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# Chapter 3

## FOURIER SERIES

### 3.1 Concept of Fourier Series

#### Basic Idea

Given a periodic signal  $x(t)$  with fundamental period of  $T_0$ , i.e.:

$$x(t) = x(t + T_0), \quad \forall t$$

Let's define the fundamental frequency of  $x(t)$  as:

$$\omega_0 = \frac{2\pi}{T_0} \text{ (rad/sec): angular frequency}^1$$

Then, we have the following facts:

1.  $\cos(\omega_0 t)$  and  $\sin(\omega_0 t)$  are periodic with period  $T_0$
2.  $\{\cos(n\omega_0 t)\}_{n=1}^{\infty}$  and  $\{\sin(n\omega_0 t)\}_{n=1}^{\infty}$  are periodic with period  $T_0$  (cf.  $\frac{T_0}{n} < T_0$ )
3. Linear combination of periodic signals( $T_0$ ) is also periodic with period of  $T_0$ , i.e.

$$\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \{a_n \cos(n\omega_0 t) + b_n \sin(n\omega_0 t)\}$$

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<sup>1</sup>Corresponding cyclic frequency is  $f_0 = \frac{1}{T_0} = \frac{\omega_0}{2\pi}$  (Hz)

Therefore, considering a d.c. component  $d_0$ , any periodic( $T_0$ ) signal can be represented by a linear combination of *harmonically related* sine and cosine functions:

$$\begin{aligned} x(t) &= d_0 + \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} a_n \cos\left(\frac{2\pi n}{T_0}t\right) + \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} b_n \sin\left(\frac{2\pi n}{T_0}t\right) \\ &= d_0 + \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} a_n \cos(n\omega_0 t) + \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} b_n \sin(n\omega_0 t) \end{aligned} \quad (3.1)$$

where  $\{a_n\}_{n=1}^{\infty}$ ,  $\{b_n\}_{n=1}^{\infty}$ , and  $d_0$  are to be determined depending on the specific  $x(t)$ .

**Physical meaning:**

$d_0$ ,  $a_n$ , and  $b_n$  represent the *magnitude(or contribution)* of each harmonic frequency component *d.c.*,  $\cos(n\omega_0 t)$ , and  $\sin(n\omega_0 t)$  respectively in  $x(t)$ !!!

**Example 3.1**

Representation of periodic signal  $x(t)$ , whose period is  $T_0 = 2\pi(\text{sec})$ .

$$x(t) = \sin(t) + \sin(2t)$$

(cf.) The Fourier Series coefficients of  $x(t)$  in the above example are  $b_1 = b_2 = 1$ , and all other coefficients are zero!

## 3.2 Trigonometric Representation of Fourier Series

Consider a *periodic* signal  $x(t)$ , and suppose it satisfies the *Dirichlet conditions*, i.e.

1.  $x(t) = x(t + n \cdot T_0)$ ,  $n$ : integer
2. Dirichlet Conditions:
  - (a)  $x(t)$  has a *finite* number of *finite* maxima and minima within the interval  $T_0$ .
  - (b)  $x(t)$  has a *finite* number of *finite* discontinuities within  $T_0$ .
  - (c)  $x(t)$  is *absolutely integrable* over  $T_0$ , i.e.

$$\int_{T_0} |x(t)| dt < \infty$$

Figure 3.1: A periodic signal satisfying Dirichlet conditions.

Then,  $x(t)$  can be expressed as a linear combination of harmonically related sine and cosine functions:

$$\begin{aligned} x(t) &= \frac{a_0}{2} + \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} a_n \cdot \cos\left(\frac{2\pi nt}{T_0}\right) + \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} b_n \cdot \sin\left(\frac{2\pi nt}{T_0}\right) \\ &= \frac{a_0}{2} + \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} a_n \cdot \cos(n\omega_0 t) + \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} b_n \cdot \sin(n\omega_0 t) \end{aligned} \quad (3.2)$$

where  $\omega_0 = \frac{2\pi}{T_0}$  is the *fundamental frequency* of  $x(t)$ .

Corresponding F.S. coefficients  $\{a_n\}_{n=0}^{\infty}$  and  $\{b_n\}_{n=1}^{\infty}$  are given as follows:

$$a_n = \frac{2}{T_0} \int_{T_0} x(t) \cos\left(\frac{2\pi nt}{T_0}\right) dt = \frac{2}{T_0} \int_{T_0} x(t) \cos(n\omega_0 t) dt \quad \text{: cosine of } n\text{-th harmonic}$$

$$b_n = \frac{2}{T_0} \int_{T_0} x(t) \sin\left(\frac{2\pi nt}{T_0}\right) dt = \frac{2}{T_0} \int_{T_0} x(t) \sin(n\omega_0 t) dt \quad \text{: sine of } n\text{-th harmonic}$$

Assume  $T_0 = 2\pi(\text{sec})$  from now on WLOG<sup>2</sup>, then  $\omega_0 = 1(\text{rad/sec})$  and the Fourier series can simply be put as follows:

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

where

$$a_n = \frac{1}{\pi} \int_0^{2\pi} x(t) \cos(nt) dt$$

$$b_n = \frac{1}{\pi} \int_0^{2\pi} x(t) \sin(nt) dt$$

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<sup>2</sup>WLOG: Without Loss Of Generality

**Example 3.2**

Express  $x(t) = \cos(t)$  in a Fourier series.

