g * f.

Similarly, we have

$$\widehat{(f*g)*h} = \widehat{f*g} \; \widehat{h} = \widehat{f} \; \widehat{g} \; \widehat{h} = \widehat{f} \; \widehat{g*h} = f*(g*h).$$

2.2.2 (ii)

Suppose that there exists some $I \in L^1$ such that f * I = f. Then $\widehat{f * I} = \widehat{f}$ by the lemma, so $\widehat{f} \widehat{I} = \widehat{f}$ by the above result.

But this says that $\hat{f}(\xi)\hat{I}(\xi) = \hat{f}(\xi)$ almost everywhere, and thus $\hat{I}(\xi) = 1$ almost everywhere. Then $\lim_{|\xi| \to \infty} \hat{I}(\xi) \neq 0$, which by Problem 1 shows that I can not be in L^1 , a contradiction.

3 Problem 3

3.1 (a)

3.1.1 (i)

Let g(x) = f(x - y). We then have

$$\hat{g}(\xi) \coloneqq \int g(x) \exp(-2\pi i x \cdot \xi) \ dx$$

$$= \int f(x - y) \exp(-2\pi i x \cdot \xi) \ dx$$

$$= \int f(x - y) \exp(-2\pi i (x - y) \cdot \xi) \exp(-2\pi i y \cdot \xi) \ dx$$

$$= \exp(-2\pi i y \cdot \xi) \int f(x - y) \exp(-2\pi i (x - y) \cdot \xi) \ dx$$

$$(t = x - y, dt = dx)$$

$$= \exp(-2\pi i y \cdot \xi) \int f(t) \exp(-2\pi i t \cdot \xi) \ dt$$

$$= \exp(-2\pi i y \cdot \xi) \hat{f}(\xi).$$

3.1.2 (ii)

Let $h(x) = \exp(2\pi ix \ cdoty) f(x)$. We then have

$$\begin{split} \hat{h}(\xi) &\coloneqq \int \exp(2\pi i x \cdot y) f(x) \exp(-2\pi i x \cdot \xi) \ dx \\ &= \int \exp(2\pi i x \cdot y - 2\pi i x \cdot \xi) f(x) \ dx \\ &= \int f(\xi - y) \exp(-2\pi i x \cdot (\xi - y)) \ dx \\ &= \hat{f}(\xi - y). \end{split}$$

3.2 (b)

We'll use the fact that if $\langle \cdot, \cdot \rangle$ is an inner product on a vector space V and A is an invertible linear transformation, then for all $\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{y} \in V$ we have

$$\langle A\mathbf{x}, \ \mathbf{y} \rangle = \left\langle \mathbf{x}, \ A^T\mathbf{y} \right\rangle$$

where A^{-T} denotes the transpose of the inverse of A (or $(A^{-1})^*$ if V is complex).

We then have

$$\frac{1}{|\det T|} \hat{f}(T^{-T}\xi) = \frac{1}{|\det T|} \int f(x) \exp(-2\pi i x \cdot T^{-T}\xi) \ dx$$

$$x \mapsto Tx, \ dx \mapsto |\det T| \ dx$$

$$= \frac{1}{|\det T|} \int f(Tx) \exp(-2\pi i Tx \cdot T^{-T}\xi) |\det T| \ dx$$

$$= \int f(Tx) \exp(-2\pi i x \cdot \xi) \ dx$$

$$\text{since } Tx \cdot T^{-T}\xi = T^{-1}Tx \cdot \xi = x \cdot \xi$$

$$= \widehat{(f \circ T)}(\xi).$$

4 Problem 4

4.1 (a)

4.1.1 (i)

Let g(x) = xf(x). Then if an interchange of the derivative and the integral is justified, we have

$$\frac{\partial}{\partial \xi} \hat{f}(\xi) := \frac{\partial}{\partial \xi} \int f(x) \exp(-2\pi i x \cdot \xi) \ dx$$

$$=_{?} \int f(x) \frac{\partial}{\partial \xi} \exp(-2\pi i x \cdot \xi) \ dx$$

$$= \int f(x) 2\pi i x \exp(-2\pi i x \cdot \xi) \ dx$$

$$= 2\pi i \int x f(x) \exp(-2\pi i x \cdot \xi) \ dx$$

$$= 2\pi i \hat{g}(\xi).$$

It thus remains to show that this interchange is justified. TODO

4.1.2 (ii)

