

PreCalculus-Graph Exponential Functions (Learning Targets GE)

APMA Faculty
University of Virginia

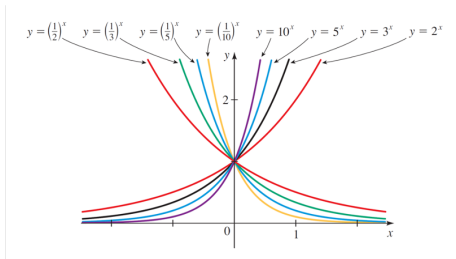
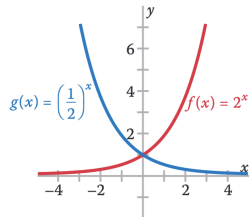
July 10, 2024

Exponential Functions

- A function of the form $y = b^x$ where b is a real number such that $b > 0$ and $b \neq 1$ is an **exponential function**.

The graph of an exponential function has the following properties:

- A y-intercept at $(0, 1)$
- A horizontal asymptote at $y = 0$
- Increasing when $b > 1$
- Decreasing when $0 < b < 1$



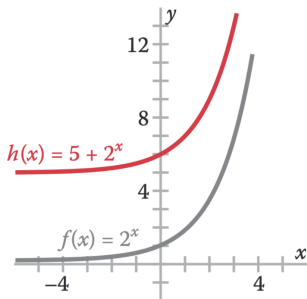
Exponential Functions: Transformations

From the parent function of $y = b^x$, many functions may be graphed using transformations:

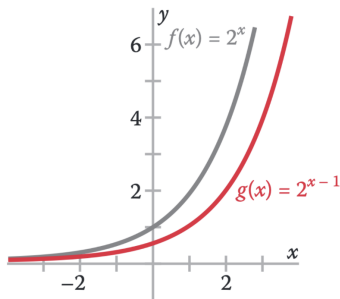
Transformations of Functions	
Vertical translation	$f(x) + k$ or $f(x) - k$
Horizontal translation	$f(x + h)$ or $f(x - h)$
Vertical stretch or compression	$cf(x)$
Reflection over the x-axis	$-f(x)$
Reflection over the y-axis	$f(-x)$

Exponential Functions: Transformations

Vertical Translation



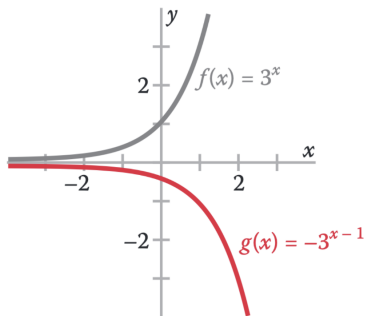
Horizontal Translation



Exponential Functions: Transformations

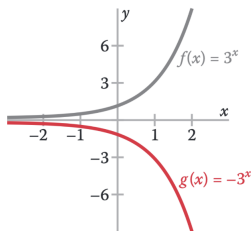
Combinations of Transformations

The function $g(x)$ is obtained from the parent function $f(x)$ by reflecting it over the x -axis and translating it one unit to the right.

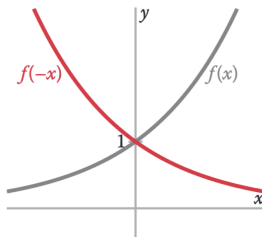


Exponential Functions: Reflections

The graph of $y = -b^x$ is the reflection of $y = b^x$ along the x -axis.



The graph of $y = b^{-x}$ is the reflection of $y = b^x$ along the y -axis.

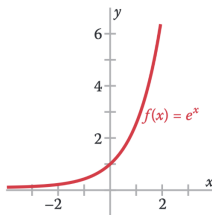


Natural Exponential Functions

The natural base $e \approx 2.71828 \dots$

The number e is irrational, so it cannot be expressed exactly as a decimal, only estimated. Exact values should be in terms of e .

The graph of the parent function $f(x) = e^x$ is an exponential growth function since $e > 1$.



Example

Example: Graph $h(x) = e^{x+2}$ and $g(x) = e^{x+2}$

