

§5.3–The Natural Exponential Function

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Outline

- 1 The definition of the exponential function
- 2 \exp is an exponential function
- 3 The derivative of e^x

Definition

\ln , the natural logarithm, is an increasing function with domain $(0, \infty)$ and range \mathbb{R} . Let \exp denote the inverse of \ln ; thus, \exp has domain \mathbb{R} and range $(0, \infty)$.

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Elementary properties of \exp

- The graph of \exp can be obtained directly from the graph of \ln .
- We have the important inverse relationships:

$$\ln(\exp(x)) = x \quad \text{and} \quad \exp(\ln(x)) = x.$$

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- In particular,

$$\ln e^x = x \quad \text{and} \quad e^{\ln(x)} = x.$$

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- $e^{2x} + 2e^x - 8 = 0$

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Find y' in each case:

- $y = e^{x^2}$
- $y = x^3 \exp\left(\frac{x+1}{x+2}\right)$
- $y = \frac{e^x - e^{-x}}{e^x + e^{-x}}$

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Sketch the graph of $y = xe^{-x}$.