

# Fourier Analysis and its Applications

## 2016 Yat-sen Class

Sun Yat-sen University

*Department of Mathematics*

September 7, 2017

# Introduction to the Course

Class Time: Thursday  
14:20–16:00

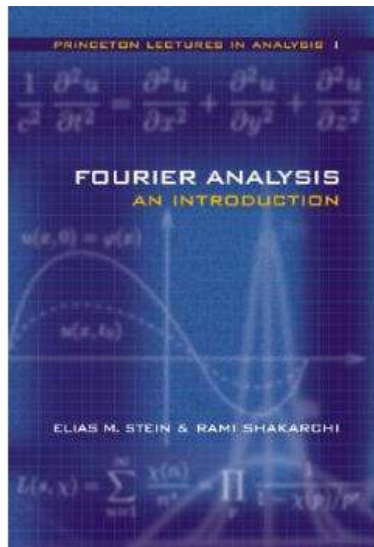
Location: Room 416

Instructor: Prof. Lixin Yan  
(颜立新老师)

Contact: 020-84110123

Office: Room 702

Email: mcsylx@mail.sysu.edu.cn



TA: Yikun Zhang (张奕堃)

Email: yikunzhang@foxmail.com

Course Website:

<https://zhangyk8.github.io/teaching/fourier>

Office Hour: Wednesday  
16:00-17:30

Location: 逸仙学院负一层



## Support Materials:

- Trigonometric Series (三角级数) Third Edition (Written by Antoni Zygmund)
- Stanford Open Course

<http://open.163.com/special/opencourse/fouriertransforms.html>



# Author of the Textbook

## Elias M. Stein

Professor Emeritus of  
Mathematics, Princeton  
University

Main Awards: Wolf Prize (1999)



**R.Shakarchi:** PhD student of C.Feffermen

# Stein's Doctoral Students



**Figure:** Charles Fefferman (1978 Fields, 2017 Wolf)



**Figure:** Terence Tao (2006 Fields)

# Who is Fourier?

# Biography of J.Fourier

Joseph Fourier(1768–1830)

- Profession: Mathematician, Egyptologist and Administrator
- Other Achievement: Discover the **Greenhouse Effect**





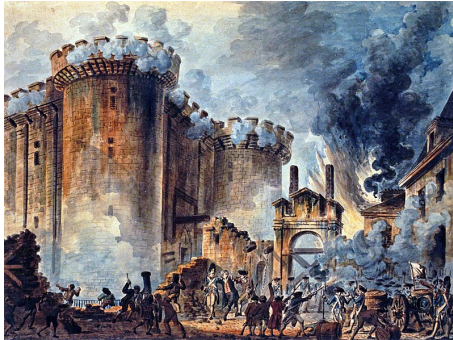
# Early Life

- The son of a tailor and a housewife
- Talent in Latin, French, and Literature
- Real interest: **Mathematics**

*Yesterday was my 21st birthday, at that age Newton and Pascal had already acquired many claims to immortality.*

# Politics vs Mathematics

- **French Revolution**
- Egyptian Expedition



# Mathematics Career

- 1 Mathematics teacher at the **École Polytechnique**
- 2 The chair of Analysis and Mechanics



# Academic Advisors of Fourier

Teacher's Name	His Advisor	The age when he first met Fourier
Pierre-Simon Laplace	Jean d'Alembert	45
Gaspard Monge	NA	49
Joseph-Louis Lagrange	Leonhard Eulern	59

Fourier gave charming descriptions of these famous mathematicians.

