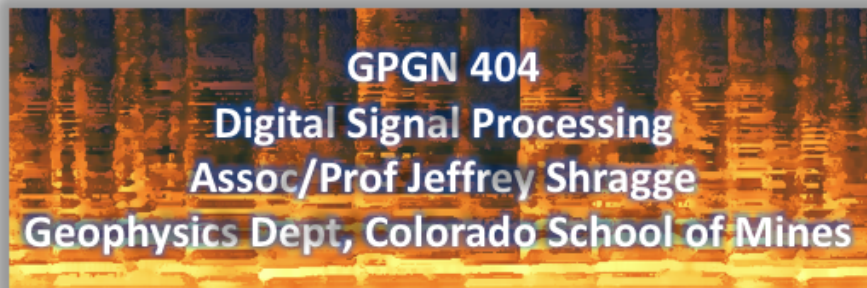
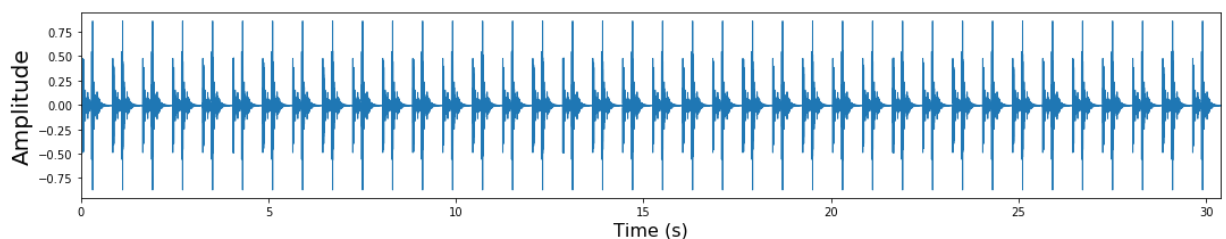


Out[1]: The raw code for this IPython notebook is by default hidden for easier reading. To toggle on/off the raw code, click [here](#).



## An Introduction to Fourier Series

Let's start out our investigation into the world of Fourier by looking at [Fourier Series](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Fourier_series) ([https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Fourier\\_series](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Fourier_series)). First, to get an idea of the types of periodic signals we can represent with Fourier Series, let's first look at a data example. The WAV file is an acoustic recording of a heartbeat over a 30s duration. We are going to both plot the time series and listen to it (which is easy to do as part of the IPython's display function!).



Out[3]:  
0:00 / 0:30

**Q:** How would you go about characterising the heart-beat signal?

## Fourier Series

The mathematical formulation of **Fourier Series** is used for a variety of purposes, including:

- Representing **continuous-time periodic** signals (e.g., heart beat, tick-tock of a clock)
- Expressing **periodic** signals using **harmonically related sinusoids** (i.e.,  $\sin$  and  $\cos$ ) defined by angular frequencies  $\{ \dots, -2\omega_0, -\omega_0, 0, \omega_0, 2\omega_0, \dots \}$ 
  - where  $\omega_0$  is called the **fundamental angular frequency** and only takes on discrete values, i.e.,  $k\omega_0$  where  $k$  is an integer and  $-\infty < k < \infty$ .
- The computation and study of Fourier Series is known as [harmonic analysis](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Harmonic_analysis) ([https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Harmonic\\_analysis](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Harmonic_analysis)).

While the Fourier Series is used to represent only periodic signals, as we will see in later classes that it may be generalized into the **Fourier transform**. This is one of the most useful transforms that you will experience in your geophysical careers. But first, let's look at two key concepts: **periodicity** and **superposition**.

## Periodicity

A *continuous-time* function  $x(t)$  is said to be **periodic** ([https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Periodic\\_function](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Periodic_function)) if there exists a constant  $T > 0$  such that:

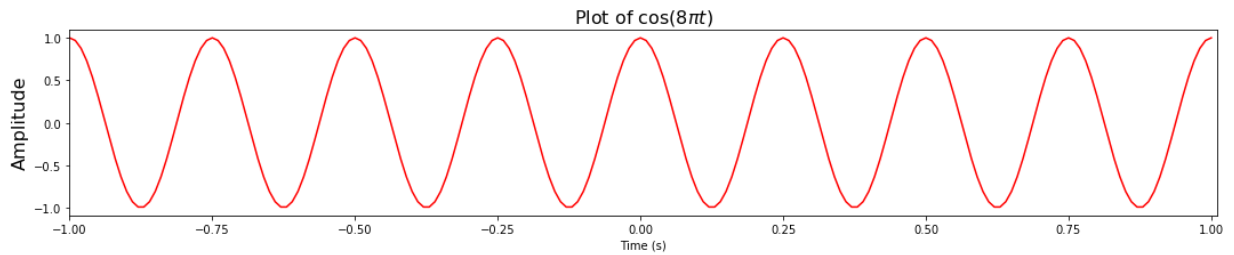
$$x(t) = x(t + T), \quad t \in (-\infty, \infty). \quad (1)$$

Note that I am just calling it  $t$  because I have to call it something. The smallest  $T$  for which the relationship in equation 1 holds is called the **fundamental period**. The **fundamental angular frequency**,  $\omega_0$ , is related to  $T$  by:

$$\omega_0 = \frac{2\pi}{T}. \quad (2)$$

Note that because we have defined  $\omega = 2\pi f$ , the **fundamental frequency** is given by  $f_0 = 1/T$ . You also have to be careful when people talk about "the frequency". Normally this means the fundamental frequency (but not always) - so it's good to ask.

The example below shows that a single  $x(t) = \sin 8\pi t$  wave has multiple periodicities; however, the fundamental period is given by  $T = 0.25s$  and thus the fundamental frequency is given by  $f = 1/T = 1/0.25s = 4Hz$ .



## Superposition

From straightforward individual sinusoids we can build up much more complicated periodic waveforms by taking weighted sums over the various sinusoids. In fact, every continuous-time periodic function can be expanded into a **complex Fourier Series** as:

$$x(t) = \sum_{k=-\infty}^{\infty} C_k e^{ik\omega_0 t} = \sum_{k=-\infty}^{\infty} C_k e^{ik2\pi t/T}, \quad (3)$$

where the **Fourier Series coefficients**,  $\{C_k\}$ , are given by an **inversion formula**:

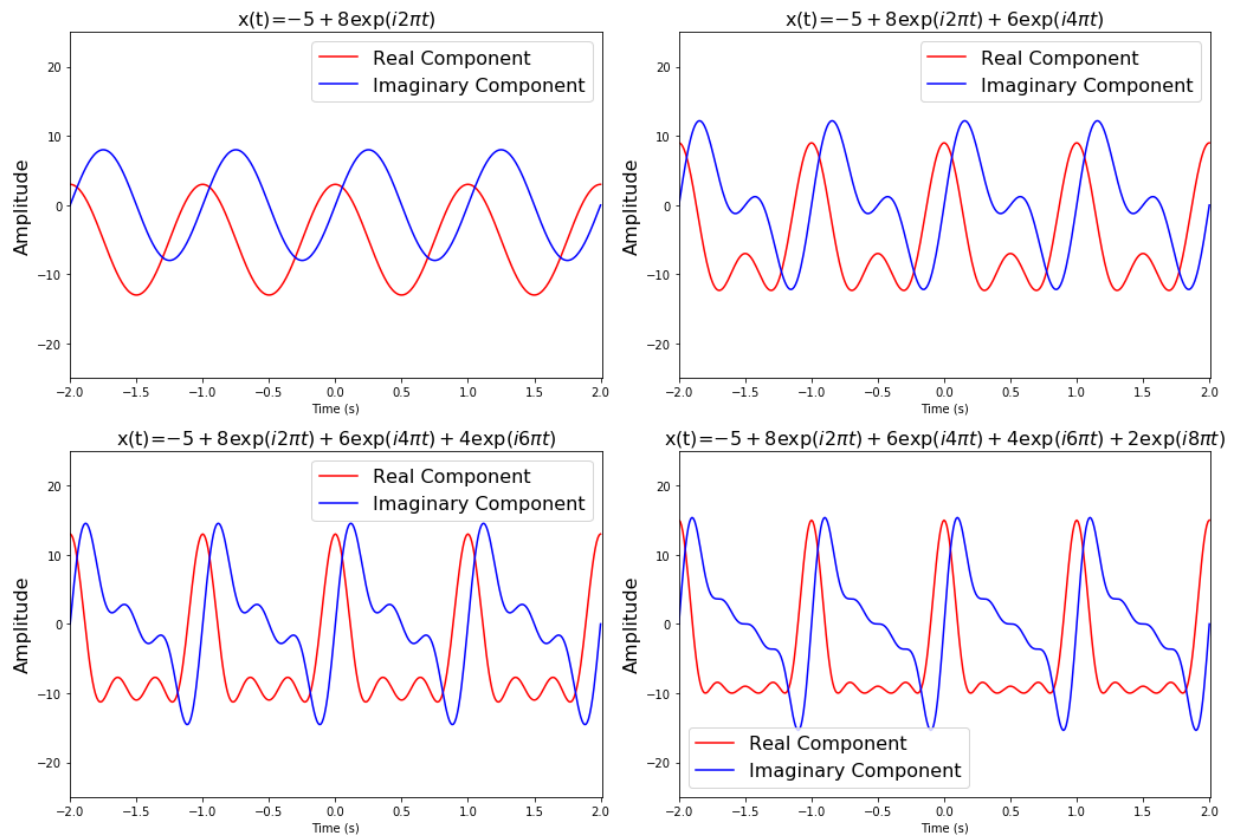
$$C_k = \frac{1}{T} \int_{-T/2}^{T/2} x(t) e^{-ik\omega_0 t} dt = \frac{1}{T} \int_{-T/2}^{T/2} x(t) e^{-ik2\pi t/T} dt, \quad k = \dots, -2, -1, 0, 1, 2, \dots \quad (4)$$

Note that while  $e^{ik\omega_0 t}$  may not immediately look like sinusoids, you can apply Euler's formula  $\left( \cos \theta = \frac{e^{i\theta} + e^{-i\theta}}{2} \text{ and } \sin \theta = \frac{e^{i\theta} - e^{-i\theta}}{2i} \right)$  to turn the complex exponential into sin and cos terms.

Here's an example of what a Fourier Series would be for a situation where  $T = 1s$  and we have some randomly generated integer coefficients:

$$[\dots, C_{-1}, C_0, C_1, C_2, C_3, C_4, C_5, \dots] = [\dots, 0, -5, 8, 6, 4, 2, 0, \dots]$$

where all other coefficients are zero. The first panel plots the superposition of just the  $C_0$  and  $C_1$  coefficients. The second panel shows  $C_0$ ,  $C_1$  and  $C_2$ . The third panel shows  $C_0$ ,  $C_1$ ,  $C_2$  and  $C_3$ . The fourth panel shows  $C_0$ ,  $C_1$ ,  $C_2$ ,  $C_3$  and  $C_4$ .

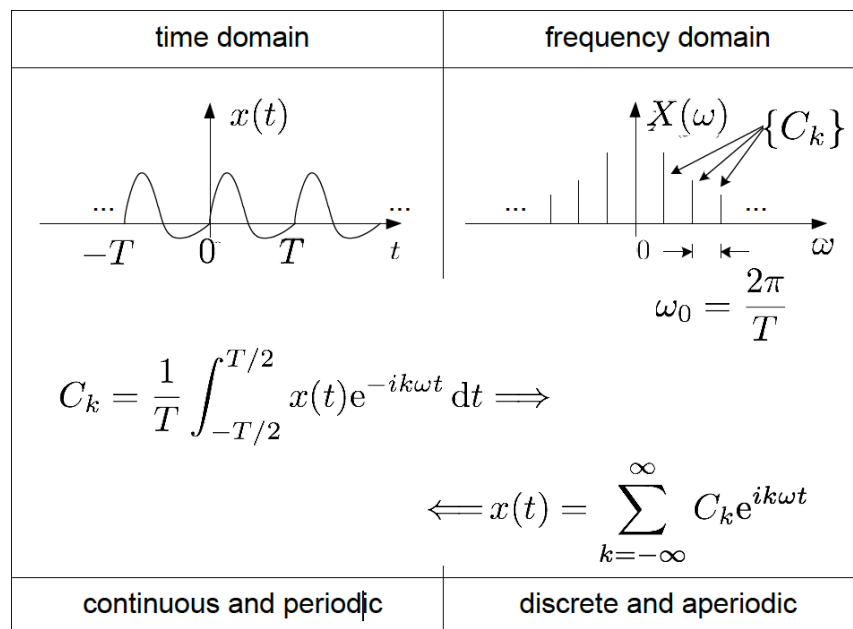


Notice that the shape of the signal repeats with the fundamental periodicity of  $T = 1$ s **regardless of the number of higher-order terms added!** This is a basic illustration of a Fourier series. Of course, we want to be able to represent signals that have a certain shape given by  $x(t)$ . In this case we have to use the inversion formula to recover what the  $C_k$  values will approximate the desired  $x(t)$ .

A natural question might be how many different  $\{C_k\}$  coefficients are required to "accurately represent" a given signal? Generally speaking, this will depend on the signal's structure. In the most basic example, a single sinusoid will require one coefficient. Similarly, a relatively smooth signal (usually) will require superimposing fewer  $\{C_k\}$  terms than a signal with "sharp features" (e.g., a corner discontinuity), which will require a very large (or, in fact, an infinite) number of  $\{C_k\}$  terms. We will look at an example below.

## What are these $\{C_k\}$ coefficients?

The sequence of coefficients  $\{C_k\}$  characterize a **frequency-domain representation** that **uniquely** corresponds to the time-domain signal  $x(t)$ . In addition, you should note that time-domain signal in Figure 1 is both **continuous and periodic**, while the frequency-domain representation is **discrete and aperiodic!** You will notice that a lot of interesting symmetries occur when looking at **conjugate domains** (i.e., time and frequency).



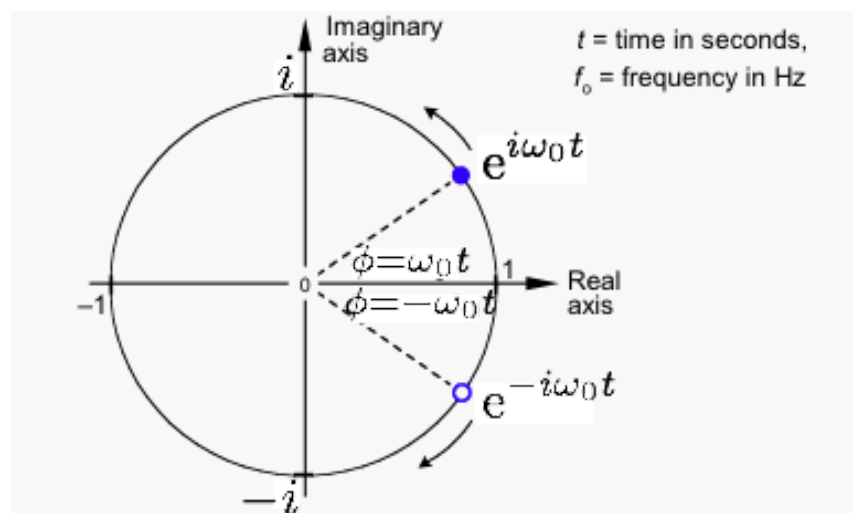
**Figure 1. Illustrating the relationship between a continuous and periodic time-domain signal and a discrete set of coefficients in the frequency domain.**

You can also ask yourself: "What happens if I **squeeze** the time series on the left to make  $T$  smaller?" Because  $\omega_0 = 2\pi/T$ , we see that this effectively **stretches** the frequency content on the left. That is, it moves the frequency structure higher. Conversely, if we **stretch** the time series, this will **squeeze** the frequency domain and move the frequencies lower.

