

Physics 42200

Waves & Oscillations

Lecture 18 – French, Chapter 6

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Wave Equation

$$\frac{\partial^2 y}{\partial x^2} = \frac{1}{v^2} \frac{\partial^2 y}{\partial t^2}$$

- Speed of propagation depends on the medium:

- String with tension T and linear mass density μ :

$$v = \sqrt{T/\mu}$$

- Sound waves in air:

$$v = \sqrt{\gamma p / \rho}$$

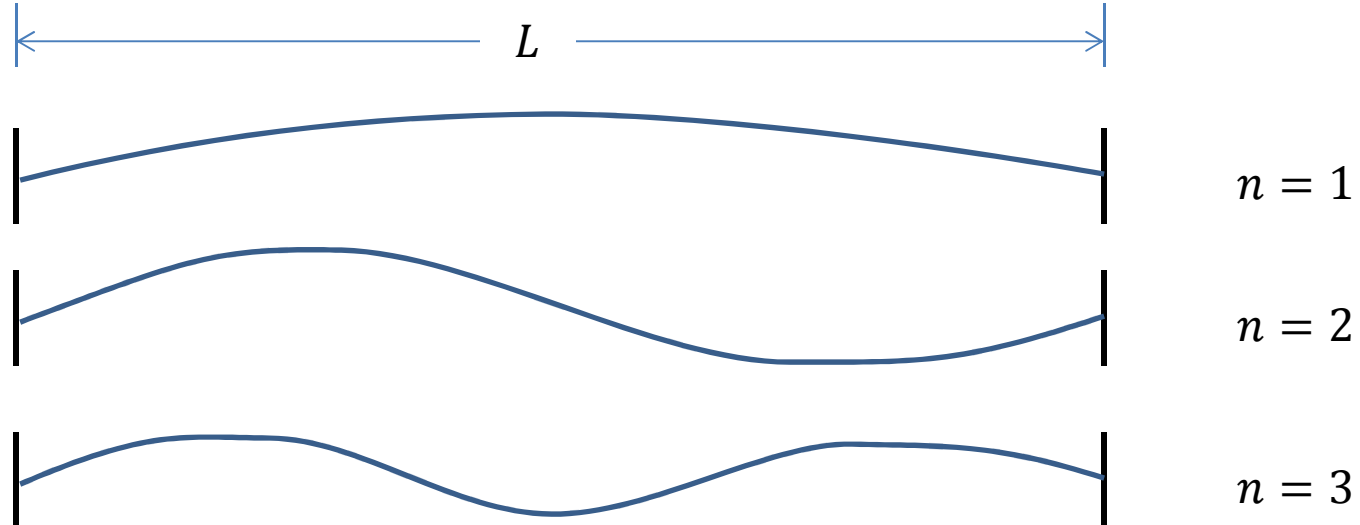
- Electrical transmission lines:

$$v = \sqrt{\frac{1}{L'C'}} \approx \frac{c}{\sqrt{\epsilon_r}}$$

Boundary Conditions

- The boundary conditions at $x = 0$ and at $x = L$ determine what types of functions describe the normal modes of oscillation.
 - Both ends are fixed (no movement possible):

$$y(0, t) = y(L, t) = 0$$



$$y_n(x) = \sin\left(\frac{n\pi x}{L}\right)$$

Frequencies of Normal Modes

$$y_n(x, t) = y_n(x) \cos(\omega_n t + \alpha_n)$$

$$y_n(x) = \sin\left(\frac{n\pi x}{L}\right) = \sin k_n x$$

- Second derivatives:

$$\frac{\partial^2 y_n}{\partial t^2} = -\omega_n^2 y_n$$

$$\frac{\partial^2 y_n}{\partial x^2} = -k_n^2 y_n$$

- Substitute into the wave equation:

$$\frac{\partial^2 y}{\partial x^2} = \frac{1}{v^2} \frac{\partial^2 y}{\partial t^2} \Rightarrow \omega_n = k_n v = \frac{n\pi}{L} \sqrt{\frac{T}{\mu}}$$

Normal Modes of Oscillation

- Now we know all the normal modes of oscillation:

$$y_n(x, t) = \sin\left(\frac{n\pi x}{L}\right) \cos(\omega_n t + \alpha_n)$$

- The system is linear, so any function of the form:

$$y(x, t) = \sum_n a_n y_n(x, t)$$

is also a solution, where a_n are real numbers.

- In particular, at $t = 0$, the initial configuration of the string is described by

$$y(x, 0) = \sum_n a_n \sin\left(\frac{n\pi x}{L}\right) \cos \alpha_n$$
$$\dot{y}(x, 0) = - \sum_n a_n \omega_n \sin\left(\frac{n\pi x}{L}\right) \sin \alpha_n$$

Initial Conditions

$$y(x, 0) = \sum_n a_n \sin\left(\frac{n\pi x}{L}\right) \cos \alpha_n = \sum_n a'_n \sin\left(\frac{n\pi x}{L}\right)$$

$$\dot{y}(x, 0) = - \sum_n a_n \omega_n \sin\left(\frac{n\pi x}{L}\right) \sin \alpha_n = \sum_n b'_n \sin\left(\frac{n\pi x}{L}\right)$$

- If we know the initial shape of the string, and its time derivative at $t = 0$, how can we determine the coefficients a'_n and b'_n ?
- From these we could calculate a_n and α_n and then we would have a solution.
- Consider the special case where the velocity is initially zero...
 - Then $b'_n = -a_n \omega_n \sin \alpha_n = 0$ so we then must have $\alpha_n = 0$.

