

Theorem 24 Let $\sum_{k=0}^{\infty} a_k (x-x_0)^k$ be a power series.

We set
$$R := \frac{1}{\limsup_{k \rightarrow \infty} \sqrt[k]{|a_k|}},$$

where we interpret $\frac{1}{\infty}$ as 0 , and $\frac{1}{0}$ as ∞ (i.e. $R \in [0, \infty) \cup \{\infty\}$).

If $R = \infty$, then the power series is absolutely convergent for every $x \in \mathbb{R}$.

If $R \in (0, \infty)$, then the power series is

$$\begin{cases} \text{absolutely convergent} & \text{if } |x-x_0| < R \\ \text{divergent} & \text{if } |x-x_0| > R. \end{cases}$$

Proof. We apply the root test. If $R = \infty$,

i.e. $\limsup_{k \rightarrow \infty} \sqrt[k]{|a_k|} = 0$, we have

$$\limsup_{k \rightarrow \infty} \sqrt[k]{|a_k| |x-x_0|^k} = \limsup_{k \rightarrow \infty} \sqrt[k]{|a_k|} \cdot |x-x_0| = 0 < 1,$$

so the power series is abs. convergent for every $x \in \mathbb{R}$.

If $R \in (0, \infty)$, i.e. $\limsup_{k \rightarrow \infty} \sqrt[k]{|a_k|} \in (0, \infty)$,

then we have

$$\limsup_{k \rightarrow \infty} \sqrt[k]{|a_k| |x-x_0|^k} = \frac{1}{R} |x-x_0|$$

$$\begin{cases} < 1 & \text{if } |x-x_0| < R \Rightarrow \text{abs. convergence} \\ > 1 & \text{if } |x-x_0| > R \Rightarrow \text{divergence} \end{cases} \quad \square$$

Definition. The number R in Thm 24 is called the radius of convergence of the power series $\sum_{n=0}^{\infty} a_n (x-x_0)^n$.

Remarks. i) In the case $R = 0$ the power series only converges at $x = x_0$. For example, the series $\sum_{n=0}^{\infty} n^n x^n$ has radius of convergence 0.

ii) In the case $R \in (0, \infty)$ the power series is absolutely convergent inside the "disc"

$$U_R(x_0) \quad \begin{array}{c} \text{---|---|---} \\ x_0 - R \quad x_0 \quad x_0 + R \end{array})$$

and divergent for all $x \in (-\infty, x_0 - R) \cup (x_0 + R, \infty)$.

For the boundary points with $|x - x_0| = R$ there is no general statement on convergence.

iii) An alternative way to compute the radius of convergence of a power series $\sum_{n=0}^{\infty} a_n (x-x_0)^n$ is using the ratio test, if possible:

If $a_n \neq 0$ for $n \geq N$ ($N \in \mathbb{N}$ fixed) and if

$\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \left| \frac{a_n}{a_{n+1}} \right|$ exists or is ∞ , then for

the radius of convergence R we have

$$R = \frac{1}{\limsup_{n \rightarrow \infty} \sqrt[n]{|a_n|}} = \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \left| \frac{a_n}{a_{n+1}} \right|.$$

It follows, by the way, that for every sequence $(a_n)_{n=0}^{\infty}$ such that $\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \left| \frac{a_{n+1}}{a_n} \right|$

exists or is ∞ , we have

$$\limsup_{n \rightarrow \infty} \sqrt[n]{|a_n|} = \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \left| \frac{a_{n+1}}{a_n} \right|.$$

Examples. i) For $\sum_{m=0}^{\infty} x^m$, i.e. $a_m = 1, m \geq 0$,

we have $R = \frac{1}{\limsup_{n \rightarrow \infty} \sqrt[n]{|a_n|}} = 1.$

ii) For $\sum_{m=0}^{\infty} \frac{x^m}{m!}$, i.e. $a_m = \frac{1}{m!}, m \geq 0$,

we have $\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \left| \frac{a_n}{a_{n+1}} \right| = \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{\frac{1}{n!}}{\frac{1}{(n+1)!}}$

$$= \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{(n+1)!}{n!} = \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} (n+1) = \infty,$$

so the series $\sum_{m=0}^{\infty} \frac{x^m}{m!}$ is absolutely convergent

for every $x \in \mathbb{R}$.

iii) For $\sum_{m=1}^{\infty} \frac{(-1)^{m+1}}{m} x^m$, i.e. $a_m = \frac{(-1)^{m+1}}{m}$ for $m \geq 1$

and $a_0 = 0$, we have

$$\limsup_{n \rightarrow \infty} \sqrt[n]{|a_n|} = \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{1}{\sqrt[n]{n}} = 1, \text{ so}$$

The series converges absolutely for $|x| < 1$.

iv) The power series $\sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \frac{(-1)^n}{(2n)!} x^{2n}$ and $\sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \frac{(-1)^n}{(2n+1)!} x^{2n+1}$ both are absolutely convergent for all $x \in \mathbb{R}$.

