

5.3 Properties of Logarithms

Change of base formula

$$\log_a x = \frac{\log x}{\log a} \quad \text{or} \quad \frac{\ln x}{\ln a}$$

Example 1 Rewrite the logarithm as a ratio of common log and natural logs. Evaluate to 3 decimals

$$\textcircled{A} \log_6 42 = \frac{\log 42}{\log 6} = \frac{\ln 42}{\ln 6}$$

Properties of Logarithms

Product Property: $\log(ab) = \log a + \log b$
 $\ln(ab) = \ln a + \ln b$

Quotient Property: $\log\left(\frac{a}{b}\right) = \log a - \log b$
 $\ln\left(\frac{a}{b}\right) = \ln a - \ln b$

Power Property: $\log a^n = n \log a$
 $\ln a^n = n \ln a$

Recall Properties of Logs:

$$\log_a 1 = 0$$

$$\log_a a = 1$$

$$\log_a a^x = x$$

$$\text{If } \log_a x = \log_a y, \text{ then } x = y$$

Example 2 Rewrite each logarithm in terms of $\log 3$ and $\log 5$

$$\textcircled{A} \log 15 = \log(3 \cdot 5) \\ = \log 3 + \log 5$$

$$\textcircled{B} \log_9 25 = \frac{\log 25}{\log 9} = \frac{\log 5^2}{\log 3^2} = \frac{2 \log 5}{2 \log 3} \\ = \boxed{\frac{\log 5}{\log 3}}$$

Example 3 Rewrite and simplify

$$\textcircled{A} \log_2(4^2 \cdot 3^4) = \frac{\log 4^2 + \log 3^4}{\log 2} \\ = \frac{2 \log 2^2 + 4 \log 3}{\log 2} = \frac{4 \log 2}{\log 2} + \frac{4 \log 3}{\log 2} \\ = 4 + \frac{4 \log 3}{\log 2} = \boxed{4(1 + \log_2 3)}$$

$$\textcircled{B} \log \frac{9}{300} = \log 9 - \log 300 \\ = \log 3^2 - \log(3 \cdot 100) \\ = 2 \log 3 - (\log 3 + \log 100) \\ = 2 \log 3 - \log 3 - \log 10^2 \\ = \log 3 - 2 \log 10 \\ = \boxed{\log 3 - 2}$$

5.3 cont'd

Example 4 Find the exact value without a calc

(A) $\log_5 \frac{1}{125}$

① using laws of logs

$$\begin{aligned} & \frac{\log \frac{1}{125}}{\log 5} \\ &= \frac{\log 5^{-3}}{\log 5} \\ &= \frac{-3 \log 5}{\log 5} \\ &= \boxed{-3} \end{aligned}$$

② set equal to x and

change to exponential

$$\begin{aligned} \log_5 \frac{1}{125} &= x \\ 5^x &= \frac{1}{125} \\ 5^x &= 5^{-3} \\ x &= -3 \end{aligned}$$

$\boxed{-3}$

* Answer should not have the variable included

(B) $\log_3 72 - \log_3 8 = \log_3 \left(\frac{72}{8}\right)$
 $= \log_3 9$

① $\log_3 3^2 = \boxed{2}$

② $\log_3 9 = x$
 $3^x = 9 = \boxed{2}$
 $3^x = 3^2$

③ $\frac{\log 9}{\log 3} = \frac{\log 3^2}{\log 3}$
 $= \frac{2 \log 3}{\log 3}$
 $= \boxed{2}$

(C) $\log_3 81^{-3}$

① laws of logs

$$\begin{aligned} \log 81^{-3} &= \log(3^4)^{-3} \\ \log 3 & \quad \log 3 \\ &= \frac{-12 \log 3}{\log 3} \\ &= \boxed{-12} \end{aligned}$$

② Exponential

$$\begin{aligned} 3^x &= 81^{-3} \\ 3^x &= (3^4)^{-3} \\ 3^x &= 3^{-12} \\ x &= -12 \\ &= \boxed{-12} \end{aligned}$$

Example 5 Use properties of logs to expand

$$\begin{aligned}\textcircled{A} \log_7 \frac{1}{x^4} &= \log_7 1 - \log_7 x^4 \\ &= 0 - 4 \log_7 x \\ &= \underline{-4 \log_7 x}\end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned}\textcircled{B} \ln \sqrt{x^2(x+2)} &= \ln (x^2(x+2))^{\frac{1}{2}} \\ &= \ln (x(x+2)^{\frac{1}{2}}) \\ &= \underline{\ln x + \frac{1}{2} \ln(x+2)}\end{aligned}$$

Example 6 Condense to a single quantity

$$\begin{aligned}\textcircled{A} 2 \ln 8 + 5 \ln(x-4) &= \ln 8^2 + \ln(x-4)^5 \\ &= \underline{\ln(64(x-4)^5)}\end{aligned}$$