

Section 5.5: Solving Exponential and Logarithmic Equations

Base-Exponent Equality For any $a > 0$ with $a \neq 1$, and for any real numbers x and y

$$a^x = a^y \quad \text{if and only if} \quad x = y.$$

Logarithm Equality For and $a > 0$ with $a \neq 1$, and for any positive numbers x and y

$$\log_a x = \log_a y \quad \text{if and only if} \quad x = y.$$

Inverse Function For any $a > 0$ with $a \neq 1$

$$a^{\log_a x} = x \quad \text{for every} \quad x > 0$$

$$\log_a(a^x) = x \quad \text{for every real} \quad x.$$

Log Equations & Verifying Answers

Double checking answers is always recommended. **When dealing with functions whose domains are restricted, answer verification is critical.**

Use properties of logarithms to solve the equation

$$2 \log_5(x) = \log_5(x + 10) + 1$$

$$\log_5(5) = 1$$

$$\begin{aligned} \log_5(x^2) &= \log_5(x+10) + \log_5(5) \\ &= \log_5(5(x+10)) \end{aligned}$$

$$x^2 = 5(x+10)$$

$$x^2 - 5x - 50 = 0 \quad \Rightarrow \quad (x-10)(x+5) = 0$$

The quadratic has 2 solutions $x = 10$ and $x = -5$.

Check to see if they are both solutions to the original equation.

Check 10: $2 \log_5(10) \stackrel{?}{=} \log_5(10+10) + 1$

$$= \log_5(20) + \log_5(5) = \log_5(5 \cdot 20)$$
$$= \log_5(100)$$
$$\log_5(10^2) = \log_5(100)$$

10 is a solution.

Check -5: $2 \log_5(-5) \stackrel{?}{=} \log_5(-5+10) + 1$

undefined!

-5 is not a solution

* -5 would be a solution of $\log_5(x^2) = \log_5(x+10) + 1$

Question

Solve the equation $\log_6 x + \log_6(x - 1) = 1$. (Hint: $\log_6 6 = 1$.)

(a) $x = 3$ or $x = -2$

$$\log_6(x(x-1)) = \log_6(6)$$

(b) $x = 2$ or $x = -3$

$$x^2 - x = 6$$

(c) $x = 3$

$$x^2 - x - 6 = 0$$

$$(x - 3)(x + 2) = 0$$

$$x = 3 \text{ or } x = -2$$

↑
not
a
solution

(d) $x = 2$

(e) $x = 0$ or $x = 1$

Combining Skills

Find all solutions of the equation¹

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

$e^x + e^{-x} = 4$ we'll get a quadratic equation by multiplying
Both sides by e^x .

$$e^x(e^x + e^{-x}) = 4e^x$$

$$(e^x)^2 + e^x e^{-x} = 4e^x$$

$$e^x \cdot e^{-x} = e^0 = 1$$

$$(e^x)^2 + 1 = 4e^x \Rightarrow (e^x)^2 - 4e^x + 1 = 0$$

¹The function $f(x) = \frac{e^x + e^{-x}}{2}$ is a well known function called the *hyperbolic cosine*.

If $u = e^x$, the equation is

$$u^2 - 4u + 1 = 0$$

We'll complete the square

$$u^2 - 4u + 4 - 4 + 1 = 0$$

$$(u-2)^2 - 3 = 0$$

$$(u-2)^2 = 3$$

$$u-2 = \pm\sqrt{3}$$

$$u = 2 \pm \sqrt{3}$$

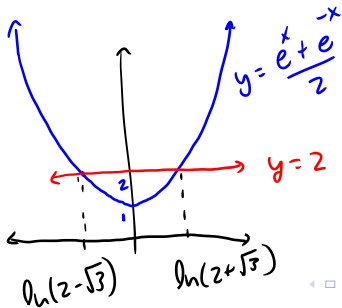
$$e^x = 2 + \sqrt{3} \quad \text{or} \quad e^x = 2 - \sqrt{3}$$

