

J. Marshall Ash¹, Mathematical Sciences Department, DePaul University, Chicago, IL 60614, USA

Generalized Differentiation and Summability

For x real let $A_n(x) := a_n \cos nx + b_n \sin nx$ and let

$$(1) \quad T(x) := \frac{a_0}{2} + \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} A_n(x)$$

be a trigonometric series. Suppose that at every $x \in [0, 2\pi)$, $T(x) = 0$. Then all a_n and b_n are zero. This is the fundamental theorem in the subject of uniqueness of trigonometric series. It was announced by Riemann in 1854 and the last detail of his proof was supplied in a letter from H.A. Schwarz to Cantor who published it in 1870. [4],[6],[7] The crucial step is this theorem.

Theorem R. If F is continuous and

$$RF(x) := \lim_{h \rightarrow 0} \frac{F(x-h) - 2F(x) + F(x+h)}{h^2}$$

is zero everywhere, then F is a line.

Theorem R is immediate from a lemma.

Lemma R. If F is continuous and $RF \geq 0$ everywhere then F is convex.

(See [7], vol. I, p.23, Theorem 10.7.)

Theorem R has only one known proof, namely via Lemma R. To extend

¹The research presented here was supported in part by a grant from the Faculty Research and Development Fund of the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, DePaul University.