

# Math 151 - 2015XB - Week 4 Mon

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## §2.5 Exponential Functions

- growth of money through interest (compound)
- growth of populations
- radioactive decay

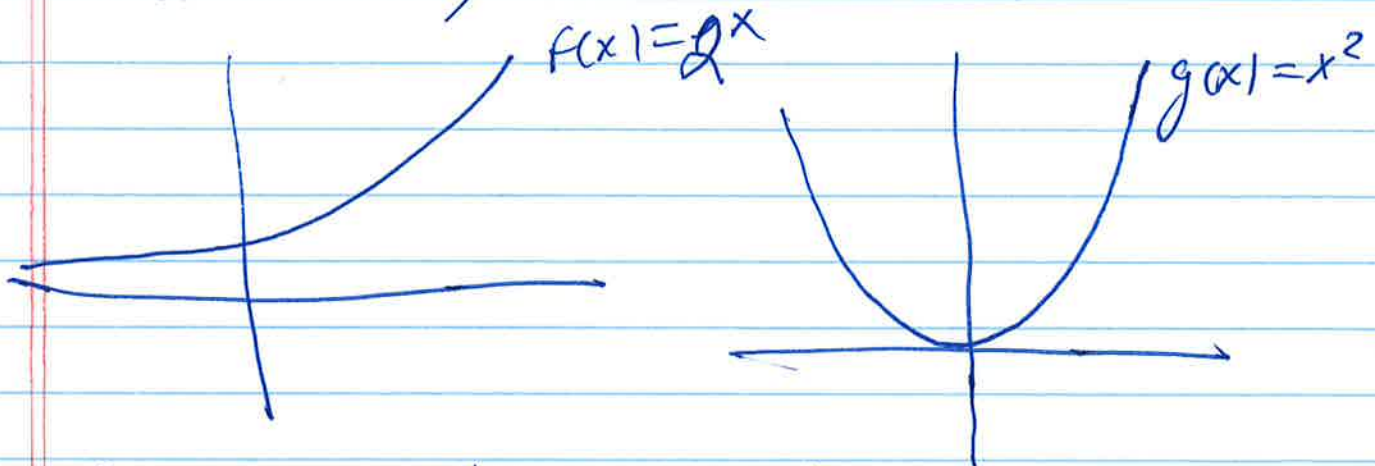
Note functions

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

$$g(x) = x^2 \quad \text{quadratic}$$

For  $f(x) = 2^x$  the variable is in exponent  
For  $g(x) = x^2$  the variable is in the base

These are very different functions



There are different kinds of exponential functions:

$$f(x) = b^x \quad \text{eg} \quad f(x) = 2^x \quad f(x) = 4^x$$

↑ for some constant b

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

Example from Appendix 1 Evaluate the following

(A)  $4^{1/2}$

2

$\sqrt{4}$

2

$\sqrt{4} \neq \pm 2$

(B)  $-4^{1/2}$   
 $-\sqrt{4}$

-2

-2

(C)  $(-4)^{1/2}$   
 $-\sqrt{-4}$

not real

not real

(D)  $8^{1/3}$   
 $\sqrt[3]{8}$

2

2

(E)  $(-8)^{1/3}$   
 $\sqrt[3]{-8}$

-2

-2

F  $-8^{1/3}$   
 $-\sqrt[3]{8}$

-2

-2

matched

(A)  $16^{1/2}$  (B)  $-\sqrt{16}$  (C)  $\sqrt[3]{-27}$

(D)  $(-9)^{1/2}$  (E)  $(\sqrt[4]{81})^3$

## Definition Integer exponents

1. For  $n$  a positive integer

$$a^n = a \cdot a \cdot a \cdots a$$

2. For  $n = 0$

$$a^0 = 1$$

3. For  $n$  a negative integer

$$a^n = \frac{1}{a^{-n}} \leftarrow \text{positive integer}$$

4. For all integers  $n$

$$a^{-n} = \frac{1}{a^n}, \quad a^n = \frac{1}{a^{-n}}, \quad a \neq 0$$



## Properties of Exponents

$$1. a^m a^n = a^{m+n}$$

$$2. (a^n)^m = a^{nm}$$

$$3. (ab)^m = a^m b^m$$

$$4. \left(\frac{a}{b}\right)^m = \frac{a^m}{b^m} \quad b \neq 0$$

$$5. \frac{a^m}{a^n} = a^{m-n} = \frac{1}{a^{n-m}}, \quad a \neq 0$$

### Example

$$(A) (2 \times 3)(3 \times 5) = 2 \cdot 3 \times 3 \times 5 = 6 \times 8$$

$$(B) x^5 x^{-9} = x^{-4} = \frac{1}{x^4}$$

$$(C) \frac{x^5}{x^7} = x^{5-7} = x^{-2} = \frac{1}{x^2}$$

$$(D) \frac{x^{-3}}{y^{-4}} = \frac{y^4}{x^3}$$

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$$\nearrow (E) \left( \frac{y^{-5}}{y^{-2}} \right)^{-2} = \frac{(y^{-5})^{-2}}{(y^{-2})^{-2}} = \frac{y^{10}}{y^4} = y^6$$

