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```
// file: derivative_test_simple.cpp
//
// Program to study the error in differentiation rules using
// the simplest algorithms.
//
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//
// Revision history:
// 01/08/07 original version, extracted from derivative_test.cpp
//
// Notes:
// * Based on the discussion of differentiation in Chap. 8
// of "Computational Physics" by Landau and Paez.
//
//*****

// include files
#include <iostream>           // basic input/output functions
#include <iomanip>             // manipulators like setprecision
#include <fstream>            // to read and write data as file streams
using namespace std;        // so that std::cout --> cout, etc.

// function prototypes
double test_function (double x);
double test_function_derivative (double x);

double forward_diff (double x, double h, double (*f) (double x));
double central_diff (double x, double h, double (*f) (double x));

//***** main program *****
int
main ()
{
    const double h_min = 1.e-10; // minimum mesh size
    double x = 1.;              // find the derivative at x
    double diff_cd, diff_fd;     // central, forward difference

    ofstream deriv_out ("derivative_test_simple.dat"); // open the output file

    double exact = test_function_derivative(x); // exact answer for test

    double h = 0.1;              // initialize mesh spacing
    while (h >= h_min)
    {
        diff_fd = forward_diff (x, h, &test_function);
        diff_cd = central_diff (x, h, &test_function);

        // print relative errors to output file
        deriv_out << scientific << setprecision (8)
        << log10(h) << " "
        << log10( fabs((diff_fd - exact)/exact) ) << " "
        << log10( fabs((diff_cd - exact)/exact) ) << " "
        << endl;

        h /= 2.;                // reduce mesh (x spacing) by 2 before repeating
    }

    deriv_out.close ();          // close the output stream
    return (0);                  // successful completion
}

//***** test_function *****
double
test_function (double x)
{
    double alpha = 1.;          // a parameter for the function
    return (exp (-alpha * x));
}
```

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```
//***** test_function_derivative *****
double
test_function_derivative (double x)
{
    double alpha = 1.;          // Note that we had to repeat this, which is bad!
    return (-alpha * exp (-alpha * x));
}

//***** forward_diff *****
double
forward_diff (double x, double h, double (*f) (double x))
{
    return ( f(x + h) - f(x) ) / h;
}

//***** central_diff *****
double
central_diff (double x, double h, double (*f) (double x))
{
    return ( f(x + h/2.) - f(x - h/2.) ) / h;
}

//*****
```