

# On the Lambert W Function

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## Abstract

The Lambert W function is defined as the inverse of the function  $w \mapsto we^w$ . In this paper, we study the function  $f(x) = x + W(x)$  and its properties. We show that  $f(x)$  is a strictly increasing function and that it satisfies the functional equation  $f(x) = x + W(x)$ . We also show that  $f(x)$  is a solution of the differential equation  $f'(x) = 1 + \frac{1}{1 + W(x)}$ .

## 1. Introduction

In 1758, Lambert [1758] introduced the function  $x = q + x^m$  and showed that it can be solved in terms of the Lambert W function [48,49]. In [28], Erdős and Székely [28] introduced the function  $x = vx + x^m$ .

$$x = vx + x^m \tag{1.1}$$

Lambert [1758] showed that the function  $x = vx + x^m$  can be solved in terms of the Lambert W function. Erdős and Székely [28] showed that the function  $x = vx + x^m$  can be solved in terms of the Lambert W function.

$$\begin{aligned} x^n &= 1 + nv + \frac{1}{2}n(n+1)v^2 \\ &\quad + \frac{1}{6}n(n+2)(n+2)v^3 \\ &\quad + \frac{1}{24}n(n+3)(n+2+2)(n+3)v^4 \\ &\quad + \dots \end{aligned} \tag{1.2}$$

As a consequence of (1.1), Erdős and Székely [28] showed that the function  $x = vx + x^m$  can be solved in terms of the Lambert W function. (1.1) can be written as  $x = vx + x^m$ .

$$x = vx + x^m \tag{1.3}$$

Erdős and Székely [28] showed that the function  $x = vx + x^m$  can be solved in terms of the Lambert W function. (1.3) can be written as  $x = vx + x^m$ .

$\notin 0$ .  
 $u = v$ .  $z = uz$ , (1.3)  
 $(x^n - 1) = n$ .  $n = 0$

$$x = v + \frac{2^1}{2!}v^2 + \frac{3^2}{3!}v^3 + \frac{4^3}{4!}v^4 + \frac{5^4}{5!}v^5 + \dots \quad (1.4)$$

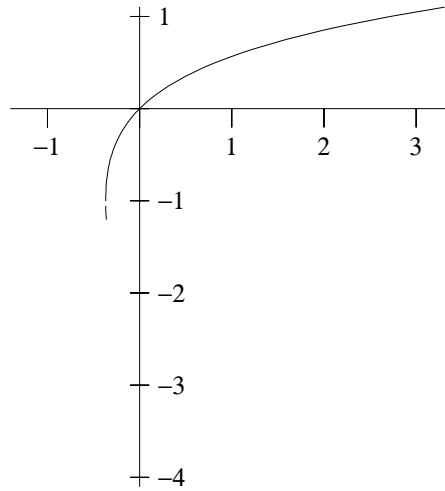
tree function [41]. I  $W(v)$ ,  $W(z)$

$$W(z)e^{W(z)} = z \quad (1.5)$$

$W$ ,  $T$ ,  $W$ .  
 [10, 13, 25, 41, 67]; [64];  
 [56, III.209, 146].  
 [69]. I [30],  $W(x)$   $x > 0$ .  
 $W$  [14].  
 $W$  [11, 27-28],  
 $W(z)$ . K. B. [58]  
 $W$ .

notation

Lambert  $W$  function,  $v = 17 - 9\sqrt{263 - 638900} / (2103(\sqrt{2}) - 9963 - 121197(0.14)) - 332(F6-9)$



**Figure 1.** The Lambert W function,  $W(x)$ , and its branches,  $W_0(x)$  and  $W_{-1}(x)$ .

$W_0(x)$  is the principal branch of  $W(x)$ .  $W_{-1}(x)$  is the lower branch of  $W(x)$ .  $W(x)$  is defined for  $x \geq -1$  and  $x < 0$ .

## 2. Applications

The Lambert W function is used in many applications, including combinatorial applications, probability theory, and physics.

