

Computational Physics – Lecture 15

(8 April 2020)

Recap

In the previous lecture, we defined the Fourier Transform, the Fourier Series, and the Discrete Fourier Transform.

Fourier Transform

Function \longleftrightarrow Function

$$\tilde{f}(k) = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2\pi}} \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} dx \cdot f(x) \cdot \exp(-ikx) \quad (1)$$

$$f(x) = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2\pi}} \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} dk \cdot \tilde{f}(k) \cdot \exp(ikx) \quad (2)$$

Fourier Series

Periodic Function \longleftrightarrow Numbers

$$\gamma_k = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2\pi}} \int_0^{2\pi} dx \cdot f(x) \cdot \exp(-ikx) \quad (3)$$

$$f(x) = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2\pi}} \sum_{k=-\infty}^{\infty} \gamma_k \cdot \exp(ikx) \quad (4)$$

where $f(x + 2\pi) = f(x)$ and $k = \dots, -3, -2, -1, 0, 1, 2, 3, \dots$

Discrete Fourier Transform

Numbers \longleftrightarrow Numbers

$$\tilde{f}(k_q) = \frac{1}{\sqrt{n}} \sum_{p=0}^{n-1} f(x_p) \cdot \exp(-ik_q x_p) \quad (5)$$

$$f(x_p) = \frac{1}{\sqrt{n}} \sum_{q=0}^{n-1} \tilde{f}(k_q) \cdot \exp(ik_q x_p) \quad (6)$$

where $x_p = p\Delta$ for $p = 0, 1, \dots, n-1$ and

$k_q = 2\pi q/n\Delta$ for $q = 0, 1, \dots, n-1$

Today's plan

In today's class, we want to go deeper into the Discrete Fourier Transform.

n th roots of unity

We know that there n complex n th roots of unity, given by

$$\exp\left(\frac{i \cdot 2\pi \cdot k}{n}\right) \tag{7}$$

for $k = 0, \dots, n - 1$.

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for $k = 0, \dots, n - 1$.

Notice that

$$\left[\exp\left(\frac{i \cdot 2\pi \cdot k}{n}\right)\right]^n \quad (8)$$

$$= \exp(i \cdot 2\pi \cdot k) \quad (9)$$

$$= \cos(2\pi \cdot k) + i \cdot \sin(2\pi \cdot k) \quad (10)$$

$$= 1 + i \cdot 0 \quad (11)$$

$$= 1 \quad (12)$$

n th roots of unity

For example, the four fourth roots of unity are given by

$$\exp\left(\frac{i \cdot 2\pi \cdot 0}{4}\right) = 1 \quad (13)$$

$$\exp\left(\frac{i \cdot 2\pi \cdot 1}{4}\right) = e^{i\pi/2} \quad (14)$$

$$\exp\left(\frac{i \cdot 2\pi \cdot 2}{4}\right) = e^{i\pi} \quad (15)$$

$$\exp\left(\frac{i \cdot 2\pi \cdot 3}{4}\right) = e^{i3\pi/2} \quad (16)$$

A basis for \mathbb{C}^n

Remarkably, the n n th roots of unity can be used to create a basis for the finite-dimensional complex linear vector space \mathbb{C}^n .

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(We are assuming the inner product

$$\langle \mathbf{a}, \mathbf{b} \rangle = \mathbf{a} \cdot \mathbf{b}^* \quad (17)$$

where $\mathbf{a}, \mathbf{b} \in \mathbb{C}^n$ and \mathbf{b}^* is the complex conjugate of \mathbf{b} .)

