

Fourier Series

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Trigonometric Series: The infinite series of the form

$$\frac{a_0}{2} + \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} a_n \cos nx + \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} b_n \sin nx$$

is called Trigonometric series where a_0, a_n and b_n are constants.

Periodic function: If $f(x+T) = f(x)$ then $f(x)$ is called periodic function and T is called its period.

Example: Since $\tan(\pi+x) = \tan x$, so $\tan x$ is a periodic function and its period is π .

Fourier series: Let, $f(x)$ be defined in the interval $(-\pi, \pi)$ with period 2π which can be expanded in a trigonometric series.

$$\text{i.e. } f(x) = \frac{a_0}{2} + \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} (a_n \cos nx + b_n \sin nx) \quad \textcircled{1}$$

then $\textcircled{1}$ is called a Fourier series where $a_0 = \frac{1}{\pi} \int_{-\pi}^{\pi} f(x) dx$

$$a_n = \frac{1}{\pi} \int_{-\pi}^{\pi} f(x) \cos nx dx \text{ and } b_n = \frac{1}{\pi} \int_{-\pi}^{\pi} f(x) \sin nx dx$$

Here, a_0, a_n and b_n are Fourier Coefficients.

Important integrals:

$$\textcircled{i} \int_{-\pi}^{\pi} \sin mx dx = 0$$

$$\textcircled{ii} \int_{-\pi}^{\pi} \cos nx dx = 0$$

$$\textcircled{iii} \int_{-\pi}^{\pi} \sin mx \cos nx dx = 0$$

$$\textcircled{iv} \int_{-\pi}^{\pi} \sin mx \sin nx dx = 0$$

$$\textcircled{v} \int_{-\pi}^{\pi} \cos mx \cos nx dx = 0$$

$$\textcircled{vi} \int_{-\pi}^{\pi} \cos^2 nx dx = 0$$

if $m \neq n$

$$\textcircled{vii} \int_{-\pi}^{\pi} \sin^2 nx dx = 0.$$

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④ Theorem: If $f(x) = \frac{a_0}{2} + \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} (a_n \cos nx + b_n \sin nx)$ then,

$$\textcircled{i} a_0 = \frac{1}{\pi} \int_{-\pi}^{\pi} f(x) dx \quad \textcircled{ii} a_n = \frac{1}{\pi} \int_{-\pi}^{\pi} f(x) \cos nx dx \text{ and}$$

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

Proof:

Given that,

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

① Now integrating both sides of ① w.r.t x between the limits $-\pi$ and π then we get,

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

$$\Rightarrow \int_{-\pi}^{\pi} f(x) dx = \frac{a_0}{2} \left(x \right) \Big|_{-\pi}^{\pi} + \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} a_n \cdot 0 + \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} b_n \cdot 0$$

$$\Rightarrow \int_{-\pi}^{\pi} f(x) dx = a_0 \pi + 0$$

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

(ii) Again multiplying both sides of ① by $\cos nx$ and then integrating w.r.t. x between the limits $-\pi$ and π , we get,

$$\int_{-\pi}^{\pi} f(x) \cos nx dx = \frac{a_0}{2} \int_{-\pi}^{\pi} \cos nx dx + a_n \int_{-\pi}^{\pi} \cos^2 nx dx$$

$$\Rightarrow \int_{-\pi}^{\pi} f(x) \cos nx dx = 0 + \frac{a_n}{2} \int_{-\pi}^{\pi} (1 + \cos 2nx) dx$$

$$\Rightarrow \int_{-\pi}^{\pi} f(x) \cos nx dx = \frac{a_n}{2} \left[x + \frac{\sin 2nx}{2n} \right] \Big|_{-\pi}^{\pi}$$

$$\Rightarrow \int_{-\pi}^{\pi} f(x) \cos nx dx = \frac{a_n}{2} (2\pi) + 0$$

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

iii. Also multiplying both sides of ① by $\sin nx$ and then integrating w.r.t. x between the limits $-\pi$ and π , we get,

$$\int_{-\pi}^{\pi} f(x) \sin nx dx = \frac{a_0}{2} \int_{-\pi}^{\pi} \sin nx dx + b_n \int_{-\pi}^{\pi} \sin^2 nx dx$$

