

$L(x)$ is a linear approximation to $f(x)$.

Ex Estimate $\sqrt[3]{28}$. We'll do this by linear approx of $f(x) = \sqrt[3]{x}$, at the point $a = \underline{27}$.

$$L(x) = f(27) + f'(27)(x-27)$$

$$= 3 + \frac{1}{27}(x-27)$$

$$\text{So } \sqrt[3]{28} \approx L(28) = 3 + \frac{1}{27}(28-27) \\ = \underline{\underline{3 + \frac{1}{27}}}$$

$$f(27) = \sqrt[3]{27} = 3$$

$$f'(x) = \frac{1}{3}x^{-2/3}$$

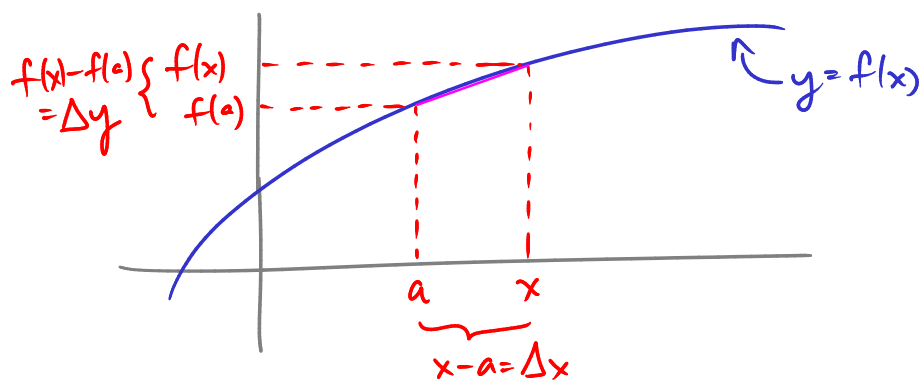
$$f'(27) = \frac{1}{3}(27^{-2/3})$$

$$= \frac{1}{3}(27^{1/3})^{-2}$$

$$= \frac{1}{3}(3^{-2})$$

$$= \frac{1}{3} \cdot \frac{1}{9} = \frac{1}{27}$$

Another way to think about this:



$$f(x) = f(a) + \Delta y \\ = f(a) + \left(\frac{\Delta y}{\Delta x}\right) \Delta x$$

If Δx is small then $\frac{\Delta y}{\Delta x}$ is about $\frac{dy}{dx}$

$$\left(\frac{dy}{dx} = \lim_{\Delta x \rightarrow 0} \frac{\Delta y}{\Delta x}\right)$$

$$\text{So } f(x) \approx f(a) + \left(\frac{dy}{dx}\right) \Delta x \\ = f(a) + f'(a) \Delta x \\ = f(a) + f'(a)(x-a)$$

Differential of f : (just notation)

write " $df = \frac{df}{dx} dx$ " as analog of

$$\Delta f \approx \frac{df}{dx} \Delta x \text{ for small } \Delta x$$

think of $\frac{df}{dx}$ as "infinitesimally small" $\frac{\Delta f}{\Delta x}$

e.g. $d(\tan x) = \frac{d(\tan x)}{dx} \cdot dx = \sec^2 x dx$

$$d(\tan x) = \sec^2 x dx$$

so for small Δx , $\Delta(\tan x) \approx \sec^2 x \Delta x$

Ex Estimate $\ln(0.96)$ Idea: 0.96 is close to 1.

$$\ln(1) = 0.$$

$$\begin{aligned} \Delta x &= x - 1 \\ &= -0.04. \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned} a &= 1 \\ x &= 0.96 \\ f'(a) &= 1 \\ x - a &= -0.04 \end{aligned}$$

$$d(\ln x) = \frac{d(\ln x)}{dx} dx = \frac{1}{x} dx.$$

$$\Delta(\ln x) \approx \frac{1}{x} \Delta x.$$

$$= \frac{1}{1} (-0.04)$$

$$= -0.04.$$

$$\begin{aligned} \text{So } \ln(0.96) &= \ln(x + \Delta x) \approx \ln(x) + \Delta(\ln x) \\ &= \ln(1) + \Delta(\ln x) \\ &= 0 - 0.04 \\ &= \underline{\underline{-0.04}}. \end{aligned}$$

Ex What is the linear approx. to $f(x) = 3x^5$ at $a=1$?

Need $f(1)$ and $f'(1)$.

$$f(1) = 3$$

$$f'(x) = 15x^4$$

$$f'(1) = 15$$

$$\begin{aligned} \text{So } L(x) &= f(1) + \overbrace{f'(1)}^{\approx \Delta f} (x-1) \\ &= \underline{\underline{3 + 15(x-1)}} \end{aligned}$$

$$\text{s. e.g. } f(1.01) \approx 3 + 15(1.01 - 1) = 3 + 15(.01) = \underline{\underline{3.15}}$$

" $3(1.01)^5$

To understand why it's true:

try expanding out $3(1.01)^5 = 3(1+.01)^5$

$$= 3 \cdot (1+.01)(1+.01)(1+.01)(1+.01)(1+.01)$$

$$= 3 \cdot (1 + 5 \times .01 + (\text{much smaller terms}))$$

$$= 3 \cdot (1.05 + \text{much smaller}) = \underline{\underline{3.15 + (\text{much smaller})}}$$

" $(dx)^2 = 0$ "