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# Chapter 7

## Infinite Sequence and Series

### 7.1 Sequences

**Example 7.1.1.** (1)

$$1, 3, 5, 7, \dots$$

(2)  $n$ -th term is given by  $(-1)^{n+1}1/n$ :

$$1, -\frac{1}{2}, \frac{1}{3}, -\frac{1}{4}, \dots, (-1)^{n+1}\frac{1}{n}, \dots$$

(3) Certain rules

$$1, \frac{1}{2}, \frac{1}{2}, -\frac{1}{3}, -\frac{1}{3}, -\frac{1}{3}, \frac{1}{4}, \frac{1}{4}, \frac{1}{4}, \frac{1}{4}, \dots$$

(4) Constant sequence :

$$3, 3, 3, \dots$$

(5) Digits after decimal point of  $\sqrt{2}$

$$4, 1, 4, 1, 5, 9, \dots$$

$n$ -th term  $a_n$

**Definition 7.1.2.** A **sequence** is a function with the set of natural numbers as domain.

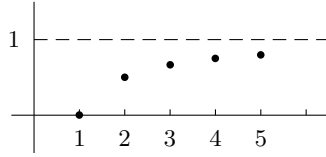
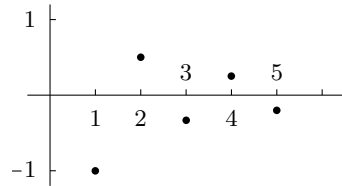
#### Sequence as graph

**Example 7.1.3.** (1)  $a_n = (n - 1)/n$ .

(2)  $a_n = (-1)^n 1/n$ .

(3)  $a_n = \sqrt{n}$ .

(4)  $a_n = \sin(n\pi/6)$ .

Figure 7.1:  $a_n = (n - 1)/n$ Figure 7.2:  $a_n = (-1)^n 1/n$ 

(5)  $a_n$  is the  $n$ -th digit of  $\pi$  after decimal point.

Among these (1), (3), (4) are functions  $(x - 1)/x$ ,  $\sqrt{x}$ ,  $\ln x$  are restricted to  $N$ .

### Subsequence

If all the terms of  $\{a_n\}$  appears as some term in  $\{b_n\}$  without changing orders we say  $\{a_n\}$  is a **subsequence** of  $\{b_n\}$ .

**Example 7.1.4.** (1)  $1, 1, 1, 1, \dots$  is a subsequence of  $1, -1, 1, -1, \dots$

(2)  $\{9n\}$  ( $n = 1, 2, 3, \dots$ ) is a subsequence of  $\{3n\}$  ( $n = 1, 2, 3, \dots$ ).

(3)  $\{1+1/4^n\}$  ( $n = 1, 2, 3, \dots$ ) is a subsequence of  $\{1+1/2^n\}$  ( $n = 1, 2, 3, \dots$ ).

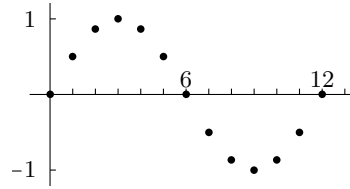
### Recursive relation

Some sequence are defined through recursive relation such as

$$\begin{aligned} a_1 &= 1, \\ a_{n+1} &= 2a_n + 1, \quad n = 1, 2, 3, \dots \end{aligned}$$

or

$$\begin{aligned} a_1 &= 1, \quad a_2 = 2, \\ a_{n+2} &= a_{n+1} + a_n, \quad n = 1, 2, 3, \dots \end{aligned}$$

Figure 7.3:  $a_n = \sin(n\pi/6)$ 

### 7.1.1 Convergence of a sequence

**Definition 7.1.5.** We say  $\{a_n\}$  **converges** to  $L$ , if for any  $\varepsilon > 0$  there exists some  $N$  s.t. for all  $n > N$  it holds that

$$|a_n - L| < \varepsilon.$$

Otherwise, we say  $\{a_n\}$  is said to **diverge**. If  $\{a_n\}$  converges to  $L$  we write

$$\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} a_n = L \quad \text{or} \quad \{a_n\} \rightarrow L.$$

We say  $L$  is the **limit**  $a_n$ .

**Example 7.1.6.** Show that  $\{(n-1)/n\}$  converges to 1.

**sol.** We expect  $L = 1$ . For any  $\varepsilon$ ,  $|(n-1)/n - 1| < \varepsilon$  holds for  $n$  satisfying  $|1/n| > \varepsilon$ .

□

**Example 7.1.7.** Show that  $\{\sqrt{n+2} - \sqrt{n}\}$  converges to 0.

**sol.** Let  $\varepsilon$  be given. We want to choose a number  $N$  so that

$$|\sqrt{n+2} - \sqrt{n} - 0| = \frac{2}{\sqrt{n+2} + \sqrt{n}}$$

is less than  $\varepsilon$  for all  $n$  greater than certain  $N$ . Since

$$\frac{2}{\sqrt{n+2} + \sqrt{n}} < \frac{1}{\sqrt{n}}$$

the conclusion will hold if  $n$  satisfies

$$\frac{1}{\sqrt{n}} < \varepsilon.$$

Thus we choose  $N$  any natural number greater than  $1/\varepsilon^2$ .

□

**Theorem 7.1.8.** *Suppose and subsequence  $b_n$  of  $a_n$  converges to  $L$ , then  $a_n$  also converges to  $L$ .*

**Theorem 7.1.9** (Uniqueness). *If  $\{a_n\}$  converges, it has unique limit.*

*Proof.* Suppose  $\{a_n\}$  has two limits  $L_1, L_2$ . Choose  $\varepsilon = |L_1 - L_2|/2$ . There exist  $N_1$  s.t. for  $n > N_1$  the following holds

$$|a_n - L_1| < \varepsilon.$$

Similarly, there exist  $N_2$  s.t. for all  $n > N_2$  it holds that

$$|a_n - L_2| < \varepsilon$$

Let  $N$  be the greater one of  $N_1, N_2$ . Then for all  $n > N$

$$\begin{aligned} |L_1 - L_2| &= |L_1 - a_n + a_n - L_2| \leq |L_1 - a_n| + |a_n - L_2| \\ &< \varepsilon + \varepsilon = |L_1 - L_2| \end{aligned}$$

holds. A contradiction. So  $L_1 = L_2$ . □

**Corollary 7.1.10.** *If  $\{a_n\}$  converges, we have  $\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} (a_n - a_{n+1}) = 0$ .*

**Remark 7.1.11.** The above condition is not a sufficient for convergence. For example, the sequence  $a_n = \ln(n+1)/n$  satisfies  $a_{n+1} - a_n = \ln(n+1)/n \rightarrow 0$  but  $\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} a_n = \infty$ .

### Properties of limit

**Theorem 7.1.12.** *Suppose  $\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} a_n = A$ ,  $\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} b_n = B$ . Then we have*

$$(1) \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \{a_n + b_n\} = A + B$$

$$(2) \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \{a_n - b_n\} = A - B$$

$$(3) \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \{ka_n\} = kA$$

$$(4) \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \{a_n \cdot b_n\} = A \cdot B$$

$$(5) \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \left\{ \frac{a_n}{b_n} \right\} = A/B, \quad B \neq 0.$$

$$\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{n^2 - n}{n^2} = \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} 1 - \frac{1}{n} = 1 - 0 = 1.$$

$$\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{2 - 3n^5}{n^5 + 1} = \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{2/n^5 - 3}{1 + 1/n^5} = -3.$$

**Theorem 7.1.13** (Continuous function). *Suppose the limit of  $a_n$  is  $L$  and a function  $f$  is defined on an interval containing all values of  $a_n$  and  $L$ , and continuous at  $L$ , then*

$$\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} f(a_n) = f(L)$$

*Proof.* Since  $f$  is continuous at  $L$ , we have for any  $\varepsilon$  there is a  $\delta$  such that for all  $a_n$  with  $|a_n - L| < \delta$  it holds that  $|f(a_n) - f(L)| < \varepsilon$ . Since  $a_n$  converges to  $L$ , there is a natural number  $N$  s.t. for  $n > N$  it holds that  $|a_n - L| < \delta$ . Hence  $|f(a_n) - f(L)| < \varepsilon$  holds.  $\square$

**Example 7.1.14.** (1)  $\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \sin\left(\frac{n\pi}{(2n+1)}\right) = 1$  (2)  $\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} 2^{\frac{1}{\sqrt{n}}} = 1$

**[sol.]** (1) Since the limit of  $n\pi/(2n+1)$  is  $\pi/2$  and the function  $\sin x$  is continuous at  $\pi/2$ , we have  $\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \sin(n\pi/(2n+1)) = 1$ .

(2) Since  $f(x) = 2^{\sqrt{x}}$  is continuous at  $x = 0^+$  we have

$$\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} 2^{1/\sqrt{n}} = 1$$

$\square$

**Theorem 7.1.15.** *Suppose  $f(x)$  is defined for  $x \geq 0$  and if  $\{a_n\}$  is given by  $a_n = f(n)$ ,  $n = 1, 2, 3, \dots$  and if  $\lim_{x \rightarrow \infty} f(x) = L$  then  $\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} a_n = L$ .*

This theorem holds when  $f(x) \rightarrow +\infty$  or  $f(x) \rightarrow -\infty$ .

**Example 7.1.16.** (1)  $\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{\ln n}{n} = 0$ ,

(2)  $\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} n(e^{\frac{1}{n}} - 1) = 1$

(3) Find  $\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \left(\frac{n+1}{n-1}\right)^n$

**[sol.]** (1) Let  $f(x) = \ln x/x$ . Then

$$\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} f(n) = \lim_{x \rightarrow \infty} f(x) = \lim_{x \rightarrow \infty} \frac{(\ln x)'}{x'} = \lim_{x \rightarrow \infty} \frac{1}{x} = 0$$

$$\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \ln n/n = 0$$

(2) Set  $x = 1/n$ . Then it corresponds to the limit of  $f(x) = (e^x - 1)/x$  as  $x \rightarrow 0$ . By L'Hopital's rule

$$\lim_{x \rightarrow 0} f(x) = \lim_{x \rightarrow 0} e^x = 1$$

$$\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} n(e^{1/n} - 1) = 1$$



**Theorem 7.1.17** (Sandwich theorem). *Suppose  $a_n, b_n, c_n$  satisfy  $a_n \leq b_n \leq c_n$  and  $\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} a_n = \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} c_n = L$ . Then  $\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} b_n = L$ .*

### Useful Limits

**Proposition 7.1.18.**

- (1)  $\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{\ln n}{n} = 0$
- (2)  $\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \sqrt[n]{n} = 1$
- (3)  $\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} x^{1/n} = 1, x > 0$
- (4)  $\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} x^n = 0, |x| < 1$
- (5)  $\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \left(1 + \frac{x}{n}\right)^n = e^x, x \in \mathbb{R}$
- (6)  $\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{x^n}{n!} = 0, x \in \mathbb{R}$

*Proof.* (1) See Example 7.1.16.

- (2) Let  $a_n = n^{1/n}$  and take  $\ln \ln a_n = \ln n^{1/n} = \frac{\ln n}{n}$ . Since this approaches 0 and  $e^x$  is continuous at 0  $a_n = e^{\ln a_n} \rightarrow e^0 = 1$  by theorem 7.1.15.
- (3) Set  $a_n = x^{1/n}$ . Since the limit of  $\ln a_n = \ln x^{1/n} = \frac{\ln x}{n}$  is 0, we see  $x^{1/n} = a_n = e^{\ln a_n}$  converges to  $e^0 = 1$ .
- (4) Use the definition. given  $\varepsilon > 0$ , we must find  $n$ , s.t. for  $|x| < \varepsilon^{1/n}$   $|x^n - 0| < \varepsilon$  holds. Since  $\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \varepsilon^{1/n} = 1$  there is an  $N$  s.t  $|x| < \varepsilon^{1/N}$  holds. Now if  $n > N$  we have  $|x|^n < |x^N| < \varepsilon$ .
- (5) Let  $a_n = (1 + x/n)^n$ . Then  $\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \ln a_n = \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \ln(1 + x/n)^n = n \ln(1 + x/n)$  and by L'Hopital's rule we see

$$\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{\ln(1 + x/n)}{1/n} = \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{x}{1 + x/n} = x$$

Hence  $a_n = (1 + x/n)^n = e^{\ln a_n}$  converges to  $e^x$ .

(6) First we will show that

$$-\frac{|x|^n}{n!} \leq \frac{x^n}{n!} \leq \frac{|x|^n}{n!}$$

and  $|x|^n/n! \rightarrow 0$ . Then use Sandwich theorem. If  $|x|$  is greater than  $M$ , then  $|x|/M < 1$  and hence  $(|x|/M)^n \rightarrow 0$ . If  $n > M$

$$\frac{|x|^n}{n!} = \frac{|x|^n}{1 \cdot 2 \cdots M(M+1) \cdots n} \leq \frac{|x|^n}{M!M^{n-M}} = \frac{M^M}{M!} \left(\frac{|x|}{M}\right)^n$$

holds. But  $M^M/M!$  is fixed number. As  $n \rightarrow \infty$   $(|x|/M)^n$  approaches 0. So  $|x|^n/n!$  approaches 0. Finally by Sandwich theorem 7.1.17 we get the result.  $x^n/n! \rightarrow 0$ . □

**Example 7.1.19.** (1)  $\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \left(\frac{1}{1000}\right)^{1/n} = 1$ .

$$(2) \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} (10^{1000} n^2)^{1/n} = \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} (10^{1/n})^{1000} \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} n^{2/n} = 1 \cdot \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} (n^{1/n})^2 = 1.$$

$$(3) \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \left(1 - \frac{2}{n}\right)^n = e^{-2}.$$

$$(4) \lim_{h \rightarrow 0^+} (1+h)^{1/h} = \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \left(1 + \frac{1}{n}\right)^n = e.$$

$$(5) \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{10^n}{n!} = 0.$$

(6) The set of all  $x$  satisfying  $\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{|x|^n}{5^n} = 0$  is,  $\{x : |x| < 5\}$ .

**Example 7.1.20.**  $\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \sqrt[n]{5n+1} = 1$ .

**[sol.]** We see

$$\sqrt[n]{5n+1} = \exp(\ln(5n+1)^{1/n})$$

and

$$\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{\ln(5n+1)}{n} = 0.$$

Hence by theorem 7.1.15, the above limit is

$$\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \sqrt[n]{5n+1} = \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \exp(\ln(5n+1)^{1/n}) = \exp\left(\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{\ln(5n+1)}{n}\right) = e^0 = 1.$$

□



**Example 7.1.21.** Show that  $\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \ln n/n^\varepsilon = 0$  for any  $\varepsilon > 0$ .

**[sol.]** By L'Hopital rule 3.6.5

$$\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{\ln n}{n^\varepsilon} = \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{1/n}{\varepsilon n^{\varepsilon-1}} = \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{1}{\varepsilon n^\varepsilon} = 0.$$

□

## Monotone Sequence

**Definition 7.1.22.** If  $a_n$  satisfies

$$a_1 \leq a_2 \leq \cdots \leq a_n \leq \cdots$$

then  $a_n$  is called a **nondecreasing sequence**(increasing sequence).

**Definition 7.1.23.** If there is a number  $M$  such that  $a_n \leq M$  for all  $n$ , then this sequence is called **bounded from above**. Any such  $M$  is called **upper bound**.

**Example 7.1.24.** For the sequence  $a_n = 1 - 1/2^n$ ,  $M = 1$  is an upper bound and any number bigger than 1 is an upper bound. The smallest such number(if exists) is **the least upper bound**.

**Theorem 7.1.25.** *If a nondecreasing sequence has an upper bound, it converges. Furthermore, it converges to the least upper bound.*

Suppose  $L$  is a least upper bound, we observe two things:

- (1)  $a_n \leq L$  for all  $n$ , and
- (2) for any  $\varepsilon > 0$  there is a term  $a_N$  greater than  $L - \varepsilon$ .

Suppose there does not exist such  $a_N$ , it holds that  $a_n \leq L - \varepsilon$  for all  $n$ , which is a contradiction. Thus for  $n \geq N$

$$L - \varepsilon < a_n \leq L$$

Thus  $|L - a_n| < \varepsilon$  and we have proved  $a_n \rightarrow L$ .

For a decreasing sequence, we have a similar definition and theorem.

**Definition 7.1.26.** If  $a_n$  satisfies

$$a_1 \geq a_2 \geq \cdots \geq a_n \cdots$$

$a_n$  is called a **decreasing sequence**. If  $s_n \geq N$ , then  $N$  is called a **lower bound**(lower bound). The largest such number is called **the greatest lower bound**.

**Theorem 7.1.27.** *If a nonincreasing sequence has a lower bound, it converges. Furthermore, it converges to the greatest lower bound.*

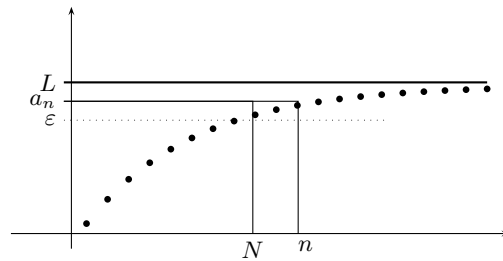


Figure 7.4: Nondecreasing(increasing) sequence and least upper bound  $L$

## 7.2 Infinite Series

An infinite series is the sum of an infinite sequence of numbers.

**Example 7.2.1.** If we denote the sum of first  $n$ - term of  $a_n = 1/2^n$  by  $s_n$  then

$$\begin{aligned} s_1 &= a_1 = \frac{1}{2} \\ s_2 &= a_1 + a_2 = \frac{1}{2} + \frac{1}{4} = \frac{3}{4} \\ s_3 &= a_1 + a_2 + a_3 = \frac{1}{2} + \frac{1}{4} + \frac{1}{8} = \frac{7}{8} \\ &\vdots \end{aligned}$$

The general term  $\{s_n\}$  satisfies

$$s_n = a_1 + a_2 + a_3 + \cdots + a_n = \sum_{k=1}^n a_k$$

**infinite series** Write it as  $\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} a_n$  or  $\sum a_n$ .

**Definition 7.2.2.**  $a_n$  is called  $n$ -th term  $s_n = \sum_{k=1}^n a_k$  is  $n$ -th **partial sum** If the limit of  $\{s_n\}$  is  $L$  then we say  $\sum a_n$  converges to  $L$  and write  $\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} a_n = L$  or  $a_1 + a_2 + a_3 + \cdots = L$ . If s series does not converges, we say it **diverges**.

