

Math 6630: Numerical Solutions of Partial Differential Equations

Interpolation with Fourier Series

See Hesthaven, S. Gottlieb, and D. Gottlieb 2007, Chapters 2-3,
Canuto et al. 2011, Chapter 2.1,

Shen, Tang, and Wang 2011, Chapter 2

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Fourier Series approximations

We have established that Fourier series approximations u_N ,

$$u_N(x) = \sum_{|k| \leq N} \hat{u}_k \phi_k(x), \quad \phi_k(x) = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2\pi}} e^{ikx}, \quad \hat{u}_k = \langle u, \phi_k \rangle,$$

have orders of convergence that depend on the smoothness of u :

$$u \in H_p^s \implies \|u - u_N\|_{L^2} \leq N^{-s} \|u\|_{H^s}.$$

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Smoothness \implies Compressibility

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One major outstanding question is *how* we actually compute \hat{u}_k in practice.

Quadrature

The expansion coefficients require computing an integral,

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A standard recourse is to approximate the integral with quadrature:

$$\frac{1}{\sqrt{2\pi}} \int_0^{2\pi} u(x) e^{-ikx} dx \approx \sum_{j=1}^M w_{k,j} u(x_j), \quad w_{k,j} = \frac{\sqrt{2\pi}}{M} e^{-ikx_j}, \quad x_j = \frac{2\pi(j-1)}{M},$$

where we have made particular *choices*:

- x_j are equispaced on $[0, 2\pi]$ for $j \in [M]$
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- x_j are equispaced on $[0, 2\pi]$ for $j \in [M]$
- $w_{k,j}$ correspond to a uniform quadrature rule
- We'll also assume that $M = 2N + 1$. (Quadrature nodes = expansion coefficients)

Note that this is just the [trapezoid rule](#) on $[0, 2\pi]$ with periodic boundary conditions.

One can make other choices, but these choices are most convenient for discussing the major concepts surrounding theory and computation.

Quadrature as linear algebra

$$\hat{u}_k \approx \tilde{u}_k := \sum_{j=1}^M w_{k,j} u(x_j), \quad w_{k,j} = \frac{\sqrt{2\pi}}{M} e^{-ikx_j}, \quad x_j = \frac{2\pi(j-1)}{M}.$$

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A simple implementation quadrature of amounts to matrix-vector algebra:

$$\mathbf{u} := \begin{pmatrix} u(x_1) \\ u(x_2) \\ \vdots \\ u(x_M) \end{pmatrix}, \quad \tilde{\mathbf{u}} := \begin{pmatrix} \tilde{u}_{-N} \\ \tilde{u}_{-N+1} \\ \vdots \\ \tilde{u}_N \end{pmatrix} \implies \tilde{\mathbf{u}} = \tilde{\mathbf{V}}^* \mathbf{u},$$

where $\tilde{\mathbf{V}}^*$ is the conjugate transpose of $\tilde{\mathbf{V}}$, which in turn is given by,

$$\tilde{\mathbf{V}} = \sqrt{\frac{2\pi}{M}} \mathbf{V}, \quad \mathbf{V} = \begin{pmatrix} | & | & & | \\ \mathbf{v}_{-N} & \mathbf{v}_{-N+1} & \cdots & \mathbf{v}_N \\ | & | & & | \end{pmatrix}, \quad \mathbf{v}_k = \sqrt{\frac{2\pi}{M}} \phi_k(\mathbf{x}),$$

and $\mathbf{x} = (x_1, x_2, \dots, x_M)^T$.

Duality of Fourier Series with quadrature

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A somewhat straightforward computation shows:

$$\langle \mathbf{v}_\ell, \mathbf{v}_k \rangle = \frac{1}{M} \sum_{j=1}^M e^{i(\ell-k)2\pi(j-1)/M} = \frac{1}{M} \sum_{j=0}^{M-1} \left(e^{i(\ell-k)2\pi/M} \right)^j,$$

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Thus, in particular if $\ell = k$ then $\langle \mathbf{v}_\ell, \mathbf{v}_k \rangle = 1$, and for $\ell \neq k$ and $|\ell - k| \leq M - 1$:

$$\langle \mathbf{v}_\ell, \mathbf{v}_k \rangle = \frac{1}{M} \frac{1 - \left(e^{i(\ell-k)2\pi/M} \right)^M}{1 - e^{i(\ell-k)2\pi/M}} = 0$$

I.e., $\{\mathbf{v}_k\}_{|k| \leq N}$ are *orthonormal vectors*.