### Combinatorial applications

The Lambert W function is used in combinatorial applications, such as counting the number of rooted trees. Let  $t_n$  be the number of rooted trees with  $n$  nodes. Then  $t_n = n^{n-1}$ . The generating function  $T(x) = \sum_{n \geq 1} t_n x^n = \sum_{n \geq 1} n^{n-1} x^n$  satisfies the equation  $T(x) = x e^{T(x)}$ . The Lambert W function is defined by  $W(x) e^{W(x)} = x$ . In [57], R. Cori and G. Duchon showed that  $t_n = n^{n-1}$ .

$$U(x) = T(x) - \frac{1}{2} T(x)^2; \tag{2.1}$$

$U(x)$  is the generating function for unrooted trees [24,41].

$$V(x) = \frac{1}{2} \frac{1}{1 - T(x)} \tag{2.2}$$

The generating function for rooted trees with a distinguished edge is  $\frac{1}{2} T(x) + \frac{1}{4} T(x)^2$ .



Solution of a jet fuel problem

[3, pp. 312-323]. fi  $E_t$   $R$   $c_t$   $w_0$   $w_1$

$$E_t = \frac{C_L}{c_t C_D} \frac{w_0}{w_1}; \tag{2.6}$$

$$R = \frac{2}{c_t C_D} \frac{2C_L}{S} w_0^{1=2} w_1^{1=2}; \tag{2.7}$$

$E_t$ ,  $C_L$ ,  $C_D$  fi  $w_0$ ,  $R$ ,  $S$ ,  $w_0$   $w_1$  fi  $c = E_t C_D c_t = C_L$

$$A = \frac{P}{R} \frac{2E_t}{SC_L} \frac{w_0}{w_1} \tag{2.8}$$

$c = w$

$$2A \frac{1}{w} = 1; \tag{2.9}$$

$A < 0$ ,  $w$ . I  $W$ ,

$$w = \begin{cases} A^{-2} W_0^2 (Ae^A); & A \geq 1, \\ A^{-2} W_{-1}^2 (Ae^A); & 1 > A > 0. \end{cases} \tag{2.10}$$

$w$  fi  $c = w$ .

Solution of a model combustion problem

$$\frac{dy}{dt} = y^2(1 - y); \quad y(0) = y_0 > 0 \tag{2.11}$$

[54,59]  $W$ , [54]  $y(t)$  [54]:

$$\frac{1}{y} + \frac{1}{y-1} = \frac{1}{y_0} + \frac{1}{y_0-1} - t; \tag{2.12}$$



2.7

$$s = W_k(a);$$

where  $W_k$  is the  $k$ -th branch of the Lambert  $W$  function. (See [4] for properties of  $W$ .)  
 In the case of  $y = ay(t-1)$ ,

$$y = \sum_{k=-\infty}^{\infty} c_k (W_k(a)t); \tag{2.18}$$

where  $c_k$  are constants depending on  $W_k(a)$ . Owing to the fact that  $W_k(a)$  is a root of the equation  $W_k(a) e^{W_k(a)} = a$ , we have  $c_k = \frac{1}{W_k(a)}$ . (See [8].)

R. [7]. B

Similarity solution for the Richards equation

moisture tension  $\Psi$ ,

$$\frac{d}{dt} \frac{\partial \Psi}{\partial t} = \frac{\partial}{\partial z} \left[ K(\Psi) \frac{\partial \Psi}{\partial z} - K(\Psi) \right]; \tag{2.24}$$

ff

$$*A \frac{dA}{dt} = 1 - A \tag{2.25}$$

W

$$A(t) = 1 + W \left( (1 + A(0)) \frac{(A(0) - 1) * t}{1 - A(0)} \right); \tag{2.26}$$

B W capillar rise,  $W_{-1}$   $W_0$  infiltration.

Volterra equations for population growth

I [22, 102-109], fi

$$\frac{dx}{dt} = ax(1 - y); \quad \frac{dy}{dt} = cy(1 - x); \tag{2.27}$$

W ( (11) (12) 104 [22]).  $a = 2$   $c = 1$ , B1 DE E [40].

