

# Fourier Series

Sajid Ali

SEECs-NUST

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# Idea

A powerful way of studying a given function in terms of small constituents that **share** the same properties, is done by the use of a series.

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$$\sin x = x - \frac{x^3}{3!} + \frac{x^5}{5!} - \dots$$

contains terms on the right which are all odd polynomials. Similarly cos –series comprise of all even polynomials.

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contains terms on the right which are all odd polynomials. Similarly cos –series comprise of all even polynomials.

Can we generalize this idea to incorporate functions that share other properties?

# Idea

In particular, we can ask the following question

What about functions that exhibit repetitive behavior?

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# Idea

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**What about functions that exhibit repetitive behavior?**

Such functions must be expressed in terms of fundamental functions that **share repetitive** behavior. We know that both **sin & cos** are functions that repeat themselves (periodic), therefore, it would be interesting to study a series that contains both of them.

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Such functions must be expressed in terms of fundamental functions that **share repetitive** behavior. We know that both **sin & cos** are functions that repeat themselves (periodic), therefore, it would be interesting to study a series that contains both of them.

Such a series is known as Fourier series, named after a French mathematician Joseph Fourier (1768-1830), who introduced it during his study of heat flow.

# Fourier Series

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1. A function can be studied in terms of small constituents sharing repetitive behavior.
2. A function can be divided into small oscillations.



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**Why is it important to divide any continuous or discontinuous function in terms of oscillations?**

To answer this ask yourself another question. How does your cell phone receive or send signals in any kind of transmission? The answer is that a communication takes place when both receiver and transmitter interact each other via basic oscillatory modes of particles.

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To answer this ask yourself another question. How does your cell phone receive or send signals in any kind of transmission? The answer is that a communication takes place when both receiver and transmitter interact each other via basic oscillatory modes of particles.

Your course "Signals and Systems" is also based on this simple idea !!!.

# Fundamental Modes

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$$\sin(x + 2\pi) = \sin(x), \quad \cos(x + 2\pi) = \cos(x)$$

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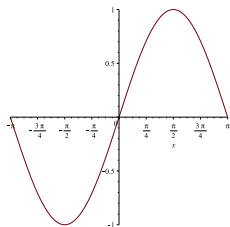
$$\sin(x + 2\pi) = \sin(x), \quad \cos(x + 2\pi) = \cos(x)$$

What are the periods of  $\sin(2x)$ ,  $\tan(x)$  and  $\cos(5x)$ ?

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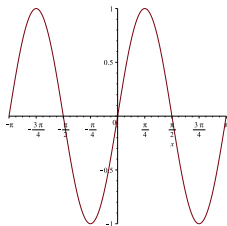
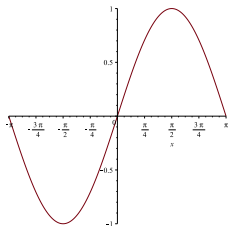
# Fundamental Modes

Graph of “ $\sin(x)$ ,  $\sin(2x)$ ,  $\sin(3x)$ ” function for different frequency modes in the interval  $[-\pi, \pi]$ .



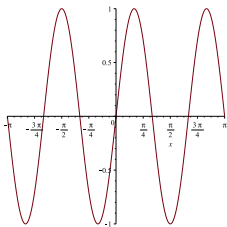
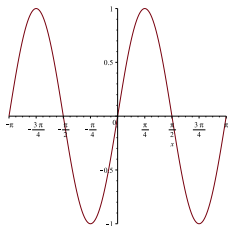
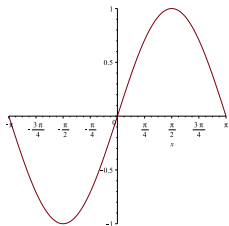
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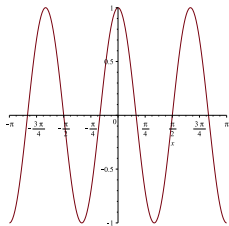
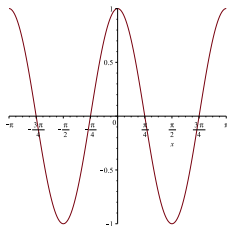
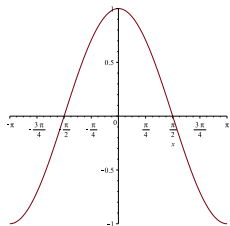
Graph of “ $\sin(x)$ ,  $\sin(2x)$ ,  $\sin(3x)$ ” function for different frequency modes in the interval  $[-\pi, \pi]$ .





