

THE EXPONENTIAL INTEGRAL AND THE CONVOLUTION

Brian Fisher and Joel D. Nicholas

(Received June 16, 1997)

Abstract. The exponential integral $\text{ei}(\lambda x)$ and its associated functions $\text{ei}_+(\lambda x)$ and $\text{ei}_-(\lambda x)$ are defined as locally summable functions on the real line and their derivatives are found as distributions. Some convolution products of these distributions and other distributions are then found.

AMS 1991 Mathematics Subject Classification. 33B10, 46F10.

Key words and phrases. exponential integral, convolution product.

The *exponential integral* $\text{ei}(x)$ is defined for $x > 0$ by

$$\text{ei}(x) = \int_x^\infty u^{-1} e^{-u} du, \quad (1)$$

see Sneddon [3], the integral diverging for $x \leq 0$. It was pointed out in [1] that equation (1) can be rewritten in the form

$$\text{ei}(x) = \int_x^\infty u^{-1} [e^{-u} - H(1-u)] du - H(1-x) \ln |x|,$$

where H denotes Heaviside's function. The integral in this equation is convergent for all x and so was used to define $\text{ei}(x)$ on the real line.

More generally, if $\lambda \neq 0$, $\text{ei}(\lambda x)$ was defined in the obvious way by

$$\text{ei}(\lambda x) = \int_{\lambda x}^\infty u^{-1} [e^{-u} - H(1-u)] du - H(1-\lambda x) \ln |\lambda x|. \quad (2)$$

Further, $\text{ei}_+(\lambda x)$ and $\text{ei}_-(\lambda x)$ were defined by

$$\text{ei}_+(\lambda x) = H(x) \text{ei}(\lambda x), \quad \text{ei}_-(\lambda x) = H(-x) \text{ei}(\lambda x)$$

so that

$$\text{ei}(\lambda x) = \text{ei}_+(\lambda x) + \text{ei}_-(\lambda x). \quad (3)$$

In particular, if $\lambda > 0$, we have

$$\text{ei}(\lambda x) = \int_x^\infty u^{-1} [e^{-\lambda u} - H(1 - \lambda u)] du - H(1 - \lambda x) \ln |\lambda x|, \quad (4)$$

$$\text{ei}_+(\lambda x) = \int_x^\infty u^{-1} e^{-\lambda u} du, \quad x > 0, \quad (5)$$

$$\text{ei}_-(\lambda x) = -\gamma - \ln |\lambda| + \int_x^0 u^{-1} (e^{-\lambda u} - 1) du - \ln x_-, \quad x < 0, \quad (6)$$

where

$$\gamma = - \int_0^\infty u^{-1} [e^{-\lambda u} - H(1 - \lambda u)] du$$

is Euler's constant.

If $\lambda < 0$, we have

$$\text{ei}(\lambda x) = - \int_{-\infty}^x u^{-1} [e^{-\lambda u} - H(1 - \lambda u)] du - H(1 - \lambda x) \ln |\lambda x|, \quad (7)$$

$$\text{ei}_+(\lambda x) = -\gamma - \ln |\lambda| - \int_0^x u^{-1} (e^{-\lambda u} - 1) du - \ln x_+, \quad x > 0, \quad (8)$$

$$\text{ei}_-(\lambda x) = - \int_{-\infty}^x u^{-1} e^{-\lambda u} du, \quad x < 0. \quad (9)$$

