Harmonic Analysis: Recitations

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1 Instructor Information

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Part I

Fourier Series

1 Fourier Series

Definition 1 (Real Fourier series). Let $f:[-L,L]\in\mathbb{C}$ be a piecewise continuous function.

The series

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

is called the Fourier series of f(x), where

$$a_0 = \frac{1}{L} \int_{-L}^{L} f(x) dx$$

$$a_n = \frac{1}{L} \int_{-L}^{L} f(x) \cos(nx) dx$$

$$b_n = \frac{1}{L} \int_{-L}^{L} f(x) \sin(nx) dx$$

Theorem 1. If f(x) is an even function, then the appropriate Fourier series is

$$f(x) \approx \frac{a_0}{2} + \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} a_n \cos(nx)$$

If f(x) is an odd function, then the appropriate Fourier series is

$$f(x) \approx \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} a_n \sin(nx)$$

Definition 2 (Complex Fourier series). Let $f:[-L,L]\in\mathbb{C}$ be a piecewise continuous function.

The series

$$f(x) \approx \sum_{n=-\infty}^{\infty} c_n e^{inx}$$

If f(x) is odd, its graph always passes through the origin. Therefore, it can be represented by a summation of sine functions, which also pass through the origin, and there is no need for a term, i.e. $\frac{a_0}{2}$, to change its position at the origin.

is called the complex Fourier series of f(x), where

$$c_n = \frac{1}{2L} \int_{-L}^{L} f(x)e^{-inx} dx$$

Recitation 1 – Exercise 1.

Calculate the real Fourier series of

$$f(x) = 2x - 2\pi$$

Recitation 1 – Solution 1.

As x is an odd function, the real Fourier series of x, in the interval $[-\pi, \pi]$ is

$$x \approx \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} b_n \sin(nx)$$

where

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

$$= \frac{1}{\pi} \left(x \int \sin(nx) dx - \int 1 \left(\int \sin(nx) dx \right) dx \right) \Big|_{-\pi}^{\pi}$$

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

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

$$= -\frac{\cos(n\pi) + \cos(n\pi)}{n}$$

$$= -2 \frac{\cos(n\pi)}{n}$$

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

Therefore,

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

Therefore,

$$2x - 2\pi \approx \left(4\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{(-1)^{n+1}}{n}\sin(nx)\right) - 2\pi$$

2 Bessel's Inequality

Definition 3 (Piecewise continuous functions). $f : \mathbb{R} \to \mathbb{R}$ is said to be piecewise continuous if, for every finite interval [a, b] there is a finite number of discontinuity points, and the one-sided limits at each of these points are also finite.

Definition 4 (Piecewise continuously differentiable functions). $f : \mathbb{R} \to \mathbb{R}$ is said to be piecewise continuously differentiable if it is piecewise continuous, and

$$\lim_{h \to 0^+} \frac{f(x+h) - f(x^+)}{h} < \infty$$

and

$$\lim_{h \to 0^-} \frac{f(x+h) - f(x^-)}{h} < \infty$$

Theorem 2 (Bessel's Inequality). Let f(x) be a piecewise continuous function defined on [-L, L]. Then

$$\frac{1}{2}a_0^2 + \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} a_n^2 + b_n^2 \le \frac{1}{L} \int_{-L}^{L} f(x)^2 dx$$

3 Riemann-Lebesgue's Lemma

Theorem 3 (Riemann-Lebesgue's Lemma). If f(x) is piecewise continuous on [-L, L], then

$$\lim_{n \to \infty} a_n = \lim_{n \to \infty} b_n = 0$$

4 Dirichlet's Kernel

Definition 5 (Dirichlet kernel).

$$D_m(t) = \frac{1}{2} \sum_{n=-m}^{m} e^{-int}$$
$$= \frac{1}{2} + \sum_{n=1}^{m} \cos(nt)$$
$$= \frac{\sin\left(\left(n + \frac{1}{2}\right)t\right)}{2\sin\frac{t}{2}}$$

is called the Dirichlet kernel of order m.

Theorem 4 (Second representation of Dirichlet's kernel). Let $m \in \mathbb{N}$. Then, for $t \neq 2\pi k$, where $k \in \mathbb{Z}$,

$$D_m(t) = \frac{1}{2} + \cos(t) + \cos(2t) + \dots + \cos(mt)$$
$$= \frac{\sin\left(\left(m + \frac{1}{2}\right)t\right)}{2\sin\left(\frac{1}{2}t\right)}$$

Theorem 5. Let

$$S_m(f,x) = \frac{1}{2}a_0 + \sum_{n=1}^m a_n \cos(nx) + b_n \sin(nx)$$

Then,

$$S_m(f,x) = \frac{1}{\pi} \int_{-\pi}^{\pi} f(x+t) \left(\frac{1}{2} \sum_{n=1}^{m} \cos(nt) \right) dt$$

Theorem 6 (Dirichlet Theorem). Let $f: [-\pi, \pi] \to \mathbb{R}$ be a piecewise continuously differentiable function.

