

Power series

$$\sum_{n=0}^{\infty} a_n x^n$$

A power series converges in some interval $(-R, R)$ (R is called the radius of convergence.)

We have $R = \left(\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \sqrt[n]{|a_n|} \right)^{-1}$ if the limit exists.

Note: we use the convention $0^{-1} = \infty$ for this specific situation.

$$(-\infty, \infty)$$

$$(-2, 2)$$

$$[-1, 1)$$

Ex. For which x does $\sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \frac{x^n}{n!}$ converge?

Use the ratio test:

$$\left| \frac{x^{n+1}}{(n+1)!} / \frac{x^n}{n!} \right| = \frac{n!}{(n+1)!} \left| \frac{x^{n+1}}{x^n} \right| = \frac{|x|}{n+1} \xrightarrow{n \rightarrow \infty} 0$$

so the series converges for any $x \in \mathbb{R}$.

(Note: can also use root test but it is trickier)

Ex. For which x does $\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{x^n}{n}$ converge?

Use the root test:

$$\sqrt[n]{\left| \frac{x^n}{n} \right|} = \frac{|x|}{\sqrt[n]{n}} \xrightarrow{n \rightarrow \infty} |x|$$

if $|x| < 1$, series converges
if $|x| > 1$, series diverges
if $|x| = 1$, test is inconclusive

$$(\ln(\sqrt[n]{n})) = \frac{1}{n} \ln n \rightarrow 0 \quad \text{so } \sqrt[n]{n} \rightarrow 1)$$

So the series converges in $(-1, 1)$. Still need to check edges.

$$x = 1 : \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{1^n}{n} = \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{1}{n} \text{ diverges.}$$

$$x = -1 : \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{(-1)^n}{n} \text{ converges by alternating series test}$$

So the interval of convergence is $[-1, 1)$.

Suppose $f(x) = \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} a_n(x-a)^n$ in some $(-R+a, R+a)$.

Since we can differentiate power series term-by-term, we have

$$\begin{aligned} f'(x) &= \frac{d}{dx} \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} a_n(x-a)^n = \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \frac{d}{dx} a_n(x-a)^n \\ &= \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} n a_n(x-a)^{n-1} \quad (|x-a| < R) \end{aligned}$$

Similarly,

$$f''(x) = \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{d}{dx} (n a_n(x-a)^{n-1}) = \sum_{n=2}^{\infty} n(n-1) a_n(x-a)^{n-2}$$

...

$$f^{(k)}(x) = \sum_{n=k}^{\infty} n(n-1) \dots (n-k+1) a_n(x-a)^{n-k}$$

Evaluate this at $x=a$: we get $f^{(k)}(a) = \underbrace{k(k-1) \dots 1}_{k!} \cdot a_k$

$$\Rightarrow a_k = \frac{f^{(k)}(a)}{k!}$$

(Warning: the power series for f may converge to f only at a single point:

e.g. $f(x) = \begin{cases} e^{-1/x} & x \neq 0 \\ 0 & x = 0 \end{cases}$

This f is infinitely differentiable and $f^{(k)}(0) = 0$ for all k .

So the power series for f about $x=0$ is $\sum_{k=0}^{\infty} \frac{0}{k!} x^k \equiv 0$.

(The series only converges to f at $x=0$.)

Ex. $\sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \frac{x^n}{n!}$ converges to e^x everywhere

Ex. $\sum_{n=0}^{\infty} x^n$ converges to $\frac{1}{1-x}$ in $|x| < 1$.

Ex. Consider the function $f(x) = \frac{1}{1-x}$. We would like to find the associated power series about $a = 0, 2$.

Let's find the coefficients using the formula $a_n = \frac{f^{(n)}(a)}{n!}$.

What is $f^{(n)}(a)$?

$$\frac{d}{dx} \frac{1}{1-x} = -(1-x)^{-2}(-1) = \sqrt{(1-x)^{-2}}$$

$$\frac{d^2}{dx^2} \frac{1}{1-x} = -2(1-x)^{-3}(-1) = \sqrt{2(1-x)^{-3}}$$

$$\frac{d^3}{dx^3} \frac{1}{1-x} = 2(-3)(1-x)^{-4}(-1) = 6(1-x)^{-4}$$

...

$$\frac{d^n}{dx^n} \frac{1}{1-x} = n!(1-x)^{-(n+1)}$$

Series about $a = 0$:

$$\sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \frac{f^{(n)}(0)}{n!} x^n = \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \frac{\cancel{n!}}{(1-0)^{n+1}} \frac{1}{\cancel{n!}} x^n = \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} x^n \quad (|x| < 1)$$

Series about $a = 2$:

$$\sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \frac{f^{(n)}(2)}{n!} (x-2)^n = \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \frac{\cancel{n!}}{(1-2)^{n+1}} \frac{1}{\cancel{n!}} (x-2)^n = \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} (-1)^{n+1} (x-2)^n$$

[Q: does the second series converge to f everywhere in $|x-2| < 1$?

