

hw11 , due: Wednesday, December 5

1. Consider the power series  $1 + \frac{(x-1)}{2} + \frac{(x-1)^2}{2^2} + \frac{(x-1)^3}{2^3} + \dots = \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \frac{(x-1)^n}{2^n}$ .

a) Find the function  $f(x)$  represented by the series. b) Find the interval of convergence of the series. c) Sketch the graph of  $f(x)$  and indicate the interval of convergence on the  $x$ -axis.

2. Find  $T_1(x)$  and  $T_3(x)$ , the 1st and 3rd degree Taylor polynomials for  $f(x) = \sin x$  at the point  $x = \pi$ . Sketch the graphs of  $f(x), T_1(x), T_3(x)$  on the same plot.

3. Express the integral  $\int_0^{1/2} \frac{dx}{1+x^6}$  as a series. Give the first three terms and the general term.

How many terms are needed to ensure the error is less than  $10^{-5}$ ? Use the error bound derived in class.

4. We can approximate  $\sqrt{10}$  using the fact that it is close to  $\sqrt{9} = 3$ .

(a) Find  $T_1(x)$ , the 1st degree Taylor approximation for  $f(x) = \sqrt{x}$  at  $a = 9$ , and evaluate  $T_1(10)$ .

(b) Repeat for  $T_2(x)$ , the 2nd degree Taylor approximation.

Express the answers as a rational number (i.e.  $\frac{m}{n}$ , where  $m, n$  are integers) and in decimal form with eight digits. Then find  $\sqrt{10}$  using a calculator. Do the results become more accurate as the degree of the Taylor approximation increases?

5. A non-reflecting object that absorbs all incident radiation is called a blackbody. When a blackbody is held in thermal equilibrium, it emits radiation with energy density  $f(\lambda)$ , where  $\lambda$  is the radiation wavelength. The Rayleigh-Jeans law for the energy density, proposed in the late 1800s, is  $f_{RJ}(\lambda) = \frac{8\pi kT}{\lambda^4}$ , where  $T$  is the object's temperature, and  $k$  is the Boltzmann constant. The Rayleigh-Jeans law agrees with experiments for long wavelength ( $f_{RJ}(\lambda) \rightarrow 0$  for  $\lambda \rightarrow \infty$ ), but it disagrees with experiments for short wavelength ( $f_{RJ}(\lambda) \rightarrow \infty$  for  $\lambda \rightarrow 0$ , while experiments show that  $f(\lambda) \rightarrow 0$  for  $\lambda \rightarrow 0$ ). In 1900 Max Planck applied the novel idea of energy quantization to derive a different expression,  $f_P(\lambda) = \frac{8\pi hc\lambda^{-5}}{e^{hc/\lambda kT} - 1}$ , where  $h$  is Planck's constant and  $c$  is the speed of light.

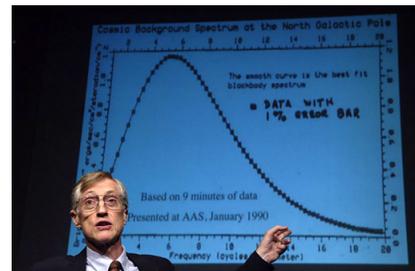
a) Show that  $\lim_{\lambda \rightarrow 0} f_P(\lambda) = 0$  and  $\lim_{\lambda \rightarrow \infty} f_P(\lambda) = 0$ ; this means that Planck's law agrees with experiments in the limits of short wavelength and long wavelength. (hint: set  $x = hc/\lambda kT$ )

b) Show that  $f_P(\lambda) \sim f_{RJ}(\lambda)$  for  $\lambda \rightarrow \infty$ ; recall that this is equivalent to  $\lim_{\lambda \rightarrow \infty} \frac{f_P(\lambda)}{f_{RJ}(\lambda)} = 1$ .

c) Show that  $f_P(\lambda) < f_{RJ}(\lambda)$  for  $\lambda \geq 0$ .

d) Sketch  $f_P(\lambda)$  and  $f_{RJ}(\lambda)$  for  $\lambda \geq 0$  on the same plot.

Planck's discovery is explained in the article, "Max Planck: the reluctant revolutionary"; a link is on the course website. In 2006, John Mather and George Smoot won the Nobel Prize in Physics, "for their discovery of the blackbody form . . . of the cosmic microwave background radiation"; the photo shows John Mather with a plot of the experimental data in excellent agreement with Planck's law.



### announcement

The final exam is on Friday, Dec 14 at 10:30am-12:30pm in Angell Hall Auditorium D. The exam covers the entire course; calculators are not allowed; you may use two sheets of notes (e.g. two sides of one page); we will supply the exam booklets; a review sheet will be distributed soon.