

10 - 29 - 07

Note Title

10/28/2007

The probability density function

(PDF) of the Gaussian distribution with mean  $\mu$  and standard deviation  $\sigma$  is

$$\frac{1}{\sqrt{2\pi} \sigma} e^{-\frac{(x-\mu)^2}{2\sigma^2}} \quad \text{HW 8 #6}$$

If you want to the probability that a number will be between  $a$  and  $b$ , this is

$$\frac{1}{\sqrt{2\pi} \sigma} \int_a^b e^{-\frac{(x-\mu)^2}{2\sigma^2}} dx$$

If you try this integral in Mathematica you'll get the following

$$\frac{1}{2} \left[ \text{Erf} \left[ \frac{b-\mu}{\sigma\sqrt{2}} \right] - \text{Erf} \left[ \frac{a-\mu}{\sigma\sqrt{2}} \right] \right]$$

Erf stands for error function

$$\text{Erf}[x] \equiv \frac{2}{\sqrt{\pi}} \int_0^x e^{-y^2} dy$$

Example: Approximate the error fun  
near  $x=1$  to within 1%.  
.

$$\begin{aligned}\frac{2}{\sqrt{\pi}} \int_0^x e^{-y^2} dy &= \frac{2}{\sqrt{\pi}} \int_0^x \left[ 1 - y^2 + \frac{y^4}{2} - \frac{y^6}{6} + \frac{y^8}{24} \dots \right] dy \\ &= \frac{2}{\sqrt{\pi}} \left[ x - \frac{x^3}{3} + \frac{x^5}{10} - \frac{x^7}{42} + \frac{x^9}{216} \dots \right] ;\end{aligned}$$

at 1 this approx. looks like

$$\frac{2}{\sqrt{\pi}} \left[ 1 - \frac{1}{3} + \frac{1}{10} - \frac{1}{42} + \frac{1}{216} \dots \right]$$

So if we stop after 4 terms the  
error is less than 1% .

in fact  $\left| \frac{2}{\sqrt{\pi}} \left[ 1 - \frac{1}{3} + \frac{1}{10} - \frac{1}{42} \right] - \text{Erf}[1] \right|$   
 $\cong 0.04$

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ex. Let mean  $\mu = 0$ , Std. dev  $\sigma = 1$

$$P[-1 \leq X \leq 1] = .683 \quad 68\%$$

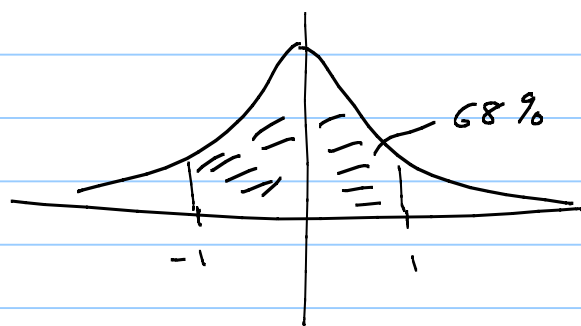
" 1-sigma "

$$P[-2 \leq X \leq 2] = .954 \quad 95\%$$

" 2-sigma "

$$P[-3 \leq X \leq 3] = .997 \quad 99.7\%$$

ie 99.7% of the area under a Gaussian curve is within 3 Standard deviations of the mean



Error bars are usually  $\pm 1 \sigma$   
but this denotes only 68% confidence

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Many applications of Gaussians

- ▶ Central limit theorem
- ▶ Maxwell velocity distribution
- ▶ Laser pulses
- ▶ Quantum wave packets

No real monochromatic signals in nature (they would have to be infinitely long)

Lets start with FT of a sin

FT of  $\sin \omega_0 t$  ← infinitely long

$$\frac{1}{\sqrt{2\pi}} \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} \sin \omega_0 t e^{i\omega t} dt$$

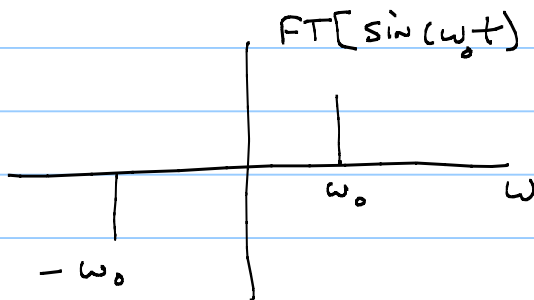
$$\frac{1}{\sqrt{2\pi}} \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} \frac{1}{2i} \left[ e^{i\omega_0 t} - e^{-i\omega_0 t} \right] e^{i\omega t} dt$$

$$= \frac{1}{2i\sqrt{2\pi}} \left\{ \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} e^{i(\omega+\omega_0)t} dt - \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} e^{i(\omega-\omega_0)t} dt \right.$$