$y^+$   $y^-$ ,

$$y^+ = W_{-1} \left( Cx^{-c=a} e^{cx=a} \right); \tag{2.28}$$

$$y^- = W_0 \left( Cx^{-c=a} e^{cx=a} \right);$$

C fi  $t$  fi

$$t = \frac{x}{x_0} \frac{d}{a(1 - y(\cdot))} = \frac{y}{y_0} \frac{d}{c(1 - x(\cdot))}; \tag{2.29}$$





$$\sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \frac{c_n}{t^{n+1}} = \frac{c_0; c_1; \dots}{t}$$

I  
B  
I  
L  
[12].  
W  
fi

### 3. Calculus

( [12]),  
W  
0.  
L  
W<sub>0</sub>(z):

$$W_0(z) = \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{(-n)^{n-1}}{n!} z^n : \tag{3.1}$$

I  
B  
I  
B  
we<sup>w</sup>.  
W<sub>0</sub> z = 1=e  
w ≠ we<sup>w</sup> 0 w = 1),  
(3.1)  
1=e.  
1=e  
, E  
(1.2),

$$M_E(a; b) < \frac{1}{e};$$

M<sub>E</sub>(a; b) = √(a² + b²) - 2  
E  
a b  
= W  
(1.2)  
= 1)  
D ff  
fi x = W(x)e<sup>W(x)</sup>  
W  
W:  
W:

$$W'(x) = \frac{1}{(1 + W(x)) (W(x))} = \frac{W(x)}{x(1 + W(x))}; \quad x \notin 0. \tag{3.2}$$

H  
W(x)=(x(1 + W(x)))  
W'<sub>0</sub>(0) = 1  
[20]  
M  
3

$$\frac{d^n W(x)}{dx^n} = \frac{(nW(x))p_n(W(x))}{(1+W(x))^{2n-1}} \quad n \geq 1; \quad (3.3)$$

$$p_{n+1}(w) = (nw + 3n - 1)p_n(w) + (1+w)p'_n(w); \quad n \geq 1; \quad (3.4)$$

$$\frac{d^n W(e^x)}{dx^n} = \frac{q_n(W(e^x))}{(1+W(e^x))^{2n-1}} \quad n \geq 1; \quad (3.5)$$

$$q_n(w) = \sum_{k=0}^{n-1} \binom{n-1}{k} (-1)^k w^{k+1}; \quad (3.6)$$

$$q_{n+1}(w) = (2n - 1)wq_n(w) + (w + w^2)q'_n(w) \quad (3.7)$$

$$W(z) = z W(z); \quad (3.8)$$

$$x = pe^p; \quad (3.9)$$

$$\frac{dy}{dx} = p; \quad (3.10)$$

$$\frac{dx}{dy} = \frac{dp}{dy} e^p + pe^p \frac{dp}{dy}; \quad (3.11)$$

(3.10)

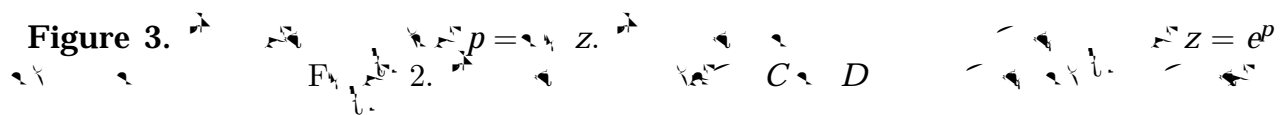
$$\frac{dy}{dp} = p(p+1)e^p ; \tag{3.12}$$

