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Subject: Re: Inverse transforming a product of FFTs  
Posted by [K. Bowman](#) on Thu, 01 Jul 2004 20:44:12 GMT  
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In article <52822646.0407010822.1dc890e@posting.google.com>,  
olde\_english33@hotmail.com (Eric) wrote:

```
> I have created two arrays of different time series. One is uniformly
> random, call it runtime, and the other one is based off of a recorded
> set of data values, call it rectime. Consider the following code,
> which I have implemented.
>
> specruntime=fft(runtime)
> specrectime=fft(rectime)
> prod=specruntime*specrectime
> yt=fft(prod, 1)
>
> Now, according to the help files, when you take the forward transform,
> the sum is multiplied by 1/N, which in my case is 31. My question is
> does taking the back transform of a product of two FFTs, both with 31
> variables, lose a factor of 31 when taking the inverse transform?
> That is, after I have computed the inverse transform, do I still need
> to multiply by a factor of 31 to get the right data out?
```

The inverse FFT of the product of the FFTs of f1 and f2 is equal to the convolution of f1 and f2.

Try an example and see:

```
;Compute product of FFT's
n = 16
x = 2.0*COS(2.0*!PI*FINDGEN(n)/n)
z = FFT(FFT(x)*FFT(x), /INVERSE)
PRINT, x
PRINT, FLOAT(z)
```

```
;Compute convolution
conv = FLTARR(n)
dx = 1.0/n
FOR i = 0, n-1 DO conv[i] = TOTAL(x*SHIFT(x,i)*dx)
PRINT, conv
```

```
IDL> @fft_prod
  2.00000   1.84776   1.41421   0.765367 -8.74228e-08
-0.765367  -1.41421
  -1.84776  -2.00000  -1.84776  -1.41421  -0.765366
2.38498e-08   0.765367
```

1.41421	1.84776			
2.00000	1.84776	1.41421	0.765366	-3.34942e-07
-0.765367	-1.41421			
-1.84776	-2.00000	-1.84776	-1.41421	-0.765366
3.34942e-07	0.765367			
1.41421	1.84776			
2.00000	1.84776	1.41421	0.765367	2.98023e-08
-0.765367	-1.41421			
-1.84776	-2.00000	-1.84776	-1.41421	-0.765367
7.45058e-09	0.765367			
1.41421	1.84776			

Since 31 is a prime, the FFT turns into a DFT, and you may be better off computing the convolution directly.

Ken Bowman

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