Please submit your solutions to the following problems on Gradescope by **10pm** on the due date. Collaboration is encouraged, however, you must write up your solutions individually.

1) Fourier's basis. In the Fourier basis, a 2-periodic function f(x) on [-1,1) is written as

$$f(x) = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} \sum_{k=-\infty}^{\infty} \hat{f}_k e^{i\pi kx}, \quad \text{where} \quad \hat{f}_k = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} \int_{-1}^1 e^{-i\pi kx} f(x) dx.$$

(a) Compute the Fourier coordinates of  $f(x) = \sin^3(\pi x)$ , g(x) = |x|, and  $h(x) = |\sin(\pi x)|^3$ . Plot the magnitude of the Fourier coefficients  $-250 \le k \le 250$  on a logarithmic scale. Based on the coefficient plots, roughly what accuracy do you expect if you approximate g and h by truncating their Fourier series, discarding terms with |k| > 250?

**Solution:** We can calculate each function's Fourier coordinates explicitly.

(i) The function  $f(x) = \sin^3(\pi x)$  can be represented as a finite combination of four Fourier basis functions

$$\sin^3(\pi x) = \frac{1}{(2i)^3} \left( e^{i\pi x} - e^{-i\pi x} \right)^3 = \frac{i}{8} \left( e^{3i\pi x} - 3e^{i\pi x} + 3e^{-i\pi x} - e^{-3i\pi x} \right).$$

We then use the orthonormality of the basis functions to calculate that

$$\hat{f}_k = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} \int_{-1}^1 e^{-i\pi kx} \left[ \frac{i}{8} \left( e^{3i\pi x} - 3e^{i\pi x} + 3e^{-i\pi x} - e^{-3i\pi x} \right) \right] dx$$
$$= \frac{i}{4\sqrt{2}} \left( \delta_{3,k} - 3\delta_{1,k} + 3\delta_{-1,k} - \delta_{-3,k} \right).$$

Here,  $\delta_{j,k}$  is 1 when j=k and 0 otherwise, so the only nonzero Fourier coordinates have  $k=\pm 1,\pm 3$ . Therefore, f(x) can be represented exactly with just four terms from the Fourier series.

(ii) The function g(x) = |x| cannot be represented as a finite combination of four Fourier basis functions. Instead, we split the interval of integration and calculate

$$\hat{f}_k = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} \int_{-1}^0 e^{-i\pi kx} (-x) \, dx + \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} \int_0^1 e^{-i\pi kx} x \, dx.$$

When k=0, we integrate -x and x over the respective intervals and calculate that  $\hat{g}_0=1/\sqrt{2}$ . To evaluate these integrals for  $k\neq 0$ , we integrate-by-parts once to reduce the integrand to an exponential. The first integral is (using the fact that  $e^{i\pi k}=(-1)^k$ )

$$\frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} \int_{-1}^{0} e^{-i\pi kx} (-x) \, dx = \frac{-1}{\sqrt{2}} \left( \left[ \frac{xe^{-i\pi kx}}{-i\pi k} \right]_{x=-1}^{x=0} - \int_{-1}^{0} \frac{e^{-i\pi kx}}{-i\pi k} \, dx \right) 
= \frac{-1}{\sqrt{2}} \left( \left[ \frac{e^{i\pi k}}{-i\pi k} \right] - \left[ \frac{e^{-i\pi kx}}{(-i\pi k)^2} \right]_{x=-1}^{x=0} \right) 
= \frac{-1}{\sqrt{2}} \left( \left[ \frac{(-1)^k}{-i\pi k} \right] - \left[ \frac{1}{(-i\pi k)^2} \right] + \left[ \frac{(-1)^k}{(-i\pi k)^2} \right] \right).$$

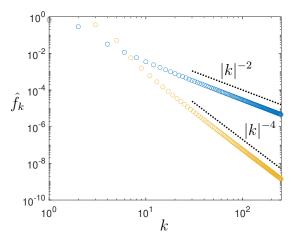


Figure 1: The first 251 Fourier coefficients of g(x) = |x| (blue circles) and  $h(x) = |\sin(\pi x)|^3$  (yellow circles) on a log-log plot decay algebraically with rates  $|k|^{-2}$  and  $|k|^{-4}$  (dotted lines).

