

# Approximating the Spectrum

## DTFT of a finite-length portion of the signal

- In sum, when applying DTFT for the samples in a **finite portion (or segment)** of the signal, the approximation is caused by
  - (1) **frequency domain convolution with a sinc function**
  - (2) **aliasing**
- Although imperfect, this is a **practically feasible way** for evaluating the spectrum of a signal.

# General form in analog domain:

## Short-time Fourier Transform (STFT)

- A general extension of spectrum is the short-time Fourier transform (STFT), where the **window slides at every time sites**.
- The signal is **multiplied by a window function**.

$$\text{STFT}\{x(t)\}(\tau, \omega) \equiv X(\tau, \omega) = \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} x(t)w(t - \tau)e^{-j\omega t} dt$$

- The CFT of the resulting signal is taken as the window (usually of finite length) is **slid along the time axis**, resulting in a two-dimensional representation of the signal.

# Approximating the Spectrum

DTFT of a finite-length portion of the signal

- What can be done to further improve the performance?
- Rectangular window is applied in the rest of this lecture.
- In general, the window can be replaced by other windowing functions (eg., Hann window, Hamming window, Kaiser window) that would distort the shape of spectrum less in general
  - will be investigated in the future

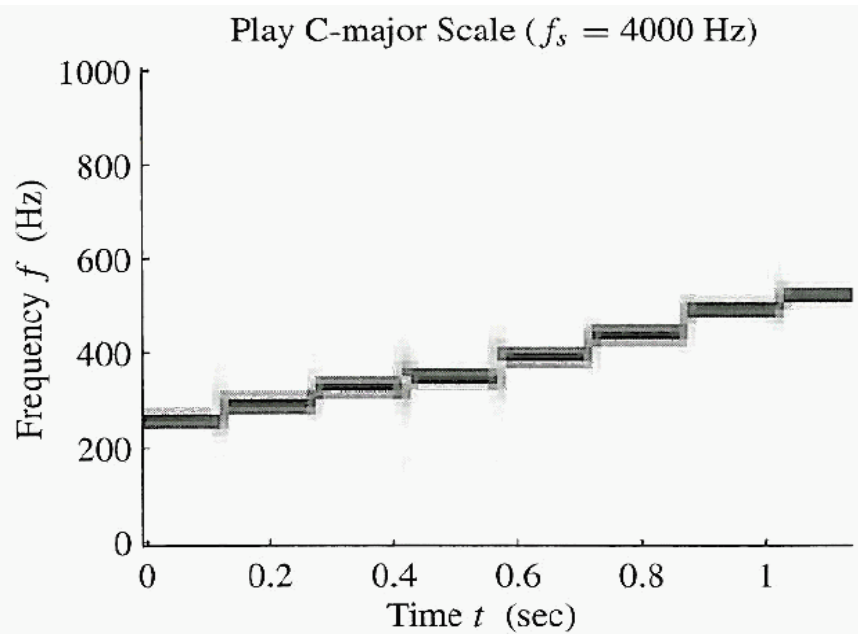
# Segmenting the signal

- In the above, we only use a single segment of the signal and compute its DTFT.
- It is natural to extend this idea by separating a signal into **multiple segments** in time, and compute the DTFT for each segment along the time axis.
- The segments can be either **non-overlapping** or **overlapping**.

# Spectrogram

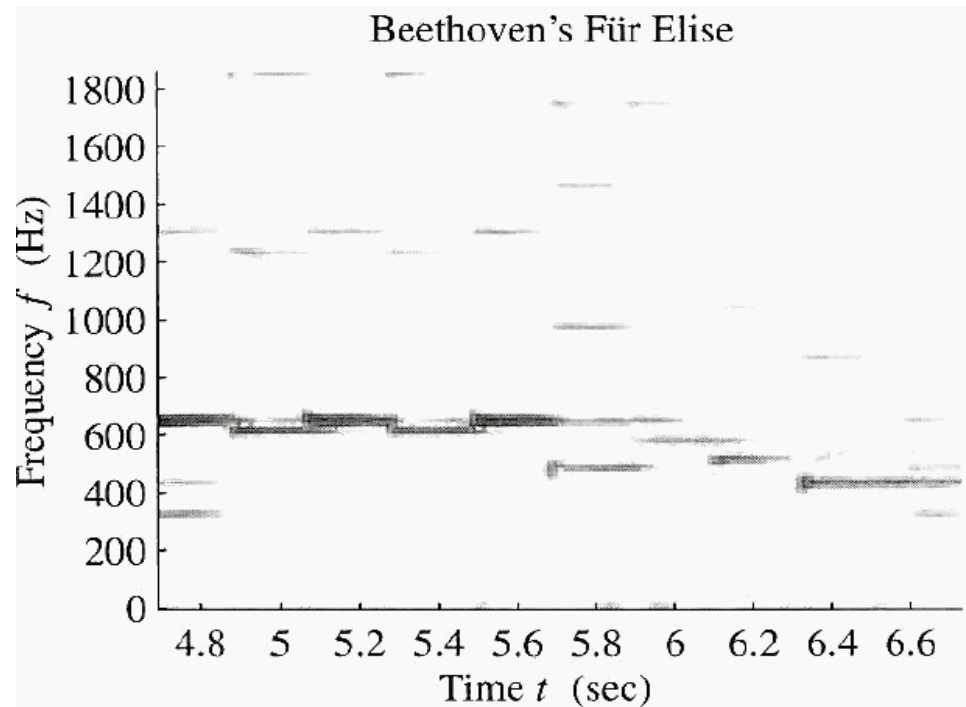
- In this way, we can obtain a two-dimensional map (like a 2D image)
  - the horizontal axis is the time interval
  - the vertical axis is the frequency in  $[-\pi/T, \pi/T]$ .
  - the gray level is the magnitude of DTFT of the associated segment.
- This is called **spectrogram**, a common way for viewing the spectral domain response for a signal in practice.
  - Sometimes the gray level is the magnitude square of DTFT, depending on how it is defined.

