

# Introduction to spectral methods in Matlab II

C. Klein, IMB, Dijon  
[http://math.u-bourgogne.fr/IMB/klein/  
Welcome.html](http://math.u-bourgogne.fr/IMB/klein/Welcome.html)

# Introduction

- ♦ numerical solution of a PDE: approximate solution with finite precision on a numerical grid (discretization)
- ♦ methods:
  - finite differences (1950s): local polynomials of low order
  - finite elements (1960s): local smooth functions
  - spectral methods (1970s): global smooth functions

# Differentiation matrices

- function  $u(x)$  given on a number of grid points,  $\{x_i\}$ ,  $u(x_i) = u_i$ ,  $i = 0, 1, \dots, N$ . Approximation  $w_i$  of the derivative of  $u$  at the grid points?
- Consider uniform grid  $x_{i+1} - x_i = h$ ,  $i = 0, 1, \dots, N - 1$  and periodic boundary conditions  $u_{i+N} = u_i \forall i$ .
- symmetric, second order approximation of the derivative:

$$w_j = \frac{u_{j+1} - u_{j-1}}{2h}$$

vector notation:

$$\vec{w} = D_N \vec{u}$$

- differentiation matrix

$$D_N = \frac{1}{2h} \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 1 & & & -1 \\ -1 & 0 & \ddots & & \\ & -1 & \ddots & & \\ & & \ddots & 0 & 1 \\ 1 & & & -1 & 0 \end{pmatrix}$$

Toeplitz matrix (built from two vectors) and circulant (built from one vector)

- alternative way: local interpolation of  $u$  and differentiation of the interpolation polynomial: Let  $p_j$  be the unique polynomial of degree  $\leq 2$  with  $p_j(x_{j-1}) = u_{j-1}$ ,  $p_j(x_{j+1}) = u_{j+1}$  and  $p_j(x_j) = u_j \forall j$ .

- Lagrange polynomial

$$p_j(x) = \frac{(x - x_j)(x - x_{j+1})}{2h^2} u_{j-1} - \frac{(x - x_{j+1})(x - x_{j-1})}{h^2} u_j \\ + \frac{(x - x_j)(x - x_{j-1})}{2h^2} u_{j+1}$$

- $w_j = p'(x_j) = \frac{1}{2h}(u_{j+1} - u_j)$
- generalization to higher orders. Fourth order: unique interpolation polynomial with  $p_j(x_{j\pm 2}) = u_{j\pm 2}$ ,  $p_j(x_{j\pm 1}) = u_{j\pm 1}$ ,  $p_j(x_j) = u_j$ . Put  $w_j = p'_j(x_j)$ .

- differentiation matrix

$$D_N = \frac{1}{h} \begin{pmatrix} & & \ddots & & & \frac{1}{12} & -\frac{2}{3} \\ & & \ddots & -\frac{1}{12} & & & \frac{1}{12} \\ & & \ddots & \frac{2}{3} & \ddots & & \\ & & \ddots & 0 & \ddots & & \\ & & \ddots & \frac{2}{3} & \ddots & & \\ -\frac{1}{12} & & & \frac{1}{12} & \ddots & & \\ \frac{2}{3} & -\frac{1}{12} & & & \ddots & & \end{pmatrix}$$

- Example:  $u(x) = e^{\sin x}$ ,  $x \in [-\pi, \pi]$ ; compare numerical solution with  $u'(x) = \cos x e^{\sin x}$  for various  $N$ : 4th order convergence.
- spectral method: interpolation polynomial on the whole grid via a single function  $p(x)$ . Periodic problem: trigonometric polynomial (truncated Fourier series). Non-periodic domains: orthogonal polynomials on non-uniform grids (here Chebyshev)

pl

✖

☰

- periodic case,  $N$  even

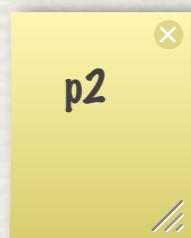
$$D_N = \frac{1}{2} \begin{pmatrix} & \ddots & & & \\ & & \vdots & & \\ & \ddots & -\cot(2h/2) & & \\ & \ddots & \cot(h/2) & \ddots & \\ & \ddots & 0 & \ddots & \\ & \ddots & -\cot(h/2) & \ddots & \\ & & \cot(2h/2) & \ddots & \\ & & & \vdots & \ddots \end{pmatrix}$$

Toeplitz and circulant

- convergence:

finite difference:  $O(N^{-m})$

spectral method for  $C^\infty$  function:  $O(N^{-m}) \forall m$  (exponential convergence, ‘spectral accuracy’)



# Fourier series

- action of a circulant matrix:

$w_i = \sum_{j=0}^N D_{ij} v_j = \sum_{j=0}^N D(i-j) v_j$ : convolution. Convolutions in physical space become products in Fourier space. Thus it is convenient to consider Fourier transforms.