Similarly, we can calculate the second integral directly directly to obtain

$$\frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} \int_0^1 e^{-i\pi kx} x \, dx = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} \left( \left[ \frac{x e^{-i\pi kx}}{-i\pi k} \right]_{x=0}^{x=1} - \int_0^1 \frac{e^{-i\pi kx}}{-i\pi k} \, dx \right) 
= \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} \left( \left[ \frac{e^{-i\pi k}}{-i\pi k} \right] - \left[ \frac{e^{-i\pi kx}}{(-i\pi k)^2} \right]_{x=0}^{x=1} \right) 
= \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} \left( \left[ \frac{(-1)^k}{-i\pi k} \right] - \left[ \frac{(-1)^k}{(-i\pi k)^2} \right] + \left[ \frac{1}{(-i\pi k)^2} \right] \right).$$

Adding the contributions from each half-interval, we arrive at the result

$$\hat{g}_{k} = \frac{2}{\sqrt{2}} \left( \left[ \frac{1}{(-i\pi k)^{2}} \right] - \left[ \frac{(-1)^{k}}{(-i\pi k)^{2}} \right] \right)$$

$$= \frac{-\sqrt{2}}{(\pi k)^{2}} \left( 1 - (-1)^{k} \right)$$

$$= \begin{cases} \frac{-2\sqrt{2}}{(\pi k)^{2}}, & k = \text{odd}, \\ 1/\sqrt{2}, & k = 0, \\ 0, & k = \text{even} (\neq 0). \end{cases}$$

The coefficients decay proportional to  $k^{-2}$ , as shown in Figure 1. If we truncate the Fourier series by keeping only terms with  $|k| \leq 250$ , we will make an error proportional to  $\sum_{|k|=\text{odd}>250} \frac{2\sqrt{2}}{(\pi k)^2}$ , whose magnitude is on the approximate order of  $1/(251\pi) \approx 10^{-3}$ .

(iii) For the final function  $h(x) = |\sin(\pi x)|^3$ , we split the integral into two pieces again:

$$\hat{h}_k = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} \left( \int_{-1}^0 e^{-i\pi kx} h(x) \, dx + \int_0^1 e^{-i\pi kx} h(x) \, dx \right).$$

We could evaluate the integrals directly over both half-periods as before, but this time let's take advantage of the fact that h(x) is an even function and save ourselves some

computation. By changing variables  $x \to -x$  in the first integral from x = -1 to x = 0 and using h(x) = h(-x), we calculate that

$$\hat{h}_k = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} \left( \int_{-1}^0 e^{-i\pi kx} h(x) \, dx + \int_0^1 e^{-i\pi kx} h(x) \, dx \right)$$

$$= \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} \left( \int_1^0 e^{i\pi kx} h(-x) \left( -dx \right) + \int_0^1 e^{-i\pi kx} h(x) \, dx \right)$$

$$= \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} \left( \int_0^1 e^{i\pi kx} h(x) \, dx + \int_0^1 e^{-i\pi kx} h(x) \, dx \right)$$

$$= \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} \left( \int_0^1 \left( e^{i\pi kx} + e^{-i\pi kx} \right) h(x) \, dx \right).$$

Now,  $\sin(\pi x)^3$  is non-negative between x=0 and x=1, so we can replace  $|\sin(\pi x)|^3$  with  $\sin^3(\pi x)$  and plug in the Fourier series from the first function to get

$$\hat{h}_k = \frac{i}{8\sqrt{2}} \left( \int_0^1 (e^{i\pi kx} + e^{-i\pi kx})(e^{3i\pi x} - 3e^{i\pi x} + 3e^{-i\pi x} - e^{-3i\pi x}) dx \right)$$

