

“Ancient Egyptian algebra”

Deliverable: The entire worksheet will be *graded*. Submit work on a **separate sheet**. **Any work that does not strictly follow the *Laws of Horus* will be marked as zero, unless it is extremely amusing. Penmanship counts.** Take care to be neat, since the hieroglyphs are difficult to draw sometimes.

Instructional objectives: You will learn to apply some – seemingly arbitrary – computational rules on expressions. These rules will later be adapted to describe the computation of differentials.

Title source: Futurama (April 27, 1999) *A Fishful of Dollars*, <https://vimeo.com/60696810>

The Laws of Horus. $\hat{\Delta}$ and $\hat{\Delta}^{\hat{\Delta}}$ denote any expressions, made out of atomic variables x, y, z , constant numbers like $e, 1, 2, \pi, i, \mathbf{a}$, etc, arithmetic operations of addition, division, multiplication, exponentiation, and unary transcendental functions ($\sin, \cos, \tan, \arctan, \arcsin, \ln$) Also \mathbf{a} is a constant. The Symbol of the Ibis, \mathcal{I} , is an operator that takes expressions to expressions, and satisfies the following Laws:

Law 1. $\mathcal{I} \left(\hat{\Delta}^{\hat{\Delta}} \right) = \hat{\Delta}^{\hat{\Delta}} \left(\ln(\hat{\Delta}) \mathcal{I} \left(\hat{\Delta} \right) + \frac{\hat{\Delta}}{\hat{\Delta}} \mathcal{I} \left(\hat{\Delta} \right) \right)$

In the special case when $\hat{\Delta} = \mathbf{a}$ is constant, $\mathcal{I} \left(\hat{\Delta}^{\mathbf{a}} \right) = \mathbf{a} \hat{\Delta}^{\mathbf{a}-1} \mathcal{I} \left(\hat{\Delta} \right)$

Law 2. $\mathcal{I} (\mathbf{a} \cdot \hat{\Delta}) = \mathbf{a} \cdot \mathcal{I} (\hat{\Delta})$

Law 3. $\mathcal{I} (\hat{\Delta} + \hat{\Delta}) = \mathcal{I} (\hat{\Delta}) + \mathcal{I} (\hat{\Delta})$

Law 4. $\mathcal{I} (\mathbf{a}) = 0$

Law 5. $\mathcal{I} (\hat{\Delta} \hat{\Delta}) = \hat{\Delta} \mathcal{I} (\hat{\Delta}) + \hat{\Delta} \mathcal{I} (\hat{\Delta})$

Law 6. $\mathcal{I} \left(\frac{\hat{\Delta}}{\hat{\Delta}} \right) = \frac{\hat{\Delta} \mathcal{I} (\hat{\Delta}) - \hat{\Delta} \mathcal{I} (\hat{\Delta})}{\hat{\Delta}^2}$

Law 7. $\mathcal{I} (\sin \hat{\Delta}) = (\cos \hat{\Delta}) \mathcal{I} (\hat{\Delta}), \quad \mathcal{I} (\cos \hat{\Delta}) = -(\sin \hat{\Delta}) \mathcal{I} (\hat{\Delta})$

Law 8. $\mathcal{I} (\ln \hat{\Delta}) = \frac{\mathcal{I} (\hat{\Delta})}{\hat{\Delta}}$

Law 9. $\mathcal{I} (\arctan \hat{\Delta}) = \frac{\mathcal{I} (\hat{\Delta})}{1 + \hat{\Delta}^2}, \quad \mathcal{I} (\arcsin \hat{\Delta}) = \frac{\mathcal{I} (\hat{\Delta})}{\sqrt{1 - \hat{\Delta}^2}}$

Once \mathcal{I} reaches an atomic variable, it does not simplify further: e.g., $\mathcal{I}(x) = \mathcal{I}x$. We say in that case that the bird has found the food, and we leave the bird together with its food as a single bird-with-food symbol, $\mathcal{I}x, \mathcal{I}y$, etc. For example,

$$\begin{aligned} \mathcal{I}(x^3 + 4)^{27} &= 27(x^3 + 4)^{26} \mathcal{I}(x^3 + 4) && \text{Law 1 with } \hat{\Delta} = x^3 + 4 \text{ and } \mathbf{a} = 27 \\ &= 27(x^3 + 4)^{26} (\mathcal{I}(x^3) + \mathcal{I}(4)) && \text{Law 3} \\ &= 27(x^3 + 4)^{26} \cdot 3x^2 \mathcal{I}x && \text{Law 1 with } \hat{\Delta} = x^3 \text{ and } \mathbf{a} = 3 \text{ (and Law 4)} \end{aligned}$$

Use the *Laws of Horus* to simplify the following, so that the bird gets the food. Apply one law per step, and cite each law as you go.

1. $\mathcal{I}(x^3)$

4. $\mathcal{I}(x \cos(x^2 + 1))$

2. $\mathcal{I}(ye^x)$

5. $\mathcal{I} \left(\frac{\cos(x^2+1)}{(x^3+4)^{27}} \right)$

3. $\mathcal{I}(x^2 + 1)$

6. $\mathcal{I}(x^2 + y^2)$