- periodic function  $f(x)$ ,  $f(x + 2k\pi) = f(x)$ ,  $k \in \mathbb{Z}$ :

$$f(x) = \sum_{k \in \mathbb{Z}} \hat{f}(k) e^{-ikx}, \quad \hat{f}(k) = \frac{1}{2\pi} \int_{-\pi}^{\pi} f(x) e^{ikx} dx$$

$$(f(x) \in L^2([- \pi, \pi]), \hat{f} \in l^2(\mathbb{Z}))$$

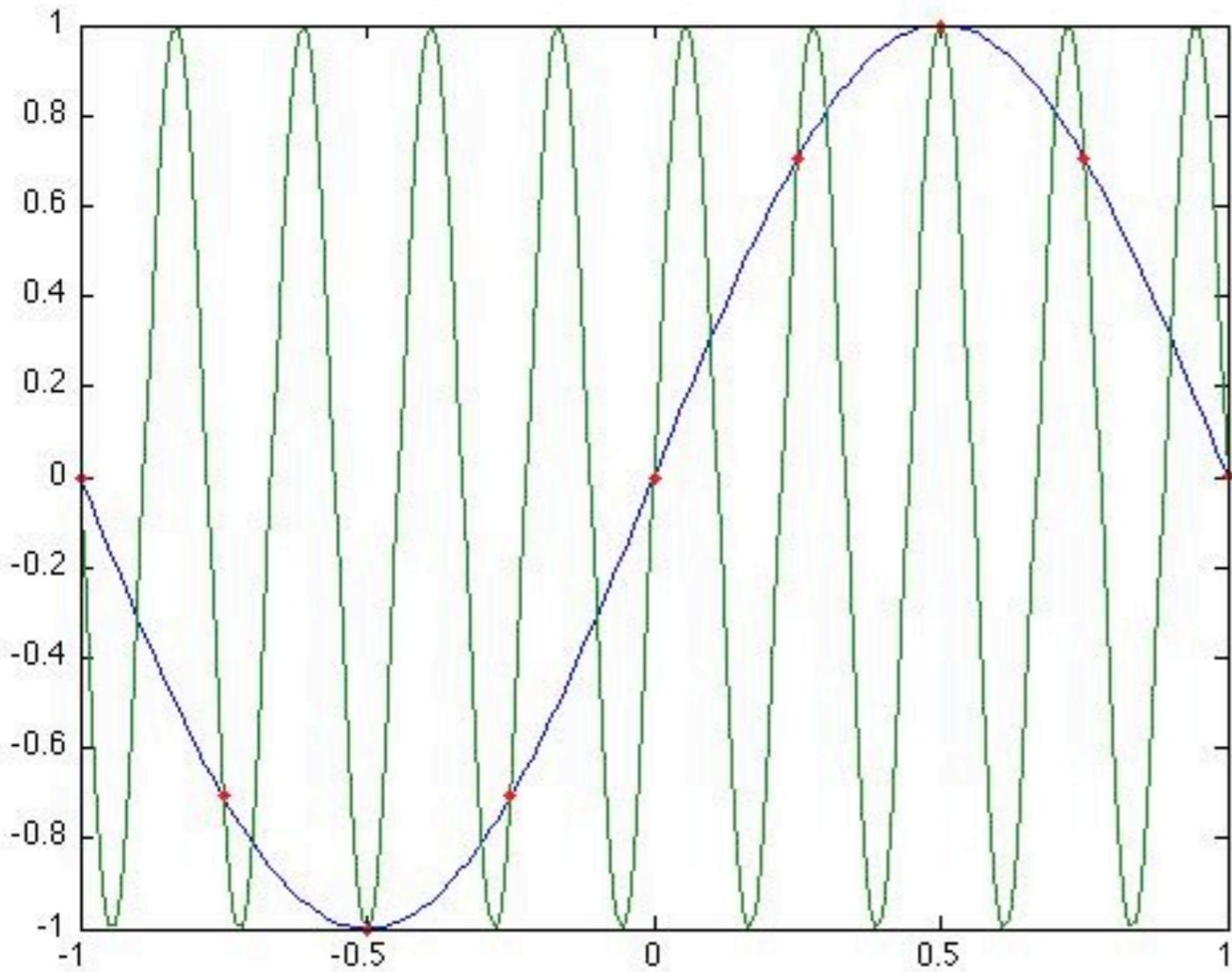
- formal exchange  $k \leftrightarrow x$ , rescaling with  $h$ , no periodicity in  $x$ :  
 $x \in h\mathbb{Z}$ ,  $v(x_j) = v_j$ ,  $j \in \mathbb{Z}$ ,

