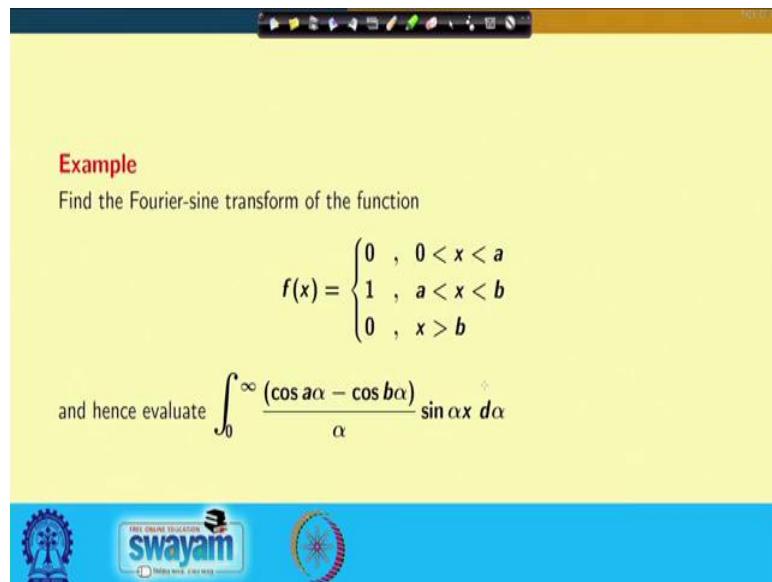


Transform Calculus and its Applications in Differential Equations
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Lecture - 29
Evaluation of Fourier Transform of various functions

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Example

Find the Fourier-sine transform of the function

$$f(x) = \begin{cases} 0 & , \quad 0 < x < a \\ 1 & , \quad a < x < b \\ 0 & , \quad x > b \end{cases}$$

and hence evaluate $\int_0^\infty \frac{(\cos a\alpha - \cos b\alpha)}{\alpha} \sin \alpha x \ d\alpha$

We wish to find the Fourier sine transform of $f(x)$ where $f(x)$ is defined as,

$$f(x) = \begin{cases} 0 & , \quad 0 < x < a \\ 1 & , \quad a < x < b \\ 0 & , \quad x > b \end{cases}$$

and using this, we will calculate the value of

$$\int_0^\infty \frac{(\cos a\alpha - \cos b\alpha)}{\alpha} \sin \alpha x \ d\alpha$$

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Solution:

$$F_s(\alpha) = \sqrt{\frac{2}{\pi}} \frac{(\cos a\alpha - \cos b\alpha)}{\alpha}$$

$$f(x) = \frac{2}{\pi} \int_0^{\infty} \frac{\cos a\alpha - \cos b\alpha}{\alpha} \sin \alpha x \, d\alpha$$

$$\therefore \int_0^{\infty} \frac{(\cos a\alpha - \cos b\alpha)}{\alpha} \sin \alpha x \, d\alpha = \frac{\pi}{2} f(x)$$

Therefore,

$$\begin{aligned} F_s(\alpha) &= \sqrt{\frac{2}{\pi}} \int_0^{\infty} f(x) \sin \alpha x \, dx \\ &= \sqrt{\frac{2}{\pi}} \int_a^b \sin \alpha x \, dx \\ &= \sqrt{\frac{2}{\pi}} \left[-\frac{1}{\alpha} \cos \alpha x \right]_a^b \\ &= \sqrt{\frac{2}{\pi}} \frac{(\cos a\alpha - \cos b\alpha)}{\alpha} \end{aligned}$$

and again, using inverse transform, we have,

$$\begin{aligned} f(x) &= \sqrt{\frac{2}{\pi}} \int_0^{\infty} F_s(\alpha) \sin \alpha x \, d\alpha \\ &= \frac{2}{\pi} \int_0^{\infty} \frac{(\cos a\alpha - \cos b\alpha)}{\alpha} \sin \alpha x \, d\alpha \\ \therefore \int_0^{\infty} \frac{(\cos a\alpha - \cos b\alpha)}{\alpha} \sin \alpha x \, d\alpha &= \frac{\pi}{2} f(x) \end{aligned}$$

$$\therefore \int_0^\infty \frac{(\cos ax - \cos bx)}{\alpha} \sin ax \, d\alpha = \begin{cases} 0 & , 0 < x < a \\ \frac{\pi}{2} & , a < x < b \\ 0 & , x > b \end{cases}$$

