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OPERATIONS EVALUATION GROUP

**COMPUTER CALCULATION OF
DISCRETE FOURIER TRANSFORMS
USING THE FAST FOURIER TRANSFORM**

By J.C. Wilson

OEG Research Contribution No. 81

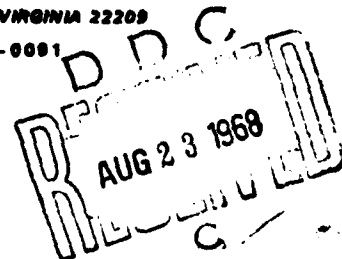
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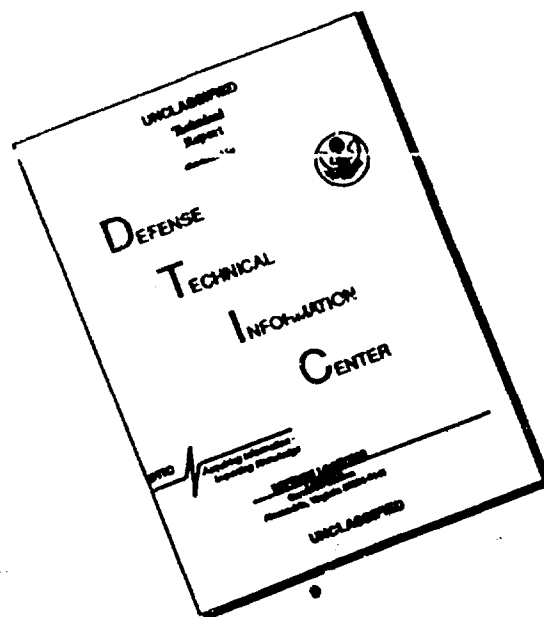
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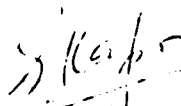
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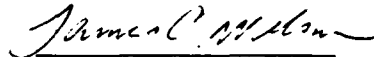
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CENTER FOR NAVAL ANALYSES

COMPUTER CALCULATION OF DISCRETE FOURIER
TRANSFORMS USING THE FAST FOURIER TRANSFORM

By J. C. Wilson



5 June 1968

Work conducted under contract N00014-68-A-0091

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Dated 14 August 1968

ABSTRACT

This research contribution describes a computer program (CNA Number 76-67) which determines the Discrete Fourier Transform of a set of data, using a recently developed technique known as the Fast Fourier Transform. The relation between Discrete Fourier Transforms and Fourier Series when the data is periodic is also shown.

COMPUTER EVALUATION OF DISCRETE FOURIER TRANSFORM USING THE FAST FOURIER TRANSFORM

The Fast Fourier Transform (FFT) is a technique recently developed to compute the Discrete Fourier Transform (DFT) of a set of data. The Discrete Fourier Transform can be considered as a good approximation to the Fourier Series coefficients of a time series for periodic phenomena or to the Fourier Integral (for aperiodic phenomena) whenever the time series is known only at discrete points in time. In addition, the DFT is a useful transform in its own right and is discussed in some detail in the references. Interest in the Fast Fourier Transform was generated at CNA by some problems in missile guidance missions, which involved determining the delay between transmission of a message and my reports to service it, and also involved investigating possible periodicities in the service requests.

Computing the DFT of a time series is very similar to computing Fourier Series coefficients and, until recently, has taken an amount of time approximately proportional to N^2 , where N is the number of data points used. Computing the Fast Fourier Transform, however, uses time proportional to $N \log_2 N$, which can result in a substantial saving of computer time if the number of data points is large. An additional advantage is that the roundoff error is reduced because fewer calculations have to be performed.

Because of the speed of the FFT and the consequent greater utility of the DFT, a program (CNA 76-67) was written to compute the DFT of a set of data using the Fast Fourier Transform. This program can provide a method of detecting periodicities in data by using the DFT as an approximation to Fourier Series. In addition, the user who is more familiar with transform techniques can use it to determine relations between several sets of data (least squares fits, time lags, cross-correlation, etc.).

A complete description of the Fast Fourier Transform is too involved to be given here, but is presented quite clearly in references (a) through (c). Basically, the technique consists of successively dividing the data into groups of $N/2$, $N/4$, $N/8$, ..., N/N points, then recombining these groups with appropriate weighting factors.

