



**Nelson Mandela
Metropolitan
University**

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Number Patterns and Relationships

NCS Mathematics DVD Series



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Outcomes for this DVD

In this DVD you will:

- Revise the identification of linear, quadratic and exponential relationships between two variables from graphs and from equations. **LESSON 1.**
- Identify types of relationships by constructing finite difference tables. **LESSON 2.**
- Determine the equations of relationships from finite difference tables. **LESSON 3.**

Lesson 1

Identification of types of Relationships



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Linear Relationship

Make Conjecture

A relationship between two variables is said to be linear if the graphical representation of the relationship results in a **straight line**.

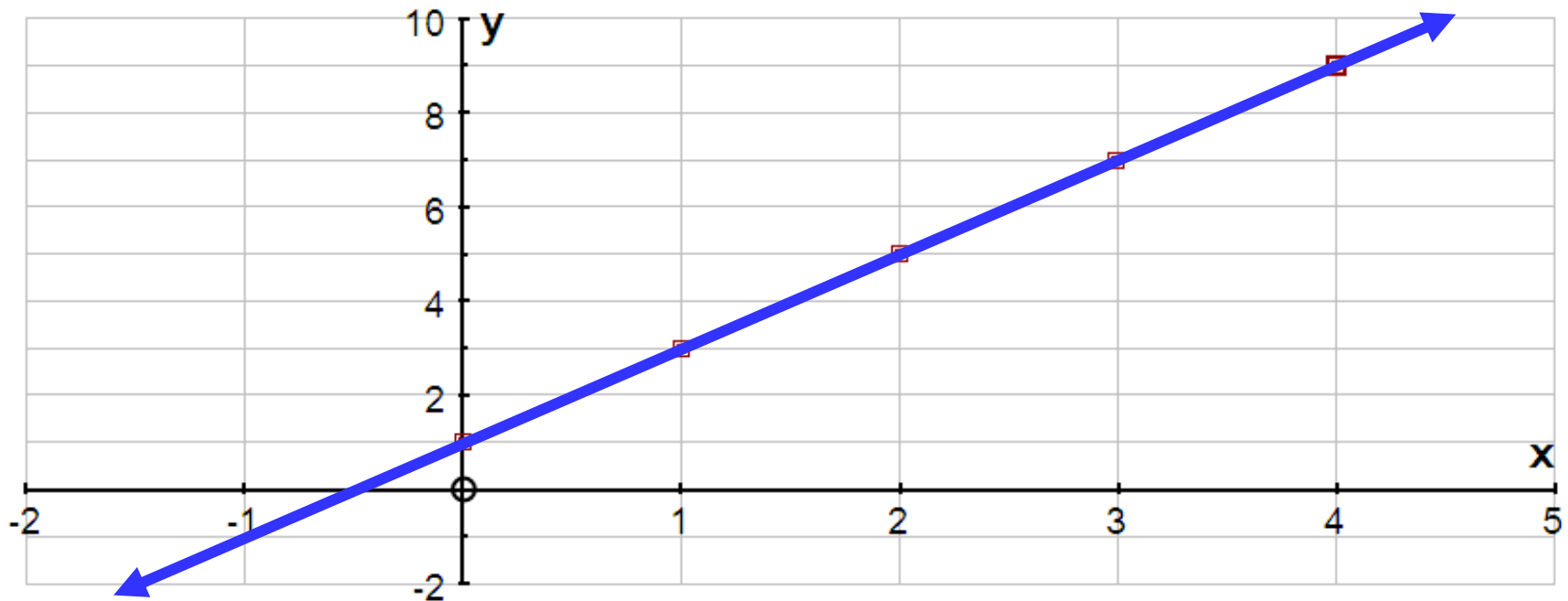
A Linear Relationship is represented by a straight line

Example 1

Represent the following relationship graphically :

x	0	1	2	3	4
y	1	3	5	7	9

$$y = 2x + 1$$



Tutorial 1: Linear relationship in Tabular and Graphical format

Represent the relationship defined by $y = -3x + 4$

- By means of a table and
- Graphically.

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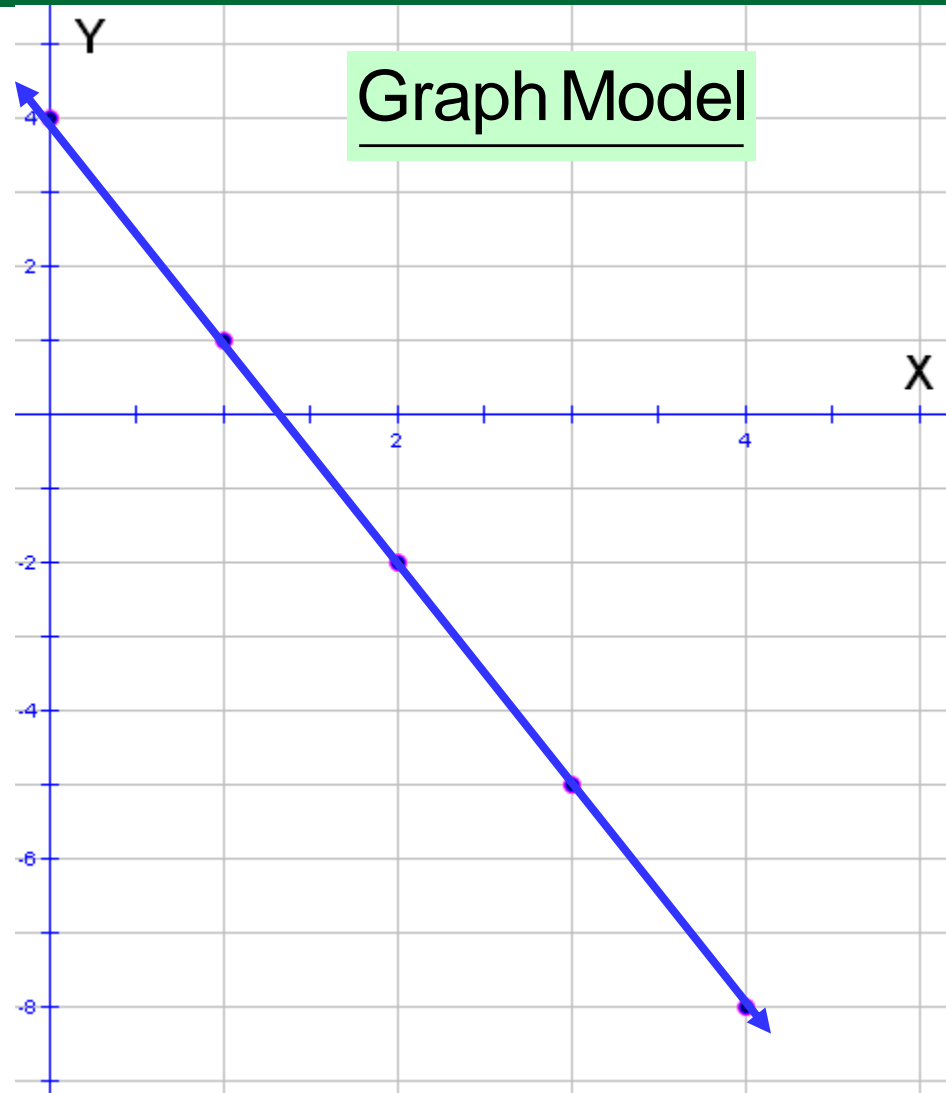
- Do Tutorial 1
- Then View Solutions