The derivatives of these functions were found as

$$[\text{ei}(\lambda x)]' = -e^{-\lambda x} x^{-1} = -x^{-1} - \sum_{i=1}^{\infty} \frac{(-\lambda)^i}{i!} x^{i-1}, \quad (10)$$

$$\begin{aligned} [\text{ei}_+(\lambda x)]' &= -e^{-\lambda x} x_+^{-1} - (\gamma + \ln |\lambda|) \delta(x) \\ &= -x_+^{-1} - \sum_{i=1}^{\infty} \frac{(-\lambda)^i}{i!} x_+^{i-1} - (\gamma + \ln |\lambda|) \delta(x), \end{aligned} \quad (11)$$

$$\begin{aligned} [\text{ei}_-(\lambda x)]' &= e^{-\lambda x} x_-^{-1} + (\gamma + \ln |\lambda|) \delta(x) \\ &= x_-^{-1} - \sum_{i=1}^{\infty} \frac{\lambda^i}{i!} x_-^{i-1} + (\gamma + \ln |\lambda|) \delta(x), \end{aligned} \quad (12)$$

for all $\lambda \neq 0$.

We now note the following results obtained by replacing x by $-x$ in the functions $\text{ei}(\lambda x)$, $\text{ei}_+(\lambda x)$ and $\text{ei}_-(\lambda x)$.

$$\text{ei}(\lambda(-x)) = \text{ei}((-\lambda)x), \quad (13)$$

$$\text{ei}_+(\lambda(-x)) = H(-x) \text{ei}(\lambda(-x)) = \text{ei}_-((-\lambda)x), \quad (14)$$

$$\text{ei}_-(\lambda(-x)) = H(x) \text{ei}(\lambda(-x)) = \text{ei}_+((-\lambda)x). \quad (15)$$

These results will be used to deduce results for $\lambda < 0$ from results proved for $\lambda > 0$.

The classical definition of the convolution product of two functions f and g is as follows:

Definition 1. *Let f and g be functions. Then the convolution product $f * g$ is defined by*

$$(f * g)(x) = \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} f(t)g(x-t) dt$$

for all points x for which the integral exist.

It follows easily from the definition that if $f * g$ exists then $g * f$ exists and

$$f * g = g * f \quad (16)$$

and if $(f * g)'$ and $f * g'$ (or $f' * g$) exists, then

$$(f * g)' = f * g' \quad (\text{or } f' * g). \quad (17)$$

Definition 1 can be extended to define the convolution product $f * g$ of two distributions f and g in \mathcal{D}' with the following definition, see Gel'fand and Shilov [2].

Definition 2. *Let f and g be distributions in \mathcal{D}' . Then the convolution product $f * g$ is defined by the equation*

$$\langle (f * g)(x), \phi \rangle = \langle f(y), \langle g(x), \phi(x+y) \rangle \rangle$$

for arbitrary ϕ in \mathcal{D} , provided f and g satisfy either of the conditions

- (a) either f or g has bounded support,
- (b) the supports of f and g are bounded on the same side.

It follows that if the convolution product $f * g$ exists by this definition then equations (16) and (17) are satisfied. In the following, the locally summable functions $e_+^{\lambda x}$ and $e_-^{\lambda x}$ are defined for $\lambda \neq 0$ by

$$e_+^{\lambda x} = H(x)e^{\lambda x} \quad e_-^{\lambda x} = H(-x)e^{\lambda x}.$$

Note that

$$e^{\lambda(-x)} = e^{(-\lambda)x}, \quad e_+^{\lambda(-x)} = e_-^{(-\lambda)x}, \quad e_-^{\lambda(-x)} = e_+^{(-\lambda)x}. \quad (18)$$

These results will also be used to deduce results for $\lambda < 0$ from results proved for $\lambda > 0$.

We now prove the following theorem

Theorem 1. *If $\lambda \neq 0$ and $\mu \neq 0$, then the convolution product $\text{ei}_+(\lambda x) * e_+^{\mu x}$ exists and*

$$\text{ei}_+(\lambda x) * e_+^{\mu x} = \mu^{-1} \{ e^{\mu x} \text{ei}_+[(\lambda + \mu)x] + \ln |1 + \mu/\lambda| e_+^{\mu x} - \text{ei}_+(\lambda x) \} \quad (19)$$

if $\lambda + \mu \neq 0$ and

$$\text{ei}_+(\lambda x) * e_+^{-\lambda x} = \lambda^{-1} [\text{ei}_+(\lambda x) + (\gamma + \ln |\lambda|) e_+^{-\lambda x} + e^{-\lambda x} \ln x_+]. \quad (20)$$

if $\lambda + \mu = 0$.

