Motivation for wavelets and some simple examples
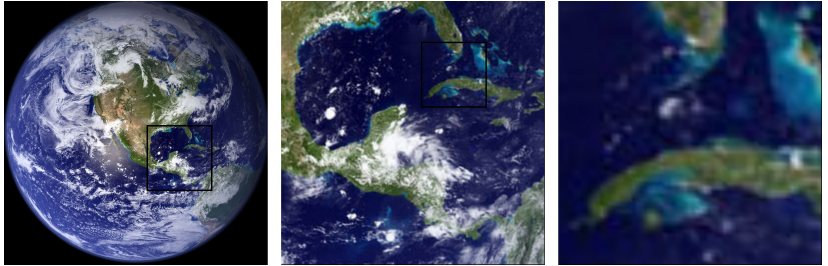
Øyvind Ryan

Jan 13, 2017

Figure: A view of Earth from space, together with versions of the image where we have zoomed in.

Resolution space

Definition ?? (The resolution space V_0): Let N be a natural number. The resolution space V_0 is defined as the space of functions defined on the interval $[0, N)$ that are constant on each subinterval $[n, n+1)$ for $n = 0, \ldots, N-1$.
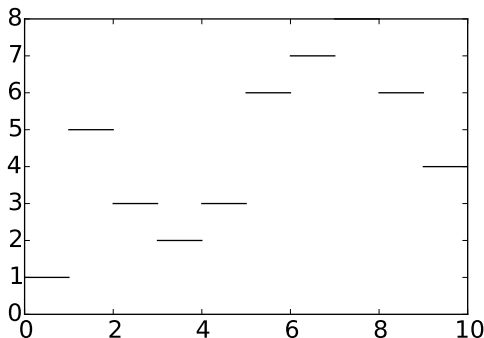

Figure: A piecewise constant function.

Define the function $\phi(t)$ by

$$\phi(t) = \begin{cases} 1, & \text{if } 0 \leq t < 1; \\ 0, & \text{otherwise}; \end{cases}$$

and set $\phi_n(t) = \phi(t - n)$ for any integer n. The space V_0 has dimension N, and the N functions $\{\phi_n\}_{n=0}^{N-1}$ form an orthonormal basis for V_0 with respect to the standard inner product

$$\langle f, g \rangle = \int_0^N f(t)g(t)\,dt.$$

In particular, any $f \in V_0$ can be represented as

$$f(t) = \sum_{n=0}^{N-1} c_n \phi_n(t)$$

for suitable coefficients $(c_n)_{n=0}^{N-1}$. The function ϕ_n is referred to as the *characteristic* function of the interval $[n, n+1)$.

The space V_m for the interval $[0, N)$ is the space of piecewise linear functions defined on $[0, N)$ that are constant on each subinterval $[n/2^m, (n+1)/2^m)$ for $n = 0, 1, \ldots, 2^m N - 1$.

Let $[0, N)$ be a given interval with N some positive integer. Then the dimension of V_m is $2^m N$. The functions

$$\phi_{m,n}(t) = 2^{m/2}\phi(2^m t - n), \quad \text{for } n = 0, 1, \ldots, 2^m N - 1$$

form an orthonormal basis for V_m, which we will denote by ϕ_m. Any function $f \in V_m$ can thus be represented uniquely as

$$f(t) = \sum_{n=0}^{2^m N - 1} c_{m,n}\phi_{m,n}(t).$$

Let f be a given function that is continuous on the interval $[0, N]$. Given $\epsilon > 0$, there exists an integer $m \geq 0$ and a function $g \in V_m$ such that
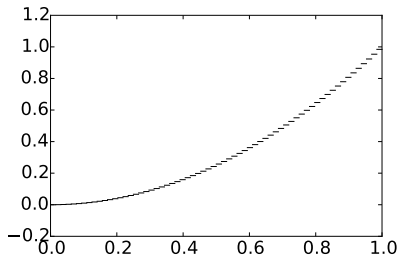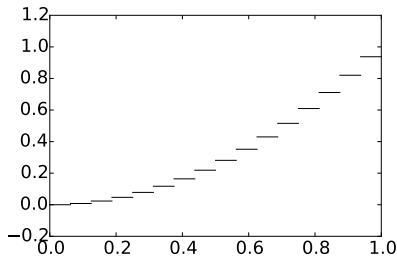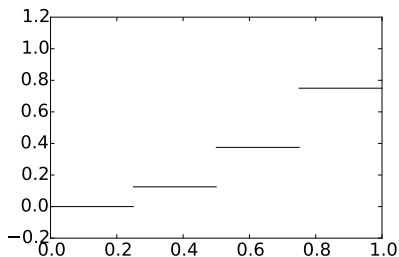
$$\left| f(t) - g(t) \right| \leq \epsilon$$

for all t in $[0, N]$.

Let f be a given continuous function on the interval $[0, N]$. Then

$$\lim_{m \to \infty} \| f - \text{proj}_{V_m}(f) \| = 0.$$
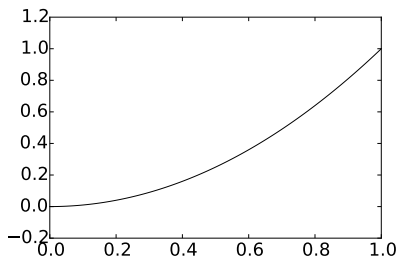
The spaces V_0, V_1, $\ldots$, V_m, $\ldots$ are nested, i.e.

$$V_0 \subset V_1 \subset V_2 \subset \cdots \subset V_m \cdots .$$

The orthogonal complement of V_{m-1} in V_m is denoted W_{m-1}. All the spaces W_k are also called detail spaces, or error spaces.

We define

$$\psi(t) = \big(\phi_{1,0}(t) - \phi_{1,1}(t)\big)/\sqrt{2} = \phi(2t) - \phi(2t-1),$$

and

$$\psi_{m,n}(t) = 2^{m/2}\psi(2^m t - n), \quad \text{for } n = 0, 1, \ldots, 2^m N - 1.$$

For $0 \leq n < N$ we have that

$$
\text{proj}_{V_0}(\phi_{1,n}) = \begin{cases} \phi_{0,n/2}/\sqrt{2}, & \text{if } n \text{ is even;} \\ \phi_{0,(n-1)/2}/\sqrt{2}, & \text{if } n \text{ is odd.} \end{cases}
$$

$$
\text{proj}_{W_0}(\phi_{1,n}) = \begin{cases} \psi_{0,n/2}/\sqrt{2}, & \text{if } n \text{ is even;} \\ -\psi_{0,(n-1)/2}/\sqrt{2}, & \text{if } n \text{ is odd.} \end{cases}
$$

In particular, ψ_0 is an orthonormal basis for W_0. More generally, if $g_1 = \sum_{n=0}^{2N-1} c_{1,n}\phi_{1,n} \in V_1$, then

$$
\text{proj}_{V_0}(g_1) = \sum_{n=0}^{N-1} c_{0,n}\phi_{0,n}, \text{ where } c_{0,n} = \frac{c_{1,2n} + c_{1,2n+1}}{\sqrt{2}}
$$

$$
\text{proj}_{W_0}(g_1) = \sum_{n=0}^{N-1} w_{0,n}\psi_{0,n}, \text{ where } w_{0,n} = \frac{c_{1,2n} - c_{1,2n+1}}{\sqrt{2}}.
$$

Let $f(t) \in V_1$, and let $f_{n,1}$ be the value f attains on $[n, n + 1/2)$, and $f_{n,2}$ the value f attains on $[n + 1/2, n + 1)$. Then $\text{proj}_{V_0}(f)$ is the function in V_0 which equals $(f_{n,1} + f_{n,2})/2$ on the interval $[n, n + 1)$. Moreover, $\text{proj}_{W_0}(f)$ is the function in W_0 which is $(f_{n,1} - f_{n,2})/2$ on $[n, n + 1/2)$, and $-(f_{n,1} - f_{n,2})/2$ on $[n + 1/2, n + 1)$.

In the same way as in Lemma **??**, it is possible to show that

$$\mathrm{proj}_{W_{m-1}}(\phi_{m,n}) = \begin{cases} \psi_{m-1,n/2}/\sqrt{2}, & \text{if } n \text{ is even;} \\ -\psi_{m-1,(n-1)/2}/\sqrt{2}, & \text{if } n \text{ is odd.} \end{cases}$$

From this it follows as before that ψ_m is an orthonormal basis for W_m. If $\{\mathcal{B}_i\}_{i=1}^n$ are mutually independent bases, we will in the following write $(\mathcal{B}_1, \mathcal{B}_2, \ldots, \mathcal{B}_n)$ for the basis where the basis vectors from $\mathcal{B}_i$ are included before $\mathcal{B}_j$ when $i < j$. With this notation, the decomposition in Equation (**??**) can be restated as follows

Theorem ?? (Bases for V_m): ϕ_m and $(\phi_0, \psi_0, \psi_1, \cdots, \psi_{m-1})$ are both bases for V_m.

We have that $\int_0^N \psi(t)dt = 0$.

The DWT (Discrete Wavelet Transform) is defined as the change of coordinates from ϕ_1 to (ϕ_0, ψ_0). More generally, the m-level DWT is defined as the change of coordinates from ϕ_m to $(\phi_0, \psi_0, \psi_1, \cdots, \psi_{m-1})$. In an m-level DWT, the change of coordinates from

$$(\phi_{m-k+1}, \psi_{m-k+1}, \psi_{m-k+2}, \cdots, \psi_{m-1})$$

to

$$(\phi_{m-k}, \psi_{m-k}, \psi_{m-k+1}, \cdots, \psi_{m-1})$$

is also called the k'th stage. The (m-level) IDWT (Inverse Discrete Wavelet Transform) is defined as the change of coordinates the opposite way.

