

TAYLOR POLYNOMIALS AND TAYLOR SERIES (CONTD.)

MAIN CONCEPTS

- Recall that for an infinitely differentiable function f , we can define its Taylor series centred at a point $x = a$, $T_f(x)$.
- For each x , the Taylor series is an infinite series of real numbers and it may or may not converge.
- Consider a Taylor series of the form

$$\sum_{k=0}^{\infty} c_k \cdot (x - a)^k$$

and denote the limit of the ratio:

$$\lim_{k \rightarrow \infty} \frac{|c_{k+1}|}{|c_k|} = L.$$

- If $L = 0$: The series converges on the whole real line $(-\infty, \infty)$.
- If $L = \infty$: The series converges only at the point $x = a$.
- If $0 < L < \infty$: The Taylor series converges absolutely for all x in the interval $(a - \frac{1}{L}, a + \frac{1}{L})$.
- The interval $(a - \frac{1}{L}, a + \frac{1}{L})$ is called the **interval of convergence** and $\frac{1}{L}$ is called the **radius of convergence**.
- The Taylor polynomial of a function f centred at a approximates f at points close to a . The **Lagrange error bounds** tell us how good this approximation is at some point c that is close to a :

Suppose f is continuous and has $n + 1$ continuous derivatives. Suppose also that $|f^{(n+1)}(x)| \leq M$ on the interval $[a, c]$. If $P_n(x)$ is the n^{th} degree Taylor polynomial of f centred at a , then

$$|P_n(c) - f(c)| \leq M \frac{|c - a|^{n+1}}{(n + 1)!}.$$

ACTIVITIES

ACTIVITY 8.5.5

- (a) Use the Ratio test to explicitly determine the interval of convergence of the Taylor series for $f(x) = \frac{1}{1-x}$ centered at $x = 0$.

$$T_f(x) = \sum_{k=0}^{\infty} x^k \quad C_k = 1 \quad \lim_{k \rightarrow \infty} \frac{|C_{k+1}|}{|C_k|} = \lim_{k \rightarrow \infty} \frac{1}{1} = 1$$

interval of convergence: $(0-1, 0+1) = (-1, 1)$

- (b) Use the Ratio test to explicitly determine the interval of convergence of the Taylor series for $f(x) = \cos(x)$ centered at $x = 0$.

$$T_f(x) = \sum_{j=0}^{\infty} \frac{(-1)^j}{(2j)!} x^{2j} \quad C_{2j} = \frac{(-1)^j}{(2j)!}$$

Since odd terms

are zero we look at

$$\lim_{j \rightarrow \infty} \frac{|C_{2(j+1)}|}{|C_{2j}|} = \frac{(2j)!}{(2j+2)!} = \frac{1}{(2j+1)(2j+2)} \rightarrow 0$$

The interval of convergence is $(-\infty, \infty)$

- (c) Use the Ratio test to explicitly determine the interval of convergence of the Taylor series for $f(x) = \sin(x)$ centered at $x = 0$.

Same idea as (b), interval of convergence is $(-\infty, \infty)$

ACTIVITY 8.5.6

Let $P_n(x)$ be the n -th order Taylor polynomial for $\sin(x)$ centered at $x = 0$. Determine how large we need to choose n such that $P_n(2)$ approximates $\sin(2)$ to 20 decimal places.

Since $\sin x$ & $\cos x$ are bounded by 1, we can take $M=1$. Using Lagrange's error bound, we have $|P_n(2) - \sin(2)| \leq M \frac{|2-0|^{n+1}}{(n+1)!} = \frac{2^{n+1}}{(n+1)!}$. We want the error to be smaller than 10^{-20} i.e. $\frac{2^{n+1}}{(n+1)!} \leq 10^{-20}$. Solving for n , we get $n \geq 27$.

ACTIVITY 8.5.7

- (a) Show that the Taylor series centered at 0 for $\cos(x)$ converges to $\cos(x)$ for every real number x .

Using the Lagrange formula, $|P_n(x) - \cos x| \leq \frac{|x|^{n+1}}{(n+1)!}$. We know that $\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{x^n}{n!}$ converges for all x , therefore $\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{x^n}{n!} = 0$ from divergence test

therefore as $n \rightarrow \infty$ $|P_n(x) - \cos x| \rightarrow 0$.

- (b) Next we consider the Taylor series for e^x .

- (i) Show that the Taylor series centered at 0 for e^x converges to e^x for every nonnegative value of x .

Since e^x is an increasing, on $[0, c]$, $e^x \leq e^c$. We take $M = e^c$. Then the Lagrange formula says that $|P_n(x) - e^x| \leq e^c \frac{|x|^{n+1}}{(n+1)!}$ and as $n \rightarrow \infty$ the right hand side goes to zero.

- (ii) Show that the Taylor series centered at 0 for e^x converges to e^x for every ~~non~~ negative value of x .

For negative x , $e^x \leq 1$. So $M=1$, and apply the same idea from (ii)

- (iii) Explain why the Taylor series centered at 0 for e^x converges to e^x for every real number x . Recall that we earlier showed that the Taylor series centered at 0 for e^x converges for all x , and we have now completed the argument that the Taylor series for e^x actually converges to e^x for all x .

The Taylor series converges for every $x \geq 0$ from (i) & for $x < 0$ from (ii). So it converges for all x .

- (c) Let $P_n(x)$ be the n -th order Taylor polynomial for e^x centered at 0. Find a value of n such that $P_n(5)$ approximates e^5 correct to 8 decimal places.

$$M = e^5 \quad |P_n(5) - e^5| \leq \frac{e^5 5^{n+1}}{(n+1)!} \leq 10^{-8}$$

solving gives $n = 28$.