

## Lecture 12

- Fourier series using trigonometric functions.
- Interpretation of Fourier series as an expansion on an orthonormal basis.
- RMS value of a periodic function
- Parseval's relation
- Application to power conversion.

### Fourier series with trigonometric functions.

Suppose the periodic function  $f(t)$  is real-valued.

$$\begin{aligned}
 F_n &= \frac{1}{T} \int_0^T f(t) e^{-in\omega_0 t} dt = \frac{1}{T} \int_0^T f(t) [\cos(n\omega_0 t) - i \sin(n\omega_0 t)] dt \\
 &= \underbrace{\frac{1}{T} \int_0^T f(t) \cos(n\omega_0 t) dt}_{a_n} - i \underbrace{\frac{1}{T} \int_0^T f(t) \sin(n\omega_0 t) dt}_{b_n} = a_n - ib_n
 \end{aligned}$$

In particular, for  $n = 0$ , we have  $F_0 = a_0$ .

$$\begin{aligned}
 \text{Also, } f(t) &= \sum_{n=-\infty}^{+\infty} F_n e^{in\omega_0 t} = F_0 + \sum_{n=1}^{+\infty} (F_n e^{in\omega_0 t} + F_{-n} e^{-in\omega_0 t}) \\
 &\underbrace{=}_{F_{-n} = \overline{F_n}} a_0 + \sum_{n=1}^{+\infty} (F_n e^{in\omega_0 t} + \overline{F_n e^{in\omega_0 t}}) = a_0 + 2 \sum_{n=1}^{+\infty} \text{Re} [F_n e^{in\omega_0 t}]
 \end{aligned}$$

Now,

$$\begin{aligned}\operatorname{Re}\left[F_n e^{in\omega_0 t}\right] &= \operatorname{Re}\left[(a_n - ib_n)[\cos(n\omega_0 t) + i \sin(n\omega_0 t)]\right] = \\ &= a_n \cos(n\omega_0 t) + b_n \sin(n\omega_0 t)\end{aligned}$$

Therefore  $f(t) = a_0 + 2 \sum_{n=1}^{+\infty} (a_n \cos(n\omega_0 t) + b_n \sin(n\omega_0 t)),$

where  $a_n = \frac{1}{T} \int_0^T f(t) \cos(n\omega_0 t) dt, \quad b_n = \frac{1}{T} \int_0^T f(t) \sin(n\omega_0 t) dt.$

Fourier series with trigonometric functions, for real  $f(t)$

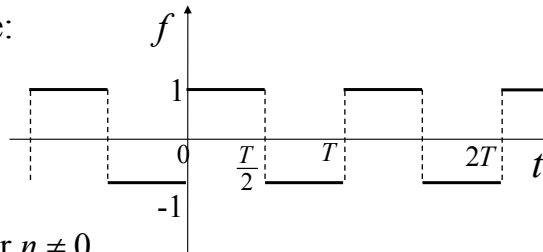
The term  $a_n \cos(n\omega_0 t) + b_n \sin(n\omega_0 t)$  in the sum is called the " $n$ -th harmonic" of the function  $f(t)$ .

Example: Square Wave:

Recall:

$$F_0 = 0,$$

$$F_n = \frac{1}{in\pi} (1 - (-1)^n) \text{ for } n \neq 0$$



Setting  $F_n = a_n - ib_n$  we get

$$a_n = \operatorname{Re}[F_n] = 0 \text{ for all } n, \quad b_n = \begin{cases} 0 & \text{if } n \text{ is even.} \\ \frac{2}{n\pi} & \text{if } n \text{ is odd.} \end{cases}$$

Therefore  $f(t) = 2 \sum_{n=1}^{+\infty} b_n \sin(n\omega_0 t) = \sum_{\substack{n=1 \\ n \text{ odd}}}^{+\infty} \frac{4}{n\pi} \sin(n\omega_0 t)$

