

Power Series

Part 2

Differentiation & Integration;
Multiplication of Power Series

Theorem 1

If $\sum a_n x^n$ converges absolutely for $|x| < R$,

then $\sum a_n (f(x))^n$ converges absolutely for any continuous function f on $|f(x)| < R$.

Example 1

Since

$$\frac{1}{1 - x} = \sum_{k=0}^{\infty} x^k, \quad \text{for } |x| < 1$$

Theorem 1 tells us that

$$\frac{1}{1 - 4x^2} = \sum_{k=0}^{\infty} (4x^2)^k, \quad \text{for } |4x^2| < 1$$

Example 2

Find the interval of convergence of

$$\sum_{k=0}^{\infty} (e^x - 4)^k$$

and, within this interval, the sum of the series as a function of x .

Example 2 (continued)

Solution: $\sum_{k=0}^{\infty} (e^x - 4)^k$; Using the Ratio Test for Absolute Convergence:

$$\begin{aligned}\rho &= \lim_{k \rightarrow \infty} \frac{|u_{k+1}|}{|u_k|} = \lim_{k \rightarrow \infty} \frac{|(e^x - 4)^{k+1}|}{|(e^x - 4)^k|} \\ &= \lim_{k \rightarrow \infty} |e^x - 4| \\ &= |e^x - 4| \lim_{k \rightarrow \infty} 1 \\ &= |e^x - 4|\end{aligned}$$

Therefore the series converges absolutely when $\rho = |e^x - 4| < 1$.

Example 2 (continued)

$$\rho = |e^x - 4| < 1$$

$$-1 < e^x - 4 < 1$$

$$3 < e^x < 5$$

$$\ln 3 < x < \ln 5$$

Let's check what happens to the series at the endpoint of this interval.

Example 2 (continued)

At $x = \ln 3$, the series becomes

$$\sum_{k=0}^{\infty} (e^{\ln 3} - 4)^k = \sum_{k=0}^{\infty} (3 - 4)^k = \sum_{k=0}^{\infty} (-1)^k$$

which diverges.

At $x = \ln 5$, the series becomes

$$\sum_{k=0}^{\infty} (e^{\ln 5} - 4)^k = \sum_{k=0}^{\infty} (5 - 4)^k = \sum_{k=0}^{\infty} 1$$

which diverges.

Example 2 (continued)

The series $\sum_{k=0}^{\infty} (e^x - 4)^k$ is a convergent geometric series ($a = 1, r = e^x - 4$) when $\ln 3 < x < \ln 5$

and the sum is

$$\frac{a}{1 - r} = \frac{1}{1 - (e^x - 4)} = \frac{1}{5 - e^x}.$$

Power Series as Functions

If $\sum_{k=0}^{\infty} c_k (x - a)^k$ converges for $|x - a| < R$ (that is, $a - R < x < a + R$), then define

$$f(x) = \sum_{k=0}^{\infty} c_k (x - a)^k, \quad a - R < x < a + R$$

We can find $f'(x)$ and $\int f(x) dx$ as follows:

Term by Term

Differentiation and Integration

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

$$\begin{aligned} \text{(b)} \quad \int f(x) dx &= \sum_{k=0}^{\infty} \int c_k (x - a)^k dx \\ &= \sum_{k=0}^{\infty} \frac{c_k}{k+1} (x - a)^{k+1} + C \end{aligned}$$

Both have radius of convergence R and interval of convergence $|x - a| < R$.

Series Multiplication

If $\sum a_n x^n$ and $\sum b_n x^n$ converge absolutely for $|x| < R$ and

$$c_n = \sum_{k=0}^n a_k b_{n-k}$$

then

$$\left(\sum a_n x^n \right) \left(\sum b_n x^n \right) = \sum c_n x^n$$

which also converges for $|x| < R$.

Example 3

The series

$$e^x = 1 + x + \frac{x^2}{2!} + \frac{x^3}{3!} + \frac{x^4}{4!} + \frac{x^5}{5!} + \dots$$

converges to e^x for all x .

- (a) Find the series for $\frac{d}{dx}(e^x)$.
- (b) Find the series for $\int e^x dx$.
- (c) Find the series for e^{-x} .
- (d) Multiply the series for e^{-x} and e^x to find $e^{-x}e^x$.

