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Quiz 14: Taylor Series Fall 2017

Problem 1: Find a Taylor Series for the function $f(x) = xe^{3x^2}$ about x = 0.

We know the Taylor Series about x = 0 for e^x : $e^x = \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \frac{x^n}{n!}$. Then we have

$$e^{3x^2} = \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \frac{(3x^2)^n}{n!} = \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \frac{3^n x^{2n}}{n!}$$

Therefore,

$$f(x) = xe^{3x^2} = x \cdot \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \frac{3^n x^{2n}}{n!} = \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \frac{3^n x^{2n+1}}{n!}$$

Problem 2: Find a Taylor Series for the function $f(x) = \frac{x}{(1-x)^2}$ about x = 0. Use this to find the value of $\sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \frac{n}{2^n}$.

We know the Taylor Series for $\frac{1}{1-x}$ about x = 0:

$$\frac{1}{1-x} = \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} x^n$$

But observe

$$\frac{1}{(1-x)^2} = \frac{d}{dx} \left(\frac{1}{1-x}\right) = \frac{d}{dx} \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} x^n = \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \frac{d}{dx} (x^n) = \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} nx^{n-1}$$

Therefore,

$$f(x) = \frac{x}{(1-x)^2} = x \cdot \frac{1}{(1-x)^2} = x \cdot \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} nx^{n-1} = \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} nx^n$$

This is valid for |x| < 1*. But then we have*

$$\sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \frac{n}{2^n} = \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} n \left(\frac{1}{2}\right)^n = \frac{1/2}{(1-1/2)^2} = 2$$

Problem 3: Find a power series representation for

$$\int \cos x^2 \, dx$$

We know that a Taylor Series for $\cos x$ about x = 0 is $\cos x = \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} (-1)^n \frac{x^{2n}}{(2n)!}$. Therefore, we have

$$\cos x^{2} = \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} (-1)^{n} \frac{(x^{2})^{2n}}{(2n)!} = \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} (-1)^{n} \frac{x^{4n}}{(2n)!}$$

Thus,

$$\cos x^{2} dx = \int \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} (-1)^{n} \frac{x^{4n}}{(2n)!} dx$$
$$= \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \int (-1)^{n} \frac{x^{4n}}{(2n)!} dx$$
$$= \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \frac{(-1)^{n}}{(2n)!} \int x^{4n} dx$$
$$= C + \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \frac{(-1)^{n}}{(2n)!} \cdot \frac{x^{4n+1}}{4n+1}$$
$$= C + \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \frac{(-1)^{n} x^{4n+1}}{(4n+1)(2n)!}$$