

■ TAYLOR'S SERIES APPROXIMATION

■ Taylor's series:

Taylor Series Definition

The Taylor series of a function $f(x)$ at a point $x = a$ is an infinite sum of terms calculated from the function's derivatives at that point. It expresses $f(x)$ as:

$$f(x) = f(a) + f'(a)(x-a) + \frac{f''(a)}{2!}(x-a)^2 + \frac{f'''(a)}{3!}(x-a)^3 + \dots$$

or in summation notation:

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

where:

- $f^{(n)}(a)$ is the n th derivative of $f(x)$ evaluated at $x = a$,
- $n!$ (n factorial) is the product of all positive integers up to n .

■ $f(x) = \sin(x) = 0$ at $x=0$

- $f'(x) = \cos(x) = 1$ at $x=0$
- $f''(x) = -\sin(x) = 0$ at $x=0$
- $f'''(x) = -\cos(x) = -1$ at $x=0$
- $f^{iv}(x) = \sin(x) = 0$ at $x=0$
- $f^v(x) = \cos(x) = 1$ at $x=0$.

- $f(x) = f(a) + f'(a)(x-a) + \frac{f''(a)}{2!}(x-a)^2 + \frac{f'''(a)}{3!}(x-a)^3 + \dots$ By Substitution in Taylor's series we have

$$\blacksquare \sin(x) = 0 + 1(x-0) + 0 - (x-0)^3 \frac{f'''(0)}{3!} + (x-0)^4 \frac{f^v(0)}{4!} \dots + \frac{f^n(0)}{n!}$$

$$\blacksquare \sin(x) = x - \frac{x^3}{3!} + \frac{x^5}{5!} \dots$$

- By using Mathematica Series we have also

In[]:=

Series[Sin[x], {x, 0, 5}]

Out[]:=

$$x - \frac{x^3}{6} + \frac{x^5}{120} + O[x]^6$$

- The $0[x]^6$ is the remainder after the fifth derivative:
- If we expand the function $f(x) = \sin(x)$ at $x = \frac{\pi}{4}$ we have

- $\sin(x) = \sin(\pi/4) = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}}$

- $f'(x) = \cos(x) = \cos(\pi/4) = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}}$

- $f''(x) = -\sin(x) = -\sin(\pi/4) = -\frac{1}{\sqrt{2}}$

- $f'''(x) = -\cos(x) = -\cos(\pi/4) = -\frac{1}{\sqrt{2}}$

- $f^{iv}(x) = \sin(x) = \sin(\pi/4) = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}}$.

$f(x) = f(a) + f'(a)(x-a) + \frac{f''(a)}{2!}(x-a)^2 + \frac{f'''(a)}{3!}(x-a)^3 + \dots$ By substitution in Taylor's series we have

- $\sin(x) = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} + \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}}(x-\pi/4) - \frac{\frac{1}{\sqrt{2}}}{2!}(x-\pi/4)^2 - \frac{\frac{1}{\sqrt{2}}}{3!}(x-\pi/4)^3 + \frac{\frac{1}{\sqrt{2}}}{4!}(x-\pi/4)^4 + \dots$

- Taylor's series at $x = \pi/4$ with 5 terms:

In[]:=

Series[Sin[x], {x, $\pi/4$, 6}]

(* At $x = \pi/4$ for 7 terms. *)

Out[]:=

$$\frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} + \frac{x - \frac{\pi}{4}}{\sqrt{2}} - \frac{\left(x - \frac{\pi}{4}\right)^2}{2\sqrt{2}} - \frac{\left(x - \frac{\pi}{4}\right)^3}{6\sqrt{2}} + \frac{\left(x - \frac{\pi}{4}\right)^4}{24\sqrt{2}} + \frac{\left(x - \frac{\pi}{4}\right)^5}{120\sqrt{2}} - \frac{\left(x - \frac{\pi}{4}\right)^6}{720\sqrt{2}} + O\left[x - \frac{\pi}{4}\right]^7$$

=====

- $f(x) = f(a) + f'(a)(x-a) + \frac{f''(a)}{2!}(x-a)^2 + \frac{f'''(a)}{3!}(x-a)^3 + \dots$

```
taylorPlus =
Normal[Series[y[x + h], {x, x, 2}]] (* Expands x+
  h in a Taylor series around the point x=x,
  up to the second order. Since (x+h)
  is a simple linear expression,
  there is no real expansion happening. ) *)
```

Series: Center point x of power series expansion involves the variable x.

Out[8]=

```
y[h + x]
```

```
In[9]:= taylorMinus = Normal[Series[y[x - h], {x, x, 2}]]
```

Series: Center point x of power series expansion involves the variable x.

Out[9]=

```
y[-0.01 + x]
```

■ Approximating the 2nd derivative of y with respect to x: $\frac{dy^2}{dx^2}$.

In[10]:=

```
Clear[h]
```

```
In[11]:= (*Define the Taylor series expansions for y(x+h) and y(x-h)*)
```

```
taylorPlus = Normal[Series[y[x + h], {x, x, 2}]];
```

```
taylorMinus = Normal[Series[y[x - h], {x, x, 2}]];
```

```
(*Compute the second derivative approximation*)
```

```
secondDerivativeApprox = (taylorPlus - 2 y[x] + taylorMinus) / h^2 // Simplify
```

```
(*Output should be an approximation for y''(x)*)
```

Series: Center point x of power series expansion involves the variable x.

Series: Center point x of power series expansion involves the variable x.

Out[11]=

```

$$\frac{-2 y[x] + y[-h + x] + y[h + x]}{h^2}$$

```

(* $\frac{-2 y[x] + y[-h + x] + y[h + x]}{h^2}$. This is the

approximation of $\frac{d^2 y}{dx^2}$ which is the second derivative of y with respect to x. *)

- Taylor's series: $f(x) = f(a) + f'(a)(x-a) + \frac{f''(a)}{2!}(x-a)^2 + \dots$ Substitute in the Taylor's series the following equations: (Expand about x_0 and approximate at $x_0 + a$.)

- Let $x = x_0 + a$ or $a = x - x_0$ then

- Eq. (1) $f(x_0 + a) = f(x_0) + f'(x_0)a + \frac{f''(x_0)}{2} a^2$ (up to order 2).

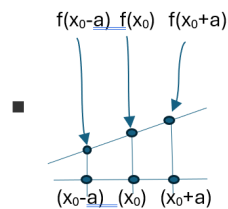
Similarly

- Eq. (2) $f(x_0 - a) = f(x_0) - f'(x_0)a + \frac{f''(x_0)}{2} a^2$

- Adding equations (1) and (2) we have

- $f(x_0 + a) + f(x_0 - a) = 2f(x_0) + f''(x_0) a^2$ or

- $\frac{f(x_0+a) - 2f(x_0) + f(x_0-a)}{a^2} = f''(x_0)$



- For the first derivative:

dy/dx . $f(x) = f(a) + f'(a)(x-a) + \frac{f''(a)}{2!}(x-a)^2 + \frac{f'''(a)}{3!}(x-a)^3 + \dots$ Remove the remainder $+\frac{f''(a)}{2!}(x-a)^2 + \frac{f'''(a)}{3!}(x-a)^3 + \dots$ from the Taylor's series.

- (1) $f(x_0 + a) = f(x_0) + f'(x_0)a$. Let point a be located on the right side of point of x_0 . And for a point a at the left side we have

- (2) $f(x_0 - a) = f(x_0) - f'(x_0)a$. Subtract equation (2) from equation (1) we have

- $f(x_0 + a) - f(x_0 - a) = 2f'(x_0)a$ or we have

- $f'(x_0) = \frac{f(x_0+a) - f(x_0-a)}{2a}$

- If x is at the center point then to the right the point is $(x + h)$ and to the left it is $(x - h)$ so

- $(x_0 + a) - (x_0 - a) = 2a$ (by central difference)

- Hence $f'(x_0) = \frac{f(x_0 + a) - f(x_0 - a)}{2a}$

```
In[*]:= (*Forward difference approximation
for the first derivative*)
taylorPlus = Normal[Series[y[x0 + a], {x, x, 1}]];
firstDerivativeForward =
(taylorPlus - y[x0]) / a // Simplify
```

 **Series:** Center point x of power series expansion involves the variable x .

```
Out[*]=

$$\frac{-y[x_0] + y[a + x_0]}{a}$$

```

```
In[*]:= (*Backward difference approximation
for the first derivative*)
taylorMinus = Normal[Series[y[x0 - a], {x, x, 1}]];
firstDerivativeBackward =
(y[x0] - taylorMinus) / h // Simplify
```

 **Series:** Center point x of power series expansion involves the variable x .

```
Out[*]=

$$\frac{y[x_0] - y[-a + x_0]}{h}$$

```

```

In[ ]:= (*Central difference approximation
        for the first derivative*)
taylorPlus = Normal[Series[y[x0 + a], {x, x, 2}]];
taylorMinus = Normal[Series[y[x0 - a], {x, x, 2}]];

firstDerivativeCentral =
  (taylorPlus - taylorMinus) / (2 a) // Simplify

```

... Series: Center point x of power series expansion involves the variable x.

