

# Math 317 Winter 2014 Homework 4 Solutions

DUE FEB. 26 2P

- This homework consists of 6 problems of 5 points each. The total is 30.
- You need to fully justify your answers.

**Question 1.** Calculate the Fourier expansion of the function  $f(x) = \begin{cases} 1 & x > 0 \\ 0 & x = 0 \\ -1 & x < 0 \end{cases}$  on  $[-\pi, \pi]$ . Then use the expansion to prove

$$\frac{\pi}{4} = \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \frac{(-1)^n}{2n+1}. \quad (1)$$

**Solution.** We have

$$a_n = \frac{1}{\pi} \int_{-\pi}^{\pi} f(x) \cos nx \, dx = \frac{1}{\pi} \left[ \int_0^{\pi} \cos(nx) \, dx - \int_{-\pi}^0 \cos(nx) \, dx \right] = 0; \quad (2)$$

$$\begin{aligned} b_n &= \frac{1}{\pi} \int_{-\pi}^{\pi} f(x) \sin(nx) \, dx \\ &= \frac{1}{\pi} \left[ \int_0^{\pi} \sin(nx) \, dx - \int_{-\pi}^0 \sin(nx) \, dx \right] \\ &= \frac{2}{n\pi} [1 - \cos(n\pi)] \\ &= \frac{2[1 - (-1)^n]}{n\pi}. \end{aligned} \quad (3)$$

Thus we have

$$f(x) \sim \frac{4}{\pi} \sum_{m=1}^{\infty} \frac{\sin(2m-1)x}{2m-1}. \quad (4)$$

Now notice that  $f(x)$  satisfies the Holder condition on  $\left[\frac{\pi}{4}, \frac{3\pi}{4}\right]$ , therefore

$$1 = f\left(\frac{\pi}{2}\right) = \frac{4}{\pi} \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \frac{(-1)^n}{2n+1}. \quad (5)$$

The conclusion then follows.

**Question 2.** Let  $f(x)$  be an even function, that is  $\forall x \in \mathbb{R}, f(x) = f(-x)$ . Prove that its Fourier expansion on  $[-L, L]$  is given by

$$\frac{a_0}{2} + \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} a_n \cos \frac{n\pi x}{L}, \quad a_n = \frac{2}{L} \int_0^L f(x) \cos \frac{n\pi x}{L} \, dx. \quad (6)$$

**Solution.** We have

$$\begin{aligned}
 a_n &= \frac{1}{L} \left[ \int_0^L f(x) \cos \frac{n\pi x}{L} dx + \int_{-L}^0 f(x) \cos \frac{n\pi x}{L} dx \right] \\
 &= \frac{1}{L} \left[ \int_0^L f(x) \cos \frac{n\pi x}{L} dx - \int_{-L}^0 f(-x) \cos \frac{n\pi(-x)}{L} d(-x) \right] \\
 &= \frac{1}{L} \left[ \int_0^L f(x) \cos \frac{n\pi x}{L} dx + \int_0^L f(x) \cos \frac{n\pi x}{L} dx \right] \\
 &= \frac{2}{L} \int_0^L f(x) \cos \frac{n\pi x}{L} dx.
 \end{aligned} \tag{7}$$

Similarly we prove  $b_n = 0$ .

**Question 3.** Let  $f(x)$  be odd and  $f(x) = 1 - \cos 2x$  for  $x > 0$ . Expand  $f(x)$  to its Fourier series on  $[-\pi, \pi]$ .

