

THE CHINESE UNIVERSITY OF HONG KONG
DEPARTMENT OF MATHEMATICS

MATH1510 Calculus for Engineers (2020-2021)
Solution to Supplementary Exercise 5

Differentiability of Functions (First Principle)

1. A function f is said to be differentiable at a point $x = c$ if the limit

$$\lim_{h \rightarrow 0} \frac{f(c+h) - f(c)}{h} \quad (1)$$

exists. The value of the limit is said to be the derivative of the function f at the point $x = c$, which is denoted by $f'(c)$. The above definition is also called the first principle.

Compute the derivative of each of the following function at the given point by using the definition (i.e. the first principle).

- (a) $f(x) = x^2 + 1$ at the point $x = 2$;

Ans:

$$\begin{aligned} \lim_{h \rightarrow 0} \frac{f(2+h) - f(2)}{h} &= \lim_{h \rightarrow 0} \frac{[(2+h)^2 + 1] - [2^2 + 1]}{h} \\ &= \lim_{h \rightarrow 0} \frac{4h + h^2}{h} \\ &= \lim_{h \rightarrow 0} 4 + h \\ &= 4 \end{aligned}$$

Therefore, $f'(2) = 4$.

- (b) $f(x) = \frac{1}{x}$ at the point $x = 3$;

Ans:

$$\begin{aligned} \lim_{h \rightarrow 0} \frac{f(3+h) - f(3)}{h} &= \lim_{h \rightarrow 0} \frac{\frac{1}{3+h} - \frac{1}{3}}{h} \\ &= \lim_{h \rightarrow 0} \frac{-h}{3h(3+h)} \\ &= \lim_{h \rightarrow 0} -\frac{1}{3(3+h)} \\ &= -\frac{1}{9} \end{aligned}$$

Therefore, $f'(3) = -\frac{1}{9}$.

- (c) $f(x) = \cos x$ at the point $x = \frac{\pi}{2}$;

Ans:

$$\begin{aligned}
 \lim_{h \rightarrow 0} \frac{f(\frac{\pi}{2} + h) - f(\frac{\pi}{2})}{h} &= \lim_{h \rightarrow 0} \frac{\cos(\frac{\pi}{2} + h) - \cos(\frac{\pi}{2})}{h} \\
 &= \lim_{h \rightarrow 0} \frac{[\cos(\frac{\pi}{2}) \cos h - \sin(\frac{\pi}{2}) \sin h] - \cos(\frac{\pi}{2})}{h} \\
 &= \lim_{h \rightarrow 0} \frac{-\sin h - 0}{h} \\
 &= \lim_{h \rightarrow 0} -\frac{\sin h}{h} \\
 &= -1
 \end{aligned}$$

Therefore, $f'(\frac{\pi}{2}) = -1$.

(d) (Harder Problem) $f(x) = x^n$, where n is a natural number, at the point $x = 2$.

Ans:

$$\begin{aligned}
 \lim_{h \rightarrow 0} \frac{f(2+h) - f(2)}{h} &= \lim_{h \rightarrow 0} \frac{(2+h)^n - 2^n}{h} \\
 &= \lim_{h \rightarrow 0} \frac{(2^n + C_1^n 2^{n-1}h + C_2^n 2^{n-2}h^2 + \dots + C_{n-1}^n 2h^{n-1} + h^n) - 2^n}{h} \\
 &\quad \text{(By binomial theorem)} \\
 &= \lim_{h \rightarrow 0} C_1^n 2^{n-1} + C_2^n 2^{n-2}h + \dots + C_{n-1}^n 2h^{n-2} + h^{n-1} \\
 &= C_1^n 2^{n-1} \\
 &= n2^{n-1}
 \end{aligned}$$

Therefore, $f'(2) = n2^{n-1}$.

