

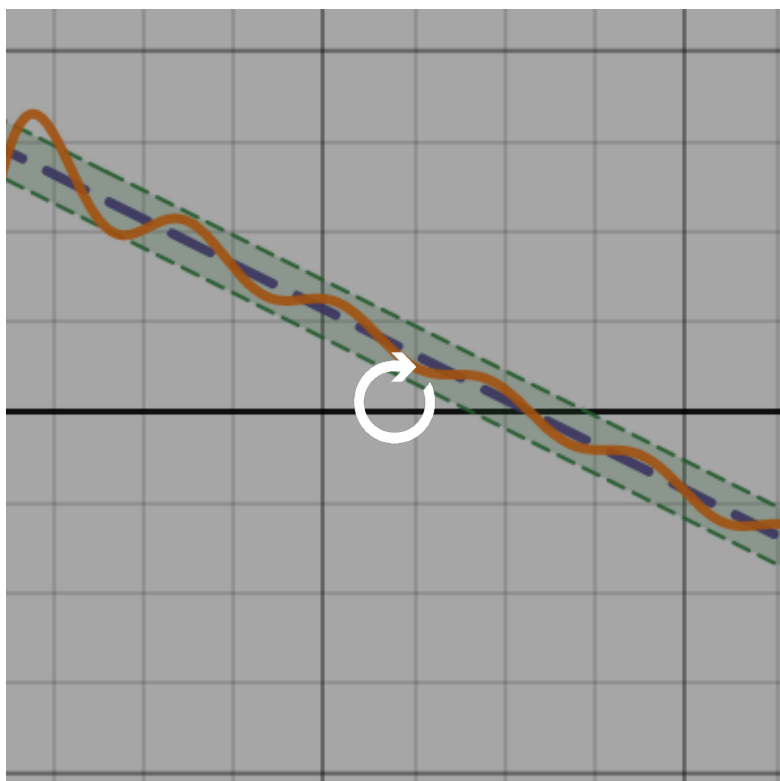
# $L^2$ theory of Fourier series

Uniform vs. pointwise convergence

$f_n \rightarrow f$  **pointwise** means for every  $x$   $\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} f_n(x) = f(x)$

$f_n \rightarrow f$  **uniformly** means  $\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \sup_x |f_n(x) - f(x)| = 0$

[Fourier Series, Gibbs Phenomenon](#)



Student question: what do our convergence theorems say about solutions to the wave equation:

Solving the wave equation

$$u_{tt} = u_{xx}$$

$f, g$   $2\pi$ -periodic.

$$u(x, 0) = f(x)$$

$$u_t(x, 0) = g(x)$$

Formal solution

$$u(x, t) = \sum_{n=-\infty}^{\infty} \left( \hat{u}_n e^{inx} \overbrace{e^{int}}^{\cos nt + i \sin nt} + \hat{v}_n e^{inx} \overbrace{e^{-int}}^{\cos nt - i \sin nt} \right)$$

$$= \sum_{n=-\infty}^{\infty} (u_n + v_n) \cos(nt) e^{inx} + i(u_n - v_n) \sin(nt) e^{inx}$$

$$= \sum_{n=-\infty}^{\infty} a_n \cos(nt) e^{inx} + b_n \sin(nt) e^{inx}$$

$$= \sum_{n=-\infty}^{\infty} a_n \cos(nt) e^{inx} + b_n \sin(nt) e^{inx}$$

$$\Rightarrow u_t(x,t) = \sum_{n=-\infty}^{\infty} -na_n \sin(nt) e^{inx} + nb_n \cos(nt) e^{inx}$$

Match initial conditions to find  $a_n, b_n$

$$u(x,0) = \sum_{n=-\infty}^{\infty} a_n e^{inx} = f(x) \Rightarrow a_n = \hat{f}_n$$

$$u_t(x,0) = \sum_{n=-\infty}^{\infty} nb_n e^{inx} = g(x) \Rightarrow b_n = \frac{1}{n} \hat{g}_n.$$

The solution should be

$$u(x,t) = \sum_{n=-\infty}^{\infty} \left( \hat{f}_n \cos nt e^{inx} + \frac{\hat{g}_n}{n} \sin nt e^{inx} \right)$$

- Questions:
- ① does the series converge?
  - ② is the sum a solution? weak? classical?
  - ③ is  $u(x,0) = f(x)$ ?
  - ④ is  $u_t(x,0) = g(x)$ ?
- more on friday

## Fourier coefficients as inner products

Def of  $\hat{f}_n$   $\hat{f}_n = \frac{1}{2\pi} \int_0^{2\pi} f(x) e^{-inx} dx$

Let  $\mathcal{R}_{\text{per}} = \{ f: \mathbb{R} \rightarrow \mathbb{C} \mid f \text{ is 1 man integrable & } 2\pi\text{-periodic} \}$

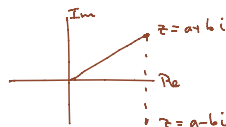
$\mathcal{R}_{\text{per}}$  is a complex vector ce.