Note that $\sum_{n=0}^{\infty} (-1)^{n+1} (x-2)^n = -\sum_{n=0}^{\infty} (2-x)^n$ is a geometric series

so this converges, for $|x-2| < 1$, to $\frac{-1}{1-(2-x)} = \frac{-1}{-1+x} = \frac{1}{1-x}$

so the series indeed converges to f .]

Recall the series for e^x , $\cos x$, $\sin x$:

$$e^x = \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \frac{x^n}{n!}$$

$$\sin x = \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \frac{(-1)^n}{(2n+1)!} x^{2n+1} \quad x - \frac{x^3}{3!} + \frac{x^5}{5!} - \dots$$

$$\cos x = \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \frac{(-1)^n}{(2n)!} x^{2n} \quad \begin{matrix} 2n & 2n+1 \\ n \geq 0 & n \geq 0 \end{matrix}$$

We claim: $e^{ix} = \cos x + i \sin x$

Indeed,

$$e^{ix} = \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \frac{(ix)^n}{n!} = \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \frac{(ix)^{2n}}{(2n)!} + \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \frac{(ix)^{2n+1}}{(2n+1)!}$$

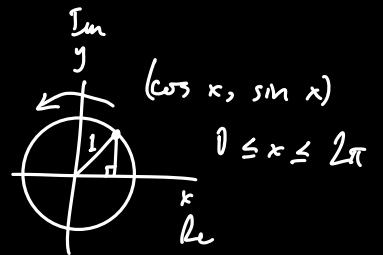
even powers of x odd powers of x

$$= \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \frac{i^{2n} x^{2n}}{(2n)!} + \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \frac{i^{2n+1} x^{2n+1}}{(2n+1)!}$$

$$i^{2n} = (i^2)^n = (-1)^n$$

$$= \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \frac{(-1)^n x^{2n}}{(2n)!} + i \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \frac{(-1)^n x^{2n+1}}{(2n+1)!}$$

$$= \cos x + i \sin x$$



So e^{ix} traces out the unit circle CCW
(for $0 \leq x \leq 2\pi$)

$$(x, y) \leftrightarrow x + iy$$

$$\mathbb{R}^2 \leftrightarrow \mathbb{C}$$

$$e^{ix} = \cos x + i \sin x$$

Also, $e^{i\pi} = \cos \pi + i \sin \pi = -1$

disc. 9 Power series

$$\sum_{n=0}^{\infty} a_n(x-a)^n$$

A power series converges in some interval $(-R+a, R+a)$ where R is called the radius of convergence.

If the limit exists, we have $R = \left(\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \sqrt[n]{|a_n|}\right)^{-1}$ [where we say $0^{-1} = \infty$]

Ex. For which x does $\sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \frac{x^n}{n!}$ converge?

Use ratio test:

$$\left| \frac{x^{n+1}}{(n+1)!} / \frac{x^n}{n!} \right| = \left| \frac{x^{n+1}}{x^n} \frac{n!}{(n+1)!} \right| = \frac{|x|}{n+1} \xrightarrow{n \rightarrow \infty} 0$$

So the series converges for all x .

Note: can also use the root test, but it is trickier.

Ex. For which x does $\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{x^n}{n}$ converge?

Use root test:

$$\sqrt[n]{\left| \frac{x^n}{n} \right|} = \frac{|x|}{\sqrt[n]{n}} \xrightarrow{n \rightarrow \infty} |x|$$

if $|x| < 1$, series converges
if $|x| > 1$, series diverges
if $|x| = 1$, test is inconclusive

Conv. in $(-1, 1)$.

Check edges:

$x = 1$: $\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{1}{n}$ is harmonic series \rightarrow diverges.

$x = -1$: $\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{(-1)^n}{n}$ converges by alternating series test.

So we conclude: the interval of convergence is $[-1, 1)$.

Suppose $f(x) = \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} a_n (x-a)^n$ in $(-R+a, R+a)$.

