

# The Fourier Transform

Def.

The (continuous) Fourier Transform of a function  $f: \mathbb{R} \rightarrow \mathbb{C}$  is the function  $F: \mathbb{R} \rightarrow \mathbb{C}$  defined by:

$$F(s) = \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} e^{-2\pi i x s} f(x) dx.$$

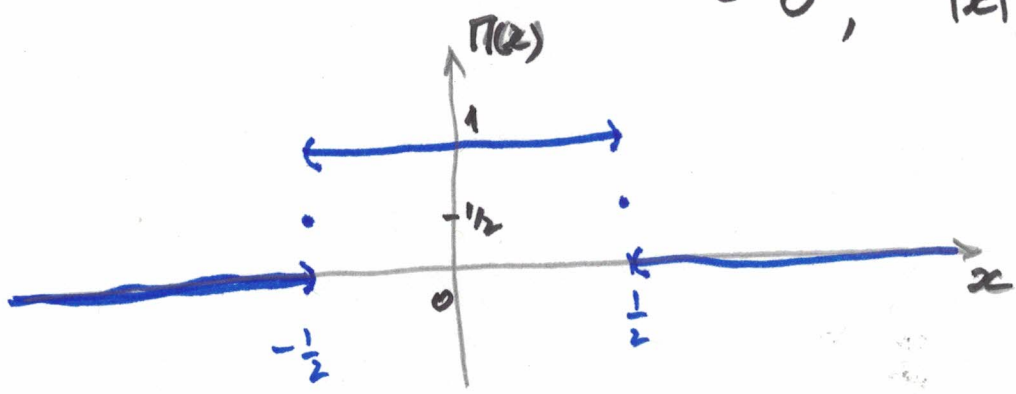
Notation:

$$\hat{f}: \mathbb{R} \rightarrow \mathbb{C}, \quad \hat{\hat{f}} = f.$$

Example.

The Box function.

$$\Pi: \mathbb{R} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}, \quad \Pi(x) = \begin{cases} 1, & -\frac{1}{2} < x < \frac{1}{2} \\ \frac{1}{2}, & x = \pm \frac{1}{2} \\ 0, & |x| > \frac{1}{2} \end{cases}$$



Notation:  $\Pi = 1_{(-\frac{1}{2}, \frac{1}{2})} + \frac{1}{2} 1_{\{-\frac{1}{2}, \frac{1}{2}\}}$ .

Compute its Fourier transform:

$$\hat{\Pi}(s) = \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} e^{-2\pi i x s} \cdot \Pi(x) dx = \int_{-\frac{1}{2}}^{\frac{1}{2}} e^{-2\pi i x s} dx$$

$s=0:$

$$\hat{\Gamma}(0) = \int_{-1/2}^{1/2} e^0 dx = 1.$$

$s \neq 0:$

$$\hat{\Gamma}(s) = \int_{-1/2}^{1/2} e^{-2\pi i x s} dx = \frac{1}{-2\pi i s} \left( e^{-2\pi i x s} \Big|_{-1/2}^{1/2} \right) =$$

$$= \frac{e^{-\pi i s} - e^{\pi i s}}{-2\pi i s} = \frac{\cos(\pi s) - i \sin(\pi s) - (\cos(\pi s) + i \sin(\pi s))}{-2\pi i s}$$

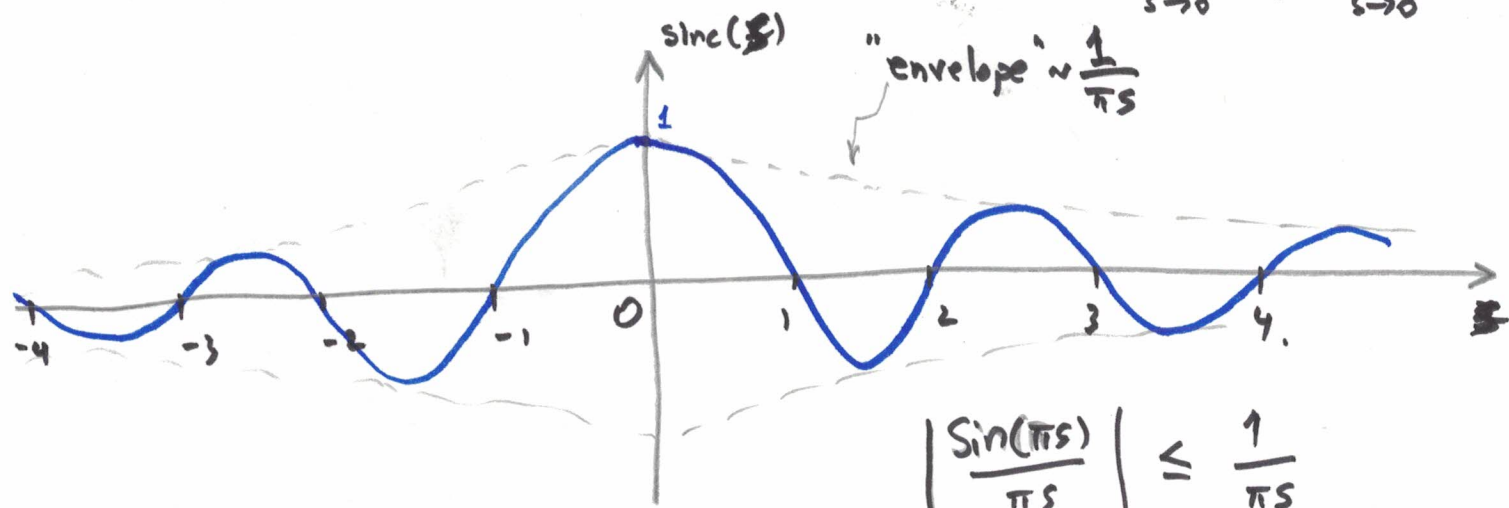
$$= \frac{-2i \sin(\pi s)}{-2i \pi s} = \frac{\sin(\pi s)}{\pi s}$$

