

# 1. Introduction to the Fourier Transform

Review: Complex Numbers

$$i = \sqrt{-1}$$

$$i^2 = -1$$

$$z = \underbrace{a}_{\text{Real}} + \underbrace{bi}_{\text{Imaginary Part}}$$

$$|z| = \sqrt{a^2 + b^2}$$

$$z^* = a - bi \quad \text{"complex conjugate"}$$

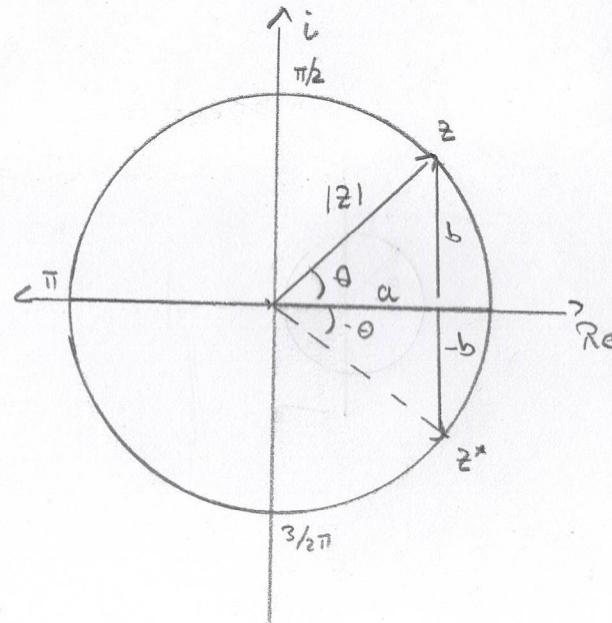
$$a = \cos(\theta)$$

$$b = \sin(\theta)$$

$$\tan(\theta) = \frac{b}{a}$$

$$\Rightarrow \theta = \arctan\left(\frac{b}{a}\right)$$

$\uparrow$   
 $\tan^{-1}$



## Euler's Identity

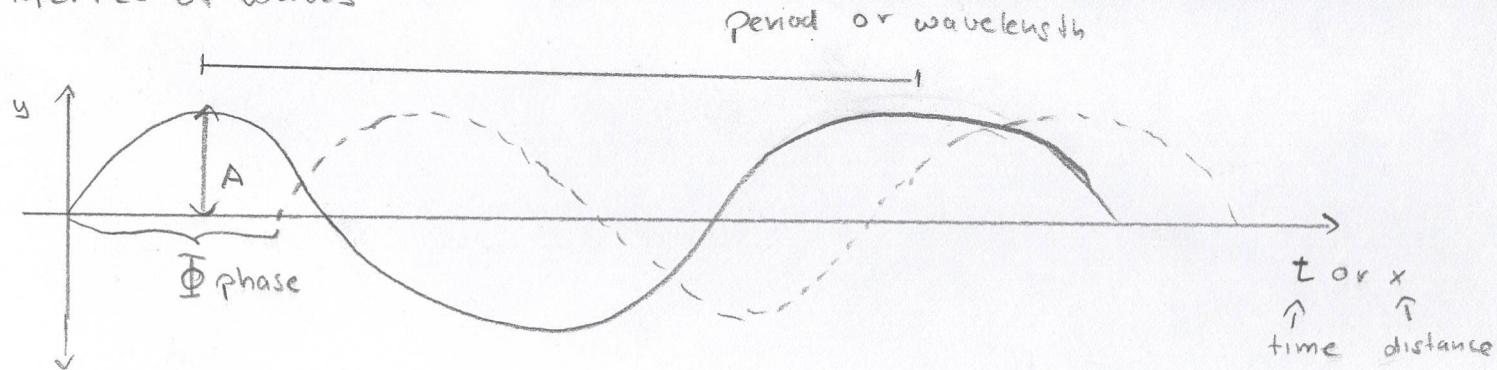
$$\exp(i\theta) = \cos(\theta) + i\sin(\theta)$$

$$\exp(i\pi) = \underbrace{\cos(\pi)}_{-1} + i\underbrace{\sin(\pi)}_0 = -1$$

$$z = a + bi = |z| \exp(i\theta)$$

$$z^* = a - bi = |z| \exp(-i\theta)$$

# Properties of waves



A: Amplitude

T: Period [s]

f: Frequency =  $\frac{1}{T}$  [ $\frac{1}{s}$ ] [Hz]

$\lambda$ : Wavelength [m]

v: Wavelength  $\frac{1}{T}$  [ $\frac{1}{m}$ ]