You might note that in the limit that the time series is stretched out to **infinity** (i.e.,  $T \rightarrow \infty$ ) this effectively creates a **continuum** in the frequency domain. In essence, this is what we do when we develop the theory of the **Fourier Transform**. More on this in the next set of notes.

## Magnitude and phase

Now that we are back into "complex subject matter", it is helpful to make a connection to the discussion in the previous lectures on complex numbers. Generally speaking, coefficients  $\{C_k\}$  are **complex-valued** quantities, and we often use magnitude and phase for its representation.



**Figure 2. Illustration of the connection between  $x$  and  $y$ , and magnitude and phase. Note that engineering disciplines commonly use  $j$  for the imaginary unit, while  $i$  is the preferred usage in mathematics and applied physics fields.**

Mathematical expressions for these terms are given by the following. The magnitude is given by:

$$|C_k| = \sqrt{(\Re\{C_k\})^2 + (\Im\{C_k\})^2} \quad (5)$$

while the phase is represented by ( $\angle$  denotes angle):

$$\angle(C_k) = \tan^{-1} \left( \frac{\Im\{C_k\}}{\Re\{C_k\}} \right). \quad (6)$$

Thus, the physical meaning of the **Fourier magnitude** and **Fourier phase** is nothing more than the **modulus** and **argument** of a **complex number** that we discussed in the previous chapter. In these expressions  $\Re$  and  $\Im$  are again the real and imaginary operators:

$$\Re(z) = \Re(x + iy) = x \quad \text{and} \quad \Im(z) = \Im(x + iy) = y. \quad (7)$$

Many mathematical software packages differentiate will provide the equivalent of an  $\text{atan2}(y, x)$  function that gives

## Trigonometric Fourier Series

There is another Fourier Series representations that you will likely encounter involving **trigonometric** sin and cos functions:

$$f(t) = \sum_{k=-\infty}^{\infty} a_k \cos(k\omega_0 t) + b_k \sin(k\omega_0 t), \quad (8)$$

where  $a_k$  and  $b_k$  are coefficients that may be related to the  $C_k$  in equation 3 and 4. However, recognising that the cos function is even (i.e.,  $\cos(-x) = \cos(x)$ ) and that the sin function is odd (i.e.,  $\sin(-x) = -\sin(x)$ ), one may rewrite equation 8 as:

$$f(t) = \frac{A_0}{2} + \sum_{k=1}^{\infty} A_k \cos(k\omega_0 t) + B_k \sin(k\omega_0 t), \quad (9)$$

where, in general,  $A_k \neq a_k$  and  $B_k \neq b_k$ .

**Extension Question:** Show that equations 8 and 9 are equivalent by establishing the relationship between the two sets of coefficients.

## Inversion formula for Trigonometric Fourier Series

**Fourier series** consisting of only cos and sin terms will occur for even and odd waveforms, respectively. Waveforms that are neither even nor odd will in general have both cos and sin terms.

The **inversion formula** for the Fourier series coefficients are given by

$$A_0 = \frac{2}{T} \int_{-T/2}^{T/2} f(t) dt \quad (10)$$

$$A_k = \frac{2}{T} \int_{-T/2}^{T/2} f(t) \cos(k\omega_0 t) dt \quad (11)$$

$$B_k = \frac{2}{T} \int_{-T/2}^{T/2} f(t) \sin(k\omega_0 t) dt \quad (12)$$

One can establish the equivalence of the trigonometric and complex exponential Fourier Series by applying **de Moivre's relationship**.

## Orthogonality of sin and cos integrals

One interesting question that comes to mind when looking at Equations 10-12 is "what happens if  $f(t)$  is composed of number of superposition of sinusoids?". To answer this question directly we can turn to the orthogonality ([https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Orthogonal\\_functions](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Orthogonal_functions)) of cos and sin integrals.

**Q:** Prove the orthogonality relationships of cos and sin functions over  $[-T/2, T/2]$  where  $T$  is the fundamental period.

**A:** For any  $n \neq 0$  and with  $\omega_0 = \frac{2\pi}{T}$  we have

$$\int_{-T/2}^{T/2} \cos(n\omega_0 t) dt = \left[ \frac{\sin(n\omega_0 t)}{n\omega_0} \right]_{-T/2}^{T/2} = 0 \quad (13)$$

$$\int_{-T/2}^{T/2} \sin(n\omega_0 t) dt = \left[ -\frac{\cos(n\omega_0 t)}{n\omega_0} \right]_{-T/2}^{T/2} = 0 \quad (14)$$

$$\int_{-T/2}^{T/2} \cos^2(n\omega_0 t) dt = 2 \int_0^{T/2} \frac{1 + \cos^2(n\omega_0 t)}{2} dt = \left[ t + \frac{\sin(2n\omega_0 t)}{2n\omega_0} \right]_0^{T/2} = \frac{T}{2} \quad (15)$$

$$\int_{-T/2}^{T/2} \sin^2(n\omega_0 t) dt = 2 \int_0^{T/2} \frac{1 - \cos^2(n\omega_0 t)}{2} dt = \left[ t - \frac{\sin(2n\omega_0 t)}{2n\omega_0} \right]_0^{T/2} = \frac{T}{2} \quad (16)$$

Equations 20-22 rely on the following three identities:

$$\cos(\alpha) \cos(\beta) = \frac{1}{2} [\cos(\alpha + \beta) + \cos(\alpha - \beta)] \quad (17)$$

$$\sin(\alpha) \sin(\beta) = \frac{1}{2} [\cos(\alpha - \beta) - \cos(\alpha + \beta)] \quad (18)$$

$$\sin(\alpha) \cos(\beta) = \frac{1}{2} [\sin(\alpha + \beta) + \sin(\alpha - \beta)] \quad (19)$$

For  $n \neq m$  (and  $n, m \neq 0$ ) we have

$$\int_{-T/2}^{T/2} \cos(m\omega_0 t) \cos(n\omega_0 t) dt = \frac{1}{2} \int_{-T/2}^{T/2} [\cos((m+n)\omega_0 t) + \cos((m-n)\omega_0 t)] dt = 0 \quad (20)$$

