

Poisson Summation Formula

Theorem 1. If  $f$  is a nice smooth function and  $\hat{f}$  is its Fourier Transform

$$\hat{f}(k) = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2\pi}} \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} f(x) e^{-ikx} dx$$

$$\text{then } \sqrt{2\pi} \sum_{-\infty}^{\infty} f(2\pi n) = \sum_{-\infty}^{\infty} \hat{f}(n) e^{2\pi i n x / T},$$

and more generally, for any  $T > 0$  and  $x \in \mathbb{R}$

$$\sum_{-\infty}^{\infty} f(x+kT) = \frac{\sqrt{2\pi}}{T} \sum_{-\infty}^{\infty} \hat{f}\left(\frac{2\pi n}{T}\right) e^{2\pi i n x / T}.$$

Proof. Build the periodization of  $f$  by

$$f^{\circ}(x) = \sum_{-\infty}^{\infty} f(x+kT) = f^{\circ}(x+T)$$

and expand  $f^{\circ}$  in a  $T$ -periodic complex Fourier series

$$f^{\circ}(x) = \sum_{-\infty}^{\infty} \frac{1}{T} \int_0^T f^{\circ}(y) e^{-2\pi i n y / T} dy e^{2\pi i n x / T}$$

where

$$\frac{1}{T} \int_0^T \sum_{-\infty}^{\infty} f(y+kT) e^{-2\pi i n y / T} dy =$$

$$= \frac{1}{T} \sum_{k=-\infty}^{\infty} \int_{kT}^{(k+1)T} f(x) e^{-2\pi i n x / T} dx \quad (2)$$

$$= \frac{1}{T} \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} f(x) e^{-2\pi i n x / T} dx$$

$$= \frac{1}{T} \hat{f}(2\pi n / T) \sqrt{2\pi}.$$

Setting  $T=2\pi$  and  $x=0$  gives

$$\begin{aligned} f'(0) &= \sum_{k=-\infty}^{\infty} f(2\pi k) \\ &= \sum_{n=-\infty}^{\infty} \frac{1}{2\pi} \sqrt{2\pi} \hat{f}(n). \end{aligned}$$

Example 1: This formula implies the Fourier inversion formula. The RHS is a Riemann sum with spacing  $2\pi/T$  for the integral

$$\frac{1}{\sqrt{2\pi}} \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} \hat{f}(k) e^{ikx} \quad (k = \frac{2\pi}{T} n)$$

while the left-hand side is  $f(x)$  plus

$$\sum_{k \neq 0} f(x+kT) \leq \sum_{k \neq 0} \frac{1}{(kT)^2} \leq \frac{C}{T^2}$$

if  $|f(x)| \leq \frac{1}{|x|^2}$  for  $|x| \geq 1$  and  $T \rightarrow \infty$ .

Example 2: let  $f(x) = \frac{1}{\sqrt{4\pi t}} e^{-x^2/4t}$  (3)

so  $\hat{f}(k) = e^{-k^2 t}$

Then the PSF says (with  $T = 2\pi$ )

$$\sum_{-\infty}^{\infty} \frac{1}{\sqrt{4\pi t}} e^{-(x-2\pi k)^2/4t} = \sum_{-\infty}^{\infty} e^{-k^2 t} e^{i k x} \frac{1}{\sqrt{2\pi}}$$

This reduces to "Jacobi's  $\theta$ -function identity" for  $x=0$ . It solves the heat equation

$$u_t = u_{xx} \quad -\pi < x < \pi, \quad t \geq 0$$

in two different ways: Fourier series expansion on the right-hand side, and the "method of images" on the left-hand side. The latter consists of solving the problem on  $-\infty < x < \infty$  and then periodizing the solution. It has many other uses.

Example 3: let  $f(x) = e^{-|x|t}$  where  $t$  is a parameter. Then

$$\hat{f}(k) = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2\pi}} \left( \int_0^{\infty} e^{-tx} e^{-ikx} dx + \int_{-\infty}^0 e^{tx} e^{-ikx} dx \right)$$

$$= \frac{1}{\sqrt{2\pi}} \left( \frac{e^{-(t+ik)x}}{-(t+ik)} \Big|_0^{\infty} + \frac{e^{(t-ik)x}}{t-ik} \Big|_{-\infty}^0 \right)$$

$$= \frac{1}{\sqrt{2\pi}} \left( \frac{1}{t+ik} + \frac{1}{t-ik} \right)$$

$$= \sqrt{\frac{2}{\pi}} \frac{t}{t^2+k^2}$$

Hence  $\sqrt{2\pi} \sum_{-\infty}^{\infty} e^{-|2\pi k|t} = \sum_{-\infty}^{\infty} \sqrt{\frac{2}{\pi}} \frac{t}{t^2+k^2}$

or

$$\sum_{-\infty}^{\infty} \frac{1}{t^2+k^2} = \frac{\pi}{t} \left( 1 + 2 \sum_1^{\infty} e^{-2\pi tk} \right) \quad (t > 0)$$

$$= \frac{\pi}{t} \left( 1 + 2 e^{-2\pi t} \frac{1}{1 - e^{-2\pi t}} \right)$$

$$= \frac{\pi}{t} \left( \frac{1 + e^{-2\pi t}}{1 - e^{-2\pi t}} \right)$$

Note that as  $t \rightarrow 0$ ,  $\sum_1^{\infty} \frac{1}{k^2} = \frac{\pi^2}{6}$  after some algebra.

