

Maclaurins Series

Let $f(x)$ be a function, which throughout a certain domain, including $x=0$ is

- (a.) Differentiable any number of times ,and
- (b.) The sum of a convergent power series.

Let this series be

$$f(x) = a_0 + a_1x + a_2x^2 + a_3x^3 + a_4x^4 + a_5x^5 + \dots$$

$$\text{so } f(0) = a_0$$

*differentiating term by term and putting $x=0$

$$f'(x) = a_1 + 2a_2x + 3a_3x^2 + 4a_4x^3 + 5a_5x^4 + \dots$$

$$\text{so } f'(0) = a_1$$

$$f''(x) = 2a_2 + 6a_3x + 12a_4x^2 + 20a_5x^3 + \dots$$

$$\text{so } f''(0) = 2a_2$$

$$\text{or } f''(0) = 2! a_2$$

$$f'''(x) = 6a_3 + 24a_4x + 60a_5x^2 + \dots$$

$$\text{so } f'''(0) = 6a_3$$

$$\text{or } f'''(0) = 3! a_3$$

$$\text{so you could write } f(x) = f(0) + xf'(0) + \frac{x^2 f''(0)}{2!} + \frac{x^3 f'''(0)}{3!} + \frac{x^4 f^{(4)}(0)}{4!} + \dots + \frac{x^n f^{(n)}(0)}{n!} + \dots$$

This is Maclaurins Series.

Exponential Series

Let $f(x) = e^x$

$f(x) = e^x \quad \therefore f(0) = 1$
 $f'(x) = e^x \quad \therefore f'(0) = 1$
 $f(0) = f'(0) = f''(0) = \dots = f^{(n)}(0) = 1$
 $\therefore e^x = f(0) + xf'(0) + \frac{x^2 f''(0)}{2!} + \dots + \frac{x^n f^{(n)}(0)}{n!} + \dots$
 $= 1 + x + \frac{x^2}{2!} + \dots + \frac{x^n}{n!} + \dots$
 If $x=1$
 $e = 1 + 1 + \frac{1}{2} + \dots + \frac{1}{n!} + \dots$
 $= 2.7182818 (7d.p)$

Logarithmic Series

Let $f(x) = \ln(1+x)$

$$f(x) = \ln(1+x) \therefore f(0) = 0$$

$$f'(x) = \frac{1}{1+x} = (1+x)^{-1} \therefore f'(0) = 1$$

$$f''(x) = -(1+x)^{-2} \therefore f''(0) = -1$$

$$f'''(x) = 2(1+x)^{-3} \therefore f'''(0) = 2 = 2!$$

$$f^{(4)}(x) = -6(1+x)^{-4} \therefore f^{(4)}(0) = -6 = -3!$$

$$f^{(5)}(x) = 24(1+x)^{-5} \therefore f^{(5)}(0) = 24 = 4!$$

$$f^{(n)}(x) = (-1)^{n-1} (n-1)! (1+x)^{-n} \therefore f^{(n)}(0) = (-1)^{n-1} (n-1)!$$

Maclaurin's gives:

$$\ln(1+x) = x + \frac{x^2(-1)}{2!} + \frac{x^3(2)}{3!} + \frac{x^4(-3!)}{4!} + \frac{x^5(4!)}{5!} + \dots$$

$$= x - \frac{x^2}{2} + \frac{x^3}{3} - \frac{x^4}{4} + \frac{x^5}{5} + \dots + \frac{(-1)^n x^n}{n} + \dots \quad \textcircled{1}$$

which has domain of convergence $-1 < x \leq 1$

can't be 1 because $\ln 0$ is not defined.

Putting x for $-x$, we obtain $\ln(1-x) = -x - \frac{x^2}{2} - \frac{x^3}{3} - \frac{x^4}{4} - \dots \quad \textcircled{2}$

whose domain of convergence is $-1 < -x \leq 1$

ie. $1 > x \geq -1$
ie. $-1 < x < 1$

① - ② gives

$$\ln(1+x) - \ln(1-x) = 2x + \frac{2x^3}{3} + \frac{2x^5}{5} + \dots$$

$$\therefore \ln\left(\frac{1+x}{1-x}\right) = 2\left(x + \frac{x^3}{3} + \frac{x^5}{5} + \dots\right) \quad \textcircled{3}$$

which has domain of convergence $-1 < x < 1$ (ie. both ① & ② are convergent)

$\ln 2$ can be calculated using ③ by replacing x by $\frac{1}{3}$

$$\ln 2 = 2\left(\frac{1}{3} + \frac{1}{81} + \frac{1}{5832} + \dots\right) \approx 0.693 \text{ which converges more rapidly than ①.}$$

Example

Expand $\cos x$ in ascending powers of x .

Solution

$$\text{Let } f(x) = \cos x \quad \therefore f(0) = 1$$

$$f'(x) = -\sin x \quad f'(0) = 0$$

$$f''(x) = -\cos x \quad f''(0) = -1$$

$$f'''(x) = \sin x \quad f'''(0) = 0$$

$$f^{(4)}(x) = \cos x \quad f^{(4)}(0) = 1$$

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

$$\therefore \cos x = 1 - \frac{x^2}{2!} + \frac{x^4}{4!} - \dots + \frac{(-1)^r x^{2r}}{(2r)!} \quad \text{valid for all values of } x$$

***P3 Book Exercise 2D

(next bit is not needed. Just to show)

Challenge

The **ratio test** is a sufficient condition for the convergence of an infinite series. It says that a series $\sum_{r=1}^{\infty} a_r$ converges if $\lim_{r \rightarrow \infty} \left| \frac{a_{r+1}}{a_r} \right| < 1$, and diverges if $\lim_{r \rightarrow \infty} \left| \frac{a_{r+1}}{a_r} \right| > 1$.

Use the ratio test to show that

a the Maclaurin series expansion of e^x converges for all $x \in \mathbb{R}$

Problem-solving

If $\lim_{r \rightarrow \infty} \left| \frac{a_{r+1}}{a_r} \right| = 1$ or does not exist then the ratio test is inconclusive.

$$e^x = \sum_{r=1}^{\infty} \frac{x^r}{r!}$$

$$= \lim_{r \rightarrow \infty} \left| \frac{\frac{x^{r+1}}{(r+1)!}}{\frac{x^r}{r!}} \right| = \lim_{r \rightarrow \infty} \left| \frac{x}{(r+1)} \right| \text{ which is } < 1 \text{ for all } x.$$

Binomial Series

Consider $f(x) = (1+x)^n$ for $n \in \mathbb{R}$

$$f(x) = (1+x)^n \quad \text{so } f(0) = 1$$

$$f'(x) = n(1+x)^{n-1} \quad \text{so } f'(0) = n$$

$$f''(x) = n(n-1)(1+x)^{n-2} \quad \text{so } f''(0) = n(n-1)$$

$$f'''(x) = n(n-1)(n-2)(1+x)^{n-3} \quad \text{so } f'''(0) = n(n-1)(n-2)$$

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$$f^r(x) = n(n-1)(n-2)\dots(n-r+1)(1+x)^r \quad \text{so } f^r(0) = n(n-1)(n-2)\dots(n-r+1)$$

Maclaurin's gives:-

$$(1+x)^n = 1 + nx + \frac{n(n-1)x^2}{2!} + \frac{n(n-1)(n-2)x^3}{3!} + \dots + \frac{n(n-1)(n-2)\dots(n-r+1)x^r}{r!}$$

Which is the Binomial Series for any $n \in \mathbb{R}$ and is convergent, provided $|x| < 1$.

If $n \in \mathbb{Z}^+$, the series terminates and reduces to the Binomial Theorem.

Note Define $\binom{n}{r}$ to be

$$\binom{n}{r} = \frac{n(n-1)(n-2)\dots(n-r+1)}{r!}$$

Example

Expand $(1-3x)^{-\frac{2}{3}}$ up to terms including x^3 .

Solution

$$\begin{aligned} (1-3x)^{-\frac{2}{3}} &= 1 + \binom{-\frac{2}{3}}{1}(-3x) + \frac{\binom{-\frac{2}{3}}{2}(-3x)^2}{2!} + \frac{\binom{-\frac{2}{3}}{3}(-3x)^3}{3!} + \dots \\ &= 1 + 2x + 5x^2 + \frac{40}{3}x^3 \end{aligned}$$

valid for $|3x| < 1$
 $|x| < \frac{1}{3}$
or $-\frac{1}{3} < x < \frac{1}{3}$

Example

Expand $(1 - 3x)^{\frac{1}{5}}$ in ascending powers of x up to the term x^3 . Take $x = \frac{1}{32}$ to find an approximation for $29^{\frac{1}{5}}$, giving your answer correct to 5d.p.

Solution

$$\begin{aligned}(1-3x)^{\frac{1}{5}} &= 1 + \binom{1/5}{1}(-3x) + \frac{\binom{1/5}{2}(-3x)^2}{2!} + \frac{\binom{1/5}{3}(-3x)^3}{3!} + \dots \\ &= 1 - \frac{3}{5}x - \frac{18}{25}x^2 - \frac{162}{125}x^3 + \dots\end{aligned}$$

let $x = \frac{1}{32} \therefore (1 - \frac{3}{32})^{\frac{1}{5}} = 1 - \frac{3}{5}(\frac{1}{32}) - \frac{18}{25}(\frac{1}{32})^2 - \frac{162}{125}(\frac{1}{32})^3 + \dots$

$$\begin{aligned}\left(\frac{29}{32}\right)^{\frac{1}{5}} &= \dots \\ \frac{1}{2}(29)^{\frac{1}{5}} &= \dots \\ 29^{\frac{1}{5}} &= 2 \times (\dots) \\ &= 1.96101 \text{ (5d.p.)}\end{aligned}$$

Example

$$f(x) = \frac{x}{(3-2x)(2-x)}$$

- Express $f(x)$ in partial fractions
- Expand $f(x)$ up to terms including x^3 .
- State the set of values of x for which the series is valid.