2. The **left derivative** of a function $f(x)$ at $x = c$ is by definition:

$$Lf'(c) = \lim_{h \rightarrow 0^-} \frac{f(c+h) - f(c)}{h};$$

and the **right derivative** at $x = c$ is:

$$Rf'(c) = \lim_{h \rightarrow 0^+} \frac{f(c+h) - f(c)}{h}.$$

From the definition (see (1)), the function $f(x)$ is differentiable at $x = c$ if and only if

$$\lim_{h \rightarrow 0^-} \frac{f(c+h) - f(c)}{h} = \lim_{h \rightarrow 0^+} \frac{f(c+h) - f(c)}{h},$$

i.e. $Lf'(c) = Rf'(c)$. In this case, $f'(c)$ equals to their common value.

Suppose

$$f(x) = \begin{cases} 3 - \sin x & \text{if } x < 0, \\ a & \text{if } x = 0, \\ bx + c & \text{if } x > 0, \end{cases}$$

where a, b are some real numbers. Given that $f(x)$ is continuous at $x = 0$.

- (a) What are the values of a and c ?
 (b) Find $Lf'(0)$.
 (c) Find $Rf'(0)$ (in terms of b).
 (d) For what value of b is the function $f(x)$ differentiable at 0?

Ans:

- (a) Since $f(x)$ is continuous at $x = 0$, we have $f(0) = \lim_{x \rightarrow 0^+} f(x) = \lim_{x \rightarrow 0^-} f(x)$.
 Therefore, $a = \lim_{x \rightarrow 0^+} bx + c = \lim_{x \rightarrow 0^-} 3 - \sin x$ and we have $a = c = 3$.
 (b) $Lf'(0) = \lim_{h \rightarrow 0^-} \frac{f(0+h) - f(0)}{h} = \lim_{h \rightarrow 0^-} \frac{(3 - \sin h) - 3}{h} = \lim_{h \rightarrow 0^-} -\frac{\sin h}{h} = -1$.
 (c) $Rf'(0) = \lim_{h \rightarrow 0^+} \frac{f(0+h) - f(0)}{h} = \lim_{h \rightarrow 0^+} \frac{(bh + 3) - 3}{h} = \lim_{h \rightarrow 0^+} b = b$.
 (d) If $f(x)$ is differentiable at $x = 0$, then $Lf'(0) = Rf'(0)$ and so $b = -1$.
3. Let us study the derivative as a function. The function $f'(x)$ is still defined as a limit, but the fixed number c in the definition (see (1)) is replaced by the variable x :

$$f'(x) = \lim_{h \rightarrow 0} \frac{f(x+h) - f(x)}{h}. \quad (2)$$

If $y = f(x)$, we also write y' or $y'(x)$ for $f'(x)$. The domain of $f'(x)$ consists of all values of x in the domain of $f(x)$ for which the limit in equation (2) exists. If f is differentiable at every point in the domain, then f is said to be a differentiable function.

Using Equation (2), determine the domain of f' , then give a formula describing $f'(x)$ where

$$f(x) = \sqrt{2-x} \quad \text{with domain } D_f = (-\infty, 2].$$

Ans: For $x < 2$, we have

$$\begin{aligned} \lim_{h \rightarrow 0} \frac{f(x+h) - f(x)}{h} &= \lim_{h \rightarrow 0} \frac{\sqrt{2-x-h} - \sqrt{2-x}}{h} \\ &= \lim_{h \rightarrow 0} \frac{\sqrt{2-x-h} - \sqrt{2-x}}{h} \cdot \frac{\sqrt{2-x-h} + \sqrt{2-x}}{\sqrt{2-x-h} + \sqrt{2-x}} \\ &= \lim_{h \rightarrow 0} \frac{-1}{\sqrt{2-x-h} + \sqrt{2-x}} \\ &= -\frac{1}{2\sqrt{2-x}} \end{aligned}$$

However, for $x = 2$, we can see that $f(2+h) = \sqrt{-h}$ is undefined when $h > 0$.
 Therefore, the domain of f' is $(-\infty, 2)$ and $f'(x) = -\frac{1}{2\sqrt{2-x}}$ when $x < 2$.

4. Compute the derivative function of each of the following functions by using the definition (i.e. the first principle).

