

# Midterm 1



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Q1 14



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#15 2 of 18

## 1. Wave Equation

[15 marks] Find the solution to the wave equation:

$$u_{tt} = c^2 u_{xx} \text{ on } 0 < x < l,$$

with  $u(0, t) = 0$ ,  $u(l, t) = 0$ , and:

$$u(x, 0) = \phi(x) = 3 \sin\left(\frac{2\pi x}{l}\right)$$

$$u_t(x, 0) = \psi(x) = \sin\left(\frac{5\pi x}{l}\right)$$

$$X'' = c^2 X'' T \rightarrow \frac{1}{c^2} \frac{T}{T} = \frac{X''}{X} = -\lambda \quad X(x) = A \cos(\sqrt{\lambda} x) + B \sin(\sqrt{\lambda} x)$$

$$T(t) = C \cos(\sqrt{\lambda} ct) + D \sin(\sqrt{\lambda} ct)$$

Boundary Conditions:  $X(0) = 0 = A \cos(0) \Rightarrow A = 0.$

$$X(l) = 0 = B \sin(\sqrt{\lambda} l) = 0, \quad \sqrt{\lambda} l = n\pi, \quad \lambda = \frac{n^2 \pi^2}{l^2}.$$

$$\rightarrow u(x, t) = \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \sin\left(\frac{n\pi x}{l}\right) \left[ G_n \cos\left(\frac{n\pi ct}{l}\right) + D_n \sin\left(\frac{n\pi ct}{l}\right) \right]$$

Time condition:  $u(x, 0) = 3 \sin\left(\frac{2\pi x}{l}\right) = \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \sin\left(\frac{n\pi x}{l}\right) G_n$

$$3 \int_0^l \sin \frac{2\pi x}{l} \sin \frac{n\pi x}{l} dx = \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} C_n \int_0^l \sin \frac{n\pi x}{l} \sin \frac{n\pi x}{l} dx$$

$\frac{l}{2} \delta_{2n}$ 
 $\frac{l}{2} \delta_{nn}$

Thus  $n=2$  only:  $3 \frac{l}{2} = C_2 \frac{l}{2}$ , all other  $C_n (n \neq 2) = 0$ .

$$i(x,t) = \frac{d}{dt} \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \sin \frac{n\pi x}{l} \left[ C_n \cos \frac{n\pi t}{l} + D_n \sin \frac{n\pi t}{l} \right] = \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \sin \frac{n\pi x}{l} \left[ -C_n \sin \frac{n\pi t}{l} + D_n \cos \frac{n\pi t}{l} \right]$$

$$i(x,0) = \sin \frac{5\pi x}{l} = \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \sin \frac{n\pi x}{l} \left( \frac{n\pi}{l} \right) D_n \quad \text{By 2 similar arguments, } D_5 = \frac{l}{5\pi}$$

all other  $D_n (n \neq 5) = 0$ . Thus our solution is

$$i(x,t) = 3 \sin \frac{2\pi x}{l} \cos \frac{2\pi t}{l} + \frac{l}{5\pi} \sin \frac{5\pi x}{l} \sin \frac{5\pi t}{l}$$

small  
mistake **-1**

correct solution **15**

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#15 3 of 18



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### Justification

The solution to the equation is

$X(x)T(t)$ , so  $X(0) = 0$  implies  $A \cos(0) + B \sin(0) = A(1) = 0$ ,

so  $A = 0$ .

As  $X(L) = 0$ , we then require  $B \sin \sqrt{\lambda} L = 0$ , but  $B = 0$  yields a trivial solution and thus  $\sin \sqrt{\lambda} L = 0$ . However, this only occurs when  $\sqrt{\lambda} L = n\pi$  for an integer  $n$ , then  $\lambda = \frac{\pi^2 n^2}{L^2}$ .

