

Section 2.10: Other Applications

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Exam 2		stem & leaf	
55.7142 9	mean		A - 0
21.0107 2	st.dev		B - 2
62	media n	8 12	C - 2
21	min	7 27	D - 4
82	max	6 2248	F - 6
14	count	5 2	
		4 08	
		3 0	
12 class meetings before final exam			
8 textbook sections			
1 textbook section per class meeting			

Exam 1		stem & leaf	
52.4666 7	mean		A - 1
20.6012	st.dev	9 2	B - 0
56	media n	8	C - 0
19	min	7	D - 6
92	max	6 03568 8	F - 8
15	count	5 66	
		4 445	
		3	
		2 01	
		1 9	

2.10

$$f'(a) \cong \frac{\Delta y}{\Delta x} = \frac{f(x) - f(a)}{x - a}$$

$$(f'(a))(x - a) \approx f(x) - f(a)$$

$$f(x) \approx f(a) + (f'(a))(x - a)$$

supplied

The Tangent Line Approximation (TLA)

To approximate the value of $f(x)$ using TLA, find some a where

1. a and x are "close," and
2. You know the exact values of both $f(a)$ and $f'(a)$.

Then $f(x) \cong f(a) + f'(a)(x - a)$

Another way to look at the same formula:

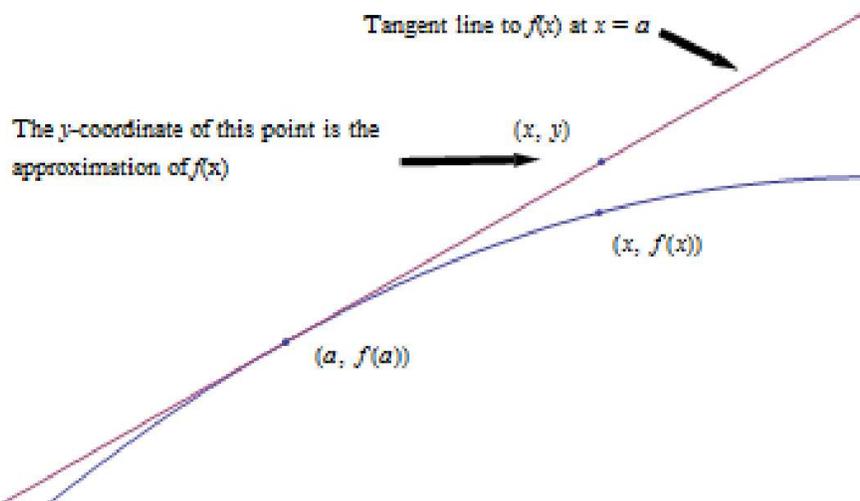
$$\Delta y \cong f'(a)\Delta x$$

How close is close? It depends on the shape of the graph of f . In general, the closer the better.

$$\text{Let } \Delta x = x - a$$

$$\text{Let } \Delta x = x - a$$

$$\rightarrow \underbrace{f(x) - f(a)}_{\Delta y} \approx (f'(a)) \underbrace{(x - a)}_{\Delta x}$$



Supplied

Elasticity of Demand

Given a demand function that gives q in terms of p ,

The elasticity of demand is $E = \left| \frac{p}{q} \cdot \frac{dq}{dp} \right|$

(Note that since demand is a decreasing function of p , the derivative is negative. That's why we have the absolute values – so E will always be positive.)

If $E < 1$, we say demand is **inelastic**. In this case, raising prices increases revenue.

If $E > 1$, we say demand is **elastic**. In this case, raising prices decreases revenue.

If $E = 1$, we say demand is **unitary**. $E = 1$ at critical points of the revenue function.

Interpretation of elasticity:

If the price increases by 1%, the demand will decrease by $E\%$.

Use TLA to estimate $\sqrt{10}$

