

## Lecture 12: Higher Order Derivatives

**Goal:** Compute derivatives of derivatives. Interpret the second and third derivative in a physics context.

**Summary:**

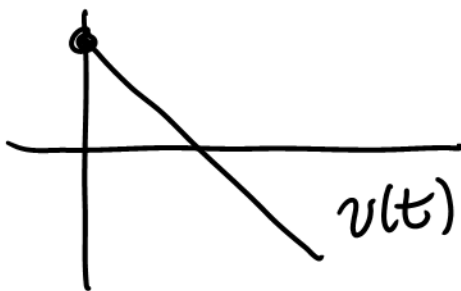
$$\frac{d^n f}{dx^n} = \frac{d}{dx} \left( \frac{d^{n-1} f}{dx^{n-1}} \right) \quad f^{(n)}(x) = [f^{(n-1)}(x)]'$$
$$a(t) = v'(t) = s''(t) \quad j(t) = a'(t) = v''(t) = s'''(t)$$

Recall that a ball being tossed straight into the air can be modeled using a parabola. Say

$$s(t) = -4.9t^2 + 7t + 6$$

We called  $\frac{ds}{dt} = v(t)$  the velocity

$$v(t) = -9.8t + 7$$



Let's take  $\frac{dv}{dt}$ ,  $\frac{dv}{dt} = -9.8 =$  The acceleration of the ball

Def For a fun  $f$ ,

$$\frac{d}{dx} \left( \frac{df}{dx} \right) = \frac{d^2 f}{dx^2}$$

$$[f'(x)]' = f''(x)$$

is called the second derivative of  $f$  w.r.t.  $x$

Def For an object with position fcn  $s(t)$ ,  
$$a(t) \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} \frac{dv}{dt} = \frac{d^2s}{dt^2}$$

is called the acceleration fcn.

Ex 1 The position of a Particle is given by  
$$s(t) = t^3 - 6t^2 + 9t$$

@ Find  $v(t)$  and  $a(t)$

$$v(t) = s'(t) = 3t^2 - 12t + 9$$

$$a(t) = v'(t) = 6t - 12$$

(b) If  $t$  is measured in seconds,  $s(t)$  is in meters,  
then find  $v(4)$  and  $a(4)$

$$v(4) = 3(4)^2 - 12(4) + 9 = 9 \frac{\text{m}}{\text{s}}$$

$$a(4) = 6(4) - 12 = 12 \frac{\text{m/s}}{\text{s}} = 12 \frac{\text{m}}{\text{s}^2}$$

Ex 2 Same setup as Ex 1, but  
$$s(t) = \cos 2t$$

@ Find  $v(t)$ ,  $a(t)$

$$v(t) = s'(t) = (2) \cdot \sin 2t = -2 \sin 2t$$

$$a(t) = v'(t) = -2 \cos 2t (2) = -4 \cos 2t$$

⑥ Find  $a\left(\frac{\pi}{2}\right)$  ⊕

$$a\left(\frac{\pi}{2}\right) = -4 \cos 2\left(\frac{\pi}{2}\right) = -4 \cos \pi = (-4)(-1)$$

$$= 4 \frac{\text{m}}{\text{s}^2}$$

Ex 3 / Given  $s(t) = \frac{t}{1+t^2}$  ( $t \geq 0$ ), when is the  
~~velocity constant?~~ Acceleration 0?

~~To determine when velocity is constant, find when  
the acceleration is 0.~~

$$v(t) = \frac{(1)(1+t^2) - t(2t)}{(1+t^2)^2} = \frac{1+t^2 - 2t^2}{(1+t^2)^2}$$

$$= \frac{1-t^2}{(1+t^2)^2}$$

$$a(t) = v'(t) = \frac{(-2t)(1+t^2)^2 - (1-t^2)(2)(1+t^2)(2t)}{(1+t^2)^4}$$

$$= \frac{-2t(1+t^2)[(1+t^2) + 2(1-t^2)]}{(1+t^2)^4}$$

$$= \frac{-2t(1+t^2)[3-t^2]}{(1+t^2)^4} \stackrel{\text{Set}}{=} 0$$

{
Never equals 0

$$\Rightarrow -2t(1+t^2)[3-t^2] = 0$$

Either,

$$-2t=0 \quad \text{OR} \quad 1+t^2=0 \quad \text{OR} \quad 3-t^2=0$$

$$\boxed{t=0}$$

Impossible

$$t^2=3$$

$$t \geq 0 \rightarrow t = \pm\sqrt{3}$$

$$\boxed{t = \sqrt{3}}$$

$$\begin{aligned} [v(t)]' &= c' \\ a(t) &= 0 \end{aligned}$$

Ex 4/ If  $f(x) = 2\cos x + 3\sin x$ , what is  $f(0)$ ,  $f'(0)$ ,  $f''(0)$ ?