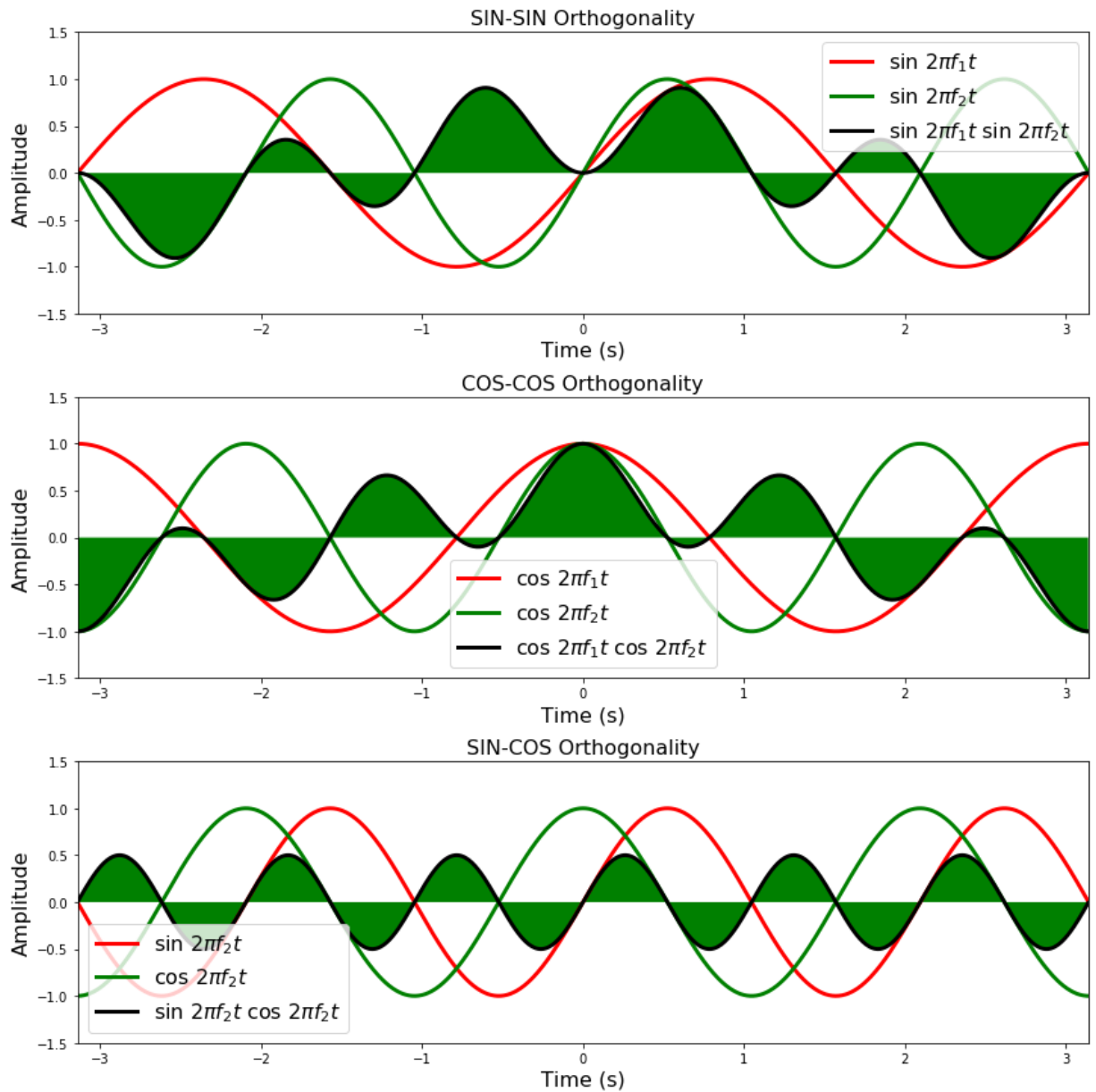
$$\int_{-T/2}^{T/2} \sin(m\omega_0 t) \sin(n\omega_0 t) dt = \frac{1}{2} \int_{-T/2}^{T/2} [\cos((m-n)\omega_0 t) - \cos((m+n)\omega_0 t)] dt = 0 \quad (21)$$

$$\int_{-T/2}^{T/2} \cos(m\omega_0 t) \sin(n\omega_0 t) dt = \frac{1}{2} \int_{-T/2}^{T/2} [\sin((m+n)\omega_0 t) + \sin((m-n)\omega_0 t)] dt = 0 \quad (22)$$

Now let's create a numerical test to help confirm/validate our analytic approach! To do this, let's use numerical quadrature ([https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Numerical\\_integration](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Numerical_integration)) functions of the Scipy package.

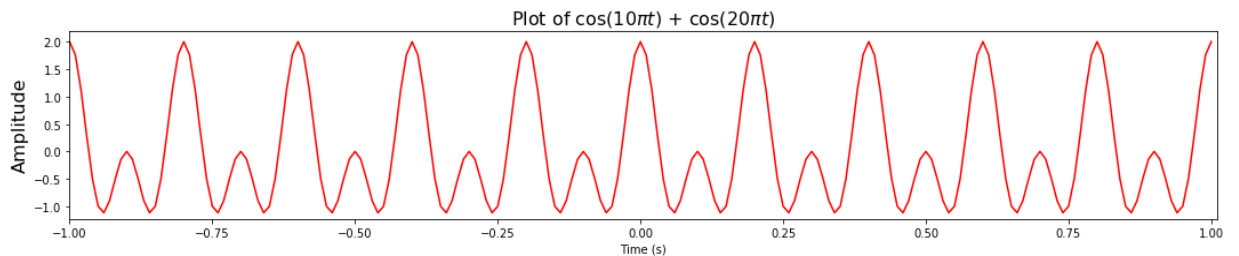
```
The cos-cos integral result is: 3.141592653589793
The sin-sin integral result is: 3.141593
The cos-sin integral result is: 0.000000e+00
```

Let's also investigate this graphically:



### Example 1 - Basic cos signal

**Q:** Find the **complex Fourier series coefficients** for  $x(t) = \cos(10\pi t) + \cos(20\pi t)$ :



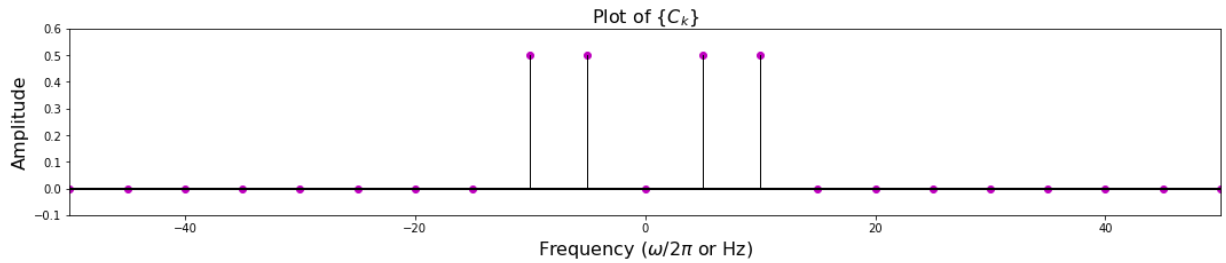
**A:** It is clear that the fundamental angular frequency of  $x(t)$  is  $\omega_0 = 10\pi$ . The fundamental period is thus equal to  $T_p = 2\pi/\omega_0 = 1/5$ s, which is validated:

$$\begin{aligned}
 x\left(t + \frac{1}{5}\right) &= \cos\left(10\pi\left(t + \frac{1}{5}\right)\right) + \cos\left(20\pi\left(t + \frac{1}{5}\right)\right) \\
 &= \cos(10\pi t + 2\pi) + \cos(20\pi t + 4\pi) \\
 &= \cos(10\pi t) + \cos(20\pi t).
 \end{aligned} \tag{26}$$

**NOTE:** This is a good test to remember because it is a necessary test to demonstrate that  $T$  is the fundamental period. Now with the use of Euler formulae, we can express  $x(t)$  as:

$$\begin{aligned}
 x(t) &= \cos(10\pi t) + \cos(20\pi t) \\
 &= \frac{e^{i\omega_0 t} + e^{-i\omega_0 t}}{2} + \frac{e^{2i\omega_0 t} + e^{-2i\omega_0 t}}{2} \\
 &= \frac{1}{2}e^{-2i\omega_0 t} + \frac{1}{2}e^{-i\omega_0 t} + \frac{1}{2}e^{i\omega_0 t} + \frac{1}{2}e^{2i\omega_0 t}
 \end{aligned} \tag{27}$$

