

Math 1050 ~ College Algebra

16 Introduction to Exponentials and Logarithms

$$\begin{aligned} -3x + 4y &= 5 \\ 2x - y &= -10 \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{bmatrix} -3 & 4 \\ 2 & -1 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} x \\ y \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 5 \\ -10 \end{bmatrix}$$

$$\sum_{k=1}^m k = \frac{m(m+1)}{2}$$

$$\sum_{k=0}^n z^k = \frac{1-z^{n+1}}{1-z}$$

Learning Objectives

- Evaluate exponential expressions and functions.
- Graph basic exponential functions, including transformations.
- Use the one-to-one property to solve common-base exponential equations.
- Evaluate logarithmic expressions and functions.
- Solve logarithmic equations by conversion to exponential form.
- Graph basic logarithmic functions, including transformations.

Definition of an Exponential Function

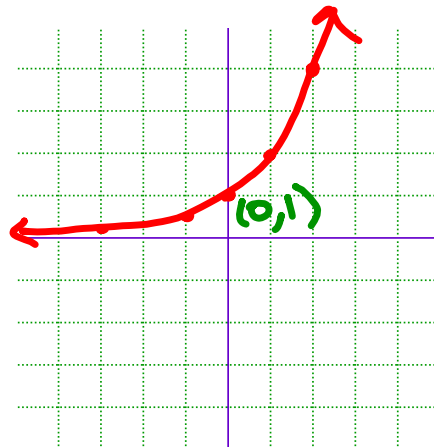
An **exponential function** is one in which the variable is in the exponent.

$f(x) = b^x$, where $b > 0$, $b \neq 1$, $x \in \mathcal{R}$ (b is called the base)

Ex 1: Fill out the table and plot the graph of $y = 2^x$.

x	$f(x)$	$(x, f(x))$
-3	$2^{-3} = 1/8$	$(-3, 1/8)$
-1	$2^{-1} = 1/2$	$(-1, 1/2)$
0	$2^0 = 1$	$(0, 1)$
1	$2^1 = 2$	$(1, 2)$
2	$2^2 = 4$	$(2, 4)$

$$y = 2^x$$



Notice these things about the graph above.

Domain $(-\infty, \infty)$ Range $(0, \infty)$ y-intercept $(0, 1)$

Horizontal asymptote $y = 0$

Exponential growth

• describes right-side behavior

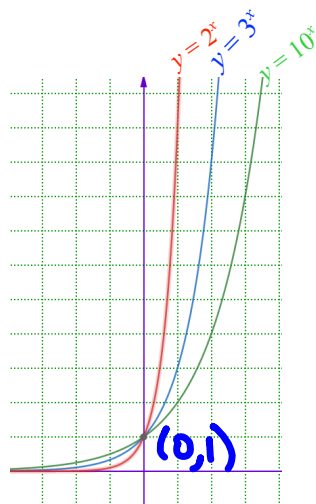
• y-values are always increasing

Horizontal line test

this graph passes horiz. line test \Rightarrow it's one-to-one, (i.e. it has an inverse)

(note: this exponential fn has HA that only describes left behavior, not right-side behavior)

As the base, b changes note how little else does.



- shape of curves is about the same
- they all have y-intercept of $(0,1)$
- they all have HA $y=0$
- exponential growth

We can use transformations learned previously to graph variations.

Ex 2: Use transformations to sketch these functions.

a) $f(x) = 3^{(x-1)} + 2$

① shift R 1
② shift up 2

base graph $y=3^x$	$f(x)=y$
$(0,1)$	$(1,3)$
$(1,3)$	$(2,5)$

HA: $y=2$

b) $g(x) = 2^{(3-x)} - 1 = 2^{-(x-3)} - 1$

① horiz. reflect
② shift R 3
③ shift down 1

$y=2^x$	$y=2^{-x}$	$y=2^{-(x-3)} - 1$
$(0,1)$	$(0,1)$	$(3,0)$
$(1,2)$	$(-1,2)$	$(2,1)$

HA: $y=-1$

Definition of a Logarithm

For $y > 0$ and b a positive constant other than 1, $\log_b y$ is called a logarithm in base b of y , and is the power of b that gives y .

$$y = \log_b x \Leftrightarrow x = b^y$$

↳ read "log base b of y"

related ex: $15 \div 3 = 5 \Leftrightarrow 15 = 3 \cdot 5$

Ex 3: Find the exact value for each of these.

a) $\log_2 16 = ?$ b) $\log_{10} 100000$ c) $\log_5 \frac{1}{125}$ d) $\log_8 4 = ?$

$2^4 = 16$ $\textcircled{4} = \log_{10} 10^5$ $= \log_5 (5^{-3})$ $\textcircled{-3}$ $8^{\frac{2}{3}} = 4$ $\textcircled{\frac{2}{3}}$
 $= 2^2 = (2^3)^{2/3}$

Ex 4: Convert from logarithmic form to exponential form or visa versa.

a) $9^{3/2} = 27$ b) $\log_8 \sqrt{8} = \frac{1}{2}$ c) $\log_{32} 4 = \frac{2}{5}$ d) $10^{-3} = 0.001$

$b=9, y=\frac{3}{2}, x=27$ $b=8, x=\sqrt{8}, y=\frac{1}{2}$ $32^{2/5} = 4$ $\log_{10} 0.001 = -3$

$\frac{3}{2} = \log_9 27$ $\sqrt{8} = 8^{1/2}$

To solve a logarithmic equation, it is convenient to turn it into an exponential equation.

