Continuous Time Signal Analysis: the Fourier Transform

Lathi Chapter 4



Topics

- Aperiodic signal representation by the Fourier integral (CTFT)
 - Continuous-time Fourier transform
- Transforms of some useful functions
- Properties of the Fourier Transform
- Filtering
- Modulation



Aperiodic signal representation by the Fourier Integral

• What happens if the signal is NOT periodic? How can we represent it over the whole temporal axis?





Towards the CTFT

- Starting from Fourier series, we will derive the CTFT by a "trick"
 - First, we will build a periodic signal starting from time-limited f(t)
 - Then, we will represent a NON periodic signal as a limit case of a periodic signal when the period goes to infinity
 - Finally, we will derive the CTFT and analyze the link with FS



Towards CTFT: steps 1 and 2



Fig. 4.1 Construction of a periodic signal by periodic extension of f(t).

$$\lim_{T_0 \to \infty} f_{T_0}(t) = f(t)$$



Towards CTFT

• Since $f_{T0}(t)$ is periodic, we can represent it by the exponential FS

$$f_{T_0}(t) = \sum_{n=-\infty}^{\infty} D_n e^{jn\omega_0 t}$$
(4.1)

where

$$D_n = \frac{1}{T_0} \int_{-T_0/2}^{T_0/2} f_{T_0}(t) e^{-jn\omega_0 t} dt$$
(4.2a)

 \mathbf{and}

$$\omega_0 = \frac{2\pi}{T_0} \tag{4.2b}$$

• But: $\int_{-T_0/2}^{T_0/2} f_{T_0}(t) dt = \int_{-\infty}^{+\infty} f(t) dt$



Towards CTFT

Thus

$$D_n = \frac{1}{T_0} \int_{-\infty}^{+\infty} f(t) e^{-jn\omega_0 t} dt$$

- Let's then define the continuous function $F(\omega)$

$$F(\omega) = \int_{-\infty}^{+\infty} f(t) e^{-j\omega t} dt$$
$$D_n = \frac{1}{T_0} F(n\omega_0)$$

The Fourier series coefficients D_n are $(1/T_0)$ times the coefficients of $F(\omega)$ uniformly distributed over the frequency axis with spacing ω_0



CFTF vs FS



Fig. 4.2 Change in the Fourier spectrum when the period T_0 in Fig. 4.1 is doubled.

CTFT is the envelop of the coefficients of the FS or, alternatively, the FS can be seen as a sampled version of the CTFT



Approaching the limit

- When T0 goes to infinity
 - we recover the non-period signal f(t)
 - the DS samples get progressively closer to each other
 - The relative shape of the spectrum with respect to $F(\boldsymbol{\omega})$ stays unchanged
- However
 - Each single spectral component has an amplitude that decreases to zero

 $T_0 \to \infty$ $\omega_0 \to 0$ $D_n \to 0$

We have nothing of everything, yet we have something



Solving the paradox

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 Even though each *individual* component has vanishing amplitude, we can *group* components across intervals of infinitesimal width and make them *working in team*

$$f_{T_0}(t) = \sum_{n=-\infty}^{+\infty} \frac{F(n\omega_0)}{T_0} e^{jn\omega_0 t}$$

 $\omega_0 \to 0$ different notation $\to \Delta \omega$



Weight of the component of frequency

Getting to the CTFT

When T₀ goes to infinity, the sum can be replaced by an integral leading to the CTFT

$$f(t) = \lim_{T_0 \to \infty} f_{T_0}(t) = \lim_{\Delta \omega \to 0} \frac{1}{2\pi} \sum_{n = -\infty}^{+\infty} F(n\Delta\omega) e^{jn\Delta\omega t} \Delta\omega$$



Fig. 4.3 The Fourier series becomes the Fourier integral in the limit as $T_0 \rightarrow \infty$.



CTFT qui

Fourier integral

$$f(t) = \frac{1}{2\pi} \int_{-\infty}^{+\infty} F(\omega) e^{j\omega t} d\omega$$
$$F(\omega) = \int_{-\infty}^{+\infty} f(t) e^{-j\omega t} dt$$

Analysis formula

Synthesis formula

Fourier domain



Amplitude and Phase spectra

$$F(\omega) = |F(\omega)| e^{j \angle F(\omega)}$$

For real signals



Fig. 4.4 $e^{-at}u(t)$ and its Fourier spectra.



