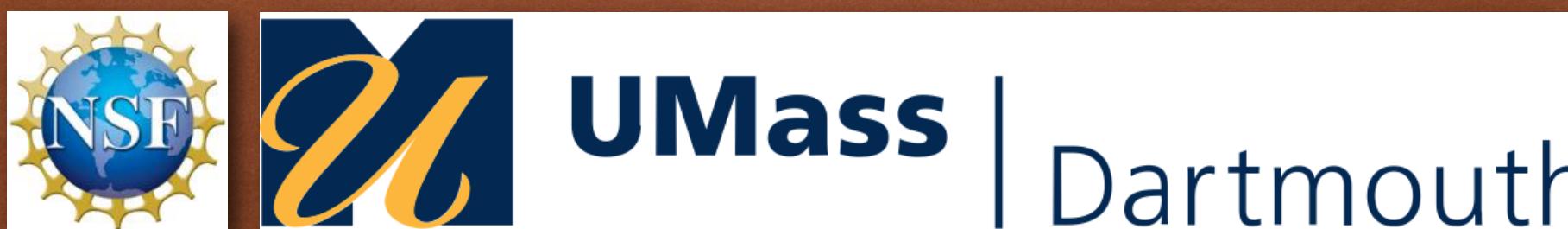


AN ACCOMPLISH PROJECT MODULE

THE TANGENT APPROXIMATION PYTHON APP:  
VISUALIZING THE NUMERICAL  
APPROXIMATION OF THE DERIVATIVE

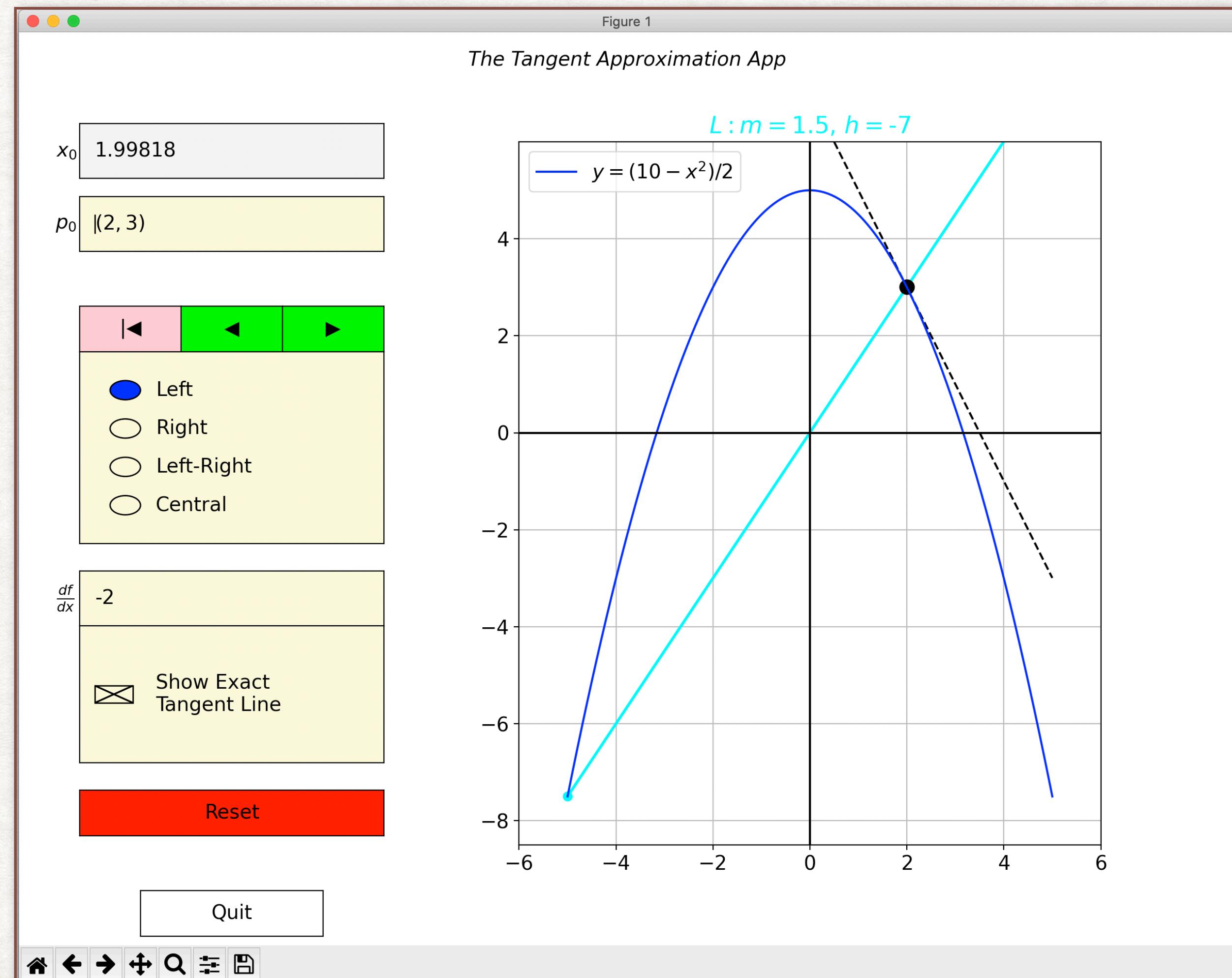
Prof. Adam Hausknecht



# THE APPROXIMATION OF THE DERIVATIVE 2/25

## Goals:

- Learn how to numerically approximate the derivative of a function at a point
- Complete a Python app that uses secants to visually approximate the tangent line at a point on the graph of a function
- Learn about and practice using the Python mathematical packages ***matplotlib, numpy, and scipy***
- Learn how to create a Python package or library which can be imported by other Python programs



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# THE APPROXIMATION OF THE DERIVATIVE 3/25

## Mathematical Background

- Recall that if  $I = (a, b) \subset \mathbb{R}$  is an open interval and  $f$  is a real-valued function defined on  $I$ , then the derivative of  $f$  at  $x = x_0 \in I$  is defined by

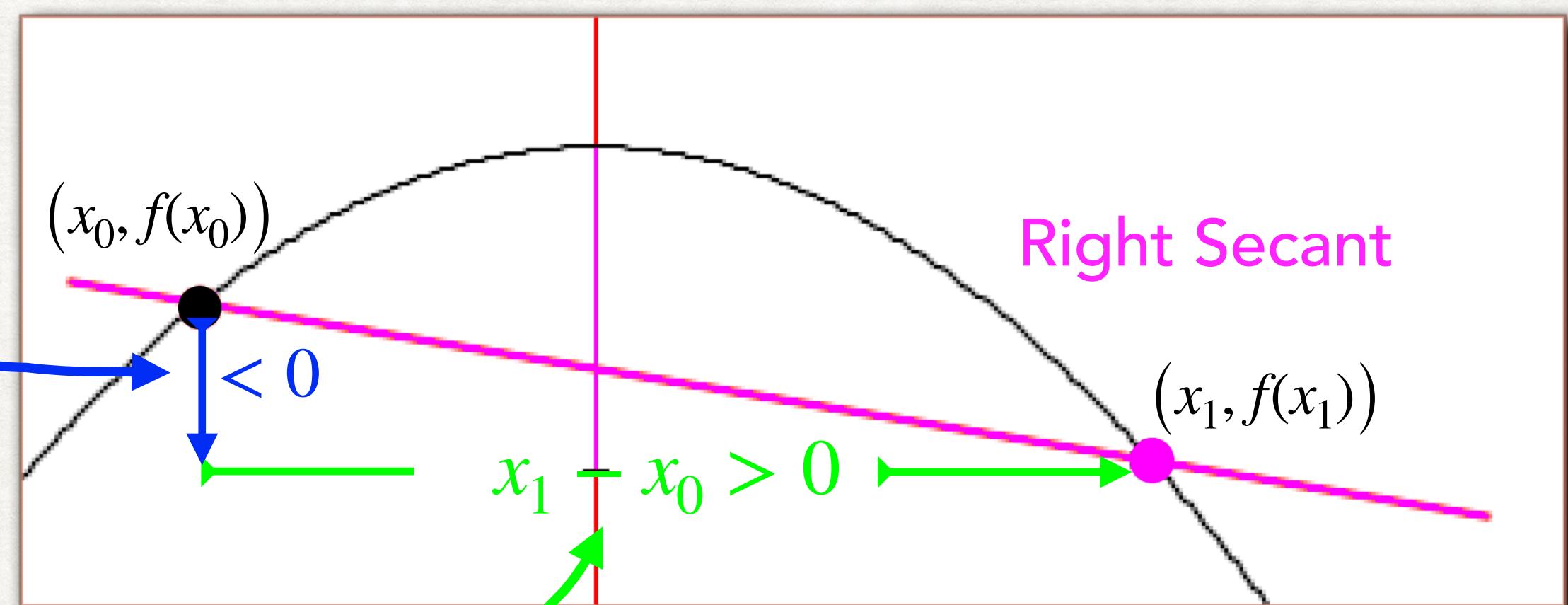
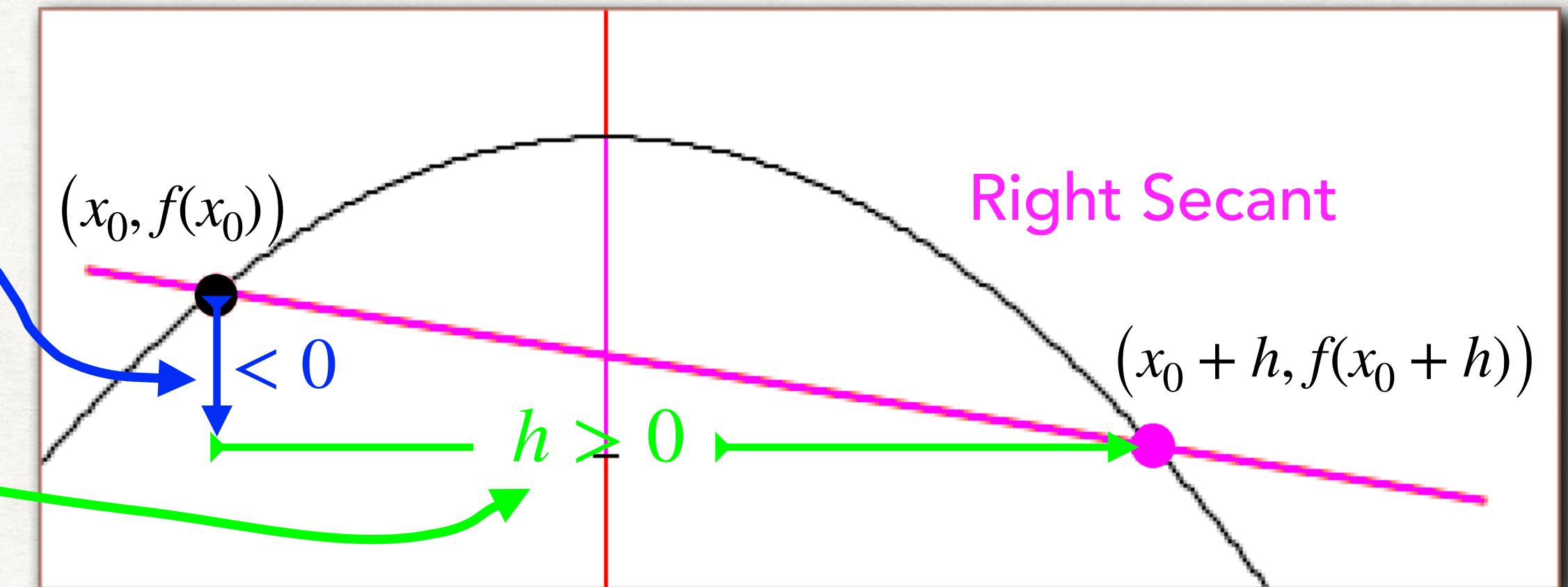
$$\frac{df}{dx}(x_0) = \lim_{h \rightarrow 0} \frac{f(x_0 + h) - f(x_0)}{h}$$

provided the limit exists.