For all  $f, g \in \mathcal{R}_{\text{per}}$  define  $\langle f, g \rangle = \int_0^{2\pi} f(x) \overline{g(x)} dx$

Then

- symmetric :  $\langle f, g \rangle = \overline{\langle g, f \rangle}$
- bilinear :  $\langle f+g, h \rangle = \langle f, h \rangle + \langle g, h \rangle$
- $\langle c f, g \rangle = c \langle f, g \rangle$

$a, b \in \mathbb{R}$   
 $z = a+bi$   
 $\bar{z} = a-bi$   
 $z\bar{z} = (a+bi)(a-bi)$   
 $= a^2 - (bi)^2 = a^2 + b^2$   
 for all  $z \in \mathbb{C}$   
 $z\bar{z} = |z|^2$



bilinear :

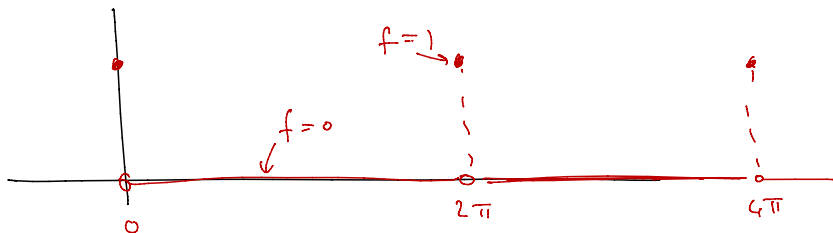
$$\begin{aligned}\langle f+g, h \rangle &= \langle f, h \rangle + \langle g, h \rangle \\ \langle cf, g \rangle &= c \langle f, g \rangle \\ \langle f, g+h \rangle &= \langle f, g \rangle + \langle f, h \rangle \\ \langle f, cg \rangle &= \bar{c} \langle f, g \rangle\end{aligned}$$

nonnegative

$$\langle f, f \rangle = \int_0^{2\pi} |f(x)|^2 dx \geq 0.$$

Example

$$f(x) = \begin{cases} 0 & x \neq 2n\pi \ (n \in \mathbb{Z}) \\ 1 & x = 2n\pi \ (n \in \mathbb{Z}) \end{cases}$$

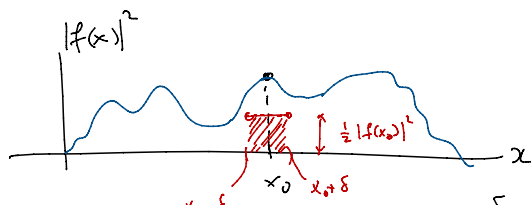


$$\langle f, f \rangle = \int_0^{2\pi} |f(x)|^2 dx = 0 \quad \text{even though } f \neq 0.$$

Theorem If  $f \in \mathcal{R}_{\text{per}}$  and  $f$  is continuous  
then  $\langle f, f \rangle = 0 \Rightarrow f = 0$

Proof (outline) Suppose  $f(x_0) \neq 0$  and  $\langle f, f \rangle = 0$ .

$f$  continuous  $\Rightarrow \exists \delta > 0$  such that  $|f(x)| > \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} |f(x_0)|$   
for all  $x \in (x_0 - \delta, x_0 + \delta)$



$$\text{Then } \int_0^{2\pi} |f(x)|^2 dx \geq \int_{x_0-\delta}^{x_0+\delta} |f(x)|^2 dx \geq \int_{x_0-\delta}^{x_0+\delta} \frac{1}{2} |f(x_0)|^2 dx = \delta \cdot |f(x_0)|^2 > 0$$

i.e.  $\langle f, f \rangle > 0$ .

