# Scientific Computing: The Fast Fourier Transform

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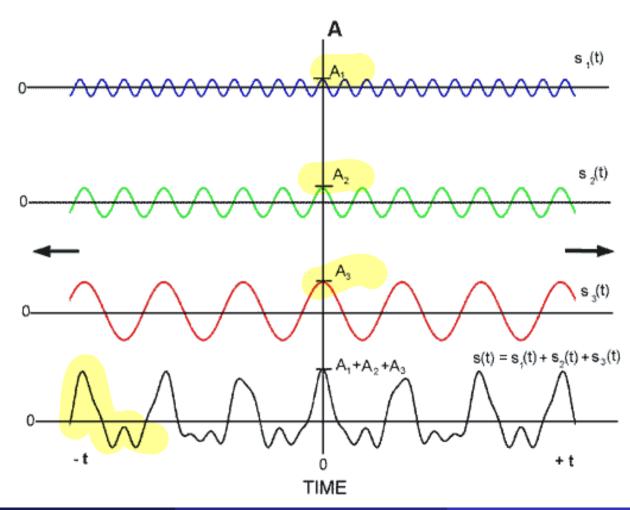
# Outline

## 1 Fourier Series

- 2 Discrete Fourier Transform
- 3 Fast Fourier Transform
- Applications of FFT
- 5 Wavelets

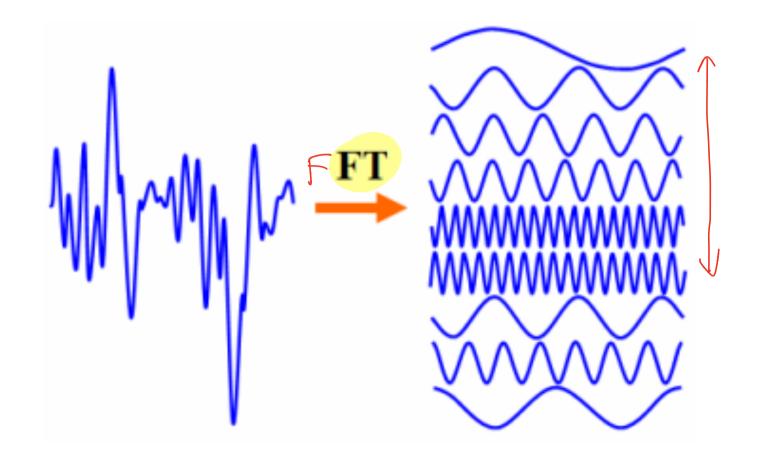


# Fourier Composition



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# Fourier Decomposition



## **Periodic Functions**

• Consider now interpolating / approximating **periodic functions** defined on the interval  $I = [0, 2\pi]$ :

$$\forall x \quad f(x+2\pi)=f(x),$$

as appear in practice when analyzing signals (e.g., sound/image processing).

• Also consider only the space of complex-valued square-integrable functions  $L^2_{2\pi}$ ,

$$\forall f \in L^2_w : (f, f) = ||f||^2 = \int_0^{2\pi} |f(x)|^2 dx < \infty.$$

- Polynomial functions are not periodic and thus basis sets based on orthogonal polynomials are not appropriate.
- Instead, consider sines and cosines as a basis function, combined together into complex exponential functions

$$\phi_k(x) = e^{ikx} = \cos(kx) + i\sin(kx), \quad k = 0, \pm 1, \pm 2, \dots$$

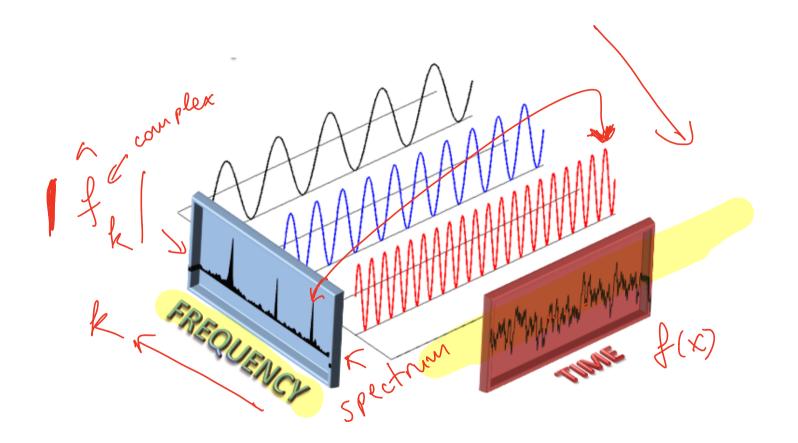
## Fourier Basis Functions

$$\phi_k(x) = e^{ikx}, \quad (k = 0, \pm 1, \pm 2, \ldots)$$

- It is easy to see that these are **orhogonal** with respect to the continuous dot product  $(\phi_j, \phi_k) = \int_{x=0}^{2\pi} \phi_j(x) \phi_k^*(x) dx = \int_0^{2\pi} \exp\left[i(j-k)x\right] dx = 2\pi \delta_{\text{min}} k$
- The complex exponentials can be shown to form a complete trigonometric polynomial basis for the space  $L_{2\pi}^2$ , i.e.,  $\forall f \in L_{2\pi}^2$ :  $f(x) = \sum_{k=-\infty}^{\infty} (\hat{f}_k) e^{ikx}$ ,  $\Rightarrow ||f - \hat{f}_k e^{ikx}||_2^2$

