

# Ma 530

## Sturm-Liouville Problems

We shall now develop some results that will be useful in our study of partial differential equations. First we define a *self-adjoint* operator

$$L(y) = [p(x)y']' + q(x)y$$

where  $p(x), p'(x)$ , and  $q(x)$  are continuous and  $p(x) \neq 0$  in some interval  $a \leq x \leq b$ .

Remark: Self-adjoint operators have special properties. Every second order linear operator can be put in self-adjoint form by multiplying it by a suitable factor. Consider

$$M(y) = y'' + R(x)y' + Q(x)y$$

Multiplying  $M(y)$  by

$$e^{\int R(x)dx}$$

leads to

$$\begin{aligned} e^{\int R(x)dx} M(y) &= y'' e^{\int R(x)dx} + R e^{\int R(x)dx} y' + Q e^{\int R(x)dx} y \\ &= \left( e^{\int R(x)dx} y' \right)' + Q e^{\int R(x)dx} y \end{aligned}$$

If we let  $p(x) = e^{\int R(x)dx}$  and  $q(x) = Q e^{\int R(x)dx}$ , we see that  $e^{\int R(x)dx} M$  has the form of  $L(y)$  above. In particular, the differential equation  $M(y) = 0$  may be rewritten as the self-adjoint differential equation  $L(y) = 0$ .

We now consider the eigenvalue problem with unmixed boundary conditions

$$\begin{aligned} L(y) + \lambda w(x)y &= 0 \quad a \leq x \leq b & (*) \\ \alpha_1 y(a) + \beta_1 y'(a) &= 0 \quad \alpha_1^2 + \beta_1^2 \neq 0 \\ \alpha_2 y(b) + \beta_2 y'(b) &= 0 \quad \alpha_2^2 + \beta_2^2 \neq 0 \end{aligned}$$

where  $w(x) \geq 0$  is a continuous function and  $w(x)$  is not identically zero on  $[a, b]$ . (\*) is called a Sturm-Liouville problem.  $\lambda$  is a parameter independent of  $x$ . Note that the solution  $y \equiv 0$  exists for all values of the parameter  $\lambda$ . It may be shown that nontrivial solutions exist for certain values of  $\lambda$  and not for other values of  $\lambda$ . If a nontrivial solution exists for a value  $\lambda = \lambda_i$ , then this value is called an *eigenvalue* of the operator  $L$  (relevant to the boundary conditions) and the corresponding nontrivial solution  $y_i(x)$  is called an *eigenfunction*.

Definition: The *inner product* of two continuous functions  $f(x)$  and  $g(x)$  in the interval  $[a, b]$  with respect to the weight function  $w(x)$  is defined by

$$\langle f, g \rangle_w = \int_a^b f(x)g(x)w(x)dx$$

(Here again we assume  $w(x) \geq 0$  on  $[a, b]$  and  $w(x)$  is not identically zero in  $[a, b]$ .)

The inner product  $\langle f, g \rangle_w$  has the following properties:

$$\langle f, f \rangle_w > 0$$

$$\langle f, f \rangle_w = 0 \Leftrightarrow f = 0$$

$$\langle f, g \rangle_w = \langle g, f \rangle_w$$

$$\langle \alpha f + \beta g, h \rangle_w = \alpha \langle f, h \rangle_w + \beta \langle g, h \rangle_w \quad \alpha, \beta \text{ constants}$$

Definition. Two functions  $f$  and  $g$  are said to be orthogonal on  $[a, b]$  with respect to the weight function  $w(x)$  if

$$\langle f, g \rangle_w = 0.$$

Example. Let  $w(x) = 1$ , then

$$\int_0^\pi \sin x \cos x dx = \frac{\sin^2 x}{2} \Big|_0^\pi = 0$$

Therefore  $\sin x$  and  $\cos x$  are orthogonal on  $[0, \pi]$  with respect to the weight function 1.

