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Subject: Re: Inverse FFT

Posted by [R.G. Stockwell](#) on Mon, 16 Dec 2002 17:53:33 GMT

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Colin Ault wrote:

> Hi,  
>  
> I hope someone help me with a problem I am having with the FFT  
> function.  
>  
> I have a signal  $f_t$ , which I then take the FFT of to produce its  
> corresponding spectral components. I then want to manually compute its  
> inverse FT, rather than using the IDL FFT( .../inverse) function.  
>  
> The reason for this is that I want each spectral component to  
> propagate at different velocitys over a time period  $t$ . Hence, when the  
> signal is recombined  $t$  seconds later, the signal *should* look  
> different.  
>  
> I am not having much luck at the moment, so any suggestions on this  
> problem will be gratefully received.  
>  
> Thanks,  
> Colin

To "manually compute" the inverse fft in the same way IDL does,  
make sure you have use the + argument in your exp(), and calculate  
the straight sum (i.e. do not divide by N).

Having said that, there is absolutely no difference in fft(/inv) and  
your manual method, so I suggest using the fft method. The only difference  
is in the algorithm for calculating the result.

To "propagate at different velocitys over a time period  $t$ ", perhaps you  
can implement that by adjusting the phase of your fft componets (using  
the fft shift theorem) to get your desired results.

Cheers,  
bob

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