

# What is an Exponential Function?

$$f(x) = \underline{a}^x \quad \text{base}$$

What's going on with this function?

• IF  $x = n$  is a positive integer

$$a^n = \underbrace{a \cdot \dots \cdot a}_{n \text{ times}} \quad (\text{e.g. } 2^3 = \underbrace{2 \cdot 2 \cdot 2}_{3 \text{ times}})$$

Says:  
If increase my input  $x$  by 1  
Then my output is multiplied by my base  $a$

$$\left. \begin{aligned} & \bullet a^0 = 1 \rightsquigarrow f(0) = 1 \\ & \bullet a^{-n} = \frac{1}{a^n} \rightsquigarrow f(-n) = \frac{1}{f(n)} \end{aligned} \right\} \begin{array}{l} \text{For all} \\ \text{exponential functions} \\ f \end{array}$$

• IF  $x$  is a rational number (i.e.  $x = \frac{p}{q}$  for some integers  $p, q$ )

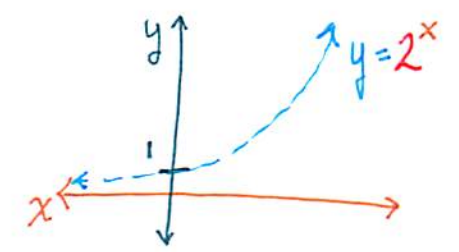
$$\begin{aligned} a^x &= a^{p/q} = a^{p \cdot \frac{1}{q}} \\ &= (a^p)^{1/q} \quad \text{AND} \quad (a^{1/q})^p \\ &\quad \parallel \quad \parallel \quad \leftarrow \text{If } q > 0 \\ &= \sqrt[q]{a^p} \quad (\sqrt[q]{a})^p \end{aligned}$$

Warm-Up

Simplify  $\frac{8^{-1}}{3^{-5}}$

$$\begin{aligned} &= 8^{-1} \cdot \frac{1}{3^{-5}} \\ &= \frac{1}{8} \cdot \frac{1}{\frac{1}{3^5}} \\ &= \frac{1}{8} \cdot 3^5 \\ &= \frac{3^5}{8} \end{aligned}$$

• IF  $x$  is irrational (not rational)  
"Fill in the holes"



careful!

when Integrating:

$$\begin{aligned} &= \frac{1}{k} \int e^u du \\ &= \frac{1}{k} e^u + C \\ &= \frac{1}{k} e^{kx} + C \end{aligned}$$

- C

Careful with  $\ln(u)$  and  $\frac{1}{u}$  !

$$\frac{d}{dx}(\ln(x)) = \frac{1}{x} \quad \text{AND} \quad \int \frac{1}{x} dx = \ln(|x|) + C$$

Must use chain rule to differentiate:

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{d}{dx}(\ln(\overset{\text{inside}}{1-x})) &= \frac{1}{1-x} \cdot \frac{d}{dx}(1-x) \\ &= \frac{1}{1-x} \cdot (-1) \\ &= \frac{-1}{1-x} \end{aligned}$$

$$\boxed{\frac{d}{dx}(\ln(1-x)) = \frac{-1}{1-x}}$$

Need to use substitution when integrating

$$\begin{aligned} \int \frac{1}{1-x} dx &= \int \frac{1}{u} \cdot -du = - \int \frac{1}{u} du = \\ &= -\ln(|u|) + C \\ &= -\ln(|1-x|) + C \end{aligned}$$

$u = 1-x$   
 $du = -1 \cdot dx$   
 $-du = dx$

$$\boxed{\int \frac{1}{1-x} dx = -\ln(|1-x|) + C}$$

## Comparing Function Growth Rate Introduced

To compare how functions  $f(x)$ ,  $g(x)$  grow, can find  $\lim_{x \rightarrow \infty} \frac{f(x)}{g(x)}$

Have already seen:

$$\textcircled{1} \lim_{x \rightarrow \infty} \frac{2x^3 - 1}{1000x^2 + \pi x} = \infty$$