After expanding the product of the two exponential sums and simplifying using Euler's identity, we get (excluding the special cases  $k=\pm 1,\pm 3$  for the moment)

$$\begin{split} \hat{h}_k &= \frac{-1}{4\sqrt{2}} \int_0^1 \left( \sin((k+3)\pi x) - \sin((k-3)\pi x) \right) - 3\sin((k+1)\pi x) + 3\sin((k-1)\pi x) \, dx \\ &= \frac{-1}{4\sqrt{2}} \left( \frac{1 - \cos((k+3)\pi)}{(k+3)\pi} - \frac{1 - \cos((k-3)\pi)}{(k-3)\pi} - 3\frac{1 - \cos((k+1)\pi)}{(k+1)\pi} + 3\frac{1 - \cos((k-1)\pi)}{(k-1)\pi} \right) \\ &= \frac{-1}{4\sqrt{2}} \left( \frac{1 - (-1)^{k+1}}{(k+3)\pi} - \frac{1 - (-1)^{k+1}}{(k-3)\pi} - 3\frac{1 - (-1)^{k+1}}{(k+1)\pi} + 3\frac{1 - (-1)^{k+1}}{(k-1)\pi} \right) \\ &= \frac{-1 + (-1)^{k+1}}{4\pi\sqrt{2}} \left( \frac{1}{(k+3)} - \frac{1}{(k-3)} - \frac{3}{(k+1)} + \frac{3}{(k-1)} \right) \\ &= \begin{cases} \frac{24}{\pi\sqrt{2}} \left( \frac{1}{(k^2 - 9)(k^2 - 1)} \right), & k = \text{even}, \\ 0, & k = \text{odd} \neq \pm 1, \pm 3. \end{cases} \end{split}$$

In the second line, we integrated each  $\sin(j\pi x)$  term directly and in the third line we used the fact that  $\cos((k\pm 3)\pi) = \cos((k\pm 1)\pi) = (-1)^{k+1}$ . Finally, when  $k=\pm 1$  or  $\pm 3$ , the corresponding sinusoid vanishes. The remaining terms vanish for  $k=\pm 1,\pm 3$  since they vanish for all odd k, so we conclude that

$$\hat{h}_k = \begin{cases} \frac{24}{\pi\sqrt{2}} \left( \frac{1}{(k^2 - 9)(k^2 - 1)} \right), & k = \text{even,} \\ 0, & k = \text{odd.} \end{cases}$$

As  $k \to \infty$ , the coefficients decay at the algebraic rate  $1/k^4$  as shown in Figure 1. Reasoning as we did for g(x), the truncation error in the truncated Fourier series should be on the order of  $1/(\pi\sqrt{2}(251)^3) \approx 10^{-8}$ .

(b) Show that if f is n-times continuously differentiable with  $|f^{(n)}(x)| \leq M$  on the periodic interval [-1,1), then  $|\hat{f}_k| \leq \sqrt{2}M/(\pi k)^n$ . (**Hint:** integrate by parts.) If f(x) is approximated by the truncated series  $f_N(x) = \sum_{k=-N}^N \hat{f}_k e^{i\pi kx}$ , how do you expect the approximation error  $E_N = \max_{-1 \leq x \leq 1} |f(x) - f_N(x)|$  to scale as N is increased?

**Solution:** Since f and its first n derivatives are continuous on the periodic interval, we can integrate by parts n times without contributions from the endpoints:

$$\hat{f}_k = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} \int_{-1}^1 e^{-i\pi kx} f(x) \, dx = \frac{(-1)^n}{\sqrt{2}(-i\pi k)^n} \int_{-1}^1 e^{-i\pi kx} f^{(n)}(x) \, dx.$$

Since  $|f^{(n)}(x)| \leq M$  on [-1,1) and  $|e^{-i\pi kx}| = 1$ , we can bound the right-hand integral

$$|\hat{f}_k| = \left| \frac{(-1)^n}{\sqrt{2}(-i\pi k)^n} \int_{-1}^1 e^{-i\pi kx} f^{(n)}(x) \, dx \right|$$

$$\leq \frac{M}{\sqrt{2}(\pi k)^n} \int_{-1}^1 dx = \frac{\sqrt{2}M}{(\pi k)^n}.$$

Therefore, the Fourier coefficients of an n-times continuously differentiable periodic function decay at least as fast as  $1/k^n$ . If we sum the terms discarded from the N-truncated Fourier series, the error will be roughly on the order of  $1/N^{n-1}$ . In fact, one can show  $1/N^{n+1}$  decay (compare with the decay rates from part (a)) and  $1/N^n$  truncation error with slightly different assumptions, but this is a more involved exercise. The main point is the algebraic decay of the Fourier coefficients of an n-times differentiable function is governed by the "number" and "size" of its derivatives.

