

Taylor Series

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Calculus

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We start by supposing that f is any function that can be represented by a power series

Lets start with an equation that we have seen before:

$$\boxed{\text{I}} \quad f(x) = c_0 + c_1(x - a) + c_2(x - a)^2 + c_3(x - a)^3 + c_4(x - a)^4 + \cdots \quad |x - a$$

Lets start with an equation that we have seen before:

$$\boxed{1} \quad f(x) = c_0 + c_1(x - a) + c_2(x - a)^2 + c_3(x - a)^3 + c_4(x - a)^4 + \cdots \quad | x - a$$

Let's try to determine what the coefficients c_n must be in terms of f . To begin, notice that if we put $x = a$ in Equation 1, then all terms after the first one are 0 and we get

$$f(a) = c_0$$

By Theorem 12.9.2, we can differentiate the series in Equation 1 term by term:

$$\boxed{2} \quad f'(x) = c_1 + 2c_2(x - a) + 3c_3(x - a)^2 + 4c_4(x - a)^3 + \cdots \quad |x - a| < R$$

and substitution of $x = a$ in Equation 2 gives

$$f'(a) = c_1$$

Now we differentiate both sides of Equation 2 and obtain

$$\boxed{3} \quad f''(x) = 2c_2 + 2 \cdot 3c_3(x - a) + 3 \cdot 4c_4(x - a)^2 + \cdots \quad |x - a| < R$$

Again we put $x = a$ in Equation 3. The result is

$$f''(a) = 2c_2$$

Let's apply the procedure one more time. Differentiation of the series in Equation 3 gives

$$4 \quad f'''(x) = 2 \cdot 3c_3 + 2 \cdot 3 \cdot 4c_4(x - a) + 3 \cdot 4 \cdot 5c_5(x - a)^2 + \cdots \quad |x - a| < R$$

and substitution of $x = a$ in Equation 4 gives

$$f'''(a) = 2 \cdot 3c_3 = 3!c_3$$

By now you can see the pattern. If we continue to differentiate and substitute $x = a$, obtain

$$f^{(n)}(a) = 2 \cdot 3 \cdot 4 \cdot \cdots \cdot n c_n = n! c_n$$

Solving this equation for the n th coefficient c_n , we get

$$c_n = \frac{f^{(n)}(a)}{n!}$$

5 THEOREM If f has a power series representation (expansion) at a , that is, if

$$f(x) = \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} c_n(x - a)^n \quad |x - a| < R$$

then its coefficients are given by the formula

$$c_n = \frac{f^{(n)}(a)}{n!}$$

Substituting this formula for c_n back into the series, we see that if f has a power series expansion at a , then it must be of the following form.

$$\begin{aligned} \boxed{6} \quad f(x) &= \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \frac{f^{(n)}(a)}{n!} (x - a)^n \\ &= f(a) + \frac{f'(a)}{1!} (x - a) + \frac{f''(a)}{2!} (x - a)^2 + \frac{f'''(a)}{3!} (x - a)^3 + \cdots \end{aligned}$$

The series in Equation 6 is called the **Taylor series of the function f at a** (or **about a** or **centered at a**). For the special case $a = 0$ the Taylor series becomes

$$\boxed{7} \quad f(x) = \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \frac{f^{(n)}(0)}{n!} x^n = f(0) + \frac{f'(0)}{1!} x + \frac{f''(0)}{2!} x^2 + \dots$$

This case arises frequently enough that it is given the special name **Maclaurin series**.

EXAMPLE 1 Find the Maclaurin series of the function $f(x) = e^x$ and its radius of convergence.

SOLUTION If $f(x) = e^x$, then $f^{(n)}(x) = e^x$, so $f^{(n)}(0) = e^0 = 1$ for all n . Therefore the Taylor series for f at 0 (that is, the Maclaurin series) is

$$\sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \frac{f^{(n)}(0)}{n!} x^n = \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \frac{x^n}{n!} = 1 + \frac{x}{1!} + \frac{x^2}{2!} + \frac{x^3}{3!} + \cdots$$

To find the radius of convergence we let $a_n = x^n/n!$. Then

$$\left| \frac{a_{n+1}}{a_n} \right| = \left| \frac{x^{n+1}}{(n+1)!} \cdot \frac{n!}{x^n} \right| = \frac{|x|}{n+1} \rightarrow 0 < 1$$

so, by the Ratio Test, the series converges for all x and the radius of convergence is $R = \infty$. □

The conclusion we can draw from Theorem 5 and Example 1 is that *if* e^x has a power series expansion at 0, then

$$e^x = \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \frac{x^n}{n!}$$

So how can we determine whether e^x *does* have a power series representation?

