

# MAT B42: Techniques of the Calculus of Several Variables II (Winter 2023)

Welcome to Week 1 of the course.  
Questions? Thoughts? Comments?

News and Reminders:

- ▶ Tutorials start next week.
- ▶ Homework #1 is due next week on Friday January 20th at 13:59 (EST).

## Warning: More Theoretical than Hughes-Hallett

We are going to take a more high-level and linear algebra heavy approach to Fourier Series than Hughes-Hallett.

There is a lot of new conceptual stuff in this week's material.  
Two major areas of math: PDEs and Functional Analysis.

# Partial Differential Equations

## Definition

A partial differential equation (PDE) is an equation relating the partial derivatives of a function. To solve a PDE is to find a function that satisfies the constraints of the PDE.

## The Wave Equation

$$\frac{\partial^2 u}{\partial t^2} = c^2 \frac{\partial^2 u}{\partial x^2}$$

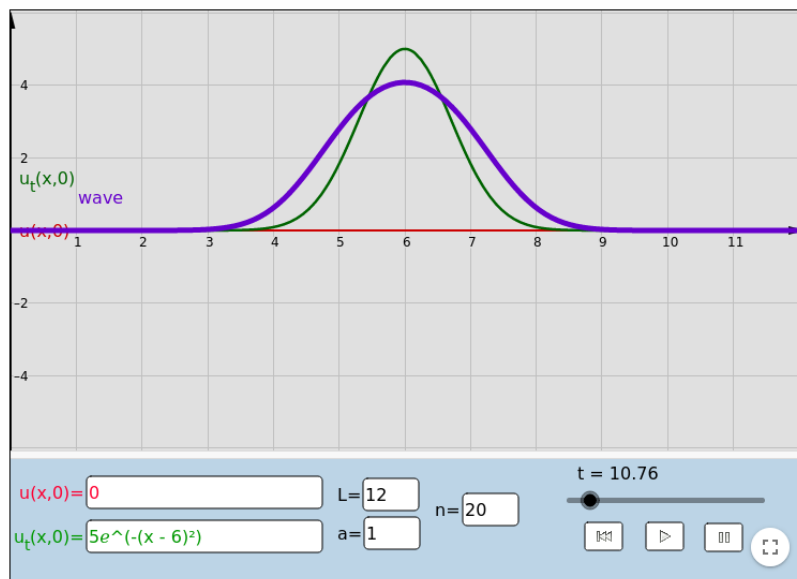
$u(x, t)$  models the height of a string at position  $x$  and time  $t$

## The Heat Equation

$$\frac{\partial u}{\partial t} = k \frac{\partial^2 u}{\partial x^2}$$

$u(x, t)$  models the heat of a rod at position  $x$  and time  $t$

# A Wave Equation Applet



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## The Wave Equation is Linear

### Theorem (Superposition Principle)

*If  $u_1$  and  $u_2$  are solutions of the wave equation, then so is  $u_1 + u_2$ .*

## Eigenvalues and Eigenvectors of Double Differentiation

### Example

$\sin(kx)$  and  $\cos(kx)$  are eigenvectors of double differentiation

# Fourier Polynomials

## Definition (Hughes-Hallett p. 566)

The  $n$ th Fourier polynomial  $F_n(x)$  of  $f(x)$  has the form:

$$F_n(x) = a_0 + \sum_{k=1}^n a_k \cos(kx) + \sum_{k=1}^n b_k \sin(kx)$$

where:

$$a_0 = \frac{1}{2\pi} \int_{-\pi}^{\pi} f(x) dx \quad a_k = \frac{1}{\pi} \int_{-\pi}^{\pi} f(x) \cos(kx) dx \quad b_k = \frac{1}{\pi} \int_{-\pi}^{\pi} f(x) \sin(kx) dx$$

## Question

*Why do this? And, why on earth would you pick these coefficients?!*



## Two Forms of Approximation: Taylor versus Fourier

$$f(x) \approx \sum_{k=0}^{\infty} c_k x^k$$

Pros: Simple convergence tests. Good local approximations for all functions.

