

# 6.300 Signal Processing

Week 2, Lecture B:

## Fourier Series – Complex Exponential Form

- Complex numbers
- Fourier series: Sinusoids to complex exponentials
- Delay property of Fourier series

Lecture slides are available on CATSOOP:

<https://sigproc.mit.edu/fall24>

# Fourier Series

**Previously:** Representing periodic signals as weighted sums of sinusoids.

## Synthesis Equation

$$f(t) = c_0 + \sum_{k=1}^{\infty} c_k \cos(k\omega_o t) + \sum_{k=1}^{\infty} d_k \sin(k\omega_o t) \quad \text{where } \omega_o = \frac{2\pi}{T}$$

## Analysis Equations

$$c_0 = \frac{1}{T} \int_T f(t) dt$$

$$c_k = \frac{2}{T} \int_T f(t) \cos(k\omega_o t) dt$$

$$d_k = \frac{2}{T} \int_T f(t) \sin(k\omega_o t) dt$$

Q1: How to go from sinusoids to complex numbers?  
Q2: Is it really simpler?

**Today:** Simplifying the math with complex numbers.

# Simplifying Math By Using Complex Numbers – How?

Our biggest simplification comes from **Euler's formula**, which relates complex exponentials to trigonometric functions (Leonhard Euler, 1748).

$$e^{j\theta} = \cos \theta + j \sin \theta$$

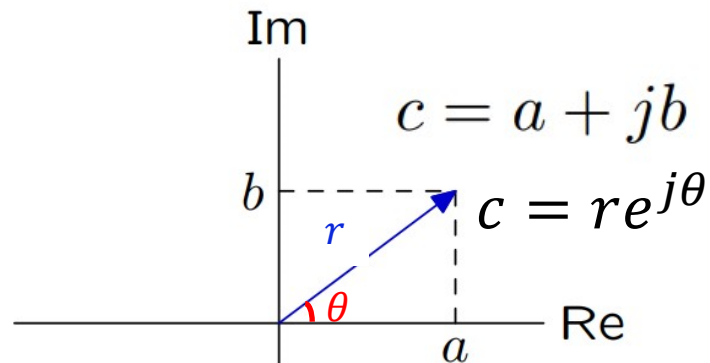
where  $j = \sqrt{-1}$ .

Richard Feynman called this "the most remarkable formula in mathematics."

# Geometric Interpretation of Euler's Formula

$$e^{j\theta} = \cos \theta + j \sin \theta$$

Rectangular form



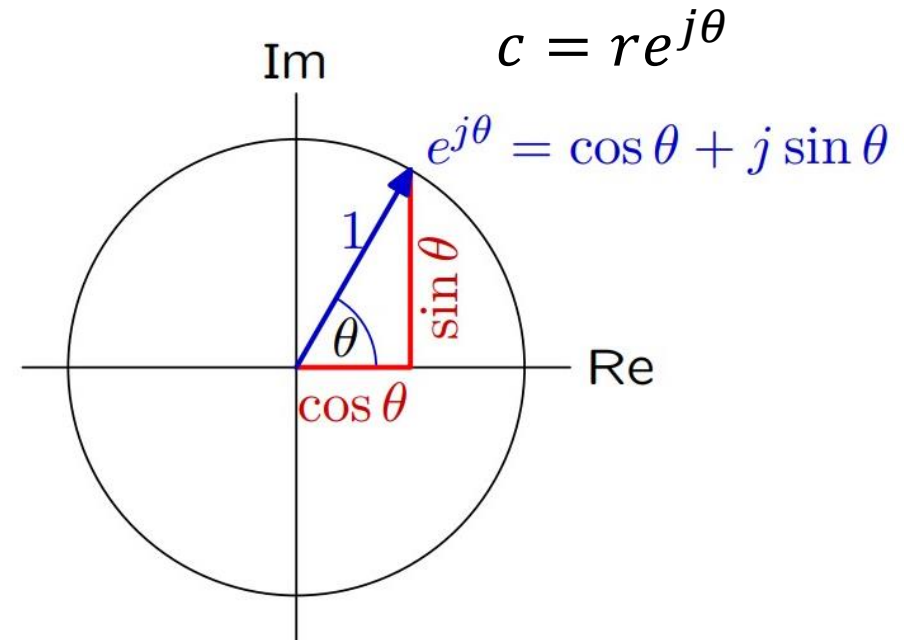
$$r = \sqrt{a^2 + b^2}$$

$$a = r \cos \theta$$

$$\theta = \tan^{-1}\left(\frac{b}{a}\right)$$

$$b = r \sin \theta$$

Polar form



- Complex numbers are two-dimensional, and can be described as points in the complex plane.
- Two ways of describing a unit vector at angle  $\theta$  in the complex plane: rectangular and polar form.

# Addition

Q: which way is easier? Rectangular or Polar?

Addition: the real part of a sum is the sum of the real parts, and the imaginary part of a sum is the sum of the imaginary parts.