$$\searrow (E) (u^{-3}v^2)^{-2} = (u^{-3})^{-2} (v^2)^{-2} \\ = u^6 v^{-4} = \frac{u^6}{v^4}$$

$$(G) \frac{4m^{-3}n^{-5}}{6m^{-4}n^3} = \frac{2m^{-3-(-4)}}{3n^{3-(-5)}} = \frac{2m}{3n^8}$$

(marked)

$$(A) (3y^4)(2y^3) = 6y^7$$

$$(B) m^2 m^{-6} =$$

$$(C) (u^3v^{-2})^{-2}$$

$$(d) \left( \frac{y^{-6}}{y^{-2}} \right)^{-1} = \frac{y^6}{y^2} = y^4$$

$$(E) \frac{8x^2y^{-4}}{6x^{-5}y^2} \\ = \frac{8x^7}{6y^6} = \frac{4x^7}{3y^6}$$

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Eg 2

Write  $\frac{1-x}{x^{-1}-1}$  as a simple fraction with positive exponents

$$= \frac{x-x^2}{1-x} = \frac{x(1-x)}{(1-x)} = x \quad \cancel{x(1-x)}$$

Write  $\frac{1+x^{-1}}{1-x^{-2}}$

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

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



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Note  $\sqrt{4}$  stands for single number 2 not  $\pm 2$ . Do not confuse

$\sqrt{4}$  with the solutions to equation  $x^2=4$  written as  $x=\pm\sqrt{4}=\pm 2$

Definition If  $m$  and  $n$  are natural numbers with out prime factors,  $b$  is a real number and  $b$  is nonnegative when  $n$  is even then

$$b^{m/n} = (b^{1/n})^m = (\sqrt[n]{b})^m \\ = (b^m)^{1/n} = \sqrt[n]{b^m}$$

and

$$b^{-m/n} = \frac{1}{b^{m/n}}$$

**CONCEPTUAL INSIGHT**

All the properties for integer exponents listed in Theorem 1 in Section A.5 also hold for rational exponents, provided that  $b$  is nonnegative when  $n$  is even. This restriction on  $b$  is necessary to avoid nonreal results. For example,

$$(-4)^{3/2} = \sqrt[2]{(-4)^3} = \sqrt{-64} \quad \text{Not a real number}$$

To avoid nonreal results, all variables in the remainder of this discussion represent positive real numbers.

**EXAMPLE 2** From Rational Exponent Form to Radical Form and Vice Versa Change rational exponent form to radical form.

$$(A) x^{1/7} = \sqrt[7]{x}$$

$$(B) (3u^2v^3)^{3/5} = \sqrt[5]{(3u^2v^3)^3} \quad \text{or} \quad (\sqrt[5]{3u^2v^3})^3 \quad \text{The first is usually preferred.}$$

$$(C) y^{-2/3} = \frac{1}{y^{2/3}} = \frac{1}{\sqrt[3]{y^2}} \quad \text{or} \quad \sqrt[3]{y^{-2}} \quad \text{or} \quad \sqrt[3]{\frac{1}{y^2}}$$

Change radical form to rational exponent form.

$$(D) \sqrt[5]{6} = 6^{1/5}$$

$$(E) -\sqrt[3]{x^2} = -x^{2/3}$$

$$(F) \sqrt{x^2 + y^2} = (x^2 + y^2)^{1/2} \quad \text{Note that } (x^2 + y^2)^{1/2} \neq x + y. \text{ Why?}$$

**Matched Problem 2** Convert to radical form.

$$(A) u^{1/5}$$

$$(B) (6x^2y^5)^{2/9}$$

$$(C) (3xy)^{-3/5}$$

Convert to rational exponent form.

$$(D) \sqrt[4]{9u}$$

$$(E) -\sqrt[7]{(2x)^4}$$

$$(F) \sqrt[3]{x^3 + y^3}$$

**EXAMPLE 3** Working with Rational Exponents Simplify each and express answers using positive exponents only. If rational exponents appear in final answers, convert to radical form.

$$(A) (3x^{1/3})(2x^{1/2}) = 6x^{1/3+1/2} = 6x^{5/6} = 6\sqrt[6]{x^5}$$

$$(B) (-8)^{5/3} = [(-8)^{1/3}]^5 = (-2)^5 = -32$$

$$(C) (2x^{1/3}y^{-2/3})^3 = 8xy^{-2} = \frac{8x}{y^2}$$

$$(D) \left(\frac{4x^{1/3}}{x^{1/2}}\right)^{1/2} = \frac{4^{1/2}x^{1/6}}{x^{1/4}} = \frac{2}{x^{1/4-1/6}} = \frac{2}{x^{1/12}} = \frac{2}{\sqrt[12]{x}}$$

