

Self Evaluation Quizzes

Q 1. Prove that Fourier transform of autocorrelation of a real function $\phi(t)$ is the power spectral density function of $\phi(t)$ in frequency domain.

Ans. We have by definition,

$$R_{\phi\phi}(\tau) = \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} \phi(t)\phi(t+\tau)dt, \quad \text{Now substituting } t+\tau = k, \text{ we get}$$

$$R_{\phi\phi}(\tau) = \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} \phi(k)\phi(k-\tau)dk$$

$$= \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} \phi(k)\phi(-(\tau-k))dk$$

By observing the above equation clearly we see that $R_{\phi\phi}(\tau)$ is the convolution of $\phi(t)$ with $\phi(-t)$. We know that convolution in time domain is multiplication in frequency domain. Let the Fourier transform of $\phi(t)$ be $\hat{\phi}(\Omega)$ then Fourier transform of $\phi(-t)$ is $\hat{\phi}(-\Omega)$. Therefore Fourier transform of $R_{\phi\phi}(\tau)$ is,

$$\begin{aligned} \hat{R}_{\phi\phi}(\Omega) &= \hat{\phi}(\Omega)\hat{\phi}(-\Omega) \\ &= |\hat{\phi}(\Omega)|^2 \end{aligned}$$

$|\hat{\phi}(\Omega)|^2$ is essentially the power spectral density function of $\phi(t)$ in frequency domain. Hence proved.

Q 2. Prove that autocorrelation of any function $\phi(t)$ is symmetric and has a maximum value at $t = 0$.

Ans. In question 1 we have made an important observation that autocorrelation of a function $\phi(t)$ is convolution of $\phi(t)$ with $\phi(-t)$ i.e.,

$$R_{\phi\phi}(\tau) = \phi(\tau) * \phi(-\tau), \quad \text{which implies}$$

$$R_{\phi\phi}(-\tau) = \phi(-\tau) * \phi(\tau)$$

We know that convolution follows commutative property. Therefore the above two equations have the same values. Therefore,

$$R_{\phi\phi}(\tau) = R_{\phi\phi}(-\tau)$$

Hence symmetry is proved. Now, $R_{\phi\phi}(0)$ is the area under the curve $|\hat{\phi}(\Omega)|^2$ which is always positive. Therefore, $R_{\phi\phi}(0) \geq 0$ for any function ϕ . Now consider a new function $\phi_1(t)$ where,

$$\phi_1(t) = \phi(t) - \phi(t+\tau)$$

Now $R_{\phi_1\phi_1}(0) \geq 0$

$$\begin{aligned} \Rightarrow R_{\phi_1\phi_1}(0) &= \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} \phi_1(t)\phi_1(t)dt \geq 0, \\ \Rightarrow \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} (\phi(t) - \phi(t + \tau))(\phi(t) - \phi(t + \tau))dt &\geq 0, \\ \Rightarrow \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} \phi(t)^2 dt + \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} \phi(t + \tau)^2 dt - 2 \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} \phi(t)\phi(t + \tau)dt &\geq 0, \\ \Rightarrow R_{\phi\phi}(0) + R_{\phi\phi}(0) - 2R_{\phi\phi}(\tau) &\geq 0, \\ \Rightarrow R_{\phi\phi}(0) &\geq R_{\phi\phi}(\tau) \end{aligned}$$

Hence proved.