

Background

$$\ln e^x = x, \quad e^{\ln y} = y$$

In words, the exponential and the logarithm are inverses. The domains are $-\infty < x < \infty$, $0 < y < \infty$.

$$e^0 = 1, \quad \ln(1) = 0$$

Special values, usually memorized.

$$e^{a+b} = e^a e^b$$

In words, the exponential of a sum of terms is the product of the exponentials of the terms.

$$(e^a)^b = e^{ab}$$

Negatives are allowed, e.g., $(e^a)^{-1} = e^{-a}$.

$$(e^{u(t)})' = u'(t)e^{u(t)}$$

The *chain rule* of calculus implies this formula from the identity $(e^x)' = e^x$.

$$\ln AB = \ln A + \ln B$$

In words, the logarithm of a product of factors is the sum of the logarithms of the factors.

$$B \ln(A) = \ln(A^B)$$

Negatives are allowed, e.g., $-\ln A = \ln \frac{1}{A}$.

$$(\ln |u(t)|)' = \frac{u'(t)}{u(t)}$$

The identity $(\ln(x))' = 1/x$ implies this general version by the *chain rule*.

Find a function $y = f(x)$ which satisfies the given differential equation $\frac{dy}{dx} = (x-2)^2$ and initial condition $y(2) = 1$.

$$y'(x) = (x-2)^2$$

$$y'(x) dx = (x-2)^2 dx$$

$$\int y'(x) dx = \int (x-2)^2 dx$$

$$y(x) = \frac{(x-2)^3}{3} + C$$

$$1 = \frac{(2-2)^3}{3} + C$$

$$C = 1$$

$$y(x) = \frac{(x-2)^3}{3} + 1$$

given initial equation;

apply the method of quadrature



use $y(2) = 1$

candidate solution;

Check:

$$\text{LHS} = y'(x)$$

$$= \left[\frac{(x-2)^3}{3} + 1 \right]'$$

$$= (x-2)^2 + 0$$

$$= \text{RHS}$$

$$\text{LHS} = y(2)$$

$$= \left[\frac{(x-2)^3}{3} + 1 \right]_{x=2}$$

$$= 0 + 1$$

$$= \text{RHS}$$

Checks with initial differential equation

checks with initial condition $y(2) = 1$.

1 Example (Decay Law Derivation) Derive the decay law $\frac{dA}{dt} = kA(t)$ from the sentence

Radioactive material decays at a rate proportional to the amount present.

Solution: The sentence is first dissected into English phrases 1 to 4.

- | | |
|---------------------------------------|--|
| 1: <i>Radioactive material</i> | The phrase causes the invention of a symbol A for the amount present at time t . |
| 2: <i>decays at a rate</i> | It means A undergoes decay. Then A changes. Calculus conventions imply the rate of change is dA/dt . |
| 3: <i>proportional to</i> | Literally, it means <i>equal to a constant multiple of</i> . Let k be the proportionality constant. |
| 4: <i>the amount present</i> | The amount of radioactive material present is $A(t)$. |

Solution: *Continued ...*

The four phrases are translated into mathematical notation as follows.

Phrases 1 and 2 Symbol dA/dt .

Phrase 3 Equal sign '=' and a constant k .

Phrase 4 Symbol $A(t)$.

Let $A(t)$ be the amount present at time t . The translation is $\frac{dA}{dt} = kA(t)$.