

Taylor expansions

Objectifs

- Know common Taylor expansions.
- Calculate Taylor expansions by different techniques.
- Know when to apply Taylor expansions.

Throughout this chapter, I represents any interval of \mathbb{R} . $\mathcal{F}(I, \mathbb{R})$ represents the set of functions defined from I to \mathbb{R} .

1 Little o notation

Definition 1.

Let I be a real interval and a a real. $a \in \mathbb{R}$ or a is an endpoint of I . Let f and g be two functions of $\mathcal{F}(I, \mathbb{R})$. f is a little "o" of g at the neighborhood of a where $a \in [-\infty, +\infty]$, if and only if :

1. Case $a \in \mathbb{R}$: $\forall \varepsilon > 0, \exists \alpha > 0, \forall x \in I, |x - a| \leq \alpha \Rightarrow |f(x)| \leq \varepsilon |g(x)|$
2. Case $a = +\infty$: $\forall \varepsilon > 0, \exists A \in \mathbb{R}, \forall x \in I, x \geq A \Rightarrow |f(x)| \leq \varepsilon |g(x)|$
3. Case $a = -\infty$: $\forall \varepsilon > 0, \exists A \in \mathbb{R}, \forall x \in I, x \leq A \Rightarrow |f(x)| \leq \varepsilon |g(x)|$

$$f(x) = o(g(x))_{x \rightarrow a}$$

we write $f(x) = o(g(x))_{x \rightarrow a}$ (f is little-o of g) or if there is no confusion $f = o(g)$. We also say that $f(x)$ is infinitely small with respect to $g(x)$ at the neighborhood of a .

Proposition 1 (Characterization).

The following sentences are equivalent :

1. $f(x) = o(g(x))_{x \rightarrow a}$
2. If $g \neq 0$ at the neighborhood a , $\frac{f(x)}{g(x)} \xrightarrow{x \rightarrow a} 0$
3. There exists a function ε such that $f(x) = g(x)\varepsilon(x)$ avec $\varepsilon(x) \xrightarrow{x \rightarrow a} 0$ at neighborhood of a .

Example 1.

1. Find all natural numbers n such that $\frac{x^3}{1+x^2} = o(x^n)$ at the neighborhood of 0.
2. Let f be a function such that $f(x) = o(x^3)$ at the neighborhood of 0. Find natural numbers n such that $\frac{f(x)}{x} = o(x^n)$.

 [Video : example 1](#)

We get properties for "o", like the comparative growth theorem :

en $+\infty$: $x^\alpha = o(x^\beta)$ ssi $\alpha < \beta$, $x^\alpha = o(e^x)$, $\ln x = o(x^\beta)$

en 0^+ : $x^\beta = o(x^\alpha)$ ssi $\alpha < \beta$, $\ln x = o\left(\frac{1}{x^\alpha}\right)$

2 Taylor expansion

In the following, n denotes a integers and $a \in \mathbb{R}$

2.1 Taylor expansion at 0

Definition 2.

Let I be a real interval such that $0 \in I^\circ$, $f : I \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$, $n \in \mathbb{N}$. f has a serie expansion truncated of at order n at the neighborhood of 0, denoted by $DL_n(0)$ if and only if there exists a real polynomial P_n of degree less or equal than n , such that :

$$f(x) - P_n(x) = o(x^n)$$

at the neighborhood of 0.

A $DL_n(0)$ of f is written :

$$f(x) = P_n(x) + o(x^n)$$

$$f(x) = a_0 + a_1x + \dots + a_nx^n + o(x^n)$$

.

Remark 1.

Whatever is the situation, the little $o()$ is an "abstract" quantity which tends to 0 as x approaches 0. We won't compute $o()$. $o()$, this is the error term when we approximate $f(x)$ by $P_n(x)$.

Proposition 2.

This polynomial P_n in the Taylor expansion $DL_n(0)$ of f is UNIQUE. and denoted by $[f]_n$.

Example 2.

Find $DL_2(0)$ of $f(x) = 1 + 3x - 5x^2 + 12x^3 + 5x^4$

📺 Video : [example 2](#)

Proposition 3.

If f is even (respectively odd) then $[f]_n$ is even (respectively odd).

2.2 Taylor expansion and differentiable functions

Theorem 4 (Mac-Laurin).

