

## Fast Fourier transform

Fast Fourier transform (FFT)  
revolutionize signal processing

### Basic idea

Speed up multiplication by  $F$  &  $F^{-1}$   
where  $F$  is the Fourier matrix

Q: How fast?

For  $n \times n$   $F$ ,  $F^{-1}$  uses  $n^2$  multiplications

FFT needs only  $\frac{1}{2} n \log n$  ..

## Discrete Fourier transform (DFT)

A Fourier series is a way of writing  
a periodic function or signal as a  
comb. of sinus of diff. freq.

$$f(x) = a_0 + a_1 \cos x + b_1 \sin x + a_2 \cos 2x \\ + b_2 \sin 2x + \dots$$

When working with finite data sets,

DFT is key to this decomposition:

$$y_l = \sum_{k=0}^{n-1} c_k e^{i \frac{2\pi}{n} k l}$$

## In matrix form

$$\underline{y} = F_n \underline{c}$$

where  $F_n =$   $\begin{bmatrix} 1 & 1 & 1 & \dots & 1 \\ 1 & w & w^2 & \dots & w^{n-1} \\ \vdots & w^2 & w^4 & \dots & w^{2(n-1)} \\ \vdots & \vdots & \vdots & \dots & \vdots \\ 1 & w^{n-1} & w^{2(n-1)} & \dots & w^{(n-1)^2} \end{bmatrix}$

(Fourier matrix)

$$\& w = e^{i2\pi/n} \text{ or } w^n = 1$$

Note 1: In EE & CS, rows & cols of a matrix often starts with 0 (not 1) and ends at  $n-1$  (not  $n$ ), we follow this convention here

Note 2:  $F_n = F_n^T$  so  $F_n$  is symmetric  
(Not Hermitian!)

Note 3:  $(F_n)_{jk} = w^{jk}$

where  $w = e^{i2\pi/n}$  and  $w^n = 1$

$\Rightarrow$  All entries of  $F_n$  are on the unit circle in the complex plane

We can write

$$w = \cos\left(\frac{2\pi}{n}\right) + i \sin\left(\frac{2\pi}{n}\right)$$

(But harder to compute)

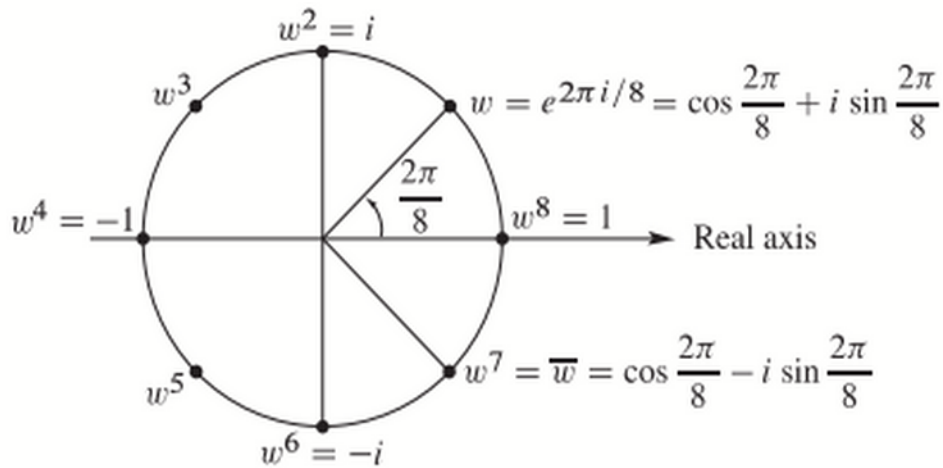


Figure 62: The eight solutions to  $z^8 = 1$  are  $1, w, w^2, \dots, w^7$  with  $w = (1+i)/\sqrt{2}$ .

Note 4: col.s of  $F_n$  are orthogonal

Fourier matrix:  $n=4$

$$w^4 = 1 \Rightarrow w = e^{i2\pi/4} = i$$

$$F_4 = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 1 & 1 & 1 \\ 1 & i & i^2 & i^3 \\ 1 & i^2 & i^4 & i^6 \\ 1 & i^3 & i^6 & i^9 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 1 & -1 & -1 \\ 1 & i & -1 & -i \\ 1 & -1 & 1 & -1 \\ 1 & -i & -1 & i \end{bmatrix}$$

(easy to check that col.s of  $F_4$  are orthogonal)

$F_4$  is not yet unitary  $\because$  length of col. = 2

$$\Rightarrow \left(\frac{1}{2} F_4\right)^H \left(\frac{1}{2} F_4\right) = I \quad \text{or} \quad F_4^H F_4 = 4I$$

$$\Rightarrow F_4^{-1} = \frac{1}{4} F_4^H = \frac{1}{4} \overline{F_4} \quad (F_4^T = F_4)$$

Once we know  $F$ , we get  $F^{-1}$

so when FFT gives a quick way to multiply by  $F$ , it does the

same for  $F^{-1}$  ( $F_n^{-1} = \frac{1}{n} \overline{F_n}$  in general)

### 4-point Fourier series

$$\begin{bmatrix} y_0 \\ y_1 \\ y_2 \\ y_3 \end{bmatrix} = F_4 \underline{c} = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 1 & 1 & 1 \\ 1 & w & w^2 & w^3 \\ 1 & w^2 & w^4 & w^6 \\ 1 & w^3 & w^6 & w^9 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} c_0 \\ c_1 \\ c_2 \\ c_3 \end{bmatrix}$$

Input: four complex DFT coeff.

