

## **Part D - Eigenfunction expansions**

## Series expansion

- A square integrable function  $f(x)$  in  $a \leq x \leq b$  with a weight function  $s(x)$  satisfies:

$$\int_a^b f(x) \cdot s(x) \cdot f(x) dx < \infty$$

Generally  $[a, b]$  can  
be  $(-\infty, \infty)$

- Meaning - the function  $f(x)$  has a finite norm:

$$\|f(x)\| = \sqrt{\langle f | s | f \rangle} < \infty$$

- Any arbitrary such  $f(x)$  can be expanded in a set of orthonormal functions  $\varphi_n(x)$ :

$$f(x) \sim \sum_{n=1}^N a_n \cdot \varphi_n(x)$$

An  
approximation...

What selection of  $a_n$  will provide the "best"  
approximation for  $f(x)$  ?

- The "best" selection can be defined by minimizing the mean-square error:

$$E(a_1, a_2, \dots, a_N) = \int_a^b \left[ f(x) - \sum_{n=1}^N a_n \cdot \varphi_n(x) \right]^2 \cdot s(x) dx$$

$$\frac{\partial E}{\partial a_1} = 0 \quad \frac{\partial E}{\partial a_2} = 0 \quad \dots \quad \frac{\partial E}{\partial a_N} = 0 \quad \longrightarrow \quad \boxed{\frac{\partial E}{\partial a_k} = 0} \quad (k = 1, 2, \dots, N)$$

- An example for the derivation:

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{\partial E}{\partial a_1} &= \frac{\partial}{\partial a_1} \int_a^b \left[ f(x) - \sum_{n=1}^N a_n \cdot \varphi_n(x) \right]^2 \cdot s(x) dx = \int_a^b \left\{ \frac{\partial}{\partial a_1} \left[ f - \sum_{n=1}^N a_n \cdot \varphi_n \right]^2 \right\} \cdot s(x) dx \\ &= \int_a^b \left\{ \frac{\partial}{\partial a_1} \left[ \cancel{f^2} - 2 \cdot f \cdot \sum_{n=1}^N a_n \cdot \varphi_n + \left( \sum_{n=1}^N a_n \cdot \varphi_n \right)^2 \right] \right\} \cdot s(x) dx \\ &= -2 \cdot \int_a^b [f \cdot s \cdot \varphi_1] dx + 2 \cdot a_1 \cdot \int_a^b [\varphi_1 \cdot s \cdot \varphi_1] dx \end{aligned}$$

- The "best" approximation is obtained if the derivative for all  $a_k$  coefficients satisfies:

$$\begin{aligned}\frac{\partial E}{\partial a_k} &= \frac{\partial}{\partial a_k} \int_a^b \left[ f(x) - \sum_{n=1}^N a_n \cdot \varphi_n(x) \right]^2 \cdot s(x) dx \\ &= -2 \cdot \int_a^b [f \cdot s \cdot \varphi_k] dx + 2 \cdot a_k \cdot \int_a^b [\varphi_k \cdot s \cdot \varphi_k] dx = 0\end{aligned}$$

$$\longrightarrow a_k = \frac{\int_a^b f(x) \cdot s(x) \cdot \varphi_k(x) dx}{\int_a^b \varphi_k(x) \cdot s(x) \cdot \varphi_k(x) dx}$$

The "best" selection for  
the  $a_k$  coefficient



Josef Fourier

Fourier coefficients

Fourier series

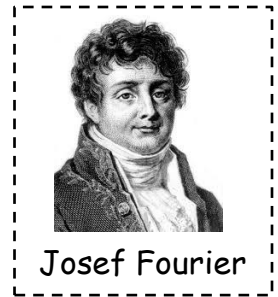
$$a_k = \frac{\langle f | s | \varphi_k \rangle}{\langle \varphi_k | s | \varphi_k \rangle}$$

$$f(x) \sim \sum_{n=1}^N a_n \cdot \varphi_n(x)$$

The "best"  
approximation

## Some well-known (and useful) series expansions

### (1) The "customary" Fourier series (periodic functions)



- The function set:

$$\phi(x) = 1 \qquad \varphi_n(x) = \sin\left(\frac{\pi n x}{L}\right) \qquad \psi_n(x) = \cos\left(\frac{\pi n x}{L}\right)$$

- The inner product:

$$\langle g|1|h \rangle = \langle g|h \rangle = \int_{-L}^L g(x) \cdot h(x) dx$$

- The orthogonal relations:

$$\langle \phi | \varphi_n \rangle = 0$$

$$\langle \phi | \psi_n \rangle = 0$$

$$\langle \varphi_n | \psi_m \rangle = 0$$

$$\langle \varphi_n | \varphi_m \rangle = L \cdot \delta_{nm}$$

$$\langle \psi_n | \psi_m \rangle = L \cdot \delta_{nm}$$

$$\langle \phi | \phi \rangle = 2 \cdot L$$

- The Fourier series expansion:

$$f(x) \sim b_0 + \sum_{n=1}^N \left[ a_n \cdot \sin\left(\frac{\pi n x}{L}\right) + b_n \cdot \cos\left(\frac{\pi n x}{L}\right) \right]$$