$$y(t) = A \cos(2\pi f t + \phi) \text{ Time domain}$$

$$y(x) = A \cos(2\pi v x + \phi) \text{ Space domain}$$

Sum of angles

$$\cos(a+b) = \cos(a)\cos(b) - \sin(a)\sin(b)$$

$$y(t) = A \cos(2\pi ft + \phi)$$

$$y(t) = A \cos(2\pi ft) \cos(\phi) - A \sin(2\pi ft) \sin(\phi)$$

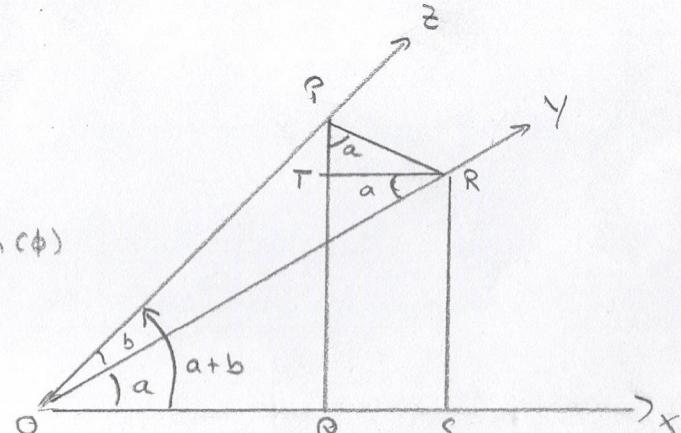
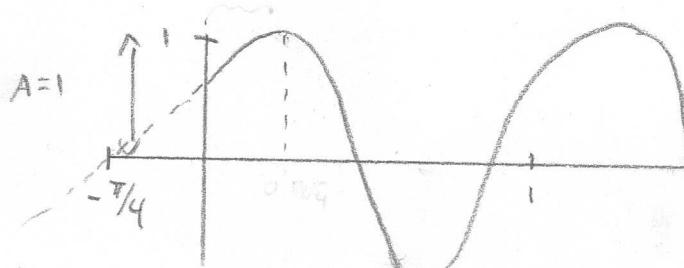
$$y(t) = a_n \cos(x) + b_n \sin(x)$$

$$a_n = A \cos(\phi)$$

$$b_n = -A \sin(\phi)$$

$$x = 2\pi ft$$

$$\phi = -\pi/4$$



$$\cos(a+b) = \frac{OQ}{OP}$$

$$\cos(a+b) = \cos(a)\cos(b) - \sin(a)\sin(b)$$

$$f = 1 s^{-1}$$

$$2 : t [s]$$

$$y_1(t) = \cos(2\pi t - \pi/4)$$

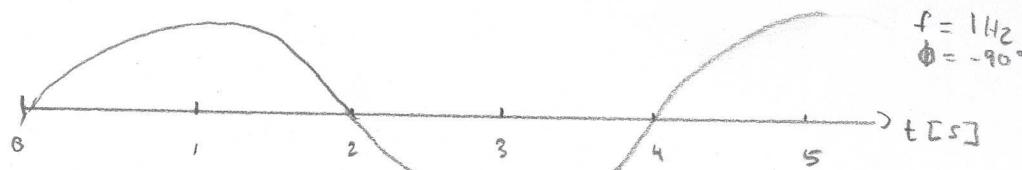
$$y(t) = A \cos(\pi/4) \cos(2\pi t)$$

$$- A \sin(\pi/4) \sin(2\pi ft)$$

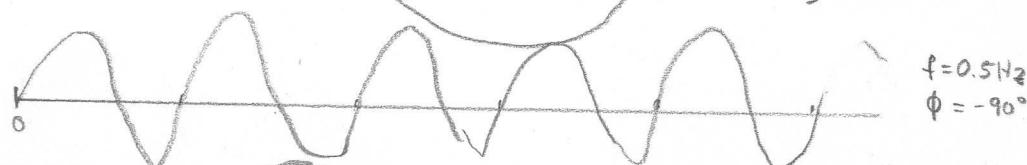
Fourier Series: Expansion of a periodic function into a sum of trigonometric functions

$$y(t) = \text{mean} + \sum_{k=1}^{\infty} A_k \cos(2\pi \frac{k}{N} t + \phi_k)$$

$$y(t) = \frac{1}{2}a_0 + \sum_{k=1}^{\infty} a_k \cos(2\pi \frac{k}{N} t) + b_k \sin(2\pi \frac{k}{N} t)$$



$N$ : Period



$\frac{k}{N}$ : Frequency



$\Sigma$  of waves  $\Rightarrow$  mean zero  
• periodic function

"represent periodic function with period N using Fourier series"

$\frac{1}{N} \left( \frac{1}{5s} \right)$  lowest frequency  
 $\frac{\infty}{2} \left( \frac{\infty}{5s} \right)$  highest frequency

## Fourier Series in the Complex Domain

$$y(t) = \frac{1}{2} a_0 + \sum_{k=1}^{\infty} a_k \cos(kx) + b_k \sin(kx)$$

$$\exp(ix) = \cos(x) + i \sin(x)$$

$$x = 2\pi \frac{k}{N} t$$

$$\exp(ix) = \cos(x) + i \sin(x)$$

$$\exp(-ix) = \cos(x) - i \sin(x)$$

$$\frac{1}{2} (a_k - i b_k) \exp(ix) = \frac{1}{2} a_k \cos(x) + \frac{1}{2} a_k i \sin(x) - \frac{1}{2} i b_k \cos(x) + \frac{1}{2} b_k \sin(x)$$

$$+ \frac{1}{2} (a_k + i b_k) \exp(-ix) = \frac{1}{2} a_k \cos(x) - \frac{1}{2} a_k i \sin(x) + \frac{1}{2} i b_k \cos(x) + \frac{1}{2} b_k \sin(x)$$

$$x_k^* \exp(ix) + x_k \exp(-ix) = a_k \cos(x) + b_k \sin(x)$$

$$x_k = \frac{1}{2} (a_k + i b_k)$$

$$\frac{1}{2} \sqrt{x \cdot x^*} = A \quad (\text{Amplitude})$$

$$x_k^* = \frac{1}{2} (a_k - i b_k)$$

$$\tan^{-1} \left( \frac{b_k}{a_k} \right) = \tan^{-1} \left( \frac{\text{Im}(x_k)}{\text{Re}(x_k)} \right) = \phi \quad (\text{phase angle})$$

$$y(t) = \sum_{-\infty}^{\infty} x_k \exp(-ix)$$

$$\text{note: } \frac{1}{2} \sqrt{x_0 x_0^*} = \frac{1}{2} a_0 = \text{mean}$$

each real frequency (e.g. k=1)  
has two x coefficients

Discrete Fourier Transform: how to find  $x_n$ ?

