

College Algebra and Trigonometry

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① Convert between Logarithmic and Exponential Forms

Equation

Solution

$$5^x = 5$$

$$x = 1$$

$$5^x = 15$$

$$x = ?$$

$$5^x = 25$$

$$x = 2$$

$$5^x = 75$$

$$x = ?$$

$$5^x = 125$$

$$x = 3$$

Definition of a Logarithmic Function:

If x and b are positive real numbers such that $b \neq 1$, then $y = \log_b x$ is called **the logarithmic function base b** , where:

$$y = \log_b x \quad \text{is equivalent to} \quad b^y = x$$

Notes:

- The value y is called the **logarithm**, b is called the **base**, and x is called the **argument**.
- The expression $y = \log_b x$ is called the **logarithmic form**, and $b^y = x$ is called the **exponential form**.

Example 1:

Write each equation in exponential form.

a) $\log_2 16 = 4$

b) $\log_{10} \left(\frac{1}{100} \right) = -2$

c) $\log_7 1 = 0$

Example 2:

Write each equation in logarithmic form.

a) $3^4 = 81$

b) $10^6 = 1000000$

c) $\left(\frac{1}{5} \right)^{-1} = 5$

② Evaluate Logarithmic Expressions

Equivalence Property of Exponential Expressions:

If b , x , and y are real numbers with $b > 0$ and $b \neq 1$, then:

$$b^x = b^y \quad \text{implies that} \quad x = y$$

Example 3:

Evaluate the following logarithmic expressions.

a) $\log_4 16$

b) $\log_9 3$

c) $\log_{1/2} 8$

Definition of Common and Natural Logarithmic Functions

- The logarithmic function base 10 is called the **common logarithmic function**, denoted as:

$$y = \log_{10} x = \log x$$

- The logarithmic function base e is called the **natural logarithmic function**, denoted as:

$$y = \log_e x = \ln x$$

Example 4:

Evaluate the following logarithmic expressions.