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Example
Find the Fourier transform of the function
 $f(x) = e^{-|x|}$

and hence evaluate $\int_{-\infty}^{\infty} \frac{e^{-i\alpha x}}{1+\alpha^2} d\alpha$

The slide also features the Indian National Emblem, the text "FREE ONLINE EDUCATION SWAYAM", and the emblem of the University of Delhi.

Now, we want to find out the Fourier transform of $f(x) = e^{-|x|}$ and using that, we will evaluate the value of the integral $\int_{-\infty}^{\infty} \frac{e^{-i\alpha x}}{1+\alpha^2} d\alpha$

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Handwritten derivation:

$$\begin{aligned} \mathcal{F}[f(x)] &= F(\omega) = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2\pi}} \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} f(x) e^{i\omega x} dx \\ &= \frac{1}{\sqrt{2\pi}} \left[\int_{-\infty}^0 e^{-|x|} e^{i\omega x} dx + \int_0^{\infty} e^{-|x|} e^{i\omega x} dx \right] \\ &= \frac{1}{\sqrt{2\pi}} \left[\int_{-\infty}^0 e^{(1+i\omega)x} dx + \int_0^{\infty} e^{-(1-i\omega)x} dx \right] \end{aligned}$$

For computing Fourier transform of a function, we will use the kernel $e^{i\alpha x}$ (For assignment and Exam)

So from the definition we have,

$$\begin{aligned}\mathcal{F}[f(x)] = F(\alpha) &= \frac{1}{\sqrt{2\pi}} \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} f(x) e^{i\alpha x} dx \\ &= \frac{1}{\sqrt{2\pi}} \left[\int_{-\infty}^0 e^{(1+i\alpha)x} dx + \int_0^{\infty} e^{-(1-i\alpha)x} dx \right]\end{aligned}$$

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So, if we evaluate both the integrals, then we will obtain

$$\begin{aligned}F(\alpha) &= \frac{1}{\sqrt{2\pi}} \left[\frac{e^{(1+i\alpha)x}}{1+i\alpha} \right]_{x=-\infty}^0 + \frac{1}{\sqrt{2\pi}} \left[\frac{e^{-(1-i\alpha)x}}{-1-i\alpha} \right]_0^{\infty} \\ &= \frac{1}{\sqrt{2\pi}} \left[\frac{1}{1+i\alpha} + \frac{1}{1-i\alpha} \right] \\ &= \sqrt{\frac{2}{\pi}} \frac{1}{1+\alpha^2}\end{aligned}$$

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The image shows a handwritten derivation on a whiteboard. It starts with the inverse Fourier transform formula:

$$f(x) = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2\pi}} \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} F(\alpha) e^{-i\alpha x} d\alpha$$

Then it is equated to the given function:

$$= \frac{1}{\sqrt{2\pi}} \sqrt{\frac{2}{\pi}} \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} \frac{1}{1+\alpha^2} e^{-i\alpha x} d\alpha$$

Finally, the integral is evaluated as:

$$\int_{-\infty}^{\infty} \frac{e^{-i\alpha x}}{1+\alpha^2} d\alpha = \pi f(x) = \pi e^{-|x|}$$