Fourier Series

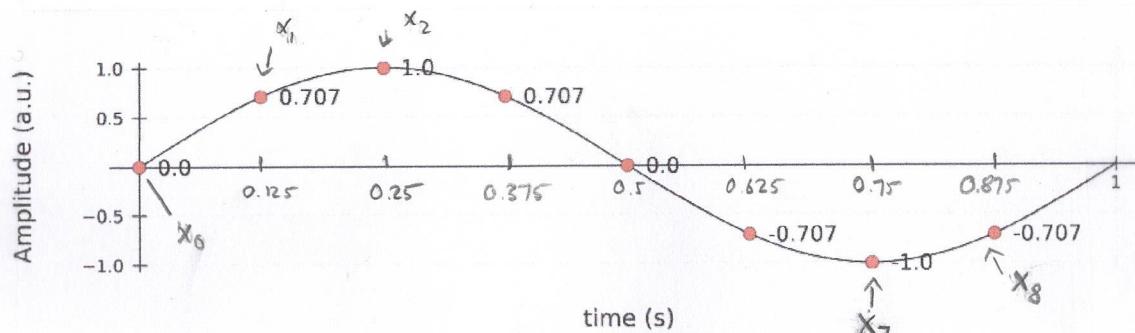
$$y(t) = \sum_{-\infty}^{\infty} x_n \exp(-ix) \quad x = 2\pi \frac{k}{N} t$$

Infinite series representing an  
N-periodic function in the time domain  $\Rightarrow$  infinite  $x_k$

Discrete Fourier Series

$$x_n = \frac{1}{N} \sum_{k=0}^{N-1} x_k \exp(-ix) \quad x = 2\pi \frac{k}{N} n$$

Finite sequence of N equally spaced  
samples of a function  $y(t)$



$$y(t) = \sin(2\pi t)$$

$f = 8 \text{ Hz}$  "sample frequency"

$$\Delta t = \frac{1}{8} = 0.125 \text{ s}$$

$N = 8$  points

$$y_0 = 0$$

:

$$y_2 = 1.0$$

How to find  $X_k$ ?

$$X_k = \sum_{n=0}^{N-1} y_n \exp(-ix) \quad x = 2\pi \frac{k}{N} n$$

$\Rightarrow N$  Fourier coefficients  $X_n$  for  $N$  sample points

$$X_0 = \sum_{n=0}^{N-1} x_n \quad \Rightarrow \text{sample mean} = \frac{1}{N} \sum_{n=0}^{N-1} x_n = \frac{1}{N} X_0$$

$k$	$t$	$f$	$X_k$	$A$
0	0	0 Hz	0	mean
1	0.125	1 Hz	0 - 4i	1
2	0.25	2	0i	0
3	+	3	0i	0
4	-	4	-0i	0
5	-	5	0i	unresolvable
6	-	6	0i	
7	0.875	7	0 + 4i	

$$f_s = \frac{1}{\Delta t} = 8 \text{ Hz}$$

$$f = \frac{k}{N} f_s$$

$$A = \sqrt{\frac{2}{N} X_k X_k^*}$$

$$f_s/2 = N_{Ns}$$

"Nyquist  
frequency"

$$x_1 = x_7$$

How to find  $X_k$ ?

$$X_k = \sum_{n=0}^{N-1} x_n \exp(-i\omega n) \quad \text{each } X_k \text{ requires } N \text{ additions}$$

thus need  $N \times N = N^2$  operations

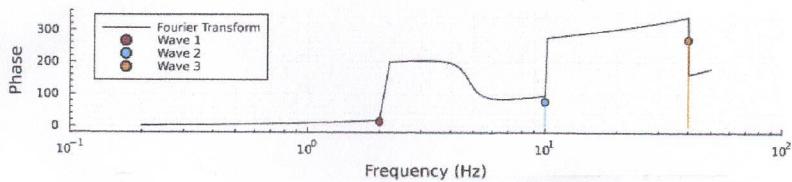
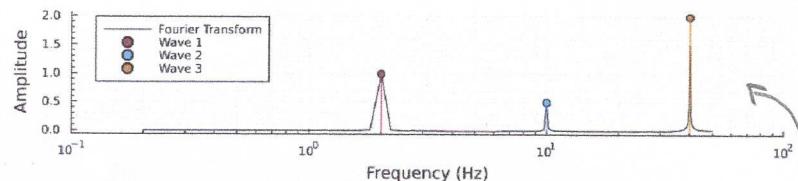
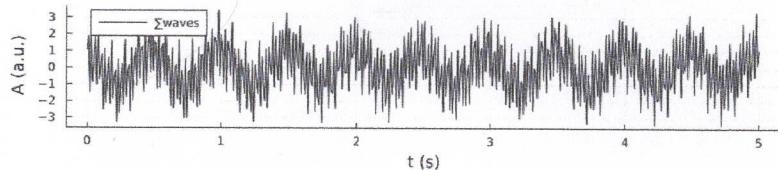
DFT =  $O(N^2)$  => slow if  $N$  is large

FFT: Fast Fourier Transform

- implemented as  $\text{fft}(x)$  in most languages
- requires  $2^N$  data points      16, 32, 64, ...
- $O(N \log N)$

