

Worksheet: Calculating Taylor series

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

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

(When $a = 0$ one calls it a Maclaurin series, but who cares really?) The n th Taylor polynomial is the partial sum of the series:

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

A. Compute the Taylor series of $f(x) = e^{3x}$ at $a = 0$. What is the interval of convergence?

B. Find $p_2(x)$ for $f(x) = \arctan(x)$ at $a = 0$.

C. Compute the Taylor series of $f(x) = \sin x$ at $a = \pi$.

D. Compute the Taylor series of $f(x) = \frac{1}{1+x}$ at $a = 0$. What is the interval of convergence?
Confirm using your knowledge of geometric series.