

# Autodiff

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  - ③ symbolic differentiation : outputs massive expressions  $\Rightarrow$  slow.

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  - ② numerical- : unstable, bad scaling,
  - ③ symbolic differentiation : outputs massive expressions  $\Rightarrow$  slow.
- A(utomatic) D(ifferentiation): symbolic + numerical.

# One-page summary: Jacobian

① Jacobian of  $f : \mathbb{R}^{d_1} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^{d_2}$

- forward AD:  $c \cdot d_1 \cdot eval(f)$ ,
- reverse AD:  $c \cdot d_2 \cdot eval(f)$ ;  $c < 6$ .

Shortly, computational time =  $c \cdot \min(d_1, d_2) \cdot eval(f)$ .

Matrix-free computations:

- ② Jacobian-vector products [1-pass,  $c \cdot eval(f)$ ]:
  - $\mathbf{J}_f \mathbf{v}$ : forward mode.
  - $\mathbf{J}_f^T \mathbf{v}$ : reverse mode.
- ③ Hessian-vector product ( $f : \mathbb{R}^d \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ ):
  - $\mathbf{H}_f \mathbf{v}$ :  $O(d)$ , although  $\mathbf{H} \in \mathbb{R}^{d \times d}$ !

## Example

- Recursion:

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# Example

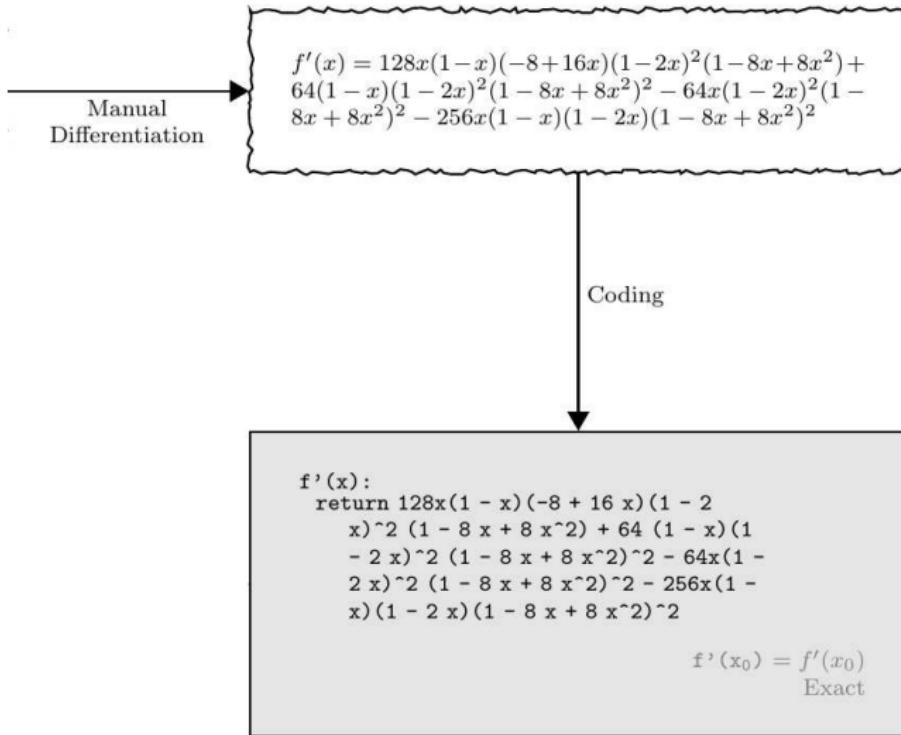
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- Target function ( $f$ ):

