

The function $w(x)$ is defined implicitly by the equation

$$(w(x) + 1) \cdot e^{w(x)} = x.$$

Use a linear approximation to estimate $w(3/2)$.

(Hint: $w(1) = 0$.)

$$(w(x) + 1) e^{w(x)} = x$$

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

$$w'(x) e^{w(x)} + (w(x) + 1) w'(x) e^{w(x)} = 1$$

$$w'(x) = \frac{1}{w(x) + 2} e^{-w(x)}$$

$$w(x) \approx w(x_0) + w'(x_0)(x - x_0)$$

$$\Rightarrow w(3/2) \approx w(1) + \left(\frac{e^{-w(1)}}{w(1) + 2} \right) (1.5 - 1)$$

$$= 0 + \left(\frac{1}{0 + 2} \right) 0.5$$

$$= 0.25$$