Chapter 5. Fourier Series

5.1 Periodic functions

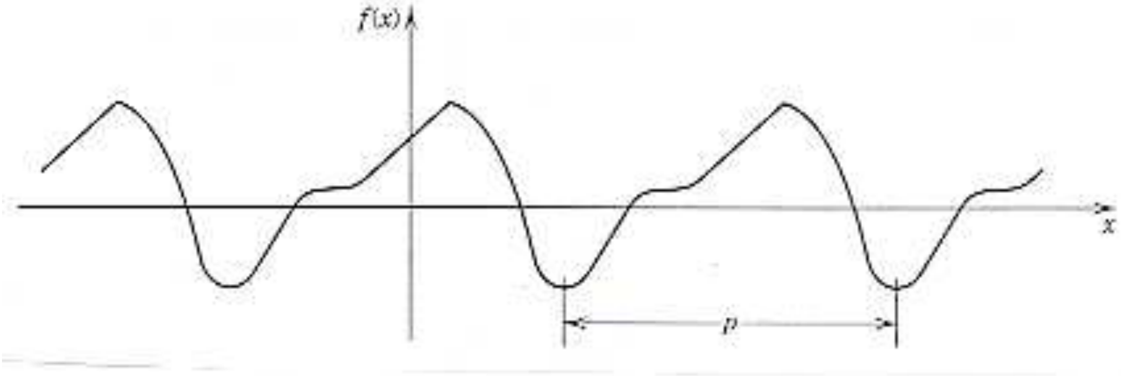
A function $f(x)$ is called *periodic* if it is defined for all real x and if there is some positive number p such that

$$f(x+p) = f(x) \quad \text{for all} \quad x. \tag{1}$$

The number p is called the *period* of $f(x)$.

5.1.1 Graphs of periodic functions

The graph of such a function can be obtained by periodic repetition of its graph in any interval of length p.



For example, sine and cosine functions are periodic

2π.

$f(x) = c$, c constant, is a periodic function of period

p for every positive number p.

$$x,\ x^2,\ x^3, \cdots, e^x,\ \ln x \ \text{ are not periodic.}$$

5.1.2 Some algebraic properties of periodic functions

From (1),

$$f(x+2p) = f((x+p)+p) = f(x+p) = f(x).$$

Thus (by induction) for any positive integer n,

$f(x + np) = f(x)$, for all x.

Hence $2p$, $3p, \cdots$ are also periods of f.

Further, if f and g have period p, then the function

$h(x) = a\,f(x) + bg(x)$ with a, b constants also has

period p.

5.1.3 Trigonometric series

Our aim is to represent various periodic functions of

period 2π in terms of simple functions

$$1, \cos x, \sin x, \cos 2x, \sin 2x, \cdots, \cos nx, \sin nx, \cdots \quad (2)$$

which have period 2π.

The series that arises in this connection will be of the form

$$a_0 + a_1 \cos x + b_1 \sin x + a_2 \cos 2x + b_2 \sin 2x + \cdots$$
$$= a_0 + \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} (a_n \cos nx + b_n \sin nx) \qquad (3)$$

where $a_0, a_1, a_2, \cdots, b_1, b_2, \cdots$ are real constants.

Series (3) is called a *trigonometric series, and* a_n *and* b_n are called *coefficients* of the series.

The set of functions (2) is often called a *trigonometric* system.

We note that each term of the series (3) has period 2π. Hence if the series converges, its sum will be a periodic function of period 2π.

5.2 Fourier Series

Assume that $f(x)$ is a periodic function of period 2π and that it can be represented by a trigonometric series

$$f(x) = a_0 + \sum_{n=1}^{\infty}(a_n \cos nx + b_n \sin nx). \qquad (4)$$

That is, we assume that the series on the right converges and has $f(x)$ as its sum.

We say the right hand side of (4) is the Fourier series of $f(x)$.

Given $f(x)$, our task now is to determine the coefficients a_n and b_n.

