

Silly 10 Point Bonus: Frodo asked Gandalf, "Do you know of a closed form for the power series function

$$f(x) = \sum_{k=1}^{\infty} \frac{1}{k3^k} (x-5)^k ?$$

I know the function is defined on the interval $I = [2, 8)$." Gandalf stood silent for a few minutes with a furrowed brow and then replied, "Of course. The closed form is an alias for the function f , which is the solution to an initial value problem to which the magical Fundamental Theorem may be applied." Then Gandalf vanished mysteriously after leaving behind a rapidly fading cheshire cat grin.

Help Frodo.

(a) What is the easy to solve IVP ?? (b) Reveal to Frodo the other identity of the function f . //

(a) First, it is obvious that $f(5) = 0$. Then, by differentiating the power series function f term-wise or term-by-term, we obtain

$$\begin{aligned} f'(x) &= \sum_{k=1}^{\infty} \frac{k}{k3^k} (x-5)^{k-1} \\ &= \sum_{k=1}^{\infty} \frac{1}{3^k} (x-5)^{k-1} \\ &= \sum_{k=1}^{\infty} \left(\frac{1}{3} \right) \left(\frac{x-5}{3} \right)^{k-1} \\ &= \sum_{j=0}^{\infty} \left(\frac{1}{3} \right) \left(\frac{x-5}{3} \right)^j \\ &= \frac{\frac{1}{3}}{1 - \left(\frac{x-5}{3} \right)} = \frac{1}{8-x} \end{aligned}$$

for $|x-5| < 3$ since f' is really an easy-to-sum geometric series in disguise. Consequently, the IVP is simply $f'(x) = (8-x)^{-1}$ and $f(5) = 0$ for $|x-5| < 3$.

(b) Finally, the magical Fundamental Theorem of Calculus provides us with the other name for f , thus:

$$f(x) = \int_5^x \frac{1}{8-t} dt = \ln(3) - \ln(8-x) = \ln\left(\frac{3}{8-x}\right)$$

for $|x-5| < 3$.