

MATH 101A — ASSIGNMENT 3

Learning goals

- Apply the Trapezoidal Rule to functions defined by data.
- Witness the basic ideas of Fourier analysis.

Contributors

*On the first page of your submission, list the student numbers and full names (with the last name in **bold**) of all team members. Indicate members who have not contributed using the comment “(non-contributing)”.*

Reflection question

*Reflection questions encourage you to think about how mathematics is done. This is an important ingredient of success. Reflection questions contribute to your **engagement grade**.*

1. In the last assignment you reflected on how to approach a difficult problem. Another key component of problem solving is to reflect on your solution after you have solved the problem and check if your answer makes sense (without having access to an answer key or official solution). Looking back on the previous two assignments, identify a specific problem in which you could have checked that your answer made sense based on the other information in the assignment, your answers to other questions in the assignment, or with any other tools at your disposal (Desmos, etc.). In one or two paragraphs, describe some of the ways in which you could have checked (or did check) your answer for this specific problem, as well as some of the ways that you check your answers to problems in general (for example, when doing worksheet problems during or after small class) *other than* asking someone else for their answer.

Assignment questions: Spectral Messages

The questions in this section contribute to your **assignment grade**. Stars indicate the difficulty of the questions, as described on Canvas.

Before starting work on this assignment, please read through all the questions and take note of the special instructions in the section headed “Notes and Comments” below.

Overview. Figure 1 below shows the graph of the function

$$f(x) = 72 \sin(x) + 101 \sin(2x) + 108 \sin(3x) + 108 \sin(4x) + 111 \sin(5x).$$

The coefficients (72, 101, 108, 108, 111) are the numbers for the characters (“H”, “e”, “l”, “l”, “o”) used in

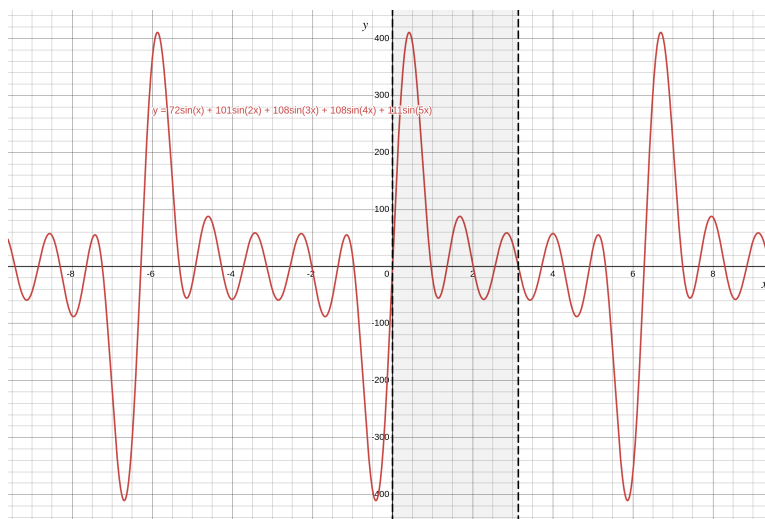


Figure 1: This function says “Hello”

computer systems worldwide (UTF-8). This assignment will guide you through the integrations needed to reveal short messages encoded in functions like this one, using only the information in their graphs.

Notation. The five sinusoids combined to produce Figure 1 are plotted in Figure 2. Each one is odd and 2π -periodic, and these two properties are inherited by the function in Figure 1. For this reason, that entire graph can be reconstructed from the shaded segment, where $0 \leq x \leq \pi$. We will focus on just this interval in all that follows. (This explains the choice of axes in Figure 2.)

The sinusoids used in Figures 1 and 2 are the first five members of the infinite family

$$y_n(x) = \sin(nx), \quad n = 1, 2, 3, \dots \quad (1)$$

This assignment concerns various functions of the form exemplified above:

$$f(x) = b_1 \sin(x) + b_2 \sin(2x) + \dots = \sum_{k=1}^{\infty} b_k \sin(kx). \quad (2)$$

Each of these is called a *Fourier Sine Series*; the real-valued constants b_1, b_2, \dots are called the *coefficients*. Later in MATH 101 we will develop a general theory for “infinite sums” (officially, *series*). For this assignment, the informal and intuitive approach of treating them just like ordinary finite sums will suffice.

