

LECTURE 1: BASIC THEORY OF FOURIER SERIES

Set $\mathbf{e}_m(x) = e^{i2\pi mx}$ for $m \in \mathbb{Z}$ and $x \in \mathbb{R}$, and observe that $\{\mathbf{e}_m : m \in \mathbb{Z}\}$ is an orthonormal family in $L^2(\lambda_{[0,1]}; \mathbb{C})$. Even though it involves an abuse of notation, we will use $(\varphi, \mathbf{e}_m)_{L^2(\lambda_{[0,1]}; \mathbb{C})}$ to denote $\int_{[0,1]} \varphi(y) \mathbf{e}_{-m}(y) dy$ for $\varphi \in L^1(\lambda_{[0,1]}; \mathbb{C})$.

Given a function $\varphi : [0, 1) \rightarrow \mathbb{C}$, define its periodic extension $\tilde{\varphi} : \mathbb{R} \rightarrow \mathbb{C}$ by $\tilde{\varphi}(x) = \varphi(x - [x])$, where $[x] = \max\{n \in \mathbb{Z} : x \geq n\}$. Notice that if¹ $\varphi \in L^1(\lambda_{[0,1]}; \mathbb{C})$, then

$$\int_{[0,1]} \varphi(x) dx = \int_{[a, a+1)} \tilde{\varphi}(x) dx \text{ for all } a \in \mathbb{R}.$$

Similarly,

$$\int_{[0,1]} \tilde{\varphi}(-x) dx = \int_{[0,1]} \varphi(x) dx.$$

For bounded, continuous functions φ and ψ on $[0, 1)$, define

$$\varphi * \psi(x) = \int_{[0,1]} \varphi(x-y) \psi(y) dy,$$

and use the preceding to check that

$$\varphi * \psi(x) = \int_{[-x, -x+1]} \tilde{\varphi}(y) \tilde{\psi}(x-y) dy = \psi * \varphi(x).$$

Finally, by the continuous version of Minkowski's inequality,²

$$\|\varphi * \psi\|_{L^p(\lambda_{[0,1]}; \mathbb{C})} \leq \|\varphi\|_{L^p(\lambda_{[0,1]}; \mathbb{C})} \|\psi\|_{L^1(\lambda_{[0,1]}; \mathbb{C})} \wedge \|\psi\|_{L^p(\lambda_{[0,1]}; \mathbb{C})} \|\varphi\|_{L^1(\lambda_{[0,1]}; \mathbb{C})}$$

for any $p \in [1, \infty)$. Hence, for each $p \in [1, \infty)$, $(\varphi, \psi) \rightsquigarrow \varphi * \psi$ has a unique continuous extension as a map bilinear map from $L^1(\lambda_{[0,1]}; \mathbb{C}) \times L^p(\lambda_{[0,1]}; \mathbb{C})$ into $L^p(\lambda_{[0,1]}; \mathbb{C})$, and

$$(1.1) \quad \|\varphi * \psi\|_{L^p(\lambda_{[0,1]}; \mathbb{C})} \leq \|\varphi\|_{L^1(\lambda_{[0,1]}; \mathbb{C})} \|\psi\|_{L^p(\lambda_{[0,1]}; \mathbb{C})}$$

continues to hold.

Theorem 1.1. *If $\varphi \in L^p(\lambda_{[0,1]}; \mathbb{C})$ for some $p \in [1, \infty)$, then*

$$\lim_{r \nearrow 1} \left\| \varphi - \sum_{m \in \mathbb{Z}} r^{|m|} (\varphi, \mathbf{e}_m)_{L^2(\lambda_{[0,1]}; \mathbb{C})} \mathbf{e}_m \right\|_{L^p(\lambda_{[0,1]}; \mathbb{C})} = 0,$$

and, if $\varphi \in C([0, 1]; \mathbb{C})$ satisfies $\varphi(0) = \varphi(1)$, then³

$$\lim_{r \nearrow 1} \left\| \varphi - \sum_{m \in \mathbb{Z}} r^{|m|} (\varphi, \mathbf{e}_m)_{L^2(\lambda_{[0,1]}; \mathbb{C})} \mathbf{e}_m \right\|_{\mathbf{u}} = 0.$$

¹ λ_S is the Lebesgue measure on a subset S of \mathbb{R}^N

² $L^p(\mu; \mathbb{C})$ is the Lebesgue space for the measure μ of \mathbb{C} -valued functions, and $\|\cdot\|_{L^p(\mu; \mathbb{C})}$ is the corresponding norm.

³ $\|\cdot\|_{\mathbf{u}}$ is the uniform (i.e., supremum norm).

Proof. Define

$$p_r(x) = \sum_{m \in \mathbb{Z}} r^{|m|} \mathbf{e}_m(x) \text{ for } r \in [0, 1) \text{ and } x \in [0, 1).$$

Clearly $\int_0^1 p_r(x) dx = 1$, $p_r(-x) = p_r(x)$, and \tilde{p}_r is continuous. In addition,

$$p_r(x) = \frac{1}{1 - r\mathbf{e}_1(x)} + \frac{r\mathbf{e}_{-1}(x)}{1 - r\mathbf{e}_{-1}(x)} = \frac{1 - r^2}{|1 - r\mathbf{e}_1(x)|^2} = \frac{1 - r^2}{1 - 2r \cos 2\pi x + r^2} \text{ for } r \in [0, 1),$$

and so $p_r \geq 0$.

Obviously,

$$\sum_{m \in \mathbb{Z}} r^{|m|} (\varphi, \mathbf{e}_m)_{L^2(\lambda_{[0,1]}; \mathbb{C})} \mathbf{e}_m(x) = p_r * \varphi(x) = \int_{[0,1]} p_r(y) \tilde{\varphi}(x+y) dy$$

since p_r is even. Now suppose that $\varphi \in C([0, 1] : \mathbb{C})$ with $\varphi(0) = \varphi(1)$. Then, since $\lim_{r \nearrow 1} \int_\delta^1 p_r(y) dy = 0$ for each $\delta \in (0, 1)$, it is easy to check that

$$\lim_{r \nearrow 1} \sup_{x \in [0,1]} \left| \int_0^1 (\varphi(x+y) dy - f(x)) \right| \leq \omega_\varphi(\delta),$$

where ω_φ is the modulus of continuity of φ . Thus the second part of the theorem has been proved.

To prove the first part, let $\varphi \in L^p(\lambda_{[0,1]}; \mathbb{C})$, and choose a sequence $\{\varphi_k : k \geq 1\} \subseteq C([0, 1]; \mathbb{C})$ which satisfy $\varphi_k(0) = \varphi_k(1)$ and $\|\varphi - \varphi_k\|_{L^p(\lambda_{[0,1]}; \mathbb{C})} \rightarrow 0$ as $k \rightarrow \infty$. Then, for each k ,

$$\begin{aligned} & \|p_r * \varphi - \varphi\|_{L^p(\lambda_{[0,1]}; \mathbb{C})} \\ & \leq \|p_r * (\varphi - \varphi_k)\|_{L^p(\lambda_{[0,1]}; \mathbb{C})} + \|p_r * \varphi_k - \varphi_k\|_{L^p(\lambda_{[0,1]}; \mathbb{C})} + \|\varphi_k - \varphi\|_{L^p(\lambda_{[0,1]}; \mathbb{C})}, \end{aligned}$$

and so, for all k .

$$\lim_{r \nearrow 1} \|p_r * \varphi - \varphi\|_{L^p(\lambda_{[0,1]}; \mathbb{C})} \leq 2\|\varphi_k - \varphi\|_{L^p(\lambda_{[0,1]}; \mathbb{C})}.$$

Finally, let $k \rightarrow \infty$. □

Theorem 1.2. $\{\mathbf{e}_m : m \in \mathbb{Z}\}$ is an orthonormal basis in $L^2(\lambda_{[0,1]}; \mathbb{C})$, and so, for each $\varphi \in L^2(\lambda_{[0,1]}; \mathbb{C})$,

$$\sum_{m \in \mathbb{Z}} (\varphi, \mathbf{e}_m)_{L^2(\lambda_{[0,1]}; \mathbb{C})} \mathbf{e}_m \equiv \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \sum_{|m| \leq n} (\varphi, \mathbf{e}_m)_{L^2(\lambda_{[0,1]}; \mathbb{C})} \mathbf{e}_m = \varphi,$$

where the convergence is in $L^2(\lambda_{[0,1]}; \mathbb{C})$. In addition, for all $\varphi, \psi \in L^2(\lambda_{[0,1]}; \mathbb{C})$,

$$(\varphi, \psi)_{L^2(\lambda_{[0,1]}; \mathbb{C})} = \sum_{m \in \mathbb{Z}} (\varphi, \mathbf{e}_m)_{L^2(\lambda_{[0,1]}; \mathbb{C})} \overline{(\psi, \mathbf{e}_m)_{L^2(\lambda_{[0,1]}; \mathbb{C})}}.$$

Proof. It suffices to check the first statement, and to do so all we need to know is that $(\varphi, \mathbf{e}_m)_{L^2(\lambda_{[0,1]}; \mathbb{C})} = 0$ for all $m \in \mathbb{Z}$ implies $\varphi = 0$ for a set of φ 's which is dense in $L^2(\lambda_{[0,1]}; \mathbb{C})$. But, by Theorem 1.1, we know this for continuous φ 's satisfying $\varphi(0) = \varphi(1)$, and these are dense in $L^2(\lambda_{[0,1]}; \mathbb{C})$. □

Define the partial sum $S_n \varphi = \sum_{|m| \leq n} (\varphi, \mathbf{e}_m)_{L^2(\lambda_{[0,1]}; \mathbb{C})} \mathbf{e}_m$.

Corollary 1.3. *If $\varphi \in C([0, 1]; \mathbb{C})$ and*

$$\sum_{m \neq 0} |(\varphi, \mathbf{e}_m)_{L^2(\lambda_{[0,1]}; \mathbb{C})}| < \infty,$$

then the series

$$\sum_{m \in \mathbb{Z}} (\varphi, \mathbf{e}_m)_{L^2(\lambda_{[0,1]}; \mathbb{C})} \mathbf{e}_m(x)$$

is uniformly absolutely convergent to φ . In fact,

$$\|S_n(\varphi) - \varphi\|_{\mathbf{u}} \leq \sum_{|m| > n} |(\varphi, \mathbf{e}_m)_{L^2(\lambda_{[0,1]}; \mathbb{C})}|.$$

Proof. That the series is uniformly absolutely convergent is obvious. To see that it must be converging to φ , let ψ be uniform limit of $\{S_n \varphi : n \geq 0\}$. Then ψ is continuous and, because φ is the $L^2(\lambda_{[0,1]}; \mathbb{C})$ limit of this series, $\psi = \varphi$ $\lambda_{[0,1]}$ -almost everywhere, which, since both are continuous, means that they are equal everywhere. Given these statements, the final estimate is trivial. \square

Lemma 1.4. *Let $\ell \geq 1$ and assume that $\varphi \in C^\ell([0, 1]; \mathbb{C})$ satisfies $\varphi^{(k)}(0) = \varphi^{(k)}(1)$ for $0 \leq k \leq \ell - 1$. Then*

$$(\varphi, \mathbf{e}_m)_{L^2(\lambda_{[0,1]}; \mathbb{C})} = \left(\frac{i}{2\pi m}\right)^\ell (\varphi^{(\ell)}, \mathbf{e}_m)_{L^2(\lambda_{[0,1]}; \mathbb{C})} \text{ for } m \neq 0.$$

Proof. Clearly it suffices that prove the result when $\ell = 1$. To do so, use integration by parts and the condition $\varphi(0) = \varphi(1)$ to check that

$$\int_0^1 \varphi(y) \mathbf{e}_{-m}(y) dy = \frac{1}{-i2\pi m} \int_0^1 \varphi'(y) \mathbf{e}_{-m}(y) dy.$$

\square

As a consequence of Lemma 1.4, we see that if $\varphi \in C^1([0, 1]; \mathbb{C})$ satisfies $\varphi(0) = \varphi(1)$, then

$$\begin{aligned} \sum_{|m| > n} |(\varphi, \mathbf{e}_m)_{L^2(\lambda_{[0,1]}; \mathbb{C})}| &\leq \sum_{|m| > n} \frac{|(\varphi', \mathbf{e}_m)_{L^2(\lambda_{[0,1]}; \mathbb{C})}|}{2\pi|m|} \\ &\leq \frac{1}{2\pi} \left(\sum_{m > n} m^{-2} \right)^{\frac{1}{2}} \|\varphi'\|_{L^2(\lambda_{[0,1]}; \mathbb{C})} \leq \frac{\|\varphi'\|_{L^2(\lambda_{[0,1]}; \mathbb{C})}}{2\pi n^{\frac{1}{2}}}. \end{aligned}$$

Hence, by Corollary 1.3,

$$\|S_n \varphi - \varphi\|_{\mathbf{u}} \leq \frac{\|\varphi'\|_{\mathbf{u}}}{2\pi n^{\frac{1}{2}}}.$$

Exercise 1.5. Prove the *Riemann–Lebesgue lemma*, which is the statement that $\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} (\varphi, \mathbf{e}_n)_{L^2(\lambda_{[0,1]}; \mathbb{C})} = 0$ for all $\varphi \in L^1(\lambda_{[0,1]}; \mathbb{C})$.

Exercise 1.6. Let φ be a Lipschitz continuous function satisfying $\varphi(0) = \varphi(1)$, and show that

$$\|S_n \varphi - \varphi\|_{\mathbf{u}} \leq \frac{\|\varphi\|_{\text{Lip}}}{2\pi n^{\frac{1}{2}}}.$$

Hint: Introduce the functions $\varphi_k = p_{\frac{1}{k}} * \varphi$.

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