The "sinc" function:  $\text{sinc} : \mathbb{R} \rightarrow \mathbb{R},$   

$$\text{sinc}(s) = \begin{cases} \frac{\sin(\pi s)}{\pi s}, & s \neq 0 \\ 1, & s = 0 \end{cases}$$

We obtained:  $\hat{\Gamma} = \text{sinc}.$

$$\lim_{s \rightarrow 0} \frac{\sin(\pi s)}{\pi s} = \lim_{s \rightarrow 0} \cos(\pi s)$$



$(s \neq 0); \quad \left| \frac{\sin(\pi s)}{\pi s} \right| \leq \frac{1}{\pi s}$

Remark: The sine function is "very smooth":

sinc is  $\infty$ -many times differentiable,  $\in C^\infty$

For  $s \neq 0$ :

$$(\text{sinc}(s))' = \frac{d}{ds} \left( \frac{\sin(\pi s)}{\pi s} \right) = \frac{\pi \cos(\pi s) \pi s - \pi \sin(\pi s)}{\pi^2 s^2} =$$

$$= \frac{\pi s \cos(\pi s) - \sin(\pi s)}{\pi s^2}$$

$$\lim_{s \rightarrow 0} \frac{\pi s \cos(\pi s) - \sin(\pi s)}{\pi s^2} = \lim_{s \rightarrow 0} \frac{\cancel{\pi \cos(\pi s)} - \pi^2 s \sin(\pi s) - \cancel{\pi \cos(\pi s)}}{2\pi s} =$$

$$= \lim_{s \rightarrow 0} \left( -\frac{\pi}{2} \cdot \sin(\pi s) \right) = 0$$

$$\lim_{s \rightarrow 0} \frac{\text{sinc}(s) - \text{sinc}(0)}{s - 0} = \lim_{s \rightarrow 0} \frac{\frac{\sin(\pi s)}{\pi s} - 1}{s} = \lim_{s \rightarrow 0} \frac{\sin(\pi s) - \pi s}{\pi s^2} =$$

$$= \lim_{s \rightarrow 0} \frac{\cancel{\pi \cos(\pi s)} - \pi}{2\pi s} = \lim_{s \rightarrow 0} \left( \frac{-\pi \sin(\pi s)}{2} \right) = 0$$

$\Rightarrow$  sinc is at least  $C^1$

...  $\rightarrow$  can check that sinc is (at least)  $C^\infty$ .

In fact sinc is an analytic function

$\hookrightarrow$  Its Taylor series converges to the function itself.

sinc is a holomorphic function. (in fact an entire function)

① What functions can be Fourier transformed?

$$f \rightarrow F(s) = \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} e^{-2\pi ixs} f(x) dx.$$

$$|F(s)| = \left| \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} e^{-2\pi ixs} f(x) dx \right| \leq \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} |e^{-2\pi ixs} \cdot f(x)| dx. =$$

by triangle inequality

$$|e^{-2\pi ixs} \cdot f(x)| = \underbrace{|e^{-2\pi ixs}|}_1 \cdot |f(x)| = |f(x)|$$

$$= \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} |f(x)| dx$$

Recap: For every  $s \in \mathbb{R}$ ,  $|F(s)| \leq \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} |f(x)| dx.$

Any function  $f \in L^1(\mathbb{R}) = \left\{ f: \mathbb{R} \rightarrow \mathbb{C} \mid \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} |f(x)| dx < \infty \right\}$

admits a Fourier transform,  $F$  and:

$$\sup_{s \in \mathbb{R}} |F(s)| \leq \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} |f(x)| dx.$$

$$\|F\|_{\infty} \leq \|f\|_1$$

$$\|F\|_{\infty} = \sup_{s \in \mathbb{R}} |F(s)|, \quad \|f\|_1 = \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} |f(x)| dx.$$

