

Assignment 4: Fourier Approximations

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1 Aim

The goal of this assignment is to fit the functions, $\exp(x)$ and $\cos(\cos(x))$ over the interval $[0, 2\pi)$ using the trigonometric fourier series

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

where the coefficients are given by

Error: Should
be just pi and
not 2pi

$$a_n = \frac{1}{2\pi} \int_0^{2\pi} f(x) \cos(nx) dx$$

$$b_n = \frac{1}{2\pi} \int_0^{2\pi} f(x) \sin(nx) dx$$

2 The Assignment

2.1 Question 1: Getting the functions

I start by defining Python functions for each of the two functions. These functions return numpy arrays. Note that numpy has been imported under the alias np.

```
def exponential(x):  
    return np.exp(x)  
  
def coscos(x):  
    return np.cos(np.cos(x))
```

Now, I plot each of them over the range $[-2\pi, 4\pi)$ in two ways - the actual function and the periodic extension with a 2π period. Note that e^x has been plotted on a semilog scale. The following Python code does this (and similarly for $\cos(\cos(x))$):

```

x = np.linspace(-2 * np.pi, 4 * np.pi, 300)
y1 = exponential(x)
y1_periodic = y1[100: 200]
y1_periodic = np.append(y1_periodic, y1_periodic)
y1_periodic = np.append(y1_periodic, y1[100: 200])
# because I am plotting over three periods

semilogy(x, y1, 'red', label='Main function')
semilogy(x, y1_periodic, label='Periodic over 0 to 2\u03C0')
grid()
xlabel("x")
ylabel("e^x")
legend()
title("Q1: Exponential(x)")
show()

```

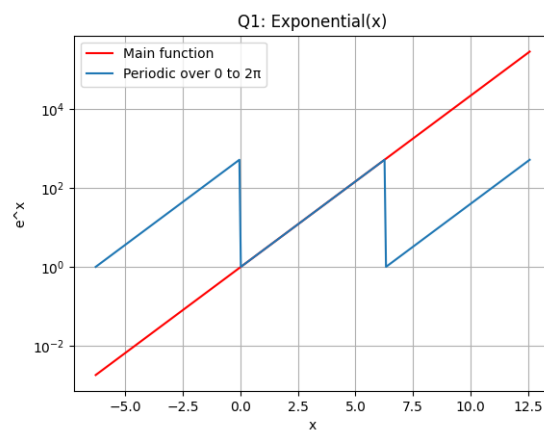


Figure 1: Q1: The Exponential Function

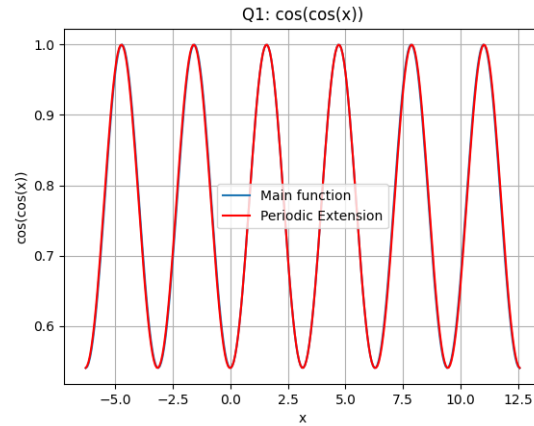


Figure 2: Q1: The $\cos(\cos(x))$ Function

As one may observe, the periodic extension of $\cos(\cos(x))$ matches the actual function because it is inherently periodic.

2.2 Question 2: Building the Fourier Series

The goal is to obtain 51 coefficients for each of the two functions. The Fourier coefficients, in order, $a_0, a_1, b_1, \dots, a_{25}, b_{25}$. I have created two new functions to be integrated, namely $f(x, k)$ and $g(x, k)$. This is implemented for the exponential function in the below code block. Note that k is the second argument of the function. The integrator function `integrate.quad` from the `scipy` module integrates its first argument (integrand) from limits 0 to 2π ; the fourth argument passes k to the function $f(x, k)$ (or $g(x, k)$).

```
f0 = lambda a: np.exp(a)
a0_exp = (scipy.integrate.quad(f0, 0, 2 * np.pi)[0]) / (2 * np.pi)

# 'a' coefficients for this series
a_n_exp = []
for i in range(1, 26):
    f = lambda x, k: np.exp(x) * np.cos(x * k)
    a_n_exp.append((scipy.integrate.quad(f, 0, 2 * np.pi,
        args=(i))[0]) / np.pi)

b_n_exp = []
for i in range(1, 26):
    g = lambda x, k: np.exp(x) * np.sin(x * k)
    b_n_exp.append((scipy.integrate.quad(g, 0, 2 * np.pi,
        args=(i))[0]) / np.pi)
```