$$\hat{f}_k = \frac{(f,\phi_k)}{2\pi} = \boxed{\frac{1}{2\pi} \cdot \int_0^{2\pi} f(x) e^{-ikx} dx}.$$

## Fourier Decomposition



## **Truncated Fourier Basis**

- For a general interval [0, X] the **discrete frequencies** are wave frequency  $k = \frac{2\pi}{X}\kappa^{L}\kappa = 0, \pm 1, \pm 2, ...$
- For non-periodic functions one can take the limit  $X \to \infty$  in which case we get **continuous frequencies**.
- Now consider a **discrete Fourier basis** that only includes the first *N* basis functions, i.e.,

$$\begin{cases} k = -(N-1)/2, \dots, 0, \dots, (N-1)/2 & \text{if } N \text{ is odd} \\ k = -N/2, \dots, 0, \dots, N/2 - 1 & \text{if } N \text{ is even}, \end{cases}$$

and for simplicity we focus on N odd.

• The least-squares **spectral approximation** for this basis is:

$$f(x) \approx \phi(x) = \sum_{k=-(N-1)/2}^{(N-1)/2} \hat{f}_k e^{ikx}.$$

## Discrete Fourier Basis

• Let us discretize a given function on a set of *N* equi-spaced nodes as a vector

$$\mathbf{f}_j = f(x_j)$$
 where  $x_j = jh$  and  $h = \frac{2}{f}$ 

Observe that j = N is the same node as j = 0 due to periodicity so we only consider N instead of N + 1 nodes.

 Now consider a discrete Fourier basis that only includes the first N basis functions, i.e.,

$$\begin{cases} k = -(N-1)/2, \dots, 0, \dots, (N-1)/2 & \text{if } N \text{ is odd} \\ k = -N/2, \dots, 0, \dots, N/2 - 1 & \text{if } N \text{ is even.} \end{cases}$$

- Focus on N odd and denote K = (N 1)/2.
- Discrete dot product between discretized "functions":

$$f \cdot \mathbf{g} = h \sum_{j=0}^{N-1} f_j g_j^* f_$$

**Discrete Fourier Transform** 

## Fourier Interpolant

$$orall f \in L^2_{2\pi}$$
:  $f(x) = \sum_{k=-\infty}^{\infty} \hat{f}_k e^{ikx}$ 

• We will try to approximate periodic functions with a truncated Fourier series:

$$f(x) \approx \phi(x) = \sum_{k=-K}^{K} \phi_k(x) = \sum_{k=-K}^{K} \hat{f}_k e^{ikx}.$$

. .

• The discrete Fourier basis is  $\{\phi_{-K}, \dots, \phi_{K}\},\$ 

$$(\phi_k)_j = \exp\left(ikx_j\right),$$

and it is a **discretely orthonormal basis** in which we can represent periodic functions,

$$\phi_k \cdot \phi_{k'} = 2\pi \delta_{k,k'}$$

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# Proof of Discrete Orthogonality

## Fourier Matrix

Let us collect the discrete Fourier basis functions as columns in a unitary N × N matrix (fft(eye(N)) in MATLAB)

$$\boldsymbol{\Phi}_{N} = \begin{bmatrix} \boldsymbol{\phi}_{-K} \\ \dots \\ \boldsymbol{\phi}_{0} \dots \\ \boldsymbol{\phi}_{K} \end{bmatrix} \quad \Rightarrow \quad \Phi_{jk}^{(N)} = \frac{1}{\sqrt{N}} \exp\left(2\pi i j k / N\right)$$

• The truncated Fourier series is

$$\mathbf{f} = \mathbf{\Phi}_N \hat{\mathbf{f}}. \qquad \neq \qquad =$$

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• Since the matrix  $\Phi_N$  is unitary, we know that  $\Phi_N^{-1} = \Phi_N^{\star}$  and therefore

 $\widehat{\mathbf{f}} = \mathbf{\Phi}_N^* \mathbf{f}, \qquad \widehat{\mathbf{f}} = \mathbf{\Phi}_N^* \mathbf{f},$ 

which is nothing more than a change of basis!