**Example 7.2.3** (Repeating decimals). Write  $0.1111\cdots$  as series.

**sol.** Writing  $0.111\cdots = 0.1 + 0.01 + 0.001 + \cdots$  we see

$$\begin{aligned} a_1 &= 0.1, \\ a_2 &= 0.01, \\ &\vdots \\ a_n &= (0.1)^n \end{aligned}$$

Hence  $0.111 = \sum_{k=1}^{\infty} 10^{-k}$ .

□

**Definition 7.2.4.**

$$a + ar + ar^2 + \cdots$$

is called a **geometric series** and  $r$  is called a **ratio**.

We can compute the sum of a geometric series as follows: Note that

$$\begin{aligned} s_n &= a + ar + \cdots + ar^{n-1} \\ rs_n &= ar + ar^2 + \cdots + ar^n \\ s_n - rs_n &= a - ar^n \end{aligned}$$

Hence

$$s_n = a(1 - r^n)/(1 - r).$$

**Example 7.2.5** (Telescoping Series).  $\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{1}{n(n+1)}$ .

**sol.** Note that  $\frac{1}{n(n+1)} = \frac{1}{n} - \frac{1}{n+1}$ . Hence

$$s_n = \left(\frac{1}{1} - \frac{1}{2}\right) + \left(\frac{1}{2} - \frac{1}{3}\right) + \cdots + \left(\frac{1}{n} - \frac{1}{n+1}\right) = 1 - \frac{1}{n+1}.$$

Hence we see  $s_n \rightarrow 1$ .

□

### Divergent Series

**Example 7.2.6.**  $\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{(n+1)}{n}$  diverges since  $n$ -th term is greater than 1.

**Example 7.2.7.**  $\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \sin(\pi n/2)$  diverges.

**sol.**

$$1, 0, -1, 0, 1, \dots$$

$$s_4 = s_8 = \cdots = s_{4n} = 0$$

but

$$s_2 = s_6 = \cdots = s_{4n+2} = 1$$

So  $s_n$  oscillates between 0 and 1.



**Theorem 7.2.8** (*n*-th term test). *If  $\sum a_n$  converges then  $a_n \rightarrow 0$ .*

*Proof.* Suppose  $\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} a_n$  converges then  $s_n$  and  $s_{n-1}$  must have the same limit. Since  $a_n = s_n - s_{n-1}$  we see  $\lim a_n = \lim s_n - \lim s_{n-1} = 0$ .  $\square$

The converse is not true

**Example 7.2.9.** (1) Although  $\sqrt{n+1} - \sqrt{n}$  converges to 0, the series  $\sum \sqrt{n}$  diverges.

(2) Moreover, one can show the series  $\sum \frac{1}{\sqrt{n}}$  diverges.

(3) The following sequence diverges even if each individual term approaches zero.

$$1 + \underbrace{\frac{1}{2} + \frac{1}{2}}_{2 \text{ term}} + \underbrace{\frac{1}{3} + \frac{1}{3} + \frac{1}{3}}_{3 \text{ term}} + \cdots + \underbrace{\frac{1}{n} + \cdots + \frac{1}{n}}_{n \text{ term}} + \cdots$$

**Theorem 7.2.10** (*n*th term test for divergence). *If  $\lim a_n \neq 0$  or  $\lim a_n$  does not exist, then  $\sum a_n$  diverges.*

**Example 7.2.11.**  $\sum \frac{(n-1)}{n}$  diverges since  $a_n = \frac{(n-1)}{n} \rightarrow 1$ .

**Example 7.2.12.**  $\sum (-1)^n \ln(\ln n)$  diverges since  $\ln(\ln n) \rightarrow \infty$ .

**Theorem 7.2.13.** *Suppose  $\sum a_n, \sum b_n$  converges. Then*

(1)  $\sum (a_n + b_n) = \sum a_n + \sum b_n,$

(2)  $\sum (a_n - b_n) = \sum a_n - \sum b_n,$

(3)  $\sum k a_n = k \sum a_n.$

**Example 7.2.14.**

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

(2)  $\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{3^n - 2^n}{6^n} = \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{3^n}{6^n} - \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{2^n}{6^n} = \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{1}{2^n} - \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{1}{3^n} = \frac{1}{2}.$

Question: What's wrong with the following ?

$$1 = \left(1 - \frac{1}{2}\right) + \left(\frac{1}{2} - \frac{1}{3}\right) + \cdots + \left(\frac{1}{n} - \frac{1}{n+1}\right) + \cdots = \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \left(\frac{1}{n} - \frac{1}{n+1}\right) = \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{1}{n} - \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{1}{n+1}.$$

### 7.3 Series with nonnegative terms

We study the convergence or divergence of an infinite series whose  $n$ -th term is nonnegative.

**Corollary 7.3.1.** *A series  $\sum a_n$  of nonnegative terms converges iff the partial sums are bounded from above.*

#### Integral Test

**Example 7.3.2.** Determine whether the following series converges or not.

$$\sum \frac{1}{n^2} = 1 + \frac{1}{4} + \frac{1}{9} + \cdots + \frac{1}{n^2} + \cdots$$

**[sol.]** We can compare the partial sum with the integral of a function. Set  $f(x) = 1/x^2$ . Then the partial sum is

$$s_n = 1 + \frac{1}{4} + \frac{1}{9} + \cdots + \frac{1}{n^2} = f(1) + f(2) + f(3) + \cdots + f(n)$$

and

$$\begin{aligned} f(2) &= \frac{1}{2^2} < \int_1^2 \frac{1}{x^2} dx \\ f(3) &= \frac{1}{3^2} < \int_2^3 \frac{1}{x^2} dx \\ &\vdots \\ f(n) &= \frac{1}{n^2} < \int_{n-1}^n \frac{1}{x^2} dx \end{aligned}$$

Hence

$$s_n = f(1) + f(2) + f(3) + \cdots + f(n) < 1 + \int_1^n \frac{1}{x^2} dx = 2 - \frac{1}{n}.$$

Thus  $s_n$  is bounded, increasing, and hence converges. □

**Theorem 7.3.3** (Integral Test). *Suppose  $f(x)$  is nonnegative, non-increasing for  $x \geq 1$  and  $a_n = f(n)$ . Then the series  $\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} a_n$  converges if the integral  $\int_1^{\infty} f(x) dx$  converges. Conversely, if the integral  $\int_1^{\infty} f(x) dx$  converges, then the series  $\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} a_n$  also converges.*

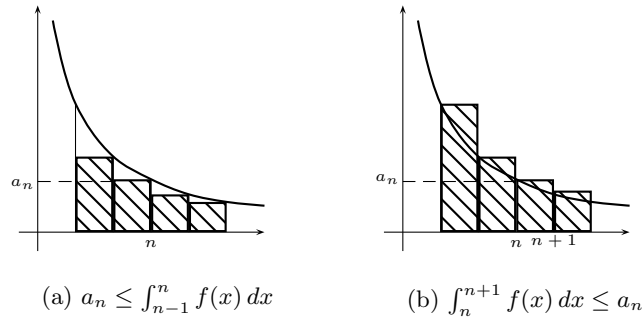


Figure 7.5: Integral Test

*Proof.* Since  $f$  is decreasing and  $f(n) = a_n$ , we see from figure 7.5 (a),  $a_n \leq \int_{n-1}^n f(x) dx$ , ( $n = 2, 3, 4, \dots$ ). Hence we have

$$a_2 + a_3 + \cdots + a_n \leq \int_1^n f(x) dx$$

Conversely, we see from figure 7.5(b),  $\int_n^{n+1} f(x) dx \leq a_n$ . So

$$\int_1^{n+1} f(x) dx \leq a_1 + a_2 + \cdots + a_n$$

and from these two cases, we see

$$\int_1^{n+1} f(x) dx \leq a_1 + a_2 + \cdots + a_n \leq a_1 + \int_1^n f(x) dx.$$

Hence the conclusion follows.  $\square$

**Example 7.3.4** ( $p$ -series). Let  $p$  be a fixed number. Then

$$\sum_1^{\infty} \frac{1}{n^p} = \frac{1}{1^p} + \frac{1}{2^p} + \cdots + \frac{1}{n^p} + \cdots$$

converges when  $p > 1$  and diverges when  $p \leq 1$ . For  $p = 1$ , we see

$$\int_1^{\infty} \frac{1}{x} dx = \lim_{b \rightarrow \infty} [\ln b]_1^b = \infty$$

So the harmonic series

$$1 + \frac{1}{2} + \frac{1}{3} + \cdots + \frac{1}{n} + \cdots$$

diverges.

**Example 7.3.5.** Test the convergence of

$$\sum_1^{\infty} \frac{1}{1+n^2}.$$

We see

$$\int_1^{\infty} \frac{dx}{1+x^2} = \lim_{b \rightarrow \infty} [\tan^{-1} x]_1^b = \lim_{b \rightarrow \infty} [\tan^{-1} b - \tan^{-1} 1] = \frac{\pi}{4}.$$

### 7.3.1 Error estimation of integral test

Let  $S = \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} a_n$  and  $R_n = S - s_n = a_{n+1} + a_{n+2} + \cdots$  be the remainder of the partial sum. Then we see

$$\int_{n+1}^{n+2} f(x) dx < a_{n+1} \leq \int_n^{n+1} f(x) dx.$$

Hence we have the estimate for the remainder:

$$\int_{n+1}^{\infty} f(x) dx < R_n < \int_n^{\infty} f(x) dx$$

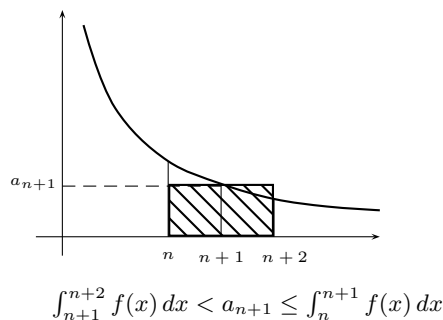


Figure 7.6: Error estimation

**Example 7.3.6.** Estimate the error when  $\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{1}{n^2}$  is replaced by  $s_{10}$ .

**sol.** We see

$$\int_n^{\infty} \frac{1}{x^2} dx = \frac{1}{n}.$$

Thus

$$s_{10} + \frac{1}{11} < S < s_{10} + \frac{1}{10}.$$

Since  $s_{10} \approx 1.54977$  and

$$\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{1}{n^2} \approx 1.65453$$

the actual error is 0.09553 which is between  $\frac{1}{11} \approx 0.090909$  and  $\frac{1}{10} = 0.1$ .

□

### 7.3.2 Series with nonnegative terms-Comparison

$$\sum \frac{1}{n^3}, \quad \sum \frac{1}{3^n + 1}$$

**Example 7.3.7.** Investigate the convergence of  $\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{1}{n^2}$ .

**sol.** Useful inequality:  $\frac{1}{n^2} < \frac{1}{n(n-1)}$ .

$$\begin{aligned} s_n &= \frac{1}{1^2} + \frac{1}{2^2} + \frac{1}{3^2} + \cdots + \frac{1}{n^2} \\ &< \frac{1}{1 \cdot 1} + \frac{1}{1 \cdot 2} + \frac{1}{2 \cdot 3} + \cdots + \frac{1}{n(n-1)} \\ &= 1 + \left(1 - \frac{1}{2}\right) + \left(\frac{1}{2} - \frac{1}{3}\right) + \cdots + \left(\frac{1}{n-1} - \frac{1}{n}\right) \\ &= 2 - \frac{1}{n} < 2. \end{aligned}$$

Hence  $s_n$  is bounded above and as a monotonic increasing sequence it converges.

□

**Example 7.3.8** (Harmonic series). The series

$$\sum \frac{1}{n} = 1 + \frac{1}{2} + \frac{1}{3} + \cdots + \frac{1}{n} + \cdots$$

diverges since

$$1 + \frac{1}{2} + \underbrace{\frac{1}{3} + \frac{1}{4}}_{> 2/4} + \underbrace{\frac{1}{5} + \frac{1}{6} + \frac{1}{7} + \frac{1}{8}}_{> 4/8} + \underbrace{\frac{1}{9} + \frac{1}{10} + \cdots + \frac{1}{16}}_{> 8/16} + \cdots$$

is greater than

$$1 + \frac{1}{2} + \frac{1}{2} + \frac{1}{2} + \cdots$$



## 7.4 Comparison Test

**Theorem 7.4.1** (The Comparison Test). *Let  $a_n \geq 0$ .*

(a) *The series  $\sum a_n$  converges if  $a_n \leq c_n$  for all  $n > N$  and  $\sum c_n$  converges*

(b) *The series  $\sum a_n$  diverges if  $a_n \geq d_n$  for all  $n > N$  and  $\sum d_n$  diverge.*

*Proof.* In (a), the partial sum is bounded by

$$M = a_1 + a_2 + \cdots + a_n + \sum_{n=N+1}^{\infty} c_n$$

In (b), the partial sum is greater than

$$M^* = a_1 + a_2 + \cdots + a_n + \sum_{n=N+1}^{\infty} d_n$$

But the series  $\sum_{n=N+1}^{\infty} d_n$  diverges. Hence so does  $\sum a_n$ . □

**Example 7.4.2.** Look at the tail part of

$$3 + 600 + 5000 + \frac{1}{3!} + \frac{1}{4!} + \frac{1}{5!} + \cdots + \frac{1}{n!} + \cdots$$

Since  $1/n! < 1/2^n$  for  $n = 4, 5, 6, \dots$  we compare it with a geometric series.

What about

$$\sum \frac{1}{n^{2.5} + 100n^4 + 3} \text{ or } \sum \frac{\ln n + 5}{n(\ln n)^2 + 3}$$

### Limit Comparison Test

**Example 7.4.3.** Investigate the convergence of

$$\sum_1^{\infty} \frac{n}{2n^3 - n + 3}$$

**[sol.]** Since

$$a_n = \frac{n}{2n^3 - n + 3} = \frac{1}{2n^2 - 1 + 3/n}$$

we see the series  $\sum a_n$  behaves similar to  $\sum 1/2n^2$ . If we let  $c_n = 1/2n^2$ , then  $\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} a_n/c_n = 1$ . Hence for any  $\varepsilon$  there is  $N$  such that if  $n > N$  for some  $N$  then the following holds:

$$1 - \varepsilon \leq \frac{a_n}{c_n} \leq 1 + \varepsilon.$$

In other words,

$$(1 - \varepsilon)c_n \leq a_n \leq (1 + \varepsilon)c_n, \quad n \geq N.$$

Since  $\sum_{n \geq N} c_n$  converges,  $\sum_{n \geq N} a_n$  converges by comparison.

□

**Theorem 7.4.4** (Limit Comparison Test). (1) Suppose  $a_n > 0$  and there is a series  $\sum c_n$  ( $c_n > 0$ ) which converges and if

$$\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{a_n}{c_n} = c > 0$$

then  $\sum a_n$  converges.

(2) Suppose  $a_n > 0$  and there is a series  $\sum d_n$  ( $d_n > 0$ ) which diverges and if

$$\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{a_n}{d_n} = c > 0$$

then  $\sum a_n$  diverges.

*Proof.* We prove part (1). Since  $c/2 > 0$  there is an  $N$  such that for all  $n > N$  we have

$$\left| \frac{a_n}{b_n} - c \right| < \frac{c}{2}$$

Then

$$\begin{aligned} -\frac{c}{2} &< \frac{a_n}{b_n} - c < \frac{c}{2} \\ \frac{c}{2} &< \frac{a_n}{b_n} < \frac{3c}{2} \\ \left(\frac{c}{2}\right)b_n &< a_n < \frac{3c}{2}b_n. \end{aligned}$$

Hence

$$\left(\frac{c}{2}\right) \sum_{n \geq N} b_n < \sum_{n \geq N} a_n < \frac{3c}{2} \sum_{n \geq N} b_n$$

and the convergence of  $\sum a_n$  follows that of  $\sum b_n$ . □

**Example 7.4.5.** (1)  $\sum_1^\infty \frac{n+1}{100n^3+n+1}$  converges since  $\sum_1^\infty \frac{1}{n^2}$  converges

(2)  $\sum_{20}^\infty \frac{1}{3^n - 1000n}$  converges since  $\sum_1^\infty \frac{1}{3^n}$  converge

(3)  $\sum_1^\infty \frac{2n+1}{n^2+4n+1}$

(4) Does  $\sum_2^\infty \frac{\ln n}{n^{3/2}}$  converge? (compare  $\ln < n^{0.1}$ )

(5) Compare  $\sum_1^\infty \frac{(\ln n)^{1/2}}{(n \ln n+1)}$  with  $\sum_2^\infty \frac{1}{n(\ln n)^{1/2}}$ . Use integral test.

$$\int_2^\infty \frac{dx}{x(\ln x)^{1/2}} = \int_{\ln 2}^\infty \frac{du}{u^{1/2}} = \infty$$

## 7.5 Ratio test and Root Tests

**Example 7.5.1.** It is not easy to find general term of  $a_1 = 1$ ,  $a_{n+1} = \frac{na_n}{3n+2}$ . But its ratio is clearly seen.

### Ratio Test

**Theorem 7.5.2** (Ratio Test). *Suppose  $a_n > 0$  and if the limit exists.*

$$\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{a_{n+1}}{a_n} = \rho.$$

Then the following holds.

- (1) The sum  $\sum a_n$  converges if  $\rho < 1$
- (2) The sum  $\sum a_n$  diverges if  $\rho > 1$
- (3) The test is inconclusive if  $\rho = 1$ .

*Proof.* The motive is to compare with a geometric series. (1) Let  $\rho < 1$ . Then choose any  $r$  between  $\rho$  and 1 and set  $\varepsilon = r - \rho$ . Then since

$$\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{a_{n+1}}{a_n} = \rho$$

there exists a natural number  $N$  such that for all  $n > N$ ,

$$\left| \frac{a_{n+1}}{a_n} - \rho \right| < \varepsilon$$

holds. Solving

$$\rho - \varepsilon < \frac{a_{n+1}}{a_n} < \varepsilon + \rho$$

for all  $n > N$ . Hence we see

$$(\rho - \varepsilon)a_n < a_{n+1} < (\varepsilon + \rho)a_n = ra_n, \quad n > N \quad (7.1)$$

and

$$\begin{aligned} a_{N+1} &< ra_N \\ a_{N+2} &< ra_{N+1} < r^2a_N \\ &\vdots \\ a_{N+m} &< ra_{N+m-1} < r^ma_N \end{aligned}$$

We compare  $a_n$  with a series general term is  $r^ma_N$ . Since  $\sum_{m=1}^{\infty} r^ma_N$  converges,  $\sum_{n=N+1}^{\infty} a_n$  converges. (2) Suppose  $\rho > 1$ . Then exist an  $M$  such that for  $n > M$  and by (7.1) it holds that

$$\frac{a_{n+1}}{a_n} > r$$

And note that

$$a_M < a_{M+1} < a_{M+2} < \cdots$$

so the series diverges.

