

**DR. J. J. MAGDUM COLLEGE OF ENGINEERING,
JAYSINGPUR**

" FOURIER SERIES"

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By

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**** FOURIER SERIES ****

Introduction: In many physical and engineering problems, particularly those connected with vibration and conduction of heat, it is more useful to be able to express a real valued function in series of sines and cosines. Most of the single valued periodic functions which occur in applied mathematics can be expressed in the form

$$\begin{aligned} & \frac{a_0}{2} + a_1 \cos x + a_2 \cos 2x + \dots + a_n \cos nx + \dots + \\ & \quad + b_1 \sin x + b_2 \sin 2x + \dots + b_n \sin nx + \dots \\ & = \frac{a_0}{2} + \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} a_n \cos nx + \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} b_n \sin nx \end{aligned}$$

is called the Fourier series, where

$a_0, a_1, a_2, \dots, a_n, \dots, b_1, b_2, \dots, b_n, \dots$ are constants.

** USEFUL INTEGRALS **

The following integrals are useful in Fourier Series.

$$(i) \int_0^{2\pi} \sin nx dx = 0,$$

$$(ii) \int_0^{2\pi} \cos nx dx = 0,$$

$$(iii) \int_0^{2\pi} \sin^2 nx dx = \pi,$$

$$(iv) \int_0^{2\pi} \cos^2 nx dx = \pi,$$

$$(v) \int_0^{2\pi} \sin nx \cdot \sin mx dx = 0,$$

$$(vi) \int_0^{2\pi} \cos nx \cdot \cos mx dx = 0,$$

$$(vii) \int_0^{2\pi} \sin nx \cdot \cos mx dx = 0,$$

$$(viii) \int_0^{2\pi} \sin nx \cdot \cos nx dx = 0,$$

$$(ix) \sin n\pi = 0, \quad \cos n\pi = (-1)^n \quad \text{where } n \in I$$

$$(x) \int uv dx = uv_1 - u'v_2 + u''v_3 - u'''v_4 + \dots$$

$$(xi) \int e^{ax} \sin bx dx = \frac{e^{ax}}{a^2 + b^2} (a \sin bx - b \cos bx)$$

$$(xii) \int e^{ax} \cos bx dx = \frac{e^{ax}}{a^2 + b^2} (a \cos bx + b \sin bx)$$

Determination of Fourier Coefficients: (Euler's Formulae)

Let

$$f(x) = \frac{a_0}{2} + a_1 \cos x + a_2 \cos 2x + \dots + a_n \cos nx + \dots + b_1 \sin x + b_2 \sin 2x + \dots + b_n \sin nx + \dots \quad (1)$$

(i) **To find a_0** : Integrate both sides of (1) from $x = \alpha$ to $x = \alpha + 2\pi$

$$\begin{aligned} \int_{\alpha}^{\alpha+2\pi} f(x) dx &= \frac{a_0}{2} \int_{\alpha}^{\alpha+2\pi} dx + a_1 \int_{\alpha}^{\alpha+2\pi} \cos x dx + \\ &+ a_2 \int_{\alpha}^{\alpha+2\pi} \cos 2x dx + \dots + a_n \int_{\alpha}^{\alpha+2\pi} \cos nx dx + \dots + \\ &+ b_1 \int_{\alpha}^{\alpha+2\pi} \sin x dx + b_2 \int_{\alpha}^{\alpha+2\pi} \sin 2x dx + \dots + \\ &+ b_n \int_{\alpha}^{\alpha+2\pi} \sin nx dx + \dots \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned}\int_{\alpha}^{\alpha+2\pi} f(x) dx &= \frac{a_0}{2} \int_{\alpha}^{\alpha+2\pi} dx \quad (\text{other int.} = 0 \text{ by (i) and (ii)}) \\ &= \frac{a_0}{2} 2\pi \quad \Rightarrow a_0 = \frac{1}{\pi} \int_{\alpha}^{\alpha+2\pi} f(x) dx\end{aligned}$$

To find a_n : multiply each side of (1) by $\cos nx$ and integrate from $x = \alpha$ to $x = \alpha + 2\pi$

$$\begin{aligned}\int_{\alpha}^{\alpha+2\pi} f(x) \cos nx dx &= \frac{a_0}{2} \int_{\alpha}^{\alpha+2\pi} \cos nx dx + a_1 \int_{\alpha}^{\alpha+2\pi} \cos nx \cos x dx + \\ &+ a_2 \int_{\alpha}^{\alpha+2\pi} \cos nx \cos 2x dx + \dots + a_n \int_{\alpha}^{\alpha+2\pi} \cos^2 nx dx + \dots + \\ &+ b_1 \int_{\alpha}^{\alpha+2\pi} \cos nx \sin x dx + b_2 \int_{\alpha}^{\alpha+2\pi} \cos nx \sin 2x dx + \dots + \\ &+ b_n \int_{\alpha}^{\alpha+2\pi} \cos nx \sin nx dx + \dots\end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned}
 \int_{\alpha}^{\alpha+2\pi} f(x) \cos nx dx &= a_n \int_{\alpha}^{\alpha+2\pi} \cos^2 nx dx \\
 &= a_n \pi \quad (\text{other int.} = 0 \text{ by above formulae}) \\
 \therefore a_n &= \frac{1}{\pi} \int_{\alpha}^{\alpha+2\pi} f(x) \cos nx dx
 \end{aligned}$$