Then, $\forall x \in (-\pi, \pi)$,

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

and for $x = \pi$ or $x = -\pi$,

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

Recitation 2 – Exercise 1.

The Fourier series of x^2 of given to be

$$x^{2} \approx \frac{\pi^{2}}{3} + 4\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{(-1)^{n}}{n^{2}} \cos(nx)$$

Calculate

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

Recitation 2 – Solution 1.

As x^2 is continuous, with a continuous derivative, Dirichlet Theorem is applicable.

Therefore, let

$$x = \pi$$

Therefore, by Dirichlet Theorem,

$$\frac{\pi^2}{3} + 4\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{(-1)^n}{n^2} \cos(nx) = \frac{\left(\pi^{-}\right)^2 + \left((-\pi)^{+}\right)^2}{2}$$

$$\therefore \frac{\pi^2}{3} + 4\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{(-1)^n}{n^2} (-1)^n = \pi^2$$

$$\therefore \frac{\pi^2}{4} + 4\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{1}{n^2} = \pi^2$$

$$\therefore \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{1}{n^2} = \frac{1}{4} \left(\pi^2 - \frac{\pi^2}{3}\right)$$

$$= \frac{\pi^2}{6}$$

Recitation 2 – Exercise 2.

The Fourier series of

$$f(x) = \begin{cases} x & ; & 0 \le x \le \pi \\ 0 & ; & -\pi \le x \le 0 \end{cases}$$

is given to be

$$f(x) \approx \frac{\pi}{4} + \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \left(\frac{(-1)^{n+1}}{n} \sin(nx) - \frac{2}{\pi (2n-1)^2} \cos((2n-1)x) \right)$$

Let this Fourier series be denoted by S(x).

Calculate

1.
$$1 + \frac{1}{3^2} + \frac{1}{5^2} + \dots$$

2.
$$S\left(\frac{\pi}{2}\right)$$

Recitation 2 – Solution 2.

1

$$1 + \frac{1}{3^2} + \frac{1}{5^2} + \dots = \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{1}{(2n-1)^2}$$

Therefore, for x = 0, by Dirichlet Theorem,

$$\frac{\pi}{4} + \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \left(\frac{(-1)^{n+1}}{n} \sin(0) - \frac{2}{\pi (2n-1)^2} \cos(0) \right) = \frac{f(0^-) + f(0^+)}{2}$$

$$\therefore \frac{\pi}{4} - \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \left(\frac{2}{\pi (2n-1)^2} \right) = 0$$

$$\therefore \frac{\pi}{4} - \frac{2}{\pi} \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \left(\frac{1}{(2n-1)^2} \right) = 0$$

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

2. By Dirichlet Theorem,

$$S\left(\frac{\pi}{2}\right) = \frac{f\left(\frac{\pi}{2}^{-}\right) + f\left(\frac{\pi}{2}^{+}\right)}{2}$$
$$= \frac{\pi}{2}$$

Theorem 7. If f is a piecewise continuous and periodic function with period of 2π , then

$$S_m(x) = \frac{a_0}{2} + \sum_{n=1}^m \left(a_n \cos(nx) + b_n \sin(nx) \right)$$
$$= \frac{1}{\pi} \int_{-\pi}^{\pi} f(x+t) D_m(t) dt$$

Recitation 3 – Exercise 1.

Calculate the limit

$$L = \lim_{n \to \infty} \int_{-n}^{n} \sin\left(\frac{2n+1}{2}t\right) \frac{\cos^{2}\left(\frac{\pi}{4}+t\right) + \pi^{2}}{\sin\left(\frac{t}{2}\right)} dt$$

Recitation 3 – Solution 1.

$$L = \lim_{n \to \infty} \int_{-n}^{n} \sin\left(\frac{2n+1}{2}t\right) \frac{\cos^{2}\left(\frac{\pi}{4}+t\right) + \pi^{2}}{\sin\left(\frac{t}{2}\right)} dt$$
$$= 2 \lim_{n \to \infty} \int_{-\pi}^{\pi} \left(\cos^{2}\left(\frac{\pi}{4}+t\right) + \pi^{2}\right) \frac{\sin\left(n+\frac{1}{2}t\right)}{2\sin\left(\frac{t}{2}\right)} dt$$
$$= 2 \lim_{n \to \infty} \int_{-\pi}^{\pi} \left(\cos^{2}\left(\frac{\pi}{4}+t\right) + \pi^{2}\right) D_{n}(t) dt$$

