

Fourier Transform, Smooth Functions

Source: <http://sci.tech--archive.net/Archive/sci.math/2006-02/msg04079.html>

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 - *Date:* 25 Feb 2006 08:22:58 -0800
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I have two questions about the relationship between the smoothness of a function and its Fourier transform. I know that if a function is very smooth, then its Fourier transform can decay faster than $1/s^p$ for any $p > 0$. But, can its Fourier transform decay faster than that if the function is zero outside of $[-1,1]$? More precisely,

1) Does there exist a function $f(x)$ such that f is continuous, $f(x)$ is zero when $\text{abs}(x) > 1$, and its Fourier transform, $g(s)$, is order $\exp(-\text{abs}(s)^p)$ where $p > 1/2$?

2) What is the largest value of p such that there exists a function f such that f is continuous, $f(x)$ is zero when $\text{abs}(x) > 1$, and its Fourier transform, $g(s)$, is order $\exp(-\text{abs}(s)^p)$?

If you understand the questions, then you can stop reading here and reply with your thoughts. For everyone else, I will try to define the terms in those questions.

Given a function $f(x)$ that maps reals to reals. Assume that $f(x)$ has the following properties:

- 1) $f(x)$ is continuous,
- 2) $f(x)$ is 0 when $x < -1$ or $x > 1$, and
- 3) $0 \leq f(x) \leq 1$ for all x .

Define the Fourier transform of f , to be the function g that maps reals into complex numbers with the formula

$$g(s) = \text{Integral}[f(x) * \exp(-2 * \text{pi} * i * x * s), \{x, -\text{Infinity}, \text{Infinity}\}].$$

Define the "set of functions of order $h(s)$ ", denoted $O(h(s))$, to be the set of all complex valued functions $w(s)$ with one real argument such that there exists a real constant c obeying

$$\text{abs}(w(s)) < c h(s) \text{ for all } s.$$

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How quickly can $g(s)$ decay?

Or more precisely, does there exist a function $f(x)$ obeying the assumptions 1 – 3, such that its Fourier transform $g(s)$ is contained in the set $O(\exp(-\text{abs}(s)^p))$ for $p = 1/4$? How about for $p=1/2$, 1, or 2?

I don't know the answer, but I suspect that the answer is yes for $p < 0.5$ and no for $p > 1$.

Cheers,
Irchans

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