

# Chapter One

# FOURIER SERIES

## 1.1 Full Series

The function  $f(x)$  can be written in the form of infinite trigonometric series,

$$f(x) = a_0 + \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} (a_n \cos nx + b_n \sin nx)$$

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

$$a_n = \frac{1}{\pi} \int_{-\pi}^{\pi} f(x) \cos nx dx \quad n = 1, 2, \dots$$

$$b_n = \frac{1}{\pi} \int_{-\pi}^{\pi} f(x) \sin nx dx \quad n = 1, 2, \dots$$

In another way for cosmetic reasons (see the symmetry  $1/\pi$  in each of the coefficients) the FS can be written as.

$$f(x) = \frac{a_0}{2} + \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} (a_n \cos nx + b_n \sin nx)$$

Fourier coefficients are given by Euler formulas,

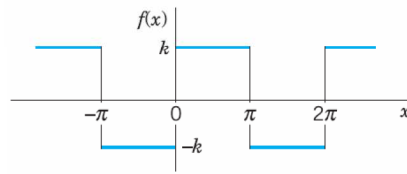
$$a_0 = \frac{1}{\pi} \int_{-\pi}^{\pi} f(x) dx$$

$$a_n = \frac{1}{\pi} \int_{-\pi}^{\pi} f(x) \cos nx dx \quad n = 1, 2, \dots$$

$$b_n = \frac{1}{\pi} \int_{-\pi}^{\pi} f(x) \sin nx dx \quad n = 1, 2, \dots$$

**Example:** Write the Fourier series for  $f(x)$ .

$$f(x) = \begin{cases} -k & \text{if } -\pi < x < 0 \\ k & \text{if } 0 < x < \pi \end{cases} \quad \text{and} \quad f(x+2\pi) = f(x)$$



Given function  $f(x)$  (Periodic rectangular wave)

**Physically:** Functions of this kind occur as external forces acting on mechanical systems, electromotive forces in electric circuits, etc.

**Note: Discontinuity:-** The value of  $f(x)$  at a single point does not affect the integral; hence we can leave  $f(x)$  undefined at  $x = 0$  and  $x = \pm\pi$ .

**Solution:**  $a_0 = \frac{1}{\pi} \int_{-\pi}^{\pi} f(x) dx, a_n = 0$ . (See the symmetry in graph behaves like odd function)

$$a_n = \frac{1}{\pi} \int_{-\pi}^{\pi} f(x) \cos nx dx = 0 \quad \because f(x) \cos nx = \text{Odd Function}$$

$$b_n = \frac{1}{\pi} \int_{-\pi}^{\pi} f(x) \sin nx dx = \frac{2}{\pi} \int_0^{\pi} k \sin nx dx = \frac{2k}{n\pi} (1 - \cos n\pi). \quad \because f(x) \sin nx = \text{Even Function}$$

Hence the Fourier coefficients  $b_n$  of our function are

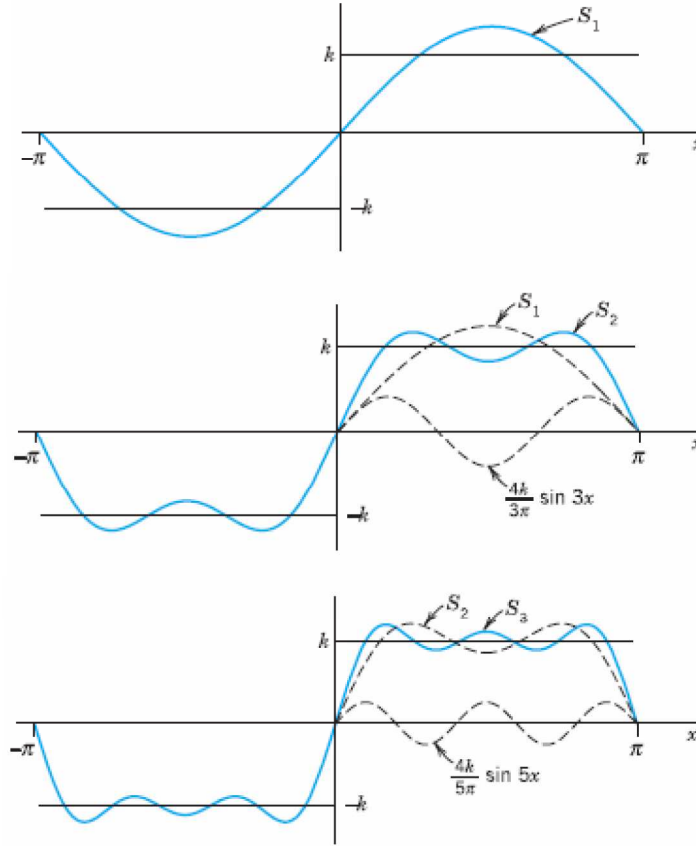
$$b_1 = \frac{4k}{\pi}, \quad b_2 = 0, \quad b_3 = \frac{4k}{3\pi}, \quad b_4 = 0,$$

