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Sheet 15: Optional: Frequency Comb

Solution Optional Problem 1: Poisson summation formulas [3]

(a) We multiply the completeness relation with $f(y/L)$ and integrate over $x = y/L$:

$$\text{Completeness: } \frac{1}{L} \sum_{n \in \mathbb{Z}} e^{-i2\pi ny/L} = \sum_{m \in \mathbb{Z}} \delta(y - Lm) = \frac{1}{L} \sum_{m \in \mathbb{Z}} \delta\left(\frac{y}{L} - m\right) \quad (1)$$

$$\int dx f(x)(1): \quad \sum_{n \in \mathbb{Z}} \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} dx f(x) e^{-i2\pi nx} = \sum_{m \in \mathbb{Z}} \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} dx f(x) \delta(x - m) = \sum_{m \in \mathbb{Z}} f(m).$$

The left integral corresponds to the Fourier transform, $\tilde{f}(k) = \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} dx f(x) e^{-ikx}$, with $k = 2\pi n$. Thus we obtain:

$$\boxed{\sum_{n \in \mathbb{Z}} \tilde{f}(2\pi n) = \sum_{m \in \mathbb{Z}} f(m)}. \quad (2)$$

(b) We set $f(x) = e^{-a|x|}$, and then calculate the Fourier transform:

$$\tilde{f}(k) = \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} dx e^{-ikx} f(x) = \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} dx e^{-(ikx+a|x|)} = \frac{2a}{k^2 + a^2}.$$

The Poisson summation formula $\sum_n \tilde{f}(2\pi n) = \sum_m f(m)$ then gives:

$$\boxed{\sum_{n \in \mathbb{Z}} \frac{2a}{(2\pi n^2 + a^2)}} = \sum_{m \in \mathbb{Z}} e^{-a|m|} = 2 \sum_{m=0}^{\infty} e^{-am} - 1$$

$$= \frac{2}{1 - e^{-a}} - 1 = \frac{1 + e^{-a}}{1 - e^{-a}} = \frac{e^{a/2} + e^{-a/2}}{e^{a/2} - e^{-a/2}} = \boxed{\coth(a/2)}.$$

(c) We set $f(x) = e^{-(ax^2+bx+c)}$, and then calculate the Fourier transform:

$$\tilde{f}(k) = \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} dx e^{-ikx} f(x) = \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} dx e^{-a\left(x^2 + \frac{1}{a}(b+ik)x\right) - c}$$

$$= \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} dx e^{-a\left(x + \frac{b+ik}{2a}\right)^2} e^{a\left(\frac{b+ik}{2a}\right)^2 - c} = \sqrt{\frac{\pi}{a}} e^{\frac{1}{4a}(b^2 + 2ibk - k^2) - c}.$$

The Poisson summation formula $\sum_m f(m) = \sum_n \tilde{f}(2\pi n)$ then gives:

$$\boxed{\sum_{m \in \mathbb{Z}} e^{-(am^2+bm+c)} = \sqrt{\frac{\pi}{a}} e^{\left(\frac{b^2}{4a}-c\right)} \sum_{n \in \mathbb{Z}} e^{-\frac{1}{a}(\pi^2 n^2 + i\pi n b)}}.$$

Solution Optional Problem 2: Fourier integral representation of a periodic function, frequency comb [6]

(a) We insert the Fourier series for $p(t)$ into the formula for the Fourier transform of $p(t)$:

$$\tilde{p}(\omega) = \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} dt e^{i\omega t} p(t) = \frac{1}{\tau} \sum_m \underbrace{\int_{-\infty}^{\infty} dt e^{i\omega t} e^{-i\omega_m t}}_{2\pi\delta(\omega-\omega_m)} \tilde{p}_m = \boxed{\omega_r \sum_m \tilde{p}_m \delta(\omega - \omega_m)},$$

with $\omega_r = 2\pi/\tau$. We now clearly see that $\tilde{p}(\omega)$ is a periodic frequency comb of δ functions, whose weights are fixed by the coefficients \tilde{p}_m of the Fourier series.

