

# MA4229 Fourier Analysis and Approximation

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## 1 Fourier Series

**Piecewise continuity:** A function  $f$  is said to be piecewise continuous on  $[a, b]$  if it has a partition  $a = x_0 < x_1 < \dots < x_n = b$  such that  $f$  is uniformly continuous on each interval  $(x_{i-1}, x_i)$  for  $i=1, \dots, n$ .

$-f(a^+), f(b^-), f(x_i^+), f(x_i^-)$  exist for all  $i=1, \dots, n-1$

**Piecewise smooth:** A function  $f$  is said to be piecewise smooth on  $[a, b]$  if both  $f'$  and  $f$  are piecewise continuous on  $[a, b]$ .

**Fourier Cosine series:** If  $f$  is piecewise continuous on  $[0, \pi]$ , then

$$f(x) = a_0 + \sum_{k=1}^{\infty} a_k \cos(kx) \quad \begin{cases} a_0 = \frac{1}{\pi} \int_0^{\pi} f(x) dx \\ a_k = \frac{2}{\pi} \int_0^{\pi} f(x) \cos(kx) dx \end{cases}$$

**Fourier Sine series:** If  $f$  is piecewise continuous on  $[0, \pi]$ , then

$$f(x) = \sum_{k=1}^{\infty} b_k \sin(kx), \quad b_k = \frac{2}{\pi} \int_0^{\pi} f(x) \sin(kx) dx$$

**Fourier series:** If  $f$  is piecewise continuous on  $[-\pi, \pi]$ , then

$$f(x) = a_0 + \sum_{k=1}^{\infty} a_k \cos(kx) + \sum_{k=1}^{\infty} b_k \sin(kx) \quad \begin{cases} a_0 = \frac{1}{2\pi} \int_{-\pi}^{\pi} f(x) dx \\ a_k = \frac{1}{\pi} \int_{-\pi}^{\pi} f(x) \cos(kx) dx \\ b_k = \frac{1}{\pi} \int_{-\pi}^{\pi} f(x) \sin(kx) dx \end{cases}$$

If instead  $f$  is piecewise continuous on  $[-L, L]$ ,

$$f(x) = a_0 + \sum_{k=1}^{\infty} a_k \cos\left(\frac{2k\pi x}{L}\right) + \sum_{k=1}^{\infty} b_k \sin\left(\frac{2k\pi x}{L}\right) \quad \begin{cases} a_0 = \frac{1}{2L} \int_{-L}^L f(x) dx \\ a_k = \frac{1}{L} \int_{-L}^L f(x) \cos\left(\frac{2k\pi x}{L}\right) dx \\ b_k = \frac{1}{L} \int_{-L}^L f(x) \sin\left(\frac{2k\pi x}{L}\right) dx \end{cases}$$

**Integration by parts:**

① When  $f$  is a piecewise continuous fn. on  $[a, b]$ , then  $\int_a^b f(x) dx = \int_a^x f(x) dx \Big|_{x=a}^x = \int_a^x f(x) dx - \int_a^x f(x) dx$

② When  $P$  is a polynomial of degree less than  $m$  and  $f$  is continuous, then  $\int P f dx = P F_1 - P' F_2 + P'' F_3 - \dots + (-1)^m P^{(m)} F_{m+1} + C$

③ When  $P$  is a polynomial or other nice function and  $f$  is piecewise continuous, then we will do ① before ②.

## 2 Inner Products & Best Approximation

**Inner product:**  $\langle \cdot, \cdot \rangle$  is said to be an inner product on a real vector space  $V$  if  $\forall f, g, h \in V$ , we have (i)  $\langle f, g \rangle = \langle g, f \rangle$ ; (ii)  $\langle f, g+ch \rangle = \langle f, g \rangle + c \langle f, h \rangle$  and  $\langle f+ch, g \rangle = \langle f, g \rangle + c \langle h, g \rangle$ ; (iii)  $\langle f, f \rangle \geq 0$  with equality only when  $f=0$ .

**Orthogonal:** A set  $F$  in a vector space with inner product  $\langle \cdot, \cdot \rangle$  is said to be orthogonal if  $\langle f, g \rangle = 0$  for all  $f, g \in F, f \neq g$ .

**Orthogonal:** orthogonal &  $\langle f, f \rangle = 1$  for all  $f \in F$ .

**Norm:**  $\|x\| = \sqrt{\langle x, x \rangle}$ .

**Cauchy-Schwarz Inequality:**  $|\langle x, y \rangle| \leq \|x\| \|y\|$ .

**Parallelogram Rule:**  $\|x+y\|^2 + \|x-y\|^2 = 2\|x\|^2 + 2\|y\|^2$ .

**Pythagorean Law:**  $\|\sum_{j=1}^n v_j\|^2 = \sum_{j=1}^n \|v_j\|^2$  if  $\langle v_j, v_i \rangle = 0$  for all  $j \neq i$ .

**Hilbert space:** A complete inner product space is called a Hilbert space.

**Proposition 3.6:** (i) An orthogonal family of vectors is linearly independent. (ii) Every Hilbert space has a maximal orthonormal set.

**Orthonormal basis:** An orthonormal set  $\{e_1, e_2, \dots\}$  in a vector space  $V$  is said to be an orthonormal basis of  $V$  if for any  $f \in V$ , there exists unique  $\{c_k\} \subset \mathbb{R}$  such that  $f = \sum_{k=1}^{\infty} c_k e_k$ . It is a complete orthonormal set.

**Bessel's Inequality:** Let  $F$  be a family of orthonormal vectors in  $V$ , then  $\sum_{v \in F} |\langle v, v \rangle| \leq \|v\|^2$  for all  $v \in V$ .

**Parseval's Inequality:** If  $F$  is also complete and hence an orthonormal basis, then  $\sum_{v \in F} |\langle v, v \rangle| = \|v\|^2$  for all  $v \in V$ .

**Best Approximation by family of orthonormal vectors:**

Let  $\{v_1, \dots, v_n\}$  be a family of orthonormal vectors, then for all  $u \in V$ ,

$$\inf \{ \|u-v\| : v \in \text{Span}\{v_1, \dots, v_n\} \} = \|u - \sum_{j=1}^n \langle u, v_j \rangle v_j\|$$

-  $P_n u$  is independent of choice of basis

-  $u - P_n u$  is perpendicular to  $M$

-  $\|P_n u - P_m u\| \leq \|u - v\|$ . This implies  $P_n$  continuous projection

## Least Squares Approximation in $\mathbb{R}^n$

Given  $M = \text{Span}\{a_1, \dots, a_m\}$  which is a subspace of  $\mathbb{R}^n$ , we want to find for any  $b \in \mathbb{R}^n$  a corresponding  $v \in M$  s.t.  $\|v-b\| = \inf_{v \in M} \|v-b\|$ .

Let  $A = [a_1 \dots a_m]$ , then we can write the problem as  $\|Aa-b\| = \min_{a \in \mathbb{R}^m} \|Aa-b\|$ .

We look for the best approximation  $P_n b = Aa^*$  s.t.  $b - P_n b$  is orthogonal to  $M$ , we have  $\forall x \in \mathbb{R}^m, \langle b - Aa^*, Ax \rangle = 0$ . Hence  $\langle A^T b, x \rangle = \langle b, Ax \rangle = \langle Aa^*, Ax \rangle = \langle A^T A a^*, x \rangle$ . Hence  $A^T A a^* = A^T b$ .

**Gram determinant:** Let  $A = [a_1 \dots a_m]$ . The determinant of  $A^T A$  is the Gram determinant of  $A$ , denoted as  $G(a_1, \dots, a_m)$ . For any vector  $b \in \mathbb{R}^n$ , we have  $\|b - P_n b\|^2 = \frac{G(b, a_1, \dots, a_m)}{G(a_1, \dots, a_m)}$ .

**Best approximation in  $L^2$ :**

Let  $\{\varphi_k\}$  be a family of orthonormal set. If  $c_k = \langle f, \varphi_k \rangle$  for all  $k$ , then for any  $n \in \mathbb{N}$  and  $\{r_k\} \in \mathbb{R}$ , we have

$$\int_a^b |f(x) - \sum_{k=1}^n r_k \varphi_k(x)|^2 dx \geq \int_a^b |f(x) - \sum_{k=1}^n c_k \varphi_k(x)|^2 dx.$$

**Best approximation for Fourier series:** The Fourier series coefficients  $a_0, \{a_k\}, \{b_k\}$  can minimize  $\int_0^L |a_0 + \sum_{k=1}^n a_k \cos(\frac{2k\pi x}{L}) + \sum_{k=1}^n b_k \sin(\frac{2k\pi x}{L}) - f(x)|^2 dx$ .

**Theorem 3.14:** Let  $\{\varphi_k : k \in \mathbb{N}\}$  be an orthonormal basis of  $L^2[a, b]$ . Then for any  $f \in L^2[a, b]$ ,  $\int_a^b |f(x)|^2 dx = \sum_{k=1}^{\infty} c_k^2$  (Parseval's equation/identity) where  $c_k = \int_a^b f(x) \varphi_k(x) dx$ . Note that  $f = \sum_{k=1}^{\infty} c_k \varphi_k$ .

In particular, let  $f$  be a piecewise continuous function on  $[0, L]$ , let  $a_0 + \sum_{k=1}^n a_k \cos(\frac{2k\pi x}{L}) + \sum_{k=1}^n b_k \sin(\frac{2k\pi x}{L})$  be the Fourier series of  $f$  on  $[0, L]$ , then  $\int_0^L |f(x)|^2 dx = \frac{L}{2} (2a_0^2 + \sum_{k=1}^{\infty} (a_k^2 + b_k^2))$ .

Similarly, if  $f$  is piecewise continuous on  $[0, \pi]$ ,  $\int_0^{\pi} |f(x)|^2 dx = \frac{\pi}{2} \sum_{k=1}^{\infty} b_k^2$ .

**Theorem 3.17:** Let  $w$  be a weight on a finite interval  $[a, b]$ , and let  $f \in L_w^2[a, b]$ . Then  $p_n^*$  is the least squares approximation of  $f$  out of  $P_n$  if and only if  $\langle f - p_n^*, p \rangle_w = 0 \forall p \in P_n$ .

Moreover,  $p_n^*(x) = \sum_{k=0}^n a_k^* x^k$ , where

$$\begin{pmatrix} \langle 1, 1 \rangle_w & \dots & \langle x^n, 1 \rangle_w \\ \vdots & & \vdots \\ \langle 1, x^n \rangle_w & \dots & \langle x^n, x^n \rangle_w \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} a_0^* \\ \vdots \\ a_n^* \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} \langle f, 1 \rangle_w \\ \vdots \\ \langle f, x^n \rangle_w \end{pmatrix}.$$

## 3 Convergence of Fourier Series

**Theorem 4.1:** Let  $f$  be a piecewise smooth function on  $[0, L]$ . Then the Fourier series  $a_0 + \sum_{k=1}^n a_k \cos(\frac{2k\pi x}{L}) + \sum_{k=1}^n b_k \sin(\frac{2k\pi x}{L})$  of  $f$  converges to  $\frac{f(x^+) + f(x^-)}{2}$  for all  $x \in (0, L)$ . Moreover, if  $x=0$  or  $L$ , then the series converges to  $\frac{f(0^+) + f(L^-)}{2}$ .

- If  $f$  is continuous at  $x_0 \in (0, L)$ , the Fourier series converge to  $f(x_0)$ .

**Corollary 4.4:** Assume  $f$  is a piecewise continuous function on  $[0, L]$ , and  $a_0 + \sum_{k=1}^n a_k \cos(\frac{2k\pi x}{L}) + \sum_{k=1}^n b_k \sin(\frac{2k\pi x}{L})$  is the Fourier series of  $f$ , then  $\lim_{k \rightarrow \infty} a_k = 0 = \lim_{k \rightarrow \infty} b_k$ .

- It is enough to assume only  $\int_0^L |f(x)| dx < \infty$ .

**Fact 1 (Bessel's Inequality):**  $\{\varphi_k\}$  is orthonormal on  $[a, b]$ , then  $\langle f, f \rangle \geq \sum_{k=1}^n |\langle f, \varphi_k \rangle|^2$  for all  $n$ .