- Notice that if  $x_1 = x_0 + h$ , then  $h = x_1 - x_0$  and  $f(x_0 + h) = f(x_1)$ . Thus, this limit can be expressed as

$$\frac{df}{dx}(x_0) = \lim_{x_1 \rightarrow x_0} \frac{f(x_1) - f(x_0)}{x_1 - x_0}$$

provided the limit exists.



# THE APPROXIMATION OF THE DERIVATIVE 4/25

## Remarks

- You shouldn't assume  $h$  in limit is always **positive**.

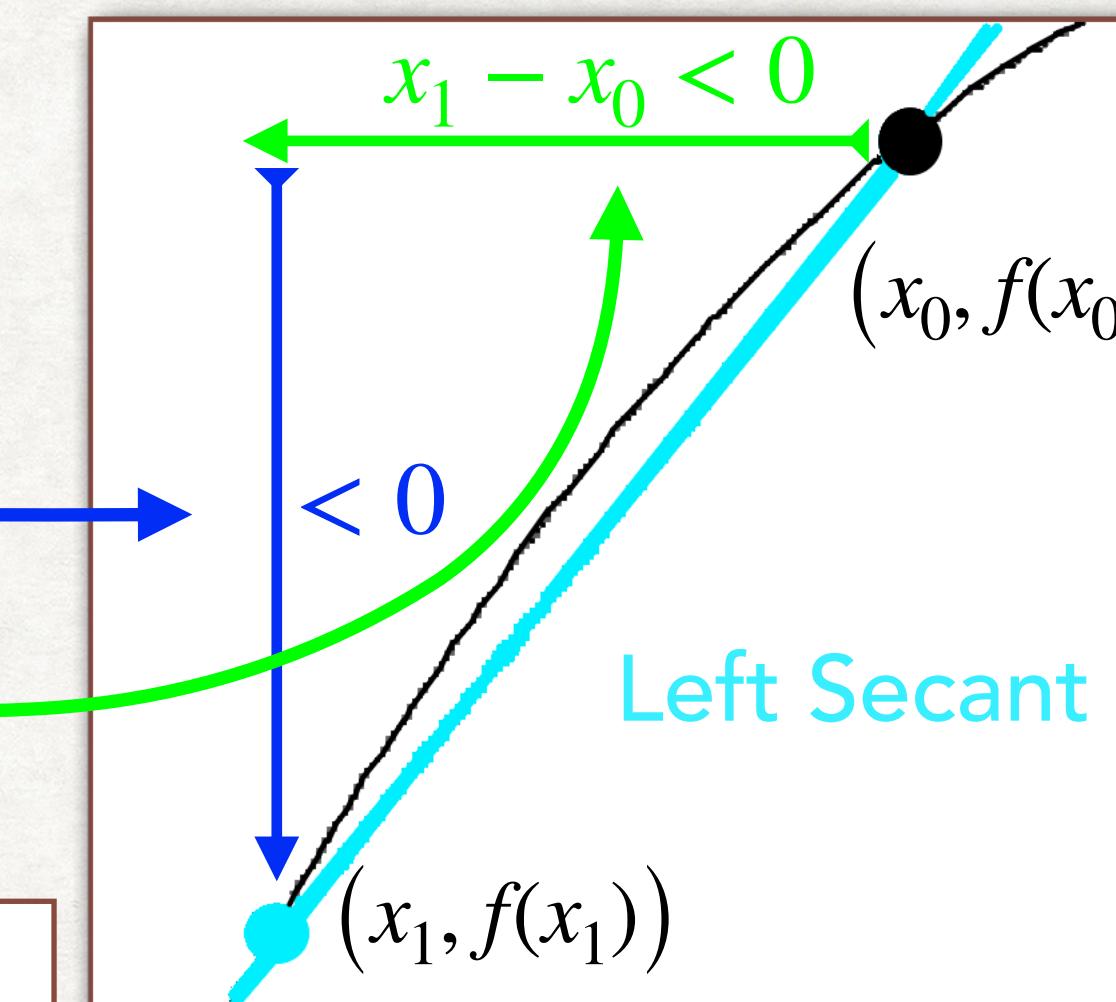
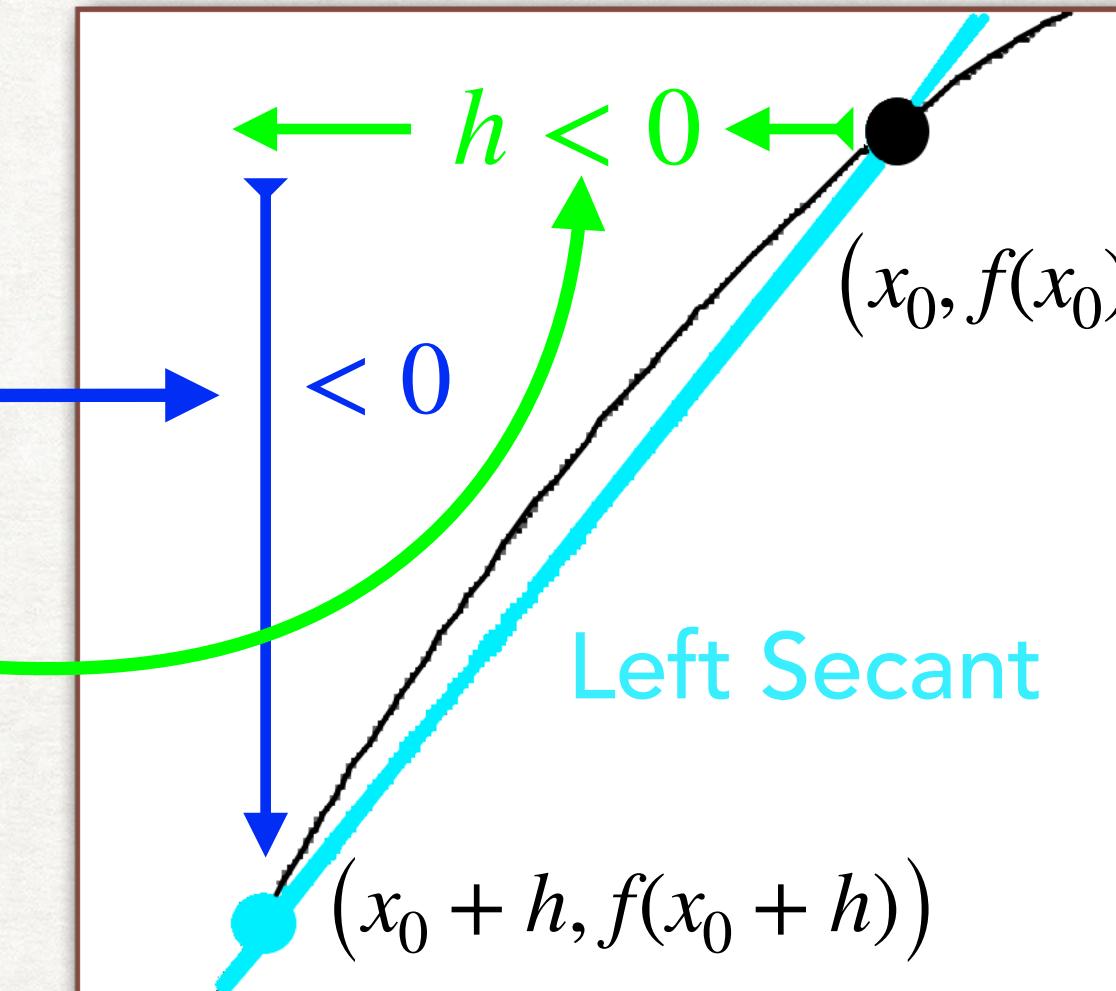
$$\frac{df}{dx}(x_0) = \lim_{h \rightarrow 0} \frac{f(x_0 + h) - f(x_0)}{h}$$

$$\frac{f(x_0 + h) - f(x_0)}{h} = \text{slope of the secant} > 0$$

- Similarly, you shouldn't assume  $x_1$  in the limit is always to the **right** of  $x_0$

$$\frac{df}{dx}(x_0) = \lim_{x_1 \rightarrow x_0} \frac{f(x_1) - f(x_0)}{x_1 - x_0}$$

$$\frac{f(x_1) - f(x_0)}{x_1 - x_0} = \text{slope of the secant} > 0$$



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# THE APPROXIMATION OF THE DERIVATIVE 5/25

## Remarks

- If  $h$  is small negative or positive, then

$$\frac{df}{dx}(x_0) \approx \frac{f(x_0 + h) - f(x_0)}{h} = \text{slope of secant}$$

Thus, we can use the **left** and **right** secants to approximate the tangent line at  $(x_0, f(x_0))$  and their slopes to approximate  $\frac{df}{dx}(x_0)$ .

- If we **average** the left and right slopes, we get a better approximation of  $\frac{df}{dx}(1.5)$ :

