

Calculus MA1002-B Quiz 04

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學號：_____ 姓名：_____

Problem 1. (3pts) Find the interval of convergence of the power series $\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{(x+1)^n}{n2^n}$.

Solution. Since $\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{1/(n2^n)}{1/[(n+1)2^{n+1}]} = 2$, we find that the radius of convergence of the power series $\sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \frac{(x+1)^n}{n2^n}$ is 2. Consider the convergence of the given power series at the end-points $-1-2 = -3$ and $-1+2 = 1$.

1. Since a p -series converges if and only if $p > 1$, we find that $\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{(1+1)^n}{n2^n} = \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{1}{n}$ diverges.
2. On the other hand, since $\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{(-3+1)^n}{n2^n} = \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{(-1)^n}{n}$ is an alternating series and $\frac{1}{n} \rightarrow 0$ as $n \rightarrow \infty$, we find that $\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{(-3+1)^n}{n2^n}$ converges.

Therefore, the interval of convergence is $[-2, 0)$. □

Problem 2. (3pts) Show that the power series $y = \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \frac{(-1)^n x^{2n}}{2^{2n}(n!)^2}$ satisfies the differential equation

$$x^2 y''(x) + xy'(x) + x^2 y(x) = 0.$$

Proof. By the differentiation of power series,

$$y'(x) = \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \frac{(-1)^n (2n) x^{2n-1}}{2^{2n}(n!)^2}, \quad y''(x) = \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \frac{(-1)^n (2n)(2n-1) x^{2n-2}}{2^{2n}(n!)^2};$$

thus

$$\begin{aligned} x^2 y''(x) + xy'(x) + x^2 y(x) &= \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \frac{(-1)^n (2n)(2n-1) x^{2n}}{2^{2n}(n!)^2} + \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \frac{(-1)^n (2n) x^{2n}}{2^{2n}(n!)^2} + \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \frac{(-1)^n x^{2n+2}}{2^{2n}(n!)^2} \\ &= \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{(-1)^n (2n)(2n-1) x^{2n}}{2^{2n}(n!)^2} + \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{(-1)^n (2n) x^{2n}}{2^{2n}(n!)^2} + \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{(-1)^{n+1} x^{2n}}{2^{2(n-1)} [(n-1)!]^2} \\ &= \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{2n(2n-1) + 2n - 4n^2}{2^{2n}(n!)^2} (-1)^n x^{2n} = 0. \end{aligned} \quad \square$$

Problem 3. (4pts) Find the power series $x(t) = \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} a_n t^n$ that satisfies

$$x''(t) - x(t) = 0, \quad x(0) = 0, \quad x'(0) = 1.$$

Solution. By the differentiation of power series,

$$x'(t) = \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} n a_n t^{n-1} = \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} (n+1) a_{n+1} t^n, \quad x''(t) = \sum_{n=2}^{\infty} n(n-1) a_n t^{n-2} = \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} (n+2)(n+1) a_{n+2} t^n;$$

thus if x satisfies the differential equation $x''(t) - x(t) = 0$, we must have

$$\sum_{n=0}^{\infty} [(n+2)(n+1) a_{n+2} - a_n] t^n = 0.$$

Therefore, $(n+2)(n+1)a_{n+2} = a_n$ for all $n \in \mathbb{N} \cup \{0\}$; thus $a_{n+2} = \frac{a_n}{(n+2)(n+1)}$ for all $n \in \mathbb{N} \cup \{0\}$.

Note that $x(0) = 0$ and $x'(0) = 1$ imply that $a_0 = 0$ and $a_1 = 1$. Therefore, $a_2 = a_4 = a_6 = \dots = a_{2n} = \dots = 0$ for all $n \in \mathbb{N}$, and

$$a_{2n+1} = \frac{a_{2n-1}}{(2n+1)(2n)} = \frac{a_{2n-3}}{(2n+1)(2n)(2n-1)(2n-2)} = \frac{1}{(2n+1)!} \quad \forall n \in \mathbb{N} \cup \{0\}.$$

As a consequence, $x(t) = \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \frac{t^{2n+1}}{(2n+1)!} = \frac{e^t - e^{-t}}{2}$. □