Let's assume that $n \geq 1$. If $f \in \mathcal{C}^{n-1}(I)$, such that $f^{(n)}(0)$ exists, f has a $DL_n(0)$ given by its Mac-Laurin serie

$$\begin{aligned}
 f(x) &= \sum_{k=0}^n \left[\frac{f^{(k)}(0)}{k!} x^k \right] + o(x^n) \\
 &= f(0) + f'(0)x + \frac{f''(0)}{2!}x^2 + \dots + \frac{f^{(n)}(0)}{n!}x^n + o(x^n)
 \end{aligned}$$

Remark 2.

1. f has an expansion $DL_0(0)$, iff f is continuous at 0. Then

$$\forall x \in I, f(x) = f(0) + o(1)$$

2. f has an expansion $DL_1(0)$ iff f is differentiable at 0. Then

$$\forall x \in I, f(x) = f(0) + xf'(0) + o(x)$$

3. there exists functions that do not satisfy Taylor Young's theorem but that get an expansion for $n \geq 2$

Example 3.

Let f be the function defined by $f(x) = \begin{cases} x^3 \sin \frac{1}{x} & \text{si } x \neq 0 \\ 0 & \text{si } x = 0 \end{cases}$

Prove that f has an expansion $DL_2(0)$, but the second order derivative of f does not exist at 0.

 [Video : example 3](#)

2.3 Common Taylor serie

$e^x =$

$\cos x =$

$\sin x =$

$\text{ch } x =$

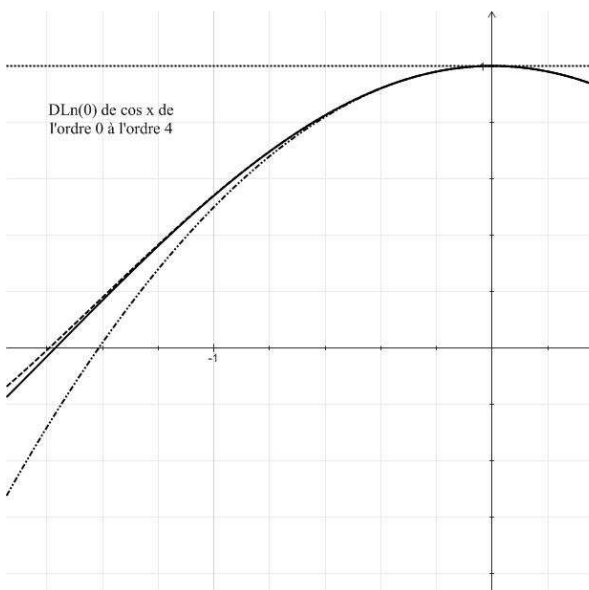
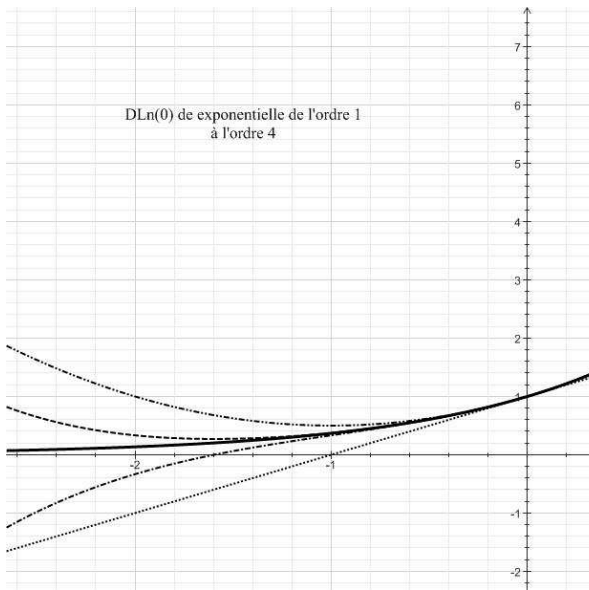
$\text{sh } x =$

