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# 1

## FUNCTIONS

**OVERVIEW** Functions are fundamental to the study of calculus. In this chapter we review what functions are and how they are pictured as graphs, how they are combined and transformed, and ways they can be classified. We review the trigonometric functions, and we discuss misrepresentations that can occur when using calculators and computers to obtain a function's graph. We also discuss inverse, exponential, and logarithmic functions. The real number system, Cartesian coordinates, straight lines, parabolas, and circles are reviewed in the Appendices.

### 1.1

#### Functions and Their Graphs

Functions are a tool for describing the real world in mathematical terms. A function can be represented by an equation, a graph, a numerical table, or a verbal description; we will use all four representations throughout this book. This section reviews these function ideas.

##### Functions; Domain and Range

The temperature at which water boils depends on the elevation above sea level (the boiling point drops as you ascend). The interest paid on a cash investment depends on the length of time the investment is held. The area of a circle depends on the radius of the circle. The distance an object travels at constant speed along a straight-line path depends on the elapsed time.

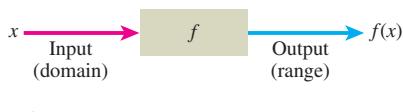
In each case, the value of one variable quantity, say  $y$ , depends on the value of another variable quantity, which we might call  $x$ . We say that “ $y$  is a function of  $x$ ” and write this symbolically as

$$y = f(x) \quad (\text{"}y\text{ equals }f\text{ of }x\text{"}).$$

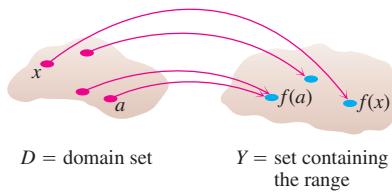
In this notation, the symbol  $f$  represents the function, the letter  $x$  is the **independent variable** representing the input value of  $f$ , and  $y$  is the **dependent variable** or output value of  $f$  at  $x$ .

**DEFINITION** A **function**  $f$  from a set  $D$  to a set  $Y$  is a rule that assigns a *unique* (single) element  $f(x) \in Y$  to each element  $x \in D$ .

The set  $D$  of all possible input values is called the **domain** of the function. The set of all values of  $f(x)$  as  $x$  varies throughout  $D$  is called the **range** of the function. The range may not include every element in the set  $Y$ . The domain and range of a function can be any sets of objects, but often in calculus they are sets of real numbers interpreted as points of a coordinate line. (In Chapters 13–16, we will encounter functions for which the elements of the sets are points in the coordinate plane or in space.)



**FIGURE 1.1** A diagram showing a function as a kind of machine.



**FIGURE 1.2** A function from a set  $D$  to a set  $Y$  assigns a unique element of  $Y$  to each element in  $D$ .

Often a function is given by a formula that describes how to calculate the output value from the input variable. For instance, the equation  $A = \pi r^2$  is a rule that calculates the area  $A$  of a circle from its radius  $r$  (so  $r$ , interpreted as a length, can only be positive in this formula). When we define a function  $y = f(x)$  with a formula and the domain is not stated explicitly or restricted by context, the domain is assumed to be the largest set of real  $x$ -values for which the formula gives real  $y$ -values, the so-called **natural domain**. If we want to restrict the domain in some way, we must say so. The domain of  $y = x^2$  is the entire set of real numbers. To restrict the domain of the function to, say, positive values of  $x$ , we would write “ $y = x^2, x > 0$ .”

Changing the domain to which we apply a formula usually changes the range as well. The range of  $y = x^2$  is  $[0, \infty)$ . The range of  $y = x^2, x \geq 2$ , is the set of all numbers obtained by squaring numbers greater than or equal to 2. In set notation (see Appendix 1), the range is  $\{x^2 | x \geq 2\}$  or  $\{y | y \geq 4\}$  or  $[4, \infty)$ .

When the range of a function is a set of real numbers, the function is said to be **real-valued**. The domains and ranges of many real-valued functions of a real variable are intervals or combinations of intervals. The intervals may be open, closed, or half open, and may be finite or infinite. The range of a function is not always easy to find.

A function  $f$  is like a machine that produces an output value  $f(x)$  in its range whenever we feed it an input value  $x$  from its domain (Figure 1.1). The function keys on a calculator give an example of a function as a machine. For instance, the  $\sqrt{x}$  key on a calculator gives an output value (the square root) whenever you enter a nonnegative number  $x$  and press the  $\sqrt{x}$  key.

A function can also be pictured as an **arrow diagram** (Figure 1.2). Each arrow associates an element of the domain  $D$  with a unique or single element in the set  $Y$ . In Figure 1.2, the arrows indicate that  $f(a)$  is associated with  $a$ ,  $f(x)$  is associated with  $x$ , and so on. Notice that a function can have the same *value* at two different input elements in the domain (as occurs with  $f(a)$  in Figure 1.2), but each input element  $x$  is assigned a *single* output value  $f(x)$ .

**EXAMPLE 1** Let’s verify the natural domains and associated ranges of some simple functions. The domains in each case are the values of  $x$  for which the formula makes sense.

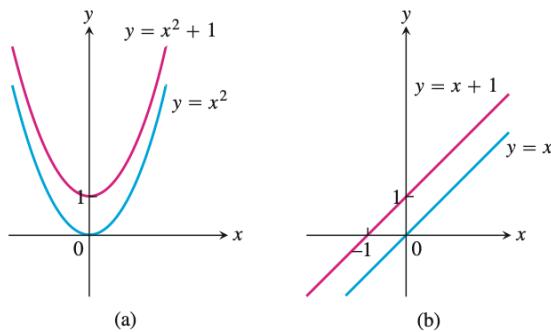
Function	Domain ( $x$ )	Range ( $y$ )
$y = x^2$	$(-\infty, \infty)$	$[0, \infty)$
$y = 1/x$	$(-\infty, 0) \cup (0, \infty)$	$(-\infty, 0) \cup (0, \infty)$
$y = \sqrt{x}$	$[0, \infty)$	$[0, \infty)$
$y = \sqrt{4 - x}$	$(-\infty, 4]$	$[0, \infty)$
$y = \sqrt{1 - x^2}$	$[-1, 1]$	$[0, 1]$

**Solution** The formula  $y = x^2$  gives a real  $y$ -value for any real number  $x$ , so the domain is  $(-\infty, \infty)$ . The range of  $y = x^2$  is  $[0, \infty)$  because the square of any real number is nonnegative and every nonnegative number  $y$  is the square of its own square root,  $y = (\sqrt{y})^2$  for  $y \geq 0$ .

The formula  $y = 1/x$  gives a real  $y$ -value for every  $x$  except  $x = 0$ . For consistency in the rules of arithmetic, we *cannot divide any number by zero*. The range of  $y = 1/x$ , the set of reciprocals of all nonzero real numbers, is the set of all nonzero real numbers, since  $y = 1/(1/y)$ . That is, for  $y \neq 0$  the number  $x = 1/y$  is the input assigned to the output value  $y$ .

The formula  $y = \sqrt{x}$  gives a real  $y$ -value only if  $x \geq 0$ . The range of  $y = \sqrt{x}$  is  $[0, \infty)$  because every nonnegative number is some number’s square root (namely, it is the square root of its own square).

In  $y = \sqrt{4 - x}$ , the quantity  $4 - x$  cannot be negative. That is,  $4 - x \geq 0$ , or  $x \leq 4$ . The formula gives real  $y$ -values for all  $x \leq 4$ . The range of  $\sqrt{4 - x}$  is  $[0, \infty)$ , the set of all nonnegative numbers.

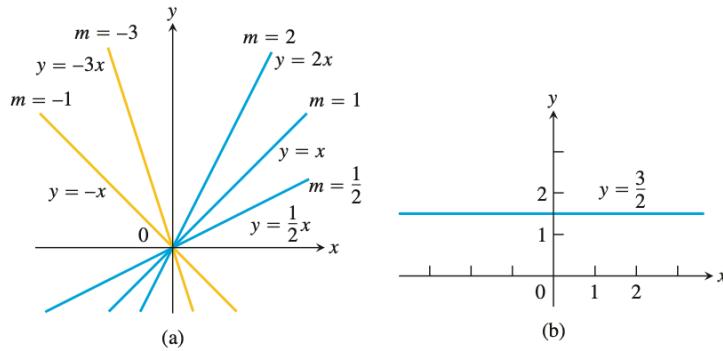


**FIGURE 1.13** (a) When we add the constant term 1 to the function  $y = x^2$ , the resulting function  $y = x^2 + 1$  is still even and its graph is still symmetric about the  $y$ -axis. (b) When we add the constant term 1 to the function  $y = x$ , the resulting function  $y = x + 1$  is no longer odd. The symmetry about the origin is lost (Example 8).

### Common Functions

A variety of important types of functions are frequently encountered in calculus. We identify and briefly describe them here.