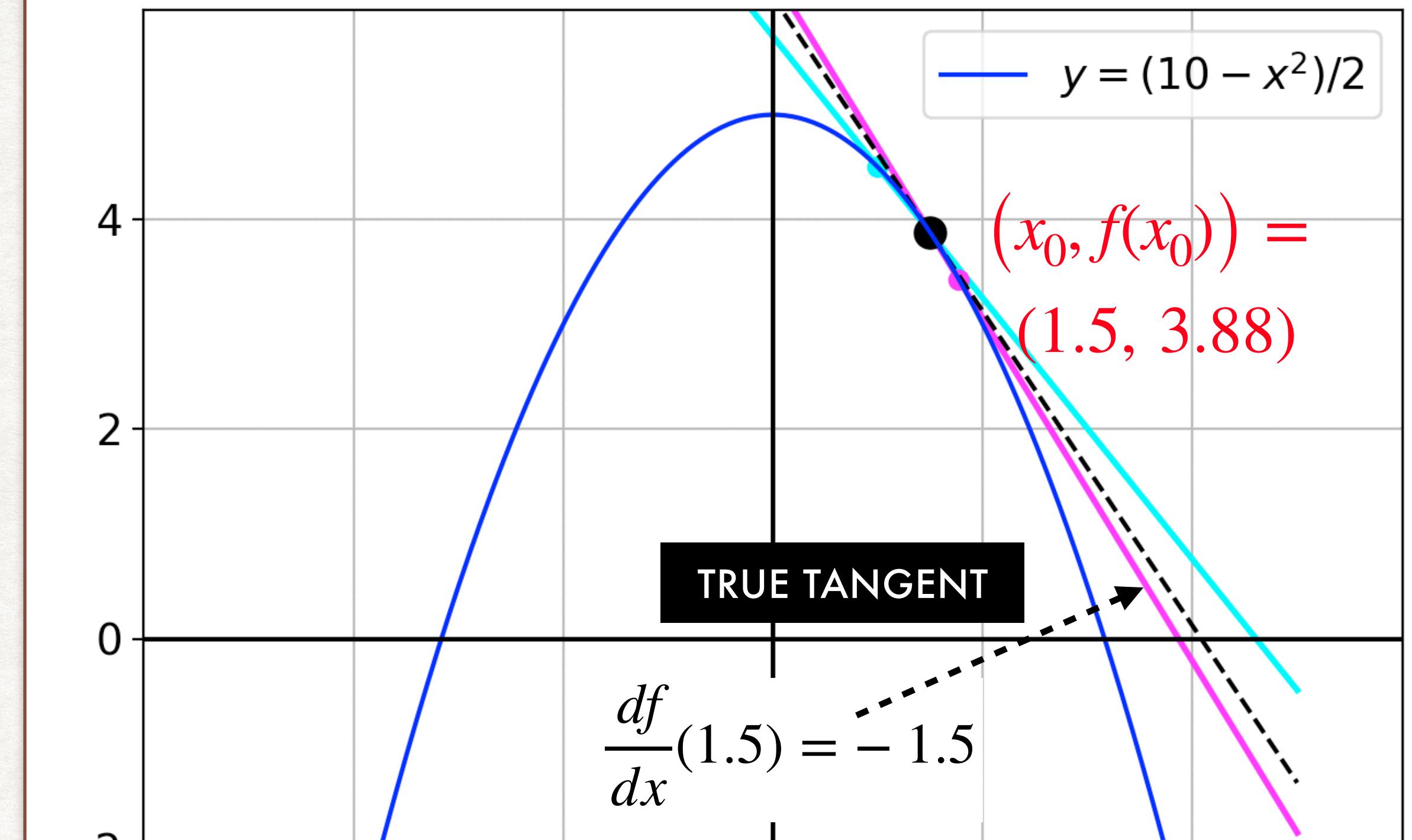
$$m_{AVE} = \frac{m_L + m_R}{2} = \frac{-1.25 + (-1.64)}{2} \approx -1.44$$

The Tangent Approximation App

$$m_L = -1.25, h_L = -0.505$$

$$m_R = -1.64, h_R = 0.272$$

$$\Rightarrow m_{AVE} \approx -1.44$$



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# THE APPROXIMATION OF THE DERIVATIVE 6/25

## Remarks

- If we assume  $h > 0$  is small, and  $h_L = -h$ ,  $h_R = h$

$$\frac{df}{dx}(x_0) \approx \frac{1}{2} \left( \frac{f(x_0 + h_L) - f(x_0)}{h_L} + \frac{f(x_0 + h_R) - f(x_0)}{h_R} \right)$$

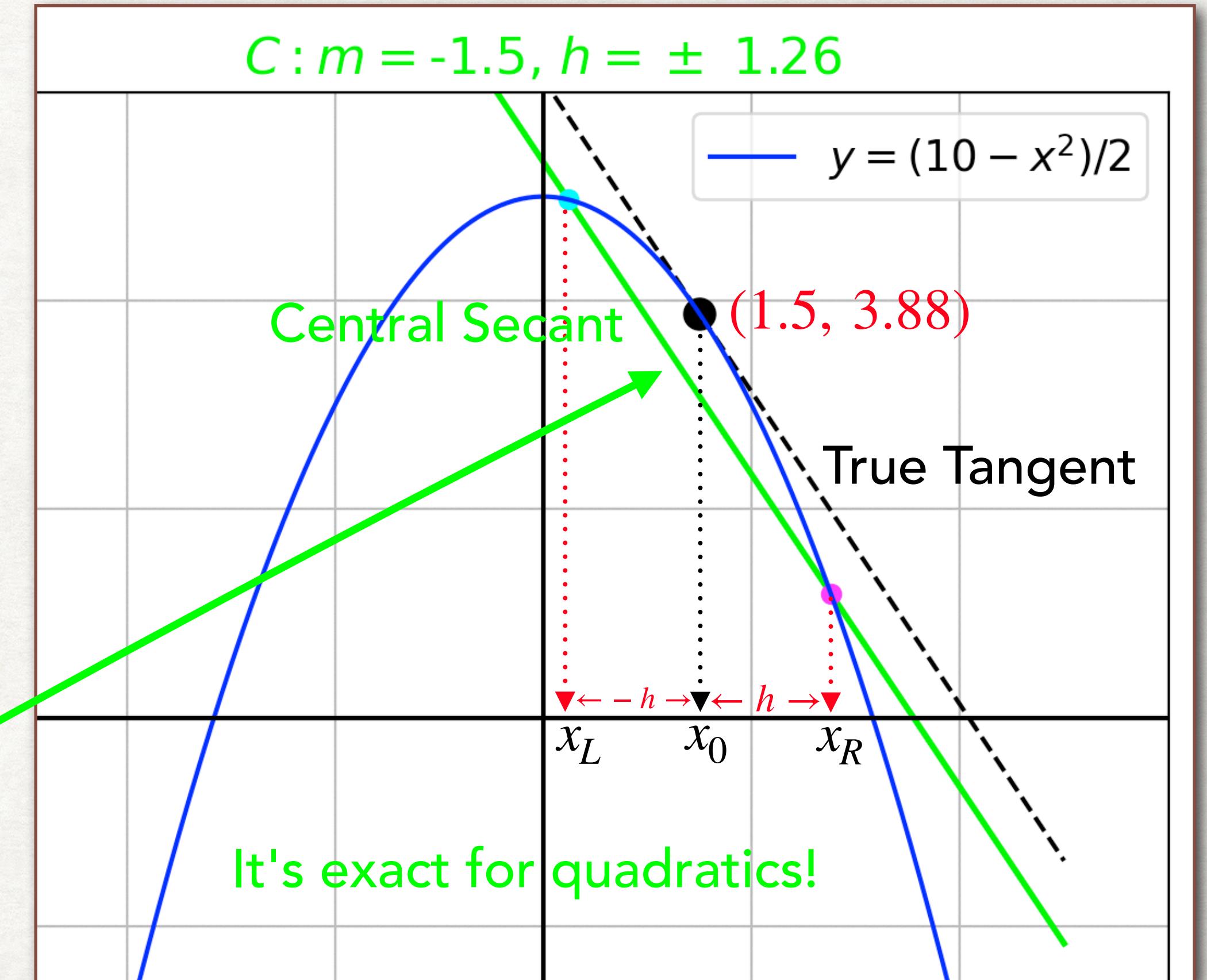
$$\approx \frac{1}{2} \left( \frac{f(x_0 - h) - f(x_0)}{-h} + \frac{f(x_0 + h) - f(x_0)}{h} \right)$$

$$\approx \frac{1}{2h} \left( f(\cancel{x_0}) - f(x_0 - h) + f(x_0 + h) - f(\cancel{x_0}) \right)$$

$$\approx \frac{f(x_0 + h) - f(x_0 - h)}{2h}$$

- $\frac{df}{dx}(x_0) \approx \frac{f(x_0 + h) - f(x_0 - h)}{2h}$  is called the **Central Difference** or **Three-Endpoint** derivative

approximation for  $\frac{df}{dx}(x_0)$ .

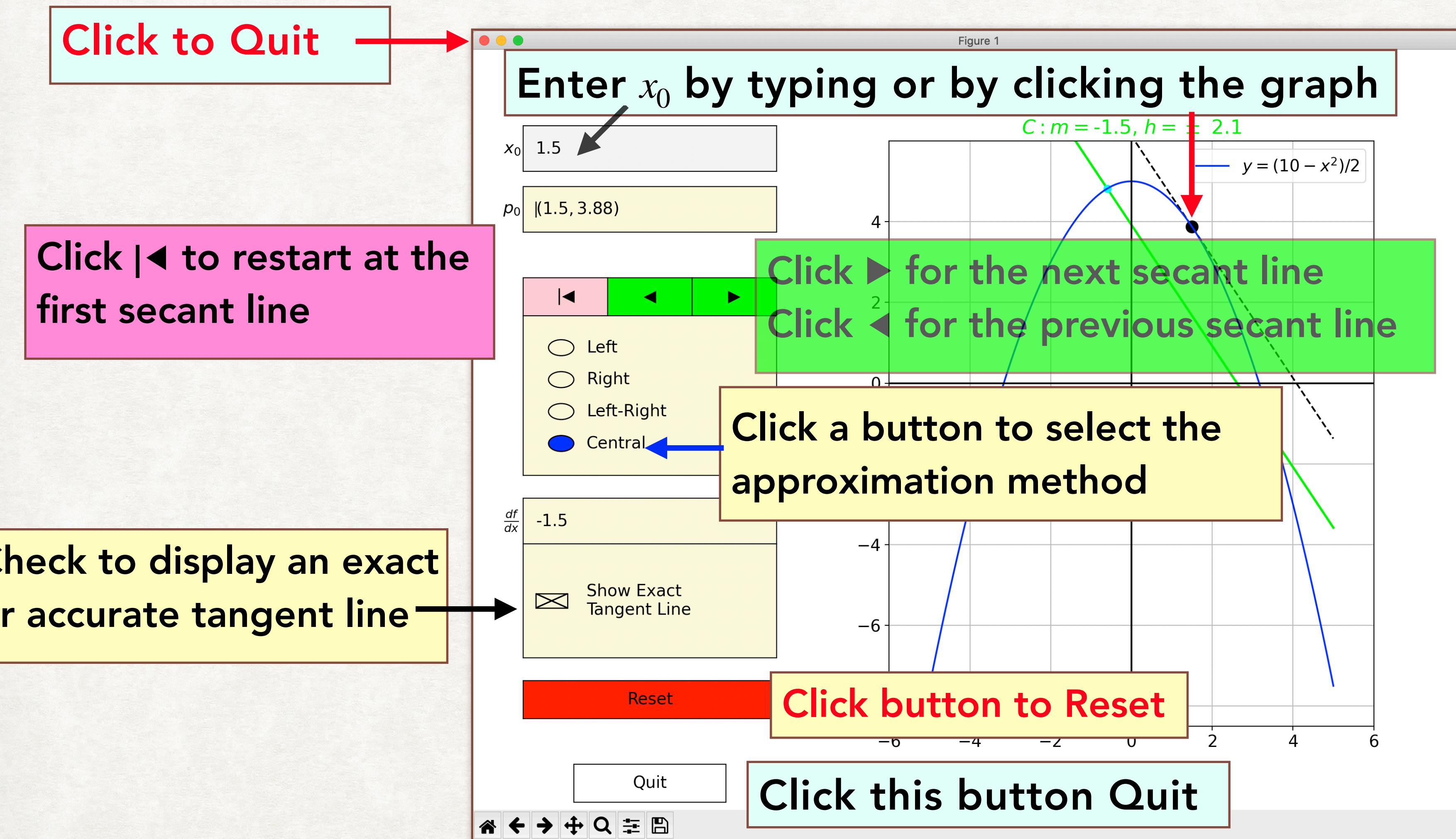


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# THE APPROXIMATION OF THE DERIVATIVE 7/25

## Tangent Approximation App GUI



# THE APPROXIMATION OF THE DERIVATIVE 8/25

## Completing the Tangent Approximation App

- To complete this project, you will need learn
  1. How to use Python functions including **lambda** functions.
  2. How to use Python **lists** and **tuples**.
  3. How to create numpy **arrays** from lists and from numpy's **linspace** function.
  4. How to evaluate mathematical expressions using numpy's **arrays** and numpy's mathematical function library the includes special versions of **abs**, **trig** and **other** functions.
  5. How to use matplotlib's **axis** object to plot function including how to label the function.
  6. How to use Python's **try-except** statement used to write test functions for the app.



