

Math 3150 Food for Thought #4  
Friday, September 16

Group #: Solutions

Names :  
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*All group members listed here must be present and actively contributing to receive credit for this assignment. Any violation of this policy will result in a zero for all group members.*

In today's assignment, we'll be using the orthogonal projection method to approximate the pulse function

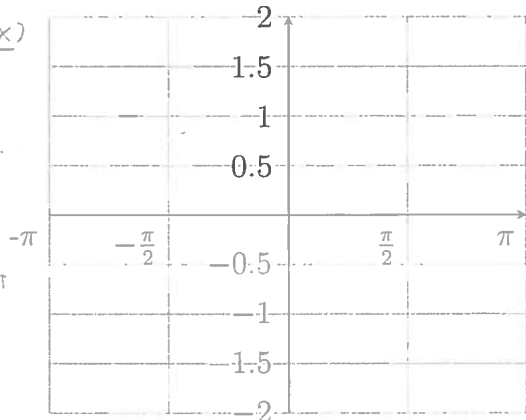
$$f(x) = \begin{cases} 0 & \text{if } x \in [-\pi, 0) \\ 1 & \text{if } x \in [0, \pi/2] \\ 0 & \text{if } x \in [\pi/2, \pi) \end{cases}$$

We will check if accuracy of our approximation improves if we use more orthogonal functions, and finally use these notions to develop Fourier Series.

1. Find an approximation  $\hat{f}_0(x)$  to  $f(x)$  using the orthogonal functions  $\{1, \cos(x), \sin(x)\}$ . Carefully plot  $f(x)$  and  $\hat{f}_0(x)$  together on the provided axes.

Note (\*)  
 $\sin^2(x) = \frac{1 - \cos(2x)}{2}$

$\cos^2(x) = \frac{1 + \cos(2x)}{2}$



See plots on last page.

$$\hat{f}_0(x) = a_0 + a_1 \cos(x) + b_1 \sin(x)$$

$$a_0 = \frac{\langle 1, f \rangle}{\langle 1, 1 \rangle} = \frac{\int_{-\pi}^{\pi/2} dx}{\int_{-\pi}^{\pi} dx} = \frac{\pi/2}{2\pi} = \frac{1}{4}$$

$$a_1 = \frac{\langle \cos(x), f \rangle}{\langle \cos(x), \cos(x) \rangle} = \frac{\int_0^{\pi/2} \cos(x) dx}{\int_{-\pi}^{\pi} \cos^2(x) dx} = \frac{1}{\pi}$$

$$b_1 = \frac{\langle \sin(x), f \rangle}{\langle \sin(x), \sin(x) \rangle} = \frac{\int_0^{\pi/2} \sin(x) dx}{\int_{-\pi}^{\pi} \sin^2(x) dx} = \frac{1}{\pi}$$

2. Find an approximation  $\hat{f}_1(x)$  to  $f(x)$  using the orthogonal functions

$$\{1, \cos(x), \cos(2x), \sin(x), \sin(2x)\}.$$

Carefully plot  $f(x)$  and  $\hat{f}_1(x)$  together on the provided axes. Do you think your approximation  $\hat{f}_1(x)$  is better than the approximation  $\hat{f}_0(x)$  from the previous question?

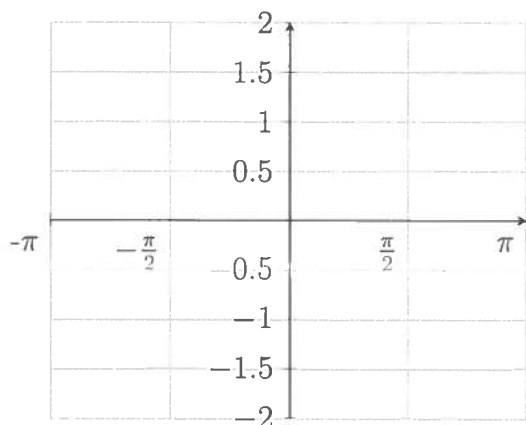
$$\hat{f}_1 = a_0 + a_1 \cos(x) + a_2 \cos(2x) + b_1 \sin(x) + b_2 \sin(2x)$$

$$\left. \begin{aligned} a_0 &= \frac{1}{4} \\ a_1 &= \frac{1}{\pi} \\ b_1 &= \frac{1}{\pi} \end{aligned} \right\} \text{ from Q1.}$$

$$a_2 = \frac{\langle \cos(2x), f \rangle}{\langle \cos(2x), \cos(2x) \rangle} = \frac{\int_0^{\pi/2} \cos(2x) dx}{\int_{-\pi}^{\pi} \cos^2(2x) dx} = \frac{0}{\pi} = 0$$

$$b_2 = \frac{\langle \sin(2x), f \rangle}{\langle \sin(2x), \sin(2x) \rangle} = \frac{\int_0^{\pi/2} \sin(2x) dx}{\int_{-\pi}^{\pi} \sin^2(2x) dx} = \frac{1}{\pi}$$

$$\therefore \hat{f}_1(x) = \frac{1}{4} + \frac{1}{\pi} \cos(x) + \frac{1}{\pi} \sin(x) + \frac{1}{\pi} \sin(2x)$$



3. Find an approximation  $\hat{f}_2(x)$  to  $f(x)$  using the orthogonal functions

$$\{1, \cos(x), \cos(2x), \cos(3x), \sin(x), \sin(2x), \sin(3x)\}.$$

Carefully plot  $f(x)$  and  $\hat{f}_2(x)$  together on the provided axes. Compare the approximation to your previous two approximations.