- $f(x) = r_4(x) = 64x(1-x)(1-2x)^2(1-8x+8x^2)^2.$

# Option-1: manual differentiation + coding



## Option-2: numerical differentiation

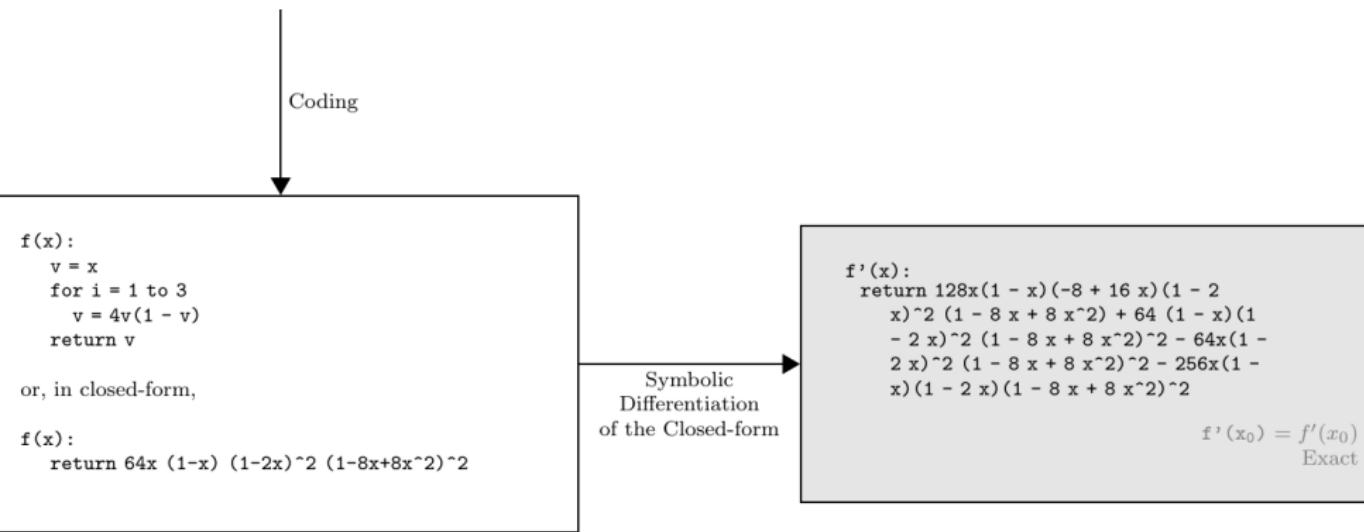
```
f(x):  
    return 64x (1-x) (1-2x)^2 (1-8x+8x^2)^2
```

Numerical  
Differentiation

```
f'(x):  
    return (f(x + h) - f(x)) / h
```

$f'(x_0) \approx f'(x_0)$   
Approximate

## Option-2: symbolic differentiation of the closed form



# Option-4: automatic differentiation

```
f(x):  
    v = x  
    for i = 1 to 3  
        v = 4v(1 - v)  
    return v
```

or, in closed-form,

```
f(x):  
    return 64x (1-x) (1-2x)^2 (1-8x+8x^2)^2
```

Automatic  
Differentiation

```
f'(x):  
    (v,v') = (x,1)  
    for i = 1 to 3  
        (v,v') = (4v(1-v), 4v'-8vv')  
    return (v,v')
```

$$f'(x_0) = f'(x_0)$$

Exact

## 2: Numerical differentiation

Assume  $f : \mathbb{R}^{d_1} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ ;  $h > 0$ .

$$\frac{\partial f(\mathbf{x})}{\partial \mathbf{x}_i} \approx \frac{f(\mathbf{x} + h\mathbf{e}_i)}{h}, \quad \frac{\partial f(\mathbf{x})}{\partial \mathbf{x}_i} \approx \frac{f(\mathbf{x} + h\mathbf{e}_i) - f(\mathbf{x} - h\mathbf{e}_i)}{2h}.$$

- Complexity:  $(d_1 + 1) \cdot eval(f) \rightarrow 2d_1 \cdot eval(f)$ .
- Truncation error:  $O(h) \rightarrow O(h^2)$ .

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Higher order schemes:

- increased complexity, floating point errors remain.

- Computer algebra systems:
  - automatic manipulation of expressions.
  - Mathematica, Maple, Maxima.
- Manual/numerical weaknesses: ✓
- Massive & cryptic expressions.
- Requires: closed form expressions (a la manual).

3 main properties:

- ① *Symbolic* differentiation: for the elementary operations.
- ② Smart book-keeping: computational graph.
- ③ It gives a *numerical* value.

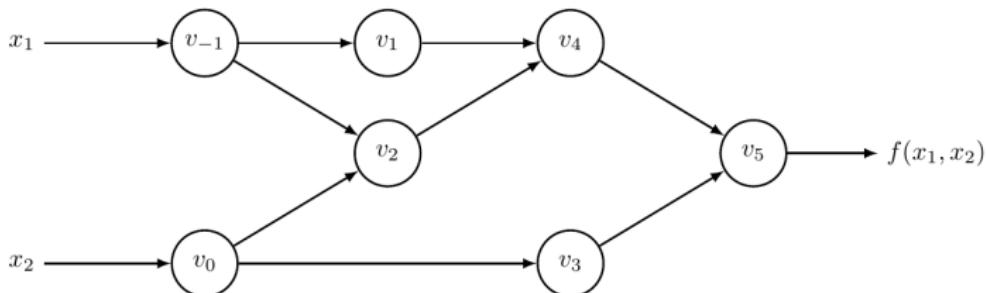
Notes:

- 2 modes: forward/reverse accumulation (chain rule).
- Optimal Jacobian accumulation = NP-complete.

$$\text{AD-forward: } f(x_1, x_2) = \ln(x_1) + x_1 x_2 - \sin(x_2); \frac{\partial f}{\partial x_1} \Big|_{(2,5)} = ?$$

Forward Evaluation Trace

$v_{-1}$	$= x_1$	$= 2$
$v_0$	$= x_2$	$= 5$
<hr/>		
$v_1$	$= \ln v_{-1}$	$= \ln 2$
$v_2$	$= v_{-1} \times v_0$	$= 2 \times 5$
$v_3$	$= \sin v_0$	$= \sin 5$
$v_4$	$= v_1 + v_2$	$= 0.693 + 10$
$v_5$	$= v_4 - v_3$	$= 10.693 + 0.959$
<hr/>		
$y$	$= v_5$	$= 11.652$
<hr/>		



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Forward Evaluation Trace			Forward Derivative Trace		
$v_{-1} = x_1$	$= 2$		$\dot{v}_{-1} = \dot{x}_1$	$= 1$	
$v_0 = x_2$	$= 5$		$\dot{v}_0 = \dot{x}_2$	$= 0$	
$v_1 = \ln v_{-1}$	$= \ln 2$		$\dot{v}_1 = \dot{v}_{-1}/v_{-1}$	$= 1/2$	
$v_2 = v_{-1} \times v_0$	$= 2 \times 5$		$\dot{v}_2 = \dot{v}_{-1} \times v_0 + \dot{v}_0 \times v_{-1}$	$= 1 \times 5 + 0 \times 2$	
$v_3 = \sin v_0$	$= \sin 5$		$\dot{v}_3 = \dot{v}_0 \times \cos v_0$	$= 0 \times \cos 5$	
$v_4 = v_1 + v_2$	$= 0.693 + 10$		$\dot{v}_4 = \dot{v}_1 + \dot{v}_2$	$= 0.5 + 5$	
$v_5 = v_4 - v_3$	$= 10.693 + 0.959$		$\dot{v}_5 = \dot{v}_4 - \dot{v}_3$	$= 5.5 - 0$	
$y = v_5$	$= 11.652$		$\dot{y} = \dot{v}_5$	$= 5.5$	

$$\dot{v}_i = \frac{\partial v_i}{\partial x_1} \Rightarrow \dot{v}_5 = \frac{\partial y}{\partial x_1}.$$

For  $f : \mathbb{R}^{d_1} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^{d_2}$

- $\mathbf{x} = \mathbf{a}, \dot{\mathbf{x}} = \mathbf{e}_i$  gives the  $i^{th}$  column of

$$\mathbf{J}_f(\mathbf{a}) = \left[ \begin{array}{ccc} \frac{\partial f_1}{\partial x_1} & \cdots & \frac{\partial f_1}{\partial x_{d_1}} \\ \dots & \ddots & \dots \\ \frac{\partial f_{d_2}}{\partial x_1} & \cdots & \frac{\partial f_{d_2}}{\partial x_{d_1}} \end{array} \right] \Big|_{\mathbf{x}=\mathbf{a}}.$$

Consequence:  $d_2 = 1$  would also require  $d_1$  passes!

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- $\mathbf{x} = \mathbf{a}, \dot{\mathbf{x}} = \mathbf{v}$  produces  $\mathbf{J}_f(\mathbf{a})\mathbf{v} \leftarrow$  1-pass, matrix-free!

# Dual numbers

- Recall:  $v_3 = \sin(v_0) \Rightarrow \dot{v}_3 = \cos(v_0)\dot{v}_0$  ⇒ Idea: compute/store function values & derivatives together.
- Def.:

$$\mathbb{D} = \{v + \dot{v}\epsilon : \epsilon^2 = 0, (v, \dot{v}) \in \mathbb{R}^2\} = \mathbb{R}[\epsilon]/(\epsilon^2) = \left\{ \begin{bmatrix} v & \dot{v} \\ 0 & v \end{bmatrix} \right\}.$$