use defn of log:

$$\log_b \heartsuit = \star \Leftrightarrow b^\star = \heartsuit$$

Ex 5: Solve each equation.

a) $\log_2(x-1) = 5$

$$2^5 = x-1$$

$$32+1 = x$$

$$\boxed{x=33}$$

b) $\log_{10}(3z) = 2$

$$10^2 = 3z$$

$$\boxed{\frac{100}{3} = z}$$

Definition of a Logarithmic Function

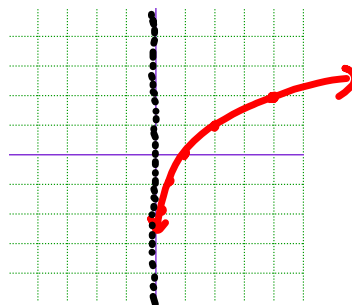
$f(x) = \log_b x$ is a logarithmic function with $x > 0$, $b > 0$ and $b \neq 1$.

domain

Ex 6: Fill in the table and sketch a graph of $f(x) = \log_2 x$

$$2^{-2} = \frac{1}{2^2} = \frac{1}{4}$$

x	$f(x)$	$(x, f(x))$
1/4	$\log_2(1/4) = -2$	$(1/4, -2)$
1/2	$\log_2(1/2) = -1$	$(1/2, -1)$
1	$\log_2(1) = 0$	$(1, 0)$
2	$\log_2(2) = 1$	$(2, 1)$
4	$\log_2(4) = 2$	$(4, 2)$



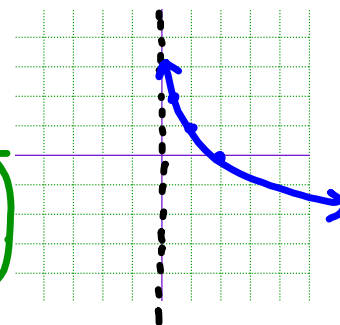
VA: $x=0$

Ex 7: Use transformations to sketch $f(x) = -\log_2(x) + 1$

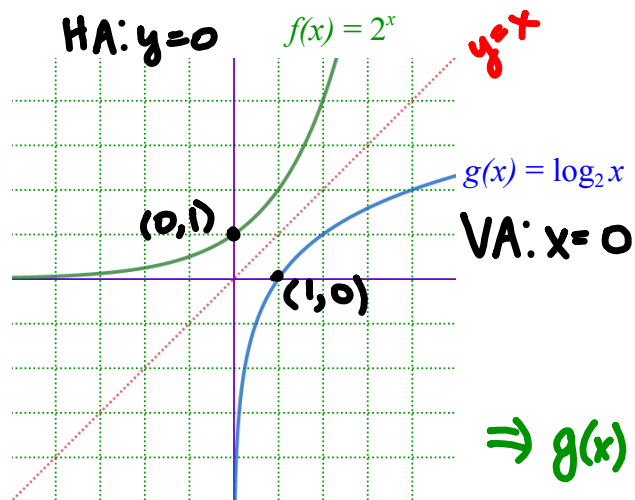
$y = \log_2 x$	$y = -\log_2(x)$	$y = f(x)$
$(\frac{1}{2}, -1)$	$(\frac{1}{2}, 1)$	$(\frac{1}{2}, 2)$
$(1, 0)$	$(1, 0)$	$(1, 1)$
$(2, 1)$	$(2, -1)$	$(2, 0)$

① refl. ref.
② shift up 1

VA: $x=0$



Relationship of Exponential and Logarithmic Functions



Ex 7: Note the symmetry in the two functions. Compute this.

$$\begin{aligned}(g \circ f)(x) &= g(f(x)) \\ &= g(2^x) \\ &= \log_2(2^x) \\ &= x\end{aligned}$$

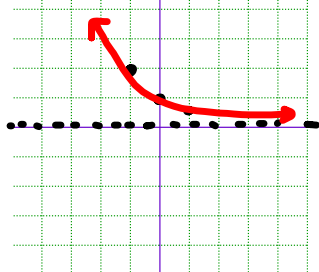
$\Rightarrow g(x)$ & $f(x)$ are inverse fns!

Ex 8: All of the previous graphs given in this lesson have the characteristic that $b > 1$. Examine what happens when $0 < b < 1$. Sketch below for $b = \frac{1}{2}$.

$$y = \left(\frac{1}{2}\right)^x$$

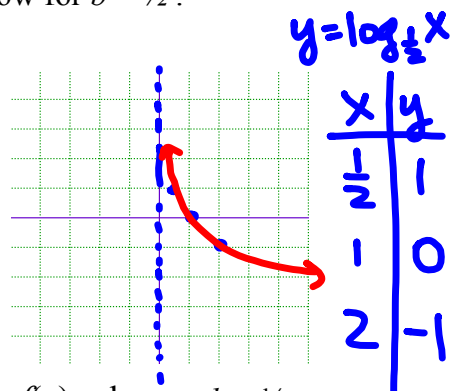
x	y
-1	2
0	1
1	$\frac{1}{2}$

exponential decay



$$f(x) = b^x, b = \frac{1}{2}$$

$$HA: y = 0$$



$$f(x) = \log_b x, b = \frac{1}{2}$$

$$VA: x = 0$$

Properties of Graphs of Logarithmic and Exponential Functions

	exp	log
pt :	(0, 1)	(1, 0)
asymptote:	HA $y = 0$	VA $x = 0$
$b > 1$:	increasing	increasing
$0 < b < 1$:	decreasing	decreasing