Numerical Methods I Orthogonal Polynomials

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Outline

- Function spaces
- ② Orthogonal Polynomials on [-1,1]
- Spectral Approximation
- 4 Fourier Orthogonal Trigonometric Polynomials
- Conclusions

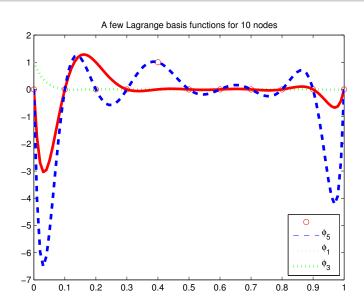
Final Project Presentations

The final presentations will take place on the following three dates (tentative list!):

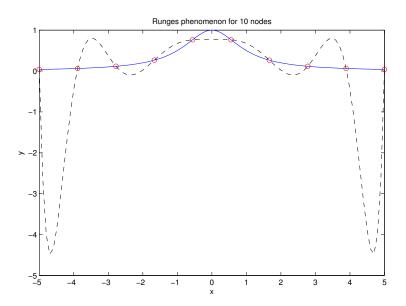
- Thursday Dec. 16th 5-7pm (there will be no class on Legislative Day, Tuesday Dec. 14th)
- 2 Tuesday Dec. 21st 5-7pm
- **1** Thursday **Dec. 23rd 4-7pm** (note the earlier start time!)

There will be **no homework this week**: Start thinking about the project until next week's homework.

Lagrange basis on 10 nodes



Runge's phenomenon $f(x) = (1+x^2)^{-1}$



Function Spaces

- Function spaces are the equivalent of finite vector spaces for functions (space of polynomial functions \mathcal{P} , space of smoothly twice-differentiable functions \mathcal{C}^2 , etc.).
- Consider a one-dimensional interval I = [a, b]. Standard norms for functions similar to the usual vector norms:
 - Maximum norm: $||f(x)||_{\infty} = \max_{x \in I} |f(x)|$
 - L_1 norm: $||f(x)||_1 = \int_a^b |f(x)| dx$
 - Euclidian L_2 norm: $||f(x)||_2 = \left[\int_a^b |f(x)|^2 dx\right]^{1/2}$
 - Weighted norm: $\|f(x)\|_{w} = \left[\int_{a}^{b} |f(x)|^{2} w(x) dx\right]^{1/2}$
- An inner or scalar product (equivalent of dot product for vectors):

$$(f,g) = \int_a^b f(x)g^*(x)dx$$

Finite-Dimensional Function Spaces

- Formally, function spaces are infinite-dimensional linear spaces.
 Numerically we always truncate and use a finite basis.
- Consider a set of m+1 nodes $x_i \in \mathcal{X} \subset I$, $i=0,\ldots,m$, and define:

$$||f(x)||_2^{\mathcal{X}} = \left[\sum_{i=0}^m |f(x_i)|^2\right]^{1/2},$$

which is equivalent to thinking of the function as being the vector $\mathbf{f}_{\mathcal{X}} = \mathbf{y} = \{f(x_0), f(x_1), \dots, f(x_m)\}.$

- Finite representations lead to semi-norms, but this is not that important.
- A discrete dot product can be just the vector product:

$$(f,g)^{\mathcal{X}} = \mathbf{f}_{\mathcal{X}} \cdot \mathbf{g}_{\mathcal{X}} = \sum_{i=0}^{m} f(x_i) g^{\star}(x_i)$$

Function Space Basis

 Think of a function as a vector of coefficients in terms of a set of n basis functions:

$$\{\phi_0(x),\phi_1(x),\ldots,\phi_n(x)\}\,$$

for example, the monomial basis $\phi_k(x) = x^k$ for polynomials.

• A finite-dimensional approximation to a given function f(x):

$$\tilde{f}(x) = \sum_{i=1}^{n} c_i \phi_i(x)$$

• Least-squares approximation for m > n (usually $m \gg n$):

$$\mathbf{c}^* = \arg\min_{\mathbf{c}} \left\| f(x) - \tilde{f}(x) \right\|_2,$$

which gives the **orthogonal projection** of f(x) onto the finite-dimensional basis.

