

TAYLOR AND MACLAURIN SERIES.

Definition. If f has a power series representation at a that is, if

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

then its coefficient are given by formula

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

Definition. The power series of the form

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

is called the Taylor Series.

Definition. The particular case of the Taylor series for $a = 0$ is called the Maclaurin series.

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

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 $|x-a| < R$.

Theorem. (Taylors inequality) If $|f^{(n+1)}(x)| \leq M$ for all $|x - a| < R$ then the remainder $R_n(x)$ of the Taylor series satisfies the inequality

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

Example 1. Find the Maclaurin series for the function $f(x) = \sin^2(x)$.

Solution. Note that $\sin^2(x) = \frac{1}{2}(1 - \cos(2x))$. Hence

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

Example 2. Evaluate the indefinite integral $\int \sin(x^2) dx$ as infinite series.

Solution. Note that

$$\int \sin(x^2) dx = \int \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{(-1)^{n+1} 2^{2n-1} x^{2n}}{2n!} dx = C + \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{(-1)^{n+1} 2^{2n-1} x^{2n+1}}{2n!(2n+1)}$$

Example 3. Find the Maclaurin series for the function $f(x) = \cos(x^3)$.

Solution. We set $y = x^3$. Then $f(x) = \cos(x^3) = \cos(y) = \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \frac{(-1)^n y^{2n}}{2n!} = \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \frac{(-1)^n x^{6n}}{2n!}$.

Example 4. Find the Maclaurin series for the function $f(x) = xe^{-x}$.

Solution. Note that $e^{-x} = \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \frac{(-1)^n x^n}{n!}$. Therefore

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

Example 5. Find the limit $\lim_{x \rightarrow 0} \frac{1 - \cos(x)}{1 + x - e^x}$.

Solution. We decompose the functions $\cos(x)$ and e^x using the Taylor's polynomials:

$$\cos(x) = 1 - \frac{x^2}{2} + R_3(x), \quad e^x = 1 + x + \frac{x^2}{2} + \tilde{R}_2(x).$$

By formula (1) we have the estimates

$$|R_3(x)| \leq \frac{x^4}{6}, \quad |\tilde{R}_2(x)| \leq \frac{e}{2} |x|^3 \quad x \in [-1, 1].$$

Hence

$$\lim_{x \rightarrow 0} \frac{1 - \cos(x)}{1 + x - e^x} = \lim_{x \rightarrow 0} \frac{\frac{x^2}{2} + R_3(x)}{-\frac{x^2}{2} + \tilde{R}_2(x)} = -1.$$

Example 6. Find the limit $\lim_{x \rightarrow 0} \frac{\sin(x) - x + \frac{x^3}{6}}{x^5}$.

Solution.

$$\sin(x) = x - \frac{x^3}{6} + \frac{x^5}{5!} + R_6(x),$$

Therefore

$$\lim_{x \rightarrow 0} \frac{\sin(x) - x + \frac{x^3}{6}}{x^5} = \lim_{x \rightarrow 0} \frac{x - \frac{x^3}{6} + \frac{x^5}{5!} + R_6(x) - x + \frac{x^3}{6}}{x^5} = \lim_{x \rightarrow 0} \frac{\frac{x^5}{5!} + R_6(x)}{x^5} = \frac{1}{5!}.$$