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ALGOL PROCEDURES FOR THE
FAST FOURIER TRANSFORM

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ABSTRACT

The body of this report was written as a contribution to the Algorithms section of the Communications of the ACM. It consists of six ALGOL procedures with comments. Procedure FASTTRANSFORM computes the complex finite Fourier transform or its inverse, using a modified version of the fast Fourier transform algorithm proposed by Cooley and Tukey. Procedure REALTRANSFORM similarly computes the real Fourier transform and inverse. The remaining four procedures are building blocks used in the first two procedures: they may be combined in other ways, for example, to form procedures for computing convolutions and power spectral density function estimates. The fast Fourier transform is a significant advance over previous methods, in that the number of arithmetic operations is proportional to $n \log_2 n$ instead of $n^2$. Detailed methods of computing this transform are shown here in the language of ALGOL. A new approach to organizing the computations is used, one that makes practical the solution of large problems in which data overlay within high speed storage will occur.
-ALGOL PROCEDURES FOR THE FAST FOURIER TRANSFORM

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The following procedures are based on the Cooley-Tukey algorithm [1,2,3] for computing the finite Fourier transform of a complex data vector; the dimension of the data vector is assumed here to be a power of two. Procedure FASTTRANSFORM computes either the complex Fourier transform or its inverse. Procedure REALTRANSFORM computes either the Fourier coefficients of a sequence of real data points or evaluates a Fourier series with given cosine and sine coefficients. The number of arithmetic operations for either procedure is proportional to \( n \log_2 n \), where \( n \) is the number of data points.

Procedures FASTFOURIER, REVERSEFOURIER, REORDER, and REALTRAN are building blocks, and are used in the two complete procedures mentioned above. The fast transform can be computed in a number of different ways, and these building block procedures were written so as to make practical the computing of large transforms on a system with multiprogramming and/or virtual memory. Data is accessed in sub-sequences of consecutive array elements, and as much computing as possible is done in one section of the data before moving on to another. Procedure FASTFOURIER computes the Fourier transform, or inverse, of data in reverse binary order and leaves the result in normal binary order. Procedure REORDER permutes a complex vector from binary to reverse binary order or from reverse binary to binary order; this procedure also permutes real data in preparation for efficient use of the complex Fourier transform. The procedure REALTRAN is used to unscramble and combine the complex transforms of the even and odd numbered elements of a sequence of real data points; this procedure is not restricted to powers of two and requires only that the number of data points be even.

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procedure FASTTRANSFORM(A, B, m, inverse);

value m, inverse; integer m; Boolean inverse;
array A, B;

comment Computes the finite Fourier transform of $2^m$ complex data points, using the Cooley-Tukey algorithm [1]. The parameter $m$ determines the dimension $n=2^m$ of the transform. $m>1$ is assumed. The arrays $A[0:n-1]$ and $B[0:n-1]$ initially contain the real and imaginary components of the data vector, and, upon completion, contain the transformed values.

If inverse is false, the Fourier transform

$$
(x_j + iy_j) = \frac{1}{\sqrt{n}} \sum_{k=0}^{n-1} (a_k + ib_k) \exp \left( i \frac{2\pi j k}{n} \right)
$$

for $j=0,1,...,n-1$

is computed, where the terms $(a_k + ib_k)$ represent the initial data array values and $(x_j + iy_j)$ represent the transformed values. If inverse is true, the inverse (complex conjugate) Fourier transform

$$
(x_j + iy_j) = \frac{1}{\sqrt{n}} \sum_{k=0}^{n-1} (a_k + ib_k) \exp \left( -i \frac{2\pi j k}{n} \right)
$$

for $j=0,1,...,n-1$

is computed, where $(a_k + ib_k)$ and $(x_j + iy_j)$ again represent the initial and transformed values. The transform followed by the inverse transform or the inverse transform followed by the transform gives an identity transformation. The procedures FASTFOURIER and REORDER are used by this procedure and must also be declared;

begin if inverse then

begin FASTFOURIER(A, B, m, 1/sqrt(2^m), true);
REORDER(A, B, m, false);
end else

begin FASTFOURIER(A, B, m, 1/sqrt(2*m), false);
    REORDER(A, B, m, false);
end

end FASTTRANSFORM;
procedure REALTRANSFORM(A, B, m, inverse);

value m, inverse; integer m; Boolean inverse;
array A, B;

comment Computes the finite Fourier transform of \(2^{m+1} \geq 8\)
real data points, using the Cooley-Tukey algorithm\[1,2\].

