

Lower 6 Chapter 14

Exponentials and logarithms

Chapter Overview

1. Sketch exponential graphs.
2. Use and interpret models that use exponential functions.
3. Be able to differentiate e^{kx} .
4. Understand the log function and use laws of logs.
5. Use logarithms to estimate values of constants in non-linear models.

6 Exponentials and logarithms	6.1	Know and use the function a^x and its graph, where a is positive. Know and use the function e^x and its graph	Understand the difference in shape between $a < 1$ and $a > 1$
	6.2	Know that the gradient of e^{kx} is equal to ke^{kx} and hence understand why the exponential model is suitable in many applications.	Realise that when the rate of change is proportional to the y value, an exponential model should be used.
6 Exponentials and logarithms <i>continued</i>	6.3	Know and use the definition of $\log_a x$ as the inverse of a^x , where a is positive and $x \geq 0$ Know and use the function $\ln x$ and its graph Know and use $\ln x$ as the inverse function of e^x	$a \neq 1$ Solution of equations of the form $e^{ax+b} = p$ and $\ln(ax+b) = q$ is expected.
	6.4	Understand and use the laws of logarithms: $\log_a x + \log_a y = \log_a(xy)$ $\log_a x - \log_a y = \log_a\left(\frac{x}{y}\right)$ $k \log_a x = \log_a x^k$ (including, for example, $k = -1$ and $k = -\frac{1}{2}$)	Includes $\log_a a = 1$
	6.5	Solve equations of the form $a^x = b$	Students may use the change of base formula. Questions may be of the form, for example, $2^{3x-1} = 3$
	6.6	Use logarithmic graphs to estimate parameters in relationships of the form $y = ax^n$ and $y = kb^x$, given data for x and y	Plot $\log y$ against $\log x$ and obtain a straight line where the intercept is $\log a$ and the gradient is n Plot $\log y$ against x and obtain a straight line where the intercept is $\log k$ and the gradient is $\log b$
	6.7	Understand and use exponential growth and decay; use in modelling (examples may include the use of e in continuous compound interest, radioactive decay, drug concentration decay, exponential growth as a model for population growth); consideration of limitations and refinements of exponential models.	Students may be asked to find the constants used in a model. They need to be familiar with terms such as initial, meaning when $t = 0$. They may need to explore the behaviour for large values of t or to consider whether the range of values predicted is appropriate. Consideration of a second improved model may be required.

Contrasting exponential graphs

On the same axes sketch $y = 3^x$, $y = 2^x$, $y = 1.5^x$

On the same axes sketch $y = 2^x$ and $y = \left(\frac{1}{2}\right)^x$

Graph Transformations

Sketch $y = 2^{x+3}$

Differentiating $y = ae^{kx}$

If $y = e^{kx}$, where k is a constant, then $\frac{dy}{dx} = ke^{kx}$

Different e^{5x} with respect to x .

Different e^{-x} with respect to x .

Different $4e^{3x}$ with respect to x .

More Graph Transformations

Sketch $y = e^{3x}$

Sketch $y = 5e^{-x}$

Sketch $y = 2 + e^{\frac{1}{3}x}$

Sketch $y = e^{-2x} - 1$

Exponential Modelling

There are two key features of exponential functions which make them suitable for **population growth**:

1. **a^x gets a times bigger each time x increases by 1.**
(Because $a^{x+1} = a \times a^x$)

With population growth, we typically have a fixed percentage increase each year. So suppose the growth was 10% a year, and we used the equivalent decimal multiplier, 1.1, as a . Then 1.1^t , where t is the number of years, would get 1.1 times bigger each year.

2. **The rate of increase is proportional to the size of the population at a given moment.**

This makes sense: The 10% increase of a population will be twice as large if the population itself is twice as large.

Example

[Textbook] The density of a pesticide in a given section of field, P mg/m², can be modelled by the equation $P = 160e^{-0.006t}$ where t is the time in days since the pesticide was first applied.

- a. Use this model to estimate the density of pesticide after 15 days.
- b. Interpret the meaning of the value 160 in this model.
- c. Show that $\frac{dP}{dt} = kP$, where k is a constant, and state the value of k .
- d. Interpret the significance of the sign of your answer in part (c).
- e. Sketch the graph of P against t .

Logarithms

$\log_a n$ ("said log base a of n ") is equivalent to $a^x = n$.

The log function outputs the **missing power**.

Examples

$$\log_5 25 =$$

$$\log_3 81 =$$

$$\log_2 32 =$$

$$\log_{10} 1000 =$$

$$\log_4 1 =$$

$$\log_4 4 =$$

$$\log_2 \left(\frac{1}{2}\right) =$$

$$\log_3 \left(\frac{1}{27}\right) =$$

$$\log_2 \left(\frac{1}{16}\right) =$$

$$\log_a (a^3) =$$

$$\log_4 (-1) =$$

With your calculator...