(b) We insert the Fourier representation, $f(t) = \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} \frac{d\omega}{2\pi} e^{-i\omega t} \tilde{f}(\omega)$, into the definition of $p(t)$ and then perform the substitution $\omega = y\omega_r$ (implying $\omega\tau = 2\pi y$):

$$p(t) = \sum_n f(t - n\tau) = \sum_n \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} \frac{d\omega}{2\pi} e^{-i\omega(t-n\tau)} \tilde{f}(\omega)$$

$$\stackrel{\omega=y\omega_r}{=} \sum_n \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} dy e^{i2\pi yn} \underbrace{\left[e^{-iy\omega_r t} \frac{1}{\tau} \tilde{f}(y\omega_r) \right]}_{\equiv F(y)} = \sum_n \tilde{F}(2\pi n) \stackrel{\text{(Poisson)}}{=} \sum_m F(m)$$

Here we have defined the function $F(y) = e^{-iy\omega_r t} \frac{1}{\tau} \tilde{f}(y\omega_r)$, with Fourier transform $\tilde{F}(k)$, and used the Poisson summation formula. Using $\omega_m = m\omega_r = 2\pi m/\tau$, we thus obtain:

$$p(t) = \sum_m F(m) = \frac{1}{\tau} \sum_m e^{-im\omega_r t} \underbrace{\tilde{f}(m\omega_r)}_{\equiv \tilde{p}_m} \stackrel{\omega_m \equiv m\omega_r}{=} \frac{1}{\tau} \sum_m e^{-i\omega_m t} \tilde{p}_m \quad \text{with} \quad \boxed{\tilde{p}_m = \tilde{f}(\omega_m)}.$$

The middle term has the form of a discrete Fourier series, from which we can read off the discrete Fourier coefficients \tilde{p}_m of $p(t)$. They are clearly given by $\tilde{p}_m = \tilde{f}(\omega_m)$, and correspond to the Fourier transform of $f(t)$ evaluated at the discrete frequencies ω_m .

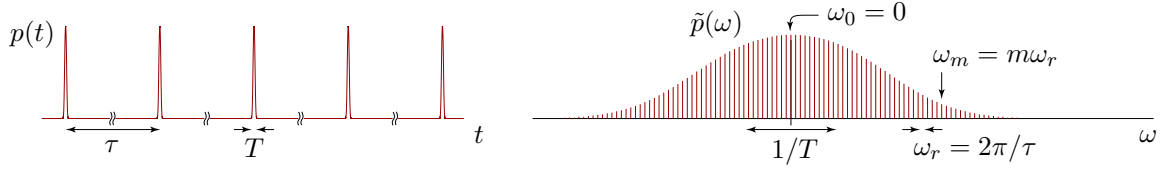
(c) From (a) and (b) we directly obtain the following form for the Fourier transform of $p(t)$:

Fourier spectrum:
$$\tilde{p}(\omega) \stackrel{(a)}{=} \omega_r \sum_m \tilde{p}_m \delta(\omega - \omega_m) \stackrel{(b)}{=} \boxed{\omega_r \sum_m \tilde{f}(\omega_m) \delta(\omega - \omega_m)}.$$

This is a comb of peaks at equally spaced frequencies ω_m , with weights governed by the envelope function $\tilde{f}(\omega_m)$. For a series of Gaussian functions, $p_G(t) = \sum_n f_G(t - n\tau)$, the corresponding envelope, $\tilde{f}_G(\omega)$, has the form of a Gaussian, too (Sheet 12, Example Pro-

blem 2):

Envelope:
$$\tilde{f}_G(\omega) = \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} dt e^{i\omega t} f_G(t) = \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} dt e^{i\omega t} \frac{1}{\sqrt{2\pi T^2}} e^{-\frac{t^2}{2T^2}} = \boxed{e^{-\frac{1}{2}T^2\omega^2}}.$$



- (d) The Fourier transform of $E(t) = e^{-i\omega_c t} p(t)$, to be denoted $\tilde{E}(\omega)$, is the same as that of $p(t)$, except that the frequency argument is shifted by ω_c :

$$\begin{aligned} \tilde{E}(\omega) &= \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} dt e^{i\omega t} E(t) = \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} \frac{d\omega'}{2\pi} \tilde{p}(\omega') \underbrace{\int_{-\infty}^{\infty} dt e^{i(\omega - \omega_c - \omega')t}}_{2\pi\delta(\omega - \omega_c - \omega')} \\ &\stackrel{(c)}{=} \frac{2\pi}{\tau} \sum_m \tilde{f}(\omega_m) \delta(\omega - \omega_m - \omega_c) \stackrel{m=n-N}{=} \boxed{\frac{2\pi}{\tau} \sum_n \tilde{f}(\omega_{n-N}) \delta(\omega - \omega_n - \omega_{\text{off}})}. \end{aligned}$$