## **Discrete Fourier Transform**

• The Fourier interpolating polynomial is thus easy to construct

where the discrete Fourier coefficients are given by  

$$\hat{f}_{k}^{(N)} = \frac{\mathbf{f} \cdot \phi_{k}}{2\pi} = \frac{1}{N} \sum_{j=0}^{N-1} f(x_{j}) \exp(-ikx_{j}) \approx \hat{f}_{k}$$

• We can make the expressions more symmetric if we shift the frequencies to k = 0, ..., N but one should still think of half of the frequencies as "negative" and half as "positive" the frequencies as "negative" and "negative" and

## **Discrete Fourier Transform**

 The Discrete Fourier Transform (DFT) is a change of basis taking us from real/time to Fourier/frequency domain:

Forward 
$$\mathbf{f} \to \hat{\mathbf{f}}$$
:  $\hat{f}_k = \frac{1}{\sqrt{N}} \sum_{j=0}^{N-1} f_j \exp\left(-\frac{2\pi i j k}{N}\right), \quad k = 0, \dots, N-1$   
Inverse  $\hat{\mathbf{f}} \to \mathbf{f}$ :  $f_j = \frac{1}{\sqrt{N}} \sum_{k=0}^{N-1} \hat{f}_k \exp\left(\frac{2\pi i j k}{N}\right), \quad j = 0, \dots, N-1$ 

 There is different conventions for the DFT depending on the interval on which the function is defined and placement of factors of N and 2π.

Read the documentation to be consistent!

• A direct matrix-vector multiplication algorithm therefore takes  $O(N^2)$  multiplications and additions. Can we do it faster?

#### Discrete spectrum

The set of discrete Fourier coefficients f̂ is called the discrete spectrum, and in particular,

$$S_k = \left| \hat{f}_k \right|^2 = \hat{f}_k \hat{f}_k^\star,$$

is the **power spectrum** which measures the frequency content of a signal.

• If f is real, then  $\hat{f}$  satisfies the **conjugacy property** 

$$\hat{f}_{-k} = \hat{f}_k^\star,$$

so that half of the spectrum is redundant and  $\hat{f}_0$  is real.

• For an even number of points N the largest frequency k = -N/2 does not have a conjugate partner.

Approximation error: Analytic

• The Fourier interpolating trigonometric polynomial is spectrally accurate and a really great approximation for (very) smooth functions.

#### Discrete Fourier Transform

# Spectral Accuracy (or not)

The Fourier interpolating polynomial φ(x) has spectral accuracy,
 i.e., exponential in the number of nodes N

$$\|f(x)-\phi(x)\|\sim e^{-N}$$

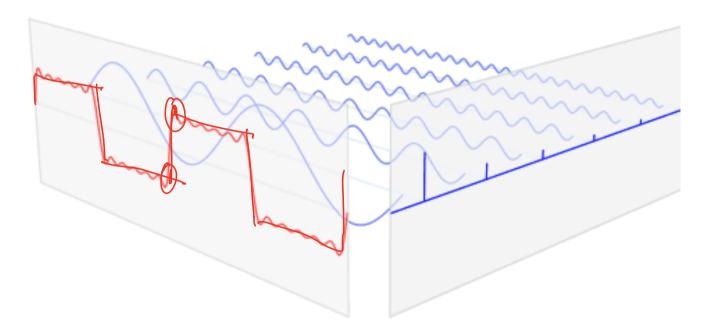
#### for sufficiently smooth functions.

- Specifically, what is needed is sufficiently rapid decay of the Fourier coefficients with k, e.g., exponential decay  $\left| \hat{f}_k \right| \sim e^{-|k|}$ .
- Discontinuities cause slowly-decaying Fourier coefficients, e.g., power law decay  $|\hat{f}_k| \sim k^{-1}$  for **jump discontinuities**.
- Jump discontinuities lead to slow convergence of the Fourier series for non-singular points (and no convergence at all near the singularity), so-called **Gibbs phenomenon** (ringing):

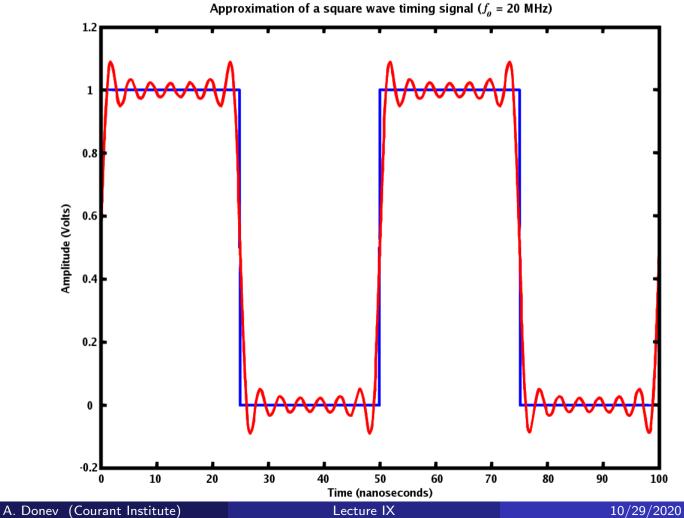
$$\|f(x) - \phi(x)\| \sim \begin{cases} N^{-1} & \text{at points away from jumps} \\ \text{const.} & \text{at the jumps themselves} \end{cases}$$

