

§ 6.4 Taylor's Theorem

Recall: If $f(x)$ has n -th derivative at a point x_0 ,
then the polynomial

$$P_n(x) = f(x_0) + f'(x_0)(x-x_0) + \dots + \frac{f^{(n)}(x_0)}{n!} (x-x_0)^n$$

is called the n -th Taylor's Polynomial for f at x_0 .

Note: $P_n^{(k)}(x_0) = f^{(k)}(x_0) \quad \forall k=0, 1, \dots, n$.

Thm 6.4.1 (Taylor's Thm)

Let • $n \in \mathbb{N}$ (i.e. $n=1, 2, \dots$)

- $f: [a, b] \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ such that $(a < b)$
- $f', \dots, f^{(n)}$ are continuous on $[a, b]$ and
- $f^{(n+1)}$ exists on (a, b) .

If $x_0 \in [a, b]$, then $\forall x \in [a, b]$, $\exists c$ between x_0 and x such that

$$f(x) = P_n(x) + \frac{f^{(n+1)}(c)}{(n+1)!} (x-x_0)^{n+1}$$

where $P_n(x)$ is the n -th Taylor's Polynomial of f at x_0

Remark: $R_n(x) = f(x) - P_n(x)$ is referred as the remainder and

$$R_n(x) = \frac{f^{(n+1)}(c)}{n+1} (x-x_0)^{n+1}$$

is called the Lagrange form of the remainder,

or derivative form of the remainder.

Pf (of Thm 6.4.1)

Let $x_0, x \in [a, b]$ be given.

If $x_0 = x$, then the formula is clear.

If $x_0 \neq x$, we let

$J = [x_0, x]$ or $[x, x_0]$ depending on $x > x_0$ or $x_0 > x$.

Then J is a closed interval. $J \subset [a, b]$

Consider, for $t \in J$,

$$\begin{aligned} F(t) &= f(x) - f(t) - (x-t)f'(t) - \frac{(x-t)^2}{2}f''(t) - \dots \\ &\quad \dots - \frac{(x-t)^n}{n!}f^{(n)}(t) \end{aligned}$$

Then, • $F(x) = 0$,

• $F(x_0) = f(x) - P_n(x) = R_n(x)$ is the remainder

And, by assumption,

- $F(t)$ is continuous on J , and
- $F'(t)$ exists in the interior of J

with

$$\begin{aligned}
 F(t) &= -f(t) \\
 &\quad + f'(t) - (x-t)f''(t) \\
 &\quad + (x-t)f''(t) - \frac{(x-t)^2}{2}f'''(t) \\
 &\quad + \dots \\
 &\quad + \frac{(x-t)^{n-1}}{(n-1)!}f^{(n)}(t) - \frac{(x-t)^n}{n!}f^{(n+1)}(t) \\
 &= -\frac{(x-t)^n}{n!}f^{(n+1)}(t).
 \end{aligned}$$

Consider further the function

$$G(t) = F(t) - \left(\frac{x-t}{x-x_0}\right)^{n+1}F(x_0) \quad \text{for } t \in J$$

Then G is continuous on J , differentiable in the interior of J ,

$$\begin{cases} G(x_0) = F(x_0) - \left(\frac{x-x_0}{x-x_0}\right)^{n+1}F(x_0) = 0 \\ \text{and} \\ G(x) = F(x) - \left(\frac{x-x}{x-x_0}\right)^{n+1}F(x_0) = 0 \end{cases}$$

By Rolle's Thm, $\exists c \in \text{interior of } J$ (ie between x_0 & x)

$$\text{s.t. } 0 = G'(c) = F(c) + (n+1)\frac{(x-c)^n}{(x-x_0)^{n+1}}F(x_0)$$

$$\begin{aligned}
 R_n(x) &= F(x_0) = -\frac{1}{(n+1)} \cdot \frac{(x-x_0)^{n+1}}{(x-c)^n} F'(c) \\
 &= -\frac{1}{(n+1)} \cdot \frac{(x-x_0)^{n+1}}{(x-c)^n} \cdot \left(-\frac{(x-c)^n}{n!} f^{(n+1)}(c) \right) \\
 &= \frac{(x-x_0)^{n+1}}{(n+1)!} f^{(n+1)}(c)
 \end{aligned}$$

