

CHAPTER 11

LOGARITHMS

DEFINITION

If $x = a^m$, then $\log_a x = m$, where 'a' and 'x' both are positive real numbers but 'a' not equal to 1 i.e., $a, x > 0$, but $a \neq 1$.

Here log is the short form of logarithm.

$\log_a x$ is read as log of x to the base a .

For example,

(i) Since, $10 = 10^1, 100 = 10^2, 1000 = 10^3$, etc.

Hence, $\log_{10} 10 = 1, \log_{10} 100 = 2, \log_{10} 1000 = 3$, etc.

(ii) Since, $8 = 2^3, 16 = 2^4, 32 = 2^5$, etc.

Hence, $\log_2 8 = 3, \log_2 16 = 4, \log_2 32 = 5$, etc.

(iii) Since, $\frac{1}{8} = (2)^{-3}, \frac{1}{16} = (2)^{-4}$, etc.

Hence, $\log_2 \frac{1}{8} = -3, \log_2 \frac{1}{16} = -4$, etc.

(iv) Since, $0.01 = (10)^{-2}, 0.001 = (10)^{-3}$, etc.

Hence $\log_{10}(0.01) = -2, \log_{10}(0.001) = -3$, etc.

LAWS OF LOGARITHM

(i) $\log_a(m \times n) = \log_a m + \log_a n$

In general,

$\log_a(m \times n \times p \times \dots) = \log_a m + \log_a n + \log_a p + \dots$

For example:

$$\log_2(4 \times 5 \times 6) = \log_2 4 + \log_2 5 + \log_2 6$$

Note that

$$\log_a m + \log_a n \neq \log_a(m + n)$$

(ii) $\log_a \left(\frac{m}{n} \right) = \log_a m - \log_a n$

For example:

$$\log_4 \left(\frac{8}{15} \right) = \log_4 8 - \log_4 15$$

Note that

$$\log_a m - \log_a n = \log_a(m/n)$$

(iii) $\log_a(m^n) = n \log_a m$

For example:

$$\log_3(5)^4 = 4 \log_3 5$$

(iv) $\log_b a = \frac{\log_c a}{\log_c b}$ [Change of base rule]

For example,

$$\log_5 20 = \frac{\log_2 20}{\log_2 5} = \frac{\log_4 20}{\log_4 5} = \frac{\log_7 20}{\log_7 5} = \dots \text{etc.}$$

(v) $\log_b a = \frac{1}{\log_a b}$

For example,

$$\log_{10} 100 = \frac{1}{\log_{100} 10}$$

(vi) $\log_b a \cdot \log_c b = \log_c a$ [Chain Rule]

In general,

$$\log_b a \cdot \log_c b \cdot \log_d c \dots \log_n m = \log_n a$$

For example,

$$\log_{24} 256 \cdot \log_{10} 24 \cdot \log_2 10 = \log_2 256$$



Remember

◆ $\log 1 = 0$

◆ $\log 10 = 1$

◆ $\log_a a = 1$

Example 1: $\log_a 4 + \log_a 16 + \log_a 64 + \log_a 256 = 10$. Then $a = ?$

Solution: The given expression is:

$$\log_a (4 \times 16 \times 64 \times 256) = 10 \Rightarrow \log_a (4^1 \times 4^2 \times 4^3 \times 4^4) \\ \text{i.e. } \log_a 4^{10} = 10$$

Thus, $a = 4$.

Example 2: Find x if $\log x = \log 1.5 + \log 12$

Solution: $\log x = \log 18 \Rightarrow x = 18$

Example 3: Find x , if $\log(2x-2) - \log(11.66-x) = 1 + \log 3$

Solution: $\log(2x-2) - \log(11.66-x) = \log 10 + \log 3$

$$\Rightarrow \log(2x-2)/(-11.66-x) = \log 30$$

$$\Rightarrow (2x-2)/(11.66-x) = 30$$

$$2x-2 = 350-30x$$

$$\text{Hence, } 32x = 352 \Rightarrow x = 11.$$

Example 4: Solve for x :

$$\log \frac{75}{35} + 2 \log \frac{7}{5} - \log \frac{105}{x} - \log \frac{13}{25} = 0$$

Solution: $(75/35) \times (49/25) \times (x/105) \times (25/13) = 1$

$$\Rightarrow x = 13$$

SOME IMPORTANT PROPERTIES

(i) $x = a^m \Rightarrow \log_a x = m$

and $\log_a x = m \Rightarrow x = a^m$

Here equation $x = a^m$ is in exponential form and equation $\log_a x = m$ is in logarithmic form.