# Laplace and Monge

To Laplace:

*His voice is quiet but clear, and he speaks precisely, though not very fluently; his appearance is pleasant, and he dresses very simply. His teaching of mathematics is in no way remarkable and he covers the material **very rapidly**...*

To Monge:

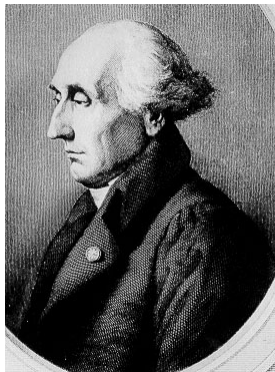
*Monge has a loud voice and he is energetic, ingenious and very learned. The subject that he teaches is a fascinating one, and he describes it with the greatest possible clarity. He is even considered to be **too clear, or, rather to deal with his material too slowly**...*



# J.Lagrange

To Lagrange:

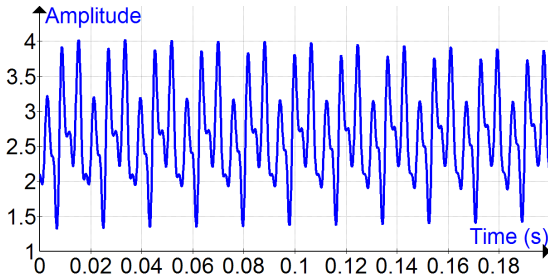
*Lagrange, the foremost scholar of Europe, appears to be between 50 and 60 years old, though he is in fact younger; he dresses very quietly, in black or brown. He speaks only in discussion, and some of what he says excites ridicule. The other day he said “**There are a lot of important things to be said on this subject, but I shall not say them**”.*



# What is Fourier Analysis?

# Background

- **Trigonometric functions and its convergence property**
- **Fourier Transform**
- ...





# Is Fourier Analysis Useful?

$$\frac{\pi}{4} = 1 - \frac{1}{3} + \frac{1}{5} - \frac{1}{7} + \dots$$

$$\frac{\pi^2}{6} = 1 + \frac{1}{2^2} + \frac{1}{3^2} + \frac{1}{4^2} + \dots$$

$$\frac{\pi^2}{12} = 1 - \frac{1}{2^2} + \frac{1}{3^2} - \frac{1}{4^2} + \dots + \frac{(-1)^{n-1}}{n^2} + \dots$$



邓东皋 尹小玲

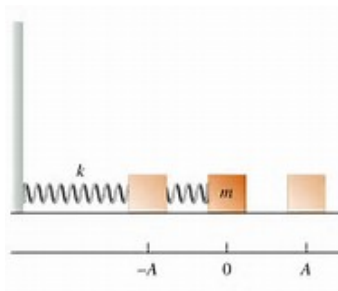
数学分析简明教程

高等教育出版社（第二版），2006年12月

# History: Physical Model

## Simple Harmonic Motion

$$-ky(t) = my''(t)$$



## Solution

$$y(t) = a\cos(ct) + b\sin(ct)$$

See Chapter 1 for details

# Two Problems

d'Alembert, Euler, Taylor, Bernoulli,...

⇒ Solution for the oscillator equation

## Problem 1

*Given a function  $f$  on  $[0, \pi]$  (with  $f(0) = f(\pi) = 0$ ), can we find coefficients  $A_m$  so that  $f(x) = \sum_{m=1}^{\infty} A_m \sin(mx)$ ?*

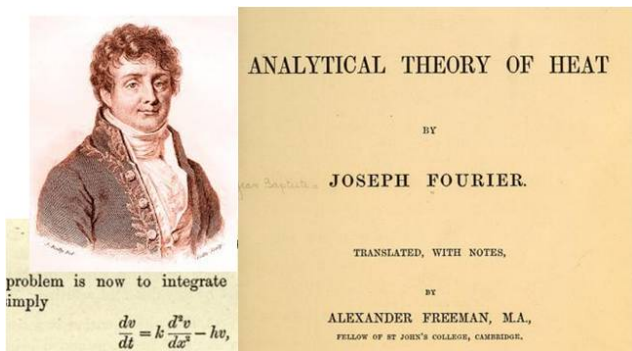
## Problem 2

*Given any reasonable function  $F$  on  $[-\pi, \pi]$ , is it true that*

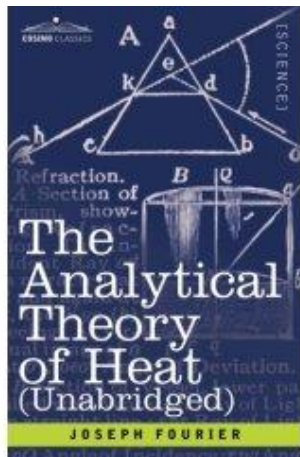
$$F(x) = \sum_{m=-\infty}^{\infty} a_m e^{imx} \quad a_n = \frac{1}{2\pi} \int_{-\pi}^{\pi} F(x) e^{-inx} dx$$