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Applications of Taylor's Theorem

Eg 6.4.2 (Approximation of values)

(a) Use Taylor's Thm with $n=2$ to approximate $\sqrt[3]{1+x}$, near $x=0$ ($x>-1$).

$$\text{Let } f(x) = (1+x)^{\frac{1}{3}}, \quad x_0 = 0$$

$$\text{For } n=2, \quad P_2(x) = f(x_0) + f'(x_0)(x-x_0) + \frac{f''(x_0)}{2!}(x-x_0)^2$$

$$\text{using } f(x) = (1+x)^{\frac{1}{3}}, \quad f(0) = 1,$$

$$\Rightarrow f'(x) = \frac{1}{3}(1+x)^{-\frac{2}{3}}, \quad f'(0) = \frac{1}{3}$$

$$\Rightarrow f''(x) = -\frac{2}{9}(1+x)^{-\frac{5}{3}}, \quad f''(0) = -\frac{2}{9}$$

$$\therefore P_2(x) = 1 + \frac{1}{3}x - \frac{1}{9}x^2$$

$$\text{And hence } f(x) = P_2(x) + R_2(x) = 1 + \frac{1}{3}x - \frac{1}{9}x^2 + R_2(x)$$

where $R_2(x) = \frac{1}{3!} f'''(c)(x-x_0)^3 = \frac{1}{3!} \left(\frac{2 \cdot 5}{9 \cdot 3}\right)(1+c)^{-\frac{8}{3}} x^3$

$$= \frac{5}{81} (1+c)^{-\frac{8}{3}} x^3 \quad \text{for some } c \text{ between } 0 \text{ & } x.$$

Explicit eg: If $x=0.3$.

Then $P_2(0.3) = 1 + \frac{1}{3}(0.3) - \frac{1}{9}(0.3)^2 = 1.09$

$$R_2(0.3) = \frac{5}{81} \cdot \frac{1}{(1+c)^{\frac{8}{3}}} (0.3)^3$$

$$\Rightarrow |R_2(0.3)| \leq \frac{5}{81} (0.3)^3 \quad \text{since } c \in (0, 0.3) \Rightarrow c > 0$$

$$= \frac{1}{600} < 0.0017 \quad \Rightarrow 1+c > 1$$

$\therefore |f(0.3) - P_2(0.3)| < 0.0017$

i.e. $|\sqrt[3]{1.3} - 1.09| < 0.0017$

$\therefore \sqrt[3]{1.3} \approx 1.09$ up to 2 decimal places.

- (b) Use Taylor's Thm to approximate e with error $< 10^{-5}$ (5 decimal places)
 (Assuming that we have defined e^x & proved $(e^x)' = e^x$, e^x increasing, & $e < 3$.)

Let $g(x) = e^x$, $x_0 = 0$.

Then by $(e^x)' = e^x$, we have $g^{(k)}(x) = e^x$, $\forall k = 1, 2, 3, \dots$

Suppose that we need to use Taylor's Thm up to n .

Then the error is given by the remainder term

$$R_n(x) = \frac{1}{(n+1)!} e^c x^{n+1} \text{ for some } c \text{ between } 0 \text{ & } x.$$

Take $x=1$, we have

$$R_n(1) \leq \frac{e}{(n+1)!} < \frac{3}{(n+1)!} \quad (0 < c < 1)$$

Hence, to ensure error $< 10^{-5}$, we need

$$\frac{3}{(n+1)!} < 10^{-5}$$

i.e. $(n+1)! > 3 \cdot 10^5 = 300000$ (Should use the smallest possible n to reduce calculation)