# Spectrogram Examples



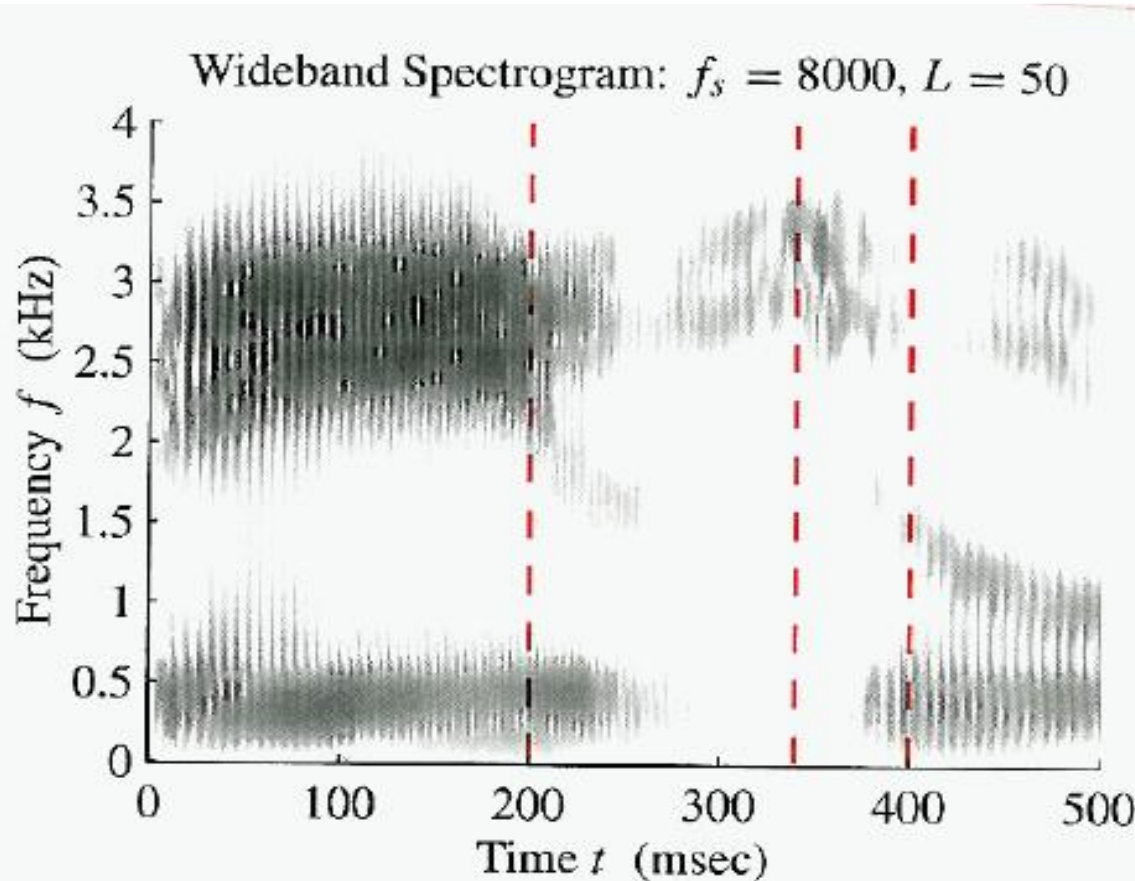
**Synthesized notes, C,D,E,F,G,A,B,C  
(which are pure sinusoids)**

**The blurs are caused** by the following reason:  
As the time domain is only a finite portion of  
a sinusoid wave, the frequency domain is  
**convolved by a Sinc function.**



**Spectrogram of Fur Elise played on a  
piano**

# Spectrogram Examples



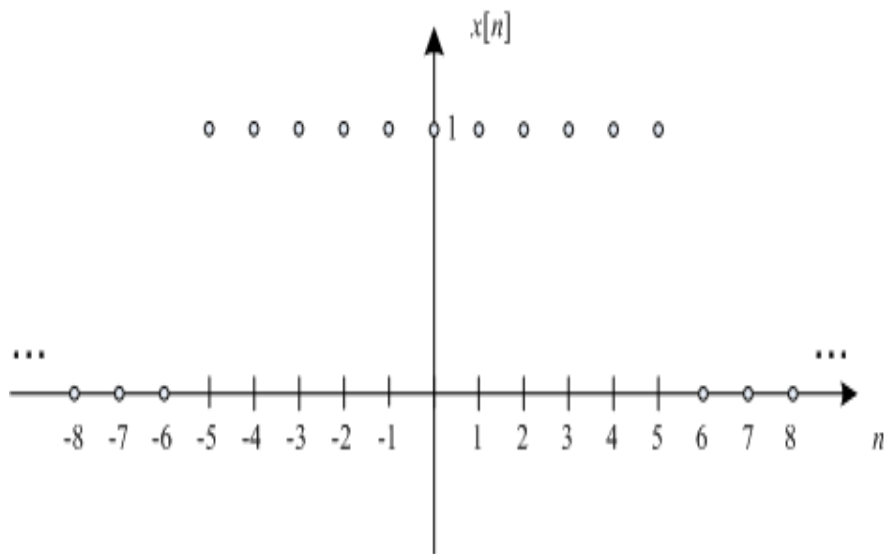
**Figure 13-27:** Spectrogram of speech signal; sampling frequency  $f_s = 8000$  Hz, window length  $L = 50$  (6.25 msec). Spectrum slices at times  $nT_s = 200, 340$ , and  $400$  msec are shown individually in Fig. 13-28.

