

CHAPTER 4

THE DERIVATIVE

The *tangent lines* to the graph of a function can give us very important information about the function. Their slopes tell us where the function is increasing and decreasing. Where a tangent line has zero slope, the function *may* have a maximum or minimum point.

In this chapter, a new function is introduced, named f' and called the *derivative of f* , that tells us about the slopes of the tangent lines to the graph of f .