**Fact 2:** Let  $f$  be a piecewise continuous function on  $[0, T]$ , then  $\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \int_0^T f(x) \sin \frac{(2n+1)\pi x}{2T} dx = 0$ .

**Dirichlet kernel:**  $D_n(x) = \frac{1}{2} + \sum_{k=1}^n \cos kx = \frac{\sin(\frac{2n+1}{2}x)}{2 \sin(\frac{x}{2})}$  when  $x \neq 2k\pi, k \in \mathbb{Z}$ .

Note that  $\int_0^{\pi} D_n(x) dx = \frac{\pi}{2}$ .

**Theorem:** Let  $f$  be a piecewise smooth function on  $[0, L]$ . Then its Fourier sine and cosine series converge to  $\frac{f(x^+) + f(x^-)}{2}$  if  $x \in (0, L)$ .

**Definition 4.9:** A (infinite) series of functions  $\sum_{k=1}^{\infty} f_k(x)$  is said to converge to  $f$  on a set  $A_0$  if its sequence of partial sums  $(\sum_{k=1}^n f_k(x))_{n=1}^{\infty}$  converges to  $f(x)$  for every  $x \in A_0$ . If  $(\sum_{k=1}^n f_k(x))_{n=1}^{\infty}$  converges uniformly to  $f$  on  $A_0$ , then we say  $\sum_{k=1}^{\infty} f_k(x)$  converges uniformly to  $f$  on  $A_0$ . If  $(\sum_{k=1}^n |f_k(x)|)_{n=1}^{\infty}$  converges for all  $x \in A_0$ , we say the series  $\sum_{k=1}^{\infty} f_k(x)$  converges absolutely on  $A_0$ .



Theorem 4.1a (1) If  $f_n$  is continuous on an interval  $I$  for each  $n \in \mathbb{N}$  and  $\sum f_n(x)$  converges uniformly to  $f$  on  $I$ , then  $f$  is also continuous.

(2) Let  $f_n$  be differentiable functions on an interval  $J$  for each  $n \in \mathbb{N}$  such that  $\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} f_n(x)$  converges uniformly on all bounded subintervals of  $J$ . If  $\exists x_0 \in J$  such that  $\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} f_n'(x_0)$  converges, then the series  $\sum f_n(x)$  converges uniformly to a differentiable function  $f$  on any bounded subintervals of  $J$  and  $f'(x) = \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} f_n'(x)$  on  $J$ .

Cauchy criterion: A series  $\sum f_n(x)$  converges uniformly on  $I$  if and only if given any  $\epsilon > 0$ ,  $\exists K = K(\epsilon)$  s.t.  $|f_n(x) + f_{n+1}(x) + \dots + f_m(x)| < \epsilon$  whenever  $f$  is continuous at  $x$ ,  $x \in (-\pi, \pi)$ .

Weierstrass M-test: Let  $|f_n(x)| \leq M_n$  for all  $x \in I$ ,  $M_n \in \mathbb{R}$  for each  $n \in \mathbb{N}$  and  $\sum M_n < \infty$ . Then the series  $\sum f_n(x)$  converges uniformly on  $I$ .

Minkowski's inequality:  $(\int_0^1 |a_k + b_k|^p dx)^{1/p} \leq (\int_0^1 |a_k|^p dx)^{1/p} + (\int_0^1 |b_k|^p dx)^{1/p}$

Theorem 4.11. Let  $f$  be a continuous function of period  $2\pi$  such that its derivative  $f'$  is piecewise continuous on  $[-\pi, \pi]$ . Then the Fourier series of  $f$ ,  $a_0 + \sum_{k=1}^{\infty} (a_k \cos kx + b_k \sin kx)$  is differentiable at each point  $x_0 \in (-\pi, \pi)$  at which the second derivative  $f''$  exists:  $f'(x_0) = \sum_{k=1}^{\infty} k(-a_k \sin kx_0 + b_k \cos kx_0)$ .

Abel's Lemma: Let  $(a_n)$  and  $(b_n)$  be sequences and let  $S_n = \sum_{k=1}^n b_k$  be the sequence of partial sums with  $S_0 = 0$ . Then  $\sum_{k=1}^m a_k b_k = a_m S_m - a_{m+1} S_n + \sum_{k=1}^{m-1} (a_k - a_{k+1}) S_k$  for  $m > n$ ,  $m, n \in \mathbb{N}$ .

