

# The Fourier transform

For  $f \in L^1(\mathbb{R})$  define  $\hat{f}: \mathbb{R} \rightarrow \mathbb{C}$  by

$$\hat{f}(t) = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2\pi}} \int_{\mathbb{R}} f(x) e^{-itx} dx, \quad t \in \mathbb{R}.$$

Lemma: For every  $f \in L^1(\mathbb{R})$  we have  $\hat{f}: \mathbb{R} \rightarrow \mathbb{C}$  is continuous and  $\hat{f}$  is bounded, with  $\|\hat{f}\|_{\infty} \leq \|f\|_1 \cdot \frac{1}{\sqrt{2\pi}}$

Proof: From  $|\hat{f}(t)| \leq \frac{1}{\sqrt{2\pi}} \int_{\mathbb{R}} |f(x) e^{-itx}| dx$  we get the claim on bd.  
For continuity, need:

and  $I \subseteq \mathbb{R}$  interval.

Proposition Let  $(\Omega, \mathcal{A}, \mu)$  be a  $\sigma$ -finite measure space. Suppose that:

- (a) for each  $t \in I$ , the function  $x \mapsto h(x, t)$  is in  $L^1(\Omega)$  and
- (b) for each  $x \in \Omega$ , the function  $t \mapsto h(x, t)$  is continuous at some  $t_0 \in I$ .

If there is  $g: \Omega \rightarrow [0, \infty]$  integrable s.t.

$$\forall x \in \Omega, \forall t \in I: |h(x, t)| \leq g(x), \text{ then}$$

$t \mapsto \int_{\Omega} h(x, t) d\mu(x)$  is continuous at  $t_0$ .

so  $h(x, t_n) \rightarrow h(x, t)$ ,  $\forall x$

Proof: exercise (use DCT, after picking  $\{t_n\} \subseteq I$  s.t.  $t_n \rightarrow t_0$ ).

Back to lemma, apply the proposition to  $h(x, t) = f(x) e^{-itx}$  on  $\mathbb{R} \times \mathbb{R}$ .

In fact,  $\hat{f} \in C^{\infty}(\mathbb{R})$  i.e. continuously differentiable of every order  $k, k \geq 1$ , at every point  $t \in \mathbb{R}$ .

Need lemma.

Definition The Schwartz class (or rapidly decreasing functions)

$\mathcal{S}(\mathbb{R})$  consists of  $f \in C^\infty(\mathbb{R})$  s.t. (1)  $\sup_{x \in \mathbb{R}} |x^N f^{(k)}(x)| < \infty, \forall N$   
for all  $k, N \in \mathbb{Z}_+$ . ↑ partial derivative

①  $\Leftrightarrow$  for every  $k, N \in \mathbb{Z}_+ \exists C_{k,N} > 0$  s.t.  $|x|^N \cdot |f^{(k)}(x)| \leq C_{k,N}, \forall x \in \mathbb{R}$

①  $\Leftrightarrow$  ②  $(1+|x|)^N |f^{(k)}(x)| \leq C_{k,N}, \forall x \in \mathbb{R}$   
 $\Leftarrow$  Clear since  $|x|^N |f^{(k)}(x)| \leq (1+|x|)^N |f^{(k)}(x)|$   
 $\Rightarrow$  Since  $(1+|x|)^N = \text{Pol}(|x|)$  and each  $|x|^N |f^{(k)}(x)|$  is bd.

Fact  $\mathcal{S}(\mathbb{R}) \subseteq L^1(\mathbb{R})$ :  $\int_{\mathbb{R}} |f(x)| dx < C_{f,0} < \infty$ .  
 even  $\mathcal{L}P(\mathbb{R})$

Example 1  $C_c^\infty = \{f: \mathbb{R} \rightarrow \mathbb{C} \mid f^{(k)}$  exists and is cont,  $\forall k$ ,  
and  $\text{supp } f = \{x \mid f(x) \neq 0\}$  is compact}

Suppose  $f \in C_c^\infty$ ,  $\text{supp}(f) \subseteq [-M, M]$ , then clearly  $\text{supp } f^{(k)} \subseteq [-M, M]$ .