**Linear Functions** A function of the form  $f(x) = mx + b$ , for constants  $m$  and  $b$ , is called a **linear function**. Figure 1.14a shows an array of lines  $f(x) = mx$  where  $b = 0$ , so these lines pass through the origin. The function  $f(x) = x$  where  $m = 1$  and  $b = 0$  is called the **identity function**. Constant functions result when the slope  $m = 0$  (Figure 1.14b). A linear function with positive slope whose graph passes through the origin is called a *proportionality relationship*.



**FIGURE 1.14** (a) Lines through the origin with slope  $m$ . (b) A constant function with slope  $m = 0$ .

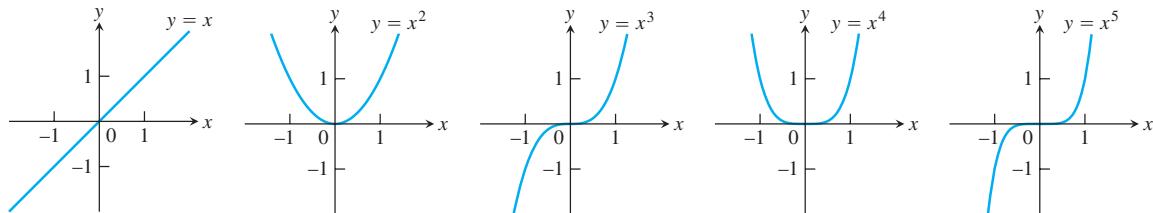
**DEFINITION** Two variables  $y$  and  $x$  are **proportional** (to one another) if one is always a constant multiple of the other; that is, if  $y = kx$  for some nonzero constant  $k$ .

If the variable  $y$  is proportional to the reciprocal  $1/x$ , then sometimes it is said that  $y$  is **inversely proportional** to  $x$  (because  $1/x$  is the multiplicative inverse of  $x$ ).

**Power Functions** A function  $f(x) = x^a$ , where  $a$  is a constant, is called a **power function**. There are several important cases to consider.

(a)  $a = n$ , a positive integer.

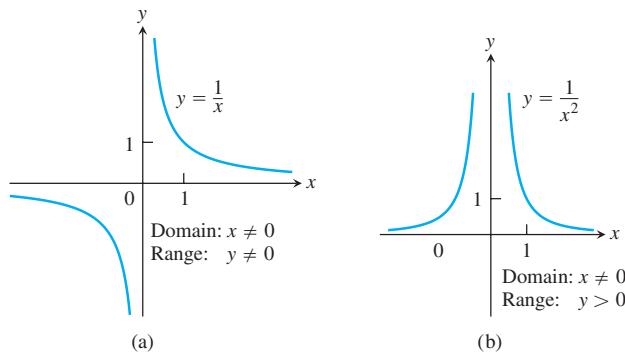
The graphs of  $f(x) = x^n$ , for  $n = 1, 2, 3, 4, 5$ , are displayed in Figure 1.15. These functions are defined for all real values of  $x$ . Notice that as the power  $n$  gets larger, the curves tend to flatten toward the  $x$ -axis on the interval  $(-1, 1)$ , and also rise more steeply for  $|x| > 1$ . Each curve passes through the point  $(1, 1)$  and through the origin. The graphs of functions with even powers are symmetric about the  $y$ -axis; those with odd powers are symmetric about the origin. The even-powered functions are decreasing on the interval  $(-\infty, 0]$  and increasing on  $[0, \infty)$ ; the odd-powered functions are increasing over the entire real line  $(-\infty, \infty)$ .



**FIGURE 1.15** Graphs of  $f(x) = x^n$ ,  $n = 1, 2, 3, 4, 5$ , defined for  $-\infty < x < \infty$ .

(b)  $a = -1$  or  $a = -2$ .

The graphs of the functions  $f(x) = x^{-1} = 1/x$  and  $g(x) = x^{-2} = 1/x^2$  are shown in Figure 1.16. Both functions are defined for all  $x \neq 0$  (you can never divide by zero). The graph of  $y = 1/x$  is the hyperbola  $xy = 1$ , which approaches the coordinate axes far from the origin. The graph of  $y = 1/x^2$  also approaches the coordinate axes. The graph of the function  $f$  is symmetric about the origin;  $f$  is decreasing on the intervals  $(-\infty, 0)$  and  $(0, \infty)$ . The graph of the function  $g$  is symmetric about the  $y$ -axis;  $g$  is increasing on  $(-\infty, 0)$  and decreasing on  $(0, \infty)$ .



**FIGURE 1.16** Graphs of the power functions  $f(x) = x^a$  for part (a)  $a = -1$  and for part (b)  $a = -2$ .

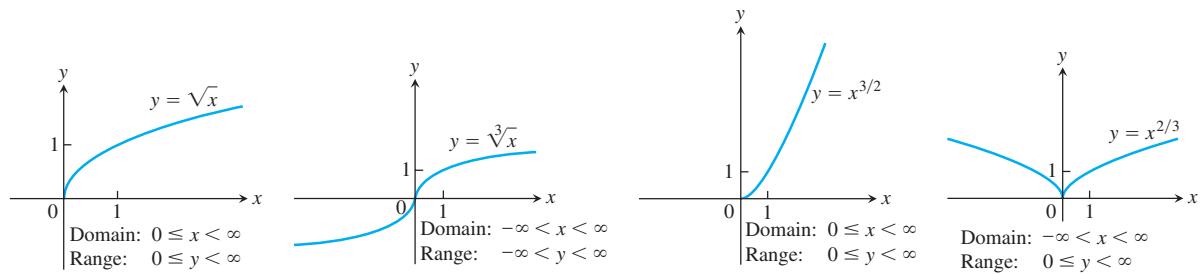
(c)  $a = \frac{1}{2}, \frac{1}{3}, \frac{3}{2}$ , and  $\frac{2}{3}$ .

The functions  $f(x) = x^{1/2} = \sqrt{x}$  and  $g(x) = x^{1/3} = \sqrt[3]{x}$  are the **square root** and **cube root** functions, respectively. The domain of the square root function is  $[0, \infty)$ , but the cube root function is defined for all real  $x$ . Their graphs are displayed in Figure 1.17 along with the graphs of  $y = x^{3/2}$  and  $y = x^{2/3}$ . (Recall that  $x^{3/2} = (x^{1/2})^3$  and  $x^{2/3} = (x^{1/3})^2$ .)

**Polynomials** A function  $p$  is a **polynomial** if

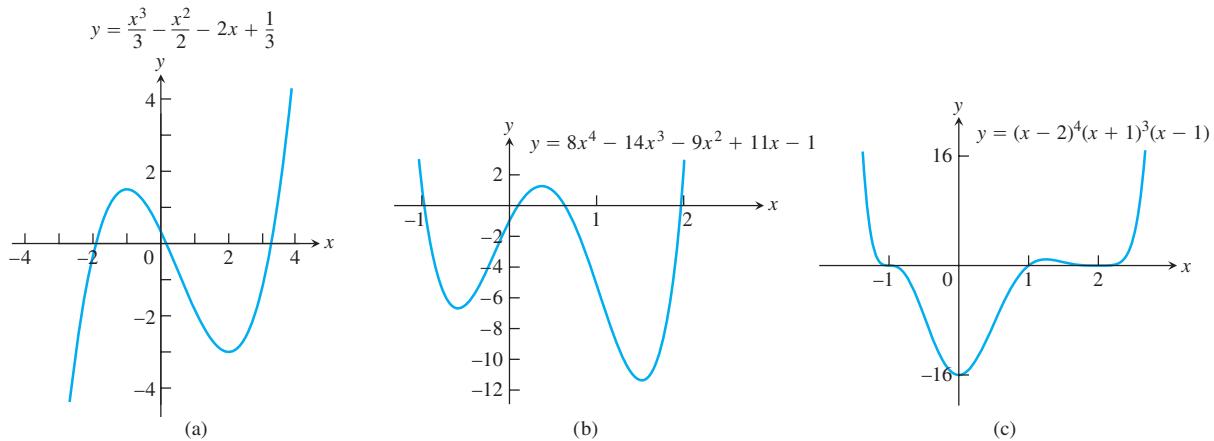
$$p(x) = a_n x^n + a_{n-1} x^{n-1} + \cdots + a_1 x + a_0$$

where  $n$  is a nonnegative integer and the numbers  $a_0, a_1, a_2, \dots, a_n$  are real constants (called the **coefficients** of the polynomial). All polynomials have domain  $(-\infty, \infty)$ . If the



