

A Taylor Expansion via Integration by parts.

We calculate a Taylor polynomial for e^x . Clearly $e^x - 1 = \int_0^x e^t dt = (t-x)e^t \Big|_0^x - \int_0^x (t-x)e^t dt$. So we get

$$e^x - 1 = x - \int_0^x (t-x)e^t dt \quad \left[\begin{array}{l} \text{Note} \\ \frac{d}{dx} x = 0 \end{array} \right]$$

$$\therefore e^x = 1 + x - \int_0^x (t-x)e^t dt$$

$$= 1 + x - \left[\frac{(t-x)^2}{2} e^t \right]_0^x + \int_0^x \frac{(t-x)^2}{2} e^t dt$$

$$= 1 + x + \frac{x^2}{2!} + \int_0^x \frac{(t-x)^2}{2} e^t dt$$

$$= 1 + x + \frac{x^2}{2} + \left[\frac{(t-x)^3}{3!} e^t \right]_0^x - \int_0^x \frac{(t-x)^3}{3!} e^t dt$$

$$= 1 + x + \frac{x^2}{2!} + \frac{x^3}{3!} + \dots$$

In general

$$e^x = \sum_{k=0}^N \frac{x^k}{k!} - (-1)^N \int_0^x \frac{(t-x)^N}{N!} e^t dt$$

$$\text{In fact as } N \rightarrow \infty \left| \int_0^x \frac{(t-x)^N}{N!} e^t dt \right| \rightarrow 0.$$

To see this note that

$$\left| \int_0^x \frac{(t-x)^N}{N!} e^t dt \right| \leq e^x \left| \int_0^x \frac{(t-x)^N}{N!} dt \right|$$

$$= \frac{x^{N+1}}{(N+1)!} e^x \rightarrow 0 \text{ as } N \rightarrow \infty \text{ for}$$

each fixed x . This is by a tutorial exercise.

Thus $e^x = \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \frac{x^n}{n!}$. This is the familiar Taylor expansion.