# Example Reconstruction: DFT of 3 waves

$$y(t) = A \cos(2\pi f t + \phi)$$



## Phase spectrum

- $f$  vs.  $\phi$
- typically noisy

Sum of three waves

$$\begin{aligned} A_1 &= 1 & f_1 &= 2 \text{ Hz} & \phi_1 &= 15^\circ \\ A_2 &= 0.5 & f_2 &= 10 \text{ Hz} & \phi_2 &= 77^\circ \\ A_3 &= 2 & f_3 &= 40 \text{ Hz} & \phi_3 &= 270^\circ \end{aligned}$$

$$N = 500 \text{ points}$$

$$\Delta t = 0.01 \text{ s}$$

$$f_s = 100 \text{ Hz}$$

## Amplitude Spectrum

- plot of  $f$  vs.  $A$
- peaks recover  $f_i$
- smeared due to resolution (leakage)
- peaks recover  $A_i$

# Fourier Table for 3 wave example

fft(x)

k f (x) A θ

k	f	(x)	A	θ
1	0.0	1.0784+0.0im	0.00431361	0.0
2	0.2	1.08794+0.0382485im	0.00435444	2.01351
3	0.4	1.11773+0.0785207im	0.00448195	4.01843
4	0.6	1.17173+0.123278im	0.0047128	6.00599
5	0.8	1.25807+0.176076im	0.00508134	7.96716
6	1.0	1.39262+0.242862im	0.00565457	9.89243
7	1.2	1.60812+0.33512im	0.00657065	11.7716
8	1.4	1.98165+0.479166im	0.00815503	13.5933
9	1.6	2.74408+0.753014im	0.0113821	15.345
10	1.8	5.03318+1.53995im	0.021054	17.0121
⋮ more				
251	250	50.0	-6.03357+0.0im	0.0241343 180.0

$$f = k \frac{f_s}{N}$$

$$k=1 \Rightarrow f = \frac{100\text{ Hz}}{500} = 0.2\text{ Hz}$$

lowest resolved frequency

$$f_{Ny} = \frac{f_s}{2} = 50\text{ Hz} \quad (k=250)$$

$$A = \sqrt{\frac{2}{N} X_k X_k^*}$$

$$\phi = \tan^{-1} \left( \frac{\text{Im}(X_k)}{\text{Re}(X_k)} \right)$$

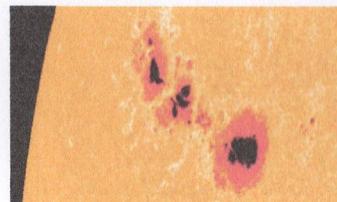
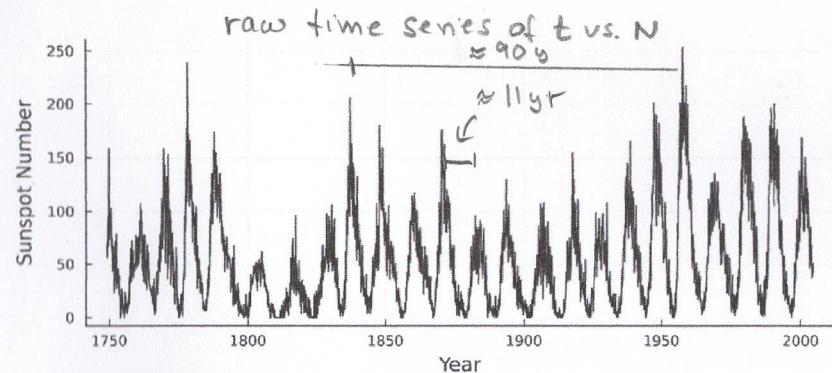
typically in radians

$$\hookrightarrow \theta = \left( \phi \frac{180}{\pi} + 360 \right) \bmod 360$$

↑

modulo is  
the remainder  
of division

## Example application: Sunspot Cycle



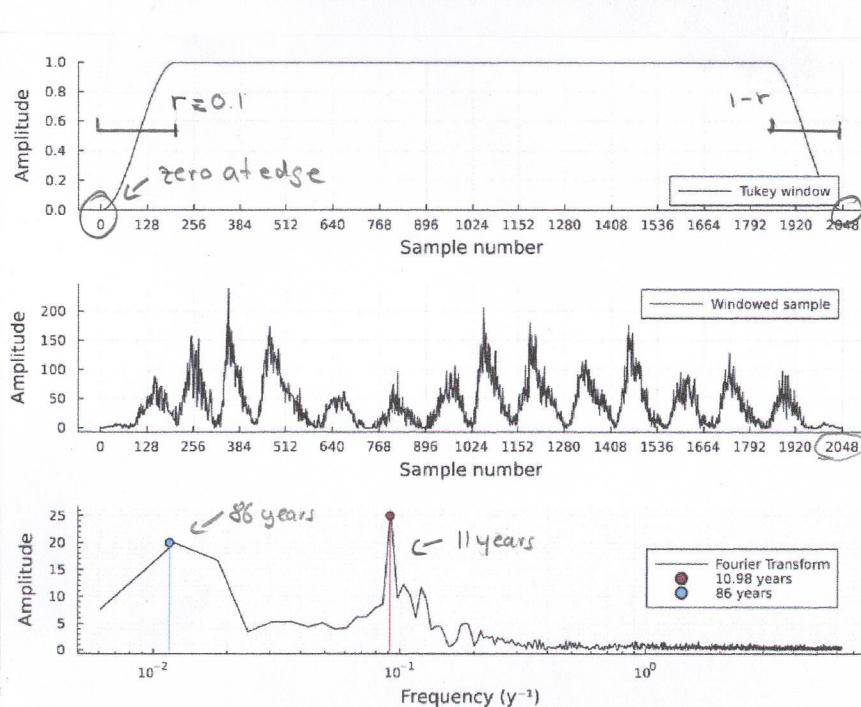
- check if dataset is clean (equal  $\Delta t$ , fix missing data)
- check resolution  $\Delta t \approx 0.08\text{ y}$