And for the $\cos(\cos(x))$ function,

```
p0 = lambda x: np.cos(np.cos(x))
a0_cos = (scipy.integrate.quad(p0, 0, 2 * np.pi)[0]) / (2 * np.pi)

a_n_cos = []
for i in range(1, 26):
    p = lambda x, k: np.cos(np.cos(x)) * np.cos(x * k)
    a_n_cos.append((scipy.integrate.quad(p, 0, 2 * np.pi,
        args=(i))[0]) / np.pi)

b_n_cos = []
for i in range(1, 26):
    q = lambda x, k: np.cos(np.cos(x)) * np.sin(x * k)
    b_n_cos.append((scipy.integrate.quad(q, 0, 2 * np.pi,
        args=(i))[0]) / np.pi)
```

The coefficients a_n and b_n are plotted.

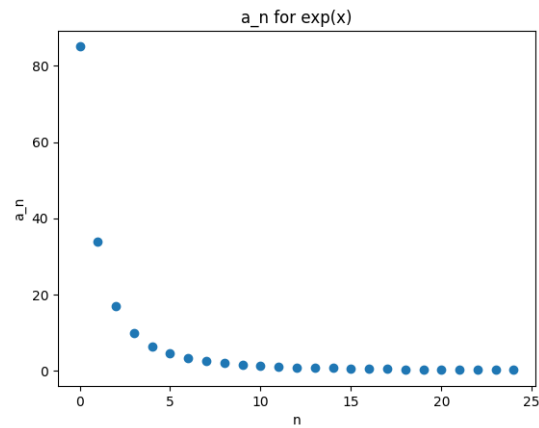


Figure 3: Q3: a_n for $\exp(x)$

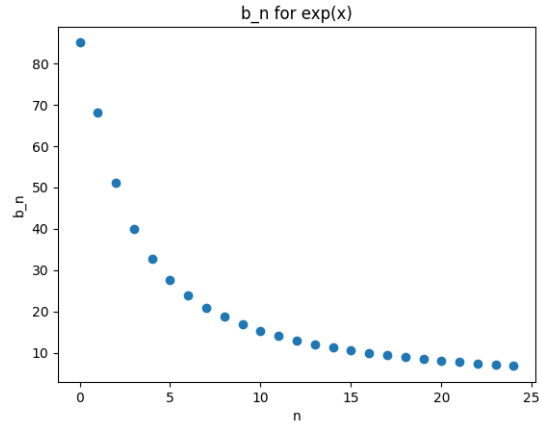


Figure 4: Q3: b_n for $\exp(x)$

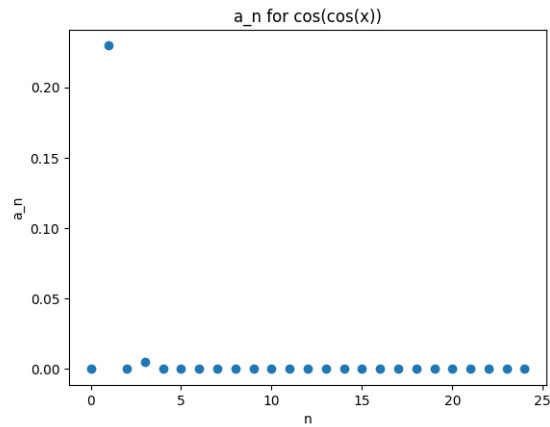


Figure 5: Q3: a_n for $\cos(\cos(x))$

2.3 Question 3: Plotting the coefficients

For each of the two functions, I have plotted the Fourier coefficients' magnitude - once on a `semilog` scale and once on a `loglog` scale. Note that the order of coefficients on the x-axis (For the figures with 'Q3' in the caption) is $a_0, a_1, b_1, \dots, a_{25}, b_{25}$.

First, the Fourier coefficients of $\exp(x)$.