- The coefficients:

$$a_n = \frac{\langle f | \varphi_n \rangle}{\langle \varphi_n | \varphi_n \rangle} = \frac{1}{L} \cdot \int_{-L}^L f(x) \cdot \sin\left(\frac{\pi n x}{L}\right) dx$$

$$b_n = \frac{\langle f | \psi_n \rangle}{\langle \psi_n | \psi_n \rangle} = \frac{1}{L} \cdot \int_{-L}^L f(x) \cdot \cos\left(\frac{\pi n x}{L}\right) dx$$

$$b_0 = \frac{\langle f | \phi \rangle}{\langle \phi | \phi \rangle} = \frac{1}{2 \cdot L} \cdot \int_{-L}^L f(x) dx$$

## (2) The Fourier-Legendre series (spherical problems)

➤ The function set:

$$\varphi_l(x) = P_l(x)$$



Josef Fourier



Adrien-Marie  
Legendre

The Legendre polynomials (first six):

$$P_0(x) = 1$$

$$P_1(x) = x$$

$$P_2(x) = \frac{1}{2} \cdot (3x^2 - 1)$$

$$P_3(x) = \frac{1}{2} \cdot (5x^3 - 3x)$$

$$P_4(x) = \frac{1}{8} \cdot (35x^4 - 30x^2 + 3)$$

$$P_5(x) = \frac{1}{8} \cdot (63x^5 - 70x^3 + 15x)$$

- The inner product and orthogonal relations:

$$\langle P_l | 1 | P_n \rangle = \langle P_l | P_n \rangle = \int_{-1}^1 P_l(x) \cdot P_n(x) dx = \frac{2}{2l+1} \delta_{ln}$$

- The Fourier-Legendre series expansion:

$$f(x) \sim \sum_{l=1}^N A_l \cdot P_l(x)$$

*Fourier-Legendre  
series*

- The coefficients:

$$A_l = \frac{\langle f | P_l \rangle}{\langle P_l | P_l \rangle} = \frac{2 \cdot l + 1}{2} \cdot \int_{-1}^1 f(x) \cdot P_l(x) dx$$



### (3) The Fourier-Bessel series (cylindrical problems)

- The function set:

$$\varphi_n(x) = J_\nu(\chi_{\nu n} \cdot x/a)$$

$$\varphi_n(x=a) = J_\nu(\chi_{\nu n}) = 0$$

- The inner product:

$$\langle J_{\nu;n} | x | J_{\nu;m} \rangle = \int_0^a x \cdot J_\nu(\chi_{\nu n} \cdot x/a) \cdot J_\nu(\chi_{\nu m} \cdot x/a)$$

- The orthogonal relations:

$$\langle J_{\nu;n} | x | J_{\nu;m} \rangle = \frac{a^2}{2} \cdot (J_{\nu+1}(\chi_{\nu n}))^2 \cdot \delta_{mn}$$



Josef Fourier




Friedrich  
Wilhelm Bessel

- The Fourier-Bessel series expansion:

$$f(x) \sim \sum_{n=1}^N A_n \cdot J_\nu(\chi_{\nu n} \cdot x/a)$$

*Fourier-Bessel  
series*

- The coefficients:

$$A_n = \frac{\langle f|x|J_{\nu;n}\rangle}{\langle J_{\nu;n}|x|J_{\nu;n}\rangle}$$


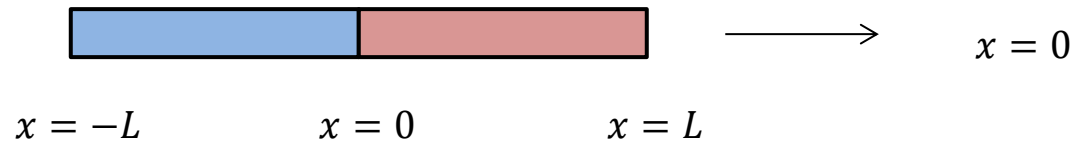
$$A_n = \frac{2}{a^2 \cdot (J_{\nu+1}(\chi_{\nu n}))^2} \cdot \int_0^a x \cdot f(x) \cdot J_\nu(\chi_{\nu n} \cdot x/a) dx$$

### Example 1 - Temperature along a rod

### Fourier series

➤ Consider a rod of length  $2 \cdot L$  ( $L = 1$ ), subjected to a temperature field:

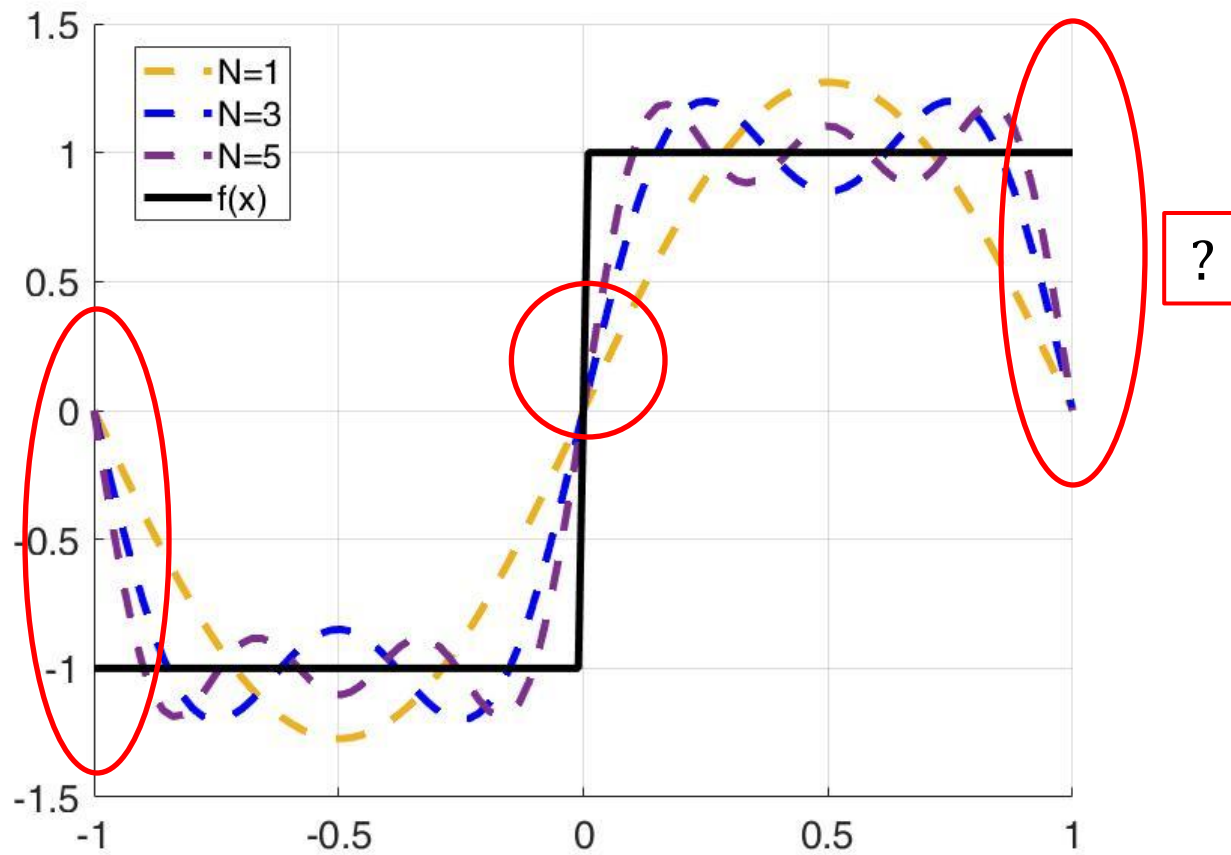
$$f(x) = \begin{cases} -1 & (-L < x < 0) \\ 1 & (0 < x < L) \end{cases}$$



Find the Fourier series approximation (5 first terms) for  $f(x)$  using the eigenfunction set:

$$\left\{ 1, \sin\left(\frac{\pi n x}{L}\right), \cos\left(\frac{\pi n x}{L}\right) \right\}$$

$$f(x) \sim \frac{4}{\pi} \cdot \sin\left(\frac{\pi x}{L}\right) + \frac{4}{3\pi} \cdot \sin\left(\frac{3\pi x}{L}\right) + \frac{4}{5\pi} \cdot \sin\left(\frac{5\pi x}{L}\right)$$

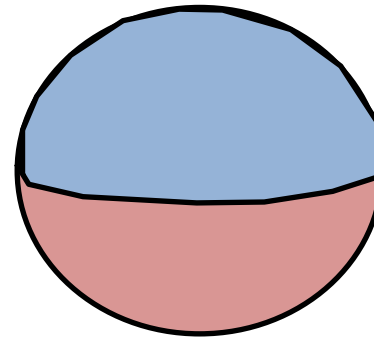
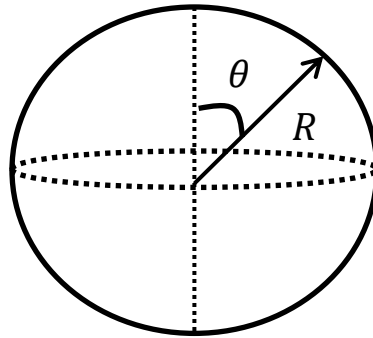


## Example 2 - Temperature on a spherical shell

**Fourier-Legendre  
series**

➤ Consider spherical shell of radius  $R$ , subjected to a temperature field:

$$f(\theta) = \begin{cases} -1 & (0 < \theta < 90^\circ) \\ 1 & (90^\circ < \theta < 180^\circ) \end{cases} \quad \xrightarrow{x = \cos(\theta)} \quad f(x) = \begin{cases} -1 & (-1 \leq x < 0) \\ 1 & (0 < x \leq 1) \end{cases}$$