$$f(x) = \frac{4k}{\pi} \left( \sin x + \frac{1}{3} \sin 3x + \frac{1}{5} \sin 5x + \dots \right).$$

**Leibniz Series (1667):** The famous Leibnitz series can be derived by setting  $x = \pi / 2$  we have,

$$f\left(\frac{\pi}{2}\right) = k - \frac{4k}{\pi} \left( 1 - \frac{1}{3} + \frac{1}{5} - + \dots \right).$$

Thus, 
$$1 - \frac{1}{3} + \frac{1}{5} - \frac{1}{7} + \dots = \frac{\pi}{4}.$$



### Orthogonality of the Trigonometric System

The trigonometric system is orthogonal on the interval (hence  $-\pi \leq x \leq \pi$  also on  $0 \leq x \leq 2\pi$  or any other interval of length  $2\pi$  because of periodicity); that is, the integral of the product of any two functions in over that interval is 0, so that for any integers  $n$  and  $m$ ,

$$\int_{-\pi}^{\pi} \cos nx \cos mx dx = 0 \quad (n \neq m)$$

$$\int_{-\pi}^{\pi} \sin nx \sin mx dx = 0 \quad (n \neq m)$$

$$\int_{-\pi}^{\pi} \sin nx \cos mx dx = 0 \quad (n \neq m \text{ or } n = m)$$

### Convergence and Sum of a Fourier Series

The class of functions that can be represented by Fourier series is surprisingly large and general. Sufficient conditions that are valid in most applications are as follows:

#### Representation by a Fourier Series

(a) Let  $f(x)$  be periodic with period  $2\pi$  and piecewise continuous in the interval  $-\pi \leq x \leq \pi$ .

(b) Let  $f(x)$  have a left-hand derivative and a right hand derivative at each point of that interval. Then the Fourier series of  $f(x)$  converges.

(c) Its sum is  $f(x)$ , except at points  $x_0$  where it is discontinuous.

**Note:** At the point of discontinuity, the sum of the series is the average of the left- and right-hand limits of  $f(x)$  at  $x_0$ .

Arbitrary Period.

Transition from period  $2\pi$  to any period  $2L$ , for the function  $f(x)$ , simply by a transformation of scale on the  $x$ -axis.

**From period  $2\pi$  to any period  $p = 2L$**

Derivation: Periodic functions in applications may have any period not just  $2\pi$ .

The transition from period  $2\pi$  to be period  $p = 2L$  is affected by a suitable change of scale. Let  $f(x)$  have period  $p = 2L$ . Then we can introduce a new variable  $v$  such that, as a function of  $v$ , has period  $f(x)$ . If we set

$$x = \frac{p}{2\pi}v, \text{ so that } v = \frac{2\pi}{p}x = \frac{\pi}{L}x$$

Then  $v = \pm\pi$  corresponds to  $x = \pm L$ . This means that  $f$ , as a function of  $v$ , has period  $2\pi$  and, therefore, a Fourier series of the form

$$f(x) = f\left(\frac{L}{\pi}v\right) = a_0 + \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} (a_n \cos nv + b_n \sin nv)$$