Fourier Analysis

- Simple case when initial velocity is zero:

$$y(x, 0) = \sum_n a_n \sin\left(\frac{n\pi x}{L}\right)$$

- If the initial shape was $y(x, 0) = f(x)$, how do we calculate a_n ?
- Let's first look at a similar problem...

Fourier Analysis

- Suppose we have a vector \vec{v} in 3-dimensional space.
- If we establish a set of coordinate axes then we have unit vectors $\hat{i}, \hat{j}, \hat{k}$ along the x-, y-, and z-axes.

$$\hat{i} \cdot \hat{i} = 1 \quad \hat{i} \cdot \hat{j} = 0 \quad \hat{i} \cdot \hat{k} = 0, \text{ etc...}$$

- Now we can write:

$$\vec{v} = v_x \hat{i} + v_y \hat{j} + v_z \hat{k}$$

- v_x, v_y and v_z are real numbers.
- We can calculate them using

$$v_x = \vec{v} \cdot \hat{i}$$

$$v_y = \vec{v} \cdot \hat{j}$$

$$v_z = \vec{v} \cdot \hat{k}$$

Fourier Analysis

- Suppose we have a vector \vec{v} in n-dimensional space.
- Suppose we have an orthonormal basis $\hat{u}_n...$

$$\hat{u}_n \cdot \hat{u}_m = \delta_{nm}$$
$$\delta_{nm} = \begin{cases} 1 & \text{if } n = m \\ 0 & \text{if } n \neq m \end{cases}$$

- We can write \vec{v} in the form

$$\vec{v} = v_1 \hat{u}_1 + v_2 \hat{u}_2 + v_3 \hat{u}_3 + \dots = \sum_m v_m \hat{u}_m$$

- We can calculate v_n using

$$\vec{v} \cdot \hat{u}_n = \sum_m v_m \hat{u}_m \cdot \hat{u}_n = \sum_m v_m \delta_{mn} = v_n$$

Fourier Analysis

- Back to the initial value problem:
 - We have an initial function $f(x)$ that we can write

$$f(x) = \sum_n a_n \sin\left(\frac{n\pi x}{L}\right)$$

and we need to calculate the real numbers a_n ...

- The functions $\sin\left(\frac{n\pi x}{L}\right)$ are sort of like a set of basis vectors... are they orthonormal?
 - How do we define the dot product in this case?

Fourier Analysis

- In this case we define the “dot product” as an integral:

$$f \cdot y_n = \int_0^L f(x) \sin\left(\frac{n\pi x}{L}\right) dx$$

- Are $y_n(x)$ orthogonal?

$$\begin{aligned} y_n \cdot y_m &= \int_0^L \sin\left(\frac{n\pi x}{L}\right) \sin\left(\frac{m\pi x}{L}\right) dx \\ &= \frac{1}{2} \int_0^L \cos\left(\frac{(n-m)\pi x}{L}\right) dx \\ &\quad - \frac{1}{2} \int_0^L \cos\left(\frac{(n+m)\pi x}{L}\right) dx \end{aligned} \quad \left. \vphantom{\int_0^L} \right\} = 0 \text{ when } n \neq m$$

Fourier Analysis

- But when $n = m$,

$$\begin{aligned} y_n \cdot y_m &= \int_0^L \sin\left(\frac{n\pi x}{L}\right) \sin\left(\frac{m\pi x}{L}\right) dx \\ &= \frac{1}{2} \int_0^L \cos\left(\frac{(n-m)\pi x}{L}\right) dx - \frac{1}{2} \int_0^L \cos\left(\frac{2n\pi x}{L}\right) dx \\ &= \frac{1}{2} \int_0^L dx = \frac{L}{2} \end{aligned}$$

- So we can write

$$y_n \cdot y_m = \frac{L}{2} \delta_{nm}$$

Initial Value Problem

$$f(x) = \sum_n a_n \sin\left(\frac{n\pi x}{L}\right)$$

$$y_n \cdot f = \int_0^L f(x) \sin\left(\frac{n\pi x}{L}\right) dx$$

$$= \int_0^L \left[\sum_m a_m \sin\left(\frac{m\pi x}{L}\right) \right] \sin\left(\frac{n\pi x}{L}\right) dx$$

$$= \sum_m a_m y_m \cdot y_n = \frac{L}{2} \sum_m a_m \delta_{mn} = \frac{L}{2} a_n$$