We have

$$\begin{split} \hat{h}(\xi) &\coloneqq \int \frac{\partial f}{\partial x}(x) e^{-2\pi i x \cdot \xi} \ dx \\ &= f(x) e^{-2\pi i x \cdot \xi} \Big|_{x=-\infty}^{x=\infty} - \int f(x) (2\pi i \xi) e^{-2\pi i x \cdot \xi} \ dx \\ & \text{(integrating by parts)} \\ &= - \int f(x) (-2\pi i \xi) e^{-2\pi i x \cdot \xi} \ dx \\ & \text{(since } f(\infty) = f(-\infty) = 0) \\ &= 2\pi i \xi \int f(x) e^{-2\pi i x \cdot \xi} \ dx \\ &\coloneqq 2\pi i \xi \hat{f}(\xi). \end{split}$$

4.2 (b)

Let $G(x) = e^{-\pi x^2}$ and ∂_{ξ} be the operator that differentiates with respect to ξ . Then

$$\partial_\xi \left(\frac{\hat{G}(\xi)}{G(\xi)} \right) = \frac{G(\xi) \partial_\xi \hat{G}(\xi) - \hat{G}(\xi) \partial_\xi G(\xi)}{G(\xi)^2},$$

and the claim is that this is zero. This happens precisely when the numerator is zero, so we'd like to show that

$$G(\xi)\partial_{\xi}\hat{G}(\xi) - \hat{G}(\xi)\partial_{\xi}G(\xi) = 0.$$

A direct computation shows that

$$\partial_{\xi}G(\xi) = -2\pi\xi G(\xi),\tag{1}$$

and we claim that $\partial_{\xi}\hat{G}(\xi) = -2\pi\xi\hat{G}(\xi)$ as well, which follows from the following computation:

$$\partial_{\xi} \hat{G}(\xi) := \partial_{\xi} \int G(x) e^{-2\pi i x \cdot \xi} dx$$

$$= \int G(x) \partial_{\xi} e^{-2\pi i x \cdot \xi} dx$$

$$= \int G(x) (-2\pi i x) e^{-2\pi i x \cdot \xi} dx$$

$$= \int G(x) (-2\pi i x) e^{-2\pi i x \cdot \xi} dx$$

$$= i \int 2\pi x G(x) e^{-2\pi i x \cdot \xi} dx$$

$$= i \int \partial_{x} G(x) e^{-2\pi i x \cdot \xi} dx \qquad \text{by (1)}$$

$$:= i \widehat{\partial_{x} G(x)}(\xi)$$

$$= i (2\pi i \xi \hat{G}(\xi)) \qquad \text{by part (i)}$$

$$= -2\pi \xi \hat{G}(\xi).$$

We can thus write

$$G(\xi)\partial_{\xi}\hat{G}(\xi) - \hat{G}(\xi)\partial_{\xi}G(\xi) = G(\xi)(-2\pi\xi\hat{G}(\xi)) - \hat{G}(\xi)(-2\pi\xi G(\xi)),$$

which is patently zero.

It follows that $\frac{\hat{G}(\xi)}{G(\xi)} = c_0$ for some constant c_0 , from which it follows that $\hat{G}(\xi) = c_0 G(\xi)$.

Using the fact that G(0) = 1 by direct evaluation and $\hat{G}(0) = \int G(x) dx = 1$, we can conclude that $c_0 = 1$ and thus $\hat{G}(\xi) = G(\xi)$.

5 Problem 5

5.1 (a)

By a direct computation. we have

$$\hat{D}(\xi) \coloneqq \int_{-\frac{1}{2}}^{\frac{1}{2}} 1e^{-2\pi i x \xi} dx$$

$$= \int_{-\frac{1}{2}}^{\frac{1}{2}} \cos(-2\pi x \xi) + i \sin(-2\pi x \xi) dx$$

$$= \int_{-\frac{1}{2}}^{\frac{1}{2}} \cos(-2\pi x \xi) dx$$
(since sin is odd and the domain is symmetric about 0)
$$= 2 \int_{0}^{\frac{1}{2}} \cos(-2\pi x \xi) dx$$
(since cos is even and the domain is symmetric about 0)
$$= 2 \left(\frac{1}{2\pi \xi} \sin(-2\pi x \xi) \Big|_{x=0}^{x=\frac{1}{2}} \right)$$

$$= \frac{\sin(\pi \xi)}{\pi \xi}.$$

5.2 (b)

5.2.1 (i)

Since F(x) = D(x) * D(x), we have $\hat{F}(\xi) = (\hat{D}(\xi))^2$ by question 2a, and so $\hat{F}(\xi) = \left(\frac{\sin(\pi \xi)}{\pi \xi}\right)^2$.

5.2.2 (ii)

Letting \mathcal{F} denote the Fourier transform operator, we have $\mathcal{F}^2(h)(\xi) = h(-\xi)$ for any $h \in L^1$. In particular, if f is an even function, then $f(\xi) = -f(\xi)$ and $\mathcal{F}^2(f) = f$.

