

**Practice Exam 3. Solutions.**

*No calculators. Show your work. Clearly mark each answer.*

1. Find the radii and the intervals of convergence of the following power series.

(a)

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

**Solution.** Using the n-Root Test we have

$$\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \sqrt[n]{|a_n|} = \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{|x-1|}{2 \sqrt[n]{n}} = \frac{|x-1|}{2},$$

since  $\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \sqrt[n]{n} = 1$ . Thus for the series to converge we need

$$\frac{|x-1|}{2} < 1 \implies |x-1| < 2 \implies -1 < x < 3.$$

Thus the radius of convergence is 2. To find the interval of convergence we need to check the end points  $x = -1$  and  $x = 3$ . When  $x = 3$  we have

$$\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{(3-1)^n}{2^n n} = \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{1}{n}$$

a Harmonic series which diverges. When  $x = -1$  we have

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

an alternating series which converges by the Alternating Series Theorem. Thus the interval of convergence is  $[-1, 3)$ .

(b)

$$\sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \frac{x^{2n}}{4^n}$$

**Solution.** Using the n-Root Test we have

$$\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \sqrt[n]{|a_n|} = \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{|x|^2}{4} = \frac{|x|^2}{4}.$$

Thus for the series to converge we need

$$\frac{|x|^2}{4} < 1 \implies |x|^2 < 4 \implies |x| < 2 \implies -2 < x < 2.$$

Thus the radius of convergence is 2. To find the interval of convergence we need to check the end points  $x = -2$  and  $x = 2$ . When  $x = 2$  we have

$$\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{(2)^{2n}}{4^n} = \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} 1$$

which diverges. When  $x = -2$  we have again

$$\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{(-2)^{2n}}{4^n} = \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} 1$$

which diverges again. Thus the interval of convergence is  $(-2, 2)$ .

(c)

$$\sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \frac{n^2(x+2)^n}{2^n}$$

**Solution.** Using the n-Root Test we have

$$\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \sqrt[n]{|a_n|} = \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{\sqrt[n]{n^2}|x+2|}{2} = \frac{|x+2|}{2},$$

since  $\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \sqrt[n]{n^2} = 1$ . Thus for the series to converge we need

$$\frac{|x+2|}{2} < 1 \implies |x+2| < 2 \implies -4 < x < 0.$$

Thus the radius of convergence is 2. To find the interval of convergence we need to check the end points  $x = -4$  and  $x = 0$ . When  $x = 0$  we have

$$\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{n^2 2^n}{2^n} = \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} n^2$$

which diverges. When  $x = -4$  we have

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

an alternating series which diverges since n-term does not go to zero. Thus the interval of convergence is  $(-4, 0)$ .

2. Using Maclaurin series, compute the following limits.

(a)

$$\lim_{x \rightarrow 0} \frac{e^{2x} - 1 - 2x}{x^2}$$

**Solution.** Since the Maclaurin series for  $e^{2x}$  is

$$1 + 2x + \frac{(2x)^2}{2} + \frac{(2x)^3}{3!} + \frac{(2x)^4}{4!} + \dots = \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \frac{(2x)^n}{n!}$$

we have

$$\lim_{x \rightarrow 0} \frac{e^{2x} - 1 - 2x}{x^2} = \lim_{x \rightarrow 0} \frac{\frac{(2x)^2}{2} + \frac{(2x)^3}{3!} + \frac{(2x)^4}{4!} + \dots}{x^2} = \lim_{x \rightarrow 0} \left( \frac{2^2}{2} + \frac{(2)^3 x}{3!} + \frac{(2)^4 x^2}{4!} + \dots \right) = 2.$$