(ii) If base of log is not mentioned, then we assume the base as 10.

$$\log m = \log_{10} m$$

log to the base 10 is called common log.

(iii) Since, $10000 = (100)^2 = (10)^4$

$$\therefore \log_{100} 10000 = 2, \log_{10} 10000 = 4$$

Thus value of log of a number on different bases is different i.e., value of log of a number depends on its base.

(iv) (a) Since, $a = a^1$, hence $\log_a a = 1$

For example, $\log_5 5 = 1, \log_{10} 10 = 1$

Thus log of any number to the same base is always 1.

(b) Since, $1 = a^0$, hence, $\log_a 1 = 0$

For example, $\log_8 1 = 0$

Thus log of 1 to any base always equal to 0.

(v) $a^{(\log_a x)} = x$

For example,

$$20^{(\log_{20} 50)} = 50$$

(vi) (a) log of zero and negative numbers is not defined.

(b) Base of log is always positive but not equal to 1.

Example 5: Find x , if $0.01^x = 2$

Solution: $x = \log_{0.01} 2 = -\log 2/2$.

Example 6: If $\log 3 = .4771$, find $\log (.81)^2 \times \log 9$ $\div \log 9$.

Solution: $2 \log (81/100) \times 2/3 \log (27/10) \div \log 9$

$$= 2 [\log 3^4 - \log 100] \times 2/3 [(\log 3^3 - \log 10)] \div 2 \log 3$$

$$= 2 [\log 3^4 - \log 100] \times 2/3 [(3 \log 3 - 1)] \div 2 \log 3$$

Substitute $\log 3 = 0.4771 \Rightarrow -0.0552$.

EXERCISE

1. Find the value of $\log_5 10 \times \log_{10} 15 \times \log_{15} 20 \times \log_{20} 25$.
- $5/2$
 - 5
 - 2
 - $\log\left(\frac{5}{2}\right)$
2. If $\log_3 a = 4$, find value of a .
- 27
 - 3
 - 9
 - 81
3. Find the value of $\log \frac{9}{8} - \log \frac{27}{32} + \log \frac{3}{4}$
- 0
 - 1
 - 3
 - $\log(3/4)$
4. The value of $\left[\frac{1}{\log_{xy}(xyz)} + \frac{1}{\log_{yz}(xyz)} + \frac{1}{\log_{zx}(xyz)} \right]$ is equal to
- 1
 - 2
 - 3
 - 4
5. If $\log_2 [\log_3 (\log_2 x)] = 1$, then x is equal to
- 512
 - 128
 - 12
 - 0
6. Find the value of $\log_{27} \frac{1}{81}$
- $-4/3$
 - -3
 - -1
 - $-1/3$
7. Find the value of $\frac{8 \log_8 8}{2 \log_{\sqrt{8}} 8}$
- 1
 - 2
 - 3
 - 4
8. If $\log_k x \log_5 k = 3$, then find the value of x .
- k^5
 - $5k^3$
 - 243
 - 125
9. $\log_a \left(\frac{m}{n} \right)$ is equal to
- $\log_a(m-n)$
 - $\log_a m - \log_a n$
 - $\frac{(\log_a m)}{n}$
 - $\log_a m \div \log_a n$
10. If $\log_5 [\log_3 (\log_2 x)] = 1$ then x is
- 2^{234}
 - 243
 - 2^{243}
 - None of these
11. The value of $\left[3 \log\left(\frac{81}{80}\right) + 5 \log\left(\frac{25}{24}\right) + 7 \log\left(\frac{16}{15}\right) \right]$ is
- $\log 3$
 - $\log 5$
 - $\log 7$
 - $\log 2$
12. If $\log_{10} a + \log_{10} b = c$, then the value of a is
- bc
 - $\frac{c}{b}$
 - $\frac{(10)^c}{b}$
 - $\frac{10b}{c}$
13. If $\log_y x = 8$ and $\log_{10y} 16x = 4$, then find the value of y .
- 1
 - 2
 - 3
 - 5
14. $\log 0.0867 = ?$
- $\log 8.67 + 2$
 - $\log 8.67 - 2$
 - $\frac{\log 867}{1000}$
 - $-2 \log 8.67$
15. Find x , if $0.01^x = 2$
- $\log 2/2$
 - $2/\log 2$
 - $-2/\log 2$
 - $-\log 2/2$
16. If $2^x \cdot 3^{2x} = 100$, then the value of x is
($\log 2 = 0.3010$, $\log 3 = 0.4771$)
- 2.3
 - 1.59
 - 1.8
 - 1.41
17. $\log_{10} 10 + \log_{10} 10^2 + \dots + \log_{10} 10^n$
- $n^2 + 1$
 - $n^2 - 1$
 - $\left(\frac{n^2 + n}{3} \right)$
 - $\frac{n^2 + n}{2}$
18. If $\log_{10} a = b$, then find the value of 10^{3b} in terms of a .
- a^3
 - $3a$
 - $a \times 1000$
 - $a \times 100$
19. If $a = b^x$, $b = c^y$ and $c = a^z$, then the value of xyz is equal to
- -1
 - 0
 - 1
 - abc
20. If $\log_3 [\log_3 [\log_3 x]] = \log_3 3$, then what is the value of x ?
- 3
 - 27
 - 3^9
 - 3^{27}

HINTS & SOLUTIONS

1. (c) $\log_5 10 \times \log_{10} 15 \times \log_{15} 20 \times \log_{20} 25.$
 $= (\log 10/\log 5) \times (\log 15/\log 10) \times (\log 20/\log 15)$
 $\times (\log 25/\log 20)$
 $= \log 25/\log 5 = 2 \log 5/\log 5 = 2$
2. (d) $\because \log_3 a = 4 \therefore 3^4 = a \Rightarrow a = 81$
3. (a) Given $\log \frac{9}{8} - \log \frac{27}{32} + \log \frac{3}{4} = \log \left(\frac{9}{8} \div \frac{27}{32} \right) + \log \frac{3}{4}$
 $= \log \left(\frac{9}{8} \times \frac{32}{27} \times \frac{3}{4} \right) = \log 1 = 0$
 $\therefore \log_a 1 = 0$
4. (b) Given expression
 $= \log_{xyz} (xy) + \log_{xyz} (yz) + \log_{xyz} (zx)$
 $= \log_{xyz} (xy \times yz \times zx) = \log_{xyz} (xyz)^2$
 $= 2 \log_{xyz} (xyz) = 2 \times 1 = 2$
5. (a) $\log_2 [\log_3 (\log_2 x)] = 1 = \log_2 2$
 $\Rightarrow \log_3 (\log_2 x) = 2$
 $\Rightarrow \log_2 x = 3^2 = 9$
 $\Rightarrow x = 2^9 = 512$
6. (a) Let $\log_{27} \left(\frac{1}{81} \right) = x$
 $\therefore (27)^x = \frac{1}{81}$
 $\therefore 3^{3x} = 3^{-4} \Rightarrow 3x = -4 \Rightarrow x = -\frac{4}{3}$
7. (b) $\frac{8 \log_8 8}{2 \log_{\sqrt{8}} 8} = \frac{8 \times 1}{2 \log_{\sqrt{8}} (\sqrt{8})^2} = \frac{8}{4 \log_{\sqrt{8}} \sqrt{8}} = \frac{8}{4} = 2$
8. (d) Given, $\log_5 k \log_k x = 3$
 $\frac{\log k}{\log 5} \cdot \frac{\log x}{\log k} = 3 \Rightarrow \frac{\log x}{\log 5} = 3$
 $\Rightarrow \log x = 3 \log 5 \Rightarrow \log x = \log 5^3$
 $\Rightarrow x = 5^3 \Rightarrow x = 125$
9. (b) $\log_a \left(\frac{m}{n} \right) = \log_a m - \log_a n$
10. (c) $\log_5 [\log_3 (\log_2 x)] = 1 = \log_5 5$
 $\Rightarrow \log_3 (\log_2 x) = 5 = \log_3 3^5$
11. (d) $3 \log \frac{81}{80} + 5 \log \frac{25}{24} + 7 \log \frac{16}{15}$
 $= \log \left[\left(\frac{81}{80} \right)^3 \times \left(\frac{25}{24} \right)^5 \times \left(\frac{16}{15} \right)^7 \right]$
 $= \log \left(\frac{3^{12} \times 5^{10} \times 2^{28}}{2^{12} \times 5^3 \times 2^{15} \times 3^5 \times 3^7 \times 5^7} \right)$