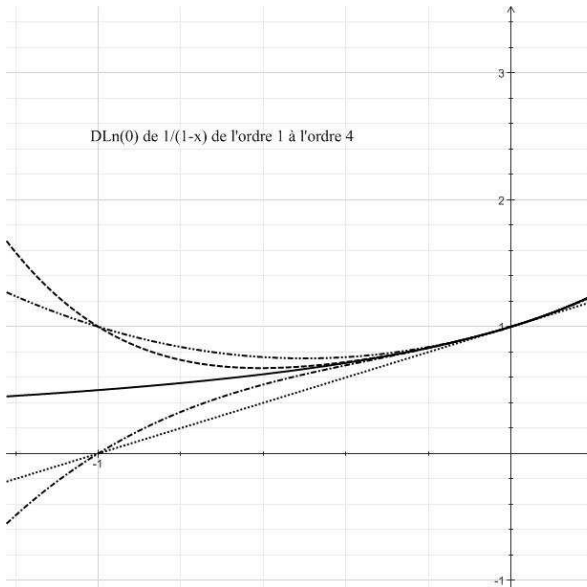
$(1+x)^\alpha =$

$\frac{1}{1+x} =$

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

- 🎥 Video : for the exponential function
- 🎥 Video : for the sine and the cosine
- 🎥 Video : for the hyperbolic sine and the hyperbolic cosine
- 🎥 Video : other functions





2.4 Operations on Taylor expansions

1. Linear combination

Let f and g be two functions of $\mathcal{F}(I, \mathbb{R})$ and $\lambda \in \mathbb{R}$. We assume that both f and g get Taylor series $DL_n(0)$ then $f + \lambda g$ has a Taylor expansion $DL_n(0)$ and : $[f + \lambda g]_n = [f]_n + \lambda[g]_n$.

2. Multiplication

Let f and g be two functions $\mathcal{F}(I, \mathbb{R})$. We assume that both f and g get series expansions $DL_n(0)$ then $f.g$ has a series expansion $DL_n(0)$ and we get : $[f.g]_n = [[f]_n \cdot [g]_n]_n$.

Example 4.

(a) Give $DL_3(0)$ of $\frac{e^x}{1+x}$

(b) Give $DL_n(0)$ of $\frac{1}{(1-x)^2}$

🎥 Video : example 4 a)

🎥 Video : example 4 b)

3. Composition

Let f be a function of $\mathcal{F}(I, \mathbb{R})$ and g a function $\mathcal{F}(J, \mathbb{R})$ such that $f(I) \subset J$. We assume that $\boxed{f(0) = 0}$ then $g \circ f$ has a series expansion $DL_n(0)$ and we get : $[g \circ f]_n = [g]_n \circ [f]_n$.

Example 5.

Give $DL_4(0)$ of $f(x) = e^{\cos x}$

🎥 Video : example 5

4. The inverse

Let g be a function of $\mathcal{F}(I, \mathbb{R})$ getting a series expansion $DL_n(0)$ such that $\boxed{g(0) \neq 0}$

then $\frac{1}{g}$ has a series expansion $DL_n(0)$ get by increasing power order. The division by increasing power order is useful to compute series expansion.

Example 6.

Give $DL_5(0)$ of $f(x) = \frac{1}{\operatorname{ch} x}$

 **Video : example 6**

5. The division

Let f and g be two functions of $\mathcal{F}(I, \mathbb{R})$. We assume that f and g get series expansions $DL_n(0)$ such that $\boxed{g(0) \neq 0}$ then $\frac{f}{g}$ has a series expansion $DL_n(0)$ get using a division by increasing power.

Example 7.

Give $DL_5(0)$ of $f(x) = \tan x$

 **Video : example 7**

2.5 Integration

Let $f \in \mathcal{C}^0(I)$ having a series expansion $DL_n(0)$ given by $f(x) = \sum_{k=0}^n \left[\frac{f^{(k)}(0)}{k!} x^k \right] + o(x^n)$. Then all antiderivative F of f has a serie expansion on I $DL_{n+1}(0)$ given by :

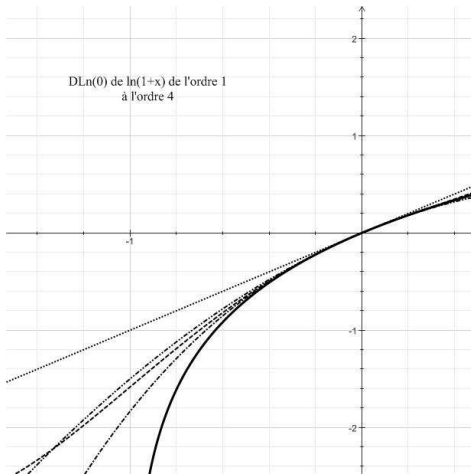
$$F(x) = F(0) + \sum_{k=0}^n \frac{f^{(k)}(0)}{k!} \frac{x^{k+1}}{k+1} + o(x^{n+1})$$