**Solution:**

**Example 3.3**

(1)  $x(t) = \cos^2(t)$

(2)  $x(t) = \cos \{ \tan(t) \}$

(3)  $x(t) = \delta(t)$ ,  $-\frac{\pi}{2} < t \leq \frac{\pi}{2}$ , and  $x(t) = x(t + 2\pi)$

### 3.3 Derivation of Fourier Series Coefficients

There exist two approaches to derive the trigonometric F.S. coefficients:

1. MSE (Mean Squared Error) minimization
2. Concept of vector based orthonormal basis for signal space

#### 1. MSE minimization: (straightforward, but tedious to do)

First, we define the mean squared error (MSE) of the Fourier series representation of a continuous periodic signal  $x(t)$  as:

$$\text{MSE} = \frac{1}{2\pi} \int_0^{2\pi} e^2(t) dt \quad : \text{ we assumed } T_0 = 2\pi$$

where the error signal  $e(t)$  is  $e(t) \triangleq x(t) - x_F(t)$ , and  $x(t)$  is the original signal whereas  $x_F(t)$  is the F.S. representation of  $x(t)$ .

#### Objective:

We want to find the F.S. coefficients  $\{a_n\}_{n=0}^{\infty}$  and  $\{b_n\}_{n=1}^{\infty}$ , which minimizes the MSE. (i.e.: we want to have  $x_F(t)$  be as close as to  $x(t)$ )

To achieve our objective, we first compute  $e^2(t)$ , where

$$\begin{aligned} e(t) &\triangleq x(t) - x_F(t) \\ &= x(t) - \left\{ \frac{a_0}{2} + \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} a_n \cos(nt) + \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} b_n \sin(nt) \right\} \end{aligned}$$

Then,

$$\begin{aligned}
e^2(t) &= x^2(t) + \left\{ \frac{a_0}{2} + \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} a_n \cos(nt) + \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} b_n \sin(nt) \right\}^2 \\
&\quad - 2x(t) \left\{ \frac{a_0}{2} + \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} a_n \cos(nt) + \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} b_n \sin(nt) \right\} \\
&= x^2(t) + \left\{ \frac{a_0^2}{4} + \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} a_n^2 \cos^2(nt) + \sum_{p,q=1}^{\infty} \sum_{p \neq q} a_p a_q \cos(pt) \cos(qt) \right. \\
&\quad + \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} b_n^2 \sin^2(nt) + \sum_{r,s=1}^{\infty} \sum_{r \neq s} b_r b_s \sin(rt) \sin(st) \\
&\quad + a_0 \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} a_n \cos(nt) + a_0 \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} b_n \sin(nt) \\
&\quad \left. + 2 \sum_{\alpha=1}^{\infty} \sum_{\beta=1}^{\infty} a_{\alpha} b_{\beta} \cos(\alpha t) \sin(\beta t) \right\} \\
&\quad - a_0 x(t) - 2x(t) \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} a_n \cos(nt) - 2x(t) \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} b_n \sin(nt) \tag{3.3}
\end{aligned}$$

We now take a look at  $\text{MSE} = \frac{1}{2\pi} \int_0^{2\pi} e^2(t) dt$  term by term using (3.3):

- (1)  $\frac{1}{2\pi} \int_0^{2\pi} \cos^2(nt) dt = \frac{1}{2\pi} \int_0^{2\pi} \frac{1}{2} [1 + \cos(2nt)] dt = \frac{1}{2\pi} \cdot \left(\frac{1}{2} 2\pi\right) = \frac{1}{2}$
- (2)  $\frac{1}{2\pi} \int_0^{2\pi} \sin^2(nt) dt = \frac{1}{2\pi} \int_0^{2\pi} \frac{1}{2} [1 - \cos(2nt)] dt = \frac{1}{2\pi} \cdot \left(\frac{1}{2} 2\pi\right) = \frac{1}{2}$
- (3)  $\frac{1}{2\pi} \int_0^{2\pi} \cos(nt) dt = 0$
- (4)  $\frac{1}{2\pi} \int_0^{2\pi} \sin(nt) dt = 0$
- (5)  $\frac{1}{2\pi} \int_0^{2\pi} \cos(pt) \cos(qt) dt = 0 \quad p \neq q$
- (6)  $\frac{1}{2\pi} \int_0^{2\pi} \sin(rt) \sin(st) dt = 0 \quad r \neq s$
- (7)  $\frac{1}{2\pi} \int_0^{2\pi} \cos(\alpha t) \sin(\beta t) dt = 0 \quad \forall \alpha, \beta$