A basis for \mathbb{C}^n

For $n = 4$, for instance, the four vectors

$$\begin{bmatrix} \exp\left(\frac{i \cdot 2\pi \cdot 0}{4} \cdot 0\right) \\ \exp\left(\frac{i \cdot 2\pi \cdot 0}{4} \cdot 1\right) \\ \exp\left(\frac{i \cdot 2\pi \cdot 0}{4} \cdot 2\right) \\ \exp\left(\frac{i \cdot 2\pi \cdot 0}{4} \cdot 3\right) \end{bmatrix}, \begin{bmatrix} \exp\left(\frac{i \cdot 2\pi \cdot 1}{4} \cdot 0\right) \\ \exp\left(\frac{i \cdot 2\pi \cdot 1}{4} \cdot 1\right) \\ \exp\left(\frac{i \cdot 2\pi \cdot 1}{4} \cdot 2\right) \\ \exp\left(\frac{i \cdot 2\pi \cdot 1}{4} \cdot 3\right) \end{bmatrix}, \\ \begin{bmatrix} \exp\left(\frac{i \cdot 2\pi \cdot 2}{4} \cdot 0\right) \\ \exp\left(\frac{i \cdot 2\pi \cdot 2}{4} \cdot 1\right) \\ \exp\left(\frac{i \cdot 2\pi \cdot 2}{4} \cdot 2\right) \\ \exp\left(\frac{i \cdot 2\pi \cdot 2}{4} \cdot 3\right) \end{bmatrix}, \begin{bmatrix} \exp\left(\frac{i \cdot 2\pi \cdot 3}{4} \cdot 0\right) \\ \exp\left(\frac{i \cdot 2\pi \cdot 3}{4} \cdot 1\right) \\ \exp\left(\frac{i \cdot 2\pi \cdot 3}{4} \cdot 2\right) \\ \exp\left(\frac{i \cdot 2\pi \cdot 3}{4} \cdot 3\right) \end{bmatrix} \quad (18)$$

form a basis for \mathbb{C}^4 .

A basis for \mathbb{C}^n

Or in other words, the four vectors,

$$\begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 1 \\ 1 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix}, \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ e^{i\pi/2} \\ e^{i\pi} \\ e^{i3\pi/2} \end{bmatrix}, \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ e^{i\pi} \\ 1 \\ e^{i\pi} \end{bmatrix}, \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ e^{i3\pi/2} \\ e^{i\pi} \\ e^{i\pi/2} \end{bmatrix} \quad (19)$$

form a basis for \mathbb{C}^4 .

A basis for \mathbb{C}^n

In general, the n n -dimensional vectors

$$\mathbf{v}_k = \left[\exp \left(\frac{i \cdot 2\pi \cdot k}{n} \cdot m \right) \mid m = 0, 1, \dots, n-1 \right]^T \quad (20)$$

for $k = 0, 1, \dots, n-1$ form a basis for \mathbb{C}^n .

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(Here the index k labels the vectors and the index m labels the vector components.)

A basis for \mathbb{C}^n

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Now we show that these vectors are orthogonal.

A basis for \mathbb{C}^n

If $k_1 = k_2$

$$\langle \mathbf{v}_{k_1}, \mathbf{v}_{k_2} \rangle \quad (21)$$

$$= \mathbf{v}_{k_1} \cdot \mathbf{v}_{k_2}^* \quad (22)$$

$$= \sum_{m=0}^{n-1} v_{k_1,m} \cdot v_{k_2,m}^* \quad (23)$$

$$= \sum_{m=0}^{n-1} \exp\left(\frac{i \cdot 2\pi \cdot k_1}{n} \cdot m\right) \cdot \exp\left(\frac{-i \cdot 2\pi \cdot k_2}{n} \cdot m\right) \quad (24)$$

$$= \sum_{m=0}^{n-1} 1 \quad (\text{for } k_1 = k_2) \quad (25)$$

$$= n > 0. \quad (26)$$

A basis for \mathbb{C}^n

And if $k_1 \neq k_2$

$$\langle \mathbf{v}_{k_1}, \mathbf{v}_{k_2} \rangle \quad (27)$$

$$= \mathbf{v}_{k_1} \cdot \mathbf{v}_{k_2}^* \quad (28)$$

$$= \sum_{m=0}^{n-1} v_{k_1,m} \cdot v_{k_2,m}^* \quad (29)$$

$$= \sum_{m=0}^{n-1} \left[\exp \left(\frac{i \cdot 2\pi \cdot (k_1 - k_2)}{n} \right) \right]^m \quad (30)$$

$$= \frac{1 - \left[\exp \left(\frac{i \cdot 2\pi \cdot (k_1 - k_2)}{n} \right) \right]^n}{1 - \left[\exp \left(\frac{i \cdot 2\pi \cdot (k_1 - k_2)}{n} \right) \right]} \quad (31)$$

$$= \frac{1 - 1}{1 - \left[\exp \left(\frac{i \cdot 2\pi \cdot (k_1 - k_2)}{n} \right) \right]} = 0. \quad (32)$$

