

1.3. FOURIER TRANSFORMS IN CRYSTALLOGRAPHY

standard n -torus \mathbb{R}^n/Λ . The correspondence to crystallographic terminology is that ‘standard’ coordinates over the standard 3-torus $\mathbb{R}^3/\mathbb{Z}^3$ are called ‘fractional’ coordinates over the unit cell; while Cartesian coordinates, e.g. in ångströms, constitute a set of non-standard coordinates.

Finally, we will denote by I the unit cube $[0, 1]^n$ and by C_ε the subset

$$C_\varepsilon = \{\mathbf{x} \in \mathbb{R}^n \mid |x_j| < \varepsilon \text{ for all } j = 1, \dots, n\}.$$

1.3.2.6.2. \mathbb{Z}^n -periodic distributions in \mathbb{R}^n

A distribution $T \in \mathcal{D}'(\mathbb{R}^n)$ is called *periodic with period lattice* \mathbb{Z}^n (or \mathbb{Z}^n -periodic) if $\tau_{\mathbf{m}}T = T$ for all $\mathbf{m} \in \mathbb{Z}^n$ (in crystallography the period lattice is the *direct* lattice).

Given a distribution with compact support $T^0 \in \mathcal{E}'(\mathbb{R}^n)$, then $T = \sum_{\mathbf{m} \in \mathbb{Z}^n} \tau_{\mathbf{m}}T^0$ is a \mathbb{Z}^n -periodic distribution. Note that we may write $T = r * T^0$, where $r = \sum_{\mathbf{m} \in \mathbb{Z}^n} \delta_{(\mathbf{m})}$ consists of Dirac δ 's at all nodes of the period lattice \mathbb{Z}^n .

Conversely, any \mathbb{Z}^n -periodic distribution T may be written as $r * T^0$ for some $T^0 \in \mathcal{E}'$. To retrieve such a ‘motif’ T^0 from T , a function ψ will be constructed in such a way that $\psi \in \mathcal{D}$ (hence has compact support) and $r * \psi = 1$; then $T^0 = \psi T$. Indicator functions (Section 1.3.2.2) such as χ_1 or $\chi_{C_{1/2}}$ cannot be used directly, since they are discontinuous; but regularized versions of them may be constructed by convolution (see Section 1.3.2.3.9.7) as $\psi_0 = \chi_{C_\varepsilon} * \theta_\eta$, with ε and η such that $\psi_0(\mathbf{x}) = 1$ on $C_{1/2}$ and $\psi_0(\mathbf{x}) = 0$ outside $C_{3/4}$. Then the function

$$\psi = \frac{\psi_0}{\sum_{\mathbf{m} \in \mathbb{Z}^n} \tau_{\mathbf{m}}\psi_0}$$

has the desired property. The sum in the denominator contains at most 2^n non-zero terms at any given point \mathbf{x} and acts as a smoothly varying ‘multiplicity correction’.

1.3.2.6.3. Identification with distributions over $\mathbb{R}^n/\mathbb{Z}^n$

Throughout this section, ‘periodic’ will mean ‘ \mathbb{Z}^n -periodic’.

Let $s \in \mathbb{R}$, and let $[s]$ denote the largest integer $\leq s$. For $x = (x_1, \dots, x_n) \in \mathbb{R}^n$, let $\tilde{\mathbf{x}}$ be the unique vector $(\tilde{x}_1, \dots, \tilde{x}_n)$ with $\tilde{x}_j = x_j - [x_j]$. If $\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{y} \in \mathbb{R}^n$, then $\tilde{\mathbf{x}} = \tilde{\mathbf{y}}$ if and only if $\mathbf{x} - \mathbf{y} \in \mathbb{Z}^n$. The image of the map $\mathbf{x} \mapsto \tilde{\mathbf{x}}$ is thus \mathbb{R}^n modulo \mathbb{Z}^n , or $\mathbb{R}^n/\mathbb{Z}^n$.