5.2.1 Determine a_0

We integrate both sides of (4) from $-\pi$ to π :

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

Assuming that term by term integration is allowed,

we obtain

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

So $a_0 = \dfrac{1}{2\pi} \displaystyle\int_{-\pi}^{\pi} f(x)dx.$

5.2.2 Determine $a_m,\ m > 0$

We multiply both sides of (4) by $\cos mx$ and integrate term by term from $-\pi$ to π :

$$\begin{aligned}
&\int_{-\pi}^{\pi} f(x)\cos mx\,dx \\
=&a_0\int_{-\pi}^{\pi}\cos mx\,dx+\sum_{n=1}^{\infty}\left(a_n\int_{-\pi}^{\pi}\cos nx\,\cos mx\,dx\right. \\
&\qquad\qquad\left.+\,b_n\int_{-\pi}^{\pi}\sin nx\cos mx\,dx\right) \qquad (5)
\end{aligned}$$

Computing the three integrations on the right hand sides of (5):

(i) $\displaystyle\int_{-\pi}^{\pi}\cos mx\,dx=\left[\frac{\sin mx}{m}\right]_{-\pi}^{\pi}=0.$

(ii) $\displaystyle\int_{-\pi}^{\pi}\sin nx\,\cos mx\,dx=0,$

since $\sin nx$ is odd and $\cos mx$ is even

and

(iii) $$\int_{-\pi}^{\pi} \cos\, nx\, \cos\, mx\, dx$$

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

$$= \begin{cases} \frac{1}{2}\left[\frac{\sin(m+n)x}{m+n} + \frac{\sin(m-n)x}{m-n}\right]_{-\pi}^{\pi} & m \neq n \\ \frac{1}{2m}[mx + \sin\, mx\, \cos\, mx]_{-\pi}^{\pi} & m = n \end{cases}$$

$$= \begin{cases} 0 & m \neq n \\ \pi & m = n \end{cases}$$

Substituting the above results back in (5), we get

$$a_m = \frac{1}{\pi}\int_{-\pi}^{\pi} f(x) \cos\, mx\, dx,\ m = 1, 2, \cdots$$

5.2.3 Determine $b_m,\ m > 0$

We multiply (4) by $\sin\, mx$ and integrate from $-\pi$ to π :

$$
\begin{aligned}
&\int_{-\pi}^{\pi} f(x)\sin\, mx\, dx \\
=&a_0 \int_{-\pi}^{\pi} \sin\, mx\, dx + \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \left(a_n \int_{-\pi}^{\pi} \cos\, nx\, \sin\, mx\, dx \right. \\
&\qquad\qquad \left. + b_n \int_{-\pi}^{\pi} \sin\, nx \sin\, mx\, dx \right) \qquad (6) \\
=&\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} b_n \int_{-\pi}^{\pi} \sin\, nx\, \sin\, mx\, dx
\end{aligned}
$$

as the first two integrands on the right hand side of

(6) are odd functions.

Now $\displaystyle\int_{-\pi}^{\pi} \sin nx\, \sin mx\, dx$

$$
\begin{aligned}
&= \frac{1}{2} \int_{-\pi}^{\pi} (\cos(n-m)x - \cos(n+m)x) dx \\
&= \begin{cases} \frac{1}{2} \left[\frac{\sin(n-m)x}{n-m} - \frac{\sin(n+m)x}{n+m} \right]_{-\pi}^{\pi} & m \neq n \\ \frac{1}{2m} [mx - \sin mx\, \cos mx]_{-\pi}^{\pi} & m = n \end{cases} \\
&= \begin{cases} 0 & m \neq n \\ \pi & m = n \end{cases}
\end{aligned}
$$

Thus $\displaystyle b_m = \frac{1}{\pi} \int_{-\pi}^{\pi} f(x) \sin mx\, dx,\ m = 1, 2, \cdots .$

5.2.4 Euler formulas

Given a periodic function $f(x)$ of period 2π with Fourier series

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

Its coefficients are known as *Fourier coefficients* and are given by

$$\begin{aligned} a_0 &= \frac{1}{2\pi}\int_{-\pi}^{\pi} f(x)dx \\ a_n &= \frac{1}{\pi}\int_{-\pi}^{\pi} f(x)\cos nx\, dx,\ n = 1, 2, \cdots \quad (7) \\ b_n &= \frac{1}{\pi}\int_{-\pi}^{\pi} f(x)\sin nx\, dx,\ n = 1, 2, \cdots \end{aligned}$$

(7) are known as Euler formulas.

5.2.5 Representation by a Fourier series

If a periodic function $f(x)$ with period 2π is piecewise continuous in the interval $-\pi \leq x \leq \pi$ and has a left hand derivative and right hand derivative at each point of the interval, then the Fourier series with coefficients (7) is convergent. Its sum is $f(x)$ except at a point x_0 at which $f(x)$ is discontinuous and the sum of the series is the average of the left hand and right hand limits of f at x_0.