- DTFT range:  $[-\pi, \pi]$
- Associated CFT range:  $[-\pi/T_s, \pi/T_s]$  in radians.
- That is,  $[-\omega_s/2, \omega_s/2]$  **in radians**. (because  $\omega_s = 2\pi/T_s$ )
- This is **equivalent to**  $[-f_s/2, f_s/2]$  in Hz.
- In the example:
- $f_s = 8000$  Hz
- $f_s/2 = 4000 = 4$  kHz
- For **real-valued signal**, the magnitude is an **even function**. **Only show the positive side**  $[0, f_s/2]$  in the spectrogram to ease the viewing

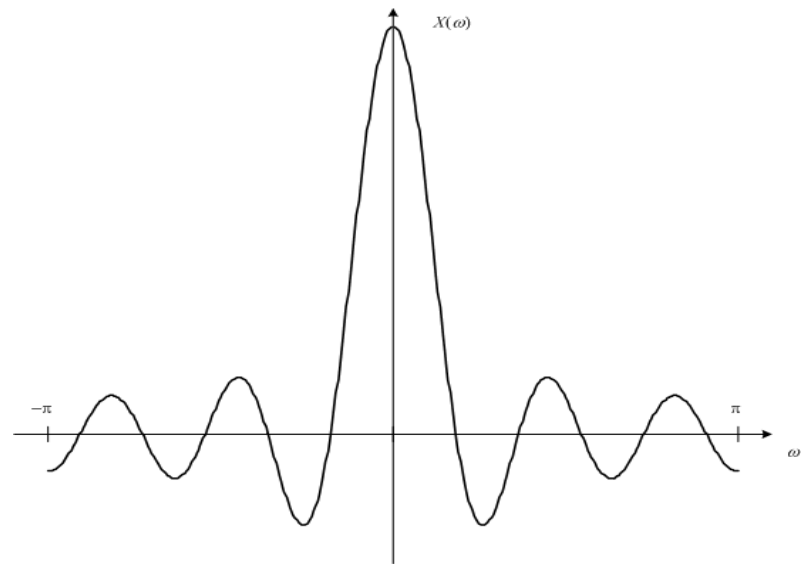
# A remark on DTFT viewing

- Remember that DTFT is typically viewed in  $[-\pi, \pi]$  (sometimes we draw all of the periods).
- As every period contains the same information, in some cases we draw  $[0, 2\pi]$  for visualization.
- For real signal, the spectrum is an even function. Both cases  $[-\pi, \pi]$  and  $[0, 2\pi]$  can be reduced into  $[0, \pi]$  due to symmetry.

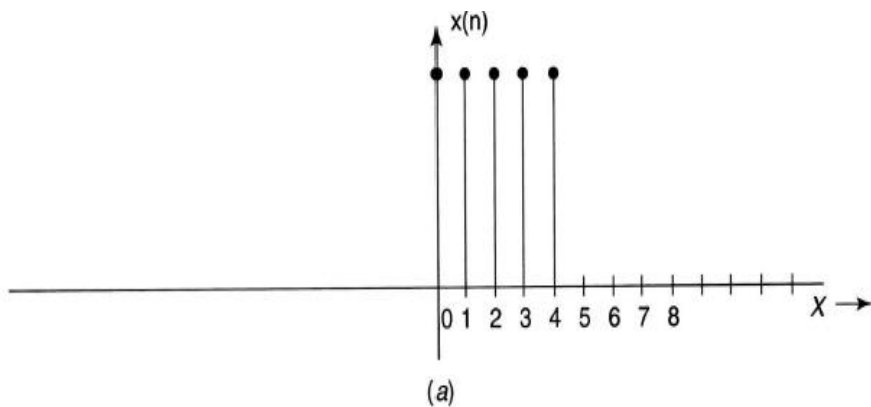




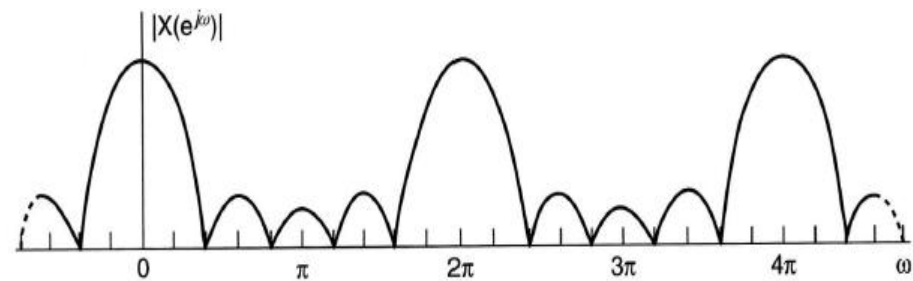
**Eg, a time-domain  $N$ -point ( $N=11$ ) discrete-time signal (an even function)**



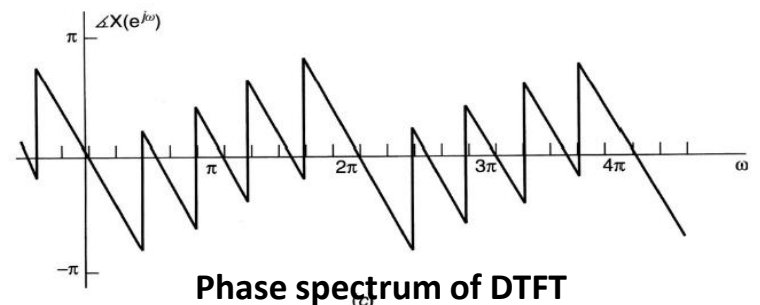
**Its DTFT domain is continuous in  $[-\pi, \pi]$**



**A finite-length signal (an odd function) of  $N=5$**



**Magnitude spectrum of DTFT**



**Phase spectrum of DTFT**

# Further Improvement

- In the above, we compute the DTFT for a finite-length (i.e., finite-duration) signal (of length  $N$ ).
- To record the frequency domain of DTFT, we have to record a continuous function in the range of  $[-\pi, \pi]$ .
- However, to record exactly a continuous function in a digital device is infeasible in practice.