(c) If  $a(x) = \sin^3(\pi x)$  and  $f(x) = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} \sum_{k=-\infty}^{\infty} \hat{f}_k e^{i\pi kx}$ , then what are the Fourier coefficients of a(x)f(x)? Write down the (infinite) matrix representing "multiplication-by-a(x)" in the Fourier basis. How many nonzero entries are there in each row?

**Solution:** Plugging the Fourier series for  $a(x) = \sin^3(\pi x)$  from part (a) into the formula for the Fourier coefficients of the product m(x) = a(x)f(x), we calculate

$$\hat{m}_{k} = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} \int_{-1}^{1} e^{-i\pi kx} a(x) f(x) dx$$

$$= \frac{i}{8\sqrt{2}} \int_{-1}^{1} e^{-i\pi kx} \left( e^{3i\pi x} - 3e^{i\pi x} + 3e^{-i\pi x} - e^{-3i\pi x} \right) f(x) dx$$

$$= \frac{i}{8\sqrt{2}} \int_{-1}^{1} \left( e^{-i\pi(k-3)x} - 3e^{-i\pi(k-1)x} + 3e^{-i\pi(k+1)x} - e^{-i\pi(k+3)x} \right) f(x) dx$$

$$= \frac{i}{8} \left( \hat{f}_{k-3} - 3\hat{f}_{k-1} + 3\hat{f}_{k+1} - \hat{f}_{k+3} \right).$$

Therefore, each Fourier coefficient of the product m(x) = a(x)f(x) is a finite linear combination of the neighboring odd Fourier coefficients of f(x). We can assemble this

transformation into a linear matrix with four nonzero diagonals, with

A matrix of this form, with entries that do not change along each diagonal, is called a Toeplitz matrix. They play a central role in the theory and practice of discrete convolution and are related to a number of fast algorithms in numerical linear algebra.

2) Finite differences in 2D. Consider Poisson's equation on the unit square:

$$\partial_x^2 u(x,y) + \partial_y^2 u(x,y) = f(x,y), \quad \text{where} \quad u(\pm 1,y) = 1 - y^2, \quad \text{and} \quad u(x,\pm 1) = 1.$$

The poissonFD.ipynb notebook accompanying Lecture 8 may be helpful in parts (a)-(d).

(a) Using centered second-order finite differences in x and y on an  $N \times N$  grid, discretize the PDE (without boundary conditions) to obtain a matrix equation  $D_2U + UD_2 = F$ .

**Solution:** Following the notes from lecture 8, we can discretize the square into a grid of N+2 equally-spaced points,  $(x_j, y_k)$ , where  $0 \le j, k \le N+1$  with

$$x_j = -1 + \frac{2j}{N+1}$$
, and  $y_k = -1 + \frac{2k}{N+1}$ .

If we represent the solution on the  $N \times N$  interior of the grid (where  $1 \leq j, k \leq N$ ) using an  $N \times N$  matrix U, the right-hand side by  $F_{j,k} = f(x_j, y_k)$ , and discretize using second-order central differences, we get the equations

$$\frac{1}{h^2} \left( U_{j+1,k} - 2U_{j,k} + U_{j-1,k} \right) + \frac{1}{h^2} \left( U_{j,k+1} - 2U_{j,k} + U_{j,k-1} \right) = F_{j,k}.$$

If we set the boundary values to zero for the moment, this corresponds to the matrix equation  $D_2U + UD_2 = F$ , where  $D_2$  is the second central difference matrix

$$D_2 = \frac{1}{h^2} \begin{pmatrix} -2 & 1 & 0 & & & \\ 1 & -2 & 1 & & & \\ & \ddots & \ddots & \ddots & \\ & & 1 & -2 & 1 \\ & & & 1 & -2 \end{pmatrix}.$$

(b) Modify the right-hand side, F, of the matrix equation in part (a) to enforce the non-homogeneous boundary conditions  $u(\pm 1, y) = 1 - y^2$  and  $u(x, \pm 1) = 1$ .