Arithmetic:

$$(v + \dot{v}\epsilon) + (u + \dot{u}\epsilon) = (u + v) + (\dot{v} + \dot{u})\epsilon,$$
$$(v + \dot{v}\epsilon)(u + \dot{u}\epsilon) = (vu) + (v\dot{u} + \dot{v}u)\epsilon.$$

## Dual numbers: extension of functions

- Recall:  $v_3 = \sin(v_0) \Rightarrow \dot{v}_3 = \cos(v_0)\dot{v}_0$ .
- Let us extend a  $g : \mathbb{R} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$  to  $\tilde{g} : \mathbb{D} \rightarrow \mathbb{D}$  as

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- Compatibility with the chain rule:

$$\widetilde{(f \circ g)}(v + \dot{v}\epsilon) = (f \circ g)(v) + (f \circ g)'(v)\dot{v}\epsilon$$

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## The extension gives the 'natural' operation on $\mathbb{D}$

- Definition for  $g : \mathbb{R}^{d_1} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^{d_2}$ :  $\tilde{g}(\mathbf{v} + \dot{\mathbf{v}}\epsilon) := g(\mathbf{v}) + J_g(\mathbf{v})\dot{\mathbf{v}}\epsilon$ .
- Example:  $+ : \mathbb{R} \times \mathbb{R} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$

$$\tilde{+}(v_1 + \dot{v}_1\epsilon, v_2 + \dot{v}_2\epsilon) = +(v_1, v_2) + J_+(v_1, v_2) \begin{bmatrix} \dot{v}_1 \\ \dot{v}_2 \end{bmatrix} \epsilon$$

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- The same holds for:  $\times, /$ , polynomials, analytic functions.

## Dual numbers: example

- Recall:  $\tilde{g}(v + \dot{v}\epsilon) = g(v) + g'(v)\dot{v}\epsilon \Rightarrow g'(v) = D[\tilde{g}(v + 1\epsilon)].$

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using (\*):  $\frac{a+b\epsilon}{c+d\epsilon} = \frac{a+b\epsilon}{c+d\epsilon} \frac{c-d\epsilon}{c-d\epsilon} = \frac{ac+(bc-ad)\epsilon}{c^2 \pm c\epsilon} = \frac{a}{c} + \frac{bc-ad}{c^2} \epsilon.$

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- Computation:

$$\begin{aligned}\tilde{g}(2 + \epsilon) &= \frac{(2 + \epsilon)^2}{(2 + \epsilon) + 1} = \frac{4 + 4\epsilon}{3 + \epsilon} \stackrel{(*)}{=} \frac{4}{3} + \frac{4 \times 3 - 4 \times 1}{3^2} \epsilon \\ &= \frac{4}{3} + \frac{8}{9} \epsilon\end{aligned}$$

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- $g(v) = \frac{v^2}{v+1}$ ,  $g'(2) = ? = D[\tilde{g}(2 + 1\epsilon)]$
- Computation:

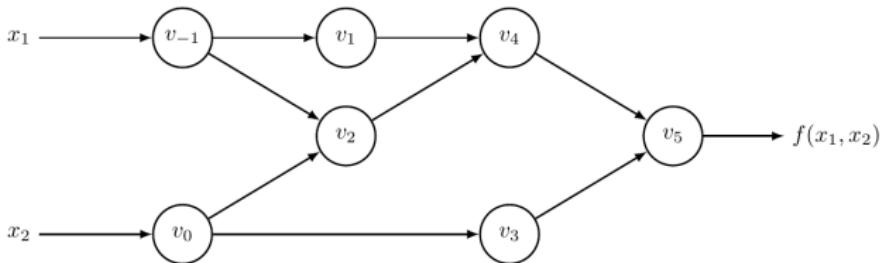
$$\begin{aligned}\tilde{g}(2 + \epsilon) &= \frac{(2 + \epsilon)^2}{(2 + \epsilon) + 1} = \frac{4 + 4\epsilon}{3 + \epsilon} \stackrel{(*)}{=} \frac{4}{3} + \frac{4 \times 3 - 4 \times 1}{3^2} \epsilon \\ &= \frac{4}{3} + \frac{8}{9} \epsilon \Rightarrow g'(2) = \frac{8}{9}\end{aligned}$$

using (\*):  $\frac{a+b\epsilon}{c+d\epsilon} = \frac{a+b\epsilon}{c+d\epsilon} \frac{c-d\epsilon}{c-d\epsilon} = \frac{ac+(bc-ad)\epsilon}{c^2 \pm c\epsilon} = \frac{a}{c} + \frac{bc-ad}{c^2} \epsilon.$