$$\hat{v}(k) = h \sum_{j=-\infty}^{\infty} e^{-ikx_j} v_j, \quad v_j = \frac{1}{2\pi} \int_{-\pi/h}^{\pi/h} e^{ikx_j} \hat{v}(k) dk$$

$$k \in [-\pi/h, \pi/h].$$

# Aliasing

- $e^{ik_1x} = e^{ik_2x}$  implies  $k_1 = k_2$  for  $x \in \mathbb{R}$ , but only  $k_1 - k_2 = \frac{2\pi}{h}n$ ,  $n \in \mathbb{Z}$ , for  $x \in h\mathbb{Z}$ ; the additional values for  $n \neq 0$  are called ‘aliases’ of  $k$ .



$\sin(\pi x)$  and  $\sin(9\pi x)$   
equivalent on the grid  $\frac{1}{4}\mathbb{Z}$

# Spectral differentiation

- interpolant for spectral differentiation:

$$p(x) = \frac{1}{2\pi} \int_{-\pi/h}^{\pi/h} e^{ikx} \hat{v}(k) dk, \quad x \in \mathbb{R}$$

$p(x)$  analytic,  $p(x_j) = v_j \ \forall j$ .

Fourier transform:

$$\hat{p}(k) = \begin{cases} \hat{v}(k) & k \in [-\pi/h, \pi/h] \\ 0 & \text{otherwise} \end{cases}$$

compact support, band-limited interpolant of  $v$  (unique for band  $[-\pi/h, \pi/h]$ ),  
*sampling theorem.*

- spectral derivative:  $w_j = p'(x_j)$  via  $\widehat{v}'(k) = ik\hat{v}(k)$ . In words:
  - given  $v$ , compute  $\hat{v}(k)$
  - define  $\hat{w} = ik\hat{v}(k)$
  - compute  $w$

- computation of the differentiation matrix via convolution with the Kronecker  $\delta$  as function  $v$ ,

$$\delta_j = \begin{cases} 1 & j = 0 \\ 0 & j \neq 0 \end{cases} \quad \hat{\delta} = h$$

interpolant:

$$p(x) = \frac{h}{2\pi} \int_{-\pi/h}^{\pi/h} e^{ikx} dk = \text{sinc} \frac{\pi x}{h} =: S_h(x)$$

$$\text{sinc}(x) = \frac{\sin x}{x}.$$

- general function  $v$  (convolution with  $\delta$ ):  $v_j = \sum_{m=-\infty}^{\infty} v_m \delta_{j-m}$ . Thus

$$p(x) = \sum_{-\infty}^{\infty} v_m S_h(x - x_m)$$

and  $w_j = p'(x_j) = \sum_{m \in \mathbb{Z}} v_m S'_h(x_j - x_m)$ , infinite matrix

$$S'_h(x_j) = \begin{cases} 0 & j = 0 \\ \frac{(-1)^j}{jh} & j \neq 0 \end{cases}$$

# Spectral differentiation via FT

- periodic function:  $v_{j+mN} = v_j$ ,  $j, m \in \mathbb{Z}$ ; spacing  $h = \frac{2\pi}{N}$ , choose  $N$  even.  
In this case the wave numbers  $k$ ,  $k \in [-\pi/h, \pi/h]$ , are also discrete since  $e^{ikx}$  only periodic for integer wave numbers: discrete Fourier transform (DFT)

$$\hat{v}_k = h \sum_{j=1}^N e^{-ikx_j} v_j, \quad k = -\frac{N}{2} + 1, \dots, \frac{N}{2},$$

$$v_j = \frac{1}{2\pi} \sum_{k=-N/2+1}^{N/2} e^{ikx_j} \hat{v}_k, \quad j = 1, \dots, N$$

for spectral differentiation symmetrization useful:

$$v_j = \frac{1}{2\pi} \sum_{k=-N/2+1}^{N/2-1} e^{ikx_j} \hat{v}_k + \frac{1}{4\pi} \left( \hat{v}_{-N/2} e^{-ix_j N/2} + \hat{v}_{N/2} e^{ix_j N/2} \right), \quad j = 1, \dots, N$$