Definition. The set of continuous functions  $\{f_1, f_2, \dots\}$  is called an orthogonal set on  $[a, b]$  with respect to the weight function  $w(x)$  if

$$\langle f_m, f_n \rangle_w = 0 \quad m \neq n.$$

Example.  $\left\{1, \cos \frac{\pi x}{L}, \cos \frac{2\pi x}{L}, \dots, \cos \frac{n\pi x}{L}, \dots\right\}$  is an orthogonal set on  $[0, L]$  with respect to the weight function  $w = 1$ . For  $m \neq n$  we have

$$\langle \cos \frac{m\pi x}{L}, \cos \frac{n\pi x}{L} \rangle = \int_0^L \cos \frac{m\pi x}{L} \cos \frac{n\pi x}{L} dx = L \left[ \frac{m \sin \pi m \cos \pi n - n \cos \pi m \sin \pi n}{\pi(m^2 - n^2)} \right] = 0$$

Remark. For vectors we have the following: if  $\vec{u} = (u_1, \dots, u_n)$  then the length of  $\vec{u} = \|\vec{u}\| = (\sum u_i^2)^{\frac{1}{2}} = \sqrt{\vec{u} \cdot \vec{u}}$ . Motivated by this we have the following definition.

Definition. Let  $f(x)$  be a continuous function on  $a \leq x \leq b$ . Then the norm of  $f$  with respect to the weight function  $w(x)$  is defined by

$$\|f\|_w = \sqrt{\langle f, f \rangle_w} = \sqrt{\int_a^b f^2(x)w(x)dx}.$$

Example.  $0 \leq x \leq 1, w(x) = 1$

$$\|x^2\|^2 = \langle x^2, x^2 \rangle = \int_0^1 x^4 dx = \frac{x^5}{5} \Big|_0^1 = \frac{1}{5}$$

$\Rightarrow$

$$\|x^2\| = \frac{1}{\sqrt{5}}$$

Remark. Let  $y = \frac{x^2}{\|x^2\|} = \frac{x^2}{\frac{1}{\sqrt{5}}} \Rightarrow \|y\| = \frac{\|x^2\|}{\frac{1}{\sqrt{5}}} = 1.$

Definition. If  $\|f\|_w = 1$ , then  $f$  is said to be normalized.

Definition. A set of functions  $\{\phi_1, \phi_2, \dots\}$  defined on  $[a, b]$  is called orthonormal if

- (1) the set is orthogonal on  $[a, b]$ , and
- (2) each function has norm 1 with respect to the weight function  $w(x)$ . Therefore  $\{\phi_1, \phi_2, \dots\}$  is an orthonormal set  $\Leftrightarrow$

$$\langle \phi_i, \phi_j \rangle_w = \delta_{ij} = \begin{cases} 0 & i \neq j \\ 1 & i = j \end{cases}$$

Example.  $\{\sin(nx)\} = \{\sin x, \sin 2x, \sin 3x, \dots\}$  on  $[0, \pi]$  is an orthogonal set with respect to the weight function  $w(x) = 1$  since

$$\begin{aligned} \langle \sin(mx), \sin(nx) \rangle_1 &= \int_0^\pi \sin mx \sin nx \, dx \\ &= \frac{1}{2} \int_0^\pi [\cos(m-n)x - \cos(m+n)x] \, dx \quad m \neq n \\ &= \frac{1}{2} \left[ \frac{\sin(m-n)x}{m-n} - \frac{\sin(m+n)x}{m+n} \right]_0^\pi = \frac{1}{2} \left[ \frac{\sin(m-n)\pi}{m-n} - \frac{\sin(m+n)\pi}{m+n} \right] = 0 \end{aligned}$$

since  $m$  and  $n$  are integers.

Now

$$\begin{aligned} \langle \sin nx, \sin nx \rangle_1 &= \int_0^\pi \sin^2 nx \, dx \\ &= \frac{1}{2} \int_0^\pi (1 - \cos 2nx) \, dx \\ &= \frac{1}{2} \left( x - \frac{\sin 2nx}{2n} \right) \Big|_0^\pi = \frac{\pi}{2}. \end{aligned}$$

Therefore

$$\|\sin nx\|_1 = \sqrt{\langle \sin nx, \sin nx \rangle_1} = \sqrt{\frac{\pi}{2}}$$

$\Rightarrow$  this set is not orthonormal. We can make an orthonormal set from these functions by dividing each element in the original set by  $\sqrt{\frac{\pi}{2}} \Rightarrow \left\{ \sqrt{\frac{2}{\pi}} \sin nx \right\}$  is orthonormal set ( $n = 1, 2, \dots$ ).

We now present some results related to the eigenvalues and eigenfunctions of the self-adjoint BVP (\*).

