

Problem 1)

Expand the following function into the Fourier series:

$$I_1(x) = \sum_{n=-\infty}^{\infty} \delta(x - 2\pi n). \quad (1)$$

We can use the complex form of the Fourier series

$$I_1(x) = \sum_{n=-\infty}^{\infty} c_n e^{inx} \quad (2)$$

on the interval $[-\pi, \pi]$, where

$$c_n = \frac{1}{2\pi} \int_{-\pi}^{\pi} I_1(x) e^{-inx} dx = \frac{1}{2\pi}. \quad (3)$$

Hence, on $[-\pi, \pi]$,

$$I_1(x) = \sum_{n=-\infty}^{\infty} \frac{1}{2\pi} e^{inx}. \quad (4)$$

We can actually extend this result to any interval centered at $2\pi m$ of width 2π by noticing that

$$\int_{a-\pi}^{a+\pi} e^{i(n-n')x} dx = 2\pi \delta_{nn'}. \quad (5)$$

Thus, on an interval $[(2m-1)\pi, (2m+1)\pi]$

$$c_n = \frac{1}{2\pi} \int_{(2m-1)\pi}^{(2m+1)\pi} I_1(x) e^{-inx} dx = \frac{1}{2\pi} e^{-in(2m\pi)} = \frac{1}{2\pi} \quad (6)$$

since $2nm\pi$ is an integer multiple of 2π . Therefore,

$$I_1(x) = \sum_{n=-\infty}^{\infty} \frac{1}{2\pi} e^{inx} \quad (7)$$

on each interval of width 2π centered at $2m\pi$. Since this result is independent of m , we can generally apply this result for any $x \in \mathbb{R}$, meaning that the Dirac comb is a sum of complex exponentials.

Problem 2)

Expand the following real function into the Fourier series:

$$I_2(x) = \sum_{n=-\infty}^{\infty} \frac{1}{a^2 + (x - 2\pi n)^2}. \quad (8)$$

Observe that this function is 2π -periodic:

$$\begin{aligned} f(x + 2\pi) &= \sum_{n=-\infty}^{\infty} \frac{1}{a^2 + [(x + 2\pi) - 2\pi n]^2} = \sum_{n=-\infty}^{\infty} \frac{1}{a^2 + [x - 2\pi(n - 1)]^2} \\ &= \sum_{n=-\infty}^{\infty} \frac{1}{a^2 + (x - 2\pi n)^2}, \end{aligned} \quad (9)$$

where in the last step, we took $n - 1 \rightarrow n$, which leaves the sum unchanged since the index set spans all integers. Furthermore, notice that this is an even function since

$$f(-x) = \sum_{n=-\infty}^{\infty} \frac{1}{a^2 + (x + 2\pi n)^2} = \sum_{n=-\infty}^{\infty} \frac{1}{a^2 + (x - 2\pi n)^2} = f(x), \quad (10)$$

where in the last step we took $n \rightarrow -n$, which again leaves the sum unchanged for the same reason as above.

The Fourier transform can then be written

$$f(x) = \frac{a_0}{2} + \sum_m a_m \cos mx, \quad (11)$$

where

$$\begin{aligned} a_m &= \frac{1}{\pi} \int_{-\pi}^{\pi} f(x) \cos mx \, dx = \frac{1}{\pi} \sum_{n=-\infty}^{\infty} \int_{-\pi}^{\pi} \frac{\cos mx}{a^2 + (x - 2\pi n)^2} \, dx \\ &= \frac{1}{\pi} \sum_{n=-\infty}^{\infty} \int_{-(2n+1)\pi}^{-(2n-1)\pi} \frac{\cos mu}{a^2 + u^2} \, du = \frac{1}{\pi} \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} \frac{\cos nu}{a^2 + u^2} \, du = \frac{1}{|a|} e^{-|am|}. \end{aligned} \quad (12)$$

From this, we see that

$$\boxed{f(x) = \frac{1}{|a|} \left[\frac{1}{2} + \sum_{m=1}^{\infty} e^{-|a|m} \cos mx \right]}. \quad (13)$$

This could actually be summed up exactly, which is nice since this was not clear from the original form of the series, but this will be left for a later exercise since the focus of this problem was on the Fourier decomposition of the function.

Problem 3)

Calculate the following function defined by the Fourier series:

$$I_6(x) = \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} a_n \sin nx. \quad (14)$$

whith $a_n = e^{-kn}$ and $k > 0$.

