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Chapter 10: Power Series

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Contents

10.1 Approximating Functions with Polynomials

Taylor Polynomials

Let f be a function with $f', f'', \ldots, f^{(n)}$ defined at a. The n**th-order Taylor polynomial** for f with its **center** at a, denoted p_n, has the property that it matches f in value, slope, and all derivatives up to the nth derivative at a; that is,

$$p_n(a) = f(a), p_n'(a) = f'(a), \ldots, p_n^{(n)}(a) = f^{(n)}(a). \tag{1}$$

The nth-order Taylor polynomial centered at a is

$$p_n(x) = f(a) + f'(a)(x-a) + \frac{f''(a)}{2!}(x-a)^2 + \cdots + \frac{f^{(n)}(a)}{n!}(x-a)^n. \tag{2}$$

More compactly, $p_n(x) = \sum_{k=0}^{n} c_k(x-a)^k$, where the **coefficients** are

$$c_k = \frac{f^{(k)}(a)}{k!}, \qquad \text{for } k = 0, 1, 2, \ldots, n \tag{3}$$

Remainder in a Taylor Polynomial

Let p_n be the Taylor polynomial of order n for f. The **remainder** in using p_n to approximate f at the point x is

$$R_n(x) = f(x) - p_n(x) \tag{4}$$

Taylor's Theorem

Let f have continuous derivatives up to $f^{(n+1)}$ on an open interval I containing a. For all x in I,

$$f(x) = p_n(x) + R_n(x), \tag{5}$$

where p_n is the nth-order Taylor polynomial for f centered at a, and the remainder is

$$R_n(x) = \frac{f^{(n+1)}(c)}{(n+1)!}(x-a)^{(n+1)}, \tag{6}$$

for some point c between x and a.

Estimate of the Remainder

Let n be a fixed positive integer. Suppose there exists a number M such that $|f^{(n+1)}(c)| \leq M$, for all c between a and x inclusive. The remainder in the nth-order Taylor polynomial for f centered at a satisfies

$$|R_n(x)| = |f(x) - p_n(x)| \leq M \frac{|x-a|^{n+1}}{(n+1)!} \tag{7}$$

10.2 Properties of Power Series

Power Series

A **power series** has the general form

$$\sum_{k=0}^{\infty} c_k (x-a)^k \tag{8}$$

where a and c_k are real numbers, and x is a variable. The c_k's are the **coefficients** of the power series and a is the **center** of the power series. The set of values of x for which the series converges is its **interval of convergence**. The **radius of convergence** of the power series, denoted R, is the distance from the center of the series to the boundary of the interval of convergence.

Convergence of Power Series

A power series $\sum_{k=0}^{\infty} c_k (x-a)^k$ centered at a converges in one of three ways:

1. The series converges absolutely for all x, in which case the interval of convergence is $(-\infty, \infty)$ and the radius of convergence is $R = \infty$.

2. There is a real number $R > 0$ such that the series converges absolutely for $|x-a| < R$ and diverges for $|x-a| > R$, in which case the radius of convergence is $R = 0$.

3. The series converges only at a, in which case the radius of convergence is $R = 0$.

Combining Power Series

Suppose the power series $\sum c_k x^k$ and $\sum d_k x^k$ converge absolutely to $f(x)$ and $g(x)$, respectively, on an interval I.

1. **Sum and difference:** The power series $\sum (c_k \pm d_k) x^k$ converges absolutely to $f(x) \pm g(x)$ on I.

2. **Multiplication by a power:** The power series $x^m \sum c_k x^k = \sum c_k x^{k+m}$ converges absolutely to $x^m f(x)$ on I, provided m is an integer such that $k + m \geq 0$ for all terms of the series.

3. **Composition:** If $h(x) = bx^m$, where m is a positive integer and b is a real number, the power series $\sum c_k(h(x))^k$ converges absolutely to the composite function $f(h(x))$, for all x such that $h(x)$ is in I.

Differentiating and Integrating Power Series

Let the function f be defined by the power series $\sum c_k(x-a)^k$ on its interval of convergence I.

- f is a continuous function on I.
- The power series may be differentiated or integrated term by term, and the resulting power series converges to $f'(x)$ or $\int f(x)\ dx\ +\ C$, respectively, at all points in the interior of I, where C is an arbitrary constant.

10.3 Taylor Series

Taylor/Maclaurin Series for a Function

Suppose the function f has derivatives of all orders on an interval containing the point a. The **Taylor series for f centered at a** is

$$
\begin{aligned}
f(a) + f'(a)(x-a) + \frac{f''(a)}{2!}(x-a)^2 + \frac{f^{(3)}(a)}{3!}(x-a)^3 + \cdots \qquad (9) \\
= \sum_{k=0}^{\infty} \frac{f^{(k)}(a)}{k!}(x-a)^k. \qquad (10)
\end{aligned}
$$

A Taylor series centered at 0 is called a **Maclaurin series**.

Binomial Coefficients

$\forall p, k \in \mathbb{R} \wedge k \geq 1$

$$
\binom{p}{k} = \frac{p(p-1)(p-2)\cdots(p-k+1)}{k!}. \qquad (11)
$$

With the special case of $\binom{p}{0} = 1$.

Binomial Series

$\forall p \in \mathbb{R} \wedge p \neq 0$, the Taylor series for $f(x) = (1+x)^p$ centered at 0 is the **binomial series**

$$
\begin{aligned}
\sum_{k=0}^{\infty} x^k = \sum_{k=0}^{\infty} \frac{p(p-1)(p-2)\cdots(p-k+1)}{k!} x^k \qquad (12) \\
= 1 + px + \frac{p(p-1)(p-2)}{3!}x^3 + \cdots \qquad (13)
\end{aligned}
$$

The series converges for $|x| < 1$ (and possibly at the endpoints, depending on p). If p is a nonnegative integer, the series terminates and results in a polynomial of degree p.

Convergence of Taylor Series

Let f have derivatives of all orders on an open interval I containing a. The Taylor series for f centered at a converges to f , for all x in I, if and only if $\lim_{n\to\infty} R_n(x) = 0$, for all x in I, where

$$R_n(x) = \frac{f^{(n+1)}(c)}{(n+1)!}(x-a)^{n+1} \tag{14}$$

is the remainder at x (with c between x and a).

Taylor Series Functions