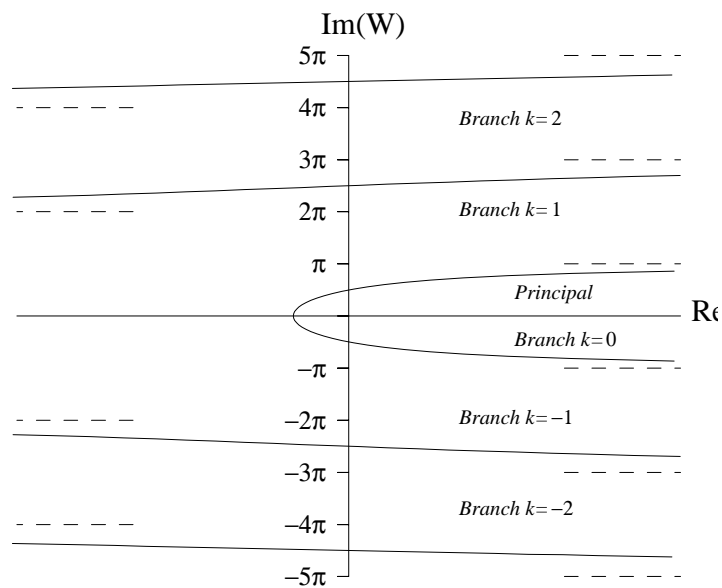
$$y = (p^2 - p + 1)e^p + C : \tag{3.13}$$

$y$   $W(x)$ ,  $W(x)$ . I

$$W(x) dx = (W^2(x) - W(x) + 1)e^{W(x)} +$$





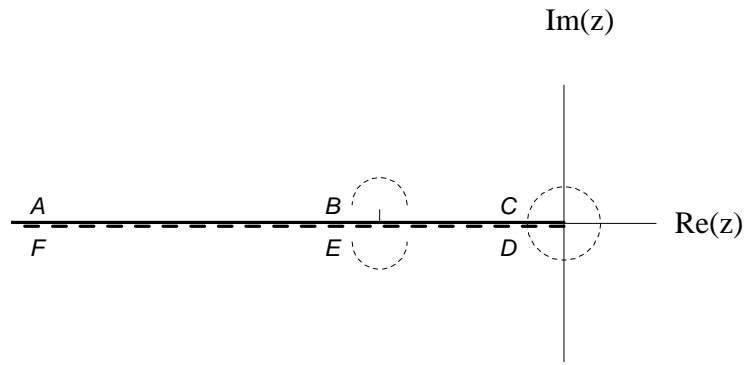


**Figure 4.**  $W(z)$ .  $\text{Im}$   $\text{Re}$   $0$   $E$

$W$   $z$

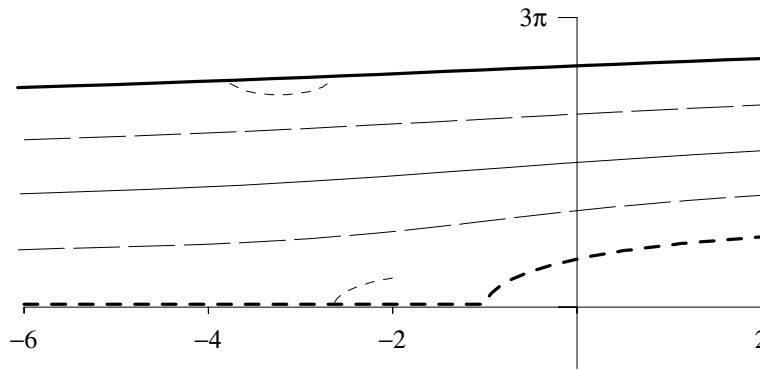






**Figure 7.** Branch cuts of  $W_k(z)$ ,  $k \in \mathbb{Z}$ . The real axis is shown with points A, B, C, D, E, F. Branch cuts are indicated by dashed lines and circles. The branch cut for  $W_0(z)$  is along the real axis from  $z = -1/e$  to  $z = 0$ . The branch cut for  $W_{-1}(z)$  is along the real axis from  $z = 0$  to  $z = 1/e$ . The branch cut for  $W_k(z)$ ,  $k \neq 0, -1$ , is along the real axis from  $z = 1/e$  to  $z = \infty$ . The branch cut for  $W_k(z)$ ,  $k \neq 0, -1$ , is also along the real axis from  $z = 1/e$  to  $z = \infty$ .

