

195. A Simple Proof of Littlewood's Tauberian Theorem

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Littlewood's tauberian theorem¹⁾ reads as follows:

If $\sum_{n=0}^{\infty} a_n x^n$ converges for $|x| < 1$ and

$$(1) \quad \lim_{x \rightarrow 1} \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} a_n x^n = 0,$$

$$(2) \quad |a_n| \leq A/n \quad (n=1, 2, \dots),$$

then $\sum_{n=0}^{\infty} a_n = 0$.

Two simple proofs of this theorem were given by J. Karamata.²⁾ We shall give another simple one.

Let

$$a(t) = a_n \quad (n \leq t < n+1, n=1, 2, \dots),$$

$$S(t) = \int_0^t a(u) du,$$

then³⁾

$$f(s) = \int_0^{\infty} a(t) e^{-st} dt = \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} a_n e^{-st} \int_0^1 e^{-st} dt.$$

Hence the conditions (1) and (2) become

$$(3) \quad |a(t)| \leq A/t, \quad \lim_{s \rightarrow 0} f(s) = 0.$$

We shall further put

$$P_u(t) = e^{-ut} \sum_{m < u} \frac{(ut)^m}{m!},$$

$$g(t) = 1 \quad (0 \leq t < 1), \quad g(t) = 0 \quad (t > 1).$$

Then we have

$$\begin{aligned} S(T) &= \int_0^T a(t) dt = T \int_0^1 a(Tt) dt = T \int_0^{\infty} a(Tt) g(t) dt \\ &= T \int_0^{\infty} a(Tt) [g(t) - P_u(t)] dt + T \int_0^{\infty} a(Tt) P_u(t) dt \\ &= S_1(T) + S_2(T), \end{aligned}$$

say. By (3)

$$|S_1(T)| \leq A \int_0^{\infty} \frac{1}{t} |g(t) - P_u(t)| dt$$

1) J. E. Littlewood: Proc. London Math. Soc., **9** (1918).

2) J. Karamata: Math. Zeits., **32** (1932); **56** (1952). Cf. K. Knopf: Theorie der unendlichen Reihen, 2te Aufl. R. Wielandt has given a simple proof of the one side theorem due to G. H. Hardy and J. E. Littlewood in Math. Zeits., **56** (1952).

3) This is the form used by A. Korevaar in his papers in Indak. Math. (1953-1954).