Discrete Fourier Transform

## Gibbs Phenomenon



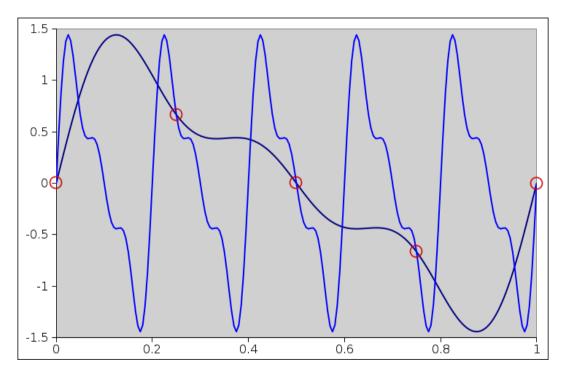
# Gibbs Phenomenon



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# Aliasing

If we sample a signal at too few points the Fourier interpolant may be wildly wrong: **aliasing** of frequencies k and 2k, 3k, ...



Standard anti-aliasing rule is the **Nyquist–Shannon** criterion (theorem): Need **at least 2 samples per period**.

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Fast Fourier Transform

# DFT

 Recall the transformation from real space to frequency space and back:

$$\mathbf{f} \to \hat{\mathbf{f}}: \quad \hat{f}_k = \frac{1}{N} \sum_{j=0}^{N-1} f_j \exp\left(-\frac{2\pi i j k}{N}\right), \quad k = -\frac{(N-1)}{2}, \dots, \frac{(N-1)}{2}$$

$$\hat{\mathbf{f}} \rightarrow \mathbf{f}$$
:  $f_j = \sum_{k=-(N-1)/2}^{(N-1)/2} \hat{f}_k \exp\left(\frac{2\pi i j k}{N}\right), \quad j = 0, \dots, N-1$ 

 We can make the forward-reverse Discrete Fourier Transform (DFT) more symmetric if we shift the frequencies to k = 0,..., N:

Forward 
$$\mathbf{f} \to \hat{\mathbf{f}}$$
:  $\hat{f}_k = \frac{1}{\sqrt{N}} \sum_{j=0}^{N-1} f_j \exp\left(-\frac{2\pi i j k}{N}\right), \quad k = 0, \dots, N-1$ 

Inverse 
$$\hat{\mathbf{f}} \to \mathbf{f}$$
:  $f_j = \frac{1}{\sqrt{N}} \sum_{k=0}^{N-1} \hat{f}_k \exp\left(\frac{2\pi i j k}{N}\right), \quad j = 0, \dots, N-1$ 

## FFT

• We can write the transforms in matrix notation:

$$\hat{\mathbf{f}} = rac{1}{\sqrt{N}} \mathbf{U}_N \mathbf{f}$$
 $\mathbf{f} = rac{1}{\sqrt{N}} \mathbf{U}_N^{\star} \hat{\mathbf{f}},$ 

where the **unitary Fourier matrix** is an  $N \times N$  matrix with entries  $e^{2\pi i j k/N} = u_{jk}^{(N)} = \omega_N^{jk}, \quad \omega_N = e^{-2\pi i/N}.$ 

- A direct matrix-vector multiplication algorithm therefore takes O(N<sup>2</sup>) multiplications and additions.
- Is there a faster way to compute the **non-normalized**

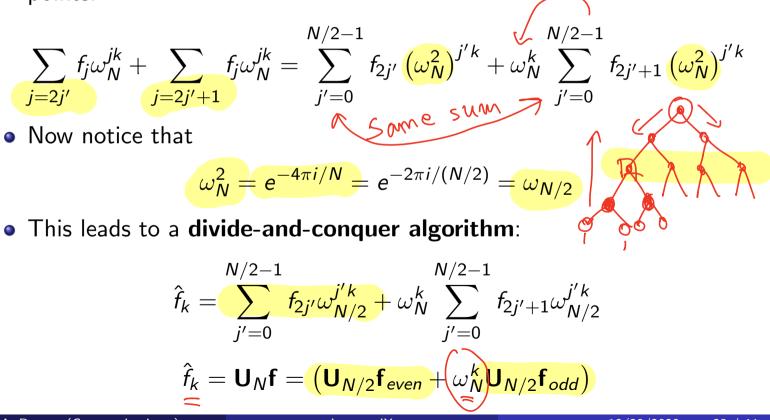
$$(\alpha \kappa \psi^{k} \phi^{k}) \hat{f}_{k} = \sum_{j=0}^{N-1} f_{j} \omega_{N}^{jk} ? \qquad k=0, \dots, N^{-1}$$

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Fast Fourier Transform

## FFT

- For now assume that N is even and in fact a power of two,  $N = 2^n$ .
- The idea is to split the transform into two pieces, even and odd points:



# FFT Complexity

• The Fast Fourier Transform algorithm is recursive:

$$FFT_{N}(\mathbf{f}) = FFT_{\frac{N}{2}}(\mathbf{f}_{even}) + \mathbf{w} \boxdot FFT_{\frac{N}{2}}(\mathbf{f}_{odd}),$$

where  $w_k = \omega_N^k$  and  $\Box$  denotes element-wise product. When N = 1 the FFT is trivial (identity).

- To compute the whole transform we need log<sub>2</sub>(N) steps, and at each step we only need N multiplications and N/2 additions at each step.
- The total **cost of FFT** is thus much better than the direct method's  $O(N^2)$ : Log-linear  $O(N \log N)$ .

• Note that there are different **normalization conventions** used in different software.

# In MATLAB

- The forward transform is performed by the function  $\hat{f} = fft(f)$  and the inverse by  $f = fft(\hat{f})$ . Note that ifft(fft(f)) = f and f and  $\hat{f}$  may be complex.
- In MATLAB, and other software, the frequencies are not ordered in the "normal" way -(N-1)/2 to +(N-1)/2, but rather, the nonnegative frequencies come first, then the positive ones, so the "funny" ordering is

$$(0,1,\ldots,(N-1)/2), -\frac{N-1}{2}, -\frac{N-1}{2}+1,\ldots,-1.$$

This is because such ordering (shift) makes the forward and inverse transforms symmetric.

• The function *fftshift* can be used to order the frequencies in the "normal" way, and *ifftshift* does the reverse:

 $\hat{f} = fftshift(fft(f))$  (normal ordering).

# Multidimensional FFT

• DFTs and FFTs generalize straightforwardly to higher dimensions due to separability: **Transform each dimension independently** 

$$\hat{f} = \frac{1}{N_x N_y} \sum_{j_y=0}^{N_y-1} \sum_{j_x=0}^{N_x-1} f_{j_x,j_y} \exp\left[-\frac{2\pi i \left(j_x k_x + j_y k_y\right)}{N}\right]$$
$$\hat{f}_{k_x,k_y} = \frac{1}{N_x} \sum_{j_y=0}^{N_y-1} \exp\left(-\frac{2\pi i j_y k_x}{N}\right) \left[\frac{1}{N_y} \sum_{j_y=0}^{N_y-1} f_{j_x,j_y} \exp\left(-\frac{2\pi i j_y k_y}{N}\right)\right]$$

 For example, in two dimensions, do FFTs of each column, then FFTs of each row of the result:

$$\hat{\mathbf{f}} = \boldsymbol{\mathcal{F}}_{\textit{row}}\left(\boldsymbol{\mathcal{F}}_{\textit{col}}\left(\mathbf{f}
ight)
ight)$$

• The cost is  $N_y$  one-dimensional FFTs of length  $N_x$  and then  $N_x$  one-dimensional FFTs of length  $N_y$ :

$$N_x N_y \log N_x + N_x N_y \log N_y = N_x N_y \log (N_x N_y) = N \log N$$

# Applications of FFTs

- Because FFT is a very fast, almost linear algorithm, it is used often to accomplish things that are not seemingly related to function approximation.
- Denote the Discrete Fourier transform, computed using FFTs in practice, with

$$\hat{\mathbf{f}}=\mathcal{F}\left(\mathbf{f}
ight)$$
 and  $\mathbf{f}=\mathcal{F}^{-1}\left(\hat{\mathbf{f}}
ight)$  .

• Plain FFT is used in signal processing for **digital filtering**: Multiply the spectrum by a filter  $\hat{S}(k)$  discretized as  $\hat{\mathbf{s}} = \left\{ \hat{S}(k) \right\}_{k}$ :

$$\mathbf{f}_{\textit{filt}} = \mathcal{F}^{-1}\left(\hat{\mathbf{s}} \boxdot \hat{\mathbf{f}}
ight).$$

• Examples include **low-pass**, **high-pass**, or **band-pass filters**. Note that **aliasing** can be a problem for digital filters.

#### Applications of FFT

# FFT-based noise filtering (1)

Fs = 1000; dt = 1/Fs; L = 1000; t = (0:L-1)\*dt;T=L\*dt;

- % Sampling frequency
- % Sampling interval
- % Length of signal
- % Time vector
- % Total time interval

% Sum of a 50 Hz sinusoid and a 120 Hz sinusoid x = 0.7 \* sin(2\*pi\*50\*t) + sin(2\*pi\*120\*t);y = x + 2\*randn(size(t)); % Sinusoids plus noise

```
figure(1); clf;
plot(t(1:100),y(1:100),'b--'); hold on
title('Signal Corrupted with Zero-Mean Random Noise')
xlabel('time')
```