Three major restrictions in the use of this program should be mentioned. First, the program works only for sets of $N=2^k$ data points, which means, in other words, the user may have to sacrifice some of his data to bring the number of points down to the next lower power of 2, so that there can be a 2, 4, 8, ..., 2^k will be possible. Second, while the Discrete Fourier Transform method is an approximation to the Fourier series of a set of data, only the first $N/2$ DFT coefficients, instead of all N , should be considered. The program for this is discussed in appendix 2. Thirdly, because of a limitation of the CDC 6400 FORTRAN system, arrays of data points and coefficients must run from 1 to N instead of from 0 to $N-1$ (as used in the equations

in the derivations), which will usually entail some extra input and output operations to keep the format in line with the format in the derivations.

Appendix A contains the definition of the Discrete Fourier Transform and its relation to the Fourier Series. Appendix B is a description of the computer program, which uses the FFT technique, along with its limitations and some possible uses. Also included is a listing of the program itself, which is written in FORTRAN II for the CDC 3400 computer. Appendix C gives an example of how the program can be used and some numerical results.

APPENDIX A

APPENDIX A

DEFINITIONS

Given a time series $x(k\Delta)$, $k=0, \dots, N-1$, the Discrete Fourier Transform (DFT) and its inverse are defined as follows:

$$B(n) = \frac{1}{N} \sum_{k=0}^{N-1} x(k) \exp\left(\frac{-2\pi i kn}{N}\right), \quad n=0, 1, \dots, N-1 \quad (1a)$$

$$\text{and } x(k) = \sum_{n=0}^{N-1} B(n) \exp\left(\frac{+2\pi i nk}{N}\right), \quad k=0, 1, \dots, N-1 \quad (1b)$$

where $i = \sqrt{-1}$

$B(n)$ will in general be complex when x is real. The similarity between the DFT and the Fourier Series is evident when we consider the exponential form of the Fourier Series:

$$C(n) = \frac{1}{T} \int_0^T x(t) \exp\left(\frac{-2\pi i n t}{T}\right) dt, \quad \text{all integer } n, \quad (2a)$$

$$\text{and } x(t) = \sum_{n=-\infty}^{+\infty} C(n) \exp\left(\frac{+2\pi i n t}{T}\right), \quad \text{where } x(t) \text{ is piecewise continuous and periodic with period } T. \quad (2b)$$

Now if the above integral is approximated by its Riemann sum, $C(n)$ becomes approximately

$$C(n) \approx \frac{1}{N} \sum_{k=0}^{N-1} x(k\Delta t) \exp\left(\frac{-2\pi i nk}{N}\right), \quad \text{where } T=N\Delta t. \text{ In other words we use } N \text{ samples in the semi-open interval } [0, T).$$

But the sum on the right is just $B(n)$, so we have

$$C(n) \approx B(n) \quad (3)$$

This then is the relation between Fourier Series and Discrete Fourier Transforms when $x(t)$ is periodic. The $C(n)$ tell us how much of $x(t)$ can be attributed to sinusoids of "frequency"

$$f = \frac{n}{T} = \frac{n}{N} \left(\frac{1}{\Delta t}\right),$$

and can be approximated by the DFT coefficients $B(n)$. This becomes clearer when we realize that in fact (reference (b))

$$B(n) = \sum_{j=-\infty}^{+\infty} C(n+jN), \quad n=0, 1, \dots, N-1. \quad (4)$$

That is, $B(n)$ is the sum of overlapped segments of $C(n)$. Figure A-1 shows this relationship between $B(n)$ and $C(n)$. In order to make $B(n)$ a better approximation to $C(n)$ we must increase the number of samples in the period T .