Try: $(8+1)! = 9! = 362880 \quad ((7+1)! = 8! = 40,320)$

$\therefore n=8$ is the required value and hence

$$e = g(1) \approx P_8(1) = g(0) + g'(0) \cdot 1 + \frac{g''(0)}{2!} \cdot 1^2 + \dots + \frac{g^{(8)}(0)}{8!} \cdot 1^8$$

$$= 1 + 1 + \frac{1}{2!} + \dots + \frac{1}{8!} \quad \text{with error } < 10^{-5}$$

$$= 2.718278\dots \quad (\text{use calculator/computer})$$

$\therefore e = 2.71828$ upto 5 decimal places

eg 6.4.3 (Applications to inequalities)

$$(a) \quad 1 - \frac{1}{2}x^2 \leq \cos x, \quad \forall x \in \mathbb{R}$$

Pf: let $f(x) = \cos x$, $x_0 = 0$,

Then Taylor's Thm \Rightarrow

$$\cos x = 1 - \frac{1}{2}x^2 + R_2(x) \quad (\text{check!})$$

with

$$R_2(x) = \frac{f^{(3)}(c)}{3!} x^3 = \frac{\sin c}{6} x^3$$

for some c between 0 & x .

If $0 \leq x \leq \pi$, then $0 \leq c \leq \pi$ (the case $x=0$, we have $c=0$)

$$\Rightarrow \sin c \geq 0, \quad x^3 \geq 0$$

Hence $R_2(x) \geq 0$.

$$\therefore 1 - \frac{1}{2}x^2 \leq \cos x \quad \forall x \in [0, \pi].$$

If $x \in [-\pi, 0]$, then $y = -x \in [0, \pi]$

$$\Rightarrow 1 - \frac{1}{2}y^2 \leq \cos y$$

Using $\cos(-x) = \cos x$, we have $1 - \frac{1}{2}x^2 \leq \cos x$.

Hence $1 - \frac{1}{2}x^2 \leq \cos x, \quad \forall x \in [-\pi, \pi].$

(check!)

If $|x| > \pi$, then $1 - \frac{1}{2}x^2 < 1 - \frac{1}{2}\pi^2 < -1 \leq \cos x$

All together $1 - \frac{1}{2}x^2 \leq \cos x \quad \forall x \in \mathbb{R}$

(b) $\forall k=1,2,3,\dots \text{ & } \forall x>0$

$$x - \frac{1}{2}x^2 + \frac{1}{3}x^3 - \dots - \frac{1}{2k}x^{2k} < \ln(1+x) < x - \frac{1}{2}x^2 + \frac{1}{3}x^3 - \dots + \frac{1}{2k+1}x^{2k+1}$$

Pf: Let $f(x) = \ln(1+x)$ for $x>-1$ (mistake in textbook)

$$\text{Then } f'(x) = \frac{1}{1+x}, \quad f'' = \frac{-1}{(1+x)^2}, \quad \dots \quad f^{(n)} = \frac{(-1)^{n-1}(n-1)!}{(1+x)^n}$$

$$\therefore f^{(n)}(0) = (-1)^{n-1}(n-1)!$$

\Rightarrow nth Taylor's Poly of $\ln(1+x)$ at $x=0$ is

$$P_n(x) = 0 + 1 \cdot x - \frac{1}{2!} \cdot x^2 + \frac{1}{3!} \cdot (2!)x^3 - \dots + \frac{1}{n!} (-1)^{n-1}(n-1)!x^n$$

$$= x - \frac{1}{2}x^2 + \frac{1}{3}x^3 - \dots + \frac{(-1)^{n-1}}{n} x^n$$

and Remainder is

(mistake in Textbook)

$$R_n(x) = \frac{(-1)^n n!}{(n+1)!} \frac{1}{(1+c)^{n+1}} x^{n+1} \quad \text{for some } c \text{ between } 0 \text{ and } x$$

If $x>0$, then $c>0$, and hence $1+c>1$

$$\Rightarrow R_n(x) = \frac{(-1)^n}{(n+1)} \cdot \left(\frac{x}{1+c}\right)^{n+1} \quad \begin{cases} > 0 & \text{if } n \text{ even} \\ < 0 & \text{if } n \text{ odd.} \end{cases}$$