 $= \log 2$
12. (c) $\log_{10} a + \log_{10} b = c$
 $\Rightarrow \log_{10} (ab) = c$
 $\Rightarrow 10^c = ab$
 $\Rightarrow a = \frac{(10)^c}{b}$
13. (d) $\log_y x = 8 \Rightarrow y^8 = x \quad \dots(1)$
 $\log_{10y} 16x = 4 \Rightarrow 10^4 y^4 = 16x \quad \dots(2)$
Dividing (2) by (1) $10^4 y^{-4} = 16 \Rightarrow y = 5$
14. (b) $\log 0.0867 = \log (8.67/100) = \log 8.67 - \log 100$
 $\log 8.67 - 2$
15. (d) $x = \log_{0.01} 2 = -\log 2/2.$
16. (b) $2^x \cdot 3^{2x} = 100$
 $\Rightarrow x \log 2 + 2x \log 3 = \log 100$
 $\Rightarrow x(0.3010 + 2 \times 0.4771) = 2$
 $\Rightarrow x = \frac{1}{1.2552} = 1.59$
17. (d) $\log_{10} 10 + \log_{10} 10^2 + \dots + \log_{10} 10^n$
 $= 1 + 2 + 3 + \dots + n = \frac{n(n+1)}{2}$
18. (a) $\log_{10} a = b \Rightarrow 10^b = a \Rightarrow$ By definition of logs.
Thus $10^{3b} = (10^b)^3 = a^3.$

19. (c) $a = b^x, b = c^y, c = a^z$

$$\Rightarrow x = \log_b a, y = \log_c b, z = \log_a c$$

$$\Rightarrow xyz = (\log_b a) \times (\log_c b) \times (\log_a c)$$

$$\Rightarrow xyz = \left(\frac{\log a}{\log b} \times \frac{\log b}{\log c} \times \frac{\log c}{\log a} \right) = 1.$$

20. (d) Consider $\log_3 [\log_3 [\log_3 x]] = \log_3 3$

$$\Rightarrow \log_3 [\log_3 x] = 3$$

$$\Rightarrow \log_3 x = 3^3$$

$$\Rightarrow \log_3 x = 27 \Rightarrow x = 3^{27}$$

21. (a) $\frac{1}{(\log_a bc)+1} + \frac{1}{(\log_b ac)+1} + \frac{1}{(\log_c ab)+1}$

$$= \frac{1}{\log_a bc + \log_a a} + \frac{1}{\log_b ac + \log_b b} + \frac{1}{\log_c ab + \log_c c}$$

$$= \frac{1}{\log_a abc} + \frac{1}{\log_b abc} + \frac{1}{\log_c abc}$$

$$= \log_{abc} a + \log_{abc} b + \log_{abc} c$$

$$\log_{abc} abc = 1$$

22. (c) a, b, c are consecutive integers

$$\therefore b = a + 1 \text{ and } c = a + 2$$

$$\therefore \log(ac+1) = \log[a(a+2)+1]$$

$$= \log[(b-1)(b-1+2)+1]$$

$$[\because a = b - 1]$$

$$= \log b^2 = 2 \log b$$

23. (c) Let $\log_{2\sqrt{3}}(1728) = x$.

$$\text{Then, } (2\sqrt{3})^x = 1728 = (12)^3$$

$$= \left[(2\sqrt{3})^x \right]^3 = (2\sqrt{3})^6.$$

$$\therefore x = 6, \text{i.e., } \log_{2\sqrt{3}}(1728) = 6.$$

24. (c) $(7^3)^{-2 \log_7 8} = 7^{-6 \log_7 8} = 7^{\log_7 8^{-6}}$

$$= 8^{-6} = \frac{1}{8^6}$$

25. (d) $\log_4 5 = a$ and $\log_5 6 = b$

$$\Rightarrow \log_4 5 \times \log_5 6 = ab$$

$$\Rightarrow \log_4 6 = ab \Rightarrow \frac{1}{2} \log_2 6 = ab$$

$$\Rightarrow (1 + \log_2 3) = 2ab$$

$$\Rightarrow \log_2 3 = 2ab - 1$$

$$\Rightarrow \log_3 2 = \frac{1}{2ab - 1}$$

26. (b) $x = \log_a bc \therefore 1+x = \log_a abc$

$$y = \log_b ca \therefore 1+y = \log_b abc$$

$$z = \log_c bc \therefore 1+z = \log_c abc$$

\therefore

$$\frac{1}{1+x} + \frac{1}{1+y} + \frac{1}{1+z} = \log_{abc} a + \log_{abc} b + \log_{abc} c$$

$$= \log_{abc} abc = 1$$

27. (d) $\log_{32} 27 \times \log_{243} 8 = \log_2 3^3 \times \log_3 2^3$

$$= \frac{3}{5} \log_2 3 \times \frac{3}{5} \log_3 2$$

$$= \left(\frac{3}{5} \right)^2 \log_2 3 \times \log_3 2 = \frac{9}{25}$$

28. (c) $\log(a^n b^n c^n / a^n b^n c^n) = \log 1 = 0$

29. (b) Best way is to go through options

Alternatively: $\log_{10} x^2 y^3 = 7$

$$\Rightarrow x^2 y^3 = 10^7 \quad \dots(1)$$

$$\text{and } \log_{10} \left(\frac{x}{y} \right) = 1$$

$$\Rightarrow \frac{x}{y} = 10 \quad \dots(2)$$

$$\therefore \frac{x^2 y^3}{(x/y)^2} = \frac{10^7}{(10)^2} \Rightarrow y^5 = 10^5$$

$$\Rightarrow y = 10 \therefore x = 100$$

30. (a) For $x = 0$, we have LHS

$$\log_2 8 = 3,$$

$$\text{RHS: } 10^{\log 3} = 3$$

We do not get LHS = RHS for either $x = 3$ or $x = 6$.

Thus, option (a) is correct.

31. (b) $\left(\log_{\frac{1}{2}} 2\right)\left(\log_{\frac{1}{3}} 3\right)\left(\log_{\frac{1}{4}} 4\right) \dots \left(\log_{\frac{1}{1000}} 1000\right)$

$$= \left(\frac{\log 2}{\log \frac{1}{2}}\right)\left(\frac{\log 3}{\log \frac{1}{3}}\right)\left(\frac{\log 4}{\log \frac{1}{4}}\right) \dots \left(\frac{\log 1000}{\log \left(\frac{1}{1000}\right)}\right)$$

$$\left(\because \log_b a = \frac{\log a}{\log b}\right)$$

$$= \left(\frac{\log 2}{-\log 2}\right)\left(\frac{\log 3}{-\log 3}\right)\left(\frac{\log 4}{-\log 4}\right) \dots \left(\frac{\log 1000}{-\log 1000}\right)$$

$$= (-1) \times (-1) \times (-1) \times \dots \times (-1)$$

(∵ number of factors is odd)