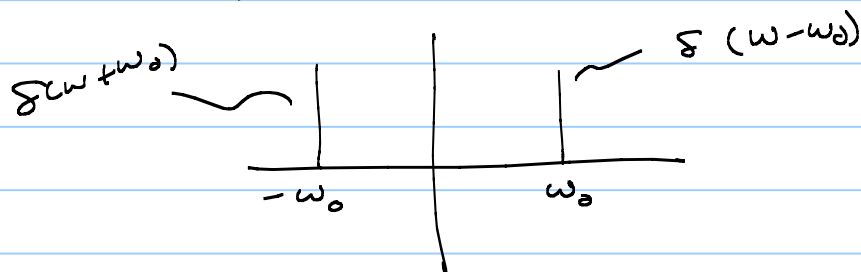
$$\left. \frac{1}{\sqrt{2\pi}} \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} e^{i\alpha t} dt = \sqrt{2\pi} \delta(\alpha) \right.$$

$$\frac{\sqrt{2\pi}}{2i} \left[ \delta(\omega+\omega_0) - \delta(\omega-\omega_0) \right]$$

$$= i\sqrt{\frac{\pi}{2}} \left[ \delta(\omega-\omega_0) - \delta(\omega+\omega_0) \right]$$



So the Power Spectrum is



## Digression on FT $[\delta(t)]$

using the basic property of the  $\delta$ -function

$$\int_{-\infty}^{\infty} \delta(t-t_0) e^{i\omega t} dt \\ = e^{i\omega t_0}$$

so,

$$\text{FT}[\delta(t-t_0)] = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2\pi}} e^{i\omega t_0}$$

$$\Rightarrow \text{FT}^{-1}\left[\frac{1}{\sqrt{2\pi}} e^{i\omega t_0}\right] = \delta(t-t_0)$$

$$\text{i.e. } \delta(t-t_0) = \frac{1}{2\pi} \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} e^{i\omega t_0} e^{-i\omega t} d\omega \\ = \frac{1}{2\pi} \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} e^{i(t_0-t)\omega} d\omega$$

$$\Rightarrow \delta(t) = \frac{1}{2\pi} \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} e^{i t \omega} d\omega$$

This is another way of saying that

$$\begin{aligned}\sqrt{2\pi} \delta(t) &= \frac{1}{\sqrt{2\pi}} \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} 1 e^{i\omega t} d\omega \\ &= \frac{1}{\sqrt{2\pi}} \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} 1 e^{-i\omega t} d\omega\end{aligned}$$

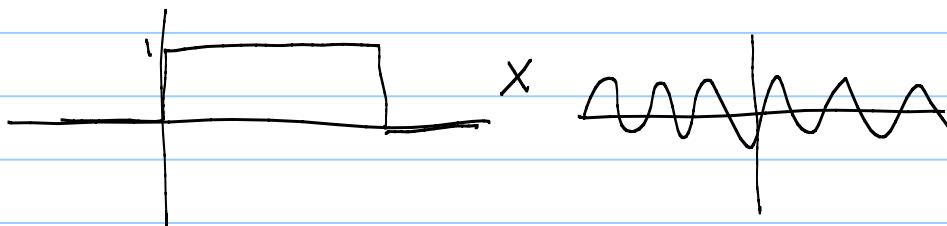
↗ verify this by  
change of variable;  
mind the integ.  
limits!

FT [1]

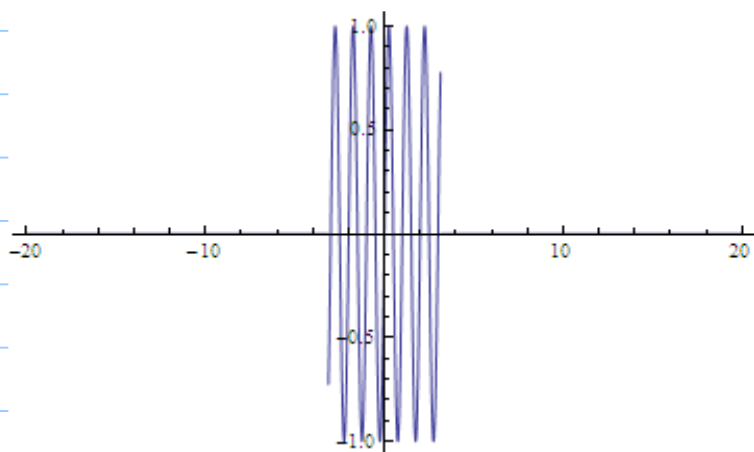
$$\boxed{\text{FT}[1] = \sqrt{2\pi} \delta(t)}$$

$$\begin{aligned}\text{FT}[e^{i\omega_0 t}] &= \frac{1}{\sqrt{2\pi}} \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} e^{i\omega_0 t} e^{i\omega t} dt \\ &= \frac{1}{\sqrt{2\pi}} \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} e^{i(\omega_0 + \omega)t} dt \\ &\quad \underbrace{\hspace{10em}}_{\delta(\omega_0 + \omega)}\end{aligned}$$

