

MATH 2301 Section 110 (Barrsman) Day 26 (Wed March 1, 2023) (1)

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Today: 2.8 Differentials  
3.1 Exponential Functions

Fri: 3.2 Inverse Functions, Logarithms Quiz Q5

Fri March 10 Exam X2

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Continuing Discussion of Section 2.8  
Linearizations + Differentials

Recall Linearizations

Given function  $f(x)$  and a real number "a".

The equation for the line tangent to the graph of  $f$  at  $x=a$

$$(y - f(a)) = f'(a)(x - a)$$

The Linearization of  $f$  at  $a$

$$L(x) = f(a) + f'(a)(x - a)$$

Describes  $y$  values on tangent line at  $a$  as a function of  $x$ .

The Linearization is useful for approximations

[Example] 2.8#11 Use linearization to estimate  $(1.999)^4$

Notice: we could find  $(1.999)^4$  exactly by hand. It would be a number with 12 decimal places.

To use a linearization to approximate the value

- Identify a function  $f(x)$  that is implicated.
- Identify a convenient nearby  $x$  value. Call it  $a$ .
- Find the linearization of  $f$  at  $a$ .

$$L(x) = f(a) + f'(a)(x-a)$$

- Find the value of  ~~$f(x)$~~   $L(x)$  for the given value of  $x$ .

$$f(x) = x^4$$

$a = 2$   
convenient because  
 $f(2) = 2^4$  would be easy

$$L(x) = 16 + 32(x-2)$$

(2)

Get L(x)

Get Parts

$$f(x) = x^4$$

$$a = 2 = \text{convenient nearby } x \text{ value}$$

$$f(a) = f(2) = 2^4 = 16$$

$$f'(x) = 4 \cdot x^3$$

$$f'(a) = f'(2) = 4 \cdot (2)^3 = 4 \cdot 8 = 32$$

Build L(x)