By taking $n = 1, 2, 3, \dots$ we can find the values of $a_1, a_2, \dots$

To find b_n : multiply each side of (1) by $\sin nx$ and integrate from $x = \alpha$ to $x = \alpha + 2\pi$

$$\begin{aligned}
 \int_{\alpha}^{\alpha+2\pi} f(x) \sin nx dx &= \frac{a_0}{2} \int_{\alpha}^{\alpha+2\pi} \sin nx dx + a_1 \int_{\alpha}^{\alpha+2\pi} \sin nx \cos x dx + \\
 &+ a_2 \int_{\alpha}^{\alpha+2\pi} \sin nx \cos 2x dx + \dots + a_n \int_{\alpha}^{\alpha+2\pi} \sin nx \cos nx dx + \dots + \\
 &+ b_1 \int_{\alpha}^{\alpha+2\pi} \sin nx \sin x dx + b_2 \int_{\alpha}^{\alpha+2\pi} \sin nx \sin 2x dx + \dots + \\
 &+ b_n \int_{\alpha}^{\alpha+2\pi} \sin^2 nx dx + \dots
 \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned}
 \int_{\alpha}^{\alpha+2\pi} f(x) \sin nx dx &= b_n \int_{\alpha}^{\alpha+2\pi} \sin^2 nx dx \\
 &= b_n \pi \quad (\text{other int.}=0 \text{ by above formulae}) \\
 \therefore b_n &= \frac{1}{\pi} \int_{\alpha}^{\alpha+2\pi} f(x) \sin nx dx
 \end{aligned}$$

By taking $n = 1, 2, 3, \dots$ we can find the values of $b_1, b_2, \dots$

Corol 1. When $\alpha = 0$, the interval becomes $0 \leq x \leq 2\pi$ and above formulae becomes

$$\begin{aligned}
 a_0 &= \frac{1}{\pi} \int_0^{2\pi} f(x) dx \\
 a_n &= \frac{1}{\pi} \int_0^{2\pi} f(x) \cos nx dx \\
 b_n &= \frac{1}{\pi} \int_0^{2\pi} f(x) \sin nx dx
 \end{aligned}$$

Corol 2.:

When $\alpha = -\pi$, the interval becomes $-\pi \leq x \leq \pi$ and above formulae becomes

$$\begin{aligned}a_0 &= \frac{1}{\pi} \int_{-\pi}^{\pi} f(x) dx \\a_n &= \frac{1}{\pi} \int_{-\pi}^{\pi} f(x) \cos nx dx \\b_n &= \frac{1}{\pi} \int_{-\pi}^{\pi} f(x) \sin nx dx\end{aligned}\tag{A}$$

Fourier Series in Change of Interval:

$$\begin{aligned}f(x) &= \frac{a_0}{2} + a_1 \cos\left(\frac{\pi x}{c}\right) + a_2 \cos\left(\frac{2\pi x}{c}\right) + \dots + a_n \cos\left(\frac{n\pi x}{c}\right) + \dots + \\&\quad + b_1 \sin\left(\frac{\pi x}{c}\right) + b_2 \sin\left(\frac{2\pi x}{c}\right) + \dots + b_n \sin\left(\frac{n\pi x}{c}\right) + \dots\end{aligned}\tag{1}$$

(i) **To find a_0** : Integrate both sides of (1) from $x = \alpha$ to $x = \alpha + 2c$

$$\begin{aligned} \int_{\alpha}^{\alpha+2c} f(x) dx &= \frac{a_0}{2} \int_{\alpha}^{\alpha+2c} dx + a_1 \int_{\alpha}^{\alpha+2c} \cos\left(\frac{\pi x}{c}\right) dx + \\ &+ a_2 \int_{\alpha}^{\alpha+2c} \cos\left(\frac{2\pi x}{c}\right) dx + \dots + a_n \int_{\alpha}^{\alpha+2c} \cos\left(\frac{n\pi x}{c}\right) dx + \\ &+ \dots + b_1 \int_{\alpha}^{\alpha+2c} \sin\left(\frac{\pi x}{c}\right) dx + b_2 \int_{\alpha}^{\alpha+2c} \sin\left(\frac{2\pi x}{c}\right) dx + \\ &+ \dots + b_n \int_{\alpha}^{\alpha+2c} \sin\left(\frac{n\pi x}{c}\right) dx + \dots \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned} \int_{\alpha}^{\alpha+2c} f(x) dx &= \frac{a_0}{2} \int_{\alpha}^{\alpha+2c} dx \quad (\text{other int.} = 0 \text{ by (i) and (ii)}) \\ &= \frac{a_0}{2} 2c \quad \Rightarrow a_0 = \frac{1}{c} \int_{\alpha}^{\alpha+2c} f(x) dx \end{aligned}$$

To find a_n :

multiply each side of (1) by $\cos(\frac{n\pi x}{c})$ and integrate from $x = \alpha$ to $x = \alpha + 2c$