Tutorial 1: Suggested Solution

$$y = -3x + 4$$

Table Model

x	0	1	2	3	4
y	4	1	-2	-5	-8

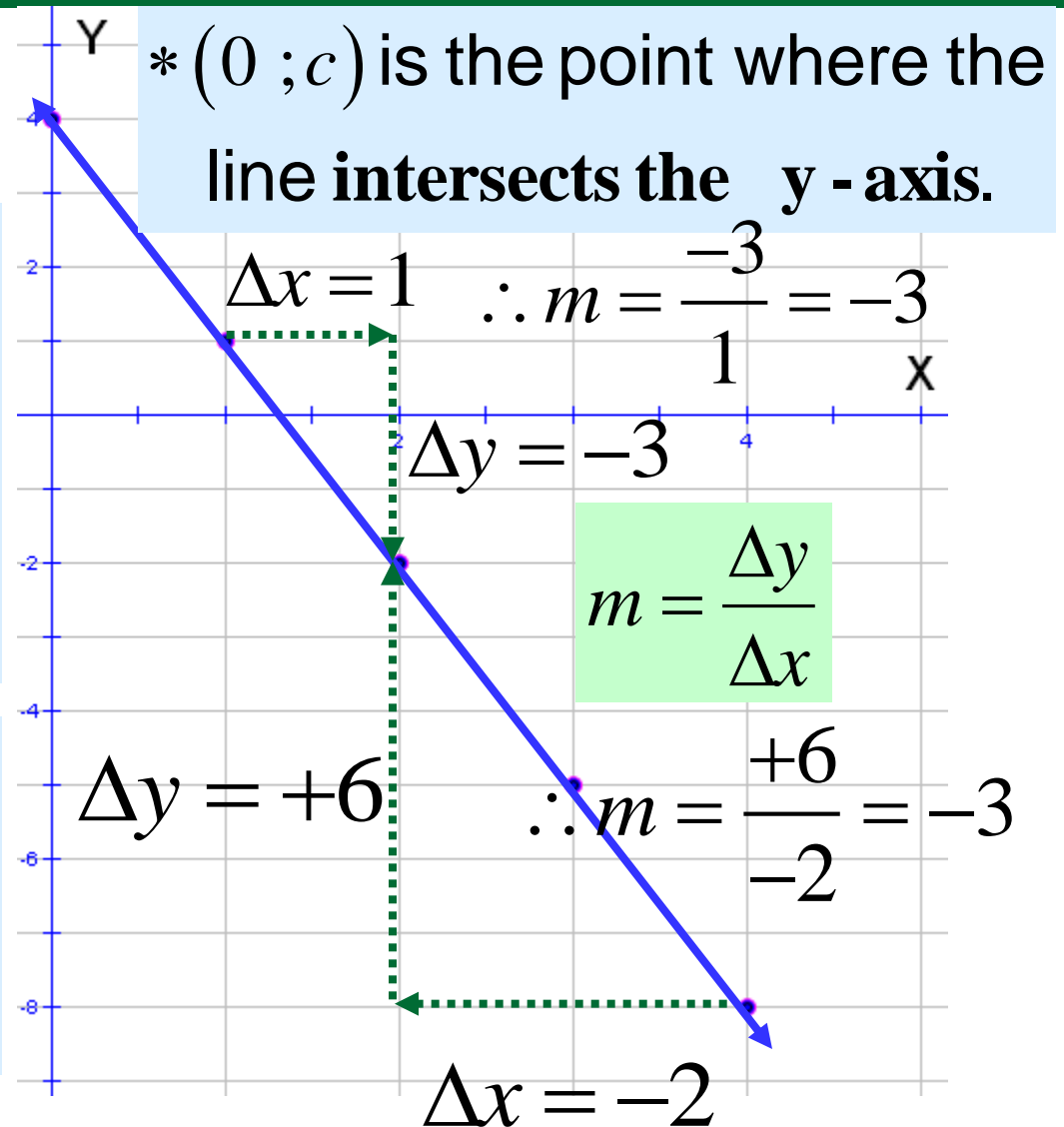


Important Notes on Linear Relationships

$$y = -3x + 4$$

* The standard form of the equation of a linear relationship is: $y = mx + c$

* m is the measure of the gradient of the line.

