

New Power Series from old:

Given a power series, we can substitute expressions for x to get a new power series, possibly changing the radius of convergence.

Ex: Find a power series for $\frac{1}{1-3x}$ that converges on $|x| < \frac{1}{3}$.

We know that $\frac{1}{1-x} = \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} x^n$ for $|x| < 1$, so plug in $3x$ for x :

$$\frac{1}{1-3x} = \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} (3x)^n = \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} 3^n x^n \text{ for } |3x| < 1, \text{ i.e. } |x| < \frac{1}{3}.$$

Ex: Find a power series for $\frac{x}{1+x^2}$ and determine its radius of convergence.

Use the same technique as above:

$$\frac{x}{1+x^2} = x \cdot \frac{1}{1+x^2} = x \cdot \frac{1}{1-(-x^2)}.$$

$$\text{So } \frac{x}{1+x^2} = x \cdot \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} (-x^2)^n = x \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} (-1)^n x^{2n} = \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} (-1)^n x^{2n+1} \text{ for } |-x^2| < 1, \text{ i.e. } |x| < 1.$$

We can also integrate and differentiate a power series term-by-term. This does not change the radius of convergence.

Ex: Find a power series for $\frac{1}{(1-x)^2}$ on $|x| < 1$.

$$\begin{aligned} \text{We know } \frac{1}{(1-x)^2} &= \frac{d}{dx} \left(\frac{1}{1-x} \right), \text{ so } \frac{1}{(1-x)^2} = \frac{d}{dx} \left(\sum_{n=0}^{\infty} x^n \right) = \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \frac{d}{dx} (x^n) = \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} n x^{n-1} = \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} (n+1) x^n \\ &= \underline{1 + 2x + 3x^2 + 4x^3 + \dots} \end{aligned}$$

Ex: Find a power series for $-\ln|1-x|$ on $|x| < 1$

$$-\ln|1-x| = \int \frac{1}{1-x} dx = \int \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} x^n dx = \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \int x^n dx = \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \frac{x^{n+1}}{n+1} = \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{x^n}{n} = \underline{x + \frac{x^2}{2} + \frac{x^3}{3} + \frac{x^4}{4} + \dots}$$