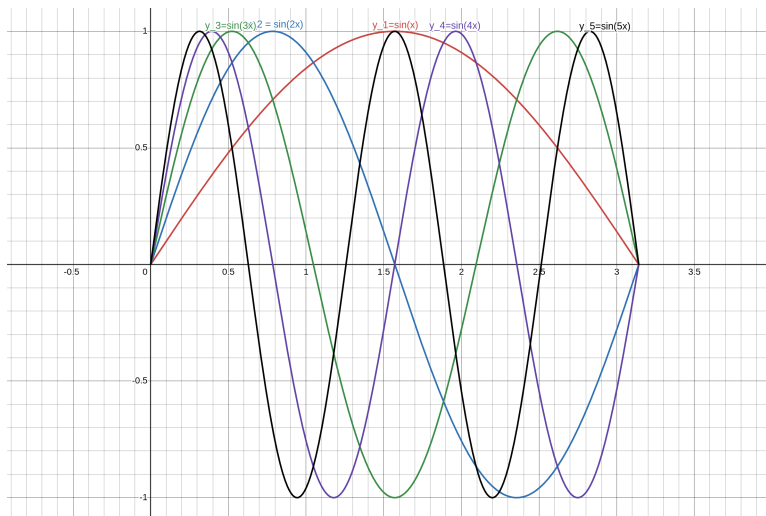


Figure 2: Basis functions $y_n = \sin(nx)$ for $n = 1, 2, 3, 4, 5$

2. Use the definitions in line (1) to complete the following.

- (a) (1 mark) ★☆☆☆ For arbitrary constants K, D, m, n , calculate

$$\frac{d}{dx} \left[K \sin(mx) \cos(nx) + D \cos(mx) \sin(nx) \right].$$

Then use wise choices of K and D to find the following indefinite integral, assuming $m^2 \neq n^2$:

$$\int \sin(mx) \sin(nx) dx.$$

- (b) (1 mark) ★☆☆☆ Determine the constant R that makes the following equation valid for all positive integers m and n . Explain why the stated equation holds.

$$\int_0^\pi \sin(mx) \sin(nx) dx = \begin{cases} 0, & \text{if } m \neq n, \\ R, & \text{if } m = n. \end{cases}$$

For any given function $f(x)$ integrable on $[0, \pi]$, we now use the constant R found above to define

$$B_k(f) = \frac{1}{R} \int_0^\pi f(x) \sin(kx) dx, \quad k = 1, 2, 3, \dots \quad (3)$$

- (c) (1 mark) ★☆☆☆ Consider the specific function plotted in Figure 1, namely,

$$f(x) = 72 \sin(x) + 101 \sin(2x) + 108 \sin(3x) + 108 \sin(4x) + 111 \sin(5x).$$

Calculate $B_n(f)$ for each integer $n \geq 1$.

- (d) (1 mark) ★☆☆☆ Now think about a general function f with the form shown below, where each b_k is a constant:

$$f(x) = b_1 \sin(x) + b_2 \sin(2x) + \dots = \sum_{k=1}^{\infty} b_k \sin(kx).$$

Find a formula that expresses b_n in terms of one or more of the numbers $B_k(f)$ defined in line (3). Your result should be valid for every integer $n \geq 1$. Explain why your formula holds.

For smooth periodic functions like the one graphed in Figure 1, the integrals shown in line (3) are excellent candidates for approximate evaluation by the Trapezoidal Rule. Specialized analysis reveals that the actual difference between the exact value and its Trapezoidal approximation is much, much smaller than the standard estimate shown in class suggests. So we choose the Trapezoidal Rule for all of our integral approximations below.

3. Imagine dividing $[0, \pi]$ into $N = 8$ subintervals, with endpoints

$$x_0 = 0, x_1 = \frac{\pi}{8}, \dots, x_i = \frac{i\pi}{8}, \dots, x_8 = \frac{8\pi}{8},$$

and evaluating the numbers $f_i = f(x_i)$ for $i = 0, 1, \dots, 8$. For $f(x)$ as shown in Figure 1, the 9 numbers f_i , in order, are approximately

$$0.0, 409.3, 149.8, -53.9, 75.0, 19.3, -52.2, 50.5, 0.0.$$

- (a) (1 mark) ★★☆☆ Use all of these values to calculate Trapezoidal-rule approximations for the integrals $B_1(f), \dots, B_5(f)$. (Call these $B_n^{\text{trap}}(f)$.) Report each answer with 3 decimal places.
- (b) (1 mark) ★☆☆☆ Report, to 3 significant digits, the 5 numbers $B_n^{\text{trap}}(f) - B_n(f)$, $n = 1, \dots, 5$.