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I.e., $\{\mathbf{v}\}_{|k| \leq N}$ are *orthonormal vectors*.

This shows the important property that \mathbf{V} is a **unitary** matrix:

$$\mathbf{V}^* \mathbf{V} = \mathbf{I} \quad \implies \quad \mathbf{V}^{-1} = \mathbf{V}^*.$$

Inverting the Fourier Series

Putting everything together:

$$\tilde{\mathbf{u}} = \tilde{\mathbf{V}}^* \mathbf{u}, \quad \tilde{\mathbf{V}} = \sqrt{\frac{2\pi}{M}} \mathbf{V}, \quad \mathbf{V}^{-1} = \mathbf{V}^*.$$

This implies that:

$$\mathbf{u} = \left(\tilde{\mathbf{V}}^*\right)^{-1} \tilde{\mathbf{u}} = \sqrt{\frac{M}{2\pi}} \left(\mathbf{V}^*\right)^{-1} \tilde{\mathbf{u}} = \sqrt{\frac{M}{2\pi}} \mathbf{V} \tilde{\mathbf{u}} = \frac{M}{2\pi} \tilde{\mathbf{V}} \tilde{\mathbf{u}}.$$

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I.e., the map between \mathbf{u} and $\tilde{\mathbf{u}}$ is invertible and quite explicit:

$$\tilde{\mathbf{u}} = \tilde{\mathbf{V}}^* \mathbf{u}, \quad \mathbf{u} = \frac{M}{2\pi} \tilde{\mathbf{V}} \tilde{\mathbf{u}}.$$

This invertible map is called the [Discrete Fourier Transform](#) (DFT). As a consequence of \mathbf{V} being unitary, we have also shown that the DFT is a (scaled) isometry,

$$\int_0^{2\pi} |u(x)|^2 dx \approx \frac{2\pi}{M} \|\mathbf{u}\|_2^2 = \|\tilde{\mathbf{u}}\|_2^2,$$

which is the discrete analogue of Parseval's identity.

The Fast Fourier Transform, I

The inverse/DFT is relatively expensive:

$$\mathbf{u} \xrightarrow{\mathcal{O}(M^2)} \tilde{\mathbf{V}}^* \mathbf{u}, \quad \tilde{\mathbf{u}} \xrightarrow{\mathcal{O}(M^2)} \frac{M}{2\pi} \tilde{\mathbf{V}}.$$

One of the most well-known algorithms is the *fast Fourier transform*, which is a fast algorithm for accomplishing the particular matrix-vector multiplication $\tilde{\mathbf{V}}^* \mathbf{u}$.

It is simpler to explain the basic idea if M is even, in which case we have:

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{M}{\sqrt{2\pi}} \tilde{u}_k &= \sum_{j=1}^M u(x_j) e^{-ikx_j} = \sum_{j=1}^M u(x_j) e^{-ik2\pi(j-1)/M} \\ &= \sum_{j=1}^{M/2} u(x_{2j}) e^{-ik2\pi2(j-1)/M} + \sum_{j=1}^{M/2} u(x_{2j-1}) e^{-ik2\pi(2j-1)/M} \end{aligned}$$

