

When thinking about HRRs, this vector \vec{U} contains Fourier coefficients. The IDFT is then

$$\vec{u} = \text{IDFT}(\vec{U})$$

$$\begin{aligned} \Rightarrow \hat{u}_n &= \frac{1}{N} \sum_{k=0}^{N-1} U_k e^{\frac{2\pi i n k}{N}}, \quad n=0, \dots, N-1. \\ &= \frac{1}{N} \sum_{k=0}^{N-1} \underbrace{U_k}_{e^{i u_k}} e^{\frac{2\pi i n k}{N}} \\ &= \frac{1}{N} \sum_{k=0}^{N-1} e^{i \left(\frac{2\pi n k}{N} + u_k \right)} \end{aligned}$$

I will refer to the domain of \hat{u} as the "pseudo-spatial domain", where n is the pseudo-spatial variable. This is the representation most often used in Nengo.

If we like, we can insist that \vec{u} be chosen so that $u_k = \bar{u}_{N-k}$, $k=0, \dots, N-1$ (conjugate-symmetry). Then $\hat{u} = \text{IDFT}(\vec{U})$ will be real-valued, $\hat{u} \in \mathbb{R}^N$.

We can encode x by raising \vec{U} to the exponent x . This gives us

$$\begin{aligned} \vec{U}^x &= \left(e^{i \vec{u}} \right)^x = e^{i \vec{u} x} \\ &= \left[e^{i u_0 x}, e^{i u_1 x}, \dots, e^{i u_{N-1} x} \right]^T \end{aligned}$$

The notation $\phi(x)$ is often used to represent the pseudo-spatial version

$$\phi(x) = \text{IDFT}(\vec{U}^x)$$

For this, it is assumed that \vec{U} represents half of the Fourier coeffs, and the IDFT is done on a conjugate-symmetric expansion, to yield real-valued $\phi(x)$.