5.2.6 Example

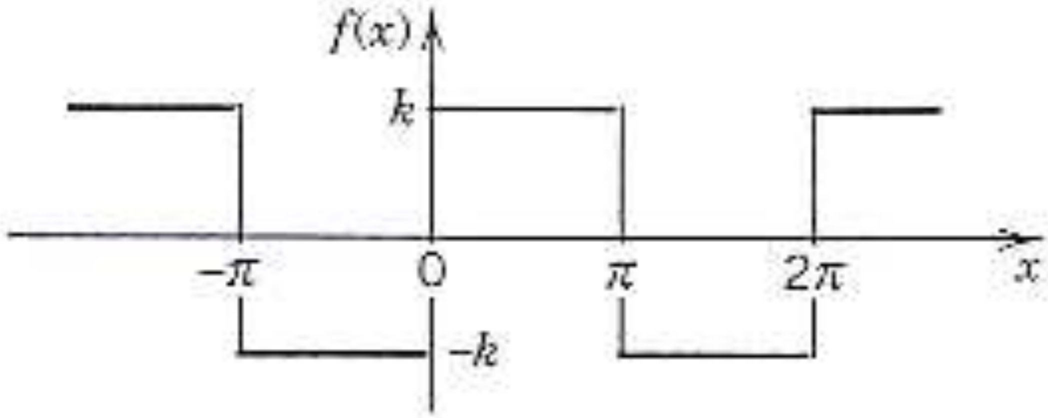
Find the Fourier series of $f(x)$ given by

$$f(x) = \begin{cases} -k, & \text{if } -\pi < x < 0 \\ k, & \text{if } 0 < x < \pi \end{cases}$$

and $f(x) = f(x + 2\pi)$.

Functions of this kind occur as external forces acting on mechanical systems, electromotive forces in electric circuits, etc.

$f(x)$ is piecewise continuous and the value of f at a single point does not affect the integral. We can therefore leave f undefined at $x = 0$, $x = \pm\pi$.



Solution. We observe that over the interval $(-\pi, \pi)$, f is an odd function. Thus $f(x) \cos nx$ is also an odd function. Thus by (7), $a_n = 0$ for $n = 0, 1, 2, \cdots$,

and

$$\begin{aligned} b_n &= \frac{1}{\pi}\int_{-\pi}^{\pi} f(x)\sin nx\,dx \\ &= \frac{2}{\pi}\int_{0}^{\pi} k\ \sin nx\,dx = \frac{2k}{n\pi}(1-\cos n\pi) \\ &= \frac{2k}{n\pi}(1-(-1)^n). \\ b_1 &= \frac{4k}{\pi},\quad b_2 = 0,\quad b_3 = \frac{4k}{3\pi}, \\ b_4 &= 0,\quad b_5 = \frac{4k}{5\pi}, \cdots . \end{aligned}$$

The Fourier series for the square wave is, therefore,

$$\frac{4k}{\pi}(\sin x + \frac{1}{3}\sin 3x + \frac{1}{5}\sin 5x + \cdots).$$

5.2.7 An approximation for π

From the previous section, the series converges to $f(x)$ in $(0, \pi)$.

Setting $x = \frac{\pi}{2}$, we get

$$k = \frac{4k}{\pi}(1 - \frac{1}{3} + \frac{1}{5} - \cdots)$$

i.e. $\frac{\pi}{4} = 1 - \frac{1}{3} + \frac{1}{5} - \cdots$ (Leibniz).

Note that at all the points of discontinuity $(0, \pi, etc)$ of f, the sum of the series is equal to 0, which is the average of the left hand and right hand limits of f (e.g. they are $-k$ and k respectively at $x = 0$).

5.2.8 Periodic functions of period $p = 2L$

Let $f(x)$ be a periodic function of period $p = 2L$.

We set $v = \frac{\pi x}{L}$. Then $x = \frac{vL}{\pi}$ and at $x = \pm L, v = \pm\pi$.