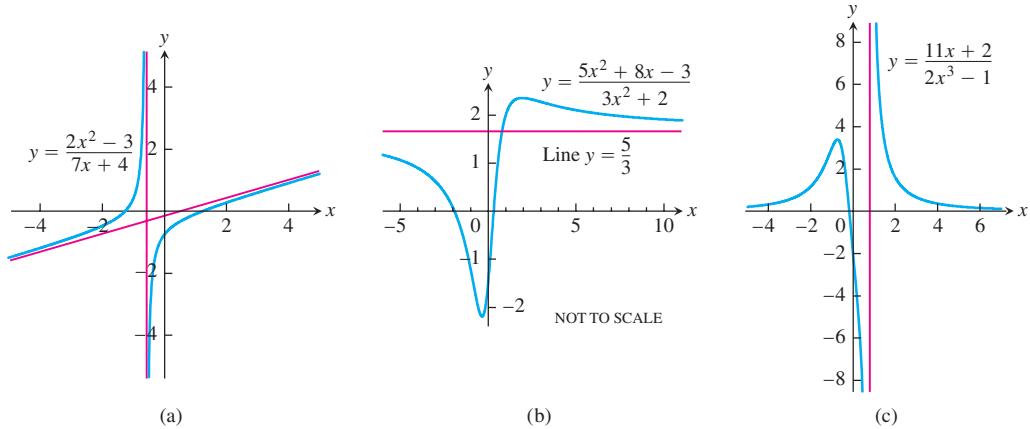
**FIGURE 1.17** Graphs of the power functions  $f(x) = x^a$  for  $a = \frac{1}{2}, \frac{1}{3}, \frac{3}{2}$ , and  $\frac{2}{3}$ .

leading coefficient  $a_n \neq 0$  and  $n > 0$ , then  $n$  is called the **degree** of the polynomial. Linear functions with  $m \neq 0$  are polynomials of degree 1. Polynomials of degree 2, usually written as  $p(x) = ax^2 + bx + c$ , are called **quadratic functions**. Likewise, **cubic functions** are polynomials  $p(x) = ax^3 + bx^2 + cx + d$  of degree 3. Figure 1.18 shows the graphs of three polynomials. Techniques to graph polynomials are studied in Chapter 4.



**FIGURE 1.18** Graphs of three polynomial functions.

**Rational Functions** A **rational function** is a quotient or ratio  $f(x) = p(x)/q(x)$ , where  $p$  and  $q$  are polynomials. The domain of a rational function is the set of all real  $x$  for which  $q(x) \neq 0$ . The graphs of several rational functions are shown in Figure 1.19.



**FIGURE 1.19** Graphs of three rational functions. The straight red lines are called *asymptotes* and are not part of the graph.

**Algebraic Functions** Any function constructed from polynomials using algebraic operations (addition, subtraction, multiplication, division, and taking roots) lies within the class of **algebraic functions**. All rational functions are algebraic, but also included are more complicated functions (such as those satisfying an equation like  $y^3 - 9xy + x^3 = 0$ , studied in Section 3.7). Figure 1.20 displays the graphs of three algebraic functions.

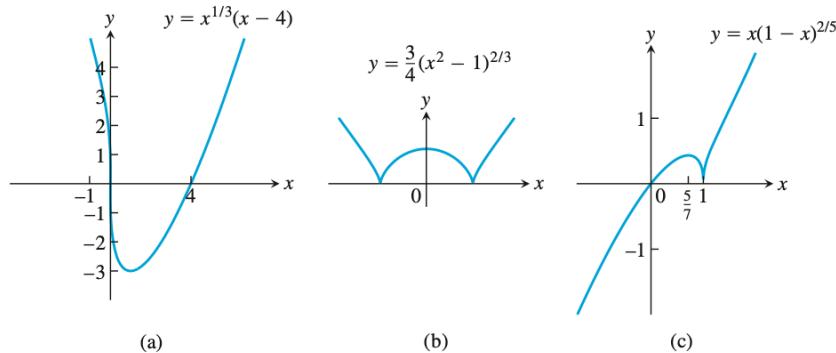


FIGURE 1.20 Graphs of three algebraic functions.

**Trigonometric Functions** The six basic trigonometric functions are reviewed in Section 1.3. The graphs of the sine and cosine functions are shown in Figure 1.21.

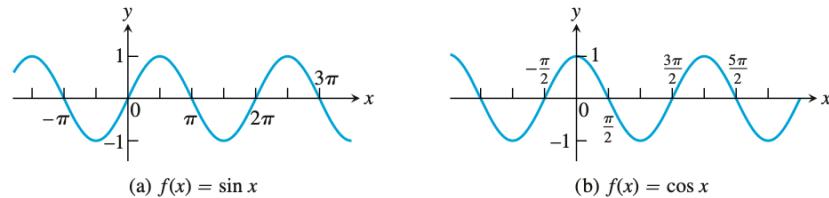


FIGURE 1.21 Graphs of the sine and cosine functions.

**Exponential Functions** Functions of the form  $f(x) = a^x$ , where the base  $a > 0$  is a positive constant and  $a \neq 1$ , are called **exponential functions**. All exponential functions have domain  $(-\infty, \infty)$  and range  $(0, \infty)$ , so an exponential function never assumes the value 0. We discuss exponential functions in Section 1.5. The graphs of some exponential functions are shown in Figure 1.22.

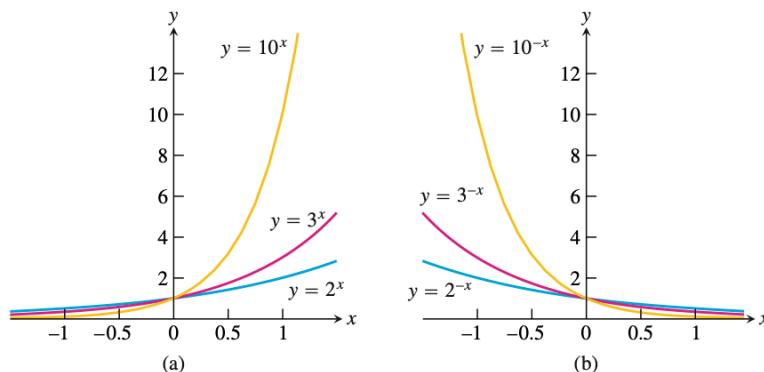
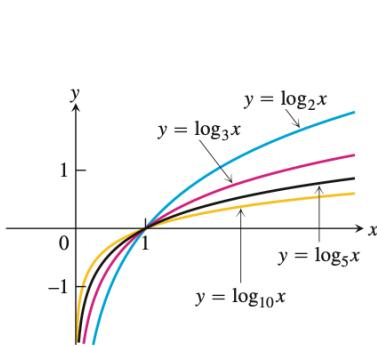
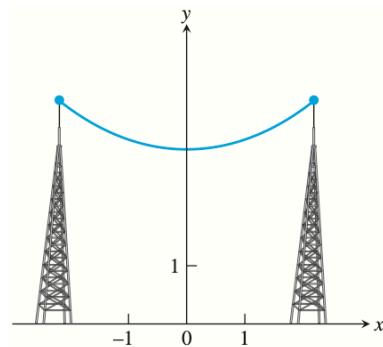


FIGURE 1.22 Graphs of exponential functions.

**Logarithmic Functions** These are the functions  $f(x) = \log_a x$ , where the base  $a \neq 1$  is a positive constant. They are the *inverse functions* of the exponential functions, and we discuss these functions in Section 1.6. Figure 1.23 shows the graphs of four logarithmic functions with various bases. In each case the domain is  $(0, \infty)$  and the range is  $(-\infty, \infty)$ .



**FIGURE 1.23** Graphs of four logarithmic functions.



**FIGURE 1.24** Graph of a catenary or hanging cable. (The Latin word *catena* means “chain.”)

**Transcendental Functions** These are functions that are not algebraic. They include the trigonometric, inverse trigonometric, exponential, and logarithmic functions, and many other functions as well. A particular example of a transcendental function is a **catenary**. Its graph has the shape of a cable, like a telephone line or electric cable, strung from one support to another and hanging freely under its own weight (Figure 1.24). The function defining the graph is discussed in Section 7.3.

## Exercises 1.1

### Functions

In Exercises 1–6, find the domain and range of each function.

1.  $f(x) = 1 + x^2$

2.  $f(x) = 1 - \sqrt{x}$

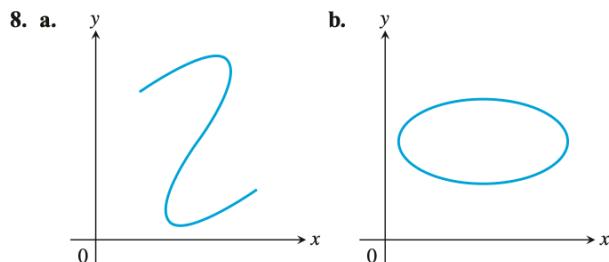
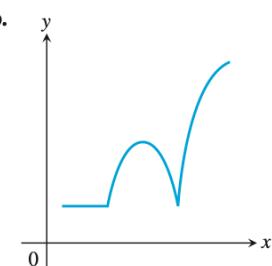
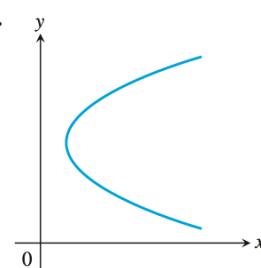
3.  $F(x) = \sqrt{5x + 10}$

4.  $g(x) = \sqrt{x^2 - 3x}$

5.  $f(t) = \frac{4}{3-t}$

6.  $G(t) = \frac{2}{t^2 - 16}$

In Exercises 7 and 8, which of the graphs are graphs of functions of  $x$ , and which are not? Give reasons for your answers.



