

12.10 Taylor and Maclaurin Series



Suppose f is a function which has a power series representation

$$f(x) = \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} c_n (x-a)^n = c_0 + c_1(x-a) + c_2(x-a)^2 + c_3(x-a)^3 + \dots$$

for $|x-a| < R$

We can find the coefficients c_n in the following manner:

$$f(a) = c_0 + c_1 \underbrace{(a-a)}_0 + c_2 \underbrace{(a-a)^2}_0 + c_3 \underbrace{(a-a)^3}_0 + \dots \Rightarrow f(a) = c_0$$

Now let's take the derivative:

$$f'(x) = c_1 + 2c_2(x-a) + 3c_3(x-a)^2 + 4c_4(x-a)^3 + \dots$$

$$f'(a) = c_1 + 2c_2 \underbrace{(a-a)}_0 + 3c_3 \underbrace{(a-a)}_0 + 4c_4 \underbrace{(a-a)}_0 + \dots \Rightarrow f'(a) = c_1$$

Now let's take the second derivative:

$$f''(x) = 2c_2 + 2 \cdot 3c_3(x-a) + 3 \cdot 4c_4(x-a)^2 + \dots$$

$$f''(a) = 2c_2 + 2 \cdot 3c_3 \underbrace{(a-a)}_0 + 3 \cdot 4c_4 \underbrace{(a-a)}_0 + 4c_5 \underbrace{(a-a)}_0 + \dots \Rightarrow f''(a) = 2c_2$$

$$c_2 = \frac{f''(a)}{2}$$

Finally let's take the third derivative:

$$f'''(x) = 2 \cdot 3c_3 + 2 \cdot 3 \cdot 4c_4(x-a) + 3 \cdot 4 \cdot 5c_5(x-a)^2 + \dots$$

$$f'''(a) = 2 \cdot 3c_3 + 2 \cdot 3 \cdot 4c_4(a-a) + 3 \cdot 4 \cdot 5c_5(a-a)^2 + \dots \Rightarrow f'''(a) = 2 \cdot 3c_3$$

$$c_3 = \frac{f'''(a)}{2 \cdot 3}$$

Continuing in this manner, we'll obtain:

$$c_4 = \frac{f^{(4)}(a)}{2 \cdot 3 \cdot 4} \quad c_5 = \frac{f^{(5)}(a)}{2 \cdot 3 \cdot 4 \cdot 5} \quad \dots \quad c_n = \frac{f^{(n)}(a)}{n!}$$

$$f(x) = \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \frac{f^{(n)}(a)}{n!} (x-a)^n = f(a) + f'(a)(x-a) + \frac{f''(a)}{2!}(x-a)^2 + \frac{f'''(a)}{3!}(x-a)^3 + \dots$$

Taylor series of the function f centered at a .

If $a = 0$, then we call the series the **Maclaurin series** of the function f .

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

Find the Maclaurin series for $f(x) = e^x$

$$\begin{aligned}
 f(x) &= e^x & f(0) &= 1 \div 0! = 1 & \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \left| \frac{a_{n+1}}{a_n} \right| &= \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \left| \frac{n!}{(n+1)!} \cdot \frac{x^{n+1}}{x^n} \right| \\
 f'(x) &= e^x & f'(0) &= 1 \div 1! = 1 & &= \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \left| \frac{\cancel{n!} \cdot \cancel{x^n}}{(n+1) \cdot \cancel{n!} \cdot \cancel{x^n}} \right| \\
 f''(x) &= e^x & f''(0) &= 1 \div 2! = \frac{1}{2!} x^2 & &= \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \left| \frac{x}{(n+1)} \right| = 0 < 1 \quad \text{for all } x \\
 f'''(x) &= e^x & f'''(0) &= 1 \div 3! = \frac{1}{3!} x^3 & & \Rightarrow R = \infty \\
 f^{(4)}(x) &= e^x & f^{(4)}(0) &= 1 \div 4! = \frac{1}{4!} x^4 & & \\
 &\vdots & &\vdots & & \\
 && \frac{f^{(n)}(0)}{n!} = \frac{1}{n!} & \frac{f^{(n)}(0)}{n!} x^n = \frac{x^n}{n!} & &
 \end{aligned}$$

$$e^x = \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \frac{x^n}{n!} = 1 + x + \frac{x^2}{2!} + \frac{x^3}{3!} + \frac{x^4}{4!} + \dots, \text{ with } R = \infty$$

