## Approximating a Function



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

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Constant approx: $\sin (0.2) \approx 0$;
Google: $\sin (0.2)=0.19866933079 \ldots$

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

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## Constant and Linear Approximations

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 $f^{\prime}(a)$ are easy to calculate. Then approximate

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Linear approximation: Using $a=9, f^{\prime}(a)=\frac{1}{2 \sqrt{a}}=\frac{1}{2 \sqrt{9}}=\frac{1}{6}$.

$$
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Google: $\sqrt{8.9}=2.98328677804 \ldots$

Characteristics of a Good Approximation

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Accurate

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Accurate

Possible to calculate (add, subtract, multiply, divide integers)

## Can we Compute?

Suppose we want to approximate the value of $\cos (1.5)$. Which of the following linear approximations could we calculate by hand? (You can leave things in terms of $\pi$.)
A. tangent line to $f(x)=\cos x$ when $x=\pi / 2$
B. tangent line to $f(x)=\cos x$ when $x=3 / 2$
C. both
D. neither

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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

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D. the linear approximations should be better than the constant approximation, but both linear approximations should have the same accuracy
$\pi / 2$ is very close to 1.5 .

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Approximate $\sin (3)$ using a linear approximation. It is OK to use $\pi$ in your answer.

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$f(3) \approx f(\pi)+f^{\prime}(\pi)(3-\pi)=\sin (\pi)+\cos (\pi)(3-\pi)=\pi-3 \approx 0.14159$


## Linear Approximation

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Google: $\sin (3)=0.14112000806 \ldots$

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If $f(x)=e^{x}$ : $f^{\prime}(x)=e^{x}$ and $a=0$.
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Google: $e^{1 / 10}=1.10517091808 \ldots$

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If $g(x)=x^{1 / 10}$ :
$g^{\prime}(x)=\frac{1}{10} x^{-9 / 10}$.
The closest number to $e$ for which we can evaluate the tenth root is $a=1$. $g(e) \approx g(1)+g^{\prime}(1)(e-1)=1+\frac{1}{10}(-e-1)=\frac{e+9}{10} \ldots$ but what's $e$ ?

Google: $e^{1 / 10}=1.10517091808 \ldots$

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Recall: $L(x)$ is a line

## Quadratic Approximation

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


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


Then we can ensure:

$$
\begin{aligned}
P(a) & =f(a) \\
P^{\prime}(a) & =f^{\prime}(a), \text { and } \\
P^{\prime \prime}(a) & =f^{\prime \prime}(a) .
\end{aligned}
$$

## Quadratic Approximation

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


| $P(x)=A+B x+C x^{2}$ | $P(a)=A+B a+C a^{2}$ |  | $f(a)$ |  |
| :--- | ---: | :--- | ---: | ---: |
| $P^{\prime}(x)=$ | $B+2 C x$ | $P^{\prime}(a)=$ | $B+2 C a$ | $f^{\prime}(a)$ |
| $P^{\prime \prime}(x)=$ | $2 C$ | $P^{\prime \prime}(a)=$ | $2 C$ | $f^{\prime \prime}(a)$ |

## Quadratic Approximation

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


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P(x)=f(a)+f^{\prime}(a)(x-a)+\frac{1}{2} f^{\prime \prime}(a)(x-a)^{2}
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$$
P^{\prime}(x)=f^{\prime}(a)+2 \frac{1}{2} f^{\prime \prime}(a)(x-a)=f^{\prime}(a)+f^{\prime \prime}(a)(x-a)
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## Quadratic Approximation

Constant:

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

Linear:

$$
f(x) \approx f(a)+f^{\prime}(a)(x-a)
$$

Quadratic:

$$
f(x) \approx f(a)+f^{\prime}(a)(x-a)+\frac{1}{2} f^{\prime \prime}(a)(x-a)^{2}
$$

## Quadratic Approximation

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P(x)=f(a)+f^{\prime}(a)(x-a)+\frac{1}{2} f^{\prime \prime}(a)(x-a)^{2}
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## Example: Approx 4

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

## Quadratic Approximation

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$$

## Example: Approx 4

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

We use $f(x)=\ln x$ and $a=1$. Then $f^{\prime}(x)=x^{-1}$ and $f^{\prime \prime}(x)=-x^{-2}$, so $f(a)=0$, $f^{\prime}(a)=1$, and $f^{\prime \prime}(a)=-1$. Now:

$$
\begin{aligned}
f(1.1) & \approx f(a)+f^{\prime}(a)(1.1-a)+\frac{1}{2} f^{\prime \prime}(a)(1.1-a)^{2} \\
& =0+1(1.1-1)+\frac{1}{2}(-1)(1.1-1)^{2} \\
& =0.1-\frac{1}{200}=\frac{20}{200}-\frac{1}{200}=\frac{19}{200}=\frac{9.5}{100}=0.095
\end{aligned}
$$

Google: $\ln (1.1)=0.0953101798 \ldots$

## Quadratic Approximation

$$
P(x)=f(a)+f^{\prime}(a)(x-a)+\frac{1}{2} f^{\prime \prime}(a)(x-a)^{2}
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## Example: Approx 5

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 using only plus, minus, times, and divide.