$$\begin{aligned}\int_{\alpha}^{\alpha+2c} f(x) \cos\left(\frac{n\pi x}{c}\right) dx &= \frac{a_0}{2} \int_{\alpha}^{\alpha+2c} \cos\left(\frac{\pi x}{c}\right) dx + \\ &+ a_1 \int_{\alpha}^{\alpha+2c} \cos\left(\frac{n\pi x}{c}\right) \cos\left(\frac{\pi x}{c}\right) dx + \\ &+ a_2 \int_{\alpha}^{\alpha+2c} \cos\left(\frac{n\pi x}{c}\right) \cos\left(\frac{2\pi x}{c}\right) dx + \dots + \\ &+ a_n \int_{\alpha}^{\alpha+2c} \cos^2\left(\frac{n\pi x}{c}\right) dx + \dots + \\ &+ b_1 \int_{\alpha}^{\alpha+2c} \cos\left(\frac{n\pi x}{c}\right) \sin\left(\frac{\pi x}{c}\right) dx + \\ &+ b_2 \int_{\alpha}^{\alpha+2c} \cos\left(\frac{n\pi x}{c}\right) \sin\left(\frac{2\pi x}{c}\right) dx + \dots + \\ &+ b_n \int_{\alpha}^{\alpha+2c} \cos\left(\frac{n\pi x}{c}\right) \sin\left(\frac{n\pi x}{c}\right) dx + \dots\end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned}
 \int_{\alpha}^{\alpha+2c} f(x) \cos\left(\frac{n\pi x}{c}\right) dx &= a_n \int_{\alpha}^{\alpha+2c} \cos^2\left(\frac{n\pi x}{c}\right) dx \\
 &= a_n c \quad (\text{other int.} = 0 \text{ by above formulae}) \\
 \therefore a_n &= \frac{1}{c} \int_{\alpha}^{\alpha+2c} f(x) \cos\left(\frac{n\pi x}{c}\right) dx
 \end{aligned}$$

To find b_n : multiply each side of (1) by $\sin\left(\frac{n\pi x}{c}\right)$ and integrate from $x = \alpha$ to $x = \alpha + 2c$

$$\begin{aligned}
 \int_{\alpha}^{\alpha+2c} f(x) \sin\left(\frac{n\pi x}{c}\right) dx &= \frac{a_0}{2} \int_{\alpha}^{\alpha+2c} \sin\left(\frac{n\pi x}{c}\right) dx + \\
 &+ a_1 \int_{\alpha}^{\alpha+2c} \sin\left(\frac{n\pi x}{c}\right) \cos\left(\frac{\pi x}{c}\right) dx +
 \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned}
& + a_2 \int_{\alpha}^{\alpha+2c} \sin\left(\frac{n\pi x}{c}\right) \cos\left(\frac{2\pi x}{c}\right) dx + \dots + \\
& + a_n \int_{\alpha}^{\alpha+2c} \sin\left(\frac{n\pi x}{c}\right) \cos\left(\frac{n\pi x}{c}\right) dx + \dots + \\
& + b_1 \int_{\alpha}^{\alpha+2c} \sin\left(\frac{n\pi x}{c}\right) \sin\left(\frac{\pi x}{c}\right) dx + \\
& + b_2 \int_{\alpha}^{\alpha+2c} \sin\left(\frac{n\pi x}{c}\right) \sin\left(\frac{2\pi x}{c}\right) dx + \dots + \\
& + b_n \int_{\alpha}^{\alpha+2c} \sin^2\left(\frac{n\pi x}{c}\right) dx + \dots
\end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned}
\int_{\alpha}^{\alpha+2c} f(x) \sin\left(\frac{n\pi x}{c}\right) dx &= b_n \int_{\alpha}^{\alpha+2c} \sin^2\left(\frac{n\pi x}{c}\right) dx \\
&= b_n c \quad (\text{other int.} = 0 \text{ by above formulae})
\end{aligned}$$

$$\therefore b_n = \frac{1}{c} \int_{\alpha}^{\alpha+2c} f(x) \sin\left(\frac{n\pi x}{c}\right) dx$$

Corol. 1:

When $\alpha = 0$, the interval becomes $0 \leq x \leq 2c$ and above formulae becomes

$$a_0 = \frac{1}{c} \int_0^{2c} f(x) dx$$

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

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

Corol. 2: When $\alpha = -c$, the interval becomes $-c \leq x \leq c$ and above formulae becomes

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

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

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

Even and Odd Functions:

When $f(x)$ possesses certain symmetrical properties about origin, the determination of coefficients in its Fourier expansion becomes quite simple.

For the function $f(x)$ to be odd or even, it must be defined in an interval, where origin is the mid-point of the interval i. e. $f(x)$ must have interval $-\pi < x < \pi$.

Even Function: $f(x)$ is said to be an even function in $-\pi < x < \pi$, if $f(-x) = f(x)$.

Thus functions x^2 , $\cos x$, $x \sin x$ are even functions in $-\pi < x < \pi$.

Graphically an even function is symmetric about y-axis. Thus for even function $f(x)$ defined in the interval $-\pi \leq x \leq \pi$, the Fourier coefficients a_0 , a_n , b_n given in (A) are reduced as follows.

$$\begin{aligned} a_0 &= \frac{1}{\pi} \int_{-\pi}^{\pi} f(x) dx \\ &= \frac{1}{\pi} \left[\int_0^{\pi} f(x) dx + \int_0^{\pi} f(-x) dx \right] \quad (\text{Since by integral theorem}) \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned}
 a_0 &= \frac{1}{\pi} \left[\int_0^{\pi} f(x) dx + \int_0^{\pi} f(x) dx \right] \quad (\text{Since } f(-x) = f(x)) \\
 &= \frac{2}{\pi} \int_0^{\pi} f(x) dx
 \end{aligned}$$

and

$$\begin{aligned}
 a_n &= \frac{1}{\pi} \int_{-\pi}^{\pi} f(x) \cos nx dx \\
 &= \frac{1}{\pi} \left[\int_0^{\pi} f(x) \cos nx dx + \int_0^{\pi} f(-x) \cos n(-x) dx \right] \quad (\text{Since by int. theore}) \\
 &= \frac{1}{\pi} \left[\int_0^{\pi} f(x) \cos nx dx + \int_0^{\pi} f(x) \cos nx dx \right] \quad (\text{Since } f(-x) = f(x)) \\
 &= \frac{2}{\pi} \int_0^{\pi} f(x) \cos nx dx
 \end{aligned}$$

