

Fourier Series

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Jean Baptiste Joseph Fourier (21/03/1768 – 16/05/1830)



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- When Fourier submitted his paper in 1807, the committee (which included Lagrange, Laplace, Malus and Legendre, among others) concluded:
- ... the manner in which the author arrives at these equations is not exempt of difficulties and [...] his analysis to integrate them still leaves something to be desired on the score of generality and even rigour.

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Fourier series have a wide range of science and engineering applications like

- study of heat conduction,
- wave phenomena,
- concentrations of chemicals and pollutants,
- communications (radio, tv, mobile phones),
- image processing,
- sound and video recording

Problem

If $f(x)$ is defined on the interval $-L < x < L$ we need to know the coefficients $a_0, a_n, b_n, n \geq 1$ such that

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

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Note that the interval $-L < x < L$ is symmetric around origin. Equation (FS) is called a Fourier series for function f on interval $(-L, L)$.

Coefficients in a Fourier Series

Lemma

If $m, n \in \mathbb{N}$, then

$$1. \int_{-L}^L \cos \frac{n\pi x}{L} dx = 0$$

$$2. \int_{-L}^L \sin \frac{n\pi x}{L} dx = 0$$

$$3. \int_{-L}^L \cos \frac{n\pi x}{L} \cos \frac{m\pi x}{L} dx = \begin{cases} 0, & n \neq m \\ L, & n = m \end{cases}$$

$$4. \int_{-L}^L \sin \frac{n\pi x}{L} \sin \frac{m\pi x}{L} dx = \begin{cases} 0, & n \neq m \\ L, & n = m \end{cases}$$

$$5. \int_{-L}^L \sin \frac{n\pi x}{L} \cos \frac{m\pi x}{L} dx = 0$$

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$$a_m = \frac{1}{L} \int_{-L}^L f(x) \cos \frac{m\pi x}{L} dx$$

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Definition

The trigonometric series

$$\frac{a_0}{2} + \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \left(a_n \cos \frac{n\pi x}{L} + b_n \sin \frac{n\pi x}{L} \right),$$

whose coefficients $a_0, a_n, b_n, n \geq 1$ are determined by

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

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

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

is called the **Fourier series** of the function f over interval $(-L, L)$

Finding Fourier Series

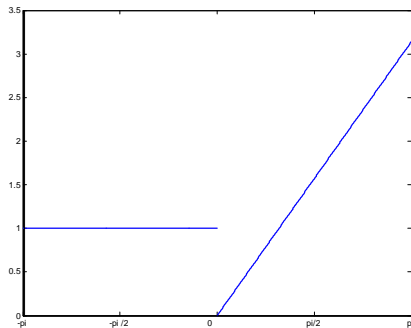
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Finding Fourier Series

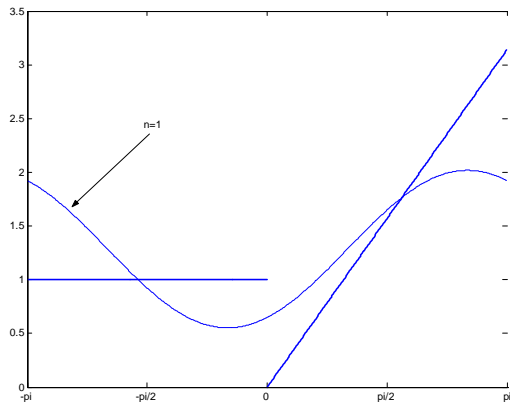
In a similar manner

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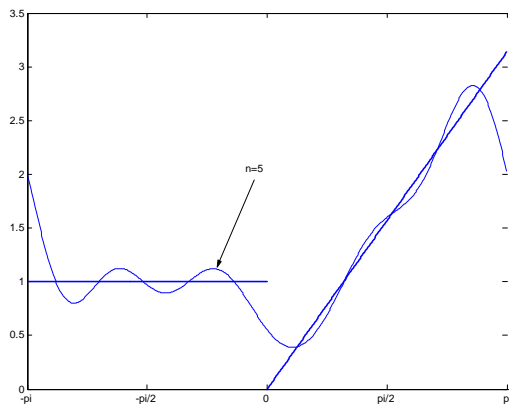
Therefore, for given function, the Fourier series expansion is

