

Section 11.1: (Brief Overview of Inner Product and Orthogonality)

Suppose two functions f and g are integrable on the interval $[a, b]$. We define the **inner product** of f and g on $[a, b]$ as

$$\langle f, g \rangle = \int_a^b f(x)g(x) dx.$$

We say that f and g are **orthogonal** on $[a, b]$ if

$$\langle f, g \rangle = 0.$$

The product depends on the interval, so the orthogonality of two functions depends on the interval.

Orthogonal Set

A set of functions $\{\phi_0(x), \phi_1(x), \phi_2(x), \dots\}$ is said to be **orthogonal** on an interval $[a, b]$ if

$$\langle \phi_m, \phi_n \rangle = \int_a^b \phi_m(x) \phi_n(x) dx = 0 \quad \text{whenever} \quad m \neq n.$$

Note that any function $\phi(x)$ that is not identically zero will satisfy

$$\langle \phi, \phi \rangle = \int_a^b \phi^2(x) dx > 0.$$

Hence we define the **square norm** of ϕ (on $[a, b]$) to be

$$\|\phi\| = \sqrt{\int_a^b \phi^2(x) dx}.$$

An Orthogonal Set of Functions

The set $\{1, \cos(nx), \sin(mx) \mid \text{for integers } n, m \geq 1\}$ is orthogonal on $[-\pi, \pi]$. Moreover, we have the properties

$$\int_{-\pi}^{\pi} \cos nx \, dx = 0 \quad \text{and} \quad \int_{-\pi}^{\pi} \sin mx \, dx = 0 \quad \text{for all } n, m \geq 1,$$

$$\int_{-\pi}^{\pi} \cos nx \sin mx \, dx = 0 \quad \text{for all } m, n \geq 1,$$

$$\int_{-\pi}^{\pi} \cos nx \cos mx \, dx = \begin{cases} 0, & m \neq n \\ \pi, & n = m \end{cases},$$

$$\begin{aligned} \langle 1, 1 \rangle &= \int_{-\pi}^{\pi} dx = x \Big|_{-\pi}^{\pi} \\ &= \pi - (-\pi) = 2\pi \end{aligned}$$

$$\int_{-\pi}^{\pi} \sin nx \sin mx \, dx = \begin{cases} 0, & m \neq n \\ \pi, & n = m \end{cases}.$$

Section 11.2: Fourier Series

Suppose $f(x)$ is defined for $-\pi < x < \pi$. We would like to know how to write f as a series **in terms of sines and cosines**.

Task: Find coefficients (numbers) a_0, a_1, a_2, \dots and b_1, b_2, \dots such that¹

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

¹We'll write $\frac{a_0}{2}$ as opposed to a_0 purely for convenience.

For a known function f defined on $(-\pi, \pi)$, assume the series holds. Find the coefficient b_4 . Multiply both sides by $\sin 4x$

$$f(x)\sin 4x = \frac{a_0}{2}\sin 4x + \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} (a_n \cos nx \sin 4x + b_n \sin nx \sin 4x).$$

Now integrate both sides with respect to x from $-\pi$ to π (assume it is valid to integrate first and sum later).

$$\int_{-\pi}^{\pi} f(x)\sin 4x \, dx = \int_{-\pi}^{\pi} \frac{a_0}{2}\sin 4x \, dx + \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \left(\int_{-\pi}^{\pi} a_n \cos nx \sin 4x \, dx + \int_{-\pi}^{\pi} b_n \sin nx \sin 4x \, dx \right).$$

$$\int_{-\pi}^{\pi} f(x) \sin 4x \, dx = \frac{a_0}{2} \int_{-\pi}^{\pi} \overset{=0}{\sin 4x} \, dx +$$

$$\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \left(a_n \int_{-\pi}^{\pi} \cos nx \overset{=0}{\sin 4x} \, dx + b_n \int_{-\pi}^{\pi} \sin nx \sin 4x \, dx \right).$$