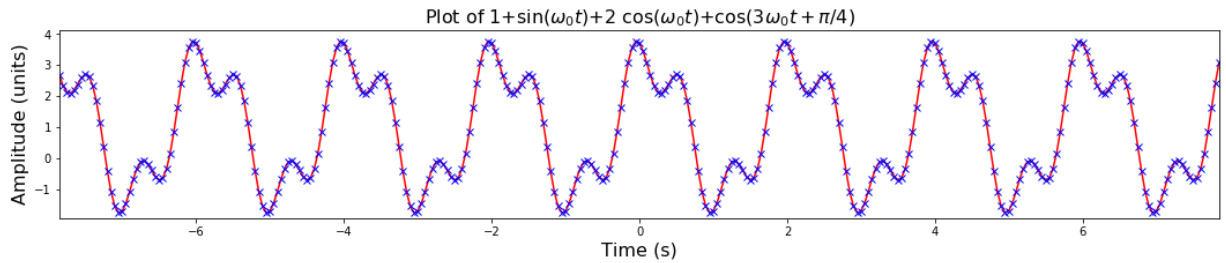
By inspection and use of equation 4, we have  $C_{-2} = C_{-1} = C_1 = C_2 = 1/2$  All other  $C_k$  are equal to zero.



## Example 2 - A more complex trigonometric signal

**Q:** Find the **complex Fourier series coefficients** for

$$x(t) = 1 + \sin(\omega_0 t) + 2\cos(\omega_0 t) + \cos(3\omega_0 t + \pi/4)$$



**A:** With use of Euler formulae,  $x(t)$  can be written:

$$\begin{aligned}
 x(t) &= 1 + \left(1 + \frac{1}{2i}\right) e^{i\omega_0 t} + \left(1 - \frac{1}{2i}\right) e^{-i\omega_0 t} + \frac{1}{2} e^{i\pi/4} e^{3i\omega_0 t} + \frac{1}{2} e^{-i\pi/4} e^{-3i\omega_0 t} \\
 &= \frac{1}{2\sqrt{2}}(1 - i) e^{-3i\omega_0 t} + \left(1 + \frac{i}{2}\right) e^{-i\omega_0 t} + 1 + \left(1 - \frac{i}{2}\right) e^{i\omega_0 t} + \frac{1}{2\sqrt{2}}(1 + i) e^{3i\omega_0 t}
 \end{aligned} \tag{28}$$

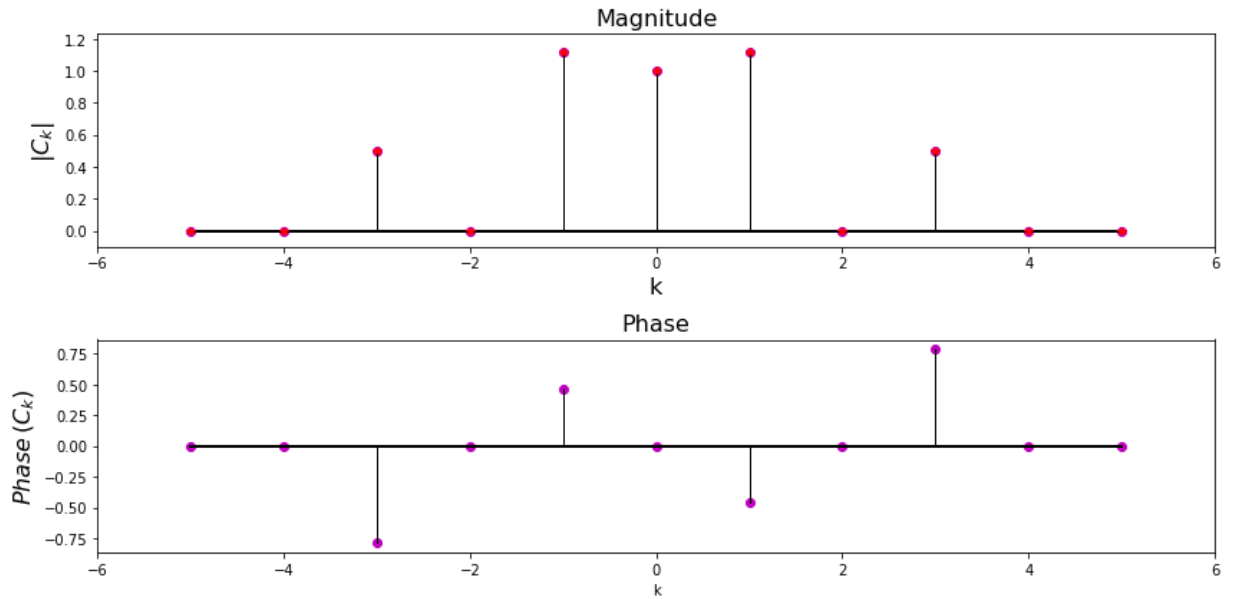
Thus, using equation 2.1.3 we have

$$C_k = \begin{cases} \frac{1}{2\sqrt{2}}(1 - i), & k = -3 \\ 1 + \frac{i}{2}, & k = -1 \\ 1, & k = 0 \\ 1 - \frac{i}{2}, & k = 1 \\ \frac{1}{2\sqrt{2}}(1 + i), & k = 3 \\ 0 & \text{otherwise} \end{cases} \tag{29}$$

**Q:** What do you notice about the coefficients?

**A:** Symmetry (but why?)! Check that:  $C_k^* = C_{-k}$ . To plot  $\{C_k\}$  we need to compute  $|C_k|$  and  $\angle(C_k)$  for all  $k$ .



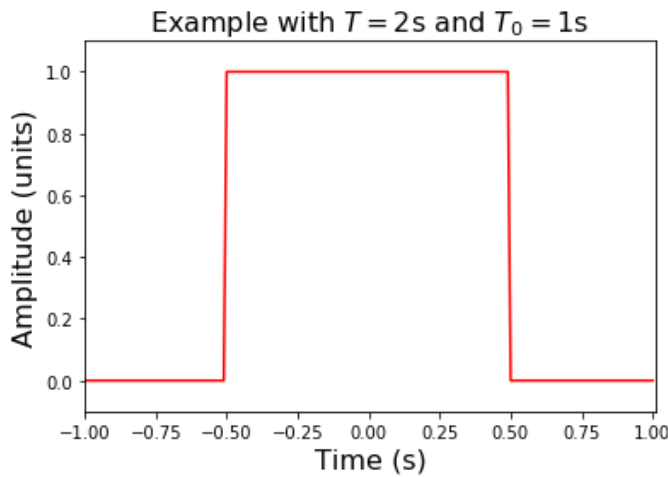


### Example 2.3 - Rectangular "Box car"

**Q:** Find the **complex Fourier series** coefficients for  $x(t)$ , which is a periodic continuous-time signal of fundamental period  $T$  and is a pulse with a width of  $2T_0$  in each period. Over the specific period from  $-T/2$  to  $T/2$ ,  $x(t)$  is:

$$x(t) = \Pi_{T_0} = \begin{cases} 1, & -T_0 < t < T_0 \\ 0, & \text{otherwise} \end{cases} \quad (30)$$

with  $T > T_0$ . Note that this function is commonly denoted  $\Pi_a$  where  $a$  is the width of the "box car". This function is sometimes called the **top hat** or **rect** function.



