

$$f(x) = \frac{\sin bx}{x} \quad (b > 0)$$

$$\mathcal{F}(\omega) = \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} \frac{\sin bx}{x} e^{-i\omega x} dx$$

If we write

$$\sin bx = \frac{1}{2i} (e^{ibx} - e^{-ibx})$$

we get

$$\mathcal{F}(\omega) = \frac{1}{2i} \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} \frac{e^{i(b-\omega)x}}{x} dx - \frac{1}{2i} \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} \frac{e^{-i(b+\omega)x}}{x} dx .$$

Unfortunately, neither integral exists.

We need to modify the integral before we make the substitution.

$$\mathcal{F}(\omega) = \lim_{R \rightarrow \infty} \int_{-R}^R \frac{\sin bx}{x} e^{-i\omega x} dx$$

$$= \lim_{R \rightarrow \infty} \int_{-R}^R \frac{\sin bz}{z} e^{-i\omega z} dz$$

Since

$$\frac{\sin bz}{z} e^{-i\omega z}$$

is regular (it is entire) it is holomorphic, so that considered as a line integral in \mathbb{C} its value is path independent. Hence we can choose a new path between $-R$ and R which avoids the origin.

We can now safely write

$$\int_{-R}^R \frac{\sin bz}{z} e^{-i\omega z} dz$$

$$= \frac{1}{2i} \int_{-R}^R \frac{e^{i(b-\omega)z}}{z} dz - \frac{1}{2i} \int_{-R}^R \frac{e^{-(b+\omega)z}}{z} dz$$

Both these integrals have the form

$$\int_{-R}^R \frac{e^{iaz}}{z} dz .$$

For $a > 0$, we close the path of integration by using a semicircle in the upper half plane.

By Jordan's lemma, the integral over this section is $O(1/R)$.

Because we have chosen to pass below the origin, there is one pole of the integrand inside the contour at $z = 0$, at which the residue is 1.

Therefore, by the residue theorem,

$$\int_{-R}^R \frac{e^{iaz}}{z} dz = 2\pi i + O(1/R) \quad a > 0$$

or

$$\int_{-\infty}^{\infty} \frac{e^{iaz}}{z} dz = 2\pi i \quad a > 0$$

For $a < 0$, we close the path of integration by using a semicircle in the lower half plane.

Since there are no singularities in the lower half plane, the value of the resulting integral is 0 and therefore

$$\int_{-R}^R \frac{e^{iaz}}{z} dz = 0 + O(1/R) \quad a < 0$$

or

$$\int_{-\infty}^{\infty} \frac{e^{iaz}}{z} dz = 0 \quad a < 0$$

Returning to our Fourier transform, we find that

$$\frac{1}{2i} \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} \frac{e^{i(b-\omega)z}}{z} dz = \begin{cases} \pi & b > \omega \\ 0 & b < \omega \end{cases}$$

$$\frac{1}{2i} \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} \frac{e^{-i(b+\omega)z}}{z} dz = \begin{cases} \pi & -b > \omega \\ 0 & -b < \omega \end{cases}$$

$$\mathcal{F}(\omega) = \begin{cases} 0 & \omega < -b \\ \pi & -b < \omega < b \\ 0 & \omega > b \end{cases}$$

Consider the following problem:

$$\frac{\partial^2 u}{\partial x^2} = \frac{\partial^2 u}{\partial t^2}$$

$$u(x, 0) = 0 ; u_t(x, 0) = 0$$

$$u(0, t) = 0 ; u(\pi, t) = 1$$

We can solve this problem by taking a Laplace transform with respect to the variable t .

Let

$$U(x, p) = \int_0^{\infty} e^{-pt} u(x, t) dt .$$

Then

$$\int_0^{\infty} e^{-pt} u_{tt}(x, t) dt = p^2 U(x, p)$$

and

$$\int_0^{\infty} e^{-pt} u_{xx}(x, t) dt = U_{xx}(x, p) .$$

From the boundary conditions we obtain

$$U(0, p) = \int_0^\infty e^{-pt} u(0, t) dt = 0$$

$$U(\pi, p) = \int_0^\infty e^{-pt} u(\pi, t) dt = \frac{1}{p}$$

The function U therefore satisfies the ordinary differential equation

$$U_{xx} = p^2 U$$

$$U(0, p) = 0, \quad U(\pi, p) = \frac{1}{p}$$

$$U(x, p) = A \sinh(px) + B \cosh(px)$$

$$U(0, p) = B = 0$$

$$U(\pi, p) = A \sinh(p\pi) = \frac{1}{p}$$

$$A = \frac{1}{p \sinh(p\pi)}$$

$$U(x, p) = \frac{1 \sinh(px)}{p \sinh(p\pi)}$$

From the inversion formula, we have

$$u(x, t) = \frac{1}{2\pi i} \int_{c-i\infty}^{c+i\infty} \frac{1 \sinh(px)}{p \sinh(p\pi)} e^{pt} dp$$

where $c > 0$.

All the poles of the integrand lie on the imaginary axis, at $p = 0$ and at the zeros of $\sinh(p\pi)$; $p = in$.

At $p = 0$, the zeros of $\sinh(px)$ and $\sinh(p\pi)$ cancel each other out, so that we have a simple pole, and the residue is

$$\lim_{p \rightarrow 0} \frac{\sinh(px)}{\sinh(p\pi)} = \frac{x}{\pi}$$

while at $p = in$, $n = \pm 1, \pm 2, \dots$, the residues are

$$\left. \frac{\sinh(px)}{p} e^{pt} \frac{1}{\pi \cosh(p\pi)} \right|_{p=in}$$

$$= \frac{\sinh(inx)}{in} e^{int} \frac{1}{\pi \cosh(in\pi)}$$

$$= \frac{\sin(nx)}{n} e^{int} \frac{1}{\pi \cos(n\pi)} = (-1)^n \frac{\sin(nx)}{n\pi} e^{int}$$

However, there are infinitely many poles, therefore we need to take care when closing the contour on the left.

If we choose the arc $|p| = N + \frac{1}{2}$, then $\sinh(px)/\sinh(p\pi)$ is bounded on this curve, and by Jordan's lemma

$$\int \frac{1}{p} \frac{\sinh(px)}{\sinh(p\pi)} e^{pt} dp = O(1/|p|) = O(1/N)$$

along this path.

$$\begin{aligned} & \frac{1}{2\pi i} \oint \frac{1}{p} \frac{\sinh(px)}{\sinh(p\pi)} e^{pt} dp \\ = & \frac{1}{2\pi i} \int_{c-(N+1/2)i}^{c+(N+1/2)i} \frac{1}{p} \frac{\sinh(px)}{\sinh(p\pi)} e^{pt} dp + O(1/N) \\ = & \frac{x}{\pi} + \sum_{n=1}^N (-1)^n \frac{\sin(nx)}{n\pi} (e^{int} + e^{-int}) \\ = & \frac{x}{\pi} + \sum_{n=1}^N \frac{(-1)^n 2}{n\pi} \sin(nx) \cos(nt) \end{aligned}$$

Now, taking the limit as $N \rightarrow \infty$,

$$u(x, t) = \frac{x}{\pi} + \frac{2}{\pi} \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{(-1)^n}{n} \sin(nx) \cos(nt) .$$