### Finding Formulas for Functions

9. Express the area and perimeter of an equilateral triangle as a function of the triangle's side length  $x$ .
10. Express the side length of a square as a function of the length  $d$  of the square's diagonal. Then express the area as a function of the diagonal length.
11. Express the edge length of a cube as a function of the cube's diagonal length  $d$ . Then express the surface area and volume of the cube as a function of the diagonal length.

fossils. In this section we introduce these functions informally, using an intuitive approach. We give a rigorous development of them in Chapter 7, based on important calculus ideas and results.

### Exponential Behavior

When a positive quantity  $P$  doubles, it increases by a factor of 2 and the quantity becomes  $2P$ . If it doubles again, it becomes  $2(2P) = 2^2P$ , and a third doubling gives  $2(2^2P) = 2^3P$ . Continuing to double in this fashion leads us to the consideration of the function  $f(x) = 2^x$ . We call this an *exponential* function because the variable  $x$  appears in the exponent of  $2^x$ . Functions such as  $g(x) = 10^x$  and  $h(x) = (1/2)^x$  are other examples of exponential functions. In general, if  $a \neq 1$  is a positive constant, the function

$$f(x) = a^x$$

is the **exponential function with base  $a$** .

Don't confuse  $2^x$  with the power  $x^2$ , where the variable  $x$  is the base, not the exponent.

**EXAMPLE 1** In 2000, \$100 is invested in a savings account, where it grows by accruing interest that is compounded annually (once a year) at an interest rate of 5.5%. Assuming no additional funds are deposited to the account and no money is withdrawn, give a formula for a function describing the amount  $A$  in the account after  $x$  years have elapsed.

**Solution** If  $P = 100$ , at the end of the first year the amount in the account is the original amount plus the interest accrued, or

$$P + \left(\frac{5.5}{100}\right)P = (1 + 0.055)P = (1.055)P.$$

At the end of the second year the account earns interest again and grows to

$$(1 + 0.055) \cdot (1.055P) = (1.055)^2P = 100 \cdot (1.055)^2. \quad P = 100$$

Continuing this process, after  $x$  years the value of the account is

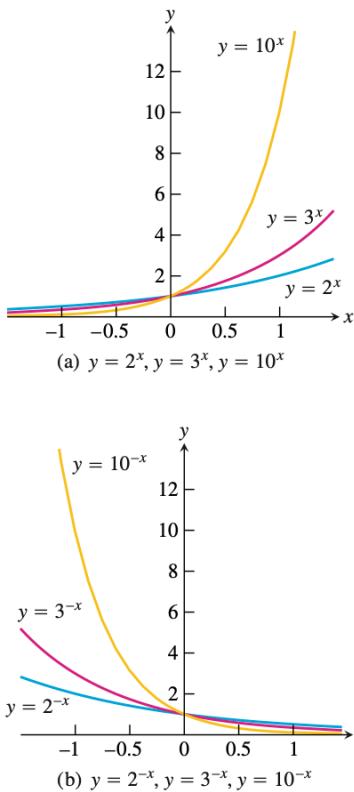
$$A = 100 \cdot (1.055)^x.$$

This is a multiple of the exponential function with base 1.055. Table 1.4 shows the amounts accrued over the first four years. Notice that the amount in the account each year is always 1.055 times its value in the previous year.

**TABLE 1.4** Savings account growth

Year	Amount (dollars)	Increase (dollars)
2000	100	
2001	$100(1.055) = 105.50$	5.50
2002	$100(1.055)^2 = 111.30$	5.80
2003	$100(1.055)^3 = 117.42$	6.12
2004	$100(1.055)^4 = 123.88$	6.46

In general, the amount after  $x$  years is given by  $P(1 + r)^x$ , where  $r$  is the interest rate (expressed as a decimal). ■



**FIGURE 1.56** Graphs of exponential functions.

For integer and rational exponents, the value of an exponential function  $f(x) = a^x$  is obtained arithmetically as follows. If  $x = n$  is a positive integer, the number  $a^n$  is given by multiplying  $a$  by itself  $n$  times:

$$a^n = \underbrace{a \cdot a \cdot \cdots \cdot a}_{n \text{ factors}}$$

If  $x = 0$ , then  $a^0 = 1$ , and if  $x = -n$  for some positive integer  $n$ , then

$$a^{-n} = \frac{1}{a^n} = \left(\frac{1}{a}\right)^n.$$

If  $x = 1/n$  for some positive integer  $n$ , then

$$a^{1/n} = \sqrt[n]{a},$$

which is the positive number that when multiplied by itself  $n$  times gives  $a$ . If  $x = p/q$  is any rational number, then

$$a^{p/q} = \sqrt[q]{a^p} = (\sqrt[q]{a})^p.$$

If  $x$  is *irrational*, the meaning of  $a^x$  is not so clear, but its value can be defined by considering values for rational numbers that get closer and closer to  $x$ . This informal approach is based on the graph of the exponential function. In Chapter 7 we define the meaning in a rigorous way.

We displayed the graphs of several exponential functions in Section 1.1, and show them again here in Figure 1.56. These graphs describe the values of the exponential functions for all real inputs  $x$ . The value at an irrational number  $x$  is chosen so that the graph of  $a^x$  has no “holes” or “jumps.” Of course, these words are not mathematical terms, but they do convey the informal idea. We mean that the value of  $a^x$ , when  $x$  is irrational, is chosen so that the function  $f(x) = a^x$  is *continuous*, a notion that will be carefully explored in the next chapter. This choice ensures the graph retains its increasing behavior when  $a > 1$ , or decreasing behavior when  $0 < a < 1$  (see Figure 1.56).

Arithmetically, the graphical idea can be described in the following way, using the exponential  $f(x) = 2^x$  as an illustration. Any particular irrational number, say  $x = \sqrt{3}$ , has a decimal expansion

$$\sqrt{3} = 1.732050808 \dots$$

We then consider the list of numbers, given as follows in the order of taking more and more digits in the decimal expansion,

$$2^1, 2^{1.7}, 2^{1.73}, 2^{1.732}, 2^{1.7320}, 2^{1.73205}, \dots \quad (1)$$

We know the meaning of each number in list (1) because the successive decimal approximations to  $\sqrt{3}$  given by 1, 1.7, 1.73, 1.732, and so on, are all *rational* numbers. As these decimal approximations get closer and closer to  $\sqrt{3}$ , it seems reasonable that the list of numbers in (1) gets closer and closer to some fixed number, which we specify to be  $2^{\sqrt{3}}$ .

Table 1.5 illustrates how taking better approximations to  $\sqrt{3}$  gives better approximations to the number  $2^{\sqrt{3}} \approx 3.321997086$ . It is the *completeness property* of the real numbers (discussed briefly in Appendix 6) which guarantees that this procedure gives a single number we define to be  $2^{\sqrt{3}}$  (although it is beyond the scope of this text to give a proof). In a similar way, we can identify the number  $2^x$  (or  $a^x$ ,  $a > 0$ ) for any irrational  $x$ . By identifying the number  $a^x$  for both rational and irrational  $x$ , we eliminate any “holes” or “gaps” in the graph of  $a^x$ . In practice you can use a calculator to find the number  $a^x$  for irrational  $x$ , taking successive decimal approximations to  $x$  and creating a table similar to Table 1.5.

Exponential functions obey the familiar rules of exponents listed on the next page. It is easy to check these rules using algebra when the exponents are integers or rational numbers. We prove them for all real exponents in Chapters 4 and 7.