Initial Value Problem

$$f(x) = \sum_n a_n \sin\left(\frac{n\pi x}{L}\right)$$

$$a_n = \frac{2}{L} \int_0^L f(x) \sin\left(\frac{n\pi x}{L}\right) dx$$

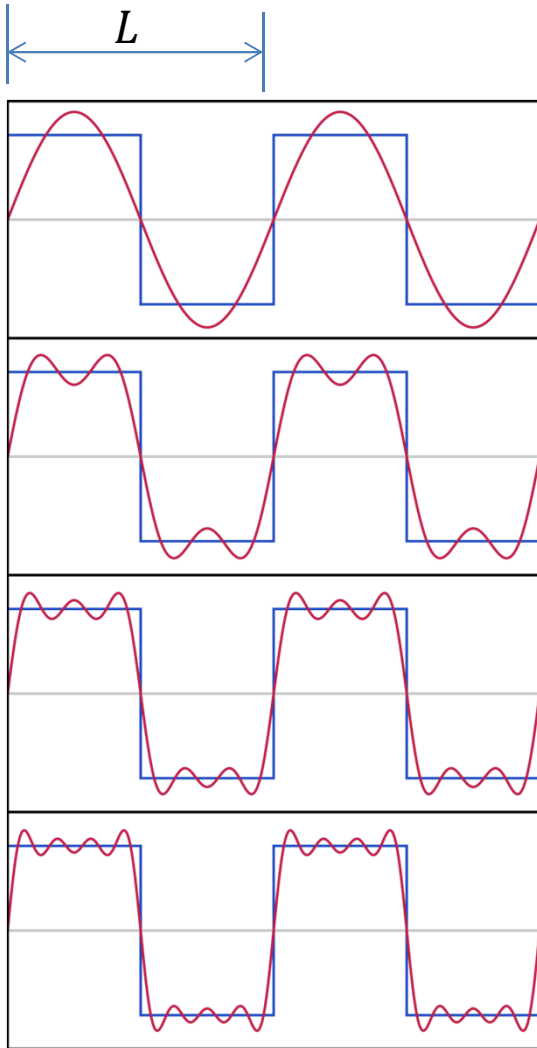
Now we know how to calculate a_n from the initial conditions... we have solved the initial value problem.

Example

- How to describe a square wave in terms of normal modes:

$$u(x) = \begin{cases} +1 & \text{when } 0 < x < L/2 \\ -1 & \text{when } L/2 < x < L \end{cases}$$
$$a_n = \frac{2}{L} \int_0^{L/2} \sin\left(\frac{n\pi x}{L}\right) dx - \frac{2}{L} \int_{L/2}^L \sin\left(\frac{n\pi x}{L}\right) dx$$
$$= \frac{2}{n\pi} [1 - \cos(n\pi)]$$
$$a_1 = \frac{4}{\pi}, a_3 = \frac{4}{3\pi}, a_5 = \frac{4}{5\pi}, \dots$$

Example



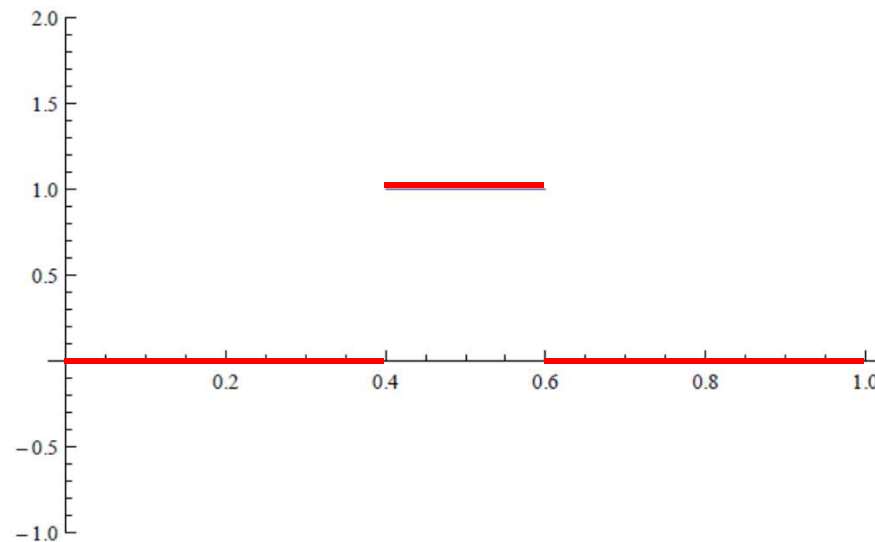
$$a_n = \frac{2}{n\pi} [1 - \cos(n\pi)]$$
$$a_1 = \frac{4}{\pi}, a_3 = \frac{4}{3\pi}, a_5 = \frac{4}{5\pi}, \dots$$
$$a_2 = 0, a_4 = 0, a_6 = 0, \dots$$

The initial shape doesn't really satisfy the boundary conditions $y(0) = y(L) = 0$, but the approximation does.

Other Examples

- Consider an initial displacement in the middle of the string:

$$f(x) = \begin{cases} 0 & \text{when } x < 2L/5 \\ 1 & \text{when } 2L/5 < x < 3L/5 \\ 0 & \text{when } x > 3L/5 \end{cases}$$



