

# Exponential and Logarithmic Functions

## 4.1 Exponential Functions

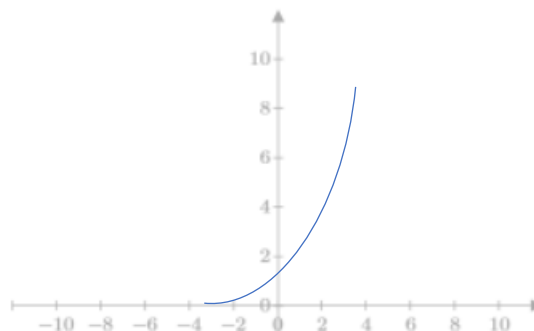
A function that has a variable in an exponent, such as  $f(x) = 2^x$ , is called an exponential function. The number being raised to the power is called the base.

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

Exponent  
Base

The table below shows some values of the exponential function  $f(x) = 2^x$ , and its graph (based on these points) is shown on the right.

x	y = $2^x$
-3	$2^{-3} = \frac{1}{8}$
-2	$2^{-2} = \frac{1}{4}$
-1	$2^{-1} = \frac{1}{2}$
0	$2^0 = 1$
1	$2^1 = 2$
2	$2^2 = 4$
3	$2^3 = 8$



## Compound Interest

For  $P$  dollars invested at annual interest rate  $r$  compounded  $m$  times a year for  $t$  years,

$$\left( \begin{array}{c} \text{value after} \\ t \text{ years} \end{array} \right) = P \cdot \left( 1 + \frac{r}{m} \right)^{mt}$$

For example, for monthly compounding we would use  $m = 12$  and for daily compounding  $m = 365$  (the number of days in the year).

### Example 1. FINDING A VALUE UNDER COMPOUND INTEREST

Find the value of \$4000 invested for 2 years at 12% compounded quarterly.

< solution >

$$4000 \cdot \left( 1 + \frac{0.12}{4} \right)^{4 \cdot 2} \approx 5067.08$$

The value after 2 years will be \$5067.08.

## PRESENT VALUE

For a future payment of P dollars at annual interest rate r compounded m times a year to be paid in t years,

$$\left( \begin{matrix} \text{Present} \\ \text{Value} \end{matrix} \right) = \frac{P}{\left(1 + \frac{r}{m}\right)^{mt}}$$

### Example 2. FINDING PRESENT VALUE

Find the present value of \$5000 to be paid 8 years from now at 10% interest compounded semiannually.

< solution >

For semiannual compounding (m = 2), the formula gives

$$\frac{P}{\left(1 + \frac{r}{m}\right)^{mt}} = \frac{5000}{\left(1 + \frac{0.10}{2}\right)^{2 \cdot 8}} \approx 2290.56$$

Therefore, the present value of the \$5000 is just \$2290.56.

## Continuous Compounding

For P dollars invested at annual interest rate r compounded continuously for t years,

$$\left( \begin{matrix} \text{Value after} \\ t \text{ years} \end{matrix} \right) = Pe^{rt}$$

### Example 3. FINDING VALUE WITH CONTINUOUS COMPOUNDING

Find the value of \$1000 at 8% interest compounded continuously for 20 years.

< solution >

We use the formula  $Pe^{rt}$  with P = 1000, r = 0.08, and t = 20.

$$Pe^{rt} = 1000 \cdot e^{0.08 \cdot 20} \approx \$4953.03$$

## Present Value with Continuous Compounding

For a future payment of P dollars at annual interest rate r compounded continuously to be paid in t years,

$$\left( \begin{matrix} \text{Present} \\ \text{Value} \end{matrix} \right) = \frac{P}{e^{rt}} = Pe^{-rt}$$

#### **Example 4. FINDING PRESENT VALUE WITH CONTINUOUS COMPOUNDING**

The present value of \$5000 to be paid in 10 years at 7% interest compounded continuously is ?

< solution >

$$\frac{5000}{e^{0.07 \cdot 10}} = \frac{5000}{e^{0.7}} \approx \$2482.93$$

## **4.2 Logarithmic Function**

$$\text{※} \log_a x = y \leftrightarrow a^y = x$$

The natural logarithm :

$$y = \log_e x = \ln x \leftrightarrow e^y = x \quad (\text{for } x > 0)$$

Graph = p290

### **EXAMPLE**

$$\log_{10} \frac{1}{10} = y \leftrightarrow 10^y = \frac{1}{10}$$

$$\rightarrow \log_{10} \frac{1}{10} = -1$$

$$\log_9 3 = y \leftrightarrow 9^y = 3 \leftrightarrow \log_9 3 = \frac{1}{2}$$

Properties of natural logarithms

1.  $\ln 1 = 0$
2.  $\ln e = 1$
3.  $\ln e^x = x$
4.  $e^{\ln x} = x$
5.  $\ln(M \cdot N) = \ln M + \ln N$
6.  $\ln\left(\frac{M}{N}\right) = \ln M - \ln N$
7.  $\ln\left(\frac{1}{N}\right) = -\ln N$
8.  $\ln(M^N) = N \ln M$

### **Example 9.**

A sum is invested at 12% interest compounded quarterly.  
How soon will it double in value?

