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**James W Rogers\*** ([James\\_W\\_Rogers@baylor.edu](mailto:James_W_Rogers@baylor.edu)), Baylor University, Department of Mathematics, Box 97328, Waco, TX 76798. *A Qualitative Analysis of the Diamond- $\alpha$  Dynamic Derivatives on Time Scales*. Preliminary report.

Various dynamic derivatives play a central role in the theory and applications of time scales. Recent discussions of combined dynamic derivatives, in particular the diamond- $\alpha$  derivatives, have promised improved approximation formulae for computational applications. Heretofore, the status of these combined derivatives as well-defined dynamic derivatives on time scales has been assumed. This paper presents an equivalent definition of the diamond- $\alpha$  functions without reference to the existing delta and nabla dynamic derivatives, and rigorously verifies these new functions as well-defined dynamic derivatives. Further, the feasibility of a corresponding diamond- $\alpha$  integral is explored. (Received September 28, 2005)