Let's assume
 $L = 1$ and
 $v = 1$

Example

$$a_n = \frac{2}{L} \int_{2L/5}^{3L/5} \sin\left(\frac{n\pi x}{L}\right) dx$$

$$a[n_] := \frac{2}{L} \int_0^L f[x] \sin\left[\frac{n\pi x}{L}\right] dx$$

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f[x_] = Piecewise[{{0, x < 2/5}, {1, x > 2/5 && x < 3/5}, {0, x > 3/5}}]
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Table[a[n], {n, M}]
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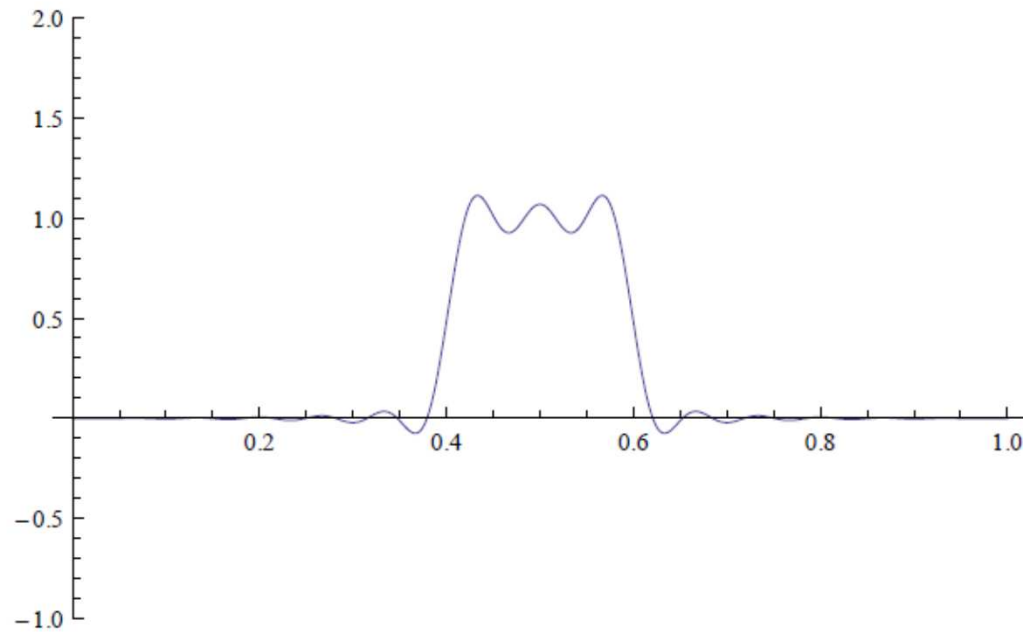
$$\left\{ \frac{-1+\sqrt{5}}{\pi}, 0, \frac{-1-\sqrt{5}}{3\pi}, 0, \frac{4}{5\pi}, 0, \frac{-1-\sqrt{5}}{7\pi}, 0, \frac{-1+\sqrt{5}}{9\pi}, 0, \frac{-1+\sqrt{5}}{11\pi}, 0, \frac{-1-\sqrt{5}}{13\pi}, 0, \frac{4}{15\pi}, 0, \right. \\ \left. \frac{-1-\sqrt{5}}{17\pi}, 0, \frac{-1+\sqrt{5}}{19\pi}, 0, \frac{-1+\sqrt{5}}{21\pi}, 0, \frac{-1-\sqrt{5}}{23\pi}, 0, \frac{4}{25\pi}, 0, \frac{-1-\sqrt{5}}{27\pi}, 0, \frac{-1+\sqrt{5}}{29\pi}, 0 \right\}$$

- Now we know the first 30 values for a_n ... we're done!

Example

- Is this a good approximation?

`Plot[z[x, 0], {x, 0, 1}, PlotRange → {-1, 2}]`



- A good description of sharp features require high frequencies (large n).

Example

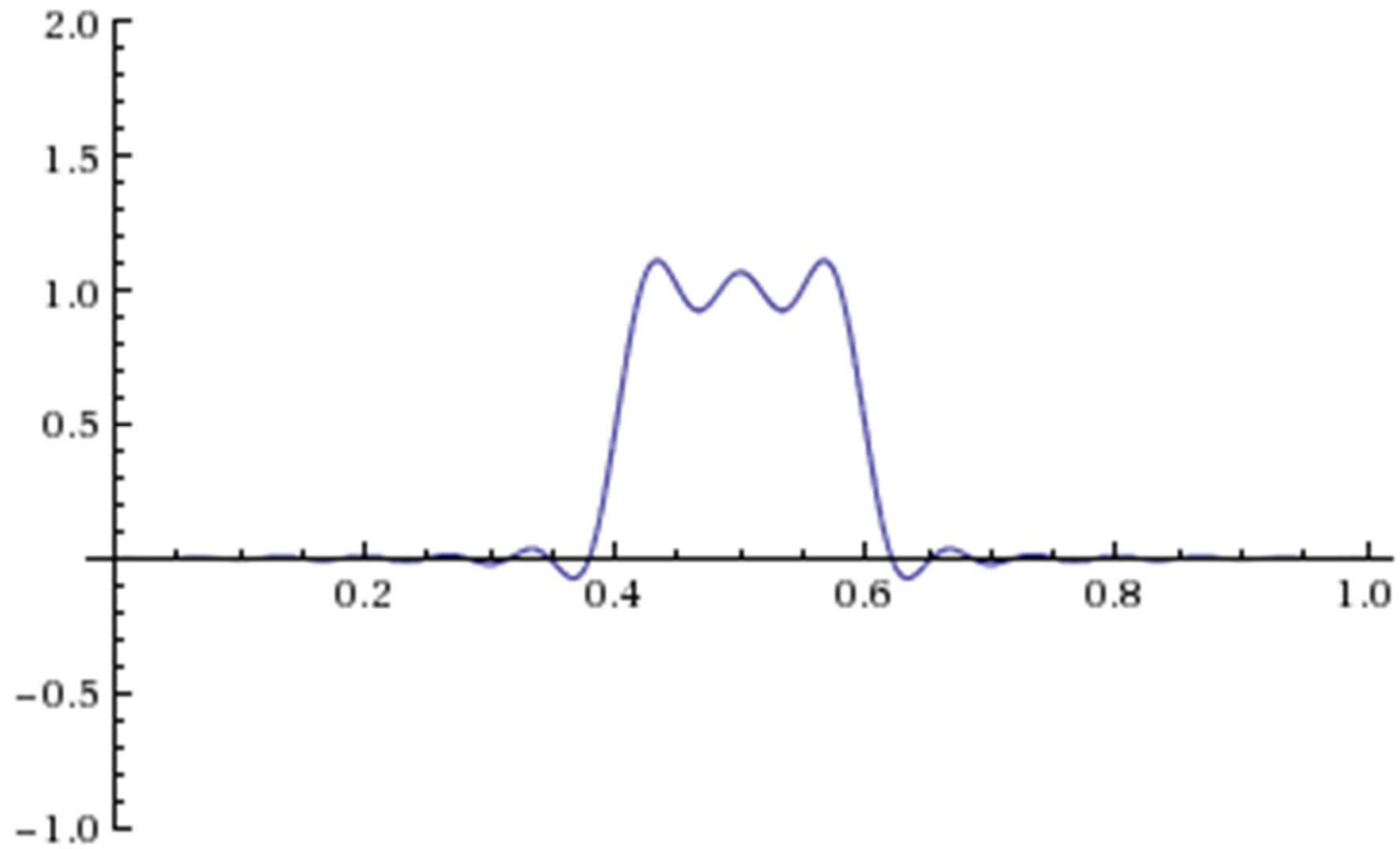
- The complete solution to the initial value problem is