A basis for \mathbb{C}^n

So we have shown that

$$\langle \mathbf{v}_{k_1}, \mathbf{v}_{k_2} \rangle = n\delta_{k_1, k_2}. \quad (33)$$

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The \mathbf{v}_k are orthogonal and are indeed a basis for \mathbb{C}^n .

That means, any vector $\mathbf{w} \in \mathbb{C}^n$ can now be expanded in this basis to get the components of \mathbf{w} as

$$\tilde{w}_q = \langle \mathbf{w}, \mathbf{v}_q \rangle \quad (34)$$

$$= \mathbf{w} \cdot \mathbf{v}_q^* \quad (35)$$

$$= \sum_{p=0}^{n-1} w_p \cdot v_{q,p}^* \quad (36)$$

$$= \sum_{p=0}^{n-1} w_p \cdot \exp\left(\frac{-i \cdot 2\pi \cdot q}{n} \cdot p\right) \quad (37)$$

Discrete Fourier Transform

So we have

$$\tilde{w}_q = \sum_{p=0}^{n-1} w_p \cdot \exp\left(\frac{-i \cdot 2\pi \cdot q}{n} \cdot p\right), \quad (38)$$

where the w_p are a representation of the vector $\mathbf{w} \in \mathbb{C}^n$ in the standard basis and the \tilde{w}_q are a representation of the same vector in our new basis.

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This is the Discrete Fourier Transform.

We have transformed n numbers w_p into n other numbers \tilde{w}_q .

Inverse Discrete Fourier Transform

We can also go from the new basis to the old basis.

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The n basis vectors of the standard basis of \mathbb{C}^n are simply

$$\mathbf{u}_x = \left[\delta_{x,m} \mid m = 0, 1, \dots, n-1 \right]^T \quad (39)$$

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for $x = 0, 1, \dots, n-1$.

For example, for $n = 4$, the Standard Basis of \mathbb{C}^4 is

$$\begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 0 \\ 0 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix}, \begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ 1 \\ 0 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix}, \begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ 0 \\ 1 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix}, \begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ 0 \\ 0 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix} \quad (40)$$

Inverse Discrete Fourier Transform

Now any vector $\mathbf{w} \in \mathbb{C}^n$ can be expanded in the standard basis to get the components of \mathbf{w} as

$$w_p = \langle \mathbf{w}, \mathbf{u}_p \rangle \quad (41)$$

$$= \mathbf{w} \cdot \mathbf{u}_p^* \quad (42)$$

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So while calculating these inner products we must use the new-basis representation of the standard basis vectors \mathbf{u}_p .

What is the new-basis representation of the standard basis vectors?

Inverse Discrete Fourier Transform

The new-basis representation of the standard basis vectors is just their Discrete Fourier Transform, that is

$$\tilde{u}_{p,a} = \sum_{b=0}^{n-1} u_{p,b} \cdot \exp\left(\frac{-i \cdot 2\pi \cdot a}{n} \cdot b\right) \quad (43)$$

$$= \sum_{b=0}^{n-1} \delta_{p,b} \cdot \exp\left(\frac{-i \cdot 2\pi \cdot a}{n} \cdot b\right) \quad (44)$$

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We can now use this representation of the standard basis vectors to calculate the w_p 's.

Inverse Discrete Fourier Transform

We have

$$w_p = \langle \mathbf{w}, \mathbf{u}_p \rangle \quad (46)$$

$$= \mathbf{w} \cdot \mathbf{u}_p^* \quad (47)$$

$$= \sum_{q=0}^{n-1} \tilde{w}_q \cdot \tilde{u}_{p,q}^* \quad (48)$$

$$= \sum_{q=0}^{n-1} \tilde{w}_q \cdot \exp \left(\frac{i \cdot 2\pi \cdot q}{n} \cdot p \right) \quad (49)$$

Inverse Discrete Fourier Transform

So we have

$$w_p = \sum_{q=0}^{n-1} \tilde{w}_q \cdot \exp\left(\frac{i \cdot 2\pi \cdot q}{n} \cdot p\right) \quad (50)$$

where the \tilde{w}_q are a representation of the vector $\mathbf{w} \in \mathbb{C}^n$ in our new basis and the w_p are a representation of the same vector in the standard basis.

