

1. (1 point) Write a Maclaurin series for:

$$(1 + x^2)^{-2}$$

Binomial Series:

$$\begin{aligned} (1 + x^2)^{-2} &= \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \binom{-2}{n} (x^2)^n \\ &= 1 - 2x^2 + \frac{(-2)(-2-1)}{2!}x^4 + \frac{(-2)(-2-1)(-2-2)}{3!}x^6 + \dots \\ &= \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} (-1)^n \frac{(n+1)!}{n!} x^{2n} \\ &= \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} (-1)^n (n+1) x^{2n} \end{aligned}$$

2. (1 point) Let

$$f(x) = e^x - 3x^2$$

If we use the first two terms in the Maclaurin series to approximate  $\sqrt{e} - \frac{3}{4}$ , estimate the error in the approximation.

$f'(x) = e^x - 6x$ ,  $f^{(2)}(x) = e^x - 6$ ,  $f^{(n)}(x) = e^x$  for all  $n \geq 3$ . Therefore the Maclaurin series is  $\sum_{n=0}^{\infty} c_n x^n$ , where  $c_0 = 1$ ,  $c_1 = 1$ ,  $c_2 = (1 - 6)/2! = -5/2$  and  $c_n = 1/n!$  for all  $n \geq 3$ .

We wish to approximate  $\sqrt{e} - \frac{3}{4} = f(1/2)$  with the first two terms of the Maclaurin, evaluated at  $x = 1/2$ . In other words, our approximation is  $1 + 1 \cdot \frac{1}{2} = \frac{3}{2}$ . The error is  $R_1(\frac{1}{2})$ , which we will bound using Taylor's Inequality.

We will work on the interval  $[-1, 1]$ , though any interval centered at 0 and containing  $1/2$  will work. On this interval,  $f^{(2)} = e^x - 6$  is increasing, with its minimum being  $e^{-1} - 6$  and its maximum being  $e^1 - 6$ . The larger of these two values in magnitude is  $e^{-1} - 6$ , so on  $[-1, 1]$  we have that

$$|f^{(2)}(x)| \leq |e^{-1} - 6| = 6 - \frac{1}{e}$$

and so Taylor's Inequality says

$$|R_1(x)| \leq \frac{6 - \frac{1}{e}}{2!} |x|^2$$

and thus  $R_1(1/2) \leq (3 - \frac{1}{2e})(\frac{1}{4})$ .

(turn over)

3. (1 point) Suppose  $m$  is a positive integer. Find a series  $\sum_{n=0}^{\infty} a_n$  that represents:

$$\left(\frac{m+1}{m}\right)^{m\pi}.$$

This series should have infinitely many nonzero terms,  $a_n$ , and  $\ln$  (the natural logarithm) should not appear in any of the terms.

(In class hint: rewrite  $(m+1)/m$  as  $1 + 1/m$ .)

As Professor Hald would say,

$$\left(1 + \frac{1}{m}\right)^{m\pi}.$$

“smells of” Binomial Series. Indeed, if we let  $f(x) = (1+x)^{m\pi}$ , then our number is just  $f(1/m)$ .

The Binomial Series for  $f(x)$  is:

$$f(x) = \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \binom{m\pi}{n} x^n$$

so

$$\left(\frac{m+1}{m}\right)^{m\pi} = \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \binom{m\pi}{n} \frac{1}{2^n} = 1 + \frac{m\pi}{2} + \frac{m\pi(m\pi-1)}{2 \cdot 2!} + \frac{m\pi(m\pi-1)(m\pi-2)}{4 \cdot 3!} + \dots$$