Dear class participants,

To have a snow-day today is not really convenient, especially with our Exam on Tuesday, if you were planning to come to talk to me during office hours. I want to share a few thoughts about the Exam tomorrow:

The questions on the exam will ask you to do similar things as the HW questions did. Of course, there will be a bit less time on the Exam - but if you have worked through the HW problems regularly and diligently, and taken care of the weaknesses you encountered, you should not have to spend a lot of time in preparation for this exam. I am not sure what else to say here.

Oh, yes: Don't spend your time memorizing a bunch of stuff. This Exam will not be a test of your "memory" - the goal is to find out if what we do makes sense to you.

You may want to ask yourself the following questions:

Do you know how to "read" a graph of data and the graph of a model?
Do you know what a function is, and how a function "works"? (...input, rule (bob), output)
Do you understand how functions can be/are used to imitate/capture data that reflects reality?
Do you know how to find a Linear and/or an Exponential model for a given data set?
Do you know how to report such models?
Do you know how each of these models "works"?
Do you know how to interpret the formula of a Lin. or Exp. model in the context it describes?
Do you know what the relevant graphical features of graphs of Linear and Exponential models are, and where they come from?
Do you know how to judge/measure how well a model "fits" a given data set?
Do you understand how a model can be used to fill-in missing data, or to make predictions?
Are you reasonably familiar with the percentage calculations we have been discussing lately?

There is no guarantee that I thought of everything, but the above questions are pretty much what I'd expect at this time. The things we have done are captured in my class notes online, hopefully supplemented by your own notes, and in the HW problems you have (hopefully) worked.

On the exam, it will be important that you can figure out what needs to be done to answer or address the question, that you are able to do what needs to be done, and that you are able to express your results and conclusions in your own words correctly and precisely, without being unnecessarily vague, and without your words allowing several possible meanings.

All in all, if you have been on the ball during the past 5 weeks, and if you have been working on the weaknesses which became apparent through class discussions and HW, then you should be OK without much extra studying. If you were NOT on the ball, I doubt that studying the day before will make a huge difference.