

Taylor Series Without High Order Differentiation

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- Replace function by “simple” algebraic or differential equations and use formal series substitution.
- Straightforward Examples.
- A new Bernoulli number algorithm.
- Reciprocals and general powers of functions.
- The inverse of a polynomial.

Taylor Series

Assuming f is sufficiently differentiable,

$$f(x) = f(a) + \frac{f'(a)}{1!}(x-a) + \frac{f''(a)}{2!}(x-a)^2 + \frac{f^{(3)}(a)}{3!}(x-a)^3 + \dots \\ + \frac{f^{(n)}(a)}{n!}(x-a)^n + \dots$$

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$$f^{(4)}(x) = \sin \sqrt{x^2 - 1} \left(\frac{x^4}{(x^2-1)^2} - \frac{15x^4}{(x^2-1)^3} + \frac{18x^2}{(x^2-1)^2} - \frac{3}{x^2-1} \right) \\ + \cos \sqrt{x^2 - 1} \left(\frac{6x^4}{(x^2-1)^{5/2}} - \frac{6x^2}{(x^2-1)^{3/2}} - \frac{15x^4}{(x^2-1)^{7/2}} + \frac{18x^2}{(x^2-1)^{5/2}} - \frac{3}{(x^2-1)^{3/2}} \right),$$

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and the tenth derivative has 45 terms. Also Maple “hangs” when trying to solve $y'' = \sin(y)$ using series after about 8 terms.

An Ode Solution Technique

A first course in differential equations introduces a power series substitution method for second order linear differential equations of the form $p(x)y'' + q(x)y' + r(x)y = f(x)$, as long as p, q, r, f are sufficiently simple.

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Almost never seen again, especially when an ode is nonlinear. But, there is no reason why it can't be applied to these odes with some alterations, particularly those whose solution is a function whose Taylor series we want...

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Add additional variables and their derivatives in such a way that we get a system of first order equations of the form $Y' = F(Y)$, where each right hand side is polynomial in the variables and x .

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We call the class of functions that can be formulated in this way

Picardable.

Why Picardable?

Ed Parker and Jim Sochacki showed that the system $Y' = F(Y)$ where the right hand sides are polynomial in the variables could be solved as Taylor series using Picard's method around a point where the functions are analytic.

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Later, Paul Warne showed that the same Taylor series could be obtained by formal power substitution, and David Carothers showed that every pp system could be rewritten so that only quadratic polynomial terms are required, so only Cauchy products of power series are needed.

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Conjecture: Picardable equals those analytic functions whose power series hold a finite amount of information.

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Equate powers of x to get $a_1 = 1$, $2a_2 = a_1$ or $a_2 = 1/2$, $3a_3 = a_2$ or $a_3 = 1/3!$, $4a_4 = a_3$ or $a_4 = 1/4!$, and so on.

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Then $\sum_{k=1}^{\infty} k a_k x^{k-1} = 1 + \sum_{k=1}^{\infty} b_k x^k$ and $\sum_{k=1}^{\infty} k b_k x^{k-1} = \sum_{k=1}^{\infty} a_k x^k$,

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So $a_i = b_{i-1}/i$ and $b_i = -a_{i-1}/i$. Thus, $a_1 = 1$, $b_1 = 0$, $a_2 = 0$, $b_2 = -1/2!$, $a_3 = -1/3!$, $b_3 = 0$, $a_4 = 0$, $b_4 = 1/4!$ and so on.

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So $a_1 = 1$,

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$$a_1 + 2a_2x + 3a_3x^2 + 4a_4x^3 + \dots = (1 + a_1x + a_2x^2 + a_3x^3 + \dots)^2.$$

So $a_1 = 1$, $2a_2 = a_1 + a_1$ or $a_2 = 1$, $3a_3 = a_2 + a_1^2 + a_2$ or $a_3 = 1$,

$4a_4 = a_3 + a_1a_2 + a_2a_1 + a_3$ or $a_4 = 1$ and so on.

Or, $(x - 1)y = 1$, multiply out the left hand side and equate coefficients to get the required answer.

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So $a_1 = 1$, $2a_2 = 0$ or $a_2 = 0$, $3a_3 = a_1^2$ or $a_3 = 1/3$, $4a_4 = 2a_1a_2$ or $a_4 = 0$,

$5a_5 = 2a_1a_3 + a_2^2$ or $a_5 = 2/15$, $6a_6 = 2a_1a_4 + 2a_2a_3$ or $a_6 = 0$,

$7a_7 = 2a_1a_5 + 2a_2a_4 + a_3^2$ or $a_7 = 17/315$ and so on.

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For even n , $a_n = \frac{2}{n} \sum_{i=1}^{n/2-1} a_i a_{n-i-1}$, and since by induction $a_i = 0$ for every even $i < n$, and one of a_i, a_{n-i-1} is even, $a_n = 0$.

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$$a_1 + 2a_2x + 3a_3x^2 + 4a_4x^3 + 5a_5x^4 + \dots = 1 + (a_1x + a_2x^2 + a_3x^3 + a_4x^4 + \dots)^2.$$

So $a_1 = 1$, $2a_2 = 0$ or $a_2 = 0$, $3a_3 = a_1^2$ or $a_3 = 1/3$, $4a_4 = 2a_1a_2$ or $a_4 = 0$,

$5a_5 = 2a_1a_3 + a_2^2$ or $a_5 = 2/15$, $6a_6 = 2a_1a_4 + 2a_2a_3$ or $a_6 = 0$,

$7a_7 = 2a_1a_5 + 2a_2a_4 + a_3^2$ or $a_7 = 17/315$ and so on.

For even n , $a_n = \frac{2}{n} \sum_{i=1}^{n/2-1} a_i a_{n-i-1}$, and since by induction $a_i = 0$ for every even $i < n$, and one of a_i, a_{n-i-1} is even, $a_n = 0$.

For odd n , $a_n = \frac{1}{n} \left(\sum_{i=1}^{(n-3)/2} 2a_i a_{n-i-1} + a_{(n-1)/2}^2 \right)$. Since $a_n = 0$ for even

n , there are two cases:

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these recurrences give a new set of formulas for finding Bernoulli numbers.

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Taylor series for these four odes are easily found by hand, and symbolic packages deal with them instantly.

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Alternatively, if $b = 1/a$ then $a \cdot b = 1$. With a single Cauchy product and equating coefficients, each b_n can be found as a function of a_0, a_1, \dots, a_n and (known) b_0, b_1, \dots, b_{n-1} .

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Or (Warne) from $b' = ra^{r-1}a'$, $ab' = rba'$, and only two Cauchy products

lead to $b_n = \frac{1}{na_0} \sum_{k=1}^n ((r+1)k - n)a_k b_{n-k}$.

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Finding the Taylor series for the (red) system of odes gives $y = g'(t)$, and an integration gives the required inverse. Simple (if tedious!)