# Fundamental Modes

Graph of “ $\cos(x)$ ,  $\cos(2x)$ ,  $\cos(3x)$ ” function for different frequency modes in the interval  $[-\pi, \pi]$ .



# Fourier Series

For a periodic function  $f(x)$  of period  $2L$ , the Fourier series is given in terms of harmonics

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# Fourier Series

For a periodic function  $f(x)$  of period  $2L$ , the Fourier series is given in terms of harmonics

$$\begin{aligned} f(x) &= a_0 + \underbrace{a_1 \sin kx + b_1 \cos kx}_{\text{first mode}} + \underbrace{a_2 \sin 2kx + b_2 \cos 2kx}_{\text{second mode}} + \dots \\ &= a_0 + \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} (a_n \sin(nkx) + b_n \cos(nkx)) \end{aligned}$$

where  $k = \pi/L$  and the coefficients are determined in three steps.

# Fourier Series

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$$= a_0 + \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} (a_n \sin(nkx) + b_n \cos(nkx))$$

where  $k = \pi/L$  and the coefficients are determined in three steps.

Step-1  $a_0 = \frac{1}{2L} \int_{-L}^L f(x) dx$

Step-2  $a_n = \frac{1}{L} \int_{-L}^L \sin(nkx) f(x) dx$

Step-3  $b_n = \frac{1}{L} \int_{-L}^L \cos(nkx) f(x) dx$

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# Fourier Series

## Clarification about $k$ .

Since the second term in Fourier series is  $\sin kx$  therefore its period is  $2\pi/k$  but the period of given function was  $2L$  therefore we must have

$$\frac{2\pi}{k} = 2L \quad \Rightarrow \quad k = \frac{\pi}{L}$$

# Fourier Series

For a periodic function  $f(x)$  of period  $2\pi$ , we get  $k = 1$  and the Fourier series becomes

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# Fourier Series

For a periodic function  $f(x)$  of period  $2\pi$ , we get  $k = 1$  and the Fourier series becomes

$$f(x) = a_0 + \underbrace{a_1 \sin x + b_1 \cos x}_{\text{first mode}} + \underbrace{a_2 \sin 2x + b_2 \cos 2x}_{\text{second mode}} + \dots$$

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

and the coefficients are determined in three steps.

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

Step-2  $a_n = \frac{1}{\pi} \int_{-\pi}^{\pi} \sin(nx) f(x) dx$

Step-3  $b_n = \frac{1}{\pi} \int_{-\pi}^{\pi} \cos(nx) f(x) dx$

# Fourier Series

Q: To which functions we can apply Fourier series?

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# Fourier Series

**Q:** To which functions we can apply Fourier series?

**Ans:** It can be applied to both continuous and discontinuous functions. However the convergence of a series at a particular point may or may not be equal to the value of the function at that point. For most functions arise in engineering problems this is not the case.

# Formulae

There are few formulae that you would need to remember.

$$1. \quad \sin(n\pi) = 0 = \cos\left((2n+1)\frac{\pi}{2}\right)$$

$$2. \quad \sin\left((2n+1)\frac{\pi}{2}\right) = (-1)^n = \cos(n\pi) \quad n = 0, 1, 2, \dots$$

$$3. \quad \text{For odd fn. } f(-x) = -f(x), \quad \int_{-L}^L \underbrace{f(x)}_{\text{odd}} dx = 0$$

$$4. \quad \text{For even fn. } f(-x) = f(x), \quad \int_{-L}^L \underbrace{f(x)}_{\text{even}} dx = 2 \int_0^L f(x) dx$$

In the light of above formulae we can deduce that for an odd function we have  $a_0, b_n = 0$  and for even functions  $a_n = 0$ .

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# Examples

Q.1: Find the Fourier series of  $\sin(3x)$ ,  $\cos 5x$ ,  $2 \sin(2x)$ ?

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# Examples

Q.1: Find the Fourier series of  $\sin(3x)$ ,  $\cos 5x$ ,  $2 \sin(2x)$ ?

