

Exercise: Verify the relation

$$\sum_{n=-\infty}^{+\infty} \delta(x - 2\pi n) = \frac{1}{2\pi} \sum_{\ell=-\infty}^{+\infty} e^{i\ell x}. \quad (1)$$

Solution:

The left-hand side is a 2π -periodic function which can be expressed in terms of a Fourier series

$$f(x) = \sum_{\ell=-\infty}^{+\infty} c_{\ell} e^{i\ell x} \quad (2)$$

with coefficients

$$c_{\ell} = \frac{1}{2\pi} \int_{-\pi}^{\pi} dx f(x) e^{-i\ell x}. \quad (3)$$

In our specific case, we have

$$f(x) = \sum_{n=-\infty}^{+\infty} \delta(x - 2\pi n) \quad (4)$$

and obtain for the Fourier coefficients

$$\begin{aligned} c_{\ell} &= \frac{1}{2\pi} \sum_{n=-\infty}^{+\infty} \int_{-\pi}^{\pi} dx \delta(x - 2\pi n) e^{-i\ell x} \\ &= \frac{1}{2\pi} \int_{-\pi}^{\pi} dx \delta(x) e^{-i\ell x} \\ &= \frac{1}{2\pi}. \end{aligned} \quad (5)$$

The Fourier series representation of the δ -comb thus follows as

$$\sum_{n=-\infty}^{+\infty} \delta(x - 2\pi n) = \frac{1}{2\pi} \sum_{\ell=-\infty}^{+\infty} e^{i\ell x}. \quad (6)$$