Now if $x(k)$ is real, $C(n)$ will be an even function of n ; that is, $C(n)=C(-n)$. Equation (4) then gives us some further information about $B(n)$:

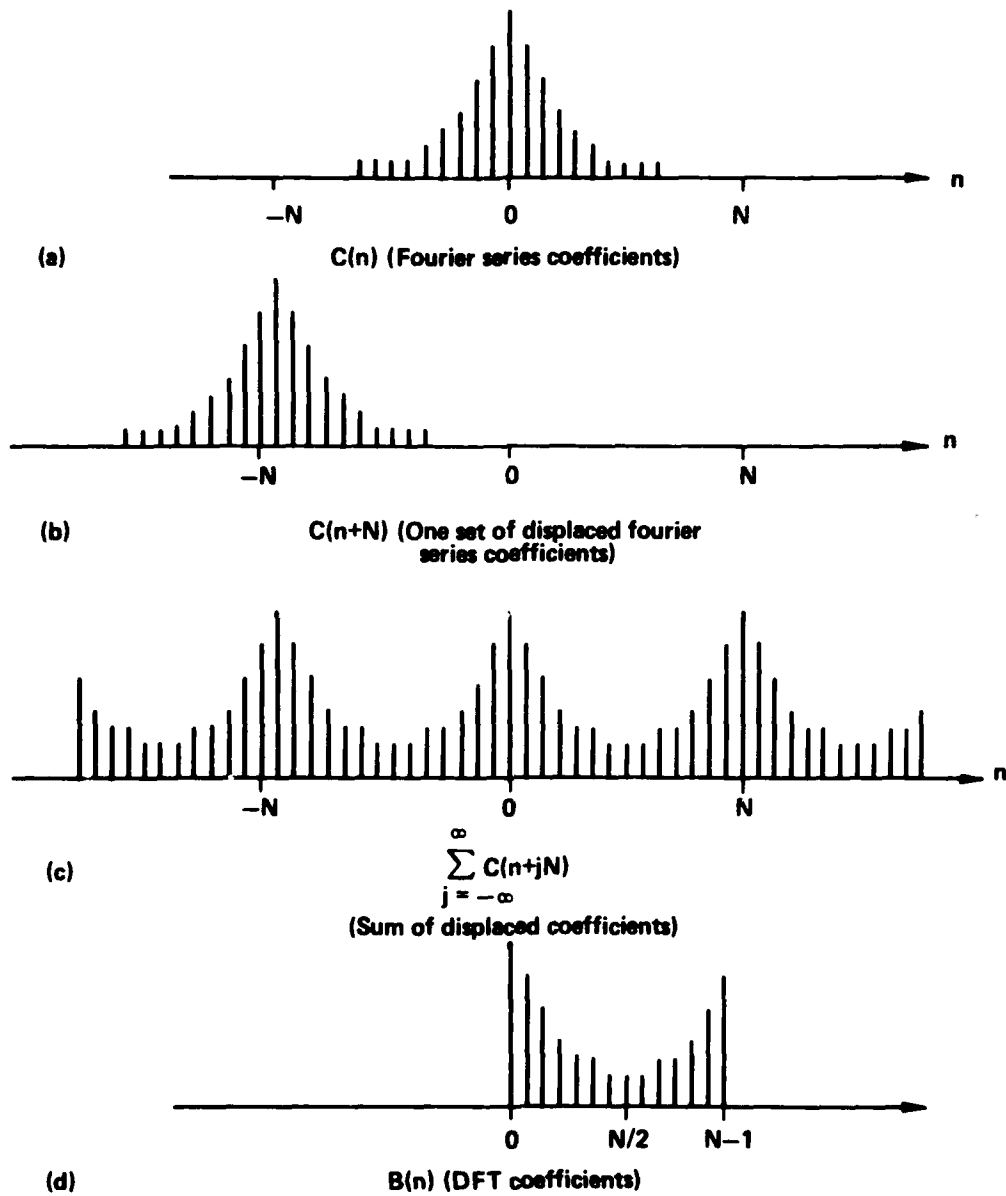


FIG. A-1: SHOWING HOW THE DFT COEFFICIENTS ARE RELATED TO THE FOURIER SERIES COEFFICIENTS OF A TIME SERIES

$$\begin{aligned}
B(N-n) &= \sum_{j=-\infty}^{\infty} C(-n+jN+N) = \sum_{j=-\infty}^{\infty} C(-n+(j+1)N) \\
&= \sum_{m=-\infty}^{\infty} C(-n+mN) \quad \text{with } m=j+1 \\
&= \sum_{m=-\infty}^{\infty} C(n-mN) \quad \text{since } C \text{ is even} \\
&= \sum_{k=-\infty}^{\infty} C(n+kN) \quad \text{with } k=-m \\
&= \sum_{k=-\infty}^{\infty} C(n+kN) \quad \text{since the order of summation is immaterial}
\end{aligned}$$

$$B(N-n)=B(n) \qquad n=0, 1, \dots, N-1 \qquad (5)$$

Thus $B(n)$ is symmetrical about $n=N/2$ (see figure A-1). Care must be taken, therefore, not to use $B(n)$ as an approximation to $C(n)$ when $n \geq N/2$.