In this case, letting F be the box function, F can be seen to be even from its definition. Since $f := \mathcal{F}(F)$ by part (i), we have

$$\hat{f} := \mathcal{F}(f) = \mathcal{F}(\mathcal{F}(F)) = \mathcal{F}^2(F) = F,$$

which says that $\hat{f}(x) = F(x)$, the original box function.

5.3 (c)

By a direct computation of the integral in question, we have

$$\begin{split} I(x) &\coloneqq \int e^{-2\pi|\xi|} e^{2\pi i x \xi} \ d\xi \\ &= \int_{-\infty}^{0} e^{-2\pi(-\xi)} e^{-2\pi i x \xi} \ d\xi + \int_{0}^{\infty} e^{2\pi \xi} e^{2\pi i x \xi} \ d\xi \\ &= \int_{0}^{\infty} e^{-2\pi \xi} e^{-2\pi i x \xi} \ d\xi + \int_{0}^{\infty} e^{2\pi \xi} e^{2\pi i x \xi} \ d\xi \\ &= \int_{0}^{\infty} e^{-2\pi \xi} e^{-2\pi i x \xi} \ d\xi + \int_{0}^{\infty} e^{2\pi \xi} e^{2\pi i x \xi} \ d\xi \\ &= \text{by the change of variables } \xi \mapsto -\xi, \ d\xi \mapsto -d\xi \text{ and swapping integration bounds} \\ &= \int_{0}^{\infty} e^{-2\pi \xi} e^{-2\pi i x \xi} + e^{2\pi \xi} e^{2\pi i x \xi} \ d\xi \\ &= \frac{1}{2\pi} \int_{0}^{\infty} e^{-u} e^{-ixu} + e^{-u} e^{ixu} \ du \\ &= \frac{1}{2\pi} \int_{0}^{\infty} e^{-u(1+ix)} + e^{-u(1-ix)} \ du \\ &= \frac{1}{2\pi} \left(\frac{-e^{-u(1+ix)}}{1+ix} \Big|_{u=0}^{u=\infty} + \frac{-e^{-u(1-ix)}}{1+ix} \Big|_{u=0}^{u=\infty} \right) \\ &= \frac{1}{2\pi} \left(\frac{1}{1+ix} + \frac{1}{1-ix} \right) \\ &= \frac{1}{2\pi} \frac{2}{1+x^2} \\ &= \frac{1}{\pi} \frac{1}{1+x^2}, \end{split}$$

so
$$P(x) = I(x)$$
.

Then, by the Fourier inversion formula, we have

$$I(x) = P(x) = \int \hat{P}(\xi)e^{-2\pi ix\xi} dx$$

$$\implies \int e^{-2\pi|\xi|}e^{2\pi ix\xi} = \int \hat{P}(\xi)e^{-2\pi ix\xi} dx$$

$$\implies \int e^{-2\pi|\xi|}e^{2\pi ix\xi} - \hat{P}(\xi)e^{-2\pi ix\xi} dx = 0$$

$$\implies \int \left(e^{-2\pi|\xi|} - \hat{P}(\xi)\right)e^{-2\pi ix\xi} dx = 0$$

$$\implies \left(e^{-2\pi|\xi|} - \hat{P}(\xi)\right)e^{-2\pi ix\xi} = 0$$

where equality is almost everywhere and follows from the fact that if $\int f = 0$ then f = 0 almost everywhere.

6 Problem 6

We first note that if $G_t(x) := t^{-n} e^{-\pi |x|^2/t^2}$, then $\hat{G}_t(\xi) = e^{-\pi t^2 |\xi|^2}$.

Moreover, if an interchange of integrals is justified, we have have

$$\begin{aligned} \|f\|_1 &\coloneqq \int_{\mathbb{R}^n} \left| \int_0^\infty G_t(x) e^{-\pi t^2} t^{2\varepsilon - 1} \ dt \right| \ dx \\ &= \int_{\mathbb{R}^n} \int_0^\infty G_t(x) e^{-\pi t^2} t^{2\varepsilon - 1} \ dt \ dx \\ &\text{ since the integrand and thus integral is positive.} \\ &= ? \int_0^\infty \int_{\mathbb{R}^n} G_t(x) e^{-\pi t^2} t^{2\varepsilon - 1} \ dx \ dt \\ &= \int_0^\infty e^{-\pi t^2} t^{2\varepsilon - 1} \left(\int_{\mathbb{R}^n} G_t(x) \ dx \right) \ dt \\ &= \int_0^\infty e^{-\pi t^2} t^{2\varepsilon - 1} (1) \ dt \\ &= \int_0^\infty e^{-\pi t^2} t^{2\varepsilon - 1} \ dt, \end{aligned}$$

which we claim is finite, so $f \in L^1$.

