

3.4 Properties of Logarithmic Functions (Target 3C/3E)

Review of Prior Concepts (ACT Warmup)

1. For positive real numbers x , y , and z , which of the following expressions is equivalent to $x^{\frac{1}{2}}y^{\frac{2}{3}}z^{\frac{5}{6}}$?

- A. $\sqrt[3]{xy^2z^3}$
 B. $\sqrt[6]{xy^2z^5}$
 C. $\sqrt[6]{x^3y^2z^5}$
D. $\sqrt[6]{x^3y^4z^5}$
 E. $\sqrt[11]{xy^2z^5}$

$$x^{\frac{1}{2}} \cdot y^{\frac{2}{3}} \cdot z^{\frac{5}{6}}$$

$$x^{\frac{3}{6}} \cdot y^{\frac{4}{6}} \cdot z^{\frac{5}{6}}$$

$$(x^3 y^4 z^5)^{\frac{1}{6}}$$

$$\sqrt[6]{x^3 y^4 z^5}$$

2. In the real numbers, what is the solution of the equation $8^{2x+1} = 4^{1-x}$?

- A. $-\frac{1}{3}$
 B. $-\frac{1}{4}$
C. $-\frac{1}{8}$
 D. 0
 E. $\frac{1}{7}$

$$8^{2x+1} = 4^{1-x}$$

$$(2^3)^{2x+1} = (2^2)^{1-x}$$

$$2^{6x+3} = 2^{2-2x}$$

$$6x+3 = 2-2x$$

$$8x = -1$$

$$x = -\frac{1}{8}$$

Properties of Logs/Natural Logs

Product Property: $\log_b(xy) = \log_b x + \log_b y$

$$\ln(xy) = \ln x + \ln y$$

Quotient Property: $\log_b\left(\frac{x}{y}\right) = \log_b x - \log_b y$

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

Power Property: $\log_b x^c = c \log_b x$

$$\ln x^c = c \ln x$$

Change of Base: $\log_b x = \frac{\log_a x}{\log_a b}$

$$\log_b x = \frac{\ln x}{\ln b}$$



Why?

$$\log_b(xy) = \log_b x + \log_b y$$

$$b^{\log_b(xy)} = b^{\log_b x + \log_b y}$$

$$xy = b^{\log_b x} \cdot b^{\log_b y}$$

$$\checkmark \uparrow = x \cdot y$$

$$\begin{aligned} x^2 \cdot x^3 &= x^{2+3} \\ &= x^5 \end{aligned}$$

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

$$b^{\log_b\left(\frac{x}{y}\right)} = b^{\log_b x - \log_b y}$$

$$\frac{x}{y} = \frac{b^{\log_b x}}{b^{\log_b y}}$$

$$\checkmark \uparrow = \frac{x}{y}$$

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{x^5}{x^3} &= x^{5-3} \\ &= x^2 \end{aligned}$$

Let $m = \log_b x$, then

$$b^m = x$$

$$(b^m)^c = x^c$$

$$b^{mc} = x^c \rightarrow \log_b x^c = mc$$

so, $\log_b x^c = (\log_b x) \cdot c$

Let $\log_b x = r$, then

$$b^r = x$$

$$\log_a b^r = \log_a x$$

$$r \log_a b = \log_a x \rightarrow r = \frac{\log_a x}{\log_a b}$$

Examples

Using the properties of logarithms, expand the logarithmic expression.

1. $\ln 3x$

$\ln(3 \cdot x)$ *product
 $\ln 3 + \ln x$

2. $\log\left(\frac{4x}{y^2}\right)$

$\log(4x) - \log y^2$ *quotient
 $\log 4 + \log x - \log y^2$ *product
 $\log 4 + \log x - 2 \log y$ *power

3. $\log_2 25x^3$

$\log_2 25 + \log_2 x^3$ *product
 $\log_2 5^2 + \log_2 x^3$
 $2 \log_2 5 + 3 \log_2 x$ *power

4. $\log \sqrt[3]{\frac{x^2}{y}}$

$\log\left(\frac{x^2}{y}\right)^{1/3}$ *rewrite + simplify
 $\log\left(\frac{x^{2/3}}{y^{1/3}}\right)$
 $\log x^{2/3} - \log y^{1/3}$ *quotient
 $\frac{2}{3} \log x - \frac{1}{3} \log y$ *power

Using the properties of logarithms, condense the logarithms into a single expression.

5. $\log x + 3 \log y$

$\log x + \log y^3$ *power
 $\log(xy^3)$ *product

6. $\ln 4x - \ln 2y$

$\ln\left(\frac{4x}{2y}\right)$ *quotient
 $\ln\left(\frac{2x}{y}\right)$ *simplify

7. $2 \log x - \frac{1}{3} \log y + \log a$

$\log x^2 - \log y^{1/3} + \log a$ *power
 $\log\left(\frac{x^2}{y^{1/3}}\right) + \log a$ *quotient
 $\log\left(\frac{ax^2}{y^{1/3}}\right)$ *product

Write the expression as a natural logarithm.

8. $\log_5 x$

$\frac{\ln x}{\ln 5}$ *change of base

9. $\log_4(2x + y)$

$\frac{\ln(2x+y)}{\ln 4}$ *change of base