Signal representation by Fourier series

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- Signals as vectors
- Correlation function
- Signal representation by Orthogonal Signal Sets
- Trigonometric Fourier Series
- Fourier spectra and other properties



Signals as vectors



- Signals
 Vectors
- The operations among signals can be easily interpreted as operations among vectors
 - Component of a vector
 - Inner product
 - Norm



Component of a vector

Orthogonal projection: scalar product



Fig. 3.1 Component (projection) of a vector along another vector.

- Norm $|\mathbf{x}|^2 = \mathbf{x} \cdot \mathbf{x}$
- Orthogonality $\mathbf{f} \cdot \mathbf{x} = \mathbf{0}$



Orthogonal projection

 The orthogonal projection of a vactor f over a vector x approximates f with its component along x with minimum



Fig. 3.2 Approximation of a vector in terms of another vector.



Component of a signal

The concept of a vector component and orthogonality can be extended to signals. Consider the problem of approximating a real signal f(t) in terms of another real signal x(t) over an interval $[t_1, t_2]$:

$$f(t) \simeq cx(t)$$
 $t_1 \le t \le t_2$ (3.8)

The error e(t) in this approximation is

$$e(t) = \begin{cases} f(t) - cx(t) & t_1 \le t \le t_2 \\ 0 & \text{otherwise} \end{cases}$$
(3.9)

"Best approximation" criterion: energy of the error signal

$$E_e = \int_{t_1}^{t_2} e^2(t) dt$$
$$= \int_{t_1}^{t_2} [f(t) - cx(t)]^2 dt$$



Component of a signal

 By minimizing the energy of the error signal one can show that the optimal value of the constant c is given by

$$c = \frac{1}{E_x} \int_{t_1}^{t_2} f(t) x(t)$$
$$E_x = \int_{t_1}^{t_2} x^2(t) dt$$

- Then the approximation is $f(t) \approx cx(t)$
- In vector terminology:
 - c x(t) is the projection of f(t) on x(t)
 - If c=0 then the vectors are orthogonal



Component of a signal

- Based on such analogy
 - Inner product of f(t) on x(t)

$$\int_{t_1}^{t_2} f(t)x(t)dt$$
$$\int_{t_1}^{t_2} f(t)x(t)dt = 0$$

Orthogonality

For complex signals

$$E_x = \int_{t_1}^{t_2} |x(t)|^2 dt \qquad c = \frac{1}{E_x} \int_{t_1}^{t_2} f(t) x^*(t) dt$$

• Orthogonality
$$\int_{t_1}^{t_2} x_1(t) x_2^*(t) dt = 0 \qquad \text{or} \qquad \int_{t_1}^{t_2} x_1^*(t) x_2(t) dt = 0$$



Energy of the sum of orthogonal signals

 The energy of the sum is the sum of the energies for both vectors and signals

$$|\mathbf{z}|^2 = |\mathbf{x}|^2 + |\mathbf{y}|^2$$
$$E_x = E_x + E_y$$

Proof

$$\int_{t_1}^{t_2} |x(t) + y(t)|^2 dt = \int_{t_1}^{t_2} |x(t)|^2 dt + \int_{t_1}^{t_2} |y(t)|^2 dt + \int_{t_1}^{t_2} x(t) y^*(t) dt + \int_{t_1}^{t_2} x^*(t) y(t) dt$$
$$= \int_{t_1}^{t_2} |x(t)|^2 dt + \int_{t_1}^{t_2} |y(t)|^2 dt \qquad (3.22)$$



Correlation coefficient: vectors

 The larger the value of c, the higher the resemblance. Thus, a suitable measure for vector similarity could be

$$c_n = \cos \theta = \frac{\mathbf{f} \cdot \mathbf{x}}{|\mathbf{f}| |\mathbf{x}|}$$

This similarity measure c_n is known as the correlation coefficient. Observe that

$$-1 \le c_n \le 1 \tag{3.24}$$

Thus, the magnitude of c_n is never greater than unity. If the two vectors are aligned, the similarity is maximum ($c_n = 1$). Two vectors aligned in opposite directions have the maximum dissimilarity ($c_n = -1$). If the two vectors are orthogonal, the similarity is zero.