**Solution.** As  $f(x)$  is odd, similar to the previous problem we have  $a_n = 0$ . Now we calculate  $b_n$ . We compute for  $n = 1, 2, 3, \dots$

$$\begin{aligned}
 b_n &= \frac{2}{\pi} \int_0^\pi (1 - \cos 2x) \sin(nx) dx \\
 &= \frac{2}{\pi} \int_0^\pi \sin(nx) dx - \frac{2}{\pi} \int_0^\pi \sin(nx) \cos(2x) dx \\
 &= -\frac{2}{n\pi} \cos(nx) \Big|_0^\pi - \frac{1}{\pi} \int_0^\pi [\sin(n+2)x + \sin(n-2)x] dx \\
 &= \frac{2}{n\pi} [1 - (-1)^n] - \frac{1}{\pi} \int_0^\pi \sin(n+2)x dx - \frac{1}{\pi} \int_0^\pi \sin(n-2)x dx.
 \end{aligned} \tag{8}$$

We evaluate

$$\int_0^\pi \sin(n+2)x dx = -\frac{1}{n+2} \cos(n+2)x \Big|_0^\pi = \frac{1 - (-1)^{n+2}}{n+2}. \tag{9}$$

For the last term, there are two cases.

- If  $n = 2$ , then  $\sin(n-2)x = 0$  and

$$\int_0^\pi \sin(n-2)x dx = 0. \tag{10}$$

- If  $n \neq 2$ , we compute

$$\int_0^\pi \sin(n-2)x dx = -\frac{1}{n-2} \cos(n-2)x \Big|_0^\pi = \frac{1 - (-1)^{n-2}}{n-2}. \tag{11}$$

Putting everything together, we have

$$b_n = \begin{cases} \left( \frac{2}{n} - \frac{1}{n+2} \right) \frac{1 - (-1)^n}{\pi} = 0 & n = 2 \\ \left( \frac{2}{n} - \frac{1}{n-2} - \frac{1}{n+2} \right) \frac{1 - (-1)^n}{\pi} & n \neq 2 \end{cases}. \tag{12}$$

**Question 4.** Let  $f(x)$  be integrable on  $[-\pi, \pi]$ . Assume that its Fourier expansion on  $[-\pi, \pi]$  is

$$\frac{0}{2} + \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} [0 \cdot \cos(nx) + 0 \cdot \sin(nx)]. \tag{13}$$

Let  $x_0 \in (-\pi, \pi)$ . Prove that, if  $f(x)$  is continuous at  $x_0$ , then  $f(x_0) = 0$ . (Hint: Consider for large  $k$

$$\int_{-\pi}^{\pi} f(x) [p(x)]^k dx \quad (14)$$

with  $p(x) = \varepsilon + \cos x$  for appropriate  $\varepsilon > 0$ .)

**Solution.** Assume  $f(x_0) \neq 0$ . Wlog we consider  $x_0 = 0$  and  $m := f(0) > 0$ . (When  $x_0 \neq 0$  we can either define  $F(x) := f(x + x_0)$  or use  $p(x) = \varepsilon + \cos(x - x_0)$ )

Since  $f$  is continuous at 0, there is  $\delta_1 > 0$  such that  $f(x) \geq \frac{m}{2}$  for all  $|x| \leq \delta_1$ , and  $\delta_2 > \delta_1$  such that  $f(x) \geq 0$  for all  $|x| \leq \delta_2$ . Now take  $\varepsilon > 0$  such that there is  $\varepsilon_0 > 0$  such that  $p(x) := \varepsilon + \cos x$  satisfies

$$p(x) \begin{cases} \geq 1 + \varepsilon_0 & |x| \leq \delta_1 \\ \leq 1 - \varepsilon_0 & |x| \geq \delta_2 \\ > 0 & |x| \in (\delta_1, \delta_2) \end{cases}. \quad (15)$$

Now that for such  $p$  we have in fact,

$$|p(x)| \leq 1 - \varepsilon_0, \quad |x| \geq \delta_2. \quad (16)$$

Now since the Fourier expansion of  $f(x)$  is 0,

$$\int_{-\pi}^{\pi} f(x) [p(x)]^k dx = 0 \quad (17)$$

for all  $k \in \mathbb{N}$ .