**TABLE 1.5** Values of  $2^{\sqrt{3}}$  for rational  $r$  closer and closer to  $\sqrt{3}$

$r$	$2^r$
1.0	2.000000000
1.7	3.249009585
1.73	3.317278183
1.732	3.321880096
1.7320	3.321880096
1.73205	3.321995226
1.732050	3.321995226
1.7320508	3.321997068
1.73205080	3.321997068
1.732050808	3.321997086

### Rules for Exponents

If  $a > 0$  and  $b > 0$ , the following rules hold true for all real numbers  $x$  and  $y$ .

$$1. a^x \cdot a^y = a^{x+y}$$

$$2. \frac{a^x}{a^y} = a^{x-y}$$

$$3. (a^x)^y = (a^y)^x = a^{xy}$$

$$4. a^x \cdot b^x = (ab)^x$$

$$5. \frac{a^x}{b^x} = \left(\frac{a}{b}\right)^x$$

**EXAMPLE 2** We illustrate using the rules for exponents.

$$1. 3^{1.1} \cdot 3^{0.7} = 3^{1.1+0.7} = 3^{1.8}$$

$$2. \frac{(\sqrt{10})^3}{\sqrt{10}} = (\sqrt{10})^{3-1} = (\sqrt{10})^2 = 10$$

$$3. (5^{\sqrt{2}})^{\sqrt{2}} = 5^{\sqrt{2} \cdot \sqrt{2}} = 5^2 = 25$$

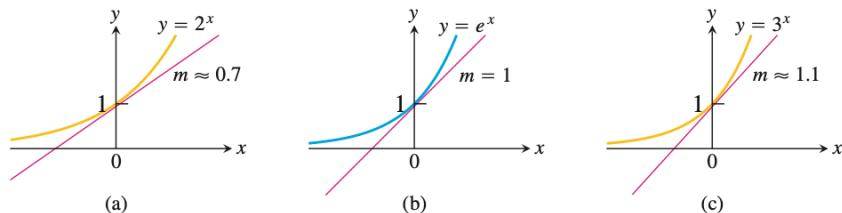
$$4. 7^\pi \cdot 8^\pi = (56)^\pi$$

$$5. \left(\frac{4}{9}\right)^{1/2} = \frac{4^{1/2}}{9^{1/2}} = \frac{2}{3}$$

### The Natural Exponential Function $e^x$

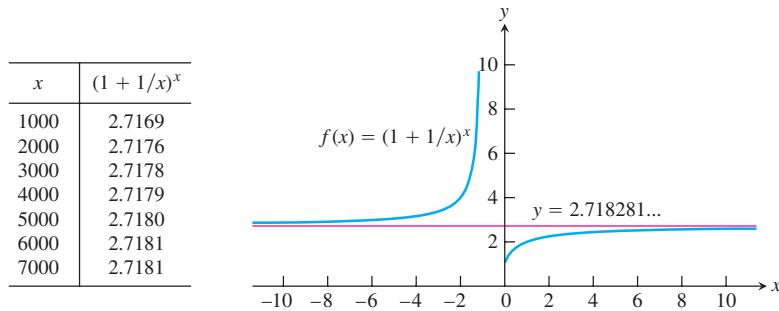
The most important exponential function used for modeling natural, physical, and economic phenomena is the **natural exponential function**, whose base is the special number  $e$ . The number  $e$  is irrational, and its value is 2.718281828 to nine decimal places. It might seem strange that we would use this number for a base rather than a simple number like 2 or 10. The advantage in using  $e$  as a base is that it simplifies many of the calculations in calculus.

If you look at Figure 1.56a you can see that the graphs of the exponential functions  $y = a^x$  get steeper as the base  $a$  gets larger. This idea of steepness is conveyed by the slope of the tangent line to the graph at a point. Tangent lines to graphs of functions are defined precisely in the next chapter, but intuitively the tangent line to the graph at a point is a line that just touches the graph at the point, like a tangent to a circle. Figure 1.57 shows the slope of the graph of  $y = a^x$  as it crosses the  $y$ -axis for several values of  $a$ . Notice that the slope is exactly equal to 1 when  $a$  equals the number  $e$ . The slope is smaller than 1 if  $a < e$ , and larger than 1 if  $a > e$ . This is the property that makes the number  $e$  so useful in calculus: **The graph of  $y = e^x$  has slope 1 when it crosses the  $y$ -axis.**



**FIGURE 1.57** Among the exponential functions, the graph of  $y = e^x$  has the property that the slope  $m$  of the tangent line to the graph is exactly 1 when it crosses the  $y$ -axis. The slope is smaller for a base less than  $e$ , such as  $2^x$ , and larger for a base greater than  $e$ , such as  $3^x$ .

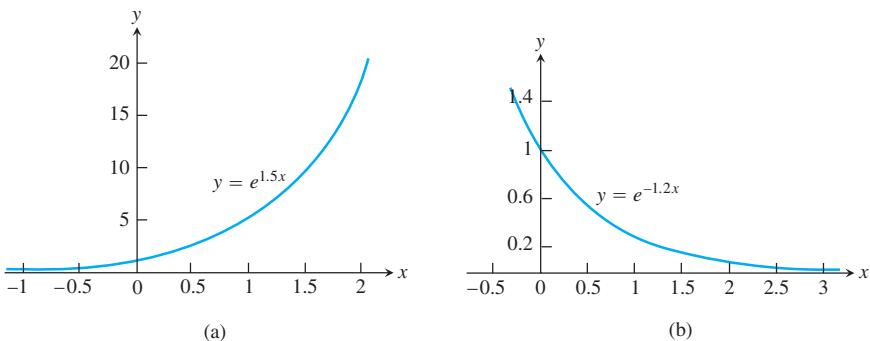
In Chapter 3 we use that slope property to prove  $e$  is the number the quantity  $(1 + 1/x)^x$  approaches as  $x$  becomes large without bound. That result provides one way to compute the value of  $e$ , at least approximately. The graph and table in Figure 1.58 show the behavior of this expression and how it gets closer and closer to the line  $y = e \approx 2.718281828$  as  $x$  gets larger and larger. (This *limit* idea is made precise in the next chapter.) A more complete discussion of  $e$  is given in Chapter 7.



**FIGURE 1.58** A graph and table of values for  $f(x) = (1 + 1/x)^x$  both suggest that as  $x$  gets larger and larger,  $f(x)$  gets closer and closer to  $e \approx 2.7182818\dots$ .

### Exponential Growth and Decay

The exponential functions  $y = e^{kx}$ , where  $k$  is a nonzero constant, are frequently used for modeling exponential growth or decay. The function  $y = y_0 e^{kx}$  is a model for **exponential growth** if  $k > 0$  and a model for **exponential decay** if  $k < 0$ . Here  $y_0$  represents a constant. An example of exponential growth occurs when computing interest **compounded continuously** modeled by  $y = P \cdot e^{rt}$ , where  $P$  is the initial investment,  $r$  is the interest rate as a decimal, and  $t$  is time in units consistent with  $r$ . An example of exponential decay is the model  $y = A \cdot e^{-1.2 \times 10^{-4}t}$ , which represents how the radioactive element carbon-14 decays over time. Here  $A$  is the original amount of carbon-14 and  $t$  is the time in years. Carbon-14 decay is used to date the remains of dead organisms such as shells, seeds, and wooden artifacts. Figure 1.59 shows graphs of exponential growth and exponential decay.



**FIGURE 1.59** Graphs of (a) exponential growth,  $k = 1.5 > 0$ , and (b) exponential decay,  $k = -1.2 < 0$ .

**EXAMPLE 3** Investment companies often use the model  $y = Pe^{rt}$  in calculating the growth of an investment. Use this model to track the growth of \$100 invested in 2000 at an annual interest rate of 5.5%.

**Solution** Let  $t = 0$  represent 2000,  $t = 1$  represent 2001, and so on. Then the exponential growth model is  $y(t) = Pe^{rt}$ , where  $P = 100$  (the initial investment),  $r = 0.055$  (the

annual interest rate expressed as a decimal), and  $t$  is time in years. To predict the amount in the account in 2004, after four years have elapsed, we take  $t = 4$  and calculate

$$\begin{aligned}y(4) &= 100e^{0.055(4)} \\&= 100e^{0.22} \\&= 124.61.\end{aligned}\quad \text{Nearest cent using calculator}$$

This compares with \$123.88 in the account when the interest is compounded annually from Example 1. ■

**EXAMPLE 4** Laboratory experiments indicate that some atoms emit a part of their mass as radiation, with the remainder of the atom re-forming to make an atom of some new element. For example, radioactive carbon-14 decays into nitrogen; radium eventually decays into lead. If  $y_0$  is the number of radioactive nuclei present at time zero, the number still present at any later time  $t$  will be

$$y = y_0 e^{-rt}, \quad r > 0.$$

The number  $r$  is called the **decay rate** of the radioactive substance. (We will see how this formula is obtained in Section 7.2.) For carbon-14, the decay rate has been determined experimentally to be about  $r = 1.2 \times 10^{-4}$  when  $t$  is measured in years. Predict the percent of carbon-14 present after 866 years have elapsed.