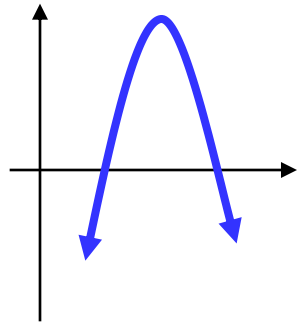


Quadratic Relationship

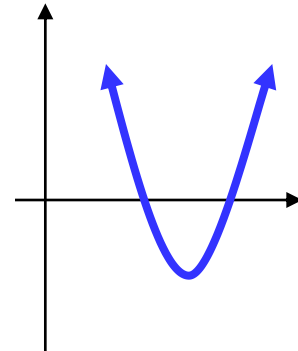
Make Conjecture

A relationship between two variables is said to be quadratic if the graphical representation of the relationship results in a parabola.

Recall that the shape of a parabola can either be:



OR



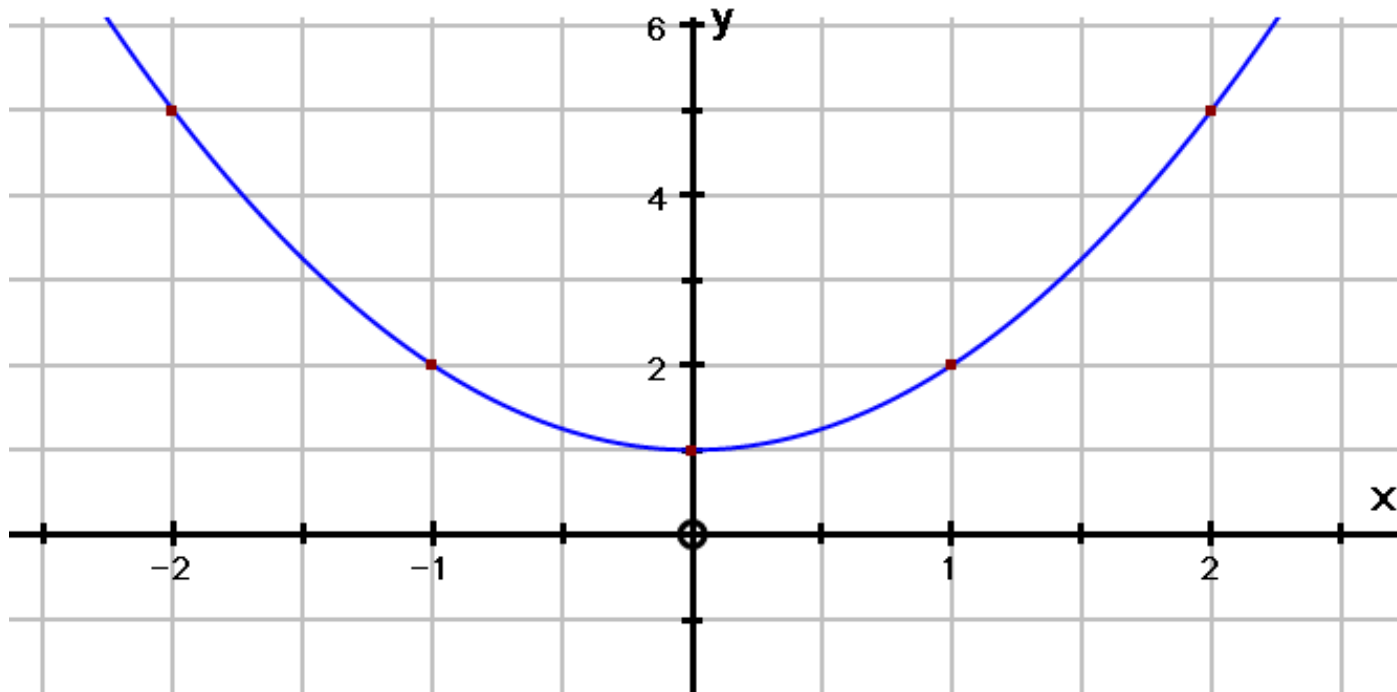
A Quadratic Relationship is represented by a parabola

Example 2

Represent the following relationship graphically :

x	-2	-1	0	1	2
y	5	2	1	2	5

$$y = x^2 + 1$$



Tutorial 2: Quadratic relationship in Tabular and Graphical format

Represent the relationship defined

by $y = -x^2 + 2x + 3$

- By means of a table and
- Graphically.