////

Define  $e_n(x) = e^{inx}$

$$e^{-inx} = \cos(nx) - i \sin(nx) = \overline{e^{inx}} = \frac{\cos(nx) + i \sin(nx)}{1} = \overline{e^{inx}}$$

Then  $\hat{f}_n = \frac{1}{2\pi} \int_0^{2\pi} f(x) e^{-inx} dx = \frac{1}{2\pi} \langle f, e_n \rangle$

$$\langle e_k, e_n \rangle = \int_0^{2\pi} e^{ikx} \overline{e^{inx}} = \int_0^{2\pi} e^{ikx} e^{-inx} dx$$

$$\begin{aligned}
 \langle e_k, e_n \rangle &= \int_0^{2\pi} e^{ikx} \overline{e^{inx}} = \int_0^{2\pi} e^{ikx} e^{-inx} dx \\
 &= \int_0^{2\pi} e^{i(k-n)x} dx \quad \text{if } k=n \quad \int_0^{2\pi} 1 dx = 2\pi \\
 &= \int_0^{2\pi} \frac{e^{i(k-n)x}}{i(k-n)} \Big|_{x=0}^{2\pi} = 0 \quad \text{if } k \neq n
 \end{aligned}$$

So

$$\langle e_k, e_n \rangle = \begin{cases} 2\pi & \text{if } k=n \\ 0 & \text{if } k \neq n \end{cases}$$

If  $f(x) = \sum_{k=-N}^{+N} \hat{f}_k e^{ikx}$  then  $f = \hat{f}_{-N} e_{-N} + \dots + \hat{f}_N e_N$

and  $\langle f, e_n \rangle = \left\langle \sum_{k=-N}^{+N} \hat{f}_k e_k, e_n \right\rangle =$

$$\begin{aligned}
 &= \sum_{k=-N}^N \hat{f}_k \langle e_k, e_n \rangle \quad \leftarrow \text{only nonzero term has } k=n. \text{ Assume } -N \leq n \leq +N \\
 &= \hat{f}_n \langle e_n, e_n \rangle \\
 &= 2\pi \hat{f}_n
 \end{aligned}$$

Thus

$$\hat{f}_n = \frac{1}{2\pi} \langle f, e_n \rangle$$

Next time consider  $\|f\|_2 = \sqrt{\langle f, f \rangle} = \sqrt{\int_0^{2\pi} |f(x)|^2 dx}$

We will show  $\lim_{N \rightarrow \infty} \|S_N f - f\|_2 = 0$  for all  $f \in R_{\text{per}}$ .

Recall:  $e_n(x) = e^{inx}$   $\langle f, g \rangle = \int_0^{2\pi} f(x) \overline{g(x)} dx$   $\|f\|_2 = \sqrt{\langle f, f \rangle}$

$$\langle e_k, e_l \rangle = \begin{cases} 2\pi & k=l \\ 0 & k \neq l \end{cases}$$

$$S_N f(x) = \sum_{k=-N}^N \hat{f}_k e_k(x) \quad \hat{f}_k = \frac{1}{2\pi} \langle f, e_k \rangle = \frac{1}{2\pi} \int_0^{2\pi} f(x) e^{-ikx} dx$$

Pythagoras:

(a) If  $f \perp g$  then  $\|f+g\|_2^2 = \|f\|_2^2 + \|g\|_2^2$



Pythagoras:

(a) If  $f \perp g$  then  $\|f+g\|_2^2 = \|f\|_2^2 + \|g\|_2^2$

(b) If  $f_k \perp f_\ell$  for all  $k \neq \ell$  then

$$\|f_1 + \dots + f_n\|_2^2 = \|f_1\|_2^2 + \dots + \|f_n\|_2^2$$

Proof of (a)

$$\begin{aligned} \|f+g\|_2^2 &= \langle f+g, f+g \rangle = \langle f, f \rangle + \underbrace{\langle f, g \rangle}_{=0} + \underbrace{\langle g, f \rangle}_{=0} + \langle g, g \rangle \\ &= \|f\|_2^2 + \|g\|_2^2. \end{aligned}$$

because  $f \perp g$

Proof of (b): Use (a) and induction on  $n$ . ///

Theorem (Bessel's inequality)  $\|S_N f\|_2^2 + \|f - S_N f\|_2^2 = \|f\|_2^2$

Proof We show that  $S_N f \perp f - S_N f$ :

$$\begin{aligned} \langle S_N f, f - S_N f \rangle &= \left\langle \sum_{-N}^N \hat{f}_k e_k, f - S_N f \right\rangle \\ &= \sum_{-N}^N \hat{f}_k \langle e_k, f - S_N f \rangle \end{aligned}$$