On the other hand, we have

$$\begin{aligned} \int_{-\pi}^{\pi} f(x) [p(x)]^k dx &= \int_{-\delta_1}^{\delta_1} f(x) [p(x)]^k dx \\ &\quad + \int_{\delta_1 < |x| < \delta_2} f(x) [p(x)]^k dx \\ &\quad + \int_{|x| \geq \delta_2} f(x) [p(x)]^k dx \\ &=: A + B + C. \end{aligned} \quad (18)$$

Now by our choices of  $\delta_1, \delta_2$ , we have

$$A \geq 2 \delta_1 \frac{m}{2} (1 + \varepsilon_0)^k, \quad B \geq 0, \quad |C| \leq 2 \pi M (1 - \varepsilon_0)^k \quad (19)$$

where  $M := \sup_{[-\pi, \pi]} |f(x)|$  is finite due to the integrability of  $f$ . Thus

$$\int_{-\pi}^{\pi} f(x) [p(x)]^k dx \geq \delta_1 m (1 + \varepsilon_0)^k - 2 \pi M (1 - \varepsilon_0)^k. \quad (20)$$

Taking

$$k > \log_{[(1+\varepsilon_0)/(1-\varepsilon_0)]} \left( \frac{2 \pi M}{\delta_1 m} \right) \quad (21)$$

we have for this  $k$ ,

$$\int_{-\pi}^{\pi} f(x) [p(x)]^k dx > 0, \quad (22)$$

thus contradicting (17).

**Remark.** A slightly different (maybe a bit more transparent) proof is as follows.

Since  $f(x)$  is continuous at 0, there is  $\delta > 0$  such that  $f(x) > 0$  for all  $|x| < \delta$ . Now take  $\varepsilon = 1 - \cos \delta$ . Furthermore take  $\delta_1 < \delta$  such that

$$\cos \delta_1 = \frac{1 + \cos \delta}{2}. \quad (23)$$

Now consider  $\int_{|x| < \delta_1}, \int_{\delta_1 \leq |x| < \delta}, \int_{|x| \geq \delta}$ .

**Question 5.** A sequence  $\{K_n\}$  are called “good kernels” if and only if the following hold:

- All the  $K_n$ 's are even;
- For any  $n \in \mathbb{N}$ ,  $\int_{-\pi}^{\pi} K_n(x) dx = 1$ ;
- There is  $M > 0$  such that for every  $n \in \mathbb{N}$ ,  $\int_{-\pi}^{\pi} |K_n(x)| dx \leq M$ ;
- For any  $\delta > 0$ ,  $\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \int_{|x| > \delta} |K_n(x)| dx = 0$ .

Let  $f(x): \mathbb{R} \mapsto \mathbb{R}$  be continuous and with period  $2\pi$ .

- a) Prove that  $f_n(x) := \int_{-\pi}^{\pi} K_n(x-t) f(t) dt$  converges to  $f(x)$  uniformly.
- b) (**Extra 1 pt**) Prove that the Dirichlet kernel is not “good”.

**Solution.**

- a) Let  $\varepsilon > 0$  be arbitrary. As  $f(x)$  is continuous on  $[-2\pi, 2\pi]$  there is  $\delta > 0$  such that

$$\forall x, y \in [-2\pi, 2\pi], \quad |x - y| < \delta \implies |f(x) - f(y)| < \frac{\varepsilon}{2M}. \quad (24)$$

Now since  $f(x)$  is periodic with period  $2\pi$ , for any  $x, y \in \mathbb{R}$ , there are  $x', y' \in [-2\pi, 2\pi]$  such that

$$f(x') = f(x), f(y') = f(y), \quad |x' - y'| \leq |x - y|. \quad (25)$$

Thus for the above  $\delta$  we have

$$\forall x, y \in \mathbb{R}, \quad |x - y| < \delta \implies |f(x) - f(y)| < \frac{\varepsilon}{2M}. \quad (26)$$

As  $f(x)$  is continuous and periodic, it is bounded. That is there is  $M_1 > 0$  such that

$$\forall x \in \mathbb{R}, \quad |f(x)| < M_1. \quad (27)$$

Next for the  $\delta$  chosen above, since  $\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \int_{|x| > \delta} |K_n(x)| dx = 0$  there is  $N \in \mathbb{N}$  such that

$$\forall n > N, \quad \int_{|x| > \delta} |K_n(x)| dx < \frac{\varepsilon}{4M_1}. \quad (28)$$