... Series: Center point x of power series expansion involves the variable x.

Out[]=

$$\frac{-y[-a + x_0] + y[a + x_0]}{2 a}$$

- Taylor's series becomes Maclaurin's series at $x=0$.

Examples of Taylor Series

1. Exponential Function e^x around $x = 0$:

$$e^x = 1 + x + \frac{x^2}{2!} + \frac{x^3}{3!} + \dots$$

2. Sine Function $\sin x$ around $x = 0$:

$$\sin x = x - \frac{x^3}{3!} + \frac{x^5}{5!} - \frac{x^7}{7!} + \dots$$

3. Cosine Function $\cos x$ around $x = 0$:

$$\cos x = 1 - \frac{x^2}{2!} + \frac{x^4}{4!} - \frac{x^6}{6!} + \dots$$

Why Use Taylor Series?

- Approximates complex functions with polynomials.
- Used in calculus, physics, and engineering for approximations.
- Forms the basis for Maclaurin series, which is a Taylor series at $a = 0$.

Series[Exp[x], {x, 0, 10}]

(* Maclaurin's series for exponent e^x up to the 10th derivative but there are only 11 terms. *)

Out[8]=

$$1 + x + \frac{x^2}{2} + \frac{x^3}{6} + \frac{x^4}{24} + \frac{x^5}{120} + \frac{x^6}{720} + \frac{x^7}{5040} + \frac{x^8}{40320} + \frac{x^9}{362880} + \frac{x^{10}}{3628800} + O[x]^{11}$$

Series[Cos[x], {x, 0, 10}]

(* Maclaurin's series for cos(x) up to the 10th derivative but there are only 6 terms. *)

Out[9]=

$$1 - \frac{x^2}{2} + \frac{x^4}{24} - \frac{x^6}{720} + \frac{x^8}{40320} - \frac{x^{10}}{3628800} + O[x]^{11}$$

In[]:=

Series[Sin[x], {x, 0, 10}] (* Maclaurin's series for sin(x) up to 9th derivative. *)

Out[]:=

$$x - \frac{x^3}{6} + \frac{x^5}{120} - \frac{x^7}{5040} + \frac{x^9}{362880} + O[x]^{11}$$

Out[]:=

$$x - \frac{x^3}{6} + \frac{x^5}{120} - \frac{x^7}{5040} + \frac{x^9}{362880} + O[x]^{11}$$

■

■ REVIEW

Taylor's Approximation for the First Derivative

To approximate the first derivative $f'(x)$, we use Taylor series expansion.

1. Forward Difference Approximation

Expanding $f(x + h)$ using Taylor series at x :

$$f(x + h) = f(x) + hf'(x) + \frac{h^2}{2!}f''(x) + \frac{h^3}{3!}f'''(x) + \dots$$

Ignoring higher-order terms and solving for $f'(x)$:

$$f'(x) \approx \frac{f(x + h) - f(x)}{h} + O(h)$$

This is the forward difference approximation.

- Express $f'(x)$ in terms of the other variables and divide the result by h .

2. Backward Difference Approximation

Expanding $f(x - h)$:

$$f(x - h) = f(x) - hf'(x) + \frac{h^2}{2!}f''(x) - \frac{h^3}{3!}f'''(x) + \dots$$

Solving for $f'(x)$:

$$f'(x) \approx \frac{f(x) - f(x - h)}{h} + \mathcal{O}(h)$$

This is the **backward difference approximation**.

3. Central Difference Approximation (More Accurate)

Using both **forward** and **backward** approximations:

$$f(x + h) = f(x) + hf'(x) + \frac{h^2}{2}f''(x) + \mathcal{O}(h^3)$$

$$f(x - h) = f(x) - hf'(x) + \frac{h^2}{2}f''(x) + \mathcal{O}(h^3)$$

Subtracting these:

$$f(x + h) - f(x - h) = 2hf'(x) + \mathcal{O}(h^3)$$

Solving for $f'(x)$:

$$f'(x) \approx \frac{f(x + h) - f(x - h)}{2h} + \mathcal{O}(h^2)$$

This is the **central difference approximation**, which is more accurate because the error is $\mathcal{O}(h^2)$ instead of $\mathcal{O}(h)$.