We now view f as a function of v and put $f(x) =$

$g(v)$. Then g becomes a periodic function of period 2π. If $f(x)$ has a fourier series, then so has $g(v)$. We have

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

with

$$\begin{aligned} a_0 &= \frac{1}{2\pi}\int_{-\pi}^{\pi} g(v)dv = \frac{1}{2\pi}\int_{-L}^{L} g(v)\frac{\pi}{L}\,dx \\ &= \frac{1}{2L}\int_{-L}^{L} f(x)dx \end{aligned}$$

and for $n = 1, 2, 3, \cdots$

$$\begin{aligned} a_n &= \frac{1}{\pi}\int_{-\pi}^{\pi} g(v)\cos nv\,dv \\ &= \frac{1}{L}\int_{-L}^{L} f(x)\cos\frac{n\pi x}{L}dx, \\ b_n &= \frac{1}{L}\int_{-L}^{L} f(x)\sin\frac{n\pi x}{L}dx. \end{aligned}$$

Since $g(v) = f(x)$, we get

$$f(x) = a_0 + \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \left(a_n \cos \frac{n\pi}{L} x + b_n \sin \frac{n\pi}{L} x \right)$$

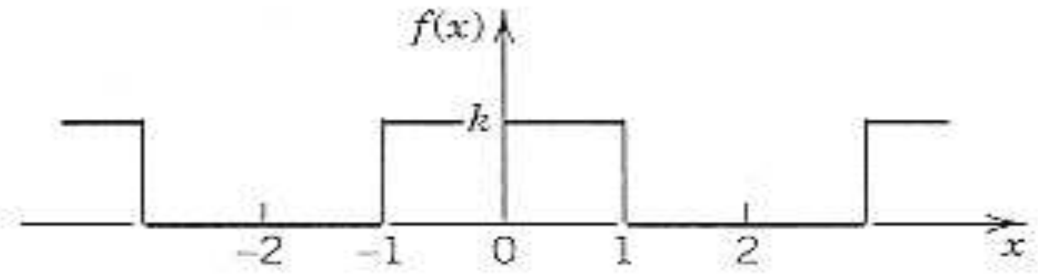
with a_0, a_n and b_n as given above.

The interval of integration in the above formula can be replaced by any interval of length $p = 2L$, for example, by $0 \le x \le 2L$ or $L \le x \le 3L$.

5.2.9 Example

Let f be a periodic square wave of period $p = 2L = 4$ defined as follows :

$$f(x) = \begin{cases} 0, & \text{if } -2 < x < -1 \\ k, & \text{if } -1 < x < 1 \\ 0, & \text{if } 1 < x < 2 \end{cases}$$



To find the Fourier series of f, we compute

$$\begin{aligned} a_0 &= \frac{1}{4}\int_{-2}^{2} f(x)dx \\ a_n &= \frac{1}{2}\int_{-2}^{2} f(x)\cos\frac{n\pi x}{2}dx \end{aligned}$$

and since f is even,

$$b_n = 0 \quad \text{for} \quad n = 1, 2, \cdots .$$

$$\begin{aligned} a_0 &= \frac{1}{4}\int_{-2}^{2} f(x)dx = \frac{1}{4}\int_{-1}^{1} k dx = \frac{k}{2} \\ a_n &= \frac{1}{2}\int_{-2}^{2} f(x)\cos\frac{n\pi x}{2}dx = \frac{1}{2}\int_{-1}^{1} k\cos\frac{n\pi x}{2}dx \\ &= \frac{2k}{n\pi}\sin\frac{n\pi}{2} \end{aligned}$$

Hence $a_n = 0$ if n is even and

$$a_n = \begin{cases} \dfrac{2k}{n\pi} & \text{if } n = 1, 5, 9, \cdots \\ -\dfrac{2k}{n\pi} & \text{if } n = 3, 7, 11, \cdots \end{cases}$$

Hence

$$f(x) = \frac{k}{2} + \frac{2k}{\pi}\left(\cos\frac{\pi}{2}x - \frac{1}{3}\cos\frac{3\pi}{2}x + \frac{1}{5}\cos\frac{5\pi}{2}x - \cdots\right).$$

5.2.10 Fourier cosine and sine series

Using

$$\int_{-L}^{L} f(x)dx = \begin{cases} 0 & \text{if } f \text{ is odd} \\ 2\int_0^L f(x)dx & \text{if } f \text{ is even.} \end{cases}$$

we obtain the following two series.

The Fourier series of an even function $f(x)$ of period

$2L$ is the *Fourier cosine series*

$$f(x) = a_0 + \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} a_n \cos\frac{n\pi x}{L},$$

with

$$a_0 = \frac{1}{L}\int_0^L f(x)dx,$$
$$a_n = \frac{2}{L}\int_0^L f(x)\cos\frac{n\pi x}{L}dx,\ n = 1, 2, \cdots .$$

The Fourier series of an odd function $f(x)$ of period $2L$ is a *Fourier sine series*

$$f(x) = \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} b_n \sin\frac{n\pi x}{L},$$

with $b_n = \dfrac{2}{L}\displaystyle\int_0^L f(x)\sin\frac{n\pi x}{L}\,dx.$

5.2.11 Sum and Scalar multiplication

The Fourier coefficients of $f_1 + f_2$ are the sums of corresponding Fourier coefficients of f_1 and f_2.

