

College Algebra, Section 5.1, #54
Exponential Functions

Drugs in the Bloodstream If a drug is injected into the bloodstream, the percent of the maximum dosage that is present at time t is given by

$$y = 100(1 - e^{-0.35(10-t)})$$

where t is in hours, with $0 \leq t \leq 10$.¹

a. What percent of the drug is present after 2 hours?

Let $t = 2$ and solve for y .

$$y = 100(1 - e^{-0.35(10-t)})$$

$$y = 100(1 - e^{-0.35(10-2)})$$

$$= 100(1 - e^{-0.35(8)})$$

$$= 100(1 - e^{-2.8})$$

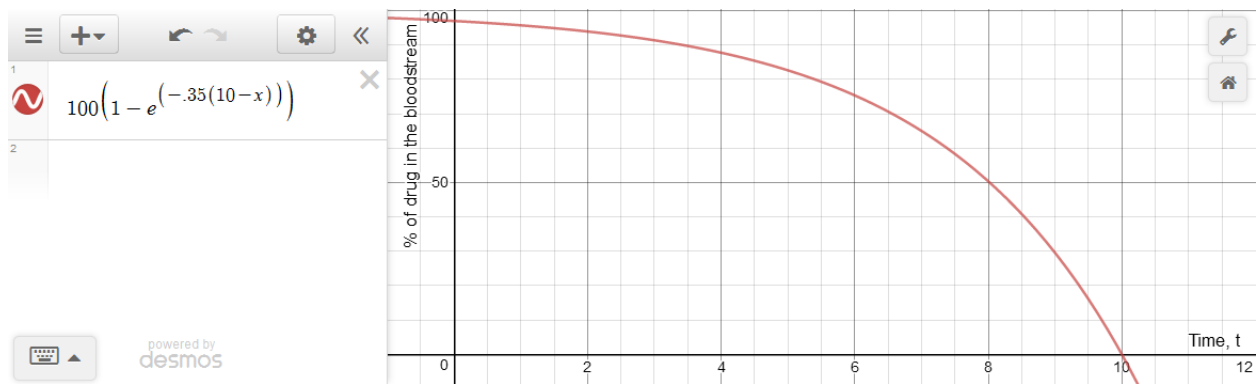
$$\approx 100(1 - 0.06081)$$

$$\approx 100(0.93919)$$

$$\approx 93.919$$

After 2 hours 93.92% of the drug will remain in the bloodstream.

b. Graph this function.



c. When is the drug totally gone from the bloodstream?

The drug is totally gone from the bloodstream when $y\%$ equals zero. This is where the graph of y crosses the x -axis.

We can see that this happens when $t = 10$ and say that after 10 hours the drug is totally gone from the bloodstream.

¹Harshbarger/Yocco, *College Algebra In Context*, 5e, p. 326, #54.

College Algebra

Exponential Functions