Find the Maclaurin series for $f(x) = \sin x$

$$\begin{aligned}
 f(x) &= \sin x & f(0) &= 0 \div 0! = 0 & \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \left| \frac{a_{n+1}}{a_n} \right| &= \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \left| \frac{(2n+1)!}{(2(n+1)+1)!} \cdot \frac{x^{2n+3}}{x^{2n+1}} \right| \\
 f'(x) &= \cos x & f'(0) &= 1 \div 1! = 1 x & & \\
 f''(x) &= -\sin x & f''(0) &= 0 \div 2! = 0 x^2 & = \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \left| \frac{(2n+1)!}{(2n+3)(2n+2) \cdot (2n+1)!} \cdot \frac{x^{2n+3} \cdot x^2}{x^{2n+1}} \right| \\
 f'''(x) &= -\cos x & f'''(0) &= -1 \div 3! = -\frac{1}{3!} x^3 & & \\
 f^{(4)}(x) &= \sin x & f^{(4)}(0) &= 0 \div 4! = 0 x^4 & = \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \left| \frac{x^2}{(2n+3)(2n+2)} \right| &= 0 < 1 \text{ for all } x \\
 f^{(5)}(x) &= \cos x & f^{(5)}(0) &= 1 \div 5! = \frac{1}{5!} x^5 & & \Rightarrow R = \infty \\
 \text{only odd powers so we should use } 2n-1 \text{ or } 2n+1 & & \frac{f^{(n)}(0)}{n!} x^n &= \frac{(-1)^n x^{2n+1}}{(2n+1)!} & &
 \end{aligned}$$

$$\sin x = \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \frac{(-1)^n x^{2n+1}}{(2n+1)!} = x - \frac{x^3}{3!} + \frac{x^5}{5!} - \frac{x^7}{7!} + \dots, \text{ with } R = \infty$$

Find the Maclaurin series for $f(x) = (1+x)^k$

$$\begin{aligned}
 f(x) &= (1+x)^k & f(0) &= 1 \\
 f'(x) &= k(1+x)^{k-1} & f'(0) &= k \\
 f''(x) &= k(k-1)(1+x)^{k-2} & f''(0) &= k(k-1) \\
 f'''(x) &= k(k-1)(k-2)(1+x)^{k-3} & f'''(0) &= k(k-1)(k-2) \\
 f^{(4)}(x) &= k(k-1)(k-2)(k-3)(1+x)^{k-4} & f^{(4)}(0) &= k(k-1)(k-2)(k-3) \\
 & & & \vdots \\
 & & f^{(n)}(0) &= k(k-1)(k-2)\cdots(k-(n-1)) \\
 \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \underbrace{\frac{f^{(n)}(0)}{n!} x^n}_{\text{Maclaurin Series for } f(x)} &= \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \frac{k(k-1)(k-2)\cdots(k-n+1)}{n!} x^n & & \text{stop when you get to this term} \\
 & & & \text{at } k-n+1
 \end{aligned}$$

$$(1+x)^k = 1 + kx + \frac{k(k-1)}{2!} x^2 + \frac{k(k-1)(k-2)}{3!} x^3 + \dots$$



$$(1+x)^k = \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \frac{k(k-1)(k-2)\cdots(k-n+1)}{n!} x^n$$

Find its radius of convergence.

