



# Characteristic Functions in Radar and Sonar

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- FOUR QUESTIONS
- WHAT ARE CHARACTERISTIC FUNCTIONS?
- SINGLE VARIABLE APPLICATIONS OF CHARACTERISTIC FUNCTION.
- MULTI-DIMENSIONAL CHARACTERISTIC FUNCTIONS
- RAYLEIGH PROBLEM

# FOUR QUESTIONS

**Question 1:** Given we know the density for  $\hat{x}$  is  $P(x)$ , what is the distribution for  $\hat{u} = f(\hat{x})$ ?

**Question 2:** Given we know the density for  $\hat{x}$  is  $P_x(x)$  and the density for  $\hat{y}$  is  $P_y(y)$ , what is the distribution for  $\hat{u} = \hat{x} + \hat{y}$ ?

**Question 3:** Given we know the density for  $\hat{x}$  is  $P_x(x)$  and the density for  $\hat{y}$  is  $P_y(y)$ , what is the distribution for  $\hat{u} = \hat{x}\hat{y}$ ?

**Question 4:** Given we know the density for  $\hat{x}$  is  $P_x(x)$  and the density for  $\hat{y}$  is  $P_y(y)$ , what is the distribution for  $\hat{u} = \frac{\hat{x}}{\hat{y}}$ ?

DEFINITION:  $M_P(\theta) = \langle e^{j\theta x} \rangle = \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} e^{j\theta x} P(x) dx$

PROPERTIES

1.  $M(0) = 1.$
2.  $M^*(-\theta) = M(\theta).$
3.  $|M(\theta)| \leq 1.$
4.  $|M(\theta)| \leq M(0).$

ALTERNATIVE DEFINITION:

$$M_P(\theta) = \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} e^{j\theta x} P(x) dx = \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \frac{(j\theta x)^n}{n!} P(x) dx = \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \frac{(j\theta)^n}{n!} \langle x^n \rangle$$

TWO METHODS FOR  
CALCULATION  
OF MOMENTS

$$\langle x^n \rangle = \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} x^n P(x) dx$$

$$\langle x^n \rangle = \frac{1}{j^n} \frac{\partial^n M_P(\theta)}{\partial \theta^n} \Big|_{\theta=0}$$

**differentiation is easier than integration**

Fourier transform pair relationship between the PDF and CF:

$$P(x) = \frac{1}{2\pi} \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} e^{-j\theta x} M_P(\theta) d\theta$$

one would often like to know the density of a new variable, say  $\hat{u}$ , that is a function of the old variable:  $\hat{u} = f(\hat{x})$

Probability Density Function: 
$$P(u) = \frac{1}{2\pi} \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} e^{-j\theta u} M_u(\theta) d\theta$$

Characteristic Function: 
$$M_u(\theta) = \langle e^{j\theta f(x)} \rangle = \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} e^{j\theta f(x)} P(x) dx$$

Apply CF to PDF: 
$$P(u) = \frac{1}{2\pi} \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} e^{j\theta f(x)} e^{-j\theta u} P(x) d\theta dx$$

PDF for Transformed variable: 
$$P(u) = \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} \delta(u - f(x)) P(x) dx$$

This solves the problem for Exercise 1.

## Interpretation of Delta Function of Function

$$\delta(g(x)) = \sum_i \delta(x - x_i) \frac{1}{|g'(x_i)|}$$

$$\delta(f(x) - u) = \sum_i \delta(x - x_i) \frac{1}{|f'(x_i)|}$$

$$P(u) = \sum_i \frac{P(x_i)}{|f'(x_i)|}$$

## Translation

*(Translation): Let  $\hat{u} = a\hat{x} + b$ , what is  $P(u)$  given we know that the PDF of  $\hat{x}$  is  $P_x(x)$ ? Solving for zero of the equation gives*

$$x = \frac{u-b}{a}$$

*and note  $dx = \frac{1}{a}$ , then the distribution is*

$$P(u) = \frac{1}{a} P(x)|_{x=\frac{u-b}{a}} = \frac{1}{a} P_x\left(\frac{u-b}{a}\right)$$

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## Square Law Detector

(Square Law Detector): Let  $\hat{u} = \hat{x}^2$ , what is  $P(u)$  given we know that the PDF of  $\hat{x}$  is  $P_x(x)$ ?