(so  $f(x) = 2x^3 - 1$  grows faster)

$$\textcircled{2} \lim_{x \rightarrow \infty} \frac{2x^3 - 1}{14e^2 - \pi x^3} = \frac{-2}{\pi}$$

(finite, so similar growth)

$$\textcircled{3} \lim_{x \rightarrow \infty} \frac{ex - e^2}{x^2 - \pi} = 0$$

(0, so  $g(x) = x^2 - \pi$  grows faster)

Q: What if when taking limit end up w/ an indeterminate form

i.e.  $\frac{0}{0}$ ,  $\frac{\pm\infty}{\pm\infty}$ ,  $\frac{\pm\infty}{\pm\infty}$  ?

A: l'Hôpital's Rule!  
(Next time)

# L'Hôpital's Rule Introduced

IF  $\lim_{x \rightarrow c} \frac{f(x)}{g(x)}$  gives an indeterminate form i.e.

$$\begin{cases} \frac{0}{0}, & \text{e.g. } \lim_{x \rightarrow \infty} \frac{e^{-\pi x}}{1/x} & \text{OR} \\ \frac{\pm\infty}{\pm\infty}, & \text{e.g. } \lim_{x \rightarrow \infty} \frac{1-x^2}{e^{5x}} = \frac{-\infty}{\infty} & \text{OR} \\ \frac{\pm\infty}{\pm\infty} & \text{e.g. } \lim_{x \rightarrow \infty} \frac{e^x}{\ln(x)} \end{cases}$$

$$\text{THEN } \lim_{x \rightarrow c} \frac{f(x)}{g(x)} = \lim_{x \rightarrow c} \frac{\frac{d}{dx}(f(x))}{\frac{d}{dx}(g(x))}$$

i.e. IF limit gives an indeterminate form

THEN can compute limit by

- ① Computing derivative of top & bottom SEPARATELY  
(no quotient rule!!!)
- ② Then computing limit

Ex 1:  $\lim_{x \rightarrow \infty} \frac{e^{3x}}{2x+1} = \frac{\infty}{\infty}$  indeterminate form, so can keep going!

$$= \lim_{x \rightarrow \infty} \frac{\frac{d}{dx}[e^{3x}]}{\frac{d}{dx}[2x+1]}$$

$$= \lim_{x \rightarrow \infty} \frac{3e^{3x}}{2} = \infty$$

$$\text{SO } \lim_{x \rightarrow \infty} \frac{e^{3x}}{2x+1} = \infty$$

and  $e^{3x}$  grows faster than  $2x+1$ !

# Examples of Using L'Hôpital's Rule to Compare Function Growth

Ex 1:  $f(x) = \ln(x)$ ,  $g(x) = e^{-\pi x}$

$$\lim_{x \rightarrow \infty} \frac{\ln(x)}{e^{-\pi x}} = \frac{\infty}{-\infty} \text{ Indeterminate form, can use LH!}$$

$$\stackrel{\text{LH}}{=} \lim_{x \rightarrow \infty} \frac{\frac{d}{dx}[\ln(x)]}{\frac{d}{dx}[e^{-\pi x}]} = \lim_{x \rightarrow \infty} \frac{1/x}{-\pi}$$

$$\stackrel{\text{rewrite}}{=} \lim_{x \rightarrow \infty} \frac{-1}{\pi x} = 0$$

$$\text{So } \boxed{\lim_{x \rightarrow \infty} \frac{\ln(x)}{e^{-\pi x}} = 0}$$

∴  $g(x) = e^{-\pi x}$  grows faster than  $f(x) = \ln(x)$ !

