

Prove that  $\int e^{ikx} dk = 2\pi \delta(x)$

$$\begin{aligned}\int_{-\infty}^{\infty} e^{ikx} dk &= \left( \int_{-\infty}^0 + \int_0^{\infty} \right) e^{ikx} dk \\ &= \int_0^{\infty} e^{-ikx} + e^{ikx} dk\end{aligned}$$

We introduce a "regularization"  $e^{-k\epsilon}$  so the integral converges @  $\infty$

$$= \lim_{\epsilon \rightarrow 0^+} \int_0^{\infty} e^{-ikx - k\epsilon} + e^{ikx} e^{-k\epsilon} dk$$

$$= \lim_{\epsilon \rightarrow 0^+} \int_0^{\infty} e^{(-ix - \epsilon)k} + e^{(ix - \epsilon)k} dk$$

$$= \lim_{\epsilon \rightarrow 0^+} \left. \frac{e^{(-ix - \epsilon)k}}{-ix - \epsilon} + \frac{e^{(ix - \epsilon)k}}{ix - \epsilon} \right|_0^{\infty}$$

$$= \lim_{\epsilon \rightarrow 0^+} \left( 0 - \frac{1}{-ix - \epsilon} \right) + \left( 0 - \frac{1}{ix - \epsilon} \right)$$

$$= \lim_{\epsilon \rightarrow 0^+} \frac{1}{\epsilon + ix} + \frac{1}{\epsilon - ix} = \lim_{\epsilon \rightarrow 0^+} \frac{2\epsilon}{\epsilon^2 + x^2}$$

Here we can see that  $\lim_{\epsilon \rightarrow 0^+} \frac{2\epsilon}{\epsilon^2 + x^2} = \begin{cases} 0 & \text{when } x \neq 0 \\ 2/\epsilon \rightarrow \infty & \text{when } x = 0 \end{cases}$

So it behaves like a delta function  $\delta(x)$ , we just need to check

the normalization  $\int \delta(x) dx = 1$ . We have

$$\int \lim_{\epsilon \rightarrow 0^+} \frac{2\epsilon}{\epsilon^2 + x^2} dx = \lim_{\epsilon \rightarrow 0^+} \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} \frac{2\epsilon}{\epsilon^2 + x^2} dx = \lim_{\epsilon \rightarrow 0^+} 2 \tan^{-1} \frac{x}{\epsilon} = 2\pi$$

$$\text{Thus } \int e^{ikx} dk = \lim_{\epsilon \rightarrow 0^+} \frac{2\epsilon}{\epsilon^2 + x^2} = 2\pi \delta(x).$$