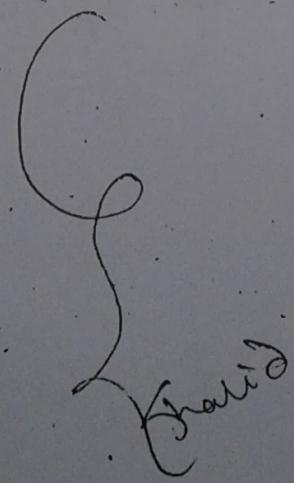
$$\Rightarrow \int_{-\pi}^{\pi} f(x) \sin nx dx = 0 + \frac{b_n}{2} \int_{-\pi}^{\pi} (1 - \cos 2nx) dx$$

$$\Rightarrow \int_{-\pi}^{\pi} f(x) \sin nx dx = \frac{b_n}{2} \cdot \left[x - \frac{\sin 2nx}{2n} \right]_{-\pi}^{\pi}$$

$$\Rightarrow \int_{-\pi}^{\pi} f(x) \sin nx dx = \frac{b_n}{2} [2\pi]$$

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

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Theorem: If $f(x) = \frac{a_0}{2} + \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} (a_n \cos \frac{n\pi x}{l} + b_n \sin \frac{n\pi x}{l})$

then show that,

$$a_0 = \frac{1}{l} \int_{-l}^l f(x) dx, \quad a_n = \frac{1}{l} \int_{-l}^l f(x) \cos \frac{n\pi x}{l} dx$$

$$\text{and } b_n = \frac{1}{l} \int_{-l}^l f(x) \sin \frac{n\pi x}{l} dx.$$

Try

Even function: If $f(-x) = f(x)$ then $f(x)$ is called an even function.

Example: let, $f(x) = \cos x$

$$\therefore f(-x) = \cos(-x) = \cos x = f(x)$$

Thus, $\cos x$ is an even function.

Odd function: If $f(-x) = -f(x)$ then $f(x)$ is called an odd function.

Example: let, $f(x) = \sin x$

$$\therefore f(-x) = \sin(-x) = -\sin x = -f(x)$$

Thus, $\sin x$ is an odd function.

Q If $f(x)$ is an even function then show that,

$$\text{i) } a_0 = \frac{2}{\pi} \int_0^\pi f(x) dx \quad \text{ii) } a_n = \frac{2}{\pi} \int_0^\pi f(x) \cos nx dx$$

and iii) $b_n = 0$.

Proof: i) we know,

$$a_0 = \frac{1}{\pi} \int_{-\pi}^{\pi} f(x) dx \\ = \frac{1}{\pi} \left\{ \int_{-\pi}^0 f(x) dx + \int_0^{\pi} f(x) dx \right\} \quad \text{--- (1)}$$

In the first integral of (1) we put $x = -y$ then $dx = -dy$

limit: if $x = -\pi$, then $-\pi = -y \Rightarrow y = \pi$
 if $x = 0$ " $0 = -y \Rightarrow y = 0$

$$\therefore \int_{-\pi}^0 f(x) dx = - \int_{\pi}^0 f(-y) dy \\ = \int_0^{\pi} f(-y) dy \\ = \int_0^{\pi} f(x) dx ; \left[\text{since } \int_a^b f(x) dx = \int_a^b f(y) dy \right] \\ = \int_0^{\pi} f(x) dx \quad (\text{since } f(x) \text{ is an even function}) \quad \text{--- (2)}$$

Now from (1) and (2) we get,

$$a_0 = \frac{1}{\pi} \left\{ \int_0^{\pi} f(x) dx + \int_0^{\pi} f(x) dx \right\} \\ \Rightarrow a_0 = \frac{2}{\pi} \int_0^{\pi} f(x) dx$$

(11) Again we know,

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

$$= \frac{1}{\pi} \left\{ \int_{-\pi}^0 f(x) \cos nx dx + \int_0^{\pi} f(x) \cos nx dx \right\} \quad (3)$$

In the first integral of (3), we put $x = -y$ then $dx = -dy$

$$\therefore \int_{-\pi}^0 f(x) \cos nx dx = - \int_{\pi}^0 f(-y) \cos(-ny) dy$$

$$= \int_{\pi}^0 f(-y) \cos(ny) dy$$

$$= \int_0^{\pi} f(-y) \cos ny dy$$

$$= \int_0^{\pi} f(-x) \cos nx dx$$

$$= \int_0^{\pi} f(x) \cos nx dx \quad (4)$$

Now from (3) and (4) we get,

$$a_n = \frac{1}{\pi} \left\{ \int_0^{\pi} f(x) \cos nx dx + \int_0^{\pi} f(x) \cos nx dx \right\}$$

$$\Rightarrow a_n = \frac{2}{\pi} \int_0^{\pi} f(x) \cos nx dx.$$

(12) Also we know,

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

$$= \frac{1}{\pi} \left\{ \int_{-\pi}^0 f(x) \sin nx dx + \int_0^{\pi} f(x) \sin nx dx \right\} \quad (5)$$

