

proof of Abel's limit theorem

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Without loss of generality we may assume r=1, because otherwise we can set $a'_n:=a^n_r$, so that $\sum a'_nx^n$ has radius 1 and $\sum a'$ is convergent if and only if $\sum a_nr^n$ is. We now have to show that the function f(x) generated by $\sum a_nx^n$ (with r=1) is continuous from below at x=1 if it is defined there. Let $s:=\sum a_n$. We have to show that

$$\lim_{x \to 1^{-}} f(x) = s.$$

If |x| < 1 we have:

$$s - f(x) = \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} a_n - \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} a_n x^n$$

$$= \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} (1 - x^n) a_n$$

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

$$= (1 - x) \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} (s - s_n) x^n$$

with $s_n := \sum_{i=0}^n a_i$. Now, since $s - s_n \to 0$ as $n \to \infty$ we can choose an N for every $\varepsilon > 0$ such that $|s - s_n| < \frac{\varepsilon}{2}$ for all m > N. So for every 0 < x < 1 we have:

$$|s - f(x)| < (1 - x) \sum_{n=0}^{m} |r_n| x^n + \frac{\varepsilon}{2} (1 - x) \sum_{n=m+1}^{\infty} x^n$$

$$< (1 - x) \sum_{n=0}^{m} |r_n| + \frac{\varepsilon}{2}.$$

This is smaller than ε for all x < 1 sufficiently close to 1, which proves

$$\lim_{x \to r^{-}} \sum a_n x^n = \sum a_n r^n = \sum \lim_{x \to r^{-}} a_n x^n.$$