Ex 2:  $f(x) = e^x$ ,  $g(x) = x^2$

$$\lim_{x \rightarrow \infty} \frac{e^x}{x^2} = \frac{\infty}{\infty} \text{ Indeterminate form, can use LH!}$$

$$= \lim_{x \rightarrow \infty} \frac{\frac{d}{dx}[e^x]}{\frac{d}{dx}[x^2]} = \lim_{x \rightarrow \infty} \frac{e^x}{2x} = \frac{\infty}{\infty} \text{ Ind. form, can use LH!}$$

$$= \lim_{x \rightarrow \infty} \frac{\frac{d}{dx}[e^x]}{\frac{d}{dx}[2x]} = \lim_{x \rightarrow \infty} \frac{e^x}{2} = \infty$$

$$\text{So } \boxed{\lim_{x \rightarrow \infty} \frac{e^x}{x^2} = \infty}$$

∴  $f(x) = e^x$  grows faster than  $g(x) = x^2$

Take Away: As long as keep getting an indeterminate form, can keep applying L'Hôpital's rule!

Remark: These examples aren't coincidences!

Logarithmic Growth < Polynomial Growth < Exponential Growth

# Exponential Growth & Decay Differential Equation

Set-Up: Rate of change of  $y$  wrt  $t$  is always proportional to  $y(t)$ ,

i.e.  $\frac{dy}{dt} = ky$  for some constant  $k$

Q: Solutions to  $\frac{dy}{dt} = ky$ ?

A: "Separable differential eq" so can solve:

$$\frac{dy}{dt} = ky$$

$$\frac{1}{y} dy = k dt$$

$$\int \frac{1}{y} dy = \int k dt$$

$$\ln(|y|) + C_1 = kt + C_2$$

$$\ln(|y|) = kt + C$$

$$e^{\ln(|y|)} = e^{kt+C}$$

$$y = e^{kt} e^C$$

constant can solve for by setting  $t=0$

$$y(0) = e^{k(0)} e^C \rightarrow e^C = y(0)$$

so  $y = y(0)e^{kt}$

If  $k > 0$

Population growth an example:

For  $\left\{ \begin{array}{l} t = \text{time} \\ P(t) = \text{population at time } t \end{array} \right\}$

$$\frac{dP}{dt} = kP \quad w/ \quad k = \text{relative growth rate}$$

$$P(t) = P_0 e^{kt}$$

initial population

If  $k < 0$

Radioactive decay an example:

For  $\left\{ \begin{array}{l} t = \text{time in years} \\ m_0 = \text{initial mass} \\ m(t) = \text{mass remaining after } t \text{ yrs} \end{array} \right\}$

$$\frac{dm}{dt} = km$$

$$m(t) = m_0 e^{kt}$$

## Population Growth Example

SUPPOSE  $\left\{ \begin{array}{l} \text{initial population} = 100 \\ \text{population in 1 yr is 1000} \end{array} \right\} \begin{array}{l} ] P_0 \\ ] P(1) \end{array}$

Tasks: ① Population in 2 yrs  $] P(2) = ?$   
② Doubling time

1

Step 0:  $\left\{ \begin{array}{l} P(t) = P_0 e^{kt} \\ P_0 = 100 \\ P(1) = 1000 \end{array} \right\}$  Will need to use  
to find eq  
to find  $P(2)$

Step 1:  $P_0 = 100 \rightsquigarrow P(t) = 100e^{kt}$

Step 2: Use  $P(1) = 1000$  to solve for  $k$ :

$$100e^{k(1)} = 1000$$

$$e^k = 10$$

$$\ln(e^k) = \ln(10)$$

$$\underline{k = \ln(10)}$$

Step 3: Substitute  $k = \ln(10)$  into  $P(t) = 100e^{kt}$

$$P(t) = 100e^{\ln(10)t}$$

$$P(t) = 100(e^{\ln(10)})^t$$

$$\underline{P(t) = 100 \cdot 10^t}$$

Recall Eq:  $P(t) = P_0 e^{kt}$

Step 4:  $P(2) = 100 \cdot 10^{(2)}$   
 $= 100 \cdot 100 = \boxed{10,000}$

(Always good to check now that task's finished)

2 Asking for  $t$  with  $P(t) = 2P(0)$ ,  
i.e.  $P(t) = 2 \cdot (100)$   
 $100 \cdot 10^t = 200$   $\leftarrow P(t) = 100 \cdot 10^t$   
 $10^t = 2$

$$\log_{10}(10^t) = \log_{10}(2)$$

$$\boxed{t = \log_{10}(2) \approx 0.3 \text{ yrs}}$$

It only takes 4 months for the population to double!

