

2023 Problems

1. Suppose that x and y are real numbers for which $2 \log_{10}(x - 2y) = \log_{10} x + \log_{10} y$. Determine all possible values of $\frac{x}{y}$.

$$2 \log_{10}(x - 2y) = \log_{10}(x) + \log_{10}(y) \quad \text{--- (1)}$$

$$\Rightarrow \log_{10}(x - 2y)^2 = \log_{10}(xy) \quad \text{--- (2)}$$

$$\therefore \text{all terms have } \log_{10}, \log_{10} \text{ cancels out} \Rightarrow (x - 2y)^2 = xy$$

$$x^2 - 4xy + 4y^2 = xy$$

$$\Rightarrow x^2 - 5xy + 4y^2 = 0$$

$$\Rightarrow x = \frac{-(-5y) \pm \sqrt{(5y)^2 - 4(1)(4y^2)}}{2(1)} \quad (\text{using quadratic formula})$$

$$\Rightarrow x = \frac{5y \pm \sqrt{25y^2 - 16y^2}}{2}$$

$$\Rightarrow x = \frac{5y \pm \sqrt{9y^2}}{2} \Rightarrow x = \frac{5y \pm 3y}{2}$$

$$\Rightarrow x = \frac{5y + 3y}{2} \text{ or } x = \frac{5y - 3y}{2}$$

$$\Rightarrow x = \frac{8y}{2} \text{ or } x = \frac{2y}{2}$$

$$\Rightarrow x = 4y \text{ or } x = y$$

$$\Rightarrow \frac{x}{y} = 4 \text{ or } \frac{x}{y} = 1$$

$$\therefore \text{Answer) } \frac{x}{y} = 4 \text{ or } \frac{x}{y} = 1$$
