

## four.fsxa Complex Fourier series example

1 There are several flavors of Fourier series problem: trigonometric/exponential, analysis/synthesis, plotting partial sums/plotting spectra. Of course, problems just present us an opportunity to traverse part of the landscape (to mix two metaphors like 31 similes).

### Example four.fsxa-1

2 Consider a rectified sinusoid

$$f(t) = |A \cos(\omega t)|$$

for  $A, \omega, t \in \mathbb{R}$ , shown in Fig. fsxa.1. The fundamental period is  $T = \pi/\omega$ , half the unrectified period.

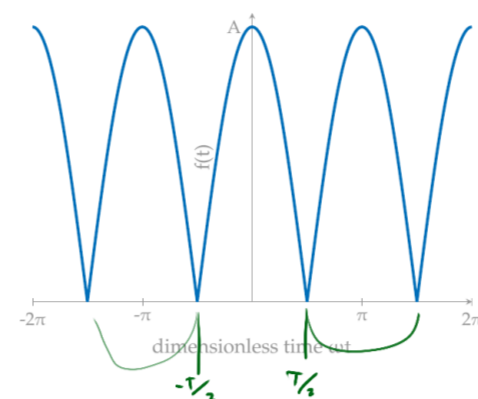


Figure fsxa.1: the function  $f(t) = |A \cos(\omega t)|$  plotted for several periods.

- Perform a complex Fourier analysis on  $f(t)$ , computing the complex Fourier components  $c_{\pm n}$ .
- Compute and plot the magnitude and phase spectra.
- Convert  $c_{\pm n}$  to trigonometric components  $a_n$  and  $b_n$ .

### Part a: complex Fourier analysis

3 The complex Fourier analysis of Definition four.2 will be applied in a moment. However, it is convenient to first convert  $f$  into an  $e^{j\omega t} + e^{-j\omega t}$ . We can write  $f$  over a single period  $t \in [-T/2, T/2]$  as

$$\begin{aligned} |A \cos(\omega t)| &= |A| |\cos(\omega t)| \\ &\text{(absolute value property)} \\ &= |A| \cos(\omega t) \\ &\text{(absolutely positive)} \\ &= |A| \frac{1}{2} (e^{j\omega t} + e^{-j\omega t}) \end{aligned}$$

(Euler, Eq. 2)

4 Applying Fourier analysis à la Definition four.2 with harmonic frequency  $\omega_n = 2\pi n/T$ ,

$$\begin{aligned} c_{\pm n} &= \frac{1}{T} \int_{-T/2}^{T/2} f(t) e^{-j\omega_n t} dt \\ &= \frac{1}{T} \int_{-T/2}^{T/2} |A| \frac{1}{2} (e^{j\omega t} + e^{-j\omega t}) e^{-j\omega_n t} dt \\ &= \frac{|A|}{2T} \int_{-T/2}^{T/2} (e^{j(\omega - \omega_n)t} + e^{-j(\omega + \omega_n)t}) dt \\ &= \frac{|A|}{2T} \int_{-T/2}^{T/2} (e^{j(\omega - \omega_n)t} + e^{-j(\omega + \omega_n)t}) dt \\ &= \frac{|A|}{2T} \left( \frac{1}{j(\omega - \omega_n)} e^{j(\omega - \omega_n)t} + \frac{1}{j(\omega + \omega_n)} e^{-j(\omega + \omega_n)t} \right) \Big|_{-T/2}^{T/2} \\ &= \frac{|A|}{2T} \left( \frac{1}{j(\omega - \omega_n)} e^{j(\omega - \omega_n)T/2} - \frac{1}{j(\omega + \omega_n)} e^{-j(\omega + \omega_n)T/2} + \frac{1}{j(\omega - \omega_n)} e^{-j(\omega - \omega_n)T/2} - \frac{1}{j(\omega + \omega_n)} e^{j(\omega + \omega_n)T/2} \right) \\ &= \frac{|A|}{2T} \left( \frac{1}{j(\omega - \omega_n)} (e^{j(\omega - \omega_n)T/2} - e^{-j(\omega - \omega_n)T/2}) - \frac{1}{j(\omega + \omega_n)} (e^{-j(\omega + \omega_n)T/2} - e^{j(\omega + \omega_n)T/2}) \right) \\ &= \frac{|A|}{T(\omega - \omega_n)} \sin((\omega - \omega_n)T/2) + \frac{|A|}{T(\omega + \omega_n)} \sin((\omega + \omega_n)T/2). \end{aligned}$$