Theorem 1: Eigenfunctions of (\*) corresponding to distinct eigenvalues are orthogonal with respect to the weight function  $w(x)$  on  $[a, b]$ .

Remark: Theorem 1 may be extended to cover a number of cases which are important in applications.

### 1. Periodic Boundary Conditions:

Consider the BVP (\*) with the boundary conditions replaced by the periodic (mixed) boundary conditions

$$y(a) = y(b) \quad y'(a) = y'(b)$$

If we also assume that  $p(a) = p(b)$ , then Theorem 1 holds for this case also.

## 2. Singular End Points:

If in the Sturm-Liouville problem (\*) we have  $p(a) = 0$ , then we require that the solution  $y(x)$  be bounded at  $x = a$ . Theorem 1 will then hold. Thus the requirement that  $y(a)$  be finite replaces the first boundary condition in (\*) at  $x = a$ . Similar remarks hold if  $p(b) = 0$ . If both  $p(a) = 0$  and  $p(b) = 0$ , then both boundary conditions in (\*) can be omitted and replaced by the requirements that the solution  $y(x)$  be bounded at  $x = a$  and  $x = b$ , and the conclusion of Theorem 1 still holds.

# Fourier Series

Definition: A set of orthogonal functions  $\{\psi_n(x)\}$  on an interval  $[a, b]$  with respect to the weight function  $w(x)$  is called *complete* if

$$\int_a^b w(x)f(x)\psi_n(x)dx = 0 \quad n = 1, 2, 3, \dots$$

implies that  $f = 0$  on  $[a, b]$ .

Theorem 2: If  $f(x)$  is any continuous function on  $[a, b]$ , then  $f(x)$  can be expanded at point in  $a < x < b$  in a uniformly convergent Fourier series as

$$f(x) = \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} a_n \psi_n(x)$$

where

$$a_n = \frac{\langle f, \psi_n \rangle_w}{\langle \psi_n, \psi_n \rangle_w} = \frac{\int_a^b w(x)f(x)\psi_n(x)dx}{\int_a^b w(x)\psi_n^2(x)dx} \quad n = 1, 2, \dots \quad (1)$$

Here the set of functions  $\{\psi_n\}$  is a complete, orthogonal set.

Proof: We shall establish the formula for  $a_n$ . Now

$$\begin{aligned} \langle \psi_k, f(x) \rangle_w &= \langle \psi_k, \sum_1^{\infty} a_n \psi_n \rangle_w \\ &= \langle \psi_k, a_1 \psi_1 + a_2 \psi_2 + \dots \rangle_w \\ &= a_1 \langle \psi_k, \psi_1 \rangle_w + a_2 \langle \psi_k, \psi_2 \rangle_w + \dots + a_k \langle \psi_k, \psi_k \rangle_w + a_{k+1} \langle \psi_k, \psi_{k+1} \rangle_w + \dots \end{aligned}$$

But  $\langle \psi_k, \psi_j \rangle_w = 0$  if  $j \neq k$ , since the set  $\{\psi_k\}$  is orthogonal.

$\Rightarrow$

$$\langle \psi_k, f(x) \rangle_w = a_k \langle \psi_k, \psi_k \rangle_w = a_k \|\psi_k\|_w^2$$

This is (1). (1) is the formula for the coefficients in the expansion of a function  $f(x)$  in terms of a set of orthogonal functions.

# Ordinary Fourier Series

## Fourier Sine Series

Consider the eigenvalue problem

$$D.E. \quad y'' + \lambda y = 0 \quad 0 \leq x \leq L \quad B.C. \quad y(0) = y(L) = 0 \quad \lambda > 0$$

We shall first solve this problem. Now the general solution to the DE is

$$y = c_1 \sin \sqrt{\lambda} x + c_2 \cos \sqrt{\lambda} x.$$

$$y(0) = 0 \Rightarrow y = c_1 \cdot 0 + c_2 = 0 \Rightarrow c_2 = 0$$

$$y(L) = 0 \Rightarrow c_1 \sin \sqrt{\lambda} L = 0 \Rightarrow c_1 = 0 \text{ or } \sin \sqrt{\lambda} L = 0$$

$$\sin \sqrt{\lambda} L = 0 \Rightarrow \sqrt{\lambda} L = n\pi \quad n = 1, 2, \dots$$

$\Rightarrow$

$$\lambda_n = \frac{n^2 \pi^2}{L^2}$$

are the eigenvalues, whereas the eigenfunctions are

$$\sin \sqrt{\lambda_n} x = \sin \frac{n\pi}{L} x = \psi_n$$

an orthogonal set.