# The Analytical Theory of Heat (1822)

Idea: Any function of a variable, whether continuous or discontinuous, can be expanded in a series of sines of multiples of the variable.



- No rigorous proof
- Still unprecedented



# Trigonometric Series: Dirichlet's Works

## Dirichlet

- Poisson summation formula
- Modernization of the concept of function



## Theorem A

For any given value of  $x$ , the sum of the Fourier series is  $f(x)$  if  $f(x)$  is continuous at that point  $x$ , and is  $\frac{1}{2}[f(x-0) + f(x+0)]$  if  $f(x)$  is discontinuous at that point.

See Chapter 3 for details.

# Riemann's Contribution

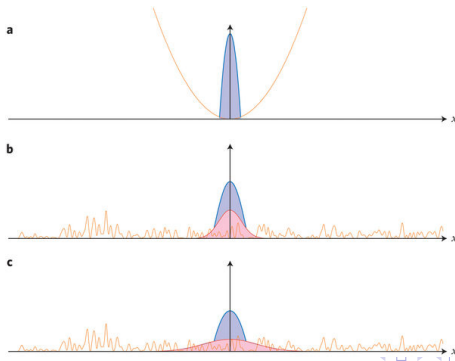
- 1 Riemann integral
- 2 Riemann localization principle



# Riemann Localization Principle

## Theorem B

For a bounded integrable function  $f(x)$ , the convergence of its Fourier series at a point  $x$  in  $[-\pi, \pi]$  depends only on the behaviour of  $f(x)$  in an arbitrarily small neighborhood of that point  $x$ .





# Further Development: Before 20<sup>th</sup> Century



Figure: George Stokes



Figure: L. Seidel



Figure: Karl  
Weierstrass

# Weierstrass Approximation Theorem

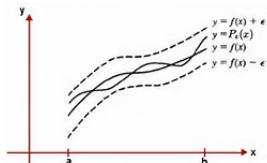
## Theorem C

Continuous functions on the circle can be uniformly approximated by trigonometric polynomials.

## Theorem D (Weierstrass)

Let  $f$  be a continuous function on the closed and bounded interval  $[a, b] \subset \mathbb{R}$ . Then for any  $\epsilon > 0$ , there exists a polynomial  $P$  such that

$$\sup_{x \in [a, b]} |f(x) - P(x)| < \epsilon.$$



Chapter 2 Exercise 16  
(Homework)

# Riemann's Guess

## Continuous but nowhere differentiable function?

$$R(x) = \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{\sin(n^2 x)}{n^2}$$

In 1969 Gerver successfully proved that

The function  $R$  is actually differentiable at all the rational multiples of  $\pi$  of the form  $\frac{\pi p}{q}$  with  $p$  and  $q$  odd integers.

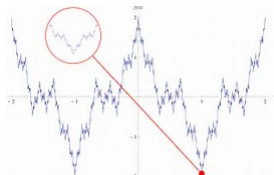
# Weierstrass's Example

## Theorem E

If  $ab > 1 + \frac{3\pi}{2}$ ,  $0 < b < 1$ ,  $a > 1$ ,  $a \in 2\mathbb{Z} + 1$  then the function

$$W(x) = \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} b^n \cos(a^n x)$$

is nowhere differentiable.



See Chapter 4 for details.

Remark: This kind of functions is uncountable.

# Real Analysis

Drawback of Riemann Integral:

- Newton-Leibniz Formula
- Convergence of Fourier series

Lebesgue's Theory



# After 20<sup>th</sup> Century

## Harmonic Analysis



Figure:  
A.N.Kolmogorov

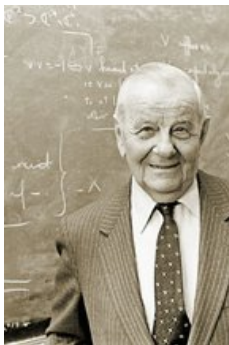


Figure: A.Zygmund



Figure: Elias Stein

# Connections and Influence

# Modern Fourier Analysis (I)

## Luzin's Conjecture

*If  $f \in L^2[0, 2\pi]$ , then its Fourier series converges almost everywhere.*

## Theorem E (L.Carleson and Hunt)

The Fourier series of any integrable function  $f(x)$  i.e.,  $f \in L^p[0, 2\pi]$ ,  $1 < p < \infty$ , converges almost everywhere to  $f(x)$ .

Luzin's Conjecture in high dimensions: **Still Unsolved**



# Kolmogorov's Counterexample (1926)

The preceding theorem fails when  $p = 1$ , that is, the Fourier series of  $L^1$  functions diverges everywhere.

## Example

Let  $\lambda_1, \dots, \lambda_n$  be increasing odd integers to be defined.

- $m_1 = n, 2m_k + 1 = \lambda_k(2n + 1)$
- $A_k = k \frac{4\pi}{2n+1}, 1 \leq k \leq n$
- $\phi(x) = \frac{m_k^2}{n}$  for  $x \in \Delta_k := [A_k - m_k^{-2}, A_k + m_k^{-2}]$  and 0 elsewhere.

Consider the following candidate:

$$\phi(x) = \sum_{k=1}^{\infty} \frac{\phi_{n_k}(x)}{\sqrt{M_{n_k}}}$$

Then the fourier series of  $\phi$  diverges almost elsewhere on  $[0, 2\pi]$ .

# Partial Differential Equation (II)

Wave equation:  $\Delta u = u_{tt}$

Heat equation:  $cu_t = \Delta u$

Laplace's equation:  $\Delta u = 0$

*Schrödinger's equation*:  $iu_t + \Delta u = 0$

## Navier-Stokes equations

$$\mathbf{u}_t + \mathbf{u} \cdot \nabla \mathbf{u} - \Delta \mathbf{u} = -\nabla p$$

$$\operatorname{div} \mathbf{u} = 0$$

$p$  : Pressure

.....

.....

.....

# Example: Wave Equation

If this equation is subject to the initial conditions

$$\begin{aligned}u(x, 0) &= f(x) \\ \frac{\partial u}{\partial t}(x, 0) &= g(x),\end{aligned}$$

this is called the **Cauchy problem** for the wave equation.

## Theorem F

A solution of the Cauchy problem for the wave equation is

$$u(x, t) = \int_{\mathbb{R}^d} [\hat{f}(\xi) \cos(2\pi|\xi|t) + \hat{g}(\xi) \frac{\sin(2\pi|\xi|t)}{2\pi|\xi|}] e^{2\pi i x \cdot \xi} d\xi,$$

where  $\hat{f}$  is the inverse Fourier transform of  $f$ .

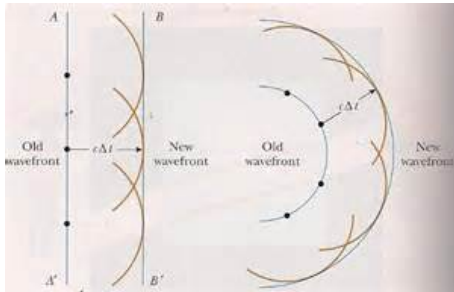
See Chapter 6 for details.