- Divide by h also. $\mathcal{O}[h]$ is the order of accuracy.
- Taylor's approximation for the first derivative:

```

In[ ]:= h = 0.01;
f[x_] := Sin[x];

forwardDiff[x_] := (Sin[x + h] - Sin[x]) / h;
backwardDiff[x_] := (Sin[x] - Sin[x - h]) / h;
centralDiff[x_] := (Sin[x + h] - Sin[x - h]) / (2 h);

results = {forwardDiff[Pi / 4], backwardDiff[Pi / 4], centralDiff[Pi / 4]};
results

```

```

Out[ ]=
{0.703559, 0.710631, 0.707095}

```

D[Sin[x], x] /. x → $\pi / 4$ //

**N(* Actual value for f'($\pi/4$). Central
difference approximation is more accurate. *)**

```

Out[ ]=
0.707107

```

The central difference method is a more accurate approximation compared to forward or backward difference methods because it has a **lower truncation error** in its Taylor series expansion. Here's why:

1. Error Order Analysis (Truncation Error)

- Forward difference:

$$f'(x) \approx \frac{f(x+h) - f(x)}{h} \quad (\text{First-order accurate: } O(h))$$

- Backward difference:

$$f'(x) \approx \frac{f(x) - f(x-h)}{h} \quad (\text{First-order accurate: } O(h))$$

- Central difference:

$$f'(x) \approx \frac{f(x+h) - f(x-h)}{2h} \quad (\text{Second-order accurate: } O(h^2))$$

Since the central difference has an $O(h^2)$ error, it means that as h decreases, the error reduces much faster than in the forward or backward difference methods, which have only $O(h)$ error.

2. Taylor Series Justification

Expanding $f(x + h)$ and $f(x - h)$ using Taylor series:

$$f(x + h) = f(x) + hf'(x) + \frac{h^2}{2}f''(x) + O(h^3)$$

$$f(x - h) = f(x) - hf'(x) + \frac{h^2}{2}f''(x) - O(h^3)$$

Subtracting these equations:

$$f(x + h) - f(x - h) = 2hf'(x) + O(h^3)$$

Dividing by $2h$:

$$f'(x) = \frac{f(x + h) - f(x - h)}{2h} + O(h^2)$$

Since the error term is $O(h^2)$, it is smaller than the $O(h)$ error in forward and backward differences, making central difference more accurate.



3. Symmetry Advantage

- The forward and backward difference methods introduce an **asymmetry**, leading to larger error terms.
- The central difference method **balances errors** from both sides, reducing the impact of higher-order terms.

Conclusion

The **central difference method** is more accurate because:

1. It has a **smaller truncation error** ($O(h^2)$ instead of $O(h)$).
2. It leverages **symmetry**, which cancels out more error terms.
3. It provides a **better approximation** of the true derivative for small h .

- The central difference method balances errors from both sides, reducing the impact of higher-order terms: the second order terms $O[h]$ are cancelled and so it reduces the impact of higher order terms.

■ =====

- Taylor's approximation for the second derivative:

Taylor's Approximation for the Second Derivative

Using Taylor series expansion, the second derivative $f''(x)$ can be approximated using finite differences.

Derivation from Taylor Series

Expanding $f(x)$ around x using Taylor series:

$$f(x+h) = f(x) + hf'(x) + \frac{h^2}{2!}f''(x) + \frac{h^3}{3!}f'''(x) + \mathcal{O}(h^4)$$

$$f(x-h) = f(x) - hf'(x) + \frac{h^2}{2!}f''(x) - \frac{h^3}{3!}f'''(x) + \mathcal{O}(h^4)$$

Adding these two equations cancels out the odd-order terms:

$$f(x+h) + f(x-h) = 2f(x) + h^2 f''(x) + \mathcal{O}(h^4)$$

↓

Solving for $f''(x)$:

- By adding $f(x+h)$ and $f(x-h)$ and dividing both sides by h^2 we have $f''(x)$ equivalence

$$f''(x) \approx \frac{f(x+h) - 2f(x) + f(x-h)}{h^2} + \mathcal{O}(h^2)$$

Final Approximation (Central Difference Formula)

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

- Order of accuracy: $\mathcal{O}(h^2)$ (second-order accurate).
- Most commonly used method for numerical second derivatives.

