

Now the *indefinite* integrals:

$$\int \cos(n\theta)d\theta = + \frac{\sin(n\theta)}{n} \qquad \int \sin(n\theta)d\theta = - \frac{\cos(n\theta)}{n}$$

Thus, the Fourier coefficients, a_n and b_n , for $n > 0$ are:

$$\begin{aligned} a_n &= \frac{+1}{n\pi} \{ [\sin(n\theta)|_{\theta=\pi} - \sin(n\theta)|_{\theta=0}] - [\sin(n\theta)|_{\theta=2\pi} - \sin(n\theta)|_{\theta=\pi}] \} \\ &= \frac{+1}{n\pi} \{ [\sin(n\pi) - \sin(0)] - [\sin(2n\pi) - \sin(n\pi)] \} = \frac{1}{n\pi} \{ [0 - 0] - [0 - 0] \} = 0 \end{aligned}$$

since $\sin(0) = \sin(n\pi) = \sin(2n\pi) = 0$ for *all* integers, $n = 1, 2, 3, 4, \dots$, and:

$$\begin{aligned} b_n &= \frac{-1}{n\pi} \{ [\cos(n\theta)|_{\theta=\pi} - \cos(n\theta)|_{\theta=0}] - [\cos(n\theta)|_{\theta=2\pi} - \cos(n\theta)|_{\theta=\pi}] \} \\ &= \frac{-1}{n\pi} \{ [\cos(n\pi) - \cos(0)] - [\cos(2n\pi) - \cos(n\pi)] \} = \frac{-1}{n\pi} \{ [\cos(n\pi) - 1] - [1 - \cos(n\pi)] \} \\ &= \frac{-2}{n\pi} [\cos(n\pi) - 1] = \frac{2}{n\pi} [1 - \cos(n\pi)] \end{aligned}$$

Now $\cos(0) = \cos(2n\pi) = +1$ for *all* integers, $n = 1, 2, 3, 4, \dots$, and $\cos(n\pi) = +1$ for the *even* integers, $n = 2, 4, 6, 8, \dots$, and $\cos(n\pi) = -1$ for the *odd* integers, $n = 1, 3, 5, 7, \dots$

Thus, we see that *all* of the Fourier coefficients, a_n for the *even* functions, $\cos(\theta_n)$ vanish i.e. $a_n = 0$ for *all* integers, $n = 1, 2, 3, 4, \dots$

The Fourier coefficients, b_n for the *odd* functions, $\sin(\theta_n)$ vanish for the *even* harmonics, i.e. $b_n = 0$ when $n = 2, 4, 6, 8, \dots$, but the Fourier coefficients, b_n are non-zero for the *odd* harmonics, when $n = 1, 3, 5, 7, \dots$, where $b_n = +4/n\pi$.

Thus, the Fourier series expansion of a periodic, bipolar, 50% duty-cycle square wave as shown in the above figure is given by:

$$f(\theta) \Big|_{\substack{\text{square} \\ \text{-wave}}} = \frac{a_0}{2} + \sum_{n=1}^{n=\infty} a_n \cos \theta_n + \sum_{n=1}^{n=\infty} b_n \sin \theta_n = \frac{4}{\pi} \sum_{\substack{n=1 \\ \text{odd}-n}}^{n=\infty} \frac{\sin(n\theta)}{n}$$

Using the replacement: $n_{\text{odd}} = 2m - 1$, $m = 1, 2, 3, 4, \dots$ in the above summation, we can alternatively write the Fourier series expansion for this square wave as:

$$f(\theta) \Big|_{\substack{\text{square} \\ \text{-wave}}} = \frac{4}{\pi} \sum_{m=1}^{m=\infty} \frac{\sin[(2m-1)\theta]}{(2m-1)} = \frac{4}{\pi} \left\{ \sin \theta + \frac{1}{3} \sin 3\theta + \frac{1}{5} \sin 5\theta + \frac{1}{7} \sin 7\theta + \dots \right\}$$

Thus, we see that for the periodic, bipolar, 50% duty-cycle square wave, only *odd* harmonics (i.e. *odd* integer multiples of the fundamental) are present in this waveform.