

**PHYS 502**  
**HANDOUT 3 - Fourier Transform**

1. Prove the time and frequency shifting properties of the Fourier transform.

(Sch. p. 77)

2. Prove the so called *modulation theorem* which states:

$$F[g(t)\cos(\omega_0 t)] = \frac{1}{2}G(\omega - \omega_0) + \frac{1}{2}G(\omega + \omega_0)$$

where  $F[f(t)] = G(\omega)$ .

(Sch. p. 78)

3. Study the Fourier transform of a *real* function  $g(t)$ .

(Sch. p. 79)

4. Show that if the Fourier transform of a real function  $g(t)$  is real, then  $g(t)$  is an even function of  $t$ , and if the Fourier transform of a real function  $g(t)$  is purely imaginary, then  $g(t)$  is an odd function of  $t$ .

(Sch. p. 89)

5. Show that if  $g(t)$  is a periodic function with period  $T$  then its Fourier transform is given by

$$G(\omega) = 2\pi \sum_{n=-\infty}^{\infty} c_n \delta(\omega - n\omega_0)$$

Where the coefficients  $c_n$  are associated with the corresponding Fourier series.

(Sch. p. 104)

6. Find the Fourier transform of  $\delta'(t)$ .

(Sch. p. 108)

7. Find the Fourier transform of  $\sin^3 t$ .

(Sch. p. 113)

8. Find the Fourier transform of the function

$$f(t) = \begin{cases} 1 & 0 < x < \pi \\ 0 & \pi < x < 2\pi \end{cases} \quad \text{period } 2\pi.$$

9. From the expression for Fourier transform, show what happens if we consider the substitution :

$$\begin{cases} t \rightarrow \ln x \\ i\omega \rightarrow \alpha - \gamma \end{cases}$$

(Arf. p. 797)

10. The finite wave-train is produced when an infinite wave train of the form  $\sin \omega_0 t$  is clipped by Kerr cell or saturable dye cell shutters so that we have:

$$g(t) = \begin{cases} \sin \omega_0 t, & |t| < N\pi / \omega_0 \\ 0, & |t| > N\pi / \omega_0 \end{cases}$$

(Arf. p. 801)

11. Find the Fourier transform of the pulse:

$$g(t) = \begin{cases} A / T, & -T < t < 0 \\ -A / T, & 0 < t < T \\ 0, & \text{otherwise} \end{cases}$$

(Sch. p. 91)

12. Find the Fourier transform of the triangular pulse:

$$g(x) = \begin{cases} h(1 - a|x|), & |x| < 1/a, \\ 0, & |x| > 1/a. \end{cases}$$

(Arf. p. 804)

13. In a resonant cavity an electromagnetic oscillation of frequency  $\omega_0$  dies out as:

$$A(t) = A_0 e^{-\omega_0 t / 2Q} e^{-i\omega_0 t}, \quad t > 0$$

(Take  $A(t) = 0$  for  $t < 0$ .)

This parameter  $Q$  is a measure of the ratio of stored energy to energy loss per cycle. Calculate the frequency distribution of the oscillation,  $a^*(\omega)a(\omega)$ , where  $a(\omega)$  is the Fourier transform of  $A(t)$ .

(Arf. p. 805)

14. Prove that

$$\frac{\hbar}{2\pi i} \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} \frac{e^{-i\omega t} d\omega}{E_0 - i\Gamma/2 - \hbar\omega} = \begin{cases} \exp(-\Gamma t / 2\hbar) \exp(-iE_0 t / \hbar), & t > 0 \\ 0, & t < 0 \end{cases}$$

(Sch. p. 16)

15. A rectangular pulse is described by

$$g(t) = \begin{cases} 1, & |t| < d/2 \\ 0, & |t| > d/2 \end{cases}$$

Show that the Fourier exponential transform is

$$G(\omega) = d \frac{\sin(\omega d / 2)}{(\omega d / 2)}.$$

Here is the single slit diffraction problem of physical optics. The slit is described by  $g(t)$ . The diffraction pattern *amplitude* is given by the Fourier transform  $G(\omega)$ .