$$= -1$$

32. (d) Given, $\log_r 6 = m$ and $\log_r 3 = n$

$$\therefore \log_r 6 = \log_r (2 \times 3)$$

$$= \log_r 2 + \log_r 3$$

$$\therefore \log_r 3 + \log_r 2 = m$$

$$\Rightarrow n + \log_r 2 = m$$

$$\Rightarrow \log_r 2 = m - n$$

$$\therefore \log_r \left(\frac{r}{2}\right) = \log_r r - \log_r 2$$

$$= 1 - m + n$$

33. (c) $\frac{1}{3} \log_{10} 125 - 2 \log_{10} 4 + \log_{10} 32 + \log_{10} 1$

$$= \frac{1}{3} \log_{10} (5)^3 - 2 \log_{10} (2)^2 + \log_{10} (2)^5 + 0$$

$$= \log_{10} 5 - 4 \log_{10} 2 + 5 \log_{10} 2$$

$$= \log_{10} 5 + \log_{10} 2 = \log_{10} 5 \times 2 = \log_{10} 10 = 1$$

34. (c) $\frac{1}{2} \log_{10} 25 - 2 \log_{10} 3 + \log_{10} 18$

$$= \log_{10} 25^{1/2} - \log_{10} 3^2 + \log_{10} 18$$

$$= \log_{10} 5 - \log_{10} 9 + \log_{10} 18$$

$$= \log_{10} \frac{5 \times 18}{9} = \log_{10} \frac{90}{9} = \log_{10} 10 = 1$$

35. (d) $[\log_{10} (5 \log_{10} 100)]^2 = [\log_{10} (5 \log_{10} 10^2)]^2$
 $= [\log_{10} (10 \log_{10} 10)]^2$
 $= [\log_{10} 10]^2$ $(\because \log_{10} 10 = 1)$
 $= 1^2 = 1$

36. (c) $\log_{10} \left(\frac{3}{2}\right) + \log_{10} \left(\frac{4}{3}\right) + \log_{10} \left(\frac{5}{4}\right) + \dots + 8^{\text{th}} \text{ term}$
 $= \log_{10} \left(\frac{3}{2}\right) + \log_{10} \left(\frac{4}{3}\right) + \log_{10} \left(\frac{5}{4}\right) + \dots + \log_{10} \left(\frac{10}{9}\right)$
 $= \log_{10} \left(\frac{3}{2} \times \frac{4}{3} \times \frac{5}{4} \times \dots \times \frac{10}{9}\right)$
 $= \log_{10} \left(\frac{10}{2}\right) = \log_{10} 5.$

37. (c) Let $\log_{10} 0.0001 = a$

$$a = \log_{10} \frac{1}{(10)^4}$$

$$= \log_{10} 1 - \log_{10} (10)^4 = 0 - 4 = -4$$

38. (a) Given that,

$$\log_{10} a = p \text{ and } \log_{10} b = q$$

$$\log_{10} (a^p b^q) = \log_{10} a^p + \log_{10} b^q$$

$$= p \log_{10} a + q \log_{10} b$$

$$= p \times p + q \times q = p^2 + q^2$$

39. (b) $\frac{\log_{13}(10)}{\log_{169}(10)} = \frac{\log_{13}(10)}{\log_{13^2}(10)}$ $\left(\because \log_a b c = \frac{1}{b} \log_a c\right)$

$$= \frac{\log_{13} 10}{\frac{1}{2} \log_{13} 10} = \frac{1}{\frac{1}{2}} = 2$$

40. (b) $\frac{1}{5} \log_{10} 3125 - 4 \log_{10} 2 + \log_{10} 32$

$$= \frac{1}{5} \log_{10} (5)^5 - 4 \log_{10} 2 + \log_{10} (2)^5$$

$$= \frac{5}{5} \log_{10} 5 - 4 \log_{10} 2 + 5 \log_{10} 2$$

$$= \log_{10} 5 + \log_{10} 2$$

$$= \log_{10} (5 \times 2)$$

$$[\log m + \log n = \log mn]$$

$$= \log_{10} 10 = 1$$