**A:** Using the **inversion formula** for the complex Fourier series (i.e., equation 4) we obtain:

$$C_k = \frac{1}{T} \int_{-T/2}^{T/2} x(t) e^{-ik\omega_0 t} dt = \frac{1}{T} \int_{-T_0}^{T_0} e^{-ik\omega_0 t} dt \quad (31)$$

For  $k = 0$ : We can immediately set the complex exponential term in equation 31 equal to one, which leaves the following integral:

$$C_0 = \frac{1}{T} \int_{-T_0}^{T_0} 1 dt = \frac{2T_0}{T} \quad (32)$$

For  $k \neq 0$ : We need to evaluate the full integral.

$$C_k = \frac{1}{T} \int_{-T_0}^{T_0} e^{-ik\omega_0 t} dt = -\frac{1}{ik\omega_0 T} e^{-ik\omega_0 t} \Big|_{-T_0}^{T_0} = \frac{e^{ik\omega_0 T_0} - e^{-ik\omega_0 T_0}}{ik\omega_0 T} = \frac{2\sin(k\omega_0 T_0)}{k\omega_0 T} \quad (33a)$$

where we have used the Euler expression for  $\sin$  in the last step. Let's now rewrite  $\omega_0$  in terms of  $2\pi/T$

$$C_k = \frac{2\sin(k\omega_0 T_0)}{k\omega_0 T} = \frac{2T\sin(2\pi k T_0/T)}{2\pi k T} = \frac{\sin(2\pi k T_0/T)}{k\pi}. \quad (33b)$$

Now that we have the coefficients for the complex Fourier series, we can use equation 3 to generate the final expression:

$$f(t) = \frac{2T_0}{T} + \sum_{k=-\infty (k \neq 0)}^{\infty} \frac{\sin(2\pi k T_0/T)}{k\pi} e^{i2k\pi t/T} \quad (34a)$$

You may also have noticed that we can break up the full sum in equation 34a by using two different sums, one positive and one negative, which allows us to do the following mathematical manipulation:

$$\begin{aligned} f(t) &= \frac{2T_0}{T} + \sum_{k=-\infty (k \neq 0)}^{\infty} \frac{\sin(2\pi k T_0/T)}{k\pi} e^{i2k\pi t/T} \\ &= \frac{2T_0}{T} + \sum_{k=-\infty}^{-1} \frac{\sin(2\pi k T_0/T)}{k\pi} e^{i2k\pi t/T} + \sum_{k=1}^{\infty} \frac{\sin(2\pi k T_0/T)}{k\pi} e^{i2k\pi t/T} \\ &= \frac{2T_0}{T} + \sum_{k=1}^{\infty} \frac{\sin(-2\pi k T_0/T)}{-k\pi} e^{-i2k\pi t/T} + \sum_{k=1}^{\infty} \frac{\sin(2\pi k T_0/T)}{k\pi} e^{i2k\pi t/T} \\ &= \frac{2T_0}{T} + \sum_{k=1}^{\infty} \frac{\sin(2\pi k T_0/T)}{k\pi} e^{-i2k\pi t/T} + \sum_{k=1}^{\infty} \frac{\sin(2\pi k T_0/T)}{k\pi} e^{i2k\pi t/T} \\ &= \frac{2T_0}{T} + \sum_{k=1}^{\infty} \frac{\sin(2\pi k T_0/T)}{k\pi} [e^{i2k\pi t/T} + e^{-i2k\pi t/T}] \\ &= \frac{2T_0}{T} + 2 \sum_{k=1}^{\infty} \frac{\sin(2\pi k T_0/T)}{k\pi} \cos(2\pi k t/T). \end{aligned} \quad (34a)$$

Interesting, this complex Fourier series can be written purely with  $\cos$  terms, which should make sense this  $f(t)$  and  $\cos$  are both symmetric functions! Thus, one could have easily used a trigonometric Fourier Series and immediately set all of the  $\sin$  terms to zero.

## The Sinc function

Note that in equation 34a if  $T_0 = T/2$  then the expression reduces to

$$f(t) = 1 + \sum_{k=-\infty}^{\infty} \frac{\sin(\pi k)}{k\pi} e^{i2k\pi t/T}. \quad (34b)$$

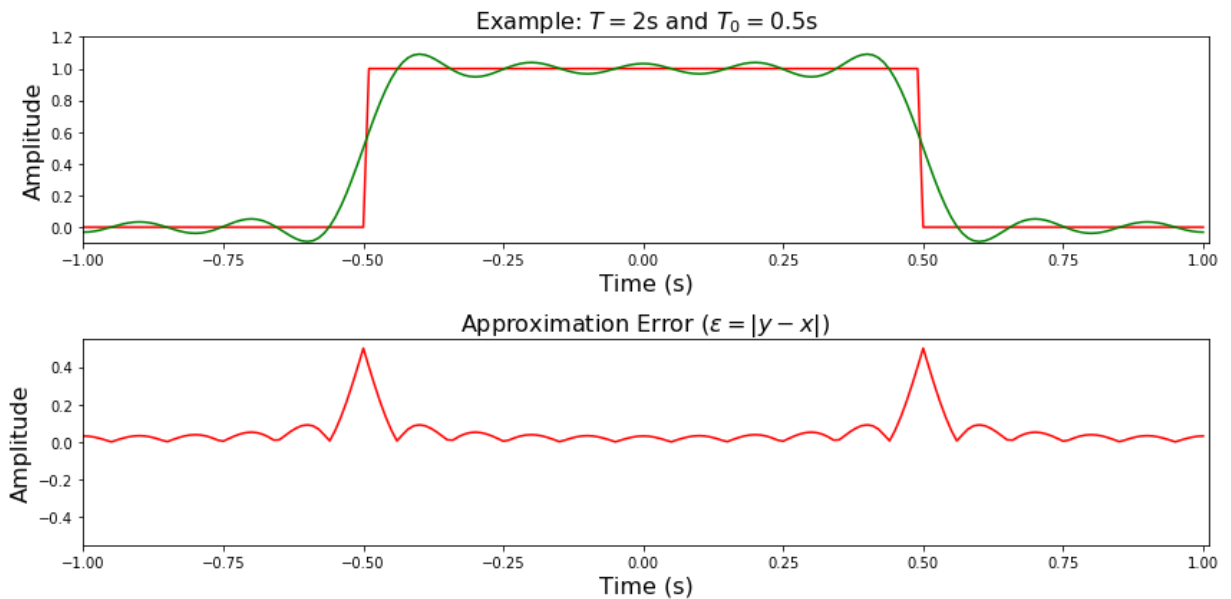
You will encounter the following expression quite a few times in this course (and elsewhere):

$$\text{sinc}(ax) \equiv \frac{\sin(ax)}{ax}. \quad (35)$$

This function is commonly termed the normalized sinc function ([https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sinc\\_function](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sinc_function)) and is very important in various things including low-pass filtering and interpolation.

## Numerical Example

Let's now plot this example up where we use  $T = 2.0$  s and  $T_0 = 0.5$  s (i.e., from -0.5s to 0.5s).



For the second plot we have defined the **residual error** (as a function of time) by computing  $\epsilon = |y - x|$ , where  $x(t)$  is the original signal and  $y(t)$  is our Fourier Series approximation of it. Importantly, this error measure allows us to visually inspect how well we are doing.

Note that we could also define a **root-mean-squares (RMS) error** that is the ratio of the **RMS error** to the **RMS signal**:

$$\epsilon_{RMS} = \sqrt{\frac{\sum_{i=0}^{N-1} (y_i - x_i)^2}{\sum_{i=0}^{N-1} x_i^2}}.$$

Let's compute that for the given number of coefficients:

The percentage error of the Fourier Series approximation using 1500 coefficients is:  
s: 0.173602666429 %

## Going to L'Hôpital's

Note that in equation 31-33 we explicitly separated the  $k = 0$  case from the  $k \neq 0$  case to make it easier to evaluate this coefficient. However, some of you may be concerned about what happens if we were to evaluate equation 33 with a  $k = 0$  in the denominator.