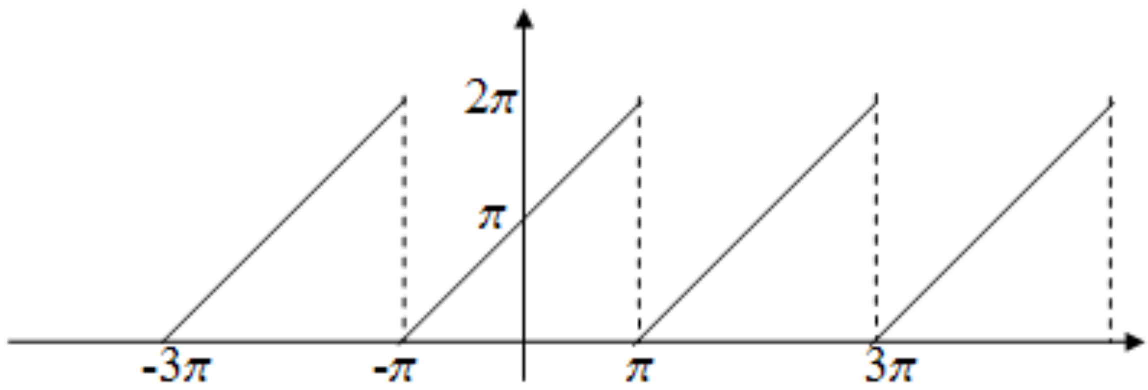
The Fourier coefficients of cf (c a constant) are c times the corresponding Fourier coefficients of f.

5.2.12 Example

Saw tooth function

$$f(x) = x + \pi, \quad -\pi < x < \pi,$$

$$f(x) = f(x + 2\pi).$$



We note that $f = f_1 + f_2$, where $f_1 = x,\ f_2 = \pi$.

The Fourier coefficients for f_2 are $a_0 = \pi$ and

$a_n = 0 = b_n$, $n \geq 1$.

The function $f_1 = x$ is odd.

Thus $a_n = 0$ for all n, and

$$
\begin{aligned}
b_n &= \frac{2}{\pi}\int_0^{\pi} x\sin nx\,dx \\
&= \frac{2}{\pi}\left\{\left[x\left(\frac{-\cos nx}{n}\right)\right]_0^{\pi} - \int_0^{\pi}\frac{-\cos nx}{n}dx\right\} \\
&= \frac{2}{\pi}\left\{\frac{-(-1)^n\pi}{n} - \left[\frac{-\sin nx}{n^2}\right]_0^{\pi}\right\} \\
&= \frac{(-1)^{n+1}2}{n}
\end{aligned}
$$

So

$$
\begin{aligned}
f(x) &= f_1(x) + f_2(x) \\
&= \sum_{n=1}^{\infty}\frac{(-1)^{n+1}2}{n}\sin\frac{n\pi x}{\pi} + \pi \\
&= \pi + 2\sum_{n=1}^{\infty}\frac{(-1)^{n+1}}{n}\sin nx
\end{aligned}
$$

5.3 Half-range Expansions

In various applications there is a practical need to use Fourier series in connection with functions f that are given on some interval only, say, $0 \le x \le L$.

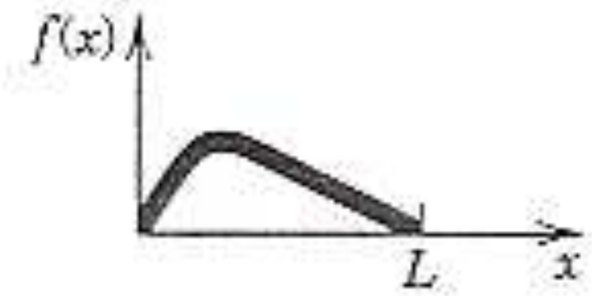


Figure (a)

5.3.1 Extension of $f(x)$

We could extend $f(x)$ as a periodic function with period L and then represent the extended function by a Fourier series, which in general would involve both sine and cosine terms. We can do better and always get a cosine series by first extending $f(x)$ from $0 \leq x \leq L$ as an even function on the interval $-L \leq x \leq L$ as in figure (b) and then extend this new function as a periodic function of period $2L$, and since it is even, we can represent it by a Fourier cosine series.