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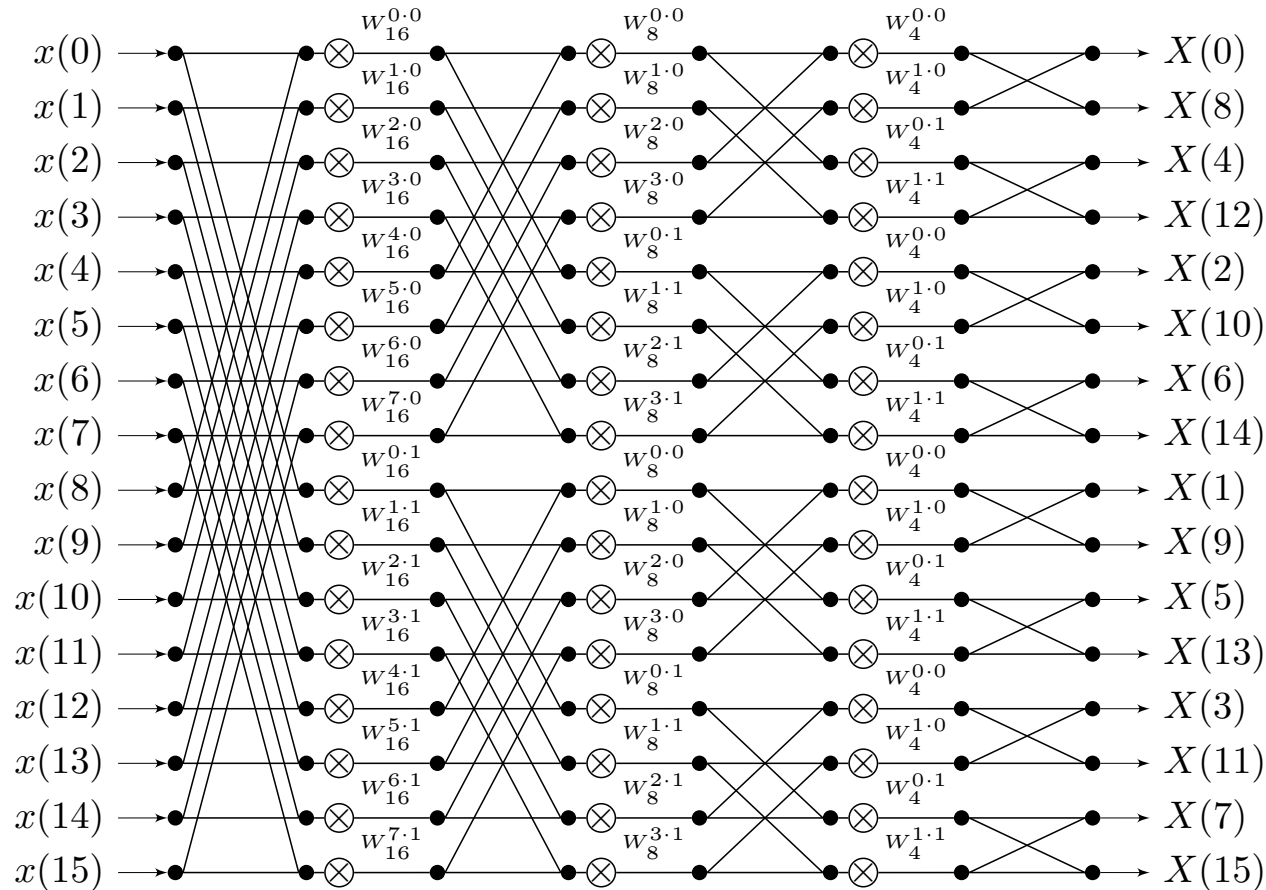
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Note that the last two sums are $M/2$ -point DFT coefficients associated with half the data (either at x_{2j} or at x_{2j-1}).

I.e., with some book-keeping, we can compute the M -point DFT using 2 $M/2$ -point DFT's.

The Fast Fourier Transform, II

This logic can be repeated, showing that actually we can compute the M -point DFT using J (M/J)-point DFT's, where J is a power of two. This yields the simplest, *radix 2 fast Fourier transform* (FFT) algorithm.



Through this divide-and-conquer strategy, an M -point DFT that naively requires $\mathcal{O}(M^2)$ complexity can be accomplished in $\mathcal{O}(M \log M)$ time.