Proof. The convolution product $\text{ei}_+(\lambda x) * e_+^{\mu x} = 0$ if $x < 0$ and so we suppose that $x > 0$. There are four cases to consider to prove equation (19).

Case (i). $\lambda > 0, \lambda + \mu > 0$.

We first of all prove that

$$\begin{aligned} \text{ei}_+(\lambda x) * e_+^{\mu x} &= \mu^{-1} e_+^{\mu x} \int_0^x u^{-1} [e^{-\lambda u} - e^{-(\lambda+\mu)u}] du + \\ &\quad + \mu^{-1} (e^{\mu x} - 1) \text{ei}_+(\lambda x). \end{aligned} \quad (21)$$

We have

$$\begin{aligned} \text{ei}_+(\lambda x) * e_+^{\mu x} &= \int_0^x e^{\mu(x-t)} \int_t^\infty u^{-1} e^{-\lambda u} du dt \\ &= \int_0^x u^{-1} e^{-\lambda u} \int_0^u e^{\mu(x-t)} dt du + \int_x^\infty u^{-1} e^{-\lambda u} \int_0^x e^{\mu(x-t)} dt du \\ &= \mu^{-1} e_+^{\mu x} \int_0^x u^{-1} [e^{-\lambda u} - e^{-(\lambda+\mu)u}] du + \\ &\quad + \mu^{-1} (e^{\mu x} - 1) \text{ei}_+(\lambda x), \end{aligned}$$

giving equation (21).

Further,

$$\begin{aligned} \int_0^x u^{-1} [e^{-\lambda u} - H(1 - \lambda u)] du &= \int_0^\infty u^{-1} [e^{-\lambda u} - H(1 - \lambda u)] du + \\ &\quad - \int_x^\infty u^{-1} e^{-\lambda u} du + \int_x^\infty u^{-1} H(1 - \lambda u) du \\ &= -\gamma - \text{ei}_+(\lambda x) + \int_x^\infty u^{-1} H(1 - \lambda u) du. \end{aligned} \quad (22)$$

Similarly

$$\begin{aligned} \int_0^x u^{-1} [e^{-(\lambda+\mu)u} - H(1 - (\lambda + \mu)u)] du &= -\gamma - \text{ei}_+[(\lambda + \mu)x] + \\ &\quad + \int_x^\infty u^{-1} H[1 - (\lambda + \mu)u] du. \end{aligned} \quad (23)$$

It follows from equations (22) and (23) that

$$\begin{aligned} \int_0^x u^{-1}(e^{-\lambda u} - e^{-(\lambda+\mu)u}) du &= \text{ei}_+[(\lambda + \mu)x] - \text{ei}_+(\lambda x) + \\ &+ \int_0^\infty u^{-1}[H(1 - \lambda u) - H(1 - (\lambda + \mu)u)] du \\ &= \text{ei}_+[(\lambda + \mu)x] - \text{ei}_+(\lambda x) + \ln(1 + \mu/\lambda). \end{aligned} \quad (24)$$

Equation (19) now follows from equations (21) and (24) for Case (i).

Case (ii). $\lambda > 0, \lambda + \mu < 0$.

Equations (21) and (22) again hold in this case but since $\lambda + \mu < 0$, we have from equation (8)

$$\int_0^x u^{-1}(e^{-(\lambda+\mu)u} - 1) du = -\gamma - \ln|\lambda + \mu| - \text{ei}_+[(\lambda + \mu)x] - \ln x_+. \quad (25)$$

It follows from equations (22) and (25) that equation (24) again holds. Equation (19) follows for Case (ii).

Case (iii). $\lambda < 0, \lambda + \mu < 0$.