Dirichlet's Test: Let  $(b_n)$  be a decreasing sequence of real numbers that converge to 0 and  $\exists M > 0$  s.t.  $|\sum_{k=1}^n b_k| \leq M$  for  $n \in \mathbb{N}$ . Then the series  $\sum_{k=1}^{\infty} a_k b_k$  converges.

Abel's Test: Let  $(a_n)$  be a convergent monotone sequence and let  $\sum_{k=1}^{\infty} b_k$  converges. Then the series  $\sum_{k=1}^{\infty} a_k b_k$  converges.

Proposition 4.12. If  $a_k > 0$ , the Fourier sine series  $\sum_{k=1}^{\infty} a_k \sin kx$  converges uniformly on  $[\delta, \pi - \delta]$  for all  $\delta > 0$  ( $\delta < \frac{\pi}{2}$ ).

Theorem 4.13. If  $f$  is a continuous function of period  $2\pi$  such that  $f'$  is piecewise continuous on  $[-\pi, \pi]$ , then  $k a_k, k b_k \rightarrow 0$  as  $k \rightarrow \infty$ .

Fourier series of complex-valued functions:  
 $f(x) = \sum_{k \in \mathbb{Z}} c_k e^{ikx}$  with  $c_k = \frac{1}{2\pi} \int_{-\pi}^{\pi} f(x) e^{-ikx} dx$ .

- The family  $\{e^{ikx} : k \in \mathbb{Z}\}$  is orthogonal if  $\langle f, g \rangle = \int_{-\pi}^{\pi} f(x) \overline{g(x)} dx$ .
- If  $f$  is piecewise continuous on  $[0, 2\pi]$ , then  $\sum_{k=0}^{\infty} \hat{f}(k) z^k$  converges on the open unit disk  $\{|z| < 1\}$  and hence analytic on this open disk.
- Define  $\hat{f}(z) = \sum_{k \in \mathbb{Z}} \hat{f}(k) z^k$ , then  $\hat{f}(e^{ix}) = f(x)$  if  $f$  is piecewise smooth, continuous and of period  $2\pi$ .

Definition 5.2. Let  $f$  and  $g$  be both periodic (of period  $2\pi$ ) piecewise continuous functions on  $[-\pi, \pi]$ . Then we define its convolutions as  $f * g(x) = \frac{1}{2\pi} \int_{-\pi}^{\pi} f(x-y) g(y) dy$ .

Proposition 5.3. (1)  $f * g = g * f$  (2)  $(f * g) * h = f * (g * h)$ .  
 (3)  $(f + t) * g = f * g + t * g$ . (4)  $f * g$  is continuous.

Lemma: If  $f$  is a periodic function of period  $L$  and  $f$  is piecewise continuous on  $[0, L]$ , then  $\int_0^L f(x-y) dy = \int_0^L f(y) dy$  for any  $x \in \mathbb{R}$ .  
 Note that it is clear that  $\int_0^L f(x+y) dy = \int_0^L f(y) dy = \int_{-\frac{L}{2}}^{\frac{L}{2}} f(y) dy$  for any  $x \in \mathbb{R}$ .

Fubini's theorem: For a function  $F$  on  $[a, b] \times [c, d]$ ,  $\int_a^b \int_c^d F(x, y) dy dx = \int_c^d \int_a^b F(x, y) dx dy$ .

Cesàro means: For  $\{a_n\}$ , find the limit of  $\frac{a_1 + \dots + a_n}{n}$ .

Féjer's kernel:  $G_n(t) = \frac{1}{n+1} \left[ \frac{\sin \frac{(n+1)t}{2}}{\sin \frac{t}{2}} \right]^2 \leq \frac{1}{n+1} \frac{1}{\sin^2 \frac{t}{2}}$

Theorem 5.4. If  $f$  is piecewise continuous on  $[-\pi, \pi]$ , then  $f * G_n(x) \rightarrow f(x)$  whenever  $f$  is continuous at  $x \in (-\pi, \pi)$ .

Moreover, if  $f$  is continuous and periodic ( $2\pi$ ), then uniformly.