**Figure 8.** Branch cuts of  $W_{-1}(z)$ . The real axis is shown with points A, B, C, D. The branch cut for  $W_{-1}(z)$  is along the real axis from  $z = 0$  to  $z = 1/e$ . The branch cut for  $W_{-1}(z)$  is also along the real axis from  $z = 0$  to  $z = 1/e$ .



**Figure 9.** D  $W_1(z)$ . A C  $W_1(z)$

(4.22),  $fz: 1 < z$   $1=eg$   $fz: 0 < z < 1$  g.

Asymptotic expansions

fi  $w \nearrow we^w$   $z=0$

$$w = W(z) = z + u; \tag{4.6}$$

$z \rightarrow 0$ ,  $u \rightarrow z$ ,  $we^w = z$

$$(z + u)ze^u = z; \tag{4.7}$$

$$\left(1 + \frac{u}{z}\right)e^u = \frac{1}{z}; \tag{4.8}$$

$juj$   $e^u \approx 1 + u$ ,  $z$

$$u \approx \frac{1}{z}; \tag{4.9}$$

(4.9),  $u$   $z$

(4.9)  $\frac{1}{\log z} = \frac{1}{\log z} + \frac{1}{\log z} + \dots$

$$u = \frac{1}{\log z} \quad (4.10)$$

O  $\frac{1}{\log z} = \frac{1}{\log z} + \frac{1}{\log z} + \dots$

1. K  $\frac{1}{\log z} = \frac{1}{\log z} + \frac{1}{\log z} + \dots$  [11, 27-28]

$W(0) = 0$  fi  $(\dots)$

$z \neq 0$   $z \neq 0$   $z \neq 0$

$L$   $I$   $I$

(4.6) (4.10)

$$w = \log z + \log z + v \quad (4.11)$$

O (4.11)  $we^w = z$

$$\frac{(\log z + \log z + v)e^v z}{\log z} = z \quad (4.12)$$

$1 = \log z + \log z + v$   $\log z = \log z$   $\log z$   $\log z$

$z \neq 0$   $\log z \neq 0$

$$e^{-v} - 1 - v + \dots = 0 \quad (4.13)$$

(2.4.6)  $\log z$   $\log z$   $\log z$

**Remark**  $\int_0^1 \frac{W(x)}{x} dx = \frac{1}{2} \int_0^1 \frac{W(x)}{x} dx + \frac{1}{2} \int_0^1 \frac{W(x)}{x} dx$

$$\begin{aligned}
 & \text{(4.18)} \\
 & \dots z + 2k \dots k, \dots
 \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned}
 W_k(z) = & \dots (z + 2ik) \dots \\
 & + \sum_{k=0}^{\infty} \sum_{m=1}^{\infty} c_{km} \dots (z + 2ik)^{-k-m} : \quad (4.20)
 \end{aligned}$$

$k; \dots z \dots 1, \dots W_{-1}(x) \dots x < 0.$   
 $E(z) \dots (x) \dots (E(z)).$  A  
 $(4.13) \dots$   
 $x \dots W:$

Series expansions about the branch point

$$\begin{aligned}
 p = + \dots 2(ez + 1) \dots We^W = z, \dots 1 + W, \dots \\
 \frac{p^2}{2} \dots 1 = We^{1+W} = 1 + \sum_{k \geq 1} \frac{1}{(k-1)!} \frac{1}{k!} (1+W)^k ; \quad (4.21)
 \end{aligned}$$

$$W(z) = \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} p^n = 1 + p \frac{1}{3} \dots$$

$$\begin{aligned}
 & \text{E} \text{ } W_{-1} \text{ } p = \sqrt{2(ez + 1)}, \quad \text{I} (z) \text{ } 0. \text{E} \text{ } \text{I} (z) \leq 0, \\
 & \text{K} \text{ } W_{-1} \text{ } W_0 \text{ } c_n \text{ } [45]
 \end{aligned}$$

$$= + \frac{2}{3} z^2 + \frac{4}{9} z^3 + \frac{44}{135} z^4 + \dots = \sum_{n \geq 1} c_n z^n; \tag{4.26}$$

$$(1 + z)e^{-z} = (1 - z)e^{-z} + O(z^2); \tag{4.27}$$

[41, 323]. H  
 $c_n \sim n^{-15}$

$$\frac{1}{n} c_n = \frac{1}{n} + \frac{1 - 1/n}{n(1 + 1/2 + \dots + 1/n)}; \tag{4.28}$$