The simplest method is to integrate "term by term" the series expansion $DL_n(0)$ of f and to add the constant $F(0)$ Thus we have

$$\ln(1+x) = \sum_{k=1}^n (-1)^{k-1} \frac{x^k}{k} + o(x^n) = x - \frac{x^2}{2} + \dots + (-1)^{n+1} \frac{x^n}{n} + o(x^n)$$

$$\operatorname{Arctan} x = \sum_{k=0}^n (-1)^k \frac{x^{2k+1}}{2k+1} + o(x^{2n+2})$$

 **Video : example**



Example 8. On your own
Give the $DL_3(0)$ of $\text{Arcsin } x$

2.6 Derivative

Let $f \in \mathcal{C}^0(I)$ be a function getting a series expansion $DL_n(0) : f(x) = \sum_{k=0}^n \left[\frac{f^{(k)}(0)}{k!} x^k \right] + o(x^n)$.

Then the series expansion $DL_{n-1}(0)$ of f' , **if it exists** is given by :

$$f'(x) = \sum_{k=1}^n \frac{1}{(k-1)!} f^{(k)}(0) x^{k-1} + o(x^{n-1})$$

Example 9. On your own

Prove that the derivative f' of the function : $f(x) = \begin{cases} x^2 \sin \frac{1}{x} & \text{si } x \neq 0 \\ 0 & \text{si } x = 0 \end{cases}$ has no expansion at 0 $DL_0(0)$ whereas f has an expansion $DL_1(0)$

2.7 Series expansions at the neighborhood of a

Definition 3.

f has a serie expansion truncated at order n at the neighborhood of a , denoted by $DL_n(a)$ if and only if there exist a real polynomial P_n of degree less or equal than n , such that : $f(x) - P_n(x - a) = o((x - a)^n)$ at the neighborhood of a .

The expansion $DL_n(a)$ of f is written :

$$\begin{aligned} f(x) &= P_n(x - a) + o((x - a)^n) \\ &= a_0 + a_1(x - a) + \dots + a_n(x - a)^n + o((x - a)^n) \end{aligned}$$

Remark 3.

In practice using a change of variables we will compute a series expansion $DL_n(0)$ at 0. To find the expansion $DL_n(a)$ of $f(x)$ we set $h = x - a \Leftrightarrow x = a + h$ and thus will compute an expansion in h at 0.

Example 10.

Find the serie expansion truncated at 3 of $f(x) = \sin(x)$ at $\frac{\pi}{2}$.

Careful : a serie expansion $DL_n(a)$ is a polynomial expression in $x - a$. We won't developp powers of $x - a$.

Taylor Mac-Laurin's formula is a particular case of the following formula true for any real number a :

Theorem 5 (Taylor-Young formula).

Let's assume that $n \geq 1$. Let $f \in \mathcal{C}^{n-1}(I)$, such that its n-th order derivative $f^{(n)}(a)$ exists. Then f has a series expansion $DL_n(a)$ given by Taylor-Young formula :

$$f(x) = \sum_{k=0}^n \frac{f^{(k)}(a)}{k!} (x - a)^k + o((x - a)^n)$$

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

3 Asymptotic expansions

Definition 4.

f has an expansion truncated at order n in the neighborhood of $+\infty$ (respectively $-\infty$), called an asymptotic expansion of f and denoted by $DL_n(+\infty)$ (respectively $DL_n(-\infty)$) if and only if there exists a polynomial E and a polynomial P_n of degree less or equal tahn n , such that :

$$f(x) - \left(E(x) + P_n \left(\frac{1}{x} \right) \right) = o \left(\frac{1}{x^n} \right) \text{ in the neighborhood of } +\infty \text{ (respectively } -\infty).$$

An asymptotic expansion, that is to say a $DL_n(\pm\infty)$ of f is written :

$$f(x) = E(x) + P_n \left(\frac{1}{x} \right) + o \left(\frac{1}{x^n} \right) = E(x) + \frac{a_1}{x} + \dots + \frac{a_n}{x^n} + o \left(\frac{1}{x^n} \right).$$

We set a change of variables $x = \frac{1}{t}$ which means $t = \frac{1}{x}$. Then we look for an expansion $DL_n(0)$, then we go back to $f(x)$.

Example 11.

Find the asymptotic expansion at $+\infty$ truncated at order 2 of $f(x) = \sqrt{x^2 + 5x + 1}$

4 Equivalence

Definition 5.