Interpolation

$$\tilde{\mathbf{u}} = \tilde{\mathbf{V}}^* \mathbf{u}, \quad \mathbf{u} = \frac{M}{2\pi} \tilde{\mathbf{V}} \tilde{\mathbf{u}}.$$

We have introduced the DFT via quadrature, but an alternative and illustrative viewpoint is *interpolation*.

Note that the coefficients $\tilde{\mathbf{u}}$ are determined by the conditions,

$$\frac{M}{2\pi} \tilde{\mathbf{V}} \tilde{\mathbf{u}} = \mathbf{u} \quad \Longrightarrow \quad \left(\begin{array}{c|c|c|c} \phi_{-N} & \phi_{-N+1} & \cdots & \phi_N \\ \hline & & & \end{array} \right) \tilde{\mathbf{u}} = \mathbf{u}.$$

Note that these are “just” [interpolation conditions](#) for the $\tilde{\mathbf{u}}$ at the data points x_j , $j \in [M]$.

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Hence, $u_N(x) = \sum_{|k| \leq N} \tilde{u}_k \phi_k(x)$ interpolates the data \mathbf{u} .

We have already concluded that this interpolation problem is *unisolvant*. Hence, there are *cardinal basis functions* $\ell_j(x)$, $j \in [M]$ such that,

$$u_N(x) = \sum_{j \in [M]} u(x_j) \ell_j(x), \quad \ell_j(x_r) = \delta_{j,r}.$$

I.e., u_N has a Lagrange form.

Cardinal Lagrange basis

The cardinal Lagrange functions yield insight into the interpolation process.

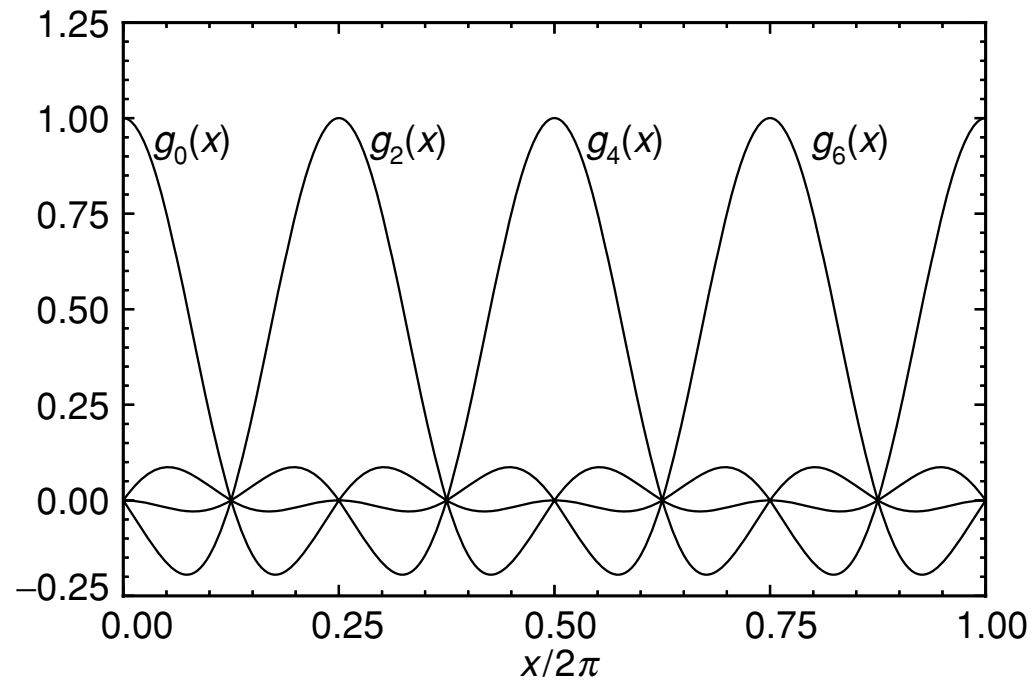


Figure 2.3 of Hesthaven, S. Gottlieb, and D. Gottlieb 2007

Note that interpolation implies

$$u(x) \in V_N := \text{span} \left\{ e^{ikx} \right\}_{|k| \leq N} \implies I_N u := \sum_{|k| \leq N} \tilde{u}_k \phi_k(x) = u(x).$$

Aliasing

The fact that our DFT is an interpolation process reveals a significant issue that we must be cognizant of: [aliasing error](#).