At time  $t=0$ , the former coefficient condition yields that

$$3 \int_0^L \sin \frac{2\pi x}{L} \sin \frac{n\pi x}{L} = 3 \cdot \delta_{2n} \frac{L}{2} = \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} c_n \int_0^L \sin \frac{n\pi x}{L} \sin \frac{n\pi x}{L} \\ = \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{L}{2} \delta_{nn} c_n, \text{ yet } \delta_{2n} \text{ implies } n=m=2, \text{ thus}$$

$c_2 = 3$ , and all other  $c_n$  ( $n \neq 2$ )  $= 0$ .

The derivative yields that (in time),

$$u_t(x) = \sin \frac{5\pi x}{L} = \sum_{\substack{n=1 \\ n \neq 2}}^{\infty} \sin \frac{n\pi x}{L} \cos \frac{n\pi t}{L} \cdot \frac{n\pi}{L} + c_2 \frac{2\pi}{L} \sin \frac{2\pi x}{L} \sin \frac{2\pi t}{L}$$

and the second term is 0 since  $\sin(0) = 0$ . The first term is

$\sum_{\substack{n=1 \\ n \neq 2}}^{\infty} \sin \frac{n\pi x}{L} \cdot \frac{n\pi}{L}$ , which must be  $5\pi$  by the orthogonality relation. All other  $D_n$  must be zero.

$$u(x,t) = 3 \sin \frac{2\pi x}{L} \cos \frac{2\pi t}{L} + \frac{1}{5\pi} \sin \frac{5\pi x}{L} \sin \frac{5\pi t}{L} \text{ is the solution.}$$



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#15

4 of 18

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## 2. Separation of Variables

[30 marks] The **Laplace Equation** is given by  $u_{xx} + u_{yy} = 0$ , for  $u(x, y)$ .  
Solve the Laplace equation on the infinite rectangle:

$$S = \{0 \leq x \leq l, 0 \leq y < \infty\}$$

with the boundary conditions:

$$u(0, y) = 0 \quad u(l, y) = 0$$

$$\lim_{y \rightarrow \infty} u(x, y) = 0$$

$$u(x, 0) = \phi(x)$$

(Intuitively, we can view the variable  $y$  as the variable  $t$ .)

- Using separation of variables  $u(x, y) = X(x)Y(y)$ , define the separation constant with

$$\frac{X''}{X} = -\lambda$$

- Recall for  $f(x)$ , the solutions to the ODE  $f''(x) = kf(x)$  is given by  $f(x) = Ae^{\sqrt{k}x} + Be^{-\sqrt{k}x}$ .
- Apply the boundary conditions  $u(0, y) = 0$  and  $u(l, y) = 0$ , to find  $\lambda$ .
- Apply the boundary condition  $\lim_{y \rightarrow \infty} u(x, y) = 0$ .
- Apply the boundary condition  $u(x, 0) = \phi(x)$ , and write the solution  $u(x, y)$ .

1)  $X''y + y''X = 0 \rightarrow \frac{X''}{X} = -\frac{y''}{y} = -\lambda$

2)  $X'' = -\lambda X \Rightarrow X(x) = A \sin(\sqrt{\lambda}x) + B \cos(\sqrt{\lambda}x)$  by solving the ODE.  
 $y'' = \lambda y \Rightarrow y(y) = C e^{\sqrt{\lambda}y} + D e^{-\sqrt{\lambda}y}$

3)  $X(0) = B(0) = 0 \Rightarrow B = 0$ .  $X(l) = 0 = A \sin(\sqrt{\lambda}l)$ ,  $\lambda = \frac{n^2 \pi^2}{l^2}$

4) We have that  $u(x, y) = \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \sin \frac{n\pi x}{l} \left( C_n e^{\frac{n\pi y}{l}} + D_n e^{-\frac{n\pi y}{l}} \right)$ .  
 As  $y \rightarrow \infty$ ,  $e^{\frac{n\pi y}{l}} \rightarrow \infty$  thus  $C_n = 0$ ,  $D_n \neq 0$ . Thus  
 $u(x, y) = \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} D_n \sin \frac{n\pi x}{l} e^{-\frac{n\pi y}{l}}$ . The solution must remain bounded as  $y \rightarrow \infty$ .

5) At  $y=0$ ,  $u(x, y) = \phi(x)$ .  $u(x, 0) = \phi(x) = \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \sin \frac{n\pi x}{l} D_n$ . Determine  $D_n$ :  
 $\sum_n D_n \int_0^l \sin \frac{n\pi x}{l} \sin \frac{m\pi x}{l} dx = \int_0^l \phi(x) \sin \frac{m\pi x}{l} dx = D_m \cdot \frac{l}{2} \delta_{mn}$ . By Fourier orthogonality.

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#15 5 of 18



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Therefore our solution is

$$u(x,y) = \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} D_n \sin\left(\frac{n\pi x}{a}\right) e^{-\frac{n\pi}{a} y}$$

$$\text{with } D_n = \frac{2}{a} \int_0^a \varphi(x) \sin\left(\frac{n\pi x}{a}\right) dx$$

Is there really any justification to make here?

correct  
general so-  
lution and  
constant  
using or-  
thogonality  
of sin func-  
tions.

**30**




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#15 6 of 18


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#157 of 18



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midterm-1-b8025

#15 8 of 18

## 3. Schrödinger Equation

[20 marks] Consider a quantum particle in a box of length  $\frac{l}{2}$ , obeying the Schrödinger Equation:

$$i\hbar\Psi_t = -\frac{\hbar^2}{2m}\Psi_{xx} \quad 0 < x < \frac{l}{2}$$

Initially, its probability density is **uniformly distributed** in the box (of size  $\frac{l}{2}$ ).

At time  $t = 0$ , the box suddenly doubled in size to length  $l$ .

Thus the domain has increased to  $0 < x < l$ , while the initial condition is:

$$\Psi(x, 0) = \phi(x) = \begin{cases} N & 0 < x < \frac{l}{2} \\ 0 & \frac{l}{2} < x < l \end{cases}$$

1. Find the normalization constant  $N$ .

2. Find the solution  $\Psi(x, t) = \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} A_n \sin \frac{n\pi x}{l} e^{-\frac{iE_n t}{\hbar}}$

3. Using Parseval's Equality, evaluate  $\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{1}{n^2} (1 - \cos \frac{n\pi}{2})^2$

Explain how this series is different to the standard p-series  $\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{1}{n^2}$ .

i.e. How is the extra term  $(1 - \cos \frac{n\pi}{2})^2$  affecting the series?

1) We require  $\int_0^{l/2} |\Psi|^2 dx = 1$  before the box doubles in size.

$$N^2 \cdot \frac{l}{2} = 1, \quad N = \sqrt{\frac{2}{l}}$$

a) normalization constant

$$N = \sqrt{\frac{2}{l}} \quad 2.5$$

2) We need to have that  $A_n = \frac{2}{l} \int_0^{l/2} \phi(x) \sin \frac{n\pi x}{l} dx$

Since series definition.

This is just:  $A_n = \frac{2}{l} \int_0^{l/2} N \sin \frac{n\pi x}{l} dx$  ( $\phi(x)$  not defined for  $\frac{l}{2} < x < l$ )

$$= \frac{2}{l} N \int_0^{l/2} \sin \frac{n\pi x}{l} dx = -\frac{2}{l} N \frac{l}{n\pi} \cos \left( \frac{n\pi x}{l} \right) \Big|_0^{l/2} = -\frac{2}{n\pi} N (\cos(\frac{n\pi}{2}) - 1)$$

$$\text{Thus } \Psi(x, t) = \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{2}{n\pi} \sqrt{\frac{2}{l}} (1 - \cos(\frac{n\pi}{2})) \sin(\frac{n\pi x}{l}) e^{-\frac{iE_n t}{\hbar}}$$

b) correct value of  $A_n$  and solution 7.5



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#15 9 of 18


$$1 = \int_0^L |\psi(x,t)|^2 dx = \int_0^L \left| \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{2}{n\pi} \sqrt{\frac{L}{2}} (1 - \cos \frac{n\pi x}{2}) \sin \frac{n\pi x}{2} e^{-iE_n t/\hbar} \right|^2 dx$$

$$= \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{8}{n^2 \pi^2 L} \cdot (1 - \cos \frac{n\pi}{2})^2 \int_0^L \sin^2 \frac{n\pi x}{2} dx$$

$$= \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{8}{n^2 \pi^2 L} \cdot \frac{L}{2} (1 - \cos \frac{n\pi}{2})^2$$
$$\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{(1 - \cos \frac{n\pi}{2})^2}{n^2} = \frac{\pi^2}{4}$$