\therefore For $n=2k$, $\ln(1+x) = P_{2k}(x) + R_{2k}(x) > P_{2k}(x)$

$$\text{i.e. } \ln(1+x) > x - \frac{x^2}{2} + \frac{x^3}{3} - \dots - \frac{x^{2k}}{2k} \quad (\forall x>0)$$

$$\forall \text{ for } n=2k+1 \quad \ln(1+x) = P_{2k+1}(x) + R_{2k+1}(x) < P_{2k+1}(x)$$

$$\text{i.e. } \ln(1+x) < x - \frac{x^2}{2} + \frac{x^3}{3} - \dots + \frac{x^{2k+1}}{2k+1} \quad (\forall x > 0)$$

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$$(c) \quad e^\pi > \pi^e$$

Pf : Taylor's Thm

$$\Rightarrow e^x = 1+x+R_1(x) \quad (\text{see eg 6.4.2})$$

$$\text{with } R_1(x) = \frac{e^c}{2!} x^2 > 0 \text{ for some } c \text{ between } 0 \text{ & } x.$$

(using the fact that $e^c > 0, \forall c \in \mathbb{R}$)

$$\therefore e^x > 1+x, \forall x \neq 0$$

$$\text{Put } x = \frac{\pi}{e} - 1 > 0 \quad (\text{using known approx. values of } \pi \text{ & } e)$$

into it, we have

$$e^{\left(\frac{\pi}{e}-1\right)} > 1 + \frac{\pi}{e} - 1 = \frac{\pi}{e}$$

$$\Rightarrow e^{\frac{\pi}{e}} > \pi$$

$$\Rightarrow e^\pi > \pi^e$$

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Application to Relative Extrema (Higher Derivative Test)

Thm 6.4.4 Let

- $f: I \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$, ($I = \text{interval}$)
- x_0 be an interior point of I
- $f', f'', \dots, f^{(n)}$ exist and continuous in a nbd of x_0 .
- $f'(x_0) = f''(x_0) = \dots = f^{(n-1)}(x_0) = 0$, $f^{(n)}(x_0) \neq 0$

Then

- (i) n even & $f^{(n)}(x_0) > 0$ \Rightarrow f has a relative minimum at x_0
- (ii) n even & $f^{(n)}(x_0) < 0$ \Rightarrow f has a relative maximum at x_0
- (iii) n odd \Rightarrow f has neither a relative minimum
nor a relative maximum at x_0

Remark: If $n=2$, it is the 2nd Derivative Test.

Pf: If $f^{(n)}(x_0) \neq 0$ and $f^{(n)}$ continuous,

then \exists nbd $U = (x_0 - \delta, x_0 + \delta) \subset I$ of x_0 such that

$$\operatorname{sgn}(f^{(n)}(x)) = \operatorname{sgn}(f^{(n)}(x_0)), \quad \forall x \in U. \quad \text{--- (†)}$$

Now, using $f'(x_0) = \dots = f^{(n-1)}(x_0) = 0$,

the Taylor's Thm \Rightarrow

$$f(x) = f(x_0) + \dots + \frac{f^{(n-1)}(x_0)}{(n-1)!} (x-x_0)^{n-1} + \frac{f^{(n)}(c)}{n!} (x-x_0)^n$$
$$= f(x_0) + \frac{f^{(n)}(c)}{n!} (x-x_0)^n, \quad \text{for some } c \text{ between } x_0 \text{ & } x.$$

Case (i) n even, $f^{(n)}(x_0) > 0$.

By (*) & Taylor's, $\forall x \in U$

Since $\begin{cases} n \text{ even} \Rightarrow (x-x_0)^n \geq 0 \quad \forall x \in U \\ f^{(n)}(x_0) > 0 \Rightarrow f^n(c) > 0, \quad (x \in U \Rightarrow c \in U), \end{cases}$

$$f(x) - f(x_0) = \frac{f^{(n)}(c)}{n!} (x-x_0)^n \geq 0,$$

$\therefore f$ has a relative minimum at x_0 .

Case (ii) n even, $f^{(n)}(x_0) < 0$.