**Solution** If we start with an amount  $y_0$  of carbon-14 nuclei, after 866 years we are left with the amount

$$\begin{aligned}y(866) &= y_0 e^{(-1.2 \times 10^{-4})(866)} \\&\approx (0.901)y_0.\end{aligned}\quad \text{Calculator evaluation}$$

That is, after 866 years, we are left with about 90% of the original amount of carbon-14, so about 10% of the original nuclei have decayed. In Example 7 in the next section, you will see how to find the number of years required for half of the radioactive nuclei present in a sample to decay (called the *half-life* of the substance). ■

You may wonder why we use the family of functions  $y = e^{kx}$  for different values of the constant  $k$  instead of the general exponential functions  $y = a^x$ . In the next section, we show that the exponential function  $a^x$  is equal to  $e^{kx}$  for an appropriate value of  $k$ . So the formula  $y = e^{kx}$  covers the entire range of possibilities, and we will see that it is easier to use.

## Exercises 1.5

### Sketching Exponential Curves

In Exercises 1–6, sketch the given curves together in the appropriate coordinate plane and label each curve with its equation.

- 1.  $y = 2^x, y = 4^x, y = 3^{-x}, y = (1/5)^x$
- 2.  $y = 3^x, y = 8^x, y = 2^{-x}, y = (1/4)^x$
- 3.  $y = 2^{-t}$  and  $y = -2^t$
- 4.  $y = 3^{-t}$  and  $y = -3^t$
- 5.  $y = e^x$  and  $y = 1/e^x$
- 6.  $y = -e^x$  and  $y = -e^{-x}$

In each of Exercises 7–10, sketch the shifted exponential curves.

- 7.  $y = 2^x - 1$  and  $y = 2^{-x} - 1$
- 8.  $y = 3^x + 2$  and  $y = 3^{-x} + 2$
- 9.  $y = 1 - e^x$  and  $y = 1 - e^{-x}$
- 10.  $y = -1 - e^x$  and  $y = -1 - e^{-x}$

### Applying the Laws of Exponents

Use the laws of exponents to simplify the expressions in Exercises 11–20.

- 11.  $16^2 \cdot 16^{-1.75}$
- 12.  $9^{1/3} \cdot 9^{1/6}$
- 13.  $\frac{4^{4.2}}{4^{3.7}}$
- 14.  $\frac{3^{5/3}}{3^{2/3}}$
- 15.  $(25^{1/8})^4$
- 16.  $(13^{1/2})^{1/2}$
- 17.  $2^{\sqrt{3}} \cdot 7^{\sqrt{3}}$
- 18.  $(\sqrt{3})^{1/2} \cdot (\sqrt{12})^{1/2}$
- 19.  $\left(\frac{2}{\sqrt{2}}\right)^4$
- 20.  $\left(\frac{\sqrt{6}}{3}\right)^2$

### Composites Involving Exponential Functions

Find the domain and range for each of the functions in Exercises 21–24.

21.  $f(x) = \frac{1}{2 + e^x}$

22.  $g(t) = \cos(e^{-t})$

23.  $g(t) = \sqrt{1 + 3^{-t}}$

24.  $f(x) = \frac{3}{1 - e^{2x}}$

### Applications

**T** In Exercises 25–28, use graphs to find approximate solutions.

25.  $2^x = 5$

26.  $e^x = 4$

27.  $3^x - 0.5 = 0$

28.  $3 - 2^{-x} = 0$

**T** In Exercises 29–36, use an exponential model and a graphing calculator to estimate the answer in each problem.

29. **Population growth** The population of Knoxville is 500,000 and is increasing at the rate of 3.75% each year. Approximately when will the population reach 1 million?

30. **Population growth** The population of Silver Run in the year 1890 was 6250. Assume the population increased at a rate of 2.75% per year.

a. Estimate the population in 1915 and 1940.

b. Approximately when did the population reach 50,000?

31. **Radioactive decay** The half-life of phosphorus-32 is about 14 days. There are 6.6 grams present initially.

- a. Express the amount of phosphorus-32 remaining as a function of time  $t$ .

- b. When will there be 1 gram remaining?

32. If John invests \$2300 in a savings account with a 6% interest rate compounded annually, how long will it take until John's account has a balance of \$4150?

33. **Doubling your money** Determine how much time is required for an investment to double in value if interest is earned at the rate of 6.25% compounded annually.

34. **Tripling your money** Determine how much time is required for an investment to triple in value if interest is earned at the rate of 5.75% compounded continuously.

35. **Cholera bacteria** Suppose that a colony of bacteria starts with 1 bacterium and doubles in number every half hour. How many bacteria will the colony contain at the end of 24 hr?

36. **Eliminating a disease** Suppose that in any given year the number of cases of a disease is reduced by 20%. If there are 10,000 cases today, how many years will it take

- a. to reduce the number of cases to 1000?

- b. to eliminate the disease; that is, to reduce the number of cases to less than 1?

## 1.6

### Inverse Functions and Logarithms

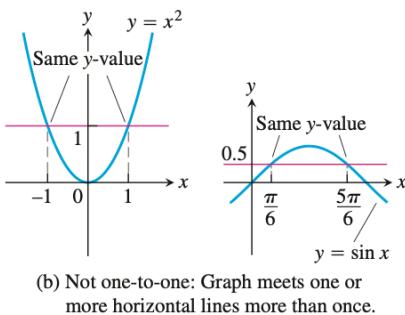
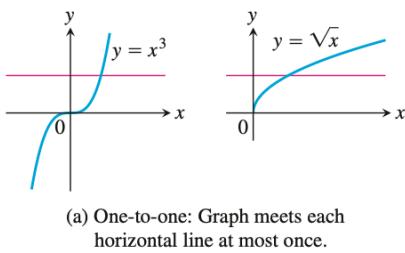
A function that undoes, or inverts, the effect of a function  $f$  is called the *inverse* of  $f$ . Many common functions, though not all, are paired with an inverse. In this section we present the natural logarithmic function  $y = \ln x$  as the inverse of the exponential function  $y = e^x$ , and we also give examples of several inverse trigonometric functions.

#### One-to-One Functions

A function is a rule that assigns a value from its range to each element in its domain. Some functions assign the same range value to more than one element in the domain. The function  $f(x) = x^2$  assigns the same value, 1, to both of the numbers  $-1$  and  $+1$ ; the sines of  $\pi/3$  and  $2\pi/3$  are both  $\sqrt{3}/2$ . Other functions assume each value in their range no more than once. The square roots and cubes of different numbers are always different. A function that has distinct values at distinct elements in its domain is called one-to-one. These functions take on any one value in their range exactly once.

**DEFINITION** A function  $f(x)$  is **one-to-one** on a domain  $D$  if  $f(x_1) \neq f(x_2)$  whenever  $x_1 \neq x_2$  in  $D$ .

**EXAMPLE 1** Some functions are one-to-one on their entire natural domain. Other functions are not one-to-one on their entire domain, but by restricting the function to a smaller domain we can create a function that is one-to-one. The original and restricted functions are not the same functions, because they have different domains. However, the two functions have the same values on the smaller domain, so the original function is an extension of the restricted function from its smaller domain to the larger domain.



**FIGURE 1.60** (a)  $y = x^3$  and  $y = \sqrt{x}$  are one-to-one on their domains  $(-\infty, \infty)$  and  $[0, \infty)$ . (b)  $y = x^2$  and  $y = \sin x$  are not one-to-one on their domains  $(-\infty, \infty)$ .

- (a)  $f(x) = \sqrt{x}$  is one-to-one on any domain of nonnegative numbers because  $\sqrt{x_1} \neq \sqrt{x_2}$  whenever  $x_1 \neq x_2$ .
- (b)  $g(x) = \sin x$  is *not* one-to-one on the interval  $[0, \pi]$  because  $\sin(\pi/6) = \sin(5\pi/6)$ . In fact, for each element  $x_1$  in the subinterval  $[0, \pi/2]$  there is a corresponding element  $x_2$  in the subinterval  $(\pi/2, \pi]$  satisfying  $\sin x_1 = \sin x_2$ , so distinct elements in the domain are assigned to the same value in the range. The sine function *is* one-to-one on  $[0, \pi/2]$ , however, because it is an increasing function on  $[0, \pi/2]$  giving distinct outputs for distinct inputs. ■

The graph of a one-to-one function  $y = f(x)$  can intersect a given horizontal line at most once. If the function intersects the line more than once, it assumes the same  $y$ -value for at least two different  $x$ -values and is therefore not one-to-one (Figure 1.60).

### The Horizontal Line Test for One-to-One Functions

A function  $y = f(x)$  is one-to-one if and only if its graph intersects each horizontal line at most once.

### Inverse Functions

Since each output of a one-to-one function comes from just one input, the effect of the function can be inverted to send an output back to the input from which it came.

**DEFINITION** Suppose that  $f$  is a one-to-one function on a domain  $D$  with range  $R$ . The **inverse function**  $f^{-1}$  is defined by

$$f^{-1}(b) = a \text{ if } f(a) = b.$$

The domain of  $f^{-1}$  is  $R$  and the range of  $f^{-1}$  is  $D$ .