APPENDIX B

APPENDIX B

DESCRIPTION OF THE PROGRAM

The core of the program to compute the DFT of a time series is really quite compact, and can be expressed as a set of 4 nested do loops:

```

DO 100 j=1, s
DO 100 k=0, 2s-j-1
DO 100 n=0, 2j-1-1
DO 100 m=0, 1
100 B(n+k*2j+n*2j-1)-B(n+k*2j)+(-1)mB(n+k*2j+2j-1)exp [  $\frac{-2\pi i}{2^s} n(s+1-j)$  ]

```

where $N=2^s$ data points are used.*

An advantage of the program not mentioned in the body of the text is that the coefficients can use the same storage as the original data, since the program exchanges pairs of values ($m=0, 1$ in the above formulation) after appropriately weighting them. An important programming consideration, however, is that all arrays must be in complex notations to effect this space-saving, so real time series must be converted to a complex format before being used.

The program allows up to $1024=2^{10}$ data points. To store up to 2^{15} points, the user need only redimension the arrays to set aside that much storage. If still more data is used, then complicated changes must be made to the subroutine written in COMPASS.

The user may also call for the inverse transform to get back a time series from a set of coefficients by calling the subroutine INVERSE. At any time after calling the subroutines for the transform or inverse transform, the results are stored (in complex form) in the original data locations, available to the user for printout or manipulation.

As a final feature, the user may call subroutines to smooth the coefficients. The reason for wanting to smooth the DFT coefficients is that our data extends only over a finite time interval; this, however, usually only represents the portion of the process we have chosen to record, and in fact, the process will often be infinite in duration. Using only that data we have recorded is equivalent to clipping the actual process at arbitrary end points in time. In the frequency domain this distorts the frequency components (DFT coefficients) from what they would be if we were to consider the process as having infinite duration in time. To reduce this distortion, the data points can be smoothed so that the clipping is not so pronounced. The drawback, however, is that some of the statistical value of the data is lost, since smoothing distorts the data in the time domain. Thus, it is wise to look at both the unsmoothed coefficients as well as the smoothed coefficients in any practical problem. In the program described in this paper, the smoothed results may either be simply printed out (CALL SMOOTH1) or placed in the data cells (CALL SMOOTH).

The program is available in the form of subroutines assembled in a binary deck. It is the option of the user to plot the data and to make his own printouts.

*A limitation of the CDC 3400 computer is that the index on the array B must run from 1 to N instead of from 0 to N-1. Therefore, in the actual program, B(j) is the DFT coefficient of frequency $(j-1)/N \Delta t$ instead of $j/N \Delta t$.

SUMMARY OF AVAILABLE SUBROUTINES

$B(n)$, $n=1, \dots, N$ is assumed to be a complex array with $N=2^M$ elements.

XFORM(M, B) computes the 2^M DFT coefficients of the series $B(1), B(2), \dots, B(N)$ and stores these coefficients in the array B, replacing the original series.

INVERSE(M, B) computes the 2^M inverse DFT coefficients of the series $B(1), B(2), \dots, B(N)$ and stores these coefficients in the array B, replacing the original series.

SMOOTH(M, B) smooths the 2^M DFT coefficients located in the array B, replacing the elements of B with these smoothed coefficients.

SMOOTH1(M, B) smooths the 2^M DFT coefficients located in the array B and prints the smoothed coefficients. The original coefficients are left undisturbed.

```

SUBROUTINE INVERSE(M,N)
TYPE COMPLEX N(1024), M(12)
DIMENSION M(1024), N(12)
COMMON M
MPU=2000
DO 30 J=1, MPU
  M(J)=0
  CALL REVERSE(M,N)
  IF (J=1) GO TO 25, 25
  5 CONTINUE
  M(J)=M(J)+E
  30 CONTINUE
  MPU=MPU*2
  10 DO 35 J=1, MPU
    M(J)=M(J)*(1.01+I*0.005)
    M(J)=M(J)*N(1)
    35 CONTINUE
  C COMPUTE TRANSPOSE
  MZ=0
  DO 100 J=1, M
    JZ=200-(J-1)
    JZ=JZ+1
    JZ=200-(M-J)
    JZ=JZ+1
    DO 40 K=ZEND(J,Z)
      DO 40 L=ZEND(J,Z)
        L=L+1
        MZ=MZ+(L+K)*JZ*(L+K)*JZ*(L+K)
        MZ=MZ+(L+K)*JZ*(L+K)*JZ*(L+K)
        MZ=MZ+(L+K)*JZ*(L+K)*JZ*(L+K)
        MZ=MZ+(L+K)*JZ*(L+K)*JZ*(L+K)
  40 CONTINUE
  100 CONTINUE
  RETURN
END

SUBROUTINE INVERSE(M,N)
TYPE COMPLEX N(1024), M(12)
DIMENSION M(1024), N(12)
COMMON M
MPU=2000
DO 30 J=1, MPU
  M(J)=0
  CALL REVERSE(M,N)
  IF (J=1) GO TO 25, 25
  25 MZ=0
  M(J)=M(J)+E
  30 CONTINUE
  MPU=MPU*2
  10 DO 35 J=1, MPU
    M(J)=M(J)*(1.01+I*0.005)
    M(J)=M(J)*N(1)
    35 CONTINUE
  C COMPUTE TRANSPOSE
  MZ=0
  DO 100 J=1, M
    JZ=200-(J-1)
    JZ=JZ+1
    JZ=200-(M-J)
    JZ=JZ+1
    DO 40 K=ZEND(J,Z)
      DO 40 L=ZEND(J,Z)
        L=L+1
        MZ=MZ+(L+K)*JZ*(L+K)*JZ*(L+K)
        MZ=MZ+(L+K)*JZ*(L+K)*JZ*(L+K)
        MZ=MZ+(L+K)*JZ*(L+K)*JZ*(L+K)
        MZ=MZ+(L+K)*JZ*(L+K)*JZ*(L+K)
  40 CONTINUE
  100 CONTINUE
  RETURN
END

```

```

SUBROUTINE SMOOTH(K,B)
TYPE COMPLEX B, REG, XONE, XTWO
DIMENSION H(1024)
KPOW=2**K
REG=B(1)
XTWO=.25*(-B(2)+2.*B(1)-H(KPOW))
KPOWM=KPOW-2
DO 5 J=1,KPOWM
XONE=XTWO
XTWO=.25*(-R(J)+2.*B(J+1)-R(J+2))
R(J)=XONE
4 CONTINUE
XONE=XTWO
XTWO=.25*(-R(KPOWM)+2.*B(KPOW)-REG)
R(KPOW-1)=XONE
R(KPOW)=XTWO
RETURN
END

```

```

SUBROUTINE SMOOTH1(K,H)
TYPE COMPLEX B, BS
DIMENSION R(1024)
PRINT 199
PRINT 200
KPOW=2**K
HS=.25*(-H(2)+2.*R(1)-R(KPOW))
ARL=CABS(BS)
JL=0
AFL=1.
PRINT 201, JL, AFL, ARL, BS
KPOWM=KPOW-1
DO 30 J=2, KPOWM
JL=J-1
HS=.25*(-H(JL)+2.*R(J)-R(J+1))
AEL=CABS(HS)
AFL=AEL/ARL
PRINT 201, JL, AFL, AEL, BS
30 CONTINUE
HS=.25*(-B(KPOWM)+2.*R(KPOW)-R(1))
AEL=CABS(HS)
AFL=AEL/ARL
PRINT 201, KPOWM, AFL, AEL, BS
199 FORMAT (1H1, ' SMOOTHED FOURIER COEFFICIENTS', ///, ' REAL COEF = '
1 ' REAL PART OF COEF', //, ' IMAG COEF = IMAG PART OF COEF', //
2 ' ABS VALUE = ABS VALUE OF COEF', //, ' ADJ COEF = ABS VALUE *
3 ' DIVIDED BY ABS VALUE OF COEF AT ZERO', //)
200 FORMAT (1X, 'FREQ', 3X, 'ADJ COEF', 3X, 'ABS VALUE', 3X,
1 ' REAL COEF', 3X, 'IMAG COEF', //)
201 FORMAT (1X, I4, 3X, F8.5, 3X, E9.3, 3X, C(E9.2, E12.2))
RETURN
END

