

Expansions of functions :

In this section we shall discuss expansions of functions into infinite series with the help of Maclaurin's theorem and Taylor's theorem.

Power Series:

An infinite series of the form

$$f(x) = a_0 + a_1(x - a) + a_2(x - a)^2 + a_3(x - a)^3 + \dots + a_n(x - a)^n + \dots$$
is called a power series in $(x - a)$, where the a_i 's are constants.

If $a = 0$ then a power series can be written as

$$f(x) = a_0 + a_1x + a_2x^2 + a_3x^3 + \dots + a_nx^n + \dots$$

Taylor's and Maclaurin's Series:

Let f be a function with derivatives of all orders throughout some interval containing a as an interior point. Then the **Taylor series generated by f at $x = a$** is ,

$$f(x) = \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \frac{f^{(n)}(a)}{n!} (x - a)^n = f(a) + f'(a)(x - a) + \frac{f''(a)}{2!} (x - a)^2 + \dots$$

If $a = 0$ then the **Maclaurin's series of f** is the Taylor's series generated by f at $x = 0$ is,

$$f(x) = \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \frac{f^{(n)}(0)}{n!} x^n = f(0) + xf'(0) + \frac{x^2}{2!} f''(0) + \dots$$

Remark:

Let $f(x)$ be a differentiable function of order n at a point $x = a$ then its Taylor's series expansion is given by

$$f(x) = \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \frac{f^{(n)}(a)}{n!} (x - a)^n = f(a) + f'(a)(x - a) + \frac{f''(a)}{2!} (x - a)^2 + \dots$$

In above expansion if we substitute $x - a = h$ then

$$f(a + h) = f(a) + f'(a)h + \frac{f''(a)}{2!} h^2 + \dots (*)$$

If $h = x$ in above formula we get,

$$f(a + x) = f(a) + f'(a)x + \frac{f''(a)}{2!} x^2 + \dots$$

If $a = x$ in (*) formula we get,

$$f(x + h) = f(x) + f'(x)h + \frac{f''(x)}{2!} h^2 + \dots$$

Which is the **alternative form**(another form) of the **Taylor's series**.

Maclaurin's expansion of some standard functions :

1. $f(x) = e^x$.

Here $f(x) = e^x$, $a = 0$ so $f(0) = 1$

$$f'(x) = e^x, f'(0) = 1$$

$$f''(x) = e^x, f''(0) = 1$$

$$f'''(x) = e^x, f'''(0) = 1$$

$$f^{IV}(x) = e^x, f^{IV}(0) = 1$$

⋮

⋮

So using Maclaurin's series expansion we get,

$$f(x) = f(0) + xf'(0) + \frac{x^2}{2!}f''(0) + \frac{x^3}{3!}f'''(0) + \frac{x^4}{4!}f^{IV}(0) + \dots\dots$$

$$\therefore e^x = 1 + x + \frac{x^2}{2!} + \dots\dots + \frac{x^n}{n!} + \dots\dots$$

If we replace by x by $-x$ in above series expansion , we get

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

2. $f(x) = \sin x$,

$$\therefore f(0) = 0$$

$$f'(x) = \cos x$$

$$\therefore f'(0) = 1$$

$$f''(x) = -\sin x \therefore f''(0) = 0$$

$$f'''(x) = -\cos x \therefore f'''(0) = -1$$

$$f^{IV}(x) = \sin x \therefore f^{IV}(0) = 0$$

⋮

⋮

So using Maclaurin's series expansion we get,

$$f(x) = f(0) + xf'(0) + \frac{x^2}{2!}f''(0) + \frac{x^3}{3!}f'''(0) + \frac{x^4}{4!}f^{IV}(0) + \dots\dots$$