Let's investigate the more general question: Under what circumstances is a function equal to the sum of its Taylor series? In other words, if f has derivatives of all orders, when is it true that

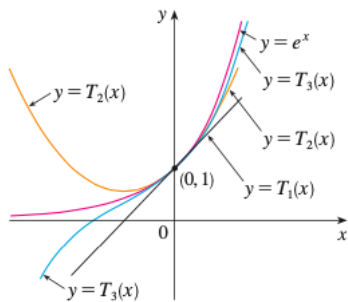
$$f(x) = \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \frac{f^{(n)}(a)}{n!} (x - a)^n$$

As with any convergent series, this means that $f(x)$ is the limit of the sequence of partial sums. In the case of the Taylor series, the partial sums are

$$\begin{aligned} T_n(x) &= \sum_{i=0}^n \frac{f^{(i)}(a)}{i!} (x - a)^i \\ &= f(a) + \frac{f'(a)}{1!} (x - a) + \frac{f''(a)}{2!} (x - a)^2 + \cdots + \frac{f^{(n)}(a)}{n!} (x - a)^n \end{aligned}$$

Notice that T_n is a polynomial of degree n called the **n th-degree Taylor polynomial of f at a** . For instance, for the exponential function $f(x) = e^x$, the result of Example 1 shows that the Taylor polynomials at 0 (or Maclaurin polynomials) with $n = 1, 2$, and 3 are

$$T_1(x) = 1 + x \qquad T_2(x) = 1 + x + \frac{x^2}{2!} \qquad T_3(x) = 1 + x + \frac{x^2}{2!} + \frac{x^3}{3!}$$



In general, $f(x)$ is the sum of its Taylor series if

$$f(x) = \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} T_n(x)$$

If we let

$$R_n(x) = f(x) - T_n(x) \quad \text{so that} \quad f(x) = T_n(x) + R_n(x)$$

then $R_n(x)$ is called the **remainder** of the Taylor series. If we can somehow show that $\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} R_n(x) = 0$, then it follows that

$$\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} T_n(x) = \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} [f(x) - R_n(x)] = f(x) - \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} R_n(x) = f(x)$$

We have therefore proved the following.

8 THEOREM If $f(x) = T_n(x) + R_n(x)$, where T_n is the n th-degree Taylor polynomial of f at a and

$$\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} R_n(x) = 0$$

for $|x - a| < R$, then f is equal to the sum of its Taylor series on the interval $|x - a| < R$.

In trying to show that $\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} R_n(x) = 0$ for a specific function f , we usually use the following fact.

9 TAYLOR'S INEQUALITY If $|f^{(n+1)}(x)| \leq M$ for $|x - a| \leq d$, then the remainder $R_n(x)$ of the Taylor series satisfies the inequality

$$|R_n(x)| \leq \frac{M}{(n+1)!} |x - a|^{n+1} \quad \text{for } |x - a| \leq d$$

EXAMPLE 2 Prove that e^x is equal to the sum of its Maclaurin series.

SOLUTION If $f(x) = e^x$, then $f^{(n+1)}(x) = e^x$ for all n . If d is any positive number and $|x| \leq d$, then $|f^{(n+1)}(x)| = e^x \leq e^d$. So Taylor's Inequality, with $a = 0$ and $M = e^d$, says that

$$|R_n(x)| \leq \frac{e^d}{(n+1)!} |x|^{n+1} \quad \text{for } |x| \leq d$$

Notice that the same constant $M = e^d$ works for every value of n . But, from Equation 10, we have

$$\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{e^d}{(n+1)!} |x|^{n+1} = e^d \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{|x|^{n+1}}{(n+1)!} = 0$$

It follows from the Squeeze Theorem that $\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} |R_n(x)| = 0$ and therefore $\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} R_n(x) = 0$ for all values of x . By Theorem 8, e^x is equal to the sum of its Maclaurin series, that is,

□

$$e^x = \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \frac{x^n}{n!} \quad \text{for all } x$$

□

In particular, if we put $x = 1$ in Equation 11, we obtain the following expression for the number e as a sum of an infinite series:

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$$e = \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \frac{1}{n!} = 1 + \frac{1}{1!} + \frac{1}{2!} + \frac{1}{3!} + \cdots$$

EXAMPLE 4 Find the Maclaurin series for $\sin x$ and prove that it represents $\sin x$ for all x .

SOLUTION We arrange our computation in two columns as follows:

$$f(x) = \sin x \qquad f(0) = 0$$

$$f'(x) = \cos x \qquad f'(0) = 1$$

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

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

$$f^{(4)}(x) = \sin x \qquad f^{(4)}(0) = 0$$

Since the derivatives repeat in a cycle of four, we can write the Maclaurin series as follows:

$$\begin{aligned} f(0) + \frac{f'(0)}{1!}x + \frac{f''(0)}{2!}x^2 + \frac{f'''(0)}{3!}x^3 + \cdots \\ = x - \frac{x^3}{3!} + \frac{x^5}{5!} - \frac{x^7}{7!} + \cdots = \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} (-1)^n \frac{x^{2n+1}}{(2n+1)!} \end{aligned}$$

Since $f^{(n+1)}(x)$ is $\pm \sin x$ or $\pm \cos x$, we know that $|f^{(n+1)}(x)| \leq 1$ for all x . So we can take $M = 1$ in Taylor's Inequality:

$$\boxed{14} \quad |R_n(x)| \leq \frac{M}{(n+1)!} |x|^{n+1} = \frac{|x|^{n+1}}{(n+1)!}$$

By Equation 10 the right side of this inequality approaches 0 as $n \rightarrow \infty$, so $|R_n(x)| \rightarrow 0$ by the Squeeze Theorem. It follows that $R_n(x) \rightarrow 0$ as $n \rightarrow \infty$, so $\sin x$ is equal to the sum of its Maclaurin series by Theorem 8. □

We state the result of Example 4 for future reference.