To make  $\left\{ \sin \frac{n\pi x}{L} \right\}$  orthonormal set we divide each function by  $\left\| \sin \frac{n\pi x}{L} \right\| = \sqrt{\frac{L}{2}}$ . Therefore  $\left\{ \sqrt{\frac{2}{L}} \sin \frac{2\pi x}{L} \right\}$  is an orthonormal set.

Hence if

$$f(x) = \sum_1^{\infty} \alpha_k \sin \frac{k\pi x}{L}$$

then from (1) above

$$\alpha_k = \frac{2}{L} \int_0^L f(x) \sin \frac{k\pi x}{L} dx,$$

since

$$\int_0^L [\psi_k(x)]^2 dx = \int_0^L \sin^2 \left( \frac{n\pi}{L} \right) x dx = \frac{L}{2}.$$

These formulas are for the Fourier *sine* series for  $f(x)$  on  $0 < x < L$ .

Remarks. 1. At  $x = 0$  and  $x = L$   $\sum \alpha_k \sin \frac{k\pi x}{L}$  gives 0 for  $f(x)$ . Therefore unless  $f(0) = f(L) = 0$  the Fourier series is not good at the end points.

2. Since  $\sin \frac{k\pi}{L}(x + 2L) = \sin \left( \frac{k\pi}{L}x + 2k\pi \right) = \sin \frac{k\pi x}{L}$ , we see that the Fourier series yields  $f(x + 2L) = f(x) \Rightarrow$  Fourier series has period  $2L$ . For  $-L < x < 0$

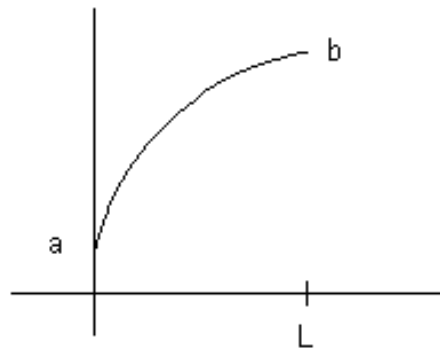
$$\begin{aligned}
\text{we have } \sum_1^{\infty} \alpha_k \sin \frac{k\pi x}{L} &= \sum_1^{\infty} \alpha_k \sin \left( \frac{-k\pi(-x)}{L} \right) \\
&= -\sum_1^{\infty} \alpha_k \sin \frac{k\pi(-x)}{L} \quad -L < x < 0 \Rightarrow L > -x > 0 \\
&= -f(-x), \text{ where } f(x) \text{ is value of series in } 0 < x < L.
\end{aligned}$$

Therefore the Fourier sine series converges to function  $F(x)$  where

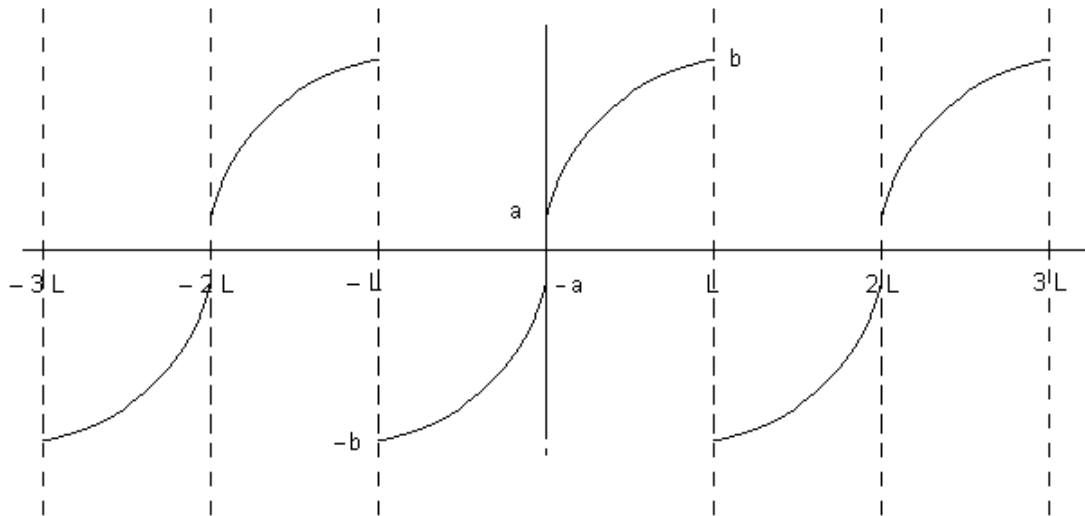
$$F(x) = \begin{cases} f(x) & 0 < x < L \\ -f(-x) & -L < x < 0 \end{cases} \quad F(x+2L) = F(x)$$