(a) $f(x) = x^2 + 1$;

Ans:

$$\begin{aligned}\lim_{h \rightarrow 0} \frac{f(x+h) - f(x)}{h} &= \lim_{h \rightarrow 0} \frac{[(x+h)^2 + 1] - [x^2 + 1]}{h} \\ &= \lim_{h \rightarrow 0} \frac{2xh + h^2}{h} \\ &= \lim_{h \rightarrow 0} 2x + h \\ &= 2x\end{aligned}$$

Therefore, $f'(x) = 2x$.

(b) $f(x) = \frac{1}{x}$, for $x \neq 0$;

Ans: For $x \neq 0$,

$$\begin{aligned}\lim_{h \rightarrow 0} \frac{f(x+h) - f(x)}{h} &= \lim_{h \rightarrow 0} \frac{\frac{1}{x+h} - \frac{1}{x}}{h} \\ &= \lim_{h \rightarrow 0} \frac{-h}{xh(x+h)} \\ &= \lim_{h \rightarrow 0} -\frac{1}{x(x+h)} \\ &= -\frac{1}{x^2}\end{aligned}$$

Therefore, $f'(x) = -\frac{1}{x^2}$.

(c) $f(x) = \cos x$;

Ans:

$$\begin{aligned}\lim_{h \rightarrow 0} \frac{f(x+h) - f(x)}{h} &= \lim_{h \rightarrow 0} \frac{\cos(x+h) - \cos x}{h} \\ &= \lim_{h \rightarrow 0} \frac{[\cos x \cos h - \sin x \sin h] - \cos x}{h} \\ &= \lim_{h \rightarrow 0} \cos x \cdot \frac{\cos h - 1}{h} - \sin x \cdot \frac{\sin h}{h} \\ &= -\sin x\end{aligned}$$

Therefore, $f'(x) = -\sin x$.

(Recall: $\lim_{h \rightarrow 0} \frac{\cos h - 1}{h} = 0$.)

(d) (Harder Problem) $f(x) = x^n$, where n is a natural number.

Ans:

$$\begin{aligned}
 \lim_{h \rightarrow 0} \frac{f(x+h) - f(x)}{h} &= \lim_{h \rightarrow 0} \frac{(x+h)^n - x^n}{h} \\
 &= \lim_{h \rightarrow 0} \frac{(x^n + C_1^n x^{n-1}h + C_2^n x^{n-2}h^2 + \dots + C_{n-1}^n xh^{n-1} + h^n) - x^n}{h} \\
 &\quad \text{(By binomial theorem)} \\
 &= \lim_{h \rightarrow 0} C_1^n x^{n-1} + C_2^n x^{n-2}h + \dots + C_{n-1}^n xh^{n-2} + h^{n-1} \\
 &= C_1^n x^{n-1} \\
 &= nx^{n-1}
 \end{aligned}$$

Therefore, $f'(x) = nx^{n-1}$.

5. Let $f(x) = |x|$. $f(x)$ can be described as the following

$$f(x) = \begin{cases} x & \text{if } x > 0, \\ 0 & \text{if } x = 0, \\ -x & \text{if } x < 0. \end{cases}$$

(a) Write down $\frac{f(0+h) - f(0)}{h}$ explicitly for the cases $h > 0$ and $h < 0$.

(b) By using the result in (a), find left derivative, i.e.

$$Lf'(0) = \lim_{h \rightarrow 0^-} \frac{f(0+h) - f(0)}{h},$$

and the right derivative, i.e.

$$Rf'(0) = \lim_{h \rightarrow 0^+} \frac{f(0+h) - f(0)}{h},$$

at the point $x = 0$.

(Hint: You have to use the first expression in (a) to find the left hand limit and the second expression to compute the right hand limit.)

(c) Does $f'(0)$ exist?

(d) Find $f'(x)$ by using the first principle for the cases $x > 0$ and $x < 0$. Hence, write down the domain of $f'(x)$.

