

1 Real life application of FFT: Image compression in JPEG format

JPEG performs DFT in order to compress the input file. In order to perform DFT we need an n^{th} root of unity. The n^{th} root of unity the we will use here is $e^{2\pi i/n}$. But the problem with this is that using this root the values obtained after performing DFT are complex, storing which is not space efficient. Hence, we use a trick to make sure all values of DFT are real meaning complex part of DFT is zero. Let $f : \{0, \dots, n-1\} \rightarrow F$. Assume n is even.

Let $\tilde{f} : \{0, \dots, 4n-1\} \rightarrow F$ be defined as:

1. $\tilde{f}(2l) = 0$ for $0 \leq l \leq 2n$
2. $\tilde{f}(2l+1) = f(l) = \tilde{f}(4n - (2l+1))$ for $0 \leq l < n$

To make the definition more clear $\tilde{f}(l)$ is zero at all even values of l and for all the $2n$ odd values of l we have: $\tilde{f}(1) = \tilde{f}(4n-1) = f(0)$, $\tilde{f}(3) = \tilde{f}(4n-3) = f(1)$ and so on.

Now let $\tilde{g}(j) = \text{DFT}(\tilde{f})$. Therefore,

$$\begin{aligned}
 \tilde{g}(j) &= \sum_{l=0}^{4n-1} \tilde{f}(l) \omega^{lj} \\
 &= \sum_{l=0}^{4n-1} \tilde{f}(l) e^{2\pi i l j / 4n} \\
 &= \sum_{l_{\text{odd}}=0}^{4n-1} \tilde{f}(l) e^{2\pi i l j / 4n} \\
 &= \sum_{l_{\text{odd}}=0}^{2n-1} \tilde{f}(l) e^{2\pi i l j / 4n} + \sum_{l_{\text{odd}}=2n}^{4n-1} \tilde{f}(l) e^{2\pi i l j / 4n} \\
 &= \sum_{l=0}^n \tilde{f}(2l+1) e^{2\pi i j (2l+1) / 4n} + \sum_{l=0}^n \tilde{f}(4n-2l-1) e^{2\pi i j (4n-2l-1) / 4n} \\
 &= \sum_{l=0}^n \tilde{f}(l) [e^{2\pi i j (2l+1) / 4n} + e^{2\pi i j (4n-2l-1) / 4n}] \\
 &= \sum_{l=0}^n \tilde{f}(l) 2 \cos\left(\frac{2\pi j (2l+1)}{4n}\right)
 \end{aligned}$$

The mapping $f \rightarrow \tilde{g}$ is called discrete cosine transform. Note that:

1. $\tilde{g}(4n-j) = \tilde{g}(j)$ for $0 \leq j < n$
2. $\tilde{g}(2n+j) = \tilde{g}(2n-j) = \tilde{g}(j)$ for $0 \leq j < n$

This shows that it is enough to store the first n values of the discrete cosine transform. The inverse of \tilde{g} can then be computed as:

$$\tilde{f}(j) = \sum_{l=0}^{4n-1} \tilde{g}(l) e^{2\pi i j l / 4n}$$

1.1 Compression using discrete cosine transform:

Let $I_0, \dots, n-1 \times 0, \dots, n-1 \rightarrow N$ be an image.

1.1.1 First Algorithm:

1. For each row of I do the following.
2. Apply DCT on the row to obtain n values c_0, c_1, \dots, c_{n-1} . These values can be understood to be coefficients of frequencies contributing to the image. If c_j is very small then associated frequency contributes very little and we can simply make c_j equal to 0.
3. Let $d_j = \lfloor \frac{c_j}{100} \rfloor$
4. Perform runlength encoding or huffman encoding or both on d_0, d_1, \dots, d_{n-1} and store the result.

1.1.2 Second Algorithm:

1. Break the image into block of (say) 8×8 pixels.
2. Take each two-dimensional block and apply DCT using $g(l, t) = \sum_j \sum_k f(j, k) \omega^{lj} \omega^{tk}$

JPEG normally gives a 20:1 ratio compression.