$$L(x) = 16 + 32(x - 2)$$

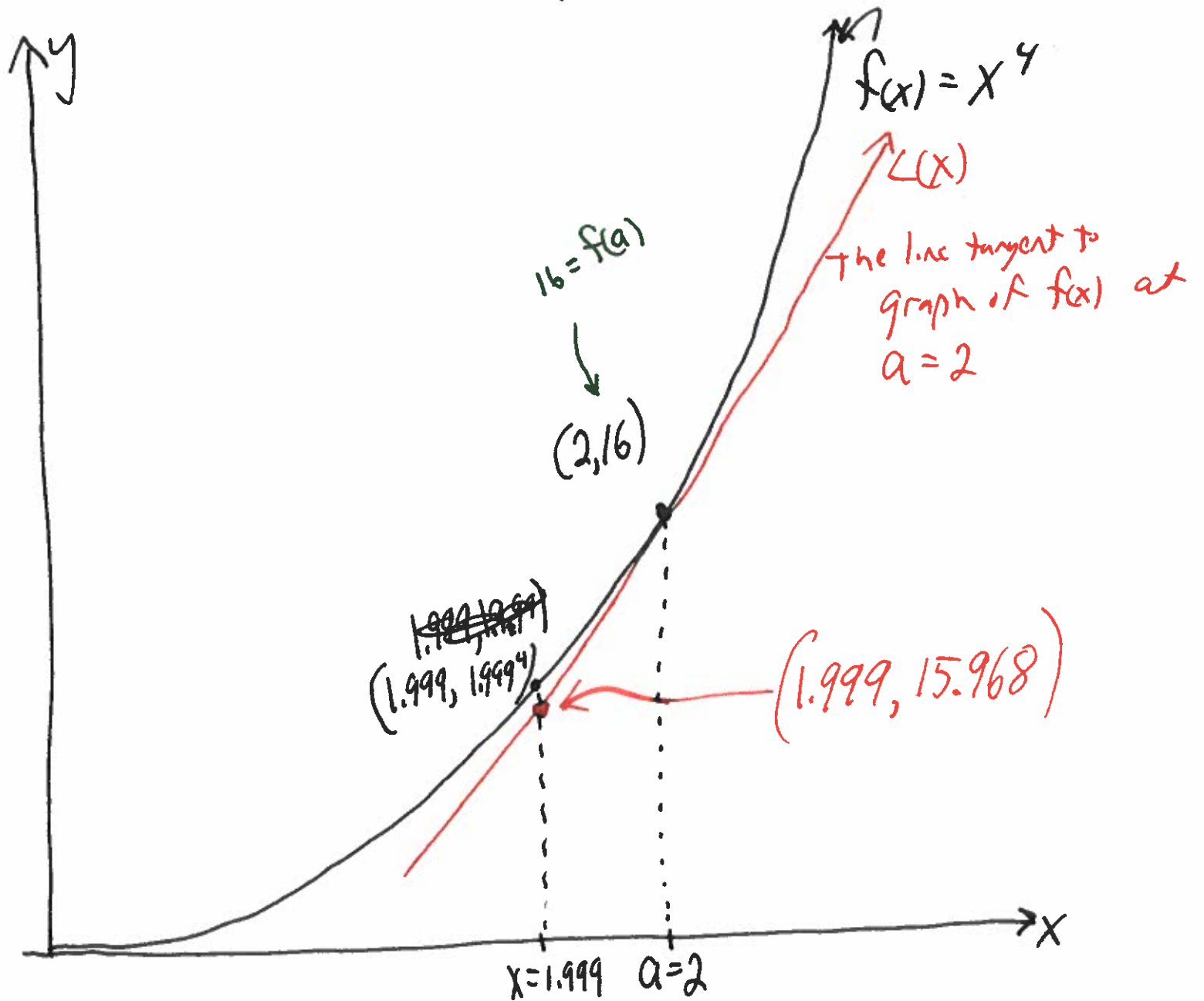
oddly, don't simplify

Given value of x is  $x = 1.999$

$$\begin{aligned}
L(1.999) &= 16 + 32(1.999 - 2) \\
&= 16 + 32(-0.001) \\
&= 16 - 0.032 \\
&= 15.968
\end{aligned}$$

(b) Illustrate the result of (a) on a graph

(4)



The big idea of Linearizations:  
for  $x$  near  $a$ ,

$$\underbrace{f(x)}_{\substack{\uparrow \\ \text{exact value}}} \approx \underbrace{L(x)}_{\substack{\uparrow \\ \text{approximate value}}}$$

So

$$\underbrace{f(1.999)}_{\text{exact}} \approx \underbrace{L(1.999)}_{\text{approx}} = 15.968$$

From graph, we see that  $L(1.999) < f(1.999)$

$$15.968 \approx (1.999)^4 = 15.968023992001$$

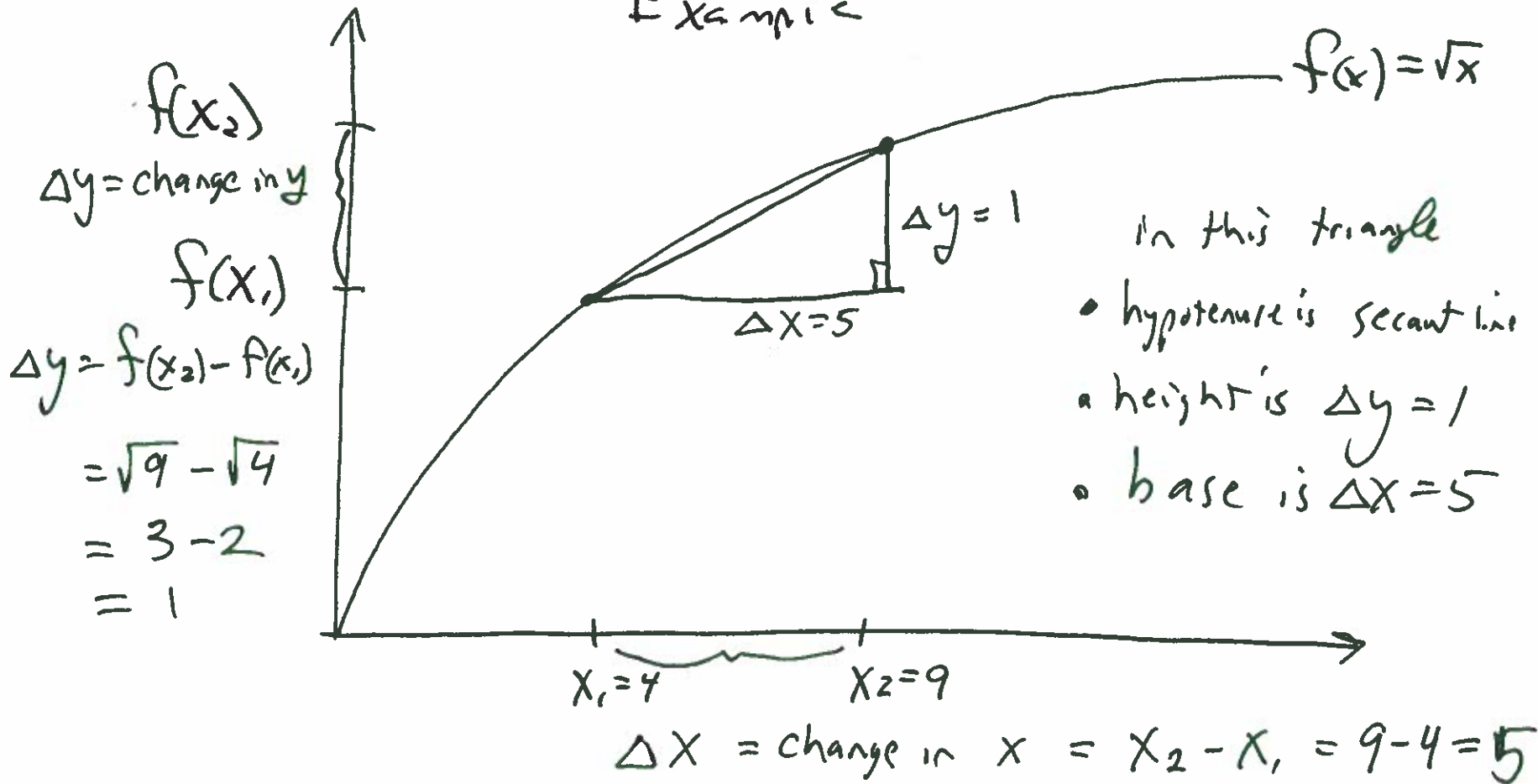
# New topic: Differentials (Section 2.8)

