

18.034, Honors Differential Equations  
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**Lecture 17**  
 3/12/04

1. Philosophy about what Fourier series are supposed to do and why this is useful for us:

$$y'' + ay + by = f(t)$$

If  $f(t)$  is periodic of period  $2L$ , write

$$f(t) = A_0 + \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} A_n \cos\left(\frac{n\pi t}{L}\right) + B_n \sin\left(\frac{n\pi t}{L}\right).$$

Solve each driven ODE  $y_n'' + ay_n' + by_n = A_n \cos\left(\frac{n\pi t}{L}\right)$ , etc. and use superposition to find sol'n of original ODE. Useful for analysis of resonant frequency, etc.

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2. Defined spaces of real/complex-valued  $k$ -times continuously differentiable/ piecewise  $k$ -times cts. diff. functions  $C_{\mathbb{R}}^k[a,b]$ ,  $C_{\mathbb{C}}^k[a,b]$ ,  $PC_{\mathbb{R}}^k[a,b]$ ,  $PC_{\mathbb{C}}^k[a,b]$ .

3. Defined the inner product  $\langle f, g \rangle = \int_a^b f(t)\overline{g(t)}dt$  and talked about properties (= axioms for Hermitian inner product space). Defined  $\|f\| = \sqrt{\langle f, f \rangle}$ ,  $\partial_{mean}(f, g) = \|f - g\|$ . Mention this is different than the uniform metric.

4. Defined orthogonal and orthonormal sequences.

Checked that  $\{1\} \cup \left\{ \cos\left(\frac{n\pi t}{L}\right), \sin\left(\frac{n\pi t}{L}\right) \right\}_{n=1,2,\dots}$  gives an orthogonal sequence and computed the norms.

5. Posited existence of a Fourier series

$$f(t) = A_0 + \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} A_n \cos\left(\frac{n\pi t}{L}\right) + B_n \sin\left(\frac{n\pi t}{L}\right) \text{ for } f(t) \in PC_{\mathbb{R}}[-L, L]$$

$$\text{Concluded } A_0 = \frac{1}{2L} \int_{-L}^L f(t) dt, \quad A_n = \frac{1}{L} \int_{-L}^L f(t) \cos\left(\frac{n\pi t}{L}\right) dt, \quad B_n = \frac{1}{L} \int_{-L}^L f(t) \sin dt$$