5 This can be simplified further if we substitute  $T = \pi/\omega$  and  $\omega_n = 2\pi n/T = 2n\omega$ ,

$$c_{\pm n} = \frac{|A|}{\pi(\omega - 2n\omega)} \sin\left(\frac{(\omega - 2n\omega)\pi}{2}\right) + \frac{|A|}{\pi(\omega + 2n\omega)} \sin\left(\frac{(\omega + 2n\omega)\pi}{2}\right)$$

6 Using a product-to-sum trigonometric identity (Appendix math.trig), this further simplifies to

$$c_{\pm n} = \frac{-2|A|}{\pi(4n^2 - 1)} \cos(n\pi),$$

which, for  $n$  odd or even,

$$c_{\pm n} = \begin{cases} \frac{2|A|}{\pi(4n^2 - 1)} & n \text{ odd} \\ -\frac{2|A|}{\pi(4n^2 - 1)} & n \text{ even.} \end{cases}$$

7 Alternatively we could use Matlab's Symbolic Math Toolbox rather straightforwardly.

```
syms A n omega T t 'real' % symbolic, real
```

8 Now define the function of time  $f$  and the known relations in a dictionary.

```
f = abs(A*cos(omega*t));
propo_T = pi/omega;
propo_omega = 2*pi/T;
```

9 Now apply the same Fourier analysis as before.

```
c_n = 1/T*int(f*exp(-j*omega_n*t), t, -T/2, T/2);
c_n = simplify(abs(c_n, propo_T));
```

```
c_n =
-(2*cos(pi*n)*abs(A))/(pi*(4*n^2 - 1))
```

10 Nice! This is the same result. We can even check our odd/even assumptions.

```
assume(n>0, 'integer') % odd
simplify(c_n)
assume(n,'clear') % clear assumptions
assume(n>0, 'integer') % even
simplify(c_n)
assume(n,'clear') % clear before moving on
assume(n,'real')
```

```
ans =
(2*abs(A))/(pi*(4*n^2 - 1))
```

```
ans =
-(2*abs(A))/(pi*(4*n^2 + 1))
```

11 These are also what we got before.

Part b: harmonic amplitude and phase with spectra

12 According to Eq. 11, the harmonic amplitude is

$$C_n = 2\sqrt{|c_n|^2} = \frac{4|A|}{\pi|4n^2 - 1|} |\cos(n\pi)|$$

13 Let's check with Matlab.

```
assume(n,'real');
C_n = simplify(2*sqrt(abs(c_n*omega_n, n)));
assume(n,'clear');
assume(n,'integer');
C_n = simplify(2*sqrt(abs(c_n*omega_n, n)));
```

```
C_n =
(4*abs(A)*abs(cos(pi*n))/(pi*abs(4*n^2 - 1))
```

```
C_n =
(4*abs(A))/(pi*abs(4*n^2 - 1))
```

14 We see that if we assume  $n$  is an integer,  $C_n$  simplifies even further than we took it by-hand.

15 Plotting the harmonic amplitude is straightforward. First make  $C_n$  something that can be numerically evaluated and choose parameters.

```
p_n = 1;
C_n_fun = matlabFunction( ...
subs(C_n, p) ...
);
```

16 Now we plot.

```
h_n = -10:10;
figure;
stem(h_n, C_n_fun(h_n));
xlabel('n');
ylabel('harmonic amplitude C_n/|A|');
```



Figure fsxa.2: the harmonic amplitude  $C_n$ .

17 Let's find the phase à la Eq. 12 with Matlab directly.

```
phase_n = simplify(atan2(imag(c_n), real(c_n)));
```

```
phase_n =
(pi*(sign((-1)^n*abs(A))/(4*n^2 - 1) - 1)) * (sign((-1)^n*abs(A))/(4*n^2 - 1) + 1) * pi/2
```

18 The sign function just returns the sign of its argument. It's difficult to see, but this expression only takes on the following two values:

$$0, \pi$$

19 We can plot the phase similarly to how we plotted the amplitude. First we get a numerically evaluable function.

```
phase_n_fun = matlabFunction( ...
subs(phase_n, p) ...
);
```

20 Now we plot.

```
figure;
stem(h_n, phase_n_fun(h_n));
xlabel('n');
ylabel('harmonic phase');
```



Part c: conversion to trig form

21 According to Definition four.3, the trigonometric components can be computed from the complex components as follows.

```
a_n = simplify(c_n + subs(c_n, n, -n));
b_n = simplify(j*(c_n - subs(c_n, n, -n)));
```

```
a_n =
-(4*(-1)^n*abs(A))/(pi*(4*n^2 - 1))
```

```
b_n =
0
```

22 The fact that  $b_n = 0$  should not surprise us:  $f(t)$  is even after all!