$$\begin{aligned} \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \left| \frac{a_{n+1}}{a_n} \right| &= \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \left| \frac{k(k-1)(k-2)\cdots(k-(n+1)+1)}{k(k-1)(k-2)\cdots(k-n+1)} \cdot \frac{n!}{(n+1)!} \cdot \frac{x^{n+1}}{x^n} \right| \\ &= \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \left| \frac{k(k-1)(k-2)\cdots(k-n+1)(k-n)}{k(k-1)(k-2)\cdots(k-n+1)} \cdot \frac{n!}{(n+1) \cdot n!} \cdot \frac{x^{n+1}}{x^n} \right| \\ &= \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \left| \frac{k-n}{n+1} \cdot x \right| = |-x| = |x| < 1 \quad \Rightarrow R = 1 \\ &\qquad\qquad\qquad \text{for convergence} \\ &\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{k-n}{n+1} = -1 \end{aligned}$$

In a probability course you learn that

$$\frac{k(k-1)(k-2)\cdots(k-n+1)}{n!}$$

is the number of ways to select n objects out of a total of k objects

The symbol often

$$\text{used for this is } \binom{k}{n}$$

List of important Maclaurin series :



$$\frac{1}{1-x} = \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} x^n = 1 + x + x^2 + x^3 + \dots \quad R = 1$$

$$\frac{1}{(1-x)^2} = \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} nx^{n-1} = 1 + 2x + 3x^2 + 4x^3 + \dots \quad \text{with } R = 1$$

$$\ln(1-x) = -\sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \frac{x^{n+1}}{n+1} = -x - \frac{x^2}{2} - \frac{x^3}{3} - \frac{x^4}{4} - \dots \quad \text{with } R = 1$$

$$\arctan x = \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} (-1)^n \frac{x^{2n+1}}{2n+1} = x - \frac{x^3}{3} + \frac{x^5}{5} - \frac{x^7}{7} + \dots, \text{with } R = 1$$

$$e^x = \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \frac{x^n}{n!} = 1 + x + \frac{x^2}{2!} + \frac{x^3}{3!} + \frac{x^4}{4!} + \dots, \text{with } R = \infty$$

$$\sin x = \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \frac{(-1)^n x^{2n+1}}{(2n+1)!} = x - \frac{x^3}{3!} + \frac{x^5}{5!} - \frac{x^7}{7!} + \dots, \text{with } R = \infty$$

$$\cos x = \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \frac{(-1)^n x^{2n}}{(2n)!} = 1 - \frac{x^2}{2!} + \frac{x^4}{4!} - \frac{x^6}{6!} + \dots, \text{with } R = \infty$$

$$(1+x)^k = \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \binom{k}{n} x^n = 1 + kx + \frac{k(k-1)}{2!} x^2 + \frac{k(k-1)(k-2)}{3!} x^3 + \dots, \text{with } R = 1$$



Find the Taylor series for $f(x) = \sqrt{x}$ centered at $x = 1$.

$$\begin{aligned} f(x) &= x^{1/2} & f(1) &= 1 \div 0! = 1 \\ f'(x) &= \frac{1}{2}x^{-1/2} & f'(1) &= \frac{1}{2} \div 1! = \frac{1}{2}(x-1) \\ f''(x) &= \frac{-1}{4}x^{-3/2} & f''(1) &= \frac{-1}{4} \div 2! = \frac{-1}{4 \cdot 2!}(x-1)^2 \\ f'''(x) &= \frac{3}{8}x^{-5/2} & f'''(1) &= \frac{3}{8} \div 3! = \frac{3}{8 \cdot 3!}(x-1)^3 \\ f^{(4)}(x) &= \frac{-15}{16}x^{-7/2} & f^{(4)}(1) &= \frac{-15}{16} \div 4! = \frac{-5 \cdot 3}{16 \cdot 4!}(x-1)^4 \\ f^{(5)}(x) &= \frac{7 \cdot 15}{32}x^{-9/2} & f^{(5)}(1) &= \frac{7 \cdot 15}{32} \div 5! = \frac{7 \cdot 5 \cdot 3}{32 \cdot 5!}(x-1)^5 \\ f^{(6)}(x) &= \frac{-9 \cdot 7 \cdot 15}{64}x^{-11/2} & f^{(6)}(1) &= \frac{-9 \cdot 7 \cdot 15}{64} \div 6! = \frac{-9 \cdot 7 \cdot 5 \cdot 3}{64 \cdot 6!}(x-1)^6 \end{aligned}$$

$$f(x) = 1 + \frac{1}{2}(x-1) + \sum_{n=2}^{\infty} \frac{(-1)^{n-1} (1 \cdot 3 \cdot 5 \cdots (2n-3))}{2^n n!} (x-1)^n$$

Find the Taylor series for $f(x) = \cos x$ centered at $x = \frac{\pi}{4}$.

$$\begin{aligned} f(x) &= \cos x & f\left(\frac{\pi}{4}\right) &= \frac{\sqrt{2}}{2} \div 0! = \frac{\sqrt{2}}{2} \\ f'(x) &= -\sin x & f'\left(\frac{\pi}{4}\right) &= -\frac{\sqrt{2}}{2} \div 1! = -\frac{\sqrt{2}}{2}(x - \frac{\pi}{4}) && \text{these are both negative} \\ f''(x) &= -\cos x & f''\left(\frac{\pi}{4}\right) &= -\frac{\sqrt{2}}{2} \div 2! = -\frac{\sqrt{2}}{2 \cdot 2!}(x - \frac{\pi}{4})^2 \\ f'''(x) &= \sin x & f'''\left(\frac{\pi}{4}\right) &= \frac{\sqrt{2}}{2} \div 3! = \frac{\sqrt{2}}{2 \cdot 3!}(x - \frac{\pi}{4})^3 && \text{we have to split into odd and even powers and have each alternate} \\ f^{(4)}(x) &= \cos x & f^{(4)}\left(\frac{\pi}{4}\right) &= \frac{\sqrt{2}}{2} \div 4! = \frac{\sqrt{2}}{2 \cdot 4!}(x - \frac{\pi}{4})^4 \\ f^{(5)}(x) &= -\sin x & f^{(5)}\left(\frac{\pi}{4}\right) &= -\frac{\sqrt{2}}{2} \div 5! = -\frac{\sqrt{2}}{2 \cdot 5!}(x - \frac{\pi}{4})^5 \end{aligned}$$

$$\cos x = \frac{\sqrt{2}}{2} \left[\sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \frac{(-1)^{2n} (x - \frac{\pi}{4})^{2n}}{(2n)!} + \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \frac{(-1)^{n+1} (x - \frac{\pi}{4})^{2n+1}}{(2n+1)!} \right]$$

centered at $x = \frac{\pi}{4}$

Use a power series to integrate a function when there is no integration technique you could use.

$$\begin{aligned}
 & \int x^3 e^{-x^3} dx \\
 e^{-x} = \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \frac{(-x)^n}{n!} \Rightarrow e^{-x^3} = \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \frac{(-x^3)^n}{n!} = \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \frac{(-1)^n x^{3n}}{n!} \\
 x^3 e^{-x^3} = x^3 \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \frac{(-1)^n x^{3n}}{n!} = \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \frac{(-1)^n x^{3n} x^3}{n!} = \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \frac{(-1)^n x^{3n+3}}{n!} \\
 \int x^3 e^{-x^3} dx = \int \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \frac{(-1)^n x^{3n+3}}{n!} dx = \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \frac{(-1)^n}{n!} \int x^{3n+3} dx \\
 & = \boxed{C + \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \frac{(-1)^n x^{3n+4}}{n!(3n+4)}}
 \end{aligned}$$

Use a power series to evaluate a limit.