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# THE APPROXIMATION OF THE DERIVATIVE 9/25

## Completing the Tangent Approximation App: Documentation & References

- The code was developed using the Anaconda Python 3 Distribution

<https://www.anaconda.com/products/individual>

the includes the packages **matplotlib**, **numpy**, **scipy**

<https://scipy.org>

- There are numerous online sites **matplotlib**, **numpy**, and **scipy**

documentation, examples, tutorials and help

- The Anaconda Python Distribution also includes the **Spyder IDE**

<https://www.spyder-ide.org>

- There are online Tutorials Videos for Spyder



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# THE APPROXIMATION OF THE DERIVATIVE 10/25

## Completing the Tangent Approximation App

- You will need to complete the following functions in `tangentApproximationStudentLib.py`
  1. `secantline(x:float, m:float, x0:float, y0:float) ->:float`
  2. `nextH(h:float)->float:`
  3. `generateLeftOrRightSecantSlopeAndPts(func, x0:float, y0:float, h:float, xMin:float, xMax:float)->Tuple:`
  4. `generateCentralSecantSlopeAndPts(func, x0: float, h:float, xMin:float, xMax:float)->tuple:`
  5. `plotTheFunction(axes, func, xMin:float, xMax:float, labelStr:str)-> tuple:`



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# THE APPROXIMATION OF THE DERIVATIVE 11/25

## Completing the Tangent Approximation App: The Library Part 1

```
1 import numpy as np
2
3 def secantline(x:float, m:float, x0:float, y0:float) -> float:
4     """For x, the corresponding y-value of the secant line passing through
5     (x0, y0) of slope m is calculated and returned."""
6
7     #Add code here!
8     return # The y-value corresponding to x
9
10 def nextH(h:float) -> float:
11     """The next value of h = Δx is 60% of its previous value."""
12
13     #Add your code here!
14     return # the next value of h
15
16 def generateLeftOrRightSecantSlopeAndPts(func, x0:float, y0:float,
17                                             h:float, xMin:float, xMax:float) -> tuple:
18     """Using the test function func, x0, y0, and h = Δx, the values of x1, y1
19     and the slope m of the secant line through (x0,y0) and (x1,y1) are
20     calculated. Using func, m, x0 and y0, the xValues array and yValues
21     array needed to plot the the secant are also generated. The results
22     are returned as the tuple (m, x1, y1, xValues, yValues)."""
23
24     #Add your code here!
25     return #(m, x1, y1, xValues, yValues)
```



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# THE APPROXIMATION OF THE DERIVATIVE 12/25

## Completing the Tangent Approximation App: The Library Part 2

```
28 def generateCentralSecantSlopeAndPts(func, x0: float,
29 ..... h: float, xMin: float, xMax: float) -> tuple:
30 ..... """Using the test function func, x0, and h = Δx, the left (xL, yL)
31 ..... and right (xR, yR) central-secant points are calculated. The slope
32 ..... m of the central-secant through these points is also found. Using
33 ..... m and the points, the xValues array and yValues array needed to plot
34 ..... the central-secant are also generated. The results are returned
35 ..... as the tuple (m, xL, yL, xR, yR, xValues, yValues)."""
36
37 ..... #Add your code here!
38 ..... return #(m, xL, yL, xR, yR, xValues, yValues)
39
40
41 def plotTheFunction(axes, func, xMin: float, xMax: float, labelStr: str) -> tuple:
42 ..... """Use the axes to plot the function func over the domain [xMin, xMax].
43 ..... To do this, 300 x-values and y-values must be generated for the
44 ..... plot. The labelStr is used to label the plot."""
45
46 ..... #Add your code here!
47 ..... return # the minimum and the maximum of the calculated y-values
48
```

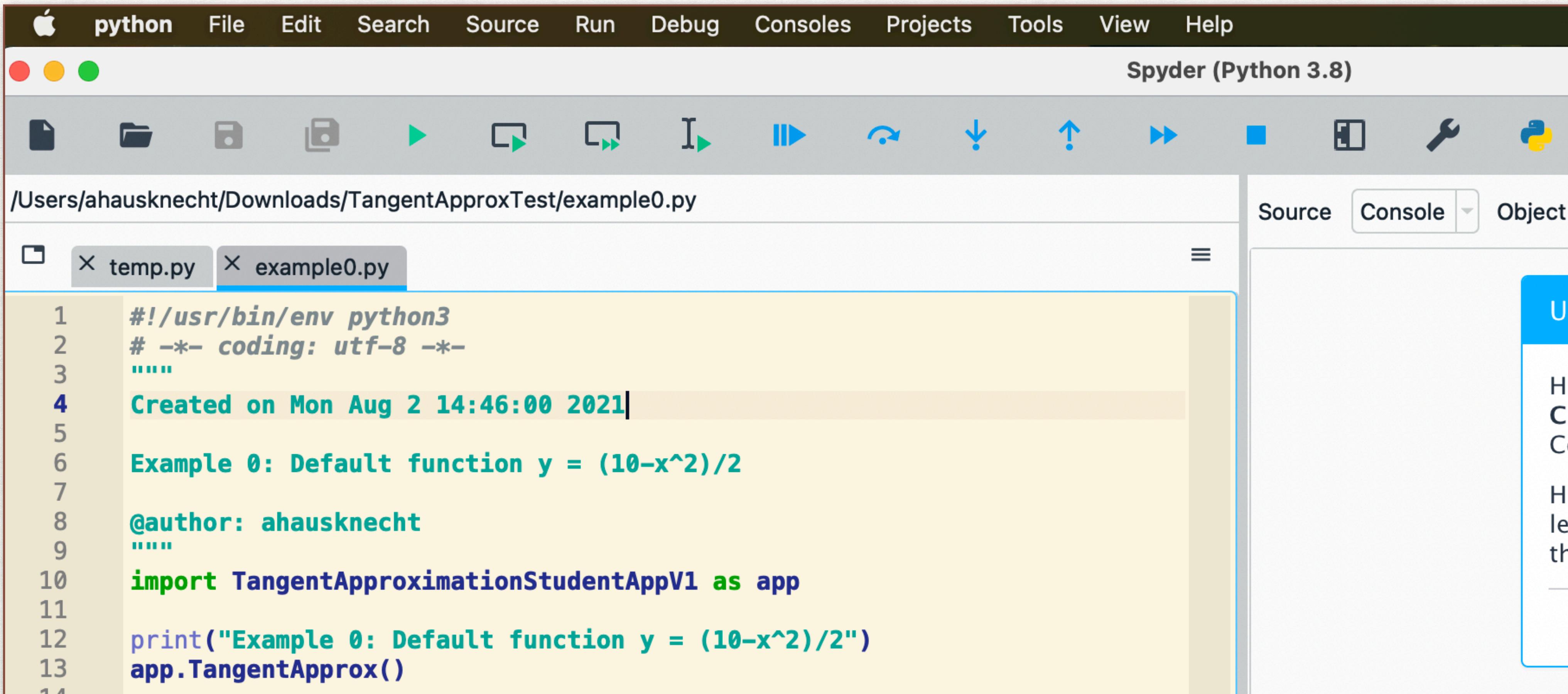


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# THE APPROXIMATION OF THE DERIVATIVE 13/25

Running the Completed App from Spyder:



The screenshot shows the Spyder Python IDE interface. The title bar reads "Spyder (Python 3.8)". The menu bar includes File, Edit, Search, Source, Run, Debug, Consoles, Projects, Tools, View, and Help. Below the menu is a toolbar with various icons for file operations like Open, Save, and Run. The main area shows a code editor with the file path "/Users/ahausknecht/Downloads/TangentApproxTest/example0.py". The code content is as follows:

```
1 #!/usr/bin/env python3
2 # -*- coding: utf-8 -*-
3 """
4 Created on Mon Aug 2 14:46:00 2021
5
6 Example 0: Default function y = (10-x^2)/2
7
8 @author: ahausknecht
9 """
10 import TangentApproximationStudentAppV1 as app
11
12 print("Example 0: Default function y = (10-x^2)/2")
13 app.TangentApprox()
```

- Spyder 5.0.5 with example0.py



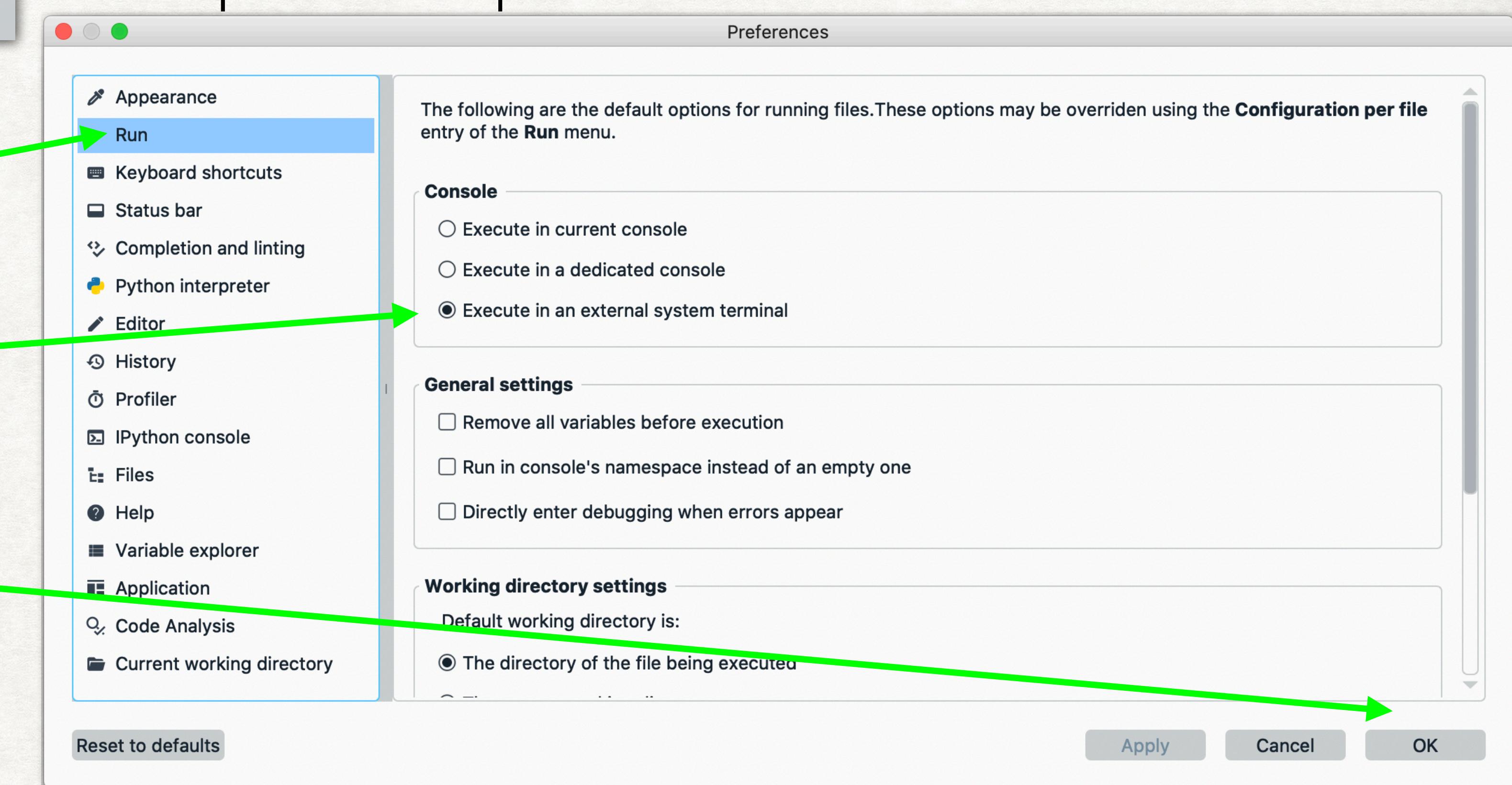
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# THE APPROXIMATION OF THE DERIVATIVE 14/25

## Running the Completed App from Spyder:

- To avoid a Spyder bug, we need to change **Spyder's default Run setting**. To do this click the Wrench Preferences icon  at the top which will open the **Preferences** window shown below:
- Click the **Run** button to display the run settings
- Select "**Execute in an external system terminal**" option.
- Click the "**Apply**" and "**OK**" buttons to change to the new setting and close the preferences window.



# THE APPROXIMATION OF THE DERIVATIVE 15/25

## Running the Completed App from Spyder

- Both the `tangentApproximationAppV1.py` and `tangentApproximationStudentLib.py` must be in the same directory.
- Create the following short program in the file `example0.py` the same directory as `tangentApproximationAppV1.py` and `tangentApproximationStudentLib.py`.
  - Click the Run ➤ icon to run `example0.py` in external terminal.



```
/Users/ahausknecht/Desktop/TangentApproxTest/example0.py

untitled0.py example1.py example2.py example3.py example4.py example5.py

1 #!/usr/bin/env python3
2 # -*- coding: utf-8 -*-
3 #
4 Created on Mon Aug 2 14:46:00 2021
5
6 Example 0: Default function y = (10-x^2)/2
7
8 @author: ahausknecht
9
10 import tangentApproximationAppV1 as app
11
12 print("Example 0: Default function y = (10-x^2)/2")
13 app.TangentApprox()
```



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# THE APPROXIMATION OF THE DERIVATIVE 16/25

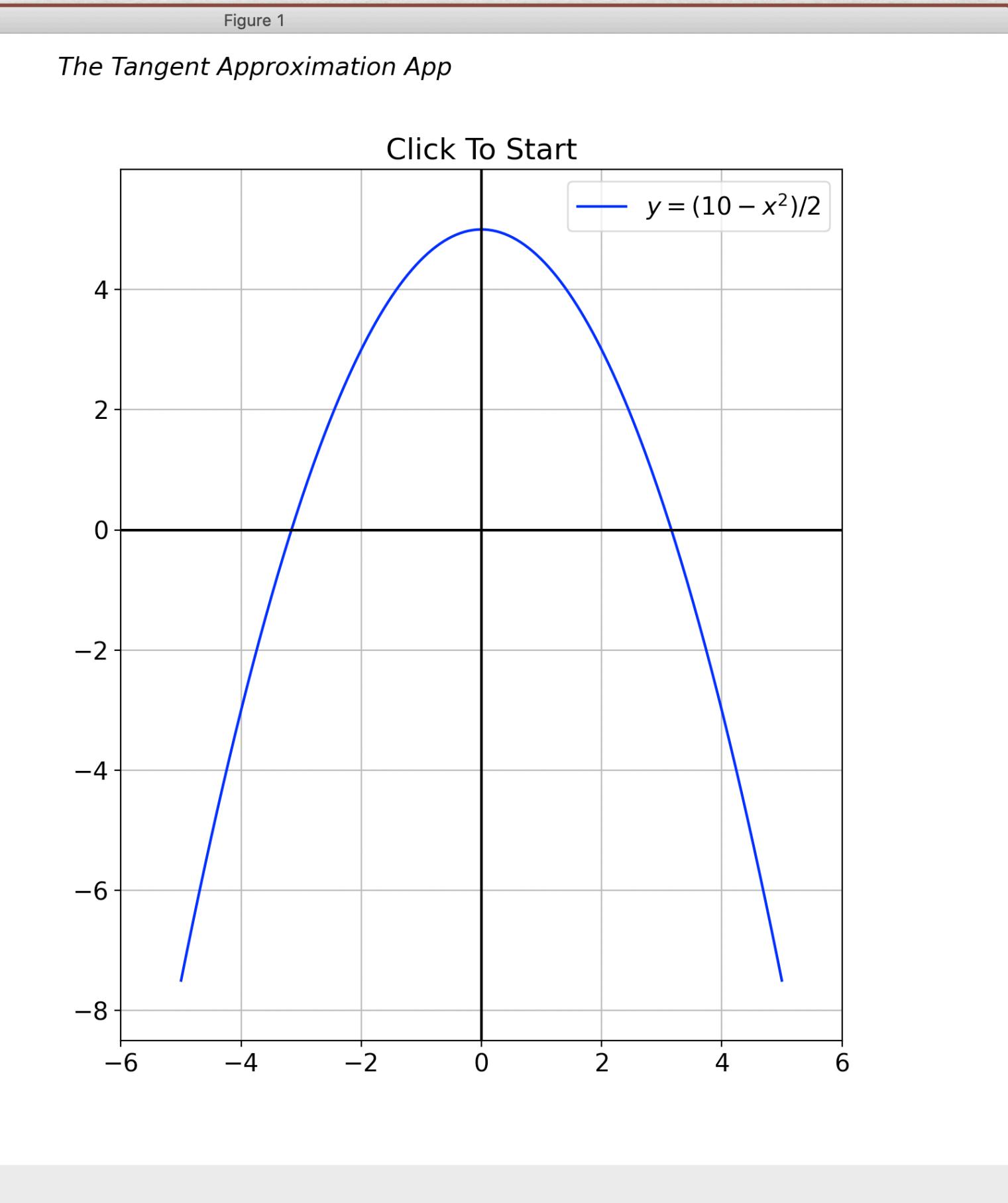
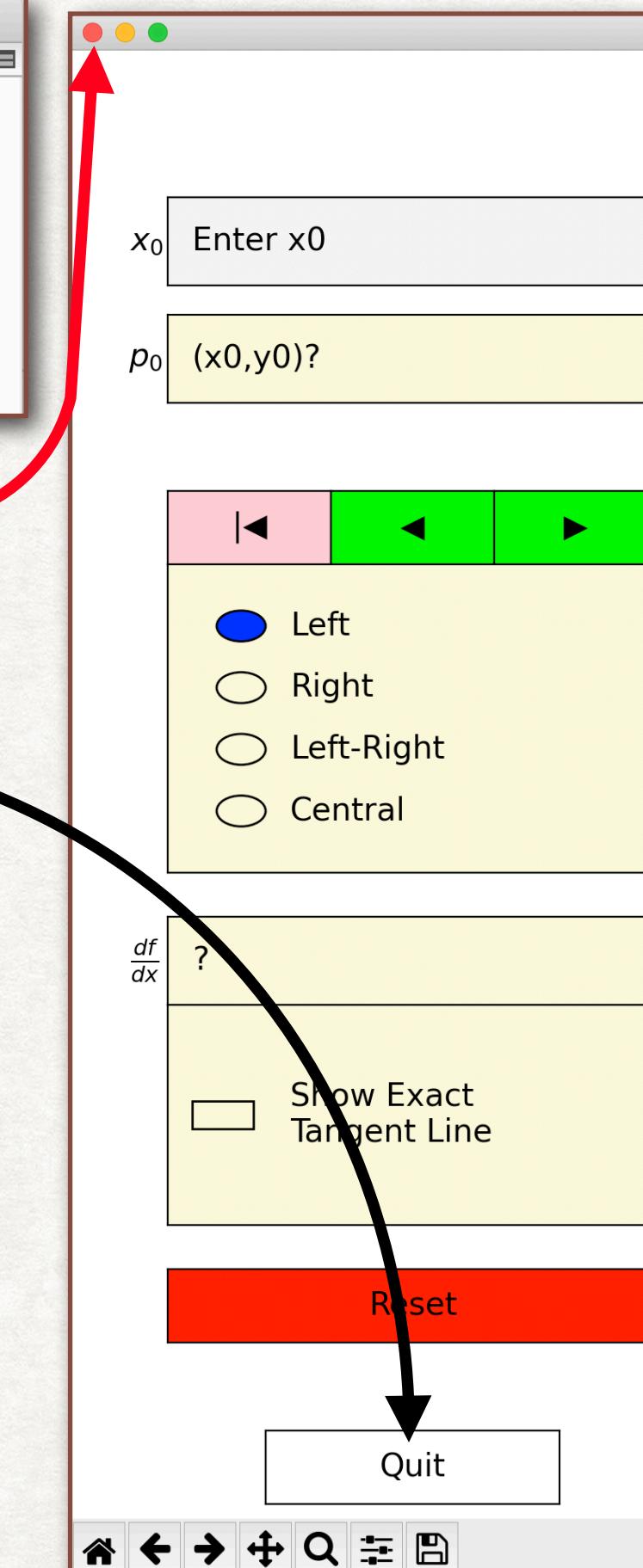
## Running the Completed App from Spyder

- Spyder then opens a Terminal window and runs a script the runs `example0.py`:

```
ahausknecht — run_spyder_vl02p4x5.sh — python - run_spyder_vl02p4x5.sh — 80x24
Last login: Mon Aug  2 13:57:20 on ttys001
/var/folders/31/r_2f8ryd5ks7xb80nyrbj2cc0000gn/T/spyder-ahausknecht/run_spyder_v
102p4x5.sh ; exit;
Enter GCC for gcc
zsh_profile
(base) ahausknecht@Adam314 ~ % /var/folders/31/r_2f8ryd5ks7xb80nyrbj2cc0000gn/T/
spyder-ahausknecht/run_spyder_vl02p4x5.sh ; exit;
Example 0: Default function y = (10-x^2)/2
```

- Click the small red button or the **Quit** button to exit the app.
- The Terminal window will show the following message:

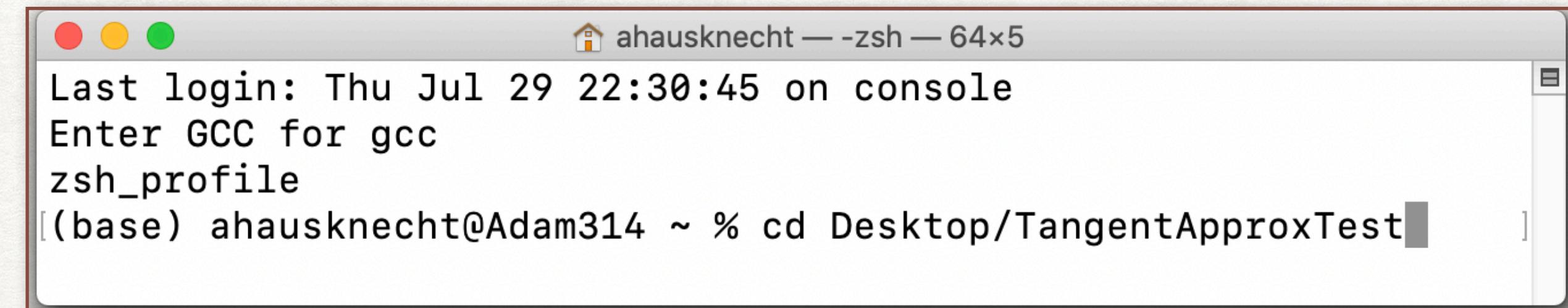
Tangent Approximation App ending! Bye-Bye...  
[Process completed]



# THE APPROXIMATION OF THE DERIVATIVE 17/25

## Running the Completed App Directly via the Terminal

1. Open a Terminal window.
2. Use the cd command to change directories to the one containing both **tangentApproximationAppV1.py** and **example0.py**.