$$\therefore \sin x = x - \frac{x^3}{3!} + \dots\dots\dots$$

3. $f(x) = \cos x$, $\therefore f(0) = 1$

$$f'(x) = -\sin x$$

$$\therefore f'(0) = 0$$

$$f''(x) = -\cos x, \therefore f''(0) = -1$$

$$f'''(x) = \sin x \therefore f'''(0) = 0$$

$$f^{IV}(x) = \cos x \therefore f^{IV}(0) = 1$$

⋮

⋮

So using Maclaurin's series expansion we get,

$$f(x) = f(0) + xf'(0) + \frac{x^2}{2!}f''(0) + \frac{x^3}{3!}f'''(0) + \frac{x^4}{4!}f^{IV}(0) + \dots$$

$$\therefore \cos x = 1 - \frac{x^2}{2!} + \frac{x^4}{4!} - \dots$$

$$4. f(x) = \log(1+x),$$

$$\therefore f(0) = 0$$

$$f'(x) = \frac{1}{1+x},$$

$$\therefore f'(0) = 1$$

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

$$\therefore f''(0) = -1$$

$$f'''(x) = \frac{2}{(1+x)^3},$$

$$\therefore f'''(0) = 2 = 2!$$

$$f^{IV}(x) = -\frac{6}{(1+x)^4},$$

$$\therefore f^{IV}(0) = -6 = -3!$$

⋮

⋮

So using Maclaurin's series expansion we get,

$$f(x) = f(0) + xf'(0) + \frac{x^2}{2!}f''(0) + \frac{x^3}{3!}f'''(0) + \frac{x^4}{4!}f^{IV}(0) + \dots$$

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

If we replace x by $-x$ in above series expansion, we get

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

$$5. f(x) = \sinh x = \frac{e^x - e^{-x}}{2}$$

So using standard expansions of e^x and e^{-x} , we get

$$\begin{aligned} f(x) &= \sinh x \\ &= \frac{1}{2} \left\{ 1 + x + \frac{x^2}{2!} + \dots + \frac{x^n}{n!} + \dots - \left[1 - x + \frac{x^2}{2!} - \frac{x^3}{3!} + \dots + (-1)^n \frac{x^n}{n!} + \dots \right] \right\} \\ &= \frac{1}{2} \left\{ 2x + 2\frac{x^3}{3!} + \dots \right\} = x + \frac{x^3}{3!} + \frac{x^5}{5!} + \dots + \frac{x^{(2n+1)}}{(2n+1)!} + \dots \end{aligned}$$

$$\text{Also } f(x) = \cosh x = \frac{e^x + e^{-x}}{2}$$

$$= \frac{1}{2} \left\{ 1 + x + \frac{x^2}{2!} + \dots + \frac{x^n}{n!} + \dots + \left[1 - x + \frac{x^2}{2!} - \frac{x^3}{3!} + \dots + (-1)^n \frac{x^n}{n!} + \dots \right] \right\}$$

$$= \frac{1}{2} \left\{ 2 + 2 \frac{x^2}{2!} + \dots \right\} = 1 + \frac{x^2}{2!} + \frac{x^4}{4!} + \dots + \frac{x^{2n}}{(2n)!} + \dots$$

Summary :

Function	Maclaurin's Series expansion
$y = e^x$	$1 + x + \frac{x^2}{2!} + \dots + \frac{x^n}{n!} + \dots$
$y = e^{-x}$	$1 - x + \frac{x^2}{2!} - \frac{x^3}{3!} + \dots + (-1)^n \frac{x^n}{n!} + \dots$
$y = \sin x$	$x - \frac{x^3}{3!} + \dots + (-1)^n \frac{x^{2n+1}}{(2n+1)!} + \dots$
$y = \cos x$	$1 - \frac{x^2}{2!} + \frac{x^4}{4!} - \dots + (-1)^n \frac{x^{2n}}{(2n)!} + \dots$
$y = \log(1+x)$	$x - \frac{x^2}{2} + \frac{x^3}{3} - \frac{x^4}{4} + \dots + (-1)^{n+1} \frac{x^n}{n} + \dots$
$y = \log(1-x)$	$-x - \frac{x^2}{2} - \frac{x^3}{3} - \frac{x^4}{4} - \dots - \frac{x^n}{n} + \dots$
$y = \sinh x$	$x + \frac{x^3}{3!} + \frac{x^5}{5!} + \dots + \frac{x^{(2n+1)}}{(2n+1)!} + \dots$
$y = \cosh x$	$1 + \frac{x^2}{2!} + \frac{x^4}{4!} + \dots + \frac{x^{2n}}{(2n)!} + \dots$

Example:1 Find the Maclaurin's series expansion of $\tan x$.