Obtained: If  $\mathcal{F}$  denotes the Fourier transform operator,

(5)

$$f \mapsto \mathcal{F}(f) = F$$

$$\mathcal{F}: L^1(\mathbb{R}) \longrightarrow L^\infty(\mathbb{R})$$

$$\|\mathcal{F}(f)\|_\infty \leq \|f\|_1.$$

where:  $L^1(\mathbb{R}) = \left\{ f: \mathbb{R} \rightarrow \mathbb{C} \mid \|f\|_1 := \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} |f(x)| dx < \infty. \right\}$

$$L^\infty(\mathbb{R}) = \left\{ f: \mathbb{R} \rightarrow \mathbb{C} \mid \|f\|_\infty := \text{ess sup}_{x \in \mathbb{R}} |f(x)| < \infty. \right\}$$

↓  
"essential supremum"

Facts:

① If  $f \in L^1(\mathbb{R})$ , then  $F: \mathbb{R} \rightarrow \mathbb{C}$  is always continuous. In fact it is uniformly continuous.

$$\left[ \forall \epsilon > 0 \exists \delta_\epsilon > 0 \forall x, y \in \mathbb{R}, |x - y| < \delta_\epsilon \Rightarrow |F(x) - F(y)| < \epsilon. \right]$$

② [Riemann-Lebesgue Lemma]. If  $f \in L^1(\mathbb{R})$ , then

$$\lim_{s \rightarrow \infty} F(s) = \lim_{s \rightarrow -\infty} F(s) = 0.$$

Remark:

Comparison between Fourier transform and Laplace transform.

$$f \xrightarrow{F} \hat{f}(s) = \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} e^{-2\pi i x s} f(x) dx$$

$$f \xrightarrow{\mathcal{L}} F(s) = \int_0^{\infty} e^{-xs} f(x) dx.$$

Laplace transform operator

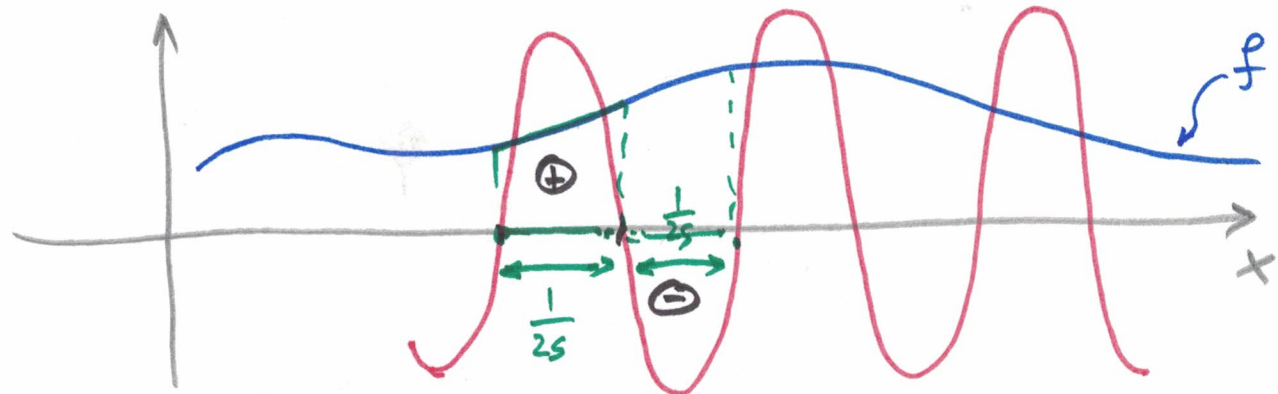
The Laplace transform of f.

Remark about Riemann-Lebesgue lemma:

$$0 \stackrel{?}{=} \lim_{s \rightarrow \infty} F(s) = \lim_{s \rightarrow \infty} \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} e^{-2\pi i x s} f(x) dx =$$

$$= \lim_{s \rightarrow \infty} \left[ \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} \cos(2\pi x s) f(x) dx - i \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} \sin(2\pi x s) f(x) dx \right]$$

*Sin(2πxs) or cos(2πxs)*



cancel each other as  $s \rightarrow \infty$ .