Let

$$f(x) = \cos^2 x + \pi^2$$

Let S_n be the partial sum of the Fourier series. Therefore,

$$S_n = \frac{1}{\pi} \int_{-\pi}^{\pi} D_n(t) \left(\cos^2(x+t) + \pi^2 \right) dt$$

Therefore,

$$L = 2\pi \lim_{n \to \infty} \frac{1}{\pi} \int_{-\pi}^{\pi} \left(\cos^2 \left(\frac{\pi}{4} + t \right) + \pi^2 \right) D_n(t) dt$$

$$= 2\pi \lim_{n \to \infty} S_n \left(\frac{\pi}{4} \right)$$

$$= 2\pi \frac{f\left(\frac{\pi}{4} \right) + f\left(\frac{\pi}{4} \right)}{2}$$

$$= 2\pi f\left(\frac{\pi}{4} \right)$$

$$= 2\pi \left(\cos^2 \left(\frac{\pi}{4} \right) + \pi^2 \right)$$

$$= \pi + 2\pi^3$$

5 Fourier Series in a General Interval

Definition 6. Let f be a piecewise continuous function defined on [a, b]. The Fourier series over [a, b] is defined as

$$f(x) \approx \frac{a_0}{2} + \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \left(a_n \cos\left(\frac{2\pi nx}{b-a}\right) + b_n \sin\left(\frac{2\pi nx}{b-a}\right) \right)$$
$$\approx \sum_{-\infty}^{\infty} c_n e^{\frac{2\pi inx}{b-a}}$$

where

$$a_0 = \frac{1}{b-a} \int_a^b f(x) dx$$

$$a_n = \frac{2}{b-a} \int_a^b f(x) \cos \frac{2\pi nx}{b-a} dx$$

$$b_n = \frac{2}{b-a} \int_a^b f(x) \sin \frac{2\pi nx}{b-a} dx$$

$$c_n = \frac{1}{b-a} \int_a^b f(x) e^{\frac{2\pi inx}{b-a}} dx$$

Recitation 3 – Exercise 2.

Develop the Fourier series for sign(x) over $[0, \pi]$.

Recitation 3 – Solution 2.

$$a_0 = \frac{2}{\pi} \int_0^{\pi} \operatorname{sign}(x) \, \mathrm{d}x$$
$$= 2$$

$$a_n = \frac{2}{\pi} \int_0^{\pi} \operatorname{sign}(x) \cos\left(\frac{2\pi nx}{\pi}\right) dx$$
$$= \frac{2}{\pi} \int_0^{\pi} \cos(2nx) dx$$
$$= 0$$

$$b_n = \frac{2}{\pi} \int_0^{\pi} \operatorname{sign}(x) \sin\left(\frac{2\pi nx}{\pi}\right) dx$$
$$= \frac{2}{\pi} \int_0^{\pi} \sin(2nx) dx$$
$$= 0$$

Therefore, over $[0, \pi]$,

$$sign(x) = \frac{2}{2} + \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} 0$$
$$= 1$$

Theorem 8. Let f be continuous in $[-\pi, \pi]$, with piecewise continuous derivative, and $f(-\pi) = f(\pi)$. Then, the Fourier series converges uniformly on $[-\pi, \pi]$.

Theorem 9 (Percival Equality). Let f be a piecewise continuous function in $[-\pi, \pi]$. Then,

$$\frac{1}{\pi} \int_{-\pi}^{\pi} |f(x)|^2 dx = \frac{a_0^2}{2} + \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \left(a_n^2 + b_n^2 \right)$$
$$= 2 \sum_{n=-\infty}^{\infty} |c_n|^2$$

Recitation 4 – Exercise 1.

Use the Fourier series

$$x^{2} \approx \frac{\pi^{2}}{3} + \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} (-1)^{n} \frac{4}{n^{2}} \cos(nx)$$

to calculate $\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{1}{n^4}$.

Recitation 4 – Solution 1.

As x^2 is continuous, by Percival Equality,

$$\frac{1}{\pi} \int_{-\pi}^{\pi} |x^2|^2 dx = \frac{a_0^2}{2} + \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} a_n^2 + b_n^2$$
$$= \frac{2\pi^4}{9} + \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{16}{n^2}$$

Therefore,

$$16\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{1}{n^4} = \frac{1}{\pi} \int_{\pi}^{\pi} x^4 dx - \frac{2\pi^4}{9}$$
$$= \frac{1}{\pi} \frac{x^5}{5} \Big|_{-\pi}^{\pi} - \frac{2\pi^4}{9}$$
$$= \frac{2\pi^4}{5} - \frac{2\pi^4}{9}$$
$$= \frac{8}{45} \pi^4$$
$$\therefore \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{1}{n^4} = \frac{\pi^4}{90}$$

Recitation 4 – Exercise 2.