Now for any such  $n$  and any  $x \in [-\pi, \pi]$ , we have

$$\begin{aligned} |f_n(x) - f(x)| &= \left| \int_{-\pi}^{\pi} K_n(x-t) f(t) dt - \int_{-\pi}^{\pi} K_n(x-t) f(x) dt \right| \\ &= \left| \int_{-\pi}^{\pi} K_n(x-t) [f(t) - f(x)] dt \right| \\ &= \left| \int_{-\pi}^{\pi} K_n(u) [f(x-u) - f(x)] du \right| \\ &\leq \int_{-\pi}^{\pi} |K_n(u)| |f(x-u) - f(x)| du \\ &= \int_{-\delta}^{\delta} |K_n(u)| |f(x-u) - f(x)| du + \int_{|x| > \delta} |K_n(u)| |f(x-u) - f(x)| du \\ &\leq \frac{\varepsilon}{2M} \int_{-\pi}^{\pi} |K_n(u)| du + 2M_1 \int_{|x| > \delta} |K_n(u)| du \\ &< \frac{\varepsilon}{2M} \cdot M + 2M_1 \cdot \frac{\varepsilon}{4M_1} \\ &= \varepsilon. \end{aligned} \quad (29)$$

Thus ends the proof.

b) We check the conditions one by one.

- $D_N$  is even;
- As  $D_N(x) = \frac{1}{2\pi} + \frac{1}{\pi} \sum_{n=1}^N \cos(nx)$  it is clear that  $\int_{-\pi}^{\pi} D_N(x) dx = 1$ ;
- We have

$$D_N(x) = \frac{\sin \frac{2N+1}{2} x}{2\pi \sin \frac{x}{2}}. \quad (30)$$

Therefore we have

$$\begin{aligned} \pi \int_{-\pi}^{\pi} |D_N(x)| dx &= \int_0^{\pi} \frac{\left| \sin \frac{2N+1}{2} x \right|}{\sin \frac{x}{2}} dx \\ &> \int_0^{2\pi/(2N+1)} \frac{\left| \sin \frac{2N+1}{2} x \right|}{\sin \frac{x}{2}} dx + \int_{\frac{2\pi}{2N+1}}^{\frac{4\pi}{2N+1}} \frac{\left| \sin \frac{2N+1}{2} x \right|}{\sin \frac{x}{2}} dx \\ &\quad + \dots + \int_{\frac{2(N-1)\pi}{2N+1}}^{\frac{2N\pi}{2N+1}} \frac{\left| \sin \frac{2N+1}{2} x \right|}{\sin \frac{x}{2}} dx \\ &> \int_0^{\frac{2\pi}{2N+1}} \frac{\left| \sin \frac{2N+1}{2} x \right|}{\frac{\pi}{2N+1}} dx + \dots + \int_{\frac{2(N-1)\pi}{2N+1}}^{\frac{2N\pi}{2N+1}} \frac{\left| \sin \frac{2N+1}{2} x \right|}{\frac{N\pi}{2N+1}} dx \\ &= \frac{2N+1}{\pi} \left( 1 + \frac{1}{2} + \dots + \frac{1}{N} \right) \int_0^{\frac{2\pi}{2N+1}} \left| \sin \frac{2N+1}{2} x \right| dx \\ &= \frac{2}{\pi} \left( 1 + \frac{1}{2} + \dots + \frac{1}{N} \right) \int_0^{\pi} |\sin x| dx \\ &= \frac{4}{\pi} \left( 1 + \frac{1}{2} + \dots + \frac{1}{N} \right). \end{aligned} \quad (31)$$

In the above we have used the fact that  $\left| \sin \frac{2N+1}{2} x \right|$  is periodic with period  $\frac{2\pi}{2N+1}$ . Now it's clear that

$$\lim_{N \rightarrow \infty} \int_{-\pi}^{\pi} |D_N(x)| dx = \infty. \quad (32)$$

- Similarly, we can prove that for any  $\delta > 0$ ,  $\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \int_{|x| > \delta} |D_N(x)| dx = \infty$ .