This time we have

$$\begin{aligned} \text{ei}_+(\lambda x) * e_+^{\mu x} &= -(\gamma + \ln|\lambda|) \int_0^x e^{\mu t} dt - \int_0^x e^{\mu(x-t)} \int_0^t u^{-1}(e^{-\lambda u} - 1) du dt + \\ &\quad - \int_0^x e^{\mu(x-u)} \ln u du \\ &= -\mu^{-1}(\gamma + \ln|\lambda|)(e^{\mu x} - 1) - \int_0^x u^{-1}(e^{-\lambda u} - 1) \int_u^x e^{\mu(x-t)} dt du + \\ &\quad + \mu^{-1}e^{\mu x} \int_0^x \ln u d(e^{-\mu u} - 1) \\ &= -\mu^{-1}(\gamma + \ln|\lambda|)(e^{\mu x} - 1) + \\ &\quad + \mu^{-1} \int_0^x u^{-1}(e^{-\lambda u} - 1)(1 - e^{\mu(x-u)}) du + \\ &\quad + \mu^{-1}(1 - e^{\mu x}) \ln x - \mu^{-1}e^{\mu x} \int_0^x u^{-1}(e^{-\mu u} - 1) du \\ &= -\mu^{-1} \text{ei}_+(\lambda x) - \mu^{-1}e^{\mu x} \int_0^x u^{-1}(e^{-(\lambda+\mu)u} - e^{-\mu u}) du + \\ &\quad - \mu^{-1}(\gamma + \ln|\lambda|)e^{\mu x} - \mu^{-1}e^{\mu x} \ln x - \mu^{-1}e^{\mu x} \int_0^x u^{-1}(e^{-\mu u} - 1) du \\ &= -\mu^{-1} \text{ei}_+(\lambda x) - \mu^{-1}e^{\mu x} \int_0^x u^{-1}(e^{-(\lambda+\mu)u} - 1) du + \\ &\quad - \mu^{-1}(\gamma + \ln|\lambda|)e^{\mu x} - \mu^{-1}e^{\mu x} \ln x \end{aligned} \quad (26)$$

and equation (19) follows for Case (iii).

Case (iv). $\lambda < 0$, $\lambda + \mu > 0$.

Equation (26) still holds for this case but this time we have

$$\begin{aligned} \int_0^x u^{-1}(e^{-(\lambda+\mu)u} - 1) du &= \int_0^\infty u^{-1}[e^{-(\lambda+\mu)u} - H(1 - (\lambda + \mu)u)] du + \\ &\quad - \int_x^\infty u^{-1}e^{-(\lambda+\mu)u} du + \int_x^{(\lambda+\mu)^{-1}} u^{-1} du \\ &= -\gamma - \text{ei}_+[(\lambda + \mu)x] - \ln[(\lambda + \mu)x] \end{aligned}$$

and equation (19) now follows from this equation and equation (26) for Case (iv).

We now have a further two cases to consider when $\lambda + \mu = 0$.

Case (v). $\lambda > 0$, $\lambda + \mu = 0$.

Equation (21) holds for this case. Further, replacing $\lambda + \mu$ by μ in equation (25) we have

$$\int_0^x u^{-1}(e^{-\lambda u} - 1) du = -\gamma - \text{ei}_+(\lambda x) - \ln(\lambda x) \quad (27)$$

and equation (20) now follows from equation (21) for Case (v).

Case (vi). $\lambda < 0$, $\lambda + \mu = 0$.

