

COLLEGE ALGEBRA

GPS # 27

3.2

LOGARITHMIC FUNCTIONS I

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Useful Guidelines:

* The logarithmic function to the base a , where $a > 0$ and $a \neq 1$: $y = \log_a x$ if and only if $x = a^y$;

* Properties of the logarithmic Function $y = \log_a x$ (where $a > 0$ and $a \neq 1$):

(1) Domain: the interval $(0, \infty)$; Range: the interval $(-\infty, \infty)$;

(2) x -intercepts: 1; y -intercept: none;

(3) Vertical asymptote: $x = 0$;

(4) $f(x) = \log_a x, a > 1$, is an increasing, one-to-one, smooth and continuous function;

$f(x) = \log_a x, 0 < a < 1$, is a decreasing, one-to-one, smooth and continuous function;

(5) The points $(1,0), (a,1)$, and $(\frac{1}{a}, -1)$ are always on the graph of f .

* Natural logarithm function: $y = \log_e x = \ln x$ if and only if $x = e^y$.

* Common logarithm function: $y = \log x$ if and only if $x = 10^y$.

1. Change each logarithmic expression to an equivalent expression involving an exponent.

a) $\log_{10} m = 5$

$$\begin{array}{ccc} +10 & & +10 \\ m & = & 10^5 \end{array}$$

b) $\log_e b = 4$

$$\begin{array}{ccc} +e & & +e \\ b & = & e^4 \end{array}$$

c) $\log_p 3 = x$

$$\begin{array}{ccc} +p & & +p \\ 3 & = & p^x \end{array}$$

d) $\log_2 M = c$

$$\begin{array}{ccc} +2 & & +2 \\ M & = & 2^c \end{array}$$

e) $\ln 5 = x$

$$\begin{array}{ccc} 10 \log_e(5) & = & x \\ +e & & +e \\ 5 & = & e^x \end{array}$$

f) $\ln x = 3$

$$\begin{array}{ccc} 10 \log_e(x) & = & 3 \\ +e & & +e \\ x & = & e^3 \end{array}$$

2. Find the exact value of the following:

a) $y = \log_3 27$

$$\begin{array}{ccc} Y & = & 10 \log_3(3^3) \\ & = & 3 \log_3(3) \\ & = & 3 \cdot 1 \end{array}$$

b) $y = \log_{10} 100$

$$\begin{array}{ccc} Y & = & 10 \log_{10}(10^2) \\ & = & 2 \log_{10}(10) \\ & = & 2 \cdot 1 \end{array}$$

c) $y = \log_3 \frac{1}{9}$

$$\begin{array}{ccc} Y & = & 10 \log_3(3^{-2}) \\ & = & -2 \log_3(3) \\ & = & -2 \cdot 1 \end{array}$$

d) $y = \log_{10} \frac{1}{1000}$

$$\begin{array}{ccc} Y & = & 10 \log_{10}(10^{-3}) \\ & = & -3 \log_{10}(10) \\ & = & -3 \cdot 1 \end{array}$$

e) $y = \ln(e^4)$

$$\begin{array}{ccc} Y & = & 10 \log_e(e^4) \\ & = & 4 \log_e(e) \\ & = & 4 \cdot 1 \end{array}$$

f) $y = \ln(\sqrt{e})$

$$\begin{array}{ccc} Y & = & 10 \log_e(e^{1/2}) \\ & = & \frac{1}{2} \log_e(e) \\ & = & \frac{1}{2} \cdot 1 \end{array}$$

3. Find the domain of each function.

a) $f(x) = \log_3(x+1)$

$$D: \{x | x > -1\}$$

b) $g(x) = (4+2\ln(5x))^{-1}$

$$D: \{x | x > 0\}$$

c) $f(x) = \sqrt{\ln x}$

$$D: \{x | x \geq 1\}$$

d) $g(x) = \frac{1}{\ln x}$

$$D: \{x | x > 0, x \neq 1\}$$

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D: $\{x | x > 0, x \neq 1\}$