

Math-1050
Session #23

Exponential Function

Power: An expression formed by repeated multiplication of the same factor.

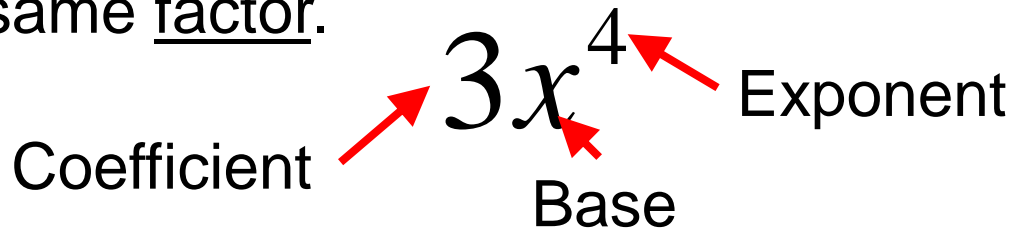


Diagram illustrating the components of the expression $3x^4$:

- Coefficient**: Points to the number 3.
- Base**: Points to the variable x .
- Exponent**: Points to the number 4.

$$3x^4 \rightarrow 3 * x^4 \rightarrow 3 * x * x * x * x$$

Base: the number that is repeatedly multiplied

Exponent: the number of times the base is used as a factor

The exponent applies to the number or variable immediately to its left, not to the coefficient !!!

Power Function: A single-term equation whose base is the input variable.

$$f(x) = 3x^4$$

Properties of Exponents

Multiply Powers Property: when you multiply same-based powers, you add the exponents.

$$(x^2)(x^3) = (x * x)(x * x * x) = x^5$$

$$x^2 x^3 = x^{2+3} = x^5$$

Exponent of a Power Property: a power (base and an exponent) that has another exponent $(x^2)^3$ is simplified by multiplying the exponents

$$(x^2)^3 = (x * x)(x * x)(x * x) = x^6$$

$$(x^2)^3 = x^{2*3} = x^6$$

Properties of Exponents

Exponent of a Product Property: (an exponent of two or more different-based powers that are being multiplied together) is simplified by multiplying the exponent outside of the parentheses by each of the exponents inside of the parentheses.

$$(xy^3)^2 = (xy^3)(xy^3) = xxy^3y^3 = x^2y^6$$

$$(x^1y^3)^2 = x^{1*2}y^{3*2} = x^2y^6$$

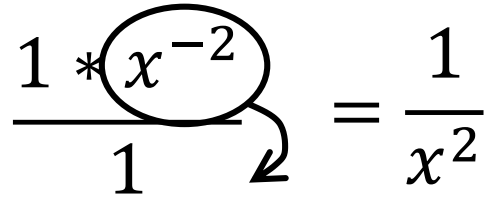
This makes it seem that there is a “distributive property of exponents” → **there is NOT.**

$$(x + y)^2 \neq x^2 + y^2 \quad (x + y)^2 = x^2 + 2xy + y^2$$

Properties of Exponents

Negative Exponent Property

“Grab and drag”

$$x^{-2} = \frac{1 * x^{-2}}{1} = \frac{1 * \textcircled{x^{-2}}}{1} = \frac{1}{x^2}$$


When you “Grab and drag” the base and its exponent across the “boundary line” between numerator and denominator, you just change the sign of the exponent.

Zero Exponent Property

$$10^3 = 1000 \quad 10^2 = 100 \quad 10^1 = 10 \quad 10^0 = 1$$

Any base raised to the zero power simplifies to one.

The “Parent” Exponential Function

$$y = b^x$$

← exponent
← base

$$y = 2^x \quad (\text{base 2 exponential function})$$

$$y = 3^x \quad (\text{base 3 exponential function})$$

$$y = \left(\frac{1}{2}\right)^x \quad (\text{base 1/2 exponential function})$$

The base MUST BE positive and CANNOT equal 1.

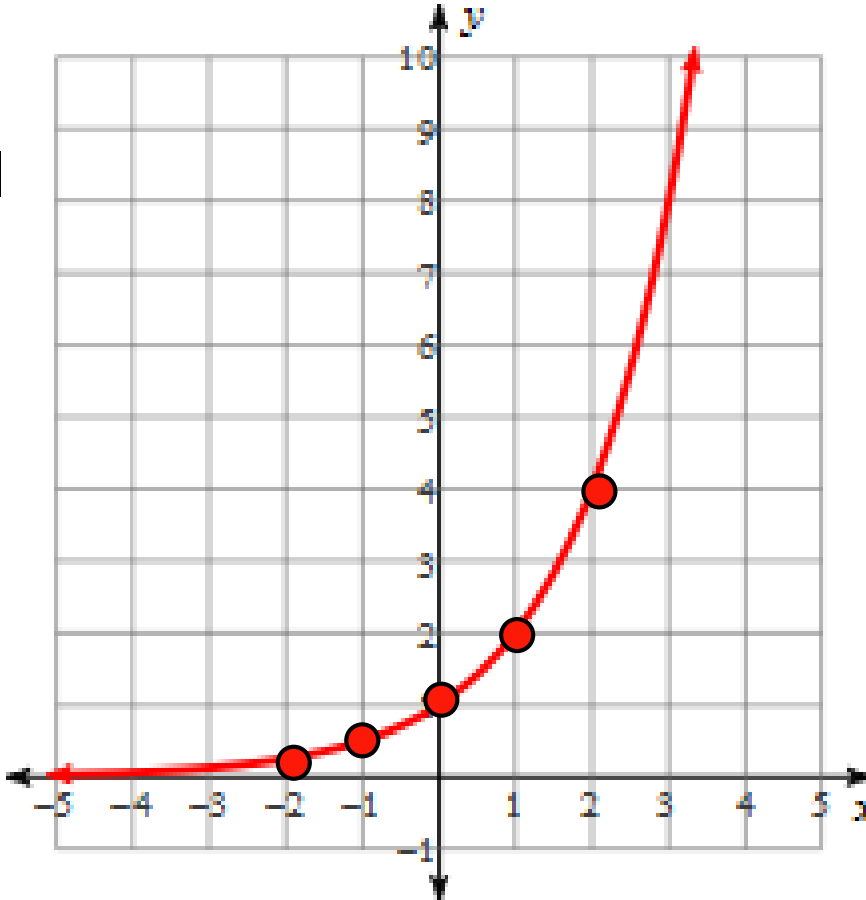
$$b = (0, 1) \cup (1, \infty)$$

Fill in the output values of the table and graph the points.

$$f(x) = 2^x$$

Growth Factor is the base of the exponential

x	$2^{()}$	y
-2	2^{-2}	0.25
-1	2^{-1}	0.5
0	2^0	1
1	2^1	2
2	2^2	4



$$\left(\frac{2}{1}\right)^{-2} = \left(\frac{1}{2}\right)^2 = \frac{1}{4} = 0.25$$

“negative exponent property”

$$2^0 = 1$$

“zero exponent property”

Exponential Function $f(x) = 2^x$

Will the 'y' value ever reach zero (on the left end of the graph)?

