

1. (taylerror:expatapoint)

Find a bound on the error of the approximation of $e^{\frac{1}{3}}$ by $1 + \frac{1}{3} + \frac{1}{3^2 2!} + \frac{1}{3^3 (3!)}$.

Solution: We know that if $f(x) = e^x$ then $f^{(n)}(x) = e^x$. Approximating $e^{\frac{1}{3}}$ by $1 + \frac{1}{3} + \frac{1}{3^2 2!} + \frac{1}{3^3 (3!)}$ corresponds to approximating e^x by $1 + x + \frac{x^2}{2!} + \frac{x^3}{3!} = f(0) + f'(0)x + f^{(2)}(0)\frac{x^2}{2!} + f^{(3)}(0)\frac{x^3}{3!}$. Taylor's theorem then tells us that there is a ξ with $0 \leq \xi \leq \frac{1}{3}$

$$e^{\frac{1}{3}} - \left(1 + \frac{1}{3} + \frac{1}{3^2 2!} + \frac{1}{3^3 (3!)}\right) = \frac{e^{\xi}}{4!} \left(\frac{1}{3}\right)^4$$

Since e^x is an increasing function, we can bound this error by

$$\frac{e^{\xi}}{4!} \left(\frac{1}{3}\right)^4 \leq \frac{e^{\frac{1}{3}}}{4!} \left(\frac{1}{3}\right)^4$$

but this is actually not at all helpful. The whole point of this problem was, after all, to estimate $e^{\frac{1}{3}}$! We still know that $e \leq 3 < 8$, so that $e^{\frac{1}{3}} < 8^{\frac{1}{3}} = 2$. A final answer is then that

$$e^{\frac{1}{3}} - \left(1 + \frac{1}{3} + \frac{1}{3^2 2!} + \frac{1}{3^3 (3!)}\right) < \frac{2}{4!} \left(\frac{1}{3}\right)^4 = \frac{1}{972} \approx .00102$$

2. (taylerror:sinconvergence)

Find a bound for $R_n^0 \sin(x)$ and use this to show that $T_n^0 \sin(x) \rightarrow \sin(x)$ for all x as $n \rightarrow \infty$.

Solution: We begin by recalling the Lagrange form of the Taylor remainder term. If $f(x) = \sin(x)$ then

$$R_n^0 \sin(x) = \frac{f^{(n+1)}(\xi)}{(n+1)!} x^{n+1}$$

Notice that $f^{(n+1)}(x)$ is one of $\sin(x)$, $\cos(x)$, $-\sin(x)$, or $-\cos(x)$. In any of these cases, we know that $|f^{(n+1)}(x)| \leq 1$ for all x . So in particular, we have the bound

$$\begin{aligned} |R_n^0 \sin(x)| &= \left| \frac{f^{(n+1)}(\xi)}{(n+1)!} x^{n+1} \right| \\ &\leq \frac{1}{(n+1)!} |x|^{n+1} \end{aligned}$$

Since for any x , $\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{1}{(n+1)!} |x|^{n+1} = 0$, this shows that for any x , $R_n^0 \sin(x) \rightarrow 0$, which implies that $T_n^0 \sin(x) = \sin(x) - R_n^0 \sin(x) \rightarrow \sin(x)$.

3. (tayloreerror:sin3convergence)

Find a bound for $R_n^0 \sin(3x)$ and use this to show that $T_n^0 \sin(3x) \rightarrow \sin(3x)$ for all x as $n \rightarrow \infty$.

Solution: We begin by recalling the Lagrange form of the Taylor remainder term. If $f(x) = \sin(3x)$ then

$$R_n^0 \sin(x) = \frac{f^{(n+1)}(\xi)}{(n+1)!} x^{n+1}$$

Notice that $f^{(n+1)}(x)$ is one of $3^{n+1} \sin(3x)$, $3^{n+1} \cos(3x)$, $-3^{n+1} \sin(3x)$, or $-3^{n+1} \cos(3x)$. In any of these cases, we know that $|f^{(n+1)}(x)| \leq 3^{n+1}$ for all x . So in particular, we have the bound

$$\begin{aligned} |R_n^0 \sin(3x)| &= \left| \frac{f^{(n+1)}(\xi)}{(n+1)!} x^{n+1} \right| \\ &\leq \frac{3^{n+1}}{(n+1)!} |x|^{n+1} \\ &= \frac{|3x|^{n+1}}{(n+1)!} \end{aligned}$$

Since for any x , $\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{1}{(n+1)!} |3x|^{n+1} = 0$, this shows that for any x , $R_n^0 \sin(3x) \rightarrow 0$, which implies that $T_n^0 \sin(3x) = \sin(3x) - R_n^0 \sin(3x) \rightarrow \sin(3x)$.