- a) $\log 100000$ b) $\log 0.001$ c) $\ln e^4$ d) $\ln \frac{1}{e}$

③ Apply Basic Properties of Logarithms

Property

Reason

1. $\log_b 1 = 0$

$$b^0 = 1$$

2. $\log_b b = 1$

$$b^1 = b$$

3. $\log_b b^x = x$

$$b^x = b^x$$

4. $b^{\log_b x} = x$

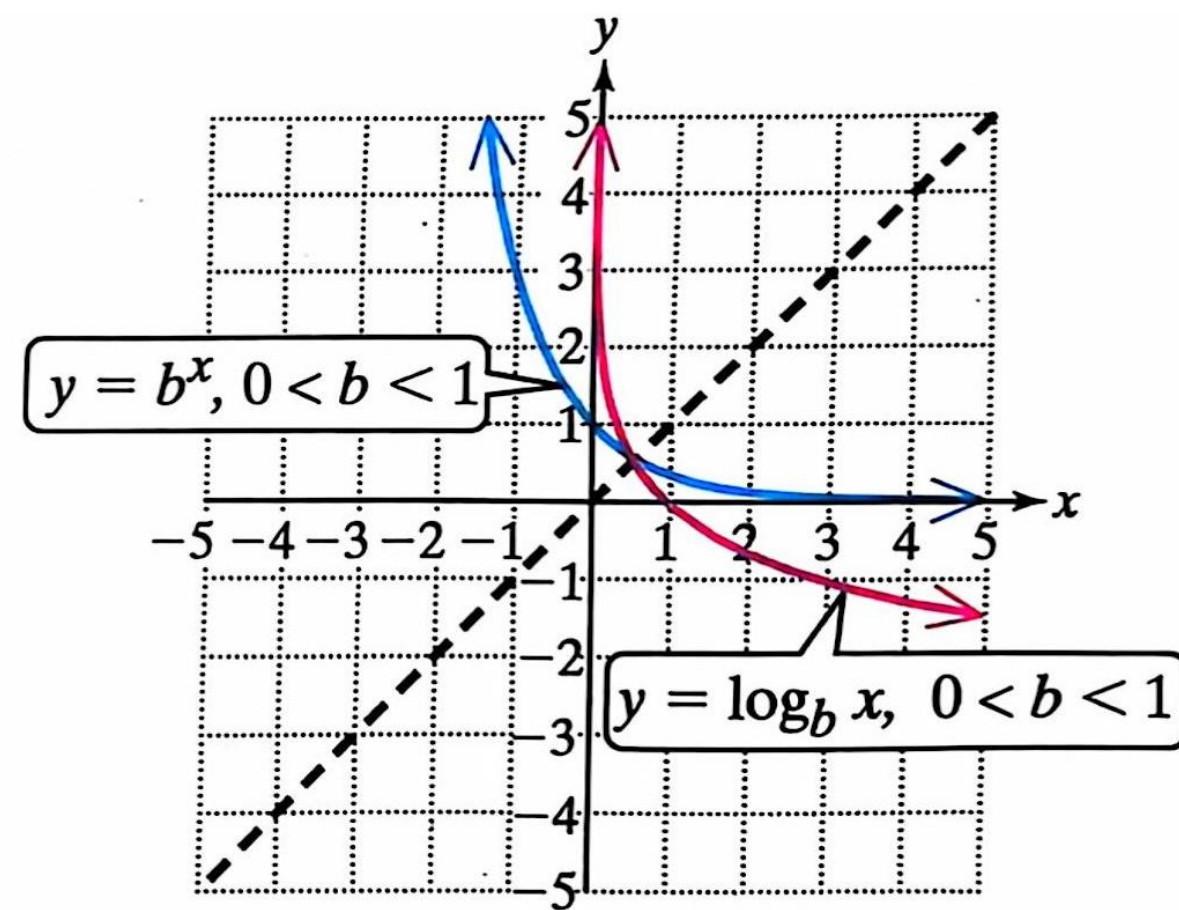
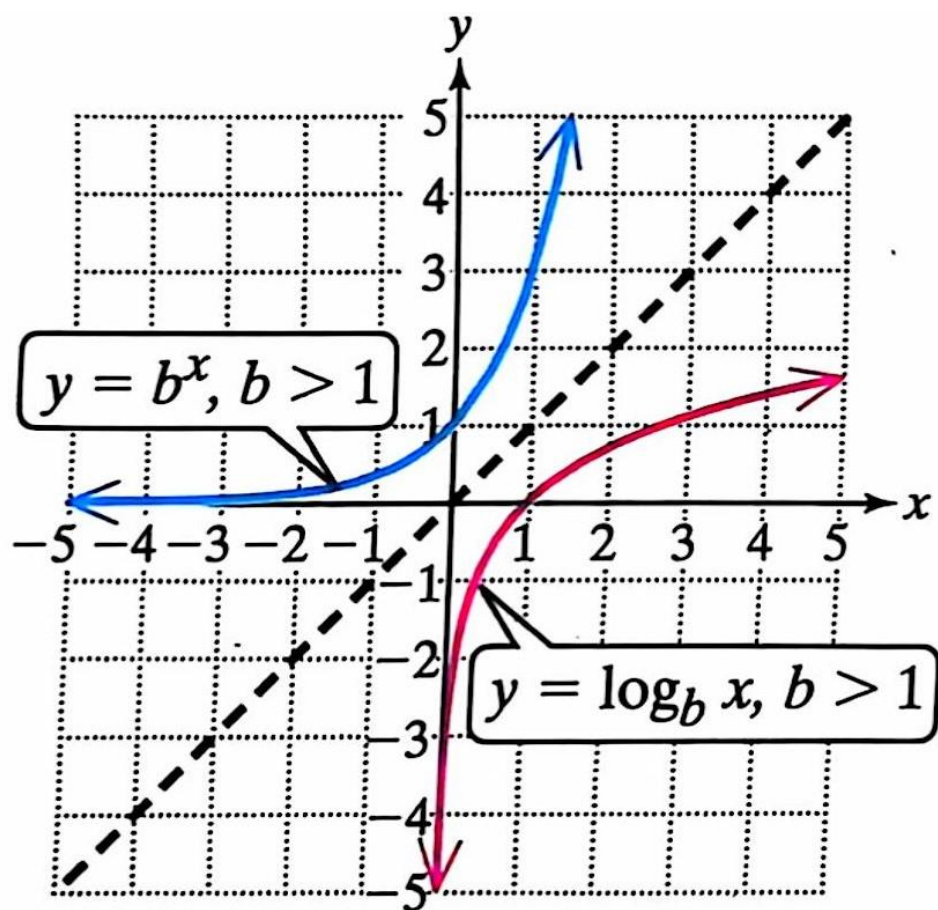
$$\log_b x = \log_b x$$

Example 6:

Simplify:

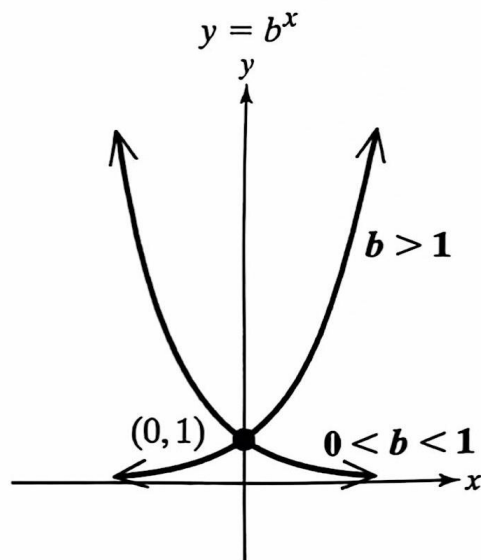
a) $\log_3 3^{10}$	b) $\ln e^3$	c) $\log_{11} 121$	d) $\log 1000$
e) $\log_{\sqrt{7}} 1$	f) $\ln 1$	g) $5^{\log_5(a^2+1)}$	h) $10^{\log(b^2)}$

