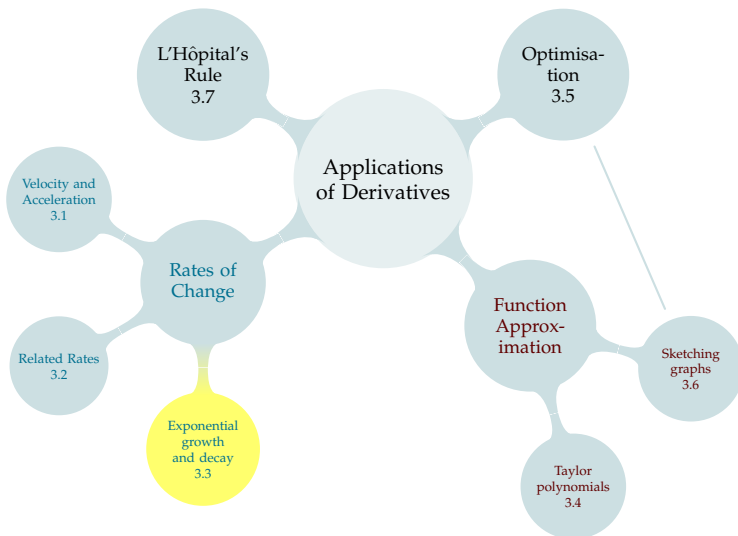


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3.3: Exponential Growth and Decay

Radioactive Decay

RADIOACTIVE DECAY

The number of atoms in a sample that decay in a given time interval is proportional to the number of atoms in the sample.

Differential Equation

Let $Q = Q(t)$ be the amount of a radioactive substance at time t . Then for some positive constant k :

$$\frac{dQ}{dt} = -kQ$$

Solution - Theorem 3.3.2

Let $Q(t) = Ce^{-kt}$ where k and C are constants. Then

This is a first look at DEs. Take some time to point out how this equation looks different from what we're used to writing. emphasize we're looking for a function that makes the DE true, not just a number

Seaborgium Decay

The amount of ^{266}Sg (Seaborgium-266) in a sample at time t (measured in seconds) is given by

$$Q(t) = Ce^{-kt}$$

Let's approximate the half life of ^{266}Sg as 30 seconds. That is, every 30 seconds, the size of the sample halves.

What are C and k ?

A sample of radioactive matter is stored in a lab in 2000. In the year 2002, it is tested and found to contain 10 units of a particular radioactive isotope. In the year 2005, it is tested and found to contain only 2 units of that same isotope. How many units of the isotope were present in the year 2000?

$$Q'(t) = kQ(t)$$

The number of atoms in a sample that decay in a given time interval is proportional to the number of atoms in the sample.

The rate of growth of a population in a given time interval is proportional to the number of individuals in the population, when the population has ample resources.

The amount of interest a bank account accrues in a given time interval is proportional to the balance in that bank account.

3.3: Exponential Growth and Decay

$$Q'(t) = kQ(t)$$

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The number of atoms in a sample that decay in a given time interval is proportional to the number of atoms in the sample.

The rate of growth of a population in a given time interval is proportional to the number of individuals in the population, when the population has ample resources.

The amount of interest a bank account accrues in a given time interval is proportional to the balance in that bank account.

Note the broader applicability of these equations

Exponential Growth – Theorem 3.3.2

Let $Q = Q(t)$ satisfy:

$$\frac{dQ}{dt} = kQ$$

for some constant k . Then for some constant $C = Q(0)$,

$$Q(t) = Ce^{kt}$$

Suppose $y(t)$ is a function with the properties that

$$\frac{dy}{dt} + 3y = 0 \quad \text{and} \quad y(1) = 2.$$

What is $y(t)$?

POPULATION GROWTH

Suppose a petri dish starts with a culture of 100 bacteria cells and a limited amount of food and space. The population of the culture at different times is given in the table below. At approximately what time did the culture start to show signs of limited resources?

time	population
0	100
1	1000
3	100000
5	1000000

FLU SEASON

The CDC keeps records ([link](#)) on the number of flu cases in the US by week. At the start of the flu season, the 40th week of 2014, there are 100 cases of a particular strain. Five weeks later (at week 45), there are 506 cases. What do you think was the first week to have 5,000 cases? What about 10,000 cases?

Newton's Law of Cooling – Equation 3.3.7

The rate of change of temperature of an object is proportional to the difference in temperature between that object and its surroundings.

$$\frac{dT}{dt}(t) = K[T(t) - A]$$

where $T(t)$ is the temperature of the object at time t , A is the (constant) ambient temperature of the surroundings, and K is some constant depending on the object.

$$\frac{dT}{dt}(t) = K[T(t) - A]$$

$T(t)$ is the temperature of the object, A is the ambient temperature, K is some constant.

What is true of K ?

- A. $K \geq 0$
- B. $K \leq 0$
- C. $K = 0$
- D. K could be positive, negative, or zero, depending on the object
- E. I don't know

Newton's Law of Cooling – Equation 3.3.7

$$\frac{dT}{dt}(t) = K[T(t) - A]$$

$T(t)$ is the temperature of the object, A is the ambient temperature, and K is some constant.

$$T(t) = [T(0) - A]e^{Kt} + A$$

is the only function satisfying Newton's Law of Cooling

If $T(10) < A$, then:

- A. $K > 0$
- B. $T(0) > 0$
- C. $T(0) > A$
- D. $T(0) < A$

Evaluate $\lim_{t \rightarrow \infty} T(t)$.

- A. A
- B. 0
- C. ∞
- D. $T(0)$

What assumptions are we making that might not square with the real world?

Newton's Law of Cooling – Equation 3.3.7

$$\frac{dT}{dt} = K[T(t) - A]$$

$T(t)$ is the temperature of the object, A is the ambient temperature, and K is some constant.

Temperature of a Cooling Body – Corollary 3.3.8

$$T(t) = [T(0) - A]e^{Kt} + A$$

A farrier forms a horseshoe heated to 400°C , then dunks it in a river at room-temperature (25°C). The water boils for 30 seconds. The horseshoe is safe for the horse when it's 40°C . When can the farrier put on the horseshoe?



$$T(t) = [T(0) - A]e^{Kt} + A$$

3.3: Exponential Growth and Decay

A farrier forms a horseshoe heated to 400°C , then dunks it in a river at room-temperature (25°C). The water boils for 30 seconds. The horseshoe is safe for the horse when it's 40°C . When can the farrier put on the horseshoe?



$$T(t) = (T(0) - A)e^{kt} + A$$

A farrier is a person who puts horseshoes on horses. They often double as blacksmiths, heating the shoes up in a forge and hitting them on an anvil to shape them. Then to cool the shoes down, they may dunk them in a bucket of water, like the photo.

We're making the very gross assumptions that the water stops boiling when the shoe hits 100 degrees, and the temperature of the river water is constant.

A glass of just-boiled tea is put on a porch outside. After ten minutes, the tea is 40° , and after 20 minutes, the tea is 25° . What is the temperature outside?

3.3: Exponential Growth and Decay

A glass of just-boiled tea is put on a porch outside. After ten minutes, the tea is 40° , and after 20 minutes, the tea is 25° . What is the temperature outside?

This is a perennial frustration, but a good exercise. It anticipates a question in WeBWorK.

3.3: Exponential Growth and Decay

A glass of just-boiled tea is put on a porch outside. After ten minutes, the tea is 40° , and after 20 minutes, the tea is 25° . What is the temperature outside?

Now a long list of questions, some of which you may have time for in class.

In 1963, the US Fish and Wildlife Service recorded a bald eagle population of 487 breeding pairs. In 1993, that number was 4015. How many breeding pairs would you expect there were in 2006? What about 2015?

link: Wood Bison Restoration in Alaska, Alaska Department of Fish and Game

Excerpt:

Based on experience with reintroduced populations elsewhere, wood bison would be expected to increase at a rate of 15%-25% annually after becoming established.... With an average annual growth rate of 20%, an initial precalving population of 50 bison would increase to 500 in approximately 13 years.



NOW
YOU

Are they using our same model?

3.3: Exponential Growth and Decay

Link: Wood Bison Restoration in Alaska, Alaska Department of Fish and Game

Excerpt:

Based on experience with reintroduced populations elsewhere, wood bison would be expected to increase at a rate of 15%-25% annually after becoming established... With an average annual growth rate of 20%, an initial breeding population of 50 bison would increase to 500 in approximately 13 years.

NUM
YOU



Are they using our same model?

Wood bison were thought to be extinct, except for populations that had interbred with plains bison. A pure-blooded population was discovered in Canada and bred in captivity to increase their numbers. Later, Canada sent some of these descendants to Alaska, where the Alaska Wildlife Conservation Center cared for them and increased their numbers, eventually releasing some. After being extinct in Alaska for around a century, there are once again wood bison in the wild. It can often seem like scientists have unknowable algorithms behind their predictions. When we understand where a model comes from, we can better understand its limitations. For example, the model we (and ADF&G) are using is simply that bison will reproduce in proportion to their population. It's useful to think about when that assumption might not hold.