If inverse is false, the arrays A[0:n] and B[0:n], where
\(n=2^m\), are assumed to contain the first \(2^m\) real data
points \(x_0, x_1, \ldots, x_{n-1}\) as \(A[0], A[1], \ldots, A[n-1]\) and
the remaining \(2^m\) real data points \(x_n, x_{n+1}, \ldots, x_{2n-1}\) as
\(B[0], B[1], \ldots, B[n-1]\). On completion of the transform
the arrays A and B contain respectively the Fourier
cosine and sine coefficients \(a_k\) and \(b_k\), computed
according to the relations

\[
a_k = \frac{1}{n} \sum_{j=0}^{2n-1} x_j \cos \left(\frac{\pi j k}{n}\right) \quad \text{for } k=0, 1, \ldots, n
\]

and

\[
b_k = \frac{1}{n} \sum_{j=0}^{2n-1} x_j \sin \left(\frac{\pi j k}{n}\right) \quad \text{for } k=0, 1, \ldots, n.
\]

If inverse is true, the arrays A and B are assumed to
contain initially \(n+1\) cosine coefficients \(a_0, a_1, \ldots, a_n\)
and \(n+1\) sine coefficients \(b_0, b_1, \ldots, b_n\), where
\(b_0 = b_n = 0\). The procedure evaluates the corresponding
time series \(x_0, x_1, \ldots, x_{2n-1}\) where

\[
x_j = \frac{x_0}{2} + \sum_{k=1}^{n-1} \left[ a_k \cos \left(\frac{\pi j k}{n}\right) + b_k \sin \left(\frac{\pi j k}{n}\right) \right] + \frac{a_n}{2},
\]

and leaves the first \(n\) values as \(A[0], A[1], \ldots, A[n-1]\) and
the remaining \(n\) values as \(B[0], B[1], \ldots, B[n-1]\).
The procedures FASTFOURIER, REVERSEFOURIER, REORDER, and REALTRAN are used by this procedure, and must also be declared;

begin if inverse then
begin
    REALTRAN(A, B, 2^m, true, true);
    FASTFOURIER(A, B, m, 1/2, true);
    REORDER(A, B, m, true);
end else
begin
    REORDER(A, B, m, true);
    REVERSEFOURIER(A, B, m, 1/2, (m+1), false);
    REALTRAN(A, B, 2^m, false, false);
end
end REALTRANSFORM;
procedure FASTFOURIER(A, B, m, scale, negexp);
    value m, scale, negexp; integer m; real scale;
    Boolean negexp; array A, B;

comment Computes the finite Fourier transform of $2^m$ complex data points, using a modified version of the Cooley-Tukey fast transform algorithm [1]. The data is assumed to be in normal order in arrays $A[0:n-1]$ and $B[0:n-1]$ for the real and imaginary components respectively, where $n=2^m$ is the dimension of the transform and $m>1$ is assumed. The transformed result replaces the original data, but is arranged in reverse binary order. That is, the $j^{th}$ value of the result, where $j = j_{m-1}2^{m-1} + j_{m-2}2^{m-2} + \ldots + j_12 + j_0$, is found in location $j_{m-2}2^{m-2} + \ldots + j_22^2 + j_12 + j_0$ of arrays $A$ and $B$.

Procedure REORDER can be used to permute the result to normal ordering, if desired. If negexp is false, the Fourier transform

$$
(x_j + iy_j) = \text{scale} \sum_{k=0}^{n-1} (a_k + ib_k) \exp(i2\pi jk/n) \quad \text{for } j = 0, 1, \ldots, n-1
$$

is computed, and if negexp is true, the corresponding complex conjugate transform is computed, using a minus sign in the exponential terms. The terms $(a_k + ib_k)$ represent the initial values, and $(x_j + iy_j)$ represent the transformed values;

begin integer j, k, kk, kb, ks, jj, n, nq, span;
    real re, im, cn, sn, rad;
    integer array C, D[0:m]; array CC, SS[0:m];
    C[0] := n := 1;
    for j := 1 to n do begin
        for k := 0 to n-1 do begin
            C[k,j] := A[k] + iB[k];
        end;
        for k := 0 to n-1 do begin
            C[k,j] := C[k,j] * cn; // cos(n*2*pi*j/k)
            C[k,j] := C[k,j] * sn; // sin(n*2*pi*j/k)
        end;
    end;