Find the **Fourier-Legendre series** approximation (5 first terms) for  $f(x)$  using the eigenfunction set of **Legendre polynomials**:

$$\{P_l(x)\}$$

The Legendre polynomials:

$$P_0(x) = 1$$

$$P_1(x) = x$$

$$P_2(x) = \frac{1}{2} \cdot (3x^2 - 1)$$

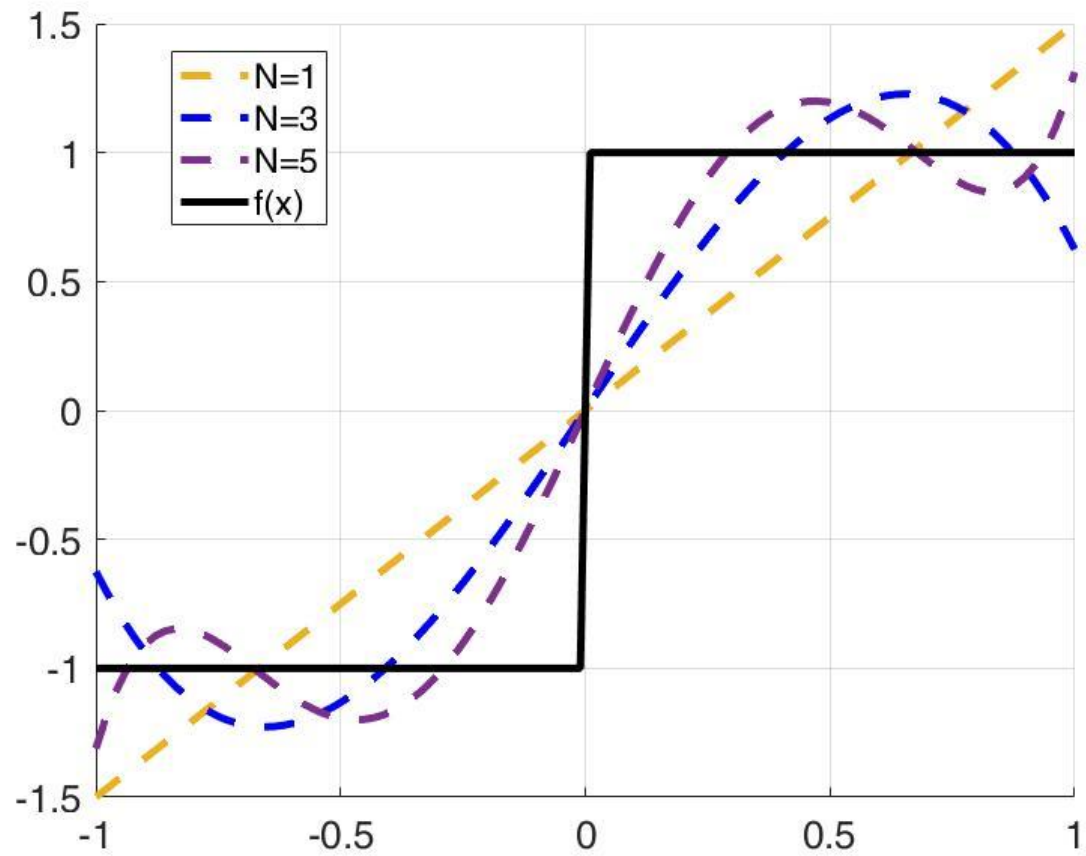
$$P_3(x) = \frac{1}{2} \cdot (5x^3 - 3x)$$

$$P_4(x) = \frac{1}{8} \cdot (35x^4 - 30x^2 + 3)$$

$$P_5(x) = \frac{1}{8} \cdot (63x^5 - 70x^3 + 15x)$$

$$\langle P_n | P_m \rangle \int_{-1}^1 P_n(x) \cdot P_m(x) dx = \frac{2}{2n+1} \delta_{mn}$$

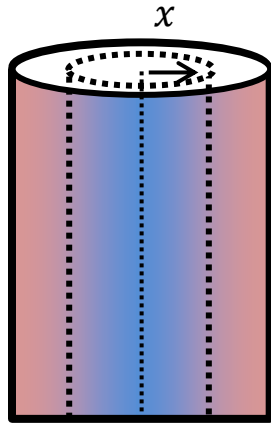
$$f(x) \sim \frac{3}{2} \cdot p_0(x) - \frac{7}{8} \cdot p_3(x) + \frac{11}{16} \cdot p_5(x)$$



### Example 3 - Temperature within a cylinder

**Fourier-Bessel  
series**

- Consider a cylinder of radius  $a = 1$ , subjected to a radial linear temperature field:



$$f(x) = x$$

Find the Fourier-Bessel series approximation (5 first terms) for  $f(x)$  using the eigenfunction set of Bessel-zeroes functions of an order  $\nu = 1$ :