# FFT-based noise filtering (2)

if (0)  

$$N=(L/2)*2;$$
 % Even N  
 $y_{hat} = fft(y(1:N));$   
% Frequencies ordered in a funny way:  
 $f_{funny} = 2*pi/T* [0:N/2-1, -N/2:-1];$   
% Normal ordering:  
 $f_{normal} = 2*pi/T* [-N/2 : N/2-1];$   
else  
 $N=(L/2)*2-1;$  % Odd N  
 $y_{hat} = fft(y(1:N));$  %  $fftshift(fft(y(L,M)));$   
% Frequencies ordered in a funny way:  
 $f_{funny} = 2*pi/T* [0:(N-1)/2, -(N-1)/2:-1];$   
% Normal ordering:  
 $f_{normal} = 2*pi/T* [-(N-1)/2 : (N-1)/2];$   
end

## FFT-based noise filtering (3)

figure(2); clf; plot(f\_funny, abs(y\_hat), 'ro'); hold

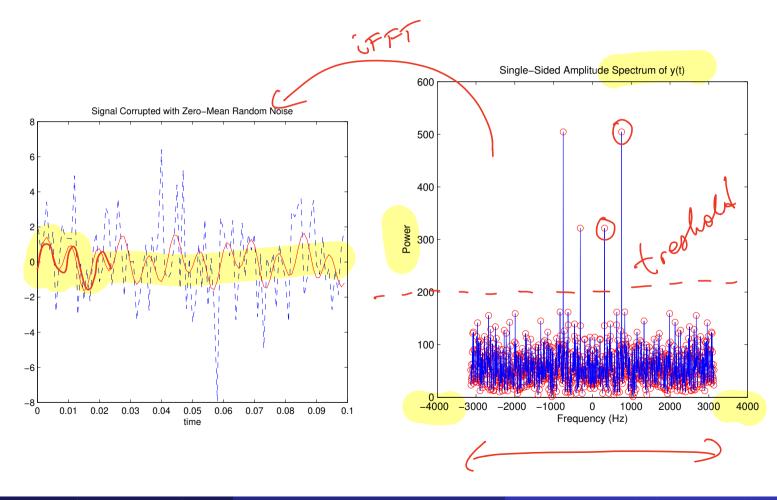
y\_hat=<mark>fftshift(</mark>y\_hat); figure(2); plot<mark>(f\_normal</mark>, <mark>abs(y\_hat)</mark>, 'b-');

title('Single-Sided Amplitude Spectrum of y(t)')
xlabel('Frequency (Hz)')
ylabel('Power')

y\_hat(abs(y\_hat)<250)=0; % Filter out noise
y\_filtered = ifft(ifftshift(y\_hat));
figure(1); plot(t(1:100),y\_filtered(1:100),'r-')</pre>

Applications of FFT

## FFT results



## Spectral Derivative

- Consider approximating the derivative of a periodic function f(x), computed at a set of N equally-spaced nodes, f.
- One way to do it is to use the **finite difference approximations**:

$$f'(x_j) \approx rac{f(x_j+h) - f(x_j-h)}{2h} = rac{f_{j+1} - f_{j-1}}{2h}$$

 In order to achieve spectral accuracy of the derivative, we can differentiate the spectral approximation:

Spectrally-accurate finite-difference derivative

$$f'(x) \approx \phi'(x) = \frac{d}{dx}\phi(x) = \frac{d}{dx}\left(\sum_{k=0}^{N-1}\hat{f}_k e^{ikx}\right) = \sum_{k=0}^{N-1}\hat{f}_k \frac{d}{dx}e^{ikx}$$

$$\boldsymbol{\phi}' = \sum_{k=0}^{N-1} \left( ik \, \hat{f}_k \right) e^{ikx} = \boldsymbol{\mathcal{F}}^{-1} \left( i \hat{\mathbf{f}} \boxdot \mathbf{k} \right)$$

• Differentiation becomes multiplication in Fourier space.

## Unmatched mode

- Recall that for even N there is one unmatched mode, the one with the highest frequency and amplitude  $\hat{f}_{N/2}$ .
- We need to choose what we want to do with that mode; see notes by S. G. Johnson (MIT) linked on webpage for details:

$$\phi(x) = \hat{f}_0 + \sum_{0 < k < N/2} \left( \hat{f}_k e^{ikx} + \hat{f}_{N-k} e^{-ikx} \right) + \hat{f}_{N/2} \cos\left(\frac{Nx}{2}\right).$$

This is the unique "minimal oscillation" trigonometric interpolant.Differentiating this we get

$$\widehat{(\phi')}_k = \widehat{f}_k \begin{cases} 0 & \text{if } k = N/2 \\ ik & \text{if } k < N/2 \\ i(k-N) & \text{if } k > N/2 \end{cases}$$

• Real valued interpolation samples result in **real-valued**  $\phi(x)$  for all x.