**Solution:** At the boundary nodes, where j or k are equal to 0 or N+1, we can plug the boundary value into the difference equation and rearrange all known terms on the right-hand side. For example, at the boundary x=-1 corresponding to j=0, we have  $u(\pm 1,y)=1-y^2$ , so  $U_{1,k}=1-y_k^2$  and we get (for  $1 \le k \le N$ )

$$\frac{1}{h^2} \left( U_{2,k} - 2U_{1,k} \right) + \frac{1}{h^2} \left( U_{1,k+1} - 2U_{1,k} + U_{1,k-1} \right) = F_{1,k} - \frac{1}{h^2} (1 - y_k^2).$$

Similarly, at the boundary x = 1 corresponding to j = N + 1, we have (for  $1 \le k \le N$ )

$$\frac{1}{h^2} \left( -2U_{N,k} + U_{N-1,k} \right) + \frac{1}{h^2} \left( U_{N,k+1} - 2U_{N,k} + U_{N,k-1} \right) = F_{N,k} - \frac{1}{h^2} (1 - y_k^2).$$

At the boundary y=-1, corresponding to k=0, we have  $u(x,\pm 1)=1$ , so that (for  $0 \le j \le N+1$ )

$$\frac{1}{h^2}\left(U_{j+1,1} - 2U_{j,1} + U_{j-1,1}\right) + \frac{1}{h^2}\left(U_{j,2} - 2U_{j,1}\right) = F_{j,1} - \frac{1}{h^2}.$$

Finally, at the boundary y = 1, corresponding to k = N+1, we have (for  $0 \le j \le N+1$ )

$$\frac{1}{h^2} \left( U_{j+1,N} - 2U_{j,N} + U_{j-1,N} \right) + \frac{1}{h^2} \left( -2U_{j,N} + U_{j,N-1} \right) = F_{j,N} - \frac{1}{h^2}.$$

If we modify the first and last columns and rows of F as indicated above, we enforce the non-homogeneous boundary conditions for the Poisson problem while the left-hand side of the matrix equation in part (a) remains unchanged.

(c) Use the Kronecker product to rewrite the matrix equation from (a) and (b) in the standard form Ax = b, where A is an  $N^2 \times N^2$  matrix and b is an  $N^2 \times 1$  vector.

**Solution:** Denoting the modified right-hand side from part (b) by  $\tilde{F}$ , we vectorized both sides of the equation  $D_2U + UD_2 = \tilde{F}$  and apply the Kronecker identity  $\text{vec}(AXB) = (B^T \otimes A)\text{vec}(X)$  to obtain (using  $D_2^T = D_2$  in the last equality)

$$\operatorname{vec}(\tilde{F}) = \operatorname{vec}(D_2U + UD_2)$$

$$= \operatorname{vec}(D_2UI) + \operatorname{vec}(IUD_2)$$

$$= (I^T \otimes D_2)\operatorname{vec}(U) + (D_2^T \otimes I)\operatorname{vec}(U)$$

$$= (I \otimes D_2 + D_2 \otimes I)\operatorname{vec}(U).$$

This is a standard linear system with  $N^2 \times N^2$  matrix  $A = I \otimes D_2 + D_2 \otimes I$ ,  $N^2 \times 1$  right-hand side vector  $b = \text{vec}(\tilde{F})$ , and  $N^2 \times 1$  solution vector x = vec(U).

(d) Using the Gaussian right-hand side  $f(x,y) = 5 \exp(-10(x^2 + y^2))$ , solve the discretized linear system in part (c) numerically and plot the solution on the  $N \times N$  grid. Try increasing the value of N until the numerical solution appears to converge. Should the solution satisfy a maximum or minimum principle? Explain your reasoning.

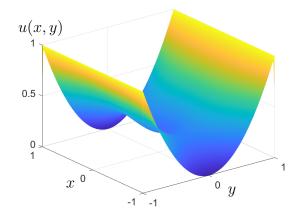


Figure 2: The numerical solution to the Poisson equation in part (d) on a  $500 \times 500$  grid.