$c_0, c_1, c_2, c_3$

Output: four real values

$y_0, y_1, y_2, y_3$

An example:

with DFT coeff.  $(1, 0, 0, 0)$

$$\underline{y} = F_4 \underline{c} = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 1 & 1 & 1 \\ 1 & \lambda & -1 & -\lambda \\ 1 & -\lambda & -1 & \lambda \\ 1 & -\lambda & -1 & \lambda \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 0 \\ 0 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 1 \\ 1 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix}$$

$$\underline{c} = F_4^{-1} \underline{y} = \frac{1}{4} \overline{F_4} \underline{y} = \frac{1}{4} \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 1 & 1 & 1 \\ 1 & -\lambda & -1 & \lambda \\ 1 & -\lambda & -1 & \lambda \\ 1 & \lambda & -1 & -\lambda \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 1 \\ 1 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 0 \\ 0 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix}$$

# Fast Fourier Transform (one step)

Motivation: Normally  $\underline{y} = F_n \underline{c}$  takes  $n^2$  separate multiplications

We want to speed up the process

Observation 1:

If a matrix has many zeros, many multiplications can be skipped

But Fourier matrix has NO zeros!

Observation 2:

$F_n$  has the special pattern of  $w^{jk}$  for its entries

Q: Can we use this to speed up computation?

Yes!  $F_n$  can be factored in a way that produces many zeros

This is FFT!

Key idea

Connect  $F_n$  with  $F_{n/2}$

Assume that  $n$  is a power of 2

There is a nice relationship between  $F_n$  &  $F_{n/2}$ : (based on  $w_{2n}^2 = w_n$ )

$$F_n = \begin{bmatrix} I & D \\ I & -D \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} F_{n/2} & 0 \\ 0 & F_{n/2} \end{bmatrix} P$$

where  $D$  is a diagonal matrix with entries  $(1, w, \dots, w^{n/2-1})$

$P$  is a  $n \times n$  permutation matrix that puts the even  $c$ 's ahead of odd  $c$ 's

Ex:  $n=4$

$$F_4 = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 1 & 1 & 1 \\ & 1 & -1 & -1 \\ & & 1 & -1 \\ & & & 1 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} F_2 & \\ & F_2 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 1 & & \\ & 1 & & \\ & & 1 & 1 \\ & & & 1 \end{bmatrix}$$

$$F_4 = \underbrace{\begin{bmatrix} 1 & & & \\ & 1 & & \\ & & 1 & \\ & & & 1 \end{bmatrix}}_{\text{(sparse)}} \underbrace{\begin{bmatrix} 1 & 1 & & \\ & 1 & & \\ & & 1 & 1 \\ & & & 1 \end{bmatrix}}_{\text{(half zeros)}} \underbrace{\begin{bmatrix} 1 & & & \\ & 1 & & \\ & & 1 & \\ & & & 1 \end{bmatrix}}_{\text{(sparse)}}$$

Note:

$$\begin{bmatrix} 1 & & & \\ & 1 & & \\ & & 1 & \\ & & & 1 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} c_0 \\ c_1 \\ c_2 \\ c_3 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} c_0 \\ c_2 \\ c_1 \\ c_3 \end{bmatrix}$$

then apply  $F_2$  and  $F_2$  on the evens & odds

Complexity reduction:

multiplied by two size  $n/2$  Fourier matrix

requires  $2(n/2)^2 = \frac{1}{2}n^2$  multiplications

+ multiplication of two sparse matrix

$P$  &  $\begin{bmatrix} I & D \\ I & -D \end{bmatrix}$  requires order  $n$  operations

$\approx \frac{1}{2}n^2$  operations

The full FFT by recursion

$F_n \rightarrow F_{n/2} \rightarrow F_{n/4} \rightarrow F_{n/8} \rightarrow \dots$

Ex:  $n = 1024$

$$F_{1024} = \begin{bmatrix} I_{512} & D_{512} \\ I_{512} & -D_{512} \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} F_{512} \\ F_{512} \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} \text{even} \\ \text{odd} \\ \text{perm} \end{bmatrix}$$

$$\begin{bmatrix} F_{512} \\ F_{512} \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} I & D \\ I & -D \\ & I & D \\ & I & -D \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} F \\ F \\ F \\ F \end{bmatrix}$$

$\begin{bmatrix} \text{pick } 0, 4, 8, \dots \\ \text{pick } 2, 6, 10, \dots \\ \text{pick } 1, 5, 9, \dots \\ \text{pick } 3, 7, 11, \dots \end{bmatrix}$

where  $F = F_{256}$ ,  $D = D_{256}$

Complexity:

$$n^2 \rightarrow \frac{1}{2} n \log n$$

Reason: Let  $l = \log n \Rightarrow n = 2^l$

there are a total of  $l$  levels

$$\left( \underbrace{F_n \rightarrow F_{n/2} \rightarrow F_{n/4} \rightarrow \dots \rightarrow F_1}_{\text{total level} = l} \right)$$

For each level

$$F_n = \begin{bmatrix} I & D \\ I & -D \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} F_{n/2} & \\ & F_{n/2} \end{bmatrix} P$$

$\frac{n}{2}$  multiplications

So a total of  $\frac{n}{2} \log n$  operations

A typical case  $n = 1024$ ,

$$(1024)^2 \rightarrow \frac{1}{2} (1024) \cdot (10)$$

This is 200 times faster!

(This is possible because  $F_n$ 's are special matrices with orthogonal cols!)