





When we do the projection of a function f onto Vn, the coefficients for each basis vector are just the inner product of that basis vector with f, divided by the square of the magnitude of the vector Let's illustrate by projecting the absolute value function onto W10:

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> f:=x->abs(x); #we'll do Fourier for the absolute value function
            #order 10 expansion
  n:=10;
  a:=vector(n); #cos coefficients
  b:=vector(n); #sin coefficients
  a0:=(1/Pi)*Dot(f,1); #order zero Fourier coefficient
>
                                     f := abs
                                     n := 10
                                a := \operatorname{array}(1 \dots 10, [])
                               b := \operatorname{array}(1 \dots 10, [])
                                     a0 := \pi
> for i from 1 to n do #compute the projection coefficients
  b[i]:=(1/Pi)*Dot(f,x->sin(i*x));
  a[i]:=(1/Pi)*Dot(f,x->cos(i*x));
  od:
> evalm(b);#why will an even function have Fourier sine
    #coefficients all equal to zero?
                              [0, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0]
```

The answer to the rhetorical question above is that the product of an even function with an odd function is an odd function. We already asserted that the integral of an odd function over an interval [-L,L] is always zero. By the way, could you prove that assertion?

$$\begin{bmatrix} > \operatorname{evalm}(a); \text{ #Could you predict higher order coefficients} \\ \text{#from the pattern you see here?} \\ \begin{bmatrix} -4\frac{1}{\pi}, 0, -\frac{4}{9}\frac{1}{\pi}, 0, -\frac{4}{25}\frac{1}{\pi}, 0, -\frac{4}{49}\frac{1}{\pi}, 0, -\frac{4}{81}\frac{1}{\pi}, 0 \end{bmatrix}$$

The answer to this rhetorical question is yes: the i=even cos coefficients are zero, the i=odd ones are -4 divided by the product of Pi with i^2.

$$\begin{bmatrix} > \operatorname{approx}:=x->\operatorname{sum}(b[k]*\sin(k*x), k=1..n) \\ +\operatorname{sum}(a[m]*\cos(m*x), m=1..n) \\ +\operatorname{a0/2}; \\ approx:=x \rightarrow \left(\sum_{k=1}^{n} b_k \sin(kx)\right) + \left(\sum_{m=1}^{n} a_m \cos(mx)\right) + \frac{1}{2}a0 \\ \begin{bmatrix} > \operatorname{approx}(x); \text{ #order 10 Fourier expansion for abs}(x): \\ -4\frac{\cos(x)}{\pi} - \frac{4}{9}\frac{\cos(3x)}{\pi} - \frac{4}{25}\frac{\cos(5x)}{\pi} - \frac{4}{49}\frac{\cos(7x)}{\pi} - \frac{4}{81}\frac{\cos(9x)}{\pi} + \frac{1}{2}\pi \\ \begin{bmatrix} > \operatorname{almost}:=\operatorname{plot}(\operatorname{approx}(x), x=-\operatorname{Pi..Pi}, \operatorname{color=black}): \end{bmatrix}$$



What's happening is that each term in a Fourier Series has 2*Pi as a period, so the sum does as well, i.e. the Fourier series are 2*Pi periodic. So in this problem what they are really approximating is the 2*Pi-periodic extension of the absolute value function restricted to the interval [-Pi..Pi]. This is called a saw-tooth function, by the way.