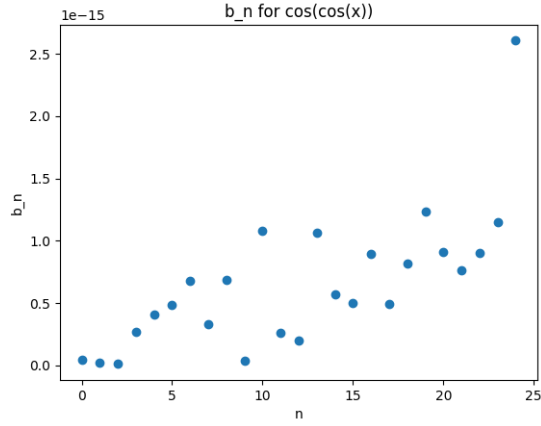


Figure 6: Q3: b_n for $\cos(\cos(x))$

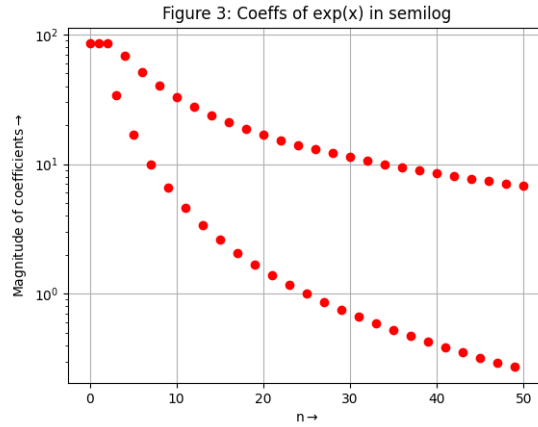


Figure 7: Q3: Coefficients of $\exp(x)$

Next, the Fourier coefficients of $\cos(\cos(x))$.

The order of magnitude tells a lot about the nature of the series, where the harmonic contribution is significant and where it is not.

1. b_n coefficients are observed in Figure 6. The y-axis numbers are on a 10^{-15} scale - nearly zero. The reason is, the function period is 2π and I am integrating it over 0 to 2π . If I change the integration variable to $t + \pi$, limits will change from $-\pi$ to π , the integrand will remain the same (may get a $+/-$ sign). The function $\cos(\cos(x)) \sin(nx)$ is now an odd function. Hence, the integral should vanish. I obtain very tiny values because I used a finite number of x for the integration function quad.

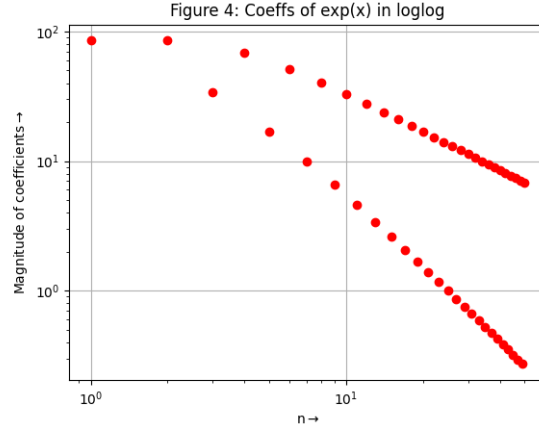


Figure 8: Q3: Coefficients of $\exp(x)$

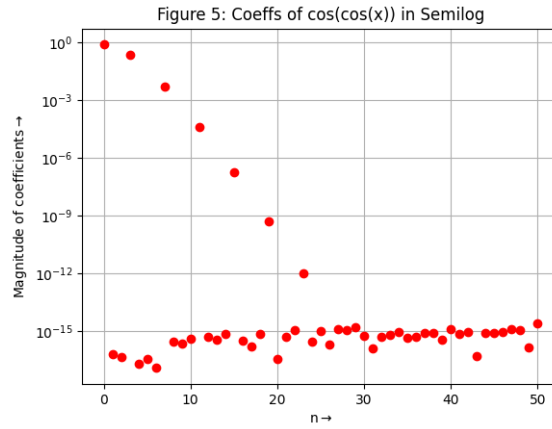


Figure 9: Q3: Coefficients of $\cos(\cos(x))$

2. The reason why the coefficients of e^x do not decay as quickly as that of $\cos(\cos(x))$ is - the latter is inherently periodic. In the Fourier domain, it will have a finite number of frequencies making up the signal. On the contrary, e^x is not, hence, it is discontinuous at $2m\pi$.
3. Fourier coefficients for e^x are

$$a_n = \frac{e^{2\pi} - 1}{(n^2 + 1)\pi}$$

$$b_n = \frac{n - ne^{2\pi}}{(n^2 + 1)\pi}$$

At large values of n , $\log(a_n)$ and $\log(b_n)$ can be approximated as $-2\log(n)$