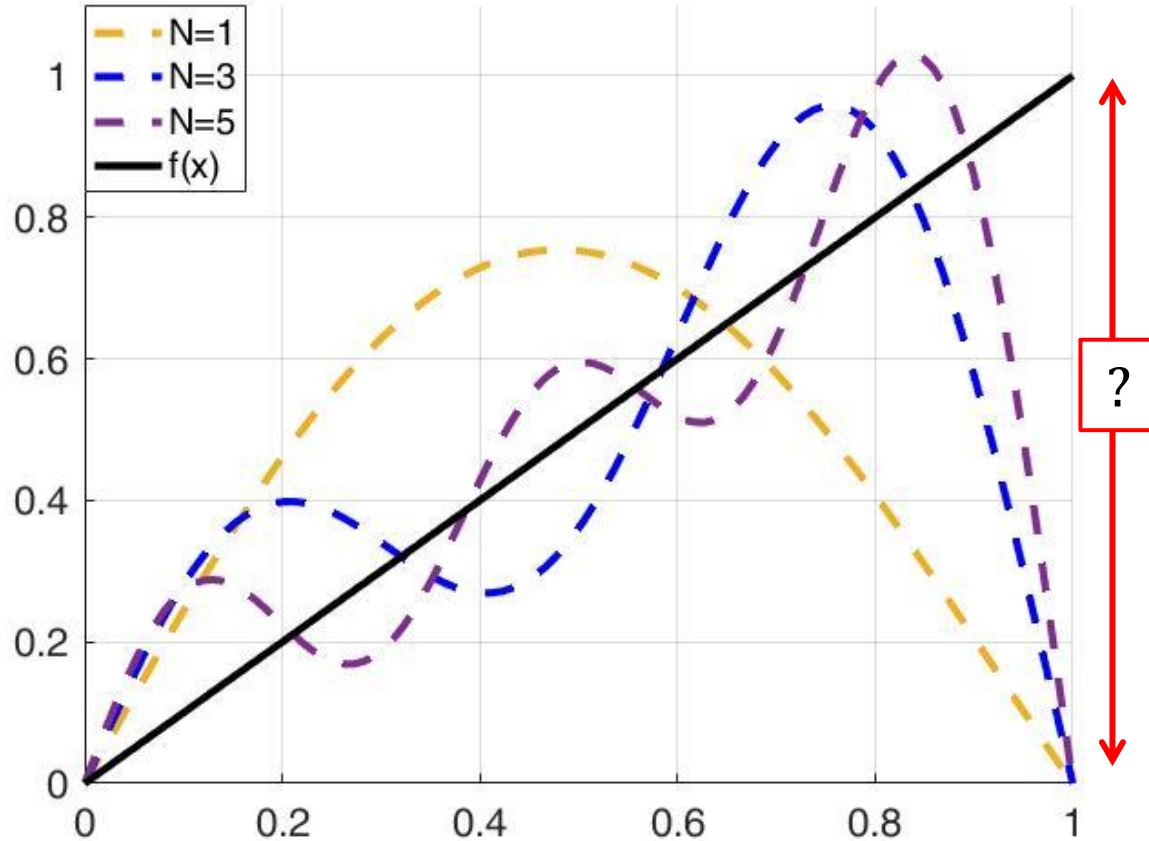
$$\{J_1(\chi_{1n} \cdot x)\}$$



$$f(x) \sim \sum_{n=1}^N A_n \cdot J_1(\chi_{1n} \cdot x)$$

$$A_n = \frac{2}{J_2(\chi_{1n}) \cdot \chi_{1n}}$$

$$f(x) \sim 1.3 \cdot J_1(\chi_{11} \cdot x) - 0.95 \cdot J_1(\chi_{12} \cdot x) + 0.79 \cdot J_1(\chi_{13} \cdot x) \\ - 0.69 \cdot J_1(\chi_{14} \cdot x) + 0.62 \cdot J_1(\chi_{15} \cdot x)$$



## **Part E - Eigenfunction expansions**

*(some deeper insights)*

## (I) Convergence and completeness

- The approximation of  $f(x)$  via a finite ( $N$ -terms) expansion of orthonormal set:

$$f(x) \sim \sum_{n=1}^N a_n \cdot \varphi_n(x) \quad a_n = \langle f | s | \varphi_n \rangle$$

Intuitively: if the number of terms ( $N$ ) is taken larger and larger, we expect to get a "better" and "better" approximation to  $f(x)$

- Our intuition is correct if the set of functions  $\varphi_n(x)$  is complete.

*Which orthonormal function sets are complete?*

- Endless efforts of generations of mathematicians - led into a precious conclusion...

"All orthonormal sets of functions normally occurring in mathematical physics have been proven to be complete"

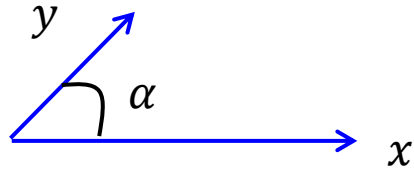
(K. D. Jackson, *Classical electrodynamics*, 3<sup>rd</sup> edition, p. 68)

- This course focuses on solutions of physical problems.

