

7.9 - Natural Logarithms and Related Exponential Functions

Determine the value of an investment of \$1 after 1 year at a rate of 100%/annum for each of the following compound periods:

a) annually $P = 1(2)^1 = \boxed{\$2.00}$

$100+100 = 200\%$

$\hookrightarrow = 1(1+1)^1$

c) monthly

$P = 1\left(1 + \frac{1}{12}\right)^{12} = \boxed{\$2.61}$

e) weekly $P = 1\left(1 + \frac{1}{52}\right)^{52} = \boxed{\$2.69}$

g) hourly $P = 1\left(1 + \frac{1}{8760}\right)^{8760} = \boxed{\$2.72}$

$365 \times 24 = 8760$

b) semi-annually $P = 1(1.5)^{\frac{1}{2}}$
 $100 + 50 = 150\%$
 $= 1(1.5)^2 = \boxed{\$2.25}$

d) bi-weekly

$\hookrightarrow 1\left(1 + \frac{1}{26}\right)^{26} = \boxed{\$2.67}$

f) daily

$P = 1\left(1 + \frac{1}{365}\right)^{365} = \boxed{\$2.71}$

h) every minute

$365 \times 24 \times 60 = 525,600$
 $P = 1\left(1 + \frac{1}{525600}\right)^{525600} = \boxed{\$2.72}$

Notice that as we begin to compound more frequently, the value increases but appears to "level off" at a certain point, specifically a value of \$2.72. If money could be compounded infinitely often, we would say it was growing *continuously* and we could find the value using the formula $A = Pe^{rt}$ where P represents the principal, r is the annual interest rate, t is the time in years, and e is the natural base. The value of e is approximately 2.71828 and can be calculated using the e^x key on your calculator.

In general, a logarithm with base e is written as $\log_e x$. This logarithm is known as the natural logarithm, with e being referred to as the *natural base*. However, this is more commonly written simply as $\ln x$ (pronounced "lon x").

Definition: $\log_e x = \ln x$

When $\ln x = y$, $e^y = x$ and $x > 0$

Note: $\ln e = 1$ ($e^1 = e$)

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

Money doesn't actually grow continuously, but *population* does, so we can use base e in this context.

Example #1: The formula $P = 2.5e^{(0.052)t}$ can be used to calculate the population P , in millions, of a city with current a population of 2.5 million growing **continuously** at 5.2%/year, where t is the time in years.

a) Determine the population in 10 years. $P = 2.5e^{0.052(10)} = \boxed{4.2 \text{ million}}$

b) Determine when the population will reach 4 million.

$\frac{4}{2.5} = \frac{2.5}{2.5} e^{0.052t}$
 $1.6 = e^{0.052t}$
 $\ln 1.6 = \ln e^{0.052t}$

$\ln 1.6 = 0.052t$ ($\ln e = 1$)

$\frac{\ln 1.6}{0.052} = \frac{0.052t}{0.052}$

$t = 9.04 \text{ years}$

Example #2: Use natural logarithms to solve each exponential equation.

a) $3 = e^x$

$$\ln 3 = \ln e^x$$

$$\ln 3 = x \ln e = 1$$

$$x = \ln 3$$

$$x = 1.1$$

b) $5 = e^{0.03x}$

$$\ln 5 = \ln e^{0.03x}$$

$$\ln 5 = 0.03x \ln e = 1$$

$$\frac{\ln 5}{0.03} = \frac{0.03x}{0.03}$$

$$x = 53.6$$

c) $25 = 5e^{3x}$

$$\frac{25}{5} = \frac{5e^{3x}}{5}$$

$$5 = e^{3x}$$

$$\ln 5 = \ln e^{3x}$$

$$\ln 5 = 3x \ln e = 1$$

$$\frac{\ln 5}{3} = \frac{3x}{3}$$

$$x = 0.5$$

Example #3: Solve each logarithmic equation. Write the solution to the nearest thousandth if necessary.

a) $2\ln x + \ln 2 = 4$

$$\ln x^2 + \ln 2 = 4$$

$$\ln [x^2(2)] = \ln e^4$$

$$\frac{2x^2}{2} = \frac{e^4}{2}$$

$$\sqrt{x^2} = \sqrt{\frac{e^4}{2}}$$

$$x = \sqrt{\frac{e^4}{2}}$$

$$x = 5.2$$

b) $-\ln x + \ln(x-2) = \ln(x+2) - \ln 2x$

$$+\ln x \quad \quad \quad +\ln 2x$$

$$\ln 2x + \ln(x-2) = \ln(x+2) + \ln x$$

$$\ln [2x(x-2)] = \ln [x(x+2)]$$

$$2x^2 - 2x = x^2 + 2x$$

$$x^2 - 6x = 0$$

$$x(x-6) = 0$$

$$\downarrow \quad \quad \quad \downarrow$$

$$x=0 \quad \quad \quad x=6$$

extraneous root

Homework: p. 487 #1-7 (note: 7c is a challenge)