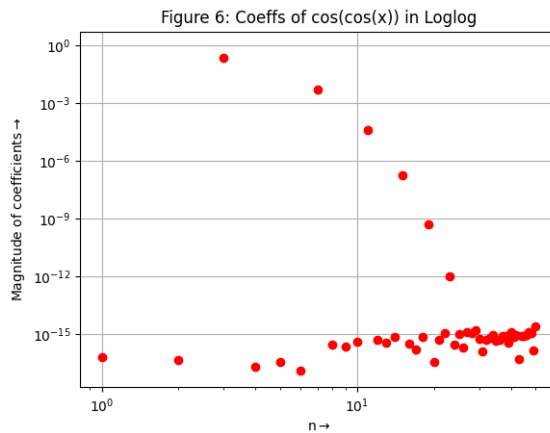


Figure 10: Q3: Coefficients of $\cos(\cos(x))$

and $-\log(n)$ respectively. Hence the $\log\log$ plot is linear. Whereas the semilog plot in (caption) Figure 9 looks linear because the coefficients vary approximately as exponential n .

2.4 Question 4 and 5: The Least Squares Approach

I have defined a vector X going from 0 to 2π in 400 steps. Lets deal with e^x first. The function e^x at these X values is given by another vector `b_matrix_for_exp`. Now I build the matrix `A_mat_for_exp`; the code is as follows:

```
X = np.linspace(0, 2*np.pi, 400)
b_matrix_for_exp = exponential(X)
X = np.linspace(0, 2*np.pi, 401)
X = X[:-1] # drop last term to have a proper periodic
           integral
b_matrix_for_exp = exponential(X)
# f has been written to take a vector
A_mat_for_exp = np.zeros((400, 51)) # allocate space for A
A_mat_for_exp[:, 0] = 1 # col 1 is all ones
for k in range(1, 26):
    A_mat_for_exp[:, 2*k-1] = np.cos(k*X) # cos(kx) column
    A_mat_for_exp[:, 2*k] = np.sin(k*X) # sin(kx) column

coeff_for_exp_lstsq = np.linalg.lstsq(A_mat_for_exp,
b_matrix_for_exp)[0]
```

Similar to an application in the previous assignment, the function `np.linalg.lstsq`

returns (the first return, hence, $[0]$) the vector x that minimizes the Euclidean norm $|Ax - b|^2$, implying the closest solution x . This is what I am looking for. In this case the vector x would be the fourier coefficients in order $a_0, a_1, b_1, \dots, a_{25}, b_{25}$.

```
(A_mat_for_exp).(coeff_for_exp_lstsq) = (b_matrix_for_exp)
```

Then I plot these coefficients. Note that a lighter shade has been used for the plots to show overlap.

```
semilogy(np.array(range(51)), (coeffs_of_coscoss), 'ro',
          alpha=0.4, label='Original Value')
semilogy(np.array(range(51)), abs(coeff_for_coscoss_lstsq),
          'go', alpha=0.4, label='Least Squares Approach')
xlabel(r'n$\rightarrow$')
ylabel(r'Magnitude of coefficients$\rightarrow$')
title('Figure 8: Coeffs of cos(cos(x)) lstsq approach')
legend()
grid()
show()
```

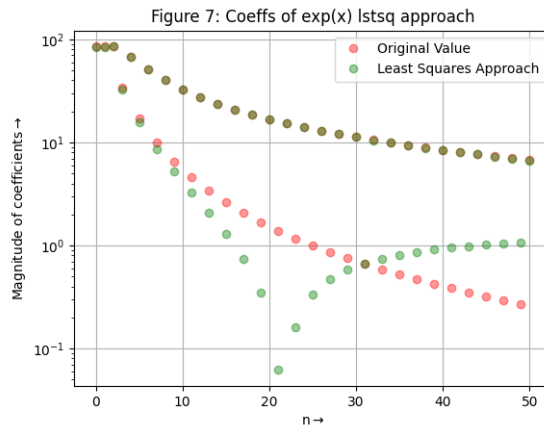


Figure 11: Q5: lstsq coefficients for e^x (semilog)

Similar procedure for $\cos(\cos(x))$ gives the following plots.