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

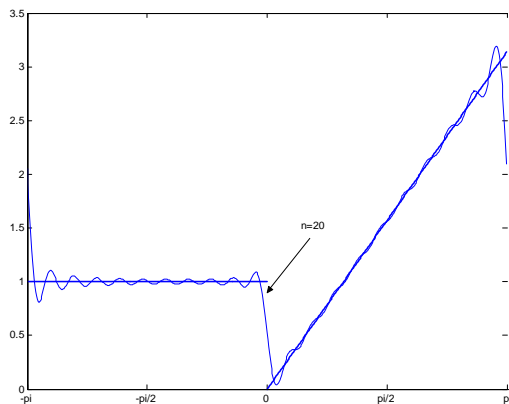
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- Most of the functions we will encounter in applications guarantee both convergence of the Fourier series and its equality with f .
- We now state without proof the result concerning the convergence of the Fourier series expansion for a wide class of functions commonly encountered in engineering and science applications.

First recall some definitions:

Definition

A function f is called piecewise continuous over an interval I if both limits

$$\lim_{x \rightarrow c+} f(x) = f(c+) \quad \text{and} \quad \lim_{x \rightarrow c-} f(x) = f(c-)$$

exist at every interior point $c \in I$ and at endpoints the appropriate one-sided limits exist, and moreover function f has at most finitely many discontinuities in I .

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Notice that a piecewise continuous function is bounded on its domain I , in other words it is not tending toward infinity.

Theorem (Convergence of Fourier series)

If the function f and its derivative f' are piecewise continuous over the interval $-L < x < L$, then f equals its Fourier series at all points of continuity. At a point c where the jump discontinuity occurs in f , the Fourier series converges to the average

$$\frac{f(c+) + f(c-)}{2}$$

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In the example considered previously, the function satisfies the conditions of the Theorem. Also, for every $x \neq 0$ in the interval $(-\pi, \pi)$ the Fourier series converges to $f(x)$. At $x = 0$ where jump discontinuity happens, the Fourier series converges to

$$\frac{f(0+) + f(0-)}{2} = \frac{0 + 1}{2} = \frac{1}{2}$$

Fourier Series

The trigonometric terms $\cos \frac{n\pi x}{L}$ and $\sin \frac{n\pi x}{L}$ in the Fourier series are periodic with period $2L$. Recall

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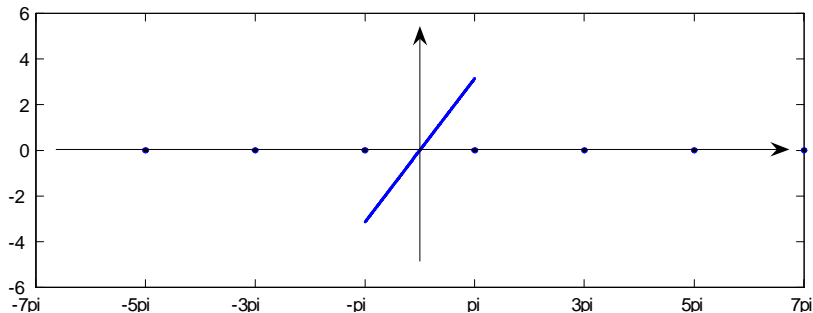
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It follows, that the Fourier series is also periodic with period $2L$.

Therefore, the Fourier series not only represents the function f over the interval $-L < x < L$, but it also produces the periodic extension of f over the entire real number line.

