

PROBLEM:

We have seen that a periodic signal $x(t)$ can be represented by the Fourier series

$$x(t) = \sum_{k=-\infty}^{\infty} a_k e^{jk\omega_0 t}, \quad (1)$$

where $\omega_0 = 2\pi/T_0 = 2\pi f_0$. It turns out that we can transform many operations on the signal into corresponding operations on the Fourier coefficients a_k . For example, suppose that we want to consider a new periodic signal $y(t) = \frac{dx(t)}{dt}$. What would the Fourier coefficients be for $y(t)$? To see this, we simply need to differentiate the Fourier series representation; i.e.,

$$y(t) = \frac{dx(t)}{dt} = \frac{d}{dt} \left[\sum_{k=-\infty}^{\infty} a_k e^{jk\omega_0 t} \right] = \sum_{k=-\infty}^{\infty} a_k \frac{d}{dt} \left[e^{jk\omega_0 t} \right] = \sum_{k=-\infty}^{\infty} a_k \left[(jk\omega_0) e^{jk\omega_0 t} \right]. \quad (2)$$

Thus, we see that $y(t)$ is also in the Fourier series form

$$y(t) = \sum_{k=-\infty}^{\infty} b_k e^{jk\omega_0 t}, \quad \text{where } b_k = (jk\omega_0) a_k$$

but in this case the Fourier series coefficients are related to the Fourier series coefficients of $x(t)$ by $b_k = (jk\omega_0) a_k$. This is a nice result because it allows us to find the Fourier coefficients *without* actually doing the differentiation of $x(t)$ and *without* doing any tedious evaluation of integrals to obtain the Fourier coefficients b_k . It is a *general* result that holds for every periodic signal and its derivative.

We can use this style of manipulation to obtain some other useful results for Fourier series. In each case below, use Equation (2) as the starting point and the given definition for $y(t)$ to express $y(t)$ as a Fourier series and then manipulate the equation so that you can pick off an expression for the Fourier coefficients b_k as a function of the original coefficients a_k .

- Suppose that $y(t) = Ax(t)$ where A is a real number; i.e., $y(t)$ is just a scaled version of $x(t)$. Show that the Fourier coefficients for $y(t)$ are $b_k = Aa_k$.
- Suppose that $y(t) = x(t - t_d)$ where t_d is a real number; i.e., $y(t)$ is just a delayed version of $x(t)$. Show that the Fourier coefficients for $y(t)$ in this case are $b_k = a_k e^{-jk\omega_0 t_d}$.