Answer: Solve for zeros

$$x_1 = \sqrt{u}$$

and

$$x_2 = -\sqrt{u}$$

note  $2x dx = du$ , then \* becomes

$$P(u) = \frac{1}{2\sqrt{u}} P_x(u)|_{x_1, x_2} = \frac{1}{2\sqrt{u}} [P(\sqrt{u}) + P(-\sqrt{u})]$$

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If  $\hat{x}$  is  $N(0, \sigma)$ , then the PDF is

$$P_u(u) = \frac{1}{\sigma\sqrt{(2\pi u)}} e^{-\frac{u}{2\sigma^2}} \Theta(u).$$

where  $\Theta$  is the unit step function

$$\Theta(x) = 1 \quad (x \geq 0)$$

$$= 0 \quad (\text{otherwise})$$

#

The coordinate transformation  $y = R \sin(\hat{\varphi})$  a PDF  $f_{\varphi}(\varphi)$  is onto but not one-to-one over interval  $[-\infty, \infty]$ . Thus  $\text{ref: *}$  has an infinite number of zeros. It is more convenient to determine the CF directly, so the transformation of the PDF is

$$M_{\theta}(\omega) = \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} e^{j\omega R \sin(\varphi)} f_{\varphi}(\varphi) d\varphi.$$

The exponential can be written as

$$\sum_{n=-\infty}^{\infty} J_n(\omega R) e^{jn\varphi} = e^{j\omega R \sin(\varphi)},$$

so the CF is given by

$$M_{\theta}(\omega) = \sum_{n=-\infty}^{\infty} J_n(\omega R) \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} e^{jn\varphi} f(\varphi) d\varphi = \sum_{n=-\infty}^{\infty} J_n(\omega R) F(n);$$

which can be rewritten as

$$M_{\varphi}(\omega) = J_0(\omega R) + \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} J_n(\omega R) [F(n) + (-1)^n F(-n)]$$

where  $F(n)$  is the Fourier transform of the PDF  $f_{\varphi}(\varphi)$  evaluated at  $\omega = n$ . Depending on the problem, the CF is sufficient, but sometimes it is still useful to know the PDF. Now if we apply the identity (Abramowitz)

$$\int_{-\infty}^{\infty} e^{-j\omega t} J_n(t) dt = \frac{2(-j)^n T_n(\omega)}{\sqrt{(1-\omega^2)}} \Theta(1-|\omega|),$$

where  $T_n(x)$  is the  $n$ -th order Chebyshev polynomials, the PDF of the coordinate transformation is

$$f_y(y) = \frac{[a_0 + \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} (a_n + a_{-n}) T_n(\frac{y}{R})]}{\pi \sqrt{(R^2 - y^2)}} \Theta(1 - \left| \frac{y}{R} \right|),$$

where  $a_n = (-j)^n F(n)$ .

Repeating the same procedure for the single dimensional case to the multi-dimensional case yields:

$$P(u, v) = \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} \iint \delta[u - f(x, y)] \delta[v - g(x, y)] P(x, y) dx dy$$

This due to Cohen, is sufficient to allow us to solve the problem of determining many of the two dimensional combinations of random variables such as those in Exercises 2-4.

Let  $\hat{u} = f(\hat{x}, y)$ , the CF is

$$M_u(\theta) = \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} e^{j\theta f(x,y)} P(x,y) dx dy,$$

so the density becomes

$$\begin{aligned} P(u) &= \frac{1}{2\pi} \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} e^{-j\theta u} M_u(\theta) d\theta \\ &= \frac{1}{2\pi} \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} e^{j\theta[u-f(x,y)]} P(x,y) dy dx d\theta \end{aligned}$$

integrating out  $\theta$  gives delta functions

$$P(u) = \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} \delta[u-f(x,y)] P(x,y) dx.$$

#(C)

## EXAMPLE: Translation

Let  $\hat{z} = \hat{x} + \hat{y}$ , with distributions  $P_x(x)$  and  $P_y(y)$  (assuming they are uncorelated), then the distribution of  $\hat{u}$  which is denoted by  $P_u(u)$  is `ref: C`

$$P_z(z) = \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} \delta[z - x - y] P_{xy}(x, y) dx dy$$

$$= \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} P_{xy}(x, z - x) dx$$

$$= \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} P_x(x) P_y(z - x) dx \text{ (uncorrelated)}$$

