Mathematics Year 1, Calculus and Applications I

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Problem Sheet 6

Problems 3, 4 and 5 are possible candidates for questions to be discussed in tutorials

1. The following functions are defined on the interval $[0, \pi]$. In each case (i) find the even and odd extensions of the given functions on $[-\pi, \pi]$ and extend them periodically with period 2π on the real line; (ii) sketch these over the interval $-4\pi < x < 4\pi$ making sure you include the assumed values of the function at any discontinuities; (iii) find the Fourier series for both even and odd extensions and state whether the convergence of the series is uniform or not. [You can state theorems without proof.]

$$f(x) = \cos x, \qquad f(x) = x^2, \qquad f(x) = e^x, \qquad f(x) = e^x - 1.$$

By inspecting your sketches, which of the Fourier series can be differentiated term-by-term to yield the Fourier series of new functions? Explain using theorems without proofs.

2. Obtain the Fourier series of the function $f(x) = \pi x$ on the interval $0 \leq x \leq 1$ as a sine series and a cosine series (extend the function appropriately and note that the interval is $2-$periodic not $2\pi-$periodic).

3. (a) Sketch the function $f(x) = |\sin x|$ defined on $-\pi \leq x \leq \pi$, and show that its Fourier series is given by

$$|\sin x| = \frac{2}{\pi} - \frac{4}{\pi}\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{\cos 2nx}{4n^2 - 1}$$

(b) What value does the Fourier series converge to at $x = 0, \pi, -\pi$?

(c) Use the series result to show that $\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{1}{4n^2-1} = \frac{1}{2}$.

(d) Use your results to also show that

$$\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{1}{4(2n-1)^2 - 1} = \frac{1}{4 \cdot 1} + \frac{1}{4 \cdot 3^2 - 1} + \frac{1}{4 \cdot 5^2 - 1} + \ldots = \frac{\pi}{8}$$

4. (a) Consider the function $f(x) = x \cos x$ on $-\pi < x < \pi$. Sketch the function. Is it even or odd?

(b) Find the Fourier series of $f(x)$ extended periodically over the whole of the real line. What values does the series converge to at $x = -\pi, +\pi$?

(b) Now introduce the function $\phi(x) = x$ on $-\pi < x < \pi$. Write down the Fourier series for $\phi(x)$ (extended periodically on the real line) and hence show that the Fourier series of $\chi(x) := x(1 + \cos x)$ (extended periodically on the real line) is given by

$$\chi(x) = \frac{3}{2}\sin x + 2\left(\frac{\sin 2x}{1 \cdot 2 \cdot 3} - \frac{\sin 3x}{2 \cdot 3 \cdot 4} + \frac{\sin 4x}{3 \cdot 4 \cdot 5} + \ldots\right) \qquad (1)$$

(c) What values do you expect the Fourier series of $\chi(x)$ to converge to at the end points $x = -\pi$ and $x = \pi$? Is the periodic extension of χ continuous at the end points? Is the convergence uniform or not?

(d) Does the periodically extended function $\chi(x)$ have continuous derivatives of any order on the closed interval $[-\pi, \pi]$ (clearly the problematic points are the end points, so you may find it useful to carry out a local one-sided Taylor series expansion).

By considering the Fourier series (1) can you think of a series comparison test that would establish its absolute convergence for all $x \in [-\pi, \pi]$?

5. Consider the function $f(x) = \cos \alpha x$ for $-\pi < x < \pi$, where α is not an integer.

(a) Show that the Fourier series of $f(x) = \cos \alpha x$ is

$$\cos \alpha x = \frac{2\alpha \sin \alpha\pi}{\pi} \left(\frac{1}{2\alpha^2} - \frac{\cos x}{\alpha^2 - 1^2} + \frac{\cos 2x}{\alpha^2 - 2^2} + \ldots \right) \tag{2}$$

(b) Confirm that the periodic extension of the function remains continuous at $x = \pm\pi$. Hence, select $x = \pi$ in (2) to show that the following expression holds

$$\cot \pi x = \frac{2x}{\pi} \left(\frac{1}{2x^2} + \frac{1}{x^2 - 1^2} + \frac{1}{x^2 - 2^2} + \ldots \right). \tag{3}$$

This expression resolves $\cot \pi x$ into partial fractions!

(c) Re-write (3) in the form

$$\pi \left(\cot \pi x - \frac{1}{\pi x} \right) = -2x \left(\frac{1}{1^2 - x^2} + \frac{1}{2^2 - x^2} + \ldots \right), \tag{4}$$

and take x to lie in the interval $0 \leq x \leq \beta < 1$. Show that the series (4) converges uniformly in the given interval and can therefore be integrated term-by-term (consider the *nth* term and bound its absolute value by the term of a known convergent series).

(d) Integrate (4) from 0 to x and show that (careful with improper integrals at $x = 0$)

$$\log \left(\frac{\sin \pi x}{\pi x} \right) = \lim_{n \to \infty} \log \prod_{k=1}^{n} \left(1 - \frac{x^2}{k^2} \right). \tag{5}$$

(e) Show that (5) is equivalent to (exponentiate both sides)

$$\sin \pi x = \pi x \left(1 - \frac{x^2}{1^2} \right) \left(1 - \frac{x^2}{2^2} \right) \left(1 - \frac{x^2}{3^2} \right) \ldots$$

Show how your expression above can be used to produce the so-called *Wallis's* product

$$\frac{\pi}{2} = \prod_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{2n}{2n-1} \cdot \frac{2n}{2n+1} = \frac{2}{1} \cdot \frac{2}{3} \cdot \frac{4}{3} \cdot \frac{4}{5} \ldots$$