

Rules of Logarithms

Michal Špano

November 2021

$$\forall x, y \in \mathbf{R}^+, \forall a > 0 \wedge a \neq 1, \forall s \in \mathbf{R} :$$

1. **Rule 1**

$$\log_a 1 = 0$$

$$a^0 = 1 \dots \log_a 1 = 0$$

2. **Rule 2**

$$\log_a a = 1$$

$$a^1 = a \dots \log_a a = 1$$

3. **Rule 3**

$$a^{\log_a x} = x$$

$$\log_a x = \ell \dots a^\ell = x \Rightarrow a^{\log_a x} = x$$

4. **Rule 4**

$$\log_a(x.y) = \log_a x + \log_a y$$

$$x = a^{\log_a x}, y = a^{\log_a y} \dots (x.y) = a^{\log_a x} . a^{\log_a y} \dots (x.y) = a^{\log_a x + \log_a y};$$

$$\mathbf{Rule 3} \Rightarrow \log_a(x.y) = \log_a x + \log_a y$$

5. **Rule 5**

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

$$x = a^{\log_a x}, y = a^{\log_a y} \dots \left(\frac{x}{y} \right) = \frac{a^{\log_a x}}{a^{\log_a y}} \dots \left(\frac{x}{y} \right) = a^{\log_a x - \log_a y};$$

$$\mathbf{Rule 3} \Rightarrow \log_a \left(\frac{x}{y} \right) = \log_a x - \log_a y$$

6. **Rule 6**

$$\log_a x^s = s(\log_a x)$$

$$x = a^{\log_a x} \dots x^s = (a^{\log_a x})^s \dots x^s = a^{s(\log_a x)}; \mathbf{Rule 3} \Rightarrow \log_a x^s = s(\log_a x)$$

7. **Rule 7**

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

$$x = a^{\log_a x} \dots \log_b x = \log_b a^{\log_a x}; \mathbf{Rule 6} \Rightarrow \log_b a^{\log_a x} = \log_a x (\log_b a)$$

$$\dots \log_b x = \log_a x (\log_b a) / \div (\log_b a) \Rightarrow \log_a x = \frac{\log_b x}{\log_b a}$$