Next we compute

$$\begin{aligned} \langle e_k, f - S_N f \rangle &= \langle e_k, f \rangle - \langle e_k, S_N f \rangle = \langle e_k, f \rangle - \langle e_k, \sum_{-N}^N \hat{f}_\ell e_\ell \rangle \\ &= \langle e_k, f \rangle - \sum_{-N}^N \overline{\hat{f}_\ell} \underbrace{\langle e_k, e_\ell \rangle}_{=0 \text{ for } k \neq \ell, =1 \text{ for } k=\ell} \\ &= \langle e_k, f \rangle - \overline{\hat{f}_k} \cdot 2\pi \\ &= \langle e_k, f \rangle - \frac{1}{2\pi} \langle e_k, f \rangle \cdot 2\pi \\ &= 0 \quad \checkmark \end{aligned}$$

$\langle f, a g \rangle = \overline{\langle f, g \rangle}$   
 $\hat{f}_k = \frac{1}{2\pi} \langle f, e_k \rangle$   
 $\overline{\hat{f}_k} = \frac{1}{2\pi} \overline{\langle f, e_k \rangle} = \frac{1}{2\pi} \langle e_k, f \rangle$

Hence  $\langle S_N f, f - S_N f \rangle = 0$  and by Pythagoras

$$\|f\|_2^2 = \|f - S_N f + S_N f\|_2^2 = \|f - S_N f\|_2^2 + \|S_N f\|_2^2 \quad \text{////}$$

Bessel's inequality is:  $\|S_N f\|_2^2 \leq \|f\|_2^2$  for all  $N$ .

Theorem If  $g = \hat{g}_{-N} e_{-N} + \dots + \hat{g}_N e_N$  then  $\|g - f\|_2 \geq \|S_N f - f\|_2$

" $S_N f = \hat{f}_{-N} e_{-N} + \dots + \hat{f}_N e_N$  is the best approximation to  $f$  among all trigonometric polynomials of degree  $\leq N$ , measured with  $\|g - f\|_2$ "

Proof

$$\|g - f\|_2^2 = \|g - S_N f + S_N f - f\|_2^2 = \|g - S_N f\|_2^2 + \|S_N f - f\|_2^2 \geq \|S_N f - f\|_2^2$$

provided we show  $g - S_N f \perp f - S_N f$ .

$$g - S_N f = \sum_{-N}^{+N} \hat{g}_k e_k - \sum_{-N}^{+N} \hat{f}_k e_k = \sum_{-N}^{+N} (\hat{g}_k - \hat{f}_k) e_k$$

Each  $e_k$  is perpendicular to  $f - S_N f \Rightarrow g - S_N f \perp f - S_N f$  ////

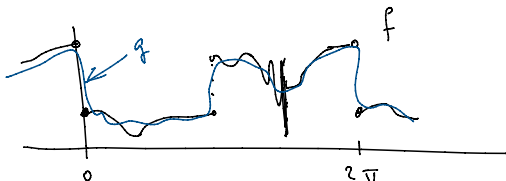
Theorem ( $L^2$  convergence of Fourier series) If  $f \in \mathcal{R}_{per}$  then

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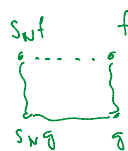
$$\lim_{N \rightarrow \infty} \|f - S_N f\|_2 = 0$$

Proof. Assume  $f$  is real valued.

Since  $f$  is Riemann integrable there exists, a  $C^2, 2\pi$  periodic  $g: \mathbb{R} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$  with  $\|g - f\|_2 < \frac{\varepsilon}{4}$ . } will prove this later



$$\int_0^{2\pi} |g(x) - f(x)|^2 dx \leq \left(\frac{\varepsilon}{4}\right)^2$$



Then

$$\|S_N f - f\|_2 = \|S_N f - S_N g + S_N g - g + g - f\|_2$$

$$\leq \|S_N f - S_N g\|_2 + \|S_N g - g\|_2 + \|g - f\|_2$$

Fact:  $f \mapsto S_N f$  is linear. Therefore  $S_N f - S_N g = S_N(f - g)$

Hence

$$\|S_N f - S_N g\|_2 = \|S_N(f - g)\|_2 \stackrel{\text{Bessel!}}{\leq} \|f - g\|_2 < \frac{\varepsilon}{4}$$

Since  $g$  is  $C^2$  we have shown that  $S_N g \rightarrow g$  uniformly.