COMPOUND INTEREST

Suppose you invest \$10,000 in an account that accrues interest each month. After one month, your balance (with interest) is \$10,100. How much money will be in your account after a year?

Compound interest is calculated according to the formula Pe^{rt} , where r is the interest rate and t is time.

└ 3.3: Exponential Growth and Decay

└ Compound Interest

COMPOUND INTEREST

Suppose you invest \$10,000 in an account that accrues interest each month. After one month, your balance (with interest) is \$10,100. How much money will be in your account after a year?

Compound interest is calculated according to the formula $P(1+r)^t$, where r is the interest rate and t is time.

Probably students have seen a derivation of the compound interest formula that didn't use DE. Since the balance grows proportionally to how much is in it, it system satisfies the same DE, so it'll have the same solution.

CARRYING CAPACITY

For a population of size P with unrestricted access to resources, let β be the average number of offspring each breeding pair produces per generation, where a generation has length t_g . Then $b = \frac{\beta-2}{2t_g}$ is the net birthrate (births minus deaths) per member per unit time. This yields $\frac{dP}{dt}(t) = bP(t)$, hence:

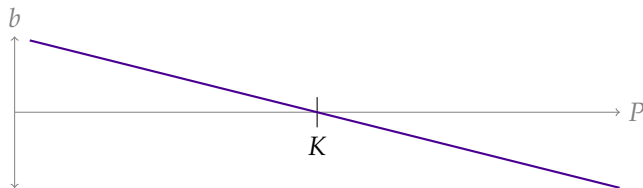
But as resources grow scarce, b might change.

CARRYING CAPACITY

b is the net birthrate (births minus deaths) per member per unit time.

If K is the carrying capacity of an ecosystem, we can model

$$b = b_0(1 - \frac{P}{K}).$$



NOW
YOU



Describe to your neighbour what the following mean in

terms of the model:

- ▶ $b > 0, b = 0, b < 0$
- ▶ $P = 0, P > 0, P < 0$

CARRYING CAPACITY

Then:

$$\frac{dP}{dt}(t) = b_0 \underbrace{\left(1 - \frac{P(t)}{K}\right)}_{\text{per capita birthrate}} P(t)$$

This is an example of a differential equation that we don't have the tools to solve. (If you take more calculus, though, you'll learn how!) It's also an example of a way you might tweak a model so its assumptions better fit what you observe.

RADIOCARBON DATING

Researchers at Charlie Lake in BC have found evidence¹ of habitation dating back to around 8500 BCE. For instance, a butchered bison bone was radiocarbon dated to about 10,500 years ago.

Suppose a comparable bone of a bison alive today contains $1\mu\text{g}$ of ^{14}C . If the half-life of ^{14}C is about 5730 years, roughly how much ^{14}C do you think the researchers found in the sample?

- A. About $\frac{1}{10,500} \mu\text{g}$
- B. About $\frac{1}{4} \mu\text{g}$
- C. About $\frac{1}{2} \mu\text{g}$

- D. About $1 \mu\text{g}$
- E. I'm not sure how to estimate this

¹<http://pubs.aina.ucalgary.ca/arctic/Arctic49-3-265.pdf>

3.3: Exponential Growth and Decay

Radiocarbon Dating

RADIOCARBON DATING

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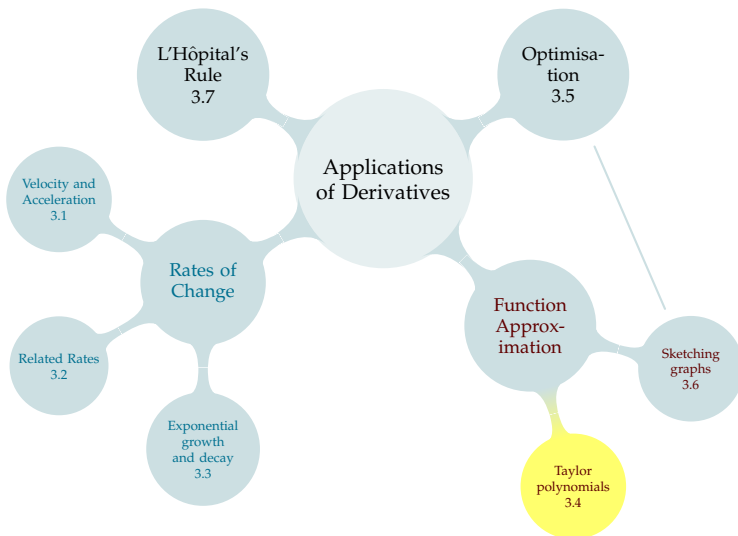
- | | |
|--------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| A. About $\frac{1}{1000}\mu\text{g}$ | D. About $1\mu\text{g}$ |
| B. About $\frac{1}{2}\mu\text{g}$ | E. I'm not sure how to estimate this |
| C. About $\frac{1}{4}\mu\text{g}$ | |

