

DIFFERENTIATION OF POWER SERIES

The series $\sum_{n=0}^{\infty} c_n(z - z_0)^n$ and $\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} n c_n(z - z_0)^{n-1}$ have the same radius of convergence.

Theorem. Let the power series $\sum_{n=0}^{\infty} c_n(z - z_0)^n$ represent $f(z)$ in $|z - z_0| < R$.

Then $f(z)$ is holomorphic in $|z - z_0| < R$ and $f'(z) = \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} n c_n(z - z_0)^{n-1}$.

Proof. We may assume that $z_0 = 0$ (otherwise consider $\tilde{z} = z - z_0$).

Fix w with $|w| < R$. We will show that $f'(w) = \lim_{z \rightarrow w} \frac{f(z) - f(w)}{z - w} = \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} n c_n w^{n-1}$.

Note that for each $n \geq 2$,

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{z^n - w^n}{z - w} - n w^{n-1} &= \sum_{k=0}^{n-1} z^k w^{n-1-k} - n w^{n-1} = \sum_{k=1}^{n-1} (z^k w^{n-1-k} - w^{n-1}) \\ &= \sum_{k=1}^{n-1} w^{n-1-k} (z^k - w^k) \\ &= \sum_{k=1}^{n-1} w^{n-1-k} \sum_{j=0}^{k-1} z^j w^{k-1-j} (z - w). \end{aligned}$$

Choose r with $|w| < r < R$. Then, for each z with $|z| < r$,

$$\left| \frac{z^n - w^n}{z - w} - n w^{n-1} \right| < \sum_{k=1}^{n-1} r^{n-1-k} \sum_{j=0}^{k-1} r^j r^{k-1-j} |z - w| = \frac{1}{2} n(n-1) r^{n-2} |z - w|.$$

Consequently the modulus of the difference

$$\frac{f(z) - f(w)}{z - w} - \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} n c_n w^{n-1} = \sum_{n=2}^{\infty} c_n \left[\frac{z^n - w^n}{z - w} - n w^{n-1} \right]$$

is bounded by

$$\frac{1}{2} \sum_{n=2}^{\infty} n(n-1) |c_n| r^{n-2} |z - w| = M |z - w|.$$

The power series $\sum_{n=2}^{\infty} n(n-1) c_n z^{n-2}$ converges absolutely for $|z| < R$, so $M < \infty$.

Therefore $\lim_{z \rightarrow w} \left| \frac{f(z) - f(w)}{z - w} - \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} n c_n w^{n-1} \right| \leq M \lim_{z \rightarrow w} |z - w| = 0$. \square