Both are positive, so both give
valid solutions

Use the natural log to solve for x

$$\ln e^x = \ln(2+\sqrt{3}) \quad \text{or} \quad \ln e^x = \ln(2-\sqrt{3})$$

$$x = \ln(2+\sqrt{3}) \quad x = \ln(2-\sqrt{3})$$



Applications

When a quantity Q changes in time according to the model $Q(t) = Q_0 e^{kt}$, it is said to experience *exponential growth* ($k > 0$) or *exponential decay* ($k < 0$). Here, Q_0 is the constant initial quantity $Q(0)$, and k is a constant. Examples of such phenomena include

- ▶ population changes (over small time frame),
- ▶ continuously compounded interest (on deposit or loan amount),
- ▶ substances subject to radio active decay

Generally, the model for exponential decay is written $Q(t) = Q_0 e^{-kt}$, and for growth it is written as $Q(t) = Q_0 e^{kt}$ so that it is always assumed that $k > 0$.

Example

The ^{44}Ti titanium isotope decays to ^{44}Ca , a stable calcium isotope. The mass Q is subject to exponential decay

$$Q(t) = Q_0 e^{-kt} \quad \text{for } t \text{ in years, and some } k > 0.$$

If the half life (amount of time for the mass to reduce by 50%) is 60 years, determine the value of k .

We know that $Q(60)$ is one half of $Q(0)$. Note $Q(0) = Q_0 e^{-k \cdot 0} = Q_0 (1) = Q_0$

$$Q(60) = Q_0 e^{-k \cdot 60} = Q_0 e^{-60k}$$

Setting $Q(60)$ equal to $\frac{1}{2} Q(0)$

$$Q_0 e^{-60k} = \frac{1}{2} Q_0$$

Cancel Q_0 and solve for k

$$e^{-60k} = \frac{1}{2}$$

Use log: $\ln(e^{-60k}) = \ln\left(\frac{1}{2}\right)$

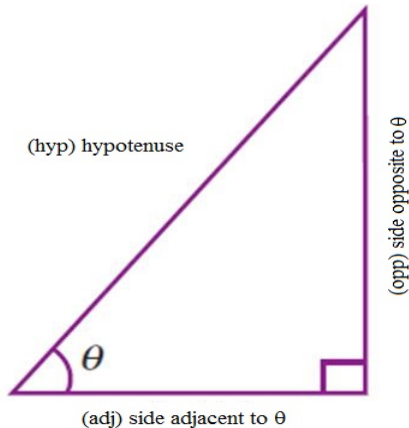
$$-60k = \ln(2^{-1}) = -\ln 2$$

$$k = \frac{-\ln 2}{-60} = \frac{\ln 2}{60}$$

So $k = \frac{\ln 2}{60}$ and $Q(t) = Q_0 e^{-\frac{\ln 2}{60} t}$

Sections 6.1 & 6.2: Trigonometric Functions of Acute Angles

In this section, we are going to define six new functions called **trigonometric functions**. We begin with an acute angle θ in a right triangle with the sides whose lengths are labeled:



Sine, Cosine, and Tangent

For the acute angle θ , we define the three numbers as follows

$$\sin \theta = \frac{\text{opp}}{\text{hyp}}, \quad \text{read as "sine theta"}$$

$$\cos \theta = \frac{\text{adj}}{\text{hyp}}, \quad \text{read as "cosine theta"}$$

$$\tan \theta = \frac{\text{opp}}{\text{adj}}, \quad \text{read as "tangent theta"}$$

Note that these are numbers, ratios of side lengths, and have no units.

It may be convenient to enclose the argument of a trig function in parentheses. That is,

$$\sin \theta = \sin(\theta).$$

Cosecant, Secant, and Cotangent

The remaining three trigonometric functions are the reciprocals of the first three

$$\csc \theta = \frac{\text{hyp}}{\text{opp}} = \frac{1}{\sin \theta}, \quad \text{read as "cosecant theta"}$$

$$\sec \theta = \frac{\text{hyp}}{\text{adj}} = \frac{1}{\cos \theta}, \quad \text{read as "secant theta"}$$

$$\cot \theta = \frac{\text{adj}}{\text{opp}} = \frac{1}{\tan \theta}, \quad \text{read as "cotangent theta"}$$

A Word on Notation

The trigonometric ratios define functions:

input angle number \rightarrow output ratio number.

From the definitions, we see that

$$\csc \theta = \frac{1}{\sin \theta}.$$

Functions have arguments. It is NOT acceptable to write the above relationship as

$$\csc = \frac{1}{\sin}.$$