

Episode 37: Applications of power series

① Sum calculations

Ex.1 Calculate the $\frac{1}{1 \cdot 2} + \frac{1}{2 \cdot 2^2} + \frac{1}{3 \cdot 2^3} + \frac{1}{4 \cdot 2^4} + \dots$

$$\sum_{h=1}^{\infty} \frac{1}{h \cdot 2^h} = \left(\sum_{h=1}^{\infty} \frac{1}{h} \cdot x^h \right) \Big|_{x=\frac{1}{2}}$$

$$-\ln(1-x) + C \stackrel{C=0 \text{ (plug in } x=0)}{=} \sum_{h=1}^{\infty} \frac{x^h}{h}$$

integrate \uparrow integrate \uparrow

$$\frac{1}{1-x} \stackrel{\text{geom. series}}{=} \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} x^n = \sum_{h=1}^{\infty} x^{h-1}, \quad |x| < 1$$

$$-\ln(1-x) = \sum_{h=1}^{\infty} \frac{x^h}{h}, \quad |x| < 1$$

$x = \frac{1}{2} \in (-1, 1)$:

$$-\ln\left(1 - \frac{1}{2}\right) = \sum_{h=1}^{\infty} \frac{\left(\frac{1}{2}\right)^h}{h} = \sum_{h=1}^{\infty} \frac{1}{h \cdot 2^h}$$

$$-\ln \frac{1}{2} = \ln 2$$

$$\sum_{h=1}^{\infty} \frac{1}{h \cdot 2^h} = \ln 2 \quad \leftarrow \text{Answer}$$

② Working with non-elem. f-ns given as integrals

Ex.2 Gauss error f-ns

$$\text{Erf}(x) = \frac{2}{\sqrt{\pi}} \int_0^x e^{-t^2} dt$$

↑
has no elem. antideriv.

Express this f-ⁿ as a p. s. and find $\text{Erf}(1)$.

Sol. For any x ,

$$e^x = \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \frac{x^n}{n!}$$

$$e^{-t^2} = \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \frac{(-t^2)^n}{n!} = \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \frac{(-1)^n t^{2n}}{n!}$$

$$\int_0^x e^{-t^2} dt = \int_0^x \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \frac{(-1)^n t^{2n}}{n!} dt = \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \int_0^x \frac{(-1)^n t^{2n}}{n!} dt =$$

↑
integrate
term-by-term

$$= \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \frac{(-1)^n}{n!} \left. \frac{t^{2n+1}}{2n+1} \right|_{t=0}^{t=x} =$$

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

So $\text{Erf}(x) = \frac{2}{\sqrt{\pi}} \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \frac{(-1)^n x^{2n+1}}{(2n+1) \cdot n!}$ for any x

$$\text{Erf}(1) = \frac{2}{\sqrt{\pi}} \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \frac{(-1)^n}{(2n+1) \cdot n!} = \frac{2}{\sqrt{\pi}} \left(1 - \frac{1}{3 \cdot 1!} + \frac{1}{5 \cdot 2!} - \frac{1}{7 \cdot 3!} + \dots \right)$$

③ Limit calculations

Ex. 3

$$\lim_{x \rightarrow 0} \frac{x - \ln(1+x)}{x^2} = \left[\frac{0}{0} \right]$$

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

$$\ln(1+x) = x - \frac{x^2}{2} + \frac{x^3}{3} - \frac{x^4}{4} + \dots$$

$-1 < x \leq 1$

$$= \lim_{x \rightarrow 0} \frac{\frac{x^2}{2} - \frac{x^3}{3} + \frac{x^4}{4} - \dots}{x^2} =$$

$$= \lim_{x \rightarrow 0} \left(\frac{1}{2} - \underbrace{\frac{x}{3} + \frac{x^2}{4} - \dots}_0 \right) = \boxed{\frac{1}{2}}$$