A screenshot of a macOS terminal window titled "ahausknecht — zsh — 64x5". The window shows the following text:  
Last login: Thu Jul 29 22:30:45 on console  
Enter GCC for gcc  
zsh\_profile  
[base] ahausknecht@Adam314 ~ % cd Desktop/TangentApproxTest

3. At the prompt, enter % python example0.py

```
[base] ahausknecht@Adam314 TangentApproxTest % ls
__pycache__/
example0.py
example1.py
example2.py
example3.py
example4.py
example5.py
example6.py
tangentApproxLib.py
tangentApproxLibStudent.py
tangentApproximationAppV1.py*
[base] ahausknecht@Adam314 TangentApproxTest % python example0.py
Example 0: Default function y = (10-x^2)/2
```



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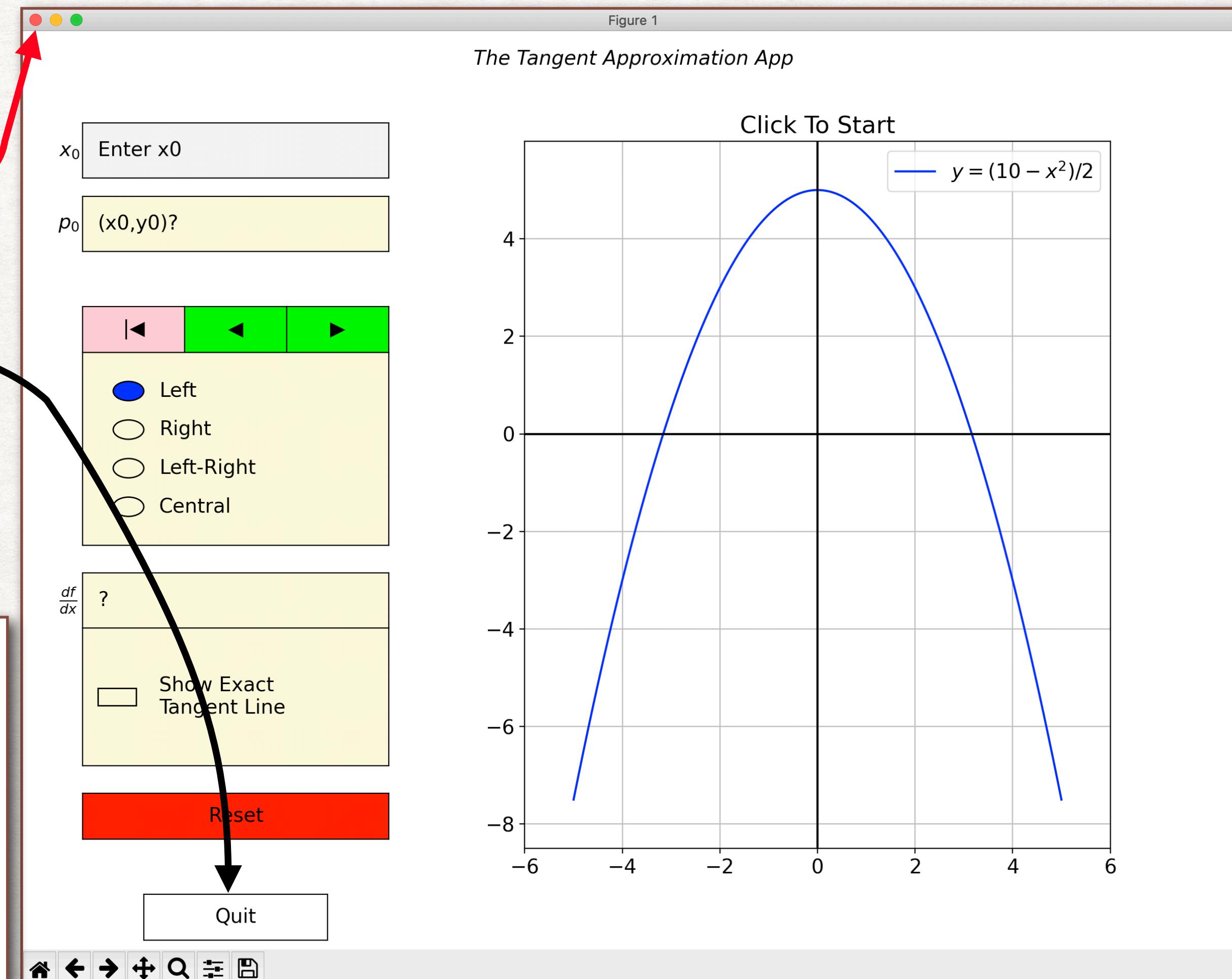
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# THE APPROXIMATION OF THE DERIVATIVE 18/25

## Running the Completed App from the Terminal

- Note that the default built-in function  $f(x) = (10 - x^2)/2$  is used.
- Again, click the small red button or the **Quit** button to exit the app.
- Note from the **Terminal**, you can also run the Tangent app by entering  
**% python tangentApproximationAppV1.py**

```
(base) ahausknecht@Adam314 TangentApproxTest % ls
__pycache__/
example0.py
example1.py
example2.py
example3.py
example4.py
example5.py
example6.py
tangentApproxLib.py
tangentApproxLibStudent.py
(base) ahausknecht@Adam314 TangentApproxTest % python tangentApproximationAppV1.py
```



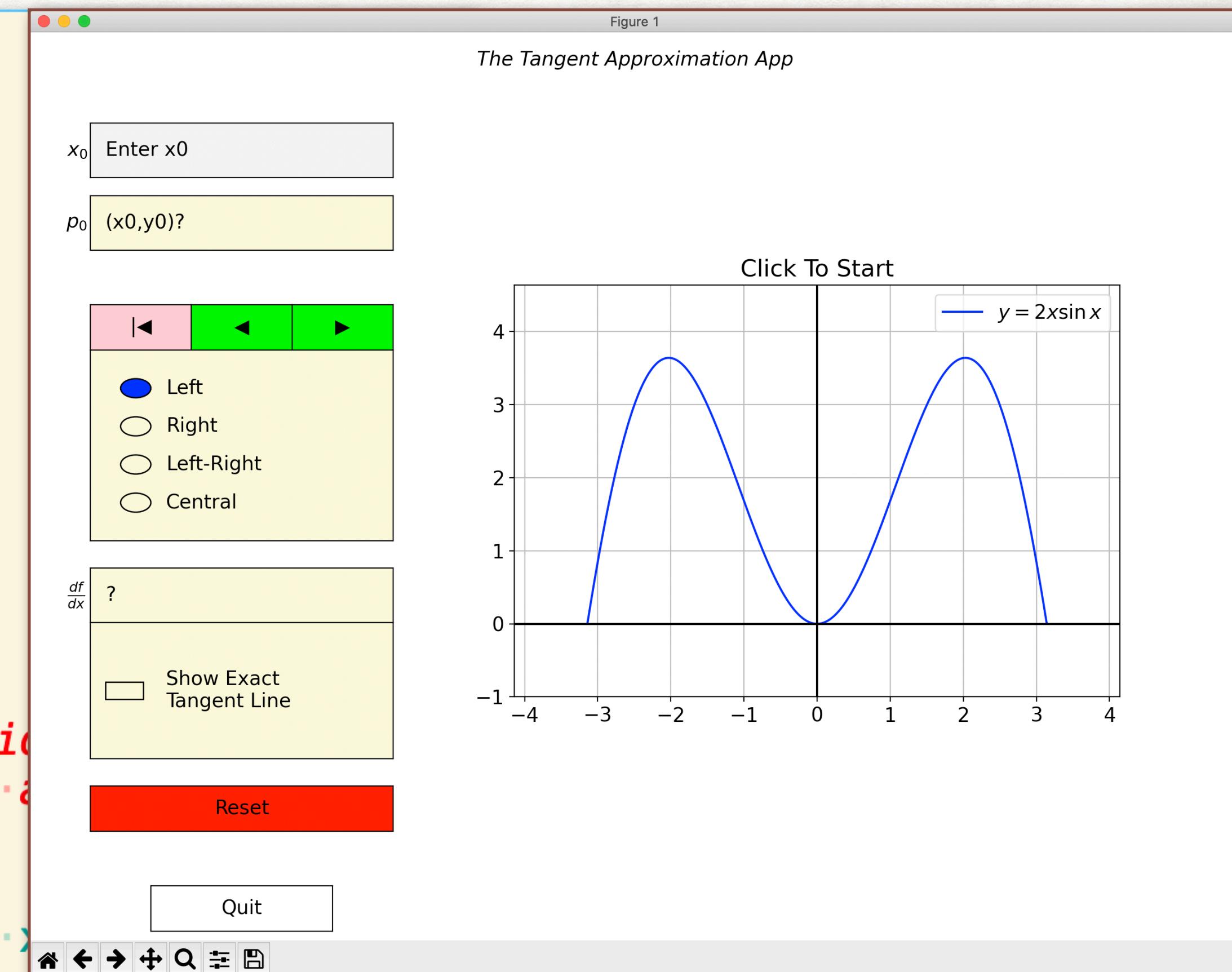
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# THE APPROXIMATION OF THE DERIVATIVE 19/25

## Testing the App: Example 1

```
1 #!/usr/bin/env python3
2 # -*- coding: utf-8 -*-
3 """
4 Created on Mon Jul 26 21:21:02 2021
5
6 Example 1: y = 2x · sin · x
7
8 @author: ahausknecht
9 """
10 import tangentApproximationAppV1 as app
11 import numpy as np
12
13 print("Example 1: y = 2x · sin · x")
14
15 # Use either a lambda function or use a normal function
16 # if-statements which will cause a problem for numpy
17 f = lambda x: 2*x*np.sin(x)
18 dfdx = lambda x: 2*(np.sin(x)+x*np.cos(x))
19 app.TangentApprox(f, dfdx, -np.pi, np.pi, '$y=2x\\sin\\ x$')
```