Let  $c_1$  and  $c_2$  represent complex numbers:

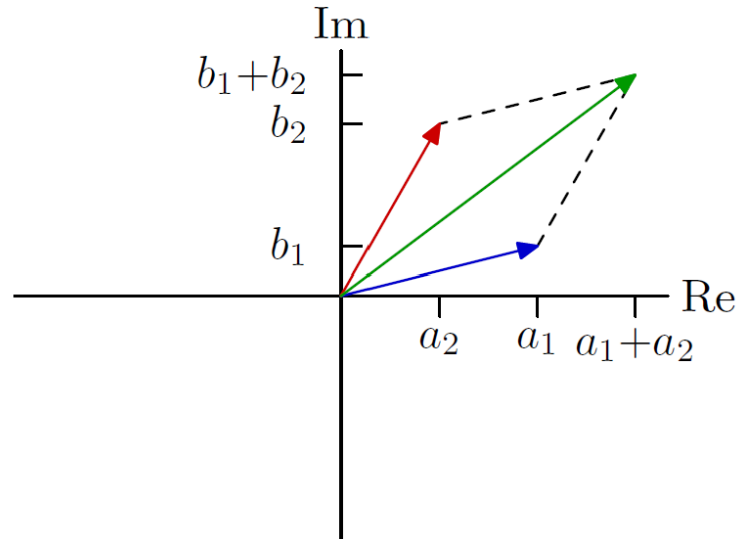
$$c_1 = a_1 + jb_1$$

$$c_2 = a_2 + jb_2$$

Then

$$c_1 + c_2 = (a_1 + jb_1) + (a_2 + jb_2) = (a_1 + a_2) + j(b_1 + b_2)$$

Rules for adding complex numbers are same as those for adding vectors.



# Multiplication

Q: which way is easier? Rectangular or Polar?

Multiplication is more complicated.

Let  $c_1$  and  $c_2$  represent complex numbers:

$$c_1 = a_1 + jb_1$$

$$c_2 = a_2 + jb_2$$

Then

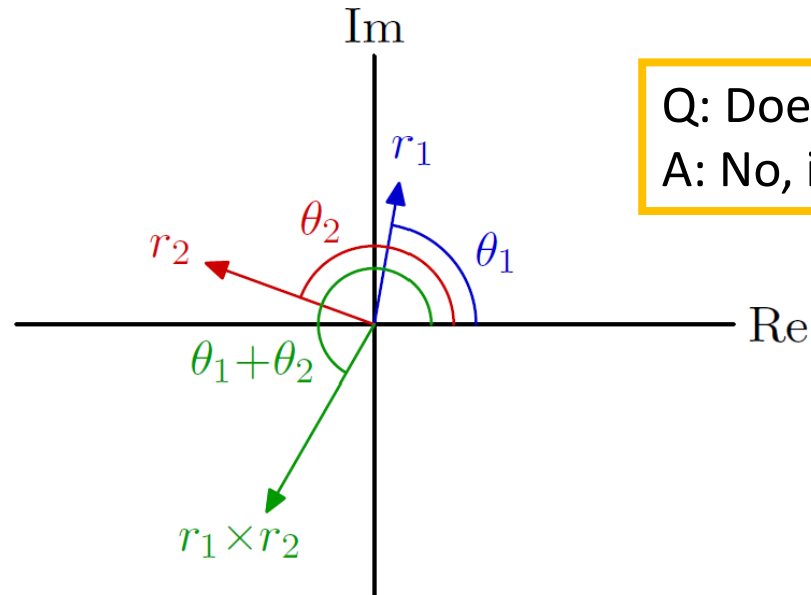
$$\begin{aligned}c_1 \times c_2 &= (a_1 + jb_1) \times (a_2 + jb_2) \\ &= a_1 \times a_2 + a_1 \times jb_2 + jb_1 \times a_2 + jb_1 \times jb_2 \\ &= (a_1 a_2 - b_1 b_2) + j(a_1 b_2 + b_1 a_2)\end{aligned}$$

Although the rules of algebra still apply, the result is complicated:

- the real part of a product is NOT the product of the real parts, and
- the imaginary part is NOT the product of the imaginary parts.

# Multiplication: Polar form

The magnitude of the product of complex numbers is the **product** of their magnitudes. The angle of a product is the **sum** of the angles.



Q: Does phase change lead to magnitude change?  
A: No, it's just a rotation of the vector!