Least-Squares Approximation

- Discrete case: Think of fitting a straight line or quadratic through experimental data points.
- The function becomes the vector $\mathbf{y} = \mathbf{f}_{\mathcal{X}}$, and the approximation is

$$y_i = \sum_{j=1}^n c_j \phi_j(x_i) \quad \Rightarrow \quad \mathbf{y} = \mathbf{\Phi} \mathbf{c},$$

$$\mathbf{\Phi}_{ij} = \phi_i(\mathbf{x}_i).$$

 This means that finding the approximation consists of solving an overdetermined linear system

$$\Phi c = y$$

• Note that for m = n this is equivalent to interpolation. MATLAB's polyfit works for $m \ge n$.

Normal Equations

Recall that one way to solve this is via the normal equations:

$$(\Phi^*\Phi) c^* = \Phi^*y$$

• A basis set is an orthonormal basis if

$$(\phi_i, \phi_j) = \sum_{k=0}^m \phi_i(x_k)\phi_j(x_k) = \delta_{ij} = \begin{cases} 1 & \text{if } i = j \\ 0 & \text{if } i \neq j \end{cases}$$

 $\Phi^*\Phi = I$ (unitary or orthogonal matrix) \Rightarrow

$$\mathbf{c}^* = \mathbf{\Phi}^* \mathbf{y} \quad \Rightarrow \quad c_i = \phi_i^{\mathcal{X}} \cdot \mathbf{f}_{\mathcal{X}} = \sum_{k=0}^m f(x_k) \phi_i(x_k)$$

Orthogonal Polynomials

- Consider a function on the interval I=[a,b]. Any finite interval can be transformed to I=[-1,1] by a simple transformation.
- Using a weight function w(x), define a function dot product as:

$$(f,g) = \int_a^b w(x) [f(x)g(x)] dx$$

• For different choices of the weight w(x), one can explicitly construct basis of orthogonal polynomials where $\phi_k(x)$ is a polynomial of degree k (triangular basis):

$$(\phi_i,\phi_j) = \int_a^b w(x) \left[\phi_i(x)\phi_j(x)\right] dx = \delta_{ij} \|\phi_i\|^2.$$

Legendre Polynomials

• For equal weighting w(x) = 1, the resulting triangular family of of polynomials are called **Legendre polynomials**:

$$\phi_0(x) = 1$$

$$\phi_1(x) = x$$

$$\phi_2(x) = \frac{1}{2}(3x^2 - 1)$$

$$\phi_3(x) = \frac{1}{2}(5x^3 - 3x)$$

$$\phi_{k+1}(x) = \frac{2k+1}{k+1}x\phi_k(x) - \frac{k}{k+1}\phi_{k-1}(x) = \frac{1}{2^n n!}\frac{d^n}{dx^n}\left[\left(x^2 - 1\right)^n\right]$$

• These are orthogonal on I = [-1, 1]:

$$\int_{-1}^{-1} \phi_i(x)\phi_j(x)dx = \delta_{ij} \cdot \frac{2}{2i+1}.$$

Interpolation using Orthogonal Polynomials

• Let's look at the **interpolating polynomial** $\phi(x)$ of a function f(x) on a set of m+1 **nodes** $\{x_0,\ldots,x_m\}\in I$, expressed in an orthogonal basis:

$$\phi(x) = \sum_{i=0}^{m} a_i \phi_i(x)$$

• Due to orthogonality, taking a dot product with ϕ_j (weak formulation):

$$(\phi, \phi_j) = \sum_{i=0}^m a_i (\phi_i, \phi_j) = \sum_{i=0}^m a_i \delta_{ij} \|\phi_i\|^2 = a_j \|\phi_j\|^2$$

 This is equivalent to normal equations if we use the right dot product:

$$(\mathbf{\Phi}^{\star}\mathbf{\Phi})_{ii} = (\phi_i, \phi_j) = \delta_{ij} \|\phi_i\|^2 \text{ and } \mathbf{\Phi}^{\star}\mathbf{y} = (\phi, \phi_j)$$

Gauss Integration

$$a_j \|\phi_j\|^2 = (\phi, \phi_j) \quad \Rightarrow \quad a_j = (\|\phi_j\|^2)^{-1} (\phi, \phi_j)$$

• Question: Can we easily compute

$$|a_j| |\phi_j|^2 = (\phi, \phi_j) = \int_a^b w(x) [\phi(x)\phi_j(x)] dx = \int_a^b w(x) p_{2m}(x) dx$$

for a polynomial $p_{2m}(x) = \phi(x)\phi_i(x)$ of degree at most 2m?

• Let's first consider polynomials of degree at most m

$$\int_a^b w(x)p_m(x)dx = ?$$

Gauss Weights

• Now consider the **Lagrange basis** $\{\varphi_0(x), \varphi_1(x), \dots, \varphi_m(x)\}$, where you recall that

$$\varphi_i(x_j) = \delta_{ij}.$$

• Any polynomial $p_m(x)$ of degree at most m can be expressed in the Lagrange basis:

$$p_m(x) = \sum_{i=0}^m p_m(x_i)\varphi_i(x),$$

$$\int_a^b w(x)p_m(x)dx = \sum_{i=0}^m p_m(x_i) \left[\int_a^b w(x)\varphi_i(x)dx \right] = \sum_{i=0}^m w_i p_m(x_i),$$

where the Gauss weights w are given by

$$w_i = \int_a^b w(x)\varphi_i(x)dx.$$

Back to Interpolation

• For any polynomial $p_{2m}(x)$ there exists a polynomial quotient q_{m-1} and a remainder r_m such that:

$$p_{2m}(x) = \phi_{m+1}(x)q_{m-1}(x) + r_m(x)$$

$$\int_{a}^{b} w(x)p_{2m}(x)dx = \int_{a}^{b} \left[w(x)\phi_{m+1}(x)q_{m-1}(x) + w(x)r_{m}(x)\right]dx$$
$$= (\phi_{m+1}, q_{m-1}) + \int_{a}^{b} w(x)r_{m}(x)dx$$

• But, since $\phi_{m+1}(x)$ is orthogonal to any polynomial of degree at most m, $(\phi_{m+1}, q_{m-1}) = 0$ and we thus get:

$$\int_{a}^{b} w(x) p_{2m}(x) dx = \sum_{i=0}^{m} w_{i} r_{m}(x_{i})$$

Gauss nodes

• Finally, if we choose the **nodes to be zeros of** $\phi_{m+1}(x)$, then

$$r_m(x_i) = p_{2m}(x_i) - \phi_{m+1}(x_i)q_{m-1}(x_i) = p_{2m}(x_i)$$

$$\int_{a}^{b} w(x) p_{2m}(x) dx = \sum_{i=0}^{m} w_{i} p_{2m}(x_{i})$$

and thus we have found a way to **quickly project any polynomial** onto the basis of orthogonal polynomials:

$$(p_m, \phi_j) = \sum_{i=0}^m w_i p_m(x_i) \phi_j(x_i)$$

$$(\phi,\phi_j)=\sum_{i=0}^m w_i\phi(x_i)\phi_j(x_i)=\sum_{i=0}^m w_if(x_i)\phi_j(x_i)$$

Gauss-Legendre polynomials

- For any weighting function the polynomial $\phi_k(x)$ has k simple zeros all of which are in (-1,1), called the (order k) Gauss nodes, $\phi_{m+1}(x_i) = 0$.
- The interpolating polynomial $\phi(x_i) = f(x_i)$ on the Gauss nodes is the Gauss-Legendre interpolant $\phi_{GL}(x)$.
- The orthogonality relation can be expressed as a sum instead of integral:

$$(\phi_i, \phi_j) = \sum_{i=0}^m w_i \phi_i(x_i) \phi_j(x_i) = \delta_{ij} \|\phi_i\|^2$$

