

*Maclaurin Series for Functions with Removable Singularities*

**Brian Smith**, McGill University

Brian Smith holds a Ph.D. in mathematics from Queen's University in Canada. He currently teaches statistics and operations research courses at McGill University's Desautels Faculty of Management. In a former incarnation, he was professor of mathematics at Dawson College in Montreal, where he taught a wide range of two-year college mathematics courses. Brian served as chair of the Technology in Mathematics Education Committee at AMATYC for six years and subsequently chaired the Statistics Subcommittee.

When is a Maclaurin series not a Maclaurin series? As silly as this question sounds, it is often confusing to students (and instructors) when a function  $f(x)$  does not satisfy the assumptions of continuity and differentiability necessary for generating a Maclaurin series using the standard formula

$$\begin{aligned} f(x) &= f(0) + xf'(0) + \frac{x^2}{2!} f''(0) + \frac{x^3}{3!} f'''(0) + \dots + \frac{x^n}{n!} f^{(n)}(0) + \dots \\ &= \sum_{k=0}^{\infty} \frac{x^k}{k!} f^{(k)}(0) \end{aligned} \quad (1)$$

Yet, by a sleight of hand (substitution, arithmetic operation of both sides of an equation, etc.) we produce a new series from an existing one and claim that it is the Maclaurin series for the given function.