

Lesson 3.3 - Continuous Compounding & the value 'e'

**I. Warm-Up** – Martha Stewart deposits \$1 in an account at a very generous bank that pays her 100% interest. Assuming no other deposits and withdrawals, what will her balance be in one year if the interest is compounded:

(a). Quarterly

$$A = 1\left(1 + \frac{1.00}{1}\right)^{1 \cdot 1yr}$$

2

(b). Monthly

$$A = 1\left(1 + \frac{1.00}{12}\right)^{12 \cdot 1yr}$$

2.61

(c). Daily

$$A = 1\left(1 + \frac{1.00}{365}\right)^{365 \cdot 1yr}$$

2.71

d. What do you notice? Can you write a function that gives you the balance after  $n$  compoundings in 1 year?

$$A = 1\left(1 + \frac{1.00}{n}\right)^{n \cdot 1yr} \text{ Graph this on Desmos and watch what happens as } n \text{ gets larger and larger.}$$

e. **Key Idea** – Will Martha’s ending balance ever exceed \$3? **No, 2.71 is the limit.**

**II. The Value 'e'** =  $2.71828 = \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \left(1 + \frac{1}{n}\right)^n$

2. Sketch a graph of  $y = e^x$ .

Check Desmos.

3. On the same graph, sketch a graph of  $y = 3e^x + 1$ .

Check Desmos.



4. Evaluate the following functions at the indicated values: (Using your calculator)

(a).  $y = e^x$  at  $x = 3.2$

24.533

(b).  $y = 1.5e^{\frac{x}{2}}$  at  $x = 24$

244132.187

(c).  $y = 250e^{0.05x}$  at  $x = 20$

679.570

### III. Continuous Compound Interest

Normal Compound Interest Formula $A = P\left(1 + \frac{r}{n}\right)^{nt}$	Continuous Compounding Interest Formula Let $u = \frac{n}{r}$ , $A = Pe^{rt}$
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5. How much will a \$100 deposit earning 6% interest, compounded monthly, yield in 5 years?

$$A = P\left(1 + \frac{r}{n}\right)^{nt} = \$100\left(1 + \frac{0.06}{12}\right)^{(12 \cdot 5 \text{yr})} = \$134.89$$

6. How much will a \$100 deposit earning 6% interest, compounded continuously, yield in 5 years?

$$A = Pe^{rt} = \$100(e^{0.06 \cdot 5 \text{yr}}) = \$134.99$$

7. Boruto's dad creates a trust fund for Boruto when he is born and deposits 10,000 兩 (ryo). The trust fund pays 9% interest compounded continuously. Determine the balance of this account when Boruto goes to college at the age of 18.

$$A = Pe^{rt} = 10,000 \text{ 兩} (e^{0.09 \cdot 18 \text{yr}}) = 50530 \text{ 兩}$$

8. The population  $P$  (in millions) of Russia from 1996 to 2004 can be approximated by the model  $P = 152.26e^{-0.0039t}$ , where  $t$  represents the year and  $t = 6$  corresponding to 1996.

a. According to the model, is the population of Russia increasing or decreasing? Explain.

This is a graph of exponential decay. The population of Russia is decreasing.

b. Find the population of Russia in the year 1998.

$$P(1998) = 152.26e^{-0.0039(1998)} = 147.58 \text{ (million)}$$

c. Find the population of Russia in the year 2001.

$$P(2001) = 152.26e^{-0.0039(2001)} = 145.87 \text{ (million)}$$

**IV. Looking Ahead** – Suppose I had an initial deposit of \$10,000. When does my balance reach \$1,000,000 at an annual compounding of 5% interest rate?

**Graph it on Desmos. Continuous → 276 years**

**Annual → 283 years**