By (*) & Taylor's, $\forall x \in U$

Since $\begin{cases} n \text{ even} \Rightarrow (x-x_0)^n \geq 0 \quad \forall x \in U \\ f^{(n)}(x_0) < 0 \Rightarrow f^n(c) < 0, \quad (x \in U \Rightarrow c \in U) \end{cases}$

$$f(x) - f(x_0) = \frac{f^{(n)}(c)}{n!} (x-x_0)^n \leq 0$$

$\therefore f$ has a relative maximum at x_0 .

Case (iii) n odd

Taylor's Thm $\Rightarrow \forall x \in U$

Since $\begin{cases} n \text{ odd} \Rightarrow (x-x_0)^n \text{ changes sign} \\ f^{(n)}(x_0) \neq 0 \Rightarrow f^n(c) \text{ has fixed sign } (x \in U \Rightarrow c \in U) \end{cases}$

$$f(x) - f(x_0) = \frac{f^{(n)}(c)}{n!} (x-x_0)^n \text{ changes sign}$$

\therefore Not maximum and also Not minimum.

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Application to Convex Functions

Def 6.4.5 Let I be an interval.

A function $f: I \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ is said to be convex on I

if $\forall t \in [0, 1]$ and any $x_1, x_2 \in I$, we have

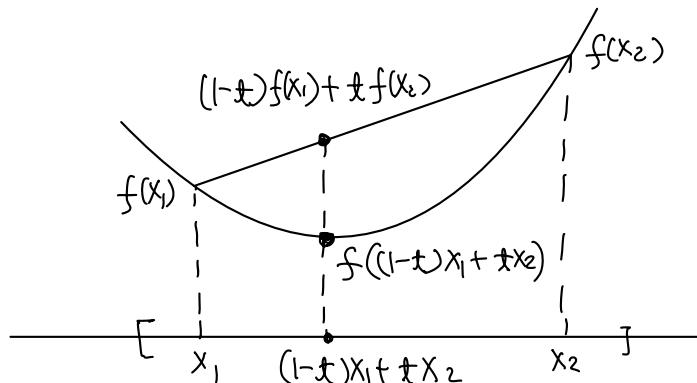
$$f((1-t)x_1 + t x_2) \leq (1-t)f(x_1) + t f(x_2)$$

Geometric meaning:

Graph always below

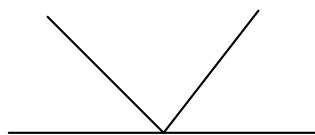
(at most up to) chord

(with same end pts)



Remark: Convex function need not be differentiable

e.g.: $f(x) = |x|$ is convex



but not differentiable

Thm 6.4.6 Let $\begin{cases} \bullet f: I \rightarrow \mathbb{R} & (I \text{ (open) interval}) \\ \bullet f''(x) \text{ exists } \forall x \in I \end{cases}$

Then f is convex on $I \Leftrightarrow f''(x) \geq 0, \forall x \in I$

Pf (\Rightarrow) (Ex 16 of §6.4)

$$f''(x) \text{ exists} \Rightarrow f''(x) = \lim_{h \rightarrow 0} \frac{f(x+h) - 2f(x) + f(x-h)}{h^2}$$

Now, f convex on $I \Rightarrow$

$\forall x \in I$ and $h \in \mathbb{R}$ such that $x \pm h \in I$, we have

$$f\left(\frac{1}{2}(x+h) + \frac{1}{2}(x-h)\right) \leq \frac{1}{2}f(x+h) + \frac{1}{2}f(x-h)$$

i.e. $2f(x) \leq f(x+h) + f(x-h)$

Therefore $\frac{f(x+h) - 2f(x) + f(x-h)}{h^2} \geq 0$

$$\Rightarrow f''(x) = \lim_{h \rightarrow 0} \frac{f(x+h) - 2f(x) + f(x-h)}{h^2} \geq 0, \quad \forall x \in I.$$

(\Leftarrow) Assuming $f''(x) \geq 0$, $\forall x \in I$.