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## Example: Approx 5

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 using only plus, minus, times, and divide.
We use $f(x)=x^{1 / 3}$ and $a=27$. Then $f^{\prime}(x)=\frac{1}{3} x^{-2 / 3}$ and $f^{\prime \prime}(x)=\frac{-2}{9} x^{-5 / 3}$. So, $f(a)=3, f^{\prime}(a)=\frac{1}{3^{3}}$, and $f^{\prime \prime}(a)=\frac{-2}{3^{T}}$.

$$
\begin{aligned}
f(28) & \approx f(27)+f^{\prime}(27)(28-27)+\frac{1}{2} f^{\prime \prime}(27)(28-27)^{2} \\
& =3+\frac{1}{3^{3}}(1)+\frac{-1}{3^{7}}\left(1^{2}\right) \\
& =3+\frac{1}{3^{3}}-\frac{1}{3^{7}} \\
& =3.03657978967 \ldots
\end{aligned}
$$

$$
\text { Google : } \sqrt[3]{28}=3.03658897188 \ldots
$$

Example: Approx 6
Determine what $f(x)$ and a should be so that you can approximate the following using a quadratic approximation.
$\ln (.9)$
$e^{-1 / 30}$
$\sqrt[5]{30}$
$(2.01)^{6}$

Determine what $f(x)$ and a should be so that you can approximate the following using a quadratic approximation.
$\ln (.9)$
$f(x)=\ln (x), a=1$
$e^{-1 / 30}$
$f(x)=e^{x}, a=0$
$\sqrt[5]{30}$
$f(x)=\sqrt[5]{x}, a=32=2^{5}$
$(2.01)^{6}$
$f(x)=x^{6}, a=2$. It is possible to compute this without an approximation, but an approximation in this case might save time, while being sufficiently accurate for your purposes.

## Sum Notation

$$
\sum_{n=17}^{20} g(n)=g(17)+g(18)+g(19)+g(20)
$$

We let $n$ take every integer value from 17 to 20 (including 17 and 20), and sum the values of $g(n)$.

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Example: $\sum_{n=-5}^{-2}\left(5 n^{2}+n\right)=$

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Example: simplify $\sum_{n=-1}^{3}(a n+5)=$

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Example: simplify $\sum_{n=-1}^{3}(a n+5)=$
$=\overbrace{a(-1)+5}^{n=-1}+\overbrace{a(0)+5}^{n=0}+\overbrace{a(1)+5}^{n=1}+\overbrace{a(2)+5}^{n=2}+\overbrace{a(3)+5}^{n=3}$
$5(5)+(-a)+0+a+2 a+3 a=25+5 a$

Example: simplify $\sum_{k=-5}^{5}(7 k)=$

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The answer is zero!
$\overbrace{7(-5)}^{n=-5}+\overbrace{7(-4)}^{n=-4}+\cdots \overbrace{7(4)}^{n=4}+\overbrace{7(5)}^{n=5}$

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| $n=-5$ |  | $n=-4$ |  |  | $n=4$ |  | $n=5$ |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| $\overbrace{(-5)}$ |  | $\overbrace{}^{-}$ |  |  | $\overbrace{7}$ |  | $\overbrace{7(5)}$ |
| $7(-5)$ | $+$ | $7(-4)$ | $+$ | $+$ | 7(4) | $+$ | 7(5) |
| $7(-5)$ | + | $7(-4)$ | + | + | $7(4)$ | + | $7(5)$ |

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| $\overbrace{}^{-5}$ |  | $\overbrace{-}$ |  |  |  | - |  | ) |
| $7(-5)$ | $+$ | $7(-4)$ | $+$ | . | $+$ | $7(4)$ | $+$ | 7(5) |
| $7(-5)$ | $+$ | $7(-4)$ | + | . | $+$ | 7(4) | $+$ | $7(5)$ |
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| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| $\overbrace{}^{-5}$ |  | $\overbrace{-}$ |  |  |  | - |  | ) |
| $7(-5)$ | $+$ | $7(-4)$ | $+$ | . | $+$ | $7(4)$ | $+$ | 7(5) |
| $7(-5)$ | $+$ | $7(-4)$ | + | . | $+$ | 7(4) | $+$ | $7(5)$ |
| $7(-5)$ | + | $7(-4)$ | + | . | + | $7(4)$ | + | $7(5)$ |

## Coming Soon

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