Next we study important functions.

Theorem 25 For every $x \in \mathbb{R}$ we have

$$\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \left(1 + \frac{x}{n}\right)^n = \sum_{k=0}^{\infty} \frac{x^k}{k!}.$$

Proof. As $\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \sum_{k=0}^m \frac{x^k}{k!} = \sum_{k=0}^{\infty} \frac{x^k}{k!}$, it is

sufficient to show $\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \left\{ \left(1 + \frac{x}{n}\right)^n - \sum_{k=0}^m \frac{x^k}{k!} \right\} = 0$.

For $n \geq 0$ we have

$$\left| \sum_{k=0}^m \frac{x^k}{k!} - \left(1 + \frac{x}{n}\right)^n \right| \stackrel{\text{Binom.}}{=} \left| \sum_{k=0}^m \left(\frac{x^k}{k!} - \binom{n}{k} \frac{x^k}{n^k} \right) \right|$$

$$\leq \sum_{k=2}^m \frac{|x|^k}{k!} \left(1 - \frac{n(n-1)\dots(n-k+1)}{n^k} \right)$$

$$\leq 1 - \frac{(n-k+1)^k}{n^k} = 1 - \left(1 - \frac{k-1}{n}\right)^k$$

$$\stackrel{\text{Bernoulli}}{\leq} 1 - \left(1 - \frac{k(k-1)}{n}\right) = \frac{k(k-1)}{n}$$

$$\leq \sum_{k=2}^n \frac{|x|^k}{k!} \frac{k(k-1)}{n} = \frac{1}{n} \sum_{k=2}^n \frac{|x|^k}{(k-2)!}$$

$$\leq \frac{|x|^2}{n} \sum_{k=0}^{\infty} \frac{|x|^k}{k!} \rightarrow 0, n \rightarrow \infty$$

□

Definition. The exponential function

$\exp: \mathbb{R} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ is defined by

$$\exp(x) := \sum_{k=0}^{\infty} \frac{x^k}{k!}.$$

The series is called exponential series.

Instead of $\exp(x)$ we also write e^x .

Theorem 26. For all $x, y \in \mathbb{R}$ we have

i) $e^{x+y} = e^x e^y$ "functional equation"

ii) $e^x > 0$, $e^{-x} = \frac{1}{e^x}$,

iii) $e^x \gg 1+x$, $e^x \leq \frac{1}{1-x}$ if $x < 1$,

iv) \exp is strictly increasing on \mathbb{R} , i.e.,

$$e^x < e^y \text{ if } x < y,$$

v) If $(x_n)_{n=0}^{\infty}$ is a sequence with $\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} x_n = x$,

$$\text{then } \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} e^{x_n} = e^x.$$

vi) $\exp: \mathbb{R} \rightarrow (0, \infty)$ is bijective.

Proof. i) We have for $x, y \in \mathbb{R}$

$$\begin{aligned} e^x e^y &= \left(\sum_{k=0}^{\infty} \frac{x^k}{k!} \right) \left(\sum_{k=0}^{\infty} \frac{y^k}{k!} \right) \stackrel{\text{Thm 22}}{=} \sum_{k=0}^{\infty} \left(\sum_{j=0}^k \frac{x^j y^{k-j}}{j! (k-j)!} \right) \\ &= \sum_{k=0}^{\infty} \frac{1}{k!} \left(\sum_{j=0}^k \binom{k}{j} x^j y^{k-j} \right) = \sum_{k=0}^{\infty} \frac{(x+y)^k}{k!} = e^{x+y}. \end{aligned}$$

ii) We have for $x \in \mathbb{R}$: $1 = e^0 = e^{x-x} \stackrel{i)}{=} e^x e^{-x}$

$$\Rightarrow e^{-x} = \frac{1}{e^x}.$$

Moreover, for $x \geq 0$: $e^x = \sum_{k=0}^{\infty} \frac{x^k}{k!} \geq 1 > 0$

and for $x < 0$: $e^x = \frac{1}{e^{-x}} > 0$.

iii) We know for $x \geq -1$ and $n \in \mathbb{N}$

$$\left(1 + \frac{x}{n}\right)^n \geq 1+x \stackrel{\text{Bernoulli}}{\Rightarrow} e^x = \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \left(1 + \frac{x}{n}\right)^n \geq 1+x,$$

and for $x < -1$: $e^x > 0 > 1+x$.