Existence of the FT

Dirichlet conditions (sufficient)

$$\int_{-\infty}^{\infty} |f(t)| \, dt < \infty \tag{4.13}$$

Because $|e^{-j\omega t}| = 1$, from Eq. (4.8a), we obtain

$$|F(\omega)| \leq \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} |f(t)| dt$$

- Not necessary
 - There exist functions not satisfying condition (4.13) still having a Fourier transform, like the sinc(t)
- The CTFT always exists for real (measured) signals



Linearity of the CTFT

The Fourier transform is linear; that is, if

 $f_1(t) \iff F_1(\omega)$ and $f_2(t) \iff F_2(\omega)$

 $_{\rm then}$

$$a_1 f_1(t) + a_2 f_2(t) \iff a_1 F_1(\omega) + a_2 F_2(\omega) \tag{4.14}$$

The proof is trivial and follows directly from Eq. (4.8a). This result can be extended to any finite number of terms.



LTIC systems response using the CTFT

Back to the response to the everlasting exponential

$$e^{j\omega t} \implies H(\omega)e^{j\omega t}$$

Therefore

$$e^{j(n \bigtriangleup \omega)t} \implies H(n \bigtriangleup \omega) e^{j(n \bigtriangleup \omega)t}$$

and

$$\left[\frac{F(n\triangle\omega)\triangle\omega}{2\pi}\right]e^{(jn\triangle\omega)t}\implies \left[\frac{F(n\triangle\omega)H(n\triangle\omega)\triangle\omega}{2\pi}\right]e^{j(n\triangle\omega)t}$$

Using the linearity property





LTIC systems response using the CTFT

The left-hand side is the input f(t) [see Eqs. (4.6a) and (4.6b)], and the right-hand side is the response y(t). Thus

$$y(t) = \frac{1}{2\pi} \lim_{\Delta \omega \to 0} \sum_{n=-\infty}^{\infty} F(n\Delta\omega) H(n\Delta\omega) e^{j(n\Delta\omega)t} \Delta\omega$$
$$= \frac{1}{2\pi} \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} F(\omega) H(\omega) e^{j\omega t} d\omega$$
$$= \frac{1}{2\pi} \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} Y(\omega) e^{j\omega t} d\omega$$
(4.18)

where $Y(\omega)$, the Fourier transform of y(t), is given by

 $Y(\omega)=F(\omega)H(\omega)$



Time vs Frequency domain

1 For the time-domain case

 $\delta(t) \implies h(t)$ the impulse response of the system is h(t)

 $f(t) = \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} f(x)\delta(t-x) dx$ expresses f(t) as a sum of impulse components

and

$$y(t) = \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} f(x)h(t-x) dx$$
 expresses $y(t)$ as a sum of responses to impulse components

2 For the frequency-domain case

$$e^{j\omega t} \implies H(\omega)e^{j\omega t}$$
 the system response to $e^{j\omega t}$ is $H(\omega)e^{j\omega t}$

 $f(t) = \frac{1}{2\pi} \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} F(\omega) e^{j\omega t} d\omega \quad \text{shows } f(t) \text{ as a sum of everlasting exponential components}$

and

 $y(t) = \frac{1}{2\pi} \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} F(\omega) H(\omega) e^{j\omega t} d\omega \qquad y(t) \text{ is a sum of responses to exponential components}$



Rectangular function



Example 4.2

Find the Fourier transform of $f(t) = \text{rect}\left(\frac{t}{\tau}\right)$ (Fig. 4.10a).

$$F(\omega) = \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} \operatorname{rect}\left(\frac{t}{\tau}\right) e^{-j\omega t} dt$$

Since rect $\left(\frac{t}{\tau}\right) = 1$ for $|t| < \frac{\tau}{2}$, and since it is zero for $|t| > \frac{\tau}{2}$,

$$F(\omega) = \int_{-\tau/2}^{\tau/2} e^{-j\omega t} dt$$

= $-\frac{1}{j\omega} (e^{-j\omega \tau/2} - e^{j\omega \tau/2}) = \frac{2\sin\left(\frac{\omega \tau}{2}\right)}{\omega}$
= $\tau \frac{\sin\left(\frac{\omega \tau}{2}\right)}{\left(\frac{\omega \tau}{2}\right)} = \tau \operatorname{sinc}\left(\frac{\omega \tau}{2}\right)$
(4.23)

