

Differentials and Approximations

We have seen the notation dy/dx and we've never separated the symbols. Now, we'll give meaning to dy and dx as separate entities.

We know
$$\lim_{x\to 0} \frac{f(x_0 \pm \Delta x) - f(x_0)}{\Delta x} = f'(x_0)$$
 gives the derivative (slope) of the function $f(x)$ at $x = x_0$.
If Δx is really small, then $\frac{f(x_0 \pm \Delta x) - f(x_0)}{\Delta x} \approx f'(x_0)$ approximately the
and $f(x_0 \pm \Delta x) - f(x) \approx f'(x_0) \Delta x$
Differentials
Let $y = f(x)$ be a differentiable function of x . Δx is an arbitrary increment of x .
 $dx = \Delta x$ (dx is called a differential of x .)
 Δy is actual change in y as x goes from x to $x \pm \Delta x$.
i.e. $\Delta y = f(x \pm \Delta x) - f(x)$
 $dy = f'(x) dx$
 $dy = f'(x) dx$
 $dy = f'(x) dx$
 $\Delta y \approx dy$

EX 1 Find dy.
a)
$$y = 4x^{3} - 2x + 5$$

 $dy = (12x^{2} - 2) dy = (12x^{2} - 2) dx$
b) $y = 2\sqrt{x^{4}+6x} = 2(x^{4} + 6x)^{1/2}$
 $dy = 2(x^{4} + 6x)^{1/2}$
 $dy = 2(x^{4} + 6x)^{1/2}$
 $dy = (4x^{3} + 6)$
 $dy = (4x^{3} + 6) dx$
 $dy = (4x^{3} + 6) dx$
 $dy = -sin(x^{3} - sx + 11)(sx^{3} - s) \rightarrow dy = -sin(x^{3} - sx + 11)(sx^{3} - s) \rightarrow dy = -sin(x^{3} - sx + 11)(sx^{3} - s) \rightarrow dy = -sin(x^{3} - sx + 11)(sx^{3} - s) \rightarrow dy = -sin(x^{3} - sx + 11)(sx^{3} - s) \rightarrow dy = -sin(x^{3} - sx + 11)(sx^{3} - s) \rightarrow dy = -sin(x^{3} - sx + 11)(sx^{3} - s) \rightarrow dy = -sin(x^{3} - sx + 11)(sx^{3} - s) \rightarrow dy = -sin(x^{3} - sx + 11)(sx^{3} - s) \rightarrow dy = -sin(x^{3} - sx + 11)(sx^{3} - s) \rightarrow dy = -sin(x^{3} - sx + 11)(sx^{3} - sx + 11)(sx$

Differentials can be used for approximations.

If $f(x+\Delta x)-f(x) \approx f'(x) \Delta x$,

then $f(x+\Delta x) \approx f(x) + f'(x) \Delta x$.

EX 2 Find a good approximation for $\sqrt{9.2}$ without using a calculator.

EX 3 Use differentials to approximate the increase in the surface area of a soap bubble when its radius increases from 4 inches to 4.1 inches.

SA= f(r)= 411r2, r= 4in, Dr=dr=0.1in Want to approximate Df. (Df = actual change MSA, f(4.1)-f(4)) $\Delta f \simeq df = f'(r) dr$, $f'(r) = 8\pi r$ $\Delta f \simeq 8\pi(4)(0.1) = 3.2\pi \simeq 10.05$

EX 4 The height of a cylinder is measured as 12 cm with a possible error of ± 0.1 cm. Evaluate the volume of the cylinder with radius 4 cm and give an estimate for the possible error in this value.

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$$V = \pi r^{2}h = |6\pi h, dh = \pm 0.16m$$

$$V(h) = 16\pi h \quad V(12) = |6\pi(12)$$

$$AV \simeq dV = V'(h) dh = |6\pi(\pm 0.1)$$

$$dV = \pm |.6\pi \simeq 5.03 \text{ cm}^{3}$$

$$V = 192\pi \simeq 603.2 \text{ cm}^{3}$$

