

In the following problems, you will try to approximate functions  $f(x)$  using polynomial  $p(x)$ . Complete following by writing the 1<sup>st</sup> – 5<sup>th</sup> derivatives of the given (general) polynomial. Then evaluate the polynomial at  $x = 0$ . The  $c_n$ 's are just constants.

$$p(x) = c_0 + c_1x + c_2x^2 + c_3x^3 + c_4x^4 + c_5x^5 + \cdots + c_nx^n$$

$$p(0) = c_0$$

$$p'(x) = c_1 + 2c_2x + 3c_3x^2 + 4c_4x^3 + 5c_5x^4 + \cdots + nc_nx^{n-1}$$

$$p'(0) =$$

$$p''(x) = 2c_2 + 6c_3x + 12c_4x^2 + 20c_5x^3 + \cdots + n(n-1)c_nx^{n-2}$$

$$p''(0) =$$

$$p'''(x) = 6c_3 + 24c_4x + 60c_5x^2 + \cdots + n(n-1)(n-2)c_nx^{n-3}$$

$$p'''(0) =$$

$$p^{(iv)}(x) = 24c_4 + 120c_5x + \cdots + n(n-1)(n-2)(n-3)c_nx^{n-4}$$

$$p^{(iv)}(0) =$$

$$p^{(v)}(x) = 120c_5 + 720c_6x + \cdots + n(n-1)(n-2)(n-3)(n-4)c_nx^{n-5}$$

$$p^{(v)}(0) =$$

Use the results of polynomial and its derivatives evaluated at  $x = 0$  for the next 2 problems.

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1. Given the function  $f(x) = \frac{1}{1-x} = (1-x)^{-1}$ , find the derivatives and evaluate the function at  $x = 0$ .  
From the top of page 1, also include the general polynomial evaluated at  $x = 0$ .

$f(x) = (1-x)^{-1}$	$= \frac{1}{1-x}$	$f(0) = 1$	$p(0) = c_0$
$f'(x) = -(1-x)^{-2} \cdot (-1) = (1-x)^{-2}$	$= \frac{1}{(1-x)^2}$	$f'(0) =$	$p'(0) =$
$f''(x) = -2(1-x)^{-3} \cdot (-1) = 2(1-x)^{-3}$	$= \frac{2}{(1-x)^3}$	$f''(0) =$	$p''(0) =$
$f'''(x) = -6(1-x)^{-4} \cdot (-1) = 6(1-x)^{-4}$	$= \frac{6}{(1-x)^4}$	$f'''(0) =$	$p'''(0) =$
$f^{(iv)}(x) = -24(1-x)^{-5} \cdot (-1) = 24(1-x)^{-5}$	$= \frac{24}{(1-x)^5}$	$f^{(iv)}(0) =$	$p^{(iv)}(0) =$
$f^{(v)}(x) = -120(1-x)^{-6} \cdot (-1) = 120(1-x)^{-6}$	$= \frac{120}{(1-x)^6}$	$f^{(v)}(0) =$	$p^{(v)}(0) =$

(a). Find  $c_0$  so that  $p(x)$  and  $f(x)$  match at  $x = 0$   
i.e. Set  $f(0) = p(0)$

Find  $c_1$  so that the first derivatives match at  $x = 0$   
i.e. Set  $f'(0) = p'(0)$

Find  $c_2$  so that the second derivatives match at  $x = 0$   
i.e. Set  $f''(0) = p''(0)$

Find  $c_3$  so that the third derivatives match at  $x = 0$   
i.e. Set  $f'''(0) = p'''(0)$

Find  $c_4$  so that the fourth derivatives match at  $x = 0$   
i.e. Set  $f^{(iv)}(0) = p^{(iv)}(0)$

Find  $c_5$  so that the fifth derivatives match at  $x = 0$   
i.e. Set  $f^{(v)}(0) = p^{(v)}(0)$

(b). Use the coefficients found in part (a) to write down the resulting polynomial up to  $x^5$ .  
i.e. Write down  $c_0 + c_1x + c_2x^2 + c_3x^3 + c_4x^4 + c_5x^5$  since we're claiming  $f(x) \approx p(x)$ .

$$\frac{1}{1-x} \approx \quad \longleftarrow \text{fill in polynomial}$$

(c). What do you notice about all of the coefficients  $c_i$  so far?

