

Definition 8.5.1  
p. 592

A power series is a series of the form

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

↑ notice the bottom limit is 0 (NOT 1)

where  $x$  is a variable and the  $C_n$ 's are constant coefficients of the series.

Remarks:

- For each fixed  $x$ -value, the series

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

is a series of constants that we can test for convergence or divergence

- A power series may converge for some values of  $x$  and may diverge for other values of  $x$ .
- The sum of the series is a function

like a polynomial  
except it has infinite  
# of terms

$$f(x) = C_0 + C_1 x + C_2 x^2 + \dots + C_n x^n + \dots$$

whose domain is the set of all  $x \in \mathbb{R}$  for which

$$\sum_{n=0}^{\infty} C_n x^n \text{ converges.}$$

Example 8.5.0 p. 593

Consider the power series  $\sum_{n=0}^{\infty} x^n$  (where  $c_n = 1$ ).

To find the  $x$ -values for which this series converges,

we refer back to our derivation of results for the geometric series

$$\sum_{n=0}^{\infty} x^n = \lim_{N \rightarrow \infty} \sum_{n=0}^N x^n$$

$$= \lim_{N \rightarrow \infty} \frac{1 - x^{N+1}}{1 - x}$$

We see this limit exists and is finite iff  $|x| < 1 \Rightarrow -1 < x < 1$

$\Rightarrow$  The power series  $\sum_{n=0}^{\infty} x^n$   $\left\{ \begin{array}{l} \text{converges if } -1 < x < 1 \\ \text{diverges if } |x| \geq 1 \end{array} \right.$

Example 8.5.1 p. 593 A Power Series that converges at only one point

For what  $x \in \mathbb{R}$  does the series

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

converge?

Solution: We see the sequence of terms  $a_n = n! x^n$  involves both a factorial and a power. Thus, we'll try the ratio test.

To this end consider (when  $x \neq 0$ )

$$\begin{aligned} \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \left| \frac{a_{n+1}}{a_n} \right| &= \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \left| \frac{(n+1)! x^{n+1}}{n! x^n} \right| \\ &= \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} (n+1) |x| \rightarrow \infty \end{aligned}$$

Then, by the ratio test  $\sum_{n=0}^{\infty} n! x^n$  is divergent for  $x \neq 0$ .

On the other hand, if  $x = 0$ ,

$$\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} n! x^n = \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} 0 = 0 \quad \text{converges } \checkmark$$

Thus, the given series converges only for  $x = 0$ .  $\square$

Example 8.5.2 p. 593

For what values ~~does~~ of  $x$  does the series

$$\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{(x-3)^n}{n} \text{ converge?}$$

Solution: Consider the series given in this problem.

$$\text{Let } a_n = \frac{(x-3)^n}{n}.$$

□ What test might we use here?

$$\Rightarrow \left| \frac{a_{n+1}}{a_n} \right| = \left| \frac{(x-3)^{n+1}}{n+1} \cdot \frac{n}{(x-3)^n} \right|$$

$$= \frac{n}{n+1} \cdot |x-3|$$

$$= \frac{1}{1 + \frac{1}{n}} \cdot |x-3|$$

$$\Rightarrow \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \left| \frac{a_{n+1}}{a_n} \right| = \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{1}{1 + \frac{1}{n}} \cdot |x-3|$$

$$= |x-3|$$

By the ratio test, we know our series is ~~convergent~~ absolutely convergent (and thus convergent) iff  $|x-3| < 1$

$$\Rightarrow -1 < x-3 < 1$$

$$\Rightarrow 2 < x < 4$$

- We also know by the ratio test that our series diverges when  $|x-3| > 1$

$$\begin{aligned} \Rightarrow x-3 > 1 & \quad \text{or} \quad x-3 < -1 \\ \Rightarrow x > 4 & \quad \text{or} \quad x < 2 \end{aligned}$$

- we recall that the ratio test is inconclusive (gives no information) when  $|x-3|=1$ . Then, we consider  $x=2$  and  $x=4$  separately.

Case  $x=4$ :  $\sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \frac{(x-3)^n}{n} = \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \frac{(4-3)^n}{n} = \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \frac{1}{n}$  divergent

Case  $x=2$ :  $\sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \frac{(x-3)^n}{n} = \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \frac{(2-3)^n}{n}$   
 $= \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \frac{(-1)^n}{n}$  convergent.

Thus, the given series  $\sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \frac{(x-3)^n}{n}$  converges for  $2 \leq x < 4$ .