$\forall t \in [0,1]$ & $\forall x_1, x_2 \in I$,

let $x_0 = (1-t)x_1 + tx_2$ (clearly $\in I$)

Then Taylor's Thm \Rightarrow

$$f(x_1) = f(x_0) + f'(x_0)(x_1 - x_0) + \frac{1}{2}f''(c_1)(x_1 - x_0)^2$$

$$\geq f(x_0) + f'(x_0)(x_1 - x_0) \quad (\text{for some } c_1 \text{ between } x_1 \text{ & } x_0)$$

and $f(x_2) = f(x_0) + f'(x_0)(x_2 - x_0) + \frac{1}{2} f''(c_2)(x_2 - x_0)^2$

(for some c_2 between x_2 & x_0)

$$\geq f(x_0) + f'(x_0)(x_2 - x_0)$$

$$(1-t)f(x_1) + t f(x_2)$$

$$\geq (1-t)f(x_0) + t f(x_0) + f'(x_0)[(1-t)(x_1 - x_0) + t(x_2 - x_0)]$$

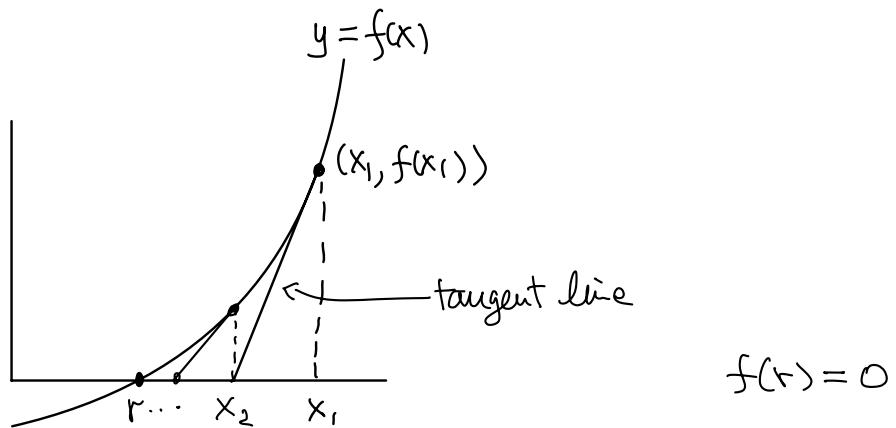
$$= f(x_0) + f'(x_0)[(1-t)x_1 + t x_2 - x_0]$$

$$= f((1-t)x_1 + t x_2), \quad \text{since } x_0 = (1-t)x_1 + t x_2$$

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Newton's Method

Idea:



$$\text{Equation of tangent line: } y - f(x_1) = f'(x_1)(x - x_1)$$

\therefore its intersection with x-axis, x_2 , satisfies

$$-f(x_1) = f'(x_1)(x_2 - x_1)$$

$$\therefore x_2 = x_1 - \frac{f(x_1)}{f'(x_1)} \quad (\text{provided } f'(x_1) \neq 0)$$

Successively

$$x_{n+1} = x_n - \frac{f(x_n)}{f'(x_n)} \quad (\text{provided } f'(x_k) \neq 0 \text{ for } k=1, \dots, n)$$

Hope (to find condition such that)

$$x_n \rightarrow r \quad (\text{a zero (root) of } f).$$

Thm 6.4.7 (Newton's Method)

- Let
- $f: [a, b] \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ twice differentiable ($a < b$)
 - $f(a)f(b) < 0$ (ie $f(a), f(b)$ have opposite signs)
 - \exists constants $m > 0, M \geq 0$ such that

$$|f'(x)| \geq m > 0 \quad \& \quad |f''(x)| \leq M, \quad \forall x \in [a, b].$$

Then \exists a subinterval $I^* \subset [a, b]$

- containing a zero r of f , such that
- $\forall x_1 \in I^*$, the sequence (x_n) defined by

$$x_{n+1} = x_n - \frac{f(x_n)}{f'(x_n)} \quad \forall n=1, 2, 3 \dots$$

belongs to I^* and

- $\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} x_n = r$

Moreover • $|x_{n+1} - r| \leq K |x_n - r|^2 \quad \forall n=1, 2, 3 \dots$

where $K = M/m$.