$$a_0 = \frac{1}{4}$$

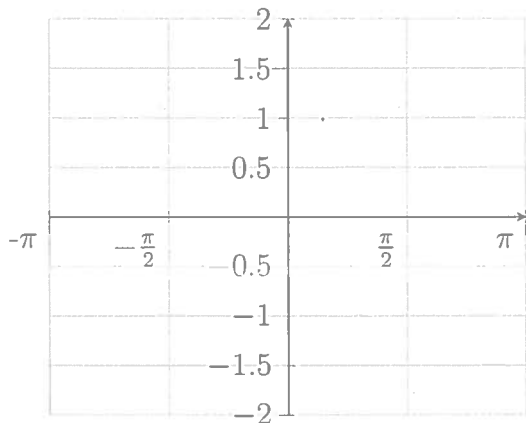
$$a_1 = \frac{1}{\pi}, \quad a_2 =$$

$$b_1 = \frac{1}{\pi}, \quad b_2 =$$

$$a_3 = \frac{\langle f, \cos(3x) \rangle}{\langle \cos(3x), \cos(3x) \rangle} = \frac{\int_0^{\pi/2} \cos(3x) dx}{\int_{-\pi}^{\pi} \cos^2(3x) dx} = \frac{-1/3}{\pi} = -\frac{1}{3\pi}$$

$$b_3 = \frac{\langle f, \sin(3x) \rangle}{\langle \sin(3x), \sin(3x) \rangle} = \frac{\int_0^{\pi/2} \sin(3x) dx}{\int_{-\pi}^{\pi} \sin^2(3x) dx} = \frac{1/3}{\pi} = \frac{1}{3\pi}$$

$$\hat{f}_2(x) = \frac{1}{4} + \frac{1}{\pi} \cos(x) - \frac{1}{3\pi} \cos(3x) + \frac{1}{\pi} \sin(x) + \frac{1}{\pi} \sin(2x) + \frac{1}{3\pi} \sin(3x)$$



4. Find an approximation  $\hat{f}(x)$  to  $f(x)$  using the orthogonal basis functions  $\{1, \cos(nx), \sin(nx)\}_{n=1}^{\infty}$ . Your coefficients for your approximation will be defined in terms of  $n$ . Note: This approximation is called the Fourier series of  $f(x)$ , and the coefficients  $a_0, a_n, b_n$  are called Fourier coefficients.

$$\hat{f}(x) = a_0 + \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} a_n \cos(nx) + \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} b_n \sin(nx)$$

$$a_0 = \frac{1}{4}$$

$$a_n = \frac{\langle f, \cos(nx) \rangle}{\langle \cos(nx), \cos(nx) \rangle} = \frac{\int_0^{\pi/2} \cos(nx) dx}{\int_{-\pi}^{\pi} \cos^2(nx) dx} = \frac{\frac{1}{n} \sin\left(\frac{n\pi}{2}\right)}{\pi} = \frac{\sin\left(\frac{n\pi}{2}\right)}{n\pi}$$

$$= \begin{cases} 0 & n \text{ even} \\ \frac{1}{n\pi} & n = 1, 5, 9, \dots \\ -\frac{1}{n\pi} & n = 3, 7, 11, \dots \end{cases}$$

$$b_n = \frac{\langle f, \sin(nx) \rangle}{\langle \sin(nx), \sin(nx) \rangle} = \frac{\int_0^{\pi/2} \sin(nx) dx}{\int_{-\pi}^{\pi} \sin^2(nx) dx} = \frac{-\frac{1}{n} \left[ \cos\left(\frac{n\pi}{2}\right) - 1 \right]}{\pi}$$

$$= \begin{cases} \frac{1}{n\pi} & n \text{ odd} \\ 0 & n = 4, 8, 12, \dots \\ -\frac{2}{n\pi} & n = 2, 6, 10, \dots \end{cases}$$

5. Write down the Fourier series  $\hat{f}(x)$  for some general function  $f(x)$  with  $x \in [-\pi, \pi]$ , then find the general formulas for the coefficients.

$$\hat{f}(x) = a_0 + \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} a_n \cos(nx) + \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} b_n \sin(nx)$$

$$a_0 = \frac{\langle 1, f \rangle}{\langle 1, 1 \rangle} = \frac{\int_{-\pi}^{\pi} f(x) dx}{\int_{-\pi}^{\pi} dx} = \frac{1}{2\pi} \int_{-\pi}^{\pi} f(x) dx$$

$$a_n = \frac{\langle \cos(nx), f \rangle}{\langle \cos(nx), \cos(nx) \rangle} = \frac{\int_{-\pi}^{\pi} f(x) \cos(nx) dx}{\int_{-\pi}^{\pi} \cos^2(nx) dx} = \frac{1}{\pi} \int_{-\pi}^{\pi} f(x) \cos(nx) dx$$

$$b_n = \frac{\langle \sin(nx), f \rangle}{\langle \sin(nx), \sin(nx) \rangle} = \frac{\int_{-\pi}^{\pi} f(x) \sin(nx) dx}{\int_{-\pi}^{\pi} \sin^2(nx) dx} = \frac{1}{\pi} \int_{-\pi}^{\pi} f(x) \sin(nx) dx$$

These coefficient formulas hold for any Fourier series on the domain  $x \in [-\pi, \pi]$ .



Successive Fourier Series Approximations of Pulse Function