$$f(x) = 2\cos x + 3\sin x \rightarrow f(0) = 2$$

$$f'(x) = -2\sin x + 3\cos x \rightarrow f'(0) = 3\cos 0 = 3$$

$$f''(x) = \underbrace{-2\cos x}_{-2} - 3\sin x \rightarrow f''(0) = -2\cos 0 = -2$$

## Higher Order Derivatives

NOTATION:

$$\begin{aligned} 3^{\text{rd}} \text{ Derivative: } \frac{d}{dx} \left( \frac{d^2 f}{dx^2} \right) &\stackrel{\text{def}}{=} \frac{d^3 f}{dx^3} \\ [f''(x)]' &= f'''(x) \end{aligned}$$

4<sup>th</sup> Derivative:  $\frac{d^4 f}{dx^4} \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} \frac{d}{dx} \left( \frac{d^3 f}{dx^3} \right)$

$$[f'''(x)]' = f''''(x)$$

n-th derivative:  $\frac{d^n f}{dx^n} \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} \frac{d}{dx} \left( \frac{d^{n-1} f}{dx^{n-1}} \right)$

$$f^{(n)}(x) = [f^{(n-1)}(x)]'$$

Def For a position fun  $s(t)$ ,

$$s'''(t) = v''(t) = a'(t) \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} j(t)$$

$j(t)$  is the jerk function.

Ex 5 If  $f^{(9)}(x) = 6 \sec(2x-5)$ , what's  $f^{(10)}(x)$ ?

$$\begin{aligned} f^{(10)}(x) &= [f^{(9)}(x)]' = [6 \sec(2x-5)]' \\ &= 6 \sec(2x-5) \tan(2x-5) (2) \\ &= 12 \sec(2x-5) \tan(2x-5) \end{aligned}$$

Ex 6 Examine the various derivatives for  $\sin x$

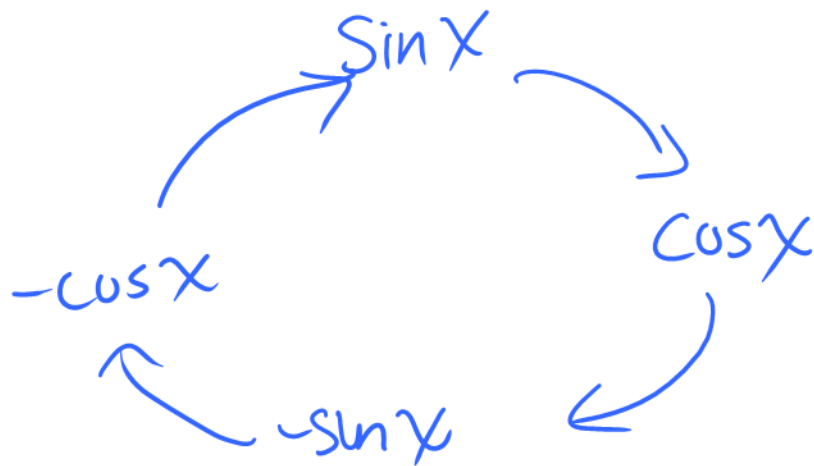
$$f(x) = \sin x$$

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

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

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

$$f^{(4)}(x) = \sin x$$



Ex 7/ Repeat for  $x^4 + x^3 + x^2 + x + 1$

$$f(x) = x^4 + x^3 + x^2 + x + 1$$

↓

$$f'(x) = 4x^3 + 3x^2 + 2x + 1$$

↓

$$f''(x) = 12x^2 + 6x + 2$$

↓

$$f'''(x) = 24x + 6 \longrightarrow f^{(4)}(x) = 24$$

$$f^{(5)}(x) = 0$$

↑

$$f^{(4)}(x) = 24$$

Ex 8/ Repeat for  $e^{2x}$

$$f(x) = e^{2x}$$

↓

$$f'(x) = 2e^{2x}$$

↓

$$f''(x) = 2 \cdot 2e^{2x} = 4e^{2x} \longrightarrow \dots \dots f^{(n)}(x) = 2^n e^{2x}$$