

## 1. CHAPTER 3 SECTION 2: THE EXPONENTIAL FUNCTION

We begin by exploring the graph of  $g(x) = b^x$  and its derivative for different values of  $b$  using the Desmos graph: <https://www.desmos.com/calculator/akuzuxn4re>.

(1) **Exponential Function with base  $e$ :**  $\frac{d}{dx}(e^x) =$

(2) **Exponential Function with base  $a$ :**  $\frac{d}{dx}(a^x) =$

**Remark 1.1.** Notice the base in the above exponential expressions is **constant** while the exponent is **variable**

**Example 1.1.** Find the derivative of  $f(x) = 2^x + x^2$ .

**Example 1.2.**  $\frac{d}{dx} [e^{x+2}] = ?$

**Example 1.3.** Find where the tangent line of  $y = 3e^x - 4x$  is horizontal.