Theorem [Plancherel - Parseval]. Assume

$$f: \mathbb{R} \rightarrow \mathbb{C}, \text{ s.t. } \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} |f(x)|^2 dx < \infty \quad (\text{i.e. } f \in L^2(\mathbb{R}))$$

Then the Fourier transform of  $f$ ,  $F$ , exists and:

$$\int_{-\infty}^{\infty} |F(s)|^2 ds = \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} |f(x)|^2 dx.$$

~~F exists~~ is defined in an  $L^2$ -sense (mean square convergence):

$$\lim_{R \rightarrow \infty} \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} \left| F(s) - \int_{-R}^R e^{-2\pi i s x} f(x) dx \right|^2 ds = 0.$$

Remark: Compare: Fourier series:  $g: [0,1] \rightarrow \mathbb{C} \xrightarrow{\text{s.t. } \int_0^1 |g(x)|^2 dx < \infty} C_n = \int_0^1 e^{-2\pi i n x} g(x) dx$

$$\rightarrow \lim_{N \rightarrow \infty} \int_0^1 \left| g(x) - \sum_{k=-N}^N C_k e^{2\pi i k x} \right|^2 dx = 0$$

$$\int_0^1 |g(x)|^2 dx = \sum_{k=-\infty}^{\infty} |C_k|^2.$$

Using  $\mathcal{F}: f \mapsto \mathcal{F}(f) = F$  (the Fourier transform).

Plancherel Theorem:  $\mathcal{F}: L^2(\mathbb{R}) \rightarrow L^2(\mathbb{R})$

$$\text{and } \|\mathcal{F}(f)\|_2 = \|f\|_2$$

(is an isometry).

is not UNITARY

where:

$$L^2(\mathbb{R}) = \left\{ f: \mathbb{R} \rightarrow \mathbb{C} \mid \|f\|_2^2 := \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} |f(x)|^2 dx < \infty \right\}.$$

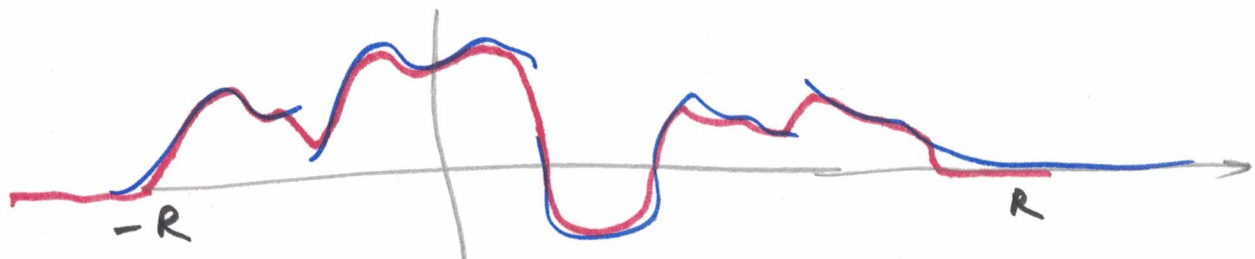
↓  
L<sup>2</sup>-norm squared.

Why?

$f \in L^2(\mathbb{R}) \dashrightarrow$  We can approximate arbitrary well by  $g$

1)  $g: \mathbb{R} \rightarrow \mathbb{C}, g \in C^1$

2)  $g(x) = 0, \forall x \leq -R \text{ or } x \geq R.$



$$\rightarrow \hat{g}(s) = \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} e^{-2\pi i x s} g(x) dx = \int_{-R}^R e^{-2\pi i x s} g(x) dx$$

at  $s = \frac{n}{2R} : \hat{g}\left(\frac{n}{2R}\right) = \int_{-R}^R e^{-\frac{2\pi i n x}{2R}} g(x) dx$

↓  
n<sup>th</sup> Fourier coeff of  $g$ .

$$\lim_{R \rightarrow \infty} \left[ \lim_{N \rightarrow \infty} \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} \left| g(x) - \underbrace{\sum_{n=-N}^N \hat{g}\left(\frac{n}{2R}\right) e^{\frac{2\pi i n x}{2R}}}_{\sim \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} e^{2\pi i s x} \hat{g}(s) ds} \right|^2 dx = 0. \right]$$

$\rightarrow \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} |g(x)|^2 dx = \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} e^{2\pi i x s} \hat{g}(s) ds \dots = 0$



$$\frac{C_0}{\pi} \log(T) \leq C_0 \int_1^T \frac{ds}{\pi s} \leq \int_1^T \left| \frac{\sin(\pi s)}{\pi s} \right| ds \leq \frac{1}{\pi} \int_1^T \frac{ds}{s} = \frac{1}{\pi} \log(T)$$

, For all  $T > 1$ .

for some  $0 < C_0 < 1$ .

$$\frac{C_0}{\pi} \log(T) \leq \int_1^T |\operatorname{sinc}(s)| ds \leq \frac{1}{\pi} \log(T).$$

$$\downarrow \infty$$

$$\int_1^{\infty} |\operatorname{sinc}(s)| ds = +\infty.$$

$\rightarrow \operatorname{sinc} \notin L^1(\mathbb{R})$ .