**Question 6.** A set  $S \subseteq \mathbb{R}^N$  is called “perfect” if and only if  $S = S' := \{x \in \mathbb{R}^N \mid \exists x_n \in S, x_n \neq x, \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} x_n = x\}$ . Prove that perfect sets are uncountable.

**Solution.** Assume  $S = \{x_1, x_2, \dots\}$  is countable. Since  $S$  is perfect, there is a compact interval  $I_0$  such that  $x_1 \in I_0^\circ$ , and  $I_0^\circ \cap S$  is infinite.

Now take  $I_1 \subset I_0^\circ$  such that

- $I_1^\circ \cap S \neq \emptyset$ ;
- $x_1 \notin I_1$ ;
- $\text{diam}(I_1) < \frac{\text{diam}(I_0)}{2}$ .

As  $S$  is perfect,  $S \cap I_1^o$  is infinite. Now repeat the above process, we obtain a sequence of nested intervals  $I_{n+1} \subset I_n^o$  such that

$$\forall n, \quad x_n \notin I_n \implies x_n \notin I_m \text{ whenever } m \geq n, \quad I_n^o \cap S \neq \emptyset, \quad \text{diam}(I_{n+1}) < \frac{\text{diam}(I_n)}{2}. \quad (33)$$

By the nested interval theorem there is a unique point  $x \in \mathbb{R}^N$  such that

$$x = \bigcap_{n=1}^{\infty} I_n. \quad (34)$$

Since  $x_n \notin I_m$  whenever  $m \geq n$ , we see that  $\forall n \in \mathbb{N}, x_n \notin \bigcap_{n=1}^{\infty} I_n$  which means  $x \notin S$ . However by construction of  $I_n$  we have  $I_n^o \cap S \neq \emptyset$  for all  $n$  which means  $x \in S' = S$ . Contradiction.

**Question 7. (Extra 3 pts)** Consider two power series at  $x = 0$ . Let  $E := \{x \in \mathbb{R} \mid \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} a_n x^n = \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} b_n x^n < \infty\}$ . Find the weakest condition on  $E$  to guarantee  $a_n = b_n$  for all  $n$ . Justify your answer using material from 117 – 317 only.

**Solution.** The weakest condition on  $E$  is  $E$  has a limit point in  $(-R, R)$ , where  $R := \sup_{x \in E} |x|$ . Note that as  $E$  has a limit point, it must contain infinitely many points and consequently  $R > 0$ .

- We see that both series have radius of convergence at least  $R$ . This means, if we set

$$A(x) := \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} a_n x^n - \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} b_n x^n, \quad (35)$$

then  $A(x)$  is defined on  $(-R, R)$ , satisfying  $A(x) = 0$  on  $E$ .

- Now by properties of power series, if  $R > 0$ , we have, for  $x \in (-R, R)$ ,

$$A(x) = \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} (a_n - b_n) x^n \quad (36)$$

and furthermore

$$a_n - b_n = \frac{A^{(n)}(0)}{n!}. \quad (37)$$

Therefore all we need is to find the smallest  $E$  guaranteeing  $A^{(n)}(0) = 0$  for all  $n \in \mathbb{N}$ .

- **Necessity.** Assume otherwise, then either  $E$  is finite or the only limit point(s) of  $E$  is  $R$  (or  $-R$ , or both – as by Bolzano-Weierstrass  $E$  must have at least one limit point).

In the former case, assume  $E = \{x_1, \dots, x_m\}$ . Then we set  $A(x) = (x - x_1) \cdots (x - x_m)$ .

