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Subject: FFT secrets revealed!! Update 6/5/2000  
Posted by Peter Brooker on Mon, 05 Jun 2000 07:00:00 GMT  
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<html>

Below is a repeat of my orginal post to the group in which I tried to explain  
FFT use

<br>from the point of view of somebody who has little experience of FFT  
algorithms but

<br>does understand the concept of Fourier series as well as Fourier transforms.  
This update

<br>includes a large modification to part 1 that develops the complex expansion  
from the

<br>series expansion. In it I show how all the imaginary components  
<br>of the complex FFT expression cancel to zero. Modifications were also  
made to part2.

<p>This reference is organized as follows:

<br>PART#1:Relate complex expansion to real Fourier series

<br>PART#2:IDL form of complex expansion

<br>PART#3:Specific example:  $f(t) = \sin(4\pi t)$

<br>PART#4:Specific example:  $T(x,y) = \sin(6\pi x) + \cos(4\pi y)$

<p><b><font size=+1>PART#1: Relate complex expansion to real Fourier series.</font></b>

<br>Assume you have a function  $f(t)$  that is periodic in  $t$  with a period  
 $T$ .

<br>Then there exists coefficients  $a_n$  &  $b_n$  such that

<p> $f(t) = a_0 + \sum_n (a_n \cos(2\pi n t/T) + b_n \sin(2\pi n t/T))$ ,  $n=1,2,\dots$

<p>The coefficients are given by:

<p> $a_0 = \frac{1}{T} \int f(t) dt$

<p> $a_n = \frac{1}{T} \int f(t) \cos(2\pi n t/T) dt$

<p> $b_n = \frac{1}{T} \int f(t) \sin(2\pi n t/T) dt$

<p>The limits of the integration are from  $-T/2$  to  $T/2$ .

<p>This is just the Fourier series of a function with period  $T$ . Nothing new

<br>here. See eq #4, section 10.3, Advanced Engineering Mathematics,  
<br>Kreyszig. This expansion though assumes  $-T/2 < t < T/2$

<p>Let's now define the complex coefficients:

<p> $c_0 = a_0$

<br> $c_n = \frac{1}{2}(a_n + j b_n)$

<p>Then for  $n = 1,2,\dots$

<p> $c_n = \frac{1}{2}(a_n + j b_n)$

<br> $= \frac{1}{T} \int f(t) \cos(2\pi n t/T) dt + j \frac{1}{T} \int f(t) \sin(2\pi n t/T) dt$