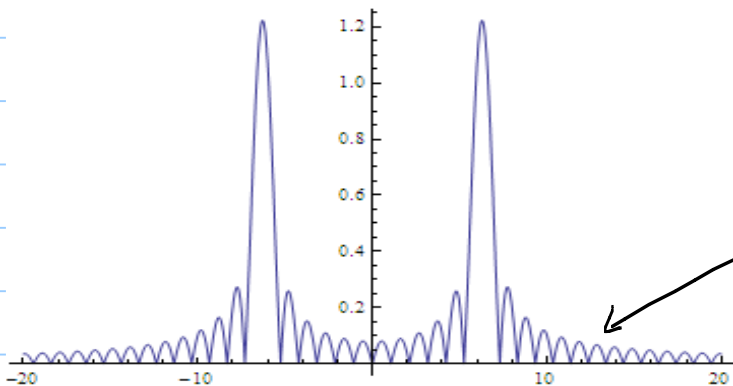
now what happens if we truncate the sin?



can't do this analytically, so use Mathematica

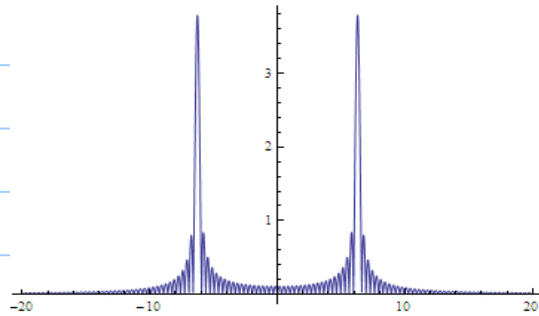
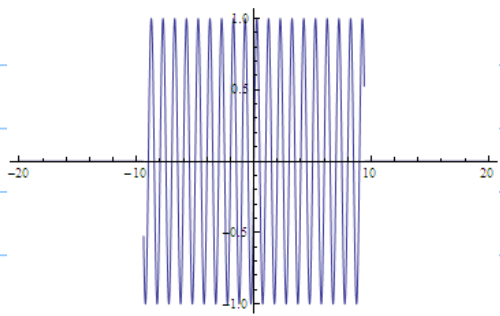


A finite piece of a sinusoid is called a tone burst



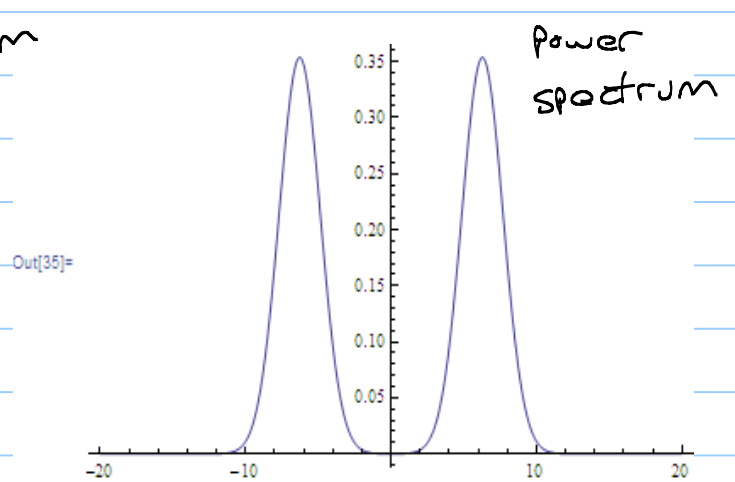
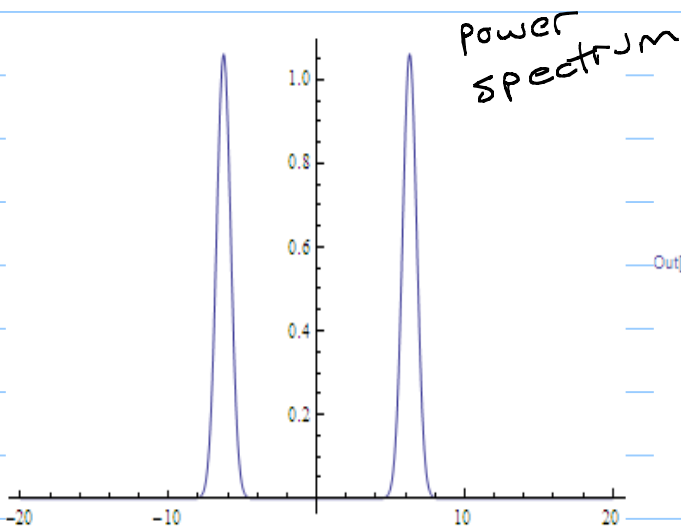
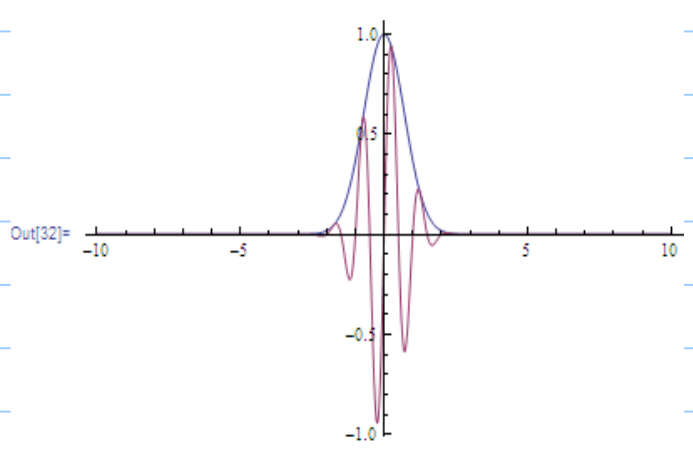
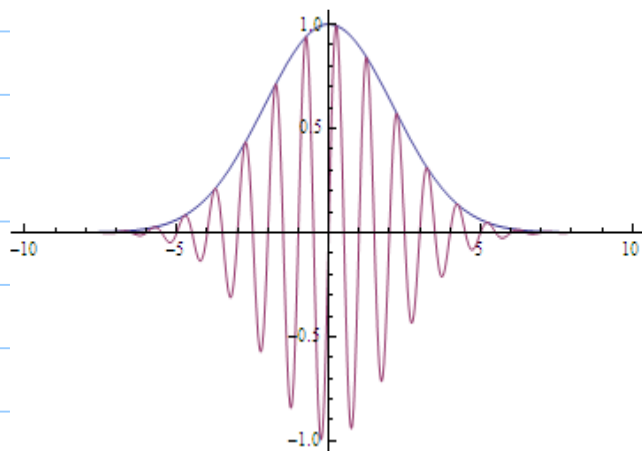
ringing due to sharp edges of Boxcar