# Comparing Exponential Growth Example

$$P(t) = P_0 e^{kt} \quad (*)$$

Assuming  $t$  in months, wave started w/ 1 case

Task: Approximate equation for the wave (starting in May) caused by previous variants; that caused by omicron

## Other Variants:

•  $\frac{P(0)=1, P(2.5) \approx 6000}{P_0}$

•  $P_0 = 1 \xrightarrow{(*)} P(t) = e^{kt} \quad (**)$

• Use  $P(2.5) = 6000$  to solve for  $k$

$$e^{k(2.5)} = 6000$$

$$\ln(e^{k(2.5)}) = \ln(6000)$$

$$2.5k = \ln(6000)$$

$$k = \frac{\ln(6000)}{2.5}$$

Sub  $k$  into  $(**)$ :  $P(t) = e^{\left(\frac{\ln(6000)}{2.5}\right)t}$

$$P(t) = (e^{(\ln 6000)/2.5})^t = \left(\overset{6000}{e^{\ln(6000)}}\right)^{1/2.5 t}$$

$$P(t) = (6000^{1/2.5})^t \rightarrow \boxed{P(t) \approx (32.5)^t}$$

So each month cases multiplied by  $\approx 32.5$

## Omicron

•  $P_0 = 1, P(1) \approx 10,000$

•  $P_0 = 1 \xrightarrow{(*)} P(t) = e^{kt} \quad (**)$

• Use  $P(1) = 10,000$  to solve for  $k$

$$e^{k(1)} = 10,000$$

$$\ln(e^k) = \ln(10,000)$$

$$k = \ln(10,000)$$

• Sub  $k = \ln(10,000)$  into  $P(t) = e^{kt}$

$$P(t) = e^{\ln(10,000)t} = (e^{\ln(10,000)})^t$$

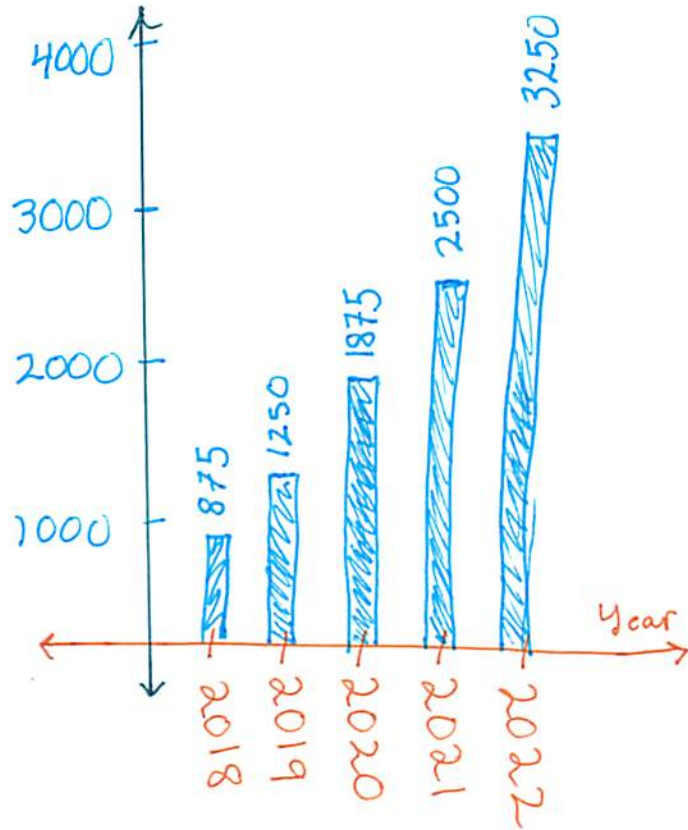
$$\boxed{P(t) = (10,000)^t}$$

With Omicron each month cases multiplied by  $\approx 10,000$

# Linear vs Exponential Growth Example

## Cost of an Item

Linear if adding same amount each time  
 Exponential if multiplying by same amount each time



Year	Cost of an Item	Change	Multiplier
2018	875		
2019	1250	+375	$\times \approx 1.43$
2020	1875	+625	$\times 1.5$
2021	2500	+625	$\times \approx 1.33$
2022	3250	+750	$\times 1.3$

~~Not always adding same amount, so not linear~~

Not always adding same amount, so not linear

Multiplying by close to same amount  
 so roughly exponential

Q: Linear OR Exponential?