**Matched Problem 3** Simplify each and express answers using positive exponents only. If rational exponents appear in final answers, convert to radical form.

$$(A) 9^{3/2} \quad (B) (-27)^{4/3} \quad (C) (5y^{1/4})(2y^{1/3}) \quad (D) (2x^{-3/4}y^{1/4})^4$$

$$(E) \left(\frac{8x^{1/2}}{x^{2/3}}\right)^{1/3}$$

**EXAMPLE 4** Working with Rational Exponents Multiply, and express answers using positive exponents only.

$$(A) 3y^{2/3}(2y^{1/3} - y^2)$$

$$(B) (2u^{1/2} + v^{1/2})(u^{1/2} - 3v^{1/2})$$

**SOLUTION**

$$(A) 3y^{2/3}(2y^{1/3} - y^2) = 6y^{2/3+1/3} - 3y^{2/3+2} \\ = 6y - 3y^{8/3}$$

$$(B) (2u^{1/2} + v^{1/2})(u^{1/2} - 3v^{1/2}) = 2u - 5u^{1/2}v^{1/2} - 3v$$



**Matched Problem 4** Multiply, and express answers using positive exponents only.

(A)  $2c^{1/4}(5c^3 - c^{3/4})$

(B)  $(7x^{1/2} - y^{1/2})(2x^{1/2} + 3y^{1/2})$

**EXAMPLE 5** **Working with Rational Exponents** Write the following expression in the form  $ax^p + bx^q$ , where  $a$  and  $b$  are real numbers and  $p$  and  $q$  are rational numbers:

$$\frac{2\sqrt{x} - 3\sqrt[3]{x^2}}{2\sqrt[3]{x}}$$

**SOLUTION**  $\frac{2\sqrt{x} - 3\sqrt[3]{x^2}}{2\sqrt[3]{x}} = \frac{2x^{1/2} - 3x^{2/3}}{2x^{1/3}}$  *Change to rational exponent form.*

$$= \frac{2x^{1/2}}{2x^{1/3}} - \frac{3x^{2/3}}{2x^{1/3}}$$
 *Separate into two fractions.*

$$= x^{1/6} - 1.5x^{1/3}$$

**Matched Problem 5** Write the following expression in the form  $ax^p + bx^q$ , where  $a$  and  $b$  are real numbers and  $p$  and  $q$  are rational numbers:

$$\frac{5\sqrt[3]{x} - 4\sqrt{x}}{2\sqrt{x^3}}$$

## Properties of Radicals

Changing or simplifying radical expressions is aided by several properties of radicals that follow directly from the properties of exponents considered earlier.

### THEOREM 1 Properties of Radicals

If  $n$  is a natural number greater than or equal to 2, and if  $x$  and  $y$  are positive real numbers, then

- $\sqrt[n]{x^n} = x$        $\sqrt[n]{x^n} = x$
- $\sqrt[n]{xy} = \sqrt[n]{x}\sqrt[n]{y}$        $\sqrt[n]{xy} = \sqrt[n]{x}\sqrt[n]{y}$
- $\sqrt[n]{\frac{x}{y}} = \frac{\sqrt[n]{x}}{\sqrt[n]{y}}$        $\sqrt[n]{\frac{x}{y}} = \frac{\sqrt[n]{x}}{\sqrt[n]{y}}$

**EXAMPLE 6** **Applying Properties of Radicals** Simplify using properties of radicals.

(A)  $\sqrt[4]{(3x^4y^3)^4}$

(B)  $\sqrt[4]{8}\sqrt[4]{2}$

(C)  $\sqrt[3]{\frac{xy}{27}}$

### SOLUTION

(A)  $\sqrt[4]{(3x^4y^3)^4} = 3x^4y^3$

Property 1

(B)  $\sqrt[4]{8}\sqrt[4]{2} = \sqrt[4]{16} = \sqrt[4]{2^4} = 2$

Properties 2 and 1

(C)  $\sqrt[3]{\frac{xy}{27}} = \frac{\sqrt[3]{xy}}{\sqrt[3]{27}} = \frac{\sqrt[3]{xy}}{3}$  or  $\frac{1}{3}\sqrt[3]{xy}$

Properties 3 and 1

**Matched Problem 6** Simplify using properties of radicals.

(A)  $\sqrt[7]{(x^3 + y^3)^7}$

(B)  $\sqrt[3]{8y^3}$

(C)  $\frac{\sqrt[3]{16x^4y}}{\sqrt[3]{2xy}}$

What is the best form for a radical expression? There are many answers, depending on what use we wish to make of the expression. In deriving certain formulas, it is sometimes useful to clear either a denominator or a numerator of radicals.