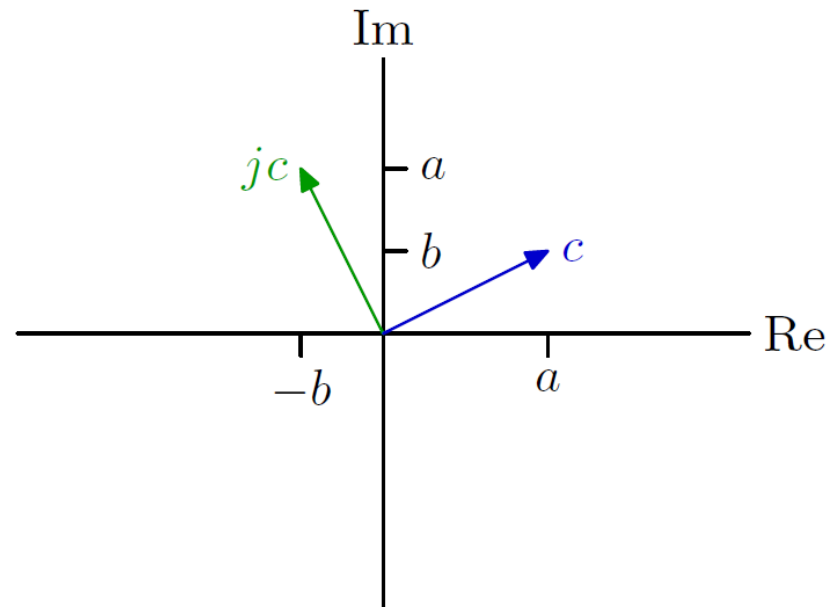
$$\begin{aligned} r_1 e^{j\theta_1} \times r_2 e^{j\theta_2} &= r_1 (\cos \theta_1 + j \sin \theta_1) \times r_2 (\cos \theta_2 + j \sin \theta_2) \\ &= r_1 r_2 \left( \underbrace{\cos \theta_1 \cos \theta_2 - \sin \theta_1 \sin \theta_2}_{\cos(\theta_1 + \theta_2)} + j \underbrace{\cos \theta_1 \sin \theta_2 + \sin \theta_1 \cos \theta_2}_{\sin(\theta_1 + \theta_2)} \right) \\ &= r_1 r_2 e^{j(\theta_1 + \theta_2)} \end{aligned}$$

# Multiplication of Complex Numbers

E.g. Multiply a complex number by  $j$ . let's first try rectangular form:

$$c = a + jb$$

$$jc = ja - b$$



$$e^{j2\pi} = 1; e^{j\pi} = -1; e^{j\pi/2} = j;$$

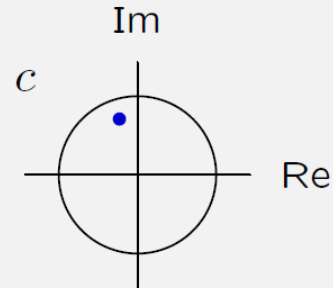
Q: Is there an easier way to do it?

Multiplying by  $j$  rotates an arbitrary complex number by  $\pi/2$ .

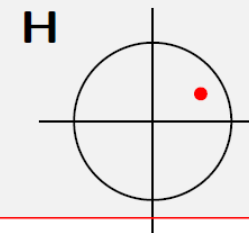
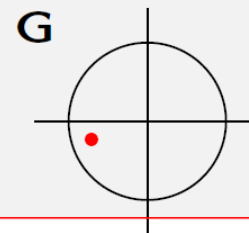
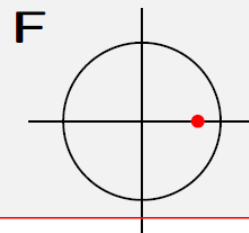
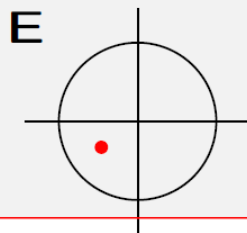
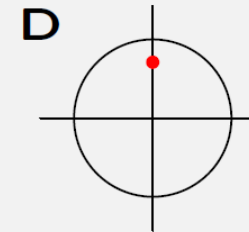
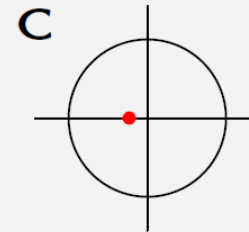
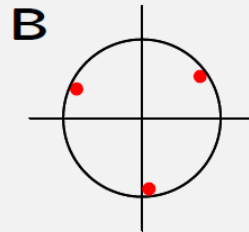
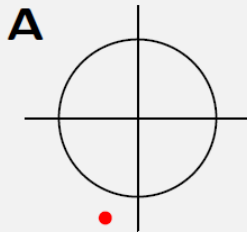


# Check yourself

Let  $c$  represent the complex number shown by a filled dot in the complex plane below, where the circle has radius 1.



Which if any of the following figures shows the value of  $jc$ ?  
Which if any of the following figures shows the value of  $\text{Im}(c)$ ?  
Which if any of the following figures shows the value of  $1/c$ ?