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## EXAMPLE: Multiplication

Let  $\hat{z} = \hat{x}\hat{y}$ , with distribution  $P_{xy}(x,y)$  or distributions  $P_x(x)$  and  $P_y(y)$  (assuming they are uncorelated), then the distribution of  $\hat{u}$  which is denoted by  $P_z(z)$  is ref: C

$$P_z(z) = \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} \delta[z - xy] P_{xy}(x,y) dx dy.$$

If we note that  $\sum_i \delta(x - x_i) \frac{1}{|f'(x_i)|}$ , so

$$\delta[z - xy] = \frac{\delta(y - \frac{z}{x})}{|x|}$$

so

$$f_z(z) = \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} \frac{1}{|x|} P_{xy}\left(\frac{z}{x}, x\right) dx.$$

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## EXAMPLE: Division or Monopulse Ratio

Let  $\hat{z} = \frac{\hat{x}}{\hat{y}}$ , with distribution  $P_{xy}(x,y)$  or distributions  $P_x(x)$  and  $P_y(y)$  (assuming they are uncorelated), then the distribution of  $\hat{z}$  which is denoted by  $P_z(z)$  is

$$P_z(z) = \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} \delta\left[z - \frac{x}{y}\right] P_{xy}(x,y) dy dx.$$

If we note that

$$\delta\left[z - \frac{x}{y}\right] = \delta(y - zx)|x|$$

so

$$f_z(z) = \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} |x| P_{xy}(zx, x) dx.$$

## RAYLEIGH PROBLEM

Sum of two dimension random amplitudes and phases:

$$\hat{X} = \sum_{i=1}^N \hat{x}_i = \sum_{i=1}^N \hat{a}_i \cos(\hat{\theta}_i)$$

Arose in Scattering off Rough Surfaces,

Applications in Radar, Sonar, Acoustics, Communications, Physics, etc.



## INSTANCE OF TRACKING PROBLEM

Transformations from spherical to Cartesian coordinates

$$\hat{x} = (\hat{r}) \cos(\hat{\theta}) \sin(\hat{\phi}),$$

$$y = (\hat{r}) \sin(\hat{\theta}) \sin(\hat{\phi}),$$

$$\hat{z} = (\hat{r}) \cos(\hat{\phi}).$$

Rewritten as:

$$\hat{x} = \frac{\hat{r}}{2} \left[ \sin(\hat{\theta} + \hat{\phi}) + \sin(\hat{\theta} - \hat{\phi}) \right]$$

$$y = \frac{\hat{r}}{2} \left[ \cos(\hat{\theta} + \hat{\phi}) - \cos(\hat{\theta} - \hat{\phi}) \right]$$

Then the distribution for  $z$  is: 
$$f_z(z) = \int_{-1}^1 \frac{P_r\left(\frac{z}{\varphi}\right) \left[ a_0 + \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} (a_n + a_{-n}) T_n(\varphi) \right]}{\pi |\varphi| \sqrt{(1-\varphi^2)}} d\varphi.$$

two sum case  $z = z_1 + z_2$

$$\begin{aligned}
 f_z(z) & \stackrel{\text{(uncorrelated)}}{=} \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} P_{z_1}(z_1) P_{z_2}(z_1 - z) dz_1 \\
 & = \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} \int_{-1}^1 \frac{P_{r_1}\left(\frac{z_1}{\varphi_1}\right) \left[ a_0 + \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} (a_n + a_{-n}) T_n(\varphi_1) \right]}{\pi |\varphi_1| \sqrt{(1-\varphi_1^2)}} d\varphi_1 \times \\
 & \int_{-1}^1 \frac{P_{r_2}\left(\frac{z_2+z_1-z}{\varphi_2}\right) \left[ a_0 + \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} (a_n + a_{-n}) T_n(\varphi_2) \right]}{\pi |\varphi_2| \sqrt{(1-\varphi_2^2)}} d\varphi_2 dz_1
 \end{aligned}$$

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Case n is obtained by repeated application of Case 2

- Demonstrated how to use CF to bypass difficulties in computing combinations of random variables using a method based on Cohen
- Using Fourier analysis and application of definition of Dirac delta function, combined PDF is obtained with considerable simplification
- Motivation engineering applications that occur in radar/sonar applications that involve combinations of probability density functions
- Have demonstrated simple method to obtain PDF for different combinations of random variables
- Rayleigh problem for  $i=2$  solved which implies general solution for case  $i=n$