Inverse Discrete Fourier Transform

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This is the Inverse Discrete Fourier Transform.

We have transformed n numbers \tilde{w}_p into n other numbers w_q .

Discrete Fourier Transform

So the Discrete Fourier Transform is given by

$$\tilde{w}_q = \sum_{p=0}^{n-1} w_p \cdot \exp\left(\frac{-i \cdot 2\pi \cdot q}{n} \cdot p\right), \quad (51)$$

and its inverse is given by

$$w_p = \sum_{q=0}^{n-1} \tilde{w}_q \cdot \exp\left(\frac{i \cdot 2\pi \cdot q}{n} \cdot p\right). \quad (52)$$

Discrete Fourier Transform

Now we would expect that if we calculated the DFT of n numbers and then calculated the inverse DFT we would recover the n numbers.

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Let us check this:

$$\sum_{q=0}^{n-1} \tilde{w}_q \exp\left(\frac{i2\pi qp}{n}\right) \quad (53)$$

$$= \sum_{q=0}^{n-1} \left[\sum_{r=0}^{n-1} w_r \exp\left(\frac{-i2\pi qr}{n}\right) \right] \exp\left(\frac{i2\pi qp}{n}\right) \quad (54)$$

$$= \sum_{q=0}^{n-1} \sum_{r=0}^{n-1} w_r \exp\left(\frac{i2\pi q(p-r)}{n}\right) \quad (55)$$

$$= \sum_{r=0}^{n-1} w_r \cdot n \cdot \delta_{r,p} = n \cdot w_p \neq w_p. \quad (56)$$

Discrete Fourier Transform

So our DFT does not preserve norm. It is not normalised.

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We can make it normalised and unitary by doing

$$\tilde{w}_q = \frac{1}{\sqrt{n}} \sum_{p=0}^{n-1} w_p \cdot \exp\left(\frac{-i \cdot 2\pi \cdot q}{n} \cdot p\right), \quad (57)$$

and the inverse is

$$w_p = \frac{1}{\sqrt{n}} \sum_{q=0}^{n-1} \tilde{w}_q \cdot \exp\left(\frac{i \cdot 2\pi \cdot q}{n} \cdot p\right). \quad (58)$$

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Now we can freely go back and forth between the Fourier-space representation and the configuration-space representation.

DFT using Numpy

In Numpy, the `numpy.fft` module contains various functions for Fourier analysis.

DFT using Numpy

In Numpy, the `numpy.fft` module contains various functions for Fourier analysis.

The function `numpy.fft.fft` computes the DFT and the function `numpy.fft.ifft` computes the inverse DFT.

DFT using Numpy

Numpy's DFT is not unitary, so that

$$\tilde{w}_q = \sum_{p=0}^{n-1} w_p \cdot \exp\left(\frac{-i2\pi qp}{n}\right), \quad (59)$$

and

$$w_p = \frac{1}{n} \sum_{q=0}^{n-1} \tilde{w}_q \cdot \exp\left(\frac{i2\pi qp}{n}\right). \quad (60)$$

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$$w_p = \frac{1}{n} \sum_{q=0}^{n-1} \tilde{w}_q \cdot \exp\left(\frac{i2\pi qp}{n}\right). \quad (60)$$

For example:

```
>>> import numpy as np
>>> w_p = (1,0,0,0)
>>> tw_q = np.fft.fft(w_p)
>>> tw_q
array([1.+0.j, 1.+0.j, 1.+0.j, 1.+0.j])
>>> np.fft.ifft(tw_q)
array([1.+0.j, 0.+0.j, 0.+0.j, 0.+0.j])
```


DFT using FFTW

FFTW is a famous C library written by Matteo Frigo (MIT) and Steven Johnson (MIT).