Similarly,

$$\begin{aligned}
 b_n &= \frac{1}{\pi} \int_{-\pi}^{\pi} f(x) \sin nx dx \\
 &= \frac{1}{\pi} \left[\int_0^{\pi} f(x) \sin nx dx + \int_0^{\pi} f(-x) \sin n(-x) dx \right] \quad (\text{Since by int. theorem}) \\
 &= \frac{1}{\pi} \left[\int_0^{\pi} f(x) \sin nx dx - \int_0^{\pi} f(x) \sin nx dx \right] \quad (\text{Since } f(-x) = -f(x)) \\
 &= 0
 \end{aligned}$$

Odd Function: $f(x)$ is said to be an odd function in $-\pi < x < \pi$, if $f(-x) = -f(x)$. Thus functions x^3 , $\sin x$, $x^2 \sin x$ etc are odd functions in $-\pi < x < \pi$. Graphically an odd function is symmetric about origin. Thus for odd function $f(x)$ defined in the interval $-\pi \leq x \leq \pi$, the Fourier coefficients a_0, a_n, b_n given in (A) are reduced as follows.

$$\begin{aligned}
 a_0 &= \frac{1}{\pi} \int_{-\pi}^{\pi} f(x) dx \\
 &= \frac{1}{\pi} \left[\int_0^{\pi} f(x) dx + \int_0^{\pi} f(-x) dx \right] \quad (\text{Since by integral theorem})
 \end{aligned}$$

$$a_0 = \frac{1}{\pi} \left[\int_0^{\pi} f(x) dx - \int_0^{\pi} f(x) dx \right] \quad (\text{Since } f(-x) = -f(x))$$

$$= 0$$

and

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

$$= \frac{1}{\pi} \left[\int_0^{\pi} f(x) \cos nx dx + \int_0^{\pi} f(-x) \cos n(-x) dx \right] \quad (\text{Since by int. theore})$$

$$= \frac{1}{\pi} \left[\int_0^{\pi} f(x) \cos nx dx - \int_0^{\pi} f(x) \cos nx dx \right] \quad (\text{Since } f(-x) = -f(x))$$

$$= 0$$

Similarly,

$$\begin{aligned}
 b_n &= \frac{1}{\pi} \int_{-\pi}^{\pi} f(x) \sin nx dx \\
 &= \frac{1}{\pi} \left[\int_0^{\pi} f(x) \sin nx dx + \int_0^{\pi} f(-x) \sin n(-x) dx \right] \quad (\text{Since by int. theorem}) \\
 &= \frac{1}{\pi} \left[\int_0^{\pi} f(x) \sin nx dx + \int_0^{\pi} f(x) \sin nx dx \right] \quad (\text{Since } f(-x) = -f(x)) \\
 &= \frac{2}{\pi} \int_0^{\pi} f(x) \sin x dx
 \end{aligned}$$

Fourier series for Discontinuous functions: Let the function $f(x)$ be defined by

$$\begin{aligned}
 f(x) &= f_1(x), & \alpha < x < x_0 \\
 &= f_2(x), & x_0 < x < \alpha + 2\pi
 \end{aligned}$$

where x_0 is the point of discontinuity in the interval $(\alpha, \alpha + 2\pi)$

In such cases also, we obtain the Fourier series for $f(x)$ in the usual way. The values of a_0 , a_n , b_n are evaluated by

$$\begin{aligned}a_0 &= \frac{1}{\pi} \left[\int_{\alpha}^{x_0} f_1(x) dx + \int_{x_0}^{\alpha+2\pi} f_2(x) dx \right] \\a_n &= \frac{1}{\pi} \left[\int_{\alpha}^{x_0} f_1(x) \cos nx dx + \int_{x_0}^{\alpha+2\pi} f_2(x) \cos nx dx \right] \\b_n &= \frac{1}{\pi} \left[\int_{\alpha}^{x_0} f_1(x) \sin nx dx + \int_{x_0}^{\alpha+2\pi} f_2(x) \sin nx dx \right]\end{aligned}$$

If $x = x_0$ is the point of finite discontinuity, then the sum of the Fourier series

$$\begin{aligned}&= \frac{1}{2} \left[\lim_{h \rightarrow 0} f(x_0 - h) + \lim_{h \rightarrow 0} f(x_0 + h) \right] \\&= \frac{1}{2} [f(x_0 - 0) + f(x_0 + 0)]\end{aligned}$$

Sine Series:

If it be required to expand $f(x)$ as a sine series in $0 < x < c$; then we extend the function reflecting it in the origin, so that $f(-x) = -f(x)$.

Then the extended function is odd in $(-c, c)$ and the expansion will give the desired Fourier sine series:

$$f(x) = \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} b_n \sin \frac{n\pi x}{c}$$

where

$$b_n = \frac{2}{c} \int_0^c f(x) \sin \frac{n\pi x}{c} dx$$

Cosine Series:

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

where

$$a_0 = \frac{2}{c} \int_0^c f(x) dx, \quad a_n = \frac{2}{c} \int_0^c f(x) \cos \frac{n\pi x}{c} dx.$$

Ex. 1.

Find Fourier series for the function $f(x) = \frac{(\pi-x)^2}{4}$, $0 < x < 2\pi$.