Now using inverse Fourier transform we get,

$$\begin{aligned} f(x) &= \frac{1}{\sqrt{2\pi}} \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} F(\alpha) e^{-i\alpha x} d\alpha \\ &= \frac{1}{\sqrt{2\pi}} \sqrt{\frac{2}{\pi}} \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} \frac{1}{1+\alpha^2} e^{-i\alpha x} d\alpha \\ &\Rightarrow \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} \frac{e^{-i\alpha x}}{1+\alpha^2} d\alpha = \pi f(x) = \pi e^{-|x|} \end{aligned}$$

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Example
Find the Fourier transform of the function

$$f(x) = e^{-|x|}$$

and hence evaluate $\int_{-\infty}^{\infty} \frac{e^{-i\alpha x}}{1+\alpha^2} d\alpha$

Solution:

$$\begin{aligned} \mathcal{F}[f(x)] = F(\alpha) &= \frac{1}{\sqrt{2\pi}} \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} f(x) e^{i\alpha x} dx \\ &= \frac{1}{\sqrt{2\pi}} \left[\int_{-\infty}^0 e^x e^{i\alpha x} dx + \int_0^{\infty} e^{-x} e^{i\alpha x} dx \right] \end{aligned}$$

At the bottom of the slide, there are three logos: a blue one with a lamp, a white one with the word "swayam", and a yellow one with a sun-like symbol.

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$$\begin{aligned}F(\alpha) &= \frac{1}{\sqrt{2\pi}} \int_{-\infty}^0 e^{(1+i\alpha)x} dx + \frac{1}{\sqrt{2\pi}} \int_0^\infty e^{-(1-i\alpha)x} dx \\&= \frac{1}{\sqrt{2\pi}} \left[\frac{e^{(1+i\alpha)x}}{1+i\alpha} \right]_{x=-\infty}^0 + \frac{1}{\sqrt{2\pi}} \left[\frac{e^{-(1-i\alpha)x}}{-(1-i\alpha)} \right]_{x=0}^\infty \\&= \frac{1}{\sqrt{2\pi}} \left[\frac{1}{1+i\alpha} + \frac{1}{1-i\alpha} \right] \\&= \frac{1}{\sqrt{2\pi}} \frac{1-i\alpha+i\alpha+1}{1+\alpha^2} \\&= \sqrt{\frac{2}{\pi}} \frac{1}{1+\alpha^2}\end{aligned}$$

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$$\begin{aligned}f(x) &= \frac{1}{\sqrt{2\pi}} \int_{-\infty}^\infty F(\alpha) e^{-i\alpha x} d\alpha \\&\Rightarrow e^{-|x|} = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2\pi}} \sqrt{\frac{2}{\pi}} \int_{-\infty}^\infty \frac{1}{1+\alpha^2} e^{-i\alpha x} d\alpha \\&\Rightarrow \int_{-\infty}^\infty \frac{e^{-i\alpha x}}{1+\alpha^2} d\alpha = \pi e^{-|x|}\end{aligned}$$

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Example
Find the Fourier-sine transform of the $\frac{1}{x}$

Solution:

$$F_s(\alpha) = \sqrt{\frac{2}{\pi}} \int_0^{\infty} \frac{\sin \alpha x}{x} dx$$

The video frame shows a man with glasses and a vest, likely the professor, speaking.

Let us take another example. Suppose we want to find the Fourier sine transform of the function $\frac{1}{x}$

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$$\begin{aligned} F_s(\alpha) &= \sqrt{\frac{2}{\pi}} \int_0^{\infty} \frac{\sin \alpha x}{x} dx \\ &= \sqrt{\frac{2}{\pi}} \int_0^{\infty} \frac{\sin \theta}{\theta} d\theta \quad \theta = \alpha x \\ &= \sqrt{\frac{2}{\pi}} \cdot \frac{\pi}{2} = \sqrt{\frac{\pi}{2}} \end{aligned}$$

Using the definition, we have,

$$F_s(\alpha) = \sqrt{\frac{2}{\pi}} \int_0^{\infty} \frac{\sin \alpha x}{x} dx$$

