

Title: Complex Fourier Series

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Recall the Fourier Series definition discussed in the last post:

$$g(x) = c_0 + \sum_{n \neq 0} \frac{1}{L} \int_{-\frac{L}{2}}^{\frac{L}{2}} dt g(t) e^{2\pi i n \frac{x-t}{L}} \quad (1)$$

Now, define $h(x) = xg(x)$. Then integrate Equation 1 by parts:

$$\begin{aligned} g(x) = c_0 + \sum_{n \neq 0}^{(-\infty, \infty)} e^{2\pi i n \frac{x}{L}} g\left(\frac{L}{2}\right) \frac{\text{Ei}(-\pi i n)}{2} + g\left(-\frac{L}{2}\right) \frac{\text{Ei}(\pi i n)}{2} \\ - \sum_{n \neq 0}^{(-\infty, \infty)} \frac{e^{2\pi i n \frac{x}{L}}}{L} \int_{-\frac{L}{2}}^{\frac{L}{2}} dt h'(t) \text{Ei}\left(-2\pi i n \frac{t}{L}\right) \end{aligned} \quad (2)$$

It is true that a general real-valued function $g(x) = g_e(x) + g_o(x)$ can be written as a sum of even and odd functions. As well, a purely imaginary argument for the exponential integral can be written as $\text{Ei}(iz) = \text{ci}(z) + i\left(\text{si}(z) + \frac{\pi}{2}\right)$, where $\text{ci}(z) = -\int_z^\infty dt \frac{\cos(t)}{t}$ and $\text{si}(z) = -\int_z^\infty dt \frac{\sin(t)}{t}$ are the cosine and sine integrals, respectively. With these specifications, we get:

$$\begin{aligned} g(x) = c_0 + \sum_{n \neq 0}^{(-\infty, \infty)} e^{2\pi i n \frac{x}{L}} g_e\left(\frac{L}{2}\right) \text{ci}(\pi n) - i e^{2\pi i n \frac{x}{L}} g_o\left(\frac{L}{2}\right) \left(\text{si}(\pi n) + \frac{\pi}{2}\right) \\ - \sum_{n \neq 0}^{(-\infty, \infty)} e^{2\pi i n \frac{x}{L}} \int_{-\frac{L}{2}}^{\frac{L}{2}} dt h'(t) \left(\text{ci}\left(2\pi n \frac{t}{L}\right) + i \left(-\text{si}\left(2\pi n \frac{t}{L}\right) + \frac{\pi}{2} \right) \right) \end{aligned} \quad (3)$$

Now, the cosine and sine integrals have the following series expansions:

$$\begin{aligned} \text{ci}(z) &= \gamma + \ln(z) + \sum_{k=1}^{\infty} \frac{(-z^2)^k}{2k(2k)!} \\ \text{si}(z) &= \sum_{k=1}^{\infty} (-1)^{k-1} \frac{z^{2k-1}}{(2k-1)(2k-1)!} \end{aligned} \quad (4)$$

where γ is the Euler-Mascheroni constant. Now, splitting the integral term into even and odd

functions of h' , we get:

$$\begin{aligned}
g(x) = c_0 + & \sum_{n \neq 0}^{(-\infty, \infty)} e^{2\pi i n \frac{x}{L}} g_e\left(\frac{L}{2}\right) \text{ci}(\pi n) - i e^{2\pi i n \frac{x}{L}} g_o\left(\frac{L}{2}\right) \left(\text{si}(\pi n) + \frac{\pi}{2}\right) \\
& - \sum_{n \neq 0}^{(-\infty, \infty)} \frac{e^{2\pi i n \frac{x}{L}}}{L} \int_{-\frac{L}{2}}^{\frac{L}{2}} dt (g_e(t) + t g'_e(t)) \left(\text{ci}\left(2\pi n \frac{t}{L}\right) + i \frac{\pi}{2}\right) \\
& + \sum_{n \neq 0}^{(-\infty, \infty)} \frac{e^{2\pi i n \frac{x}{L}}}{L} \int_{-\frac{L}{2}}^{\frac{L}{2}} dt (g_o(t) + t g'_o(t)) \left(i \text{si}\left(2\pi n \frac{t}{L}\right) - \ln\left(2\pi n \frac{t}{L}\right)\right)
\end{aligned} \tag{5}$$

An important point is that $\ln(-x) = \ln(x) + i\pi$, making it even in real value but producing an additional imaginary value when $x < 0$. This makes the following calculation noteworthy:

$$\begin{aligned}
-\frac{1}{L} \int_{-\frac{L}{2}}^{\frac{L}{2}} dt (g_o(t) + t g'_o(t)) \ln\left(2\pi n \frac{t}{L}\right) &= -\frac{i\pi}{L} \int_{-\frac{L}{2}}^0 dt (g_o(t) + t g'_o(t)) \\
&= -\frac{i\pi}{2} g_o\left(-\frac{L}{2}\right) \\
&= \frac{i\pi}{2} g_o\left(\frac{L}{2}\right)
\end{aligned} \tag{6}$$

which cancels with the second term in the top line of Equation 5.

Now, we can calculate for some particular functions of $g(x)$. Let $g(x) = x$, and thus $c_0 = 0$, then we get:

$$\begin{aligned}
g(x) &= -i \sum_{n \neq 0}^{(-\infty, \infty)} e^{2\pi i n \frac{x}{L}} \frac{L}{2} \text{si}(\pi n) + \frac{e^{2\pi i n \frac{x}{L}}}{L} \int_{-\frac{L}{2}}^{\frac{L}{2}} dt 2ti \text{si}\left(2\pi n \frac{t}{L}\right) \\
&= -i \sum_{n \neq 0}^{(-\infty, \infty)} e^{2\pi i n \frac{x}{L}} \frac{L}{2} \text{si}(\pi n) + i e^{2\pi i n \frac{x}{L}} \frac{L}{2} \left(\frac{(-1)^n}{n\pi} + \text{si}(\pi n)\right) \\
&= \sum_{n \neq 0}^{(-\infty, \infty)} (-1)^n e^{2\pi i n \frac{x}{L}} \frac{iL}{2n\pi} \\
&= x
\end{aligned} \tag{7}$$

where the last line is derived from the appearance of the Fourier coefficient $c_n = (-1)^n \frac{iL}{2n\pi}$ which is characteristic of $g(x) = x$. So we get the expected result. Now, if we calculate the same for the particular value $g(x) = 1$, where $c_0 = 1$, we get:

$$\begin{aligned}
g(x) &= 1 + \sum_{n \neq 0}^{(-\infty, \infty)} e^{2\pi i n \frac{x}{L}} \text{ci}(\pi n) - \frac{e^{2\pi i n \frac{x}{L}}}{L} \int_{-\frac{L}{2}}^{\frac{L}{2}} dt \left(\text{ci}\left(2\pi n \frac{t}{L}\right) + i \frac{\pi}{2}\right) \\
&= 1 + \sum_{n \neq 0}^{(-\infty, \infty)} e^{2\pi i n \frac{x}{L}} \text{ci}(\pi n) - e^{2\pi i n \frac{x}{L}} \left(\text{ci}(\pi n) - \frac{\sin(\pi n)}{\pi n}\right) \\
&= 1
\end{aligned} \tag{8}$$

as expected. This concludes this blog post.