

Related Rates

Often we are interested in the rate of change of a function at a specific instant.

For simple functions, this is given by a direct derivative!

Ex: A pebble is dropped in a calm pond causing a circular ripple which grows outward. Determine how the area enclosed by the ripple is changing

a) as the ripple grows, b) when the ripple is 20cm.

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Suppose however, that the rate we want to calculate depends on a different, but related quantity, which itself may also be changing.

Ex: As above, but we now measure that the radius grows at 3cm/s . Find the rate at which the area changes when the radius is 9cm .

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Ex: If the area of a circle grows at a rate of 200π cm²/s, find the rate of change of the radius when a) $r = 4$ and b) $r = 10$.

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Ex: Suppose a 10 m ladder rests against a vertical wall. If the bottom of the ladder is being pulled at a rate of 1 m/s, find the rate at which the top of the ladder is moving down when the bottom is 8 m away from the wall.

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Ex: John starts walking east from a point J at a speed of 2 m/s.

After 5 s, Kelly starts walking west, from a point 75 m due south of J, at a speed of 8 m/s.

How fast apart are the pair moving 9 s after the woman starts walking?

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Ex: A water tank has the shape of an inverted circular cone with base radius 4m and height 2m. If water is pumped in at $2 \text{ m}^3/\text{min}$ find the rate at which the level of water is rising when the water is 1.5 m deep.

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Ex: A low-flying airplane's has a constant velocity of 200 m/s, flying at a constant altitude of 1000 m. Its flight is tracked by a radar dish on the ground.

Find the angular rate of change of the line connecting the radar dish to the plane when the plane is 1000 m to the right of the dish.

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Linearizations

- ▶ If we know how $f(x)$ changes at $x = a$ we can say quite a lot about values of $f(x)$ close to $x = a$

- ▶ Using the information about $f'(x)$ we get a linear (first-order) approximation for $f(x)$

Approximation is exact at $x = a$ but may be ‘bad’ away from $x = a$

Linearizations

Ex: Find the linearization of $f(x) = \sin(x)$ at $x = 0$

Linearizations

Ex: Find the linearization of $f(x) = \sin(x)$ at $x = \pi/4$

Linearization - Applications

The utility of linearizations is threefold

- 1) Estimating $f(x)$
- 2) Finding roots of $f(x)$
- 3) Finding change in $f(x)$

In all cases we rely on the *linear* form to get our answer!

- 1) Estimating the value of $f(x)$

Linearization - Applications

2) Finding the root of $q(w)$

Linearization - Applications

Linearization - Applications

3) Estimating the change in of $r(z)$

Linearization - Applications