# How to go from trig form to CE form for CTFS

Substitute complex exponentials for trigonometric functions.

$$\begin{aligned}
 f(t) &= c_0 + \sum_{k=1}^{\infty} \left( c_k \cos(k\omega_0 t) + d_k \sin(k\omega_0 t) \right) \\
 &= c_0 + \sum_{k=1}^{\infty} \left( c_k \underbrace{\frac{1}{2}(e^{jk\omega_0 t} + e^{-jk\omega_0 t})}_{\cos(k\omega_0 t)} + d_k \underbrace{\frac{1}{2j}(e^{jk\omega_0 t} - e^{-jk\omega_0 t})}_{\sin(k\omega_0 t)} \right) \\
 &= c_0 + \sum_{k=1}^{\infty} \frac{c_k - jd_k}{2} e^{jk\omega_0 t} + \sum_{k=1}^{\infty} \frac{c_k + jd_k}{2} e^{-jk\omega_0 t} \\
 &= c_0 + \sum_{k=1}^{\infty} \frac{c_k - jd_k}{2} e^{jk\omega_0 t} + \sum_{k=-1}^{-\infty} \frac{c_{-k} + jd_{-k}}{2} e^{+jk\omega_0 t}
 \end{aligned}$$

$$f(t) = \sum_{k=-\infty}^{\infty} a_k e^{jk\omega_0 t} \quad \text{where} \quad a_k = \begin{cases} \frac{1}{2}(c_k - jd_k) & \text{if } k > 0 \\ c_0 & \text{if } k = 0 \\ \frac{1}{2}(c_{-k} + jd_{-k}) & \text{if } k < 0 \end{cases}$$

Let's try it!

$$e^{j\theta} = \cos\theta + j\sin\theta$$

$$e^{-j\theta} = \cos\theta - j\sin\theta$$

$$\cos\theta = \frac{e^{j\theta} + e^{-j\theta}}{2}$$

$$\sin\theta = \frac{e^{j\theta} - e^{-j\theta}}{2j} = -j \frac{e^{j\theta} - e^{-j\theta}}{2}$$

The trig form of the Fourier series (top of page) has an equivalent form with complex exponentials (red).

# Meaning for Negative k

The complex exponential form of the series has positive and negative  $k$ 's.

$$f(t) = \sum_{k=-\infty}^{\infty} a_k e^{jk\omega_o t}$$

Only positive values of  $k$  are used in the trig form.

$$f(t) = c_0 + \sum_{k=1}^{\infty} c_k \cos(k\omega_o t) + \sum_{k=1}^{\infty} d_k \sin(k\omega_o t)$$

Q: Why? What does negative k mean?

The negative  $k$ 's are required by Euler's formula.

$$e^{jk\omega_o t} = \cos(k\omega_o t) + j \sin(k\omega_o t)$$

$$\cos(k\omega_o t) = \operatorname{Re}\{e^{jk\omega_o t}\} = \frac{1}{2} \left( e^{jk\omega_o t} + e^{-jk\omega_o t} \right)$$

$$\sin(k\omega_o t) = \operatorname{Im}\{e^{jk\omega_o t}\} = \frac{1}{2j} \left( e^{jk\omega_o t} - e^{-jk\omega_o t} \right)$$

The negative  $k$  do not indicate negative frequencies. They are the mathematical result of representing sinusoids with complex exponentials.

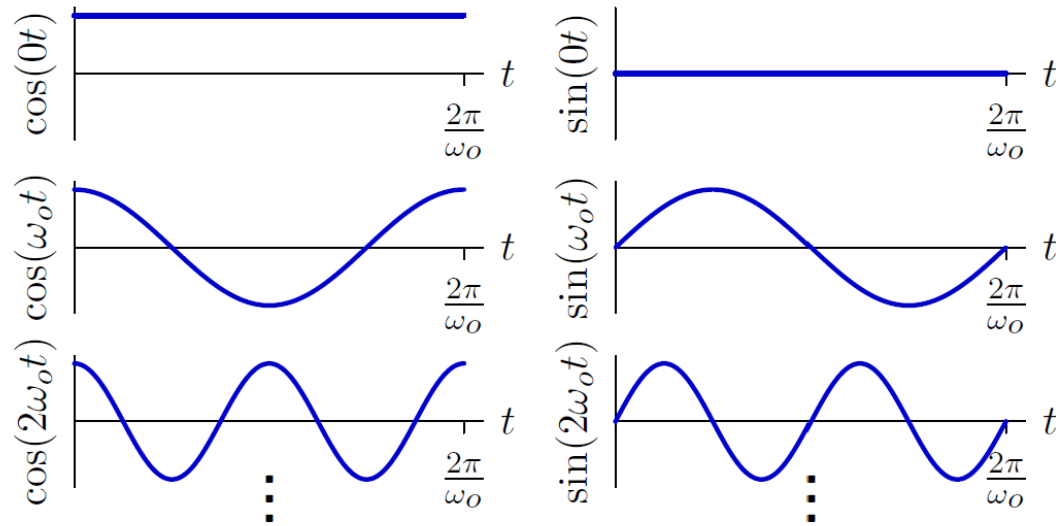
# Simplifying Math By Using Complex Numbers

Euler's formula allows us to represent both sine and cosine basis functions with a single complex exponential:

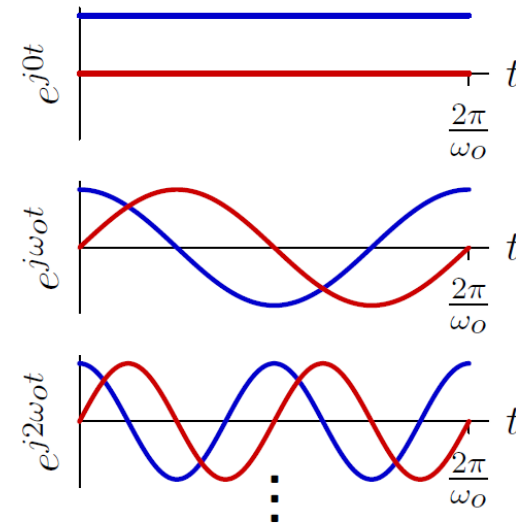
$$f(t) = \sum \left( c_k \cos(k\omega_0 t) + d_k \sin(k\omega_0 t) \right) = \sum a_k e^{jk\omega_0 t}$$

Q: What's the difference?

Real-valued basis functions



Complex basis functions



- Potentially simpler math
  - Cosine and Sine all-in-one
  - No need to memorize trig identities
- Negative  $k$

# Fourier Series Directly from Complex Exponential Form

Assume that  $f(t)$  is periodic in  $T$  and is composed of a weighted sum of harmonically related complex exponentials.

$$f(t) = f(t + T) = \sum_{k=-\infty}^{\infty} a_k e^{j\omega_0 k t}$$

We can “sift” out the component at  $l\omega_0$  by multiplying both sides by  $e^{-jl\omega_0 t}$  and integrating over a period.

$$\begin{aligned} \int_T f(t) e^{-j\omega_0 l t} dt &= \int_T \sum_{k=-\infty}^{\infty} a_k e^{j\omega_0 k t} e^{-j\omega_0 l t} dt = \sum_{k=-\infty}^{\infty} a_k \int_T e^{j\omega_0 (k-l)t} dt \\ &= \begin{cases} T a_l & \text{if } l = k \\ 0 & \text{otherwise} \end{cases} \end{aligned}$$

Solving for  $a_l$  provides an explicit formula for the coefficients:

$$a_k = \frac{1}{T} \int_T f(t) e^{-j\omega_0 k t} dt; \quad \text{where } \omega_0 = \frac{2\pi}{T}.$$

# Orthogonal decompositions

**Vector representation:** let  $\bar{r}$  represent a vector with components  $a$  and  $b$  in the  $\hat{x}$  and  $\hat{y}$  directions, respectively.

$$\begin{aligned} a &= \bar{r} \cdot \hat{x} \\ b &= \bar{r} \cdot \hat{y} \end{aligned} \quad (\text{“analysis” equations})$$

$$\bar{r} = a\hat{x} + b\hat{y} \quad (\text{“synthesis” equation})$$

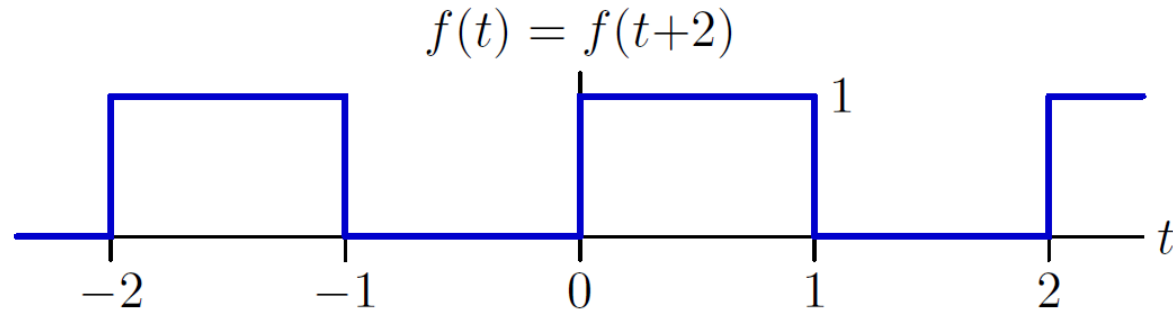
**Fourier series:** let  $f(t)$  represent a signal with harmonic components  $a_0, a_1, \dots, a_k$  for harmonics  $e^{j0t}, e^{j\frac{2\pi}{T}t}, \dots, e^{j\frac{2\pi}{T}kt}$  respectively.

$$a_k = \frac{1}{T} \int_T f(t) e^{-j\frac{2\pi}{T}kt} dt \quad (\text{“analysis” equation})$$

$$f(t) = f(t + T) = \sum_{k=-\infty}^{\infty} a_k e^{j\frac{2\pi}{T}kt} \quad (\text{“synthesis” equation})$$

# Fourier analysis of a square wave

We previously used trig functions to find the Fourier series for  $f(t)$  below:



$$c_0 = \frac{1}{T} \int_0^T f(t) dt = \frac{1}{2} \int_0^2 f(t) dt = \frac{1}{2}$$

