

Data Science Math Skills

Katherine G. Pe

Contents

Data Science Math Skills	2
Course Information	2
Motivation for Learning & Re-learning	2
Supplemental Notes and Videos	2
Sets and What They're Good For	2
Set Basics and Vocabulary	2
Venn Diagrams	2
The Infinite World of Real Numbers	3
The Jagged S Symbol	3
Further Reading	3
Descartes Was Really Smart	3
Plotting Points	3
Distance Formula	3
Point-Slope Formula for Lines	3
Slope-Intercept Formula	3
Input-Output Machines	4
Functions: Mapping from Sets to Sets	4
Functions: Graphing in the Cartesian Plane	4
Increasing and Decreasing Functions	4
Composition and Inverse	4
This is about that derivative stuff	4
Tangent Lines - Slope of a Graph at a Point	4
Tangent Lines - The Derivative Function	5
Fast Growth, Slow Growth	5
Using Integer Exponents	5
Simplification Rules for Algebra using Exponents	5
How Logarithms & Exponents are Related	5
Change of Base	6
The Rate of Growth of Continuous Processes	6

Data Science Math Skills

Course Information

Data Science Math Skills by **Duke University** is a online course you can take on this site [Coursera](#).

Motivation for Learning & Re-learning

A lot of graduate school students struggle with Data Science courses only because of their lack of knowledge and/or understanding of Mathematics for Data Science. The course gives an overview of Mathematical concepts you will encounter while learning Data Science.

Supplemental Notes and Videos

Here's how I make my notes:

My notes include videos from Khan Academy and other websites. The content's the same, and often a bit better due to lack of errors. The text are usually from the Coursera video transcripts.

I indicate **why** it is important to learn such concepts through **Further Reading** notes.

Sets and What They're Good For

Set Basics and Vocabulary

- [Set Theory](#)
- [Set Theory Operations](#)

Further Reading

A set is the fundamental discrete structure on which all other discrete structures are built.

Those who studied Discrete Mathematics or read a book about it will probably just re-learn a lot from this course on Set Basics.

- [Applications of Set Theory in Computer Science](#) - A list of the most obvious applications of Set Theory.
- [Discrete Mathematics and Its Applications](#) - I read most of the book as a supplemental material for a Discrete Math course. The book clearly states why a set is the foundational structure in Computer Science.

Venn Diagrams

- [What are Venn diagrams?](#)

Further Reading

- [A Visual Explanation of SQL Joins](#)

The Infinite World of Real Numbers

- [What are Real Numbers?](#)
- [Multi-step Inequalities](#)

The Jagged S Symbol

- [Sigma/Summation Notation](#)

$$\sum_{n=1}^{10} n^2$$

- The Sigma has similarities to the [factorial](#) symbol, but it suggests that you add the values of i based on the stopping point n

Further Reading

- [Graph-based Machine Learning](#)

Descartes Was Really Smart

Plotting Points

- The x-axis is going to be the set of all points x-y in the Cartesian plane, x-y in \mathbb{R}^2 , such that their y coordinate is zero.
- We divide the Cartesian plane into four separate regions, and these we call **quadrants**.
- [Coordinate plane: quadrants](#)

Distance Formula

- [Distance formula](#)

$$d = \sqrt{(x_2 - x_1)^2 + (y_2 - y_1)^2}$$

Point-Slope Formula for Lines

- [Point Slope Form](#)

$$y - b = m(x - a)$$

- [Calculating the Slope](#)

$$(y_2 - y_1 / x_2 - x_1)$$

Slope-Intercept Formula

- [Slope Intercept Equation](#)
- [Intro to Slope Intercept Form](#)

$$y = mx + b$$

Input-Output Machines

Functions: Mapping from Sets to Sets

- [Functions on Sets - UCLA](#)

$$f : A \rightarrow B$$

Functions: Graphing in the Cartesian Plane

- [Functions on a Coordinate Plane](#)
- [Vertical line test](#)
- The **vertical line** test says: *any vertical line, intersects the graph of a function once*. If it intersects it more than once, we violate things here.

Increasing and Decreasing Functions

- A function is increasing whenever:
 $a < b$
 $f(a) < f(b)$
 $f(x) = 2^x$ – An example of an increasing function
- A function is decreasing whenever:
 $a > b$
 $f(a) > f(b)$
 $g(x) = 3^{-x}$ – An example of a decreasing function

Composition and Inverse

- [How to find the inverse of a composite function](#)
- [Evaluating Composite functions](#)
- Not every function has an inverse.
- If the graph of f fails the *horizontal line test*, the graph has no inverse.

This is about that derivative stuff

Tangent Lines - Slope of a Graph at a Point

- [How to find the slope & equation of tangent line at a given point](#)
- [Finding the Equation Of A Tangent Line](#)
- A **Tangent Line** is a line which locally touches a curve at one and only one point.
- Formulas:
 $f'(a)$

Tangent Lines - The Derivative Function

- [The derivative & tangent line equations](#)
- Formulas:

$$f'(x) = 2x$$

$$f(x) = x^2$$

Fast Growth, Slow Growth

Using Integer Exponents

- 0 as an exponent:
 $2^0 = 1$
- Negative exponents:

$$x^{-n} = 1/x^n$$

- [Scientific Notation](#)

Simplification Rules for Algebra using Exponents

- Multiplication rule

$$x^n x^m = x^{(n+m)}$$

- Power to a power

$$(x^n)^m = x^{nm}$$

- Product to a power

$$(xy)^n = x^n y^n$$

- Fraction to a power

$$(x/y)^n = x^n / y^n$$

- Division and negative powers

$$\frac{x^n}{x^m} = x^{n-m}$$

- Fractional exponents

$$x^{(\frac{a}{b})} = \sqrt[b]{x^a}$$

How Logarithms & Exponents are Related

- [Intro to logarithms](#)
- Exponential form:

$$b^x = N$$

- Logarithmic form:

$$x = \log_b N$$

- The logarithm of any base of 1 is 0, just as any number raised to 0 is 1.

General rules

- Product rule

$$\log(xy) = \log(x) + \log(y)$$

- Quotient rule

$$\log \frac{x}{y} = \log(x) - \log(y)$$

- Power and root rule

$$\log(x^n) = n\log(x)$$

Change of Base

- The base of **10**, **2** and the natural log (e) are common in Data Science.
- Formula for changing the base:

$$\log_a(b) = \frac{\log_x(b)}{\log_x(a)}$$

The Rate of Growth of Continuous Processes

- Exponential rate of growth can be a **discrete** exponential rate of growth or a **continuous** exponential rate of growth.
- Note: those who studied Finance will likely see the practicality of knowing, but not of the terms of themselves.

- Discrete rate of growth:

$$1.00(1 + r)^t$$

- Euler's constant e

- What is e ?

$$2.71828$$

- Euler is pronounced *Oyler*. He's a mathematician most famously known of his solution to the graph theory problem: [Seven Bridges of Königsberg](#)
- Problem: A baby elephant weighing 200 kg grows at a continuously compounded rate of 5%/year. How much does it weigh in 3 years?

$$(200kg)e^{(0.05)(3)} = 232.4kg$$