Q.2: Find the Fourier series of  $x$  for a period  $2L = 2\pi$ ?

## Examples

Q.1: Find the Fourier series of  $\sin(3x)$ ,  $\cos 5x$ ,  $2 \sin(2x)$ ?

Q.2: Find the Fourier series of  $x$  for a period  $2L = 2\pi$ ?

Q.3: Find the Fourier series of  $f(x)$  for a period  $2\pi$  such that

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

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# Solution

**Example-1:** Find the Fourier series of  $x$  for a period  $2L = 2\pi$ ?

**Ans.** Since  $f(x)$  is an odd function therefore it is natural to see  $b_n = 0$  for all  $n$ , because  $\cos(nx)$  is an even function thus we only need to calculate

**Step-2**

$$\begin{aligned} a_n &= \frac{1}{\pi} \int_{-\pi}^{\pi} f(x) \sin(nx) dx \\ &= \frac{1}{\pi} \int_{-\pi}^{\pi} x \sin(nx) dx \quad \text{Integration by parts!!!} \\ &= \frac{1}{\pi} \left( \frac{-x \cos nx}{n} \right)_{x=-\pi}^{x=\pi} - \frac{1}{\pi} \int_{-\pi}^{\pi} \sin(nx) dx \\ &= \frac{2}{n} (-1)^{n+1} - 0 \quad \text{Reason !!!} \end{aligned}$$

Verify that  $a_0 = 0$ .

# Solution

**Example-1:** Find the Fourier series of  $x$  for a period  $2L = 2\pi$ ?

**Ans.** Therefore

$$\begin{aligned} f(x) &= 2 \sum_{n=1}^{n=\infty} (-1)^{n+1} \frac{\sin nx}{n} \\ &= 2 \left( \frac{\sin x}{1} - \frac{\sin 2x}{2} + \frac{\sin 3x}{3} - \dots \right) \end{aligned}$$

Use the value  $x = \pi/2$  to see an interesting fact !!!

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{\pi}{2} &= 2 \left( 1 - \frac{1}{3} + \frac{1}{5} - \dots \right) \\ \frac{\pi}{4} &= 1 - \frac{1}{3} + \frac{1}{5} - \dots \end{aligned}$$

which is a series representation of  $\pi/4$ .

# Geometrical Understanding

1. The function  $f(x) = x$ ,  $-\pi < x < \pi$  has the Fourier series representation

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

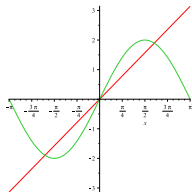
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# Geometrical Understanding

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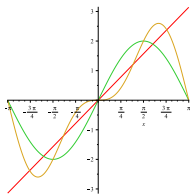
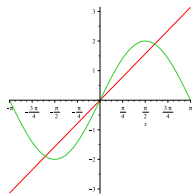
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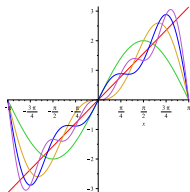
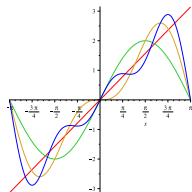
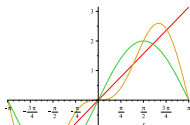
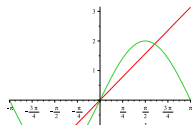
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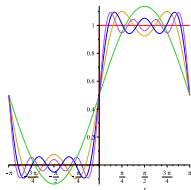
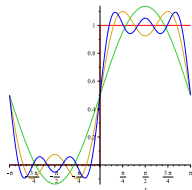
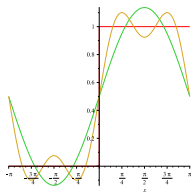
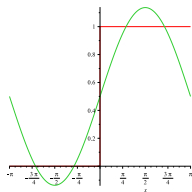
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# Geometrical Understanding

2. The function  $f(x) = 1$ ,  $-\pi < x < 0$  and  $f(x) = 0$ ,  $0 < x < \pi$  has the Fourier series representation

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



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# Solution

**Example-2:** Find the Fourier series of  $f(x)$  for a period  $2\pi$  such that

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

# Solution

**Example-2:** Find the Fourier series of  $f(x)$  for a period  $2\pi$  such that

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

Ans.