- band limited interpolant  $p(x) = v(x)$ , trigonometric polynomial of degree  $\leq N/2$ ; interpolant of translated periodic  $\delta$ -function

$$\delta_j = \begin{cases} 1 & j = 0 \pmod{N} \\ 0 & j \neq 0 \pmod{N} \end{cases}$$

Fourier transform  $\hat{\delta}_k = h \forall k$ . This implies for the interpolant

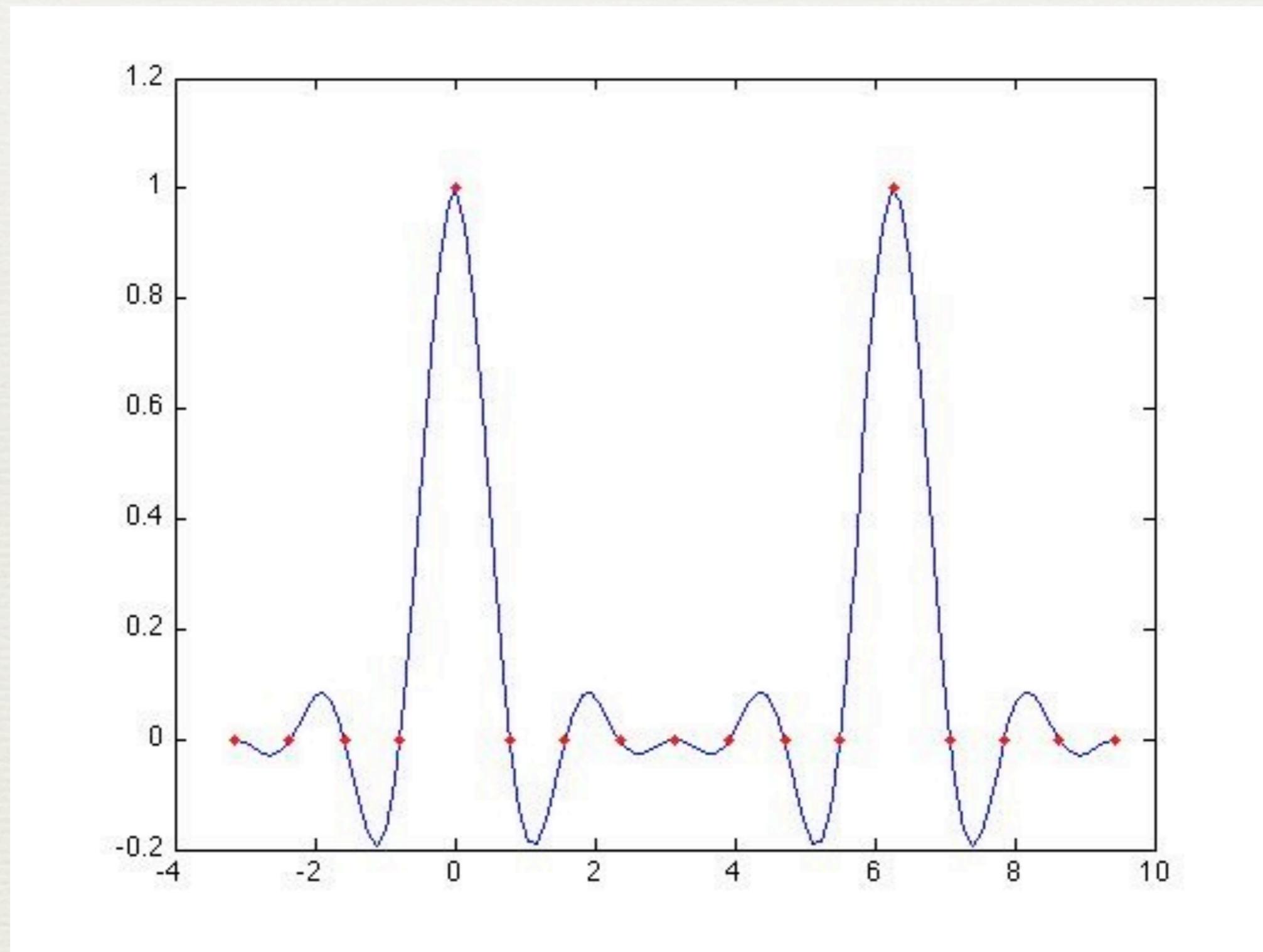
$$\begin{aligned} p(x) &= \frac{h}{2\pi} \left( \frac{1}{2} \sum_{k=-N/2}^{N/2-1} e^{ikx} + \frac{1}{2} \sum_{k=-N/2+1}^{N/2} e^{ikx} \right) \\ &= \frac{h}{2\pi} \cos \frac{x}{2} \frac{\sin(Nx/2)}{\sin(x/2)} =: S_N \end{aligned}$$