It turns out that we can still derive the  $k = 0$  term from the  $k \neq 0$  expression using L'Hôpital's rule ([https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/L%27H%C3%B4pital%27s\\_rule](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/L%27H%C3%B4pital%27s_rule)):

$$\lim_{x \rightarrow c} \frac{f(x)}{g(x)} = \lim_{x \rightarrow c} \frac{f'(x)}{g'(x)}.$$

Apply this rule to the expression in equation 33 leads to:

$$\lim_{k \rightarrow 0} \frac{\sin(2\pi k T_0 / T)}{k\pi} = \lim_{k \rightarrow 0} \frac{\frac{d}{dk} \sin(2\pi k T_0 / T)}{\frac{d}{dk} k\pi} = \lim_{k \rightarrow 0} \frac{2\pi T_0 / T \cos(2\pi k T_0 / T)}{\pi} = \frac{2T_0}{T}, \quad (35)$$

which is identical to equation 32 above.

## But what is going on at the discontinuities?

Let's ask ourself a few questions about why we are getting such significant error at the location of the discontinuities.

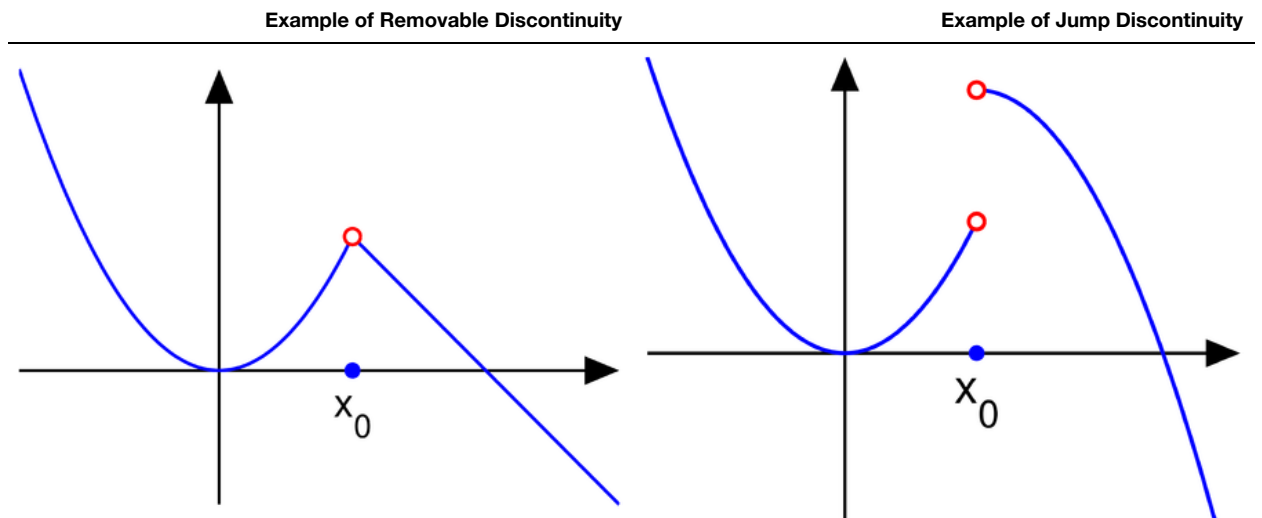
**QUESTIONS:**

1. Repeat the above numerical test using a different number of terms in the series (e.g.,  $nc=51$ ,  $nc=101$ ,  $nc=201$ ,  $nc=501$  and  $nc=1001$ ).
2. Comment on the differences and how this changes the approximation error.
3. What happens if you define your box car as follows?
  - $x[50:150]=1$ .
  - $x[50]=0.5$
  - $x[150]=0.5$
4. How many terms are required to have an approximation error  $|e| < 1\%$ ?

The main reason you are seeing the approximation error not go to zero is that a Fourier Series converges to the function  $\bar{f}$ , which is equal to the original function at **points of continuity** or to the average of the two limits at **points of discontinuity**:

$$\bar{f} = \begin{cases} \frac{1}{2} [\lim_{x \rightarrow x_0^-} f(x) + \lim_{x \rightarrow x_0^+} f(x)], & \text{for } -\frac{T}{2} < x_0 < \frac{T}{2} \\ \frac{1}{2} [\lim_{x \rightarrow \frac{T}{2}^-} f(x) + \lim_{x \rightarrow T/2^+} f(x)], & \text{for } -\frac{T}{2} < x_0 < \frac{T}{2} \end{cases} \quad (37)$$

Note also that the *ringing* is commonly referred to as Gibbs Phenomena ([https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Gibbs\\_phenomenon](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Gibbs_phenomenon)), which is an overshoot of the Fourier series (and other eigenfunction series) occurring at simple discontinuities.



#### QUESTION:

Show that a periodic signal defined by

$$s(t) = \begin{cases} t + \frac{\pi}{2}, & \text{if } -\pi < t < 0 \\ -t + \frac{\pi}{2}, & \text{if } 0 < t < \pi \end{cases} \quad (39)$$

where  $r(t + 2\pi) = r(t)$  has the following Fourier series:

$$r(t) = \frac{4}{\pi} \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{\cos(2n-1)t}{(2n-1)^2} \quad (40)$$

or, equivalently,

$$r(t) = \frac{4}{\pi n^2} \cos nt \quad n = 1, 3, 5, \dots \quad (41)$$

## Fourier Series and ODE/PDEs

Fourier Series have important applications in ODEs and PDEs, as we will demonstrate with an example. This will highlight the usefulness of Euler's and Fourier's methods insightful ideas into splitting up periodic functions into the smallest ones possible!

From previous (geo)physics classes we know that the forced oscillations of a body of mass  $m$  on a spring of modulus  $k$  are governed by the ODE:

$$m \frac{d^2 y}{dt^2} + c \frac{dy}{dt} + ky = r(t) \quad (42)$$

where  $y = y(t)$  is the displacement from rest,  $c$  is the damping constant and  $r(t)$  is the external force depending on time  $t$ . If  $r(t)$  is a sine or cosine function and if there is damping (i.e.,  $c > 0$ ), then the steady-state solution is a harmonic oscillator with a frequency equal to that of  $r(t)$ . However, if  $r(t)$  is **not** a pure sine or cosine wave but is any other periodic function then the **steady state solution will be the superposition of harmonic oscillators with frequencies equal to that of  $r(t)$  and its integer multiples.**

**Q:** Let's take the example in Question 2 just above. What is the steady state solution  $y(t)$  of forced oscillations under a driving force of

$$r(t) = \begin{cases} t + \frac{\pi}{2}, & \text{if } -\pi < t < 0 \\ -t + \frac{\pi}{2}, & \text{if } 0 < t < \pi \end{cases} \quad (43)$$