Solution: Let $y = f(x) = \tan x \therefore y(0) = f(0) = 0$

$$y_1 = f'(x) = \sec^2 x = 1 + \tan^2 x \therefore y_1(0) = f'(0) = 1$$

$$= 1 + y^2$$

$$y_2 = f''(x) = 2yy_1 \therefore y_2(0) = f''(0) = 2(0)(1) = 0$$

$$y_3 = f'''(x) = 2y_1^2 + 2yy_2 \therefore y_3(0) = f'''(0) = 2(1) + 2 \cdot 0 = 2$$

$$y_4 = f^{IV}(x) = 6y_1y_2 + 2yy_3 \therefore y_4(0) = f^{IV}(0) = 0$$

$$y_5 = f^V(x) = 6y_2^2 + 8y_1y_3 + 2yy_4 \therefore y_5(0) = f^V(0) = 16$$

\vdots

\vdots

Now, by Maclaurin's series expansion, we have

$$f(x) = f(0) + xf'(0) + \frac{x^2}{2!}f''(0) + \frac{x^3}{3!}f'''(0) + \frac{x^4}{4!}f^{IV}(0) + \dots$$

$$\therefore \tan x = x + \frac{x^3}{3!}(2) + \frac{x^5}{5!}(16) + \dots = x + \frac{x^3}{3} + \frac{2}{15}x^5 + \dots$$

Example:2 Expand $\sec x$ in powers of x up to x^4 by Maclaurin's series.

Solution: Let $y = f(x) = \sec x \therefore y(0) = f(0) = 1$

$$y_1 = \sec x \tan x = y \tan x \therefore y_1(0) = f'(0) = 0$$

$$y_2 = y_1 \tan x + y \sec^2 x = y_1 \tan x + y^3, \therefore y_2(0) = f''(0) = 1$$

$$y_3 = y_2 \tan x + 2y_1 \sec^2 x + 2y \sec^2 x \tan x \\ = y_2 \tan x + 2y_1 y^2 + 2y^3 \tan x, \therefore y_3(0) = f'''(0) = 0$$

$$y_4 = 3y_2 y^2 + y_3 \tan x + 4y y_1^2 + 6y^2 y_1 \tan x + 2y^5, \therefore y_4(0) = 5$$

\therefore

\therefore

Now, by Maclaurin's series expansion, we have

$$f(x) = f(0) + x f'(0) + \frac{x^2}{2!} f''(0) + \frac{x^3}{3!} f'''(0) + \frac{x^4}{4!} f^{IV}(0) + \dots$$

$$\therefore \sec x = 1 + \frac{x^2}{2!} + 5 \frac{x^4}{4!} + \dots$$

Example:3 Find the Maclaurin's series expansion of the function $y = \log(1 + \sin x)$.

Solution: Here $y = f(x) = \log(1 + \sin x) \therefore f(0) = 0$

$$y_1 = f'(x) = \frac{\cos x}{1 + \sin x} \therefore f'(0) = 1$$

$$y_2 = f''(x) = \frac{(1 + \sin x)(-\sin x) - \cos^2 x}{(1 + \sin x)^2}$$

$$y_2 = -\frac{1}{1 + \sin x} \therefore f''(0) = -1$$

\therefore

\therefore

Now, by Maclaurin's series expansion, we have

$$f(x) = f(0) + x f'(0) + \frac{x^2}{2!} f''(0) + \frac{x^3}{3!} f'''(0) + \frac{x^4}{4!} f^{IV}(0) + \dots$$