$$f = \frac{1}{\Delta t} = 12.5\text{ y}^{-1}$$

$$f_{Ny} = 6.25\text{ y}^{-1}$$

- evaluate time series by plotting
- evaluate length of data: 3067 data points

# DFT analysis



(1) FFT requires  $2^n$  points

$$2^n = 2048 \quad 2^{12} = 4096$$

record len 3067

→ pick 2048 points

(2) DFT/FFT is for N periodic functions

→ data may not be for selected subset

window function

$$w = \begin{cases} \frac{1}{2} [1 + \cos(\frac{2\pi}{r}[x - \frac{r}{2}])] & 0 < x < \frac{r}{2} \\ 1 & \frac{r}{2} \leq x \leq 1 - \frac{r}{2} \\ \frac{1}{2} [1 + \cos(\frac{2\pi}{r}[x - 1 + \frac{r}{2}])] & 1 - \frac{r}{2} < x < 1 \end{cases}$$

$r$  is a fraction

data used in  $\text{fft}(x)$  is  $*[1:2048] \cdot w(x)$  (windowed sample)

# DFT table for sunspot example

k	f	X	A	$\theta$
1	0	83709.7+0.0im	40.8739	0.0
2	1	0.00610352	-7833.07-89.1831im	7.64998
3	2	0.012207	-10183.3-17659.2im	19.9072
4	3	0.0183105	-15789.9+6492.85im	16.6726
5	4	0.0244141	183.586+3533.23im	3.45507
6	5	0.0305176	-5398.21+399.728im	5.28612
7	6	0.0366211	-1474.74-5275.08im	5.34897
8	7	0.0427246	-2306.99+3858.64im	4.39033
9	8	0.0488281	83.3539+5241.94im	5.11973
10	9	0.0549316	-2809.03-2938.31im	3.96974
: more				
1025	1024	6.25	-541.718+0.0im	0.529022
				180.0