# Fourier Series - Recap

Given a function  $f(t)$ , of period  $T$ , fundamental frequency  $\omega_0 = \frac{2\pi}{T}$ . The complex Fourier series expansion is

$$f(t) = \sum_{n=-\infty}^{+\infty} F_n e^{in\omega_0 t}, \quad \text{where } F_n = \frac{1}{T} \int_0^T f(t) e^{-in\omega_0 t} dt$$

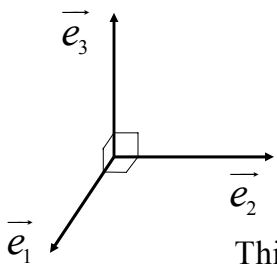
For a real-valued  $f(t)$ , the sine-cosine Fourier series is

$$f(t) = a_0 + 2 \sum_{n=1}^{+\infty} a_n \cos(n\omega_0 t) + b_n \sin(n\omega_0 t), \quad \text{where}$$

$$a_n = \frac{1}{T} \int_0^T f(t) \cos(n\omega_0 t) dt, \quad b_n = \frac{1}{T} \int_0^T f(t) \sin(n\omega_0 t) dt.$$

## Interpretation of Fourier series: expansion in an orthonormal basis.

Analogy: orthonormal basis in 3-dimensional space:



Vectors  $\vec{e}_1, \vec{e}_2, \vec{e}_3$  are orthonormal when they:

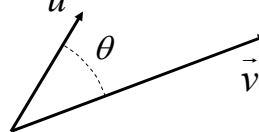
- are mutually orthogonal:  $\vec{e}_m \perp \vec{e}_n$  for  $m \neq n$
- have unit length:  $|\vec{e}_n| = 1$  for  $n = 1, 2, 3$ .

This can be expressed as  $\langle \vec{e}_m, \vec{e}_n \rangle = \begin{cases} 0 & \text{if } m \neq n \\ 1 & \text{if } m = n \end{cases}$ ,

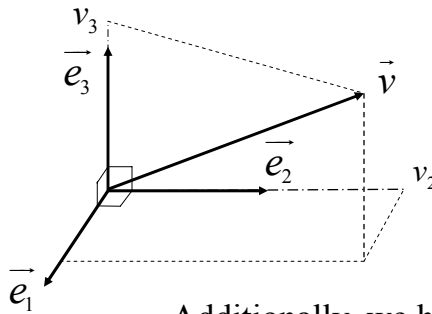
where  $\langle \vec{u}, \vec{v} \rangle$  denotes the **inner product**

(or dot product) of vectors  $\vec{u}, \vec{v}$ .

Recall,  $\langle \vec{u}, \vec{v} \rangle = |\vec{u}| |\vec{v}| \cos(\theta)$



## Expanding a vector in an orthonormal basis.



$$\vec{v} = v_1 \vec{e}_1 + v_2 \vec{e}_2 + v_3 \vec{e}_3,$$

where the scalar coefficients  $v_1, v_2, v_3$  can be expressed as

$$v_n = \langle \vec{v}, \vec{e}_n \rangle \text{ for } n = 1, 2, 3.$$

Additionally, we have the relationship

$$\langle \vec{u}, \vec{v} \rangle = u_1 v_1 + u_2 v_2 + u_3 v_3,$$

and in particular the vector length satisfies

$$|\vec{v}|^2 = \langle \vec{v}, \vec{v} \rangle = v_1^2 + v_2^2 + v_3^2.$$

## Analogy between vector and Fourier expansions

Vectors:

$$\vec{v} = \sum_{n=1}^3 v_n \vec{e}_n,$$

$$v_n = \langle \vec{v}, \vec{e}_n \rangle$$

Fourier Series:

$$f(t) = \sum_{n=-\infty}^{+\infty} F_n e^{in\omega_0 t},$$

$$F_n = \frac{1}{T} \int_0^T f(t) e^{-in\omega_0 t} dt$$

The analogy can be made precise by defining an inner product between  $T$ -periodic functions:  $\langle f(t), g(t) \rangle = \frac{1}{T} \int_0^T f(t) \overline{g(t)} dt$

Then, the basis functions  $\phi_n(t) = e^{in\omega_0 t}$  play the role of the  $\vec{e}_n$ ,

and we have  $f(t) = \sum_{n=-\infty}^{+\infty} F_n \phi_n(t)$ ,  $F_n = \langle f(t), \phi_n(t) \rangle$

For a complete analogy, we check the orthonormality of the basis functions  $\phi_n(t) = e^{in\omega_0 t}$ .