# Further Improvement

- There are **only  $N$  points in time domain** for a finite-duration signal (i.e., **time domain** is an  **$N$ -dimensional vector**).
- We know that **time** and **frequency** domains **retain the same information** for signal representation.
- So, for an  $N$ -points signal in time domain, it seems **redundant if we need to use a continuous function** (containing **infinite points**) in  **$[-\pi, \pi]$  or  $[0, 2\pi]$**  in the frequency domain to record the spectral information.

# Further Improvement

- Can we use only a finite number points (eg.,  $N$  points) to record the frequency domain of DTFT for a finite-duration signal?
- This leads to the development of the fourth type of Fourier transform, **Discrete Fourier Transform (DFT)**.

# Discrete Fourier Transform (DFT)

- Consider both the signal and the spectrum **only within one period** ( $N$ -point signals both in time and frequency domains)

**DFT**

$$X[k] = \sum_{n=0}^{N-1} x[n] W_N^{kn}, \quad k = 0, 1, \dots, N-1$$

**IDFT**

(inverse  
DFT)

$$x[n] = \frac{1}{N} \sum_{k=0}^{N-1} X[k] W_N^{-kn}, \quad n = 0, 1, \dots, N-1$$

where  $W_N = e^{-j(2\pi/N)}$ , and  $W_N^n$  are the roots of the polynomial  $W^N = 1$ .

# DFT in matrix form

## Discrete Fourier Transform (DFT)

$$X_k = \sum_{i=0}^{n-1} x_i \cdot e^{-2\pi j \frac{ik}{n}} \quad x_k = \frac{1}{n} \cdot \sum_{i=0}^{n-1} X_i \cdot e^{2\pi j \frac{ik}{n}}$$

The  $n$ -point DFT multiplies a vector with an  $n \times n$  matrix

$$F_n = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 1 & 1 & 1 & \dots & 1 \\ 1 & e^{-2\pi j \frac{1}{n}} & e^{-2\pi j \frac{2}{n}} & e^{-2\pi j \frac{3}{n}} & \dots & e^{-2\pi j \frac{n-1}{n}} \\ 1 & e^{-2\pi j \frac{2}{n}} & e^{-2\pi j \frac{4}{n}} & e^{-2\pi j \frac{6}{n}} & \dots & e^{-2\pi j \frac{2(n-1)}{n}} \\ 1 & e^{-2\pi j \frac{3}{n}} & e^{-2\pi j \frac{6}{n}} & e^{-2\pi j \frac{9}{n}} & \dots & e^{-2\pi j \frac{3(n-1)}{n}} \\ \vdots & \vdots & \vdots & \vdots & \ddots & \vdots \\ 1 & e^{-2\pi j \frac{n-1}{n}} & e^{-2\pi j \frac{2(n-1)}{n}} & e^{-2\pi j \frac{3(n-1)}{n}} & \dots & e^{-2\pi j \frac{(n-1)(n-1)}{n}} \end{pmatrix}$$

$$F_n \cdot \begin{pmatrix} x_0 \\ x_1 \\ x_2 \\ \vdots \\ x_{n-1} \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} X_0 \\ X_1 \\ X_2 \\ \vdots \\ X_{n-1} \end{pmatrix}, \quad \frac{1}{n} \cdot F_n^* \cdot \begin{pmatrix} X_0 \\ X_1 \\ X_2 \\ \vdots \\ X_{n-1} \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} x_0 \\ x_1 \\ x_2 \\ \vdots \\ x_{n-1} \end{pmatrix}$$

# DFT pairs (more specifically)

DFT can be written in Matrix form

- Forward transform :  $\mathbf{X} = \mathbf{D}_N \mathbf{x}$
- Inverse transform:  $\mathbf{x} = \mathbf{D}_N^{-1} \mathbf{X}$

$$\mathbf{D}_N = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 1 & 1 & \cdots & 1 \\ 1 & W_N & W_N^2 & \cdots & W_N^{(N-1)} \\ 1 & W_N^2 & W_N^4 & \cdots & W_N^{2(N-1)} \\ \vdots & \vdots & \vdots & \ddots & \vdots \\ 1 & W_N^{N-1} & W_N^{2(N-1)} & \cdots & W_N^{(N-1)(N-1)} \end{bmatrix}$$

where  $W_N = e^{-j2\pi/N}$

$$\mathbf{D}_N^{-1} = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 1 & 1 & \dots & 1 \\ 1 & W_N^{-1} & W_N^{-2} & \dots & W_N^{-(N-1)} \\ 1 & W_N^{-2} & W_N^{-4} & \dots & W_N^{-2(N-1)} \\ \vdots & \vdots & \vdots & \ddots & \vdots \\ 1 & W_N^{-(N-1)} & W_N^{-2(N-1)} & \dots & W_N^{-(N-1)(N-1)} \end{bmatrix} \frac{1}{N}$$



- The matrix of  $\frac{1}{\sqrt{N}} D_N$  is a **unitary** matrix, i.e.,

$$\left( \frac{1}{\sqrt{N}} D_N \right)^* \left( \frac{1}{\sqrt{N}} D_N \right) = \left( \frac{1}{\sqrt{N}} D_N \right) \left( \frac{1}{\sqrt{N}} D_N \right)^* = I_N$$

where  $I_N$  is the  $N \times N$  identity matrix.