< solution >

$$r = \frac{1}{4} \cdot 12\% = 0.03$$

$$p(1 + 0.03)^n = 2p$$

$$1.03^n = 2$$

$$\ln(1.03)^n = \ln 2$$

$$n \ln(1.03) = \ln 2$$

$$n = \frac{\ln(1.03)}{\ln 2} \approx 23.4$$

$$\frac{23.4}{4} \approx 5.9 \text{ years}$$

### Example 10.

A sum is invested at 15% compounded continuously. How soon will it triple?

< solution >

$$Pe^{0.15n} = 3P$$

$$e^{0.15n} = 3$$

$$\ln(e^{0.15n}) = \ln 3$$

$$n = \frac{\ln 3}{0.15} = 7.3 \text{ years}$$

## 4.3 Differentiation of Logarithmic and Exponential Functions

$$1. \quad \frac{d}{dx} \ln x = \frac{1}{x} \quad (\text{for } x > 0)$$

< solution >

$$\text{pf} : \frac{d}{dx} \ln x = \lim_{h \rightarrow 0} \frac{\ln(x+h) - \ln x}{h}$$

$$= \lim_{h \rightarrow 0} \frac{1}{h} \ln\left(\frac{x+h}{x}\right)$$

$$= \lim_{h \rightarrow 0} \frac{1}{x} \frac{1}{h} \ln\left(1 + \frac{h}{x}\right)$$

$$= \lim_{h \rightarrow 0} \frac{1}{x} \ln \left( 1 + \frac{h}{x} \right)^{\frac{x}{h}}$$

Let  $\frac{x}{h} = n$ , as  $h \rightarrow 0^+$ , we have  $n \rightarrow \infty$

$$(*) = \lim_{h \rightarrow 0} \frac{1}{x} \ln \left( 1 + \frac{1}{n} \right)^n$$

$$= \frac{1}{x} \cdot \ln e = \frac{1}{x}$$

$$2. \frac{d}{dx} \ln f(x) = \frac{f'(x)}{f(x)}$$

### **Example 2.**

$$\frac{d}{dx} \ln(x^2 + 1) = ?$$

< solution >

$$\frac{d}{dx} \ln(x^2 + 1) = \frac{1}{x^2 + 1} \cdot 2x = \frac{2x}{x^2 + 1}$$

$$3. \frac{d}{dx} e^x = e^x$$

< solution >

$$\text{pf} : \ln e^x = x$$

$$\frac{d}{dx} (\ln e^x) = \frac{d}{dx} x$$

$$\frac{\frac{d}{dx} e^x}{e^x} = 1$$

$$\rightarrow \frac{d}{dx} e^x = e^x$$

$$4. \frac{d}{dx} e^{f(x)} = ?$$

< solution >

$$\frac{d}{dx} e^{f(x)} = e^{f(x)} \cdot f'(x)$$

### **Example 4.**

$$\frac{d}{dx} \left( \frac{e^x}{x} \right) = ?$$

< solution >

$$\frac{d}{dx} \left( \frac{e^x}{x} \right) = \frac{x \cdot e^x - 1 \cdot e^x}{x^2} = \frac{x \cdot e^x - e^x}{x^2}$$

$$5. \frac{d}{dx} a^x = ?$$

< solution >

$$\frac{d}{dx} a^x = \frac{d}{dx} e^{\ln a x} = \frac{d}{dx} e^{x \ln a} = e^{x \ln a} \cdot \ln a = \ln a \cdot (a^x)$$

$$6. \frac{d}{dx} a^{f(x)} = ?$$

< solution >

$$\frac{d}{dx} a^{f(x)} = (\ln a) \cdot a^{f(x)} \cdot f'(x)$$

ex.

$$\frac{d}{dx} 2^x = (\ln 2) 2^x$$

$$\frac{d}{dx} 5^{3x^2+1} = (\ln 5) 5^{3x^2+1} \cdot 6x$$

$$= (\ln 5) 6x \cdot 5^{3x^2+1}$$

$$7. \frac{d}{dx} \log_a x = \frac{d}{dx} \left( \frac{\ln x}{\ln a} \right) = \frac{1}{\ln a} \frac{d}{dx} \ln x = \frac{1}{(\ln a) \cdot x}$$

$$\frac{d}{dx} \log_a f(x) = \frac{f'(x)}{(\ln a) \cdot f(x)}$$

ex.

