

Let f be a continuous function on the interval $[a, b] \subset \mathbb{R}$.

Pick an arbitrary $\varepsilon > 0$.

Define $g : [-\pi, \pi] \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ by

$$g(x) = f\left(a + \frac{b-a}{\pi} |x|\right).$$

Observe that this maps $g(0) = f(a)$, $g(\pi) = g(-\pi) = b$. g is then a continuous function on the circle.

By corollary 5.4 of asdf, there exists a trigonometric polynomial Q such that

$$|g(x) - Q(x)| < \frac{\varepsilon}{2} \quad \text{for all } -\pi \leq x \leq \pi.$$

Let n integer and $c_{-n}, \dots, c_n \in \mathbb{C}$ be such that

$$Q(x) = c_0 + \sum_{0 < |k| \leq n} c_k e^{ikx}.$$

Let $c = \max\{|c_{-n}|, \dots, |c_{-1}|, |c_1|, \dots, |c_n|\}$.

Let $R(x)$ be a polynomial such that

$$|e^{ix} - R(x)| < \frac{\varepsilon}{4nc} \quad \text{for all } -n\pi \leq x \leq n\pi.$$

Such R exists because e^{ix} can be approximated by polynomials uniformly on any interval.

Construct

$$Q'(x) = c_0 + \sum_{0 < |k| \leq n} c_k R(kx)$$

and observe that it is a polynomial. Then

$$\begin{aligned} |q(x) - Q'(x)| &\leq |q(x) - Q(x)| + |Q(x) - Q'(x)| \\ &< \frac{\varepsilon}{2} + \left| \sum_{0 < |k| \leq n} c_k (e^{ikx} - R(kx)) \right| \\ &\leq \frac{\varepsilon}{2} + \sum_{0 < |k| \leq n} |c_k| |e^{ikx} - R(kx)| \\ &< \frac{\varepsilon}{2} + \sum_{0 < |k| \leq n} |c_k| \frac{\varepsilon}{4nc} \\ &\leq \frac{\varepsilon}{2} + \sum_{0 < |k| \leq n} \frac{\varepsilon}{4n} \\ &= \varepsilon, \end{aligned}$$

where we use $-n\pi \leq kx \leq n\pi$ for all $x \in [-\pi, \pi]$ and $-n \leq k \leq n$

Let

$$P(x) = Q' \left(\frac{x-a}{b-a} \pi \right).$$

Then P is a polynomial and

$$|f(x) - P(x)| = |q(x) - Q'(x)| < \epsilon.$$

□