Ans:

$$\text{(a) If } h > 0, \frac{f(0+h) - f(0)}{h} = \frac{h - 0}{h} = 1;$$

$$\text{If } h < 0, \frac{f(0+h) - f(0)}{h} = \frac{-h - 0}{h} = -1.$$

$$\text{(b) } Lf'(0) = \lim_{h \rightarrow 0^-} \frac{f(0+h) - f(0)}{h} = \lim_{h \rightarrow 0^-} -1 = -1 \text{ and}$$

$$Rf'(0) = \lim_{h \rightarrow 0^+} \frac{f(0+h) - f(0)}{h} = \lim_{h \rightarrow 0^+} 1 = 1$$

(Remark: We do not care $\frac{f(0+h) - f(0)}{h}$ when $h = 0$.)

- (c) Since $\lim_{h \rightarrow 0^-} \frac{f(0+h) - f(0)}{h} \neq \lim_{h \rightarrow 0^+} \frac{f(0+h) - f(0)}{h}$ (i.e. $Lf'(0) \neq Rf'(0)$),
 $\lim_{h \rightarrow 0} \frac{f(0+h) - f(0)}{h}$ does not exist.

Therefore, $f(x) = |x|$ is not differentiable at $x = 0$.

- (d) When $x > 0$,

$$\begin{aligned} \lim_{h \rightarrow 0} \frac{f(x+h) - f(x)}{h} &= \lim_{h \rightarrow 0} \frac{(x+h) - x}{h} \\ &= \lim_{h \rightarrow 0} 1 \\ &= 1 \end{aligned}$$

(Note that $x > 0$, when h is sufficiently close to 0, we have $x+h > 0$, so $f(x+h) = x+h$.)

Therefore, $f'(x) = 1$ when $x > 0$.

When $x < 0$,

$$\begin{aligned} \lim_{h \rightarrow 0} \frac{f(x+h) - f(x)}{h} &= \lim_{h \rightarrow 0} \frac{[-(x+h)] - (-x)}{h} \\ &= \lim_{h \rightarrow 0} -1 \\ &= -1 \end{aligned}$$

(Note that $x < 0$, when h is sufficiently close to 0, we have $x+h < 0$, so $f(x+h) = -(x+h)$.)

Therefore, $f'(x) = -1$ when $x < 0$.

From the above, we can see $f'(x)$ is defined only when $x \neq 0$, i.e. Domain of $f' = (-\infty, 0) \cup (0, \infty) = \mathbb{R}/\{0\}$.

(Remark: As you can see, $f(x)$ is continuous at $x = 0$ but NOT differentiable at $x = 0$.)

6. Let $f(x)$ be a function defined by

$$f(x) = \begin{cases} x^2 & \text{if } x \geq 0, \\ 0 & \text{if } x < 0. \end{cases}$$

- (a) Is $f(x)$ differentiable at $x = 0$? If yes, find $f'(0)$.
 (b) Compute $f'(x)$ for the cases $x > 0$ and $x < 0$.
 (c) Is $f'(x)$ differentiable at $x = 0$?

Ans:

$$\begin{aligned} \text{(a) } Lf'(0) &= \lim_{h \rightarrow 0^-} \frac{f(0+h) - f(0)}{h} = \lim_{h \rightarrow 0^-} \frac{0 - 0}{h} = 0 \text{ and} \\ Rf'(0) &= \lim_{h \rightarrow 0^+} \frac{f(0+h) - f(0)}{h} = \lim_{h \rightarrow 0^+} \frac{h^2 - 0}{h} = \lim_{h \rightarrow 0^+} h = 0. \end{aligned}$$

Since $\lim_{h \rightarrow 0^-} \frac{f(0+h) - f(0)}{h} = \lim_{h \rightarrow 0^+} \frac{f(0+h) - f(0)}{h} = 0$,

we have $\lim_{h \rightarrow 0} \frac{f(0+h) - f(0)}{h} = 0$.

Therefore, $f(x)$ is differentiable at $x = 0$ and $f'(0) = 0$.

(b) If $x > 0$, $f'(x) = 2x$; If $x < 0$, $f'(x) = 0$.