Correlation coefficient: signals

 Following the same line, we can define the similarity among signals as

$$c_n = \frac{1}{\sqrt{E_f E_x}} \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} f(t) x(t) \, dt$$

Observe that multiplying either f(t) or x(t) by any constant has no effect on this index. It is independent of the size (energies) of f(t) and x(t). Using the Schwarz inequality, we can show that the magnitude of c_n is never greater than 1

$$-1 \le c_n \le 1 \tag{3.26}$$



Best friends, worst enemies and complete strangers

Best friends

Worst enemies

Complete strangers

$$f(t) = Kx(t) \rightarrow c = 1$$

$$f(t) = -Kx(t) \rightarrow c = -1$$

$$f(t) \text{ is orthogonal to } x(t) \rightarrow c = 0$$



Fig. 3.4 Signals for Example 3.2.



Correlation function

 Allows to measure the similarity among signals irrespectively of their time-shift



Fig. 3.5 Physical explanation of the correlation function.



Convolution and correlation

Convolution (zero—state response of LTIS)

$$f(t) * x(t) = \int_{-\infty}^{+\infty} f(\tau)x(t-\tau)d\tau$$

Correlation (signal similarity)
$$\Psi(f,x)(t) = f(t) * g(-t)$$
$$f(t) \cdot x(t) = \int_{-\infty}^{+\infty} f(\tau)x(\tau-t)d\tau$$

$$f(t) * g(-t) = f(t) * w(t) = \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} f(\tau)w(t-\tau) d\tau = \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} f(\tau)g(\tau-t) d\tau = \psi_{fg}(t)$$



Autocorrelation function

Correlation function of the signal with itself

$$\psi_f(t) \equiv \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} f(\tau) f(\tau - t) d\tau$$

- Examples
 - Delta
 - Box
 - Sinusoid

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White noise



Orthogonal vector space

• Extending to more than one dimension



Fig. 3.6 Representation of a vector in three-dimensional space.



Orthogonal vector space

$$\mathbf{f} \simeq c_1 \mathbf{x}_1 + c_2 \mathbf{x}_2$$

The error **e** in this approximation is

 $\mathbf{e} = \mathbf{f} - (c_1 \mathbf{x}_1 + c_2 \mathbf{x}_2)$

 \mathbf{or}

$$\mathbf{f} = c_1 \mathbf{x}_1 + c_2 \mathbf{x}_2 + \mathbf{e}$$

Now, let us determine the 'best' approximation to f in terms of all three mutually orthogonal vectors $\mathbf{x}_1, \mathbf{x}_2$, and \mathbf{x}_3 :

$$\mathbf{f} \simeq c_1 \mathbf{x}_1 + c_2 \mathbf{x}_2 + c_3 \mathbf{x}_3 \tag{3.33}$$



Orthogonal vector space

In this case, $c_1 \mathbf{x}_1, c_2 \mathbf{x}_2$, and $c_3 \mathbf{x}_3$ are the projections (components) of f on $\mathbf{x}_1, \mathbf{x}_2$, and \mathbf{x}_3 , respectively; that is,

$$c_i = \frac{\mathbf{f} \cdot \mathbf{x}_i}{\mathbf{x}_i \cdot \mathbf{x}_i} \tag{3.35a}$$

$$= \frac{1}{\left|\mathbf{x}_{i}\right|^{2}} \mathbf{f} \cdot \mathbf{x}_{i} \qquad i = 1, 2, 3 \qquad (3.35b)$$

- Following the analogy, we can define a "signal basis" such that
 - The signals x_i(t) of the basis are mutually orthogonal
 - Each signal f(t) can be expressed as a linear combination of the basis signals weighted by coefficients
 - The coefficients are the correlation coefficients of the signal f(t) with each signal of the basis x_i(t)



Orthogonal signal spaces

Signal basis

$$\{x_i(t)\}, i = 1, ..., n$$

Orthogonality

$$\int_{t_1}^{t_2} x_i(t) x_j(t) dt = 0, \forall i \neq j$$

Unit norm

$$\int_{-\infty}^{+\infty} x_i^2(t) dt = 1$$

Approximation of f(t) using the considered basis

$$f(t) \approx c_1 x_1(t) + c_2 x_2(t) + \dots + c_n x_n(t) = \sum_{i=1}^n c_i x_i(t)$$



Signal approximation in an orthonormal basis

Approximation error

$$e(t) = f(t) - \sum_{n=1}^{N} c_n x_n(t)$$

Coefficients of the summation

$$c_n = \frac{\int_{t_1}^{t_2} f(t) x_n(t) dt}{\int_{t_1}^{t_2} x_n^2(t) dt}$$
$$= \frac{1}{E_n} \int_{t_1}^{t_2} f(t) x_n(t) dt \qquad n = 1, 2, \dots, N$$