*All the eigenfunction sets that we will handle in this course will be orthogonal (orthonormal) and complete !*

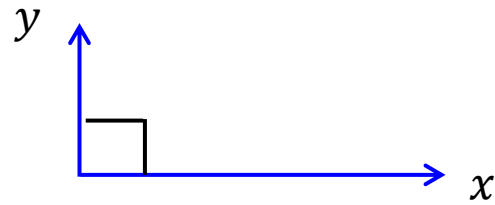
## 2D vector space - simplified examples

*A complete set*



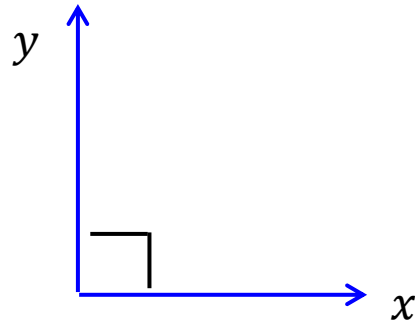
$$|\underline{x}| \neq |\underline{y}|$$

*Orthogonal-complete set*



$$|\underline{x}| \neq |\underline{y}|$$

*Orthonormal-complete set*



$$|\underline{x}| = |\underline{y}|$$

Using a complete orthonormal function set:

$$f(x) \sim \sum_{n=1}^N a_n \cdot \varphi_n(x)$$

The approximation: a finite number of functions ( $N$ ) from a complete set ( $\infty$  terms)

$$E_N = \int_a^b \left[ f(x) - \sum_{n=1}^N a_n \cdot \varphi_n(x) \right]^2 \cdot s(x) dx$$

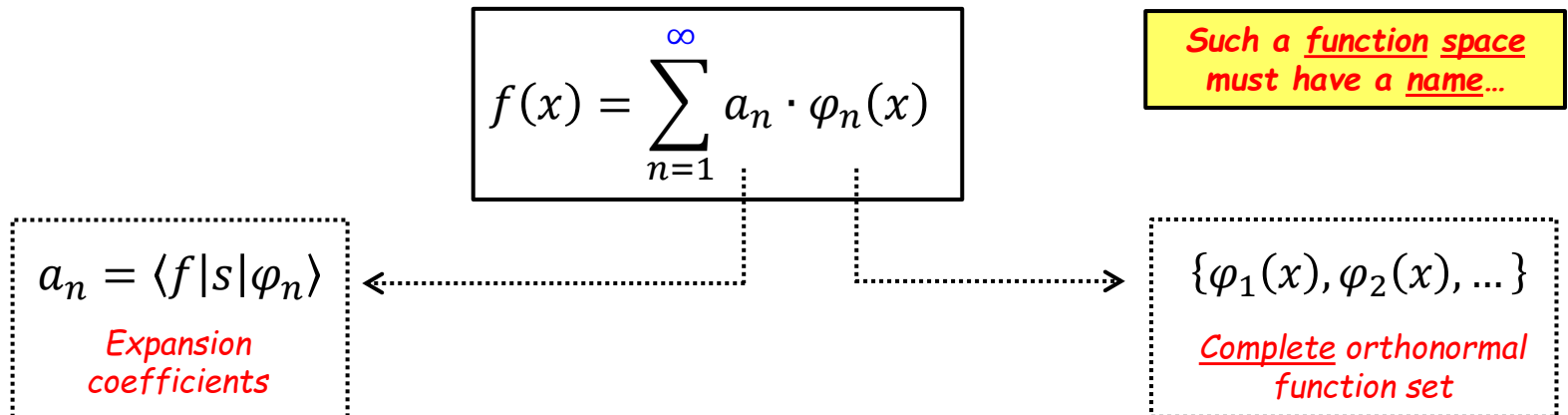
The error: decreases as the number of functions used ( $N$ ) increases

➤ The error vanishes for  $N \rightarrow \infty$ :

$$\lim_{N \rightarrow \infty} E_N = 0$$

Convergent in the mean to  $f(x)$   
("Strong" convergence)

➤ Thus, any function can be accurately represented via an infinite series:



## (II) Hilbert space



David Hilbert

- A generalization of the 3D vector space - using nD vector functions.

### Characteristics (similar to the vector space):

- The space includes a complete set of base functions that can span any function in the space:

$$\{\varphi_1(x), \varphi_2(x), \dots\} \longrightarrow f(x)$$

- The space is linear:

$$f(x), g(x) \longrightarrow a_1 \cdot f(x) + a_2 \cdot g(x)$$

*Hilbert space  
functions*

*Also a Hilbert  
space function*

- There is an inner product, defined by:

$$\langle f|s|g \rangle = \int_a^b f(x) \cdot s(x) \cdot g(x) dx$$

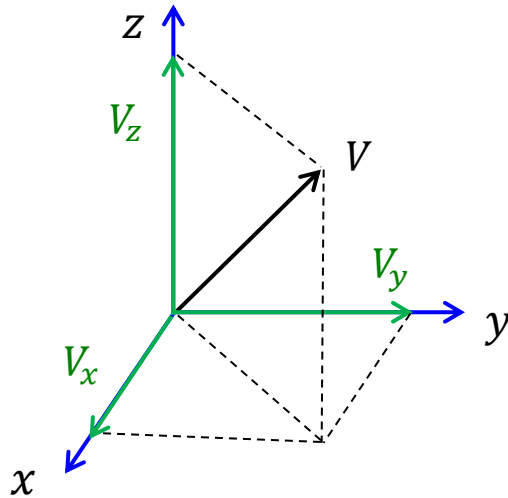
- Any element in the space has a norm, defined by the inner product:

$$\|f(x)\| = \sqrt{\langle f|s|f \rangle}$$

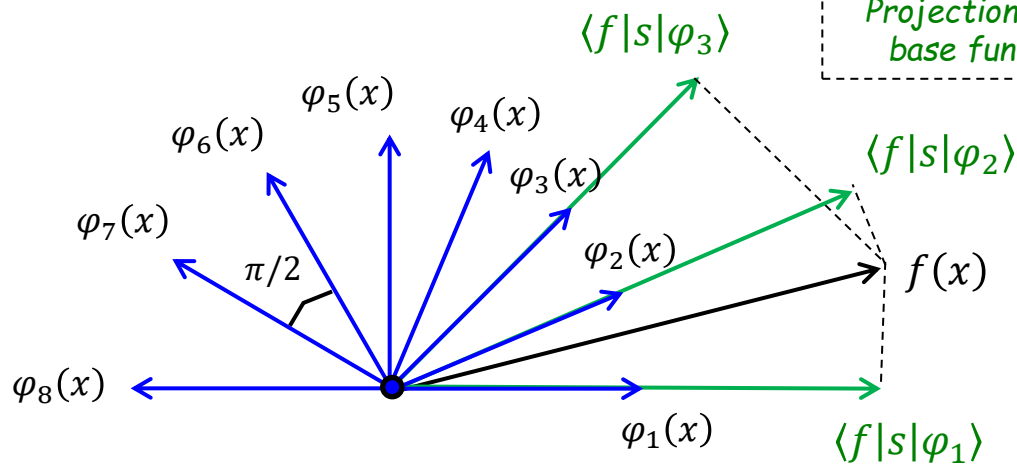
## Geometrical representation (schematic)

(Adapted from Liboff - Introductory quantum mechanics, 4<sup>rd</sup> edition)

3D vector space



8D Hilbert space



Projections on the  
base functions



### Example 1

- An example of an Hilbert space is the set of square integrable functions (finite norm) with weight function  $s(x) = 1$ :

$$\|f(x)\|^2 = \langle f|1|f \rangle = \int_0^L f(x) \cdot f(x) dx < \infty \quad \boxed{\mathcal{H}_1}$$

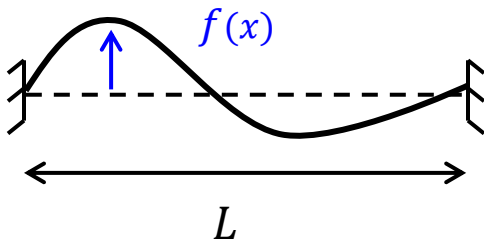
- The function space  $\mathcal{H}_1$  is spanned by the orthonormal set of trigonometric functions:

$$\varphi_n(x) = \sin(\kappa_n \cdot x)$$

$$\kappa_n = n \cdot \frac{\pi}{L}$$

$$\psi_n(x) = \cos(\kappa_n \cdot x)$$

- These are in fact the eigenfunctions (normal modes) of a finite string.



*Fourier series*

$$f(x) = \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} a_n \cdot \varphi_n(x) + \sum_{m=1}^{\infty} b_m \cdot \psi_m(x)$$

$\downarrow$   $\downarrow$

$$a_n = \langle f|\varphi_n \rangle \quad b_m = \langle f|\psi_m \rangle$$

## Example 2

- Another example of Hilbert spaces is the same set of functions - over the entire  $x$  interval

$$\|f(x)\|^2 = \langle f|1|f \rangle = \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} f(x) \cdot f(x) dx < \infty \quad \boxed{\mathcal{H}_2}$$

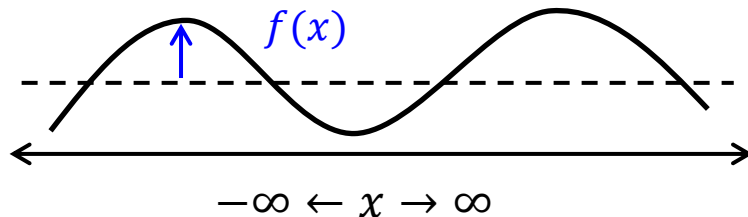
- The function space  $\mathcal{H}_2$  is spanned by the orthonormal set of trigonometric functions:

$$\varphi_k(x) = \varphi(x, \kappa) = \sin(\kappa \cdot x)$$

$0 < k$  - Continuous parameter

$$\psi_k(x) = \psi(x, \kappa) = \cos(\kappa \cdot x)$$

- These are in fact the eigenfunctions (normal modes) of an infinite string



*Fourier integral*

$$f(x) = \int_0^{\infty} a_k \cdot \varphi(x, k) dk + \int_0^{\infty} b_k \cdot \psi(x, k) dk$$