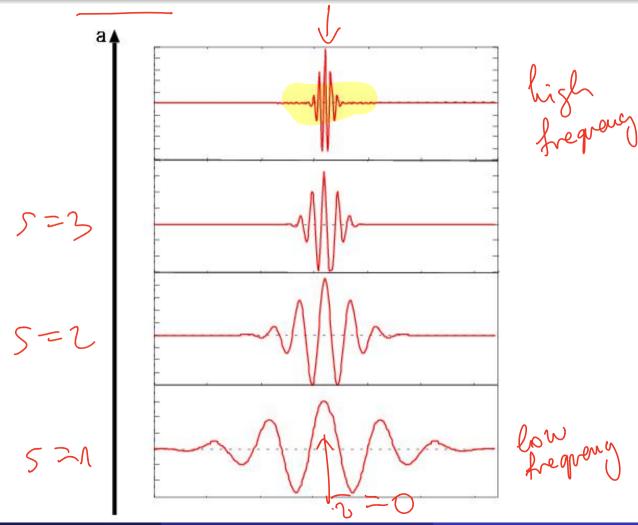
## **FFT-based differentiation**

% From Nick Trefethen's Spectral Methods book  
% Differentiation of 
$$exp(sin(x))$$
 on  $(0,2*pi]$ :  
N = 8; % Even number!  
h =  $2*pi/N$ ; x =  $h*(1:N)$ ';  
v =  $exp(sin(x))$ ; vprime =  $cos(x).*v$ ;  
v\_hat =  $fft(v)$ ; ( $n \circ dffshift$ )  
ik =  $1i*[0:N/2-1 \circ N/2+1:-1]$ '; % Zero special mode  
w\_hat = ik .\* v\_hat;  
w = real(ifft(w\_hat));  
error = norm(w-vprime, inf)  
integral =  $ifft(v)$ ;  $ifft(v)$ ,  $i$ 

#### The need for wavelets

- Fourier basis is great for analyzing periodic signals, but is not good for functions that are **localized in space**, e.g., brief bursts of speach.
- Fourier transforms are not good with handling **discontinuities** in functions because of the Gibbs phenomenon.
- Fourier polynomails **assume periodicity** and are not as useful for non-periodic functions.
- Because Fourier basis is not localized, the highest frequency present in the signal must be used everywhere: One cannot use **different resolutions in different regions of space**.

## An example wavelet

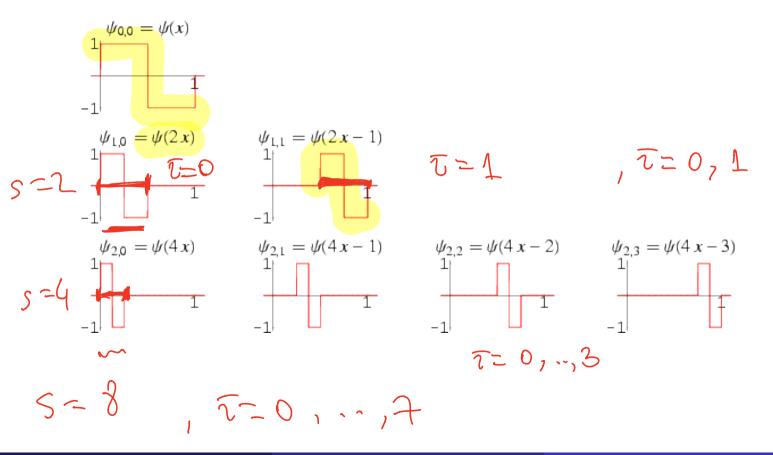


#### Wavelet basis

- A mother wavelet function W(x) is a localized function in space. For simplicity assume that W(x) has compact support on [0, 1].
- A wavelet basis is a collection of wavelets  $W_{s,\tau}(x)$  obtained from W(x) by dilation with a scaling factor s and shifting by a translation factor  $\tau$ :  $W_{s,\tau}(x) = W(sx - \tau)$ . Debaucher
- Here the scale plays the role of frequency in the FT, but the shift is novel and localized the basis functions in space.
- We focus on **discrete wavelet basis**, where the scaling factors are chosen to be powers of 2 and the shifts are integers:

$$W_{j,k} = W(2^j x - k), \quad k \in \mathbb{Z}, \ j \in \mathbb{Z}, \ j \ge 0.$$

#### Haar Wavelet Basis



### Wavelet Transform

• Any function can now be represented in the wavelet basis:

$$f(x) = c_0 + \sum_{j=0}^{\infty} \sum_{k=0}^{(2)-1} c_{jk} W_{j,k}(x)$$

This representation picks out frequency components in different spatial regions.

