INTRODUCTION TO FREQUENCY DOMAIN

We have dealt with images in many domains. Now we are processing signals *images* in frequency domain. Since this Fourier series and frequency domain is purely mathematics, so we will try to minimize that math's part and focus more on its use in DIP.

**Frequency domain analysis**

Till now, all the domains in which we have analyzed a signal, we analyze it with respect to time. But in frequency domain we don't analyze signal with respect to time, but with respect of frequency.

**Difference between spatial domain and frequency domain.**

In spatial domain, we deal with images as it is. The value of the pixels of the image change with respect to scene. Whereas in frequency domain, we deal with the rate at which the pixel values are changing in spatial domain.

For simplicity, let's put it this way.

**Spatial domain**

In simple spatial domain, we directly deal with the image matrix. Whereas in frequency domain, we deal an image like this.

**Frequency Domain**

We first transform the image to its frequency distribution. Then our black box system performs whatever processing it has to perform, and the output of the black box in this case is not an image, but a transformation. After performing inverse transformation, it is converted into an image which is then viewed in spatial domain.

It can be pictorially viewed as
Here we have used the word transformation. What does it actually mean?

**Transformation.**

A signal can be converted from time domain into frequency domain using mathematical operators called transforms. There are many kind of transformation that does this. Some of them are given below.

- Fourier Series
- Fourier transformation
- Laplace transform
- Z transform

Out of all these, we will thoroughly discuss Fourier series and Fourier transformation in our next tutorial.

**Frequency components**

Any image in spatial domain can be represented in a frequency domain. But what do this frequencies actually mean.

We will divide frequency components into two major components.

**High frequency components**

High frequency components correspond to edges in an image.

**Low frequency components**

Low frequency components in an image correspond to smooth regions.