(3) The case:  $\rho = 1$ . Both the series  $\sum 1/n^2$  and  $\sum 1/n$ . But the former converges and the latter diverges.  $\square$

**Example 7.5.3.**

$$(1) \sum \frac{n!n!}{(2n)!}$$

$$(2) \sum \frac{(2^n + 5)}{3^n}$$

$$(3) \sum \frac{2^n}{n!}$$

**sol.** Ratio Test

(1)

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{a_{n+1}}{a_n} &= \frac{(n+1)!(n+1)!(2n)!}{n!n!(2n+2)(2n+1)(2n)!} \\ &= \frac{(n+1)(n+1)}{(2n+2)(2n+1)} = \frac{n+1}{4n+2} \rightarrow \frac{1}{4} \end{aligned}$$

$$(2) \frac{a_{n+1}}{a_n} = \frac{(2^{n+1} + 5)3^n}{3^{n+1}(2^n + 5)} = \frac{2^{n+1} + 5}{3(2^n + 5)} \rightarrow \frac{2}{3}$$

$$(3) \frac{a_{n+1}}{a_n} = \frac{2^{n+1}n!}{(n+1)!2^n} = \frac{2}{n+1} \rightarrow 0$$

$\square$

**Example 7.5.4.** Find the range of  $x$  which makes the following converge.

$$1 + \frac{x^2}{2} + \frac{x^4}{4} + \frac{x^6}{6} + \cdots$$

**sol.** For  $n > 1$ ,  $a_n = \frac{x^{2n-2}}{(2n-2)}$ .

$$\frac{a_{n+1}}{a_n} = \frac{x^{2n}(2n-2)}{2nx^{2n-2}} = \frac{(2n-2)x^2}{2n} \rightarrow x^2$$

So it converges if  $|x| < 1$  and diverges if  $|x| > 1$ . When  $|x| = 1$  the series behaves like

$$1 + \frac{1}{2} + \frac{1}{4} + \frac{1}{6} \cdots = 1 + \frac{1 + 1/2 + 1/3 + \cdots}{2}$$

$\square$

**Estimate error**

For  $\rho < 1$  If the series is approximated by its  $N$ - partial sum, then the error is

$$a_{N+1} + a_{N+2} + \cdots$$

So if  $N$  is large, for some  $r$  with  $\rho < r < 1$  we have

$$\frac{a_{n+1}}{a_n} < r, \quad n \geq N$$

$$a_{N+1} + a_{N+2} + \cdots \leq ra_N + r^2a_N + \cdots = a_N \cdot \frac{r}{1-r}$$

is the estimate of errors.

**Example 7.5.5** (Ratio test does not work). Investigate

$$\frac{1}{3} + \frac{2}{9} + \frac{1}{27} + \frac{4}{81} + \cdots + \frac{f(n)}{3^n} + \cdots$$

$$\text{where } f(n) = \begin{cases} n, & n \text{ even} \\ 1, & n \text{ odd} \end{cases}$$

**sol.** Since  $a_n = \frac{f(n)}{3^n}$  we have

$$\frac{a_{n+1}}{a_n} = \frac{f(n+1)}{3f(n)} = \begin{cases} \frac{1}{3n}, & n \text{ even} \\ \frac{n+1}{3}, & n \text{ odd} \end{cases}$$

So we cannot use ratio test. However if we take  $n$ -th root,

$$\sqrt[n]{a_n} = \frac{\sqrt[n]{f(n)}}{3} = \begin{cases} \sqrt[n]{\frac{n}{3}}, & n \text{ even} \\ \frac{1}{3}, & n \text{ odd} \end{cases}$$

and  $\sqrt[n]{n}$  converges to 1. Hence we see

$$\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \sqrt[n]{a_n} = \frac{1}{3}.$$

Now we can compare this series with  $\sum (\frac{1}{3})^n$ .

□

***n*-th Root Test**

**Theorem 7.5.6** (*n*-th Root Test). *Suppose  $\sqrt[n]{a_n} \rightarrow \rho$ . Then*

- (1)  $\sum a_n$  converges if  $\rho < 1$ .
- (2)  $\sum a_n$  diverges if  $\rho > 1$ .
- (3) Inconclusive if  $\rho = 1$ .

*Proof.* The motive is again to compare with a geometric series:

$$a + a\rho + a\rho^2 + \cdots + a\rho^n + \cdots \quad (a > 0)$$

i.e, if  $a_n \sim a\rho^n$  ( $n \geq N$ ) for some  $0 < \rho < 1$ , then we would have

$$\sqrt[n]{\frac{a_n}{a}} \doteq \rho, \quad n \geq N$$

which is eventually equivalent to

$$\sqrt[n]{a_n} \doteq \rho, \quad n \geq N.$$

Now the remaining task it to prove it rigorously.

(1) Suppose  $\rho < 1$ . Choose  $r$  between  $\rho$  and 1 and set  $\varepsilon = \rho - r > 0$ . Since  $\sqrt[n]{a_n}$  converges to  $\rho$  there is some integer  $N$  such that when  $n$  is greater than  $N$ , then it holds that

$$|\sqrt[n]{a_n} - \rho| < \varepsilon,$$

i.e,

$$\sqrt[n]{a_n} < \rho + \varepsilon = r < 1.$$

Hence

$$a_n < (\rho + \varepsilon)^n$$

holds. Since  $\sum (\rho + \varepsilon)^n$  converges the series  $\sum_{n=N}^{\infty} a_n$  converges by comparison.

(2) Suppose  $\rho > 1$ . Then  $\sqrt[n]{a_n} > 1$  for suff. large  $n$  and hence  $a_n > 1$ . So the series diverges.

(3) The case  $\rho = 1$ : the test is inclusive: It may converge or may diverge. See  $\sum \frac{1}{n}$ ,  $\sum \frac{1}{n^2}$ . Both series has  $\rho = 1$  but one diverges while the other converges.  $\square$

**Example 7.5.7.**  $\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{n}{2^n}$  converges since  $\sqrt[n]{\frac{n}{2^n}} = \sqrt[n]{\frac{n}{2}} \rightarrow \frac{1}{2}$ .

**Example 7.5.8.**  $\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{3^n}{n^n}$  converges since  $\sqrt[n]{\frac{3^n}{n^n}} = \frac{3}{n} \rightarrow 0$ .

## 7.6 Alternating Series, absolute and conditional convergence

### Alternating Series

**Definition 7.6.1.** Suppose  $a_n > 0$  for all  $n$ . A series of the form

$$a_1 - a_2 + a_3 - a_4 + \cdots$$

is called an **alternating series**.

The followings are alternating series

$$1 - \frac{1}{2} + \frac{1}{3} - \frac{1}{4} + \frac{1}{5} - \frac{1}{6} + \cdots$$

$$1 - 2 + 3 - 4 + 5 - 6 + \cdots$$

But following is not an alternating series.

$$1 - \frac{1}{2} - \frac{1}{3} + \frac{1}{4} + \frac{1}{5} - \frac{1}{6} - \frac{1}{7} + \cdots$$

**Theorem 7.6.2** (Alternating Series Test, Leibniz theorem). *Suppose the following three conditions hold.*

- (1)  $a_n > 0$ .
- (2)  $a_n \geq a_{n+1}$  for all  $n \geq N$  for some integer  $N$ .
- (3)  $a_n \rightarrow 0$ .

Then the series

$$\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} (-1)^{n+1} a_n = a_1 - a_2 + a_3 - a_4 + \cdots$$

converges.

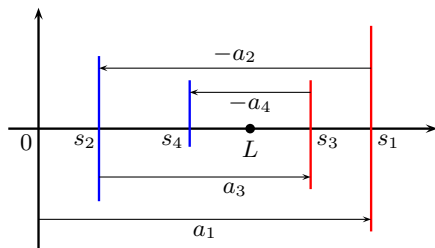


Figure 7.7: Partial sum of alternating series

*Proof.* Suppose  $n$  is even ( $n = 2m$ ) then the partial sum

$$s_{2m} = (a_1 - a_2) + (a_3 - a_4) + \cdots + (a_{2m-1} - a_{2m})$$

is increasing. But we also see

$$s_{2m} = a_1 - (a_2 - a_3) - (a_4 - a_5) - \cdots - (a_{2m-2} - a_{2m-1}) - a_{2m}.$$

Hence  $s_{2m}$  is less than  $a_1$ . In other words,  $s_{2m}$  is bounded above, hence as an increasing sequence, it converges. Let  $L$  be its limit.

$$\lim s_{2m} = L.$$

Now suppose  $n$  is odd ( $n = 2m + 1$ ). Then

$$s_{2m+1} = s_{2m} + a_{2m+1}$$

Then since  $a_{2m+1} \rightarrow 0$ , we see  $\lim s_{2m+1} = \lim(s_{2m} + a_{2m+1}) = L$ .  $\square$

**Remark 7.6.3.** By graphical interpretation, we can see that the limit  $L$  lies between any two consecutive sum  $s_n$  and  $s_{n+1}$ . Hence we can also show  $|s_n - L| < a_{n+1}$ . This gives some estimation theorem (later).

**Example 7.6.4.**

$$\sum (-1)^{n+1} \frac{1}{n} = 1 - \frac{1}{2} + \frac{1}{3} - \frac{1}{4} + \cdots$$

converges.

**Example 7.6.5.**

$$\sum (-1)^{n+1} \frac{1}{\sqrt{n}} = 1 - \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} + \frac{1}{\sqrt{3}} - \frac{1}{\sqrt{4}} + \cdots$$

converges.

**Example 7.6.6.**

$$\sum (-1)^{n+1} \frac{\sqrt{n}}{\sqrt{n+1}} = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} - \frac{\sqrt{2}}{\sqrt{3}} + \frac{\sqrt{3}}{\sqrt{4}} - \frac{\sqrt{4}}{\sqrt{5}} + \cdots$$

diverges by  $n$ -th term test.

**Example 7.6.7.**

$$\frac{2}{1} - \frac{1}{1} + \frac{2}{3} - \frac{1}{3} + \frac{2}{4} - \frac{1}{4} + \frac{2}{5} - \frac{1}{5} + \cdots + \frac{2}{2n-1} - \frac{1}{2n-1} + \cdots$$

is alternating. But

$$\begin{aligned} & \left( \frac{2}{1} - \frac{1}{1} \right) + \left( \frac{2}{3} - \frac{1}{3} \right) + \left( \frac{2}{4} - \frac{1}{4} \right) + \left( \frac{2}{5} - \frac{1}{5} \right) + \cdots \\ & + \left( \frac{2}{2n-1} - \frac{1}{2n-1} \right) + \cdots = 1 + \frac{1}{3} + \frac{1}{5} + \cdots + \frac{1}{2n-1} + \cdots \end{aligned}$$

So it diverges.



**Example 7.6.8.** Investigate the convergence of the series  $\sum_{n=2}^{\infty} (-1)^n \frac{\ln n}{n+1}$ .

**sol.** The conditions (1) and (3) are easy to check. To see if (2) is satisfied, we have to check if

$$\frac{\ln n}{n+1} \geq \frac{\ln(n+1)}{n+n}$$

which is not an easy task. The idea is to consider a function  $f(x)$  such that  $f(n) = \ln n/(n+1)$  and use derivative test. We let

$$f(x) = \frac{\ln x}{x+1}.$$

Then  $f(n) = \ln n/(n+1)$  and take derivative:

$$f'(x) = \frac{(x+1)/x - \ln x}{(x+1)^2} = \frac{(x+1) - x \ln x}{x(x+1)^2}.$$

We can show  $(x+1) - x \ln x < 0$ , for sufficiently large  $x$ . Hence  $f(x)$  is decreasing function for sufficiently large  $x$ . For example, for  $x \geq 8$ ,  $f(x)$  is decreasing. So  $a_n = f(n)$  is decreasing for  $n \geq 8$ . By Leibniz theorem the series converges.

□

## Partial Sum of Alternating Series

We look at the partial sums of an alternating series:

$$s_1 = a_1,$$

$$s_2 = a_1 - a_2,$$

$$s_3 = a_1 - a_2 + a_3 = a_1 - (a_2 - a_3),$$

$$s_4 = a_1 - a_2 + a_3 - a_4 = a_1 - a_2 + (a_3 - a_4),$$

$$\text{So } s_2 < s_1.$$

$$\text{So } s_2 < s_3 < s_1.$$

$$\text{So } s_2 < s_4 < s_3 < s_1.$$

Thus  $s_{2m+1}$  is decreasing and  $s_{2m}$  is increasing. Let  $L$  be its sum. Then

$$\underbrace{s_{2m} < s_{2m+2} < \cdots < L < \cdots < s_{2m+1} < s_{2m-1}}_{|s_{2m}-L|} \\ \underbrace{\hspace{10em}}_{|s_{2m}-s_{2m+1}|}$$

But since

$$\begin{aligned} |s_{2m} - L| &< |s_{2m} - s_{2m+1}| = a_{2m+1}, \\ |s_{2m+1} - L| &< |s_{2m+2} - s_{2m+1}| = a_{2m+2} \end{aligned}$$

we see that for all  $n$ ,

$$|s_n - L| < a_{n+1}.$$

In other words, partial sum is an approximation to the true sum with error bound  $a_{n+1}$ . Since  $a_n$  is decreasing  $s_{n+1}$  is better approximation than  $s_n$ .

**Theorem 7.6.9** (Alternating Series Estimation Theorem). *Suppose  $\sum (-1)^{n+1} a_n$  is an alternating series satisfying the conditions of Leibniz theorem. Then the partial sum*

$$s_n = a_1 - a_2 + a_3 - \cdots + (-1)^{n+1} a_n$$

*is a good approximation with error bound less than  $a_{n+1}$ .*

**Example 7.6.10.** Estimate

$$\sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \frac{(-1)^n}{2^n} = 1 - \frac{1}{2} + \frac{1}{4} + \cdots = \frac{1}{1 - (-\frac{1}{2})} = \frac{2}{3}$$

with first six term.

**sol.** Let  $s_n = \sum_{k=0}^n \frac{(-1)^k}{2^k}$ . Error bound for  $|s_5 - L|$  is  $a_6 = 1/64$ . The actual value up to six term ( $a_5$ ) is

$$s_5 = 1 - \frac{1}{2} + \frac{1}{4} - \frac{1}{8} + \frac{1}{16} - \frac{1}{32} = \frac{21}{32}.$$

So true error is  $|2/3 - 21/32| = 1/96$  which is less than  $a_6 = 1/64$ , the estimate of the theorem .

□

**Example 7.6.11.** Use  $s_{10}$  or  $s_{100}$  to estimate

$$\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{(-1)^{n-1}}{n} = 1 - \frac{1}{2} + \frac{1}{3} - \cdots = \ln 2 = 0.69314 \cdots$$

**sol.** We have

$$s_{10} = 1 - \frac{1}{2} + \frac{1}{3} - \frac{1}{4} + \cdots - \frac{1}{10} = 0.64563 \cdots$$

and the error of  $s_{10}$  is  $|0.64563 - \ln 2| = 0.0475 \cdots < a_{11} = 1/11$ . Also,

$$s_{100} = 1 - \frac{1}{2} + \frac{1}{3} - \frac{1}{4} + \cdots - \frac{1}{100} = 0.68881 \cdots$$

and the error of  $s_{100}$  is  $|0.68881 - \ln 2| = 0.00433 \cdots < a_{111} = 1/111$ . In either case, the actual error is smaller than the error predicted by the theory.

□

### Absolute convergence and Conditional Convergence

**Example 7.6.12.** Suppose we want to compute the series:

$$1 - \frac{1}{5} + \frac{1}{3} - \frac{1}{5^2} + \frac{1}{3^2} - \frac{1}{5^3} + \cdots$$

It would be good if we compute positive term first and then negative terms:  
Hence

$$1 + \frac{1}{3} + \frac{1}{3^2} + \frac{1}{3^3} + \cdots - \left( \frac{1}{5} + \frac{1}{5^2} + \frac{1}{5^3} + \cdots \right) = \frac{1}{1 - 1/3} - \frac{1}{1 - 1/5} = \frac{3}{2} - \frac{5}{4} = \frac{1}{4}.$$

Fortunately, this is correct. Next example is the following series which is convergent:

$$1 - \frac{1}{2} + \frac{1}{3} - \frac{1}{4} + \frac{1}{5} - \frac{1}{6} + \frac{1}{7} - \frac{1}{8} + \frac{1}{9} + \cdots$$

Consider a rearrangement:

$$\left( 1 + \frac{1}{3} + \frac{1}{5} + \frac{1}{7} + \frac{1}{9} \cdots \right) - \left( \frac{1}{2} + \frac{1}{4} + \frac{1}{6} + \frac{1}{8} \cdots \right)$$

Then the sum is not defined! Thus we have to be careful when we add infinite series.

**Definition 7.6.13.** If  $\sum |a_n|$  converges then  $\sum a_n$  is said to **converge absolutely**. A series which converges but does not converge absolutely is said to **converge conditionally**.

**Example 7.6.14.** (1)  $\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} (-1)^{n+1} \frac{1}{n^2} = 1 - \frac{1}{4} + \frac{1}{9} + \cdots$  converges absolutely since  $\sum \frac{1}{n^2}$  converges.

(2)  $\sum \frac{\cos n}{n^2}$  satisfies  $|a_n| = \frac{|\cos n|}{n^2} \leq \frac{1}{n^2}$ . Since  $\sum \frac{1}{n^2}$  converges,  $\sum \frac{\cos n}{n^2}$  converges. (absolutely)

(3) The series

$$\sum (-1)^{n+1} \frac{1}{n} = 1 - \frac{1}{2} + \frac{1}{3} - \frac{1}{4} + \cdots$$

converges. But  $\sum |a_n| = \sum \frac{1}{n}$  diverges. Hence  $\sum (-1)^{n+1} \frac{1}{n}$  converges conditionally.

(4)  $\sum \frac{(-1)^n}{n^p}$  converges for any  $p > 0$ . But  $\sum \frac{1}{n^p}$  converges for  $p > 1$  only. Hence  $\sum \frac{(-1)^n}{n^p}$  converges conditionally for all  $p > 0$ , but converges absolutely for  $p > 1$ .