• We can thus define a new weighted discrete dot product

$$\mathbf{f} \cdot \mathbf{g} = \sum_{i=0}^{m} w_i f_i g_i$$

Discrete Orthogonality of Polynomials

 The orthogonal polynomial basis is discretely-orthogonal in the new dot product,

$$\phi_i \cdot \phi_j = (\phi_i, \phi_j) = \delta_{ij} (\phi_i \cdot \phi_i)$$

• This means that the matrix in the normal equations is diagonal:

$$\mathbf{\Phi}^{\star}\mathbf{\Phi} = \operatorname{Diag}\left\{\left\|\phi_{0}\right\|^{2}, \dots, \left\|\phi_{m}\right\|^{2}\right\} \quad \Rightarrow \quad a_{i} = \frac{\mathbf{f} \cdot \phi_{i}}{\phi_{i} \cdot \phi_{i}}.$$

• The Gauss-Legendre interpolant is thus easy to compute:

$$\phi_{GL}(x) = \sum_{i=0}^{m} \frac{\mathbf{f} \cdot \phi_i}{\phi_i \cdot \phi_i} \phi_i(x).$$

Hilbert Space L_w^2

• Consider the Hilbert space L_w^2 of square-integrable functions on [-1,1]:

$$\forall f \in L_w^2: \quad (f,f) = \|f\|^2 = \int_{-1}^1 w(x) [f(x)]^2 dx < \infty.$$

 \bullet Legendre polynomials form a complete orthogonal basis for $L^2_w\colon$

$$\forall f \in L_w^2: \quad f(x) = \sum_{i=0}^{\infty} f_i \phi_i(x)$$

$$f_i = \frac{(f, \phi_i)}{(\phi_i, \phi_i)}.$$

• The least-squares approximation of f is a **spectral approximation** and is obtained by simply truncating the infinite series:

$$\phi_{sp}(x) = \sum_{i=0}^{m} f_i \phi_i(x).$$

Spectral approximation

Continuous (spectral approximation): $\phi_{sp}(x) = \sum_{i=0}^{m} \frac{(f, \phi_i)}{(\phi_i, \phi_i)} \phi_i(x)$.

Discrete (interpolating polynomial): $\phi_{GL}(x) = \sum_{i=0}^{m} \frac{\mathbf{f} \cdot \phi_i}{\phi_i \cdot \phi_i} \phi_i(x)$.

 If we approximate the function dot-products with the discrete weighted products

$$(f,\phi_i) \approx \sum_{j=0}^m w_j f(x_j) \phi_i(x_j) = \mathbf{f} \cdot \boldsymbol{\phi}_i,$$

we see that the Gauss-Legendre interpolant is a **discrete spectral approximation**:

$$\phi_{GL}(x) \approx \phi_{sp}(x).$$

Discrete spectral approximation

- Using a spectral representation has many advantages for function approximation: stability, rapid convergence, easy to add more basis functions.
- The convergence, for sufficiently smooth (nice) functions, is more rapid than any power law

$$||f(x) - \phi_{GL}(x)|| \le \frac{C}{N^d} \left(\sum_{k=0}^d ||f^{(k)}||^2 \right)^{1/2},$$

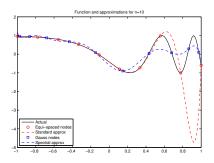
where the multiplier is related to the **Sobolev norm** of f(x).

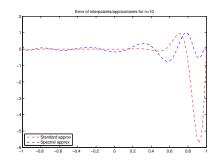
- For $f(x) \in \mathcal{C}^1$, the convergence is also **pointwise** with similar accuracy $(N^{d-1/2})$ in the denominator).
- This so-called spectral accuracy (limited by smoothness only) cannot be achived by piecewise, i.e., local, approximations (limited by order of local approximation).