The symbol  $f^{-1}$  for the inverse of  $f$  is read “ $f$  inverse.” The “ $-1$ ” in  $f^{-1}$  is *not* an exponent;  $f^{-1}(x)$  does not mean  $1/f(x)$ . Notice that the domains and ranges of  $f$  and  $f^{-1}$  are interchanged.

**EXAMPLE 2** Suppose a one-to-one function  $y = f(x)$  is given by a table of values

$x$	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
$f(x)$	3	4.5	7	10.5	15	20.5	27	34.5

A table for the values of  $x = f^{-1}(y)$  can then be obtained by simply interchanging the values in the columns (or rows) of the table for  $f$ :

$y$	3	4.5	7	10.5	15	20.5	27	34.5
$f^{-1}(y)$	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8

If we apply  $f$  to send an input  $x$  to the output  $f(x)$  and follow by applying  $f^{-1}$  to  $f(x)$  we get right back to  $x$ , just where we started. Similarly, if we take some number  $y$  in the range of  $f$ , apply  $f^{-1}$  to it, and then apply  $f$  to the resulting value  $f^{-1}(y)$ , we get back the value  $y$  with which we began. Composing a function and its inverse has the same effect as doing nothing.

$$(f^{-1} \circ f)(x) = x, \quad \text{for all } x \text{ in the domain of } f$$

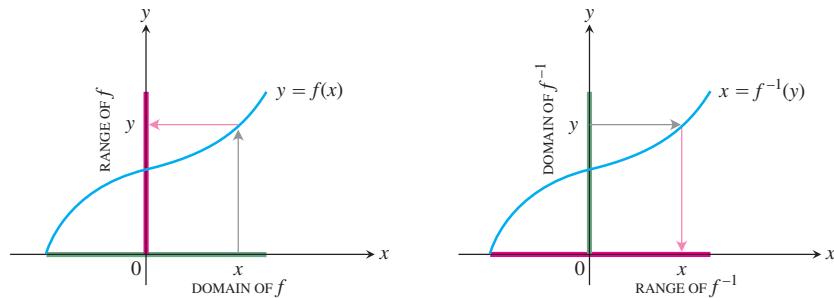
$$(f \circ f^{-1})(y) = y, \quad \text{for all } y \text{ in the domain of } f^{-1} \text{ (or range of } f)$$

Only a one-to-one function can have an inverse. The reason is that if  $f(x_1) = y$  and  $f(x_2) = y$  for two distinct inputs  $x_1$  and  $x_2$ , then there is no way to assign a value to  $f^{-1}(y)$  that satisfies both  $f^{-1}(f(x_1)) = x_1$  and  $f^{-1}(f(x_2)) = x_2$ .

A function that is increasing on an interval so it satisfies the inequality  $f(x_2) > f(x_1)$  when  $x_2 > x_1$  is one-to-one and has an inverse. Decreasing functions also have an inverse. Functions that are neither increasing nor decreasing may still be one-to-one and have an inverse, as with the function  $f(x) = 1/x$  for  $x \neq 0$  and  $f(0) = 0$ , defined on  $(-\infty, \infty)$  and passing the horizontal line test.

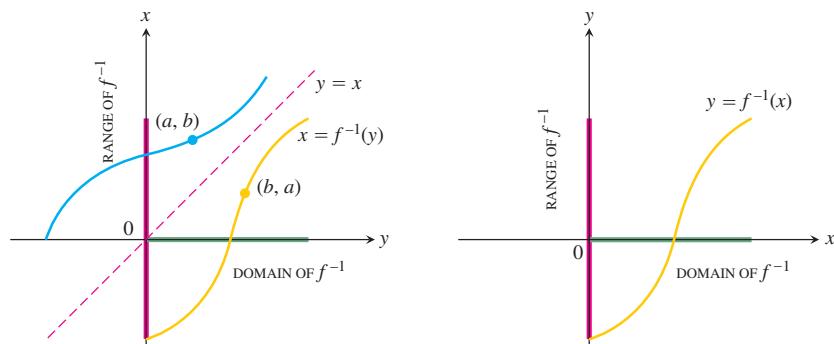
### Finding Inverses

The graphs of a function and its inverse are closely related. To read the value of a function from its graph, we start at a point  $x$  on the  $x$ -axis, go vertically to the graph, and then move horizontally to the  $y$ -axis to read the value of  $y$ . The inverse function can be read from the graph by reversing this process. Start with a point  $y$  on the  $y$ -axis, go horizontally to the graph of  $y = f(x)$ , and then move vertically to the  $x$ -axis to read the value of  $x = f^{-1}(y)$  (Figure 1.61).



(a) To find the value of  $f$  at  $x$ , we start at  $x$ , go up to the curve, and then over to the  $y$ -axis.

(b) The graph of  $f^{-1}$  is the graph of  $f$ , but with  $x$  and  $y$  interchanged. To find the  $x$  that gave  $y$ , we start at  $y$  and go over to the curve and down to the  $x$ -axis. The domain of  $f^{-1}$  is the range of  $f$ . The range of  $f^{-1}$  is the domain of  $f$ .



(c) To draw the graph of  $f^{-1}$  in the more usual way, we reflect the system across the line  $y = x$ .

(d) Then we interchange the letters  $x$  and  $y$ . We now have a normal-looking graph of  $f^{-1}$  as a function of  $x$ .

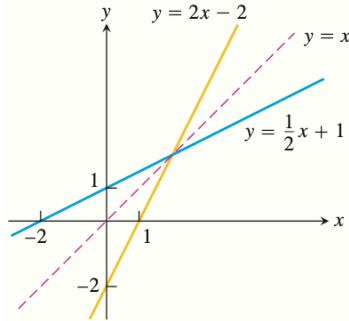
**FIGURE 1.61** Determining the graph of  $y = f^{-1}(x)$  from the graph of  $y = f(x)$ . The graph of  $f^{-1}$  is obtained by reflecting the graph of  $f$  about the line  $y = x$ .

We want to set up the graph of  $f^{-1}$  so that its input values lie along the  $x$ -axis, as is usually done for functions, rather than on the  $y$ -axis. To achieve this we interchange the  $x$

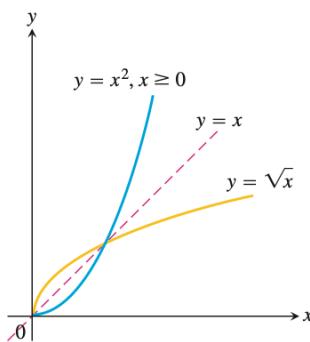
and  $y$  axes by reflecting across the  $45^\circ$  line  $y = x$ . After this reflection we have a new graph that represents  $f^{-1}$ . The value of  $f^{-1}(x)$  can now be read from the graph in the usual way, by starting with a point  $x$  on the  $x$ -axis, going vertically to the graph, and then horizontally to the  $y$ -axis to get the value of  $f^{-1}(x)$ . Figure 1.61 indicates the relationship between the graphs of  $f$  and  $f^{-1}$ . The graphs are interchanged by reflection through the line  $y = x$ .

The process of passing from  $f$  to  $f^{-1}$  can be summarized as a two-step procedure.

1. Solve the equation  $y = f(x)$  for  $x$ . This gives a formula  $x = f^{-1}(y)$  where  $x$  is expressed as a function of  $y$ .
2. Interchange  $x$  and  $y$ , obtaining a formula  $y = f^{-1}(x)$  where  $f^{-1}$  is expressed in the conventional format with  $x$  as the independent variable and  $y$  as the dependent variable.



**FIGURE 1.62** Graphing  $f(x) = (1/2)x + 1$  and  $f^{-1}(x) = 2x - 2$  together shows the graphs' symmetry with respect to the line  $y = x$  (Example 3).



**FIGURE 1.63** The functions  $y = \sqrt{x}$  and  $y = x^2, x \geq 0$ , are inverses of one another (Example 4).

**EXAMPLE 3** Find the inverse of  $y = \frac{1}{2}x + 1$ , expressed as a function of  $x$ .

**Solution**

1. *Solve for  $x$  in terms of  $y$ :*  $y = \frac{1}{2}x + 1$

$$2y = x + 2$$

$$x = 2y - 2.$$

2. *Interchange  $x$  and  $y$ :*  $y = 2x - 2$ .