This is the odd periodic extension of  $f(x)$  with period  $2L$ . Unless  $f(\pm kL) = 0$   $F(x)$  will be discontinuous at  $\pm L, \pm 2L, \dots$ . Note that the function  $f(x)$  is given on  $[0, L]$  only, whereas the Fourier Sine series extends it to a function  $F(x)$  which is defined on  $-\infty < x < \infty$ .

Suppose that the graph of the function  $f(x)$  is given by the figure below.

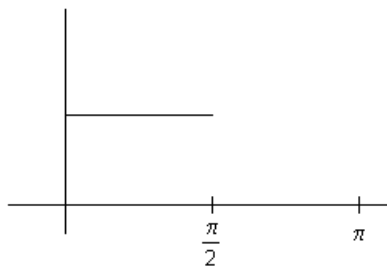


Then the Fourier sine series generates a function  $F(x)$  defined on  $-\infty < x < \infty$  whose graph is given below.



**Example** Find the Fourier sine series of

$$f(x) = \begin{cases} 1 & 0 < x < \frac{\pi}{2} \\ 0 & \frac{\pi}{2} < x < \pi \end{cases}$$



Now

$$f(x) = \sum \alpha_n \sin \frac{n\pi x}{L} = \sum_1^{\infty} \alpha_n \sin nx,$$

since  $2L = 2\pi \Rightarrow L = \pi$ .

The formula above for the coefficients in the Fourier sine series implies

$$\alpha_n = \frac{2}{L} \int_0^L f(x) \sin \frac{n\pi x}{L} dx = \frac{2}{\pi} \int_0^{\pi} f(x) \sin nx dx$$

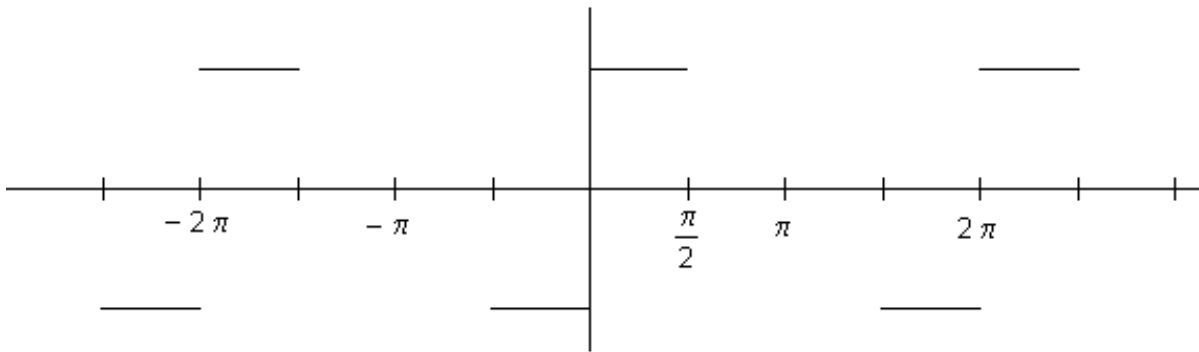
$$\begin{aligned} \alpha_n &= \frac{2}{\pi} \int_0^{\frac{\pi}{2}} 1 \cdot \sin nx dx + \frac{2}{\pi} \int_{\frac{\pi}{2}}^{\pi} 0 \cdot \sin nx dx = -\frac{2}{\pi} \left. \frac{\cos nx}{n} \right|_0^{\frac{\pi}{2}} \\ &= -\frac{2}{\pi n} \left[ \cos \frac{n\pi}{2} - 1 \right] \end{aligned}$$

$$\alpha_n = \begin{cases} \frac{2}{\pi n} & n \text{ odd} \\ \left( \frac{-2}{\pi n} \right) [(-1)^{\frac{n}{2}} - 1] & n \text{ even} \end{cases}$$