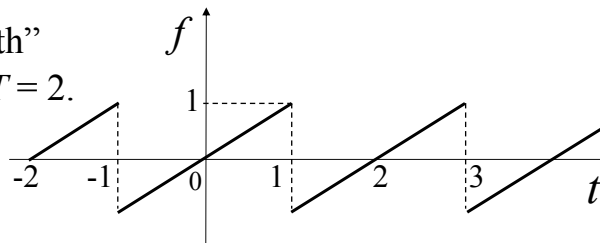
$$\begin{aligned} \langle \phi_m(t), \phi_n(t) \rangle &= \frac{1}{T} \int_0^T e^{im\omega_0 t} \overline{e^{in\omega_0 t}} dt \\ &= \frac{1}{T} \int_0^T e^{i(m-n)\omega_0 t} dt \quad \overset{\text{PREVIOUS LECTURE}}{=} \begin{cases} 0 & \text{if } m \neq n \\ 1 & \text{if } m = n \end{cases} \end{aligned}$$

So the functions  $\phi_n(t)$  are mutually orthogonal in this abstract sense, and of unit "size". What is this notion of size?

$$\|f\| = \sqrt{\langle f(t), f(t) \rangle} = \sqrt{\frac{1}{T} \int_0^T f(t) \overline{f(t)} dt} = \sqrt{\frac{1}{T} \int_0^T |f(t)|^2 dt}$$

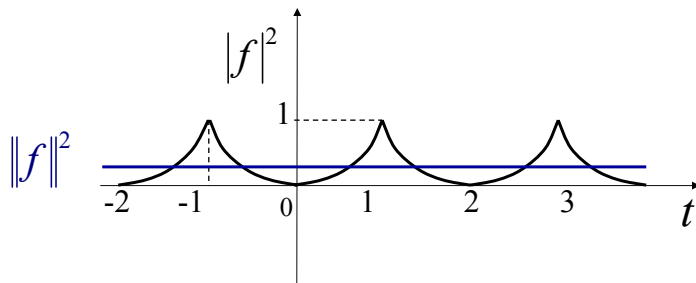
This is called the root-mean-square (RMS) value of the periodic function  $f(t)$ .

Example: "sawtooth" function, of period  $T = 2$ .



RMS value of  $f(t)$  is

$$\|f\| = \sqrt{\frac{1}{T} \int_0^T |f(t)|^2 dt} = \sqrt{\frac{1}{2} \int_{-1}^1 t^2 dt} = \sqrt{\left. \frac{t^3}{6} \right|_{-1}^1} = \frac{1}{\sqrt{3}}$$



Interpretation for the RMS value  $\|f\| = \sqrt{\frac{1}{T} \int_0^T |f(t)|^2 dt}$

It is one of many possible “norms”

(i.e. notions of size) of a function. Why this choice?

- Mathematically, it has nice properties, like vector length.
- Physical interpretation based on power:

Example:  $f(t) = I(t)$ , current going through a unit resistor  $R=1$ .