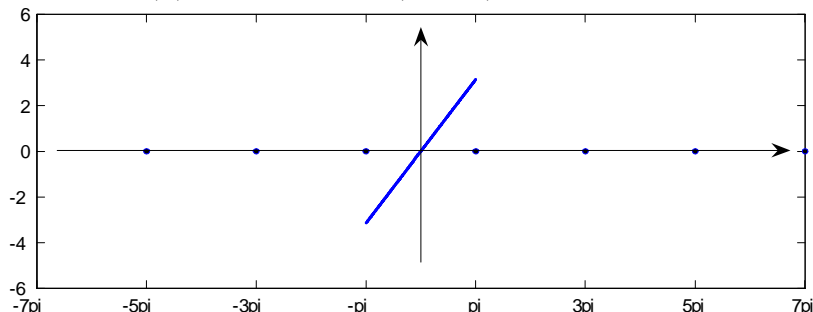
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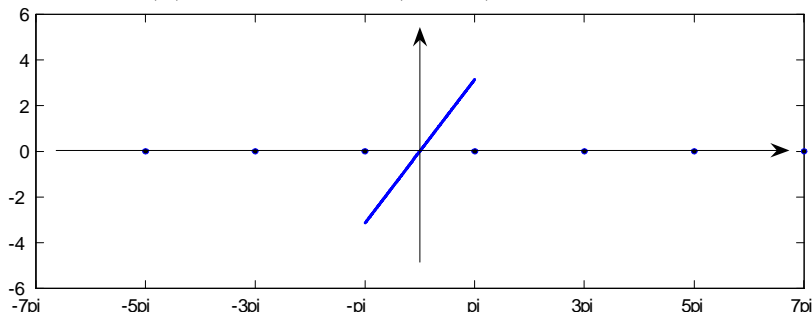


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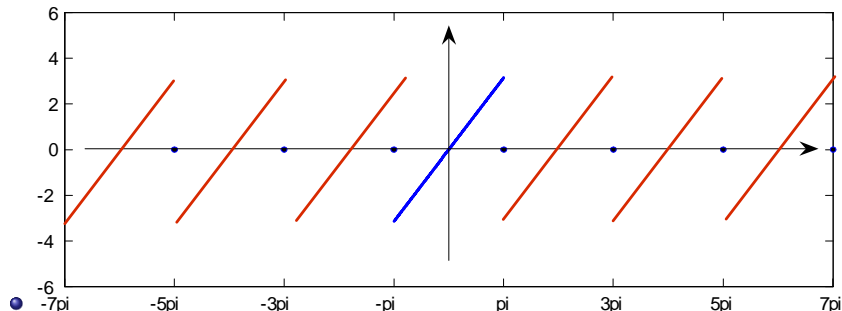
$$f(x) = \frac{2}{1} \sin x - \frac{2}{2} \sin 2x + \frac{2}{3} \sin 3x - \frac{2}{4} \sin 4x + \frac{2}{5} \sin 5x - \dots$$

Fourier Series

- The Fourier series for $f(x) = x$ on interval $(-\pi, \pi)$ is periodic with period 2π and converges to the periodic extension of $f(x) = x$ over entire x -axis.

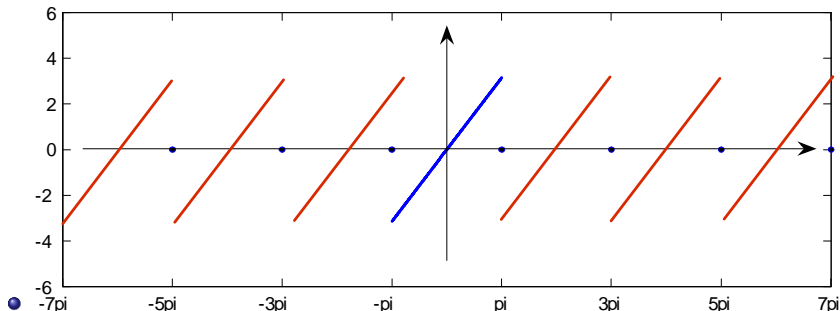
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- The solid dots represent the values

$$\frac{f(\pi+) + f(\pi-)}{2} = \frac{\pi + (-\pi)}{2} = 0$$

Series converges to 0 at the endpoints $\pm\pi, \pm3\pi, \pm5\pi, \pm7\pi, \dots$

Fourier Cosine and Fourier Sine Series

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- No matter what piecewise extension we choose the resulting Fourier series is guaranteed to equal $f(x)$ at all points of continuity over the original domain $0 < x < L$.
- There are two special extensions that are useful and whose Fourier coefficients are easy to compute: the **odd and even extensions**.