As the denominator gets bigger and bigger, the decimal version of the fraction gets smaller and smaller.

x	$2^{(\quad)}$	y
-1	$2^{(-1)}$	$1/2$
-2	$2^{(-2)}$	$1/4$
-3	$2^{(-3)}$	$1/8$
-4	$2^{(-4)}$	$1/16$
-5	$2^{(-5)}$	$1/32$

$$f(-1) = 1/2$$

$$f(-2) = 1/4$$

$$f(-3) = 1/8$$

$$f(-4) = 1/16$$

$$f(-5) = 1/32$$

'y' gets closer and closer to zero but never reaches zero.

What is the equation?

x-values increment by '1' each time.

x	f(x)
-2	9
-1	3
0	1
1	0.333
2	0.111
3	0.037
4	0.0124

$\frac{1}{3}$

Make a ratio: “next over previous”

$$\frac{f(x+1)}{f(x)} = \frac{\text{next}}{\text{previous}} = \frac{1}{3}$$

$$\frac{\text{next}}{\text{previous}} = \frac{3}{9}$$

This number is the “growth factor”

The “growth factor” is the
base of the exponential.

$$f(x) = \left(\frac{1}{3}\right)^x$$

In what portion of the table is it easier to find the growth factor?

Between integer output values.

What is the equation?

x-values increment by one each time.

Make a ratio: “next over previous”

$$\frac{\textit{next}}{\textit{previous}} = \frac{16}{4}$$

$$\frac{\textit{next}}{\textit{previous}} = \frac{4}{1}$$

This number is the “growth factor”

$$f(x) = 4^x$$

x	f(x)
-2	0.0625
-1	0.25
0	1
1	4
2	16
3	64
4	256

Horizontal Asymptote: a horizontal line the graph approaches but never reaches.

$$y = 0$$

Domain = ?

$$x = (-\infty, \infty)$$

range = ?

$$y = (0, \infty)$$

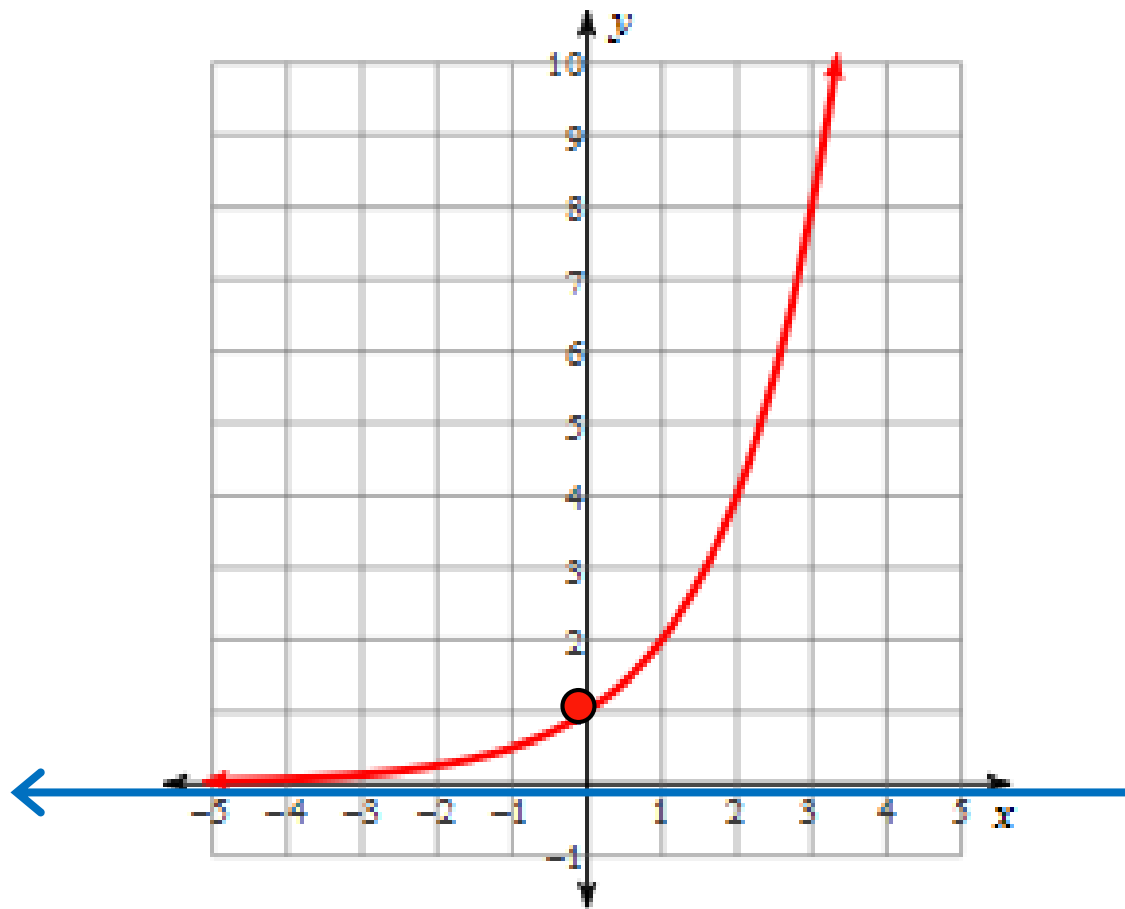
Parentheses on left end of the interval \rightarrow range does include $y = 0$

y-intercept = ?

$$f(0) = y \text{ intercept}$$

$$f(0) = 2^0 = 1$$

$$f(x) = 2^x$$



Exponential Growth: the graph is increasing (as you go from left to right the graph goes upward). Growth occurs when the base of the exponential is greater than 1.