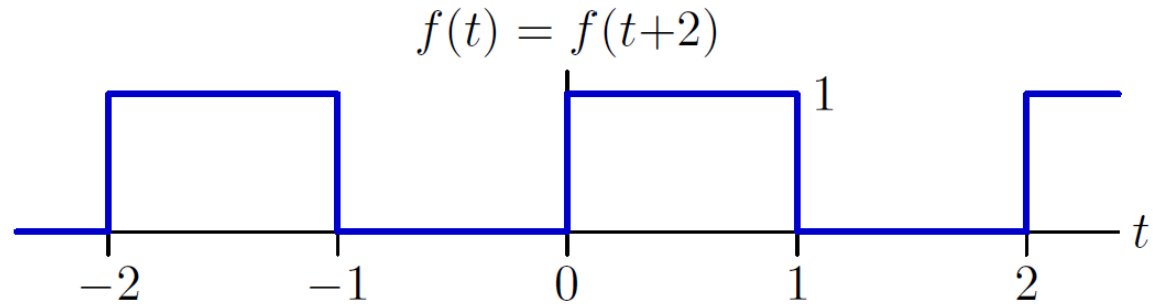
$$c_k = \frac{2}{T} \int_0^T f(t) \cos(k\omega_0 t) dt = \int_0^1 \cos(k\pi t) dt = \left. \frac{\sin(k\pi t)}{k\pi} \right|_0^1 = 0 \text{ for } k = 1, 2, 3, \dots$$

$$d_k = \frac{2}{T} \int_0^T f(t) \sin(k\omega_0 t) dt = \int_0^1 \sin(k\pi t) dt = - \left. \frac{\cos(k\pi t)}{k\pi} \right|_0^1 = \begin{cases} \frac{2}{k\pi} & k = 1, 3, 5, \dots \\ 0 & \text{otherwise} \end{cases}$$

$$f(t) = \frac{1}{2} + \sum_{\substack{k=1 \\ k \text{ odd}}}^{\infty} \frac{2}{k\pi} \sin(k\pi t)$$

# Fourier analysis of a square wave

Now try complex exponentials.





# Continuous Time Fourier series (CTFS)

Comparison of trigonometric and complex exponential forms.

## Complex Exponential Form

$$f(t) = f(t + T) = \sum_{k=-\infty}^{\infty} a_k e^{jk\omega_0 t}$$

$$a_k = \frac{1}{T} \int_T f(t) e^{-jk\omega_0 t} dt$$

Or more often:

$$x(t) = x(t + T) = \sum_{k=-\infty}^{\infty} X[k] e^{j\frac{2\pi kt}{T}}$$

$$X[k] = \frac{1}{T} \int_T x(t) e^{-j\frac{2\pi kt}{T}} dt$$

## Trigonometric Form

$$f(t) = f(t + T) = c_0 + \sum_{k=1}^{\infty} c_k \cos(k\omega_0 t) + \sum_{k=1}^{\infty} d_k \sin(k\omega_0 t)$$

$$c_0 = \frac{1}{T} \int_T f(t) dt$$

$$c_k = \frac{2}{T} \int_T f(t) \cos(k\omega_0 t) dt; \quad k = 1, 2, 3, \dots$$

$$d_k = \frac{2}{T} \int_T f(t) \sin(k\omega_0 t) dt; \quad k = 1, 2, 3, \dots$$

# Is the complex exponential form actually easier?

Let's consider the effect of a half-period shift on the Fourier coefficients of the trig form vs CE form:

Assume that  $f(t)$  is periodic in time with period  $T$ :

$$f(t) = f(t+T).$$

Let  $g(t)$  represent a version of  $f(t)$  shifted by half a period:

$$g(t) = f(t-T/2).$$

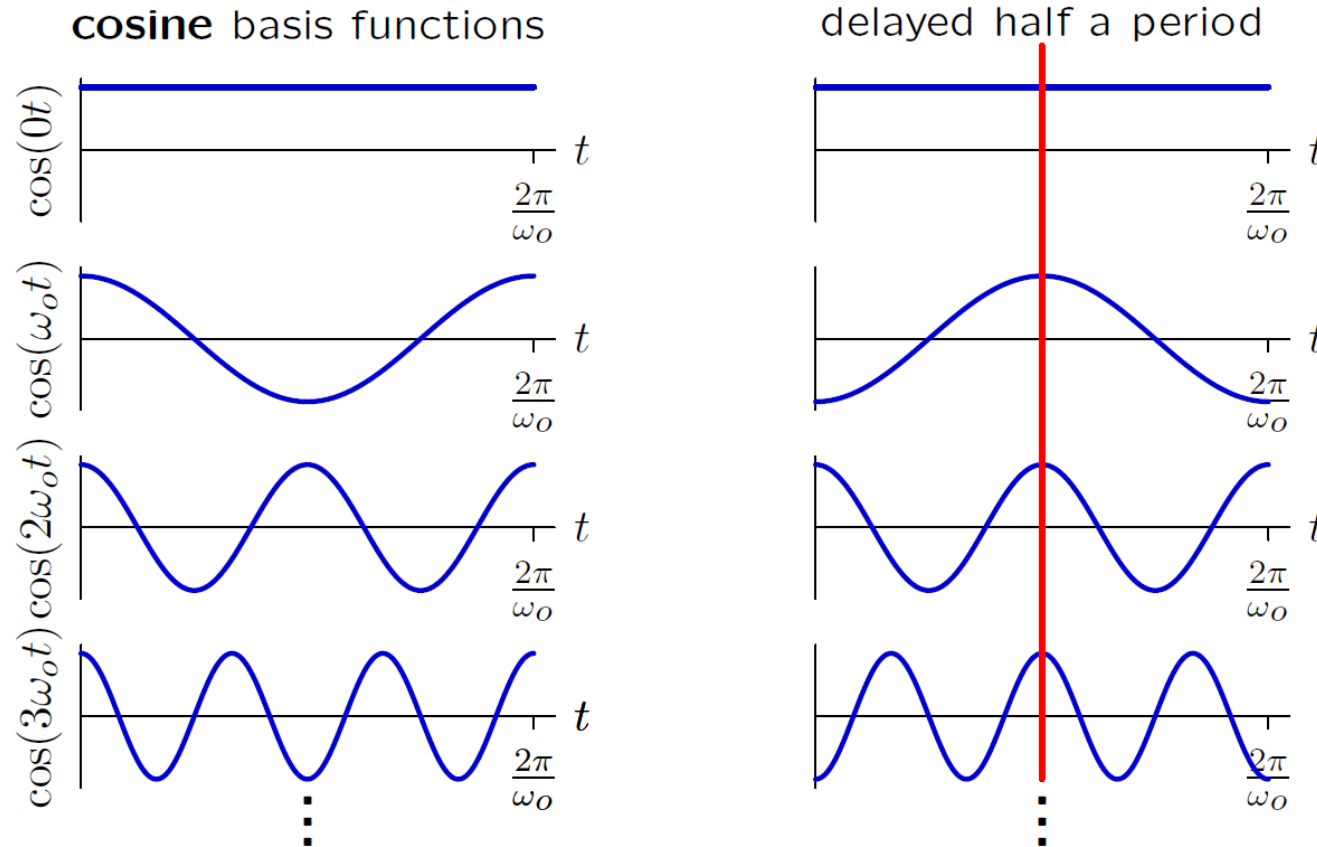
How many of the following statements correctly describe the effect of this shift on the Fourier series coefficients.

- cosine coefficients  $c_k$  are negated
- sine coefficients  $d_k$  are negated
- odd-numbered coefficients  $c_1, d_1, c_3, d_3, \dots$  are negated
- sine and cosine coefficients are swapped:  $c_k \rightarrow d_k$  and  $d_k \rightarrow c_k$

# Alternative (more intuitive) approach

Shifting  $f(t)$  shifts the underlying basis functions of its Fourier expansion.

$$f(t-T/2) = \sum_{k=0}^{\infty} c_k \cos(k\omega_o(t-T/2)) + \sum_{k=1}^{\infty} d_k \sin(k\omega_o(t-T/2))$$

