

Subject: Calculus

Topic: Higher Order Derivatives

- Goal: Use *Mathematica* to compute higher order derivatives.

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#### Task 1

Let's define a function  $f(x)$  and compute its second derivative, using two single quotation marks.

```
f[x_] := Cos[x^3];  
f''[x]
```

Three quotation marks are used for the third derivative of  $f(x)$ . Try it:

```
f'''[x]
```

The command `D[f(x), {x, degree}]` can also be used to compute higher order derivatives. The following finds the fifth derivative of the given function:

```
D[f[x], {x, 5}]
```

To find the fifth derivative and evaluate it at  $x=3$ , we use:

```
D[f[x], {x, 5}] /. x -> 3
```

Your turn: find the 50th derivative of  $g(x)=\sec x$  and evaluate at  $x=1$ .

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Related Exercises/Notes: