

Taylor vs Fourier

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Contents

Taylor and fourier are the same

- taylor series

$$f(x) = c_0 + c_1x + c_2x^2 + c_3x^3 + \dots$$

- Fourier series

$$g(\theta) = c_0 + c_1 \exp(i\theta) + c_2 \exp(2i\theta) + c_3 \exp(3i\theta) + \dots$$

- they are the same thing in complex numbers

$$f(z) = c_0 + c_1z + c_2z^2 + c_3z^3 + \dots$$

- restrict z to real axis, i.e. $z = x$, obtain Taylor series of f

- restrict z to unit circle $z = e^{i\theta}$ - obtain fourier series of function $g(\theta) = f(e^{i\theta})$

- <https://math.stackexchange.com/questions/7301/connection-between-fourier-transform>

- <https://math.stackexchange.com/a/7380> There is an analogy, more direct for fourier series. Both Fourier series and Taylor series are decompositions of a function $f(x)$, which is represented as a linear combination of a (countable) set of functions. The function is then fully specified by a sequence of coefficients, instead of by its values $f(x)$ for each x . In this sense, both can be called a transform $f(x) \rightarrow \{a_0, a_1, \dots\}$

For the Taylor series (around 0, for simplicity), the set of functions is $\{1, x, x^2, x^3, \dots\}$. For the Fourier series is $\{1, \sin(x), \cos(x), \sin(2x), \cos(2x), \dots\}$.

Actually the Fourier series is one the many transformations that uses an orthonormal basis of functions. It is shown that, in that case, the coefficients are obtained by “projecting” $f(x)$ onto each basis function, which amounts to an inner product, which (in the real scalar case) amounts to an integral. This implies that the coefficients depends on a global property of the function (over the full “period” of the function).

The Taylor series (which does not use a orthonormal basis) is conceptually very different, in that the coefficients depends only in local properties of the function, i.e., its behaviour in a neighbourhood (its derivatives).