Your writeup for this problem should describe your method for computing the numbers $B_n^{\text{trap}}(f)$ in enough detail that a patient reader could reproduce your work. Show documentation appropriate for whatever approach you used: a code listing (any language is acceptable), a spreadsheet sample, or selected screenshots, etc.

The next question applies the ideas from Question 3 at scale. It involves rather large numbers N and R , so computer assistance in evaluating the individual Trapezoidal-Rule approximations will be essential. You will need to apply the Trapezoidal Rule to $R + 1$ different integrals, so a systematic computer-assisted approach is recommended also for this.

4. A special message for the students in your small class section has been UTF-8 encoded in a list of positive integers b_1, b_2, \dots, b_R . These numbers provide the coefficients that define a new function

$$f(x) = b_1 \sin(x) + b_2 \sin(2x) + \dots + b_R \sin(Rx).$$

- (a) Acquire the list of numbers f_i , $i = 0, \dots, N$, specific to your small class. These are available on Canvas, in an appropriately-named CSV file. The given numbers are approximate values $f_i \approx f(x_i)$, where $x_i = \frac{i\pi}{N}$, $i = 0, 1, 2, \dots, N$. (There is nothing to hand in for this part.)
 - (b) (1 mark) ★☆☆☆ Determine and report your specific value of N . Then produce a computer-generated plot of the curve $y = f(x)$ on the interval $0 \leq x \leq \pi$.
 - (c) (5 marks) ★★★★★ Use the Trapezoidal Rule to find the number R and the coefficients b_1, \dots, b_R, b_{R+1} . To recognize R , note that b_1, \dots, b_R are all positive, whereas $b_{R+1} = 0$. Report the coefficients b_1, \dots, b_R as a comma-separated list of positive integers.
Just as in Question 3, your submission should describe your methods in enough detail that a patient reader could reproduce your work.
 - (d) (1 mark) ☆☆☆☆ Turn the UTF-8 encodings b_1, \dots, b_R into a readable message and report it. This task needs no Calculus, so you are invited simply to paste your list of numbers from part (c) into the online tool linked here: <https://personal.math.ubc.ca/~loew/utf8-to-text.html>.
5. The integrals defined in line (3) are meaningful numbers for any integrable function f . Treating a given function as if it were a combination of periodic functions opens the door to *Fourier analysis*, a powerful tool with many applications in science, engineering, and mathematics. Present exact calculations where they are requested below, but use suitable software to produce the corresponding plots.

- (a) (1 mark) ★☆☆☆ Let $f(x) = 1$ for $0 \leq x \leq \pi$. Find a formula for $B_n(f)$ valid for every integer $n \geq 1$.
- (b) (1 mark) Make three plots showing $y = f(x)$ and $y = S_N(x)$ on the same axes, where

$$S_N(x) = \sum_{n=1}^N B_n(f) \sin(nx).$$

Use $N = 3$ for the first plot, $N = 5$ for the second, and $N = 11$ for the third.

- (c) (1 mark) ★☆☆☆ Let $g(x) = x$ for $0 \leq x \leq \pi$. Find a formula for $B_n(g)$ valid for every integer $n \geq 1$.
- (d) (1 mark) ★☆☆☆ Make three plots showing $y = g(x)$ and $y = \tilde{S}_N(x)$ on the same axes, where

$$\tilde{S}_N(x) = \sum_{n=1}^N B_n(g) \sin(nx).$$

Use $N = 3$ for the first plot, $N = 5$ for the second, and $N = 11$ for the third.

Notes and Comments

- Question 4 calls for powerful general methods, which should be capable of handling the tasks in Question 3 with ease. This makes the simple problem in Question 3 an ideal test-case for developing a general method. However, solvers are *not required* to use the same methods in these two problems. A simple, direct, no-code solution to Question 3 is fully acceptable.

Credits

- The plots shown on the question sheet were made with Desmos.