

Lecture 43: Tutorial on Uncertainty Product

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## 1 Uncertainty Product

There is a bound on simultaneous time and frequency localization. So essentially one cannot localize as much as one wants simultaneously in time and frequency.

One can define for time centered function  $x(t)$ , time variance

$$\sigma_t^2(x) = \frac{\|tx(t)\|_2^2}{\|x(t)\|_2^2}$$

Recall meaning of time center, time center

$$t_0 = \int \frac{t|x(t)|^2}{\|x(t)\|_2^2} dt$$

By time centered, we mean  $t_0 = 0$ .

Similarly for frequency, frequency center or frequency mean

$$\Omega_0 = \int \frac{\Omega|\hat{x}(\Omega)|^2}{\|\hat{x}(\Omega)\|_2^2} d\Omega$$

By frequency centered, we mean  $\Omega_0 = 0$ .

Analogous to time variance, for frequency centered function  $\hat{x}(\Omega)$  frequency variance

$$\sigma_\Omega^2(x) = \frac{\|\Omega\hat{x}(\Omega)\|_2^2}{\|\hat{x}(\Omega)\|_2^2}$$

If function is not time centered and frequency centered then one need to take second moment around respective centers.

For an  $L_2(\mathbb{R})$  function the uncertainty product i.e. product of time and frequency variance is lower bounded by 0.25.

$$\sigma_t^2(x) \cdot \sigma_\Omega^2(x) \geq \frac{1}{4}$$

**Example 1.** Calculate uncertainty product of  $e^{-|t|}$  for all  $t$ .

**Sol.** First we need to verify if the function is  $L_2(\mathbb{R})$  and check if it is centered in time and frequency.

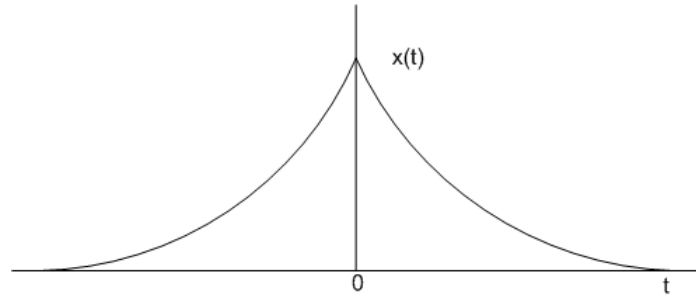
$$\|x(t)\|_2^2 = \int_{-\infty}^{+\infty} |x(t)|^2 dt$$

$$\|x(t)\|_2^2 = 2 \int_0^{+\infty} e^{-2t} dt$$

$$\|x(t)\|_2^2 = 1$$

From the sketch of  $x(t)$  one can clearly say that it is symmetric about  $t = 0$  and is a real and even function of  $t$ . Since it real and even function in time domain it should have real and even fourier transform too.

So obviously the function  $x(t)$  is time and frequency centered.



Time variance  $\sigma_t^2$ :

$$\sigma_t^2(x) = \frac{\int_{-\infty}^{+\infty} t^2 |x(t)|^2 dt}{\int_{-\infty}^{+\infty} |x(t)|^2 dt} = 2 \int_0^{+\infty} t^2 e^{-2t} dt = \frac{1}{2}$$

Frequency variance  $\sigma_\Omega^2$ :

$$\sigma_\Omega^2(x) = \frac{\|\Omega \hat{x}(\Omega)\|_2^2}{\|\hat{x}(\Omega)\|_2^2}$$

$$\sigma_\Omega^2(x) = \frac{\|j\Omega \hat{x}(\Omega)\|_2^2}{\|\hat{x}(\Omega)\|_2^2}$$

By applying Parseval's Theorem it becomes

$$\sigma_\Omega^2(x) = \frac{\left\| \frac{dx(t)}{dt} \right\|_2^2}{\|x(t)\|_2^2}$$

Now

$$x(t) = e^{-|t|}$$

So

$$\left\| \frac{dx(t)}{dt} \right\|_2^2 = \|x(t)\|_2^2$$

$$\sigma_\Omega^2(x) = 1$$

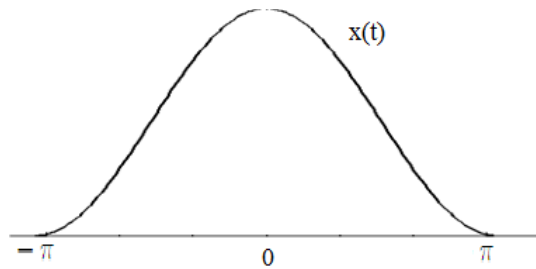
Uncertainty Product:

$$\sigma_t^2(x) \cdot \sigma_\Omega^2(x) = \frac{1}{2} * 1$$

$$\sigma_t^2(x) \cdot \sigma_\Omega^2(x) = 0.5 (> 0.25)$$

**Example 2.** Calculate uncertainty product of raised cosine function.  
**Sol.**

$$\begin{aligned} x(t) &= 1 + \cos t & -\pi < t < \pi \\ &= 0 & \text{otherwise} \end{aligned}$$