$\log_{\square} \square$

$$\log_3 7 =$$
$$\log_5 0.3 =$$

\ln

$$\ln 10 =$$
$$\ln e =$$

\log

$$\log 100 =$$

Extension

1

[MAT 2015 1J] Which is the largest of the following numbers?

- A) $\frac{\sqrt{7}}{2}$ B) $\frac{5}{4}$ C) $\frac{\sqrt{10!}}{3(6!)}$
D) $\frac{\log_2 30}{\log_3 85}$ E) $\frac{1+\sqrt{6}}{3}$

2

[MAT 2013 1F] Three *positive* numbers a, b, c satisfy

$$\log_b a = 2$$

$$\log_b(c - 3) = 3$$

$$\log_a(c + 5) = 2$$

This information:

- A) specifies a uniquely;
- B) is satisfied by two values of a ;
- C) is satisfied by infinitely many values of a ;
- D) is contradictory

Laws of logs

Three main laws:

$$\log_a x + \log_a y = \log_a xy$$

$$\log_a x - \log_a y = \log_a \left(\frac{x}{y}\right)$$

$$\log_a(x^k) = k \log_a x$$

Special cases:

$$\log_a a = 1 \quad (a > 0, a \neq 1)$$

$$\log_a 1 = 0 \quad (a > 0, a \neq 1)$$

$$\log\left(\frac{1}{x}\right) = \log(x^{-1}) = -\log(x)$$

Not in syllabus (but in MAT/PAT):

$$\log_a b = \frac{\log_c b}{\log_c a}$$

Examples

Write as a single logarithm:

a. $\log_3 6 + \log_3 7$

b. $\log_2 15 - \log_2 3$

c. $2 \log_5 3 + 3 \log_5 2$

d. $\log_{10} 3 - 4 \log_{10} \left(\frac{1}{2}\right)$

Write in terms of $\log_a x$, $\log_a y$ and $\log_a z$

a. $\log_a(x^2 y z^3)$

b. $\log_a \left(\frac{x}{y^3}\right)$

c. $\log_a \left(\frac{x\sqrt{y}}{z} \right)$

d. $\log_a \left(\frac{x}{a^4} \right)$

Solving equations with logs

Solve the equation $\log_{10} 4 + 2 \log_{10} x = 2$

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Given that $2 \log_2 (x + 15) - \log_2 x = 6$,

(a) show that $x^2 - 34x + 225 = 0$.

(5)

(b) Hence, or otherwise, solve the equation $2 \log_2 (x + 15) - \log_2 x = 6$.

(2)

Extension

1 [AEA 2010 Q1b] Solve the equation

$$\log_3(x - 7) - \frac{1}{2}\log_3 x = 1 - \log_3 2$$

2 [AEA 2008 Q5i] Anna, who is confused about the rules of logarithms, states that

$$(\log_3 p)^2 = \log_3(p^2)$$

$$\log_3(p + q) = \log_3 p + \log_3 q$$

However, there is a value for p and a value for q for which both statements are correct. Find their values.

3 [MAT 2007 1I] Given that a and b are positive and

$$4(\log_{10} a)^2 + (\log_{10} b)^2 = 1$$

what is the greatest possible value of a ?

4 [MAT 2002 1F] Observe that $2^3 = 8$, $2^5 = 32$, $3^2 = 9$ and $3^3 = 27$. From these facts, we can deduce that $\log_2 3$ is:

- A) between $1\frac{1}{3}$ and $1\frac{1}{2}$
- B) between $1\frac{1}{2}$ and $1\frac{2}{3}$
- C) between $1\frac{2}{3}$ and 2
- D) none of the above

Solving equations with exponential terms

Solve $3^x = 20$

Solve $5^{4x-1} = 61$

Solve $3^x = 2^{x+1}$

Solve the equation $5^{2x} - 12(5^x) + 20 = 0$, giving your answer to 3sf.

Solve $3^{2x-1} = 5$, giving your answer to 3dp.

Solve $2^x 3^{x+1} = 5$, giving your answer in exact form.

Solve $3^{x+1} = 4^{x-1}$, giving your answer to 3dp.

Extension

- 1 [MAT 2011 1H] How many *positive* values x which satisfy the equation:
 $x = 8^{\log_2 x} - 9^{\log_3 x} - 4^{\log_2 x} + \log_{0.5} 0.25$

- 2 [MAT 2013 1J] For a real number x we denote by $[x]$ the largest integer less than or equal to x . Let n be a natural number. The integral

$$\int_0^n [2^x] dx$$

equals:

- (A) $\log_2((2^n - 1)!)$
- (B) $n 2^n - \log_2((2^n)!)$
- (C) $n 2^n$
- (D) $\log_2((2^n)!)$

Natural logarithms

The inverse of $y = e^x$ is $y = \ln x$

$$\ln e^x =$$

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

Solve $e^x = 5$

Solve $2 \ln x + 1 = 5$

Solve $e^{2x} + 2e^x - 15 = 0$

Solve $e^x - 2e^{-x} = 1$

Solve $\ln(3x + 1) = 2$

Solve $e^{2x} + 5e^x = 6$

Solve $2^x e^{x+1} = 3$ giving your answer as an exact value.