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$$\begin{aligned}\sin x &= x - \frac{x^3}{3!} + \frac{x^5}{5!} - \frac{x^7}{7!} + \cdots \\ &= \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} (-1)^n \frac{x^{2n+1}}{(2n+1)!} \quad \text{for all } x\end{aligned}$$

EXAMPLE 5 Find the Maclaurin series for $\cos x$.

SOLUTION We could proceed directly as in Example 4 but it's easier to differentiate the Maclaurin series for $\sin x$ given by Equation 15:

$$\begin{aligned}\cos x &= \frac{d}{dx} (\sin x) = \frac{d}{dx} \left(x - \frac{x^3}{3!} + \frac{x^5}{5!} - \frac{x^7}{7!} + \cdots \right) \\ &= 1 - \frac{3x^2}{3!} + \frac{5x^4}{5!} - \frac{7x^6}{7!} + \cdots = 1 - \frac{x^2}{2!} + \frac{x^4}{4!} - \frac{x^6}{6!} + \cdots\end{aligned}$$

Since the Maclaurin series for $\sin x$ converges for all x , Theorem 2 in Section 12.9 tells us that the differentiated series for $\cos x$ also converges for all x . Thus

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$$\begin{aligned}\cos x &= 1 - \frac{x^2}{2!} + \frac{x^4}{4!} - \frac{x^6}{6!} + \cdots \\ &= \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} (-1)^n \frac{x^{2n}}{(2n)!} \quad \text{for all } x\end{aligned}$$



EXAMPLE 6 Find the Maclaurin series for the function $f(x) = x \cos x$.

SOLUTION Instead of computing derivatives and substituting in Equation 7, it's easier to multiply the series for $\cos x$ (Equation 16) by x :

$$x \cos x = x \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} (-1)^n \frac{x^{2n}}{(2n)!} = \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} (-1)^n \frac{x^{2n+1}}{(2n)!}$$



17 THE BINOMIAL SERIES If k is any real number and $|x| < 1$, then

$$(1 + x)^k = \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \binom{k}{n} x^n = 1 + kx + \frac{k(k-1)}{2!}x^2 + \frac{k(k-1)(k-2)}{3!}x^3 + \dots$$

$$\frac{1}{1-x} = \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} x^n = 1 + x + x^2 + x^3 + \dots \quad R = 1$$

$$e^x = \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \frac{x^n}{n!} = 1 + \frac{x}{1!} + \frac{x^2}{2!} + \frac{x^3}{3!} + \dots \quad R = \infty$$

$$\sin x = \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} (-1)^n \frac{x^{2n+1}}{(2n+1)!} = x - \frac{x^3}{3!} + \frac{x^5}{5!} - \frac{x^7}{7!} + \dots \quad R = \infty$$

$$\cos x = \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} (-1)^n \frac{x^{2n}}{(2n)!} = 1 - \frac{x^2}{2!} + \frac{x^4}{4!} - \frac{x^6}{6!} + \dots \quad R = \infty$$

$$\tan^{-1}x = \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} (-1)^n \frac{x^{2n+1}}{2n+1} = x - \frac{x^3}{3} + \frac{x^5}{5} - \frac{x^7}{7} + \dots \quad R = 1$$

$$(1+x)^k = \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \binom{k}{n} x^n = 1 + kx + \frac{k(k-1)}{2!}x^2 + \frac{k(k-1)(k-2)}{3!}x^3 + \dots \quad R = 1$$

EXAMPLE 11 Evaluate $\lim_{x \rightarrow 0} \frac{e^x - 1 - x}{x^2}$.

SOLUTION Using the Maclaurin series for e^x , we have

$$\begin{aligned}\lim_{x \rightarrow 0} \frac{e^x - 1 - x}{x^2} &= \lim_{x \rightarrow 0} \frac{\left(1 + \frac{x}{1!} + \frac{x^2}{2!} + \frac{x^3}{3!} + \cdots\right) - 1 - x}{x^2} \\&= \lim_{x \rightarrow 0} \frac{\frac{x^2}{2!} + \frac{x^3}{3!} + \frac{x^4}{4!} + \cdots}{x^2} \\&= \lim_{x \rightarrow 0} \left(\frac{1}{2} + \frac{x}{3!} + \frac{x^2}{4!} + \frac{x^3}{5!} + \cdots\right) = \frac{1}{2}\end{aligned}$$

because power series are continuous functions.