periodic sinc function

$$S'_N(x_j) = \begin{cases} 0 & j = 0 \pmod{N} \\ \frac{1}{2}(-1)^j \cot \frac{j\pi}{2} & j \neq 0 \pmod{N} \end{cases}$$

gives the differentiation matrix.

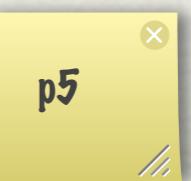
# Periodic *sinc*-function



p4  
/ \

# Periodicity and DFT

- equivalent approach via DFT:
  - given  $v$ , compute  $\hat{v}$
  - define  $\hat{w}_k = ik\hat{v}_k$  ( $\hat{w}_{N/2} = 0$ )
  - compute  $w$
- fast Fourier transform (FFT), 1965 by Cooley and Tukey, 1805 by Gauss:  
if  $N$  is a product of primes,  $O(N \log N)$  floating point operations.  
Matlab: wave vector  $0, 1, \dots, N/2, -N/2 + 1, -N/2 + 2, \dots, -1$ ; works on complex vector (factor 2 lost for real vectors).



# Smoothness and spectral accuracy

- convergence of Fourier series (Dirichlet): if  $u$  is piecewise continuous, then  $\sum_{k \in \mathbb{Z}} \hat{u}(k) e^{ikx}$  converges to  $u$ . Consequently if  $u \in C^m$ , the Fourier series converges for  $u^{(m-1)}$ , i.e.,  $\sum_{k \in \mathbb{Z}} k^{m-1} \hat{u}(k) e^{ikx}$ . The smoother a function in physical space, the more it is localized in Fourier space.

- **theorem 1** *Smoothness of a function and decay of its Fourier transform*  
Let  $u \in L^2(\mathbb{R})$  have Fourier transform  $\hat{u}(k)$ .

