DATE:

## Linearization (Linear Approximation)

## Linear Approximation

$\rightarrow$ use of a tangent line at $(a, f(a))$ to approximate some $y$-value at some $x$-value.


If $f$ is diff'able at $x=a$, then the equation of the tangent line at $(a, f(a))$ is:

## Example 1:

Estimate $f(4.1)$ for $f(x)=\sqrt{x^{2}+9}$.

The function $f$ is twice-differentiable with $f(2)=1, f^{\prime}(2)=4$, and $f^{\prime \prime}(2)=3$. What is the value of the approximation of $f(1.9)$ using the line tangent to the graph of $f$ at $x=2$ ?

## Overapproximation vs. Underapproximation

Is the tangent line approximation an over or under approximation of the actual value?

|  | $f$ is increasing | $f$ is decreasing |
| :--- | :--- | :--- |
| $f$ is concave <br> up |  |  |

## Conclusion:

Tangent line approximation is an over approximation of the actual value when:

Tangent line approximation is an under approximation of the actual value when:

