

# Chap. 4. Series Solutions of Differential Equations

## 4.1. Power Series Method

- power series:

$$\sum_{m=0}^{\infty} a_m (x-x_0)^m = a_0 + a_1(x-x_0) + a_2(x-x_0)^2 + \dots$$

$a_0, a_1, a_2$ : coefficients (const.)

$x_0$ : center of the series

if  $x_0 = 0$

$$\sum_{m=0}^{\infty} a_m x^m = a_0 + a_1 x + a_2 x^2 + \dots$$

ex) Maclaurin series

$$\frac{1}{1-x} = \sum_{m=0}^{\infty} x^m = 1 + x + x^2 + \dots$$

$$e^x = \sum_{m=0}^{\infty} \frac{1}{m!} x^m = 1 + x + \frac{x^2}{2!} + \dots$$

$$\cos x = \sum_{m=0}^{\infty} \frac{(-1)^m x^{2m}}{(2m)!} = 1 - \frac{1}{2!} x^2 + \frac{x^4}{4!} - \dots$$

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

§ Idea of the Power Series Method

$$y'' + p(x)y' + q(x)y = 0$$

(1)  $p(x), q(x) \rightarrow$  power series.

(2) Assume  $y = \sum_{m=0}^{\infty} a_m x^m = a_0 + a_1 x + a_2 x^2 + a_3 x^3 + \dots$

then  $y' = \sum_{m=1}^{\infty} a_m m x^{m-1} = a_1 + 2a_2 x + 3a_3 x^2 + \dots$

$$y'' = \sum_{m=2}^{\infty} m(m-1) a_m x^{m-2} = 2a_2 + 3 \cdot 2 a_3 x + 4 \cdot 3 \cdot 2 a_4 x^2 + \dots$$

$$y'' + p(x)y' + q(x)y = (\underbrace{\quad}_0)x^0 + (\underbrace{\quad}_0)x^1 + (\underbrace{\quad}_0)x^2 + \dots$$

Ex. 0\*  $y' - y = 0$

$$\text{Assume } y = \sum_{m=0}^{\infty} a_m x^m$$

$$y' - y = (a_1 - a_0) + (2a_2 - a_1)x + (3a_3 - a_2)x^2 + \dots = 0$$

$$a_1 = a_0$$

$$a_2 = \frac{a_1}{2} = \frac{a_0}{2}$$

$$a_3 = \frac{a_2}{3} = \frac{a_0}{3 \cdot 2} = \frac{a_0}{3!}$$

$$y = a_0 + a_0 x + \frac{a_0}{2!} x^2 + \frac{a_0}{3!} x^3 + \dots$$

$$= a_0 (1 + x + \frac{x^2}{2!} + \frac{x^3}{3!} + \dots)$$

$$= a_0 e^x$$

Ex. 1\*  $y' = 2xy$  .  $y = \sum_{m=0}^{\infty} a_m x^m$

$$a_1 + 2a_2 x + 3a_3 x^2 + \dots = 2a_0 x + 2a_1 x^2 + 2a_2 x^3 + 2a_3 x^4 + \dots$$

$$a_1 = 0$$

$$a_2 = a_0$$

$$a_3 = 0$$

$$a_4 = \frac{a_2}{2} = \frac{a_0}{2}$$

$$a_5 = 0 \\ a_6 = \frac{a_4}{3} = \frac{a_0}{3!}$$

⋮

$$y = a_0 + a_0 x^2 + \frac{a_0}{2!} x^4 + \frac{a_0}{3!} x^6 + \dots$$

$$= a_0 (1 + x^2 + \frac{x^4}{2!} + \frac{x^6}{3!} + \dots)$$

$$= a_0 e^{x^2}$$

Ex. 2  $y'' + y = 0$

Assume  $y = \sum_{m=0}^{\infty} a_m x^m$

$$(2a_2 + 3 \cdot 2 a_3 x + 4 \cdot 3 a_4 x^2 + \dots) + (a_0 + a_1 x + a_2 x^2 + \dots) = 0$$

$$(2a_2 + a_0) + (3 \cdot 2 a_3 + a_1)x + (4 \cdot 3 a_4 + a_2)x^2 + \dots = 0$$

$$a_2 = -\frac{a_0}{2}$$

$$a_3 = -\frac{a_1}{3 \cdot 2}$$

$$a_4 = -\frac{a_0}{4 \cdot 3 \cdot 2} = +\frac{a_0}{4 \cdot 3 \cdot 2}$$

$$a_5 = -\frac{a_3}{5 \cdot 4} = -\frac{a_1}{5!}$$

$$y = \left(a_0 - \frac{a_0}{2}x^2 + \frac{a_0}{4!}x^4 - + \dots\right) + \left(a_1 x - \frac{a_1}{3!}x^3 + \frac{a_1}{5!}x^5 - + \dots\right)$$