# Interpretation in Physics – Huygens Principle

The solutions of the wave equation in one dimension is

$$u(x, t) = \frac{f(x+t) + f(x-t)}{2} + \frac{1}{2} \int_{x-t}^{x+t} g(y) dy,$$

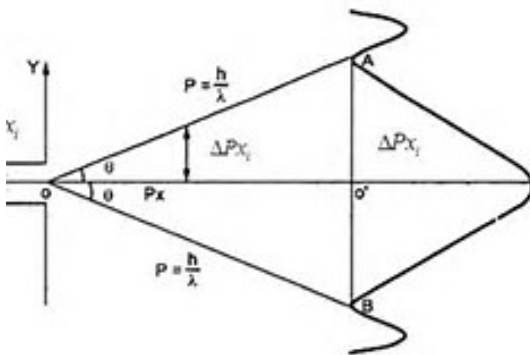
known as **d'Alembert's formula**.



# Quantum Mechanics (III)

## The Heisenberg Uncertainty Principle, 1927

$(\text{Uncertainty of position}) \times (\text{Uncertainty of momentum}) \leq \frac{h}{16\pi^2}$ ,  
where  $h$  is Planck's constant.



# The Heisenberg Uncertainty Principle (1927)

## Theorem

*Suppose  $\psi$  is a function in  $\mathbf{S}(\mathbb{R})$  which satisfies the normalizing condition  $\int_{-\infty}^{\infty} |\psi(x)|^2 dx = 1$ . Then*

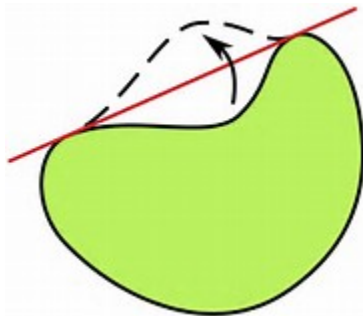
$$\left( \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} x^2 |\psi(x)|^2 dx \right) \left( \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} \xi^2 |\hat{\psi}(\xi)|^2 d\xi \right) \geq \frac{1}{16\pi^2},$$

*and equality holds if and only if  $\psi(x) = Ae^{-Bx^2}$  where  $B > 0$  and  $A^2 = \sqrt{\frac{2B}{\pi}}$ .*

See Chapter 5 for details.

# Geometry (IV)

Among all simple closed curves of length  $l$  in the plane  $\mathbb{R}^2$ , which one encloses the largest area?



Fourier analysis can give a rigorous proof.

# Statement of the Theorem

## Theorem G (Isoperimetric inequality)

Suppose that  $\Gamma$  is a simple closed curve in  $\mathbb{R}^2$  of length  $l$  and let  $\mathcal{A}$  denote the area of the region enclosed by this curve. Then

$$\mathcal{A} \leq \frac{l^2}{4\pi}$$

with equality if and only if  $\Gamma$  is a circle.

The proof depends mainly on **Parseval's identity**.



## Theorem H (Weyl's equidistribution)

If  $\gamma$  is irrational, then the sequence of fractional parts  $\langle \gamma \rangle, \langle 2\gamma \rangle, \langle 3\gamma \rangle, \dots$  is equidistributed in  $[0, 1)$ .

See visualization and geometric interpretation on the course website.

See Chapter 4 for details.

# Fast Fourier Transform (VI)

- **Cooley-Tukey algorithm** (Most common)
- Factorizing the Discrete Fourier Transform matrix into a product of sparse factors

# Discrete Fourier Transform

If we denote by  $a_k^N(F)$  the  $k^{\text{th}}$  Fourier coefficient of  $F$  on  $\mathbb{Z}(N)$ , then it is defined by

## $k^{\text{th}}$ Fourier coefficient

$$a_k^N(F) = \frac{1}{N} \sum_{r=0}^{N-1} F(r) w_N^{kr}, \text{ where } w_N = e^{-\frac{2\pi i}{N}}$$

## Theorem I

If  $F$  is a function on  $\mathbb{Z}(N)$ , then

$$F(q) = \sum_{k=0}^{N-1} a_k^N(F) e^{2\pi i k q / N}$$

# Fast Fourier Transform

FFT can improve the bound  $O(N^2)$ .

