

**Taylor's Inequality**

The remainder of the Taylor series for  $f(x)$  centered at  $a$  is defined as

$$R_n(x) = f(x) - T_n(x),$$

where  $T_n(x)$  denotes the  $n$ th degree Taylor polynomial (also centered at  $a$ ). Taylor's Inequality says that if  $|f^{(n+1)}(x)| \leq M$  for all  $x$  satisfying  $|x - a| \leq d$ , then

$$|R_n(x)| \leq \frac{M}{(n+1)!} |x - a|^{n+1} \quad \text{for } x \text{ satisfying } |x - a| \leq d.$$

1. Use Taylor's Inequality to determine the number of terms of the Maclaurin series for  $f(x) = \sin(x)$  needed to compute  $\sin(3^\circ)$  to within 0.000005.

2. (a) Find the 2nd degree Taylor polynomial,  $T_2(x)$  for  $f(x) = x^{-2}$  based at  $a = 1$ .
- (b) Use Taylor's Inequality to estimate the accuracy of the approximation using  $T_2(x)$  to estimate  $f(x)$  in the interval  $[0.9, 1.1]$ .

If you're using a Taylor polynomial to approximate  $f$  at a particular value of  $x$  instead of a range of  $x$ , the following formulation of Taylor's Inequality is sometimes useful.

**Alternate Statement of Taylor's Inequality**

If  $|f^{(n+1)}(x)| \leq M$  for all  $x$  between  $a$  and  $x_0$ , then

$$|R_n(x_0)| \leq \frac{M}{(n+1)!} |x_0 - a|^{n+1}.$$

3. How large should  $n$  be to guarantee that the approximation of  $\ln(0.5)$  using an  $n$ th degree Taylor polynomial for  $\ln(1+x)$  centered at  $a = 0$  is within 0.0001?

4. Estimate the range of values of  $x$  for which the approximation

$$\ln(x) \approx \ln 2 + \frac{1}{2}(x - 2) - \frac{1}{8}(x - 2)^2$$

is accurate to within 0.01.