In the latter case, one counter-example is

$$A(x) = \sin\left(\frac{1}{(x-1)^2}\right) \exp\left(-\frac{1}{(x-1)^2}\right). \quad (38)$$

- **Sufficiency.** All we need to prove is the following:

Let  $f(x) = \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} a_n x^n$  with radius of convergence  $R > 0$ . Assume there are  $x_n \in (-R, R)$  such that  $f(x_n) = 0$  and  $\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} x_n = r \in (-R, R)$ , then  $a_n = 0$  for all  $n = 0, 1, 2, \dots$

Wlog  $r > 0$ . For simplicity of presentation we will assume  $r < 1 < R$ . Note that this can always be achieved through a change of variable  $z = Lx$  for appropriate  $L > 0$ . Also note that it suffices to prove  $f(x) = 0$  for all  $x$  in some open interval containing 0.

Since

$$\limsup_{n \rightarrow \infty} |a_n|^{1/n} = R^{-1} < 1, \quad (39)$$

there is  $M > 0$  such that

$$\forall n = 0, 1, 2, \dots \quad |a_n| < M. \quad (40)$$

Now let  $r_1 \in (r, 1)$  be arbitrary. For any  $x \in (-r_1, r_1)$  we estimate

$$|f^{(k)}(x)| = \left| \sum_{n=k}^{\infty} n(n-1)\cdots(n-k+1) a_n x^{n-k} \right| \leq M \sum_{n=k}^{\infty} n(n-1)\cdots(n-k+1) r_1^{n-k}. \quad (41)$$

Notice that for any  $y \in (0, 1)$

$$\frac{1}{1-y} = \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} y^n. \quad (42)$$

By the theory of termwise differentiation we have

$$\left( \frac{1}{1-y} \right)^{(k)} = \sum_{n=k}^{\infty} n(n-1)\cdots(n-k+1) y^{n-k}. \quad (43)$$

Therefore

$$\sum_{n=k}^{\infty} n(n-1)\cdots(n-k+1) r_1^n = \frac{k!}{(1-r_1)^k}. \quad (44)$$

Consequently for any  $x \in (-r_1, r_1)$

$$\frac{|f^{(k)}(x)|}{k!} \leq \frac{M}{(1-r_1)^k}. \quad (45)$$

Next take any  $x_0 \in (-r_1, r_1)$ , we have, for any  $x \in (-r_1, r_1)$ ,

$$\begin{aligned} \left| f(x) - \sum_{k=0}^n \frac{f^{(k)}(x_0)}{k!} (x-x_0)^k \right| &= \left| \frac{f^{(k+1)}(c)}{(k+1)!} (x-x_0)^{k+1} \right| \\ &\leq \left| \frac{M}{(1-r_1)^{k+1}} (x-x_0)^{k+1} \right|. \end{aligned} \quad (46)$$

Therefore we have, for any  $x$  such that  $|x-x_0| < 1-r_1$ ,

$$f(x) = \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \frac{f^{(n)}(x_0)}{n!} (x-x_0)^n. \quad (47)$$

Now by similar argument as in the “weaker sufficient conditions” below, the fact that  $f(x_n) = 0$  and  $\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} x_n = r$  implies

$$f^{(n)}(r) = 0 \quad (48)$$

for all  $n = 0, 1, 2, \dots$ . Taking  $r_1 = \frac{1+r}{2}$  and setting  $x_0 = r$  in the above analysis, we see that

$$f(x) = 0 \quad (49)$$

for all  $x \in (r - \delta(r), r + \delta(r))$  where  $\delta(r) = \frac{1-r}{2}$ .

Finally notice that once this is done, we can replace  $r$  by a smaller number, say  $r - \frac{\delta(r)}{2}$  and repeat the above analysis, concluding that

$$f(x) = 0 \quad (50)$$

for all  $x \in (r - 2\delta(r), r + 2\delta(r))$ . After finitely such iterations, we would have the desired open set containing 0 and on which  $f(x)$  is identically 0. Since

$$a_n = \frac{f^{(n)}(0)}{n!} \quad (51)$$

this means  $a_n = 0$  for all  $n$ .

- **Weaker sufficient conditions with simpler proof:**  $0 \in E$  and is a limit point of  $E$ . That is there are  $x_n \in E$  such that  $x_n \neq 0$ ,  $\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} x_n = 0$ .

**Proof.** By assumption  $R > 0$ . In this case at least one of  $\{x_n > 0\}$  and  $\{x_n < 0\}$  is infinite. Wlog we assume there are infinitely many  $x_n > 0$ . We can order them as

$$x_1 > x_2 > \dots > 0. \quad (52)$$

Since  $0 \in E$  we have

$$a_0 - b_0 = A(0) = 0. \quad (53)$$

Now since  $A'(0)$  exists,

$$A'(0) = \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{A(x_n) - A(0)}{x_n - 0} = 0 \implies a_1 = b_1. \quad (54)$$

Next by MVT, there are

$$\xi_n \in (x_{n+1}, x_n) \quad (55)$$

such that  $A'(\xi_n) = 0$ . Then since  $A''(0)$  exists we have

$$A''(0) = \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{A'(\xi_n) - A'(0)}{\xi_n - 0} = 0 \implies a_2 = b_2. \quad (56)$$

Now it is easy to prove by induction that  $a_n = b_n$  for all  $n$ . □

**Question 8. (Extra 2 pts)** Prove that Peano's curve is continuous and onto from  $[0, 1]$  to  $[0, 1]^2$ .

**Proof.**

- Continuity. We see that

$$\|f_{n+1}(x) - f_n(x)\| \leq \sqrt{2} 3^{-n} \quad (57)$$

for every  $n \in \mathbb{N}$  and  $x \in [0, 1]$ . So by the M-test the convergence is uniform. Obviously each  $f_n(x)$  is continuous. Therefore the limit  $f(x)$  exists and is continuous.

- Onto. Consider any  $(x, y) \in [0, 1]^2$ . Then it belongs to at least one of the nine squares constructed in Step 2. Thus there is  $t_2 \in [0, 1]$  such that

$$\|f_2(t_2) - (x, y)\| \leq \sqrt{2} 3^{-1}. \quad (58)$$

Similarly we can get  $t_3 \in [0, 1]$  such that

$$\|f_3(t_3) - (x, y)\| \leq \frac{\sqrt{2}}{3^2}, \quad \dots \quad \|f_n(t_n) - (x, y)\| \leq \frac{\sqrt{2}}{3^n}, \quad \dots \quad (59)$$

Since  $[0, 1]$  is compact, by Bolzano-Weierstrass there is a subsequence

$$t_{n_k} \longrightarrow t_\omega \in [0, 1]. \quad (60)$$

We will prove that  $f(t_\omega) = (x, y)$ .

Let  $\varepsilon > 0$  be arbitrary. Since  $f(t)$  is continuous there is  $\delta > 0$  such that

$$|t - t_\omega| < \delta \implies \|f(t) - f(t_\omega)\| < \frac{\varepsilon}{3}. \quad (61)$$

Set  $K_1 \in \mathbb{N}$  be such that  $k > K_1 \implies |t_{n_k} - t_\omega| < \delta$ .

On the other hand, as  $f_n \rightarrow f$  uniformly, there is  $K_2 \in \mathbb{N}$  such that

$$k > K_2 \implies \forall x \in [0, 1], \quad \|f_{n_k}(t) - f(t)\| < \frac{\varepsilon}{3}. \quad (62)$$

Finally set  $K_3$  such that

$$\frac{\sqrt{2}}{3^{n_{K_3}}} < \frac{\varepsilon}{3}. \quad (63)$$

Now take  $K := \max\{K_1, K_2, K_3\}$ . For every  $k > K$ , we have

$$\|f(t_\omega) - f_{n_k}(t_{n_k})\| < \frac{2\varepsilon}{3} \implies \|f(t_\omega) - (x, y)\| < \varepsilon. \quad (64)$$

Thus ends the proof.  $\square$