$$y = b^x$$

'b' > 1 → growth

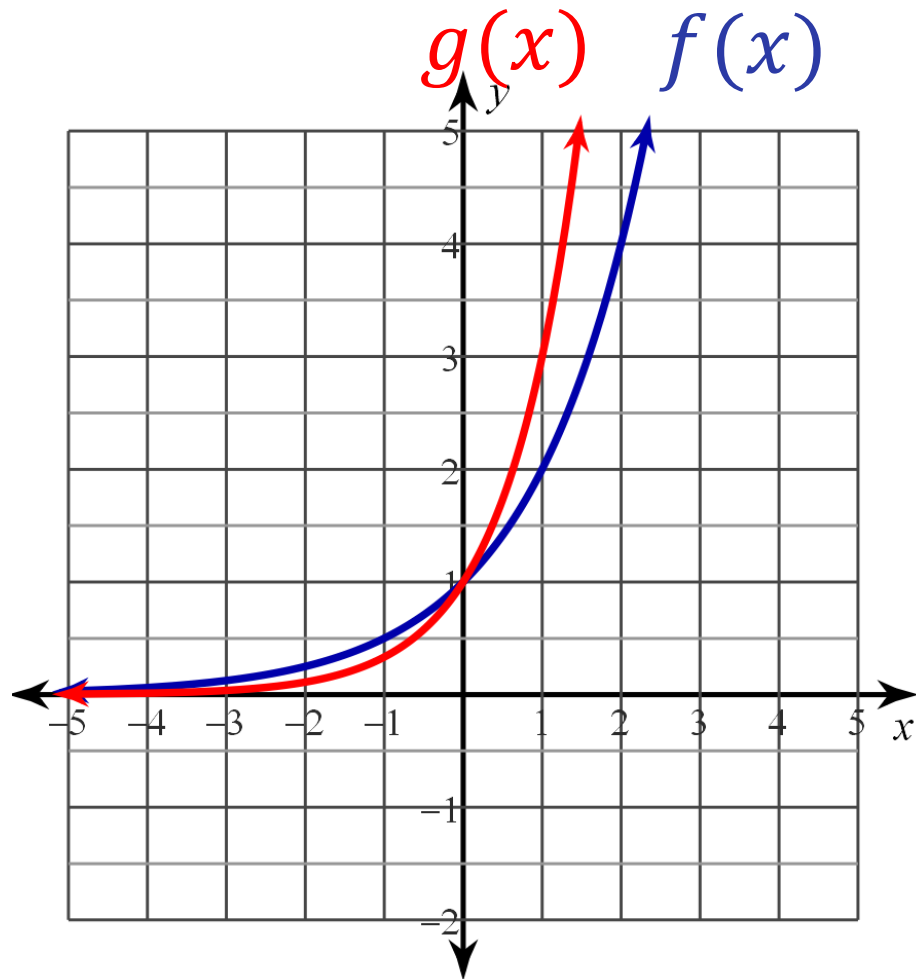
$$f(x) = 2^x \quad g(x) = 3^x$$

Why do both graphs have the same y-intercept?

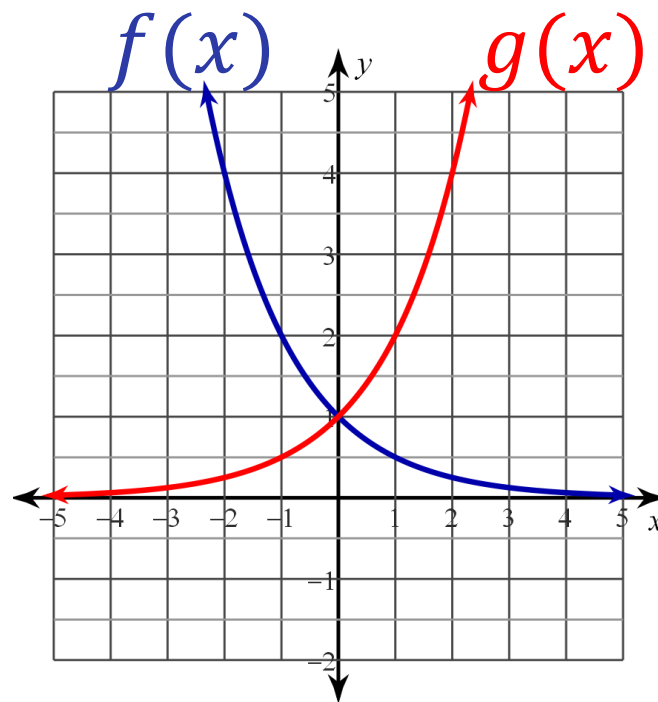
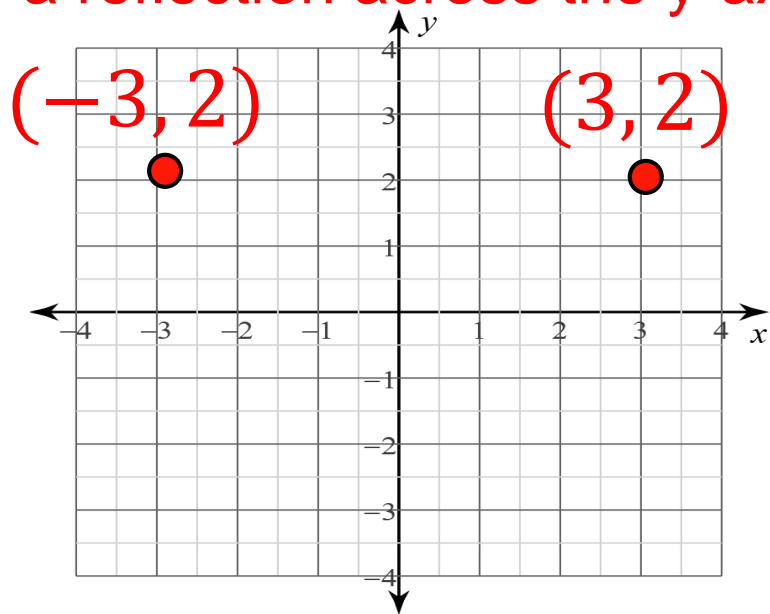
$$f(0) = 2^0 = 1$$

$$g(0) = 3^0 = 1$$

All exponential "parent functions" have (0, 1) as the y-intercept.