Now substituting $\theta = \alpha x$ i.e., $dx = \frac{1}{\alpha} d\theta$, we get,

$$F_s(\alpha) = \sqrt{\frac{2}{\pi}} \int_0^\infty \frac{\sin \theta}{\theta} d\theta = \sqrt{\frac{\pi}{2}} \quad \left(\because \int_0^\infty \frac{\sin \theta}{\theta} d\theta = \frac{\pi}{2} \right)$$

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Let us take next example, suppose we want to find the Fourier transform of $e^{-a^2x^2}$

$$\begin{aligned} \therefore \mathcal{F}[e^{-a^2x^2}] &= F(\alpha) = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2\pi}} \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} f(x) e^{i\alpha x} dx \\ &= \frac{1}{\sqrt{2\pi}} \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} e^{-(a^2x^2 - i\alpha x)} dx \\ &= \frac{1}{\sqrt{2\pi}} \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} e^{-\left[(ax - \frac{i\alpha}{2a})^2 + \frac{\alpha^2}{4a^2}\right]} dx \\ &= \frac{1}{\sqrt{2\pi}} e^{-\frac{\alpha^2}{4a^2}} \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} e^{-(ax - \frac{i\alpha}{2a})^2} dx \end{aligned}$$

Substituting $ax - \frac{i\alpha}{2a} = v$ i.e., $dx = \frac{1}{a} dv$ in the above integral, we get,

$$F(\alpha) = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2\pi}} e^{-\frac{\alpha^2}{4a^2}} \frac{1}{a} \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} e^{-v^2} dv$$

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The whiteboard shows the derivation of the Fourier transform of $e^{-a^2 x^2}$. The steps are as follows:

$$\begin{aligned}
 F(\alpha) &= \frac{1}{\sqrt{2\pi}} e^{-\frac{\alpha^2}{4a^2}} \cdot \frac{1}{a} \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} e^{-v^2} dv \\
 &= \frac{1}{\sqrt{2\pi}} e^{-\frac{\alpha^2}{4a^2}} \cdot \frac{1}{a} \cdot \sqrt{\pi} \\
 &= \frac{1}{a\sqrt{2}} e^{-\frac{\alpha^2}{4a^2}}
 \end{aligned}$$

A yellow oval on the left highlights the function $f(x) = e^{-a^2 x^2}$.

Since e^{-v^2} is an even function, so we have,

$$\begin{aligned}
 F(\alpha) &= \frac{2}{\sqrt{2\pi}} e^{-\frac{\alpha^2}{4a^2}} \frac{1}{a} \int_0^{\infty} e^{-v^2} dv \\
 &= \frac{1}{a\sqrt{2}} e^{-\frac{\alpha^2}{4a^2}} \quad \left(\because \int_0^{\infty} e^{-v^2} dv = \frac{\sqrt{\pi}}{2} \right)
 \end{aligned}$$

Thus we have obtained the Fourier transform of $e^{-a^2 x^2}$ as

$$F(\alpha) = \frac{1}{a\sqrt{2}} e^{-\frac{\alpha^2}{4a^2}}$$

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Now, let us see a special case from this problem. Let us take, $a = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}}$. Then we have,

$$\mathcal{F}\left[e^{-\frac{x^2}{2}}\right] = e^{-\frac{a^2}{2}}$$

Therefore, Fourier transform of $e^{-\frac{x^2}{2}}$ is nothing but the function itself. These types of functions are called self-reciprocal with respect to the given transformation. Here, $e^{-\frac{x^2}{2}}$ is self-reciprocal with respect to Fourier transform.