Therefore

$$\begin{aligned} f(x) &= \sum_1^{\infty} \alpha_n \sin nx \\ &= \frac{2}{\pi} \left[ \sin x + \frac{2}{2} \sin 2x + \frac{1}{3} \sin 3x + 0 \cdot \sin 4x + \frac{1}{5} \sin 5x + \frac{2}{6} \sin 6x + \dots \right] \end{aligned}$$

Note that our function  $f(x)$  on  $0 \leq x \leq \pi$  is extended to the following on  $-\infty < x < \infty$ .



What we have done with *sine* functions can be done with *cosine* functions.

### Fourier Cosine Series.

This comes from eigenvalue problem



D.E.  $y'' + \lambda y = 0$     B.C.  $y'(0) = y'(L) = 0$

$$\lambda_n = \frac{n^2 \pi^2}{L^2}$$

are the eigenvalues and

$$\psi_n = \cos \frac{2\pi x}{L}$$

are the eigenfunctions,  $n = 0, 1, 2, \dots$

Note  $\lambda_0 = 0 \Rightarrow \psi_0 = 1$  which is an eigenfunction. Now we want to write

$$f(x) = \beta_0 + \sum_1^{\infty} \beta_n \cos \frac{n\pi x}{L}$$

Proceeding as above in our derivation of the constants in the Fourier Sine series, we get for the constants in the Fourier Cosine series

$$\beta_n = \frac{2}{L} \int_0^L f(x) \cos \frac{n\pi x}{L} dx \quad \beta_0 = \frac{1}{L} \int_0^L f(x) dx$$

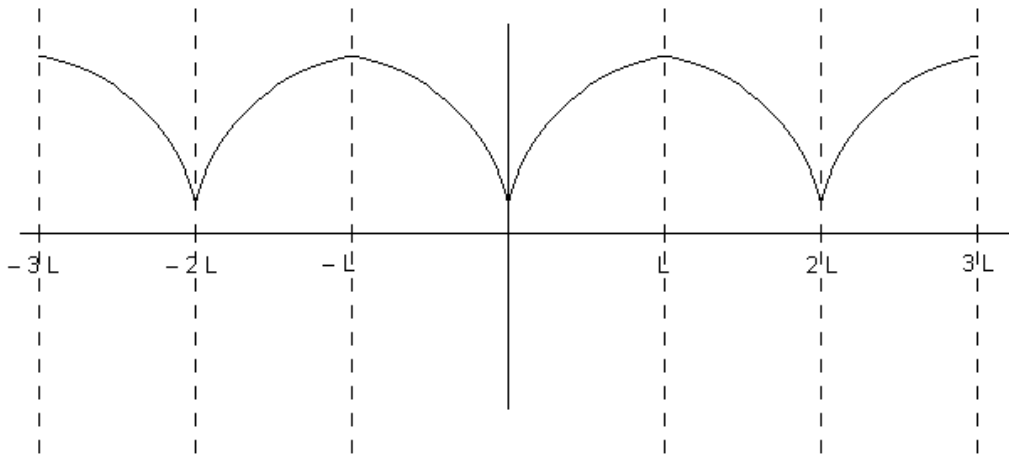
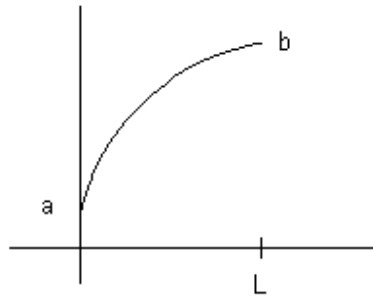
To see where the formula for  $\beta_0$  comes from note

$$\langle \psi_0, f(x) \rangle = \langle \psi_0, \beta_0 \psi_0 \rangle = \langle 1, 1 \rangle \beta_0$$

$$\Rightarrow \beta_0 = \frac{\int_0^L 1 \cdot f(x) dx}{\int_0^L 1^2 dx} = \frac{1}{L} \int_0^L f(x) dx.$$

