

MATH 54 - WORKSHEET 13/14  
GENERALIZED FOURIER SERIES  
SERIES

We defined Fourier series by way of orthogonal projection, using the inner product

$$\langle f, g \rangle = \int_{-L}^L f(x)g(x) dx$$

on the space  $C[-L, L]$  and the orthogonal set of functions

$$\{1, \sin(\pi x/L), \cos(\pi x/L), \sin(2\pi x/L), \cos(2\pi x/L), \dots\}.$$

This inner product is very natural, and this orthogonal set of functions is very convenient, but there are many other inner products on  $C[-L, L]$  and many other orthogonal sets of functions. Orthogonal projection for a different inner product and/or a different orthogonal set gives a *generalized Fourier series*. In this worksheet, we will examine a specific example: Chebyshev series.

- (1) First, we examine other inner products. Show that if  $w(x)$  is any continuous function on  $[-L, L]$  which is positive everywhere (except possibly at  $\pm L$ ), then  $\langle f, g \rangle = \int_{-L}^L f(x)g(x)w(x) dx$  is an inner product (check symmetry, bilinearity, and positivity). This function  $w$  is called a *weight function*.

• Symmetry:  $\langle f, g \rangle = \int_{-L}^L fgw dx = \int_{-L}^L gf w dx = \langle g, f \rangle$

• Bilinearity:  $\langle f, g+h \rangle = \int_{-L}^L f(g+h)w dx = \int_{-L}^L (fgw + fhw) dx = \int_{-L}^L fgw dx + \int_{-L}^L fhw dx$

and  $\langle f, cg \rangle = \int_{-L}^L f(cg)w dx = c \int_{-L}^L fgw dx = c \langle f, g \rangle = \langle f, g \rangle + \langle f, h \rangle$

• Positivity:  $\langle f, f \rangle = \int_{-L}^L f^2 w dx \geq 0$  since  $(f^2 w)(x) \geq 0$  for all  $x$  in  $[-L, L]$

and  $\langle f, f \rangle = \int_{-L}^L f^2 w dx = 0 \iff f(x) = 0$ , since  $f^2 w$  is piecewise continuous, and  $w(x) > 0$  for all  $x$  in  $(-L, L)$

- (2) The *Chebyshev polynomials* are a sequence of polynomials  $\{T_0(x), T_1(x), T_2(x), \dots\}$  defined by the following trigonometric equation:  $T_n(\cos(\theta)) = \cos(n\theta)$ . For example, using the trig identity  $\cos(2\theta) = 2\cos^2(\theta) - 1$ , we have  $T_2(x) = 2x^2 - 1$ .

What are  $T_0(x)$  and  $T_1(x)$  (these are easy)? What about  $T_3(x)$  (this is harder)?

Remember your trig identities:

$$\cos(A+B) = \cos(A)\cos(B) - \sin(A)\sin(B)$$

$$\sin(2\theta) = 2\sin(\theta)\cos(\theta)$$

$$\cos(0 \cdot \theta) = \cos(0) = 1, \text{ so } T_0(x) = 1.$$

$$\cos(1 \cdot \theta) = \cos(\theta), \text{ so } T_1(x) = x$$

$$\cos(3\theta) = \cos(2\theta + \theta) = \cos(2\theta)\cos(\theta) - \sin(2\theta)\sin(\theta)$$

$$= (2\cos^2(\theta) - 1)\cos(\theta) - 2\sin^2(\theta)\cos(\theta)$$

$$= 2\cos^3(\theta) - \cos(\theta) - 2(1 - \cos^2(\theta))\cos(\theta)$$

$$= 4\cos^3(\theta) - 3\cos(\theta), \text{ so } T_3(x) = 4x^3 - 3x$$

- (3) Show that the Chebyshev polynomials are orthogonal on the interval  $[-1, 1]$  with respect to the inner product

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

with weight function  $w(x) = \frac{1}{\sqrt{1-x^2}}$ . What is  $\langle T_0, T_0 \rangle$ ?  $\langle T_n, T_n \rangle$  for  $n > 0$ ?