¹<http://pubs.born-arch.org/doi/abs/10.1002/bs.1049-3-265.pdf>

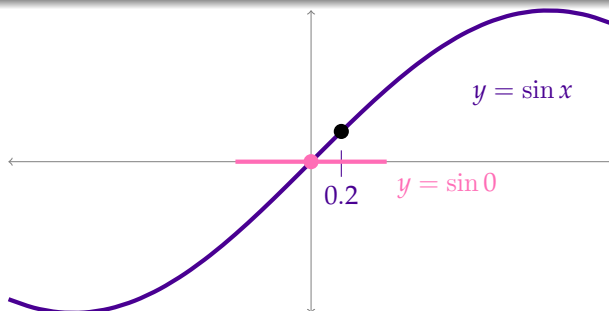
Read the question first. Note that we can do this two ways: there's an easy approximation in your head, and a pen-and-paper calculation. First, do the rough approximation.

Suppose a body is discovered at 3:45 pm, in a room held at 20° , and the body's temperature is 27° , not the normal 37° . At 5:45 pm, the temperature of the body has dropped to 25.3° . When did the inhabitant of the body die?

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APPROXIMATING A FUNCTION



Constant Approximation – Equation 3.4.1

We can approximate $f(x)$ near a point a by

$$f(x) \approx f(a)$$

└ 3.4.1-2: Constant, Linear

└ Approximating a Function

APPROXIMATING A FUNCTION



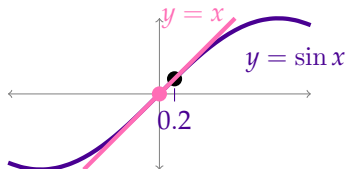
Constant Approximation – Equation 3.4.1

We can approximate $f(x)$ near a point a by

$$f(x) \approx f(a)$$

Mention: it's worth noting that even Google (or any other calculator) is also only providing an approximation, not an exact answer.

APPROXIMATING A FUNCTION



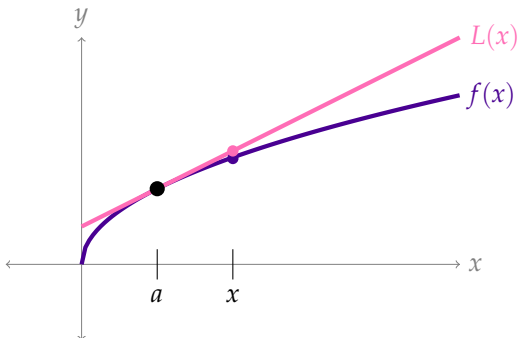
Linear Approximation (Linearization) – Equation 3.4.3

We can approximate $f(x)$ near a point a by the tangent line to $f(x)$ at a , namely

$$f(x) \approx L(x) = f(a) + f'(a)(x - a)$$

To find a linear approximation of $f(x)$ at a particular point x , pick a point a near to x , such that $f(a)$ and $f'(a)$ are easy to calculate.

$$f(x) \approx L(x) = f(a) + f'(a)(x - a)$$



To find a linear approximation of $f(x)$ at a particular point x , pick a point a **near to x** , such that $f(a)$ and $f'(a)$ are **easy to calculate**.

$$f(x) \approx L(x) = f(a) + f'(a)(x - a)$$

Let $f(x) = \sqrt{x}$. Approximate $f(8.9)$.

CAN WE COMPUTE?

Which of the following tangent lines is probably the most accurate in approximating $\cos(1.5)$?

- A. tangent line to $f(x) = \cos x$ when $x = \pi/2$
- B. tangent line to $f(x) = \cos x$ when $x = \pi/4$
- C. constant approximation: $\cos 1.5 \approx \cos(\pi/2) = 0$
- D. the linear approximations should be better than the constant approximation, but both linear approximations should have the same accuracy

LINEAR APPROXIMATION

Approximate $\sin(3)$ using a linear approximation. You may leave your answer in terms of π .

LINEAR APPROXIMATION

Approximate $e^{1/10}$ using a linear approximation.

If $f(x) = e^x$ and $a = 0$:

└ 3.4.1-2: Constant, Linear

└ Linear Approximation

The question often comes up here, what would we do on an assessment? I like to reassure students that questions will be worded in a way that makes expectations clear. For example, “your answer may depend on e ,” or “your answer should be rational.”