Since we can differentiate power series term-by-term, we have

$$\begin{aligned} f'(x) &= \frac{d}{dx} \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} a_n (x-a)^n = \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \frac{d}{dx} a_n (x-a)^n \\ &= \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} n a_n (x-a)^{n-1} \end{aligned}$$

Similarly,

$$f''(x) = \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{d}{dx} n a_n (x-a)^{n-1} = \sum_{n=2}^{\infty} n(n-1) a_n (x-a)^{n-2}$$

...

$$f^{(k)}(x) = \sum_{n=k}^{\infty} n(n-1)(n-2) \cdots (n-k+1) a_n (x-a)^{n-k}$$

Evaluate at $x = a$:

$$f^{(n)}(a) = n(n-1)(n-2) \cdots 1 \cdot a_n \Rightarrow a_n = \frac{f^{(n)}(a)}{n!}.$$

(Warning: the power series for f may converge at only one point:

$$\text{e.g., } f(x) = \begin{cases} e^{-1/|x|} & x \neq 0 \\ 0 & x = 0 \end{cases}$$

This f is infinitely differentiable with $f^{(n)}(0) = 0$ for all n .

So the power series for f about $x = 0$ is $\sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \frac{0}{n!} x^n \equiv 0$.

(Thus the series only converges to f at $x = 0$.)

Ex. $\sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \frac{x^n}{n!}$ converges to e^x everywhere

Ex. $\sum_{n=0}^{\infty} x^n$ converges to $\frac{1}{1-x}$ if $|x| < 1$.

Consider the function $f(x) = \frac{1}{1-x}$. We would like to find the associated power series about $a = 0, 2, \frac{1}{2}$.

What is $f^{(n)}(x)$?

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{d}{dx} \frac{1}{1-x} &= -(1-x)^{-2}(-1) = (1-x)^{-2} \\ \frac{d^2}{dx^2} \frac{1}{1-x} &= -2(1-x)^{-3}(-1) = 2(1-x)^{-3} \\ \frac{d^3}{dx^3} \frac{1}{1-x} &= -3 \cdot 2(1-x)^{-4}(-1) = 6(1-x)^{-4} \\ &\dots \\ \frac{d^n}{dx^n} \frac{1}{1-x} &= n!(1-x)^{-(n+1)} \end{aligned}$$

Series about $a = 0$:

$$\sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \frac{f^{(n)}(0)}{n!} x^n = \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \frac{n!}{(1-0)^{n+1}} \cdot \frac{x^n}{n!} = \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} x^n \quad \text{conv. in } |x| < 1$$

Series about $a = 2$:

$$\sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \frac{f^{(n)}(2)}{n!} (x-2)^n = \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \frac{n!}{(1-2)^{n+1}} \frac{(x-2)^n}{n!} = \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} (-1)^{n+1} (x-2)^n \quad \text{conv. in } |x-2| < 1$$

Note that this converges to $\frac{1}{1-x}$:

$$\begin{aligned} \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} (-1)^{n+1} (x-2)^n &= -\sum_{n=0}^{\infty} (2-x)^n \\ |x-2| < 1 &\Rightarrow = \frac{-1}{1-(2-x)} \\ &= \frac{-1}{-1+x} = \frac{1}{1-x} \end{aligned}$$

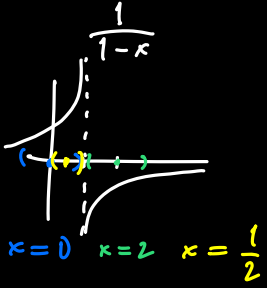
Series about $a = \frac{1}{2}$:

$$\sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \frac{f^{(n)}(1/2)}{n!} \left(x - \frac{1}{2}\right)^n = \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \frac{n!}{\left(1 - \frac{1}{2}\right)^{n+1}} \cdot \frac{\left(x - \frac{1}{2}\right)^n}{n!}$$

$$= \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} 2^{n+1} \left(x - \frac{1}{2}\right)^n = 2 \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} (2x - 1)^n$$

conv. if $|2x - 1| < 1$

i.e. if $\left|x - \frac{1}{2}\right| < \frac{1}{2}$



• Differentiation of series

$$\begin{aligned} \text{Ex. } \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{n}{2^n} &= x \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} n x^{n-1} \Big|_{x=1/2} \\ &= \frac{x}{(1-x)^2} \Big|_{x=1/2} \\ &= \frac{1/2}{(1-1/2)^2} \\ &= 2 \end{aligned}$$

Recall: we can differentiate power series term-by-term.
If $\sum_{n=0}^{\infty} a_n(x-a)^n$ converges in $(-R+a, R+a)$,
we have $\frac{d}{dx} \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} a_n(x-a)^n = \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} n a_n(x-a)^{n-1}$
in $(-R+a, R+a)$.