AD-reverse:  $f(x_1, x_2) = \ln(x_1) + x_1 x_2 - \sin(x_2)$ ;  $\frac{\partial f}{\partial x_1} \Big|_{(2,5)} = ?$

$v_i \mapsto \bar{v}_i = \frac{\partial y}{\partial v_i}$  adjoint variable.  $\frac{\partial y}{\partial v_0} = \frac{\partial y}{\partial v_2} \frac{\partial v_2}{\partial v_0} + \frac{\partial y}{\partial v_3} \frac{\partial v_3}{\partial v_0}, \dots$

Forward Evaluation Trace		Reverse Adjoint Trace	
$v_{-1} = x_1$	= 2	$\bar{x}_1 = \bar{v}_{-1}$	= 5.5
$v_0 = x_2$	= 5	$\bar{x}_2 = \bar{v}_0$	= 1.716
$v_1 = \ln v_{-1}$	= $\ln 2$	$\bar{v}_{-1} = \bar{v}_{-1} + \bar{v}_1 \frac{\partial v_1}{\partial v_{-1}} = \bar{v}_{-1} + \bar{v}_1 / v_{-1} = 5.5$	
$v_2 = v_{-1} \times v_0 = 2 \times 5$		$\bar{v}_0 = \bar{v}_0 + \bar{v}_2 \frac{\partial v_2}{\partial v_0} = \bar{v}_0 + \bar{v}_2 \times v_{-1} = 1.716$	
$v_3 = \sin v_0$	= $\sin 5$	$\bar{v}_{-1} = \bar{v}_2 \frac{\partial v_2}{\partial v_{-1}} = \bar{v}_2 \times v_0 = 5$	
$v_4 = v_1 + v_2 = 0.693 + 10$		$\bar{v}_0 = \bar{v}_3 \frac{\partial v_3}{\partial v_0} = \bar{v}_3 \times \cos v_0 = -0.284$	
$v_5 = v_4 - v_3 = 10.693 - 0.959$		$\bar{v}_2 = \bar{v}_4 \frac{\partial v_4}{\partial v_2} = \bar{v}_4 \times 1 = 1$	
$y = v_5$	= 11.652	$\bar{v}_1 = \bar{v}_4 \frac{\partial v_4}{\partial v_1} = \bar{v}_4 \times 1 = 1$	
		$\bar{v}_3 = \bar{v}_5 \frac{\partial v_5}{\partial v_3} = \bar{v}_5 \times (-1) = -1$	
		$\bar{v}_4 = \bar{v}_5 \frac{\partial v_5}{\partial v_4} = \bar{v}_5 \times 1 = 1$	
		$\bar{v}_5 = \bar{y}$	= 1



# AD-reverse: matrix-free Jacobi-vector product

For  $f : \mathbb{R}^{d_1} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^{d_2}$

- $\mathbf{x} = \mathbf{a}$ ,  $\bar{\mathbf{y}} = \mathbf{e}_i$  produces the  $i^{th}$  column of

$$\mathbf{J}_f^T(\mathbf{a}) = \left[ \begin{array}{ccc} \frac{\partial f_1}{\partial x_1} & \cdots & \frac{\partial f_{d_2}}{\partial x_1} \\ \dots & \dots & \dots \\ \frac{\partial f_1}{\partial x_{d_1}} & \cdots & \frac{\partial f_{d_2}}{\partial x_{d_1}} \end{array} \right] \Big|_{\mathbf{x}=\mathbf{a}}.$$

Specifically, if  $d_2 = 1$  we get  $\nabla f$  in one pass!

- $\mathbf{x} = \mathbf{a}$ ,  $\bar{\mathbf{y}} = \mathbf{r}$  gives  $\mathbf{J}_f^T(\mathbf{a})\mathbf{r}$ .

- $f : \mathbb{R}^d \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ .
- $\mathbf{H}_f = \left[ \frac{\partial^2 f}{\partial x_i \partial x_j} \right]$ . Goal:  $\mathbf{H}_f \mathbf{v}$ .
- Steps:
  - ①  $\langle \nabla f, \mathbf{v} \rangle$ : forward mode, with  $\dot{\mathbf{x}} = \mathbf{v}$ .
  - ②  $\mathbf{H}_f \mathbf{v}$ : apply reverse-AD on the produced forward code.
- Complexity:  $O(d)!$  –  $\mathbf{H}_f \in \mathbb{R}^{d \times d}$

4 ways:

- ➊ Elemental libraries:  $\sin \rightarrow \sin_{AD}$ .
- ➋ Preprocessors:
  - ➌ source code transformation,
  - ➍ auto decomposition to AD-enabled elementary operations.
- ➎ New languages: tightly integrated AD-capabilities (compilers).