```


0000	0000000000000000	0001	ROUTINE TO REVERSE BITS	00001
0001	0000000000000000	0002	1 TRM N OF WORD J.	00002
0002	0000000000000001	0003	ENTER WITH ARGS (J, N)	00003
0003		0004		00004
0004		0005		00005
0005		0006		00006
0006		0007	SAVE IRS	00007
0007		0008	1 AND 2	00008
0008		0009	LOAD ADDRESS OF ARGS	00009
0009		0010	PUT IN A	00010
0010		0011	STORE ADDR. OF N	00011
0011		0012	J	00012
0012		0013	STORE ADDR. OF J	00013
0013		0014	J	00014
0014		0015	PUT IN PROPER RETURN ADDR.	00015
0015		0016		00016
0016		0017	BRING IN N	00017
0017		0018	SUB 1	00018
0018		0019	IN IN ?	00019
0019		0020	BRING IN J	00020
0020		0021	LOAD MASK	00021
0021		0022	PUT ZERO IN IRI	00022
0022		0023	PUT 1 OR 1 IN VALUES	00023
0023		0024	OF SAVE, CORRESPONDING	00024
0024		0025	TO RIGHTMOST BIT	00025
0025		0026	FINISHED	00026
0026		0027		00027
0027		0028		00028
0028		0029		00029
0029		0030		00030
0030		0031		00031
0031		0032		00032
0032		0033		00033
0033		0034		00034
0034		0035		00035
0035		0036		00036
0036		0037		00037
0037		0038		00038
0038		0039		00039
0039		0040		00040
0040		0041		00041
0041		0042		00042
0042		0043		00043
0043				

APPENDIX C

APPENDIX C
AN EXAMPLE

In order to show how the program works, we shall compute the Discrete Fourier Transform of $x(t) = \sin(2\pi ft) = \sin(2\pi t/4)$.

Let
 $N=64$ data points
 $T=64$
 so $\Delta t = 1$

The Fourier Series representation of this function is a pair of spikes at $n=+16$ and $n=-16$, corresponding to a sine wave of frequency $f = \frac{n}{T} = \frac{16}{64} = \frac{1}{4}$. Sampling x every $\Delta t=1$ seconds gives