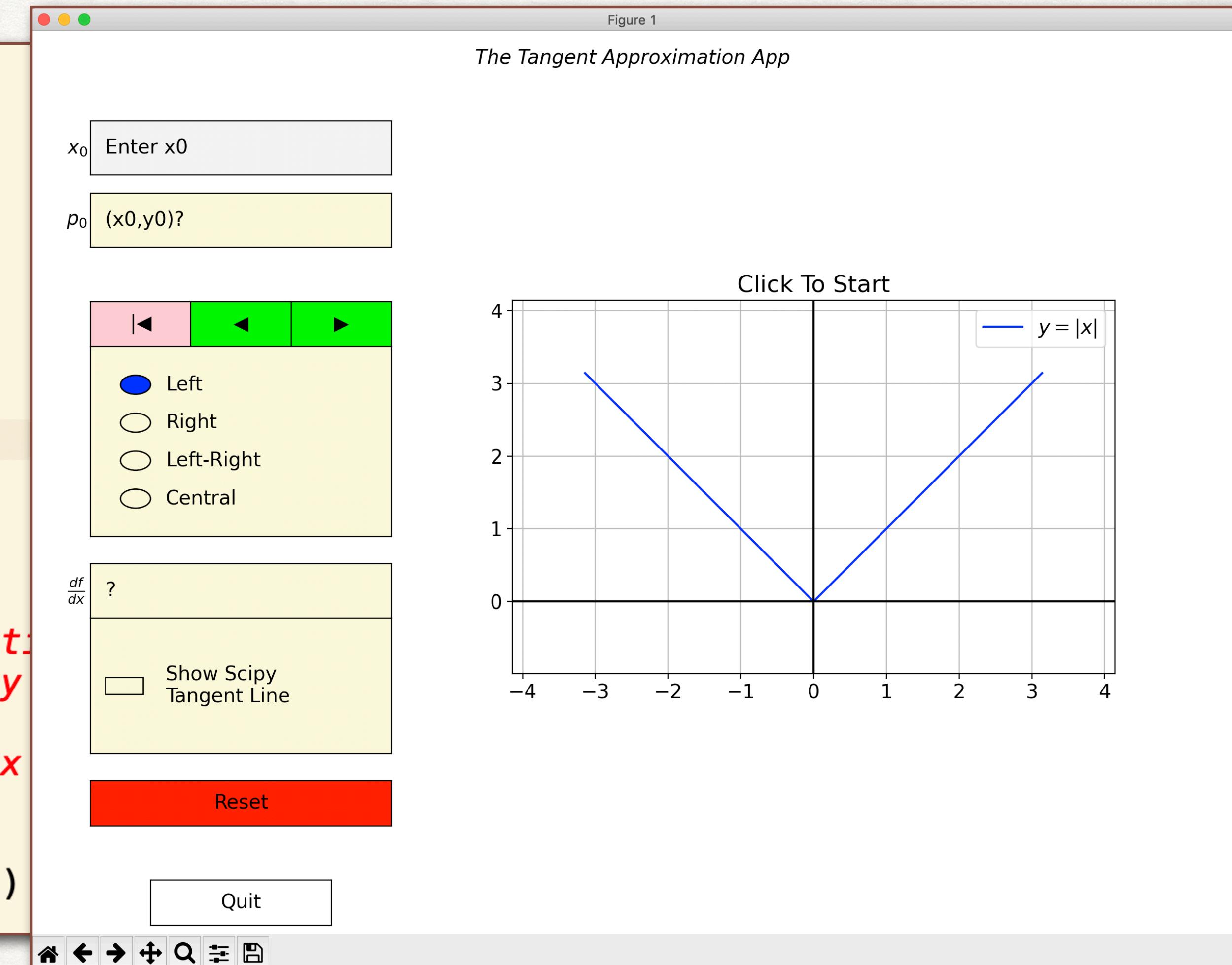
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# THE APPROXIMATION OF THE DERIVATIVE 20/25

## Testing the App: Example 2

```
1 #!/usr/bin/env python3
2 # -*- coding: utf-8 -*-
3
4 Created on Mon Jul 26 21:21:02 2021
5
6 "Example 2: y = |x|"
7
8 @author: ahausknecht
9
10 import tangentApproximationAppV1 as app
11 import numpy as np
12
13 print("Example 2: y = |x|")
14
15 # Use either a lambda function or use a normal function
16 # if-statements which will cause a problem for numpy
17 f = lambda x: np.abs(x)
18 # Passing None for dfdx forces the app.TangentApprox
19 # numerical derivative method to calculate dy/dx.
20 dfdx = None
21 app.TangentApprox(f, dfdx, -np.pi, np.pi, '$y=|x|$')
22
```



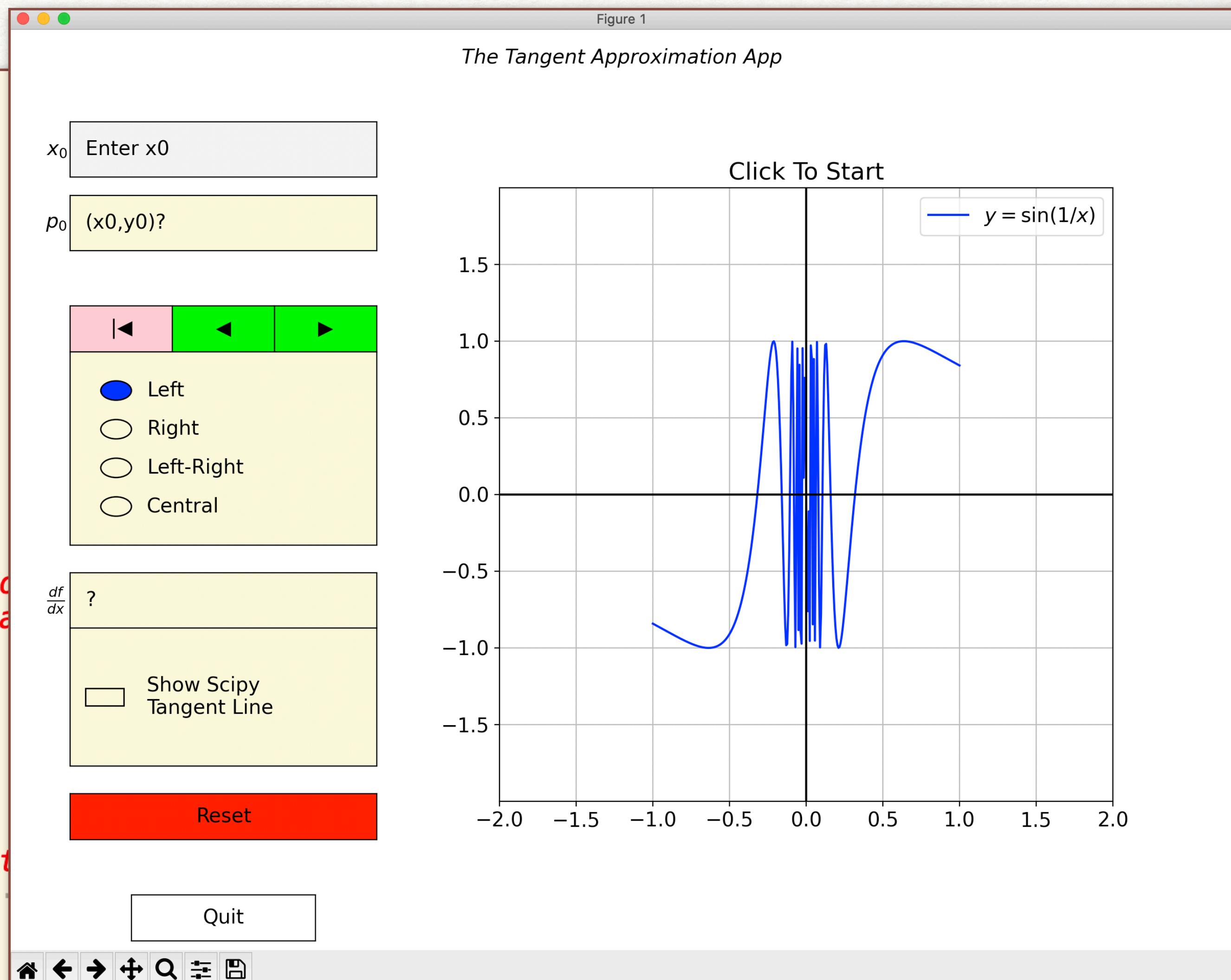
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# THE APPROXIMATION OF THE DERIVATIVE 21/25

## Testing the App: Example 3

```
1 #!/usr/bin/env python3
2 # -*- coding: utf-8 -*-
3
4 Created on Mon Jul 26 21:21:02 2021
5
6 Example 3: y = sin(1/x)
7
8 @author: ahausknecht
9
10 import tangentApproximationAppV1 as app
11 import numpy as np
12
13 print("Example 3: y = sin(1/x)")
14
15 # Use either a lambda function or use a normal function
16 # if-statements which will cause a problem for numpy as
17 def f(x):
18     try:
19         return np.sin(1/x)
20     except ArithmeticError:
21         return np.nan
22
23 # Passing None for dfdx forces the app.TangentApprox to
24 # numerical derivative method to calculate dy/dx.
25 dfdx = None
26 app.TangentApprox(f, dfdx, -1, 1, '$y=\sin(1/x)$')
```



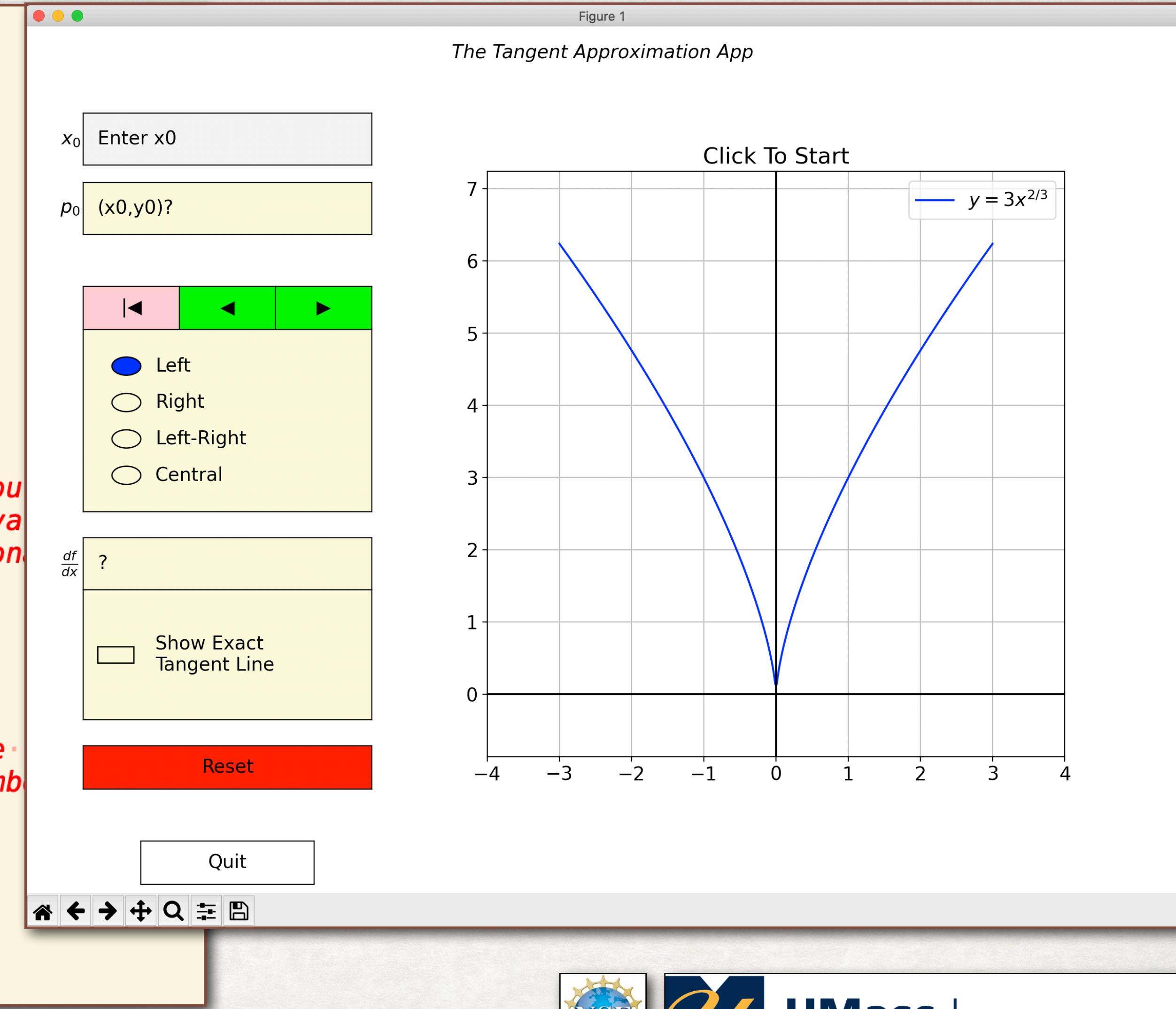
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# THE APPROXIMATION OF THE DERIVATIVE 22/25