For notational convenience, let's compute  $2\pi\text{MSE}$  rather than MSE, then from the above calculation results, we have:

$$\begin{aligned}
2\pi\text{MSE} &= \int_0^{2\pi} e^2(t) dt \\
&= \int_0^{2\pi} x^2(t) dt + \int_0^{2\pi} \frac{a_0^2}{4} dt + \pi \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} (a_n^2 + b_n^2) - a_0 \int_0^{2\pi} x(t) dt \\
&\quad - 2 \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} a_n \int_0^{2\pi} x(t) \cos(nt) dt - 2 \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} b_n \int_0^{2\pi} x(t) \sin(nt) dt \tag{3.4}
\end{aligned}$$

To get  $a_k$ 's and  $b_k$ 's which minimize the MSE, we differentiate (3.4) with respect to  $a_k$ ,  $b_k$ , and put to zero:

1.  $a_0$

$$\begin{aligned}\frac{\partial(2\pi\text{MSE})}{\partial a_0} &= \frac{\partial}{\partial a_0} \left\{ \frac{a_0^2}{4} 2\pi - a_0 \int_0^{2\pi} x(t) dt \right\} \\ &= \pi a_0 - \int_0^{2\pi} x(t) dt \\ &= 0\end{aligned}$$

$$\implies a_0 = \frac{1}{\pi} \int_0^{2\pi} x(t) dt \quad (\text{twice the d.c. component})$$

2.  $a_k$

$$\begin{aligned}\frac{\partial(2\pi\text{MSE})}{\partial a_k} &= \frac{\partial}{\partial a_k} \left\{ \pi \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} a_n^2 - 2 \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} a_n \cdot \int_0^{2\pi} x(t) \cos(nt) dt \right\} \\ &= 2\pi a_k - 2 \int_0^{2\pi} x(t) \cos(kt) dt \\ &= 2 \left\{ \pi a_k - \int_0^{2\pi} x(t) \cos(kt) dt \right\} \\ &= 0\end{aligned}$$

$$\implies a_k = \frac{1}{\pi} \int_0^{2\pi} x(t) \cos(kt) dt \quad k = 1, 2, 3, \dots$$

(cf.) Notice that the above formula for  $a_k$  is valid for  $k = 0, 1, 2, 3, \dots$

3.  $b_k$

$$\begin{aligned}\frac{\partial(2\pi\text{MSE})}{\partial b_k} &= \frac{\partial}{\partial b_k} \left\{ \pi \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} b_n^2 - 2 \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} b_n \cdot \int_0^{2\pi} x(t) \sin(nt) dt \right\} \\ &= 2\pi b_k - 2 \int_0^{2\pi} x(t) \sin(kt) dt \\ &= 2 \left\{ \pi b_k - \int_0^{2\pi} x(t) \sin(kt) dt \right\} \\ &= 0\end{aligned}$$

$$\implies b_k = \frac{1}{\pi} \int_0^{2\pi} x(t) \sin(kt) dt \quad k = 1, 2, 3, \dots$$

**Note:**

To guarantee that above  $a_k$ , and  $b_k$  provide the *minimum* value for MSE, we have to show that MSE is a convex function at those points, i.e.

1.  $\frac{\partial^2(2\pi\text{MSE})}{\partial a_0^2} = \pi > 0$
2.  $\frac{\partial^2(2\pi\text{MSE})}{\partial a_k^2} = 2\pi > 0$
3.  $\frac{\partial^2(2\pi\text{MSE})}{\partial b_k^2} = 2\pi > 0$

**(cf.)** For your reference, here are some trigonometric identities:

$$\sin(\alpha + \beta) = \sin(\alpha) \cos(\beta) + \cos(\alpha) \sin(\beta)$$

$$\sin(\alpha - \beta) = \sin(\alpha) \cos(\beta) - \cos(\alpha) \sin(\beta)$$

$$\cos(\alpha + \beta) = \cos(\alpha) \cos(\beta) - \sin(\alpha) \sin(\beta)$$

$$\cos(\alpha - \beta) = \cos(\alpha) \cos(\beta) + \sin(\alpha) \sin(\beta)$$

$$\cos(\alpha) \cos(\beta) = \frac{1}{2} \{ \cos(\alpha + \beta) + \cos(\alpha - \beta) \}$$

$$\sin(\alpha) \sin(\beta) = -\frac{1}{2} \{ \cos(\alpha + \beta) - \cos(\alpha - \beta) \}$$

$$\sin(\alpha) \cos(\beta) = \frac{1}{2} \{ \sin(\alpha + \beta) + \sin(\alpha - \beta) \}$$

$$\cos(\alpha) \sin(\beta) = \frac{1}{2} \{ \cos(\alpha + \beta) - \cos(\alpha - \beta) \}$$

## 2. Orthonormal basis for a signal space: <sup>3</sup>

### Prerequisites and reviews:

We first review some of the basic concepts of vector spaces, and link them to the concept of signal space.