## Theorem J

Given  $w_N = e^{-\frac{2\pi i}{N}}$  with  $N = 2^n$ , it is possible to calculate the Fourier coefficients of a function on  $\mathbb{Z}(N)$  with at most

$$4 \cdot 2^n n = 4N \log_2(N) = O(N \log N)$$

operations.

See Chapter 7 for details.

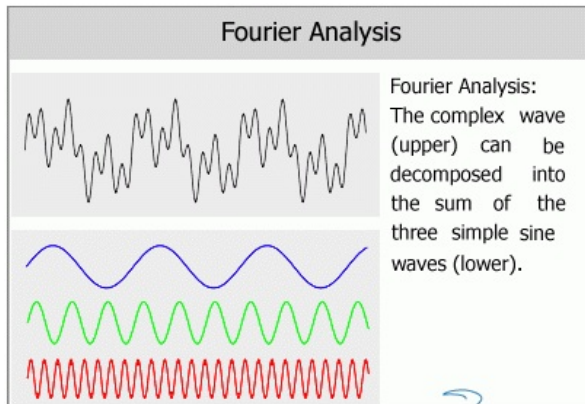
# Applications of FFT

- Signal processing
- Cryptography
- Filtering algorithms (Time Series)
- Quantum mechanics

# Signal Processing VII

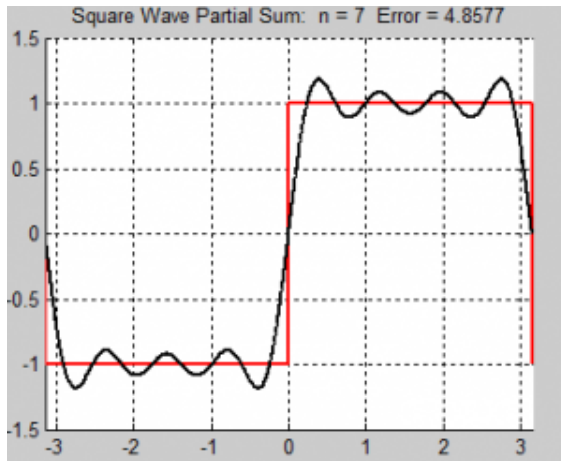
## Example 1: Representation of Complicated signals

- A complex periodic signal can be decomposed into the sum of several simple Fourier series.



## Example 2: Approximation of Impulses and Complex Functions

- An impulse signal can be approximated by trigonometric series.



### Example 3:

Express the signal function  $f$  into trigonometric series

$$f(t) = a_0 + \sum_k (a_k \cos(kt) + b_k \sin(kt))$$

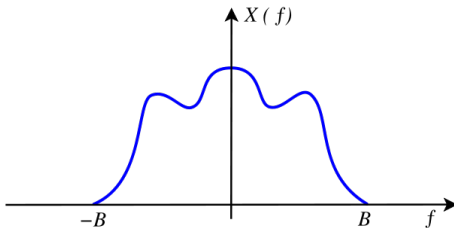
- *Signal(Data) Compression*
- *Noise Reduction*



## Example 4: Nyquist-Shannon Sampling Theorem

### Theorem K

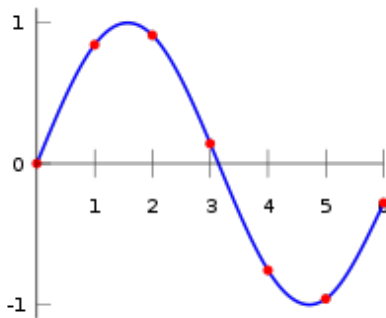
If a function  $x(t)$  contains frequencies no higher than  $B$  hertz, it is completely determined by giving its ordinates at a series of points space  $\frac{1}{2B}$  seconds part.



① Continuous function

② Discrete sequence

③ Continuous function



# Prestige of Fourier Analysis

## Applications:

- Physics
- Signal Processing
- Statistics
- Biology
- Acoustics
- Oceanography
- ...



Wikipedia

Fourier Analysis

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Fourier\\_analysis](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Fourier_analysis), Retrieved on  
September 6, 2017

# Discussion