With coefficients,

$$a_0 = \frac{1}{2\pi} \int_{-\pi}^{\pi} f\left(\frac{L}{\pi}v\right) dv, \quad a_n = \frac{1}{\pi} \int_{-\pi}^{\pi} f\left(\frac{L}{\pi}v\right) \cos nv dv$$

$$b_n = \frac{1}{\pi} \int_{-\pi}^{\pi} f\left(\frac{L}{\pi}v\right) \sin nv dv$$

We could use these formulas directly, but the change to  $x$  simplifies calculations. Since

$$v = \frac{\pi}{L}x, \text{ we have } dv = \frac{\pi}{L}dx$$

And we integrate over  $x$  from  $-L$  to  $L$ . Consequently, we obtain for a function  $f(x)$  of period  $2L$  the Fourier series

$$f(x) = \frac{a_0}{2} + \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \left( a_n \cos\left(\frac{n\pi x}{L}\right) + b_n \sin\left(\frac{n\pi x}{L}\right) \right)$$

With the Fourier coefficients of  $f(x)$  given by the Euler formulas ( $\pi/L$  in  $dx$  cancels  $1/\pi$ )

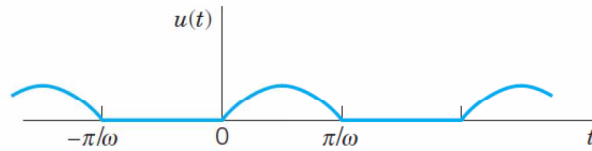
$$a_0 = \frac{1}{L} \int_{-L}^L f(x) dx$$

$$a_n = \frac{1}{L} \int_{-L}^L f(x) \cos\left(\frac{n\pi x}{L}\right) dx \quad n = 1, 2, \dots$$

$$b_n = \frac{1}{L} \int_{-L}^L f(x) \sin\left(\frac{n\pi x}{L}\right) dx \quad n = 1, 2, \dots$$

### Example: Half-wave rectifier

A sinusoidal voltage  $E \sin \omega t$ , where  $t$  is time, is passed through a half-wave rectifier that clips the negative portion of the wave. Write its FS.



$$u(t) = \begin{cases} 0 & \text{if } -L < t < 0, \\ E \sin \omega t & \text{if } 0 < t < L \end{cases} \quad p = 2L = \frac{2\pi}{\omega}, \quad L = \frac{\pi}{\omega}.$$

**Solution:** Let the FS is given by,  $f(x) = a_0 + \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \left( a_n \cos \frac{n\pi x}{L} + b_n \sin \frac{n\pi x}{L} \right)$

$$a_0 = \frac{\omega}{2\pi} \int_0^{\pi/\omega} E \sin \omega t dt = \frac{E}{\pi} \quad a_n = \frac{\omega}{\pi} \int_0^{\pi/\omega} E \sin \omega t \cos n \omega t dt = \frac{\omega E}{2\pi} \int_0^{\pi/\omega} [\sin(1+n)\omega t + \sin(1-n)\omega t] dt.$$

$$a_n = \frac{\omega E}{2\pi} \left[ -\frac{\cos(1+n)\omega t}{(1+n)\omega} - \frac{\cos(1-n)\omega t}{(1-n)\omega} \right]_0^{\pi/\omega} = \frac{E}{2\pi} \left( \frac{-\cos(1+n)\omega t + 1}{(1+n)} + \frac{-\cos(1-n)\omega t + 1}{(1-n)} \right)$$

$a_1 = 0$ , if  $n$  is odd, this is equal to zero, and for even  $n$  we have

$$a_n = \frac{E}{2\pi} \left( \frac{2}{1+n} + \frac{2}{1-n} \right) = -\frac{2E}{(n-1)(n+1)\pi} \quad (n = 2, 4, \dots),$$

In a similar manner,  $b_1 = E/2$  and  $b_n = 0$  for  $n = 2, 3, \dots$

$$u(t) = \frac{E}{\pi} + \frac{E}{2} \sin \omega t - \frac{2E}{\pi} \left( \frac{1}{1.3} \cos 2\omega t + \frac{1}{3.5} \cos 4\omega t + \dots \right).$$