Regular grids

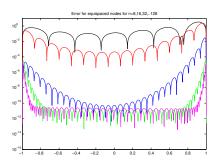
```
a=2:
f = \mathbb{Q}(x) \cos(2*\exp(a*x));
x_fine=linspace(-1,1,100);
y_fine=f(x_fine);
% Equi-spaced nodes:
n = 10:
x = linspace(-1,1,n);
y=f(x):
c = polyfit(x, y, n);
y_interp=polyval(c,x_fine);
% Gauss nodes:
[x,w]=GLNodeWt(n); % See webpage for code
y=f(x):
c = polyfit(x, y, n);
y_interp=polyval(c,x_fine);
```

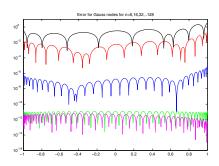
Gauss-Legendre Interpolation



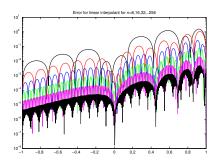


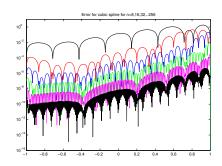
Global polynomial interpolation error





Local polynomial interpolation error





Periodic Functions

• Consider now interpolating / approximating **periodic functions** defined on the interval $I = [0, 2\pi]$:

$$\forall x \quad f(x+2\pi)=f(x),$$

as appear in practice when analyzing signals (e.g., sound/image processing).

• Also consider only the space of complex-valued square-integrable functions $L^2_{2\pi}$,

$$\forall f \in L_w^2: \quad (f,f) = ||f||^2 = \int_0^{2\pi} |f(x)|^2 dx < \infty.$$

- Polynomial functions are not periodic and thus basis sets based on orthogonal polynomials are not appropriate.
- Instead, consider sines and cosines as a basis function, combined together into complex exponential functions

$$\phi_k(x) = e^{ikx} = \cos(kx) + i\sin(kx), \quad k = 0, \pm 1, \pm 2, \dots$$

Fourier Basis

$$\phi_k(x) = e^{ikx}, \quad k = 0, \pm 1, \pm 2, \dots$$

 It is easy to see that these are orhogonal with respect to the continuous dot product

$$(\phi_j, \phi_k) = \int_{x=0}^{2\pi} \phi_j(x) \phi_k^*(x) dx = \int_0^{2\pi} \exp[i(j-k)x] dx = 2\pi \delta_{ij}$$

• The complex exponentials can be shown to form a complete **trigonometric polynomial basis** for the space $L_{2\pi}^2$, i.e.,

$$\forall f \in L^2_{2\pi}: \quad f(x) = \sum_{k=-\infty}^{\infty} \hat{f}_k e^{ikx},$$

where the **Fourier coefficients** can be computed for any **frequency or wavenumber** k using:

$$\hat{f}_k = \frac{(f, \phi_k)}{2\pi} = \frac{1}{2\pi} \cdot \int_0^{2\pi} f(x) e^{-ikx} dx.$$

Discrete Fourier Basis

ullet For a general interval [0,X] the **discrete frequencies** are

$$k = \frac{2\pi}{X}\kappa$$
 $\kappa = 0, \pm 1, \pm 2, \dots$

- For non-periodic functions one can take the limit $X \to \infty$ in which case we get **continuous frequencies**.
- Now consider a discrete Fourier basis that only includes the first N
 basis functions, i.e.,

$$\begin{cases} k = -(N-1)/2, \dots, 0, \dots, (N-1)/2 & \text{if } N \text{ is odd} \\ k = -N/2, \dots, 0, \dots, N/2 - 1 & \text{if } N \text{ is even}, \end{cases}$$

and for simplicity we focus on N odd.

• The least-squares spectral approximation for this basis is:

$$f(x) \approx \phi(x) = \sum_{k=-(N-1)/2}^{(N-1)/2} \hat{f}_k e^{ikx}.$$

Discrete Dot Product

Now also discretize the functions on a set of N equi-spaced nodes

$$x_j = jh$$
 where $h = \frac{2\pi}{N}$

where j = N is the same node as j = 0 due to periodicity so we only consider N instead of N + 1 nodes.