Since  $f^{(k)}$  is cont on  $[-M, M]$ , it is bd so for  $\forall k, N \in \mathbb{Z}_+$

$\exists C_{k,N} > 0$  s.t.  $|f^{(k)}(x)| \leq \frac{C_{k,N}}{(1+M)^N}$ , thus

$(1+|x|)^N |f^{(k)}(x)| \leq (1+M)^N |f^{(k)}(x)| \leq C_{k,N}$  so  $f \in \mathcal{S}(\mathbb{R})$

Example 2

$$\varphi(x) = e^{-x^2}$$

$$|x^N \frac{d^k}{dx^k} e(-x^2)| \leq |x^N \sum_{l=0}^k C_l x^l e(-x^2)| \leq \sum_{l=0}^k C_l |x^{N+l} e(-x^2)|,$$

which is uniformly bd since  $|x^{N+l} e(-x^2)| \rightarrow 0$  as  $|x| \rightarrow \infty$   
and  $x^{N+l} e(-x^2)$  is continuous, thus bd.

We get  $\varphi \in \mathcal{S}(\mathbb{R})$  and  $\text{supp}(\varphi)$  not compact.

Lemma (Thm 15.9(a) and (e) in [MW]).

Let  $f \in \mathcal{S}(\mathbb{R})$ . Then for  $m \in \mathbb{N}$  we have:

$$(A) \widehat{f^{(m)}}(t) = (it)^m \widehat{f}(t).$$

$$(B) \widehat{x^m f}(t) = \left(i \frac{d}{dt}\right)^m \widehat{f}(t) \quad \text{where } x^m f \text{ is the function } x \mapsto x^m f(x).$$

Hence,  $\widehat{f}' \in \mathcal{S}(\mathbb{R})$ .

Proof: Induction over  $m \geq 1$ .

(A)  $m=1$ :

$$\begin{aligned} \sqrt{2\pi} it \widehat{f}(t) &= it \int_{\mathbb{R}} f(x) e^{-itx} dx = - \int_{\mathbb{R}} \left(\frac{d}{dx} e^{-itx}\right) f(x) dx \\ &= - \lim_{k \rightarrow \infty} \int_{-k}^k \left(\frac{d}{dx} e^{-itx}\right) f(x) dx \end{aligned}$$

derivation

$$= - \lim_{k \rightarrow \infty} \left( \left[ -e^{-itx} f(x) \right]_{-k}^k + \int_{-k}^k f'(x) e^{-itx} dx \right)$$

by parts  
( $f$  cont)

$$= \lim_{k \rightarrow \infty} \left[ -f(k) e^{-itk} + f(-k) e^{itk} \right] + \lim_{k \rightarrow \infty} \int_{-k}^k f'(x) e^{-itx} dx$$

Now  $|f(x)| \leq C_{1,N} |x|^{-N}$  for  $N \geq 1$  so  $f(x) \rightarrow 0$  as  $|x| \rightarrow \infty$ ,

$$\text{Thus } \sqrt{2\pi} it \widehat{f}(t) = \int_{\mathbb{R}} f'(x) e^{-itx} dx \quad \text{so } \boxed{it \widehat{f}(t) = \widehat{f}'(t)}.$$

Induction shows  $m \mapsto m+1$ .

For (B), at  $n=1$  need:  $\widehat{x f}(t) = \left(i \frac{d}{dt}\right) \widehat{f}(t) \stackrel{\text{ie.}}{=} i \widehat{f}'(t)$ .

So, need  $\int_{\mathbb{R}} x f(x) e^{-itx} dx = i \frac{d}{dt} \left( \int_{\mathbb{R}} f(x) e^{-itx} dx \right)$

By DCT, since  $t \mapsto f(x) e^{-itx}$  is in  $C^1(\mathbb{R})$ ,  $\forall x$ , and

$$\frac{d}{dt} (f(x) e^{-itx}) = -ix f(x) e^{-itx} \text{ is bd by } x f(x) \in \mathcal{L}^1(\mathbb{R}),$$

$$\text{get } i \frac{d}{dt} \int_{\mathbb{R}} f(x) e^{-itx} dx = i \int_{\mathbb{R}} \frac{\partial}{\partial t} (f(x) e^{-itx}) dx = i \int_{\mathbb{R}} (-ix) f(x) e^{-itx} dx = \widehat{x f}(t).$$

[MW, 5.78] or [T, 9.14]  $\leadsto$  Induction

(3)

From (A) and (B) we can deduce that  $\hat{f} \in \mathcal{S}(\mathbb{R})$  whenever  $f \in \mathcal{S}(\mathbb{R})$ .

