

Logarithms Laws

Recall:

Product Law: $a^x a^y = a^{x+y}$

Quotient Law: $\frac{a^x}{a^y} = a^{x-y}$

Power Law: $(a^x)^y = a^{xy}$

Activity:

Prove the following **logarithm laws** then provide an example of its application:

Product Law

Let $m = a^x$ and $n = a^y$

$$mn = a^x a^y$$

$$mn = a^{x+y}$$

$$\log_a mn = \log_a a^{x+y}$$

$$\textcircled{1} \log_a mn = x+y$$

but...

$$m = a^x \text{ and } n = a^y$$

$$\textcircled{2} x = \log_a m \quad \textcircled{3} y = \log_a n$$

sub $\textcircled{2}$ and $\textcircled{3}$ into $\textcircled{1}$

$$\log_a mn = \log_a m + \log_a n$$

Ex $\log_2 (4 \cdot 16)$

$$= \log_2 4 + \log_2 16$$

$$= 2 + 4$$

$$= 6$$

Quotient Law

Let $m = a^x$ and $n = a^y$

$$\frac{m}{n} = \frac{a^x}{a^y}$$

$$\frac{m}{n} = a^{x-y}$$

$$\log_a \left(\frac{m}{n}\right) = \log_a a^{x-y}$$

$$\textcircled{1} \log_a \left(\frac{m}{n}\right) = x-y$$

but...

$$m = a^x \text{ and } n = a^y$$

$$\textcircled{2} x = \log_a m \quad \textcircled{3} y = \log_a n$$

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

Ex $\log_2 \left(\frac{32}{4}\right)$

$$= \log_2 32 - \log_2 4$$

$$= 5 - 2$$

$$= 3$$

Power Law

Let $m = a^x$

$$m^n = (a^x)^n$$

$$m^n = a^{nx}$$

$$\log_a m^n = \log_a a^{nx}$$

$$\textcircled{1} \log_a m^n = nx$$

but $m = a^x, \dots$

so... $\textcircled{2} x = \log_a m$

$$\log_a m^n = n \log_a m$$

Ex $\log_2 4^3$

$$= 3 \log_2 4$$

$$= 3(2)$$

$$= 6$$

Example 1

Simplify each logarithmic expression.

a) $\log_2 5 + \log_2 6.4$

$$= \log_2 (5 \cdot 6.4)$$

$$= \log_2 (32)$$

$$= 5$$

b) $\log_3 54 - \log_3 6$

$$= \log_3 \left(\frac{54}{6}\right)$$

$$= \log_3 9$$

$$= 2$$

c) $\log_5 25^6$

$$= 6 \log_5 25$$

$$= 6(2)$$

$$= 12$$

Example 2

Determine two different transformations that could be applied to the parent function $y = \log x$ to create a graph for the function $y = \log 100x$.

Transformation 1

$$y = \log 100x$$

↑

$$k=100$$

→ horizontal compression
by a factor of $\frac{1}{100}$

Transformation 2

$$y = \log 100x$$

$$y = \log 100 + \log x$$

$$y = 2 + \log x$$

$$y = \log x + 2$$

↙
 $c=2$

→ vertical shift up 2 units

Example 3

Write the following as sums and differences of logarithmic expressions where each term is in the form $n \log_a x$.

a) $\log_4(xy^3)$

$$= \log_4 x + \log_4 y^3$$

$$= \log_4 x + 3 \log_4 y$$

b) $\log_2 \sqrt{\frac{x^3 y}{z^2}}$

$$= \log_2 \left(\frac{x^3 y}{z^2}\right)^{\frac{1}{2}}$$

$$= \frac{1}{2} \log_2 \left(\frac{x^3 y}{z^2}\right)$$

$$= \frac{1}{2} (\log_2 x^3 y - \log_2 z^2)$$

$$= \frac{1}{2} (\log_2 x^3 + \log_2 y - \log_2 z^2)$$

$$= \frac{1}{2} (3 \log_2 x + \log_2 y - 2 \log_2 z)$$

$$= \frac{3}{2} \log_2 x + \frac{1}{2} \log_2 y - \log_2 z$$