Signal approximation in an orthonormal basis

The error decreases as the number of basis elements increases

$$E_e = \int_{t_1}^{t_2} f^2(t) \, dt - \sum_{n=1}^N c_n^2 E_n$$

- When the error goes to zero for N going to infinity the basis is said to be complete
- When the basis is complete the signal is approximated without error and the equality holds

$$f(t) = \sum_{n=0}^{+\infty} c_n x_n(t) \qquad c_n = \int_T f(t) x_n(t) dt$$



Generalization to complex signals

The above results can be generalized to complex signals as follows: A set of functions $x_1(t), x_2(t), \ldots, x_N(t)$ is mutually orthogonal over the interval $[t_1, t_2]$ if

$$\int_{t_1}^{t_2} x_m(t) x_n^*(t) dt = \begin{cases} 0 & m \neq n \\ E_n & m = n \end{cases}$$
(3.43)

If this set is complete for a certain class of functions, then a function f(t) in this class can be expressed as

$$f(t) = c_1 x_1(t) + c_2 x_2(t) + \dots + c_i x_i(t) + \dots$$
(3.44)

where

$$c_n = \frac{1}{E_n} \int_{t_1}^{t_2} f(t) x_n^*(t) dt$$
(3.45)



Ready for Fourier!





Trigonometric Fourier series

Consider a signal set

 $\{1, \cos \omega_0 t, \cos 2\omega_0 t, \ldots, \cos n\omega_0 t, \ldots;$

$$\sin \omega_0 t, \sin 2\omega_0 t, \ldots, \sin n\omega_0 t, \ldots \}$$
(3.46)

• The set is orthonormal over every interval $T_0 = 2\pi/\omega_0$

$$\int_{T_0} \cos n\omega_0 t \, \cos \, m\omega_0 t \, dt = \begin{cases} 0 & n \neq m \\ \frac{T_0}{2} & m = n \neq 0 \end{cases}$$
(3.47a)

$$\int_{T_0} \sin n\omega_0 t \sin m\omega_0 t \, dt = \begin{cases} 0 & n \neq m \\ \frac{T_0}{2} & n = m \neq 0 \end{cases}$$
(3.47b)

and

$$\int_{T_0} \sin n\omega_0 t \cos m\omega_0 t \, dt = 0 \quad \text{for all } n \text{ and } m \tag{3.47c}$$



Trigonometric Fourier series

$$f(t) = a_0 + a_1 \cos \omega_0 t + a_2 \cos 2\omega_0 t + \cdots + b_1 \sin \omega_0 t + b_2 \sin 2\omega_0 t + \cdots \qquad t_1 \le t \le t_1 + T_0 \qquad (3.48a)$$

or

$$f(t) = a_0 + \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} a_n \cos n\omega_0 t + b_n \sin n\omega_0 t \qquad t_1 \le t \le t_1 + T_0$$
(3.48b)

where

$$\omega_0 = \frac{2\pi}{T_0} \tag{3.49}$$

Using Eq. (3.39), we can determine the Fourier coefficients a_0 , a_n , and b_n . Thus

$$a_n = \frac{\int_{t_1}^{t_1+T_0} f(t) \cos n\omega_0 t \, dt}{\int_{t_1}^{t_1+T_0} \cos^2 n\omega_0 t \, dt}$$
(3.50)



Trigonometric Fourier series

The integral in the denominator of Eq. (3.50) as seen from Eq. (3.47a) (with m = n) is $T_0/2$ when $n \neq 0$. Moreover, for n = 0, the denominator is T_0 . Hence

$$a_0 = \frac{1}{T_0} \int_{t_1}^{t_1 + T_0} f(t) \, dt \tag{3.51a}$$

 and

$$a_n = \frac{2}{T_0} \int_{t_1}^{t_1 + T_0} f(t) \cos n\omega_0 t \, dt \qquad n = 1, 2, 3, \dots$$
 (3.51b)

Arguing the same way, we obtain

$$b_n = \frac{2}{T_0} \int_{t_1}^{t_1+T_0} f(t) \sin n\omega_0 t \, dt \qquad n = 1, 2, 3, \dots$$
(3.51c)



Compact Trigonometric FS

where

$$C_n = \sqrt{a_n^2 + b_n^2} \tag{3.53a}$$

$$\theta_n = \tan^{-1} \left(\frac{-b_n}{a_n} \right) \tag{3.53b}$$

For consistency, we denote the dc term a_0 by C_0 , that is

$$C_0 = a_0$$
 (3.53c)

Using the identity (3.52), the trigonometric Fourier series in Eq. (3.48) can be expressed in the **compact form** of the trigonometric Fourier series as

$$f(t) = C_0 + \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} C_n \cos(n\omega_0 t + \theta_n) \qquad t_1 \le t \le t_1 + T_0 \tag{3.54}$$

where the coefficients C_n and θ_n are computed from a_n and b_n using Eqs. (3.53).

