

53

Fourier Series

We have seen that functions $f(x)$ with continuous derivatives of all orders near $x=a$, have a

Taylor Series expansion at $x=a$:

$$f(x) = \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \frac{f^{(n)}(a)}{n!} (x-a)^n$$

The partial sums of this series are (finite) polynomials that give better & better approximations of $f(x)$.

We now try to find approximations to $f(x)$ using trigonometric functions: $\sin(nx)$ & $\cos(nx)$ $n \geq 0$.

Def A trigonometric series is a series of the form

$$\frac{1}{2} a_0 + \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} (a_n \cos(nx) + b_n \sin(nx)) \quad \text{for } a_n, b_n \in \mathbb{R}.$$

$$= \frac{1}{2} a_0 + a_1 \cos x + b_1 \sin x + a_2 \cos(2x) + b_2 \sin(2x) + \dots$$

$$\text{eg } \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{\cos(nx)}{n}, \quad \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{\sin(nx)}{n^2}, \quad 1 + \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{2^n \sin(nx) + n^2 \cos(nx)}{n!}$$

are examples of trigonometric series.

OBSERVATIONS Assume that $f(x) = \frac{1}{2} a_0 + \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} a_n \cos(nx) + b_n \sin(nx)$ (that is, the trig. series converges to $f(x)$). Then

• $f(x)$ is periodic w/ period $= 2\pi$.

∴ $f(x+2\pi) = f(x)$ for all x .

- this is because the functions

$\cos(nx)$ & $\sin(nx)$ all have a period of 2π :

$$\cos(n(x+2\pi)) = \cos(nx), \quad \sin(n(x+2\pi)) = \sin(nx)$$

(In fact, $\cos(nx), \sin(nx)$ have period $2\pi/n$)

• $f(x) = \frac{1}{2} a_0 + \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} A_n \sin(nx + \alpha) = \underline{\text{Amplitude-Phase form}}$

where $A_n = \sqrt{a_n^2 + b_n^2}$, $a_n = A_n \sin \alpha$, $b_n = A_n \cos \alpha$

$A_n = \underline{\text{Amplitude}}$. (vertical height of sine wave)

$\alpha = \underline{\text{phase shift}}$ (Amount sine wave is shifted to left)

(54)

pf: Let $A_n = \sqrt{a_n^2 + b_n^2}$: $A_n \sin(nx + \alpha) = A_n \sin(nx) \cos \alpha + A_n \cos(nx) \sin \alpha$

$$= \underline{A_n \cos \alpha} \sin(nx) + \underline{A_n \sin \alpha} \cos(nx)$$

$$= \cancel{A_n} \sin(nx) + a_n \cos(nx)$$

$$\Rightarrow a_n = A_n \sin \alpha \quad \& \quad b_n = A_n \cos \alpha.$$

$$\text{so } \alpha = \sin^{-1}(a_n/A_n) = \cos^{-1}(b_n/A_n)$$

which is well-defined since $|a_n/\sqrt{a_n^2 + b_n^2}| \leq 1$.

Problem Given $f(x)$ how can we find a_n & b_n s.t.

$$f(x) = \frac{a_0}{2} + \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} [a_n \cos(nx) + b_n \sin(nx)] \quad ?$$

Thm If $f(x) = \frac{a_0}{2} + \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} [a_n \cos(nx) + b_n \sin(nx)]$, then

$$a) \quad a_n = \frac{1}{\pi} \int_{-\pi}^{\pi} f(x) \cos(nx) dx, \quad \text{for } n \geq 0$$

$$b) \quad b_n = \frac{1}{\pi} \int_{-\pi}^{\pi} f(x) \sin(nx) dx, \quad \text{for } n \geq 1.$$

proof we verify a):

$$\int_{-\pi}^{\pi} f(x) \cos(mx) dx = \int_{-\pi}^{\pi} \left[\frac{a_0}{2} \cos(mx) + \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} [a_n \cos(nx) \cos(mx) + b_n \sin(nx) \cos(mx)] \right] dx$$

$$= \int_{-\pi}^{\pi} \frac{a_0}{2} \cos(mx) dx + \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \int_{-\pi}^{\pi} a_n \cos(nx) \cos(mx) dx + \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \int_{-\pi}^{\pi} b_n \sin(nx) \cos(mx) dx.$$

$$\cos A \cos B = \frac{1}{2} [\cos(A+B) + \cos(A-B)]$$

$$\sin A \cos B = \frac{1}{2} [\sin(A+B) + \sin(A-B)]$$

$$\sin A \sin B = \frac{1}{2} [\cos(A+B) - \cos(A-B)]$$

$$\Rightarrow \int_{-\pi}^{\pi} \cos(nx) \cos(mx) dx = \frac{1}{2} \int_{-\pi}^{\pi} \cos((n+m)x) dx + \frac{1}{2} \int_{-\pi}^{\pi} \cos((n-m)x) dx$$

$$= \frac{1}{2} \frac{\sin((n+m)x)}{n+m} \Big|_{-\pi}^{\pi} + \frac{1}{2} \frac{\sin((n-m)x)}{n-m} \Big|_{-\pi}^{\pi}$$

$$= 0 \quad \text{if } n-m \neq 0. \quad \text{ie. if } n \neq m$$

$$\text{or } = \frac{1}{2} \int_{-\pi}^{\pi} \cos 0 dx = \frac{1}{2} \int_{-\pi}^{\pi} dx = \pi \quad \text{if } n-m=0, \text{ ie if } n=m$$

