

## Maclauren Series

$$f(x) \approx \sum_{k=0}^{\infty} f^{(k)}(0) \frac{x^k}{k!} = f(0) \frac{x^0}{0!} + f'(0) \frac{x^1}{1!} + f''(0) \frac{x^2}{2!} + \dots$$
$$= f(0) + f'(0)x + f''(0) \frac{x^2}{2} + f'''(0) \frac{x^3}{6} + \dots$$

"the sum from zero to infinity of the  $k^{\text{th}}$  derivative of  $f$  evaluated at 0 times  $x$  to the  $k^{\text{th}}$  power divided by  $k$  factorial"

Examples (A)  $f(x) = e^x$

Step 1 Find  $f^{(k)}(x)$

$$f'(x) = (e^x)' = e^x$$

$$f''(x) = e^x$$

$$f'''(x) = e^x$$

$\vdots$

$$f^{(k)}(x) = e^x$$

Step 2 Find  $f^{(k)}(0)$

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

Step 3 Plug into the formula

$$\sum_{k=0}^{\infty} f^{(k)}(0) \frac{x^k}{k!} = \sum_{k=0}^{\infty} 1 \cdot \frac{x^k}{k!} = \boxed{\sum_{k=0}^{\infty} \frac{x^k}{k!}}$$

(B)  $f(x) = e^{-x}$

Step 1 Find  $f^{(k)}(x)$

$$f'(x) = e^{-x} (-x)' = e^{-x} (-1) = -e^{-x}$$

$\uparrow$  chain rule (on  $g(x) = -x$  and  $e^g = e^{-x}$ )

$$f''(x) = (-e^{-x})' = (-1)(e^{-x})' = (-1)(-e^{-x}) = e^{-x}$$

$\uparrow$  previous step

$$f'''(x) = (e^{-x})''' = (e^{-x})' = -e^{-x}$$

$$\begin{array}{l}
 \text{previous step} \quad \text{previous step} \\
 f^{(4)}(x) = e^{-x} \\
 f^{(5)}(x) = -e^{-x}
 \end{array}$$

$$\vdots \\
 f^{(k)}(x) = (-1)^k e^{-x}$$

(you can check  $(-1)^0 = 1$ ,  $(-1)^1 = -1$ ,  $(-1)^2 = 1$ ,  $(-1)^3 = -1$ , ...)

Step 2 Find  $f^{(k)}(0)$

$$f^{(k)}(0) = (-1)^k e^{-0} = (-1)^k$$

Step 3 Plug into the formula

$$\sum_{k=0}^{\infty} f^{(k)}(0) \frac{x^k}{k!} = \boxed{\sum_{k=0}^{\infty} (-1)^k \frac{x^k}{k!}}$$

$$\text{so } e^{-x} = 1 - x + \frac{x^2}{2} - \frac{x^3}{6} + \frac{x^4}{24} - \dots$$

$$(C) \quad f(x) = \frac{1}{1-x}$$

Step 1 Find  $f^{(k)}(x)$

$$f(x) = \frac{1}{1-x} = (1-x)^{-1}$$

$$\begin{aligned}
 f'(x) &= ((1-x)^{-1})' = (-1)(1-x)^{-2} (0-1) \\
 &= (1-x)^{-2}
 \end{aligned}$$

(chain rule on  $a(x) = 1-x$ ,  $b(x) = x^{-1}$ )

$$\begin{aligned}
 \text{so } b(a(x))' &= b'(a(x)) a'(x) \\
 &= (-1) a(x)^{-2} (0-1) \\
 &= (-1) (1-x)^{-2} (-1) \\
 &= (1-x)^{-2}
 \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned}
 f''(x) &= ((1-x)^{-2})' \\
 &= (-2) (1-x)^{-3} (0-1) \\
 &= 2(1-x)^{-3}
 \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned}
 f'''(x) &= (2(1-x)^{-3})' \\
 &= 2(-3)(1-x)^{-4} (-1)
 \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned}
 &= 6(1-x)^{-4} \\
 f^{(4)}(x) &= (6(1-x)^{-4})' \\
 &= 6 \cdot (-4)(1-x)^{-5}(-1) \\
 &= 24(1-x)^{-5} \\
 f^{(5)}(x) &= 120(1-x)^{-6} \\
 f^{(6)}(x) &= 720(1-x)^{-7} \\
 &\vdots
 \end{aligned}$$

$$f^{(k)}(x) = k! (1-x)^{-k-1}$$

Step 2 Find  $f^{(k)}(0)$

$$f^{(k)}(0) = k! (1-0)^{-k-1} = k! (1)^{-k-1} = k!$$

Step 3

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

$$\frac{1}{1-x} = 1 + x + x^2 + x^3 + \dots$$

(this work for  $-1 \leq x \leq 1$ )

(D)  $\sin(x)$

Step 1

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

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

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

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

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

$$f^{(5)}(x) = \cos(x)$$

$\vdots$

Step 2  $f(0) = \sin(0) = 0$

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

$$f''(0) = 0$$

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

$$f^{(4)}(0) = 0$$

$\vdots$

$$f^{(k)}(0) = \begin{cases} 0 & k = 0, 2, 4, \dots \\ 1 & k = 1, 5, 9, \dots \\ -1 & k = 3, 7, 11, \dots \end{cases}$$

Step 3

$$\begin{aligned} f(x) &\approx \sum_{k=0}^{\infty} f^{(k)}(0) \frac{x^k}{k!} \\ &= f(0) + f'(0)x + f''(0)\frac{x^2}{2} + f'''(0)\frac{x^3}{6} + \dots \\ &= x - \frac{x^3}{6} + \frac{x^5}{120} - \frac{x^7}{5040} + \dots \\ &= \sum_{k=0}^{\infty} (-1)^k \frac{x^{2k+1}}{(2k+1)!} \end{aligned}$$

(E)  $\ln(x+1)$

$$f'(x) = (x+1)^{-1}$$

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

$$f'''(x) = 2(x+1)^{-3}$$

$$f^{(4)}(x) = -6(x+1)^{-4}$$

$$f^{(5)}(x) = 24(x+1)^{-5}$$

$$f^{(6)}(x) = -120(x+1)^{-6}$$

$\vdots$

$$f^{(k)}(x) = \begin{cases} \ln(x+1) & k=0 \\ (-1)^{k-1} (k-1)! (x+1)^{-k} & k \geq 1 \end{cases}$$

(compute  
similar to C)

Step 2

$$f^{(k)}(0) = \begin{cases} \ln(1) & k=0 \\ (-1)^{k-1} (k-1)! (1)^{-k} & k \geq 1 \end{cases}$$

$$= \begin{cases} 0 & k=0 \\ (-1)^{k-1} (k-1)! & k \geq 1 \end{cases}$$

Step 3

$$\begin{aligned} \ln(x+1) &= 0 + (-1)^0 0! \frac{x}{1!} + (-1)^1 1! \frac{x^2}{2!} \\ &\quad + (-1)^2 2! \frac{x^3}{3!} + (-1)^3 3! \frac{x^4}{4!} + \dots \\ &= x - \frac{x^2}{2} + \frac{x^3}{3} - \frac{x^4}{4} + \dots \\ &= \sum_{k=1}^{\infty} (-1)^{k-1} \frac{x^k}{k} \end{aligned}$$

Alternate way  $\ln(x+1) = \sum_{k=0}^{\infty} f^{(k)}(0) \frac{x^k}{k!}$   
 $= f(0) \frac{x^0}{0!} + \sum_{k=1}^{\infty} f^{(k)}(0) \frac{x^k}{k!}$