→ Replacing 'x' with '(-x)' causes a reflection across the y-axis



$g(x) = 2^x \rightarrow$ Reflect across the y-axis

$$f(x) = 2^{-x}$$

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

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

Exponent of a Power
Property of Exponents

Negative Exponent
Property of Exponents

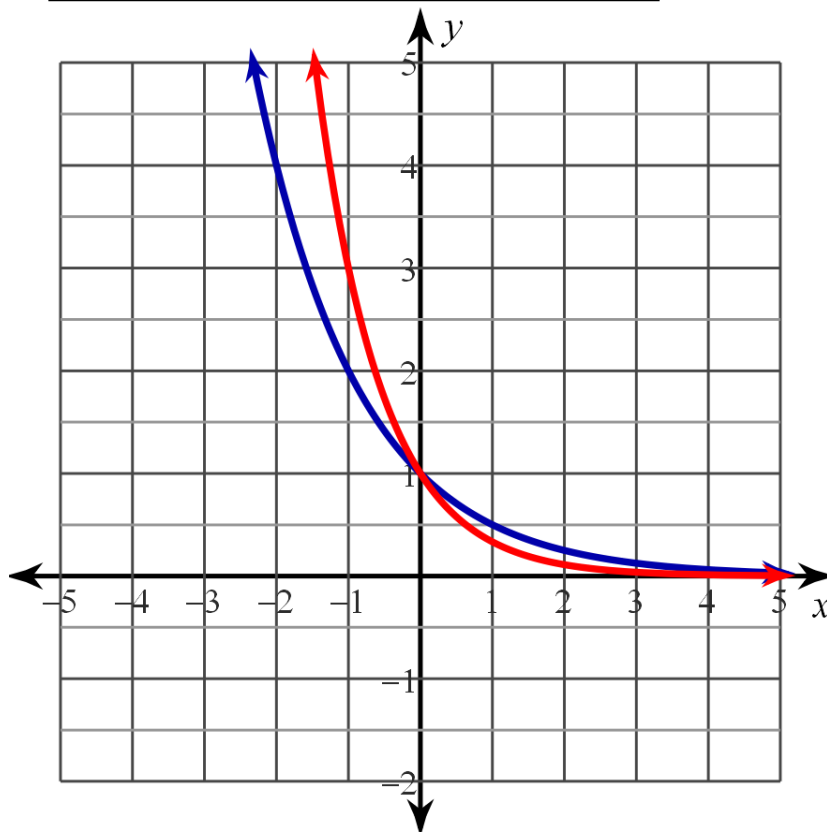
Exponential Decay: the graph is decreasing (as you go from left to right the graph goes downward). This occurs when the base of the exponential is between 0 and 1.

$$y = b^x$$

$0 < 'b' < 1 \rightarrow$ decay

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

$$g(x) = \left(\frac{1}{3}\right)^x$$



$$f(x) = b^x$$

Can the base be zero?

$$b \neq 0$$

$$g(x) = (0)^x$$

x	y
-1	$1/0 = ??$
0	???
1	0

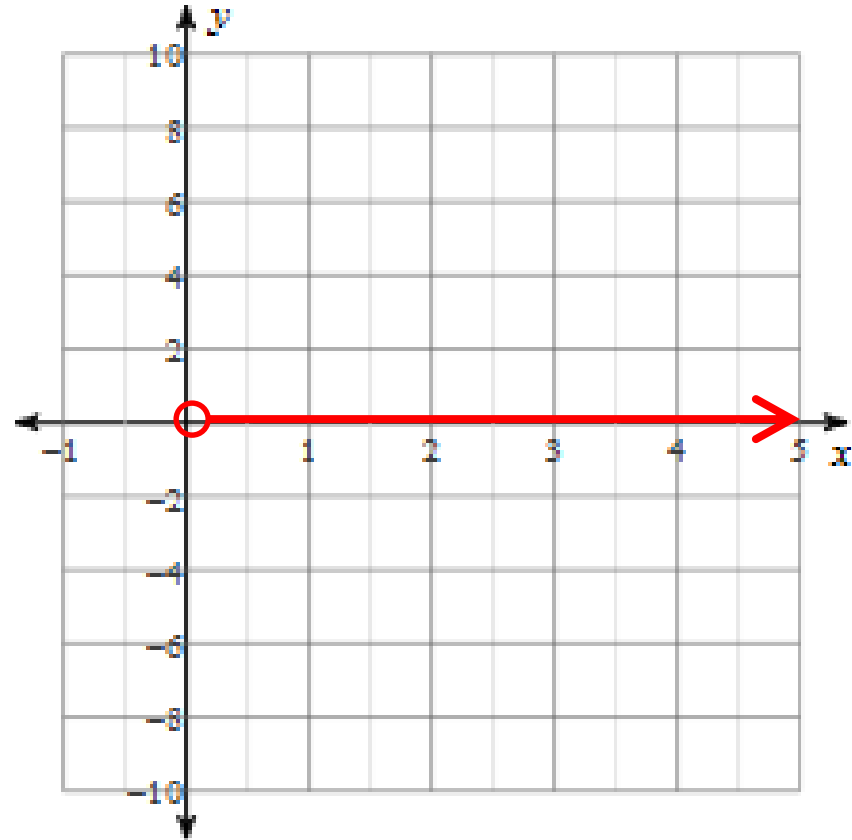
$$g(-1) = \left(\frac{0}{1}\right)^{-1}$$

$$g(-1) = \left(\frac{1}{0}\right)^1$$

$$g(0) = (0)^0$$

$= 0? \quad = 1?$

$$g(1) = (0)^1$$



→ negative number input values are not “mapped” to an output value.

→ input value “0” has an ambiguous output value

→ Any positive number input value is “mapped” to “0”

Can the 'base' be negative?

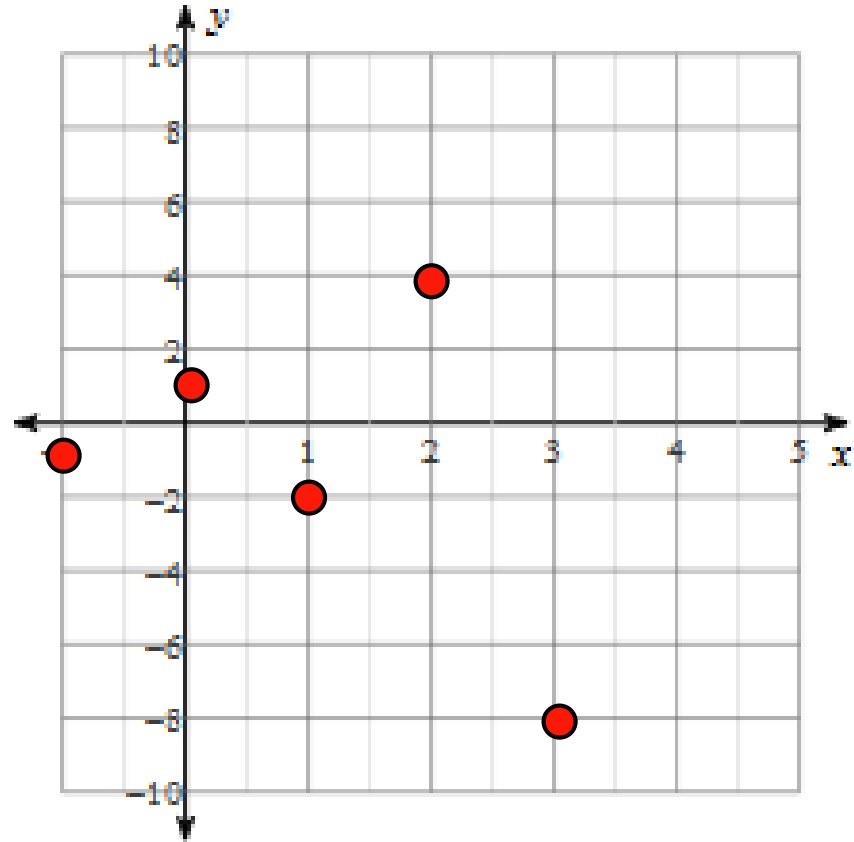
$$g(x) = (-2)^x$$

x	y	
-1	-0.5	$(-2)^{-1}$
0	1	$(-2)^0$
$\frac{1}{2}$	$i = ?$	$(-2)^{\frac{1}{2}} = \sqrt{-2}$
1	-2	$(-2)^1$
2	4	$(-2)^2$
3	-8	$(-2)^3$

$$f(x) = ab^x$$

'b' > 1 → growth

0 < 'b' < 1 → decay



b ≠ negative numbers

Can the base be 1?