Consider function  $f(x)$  and known  $x$  values  $x_1, x_2$ .

Question: How much does  $f(x)$  change when  $x$  changes from  $x_1$  to  $x_2$ ?

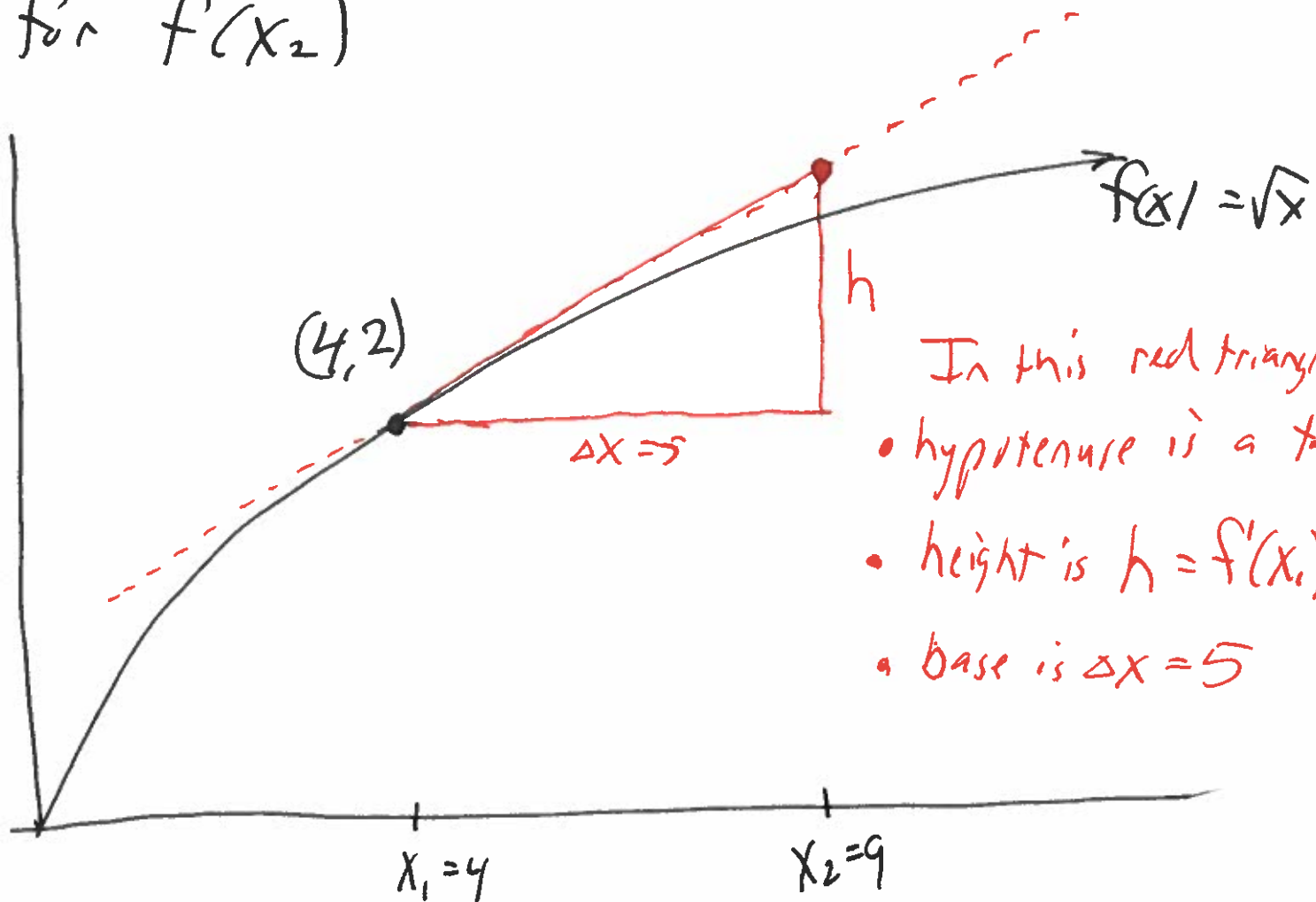
We'll discuss exact and approximate answers to this question.