**A:** From the previous question we know that the Fourier is given by:

$$r(t) = \frac{4}{n^2 \pi} \cos nt \quad n = 1, 3, 5, \dots \quad (44)$$

We know that the steady state solution of equation 2.1.41 is of the form:

$$y_n = A_n \cos nt + B_n \sin nt. \quad (45)$$

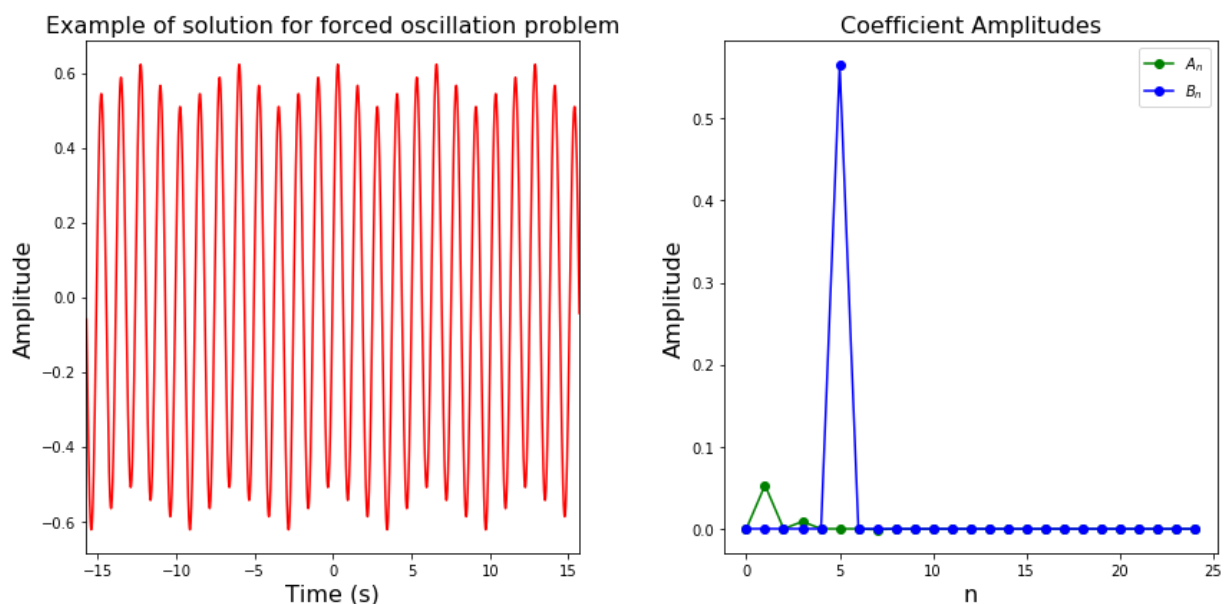
Thus we can show that by substituting equation 2.1.44 into equation 2.1.41 we obtain coefficients:

$$A_n = \frac{4(k - mn^2)}{n^2 \pi D_n} \quad \text{and} \quad B_n = \frac{4c}{n \pi D_n}, \quad \text{where} \quad D_n = (k - mn^2)^2 + (cn)^2. \quad (46)$$

Since the ODE is linear, we expect the solution to be given by

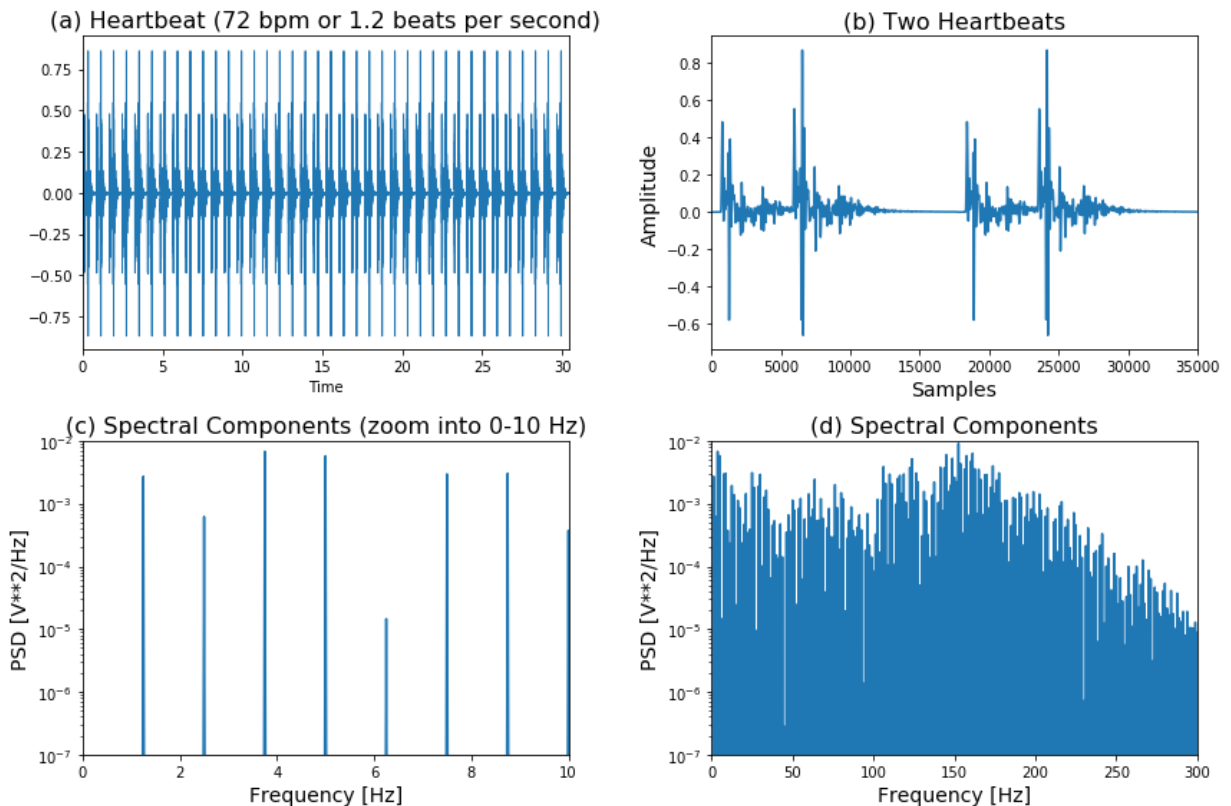
$$y = y_1 + y_3 + y_5 + \dots \quad (47)$$

Let's plot an example where  $m=1$ ,  $c=0.05$  and  $k=25$ :



## The Heartbeat (Redux)

At the very start of this section we looked at the heartbeat signal. Let's now look at what type of frequencies are in this using the Scipy toolbox's **periodogram** function. Essentially, this is tool that allow use to look at the frequency structure of discrete (and ideally periodic!) functions.



Panel (a) shows us the heartbeat time series that we examined at the start of the section. We can count the number of heartbeats and determine that this recording has approximately 72 beats per minute, or one beat every 1.2 seconds.

Panel (b) shows a zoom in of the first two heart beats. You can see the "lub-DUB" like signals where the "lub" is the sound of the tricuspid and mitral valves closing, and the "DUB" is the sound of the aortic and pulmonary valves closing. You can also observe a lot of high-frequency components within this signal.

Panel (c) looks at the spectral component estimate (in a semilogy graph) using the *periodogram* estimate of the power spectral density. Sure enough, the lowest frequency that makes a contribution is roughly 1.2 Hz (or the rate of the heartbeat)! Effectively, this panel shows the spectral contributions of the first eight coefficients in a Fourier Series that could be used to reconstruct a single heart beat!

Panel (d) shows the coefficients out to 300 Hz.

## Parting thoughts

Examining Fourier Series is a good introduction to thinking about the differences in the time and frequency domain (well ... conjugate Fourier domains in general). It is important to emphasize that the harmonic analysis you saw here is for examining **periodic** and **continuous-time** functions and looking at their **discrete** Fourier components, which represent a sequence.

Because many of the signals we examine are both **discrete** and of **finite** duration, we need additional tools that account for these two key differences. In particular, you will be examining the **Discrete Fourier Transform (DFT)** later on in this course that allows you to find the Fourier spectrum.

In addition to their usefulness in solving ODEs and PDEs, you will likely encounter Fourier Series when using symbolic analysis using packages like Mathematica, Matlab (Symbolic tool kit) and indeed Python (SymPy). You will also use them when designing specific output waveforms that are used in exploration geophysics instrumentation.

Next step ... Fourier Analysis!

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