$$f(x) = ab^x$$

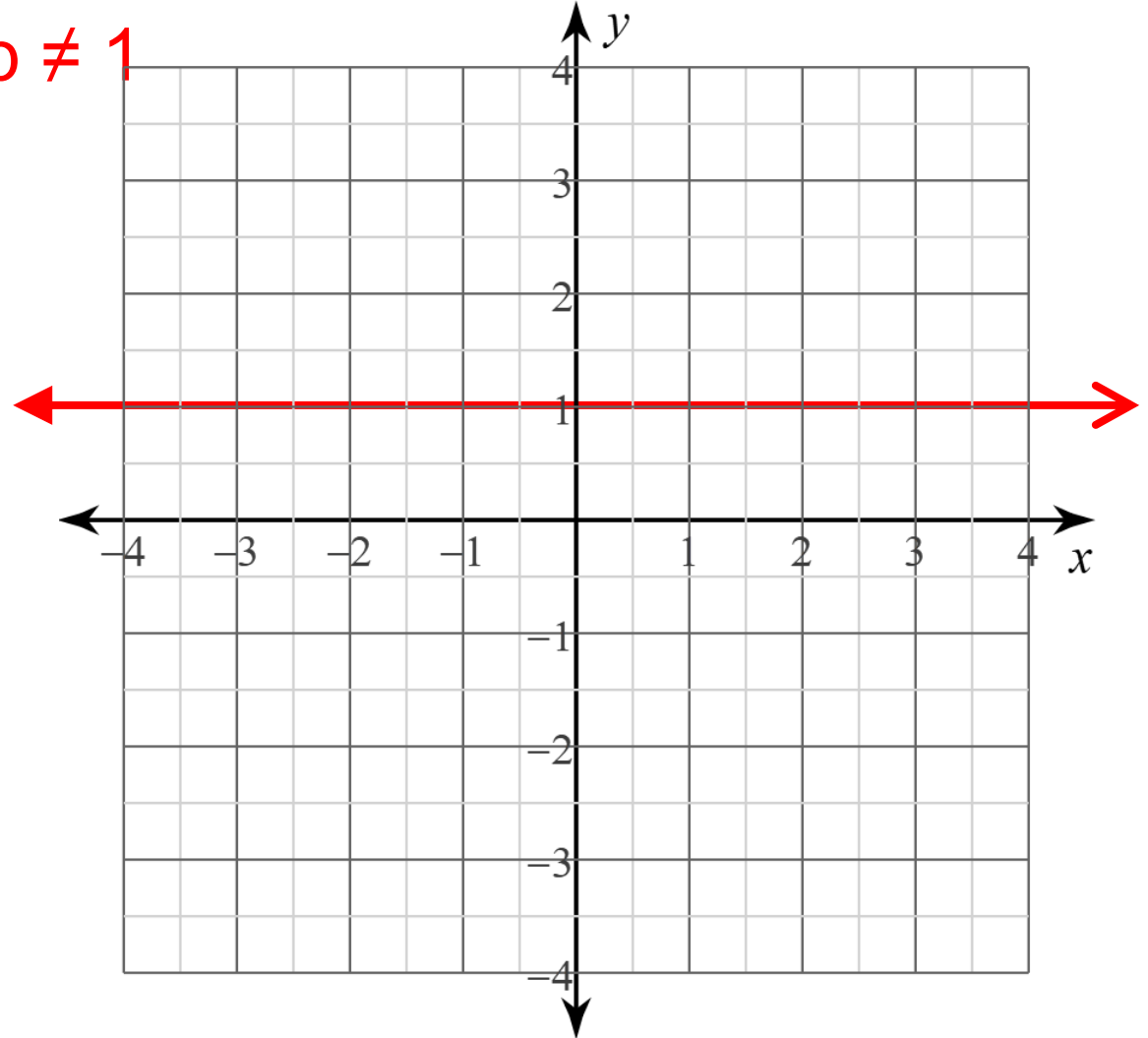
$$g(x) = (1)^x \quad b \neq 1$$

x	y
-1	1
0	1
1	1

$$(1)^{-1}$$

$$(1)^0$$

$$1^1$$



$$0 < b < 1, \text{ OR } b > 1$$

$$b = (0,1) \cup (1,\infty)$$

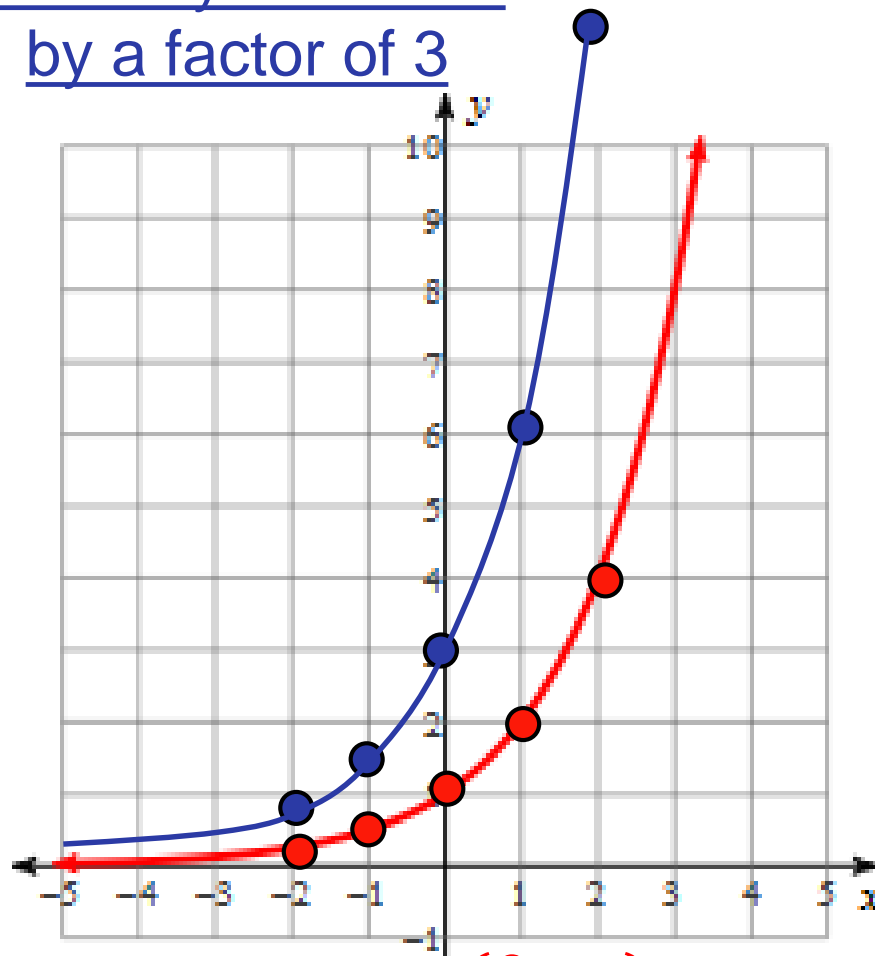
$$f(x) = 2^x \quad g(x) = 3(2)^x$$

x	2^x	f(x)	g(x)
-2	2^{-2}	0.25	0.75
-1	2^{-1}	0.5	1.5
0	2^0	1	3
1	2^1	2	6
2	2^2	4	12

Horizontal asymptote: $y = 0$

Domain = ? $x = (-\infty, \infty)$

Vertically stretched
by a factor of 3