Solution: Let

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

where

$$\begin{aligned} a_0 &= \frac{1}{\pi} \int_0^{2\pi} f(x) dx, \\ &= \frac{1}{\pi} \int_0^{2\pi} \frac{(\pi-x)^2}{4} dx, \\ &= \frac{\pi^2}{6}. \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned} a_n &= \frac{1}{\pi} \int_0^{2\pi} f(x) \cos nx dx, \\ &= \frac{1}{\pi} \int_0^{2\pi} \frac{(\pi-x)^2}{4} \cos nx dx, \end{aligned}$$

$$= \frac{1}{4\pi} \int_0^{2\pi} (\pi - x)^2 \cos nx dx ,$$

$$= \frac{1}{4\pi} \left[(\pi - x)^2 \cdot \left(\frac{\sin nx}{n} \right) - 2(\pi - x)(-1) \left(\frac{-\cos nx}{n^2} \right) + (-2) \left(\frac{-\sin nx}{n^3} \right) \right]_0^{2\pi} ,$$

$$= \frac{1}{4\pi} \left[\frac{2\pi}{n^2} + \frac{2\pi}{n^2} \right] ,$$

$$= \frac{1}{n^2}$$

$$b_n = \frac{1}{\pi} \int_0^{2\pi} f(x) \sin nx dx ,$$

$$= \frac{1}{\pi} \int_0^{2\pi} \frac{(\pi - x)^2}{4} \sin nx dx ,$$

$$= \frac{1}{4\pi} \int_0^{2\pi} (\pi - x)^2 \sin nx dx ,$$

$$= \frac{1}{4\pi} \left[(\pi - x)^2 \cdot \left(\frac{-\cos nx}{n} \right) - 2(\pi - x)(-1) \left(\frac{-\sin nx}{n^2} \right) + (-2) \left(\frac{\cos nx}{n^3} \right) \right]$$

$$=0$$

Putting the values of a_0 , a_n and b_n in series (1), we obtain required Fourier series as

$$f(x) = \frac{\pi^2}{12} + \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{\cos nx}{n^2}$$

Ex. 2 Obtain the Fourier series for $f(x) = e^{-x}$ in the interval $0 < x < 2\pi$.

Solution: Let

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

where

$$a_0 = \frac{1}{\pi} \int_0^{2\pi} f(x) dx = \frac{1}{\pi} \int_0^{2\pi} e^{-x} dx$$

$$\therefore a_0 = \frac{1}{\pi} \left[\frac{e^{-x}}{-1} \right]_0^{2\pi} = \frac{1 - e^{-2\pi}}{\pi} ,$$

$$a_n = \frac{1}{\pi} \int_0^{2\pi} f(x) \cos nx dx = \frac{1}{\pi} \int_0^{2\pi} e^{-x} \cos nx dx ,$$

$$= \frac{1}{\pi(n^2 + 1)} \left[e^{-x} (-\cos nx + n \sin nx) \right]_0^{2\pi} ,$$

$$= \left(\frac{1 - e^{-2\pi}}{\pi} \right) \cdot \frac{1}{n^2 + 1} .$$

$$b_n = \frac{1}{\pi} \int_0^{2\pi} f(x) \sin nx dx = \frac{1}{\pi} \int_0^{2\pi} e^{-x} \sin nx dx ,$$

$$= \frac{1}{\pi(n^2 + 1)} \left[e^{-x} (-\sin nx - n \cos nx) \right]_0^{2\pi} ,$$

$$= \left(\frac{1 - e^{-2\pi}}{\pi} \right) \cdot \frac{n}{n^2 + 1} .$$

Putting values of a_0 , a_n and b_n in (1), we get

$$e^{-x} = \frac{1 - e^{-2\pi}}{\pi} \left\{ \frac{1}{2} + \left(\frac{1}{2} \cos x + \frac{1}{5} \cos 2x + \frac{1}{10} \cos 3x + \dots \right) + \right. \\ \left. + \left(\frac{1}{2} \sin x + \frac{2}{5} \sin 2x + \frac{3}{10} \sin 3x + \dots \right) \right\}.$$

Ex. 3 Find a Fourier series to represent $x - x^2$ from $x = -\pi$ to $x = \pi$.

Solution: Let

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

where

$$a_0 = \frac{1}{\pi} \int_{-\pi}^{\pi} (x - x^2) dx = \frac{1}{\pi} \left[\frac{x^2}{2} - \frac{x^3}{3} \right]_{-\pi}^{\pi} = -\frac{2\pi^2}{3}.$$

$$\begin{aligned}
 a_n &= \frac{1}{\pi} \int_{-\pi}^{\pi} (x - x^2) \cos nx \, dx, \\
 &= \frac{1}{\pi} \left[(x - x^2) \frac{\sin nx}{n} - (1 - 2x) \cdot \left(-\frac{\cos nx}{n^2} \right) + (-2) \cdot \left(-\frac{\sin nx}{n^3} \right) \right]_{-\pi}^{\pi} \\
 &= -\frac{4(-1)^n}{n^2}, \\
 b_n &= \frac{1}{\pi} \int_{-\pi}^{\pi} (x - x^2) \sin nx \, dx, \\
 &= \frac{1}{\pi} \left[(x - x^2) \frac{(-\cos nx)}{n} - (1 - 2x) \cdot \left(-\frac{\sin nx}{n^2} \right) + (-2) \cdot \left(-\frac{\cos nx}{n^3} \right) \right]_{-\pi}^{\pi} \\
 &= -\frac{2(-1)^n}{n},
 \end{aligned}$$

Putting values of a_0 , a_n and b_n in (1), we get

$$x - x^2 = -\frac{\pi^2}{3} + 4 \left[\frac{\cos x}{1^2} - \frac{\cos 2x}{2^2} + \frac{\cos 3x}{3^2} - \frac{\cos 4x}{4^2} + \dots \right] +$$

$$+2\left[\frac{\sin x}{1} - \frac{\sin 2x}{2} + \frac{\sin 3x}{3} - \frac{\sin 4x}{4} + \dots\right].$$

Ex. 4 Expand $f(x) = x \sin x$ as a Fourier series in $[0, 2\pi]$.

Solution: Let

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

where

$$a_0 = \frac{1}{\pi} \int_0^{2\pi} x \sin x dx = \frac{1}{\pi} \left[x(-\cos x) - 1 \cdot (-\sin x) \right]_0^{2\pi} = -2,$$

$$\begin{aligned} a_n &= \frac{1}{\pi} \int_0^{2\pi} x \sin x \cos nx dx = \frac{1}{2\pi} \int_0^{2\pi} x (2 \cos nx \sin x) dx \\ &= \frac{1}{2\pi} \int_0^{2\pi} x [\sin(n+1)x - \sin(n-1)x] dx \\ &= \frac{1}{2\pi} \left[x \left\{ \frac{-\cos(n+1)x}{n+1} + \frac{\cos(n-1)x}{n-1} \right\} - \right] \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned}
& + \left[-1 \left\{ \frac{-\sin(n+1)x}{(n+1)^2} + \frac{\sin(n-1)x}{(n-1)^2} \right\} \right]_0^{2\pi}, \\
& = \frac{1}{2\pi} \left[2\pi \left\{ -\frac{\cos 2(n+1)\pi}{n+1} + \frac{\cos 2(n-1)\pi}{n-1} \right\} \right] = \frac{2}{n^2 - 1} \quad (n \neq 1).
\end{aligned}$$

when $n = 1$,

$$\begin{aligned}
a_1 &= \frac{1}{\pi} \int_0^{2\pi} x \sin x \cos x dx = \frac{1}{2\pi} \int_0^{2\pi} x \sin 2x dx \\
&= \left[x \left(\frac{-\cos 2x}{2} \right) - 1 \cdot \left(\frac{-\sin 2x}{4} \right) \right]_0^{2\pi} = -\frac{1}{2}. \\
b_n &= \frac{1}{\pi} \int_0^{2\pi} x \sin x \sin nx dx = \frac{1}{2\pi} \int_0^{2\pi} x (2 \sin x \sin nx) dx \\
&= \frac{1}{2\pi} \int_0^{2\pi} x [\cos(n-1)x - \cos(n+1)x] dx
\end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned}
 b_n &= \frac{1}{2\pi} \left[x \left\{ \frac{\sin(n-1)x}{n-1} + \frac{\sin(n+1)x}{n+1} \right\} - \right. \\
 &\quad \left. - 1 \left\{ \frac{-\cos(n-1)x}{(n-1)^2} + \frac{\cos(n+1)x}{(n+1)^2} \right\} \right]_0^{2\pi}, \\
 &= \frac{1}{2\pi} \left[\left\{ \frac{\cos 2(n-1)\pi}{(n-1)^2} - \frac{\cos 2(n+1)\pi}{(n+1)^2} - \frac{1}{(n-1)^2} + \frac{1}{(n+1)^2} \right\} \right] \\
 &= 0 \quad (n \neq 1).
 \end{aligned}$$

when $n = 1$,

$$\begin{aligned}
 b_1 &= \frac{1}{\pi} \int_0^{2\pi} x \sin x \sin x dx = \frac{1}{2\pi} \int_0^{2\pi} x(1 - \cos 2x) dx \\
 &= \left[x \left(x - \frac{\sin 2x}{2} \right) - 1 \cdot \left(\frac{x^2}{2} + \frac{\cos 2x}{4} \right) \right]_0^{2\pi} = \pi
 \end{aligned}$$

Substituting the values of a 's and b 's in (1), we get

$$x \sin x = -1 + \pi \sin x - \frac{1}{2} \cos x + \frac{2}{2^2 - 1} \cos 2x + \frac{2}{3^2 - 1} \cos 3x + \dots$$

Ex. 5 Find the Fourier series expansion of $f(x) = 2x - x^2$ in $(0, 3)$ and hence deduce that

$$\frac{1}{1^2} - \frac{1}{2^2} + \frac{1}{3^2} - \frac{1}{4^2} + \dots - \infty = \frac{\pi^2}{12}$$

Solution: Let

$$f(x) = \frac{a_0}{2} + \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} a_n \cos \frac{n\pi x}{c} + \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} b_n \sin \frac{n\pi x}{c}, \text{ where } 2c = 3. \quad (1)$$

where

$$a_0 = \frac{1}{c} \int_0^{2c} f(x) dx = \frac{2}{3} \int_0^3 (x - x^2) dx = \frac{2}{3} \left[x^2 - \frac{x^3}{3} \right]_0^3 = 0$$