$$\downarrow$$

$$a_k = \langle f | \varphi_k \rangle$$

$$\downarrow$$

$$b_k = \langle f | \psi_k \rangle$$


### (III) Completeness (closure) relations

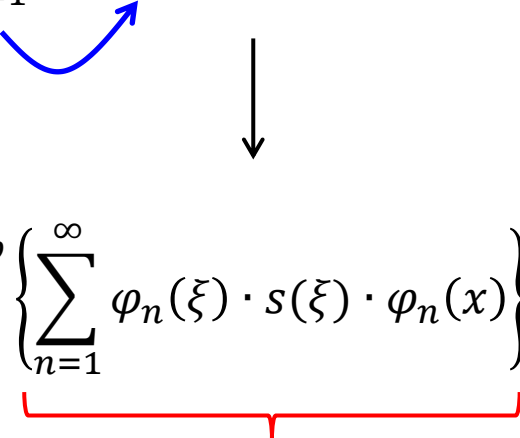
#### (1) Discrete eigenfunction set

$$\varphi_n(x) \quad n = 1, 2, \dots$$

➤ For a complete orthonormal set  $\varphi_n$ , the series expansion of  $f(x)$  is:

$$f(x) = \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} a_n \cdot \varphi_n(x) \quad a_n = \langle f | s | \varphi_n \rangle$$


$$f(x) = \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \left[ \int_a^b f(\xi) \cdot s(\xi) \cdot \varphi_n(\xi) d\xi \right] \cdot \varphi_n(x)$$


$$\textcircled{f(x)} = \int_a^b \left\{ \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \varphi_n(\xi) \cdot s(\xi) \cdot \varphi_n(x) \right\} \cdot \textcircled{f(\xi)} d\xi$$

??

$$f(x) = \int_a^b \{ \delta(x - \xi) \} \cdot f(\xi) d\xi$$



Paul Dirac

*Closure relations*

$$\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \varphi_n(\xi) \cdot s(\xi) \cdot \varphi_n(x) = \delta(x - \xi)$$

Discrete set

Try at home...

*Orthonormal relations*

$$\int_a^b \varphi_n(x) \cdot s(x) \cdot \varphi_m(x) dx = \delta_{nm}$$

Discrete set

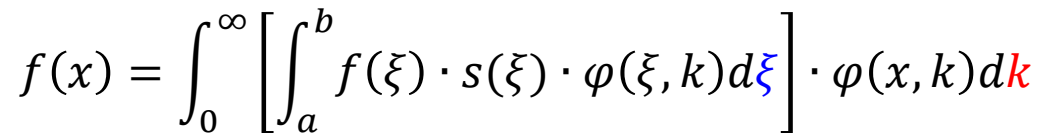
Seems analogues...  
(?)

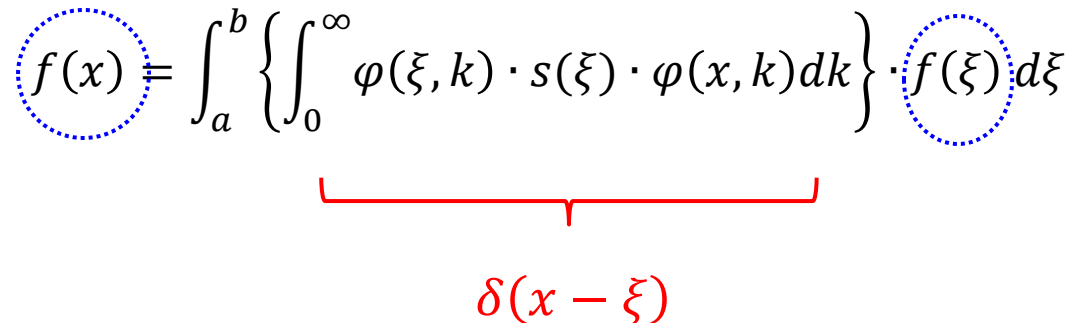
## (2) Continues eigenfunction set

$$\varphi_k(x) = \varphi(x, k) \quad k \in \mathcal{R}$$

➤ For a continues orthonormal set the series expansion of  $f(x)$  is:

$$f(x) = \int_0^\infty a_k \cdot \varphi(x, k) dk \quad a_k = \langle f | s | \varphi_k \rangle$$


$$f(x) = \int_0^\infty \left[ \int_a^b f(\xi) \cdot s(\xi) \cdot \varphi(\xi, k) d\xi \right] \cdot \varphi(x, k) dk$$


$$\textcircled{f(x)} = \int_a^b \underbrace{\left\{ \int_0^\infty \varphi(\xi, k) \cdot s(\xi) \cdot \varphi(x, k) dk \right\}}_{\delta(x - \xi)} \cdot \textcircled{f(\xi)} d\xi$$



*Closure relations*

$$\int_0^{\infty} \varphi(\xi, k) \cdot s(\xi) \cdot \varphi(x, k) dk = \delta(x - \xi)$$

*Try at home...*

Continues set

*Orthonormal relations*

$$\int_a^b \varphi(x, k) \cdot s(x) \cdot \varphi(x, p) dx = \delta(k - p)$$

Continues set

*Analogues !*