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{d}{dx} \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} x^n &= \frac{d}{dx} \frac{1}{1-x} \\ \parallel &\parallel \\ \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} n x^{n-1} &= \frac{1}{(1-x)^2} \quad |x| < 1 \end{aligned}$$

$$\left(\frac{1}{1+x} = \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} (-x)^n \right)$$

$$\text{Ex. } \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{n^2}{\pi^n} \Big|_{x=1/\pi} = \frac{2/x^2}{(1-x)^3} + \frac{1/x}{(1-x)^2}$$

$$\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} n^2 x^n = \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} (n(n-1) + n) x^n$$

$$= x^2 \sum_{n=2}^{\infty} n(n-1) x^{n-2} + x \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} n x^{n-1}$$

$$= \frac{2x^2}{(1-x)^3} + \frac{x}{(1-x)^2} \quad (|x| < 1)$$

$$\frac{d^2}{dx^2} \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} x^n = \frac{d^2}{dx^2} \frac{1}{1-x} = \frac{2}{(1-x)^3}$$

$$\parallel$$

$$\frac{d}{dx} \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} n x^{n-1}$$

$$\parallel$$

$$\sum_{n=2}^{\infty} n(n-1) x^{n-2} \quad |x| < 1$$

$$- \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} (2-x)^n = \frac{1}{1-x} \quad |x-2| < 1$$

Probability example We toss a coin repeatedly w/ prob. of heads p , $0 < p < 1$.

What is the expected number of tries until the first heads?
=: X

$$P(X = n) = (1-p)^{n-1} p$$

$\underbrace{TT \dots TH}_{n-1}$

$$EX = \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} n P(X = n) = \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} n (1-p)^{n-1} p = \frac{p}{(1-(1-p))^2} = \frac{1}{p}$$

$$\text{From above: } \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} n x^{n-1} = \frac{1}{(1-x)^2}$$

e

$$e = 2.718281\dots$$

$$e = \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \left(1 + \frac{1}{n}\right)^n$$

$$e^x = \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \frac{x^n}{n!} \quad x=1 \quad \Rightarrow \quad e = \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \frac{1}{n!}$$

Proposition e is irrational.

Pf. cf. Rudin (Principles)

$$\text{Let } e_n = \sum_{k=0}^n \frac{1}{k!}.$$

Then we have

$$\begin{aligned} 0 < e - e_n &= \sum_{k=n+1}^{\infty} \frac{1}{k!} \\ &= \frac{1}{(n+1)!} + \frac{1}{(n+2)!} + \frac{1}{(n+3)!} + \dots \\ &= \frac{1}{(n+1)!} \left(1 + \frac{1}{n+2} + \frac{1}{(n+2)(n+3)} + \dots\right) \\ &< \frac{1}{(n+1)!} \left(1 + \frac{1}{n+1} + \frac{1}{(n+1)^2} + \dots\right) \\ &= \frac{1}{(n+1)!} \sum_{k=0}^{\infty} \left(\frac{1}{n+1}\right)^k \\ &= \frac{1}{(n+1)!} \cdot \frac{1}{1 - \frac{1}{n+1}} \\ &= \frac{1}{n!n} \end{aligned}$$

So we have a bound $0 < e - e_n < \frac{1}{n!n}$.

Suppose e is rational, i.e. $e = \frac{p}{q}$ where p, q are positive integers.

Then we have $0 < e - e_q < \frac{1}{q!q}$,

so that

$$0 < q!(e - e_q) < \frac{1}{q} \leq 1$$

Now, note that $q!e = q! \sum_{k=0}^{\infty} \frac{1}{k!} = p(q-1)! \sum_{k=0}^{\infty} \frac{1}{k!} \Rightarrow$ an integer

$$\begin{aligned} \text{Moreover, } q!e_q &= q! \left(1 + \frac{1}{2!} + \dots + \frac{1}{q!} \right) \\ &= q! + \frac{q!}{2!} + \frac{q!}{3!} + \dots + \frac{q!}{q!} \text{ is also an integer.} \end{aligned}$$

Therefore $q!(e - e_q)$ is an integer.

But we showed above that it is in $(0, 1)$, which is a contradiction. \square