

Class observation tomorrow

Quiz Wed 17th 24.7

24.8 Differentials and Linear Approximation

Application of differentials:
absolute or relative error

Ex: $y = 3x^6 + 7x^3$

$$\frac{dy}{dx} = 18x^5 + 21x^2$$

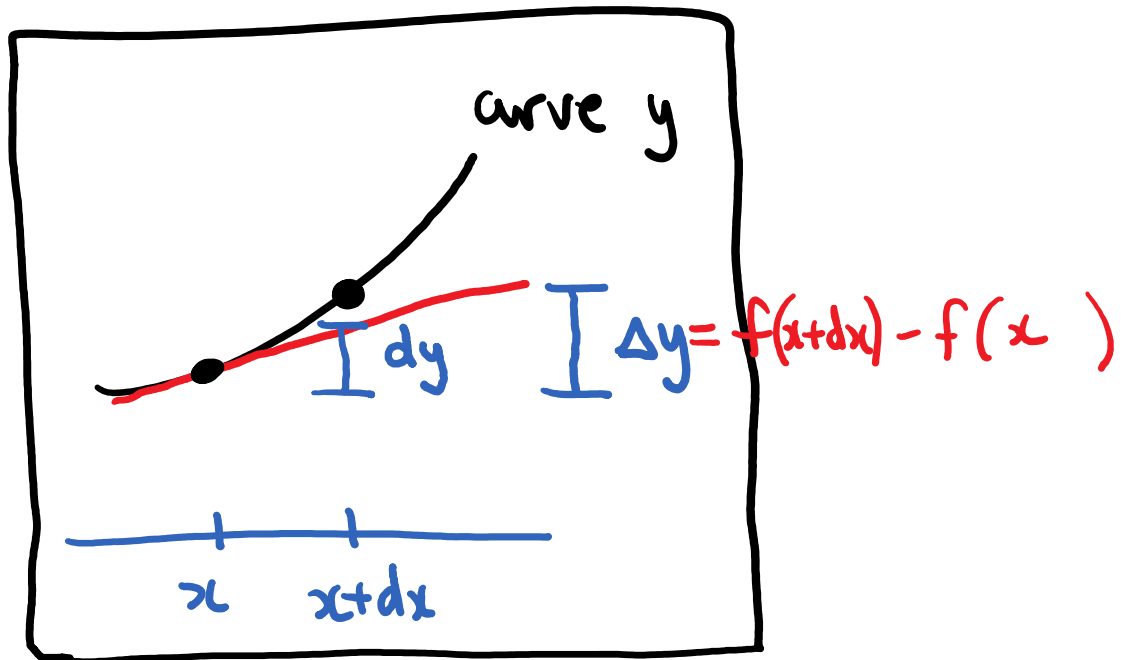
$$dy = (18x^5 + 21x^2) dx$$

↑ "differential of y" ↑ "differential of x"

If $y = f(x)$
then $dy = f'(x) dx$

Ex: $V = \frac{4}{3} \pi r^3$

$$dV = 4\pi r^2 dr$$



Δx or dx : small change in x
 dy : rise of tangent line
 Δy : true change in y

When dx is small, $\Delta y \approx dy$
↑ hard to calculate ↑ easy

Ex: $f(x) = x^2 + 2$
 Compute Δy and dy
 given $x=1$ and $dx=0.05$

$$dy = f'(x) dx$$

$$\Delta y = f(x+dx) - f(x)$$

$$dy = 2x dx$$

$$= 2(1)(0.05)$$

$$= 0.1$$

approx
change in y
easy

$$\Delta y = f(1.05) - f(1)$$

$$= (1.05^2 + 2) - 3$$

$$= 0.1025$$

harder

true change
in y

Ex: Sphere's radius is measured as 2.500 cm. If the true radius is 2.512 cm, estimate the error in the volume.

$$r = 2.500 \quad \text{measured}$$

$$dr = \text{true} - \text{measured}$$

$$= 2.512 - 2.500$$

$$= 0.012 \quad \text{error}$$

$$V = \frac{4}{3}\pi r^3$$
$$\Delta V \approx dV$$

↑
true
error

$$= 4\pi r^2 dr$$
$$= 4\pi (2.500)^2 (0.012)$$
$$\approx 0.9425 \text{ cm}^3$$