

Taylor Polynomials can be used to approximate other elementary functions such as $y = \sin x$, $y = e^x$, and $y = \ln x$.



$f(0) = \sin 0 = 0$

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

Example 1 Find the equation of the tangent line for $f(x) = \sin x$ at $x = 0$, then use it to approximate $\sin(0.2)$. Is this an over or under approximation of $\sin(0.2)$?

$f'(x) = \cos x$

Tangent Line

$y - 0 = 1(x - 0) \rightarrow y = x$

$f'(0) = \cos 0 = 1$

$\sin(0.2) \approx 2 \rightarrow \text{overestimate}$

The equation of the tangent line used in example 1 is called a **first degree Taylor polynomial**. Taylor polynomials of higher degree can be used to obtain increasingly better approximations of non-polynomial functions with a certain **radius** from a **center of approximation** $x = c$.

Definition of an nth degree Taylor Polynomial

If f has n derivatives at $x = c$, then the polynomial

$$P_n(x) = f(c) + f'(c)(x - c) + \frac{f''(c)}{2!}(x - c)^2 + \dots + \frac{f^{(n)}(c)}{n!}(x - c)^n$$

Linear Approx using a tangent



is called the n th degree Taylor polynomial for f centered at c .

Note 1: A first-degree Taylor polynomial is a tangent line to f at c .

Note 2: $\frac{f^{(n)}(c)}{n!}$ is the coefficient of the $(x - c)^n$ term.

Definition of nth degree Maclaurin Polynomial

Taylor series w/ $c = 0$

If the Taylor polynomial is centered at 0 ($c = 0$), then

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



is called the n th degree Maclaurin polynomial for f .

Taylor centered at $x = 0$

Example 3 Find the Maclaurin polynomial of degree $n = 7$ for $f(x) = \sin x$. Then use $P_7(x)$ to approximate the value of $\sin(0.1)$ using correct notation. Find the error for your approximation.

$f'(x) = \cos x \rightarrow \text{at } 0 \rightarrow f'(0) = 1$

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

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

$f^{(4)}(x) = \sin x \rightarrow f^{(4)}(0) = 0$

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

$$\begin{matrix} \downarrow & \downarrow & \downarrow & \downarrow \\ f(0) & 1(x-0) & \frac{0(x-0)^2}{2!} & \frac{-1(x-0)^3}{3!} \\ \downarrow & \downarrow & \downarrow & \downarrow \\ 0 & x & 0 & -\frac{x^3}{3!} \end{matrix}$$

$P_7(x) = x - \frac{x^3}{3!} + \frac{x^5}{5!} - \frac{x^7}{7!}$

$P_7(1) = 0.998$
 $\sin(1) = 0.998 \rightarrow \text{error is really small}$

Example 4 List the first four non-zero terms and the n th term for the Maclaurin series for $f(x) = \sin x$.

done

general term for $\sin x \rightarrow \frac{(-1)^n x^{2n+1}}{(2n+1)!} \rightarrow \text{general term } (n \geq 0)$

Example 5 Find the Maclaurin polynomial of degree $n = 7$ for $f(x) = \cos x$. Use it to find the first four non-zero terms and the n th term for the Maclaurin series for $f(x) = \cos x$.

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

$f''(x) = -\cos x \rightarrow \text{at } c=0 \rightarrow -1$

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

$f^{(4)}(x) = \cos x \rightarrow \text{at } 0 \rightarrow 1$

$c=0$
 $f(c) \rightarrow f(0) = \cos 0 = 1$
 $P_6(x) = 1 - \frac{x^2}{2!} + \frac{x^4}{4!} - \frac{x^6}{6!}$

$(-1)^n \frac{x^{2n}}{(2n)!} \rightarrow$ General Term

Example 6 Find the Maclaurin polynomial of degree $n = 4$ for $f(x) = e^x$. Use it to find the first four non-zero terms and the n th term for the Maclaurin series for $f(x) = e^x$.

$f'(x) = e^x$ at $c=0$

$f''(x) = e^x$ $e^0 = 1$

$f'''(x) = e^x$

$P_4(x) = 1 + x + \frac{x^2}{2!} + \frac{x^3}{3!} + \frac{x^4}{4!}$

General term $\frac{x^n}{n!}$

Example 7 Find the Taylor polynomial of degree $n = 4$ for $f(x) = \ln x$ centered at $c = 1$. Then use $P_4(x)$ to approximate the value of $\ln(1.1)$.

$f(x) = \ln x$ $\rightarrow \text{at } c=1 \rightarrow \ln 1 = 0$

$f'(x) = \frac{1}{x}$ or $x^{-1} \rightarrow 1$

$f''(x) = -\frac{1}{x^2} = -1x^{-2} \rightarrow -1$

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

$f^{(4)}(x) = -\frac{6}{x^4} = -6x^{-4} \rightarrow -6$

$0 + 1(x-1) - \frac{1(x-1)^2}{2!} + \frac{2(x-1)^3}{3!} - \frac{6(x-1)^4}{4!}$

General $(-1)^n \frac{(x-1)^{n+1}}{(n+1)!}$ ($n \geq 0$)

accuracy
 $\ln(1.1) =$
 $P_4(1.1) =$

Example 8 Suppose that g is a function which has continuous derivatives, and that $g(2) = 3$, $g'(2) = -4$, $g''(2) = 7$, and $g'''(2) = -5$. Write a Taylor polynomial of degree 3 for g centered at 2.

$3 - 4(x-2) + \frac{7(x-2)^2}{2!} - \frac{5(x-2)^3}{3!}$

Example 9 Let $P(x) = 7 - 3(x-4) + 5(x-4)^2 - 2(x-4)^3 + 6(x-4)^4$ be the 4th degree Taylor polynomial for the function f about $x = 4$. Assume f has derivatives of all orders for all real numbers.

a) Find $f(4)$ and $f'''(4)$ \rightarrow look at the coefficient of $(x-4)$

$f(4) = 7$
 $-2 = \frac{f'''(4)}{3!} \rightarrow \text{so } f'''(4) = -2 \cdot 3! \text{ or } -12$

b) Write the second-degree Taylor polynomial for f' about $x = 4$ and use it to approximate $f'(4.3)$.

$-3 + 10(x-4) - 6(x-4)^2$ $f'(4.3) \approx -3 + 10(4.3-4) - 6(4.3-4)^2$

c) Write the fourth-degree Taylor polynomial for $g(x) = \int_4^x f(t) dt$ about $x = 4$.

$\int_4^x 7 dt = 7t \Big|_4^x = 7(x-4) \rightarrow$ keep the pattern going $\rightarrow 7(x-4) - \frac{3(x-4)^2}{2} + \frac{5(x-4)^3}{3} - \frac{2(x-4)^4}{4}$

d) Can $f(3)$ be determined from the information given? Justify your answer.

$f(3)$ can't be determined \rightarrow ① approx only
 ② info in this problem is about the function centered at 4