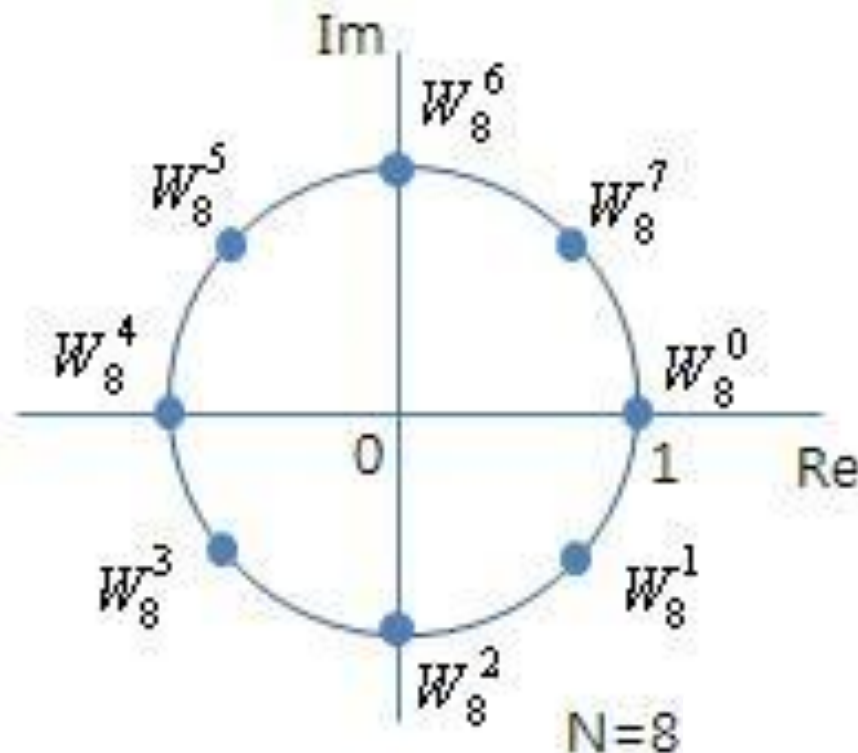
- Hence,  $\frac{1}{N} D_N D_N^* = I$ , and thus  $D_N^{-1} = \frac{1}{N} D_N^*$

**So**

- The **columns of  $D_N$**  are **orthogonal to each other**.
- The **rows of  $D_N$**  are **also orthogonal to each other**.