Equation (26) holds when $\mu = -\lambda$ but it reduces to

$$\text{ei}_+(\lambda x) * e_+^{-\lambda x} = \lambda^{-1} \text{ei}_+(\lambda x) + \lambda^{-1}(\gamma + \ln |\lambda|)e^{-\lambda x} + \lambda^{-1}e^{-\lambda x} \ln x$$

and equation (20) follows for Case (vi). \square

Corollary 1.1. *If $\lambda \neq 0$ and $\mu \neq 0$, then the convolution product $(e^{-\lambda x} x_+^{-s}) * e_+^{\mu x}$ exists for $s = 1, 2, \dots$. In particular, if $\lambda + \mu \neq 0$, then*

$$(e^{-\lambda x} x_+^{-1}) * e_+^{\mu x} = -e^{\mu x} \text{ei}_+[(\lambda + \mu)x] - (\gamma + \ln |\lambda + \mu|)e_+^{\mu x} \quad (28)$$

and if $\lambda + \mu = 0$, then

$$(e^{-\lambda x} x_+^{-1}) * e_+^{-\lambda x} = e^{-\lambda x} \ln x_+. \quad (29)$$

Proof. The convolution product $(e^{-\lambda x} x_+^{-s}) * e_+^{\mu x}$ exists by Definition 2 for $s = 1, 2, \dots$ since $e^{-\lambda x} x_+^{-s}$ and $e_+^{\mu x}$ are both bounded on the left. In particular, we have from equations (11), (17) and (19)

$$\begin{aligned} [-e^{-\lambda x} x_+^{-1} - (\gamma + \ln |\lambda|)\delta(x)] * e_+^{\mu x} &= \text{ei}_+(\lambda x) * [\mu e_+^{\mu x} + \delta(x)] \\ &= e^{\mu x} \text{ei}_+[(\lambda + \mu)x] + \ln |1 + \mu/\lambda| e_+^{\mu x} \end{aligned}$$

and equation (28) follows.

Similarly, using equations (11), (17) and (20), we have

$$\begin{aligned} [-e^{-\lambda x} x_+^{-1} - (\gamma + \ln |\lambda|) \delta(x)] * e_+^{-\lambda x} &= \text{ei}_+(\lambda x) * [-\lambda e_+^{-\lambda x} + \delta(x)] \\ &= -\text{ei}_+(\lambda x) - (\gamma + \ln |\lambda|) e_+^{-\lambda x} - e^{-\lambda x} \ln x_+ + \text{ei}_+(\lambda x) \end{aligned}$$

and equation (29) follows. \square

Theorem 2. *If $\lambda \neq 0$ and $\mu \neq 0$, then the convolution product $\text{ei}_-(\lambda x) * e_-^{\mu x}$ exists and*

$$\text{ei}_-(\lambda x) * e_-^{\mu x} = -\mu^{-1} \{e^{\mu x} \text{ei}_-[(\lambda + \mu)x] + \ln |1 + \mu/\lambda| e_-^{\mu x} - \text{ei}_-(\lambda x)\} \quad (30)$$

if $\lambda + \mu \neq 0$, and

$$\text{ei}_-(\lambda x) * e_-^{\lambda x} = -\lambda^{-1} [\text{ei}_-(\lambda x) + (\gamma + \ln |\lambda|) e_-^{\lambda x} + e^{-\lambda x} \ln x_-] \quad (31)$$

if $\lambda + \mu = 0$.

Proof. Replacing λ by $-\lambda$ and μ by $-\mu$ in equation (19) we get

$$\begin{aligned} \text{ei}_+((-\lambda)x) * e_+^{(-\mu)x} &= -\mu^{-1} \{e^{(-\mu)x} \text{ei}_+[(\lambda - \mu)x] + \ln |1 + \mu/\lambda| e_+^{(-\mu)x} + \\ &\quad - \text{ei}_+((-\lambda)x)\} \end{aligned}$$

and equation (30) follows on replacing x by $-x$ in this equation.