4. (tayloreerror:exp2convergence)

Find a bound on $R_n^0 e^{2x}$ and use this to show that for every x , $T_n^0 e^{2x} \rightarrow e^{2x}$ as $n \rightarrow \infty$.

Solution: We begin by recalling the Lagrange form of the Taylor remainder term. If $f(x) = e^{2x}$ then

$$R_n^0 e^{2x} = \frac{f^{(n+1)}(\xi)}{(n+1)!} x^{n+1}$$

If we recall that $f^{(n)}(x) = 2^n e^{2x}$ we can see that $|f^{(n+1)}(\xi)| \leq 2^{n+1} e^{2|\xi|}$ for any ξ between 0 and x . Then $|R_n^0 e^{2x}| \leq \frac{2^{n+1} e^{2|x|}}{(n+1)!} |x|^{n+1} = \frac{e^{2|x|}}{(n+1)!} |2x|^{n+1}$.

Notice that $e^{2|x|}$ is a number that does not depend on n , so it suffices

to observe that $\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{|2x|^{n+1}}{(n+1)!} = 0$ for all real numbers x . Therefore $\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} R_n^0 e^{2x} = 0$ and so $\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} T_n^0 e^{2x} = e^{2x}$.

5. (taylorerror:sincosconvergence)

Find a bound on $R_n^0(\sin(x) + \cos(x))$ and use this to show that $T_n^0(\sin(x) + \cos(x))$ converges to $\sin(x) + \cos(x)$ as $n \rightarrow \infty$.

Solution: We begin by recalling the Lagrange form of the Taylor remainder term. If $f(x) = \sin(x) + \cos(x)$ then

$$R_n^0 \sin(x) = \frac{f^{(n+1)}(\xi)}{(n+1)!} x^{n+1}$$

Notice that $f^{(n+1)}(x)$ is of the form $\pm \sin(x) \pm \cos(x)$, so that for all x we know that $|f^{(n+1)}(x)| \leq 2$.

$$\begin{aligned} |R_n^0 \sin(x) + \cos(x)| &= \left| \frac{f^{(n+1)}(\xi)}{(n+1)!} x^{n+1} \right| \\ &\leq \frac{2}{(n+1)!} |x|^{n+1} \\ &= \frac{2|x|^{n+1}}{(n+1)!} \end{aligned}$$

since $\frac{2|x|^{n+1}}{(n+1)!} \rightarrow 0$ for any x , this shows that $R_n^0(\sin(x) + \cos(x)) \rightarrow 0$ and therefore that $T_n^0(\sin(x) + \cos(x)) \rightarrow \sin(x) + \cos(x)$.

6. (taylorerror:cosgoodenough)

Find a bound on $|R_n \cos(x)|_{x=1}$ and use this information to find a decimal approximation of $\cos(1)$ with an error of at most .1.

Solution: Recall that $\cos(x) - T_n \cos(x) = R_n \cos(x)$ by definition, so if $|R_n \cos(x)|_{x=1}$ is less than $\frac{1}{10}$, then $\cos(1)$ is within two decimal digits of $T_n \cos(x)|_{x=1}$. If $f(x) = \cos(x)$ then $f^{n+1}(x)$ is $\pm \cos(x)$ or $\pm \sin(x)$. In any case, we have $|f^{n+1}(x)| \leq 1$. It follows then that

$$|R_n \cos(x)|_{x=1} \leq \frac{1(1)^{n+1}}{(n+1)!} = \frac{1}{(n+1)!}$$

so if n is sufficiently large that $\frac{1}{(n+1)!} \leq \frac{1}{10}$, then $|R_n \cos(x)|_{x=1} \leq \frac{1}{10}$. This is true, for example, for $n = 3$, since $(3+1)! = 24$. Our approximation is then $T_3 \cos(x)|_{x=1} = 1 - \frac{1}{2} = .5$.