

**MA 22000 Lesson 37 Notes**  
**Section 4.3 (part 1), Pages 273 – 280**

**Derivative of the NATURAL EXPONENTIAL Function**

$$\frac{d}{dx}[e^x] = e^x \quad \text{or if } y = f(x) = e^x, \quad y' = \frac{dy}{dx} = e^x$$

$$\frac{d}{dx}[e^u] = e^u \left( \frac{du}{dx} \right) \quad \text{or if } y = f(u) = e^u, \quad \frac{dy}{dx} = e^u u' \quad \text{or } e^u \left( \frac{du}{dx} \right)$$

(using chain rule)

**Example 1:**

Find the slope of the tangent line to each exponential function at the point given.

a)  $y = e^{2x}$  (0,1)

b)  $y = e^{-x}$  (0,1)

**Example 2:**

Find the derivative of the function.

a)  $y = e^{\left(\frac{3}{2}x\right)}$

b)  $y = e^{3-2x}$

c)  $y = e^{-2x^2}$

d)  $y = e^{(3/x)}$

Example 3: Find an equation of the tangent line to the function at the given point.

*a)*  $y = e^{(x^2 - 4x)}$   $(0, 1)$

*b)*  $y = e^{-x^3}$   $(-1, e)$