Cons: Unbounded terms. Not eigenvectors of  $\frac{\partial^2}{\partial x^2}$ .

$$f(x) \approx \sum_{k=0}^{\infty} a_k \cos(kx) + b_k \sin(kx)$$

Pros: Good global approximations for periodic functions.

Formed from eigenvectors of  $\frac{\partial^2}{\partial x^2}$ .

Cons: No simple convergence tests.

These coefficients come from orthogonal projection!

## An Inner Product Space of Functions

### Definition

Define  $\langle f(x), g(x) \rangle = \int_{-\pi}^{\pi} f(x)g(x)dx$ . This is a symmetric bilinear inner product.

The corresponding norm is the  $L^2$ -norm:

$$\|f\|_2^2 = \int_{-\pi}^{\pi} [f(x)]^2 dx$$

## The Orthogonal Basis Projection Lemma

### Lemma (MAT B24)

*Suppose that you have an inner product space  $(V, \langle \cdot, \cdot \rangle)$ .*

*If  $\{\vec{v}_0, \dots, \vec{v}_n\}$  is an orthogonal set of vectors and  $\vec{x} \in \text{span}\{\vec{v}_1, \dots, \vec{v}_n\}$  then:*

$$\vec{x} = \frac{\langle \vec{x}, \vec{v}_0 \rangle}{\langle \vec{v}_0, \vec{v}_0 \rangle} \vec{v}_0 + \frac{\langle \vec{x}, \vec{v}_1 \rangle}{\langle \vec{v}_1, \vec{v}_1 \rangle} \vec{v}_1 + \dots + \frac{\langle \vec{x}, \vec{v}_n \rangle}{\langle \vec{v}_n, \vec{v}_n \rangle} \vec{v}_n$$

*Alternatively,*

$$\vec{x} = \text{proj}_{\vec{v}_1}(\vec{x}) + \dots + \text{proj}_{\vec{v}_n}(\vec{x})$$

## An (Almost) Orthonormal Basis

### Problem

$$\langle \sin(kx), \cos(nx) \rangle = \int_{-\pi}^{\pi} \sin(kx) \cos(nx) dx = 0$$

$$\langle \cos(kx), \cos(nx) \rangle = \int_{-\pi}^{\pi} \cos(kx) \cos(nx) dx = \begin{cases} 0 & k \neq \pm n \\ \pi & k = \pm n \neq 0 \\ 2\pi & k = n = 0 \end{cases}$$

*Exercise: What is the corresponding statement for  $\langle \sin(kx), \sin(nx) \rangle$ ?*

### Definition

The Fourier basis for  $L^2([-\pi, \pi])$  is  $\{1\} \cup \bigcup_{n \in \mathbb{N}} \{\cos(nx), \sin(nx)\}$ .

## Computing the $a_0$ Fourier Coefficient

### Question

Why is  $a_0 = \frac{1}{2\pi} \int_{-\pi}^{\pi} f(x) dx$ ?

## Computing the $a_k$ Fourier Coefficient

### Question

Why is  $a_k = \frac{1}{\pi} \int_{-\pi}^{\pi} f(x) \cos(kx) dx$ ?

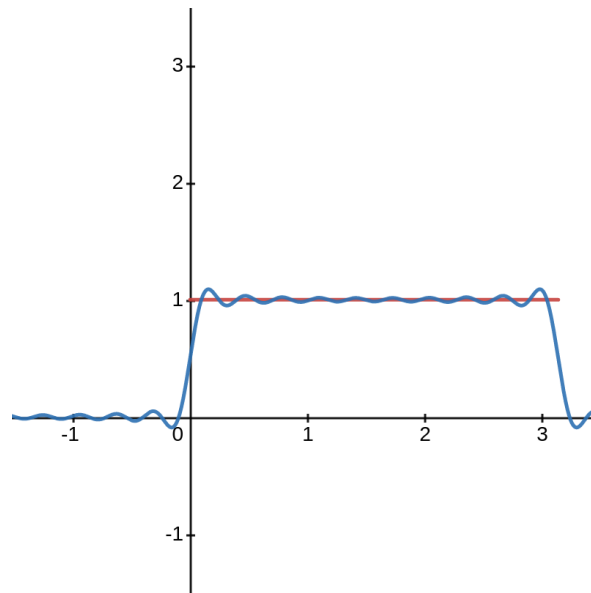
## An Example

### Question

Compute  $F_n$  the  $n$ th Fourier polynomial for

$$f(x) = \begin{cases} 0 & -\pi < x \leq 0 \\ 1 & 0 < x < \pi \end{cases}$$





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## Harmonics and Energy

### Definition

The  $k$ th harmonic of  $f(x)$  is the term  $a_k \cos(kx) + b_k \sin(x)$  in its Fourier polynomial. (A musical heuristic: this is the  $k$ th “note” in the “chord”  $f(x)$ .)

### Definition

The energy of  $f(x)$  is:

$$E = \frac{1}{\pi} \int_{-1}^1 (f(x))^2 dx$$

Alternatively,  $E = \|f\|_2^2$ .

## The Energy Theorem

### Theorem

Define  $A_0 = \sqrt{2}a_0$  and  $A_k = \sqrt{a_k^2 + b_k^2}$ . One has the following:

$$E = A_0^2 + A_1^2 + A_2^2 + \dots = 2a_0^2 + (a_1^2 + b_1^2) + (a_2^2 + b_2^2) + \dots$$

From the homework, the energy of a harmonic is:

$$\frac{1}{\pi} \int_{-\pi}^{\pi} (a_k \cos(kx) + b_k \sin(kx))^2 dx = a_k^2 + b_k^2 = A_k^2$$

Thus, the energy of  $f$  is the sum of the energies of the harmonics of  $f$ .

# The Pythagorean Theorem

## Lemma (MAT A22)

*Suppose that you have an inner product space  $(V, \langle \cdot, \cdot \rangle)$  with norm  $\|\vec{x}\| = \langle \vec{x}, \vec{x} \rangle$ . If  $\{\vec{v}_0, \dots, \vec{v}_n\}$  is an orthogonal set of vectors and  $\vec{x} = \vec{v}_1 + \dots + \vec{v}_n$  then:*

$$\|\vec{x}\|^2 = \|\vec{v}_0\|^2 + \|\vec{v}_1\|^2 + \dots + \|\vec{v}_n\|^2$$

## An Example of Energy

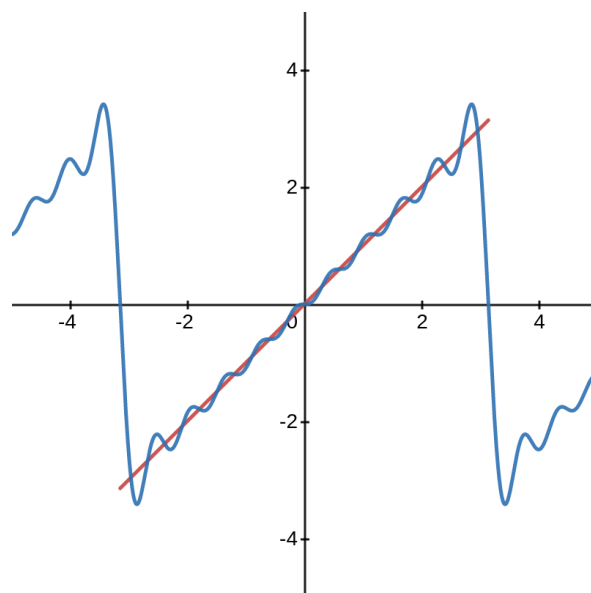
### Question

*Find the total energy of the first three harmonics  $k = 0, 1, 2$  of  $f(x) = x$ .*

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Notes

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