Step-1

$$\begin{aligned} a_0 &= \frac{1}{2\pi} \int_{-\pi}^{\pi} f(x) dx \\ &= \frac{1}{2\pi} \int_{-\pi}^0 1 dx + 0 \quad (\text{Reason !!!}) = \frac{1}{2} \end{aligned}$$

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Ans.

**Step-1**  $a_0 = \frac{1}{2\pi} \int_{-\pi}^{\pi} f(x) dx$

$$= \frac{1}{2\pi} \int_{-\pi}^0 1 dx + 0 \quad (\text{Reason !!!}) = \frac{1}{2}$$

**Step-2**  $a_n = \frac{1}{\pi} \int_{-\pi}^{\pi} f(x) \sin(nx) dx = \frac{1}{\pi} \int_{-\pi}^0 \sin(nx) dx$

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

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# Solution

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**Ans. Step-2**

$$\begin{aligned} a_n &= \frac{1}{n\pi} (-1 + (-1)^n) \\ &= \frac{-2}{n\pi} \quad \text{if } n \text{ is odd and zero otherwise} \end{aligned}$$

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# Solution

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Ans. Step-3

$$\begin{aligned} b_n &= \frac{1}{\pi} \int_{-\pi}^{\pi} f(x) \cos(nx) dx \\ &= \frac{1}{\pi} \int_{-\pi}^0 \cos(nx) dx \\ &= \frac{1}{\pi} \left( \frac{-\sin nx}{n} \right)_{x=-\pi}^{x=0} \\ &= 0 \end{aligned}$$

# Solution

**Example-2:** Find the Fourier series of  $f(x)$  for a period  $2\pi$  such that

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

**Ans. Step-3**

Therefore,

$$\begin{aligned} f(x) &= \frac{1}{2} + \sum_{n=1}^{n=\infty} \left( \frac{-2}{\pi} \right) \frac{\sin nx}{n} \\ &= \frac{1}{2} - \frac{2}{\pi} \left( \frac{\sin x}{1} + \frac{\sin 3x}{3} + \frac{\sin 5x}{5} + \dots \right) \end{aligned}$$

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## Practice:

**Q.4:** Find the Fourier series of  $x^2$  for a period  $L = 2\pi$ ?

**Ans.** Since  $f(x)$  is an even function therefore it is natural to see  $a_n = 0$  for all  $n$ , because  $\sin(nx)$  is an odd function. Follow the steps as in the earlier questions.

Also find the series of  $\pi^2/6$ .

## Practice:

**Q.5:** Find the Fourier series of  $f(x)$  for a period  $2\pi$  such that

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

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## Practice:

Q.6: Find the Fourier series of  $f(x)$  such that

$$f(x) = 1 - x^2, \quad (-1 < x < 1)$$

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## Practice:

**Q.7:** Find the Fourier series of  $f(x)$  such that

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

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## Practice:

**Q.8:** A sinusoidal voltage  $E \sin \omega t$ , where  $t$  is time, is passed through a half-wave rectifier that clips the negative portion of the wave. Find the Fourier series of the resulting periodic function

$$u(t) = \begin{cases} 0, & -L < t < 0 \\ E \sin \omega t, & 0 < t < L \end{cases}$$

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**Ans.** Note that here  $2L = 2\pi/\omega \Rightarrow L = \pi/\omega$ .



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**Ans.** Note that here  $2L = 2\pi/\omega \Rightarrow L = \pi/\omega$ . The answer is

$$u(t) = \frac{E}{\pi} + \frac{E}{2} \sin \omega t - \frac{2E}{\pi} \left( \frac{1}{1.3} \cos 2\omega t + \frac{1}{3.5} \cos 4\omega t + \dots \right)$$

# Complex Fourier Series:

Using the well-known Euler formula  $e^{ix} = \cos x + i \sin x$ , a **complex Fourier series** can be obtained

# Complex Fourier Series:

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$$f(x) = \sum_{n=-\infty}^{n=\infty} c_n e^{in\pi x/L},$$

$$c_n = \frac{1}{2L} \int_{-L}^L f(x) e^{-in\pi x/L} dx, \quad n = 0, \pm 1, \pm 2, \dots$$

The reasons for using complex Fourier series are following:

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The reasons for using complex Fourier series are following:

1. It helps to combine both “sin” and “cos” in a unified unit “ $e^{ix}$ ”.
2. Both coefficients  $a_n$  and  $b_n$  can be obtained **easily** from complex coefficients  $c_n$ .

