

A periodic function $f(x)$ of period $2L$ has *Fourier Series* (FS) given by

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

where

$$\begin{aligned} a_n &= \frac{1}{L} \int_{-L}^L f(x) \cos\left(\frac{n\pi x}{L}\right) dx \quad n = 0, 1, 2, \dots \\ b_n &= \frac{1}{L} \int_{-L}^L f(x) \sin\left(\frac{n\pi x}{L}\right) dx \quad n = 1, 2, \dots \end{aligned}$$

1. (a) Period is 4 ($L = 2$). Function is odd. Hence

$$a_n = 0$$

$$\begin{aligned} b_n &= \frac{2}{L} \int_0^L f(x) \sin\left(\frac{n\pi x}{L}\right) dx \\ &= \int_0^2 x \sin\left(\frac{n\pi x}{2}\right) dx \\ &= \int_0^2 x d\left(-\frac{2}{n\pi} \cos\left(\frac{n\pi x}{2}\right)\right) \\ &= -\frac{2x}{n\pi} \cos\left(\frac{n\pi x}{2}\right) \Big|_0^2 + \frac{2}{n\pi} \int_0^2 \cos\left(\frac{n\pi x}{2}\right) dx \\ &= -\frac{4}{n\pi} \cos(n\pi) + 0 + \frac{2}{n\pi} \left(\frac{2}{n\pi} \sin\left(\frac{n\pi x}{2}\right)\right) \Big|_0^2 \\ &= \frac{4}{n\pi} (-1)^{n+1} + \frac{4}{(n\pi)^2} (\sin(n\pi) - \sin 0) \\ &= \frac{4}{n\pi} (-1)^{n+1} \end{aligned}$$

The FS is

$$\frac{4}{\pi} \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{(-1)^{n+1}}{n} \sin\left(\frac{n\pi x}{2}\right)$$

- (b) Period is π ($L = \frac{\pi}{2}$). Function is even. Hence

$$\begin{aligned} a_n &= \frac{2}{L} \int_0^L f(x) \cos\left(\frac{n\pi x}{L}\right) dx \\ &= \frac{4}{\pi} \int_0^{\frac{\pi}{2}} \sin x \cos(2nx) dx \end{aligned}$$

Using the trigonometric identity

$$\sin A \cos B = \frac{\sin(A+B) + \sin(A-B)}{2}$$

gives

$$\begin{aligned} a_n &= \frac{4}{\pi} \int_0^{\frac{\pi}{2}} \frac{\sin((1+2n)x) + \sin((1-2n)x)}{2} dx \\ &= \frac{2}{\pi} \left(-\frac{1}{1+2n} \cos((1+2n)x) - \frac{1}{1-2n} \cos((1-2n)x) \right) \Big|_0^{\frac{\pi}{2}} \\ &= \frac{2}{\pi} \left(-\frac{1}{1+2n} (\cos(\frac{\pi}{2} + n\pi) - \cos(0)) - \frac{1}{1-2n} (\cos(\frac{\pi}{2} - n\pi) - \cos(0)) \right) \\ &= \frac{2}{\pi} \left(\frac{1}{1+2n} + \frac{1}{1-2n} \right) \\ &= \frac{4}{\pi} \frac{1}{1-4n^2} \end{aligned}$$

The FS is

$$\frac{2}{\pi} + \frac{4}{\pi} \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{1}{1-4n^2} \cos(2nx)$$

(c) Period is 2 ($L = 1$). Hence

$$\begin{aligned} a_n &= \frac{1}{L} \int_{-L}^L f(x) \cos\left(\frac{n\pi x}{L}\right) dx \\ &= \int_{-1}^1 f(x) \cos(n\pi x) dx \\ &= \int_{-1}^0 0 dx + \int_0^1 x^2 \cos(n\pi x) dx \end{aligned}$$