In the first integral of (5), we put $x = -y$ then $dx = -dy$

$$\therefore \int_{-\pi}^0 f(x) \sin nx dx = - \int_{\pi}^0 f(-y) \sin(-ny) dy$$

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$$\begin{aligned}
 &= \int_0^\pi f(-y) \sin(-ny) dy \\
 &= - \int_0^\pi f(-y) \sin(ny) dy \\
 &= - \int_0^\pi f(x) \sin nx dx \\
 &= - \int_0^\pi f(x) \sin nx dx \quad \text{--- (6)} \quad [f(x) \text{ is even function}]
 \end{aligned}$$

from (5) and (6) we get,

$$-b_n = \frac{1}{\pi} \left\{ - \int_0^\pi f(x) \sin nx dx + \int_0^\pi f(x) \sin nx dx \right\}$$

$$\Rightarrow b_n = 0$$

QED

QED If $f(x)$ is an odd function then show that,

$$(i) a_0 = 0 \quad (ii) a_n = 0 \quad \text{and} \quad (iii) b_n = \frac{2}{\pi} \int_0^\pi f(x) \sin nx dx$$

From QED

QED

Half-range Fourier Series

If only cosine terms or only sine terms are present in Fourier series then it is called Half-range Fourier series.

- ① If only cosine terms are present in Fourier series then it is called Half-range cosine series.
(Fourier cosine series)

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

$$\text{where } a_0 = \frac{2}{\pi} \int_0^{\pi} f(x) dx \text{ and } a_n = \frac{2}{\pi} \int_0^{\pi} f(x) \cos nx dx$$

- ② If only sine terms are present in Fourier series then it is called Half-range sine series.
(Fourier sine series)

$$\text{i.e. } f(x) = \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} b_n \sin nx, \text{ where } b_n = \frac{2}{\pi} \int_0^{\pi} f(x) \sin nx dx$$

The function is generally defined in $(0, \pi)$ which is half of $(-\pi, \pi)$ for this reason it is called Half-range.

Q2 Fourier series in different interval:

i) If the function $f(x)$ is defined in the interval $(0, \pi)$ with period π then the Fourier series as follows:

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

$$\text{where, } a_0 = \frac{2}{\pi} \int_0^{\pi} f(x) dx, \quad a_n = \frac{2}{\pi} \int_0^{\pi} f(x) \cos nx dx$$

$$\text{and } b_n = \frac{2}{\pi} \int_0^{\pi} f(x) \sin nx dx$$

ii) If the function $f(x)$ is defined in the interval $(0, 2\pi)$ with period 2π then the Fourier series as follows:

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

$$\text{where, } a_0 = \frac{1}{\pi} \int_0^{2\pi} f(x) dx, \quad a_n = \frac{1}{\pi} \int_0^{2\pi} f(x) \cos nx dx$$

$$\text{and } b_n = \frac{1}{\pi} \int_0^{2\pi} f(x) \sin nx dx$$

(iii) If the function $f(x)$ is defined in the interval $(-l, l)$ with period $2l$ then the Fourier series as follows:

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

where $a_0 = \frac{1}{l} \int_{-l}^l f(x) dx$, $a_n = \frac{1}{l} \int_{-l}^l f(x) \cos \frac{n\pi x}{l} dx$
 .. and $b_n = \frac{1}{l} \int_{-l}^l f(x) \sin \frac{n\pi x}{l} dx.$

(iv) If the function $f(x)$ is defined in the interval (a, b) with period $b-a$ then the Fourier series as follows:

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

where, $a_0 = \frac{2}{b-a} \int_a^b f(x) dx$

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

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

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④ Expand the function $f(x) = x+x^2$ in the sine and cosine series in the interval $-\pi < x < \pi$. From this show that, $\frac{\pi^2}{6} = 1 + \frac{1}{2^2} + \frac{1}{3^2} + \frac{1}{4^2} + \frac{1}{5^2} + \dots$