- Example of &/@ and #

```
In[*]:= (*Using/@to apply squaring to each element*)
squaredList = #^2 & /@ {1, 2, 3, 4, 5}
```

```
Out[*]=
{1, 4, 9, 16, 25}
```

- =====
- Example of order of accuracy which is equal to 2: $O[h^2]$

```

In[ ]:= (*Define the function*) f[x_] := Sin[x]

(*Compute the exact second derivative at x0=π/4*)
x0 = Pi / 4;
trueValue = D[f[x], {x, 2}] /. x → x0

(*Define the finite difference approximation for f''(x)*)
finiteDifferenceSecondDerivative[x_, h_] :=
  (f[x - h] - 2 f[x] + f[x + h]) / h^2

(*Choose step sizes*)
hValues = {0.1, 0.05, 0.01};

(*Compute approximations and errors*)
approximations =
  finiteDifferenceSecondDerivative[x0, #] & /@ hValues;
errors = Abs[trueValue - #] & /@ approximations;

(*Display results in a table*)
TableForm[
  Transpose[{hValues, approximations, errors}], TableHeadings →
    {None, {"h", "Approximate f''(x0)", "Absolute Error"}}]
(* Absolute Error = |Actual Value - FiniteDifferenceSecondDerivative| *)

```

Out[]:=

$$-\frac{1}{\sqrt{2}}$$

Out[]//TableForm=

h	Approximate f''(x0)	Absolute Error
0.1	-0.706518	0.000589059
0.05	-0.706959	0.000147302
0.01	-0.707101	5.89253×10^{-6}

In[]:=

**D[Sin[x], {x, 2}] /.
x → π / 4 (* Second derivative of
sin(x) with respect to x. *)**

Out[]=

$$-\frac{1}{\sqrt{2}}$$

■ =====

- Order of accuracy is 2: Reducing $h = 0.1$ to $h/2 = 0.05$ reduces the absolute error to $0.000589059/4 \approx 0.000147302$ since the error decreases quadratically as h gets smaller (order of accuracy is 2). That is by reducing h to $h/2$, error is also reduced to $\frac{\text{Error}}{2^2}$. The error term is $O[h^2]$.

In[]:=

**f[x_, h_] := $\frac{\text{Sin}[x + h] - 2 * \text{Sin}[x] + \text{Sin}[x - h]}{h^2}$;
f[π / 4, 0.1]**

Out[]=

-0.706518

Out[33]//TableForm=

h	Approximate f''(x0)	Absolute Error
0.1	-0.706518	0.000589059
0.05	-0.706959	0.000147302
0.01	-0.707101	5.89253×10^{-6}

In[]:=

f[π / 4, 0.05] // N

Out[]=

-0.706959

In[]:=

f[π / 4, 0.01]

Out[]=

-0.707101

Out[33]//TableForm=

h	Approximate f''(x0)	Absolute Error
0.1	-0.706518	0.000589059
0.05	-0.706959	0.000147302
0.01	-0.707101	5.89253×10^{-6}

```
In[ ]:=
```

```
Abs[-Sin[ $\pi$ /4]] - Abs[f[ $\pi$ /4, 0.1]] (* Error 1 *)
```

```
Out[ ]:=
```

```
0.000589059
```

```
In[ ]:=
```

```
Abs[-Sin[ $\pi$ /4]] - Abs[f[ $\pi$ /4, 0.05]]
(* Error 2  $\approx \frac{\text{Error 1}}{4}$  *)
```

```
Out[ ]:=
```

```
0.000147302
```

```
Out[33]//TableForm=
```

h	Approximate f''(x0)	Absolute Error
0.1	-0.706518	0.000589059
0.05	-0.706959	0.000147302
0.01	-0.707101	5.89253×10^{-6}

```
Abs[-Sin[ $\pi$ /4]] - Abs[f[ $\pi$ /4, 0.01]]
(* Error 3. It further reduces
the absolute error because the
step size is further reduced. *)
```

```
Out[ ]:=
```

```
 $5.89253 \times 10^{-6}$ 
```

```
■ =====
```

```
■ Approximation of  $e^x$  with step size equal to 0.01:
```

```
In[ ]:=
```

```
Clear[x]
```



```
In[*]:= (*Define step size*) h = 0.01;
```

```
(*Define function*)
```

```
f[x_] := Exp[x]; (*Example function*)
```

```
(*Second Derivative Approximation*)
```

```
secondDerivative[x_] :=
```

```
(Exp[x + h] - 2 * Exp[x] + Exp[x - h]) / h^2;
```

```
(*Evaluate at  $x=\pi/4$ *)
```

```
secondDerivative[Pi / 4]
```

```
Out[*]=
```

```
2.1933
```

```
In[*]:=
```

```
D[Exp[x], {x, 2}] /. x → Pi / 4 //
```

```
N (* Actual value *)
```

```
Out[*]=
```

```
2.19328
```