For the last step we used $\omega_c = N\omega_r + \omega_{\text{off}}$ and renamed the summation index, $m = n - N$, such that $\omega_m + \omega_c = \omega_n + \omega_{\text{off}}$. Thus $\tilde{E}(\omega)$ forms an 'offset-shifted' frequency comb, whose peaks relative to the Fourier frequencies ω_n are shifted by the offset frequency ω_{off} . The 'center' of the comb lies at the frequency where $\tilde{f}(\omega_{n-N})$ is maximal, i.e. at $n = N$, with frequency $\omega_N \simeq \omega_c$.

- (e) We begin with the definition of the Fourier transform of $p_\gamma(t)$:

Definition:
$$\tilde{p}_\gamma(\omega) = \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} dt e^{i\omega t} p_\gamma(t) = \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} dt e^{i\omega t} \sum_n f(t - n\tau) e^{-|n|\tau\gamma}$$

$t' = t - n\tau$:
$$= \underbrace{\sum_n e^{in\tau\omega} e^{-|n|\tau\gamma}}_{\equiv S^{[\gamma, \omega_r]}(\omega)} \underbrace{\int_{-\infty}^{\infty} dt' e^{i\omega t'} f(t')}_{= \tilde{f}(\omega)}. \quad (3)$$

The sum

$$S^{[\gamma, \omega_r]}(\omega) \equiv \sum_{n \in \mathbb{Z}} e^{in\tau\omega} e^{-|n|\tau\gamma} \stackrel{\tau=2\pi/\omega_r}{=} \sum_{n \in \mathbb{Z}} e^{i2\pi n\omega/\omega_r} e^{-2\pi|n|\gamma/\omega_r} \quad (4)$$

has the same form as a damped sum over Fourier modes,

$$S^{[\epsilon, L]}(x) \equiv \sum_{k \in \frac{2\pi}{L}\mathbb{Z}} e^{ikx - \epsilon|k|} = \sum_{n \in \mathbb{Z}} e^{i2\pi nx/L} e^{-2\pi|n|\epsilon/L}. \quad (5)$$

The latter can be summed using geometric series in the variables $e^{-2\pi(\epsilon \mp ix)/L}$ (sheet 11, Homework Problem 3)]:

$$S^{[\epsilon, L]}(x) = \frac{1 - e^{-4\pi\epsilon/L}}{1 + e^{-4\pi\epsilon/L} - 2e^{-2\pi\epsilon/L} \cos(2\pi x/L)} \simeq L \sum_{m \in \mathbb{Z}} \delta_{\text{LP}}^{[\epsilon]}(x - mL). \quad (6)$$

The result is a periodic sequence of peaks at the positions $x \simeq mL$, each with the form of a Lorentzian peak (LP), $\delta_{\text{LP}}^{[\epsilon]}(x) = \frac{\epsilon/\pi}{x^2 + \epsilon^2}$ for $x, \epsilon \ll L$. Using the association $x \mapsto \omega$, $\epsilon \mapsto \gamma$ and $L \mapsto \omega_r$ we obtain:

$$S^{[\gamma, \omega_r]}(\omega) \stackrel{(4,6)}{=} \omega_r \sum_{m \in \mathbb{Z}} \delta_{\text{LP}}^{[\gamma]}(\omega - m\omega_r) \quad (7)$$

and

$$\tilde{p}_\gamma(\omega) \stackrel{(3,7)}{=} \left[\omega_r \sum_{m \in \mathbb{Z}} \delta_{\text{LP}}^{[\gamma]}(\omega - \omega_m) \tilde{f}(\omega) \right].$$

Thus the spectrum of a series of periodic pulses, truncated beyond $|n| \lesssim 1/(\tau\gamma)$, corresponds to a frequency comb with Lorentz-broadened peaks as teeth, each with width $\simeq \gamma$.

[Total Points for Optional Problems: 9]
