

Taylor Series

Notation $f^{(n)}$ is the n^{th} derivative of f . If it exists, we say f has “derivatives to order n ” or f is “ n times differentiable”. If $f^{(n)}$ exists for all $n \in \mathbb{N}$ we say f has “derivatives to all orders” or f is “infinitely differentiable.” By convention, $f^{(0)} = f$.

Definition Let $I \subset \mathbb{R}$ be an open interval containing 0 and let $f : I \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ be differentiable to order n .

- $\sum_{k=0}^n \frac{f^{(k)}(0)}{k!} x^k$ is called the “Taylor Polynomial of order n ” for f .
- $R_{n+1}(x) = f(x) - \sum_{k=0}^n \frac{f^{(k)}(0)}{k!} x^k$ is called the “remainder”
- If f has derivatives of all orders, $\sum_{k=0}^{\infty} \frac{f^{(k)}(0)}{k!} x^k$ is called the “Taylor Series” for f .

Note $\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} R_n(x) = 0$ if and only if $\sum_{k=0}^{\infty} \frac{f^{(k)}(0)}{k!} x^k \rightarrow f(x)$.

Theorem (Taylor’s Theorem) Let $I \subset \mathbb{R}$ be an open interval containing 0 and let $f : I \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ be differentiable to order n . Then for $x_0 \in I$, $x_0 \neq 0$, there exists y between 0 and x_0 such that

$$R_n(x_0) = \frac{f^{(n)}(y)}{n!} x_0^n.$$

Theorem Let $I \subset \mathbb{R}$ be an open interval containing 0 and let $f : I \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ be differentiable to all orders. If there exists $C \in \mathbb{R}$ such that $|f^{(n)}(x)| \leq C$ for all $n \in \mathbb{N}$ and $x \in I$ then $\sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \frac{f^{(n)}(0)}{n!} x^n = f(x)$ for all $x \in I$.