Instantaneously, the dissipated power is  $I(t)^2$ . If  $I(t)$  is periodic,

the mean power dissipated over one period is  $\frac{1}{T} \int_0^T |I(t)|^2 dt = \|I\|_{\text{RMS}}^2$

Equals the power burned by the constant (DC) current  $I(t) = \|I\|_{\text{RMS}}$

Special case (familiar from AC circuits):  $I(t) = I_0 \cos(\omega t)$ . Here

$$\|I\|_{\text{RMS}} = I_0 \sqrt{\frac{1}{T} \int_0^T \cos^2(\omega t) dt} = I_0 \sqrt{\frac{1}{T} \left( \frac{t}{2} + \frac{\sin(2\omega t)}{4\omega} \right) \Big|_0^T} = \frac{I_0}{\sqrt{2}}$$

## One more ingredient in the analogy

Vectors:

$$\vec{v} = \sum_{n=1}^3 v_n \vec{e}_n,$$

$$v_n = \langle \vec{v}, \vec{e}_n \rangle$$

$$|\vec{v}|^2 = v_1^2 + v_2^2 + v_3^2$$

Fourier Series:

$$f(t) = \sum_{n=-\infty}^{+\infty} F_n e^{in\omega_0 t},$$

$$F_n = \frac{1}{T} \int_0^T f(t) e^{-in\omega_0 t} dt = \langle f(t), e^{in\omega_0 t} \rangle$$

$$\|f\|_{\text{RMS}}^2 = \frac{1}{T} \int_0^T |f(t)|^2 dt = \sum_{n=-\infty}^{+\infty} |F_n|^2$$

Proof:

PARSEVAL'S RELATION

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{1}{T} \int_0^T |f(t)|^2 dt &= \frac{1}{T} \int_0^T f(t) \overline{f(t)} dt = \frac{1}{T} \int_0^T f(t) \overline{\sum_{n=-\infty}^{+\infty} F_n e^{in\omega_0 t}} dt \\ &= \sum_{n=-\infty}^{+\infty} \overline{F_n} \underbrace{\frac{1}{T} \int_0^T f(t) e^{-in\omega_0 t} dt}_{F_n} = \sum_{n=-\infty}^{+\infty} |F_n|^2 \end{aligned}$$

**PARSEVAL'S RELATION:** 
$$\frac{1}{T} \int_0^T |f(t)|^2 dt = \sum_{n=-\infty}^{+\infty} |F_n|^2$$

Note that if we isolate from the expansion  $f(t) = \sum_{n=-\infty}^{+\infty} F_n e^{in\omega_0 t}$ , the harmonic term  $F_n e^{in\omega_0 t}$ , its mean square value is equal to

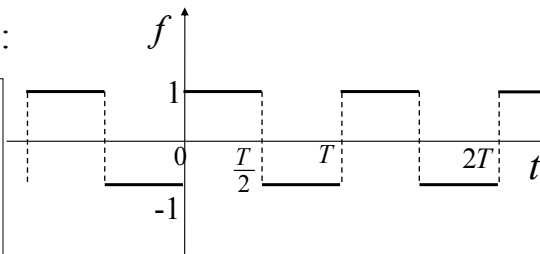
$$\frac{1}{T} \int_0^T |F_n e^{in\omega_0 t}|^2 dt = \frac{1}{T} \int_0^T |F_n|^2 dt = |F_n|^2$$

So we get the following interpretation for Parseval:  
the mean square value (i.e. the mean power) of  $f(t)$  is equal to the sum of the mean powers of its harmonics.

Also, for a real-valued  $f(t) = a_0 + 2 \sum_{n=1}^{+\infty} a_n \cos(n\omega_0 t) + b_n \sin(n\omega_0 t)$ , we have the Parseval relation 
$$\frac{1}{T} \int_0^T f(t)^2 dt = a_0^2 + 2 \sum_{n=1}^{+\infty} (a_n^2 + b_n^2)$$

Example: Square Wave:

$$\begin{aligned} f(t) &= 2 \sum_{n=1}^{+\infty} b_n \sin(n\omega_0 t) \\ &= \sum_{\substack{n=1 \\ n \text{ odd}}}^{+\infty} \frac{4}{n\pi} \sin(n\omega_0 t) \end{aligned}$$



