

This library implements two different methods for solving the equation  $x \cdot \left(\frac{a}{b}\right)^x = \frac{c}{d}$ :

- Function `solveExact(a, b, c, d)`, which opts for accuracy over performance
- Function `solveQuick(a, b, c, d)`, which opts for performance over accuracy

The solution to:

$$x \cdot \left(\frac{a}{b}\right)^x = \frac{c}{d}$$

Can be computed via:

$$x = \frac{W\left(\log\left(\frac{a}{b}\right) \cdot \frac{c}{d}\right)}{\log\left(\frac{a}{b}\right)}$$

Where  $W(z)$  computes a value of  $x$  which solves the equation  $x \cdot e^x = z$ .

The function  $f(x) = x \cdot e^x$  reaches a global minimum at  $x = -1$ :

- $f'(x) = (x+1) \cdot e^x$  hence  $f'(x) = 0 \iff x = -1$
- $f''(x) = (x+2) \cdot e^x$  hence  $f''(-1) = 1/e > 0$

Since  $f(-1) = -1/e$ , the equation  $x \cdot e^x = z$  has no solution for  $z < -1/e$ .

In order to handle the rest of the input domain, we split it into several sections.

When opting for accuracy, we split the input domain  $z = \log\left(\frac{a}{b}\right) \cdot \frac{c}{d}$  into:

$$\underbrace{-1/e \dots 0}_{\text{left}} \mid \underbrace{0 \dots \infty}_{\text{right}}$$

For  $-1/e \leq z < 0$ , we approximate  $W(z)$  via the Newton-Raphson converging sequence:

$$\begin{cases} y_0 = -z \\ y_{n+1} = \frac{y_n^2 + e^{y_n} \cdot z}{y_n - 1} \end{cases}$$

For  $0 \leq z < \infty$ , we approximate  $W(z)$  via the Newton-Raphson converging sequence:

$$\begin{cases} y_0 = \begin{cases} z & z < 1 \\ \log(z) & z \geq 1 \end{cases} \\ y_{n+1} = \frac{y_n^2 \cdot e^{y_n} + z}{(y_n + 1) \cdot e^{y_n}} \end{cases}$$

When opting for performance, we split the input domain  $z = \log\left(\frac{a}{b}\right) \cdot \frac{c}{d}$  into:

$$\underbrace{-1/e \dots 0} \mid \underbrace{0 \dots 1/e} \mid \underbrace{1/e \dots 24 + 1/e} \mid \underbrace{24 + 1/e \dots \infty}$$

For  $-1/e \leq z \leq +1/e$ , you may observe that  $W(z) = \frac{W\left(\log\left(\frac{a}{b}\right) \cdot \frac{c}{d}\right)}{\log\left(\frac{a}{b}\right)} = \frac{c}{d} \cdot \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{(-n)^{n-1}}{n!} \cdot \left(\log\left(\frac{a}{b}\right) \cdot \frac{c}{d}\right)^{n-1}$ :

- For  $-1/e \leq z \leq 0$ , which implies that  $a \leq b$ , we compute  $W(z) = \frac{c}{d} \cdot \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{(+n)^{n-1}}{n!} \cdot \left(\log\left(\frac{b}{a}\right) \cdot \frac{c}{d}\right)^{n-1}$
- For  $0 \leq z \leq +1/e$ , which implies that  $a \geq b$ , we compute  $W(z) = \frac{c}{d} \cdot \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{(-n)^{n-1}}{n!} \cdot \left(\log\left(\frac{a}{b}\right) \cdot \frac{c}{d}\right)^{n-1}$

As you can see, when  $a = b$ , both formulas can be reduced to  $W(z) = \frac{c}{d}$ .

Note that as the value of  $z$  approaches  $-1/e$ , the value of  $W(z)$  approaches  $-1$  but it never actually reaches there.

The function becomes increasingly steep, making its approximation via the Taylor series above increasingly inaccurate.

Hence for the smallest %1 of the range  $-1/e \leq z \leq 0$ :

- We precalculate a lookup table which maps 16 uniformly distributed values of  $z$  to values of  $W(z)$
- During runtime, we calculate  $W(z)$  as the weighted-average of  $W(z_0)$  and  $W(z_1)$ , where  $z_0 \leq z < z_1$

For  $1/e < z < 24 + 1/e$ :

- We precalculate a lookup table which maps 128 uniformly distributed values of  $z$  to values of  $W(z)$
- During runtime, we calculate  $W(z)$  as the weighted-average of  $W(z_0)$  and  $W(z_1)$ , where  $z_0 \leq z < z_1$

For  $z \geq 24 + 1/e$ , we rely on the fact that  $W(z) \approx p - q + \frac{q^2 + 2pq - 2q}{2p^2}$ , where  $p = \log(z)$  and  $q = \log(p)$ .

Since this method requires the calculation of  $\log(\log(z))$ , it is actually applicable for as low as  $z = e$ .

However, for  $e \leq z < 24 + 1/e$ , the previous method achieves better accuracy than this method.

Note that due to practical reasons, this library internally implements the calculation of  $W(z)/z$  instead of  $W(z)$ .

This means that instead of calculating  $\frac{W\left(\log\left(\frac{a}{b}\right) \cdot \frac{c}{d}\right)}{\log\left(\frac{a}{b}\right)}$ , it first calculates  $\frac{W\left(\log\left(\frac{a}{b}\right) \cdot \frac{c}{d}\right)}{\log\left(\frac{a}{b}\right) \cdot \frac{c}{d}}$ , and then multiplies the result by  $\frac{c}{d}$ .