(b)

$$\lim_{x \rightarrow 0} \frac{\sin x - x + \frac{x^3}{6}}{x^5}$$

**Solution.** Since the Maclaurin series for  $\sin x$  is

$$x - \frac{x^3}{3!} + \frac{x^5}{5!} - \frac{x^7}{7!} + \dots = \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} (-1)^n \frac{x^{2n+1}}{(2n+1)!}$$

we have

$$\lim_{x \rightarrow 0} \frac{\sin x - x + \frac{x^3}{6}}{x^5} = \lim_{x \rightarrow 0} \frac{\frac{x^5}{5!} - \frac{x^7}{7!} + \dots}{x^5} = \lim_{x \rightarrow 0} \left( \frac{1}{5!} - \frac{x^2}{7!} + \dots \right) = \frac{1}{5!} = \frac{1}{120}.$$

3. Find the quadratic ( $n = 2$ ) Taylor polynomial at  $a = 1$  of the following function

$$x^{3/2}.$$

**Solution.** To use the formula

$$T_2(x) = f(a) + f'(a)(x - a) + \frac{f''(a)}{2}(x - a)^2,$$

we need to compute  $f(1)$ ,  $f'(1)$  and  $f''(1)$ .

Since  $f(x) = x^{3/2}$ ,  $f'(x) = \frac{3}{2}x^{1/2}$  and  $f''(x) = \frac{3}{4}x^{-1/2}$ , we have  $f(1) = 1$ ,  $f'(1) = \frac{3}{2}$  and  $f''(1) = \frac{3}{4}$ . Thus

$$T_2(x) = 1 + \frac{3}{2}(x - 1) + \frac{3}{8}(x - 1)^2.$$

4. What is the largest  $d$  can be such that the approximation

$$\cos x \approx 1 - x^2/2$$

is accurate to 4 decimal places for  $|x| \leq d$ ?

**Solution.** Since the Maclaurin series for  $\cos x$

$$1 - \frac{x^2}{2!} + \frac{x^4}{4!} - \cdots = \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} (-1)^n \frac{x^{2n}}{(2n)!}$$

is alternating series, we can estimate the remainder  $R_2(x) = \cos x - T_2(x) = \cos x - (1 - x^2/2)$  as

$$|R_2(x)| \leq \frac{|x|^4}{4!}.$$

Thus we need to find largest  $d > 0$  such that  $\frac{d^4}{4!} \leq 10^{-4}$ . Solving for  $d$  we find

$$d^4 \leq \frac{4!}{10^4} \implies d \leq \frac{\sqrt[4]{24}}{10}.$$

Hence the largest  $d = \frac{\sqrt[4]{24}}{10}$ .

5. Find an equation of the tangent line to the curve  $x = t^4 + 1$ ,  $y = t^2 - 1$  at  $t = 1$ . Compute  $\frac{d^2y}{dx^2}$  at  $t = 1$ ?

**Solution.** First we compute the slope  $s$  at  $t = 1$ . Since

$$\frac{dy}{dx} = \frac{\frac{dy}{dt}}{\frac{dx}{dt}} = \frac{2t}{4t^3} = \frac{1}{2t^2},$$

the slope  $s = \frac{1}{2}$ . When  $t = 1$ ,  $x = 1 + 1 = 2$  and  $y = 1 - 1 = 0$ . Hence the equation of the tangent line is

$$y = \frac{1}{2}(x - 2).$$

The formula for the second derivative is

$$\frac{d^2y}{dx^2} = \frac{\frac{d}{dt} \left( \frac{dy}{dx} \right)}{\frac{dx}{dt}} = \frac{\frac{d}{dt} \left( \frac{1}{2}t^{-2} \right)}{4t^3} = \frac{-t^{-3}}{4t^3} = -\frac{1}{4t^6}.$$

Thus  $\frac{d^2y}{dx^2}$  at  $t = 1$  is equal  $-1$ .

6. Find the points on the curve  $x = t^3 - 3t$ ,  $y = t^2 - 2$  where the tangent is horizontal or vertical.

**Solution.**

First we compute

$$\frac{dy}{dx} = \frac{\frac{dy}{dt}}{\frac{dx}{dt}} = \frac{2t}{3t^2 - 3}.$$

Thus the tangent is horizontal when  $t = 0$  and vertical when  $3t^2 - 3 = 0$  which is equivalent to  $t = \pm 1$ .