

1. What are the possible intervals of convergence for a general power series  $\sum_{n=0}^{\infty} c_n(x-a)^n$ ?

[There are six possibilities depending on the radius of convergence.]

If the radius of convergence is  $R = 0$ , then the interval of convergence is a single point  $\{a\}$ . If the radius of convergence is  $R = \infty$ , then the interval of convergence is  $(-\infty, \infty)$ . If  $0 < R < \infty$  then the power series converges on one of the intervals

$$(a - R, a + R), (a - R, a + R], [a - R, a + R), [a - R, a + R].$$

2. Given a function  $f(x)$  that is infinitely differentiable at  $x = a$ , what is its Taylor series centered at  $a$ ? [I.e., how do the coefficients depend on  $f$ ?]

The Taylor series is

$$\sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \frac{f^{(n)}(a)}{n!} (x-a)^n.$$

If  $f$  can be expressed as a power series near  $x = a$ , then that power series must be the Taylor series.

3. [Memorization] What are the Taylor series for the following functions (centered at zero)?

(a)  $\sin x$

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

(b)  $\cos x$

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

(c)  $e^x$

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

(d)  $\frac{1}{1-x}$

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

(e)  $\ln(1+x)$

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

1. For this problem, let  $f(x) = (1+x)^{1/3}$

(a) Find  $f'(x)$ ,  $f''(x)$ , and  $f'''(x)$ .

We have

$$\begin{aligned} f'(x) &= \left(\frac{1}{3}\right) (1+x)^{-2/3} \\ f''(x) &= \left(\frac{1}{3}\right) \left(\frac{-2}{3}\right) (1+x)^{-5/3} \\ f'''(x) &= \left(\frac{1}{3}\right) \left(\frac{-2}{3}\right) \left(\frac{-5}{3}\right) (1+x)^{-8/3}. \end{aligned}$$

(b) What is the maximum  $M$  of  $|f'''(x)|$  on the interval  $[0, 1]$ ?

The function  $|f'''(x)| = \frac{10}{27(1+x)^{8/3}}$  is decreasing on the interval  $[0, 1]$  hence attains its maximum at  $x = 0$ ,  $|f'''(0)| = \frac{10}{27} = M$ .

(c) What is  $T_2(x)$ , the second degree Taylor polynomial for  $f$  centered at  $x = 0$ ?

The second degree Taylor polynomial is

$$T_2(x) = f(0) + f'(0)x + \frac{f''(0)}{2}x^2 = 1 + \frac{x}{3} - \frac{x^2}{9}.$$

(d) Use  $T_2(x)$  to estimate  $\sqrt[3]{2}$ .

$\sqrt[3]{2} = f(1)$  so we estimate using  $T_2(1) = 1 + 1/3 - 1/9 = 11/9$ .

(e) Bound the absolute value of the remainder  $R_2(1) = f(1) - T_2(1) = \sqrt[3]{2} - T_2(1)$  using Taylor's inequality and the bound  $M$  on  $|f'''(x)|$  you found above.

Taylor's inequality states that

$$|R_2(1)| \leq \frac{M}{3!} |1-0|^3 = \frac{5}{81}$$

so that

$$\frac{94}{81} \leq \sqrt[3]{2} \leq \frac{104}{81}.$$

2. (a) Find  $\lim_{x \rightarrow 0} \frac{1-x^2-e^{-x^2}}{x^4}$  (using a power series representation for  $e^{-x^2}$ ).

Since  $e^x = \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \frac{x^n}{n!}$  for all  $x \in \mathbb{R}$ , we have

$$e^{-x^2} = \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \frac{(-x^2)^n}{n!} = \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \frac{(-1)^n x^{2n}}{n!} = 1 - \frac{x^2}{1} + \frac{x^4}{2} - \frac{x^6}{6} + \dots$$

so that

$$\frac{1-x^2-e^{-x^2}}{x^4} = \frac{1}{x^4} \left( -\frac{x^4}{2} + \frac{x^6}{6} - \dots \right) = -\frac{1}{2} + \frac{x^2}{6} - \dots \rightarrow -\frac{1}{2}$$

as  $x \rightarrow 0$ .

(b) Find

$$\int_0^1 \frac{1 - x^2 - e^{-x^2}}{x^4} dx$$

by integrating a power series term-by-term (your answer will be an infinite series).

We have

$$\int \frac{1 - x^2 - e^{-x^2}}{x^4} dx = C + \sum_{n=2}^{\infty} \frac{(-1)^{n+1}}{(2n-3)n!} x^{2n-3},$$

so that

$$\int_0^1 \frac{1 - x^2 - e^{-x^2}}{x^4} dx = \sum_{n=2}^{\infty} \frac{(-1)^{n+1}}{(2n-3)n!} = -\frac{1}{2} + \frac{1}{18} - \frac{1}{120} + \frac{1}{840} - \dots$$

3. Find the interval of convergence of the power series  $\sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \frac{(-2)^n n}{\sqrt{n^3 + 1}} (x - 1)^n$

The radius of convergence  $R$  is determined by

$$\frac{1}{R} = \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{(n+1)2^{n+1}/\sqrt{(n+1)^3 + 1}}{n2^n/\sqrt{n^3 + 1}} = \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} 2 \frac{n+1}{n} \sqrt{\frac{n^3 + 1}{(n+1)^3 + 1}} = 2$$

so that  $R = 1/2$ . So the power series converges on  $(1 - 1/2, 1 + 1/2)$  by the ratio test, but we must check convergence at the endpoints  $x = 1/2, 3/2$ . At  $x = 1/2$  the power series evaluates to

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

which diverges by limit comparison to  $\sum_n \frac{1}{\sqrt{n}}$ . At  $x = 3/2$  the series is

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

which converges by the alternating series test (note that the derivative of  $x/\sqrt{x^3 + 1}$  is  $\frac{2-x^3}{2(x^3+1)^{3/2}}$  which is negative for  $x > \sqrt[3]{2}$ , so the absolute value of the terms of the series are decreasing to 0). Hence the interval of convergence is  $(1/2, 3/2]$ .