$$\begin{aligned}
 & \lim_{x \rightarrow 0} \frac{\sin x - x + \frac{x^3}{6}}{x^5} \\
 \lim_{x \rightarrow 0} \frac{\left(x - \cancel{\frac{x^3}{3!}} + \frac{x^5}{5!} - \frac{x^7}{7!} + \dots \right) - \cancel{x + \frac{x^3}{6}}}{x^5} & = \lim_{x \rightarrow 0} \frac{\frac{x^5}{5!} - \frac{x^7}{7!} + \frac{x^9}{9!} - \frac{x^{11}}{11!} + \dots}{x^5} \\
 & = \lim_{x \rightarrow 0} \left(\frac{x^5}{5!x^5} - \frac{x^7}{7!x^5} + \frac{x^9}{9!x^5} - \frac{x^{11}}{11!x^5} + \dots \right) \\
 & = \lim_{x \rightarrow 0} \left(\underbrace{\frac{1}{5!}}_0 - \underbrace{\frac{x^2}{7!}}_0 + \underbrace{\frac{x^4}{9!}}_0 - \underbrace{\frac{x^6}{11!}}_0 + \dots \right) = \boxed{\frac{1}{120}}
 \end{aligned}$$

Use a power series to find the sum of a series.

$$1 + \pi + \frac{\pi^2}{2!} + \frac{\pi^3}{3!} + \frac{\pi^4}{4!} + \dots = \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \frac{\pi^n}{n!} = \boxed{e^\pi}$$

$$\frac{\pi}{2} - \frac{\pi^3}{3!8} + \frac{\pi^5}{5!32} - \frac{\pi^7}{7!128} + \dots = \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \frac{(-1)^n \pi^{2n+1}}{2^{2n+1} (2n+1)!} = \sin \frac{\pi}{2} = \boxed{1}$$

$$1 - \frac{1}{3} + \frac{1}{5} - \frac{1}{7} + \dots = \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \frac{(-1)^n}{2n+1} = \arctan 1 = \boxed{\frac{\pi}{4}}$$

Find the first three non-zero terms of the Maclaurin series for $f(x) = e^x \ln(1-x)$
 by multiplying two series.

$$e^x = \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \frac{x^n}{n!} = 1 + x + \frac{x^2}{2!} + \frac{x^3}{3!} + \frac{x^4}{4!} + \dots \text{, with } R = \infty \text{ and } I = (-\infty, \infty)$$

$$\ln(1-x) = -\sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \frac{x^{n+1}}{n+1} = -x - \frac{x^2}{2} - \frac{x^3}{3} - \frac{x^4}{4} - \dots \text{, with } R = 1 \text{ and } I = |x| < 1$$

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

$$-x - \frac{x^2}{2} - \frac{x^3}{3} - \dots$$

$$-x^2 - \frac{x^3}{2} - \dots$$

$$-\frac{x^3}{2} - \dots$$

$$\underline{e^x \ln(1-x) = -x - \frac{3}{2}x^2 - \frac{4}{3}x^3 - \dots}, \text{ with } R = 1 \text{ and } I = |x| < 1$$

the overlap b/w
 the two intervals

Find the first three non-zero terms of the Maclaurin series for $f(x) = \tan x$
 by **dividing** two series.

$$\frac{\sin x}{\cos x} = \frac{x - \frac{x^3}{3!} + \frac{x^5}{5!} - \frac{x^7}{7!} + \dots}{1 - \frac{x^2}{2!} + \frac{x^4}{4!} - \frac{x^6}{6!} + \dots}$$

$$\begin{aligned}
 & 1 - \frac{x^2}{2} + \frac{x^4}{24} - \frac{x^6}{720} + \dots \overbrace{x - \frac{x^3}{6} + \frac{x^5}{120} - \frac{x^7}{5040} + \dots}^{x + \frac{x^3}{3} + \frac{2x^5}{15} + \dots} \\
 & - \left(x - \frac{x^3}{2} + \frac{x^5}{24} - \frac{x^7}{720} + \dots \right) \\
 & \underline{\quad \quad \quad \frac{x^3}{3} - \frac{x^5}{30} + \frac{x^7}{840} + \dots} \\
 & - \left(\frac{x^3}{3} - \frac{x^5}{6} + \frac{x^7}{15} - \dots \right) \\
 & \underline{\quad \quad \quad \frac{2x^5}{15} - \frac{4x^7}{315} + \dots}
 \end{aligned}$$