I M 3, W P  
 M 2,  $\forall e \in [1; 1)$   
 $(1; 1=e] (0; 1)$ , fi  
 fi W M 3.

**5. Numerical Analysis**

I [27], E  $x = a^x$  a  
 fi  $W_k(x)$  x  
 L [51,52]. [36] H  $W_k(x)$  x  
 [70], [71]  
 fi  $W$  arbitrar  
 M fi  
 W, fi  
 $C = xF'$  ([16, 14])

$z = 1 = e^z$  (relative to  $W_0, W_{-1}$ )  
 $W(z) = 1$  at  $z = 1$  (relative to  $W_0, W_{-1}$ )  
 $W(z) = 0$  at  $z = 0$  (relative to  $W_0, W_{-1}$ )  
 $W(z)$



$$\begin{aligned}
 |W'(z)| &= O\left(\frac{1}{|z|}\right) \\
 W_{-k}(z) &= -k - \frac{1}{k} - \frac{1}{2k^2} - \frac{1}{3k^3} - \dots \\
 4) \quad \overline{W_k(z)} &= W_{-k}(\bar{z})
 \end{aligned}$$

I  
 fi  
 $k$   
 $n$   
 $(k-1)$   
 $d$   
 $d=n$   
 $d=n^2$   
 $F$   
 $(k-1)$   
 $d_{k-1}$   
 $k$   
 $(n-1)d_{k-1}$   
 $d_{k-1}$   
 $nd_{k-1}$   
 $N$   
 $[66]$   
 $n$   
 $1$

$W_0(x), 1 \leq e^{-x}, W_{-1}(x), 1 \leq e^{-x} < 0,$   
 $W_0(z), W_{-1}(z), W_1(z), z \geq 0,$   
 $W_{-1}(z), W_1(z), z < 0, 1 \leq e^{-z}$

$$w_{j+1} = w_j \frac{w_j e^{w_j} z}{e^{w_j} (w_j + 1) \frac{(w_j + 2)(w_j e^{w_j} z)}{2w_j + 2}} \quad (5.9)$$

I M z, (4.18).  
 $W_0(z), W_{-1}(z), W_1(z), z \geq 0,$   
 $W_{-1}(z), W_1(z), z < 0, 1 \leq e^{-z}$   
 (M (3,2)-P). F 0, 1=e  
 $W_{-1}(z), z < 0, 1 \leq e^{-z}$   
 $W_1(z), z < 0, 1 \leq e^{-z}$   
 M, A

**6. Concluding Remarks**

L W W  
 W  
 A W  
 $T(x)$ . N L W  
 fi ff  
 [21],

**Acknowledgements.**

A  
 A H N  
 ff

B. (3.11)  $L(x) = \int_0^x \frac{1}{1-t} dt = -\ln(1-x)$  [4].  
G.-C. M. K. H. H. -O.  
D. E. P. D. E. G.  
(L) E [28].  
M. D. F. N.  
L' *éloge*

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[ 359 ]

E. G. A. L. f. L. W  
 Q. H )  
 , L )  
 [39, 38].

E [28] On a series of Lambert and some  
 of its significant properties. I , E L

L " , the ingenious engineer Lambert.

A E , A H

L , 1764,

L B . A E G , 17

M 1764,

I [49], L f

( (1.2) ). L

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[O G , 4, 1, 246] A: J. L

F , éloge

( 1946 1948) f L L

( P )

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