• We also have the **discrete dot product** between two discrete functions (vectors) $\mathbf{f}_i = f(x_i)$:

$$\mathbf{f} \cdot \mathbf{g} = h \sum_{i=0}^{N-1} f_i g_i^*$$

• The discrete Fourier basis is discretely orthogonal

$$\phi_{\mathbf{k}} \cdot \phi_{\mathbf{k}'} = 2\pi \delta_{\mathbf{k},\mathbf{k}'}$$

Proof of Discrete Orthogonality

The case k = k' is trivial, so focus on

$$\phi_k \cdot \phi_{k'} = 0$$
 for $k \neq k'$

$$\sum_{j} \exp(ikx_{j}) \exp(-ik'x_{j}) = \sum_{j} \exp[i(\Delta k)x_{j}] = \sum_{j=0}^{N-1} [\exp(ih(\Delta k))]^{j}$$

where $\Delta k = k - k'$. This is a geometric series sum:

$$\phi_k \cdot \phi_{k'} = \frac{1 - z^N}{1 - z} = 0 \text{ if } k \neq k'$$

since
$$z = \exp(ih(\Delta k)) \neq 1$$
 and $z^N = \exp(ihN(\Delta k)) = \exp(2\pi i(\Delta k)) = 1$.

Discrete Fourier Transform

The Fourier interpolating polynomial is thus easy to construct

$$\phi_N(x) = \sum_{k=-(N-1)/2}^{(N-1)/2} \hat{f}_k^{(N)} e^{ikx}$$

where the **discrete Fourier coefficients** are given by

$$\hat{f}_k^{(N)} = \frac{\mathbf{f} \cdot \phi_k}{2\pi} = \frac{1}{N} \sum_{j=0}^{N-1} f(x_j) \exp(-ikx_j)$$

• Simplifying the notation and recalling $x_j = jh$, we define the the **Discrete Fourier Transform** (DFT):

$$\hat{f}_k = \frac{1}{N} \sum_{i=0}^{N-1} f_i \exp\left(-\frac{2\pi i j k}{N}\right)$$

Fourier Spectral Approximation

Forward
$$\mathbf{f} \to \hat{\mathbf{f}}$$
: $\hat{f}_k = \frac{1}{N} \sum_{j=0}^{N-1} f_j \exp\left(-\frac{2\pi i j k}{N}\right)$

Inverse
$$\hat{\mathbf{f}} \to f$$
: $f(x) \approx \phi(x) = \sum_{k=-(N-1)/2}^{(N-1)/2} \hat{f}_k e^{ikx}$

- There is a very fast algorithm for performing the forward and backward DFTs called the Fast Fourier Transform (FFT), which we will discuss next time.
- The Fourier interpolating polynomial $\phi(x)$ has **spectral accuracy**, i.e., exponential in the number of nodes N

$$||f(x) - \phi(x)|| \sim e^{-N}$$

for **sufficiently smooth functions** (sufficiently rapid decay of the Fourier coefficients with k, e.g., $\hat{f}_k \sim e^{-|k|}$).

Discrete spectrum

 The set of discrete Fourier coefficients f is called the discrete spectrum, and in particular,

$$S_k = \left| \hat{f}_k \right|^2 = \hat{f}_k \hat{f}_k^*,$$

is the **power spectrum** which measures the frequency content of a signal.

• If f is real, then \hat{f} satisfies the **conjugacy property**

$$\hat{f}_{-k} = \hat{f}_k^{\star},$$

so that half of the spectrum is redundant and \hat{f}_0 is real.

• For an even number of points N the largest frequency k = -N/2 does not have a conjugate partner.