## ④ Operator overloading:

- redefine elementary operations,
- Example: autograd/Theano ∈ Python.

Languages: AMPL, C, C++, C#, F#, Fortran, Haskell, Java, Matlab, Python, Scheme, Stan (see [1]: Table 5).

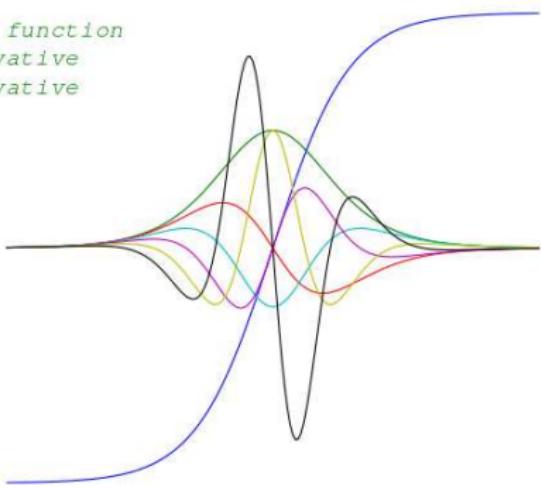
# Example in Python

```
import autograd.numpy as np # Thinly-wrapped numpy
from autograd import grad # grad(f) returns f'

def f(x):                      # Define a function
    y = np.exp(-x)
    return (1.0 - y) / (1.0 + y)

D_f = grad(f)      # Obtain gradient function
D2_f = grad(D_f)    # 2nd derivative
D3_f = grad(D2_f)    # 3rd derivative
D4_f = grad(D3_f)    # etc.
D5_f = grad(D4_f)
D6_f = grad(D5_f)

import matplotlib.pyplot as plt
x = np.linspace(-7, 7, 200)
plt.plot(x, map(f, x),
          x, map(D_f, x),
          x, map(D2_f, x),
          x, map(D3_f, x),
          x, map(D4_f, x),
          x, map(D5_f, x),
          x, map(D6_f, x))
plt.show()
```



## Further reading

- Refs ([1] = main source):
  - ① Atılım Günes Baydin, Barak A. Pearlmutter, Alexey Andreyevich Radul, Jeffrey Mark Siskind. Automatic Differentiation in Machine Learning: A Survey. arXiv, 2015.
  - ② Philipp Hoffmann. A Hitchiker's Guide to Automatic Differentiation. Numerical Algorithms, 2015.
- Autodiff portal: <http://www.autodiff.org/>

Thank you for the attention!



# Extension of polynomials to dual numbers

- Let  $g(v) = \sum_{i=0}^n p_i v^i \in \mathbb{R}[v]$ .
- Applying  $g$  to  $v + \dot{v}\epsilon$

$$\sum_{i=0}^n p_i (v + \dot{v}\epsilon)^i = p_0 + p_1 (v + \dot{v}\epsilon) + \cdots + \underbrace{p_n (v + \dot{v}\epsilon)^n}_{v^n + nv^{n-1}\dot{v}\epsilon}$$

# Extension of polynomials to dual numbers

- Let  $g(v) = \sum_{i=0}^n p_i v^i \in \mathbb{R}[v]$ .
- Applying  $g$  to  $v + \dot{v}\epsilon$

$$\begin{aligned}\sum_{i=0}^n p_i (v + \dot{v}\epsilon)^i &= p_0 + p_1 (v + \dot{v}\epsilon) + \cdots + \underbrace{p_n (v + \dot{v}\epsilon)^n}_{v^n + nv^{n-1}\dot{v}\epsilon} \\ &= g(v) + g'(v)\dot{v}\epsilon = \tilde{g}(v + \dot{v}\epsilon).\end{aligned}$$

# Extension of analytic functions to dual numbers

- Let  $g : \mathbb{R} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$  be analytic.
- Applying  $g$  to  $v + \dot{v}\epsilon$

$$\begin{aligned} g(v) + \frac{g'(v)}{1!} \dot{v}\epsilon + \underbrace{\frac{g''(v)}{2!} (\dot{v}\epsilon)^2}_{=0} + \dots \\ = g(v) + g'(v)\dot{v}\epsilon = \tilde{g}(v + \dot{v}\epsilon). \end{aligned}$$