**Theorem 7.6.15.** If  $\sum |a_n|$  converges then so does  $\sum a_n$ .

*Proof.*

$$-|a_n| \leq a_n \leq |a_n|$$

holds for all  $n$ . Hence

$$0 \leq a_n + |a_n| \leq 2|a_n|.$$

Since  $\sum |a_n|$  converges and  $a_n + |a_n| \geq 0$ , the series

$$\sum (a_n + |a_n|)$$

converges by comparison test. Subtracting converging series, we have

$$\sum a_n = \sum (a_n + |a_n|) - \sum |a_n|$$

and so  $\sum a_n$  converges.  $\square$

**Corollary 7.6.16.** *If  $\sum a_n$  diverges so does  $\sum |a_n|$ .*

### Rearrangement of Series for Absolutely Convergent Series

**Theorem 7.6.17** (Rearrangement of Series). *Suppose  $b_n$  is a rearrangement of  $a_n$  (i.e.,  $b_k = a_{n(k)}$  for some 1-1 function  $n(k)$ ). If  $\sum a_n$  converges then the series  $\sum b_n$  converges to the same sum.*

*Proof.* First assume  $a_n \geq 0$  for all  $n$ . Suppose

$$\left| \sum_{n=1}^k a_n - L \right| < \epsilon, \quad \text{for all } k \geq N$$

Choose  $N_1$  so large that  $\{b_1, b_2, \dots, b_{N_1}\}$  contains all of the terms in  $\{a_1, a_2, \dots, a_N\}$ .

Then

$$\sum_{n=1}^N a_n \leq \sum_{n=1}^{N_1} b_n \leq L.$$

Hence

$$\epsilon > L - \sum_{n=1}^N a_n \geq L - \sum_{n=1}^{N_1} b_n > 0.$$

This is true if  $N_1$  is replaced by any larger index. Now we allow  $a_n$  negative.

As in the proof of the previous theorem, we have

$$\sum b_n = \sum (b_n + |b_n|) - \sum |b_n|.$$

Now the result for positive terms shows that  $\sum (b_n + |b_n|) = \sum (a_n + |a_n|)$  and  $\sum |b_n| = \sum |a_n|$ . Hence

$$\begin{aligned} \sum b_n &= \sum (b_n + |b_n|) - \sum |b_n| \\ &= \sum (a_n + |a_n|) - \sum |a_n| \\ &= \sum a_n. \end{aligned}$$

$\square$

**Example 7.6.18.** We know the following converges absolutely:

$$1 - \frac{1}{2} + \frac{1}{4} - \frac{1}{8} + \frac{1}{16} - \frac{1}{32} + \cdots$$

Hence a rearrangement

$$1 + \frac{1}{4} - \frac{1}{2} + \frac{1}{16} + \frac{1}{64} - \frac{1}{8} + \cdots$$

converges to the same limit.

Now the series

$$1 - \frac{1}{2} + \frac{1}{3} - \frac{1}{4} + \frac{1}{5} - \frac{1}{6} + \cdots$$

converges to  $\ln 2$  but not absolutely. Hence its rearrangement may not converge or it may converge to a different value.

Consider one rearrangement:

$$\begin{aligned} & \left(1 - \frac{1}{2}\right) + \left(\frac{1}{3} + \frac{1}{5} - \frac{1}{4}\right) + \left(\frac{1}{7} + \frac{1}{9} - \frac{1}{6}\right) + \left(\frac{1}{11} + \frac{1}{13} - \frac{1}{8}\right) + \cdots \\ \doteq & 0.5 + (0.533333 - 0.25) + (0.365079 - 0.166666) + (0.16783 - 0.125) + \cdots \\ = & 0.5 + 0.2833333 + 0.198413 + \text{positive terms} \\ = & 0.7833333 + 0.198413 + \text{positive terms} \end{aligned}$$

Then sum is bigger than  $\ln 2 = 0.69314 \dots$ .

### Product of two series

Suppose  $\sum_{n=0}^{\infty} a_n, \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} b_n$  converge absolutely. Then

$$\left(\sum_{n=0}^{\infty} a_n\right) \times \left(\sum_{n=0}^{\infty} b_n\right) = (a_0 + a_1 + \cdots + a_n + \cdots) \times (b_0 + b_1 + \cdots + b_n + \cdots).$$

The product of finite partial sum is

$$(a_0 + a_1 + \cdots + a_n) \times (b_0 + b_1 + \cdots + b_n).$$

We multiply it out and write it as

$$\begin{aligned} & a_0b_0 + (a_0b_1 + a_1b_0) + (a_0b_2 + a_1b_1 + a_2b_0) + \cdots \\ & + \cdots + (a_0b_n + a_1b_{n-1} + \cdots + a_{n-1}b_1 + a_nb_0) + \cdots \end{aligned}$$

In other words,

$$\left(\sum_{k=0}^n a_k\right) \times \left(\sum_{k=0}^n b_k\right) = \sum_{k=0}^n c_k + \text{extra terms},$$

where  $c_0 = a_0b_0$ ,  $c_1 = a_0b_1 + a_1b_0$ ,  $\dots$ ,  $c_n = (a_0b_n + a_1b_{n-1} + \cdots + a_{n-1}b_1 + a_nb_0)$ .

In the limit, (use the fact  $\lim A_n \cdot \lim B_n = \lim(A_n B_n)$  when both sequence converge) we have

$$\left( \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} a_n \right) \times \left( \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} b_n \right) = \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} c_n.$$

Since it converges absolutely, its value does not change.

**Theorem 7.6.19.** *Suppose both  $\sum_{n=0}^{\infty} a_n$  and  $\sum_{n=0}^{\infty} b_n$  converge absolutely. If we set  $c_n = \sum_{k=0}^n a_k b_{n-k}$  then  $\sum c_n$  converge absolutely and*

$$\sum_{n=0}^{\infty} c_n = \left( \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} a_n \right) \times \left( \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} b_n \right).$$

## 7.7 Power Series

**Definition 7.7.1.** A **power series** about  $x = 0$  is a series of the form

$$\sum_{n=0}^{\infty} a_n x^n = a_0 + a_1 x + a_2 x^2 + \cdots + a_n x^n + \cdots$$

A power series about  $x = a$  is a series of the form

$$\sum_{n=0}^{\infty} a_n (x - a)^n$$

$a_n$  are coefficients and  $a$  is the center.

**Example 7.7.2.** (1)  $\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{(x-1)^n}{2^n} = \frac{1}{2^1} + \frac{(x-1)^2}{2^2} + \frac{(x-1)^3}{2^3} + \cdots$

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

(3)  $\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} (-1)^{n-1} \frac{x^{2n-1}}{2n-1} = x - \frac{x^3}{3} + \frac{x^5}{5} - \cdots$

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

(5)  $\sum_{n=0}^{\infty} n! x^n = 1 + x + 2!x^2 + 3!x^3 + \cdots$

**Theorem 7.7.3** (Convergenec of Power Series). (1) *Suppose the power series  $\sum_{n=0}^{\infty} a_n (x - a)^n$  converges at a point  $x_1 (\neq a)$ , then it converges absolutely for all points with  $|x - a| < |x_1 - a|$ .*

(2) *Suppose the power series  $\sum_{n=0}^{\infty} a_n (x - a)^n$  diverges at  $x_2$ , then it diverges for all  $x$  with  $|x - a| > |x_2 - a|$ .*

*Proof.* (1) Suppose  $\sum_{n=0}^{\infty} a_n(x_1 - a)^n$  converges, and let  $x$  be any number satisfying  $|x - a| < |x_1 - a|$ . Then  $\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} a_n(x_1 - a)^n = 0$ . Hence for suff. large  $n$ , it holds that  $|a_n(x_1 - a)^n| \leq 1$  and

$$|a_n(x - a)^n| = |a_n(x_1 - a)^n| \left| \frac{x - a}{x_1 - a} \right|^n \leq \left| \frac{x - a}{x_1 - a} \right|^n.$$

Hence by comparison, the series  $\sum_{n=0}^{\infty} a_n(x - a)^n$  converges. (2) Now suppose the series  $\sum_{n=0}^{\infty} a_n(x_2 - a)^n$  diverges. If there is an  $x$  with  $|x - a| > |x_2 - a|$  for which the series  $\sum_{n=0}^{\infty} a_n(x - a)^n$  converge. Then by (1) the series  $\sum_{n=0}^{\infty} a_n(x_2 - a)^n$  should converge. Hence a contradiction. Thus for any  $x$  with  $|x - a| > |x_2 - a|$ , the series diverges.  $\square$

By Theorem 7.7.3, there are three possibilities:

- (1) There exists a positive number  $R(0 < R < \infty)$  such that the series converges absolutely for all  $x$  with  $|x - a| < R$ , and the series diverges for all  $x$  with  $|x - a| > R$ .
- (2) It converges for  $a$  only; In this case we can put  $R = 0$ .
- (3) It converges absolutely for all  $x$ ; In this case we can put  $R = \infty$ .

The value  $R$  is called **the radius of convergence** of  $\sum_{n=0}^{\infty} a_n(x - a)^n$ .

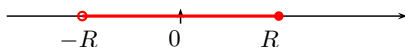


Figure 7.8: Interval of convergence

**Theorem 7.7.4.** For  $\sum_{n=0}^{\infty} a_n(x - a)^n$ ,  $R$  is given by any one of the following formula(provided the limits exist):

$$R = \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \left| \frac{a_n}{a_{n+1}} \right| \quad (7.2)$$

$$R = \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{1}{\sqrt[n]{|a_n|}} \quad (7.3)$$

*Proof.* Suppose the limit in (7.2) exists. Then

$$\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \left| \frac{a_{n+1}(x - a)^{n+1}}{a_n(x - a)^n} \right| = \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \left| \frac{a_{n+1}}{a_n} \right| |x - a| = \frac{|x - a|}{R}$$

and by the ratio test (Thm 7.5.2), the power series converges absolutely for all  $x$  with  $|x - a|/R < 1$ , and diverges for all  $x$  with  $|x - a|/R > 1$ . Hence  $R$  is given by (7.2). Next (7.3) is obtained from  $n$ -th root test (Thm 7.5.6). Fill-in some gaps.  $\square$

**Definition 7.7.5.** From the discussions above, we see the set of all points for which the series converges will be an interval (open, half open or closed)  $I$ , where

$$(a - R, a + R) \subset I \subset [a - R, a + R]$$

$I$  is called **interval of convergence**.

**Example 7.7.6.** Find the interval of convergence of the following power series.

$$(1) \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} n^n x^n$$

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

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

$$(4) \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \frac{x^n}{n!}$$

**sol.**

(2)

$$R = \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{(n+1)^2}{n^2} = 1$$

When  $x = \pm 1$ , the series  $\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} ((\pm 1)^n / n^2)$  converges absolutely.

(3)

$$R = \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{n+1}{n} = 1$$

For  $x = 1$ , the series  $\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} ((-1)^{n-1} / n)$  satisfies alternating series test, so conditionally converges. While for  $x = -1$  the sequence is  $\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} (-1/n)$  which diverges. Hence  $I = (-1, 1]$ .

(4)

$$R = \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{(n+1)!}{n!} = \infty$$

□

**Theorem 7.7.7** (Term by term differentiation). Suppose  $\sum_{n=0}^{\infty} a_n(x-a)^n$  converges for  $R > 0$ . If we define a function by

$$f(x) = \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} a_n(x-a)^n, \quad |x-a| < R, \quad (7.4)$$

then we have



(i)  $f(x)$  is differentiable on  $(a - R, a + R)$  and its derivative can be computed term by term

$$f'(x) = \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} n a_n (x - a)^{n-1}, \quad |x - a| < R \quad (7.5)$$

(ii)  $f(x)$  is integrable on  $(a - R, a + R)$  and its integral can be computed term by term

$$\int f(x) dx = \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} a_n \frac{(x - a)^{n+1}}{n + 1} + C, \quad |x - a| < R \quad (7.6)$$

The radius convergence of (7.5) and (7.6) are also  $R$ .

*Proof.* The proof of term by term computation is out of the scope of this book, hence skipped. Instead, we verify the radius of convergence. Suppose the following limit exists:

$$R = \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \left| \frac{a_n}{a_{n+1}} \right|.$$

Then the radius of convergence of (7.5) is by Thm 7.7.4

$$\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \left| \frac{(n + 1)a_{n+1}}{(n + 2)a_{n+2}} \right| = \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \left| \frac{a_{n+1}}{a_{n+2}} \right| = R$$

The case for (7.6) is the same. □

**Corollary 7.7.8.** *In fact, the function  $f(x)$  in Thm 7.7.7 is differentiable infinitely many times on  $(a - R, a + R)$  and the derivatives are given by*

$$f^{(k)}(x) = \sum_{n=k}^{\infty} n(n - 1) \cdots (n - k + 1) a_n (x - a)^{n-k}, \quad |x - a| < R, \quad k = 0, 1, 2, \dots \quad (7.7)$$

### Product of two Power series

**Theorem 7.7.9.** *Suppose both  $A(x) = \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} a_n x^n$ ,  $B(x) = \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} b_n x^n$  converge absolutely for  $|x| < R$  and let*

$$c_n = a_0 b_n + a_1 b_{n-1} + \cdots + a_n b_0 = \sum_{k=0}^n a_k b_{n-k}.$$

*Then the series  $\sum_{n=0}^{\infty} c_n x^n$  converge absolutely for  $|x| < R$ , and*

$$\left( \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} a_n x^n \right) \times \left( \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} b_n x^n \right) = \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} c_n x^n.$$

**Example 7.7.10.** Use

$$\sum_{n=0}^{\infty} x^n = 1 + x + x^2 + \cdots = \frac{1}{1-x}, \text{ for } |x| < 1$$

to obtain the power series of  $1/(1-x)^2$  about  $x = 0$ .

**sol.** Formally we have

$$\frac{1}{(1-x)^2} = \frac{1}{(1-x)} \cdot \frac{1}{(1-x)} = \left( \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} x^n \right) \cdot \left( \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} x^n \right).$$

We let  $A(x) = B(x) = \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} x^n$ . Then we see

$$c_n = a_0 b_n + a_1 b_{n-1} + \cdots + a_n b_0 = \sum_{n=0}^k a_k b_{n-k} = n + 1$$

Hence by the above theorem

$$A(x)B(x) = \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} c_n x^n = \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} (n+1)x^n.$$

Alternatively this series could be obtained by differentiation.

□

**Example 7.7.11.**

$$\begin{aligned} \cos x \cdot \sin x &= \left( 1 - \frac{x^2}{2!} + \frac{x^4}{4!} - \frac{x^6}{6!} + \cdots \right) \cdot \left( x - \frac{x^3}{3!} + \frac{x^5}{5!} - \cdots \right) \\ \frac{1}{2} \sin 2x &= \frac{1}{2} \left( 2x - \frac{2^3 x^3}{3!} + \frac{2^5 x^5}{5!} - \frac{2^7 x^7}{7!} \cdots \right) \\ &= \left( x - \frac{2^2 x^3}{3!} + \frac{2^4 x^5}{5!} - \frac{2^6 x^7}{7!} \cdots \right) \end{aligned}$$

On the other hand, by multiplying out

$$\cos x \cdot \sin x = x - \left( \frac{1}{1!2!} + \frac{1}{3!} \right) x^3 + \left( \frac{1}{1!4!} + \frac{1}{2!3!} \right) x^5 - \left( \frac{1}{1!6!} + \frac{1}{2!5!} + \frac{1}{3!4!} \right) x^7 + \cdots$$

Comparing the coefficients, we see

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{2^2}{3!} &= \frac{1}{0!3!} + \frac{1}{1!2!} \\ \frac{2^4}{5!} &= \frac{1}{0!5!} + \frac{1}{1!4!} + \frac{1}{2!3!} \\ \frac{2^6}{7!} &= \frac{1}{0!7!} + \frac{1}{1!6!} + \frac{1}{2!5!} + \frac{1}{3!4!} \\ &= \cdots \\ \frac{2^{2n}}{(2n+1)!} &= \frac{1}{0!(2n+1)!} + \frac{1}{1!(2n)!} + \frac{1}{2!(2n-1)!} + \cdots + \frac{1}{n!(n+1)!} \end{aligned}$$

**Example 7.7.12.**

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{\ln(1-x)}{1-x} &= -(1+x+x^2+x^3+\cdots) \left( x + \frac{x^2}{2} + \frac{x^3}{3} + \cdots + \frac{x^n}{n} + \cdots \right) \\ &= - \left( x + \left(1 + \frac{1}{2}\right)x^2 + \left(1 + \frac{1}{2} + \frac{1}{3}\right)x^3 + \cdots + \left(1 + \frac{1}{2} + \frac{1}{3} + \cdots + \frac{1}{n}\right)x^n + \cdots \right) \end{aligned}$$

Now integrating the lhs,

$$\int_0^x \frac{\ln(1-t)}{1-t} dt = - \int u du = - \frac{(\ln(1-x))^2}{2}$$

while the integral of the right hand side is

$$= - \left( \frac{x^2}{2} + \left(1 + \frac{1}{2}\right)\frac{x^3}{3} + \left(1 + \frac{1}{2} + \frac{1}{3}\right)\frac{x^4}{4} + \cdots + \left(1 + \frac{1}{2} + \frac{1}{3} + \cdots + \frac{1}{n}\right)\frac{x^{n+1}}{n+1} + \cdots \right)$$

The direct power series expansion of  $\frac{(\ln(1-x))^2}{2}$  is

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{(\ln(1-x))^2}{2} &= \frac{1}{2} \left( x + \frac{x^2}{2} + \frac{x^3}{3} + \cdots + \frac{x^n}{n} + \cdots \right)^2 \\ &= \frac{1}{2} \left( x^2 + \left(\frac{1}{2} + \frac{1}{2}\right)x^3 + \left(\frac{1}{3} + \frac{1}{2 \cdot 2} + \frac{1}{3}\right)x^4 + \cdots + \left(\frac{1}{n} + \frac{1}{2 \cdot n - 1} + \cdots + \frac{1}{n}\right)x^{n+1} + \cdots \right) \end{aligned}$$

Comparing the coefficients of  $x^{n+1}$ , we obtain

$$\left(1 + \frac{1}{2} + \frac{1}{3} + \cdots + \frac{1}{n}\right) \frac{1}{n+1} = \frac{1}{2} \left(\frac{1}{n} + \frac{1}{2 \cdot n - 1} + \cdots + \frac{1}{n}\right)$$

Or by multiplying  $(n+1)/2$ , we get

$$\left(1 + \frac{1}{2} + \frac{1}{3} + \cdots + \frac{1}{n}\right) = \left(\frac{1}{n} + \frac{1}{2 \cdot n - 1} + \cdots + \frac{1}{n}\right) \frac{n+1}{2}$$

Use trapezoidal rule to estimate  $\int_1^n \frac{1}{x} dx$ . Get approximation formula for  $\ln n$ .

## 7.8 Taylor and Maclaurin Series

In the previous discussions we have seen that a power series defines a continuous function on some interval  $I$ . How about its converse? Suppose  $f$  is differentiable  $n$ -times. Is it possible to represent it with a power series? To answer to this question, let us assume that a power series  $\sum_{n=0}^{\infty} a_n(x-a)^n$  represents a function  $f(x)$  on its interval of convergence  $I$ . Then we have

$$f(x) = \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} a_n(x-a)^n, \quad x \in I$$

If we can find the coefficients  $a_n$ , then we would have obtained a power series representation of  $f(x)$ .

We shall later show that if  $f$  has derivative of any order

$$\begin{aligned} & \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \frac{f^{(n)}(a)}{n!} (x-a)^n \\ &= f(a) + f'(a)(x-a) + \cdots + \frac{f^{(n)}(a)}{n!} (x-a)^n + \cdots \end{aligned}$$

This is called the **Taylor series** of  $f(x)$  at  $a$ . (If  $a = 0$ , it is also called **Maclaurin series**).

**Example 7.8.1.** Find Taylor series of  $f(x) = 1/x$  at  $a = 2$ .

**sol.**

$$f(x) = \frac{1}{x}, \quad f'(x) = -x^{-2}, \quad f''(x) = 2!x^{-3}, \dots, \quad f^{(n)}(x) = (-1)^n n! x^{-(n+1)},$$

$$f(2) = \frac{1}{2}, \quad f'(2) = -\frac{1}{2^2}, \quad \frac{f''(2)}{2!} = \frac{1}{2^{-3}}, \dots, \quad \frac{f^{(n)}(2)}{n!} = \frac{(-1)^n}{2^{n+1}}$$

Thus

$$f(x) = \frac{1}{2} - \frac{(x-2)}{2^2} + \frac{(x-2)^2}{2^3} + \cdots + (-1)^n \frac{(x-2)^n}{2^{n+1}} + \cdots$$

We can check this series converges for  $0 < x < 4$ .

□

## Taylor Polynomial

Consider

$$y = P_1(x) := f(a) + f'(a)(x-a)$$

This is linear approximation to  $f(x)$ . Similarly we can consider

$$y = P_2(x) := f(a) + f'(a)(x-a) + \frac{1}{2}f''(a)(x-a)^2$$

which has same derivative up to second order. By the same way one can find a polynomial  $P_n(x)$  of degree  $n$ . It is called a **Taylor polynomial of degree  $n$** . Then we see

$$P_n^{(k)}(a) = f^{(k)}(a), \quad k = 0, 1, \dots, n$$

$$P_n(x) = f(a) + f'(a)(x-a) + \cdots + \frac{f^{(n)}(a)}{n!} (x-a)^n \quad (7.8)$$

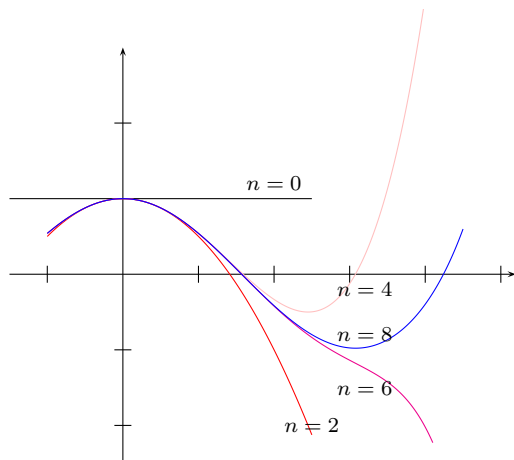


Figure 7.9: Taylor approx. of  $\cos x$ ,  $p_8$  is blue colored

The difference (error) is defined as

$$R_n(x) = f(x) - P_n(x)$$

and called the **remainder**

$$f(x) = P_n(x) + R_n(x)$$

is called  $n$ -th **Taylor formula** of  $f(x)$  at  $a$ .

**Example 7.8.2.** Find Taylor polynomial for  $\cos x$ .

**Example 7.8.3.**

$$f(x) = \begin{cases} \exp(-1/x^2), & x \neq 0 \\ 0, & x = 0 \end{cases}$$

is infinitely differentiable at 0, but the Taylor series converges only at  $x = 0$ . In fact, we can show that  $f^{(n)}(0) = 0$ ,  $n = 0, 1, \dots$ . So the Taylor polynomial  $P_n(x) = 0$  and  $R_{n+1}(x) = f(x)$ . Hence  $P_n(x) \not\rightarrow f(x)$ .

## 7.9 Convergence of Taylor Series, Error estimates

If  $R_n(x) \rightarrow 0$  on  $I$ , then Taylor polynomial becomes Taylor series.

**Theorem 7.9.1** (Taylor's Theorem with Remainder). *Suppose  $f(x)$  is differentiable  $n + 1$  times on  $I$  containing  $a$  and  $P_n(x)$  is the Taylor polynomial given by (7.8). Then*

$$R_n(x) = \frac{f^{(n+1)}(c)}{(n+1)!} (x-a)^{n+1}. \quad (7.9)$$

**Corollary 7.9.2.** Suppose there is some number  $M$  such that  $f(x)$  satisfies  $|f^{(n+1)}(x)| \leq M$  for all  $x \in I$ . Then

$$|R_n(x)| \leq M \frac{|x-a|^{n+1}}{(n+1)!}, \quad x \in I \quad (7.10)$$

**Example 7.9.3.** At  $a = 0$ , we have

$$e^x = 1 + x + \cdots + \frac{x^n}{n!} + R_n(x)$$

Here

$$|R_n(x)| \leq e^c \frac{x^{n+1}}{(n+1)!}.$$

**Definition 7.9.4.** Suppose  $x \in I$  and  $f(x)$  is infinitely differentiable on  $I = (a, b)$

$$\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} R_n(x) = 0, \quad x \in I$$

then we say  $f(x)$  is **analytic** at  $a$ . Here  $R_n(x) = f(x) - P_n(x)$  is the remainder.

In this case, we write

$$f(x) = \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \frac{f^{(n)}(x)}{n!} (x-a)^n, \quad x \in I$$

**Example 7.9.5.** (1) Maclaurin series of  $\sin x$ ,  $\cos x$  and  $e^x$  are:

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

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

$$e^x = \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \frac{x^n}{n!}, \quad -\infty < x < \infty$$

(2) Maclaurin series of  $\ln(1+x)$  on  $(0, \infty)$  is

$$\ln(1+x) = \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{(-1)^{n-1} x^n}{n}, \quad -1 < x \leq 1$$

(3) Maclaurin series of  $1/(1-x)$

$$\frac{1}{1-x} = \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} x^n, \quad -1 < x < 1$$

(4)  $\sqrt{x}$  is analytic on  $(0, \infty)$ .

**Example 7.9.6** (Substitution). Find series for  $\cos x^2$  near  $x = 0$ .

**Example 7.9.7** (Multiplication). Find series for  $x \sin x^2$  near  $x = 0$ .

**Example 7.9.8** (Truncation Error). For what values of  $x$  can we replace  $\sin x$  with error less than  $x \times 10^{-4}$ ?

$$\sin x \approx x - \frac{x^3}{3!}$$

Here error term is

$$\frac{|x|^5}{5!}.$$

### Euler's identity

$$\begin{aligned} e^{i\theta} &= 1 + \frac{i\theta}{1!} + \frac{i^2\theta^2}{2!} + \frac{i^3\theta^3}{3!} + \frac{i^4\theta^4}{4!} + \cdots \\ &= \left(1 - \frac{\theta^2}{2!} + \frac{\theta^4}{4!} - \frac{\theta^6}{6!} + \cdots\right) + i \left(\theta - \frac{\theta^3}{3!} + \frac{\theta^5}{5!} - \cdots\right) \\ &= \cos \theta + i \sin \theta \end{aligned}$$

### Proof of Taylor's Formula with Remainder

We shall show that for a function  $f$  analytic near  $x = a$ , we have

$$\sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \frac{f^{(n)}(a)}{n!} (x-a)^n = f(a) + f'(a)(x-a) + \cdots + \frac{f^{(n)}(a)}{n!} (x-a)^n + \cdots$$

We set

$$\phi_n(x) = P_n(x) + K(x-a)^{n+1}.$$

This function has same first  $n$ -derivative as  $f$  at  $a$ . We can choose  $K$  so that  $\phi_n(x)$  agrees with  $f(x)$ . We shall show that  $K$  is indeed given by the form  $\frac{f^{(n+1)}(c)}{(n+1)!}$ . The idea is to fix  $x = b$  and choose  $K$  so that  $\phi_n(b)$  agrees with  $f(b)$ . So

$$f(b) = P_n(b) + K(b-a)^{n+1}, \text{ or } K = \frac{f(b) - P_n(b)}{(b-a)^{n+1}} \quad (7.11)$$

and

$$F(x) = f(x) - \phi_n(x)$$

is the error. We use Rolle's theorem. First since  $F(b) = F(a) = 0$

$$F'(c_1) = 0, \quad \text{for some } c_1 \in (a, b).$$

Next, because  $F'(a) = F'(c_1) = 0$  we have

$$F''(c_2) = 0, \quad \text{for some } c_2 \in (a, c_1).$$

Now repeated application of Rolle's theorem to  $F''$ , etc show that there exist

$$\begin{aligned} c_3 & \text{ in } (a, c_2) \quad \text{such that } F'''(c_3) = 0, \\ c_4 & \text{ in } (a, c_3) \quad \text{such that } F^{(4)}(c_4) = 0, \\ & \vdots \\ c_n & \text{ in } (a, c_{n-1}) \quad \text{such that } F^{(n)}(c_n) = 0 \\ c_{n+1} & \text{ in } (a, c_n) \quad \text{such that } F^{(n+1)}(c_{n+1}) = 0. \end{aligned}$$

But since  $F(x) = f(x) - \phi_n(x) = f(x) - P_n(x) - K(x-a)^{n+1}$ , we see

$$F^{(n+1)}(c) = f^{(n+1)}(c) - 0 - (n+1)!K.$$

Hence

$$K = \frac{f^{(n+1)}(c)}{(n+1)!}, \quad c = c_{n+1}.$$

Thus we have

$$f(b) = P_n(b) + \frac{f^{(n+1)}(c)}{(n+1)!}(b-a)^{n+1}. \quad (7.12)$$

Now since  $b$  is arbitrary, we can set  $b = x$ . Furthermore, if  $R_n \rightarrow 0$  as  $n \rightarrow \infty$ , we obtain Taylor's theorem.

## 7.10 Application

### Binomial Series

Consider for any real  $m$

$$(1+x)^m = 1 + mx + \frac{m(m+1)}{2!}x^2 + \cdots + \binom{m}{n}x^n + R_n(x). \quad (7.13)$$

It can be shown that this series converges for  $-1 < x < 1$ . This is true .

$$\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} R_n(x) = 0, \quad -1 < x < 1$$

Here

$$\binom{m}{n} = \frac{m(m-1)\cdots(m-n+1)}{n!}, \quad n = 0, 1, 2, \dots$$

We can show  $R = 1$ .



*Proof.*

$$\begin{aligned} f'(x) &= m(1+x)^{m-1} \\ f''(x) &= m(m-1)(1+x)^{m-2} \\ &\dots \\ f^{(n)}(x) &= m(m-1)\cdots(m-n+1)(1+x)^{m-n} \end{aligned}$$

We see

$$f^{(n)}(0) = \binom{m}{n} n!, \quad n = 0, 1, 2, \dots$$

Hence equation (7.13) is the Taylor formula of  $f(x)$  at 0 and its remainder.  $\square$

**Example 7.10.1.**

$$(1+x)^{1/2} = 1 + \frac{x}{2} - \frac{x^2}{8} + \frac{x^3}{16} - \dots$$

**Example 7.10.2.** Find  $\int \sin^2 x \, dx$  as power series.

Estimate  $\int_0^1 \sin^2 x \, dx$  within error less than 0.001.

**Example 7.10.3.** Find Maclaurin series of  $\arctan x$ .

**sol.** Note that for  $|x| < 1$  the  $\arctan x$  has convergent power series:

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

Integrate it from 0 to  $x$

$$\begin{aligned} \arctan x &= \int_0^x \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} (-1)^n t^{2n} \, dt \\ &= \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \frac{(-1)^n x^{2n+1}}{2n+1}, \quad |x| < 1. \end{aligned}$$

Thus

$$\arctan x = x - \frac{x^3}{3} + \frac{x^5}{5} - \frac{x^7}{7} + \dots$$

For example,

$$\frac{\pi}{4} = \arctan 1 = 1 - \frac{1}{3} + \frac{1}{5} - \frac{1}{7} + \dots$$

**Remark 7.10.4.** We can actually use the given formula to estimate  $\pi$ . As it turns out it, however, is not an effective method. Let us estimate the error when we use this formula to approximate

$$\pi \approx 4\left(1 - \frac{1}{3} + \frac{1}{5} - \frac{1}{7} + \dots\right)$$

The error using  $n$ -term is about  $4/(2n+1)$ . So to get the error less than  $10^{-4}$ , we need  $2n+1 \approx 10000/4$ ,  $n = 1200$  terms! Too many! Fortunately there are more effective ways.



**Example 7.10.5.** Suppose  $1 > a_n \geq 0$  and  $\sum a_n$  converges. Determine whether the following series converges or not.

(1)  $\sum \frac{a_n}{1+a_n}$

(2)  $\sum \frac{a_n}{1-a_n}$

(3)  $\sum a_n^2$

Sol. 1)

$$\sum \frac{a_n}{1+a_n} \leq \sum a_n$$

2)

$$\sum_{n=k} \frac{a_n}{1-a_n} \leq 2 \sum_{n=k} a_n \quad (\text{for sufficiently large } k \text{ so } a_n < \frac{1}{2})$$

3) Suppose  $\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} a_n^2$  diverges. Then for any  $L > 0$  there is  $N$  such that  $\sum_1^n a_n^2 > L$  for  $n \geq N$ . So  $(\sum_1^N a_n)^2 \geq \sum_1^N a_n^2 \geq L$ . Hence

$$\sum_1^n a_n \geq \sqrt{L}$$

for all  $n \geq N$ . Thus  $\sum_1^{\infty} a_n$  diverges.

### 7.10.1 Term by term differentiation and integration

**Theorem 7.10.6.** Suppose the radius of convergence  $R$  of  $\sum_{n=0}^{\infty} a_n(x-a)^n$  is larger than 0.

$$f(x) = \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} a_n(x-a)^n, \quad |x-a| < R \quad (7.14)$$

Then

(i)  $f(x)$  is differentiable on  $(a-R, a+R)$  and the derivative is given by term by term differentiation. Hence

$$f'(x) = \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} n a_n (x-a)^{n-1}, \quad |x-a| < R \quad (7.15)$$

(ii)  $f(x)$  has an anti-derivative on  $(a-R, a+R)$  and it is given by

$$\int f(x) dx = \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} a_n \frac{(x-a)^{n+1}}{n+1} + C, \quad |x-a| < R \quad (7.16)$$

The radius of convergence of (7.15) and (7.16) do not change. .

We repeat theorem 7.7.4. Then

**Corollary 7.10.7.** *By theorem 7.7.4, the function  $f(x)$  is differentiable in  $(a - R, A + R)$  and*

$$f^{(k)}(x) = \sum_{n=k}^{\infty} n(n-1) \cdots (n-k+1) a_n (x-a)^{n-k}, \quad (7.17)$$

$$|x-a| < R,$$

$k = 0, 1, \dots$  The radius of convergence is again  $R$ .

**Theorem 7.10.8 (Uniqueness).** *Suppose  $f(x)$  has continuous derivative up to order  $(n+1)$  in a nhd  $I = (a, b)$  of  $a$ . Suppose*

$$f(x) = a_0 + a_1(x-a) + \cdots + a_n(x-a)^n + r(x), \quad x \in I$$

for some  $r(x)$  and  $M$  s.t.

$$|r(x)| \leq M|x-a|^{n+1}, \quad x \in I.$$

Then  $a_k$  is the Taylor coefficients. i.e.,

$$a_k = \frac{1}{k!} f^{(k)}(a), \quad k = 0, 1, \dots, n.$$

*Proof.* Taylor coefficient  $C_k = (1/k!)f^{(k)}(a)$ . Then by theorem 7.9.1

$$\begin{aligned} f(x) &= C_0 + C_1(x-a) + \cdots + C_n(x-a)^n + R_{n+1}(x) \\ &= a_0 + a_1(x-a) + \cdots + a_n(x-a)^n + r(x) \end{aligned}$$

Hence with  $b_k = C_k - a_k$  we have

$$b_0 + b_1(x-a) + \cdots + b_n(x-a)^n = r(x) - R_{n+1}(x)$$

Set  $x = a$ , then we have  $b_0 = 0$ , i.e,  $a_0 = C_0$ .

Induction : Assume  $b_0 = b_1 = \cdots = b_{m-1} = 0$  for all  $m$  with  $1 \leq m \leq n$ .

Then

$$b_m(x-a)^m + \cdots + b_n(x-a)^n = r(x) - R_{n+1}(x)$$

Divide by  $(x-a)^m$  and let  $x \rightarrow a$ . Then we see  $b_m = 0$ . Hence by induction,

$$b_0 = b_1 = \cdots = b_n = 0$$

or

$$a_0 = C_0, \quad a_1 = C_1, \quad \dots, \quad a_n = C_n.$$

□

**Example 7.10.9.** (1)

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

(2)

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

(3)

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

(4) Application

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

$$\begin{aligned} f(x) &= \frac{1}{(1-2x)^2} \\ f'(x) &= \frac{2^2}{(1-2x)^3} \\ f''(x) &= \frac{2^3 \cdot 3}{(1-2x)^4} \\ &= \dots \\ f^{(n)}(x) &= \frac{2^{n+1} \cdot (n+1)!}{(1-2x)^{n+2}} \end{aligned}$$

For constant, check!