PAUSE DVD

- Do Tutorial 2
- Then View solutions

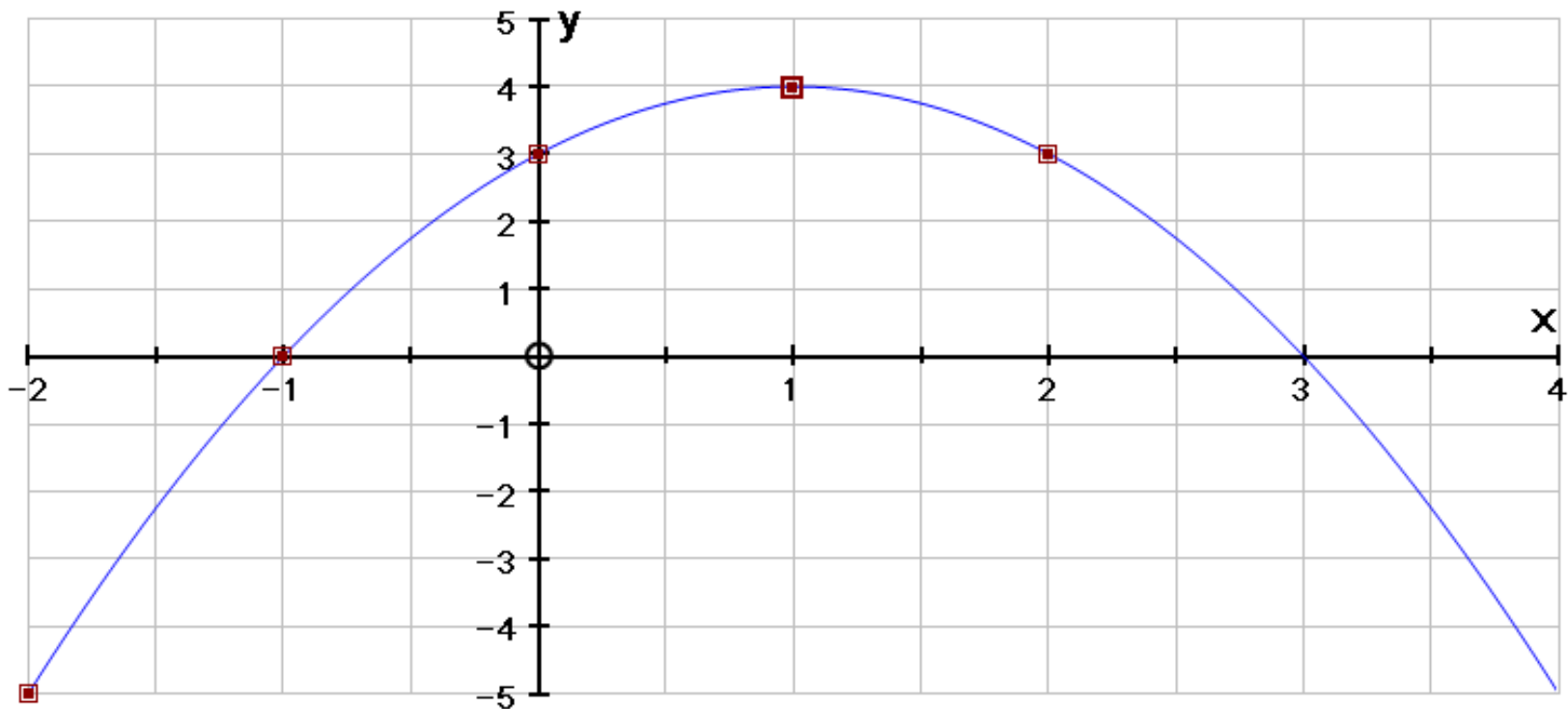
Tutorial 2: Suggested Solutions

$$y = -x^2 + 2x + 3$$

Graph Model

Table Model

x	-2	-1	0	1	2
y	-5	0	3	4	3



Important Notes on Quadratic Relationships

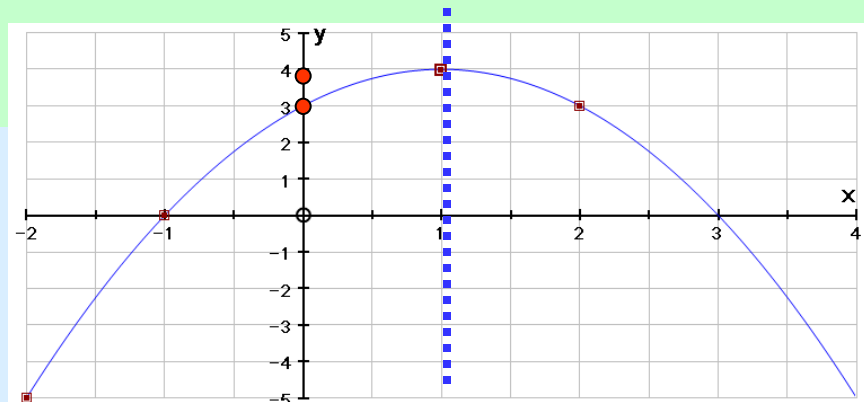
- * The standard form of the equation of a quadratic relationship is :

$$y = ax^2 + bx + c \text{ where } a \neq 0. \quad * \text{ Max value given by: } y = -\frac{\Delta}{4a} = -\frac{16}{-4} = 4$$

- * $(0; c)$ is the point where the parabola intersects the **y - axis.**

- * The line of symmetry is given by :

$$x = -\frac{b}{2a} = -\frac{2}{-2} = 1$$



$$y = -x^2 + 2x + 3$$

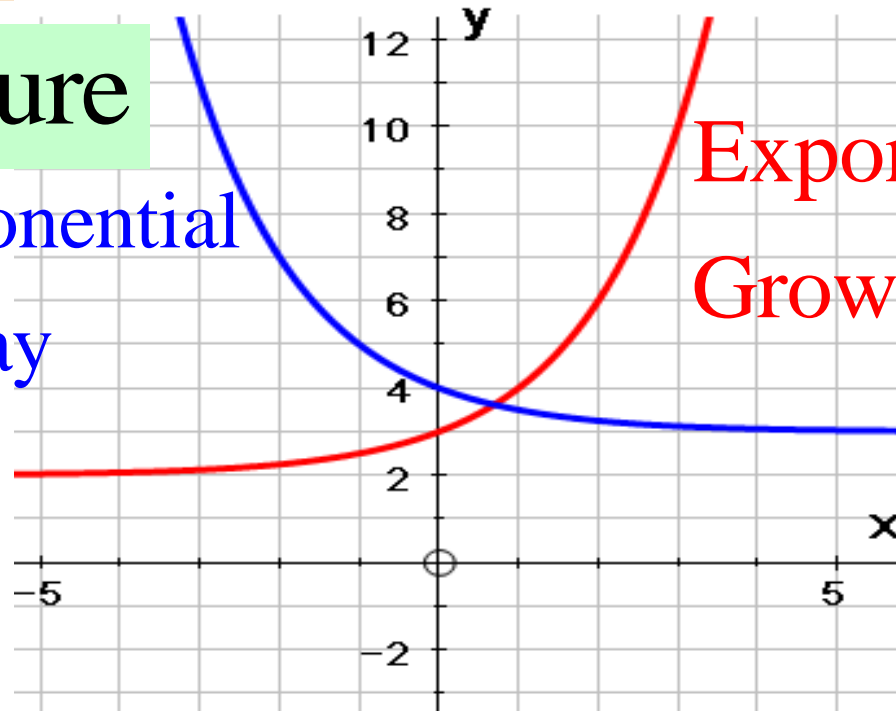
The Exponential Relationship

A relationship between two variables is said to be exponential if the graphical representation results in a curve which is similar to one of the two graphs shown below.