## 7.5

Thus  $1 - \cos \frac{\pi}{2}$  alternates between 0, 1, and 4, Different from the  
p-series  $\sum \frac{1}{n^2}$  this series removes some terms and 'picks' some.

$$\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{1}{n^2} (1 - \cos(\frac{n\pi}{2}))^2 = \frac{1}{1^2} + \frac{2}{2^2} + \frac{1}{3^2} + \dots$$
 which is not equivalent to  $\frac{1}{1}$

mistake -1

c) values of  $(1 - \cos(\frac{n\pi}{2}))^2$  are 1, 0, 1, 0 and it makes the series bigger. **2.5**  
 how does it compare to the p-series  $\sum \frac{1}{n^2}$ ? **-1**



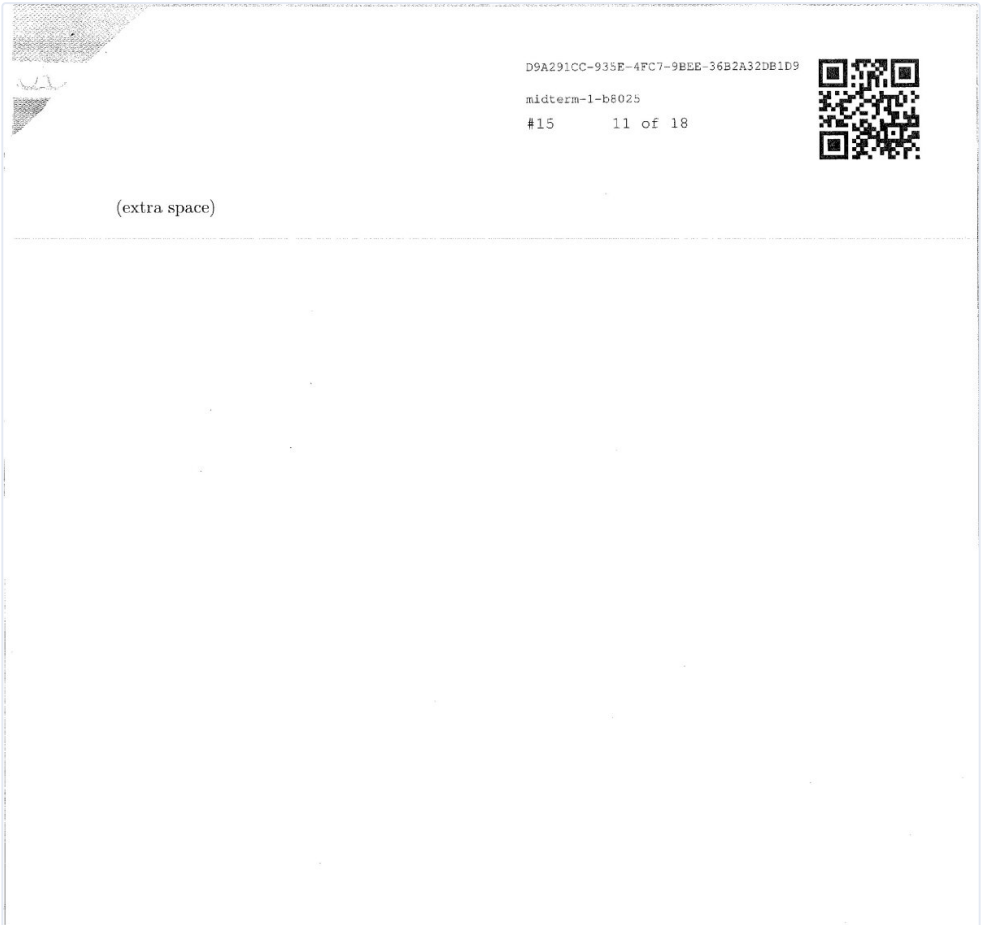
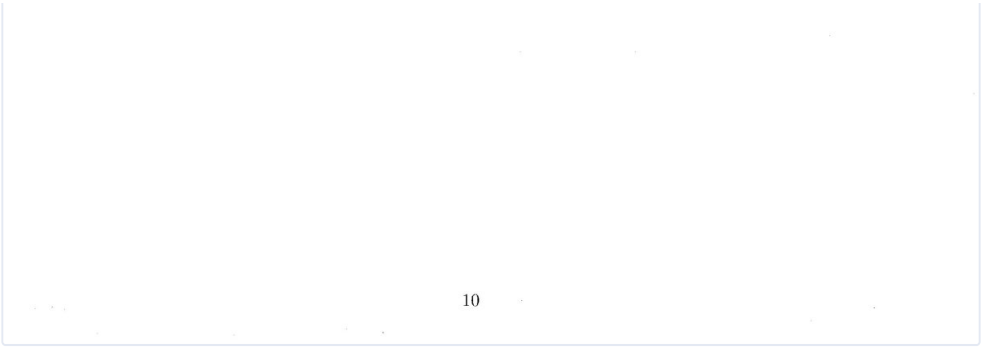
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#15