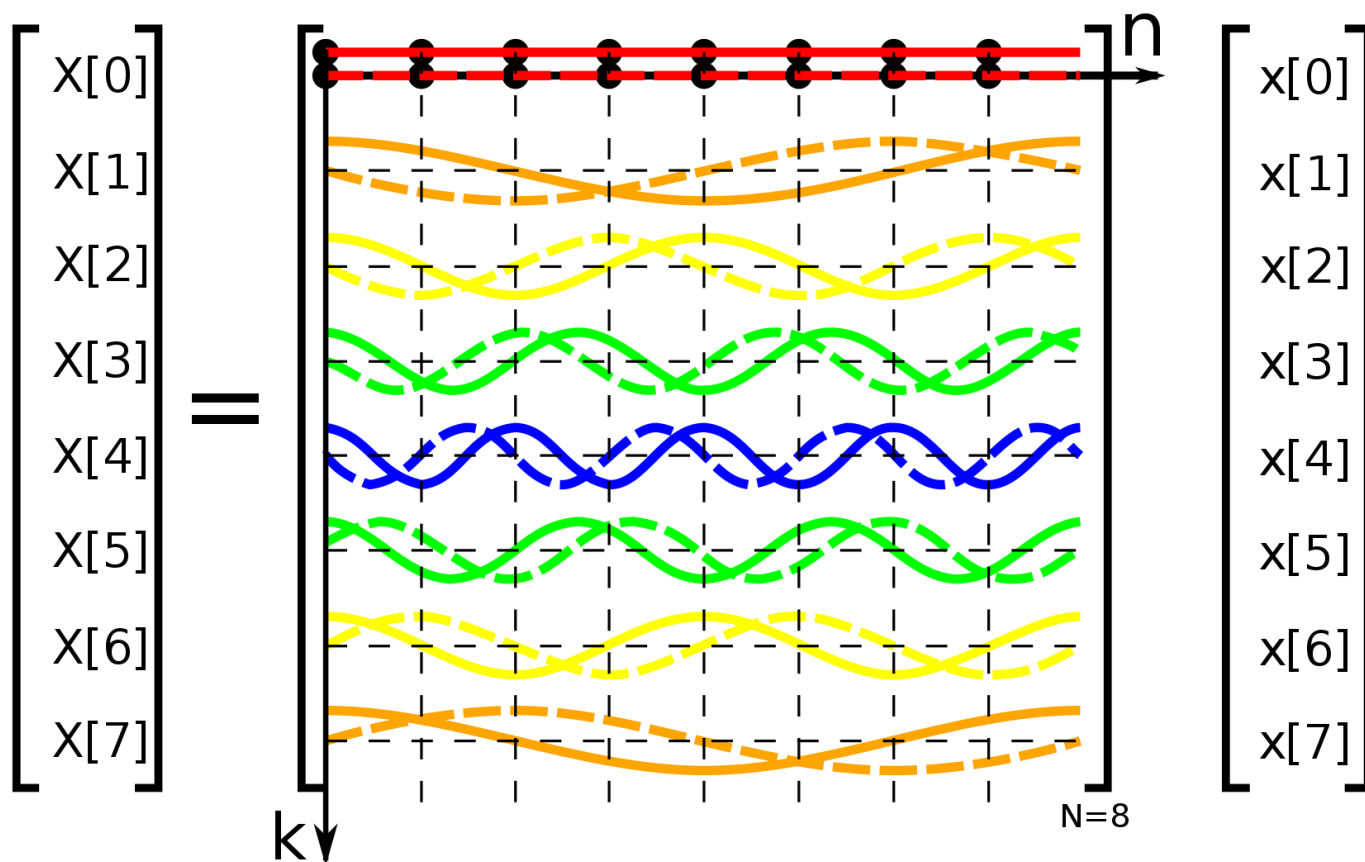
# $n$ -th Root of **1**

- $W_N^n$  is the  $n$ -th root of the equation  $W^N = 1$ .
- Eg., when  $n=8$ ,



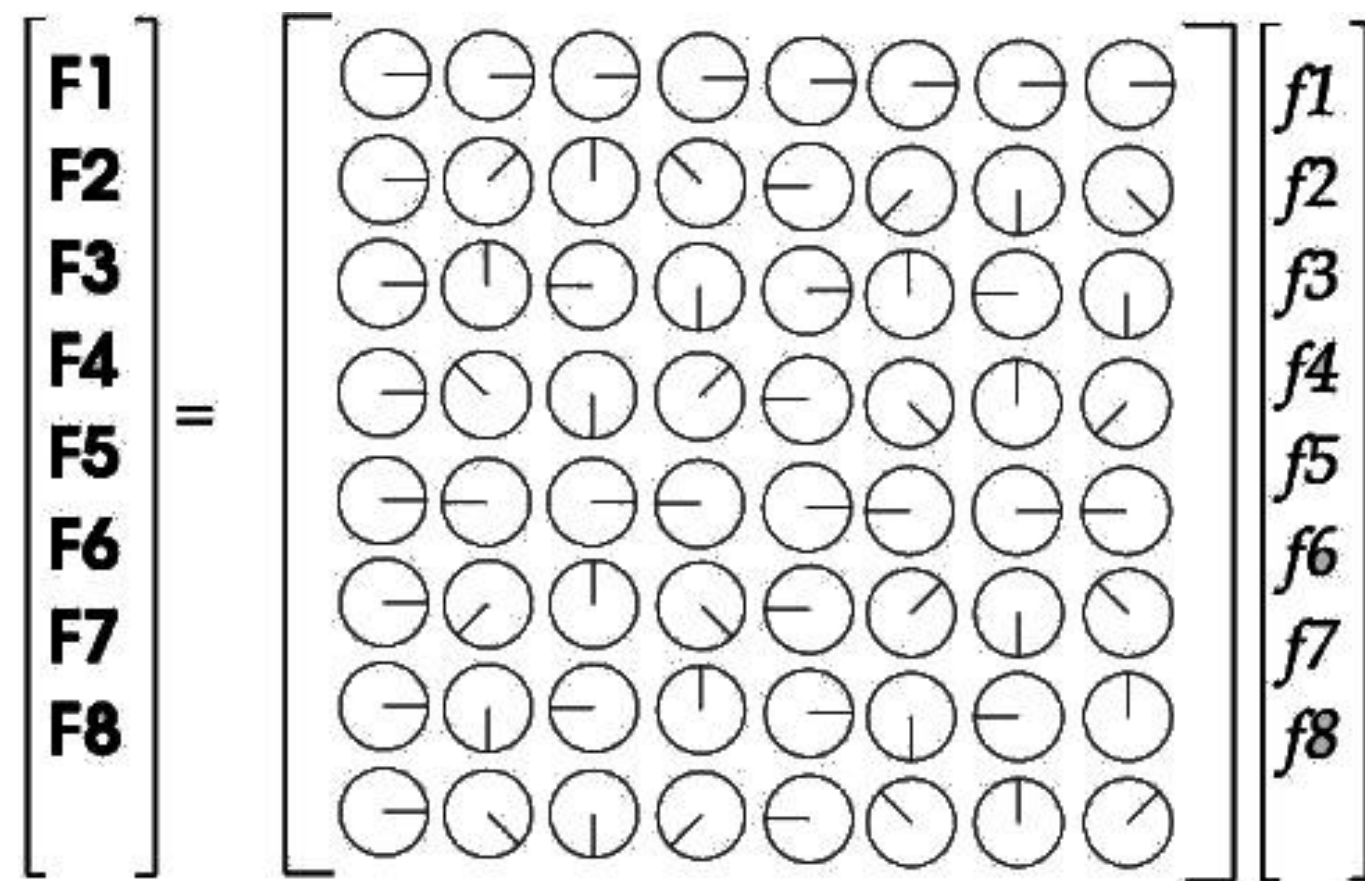
# Visualization of the DFT matrix ( $N = 8$ )

- $W_N = e^{-j(2\pi/N)} = \cos\left(-\frac{2\pi}{N}\right) + j\sin\left(-\frac{2\pi}{N}\right)$



Because of the negative sign in the notation, the rotation in the polar-coordinate system is clockwise.

# Visualization of the DFT matrix ( $N = 8$ )



- In our definition, the rotation is clockwise.
- The illustration in the left figure is in a counterclockwise rotation due to several variations of the definition of DFT.