Equation 3.51a shows that a_0 (or C_0) is the average value of f(t) (averaged over one period). This value can often be determined by inspection of f(t).









Periodicity

- The FS is a periodic function with period T_0
- Consider the function $\phi(t)$

$$\omega_0 = \frac{2\pi}{T_0} = 2$$

$$\varphi(t) = C_0 + \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} C_n \cos(n\omega_0 t + \theta_n)$$
 for all t

 and

$$\varphi(t+T_0) = C_0 + \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} C_n \cos \left[n\omega_0(t+T_0) + \theta_n \right]$$
$$= C_0 + \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} C_n \cos \left[(n\omega_0 t + 2n\pi) + \theta_n \right]$$
$$= C_0 + \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} C_n \cos \left(n\omega_0 t + \theta_n \right)$$
$$= \varphi(t) \quad \text{for all } t \tag{3.57}$$



FS of periodic signals

- For periodic signals, the FS represents the signal over the whole time axis
- A periodic signal can be seen as the repetition of a signal segment over the entire temporal axis → the FS represents the periodic signal f(t) irrespectively of the time point chosen as starting point of the segment
- Fourier coefficients

$$a_0 = \frac{1}{T_0} \int_{T_0} f(t) \, dt$$

$$a_n = \frac{2}{T_0} \int_{T_0} f(t) \cos n\omega_0 t \, dt \qquad n = 1, 2, 3, \dots$$
(3.58b)

and

$$b_n = \frac{2}{T_0} \int_{T_0} f(t) \sin n\omega_0 t \, dt \qquad n = 1, 2, 3, \dots$$
(3.58c)



Fourier spectrum



Fig. 3.7 A periodic signal and its Fourier spectra.

Phase spectrum

Table 3.1

n	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
C_n	0.504	0.244	0.125	0.084	0.063	0.0504	0.042	0.036
θ_n	0	-75.96	-82.87	85.24	-86.42	-87.14	-87.61	-87.95



The double signal identity



Fourier domain

Time-domain



Other examples: box



Fig. 3.8 A square pulse periodic signal and its Fourier spectra.



Other examples: triangle





Fig. 3.9 A triangular periodic signal and its Fourier spectra.



The effect of symmetry

- Signals with even symmetry can be expressed using cosinusoids only and
- Signals with odd symmetry can be expressed using sinusoids only
- In consequence, integration can be performed over half the period only

How to determine the fundamental frequency?

- For a periodic signal expressed as the sum of trigonometric functions is periodic if the ratio of their frequencies is a rational number
- Fundamental frequency: highest positive number of which all the other frequencies are multiples



Examples $f_1(t) = 2 + 7\cos\left(\frac{1}{2}t\right) + \theta_1 + 3\cos\left(\frac{2}{3}t\right) + \theta_2 + 5\cos\left(\frac{7}{6}t\right) + \theta_3 \qquad \rightarrow \frac{1}{6}$ $f_2(t) = 2\cos\left(2t + \theta_1\right) + 5\sin\left(\pi t + \theta_2\right)$

Example: square pulse





Example: square pulse

x = 12

$$a_n = \frac{1}{\pi} \int_{-\pi/2}^{\pi/2} \cos nt \, dt = \frac{2}{n\pi} \sin\left(\frac{n\pi}{2}\right)$$
$$= \begin{cases} 0 & n \text{ even} \\ \frac{2}{\pi n} & n = 1, 5, 9, 13, \cdots \\ -\frac{2}{\pi n} & n = 3, 7, 11, 15, \cdots \end{cases}$$
(3.60b)

$$b_n = \frac{1}{\pi} \int_{-\pi/2}^{\pi/2} \sin nt \, dt = 0 \tag{3.60c}$$

$$f(t) = \frac{1}{2} + \frac{2}{\pi} \left(\cos t - \frac{1}{3} \cos 3t + \frac{1}{5} \cos 5t - \frac{1}{7} \cos 7t + \cdots \right)$$

Only cosines

Alternating positive and negative signs



Example: square pulse

• The negative signes can be accommodated by a phase shift

$$-\cos x = \cos(x - \pi)$$

$$f(t) = \frac{1}{2} + \frac{2}{\pi} \left[\cos t + \frac{1}{3} \cos (3t - \pi) + \frac{1}{5} \cos 5t + \frac{1}{7} \cos (7t - \pi) + \frac{1}{9} \cos 9t + \cdots \right]$$