By (B), since  $x^n \hat{f}$  cont,  $\forall n \geq 1$ , we have  $(\frac{d}{dt})^n \hat{f}(t)$  cont.

Thus  $\hat{f} \in C^\infty(\mathbb{R})$ . For  $k, N$  need  $|t|^N |\frac{d^k}{dt^k} \hat{f}(t)|$  to be

a bounded function. For all  $N \geq 0$ ,  $f^{(N)} \in \mathcal{S}(\mathbb{R})$  by def of  $\mathcal{S}(\mathbb{R})$   
so the fact that  $\|\hat{f}\|_n \leq \text{const} \|f\|_1$  implies  $\hat{f}^{(N)}$  is bd, so by (A)  
also  $|t|^N \hat{f}(t)$  is bd. Use this with  $\frac{d^k}{dt^k} \hat{f}$  in place of  $\hat{f}$   
according to (B).

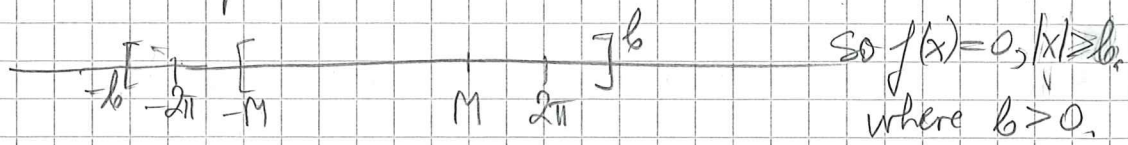
Theorem Let  $f \in C_c^\infty(\mathbb{R})$ , then  $f(x) = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2\pi}} \int_{\mathbb{R}} \hat{f}(t) e^{itx} dt, \forall x \in \mathbb{R}$ .

Proof: Since  $f \in C_c^\infty(\mathbb{R})$ , we have  $f \in \mathcal{S}(\mathbb{R})$ .

By lemma,  $\hat{f} \in \mathcal{S}(\mathbb{R})$ . Thus for each  $N=0,1,2,\dots$ , there is  $C_N \geq 0$  s.t.

$$(\#) |\hat{f}(t)| \leq \frac{C_N}{(1+|t|)^N} \text{ for all } t \in \mathbb{R}$$

Let  $\text{supp } f \subseteq [-M, M]$  for some  $M > 0$ . Let  $b \in \mathbb{R}$  s.t.  $b \geq \max\{2\pi, M\}$ .



Consider  $L^2[-b, b]$  with inner product:

$$\langle f, g \rangle = \int_{-b}^b fg dx.$$

$$\frac{\pi}{b} \leq \frac{1}{2}$$

Fact:  $\left\{ \frac{1}{\sqrt{2b}} e^{ik \frac{\pi}{b} s} = e_k^b(s) \right\}_{k \in \mathbb{Z}}$  is an o.m.b. for  $L^2[-b, b]$ .

Proof: see Rynne-Youngson or note that  $U: L^2[-\pi, \pi] \rightarrow L^2[-b, b]$ ,

$(Ug)(s) = \sqrt{\frac{\pi}{b}} g\left(\frac{\pi}{b}s\right)$  is a unitary operator, so it takes the

o.m.b.  $\left\{ \frac{1}{\sqrt{2\pi}} e^{ikx} \right\}$  to the o.m.b.  $\sqrt{\frac{\pi}{b}} \cdot \frac{1}{\sqrt{2\pi}} e^{ik \frac{\pi}{b} x} = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2b}} e^{ik \frac{\pi}{b} x}$ .

$f|_{[-b, b]}$  has a Fourier series in the o.m.b.  $\left\{ e_k^b \right\}_{k \in \mathbb{Z}}$  with the

$n$ 'th coefficient:  $\widehat{f|_{[-b, b]}}(n) = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2b}} \int_{-b}^b f(y) e^{-in \frac{\pi}{b} y} dy$ .

