# Generalized Fourier Series

## Definitions

1. A set of functions {Φi(t)} is said to be **orthogonal** over an interval [a,b] iff



0

Ai (≠ 0 or ∞) if i = j

1. A set of functions is said to be **complete** over an interval [a,b] if **any** waveform with a finite number of discontinuities on [a,b] can be expressed as a linear combination of members of that set.

## Theorem: The Fourier Series

Given: {Φi(t)} is a complete, orthogonal set on [a,b],
, and
*f(t)* has a finite number of discontinuities on [a,b].

Then: over [a,b]

Where: 

## Proof:

Since {Φi(t)} is a complete set on [a,b]

 over [a,b]

Multiplying both sides of the equation by  yields

 

Now integrating both sides over [a,b]

 

Reversing the order of integration and summation (linear operators) and moving the constants out of the integral leaves

 

But 0 for i ≠ j so we are left with only the ith term of the sum



Solving for Ki

 

**Q. E. D.**

## Examples of Complete, Orthogonal Sets

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **{Φi(t)}** | **[a,b]** |
| { 1, sin(nω0t), cos(nω0t) } ( 1 ≥ n ≥ ∞ ) | [ -T/2, T/2] ( T = 2π/ω0 ) |
| { exp(jnω0t) } ( - ∞ ≥ n ≥ ∞ ) | [ -T/2, T/2] ( T = 2π/ω0 ) |
| Pn(t) – The Legendre PolynomialsP0(t) = 1P1(t)= tP2(t)= ½( 3t2 – 1)P3(t)= ½( 5t3 – 3t) … | [ -1, 1 ] |
|  - The 0th Order Bessel Functionρn is the nth root of J0(t) = 0ρ0 = 2.41, ρ1 = 5.51, ρ2 = 8.64, ρ3 = 11.79, … | [0, a] |

## Example: The Sawtooth or Sweep function



**f(t) = (A/T)\*t**

**t in [0, T)**

Use { 1, sin(nω0t), cos(nω0t) } (ω0 = 2\*π/T)



0

0

**First find a0**



note: the second and third integrals are zero since the area under a sine or cosine over a integer number of cycles is always zero. They have equal areas above and below the axis.

 

 
Solving for a0

 

 

 **a0 = A/2 Note: This is the average or DC value of the waveform**

**Now find bn for n ≥ 1**

again



Now multiply both sides by and integrate over the interval



The first integral is zero as before; the second is also zero since

  **HW: check it out**

The third integral uses another trigonometric identity



The (x+y) terms again all yield zero and all of the (x-y) terms are also zero **except** for the one where m=n. This yields

 

But cos(0) = 1 and the integral becomes T and we have

 

or

 

Integrating this requires the use of integration by parts

 

We want to get rid of the t in the integral so let u = t and dv be the rest. This yields

 

The integral is once again zero for the usual reason. The first term becomes



Simplifying further



or



**HW: Show that the an are all zero for n ≠ 0**

## The Complex Exponential Series: Another form of the Sine-Cosine Series

Euler’s Formula

 

This also means that

 

The **unit circle** represents exp(x) as a unit vector of magnitude 1 and angle θ

j

sin(x)

cos(x)

1

θ

The complex exponential is therefore closely related to the Phasor analysis used in AC circuits and

 

HW: find the complex exponential form for the Fourier Series of the sawtooth example function.

Note: the answer should be consistent with

 

Note: Both the Sine-Cosine and Complex Exponential sets consist of members that are periodic functions. Each of their members has a frequency, which is a multiple of the fundamental frequency that has a period, T, equal to the length of the region of orthogonality. Each element is also periodic with period T and therefore their sum is also periodic.

 Although we made no general statement in the theory about the behavior of the original function outside of the region of orthogonality, the Fourier series will only represent a periodic function. It, however, will represent a periodic function over all time.

Further note: at discontinuities, there will be some residual error