In MATLAB

- The forward transform is performed by the function $\hat{f} = fft(f)$ and the inverse by $f = fft(\hat{f})$. Note that ifft(fft(f)) = f and f and \hat{f} may be complex.
- In MATLAB, and other software, the frequencies are not ordered in the "normal" way -(N-1)/2 to +(N-1)/2, but rather, the nonnegative frequencies come first, then the positive ones, so the "funny" ordering is

$$0,1,\ldots,(N-1)/2, \quad -\frac{N-1}{2},-\frac{N-1}{2}+1,\ldots,-1.$$

This is because such ordering (shift) makes the forward and inverse transforms symmetric.

• The function *fftshift* can be used to order the frequencies in the normal way, and *ifftshift* does the reverse:

$$\hat{f} = fftshift(fft(f))$$
 (normal ordering).

FFT-based noise filtering (1)

```
Fs = 1000:
                               % Sampling frequency
dt = 1/Fs;
                               % Sampling interval
                               % Length of signal
L = 1000:
t = (0:L-1)*dt;
                               % Time vector
                               % Total time interval
T=L*dt:
% Sum of a 50 Hz sinusoid and a 120 Hz sinusoid
x = 0.7*\sin(2*pi*50*t) + \sin(2*pi*120*t);
y = x + 2*randn(size(t)); % Sinusoids plus noise
figure (1); clf; plot(t(1:100), y(1:100), 'b—'); hold on
title ('Signal Corrupted with Zero-Mean Random Noise')
xlabel('time')
```

FFT-based noise filtering (2)

```
if (0)
   N=(L/2)*2; \% Even N
   v_hat = fft(y(1:N));
   % Frequencies ordered in a funny way:
   f_funny = 2*pi/T* [0:N/2-1, -N/2:-1];
   % Normal ordering:
   f_{-normal} = 2*pi/T*[-N/2 : N/2-1];
else
   N=(L/2)*2-1; % Odd N
   y_hat = fft(y(1:N));
   % Frequencies ordered in a funny way:
   f_-funny = 2*pi/T* [0:(N-1)/2, -(N-1)/2:-1];
   % Normal ordering:
   f_{-normal} = 2*pi/T*[-(N-1)/2 : (N-1)/2];
end
```

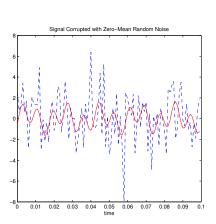
FFT-based noise filtering (3)

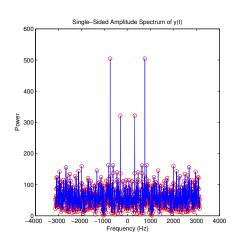
```
figure (2); clf; plot(f_funny, abs(y_hat), 'ro'); hold on;
y_hat=fftshift(y_hat);
figure (2); plot(f_normal, abs(y_hat), 'b-');

title ('Single-Sided_Amplitude_Spectrum_of_y(t)')
xlabel('Frequency_(Hz)')
ylabel('Power')

y_hat(abs(y_hat)<250)=0; % Filter out noise
y_filtered = ifft(ifftshift(y_hat));
figure (1); plot(t(1:100), y_filtered (1:100), 'r-')</pre>
```

FFT results





Conclusions/Summary

- Once a function dot product is defined, one can construct **orthogonal basis** for the space of functions of finite 2—norm.
- For functions on the interval [-1,1], triangular families of orthogonal polynomials $\phi_i(x)$ provide such a basis, e.g., Legendre or Chebyshev polynomials.
- If one discretizes at the **Gauss nodes**, i.e., the roots of the polynomial $\phi_{m+1}(x)$, and defines a suitable **discrete Gauss-weighted dot product**, one obtains **discretely-orthogonal** basis suitable for numerical computations.
- The interpolating polynomial on the Gauss nodes is closely related to the spectral approximation of a function.
- Spectral convergence is faster than any power law of the number of nodes and is only limited by the global smoothness of the function, unlike piecewise polynomial approximations limited by the choice of local basis functions.
- One can also consider piecewise-spectral approximations.