

## TAYLOR'S THEOREM

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1° Let  $n$  be a positive integer. Let  $A$  be an open subset of  $\mathbf{R}^n$  and let  $f$  be a real-valued function defined on  $A$ , sufficiently smooth so that the following discussion makes sense. Let  $a$  be a member of  $A$ :

$$a = (a_1, a_2, \dots, a_n)$$

Let  $k$  be a nonnegative integer. One defines the  $k$ -th order Taylor polynomial for  $f$  at  $a$  as follows:

$$(T_a^k f)(x) := \sum_{j=0}^k \frac{1}{j!} (H_a^j f)(x) \quad (x \in \mathbf{R}^n)$$

where:

$$(H_a^j f)(x) := \sum_{|\gamma|=j} \frac{j!}{\gamma!} (D^\gamma f)(a)(x-a)^\gamma$$

In the foregoing expressions, we have applied the following notation. For each  $\gamma$  in  $\mathbf{N}^n$ :

$$\gamma = (\gamma_1, \gamma_2, \dots, \gamma_n)$$

one defines:

$$|\gamma| := \sum_{m=1}^n \gamma_m, \quad \gamma! := \prod_{m=1}^n \gamma_m!$$

For each  $\gamma$  in  $\mathbf{N}^n$  and for each  $y$  in  $\mathbf{R}^n$ :

$$y^\gamma = (y_1, y_2, \dots, y_n)$$

one defines:

$$y^\gamma := \prod_{m=1}^n y_m^{\gamma_m}$$

Finally, for each  $\gamma$  in  $\mathbf{N}^n$ , one defines:

$$D^\gamma := \prod_{m=1}^n D_m^{\gamma_m}$$

where  $D_1, D_2, \dots$ , and  $D_n$  are the usual operators of differentiation:

$$D_m f := \frac{\partial}{\partial x_m} f \quad (1 \leq m \leq n)$$

2° One defines the  $k$ -th order remainder function for  $f$  at  $a$  as follows:

$$(R_a^k f)(x) := f(x) - (T_a^k f)(x) \quad (x \in A)$$

so that:

$$f(x) = (T_a^k f)(x) + (R_a^k f)(x) \quad (x \in A)$$

3° Now let  $x$  be any member of  $A$  and let  $L$  be the line segment joining  $a$  and  $x$ . Let us assume that  $L$  is included in  $A$ , which would surely be true if  $x$  is “sufficiently near”  $a$ . Taylor’s Theorem states that there must be some  $y$  in  $L$  such that:

$$(R_a^k f)(x) = \frac{1}{(k+1)!} \sum_{|\gamma|=k+1} \frac{(k+1)!}{\gamma!} (D^\gamma f)(y)(x-a)^\gamma$$

4° Let  $h$  be the function defined as follows:

$$h(t) = f((1-t)a + tx) \quad (0 \leq t \leq 1)$$

Applying the elementary form of Taylor’s Theorem to  $h$ , we find that there must be some  $u$  in  $(0, 1)$  such that:

$$h(1) = \sum_{j=0}^k \frac{1}{j!} h^{(j)}(0)(1-0)^j + \frac{1}{(k+1)!} h^{(k+1)}(u)(1-0)^{k+1}$$

To prove the general form of Taylor’s Theorem, we need only apply the Chain Rule to show that:

$$h^{(j)}(t) = \sum_{|\gamma|=j} \frac{j!}{\gamma!} (D^\gamma f)((1-t)a + tx)(x-a)^\gamma$$