<br> $= \frac{1}{T} \int [f(t) \cos(2\pi n t/T) + j \sin(2\pi n t/T)] dt$

<br> $= \frac{1}{T} \int f(t) [\cos(2\pi n t/T) + j \sin(2\pi n t/T)] dt$

<br>&nbsp;&nbsp;&nbsp;&nbsp; = 1/T\*integral( f(t)\*exp(j\*2\*pi\*n\*t/T)\*dt  
 )  
 <p>Since exp(0)=1 we can write:  
 <p>c\_n = 1/T\*integral( f(t)\*exp(j\*2\*pi\*n\*t/T)\*dt ) , n= 0,1,2,...  
 <p>Note also that [(c\_n)^\*] = 1/T\*integral( f(t)\*exp(-j\*2\*pi\*n\*t/T)\*dt  
 )  
 <br> &nbsp;&nbsp;&nbsp;&nbsp;&nbsp;&nbsp; &nbsp;&nbsp;&nbsp;&nbsp;&nbsp;&nbsp;&nbsp;  
 &nbsp;&nbsp;&nbsp;&nbsp;&nbsp;&nbsp; &nbsp;&nbsp;&nbsp;&nbsp;&nbsp;&nbsp;&nbsp;  
 &nbsp;&nbsp;&nbsp;&nbsp;&nbsp;&nbsp; &nbsp;&nbsp;&nbsp;&nbsp;&nbsp;&nbsp;  
 = 1/T\*integral( f(t)\*exp(j\*2\*pi\*(-n)\*t/T)\*dt )  
 <br> &nbsp;&nbsp;&nbsp;&nbsp;&nbsp; &nbsp;&nbsp;&nbsp;&nbsp;&nbsp;&nbsp;  
 &nbsp;&nbsp;&nbsp;&nbsp;&nbsp;&nbsp; &nbsp;&nbsp;&nbsp;&nbsp;&nbsp;&nbsp;  
 &nbsp;&nbsp;&nbsp;&nbsp;&nbsp;&nbsp; &nbsp;&nbsp;&nbsp;&nbsp;&nbsp;  
 =c\_(-n)  
 <p>Here [(c\_n)^\*] denotes the complex conjugate of the element inside ( )  
 <br>(Sorry for the clumsy notation!!!)  
 <p>Now here is something completely different ...  
 <p>Given the definition of c\_n above:  
 <p>f(t)=sum\_n( c\_n\*exp(-j\*2\*pi\*n\*t/T) ), n= ...-2,-1,0,1,2,...  
 <p>Proof:  
 <p>Define AA and BB by:  
 <p>sum\_n( c\_n\*exp(-j\*2\*pi\*n\*t/T) ) = AA + c\_o + BB,  
 <p>where AA = sum\_n( c\_n\*exp(-j\*2\*pi\*n\*t/T) ), n=...,-2,-1  
 <br> &nbsp;&nbsp;&nbsp;&nbsp;&nbsp;&nbsp; &nbsp;&nbsp;&nbsp;&nbsp; BB = sum\_n( c\_n\*exp(-j\*2\*pi\*n\*t/T) ), n=1,2,...  
 <p>Let's work on AA some more:  
 <p>AA = sum\_n( c\_n\*exp(-j\*2\*pi\*n\*t/T) ), n=...,-2,-1  
 <br> &nbsp;&nbsp;&nbsp;&nbsp;&nbsp; =sum\_n( c\_(-n)\* exp(-j\*2\*(-n)\*t/T)),  
 n = 1,2,...  
 <p>Now c\_(-n) = [(c\_n)^\*]&nbsp; and exp(-j\*2\*(-n)\*t/T) = [( exp(-j\*2\*pi\*n\*t/T) )^\*]  
 <p>therefore,  
 <p>c\_(-n)\* exp(-j\*2\*(-n)\*t/T) = [(c\_n)^\*] \* [( exp(-j\*2\*pi\*n\*t/T) )^\*]  
 <br> &nbsp;&nbsp;&nbsp;&nbsp;&nbsp; &nbsp;&nbsp;&nbsp;&nbsp;&nbsp;&nbsp;&nbsp;&nbsp;  
 &nbsp;&nbsp;&nbsp;&nbsp;&nbsp;&nbsp; &nbsp;&nbsp;&nbsp;&nbsp;&nbsp;&nbsp;&nbsp;&nbsp;  
 &nbsp;&nbsp;&nbsp;&nbsp;&nbsp;&nbsp; &nbsp;&nbsp;&nbsp;&nbsp;&nbsp;&nbsp;&nbsp;  
 =&nbsp; [(c\_n\* exp(-j\*2\*pi\*n\*t/T) )^\*]  
 <p>Using this we have:  
 <p>AA=&nbsp; =sum\_n( [c\_n\*exp(-j\*2\*n\*t/T)]^\*), n=1,2,...  
 <br> &nbsp;&nbsp;&nbsp;&nbsp;&nbsp;&nbsp;&nbsp;&nbsp;&nbsp; &nbsp; =[(&nbsp;&nbsp; sum\_n( c\_n\*exp(-j\*2\*n\*t/T)  
 )&nbsp;&nbsp;) ]^\*  
 <p>Comparing this expression to sum BB we see that&nbsp; AA = [(BB)^\*]  
 <p>Let's write the original sum again with this information:  
 <p>sum\_n( c\_n\*exp(-j\*2\*pi\*n\*t/T) ) = AA + c\_o + BB = [(BB)^\*] + c\_o +BB  
 <br> &nbsp;&nbsp;&nbsp;&nbsp;&nbsp;&nbsp;&nbsp;&nbsp; = c\_o + 2\*Re(BB)

<p>Now BB= sum\_n( c\_n\*exp(-j\*u) ), n=1,2,... and u = 2\*pi\*n\*t/T  
<br> &nbsp;&nbsp;&nbsp;&nbsp;&nbsp; &nbsp;&nbsp;&nbsp;&nbsp;&nbsp;  
= sum\_n( 1/2\*(a\_n+j\*b\_n)\*(cos(u) - j\*sin(u) )  
<br> &nbsp;&nbsp;&nbsp;&nbsp;&nbsp; &nbsp;&nbsp;&nbsp;&nbsp;&nbsp;  
= 1/2\*sum\_n( a\_n\*cos(u) + j\*(-j)\*b\_n\*sin(u) +j\*(b\_n\*cos(u) -a\_n\*sin(u)  
)  
<br> &nbsp;&nbsp;&nbsp;&nbsp;&nbsp; &nbsp;&nbsp;&nbsp;&nbsp;&nbsp;  
= 1/2\*sum\_n(a\_n\*cos(u) + b\_n\*sin(u) +j\*( b\_n\*cos(u) -a\_n\*sin(u) )

<p>From this we see that:

<p>2\*Re(BB) = 2\*1/2\*sum\_n(a\_n\*cos(u) + b\_n\*sin(u))

<br> &nbsp;&nbsp;&nbsp;&nbsp;&nbsp; &nbsp;&nbsp;&nbsp;&nbsp;&nbsp;  
&nbsp;&nbsp;&nbsp;  
= sum\_n(a\_n\*cos(u) + b\_n\*sin(u))

<p>Now we have:

<p>sum\_n( c\_n\*exp(-j\*2\*pi\*n\*t/T) ) = c\_o + 2\*Re(BB)

<br> &nbsp;&nbsp;&nbsp;&nbsp;&nbsp; &nbsp;&nbsp;&nbsp;&nbsp;&nbsp;  
&nbsp;&nbsp;&nbsp;&nbsp;&nbsp; &nbsp;&nbsp;&nbsp;  
= a\_o + sum\_n(a\_n\*cos(u) + b\_n\*sin(u)), n= 1,2,...

<p>This is exactly the definition for f(t). I have therefore proved that

<p>f(t) = sum\_n( c\_n\*exp(-j\*2\*pi\*n\*t/T) ), n= ..., -2, -1, 0, 1, 2, ...

<br>&nbsp;

<p><b><font size=+1>Part #2: IDL form of complex expansion</font></b>

<p>Let f(t) be a periodic function with period T defined on an interval

<br>[0,T].

<p>Then there exist complex A\_n such that

<p>f(t)= sum\_n(A\_n\*exp(j\*2\*pi\*n\*t/T)), n=..., -1, 0, 1, ...&nbsp;&nbsp; j\*j  
= -1

<p>Divide the interval into N sections. t~t\_i = i\*T/N

<br>Then,

<br>f( t\_i ) = sum\_n(A\_n\*exp(j\*2\*pi\*n\*t\_i/T))

<br> &nbsp;&nbsp;&nbsp;&nbsp;&nbsp; &nbsp;&nbsp;&nbsp; =  
sum\_n(A\_n\*exp(j\*2\*pi\*n\*i\*(T/N)/T))

<br> &nbsp;&nbsp;&nbsp;&nbsp;&nbsp; &nbsp;&nbsp;&nbsp; = sum\_n(  
A\_n\*exp(j\*2\*pi\*n\*i/N)) , n=..., -1, 0, 1, ...

<p>What about the ns?

<p>IDL truncates the sum from -N/2+1, -N/2 + 2, ...., -1, 0, 1, ..., N/2

<p>This is how IDL performs the FFT. This is found in the IDL manual

<br>under the section for FFT. The only difference is that t has been replaced

<br>by u and A\_n has been replaced by F(u). Note that the period T has

<br>dropped out. Also note that&nbsp; t has been replaced by t\_i = i\*T/N.

<br>In order for this to happen, the interval over which t is defined must

be

<br>from [0,T]. This is different from the definition of t being defined  
over the interval

<br>[-T/2, T/2].

<p>It gets more complicated. From the manual we have

<p>F(u) = 1/N\*sum\_x(f(x)\*exp(-j\*2pi\*ux/N)) , x=0, 1, ..., N-1

<p>First thing to realize is that  $F(u)$  is really  $F_n$ . Where  $n$  is an  
 <br>integer. This comes from the fact that  $f(x)$  is periodic in  $x$ .  
 <p>The manual also mentions that the "frequencies" are  
 <br> $F_0, 1/(NT), 2/(NT), \dots, 1/2T, -(N-2)/(2NT), \dots, -1/NT$   
 <p>After trial and error I have determined that the value of the  $ns$  range  
 <br>for  $-N/2$  to  $N/2$ . Furthermore, the  $F_n$  are stored in the order associated  
 <br>with the following values of  $n$   
 <p>0, 1, 2, \dots, N/2, -(N/2-1), -(N/2-1), \dots, -1 &lt;==

this is bizarre!!