If f is a periodic function over \mathbb{R}^n , then $\tilde{\mathbf{x}} = \tilde{\mathbf{y}}$ implies $f(\mathbf{x}) = f(\mathbf{y})$; we may thus define a function \tilde{f} over $\mathbb{R}^n/\mathbb{Z}^n$ by putting $\tilde{f}(\tilde{\mathbf{x}}) = f(\mathbf{x})$ for any $\mathbf{x} \in \mathbb{R}^n$ such that $\mathbf{x} - \tilde{\mathbf{x}} \in \mathbb{Z}^n$. Conversely, if \tilde{f} is a function over $\mathbb{R}^n/\mathbb{Z}^n$, then we may define a function f over \mathbb{R}^n by putting $f(\mathbf{x}) = \tilde{f}(\tilde{\mathbf{x}})$, and f will be periodic. Periodic functions over \mathbb{R}^n may thus be identified with functions over $\mathbb{R}^n/\mathbb{Z}^n$, and this identification preserves the notions of convergence, local summability and differentiability.

Given $\varphi^0 \in \mathcal{D}'(\mathbb{R}^n)$, we may define

$$\varphi(\mathbf{x}) = \sum_{\mathbf{m} \in \mathbb{Z}^n} (\tau_{\mathbf{m}}\varphi^0)(\mathbf{x})$$

since the sum only contains finitely many non-zero terms; φ is periodic, and $\tilde{\varphi} \in \mathcal{D}'(\mathbb{R}^n/\mathbb{Z}^n)$. Conversely, if $\tilde{\varphi} \in \mathcal{D}'(\mathbb{R}^n/\mathbb{Z}^n)$ we may define $\varphi \in \mathcal{E}'(\mathbb{R}^n)$ periodic by $\varphi(\mathbf{x}) = \tilde{\varphi}(\tilde{\mathbf{x}})$, and $\varphi^0 \in \mathcal{D}'(\mathbb{R}^n)$ by putting $\varphi^0 = \psi\varphi$ with ψ constructed as above.

By transposition, a distribution $\tilde{T} \in \mathcal{D}'(\mathbb{R}^n/\mathbb{Z}^n)$ defines a unique periodic distribution $T \in \mathcal{D}'(\mathbb{R}^n)$ by $\langle T, \varphi^0 \rangle = \langle \tilde{T}, \tilde{\varphi} \rangle$; conversely, $T \in \mathcal{D}'(\mathbb{R}^n)$ periodic defines uniquely $\tilde{T} \in \mathcal{D}'(\mathbb{R}^n/\mathbb{Z}^n)$ by $\langle \tilde{T}, \tilde{\varphi} \rangle = \langle T, \varphi^0 \rangle$.

We may therefore identify \mathbb{Z}^n -periodic distributions over \mathbb{R}^n with distributions over $\mathbb{R}^n/\mathbb{Z}^n$. We will, however, use mostly the former

presentation, as it is more closely related to the crystallographer’s perception of periodicity (see Section 1.3.4.1).

1.3.2.6.4. Fourier transforms of periodic distributions

The content of this section is perhaps the central result in the relation between Fourier theory and crystallography (Section 1.3.4.2.1.1).

Let $T = r * T^0$ with r defined as in Section 1.3.2.6.2. Then $r \in \mathcal{D}'$, $T^0 \in \mathcal{E}'$ hence $T^0 \in \mathcal{O}'_C$, so that $T \in \mathcal{D}'$: \mathbb{Z}^n -periodic distributions are tempered, hence have a Fourier transform. The convolution theorem (Section 1.3.2.5.8) is applicable, giving:

$$\mathcal{F}[T] = \mathcal{F}[r] \times \mathcal{F}[T^0]$$

and similarly for $\tilde{\mathcal{F}}$.

Since $\mathcal{F}[\delta_{(\mathbf{m})}](\xi) = \exp(-2\pi i \xi \cdot \mathbf{m})$, formally

$$\mathcal{F}[r]_\xi = \sum_{\mathbf{m} \in \mathbb{Z}^n} \exp(-2\pi i \xi \cdot \mathbf{m}) = Q,$$

say.