Use the Fourier series

$$e^x \approx \sum_{n=\infty}^{\infty} (-1)^n \frac{e^{\pi} - e^{-\pi}}{2\pi(1 - in)} e^{inx}$$

to calculate $\sum_{n=-\infty}^{\infty} \frac{1}{n^2+1}$.

Recitation 4 – Solution 2.

As x^2 is continuous, by Percival Equality,

$$\frac{1}{\pi} \int_{-\pi}^{\pi} |e^x|^2 dx = 2 \sum_{n=-\infty}^{\infty} |c_n|^2$$

$$= 2 \sum_{n=-\infty}^{\infty} \frac{\left(e^{\pi} - e^{-\pi}\right)^2}{4\pi^2 |1 - in|^2}$$

$$= \frac{2\left(e^{\pi} - e^{-\pi}\right)^2}{4\pi^2} \sum_{n=-\infty}^{\infty} \frac{1}{n^2 + 1}$$

Therefore,

$$\sum_{n=-\infty}^{\infty} \frac{1}{n^2 + 1} = \frac{4\pi}{2(e^{\pi} - e^{-\pi})^2} \int_{-\pi}^{\pi} |e^x|^2 dx$$

$$= \frac{4\pi}{2(e^{\pi} - e^{-\pi})^2} \frac{e^{2x}}{2} \Big|_{-\pi}^{\pi} |e^x|^2 dx$$

$$= \frac{4\pi}{2(e^{\pi} - e^{-\pi})^2} \frac{e^{2\pi} - e^{-2\pi}}{2}$$

$$= \frac{e^{2\pi} - e^{-2\pi}}{(e^{\pi} - e^{-\pi})^2}$$

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

$$= \frac{e^{\pi} + e^{-\pi}}{e^{\pi} - e^{-\pi}}$$

Recitation 5 – Exercise 1.

Use

$$|x| \approx \frac{\pi}{2} + \frac{4}{\pi} \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{(-1)^n}{(2n-1)^2} \cos((2n-1)x)$$

to compute the Fourier series of

$$\operatorname{sign}(x) = \begin{cases} 1 & ; \quad x \ge 0 \\ -1 & ; \quad x < 0 \end{cases}$$

Recitation 5 – Solution 1.

As |x| is continuous, piecewise differentiable, and $|-\pi| = |\pi|$, its Fourier series converges uniformly. Hence, the Fourier series can be differentiated term by term.

Therefore.

$$|x|' = \operatorname{sign}(x)$$

Therefore,

$$\operatorname{sign}(x) \approx \left(\frac{\pi}{2} + \frac{4}{\pi} \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{(-1)^n}{(2n-1)^2} \cos((2n-1)x)\right)'$$
$$\approx \frac{4}{\pi} \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{(-1)^{n+1}}{(2n-1)} \sin((2n-1)x)$$

Recitation 5 – Exercise 2.

f is given to be continuous, piecewise differentiable, and periodic with period 2π . Also

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

Determine whether the following are true or false.

$$\lim_{n \to \infty} na_n = \lim_{n \to \infty} nb_n = 0$$

True or false.

Recitation 5 – Solution 2.

 na_n and nb_n are the Fourier coefficients for f'(x). Therefore, as f is piecewise differentiable, and by Riemann-Lebesgue's Lemma,

$$\lim_{n \to \infty} na_n = \lim_{n \to \infty} nb_n = 0$$

Hence, the statement is true.

Theorem 10. If f is piecewise continuous with Fourier series

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

the, for all $x \in [-\pi, \pi]$,

$$\int_{0}^{x} f(t) dt = \frac{a_0}{2}x + \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{a_n}{n} \sin(nx) - \frac{b_n}{n} (\cos(nx) - 1)$$

This is not a Fourier series due to the x in $\frac{a_0}{2}x$. Therefore, substituting the Fourier series of x,

$$\int_{0}^{x} f(t) dt = \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{b_n}{n} + \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \left(\frac{a_n + (-1)^n a_0}{n} \sin(nx) - \frac{b_n}{n} \cos(nx) \right)$$

Recitation 6 – Exercise 1.

Let f be piecewise continuous with Fourier series

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

Prove

$$\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{b_n}{n} \le \infty$$

Recitation 6 – Solution 1.

Let

$$F(x) = \int_{0}^{x} f(t) \, \mathrm{d}t$$

Therefore, as f(x) is piecewise continuous, F(x) is also piecewise continuous. Therefore,

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

Therefore, the Fourier series of $F(x) - \frac{a_0}{2}x$ is

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

Therefore, as $F(x) - \frac{a_0}{2}x$ is piecewise continuous and finite, $\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{b_n}{n}$ is also finite.