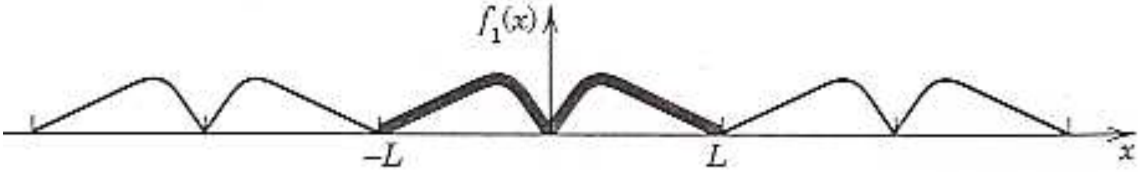


Figure (b)

Also, we can extend $f(x)$ from $0 \leq x \leq L$ as an odd function on $-L \leq x \leq L$ as in figure (c) and then extend this new function as a periodic function of period $2L$, and since it is odd, it is represented by a Fourier sine series.

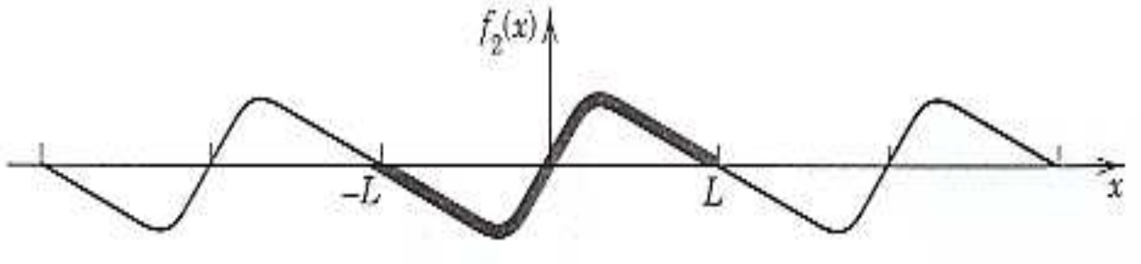


Figure (c)

5.3.2 Half range expansion

Such two series are called the two 'half range expansions' of the function f which is given only on 'half the range'.

The cosine half range expansion is

$$f(x) = a_0 + \sum_{1}^{\infty} a_n \cos \frac{n\pi x}{L}$$

with

$$\begin{aligned} a_0 &= \frac{1}{L}\int_0^L f(x)dx, \\ a_n &= \frac{2}{L}\int_0^L f(x)\cos\frac{n\pi x}{L}dx, \; n = 1, 2, \cdots \end{aligned}$$

The sine half range expansion is

$$f(x) = \sum_{1}^{\infty} b_n \sin \frac{n\pi}{L} x$$

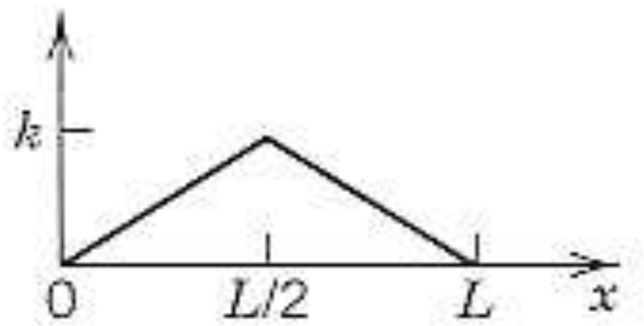
with

$$b_n = \frac{2}{L} \int_0^L f(x) \sin \frac{n\pi x}{L} dx, \ n = 1, 2, \cdots .$$

5.3.3 Example ('Triangle' function)

Find the two half range expansions for

$$f(x) = \begin{cases} \frac{2}{L} kx, & 0 < x < \frac{L}{2} \\ \frac{2k}{L}(L - x), & \frac{L}{2} < x < L. \end{cases}$$



