

Fourier Series - N-dimensional series - Orthogonal basis functions

verify: N-dimensional Fourier basis functions are orthogonal

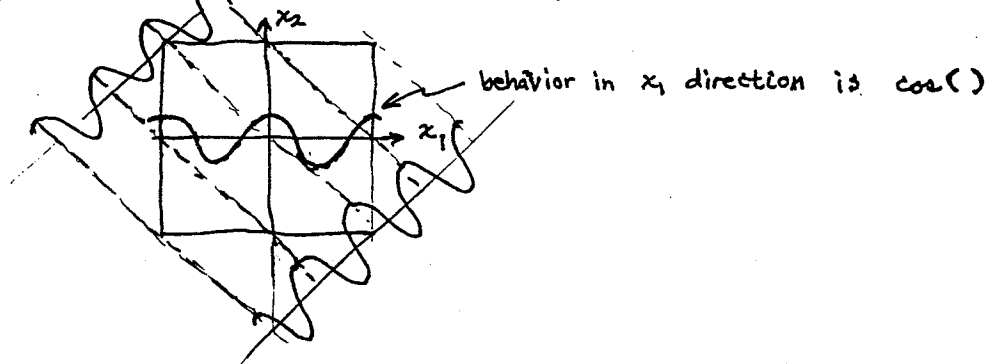
$$\text{ex: } (\sqrt{2} \cos 2\pi \vec{n} \cdot \vec{x}, \sqrt{2} \cos 2\pi \vec{m} \cdot \vec{x}) \quad \vec{n} \neq \vec{m}$$

$$= \int_{-1/2}^{1/2} \dots \int_{-1/2}^{1/2} 2 \cos 2\pi \vec{n} \cdot \vec{x} \cos 2\pi \vec{m} \cdot \vec{x} dx_1 \dots dx_N$$

identity: $2 \cos A \cos B = \cos(A+B) + \cos(A-B)$

$$(\cdot, \cdot) = \int_{-1/2}^{1/2} \dots \int_{-1/2}^{1/2} \cos[2\pi(\vec{n}+\vec{m}) \cdot \vec{x}] + \cos[2\pi(\vec{n}-\vec{m}) \cdot \vec{x}] dx_1 \dots dx_N$$

Consider the behavior of $\cos 2\pi(\vec{n}+\vec{m}) \cdot \vec{x}$ in x_1 direction:



The cross section looks like $\cos(2\pi(n_1+m_1)x_1)$.
When we integrate $\int_{-1/2}^{1/2} \cos 2\pi(\vec{n}+\vec{m}) \cdot \vec{x} dx_1$, we

are integrating an integral number of cycles of a cosine regardless of the value of x_2, \dots, x_N .

Thus, we get zero unless $n_1+m_1=0$.

A similar argument applies to other dimensions, and we discover that we get a zero integral unless $\vec{n}+\vec{m}=(0, \dots, 0)$. This cannot happen since $n_i > 0$ and $m_i > 0$. Similarly, our integral for $\cos[2\pi(\vec{n}-\vec{m}) \cdot \vec{x}]$ is zero unless $\vec{n}-\vec{m}=0$.

But $\vec{n} \neq \vec{m}$ was assumed. $\therefore \int = 0$

Thus, the basis functions are orthogonal.