Fourier Cosine and Fourier Sine Series

Lemma

If g is an odd function then

$$\int_{-L}^L g(x) dx = 0$$

and if g is an even function then

$$\int_{-L}^L g(x) dx = 2 \int_0^L g(x) dx$$

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2. The product of 2 odd functions is even.
3. The product of an even and odd functions is odd.

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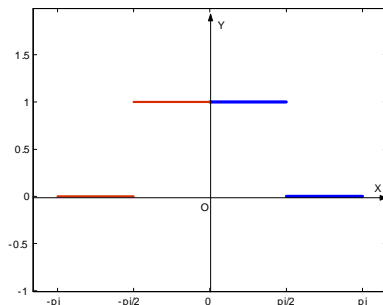
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Even Extension: Fourier Cosine Series

We summarise this result

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Theorem (Fourier Cosine Series)

The Fourier series of an even function on the interval $(-L, L)$ is the cosine series

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

where

$$a_0 = \frac{2}{L} \int_0^L f(x) dx$$

$$a_n = \frac{2}{L} \int_0^L f(x) \cos \frac{n\pi x}{L} dx$$

Even Extension: Fourier Cosine Series

Consider function

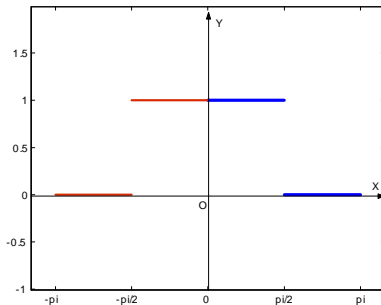
$$f(x) = \begin{cases} 1, & 0 < x < \frac{\pi}{2} \\ 0, & \frac{\pi}{2} < x < \pi \end{cases}$$

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Compute Fourier coefficients to find

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$$a_0 = 1$$

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Even Extension: Fourier Cosine Series

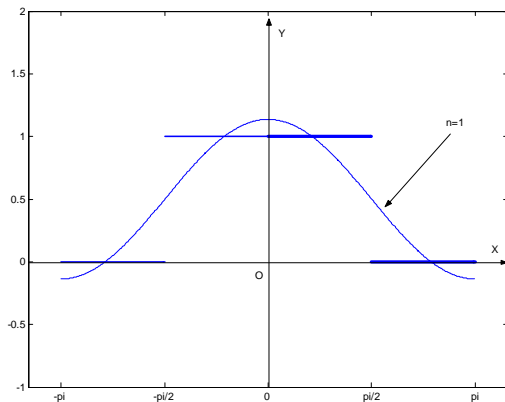
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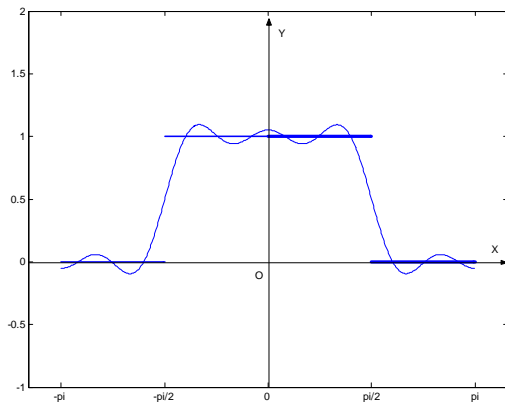
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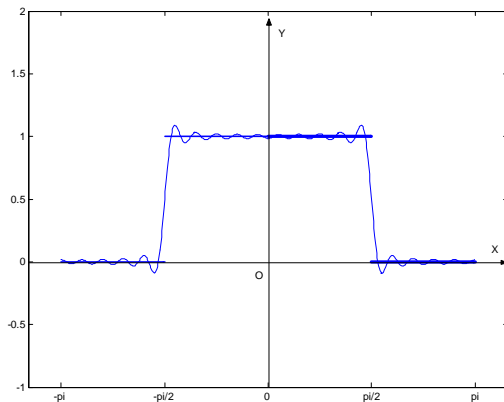
Even Extension: Fourier Cosine Series



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Odd Extension: Fourier Sine Series

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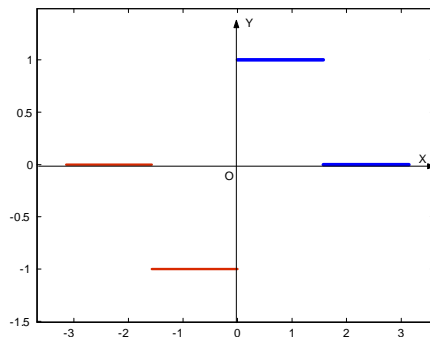
$$f(-x) = -f(x) \text{ on } (-L, L)$$

Odd Extension: Fourier Sine Series

Suppose that f is defined on $(0, L)$. Define the odd extension of f by

$$f(-x) = -f(x) \text{ on } (-L, L)$$

This is simply obtained by reflecting the function about origin.



Odd Extension: Fourier Sine Series

If we use the odd extension, then

$$a_0 = \frac{1}{L} \int_{-L}^L \underbrace{f(x)}_{\text{odd}} dx = 0$$

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

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which is called the **Fourier Sine series** of function f . It converges to the original function f over interval $(0, L)$ and to the odd extension of f over interval $(-L, 0)$.

Odd Extension: Fourier Sine Series

We summarise this result

Theorem (Fourier Sine Series)

The Fourier series of an odd function on the interval $(-L, L)$ is the sine series

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

where

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

Odd Extension: Fourier Sine Series

Consider function

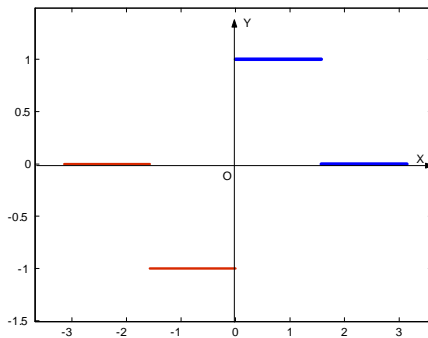
$$f(x) = \begin{cases} 1, & 0 < x < \frac{\pi}{2} \\ 0, & \frac{\pi}{2} < x < \pi \end{cases}$$

Odd Extension: Fourier Sine Series

Consider function

$$f(x) = \begin{cases} 1, & 0 < x < \frac{\pi}{2} \\ 0, & \frac{\pi}{2} < x < \pi \end{cases}$$

and its odd extension over $(-\pi, \pi)$



Odd Extension: Fourier Sine Series

Compute Fourier coefficients to find

$$b_n = \frac{2}{n\pi} \left(1 - \cos \frac{n\pi}{2} \right)$$

Odd Extension: Fourier Sine Series

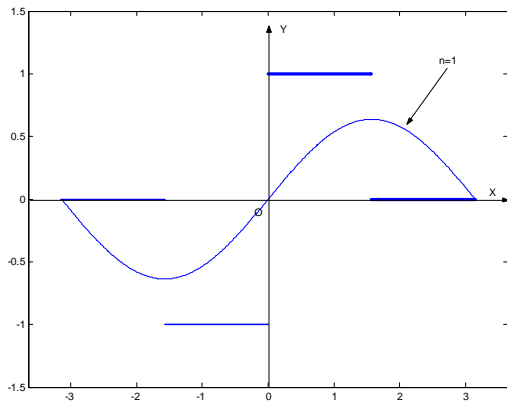
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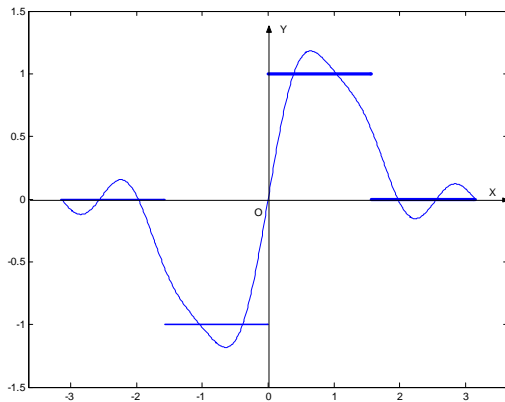
The Fourier Sine series is

