Exponential Growth and Decay Functions

Exponential function: $f(x) = ab^x$ where $a \neq 0$

If
$$a > 0$$
,
Domain: $(-\infty, \infty)$; Range: $(0, \infty)$

$$b > 0$$
 (real number), $b \neq 1$

If a > 0 and b > 1, then $y = ab^x$ is an exponential growth function, and b is the growth factor.

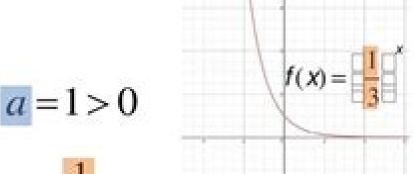
If a > 0 and 0 < b < 1, then $y = ab^x$ is an exponential decay function, and b is the decay factor.

Exponential Growth:

$$f(x) = 3^{x}$$

$$a = 1 > 0$$

Exponential Decay:



$$b = 3 > 1 \rightarrow \text{exponential growth}$$

b is the growth factor

$$b = \frac{1}{3} < 1 \rightarrow \text{exponential decay}$$

b is the decay factor

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