## Testing the App: Example 4

```
1 #!/usr/bin/env python3
2 # -*- coding: utf-8 -*-
3 """
4 Created on Mon Jul 26 21:21:02 2021
5
6 "Example 4: y = 3x^(2/3)"
7
8 @author: ahausknecht
9 """
10 import tangentApproximationAppV1 as app
11 import numpy as np
12
13 print("Example 4: y = 3x^(2/3)")
14
15 # Use either a lambda function or use a normal function without
16 # if-statements which will cause a problem for numpy array eval
17 # Rewritten so that x is squared before rasing to the fraction
18 # exponent 1/3. This way, it will handle negative numbers.
19 f = lambda x: 3*(x**2)**(1/3)
20
21 def dfdx(x):
22     try:
23         # Rewritten so that x is squared before rasing to the
24         # exponent -2/3. This way it will handle negative numbers
25         # dfdx = 2x^(-1/3)=2*sign(x)/(x^2)^(1/6).
26         return 2*np.sign(x)/((x**2)**(1/6))
27     except RuntimeError:
28         return np.nan
29
30 app.TangentApprox(f, dfdx, -3, 3, '$y=3x^{2/3}$')
```



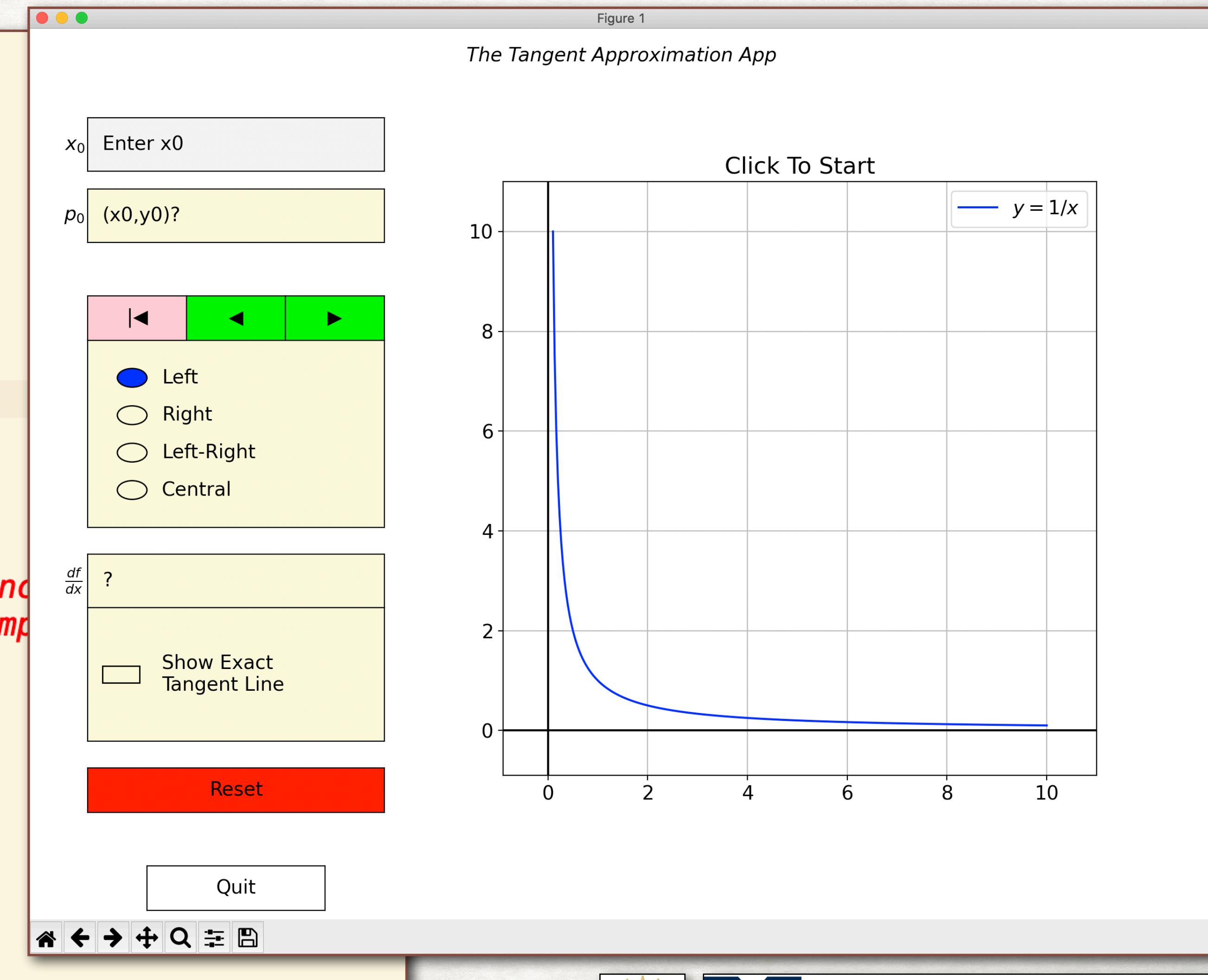
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# THE APPROXIMATION OF THE DERIVATIVE 23/25

## Testing the App: Example 5

```
1 #!/usr/bin/env python3
2 #-*- coding: utf-8 -*-
3 """
4 Created on Mon Jul 26 21:21:02 2021
5
6 Example 5: y = 1/x
7
8 @author: ahausknecht
9 """
10 import tangentApproximationStudentAppV1 as app
11 import numpy as np
12
13 print("Example 5: y = 1/x")
14
15 # Use either a lambda function or use a normal function
16 # if-statements which will cause a problem for numpy
17 f = lambda x: 1/x
18
19 def dfdx(x):
20     try:
21         return -1/x**2
22     except RuntimeError:
23         return np.nan
24
25 app.TangentApprox(f, dfdx, 0.1, 10, '$y=1/x$')
```



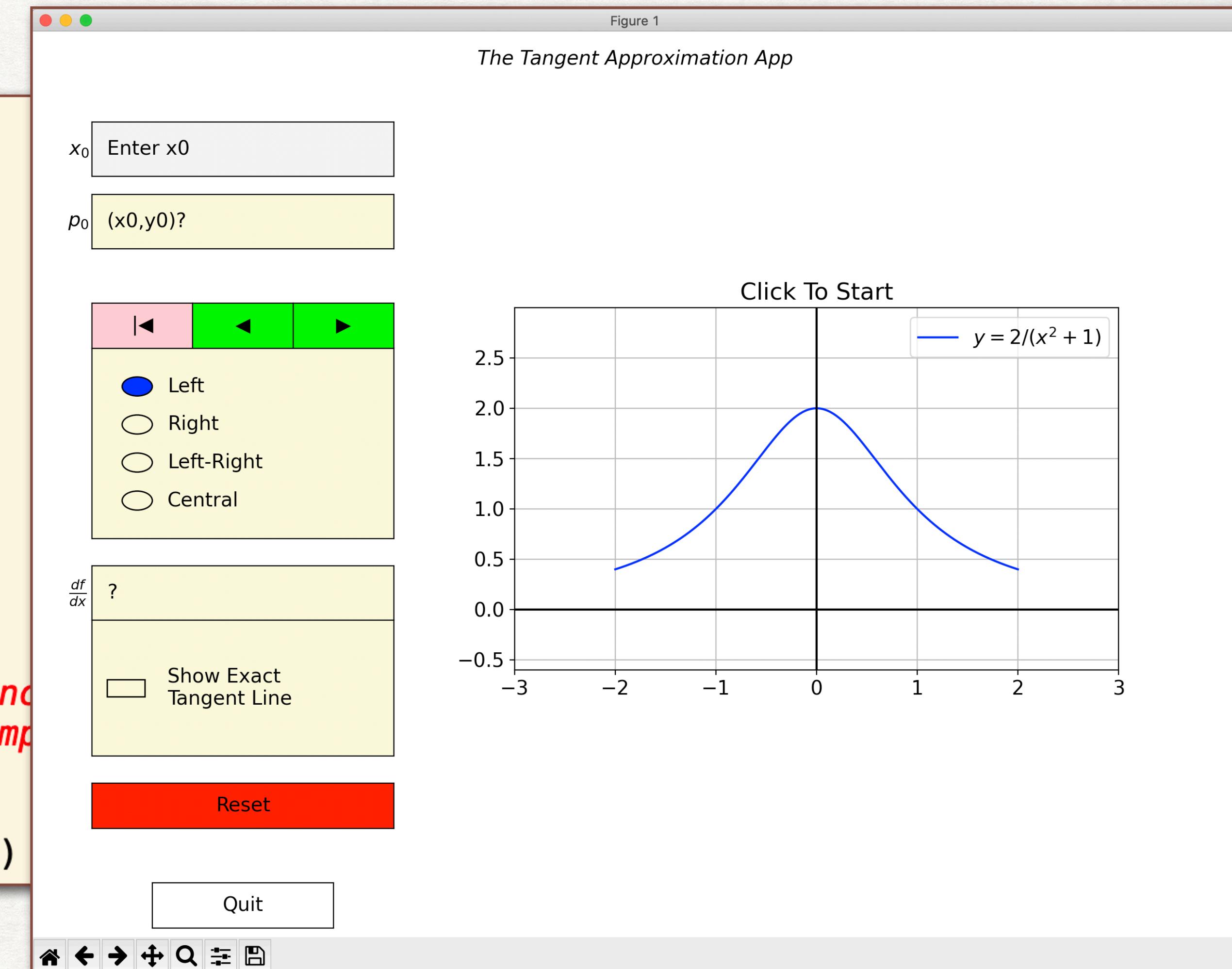
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# THE APPROXIMATION OF THE DERIVATIVE 24/25

## Testing the App: Example 6

```
1 #!/usr/bin/env python3
2 #-*- coding: utf-8 -*-
3
4 Created on Mon Jul 26 21:21:02 2021
5
6 Example 6: y = 1/(x^2+1)
7
8 @author: ahausknecht
9
10 import tangentApproximationAppV1 as app
11 #import numpy as np
12
13 print("Example 6: y = 1/(x^2+1)")
14
15 # Use either a lambda function or use a normal function
16 # if-statements which will cause a problem for numpy
17 f = lambda x: 2/(x**2+1)
18 dfdx = lambda x: -4*x/(x**2+1)**2
19 app.TangentApprox(f, dfdx, -2, 2, '$y=2/(x^2+1)$')
```



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# AN ACCOMPLISH PROJECT MODULE

# THE END

