

Let's expand the idea from the last worksheet to find a power series $\sum_{n=0}^{\infty} c_n x^n$ to represent a generic function $f(x)$

In other words, given $f(x)$ find the coefficients c_0, c_1, c_2, \dots so that

$$f(x) = \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} c_n x^n = c_0 + c_1 x + c_2 x^2 + c_3 x^3 + c_4 x^4 + c_5 x^5 + \dots$$

Start by differentiating the above expression. That is, find the derivatives of $f(x)$ and differentiate the power series. Then evaluate them both at $x = 0$.

$$\begin{array}{ll} f(x) = c_0 + c_1 x + c_2 x^2 + c_3 x^3 + c_4 x^4 + c_5 x^5 + \dots & f(0) = c_0 \\ f'(x) = c_1 + 2 c_2 x + 3 c_3 x^2 + 4 c_4 x^3 + 5 c_5 x^4 + \dots & f'(0) = \\ f''(x) = 2 c_2 + 2 \cdot 3 c_3 x + 3 \cdot 4 c_4 x^2 + 4 \cdot 5 c_5 x^3 + \dots & f''(0) = \\ f'''(x) = 2 \cdot 3 c_3 + 2 \cdot 3 \cdot 4 c_4 x + 3 \cdot 4 \cdot 5 c_5 x^2 + \dots & f'''(0) = \\ f^{(iv)}(x) = 2 \cdot 3 \cdot 4 c_4 + 2 \cdot 3 \cdot 4 \cdot 5 c_5 x + \dots & f^{(iv)}(0) = \\ \vdots & \\ f^{(n)}(x) = & f^{(n)}(0) = \end{array}$$

Remember $f(x)$ is given (i.e. known) and hence

$$f(0), f'(0), f''(0), \dots, f^{(n)}(0) \text{ _____} .$$

So the only unknown in equation $f^{(n)}(0) = n!c_n$ is _____ .

Lucky for us, the coefficients c_n are exactly what we set out to find. Solve:

Repeat the process for a power series centered at $x = a$.

In other words, given $f(x)$ find the coefficients c_0, c_1, c_2, \dots so that

$$f(x) = \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} c_n (x-a)^n = c_0 + c_1(x-a) + c_2(x-a)^2 + c_3(x-a)^3 + c_4(x-a)^4 + c_5(x-a)^5 + \dots$$

Start by finding the derivatives and evaluating them at $x = a$.

$$f(x) = c_0 + c_1(x-a) + c_2(x-a)^2 + c_3(x-a)^3 + c_4(x-a)^4 + c_5(x-a)^5 + \dots \quad f(a) = c_0$$

$$f'(x) = c_1 + 2c_2(x-a) + 3c_3(x-a)^2 + 4c_4(x-a)^3 + 5c_5(x-a)^4 + \dots \quad f'(a) =$$

$$f''(x) = 2c_2 + 2 \cdot 3c_3(x-a) + 3 \cdot 4c_4(x-a)^2 + 4 \cdot 5c_5(x-a)^3 + \dots \quad f''(a) =$$

$$f'''(x) = 2 \cdot 3c_3 + 2 \cdot 3 \cdot 4c_4(x-a) + 3 \cdot 4 \cdot 5c_5(x-a)^2 + \dots \quad f'''(a) =$$

$$f^{(iv)}(x) = 2 \cdot 3 \cdot 4c_4 + 2 \cdot 3 \cdot 4 \cdot 5c_5(x-a) + \dots \quad f^{(iv)}(a) =$$

⋮

$$f^{(n)}(x) = \quad f^{(n)}(a) =$$

Remember $f(x)$ and a are given (i.e. known) and hence

$$f(a), f'(a), f''(a), \dots, f^{(n)}(a) \quad \underline{\hspace{10em}} .$$

So the only unknown in equation $f^{(n)}(a) = n!c_n$ is .

Lucky for us, the coefficients c_n are exactly what we set out to find. Solve: