

Derive the n^{th} order Taylor polynomial for e^x . What value of n will guarantee an error of no more than 10^{-10} for any x with $|x| < 1.2$?

The n^{th} order Taylor polynomial for $f(x) = e^x$ (centered at 0) is

$$\begin{aligned} p_n(x) &= \sum_{k=0}^n \frac{f^{(k)}(0)}{k!} x^k = \sum_{k=0}^n \frac{e^0}{k!} x^k \\ &= \sum_{k=0}^n \frac{x^k}{k!} \end{aligned}$$

with error term

$$\begin{aligned} r_n(x) &= \frac{f^{(n+1)}(x)}{(n+1)!} x^{n+1} \quad 0 \leq x \leq 1.2 \\ &= \frac{e^x}{(n+1)!} x^{n+1} \\ &\leq \frac{e^{1.2}}{(n+1)!} (1.2)^{n+1} \quad (\text{as } e^x \text{ is increasing}) \end{aligned}$$

So we want to solve

$$\frac{e^{1.2}}{(n+1)!} (1.2)^{n+1} \leq 10^{-10}$$

If you had a calculator you could see $n \geq 14$.