## Relation between DFT and DTFT for finite-length signals

- Remember that the frequency domain of DTFT can be within  $[0, 2\pi]$ .
- **Key Property:** The frequency domain of an  $N$ -point DFT are the same as the  $N$ -point uniform samples of DTFT in  $[0, 2\pi]$ .
- IDFT (inverse DFT) gives us an algorithm to exactly reconstruct the  $N$ -point discrete-time signal.

# Relation between DFT and DTFT for finite-length signals

- **Key Property:** The frequency domain of an  $N$ -point DFT are the same as the  $N$ -point uniform samples of DTFT in  $[0, 2\pi]$ .
  - IDFT gives us an algorithm to reconstruct the  $N$ -point discrete-time signal.
- **Question:** Can we reconstruct the DTFT spectrum (continuous in  $\omega$ ) from the  $N$ -point spectrum of DFT?
- $\rightarrow$  As the  $N$ -point signal in time domain can be exactly recovered from both the DFT and the DTFT spectra, we expect that the DTFT spectrum (continuous in  $[0, 2\pi]$ ) can be exactly reconstructed by the DFT spectrum (which is discrete).

# Reconstruct DTFT from DFT

(when the discrete-time signal is **finite-length**)

In the DTFT frequency domain,  $X(e^{j\omega})$ , by substituting the inverse DFT into the  $x(n)$ , we have

$$X(e^{j\omega}) = \sum_{n=0}^{N-1} x(n)e^{-j\omega n} = \sum_{n=0}^{N-1} \left[ \frac{1}{N} \sum_{k=0}^{N-1} X(k)e^{j(2\pi kn/N)} \right] e^{-j\omega n}$$

Continuous  
DTFT  
spectrum

$$= \frac{1}{N} \sum_{k=0}^{N-1} X(k) \underbrace{\sum_{n=0}^{N-1} e^{j(2\pi kn/N)} e^{-j\omega n}}_{\text{a geometric sequence}}$$

Inverse DFT of  $N$  points

a geometric sequence

By applying the geometric-sequence formula

$$\begin{aligned}
 \sum_{n=0}^{N-1} e^{j(2\pi kn/N)} e^{-j\omega n} &= \frac{1 - e^{-j(\omega N - 2\pi k)}}{1 - e^{-j[\omega - (2\pi k/N)]}} \\
 &= \frac{e^{-j[(\omega N - 2\pi k)/2]}}{e^{-j[(\omega N - 2\pi k)/2N]}} \cdot \frac{\sin\left[\frac{\omega N - 2\pi k}{2}\right]}{\sin\left[\frac{\omega N - 2\pi k}{2N}\right]} \\
 &= \underbrace{\frac{\sin\left[\frac{\omega N - 2\pi k}{2}\right]}{\sin\left[\frac{\omega N - 2\pi k}{2N}\right]}}_{\text{magnitude}} e^{-j[\omega - (2\pi k/N)][(N-1)/2]} \underbrace{\hspace{10em}}_{\text{phase}}
 \end{aligned}$$



So

Dirichlet Kernel

$$X(e^{j\omega}) = \frac{1}{N} \sum_{k=0}^{N-1} X(k) \underbrace{\frac{\sin \left[ \frac{\omega N - 2\pi k}{2} \right]}{\sin \left[ \frac{\omega N - 2\pi k}{2N} \right]} e^{-j[\omega - (2\pi k/N)][(N-1)/2]}}_{\text{Dirichlet Kernel}}$$

## The reconstruction formula

From  $X(k)$ , we can reconstruct the spectrum of DTFT,  $X(e^{j\omega})$  by the above interpolation.

- Hence, instead of computing the DTFT of a finite-duration signal of length  $N$  directly, we **always use  $N$ -point DFT** for the computation, and the **DTFT spectrum** can be **exactly reconstructed for any  $\omega \in [-\pi, \pi]$  or  $[0, 2\pi]$** .

# Zero padding

- In the above, we have introduced how to reconstruct the DTFT spectrum of an length- $N$  signal from the DFT spectrum of the same length- $N$  signal.
- Another way to interpolate  $X(e^{j\omega})$  from  $X(k)$  is **zero-padding** that will be shown below.

# Zero padding (cont.)

- Sometimes our purpose is for visualization or efficient maximum finding. The  $N$  samples of the DTFT spectrum is too few. We often like to see the  $M$ -point uniform samples of the DTFT of the length- $N$  signal (with  $M > N$ ).
- In practice, we can use a simple technique called **zero-padding** to achieve this purpose, which **complement  $M - N$  zeros in the end of the original length- $N$  sequence** and performing DFT.
- Then, the obtained  $M$ -point DFT spectrum is just the  $M$ -point uniform samples of the DTFT of the length- $N$  signal.

# Definition of DFT in Boaz Porat's Book

To explain zero-padding, we use other notations.

## Remark

- There could be different notations from different articles and books.
- The Fourier transform is referred to as DTFT below.