#### (1) Inner Product:

Define an inner product of two signals in a signal space  $\mathbf{S}$  as:

$$\langle p(t), q(t) \rangle \triangleq \frac{1}{\pi} \int_0^{2\pi} p(t) \cdot q(t) dt \quad (3.5)$$

where  $p(t) \in \mathbf{S}$  and  $q(t) \in \mathbf{S}$ .

**Note:** Requirements for an inner product definition:

- (i) Linearity:  $\langle \alpha x_1 + \beta x_2, y \rangle = \alpha \langle x_1, y \rangle + \beta \langle x_2, y \rangle$
- (ii) Symmetry:  $\langle x, y \rangle = \langle y, x \rangle$
- (iii) Non-degeneray:  $\|x\|^2 \triangleq \langle x, x \rangle \geq 0$ , and  $\|x\|^2 = 0$  iff  $x = 0$

**Assignment:** Check that (3.5) satisfies the above conditions (i) to (iii).

#### (2) Independence:

Signals  $\{f_n(t)\}_{n=1}^{\infty} \in \mathbf{S}$  are called *independent* if the following condition is met:

$$\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} a_n \cdot f_n(t) = 0 \quad \text{iff} \quad a_n = 0 \quad \forall n = 1, 2, \dots$$

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<sup>3</sup>We apply the concept of the vector space to a signal space

### (3) Orthogonality:

Two signals  $f_n(t) \in \mathbf{S}$  and  $f_m(t) \in \mathbf{S}$  are called *orthogonal* if they satisfy the following condition:

$$\langle f_n(t), f_m(t) \rangle = a_{n,m} \delta_{nm}$$

where  $\delta_{nm}$  is called the Kronecker delta, and defined as follows:

$$\delta_{nm} \triangleq \begin{cases} 1, & \text{if } n = m \\ 0, & \text{if } n \neq m \end{cases}$$

### (4) Orthomormality:

Two signals  $f_n(t) \in \mathbf{S}$  and  $f_m(t) \in \mathbf{S}$  are called *orthonormal* if they satisfy the following condition:

$$\langle f_n(t), f_m(t) \rangle = \delta_{nm}$$

### (5) Basis:

Basis of a signal space  $\mathbf{S}$  is the minimum set of *independent* signals  $\{f_n(t)\}_{n=1}^N$  such that any signal  $x(t)$  in  $\mathbf{S}$  can be represented by a linear combination of  $\{f_n(t)\}_{n=1}^N$ , i.e.

$$x(t) = \sum_{n=1}^N a_n \cdot f_n(t)$$

(**cf.**) Orthonormal basis: basis composed of orthonormal signals.

We now consider a signal space which is composed of periodic signals that can be represented by the Fourier Series, denoted as  $\mathbf{F}$ :

$$\mathbf{F} = \left\{ x(t) \mid x(t) = \frac{a_0}{2} + \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} a_n \cos(nt) + \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} b_n \sin(nt) \right\} \quad \text{period} = 2\pi \quad (3.6)$$

Notice that:

1. Signals in  $\mathbf{F}$  are linear combinations of 1,  $\{\cos(nt)\}_{n=1}^{\infty}$ , and  $\{\sin(nt)\}_{n=1}^{\infty}$
2. 1,  $\{\cos(nt)\}_{n=1}^{\infty}$ , and  $\{\sin(nt)\}_{n=1}^{\infty}$  are independent

And thus 1,  $\{\cos(nt)\}_{n=1}^{\infty}$ , and  $\{\sin(nt)\}_{n=1}^{\infty}$  could be a BASIS for the signal space  $\mathbf{F}$ .

Now, check the following facts:

- (i)  $\langle \sin(nt), \sin(mt) \rangle = \delta_{nm}$
- (ii)  $\langle \cos(nt), \cos(mt) \rangle = \delta_{nm}$
- (iii)  $\langle \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}}, \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} \rangle = 1$
- (iv)  $\langle \sin(nt), \cos(mt) \rangle = 0, \quad \forall n, m$
- (v)  $\langle \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}}, \cos(nt) \rangle = 0, \quad \forall n \neq 0$
- (vi)  $\langle \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}}, \sin(nt) \rangle = 0, \quad \forall n$

$\implies$  We can see that:

$\{\cos(nt)\}_{n=1}^{\infty}$ ,  $\{\sin(nt)\}_{n=1}^{\infty}$ , and  $\frac{1}{\sqrt{2}}$  constitute an *orthonormal* basis for  $\mathbf{F}$

**FACT:**

In general, the magnitude(or contribution) of each element  $\{f_n(t)\}_{n=1}^N$  of an *orthonormal* basis for a signal  $x(t)$  in a signal space  $\mathbf{F}$  is the *projection* of  $x(t)$  onto  $f_n(t)$ 's, and the projection is done by taking the inner product between  $x(t)$  and  $f_n(t)$ .

**Example 3.4**

A vector  $\vec{a} = (a_1, a_2, a_3)$  in  $\mathbf{R}^3$  space.

**Example 3.5**

A signal  $x(t) = 1 + 2 \sin(t) + 3 \cos(t)$  in the signal space  $\mathbf{F}$  .