Therefore



Example: rect(t/ τ)







Impulse

Example 4.3

Find the Fourier transform of the unit impulse $\delta(t)$. Using the sampling property of the impulse [Eq. (1.24)], we obtain

$$\mathcal{F}[\delta(t)] = \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} \delta(t) e^{-j\omega t} dt = 1$$
(4.24a)

or

$$\delta(t) \iff 1$$
 (4.24b)

Figure 4.11 shows $\delta(t)$ and its spectrum.



Fig. 4.11 Unit impulse and its Fourier spectrum.



- Constant function
 - Derived as the inverse CTFT of the delta in Fourier domain

Find the inverse Fourier transform of $\delta(\omega)$.

On the basis of Eq. (4.8b) and the sampling property of the impulse function,

$$\mathcal{F}^{-1}[\delta(\omega)] = \frac{1}{2\pi} \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} \delta(\omega) e^{j\omega t} \, d\omega = \frac{1}{2\pi}$$

Therefore

or

$$\frac{1}{2\pi} \iff \delta(\omega) \tag{4.25a}$$

$$1 \iff 2\pi\delta(\omega) \tag{4.25b}$$



Example 4.5

Find the inverse Fourier transform of $\delta(\omega - \omega_0)$. Using the sampling property of the impulse function, we obtain

$$\mathcal{F}^{-1}[\delta(\omega-\omega_0)] = \frac{1}{2\pi} \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} \delta(\omega-\omega_0) e^{j\omega t} \, d\omega = \frac{1}{2\pi} e^{j\omega_0 t}$$

Therefore

 $\frac{1}{2\pi}e^{j\omega_0 t} \iff \delta(\omega - \omega_0)$ $e^{j\omega_0 t} \iff 2\pi\delta(\omega - \omega_0)$ (4.26a)

or

This result shows that the spectrum of an everlasting exponential $e^{j\omega_0 t}$ is a single impulse at $\omega = \omega_0$. We reach the same conclusion by qualitative reasoning. To represent the everlasting exponential $e^{j\omega_0 t}$, we need a single everlasting exponential $e^{j\omega t}$ with $\omega = \omega_0$. Therefore, the spectrum consists of a single component at frequency $\omega = \omega_0$.

From Eq. (4.26a) it follows that

$$e^{-j\omega_0 t} \iff 2\pi\delta(\omega+\omega_0)$$
 (4.26b)



Everlasting sinusoid



Fig. 4.13 A cosine signal and its Fourier spectrum.



Symmetry of the CTFT





 $f(t-t_0) \iff F(\omega)e^{-j\omega t_0}$

$$f(t)e^{j\omega_0 t} \iff F(\omega - \omega_0)$$

Time-shift -> phase change in frequency domain

Delaying a signal by t_0 seconds does not change the amplitude spectrum but changes the phase spectrum by $-\omega t_0$ Frequency shift (modulation) -> phase change in time domain



Physical explanation of the time—shifting property



Fig. 4.20 Physical explanation of the time-shifting property.

To keep the signal spectrum unchanged after time-shifting, higher frequencies must go through larger phase shift. More precisely, the phase shift must be linear



4.3-2 Symmetry Property

This property states that if

then

(4.:

Proof: According to Eq. (4.8b)

$$f(t) = \frac{1}{2\pi} \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} F(x) e^{jxt} \, dx$$

 $f(t) \iff F(\omega)$ $F(t) \iff 2\pi f(-\omega)$

Hence

$$2\pi f(-t) = \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} F(x) e^{-jxt} \, dx$$

Changing t to ω yields Eq. (4.31).



