

Problem: 1

SOEN-6011 Software Engineering Processes

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❖ **Function $\log_b(x)$**

Description

In mathematics, the logarithm is the inverse function to exponentiation. That means the logarithm of a given number x is the exponent to which another fixed number, the base b , must be raised, to produce that number x .

The exponential function that is $y = b^x$ has the inverse $x = b^y$. So, to express y as a function of x the logarithm was invented by John Napier in 1614. [1]

$$F(X) = \log_b X$$

It is called "x is equal to b to the power y." This is equivalent to saying "y is the base-b logarithm of x."

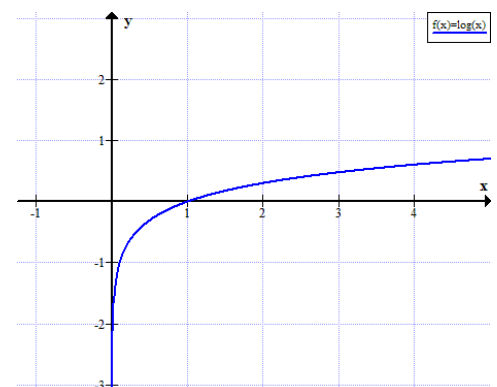
- ❖ The **domain** is the set of all **positive real numbers**.
- ❖ $f(x) = \log_b x$ is not defined for negative values of x , or for 0.
- ❖ It is defined for base **$b \neq 1$ and $b > 0$** .
- ❖ The **co-domain** is the set of **all real numbers**. (Since the logarithmic function is the inverse of the exponential function, the domain of logarithmic function is the range of exponential function, and vice versa.). This function is continuous and one-to-one.

Applications of logarithms

- ❖ It is used to simplify multiplication and division by converting these operations into addition and subtraction in **slide rule**. This is done by placing the numbers on a scale which is logarithmic. [1]
- ❖ Logs are used in a variety of applications in sciences, some of the most common are: measuring loudness (decibels), measuring earthquake intensity (Richter scale), radioactive decay, and acidity ($\text{pH} = -\log_{10}[\text{H}^+]$). They are also essential in mathematics to solve certain exponential-type problems.

Properties of logarithm

- ❖ The log of a product is the sum of the logs
- ❖ The sum of the logs is the log of the products
- ❖ The log of a quotient is the difference of the logs
- ❖ The difference of the logs is the log of the quotient
- ❖ The exponent on the argument is the coefficient of the log
- ❖ The coefficient of the log is the exponent on the argument



References

- [1] <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Logarithm>