<p>Let  $N=8$ . Then  $N/2=4$   
 <p>The  $F_n$  would be stored in an array. The array of  $n$  values associated  
 <br>with this array would be:  
 <p>[0, 1, 2, 3, 4, -3, -2, -1]  
 <p><b><font size=+1>Part #3: Specific Example</font></b>  
 <p>Consider the interval  $t = [0, 1]$ . This choice of interval implies  $T=1$ .  
 <br>Let  $f(t) = \sin(4\pi t)$   
 <p> $f(t_i) = \sin(2\pi i/N)$ ,  $i=0, 1, \dots, N$   
 <p> $f(t_i) = \sum_n (A_n \exp(-j \cdot 2\pi n i / N))$ ,  $n=-N/2, \dots, -1, 0, 1, \dots, N/2$   
 <br>  $= A_{-N/2} + A_{-2}(\cos(2\pi(-2)i/N) + j \sin(2\pi(-2)i/N)) +$   
 <br>  $\dots + A_{-1}(\cos(2\pi(-1)i/N) + j \sin(2\pi(-1)i/N)) +$   
 <br>  $\dots + A_0 + A_1(\cos(2\pi i/N) + j \sin(2\pi i/N)) +$   
 <br>  $\dots + A_2(\cos(2\pi(2)i/N) + j \sin(2\pi(2)i/N)) +$   
 <br>  $\dots + A_3(\cos(2\pi(3)i/N) + j \sin(2\pi(3)i/N)) + \dots$   
 <br>  $= \dots + A_{-2} \cos(2\pi(-2)i/N) + A_{-2} \sin(2\pi(-2)i/N) +$   
 <br>  $\dots + A_{-1} \cos(2\pi(-1)i/N) + A_{-1} \sin(2\pi(-1)i/N) + \dots$   
 <br>  $= \dots + (A_{-2} + A_2) \cos(2\pi i/N) + j(A_{-2} \sin(2\pi i/N) - A_2 \sin(2\pi i/N)) + \dots$   
 <br>  $= \dots + j(A_{-2} - A_2) \sin(2\pi i/N) + \dots$   
 <br> where  $A_{-2}$  stands for  $A_{-n}$  where  $n = -2$   
 <p>Equating the series to  $\sin(2\pi i/N)$  we conclude  
 <p> $A_n = 0$  for all  $n$  except  $n = -2$  or  $n = 2$ .  
 <p> $A_{-2} + A_2 = 0$   
 <br> $j(-A_{-2} + A_2) = 1$   
 <p>Let  $A_{-2} = a_{-2} + j b_{-2}$  and  $A_2 = a_2 + j b_2$   
 <p>The above equations imply  
 <p> $(a_{-2} + a_2) + j(b_{-2} + b_2) = 0$  &  
 <br> $j(-a_{-2} + a_2) + j(-b_{-2} + b_2) = 1$   
 <br> $\Rightarrow a_{-2} + a_2 = 0, b_{-2} + b_2 = 0 \Rightarrow a_{-2} = -a_2, b_{-2} = -b_2$   
 <p> $\Rightarrow 2a_{-2} = 0 \Rightarrow a_{-2} = a_2 = 0$   
 <br> $\Rightarrow j(j(2b_2) = 1 \Rightarrow 2b_2 = -1/2, b_2 = 1/2$