$$y(x, t) = \sum_n a_n \sin\left(\frac{n\pi x}{L}\right) \cos \omega_n t$$

$$\omega_n = \frac{n\pi}{L} \sqrt{\frac{T}{\mu}}$$

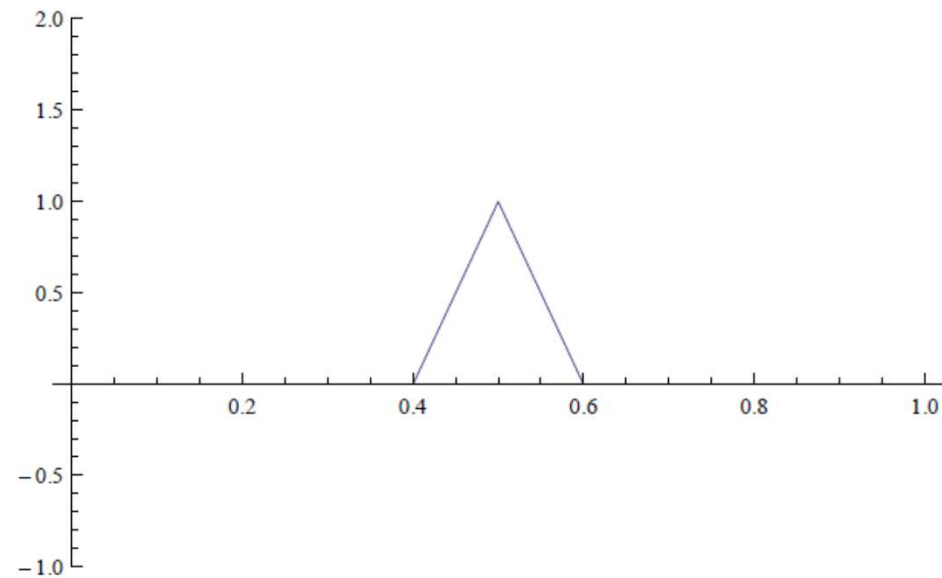
- What does this look like as a function of time?

Example



Another Example

- Consider a function that is a bit smoother:



$$f(x) = \begin{cases} 0 & x < \frac{2}{5} \\ 10 \left(-\frac{2}{5} + x\right) & x > \frac{2}{5} \ \&\& \ x < \frac{1}{2} \\ 2 + 10 \left(\frac{2}{5} - x\right) & x > \frac{1}{2} \ \&\& \ x < \frac{3}{5} \\ 0 & \text{True} \end{cases}$$

Example

- The integrals for the Fourier coefficients are of the form:

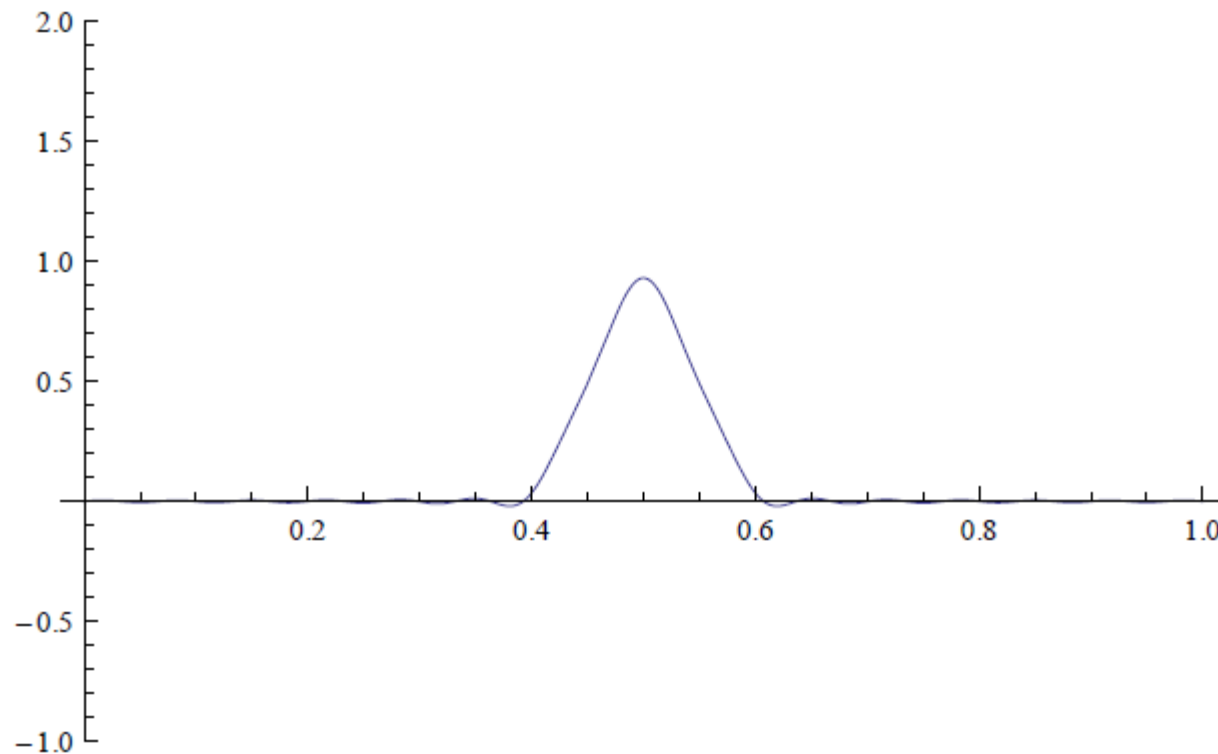
$$\int_a^b \sin\left(\frac{n\pi x}{L}\right) dx \text{ or } \int_a^b x \sin\left(\frac{n\pi x}{L}\right) dx$$

- These can be solved analytically, but it is a lot of work...

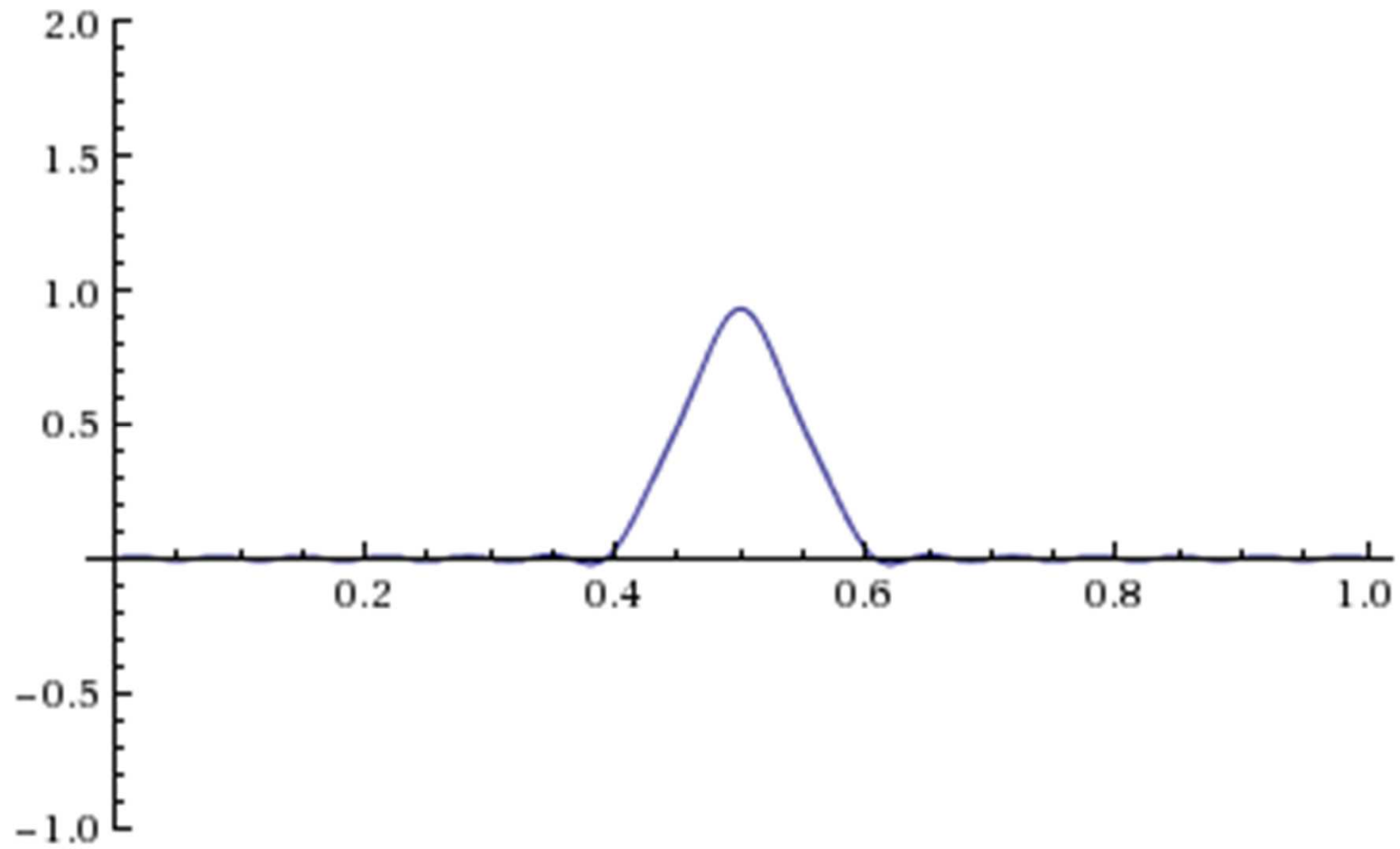
$$\left\{ -\frac{10 \left(-4 + \sqrt{2 \left(5 + \sqrt{5} \right)} \right)}{\pi^2}, 0, \frac{10 \left(-4 + \sqrt{2 \left(5 - \sqrt{5} \right)} \right)}{9 \pi^2}, 0, \frac{8}{5 \pi^2}, 0, -\frac{10 \left(4 + \sqrt{2 \left(5 - \sqrt{5} \right)} \right)}{49 \pi^2}, 0, \right. \\ \frac{10 \left(4 + \sqrt{2 \left(5 + \sqrt{5} \right)} \right)}{81 \pi^2}, 0, -\frac{10 \left(4 + \sqrt{2 \left(5 + \sqrt{5} \right)} \right)}{121 \pi^2}, 0, \frac{10 \left(4 + \sqrt{2 \left(5 - \sqrt{5} \right)} \right)}{169 \pi^2}, 0, -\frac{8}{45 \pi^2}, \\ 0, -\frac{10 \left(-4 + \sqrt{2 \left(5 - \sqrt{5} \right)} \right)}{289 \pi^2}, 0, \frac{10 \left(-4 + \sqrt{2 \left(5 + \sqrt{5} \right)} \right)}{361 \pi^2}, 0, -\frac{10 \left(-4 + \sqrt{2 \left(5 + \sqrt{5} \right)} \right)}{441 \pi^2}, 0, \\ \left. \frac{10 \left(-4 + \sqrt{2 \left(5 - \sqrt{5} \right)} \right)}{529 \pi^2}, 0, \frac{8}{125 \pi^2}, 0, -\frac{10 \left(4 + \sqrt{2 \left(5 - \sqrt{5} \right)} \right)}{729 \pi^2}, 0, \frac{10 \left(4 + \sqrt{2 \left(5 + \sqrt{5} \right)} \right)}{841 \pi^2}, 0 \right\}$$