We can write

$$\begin{aligned}\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \left(e^{-k+ix}\right)^n &= \frac{1}{1 - e^{-k+ix}} = \frac{1 - e^{-k-ix}}{(1 - e^{-k+ix})(1 - e^{-k-ix})} \\ &= \frac{(1 - e^{-k} \cos x) + ie^{-k} \sin x}{1 - 2e^{-k} \cos x + e^{-2k}}.\end{aligned}\quad (15)$$

Observe then that

$$\begin{aligned}I_6(x) &= \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} e^{-kn} \sin nx = \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} e^{-kn} \sin nx \\ &= \operatorname{Im} \left\{ \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} e^{(-k+ix)n} \right\} = \boxed{\frac{e^{-k} \sin x}{e^{-2k} \sin^2 x + (1 - e^{-k} \cos x)^2}}.\end{aligned}\quad (16)$$

Problem 4)

Expand the following function in the Fourier integral

$$I_1(x) = \frac{A}{x^2 + a^2} + \frac{Bx}{(x^2 + b^2)^2}.\quad (17)$$

We can write

$$I_1(x) = \frac{1}{2\pi} \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} C(\omega) e^{-i\omega x} d\omega,\quad (18)$$

where

$$C(\omega) = \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} I_1(x) e^{i\omega x} dx\quad (19)$$

$$= A \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} \frac{e^{i\omega x}}{x^2 + a^2} dx + B \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} \frac{x e^{i\omega x}}{(x^2 + b^2)^2} dx.\quad (20)$$

Both of these integrals can be solved by analytically continuing the integrands to the complex plane and using contour integration. Note that we must be careful in choosing the right contour. Observe that $e^{i\omega z} = e^{i\omega R \cos \phi} e^{-R\omega \sin \phi}$, where $z = R \cos \phi + iR \sin \phi$ along the semi-circle enclosing either the upper or lower half-plane. Hence, if $\omega > 0$, then enclosing in the upper half-plane gives no contribution along the semi-circle at infinity since $R \rightarrow \infty$ and $\sin \phi \geq 0$, but if $\omega < 0$, then we must enclose the poles in the lower half-plane so that the real exponential factor goes to zero at $R \rightarrow \infty$. We can, however, relate the two contributions by observing that $C(\omega) = C^*(-\omega)$, meaning that we only have to consider the case $\omega > 0$ explicitly and can obtain the case $\omega < 0$ essentially for free.

If $\omega > 0$, then we enclose the poles in the upper half plane and obtain

$$\begin{aligned}
 C(\omega) &= A(2\pi i) \frac{e^{i\omega z}}{z+ia} \Big|_{z=ia} + B(2\pi i) \left[\frac{d}{dz} \frac{ze^{i\omega z}}{(z+ib)^2} \right]_{z=ib} \\
 &= A(2\pi i) \frac{e^{-\omega a}}{2ia} + B(2\pi i) \frac{[1+i\omega z](z+ib)^2 - 2z(z+ib)}{(z+ib)^4} e^{i\omega z} \Big|_{z=ib} \\
 &= \frac{A}{a} \pi e^{-\omega a} + B(2\pi i) \frac{[1+i\omega(ib)](2ib)^2 - 2(ib)(2ib)}{(2ib)^4} e^{-\omega b} \\
 &= \frac{A}{a} \pi e^{-\omega a} - B(2\pi i) \frac{\omega b}{(2ib)^2} e^{-\omega b} \\
 &= \pi \left(\frac{A}{|a|} e^{-|\omega a|} + i \frac{B\omega}{2|b|} e^{-|\omega b|} \right). \tag{21}
 \end{aligned}$$

Notice that we have put in the absolute value by hand since the result should be independent of the signs of a and b , and we must satisfy $C(\omega) = C^*(-\omega)$ ¹

We can also then write

$$\begin{aligned}
 I_1(x) &= \frac{1}{2\pi} \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} C(\omega) e^{-i\omega x} d\omega = \frac{1}{2} \int_0^{\infty} [C(\omega) e^{-i\omega x} + C(-\omega) e^{i\omega x}] \\
 &= \frac{1}{2\pi} \int_0^{\infty} [C(\omega) e^{-i\omega x} + C^*(\omega) e^{i\omega x}] d\omega \\
 &= \frac{1}{\pi} \int_0^{\infty} [\operatorname{Re}\{C(\omega)\} \cos \omega x - \operatorname{Im}\{C(\omega)\} \sin \omega x] d\omega \tag{22} \\
 &= \boxed{\int_0^{\infty} \left[\frac{A}{|a|} e^{-\omega|a|} \cos \omega x - \frac{B}{2|b|} \omega e^{-\omega|b|} \sin \omega x \right] d\omega}.
 \end{aligned}$$

¹The point about the absolute value of a and b is because $z^2 + a^2 = (z + i|a|)(z - i|a|)$, and the pole in the upper half-plane is $z = i|a|$.

Problem 5)

A particle of mass m and charge q moves in a parabolic potential $k(x^2 + y^2)/2$ in the xy plane. Find how the frequency $\omega_0 = (k/m)^{1/2}$ of this 2D harmonic oscillator changes if a uniform magnetic field H is applied along the z -axis. The x and y components of the equation of motion

$$m\ddot{\vec{r}} - q[\dot{\vec{r}} \times \vec{H}]/c + k\vec{r} = 0 \quad (23)$$

yield two coupled differential equations:

$$\begin{aligned} \ddot{x} - \omega_L \dot{y} + \omega_0^2 x &= 0 \\ \ddot{y} + \omega_L \dot{x} + \omega_0^2 y &= 0, \end{aligned} \quad (24)$$

where $\omega_L = qH/mc$ is the Larmor frequency.