• Fourier series in the compact trigonometric form

$$C_0 = \frac{1}{2}$$

$$C_n = \begin{cases} 0 & n \text{ even} \\ \frac{2}{\pi n} & n \text{ odd} \end{cases}$$

$$\theta_n = \begin{cases} 0 & \text{for all } n \neq 3, 7, 11, 15, \cdots \\ -\pi & n = 3, 7, 11, 15, \cdots \end{cases}$$



Fourier series of the square pulse



Fig. 3.8 A square pulse periodic signal and its Fourier spectra.



The effect of symmetry

- Even signals \rightarrow cosines only
- Odd signals \rightarrow sines only
- Proof



Odd

$$a_0 = a_n = 0$$

 $b_n = \frac{4}{T_0} \int_0^{T_0/2} f(t) \sin n\omega_0 t \, dt$



Trigonometric vs exponential Fourier series

$$f(t) = \sum_{n=-\infty}^{\infty} D_n e^{jn\omega_0 t}$$

$$D_n = \frac{1}{T_0} \int_{T_0} f(t) e^{-jn\omega_0 t} dt$$

$$C_n \cos(n\omega_0 t + \theta_n) = \frac{C_n}{2} \left[e^{j(n\omega_0 t + \theta_n)} + e^{-j(n\omega_0 t + \theta_n)} \right]$$

$$= \frac{\left(\sum_{n=-\infty}^{\infty} D_n e^{jn\omega_0 t} + D_{-n} e^{-jn\omega_0 t} \right)}{D_n} e^{jn\omega_0 t} + \frac{\left(\sum_{n=0}^{\infty} e^{-j\theta_n} \right)}{D_{-n}} e^{-jn\omega_0 t}}$$

$$= D_n e^{jn\omega_0 t} + D_{-n} e^{-jn\omega_0 t}$$

$$D_n = \frac{1}{2} C_n e^{j\theta_n}$$

$$D_n = \frac{1}{2} C_n e^{j\theta_n}$$

$$D_n = \frac{1}{2} C_n e^{-j\theta_n}$$



Partial signal reconstruction

Increasing the number of harmonic components



Fig. 3.11 Synthesis of a square pulse periodic signal by successive addition of its harmonics.



Continuity and spectral decay

- If the first (k-1)-th derivatives of a signal f(t) are continuous and the k-th is discontinuous, the amplitude spectrum decays as 1/n^{k+1}
 - Square wave: the signal is discontinuous -> k=0
 - Triangular signal: the first derivative is discontinuous -> k=1



Fig. 3.8 A square pulse periodic signal and its Fourier spectra.

Fig. 3.9 A triangular periodic signal and its Fourier spectra.



Exponential Fourier series

• The exponential series $e^{jn\omega_0 t}$, $n = 0, \pm 1, \pm 2...$ is orthonormal over every interval of duration $T_0 = 2\pi/\omega_0$

$$\int_{T_0} e^{jm\omega_0 t} (e^{jn\omega_0 t})^* dt = \int_{T_0} e^{j(m-n)\omega_0 t} dt = \begin{cases} 0 & m \neq n \\ T_0 & m = n \end{cases}$$
(3.69)

 And it is a complete set, thus any signal f(t) can be expressed over a period of duration T₀ as

$$f(t) = \sum_{n=-\infty}^{\infty} D_n e^{jn\omega_0 t}$$
(3.70)

where [see Eq. (3.45)]

$$D_n = \frac{1}{T_0} \int_{T_0} f(t) e^{-jn\omega_0 t} dt$$
 (3.71)



Bandwidth of a signal

 Difference between the highest and the lowest frequencies of the spectral components of a signal



Parseval's theorem

$$f(t) = C_0 + \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} C_n \cos(n\omega_0 t + \theta_n) \qquad P_f = C_0^2 + \frac{1}{2} \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} C_n^2 \qquad P_f = \sum_{n=-\infty}^{\infty} |D_n|^2$$



LTIC response to periodic inputs

- A periodic signal can be expressed as the superposition of everlasting complex exponentials (or sinusoids)
- The response of the system to an everlasting exponential is H(s) thus, due to linearity





Limitations of the FS

- Can handle only periodic inputs \rightarrow Continuous Time FT
- Cannot manage easily unstable or marginally stable systems \rightarrow Laplace Transform