Hence $f'(x)$ can be described as the following:

$$f'(x) = \begin{cases} \frac{2x}{1} & \text{if } x > 0, \\ \frac{0}{1} & \text{if } x = 0, \\ \frac{0}{1} & \text{if } x < 0. \end{cases}$$

(c) $\lim_{h \rightarrow 0^-} \frac{f'(0+h) - f'(0)}{h} = \lim_{h \rightarrow 0^-} \frac{0-0}{h} = 0$ and $\lim_{h \rightarrow 0^+} \frac{f'(0+h) - f'(0)}{h} = \lim_{h \rightarrow 0^+} \frac{2h-0}{h} = 2$.

Since $\lim_{h \rightarrow 0^-} \frac{f'(0+h) - f'(0)}{h} \neq \lim_{h \rightarrow 0^+} \frac{f'(0+h) - f'(0)}{h}$, $\lim_{h \rightarrow 0} \frac{f'(0+h) - f'(0)}{h}$ does not exist. Therefore, $f'(x)$ is not differentiable at $x = 0$.

(Remark: Even a function is differentiable at a point, it may not be twice differentiable at that point.)

Derivatives

7. Find the first derivatives of the following functions.

(a) $y = 2x^3 - 4x + 2$

Ans: $6x^2 - 4$

(b) $y = 5x^3 - 4x^2 + 7$

Ans: $15x^2 - 8x$

(c) $y = e^{3x}$

Ans: $3e^{3x}$

(d) $y = \cos 2x$

Ans: $-2 \sin 2x$

(e) $y = \sin 5x$

Ans: $5 \cos 5x$

(f) $y = -\tan 3x$

Ans: $-3 \sec^2 3x$

(g) $y = \sqrt{x}$

Ans: $\frac{1}{2\sqrt{x}}$

(h) $y = \ln(1+x^2)$

Ans: $\frac{2x}{1+x^2}$

8. Find the first derivatives of the following functions.

(a) $y = 4\sqrt{x} + \frac{2}{\sqrt{x}}$

Ans: $2x^{-1/2} - x^{-3/2}$

(b) $y = x^3 e^{-2x}$

Ans: $e^{-2x} x^2 (3 - 2x)$

(c) $y = \sin x \ln x$

Ans: $\frac{\sin x}{x} + (\ln x)(\cos x)$

(d) $y = \sec x - 3 \tan x$

Ans: $\sec^2 x (\sin x - 3)$

(e) $y = x \csc x$

Ans: $\csc x (1 - x \cot x)$

(f) $y = \frac{3x - 4}{x + 2}$

Ans: $\frac{10}{(x + 2)^2}$

(g) $y = \frac{x^2 + 1}{x + 1}$

Ans: $\frac{x^2 + 2x - 1}{(x + 1)^2}$

(h) $y = \frac{\sin x}{x}$

Ans: $\frac{x \cos x - \sin x}{x^2}$

(i) $y = (3x^2 - 4)^{10}$

Ans: $60x(3x^2 - 4)^9$

(j) $y = \sqrt{x^3 + 1}$

Ans: $\frac{3x^2}{2\sqrt{x^3 + 1}}$

(k) $y = \ln(\ln x)$

Ans: $\frac{1}{x \ln x}$

(l) $y = e^{\cot x}$

Ans: $-\csc^2 x e^{\cot x}$

(m) $y = \ln(x + \sqrt{x})$

Ans: $\frac{2\sqrt{x} + 1}{2x(\sqrt{x} + 1)}$

9. Let \mathcal{C} be the graph of the function $y = 4e^x(x + 1)$.

(a) Show that $A = (0, 4)$ is a point lies on \mathcal{C} .

(b) Find the equations of tangent and normal of \mathcal{C} at the point A .

Ans:

(a) Put $x = 0$ into the the function, then $y = 4e^0(0 + 1) = 4$. Therefore, $A = (0, 4)$ is a point lying on \mathcal{C} .

(b) The slope of the tangent $= \left. \frac{dy}{dx} \right|_{x=0} = 8$, so the equation of tangent is $8x - y + 4 = 0$.