If $g_m = g_{m-1} + e_{m-1}$ with

$$g_m = \sum_{n=0}^{2^m N-1} c_{m,n} \phi_{m,n} \in V_m,$$

$$g_{m-1} = \sum_{n=0}^{2^{m-1} N-1} c_{m-1,n} \phi_{m-1,n} \in V_{m-1}$$

$$e_{m-1} = \sum_{n=0}^{2^{m-1} N-1} w_{m-1,n} \psi_{m-1,n} \in W_{m-1},$$

then the change of coordinates from ϕ_m to (ϕ_{m-1}, ψ_{m-1}) (i.e. first stage in a DWT) is given by

$$\begin{pmatrix} c_{m-1,n} \\ w_{m-1,n} \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} 1/\sqrt{2} & 1/\sqrt{2} \\ 1/\sqrt{2} & -1/\sqrt{2} \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} c_{m,2n} \\ c_{m,2n+1} \end{pmatrix}$$

Conversely, the change of coordinates from (ϕ_{m-1}, ψ_{m-1}) to ϕ_m (i.e. the last stage in an IDWT) is given by

$$\begin{pmatrix} c_{m,2n} \\ c_{m,2n+1} \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} 1/\sqrt{2} & 1/\sqrt{2} \\ 1/\sqrt{2} & -1/\sqrt{2} \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} c_{m-1,n} \\ w_{m-1,n} \end{pmatrix}$$

If we had defined

$$\mathcal{C}_m = \{\phi_{m-1,0}, \psi_{m-1,0}, \phi_{m-1,1}, \psi_{m-1,1}, \cdots,$$
$$\phi_{m-1,2^{m-1}N-1}, \psi_{m-1,2^{m-1}N-1}\}.$$

i.e. we have reordered the basis vectors in (ϕ_{m-1}, ψ_{m-1}) (the subscript m is used since $\mathcal{C}_m$ is a basis for V_m), we have that $G = P_{\phi_m \leftarrow \mathcal{C}_m}$ is the matrix where

$$\begin{pmatrix} \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} & \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} \\ \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} & -\frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} \end{pmatrix}$$

is repeated along the main diagonal $2^{m-1}N$ times. Also, $H = P_{\mathcal{C}_m \leftarrow \phi_m}$ is the same matrix. Such matrices are called *block diagonal matrices*. This particular block diagonal matrix is clearly orthogonal.

The matrices $H = P_{\mathcal{C}_m \leftarrow \phi_m}$ and $G = P_{\phi_m \leftarrow \mathcal{C}_m}$ are called the *DWT and IDWT kernel transformations*. The DWT and the IDWT can be expressed in terms of these kernel transformations by

$$\text{DWT} = P_{(\phi_{m-1}, \psi_{m-1}) \leftarrow \mathcal{C}_m} H$$
$$\text{IDWT} = G P_{\mathcal{C}_m \leftarrow (\phi_{m-1}, \psi_{m-1})},$$

respectively, where

- $P_{(\phi_{m-1}, \psi_{m-1}) \leftarrow \mathcal{C}_m}$ is a permutation matrix which groups the even elements first, then the odd elements,
- $P_{\mathcal{C}_m \leftarrow (\phi_{m-1}, \psi_{m-1})}$ is a permutation matrix which places the first half at the even indices, the last half at the odd indices.
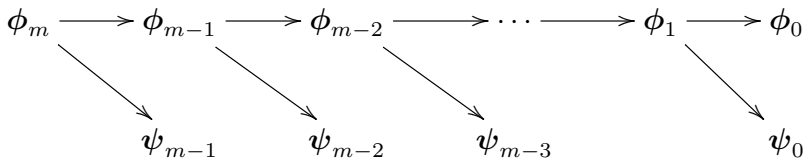
Figure: Illustration of a wavelet transform.