10 of 18

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#15 12 of 18

## 4. Fourier Series

[20 marks] Let  $f(x) = x$  with  $x \in (0, l)$ .Consider its Fourier Sine Series  $F(x)$ , and its Fourier Cosine Series  $G(x)$ , on  $x \in (0, l)$ ,

$$x = F(x) = \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} (-1)^{n+1} \frac{2l}{n\pi} \sin\left(\frac{n\pi x}{l}\right) \quad x = G(x) = \frac{l}{2} + \sum_{n \text{ odd}}^{\infty} \frac{-4l}{n^2\pi^2} \cos\left(\frac{n\pi x}{l}\right)$$

For each of the above 2 series, explain whether we are able to take derivatives on both sides of the equation to attain the Fourier Series of  $f'(x)$ .

If so, take derivatives on both sides, and find  $f'(x)$  with its Fourier Series on the appropriate domain. If not, explain why not.

Q4

9

For the F. sine series  $F(x)$ , we may not take a derivative.

If we were to, we would obtain

$$F'(x) = \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} (-1)^{n+1} \frac{2l}{n\pi} \cdot \cos\left(\frac{n\pi x}{l}\right) \cdot \frac{n\pi}{l} = \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} (-1)^{n+1} 2 \cos\left(\frac{n\pi x}{l}\right)$$

This series does not converge and instead will alternate values in sign.

For the Cosine series, we may take a derivative. It will converge after differentiation.

$$\sum_{n \text{ odd}}^{\infty} \frac{-4l}{n^2\pi^2} \cdot \left(-\frac{n\pi}{l}\right) \sin\left(\frac{n\pi x}{l}\right) = \sum_{n \text{ odd}}^{\infty} \frac{4}{n} \sin\left(\frac{n\pi x}{l}\right)$$

need to look at extensions of  $f(x)$  onto  $(-l, l)$  and

a) arguing that derivative of series diverges

think about if the series becomes a full Fourier series

5

$$G'(x) = \sum_{n \text{ odd}} \frac{1}{n^2 \pi^2} \cdot (-\sin(\frac{n\pi x}{2})) \cdot x = \sum_{n \text{ odd}} \frac{n\pi}{n^2 \pi^2} \cdot (-1)^{\frac{n-1}{2}} \cdot x$$

We may check this: for  $f(x)=1$  on  $(0,2)$ : its F. Sine series is

$$A_n = \frac{2}{2} \int_0^2 (1) \sin(\frac{n\pi x}{2}) dx = \frac{2}{2} \cdot \frac{2}{n\pi} \cdot [-\cos(\frac{n\pi x}{2})]_0^2 = \frac{2}{n\pi} (-\cos(n\pi) + 1)$$

But for odd  $n$ , we have that  $\cos(n\pi) = -1$ , thus  $A_n = \frac{4}{n\pi}$ .