Try a smoother truncation "taper"



Longer toneburst  $\Rightarrow \delta$

Gaussian tapers  $\leftrightarrow$  Gaussian wavepackets



The narrower the pulse the  
broader the spectrum

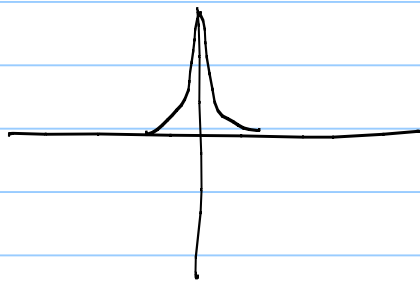


In HW you will show:

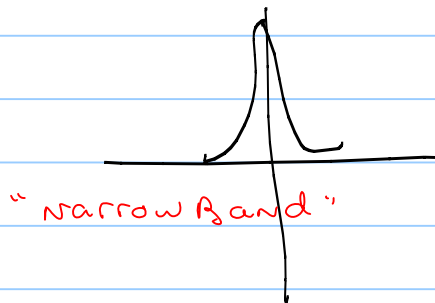
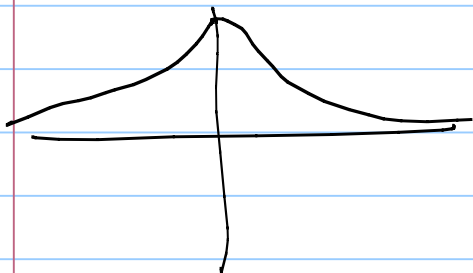
$$\text{FT} \left[ \frac{1}{\sqrt{2\pi} \sigma} e^{-\frac{(t-m)^2}{2\sigma^2}} \right]$$
$$= \frac{1}{\sqrt{2\pi}} e^{im\omega} e^{-\omega^2 \sigma^2 / 2}$$

If mean  $m = 0$ , then the FT is a Gaussian:

$$\frac{1}{\sqrt{2\pi} \sigma} e^{-t^2 / 2\sigma^2}$$



$$\frac{1}{\sqrt{2\pi}} e^{-\omega^2 \sigma^2 / 2}$$



Eg

1 NS Pulsed Yag laser

$$\sigma = 1 \times 10^{-9} \text{ s} \quad 1 \text{ Nanosec}$$



$$\frac{1}{\sigma} = 10^9 \text{ Hz} \quad 1 \text{ GHz}$$

10 fs Ti-Sapphire

$$\sigma = 1 \times 10^{-14} \text{ s}$$

$$\frac{1}{\sigma} = 1 \times 10^{14} \text{ Hz} = 100 \text{ THz}$$