

Lesson 34: Exponential Growth

Ex 1 Find the function passing through $(0, 5)$ with

$$\frac{dy}{dt} = 3y \leftarrow \text{diff eq.}$$

↑
initial value

OPTION 1:

$$\frac{d}{dt} [e^{3t}] = 3e^{3t}$$

$$y = Ce^{3t} \quad (y' = 3 \cdot Ce^{3t} = 3y)$$

OPTION 2: (Separation of Variables) \leftarrow don't need to know!

$$\frac{dy}{dt} = 3y$$

$$\int \frac{1}{y} dy = \int 3 dt$$

$$\ln|y| = 3t + D$$

$$\ln y = 3t + D \quad (\text{if } y \geq 0)$$

$$y = e^{3t+D}$$

$$y = e^{3t} \cdot e^D \rightarrow C$$

$$y = Ce^{3t}$$

at $(0, 5)$: $5 = Ce^{3(0)} \rightarrow 1$

$$C = 5$$

$$\boxed{y = 5e^{3t}}$$

Fact If $\frac{dy}{dt} = ky$ (where k is a constant), then $y = Ce^{kt}$.

↑
initial value

↙ growth rate/
proportionality
constant

If $k > 0$, then y is increasing, and this is called exponential growth.

Ex 2

The rate of change of P is $\rightarrow \frac{dP}{dt} = kP$ proportional to P .
When $t=1$, $P=400$, and when $t=2$, $P=600$.

(a) What does $\frac{dP}{dt}$ equal?

$$\frac{dP}{dt} = kP$$

(b) Find $P(t)$.

$$P = Ce^{kt} \quad (\text{by Fact})$$

$$t=1: 400 = Ce^k \quad (1)$$

$$t=2: 600 = Ce^{2k} \quad (2)$$

$$\frac{(2)}{(1)}: \frac{600}{400} = \frac{Ce^{2k}}{Ce^k}$$

$$\frac{e^{2k}}{e^k} = e^{2k-k}$$

$$\frac{3}{2} = e^{2k-k} \quad (\text{exponent rule})$$

$$\frac{3}{2} = e^k$$

$$k = \ln\left(\frac{3}{2}\right)$$

Back substitute to solve for C :

$$(1) \quad 400 = Ce^{\ln(3/2)}$$

$$C = \frac{400}{e^{\ln(3/2)}} = \frac{400}{3/2} = 400 \cdot \frac{2}{3} = \frac{800}{3}$$

$$\text{So } P = \frac{800}{3} \left(e^{\ln(3/2)t} \right) \quad (\text{exponent rule})$$

$$= \frac{800}{3} \left(\left(e^{\ln(3/2)} \right)^t \right)$$

$$= \boxed{\frac{800}{3} \left(\frac{3}{2} \right)^t}$$

Ex 3

If $P'(t)$ is proportional to $P(t)$ with a growth rate of 3,
and $P(10) = 100$, find $P(t)$. $\rightarrow \frac{dP}{dt} = 3P$ $k=3$

$$P(t) = Ce^{3t} \quad (\text{Fact})$$

$$\text{at } t=10: 100 = Ce^{3(10)}$$

$$C = \frac{100}{e^{30}}$$

$$P(t) = \frac{100}{e^{30}} e^{3t} = \boxed{100e^{3t-30}}$$

The formula for computing continually compounded interest is $A = Pe^{rt}$ where:

A = amount after t years

P = initial (principal) amount

r = annual interest rate (as a decimal) ($1\% \Rightarrow r = .01$)

t = number of years

	Initial Investment (P)	Annual Rate (r)	Time to Double	Amount after 5 years (A) (t=5)
(a)	\$400	3%	23.1 yrs	464.73
(b)	\$400	5.78%	12	533.94
(c)	\$400	11.19%	6.19 yrs	\$700
(d)	\$602.50	3%	23.1 yrs	\$700

(a) $A = Pe^{rt}$

$A = 400e^{.03t}$

$A = 400e^{.03(5)} \approx \464.73

$800 = 400e^{.03t}$

$2 = e^{.03t}$

$\ln 2 = .03t$

$t = \frac{\ln 2}{.03} \approx 23.10$

Note $\boxed{\text{Time to double} = \frac{\ln 2}{r}}$

or $r = \frac{\ln 2}{\text{time to double}}$

(b) $r = \frac{\ln 2}{12} \approx .05776$

(d) $A = Pe^{rt}$

$700 = Pe^{.03(5)}$

(c) $A = Pe^{rt}$

$700 = 400e^{r(5)}$

$\frac{7}{4} = e^{5r}$

$\ln \frac{7}{4} = 5r$

$r = \frac{\ln \frac{7}{4}}{5} \approx .11192$

$P = \frac{700}{e^{.03(5)}} \approx 602.50$

Time to double = $\frac{\ln 2}{.03} \approx 23.1$