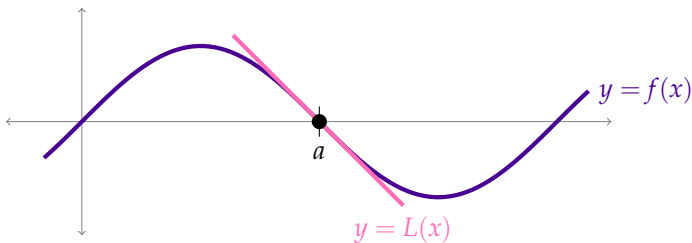
LINEAR APPROXIMATION WRAP-UP

Let $L(x) = f(a) + f'(a)(x - a)$, so $L(x)$ is the linear approximation (linearization) of $f(x)$ at a .

What is $L(a)$?

What is $L'(a)$?

What is $L''(a)$? (Recall $L''(x)$ is the derivative of $L'(x)$.)



LINEAR APPROXIMATION WRAP-UP

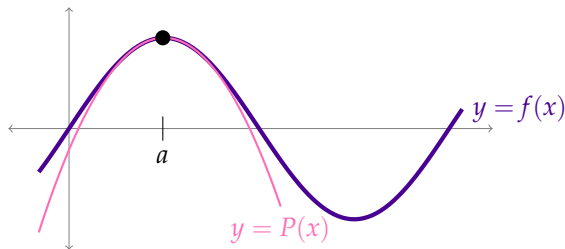
Let $L(x)$ be a linear approximation of $f(x)$.

$f(a)$	$L(a)$	same
$f'(a)$	$L'(a)$	same
$f''(a)$	$L''(a)$	different ²

²unless $f''(a) = 0$

QUADRATIC APPROXIMATION

Imagine we approximate $f(x)$ at $x = a$ with a parabola, $P(x)$.

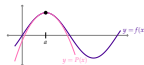


3.4.3: Quadratic

Quadratic Approximation

QUADRATIC APPROXIMATION

Imagine we approximate $f(x)$ at $x = a$ with a parabola, $P(x)$.



“We want our approximation and our function to be as similar as possible (except our approximation should be easy to compute – like a polynomial). That’s why we might think to match as many derivatives as possible at the point $x = a$.” “You won’t have to solve these equations, but this is where our quadratic approximation comes from”

	Constant	Linear	Quadratic
Function value matches at $x = a$	✓	✓	✓
First derivative matches at $x = a$	×	✓	✓
Second derivative matches at $x = a$	×	×	✓

Constant:

$$f(x) \approx f(a)$$

Linear:

$$f(x) \approx f(a) + f'(a)(x - a)$$

Quadratic:

$$f(x) \approx f(a) + f'(a)(x - a) + \frac{f''(a)}{2}(x - a)^2$$

3.4.3: Quadratic

Constant:	$f(x) \approx f(a)$
Linear:	$f(x) \approx f(a) + f'(a)(x - a)$
Quadratic:	$f(x) \approx f(a) + f'(a)(x - a) + \frac{f''(a)}{2!}(x - a)^2$

“We can see that each successive type adds a little accuracy by adding a higher-degree term”

QUADRATIC APPROXIMATION

$$P(x) = f(a) + f'(a)(x - a) + \frac{1}{2}f''(a)(x - a)^2$$

Approximate $\log(1.1)$ using a quadratic approximation.

QUADRATIC APPROXIMATION

$$P(x) = f(a) + f'(a)(x - a) + \frac{1}{2}f''(a)(x - a)^2$$

Approximate $\sqrt[3]{28}$ using a quadratic approximation.

You may leave your answer unsimplified, as long as it is an expression you could figure out from integers using only plus, minus, times, and divide.

Determine what $f(x)$ and a should be so that you can approximate the following using a quadratic approximation.

$$\log(.9)$$

$$e^{-1/30}$$

$$\sqrt[5]{30}$$

$$(2.01)^6$$

	Constant	Linear	Quadratic	degree n
match $f(a)$	✓	✓	✓	✓
match $f'(a)$	×	✓	✓	✓
match $f''(a)$	×	×	✓	✓
...				
match $f^{(n)}(a)$	×	×	×	✓
match $f^{(n+1)}(a)$	×	×	×	×