Example 3 (continued)

Solution (a): $e^x = 1 + x + \frac{x^2}{2!} + \frac{x^3}{3!} + \frac{x^4}{4!} + \frac{x^5}{5!} + \dots = \sum_{k=0}^{\infty} \frac{x^k}{k!}$

$$\frac{d}{dx}(e^x) = \sum_{k=0}^{\infty} \frac{d}{dx} \left(\frac{x^k}{k!} \right)$$

$$= \sum_{k=0}^{\infty} k \frac{x^{k-1}}{k!}$$

$$= \sum_{k=1}^{\infty} \frac{x^{k-1}}{(k-1)!}$$

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

Example 3 (continued)

Solution (b): $e^x = \sum_{k=0}^{\infty} \frac{x^k}{k!}$

$$\int e^x dx = \sum_{k=0}^{\infty} \int \frac{x^k}{k!} dx$$
$$= \sum_{k=0}^{\infty} \frac{x^{k+1}}{(k+1) \cdot k!} + C$$

$$= \sum_{k=0}^{\infty} \frac{x^{k+1}}{(k+1)!} + C$$

$$= x + \frac{x^2}{2!} + \frac{x^3}{3!} + \frac{x^4}{4!} + \frac{x^5}{5!} + \dots$$
$$+ C$$

$$= -1 + 1 + x + \frac{x^2}{2!} + \frac{x^3}{3!}$$
$$+ \frac{x^4}{4!} + \frac{x^5}{5!} + \dots + C$$

$$= -1 + \sum_{k=0}^{\infty} \frac{x^k}{k!} + C$$

$$= \sum_{k=0}^{\infty} \frac{x^k}{k!} + C = e^x + C$$

Example 3 (continued)

Solution (c): $e^x = \sum_{k=0}^{\infty} \frac{x^k}{k!}$

$$e^{-x} = \sum_{k=0}^{\infty} \frac{(-x)^k}{k!} = \sum_{k=0}^{\infty} (-1)^k \frac{x^k}{k!}$$

Example 3 (continued)

Solution (d): $e^x = \sum_{k=0}^{\infty} \frac{x^k}{k!}$, $e^{-x} = \sum_{k=0}^{\infty} (-1)^k \frac{x^k}{k!}$

$$e^{-x} e^x = \left(\sum_{k=0}^{\infty} \frac{x^k}{k!} \right) \left(\sum_{k=0}^{\infty} (-1)^k \frac{x^k}{k!} \right) = \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} c_n x^n$$

where $a_k = \frac{1}{k!}$ and $b_k = \frac{(-1)^k}{k!}$ and
 $c_n = \sum_{k=0}^n a_k b_{n-k}$.

Example 3 (continued)

$$c_n = \sum_{k=0}^n a_k b_{n-k} = \sum_{k=0}^n \frac{1}{k!} \cdot \frac{(-1)^{n-k}}{(n-k)!} = \sum_{k=0}^n \frac{(-1)^{n-k}}{k! (n-k)!}$$

$$c_0 = \frac{(-1)^{0-0}}{0! (0-0)!} = 1$$

$$c_1 = \frac{(-1)^{1-0}}{0! (1-0)!} + \frac{(-1)^{1-1}}{1! (1-1)!} = -1 + 1 = 0$$

$$c_2 = \frac{(-1)^{2-0}}{0! (2-0)!} + \frac{(-1)^{2-1}}{1! (2-1)!} + \frac{(-1)^{2-2}}{2! (2-2)!} = \frac{1}{2} - 1 + \frac{1}{2} = 0$$

etc.

$$c_n = 0, \quad n \neq 0$$

Example 3 (continued)

$$e^{-x}e^x = \left(\sum_{k=0}^{\infty} \frac{x^k}{k!} \right) \left(\sum_{k=0}^{\infty} (-1)^k \frac{x^k}{k!} \right)$$

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

$$= 1 \cdot x^0 + 0 \cdot x^1 + 0 \cdot x^2 + 0 \cdot x^3 + \dots$$

$$= 1$$

Advice

Read the “Power Series” section in your textbook (including its exercises) – it will provide you with some excellent examples of how to identify a power series as a function by looking at either the derivative, the antiderivative of the series, or the product to two known series.



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