Now, for any signal  $x(t)$  in  $\mathbf{F}$ ,

$$x(t) = \frac{a_0}{2} + \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} a_n \cos(nt) + \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} b_n \sin(nt) \in \mathbf{F}$$

(1) **Projection of  $x(t)$  onto  $\frac{1}{\sqrt{2}}$ :** provide  $a_0$  (d.c. component)

$$\langle x(t), \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} \rangle = \langle \frac{a_0}{2} + \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} a_n \cos(nt) + \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} b_n \sin(nt), \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} \rangle$$

$$\text{LHS} = \langle x(t), \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} \rangle = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} \frac{1}{\pi} \int_0^{2\pi} x(t) dt$$

$$\text{RHS} = \langle \frac{a_0}{2}, \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} \rangle = \frac{1}{\pi} \int_0^{2\pi} \frac{a_0}{2\sqrt{2}} dt = \frac{a_0}{\sqrt{2}}$$

$$\implies \frac{a_0}{\sqrt{2}} = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} \frac{1}{\pi} \int_0^{2\pi} x(t) dt$$

$$\implies a_0 = \frac{1}{\pi} \int_0^{2\pi} x(t) dt$$

(2) **Projection of  $x(t)$  onto  $\{\cos(mt)\}_{m=1}^{\infty}$ :** provide  $a_m$ 's

$$\begin{aligned} \langle x(t), \cos(mt) \rangle &= \langle \frac{a_0}{2} + \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} a_n \cos(nt) + \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} b_n \sin(nt), \cos(mt) \rangle \\ &= \langle \frac{a_0}{2} + \cos(mt) \rangle + \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \langle a_n \cos(nt), \cos(mt) \rangle \\ &\quad + \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \langle b_n \sin(nt), \cos(mt) \rangle \end{aligned}$$

$$\text{LHS} = \langle x(t), \cos(mt) \rangle = \frac{1}{\pi} \int_0^{2\pi} x(t) \cos(mt) dt$$

$$\text{RHS} = \langle \cos(mt), \cos(mt) \rangle = \frac{1}{\pi} \int_0^{2\pi} \cos^2(mt) dt = a_m$$

$$\implies a_m = \frac{1}{\pi} \int_0^{2\pi} x(t) \cos(mt) dt, \quad m = 1, 2, 3, \dots$$

**Note:**

Notice that the above formula of  $a_m$  can be used including the d.c. component, i.e., for  $m = 0, 1, 2, 3, \dots$ .

**(3) Projection of  $x(t)$  onto  $\{\sin(mt)\}_{m=1}^{\infty}$ :** provide  $b_m$ 's

Similarly, we get  $b_m$ 's as follows:

$$b_m = \frac{1}{\pi} \int_0^{2\pi} x(t) \sin(mt) dt, \quad m = 1, 2, 3, \dots$$

**derivation:** assignment

**NOTE:**

In either way, MSE minimization or orthonormal basis for signal space, we get the same formula for the F.S. coefficients!!!

## Special properties of F.S. coefficients

(1) **Symmetric signal (even function):**  $x(t) = x(-t)$

$$a_n = \frac{2}{\pi} \int_0^{\pi} x(t) \cos(nt) dt$$
$$b_n = 0 \quad \forall n = 1, 2, \dots$$

Figure 3.2: Symmetric signal  $x(t)$

(cf.) Symmetric signals can be expressed using only cosine terms, including the d.c. component

(2) **Asymmetric signal (odd function):**  $x(t) = -x(-t)$

$$a_n = 0 \quad \forall n = 1, 2, \dots$$
$$b_n = \frac{2}{\pi} \int_0^{\pi} x(t) \sin(nt) dt$$

Figure 3.3: Asymmetric signal  $x(t)$

(cf.) Asymmetric signals can be expressed using only sine terms, and the d.c. component does not exist inherently.

**Proof:**

$$\begin{aligned} \text{A. } a_n &= \frac{1}{\pi} \int_{2\pi} x(t) \cos(nt) dt \\ &= \frac{1}{\pi} \int_{-\pi}^{\pi} x(t) \cos(nt) dt \\ &= \frac{1}{\pi} \int_{-\pi}^0 x(t) \cos(nt) dt + \frac{1}{\pi} \int_0^{\pi} x(t) \cos(nt) dt \quad (\text{let } t' = -t \text{ in 1st term}) \\ &= \frac{1}{\pi} \int_{\pi}^0 x(-t') \cos(-nt')(-dt') + \frac{1}{\pi} \int_0^{\pi} x(t) \cos(nt) dt \\ &= \frac{1}{\pi} \int_0^{\pi} x(-t) \cos(nt) dt + \frac{1}{\pi} \int_0^{\pi} x(t) \cos(nt) dt \end{aligned}$$