Moreover, for $x < 1$, we have

$$e^{-x} \geq 1-x > 0 \Rightarrow e^x \leq \frac{1}{1-x}.$$

iv) For $x < y$ we have

$$e^{y-x} \stackrel{iii)}{\geq} 1+y-x > 1 \Rightarrow e^y > e^x.$$

v) If $x_n \rightarrow x$, then we know

$$\exists N \in \mathbb{N} \forall n \geq N: x_n - x < 1.$$

$$\begin{aligned} \Rightarrow \forall n \geq N: e^{x_n} &= e^{x_n - x + x} \stackrel{i)}{=} e^{x_n - x} e^x \\ &\stackrel{iii)}{\leq} e^x \frac{1}{1 - (x_n - x)} \rightarrow e^x, n \rightarrow \infty, \end{aligned}$$

$$\text{and } e^{x_n} = e^x e^{x_n - x} \stackrel{iii)}{\geq} e^x (1 + x_n - x) \rightarrow e^x, n \rightarrow \infty.$$

$$\Rightarrow (\text{Squeeze theorem}) \quad e^{x_n} \rightarrow e^x, n \rightarrow \infty.$$

vi) The injectivity follows from part iv),

so we only need to prove the surjectivity,

$$\text{i.e. } \forall y \in (0, \infty) \exists x \in \mathbb{R}: e^x = y.$$

Let $y \in (0, \infty)$. We set $S := \{z \in \mathbb{R}: e^z \leq y\}$.

It follows from iii) that $\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} e^{-n} = 0$,

so $S \neq \emptyset$. Moreover, for every $z \in S$

$$y \geq e^z \geq 1 + z \Rightarrow z \leq y - 1,$$

so S is bounded above.

Hence, $\sup S \in \mathbb{R}$. We define $x := \sup S$,

and we show $e^x = y$.

To this end, we observe that

$\exists x_m \rightarrow x$ with $x_m \in S'$ for all $m \geq 1$.

$$\Rightarrow e^x = \lim_{m \rightarrow \infty} e^{x_m} \leq y.$$

v), Thm 4

Assume. $e^x < y \Rightarrow 1 < e^{-x} y$

We know from iv) and v) that $1 < e^{\frac{1}{m}}$ for all $m \geq 1$ and $e^{\frac{1}{m}} \rightarrow e^0 = 1, m \rightarrow \infty$

$$\Rightarrow \exists N \in \mathbb{N} \forall m \geq N \quad 1 < e^{\frac{1}{m}} < y e^{-x}$$

$\Rightarrow \forall m \geq N \quad e^{x + \frac{1}{m}} < y$, which is a contradiction to $x = \sup S'$.

Hence, we have $e^x = y$. □

Definition. The inverse function of $\exp: \mathbb{R} \rightarrow (0, \infty)$ is called (natural) logarithm and we denote it by $\log: (0, \infty) \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$.

Remark. For $x \in \mathbb{R}$ we have $\log(e^x) = x$, and for $x > 0$ we have $e^{\log x} = x$.

Theorem 27. We have for $x, y > 0$

$$i) \log(xy) = \log x + \log y \quad \text{"functional equation"}$$

ii) \log is strictly increasing on $(0, \infty)$, i.e.,
 $\log(x) < \log(y)$ if $x < y$.

Proof i) We show $e^{\log(xy)} = e^{\log x + \log y}$:

$$e^{\log x + \log y} \stackrel{\text{Thm 26}}{=} e^{\log x} e^{\log y} = xy = e^{\log(xy)}.$$

ii) Let $0 < x < y \stackrel{\text{Thm 26}}{\Rightarrow} \exists a, b \in \mathbb{R}$ such that
 $a < b$ and $x = e^a, y = e^b$.

$$\Rightarrow \log x = \log(e^a) = a < b = \log(e^b) = \log y. \quad \square$$

Next we define general powers.

Let $a > 0$ and $m \in \mathbb{N}$, then

$$a^m = \underbrace{a \cdot a \cdots a}_{m \text{ times}} = e^{\log a} \cdot e^{\log a} \cdots e^{\log a} \stackrel{\text{Thm 26}}{=} e^{m \log a}.$$

Definition For $a > 0$ and $x \in \mathbb{R}$ we define

$$a^x := e^{x \log a},$$

where a is the base and x is the
power or the exponent.

Moreover, the logarithm with base a is defined by

$$\log_a x := \frac{\log x}{\log a}, \quad \text{for } a > 0, a \neq 1 \text{ and } x > 0.$$

Remark. The natural logarithm is the logarithm with base e , and as $\log x$ is the inverse function of e^x , $\log_a x$ is the inverse function of a^x .

Theorem 28. For $a, b > 0$ and $x, y \in \mathbb{R}$ we have

$$i) a^x a^y = a^{x+y}$$

$$ii) (a^x)^y = a^{xy}$$

$$iii) a^x b^x = (ab)^x$$

iv) If $a > 1$, then we have

$$x < y \Rightarrow a^x < a^y,$$

and if $a < 1$, then we have

$$x < y \Rightarrow a^x > a^y.$$

Proof Follows immediately from Thm 26, Thm 27 and the definition of general powers. \square