if $n \neq 0$

$$\begin{aligned} &= \int_0^1 x^2 d\left(\frac{1}{n\pi} \sin(n\pi x)\right) \\ &= \frac{x^2 \sin(n\pi x)}{n\pi} \Big|_0^1 - \frac{2}{n\pi} \int_0^1 x \sin(n\pi x) dx \\ &= 0 - 0 - \frac{2}{n\pi} \int_0^1 x d\left(-\frac{1}{n\pi} \cos(n\pi x)\right) \\ &= \frac{2}{(n\pi)^2} \left(x \cos(n\pi x) \Big|_0^1 - \int_0^1 \cos(n\pi x) dx\right) \\ &= \frac{2}{(n\pi)^2} \left(\cos(n\pi) - 0 - \frac{1}{n\pi} \sin(n\pi x) \Big|_0^1\right) \\ &= \frac{2}{(n\pi)^2} \left((-1)^n - \frac{1}{n\pi}(0 - 0)\right) \\ &= \frac{2}{(n\pi)^2} (-1)^n \end{aligned}$$

if $n = 0$

$$\begin{aligned} &= \frac{x^3}{3} \Big|_0^1 \\ &= \frac{1}{3} \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned} b_n &= \int_{-1}^1 f(x) \sin(n\pi x) dx \\ &= \int_{-1}^0 0 dx + \int_0^1 x^2 \sin(n\pi x) dx \\ &= \int_0^1 x^2 d\left(-\frac{1}{n\pi} \cos(n\pi x)\right) \\ &= -\frac{x^2 \cos(n\pi x)}{n\pi} \Big|_0^1 + \frac{2}{n\pi} \int_0^1 x \cos(n\pi x) dx \\ &= -\frac{\cos(n\pi)}{n\pi} + 0 + \frac{2}{n\pi} \int_0^1 x d\left(\frac{1}{n\pi} \sin(n\pi x)\right) \\ &= \frac{(-1)^{n+1}}{n\pi} + \frac{2}{(n\pi)^2} \left(x \sin(n\pi x) \Big|_0^1 - \int_0^1 \sin(n\pi x) dx\right) \\ &= \frac{(-1)^{n+1}}{n\pi} + \frac{2}{(n\pi)^2} \left(\sin(n\pi) - 0 + \frac{1}{n\pi} \cos(n\pi x) \Big|_0^1\right) \\ &= \frac{(-1)^{n+1}}{n\pi} + \frac{2}{(n\pi)^3} (\cos(n\pi) - \cos 0) \\ &= \frac{(-1)^{n+1}}{n\pi} + \frac{2((-1)^n - 1)}{(n\pi)^3} \end{aligned}$$

The FS is

$$\frac{1}{6} + \frac{2}{\pi^2} \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{(-1)^n}{n^2} \cos(n\pi x) + \frac{1}{\pi} \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{(-1)^{n+1}}{n} \sin(n\pi x) - \frac{4}{\pi^3} \sum_{n=1,3,5,\dots}^{\infty} \frac{1}{n^3} \sin(n\pi x)$$

2. The even extension is

$$f(x) = x^2, \quad \text{if } -1 \leq x \leq 1$$

Here $L = 1$ and hence

$$\begin{aligned} a_n &= \frac{2}{L} \int_0^L f(x) \cos\left(\frac{n\pi x}{L}\right) dx \\ &= 2 \int_0^1 x^2 \cos(n\pi x) dx \\ &= \begin{cases} \frac{4}{(n\pi)^2} (-1)^n, & \text{if } n \neq 0 \\ \frac{2}{3}, & \text{if } n = 0 \end{cases} \quad \text{See Q1(c)} \end{aligned}$$

The Cosine Series is

$$\frac{1}{3} + \frac{4}{\pi^2} \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{(-1)^n}{n^2} \cos(n\pi x)$$

The odd extension is

$$f(x) = \begin{cases} -x^2, & \text{if } -1 < x < 0 \\ x^2, & \text{if } 0 \leq x \leq 1, \end{cases}$$

Here $L = 1$ and hence

$$\begin{aligned} b_n &= \frac{2}{L} \int_0^L f(x) \sin\left(\frac{n\pi x}{L}\right) dx \\ &= 2 \int_0^1 x^2 \cos(n\pi x) dx \\ &= \frac{2(-1)^{n+1}}{n\pi} + \frac{4((-1)^n - 1)}{(n\pi)^3} \quad \text{See Q1(c)} \end{aligned}$$