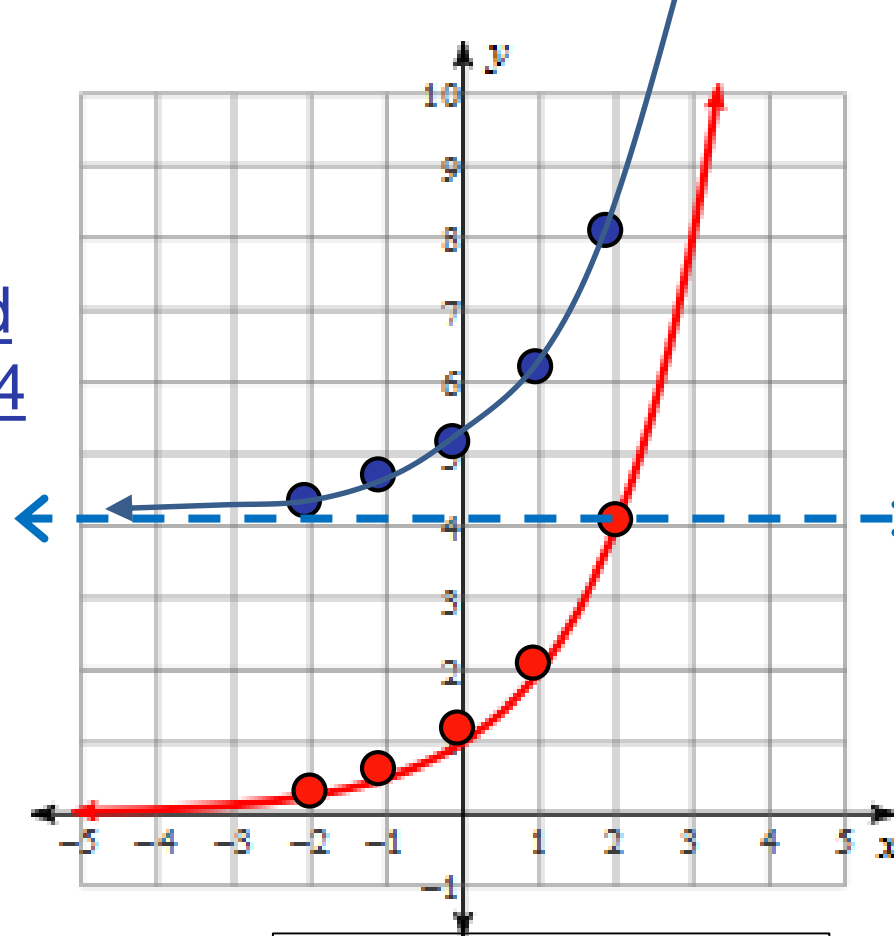
range = ? $y = (0, \infty)$

y-intercept = ? $f(x): (0, 1)$
 $g(x): (0, 3)$

$$f(x) = 2^x \quad k(x) = 2^x + 4$$

x	2^x	f(x)	k(x)
-2	2^{-2}	0.25	4.25
-1	2^{-1}	0.5	4.5
0	2^0	1	5
1	2^1	2	6
2	2^2	4	8

Shifted UP by 4



Horizontal asymptote:

$$f(x): y = 0$$

$$g(x): y = 4$$

Domain = ?

$$x = (-\infty, \infty)$$

$$x = (-\infty, \infty)$$

range = ?

$$f(x): y = (0, \infty)$$

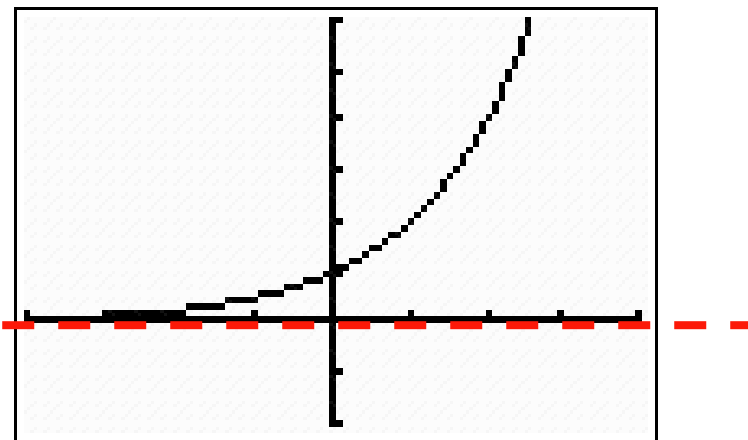
$$g(x): y = (4, \infty)$$

y-intercept = ?