Make Conjecture

Exponential

Decay



Exponential
Growth

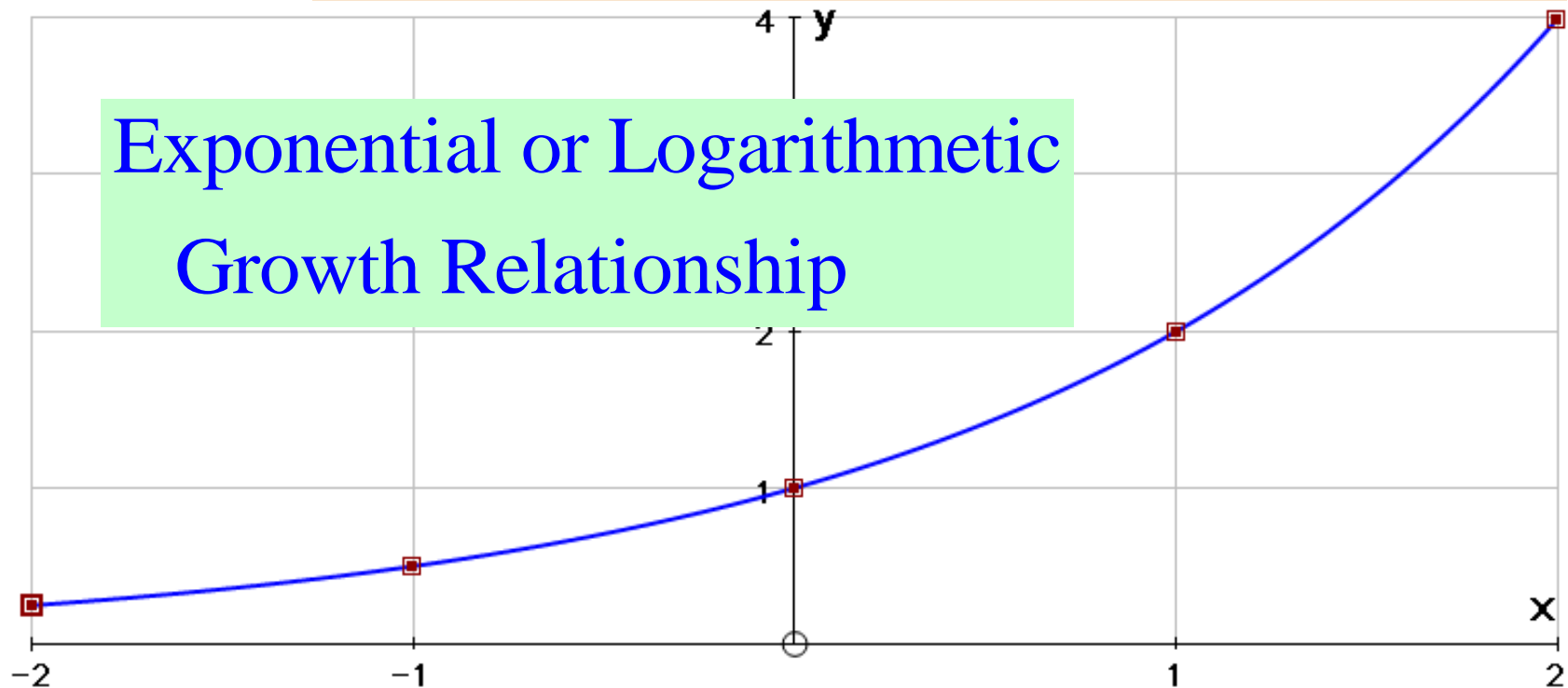
Representation of an Exponential Relationship

Example 3

Represent the following relationship graphically :

x	-2	-1	0	1	2
y	$\frac{1}{4}$	$\frac{1}{2}$	1	2	4

$$y = 2^x \Leftrightarrow \log_2 y = x$$



Tutorial 3: Exponential relationship in Tabular and Graphical format

Represent the relationship defined

by $y = 3^{-x}$

- By means of a table and
- Graphically.