$$= a_0 \left(1 - \frac{x^2}{2!} + \frac{x^4}{4!} - + \dots\right) + a_1 \left(x - \frac{x^3}{3!} + \frac{x^5}{5!} - + \dots\right)$$

$$= a_0 \cos x + a_1 \sin x$$

## #2. Theory of the Power Series Method

• power series

$$\sum_{m=0}^{\infty} a_m (x-x_0)^m = a_0 + a_1(x-x_0) + a_2(x-x_0)^2 + \dots$$

• mth partial sum

$$S_m(x) = a_0 + a_1(x-x_0) + \dots + a_n(x-x_0)^n.$$

$$\text{Remainder } : R_m(x) = a_{m+1}(x-x_0)^{m+1} + a_{m+2}(x-x_0)^{m+2} + \dots$$

•  $\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} S_m(x_1) = S(x_1) \quad : \quad \text{convergent}$

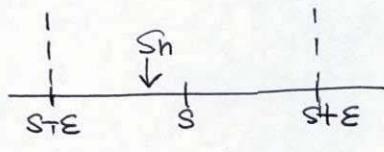
$$= \sum_{m=0}^{\infty} a_m (x_1-x_0)^m$$

$$S(x_1) = S_m(x_1) + R_m(x_1)$$

• Convergence:

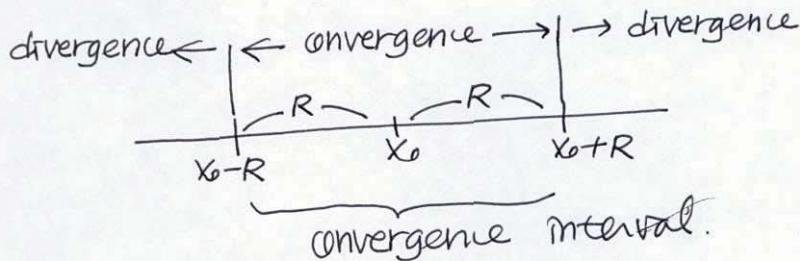
$\exists N$

$$|R_m(x_1)| = |s(x_1) - s_n(x_1)| < \varepsilon \quad \text{for all } m > N$$



\* Convergence interval, Radius of Convergence

1. The series always converges at  $x=x_0$
2. Convergence interval



for all  $x$  such that  $|x-x_0| < R$ , the series converges  
 "  $> R$  " diverges.  
 $\Rightarrow R$ : radius of convergence

$$R = \frac{1}{\lim_{m \rightarrow \infty} \sqrt[m]{|a_m|}} \quad \text{or} \quad R = \frac{1}{\lim_{m \rightarrow \infty} \left| \frac{a_{m+1}}{a_m} \right|}.$$

3. if  $R \rightarrow \infty$ , the series converges for all  $x$ .

Ex. 1. radius of convergence  $\sum_{m=0}^{\infty} m! x^m$  :  $a_m = m!$

$$\frac{a_{m+1}}{a_m} = \frac{(m+1)!}{m!} = (m+1) \rightarrow \infty \quad \text{as } m \rightarrow \infty$$

$$\therefore R \rightarrow 0.$$

the series converges only at  $x=0$ : useless

Ex. 2  $\frac{1}{1-x} = \sum_{m=0}^{\infty} x^m = 1 + x + x^2 + \dots$

$$a_m = 1$$

$$R = \lim_{m \rightarrow \infty} \left| \frac{a_{m+1}}{a_m} \right| = 1$$

when

The series (geometric series)  $\Rightarrow$  converges  $\checkmark |x| < 1'' R$