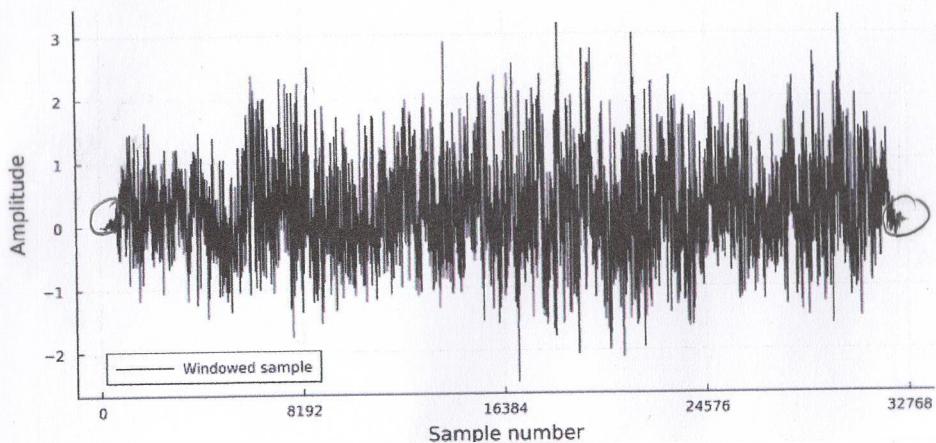
mean of subsetted and  
windwed data

- check against calculating  
mean directly

$$\mu = \frac{1}{N} \sum X_i$$

$$f_{Ny} = 6.25 \text{ g}^{-1}$$

# DFT/FFT of turbulence data



$$N = 2^{15} = 32768 \text{ points}$$

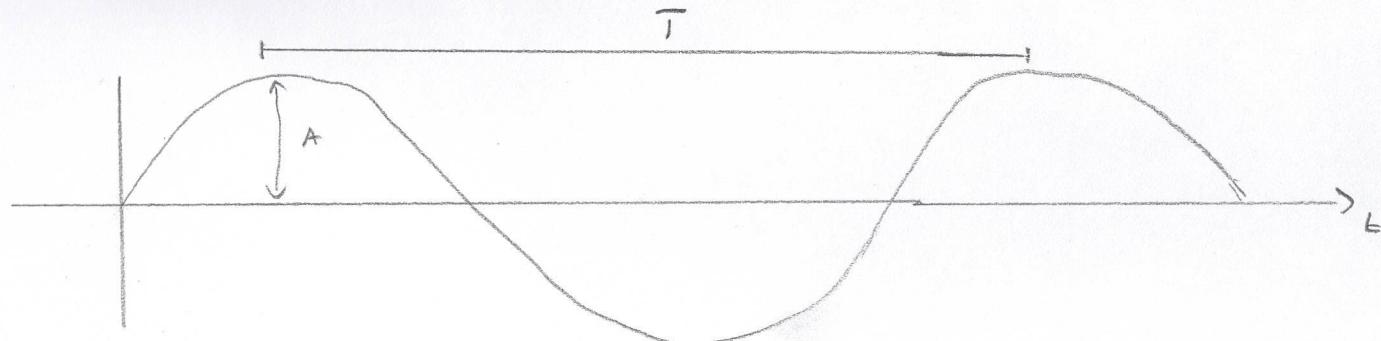
$$\Delta t = 0.1 \text{ s}$$

$$f_s = 10 \text{ Hz} \quad f_{Nyq} = 5 \text{ Hz}$$

A has units ! m/s

data is windowed

## Power of a wave



## Waves in Physics

- string wave  $\lambda$  wavelength

$$E = \frac{1}{2} \mu w^2 \lambda A^2$$

Energy      mass      frequency      Amplitude

- Ocean wave  $\rho$  density

$$E = \frac{1}{8} g \rho H^2$$

gravity      wave height

- Light wave

$$I = \frac{1}{2} c \epsilon_0 E_0^2$$

Intensity      speed of light      electric wave amplitude

Energy of a pulse

$$E = \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} |g(t)|^2 dt$$

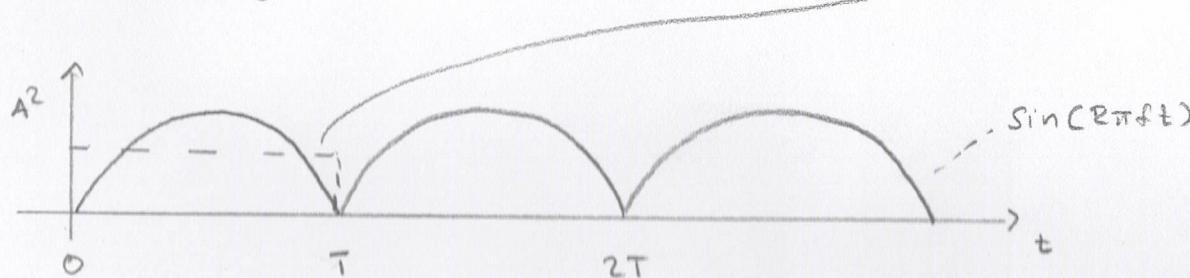
↑  
arbitrary signal

$$\text{Power} = \frac{\text{Energy}}{\text{time}}$$

$$P = \frac{1}{T} \int_0^T g^2(t) dt$$

power of acyclical signal with  
period  $T$

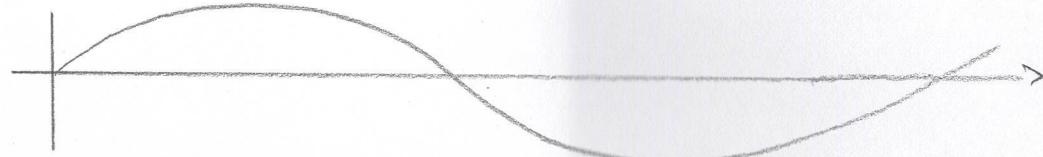
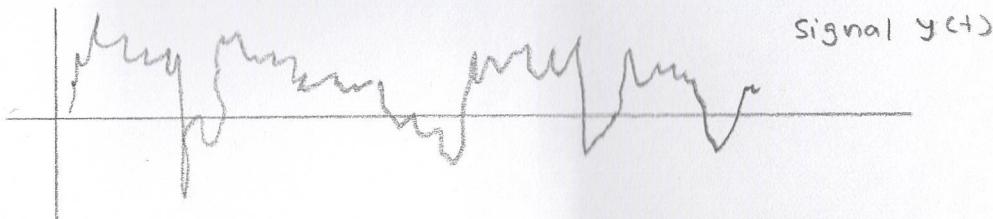
$$P = \frac{1}{T} \int_0^T [A \sin(2\pi ft)]^2 dt = \frac{1}{2} A^2 = A_{\text{avg}}^2$$



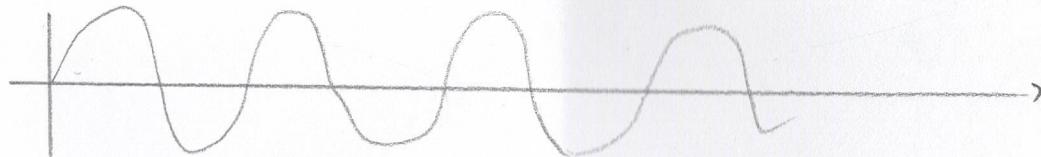
## Random Process

$$P = E(x^2) = \text{variance of signal}$$

↑  
expectation value      Random variable



$$P_1 = \frac{1}{2} A^2$$



$$P_2 = \frac{1}{2} A_i^2$$

$$\sum_{k=1}^{N/2} P_i = \sum_{k=1}^N \frac{1}{2} A_i^2 = \text{Var}$$
$$\sum_{k=1}^N P_i = \text{Var}$$

DFT Table of vertical velocity data

$A: [m/s]$

$P: [m^2/s^2]$

k	f [Hz]	X	A [m/s] mean	P [m <sup>2</sup> /s <sup>2</sup> ]
1	0	0.0 $\int \delta f$	6605.28+0.0im	0.201577
2	1	0.000305176	321.645+187.304im	0.0227177
3	2	0.000610352	516.103+887.738im	0.0626746
4	3	0.000915527	-644.831-49.2019im	0.0394718
5	4	0.0012207	168.242+209.318im	0.016391
6	5	0.00152588	772.533+97.5288im	0.047526
7	6	0.00183105	-1675.72-1007.32im	0.119335
8	7	0.00213623	-1114.94-98.3688im	0.0683146
9	8	0.00244141	9.2303+988.143im	0.0603141
10	9	0.00274658	505.846-364.321im	0.0380484
---				
16385	16384	5.0	-9.86553+0.0im	0.000602144 1.81289e-7

