

## AP Calculus BC

### Lesson 3.10 Linearization and Differentials

- The tangent line to a curve at a point on that curve is called the linearization (or linear approximation) of the function at that point. This is denoted by the function  $L(x)$ .
  - Find the linearization  $L(x)$  to  $f(x) = \sqrt[3]{x}$  at  $x = 8$ .
  - Compare  $L(8)$  and  $f(8)$ . Compare  $L'(8)$  and  $f'(8)$ . What do you notice?
  - How closely does this linear equation approximate  $f$  at  $x = 8$ ? At  $x = 9$ ?
  - Find an interval for which the linear approximation you found in part (a) approximates  $f$  to an accuracy of 0.1.
- Approximate  $\sqrt{37}$  by using a linear approximation to  $f(x) = \sqrt{x}$  at  $x = 36$ . What is the error when compared to the actual value of  $\sqrt{37}$ ?
  - Rewrite your linear approximation in the form  $l(x) = a + b(x - 36)$ . What are the values of  $a$  and  $b$ ?
- Find  $\Delta f$ ,  $df$ , the error  $|\Delta f - df|$ , the relative change, and the percentage change for each of the following:
  - $f(x) = 2x^2 + 4x - 3$ , when  $x = 1$  and  $dx = 0.5$
  - $f(x) = \sin(x)$ , when  $x = \frac{\pi}{6}$  and  $dx = \frac{\pi}{180}$
  - $f(x) = \frac{1}{x}$ , when  $x = 2$  and  $dx = -0.1$

4. Write a differential formula that estimates the given change in volume or surface area for each of the following situations.
- The change in the volume  $v = x^3$  of a cube when the edge of the cube changes from  $x_0$  to  $x_0 + dx$ .
  - The change in the lateral surface area  $S = 2\pi rh$  of a right circular cylinder when the height changes from  $h_0$  to  $h_0 + dh$ .
5. The edge of a cube is measured as 10 cm with an error of 1%. The volume of the cube is calculated from this measurement. Estimate the percentage error in the calculation of the volume.
6. Estimate the volume of rubber in a basketball if the inner diameter is 14 inches and the outer diameter is 14.25 inches.
7. A manufacturer contracts to mint coins for the government. How much variation in  $dr$ , where  $r$  is the radius of the coin, can be tolerated if the coins are to weigh within  $\frac{1}{1000}$  of their ideal weight? Assume that the thickness does not vary.
8. Estimate the allowable percentage error in measuring the diameter  $d$  of a sphere if the volume is to be calculated to within 3%.