The Sine Series is

$$\frac{2}{\pi} \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{(-1)^{n+1}}{n} \sin(n\pi x) - \frac{8}{\pi^3} \sum_{n=1,3,5,\dots}^{\infty} \frac{1}{n^3} \sin(n\pi x)$$

3. (a) Consider the FS of Q1(a). At $x = 1$ where $f(x)$ is continuous, we have

$$\begin{aligned} 1 &= \frac{4}{\pi} (\sin(\pi/2) - (1/2) \sin(\pi) + (1/3) \sin(3\pi/2) - (1/4) \sin(2\pi) + \dots) \\ &= \frac{4}{\pi} \left(1 - \frac{1}{3} + \frac{1}{5} - \frac{1}{7} + \dots\right) \\ &= \frac{4}{\pi} \left(\frac{2}{1 \times 3} + \frac{2}{5 \times 7} + \dots\right) \end{aligned}$$

Hence

$$\frac{1}{1 \times 3} + \frac{1}{5 \times 7} + \dots = \frac{\pi}{8}$$

(b) Consider the Cosine Series of Q2. At $x = 0$ where $f(x)$ is continuous, we have

$$\begin{aligned} 0 &= \frac{1}{3} + \frac{4}{\pi^2} \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{(-1)^n}{n^2} \\ &= \frac{1}{3} - \frac{4}{\pi^2} \left(1 - \frac{1}{4} + \frac{1}{9} - \frac{1}{16} + \dots\right) \end{aligned}$$

Hence

$$1 - \frac{1}{4} + \frac{1}{9} - \frac{1}{16} + \dots = \frac{\pi^2}{12}$$

(c) From the Cosine Series of Q2, at $x = 1$, where $f(x)$ is continuous, we have

$$\begin{aligned} 1 &= \frac{1}{3} + \frac{4}{\pi^2} \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{1}{n^2} \\ &= \frac{1}{3} + \frac{4}{\pi^2} \left(1 + \frac{1}{4} + \frac{1}{9} + \frac{1}{16} + \dots \right) \end{aligned}$$

Hence

$$1 + \frac{1}{4} + \frac{1}{9} + \frac{1}{16} + \dots = \frac{\pi^2}{6}$$

4. (a) The given $f(x)$ is odd with $L = 1$. Hence

$$\begin{aligned} b_n &= \frac{2}{L} \int_0^L f(x) \sin\left(\frac{n\pi x}{L}\right) dx \\ &= 2 \int_0^1 \sin(n\pi x) dx \\ &= -2 \frac{1}{n\pi} \cos(n\pi x) \Big|_0^1 \\ &= -\frac{2}{n\pi} (\cos n\pi - \cos 0) \\ &= \frac{2}{n\pi} (1 - (-1)^n) \end{aligned}$$

Its FS is

$$\frac{2}{\pi} \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{1 - (-1)^n}{n} \sin(n\pi x)$$

The DE is now

$$\frac{dy}{dx} + 2y = \frac{2}{\pi} \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{1 - (-1)^n}{n} \sin(n\pi x)$$

Let y_n^p be the particular solution corresponding to the forcing function component $b_n \sin(n\pi x)$. By the *Method of Undetermined Coefficients*, we have

$$\begin{aligned} y_n^p &= A_n \cos(n\pi x) + B_n \sin(n\pi x) \\ \Rightarrow \frac{dy_n^p}{dx} &= -n\pi A_n \sin(n\pi x) + n\pi B_n \cos(n\pi x) \end{aligned}$$

Substituting this into the DE gives

$$\begin{aligned} -n\pi A_n \sin(n\pi x) + n\pi B_n \cos(n\pi x) + 2(A_n \cos(n\pi x) + B_n \sin(n\pi x)) &= b_n \sin(n\pi x) \\ \Rightarrow (2A_n + n\pi B_n) \cos(n\pi x) + (-n\pi A_n + 2B_n) \sin(n\pi x) &= 0 \cos(n\pi x) + b_n \sin(n\pi x) \end{aligned}$$

which gives the simultaneous equations

$$\begin{aligned} 2A_n + n\pi B_n &= 0 \\ -n\pi A_n + 2B_n &= b_n \end{aligned}$$

which have solutions

$$A_n = \frac{-n\pi b_n}{(n\pi)^2 + 4} \quad B_n = \frac{2b_n}{(n\pi)^2 + 4}$$

where b_n is as determined above.