: more

$$P_k = \frac{1}{2} A_k^2$$

$$\sum_{k=1}^{N/2} P_k = \text{Var}(y(t))$$

always check

mean, var from data

==== mean, var from DFT

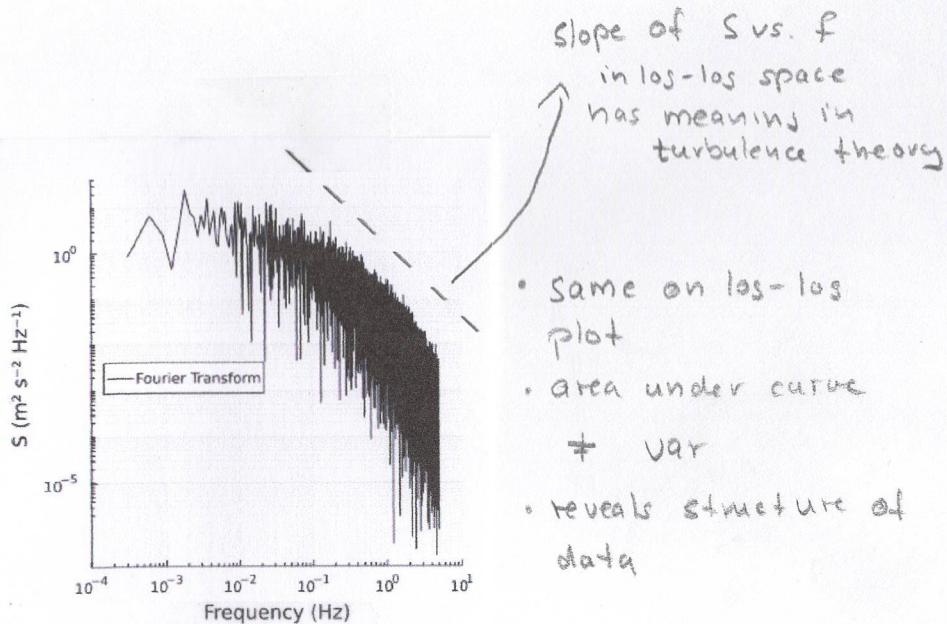
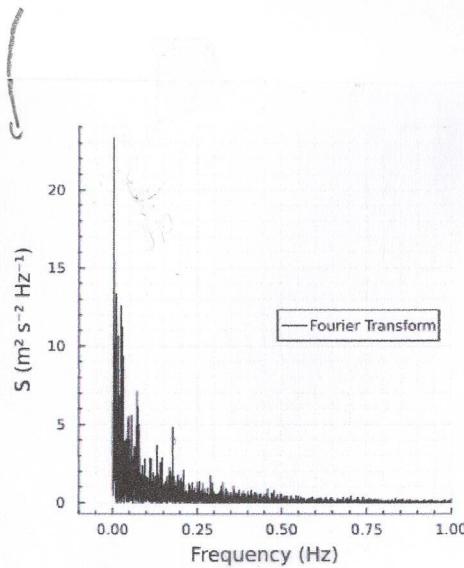
$$S = \frac{P}{\Delta f} \quad \left[ \frac{m^2}{s^2 \text{ Hz}} \right]$$

↑  
power spectral density

$$\text{VAR} = \int S df$$

# Power Spectrum

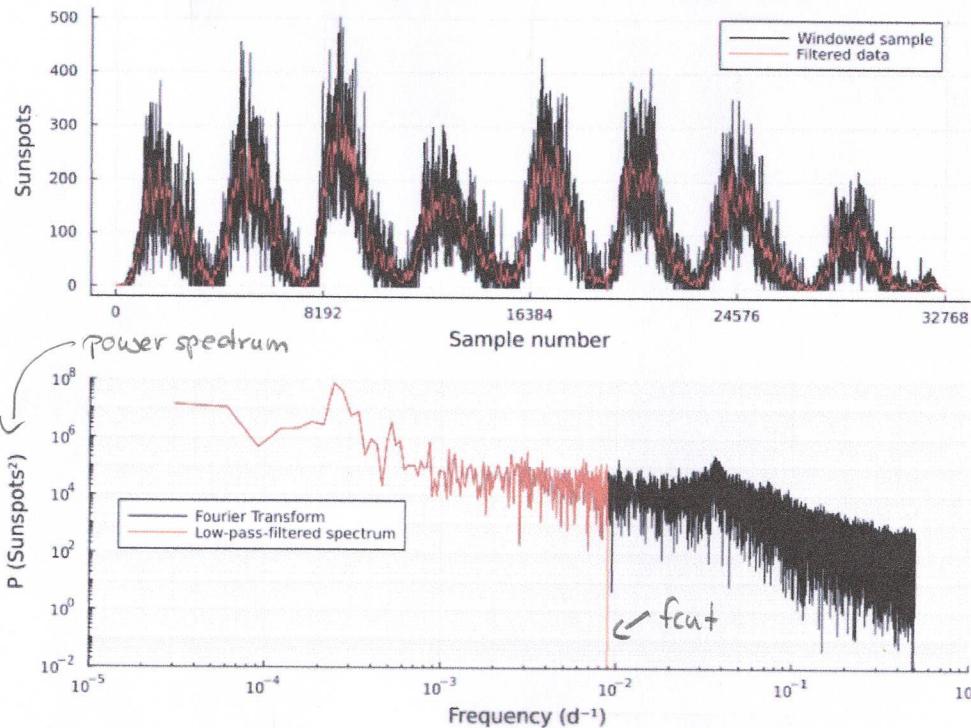
Power spectral density



plot of  $S$  vs.  $f$   
reveals spectral contribution  
to variance

$$\text{var} = \int S \delta f$$

# Application: Frequency Filtering of Data (High frequency sunspot data)



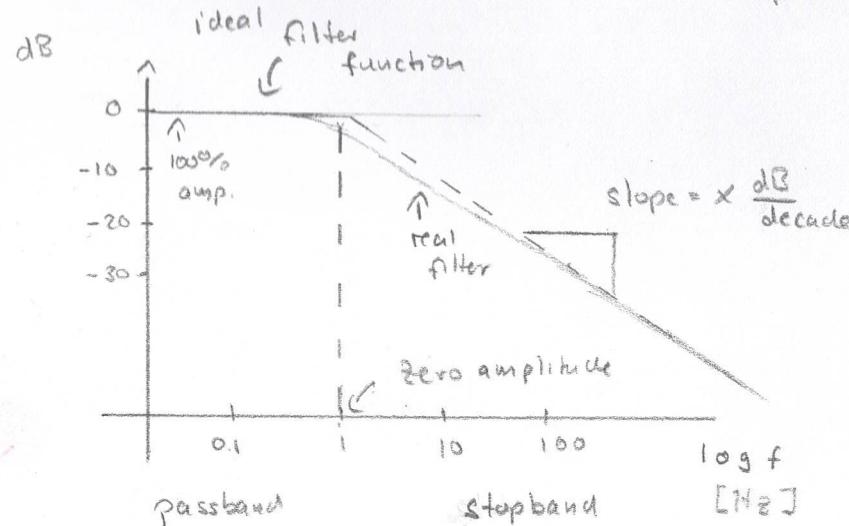
- (1) window data  $y_n$
- (2)  $X_n = \sum_{n=0}^{N-1} x_n \exp(-ix)$
- (3)  $P_n = \frac{1}{2} X_n X_n^*$
- (4) remove unwanted frequencies  
low-pass: zero  $X_n$  for  $f < f_{cut}$   
must zero also  $X_n^*$ !
- (5)  $x_n = \frac{1}{N} \sum_{n=0}^{N-1} X_n \exp(-ix)$

[use ifft]

## Filtering Continued

$$\text{Decibel} = 10 \log_{10} (\frac{P}{P_0})$$

gain / loss in power relative  
to reference power  $P_0$



note - 10 dB =

order of  
magnitude  
reduction  
in Power

## Fourier Transform of Functions

Discrete

$$X_k = \sum_{n=0}^{N-1} x_n \exp\left(-i 2\pi \frac{k}{N} n\right)$$

n data  $\Rightarrow$  N Fourier coefficient  
N: period of data

## Fourier Series

$$\tilde{f}(k) = \sum_{t=-\infty}^{\infty} f(t) \exp\left(-i 2\pi \frac{k}{N} t\right)$$

continuous  $f(t) \Rightarrow$  infinite Fourier coefficients  
N-periodic function

$$\text{Fourier Integral: } \lim_{N \rightarrow \infty} \frac{1}{N} = \nu \text{ "oscillation frequency"}$$

$$\tilde{f}(\nu) = \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} f(t) \exp(-i 2\pi \nu t) dt$$

continuous  $f(t) \Rightarrow$  continuous  $\nu$

$$f(t) = \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} \tilde{f}(\nu) \exp(i 2\pi \nu t) d\nu$$

non-periodic, converges to zero if  $\nu$

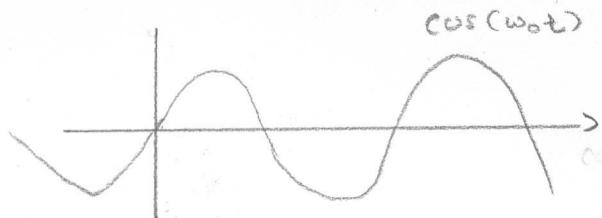
$$\omega = 2\pi \nu \text{ "angular frequency"}$$

$$\tilde{f}(\omega) = \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} f(t) \exp(-i \omega t) dt$$

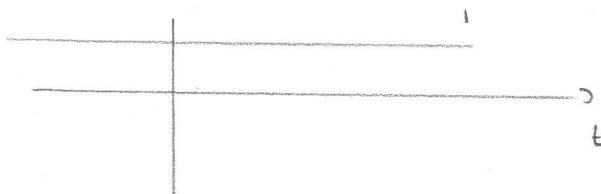
$$f(t) = \frac{1}{2\pi} \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} \tilde{f}(\omega) \exp(i \omega t) d\omega$$

## Example Transforms

$f(t)$



$F(\omega)$



$\Rightarrow$



$$\delta(t) = \begin{cases} 0 & t \neq 0 \\ \infty & t = 0 \end{cases}$$

$$\int_{-\infty}^{\infty} \delta(t) dt = 1$$

$t$ -domain

$\omega$ -domain

## Applications of Fourier Integral

(1) derivatives become algebraic functions

Fourier  
transform  
of

$$\rightarrow F(f'(t)) = -iw F(w)$$

(2) convolutions become multiplication

$$F(f \circ g) = F(f) \cdot F(g)$$

$$f \circ g = \int f(\tilde{t}) g(t-\tilde{t}) d\tilde{t} \quad \Rightarrow \text{session 3}$$

## Laplace Transform

Fourier  $\int f(f(t)) = \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} f(t) \exp(-i\omega t) dt$

Laplace  $\mathcal{L}(f(t)) = \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} f(t) \exp(-st) dt$

$s = a - bi$   $\Rightarrow$  Fourier transform is special case of Laplace transform

more functions have Laplace transform  $\Rightarrow$  need not converge at  $\infty$

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t-domain



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s-domain