It is readily shown that Q is tempered and periodic, so that $Q = \sum_{\mu \in \mathbb{Z}^n} \tau_\mu(\psi Q)$, while the periodicity of r implies that

$$[\exp(-2\pi i \xi_j) - 1]\psi Q = 0, \quad j = 1, \dots, n.$$

Since the first factors have single isolated zeros at $\xi_j = 0$ in $C_{3/4}$, $\psi Q = c\delta$ (see Section 1.3.2.3.9.4) and hence by periodicity $Q = cr$; convoluting with χ_{C_1} shows that $c = 1$. Thus we have the fundamental result:

$$\boxed{\mathcal{F}[r] = r}$$

so that

$$\mathcal{F}[T] = r \times \mathcal{F}[T^0];$$

i.e., according to Section 1.3.2.3.9.3,

$$\mathcal{F}[T]_\xi = \sum_{\mu \in \mathbb{Z}^n} \mathcal{F}[T^0](\mu) \times \delta_{(\mu)}.$$

The right-hand side is a *weighted* lattice distribution, whose nodes $\mu \in \mathbb{Z}^n$ are weighted by the *sample values* $\mathcal{F}[T^0](\mu)$ of the transform of the motif T^0 at those nodes. Since $T^0 \in \mathcal{E}'$, the latter values may be written

$$\mathcal{F}[T^0](\mu) = \langle T^0_x, \exp(-2\pi i \mu \cdot \mathbf{x}) \rangle.$$

By the structure theorem for distributions with compact support (Section 1.3.2.3.9.7), T^0 is a derivative of finite order of a continuous function; therefore, from Section 1.3.2.4.2.8 and Section 1.3.2.5.8, $\mathcal{F}[T^0](\mu)$ grows at most polynomially as $\|\mu\| \rightarrow \infty$ (see also Section 1.3.2.6.10.3 about this property). Conversely, let $W = \sum_{\mu \in \mathbb{Z}^n} w_\mu \delta_{(\mu)}$ be a weighted lattice distribution such that the weights w_μ grow at most polynomially as $\|\mu\| \rightarrow \infty$. Then W is a tempered distribution, whose Fourier cotransform $T_x = \sum_{\mu \in \mathbb{Z}^n} w_\mu \exp(+2\pi i \mu \cdot \mathbf{x})$ is periodic. If T is now written as $r * T^0$ for some $T^0 \in \mathcal{E}'$, then by the reciprocity theorem

$$w_\mu = \mathcal{F}[T^0](\mu) = \langle T^0_x, \exp(-2\pi i \mu \cdot \mathbf{x}) \rangle.$$

Although the choice of T^0 is not unique, and need not yield back the same motif as may have been used to build T initially, different choices of T^0 will lead to the same coefficients w_μ because of the periodicity of $\exp(-2\pi i \mu \cdot \mathbf{x})$.

The Fourier transformation thus establishes a duality between periodic distributions and weighted lattice distributions. The pair of relations

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- (i) $w_{\boldsymbol{\mu}} = \langle T_{\mathbf{x}}^0, \exp(-2\pi i \boldsymbol{\mu} \cdot \mathbf{x}) \rangle$
(ii) $T_{\mathbf{x}} = \sum_{\boldsymbol{\mu} \in \mathbb{Z}^n} w_{\boldsymbol{\mu}} \exp(+2\pi i \boldsymbol{\mu} \cdot \mathbf{x})$

are referred to as the *Fourier analysis* and the *Fourier synthesis* of T , respectively (there is a discrepancy between this terminology and the crystallographic one, see Section 1.3.4.2.1.1). In other words, any periodic distribution $T \in \mathcal{S}'$ may be represented by a Fourier series (ii), whose coefficients are calculated by (i). The convergence of (ii) towards T in \mathcal{S}' will be investigated later (Section 1.3.2.6.10).

1.3.2.6.5. The case of non-standard period lattices

Let Λ denote the non-standard lattice consisting of all vectors of the form $\sum_{j=1}^n m_j \mathbf{a}_j$, where the m_j are rational integers and $\mathbf{a}_1, \dots, \mathbf{a}_n$ are n linearly independent vectors in \mathbb{R}^n . Let R be the corresponding lattice distribution: $R = \sum_{\mathbf{x} \in \Lambda} \delta_{(\mathbf{x})}$.

