

1. Find a power series representation (centered at zero) for

$$\frac{1}{(1+x^3)^2} = \frac{d}{dy} \left( \frac{1}{1-y} \right)_{y=-x^3}$$

We have

$$\frac{1}{(1-y)^2} = \frac{d}{dy} \left( \frac{1}{1-y} \right) = \frac{d}{dy} \left( \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} y^n \right) = \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} n y^{n-1},$$

so that

$$\frac{1}{(1+x^3)^2} = \frac{1}{(1-(-x^3))^2} = \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} n(-x^3)^{n-1} = \sum_{k=0}^{\infty} (k+1)(-1)^k x^{3k},$$

(re-indexing  $k = n - 1$  in the last equality).

2. Solve the following initial value problems.

(a)  $y' + y^2 \sin x = 0$ ,  $y(0) = -1/2$

Rearranging, we have

$$\frac{dy}{dx} = -y^2 \sin x, \quad \frac{dy}{y^2} = -\sin x dx$$

so that

$$\begin{aligned} \int \frac{dy}{y^2} &= - \int \sin x dx \\ -\frac{1}{y} &= \cos x + C \\ y &= \frac{-1}{\cos x + C}. \end{aligned}$$

If  $y(0) = -1/2$  then  $C = 1$  and the solution to the initial value problem is

$$y(x) = \frac{-1}{1 + \cos x}.$$

(b)  $y' = \frac{x^2}{y(1+x^3)}$ ,  $y(0) = -1$

Separating variables gives

$$y dy = \frac{x^2}{1+x^3} dx.$$

Integrating, we obtain

$$\begin{aligned} \int y dy &= \int \frac{x^2}{1+x^3} dx, \\ \frac{y^2}{2} &= \frac{1}{3} \ln |1+x^3| + C, \\ y &= \pm \sqrt{\frac{2}{3} \ln |1+x^3| + C}. \end{aligned}$$

If  $y(0) = -1$ , then we must have  $C = 1$  and the negative square root,

$$y(x) = -\sqrt{\frac{2}{3} \ln |1 + x^3| + 1}$$

3. Suppose  $y(x)$  is the solution to the initial value problem

$$y' = x^2 - y^2, \quad y(0) = 1.$$

Use Euler's method (step size 0.1) to approximate  $y(0.5)$ .

The approximation is  $y(0.5) \approx 0.674295419$ . The relevant data are in the table below, where  $y_{n+1} = y_n + (0.1)(x_n^2 - y_n^2)$ :

$n$	$x_n$	$y_n$	$x_n^2 - y_n^2$
0	0	1	-1
1	0.1	0.9	-0.8
2	0.2	0.82	-0.6324
3	0.3	0.75676	-0.482685698
4	0.4	0.70849143	-0.34196106
5	0.5	0.674295419	

4. Use the third degree Taylor polynomial (centered at zero) for  $f(x) = \ln(1 + x)$  to estimate  $\ln(2)$  and use Taylor's inequality to give bounds on the error.

The first four derivatives of  $f(x) = \ln(1 + x)$  are

$$f'(x) = \frac{1}{1+x}, \quad f''(x) = \frac{-1}{(1+x)^2}, \quad f'''(x) = \frac{2}{(1+x)^3}, \quad f^{(4)}(x) = \frac{-6}{(1+x)^4}.$$

The third degree Taylor polynomial centered at zero is

$$T_3(x) = x - \frac{x^2}{2} + \frac{x^3}{3}.$$

To use  $T_3(x)$  to approximate  $\ln(2)$  we take  $x = 1$ ,  $\ln(2) \approx T_3(1) = 1 - 1/2 + 1/3 = 5/6$ . A bound for the absolute value of the fourth derivative  $f^{(4)}(x)$  on the interval  $[0, 1]$  is

$$|f^{(4)}(x)| = \frac{-6}{(1+x)^4} \leq 6 = M$$

and Taylor's inequality states that

$$|\ln(2) - T_3(1)| = |R_n(1)| \leq \frac{M}{(3+1)!} |1-0|^{3+1} = \frac{1}{4}.$$

Hence

$$7/12 = 5/6 - 1/4 \leq \ln(2) \leq 5/6 + 1/4 = 13/12.$$