Solution

(a) ans = $\frac{3}{3-2x} - \frac{2}{2-x}$ (working omitted)

(b) $f(x) = 3(3-2x)^{-1} - 2(2-x)^{-1}$

$$\begin{aligned}&= 3(3)^{-1}\left(1 - \frac{2x}{3}\right)^{-1} - 2(2)^{-1}\left(1 - \frac{x}{2}\right)^{-1} \\ &= \left(1 - \frac{2x}{3}\right)^{-1} - \left(1 - \frac{x}{2}\right)^{-1} \\ &= \left[1 + (-1)\left(-\frac{2x}{3}\right) + \frac{(-1)(-2)\left(-\frac{2x}{3}\right)^2}{2!} + \frac{(-1)(-2)(-3)\left(-\frac{2x}{3}\right)^3}{3!}\right] - \left[1 + (-1)\left(-\frac{x}{2}\right) + \frac{(-1)(-2)\left(-\frac{x}{2}\right)^2}{2!} + \frac{(-1)(-2)(-3)\left(-\frac{x}{2}\right)^3}{3!}\right]\end{aligned}$$
$$\begin{aligned}&= 1 + \frac{2x}{3} + \frac{4x^2}{9} + \frac{8x^3}{27} - \left[1 - \frac{x}{2} + \frac{x^2}{4} - \frac{x^3}{8}\right] \\ &= \frac{x}{6} + \frac{7x^2}{36} + \frac{37x^3}{216}\end{aligned}$$

(c) $(1 - \frac{2x}{3})^{-1}$ is valid for $|\frac{2x}{3}| < 1$ i.e. $|x| < \frac{3}{2}$
 $(1 - \frac{x}{2})^{-1}$ is valid for $|\frac{x}{2}| < 1$ i.e. $|x| < 2$
so whole series valid for $|x| < \frac{3}{2}$

Using the Polynomial Series Form of Functions To Find Approximations For The Functions

$$\sin x = x - \frac{x^3}{3!} + \frac{x^5}{5!} + \dots$$

$$\cos x = 1 - \frac{x^2}{2!} + \frac{x^4}{4!} + \dots$$

So if you take terms in x^3 and higher powers of x to be negligible, then

$\sin x \approx x$ and $\cos x \approx 1 - \frac{x^2}{2}$ where x is small.

Also

$$\tan x = x + \frac{x^3}{3} + \frac{2x^5}{15} + \dots$$

So for small x , $\tan x \approx x$.

Example

Find a quadratic polynomial approximation for $\frac{\sin 2x}{1+x}$, give that x is small.

Solution

$$\sin 2x \approx 2x$$

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{1}{(1+x)} &= (1+x)^{-1} = 1 + (-1)(x) + \frac{(-1)(-2)(x)^2}{2!} + \frac{(-1)(-2)(-3)(x)^3}{3!} + \dots \\ &= 1 - x + x^2 - x^3 + \dots \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned} \text{So } \frac{\sin 2x}{(1+x)} &= 2x(1 - x + x^2 - x^3 + \dots) \\ &\approx 2x - 2x^2 \end{aligned}$$

powers of x^3 and higher being negligible as x is small

Example

Given that x is small, show that $\frac{3\sin x}{2+\cos x} \approx x$.

Solution

$$3\sin x \approx 3\left(x - \frac{x^3}{3!} + \dots\right)$$

$$\begin{aligned} (2+\cos x)^{-1} &= \left(2 + 1 - \frac{x^2}{2}\right)^{-1} \\ &= \left(3 - \frac{x^2}{2}\right)^{-1} \\ &= (3)^{-1} \left(1 - \frac{x^2}{6}\right)^{-1} \\ &= \frac{1}{3} \left(1 - \frac{x^2}{6}\right)^{-1} = \frac{1}{3} \left(1 + (-1)\left(-\frac{x^2}{6}\right) + \dots\right) \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned}
\therefore \frac{3\sin x}{2+\cos x} &\approx 3\left(x - \frac{x^3}{3!}\right) \frac{1}{3} \left(1 + \frac{x^2}{6}\right) \\
&\approx x + \frac{x^3}{6} - \frac{x^3}{6} - \frac{x^5}{36} \\
&\approx x - \frac{x^5}{36} \\
&\approx x \\
&\text{as } \frac{x^5}{36} \text{ can be neglected as } x \text{ is small}
\end{aligned}$$

Example

Show that $\lim_{x \rightarrow 0} \frac{1 - \cos 4x + x \sin 3x}{x^2} = 11$

Solution

$$\begin{aligned}
\cos 4x &\approx 1 - \frac{(4x)^2}{2} \\
&= 1 - 8x^2 \\
\sin 3x &\approx 3x \\
\text{so } \frac{1 - \cos 4x + x \sin 3x}{x^2} &= \frac{1 - (1 - 8x^2) + x(3x)}{x^2} \\
&= \frac{8x^2 + 3x^2}{x^2} \\
&= \frac{11x^2}{x^2} \\
&= 11
\end{aligned}$$

Note other terms would have x^2, x^4 etc in them.

$$\text{so } \lim_{x \rightarrow 0} \frac{1 - \cos 4x + x \sin 3x}{x^2} = 11$$