    // Perform the inverse Fourier transform
    for j := 1 to n do begin
        for k := 0 to n-1 do begin
            C[k,j] := C[k,j] * cn; // cos(n*2*pi*j/k)
            C[k,j] := C[k,j] * sn; // sin(n*2*pi*j/k)
        end;
        C[k,j] := C[k,j] / n;
    end;

    // ...
ks := n;
for kk := C[m-1]-1 step -1 until 0 do
begin ks := ks-1; re := A[kk]-A[ks];
    B[ks] := scalexim
end;
jj := kb := 0; j := m := m-2; nq := C[m];
for k := 0 step 1 until m do D[k] := C[m-k];
rad := 6.28318530718/n; go to L2;
L: if jj>D[j] then
begin jj := jj-D[j]; j := j+1; go to L end
else jj := jj+D[j];
L2: span := C[j]; if jj<D[j] then
begin k := spanxjj;
    CC[j] := cn := sin((nq-k)xrad);
    SS[j] := sn := sin(kxrad)
end else
begin cn := -SS[j]; sn := CC[j] end;
if negexp then sn := -sn;
for kk := kb+span-1 step -1 until kb do
begin ks := kk+span;
    re := cnxA[ks]-snxB[ks];
    im := snxA[ks]+cnxB[ks];
end;
if 123 then
begin j := j-1; go to L2 end;

kb := kb+2; if kb<n then go to L;

end FASTFOURIER;
procedure REVERSEFOURIER(A, B, m, scale, negexp);

value m, scale, negexp; integer m; real scale;
Boolean negexp; array A, B;

comment Computes the finite Fourier transform of \(2^m\) complex data points, using a modified version of the Sande-Tukey [2,3] fast transform. The data is assumed to be in reverse binary order in arrays A[0:n-1] and B[0:n-1] for the real and imaginary components respectively, where \(n=2^m\) and \(m>1\) are assumed. The data may be in this ordering due to an earlier transform by procedure FASTFOURIER or a permutation by procedure REORDER. The transformed result replaces the original data, and is left in normal ordering. If negexp is false the Fourier transform

\[
(x_j + iy_j) = \text{scale} \cdot (a_k + ib_k) \exp \left(i2\pi jk/n\right)
\]

for \(j=0,1,...,n-1\)

is computed, and if negexp is true, the corresponding complex conjugate transform is computed, using a minus sign in the exponential terms. The terms \((a_k + ib_k)\) represent the initial values, and \((x_j + iy_j)\) the transformed values;

begin integer j, k, kk, kb, ks, ii, nh, i, span;
real re, im, cn, sn, rad;

integer array C, D[0:m]; array CC, SS[0:m];
C[0] := n := 1;
for k := 1 step 1 until m do C[k] := n := n+n;
nh := C[m-1]; nq := C[m-2];
rad := 6.28318530718/n;
\[ m := m-2; \ j_j := nh-1; \]
\[
\text{for } k := 0 \ \text{step} \ 1 \ \text{until} \ m \ \text{do} \ D[k] := nh-C[k];
\]
\[
\text{for } k_b := n-2 \ \text{step} \ -2 \ \text{until} \ 0 \ \text{do}
\begin{align*}
&\text{begin span} := 1; \ j := m; \ k := j_j; \\
&L: \quad \text{if } k<nq \text{ then} \\
&\quad \text{begin sn} := SS[j]; \ sn := -CC[j] \quad \text{end else} \\
&\quad \text{begin} \ CC[j] := sn := -\sin((k-nq)\times rad); \\
&\quad \quad \quad \ SS[j] := sn := \sin((nh-k)\times rad) \\
&\quad \text{end;}
&\quad \text{if negexp thei.ý sn} \\
&\quad \text{for } k k := k_b+\text{span}-1 \ \text{step} \ -1 \ \text{until} \ kb := 0 \\
&\quad \text{begin} \ kb := kk+\text{span};
&\quad \quad \quad \ im := B[kk]-B[ks]; \ B[kk] := B[kk]+B[ks]; \\
&\quad \quad \quad \ A[ks] := \text{scalex}-\text{scalex} \ ; \ B[ks] := \text{scalex}+\text{scalex};
&\quad \text{end;}
&\quad \text{if } J<\text{D}[j] \text{ then} \\
&\quad \text{begin} \ J := J+\text{C}[j]; \ J := J-1; \ \text{span := span}+\text{span}; \\
&\quad \quad \quad \ if \ J<0 \ \text{then go to L2; } k := k+k; \ \text{go to L} \\
&\quad \text{end}
&\quad \text{else } J := J-C[j]
&\end{align*}
\]
\[
L2: \ \text{span := nh; } k_b := nh-1; \\
\text{for } k k := 0 \ \text{step} \ 1 \ \text{until} \ k_b \ \text{do}
\begin{align*}
&\text{begin} \ ks := ks+1; \ re := A[kk]-A[ks]; \\
&\quad \quad \quad \ im := B[kk]-B[ks]; \ B[kk] := \text{scalex}(B[kk]+B[ks]); \\
&\quad \quad \quad \ B[ks] := \text{scalex}\im
&\end{align*}
\]
procedure REORDER(A, B, m, reel); value m, reel;
integer m; Boolean reel; array A, B;