$$f(x): (0, 1)$$

$$g(x): (0, 5)$$

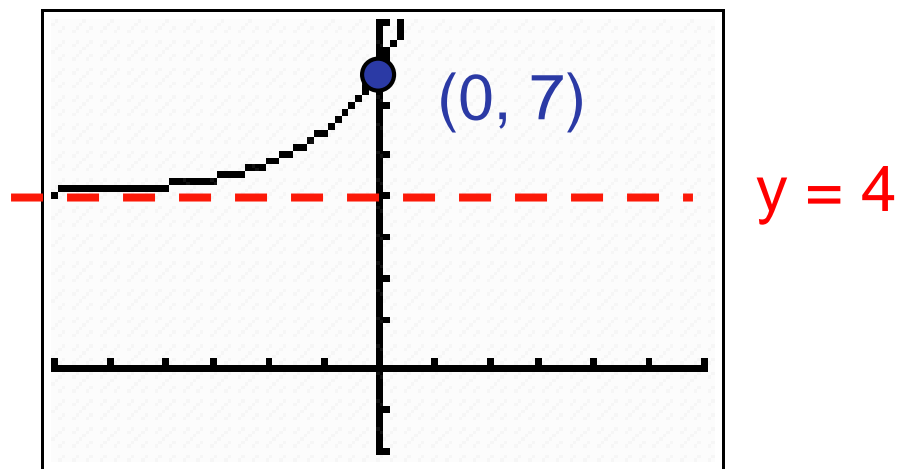
Transformations of the Exponential Function



$h(x) = 3(2)^x + 4$

VSF = 3 (circled in red)

Up 4 shift (circled in green)



$f(x) = 2^x$ Base-2 Exponential Parent Function

Transformation Form of the Exponential Function

$$y = ab^x + k$$

VSF

y-intercept: $(0, a + k)$

$$h(0) = 3(2)^0 + 4$$

$$h(0) = 7$$

vertical shift and horizontal Asymptote

Growth Factor (the base of the exponential)

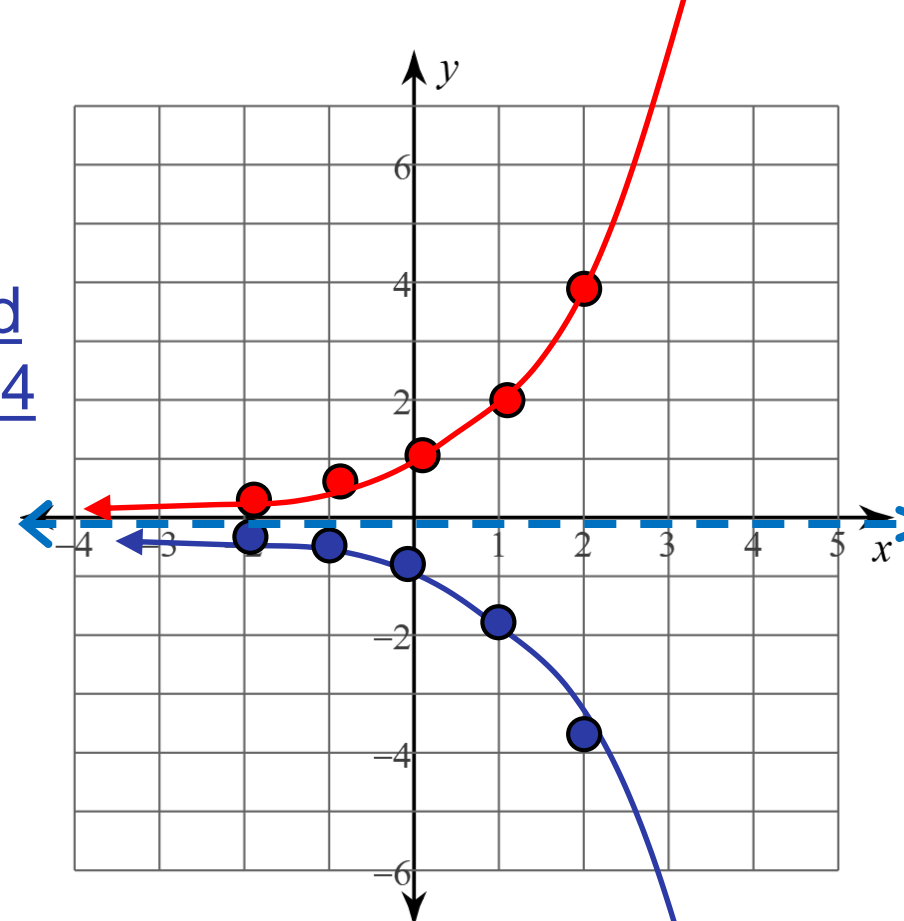
Horiz. asympt: $y = k$

$$y = 4$$

$$f(x) = 2^x \quad k(x) = -(2)^x$$

x	2^x	f(x)	k(x)
-2	2^{-2}	0.25	-0.25
-1	2^{-1}	0.5	-0.5
0	2^0	1	-1
1	2^1	2	-2
2	2^2	4	-4

Shifted UP by 4



Horizontal asymptote:

$$f(x): y = 0$$

$$g(x): y = 0$$

Domain = ?

$$x = (-\infty, \infty)$$

$$x = (-\infty, \infty)$$

range = ?

$$f(x): y = (0, \infty)$$

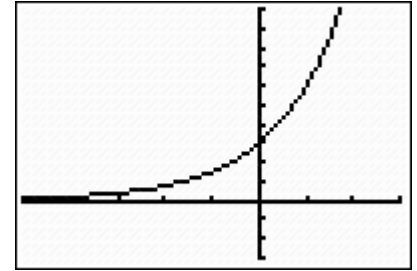
$$g(x): y = (-\infty, 0)$$

y-intercept = ?

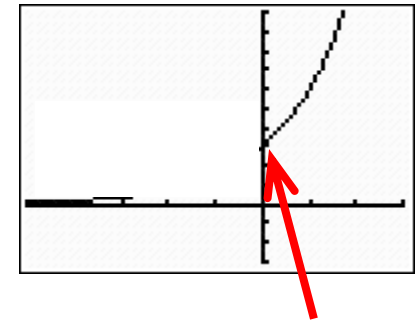
$$f(x): (0, 1)$$

$$g(x): (0, -1)$$

Initial Value: (of the exponential) is the vertical stretch factor (*for problems with no up/down shifts*)



If in input is time (“stopwatch time”) the initial value occurs when $t = 0$.



$$f(t) = 3(2)^t \quad \text{Domain: } x = [0, \infty)$$

$$f(0) = 3(2)^0 = ?$$

$$f(0) = 3$$

What is the initial value of: $f(t) = 0.5(3)^t$

Solving a Linear Equation:

“Isolate the variable”

What does “solve” a single variable equation mean?