1. If  $u \in C^{p-1}(\mathbb{R})$  for some  $p \geq 0$  and has a  $p$ th derivative of bounded variation, then

$$\hat{u}(k) = O(|k|^{-p-1}) \text{ as } |k| \rightarrow \infty.$$

2. If  $u \in C^\infty(\mathbb{R})$ , then

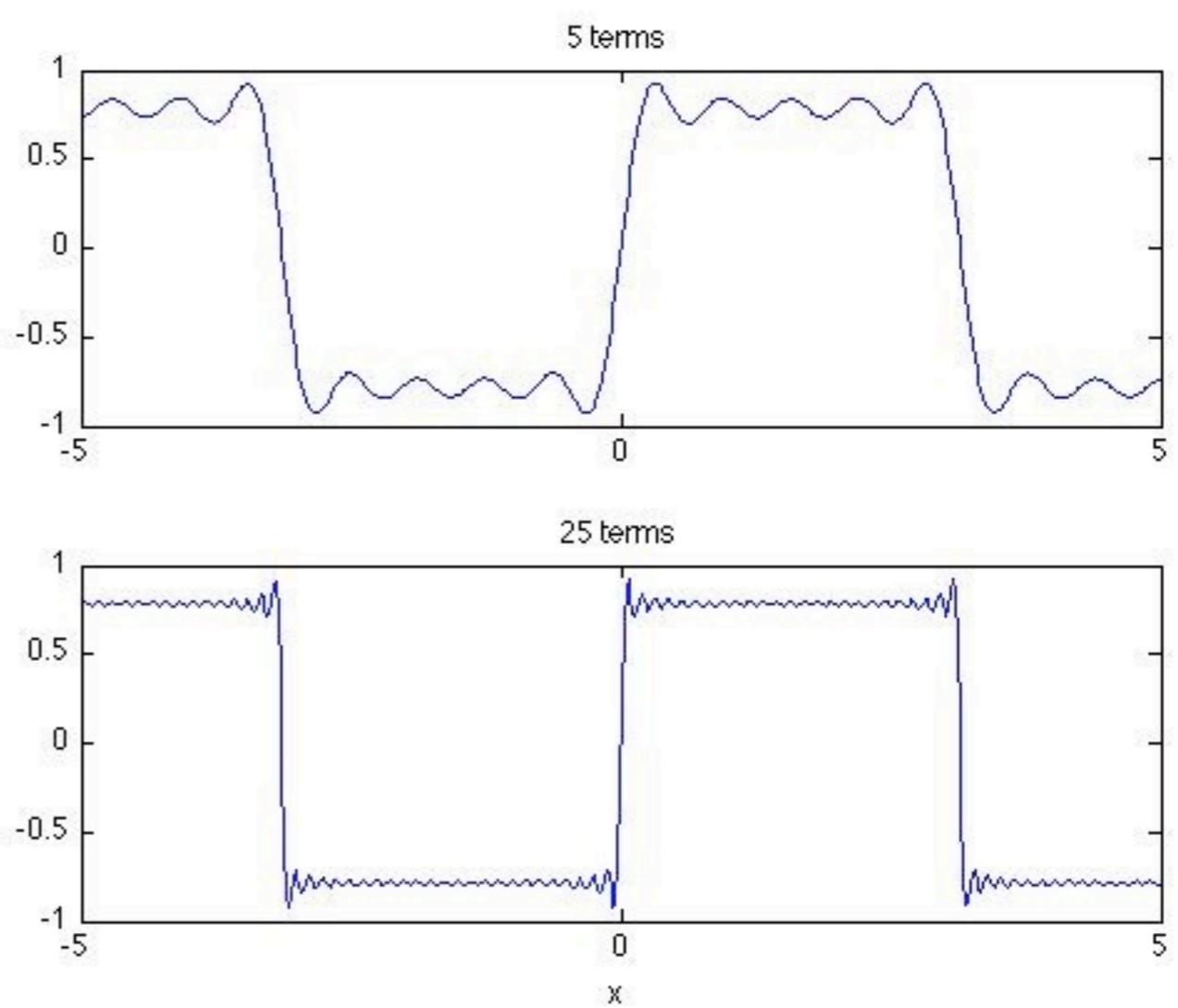
$$\hat{u}(k) = O(|k|^{-m}) \text{ as } |k| \rightarrow \infty$$

for every  $m \geq 0$ . The converse also holds.

3. If there exist  $a, c > 0$  such that  $u$  can be extended to an analytic function in the complex strip  $|\Im z| < a$  with  $\|u(\cdot + iy)\|$  uniformly for all  $y \in [-a, a]$ , where  $\|u(\cdot + iy)\|$  is the  $L^2$  norm along the horizontal line  $\Im z = y$ , then  $u_a \in L^2(\mathbb{R})$ , where  $u_a(k) = e^{ak} \hat{u}(k)$ . The converse also holds.
4. If  $u$  can be extended to an entire function (i.e., analytic throughout the complex plane) and there exists  $a > 0$  such that  $|u(z)| = o(e^{a|z|})$  as  $|z| \rightarrow \infty \forall z \in \mathbb{C}$ , then  $\hat{u}$  has compact support in  $[-a, a]$ .

# Gibbs phenomenon

- ◆ convergence of Fourier series at discontinuities of the function:  
strong oscillations,  
'overshooting' by roughly 9%
- ◆ the Fourier series for the step function (5 respectively 25 terms)



- **theorem 2** *Aliasing formula*

Let  $u \in L^2(\mathbb{R})$  have a first derivative with bounded variation, and let  $v$  be the grid function on  $h\mathbb{Z}$  defined by  $v_j = u(x_j)$ . Then  $\forall k \in [-\pi/h, \pi/h]$ ,

$$\hat{v}(k) = \sum_{j \in \mathbb{Z}} \hat{u}(k + 2\pi j/h)$$

This implies that

$$\hat{v}(k) - \hat{u}(k) = \sum_{j \in \mathbb{Z}, j \neq 0} \hat{u}(k + 2\pi j/h).$$

Smoothness can be related to the error  $\hat{v}(k) - \hat{u}(k)$  (*aliasing error*).