Definition 8.5.2 p. 593

A series in the form

$$\sum_{n=0}^{\infty} c_n (x-a)^n = c_0 + c_1(x-a) + c_2(x-a)^2 + \dots$$

is called • a power series in  $(x-a)$

- a power series centered at  $a$
- a power ~~series~~ <sup>series</sup> about  $a$

Remarks: • Writing out the term  $n=0$ , we adopt the convention that

$$(x-a)^0 = 1 \text{ even when } x=a.$$

- When  $x=a$ , all of the terms are 0 for  $n \geq 1$ , so the power series always converges when  $x=a$ .

Major idea: Power series provide an alternate (and useful) description of functions that arise in mathematics, chemistry & physics.

Example 8.5.3 p.594 A Bessel function (Related to Hw problem 8.5.28, 8.5.29, 8.5.30)

Find the domain of the Bessel function of order 0 defined by

$$J_0(x) = \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \frac{(-1)^n x^{2n}}{2^{2n} (n!)^2}$$

Solution: Let  $a_n = \frac{(-1)^n \cdot x^{2n}}{2^{2n} \cdot (n!)^2}$  be the sequence of terms.

Consider

$$\left| \frac{a_{n+1}}{a_n} \right| = \left| \frac{(-1)^{n+1} x^{2(n+1)}}{2^{2(n+1)} \cdot [(n+1)!]^2} \cdot \frac{2^{2n} \cdot (n!)^2}{(-1)^n x^{2n}} \right|$$

$$= \left| \frac{(-1)^n \cdot x^{2n+2} \cdot 2^{2n} \cdot (n!)^2}{x^{2n} \cdot 2^{2n+2} \cdot (n!(n+1))^2} \right|$$

$$= \frac{x^2}{4(n+1)^2}$$

Then, for any  $x \in \mathbb{R}$ , we see

$$\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \left| \frac{a_{n+1}}{a_n} \right| = \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{x^2}{4(n+1)^2} = 0 < 1$$

$$\Rightarrow \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \frac{(-1)^n \cdot x^{2n}}{2^{2n} (n!)^2} \text{ converges for all } x \in \mathbb{R}$$

$\Rightarrow$  The domain of  $J_0(x)$  is  $\mathbb{R} = (-\infty, \infty)$

Written Hw Hints:

$$J_0(x) = \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \frac{(-1)^n x^{2n}}{2^{2n} (n!)^2}$$

$$= \lim_{N \rightarrow \infty} \sum_{n=0}^N \frac{(-1)^n \cdot x^{2n}}{2^{2n} \cdot (n!)^2}$$

$$= \lim_{N \rightarrow \infty} S_N \quad \text{where} \quad S_N = \sum_{n=0}^N \frac{(-1)^n \cdot x^{2n}}{2^{2n} (n!)^2}$$

We can graph the first few terms of this sequence.



$$S_0(x) = \frac{(-1)^0 x^0}{2^0 \cdot (0!)^2} = \frac{1 \cdot 1}{1 \cdot 1} = 1 \quad \checkmark$$

$$S_1(x) = \sum_{n=0}^1 \frac{(-1)^n x^{2n}}{2^n \cdot (n!)^2}$$

$$= 1 + \frac{(-1)^1 \cdot x^2}{2^2 \cdot (1!)^2} =$$

$$= 1 - \frac{x^2}{4} \quad \checkmark$$

$$S_2(x) = \sum_{n=0}^2 \frac{(-1)^n \cdot x^{2n}}{2^{2n} \cdot (n!)^2}$$

$$= 1 - \frac{x^2}{4} + \frac{(-1)^2 \cdot x^4}{2^4 \cdot (2!)^2}$$

$$= 1 - \frac{x^2}{4} + \frac{x^4}{64}$$

$$S_3(x) = \sum_{n=0}^3 \frac{(-1)^n x^{2n}}{2^{2n} (n!)^2}$$

$$= 1 - \frac{x^2}{4} + \frac{x^4}{64} - \frac{x^6}{2304}$$

Theorem 8.5.3 p. 595

For a given power series  $\sum_{n=0}^{\infty} c_n (x-a)^n$ , there are only three possibilities

- i. The series converges only for  $x=a$
- ii. The series converges for all  $x \in \mathbb{R}$ .

Special case  $\rightarrow$  iii. There is a positive number  $R$  such that the series converges if

$$|x-a| < R$$

and diverges if

$$|x-a| > R$$

□ The number  $R$  in case (iii) is called the **radius of convergence** of the power series.

$$\left\{ \begin{array}{l} \text{in case i, } R=0 \quad (\text{by convention}) \\ \text{in case ii, } R=\infty \end{array} \right.$$

□ The **interval of convergence** of a power series is the interval that consists of all values of  $x$  for which the series converges.