Let f and f be two functions $\mathcal{F}(I, \mathbb{R})$. f is asymptotically equivalent to g in the neighborhood of a where $a \in [-\infty, +\infty]$, if and only if : $f - g = o(g)$ in the neighborhood of a . We denote $f \underset{a}{\sim} g$ ou $f(x) \underset{x \rightarrow a}{\sim} g(x)$.

Proposition 6 (Fundamental Characterisation).

If $g \neq 0$ in the neighborhood of a then we get :

$$f \underset{a}{\sim} g \Leftrightarrow \frac{f(x)}{g(x)} \underset{x \rightarrow a}{\rightarrow} 1$$

Example 12.

Find the following equivalents at 0 :

1. $e^x \sim 1 + x$
2. $e^x \sim 1 + 2x$
3. $e^x - 1 \sim 2x$

 **Video : example**

Remark 4.

From the preceding example, we note that the equivalent of a function is not unique. On the other hand, the equivalents can not be easily manipulated.

Proposition 7. If $f \sim g$ and $l \sim k$ in the neighborhood of a then $\lim_{x \rightarrow a} \frac{f}{l} = \lim_{x \rightarrow a} \frac{g}{k}$

4.1 Fundamental examples at 0

If f has a series expansion $DL_n(0)$ then $f \underset{0}{\sim} [f]_n$:

$$\begin{array}{lll} e^x - 1 \underset{0}{\sim} & \ln(1+x) \underset{0}{\sim} & (1+x)^\alpha \underset{0}{\sim} \\ \cos x \underset{0}{\sim} & \sin x \underset{0}{\sim} & \tan x \underset{0}{\sim} \end{array}$$

 **Video : example**

On your own

$$\begin{array}{lll} \operatorname{sh} x \underset{0}{\sim} & \operatorname{th} x \underset{0}{\sim} & \operatorname{Arcsin} x \underset{0}{\sim} \\ \operatorname{Arctan} x \underset{0}{\sim} & \operatorname{Argsh} x \underset{0}{\sim} & \operatorname{Argth} x \underset{0}{\sim} \end{array}$$

1. All non zero polynomial is asymptotically equivalent at $+\infty$ or $-\infty$ to its higher degree term.
2. All non zero polynomial is asymptotically equivalent at 0 to its lower degree term.
3. All non zero rational fraction is asymptotically equivalent at $+\infty$ or $-\infty$, to the quotient of its higher degree terms.
4. All non zero rational fraction is asymptotically equivalent a 0, to the quotient of its lower degree terms.

It is possible to MULTIPLY equivalents, however it is forbidden to add them.

5 Applications

5.1 Applications of series and asymptotic expansions

Here is a list of the main applications :

1. To compute a limit.
2. To find the equation of a tangent at a point

If f has a serie expansion $DL_n(a)$ of the shape $f(x) = a_0 + a_1(x - a) + a_2(x - a)^2 + \dots + a_n(x - a)^n + o((x - a)^n)$ then $y = a_0 + a_1(x - a)$ is the equation of the tangent line at $(a, f(a))$ and its position is given by the sign of the first non zero element following $a_1(x - a)$.

Example 13.

Compute $\lim_{x \rightarrow 0} \frac{x(1 + \cos x) - 2 \tan x}{2x - \sin x - \tan x}$

 [Video : example](#)

 [Video : example](#)

On your own, prepare exercise 6) 1),2),3).

Example 14.

Give the equation of the tangent line at 1 for the function $Arctan x$ and give its position.

 [Video : example](#)

5.2 Asymptotic expansions and asymptotic behaviour

Asymptotic equation.

Using a change of variables, by setting $x = \frac{1}{t}$ meaning $t = \frac{1}{x}$. We are looking for an expansion $DL_n(0)$ and then go back to $f(x)$. If f has an expansion $DL_n(\pm\infty)$ of the shape : $f(x) = a_0x + a_1 + \frac{a_p}{x^p} + o\left(\frac{1}{x^p}\right)$ then $y = a_0x + a_1$ is an oblique asymptote for f en $\pm\infty$. The sign of $\frac{a_p}{x^p}$ gives the position of the graph to the asymptote.

Example 15.

Find the equation of the oblique asymptote at the graph $y = \sqrt{\frac{x^3}{x-1}}$ and give the position of the graph to the asymptote.

 [Video : example](#)

Exercises

Exercise 1.