## The Logarithmic Scale

The chart is on the logarithmic scale, so exponential growth looks linear:

exponential growth

$$y = e^{kt}$$

linear growth

$$\ln(e^{kt})$$

so have line  $y = kt$

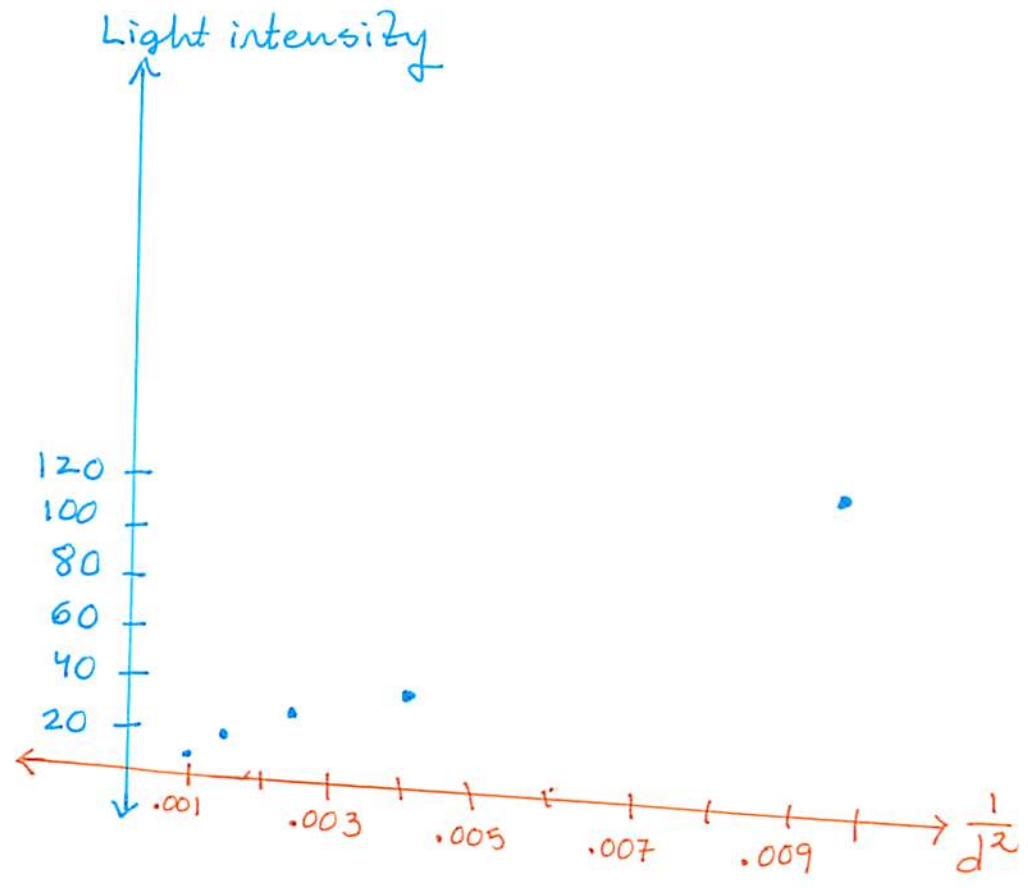
$k$  growth constant

now  $k = \text{slope}$

# Inverse Square Law Example

Distance from light source $d$	Light intensity
10	120
15	54
20	30
25	17
30	13

Task: Does the inverse square law apply?



There is a proportional relationship between  $\frac{1}{d^2}$  and intensity  
So inverse square law is a good fit!