

$$\pi^\pi = ?$$

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Last update: January 14, 2022

Can we find an expression for  $\pi^\pi$ ? The first thing we might do is to consider what we know about  $x^x$ . We do know that  $a^x = e^{x \ln a}$  for positive  $a$ , since

$$\begin{aligned} y &= a^x && \# \text{ define } y \\ \Rightarrow \ln y &= \ln a^x && \# \text{ take the log of both sides} \\ \Rightarrow \ln y &= x \ln a && \# \text{ power rule for logarithms} \\ \Rightarrow e^{\ln y} &= e^{x \ln a} && \# \text{ exponentiate both sides} \\ \Rightarrow y &= e^{x \ln a} && \# e^{\ln y} = y \\ \Rightarrow a^x &= e^{x \ln a} && \# y = a^x \end{aligned}$$

We can use the same reasoning to show that  $x^x = e^{x \ln x}$  for  $x > 0$ . Then setting  $x = \pi$  we get

$$\pi^\pi = e^{\pi \ln \pi} \tag{1}$$

All good, but what is  $e^{\pi \ln \pi}$ ? We can use a Maclaurin series to evaluate this expression as follows:

$$\begin{aligned} e^x &= \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \frac{x^n}{n!} && \# \text{ Maclaurin series for } e^x \\ \Rightarrow e^{\pi \ln \pi} &= \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \frac{(\pi \ln \pi)^n}{n!} && \# \text{ set } x = \pi \ln \pi \\ \Rightarrow e^{\pi \ln \pi} &= \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \frac{\pi^n \ln^n \pi}{n!} && \# \text{ simplify} \\ \Rightarrow \pi^\pi &= \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \frac{\pi^n \ln^n \pi}{n!} && \# e^{\pi \ln \pi} = \pi^\pi \text{ (Equation (1))} \end{aligned}$$

So we get the cool result that

$$\pi^\pi = \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \frac{\pi^n \ln^n \pi}{n!}$$

Next question: is  $\pi^\pi$  rational or irrational?