Thus

$$\begin{aligned} y^p &= \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} y_n^p \\ &= \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} (A_n \cos(n\pi x) + B_n \sin(n\pi x)) \\ &= \frac{2}{\pi} \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \left(-\frac{\pi(1 - (-1)^n)}{(n\pi)^2 + 4} \cos(n\pi x) + \frac{2(1 - (-1)^n)}{(n\pi)^2 + 4} \sin(n\pi x) \right) \end{aligned}$$

(b) To simplify computations(?), let us take the odd extension of $f(x)$; then $L = 2$ and

$$\begin{aligned} b_n &= \frac{2}{L} \int_0^L f(x) \sin\left(\frac{n\pi x}{L}\right) dx \\ &= \int_0^2 f(x) \sin(n\pi x/2) dx \\ &= \int_0^1 x \sin(n\pi x/2) dx + \int_1^2 (2-x) \sin(n\pi x/2) dx \end{aligned}$$

Use a change of variable in the second integral (e.g. $u = 2 - x$) to convert this to

$$\begin{aligned}
 b_n &= (1 - (-1)^n) \int_0^1 x \sin(n\pi x/2) dx \\
 &= (1 - (-1)^n) \int_0^1 x d\left(-\frac{2}{n\pi} \cos(n\pi x/2)\right) \\
 &= \frac{2(1 - (-1)^n)}{n\pi} \left(-x \cos(n\pi x/2)\Big|_0^1 + \int_0^1 \cos(n\pi x/2) dx\right) \\
 &= \frac{2(1 - (-1)^n)}{n\pi} \left(-\cos(n\pi/2) + 0 + \frac{2}{n\pi} \sin(n\pi x/2)\Big|_0^1\right) \\
 &= \frac{2(1 - (-1)^n)}{n\pi} \left(-\cos(n\pi/2) + \frac{2}{n\pi} \sin(n\pi/2)\right) \\
 &= \frac{8}{(n\pi)^2} \sin(n\pi/2) \quad !!
 \end{aligned}$$

To see where this last line comes from, consider the cases n even and n odd separately.

The DE is now

$$\frac{d^2 y}{dx^2} + y = \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} b_n \sin(n\pi x/2)$$

Let y_n^p be the particular solution corresponding to the n -th harmonic: then $y_n^p = A_n \cos(n\pi x/2) + B_n \sin(n\pi x/2)$ and the DE becomes

$$-(n\pi/2)^2 A_n \cos(n\pi x/2) - (n\pi/2)^2 B_n \sin(n\pi x/2) + A_n \cos(n\pi x/2) + B_n \sin(n\pi x/2) = b_n \sin(n\pi x/2)$$

$$\Rightarrow (1 - (n\pi/2)^2) A_n \cos(n\pi x/2) + (1 - (n\pi/2)^2) B_n \sin(n\pi x/2) = 0 \cos(n\pi x/2) + b_n \sin(n\pi x/2)$$

.....yielding the simultaneous equations

$$\begin{aligned}
 (1 - (n\pi/2)^2) A_n &= 0 \\
 (1 - (n\pi/2)^2) B_n &= b_n
 \end{aligned}$$

which have solutions

$$A_n = 0 \quad B_n = \frac{b_n}{1 - (n\pi/2)^2}$$

where b_n is as determined above.

Thus

$$\begin{aligned}
 y^p &= \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} y_n^p \\
 &= \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} (A_n \cos(n\pi x/2) + B_n \sin(n\pi x/2)) \\
 &= \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{8 \sin(n\pi/2)}{(n\pi)^2 (1 - (n\pi/2)^2)} \sin(n\pi x/2)
 \end{aligned}$$