This function is self-reciprocal with respect to Fourier cosine transform also i.e.,

$$\mathcal{F}_c\left[e^{-\frac{x^2}{2}}\right] = e^{-\frac{a^2}{2}}$$

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Example
Find $\mathcal{F}[e^{-a^2x^2}]$

Solution:

$$\begin{aligned}\mathcal{F}[e^{-a^2x^2}] = F(\alpha) &= \frac{1}{\sqrt{2\pi}} \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} f(x)e^{i\alpha x} dx \\ &= \frac{1}{\sqrt{2\pi}} \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} e^{-(a^2x^2-i\alpha x)} dx \\ &= \frac{1}{\sqrt{2\pi}} \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} e^{-\left[\left(ax - \frac{i\alpha}{2a}\right)^2 + \frac{\alpha^2}{4a^2}\right]} dx \\ &= \frac{1}{\sqrt{2\pi}} e^{-\frac{\alpha^2}{4a^2}} \left[\int_{-\infty}^{\infty} e^{-\left(ax - \frac{i\alpha}{2a}\right)^2} dx \right]\end{aligned}$$

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$$\begin{aligned}\therefore F(\alpha) &= \frac{1}{\sqrt{2\pi}} e^{-\frac{\alpha^2}{4a^2}} \frac{1}{a} \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} e^{-v^2} dv \quad [\text{put } ax - \frac{i\alpha}{2a} = v] \\ &= \frac{1}{\sqrt{2\pi}} \frac{1}{a} \sqrt{\pi} e^{-\frac{\alpha^2}{4a^2}} \\ &= \frac{1}{a\sqrt{2}} e^{-\frac{\alpha^2}{4a^2}} \\ &\quad \left[\because \int_0^{\infty} e^{-x^2} dx = \frac{\sqrt{\pi}}{2} \text{ and } e^{-x^2} \text{ is an even function} \right]\end{aligned}$$

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Special case: Put $a^2 = \frac{1}{2}$ i.e., $a = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}}$

Then, $\mathcal{F} \left[e^{-\frac{x^2}{2}} \right] = e^{-\frac{\alpha^2}{2}}$

i.e., the Fourier Transform of $e^{-\frac{x^2}{2}}$ is $e^{-\frac{\alpha^2}{2}}$ i.e., the function itself

- If a transform of a function $f(x)$ is equal to $f(\alpha)$, then the function $f(x)$ is called **self reciprocal** w.r.t. that transform. The above function is self reciprocal w.r.t. Fourier-cosine transform also i.e., $\mathcal{F}_c \left[e^{-\frac{x^2}{2}} \right] = e^{-\frac{\alpha^2}{2}}$

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Example

Prove that $xe^{-\frac{x^2}{2}}$ is self reciprocal under Fourier-sine transform

Now, let us see this problem, where we have to show that $xe^{-\frac{x^2}{2}}$ is self-reciprocal under Fourier sine transform.

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$$\begin{aligned}
 \mathcal{F}_s \left[xe^{-\frac{x^2}{2}} \right] &= \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} xe^{-\frac{x^2}{2}} \sin \alpha x \, dx \\
 &= \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} \left(e^{-\frac{x^2}{2}} \right) (\sin \alpha x) \, dx \\
 &= \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} \left[\left[-e^{-\frac{x^2}{2}} \sin \alpha x \right]_0^\infty + \alpha \int_0^\infty e^{-\frac{x^2}{2}} \cos \alpha x \, dx \right] \\
 &= \alpha \left[\int_{-\infty}^{\infty} e^{-\frac{x^2}{2}} \cos \alpha x \, dx \right] \\
 &= \alpha \mathcal{F}_c \left[e^{-\frac{x^2}{2}} \right] = \alpha e^{-\frac{\alpha^2}{2}}
 \end{aligned}$$

Let us see how to prove it.

$$\mathcal{F}_s \left[xe^{-\frac{x^2}{2}} \right] = \sqrt{\frac{2}{\pi}} \int_0^\infty \left(xe^{-\frac{x^2}{2}} \right) \sin \alpha x \, dx$$

Using integration by parts, we have,

$$\mathcal{F}_s \left[xe^{-\frac{x^2}{2}} \right] = \sqrt{\frac{2}{\pi}} \left(\left[-e^{-\frac{x^2}{2}} \sin \alpha x \right]_0^\infty + \alpha \int_0^\infty e^{-\frac{x^2}{2}} \cos \alpha x \, dx \right)$$

Please note that, once we put the limiting values, value of the first integral will vanish.