$$\frac{d}{dx} \log_5 x = \frac{1}{(\ln 5) \cdot x}$$

$$\frac{d}{dx} \log_2 (x^3 + 1) = \frac{3x^2}{(\ln 2)(x^3 + 1)}$$

## 4.4 Two Applications to Economics: Relative

# Rates and Elasticity of Demand

- absolute rate of change :  $f'(x)$
- relative rate of change :  $\frac{d}{dx} \ln f(x) = \frac{f'(x)}{f(x)}$

## Example 1.

$$G(t) = 8.2e^{\sqrt{t}}$$

$$\ln G(t) = \ln 8.2e^{\sqrt{t}}$$

$$= \ln 8.2 + t^{-\frac{1}{2}}$$

$$\frac{d}{dt}(\ln 8.2 + t^{-\frac{1}{2}}) = \frac{1}{2} t^{-\frac{1}{2}}$$

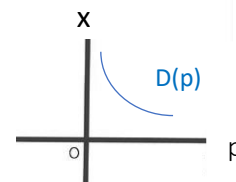
at  $t=25$

$$\frac{d}{dt} \ln G(t) = \frac{1}{2} \cdot \frac{1}{\sqrt{25}} = 0.1$$

→ in 25 years the  $G(t)$  will be increasing at the relative rate of 0.1 per year.

## • Demand function

The demand function  $x=D(p)$  gives the quantity  $x$  of an item that will be demanded by consumers if the price is  $p$ .



For a demand function  $D(p)$ , let us calculate the relative rate of change of demand divided by the relative rate of change of price.

$$\text{※} \frac{\text{the relative rate of change of demand}}{\text{the relative rate of change of price}}$$

$$= \frac{\frac{d}{dp} \ln D(p)}{\frac{d}{dp} \ln p}$$

$$= \frac{\frac{D'(p)}{D(p)}}{\frac{1}{p}}$$

$$= \frac{pD'(p)}{D(p)} \quad (\text{sometimes, } D'(p) < 0)$$

## • Elasticity of Demand

For a demand function  $D(p)$ , the elasticity of demand is

$$E(p) = \frac{-pD'(p)}{D(p)}$$

Demand is elastic if  $E(p) > 1$  and inelastic if  $E(p) < 1$ .

### Example 2

$$D(p) = 81 - p^2 \quad (0 \leq p \leq 9)$$

$$E(p) = \frac{-pD'(p)}{D(p)} = \frac{-p(-2p)}{81 - p^2}$$

$$= \frac{2p^2}{81 - p^2}$$

(a) Evaluating at  $p = 3$  gives

$$E(3) = \frac{2 \cdot 3^2}{81 - 3^2} = \frac{1}{4} < 1$$

→ Interpretation: The elasticity is less than 1, so demand for tickets is inelastic at a price of \$3. This means that a small price change (up or down from this level) will cause only a slight change in demand. More precisely, elasticity of means that a 1% price change will cause only about a % change in demand.

(b) At the price of \$6, the elasticity of demand is

$$E(6) = 1.6 > 1$$

→ Interpretation: The elasticity is greater than 1, so demand is elastic at a price of \$6. This means that a small change in price (up or down from this level) will cause a relatively large change in demand. In particular, elasticity of 1.6 means that a price change of 1% will cause about a 1.6% change in demand.

### • Using Elasticity to Increase Revenue

$$R = P \cdot x$$

$$= P \cdot D(p)$$

$$R'(p) = D(p) + PD'(p)$$

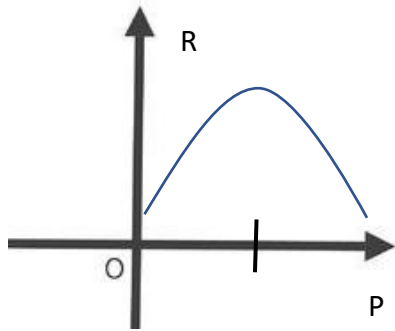
$$= D(p) \left[ 1 + \frac{PD'(p)}{D(p)} \right]$$

$$= D(p) \left[ 1 - \frac{-PD'(p)}{D(p)} \right]$$

$$= D(p) [1 - E(p)]$$



$E(p)$	$< 1$	$=1$	$>1$
$R'(p)$	$>0$	$=0$	$< 0$
$R(p)$	$\uparrow$	max	$\downarrow$



• **To increase revenue:**

If demand is elastic ( $E > 1$ ), you should lower prices.

If demand is inelastic ( $E < 1$ ), you should raise prices.