(5)

Ewald summation:

Recall the useful formula

$$(*) \quad \frac{1}{x} = \int_0^{\infty} e^{-tx} dt \quad x > 0$$

which we used to evaluate  $\int_0^{\infty} \frac{\sin x}{x} dx$ ,  
and let's consider the solutions of

$$-u'' = f \quad -\pi < x < \pi$$

for periodic data  $f$  and solution  $u$ .  
Clearly  $u$  has a Fourier series expansion

$$\begin{aligned} u(x) &= \frac{1}{\sqrt{2\pi}} \sum_{-\infty}^{\infty} \hat{u}(k) e^{ikx} \\ &= \frac{1}{\sqrt{2\pi}} \sum_{\substack{-\infty \\ k \neq 0}}^{\infty} \frac{1}{k^2} \hat{f}(k) e^{ikx} \end{aligned}$$

where the  $k=0$  term is excluded to  
enforce a mean-zero condition on  $u$ .  
Employing (\*) gives

$$u(x) = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2\pi}} \sum_{k \neq 0} \int_0^{\infty} e^{-tk^2} \hat{f}(k) e^{ikx} dt$$

and recognizing the heat kernel  
suggests that the solution  $u(x)$

can be found by solving the heat equation <sup>(b)</sup>

$$v_t = v_{xx}, \quad v(x, 0) = f(x)$$

So  $\int_0^{\infty} v_t dt = v(\infty) - v(0) = \int_0^{\infty} v_{xx} dt$

and  $-\int_0^{\infty} v_{xx} dt = f.$

Hence  $u(x) = \int_0^{\infty} v(x, t) dt$  is a solution.

Since  $\frac{1}{k^2} = \int_0^{\infty} e^{-tk^2} dt,$

we have

$$\begin{aligned} u(x) &= \int_0^{\infty} \left( \frac{1}{\sqrt{2\pi}} \sum_{k \neq 0} e^{-k^2 t} e^{ikx} \right) \hat{f}(k) dt \\ &= \int_0^{\infty} \frac{1}{\sqrt{2\pi}} \sum_{k \neq 0} e^{-k^2 t} dt e^{ikx} \hat{f}(k) \\ &+ \int_0^{\infty} \int_{-\pi}^{\pi} \left( \frac{1}{\sqrt{2\pi}} + \sum_{k \neq 0} \frac{1}{\sqrt{4\pi k}} e^{-(xy - 2\pi k)^2 / 4t} \right) f(y) dy dt \end{aligned}$$

by the convolution theorem  $\widehat{fg} = \hat{f}\hat{g}$ ,  
and Example 3 above. If  $f$  has mean 0

$$\int_{-\pi}^{\pi} f(y) dy = 0$$

then the constant term integrates to 0 and

$$u(x) = \int_{-\pi}^{\pi} g(x-y) f(y) dy \quad \text{where} \quad (7)$$

$$g(x) = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2\pi}} \sum_{k \neq 0} \frac{e^{-k^2 \delta}}{k^2} e^{ikx}$$

$$+ \sum_{-\infty}^{\infty} \int_0^{\delta} \frac{1}{\sqrt{4\pi t}} e^{-(x-2\pi k)^2/4t} dt$$

$$= \frac{1}{\sqrt{2\pi}} \sum_{k \neq 0} \frac{e^{-k^2 \delta}}{k^2} e^{ikx}$$

$$+ \frac{1}{\sqrt{4\pi}} \sum_{-\infty}^{\infty} \int_{(x-2\pi k)^2/4\delta}^{\infty} e^{-s} s^{-3/2} ds |x-2\pi k|$$

$$= \frac{1}{\sqrt{2\pi}} \sum_{k \neq 0} \frac{e^{-k^2 \delta}}{k^2} e^{ikx}$$

$$+ \frac{1}{\sqrt{4\pi}} \sum_{-\infty}^{\infty} |x-2\pi k| \Gamma\left(-\frac{1}{2}, \frac{(x-2\pi k)^2}{4\delta}\right)$$

where the incomplete  $\Gamma$  function is

$$\Gamma(\nu, x) = \int_x^{\infty} e^{-s} s^{\nu-1} ds.$$

It decays like a Gaussian as  $k \rightarrow \infty$   
but looks like  $|x|^{-1/2}$  as  $k \rightarrow 0$ .

**Exercise H3.1** Suppose you can only afford to evaluate 11 terms of either side of the PSF

$$\sum_{-\infty}^{\infty} \frac{1}{\sqrt{4\pi t}} e^{-(x-2\pi k)^2/4t}$$

$$= \frac{1}{\sqrt{2\pi}} \sum_{-\infty}^{\infty} e^{-k^2 t} e^{ikx}$$

Find  $\delta$  such that the error in the right-hand side (truncated after 11 terms) is ~~less~~ smaller than  $10^{-14}$  for  $t \geq \delta$ , and  $|x| \leq \pi$ . Show that the error in the left hand side (truncated after 11 terms) is smaller than  $10^{-14}$  for  $t \leq \delta$  and  $|x| \leq \pi$ .

**H3.2** Use the Poisson summation formula to prove the Euler-Maclaurin summation formulas

$$\sum_{n=0}^{\infty} f(n) = \frac{1}{2} f(0) + \int_0^{\infty} f(x) dx$$

$$- \frac{1}{12} f'(0) + \frac{1}{720} f'''(0) - \dots$$

for an even function  $f$ .