Theorem 5.5. (Poisson kernel) Let  $P_r(t) = \sum_{k \in \mathbb{Z}} r^{|k|} e^{ikt}$  for  $|r| < 1$  and let  $f$  be a piecewise continuous function on  $[-\pi, \pi]$ . Then  $f * P_r(x) = \frac{1}{2\pi} \int_{-\pi}^{\pi} f(x-t) \left[ \sum_{k \in \mathbb{Z}} r^{|k|} e^{ikt} \right] dt \rightarrow f(x)$  as  $r \rightarrow 1^-$ .

Existence Theorem: If  $Y$  is a finite dimensional subspace of a normed space  $X = (X, \|\cdot\|)$ , then for each  $x \in X$  there exists a best approximation to  $x$  out of  $Y$ .

Lemma (Convexity): In a normed space  $(X, \|\cdot\|)$ , the set  $M$  of best approximations to a given point  $x$  out of a subspace  $Y$  of  $X$  is convex.

Strictly convex norm: A norm such that  $\forall x, y$  of norm 1,  $\|x+y\| < 2$ .

Uniqueness Theorem: In a strictly convex normed space  $X$  there is at most one best approximation to an  $x \in X$  out of a given subspace  $Y$ .

Lemma. (1) Hilbert space is strictly convex. (2)  $C[a, b]$  is not strictly convex.

Theorem: For every given  $x$  in a Hilbert space  $H$  and every given closed subspace  $Y$  of  $H$  there is a unique best approximation to  $x$  out of  $Y$ .

Extremal point: An extremal point of an  $x$  in  $C[a, b]$  is a  $t_0 \in [a, b]$  such that  $|x(t_0)| = \|x\|$ .

Haar condition: A finite dimensional subspace  $Y$  of the real space  $C[a, b]$  satisfies Haar condition if every  $y \in Y, y \neq 0$  has at most  $n-1$  zeros in  $[a, b]$ , where  $n = \dim(Y)$ .

Orthonormal basis of  $L^2(-\pi, \pi)$ :  $\left\{ \frac{1}{\sqrt{2\pi}}, \frac{1}{\sqrt{\pi}} \cos kx, \frac{1}{\sqrt{\pi}} \sin kx : k \in \mathbb{N} \right\}$   
 Orthonormal basis of  $L^2(0, \pi)$ :  $\left\{ \frac{1}{\sqrt{\pi}}, \sqrt{\frac{2}{\pi}} \cos kx : k \in \mathbb{N} \right\}, \left\{ \sqrt{\frac{2}{\pi}} \sin kx : k \in \mathbb{N} \right\}$

Differential Equation:  $y' = ay \Rightarrow y = C e^{at}$   
 $ay'' + by + c = 0 \Rightarrow \lambda_1 \neq \lambda_2 \Rightarrow y = C_1 e^{\lambda_1 t} + C_2 e^{\lambda_2 t}$   
 $\lambda_1 = \lambda_2 \Rightarrow y = (C_1 + C_2 t) e^{\lambda_1 t}$   
 $\lambda = \pm i\omega \Rightarrow y = e^{\lambda t} (C_1 \cos(\omega t) + C_2 \sin(\omega t))$

Trigonometric Identity:  
 $\cos X \cos Y = \frac{\cos(X-Y) + \cos(X+Y)}{2}$   
 $\sin X \sin Y = \frac{\cos(X-Y) - \cos(X+Y)}{2}$   
 $\sin X \cos Y = \frac{\sin(X+Y) + \sin(X-Y)}{2}$   
 $\cos^2 X = \frac{1 + \cos 2X}{2}$   
 $\sin^2 X = \frac{\cos 2X - 1}{2}$

Useful facts:  $\int_0^{2\pi} \sin nx \sin mx dx = \pi \delta_{(m-n)}$  where  $\delta_{(m-n)} = 0$  if  $m \neq n$  and  $1$  if  $m = n$ .

If a series  $\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} f(n)$  converges, then  $\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} f(n) = 0$ .

Let  $\{f_k : k \in \mathbb{N}\}$  be an orthonormal basis. Then if  $f = \sum_{k=1}^{\infty} c_k f_k$ , then  $c_k = \langle f, f_k \rangle$ .

Good luck!