This is as obtained above. Therefore

$$1 = G'(x) = \sum_{n \text{ odd}} \frac{4}{n\pi} \sin(\frac{n\pi x}{2}) \quad \text{is the derivative of } G(x) \text{ and it}$$

b) derivative of  $G(x)$  4

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#15 13 of 18



(extra space)

exists due to the series converging.



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#15 14 of 18

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#15 15 of 18



## 5. Fourier Series

[15 marks] Consider real valued functions defined on  $[-l, l]$ .Define the **inner product** (or "dot product") between 2 functions  $f, g$  to be

$$\langle f, g \rangle = \int_{-l}^l f(x)g(x) dx \quad (\text{when this integral exists})$$

This in turn, gives,  $\|f\|$ , the **norm** (or length) of a function  $f$ , as

$$\|f\|^2 = \langle f, f \rangle = \int_{-l}^l f(x)^2 dx \quad (\text{when this integral exists})$$

This in turn, gives  $d(f, g)$ , the "**distance**" between 2 functions  $f, g$ , as

$$d(f, g)^2 = \|f - g\|^2 = \int_{-l}^l (f(x) - g(x))^2 dx \quad (\text{when this integral exists})$$

This space of functions is typically called  $L^2$ , with the above distance (metric).  
 (Each function  $f$ , is a "point" in this space of functions  $L^2$ .)

Take a function  $f$  in this space. We would like to investigate how the Fourier Series approximate the function  $f$ , in this distance (metric).

Consider a Fourier Series  $g(x)$  written in general form with coefficients  $a_k$ :

$$g(x) = \sum_{k=1}^{\infty} a_k X_k(x)$$

where  $X_k(x)$  are orthogonal functions:  $\langle X_k, X_m \rangle = 0$  if  $k \neq m$ .1. Consider the first  $n$  terms of the series:

$$g_n(x) = a_1 X_1(x) + a_2 X_2(x) + \dots + a_n X_n(x) = \sum_{k=1}^n a_k X_k(x)$$

Consider the (**squared**) distance between  $f$  and  $g_n$ :

$$D_n = d(f, g_n)^2 = \|f - g_n\|^2 = \langle f - g_n, f - g_n \rangle = \langle f - \sum_{k=1}^n a_k X_k, f - \sum_{m=1}^n a_m X_m \rangle$$

Expand and simplify this expression using the orthogonality relation.

2. Choose the coefficients  $a_k$  to be the Fourier coefficients:  $a_k = \frac{\langle f, X_k \rangle}{\langle X_k, X_k \rangle}$ .Using the fact that  $0 \leq D_n$ , show **Bessel's Inequality**:

$$\sum_{k=1}^n |a_k|^2 \int_{-l}^l |X_k(x)|^2 dx \leq \int_{-l}^l |f(x)|^2 dx$$





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#15 16 of 18

3. Recall the definition of a series, given  $\{s_k\}$ :

$$\sum_{k=1}^{\infty} s_k = \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \sum_{k=1}^n s_k$$

We say the Fourier Series  $g(x)$  converges to  $f(x)$  in the  $L^2$  distance when:

$$\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} D_n = 0$$

Show that if this is the case, then we attain Parseval's Equality:

$$\sum_{k=1}^{\infty} |a_k|^2 \int_{-1}^1 |X_k(x)|^2 = \int_{-1}^1 |f(x)|^2$$

We have that

$$\begin{aligned} D_p &= \left\langle f - \sum_{k=1}^p a_k X_k(x), f - \sum_{m=1}^p a_m X_m(x) \right\rangle = \langle f, f \rangle - \sum_{k=1}^p a_k \langle f, X_k(x) \rangle \\ &\quad - \sum_{m=1}^p a_m \langle f, X_m \rangle + \sum_{k=1}^p \sum_{m=1}^p a_k a_m \langle X_k, X_m \rangle \end{aligned}$$

$$= \|f\|^2 - \sum_{k=1}^p a_k \langle f, X_k \rangle - \sum_{m=1}^p a_m \langle f, X_m \rangle + \sum_{n=1}^p |a_n|^2 \|X_n\|^2$$

$$= \|f\|^2 - 2 \sum_{m=1}^p a_m \langle f, X_m \rangle + \sum_{n=1}^p |a_n|^2 \|X_n\|^2$$