Let the discrete-time signal  $x[n]$  have finite duration, say in the range  $0 \leq n \leq N - 1$ . The Fourier transform of this signal is

$$X^f(\theta) = \sum_{n=0}^{N-1} x[n] e^{-j\theta n}. \quad \text{DTFT} \quad (4.1)$$

Let us sample the frequency axis using a total of  $N$  equally spaced samples in the range  $[0, 2\pi)$ , so the sampling interval is  $2\pi/N$ ; in other words, we use the frequencies

$$\theta[k] = \frac{2\pi k}{N}, \quad 0 \leq k \leq N - 1. \quad (4.2)$$

The result is, by definition, the discrete Fourier transform. Mathematically,

$$X^d[k] = \{\mathcal{D}x\}[k] = \sum_{n=0}^{N-1} x[n] \exp\left(-\frac{j2\pi kn}{N}\right), \quad 0 \leq k \leq N - 1. \quad \text{DFT} \quad (4.3)$$

## 4.4 Zero Padding

The DFT of a length- $N$  sequence is itself a length- $N$  sequence, so it gives the frequency response of the signal at  $N$  points. Suppose we are interested in computing the frequency response at  $M$  equally spaced frequency points, where  $M > N$ . A simple device accomplishes this goal: We add  $M - N$  zeros at the tail of the given sequence, thus forming a length- $M$  sequence. The DFT of the new sequence has  $M$  frequency points. We prove that the values of the new DFT are indeed samples of the frequency response of the given signal at  $M$  equally spaced frequencies. Denote

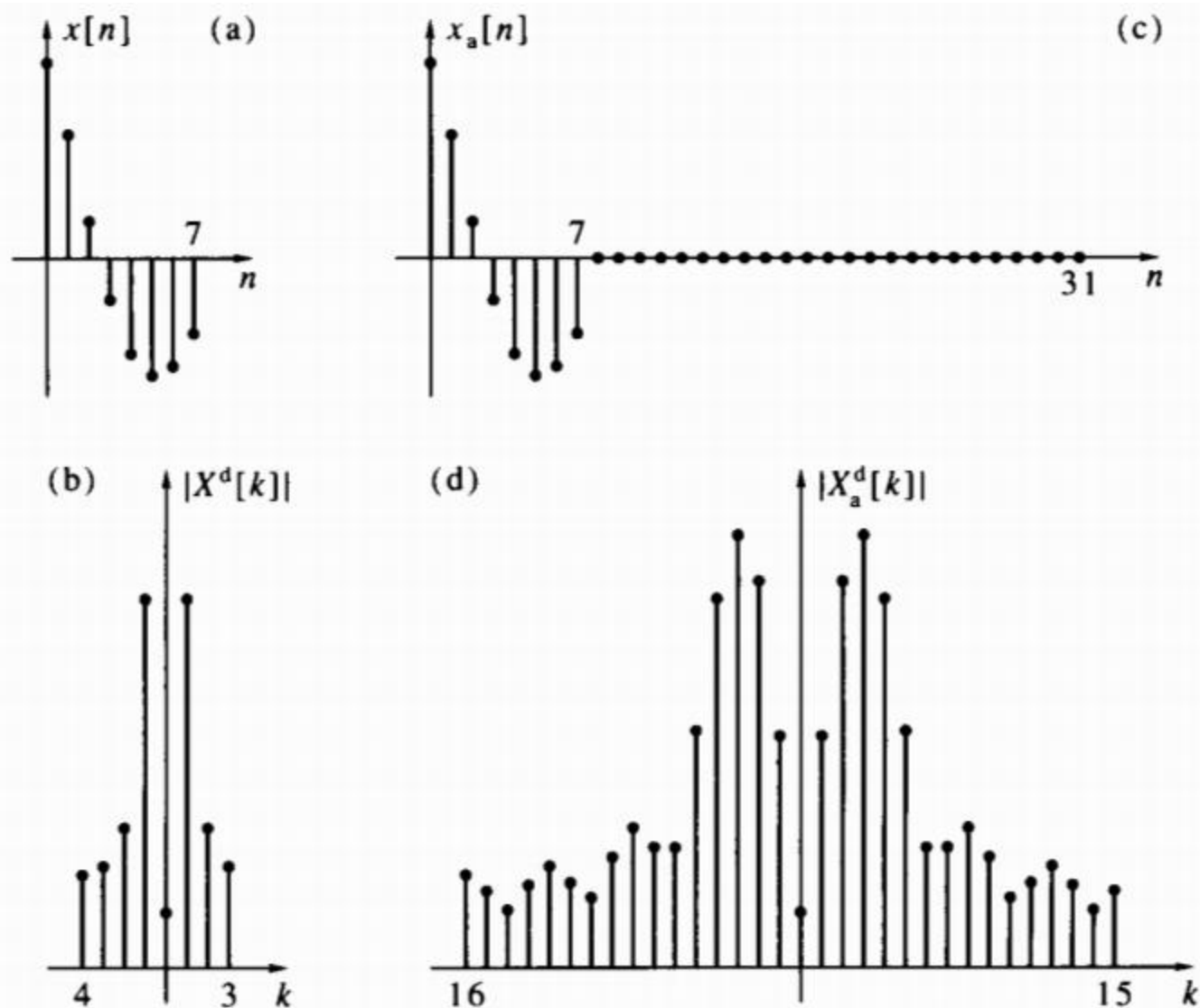
$$x_a[n] = \begin{cases} x[n], & 0 \leq n \leq N-1, \\ 0, & N \leq n \leq M-1. \end{cases} \quad (4.44)$$

The operation of adding zeros to the tail of a sequence is called *zero padding*. The DFT of the zero-padded sequence  $x_a[n]$  is given by

$$\underline{X_a^d[k]} = \sum_{n=0}^{M-1} x_a[n] \exp\left(-\frac{j2\pi kn}{M}\right) = \sum_{n=0}^{N-1} x[n] \exp\left(-\frac{j2\pi kn}{M}\right) = \underline{X^f(\theta[k])}, \quad (4.45)$$

where

$$\underline{\theta[k]} = \frac{2\pi k}{M}, \quad 0 \leq k \leq M-1. \quad (4.46)$$



**Figure 4.7** Increasing the DFT length by zero padding: (a) a signal of length 8; (b) the 8-point DFT of the signal (magnitude); (c) zero padding the signal to length 32; (d) the 32-point DFT of the zero-padded signal.