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

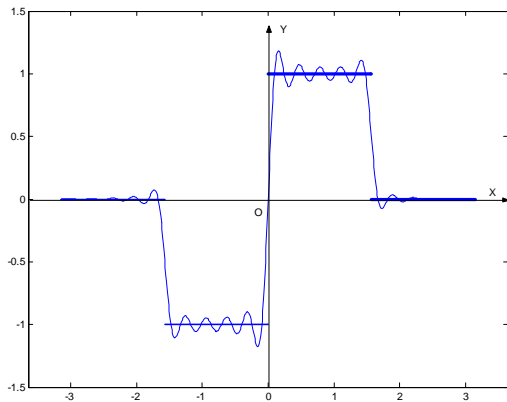
Odd Extension: Fourier Sine Series



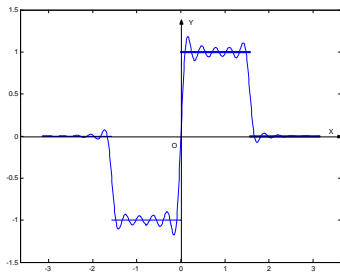
Odd Extension: Fourier Sine Series



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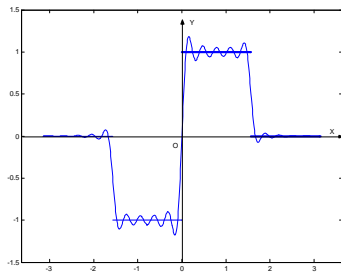


Gibbs Phenomenon



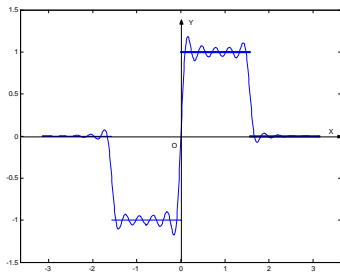
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Gibbs Phenomenon



In previous figures, like in this one, the overshoot at $x = \pi/2+$ and undershoot at $x = \pi/2-$ are characteristic of Fourier series expansions near points of jump discontinuity. Known as **Gibbs phenomenon**, after American mathematical physicist Josiah Willard Gibbs, this characteristic persists even when a large number of terms are summed. The combined overshoot and undershoot amount to approximately 18% of the difference between the function's values at the point of discontinuity.

Consider function

$$f(x) = \begin{cases} 1 & , \quad 0 < x < 1 \\ 0 & , \quad 1 < x < 2 \end{cases}$$