Since  $f(y) = 0$  for  $|y| > b$ , we get

Usual Fourier coeff at  $n \in \mathbb{Z}$   $\rightarrow$   $\widehat{f|_{[-b, b]}}(n) = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2b}} \int_{\mathbb{R}} f(y) e^{-in \frac{\pi}{b} y} dy = \frac{\sqrt{2\pi}}{\sqrt{2b}} \hat{f}\left(n \frac{\pi}{b}\right)$ . Fourier coeff at point in  $\mathbb{R}$ .

Thus the Fourier series for  $f|_{[-b, b]}$  is  $\frac{1}{\sqrt{2b}} \sum_{n \in \mathbb{Z}} \widehat{f|_{[-b, b]}}(n) e^{in \frac{\pi}{b} x}$ , i.e.

Since  $f \in C^1[-b, b]$ , we have pointwise convergence.

$$f(x) = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2\pi}} \sum_{n \in \mathbb{Z}} \frac{1}{2b} \hat{f}\left(n \frac{\pi}{b}\right) e^{in \frac{\pi}{b} x}, \quad \forall x \in (-b, b). \quad (5)$$

Idea: express RHS as  $\sum_n \int_{\mathbb{R}} a_n \chi_{I_n}(t) dt$  to approximate it with  $\int_{\mathbb{R}} f(x) e^{itx} dx$ .

$\int_{\mathbb{R}} f(x) e^{itx} dx$   
 $\uparrow$   
 interval

For  $b > 0$  and each  $x \in \mathbb{R}$  define  $g_{b,x}(t) = \hat{f}\left(n \frac{\pi}{b}\right) e^{in \frac{\pi}{b} x}$ ,  $g: \mathbb{R} \rightarrow \mathbb{C}$   
 (fixed by arbitrary)

Partition of  $\mathbb{R}$  with  $n \frac{\pi}{b} \leq t < (n+1) \frac{\pi}{b}$  (intervals of length  $\frac{\pi}{b}$ ).

$$\Rightarrow f(x) = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2\pi}} \sum_{n \in \mathbb{Z}} \frac{1}{2b} \cdot \frac{b}{\pi} \int_{[n \frac{\pi}{b}, (n+1) \frac{\pi}{b})} g_{b,x}(t) dt = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2\pi}} \int_{\bigcup_{n \in \mathbb{Z}} [n \frac{\pi}{b}, (n+1) \frac{\pi}{b})} g_{b,x}(t) dt,$$

so  $f(x) = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2\pi}} \int_{\mathbb{R}} g_{b,x}(t) dt$  for  $x \in (-b, b)$ , where  $g_{b,x}$  is

integrable because

$$|g_{b,x}(t)| = |\hat{f}\left(n \frac{\pi}{b}\right)| \cdot |e^{in \frac{\pi}{b} x}| = |\hat{f}\left(n \frac{\pi}{b}\right)| \stackrel{(\#)}{\leq} \frac{C_N}{(1 + |n \frac{\pi}{b}|)^N}$$

however  $n \frac{\pi}{b} \leq t < n \frac{\pi}{b} + \frac{1}{2}$  so  $|t| - \frac{1}{2} < |n \frac{\pi}{b}|$  so  $|t| + \frac{1}{2} \leq |n \frac{\pi}{b}| + 1$ ,

thus  $|g_{b,x}(t)| \leq \frac{C_N}{(1/2 + |t|)^N} \in L^1(\mathbb{R})$  for  $N \geq 2$ .

By continuity of  $\hat{f}$ , for each  $t \in \mathbb{R}$ ,  $\lim_{b \rightarrow \infty} g_{b,x}(t) = \hat{f}(t) e^{itx}$ , as

$x$  is fixed, since the interval  $[n \frac{\pi}{b}, (n+1) \frac{\pi}{b})$  degenerates to the point  $\{t\}$ .

By DCT (use sequence  $b_m \rightarrow \infty$ ) get  $f(x) = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2\pi}} \int_{\mathbb{R}} \hat{f}(t) e^{itx} dt$ .  
 and majorant  $\frac{C_N}{(1/2 + |t|)^N}$ . □