Note $\int_{-\pi}^{\pi} \sin(4x) \, dx = 0$

also $\int_{-\pi}^{\pi} \cos(nx) \sin(4x) \, dx = 0$ for all n

So far we have

$$\int_{-\pi}^{\pi} f(x) \sin(4x) dx = \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} b_n \int_{-\pi}^{\pi} \sin(nx) \sin(4x) dx$$

$$\text{But } \int_{-\pi}^{\pi} \sin(nx) \sin(4x) dx = \begin{cases} 0, & n \neq 4 \\ \pi, & n = 4 \end{cases}$$

$$\Rightarrow \int_{-\pi}^{\pi} f(x) \sin(4x) dx = b_4 \pi$$

$$\Rightarrow b_4 = \frac{1}{\pi} \int_{-\pi}^{\pi} f(x) \sin(4x) dx$$

The Fourier Series of $f(x)$ on $(-\pi, \pi)$

The **Fourier series** of the function f defined on $(-\pi, \pi)$ is given by

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

Where

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

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

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

Example

Find the Fourier series of the piecewise defined function

$$f(x) = \begin{cases} 0, & -\pi < x < 0 \\ x, & 0 \leq x < \pi \end{cases}$$

$$a_0 = \frac{1}{\pi} \int_{-\pi}^{\pi} f(x) dx = \frac{1}{\pi} \int_{-\pi}^0 0 dx + \frac{1}{\pi} \int_0^{\pi} x dx$$

$$= \frac{1}{\pi} \left[\frac{x^2}{2} \right]_0^{\pi} = \frac{1}{\pi} \left(\frac{\pi^2}{2} - 0 \right) = \frac{\pi}{2}$$

$$a_n = \frac{1}{\pi} \int_{-\pi}^{\pi} f(x) \cos(nx) dx = \frac{1}{\pi} \int_{-\pi}^0 0 \cdot \cos(nx) dx + \frac{1}{\pi} \int_0^{\pi} x \cos(nx) dx$$

$$= \frac{1}{\pi} \left[\frac{x}{n} \sin(nx) \right]_0^{\pi} - \frac{1}{n} \int_0^{\pi} \sin(nx) dx$$

By parts

$$u = x \quad du = dx$$

$$= \frac{1}{\pi} \left[\frac{\pi}{n} \sin(n\pi) - 0 \right] + \frac{1}{n^2} \cos(nx) \Big|_0^{\pi}$$

$$dv = \cos(nx) dx$$

$$v = \frac{1}{n} \sin(nx)$$

$$= \frac{1}{\pi} \frac{1}{n^2} \left(\cos(n\pi) - \cos(0) \right)$$

Note

$$= \frac{1}{\pi n^2} \left[(-1)^n - 1 \right]$$

$$\cos(n\pi) = (-1)^n$$

$$b_n = \frac{1}{\pi} \int_{-\pi}^{\pi} f(x) \sin(nx) dx = \frac{1}{\pi} \int_{-\pi}^0 0 \sin(nx) dx + \frac{1}{\pi} \int_0^{\pi} x \sin(nx) dx$$

$$= \frac{1}{\pi} \left[\left. -\frac{x}{n} \cos(nx) \right|_0^{\pi} + \frac{1}{n} \int_0^{\pi} \cos(nx) dx \right] \quad \text{By parts}$$

$$= \frac{1}{\pi} \left[\left. -\frac{\pi}{n} \cos(n\pi) - 0 \right] + \frac{1}{n^2} \sin(nx) \right|_0^{\pi}$$

$$u = x \quad du = dx$$

$$dv = \sin(nx) dx$$

$$v = -\frac{1}{n} \cos(nx)$$

$$= \frac{1}{\pi} \left(-\frac{\pi}{n} (-1)^n \right) + \frac{1}{\pi n^2} \left(\sin(n\pi) - \sin(0) \right)$$

$$= -\frac{(-1)^n}{n} = \frac{(-1)^{n+1}}{n}$$

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

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

Fourier Series on an interval $(-p, p)$

The set of functions $\{1, \cos\left(\frac{n\pi x}{p}\right), \sin\left(\frac{m\pi x}{p}\right) \mid n, m \geq 1\}$ is orthogonal on $[-p, p]$. Moreover, we have the properties