④ Graphs of Logarithmic Functions



Graphs of Exponential and Logarithmic Functions

Exponential Functions



Domain: $(-\infty, \infty)$

Range: $(0, \infty)$

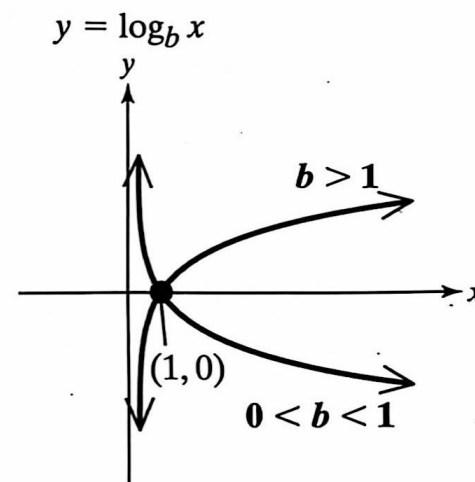
Horizontal asymptote: $y = 0$

Passes through $(0, 1)$

If $b > 1$, the function is increasing.

If $0 < b < 1$, the function is decreasing.

Logarithmic Functions



Domain: $(0, \infty)$

Range: $(-\infty, \infty)$

Vertical asymptote: $x = 0$

Passes through $(1, 0)$

If $b > 1$, the function is increasing.

If $0 < b < 1$, the function is decreasing.

Example 7:

Graph:

a) $y = \log_2 x$

b) $y = \log_{1/2} x$

Example 8:

Identify the domain in interval notation:

a) $f(x) = \log_2(2x + 4)$ b) $g(x) = \ln(5 - x)$ c) $h(x) = \log(x^2 - 9)$

① Apply the Product, Quotient, and Power Properties of Logarithms

Product Property of Logarithms

- Let b , x , and y be positive real numbers where $b \neq 1$. Then

$$\log_b(xy) = \log_b x + \log_b y$$

Example 1:

Write the logarithm as a sum and simplify if possible. Assume x and y are positive real numbers.

a) $\log_2(8x)$

b) $\ln(ye^3)$

c) $\log(10xy)$

Quotient Property of Logarithms

- Let b , x , and y be positive real numbers where $b \neq 1$. Then

$$\log_b \left(\frac{x}{y} \right) = \log_b x - \log_b y$$

Example 2:

Write the logarithm as a difference and simplify if possible.

Assume x and y are positive real numbers.

a) $\log_3 \left(\frac{x}{9} \right)$

b) $\log \frac{y}{1000}$

c) $\ln \frac{xe}{y}$

Power Property of Logarithms

- Let b and x be positive real numbers where $b \neq 1$. Let p be any real number. Then

$$\log_b x^p = p \log_b x$$

Example 3:

Simplify the logarithms. Assume x and y are positive real numbers.

a) $\ln \sqrt[5]{x^2}$

b) $\log(100y^2)$

c) $\log_3(27x^3y^2)$

② Write a Logarithmic Expression in Expanded Form

$$\log(\mathbf{abc}) = \log \mathbf{a} + \log \mathbf{b} + \log \mathbf{c}$$

$$\ln \left(\frac{\mathbf{ab}}{\mathbf{c}} \right) = \ln \mathbf{a} + \ln \mathbf{b} - \ln \mathbf{c}$$

Example 4:

Expand the logarithms. All variables are positive real numbers.

a) $\log_2 \left(\frac{z^3}{xy^5} \right)$

b) $\log \sqrt[3]{\frac{(x+y)^2}{10}}$

③ Write a Logarithmic Expression in Condensed Form

$$\log a + \log b + \log c = \log(abc)$$

$$\ln a + \ln b - \ln c = \ln\left(\frac{ab}{c}\right)$$

Example 5:

Expand the logarithms. All variables are positive real numbers.

a) $\log_2 560 - \log_2 7 - \log_2 5$

b) $3 \log a + 2 \log b - \frac{1}{2} \log c$

④ Apply the Change-of-Base Formula

Change-of-Base Formula

- Let a and b be positive real numbers where $a \neq 1$ and $b \neq 1$. Then for any positive real number x :

$$\log_b x = \frac{\log_a x}{\log_a b}$$

$$\Rightarrow \log_b x = \frac{\log x}{\log b} \quad \text{and} \quad \log_b x = \frac{\ln x}{\ln b}$$

Example 6:

Use the change-of-base formula to simplify:

$$(\log_2 12)(\log_{12} 8)$$