PAUSE DVD

- Do Tutorial 3
- Then View Solutions

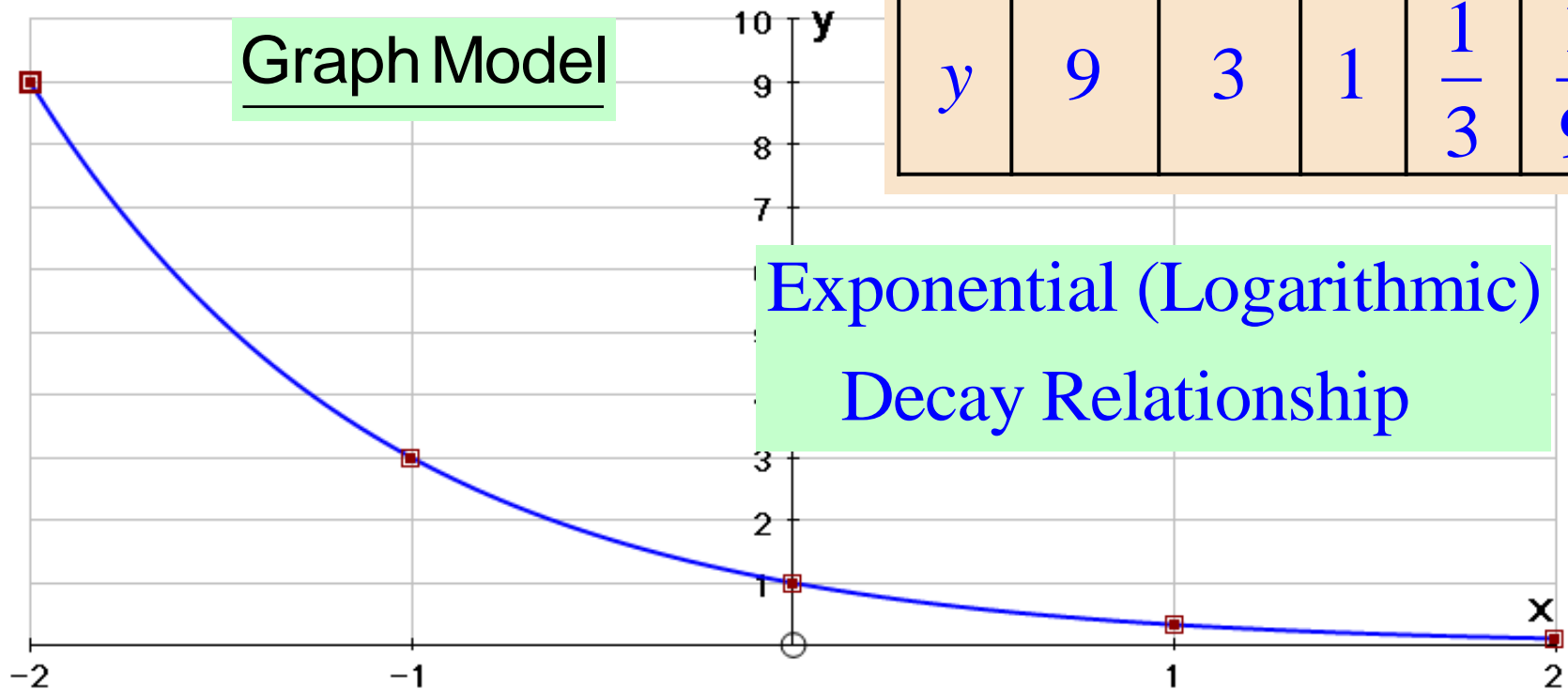
Tutorial 3: Suggested Solution

$$y = 3^{-x} = \left(\frac{1}{3}\right)^x \Leftrightarrow \log_{\frac{1}{3}} y = x$$

Table Model

x	-2	-1	0	1	2
y	9	3	1	$\frac{1}{3}$	$\frac{1}{9}$

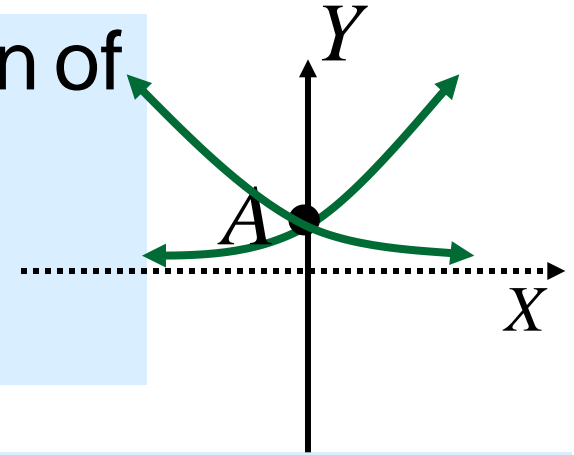
Graph Model



Important Notes on Exponential Relationships

* The standard form of the equation of an exponential relationship is :

$$y = Ab^x \text{ where } b > 0, b \neq 1.$$



* The line of $y = 0$ (x - axis) is the horizontal asymptote.

* $(0; A)$ is the point where this exponential relation intersects the y - axis.

Finding a more precise method

- * The type of relationship can thus be identified from their respective **graph** or **equation**.
- * Graphing the relationship could be time consuming and confusing.
- * Moreover, we may not be given the equation of the relationship.
- * Thus, we now introduce an alternative method for determining whether a relationship is linear, quadratic or exponential.

Lesson 2

Method of Finite Differences



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Constant First Differences Imply a Linear Relationship

Example 4

Let us consider the following relationship that is given in tabular form :

$$y = 3x + 4$$

x	0	1	2	3	4
y	4	7	10	13	16
First Differences	$7 - 4 = 3$	$10 - 7 = 3$	$13 - 10 = 3$	$16 - 13 = 3$	

- In this example, the first differences are constant.
- In such a case we can conclude that the relationship is linear (Check graphically).

Constant Second Differences Imply a Quadratic Relationship

Example 5

Let us consider the following relationship that is given in tabular form: $y = 3x^2 + 2x + 1$

x	0	1	2	3	4
y	1	6	17	34	57
First Differences	$6 - 1 = 5$	$17 - 6 = 11$	$34 - 17 = 17$	$57 - 34 = 23$	
Second Differences	$11 - 5 = 6$	$17 - 11 = 6$	$23 - 17 = 6$		

- In this example, the first differences are not constant but second differences turn out to be constant.
- In such a case we can conclude that the relationship is quadratic (Check graphically).

Constant Ratios

Imply an Exponential Relationship

Example 6

Let us consider the following relationship that is given in tabular form :

x	0	1	2	3	4
y	1	2	4	8	16
First Differences	$2-1=1$	$4-2=2$	$8-4=4$	$16-8=8$	
Second Differences	$2-1=1$	$4-2=2$	$8-4=4$		

- In this example, neither the first differences nor the second differences are constant.
- In such a case we investigate the ratio between consecutive values in the last three rows.