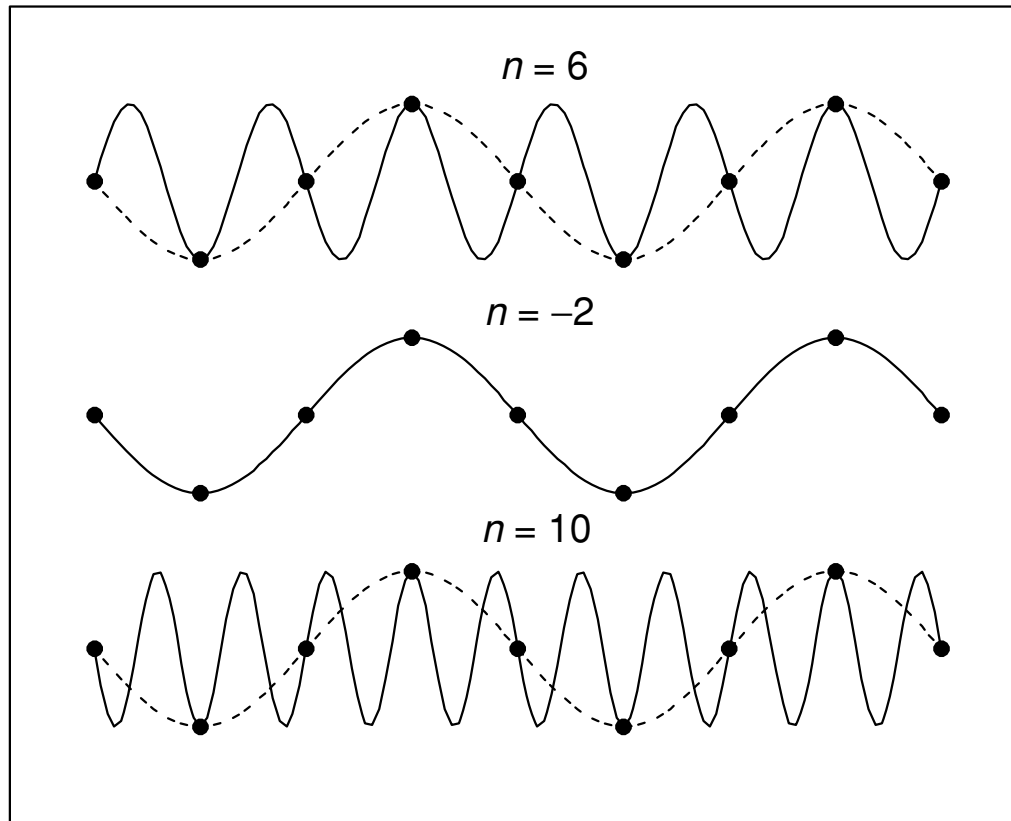


Figure 2.7 of Hesthaven, S. Gottlieb, and D. Gottlieb 2007

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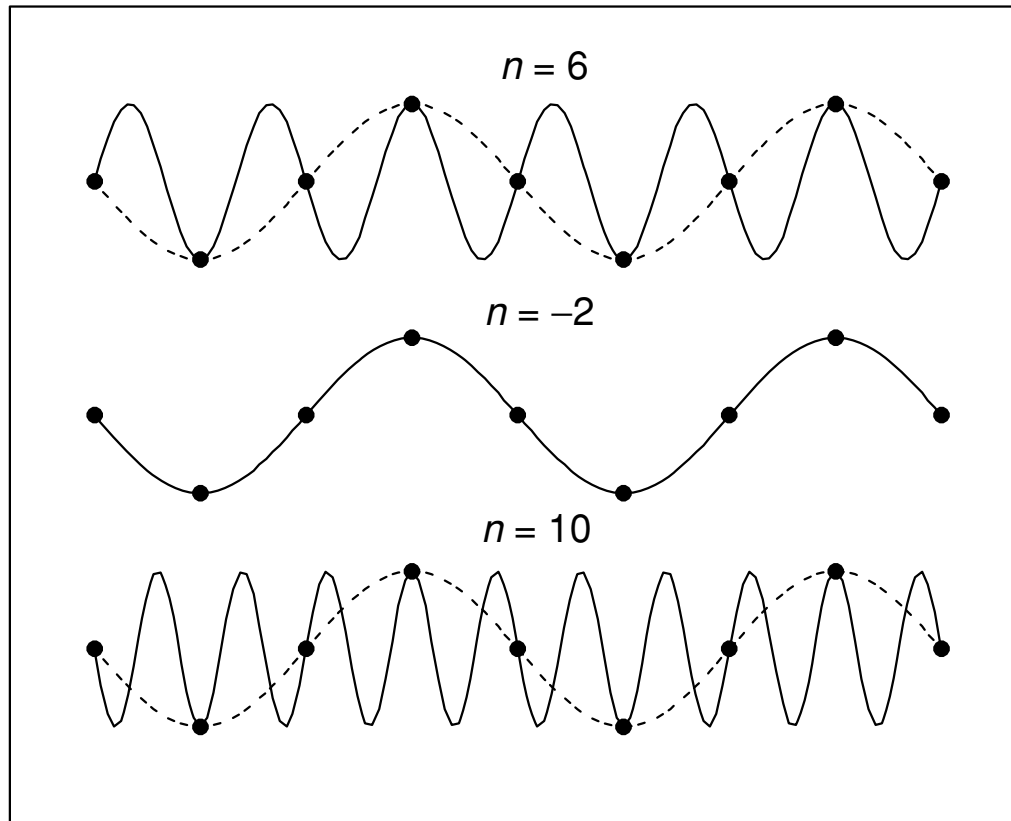


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So, for example, even if $\langle e^{i\ell x}, \phi_k(x) \rangle = 0$ for $\ell > N$, it's possible that $I_N u \neq 0$.

I.e., the interpolation/DFT procedure *is* a projection operator, it's just an oblique one.

Aliasing error

Aliasing is not just an academic curiosity: with P_N the L^2 -orthogonal projection operator onto

$$V_N = \text{span} \left\{ e^{ikx} \right\}_{|k| \leq N},$$

recall that $u \in H_p^s$ implies that $\|u - P_N u\|_{L^2} \lesssim N^{-s}$.

Ok, but what about $I_N u$?

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Ok, but what about $I_N u$?

The main strategy to understanding this is to estimate the aliasing error. Note that for the L^2 norm,

$$\begin{aligned} \|u - I_N u\| &= \|(u - P_N u) + (P_N u - I_N u)\| \leq \|u - P_N u\| + \|P_N u - I_N u\| \\ &=: \|u - P_N u\| + \|A_N u\|, \end{aligned}$$

where we have defined the aliasing error $A_N u$.

Bounding the aliasing error

$$A_N u = P_N u - I_N u$$

The following observations are crucial:

- If $u \in V_N$, then $I_N u = P_N u = u$, so $A_N u = 0$. Therefore, $A_N u = A_N(I - P_N)u$.
The aliasing error is only affected by truncation error.

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- We know that $(I - P_N)u$ is small. Therefore, if A_N is “behaves well”, then $A_N u$ will be small.
The truncation error is small, but does A_N amplify small inputs?

