

Quiz # 4 — 02/19/15

Answer all questions in a clear and concise manner. Answers that are without explanations or are poorly presented may not receive full credit.

1. Find the Maclaurin series for $f(x) = \frac{1}{3-2x}$ and find the interval on which the expansion is valid.

Recall that the Maclaurin series for $\frac{1}{1-x} = \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} x^n$.

Then:

$$\begin{aligned}\frac{1}{3-2x} &= \frac{1}{3(1 - (\frac{2}{3})x)} \\ &= \frac{1}{3} \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} (\frac{2}{3})^n x^n\end{aligned}$$

Since the expansion for $\frac{1}{1-x}$ is valid for $|x| < 1$ we can conclude that our expansion is valid on $(\frac{-3}{2}, \frac{3}{2})$

Award 1 point for correct series and 1 point for correct interval.

2. Find the Maclaurin series for:

$$f(x) = e^x$$

and find the interval on which the expansion is valid.

First construct a general formula for $f^{(n)}(x)$:

$$f(x) = e^x, f'(x) = e^x, f''(x) = e^x, f'''(x) = e^x, \dots$$

Then,

$$f^{(n)}(x) = e^x$$

Therefore:

$$f^{(n)}(0) = 1$$

So the Maclaurin series for $f(x) = e^x$ centered at is $f(x) = \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \frac{1}{n!}x^n$. We will now use the ratio test to find the valid interval for the expansion:

$$\begin{aligned}\rho &= \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \left| \frac{(x)^{n+1} (n+1)!}{(n)! (x)^n} \right| \\ &= \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \left| \frac{x}{(n+1)} \right| \\ &= x \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \left| \frac{1}{(n+1)} \right| \\ &= 0\end{aligned}$$

So the Maclaurin series is valid on the whole real line.

Award 1 point for finding the Maclaurin Series and 1 point for correct interval. Full points may be awarded if the student memorized the interval and the Maclaurin series.