$$\begin{aligned}
 a_n &= \frac{1}{c} \int_0^{2c} f(x) \cos \frac{n\pi x}{c} dx = \frac{2}{3} \int_0^3 (2x - x^2) \cos \frac{2n\pi x}{3} dx \\
 &= \frac{2}{3} \left[(2x - x^2) \frac{\sin 2n\pi x/3}{2n\pi/3} - (2 - 2x) \left(-\frac{\cos 2n\pi x/3}{(2n\pi/3)^2} \right) + \right. \\
 &\quad \left. + (-2) \left(-\frac{\sin 2n\pi x/3}{(2n\pi/3)^3} \right) \right]_0^3 = -\frac{9}{n^2 \pi^2},
 \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned}
 b_n &= \frac{1}{c} \int_0^{2c} f(x) \sin \frac{n\pi x}{c} dx = \frac{2}{3} \int_0^3 (2x - x^2) \sin \frac{2n\pi x}{3} dx \\
 &= \frac{2}{3} \left[(2x - x^2) \frac{-\cos 2n\pi x/3}{2n\pi/3} - (2 - 2x) \left(-\frac{\sin 2n\pi x/3}{(2n\pi/3)^2} \right) + \right. \\
 &\quad \left. + (-2) \left(\frac{\cos 2n\pi x/3}{(2n\pi/3)^3} \right) \right]_0^3 = \frac{3}{n\pi},
 \end{aligned}$$

Substituting the values of a_0 , a_n , b_n in (1), we get

$$2x - x^2 = - \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{9}{n^2 \pi^2} \cos \frac{2n\pi x}{3} + \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{3}{n\pi} \sin \frac{2n\pi x}{3}$$

Putting $x = 3/2$, we get

$$3 - \frac{9}{4} = - \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{9}{n^2 \pi^2} \cos n\pi \quad \text{or} \quad - \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{\cos n\pi}{n^2} = \frac{\pi^2}{9} \cdot \frac{3}{4}$$

or

$$\frac{1}{1^2} - \frac{1}{2^2} + \frac{1}{3^2} - \frac{1}{4^2} + \dots = \frac{\pi^2}{12}.$$

Ex. 6 Find the Fourier series for

$$\begin{aligned} f(t) &= 0, & -2 < t < -1 \\ &= 1 + t, & -1 < t < 0 \\ &= 1 - t, & 0 < t < 1 \\ &= 0, & 1 < t < 2 \end{aligned}$$

Solution:

Let

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

where

$$\begin{aligned} a_0 &= \frac{1}{2} \int_{-2}^2 f(t) dt \\ &= \frac{1}{2} \left[\int_{-2}^{-1} 0 dt + \int_{-1}^0 (1+t) dt + \int_0^1 (1-t) dt + \int_1^2 0 dt \right] \\ &= \frac{1}{2} \left[\left(t + \frac{t^2}{2} \right)_{-1}^0 + \left(t - \frac{t^2}{2} \right)_0^1 \right] = \frac{1}{2} \\ a_n &= \frac{1}{2} \int_{-2}^2 f(t) \cos \frac{n\pi t}{2} dt \\ &= \frac{1}{2} \left[0 + \int_{-1}^0 (1+t) \cos \frac{n\pi t}{2} dt + \int_0^1 (1-t) \cos \frac{n\pi t}{2} dt + 0 \right] \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned}
a_n &= \frac{1}{2} \left\{ \left[(1+t) \left(\sin \frac{n\pi t}{2} \right) \cdot \frac{2}{n\pi} - (1) \left(-\cos \frac{n\pi t}{2} \right) \cdot \left(\frac{2}{n\pi} \right)^2 \right]_{-1}^0 + \right. \\
&\quad \left. + \left[(1-t) \left(\sin \frac{n\pi t}{2} \right) \cdot \frac{2}{n\pi} - (-1) \left(-\cos \frac{n\pi t}{2} \right) \cdot \left(\frac{2}{n\pi} \right)^2 \right]_0^1 \right\}, \\
&= \frac{1}{2} \left[\frac{4}{n^2 \pi^2} - \frac{4}{n^2 \pi^2} \cos \frac{n\pi}{2} - \frac{4}{n^2 \pi^2} \cos \frac{n\pi}{2} + \frac{4}{n^2 \pi^2} \right], \\
&= \frac{4}{n^2 \pi^2} \left(1 - \cos \frac{n\pi}{2} \right), \\
b_n &= \frac{1}{2} \int_{-2}^2 f(t) \sin \frac{n\pi t}{2} dt \\
&= \frac{1}{2} \left[0 + \int_{-1}^0 (1+t) \sin \frac{n\pi t}{2} dt + \int_0^1 (1-t) \sin \frac{n\pi t}{2} dt + 0 \right]
\end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned}
 b_n &= \frac{1}{2} \left\{ \left[(1+t) \left(-\cos \frac{n\pi t}{2} \right) \cdot \frac{2}{n\pi} - (1) \left(-\sin \frac{n\pi t}{2} \right) \cdot \left(\frac{2}{n\pi} \right)^2 \right]_{-1}^0 + \right. \\
 &\quad \left. + \left[(1-t) \left(-\cos \frac{n\pi t}{2} \right) \cdot \frac{2}{n\pi} - (-1) \left(-\sin \frac{n\pi t}{2} \right) \cdot \left(\frac{2}{n\pi} \right)^2 \right]_0^1 \right\} , \\
 &= \frac{1}{2} \left[-\frac{2}{n\pi} + \frac{4}{n^2\pi^2} \sin \frac{n\pi}{2} - \frac{4}{n^2\pi^2} \sin \frac{n\pi}{2} + \frac{2}{n\pi} \right] , \\
 &= 0 ,
 \end{aligned}$$

Substituting the values of a 's and b 's in (1), we get

$$f(t) = \frac{1}{4} + \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{4}{n^2\pi^2} \left(1 - \cos \frac{n\pi}{2} \right) \cos \frac{n\pi t}{2} .$$