Example 4.8

In this example we apply the symmetry property [Eq. (4.31)] to the pair in Fig. 4.17a. From Eq. (4.23) we have

$$\underbrace{\operatorname{rect}\left(\frac{t}{\tau}\right)}_{f(t)} \Longleftrightarrow \underbrace{\tau \operatorname{sinc}\left(\frac{\omega\tau}{2}\right)}_{F(\omega)} \tag{4.32}$$

Also, F(t) is the same as $F(\omega)$ with ω replaced by t, and $f(-\omega)$ is the same as f(t) with t replaced by $-\omega$. Therefore, the symmetry property (4.31) yields

$$\underbrace{\tau \operatorname{sinc}\left(\frac{\tau t}{2}\right)}_{F(t)} \Longleftrightarrow \underbrace{2\pi \operatorname{rect}\left(\frac{-\omega}{\tau}\right)}_{2\pi f(-\omega)} = 2\pi \operatorname{rect}\left(\frac{\omega}{\tau}\right)$$
(4.33)

$$:\operatorname{rect}\left(-x
ight) =\operatorname{rect}\left(x
ight)$$





Fig. 4.17 Symmetry property of the Fourier transform.



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Scaling

$$\mathcal{F}[f(at)] = \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} f(at)e^{-j\omega t} dt = \frac{1}{a} \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} f(x)e^{(-j\omega/a)x} dx = \frac{1}{a}F\left(\frac{\omega}{a}\right)$$

 $f(at) \iff \frac{1}{|a|} F\left(\frac{\omega}{a}\right)$





The time shrinking of a signal results in a spectral expansion and, viceversa, a spectral shirking results in a temporal expansion

Reciprocity of signal duration and bandwidth

Fig. 4.18 Scaling property of the Fourier transform.



Convolution

$$f_1(t) * f_2(t) \iff F_1(\omega)F_2(\omega)$$

$$f_1(t)f_2(t) \iff \frac{1}{2\pi}F_1(\omega) * F_2(\omega)$$



 $\mathcal{F}[f_1(t)*f_2(t)] = \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} f_1(\tau)e^{-j\omega\tau}F_2(\omega)d\tau = F_2(\omega)\int_{-\infty}^{\infty} f_1(\tau)e^{-j\omega\tau}d\tau = F_1(\omega)F_2(\omega)$



LTIC response



 $|Y(\omega)|e^{j \angle Y(\omega)} = |F(\omega)||H(\omega)|e^{j[\angle F(\omega) + \angle H(j\omega)]}$



Fourier transform operations

Operation	f(t)	$F(\omega)$
Addition	$f_1(t) + f_2(t)$	$F_1(\omega) + F_2(\omega)$
Scalar multiplication	kf(t)	$kF(\omega)$
Symmetry	F(t)	$2\pi f(-\omega)$
Scaling (a real)	f(at)	$\frac{1}{ a }F\left(\frac{\omega}{a}\right)$
Time shift	$f(t-t_0)$	$F(\omega)e^{-j\omega t_0}$
Frequency shift (ω_0 real)	$f(t)e^{j\omega_0 t}$	$F(\omega-\omega_0)$
Time convolution	$f_1(t)\ast f_2(t)$	$F_1(\omega)F_2(\omega)$
Frequency convolution	$f_1(t)f_2(t)$	$\frac{1}{2\pi}F_1(\omega)\ast F_2(\omega)$
Time differentiation	$rac{d^n f}{dt^n}$	$(j\omega)^n F(\omega)$
Time integration	$\int_{-\infty}^t f(x)dx$	$\frac{F(\omega)}{j\omega} + \pi F(0)\delta(\omega)$



Signal transmission through LTIC systems







signals are everywhere!





Synaptic

Postsynaptic cell



Distortionless transmission: linear phase

- Warning: transmission systems do not perform any filtering operations
- For the transmission to be distortionless, the output signal must be equal to the input signal except for a time-shift

$$y(t) = kf(t - t_d)$$

The Fourier transform of this equation yields

$$Y(\omega) = kF(\omega)e^{-j\omega t_d}$$

 \mathbf{But}

Therefore

$$Y(\omega) = F(\omega)H(\omega)$$
$$H(\omega) = k e^{-j\omega t_d}$$

This is the transfer function required for distortionless transmission. From this equation it follows that

$$|H(\omega)| = k \tag{4.58a}$$

$$\angle H(\omega) = -\omega t_d \tag{4.58b}$$

This result shows that for distortionless transmission, the amplitude response $|H(\omega)|$ must be a constant, and the phase response $\angle H(\omega)$ must be a linear function of ω with slope $-t_d$, where t_d is the delay of the output with respect to input (Fig. 4.26).