(1) Symmetric  $x(t)$ :  $x(t) = x(-t)$

$$a_n = \frac{1}{\pi} \int_0^{\pi} x(t) \cos(nt) dt + \frac{1}{\pi} \int_0^{\pi} x(t) \cos(nt) dt = \frac{2}{\pi} \int_0^{\pi} x(t) \cos(nt) dt$$

(2) Asymmetric  $x(t)$ :  $x(t) = -x(-t)$

$$a_n = -\frac{1}{\pi} \int_0^{\pi} x(t) \cos(nt) dt + \frac{1}{\pi} \int_0^{\pi} x(t) \cos(nt) dt = 0$$

$$\begin{aligned} \text{B. } b_n &= \frac{1}{\pi} \int_{2\pi} x(t) \sin(nt) dt \\ &= \frac{1}{\pi} \int_{-\pi}^{\pi} x(t) \sin(nt) dt \\ &= \frac{1}{\pi} \int_{-\pi}^0 x(t) \sin(nt) dt + \frac{1}{\pi} \int_0^{\pi} x(t) \sin(nt) dt \quad (\text{let } t' = -t \text{ in 1st term}) \\ &= \frac{1}{\pi} \int_{\pi}^0 x(-t') \sin(-nt')(-dt') + \frac{1}{\pi} \int_0^{\pi} x(t) \sin(nt) dt \\ &= -\frac{1}{\pi} \int_0^{\pi} x(-t) \sin(nt) dt + \frac{1}{\pi} \int_0^{\pi} x(t) \sin(nt) dt \end{aligned}$$

(1) Symmetric  $x(t)$ :  $x(t) = x(-t)$

$$b_n = -\frac{1}{\pi} \int_0^{\pi} x(t) \sin(nt) dt + \frac{1}{\pi} \int_0^{\pi} x(t) \sin(nt) dt = 0$$

(2) Asymmetric  $x(t)$ :  $x(t) = -x(-t)$

$$b_n = \frac{1}{\pi} \int_0^{\pi} x(t) \sin(nt) dt + \frac{1}{\pi} \int_0^{\pi} x(t) \sin(nt) dt = \frac{2}{\pi} \int_0^{\pi} x(t) \sin(nt) dt$$

**Intuition:**

Symmetric signals can be expressed in a F.S. form using only symmetric(i.e. d.c. and cosine) terms, whereas asymmetric signals need only asymmetric(i.e. sine) terms!!!

**Gibb's Phenomenon**

Now, we have a Fourier series representation of a periodic signal  $x(t)$  as follows:

$$x(t) = \frac{a_0}{2} + \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} a_n \cos(nt) + \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} b_n \sin(nt) \quad (3.7)$$

Notice that:

- ♣ Practically, we cannot use infinite number of coefficients  $\{a_n\}_{n=0}^{\infty}$  and  $\{b_n\}_{n=1}^{\infty}$  for (3.7).
- ♣ Therefore, we have to use a finite number of  $a_n$ 's and  $b_n$ 's, i.e.

$$\hat{x}(t) = \frac{a_0}{2} + \sum_{n=1}^N a_n \cos(nt) + \sum_{n=1}^N b_n \sin(nt) \quad (3.8)$$

This is a *truncated* Fourier series, and due to the difference(or error) between (3.7) and (3.8), there inevitably happens some overshoots and undershoots in  $\hat{x}(t)$ .

⇒ This is called the “**GIBB's PHENOMENON**”

### Example 3.6

Figure 3.4: A cosine square wave signal.

**NOTE:**

The more coefficients we use, the better (or closer) Fourier series representation of  $x(t)$  by  $\hat{x}(t)$ !!!

Figure 3.5: Effect of the number of F.S. coefficient.

### 3.4 Complex Representation of Fourier Series

Under the same assumptions (i.e. periodicity and Dirichlet conditions) on  $x(t)$  as in the trigonometric representation of Fourier series for  $x(t)$ , we can express  $x(t)$  with a linear combination of harmonically related *complex exponentials*, i.e.

$$x(t) = \sum_{k=-\infty}^{\infty} C_k \cdot e^{jkt} \quad \text{where } T_0 = 2\pi(\text{sec})$$

and the corresponding complex F.S. coefficients  $\{C_k\}_{k=-\infty}^{\infty}$  are given:

$$C_k = \frac{1}{2\pi} \int_{2\pi} x(t) e^{-jkt} dt$$

**Note:**

In general,  $C_k$ 's are complex numbers, i.e.:

$$\begin{aligned} C_k &= \text{Re}[C_k] + j\text{Im}[C_k] \quad (\text{cartesian coordinate}) \\ &= |C_k| e^{j\Phi_k} \quad (\text{polar coordinate}) \quad : \textit{preferred!!!} \end{aligned}$$

where

$$\begin{aligned} |C_k| &= \sqrt{\text{Re}^2[C_k] + \text{Im}^2[C_k]} \\ \Phi_k &= \arctan \left\{ \frac{\text{Im}[C_k]}{\text{Re}[C_k]} \right\} \end{aligned}$$