Ex. 7

Expand $f(x)$ as the Fourier series of sine terms.

$$\begin{aligned} f(x) &= \frac{1}{4} - x, \text{ if } 0 < x < \frac{1}{2} \\ &= x - \frac{3}{4}, \text{ if } \frac{1}{2} < x < 1. \end{aligned}$$

Solution: Let

$$f(x) = \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} b_n \sin \frac{n\pi x}{c} = \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} b_n \sin \frac{n\pi x}{1} \quad (1)$$

where

$$\begin{aligned} b_n &= \frac{2}{c} \int_0^c f(x) \sin \frac{n\pi x}{c} \\ &= \frac{2}{1} \left[\int_0^{1/2} \left(\frac{1}{4} - x \right) \sin \frac{n\pi x}{1} dx + \int_{1/2}^1 \left(x - \frac{3}{4} \right) \sin \frac{n\pi x}{1} dx \right] \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned}
b_n &= 2 \left[\left(\frac{1}{4} - x \right) \left(-\frac{\cos n\pi x}{n\pi} \right) - (-1) \left(-\frac{\sin n\pi x}{n^2 \pi^2} \right) \right]_0^{1/2} + \\
&\quad + 2 \left[\left(x - \frac{3}{4} \right) \left(-\frac{\cos n\pi x}{n\pi} \right) - (1) \left(-\frac{\sin n\pi x}{n^2 \pi^2} \right) \right]_{1/2}^1 \\
&= 2 \left[\frac{1}{4n\pi} \cos \frac{n\pi}{2} - \frac{1}{n^2 \pi^2} \sin \frac{n\pi}{2} + \frac{1}{4n\pi} \right] + \\
&\quad + 2 \left[-\frac{1}{4n\pi} \cos n\pi + 0 - \frac{1}{4n\pi} \cos \frac{n\pi}{2} - \frac{1}{n^2 \pi^2} \sin \frac{n\pi}{2} \right] \\
&= \frac{1}{2n\pi} [1 - (-1)^n] - 4 \frac{\sin n\pi / 2}{n^2 \pi^2} .
\end{aligned}$$

Hence

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

Ex. 8

Obtain a half range cosine series for

$$\begin{aligned}f(x) &= kx, 0 \leq x \leq l/2 \\ &= k(l - x), l/2 \leq x \leq l.\end{aligned}$$

Deduce the sum of the series

$$\frac{1}{1^2} + \frac{1}{3^2} + \frac{1}{5^2} + \dots \infty$$

Solution: Let

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

where

$$a_0 = \frac{2}{l} \int_0^l f(x) dx = \frac{2}{l} \left[\int_0^{l/2} kx dx + \int_{l/2}^l k(l - x) dx \right] = \frac{kl}{2}$$

$$\begin{aligned}
a_n &= \frac{2}{l} \left[\int_0^{l/2} kx \cos \frac{n\pi x}{l} dx + \int_{l/2}^l k(l-x) \cos \frac{n\pi x}{l} dx \right] \\
&= \frac{2k}{l} \left[x \left(\sin \frac{n\pi x}{l} \right) \cdot \left(\frac{l}{n\pi} \right) - (1) \left(-\cos \frac{n\pi x}{l} \right) \cdot \left(\frac{l^2}{n^2 \pi^2} \right) \right]_0^{l/2} + \\
&\quad + \frac{2k}{l} \left[(l-x) \left(\sin \frac{n\pi x}{l} \right) \cdot \left(\frac{l}{n\pi} \right) - (-1) \left(-\cos \frac{n\pi x}{l} \right) \cdot \left(\frac{l^2}{n^2 \pi^2} \right) \right]_{l/2}^l \\
&= \frac{2k}{l} \left[\frac{l^2}{2n\pi} \sin \frac{n\pi}{2} + \frac{l^2}{n^2 \pi^2} \cos \frac{n\pi}{2} - \frac{l^2}{n^2 \pi^2} \right] + \\
&\quad + \frac{2k}{l} \left[-\frac{l^2}{n^2 \pi^2} \cos n\pi - \frac{l^2}{2n\pi} \sin \frac{n\pi}{2} + \frac{l^2}{n^2 \pi^2} \cos \frac{n\pi}{2} \right] \\
&= \frac{2kl}{n^2 \pi^2} \left[2 \cos \frac{n\pi}{2} - 1 - (-1)^n \right]
\end{aligned}$$

Substituting values of a_0 and a_n in series (1), we get

$$f(x) = \frac{kl}{4} - \frac{8kl}{\pi^2} \left[\frac{1}{2^2} \cos \frac{2\pi x}{l} + \frac{1}{6^2} \cos \frac{6\pi x}{l} + \frac{1}{10^2} \cos \frac{10\pi x}{l} + \dots \right]$$

Putting $x = l$, we get

$$0 = \frac{kl}{4} - \frac{8kl}{\pi^2} \left[\frac{1}{2^2} + \frac{1}{6^2} + \frac{1}{10^2} + \dots \infty \right]$$

On simplifying, we get

$$\frac{1}{1^2} + \frac{1}{3^2} + \frac{1}{5^2} + \dots \infty = \frac{\pi^2}{8}$$

Some useful results:

$$2\sin A \cos B = \sin(A+B) + \sin(A-B), \quad 2\sin^2 x = 1 - \cos 2x$$

$$2\cos A \cos B = \cos(A+B) + \cos(A-B), \quad 2\cos^2 x = 1 + \cos 2x$$

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

THANK YOU