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# Lesson 20 – Introducing and Applying Base $e$ .

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IB Math SL1 - Santowski

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# Lesson Objectives

- (1) Investigate a new base to use in exponential applications
  - (2) Understand *WHEN* the use of base  $e$  is appropriate
  - (3) Apply base  $e$  in word problems and equations
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# Lesson Objective #1

- (1) Investigate a new base to use in exponential applications
- GIVEN: the formula for working with compound interest



$$A = P \left( 1 + \frac{r}{n} \right)^{nt}$$

- Determine the value after 2 years of a \$1000 investment under the following compounding conditions:
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## (A) Working with Compounding Interest

- Determine the value after 2 years of a \$1000 investment under the following investing conditions:
    - (a) Simple interest of 10% p.a
    - (b) Compound interest of 10% pa compounded annually
    - (c) Compound interest of 10% pa compounded semi-annually
    - (d) Compound interest of 10% pa compounded quarterly
    - (e) Compound interest of 10% pa compounded daily
    - (f) Compound interest of 10% pa compounded  $n$  times per year
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## (B) Introducing Base $e$

- Take \$1000 and let it grow at a rate of 10% p.a. Then determine value of the \$1000 after 2 years under the following compounding conditions:
- (i) compounded annually  $=1000(1 + .1/1)^{(2 \times 1)} = 1210$
- (ii) compounded quarterly  $=1000(1 + 0.1/4)^{(2 \times 4)} = 1218.40$
- (iii) compounded daily  $=1000(1 + 0.1/365)^{(2 \times 365)} = 1221.37$
- (iv) compounded  $n$  times per year  $=1000(1+0.1/n)^{(2 \times n)} = 1210$

## (B) Introducing Base $e$

- So we have the expression  $1000(1 + 0.1/n)^{(2 \times n)}$
- Now what happens as we increase the number of times we compound per annum  $\Rightarrow$  i.e.  $n \rightarrow \infty$  ?? (that is ... come to the point of compounding continuously)

- So we get a limit:  $\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \left( 1000 \times \left( 1 + \frac{0.1}{n} \right)^{(2 \times n)} \right)$

## (B) Introducing Base $e$

- Now let's rearrange our limit
- use a simple substitution  $\rightarrow$  let  $0.1/n = 1/x$

- Therefore,  $0.1x = n \rightarrow$  so then  $\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \left( 1000 \times \left( 1 + \frac{0.1}{n} \right)^{(2 \times n)} \right)$

- becomes  $\lim_{x \rightarrow \infty} \left( 1000 \times \left( 1 + \frac{1}{x} \right)^{(x \times 0.1 \times 2)} \right)$

- Which simplifies to  $1000 \times \lim_{x \rightarrow \infty} \left( \left( 1 + \frac{1}{x} \right)^x \right)^{0.1 \times 2}$

## (B) Introducing Base $e$

- So we see a special limit occurring:  $\lim_{x \rightarrow \infty} \left( \left( 1 + \frac{1}{x} \right)^x \right)$
- We can evaluate the limit a number of ways → graphing or a table of values.



## (B) Introducing Base $e$

- So we see a special limit occurring:  $\lim_{x \rightarrow \infty} \left( \left( 1 + \frac{1}{x} \right)^x \right)$

- We can evaluate the limit a number of ways → graphing or a table of values.

- In either case,  $\lim_{x \rightarrow \infty} \left( \left( 1 + \frac{1}{x} \right)^x \right) = e$  where  $e$  is the natural base of the exponential function

## (B) Introducing Base $e$

- So our original formula  $\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \left( 1000 \times \left( 1 + \frac{0.1}{n} \right)^{(2 \times n)} \right)$  now becomes  $A = 1000e^{0.1 \times 2}$  where the 0.1 was the interest rate, 2 was the length of the investment (2 years) and \$1000 was the original investment (so  $A = Pe^{rt}$ ) → so our value becomes \$1221.40
- And our general equation can be written as  $A = Pe^{rt}$  where P is the original amount, r is the annual growth rate and t is the length of time in years

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# Lesson Objective #2

- (2) Understand WHEN the use of base  $e$  is appropriate
  - Recall our original question → Determine the value after 2 years of a \$1000 investment under the following investing conditions:
    - (a) Compound interest of 10% pa compounded annually
    - (b) Compound interest of 10% pa compounded semi-annually
    - (c) Compound interest of 10% pa compounded quarterly
    - (d) Compound interest of 10% pa compounded daily
  - All these examples illustrate **DISCRETE** changes rather than **CONTINUOUS** changes.
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# Lesson Objective #2

- (2) Understand WHEN the use of base e is appropriate

- So our original formula  $\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \left( 1000 \times \left( 1 + \frac{0.1}{n} \right)^{(2 \times n)} \right)$  now becomes  $A = 1000e^{0.1 \times 2}$  where the 0.1 was the annual interest rate, 2 was the length of the investment (2 years) and \$1000 was the original investment → BUT RECALL WHY we use “n” and what it represents .....
- Note that in this example, the growth happens **continuously** (i.e the idea that  $n \rightarrow \infty$  )

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# Lesson Objective #3

- (3) Apply base **e** in word problems and equations



## (C) Working With Exponential Equations in Base $e$

- (i) Solve the following equations:

$$(i) e^{x^2-x} = e^2$$

$$(ii) (e^x)^2 = \sqrt{e^{x+2}}$$

$$(iii) e^{-x^2} = \left(\frac{1}{e}\right)^x$$

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

$$(v) e^x = 4$$

$$(vi) e^x = -5$$

$$(vii) e^x = 1 - x$$

$$(viii) e^{2x} + 6 = 5e^x$$

## (C) Working with $A = Pe^{rt}$

- So our formula for situations featuring continuous change becomes  $A = Pe^{rt}$  → P represents an initial amount, r the annual growth/decay rate and t the number of years
- In the formula, if  $r > 0$ , we have exponential growth and if  $r < 0$ , we have exponential decay

## (C) Examples

- (i) I invest \$10,000 in a funding yielding 12% p.a. compounded continuously.
  - (a) Find the value of the investment after 5 years.
  - (b) How long does it take for the investment to triple in value?
  
- (ii) The population of the USA can be modeled by the eqn  $P(t) = 227e^{0.0093t}$ , where  $P$  is population in millions and  $t$  is time in years since 1980
  - (a) What is the annual growth rate?
  - (b) What is the predicted population in 2015?
  - (c) What assumptions are being made in question (b)?
  - (d) When will the population reach 500 million?



## (C) Examples

- (iii) A certain bacteria grows according to the formula  $A(t) = 5000e^{0.4055t}$ , where  $t$  is time in hours.
  - (a) What will the population be in 8 hours
  - (b) When will the population reach 1,000,000
  
- (iv) The function  $P(t) = 1 - e^{-0.0479t}$  gives the percentage of the population that has seen a new TV show  $t$  weeks after it goes on the air.
  - (a) What percentage of people have seen the show after 24 weeks?
  - (b) Approximately, when will 90% of the people have seen the show?
  - (c) What happens to  $P(t)$  as  $t$  gets infinitely large? Why? Is this reasonable?

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# Homework

- IB Textbook:
  - Ex5A, p106-7, Q5-7,8bcd,9egh,10-13,
  - Ex5E, p113-4, Q1-5 → Solve graphically
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