

## Fourier Series

**Periodic Functions:**  $f(x+p) = f(x)$  for all  $x$ .

If  $f$  is not constant, the smallest positive  $p$  for which the above holds is called the **primitive period** of  $f$ .

**Fourier Series:**  $f(x) = a_0 + \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} (a_n \cos nx + b_n \sin nx)$ , a periodic function with primitive period  $2\pi$ .

To find the coefficients  $a_n$  and  $b_n$ :

$$\int_{-\pi}^{\pi} f(x) dx = \int_{-\pi}^{\pi} a_0 + \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} (a_n \cos nx + b_n \sin nx) dx = \int_{-\pi}^{\pi} a_0 dx = 2\pi a_0.$$

$$\therefore a_0 = \frac{1}{2\pi} \int_{-\pi}^{\pi} f(x) dx.$$

$$\therefore \int_{-\pi}^{\pi} f(x) \cos mx dx = \pi a_m, \quad \therefore \text{we have } a_m = \frac{1}{\pi} \int_{-\pi}^{\pi} f(x) \cos mx dx, \quad m \in \mathbb{N}.$$

Proof: 
$$I = \int_{-\pi}^{\pi} f(x) \cos mx dx = \int_{-\pi}^{\pi} a_0 \cos mx dx + \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \left[ a_n \int_{-\pi}^{\pi} \cos nx \cos mx dx + b_n \int_{-\pi}^{\pi} \sin nx \cos mx dx \right]$$

$$= \int_{-\pi}^{\pi} a_0 \cos mx dx + \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \left[ a_n \frac{1}{2} \int_{-\pi}^{\pi} \cos(n+m)x dx + a_n \frac{1}{2} \int_{-\pi}^{\pi} \cos(n-m)x dx \right. \\ \left. + b_n \frac{1}{2} \int_{-\pi}^{\pi} \sin(n+m)x dx + b_n \frac{1}{2} \int_{-\pi}^{\pi} \sin(n-m)x dx \right].$$

All terms are zero except  $\frac{1}{2} \int_{-\pi}^{\pi} \cos(n-m) dx = \pi$  when  $n = m$ .  $\therefore I = \pi a_m$ .

Likewise, 
$$b_m = \frac{1}{\pi} \int_{-\pi}^{\pi} f(x) \sin mx dx, \quad m \in \mathbb{N}.$$

For periodic function with period  $2L$ , 
$$f(x) = a_0 + \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \left( a_n \cos \frac{n\pi x}{L} + b_n \sin \frac{n\pi x}{L} \right).$$

$$a_0 = \frac{1}{2L} \int_{-L}^L f(x) dx.$$

$$a_m = \frac{1}{L} \int_{-L}^L f(x) \cos \frac{m\pi x}{L} dx, \quad m \in \mathbb{N}.$$

$$b_m = \frac{1}{L} \int_{-L}^L f(x) \sin \frac{m\pi x}{L} dx, \quad m \in \mathbb{N}.$$

**Complex Form:**  $f(x) = \sum_{n=-\infty}^{\infty} c_n e^{inx}$ , where  $c_n = \frac{1}{2\pi} \int_{-\pi}^{\pi} f(x) e^{-inx} dx$ .

Note: The resulting  $f$  is still a real function.

**Linearity:** If  $f_1$  and  $f_2$  are two Fourier Series,  $a f_1 + b f_2$  is a Fourier Series with coefficients equal to the sums of the corresponding coefficients of  $f_1$  and  $f_2$  times  $a$  and  $b$  respectively.

i.e. Let  $f_1 = \sum_{n=-\infty}^{\infty} c_{1n} e^{inx}$  and  $f_2 = \sum_{n=-\infty}^{\infty} c_{2n} e^{inx}$ ,  $a f_1 + b f_2 = \sum_{n=-\infty}^{\infty} (a c_{1n} + b c_{2n}) e^{inx}$ .

If  $f$  is a Fourier Series,  $k f$  is a Fourier Series with coefficients

equal to  $k$  times the corresponding coefficients of  $f$ . i.e.  $k f = \sum_{n=-\infty}^{\infty} (k c_n e^{inx})$ .