Ex. 3  $e^x = \sum_{m=0}^{\infty} \frac{x^m}{m!}$ .  $a_m = \frac{1}{m!}$

$$\frac{a_{m+1}}{a_m} = \frac{m!}{(m+1)!} = \frac{1}{m+1} \rightarrow 0 \text{ as } m \rightarrow \infty$$

$$R \rightarrow \infty.$$

The series converges for all  $x$

Ex. 4. Convergence interval

$$\sum_{m=0}^{\infty} \frac{(-1)^m}{8^m} x^{3m} = \sum_{m=0}^{\infty} \frac{(-1)^m}{8^m} t^m. \quad t = x^3.$$

$$a_m = \frac{(-1)^m}{8^m}$$

$$\left| \frac{a_{m+1}}{a_m} \right| = \left| \frac{8^m}{8^{m+1}} \right| = \frac{1}{8} \quad |t| < 8$$

$$\therefore |x| < 2$$

Operations on Power Series

\* Termwise Differentiation

$$y(x) = \sum_{m=0}^{\infty} a_m (x - x_0)^m \quad \text{converges for } |x - x_0| < R$$

$$y'(x) = \sum_{m=1}^{\infty} m a_m (x - x_0)^{m-1} \quad |x - x_0| < R$$

$$y''(x) = \sum_{m=2}^{\infty} m(m-1) a_m (x - x_0)^{m-2} \quad |x - x_0| < R$$

\* Termwise Addition

$$\sum_{m=0}^{\infty} a_m (x-x_0)^m = f(x)$$

$$\sum_{m=0}^{\infty} b_m (x-x_0)^m = g(x)$$

$$f(x) + g(x) = \sum_{m=0}^{\infty} (a_m + b_m) (x-x_0)^m$$

\* Termwise Multiplication

$$\begin{aligned} f(x)g(x) &= \sum_{m=0}^{\infty} (a_0 b_m + a_1 b_{m-1} + \dots + a_m b_0) (x-x_0)^m \\ &= a_0 b_0 + (a_0 b_1 + a_1 b_0) (x-x_0) \\ &\quad + (a_0 b_2 + a_1 b_1 + a_2 b_0) (x-x_0)^2 + \dots \end{aligned}$$

\* Shifting summation indices

$$\begin{aligned} \text{e.g. } x^2 \sum_{m=2}^{\infty} m(m-1) a_m x^{m-2} + 2 \sum_{m=1}^{\infty} m a_m x^{m-1} \\ &= \sum_{m=2}^{\infty} m(m-1) a_m x^m + 2 \sum_{m=1}^{\infty} m a_m x^{m-1} \quad \text{compare} \\ &\quad \text{let } m-1=s. \quad m=s+1 \\ &= \sum_{m=2}^{\infty} m(m-1) a_m x^m + \sum_{s=0}^{\infty} 2(s+1) a_{s+1} x^s \\ &\quad \downarrow 0 \\ &= \sum_{m=0}^{\infty} [m(m-1) a_m + 2(m+1) a_{m+1}] x^m \end{aligned}$$

§ Existence of Power Series Solutions

$$y'' + p(x)y' + q(x)y = r(x)$$

$$\tilde{p}(x)y'' + \tilde{p}(x)y' + \tilde{q}(x)y = \tilde{r}(x)$$

$$\therefore y = \sum_{m=0}^{\infty} a_m x^m ?$$

• Real analytic function

$f(x)$  is called analytic at a point  $x=x_0$

if  $f(x) = \sum_{m=0}^{\infty} a_m (x-x_0)^m$  with  $R > 0$   
 ↳ power series

Theorem

$p, q, r : \text{analytic at } x=x_0 \Rightarrow y_{\text{sol}} : \text{analytic}$   
 → power series

$\tilde{h}, \tilde{p}, \tilde{q}, \tilde{r} : \text{analytic at } x=x_0 \quad ) \Rightarrow \quad "$   
 $\tilde{h}(x_0) \neq 0$

Ex. 3. Legendre's Equation

$$(1-x^2)y'' - 2xy' + n(n+1)y = 0$$

: spherical coordinates

solution: Legendre function

$$\underbrace{y''}_{\text{analytic}} - \underbrace{\frac{2x}{(1-x^2)} y'}_{\text{at } x=0} + \underbrace{\frac{n(n+1)}{(1-x^2)} y}_{\text{at } x=0} = 0$$

$$\therefore \text{assume } y = \sum_{m=0}^{\infty} a_m x^m$$

$$\underbrace{(1-x^2) \sum_{m=2}^{\infty} m(m-1)a_m x^{m-2}}_{\sum_{m=2}^{\infty} m(m-1)a_m x^{m-2}} - 2x \sum_{m=1}^{\infty} m a_m x^{m-1} + k \sum_{m=0}^{\infty} a_m x^m = 0$$

$$\quad \quad \quad k = m(m+1)$$

$$-\sum_{m=2}^{\infty} m(m-1)a_m x^m$$