We will use a DWT kernel function which takes as input the coordinates $(c_{m,0}, c_{m,1}, \ldots)$, and returns the coordinates $(c_{m-1,0}, w_{m-1,0}, c_{m-1,1}, w_{m-1,1}, \ldots)$, i.e. computes one stage of the DWT. This is a different order for the coordinates than that given by the basis (ϕ_m, ψ_m). The reason is that it is easier with this new order to compute the DWT in-place. We assume for simplicity that N is even:

```
function x = DWTKernelHaar(x, symm, dual)
    x = x/sqrt(2);
    N = size(x, 1);
    for k = 1:2:(N-1)
        x(k:(k+1), :) = [x(k, :) + x(k+1, :); x(k, :) - x(k+1,
    end
```

```python
def DWTKernelHaar(x, symm, dual):
    x /= sqrt(2)
    for k in range(2,len(x) - 1,2):
        a, b = x[k] + x[k+1], x[k] - x[k+1]
        x[k], x[k+1] = a, b
```

- The code above accepts two-dimensional data. Thus, the function may be applied simultaneously to all channels in a sound, as the FFT.
- The mysterious parameters `symm` and `dual` will be explained later in Chapter **??**.
- When N is even, `IDWTKernelHaar` can be implemented with the exact same code.
- The reason for using a general kernel function will be apparent later, when we change to different types of wavelets.
- The coordinates from ϕ_m end up at indices $k2^m$, where m represents the current stage, and k runs through the indices.

The code above does not give the coordinates in the same order as (ϕ_m, ψ_m). We thus need to organize the DWT coefficients in the right order, in addition to calling the kernel function for each stage, and applying the kernel to the right coordinates.

Te following function takes as input the number of levels, `nres`, as well as the input vector $\boldsymbol{x}$.

```python
def DWTImpl(x, nres, f, symm=True, dual=False):
    for res in range(nres):
        f(x[0::2**res], symm, dual)
    reorganize_coefficients(x, nres, True)
```

```
def IDWTImpl(x, nres, f, symm=True, dual=False):
    reorganize_coefficients(x, nres, False)
    for res in range(nres - 1, -1, -1):
        f(x[0::2**res], symm, dual)
```
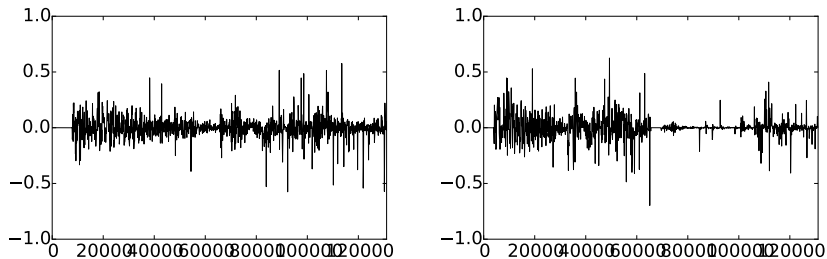
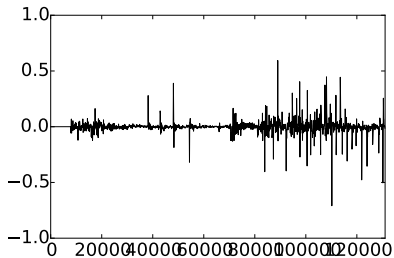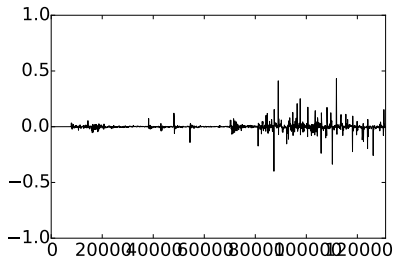Figure: The 2^{17} first sound samples (left) and the DWT coefficients (right) of the sound `castanets.wav`.

Figure: The error (i.e. the contribution from $W_0 \oplus W_1 \oplus \cdots \oplus W_{m-1}$) in the sound file `castanets.wav`, for $m = 1$ and $m = 2$, respectively.
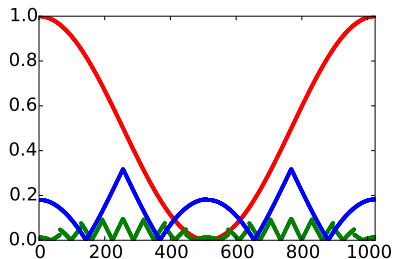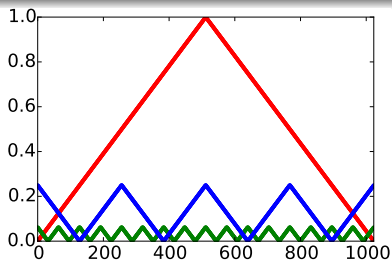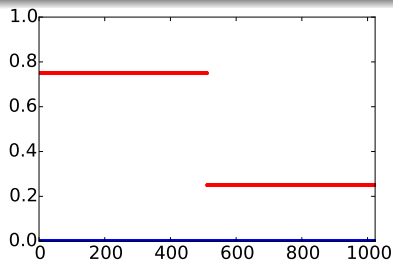
Example ??

Figure: The error (i.e. the contribution from $W_0 \oplus W_1 \oplus \cdots \oplus W_{m-1}$) for $N = 1024$ when f is a square wave, the linear function $f(t) = 1 - 2|1/2 - t/N|$, and $f(t) = 1/2 + \cos(2\pi t/N)/2$, respectively.