Ratios in last three rows

x	0	1	2	3	4
y	1	2	4	8	16
First Differences	$2 - 1 = 1$	$4 - 2 = 2$	$8 - 4 = 4$	$16 - 8 = 8$	
Second Differences	$2 - 1 = 1$	$4 - 2 = 2$	$8 - 4 = 4$		

y -row (Output): $\frac{16}{8} = \frac{8}{4} = \frac{4}{2} = \frac{2}{1} = 2$

$$y = 2^x \Leftrightarrow \log_2 y = x$$

1st Difference row: $\frac{8}{4} = \frac{4}{2} = \frac{2}{1} = 2$

2nd Difference row: $\frac{4}{2} = \frac{2}{1} = 2$

- Note in all three cases the ratios are constant and equal to two.

- Such constant ratios imply that the relationship is exponential or logarithmic (Check graphically).

Tutorial 4: Identifying types of relationships

Use the method of finite differences to determine the type of relationship shown in the following tables :

(1)

x	0	1	2	3
y	6	12	20	30

(2)

x	0	1	2	3
y	4	7	10	13

(3)

p	0	1	2	3
q	1	3	9	27

(4)

r	10	11	12	13
s	12	19	26	33

(5)

x	7	8	9	10
y	9	16	29	48

(6)

u	2	3	4	5
v	16	32	64	128

PAUSE DVD

• Do Tutorial 4
• Then View Solutions

Tutorial 4:

Suggested Solutions to Problems 1 and 2

(1)

x	0	1	2	3
y	6	12	20	30
1^{st}	6	8	10	
2^{nd}	2	2		

\therefore Second Differences are constant
 \Rightarrow Relationship is quadratic

(2)

x	0	1	2	3
y	4	7	10	13
1^{st}	3	3	3	

\therefore First Differences are constant
 \Rightarrow Relationship is linear

Tutorial 4:

Suggested Solution to Problem 3

(3)

p	0	1	2	3
q	1	3	9	27
1 st	2	6	18	
2 nd	4	12		
Ratio Row 2	$\frac{3}{1} = 3$	$\frac{9}{3} = 3$	$\frac{27}{9} = 3$	
Ratio Row 3	$\frac{6}{2} = 3$	$\frac{18}{6} = 3$		
Ratio Row 4	$\frac{12}{4} = 3$	More info?		

\therefore Relationship is exponential because ratios are constant.

Tutorial 4:

Suggested Solutions to Problems 4 and 5

(4)

r	10	11	12	13
s	12	19	26	33
1^{st}	7	7	7	

\therefore Relationship is linear because first differences are constant.

(5)

x	7	8	9	10
y	9	16	29	48
1^{st}	7	13	19	
2^{nd}	6	6		

\therefore Relationship is quadratic because second differences are constant.

Tutorial 4:

Suggested Solution to Problem 6

(6)

u	2	3	4	5
v	16	32	64	128
1 st	16	32	64	
2 nd	16	32		
Ratio Row 3	$\frac{32}{16} = 2$	$\frac{64}{32} = 2$	$\frac{128}{64} = 2$	
Ratio Row 4	$\frac{32}{16} = 2$	$\frac{64}{32} = 2$		
Ratio Row 5	$\frac{32}{16} = 2$	Enough Info?		

∴ Relationship is exponential because ratios are constant.

Lesson 3

Equations from Finite Differences



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Finding Equations of Linear Relationships

A linear relationship is defined by : $y = mx + c$.

x	y	First Difference
0	c	$(m + c) - c = m$
1	$m + c$	$(2m + c) - (m + c) = m$
2	$2m + c$	$(3m + c) - (2m + c) = m$
3	$3m + c$	$(4m + c) - (3m + c) = m$
4	$4m + c$	

- First differences are constant and coincides with the gradient of the line, m . (**Warning!**)
- Furthermore, c is the value of y when $x = 0$.

Warning related to value of m!

A linear relationship is defined by : $y = mx + c$.

x	y	First Difference
0	c	$(m+c) - c = m$
1	$m+c$	$(2m+c) - (m+c) = m$
2	$2m+c$	$(3m+c) - (2m+c) = m$
3	$3m+c$	$(4m+c) - (3m+c) = m$
4	$4m+c$	

$\Delta x = 1 \Rightarrow m = \text{First Difference.}$

What if $\Delta x = 2$?

x	y	First Difference
0	c	$(2m+c) - c = 2m$
2	$2m+c$	$(4m+c) - (2m+c) = 2m$
4	$4m+c$	$(6m+c) - (4m+c) = 2m$
6	$6m+c$	$(8m+c) - (6m+c) = 2m$
8	$8m+c$	

x	y	First Difference
0	c	$(3m+c) - c = 3m$
3	$3m+c$	$(6m+c) - (3m+c) = 3m$
6	$6m+c$	$(9m+c) - (6m+c) = 3m$
9	$9m+c$	$(12m+c) - (9m+c) = 3m$
12	$12m+c$	

$$\therefore \Delta x = 2 \Rightarrow m = \frac{\text{First Difference}}{2}$$

$$m = \frac{\text{First Difference}}{3}$$

Find the equation of a Linear Relationship

Example 7

Find the equation of the following relationship :

Solution

x	0	1	2	3
y	7	11	15	19
1^{st}	4	4	4	

x	0	1	2	3
y	7	11	15	19

Check!

- First differences are constant and has a value of 4
 $\Rightarrow m = 4$.
 - $y = 7$ when $x = 0 \Rightarrow c = 7$.
- $\therefore y = 4x + 7$ is the defining equation of this linear relationship.

Finding Equations of Quadratic Relationships

A quadratic relationship is defined by: $y = ax^2 + bx + c; a \neq 0$

x	y	First Difference	Second Differences
0	c	$a + b$	$2a$
1	$a + b + c$	$3a + b$	$2a$
2	$4a + 2b + c$	$5a + b$	$2a$
3	$9a + 3b + c$	$7a + b$	Warning!
4	$16a + 4b + c$		

- Second differences are constant and is twice the coefficient of x^2 . So we can find the value of a .
- Furthermore, c is the value of y when $x = 0$.
- To find the value of b , we can substitute any (x, y) –pair.