The inverse of the function  $f(x) = (1/2)x + 1$  is the function  $f^{-1}(x) = 2x - 2$ . (See Figure 1.62.) To check, we verify that both composites give the identity function:

$$f^{-1}(f(x)) = 2\left(\frac{1}{2}x + 1\right) - 2 = x + 2 - 2 = x$$

$$f(f^{-1}(x)) = \frac{1}{2}(2x - 2) + 1 = x - 1 + 1 = x.$$

**EXAMPLE 4** Find the inverse of the function  $y = x^2, x \geq 0$ , expressed as a function of  $x$ .

**Solution** We first solve for  $x$  in terms of  $y$ :

$$y = x^2$$

$$\sqrt{y} = \sqrt{x^2} = |x| = x \quad |x| = x \text{ because } x \geq 0$$

We then interchange  $x$  and  $y$ , obtaining

$$y = \sqrt{x}.$$

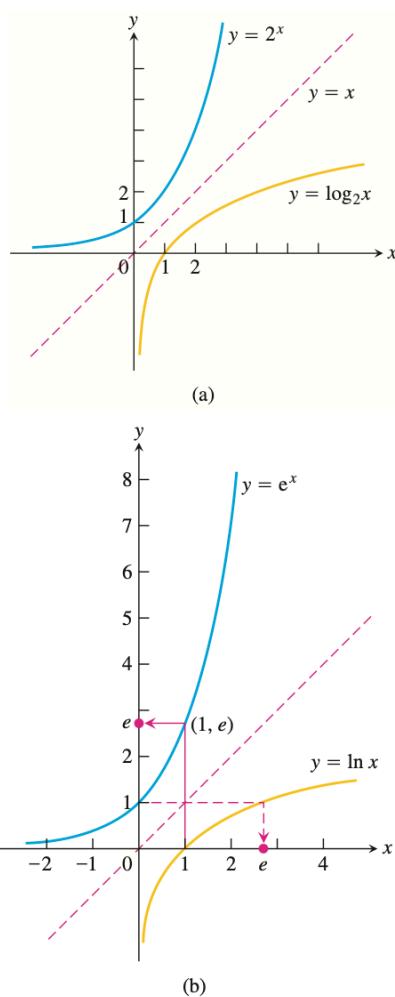
The inverse of the function  $y = x^2, x \geq 0$ , is the function  $y = \sqrt{x}$  (Figure 1.63).

Notice that the function  $y = x^2, x \geq 0$ , with domain *restricted* to the nonnegative real numbers, is one-to-one (Figure 1.63) and has an inverse. On the other hand, the function  $y = x^2$ , with no domain restrictions, is *not* one-to-one (Figure 1.60b) and therefore has no inverse.

### Logarithmic Functions

If  $a$  is any positive real number other than 1, the base  $a$  exponential function  $f(x) = a^x$  is one-to-one. It therefore has an inverse. Its inverse is called the *logarithm function with base  $a$* .

**DEFINITION** The **logarithm function with base  $a$** ,  $y = \log_a x$ , is the inverse of the base  $a$  exponential function  $y = a^x (a > 0, a \neq 1)$ .



**FIGURE 1.64** (a) The graph of  $2^x$  and its inverse,  $\log_2 x$ . (b) The graph of  $e^x$  and its inverse,  $\ln x$ .

#### HISTORICAL BIOGRAPHY\*

John Napier  
(1550–1617)

The domain of  $\log_a x$  is  $(0, \infty)$ , the range of  $a^x$ . The range of  $\log_a x$  is  $(-\infty, \infty)$ , the domain of  $a^x$ .

Figure 1.23 in Section 1.1 shows the graphs of four logarithmic functions with  $a > 1$ . Figure 1.64a shows the graph of  $y = \log_2 x$ . The graph of  $y = a^x$ ,  $a > 1$ , increases rapidly for  $x > 0$ , so its inverse,  $y = \log_a x$ , increases slowly for  $x > 1$ .

Because we have no technique yet for solving the equation  $y = a^x$  for  $x$  in terms of  $y$ , we do not have an explicit formula for computing the logarithm at a given value of  $x$ . Nevertheless, we can obtain the graph of  $y = \log_a x$  by reflecting the graph of the exponential  $y = a^x$  across the line  $y = x$ . Figure 1.64 shows the graphs for  $a = 2$  and  $a = e$ .

Logarithms with base 2 are commonly used in computer science. Logarithms with base  $e$  and base 10 are so important in applications that calculators have special keys for them. They also have their own special notation and names:

$\log_e x$  is written as  $\ln x$ .

$\log_{10} x$  is written as  $\log x$ .

The function  $y = \ln x$  is called the **natural logarithm function**, and  $y = \log x$  is often called the **common logarithm function**. For the natural logarithm,

$$\ln x = y \Leftrightarrow e^y = x.$$

In particular, if we set  $x = e$ , we obtain

$$\ln e = 1$$

because  $e^1 = e$ .

#### Properties of Logarithms

Logarithms, invented by John Napier, were the single most important improvement in arithmetic calculation before the modern electronic computer. What made them so useful is that the properties of logarithms reduce multiplication of positive numbers to addition of their logarithms, division of positive numbers to subtraction of their logarithms, and exponentiation of a number to multiplying its logarithm by the exponent.

We summarize these properties for the natural logarithm as a series of rules that we prove in Chapter 3. Although here we state the Power Rule for all real powers  $r$ , the case when  $r$  is an irrational number cannot be dealt with properly until Chapter 4. We also establish the validity of the rules for logarithmic functions with any base  $a$  in Chapter 7.

**THEOREM 1—Algebraic Properties of the Natural Logarithm** For any numbers  $b > 0$  and  $x > 0$ , the natural logarithm satisfies the following rules:

- |                            |   |
|----------------------------|---|
| <b>1. Product Rule:</b>    | $\ln(bx) = \ln b + \ln x$                     |
| <b>2. Quotient Rule:</b>   | $\ln\frac{b}{x} = \ln b - \ln x$              |
| <b>3. Reciprocal Rule:</b> | $\ln\frac{1}{x} = -\ln x$ Rule 2 with $b = 1$ |
| <b>4. Power Rule:</b>      | $\ln(x^r) = r \ln x$                          |

\*To learn more about the historical figures mentioned in the text and the development of many major elements and topics of calculus, visit [www.aw.com/thomas](http://www.aw.com/thomas).

**EXAMPLE 5** Here are examples of the properties in Theorem 1.

- (a)  $\ln 4 + \ln \sin x = \ln(4 \sin x)$  Product Rule  
 (b)  $\ln \frac{x+1}{2x-3} = \ln(x+1) - \ln(2x-3)$  Quotient Rule  
 (c)  $\ln \frac{1}{8} = -\ln 8$  Reciprocal Rule  
 $= -\ln 2^3 = -3 \ln 2$  Power Rule ■

Because  $a^x$  and  $\log_a x$  are inverses, composing them in either order gives the identity function.

#### Inverse Properties for $a^x$ and $\log_a x$

1. Base  $a$ :  $a^{\log_a x} = x$ ,  $\log_a a^x = x$ ,  $a > 0, a \neq 1, x > 0$   
 2. Base  $e$ :  $e^{\ln x} = x$ ,  $\ln e^x = x$ ,  $x > 0$

Substituting  $a^x$  for  $x$  in the equation  $x = e^{\ln x}$  enables us to rewrite  $a^x$  as a power of  $e$ :

$$\begin{aligned} a^x &= e^{\ln(a^x)} && \text{Substitute } a^x \text{ for } x \text{ in } x = e^{\ln x}. \\ &= e^{x \ln a} && \text{Power Rule for logs} \\ &= e^{(\ln a)x} && \text{Exponent rearranged} \end{aligned}$$

Thus, the exponential function  $a^x$  is the same as  $e^{kx}$  for  $k = \ln a$ .

Every exponential function is a power of the natural exponential function.

$$a^x = e^{x \ln a}$$

That is,  $a^x$  is the same as  $e^x$  raised to the power  $\ln a$ :  $a^x = e^{kx}$  for  $k = \ln a$ .

For example,

$$2^x = e^{(\ln 2)x} = e^{x \ln 2}, \quad \text{and} \quad 5^{-3x} = e^{(\ln 5)(-3x)} = e^{-3x \ln 5}.$$

Returning once more to the properties of  $a^x$  and  $\log_a x$ , we have

$$\begin{aligned} \ln x &= \ln(a^{\log_a x}) && \text{Inverse Property for } a^x \text{ and } \log_a x \\ &= (\log_a x)(\ln a) && \text{Power Rule for logarithms, with } r = \log_a x \end{aligned}$$

Rewriting this equation as  $\log_a x = (\ln x)/(\ln a)$  shows that every logarithmic function is a constant multiple of the natural logarithm  $\ln x$ . This allows us to extend the algebraic properties for  $\ln x$  to  $\log_a x$ . For instance,  $\log_a bx = \log_a b + \log_a x$ .

#### Change of Base Formula

Every logarithmic function is a constant multiple of the natural logarithm.

$$\log_a x = \frac{\ln x}{\ln a} \quad (a > 0, a \neq 1)$$

#### Applications

In Section 1.5 we looked at examples of exponential growth and decay problems. Here we use properties of logarithms to answer more questions concerning such problems.

**EXAMPLE 6** If \$1000 is invested in an account that earns 5.25% interest compounded annually, how long will it take the account to reach \$2500?