Equation (31) follows similarly. \square

Corollary 2.1. *If $\lambda \neq 0$ and $\mu \neq 0$, then the convolution product $(e^{-\lambda x} x_-^{-s}) * e_-^{\mu x}$ exists for $s = 1, 2, \dots$. In particular, if $\lambda + \mu \neq 0$, then*

$$(e^{-\lambda x} x_-^{-1}) * e_-^{\mu x} = -e^{\mu x} \text{ei}_-[(\lambda + \mu)x] - (\gamma + \ln |\lambda + \mu|) e_-^{\mu x} \quad (32)$$

and if $\lambda + \mu = 0$ then

$$(e^{-\lambda x} x_-^{-1}) * e_-^{\lambda x} = e^{-\lambda x} \ln x_-. \quad (33)$$

Proof. The existence of convolution product $(e^{-\lambda x} x_-^{-s}) * e_-^{\mu x}$ follows from equations (11), (17) and (30). In particular, we have from equations (11), (17) and (30)

$$\begin{aligned} [e^{-\lambda x} x_-^{-1} + (\gamma + \ln |\lambda|) \delta(x)] * e_-^{\mu x} &= \text{ei}_-(\lambda x) * [\mu e_-^{\mu x} - \delta(x)] \\ &= -e^{\mu x} \text{ei}_-[(\lambda + \mu)x] - \ln(1 + \mu/\lambda) e_-^{\mu x} \end{aligned}$$

and equation (32) follows. Similarly, using equations (11), (17) and (31), we have

$$\begin{aligned} [e^{-\lambda x} x_-^{-1} + (\gamma + \ln |\lambda|) \delta(x)] * e_-^{\lambda x} &= \text{ei}_-(\lambda x) * [-\lambda e_-^{\lambda x} - \delta(x)] \\ &= (\gamma + \ln |\lambda|) e_-^{\lambda x} + e^{-\lambda x} \ln x_- \end{aligned}$$

and equation (33) follows. \square

Theorem 3. *If $\lambda, \lambda + \mu > 0$ and $\mu \neq 0$, then the convolution product $\text{ei}_+(\lambda x) * e^{\mu x}$ exists and*

$$\text{ei}_+(\lambda x) * e^{\mu x} = \mu^{-1} \ln(1 + \mu/\lambda) e^{\mu x}. \quad (34)$$

Proof. We have

$$\begin{aligned} \text{ei}_+(\lambda x) * e^{\mu x} &= \int_0^\infty e^{\mu(x-t)} \int_t^\infty u^{-1} e^{-\lambda u} du dt \\ &= \int_0^\infty u^{-1} e^{-\lambda u} \int_0^u e^{\mu(x-t)} dt du \\ &= \mu^{-1} e^{\mu x} \int_0^\infty u^{-1} [e^{-\lambda u} - e^{-(\lambda+\mu)u}] du. \end{aligned}$$

Now

$$\begin{aligned} \int_0^\infty u^{-1} [e^{-\lambda u} - e^{-(\lambda+\mu)u}] du &= \int_0^\infty u^{-1} [e^{-\lambda u} - H(1 - \lambda u)] du + \\ &\quad - \int_0^\infty u^{-1} [e^{-(\lambda+\mu)u} - H(1 - (\lambda + \mu)u)] du + \\ &\quad + \int_0^\infty u^{-1} [H(1 - \lambda u) - H(1 - (\lambda + \mu)u)] du \\ &= -\gamma + \gamma + \ln(1 + \mu/\lambda) \end{aligned}$$

and equation (34) follows. \square

Note 1. *Theorem 3 is equivalent to the van der Pol formula [4]*

$$\int_0^\infty e^{-px} \text{ei}(\lambda x) dx = p^{-1} \ln(1 + p/\lambda).$$

Corollary 3.1. *If $\lambda, \lambda + \mu > 0$ and $\mu \neq 0$, then the convolution product $(e^{-\lambda x} x_+^{-1}) * e^{\mu x}$ exists and*

$$(e^{-\lambda x} x_+^{-1}) * e^{\mu x} = -(\gamma + \ln |\lambda + \mu|) e^{\mu x}. \quad (35)$$

Proof. Differentiating equation (34) we get

$$[-e^{-\lambda x} x_+^{-1} - (\gamma + \ln |\lambda|) \delta(x)] * e^{\mu x} = \ln(1 + \mu/\lambda) e^{\mu x}$$

and equation (35) follows. \square

Note 2. *Corollary 3.1 is equivalent to*

$$\int_{-\infty}^\infty e^{-px} x_+^{-1} dx = -\gamma - \ln p,$$

due to Gel'fand and Shilov [2].