Solution: Part ①: we have $f(x) = x+x^2$; $-\pi < x < \pi$ —— ①

In the interval $-\pi < x < \pi$, the Fourier series is,

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

$$\begin{aligned} \text{when, } a_0 &= \frac{1}{\pi} \int_{-\pi}^{\pi} f(x) dx \\ &= \frac{1}{\pi} \int_{-\pi}^{\pi} (x+x^2) dx = \frac{1}{\pi} \left[\frac{x^2}{2} + \frac{x^3}{3} \right]_{-\pi}^{\pi} \\ &= \frac{1}{\pi} \left\{ \left(\frac{\pi^2}{2} + \frac{\pi^3}{3} \right) - \left(\frac{-\pi^2}{2} - \frac{-\pi^3}{3} \right) \right\} \\ &= \frac{1}{\pi} \cdot \frac{2\pi^3}{3} = \frac{2\pi^2}{3} \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned} a_n &= \frac{1}{\pi} \int_{-\pi}^{\pi} f(x) \cos nx dx \\ &= \frac{1}{\pi} \int_{-\pi}^{\pi} (x+x^2) \cos nx dx \\ \Rightarrow a_n &= \frac{1}{\pi} \left[(x+x^2) \cdot \frac{\sin nx}{n} - (1+2x) \cdot \left(-\frac{\cos nx}{n^2} \right) + (2) \left(-\frac{\sin nx}{n^3} \right) \right]_{-\pi}^{\pi} \\ &= \frac{1}{\pi} \left[\frac{1}{n} (x+x^2) \sin nx + \frac{1}{n^2} (1+2x) \cos nx - \frac{2}{n^3} \sin nx \right]_{-\pi}^{\pi} \\ &= \frac{1}{\pi} \cdot \frac{(-1)^n}{n^2} (1+2\pi - 1+2\pi) \end{aligned}$$

$$= \frac{4\pi (-1)^n}{\pi n^2} = \frac{4(-1)^n}{n^2}; \quad ; \quad [\text{since, } \sin n\pi = 0, \cos n\pi = (-1)^n]$$

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

$$= \frac{1}{\pi} \int_{-\pi}^{\pi} (x+x^2) \sin nx dx$$

$$\therefore \frac{1}{\pi} \left[(x+x^2) \left(-\frac{\cos nx}{n} \right) - (1+2x) \left(\frac{-\sin nx}{n^2} \right) + (2) \left(\frac{\cos nx}{n^3} \right) \right]_0^\pi$$

$$= \frac{1}{\pi} \left[-\frac{1}{n} (x+x^2) \cos nx + \frac{1}{n^2} (1+2x) \sin nx + \frac{2}{n^3} \cos nx \right]_0^\pi$$

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

Now putting the values of a_0, a_n, b_n in ② then we get

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

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

$$\Rightarrow f(x) = \frac{\pi^2}{3} + 4 \left(-\frac{\cos x}{1^2} + \frac{\cos 2x}{2^2} - \frac{\cos 3x}{3^2} + \dots \right)$$

$$- 2 \left(-\frac{\sin x}{1} + \frac{\sin 2x}{2} - \frac{\sin 3x}{3} + \dots \right)$$

$$\Rightarrow f(x) = \frac{\pi^2}{3} - 4 \left(\frac{\cos x}{1^2} - \frac{\cos 2x}{2^2} + \frac{\cos 3x}{3^2} - \dots \right)$$

$$+ 2 \left(\frac{\sin x}{1} - \frac{\sin 2x}{2} + \frac{\sin 3x}{3} - \dots \right)$$

③

At the end points $x = \pm\pi$

$$\begin{aligned}f(\pi) &= \frac{1}{2} [f(-\pi+0) + f(\pi-0)] \\&= \frac{1}{2} [-\pi + \pi^2 + \pi + \pi^2]; \text{ since } f(x) = x + x^2 \\&= \pi^2 \quad \text{--- (4)}\end{aligned}$$

Now putting $x = \pi$ in (3), we get

$$f(\pi) = \frac{\pi^2}{3} - 4 \left(\frac{1}{1^2} - \frac{1}{2^2} - \frac{1}{3^2} - \dots \right) + 2.0$$

$$\Rightarrow \pi^2 = \frac{\pi^2}{3} + 4 \left(\frac{1}{1^2} + \frac{1}{2^2} + \frac{1}{3^2} + \dots \right)$$

$$\Rightarrow \pi^2 - \frac{\pi^2}{3} = 4 \left(\frac{1}{1^2} + \frac{1}{2^2} + \frac{1}{3^2} + \dots \right)$$

$$\Rightarrow \frac{2\pi^2}{3} = 4 \left(\frac{1}{1^2} + \frac{1}{2^2} + \frac{1}{3^2} + \dots \right)$$

$$\Rightarrow \frac{\pi^2}{6} = \frac{1}{1^2} + \frac{1}{2^2} + \frac{1}{3^2} + \dots \quad \text{(Proved)}$$

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Q If $f(x) = x$ in the interval $0 \leq x \leq \pi$, then expand the function in cosine series of the multiple angle of x and hence show that, $\frac{\pi^2}{8} = 1 + \frac{1}{3^2} + \frac{1}{5^2} + \dots$

Try