

# Lesson 13: Higher Derivatives

Warmup 1. If  $f(x)$  is a function of  $x$ , find  $\frac{d}{dx} [e^{f(x)}]$ .  
OUT =  $e^u$

$$\frac{d}{dx} [e^{f(x)}] = e^{f(x)} \cdot f'(x)$$

We can use this to find  $\frac{d}{dx} [\ln x]$ :

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{d}{dx} [e^{\ln x}] &= e^{\ln x} \cdot \frac{d}{dx} [\ln x] \\ &= x \frac{d}{dx} [\ln x] \end{aligned}$$

$$\frac{d}{dx} [e^{\ln x}] = \frac{d}{dx} [x] = 1$$

$$\text{So } x \frac{d}{dx} [\ln x] = 1$$

$$\frac{d}{dx} [\ln x] = \frac{1}{x}$$

2. If  $f(x) = \sin x$ , find:

•  $f'(x) = \cos x$

• The derivative of  $f'(x)$ :

$$\frac{d}{dx} [\cos x] = -\sin x$$

Ex 1

$$f(x) = \sin x$$

$$f'(x) = \cos x$$

$f''(x) = -\sin x$  is called the second derivative

$f^{(3)}(x) = \frac{d}{dx} [f''(x)] = -\cos x$  is called the third derivative

$f^{(4)}(x) = \frac{d}{dx} [f^{(3)}(x)] = \sin x$  is called the fourth derivative

In general,  $f^{(n+1)}(x) = \frac{d}{dx} [f^{(n)}(x)]$ .

Ex 2  $f(x) = x^2 \sin x$ , find  $f''(x)$ .

$$f'(x) = 2x \sin x + x^2 \cos x$$

$$f''(x) = \underbrace{2 \sin x + 2x \cos x}_{\frac{d}{dx} [2x \sin x]} + \underbrace{2x \cos x + x^2 (-\sin x)}_{\frac{d}{dx} [x^2 \cos x]}$$

Acceleration ( $a(t)$ ) is the derivative of velocity ( $v(t)$ ).

It tells us how quickly the velocity is increasing or decreasing.

$$a(t) = v'(t) = s''(t)$$