Hint: Use the trig substitution  $x = \cos(\theta)$  and the defining property of the Chebyshev polynomials!

$$\begin{aligned} \langle T_n, T_m \rangle &= \int_{-1}^1 T_n(x) T_m(x) \frac{1}{\sqrt{1-x^2}} dx & x = \cos \theta & \quad -1 \leq x \leq 1 \text{ when} \\ & & dx = -\sin \theta d\theta & \quad \xrightarrow{\quad} \\ & & & \quad 0 \leq \theta \leq \pi \\ &= \int_{\pi}^0 T_n(\cos \theta) T_m(\cos \theta) \frac{-\sin \theta}{\sqrt{1-\cos^2 \theta}} d\theta \end{aligned}$$

$$= \int_0^{\pi} \underbrace{\cos(n\theta) \cos(m\theta)}_{\text{even function}} d\theta \quad \rightarrow = \pi \text{ if } n=m=0 \quad (\langle T_0, T_0 \rangle = \pi)$$

$$= \frac{1}{2} \int_{-\pi}^{\pi} \cos(n\theta) \cos(m\theta) d\theta \quad \rightarrow = \frac{\pi}{2} \text{ if } n=m > 0 \quad (\langle T_n, T_n \rangle = \frac{\pi}{2})$$

$$= 0 \text{ if } n \neq m$$

By our computation in class that  $\cos(nx)$  and  $\cos(mx)$  are orthogonal for the  $\int_{-\pi}^{\pi} fg dx$

- (4) Find the first three terms in the Chebyshev series for  $f(x) = \begin{cases} -1 & -1 \leq x < 0 \\ 1 & 0 \leq x < 1 \end{cases}$  inner product on  $[-\pi, \pi]$ .

$$f(x) \sim a_0 T_0(x) + a_1 T_1(x) + a_2 T_2(x) + \dots = 0 T_0 + \frac{4}{\pi} T_1 + 0 T_2 + \dots$$

$$a_0 = \frac{\langle f, T_0 \rangle}{\langle T_0, T_0 \rangle} = \frac{1}{\pi} \int_{-1}^1 f(x) T_0(x) \frac{1}{\sqrt{1-x^2}} dx = 0$$

odd function

Similarly,

$$a_2 = \frac{\langle f, T_2 \rangle}{\langle T_2, T_2 \rangle} = \frac{2}{\pi} \int_{-1}^1 f(x) (2x^2 - 1) \frac{1}{\sqrt{1-x^2}} dx = 0$$

odd

$$a_1 = \frac{\langle f, T_1 \rangle}{\langle T_1, T_1 \rangle} = \frac{2}{\pi} \int_{-1}^1 f(x) x \frac{1}{\sqrt{1-x^2}} dx$$

even

$$\begin{aligned} x &= \cos \theta \\ dx &= -\sin \theta d\theta \end{aligned}$$

$$= \frac{4}{\pi} \int_0^1 1 \cdot x \frac{1}{\sqrt{1-x^2}} dx = \frac{4}{\pi} \int_{\pi/2}^0 \cos \theta \frac{-\sin \theta}{\sqrt{1-\cos^2 \theta}} d\theta = \frac{4}{\pi} \left( \sin \theta \Big|_0^{\pi/2} \right) = \frac{4}{\pi}$$

$T_0 = 1$  is even  
and  $w(x) = \frac{1}{\sqrt{1-x^2}}$  is even  
 $f(x)$  is odd

$T_2 = 2x^2 - 1$  is even  
 $w(x) = \frac{1}{\sqrt{1-x^2}}$  is even  
 $f(x)$  is odd

- (5) An extra open ended problem: Making the change of variables  $x = \cos(\theta)$ , think about the relationship between the Chebyshev series for a function  $g(x)$  defined on  $[-1, 1]$  and the Fourier cosine series for  $g(\cos(\theta))$  defined on  $[0, \pi]$ ...

$$f(x) \sim a_0 T_0(x) + a_1 T_1(x) + a_2 T_2(x) + \dots$$

$$f(\cos \theta) \sim a_0 T_0(\cos \theta) + a_1 T_1(\cos \theta) + a_2 T_2(\cos \theta) + \dots$$

$$\sim a_0 \cos(0\theta) + a_1 \cos(1\theta) + a_2 \cos(2\theta) + \dots$$

$$\sim a_0 + \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} a_n \cos(n\theta)$$