

Date: August 21, 2025

Based on MIT OCW 18.01SC Video Lecture 6

Exponential and Logarithms

$$a > 0 \Rightarrow a^0 = 1, a^1 = a, a^2 = a \cdot a, \text{ etc.}$$

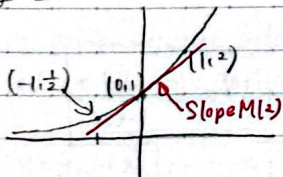
(base)

$$\begin{aligned} \hookrightarrow a^{x_1+x_2} &= a^{x_1} a^{x_2} \\ (a^{x_1})^{x_2} &= a^{x_1 x_2} \end{aligned}$$

$$a^{r/n} = \sqrt[n]{a^r} \quad \leftarrow \text{definition}$$

 $\Rightarrow a^x$ defined for all x by "filling-in" by continuity

$$\text{Ex. } y = 2^x$$



Goal!

$$\frac{d}{dx} a^x = ?$$

$$\begin{aligned} \lim_{\Delta x \rightarrow 0} \frac{a^{x+\Delta x} - a^x}{\Delta x} &= \lim_{\Delta x \rightarrow 0} \frac{a^x a^{\Delta x} - a^x}{\Delta x} \\ &= \lim_{\Delta x \rightarrow 0} \frac{a^x (a^{\Delta x} - 1)}{\Delta x} \end{aligned}$$

$\therefore \frac{d}{dx} a^x = a^x \lim_{\Delta x \rightarrow 0} \frac{a^{\Delta x} - 1}{\Delta x}$

x is fixed \rightarrow constant times

 \Rightarrow to define $M(a)$:

$$M(a) = \lim_{\Delta x \rightarrow 0} \frac{a^{\Delta x} - 1}{\Delta x}$$

$$\Rightarrow \frac{d}{dx} a^x = M(a) a^x$$

Plug in $x=0$:

$$\left. \frac{d}{dx} a^x \right|_{x=0} = M(a) a^0 = M(a)$$

$\Rightarrow M(a)$ is the slope of a^x at $x=0$ in the graph of P.16

What is $M(a)$? Beg the question

Define base e as the unique number so that $M(e) = 1$

$$\hookrightarrow \frac{d}{dx} e^x = e^x$$

$$\left. \frac{d}{dx} e^x \right|_{x=0} = 1$$

\hookrightarrow Slope 1 at $x=0$

Why e exists:

$$f(x) = 2^x, f'(0) = M(2)$$

\Downarrow stretch by k

$$f(kx) = 2^{kx} = (2^k)^x = e^{kx} \quad (e = 2^k)$$

$$\frac{d}{dx} e^{kx} = \frac{d}{dx} f(kx) = k f'(kx)$$

$$\left. \frac{d}{dx} e^{kx} \right|_{x=0} = k f'(0) = k M(2)$$

$$\underline{e = e \text{ when } k = 1/M(2)}$$

Natural log

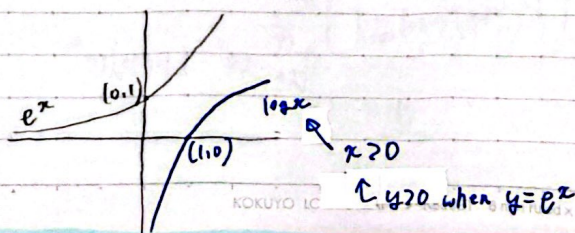
$$W = \log x$$

$$y = e^x \Leftrightarrow \log y = x$$

e inverse function

$$\log(x_1 x_2) = \log x_1 + \log x_2$$

$$|\log 1| = 0, \log e = 1$$



To find $\frac{d}{dx} \log x$:

use implicit differentiation

$$w = \log x \Rightarrow e^w = x$$

$$\frac{d}{dx} e^w = \frac{d}{dx} x = 1$$

$$\therefore \left(\frac{d}{dw} e^w \right) \left(\frac{dw}{dx} \right) = 1$$

$$\therefore e^w \frac{dw}{dx} = 1 \Rightarrow \frac{dw}{dx} = \frac{1}{e^w} = \frac{1}{x}$$