Recall that the normal is perpendicular to the tangent, so the slope of the normal is $-\frac{1}{8}$ and the equation of it is $x + 8y - 32 = 0$.

10. Let \mathcal{C} be the graph of the function $y = \sin x + \cos x$.

(a) Show that $A = (\frac{\pi}{2}, 1)$ is a point lies on \mathcal{C} .

(b) Find the equations of tangent and normal of \mathcal{C} at the point A .

Ans:

(a) Put $x = \frac{\pi}{2}$ into the the function, then $y = \sin \frac{\pi}{2} + \cos \frac{\pi}{2} = 1$. Therefore, $A = (\frac{\pi}{2}, 1)$ is a point lying on \mathcal{C} .

(b) tangent: $x + y - \frac{\pi}{2} - 1 = 0$; normal: $x - y - \frac{\pi}{2} + 1 = 0$

11. By using the logarithmic differentiation, find the first derivative of the following functions.

(a) $y = (2x + 1)^3(x - 1)^4\sqrt{(3x + 2)^5}$

Ans: $\frac{dy}{dx} = (2x + 1)^3(x - 1)^4\sqrt{(3x + 2)^5} \left(\frac{6}{2x + 1} + \frac{15}{2(3x + 2)} + \frac{4}{x - 1} \right)$

(b) $y = \frac{e^{2x}}{(x - 1)^4}$

Ans: $\frac{dy}{dx} = \frac{e^{2x}}{(x - 1)^4} \left(2 - \frac{4}{x - 1} \right)$

(c) $y = x^x$

Ans: $\frac{dy}{dx} = x^x(\ln x + 1)$

(d) $y = (\sin x)^{(\cos x)}$

Ans: $\frac{dy}{dx} = (\sin x)^{(\cos x)} \left(\frac{\cos^2 x}{\sin x} - \sin x \ln(\sin x) \right)$

12. Find $\frac{dy}{dx}$ in terms of x and y for the following implicit functions.

(a) $x^2 + y^2 = 9$

Ans: $\frac{dy}{dx} = -\frac{x}{y}$

(b) $x^3y + xy^2 = 1$

Ans: $\frac{dy}{dx} = -\frac{y(3x^2 + y)}{x^3 + 2xy}$

(c) $x^3 + y^3 = 2xy$

Ans: $\frac{dy}{dx} = \frac{3x^2 - 2y}{2x - 3y^2}$

(d) $ye^{xy} = 1$

Ans: $\frac{dy}{dx} = -\frac{y^2}{xy + 1}$

13. Let \mathcal{C} be the curve given by the equation $x^3 + xy + y^3 = 11$.

(a) Show that $A = (1, 2)$ is a point lies on \mathcal{C} .

(b) Find the equation of tangent of \mathcal{C} at the point A .

Ans:

(a) Put $x = 1$ and $y = 2$, then $\text{LHS} = (1)^3 + (1)(2) + (2)^3 = 11 = \text{RHS}$. Therefore, $A = (1, 2)$ is a point lying on \mathcal{C} .

(b) tangent: $5x + 13y - 31 = 0$

14. If $y = x^2 e^x$, show that $\frac{d^2 y}{dx^2} = 2 \frac{dy}{dx} - y + 2e^x$.

Ans: $\frac{dy}{dx} = e^x x(x + 2)$ and $\frac{d^2 y}{dx^2} = e^x(x^2 + 4x + 2)$.

The result follows by putting them into LHS and RHS.

15. Let $\mathcal{C} : (x(t), y(t)) = (\sqrt{2} \cos t, \sqrt{2} \sin t)$, for $t \in \mathbb{R}$, be a curve defined on \mathbb{R}^2 .

(a) Find $\frac{dy}{dx}$ in terms of t .

(b) Find the equation of tangent of \mathcal{C} at the point $(x(\frac{\pi}{4}), y(\frac{\pi}{4})) = (1, 1)$.