Constant:

$$f(x) \approx f(a)$$

Linear:

$$f(x) \approx f(a) + f'(a)(x - a)$$

Quadratic:

$$f(x) \approx f(a) + f'(a)(x - a) + \frac{f''(a)}{2}(x - a)^2$$

Degree- n :

$$f(x) \approx f(a) + f'(a)(x - a) + \frac{f''(a)}{2}(x - a)^2 + \dots?$$

3.4.4-5: Taylor Polynomial

Constant:

$$f(x) \approx f(a)$$

Linear:

$$f(x) \approx f(a) + f'(a)(x - a)$$

Quadratic:

$$f(x) \approx f(a) + f'(a)(x - a) + \frac{f''(a)}{2!}(x - a)^2$$

Degree- n :

$$f(x) \approx f(a) + f'(a)(x - a) + \frac{f''(a)}{2!}(x - a)^2 + \dots + \frac{f^{(n)}(a)}{n!}(x - a)^n$$

“We can see that each successive type adds a little accuracy by adding a higher-degree term”

3.4.4-5: Taylor Polynomial

Constant:

$$f(x) \approx f(a)$$

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Degree- n :

$$f(x) \approx f(a) + f'(a)(x - a) + \frac{f''(a)}{2!}(x - a)^2 + \dots + \frac{f^{(n)}(a)}{n!}(x - a)^n$$

We'll use sum notation for Taylor Polynomials, so useful to review it. Students should have seen it in high school.

BRIEF DETOUR: SIGMA (SUMMATION) NOTATION

$$\sum_{i=a}^b f(i)$$

- ▶ a, b (integers) “bounds”
- ▶ i “index”: runs over integers from a to b
- ▶ $f(i)$ “summand”: compute for every i , add

SIGMA NOTATION

$$\sum_{i=2}^4 (2i + 5)$$

SIGMA NOTATION

$$\sum_{i=1}^4 (i + (i-1)^2)$$

Write the following expressions in sigma notation:

1. $3 + 4 + 5 + 6 + 7$

2. $8 + 8 + 8 + 8 + 8$

3. $1 + (-2) + 4 + (-8) + 16$

Factorial – Definition 3.4.9

We read “ $n!$ ” as “ n factorial.”

For a natural number n , $n! = 1 \cdot 2 \cdot 3 \cdot \dots \cdot n$.

By convention, $0! = 1$.

We write $f^{(n)}(x)$ to mean the n^{th} derivative of $f(x)$. By convention, $f^{(0)}(x) = f(x)$.

Taylor Polynomial – Definition 3.4.11

Given a function $f(x)$ that is differentiable n times at a point a , the n -th degree **Taylor polynomial** for $f(x)$ about a is

$$T_n(a) = \sum_{k=0}^n \frac{f^{(k)}(a)}{k!} (x - a)^k$$

If $a = 0$, we also call it a **Maclaurin polynomial**.

3.4.4-5: Taylor Polynomial

Factorial – Definition 3.4.9

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If $a = 0$, we also call it a **Maclaurin polynomial**.

Students usually ask about $0! = 1$. Two explanations. First, it's a convention because people found it convenient. Second, $n!$ is the number of ways of ordering n distinct objects.

$$T_n(a) = \sum_{k=0}^n \frac{f^{(k)}(a)}{k!} (x - a)^k$$

$$=$$

└ 3.4.4-5: Taylor Polynomial

$$T_n(a) = \sum_{k=0}^n \frac{f^{(k)}(a)}{k!} (x-a)^k$$

Some students will undoubtedly struggle with interpreting the sigma notation, so I like to go through the indices until at least $k = 4$.

$$T_n(a) = f(a) + f'(a)(x - a) + \frac{1}{2!}f''(a)(x - a)^2 + \cdots + \frac{1}{n!}f^{(n)}(a)(x - a)^n$$

Find the 7th degree Maclaurin³ polynomial for e^x .

³A Maclaurin polynomial is a Taylor polynomial with $a = 0$.

$$T_n(a) = f(a) + f'(a)(x - a) + \frac{1}{2!}f''(a)(x - a)^2 + \cdots + \frac{1}{n!}f^{(n)}(a)(x - a)^n$$

Find the 8th degree Maclaurin polynomial for $f(x) = \sin x$.

$$T_n(a) = f(a) + f'(a)(x - a) + \frac{1}{2!}f''(a)(x - a)^2 + \cdots + \frac{1}{n!}f^{(n)}(a)(x - a)^n$$



Find the 7th degree Taylor polynomial for $f(x) = \log x$, centered at $a = 1$.

[» skip \$\Delta x\$ notation](#)

Notation 3.4.18

Let x, y be variables related such that $y = f(x)$. Then we denote a small change in the variable x by Δx (read as “delta x ”). The corresponding small change in the variable y is denoted Δy (read as “delta y ”).

$$\Delta y = f(x + \Delta x) - f(x)$$

Thinking about change in this way can lead to convenient approximations.