**Example 7.10.10.** Find Taylor polynomial of degree 3 of  $x^3 + 3x^2 + 2x + 1$  at  $a = 1$ .**sol.** Set  $x = t + 1$ ,  $t = x - 1$  and then  $f$  is

$$t^3 + 6t^2 + 11t + 7$$

$$x^3 + 3x^2 + 2x + 1 = (x-1)^3 + 6(x-1)^2 + 11(x-1) + 7.$$

By theorem 7.10.8 Taylor polynomial is

$$(x-1)^3 + 6(x-1)^2 + 11(x-1) + 7.$$

□

**Example 7.10.11.** Estimate  $\sin(0.1)$  up to third digit 3.

**sol.** Taylor polynomial of  $\sin x$  at  $a = 0$

$$\sin x = \sum_{k=0}^n \frac{1}{k!} \left( \frac{d}{dx} \right)^k \sin x \Big|_{x=0} x^k + R_n(x)$$

Since  $|\sin x| \leq 1$ , for  $|\cos x| \leq 1$

$$|R_n(x)| \leq \frac{|x|^{n+1}}{(n+1)!}$$

If  $n = 3$

$$|R_3(0.1)| \leq \frac{(0.1)^3}{3!} < 10^{-3}$$

we have  $\sin(0.1) \approx 0.1$  and the error is less than  $\pm(1/6) \times 10^{-3}$ .

□

**Example 7.10.12.** Find

$$\lim_{x \rightarrow 0} \frac{\sin x - x + (x^3/6)}{x^4}$$

**sol.**  $a = 0$  Taylor polynomial of  $\sin x$  at  $a = 0$  is

$$\sin x = x - \frac{x^3}{6} + R(x) \quad |R(x)| \leq \frac{|x|^5}{5!}$$

Hence

$$\left| \frac{\sin x - x + (x^3/6)}{x^4} \right| = \left| \frac{R(x)}{x^4} \right| \leq \frac{|x|}{5!}$$

and limit is 0.

□

**Example 7.10.13.** Estimate

$$\ln 2 = \ln(1+1) = 1 - \frac{1}{2} + \cdots + \frac{(-1)^{n-1}}{n} + R_n(1)$$

Since

$$|R_n(1)| \leq \frac{1}{n+1}$$

we need to take large  $n$ . However, we can do the following:

$$\ln 2 = \ln \frac{4}{3} \cdot \ln \frac{3}{2} = \ln\left(1 + \frac{1}{3}\right) + \ln\left(1 + \frac{1}{2}\right)$$

and use Taylor series.

**Theorem 7.10.14** (Binomial series). *For any real  $s$*

$$(1+x)^s = 1 + sx + \frac{s(s+1)}{2!}x^2 + \cdots + \binom{s}{n}x^n + R_{n+1}(x), \quad (7.18)$$

$$-1 < x < 1$$

and

$$\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} R_{n+1}(x) = 0, \quad -1 < x < 1$$

Here

$$\binom{s}{n} = \frac{s(s-1)\cdots(s-n+1)}{n!}, \quad n = 0, 1, 2, \dots$$

**Example 7.10.15.** Find  $\sqrt{1.2}$  up to two decimal point.

**sol.** Let  $f(x) = \sqrt{1+x}$ . Then  $\sqrt{1.2} = f(0.2)$ . Hence from equation (7.18) We see Taylor series at  $a = 0$  is

$$f(x) = 1 + \frac{1}{2}x + \cdots + \binom{1/2}{n}x^n + R_n(x),$$

$$R_n(x) = \frac{f^{(n+1)}(\bar{x})}{(n+1)!}x^{n+1} \quad (0 \leq \bar{x} \leq 0.2)$$

For  $n = 1$ ,

$$R_1(0.2) = \left(\frac{1}{2}\right)f''(\bar{x})(0.2)^2 = -0.005(1+\bar{x})^{-3/2} \quad (0 \leq \bar{x} \leq 0.2)$$

Hence  $\sqrt{1.2} \approx 1 + \left(\frac{1}{2}\right)(0.2) = 1.1$  and the error satisfies  $|R_2(0.2)| < 0.005$ .

□



## Chapter 8

# Conic Sections and Polar Coordinates

### 8.1 Polar coordinate

In **polar coordinate system** the origin  $O$  is called a **pole**, and the half line from  $O$  in the positive direction  $x$  is **polar axis**

Given  $P$  let the distance from  $O$  to  $P$  be  $r$  the angle  $\overrightarrow{OP}$  is  $\theta$  in **radian**. Then  $P$  is denoted by  $(r, \theta)$ . (figure 8.1 )

We allow  $r$  and  $\theta$  to have negative value, i.e, if  $r < 0$ ,  $(r, \theta)$  represent the opposite point  $(|r|, \theta)$ . While if  $\theta < 0$   $(r, \theta)$  represents  $(r, |\theta|)$  (figure 8.1 )

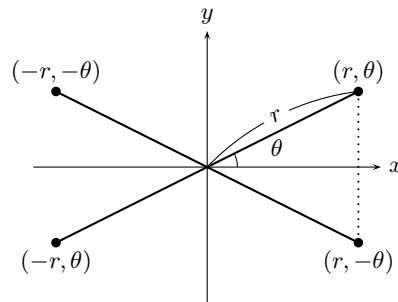


Figure 8.1:

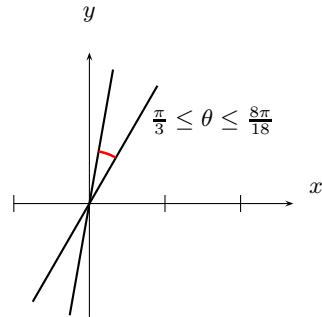
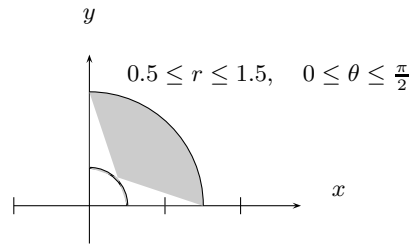
#### Nonuniqueness of polar coordinate

#### Polar equations and graphs

**Example 8.1.1.** (1)  $r = a$

(2)  $1 \leq r \leq 2, 0 \leq \theta \leq \frac{\pi}{2}$





(3)  $\frac{\pi}{3} \leq \theta \leq \frac{8\pi}{18}$

### Relation with Cartesian coordinate

If  $(r, \theta) = (x, y)$

**Proposition 8.1.2.** (1)  $x^2 + y^2 = r^2$

(2)  $x = r \cos \theta$

(3)  $y = r \sin \theta$

**Example 8.1.3.** Draw

(1) Line through the origin:  $\theta = c$

(2) Line through the origin:  $r \cos(\alpha - \theta) = d$  where  $d$  is the distance from the origin to the line.

## 8.2 Drawing in Polar Coordinate

**Example 8.2.1.** Draw the graph of

$$r = 2 \cos \theta$$

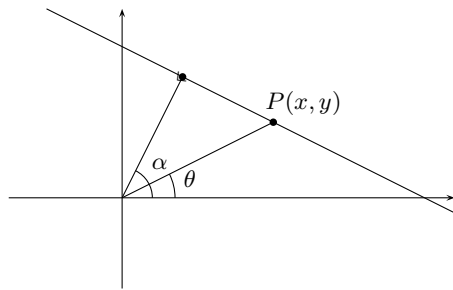


Figure 8.2: Equation of line in polar coord.

**sol.** Since  $r = 2 \cos \theta$ , we have  $r^2 = 2r \cos \theta$ . Then we obtain  $x^2 + y^2 = 2x$ , or  $(x - 1)^2 + y^2 = 1$ .

□

$\theta$	$r$	$\theta$	$r$
0	3	$\pm 2\pi/3$	0
$\pm\pi/6$	$1 + \sqrt{3}$	$\pm 3\pi/4$	$1 - \sqrt{2}$
$\pm\pi/4$	$1 + \sqrt{2}$	$\pm 5\pi/6$	$1 - \sqrt{3}$
$\pm\pi/3$	2	$\pm\pi$	-1
$\pm\pi/2$	1		

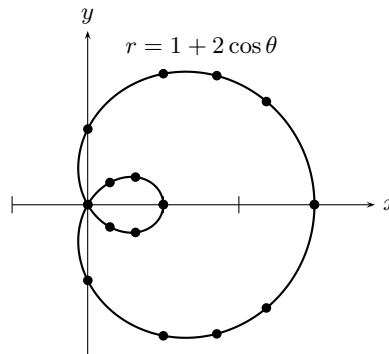


Figure 8.3:  $y = 1 + 2 \cos \theta$

### Equation of circles

Circles of radius  $a$  centered at  $(r_0, \theta_0)$  is described by

$$a^2 = r^2 + r_0^2 - 2rr_0 \cos(\theta - \theta_0)$$

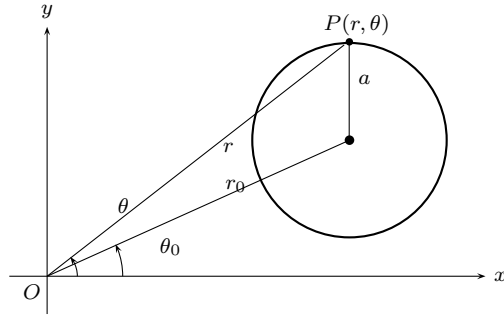
If the circle pass the origin,  $a = r_0$  and the equation is  $r = a \cos(\theta - \theta_0)$

**Example 8.2.2.** Draw  $r = 1 + 2 \cos \theta$

**sol.** Multiply  $r$  to have  $r^2 = r + 2r \cos \theta$ .

$$x^2 + y^2 = \sqrt{x^2 + y^2} + 2x \quad (r \geq 0)$$

$$x^2 + y^2 = -\sqrt{x^2 + y^2} + 2x \quad (r < 0)$$



**Example 8.2.3.** Draw the graph of  $r = 1 - \sin \theta$ .

**sol.**

Figure 8.5

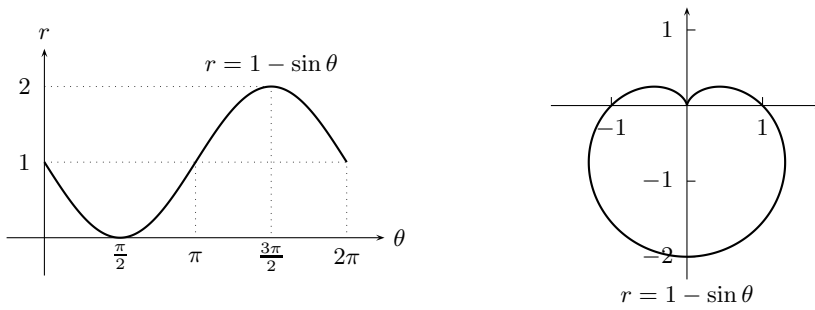


Figure 8.4:  $r = 1 - \sin \theta$

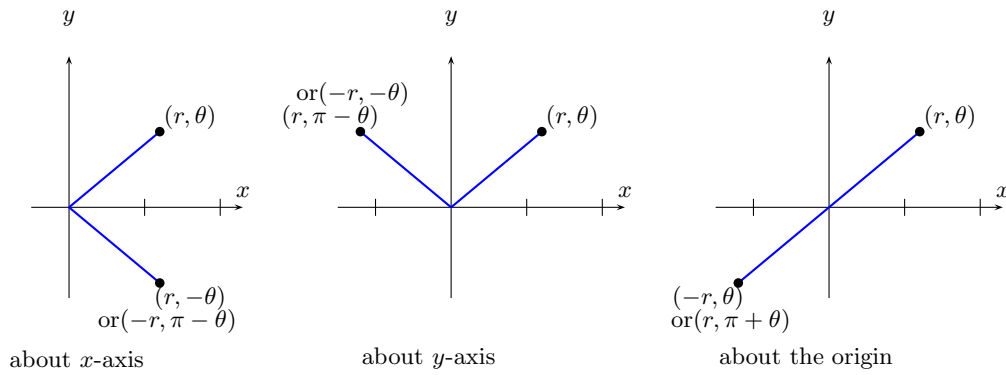
**Example 8.2.4.** Find cartesian equation of

- (1)  $r \cos \theta = -4$
- (2)  $r^2 = 4r \cos \theta$
- (3)  $r = \frac{4}{2 \cos \theta - \sin \theta}$  (line)

**sol.**

Check





### Symmetry

A point symmetric to  $x$  axis of  $(r, \theta)$  is  $(r, -\theta)$  or  $(-r, \pi - \theta)$ . a point symmetric to  $y$ -axis is  $(r, \pi - \theta)$  or  $(-r, -\theta)$ .

$(-r, \theta)$  or  $(r, \pi + \theta)$  is symmetric about the origin.

**Proposition 8.2.5.** *The graph of  $f(r, \theta) = 0$  is symmetric w.r.t*

- (1)  $x$ -axis if  $f(r, -\theta) = f(r, \theta)$   $f(-r, \pi - \theta) = f(r, \theta)$
- (2)  $y$ -axis if  $f(r, \pi - \theta) = f(r, \theta)$  or  $f(-r, -\theta) = f(r, \theta)$ ,
- (3) the origin if  $f(-r, \theta) = f(r, \theta)$  or  $f(r, \pi + \theta) = f(r, \theta)$ .

**Example 8.2.6.** Find the symmetry of  $r^2 = \sin 2\theta$ .

**sol.** Set  $f(r, \theta) = r^2 - \sin 2\theta$ . Then

$$f(-r, \theta) = (-r)^2 - \sin 2\theta = f(r, \theta)$$

is **symmetric about the origin**. On the other hand,

$$f(r, -\theta) = r^2 - \sin(-2\theta) \neq f(r, \theta)$$

and

$$f(-r, \pi - \theta) = r^2 - \sin(2\pi - 2\theta) \neq f(r, \theta)$$

Hence it is not symmetric about the  $x$ -axis. Also because

$$f(r, \pi - \theta) = r^2 - \sin(2\pi - 2\theta) = r^2 + \sin 2\theta \neq f(r, \theta)$$

$$f(-r, -\theta) = r^2 - \sin(-2\theta) = r^2 + \sin 2\theta \neq f(r, \theta)$$

it is not symmetric about  $y$ -axis either.



**Example 8.2.7.** For the graph  $r = 2 \cos 2\theta$ , we let  $f(r, \theta) = r - \cos 2\theta$  and we replace the  $x$ -axis symmetric point  $(-r, \pi - \theta)$  for  $(r, \theta)$  then

$$f(-r, \pi - \theta) = -r - \cos 2(\pi - \theta) = -r - \cos 2\theta \neq f(r, \theta)$$

This looks different from the given relation. However, if we replace another expression of the same  $x$ -axis symmetric point  $(r, -\theta)$  for  $(r, \theta)$ , then

$$f(r, -\theta) = r - \cos(-2\theta) = r - \cos 2\theta = f(r, \theta)$$

Hence it is symmetric about  $x$ -axis.

### Slope of tangent

Caution: The slope of a polar curve  $r = f(\theta)$  is given by  $dy/dx$ , not given by  $r' = df/d\theta$ , because the slope is measured as the ratio between the increase in  $y$  and increase in  $x$  (i.e.,  $\Delta y/\Delta x$ ). Let us use the parametric expression

$$x = r \cos \theta = f(\theta) \cos \theta, \quad y = f(\theta) \sin \theta$$

Using the parametric derivative, we have

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{dy}{dx} &= \frac{dy/d\theta}{dx/d\theta} = \frac{\frac{d}{d\theta}[f(\theta) \sin \theta]}{\frac{d}{d\theta}[f(\theta) \cos \theta]} \\ &= \frac{\frac{df}{d\theta} \sin \theta + f(\theta) \cos \theta}{\frac{df}{d\theta} \cos \theta - f(\theta) \sin \theta} \end{aligned}$$

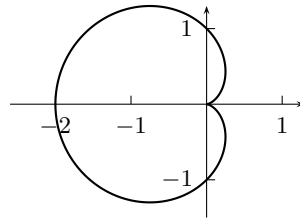
Hence

$$\frac{dy}{dx} = \frac{f'(\theta) \sin \theta + f(\theta) \cos \theta}{f'(\theta) \cos \theta - f(\theta) \sin \theta}.$$

As a special case, when the curve pass the origin at  $\theta_0 = 0$ , then

$$\left. \frac{dy}{dx} \right|_{0, \theta_0} = \frac{f'(\theta_0) \sin \theta_0}{f'(\theta_0) \cos \theta_0} = \tan \theta_0.$$

**Example 8.2.8.** Draw the curve:  $r = 1 - \cos \theta$  (This is another Cardioid). Also, find the slope of tangent at the origin.



$$r = 1 - \cos \theta$$

Figure 8.5:  $r = 1 - \cos \theta$ 

### Problems Caused by Polar Coordinates

**Example 8.2.9.** Show the point  $(2, \pi/2)$  lies on  $r = 2 \cos 2\theta$ .

**sol.** Substitute  $(r, \theta) = (2, \pi/2)$  into  $r = 2 \cos 2\theta$ , we see

$$2 = 2 \cos \pi = -2$$

does not hold. However, if we use alternative expression for the same point  $(-2, -\pi/2)$ , then

$$-2 = 2 \cos 2(-\pi/2) = -2$$

So the point  $(2, \pi/2) = (-2, -\pi/2)$  lies on the curve.

□

**Example 8.2.10** (Draw only  $r^2 = 4 \cos \theta$ ). Find all the intersections of  $r^2 = 4 \cos \theta$  and  $r = 1 - \cos \theta$ .

**sol.** [Draw only  $r^2 = 4 \cos \theta$ ]. First solve

$$\begin{aligned} r^2 &= 4 \cos \theta \\ r &= 1 - \cos \theta \end{aligned}$$

Substitute  $\cos \theta = r^2/4$  into  $r = 1 - \cos \theta$  to see

$$r = 1 - \cos \theta = 1 - r^2/4$$

$r = -2 \pm 2\sqrt{2}$  among those  $r = -2 - 2\sqrt{2}$  is too large, we only choose  $r = -2 + 2\sqrt{2}$

$$\theta = \cos^{-1}(1 - r) = \cos^{-1}(3 - 2\sqrt{2}) \approx 80^\circ.$$

But if we see the graph 8.6 there are four points  $A, B, C, D$ . These parameter  $\theta$  in two equation is not necessarily the same (they run on different time.) That is

The curve  $r = 1 - \cos \theta$  passes  $C$  when  $\theta = \pi$ , while the curve  $r^2 = 4 \cos \theta$  passes  $C$  when  $\theta = 0$ . Same phenomena happens with  $D$ .