Linear phase systems

- $|H(\omega)| = k$ The amplitude of the spectrum is constant
- $\angle H(\omega) = -\omega t_d$ The phase is proportional to frequency

 $t_d(\omega) = -\frac{d}{d\omega} \angle H(\omega)$ The time-delay is the slope of the phase spectrum



Ideal filters

- Ideal filters are distortionless transmission systems for certain frequencies and suppress the remaining ones
- Ideal low-pass filter



Fig. 4.27 Ideal lowpass filter: its frequency response and impulse response.



Ideal filters

Ideal high-pass and band-pass filters



Fig. 4.28 Ideal highpass and bandpass filter frequency response.



Ideal filters

• Ideal filters are physically not realizable



Non causal, infinite length tails

- To make it realizable we have to cut the tails, which implies
 - A time-delay
 - A smoothing of the response in the frequency domain



Ideal low pass filter



Implications of windowing in time-domain



Frequency domain





Implications of windowing in time domain



Time domain

Fourier domain





Implications of windowing in time domain



Time domain



Effect of changing window length: example



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Window functions

Windows of different shapes can be used

$$f_w(t) = f(t)w(t)$$
 and $F_w(\omega) = \frac{1}{2\pi}F(\omega) * W(\omega)$
Windowing in time domain \longrightarrow Spectral spreading Spectral leakage

- Spreading (or smearing): the spectrum gets larger
- Leakage: the spectrum "leaks" towards frequency ranges where it is supposed to be zero





Temporal spreading



The effect of windowing





Windowing: how can we remedy?

- Spectral spreading depends on window width → *increase* window width
- Spectral rate of decay depends on the regularity of the signal: the higher the number of contiunuos derivatives, the fastest the decay → choose a smooth window
- There is a *trade-off* between the two
 - The *rectangular* window has the *smallest spread* but the *largest leakage*. This can be mitigated by choosing large windows
- Take home message: to minimize the effect of windowing choose smooth wide windows



Signal energy

By definition

$$E_{f} = \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} |f(t)|^{2} dt \qquad \qquad f^{*}(t)$$

$$E_{f} = \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} f(t)f^{*}(t) dt = \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} f(t) \left[\frac{1}{2\pi} \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} F^{*}(\omega)e^{-j\omega t} d\omega\right] dt$$

Interchanging the order of integration

$$E_{f} = \frac{1}{2\pi} \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} F^{*}(\omega) \left[\int_{-\infty}^{\infty} f(t)e^{-j\omega t} dt \right] d\omega$$

$$= \frac{1}{2\pi} \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} F(\omega)F^{*}(\omega) d\omega$$

$$= \frac{1}{2\pi} \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} |F(\omega)|^{2} d\omega$$

$$E_{f} = \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} |f(t)|^{2} dt = \frac{1}{2\pi} \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} |F(\omega)|^{2} d\omega$$



Signal energy and energy spectral density



Fig. 4.30 Interpretation of Energy spectral density of a signal.

 $|F(\omega)|^2$ Spectral energy density (energy per unit bandwidth in Hz)



Autocorrelation function and energy spectral density

Autocorrelation function

$$\begin{split} \Psi_{f}(\tau) &= \int_{-\infty}^{+\infty} f(\tau)f(\tau-t)d\tau & \text{Relation to} \\ g(\tau) &= f(-\tau) \rightarrow \\ \hline \Psi_{f}(t) &= \int_{-\infty}^{+\infty} f(\tau)g(t-\tau)d\tau = f(t) * g(t) = f(t) * f(-t) \\ \Psi_{f}(t) &= \int_{-\infty}^{+\infty} f(\tau)f(\tau-t)d\tau \rightarrow \\ \hline \Psi_{f}(-t) &= f(-t) * f(t) = f(t) * f(-t) = \Psi_{f}(t) & \text{The autocorrelation function is even symmetric} \end{split}$$



Autocorrelation function and power spectral density

For real signals

$$F\left\{f(-t)\right\} = \int_{-\infty}^{+\infty} f(-t)e^{j\omega t}dt = F(-\omega) = F^{\star}(\omega)$$

Thus

$$F \{f(t) \star f(-t)\} = F(\omega)F^{\star}(\omega) = |F(\omega)|^2$$

Hence

$$\Psi_f(t) \to |F(\omega)|^2$$

The power spectral density is the F-transform of the autocorrelation function

