Exercise walk-through

2.6 Maclaurin–Taylor series and polar coordinates

Pearson Edexcel · International A-Level · Further Mathematics

Exercises 2.1·2.3

2.1 Find the Maclaurin series of $\ln(1+2x)$ up to and including the term in x^3, stating the range of validity. [3]

2.2 Find the first three non-zero terms of the Maclaurin series of $\sin x \cos x$. [2]

2.3 Convert $r = 4\cos\theta$ to a Cartesian equation and describe the curve. [3]

Exercises 2.1·2.3

2.1 Find the Maclaurin series of $\ln(1+2x)$ up to and including the term in x^3, stating the range of validity. [3]

2.1 $f' = \frac{2}{1+2x}$, $f'' = \frac{-4}{(1+2x)^2}$, $f''' = \frac{16}{(1+2x)^3}$; at 0: $0, 2, -4, 16$. So $\ln(1+2x) = 2x - 2x^2 + \frac{8}{3}x^3 - \cdots$, valid for $|2x| < 1$, i.e. $-\frac{1}{2} < x < \frac{1}{2}$.

2.2 Find the first three non-zero terms of the Maclaurin series of $\sin x \cos x$. [2]

2.2 $\sin x \cos x = \frac{1}{2}\sin 2x = \frac{1}{2}\left[2x - \frac{(2x)^3}{6} + \frac{(2x)^5}{120} - \cdots\right] = x - \frac{4}{3}x^3 + \frac{4}{15}x^5 - \cdots$

2.3 Convert $r = 4\cos\theta$ to a Cartesian equation and describe the curve. [3]

2.3 Multiply by r: $r^2 = 4r\cos\theta$, so $x^2 + y^2 = 4x$, i.e. $(x-2)^2 + y^2 = 4$: a circle, centre $(2, 0)$, radius 2, through the pole.

Exercises 2.4·3.1

2.4 Find the exact area enclosed by the cardioid $r = 2(1 + \cos\theta)$. [3]

3.1 *(Original.)* Given that $\dfrac{dy}{dx} = x^2 + y$ and $y = 1$ at $x = 0$, find the Taylor series for y about $x = 0$ up to and including the term in x^3. [6]

Exercises 2.4·3.1

2.4 Find the exact area enclosed by the cardioid $r = 2(1 + \cos\theta)$. [3]

2.4 $\frac{1}{2}\int_{-\pi}^{\pi} 4(1+\cos\theta)^2\,d\theta = 2\int_{-\pi}^{\pi}(1 + 2\cos\theta + \cos^2\theta)\,d\theta = 2(2\pi + 0 + \pi) = 6\pi$ (since $\int_{-\pi}^{\pi}\cos^2\theta\,d\theta = \pi$).

3.1 *(Original.)* Given that $\dfrac{dy}{dx} = x^2 + y$ and $y = 1$ at $x = 0$, find the Taylor series for y about $x = 0$ up to and including the term in x^3. [6]

3.1 $y'(0) = 0 + 1 = 1$. Differentiating the equation: $y'' = 2x + y'$, so $y''(0) = 0 + 1 = 1$. Again: $y''' = 2 + y''$, so $y'''(0) = 3$. The series is $y = 1 + x + \frac{x^2}{2} + \frac{x^3}{2}$. (Check at the centre: the equation gives $y''(0) = 2(0) + y'(0) = 1$, matching the series' quadratic term $\frac{1}{2}y''(0) = \frac{1}{2}$ ✓.)

Exercise 3.2

3.2 *(Edexcel IAL WFM02 June 2025 Q2.)* Given that y satisfies $\dfrac{d^2y}{dx^2} - 4\dfrac{dy}{dx} - 5y = e^{2x/9}$ and that $y = 2$ and $\dfrac{dy}{dx} = -1$ at $x = 3$, find the Taylor series for y about $x = 3$, up to and including the term in $(x-3)^3$. [8]

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3.2 *(Edexcel IAL WFM02 June 2025 Q2.)* Given that y satisfies $\dfrac{d^2y}{dx^2} - 4\dfrac{dy}{dx} - 5y = e^{2x/9}$ and that $y = 2$ and $\dfrac{dy}{dx} = -1$ at $x = 3$, find the Taylor series for y about $x = 3$, up to and including the term in $(x-3)^3$. [8]

3.2 At $x = 3$: $y'' = 4y' + 5y + e^{2/3} = -4 + 10 + e^{2/3} = 6 + e^{2/3}$. Differentiating the equation: $y''' = 4y'' + 5y' + \frac{2}{9}e^{2x/9}$, so $y'''(3) = 4(6 + e^{2/3}) - 5 + \frac{2}{9}e^{2/3} = 19 + \frac{38}{9}e^{2/3}$. Therefore $y = 2 - (x-3) + \frac{6+e^{2/3}}{2}(x-3)^2 + \frac{19+\frac{38}{9}e^{2/3}}{6}(x-3)^3$, i.e. $y = 2 - (x-3) + \left(3 + \frac{1}{2}e^{2/3}\right)(x-3)^2 + \left(\frac{19}{6} + \frac{19}{27}e^{2/3}\right)(x-3)^3$.

Local review guidance: derivatives obtained by differentiating the equation, not by guessing the function; factorial divisions correct term by term; polar areas use $\frac{1}{2}r^2$ inside the integral with exact trigonometric integrals. This is authored classroom guidance.