For the cosine half range expansion, we have

$$a_0 = \frac{1}{L}\left\{\int_0^{L/2} \frac{2k}{L} x dx + \int_{L/2}^{L} \frac{2k}{L}(L-x)dx\right\} = \frac{k}{2}$$

and

$$\begin{aligned}
& a_n \\
= \ & \frac{2}{L}\left\{\int_0^{L/2} \frac{2k}{L} x \cos\frac{n\pi x}{L} dx + \int_{L/2}^{L} \frac{2k}{L}(L-x)\cos\frac{n\pi x}{L} dx\right\} \\
= \ & \frac{4k}{L^2}\left\{\int_0^{L/2} x \cos\frac{n\pi x}{L} dx + \int_{L/2}^{L} (L-x)\cos\frac{n\pi x}{L} dx\right\}
\end{aligned}$$

Integrating by parts, the first integral becomes

$$\begin{aligned}
& \int_0^{L/2} x \cos\frac{n\pi x}{L} dx \\
= \ & \left[\frac{Lx}{n\pi}\sin\frac{n\pi x}{L}\right]_0^{L/2} - \frac{L}{n\pi}\int_0^{L/2} \sin\frac{n\pi x}{L} dx \\
= \ & \frac{L^2}{2n\pi}\sin\frac{n\pi}{2} + \frac{L^2}{n^2\pi^2}\left(\cos\frac{n\pi}{2} - 1\right)
\end{aligned}$$

The second integral becomes

$$\begin{aligned}
&\int_{L/2}^{L}(L-x)\cos\frac{n\pi x}{L}dx \\
=\ &\left[\frac{L}{n\pi}(L-x)\sin\frac{n\pi x}{L}\right]_0^{L/2} + \frac{L}{n\pi}\int_{L/2}^{L}\sin\frac{n\pi x}{L}dx \\
=\ &-\frac{L^2}{2n\pi}\sin\frac{n\pi}{2} - \frac{L^2}{n^2\pi^2}\left(\cos n\pi - \cos\frac{n\pi}{2}\right)
\end{aligned}$$

Thus a_n simplifies to

$$a_n = \frac{4k}{n^2\pi^2}\left(2\cos\frac{n\pi}{2} - \cos n\pi - 1\right)$$

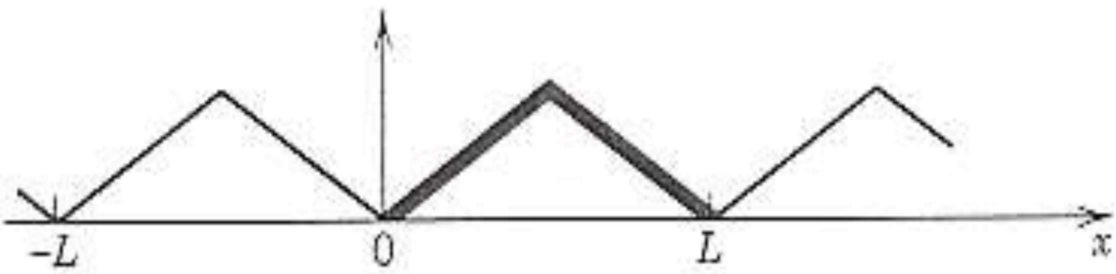
Indeed,

$$a_2 = \frac{-16k}{2^2\pi^2}, \quad a_6 = \frac{-16k}{6^2\pi^2}, \quad a_{10} = \frac{-16k}{10^2\pi^2}, \quad ,\cdots$$

and $a_n = 0$ if $n \geq 1$ and $n \neq 2, 6, 10, \cdots$.

The cosine half range expansion is

$$
\begin{aligned}
f(x) &= \frac{k}{2} - \frac{16k}{\pi^2}\sum_{m=1}^{\infty}\frac{1}{(4m-2)^2}\cos\frac{(4m-2)\pi x}{L} \\
&= \frac{k}{2} - \frac{4k}{\pi^2}\sum_{m=1}^{\infty}\frac{1}{(2m-1)^2}\cos\frac{2(2m-1)\pi x}{L}
\end{aligned}
$$



Cosine Half-Range Extension

An Application

Put $x = 0$. Using $f(0) = 0$ and the fact that f is continuous at $x = 0$, we obtain

$$0 = \frac{k}{2} - \frac{4k}{\pi^2}\sum_{m=1}^{\infty}\frac{1}{(2m-1)^2}.$$

This implies that

$$\sum_{m=1}^{\infty} \frac{1}{(2m-1)^2} = \frac{\pi^2}{8}.$$

We will now use this result to find $\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{1}{n^2}$.