Again the Fourier series is periodic with period  $2L$ . However, now  $f(-x) = f(x)$  since *cosine* is an even function. Here the Fourier Cosine series extends  $f(x)$  which is given on  $[0, L]$  to a function  $F(x)$  which is defined on  $-\infty < x < \infty$  as

$$F(x) = \begin{cases} f(x) & 0 < x < L \\ f(-x) & -L < x < 0 \end{cases} \quad F(x + 2L) = F(x).$$



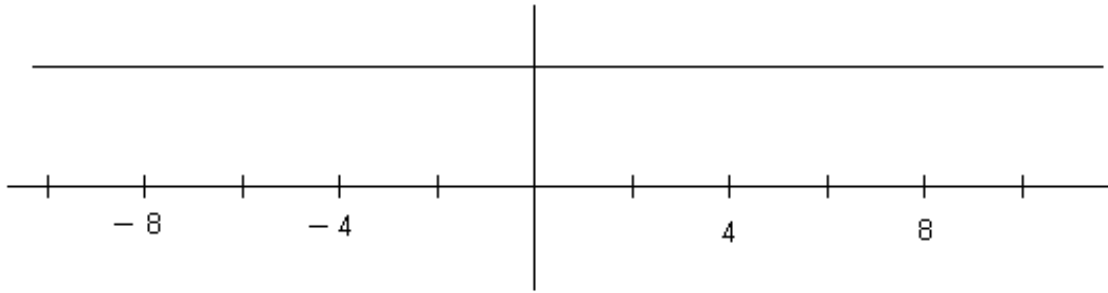
Example. Find the Fourier Cosine series for  $f(x) = 1, \quad 0 < x < 4$

$$L = 4$$

$$f(x) = \beta_0 + \sum_1^{\infty} \beta_n \cos \frac{n\pi x}{4} \quad \beta_0 = \frac{1}{4} \int_0^4 f(x) dx = \frac{1}{4} \int_0^4 1 \cdot dx = 1$$

$$\beta_k = \frac{2}{4} \int_0^4 1 \cdot \cos \frac{n\pi x}{4} dx = \frac{1}{2} \left[ \frac{\sin \frac{n\pi x}{4}}{\frac{n\pi}{4}} \right]_0^4 = \frac{2}{4\pi n} [\sin 0] = 0$$

Therefore  $f(x) = 1$  is its own Fourier Cosine series. The function is simply extended.



## Full Fourier Sine and Cosine Series

This comes from the eigenvalue problem

$$D.E. \ y'' + \lambda y = 0 \quad B.C. \ y(0) = y(2L) \quad y'(0) = y'(2L) \quad 0 \leq x \leq 2L$$

The eigenvalues are

$$\lambda_n = \frac{n^2 \pi^2}{L^2}$$

$n = 0, 1, 2, \dots$ , whereas the eigenfunctions are

$$\psi_n = a_n \cos \frac{n\pi x}{L} + b_n \sin \frac{2\pi x}{L} \quad n = 0, 1, 2, \dots$$

Note that for this problem the function  $f(x)$  is given on  $[0, 2L]$  since the eigenvalue problem is given on this interval. This is a different interval than that for Fourier Sine and Fourier Cosine series.

$\Rightarrow$

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

where

$$a_0 = \frac{1}{2L} \int_0^{2L} f(x) dx, \quad a_n = \frac{1}{L} \int_0^{2L} f(x) \cos \frac{n\pi x}{L} dx \quad b_n = \frac{1}{L} \int_0^{2L} f(x) \sin \frac{n\pi x}{L} dx$$

**Example** Find full Fourier series for

$$f(x) = \begin{cases} 1 & 0 < x < \frac{\pi}{2} \\ 0 & \frac{\pi}{2} < x < \pi \end{cases}$$

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

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

$$a_n = \frac{1}{\pi} \int_0^{\pi} f(x) \cos \frac{n\pi x}{2} dx = \frac{2}{\pi} \int_0^{\frac{\pi}{2}} 1 \cdot \cos 2nx dx = \frac{2}{\pi} \int_0^{\frac{\pi}{2}} \cos 2nx dx = \frac{2}{\pi} \frac{\sin 2nx}{2n} \Big|_0^{\frac{\pi}{2}} = 0$$

$$b_n = \frac{2}{\pi} \int_0^{\frac{\pi}{2}} \sin 2nx dx = -\frac{2}{\pi} \frac{\cos 2nx}{2n} \Big|_0^{\frac{\pi}{2}} = \frac{1}{\pi n} [\cos n\pi - \cos 0] \quad n = 1, 2, \dots$$

$$b_n = -\frac{1}{\pi n} [(-1)^n - 1] = \begin{cases} +\frac{2}{\pi n} & n \text{ odd} \\ 0 & n \text{ even} \end{cases}$$

$$f(x) = \frac{1}{2} + \frac{2}{\pi} \left[ \sin 2x + \frac{1}{3} \sin 6x + \frac{1}{5} \sin 10x + \dots \right]$$