Use this observation to write down an infinite (power) series that will match the function up to all (infinitely many) derivatives.

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

(d). Replace the  $x$  with an  $r$  in the above equation:

$$\frac{1}{1-r} =$$

This series and formula should look familiar – what is it?

For what values of  $r$  (and ultimately  $x$ ) does it converge?

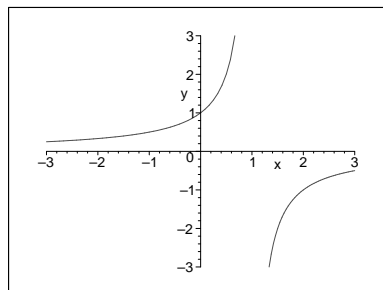
(e). Graph the function  $f(x) = \frac{1}{1-x}$  and the polynomial  $p(x)$  from part (b) on the same screen.  
Use the viewing window  $[-3, 3] \times [-3, 3]$  and sketch the polynomial on the graph below.

From the graph,

How well does the polynomial approximate  $f(x)$  near  $x = 0$ ?

How well does it approximate  $f(x)$  for  $|x| < 1$ ?

How well does it approximate  $f(x)$  for  $|x| > 1$ ?



2. Repeat the process for the function  $f(x) = \sin x$ .

From the top of page 1, also include the general polynomial evaluated at  $x = 0$ .

$f(x) = \sin x$	$f(0) =$	$p(0) = c_0$
$f'(x) =$	$f'(0) =$	$p'(0) = c_1$
$f''(x) =$	$f''(0) =$	$p''(0) = 2c_2$
$f'''(x) =$	$f'''(0) =$	$p'''(0) = 6c_3$
$f^{(iv)}(x) =$	$f^{(iv)}(0) =$	$p^{(iv)}(0) = 24c_4$
$f^{(v)}(x) =$	$f^{(v)}(0) =$	$p^{(v)}(0) = 120c_5$

- (a). Using the above information, find the values of the coefficients  $c_0, c_1, c_2, c_3, c_4$ , and  $c_5$  so that that  $f(x)$  and  $p(x)$  match up to their 5th derivatives.

- (b). Write down the resulting polynomial up to  $x^5$  and simplify.

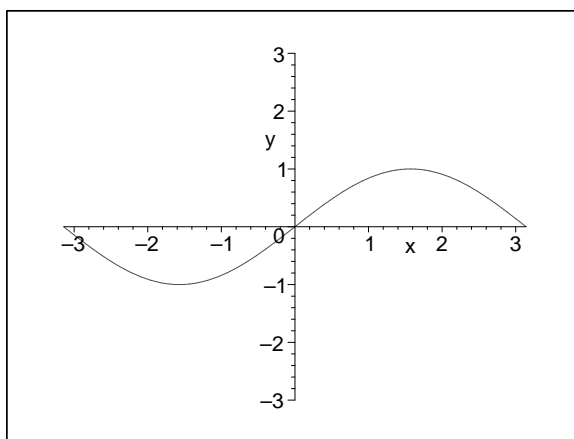
i.e Write down  $c_0 + c_1x + c_2x^2 + c_3x^3 + c_4x^4 + c_5x^5$  since we're claiming  $f(x) \approx p(x)$ .

$\sin x \approx$

← fill in polynomial

- (c). Graph  $f(x) = \sin x$  and the polynomial  $p(x)$  from part (b) on your Calculator.  
Use the viewing window  $-\pi \leq x \leq \pi$  and  $-3 \leq y \leq 3$ .

Sketch the polynomial onto the sine curve below.



How good does the polynomial approximate the sine function near  $x = 0$ ?