

1. Fourier Transform Properties: Shifted function asymptotic result

Let us consider the Fourier transform of the shifted function $f(x - x_0)$ where x_0 is real, below. (link and Eq. 55 in link)

$$\begin{aligned} F(k) &= \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} f(x) e^{-ikx} dx \\ \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} f(x - x_0) e^{-ikx} dx &= e^{-ikx_0} F(k) \end{aligned} \tag{1}$$

We derive the asymptotic result for the Fourier transform of $\lim_{x_0 \rightarrow \infty} f(x - x_0)$ using **principle of mathematical induction**, as follows.

For $N = 1$, the Fourier transform of $f_1(x) = f(x - x_0)$ is given by $F_1(k) = F(k) e^{-ikx_0}$.

For $N = 2$, the Fourier transform of $f_2(x) = f_1(x - x_0) = f(x - 2x_0)$ is given by $F_2(k) = F_1(k) e^{-ikx_0} = F(k) e^{-i2kx_0}$.

Inductive Hypothesis: Let $f_N(x) = f_{N-1}(x - x_0) = f(x - Nx_0)$. Its Fourier transform is given by $F_N(k) = F_{N-1}(k) e^{-ikx_0} = F(k) e^{-iNkx_0}$.

Inductive Result: Set $N = N + 1$. We get $f_{N+1}(x) = f_N(x - x_0) = f(x - (N + 1)x_0)$. Its Fourier transform is given by $F_{N+1}(k) = F_N(k) e^{-ikx_0} = F(k) e^{-i(N+1)kx_0}$.

Hence we can use the principle of mathematical induction and get the inductive result that the Fourier transform of $\lim_{x_0 \rightarrow \infty} f(x - x_0) = \lim_{N \rightarrow \infty} f_N(x)$ is given by $\lim_{N \rightarrow \infty} e^{-iNkx_0} F(k)$.

$$\int_{-\infty}^{\infty} \lim_{x_0 \rightarrow \infty} f(x - x_0) e^{-ikx} dx = \lim_{N \rightarrow \infty} e^{-iNkx_0} F(k) \tag{2}$$

It is noted that $\lim_{N \rightarrow \infty} e^{-iNkx_0}$ is indeterminate.