

Cheat Sheet

Questions

LOGARITHMS

Given a logarithm in base a give an expression to convert it to base b?

$$y = \log_a x \therefore x = a^y$$

$$\log_b x = \log_b a^y = y \log_b a = \log_a x \log_b a$$

$$\log_b x = \log_a x \log_b a$$

Powers

1. $a^m \times a^n = a^{m+n}$

2. $a^m \div a^n = a^{m-n}$

3. $a^0 = 1$

4. $a^{-m} = \frac{1}{a^m}$

5. $a^{\frac{1}{m}} = \sqrt[m]{a}$

6. $a^{\frac{n}{m}} = \sqrt[m]{a^n}$

Logarithms

1. $\log_a x y = \log_a x + \log_a y$

2. $\log_a \frac{x}{y} = \log_a x - \log_a y$

3. $x^n = (a^b)^n = a^{bn}$

4. $\log_a x^n = n \times \log_a x$

5. $\log_a a^x = x \times \log_a a = x. 1 = x$

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

7. $\log_a b = \frac{1}{\log_b a}$

8. $\log_b x = \log_b a \times \log_a x$

Terminology

Term	Example	Description
Expression	$4x + 3$	

Term	$4x + 3$	A part of an expression. Note we highlighted the term $4x$ in the example
Coefficient	$4x + 3$	The numerical multiplier in a term
Equation	$4x + 3 = 2$	An equation requires an equals sign
Inequality	$x \leq 5$	
Formula	$e = mc^2$	
Function	f	
Function Value	$f(x), f(1)$	

Symbols

Symbol	Meaning	Example	Description
$\{ \}$	Set	$\{1, 2\}$	The set consisting of the objects 1 and 2
$ $	Such that	$\{x x^2 < 2\}$	The set of all x such that $x^2 < 2$
\exists	Existential qualifier (there exists)	$\exists x \in \mathbb{Z} x^2 = 4$	There exists an integer x such that $x^2 = 4$
\forall	Universal qualifier (for all)	$\forall x \in \mathbb{Z} x^2 > 0$	For all positive integers x, $x^2 \geq 0$

Factorizing Polynomials

1. Extraction of common factors

$$35x^2y^2 - 10xy^3 = 5xy^2(7x - 2y)$$

2. Grouping

Four termed expressions can sometimes be factorized into two binomial expressions

$$2ac + 6bc + ad + 3bd = 2c(a + 3b) + d(a + 3b) = (2c + d)(a + 3b)$$

3. Standard Factors of Quadratic Polynomials

$$\blacklozenge \quad a^2 + 2ab + b^2 = (a + b)^2$$

$$\blacklozenge \quad a^2 - 2ab + b^2 = (a - b)^2$$

$$\blacklozenge \quad a^2 - b^2 = (a - b)(a + b)$$

4. Test for simple factors

A quadratic polynomial $ax^2 + bx + c$ can be written as the product of two simple factors if $b^2 - 4ac$ is a perfect square

5. Solving quadratic equations with no simple factors

$$x = \frac{-b \pm \sqrt{b^2 - 4ac}}{2a}$$