**Solution:** The numerical solution is plotted on a  $500 \times 500$  grid in Figure 2. Since the right-hand side is strictly positive, we expect that the solution will satisfy the maximum principle, that is, the maximum of the solution will be located on the boundary. The numerical solution appears to achieve the maximum of  $u(x, \pm 1) = 1$  on the left and right boundaries and has no local maxima. It does appear to have a local minimum near the center of the domain, which does not violate our expectation since the solution need not satisfy the minimum principle when f(x, y) is positive.

3) Separation of variables. Consider the exterior Laplace problem in polar coordinates,

$$\left[\frac{\partial^2}{\partial r^2} + \frac{1}{r}\frac{\partial}{\partial r} + \frac{1}{r^2}\frac{\partial^2}{\partial \theta^2}\right]u(r,\theta) = 0, \quad \text{where} \quad r \ge 1 \quad \text{and} \quad u(1,\theta) = |\sin(\theta)|^3.$$

Use separation of variables in polar coordinates to find a bounded solution,  $|u(r,\theta)| \leq M$ . Is your solution unique? Explain why or why not. If not, provide the general solution form.

**Solution:** In Lecture 7, we derived a general solution for the Laplace equation in polar coordinates, which had the form (recall that the sum is over all nonzero integers  $k \neq 0$ )

$$u(r,\theta) = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2\pi}} \left[ A_0 + B_0 \log(r) + \sum_{k \neq 0} (A_k r^k + B_k r^{-k}) e^{ik\theta} \right].$$

Any solution that is bounded in the exterior of the unit disk,  $r \ge 1$ , must have  $A_k = 0$  for  $k \ge 1$  and  $B_k = 0$  for  $k \le 0$  to eliminate terms that grow as  $r \to \infty$ . We are left with

$$u(r,\theta) = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2\pi}} \left[ A_0 + \sum_{k \ge 1} r^{-k} \left( A_{-k} e^{-ik\theta} + B_k e^{ik\theta} \right) \right].$$

To satisfy the boundary condition  $u(1,\theta) = |\sin(\theta)|^3$ , we must choose the remaining coefficients so that

$$u(1,\theta) = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2\pi}} \left[ A_0 + \sum_{k>1} \left( A_{-k} e^{-ik\theta} + B_k e^{ik\theta} \right) \right] = |\sin(\theta)|^3.$$

In other words, we must choose the remaining coefficients  $A_k$   $(k \le 0)$  and  $B_k$   $(k \ge 1)$  to match the Fourier coefficients of  $w(\theta) = |\sin(\theta)|^3$ . With the substitution  $\theta = \pi x$ , these Fourier coefficients can be related to those of  $h(x) = |\sin(\pi x)|^3$  on [-1, 1) from Problem 1:

$$\hat{w}_k = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2\pi}} \int_0^{2\pi} e^{-ik\theta} |\sin(\theta)|^3 d\theta$$

$$= \sqrt{\frac{\pi}{2}} \int_0^2 e^{-i\pi kx} |\sin(\pi x)|^3 dx$$

$$= \sqrt{\frac{\pi}{2}} \int_{-1}^1 e^{-i\pi kx} |\sin(\pi x)|^3 dx$$

$$= \sqrt{\pi} \hat{h}_k.$$

In the last line, we have used that the integrand is 2-periodic so that integrating from 0 to 2 is equivalent from integrating from -1 to 1. Therefore, we set  $A_{-k} = \sqrt{\pi} \hat{h}_{-k}$  and  $B_k = \sqrt{\pi} \hat{h}_k$ . We can write the resulting series solution explicitly as

$$u(r,\theta) = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2\pi}} \sum_{k=-\infty}^{\infty} r^{-|k|} (\sqrt{\pi} \hat{h}_k) e^{ik\theta}$$
$$= \frac{12}{\pi} \sum_{k=\text{even}} \frac{r^{-|k|} e^{ik\theta}}{(k^2 - 9)(k^2 - 1)}$$

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