Let $y = f(x)$ be the amount of water needed to produce x apples in an orchard.

A farmer wants to know how much water is needed to increase their crop yield. Δx is shorthand for some change in the number of apples, and Δy is shorthand for some change in the amount of water.



- Consider changing the number of apples grown from a to $a + \Delta x$
- Then the change in water requirements goes from $y = f(a)$ to $y = f(a + \Delta x)$

$$\Delta y = f(a + \Delta x) - f(a)$$

LINEAR APPROXIMATION OF Δy

- Using a linear approximation, setting $x = a + \Delta x$:

$$f(x) \approx f(a) + f'(a)(x - a) \quad \text{linear approximation}$$

$$f(a + \Delta x) \approx f(a) + f'(a)(\Delta x) \quad \text{set } x = a + \Delta x$$

$$\Delta y = f(a + \Delta x) - f(a) \approx f'(a)\Delta x \quad \text{subtract } f(a) \text{ both sides}$$

Linear Approximation of Δy (Equation 3.4.20)

$$\Delta y \approx f'(a)\Delta x$$

If we set $\Delta x = 1$, then $\Delta y \approx f'(a)$. So, if we want to produce $a + 1$ apples instead of a apples, the extra water needed for that one extra apple is about $f'(a)$. We call this the *marginal* water cost of the apple.

QUADRATIC APPROXIMATION OF Δy

If we wanted a more accurate approximation, we can use other Taylor polynomials. For example, let's try the quadratic approximation.

Quadratic Approximation of Δy (Equation 3.4.21)

$$\Delta y \approx f'(a)\Delta x + \frac{1}{2}f''(a)(\Delta x)^2$$

[» skip further examples](#)

Approximate $\tan(65^\circ)$ three ways: using constant, linear, and quadratic approximation.

Your answer may consist of the sum, difference, product, and quotient of integers, roots of integers, and π .

You measure an angle $x \approx \frac{\pi}{2}$, and use it to calculate $y = \sin x \approx 1$. However, you suspect the angle was not *exactly* equal to $\frac{\pi}{2}$, which means the actual value y is slightly *less than* 1. In order for your value of y to have an error of no more than $\frac{1}{200}$, how accurate does your measurement of θ have to be?

Definition 3.4.25

Let Q_0 be the exact value of a quantity and let $Q_0 + \Delta Q$ be the measured value. We call

$$|\Delta Q|$$

the **absolute error** of the measurement, and

$$100 \frac{|\Delta Q|}{Q_0}$$

the **percentage error** of the measurement.

Suppose a bottle of water is labelled as having 500 mL of water, but in fact contains 502.

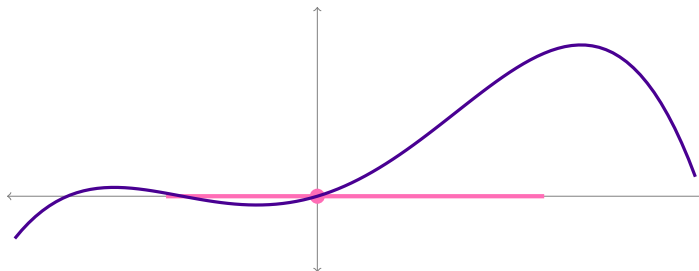
Once again, you find yourself in the position of measuring an angle x , which you use to compute $y = \sin x$. Let's say both x and y are positive. If your percentage error in measuring x is at most 1%, what is the corresponding maximum percentage error in y ? Use a linear approximation.

3.4.8: Error in Taylor

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What we're going to do now is introduce an equation that can help us understand the error in our approximations when we use Taylor polynomials. We won't show you exactly where the equation comes from, but I want to give you a little intuition. So the following is another TED talk: it's background to help you understand what we'll be doing later, but you won't be assessed on it.

ERROR: WHAT “CAUSES” ERROR IN AN ESTIMATION?



Constant approximation: We assume the function doesn't change, but in fact the function does change (its derivative is not always zero).

└ 3.4.8: Error in Taylor

└ Error: what “causes” error in an estimation?

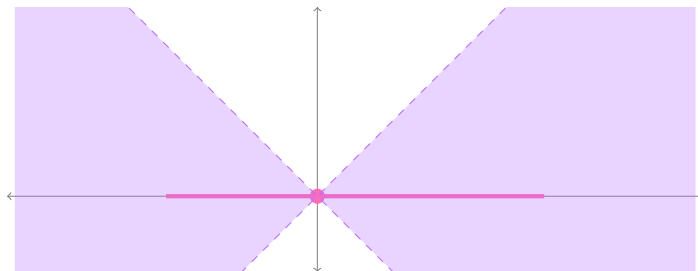
ERROR: WHAT “CAUSES” ERROR IN AN ESTIMATION?