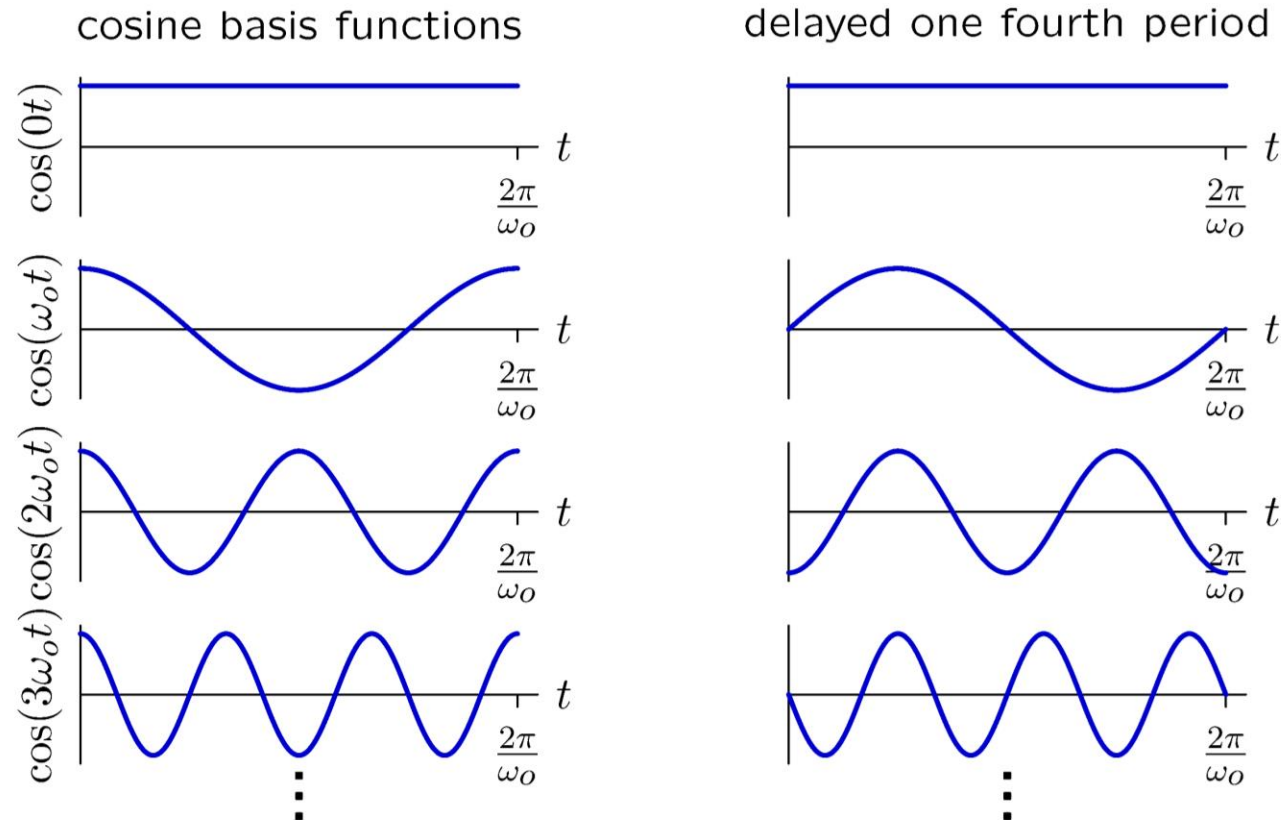


Half-period shift inverts odd harmonics. No effect on even harmonics.

# Quarter-period shift

Shifting by  $T/4$  is **even more complicated**.

$$f(t - T/4) = \sum_{k=0}^{\infty} c_k \cos(k\omega_o(t - T/4)) + \sum_{k=1}^{\infty} d_k \sin(k\omega_o(t - T/4))$$



$$\cos(\omega_o t) \rightarrow \sin(\omega_o t); \quad \cos(2\omega_o t) \rightarrow -\cos(2\omega_o t); \quad \cos(3\omega_o t) \rightarrow -\sin(3\omega_o t)$$

# Eighth-period shift

Let  $c_k$  and  $d_k$  represent the Fourier series coefficients for  $f(t)$

$$f(t) = f(t + T) = c_0 + \sum_{k=1}^{\infty} c_k \cos(k\omega_0 t) + \sum_{k=1}^{\infty} d_k \sin(k\omega_0 t)$$

and  $c_k'''$  and  $d_k'''$  represent those for an eighth-period delay.

$$g(t) = f(t - T/8) = c_0 + \sum_{k=1}^{\infty} c_k''' \cos(k\omega_0 t) + \sum_{k=1}^{\infty} d_k''' \sin(k\omega_0 t)$$

$$c_k''' = \begin{cases} c_k & \text{if } k = 0, 8, 16, 24, \dots \\ \frac{\sqrt{2}}{2}(c_k + d_k) & \text{if } k = 1, 9, 17, 25, \dots \\ d_k & \text{if } k = 2, 10, 18, 26, \dots \\ \frac{\sqrt{2}}{2}(-c_k + d_k) & \text{if } k = 3, 11, 19, 27, \dots \\ -c_k & \text{if } k = 4, 12, 20, 28, \dots \\ \frac{\sqrt{2}}{2}(-c_k - d_k) & \text{if } k = 5, 13, 21, 29, \dots \\ -d_k & \text{if } k = 6, 14, 22, 30, \dots \\ \frac{\sqrt{2}}{2}(c_k - d_k) & \text{if } k = 7, 15, 23, 31, \dots \end{cases} \quad d_k''' = \dots$$

# Properties of CTFS: Time Shift

- Consider  $y(t) = x(t - t_0)$ , where  $x$  is periodic in  $T$ . What are the CTFS coefficients  $Y[k]$ , in terms of  $X[k]$ ?

# Properties of CTFS: Time Derivative

- Consider  $y(t) = \frac{d}{dt}x(t)$ , where  $x(t)$  and  $y(t)$  are periodic in  $T$ . What are the CTFS coefficients  $Y[k]$ , in terms of  $X[k]$ ?

# Real-valued periodic signal

If  $f(t)$  is real valued periodic signal, what properties do its CTFS coefficients  $F[k]$  have?



# Properties of CTFS: Time flip(reversal)

- Consider  $y(t) = x(-t)$ , where  $x(t)$  is periodic in  $T$ . What are the CTFS coefficients  $Y[k]$ , in terms of  $X[k]$ ? **Participation question for Lecture**

# Summary

- Complex numbers
- Complex exponentials and their relation to sinusoids
- Analysis and synthesis with complex exponentials
- Various properties of CTFS (using complex exponential form)

We will now go to 4-370 for recitation & common hour