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<p>A_n2 = 0 + j*(1/2)
<p>A_2 = 0 + j*(-1/2)
<p>We now have calculated the solutions.
<p>The following code calculates this and displays the correct answers.
It
<br>shows how to plot A_n vs n correctly.
<p>idl_program fft_sine.pro
<br>TT=1
<br>Npts=100
<br>t=findgen(Npts)/(Npts-1)*TT
<br>f_t=sin(4.*!pi*t/TT)
<br>!p.multi=[0,2,3]
<br>plot,t,f_t, title='f(t) vs t'
<br>A_n=fft(f_t,-1) ; complex fourier coefficients
<p>plot,float(A_n),yrange=[-.5,.5],title='float(A_n)'
<br>plot,imaginary(A_n),yrange=[-.5,.5],title='imaginary(A_n)'
<p>a=findgen(Npts/2+1)
<br>b=-reverse(findgen(Npts/2-1)+1)
<br>c=[a,b] ; c=[-N/2+1,-N/2+2, ..., -1,0,1,...,N/2]
<br>print,c
<br>sub=sort(c)
<br> plot,c(sub),float(A_n(sub)),yrange=[-.5,.5],title='float(A_n ) vs n'
<br>plot,c(sub),imaginary(A_n(sub)),yrange=[-.5,.5], $
<br>&nbsp;&nbsp;&nbsp;&nbsp;&nbsp;&nbsp; &nbsp; title='imaginary(A_n) vs
n'
<br>plot,c(sub),imaginary(A_n(sub)),xrange=[-5,5],$
<br>&nbsp;&nbsp;&nbsp;&nbsp;&nbsp;&nbsp;&nbsp; &nbsp; title='imaginary(An) vs
n' ; finer x scale
<br>end
<br>&nbsp;<b><font size=+1></font></b>
<p><b><font size=+1>Part #4 Specific Example:2D</font></b>
<br>T(x,y)= sin(6pi*x) + cos(4pi*y)
<p>Hopefully the program below is somewhat self explanatory.
<br>It calculates the C=FFT(T,-1)
<br>&nbsp;
<p>idl_program fft_2D.pro
<br>!p.multi=0
<br>Tx=1
<br>Nx=100
<br>x=findgen(Nx)/(Nx-1)*Tx
<br>Ty=1
<br>Ny=100
<br>y=findgen(Ny)/(Ny-1)*Ty
<br>T=fltarr(Nx,Ny)
<br>for i=0,Nx-1 do begin
<br>&nbsp;&nbsp; for j=0,Ny-1 do begin
<br>&nbsp;&nbsp;&nbsp;&nbsp;&nbsp; T(i,j)= sin(2.*!pi*3.*i/Nx) + cos(2.*!pi*2*j/Ny)
<br>&nbsp;&nbsp;&nbsp;&nbsp;&nbsp; endfor

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<br>&nbsp;&nbsp; endfor
<br>;
<br>!p.multi=[0,2,2]
<br>shade_surf,T,x,y,xtitle='x',ytitle='y',title='T(x,y)'
<br>;
<br>;
<br>C=fft(T,-1) ; complex fourier coefficients
<br>surface,float(C)
<br>aaa=where(float(c) gt .4)
<br>surface,imaginary(C)
<br>;
<br>a=findgen(Nx/2+1)
<br>b=-reverse(findgen(Nx/2-1)+1)
<br>ns=[a,b] ; this is the array of n's associated with C(n). n goes with
x
<br>print,ns ; n goes from 0,...,Nx/2, -(Nx/2-1),...,-1
<br>subn=sort(ns) ;&nbsp; n goes with x
<br>n_sort=ns(subn)
<br>;
<br>a=findgen(Ny/2+1)
<br>b=-reverse(findgen(Ny/2-1)+1)
<br>ms=[a,b] ; this is the array of m's associated with C(n,m)
<br>print,ms ; m goes from 0,...,Ny/2, -(Ny/2-1),...,-1
<br>subm=sort(ms) ; m goes with y
<br>m_sort=ms(subm)
<br>;
<br>sub_n_p3=where(ns eq 3)
<br>sub_n_n3=where(ns eq -3)
<br>sub_n_0=where(ns eq 0)
<br>;
<br>sub_m_p2=where(ms eq 2)
<br>sub_m_n2=where(ms eq -2)
<br>sub_m_0=where(ms eq 0)
<br>;
<br> print,'C(3,0),c(-3,0)=',C(sub_n_p3,sub_m_0),C(sub_n_n3,sub_m_0)
<br>;
<br> print,'C(0,2),c(0,-2)=',C(sub_n_0,sub_m_p2),C(sub_n_0,sub_m_n2)
<br>;
<br>; now we need to define CC(n,m) to have normal scaling in n & m.
<br>;
<br>CC=C*0.
<br>;
<br>for n=0,Nx-1 do begin
<br>&nbsp;&nbsp; for m=0,Ny-1 do begin
<br>&nbsp;&nbsp;&nbsp;&nbsp;&nbsp; CC(subn(n),subm(m))= C(n,m)
<br>&nbsp;&nbsp;&nbsp;&nbsp;&nbsp; endfor
<br>&nbsp;&nbsp; endfor
<br>;

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```
<br>surface,ABS(CC),n_sort,m_sort  
<br>;  
<br>end</html>
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