Constant approximation: We assume the function doesn't change, but in fact the function does change (its derivative is not always zero).

“After linear, the explanations lose some intuitiveness, but it's the same idea.”

CONTROLLING THE “CAUSE” OF THE ERROR

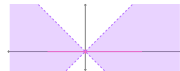


Constant approximation: We assume the function doesn't change, but in fact the function does change (its derivative is not always zero).

BUT: suppose we know the max and min values of the function's slope.

└ 3.4.8: Error in Taylor

└ Controlling the “cause” of the error



Constant approximation: We assume the function doesn't change, but in fact the function does change (its derivative is not always zero).
Big T: suppose we know the max and min values of the function's slope.

“The absolute biggest the function could be is here, because it can't grow any faster than this line; the absolute smallest...” TED talk over

Error

The error in an estimation $f(x) \approx T_n(x)$ is $f(x) - T_n(x)$. We often use $|f(x) - T_n(x)|$ if we don't care whether the approximation is too big or too little, but only that it is not too egregious.

Taylor's Theorem – Equation 3.4.33

For some c strictly between x and a ,

$$f(x) - T_n(x) = \frac{1}{(n+1)!} f^{(n+1)}(c)(x-a)^{n+1}$$

The trick is bounding $f^{(n+1)}(c)$. It's usually OK to be sloppy here! Also, usually what we care about is the magnitude of the error: $|f(x) - T_n(x)|$.

3.4.8: Error in Taylor

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The “sloppiness” allowed in choosing c can be very stressful for students. So it's nice to explain, as you're working problems, what would be reasonable and what would not.

Third degree Maclaurin polynomial for $f(x) = e^x$:

$$\begin{aligned}
 T_3(x) &= f(0) + f'(0)(x - 0) + \frac{1}{2!}f''(0)(x - 0)^2 + \frac{1}{3!}f'''(0)(x - 0)^3 \\
 &= e^0 + e^0x + \frac{1}{2!}e^0x^2 + \frac{1}{3!}e^0x^3 \\
 &= 1 + x + \frac{x^2}{2!} + \frac{x^3}{3!}
 \end{aligned}$$

Bound the error associated with using $T_3(x)$ to approximate $e^{1/10}$.

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Suppose we use the 5th degree Taylor polynomial centered at $a = \pi/2$ to approximate $f(x) = \cos x$. What could the magnitude of the error be if we approximate $\cos(2)$?

Taylor's Theorem – Equation 3.4.33

For some c strictly between x and a ,

$$f(x) - T_n(x) = \frac{1}{(n+1)!} f^{(n+1)}(c)(x-a)^{n+1}$$

Suppose we use a third degree Taylor polynomial centred at 4 to approximate $f(x) = \sqrt{x}$. If we use this Taylor polynomial to approximate $\sqrt{4.1}$, give a bound for our error.

Taylor's Theorem – Equation 3.4.33

For some c strictly between x and a ,

$$f(x) - T_n(x) = \frac{1}{(n+1)!} f^{(n+1)}(c)(x-a)^{n+1}$$

Suppose you want to approximate the value of e , knowing only that it is somewhere between 2 and 3. You use a 4th degree Maclaurin polynomial for $f(x) = e^x$ to approximate $f(1) = e^1 = e$. Bound your error.

Computing approximations uses resources. We might want to use as few resources as possible while ensuring sufficient accuracy.

A reasonable question to ask is: which approximation will be good enough to keep our error within some fixed error tolerance?

WHICH DEGREE?

Suppose you want to approximate $\sin 3$ using a Taylor polynomial of $f(x) = \sin x$ centered at $a = \pi$. If the magnitude of your error must be less than 0.001, what degree Taylor polynomial should you use?

WHICH DEGREE?

Suppose you want to approximate e^5 using a Maclaurin polynomial of $f(x) = e^x$. If the magnitude of your error must be less than 0.001, what degree Maclaurin polynomial should you use?

WHICH DEGREE?

Suppose you want to approximate $\log \frac{4}{3}$ using a Taylor polynomial of $f(x) = \log x$ centred at $a = 1$. If the magnitude of your error must be less than 0.001, what degree Taylor polynomial should you use?

WHICH DEGREE?

Let $f(x) = \sqrt[4]{x}$. Suppose you use a second-degree Taylor polynomial of $f(x)$ centered at $a = 81$ to approximate $\sqrt[4]{81.2}$. Bound your error, and tell whether $T_2(10)$ is an overestimate or underestimate.

Included Work



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