DFT using FFTW

FFTW is a famous C library written by Matteo Frigo (MIT) and Steven Johnson (MIT).

FFTW's DFT is not even normalised, so that

$$\tilde{w}_q = \sum_{p=0}^{n-1} w_p \cdot \exp\left(\frac{-i2\pi qp}{n}\right), \quad (61)$$

and

$$w_p = \sum_{q=0}^{n-1} \tilde{w}_q \cdot \exp\left(\frac{i2\pi qp}{n}\right). \quad (62)$$

DFT using FFTW

```
#include <stdio.h>
#include <stdlib.h>
#include <fftw3.h>

void main () {

    fftw_complex w_p[4], tw_q[4];
    fftw_plan p;

    w_p[0][0] = 1.0; w_p[0][1] = 0.0;
    w_p[1][0] = 0.0; w_p[1][1] = 0.0;
    w_p[2][0] = 0.0; w_p[2][1] = 0.0;
    w_p[3][0] = 0.0; w_p[3][1] = 0.0;

    int n = 4;
    p = fftw_plan_dft_1d(n, w_p, tw_q,
        FFTW_FORWARD, FFTW_ESTIMATE);
```

DFT using FFTW

```
fftw_execute(p);

int i;
for(i=0; i<4; i++) {
    printf("%f  %f\n", tw_q[i][0], tw_q[i][1]);
}
printf("\n");

p = fftw_plan_dft_1d(n, tw_q, w_p,
    FFTW_BACKWARD, FFTW_ESTIMATE);

fftw_execute(p);
```

DFT using FFTW

```
for(i=0; i<4; i++) {  
    printf("%f  %f\n", w_p[i][0], w_p[i][1]);  
}
```

```
fftw_destroy_plan(p);
```

```
}
```

DFT using FFTW

This code, when compiled as

```
$ gcc -o demo demo.c -lfftw3
```

and run, produces

```
$ ./demo
1.000000  0.000000
1.000000  0.000000
1.000000  0.000000
1.000000  0.000000

4.000000  0.000000
0.000000  0.000000
0.000000  0.000000
0.000000  0.000000
```

(Notice the unnormalised output.)

Activity

Compute the DFT of $[0, 1, 0, 0]^T$ first manually and then using `numpy.fft.fft`. Then compute the inverse DFT of the result using `numpy.fft.ifft`.

Discrete Fourier Transform

We can also change our notation to think of the w 's and \tilde{w} 's as functions of p and q (respectively).

Discrete Fourier Transform

We can also change our notation to think of the w 's and \tilde{w} 's as functions of p and q (respectively).

So we can write

$$\tilde{f}(q) = \frac{1}{\sqrt{n}} \sum_{p=0}^{n-1} f(p) \cdot \exp\left(\frac{-i2\pi qp}{n}\right), \quad (63)$$

and the inverse as

$$f(p) = \frac{1}{\sqrt{n}} \sum_{q=0}^{n-1} \tilde{f}(q) \cdot \exp\left(\frac{i2\pi qp}{n}\right), \quad (64)$$

for $p = 0, 1, \dots, n-1$ and $q = 0, 1, \dots, n-1$.

Discrete Fourier Transform

We can also introduce new variables

$$x_p = p\Delta \text{ for } p = 0, 1, \dots, n-1, \quad (65)$$

and

$$k_q = 2\pi q/n\Delta \text{ for } q = 0, 1, \dots, n-1. \quad (66)$$

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and

$$k_q = 2\pi q/n\Delta \text{ for } q = 0, 1, \dots, n-1. \quad (66)$$

so that

$$\tilde{f}(k_q) = \frac{1}{\sqrt{n}} \sum_{p=0}^{n-1} f(x_p) \cdot \exp(-ik_q x_p), \quad (67)$$

and the inverse as

$$f(x_p) = \frac{1}{\sqrt{n}} \sum_{q=0}^{n-1} \tilde{f}(k_q) \cdot \exp(ik_q x_p), \quad (68)$$

for $p = 0, 1, \dots, n-1$ and $q = 0, 1, \dots, n-1$.