The last step follows by a change in index since they are the same series, and the last term follows since

$$\sum_{k=1}^p \sum_{m=1}^p a_k a_m \langle X_k, X_m \rangle = \sum_{n=1}^p |a_n|^2 \|X_n\|^2, \text{ the dot function removes all cross terms}$$

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#15

17 of 18



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Now, with the Fourier coefficient being improved

$$2c_k \equiv \frac{\langle f, x_k \rangle}{\|x_k\|^2}, \quad \text{we have that}$$

$$\begin{aligned} D_p &= \|f\|^2 - 2 \sum_{k=1}^p \frac{\langle f, x_k \rangle}{\|x_k\|^2} \langle f, x_k \rangle + \sum_{k=1}^p \frac{(\langle f, x_k \rangle)^2}{(\|x_k\|^2)^2} \|x_k\|^2 \\ &= \|f\|^2 - 2 \sum_{k=1}^p \frac{(\langle f, x_k \rangle)^2}{\|x_k\|^2} + \sum_{k=1}^p \frac{(\langle f, x_k \rangle)^2}{(\|x_k\|^2)} \end{aligned}$$

$$D_p = \|f\|^2 - \sum_{k=1}^p \frac{(\langle f, x_k \rangle)^2}{\|x_k\|^2}$$

Since they are the same series, an index change was needed and they were added.

$$2) \text{ Since } D_p \geq 0, \text{ we require that } \|f\|^2 - \sum_{k=1}^p \frac{(\langle f, x_k \rangle)^2}{\|x_k\|^2} \geq 0.$$

$$\text{This implies that } \|f\|^2 \geq \sum_{k=1}^p \frac{(\langle f, x_k \rangle)^2}{\|x_k\|^2}.$$

Yet, since our Fourier coefficients are given by  $2c_k = \frac{\langle f, x_k \rangle}{\|x_k\|^2}$ , we have on the right hand side that

$$\|f\|^2 \geq \sum_{k=1}^p \left[ \frac{\langle f, x_k \rangle}{\|x_k\|^2} \right]^2 \|x_k\|^2 = \sum_{k=1}^p |2c_k|^2 \|x_k\|^2.$$

$$\text{By definition of the inner product, } \|f\|^2 = \int_{-L}^L [f(x)]^2 dx$$

$$\text{and thus } \int_{-L}^L [f(x)]^2 dx \geq \sum_{k=1}^p |2c_k|^2 \int_{-L}^L |x_k(x)|^2 dx, \quad \text{so we arrive at Bessel's inequality.}$$



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#15 18 of 18

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If we now consider the series as a limit,

$\lim_{p \rightarrow \infty} \sum_{n=1}^p |a_n|^2 \|X_n\|^2$ , and take the limit of both sides,

$$D_p = \|f\|^2 - \sum_{n=1}^p |a_n|^2 \|X_n\|^2$$

$$\Rightarrow \lim_{p \rightarrow \infty} D_p = 0 = \|f\|^2 - \lim_{p \rightarrow \infty} \sum_{n=1}^p |a_n|^2 \|X_n\|^2$$

Which, by definition, the series, is just

$$0 = \|f\|^2 - \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} |a_n|^2 \|X_n\|^2$$

Hence invoking the definition of the inner product  $\|f\|^2 = \int_{-c}^c |f(x)|^2 dx$ , we arrive at Parseval's inequality:

$$\left| \int_{-c}^c |f(x)|^2 dx = \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} |a_n|^2 \int_{-c}^c |X_n(x)|^2 dx \right|$$

As desired.

\* I apologize about my work being located on the page margins; I hope this is not an inconvenience. I didn't exactly 'remember' this rule throughout the test. The