• As usual, we truncate the basis at j < J, which leads to a total number of coefficients  $c_{ik}$ : F(x) Wowelet No bransform 2 values transform 2 coefficients

$$\sum_{j=0}^{J-1} 2^j = 2^J$$

## Discrete Wavelet Basis

• Similarly, we discretize the function on a set of  $N = 2^J$  equally-spaced nodes  $x_{i,k}$  or intervals, to get the vector **f**:

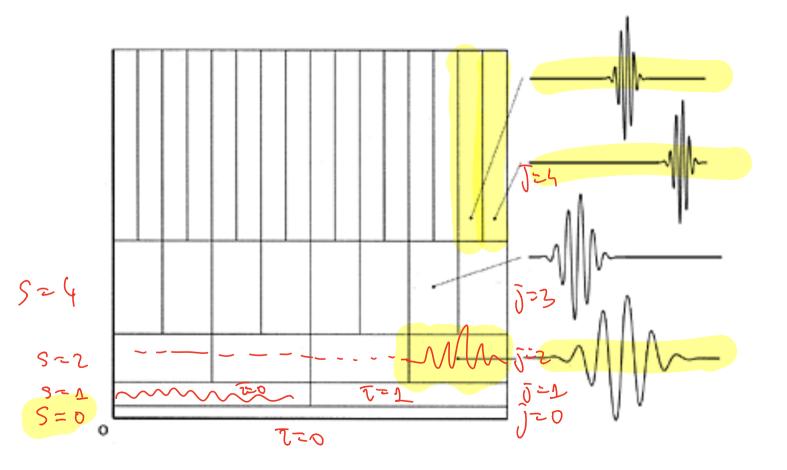
$${f f}=c_0+\sum_{j=0}^{J-1}\sum_{k=0}^{2^j-1}c_{jk}W_{j,k}(x_{j,k})={f W}_j{f c}$$

 In order to be able to quickly and stably compute the coefficients c we need an orthogonal wavelet basis:

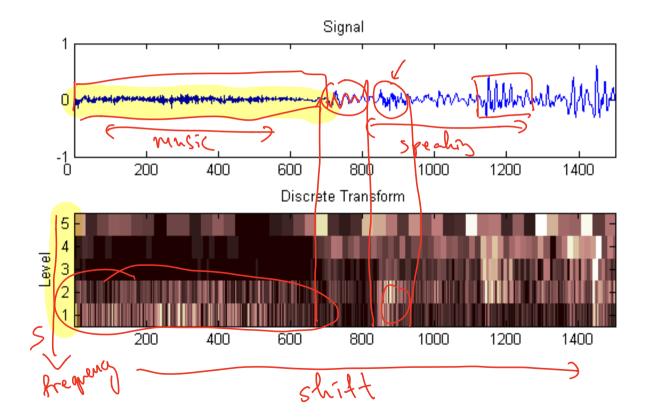
$$\int W_{j,k}(x)W_{l,m}(x)dx = \delta_{j,l}\delta_{l,m}$$

 The Haar basis is discretely orthogonal and computing the transform and its inverse can be done using a fast wavelet transform, in linear time O(N) time.

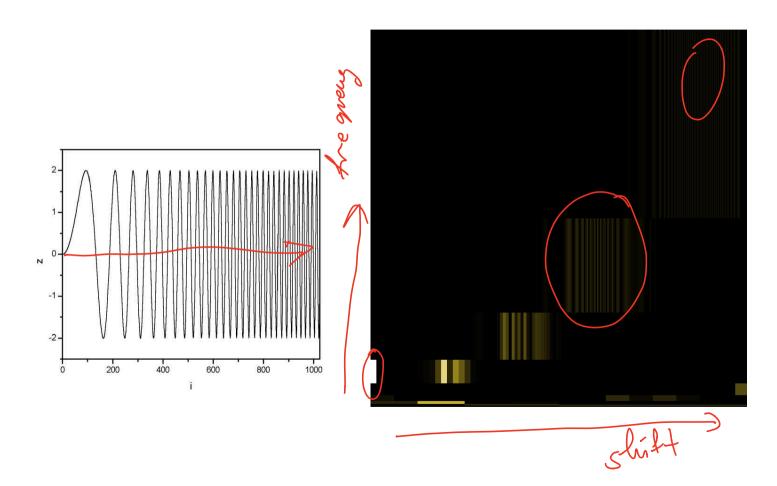
## Discrete Wavelet Transform



## Scaleogram



# Another scaleogram



#### Conclusions

## Conclusions/Summary

- Periodic functions can be approximated using basis of orthogonal trigonometric polynomials.
- The Fourier basis is **discretely orthogonal** and gives **spectral accuracy** for smooth functions.
- Functions with discontinuities are not approximated well: **Gibbs phenomenon**.
- The **Discrete Fourier Transform** can be computed very efficiently using the **Fast Fourier Transform** algorithm:  $O(N \log N)$ .
- FFTs can be used to **filter** signals, to do **convolutions**, and to provide spectrally-accurate **derivatives**, all in  $O(N \log N)$  time.
- For signals that have different properties in different parts of the domain a **wavelet basis** may be more appropriate.
- Using specially-constructed **orthogonal discrete wavelet basis** one can compute **fast discrete wavelet transforms** in time O(N).