$$x(n) = \sin(2\pi n/4).$$

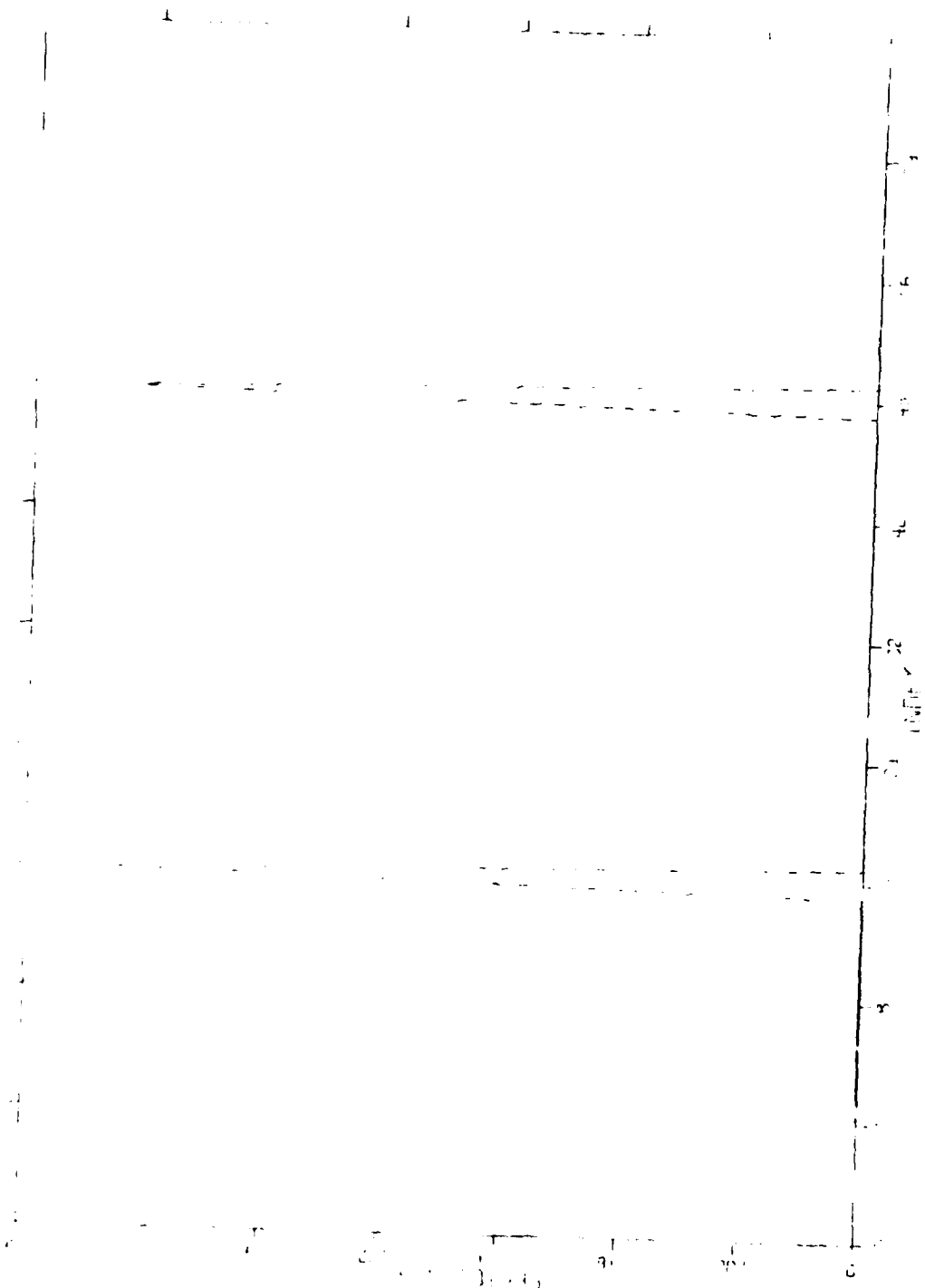
The modulus of each of the DFT coefficients of $x(n)$ is plotted in the accompanying graph. Note that there is indeed a peak at $n=16$, but as warned in appendix A, there is also a peak at $n=64-16=48$. This shows that we can only use the first $N/2$ coefficients when trying to detect periodicities. When using the DFT as a transform in its own right, this restriction does not necessarily hold.

```

PROGRAM TEST
TYPE COMPLEX A, COMPLX
DIMENSION A(100), R(100), X(100)
C
C   ARRAY A MUST BE IN COMPLEX FORM FOR USE IN SUBROUTINE XFORM
DO 50 J=1, 64
X(J)=(J-1)*1.
50 A(J)=COMPLX(SINF(2.*3.14159265*(J-1)/4.),0.)
C
C   YES, SINCE 2**6=64
CALL XFORM(6,A)
C   ARRAY A NOW CONTAINS THE DFT COEFFICIENTS
C
C   WE COMPUTE AND PLOT THE ABSOLUTE VALUE OF THE DFT COEFFICIENTS
DO 60 J=1,64
60 R(J)=ABS(A(J))
CALL PLOTTER(X,0,64,-16,5,INDEX,5,12,COEFFICIENTS,12,
1 20,FOURIER COEFFICIENTS,20,0)
END

```

THE BEACH



- References: (a) Cochran et al., "What is the Fast Fourier Transform?" IEEE Proceedings, pp. 1664-1674, Oct 1967
- (b) Cooley, Lewis, and Welch, "Application of the Fast Fourier Transform to Computation of Fourier Integrals, Fourier Series, and Convolution Integrals," IEEE Transactions on Audio and Electroacoustics, pp. 79-84, Jun 1967
- (c) Brigham and Morrow, "The Fast Fourier Transform," IEEE Spectrum, pp. 63-70, Dec 1966

Note: The June 1967 issue of the IEEE Transaction on Audio and Electroacoustics is devoted to applications of the Fast Fourier Transform and Discrete Fourier Transform.

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