Graphs for Exponential Data

Turning non-linear graphs into linear ones

Case 1: Polynomial \rightarrow Linear

Suppose our original model was a polynomial one*:

$$y = ax^n$$


Then taking logs of both sides:

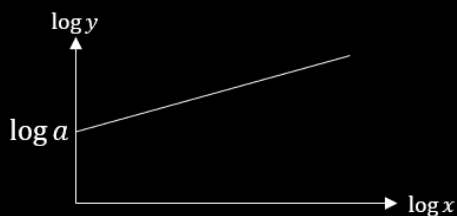
$$\log y = \log ax^n$$

$$\log y = \log a + n \log x$$

We can compare this against a straight line:

$$Y = mX + c$$

 If $y = ax^n$, then the graph of $\log y$ against $\log x$ will be a straight line with gradient n and vertical intercept $\log a$.



* We could also allow non-integer n ; the term would then not strictly be polynomial, but we'd still say the function had "polynomial growth".

Case 2: Exponential \rightarrow Linear

Suppose our original model was an exponential one:

$$y = ab^x$$


Then taking logs of both sides:

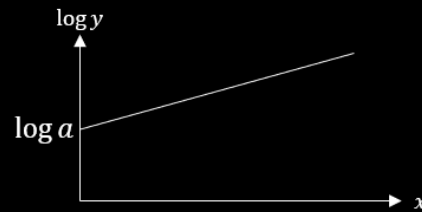
$$\log y = \log ab^x$$

$$\log y = \log a + x \log b$$

Again we can compare this against a straight line:

$$Y = mX + c$$

 If $y = ab^x$, then the graph of $\log y$ against x will be a straight line with gradient $\log b$ and vertical intercept $\log a$.



The key difference compared to Case 1 is that we're **only logging the y values** (e.g. number of transistors), not the x values (e.g. years elapsed). **Note that you do not need to memorise the contents of these boxes and we will work out from scratch each time...**

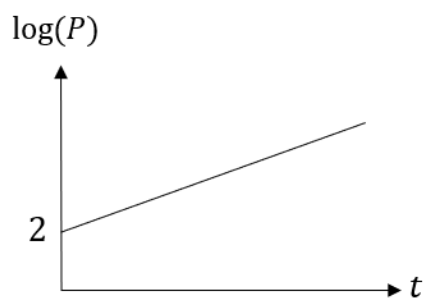
In summary, logging the y-axis turns an exponential graph into a linear one. Logging both the x and y-axis turns a polynomial graph into a linear one.

[Textbook] The graph represents the growth of a population of bacteria, P , over t hours. The graph has a gradient of 0.6 and meets the vertical axis at $(0,2)$ as shown.

A scientist suggests that this growth can be modelled by the equation $P = ab^t$, where a and b are constants to be found.

- Write down an equation for the line.
- Using your answer to part (a) or otherwise, find the values of a and b , giving them to 3 sf where necessary.

Interpret the meaning of the constant a in this model.



[Textbook] The table below gives the rank (by size) and population of the UK's largest cities and districts (London is number 1 but has been excluded as an outlier).

City	B'ham	Leeds	Glasgow	Sheffield	Bradford
Rank, R	2	3	4	5	6
Population, P	1 000 000	730 000	620 000	530 000	480 000

The relationship between the rank and population can be modelled by the formula:

$P = aR^n$ where a and n are constants.

- Draw a table giving values of $\log R$ and $\log P$ to 2dp.
- Plot a graph of $\log R$ against $\log P$ using the values from your table and draw the line of best fit.
- Use your graph to estimate the values of a and n to two significant figures.

Textbook Error: They use $R = aP^n$ but then plot $\log P$ against $\log R$.

Dr Frost's wants to predict his number of Twitter followers P (@DrFrostMaths) t years from the start 2015. He predicts that his followers will increase exponentially according to the model $P = ab^t$, where a, b are constants that he wishes to find.

He records his followers at certain times. Here is the data:

Years t after 2015: 0.7 1.3 2.2

Followers P : 2353 3673 7162

- a) Draw a table giving values of t and $\log P$ (to 3dp).
- b) A line of best fit is drawn for the data in your new table, and it happens to go through the first data point above (where $t = 0.7$) and last (where $t = 2.2$).
Determine the equation of this line of best fit. (The y -intercept is 3.147)
- c) Hence, determine the values of a and b in the model.
- d) Estimate how many followers Dr Frost will have at the start of 2020 (when $t = 5$).