(fg) Change rational exponent to radical form

$$(A) x^{1/7} = \sqrt[7]{x}$$

$$(B) (3u^2 v^3)^{3/5} = \sqrt[5]{(3u^2 v^3)^3} \\ = \sqrt[5]{27u^6 v^9}$$

$$(C) y^{-2/3} = \frac{1}{y^{2/3}} = \frac{1}{\sqrt[3]{y^2}} \text{ or } \sqrt[3]{\frac{1}{y^2}}$$

change radical to rational

$$(D) \sqrt[5]{6} = 6^{1/5}$$

$$(F) \sqrt{x^2 + y^2} = (x^2 + y^2)^{1/2}$$

$$\neq x + y$$

$$(E) -\sqrt[3]{x^2} = -x^{2/3}$$

Matched 2

Convert to radical

$$(A) u^{1/5} \quad (B) (6x^2 y^5)^{2/9}$$

$$\sqrt[5]{u}$$

$$= \sqrt[9]{36x^4 y^{10}}$$

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$$(c) (3xy)^{-3/5} = \sqrt[5]{\frac{1}{(3xy)^3}}$$

Convert to rational exponent

$$(a) \sqrt[4]{94} = (94)^{1/4}$$

$$(b) -\sqrt[7]{(2x)^4} = -(2x)^{4/7}$$

$$(c) \sqrt[3]{x^3 + y^3} = (x^3 + y^3)^{1/3}$$



Eg 3

Simplify each and express answers using positive exponents only.  
Convert rational exponents to radicals.

$$(A) (3x^{1/3})(2x^{1/2}) = 6x^{1/3+1/2} = 6x^{5/6} \\ = 6\sqrt[6]{x^5}$$

$$(B) -8^{5/3} = ((-8)^{1/3})^5 = (-2)^5 = -32$$

$$(C) (2x^{1/3}y^{-2/3})^3 = \frac{8x}{y^2}$$

$$(D) \left( \frac{4x^{1/3}}{x^{1/2}} \right)^{1/2} = \frac{4^{1/2} x^{1/6}}{x^{1/4}}$$

$$= \frac{2}{x^{1/4-1/6}} = \frac{2}{x^{3/12-2/12}}$$

$$= \frac{2}{x^{1/12}} = \frac{2}{\sqrt[12]{x}}$$

matched 3 same instructions

$$(A) 9^{3/2} = 3^3 = 27$$

$$(B) (-27)^{4/3} = (-3)^4 = 81$$

$$(C) (5y^{1/4})(2y^{1/3}) =$$

$$10y^{1/4+1/3} = 10y^{(3/12+4/12)} = 10y^{7/12}$$

$$10\sqrt[12]{y^7}$$

$$(D) (2x^{-3/4}y^{1/4})^4$$

$$2x^{-3}y = \frac{2y}{x^3}$$

$$(E) \left( \frac{8x^{1/2}}{x^{2/3}} \right)^{1/3} = \frac{8x^{1/6}}{x^{2/9}}$$

$$8x^{1/6-2/9}$$

$$8x^{(3/18-4/18)}$$

$$\frac{8}{x^{1/18}} = \frac{8}{\sqrt[18]{x}}$$

Matched 4]

$$(A) 2c^{1/4} (5c^3 - c^{3/4})$$

$$10c^{13/4} - c^{31/4}$$

$$(B) (7x^{1/2} - y^{1/2})(2x^{1/2} + 3y^{1/2})$$

$$= 14x + 21x^{1/2}y^{1/2} - 2x^{1/2}y^{1/2} - 3y$$

$$14x - 19x^{1/2}y^{1/2} - 3y$$



matched 5

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$$\frac{5\sqrt{x} - 4\sqrt{x}}{2\sqrt{x^3}}$$

$$= \frac{5x^{1/2} - 4x^{1/2}}{2 \cdot x^{3/2}}$$

$$= \frac{5}{2} x^{1/2 - 3/2} - \frac{4}{2} x^{1/2 - 3/2}$$

$$= \frac{5}{2} x^{+\frac{2}{2} - \frac{3}{2}}$$

$$\frac{5}{2} x^{-1/2} - \frac{4}{2} x^{-1/2}$$

$$\frac{5}{2} x^{-1/2} - 2x^{-1/2}$$

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A  $x^3 + y^3$

(B)  $2y$

(C)  $\frac{3\sqrt[3]{2 \cdot 2 \cdot 2 \cdot 2}}{3\sqrt{2}} \quad \frac{x^{4/3} y^{4/3}}{x^{1/3} y^{4/3}}$

$2 \cdot x$

$2x$