So, we have,

$$\mathcal{F}_s \left[xe^{-\frac{x^2}{2}} \right] = \alpha \sqrt{\frac{2}{\pi}} \int_0^\infty e^{-\frac{x^2}{2}} \cos \alpha x \, dx = \alpha \mathcal{F}_c \left[e^{-\frac{x^2}{2}} \right] = \alpha e^{-\frac{\alpha^2}{2}}$$

Therefore, this function is self reciprocal with respect to Fourier sine transform.

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Example
Prove that for an even function, the Fourier Transform and Fourier-cosine transform are the same

Next, we want to prove that for an even function, the Fourier transform and the Fourier cosine transform are always same.

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$$\begin{aligned} \mathcal{F}[f(x)] &= F(\omega) = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2\pi}} \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} f(x) e^{i\omega x} dx \\ &= \frac{1}{\sqrt{2\pi}} \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} f(x) [\cos \omega x + i \sin \omega x] dx \\ &= \frac{1}{\sqrt{2\pi}} \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} f(x) \cos \omega x dx + \frac{i}{\sqrt{2\pi}} \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} f(x) \sin \omega x dx \\ &= \frac{2}{\sqrt{2\pi}} \int_0^{\infty} f(x) \cos \omega x dx = \sqrt{\frac{2}{\pi}} \int_0^{\infty} f(x) \cos \omega x dx \\ &= \mathcal{F}_c[f(x)] \end{aligned}$$

From definition, we get,

$$\mathcal{F}[f(x)] = F(\alpha) = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2\pi}} \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} f(x) e^{i\alpha x} dx$$

Now using $e^{i\alpha x} = \cos \alpha x + i \sin \alpha x$, we can break the above integral as,

$$F(\alpha) = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2\pi}} \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} f(x) \cos \alpha x dx + \frac{i}{\sqrt{2\pi}} \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} f(x) \sin \alpha x dx$$

Since $f(x)$ is an even function, so $f(x) \cos \alpha x$ is also an even function and $f(x) \sin \alpha x$ is an odd function. Therefore, using the property of integration, second integral will vanish and $F(\alpha)$ becomes

$$\begin{aligned}\therefore \mathcal{F}[f(x)] = F(\alpha) &= \frac{2}{\sqrt{2\pi}} \int_0^{\infty} f(x) \cos \alpha x dx \\ &= \sqrt{\frac{2}{\pi}} \int_0^{\infty} f(x) \cos \alpha x dx \\ &= \mathcal{F}_c[f(x)]\end{aligned}$$

Hence proved.

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Example

Prove that for an even function, the Fourier Transform and Fourier-cosine transform are the same

Solution:

$$\begin{aligned}\mathcal{F}[f(x)] = F(\alpha) &= \frac{1}{\sqrt{2\pi}} \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} f(x) e^{i\alpha x} dx \\ &= \frac{1}{\sqrt{2\pi}} \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} f(x) [\cos \alpha x + i \sin \alpha x] dx \\ &= \frac{1}{\sqrt{2\pi}} \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} f(x) \cos \alpha x dx + \frac{i}{\sqrt{2\pi}} \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} f(x) \sin \alpha x dx\end{aligned}$$

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$$\begin{aligned}\mathcal{F}[f(x)] &= \frac{2}{\sqrt{2\pi}} \int_0^{\infty} f(x) \cos \alpha x \, dx \\ &= \sqrt{\frac{2}{\pi}} \int_0^{\infty} f(x) \cos \alpha x \, dx \\ &= \mathcal{F}_c[f(x)]\end{aligned}$$

Thank you.