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- A_N is well-behaved: for $|k| \leq N$,

$$I_N A_N e^{i(k+(2N+1))x} = e^{ikx}, \quad P_N e^{i(k+(2N+1))x} = 0$$

and thus in particular,

$$u = \sum_{\substack{|k| \leq N \\ k \in \mathbb{Z}}} \hat{u}_k \phi_k(x) \quad \Longrightarrow \quad \tilde{u}_k = \sum_{\ell \in \mathbb{Z}} \hat{u}_{k+\ell(2N+1)}$$

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$$\begin{aligned} I_N \hat{u}_k \phi_k &\sim \hat{u}_k \phi_k \\ I_N \phi_k &\sim e^{ikx} \end{aligned} \quad |l| \leq N$$

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A_N does not amplify small inputs. $|l| \leq N: \langle I_N u, \phi_\ell \rangle = \sum_{k \in \mathbb{Z}} \hat{u}_k \langle I_N \phi_k, \phi_\ell \rangle$

Therefore, if $\hat{u}_{k+\ell(2N+1)}$ decays quickly for large $|\ell|$, then we can expect the aliased coefficients \tilde{u}_k to be "close" to \hat{u}_k .

$$= \sum_{k \in \mathbb{Z}} \hat{u}_k \delta_{k, \ell + (2N+1)j}$$

Interpolation estimates

While we have only discussed the high-level ideas, going through the details produces the following estimate:

Theorem

Assume $u \in H_p^s$ with $s > 1/2$. Then

$$\begin{aligned} \|u - I_N u\|_{L^2} &\lesssim N^{-s} \|u\|_{H^s} \quad . \\ \|u - I_N u\|_{H^r} &\lesssim N^{-(s-r)} \|u\|_{H^s}, \quad r < s. \end{aligned}$$

Note that this is exactly the asymptotic behavior for the exact orthogonal projector P_N . Thus, one can expect the DFT to produce good results.