Give the $DL_3(0)$ of those functions :

1. $f(x) = \sin x + \cos x$

2. $b(x) = \sin x \ln(1 + x)$

3. $g(x) = e^{2x}$

4. $h(x) = x \ln(x + 1) - x$

5. $a(x) = \frac{x^2 + 1}{x^2 + 2x + 2}$

6. $i(x) = \frac{\sin x}{x}$

7. $j(x) = \frac{\sqrt{x+1} - 1}{x}$

8. $k(x) = \ln(1 + \sin x)$

9. $l(x) = \frac{\arcsin x}{\sqrt{1-x^2}}$

10. $c(x) = \ln\left(\frac{1}{\cos x}\right)$

11. $m(x) = \frac{1}{x} - \frac{1}{\sin x}$

12. $n(x) = \sqrt[3]{1+x}$ and $o(x) = \sqrt[3]{1-x^2}$

Exercise 2.

Let $f(x) = \begin{cases} (1+x^2) + x^2\varepsilon(x) & \text{si } x \neq 0 \\ 1 & \text{si } x = 0 \end{cases}$,

where $\varepsilon(x) = x \sin \frac{1}{x}$.

Show that f admits a $DL_2(0)$ that does not come from Mac-Laurin formula.

Exercise 3.

Give a $DL_3(1)$ of $f(x) = \sqrt{x}$

Exercise 4.

Give a $DL_3(+\infty)$ of

1. $f(x) = \sqrt[3]{x^3 + 1} - (x + 1)$

2. $g(x) = \frac{x^3 + 2}{x - 1}$

Exercise 5.

1. Give a $DL_2(+\infty)$ of $\frac{x+1}{x+2}$

2. Give a $DL_2(+\infty)$ of $\sqrt{\frac{x+1}{x+2}}$

3. Give a $DL_2(0)$ of $\text{Arctan } x$

4. Give a $DL_2(+\infty)$ of $\text{Arctan}\left(\sqrt{\frac{x+1}{x+2}} - 1\right)$

Exercise 6.

Find those limits at 0 using a $DL_n(0)$:

1. $f(x) = \frac{\sin x - x \cos x}{x(1 - \cos x)}$

2. $f(x) = \frac{\sin x - \tan x}{x^3}$

3. $f(x) = \frac{1}{x^2} - \frac{1}{\sin^2 x}$

$$4. f(x) = \frac{1}{x} - \frac{1}{\ln(1+x)}$$

$$6. f(x) = \frac{1}{x} \ln \left(\frac{e^x - 1}{x} \right)$$

$$5. f(x) = \frac{1}{x} \left(\frac{1}{\operatorname{th} x} - \frac{1}{\tan x} \right)$$

$$7. f(x) = \frac{\cos x}{\ln(1+x)}$$

Exercise 7.

Find those limits at 1 using a $DL_n(1)$:

$$1. f(x) = \frac{1}{\ln x} - \frac{x}{\ln x}$$

$$2. f(x) = \frac{1 - x + \ln x}{1 - \sqrt{2x - x^2}}$$

$$3. f(x) = \frac{e^x - e^{1/x}}{x^2 - 1}$$

Exercise 8.

1. Give the asymptotic expansion of order 3 for $\ln x - \ln(x - 1)$.

2. Deduce this limit : $\lim_{x \rightarrow +\infty} \frac{1}{e^x} \left(\frac{x}{x-1} \right)^{x^2}$

Exercise 9.

Calculate this limit : $\lim_{x \rightarrow +\infty} \left(1 + \frac{1}{x} \right)^x$

Exercise 10.

Give equations of the tangent lines at 0, as well as the relative position of the curve and its tangent line in the neighborhood of 0

$$1. f(x) = \frac{\sin(x)}{x}$$

$$2. g(x) = \frac{e^x - 1 - x}{x \sin(x)}$$

Exercise 11.

Using Taylor expansions at infinity, determine the equation of the asymptotes to those graphs :

$$1. y = \sqrt{x^2 + 4x - 5}$$

$$2. y = x^2 \ln \left(\frac{x-1}{x} \right)$$

$$3. y = e^{-\frac{1}{x}} \sqrt{x^2 + 1}$$

Exercise 12.

Give equivalents for :

$$1. \ln x \text{ at } 1.$$

$$2. \ln^4(1+x) \text{ at } 0.$$

$$3. \frac{\sin x}{x} \text{ at } 0.$$

$$4. \frac{x^2 + 3}{x^4 + 2} \text{ at } +\infty.$$

$$5. \frac{e^{-x} + 2}{x^2 + x^4} \text{ at } +\infty.$$