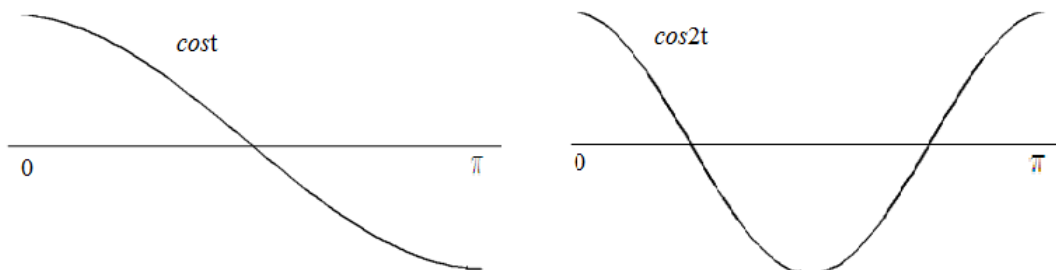
From the above figure it is clear that the function  $x(t)$  is real and even, so it is already time and frequency centered. Since the function is real and even, hence

$$\begin{aligned} \|x(t)\|_2^2 &= \int_{-\infty}^{+\infty} |x(t)|^2 dt \\ &= 2 \int_0^{+\infty} |x(t)|^2 dt \\ &= 2 \int_0^{\pi} (1 + \cos t)^2 dt \\ &= 2 \int_0^{\pi} (1 + \cos^2 t + 2 \cos t) dt \end{aligned}$$

Consider

$$\int (1 + \cos^2 t + 2 \cos t) dt = \int \left(1 + \frac{1 + \cos 2t}{2} + 2 \cos t\right) dt$$

Now let us sketch  $\cos t$  and  $\cos 2t$



From the above figure it is clear that they have zero integral over  $]0, \pi[$   
 So the above integral becomes

$$\|x(t)\|_2^2 = 2 \int_0^{\pi} \left(1 + \frac{1}{2}\right) dt = 3\pi$$

Frequency variance  $\sigma_{\Omega}^2$ :

$$\sigma_{\Omega}^2(x) = \frac{\left\| \frac{dx(t)}{dt} \right\|_2^2}{\|x(t)\|_2^2}$$

Now

$$\frac{d}{dt}x(t) = \frac{d}{dt}(1 + \cos t) = -\sin t$$

$$\begin{aligned} \left\| \frac{dx(t)}{dt} \right\|_2^2 &= 2 \int_0^{\pi} \sin^2 t dt \\ &= \int_0^{\pi} (1 - \cos 2t) dt \\ &= \pi \end{aligned}$$

So frequency variance  $\sigma_{\Omega}^2 = \frac{1}{3}$

Time variance  $\sigma_t^2$ :

We need

$$\begin{aligned} \int t^2 |x(t)|^2 dt &= \int t^2 (1 + \cos t)^2 dt \\ &= \int t^2 \left( 1 + \frac{1 + \cos 2t}{2} + 2 \cos t \right) dt \end{aligned}$$

Let us consider the term

$$\begin{aligned} &\int t^2 \cos mt dt \\ &= t^2 \frac{\sin mt}{m} + 2t \frac{\cos mt}{m^2} - 2 \frac{\sin mt}{m^3} \end{aligned}$$

Now our limit is 0 to  $\pi$ , therefore we do not need to look at the 'sin' term which are zero at  $t = 0$  and  $t = \pi$ . Again we do need terms containing 't' at  $t = 0$ . We need only consider the term  $2t \frac{\cos mt}{m^2} \Big|_0^{\pi}$

For  $m=1$ ,  $2t \cos t \Big|_0^{\pi} = 2\pi \cos \pi = -2\pi$

For  $m=2$ ,  $2t \frac{\cos t}{4} \Big|_0^{\pi} = 2\pi \frac{\cos 2\pi}{4} = 0.5\pi$

Putting these values in above equation

$$\begin{aligned} \int_0^{\pi} t^2 \left( 1 + \frac{1 + \cos 2t}{2} + 2 \cos t \right) dt &= \int_0^{\pi} 1.5t^2 dt + \int_0^{\pi} t^2 \frac{\cos 2t}{2} dt + 2 \int_0^{\pi} t^2 \cos t dt \\ &= \frac{\pi^3}{2} + \frac{\pi}{4} - 4\pi \end{aligned}$$

Time variance  $\sigma_t^2$

$$\sigma_t^2 = \frac{2 \int_0^{\pi} t^2 |x(t)|^2 dt}{2 \int_0^{\pi} (1 + \cos t)^2 dt}$$

$$\sigma_t^2 = \frac{\pi^2}{3} - \frac{5}{2}$$

Uncertainty Product:

$$\sigma_t^2(x) \cdot \sigma_\Omega^2(x) = \left(\frac{\pi^2}{3} - \frac{5}{2}\right) * \frac{1}{3}$$

$$\sigma_t^2(x) \cdot \sigma_\Omega^2(x) = \frac{\pi^2}{9} - \frac{5}{6} (> 0.25)$$