

Lecture 21: The exponential function

Definition: Let $\exp: \mathbb{R} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^+$ be the (strictly increasing, continuous) inverse function of $\log: \mathbb{R}^+ \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ which we showed to exist in Lecture 20.

As we did with \log , we take a deep dive into its properties:

$$(1) (\exp \circ \log)(x) = x \quad \text{and} \quad (\log \circ \exp)(x) = x$$

$$(2) \exp(0) = 1, \quad \exp(1) = e \quad (\text{this was the definition of } e)$$

$$(3) \exp(a+b) = \exp(a) \exp(b)$$

Proof: $\log(\exp(a)\exp(b)) = \log(\exp(a)) + \log(\exp(b))$
 $= a + b = \log(\exp(a+b))$

Now apply \exp to both sides. □

(4) Consequences of (3): (i) $\exp(-a) = \frac{1}{\exp(a)}$, (ii) $\exp(na) = (\exp(a))^n$ $n \in \mathbb{P}$
and (more generally) (iii) $\exp(ra) = (\exp(a))^r$ for any $r = \frac{p}{q} \in \mathbb{Q}$.

Proof: for (i), put $b = -a$ in (3); for (ii), use induction: $\exp((n+1)a)$
 $\stackrel{(3)}{=} \exp(na) \exp(a) = \exp(a)^n \exp(a) = \exp(a)^{n+1}$. For (iii), write $(p \in \mathbb{Z}, q \in \mathbb{P})$
 $(\exp(a))^p = \exp(pa) = \exp\left(q \cdot \frac{p}{q} a\right) = \left(\exp\left(\frac{p}{q} a\right)\right)^q \Rightarrow \exp\left(\frac{p}{q} a\right) = (\exp(a))^{p/q}$. □

(5) \exp is differentiable, with $\exp'(x) = \exp(x)$.

Proof: [Idea is that from $(\log \circ \exp)(x) = x$ the chain rule would give $1 = (\log \circ \exp)'(x) = \log'(\exp(x)) \cdot \exp'(x) = \frac{\exp'(x)}{\exp(x)}$, if we knew $\exp'(x)$ exists. Since we need to prove that, it will look different.]

Let

- $g(h) := \exp(h) - 1$, which is continuous with $g(0) = 0$, and is 0 nowhere else (by strict monotonicity); and
- $f(u) := \frac{u}{\log(1+u)}$, for which $\lim_{u \rightarrow 0} f(u) = \frac{1}{\lim_{u \rightarrow 0} \frac{\log(1+u) - \log(1)}{u}} = \frac{1}{\log'(1)} = 1$.

By the limit laws of composition[†]

$$\begin{aligned} 1 &= \lim_{u \rightarrow g(0)} f(u) = \lim_{h \rightarrow 0} f(g(h)) = \lim_{h \rightarrow 0} \frac{g(h)}{\log(1+g(h))} \\ &= \lim_{h \rightarrow 0} \frac{\exp(h) - 1}{h} \end{aligned}$$

$\leftarrow = \log(\exp(h)) = h$

and so $(\exp'(x) =)$

$$\lim_{h \rightarrow 0} \frac{\exp(x+h) - \exp(x)}{h} \stackrel{(3)}{=} \exp(x) \cdot \lim_{h \rightarrow 0} \frac{\exp(h) - 1}{h} = \exp(x). \quad \square$$

(6) Immediate consequence of (5): $\exp(x)$ is strictly convex. (Why?)

Taking $a = 1$ in (4)(iii), finally, gives

$$(7) \exp(r) = (\exp(1))^r = e^r \text{ for any } r \in \mathbb{Q},$$

which suggests the following definition of real powers:

Definition: For any $x \in \mathbb{R}$, set $e^x := \exp(x)$, and more generally (for any $b \in \mathbb{R}^+$) $b^x := e^{x \log(b)} = \exp(x \log(b))$.

How about properties of these? ^{why?}

$$(I) b^0 = 1$$

† If g is continuous at p , and $\lim_{y \rightarrow g(p)} f(y)$ exists, and

$g(x) \neq g(p)$ for $x \in X^*(p)$, then $\lim_{x \rightarrow p} (f \circ g)(x) = \lim_{y \rightarrow g(p)} f(y)$.

(I) $b^{x+y} = b^x b^y$ (follows from (3))

(II) $\log b^x = x \log(b)$ (follows from the Definition!)

(III) $b^x = y$ ($b \neq 1$) $\Leftrightarrow x = \log_b y$ (how one usually thinks of \log_b !)