We have

$$\begin{aligned} \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{1}{n^2} &= \sum_{m=1}^{\infty} \frac{1}{(2m)^2} + \sum_{m=1}^{\infty} \frac{1}{(2m-1)^2} \\ &= \frac{1}{4} \sum_{m=1}^{\infty} \frac{1}{m^2} + \frac{\pi^2}{8} \end{aligned}$$

and therefore

$$\frac{3}{4} \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{1}{n^2} = \frac{\pi^2}{8}$$

and

$$\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{1}{n^2} = \frac{\pi^2}{6}.$$

For the sine half range expansion, we have

$$
\begin{aligned}
& b_n \\
=\ & \frac{2}{L}\left\{\int_0^{L/2} \frac{2k}{L} x \sin\frac{n\pi x}{L} dx + \int_{L/2}^{L} \frac{2k}{L}(L-x)\sin\frac{n\pi x}{L} dx\right\} \\
=\ & \frac{4k}{L^2}\left\{\int_0^{L/2} x \sin\frac{n\pi x}{L} dx + \int_{L/2}^{L} (L-x)\sin\frac{n\pi x}{L} dx\right\}
\end{aligned}
$$

Integrating by parts, the first integral becomes

$$
\begin{aligned}
& \int_0^{L/2} x \sin\frac{n\pi x}{L} dx \\
=\ & \left[-\frac{Lx}{n\pi}\cos\frac{n\pi x}{L}\right]_0^{L/2} - \frac{L}{n\pi}\int_0^{L/2} -\cos\frac{n\pi x}{L} dx \\
=\ & -\frac{L^2}{2n\pi}\cos\frac{n\pi}{2} + \frac{L^2}{n^2\pi^2}\left(\sin\frac{n\pi}{2}\right)
\end{aligned}
$$

The second integral becomes

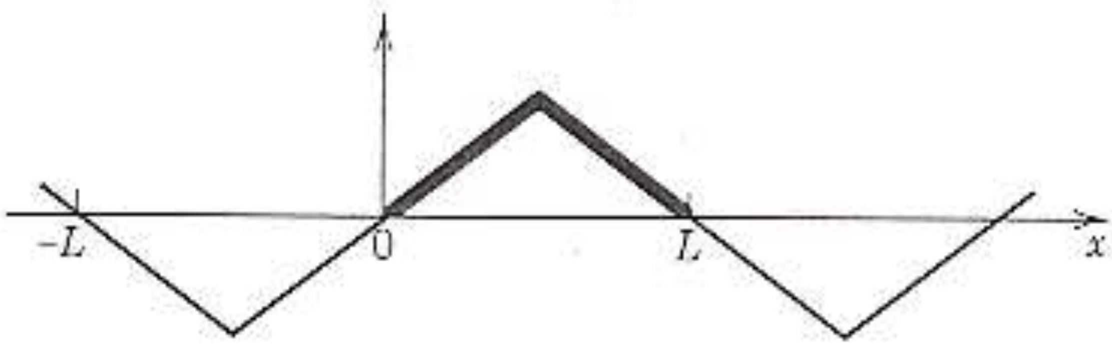
$$
\begin{aligned}
&\int_{L/2}^{L}(L-x)\sin\frac{n\pi x}{L}dx \\
=\ &\left[-\frac{L}{n\pi}(L-x)\cos\frac{n\pi x}{L}\right]_0^{L/2}+\frac{L}{n\pi}\int_{L/2}^{L}-\cos\frac{n\pi x}{L}dx \\
=\ &\frac{L^2}{2n\pi}\cos\frac{n\pi}{2}-\frac{L^2}{n^2\pi^2}\left(\sin n\pi-\sin\frac{n\pi}{2}\right) \\
=\ &\frac{L^2}{2n\pi}\cos\frac{n\pi}{2}+\frac{L^2}{n^2\pi^2}\sin\frac{n\pi}{2}
\end{aligned}
$$

Thus b_n simplifies to

$$b_n=\frac{8k}{n^2\pi^2}\sin\frac{n\pi}{2}$$

The sine half range expansion is

$$
\begin{aligned}
f(x) &= \frac{8k}{\pi^2}\sum_{n=1}^{\infty}\frac{1}{n^2}\sin\frac{n\pi}{2}\sin\frac{n\pi x}{L} \\
&= \frac{8k}{\pi^2}\sum_{m=1}^{\infty}\frac{(-1)^{m-1}}{(2m-1)^2}\sin\frac{(2m-1)\pi x}{L}
\end{aligned}
$$



Sine Half-Range Extension