

Problem 2) The binomial expansion of $\cos^{2n}(\pi x) = (e^{i\pi x} + e^{-i\pi x})^{2n}/2^{2n}$ yields

$$\begin{aligned}\cos^{2n}(\pi x) &= \left(\frac{e^{i\pi x} + e^{-i\pi x}}{2}\right)^{2n} = \frac{1}{2^{2n}} \sum_{m=0}^{2n} \binom{2n}{m} (e^{i\pi x})^{2n-m} (e^{-i\pi x})^m \\ &= \frac{1}{4^n} \sum_{m=0}^{2n} \binom{2n}{m} e^{i2\pi(n-m)x} = \frac{1}{4^n} \sum_{k=-n}^n \binom{2n}{n-k} e^{i2\pi kx}. \quad (1)\end{aligned}$$

Recalling that the Fourier transform of $e^{i2\pi s_0 x}$ is $\delta(s - s_0)$, we find the Fourier transform of the above function to be

$$\mathcal{F}\{\cos^{2n}(\pi x)\} = \frac{1}{4^n} \sum_{k=-n}^n \binom{2n}{n-k} \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} e^{i2\pi kx} e^{-i2\pi sx} dx = \frac{1}{4^n} \sum_{k=-n}^n \binom{2n}{n-k} \delta(s - k). \quad (2)$$

Upon normalization by A_n , the magnitude of the k^{th} delta-function in the Fourier domain will be

$$\frac{(2n)!!}{4^n(2n-1)!!} \binom{2n}{n-k} = \frac{2^n(n!)}{4^n(2n-1)!!} \times \frac{(2n)!}{(n-k)!(n+k)!} = \frac{(n!)(2n)!!}{2^n(n-k)!(n+k)!} = \frac{(n!)^2}{(n-k)!(n+k)!}. \quad (3)$$

It is seen that the central δ -function located at $s = 0$ (corresponding to $k = 0$) has unit magnitude. The adjacent δ -functions at $s = \pm 1$ have a slightly reduced magnitude $n/(n+1)$. At $s = \pm 2$, the magnitude of both δ -functions is $n(n-1)/[(n+1)(n+2)]$, and so on. The decline continues until $s = \pm n$, where the terminal δ -functions have the negligible magnitude

$$\frac{(n!)^2}{(2n)!} = \frac{(n!)^2}{(2n)!!(2n-1)!!} = \frac{n!}{2^n(2n-1)!!} = \frac{(2n)!!}{2^{2n}(2n-1)!!}. \quad (4)$$

As n grows larger, the set of δ -functions in the Fourier domain spreads further out from the center while its central δ -functions become more uniform in magnitude. In the limit of $n \rightarrow \infty$, the Fourier transform of the normalized $\cos^{2n}(\pi x)$ approaches $\sum_{k=-\infty}^{\infty} \delta(s - k) = \text{comb}(s)$.

Digression: The normalization factor has been determined via integration by parts, as follows:

$$\begin{aligned}\int_{-1/2}^{1/2} \cos^{2n}(\pi x) dx &= \int_{-1/2}^{1/2} \cos(\pi x) \cos^{2n-1}(\pi x) dx \\ &= \pi^{-1} \sin(\pi x) \cos^{2n-1}(\pi x) \Big|_{-1/2}^{1/2} + (2n-1) \int_{-1/2}^{1/2} \sin^2(\pi x) \cos^{2n-2}(\pi x) dx \\ &= (2n-1) \int_{-1/2}^{1/2} [1 - \cos^2(\pi x)] \cos^{2n-2}(\pi x) dx \\ &= (2n-1) \int_{-1/2}^{1/2} \cos^{2(n-1)}(\pi x) dx - (2n-1) \int_{-1/2}^{1/2} \cos^{2n}(\pi x) dx \\ \rightarrow \int_{-1/2}^{1/2} \cos^{2n}(\pi x) dx &= \left(\frac{2n-1}{2n}\right) \int_{-1/2}^{1/2} \cos^{2(n-1)}(\pi x) dx. \quad (5)\end{aligned}$$

Repeating the above process, we note that, in each step, n in the exponent of $\cos^{2n}(\pi x)$ is reduced by 1. Eventually we will reach $\cos^0(\pi x) = 1$, whose integral equals 1. Consequently,

$$\int_{-1/2}^{1/2} \cos^{2n}(\pi x) dx = \frac{(2n-1)(2n-3)\cdots(3)(1)}{2n(2n-2)\cdots(4)(2)} = \frac{(2n-1)!!}{(2n)!!}. \quad (6)$$