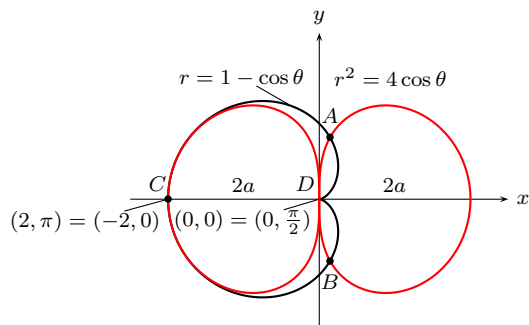


Figure 8.6: Intersection of two curves

### 8.3 Areas and Lengths in Polar Coordinates

#### Areas

The function represents certain region.

$$r = f(\theta), \quad \theta = a, \quad \theta = b$$

Let  $P = \{\theta_0, \theta_1, \dots, \theta_n\}$  be the partition of  $[a, b]$ (angle) and  $r_i = r(\theta_i)$ . Each region is approx'd by  $n$  sectors given by the figure 8.7. Let  $\Delta\theta_i = \theta_{i+1} - \theta_i$ . Then the area of the sector determined by

$$r = f(\theta), \quad \theta_i \leq \theta \leq \theta_{i+1}$$

is approx'd by  $\frac{r_i^2}{2}\Delta\theta_i$ . Hence the total area is given by

$$\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \sum_{i=0}^{n-1} \frac{1}{2} r_i^2 \Delta\theta_i.$$

(See fig 8.8). In the limit, it is

$$\int_a^b \frac{1}{2} r^2 d\theta.$$

**Example 8.3.1.** Find the area enclosed by the cardioid:  $r = 2(1 + \cos \theta)$ .

**sol.** (fig 4.6)  $\theta \in [0, 2\pi]$

$$\int_0^{2\pi} \frac{1}{2} (2 + 2 \cos \theta)^2 d\theta = 6\pi$$



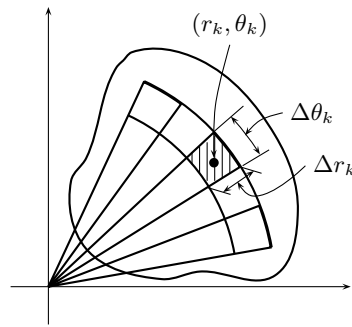
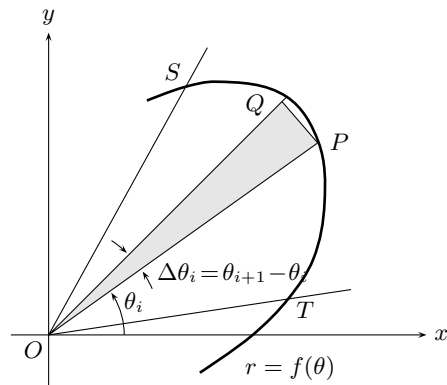


Figure 8.7: Area of region in polar coord.-partition along constant angle

Figure 8.8: Area of sector  $OST$  is approx't by sum of triangles such as  $OPQ$ 

□

Area between two curves  $r = f_1(\theta)$  and  $r = f_2(\theta)$

$$A = \int_a^b \frac{1}{2}(r_2^2 - r_1^2)d\theta$$

**Example 8.3.2.** Find the area of the region that lies inside the circle  $r = 1$  and outside the cardioid  $r = 1 - \cos\theta$ . (Fig 8.5)

**sol.** Find points of intersection.  $r = 1, \theta = \pm\pi/2$ . Let  $r_2 = 1$  and  $r_1 =$



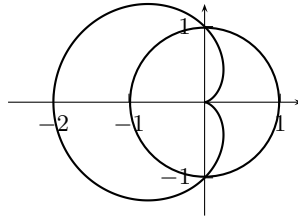


Figure 8.9: region between  $r = 1 - \cos \theta$  and  $r = 1$

$1 - \cos \theta$ .

$$\begin{aligned}
 A &= \int_{-\frac{\pi}{2}}^{\frac{\pi}{2}} \frac{1}{2}(r_2^2 - r_1^2) d\theta \\
 &= \int_0^{\frac{\pi}{2}} (r_2^2 - r_1^2) d\theta \\
 &= \int_0^{\frac{\pi}{2}} (1 - (1 - 2 \cos \theta + \cos^2 \theta)) d\theta \\
 &= 2 - \frac{\pi}{4}.
 \end{aligned}$$

□

### Arc Length

Find the arc-length of the curve given by polar coordinate

$$r = f(\theta), \quad \theta \in [a, b]$$

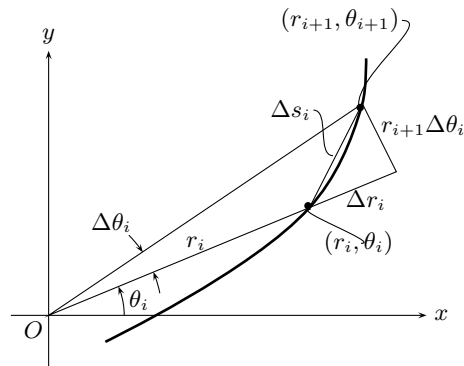


Figure 8.10:  $r_i = r(\theta_i)$ ,  $\Delta r_i = r_{i+1} - r_i$ ,  $\Delta \theta_i = \theta_{i+1} - \theta_i$

Let  $P = \{\theta_0, \theta_1, \dots, \theta_n\}$  be the partition of  $[a, b]$  and  $r_i = r(\theta_i)$ . The line segment connecting  $(r_i, \theta_i)$ ,  $(r_{i+1}, \theta_{i+1})$  has length

$$\sqrt{(r_{i+1}(\theta_{i+1} - \theta_i))^2 + (r_{i+1} - r_i)^2}$$

Thus total curve length is approx'ed by ( see fig 8.10).

$$\sum_{i=0}^{n-1} \sqrt{(r_{i+1} \Delta \theta_i)^2 + (\Delta r_i)^2}$$

Dividing by  $\Delta \theta_i$

$$\sum_{i=0}^{n-1} \sqrt{r_{i+1}^2 + \left(\frac{\Delta r_i}{\Delta \theta_i}\right)^2} \Delta \theta_i.$$

$$\int_a^b \sqrt{r^2 + \left(\frac{dr}{d\theta}\right)^2} d\theta$$

**Example 8.3.3.** Find the length of closed curve  $r = 1 - \cos \theta$ .

**sol.**

$$r = 1 - \cos \theta, \quad \frac{dr}{d\theta} = \sin \theta$$

$$\begin{aligned} r^2 + \left(\frac{dr}{d\theta}\right)^2 &= (1 - \cos \theta)^2 + \sin^2 \theta \\ &= 2 - 2 \cos \theta \end{aligned}$$

$$L = \int_0^{2\pi} \sqrt{2 - 2 \cos \theta} d\theta = 8 \quad (8.1)$$

□

### Area of a Surface of Revolution in Polar coordinate-Skip

Recall the formula

$$\text{about } x\text{-axis } S = \int_a^b 2\pi y \sqrt{\left(\frac{dx}{dt}\right)^2 + \left(\frac{dy}{dt}\right)^2} dt \quad (8.2)$$

$$\text{about } y\text{-axis } S = \int_a^b 2\pi x \sqrt{\left(\frac{dx}{dt}\right)^2 + \left(\frac{dy}{dt}\right)^2} dt \quad (8.3)$$

Since  $x = r \cos \theta$ ,  $y = r \sin \theta$ . Changing it to polar coordinates; we have

$$\left(\frac{dx}{d\theta}\right)^2 + \left(\frac{dy}{d\theta}\right)^2 = r^2 + \left(\frac{dr}{d\theta}\right)^2$$

If the graph is revolved

(1)

$$\text{about } x\text{-axis } S = \int_a^b 2\pi r \sin \theta \sqrt{r^2 + \left(\frac{dr}{d\theta}\right)^2} d\theta$$

(2)

$$\text{about } y\text{-axis } S = \int_a^b r \cos \theta \sqrt{r^2 + \left(\frac{dr}{d\theta}\right)^2} d\theta$$

**Example 8.3.4.** Revolve the right hand loop of lemniscate  $r^2 = \cos 2\theta$  about  $y$ -axis

## 8.4 Polar Coordinates of Conic Sections

### Classifying Conic sections by Eccentricity

Consider the **ellipse** with  $a \geq b$

$$\frac{x^2}{a^2} + \frac{y^2}{b^2} = 1$$

Let  $c = \sqrt{a^2 - b^2}$ . Then  $(\pm c, 0)$  are foci and  $(\pm a, 0)$  are vertices.

For the **hyperbola**

$$\frac{x^2}{a^2} - \frac{y^2}{b^2} = 1$$

Let  $c$  be defined by  $c = \sqrt{a^2 + b^2}$ . Foci are  $(\pm c, 0)$  and vertices are  $(\pm a, 0)$ .

**Definition 8.4.1.** (1) **eccentricity** of the ellipse  $x^2/a^2 + y^2/b^2 = 1$  ( $a > b$ ) is defined by

$$e = \frac{c}{a} = \frac{\sqrt{a^2 - b^2}}{a} < 1$$

(2) **eccentricity** of the hyperbola  $x^2/a^2 - y^2/b^2 = 1$  is defined by

$$e = \frac{c}{a} = \frac{\sqrt{a^2 + b^2}}{a} > 1$$

(3) **eccentricity** of the parabola is  $e = 1$ .

### eccentricity and directrix

From definition of parabola we see that for any point  $P$ ,  $PF$  the distance to focus  $F$  is the same as the distance to the directrix  $PD$ . i.e.,

$$PF = PD$$

Or with  $e = 1$

$$PF = e \cdot PD$$

This holds for other quadratic curves too!

**Definition 8.4.2.** The **Focus-directrix equation** is defined as follows:

$$PF = e \cdot PD \quad (8.4)$$

where the eccentricity  $e = \frac{c}{a}$  and the directrix  $\ell$  is the line  $x = \pm \frac{a}{e}$ .

**Proposition 8.4.3.** *eccentricity*(eccentricity)  $e$  is defined by

$$\begin{aligned} e &= \frac{\text{Distance between two focus}}{\text{Distance between two vertices}} \\ &= \frac{2c}{2a} \\ &= \frac{c}{a} \end{aligned}$$

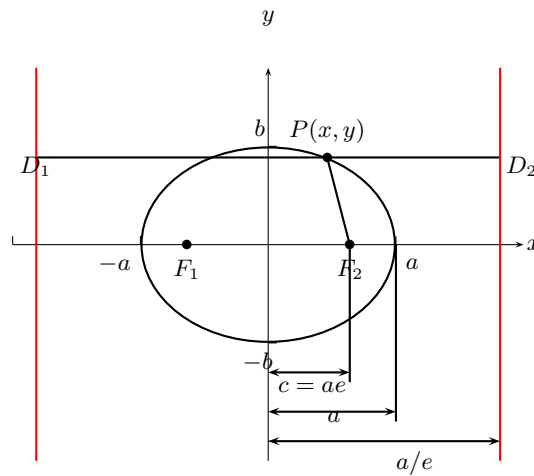


Figure 8.11:  $x^2/a^2 + y^2/b^2 = 1$

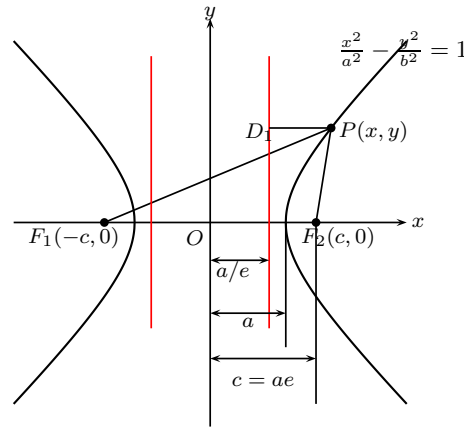
We now define conic sections using eccentricity and directrix

**Definition 8.4.4.** Suppose a point  $F$  and a line  $\ell$ . If  $P$  satisfies

$$PF = e \cdot PD$$

Then

- (1) ellipse when  $e < 1$
- (2) parabola when  $e = 1$
- (3) hyperbola when  $e > 1$

Figure 8.12:  $x^2/a^2 - y^2/b^2 = 1$ 

### Relation to Cartesian Coordinate-Skip

For ellipse  $x^2/a^2 + y^2/b^2 = 1$  ( $a > b$ ), the line

$$x = \pm \frac{a}{e} = \pm \frac{a^2}{\sqrt{a^2 - b^2}}$$

is directrix. If  $b > a$ , the lines

$$y = \pm \frac{b}{e} = \pm \frac{b^2}{\sqrt{b^2 - a^2}}$$

are directrix.

For hyperbola  $x^2/a^2 - y^2/b^2 = 1$ , the directrix is

$$x = \pm \frac{a}{e} = \pm \frac{a^2}{\sqrt{a^2 + b^2}}$$

and for the hyperbola  $-x^2/a^2 + y^2/b^2 = 1$ , directrix are

$$y = \pm \frac{b}{e} = \pm \frac{b^2}{\sqrt{b^2 + a^2}}$$

**Example 8.4.5.** Find the equation of hyperbola with center at the origin and focus at  $F = (\pm 3, 0)$  and directrix is the line  $x = 1$ .

**sol.**  $F = (3, 0)$   $c = 3$ . Since  $x = a/e = 1$  is directrix. we see  $a = e$ . Since  $e = c/a$

$$e = \frac{c}{a} = \frac{3}{e}$$

holds. So  $e = \sqrt{3}$ . From  $PF = e \cdot PD$  we see

$$\sqrt{(x-3)^2 + y^2} = \sqrt{3}|x-1| \Rightarrow \frac{x^2}{3} - \frac{y^2}{6} = 1$$

□

### Polar equation of conic section

$$PF = e \cdot PD$$

Assume the focus  $F$  is at the origin and the directrix  $\ell$  is the line  $x = k$ ,  $k > 0$ .

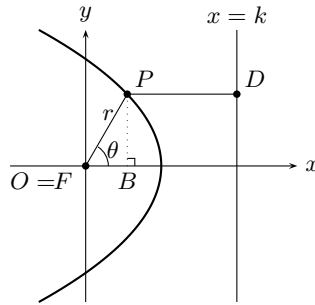


Figure 8.13:

Let  $D$  be the foot of  $P$  to directrix  $\ell$ , while the foot on the  $x$ -axis is  $B$ . Then

$$PF = r, \quad PD = k - FB = k - r \cos \theta$$

So by (8.4)

$$r = PF = e \cdot PD = e(k - r \cos \theta) \quad (8.5)$$

**Proposition 8.4.6.** *The polar equation of a conic section with eccentricity  $e$ , directrix  $x = k$ ,  $k > 0$  having focus at the origin is*

$$r = \frac{ke}{1 + e \cos \theta} \quad (8.6)$$

**Remark 8.4.7.** If  $k < 0$ , we see (Draw graph)  $r = PF = e \cdot PD = e(r \cos \theta + k)$ . Hence we have

$$r = \frac{ke}{1 - e \cos \theta}. \quad (8.7)$$

**Example 8.4.8.** Find the polar equation of a conic section with  $e = 2$  directrix  $x = -2$  and focus at origin

**sol.** Since  $k = -2$  and  $e = 2$  we have from equation (8.7)

$$r = \frac{2(-2)}{1 - 2 \cos \theta} = \frac{4}{2 \cos \theta - 1}$$

□

**Example 8.4.9.** Identify

$$r = \frac{-3}{1 - 3 \cos \theta}$$

**sol.** Since  $e = 3$  it is hyperbola and from  $ke = -3$ , we have  $k = -1$ . Hence directrix is  $x = -1$ .

□

**Example 8.4.10.** Identify

$$r = \frac{10}{2 + \cos \theta}$$

**sol.** From standard form  $r = \frac{5}{1 + \frac{1}{2} \cos \theta}$ , we see  $e = 1/2$ . Thus ellipse and  $ke = 5$ . So  $k = 10$ .

□

**Example 8.4.11.** Find polar equation of conic section with Directrix  $y = 2$ , eccentricity  $e = 3$  focus at origin.

**sol.** Fig 8.14

$$PF = r, \quad PD = 2 - r \sin \theta.$$

So  $r = 3(2 - r \sin \theta)$  and

$$r = \frac{6}{1 + 3 \sin \theta}$$

Note that  $\cos \theta$  has been replaced by  $\sin \theta$ .

□

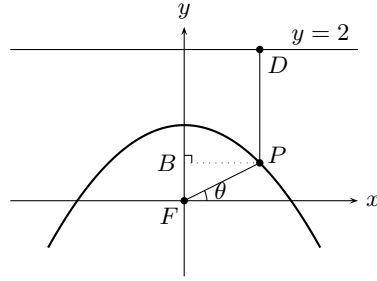


Figure 8.14:

If  $x = a$  is the major semi-axis (ellipse or hyperbola as in Fig 8.11, 8.12, placing the focus at the origin) then the distance between the focus and directrix is  $k = \text{dist}(F, D)$  and it is given by

$$k = \begin{cases} \frac{a}{e} - ae & \text{if } e < 1 \\ ae - \frac{a}{e} & \text{if } e > 1 \end{cases}$$

Thus the equation of a conic section (ellipse or hyperbola) with major axis at  $x = a$  becomes

$$r = \frac{ke}{1 + e \cos \theta} = \begin{cases} \frac{a(1-e^2)}{1+e \cos \theta} & \text{if } e < 1 \\ \frac{a(e^2-1)}{1+e \cos \theta} & \text{if } e > 1 \end{cases} \quad (8.8)$$

## 8.5 Plane curves

### Parameterized curve

**Definition 8.5.1.** If there is a continuous function  $\gamma$  defined on  $I = [a, b]$   $\gamma: I \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^2$ , then its image (or the function itself)  $C = \gamma(I)$  is called a **parameterized curve**

The point  $\gamma(a)$  is **initial point** of  $\gamma$ ,  $\gamma(b)$  is **end point** of  $\gamma$ .