This means

$$\lim_{N \rightarrow \infty} \sup_x |S_N g(x) - g(x)| = 0$$

$$\text{(i.e. } \lim_{N \rightarrow \infty} \|S_N g - g\|_\infty = 0 \text{)}$$

$$\text{for every } x: |S_N g(x) - g(x)| \leq \|S_N g - g\|_\infty$$

Therefore:

$$\begin{aligned} \|S_N g - g\|_2^2 &= \int_0^{2\pi} |S_N g(x) - g(x)|^2 dx \\ &\leq \int_0^{2\pi} \|S_N g - g\|_\infty^2 dx = 2\pi \|S_N g - g\|_\infty^2 \end{aligned}$$

i.e.

$$\|S_N g - g\|_2 \leq \sqrt{2\pi} \|S_N g - g\|_\infty$$

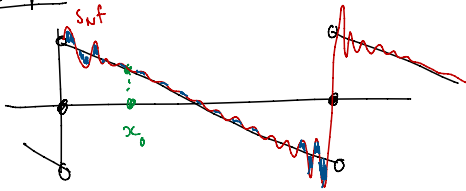
Choose  $N_\varepsilon$  so large that  $\|S_N g - g\|_\infty < \frac{\varepsilon}{2\sqrt{2\pi}}$  for all  $N \geq N_\varepsilon$ .

Then, if  $N \geq N_\varepsilon$ :

$$\|S_N f - f\|_2 \leq \|S_N f - S_N g\|_2 + \|S_N g - g\|_2 + \|g - f\|_2$$

$$< \frac{\varepsilon}{4} + \frac{\varepsilon}{2} + \frac{\varepsilon}{4} = \varepsilon \quad \text{////}$$

Example



$f = \text{sawtooth function}$

$$S_N f(x) = \sin x + \frac{1}{2} \sin 2x + \dots + \frac{1}{N} \sin(Nx)$$

Pointwise convergence at all  $x_0$  where you can verify the Lipschitz condition.

Today's theorem:  $\|S_N f - f\|_2 \rightarrow 0$

$$\text{i.e.} \quad \int_0^{2\pi} |S_N f(x) - f(x)|^2 dx \rightarrow 0$$

Theorem If  $f \in R_{\text{per}}$  and  $\varepsilon > 0$  then there is a  $g \in C^\infty$  with

①  $g$   $2\pi$ -periodic

②  $\|g - f\|_2 < \varepsilon$

③  $\|g\|_\infty \leq \|f\|_\infty$  and  $\|g - f\|_1 < \varepsilon$ .

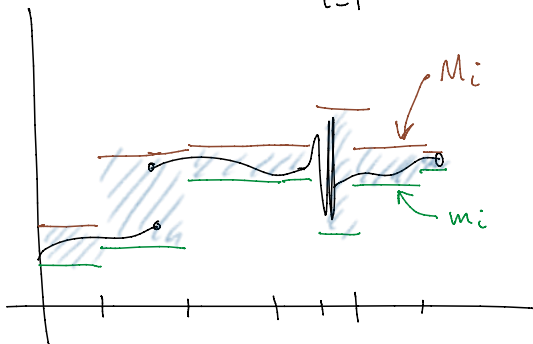
Proof.  $f \in R_{\text{per}}$  means: given  $\varepsilon > 0$  there exist

$$0 = x_0 < x_1 < \dots < x_N = 2\pi \quad \text{and} \quad m_1 < M_1, m_2 < M_2, \dots, m_N < M_N$$

such that

① for  $x_{i-1} < x \leq x_i$  :  $m_i \leq f(x) \leq M_i$

②  $\sum_{i=1}^N (M_i - m_i) (x_i - x_{i-1}) < \varepsilon/2$



$$1_{(a,b]}(x) = \begin{cases} 1 & \text{if } x \in (a,b] \\ 0 & \text{if } x \notin (a,b] \end{cases}$$

$$L(x) = \sum_{i=1}^N m_i 1_{[x_{i-1}, x_i]}(x)$$

green graph

$$l(x) = \sum_{i=1}^N m_i 1_{(x_{i-1}, x_i]}(x) \quad \text{green graph.}$$

$$u(x) = \sum_{i=1}^N M_i 1_{(x_{i-1}, x_i]}(x) \quad \text{brown graph.}$$

$$l(x) \leq f(x) \leq u(x) \quad \text{for all } x$$

$$\int_0^{2\pi} (u(x) - l(x)) dx = \sum_{i=1}^N (M_i - m_i) (x_i - x_{i-1}) < \varepsilon/2$$

