

Fourier Series.

Dirichlet's Conditions.

Any function $f(x)$ can be expanded as a Fourier series $\frac{a_0}{2} + \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} a_n \cos\left(\frac{n\pi x}{l}\right) + \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} b_n \sin\left(\frac{n\pi x}{l}\right)$

where a_0, a_n, b_n are constants, provided

- (i) $f(x)$ is periodic, single valued and finite
- (ii) $f(x)$ has finite number of discontinuities in any one period
- (iii) $f(x)$ has at most a finite number of maxima and minima

The conditions (i), (ii) & (iii) are known as Dirichlet's conditions.

The complete study of Fourier Series as per syllabus can be summarised according to the given intervals as

- (a) In the interval of form $(0, 2l)$
- (b) In the interval of form $[-l, l]$
- (c) In half-range

(a) In $(0, 2l)$

Let the period of the given finite $f(x)$ is $2l$ then its Fourier series expansion in $(0, 2l)$ is given by.

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

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

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

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

(b) In $(-l, l)$

(2)

The Fourier series of $f(x)$ with period $2l$ in $(-l, l)$ is

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

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

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

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

Note - In this case if $f(x)$ is odd then $a_0 = a_n = 0$ and if $f(x)$ is even then $b_n = 0$

(c) Half range series in $(0, l)$

(i) Half range Fourier cosine series in $(0, l)$

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

where $a_0 = \frac{2}{l} \int_0^l f(x) dx$

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

(ii) Half range Fourier sine series in $(0, l)$

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

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

Function having points of discontinuity

In general, to determine values of a_0 , a_n & b_n it was assumed that $f(x)$ is continuous, even the function which has finite number of points of finite discontinuity, is expressible as a Fourier series.

Suppose $f(x)$ has $x=c$ as point of discontinuity in $(0, 2l)$ and $f(x)$ is defined by

$$f(x) = \begin{cases} \phi(x) & 0 < x < c \\ \psi(x) & c < x < 2l \end{cases}$$

Then

$$a_0 = \frac{1}{l} \left[\int_0^c \phi(x) dx + \int_c^{2l} \psi(x) dx \right]$$

$$a_n = \frac{1}{l} \left[\int_0^c \phi(x) \cos\left(\frac{n\pi x}{l}\right) dx + \int_c^{2l} \psi(x) \cos\left(\frac{n\pi x}{l}\right) dx \right]$$

$$\text{and } b_n = \frac{1}{l} \left[\int_0^c \phi(x) \sin\left(\frac{n\pi x}{l}\right) dx + \int_c^{2l} \psi(x) \sin\left(\frac{n\pi x}{l}\right) dx \right]$$

and at the point of discontinuity i.e. at $x=c$ the value of $f(x)$ is the A.M. of left hand and right hand limits at $x=c$

$$\text{i.e. } f(c) = \frac{1}{2} [f(c+0) + f(c-0)]$$

Ex 1. Find the Fourier series of function

$$f(x) = \begin{cases} x & \text{for } 0 \leq x \leq \pi \\ 2\pi - x & \text{for } \pi \leq x \leq 2\pi \end{cases}$$

Soln. Here the given interval is $(0, 2\pi)$
So $l = \pi$ then the Fourier series of the given function

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

where $a_0 = \frac{1}{\pi} \int_0^{2\pi} f(x) dx = \frac{1}{\pi} \left[\int_0^{\pi} x dx + \int_{\pi}^{2\pi} (2\pi - x) dx \right]$

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

$$a_n = \frac{1}{\pi} \int_0^{2\pi} f(x) \cos nx dx = \frac{1}{\pi} \left[\int_0^{\pi} x \cos nx dx + \int_{\pi}^{2\pi} (2\pi - x) \cos nx dx \right]$$

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

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

$$= \frac{2}{\pi} \left[(\cos^n - 1) \right] = \begin{cases} -4/\pi^2 & \text{if } n \text{ is odd} \\ 0 & \text{if } n \text{ is even} \end{cases}$$

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

$$= \frac{1}{\pi} \left[\int_0^{\pi} x \sin nx dx + \int_{\pi}^{2\pi} (2\pi - x) \sin nx dx \right]$$

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

$$= 0$$