Find the equation of a Quadratic Relationship

Example 8

Find the equation of the following relationship :

x	0	1	2	3
y	5	6	13	26

Solution

x	0	1	2	3
y	5	6	13	26
1 st	1	7	13	
2 nd	6	6		

Check!

- Second differences are constant with a value of 6
 $\Rightarrow 2a = 6 \Rightarrow a = 3$.
- $y = 5$ when $x = 0 \Rightarrow c = 5$.

$\Rightarrow y = 3x^2 + bx + 5$ is the defining equation at this stage.

• Substitute $(1; 6)$ into $y = 3x^2 + bx + 5 \Rightarrow 6 = 3 + b + 5 \Rightarrow b = -2$.

$\therefore y = 3x^2 - 2x + 5$ defines this quadratic relationship.

Finding Equations of Exponential Relationships

An exponential relationship is defined by: $y = Ab^x$ where $b > 0, b \neq 1$.

x	y	First Difference	Second Differences
0	A	$A(b-1)$	$A(b-1)(b-1)$
1	Ab	$Ab(b-1)$	$Ab(b-1)(b-1)$
2	Ab^2	$Ab^2(b-1)$	$Ab^2(b-1)(b-1)$
3	Ab^3	$Ab^3(b-1)$	
4	Ab^4		

- Ratios in columns 2, 3 and 4 are constant. (Check!)
- So we have the value of b . **Warning!**
- The value of A is the value of y when $x = 0$.

$$\begin{aligned} & \frac{Ab}{A} \\ &= \frac{Ab^2}{Ab} \\ &= \frac{Ab^3}{Ab^2} \\ &= \frac{Ab^4}{Ab^3} \\ &= b \end{aligned}$$

Find the equation of an Exponential Relationship

Example 9

Find the equation of the following relationship:

Only need to check output ratios!

x	0	1	2	3
y	5	10	20	40

Solution

x	0	1	2	3
y	5	10	20	40
1 st	5	10	20	
2 nd	5	10		
Ratio in Row 2	$\frac{10}{5} = 2$	$\frac{20}{10} = 2$	$\frac{40}{20} = 2$	
Ratio in Row 3	$\frac{10}{5} = 2$	$\frac{20}{10} = 2$		
Ratio in Row 4	$\frac{10}{5} = 2$			

• Constant Ratio of 2 $\Rightarrow b = 2$.

• $y = 5$ when $x = 0 \Rightarrow A = 5$.

$\therefore y = 5 \times 2^x$ defines this exponential relationship. **Check!**

Tutorial 5: Finding the Defining Equation of a Relationship

Determine the defining equation for each relationship shown in the following tables :

(1)

x	0	1	2	3
y	6	12	20	30

(2)

x	0	1	2	3
y	4	7	10	13

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- Do Tutorial 5
- Then View Solutions

(3)

p	0	1	2	3
q	1	3	9	27

(4)

r	10	11	12	13
s	12	19	26	33

Tutorial 5:

Suggested Solution to Problem 1

(1)

x	0	1	2	3
y	6	12	20	30
1 st	6	8	10	
2 nd	2	2		

\therefore Second Differences are constant
 \Rightarrow Relationship is quadratic

• $y = ax^2 + bx + c$
is the defining equation.

• $2a = 2 \Rightarrow a = 1$

• $y = 6$ when $x = 0 \Rightarrow c = 6$

\therefore At this stage the equation is $y = x^2 + bx + 6$.

Substitute (1;12) into $y = x^2 + bx + 6$:

$\Rightarrow 12 = 1 + b + 6 \Rightarrow b = 5$

$\therefore y = x^2 + x + 6$ is the defining quadratic equation.

Check!

Tutorial 5:

Suggested Solution to Problem 2

(2)

x	0	1	2	3
y	4	7	10	13
1^{st}	3	3	3	

\therefore First Differences are constant
 \Rightarrow Relationship is linear

$\therefore y = 3x + 4$ defines this linear relationship.

• $y = mx + c$ is the defining equation.

• $m = 3$

• $y = 4$ when $x = 0$

$\Rightarrow c = 4$

Check!

Tutorial 5:

Suggested Solution to Problem 3

(3)

p	0	1	2	3
q	1	3	9	27
1 st	2	6	18	
2 nd	4	12		
Output Ratio (Ratio Row 2)	$\frac{3}{1} = 3$	$\frac{9}{3} = 3$	$\frac{27}{9} = 3$	

\therefore Output Ratios constant \Rightarrow Relationship is exponential

$\therefore q = 3^p$ is the defining equation for this exponential relationship.

Check!

• $q = A \times b^p$ defines this relationship.

• Constant ratio is 3
 $\therefore b = 3$

• $q = 1$ when $p = 0$

$\therefore 1 = A \times 3^0$

$\therefore A = 1$

Tutorial 5:

Suggested Solution to Problem 4

(4)

r	10	11	12	13
s	12	19	26	33
1^{st}	7	7	7	

\therefore Relationship is linear
because first differences
are constant.

● $s = mr + c$ is the
defining equation.

● $m = 7$

$\therefore s = 7r + c$ is the defining equation.

Substitute (10;12) into $s = 7r + c$:

$$\Rightarrow 12 = 7 \times 10 + c \Rightarrow c = -58$$

Check!

$\therefore s = 7r - 58$ defines this linear relationship.

End of the DVD on Number Patterns and Relationships

REMEMBER!

- Consult text-books for additional examples.
- Attempt as many as possible other similar examples on your own.
- Compare your methods with those that were discussed in the DVD.
- Repeat this procedure until you are confident.
- Do not forget:

Practice makes perfect!