

Determine the Fourier series of the function of spatial period L given by

$$f(x) = \begin{cases} -1, & -\frac{L}{2} < x < 0 \\ +1, & 0 < x < \frac{L}{2} \end{cases}$$

Sol) Odd function. $a_n = a_{-n} = 0$

$$f(x) = \sum_{m=1}^{\infty} b_m \sin m k x, \quad b_m = \frac{2}{L} \int_{-\frac{L}{2}}^{\frac{L}{2}} f(x) \sin m k x dx$$

$$\begin{aligned} \rightarrow b_m &= \frac{2}{L} \left\{ \int_{-\frac{L}{2}}^0 -\sin m k x dx + \int_0^{\frac{L}{2}} \sin m k x dx \right\} \\ &= \frac{2}{L \cdot m k} \left\{ \cos m k x \Big|_{-\frac{L}{2}}^0 - \cos m k x \Big|_0^{\frac{L}{2}} \right\} \\ &= \frac{2}{m k L} \left\{ 1 - \cos \frac{m k L}{2} - \cos \frac{m k L}{2} + 1 \right\} = \frac{4}{m k L} \left(1 - \cos \frac{m k L}{2} \right) \\ k &= \frac{2\pi}{L} \quad \therefore b_m = \frac{2}{m\pi} (1 - \cos m\pi), \quad m=1, 2, 3, \dots \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned} \therefore f(x) &= \frac{2}{\pi} \sum_{m=1}^{\infty} \left(\frac{1 - \cos m\pi}{m} \right) \sin m k x \\ &= \frac{2}{\pi} \left(2 \sin kx + \frac{2}{3} \sin 3kx + \frac{2}{5} \sin 5kx + \dots \right) \\ &= \frac{4}{\pi} \left(\sin kx + \frac{1}{3} \sin 3kx + \frac{1}{5} \sin 5kx + \dots \right) \end{aligned}$$

Check! (i) $a_0 = \frac{2}{L} \int_{-\frac{L}{2}}^{\frac{L}{2}} f(x) dx = \frac{2}{L} \left\{ \int_{-\frac{L}{2}}^0 (-1) dx + \int_0^{\frac{L}{2}} (+1) dx \right\} = \frac{2}{L} \left\{ (-1) \left(0 - \frac{-L}{2} \right) + (+1) \left(\frac{L}{2} - 0 \right) \right\} = 0$

(ii) $a_m = \frac{2}{L} \left\{ \int_{-\frac{L}{2}}^0 -\cos m k x dx + \int_0^{\frac{L}{2}} \cos m k x dx \right\} = 0$

$$= \frac{2}{L} \left\{ \frac{-1}{m k} \sin m k x \Big|_{-\frac{L}{2}}^0 + \frac{1}{m k} \sin m k x \Big|_0^{\frac{L}{2}} \right\} = \frac{2}{m k L} \left\{ + \sin \left(-\frac{m k L}{2} \right) + \sin \frac{m k L}{2} \right\} = 0$$