(Sch. p. 85)

16. Find the Fourier transform of the function  $f(t) = e^{-a|t|}$  ( $a > 0$ );  
(Sch. p. 86)

17. The hydrogen atom ground state may be described by the special wave function

$$\psi(\mathbf{r}) = \left( \frac{1}{\pi a_0^3} \right)^{1/2} e^{-r/a_0}$$

where  $a_0$  being the Bohr radius  $\hbar / me^2$ . Find the momentum wave function. *Hint: you will need the integral*  $\int e^{-ar+ib \cdot r} d^3r = 8\pi a / (a^2 + b^2)^2$ .  
(Arf. p. 816)

18. A free particle in quantum mechanics is described by the function

$$\psi_p(x, t) = \left( 1 / \sqrt{2\pi\hbar} \right) e^{i \left[ px/\hbar - (p^2/2m\hbar)t \right]}$$

Combining waves of adjacent momentum with an amplitude weighting factor  $c(p)$ , we form a wavepacket

$$\Psi(x, t) = \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} c(p) \psi_p(x, t) dp.$$

- (a) Solve for  $c(p)$  given that  $\Psi(x, 0) = \sqrt{\frac{\lambda}{\pi}} e^{-\lambda x^2/2}$ .  
(b) Using the known value of  $c(p)$ , integrate to get the explicit form of  $\Psi(x, t)$ . Note that this wave packet diffuses or spreads out with time.

*Hint: You will need the integral:*  $\int_{-\infty}^{\infty} \exp(-a^2 x^2 \pm bx) dx = \exp\left(\frac{b^2}{4a^2}\right) \frac{\sqrt{\pi}}{a}.$

*Note: An interesting discussion of this problem from the evolution operator point of view is given by S. M. Blinder, "Evolution of a Gaussian wavepacket." Am. J. Phys. 36, 525 (1968)*

(Arf. p. 819)

19. The one dimensional time-independent Schroedinger wave equation is

$$-\frac{\hbar^2}{2m} \frac{d^2\psi(x)}{dx^2} + V(x)\psi(x) = E\psi(x)$$

For the special case of  $V(x)$  an analytic function of  $x$ , show that the corresponding momentum wavefunction is

$$V\left(i\hbar \frac{d}{dp}\right)g(p) + \frac{p^2}{2m}g(p) = Eg(p).$$

Where  $V\left(i\hbar \frac{d}{dp}\right)$  is the potential function with argument  $(i\hbar d / dp)$ .

- (a) Derive this equation directly from the Fourier transform.  
 (b) Find the Schroedinger equation for the simple harmonic oscillation in the momentum representation.

(Arf. p. 820)

20. The nuclear form factor  $F(k)$  and the charge distribution  $\rho(r)$  are three-dimensional Fourier transforms of each other:

$$F(k) = \frac{1}{(2\pi)^{3/2}} \int \rho(r) e^{i\mathbf{k}\cdot\mathbf{r}} d^3r.$$

If the measured form factor is

$$F(k) = (2\pi)^{-3/2} \left(1 + \frac{k^2}{a^2}\right)^{-1},$$

find the corresponding charge distribution.

(Arf. p. 819)

21. The ordinary space wave function  $\psi(\mathbf{r}, t)$  satisfies the time-dependent Schroedinger equation

$$i\hbar \frac{\partial \psi(\mathbf{r}, t)}{\partial t} = -\frac{\hbar^2}{2m} \nabla^2 \psi + V(\mathbf{r})\psi.$$

Show that the corresponding time-dependent momentum function satisfies the analogous equation

$$i\hbar \frac{\partial \varphi(\mathbf{p}, t)}{\partial t} = \mathbf{p}^2 \varphi + V(i\hbar \nabla_p) \varphi.$$

Hint:  $V(i\hbar\nabla_p)$  is the same function of the variable  $i\hbar\nabla_p$  that  $V(\mathbf{r})$  is of the variable  $\mathbf{r}$ .

22. The  $n$ th moment  $m_n$  of a function is defined by

$$m_n = \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} t^n g(t) dt \quad n = 0, 1, 2, \dots$$

Show that

$$m_n = i^n \frac{d^n G(0)}{d\omega^n} \quad n = 0, 1, 2, \dots$$

where

$$\frac{d^n G(0)}{d\omega^n} = \left. \frac{d^n G(\omega)}{d\omega^n} \right|_{\omega=0} \quad \text{and} \quad G(\omega) = F[g(t)]$$

(Sch. p. 95)

23. Use the result of the previous problem to show that

$$G(\omega) = \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} (-i)^n m_n \frac{\omega^n}{n!}$$

(Sch. 95)