Example



There is another way to get a height.

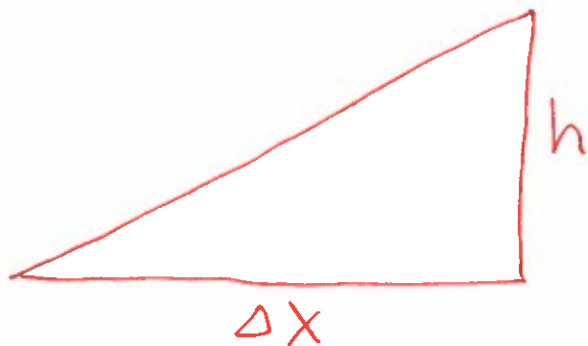
Use tangent line at  $x_1$  to get an approximation for  $f(x_2)$



- In this red triangle
- hypotenuse is a tangent line
  - height is  $h = f'(x_1) \cdot \Delta x$
  - base is  $\Delta x = 5$



Figure out height  $h$



Notice: Slope of red hypotenuse is  $m = \frac{\text{rise}}{\text{run}} = \frac{h}{\Delta x}$

but the red line is the line tangent to graph of  $f(x)$  at  $x_1$ , so its slope is  $m = f'(x_1)$

So we get an equation

$$\frac{h}{\Delta x} = f'(x_1)$$

Solve for  $h$  by multiplying both sides by  $\Delta x$

$$h = f'(x_1) \cdot \Delta x$$



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This quantity has a name:

• The differential of  $f(x)$  at  $x_1 = 4$  when  $\Delta x = 5$

• Symbol  $dy = f'(x_1) \cdot \Delta x$   
 $= f'(4) \cdot 5$

The differential of  $f(x)$  at  $x_1$  is

$$dy = f'(x_1) \cdot \Delta x$$

For our example

$$dy = f'(4) \cdot \Delta x = f'(4) \cdot 5$$

our function  $f(x) = \sqrt{x} = x^{1/2}$

$$f'(x) = \frac{1}{2} x^{-1/2} = \frac{1}{2\sqrt{x}}$$

$$f'(4) = \frac{1}{2\sqrt{4}} = \frac{1}{2 \cdot 2} = \frac{1}{4}$$

$$dy = f'(4) \cdot \Delta x = \frac{1}{4} \cdot 5 = \frac{5}{4}$$

Not. ep:

Exact change

≈ Approximate change

$$\begin{array}{c} \Delta y \\ f(5) - f(4) \end{array}$$

$$\approx dy$$

$$\approx f'(4) \cdot \Delta x$$

$$\sqrt{9} - \sqrt{4}$$

$$\approx \frac{1}{4} \cdot 5$$

$$3 - 2$$

$$\approx \frac{5}{4}$$

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$$\approx \frac{5}{4}$$

exact change

approx change