Proof: (\Rightarrow) Taking \log_b of both sides, $\log_b y = \log_b b^x = \frac{\log b^x}{\log b}$
 $= \frac{x \log(b)}{\log(b)} = x$. (\Leftarrow) left to you. \square

(IV) $(ab)^x = e^{x \log(ab)} = e^{x \log a + x \log b} = e^{x \log a} e^{x \log b} = \underline{a^x b^x}$

(V) $a^{x+y} = e^{(x+y) \log a} = \dots = a^x a^y$

(VI) $(a^x)^y = (a^y)^x = a^{xy}$

Proof: First, taking $b = e^x$ in $b^y = e^{y \log b}$, we get $(e^x)^y = e^{y \log(e^x)} = e^{xy}$. Now $a^{xy} = e^{xy \log(a)} = (e^{x \log(a)})^y = (a^x)^y$. \square

(VII) $\frac{d}{dx} b^x = \frac{d}{dx} e^{x \log(b)} = \log(b) e^{x \log(b)} = b^x \log(b)$.

Ex / What is $\frac{d}{dx} x^x$? Write $f(x) = x^x$, $g(x) = \log|f| = x \log|x|$

$\Rightarrow g'(x) = \log|x| + \frac{x}{x} = \log|x| + 1 \Rightarrow f'(x) (= f g') = x^x (\log|x| + 1)$ //

Ex / $\int x^3 e^{-x^2} dx = -\frac{1}{2}(x^2+1) e^{-x^2} + C$ (Why?) //

$\left[\begin{array}{l} u = -\frac{1}{2}x^2, \quad dv = -2x e^{-x^2} dx \\ du = -x dx, \quad v = e^{-x^2} \end{array} \right]$

Ex / $\int e^x \sin x dx = \frac{1}{2} e^x (\sin x - \cos x) + C$ (Why?) //

$\left[\begin{array}{l} u = e^x \quad dv = \sin(x) dx \\ du = e^x dx \quad v = -\cos(x) \end{array} \right] + 2nd \int \text{-by-parts}$

Ex / $\int \frac{dx}{1+e^x} = x - \log(1+e^x) + C$ (Why?) //

\hookrightarrow rewrite $\frac{1}{1+e^x} = 1 - \frac{e^x}{1+e^x}$

Approximations to \log (warmup to Taylor approximations next week)

For $x \in (-1, 1)$,

$$\begin{aligned}\log\left(\frac{1}{1-x}\right) &= -\log(1-x) = -\int_1^{1-x} \frac{dt}{t} \stackrel{t=1-u}{=} \int_0^x \frac{du}{1-u} = \int_0^x \frac{1-u^n+u^n}{1-u} du \\ &= \int_0^x \left(1+u+u^2+\dots+u^{n-1} + \frac{u^n}{1-u}\right) du = \underbrace{x + \frac{x^2}{2} + \frac{x^3}{3} + \dots + \frac{x^n}{n}}_{\text{polynomial}} + \int_0^x \frac{u^n}{1-u} du. \\ &\stackrel{\frac{1-u^n}{1-u} = 1+u+u^2+\dots+u^{n-1}}{=} P_n(x) + E_n(x) \quad \text{error}\end{aligned}$$

Bound the error: for $x \in (0, 1)$,

$$\begin{aligned}0 \leq u \leq x &\Rightarrow 1 \geq 1-u \geq 1-x \Rightarrow 1 \leq \frac{1}{1-u} \leq \frac{1}{1-x} \Rightarrow u^n \leq \frac{u^n}{1-u} \leq \frac{u^n}{1-x} \\ \Rightarrow \frac{x^{n+1}}{n+1} &= \int_0^x u^n du \leq \underbrace{E_n(x)} \leq \frac{1}{1-x} \int_0^x u^n du = \frac{x^{n+1}}{(n+1)(1-x)}. \quad (*)\end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned}\text{If } n=2m, \text{ have } 0 < -E_{2m}(-x) &= \int_0^x \frac{u^n}{1+u} du \leq \int_0^x \frac{u^n}{1-u} du = E_{2m}(x) \\ &\leq \frac{x^{2m+1}}{(2m+1)(1-x)} \leq \frac{x^{2m+1}}{2m+1}. \quad (**)\end{aligned}$$

So

$$\begin{aligned}\log\left(\frac{1+x}{1-x}\right) &= \log\left(\frac{1}{1-x}\right) - \log\left(\frac{1}{1+x}\right) = P_{2m}(x) - P_{2m}(-x) + \underbrace{E_{2m}(x) - E_{2m}(-x)}_{R_m(x)} \\ &= 2\left(x + \frac{x^3}{3} + \dots + \frac{x^{2m-1}}{2m-1}\right) + R_m(x)\end{aligned}$$

with (adding $(*)$ & $(**)$)

$$\frac{x^{2m+1}}{2m+1} \leq R_m(x) \leq \frac{(2-x)x^{2m+1}}{(1-x)(2m+1)}$$

You'll use this to estimate $\log(2)$ in the HW.