

8.2 Logarithmic Functions

Old-A Solving Equations

$$\begin{aligned} \textcircled{1} \quad -7x - 3x + 2 &= -8x - 8 \\ -10x + 2 &= -8x - 8 \\ -2x + 2 &= -8 \\ -2x &= -10 \\ x &= 5 \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned} \textcircled{2} \quad 5 &= \sqrt{r-3} + 2 \\ 3 &= \sqrt{r-3} \\ (3)^2 &= (\sqrt{r-3})^2 \\ 9 &= r-3 \\ 12 &= r. \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned} \textcircled{3} \quad x^2 &= 9 \\ \sqrt{x^2} &= \sqrt{9} \\ x &= \pm 3 \end{aligned}$$

using inverse operations to solve equations

Old-B Inverse Functions

Let's recall: the relationship between 2 inverse functions

graphically

• reflection across $y=x$ line
(passes horizontal line test)

numerically

• x & y interchange
roles

algebraically

$$f(f^{-1}(x)) = x.$$

(Example) Find the inverse function.

$$f(x) = 2x - 3$$

$$y = 2x - 3$$

$$x = 2y - 3$$

$$x + 3 = 2y$$

$$\frac{x+3}{2} = y$$

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

new Logarithmic Functions

Let's consider some exponential functions. Find x .

$$\textcircled{1} 2^x = 8$$
$$x = 3$$

$$\textcircled{2} 3^x = 9$$
$$x = 2$$

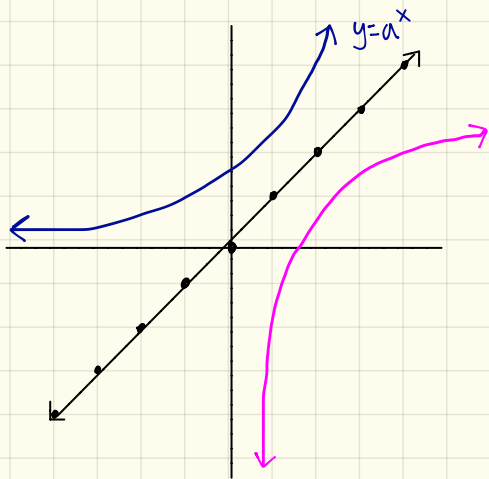
$$\textcircled{3} 5^x = 120$$
$$x = ?$$

Dilemma:

How do we solve exponential functions?

To solve this dilemma, we need to find exponential function's inverse!

Let's consider $y = a^x$. Graph the arbitrary function.



Now graph the arbitrary inverse function by reflecting across $y = x$ line.

The model for this new inverse equation is $\log_a y = x$.

LOGARITHMIC FUNCTIONS

The inverse of an exponential function is a log function.

$$a^x = y \iff \log_a y = x.$$

We need to convert exponential equations into log equations to solve exponential functions.

"All you need is BOB" to help you convert back and forth from exponentials to logs & vice versa.

Base
Opposite
Back

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

[Examples] Rewrite into the inverse form.

① $3^y = 5$
 $\log_3 5 = y$

② $5^x = 125$
 $\log_5 125 = x$

③ $2^0 = e$
 $\log_2 e = 0$

④ $\log_{10} y = 3$
 $10^3 = y$

⑤ $\log_2 x = 4$
 $2^4 = x$

⑥ $\log_2 0 = e$
 $2^e = 0$

Let's figure out some facts!

$$a^1 = a: \log_a a = 1, \quad a^{\log a} = 1$$

\implies Makes sense because they are inverses! (Right?)

[Examples] Rewrite into the inverse form.

2 ways to do now! either know the conversion or take the log of the exponentials base.

① $3^y = 5$

method 1: know conversion
 $\log_3 5 = y$

method 2: take log on both sides

$$3^y = 5$$

$$\log_3 3^y = \log_3 5$$

$$y = \log_3 5$$

[Examples] Solving exponential & logarithmic eqns.

$$\begin{aligned} \textcircled{1} \quad 2^x &= 8 \\ \log_2 8 &= x \\ 3 &= x \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned} \textcircled{2} \quad 5^x &= 25 \\ \log_5 25 &= x \\ 2 &= x \end{aligned}$$

What about $5^x = 120$?

$$\log_5 120 = x$$

we still need a way to compute logs!

CHANGE OF BASE FORMULA:

Let's consider $\log y = x$. When log functions doesn't seem to have a base, the base is 10!

$$\log_a y = x$$

$$x = \frac{\log y}{\log a}$$

* insert value in calculator.

$$5^x = 120$$

$$\log_5 120 = x$$

$$x = \frac{\log 120}{\log 5} \approx 2.97$$