Let \mathbf{A} be the non-singular $n \times n$ matrix whose successive columns are the coordinates of vectors $\mathbf{a}_1, \dots, \mathbf{a}_n$ in the standard basis of \mathbb{R}^n ; \mathbf{A} will be called the *period matrix* of Λ , and the mapping $\mathbf{x} \mapsto \mathbf{A}\mathbf{x}$ will be denoted by A . According to Section 1.3.2.3.9.5 we have

$$\langle R, \varphi \rangle = \sum_{\mathbf{m} \in \mathbb{Z}^n} \varphi(\mathbf{A}\mathbf{m}) = \langle r, (\mathbf{A}^{-1})^{\#} \varphi \rangle = |\det \mathbf{A}|^{-1} \langle A^{\#} r, \varphi \rangle$$

for any $\varphi \in \mathcal{S}$, and hence $R = |\det \mathbf{A}|^{-1} A^{\#} r$. By Fourier transformation, according to Section 1.3.2.5.5,

$$\mathcal{F}[R] = |\det \mathbf{A}|^{-1} \mathcal{F}[A^{\#} r] = [(\mathbf{A}^{-1})^T]^{\#} \mathcal{F}[r] = [(\mathbf{A}^{-1})^T]^{\#} r,$$

which we write:

$$\mathcal{F}[R] = |\det \mathbf{A}|^{-1} R^*$$

with

$$R^* = |\det \mathbf{A}| [(\mathbf{A}^{-1})^T]^{\#} r.$$

R^* is a lattice distribution:

$$R^* = \sum_{\boldsymbol{\mu} \in \mathbb{Z}^n} \delta_{[(\mathbf{A}^{-1})^T \boldsymbol{\mu}]} = \sum_{\boldsymbol{\xi} \in \Lambda^*} \delta_{(\boldsymbol{\xi})}$$

associated with the *reciprocal lattice* Λ^* whose basis vectors $\mathbf{a}_1^*, \dots, \mathbf{a}_n^*$ are the columns of $(\mathbf{A}^{-1})^T$. Since the latter matrix is equal to the adjoint matrix (*i.e.* the matrix of co-factors) of \mathbf{A} divided by $\det \mathbf{A}$, the components of the reciprocal basis vectors can be written down explicitly (see Section 1.3.4.2.1.1 for the crystallographic case $n = 3$).

A distribution T will be called Λ -periodic if $\tau_{\boldsymbol{\xi}} T = T$ for all $\boldsymbol{\xi} \in \Lambda$; as previously, T may be written $R * T^0$ for some motif distribution T^0 with compact support. By Fourier transformation,

$$\begin{aligned} \mathcal{F}[T] &= |\det \mathbf{A}|^{-1} R^* \cdot \mathcal{F}[T^0] \\ &= |\det \mathbf{A}|^{-1} \sum_{\boldsymbol{\xi} \in \Lambda^*} \mathcal{F}[T^0](\boldsymbol{\xi}) \delta_{(\boldsymbol{\xi})} \\ &= |\det \mathbf{A}|^{-1} \sum_{\boldsymbol{\mu} \in \mathbb{Z}^n} \mathcal{F}[T^0][(\mathbf{A}^{-1})^T \boldsymbol{\mu}] \delta_{[(\mathbf{A}^{-1})^T \boldsymbol{\mu}]} \end{aligned}$$

so that $\mathcal{F}[T]$ is a weighted reciprocal-lattice distribution, the weight attached to node $\boldsymbol{\xi} \in \Lambda^*$ being $|\det \mathbf{A}|^{-1}$ times the value $\mathcal{F}[T^0](\boldsymbol{\xi})$ of the Fourier transform of the motif T^0 .

This result may be further simplified if T and its motif T^0 are referred to the standard period lattice \mathbb{Z}^n by defining t and t^0 so that $T = A^{\#} t$, $T^0 = A^{\#} t^0$, $t = r * t^0$. Then

$$\mathcal{F}[T^0](\boldsymbol{\xi}) = |\det \mathbf{A}| \mathcal{F}[t^0](\mathbf{A}^T \boldsymbol{\xi}),$$

hence

$$\mathcal{F}[T^0][(\mathbf{A}^{-1})^T \boldsymbol{\mu}] = |\det \mathbf{A}| \mathcal{F}[t^0](\boldsymbol{\mu}),$$

so that

$$\mathcal{F}[T] = \sum_{\boldsymbol{\mu} \in \mathbb{Z}^n} \mathcal{F}[t^0](\boldsymbol{\mu}) \delta_{[(\mathbf{A}^{-1})^T \boldsymbol{\mu}]}$$

in non-standard coordinates, while

$$\mathcal{F}[t] = \sum_{\boldsymbol{\mu} \in \mathbb{Z}^n} \mathcal{F}[t^0](\boldsymbol{\mu}) \delta_{(\boldsymbol{\mu})}$$

in standard coordinates.