Corollary 3.2. *If $\lambda, \lambda + \mu > 0$ and $\mu \neq 0$, then the convolution products $\text{ei}_+(\lambda x) * e_-^{\mu x}$ and $(e^{-\lambda x} x_+^{-1}) * e_-^{\mu x}$ exist and*

$$\text{ei}_+(\lambda x) * e_-^{\mu x} = \mu^{-1} \{ \text{ei}_+(\lambda x) - e^{\mu x} \text{ei}_+[(\lambda + \mu)x] + \ln(1 + \mu/\lambda) e_-^{\mu x} \} \quad (36)$$

$$(e^{-\lambda x} x_+^{-1}) * e_-^{\mu x} = e^{\mu x} \text{ei}_+[(\lambda + \mu)x] - (\gamma + \ln |\lambda + \mu|) e_-^{\mu x}. \quad (37)$$

Proof. Equation (36) follows from equations (19) and (34). Equation (37) then follows from equations (28) and (35). \square

Theorem 4. *If $\lambda, \lambda + \mu < 0$ and $\mu \neq 0$, then the convolution product $\text{ei}_-(\lambda x) * e^{\mu x}$ exists and*

$$\text{ei}_-(\lambda x) * e^{\mu x} = -\mu^{-1} \ln(1 + \mu/\lambda) e^{\mu x}. \quad (38)$$

Proof. Replacing λ by $-\lambda$ and μ by $-\mu$ in equation (34) we get

$$\text{ei}_+[(-\lambda)x] * e^{-\mu x} = -\mu^{-1} \ln(1 + \mu/\lambda) e^{-\mu x}$$

and equation (38) follows on replacing x by $-x$ in this equation. \square

The results of the corollaries follow easily.

Corollary 4.1. *If $\lambda, \lambda + \mu < 0$ and $\mu \neq 0$, then the convolution product $(e^{-\lambda x} x_-^{-1}) * e^{\mu x}$ exists and*

$$(e^{-\lambda x} x_-^{-1}) * e^{\mu x} = -(\gamma + \ln |\lambda + \mu|) e^{\mu x}.$$

Corollary 4.2. *If $\lambda, \lambda + \mu < 0$ and $\mu \neq 0$, then the convolution products $\text{ei}_-(\lambda x) * e_+^{\mu x}$ and $(e^{-\lambda x} x_-^{-1}) * e_+^{\mu x}$ exist and*

$$\begin{aligned} \text{ei}_-(\lambda x) * e_+^{\mu x} &= \mu^{-1} \{ \text{ei}_-(\lambda x) - e^{\mu x} \text{ei}_-[(\lambda + \mu)x] + \ln(1 + \mu/\lambda) e_+^{\mu x} \} \\ (e^{-\lambda x} x_-^{-1}) * e_+^{\mu x} &= e^{\mu x} \text{ei}_-[(\lambda + \mu)x] - (\gamma + \ln |\lambda + \mu|) e_+^{\mu x}. \end{aligned}$$

Acknowledgment. The authors would like to thank the referee for his helpful suggestions in the improvement of this paper.

References

- [1] B. Fisher and J.D. Nicholas, "On the exponential integral", submitted for publication.
- [2] I.M. Gel'fand and G.E. Shilov, "Generalized functions", Vol. I, Academic Press (1964).

- [3] I.N. Sneddon, "Special Functions of Mathematical Physics and Chemistry", Oliver and Boyd, (1961).
- [4] B. van der Pol, "On the operational solution of linear differential equations and an investigation of the properties of these solutions", Phil. Mag. ser.7 **8**(1929), 861-898.

Brian Fisher and Joel D. Nicholas
Department of Mathematics and Computer Science, Leicester University
Leicester, LE1 7RH, England.