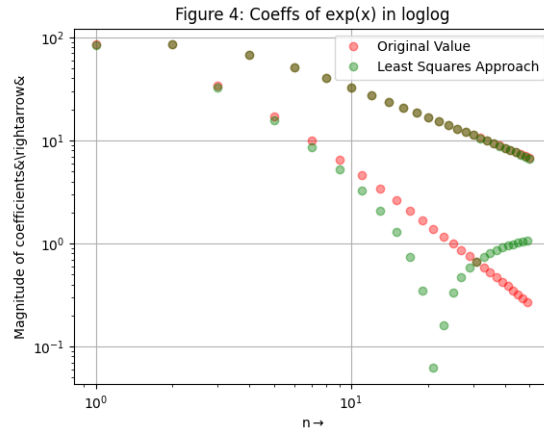


Figure 12: Q5: lstsq coefficients for e^x (loglog)

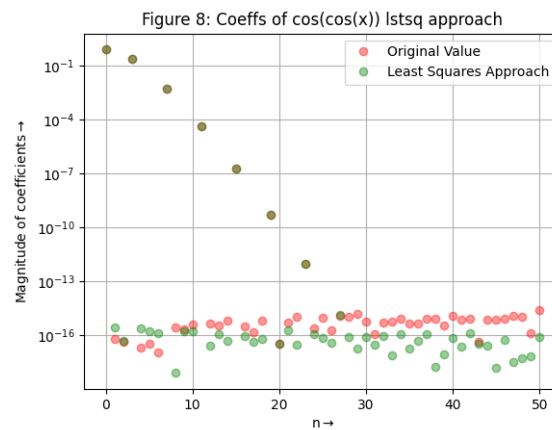


Figure 13: Q5: lstsq coefficients for $\cos(\cos(x))$ (semilog)

2.5 Question 6: Least Squares Vs Integration!

I have calculated the absolute difference between the coefficients obtained from Integration and the least squares approach. The plots and code for both the functions follow.

```
# PART 6: Deviation
# First the exponential
error_exp = coeffs_of_exp - abs(coeff_for_exp_lstsq)
plot(range(51), abs(error_exp), 'ro')
xlabel('n')
ylabel('real coeffs - lstsq coeffs')
title('Deviation in coeffs of exp(x)')
```

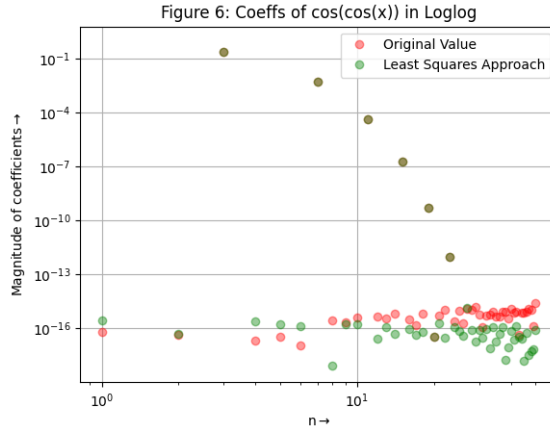


Figure 14: Q5: lstsq coefficients for $\cos(\cos(x))$ (loglog)

```

grid()
show()
print(np.amax(abs(error_exp)))

# Second the coscos
error_coscoss = coeffs_of_coscoss - abs(coeff_for_coscoss_lstsq)
plot(range(51), abs(error_coscoss), 'ro')
xlabel('n')
ylabel('real coeffs - lstsq coeffs')
grid()
title('Deviation in coeffs of cos(cos(x))')
show()
print(np.amax(abs(error_coscoss)))

```

Maximum deviations are printed by the python program.

Max deviation for $e^x = 1.3327308703353395$

Max deviation for $\cos(\cos(x)) = 2.5195381376685242e-15$

There is appreciable deviation for some of the coefficients of e^x (there is a row of dots above 1.2). The deviation observed for $\cos(\cos(x))$ coefficients is of the order 10^{-15} implying that the least squares and integration coefficients are amazingly close. This difference is because the former is discontinuous at the boundaries but the latter is essentially periodic.

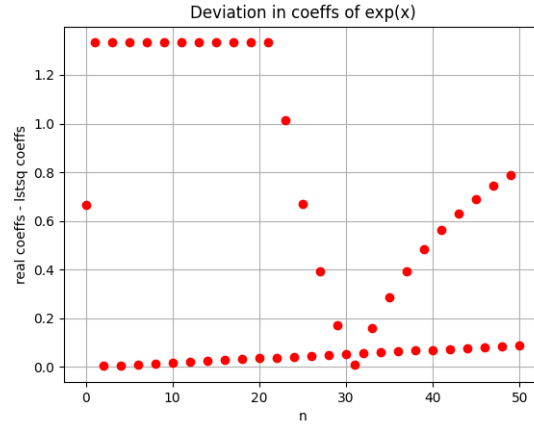


Figure 15: Q6: e^x deviation

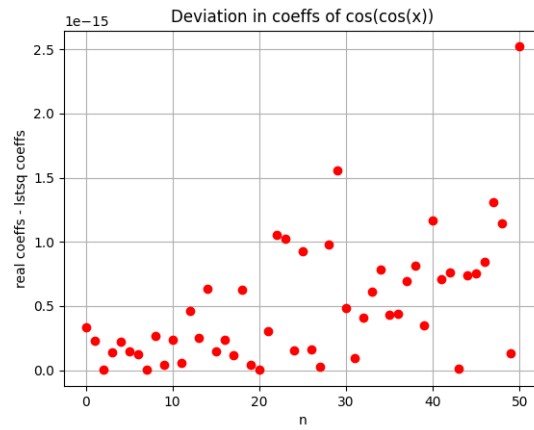


Figure 16: Q6: $\cos(\cos(x))$ deviation

2.6 Question 7: Function values' deviation

Computing Ac (The function values at x_i) from the estimated values of c .
The Python code:

```
Ac_exp = np.dot(A_mat_for_exp, coeff_for_exp_lstsq)
Ac_cosc = np.dot(A_mat_for_cosc,
                  coeff_for_cosc_lstsq)
semilogy(X, Ac_exp, 'go', label='Obtained from lstsq
and Fourier', alpha=0.4)
semilogy(X, exponential(X), label='True Value')
xlabel('X')
ylabel('Function values at Xi')
```

```

legend()
show()

plot(X, Ac_coscoss, 'go', label='Obtained from lstsq
      and Fourier', alpha=0.4)
plot(X, coscos(X), label='True Value')
xlabel('X')
ylabel('Function values at Xi')
legend()
show()

```

The function values hence obtained are plotted along with the 'true' values. Significant inaccuracy can be observed for the e^x plot because it would need a larger number of high frequency components to obtain the exact function. On the other hand, the estimated $\cos(\cos(x))$ function is extremely close to the real values because, in frequency domain, it was almost completely covered up by the first few fourier coefficients (harmonics).

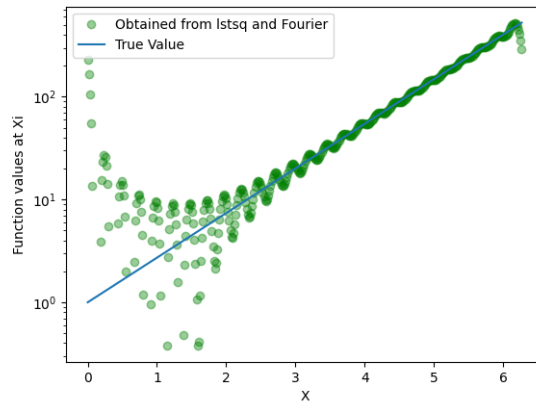


Figure 17: Q7: e^x (semilog)

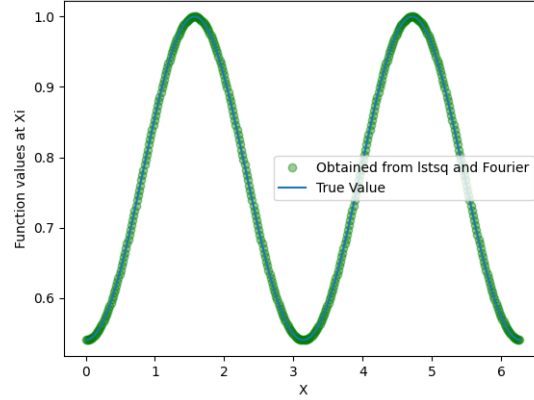


Figure 18: Q7: $\cos(\cos(x))$

3 Conclusion

The aims that I enlisted at the beginning of this report are now seen to have been accomplished. Through every subsection, I analysed how Fourier coefficients will be calculated using scientific Python and every plot gave a deeper insight into their nature. I infer that for a function inherently periodic, the fourier coefficients obtained by both integration and least squares will give accurate results for a finite number of coefficients. However, non-periodic functions when given a periodic extension will create a discontinuity at every integral multiple of Time period. Thus, it will take a greater amount of fourier coefficients to reverse-realise the original function.