Example

- The initial shape of the approximation with $N=30$ is better than for the square pulse.



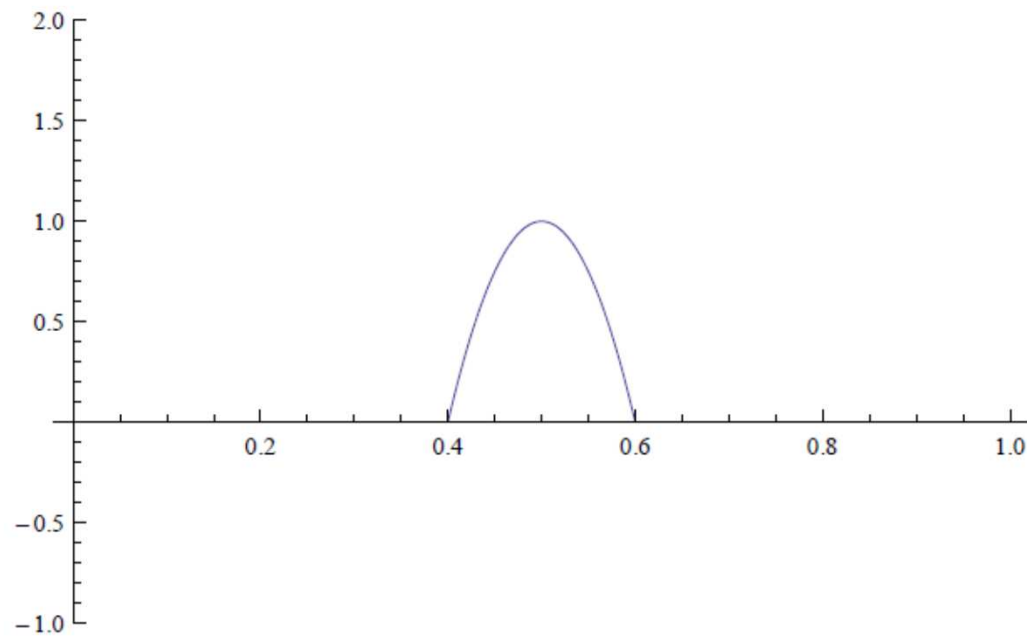
Example



Final Example

- An even smoother function:

$$f(x) = \begin{cases} 0 & x < \frac{2}{5} \\ 1 - 100 \left(-\frac{1}{2} + x\right)^2 & x > \frac{2}{5} \ \&\& \ x < \frac{3}{5} \\ 0 & \text{True} \end{cases}$$



Example

- The integrals for the Fourier coefficients are of the form:

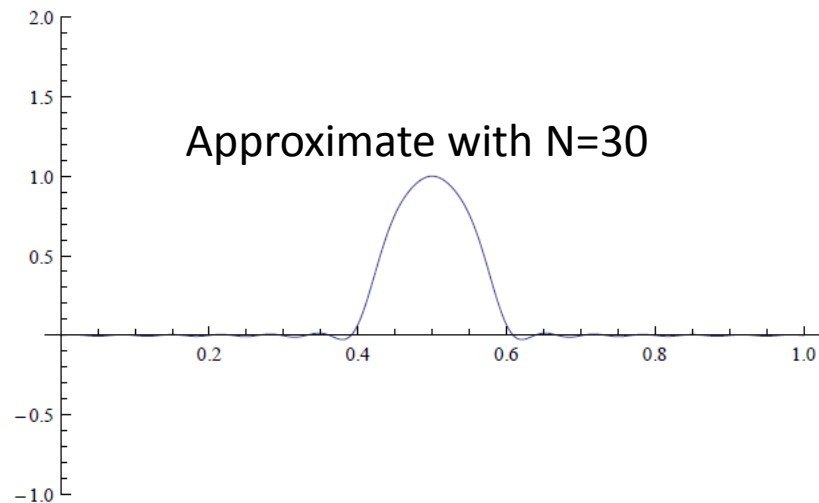
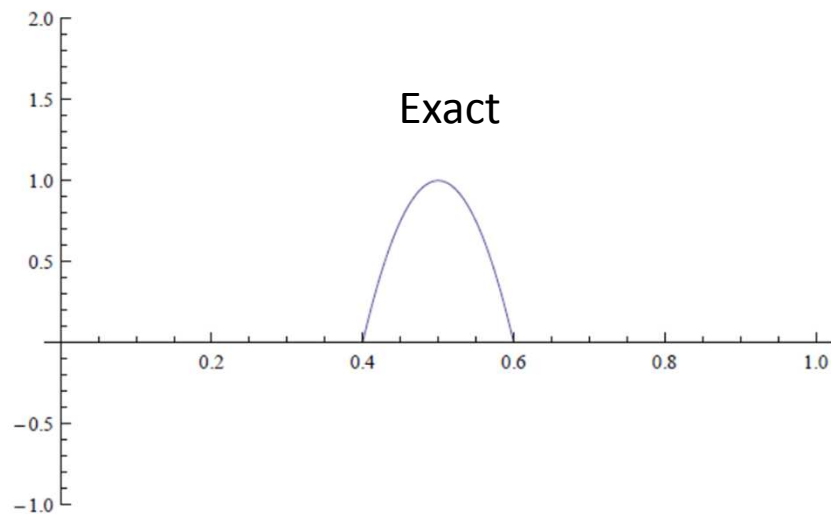
$$\int_a^b \sin\left(\frac{n\pi x}{L}\right) dx \text{ or } \int_a^b x \sin\left(\frac{n\pi x}{L}\right) dx \text{ or } \int_a^b x^2 \sin\left(\frac{n\pi x}{L}\right) dx$$

- These can be solved analytically, but it is a lot of work...

$$\left\{ -\frac{20 \left(10 - 10\sqrt{5} + \sqrt{2(5+\sqrt{5})} \pi \right)}{\pi^3}, 0, \frac{20 \left(-10 - 10\sqrt{5} + 3\sqrt{2(5-\sqrt{5})} \pi \right)}{27\pi^3}, 0, \frac{32}{5\pi^3}, \right. \\ 0, -\frac{20 \left(10 + 10\sqrt{5} + 7\sqrt{2(5-\sqrt{5})} \pi \right)}{343\pi^3}, 0, \frac{20 \left(-10 + 10\sqrt{5} + 9\sqrt{2(5+\sqrt{5})} \pi \right)}{729\pi^3}, 0, \\ -\frac{20 \left(10 - 10\sqrt{5} + 11\sqrt{2(5+\sqrt{5})} \pi \right)}{1331\pi^3}, 0, \frac{20 \left(-10 - 10\sqrt{5} + 13\sqrt{2(5-\sqrt{5})} \pi \right)}{2197\pi^3}, 0, \frac{32}{135\pi^3}, \\ 0, -\frac{20 \left(10 + 10\sqrt{5} + 17\sqrt{2(5-\sqrt{5})} \pi \right)}{4913\pi^3}, 0, \frac{20 \left(-10 + 10\sqrt{5} + 19\sqrt{2(5+\sqrt{5})} \pi \right)}{6859\pi^3}, 0, \\ -\frac{20 \left(10 - 10\sqrt{5} + 21\sqrt{2(5+\sqrt{5})} \pi \right)}{9261\pi^3}, 0, \frac{20 \left(-10 - 10\sqrt{5} + 23\sqrt{2(5-\sqrt{5})} \pi \right)}{12167\pi^3}, 0, \frac{32}{625\pi^3}, \\ \left. 0, -\frac{20 \left(10 + 10\sqrt{5} + 27\sqrt{2(5-\sqrt{5})} \pi \right)}{19683\pi^3}, 0, \frac{20 \left(-10 + 10\sqrt{5} + 29\sqrt{2(5+\sqrt{5})} \pi \right)}{24389\pi^3}, 0 \right\}$$

Example

- The initial shape of the approximation with $N=30$ is even better than the triangular pulse...



Example

