Proof of the (FD second order has convergence order 1: $f(x+h) = f(x) + f(x)(h) + \frac{f''(x)(h^2)}{2} + \frac{f''(x)(h^3)}{6} + O(h^4)$ $f(x-h) = f(x) - f'(x)(h) + \frac{f''(x)(-h)^2}{2} - \frac{f''(x)(h^3)}{6} + O(h^4)$ So, $f(x+h) + f(x-h) = 2f(x) + f''(x)(h^2) + ...$ And, $f(x+h) + f(x-h) - 2f(x) = f''(x)(h^2) + \frac{f''(x)(h^3)}{12} + O(h^4)$ So, $f''(x)(h^2) + O(h^4) = f''(x) + O(h^2)$ h^2