
Homework 9

Exercise 1 Let $f : \mathbb{R} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ be the unique differentiable function satisfying $f'(x) = f(x)$ for any $x \in \mathbb{R}$ and $f(0) = 1$. Show the following properties of this function :

- (i) $f(x)f(-x) = 1$ for any $x \in \mathbb{R}$,
- (ii) $f(x) > 0$ for any $x \in \mathbb{R}$,
- (iii) $f(x+y) = f(x)f(y)$ for any $x, y \in \mathbb{R}$.

From now on, the notation e^x for $f(x)$ will be used. The previous relations read $e^x e^{-x} = 1$, $e^x > 0$ and $e^{x+y} = e^x e^y$. Since $(e^x)' = e^x > 0$, this function is invertible and its inverse is denoted by \ln . More precisely, $\ln : \mathbb{R}_+ \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ satisfies $e^{\ln(y)} = y$ and $\ln(e^x) = x$ for any $x \in \mathbb{R}$ and $y \in \mathbb{R}_+$.

Exercise 2 Prove the following properties of the function \ln :

- (i) $\ln(y)' = \frac{1}{y}$ for any $y \in \mathbb{R}_+$,
- (ii) $\ln(yz) = \ln(y) + \ln(z)$ for any $y, z \in \mathbb{R}_+$,
- (iii) $\ln(y^x) = x \ln(y)$ for any $y \in \mathbb{R}_+$ and $x \in \mathbb{Q}$.

Based on the previous exercises, it is natural to set for any $x \in \mathbb{R}$ and $y \in \mathbb{R}_+$

$$y^x := e^{\ln(y^x)} = e^{x \ln(y)}$$

Exercise 3 Let us set $\varepsilon := e^1 = 2.718\dots$. Check that $\ln(\varepsilon) = 1$ and that $\varepsilon^x = e^x$.

Exercise 4 Compute the following limits:

$$a) \lim_{x \rightarrow 0^+} x \ln(x), \quad b) \lim_{x \rightarrow 0^+} x^x, \quad c) \lim_{x \rightarrow +\infty} \frac{\ln(x)}{x}, \quad d) \lim_{x \rightarrow +\infty} x^{1/x}.$$

What can you say for $\lim_{x \rightarrow 0^+} x^r \ln(x)$ for any $r > 0$?

Exercise 5 Compute the following limits:

$$a) \lim_{x \rightarrow 0} \frac{\ln(1+x)}{x}, \quad b) \lim_{x \rightarrow 0} (1+x)^{1/x}, \quad c) \lim_{x \rightarrow \infty} \left(1 + \frac{1}{x}\right)^x, \quad d) \lim_{x \rightarrow \infty} \left(1 + \frac{r}{x}\right)^x \text{ for any } r > 0.$$

Exercise 6 Compute the derivative of the following functions:

$$f : \mathbb{R} \ni x \mapsto a^x \in \mathbb{R} \text{ for any } a > 0, \quad g : \mathbb{R}_+^* \ni x \mapsto x^x \in \mathbb{R}.$$