Gibbs Phenomenon

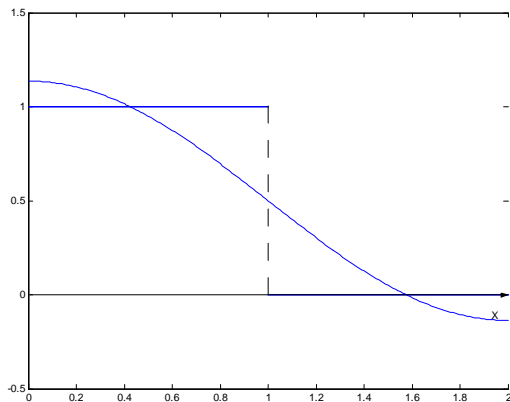


Figure: $n = 2$

Gibbs Phenomenon

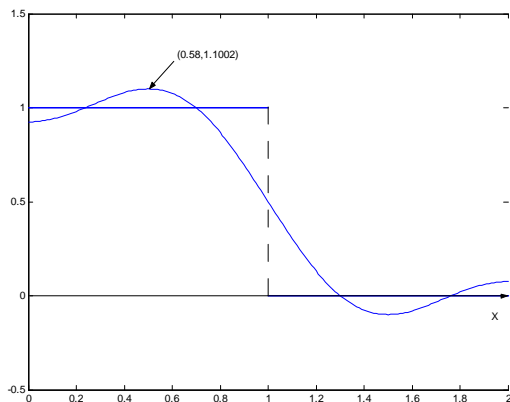


Figure: $n = 4$

Gibbs Phenomenon

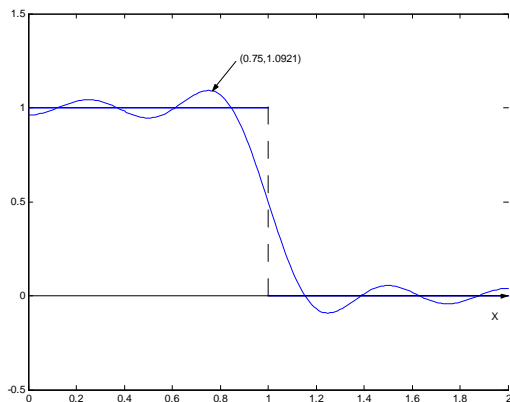


Figure: $n = 8$

Gibbs Phenomenon

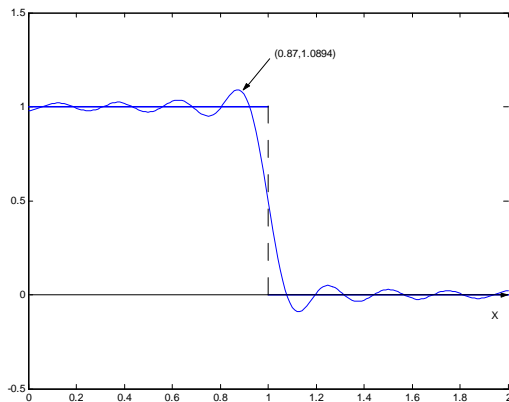


Figure: $n = 16$

Gibbs Phenomenon

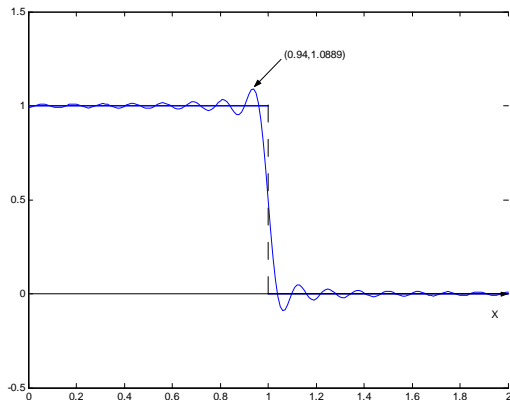


Figure: $n = 32$

Gibbs Phenomenon

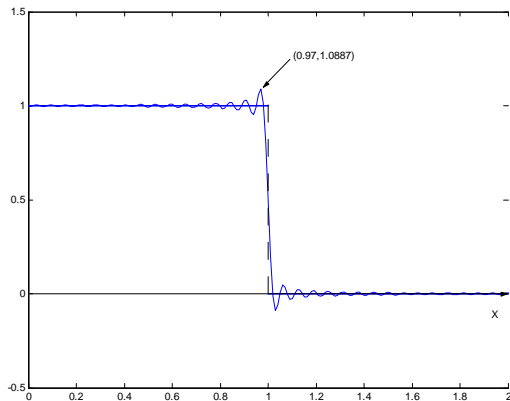


Figure: $n = 64$

Gibbs Phenomenon

The Gibbs phenomenon for $n = 2, 4, 8, 16, 32$. and 64 terms in Fourier approximation presents the highest peak that moves from 0.58 to 0.75, then to 0.87, and so forth, getting closer to the discontinuity at $x = 1$.

Gibbs Phenomenon

The Gibbs phenomenon for $n = 2, 4, 8, 16, 32$. and 64 terms in Fourier approximation presents the highest peak that moves from 0.58 to 0.75, then to 0.87, and so forth, getting closer to the discontinuity at $x = 1$.

The overshoot is always close to 1.09, or about 9% of the distance between $y = 0$ and $y = 1$ at the discontinuity point $x = 1$.