The reciprocity theorem may then be written:

$$(iii) \quad W_{\boldsymbol{\xi}} = |\det \mathbf{A}|^{-1} \langle T_{\mathbf{x}}^0, \exp(-2\pi i \boldsymbol{\xi} \cdot \mathbf{x}) \rangle, \quad \boldsymbol{\xi} \in \Lambda^*$$

$$(iv) \quad T_{\mathbf{x}} = \sum_{\boldsymbol{\xi} \in \Lambda^*} W_{\boldsymbol{\xi}} \exp(+2\pi i \boldsymbol{\xi} \cdot \mathbf{x})$$

in non-standard coordinates, or equivalently:

$$(v) \quad w_{\boldsymbol{\mu}} = \langle t_{\mathbf{x}}^0, \exp(-2\pi i \boldsymbol{\mu} \cdot \mathbf{x}) \rangle, \quad \boldsymbol{\mu} \in \mathbb{Z}^n$$

$$(vi) \quad t_{\mathbf{x}} = \sum_{\boldsymbol{\mu} \in \mathbb{Z}^n} w_{\boldsymbol{\mu}} \exp(+2\pi i \boldsymbol{\mu} \cdot \mathbf{x})$$

in standard coordinates. It gives an n -dimensional Fourier series representation for any periodic distribution over \mathbb{R}^n . The convergence of such series in $\mathcal{S}'(\mathbb{R}^n)$ will be examined in Section 1.3.2.6.10.

1.3.2.6.6. Duality between periodization and sampling

Let T^0 be a distribution with compact support (the ‘motif’). Its Fourier transform $\mathcal{F}[T^0]$ is analytic (Section 1.3.2.5.4) and may thus be used as a multiplier.

We may rephrase the preceding results as follows:

(i) if T^0 is ‘periodized by R ’ to give $R * T^0$, then $\mathcal{F}[T^0]$ is ‘sampled by R^* ’ to give $|\det \mathbf{A}|^{-1} R^* \cdot \mathcal{F}[T^0]$;

(ii) if $\mathcal{F}[T^0]$ is ‘sampled by R^* ’ to give $R^* \cdot \mathcal{F}[T^0]$, then T^0 is ‘periodized by R ’ to give $|\det \mathbf{A}| R * T^0$.

Thus the Fourier transformation establishes a duality between the periodization of a distribution by a period lattice Λ and the sampling of its transform at the nodes of lattice Λ^* reciprocal to Λ . This is a particular instance of the convolution theorem of Section 1.3.2.5.8.

At this point it is traditional to break the symmetry between \mathcal{F} and \mathcal{F} which distribution theory has enabled us to preserve even in the presence of periodicity, and to perform two distinct identifications:

(i) a Λ -periodic distribution T will be handled as a distribution \tilde{T} on \mathbb{R}^n/Λ , was done in Section 1.3.2.6.3;

(ii) a weighted lattice distribution $W = \sum_{\boldsymbol{\mu} \in \mathbb{Z}^n} W_{\boldsymbol{\mu}} \delta_{[(\mathbf{A}^{-1})^T \boldsymbol{\mu}]}$ will be identified with the collection $\{W_{\boldsymbol{\mu}} | \boldsymbol{\mu} \in \mathbb{Z}^n\}$ of its n -tuply indexed coefficients.

1.3.2.6.7. The Poisson summation formula

Let $\varphi \in \mathcal{S}$, so that $\mathcal{F}[\varphi] \in \mathcal{S}$. Let R be the lattice distribution associated to lattice Λ , with period matrix \mathbf{A} , and let R^* be associated to the reciprocal lattice Λ^* . Then we may write:

$$\begin{aligned} \langle R, \varphi \rangle &= \langle R, \mathcal{F}[\mathcal{F}[\varphi]] \rangle \\ &= \langle \mathcal{F}[R], \mathcal{F}[\varphi] \rangle \\ &= |\det \mathbf{A}|^{-1} \langle R^*, \mathcal{F}[\varphi] \rangle \end{aligned}$$

i.e.