Find the value of ‘x’ that makes the equation true.

$$3x + 2 = 4x - 5 \quad \text{subtract } \underline{3x} \text{ from both sides}$$

$$2 = x - 5 \quad \text{add } \underline{5} \text{ to both sides}$$

$$7 = x$$

Solving an Exponential Equation: The easiest problem

$$2^x = 2^{4-x} \quad \text{Exponents have to be equal to each other!}$$

$$x = 4 - x$$

$$\boxed{x = 2}$$

+x **+x**

Check your answer!

$$2x = 4$$

$$2^2 = 2^{4-2}$$

÷2 **÷2**

$$7^{2x+1} = 7^{13-4x}$$

$$\boxed{x = 2}$$

$$2x + 1 = 13 - 4x$$

+4x **+4x**

$$6x + 1 = 13$$

-1 **-1**

$$6x = 12$$

Equivalent Powers with *different bases*.

$$4^1 = 2^2$$

$$8^1 = 2^3$$

Easy

Harder

$$\textcircled{4}^2 = \textcircled{(2^2)}^2 = 2^4$$

$$9^2 = (3^2)^2 = 3^4$$

$$\textcircled{9}^{2x} = \textcircled{(3^2)}^{2x} = 3^{4x}$$

Change the base of the power as indicated:

$$27^1 = 3^?$$

$$16^2 = 4^?$$

$$25^{2x} = 5^?$$

Solving using “convert to same base”

$$2^{4x-1} = 8^{x-1} \quad \text{“convert to same base”}$$

$$2^{4x-1} = (2^3)^{x-1} \quad \begin{array}{l} \text{Exponent of a power} \\ \text{Exponent Property} \end{array}$$

$$2^{4x-1} = 2^{3x-3} \quad \boxed{x = -2}$$

$$4x - 1 = 3x - 3 \quad \text{Check your answer!}$$

$$2^{4(-2)-1} = 8^{-2-1}$$

$$x - 1 = -3$$

$$2^{-9} = 8^{-3}$$

$$+1 \quad +1$$

$$(2^{-9} = 8^{-3})^{-1}$$

$$2^9 = 8^3$$

$$512 = 512$$

Solving using “convert to same base”

$$9^{2x} = 27^{x-1}$$

“convert to same base”

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

Power of a power
Exponent Property

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

Check your answer!

$$3^{4x} = 3^{3x-3}$$

$$9^{2(-3)} = 27^{-3-1}$$

$$9^{-6} = 27^{-4}$$

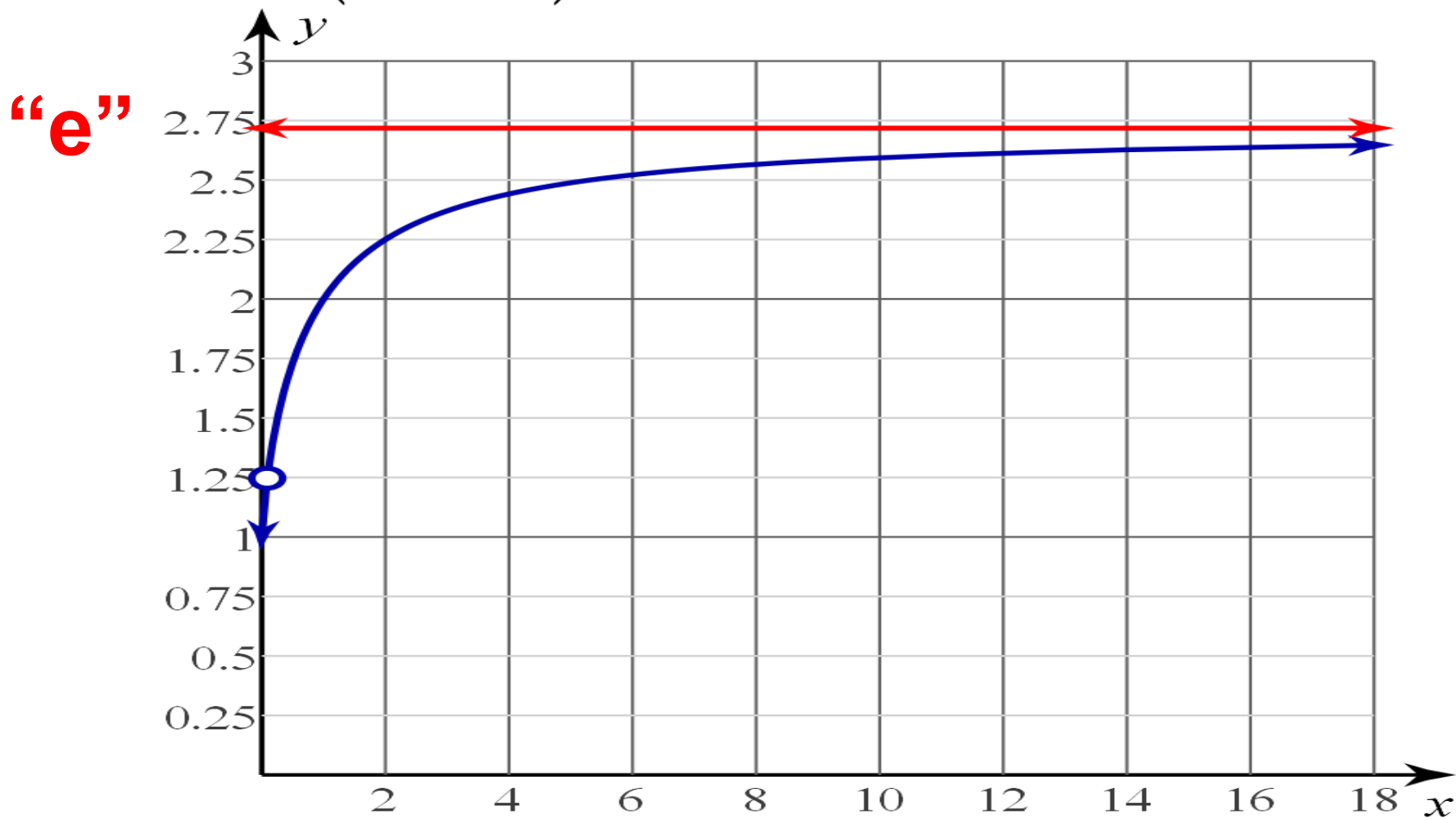
$$(9^{-6} = 27^{-4})^{-1}$$

$$9^6 = 27^4$$

$$x = -3$$

$$531441 = 531441$$

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



$$a_n = \left(1 + \frac{1}{n}\right)^n$$

n	1	2	3	10	40	80	120	200	700	1000
a_n	2.00	2.25	2.37	2.59	2.69	2.70	2.71	2.71	2.72	2.72

$$\lim_{x \rightarrow \infty} a_n = \lim_{x \rightarrow \infty} \left(1 + \frac{1}{x}\right)^x \approx ? = e$$

$$(e^{2x})^9 = \frac{1}{e^{6x-2}}$$

$$e^{18x} = e^{-6x+2}$$

$$18x = -6x + 2$$

$$24x = 2$$

$$x = \frac{1}{12}$$

Negative exponent property
Exponent of a Power Property

Exponents must be equal