

5-1 Defining and Evaluating Logarithms

- Objectives:
- 5-1a: I can convert between logarithm and exponential form.
  - 5-1b: I can evaluate a logarithmic expression.

Logarithmic equations are the inverse of Exponential equations

Exponential Equation

$b^x = a$

base

exponent

Logarithmic Equation

$\log_b a = x$

base

exponent

$b > 0, b \neq 1$

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Examples

| Exponential Equation             | Logarithmic Equation       |
|----------------------------------|----------------------------|
| $4^3 = 64$                       | $\log_4 64 = 3$            |
| $5^{-2} = \frac{1}{25}$          | $\log_5 \frac{1}{25} = -2$ |
| $3^5 = 243$                      | $\log_3 243 = 5$           |
| $4^{-3} = \frac{1}{64}$          | $\log_4 \frac{1}{64} = -3$ |
| $\left(\frac{3}{4}\right)^t = s$ | $\log_{\frac{3}{4}} s = t$ |
|                                  | $\log_{\frac{1}{5}} v = w$ |

$e = 2.72$        $\ln = \log_e$

The natural logarithm:

$y = \ln x$

$\ln x = y$

is equivalent to

$x = e^y$

$e^y = x$

The common logarithm: (base 10)

$y = \log x$

$\log x = y$

is equivalent to

$x = 10^y$

$10^y = x$

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| Exponential Equation | Logarithmic Equation  |
|----------------------|-----------------------|
| $e^5 \approx 148.4$  | $\ln 148.4 \approx 5$ |
| $e^{1.8} \approx 6$  | $\ln 6 \approx 1.8$   |
| $10^5 = 100,000$     | $\log 100,000 = 5$    |
| $10^3 = 1000$        | $\log 1,000 = 3$      |

If  $f(x) = \log_{10} x$ , find  $f(1000)$ ,  $f(0.01)$ , and  $f(\sqrt{10})$ .

$$\log_{10} 1000 = ?$$

$$10^? = 1000 \quad ? = 3$$

If  $f(x) = \log_{\frac{1}{2}} x$ , find  $f(4)$ ,  $f\left(\frac{1}{32}\right)$ , and  $f(2\sqrt{2})$ .

$$\log_{\frac{1}{2}} 4 = ?$$

$$\left(\frac{1}{2}\right)^? = 4 \quad ? = -2$$

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Find the exact value without a calculator

$$\log_2 32 = 5$$

$$2^? = 32$$

$$\log 10000000$$

$$7$$

$$\log_4 \frac{1}{16} = -2$$

$$\log .00001$$

$$-5$$

You try

$$\log_5 25 = 2$$

$$5^? = 25$$

$$\log 1000$$

$$= 3$$

$$\log_2 \frac{1}{8} = -3$$

$$\log .001$$

$$= -3$$

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The acidity level, or pH, of a liquid is given by the formula  $\text{pH} = \log \frac{1}{[\text{H}^+]}$  where  $[\text{H}^+]$  is the concentration (in moles per liter) of hydrogen ions in the liquid. In a typical chlorinated swimming pool, the concentration of hydrogen ions ranges from  $1.58 \times 10^{-8}$  moles per liter to  $6.31 \times 10^{-8}$  moles per liter. What is the range of the pH for a typical swimming pool?

$$\text{pH} = \log \frac{1}{1.58 \times 10^{-8}} = 7.8$$

$$\text{pH} = \log \frac{1}{6.31 \times 10^{-8}} = 7.2$$

7.2 to 7.8

The intensity level  $L$  (in decibels, dB) of a sound is given by the formula  $L = 10 \log \frac{I}{I_0}$  where  $I$  is the intensity (in watts per square meter,  $\text{W/m}^2$ ) of the sound and  $I_0$  is the intensity of the softest audible sound, about  $10^{-12} \text{ W/m}^2$ . What is the intensity level of a rock concert if the sound has an intensity of  $3.2 \text{ W/m}^2$ ?

$$L = 10 \log \frac{3.2}{10^{-12}} = 125 \text{ dB}$$

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