## Fourier-Bessel Series

An important boundary value problem involving Bessel's equation is

$$\begin{aligned} x^2 y'' + xy' + (\lambda^2 x^2 - n^2)y &= 0 & 0 \leq x \leq c \\ y(c) &= 0 & y(0) \text{ is finite} \end{aligned}$$

where  $n$  is a nonnegative integer. The differential equation can be put in the self-adjoint form

$$(xy')' + \frac{(\lambda^2 x^2 - n^2)}{x} y = 0$$

This is a special case of the Sturm-Liouville problem (\*) with  $p(x) = x$  and the weight function  $w(x) = x$ . Since  $p(0) = 0$ , no boundary condition is required at  $x = 0$ ; the condition that  $y(0)$  be finite can be considered as a hidden boundary condition.

The general solution of the differential equation can be written in terms of the Bessel functions of order  $n$  of the first and second kind, namely,

$$y = AJ_n(\lambda x) + BY_n(\lambda x)$$

Since  $Y_n(x)$  is unbounded at the origin, we set  $B = 0$ . Also, we have

$$y(c) = J_n(\lambda c) = 0$$

If we let  $\alpha_i, i = 1, 2, \dots$  denote the positive roots of  $J_n(\alpha) = 0$ , then the eigenvalues are

$$\lambda c = \alpha_i \text{ or } \lambda = \lambda_i = \frac{\alpha_i}{c} \quad i = 1, 2, \dots$$

with corresponding eigenfunctions

$$J_n(\lambda_i x) \quad i = 1, 2, \dots$$

The set of functions  $\{J_n(\lambda_i x)\}$  for a fixed  $n$  form a complete, orthogonal set on  $[0, c]$  with respect to the

weight function  $x$ . Therefore, from the expression that we derived above for the coefficients in a Fourier expansion in terms of orthogonal functions we have

$$f(x) = \sum_{i=1}^{\infty} a_i J_n(\lambda_i x)$$

where the coefficients  $a_i$  are given by

$$a_i = \frac{\int_0^c x J_n(\lambda_i x) f(x) dx}{\int_0^c x [J_n(\lambda_i x)]^2 dx} \quad i = 1, 2, \dots$$

It can be shown that

$$\int_0^c x [J_n(\lambda_i x)]^2 dx = \frac{c^2}{2} [J_{n+1}(\lambda_i c)]^2$$

so that

$$a_i = \frac{2 \int_0^c x J_n(\lambda_i x) f(x) dx}{c^2 [J_{n+1}(\lambda_i c)]^2} \quad i = 1, 2, \dots$$

Example: Expand the function  $f(x) = 1$  into a Fourier-Bessel series of the zeroth order in  $0 < x < 1$ .

Solution: The coefficients  $a_i$  are given by

$$a_i = \frac{2 \int_0^1 x J_0(\lambda_i x) dx}{[J_1(\lambda_i c)]^2} \quad i = 1, 2, \dots$$

where the  $\lambda_i$  are the roots of  $J_0(\lambda_i) = 0$ . Since

$$\frac{d}{dx} [x J_x(x)] = x J_0(x)$$

then

$$\int_0^x t J_0(t) dt = x J_1(x)$$

Letting  $\lambda_i x = t$  we have

$$\int_0^1 x J_0(\lambda_i x) dx = \int_0^{\lambda_i} \frac{t}{\lambda_i} J_0(t) \frac{dt}{\lambda_i} = \frac{1}{\lambda_i^2} [\lambda_i J_1(\lambda_i)] = \frac{J_1(\lambda_i)}{\lambda_i}$$

Thus

$$a_i = \frac{2}{\lambda_i J_1(\lambda_i)}$$

so that

$$f(x) = 2 \sum_{i=1}^{\infty} \frac{J_0(\lambda_i x)}{\lambda_i J_1(\lambda_i)}$$