

Packet H: Power Series and Convergence Sets (Section 9.5)

A **power series in x** has the form:

$$\sum_{n=0}^{\infty} a_n x^n = a_0 + a_1 x + a_2 x^2 + a_3 x^3 + \cdots$$

We call the set on which a power series converges its **convergence set**.

The convergence set for a power series $\sum_{n=0}^{\infty} a_n x^n$ is always an **interval** of one of the following three types.

- i) The single point $x = 0$.
- ii) An interval $(-R, R)$, plus possibly one or both endpoints.
- iii) The whole real number line $(-\infty, \infty)$.

The **radius of convergence** is 0 , R , and ∞ , respectively.

Theorem:

A power series $\sum_{n=0}^{\infty} a_n x^n$ converges absolutely on the interior of its **interval of convergence**.

A **power series in $x - a$** has the form:

$$\sum_{n=0}^{\infty} a_n (x - a)^n = a_0 + a_1 (x - a) + a_2 (x - a)^2 + a_3 (x - a)^3 + \cdots$$

The convergence set for a power series $\sum_{n=0}^{\infty} a_n (x - a)^n$ is always an **interval** of one of the following three types.

- i) The single point $x = a$.
- ii) An interval $(a - R, a + R)$, plus possibly one or both endpoints.
- iii) The whole real number line $(-\infty, \infty)$.

Find the convergence set of the given power series. *Hint:* First find a formula for the n th term, then use the Absolute Ratio Test.

1.
$$\frac{x}{1 \cdot 2} - \frac{x^2}{2 \cdot 3} + \frac{x^3}{3 \cdot 4} - \frac{x^4}{4 \cdot 5} + \frac{x^5}{5 \cdot 6} - \dots$$

2.
$$x - \frac{x^3}{3!} + \frac{x^5}{5!} - \frac{x^7}{7!} + \frac{x^9}{9!} - \dots$$

3. $x + 2x^2 + 3x^3 + 4x^4 + \dots$

4. $1 - x + \frac{x^2}{2} - \frac{x^3}{3} + \frac{x^4}{4} - \dots$

5. $1 - \frac{x}{1 \cdot 3} + \frac{x^2}{2 \cdot 4} - \frac{x^3}{3 \cdot 5} + \frac{x^4}{4 \cdot 6} - \dots$

6. $1 - \frac{x}{2} + \frac{x^2}{2^2} - \frac{x^3}{2^3} + \frac{x^4}{2^4} - \dots$

7. $1 + 2x + \frac{2^2 x^2}{2!} + \frac{2^3 x^3}{3!} + \frac{2^4 x^4}{4!} + \dots$

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

9. $1 + \frac{(x+1)}{2} + \frac{(x+1)^2}{2^2} + \frac{(x+1)^3}{2^3} + \dots$

10. $\frac{(x+5)}{1 \cdot 2} + \frac{(x+5)^2}{2 \cdot 3} + \frac{(x+5)^3}{3 \cdot 4} + \frac{(x+5)^4}{4 \cdot 5} + \dots$

