

SECTION 3-4: DERIVATIVES AS RATES OF CHANGE

Read Section 3.4. Work the embedded problems.

1. A potato is launched vertically upward from a platform 20 feet off the ground. The distance in feet that the potato travels from the ground after t seconds is given by $s(t) = -16t^2 + 64t + 20$.
 - (a) Find the initial velocity of the potato.

 - (b) Find the velocity and the acceleration of the potato when $t = 3$. (Use a calculator for the arithmetic if you want...)

 - (c) Is the potato speeding up or slowing down? Why?

 - (d) What is the velocity of the potato when it reaches its maximum height and why?

 - (e) What is the maximum height of the potato?

 - (f) Assume the potato lands on the ground (not the platform). How long is the potato in the air?

 - (g) What is the velocity of the potato when it hits the ground?

 - (h) You should have observed in part (b) that the acceleration is constant. What does this number represent?