## Interval of Convergence

Case (i):  $R=0 \Rightarrow$  The interval of convergence is a single point  $a$

Case (ii):  $R=\infty \Rightarrow$  The interval of convergence is all of  $\mathbb{R}$

Case (iii):  $R>0$  &  $R<\infty \Rightarrow$

$$|x-a| < R \Rightarrow -R < x-a < R$$

$$\Rightarrow a-R < x < a+R$$

$\Rightarrow$  Endpoints  $x = a \pm R$  are wildcards (anything can happen)

$\Rightarrow$  There are four possibilities for the interval of convergence

$$(a-R, a+R)$$

$$[a-R, a+R]$$

$$(a-R, a+R]$$

$$[a-R, a+R)$$

Let's summarize the radius of convergence and interval of convergence for each example so far

Series

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

Radius of convergence

$$R = 1$$

Interval of convergence

$$(-1, 1)$$

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

$$R = 0$$

$$\{0\}$$

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

$$R = 1$$

$$[2, 4)$$

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

$$R = +\infty$$

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

□ The Ratio Test can be ~~used~~ used to determine the radius of convergence  $R$  in most cases.

○ The Ratio Test fails when  $x$  is an endpoint of the interval of convergence, so endpoints must be checked w/ other tests.

Example 8.5.4 p. 596

Find the radius of convergence and interval of convergence of the series

$$\sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \frac{(-3)^n x^n}{\sqrt{n+1}}$$

Solution: Let  $a_n = \frac{(-3)^n \cdot x^n}{\sqrt{n+1}}$

$$\Rightarrow \left| \frac{a_{n+1}}{a_n} \right| = \left| \frac{(-3)^{n+1} x^{n+1}}{\sqrt{n+2}} \cdot \frac{\sqrt{n+1}}{(-3)^n \cdot x^n} \right|$$

$$= \left| -3x \cdot \frac{\sqrt{n+1}}{\sqrt{n+2}} \right|$$

$$= 3 \cdot |x| \cdot \frac{\sqrt{1+1/n}}{\sqrt{1+2/n}}$$

$$\Rightarrow \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \left| \frac{a_{n+1}}{a_n} \right| = 3|x|$$

$\Rightarrow$  Series converges if  $3 \cdot |x| < 1$

$$\Rightarrow -\frac{1}{3} < x < \frac{1}{3}$$

$$\Rightarrow R = 1/3$$

Now we test endpoints:

Case  $x = 1/3 \Rightarrow \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \frac{(-3)^n \cdot \left(\frac{1}{3}\right)^n}{\sqrt{n+1}} = \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \frac{(-1)^n}{\sqrt{n+1}}$  converges by Alt Series Test

Case  $x = -1/3 \Rightarrow \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \frac{(-3)^n \cdot \left(-\frac{1}{3}\right)^n}{\sqrt{n+1}} = \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \frac{1}{\sqrt{n+1}}$  diverges by p-series test

Then we see the interval of convergence is

$$\left\{ x \in \mathbb{R} : -\frac{1}{3} < x \leq \frac{1}{3} \right\} = \left(-\frac{1}{3}, \frac{1}{3}\right]$$

Example 8.5.5 p. 596-597

Find the Radius of Convergence and interval of convergence for series

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

Solution: Let  $a_n = \frac{n \cdot (x+2)^n}{3^{n+1}}$

$$\Rightarrow \left| \frac{a_{n+1}}{a_n} \right| = \left| \frac{(n+1) \cdot (x+2)^{n+1}}{3^{n+2}} \cdot \frac{3^{n+1}}{n \cdot (x+2)^n} \right|$$

$$= \left| \frac{n+1}{n} \cdot \frac{(x+2)}{3} \right|$$

$$= \left(1 + \frac{1}{n}\right) \cdot \frac{|x+2|}{3}$$

$$\Rightarrow \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \left| \frac{a_{n+1}}{a_n} \right| = \frac{|x+2|}{3}$$

$\Rightarrow$  series converges if  $\frac{|x+2|}{3} < 1$  by ratio test

$$\Rightarrow |x+2| < 3 \quad (R=3)$$

$$\Rightarrow -3 < x+2 < 3$$

$$\Rightarrow -5 < x < 1$$

$\Rightarrow R = 3$  and we want to check endpoints

Case  $x = -5$  : 
$$\sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \frac{n(-3)^n}{3^{n+1}} = \frac{1}{3} \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} n \cdot \frac{(-1)^n}{1^n}$$
 diverges by test for divergence

Case  $x = 1$  : 
$$\sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \frac{n(3)^n}{3^{n+1}} = \frac{1}{3} \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} n$$
 diverges by test for divergence

$\Rightarrow$  Interval of convergence is  $(-5, 1)$