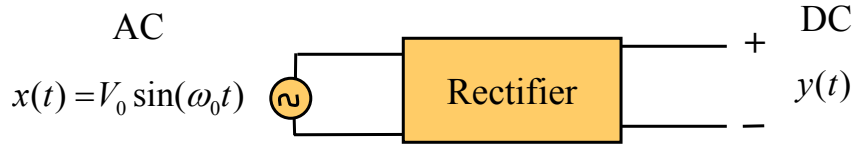
$$\frac{1}{T} \int_0^T f(t)^2 dt = 2 \sum_{\substack{n=1 \\ n \text{ odd}}}^{+\infty} b_n^2 = 2 \sum_{\substack{n=1 \\ n \text{ odd}}}^{+\infty} \left( \frac{2}{n\pi} \right)^2 = \frac{8}{\pi^2} \sum_{\substack{n=1 \\ n \text{ odd}}}^{+\infty} \frac{1}{n^2}$$

Since  $f(t)^2 \equiv 1$ , the left-hand side is easily found to be 1.

Therefore, we conclude that 
$$\frac{\pi^2}{8} = \sum_{\substack{n=1 \\ n \text{ odd}}}^{+\infty} \frac{1}{n^2} = 1 + \frac{1}{9} + \frac{1}{25} + \dots$$

Not an obvious sum!

## Application of Fourier series: power conversion.



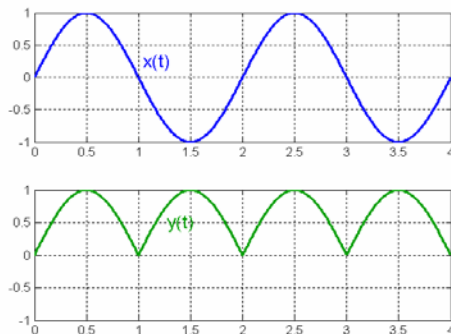
The signal  $x(t)$  is a pure sinusoid (AC power) as in the voltage you find in the wall outlet. Its Fourier expansion is immediate:

$$x(t) = V_0 \frac{e^{i\omega_0 t} - e^{-i\omega_0 t}}{2i}, \text{ so } X_{\pm 1} = \pm \frac{V_0}{2i}, \text{ and } X_n = 0 \text{ for } n \neq \pm 1$$

- A rectifier is a circuit that converts the power to DC (used by electronic equipment such as computers, audio, ...). Ideally,  $y(t)$  should be a perfectly flat, constant DC voltage.
- In practice, one gets an approximation to DC, with some remaining oscillations (“AC component”).

### A simple rectifier: $y(t) = |x(t)|$

Nonlinear, time invariant and memoryless system.  
Can be approximately implemented by a diode circuit.



$$x(t) = V_0 \sin(\omega_0 t).$$

Period is  $T$ .

$$y(t) = V_0 |\sin(\omega_0 t)|$$

Period is  $T_y = \frac{T}{2};$   
 $\omega_{0,y} = 2\omega_0$

Not quite flat, but let's see how much of  $y$  is DC.



Represent  $y(t)$  by a Fourier Series  $y(t) = \sum_{n=-\infty}^{+\infty} Y_n e^{in\omega_0 t}$

$$Y_n = \frac{1}{T_y} \int_0^{T_y} y(t) e^{-in\omega_0 t} dt = \frac{V_0}{T_y} \int_0^{T_y} |\sin(\omega_0 t)| e^{-in\omega_0 t} dt$$

$$T_y = \frac{T}{2} \Rightarrow \text{for } 0 \leq t \leq T_y \text{ we have } 0 \leq \omega_0 t \leq \pi \Rightarrow \sin(\omega_0 t) \geq 0$$