Let's plug in test solutions $x = A_x e^{i\omega t}$ and $y = A_y e^{i\omega t}$:

$$(\omega_0^2 - \omega^2)A_x - i\omega\omega_L A_y = 0 \quad (25)$$

$$i\omega\omega_L A_x + (\omega_0^2 - \omega^2)A_y = 0. \quad (26)$$

In order to have a non-trivial solution for $A_{x,y}$, we must have

$$(\omega_0^2 - \omega^2)^2 - \omega^2\omega_L^2 = 0 \quad (27)$$

or

$$\omega^4 - (2\omega_0^2 + \omega_L^2)\omega^2 + \omega_0^4 = 0. \quad (28)$$

This has solution

$$\begin{aligned} \omega^2 &= \frac{(2\omega_0^2 + \omega_L^2) \pm \sqrt{(2\omega_0^2 + \omega_L^2)^2 - 4\omega_0^4}}{2} \\ &= \omega_0^2 \left[1 + \frac{1}{2}(\omega_L/\omega_0)^2 \pm \sqrt{1 + (\omega_L/\omega_0)^2} \right]. \end{aligned} \quad (29)$$

Problem 6)

Solve the following nonuniform differential equation using the Fourier transform

$$y'' - q^2 y = A e^{-a|x|}, \quad (30)$$

where $q, a > 0$ and A are real parameters. Find a continuous solution satisfying the boundary conditions $y(\pm\infty) = 0$.

The Fourier transform of the equation above is just

$$\begin{aligned}
 [(ik)^2 - q^2]\tilde{y} &= -(k^2 + q^2)\tilde{y} = \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} \frac{dx}{\sqrt{2\pi}} A e^{-a|x|} e^{-ikx} \\
 &= \frac{A}{\sqrt{2\pi}} \left[\int_{-\infty}^0 e^{(a-ik)x} dx + \int_0^{\infty} e^{-(a+ik)x} dx \right] \\
 &= \frac{A}{\sqrt{2\pi}} \left[\frac{1}{a-ik} + \frac{1}{a+ik} \right] = \frac{A}{\sqrt{2\pi}} \frac{2a}{k^2 + a^2}.
 \end{aligned} \tag{31}$$

Solving for $\tilde{y}(k)$ gives

$$\tilde{y}(k) = -\frac{2aA}{\sqrt{2\pi}} \frac{1}{(k^2 + a^2)(k^2 + q^2)}. \tag{32}$$

Inverting the transform, we find

$$y(x) = \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} \frac{dk}{\sqrt{2\pi}} e^{ikx} \tilde{y}(k) = -\frac{2aA}{2\pi} \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} \frac{e^{ikx}}{(k^2 + a^2)(k^2 + q^2)} dk. \tag{33}$$

Using contour integration we can solve this integral. Again, we must be careful in choosing the correct contour in order to ensure that the path at ∞ contributes nothing. If $x > 0$, then we enclose the contour in the upper-half plane, which gives

$$\begin{aligned}
 y(x) &= -\frac{aA}{\pi} (2\pi i) \left[\frac{e^{ikx}}{(k+ia)(k^2+q^2)} \Big|_{k=ia} + \frac{e^{ikx}}{(k^2+a^2)(k+iq)} \Big|_{k=iq} \right] \\
 &= -aA \left[\frac{e^{-ax}}{a(q^2-a^2)} + \frac{e^{-qx}}{q(a^2-q^2)} \right],
 \end{aligned} \tag{34}$$

which clearly satisfies the boundary condition $y(+\infty) \rightarrow 0$. On the other hand, if $x < 0$, we must enclose the contour in the lower-half plane, which gives

$$\begin{aligned}
 y(x) &= \frac{aA}{\pi} (2\pi i) \left[\frac{e^{ikx}}{(k-ia)(k^2+q^2)} \Big|_{k=-ia} + \frac{e^{ikx}}{(k^2+a^2)(k-iq)} \Big|_{k=iq} \right] \\
 &= -aA \left[\frac{e^{ax}}{a(q^2-a^2)} + \frac{e^{qx}}{q(a^2-q^2)} \right].
 \end{aligned} \tag{35}$$

Again, clearly this satisfies the boundary condition $y(-\infty) \rightarrow 0$, and furthermore, we have continuity:

$$y(0^+) = y(0^-) = -\frac{A}{q(q-a)}. \tag{36}$$

Note the notation: $y(x^\pm) = \lim_{\epsilon \rightarrow 0} y(x \pm \epsilon)$.

Observe also that we can combine the portions $x > 0$ and $x < 0$ such that

$$\boxed{y(x) = \frac{Aa}{a^2 - q^2} \left[\frac{1}{a} e^{-a|x|} - \frac{1}{q} e^{-q|x|} \right]}. \tag{37}$$