To see that the norm is finite, we note that

$$t \in [0,1] \implies e^{-\pi t^2} < 1$$

and if we take $\varepsilon < \frac{1}{2}$, we have $2\varepsilon - 1 < 0$ and thus

$$t \in [1, \infty) \implies t^{2\varepsilon - 1} \le 1.$$

Thus

$$\int_{0}^{\infty} e^{-\pi t^{2}} t^{2\varepsilon - 1} dt = \int_{0}^{1} e^{-\pi t^{2}} t^{2\varepsilon - 1} dt + \int_{1}^{\infty} e^{-\pi t^{2}} t^{2\varepsilon - 1} dt$$

$$\leq \int_{0}^{1} t^{2\varepsilon - 1} dt + \int_{1}^{\infty} e^{-\pi t^{2}} dt$$

$$\leq \int_{0}^{1} t^{2\varepsilon - 1} dt + \int_{0}^{\infty} e^{-\pi t^{2}} dt$$

$$= \frac{1}{2\varepsilon} + \frac{1}{2} < \infty,$$

where the first term is obtained by directly evaluating the integral, and the second is derived from the fact that its integral over the real line is 1 and it is an even function.

Justifying the interchange: we note that the integrand $G_t(x)e^{-\pi t^2}t^{2\varepsilon-1}$ is non-negative, and we've just showed that one of the iterated integrals is absolutely convergent, so Tonelli will apply if the integrand is measurable. But $G_t(x)$ is a continuous function on \mathbb{R}^n and the remaining terms are continuous on \mathbb{R} , so they are all measurable on \mathbb{R}^n and \mathbb{R} respectively But then taking cylinders on everything in sight yields measurable functions, and the product of measurable functions is measurable.

If another interchange of integrals is justified, we can compute

$$\begin{split} \hat{f}(\xi) &\coloneqq \int_{\mathbb{R}^n} \left(\int_0^\infty G_t(x) e^{-\pi t^2} t^{2\varepsilon - 1} \ dt \right) e^{-2\pi i x \cdot \xi} \ dx \\ &= \int_{\mathbb{R}^n} \int_0^\infty G_t(x) e^{-\pi t^2} t^{2\varepsilon - 1} e^{-2\pi i x \cdot \xi} \ dt \ dx \\ &= ? \int_0^\infty \int_{\mathbb{R}^n} G_t(x) e^{-\pi t^2} t^{2\varepsilon - 1} e^{-2\pi i x \cdot \xi} \ dx \ dt \\ &= \int_0^\infty e^{-\pi t^2} t^{2\varepsilon - 1} \left(\int_{\mathbb{R}^n} G_t(x) e^{-2\pi i x \cdot \xi} \ dx \right) \ dt \\ &= \int_0^\infty e^{-\pi t^2} t^{2\varepsilon - 1} \hat{G}_t(\xi) \ dt \\ &= \int_0^\infty e^{-\pi t^2} t^{2\varepsilon - 1} e^{-\pi t^2 |\xi|^2} \ dt \\ &= \int_0^\infty e^{-\pi t^2} t^{2\varepsilon - 1} e^{-\pi t^2 |\xi|^2} \ dt \\ &= \int_0^\infty e^{-\pi t^2 (1 + |\xi|^2)} t^{2\varepsilon - 1} \ dt \\ &= \int_0^\infty e^{-\pi (t\sqrt{1 + |\xi|^2})^2} t^{2\varepsilon - 1} \ dt \\ &= \int_0^\infty e^{-\pi s^2} \left(\frac{s}{\sqrt{1 - |\xi|^2}} \right)^{2\varepsilon - 1} \ dt \\ &= (1 + |\xi|^2)^{-\frac{2\varepsilon - 1}{2}} (1 + |\xi|^2)^{-\frac{1}{2}} \int_0^\infty e^{-\pi s^2} s^{2\varepsilon - 1} \ ds \\ &= (1 + |\xi|^2)^{-\varepsilon} \int e^{-\pi t^2} t^{2\varepsilon - 1} \ dt \\ &\coloneqq F(\xi) \|f\|_1. \end{split}$$

To see that the interchange is justified, note that

$$\int_{\mathbb{R}^n} \int_0^\infty \left| G_t(x) e^{-\pi t^2} t^{2\varepsilon - 1} e^{-2\pi i x \cdot \xi} \right| dt dx = \int_{\mathbb{R}^n} \int_0^\infty \left| G_t(x) e^{-\pi t^2} t^{2\varepsilon - 1} \right| dt dx,$$

since $|e^{2\pi ix\cdot\xi}|=1$. The integrand appearing is precisely what we showed was measurable when computed $||f||_1$ above, so Tonelli applies.

Thus $F(\xi)$ is the Fourier transform of the function $g(x) := f(x)/\|f\|_1$.