Figure 3.6: Polar form of complex F.S. coefficient  $C_k$

## Derivation of complex Fourier series

From the well known Euler's formula:

$$e^{\pm j\theta} = \cos(\theta) \pm j \sin(\theta)$$

We have

$$e^{\pm jnt} = \cos(nt) \pm j \sin(nt)$$

$$\implies \begin{cases} \cos(nt) = \frac{1}{2} (e^{jnt} + e^{-jnt}) \\ \sin(nt) = \frac{1}{2j} (e^{jnt} - e^{-jnt}) \end{cases}$$

Then, the trigonometric F.S. representation of  $x(t)$  becomes:

$$\begin{aligned} x(t) &= \frac{a_0}{2} + \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \{a_n \cos(nt) + b_n \sin(nt)\} \\ &= \frac{a_0}{2} + \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \left\{ a_n \left( \frac{e^{jnt} + e^{-jnt}}{2} \right) + b_n \left( \frac{e^{jnt} - e^{-jnt}}{2j} \right) \right\} \\ &= \frac{a_0}{2} + \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \left\{ \frac{1}{2} (a_n - jb_n) e^{jnt} + \frac{1}{2} (a_n + jb_n) e^{-jnt} \right\} \quad (\text{cf. } \frac{1}{j} = -j) \\ &\quad (\text{let } n = k \text{ and } n = -k \text{ in 1st and 2nd sum respectively}) \\ &= \frac{a_0}{2} + \sum_{k=1}^{\infty} \frac{1}{2} (a_k - jb_k) e^{jkt} + \sum_{k=-1}^{-\infty} \frac{1}{2} (a_{-k} + jb_{-k}) e^{jkt} \end{aligned} \quad (3.9)$$

**Fact:** Now, let's take a look at the properties of  $a_k$  and  $b_k$  for a moment, and we can check the following facts:

$$\begin{cases} a_{-k} = a_k \\ b_{-k} = -b_k \\ b_0 = 0 \end{cases} \quad (3.10)$$

**proof:**

$$\begin{aligned} a_{-k} &= \frac{1}{\pi} \int_{2\pi} x(t) \cos(-kt) dt = \frac{1}{\pi} \int_{2\pi} x(t) \cos(kt) dt \triangleq a_k \\ b_{-k} &= \frac{1}{\pi} \int_{2\pi} x(t) \sin(-kt) dt = -\frac{1}{\pi} \int_{2\pi} x(t) \sin(kt) dt \triangleq -b_k \\ b_0 &= \frac{1}{\pi} \int_{2\pi} x(t) \sin(0) dt = 0 \end{aligned} \quad \text{q.e.d.}$$

Using (3.10), (3.9) can be expressed as:

$$x(t) = \frac{a_0}{2} + \sum_{k=1}^{\infty} \frac{1}{2}(a_k - jb_k)e^{jkt} + \sum_{k=-1}^{-\infty} \frac{1}{2}(a_k - jb_k)e^{jkt} \quad (3.11)$$

Now, let

$$C_k \triangleq \frac{1}{2}(a_k - jb_k)$$

Then,

$$\begin{cases} C_0 = \frac{1}{2}(a_0 - jb_0) = \frac{1}{2}a_0 \quad (\text{cf. } b_0 = 0) \\ e^{j0t} = e^0 = 1 \end{cases}$$

Therefore, (3.11) becomes:

$$\begin{aligned} x(t) &= \frac{a_0}{2} + \sum_{k=1}^{\infty} C_k e^{jkt} + \sum_{k=-1}^{-\infty} C_k e^{jkt} \\ &= \sum_{k=-\infty}^{\infty} C_k e^{jkt} \end{aligned}$$

**: Complex F.S. representation**

Corresponding coefficient  $C_k$  is given by:

$$\begin{aligned} C_k &\triangleq \frac{1}{2}(a_k - jb_k) \\ &= \frac{1}{2} \left\{ \frac{1}{\pi} \int_0^{2\pi} x(t) \cos(kt) dt - j \frac{1}{\pi} \int_0^{2\pi} x(t) \sin(kt) dt \right\} \\ &= \frac{1}{2\pi} \int_0^{2\pi} x(t) \{ \cos(kt) - j \sin(kt) \} dt \\ &= \frac{1}{2\pi} \int_0^{2\pi} x(t) e^{-jkt} dt \end{aligned}$$

**NOTE:**

In general, with an arbitrary period  $T$ , i.e.

$$x(t) = x(t + T)$$

then, the complex Fourier series representation of  $x(t)$  is given as:

$$x(t) = \sum_{k=-\infty}^{\infty} C_k \cdot e^{j\frac{2\pi kt}{T}}$$
$$C_k = \frac{1}{T} \int_T x(t) e^{-j\frac{2\pi kt}{T}} dt$$

which is called the “**General Expression for a Complex F.S.**”