**sol.** For the unit circle  $x^2 + y^2 = 1$ , we can represent it

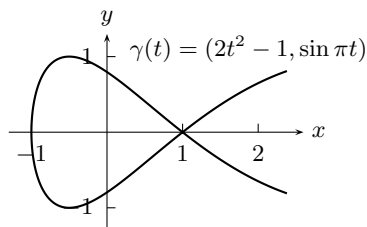
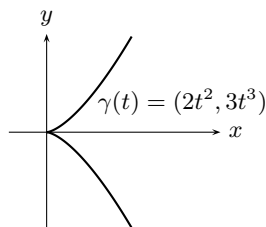
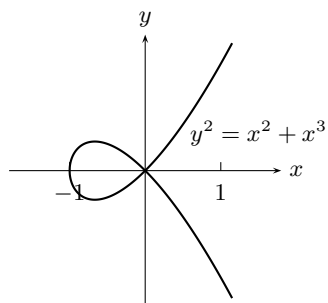
$$x(t) = \cos(2\pi t), \quad y(t) = \sin(2\pi t), \quad t \in [0, 1].$$

Another one is

$$\gamma_2 = \left( \cos\left(-4\pi t + \frac{\pi}{2}\right), \quad \sin\left(-4\pi t + \frac{\pi}{2}\right) \right)$$

□



Figure 8.15:  $\gamma(t) = (2t^2 - 1, \sin \pi t)$ Figure 8.16:  $\gamma(t) = (2t^2, 3t^3)$ Figure 8.17:  $y^2 = x^2 + x^3$ 

## Drawing

**Example 8.5.2.** Draw the graph of  $\gamma(t) = (2t^2 - 1, \sin \pi t)$  on  $[0, 1]$ .

**Example 8.5.3.** Find a parameterized representation of  $y^2 = x^2 + x^3$ .

**[sol.]** First see the graph in fig 8.17. We introduce a small trick to find a parametrization. Noting the curve pass  $(0, 0)$ , let  $y = tx$ . Then substituting into  $y^2 = x^2 + x^3$ , we obtain

$$x^2(t^2 - 1 - x) = 0$$

Set  $x = t^2 - 1$  then  $y = t(t^2 - 1)$ . Hence  $(t^2 - 1, t(t^2 - 1))$  lie on the curve. Hence  $\gamma(t) = (t^2 - 1, t(t^2 - 1))$  is a parametrization.

□

Find a parametrization of the equation  $y^3 = x^2 + x^3$ . Set  $y = tx$ . Then

$$(tx)^3 = x^2 + x^3, \quad x^2(t^3 - 1 - x) = 0$$

So

$$x = t^3 + 1, \quad y = t(t^3 + 1)$$

**Example 8.5.4.** A parametrization of  $y^3 = x^2 + x^3 + 1$ .

$$(y - 1)(y^2 + y + 1) = x^2 + x^3$$

Let  $y = 1 + tx$ . Then

$$tx(1 + 2tx + t^2x^2 + tx + 2) = x^2 + x^3$$

$$t(1 + 2tx + t^2x^2 + tx + 2) = x + x^2 = x(1 + x)$$

### Cycloid

Assume circle of radius  $a$  rolling on  $x$ -axis. Let  $P$  be a point starting to move from the origin. Fig 8.18 If circle rotates by  $t$  radian then the point  $P$  is

$$x = at + a \cos \theta, \quad y = a + a \sin \theta \quad (8.9)$$

Since  $\theta = (3\pi)/2 - t$  we have

$$x = a(t - \sin t), \quad y = a(1 - \cos t).$$

## 8.6 Conic Sections and Quadratic Equations

**Remark 8.6.1.** The upside down cycloid has two names **brachistochrones** and **tautochrones** each one of which has some physical meanings.

### Parabola

**Definition 8.6.2.** The set of all points in a plane equidistant from a *fixed point* and a *fixed line* is a **parabola**. The fixed point is called a **focus** and the line is called a **directrix**.

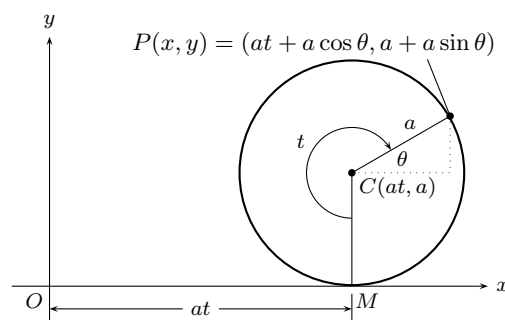


Figure 8.18: Cycloid

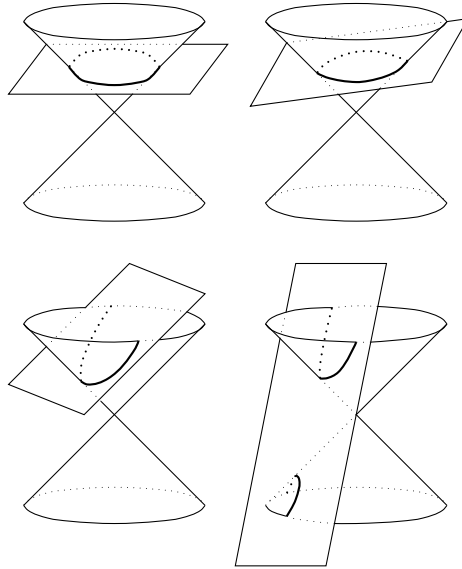


Figure 8.19: Conic sections

Find equ of parabola whose focus is at  $F = (p, 0)$  and directrix  $\ell$  is  $x = -p$   
 Figure 8.20  $Q P$  By definition it holds that  $\overline{PQ} = \overline{PF}$ . Thus

$$(x - p)^2 + y^2 = (x + p)^2$$

is the equation of parabola.

$$y^2 = 4px \quad (8.10)$$

The point closest to the curve is called

**vertex** the line connecting vertex and focus is **axis**  $y^2 = 4px$  F is  $(0, 0)$   
 and  $x$ -axis is the axis of parabola.

If  $F = (0, p)$  directrix  $\ell$  is  $y = -p$  then

$$x^2 = py$$

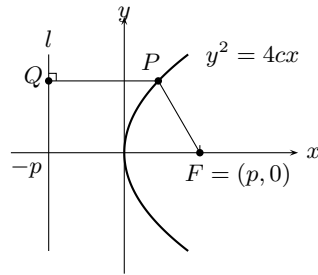
**Example 8.6.3.** Find parabola whose directrix is  $x = 1$ , focus is at  $(0, 3)$

**sol.**

$$x^2 + (y - 3)^2 = (x - 1)^2$$

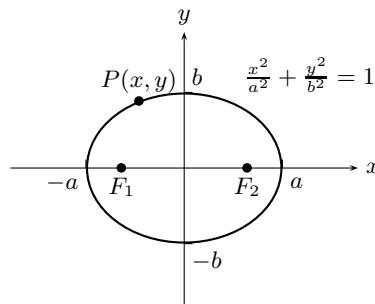
So  $y^2 - 6y + 2x + 8 = 0$ .

□

Figure 8.20: Parabola ( $y^2 = 4cx$ )

### Ellipse

**Definition 8.6.4.** The set of all points in a plane whose sum of distances from two given foci is a **ellipse**. If two points are identical, it becomes a **circle**.

Figure 8.21: Ellipse ( $x^2/a^2 + y^2/b^2 = 1$ )

Now given two points  $F_1 = (-c, 0)$  and  $F_2 = (c, 0)$ . Find the set of all points where the sum of distances from foci are constant. Fig 8.21  $P = (x, y)$ . This is an ellipse

$$PF_1 + PF_2 = 2a$$

$$\sqrt{(x+c)^2 + y^2} + \sqrt{(x-c)^2 + y^2} = 2a$$

$$\frac{x^2}{a^2} + \frac{y^2}{a^2 - c^2} = 1 \quad (8.11)$$

Let assume  $b > 0$  satisfies

$$b^2 = a^2 - c^2$$

Then  $b \leq a$  and hence from (8.11) we get

$$\frac{x^2}{a^2} + \frac{y^2}{b^2} = 1 \quad (8.12)$$

If  $x = 0$  then  $y = \pm b$  and if  $y = 0$  we have  $x = \pm a$ . Two points  $(\pm a, 0)$  are intersection of ellipse with  $x$ -axis  $(0, \pm b)$  are intersection of ellipse with  $y$ -axis

**major axis minor axis vertex**  $(\pm a, 0)$  are vertices.

Foci  $F_1 = (0, -c)$  and  $F_2 = (0, c)$  The set of all points whose sum of distance to these  $2b$

$$\frac{x^2}{a^2} + \frac{y^2}{b^2} = 1$$

$(0, \pm b)$  are vertices.

**Example 8.6.5.** Foci  $(\pm 1, 0)$  sum of distance is 6

**sol.**  $c = 1$  and  $a = 3$ . Thus  $b^2 = a^2 - c^2 = 9 - 1 = 8$ . Hence

$$\frac{x^2}{9} + \frac{y^2}{8} = 1$$

□

More generally, foci may not lie on the convenient axis.

**Example 8.6.6.** Find ellipse whose foci are  $(1, 0)$  and  $(1, 4)$  sum of distance is 8

**sol.** New coordinates  $X = x - 1$ ,  $Y = y - 2$  then on  $XY$ -plane the foci are  $(0, \pm 2)$  Hence

$$\frac{X^2}{12} + \frac{Y^2}{16} = 1 \quad (8.13)$$

$$\frac{(x-1)^2}{12} + \frac{(y-2)^2}{16} = 1$$

□

## Hyperbola

**Definition 8.6.7.** The difference of distances from given two foci are constant, we obtain **hyperbola**

Two foci are  $F_1 = (-c, 0)$ ,  $F_2 = (c, 0)$  The sum of distance is  $2a$ . Fig 8.22.  $P = (x, y)$  satisfies  $|PF_1 - PF_2| = 2a$

$$\sqrt{(x+c)^2 + y^2} - \sqrt{(x-c)^2 + y^2} = \pm 2a$$

Or

$$\frac{x^2}{a^2} + \frac{y^2}{a^2 - c^2} = 1 \quad (8.14)$$

We see  $2a < 2c$ . Thus

$$a^2 - c^2 < 0.$$

Let  $b^2 = c^2 - a^2$ . Then we obtain two **asymptotes**: (8.14)

$$\frac{x^2}{a^2} - \frac{y^2}{b^2} = 1 \quad (8.15)$$

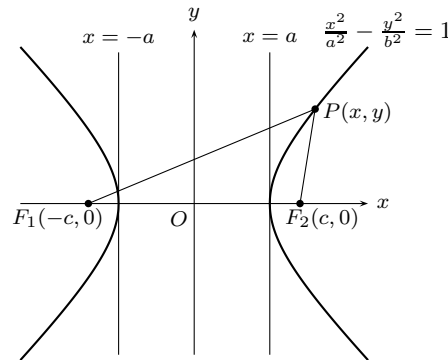


Figure 8.22: hyperbola  $x^2/a^2 - y^2/b^2 = 1$

On the other hand if the distances from two foci  $(0, \pm c)$  is  $2b$ , then the equation of hyperbola is

$$-\frac{x^2}{a^2} + \frac{y^2}{b^2} = 1$$

$x^2/a^2 - y^2/b^2 = 1$  has asymptotes

$$y = \pm \frac{b}{a}x$$

**Example 8.6.8.** Foci are  $(\pm 2, 0)$  Find the locus whose difference is 2.

**sol.** Since  $a = 1$ ,  $c = 2$ ,  $b = \sqrt{3}$

$$x^2 - \frac{y^2}{3} = 1$$

Asymptote are  $y = \pm\sqrt{3}x$ , vertices  $(\pm 1, 0)$ .

□

## Classifying Conic Sections by Eccentricity

### 8.7 Quadratic Equations and Rotations

General quadratic curves are give by

$$Ax^2 + Bxy + Cy^2 + Dx + Ey + F = 0 \quad (8.16)$$

**The case  $B = 0$ , i.e, no  $xy$ -term**

In this case the equation (8.16) is

$$Ax^2 + Cy^2 + Dx + Ey + F = 0 \quad (8.17)$$

If  $AC \neq 0$  then are again classified into three classes:

(1) If  $AC = 0$ , but  $A^2 + C^2 \neq 0$ , we have a parabola:

$$A(x - \alpha)^2 + Ey = \delta$$

(2)  $AC > 0$ : Ellipse (Assume  $A > 0$ )

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{(x - \alpha)^2}{C\gamma^2} + \frac{(y - \beta)^2}{A\gamma^2} &= \frac{1}{AC\gamma} \\ A(x - \alpha)^2 + C(y - \beta)^2 &= \gamma \end{aligned} \quad (8.18)$$

(3)  $AC < 0$ : Hyperbola (Assume  $A > 0$ )

$$\frac{(x - \alpha)^2}{|C|\gamma^2} - \frac{(y - \beta)^2}{A\gamma^2} = \frac{\gamma}{|AC\gamma^2|}$$

**Theorem 8.7.1.** For

$$Ax^2 + Cy^2 + Dy^2 + Ey + F = 0$$

(1)  $A = C = 0$  and one of  $D$   $E$  is nonzero, then we have a line

(2) If one of  $A$  or  $C$  is zero, it is parabola

(3)  $AC > 0$ , ellipse

(4)  $AC < 0$ , hyperbola

**The case  $B \neq 0$ , i.e presence of  $xy$ -term**

**Example 8.7.2.** Find eq. of hyperbola Two foci are  $F_1 = (-3, -3)$ ,  $F_2 = (3, 3)$  where difference of the distances are 6

**sol.** From  $|PF_1 - PF_2| = 6$

$$\sqrt{(x+3)^2 + (y+3)^2} - \sqrt{(x-3)^2 + (y-3)^2} = \pm 6$$

$$2xy = 9$$

□

□

**Rotation**

Rotate  $xy$ -coordinate by  $\alpha$  and call new coordinate  $x'y'$ - Then  $P(x, y)$  is represented by  $(x', y')$  in  $x'y'$ -coordinate.

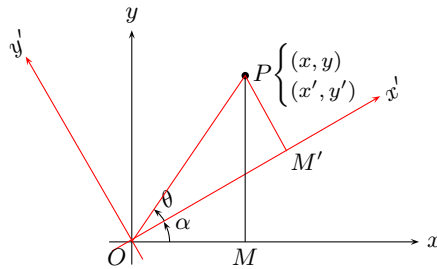


Figure 8.23: Rotation of axis

From fig 8.23 we see

$$x = OM = OP \cos(\theta + \alpha) = OP \cos \theta \cos \alpha - OP \sin \theta \sin \alpha$$

$$y = MP = OP \sin(\theta + \alpha) = OP \cos \theta \sin \alpha + OP \sin \theta \cos \alpha$$

On the other hand,

$$OP \cos \theta = OM' = x', \quad OP \sin \theta = M'P' = y'$$

**Proposition 8.7.3.** Let  $P = (x, y)$  be denoted by  $(x', y')$  in  $x'y'$ -coordinate. Then

$$x = x' \cos \alpha - y' \sin \alpha$$

$$y = x' \sin \alpha + y' \cos \alpha$$



We see from proposition 8.7.3

$$A'x'^2 + B'x'y' + C'y'^2 + D'x' + E'y' + F' = 0 \quad (8.19)$$

So

$$\begin{aligned} A' &= A \cos^2 \alpha + B \cos \alpha \sin \alpha + C \sin^2 \alpha \\ B' &= B \cos 2\alpha + (C - A) \sin 2\alpha \\ C' &= A \sin^2 \alpha - B \sin \alpha \cos \alpha + C \cos^2 \alpha \\ D' &= D \cos \alpha + E \sin \alpha \\ E' &= -D \sin \alpha + E \cos \alpha \\ F' &= F \end{aligned}$$

We set  $B' = 0$ . Then

$$B' = B \cos 2\alpha + (C - A) \sin 2\alpha = 0$$

**Theorem 8.7.4.** For

$$Ax^2 + Bxy + Cy^2 + Dx + Ey + F = 0$$

If we choose

$$\tan 2\alpha = \frac{B}{A - C}$$

then cross product term disappears.

**Example 8.7.5.**

$$x^2 + xy + y^2 - 6 = 0$$

**sol.** From  $\tan 2\alpha = B/(A - C)$

$$2\alpha = \frac{\pi}{2}, \quad \text{i.e.,} \quad \alpha = \frac{\pi}{4}$$

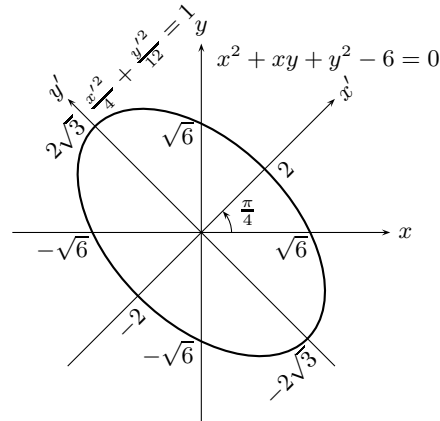
$$\begin{aligned} x &= x' \cos \alpha - y' \sin \alpha = \frac{\sqrt{2}}{2}x' - \frac{\sqrt{2}}{2}y' \\ y &= x' \sin \alpha + y' \cos \alpha = \frac{\sqrt{2}}{2}x' + \frac{\sqrt{2}}{2}y' \end{aligned}$$

Substitute into  $x^2 + xy + y^2 - 6 = 0$  to get

$$\frac{x'^2}{4} + \frac{y'^2}{12} = 1$$

See Fig 8.24.



Figure 8.24:  $x^2 + xy + y^2 - 6 = 0$ 

### Invariance of Discriminant

Given a quadratic curve in  $xy$ -coordinate, we rotated the axis and obtain new equation in  $x'y'$ -coordinate. In this case, one can choose the angle so that no  $x'y'$  term exists. However, if we are only interested in classification, there is a simple way.

$$Ax^2 + Bxy + Cy^2 + Dx + Ey + F = 0$$

$$A'x'^2 + B'x'y' + C'x'^2 + D'x' + E'y' + F' = 0$$

After some computation we can verify that

$$B^2 - 4AC = B'^2 - 4A'C' \quad (8.20)$$

**Theorem 8.7.6.** For the quadratic curves given in  $x, y$

$$Ax^2 + Bxy + Cy^2 + Dx + Ey + F = 0$$

we have the following classification:

- (1)  $B^2 - 4AC = 0$  parabola
- (2)  $B^2 - 4AC < 0$  ellipse
- (3)  $B^2 - 4AC > 0$  hyperbola

**Example 8.7.7.** (1)  $3x^2 - 5xy + y^2 - 2x + 3y - 5 = 0$  has  $B^2 - 4AC = 25 - 12 > 0$ . Thus a hyperbola.

(2)  $x^2 + xy + y^2 - 5 = 0$  has  $B^2 - 4AC = -3 < 0$ . Thus ellipse.

(3)  $x^2 - 2xy + y^2 - 5x - 3 = 0$  satisfies  $B^2 - 4AC = 0$ , a parabola.