Ans:

(a) By chain rule, $\frac{dy}{dt} = \frac{dy}{dx} \cdot \frac{dx}{dt}$, therefore we have

$$\frac{dy}{dx} = \frac{\left(\frac{dy}{dt}\right)}{\left(\frac{dx}{dt}\right)}.$$

Now, $\frac{dy}{dt} = \sqrt{2} \cos t$ and $\frac{dx}{dt} = -\sqrt{2} \sin t$. Therefore, $\frac{dy}{dx} = -\frac{\cos t}{\sin t}$.

(b) When $t = \frac{\pi}{4}$, $\frac{dy}{dx} = -1$. Therefore, the equation of the tangent at $(1, 1)$ is $x + y - 2 = 0$.

16. Let $\mathcal{C} : (x(t), y(t)) = (t^2, t^3)$, for $t \in \mathbb{R}$, be a curve defined on \mathbb{R}^2 .

(a) Find $\frac{dy}{dx}$ in terms of t .

(b) Find the equation of tangent of \mathcal{C} at the point $(x(1), y(1)) = (1, 1)$.

Ans:

(a) By chain rule, $\frac{dy}{dt} = \frac{dy}{dx} \cdot \frac{dx}{dt}$, therefore we have

$$\frac{dy}{dx} = \frac{\left(\frac{dy}{dt}\right)}{\left(\frac{dx}{dt}\right)}.$$

Now, $\frac{dy}{dt} = 3t^2$ and $\frac{dx}{dt} = 2t$. Therefore, $\frac{dy}{dx} = \frac{3t}{2}$.

(b) When $t = 1$, $\frac{dy}{dx} = \frac{3}{2}$. Therefore, the equation of the tangent at $(1, 1)$ is $3x - 2y - 1 = 0$.

Linearization

17. Let $f(x)$ be a function which is differentiable at $x = a$.

(a) Show that the equation of tangent at the point $x = a$ is

$$y = L(x) = f'(a)(x - a) + f(a).$$

(b) The function $L(x)$ obtained in (a) is a linear function (i.e. a polynomial function of degree 1) which is called the linearization of $f(x)$ at the point $x = a$ (also called the Talyor polynomial of degree 1 generated by $f(x)$ at the point $x = a$, which is commonly denoted by $T_1(x)$).

Now, suppose that $f(x) = \sqrt{x}$. By stekching the graphs of $f(x)$ and $L(x)$, one can observe that when x is close to 9, $L(x)$ approximately equals $f(x)$.

By using the result in (a), approximate the value of $\sqrt{9.1}$.

(Remark: Compare your approximated value obtained and the value obtained by using calculator.)

Ans:

(a) Note that the slope of the tangent is $f'(a)$ and the tangent passes through the point $(a, f(a))$. Therefore, the required equation is

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{y - f(a)}{x - a} &= f'(a) \\ y &= f'(a)(x - a) + f(a) \end{aligned}$$

(b) From (a), the linearization of $f(x) = \sqrt{x}$ at the point $x = 9$ is

$$L(x) = f'(9)(x - 9) + f(9) = \frac{1}{6}x + \frac{3}{2}.$$

Then,

$$\sqrt{9.1} = f(9.1) \approx L(9.1) = \left(\frac{1}{6}\right)\left(\frac{91}{10}\right) + \frac{3}{2} = \frac{181}{60} \approx 3.016667$$

(Remark: By using the calculator $\sqrt{9.1} \approx 3.016621$.)

18. Approximate the value of $e^{0.1}$ by linearizing an appropriately chosen function at an appropriately chosen point.

Ans: Let $f(x) = e^x$. Then, the linearization of $f(x)$ at the point $x = 0$ is

$$L(x) = f'(0)(x - 0) + f(0) = x + 1.$$

Then,

$$e^{0.1} = f(0.1) \approx L(0.1) = 1.1$$

(Remark: By using the calculator $e^{0.1} \approx 1.105171$. If we try to linearize the function $f(x) = e^x$ at a point $x = a$ other than 0, we have to compute $f(a) = e^a$ and $f'(a) = e^a$ which may not be done by hand.)