comment If reel is false, the \(2^m\) elements each of arrays \(A[0:n-1]\) and \(B[0:n-1]\) are permuted from normal to reverse binary order or from reverse binary to normal order. The pair of values in location \(j = j_m 2^{m-1} + j_{m-1} 2^{m-2} + \ldots + j_1 2 + j_0\) is interchanged with the pair of values in location \(k = k_0 2^{m-1} + j_1 2^{m-2} + \ldots + j_m 2 + j_0\). Doing the permutation twice gives an identity transformation. If reel is true, it is assumed that a sequence of \(2^{m+1}\) real values, with the first \(2^m\) values in array \(A\) and the second \(2^m\) values in array \(B\), is either to be permuted in preparation for computing Fourier coefficients or is the expected final result of evaluation of a real Fourier series. The permutation made is first to interchange each even numbered entry in \(B\) with the next higher odd numbered entry in \(A\), then to permute adjacent pairs of entries in \(A\) and \(B\) to reverse binary order. Again, doing the permutation twice gives an identity transformation. \(m > 1\) is assumed;

begin integer i, j, jj, k, kk, kb, ks, ku, lim, r;
real t;

integer array C, LST[0:m];
C[0] := n := 1;
for k := 1 step 1 until m do C[k] := n := n+n;
j := m-1; i := kb := 0; if reel then
begin ku := n-2; for k := 0 step 2 until ku do
begin t := A[k+1]; A[k+1] := B[k]; B[k] := t end
end else
m := m-1; lim := (m+2) + 2;
L: \( ku := ks := C[j] + kb; \) \( jj := C[m-j]; \) \( kk := kb + jj; \)

L2: \( k := kk + jj; \)

\( t := B[kk]; \) \( B[kk] := B[ks]; \) \( B[ks] := t; \)
\( kk := kk + 1; \) \( ks := ks + 1; \)
\textbf{if} \( kk < k \) \textbf{then} \textit{go to} L3;
\( kk := kk + jj; \) \( ks := ks + jj; \)
\textbf{if} \( kk < ku \) \textbf{then} \textit{go to} L2;
\textbf{if} \( j > \text{lim} \) \textbf{then}
\textbf{begin} \( j := j - 1; \) \( i := i + 1; \) \( \text{LST}[i] := j; \) \textit{go to} L \textbf{end;}
\textbf{if} \( i > 0 \) \textbf{then}
\textbf{begin} \( j := \text{LST}[i]; \) \( i := i - 1; \) \( kb := ks; \) \textit{go to} L \textbf{end;}

\textbf{end REORDER;}
procedure REALTRAN(A, B, n, negexp, inverse);
value n, negexp, inverse; integer n;
Boolean negexp, inverse; array A, B;

comment If inverse is false, this procedure unscrambles the complex transform
of the n even numbered and n odd numbered elements of a
real sequence of length 2n, where the even numbered
elements were originally in A and the odd numbered elements
in B. Then it combines the two real transforms to give the
Fourier cosine coefficients A[0], A[1], ..., A[n] and sine
coefficients B[0], B[1], ..., B[n] for the full sequence of
2n elements. If inverse is true, the process is reversed,
and a set of Fourier cosine and sine coefficients is made
ready for evaluation of the corresponding Fourier series by
means of the fast transform. In either case, the value of
negexp must agree with that used in procedure FASTFOURIER
or REVERSEFOURIER with which REALTRAN is paired. Going in
either direction, REALTRAN scales by a factor of two, which
should be taken into account in determining the appropriate
overall scaling;

