← Back **Applying the Taylor series**
Practice Assignment • 15 min

English

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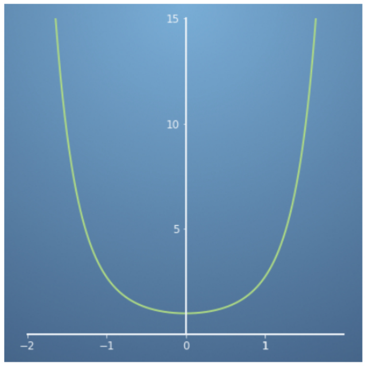
1. In the two previous videos, we have shown the short mathematical proofs for the Taylor series, and for special cases when the starting point is $x = 0$, the Maclaurin series. In these set of questions, we will begin to work on applying the Taylor and Maclaurin series formula to obtain approximations of functions.

1 / 1 point

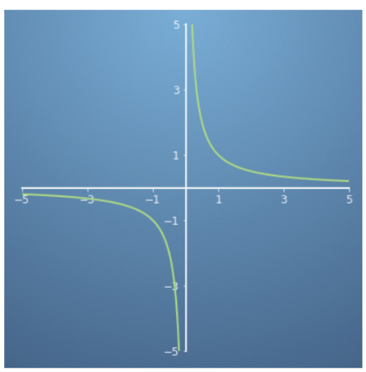


For the function $f(x) = e^{x^2}$ about $x = 0$, using the the Maclaurin series formula, obtain an approximation up to the first three non zero terms.

- (selected) $f(x) = 1 + x^2 + \frac{x^4}{2} + \ldots$
- $f(x) = 1 + 2x + \frac{x^2}{2} + \ldots$
- $f(x) = 1 - x^2 - \frac{x^4}{2} \ldots$
- $f(x) = x^2 + \frac{x^4}{2} + \frac{x^6}{6} + \ldots$

Correct
We find that only even powers of x appear in the Taylor approximation for this function.

1 / 1 point

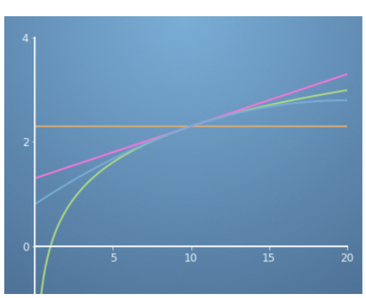


2. Use the Taylor series formula to approximate the first three terms of the function $f(x) = 1/x$, expanded around the point $p = 4$.

- (selected) $f(x) = \frac{1}{4} - \frac{(x-4)}{16} + \frac{(x-4)^2}{64} + \ldots$
- $f(x) = \frac{1}{4} - \frac{(x+4)}{16} + \frac{(x+4)^2}{64} + \ldots$
- $f(x) = \frac{(x-4)}{16} + \frac{(x-4)^2}{64} - \frac{(x-4)^3}{256} \ldots$
- $f(x) = -\frac{1}{4} - \frac{(x+4)}{16} - \frac{(x+4)^2}{64} \ldots$

Correct
We find that only even powers of x appear in the Taylor approximation for this function.

1 / 1 point



3. By finding the first three terms of the Taylor series shown above for the function $f(x) = \ln(x)$ (green line) about $x = 10$, determine the magnitude of the difference of using the second order taylor expansion against the first order Taylor expansion when approximating to find the value of $f(2)$.

- (selected) $\Delta f(2) = 0.32$
- $\Delta f(2) = 0.5$
- $\Delta f(2) = 0$
- $\Delta f(2) = 1.0$

Correct

The second order Taylor approximation about the point $x = 10$ is

$f(x) = \ln(10) + \frac{(x-10)}{10} - \frac{(x-10)^2}{200} \dots$.

So the first order approximation is

$g_1 = \ln(10) + \frac{(x-10)}{10}$

and the second order approximation is

$g_2 = \ln(10) + \frac{(x-10)}{10} - \frac{(x-10)^2}{200}$.

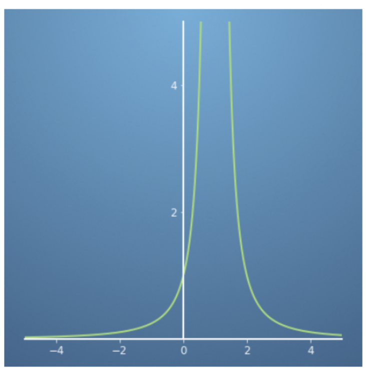
So, the magnitude of the difference is

$|g_2(2) - g_1(2)| = | - \frac{(x-10)^2}{200}|$

and substituting in $x = 2$ gives us

$|g_2(2) - g_1(2)| = | - \frac{(2-10)^2}{200}| = 0.32$

4. In some cases, a Taylor series can be expressed in a general equation that allows us to find a particular n^{th} term of our series. For example the function $f(x) = e^x$ has the general equation $f(x) = \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \frac{x^n}{n!}$. Therefore if we want to find the 3^{rd} term in our Taylor series, substituting $n = 2$ into the general equation gives us the term $\frac{x^2}{2}$. We know the Taylor series of the function e^x is $f(x) = 1 + x + \frac{x^2}{2} + \frac{x^3}{3!} + \dots$. Now let us try a further working example of using general equations with Taylor series. **1 / 1 point**



By evaluating the function $f(x) = \frac{1}{(1-x)^2}$ about the origin $x = 0$, determine which general equation for the n^{th} order term correctly represents $f(x)$.

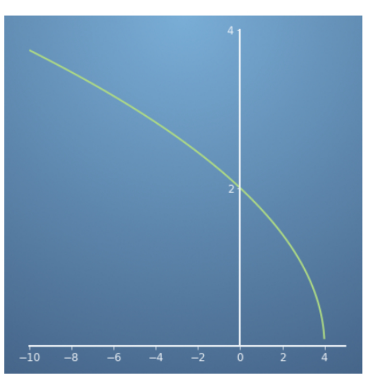
- $f(x) = \sum_{n=0}^{\infty}(2+n)(x)^n$
- $f(x) = \sum_{n=0}^{\infty}(1+n)(-x)^n$
- (selected) $f(x) = \sum_{n=0}^{\infty}(1+n)x^n$
- $f(x) = \sum_{n=0}^{\infty}(1+2n)(x)^n$

Correct

By doing a Maclaurin series approximation, we obtain

$f(x) = 1 + 2x + 3x^2 + 4x^3 + 5x^4 + \dots$, which satisfies the general equation shown.

1 / 1 point



5. By evaluating the function $f(x) = \sqrt{4-x}$ at $x = 0$, find the quadratic equation that approximates this function.

- ○ $f(x) = 2 - x - \frac{x^3}{64} \ldots$
- ◉ $f(x) = 2 - \frac{x}{4} - \frac{x^2}{64} \ldots$
- ○ $f(x) = \frac{x}{4} - \frac{x^2}{64} \ldots$
- ○ $f(x) = 2 + x + x^2 \ldots$

Correct

The quadratic equation shown is the second order approximation.