$$\begin{aligned} \text{Therefore } Y_n &= \frac{2V_0}{T} \int_0^{\frac{T}{2}} \sin(\omega_0 t) e^{-in2\omega_0 t} dt \\ &= \frac{2V_0}{T} \int_0^{\frac{T}{2}} \frac{e^{i\omega_0 t} - e^{-i\omega_0 t}}{2i} e^{-in2\omega_0 t} dt \\ &= \frac{V_0}{Ti} \int_0^{\frac{T}{2}} \left( e^{i\omega_0(1-2n)t} - e^{-i\omega_0(1+2n)t} \right) dt \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned} Y_n &= \frac{V_0}{Ti} \int_0^{\frac{T}{2}} \left( e^{i\omega_0(1-2n)t} - e^{-i\omega_0(1+2n)t} \right) dt \\ &= \frac{V_0}{Ti} \left( \frac{e^{i\omega_0(1-2n)t}}{i\omega_0(1-2n)} \Big|_0^{\frac{T}{2}} + \frac{e^{-i\omega_0(1+2n)t}}{i\omega_0(1+2n)} \Big|_0^{\frac{T}{2}} \right) \\ &= \frac{V_0}{Ti^2\omega_0} \left( \frac{\overbrace{e^{i\pi(1-2n)}}^{-1} - 1}{(1-2n)} + \frac{\overbrace{e^{-i\pi(1+2n)}}^{-1} - 1}{(1+2n)} \right) \\ &= \frac{2V_0}{2\pi} \left( \frac{1}{(1-2n)} + \frac{1}{(1+2n)} \right) = \frac{V_0}{\pi} \left( \frac{1+2n+1-2n}{(1-4n^2)} \right) \end{aligned}$$

$$Y_n = \frac{2V_0}{\pi(1-4n^2)}$$

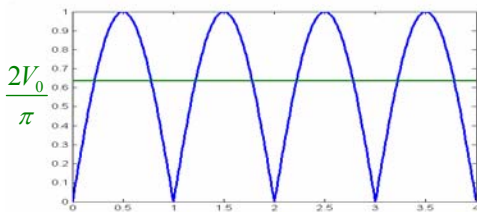
$$y(t) = Y_0 + \sum_{n \neq 0} Y_n e^{in\omega_{0y}t} = \underbrace{\frac{2V_0}{\pi}}_{\text{DC COMPONENT}} + \underbrace{\sum_{n \neq 0} \frac{2V_0}{\pi(1-4n^2)} e^{in\omega_{0y}t}}_{\text{AC COMPONENTS}}$$

Alternatively, in sine-cosine form we get

$$\begin{aligned} a_n = \text{Re}[Y_n] = Y_n, \quad b_n = 0 &\Rightarrow y(t) = a_0 + 2 \sum_{n=1}^{+\infty} a_n \cos(n\omega_{0y}t) \\ &= \underbrace{\frac{2V_0}{\pi}}_{\text{DC COMP}} + \underbrace{\sum_{n=1}^{+\infty} \frac{4V_0}{\pi(1-4n^2)} \cos(n\omega_{0y}t)}_{\text{AC COMPONENTS}} \end{aligned}$$

So we obtain a desired DC component, plus harmonics of the fundamental frequency  $\omega_{0y} = 2\omega_0$ .

In the power supply,  $\omega_0 = 2\pi \cdot 60 \text{ Hz}$ . The harmonics will have frequencies  $2\pi \cdot 120 \text{ Hz}$ ,  $2\pi \cdot 240 \text{ Hz}$ ,...



$$y(t) = \underbrace{\frac{2V_0}{\pi}}_{\text{DC}} + \underbrace{\sum_{n \neq 0} Y_n e^{in\omega_{0y}t}}_{\text{AC}}$$

From the graph, the AC part looks significant.

Power analysis by Parseval:

$$\underbrace{\frac{1}{T} \int_0^T |y(t)|^2 dt}_{\text{TOTAL POWER}} = \underbrace{|Y_0|^2}_{\text{DC POWER}} + \underbrace{\sum_{n \neq 0} |Y_n|^2}_{\text{AC POWER}}$$

The total power is  $\frac{1}{T_y} \int_0^{T_y} |y(t)|^2 dt = \frac{V_0^2}{T_y} \int_0^{T_y} \sin^2(\omega_0 t) dt = \frac{V_0^2}{2}$

The DC power is  $|Y_0|^2 = \frac{4V_0^2}{\pi^2} = 81\%$  of the total power.

The AC power is the remaining 19%.

Not too bad, not too good as a DC source.