begin integer j, k, nh;
real aa, ab, ba, bb, re, im, cd, cn, sd, sn, rad, r;

nh := n + 2; rad := 3.14159265359/n;
sd := sin(rad); r := -(2*sin(0.5*rad))^2;
cd := -0.5*r; cn := 1; sn := 0;
if not (negexp = inverse) then sd := -sd;
if inverse then
begin cn := -1; cd := -cd; B[0] := B[n] := 0 end else
for j := 0 step 1 until nh do
begin k := n-j;
    ba := B[j]+B[k]; bb := B[j]-B[k];
    re := cn*ba+sn*ab; im := sn*ba-cn*ab;
    B[k] := im-bb; B[j] := im+bb;
    cd := rx*cn+cd; cn := cd+cn;
    sd := rx*sn+sd; sn := sd+sn;
end;
if inverse then A[n] := B[n] := 0;
end REALTRAN;
These procedures were written originally for use on the Burroughs B-5500 system. Because of the limitation of no more than 1023 words in a single dimension array on this system, two-dimensional data arrays are used for transforms with \( m > 9 \). With this modification, real transforms with \( m = 16 \) \((2^{17} \text{ data points})\) take about ten minutes of processing time and six minutes of input-output channel time for the (automatic) transfer of array rows between disk and core storage. Several transforms of this size have been computed, while sharing the computer with other programs. Experience with a large number of transforms with \( m \geq 14 \) (exceeding actual core capacity) has shown that multiprogramming causes little increase in running times.
REFERENCES


COMMENT DRIVER PROGRAM FOR TESTING FAST TRANSFORM PROCEDURES;
BEGIN REAL SS1, SS2, RX, RY, R;
INTEGER J, K, M, N, NN, RDM;
ARRAY A, B, X, Y[0:512];
COMMENT DECLARE PROCEDURES FASTFOURIER, REVERSEFOURIER, REORDER
AND REALTRAN;
COMMENT DECLARE PROCEDURES FASTTRANSFORM AND REALTRANSFORM;
M := 9; N := 2^M; COMMENT DIMENSION OF PROBLEM;
RDM := 123; COMMENT INITIAL RANDOM NUMBER, ODD AND < 2^27;
NN := N-1; FOR J := 0 STEP 1 UNTIL NN DO
BEGIN COMMENT FILL DATA ARRAYS WITH NORMAL DEVIATES, MEAN=0, S.D.=1;
LR: RDM := 3589*RDM; RDM := RDM-(RDM + 134217728)*134217728;
RX := (RDM-67108864)/67108864;
RDM := 3589*RDM; RDM := (RDM + 134217728)*134217728;
RY := (RDM-67108864)/67108864;
R := RX+2*RY; IF R<1.0 THEN GO TO LR;
R := SQRT(-2*LN(R)/R);
END;
FASTTRANSFORM(A, B, M, FALSE);
FASTTRANSFORM(A, B, M, TRUE);
SS1 := SS2 := 0; FOR J := 0 STEP 1 UNTIL N DO
SS2 := (B[J]-Y[J]+2+SS2; B[J] := Y[J];
END;
SS1 := SQRT(SS1/N); SS2 := SQRT(SS2/N);
COMMENT LIST ROOT-MEAN-SQUARE ERRORS FOR REAL AND IMAGINARY
PARTS OF THE COMPLEX TRANSFORM-INVERSE PAIR:

\[ \text{OUTREAL}(1, S1); \text{OUTREAL}(1, S2); \]
\[ \text{EALTRANSFORM}(A, B, M, \text{FALSE}); \]
\[ \text{EALTRANSFORM}(A, B, M, \text{TRUE}); \]
\[ S1 := S2 := 0; \text{FOR } J := 0 \text{ STEP 1 UNTIL } N \text{ DO} \]
\[ \text{BEGIN} S1 := (A[J] - X[J]) + 2 + S1; A[J] := X[J]; \]
\[ S2 := (B[J] - Y[J]) + 2 + S2; B[J] := Y[J]; \]
\[ \text{END}; \]
\[ S1 := \sqrt{(S1 + S2)/(N+N)}; \]

\[ \text{COMMENT LIST ROOT-MEAN-SQUARE ERROR FOR REAL TRANSFORM-INVERSE PAIR;} \]
\[ \text{OUTREAL}(1, S1); \]
\[ \text{NDO;} \]