(55)

$$\begin{aligned} \text{and } \int_{-\pi}^{\pi} \sin(nx) \cos(mx) dx &= \frac{1}{2} \int_{-\pi}^{\pi} \sin((n+m)x) dx + \frac{1}{2} \int_{-\pi}^{\pi} \sin((n-m)x) dx \\ &= \frac{1}{2} \frac{(-\cos((n+m)x))}{n+m} \Big|_{-\pi}^{\pi} + \frac{1}{2} \frac{\sin((n-m)x)}{n-m} \Big|_{-\pi}^{\pi} \\ &= 0 \quad \text{if } n \neq m. \end{aligned}$$

$$\text{or } = 0 + \frac{1}{2} \int_{-\pi}^{\pi} \sin(0) dx = 0 + \frac{1}{2} \int_{-\pi}^{\pi} 0 dx = 0 \quad \text{if } n = m.$$

$$\begin{aligned} \therefore \int_{-\pi}^{\pi} f(x) \cos(mx) dx &= \frac{a_0}{2} \int_{-\pi}^{\pi} \cos(mx) dx + \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} a_n \int_{-\pi}^{\pi} \cos(nx) \cos(mx) dx \\ &\quad + \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} b_n \int_{-\pi}^{\pi} \sin(nx) \cos(mx) dx \end{aligned}$$

$$= \begin{cases} \pi a_0, & \text{if } m=0. \\ \pi a_n, & \text{if } m=n. \end{cases} = \pi a_m.$$

b) is proved similarly.

Def For $f(x)$ continuous on $[-\pi, \pi]$ (except possibly at a finite # of points), the Fourier Series for $f(x)$ is the trigonometric series

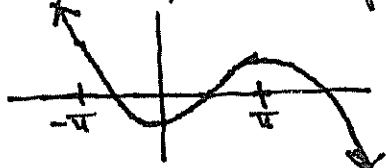
$$\frac{a_0}{2} + \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} (a_n \cos(nx) + b_n \sin(nx))$$

$$\text{where } a_n = \frac{1}{\pi} \int_{-\pi}^{\pi} f(x) \cos(nx) dx \quad \text{for } n \geq 0$$

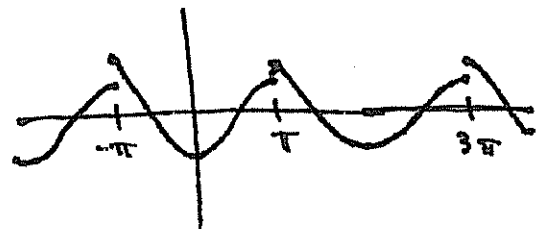
$$\neq b_n = \frac{1}{\pi} \int_{-\pi}^{\pi} f(x) \sin(nx) dx \quad \text{for } n \geq 1.$$

Remark If $f(x)$ is not periodic of period 2π , the function its Fourier series converges to will be.

eg if $f(x)$ has graph



F.S. of $f(x) \equiv$



56

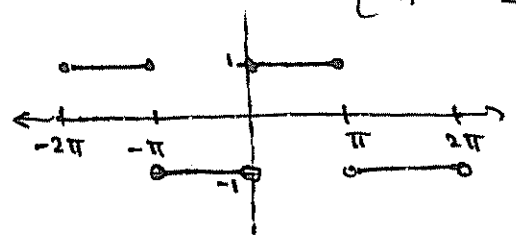
Theorem I If $\frac{a_0}{2} + \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} (a_n \cos(nx) + b_n \sin(nx))$ converges uniformly to $f(x)$, then $f(x)$ is continuous for all x , has period 2π , and the series is the Fourier series of $f(x)$.

Cor If 2 trigonometric series converge to the same function $f(x)$, then ~~all~~ they have the same coefficients:

$$\frac{a_0}{2} + \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} a_n \cos(nx) + b_n \sin(nx) = \frac{a'_0}{2} + \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} a'_n \cos(nx) + b'_n \sin(nx)$$

for all $x \implies a_0 = a'_0, a_n = a'_n \text{ \& } b_n = b'_n$ for all $n \geq 1$.

eg Let $f(x) = \begin{cases} 1, & 0 \leq x < \pi \\ -1, & -\pi \leq x < 0 \end{cases}$ = "square wave" when extended to a periodic function.



$$a_n = \frac{1}{\pi} \int_{-\pi}^{\pi} f(x) \cos(nx) dx = \frac{1}{\pi} \int_{-\pi}^0 -\cos(nx) dx + \frac{1}{\pi} \int_0^{\pi} \cos(nx) dx$$

$$\left. \begin{aligned} \text{if } n=0: &= \frac{1}{\pi} \int_{-\pi}^0 -1 dx + \frac{1}{\pi} \int_0^{\pi} 1 dx = \frac{1}{\pi}(-\pi) + \frac{1}{\pi}(\pi) = 0 \\ \text{if } n \neq 0: &= \frac{1}{\pi} \left[\frac{-\sin(nx)}{n} \right]_{-\pi}^0 + \frac{1}{\pi} \left[\frac{\sin(nx)}{n} \right]_0^{\pi} = 0 \end{aligned} \right\} a_n = 0 \text{ for } n \geq 0.$$

$$b_n = \frac{1}{\pi} \int_{-\pi}^{\pi} f(x) \sin(nx) dx = \frac{1}{\pi} \int_{-\pi}^0 -\sin(nx) dx + \frac{1}{\pi} \int_0^{\pi} \sin(nx) dx$$

$$\begin{aligned} &= \frac{1}{\pi} \left[\frac{\cos(nx)}{n} \right]_{-\pi}^0 + \frac{1}{\pi} \left[\frac{-\cos(nx)}{n} \right]_0^{\pi} \\ &= \frac{1}{\pi} \left(\frac{1}{n} - \frac{(-1)^n}{n} \right) - \frac{1}{\pi} \left(\frac{(-1)^n}{n} - \frac{1}{n} \right) = \frac{2}{n\pi} - \frac{(-1)^n 2}{n\pi} \\ &= \begin{cases} 0, & n=2, 4, 6, \dots \\ \frac{4}{n\pi}, & n=1, 3, 5, \dots \end{cases} \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned} \implies f(x) &= \frac{4}{\pi} \sin x + \frac{4}{3\pi} \sin(3x) + \frac{4}{5\pi} \sin(5x) + \dots \\ &= \frac{4}{\pi} \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{\sin((2n-1)x)}{2n-1} \end{aligned}$$

(See fig. 7.5 in text)
p. 473

57

58

eg $f(x) = x$:

$$a_n = \frac{1}{\pi} \int_{-\pi}^{\pi} x \cos(nx) dx = \frac{1}{\pi} \left(\frac{x}{n} \sin(nx) \Big|_{-\pi}^{\pi} - \int_{-\pi}^{\pi} \frac{\sin(nx)}{n} dx \right) \quad (n \neq 0)$$

$$u = x \quad v = \frac{1}{n} \sin(nx) \\ du = dx \quad dv = \cos(nx) dx$$

$$= \frac{1}{\pi} \left(\frac{\pi}{n} \cdot 0 - \frac{(-\pi)}{n} \cdot 0 + \frac{\cos(nx)}{n^2} \Big|_{-\pi}^{\pi} \right) = 0$$

$$a_0 = \frac{1}{\pi} \int_{-\pi}^{\pi} x dx = \frac{1}{\pi} \left[\frac{x^2}{2} \right]_{-\pi}^{\pi} = 0.$$

$$b_n = \frac{1}{\pi} \int_{-\pi}^{\pi} x \sin(nx) dx = \frac{1}{\pi} \left(-\frac{x}{n} \cos(nx) \Big|_{-\pi}^{\pi} + \int_{-\pi}^{\pi} \frac{\cos(nx)}{n} dx \right)$$

$$u = x \quad v = -\frac{1}{n} \cos(nx) \\ du = dx \quad dv = \sin(nx) dx$$

$$= \frac{1}{\pi} \left[\left(-\frac{\pi}{n} (-1)^n - \frac{-\pi}{n} (-1)^n \right) + \frac{\sin(nx)}{n^2} \Big|_{-\pi}^{\pi} \right]$$

$$= \frac{1}{\pi} \left(-\frac{2\pi}{n} (-1)^n + 0 - 0 \right)$$

$$= -\frac{2}{n} (-1)^n.$$

$$\Rightarrow x = 2 \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{(-1)^{n+1}}{n} \sin(nx)$$

Convergence of Fourier Series - Fundamental Theorem

Let $f(x)$ be piecewise very smooth on $[-\pi, \pi]$

(this means that $f(x)$ is made up of pieces on subintervals of $[-\pi, \pi]$ that are continuous w/ continuous 1st & 2nd derivatives). Then the Fourier series

$$\frac{a_0}{2} + \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} (a_n \cos(nx) + b_n \sin(nx)) \text{ converges to } f(x)$$

wherever $f(x)$ is continuous inside $[-\pi, \pi]$.

at discontinuities: $x = x_i$

$$\text{F.S.} \rightarrow \frac{1}{2} \left[\lim_{x \rightarrow x_i^-} f(x) + \lim_{x \rightarrow x_i^+} f(x) \right]$$

$$\text{at } x = \pm\pi, \text{ F.S.} \rightarrow \frac{1}{2} \left[\lim_{x \rightarrow -\pi^+} f(x) + \lim_{x \rightarrow \pi^-} f(x) \right]$$

The convergence is uniform in any closed interval where $f(x)$ is continuous.