$$\Rightarrow \frac{d}{dx} \log x = \frac{1}{x}$$

To differentiate any exponential: two method

Method 1

$$\frac{d}{dx} a^x = ?$$

$$\text{use base } e: a^x = (e^{\log a})^x = e^{x \log a}$$

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{d}{dx} a^x &= \frac{d}{dx} e^{x \log a} \\ &= (\log a) e^{x \log a} \end{aligned}$$

$$\Rightarrow \frac{d}{dx} a^x = (\log a) a^x$$

$$\uparrow M[a] = \log a$$

Ex. $\frac{d}{dx} 2^x = (\log 2) 2^x$

$$\frac{d}{dx} 10^x = (\log 10) 10^x$$

Method 2 Logarithmic Differentiation

$$\frac{d}{dx} u^{??},$$

$$\frac{d}{dx} \log u = \left(\frac{d \log u}{du} \right) \cdot \left(\frac{d}{dx} \right) = \frac{1}{u} \cdot \frac{du}{dx}$$

$$\Rightarrow (\log u)' = u'/u$$

$$\frac{d}{dx} a^x = ?$$

$$u = a^x$$

$$\therefore \log u = x \log a$$

$$\therefore (\log u)' = \log a$$

$$\Rightarrow u'/u = (\log u)' = \log a$$

$$\therefore u' = u \log a$$

$$\Rightarrow \frac{d}{dx} a^x = (\log a) a^x$$

Ex 2 (moving exponents)

$$V = x^x$$

$$\Rightarrow \log V = x \log x$$

$$\Rightarrow (\log V)' = \log x + x \cdot \frac{1}{x}$$

$$V'/V = 1 + \log x$$

$$\Rightarrow V' = V(1 + \log x)$$

$$\Rightarrow \frac{d}{dx} x^x = x^x (1 + \log x)$$

Ex 3 $\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \left(1 + \frac{1}{n}\right)^n$

$$\log \left(\left(1 + \frac{1}{n}\right)^n \right) = n \log \left(1 + \frac{1}{n} \right)$$

$$\Delta x = \frac{1}{n} \rightarrow 0 \quad \rightarrow \quad \frac{1}{\Delta x} \log(1 + \Delta x)$$

$$\downarrow \Delta x \rightarrow 0$$

$$\frac{d}{dx} \log x \Big|_{x=1} = \frac{1}{x} \Big|_{x=1} = 1$$

$$\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \left(1 + \frac{1}{n}\right)^n$$

$$= e \left[\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \log \left\{ \left(1 + \frac{1}{n}\right)^n \right\} \right]$$

$$= e^1 = e$$

Derivatives of Hyperbolic Sine and Cosine.

Hyperbolic sine (sinh):

$$\sinh(x) = \frac{e^x - e^{-x}}{2}$$

Hyperbolic cosine (cosh):

$$\cosh(x) = \frac{e^x + e^{-x}}{2}$$

$$\rightarrow \frac{d}{dx} \sinh(x) = \frac{d}{dx} \left(\frac{e^x - e^{-x}}{2} \right) = \frac{e^x - (-e^{-x})}{2} = \cosh(x)$$

$$\Rightarrow \frac{d}{dx} \sinh(x) = \cosh(x)$$

$$\text{Likewise, } \frac{d}{dx} \cosh(x) = \sinh(x)$$

Important Identity:

$$\cosh^2(x) - \sinh^2(x) = 1$$

Proof:

$$\begin{aligned} \cosh^2(x) - \sinh^2(x) &= \left(\frac{e^x + e^{-x}}{2} \right)^2 - \left(\frac{e^x - e^{-x}}{2} \right)^2 \\ &= \frac{1}{4} (e^{2x} + 2e^x e^{-x} + e^{-2x}) - \frac{1}{4} (e^{2x} - 2e^x e^{-x} + e^{-2x}) \\ &= \frac{1}{4} (2 + 2) \\ &= 1 \end{aligned}$$

★ why are those function called "hyperbolic"?

Let $u = \cosh(x)$ and $v = \sinh(x)$, then $u^2 - v^2 = 1$

which is the equation of a hyperbola.

Regular trig functions are "circular" functions.

If $u = \cos(x)$ and $v = \sin(x)$, $u^2 + v^2 = 1$

which is the equation of a circle.