

11.9 power series tricks

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Before we discuss how to represent functions by power series, we explore a wide family of function representations that directly follow from manipulating the summation formula for geometric series

First: $\frac{a}{1-r} = \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} ar^{n-1} = \sum_{m=0}^{\infty} ar^m = \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} ar^n$

reorder by power $\left\{ \begin{array}{l} m=n-1 \\ n=m+1 \\ n=1 \rightarrow m=0 \end{array} \right.$ ↑ dummy index ↑ change back

We already used this as an example

$a=1, r=x: \frac{1}{1-x} = \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} x^n = 1+x+x^2+x^3+\dots$

But we can make other substitutions which still result in a power series $\sum_{n=0}^{\infty} C_n x^n$.

1) Substitution algebra tricks

set $a = AX^q, q \geq 0$ integer
 $r = BX^p, p \geq 1$ integer
 $\hookrightarrow |BX^p| < 1$ convergence
 $\hookrightarrow |X| < |B|^{-1/p} = R$

$$\frac{a}{1-r} = \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} AX^q (BX^p)^n = \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} AB^n X^{pn+q}$$

$m = pn+q$
reorder

If start with $\frac{AX^q}{c + bX^p} = \frac{AX^q}{c(1 + \frac{b}{c}X^p)} = \frac{AX^q}{c(1 - (-\frac{b}{c})X^p)}$ finish with upper formula.

$\frac{AX^q}{1-BX^p}$ not necessary

2) We can include differentiation / integration term by term with the above algebra steps before, after, or during!

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

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

factors of $n, n+1$
change limiting p-series
factor comparison

factors don't change abs. conv ratio test
same radius of convergence but endpoint convergence can change

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Examples show how all this is carried out.

example

$$\frac{1}{1+x^2} = \frac{1}{1 - \underbrace{(-x^2)}} = \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} (-x^2)^n = \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} (-1)^n x^{2n} \quad \text{even series}$$

even function

if $| -x^2 | < 1 \rightarrow |x| < 1$
diverges when $x = \pm 1 : \frac{1}{1+1} \neq \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} (-1)^n = 1 - 1 + 1 - 1 + \dots$

integration

Next recall:

$$\int \frac{dx}{1+x^2} = \arctan x + C \quad \left[\text{or } \arctan x = \int_0^x \frac{dt}{1+t^2} \right]$$

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

$$= \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} (-1)^n \frac{x^{2n+1}}{2n+1} + C_2 = \arctan x + C$$

but $\arctan(0) = 0$

$= 0$ at $x=0$ so $C_2 = C$

$\arctan x, |x| < 1$
(odd function)
(= odd series)

endpoints: $x^2 = 1: x^{2n+1} = x^{2n}x = x$

$$\sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \frac{(-1)^n (\pm 1)}{2n+1} = \arctan(\pm 1) = \frac{\pi}{2}, -\frac{\pi}{2}$$

$\sim \frac{(-1)^n}{2n}$ alternating harmonic series converges at endpoints

(integration can improve convergence at endpoints!)

differentiation

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$$\frac{d}{dx} \left[\frac{1}{1+x^2} = \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} (-1)^n x^{2n} \right], \quad |x| < 1$$

$$(1+x^2)^{-1}$$

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

\downarrow
 $n=1$

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

odd function

$n=1 \rightarrow 1$ starting value
 \downarrow
 $2m+1 \leftarrow m=0$
 $2n-1 = 2m+1$
 $2n = 2m+2$
 $n = m+1$
 $n+1 = m+2$
 \uparrow useless

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

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

odd series. $|x| < 1$

$|x|=1$: $\sum_{m=0}^{\infty} (-1)^m (m+1) (\pm 1)$
 $x = \pm 1$ divergent!

worse than divergent series for original function $\pm (1-1+1-1\dots)$

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

example

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

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

$$\ln(x+1) + C_1 = \left(\sum_{n=0}^{\infty} (-1)^n \frac{x^{n+1}}{n+1} \right) + C_2 = \sum_{m=1}^{\infty} (-1)^{m-1} \frac{x^m}{m} + C_2$$

$$0 = \ln(0)+1 + C_1 = 0 + C_2$$

$C_1 = C_2$

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

$m=n+1$
 $n=m-1$
 $n=0 \rightarrow m=1$

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Example 1.9.13

Goal: powerseries for $\frac{x^2}{(7+x)^3}$ from $\frac{1}{1-x}$

How to proceed step by step:

$$\frac{1}{7+x} \xrightarrow[\frac{d^2}{dx^2}]{(1)} \frac{1}{(7+x)^3} \rightarrow x^2 \left(\frac{1}{(7+x)^3} \right)$$

(divide out constants)

(algebra preslep)

$$\frac{1}{7+x} = \frac{1}{7(1+\frac{x}{7})} = \frac{1}{7(1-(-\frac{x}{7}))} = \frac{1}{7} \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \left(-\frac{x}{7}\right)^n$$

$$\frac{1}{(7+x)^{-1}}$$

$$(1) \downarrow \frac{d}{dx} \quad - (7+x)^{-2} = \frac{1}{7} \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \left(-\frac{1}{7}\right)^n \frac{d}{dx} x^n$$

$$\frac{1}{(7+x)^2} = \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \left(-\frac{1}{7}\right)^{n+1} n x^{n-1}$$

$$\downarrow \frac{d}{dx} \quad -2(7+x)^{-3} = \sum_{n=2}^{\infty} \left(-\frac{1}{7}\right)^{n+1} n(n-1) x^{n-2}$$

$$\frac{1}{(7+x)^3} = \sum_{n=2}^{\infty} \left(-\frac{1}{7}\right) \left(-\frac{1}{7}\right)^{n+1} n(n-1) x^{n-2}$$

$$(2) \downarrow \times x^2$$

$$\frac{x^2}{(7+x)^3} = \sum_{n=2}^{\infty} \left(-\frac{1}{7}\right) \left(-\frac{1}{7}\right)^{n+1} n(n-1) x^{n-2+2}$$

$$= \sum_{n=2}^{\infty} (-1)^n \frac{n(n-1)}{2 \cdot 7^{n+1}} x^n$$