

Reflection (Derivatives)

In Monday's lesson we focused on finding the derivative of a function using graphs. Instead of using formulas, abstract ideas, or the limit definition, we looked at the qualitative features of the graph of the function to determine its derivative. We learned that the characteristics of the slope of a function directly determine the characteristics of the outputs of the derivative. For example, if the slopes of a graph are negative, the derivative graph (in the corresponding location) will be negative (below the x-axis). If the original graph has a high or low point, the tangent line is horizontal (slope = 0) so the derivative graph must be zero there (so passing through the x-axis). A similar statement can be made for positive slopes.