To find a  $C^\infty$  approximation to  $f$ , find  $g_1, \dots, g_N$  that are  $C^\infty$  and for which

$$\int_0^{2\pi} |g_i(x) - 1_{(x_{i-1}, x_i]}(x)| dx < \delta \quad \left( \begin{array}{l} \text{to be chosen} \\ \text{later} \end{array} \right)$$

Then define 
$$g(x) = \sum_{i=1}^N m_i g_i(x)$$

We have

$$\int |g(x) - f(x)| dx = \int |g(x) - l(x) + l(x) - f(x)| dx$$

$$\leq \int |g(x) - l(x)| dx + \int \underbrace{(f(x) - l(x))}_{\leq u(x)} dx$$

$$\leq \int \left| \sum_{i=1}^N m_i (g_i(x) - 1_{(x_{i-1}, x_i]}(x)) \right| dx + \int (u(x) - l(x)) dx$$

$$\leq \sum_{i=1}^N |m_i| \underbrace{\int_0^{2\pi} |g_i(x) - 1_{(x_{i-1}, x_i]}(x)| dx}_{< \delta} + \underbrace{\int_0^{2\pi} (u(x) - l(x)) dx}_{< \varepsilon/2}$$

$$\leq N \max_{i=1, \dots, N} |m_i| \cdot \delta + \frac{\varepsilon}{2}.$$

We choose 
$$\delta = \frac{\varepsilon/2}{N \max_{i=1, \dots, N} |m_i|}.$$

Then we have found

$$\int_0^{2\pi} |g(x) - f(x)| dx < \varepsilon.$$

The choice of  $m_i$ : let 
$$m_i = \inf_{x_{i-1} < x < x_i} f(x).$$

Then 
$$|m_i| \leq \sup_{0 \leq x \leq 2\pi} |f(x)| = \|f\|_\infty.$$

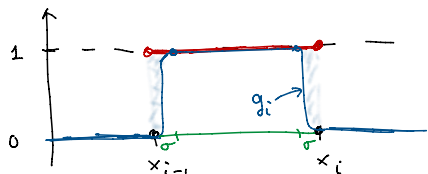
$$g_i(x) = 0 \text{ for } x \notin (x_{i-1}, x_i]$$

If we construct the  $g_i$  so that  $0 \leq g_i \leq 1$  then

for every  $x$ : choose  $i$  so that  $x \in (x_{i-1}, x_i]$   
 then  $g(x) = \sum_{j=1}^N m_j g_j(x) = m_i g_i(x)$   
 $\Rightarrow |g(x)| = |m_i| g_i(x) \leq |m_i| \leq \|f\|_\infty$

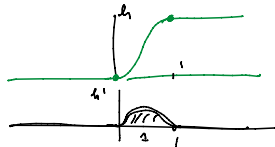
Thus  $\|g\|_\infty \leq \|f\|_\infty$ .

To complete the construction we have to define  $g_i$

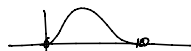


A  $C^2$  function  $h: \mathbb{R} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$  with

$$h(x) = \begin{cases} 0 & x \leq 0 \\ 1 & x \geq 1 \end{cases}$$



$$h'(x) = \begin{cases} c (x(1-x))^2 & 0 \leq x \leq 1 \\ 0 & x < 0, x > 1 \end{cases}$$



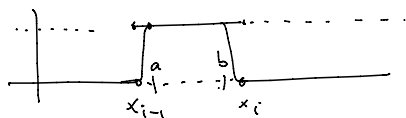
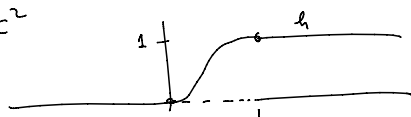
$$h(x) = \begin{cases} \int_0^x c t^2(1-t)^2 dt = c \int_0^x t^2(1-t)^2 dt & 0 \leq x \leq 1 \\ 0 & \text{for } x \leq 0 \\ 1 & \text{for } x \geq 1 \end{cases}$$

Choose  $c$  so that  $c \int_0^1 t^2(1-t)^2 dt = 1$

Then  $h$  is continuous at  $x=1$  and  $x=0$

$h'$  is  $C^1$  everywhere

$\Rightarrow h$  is  $C^2$



$$g_i(x) = h\left(\frac{x-x_{i-1}}{a-x_{i-1}}\right) \cdot h\left(\frac{x_i-x}{x_i-b}\right)$$