

We will skip 3.8 Hyperbolic Functions:

$$\sinh(x) = \frac{e^x + e^{-x}}{2}$$

$$\cosh(x) = \frac{e^x - e^{-x}}{2}$$

Used often in Engineering...  
just need the definitions.

From today forward we are going to be using the derivative to solve "real" problems

TODAY — Linear Approximations and the derivative.

\* USED often in Physics and other Sciences !!

Linear approximations are used to approximate functions at a hard point using what we know about the function at an easy point.

Ex  $f(x)=y = (x + 1/2)^2$

$$f(1/2) = (1)^2 = 1 \text{ easy!}$$

what is  $f(.5237)$ ? hard!

Lets look at a graph: if we zoom in... how could we guess  $f(.5237)$  without a calculator... STRAIGHT LINE GOES THROUGH  $(\frac{1}{2}, 1)$  SAME SLOPE!

TANGENT LINE!

Ex  $f(x) = \sin(5x)$

$$f(0) = \sin(0) = 0 \text{ Easy}$$

what is  $f(.1)$ ? Hard!

well lets try a TANGENT LINE at the EASY point



... Find a tangent line to  $y = \sin(5x)$  at the point  $x=0$

$$m = y' \Big|_{x=0} = \cos(5x) \cdot 5 \Big|_{x=0} = \cos(0) \cdot 5 = 5$$

$$y = 5x + b \quad \text{point: when } x=0 \quad y = \sin(0) = 0 \quad (0,0)$$

$$\text{TANGENT LINE: } \boxed{y = 5x}$$

Now what is  $f(0.1) = \sin(5 \cdot 0.1) = \sin(0.5) \sim 5 \left( \frac{1}{2} \cdot 0.1 \right) = 0.5$   
 $x=0.1$

REAL CALCULATOR ANSWER  $\sin(0.5) = .4794255...$   
 we were close.

GRAPH on DESMOS.

How accurate are we? Is this always good?  $f(10) \sim ?$

WHAT ARE THE STEPS TO APPROXIMATING?

Approximate  $f(x)$  near  $x=a$  ... tangent line approximation.

1. Find the point... if  $x=a$  then  $y=f(a)$  plug in.

$$(a, f(a))$$

2. Find the slope at ~~the~~  $x=a$

$$m = \frac{dy}{dx} \Big|_{x=a} = f'(a)$$

3 Tangent line equation  $y = mx + b = \frac{f'(a)x}{\cancel{m}} + b$

$$\text{solving for } b \dots f(a) = f'(a)a + b \quad b = f(a) - f'(a)a$$

$$\text{so } y = f'(a)x + f(a) - f'(a)a$$

$$\boxed{y = f'(a)[x-a] + f(a)}$$

This is so cool... a FORMULA  
 for a TANGENT LINE APPROXIMATION



## TANGENT LINE APPROXIMATION (aka local linearization)

3.

Suppose  $f$  is differentiable at  $a$ . Then for values of  $x$  near  $a$ , the tangent line approximation is given by

$$f(x) \sim f(a) + f'(a)[x-a]$$

and the ERROR is defined by

$$E(x) = \underset{\text{REAL}}{f(x)} - \underset{\text{APPROXIMATE}}{[f(a) + f'(a)[x-a]]}$$

this can be approximated by

$$E(x) \sim \frac{f''(a)}{2}[x-a]^2$$

This makes sense ... on  $\sin(x)$  graph where is the highest curvature?

How well would a tangent line approximate points near ~~the~~ peaks and troughs?

Ex What is the local linearization of  $f(x) = e^{kx}$  near  $x=0$

Tangent line:  
Approx

$$f(x) \sim f(a) + f'(a)[x-a] \quad a=0$$
$$e^{kx} \sim e^{k(0)} + \underset{\substack{\uparrow \\ \text{derivative.}}}{ke^{k(0)}}[x-0] = 1 + kx$$

Using this with  $k=1$  approximate  $f(.1)$

$$f(x) = e^x \quad \text{then} \quad f(x) \sim 1+x \quad \text{near } x=0$$

$$\text{so} \quad f(.1) = 1 + .1 = 1.1$$

Approximate the ERROR in this estimate.

$$E(.1) \sim \frac{f''(0)}{2} [.1 - 0]^2 = \frac{e^0}{2} [.1]^2 = \frac{1}{2} [.01] = .005$$

Compare with Calculator answer  $f(.1) = e^{.1} = 1.10517... \quad \text{pretty close!}$



Ok → So far we are just approximating things that we can already calculate — so where is this used?

ps.

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Ex. The acceleration of gravity:

Often in physics you will hear that the acceleration of gravity is constant:

$$g = 9.8 \text{ m/s}^2 \text{ on earth.}$$

If we really model the acceleration of gravity we get:

Law of  
Gravitational  
Polls.

$$g(r) = \frac{GM}{r^2}$$

$M$  = mass of Earth

$G$  = Universal gravitational constant

$r$  = distance from the earth's center.

But this is not constant!

How can they get away with that?

Lets linearize this  $g(r)$  near  $r = R_E$  = radius of the earth.

— We are approximating this near the earth's surface.

1. Write  
down  
approximation

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

$$\text{so } g(r) \approx g(R_E) + f'(R_E)(r - R_E)$$

near  
 $r = R_E$

2. Find all  
the pieces

$$g(R_E) = \frac{GM}{R_E^2}$$

$$g'(r) = -\frac{2GM}{r^3}$$

$$g'(R_E) = -\frac{2GM}{R_E^3}$$

3. Put it all  
together

$$\text{so } g(r) \approx \frac{GM}{R_E^2} - \frac{2GM}{R_E^3}(r - R_E)$$

Now ~~the~~ look at this and ~~say~~ Well the earth's radius is very large so something with  $\frac{1}{R_E^3}$  is really small!

So we will use the approximation:

P16  
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$$g(r) \approx \frac{GM}{R_E^2} \equiv 9.81 \text{ m/s}^2$$

Now let's say ~~if~~ you want to throw a water balloon from your dorm window and hit a passing student...

would you rather assume gravity is constant?  
or recalculate it at every instant as that balloon is getting closer to the center of the earth?

YAY - math makes life easier !!

Would it make sense to use this approximation far from the earth's surface?

Consider the Error

$$g''(r) = \frac{6GM}{r^4}$$

$$g''(R_E) = \frac{6GM}{R_E^4}$$

$$E(r) \sim \frac{3GM}{R_E^4} (r - R_E)^2$$

↑  
constant

as long as  $r$  is close  
to  $R_E$  the error  
remains small