The DFT in practice

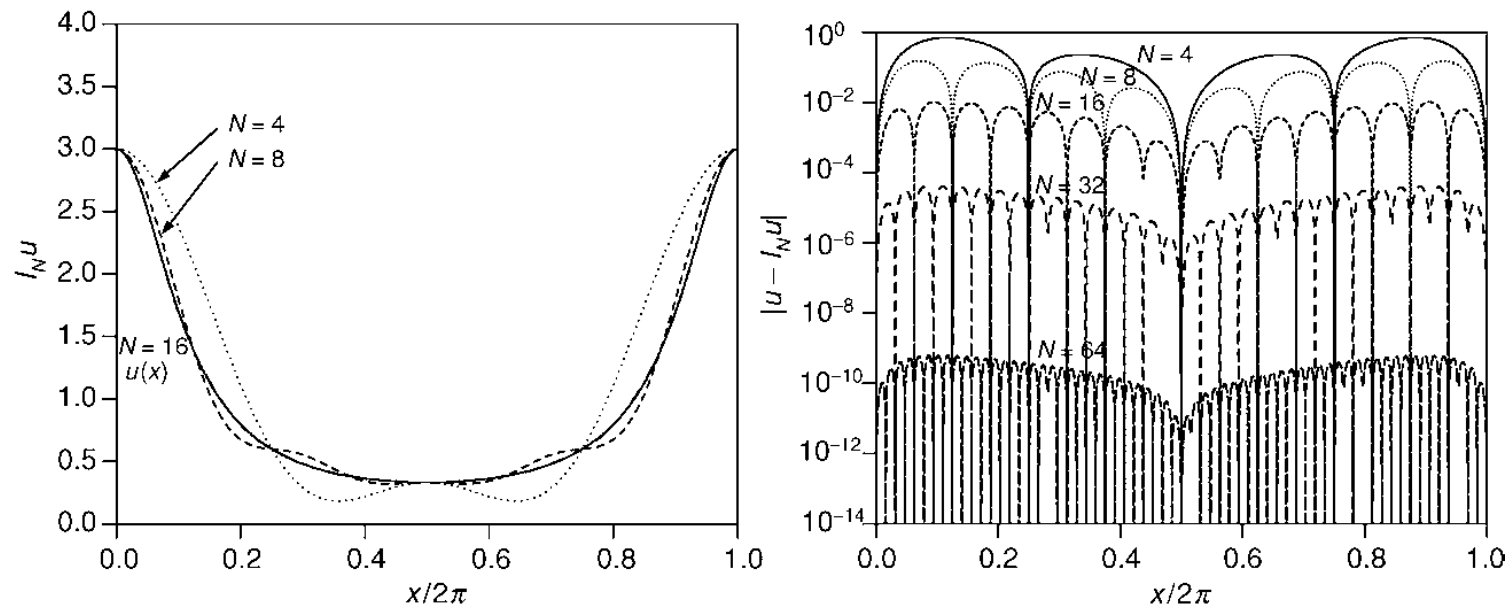


Figure 2.4 of Hesthaven, S. Gottlieb, and D. Gottlieb 2007

$$u(x) = \frac{3}{5 - 4 \cos x}$$

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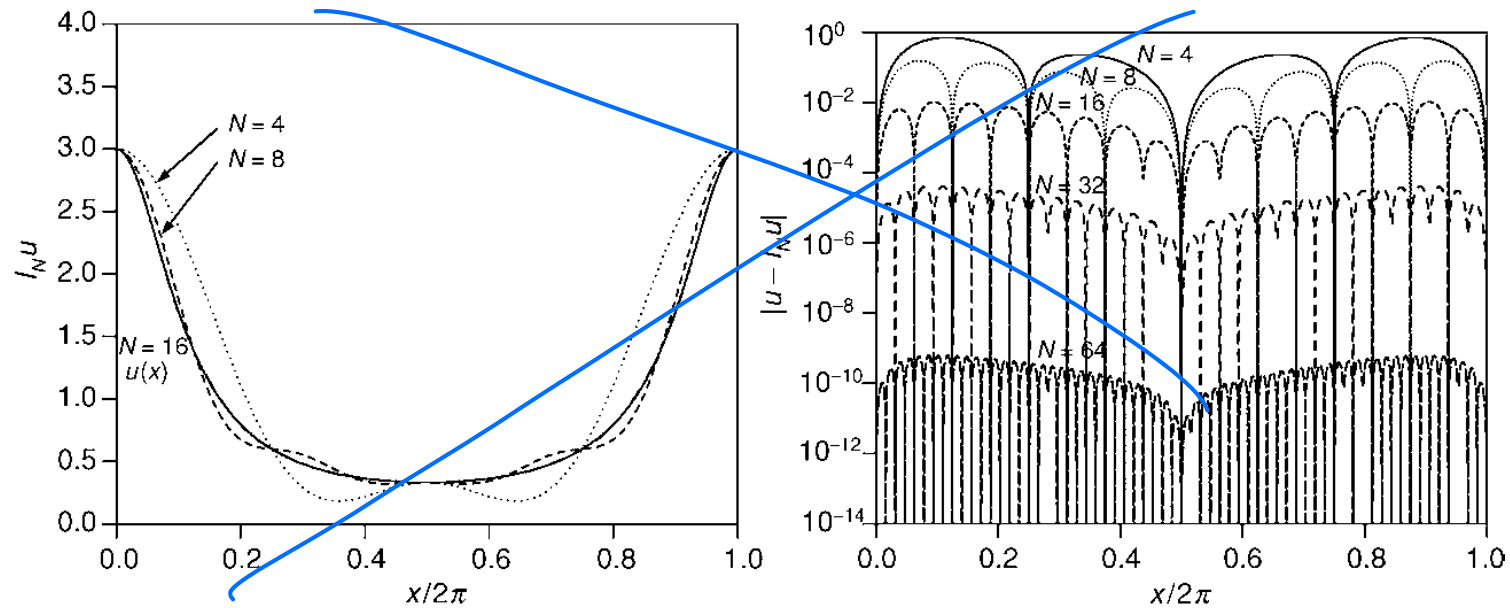
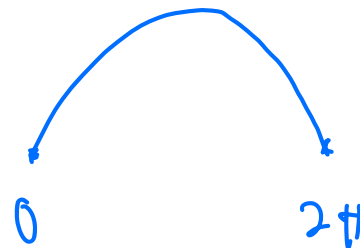


Figure 2.4 of Hesthaven, S. Gottlieb, and D. Gottlieb 2007

$$u(x) = \sin(x/2)$$



References I

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