### Remarks:

1. Once we compute  $C_k$ 's for positive  $k$ 's ( $k = 1, 2, \dots$ ), then  $C_{-k}$ 's can be readily obtained as:

$$C_{-k} = C_k^*$$

### proof:

$$\begin{aligned} C_{-k} &= \frac{1}{2}(a_{-k} - jb_{-k}) \\ &= \frac{1}{2}(a_k + jb_k) \quad (a_k \text{ is even, and } b_k \text{ is odd w.r.t. } k) \\ &= \left\{ \frac{1}{2}(a_k - jb_k) \right\}^* \\ &= C_k^* \end{aligned}$$

2. If  $x(t)$  is a symmetric signal of  $t$  (i.e.  $x(t) = x(-t)$ ), then  $C_k$  is *pure real*, i.e.  $C_k = \text{Re}[C_k]$ , since  $b_k$ 's are all zero for even function of  $t$ .
3. If  $x(t)$  is an asymmetric signal of  $t$  (i.e.  $x(t) = -x(-t)$ ), then  $C_k$  is *pure imaginary*, i.e.  $C_k = j\text{Im}[C_k]$ , since  $a_k$ 's are all zero for odd function of  $t$ .
4. Let's define the general expression for the complex exponentials as:

$$\phi_k(t) \triangleq \frac{1}{\sqrt{2\pi}} e^{jkt}$$

Then, if we define the inner product between  $\phi_n(t)$  and  $\phi_m(t)$  as:

$$\langle \phi_n(t), \phi_m(t) \rangle \triangleq \int_0^{2\pi} \phi_n(t) \phi_m^*(t) dt$$

We can check  $\{\phi_k(t)\}_{k=-\infty}^{\infty}$  form an orthonormal basis for a signal space  $\mathbf{F}_1$ , which is composed of periodic signals represented by complex F.S.:

$$\mathbf{F}_1 = \left\{ x(t) \mid x(t) = \sum_{k=-\infty}^{\infty} C_k \cdot e^{jkt} \right\}$$

### Assignment:

- (a) Show that  $\{\phi_k(t)\}_{k=-\infty}^{\infty}$  form a basis for  $\mathbf{F}_1$ .
- (b) Prove the orthonormality between  $\phi_n(t)$  and  $\phi_m(t)$ .
- (c) Derive  $C_k$  using projection onto each basis signal (i.e. taking inner product between  $x(t)$  and each  $\{\phi_k(t)\}_{k=-\infty}^{\infty}$

derivation of  $C_k$ :

**Example 3.7**

Determine whether the signal  $x(t)$  given below can be expressed in a Fourier series, and if it does have its own F.S., find the complex Fourier series coefficient  $C_k$  of it.

$$x(t) = \begin{cases} 1, & -1 \leq t < 1 \\ 0, & 1 \leq t < 3 \end{cases} \quad \text{and } T = 4 \text{ (sec)}$$

Figure 3.7: A train of pulses  $x(t)$

**Remarks:** Notice that  $x(t)$  is an even function of  $t$ , and thus

- (i)  $b_k = 0$ , i.e.  $C_k$  must be *pure real*!
- (ii) d.c. component of  $x(t)$  is obviously  $\frac{1}{2} = C_0$  from above!

**Solution:**

**discussion:**

- (a) Notice that  $C_k$  indeed is pure real, and  $C_0 = \frac{1}{2}$ . [(i), and (ii)]
- (b) Check that  $C_{-k} = C_k^* = C_k$ , i.e.

$$C_{-k} = \frac{1}{2} \operatorname{sinc}\left(\frac{-k}{2}\right) = \frac{1}{2} \operatorname{sinc}\left(\frac{k}{2}\right) = C_k = C_k^*$$

Figure 3.8: Complex F.S. coefficient  $C_k$  of cosine square wave  $x(t)$

**Example 3.8**

Repeat the above example for the following  $x(t)$ .

$$x(t) = \begin{cases} 1, & 0 \leq t < \pi \\ -1, & -\pi \leq t < 0 \end{cases} \quad \text{and } T = 2\pi \text{ (sec)}$$

Figure 3.9: A sine square wave  $x(t)$

**Remarks:** Notice that  $x(t)$  is now an odd function of  $t$ , and thus

- (i)  $a_k = 0$ , i.e.  $C_k$  must be *pure imaginary!*
- (ii) d.c. component of  $x(t)$  is obviously  $C_0 = 0$  from above!

**Solution:**

**discussion:**

(a) Notice that  $C_k$  indeed is pure imaginary, and  $C_0 = 0$  [(i), and (ii)], i.e.:

$$C_0 = \lim_{k \rightarrow 0} \frac{1 - \cos(\pi k)}{j\pi k} = \lim_{k \rightarrow 0} \frac{\pi \sin(\pi k)}{j\pi} = 0 \text{ (by L'Hospital's law)}$$

(b) Check that  $C_{-k} = C_k^*$ , i.e.

$$C_{-k} = j \cdot \frac{\cos(-\pi k) - 1}{-\pi k} = -j \cdot \frac{\cos(\pi k) - 1}{\pi k} = C_k^*$$

Figure 3.10: Complex F.S. coefficient  $C_k$  of sine square wave  $x(t)$