$$\int_{-p}^p \cos\left(\frac{n\pi x}{p}\right) dx = 0 \quad \text{and} \quad \int_{-p}^p \sin\left(\frac{m\pi x}{p}\right) dx = 0 \quad \text{for all } n, m \geq 1,$$

$$\int_{-p}^p \cos\left(\frac{n\pi x}{p}\right) \sin\left(\frac{m\pi x}{p}\right) dx = 0 \quad \text{for all } m, n \geq 1,$$

$$\int_{-p}^p \cos\left(\frac{n\pi x}{p}\right) \cos\left(\frac{m\pi x}{p}\right) dx = \begin{cases} 0, & m \neq n \\ p, & n = m \end{cases},$$

$$\int_{-p}^p \sin\left(\frac{n\pi x}{p}\right) \sin\left(\frac{m\pi x}{p}\right) dx = \begin{cases} 0, & m \neq n \\ p, & n = m \end{cases}.$$

Fourier Series on an interval $(-p, p)$

The orthogonality relations provide for an expansion of a function f defined on $(-p, p)$ as

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

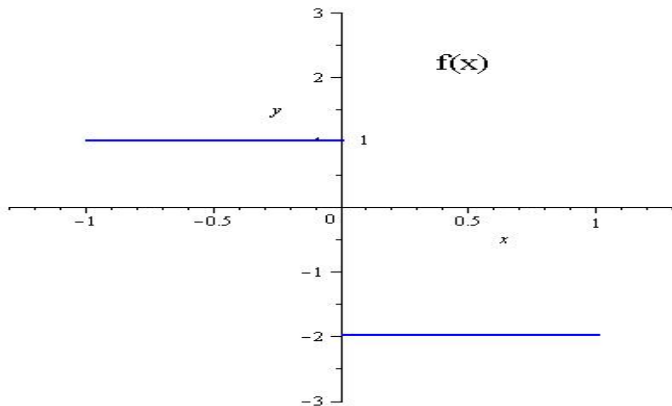
where

$$\begin{aligned} a_0 &= \frac{1}{p} \int_{-p}^p f(x) dx, \\ a_n &= \frac{1}{p} \int_{-p}^p f(x) \cos \left(\frac{n\pi x}{p} \right) dx, \quad \text{and} \\ b_n &= \frac{1}{\pi} \int_{-p}^p f(x) \sin \left(\frac{n\pi x}{p} \right) dx \end{aligned}$$

Find the Fourier series of f

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

Here, $p=1$



$$a_0 = \frac{1}{1} \int_{-1}^1 f(x) dx = \int_{-1}^0 dx + \int_0^1 (-2) dx$$

$$= x \Big|_{-1}^0 - 2x \Big|_0^1 = (0 - (-1)) - 2(1 - 0) = -1$$

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

$$= \frac{1}{n\pi} \sin(n\pi x) \Big|_{-1}^0 - \frac{2}{n\pi} \sin(n\pi x) \Big|_0^1$$

$$= \frac{1}{n\pi} [\sin 0 - \sin(-n\pi)] - \frac{2}{n\pi} [\sin(n\pi) - \sin 0] = 0$$

$$b_n = \frac{1}{1} \int_{-1}^1 f(x) \sin\left(\frac{n\pi x}{1}\right) dx = \int_{-1}^0 \sin(n\pi x) dx - \int_0^1 2 \sin(n\pi x) dx$$

$$= \left. -\frac{1}{n\pi} \cos(n\pi x) \right|_{-1}^0 + \left. \frac{2}{n\pi} \cos(n\pi x) \right|_0^1$$

$$= \frac{-1}{n\pi} [\cos 0 - \cos(-n\pi)] + \frac{2}{n\pi} [\cos(n\pi) - \cos 0]$$

$$= \frac{-1}{n\pi} + \frac{(-1)^n}{n\pi} + \frac{2(-1)^n}{n\pi} - \frac{2}{n\pi} = \frac{3}{n\pi} ((-1)^n - 1)$$

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

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