



2. Properties of Fourier Series (of

Course > Unit 1: Fourier Series > Period 2L)

> 2. Recall Fourier series

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2. Recall Fourier series

Recall that for any function f(t) that is periodic and has period 2π , the Fourier series is given by

$$f\left(t
ight) =rac{a_{0}}{2}+\sum_{n=1}^{\infty}\left(a_{n}\cos nt+b_{n}\sin nt
ight) ,$$

where the formulas for the coefficients a_n and b_n are given by

$$a_n = \frac{1}{\pi} \int_{-\pi}^{\pi} f(t) \cos(nt) dt,$$

$$b_{n} = \frac{1}{\pi} \int_{-\pi}^{\pi} f\left(t
ight) \sin\left(nt
ight) dt$$

By virtue of the fact that we have formulas for the coefficients, a function has only one Fourier series. That is, if f(t) = g(t), then the Fourier series for f(t) is the same as the Fourier series for g(t).

We will use this idea to come up with easier ways to compute Fourier series.

Here are the Fourier series of some 2π -periodic functions.

Name

Function

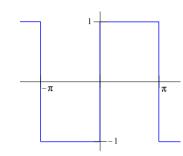
Fourier series

Graph

Square wave

$$\operatorname{Sq}\left(t
ight) = egin{cases} 1 & 0 < t < \pi \ -1 & -\pi < t < 0 \end{cases} \qquad \operatorname{Sq}\left(t
ight) = rac{4}{\pi} \sum_{n \, ext{odd}} rac{\sin\left(nt
ight)}{n}$$

$$\operatorname{Sq}\left(t
ight) = rac{4}{\pi} \sum_{n \, \operatorname{odd}} rac{\sin\left(nt
ight)}{n}$$



Sawtooth wave

$$W\left(t
ight) = t$$
, $-\pi < t < \pi$

$$W\left(t
ight) =2\sum_{n=1}^{\infty }rac{\left(-1
ight) ^{n+1}}{n}{
m sin}\left(nt
ight)$$

Triangle wave

$$T\left(t
ight) =|t|$$
 , $-\pi < t <\pi$

$$T\left(t
ight) = rac{\pi}{2} - rac{4}{\pi} \sum_{n \, ext{odd}} rac{\cos\left(nt
ight)}{n^2}$$

2. Recall Fourier series

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