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# Example

**Q.1:** Find the complex Fourier series of  $f(x) = x$ ,  $-\pi < x < \pi$  and  $f(x + 2\pi) = f(x)$  and obtain from it the usual Fourier series.

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**Ans.** Note that here  $2L = 2\pi \Rightarrow L = \pi$ , so for  $n \neq 0$

$$c_n = \frac{1}{2\pi} \int_{-\pi}^{\pi} x e^{-inx} dx,$$

$$2\pi c_n = \left( \frac{x e^{-inx}}{-in} \right)_{x=-\pi}^{x=\pi} + \frac{1}{in} \int_{-\pi}^{\pi} e^{-inx} dx$$

$$2\pi c_n = \frac{\pi}{-in} (e^{-in\pi} + e^{in\pi}) + 0 \text{ Reason !!!}$$

$$2\pi c_n = \frac{\pi}{-in} (2 \cos n\pi)$$

$$2\pi c_n = \frac{2i\pi(-1)^n}{n}$$

$$\Rightarrow c_n = \frac{i(-1)^n}{n}$$

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**Ans.** For  $n = 0$ ,

$$\begin{aligned}c_0 &= \frac{1}{2\pi} \int_{-\pi}^{\pi} f(x) dx \\ &= \frac{1}{2\pi} \int_{-\pi}^{\pi} x) dx \\ &= 0\end{aligned}$$

Also it is an odd function.



## Example

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**Ans.**

$$\begin{aligned} f(x) &= \sum_{n=-\infty}^{n=\infty} \frac{i(-1)^n}{n} e^{inx} \\ &= \dots - \frac{1}{2}ie^{-2ix} + \frac{1}{1}ie^{-ix} - \frac{1}{1}ie^{ix} + \frac{1}{2}ie^{2ix} + \dots \end{aligned}$$

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**Ans.**

$$\begin{aligned}
 f(x) &= \dots - \frac{1}{2}ie^{-2ix} + \frac{1}{1}ie^{-ix} - \frac{1}{1}ie^{ix} + \frac{1}{2}ie^{2ix} + \dots \\
 &= \dots - \frac{1}{2}i(\cos 2x - i \sin 2x) + \frac{1}{1}i(\cos x - i \sin x) \\
 &\quad - \frac{1}{1}i(\cos x + i \sin x) + \frac{1}{2}i(\cos 2x + i \sin 2x) - \dots \\
 &= 2 \sin x - \sin 2x + \dots \\
 &= 2 \left( \sin x - \frac{\sin 2x}{2} + \dots \right)
 \end{aligned}$$

# Practice

**Q.2:** Find the complex Fourier series of  $f(x) = e^x$ ,  $-\pi < x < \pi$  and  $f(x + 2\pi) = f(x)$  and obtain from it the usual Fourier series.

# Practice

**Q.3:** Find the complex Fourier series of  $f(x) = x^2$ ,  $-\pi < x < \pi$  and  $f(x + 2\pi) = f(x)$  and obtain from it the usual Fourier series.

# Convergence

Although Fourier series can be obtained for a large class of functions. However, it can not be found for functions which carry abrupt changes in short time. Therefore, there are three types of conditions known as **Dirichlet conditions** to be satisfied.

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**Condition-1** Over any period,  $f(x)$  must be absolutely integrable, i.e.,

$$\int_x |f(x)| dx < \infty$$

Counter example:  $f(x) = 1/x, \quad 0 < x < 1.$

# Convergence

Although Fourier series can be obtained for a large class of functions. However, it can not be found for functions which carry abrupt changes in short time. Therefore, there are three types of conditions known as **Dirichlet conditions** to be satisfied.

**Condition-2** In any finite interval,  $f(x)$  is of bounded variation, i.e., there are no more than a finite number of maxima and minima in that interval.

Counter example:  $f(x) = \sin(2\pi/x), \quad 0 < x \leq 1.$

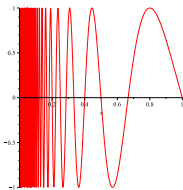
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**Condition-3** In any finite interval,  $f(x)$  is of bounded variation, i.e., there are finite number of discontinuities.

Counter example: Draw a function.