

Logarithms

Exponents are when we multiply some # by itself repeatedly.

$$2^6 = \underbrace{2 \cdot 2 \cdot 2 \cdot 2 \cdot 2 \cdot 2}_6 = 64$$

$$2^x = 27 \Leftrightarrow x = \log_2 27$$

$$\boxed{a^x = b \Leftrightarrow x = \log_a b} \quad \begin{array}{l} a > 0 \\ b > 0 \end{array} \quad a \neq 1$$

$$3^x = 81 \Leftrightarrow x = \log_3 81 = 4$$

$$\log_4 64 = x \Leftrightarrow 4^x = 64$$
$$x = 3$$

$$\log_{2^2} 2^6 = 3$$

$$\boxed{\log_{a^m}(a^n) = \frac{n}{m}} \quad \begin{array}{l} \Leftrightarrow (a^m)^x = a^n \\ a^{mx} = a^n \\ mx = n \\ \Rightarrow x = \frac{n}{m} \end{array}$$

Rule 1

$$\log_{\frac{1}{2}} \sqrt{2} = \log_{2^{-1}} \left(2^{\frac{1}{2}} \right) = \frac{\frac{1}{2}}{-1} = -\frac{1}{2}$$

$$\log_8 \left((2^{24})^{\frac{3}{4}} \right) = \log_{2^3} (2^{18}) = \frac{18}{3} = 6$$

$$\log_a^m(b^n) = x \Leftrightarrow (a^m)^x = b^n$$

$$a^{mx} = b^n$$

$$\log_a b = \frac{m}{n} x \Leftrightarrow a^{\frac{m}{n}x} = b$$

$$x = \frac{n}{m} \log_a b$$

$$\log_a^m(b^n) = \frac{n}{m} \log_a b \quad \text{Rule 2}$$

$$\log_a(bc) = \log_a b + \log_a c \quad \text{Rule 3}$$

Diagram illustrating Rule 3:

Let $a^x = b$ and $a^y = c$.

Then $\log_a(a^x a^y) = \log_a(a^{x+y}) = x + y$.

Ex:

$$\log_{10} 2 + \log_{10} 5 = \log_{10}(2 \cdot 5) = \log_{10} 10 = 1$$

$$\log_a\left(\frac{b}{c}\right) = \log_a b - \log_a c \quad \text{Rule 4}$$

$$\log_a b = \frac{1}{\log_b a} \quad \text{Rule 5}$$

$$\log_a b = x$$

$$a^x = b$$

$$(a^x)^{\frac{1}{x}} = b^{\frac{1}{x}}$$

$$a = b^{\frac{1}{x}}$$

$$\log_b a = \frac{1}{x}$$

$$\log 100 = \log_{10} 100 = 2$$

$$\ln 100 = \log_e 100$$

$$\lg 100 = \log_2 100$$

$$\log_2 27 = \frac{\log 27}{\log 2} = \frac{\ln 27}{\ln 2}$$

$$\log_b c = \frac{\log_a c}{\log_a b} \rightarrow a^x = c$$
$$\log_a b \rightarrow a^y = b$$

$$\log_a (a^x) = \frac{x}{y}$$

$$\text{Ex: } \frac{\log_2 36}{\log_2 6} = \log_6 36 = 2$$