$$\log(1 + \sin x) = x - \frac{x^2}{2!} + \dots$$

Example:4 Arrange the following Polynomial in powers of x using Maclaurin's series

$$f(x) = 5 + (x + 3) + 7(x + 3)^2.$$

Solution: Here $f(x) = 5 + (x + 3) + 7(x + 3)^2, \therefore f(0) = 71$

$$f'(x) = 1 + 14(x + 3), \therefore f'(0) = 43$$

$$f''(x) = 14, \therefore f''(0) = 14$$

$$f'''(x) = 0, \therefore f'''(0) = 0$$

Now, by Maclaurin's series expansion, we have

$$f(x) = f(0) + xf'(0) + \frac{x^2}{2!}f''(0) + \frac{x^3}{3!}f'''(0) + \frac{x^4}{4!}f^{IV}(0) + \dots\dots$$

$$\therefore 5 + (x + 3) + 7(x + 3)^2 = 71 + 43x + 7x^2.$$

Example:5 Expand $\log x$ in powers of $(x - 1)$ up to three power and hence evaluate $\log 1.1$ correct to four decimal places.

Solution: Here $(x) = \log x$, $a = 1 \therefore f(1) = 0$

$$f'(x) = \frac{1}{x}, \quad \therefore f'(1) = 1$$

$$f''(x) = -\frac{1}{x^2}, \quad \therefore f''(1) = -1$$

$$f'''(x) = \frac{2}{x^3}, \quad \therefore f'''(1) = 2$$

\vdots

\vdots

Now, by Taylor's series expansion, we have

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

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

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

Now taking $x = 1.1$, we get

$$\therefore \log 1.1 = 0.09533.$$

Example:6 Expand $2x^3 + 7x^2 + 1$ in powers of $(x - 3)$ by using Taylor's series expansion.

Solution: Here $(x) = 2x^3 + 7x^2 + 1$, $a = 3$, $f(3) = 118$

$$f'(x) = 6x^2 + 14x, \quad f'(3) = 96$$

$$f''(x) = 12x + 14, \quad f''(3) = 50$$

$$f'''(x) = 12, \quad f'''(3) = 12$$

$$f^{IV}(x) = 0, f^{IV}(3) = 0$$

Now, by Taylor's series expansion, we have

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

$$\therefore 2x^3 + 7x^2 + 1 = 118 + (x - 3) 96 + \frac{(x-3)^2}{2!} 50 + \frac{(x-3)^3}{3!} 12 + 0$$

$$= 118 + 96(x - 3) + 25(x - 3)^2 + 2(x - 3)^3.$$

Example:7 Find the Taylor's series expansion of $\sin\left(x + \frac{\pi}{4}\right)$ in powers of x and hence find the value of $\sin 46^\circ$.

Solution: Here let $f(x) = \sin x$ and $h = \frac{\pi}{4}$

So using another form of Taylor's series we have

$$f(x+h) = f(h) + f'(h)x + \frac{f''(h)}{2!}x^2 + \dots\dots\dots(1)$$

$$\text{Now } f(x) = \sin x, \quad f\left(\frac{\pi}{4}\right) = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}}$$

$$f'(x) = \cos x, \quad f'\left(\frac{\pi}{4}\right) = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}}$$

$$f''(x) = -\sin x, \quad f''\left(\frac{\pi}{4}\right) = -\frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} \text{ and so on}$$

Hence from equation (1), we have

$$\sin\left(x + \frac{\pi}{4}\right) = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} + x\left(\frac{1}{\sqrt{2}}\right) + \frac{x^2}{2!}\left(-\frac{1}{\sqrt{2}}\right) + \dots\dots\dots$$

Consider $x = 1^\circ = 0.01745$,

$$\therefore \sin\left(1^\circ + \frac{\pi}{4}\right) = \sin 46^\circ = 0.71934.$$