

Math 101 – SOLUTIONS TO WORKSHEET 33
TAYLOR SERIES AND DERIVATIVES

The Taylor series of $f(x)$ centered at a is

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

- (1) Find the MacLaurin series of $f(x) = e^x$.

Solution: For each n we have $f^{(n)}(x) = e^x$ so $f^{(n)}(0) = e^0 = 1$. The series is therefore

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

- (2) (Final 2014) Find the Taylor series $g(x) = \log x$ centered at $a = 2$, as well as its radius of convergence.

Solution: $g'(x) = \frac{1}{x}$, $g''(x) = -\frac{1}{x^2}$, $g^{(3)}(x) = \frac{1 \cdot 2}{x^3}$, $g^{(4)}(x) = -\frac{1 \cdot 2 \cdot 3}{x^4}$, and in general $g^{(n)}(x) = (-1)^{n-1} \frac{(n-1)!}{x^n}$. So for $n \geq 1$ we have $g^{(n)}(2) = (-1)^{n-1} \frac{(n-1)!}{2^n}$ and the Taylor series is

$$\begin{aligned} \log 2 + \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} (-1)^{n-1} \frac{(n-1)!}{2^n n!} (x-2)^n &= \log 2 + \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} (-1)^n \frac{(n-1)!}{2^n n(n-1)!} (x-2)^n \\ &= \log 2 + \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} (-1)^n \frac{(x-2)^n}{2^n n}. \end{aligned}$$

For the radius of convergence we compute $\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \left| \frac{(-1)^{n+1}}{2^{n+1}(n+1)} / \frac{(-1)^n}{2^n n} \right| = \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{n}{n+1} \cdot \frac{2^n}{2^{n+1}} = \frac{1}{2} \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{1}{1+\frac{1}{n}} = \frac{1}{2}$ so we have $R = 2$.

Solution: We have

$$\log x = \log(2 + (x-2)) = \log \left(2 \left(1 + \frac{x-2}{2} \right) \right) = \log 2 + \log \left(1 + \frac{x-2}{2} \right).$$

We know that $\log(1+u) = \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{(-1)^{n-1}}{n} u^n$ and it follows that

$$\log x = \log 2 + \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{(-1)^n}{n} \left(\frac{x-2}{2} \right)^n.$$

The logarithm series converges for $-1 < u \leq 1$ so our series will converge for $-1 < \frac{x-2}{2} \leq 1$ that is $-2 < x-2 \leq 2$ so the radius of convergence is 2.

- (3) (Final 2014) Let $\sum_{n=0}^{\infty} c_n x^n$ be the MacLaurin series for e^{3x} . Find c_5 .

Solution: Knowing that $e^u = \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \frac{u^n}{n!}$ we have $e^{3x} = \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \frac{3^n}{n!} x^n$ so $c_5 = \frac{3^5}{5!}$.

- (4) (Final 2013) Let $f(x) = x^2 \sin(x^3)$. Find $f^{(11)}(0)$.

Solution: We know that $\sin u = u - \frac{u^3}{3!} + \frac{u^5}{5!} - \dots$ so

$$x^2 \sin(x^3) = x^2 \left(x^3 - \frac{x^9}{3!} + \dots \right) = x^5 - \frac{x^{11}}{3!} + \dots$$

It follows that $\frac{f^{(11)}(0)}{11!} = \frac{1}{3!}$ so $f^{(11)}(0) = \frac{11!}{3!}$.