

Chapter 5: 5-5 Exponential and Logarithmic Equations

Find the exact solution and a two-decimal-place approximation for it by using (a) logarithms & (b) the change of base formula.

1. $5^x = 8$

(a) $5^x = 8$
 $\log 5^x = \log 8$
 $x \log 5 = \log 8$
 $x = \frac{\log 8}{\log 5} \approx 1.29$

(b) $x = \log_5 8$
 $x = \frac{\log 8}{\log 5} \approx 1.29$

2. $3^{4-x} = 5$

(a) $\log_3 3^{4-x} = \log_3 5$
 $(4-x) \log 3 = \log 5$
 $4-x = \frac{\log 5}{\log 3}$
 $x = 4 - \frac{\log 5}{\log 3} \approx 2.54$

(b) $3^{4-x} = 5$
 $4-x = \log_3 5$
 $x = 4 - \frac{\log 5}{\log 3} \approx 2.54$

3. $(\frac{1}{3})^x = 100$

(a) $\log (\frac{1}{3})^x = \log 100$
 $x \log \frac{1}{3} = 2$
 $x = \frac{2}{\log \frac{1}{3}} \approx -4.19$

(b) $x = \log_{\frac{1}{3}} 100$
 $x = \frac{\log 100}{\log \frac{1}{3}} \approx -4.19$

Estimate using the change of base formula.

4. $\log_5 6$
 $\frac{\log 6}{\log 5} \approx 1.1133$

5. $\log_9 0.2$
 $\frac{\log 0.2}{\log 9} \approx -0.7325$

Evaluate using the change of base formula (without a calculator.)

6. $\frac{\log_5 16}{\log_5 4} = \frac{\frac{\log 16}{\log 5}}{\frac{\log 4}{\log 5}} = \frac{\log 16}{\log 4} = \log_4 16 = \log_4 4^2 = 2$

7. $\frac{\log_7 243}{\log_7 3} = \frac{\log_9 243}{\log_9 3} = \log_3 3^5 = 5$

Find (a) the exact solution, using common logarithms, and (b) a two-decimal approximation of each solution, when appropriate.

8. $3^{x+4} = 2^{1-3x}$

$(x+4) \log 3 = (1-3x) \log 2$
 $x \log 3 + 4 \log 3 = \log 2 - 3x \log 2$
 $x \log 3 + 3x \log 2 = \log 2 - 4 \log 3$
 $x (\log 3 + 3 \log 2) = \log 2 - 4 \log 3$
 $x = \frac{\log 2 - 4 \log 3}{\log 3 + 3 \log 2} \approx -1.16$

9. $2^{2x-3} = 5^{x-2}$

$(2x-3) \log 2 = (x-2) \log 5$
 $2x \log 2 - 3 \log 2 = x \log 5 - 2 \log 5$
 $2x \log 2 - x \log 5 = 3 \log 2 - 2 \log 5$
 $x (2 \log 2 - \log 5) = 3 \log 2 - 2 \log 5$
 $x = \frac{3 \log 2 - 2 \log 5}{2 \log 2 - \log 5} \approx 5.11$

10. $2^x = 8$

$2^x = 2^3$
 $x = 3$

11. $\log x = 1 - \log(x-3)$

$$\log x + \log(x-3) = 1$$

$$\log x^2 - 3x = 1$$

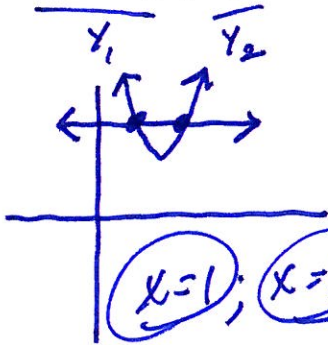
$$10^1 = x^2 - 3x$$

$$0 = x^2 - 3x - 10$$

$$0 = (x-5)(x+2)$$

$$x=5; x=-2$$

13. $5^x + 125(5^{-x}) = 30$



12. $\log(x^2+4) - \log(x+2) = 2 + \log(x-2)$

$$\log \frac{x^2+4}{x+2} - \log(x-2) = 2$$

$$\log \left(\frac{x^2+4}{x^2-4} \right) = 2$$

$$10^2 = \left(\frac{x^2+4}{x^2-4} \right)$$

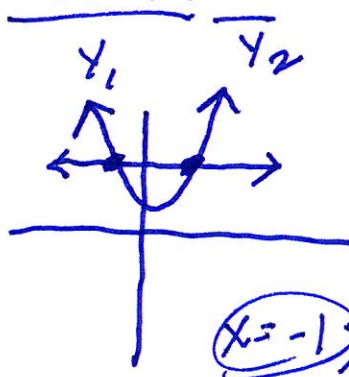
$$x^2+4 = 100x^2-400;$$

$$\frac{404}{99} = \frac{99x^2}{99}$$

$$x=2.02$$

$$x=\cancel{2.02}$$

14. $3(3^x) + 9(3^{-x}) = 28$



Solve the equation without using a calculator.

15. $\log(x^2) = (\log x)^2$

$$2 \log x = (\log x)^2$$

$$0 = (\log x)^2 - 2 \log x$$

$$0 = \log x (\log x - 2)$$

$$\log x = 0$$

$$10^0 = x$$

$$x=1$$

$$\log x = 2$$

$$10^2 = x$$

$$x=100$$

16. $\log(\log x) = 2$

$$10^2 = \log x$$

$$100 = \log x$$

$$10^{100} = x$$

17. $x^{\sqrt{\log x}} = 10^8$

$$\log(x^{\sqrt{\log x}}) = \log 10^8$$

$$\sqrt{\log x} (\log x) = 8 \log 10$$

$$(\log x)^{\frac{3}{2}} = 8$$

$$\log x = 8^{\frac{2}{3}}$$

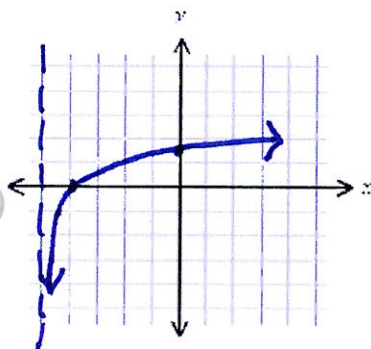
$$\log x = 4$$

$$10^4 = x$$

$$10,000 = x$$

Sketch the graph of f , and use the change of base formula to approximate the y-intercept.

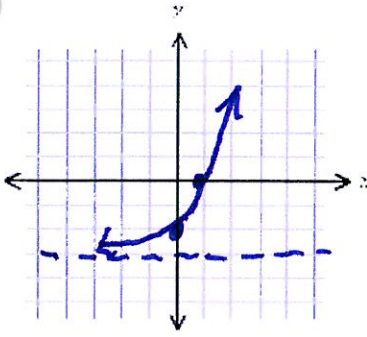
18. $f(x) = \log_3(x+5)$



y-int; $\log_3 5 = \frac{\log 5}{\log 3} \approx 1.4650$

Sketch the graph of f , and use the change of base formula to approximate the x-intercept.

19. $f(x) = 4^x - 3$



x-int;

$$y = 4^x - 3$$

$$0 = 4^x - 3$$

$$3 = 4^x$$

$$x = \log_4 3; \quad \frac{\log 3}{\log 4} \approx .7925$$

20. Use the compound interest formula to determine how long it will take for a sum of money to double if it is invested at a rate of 6% per year compounded monthly.

$$A = P \left(1 + \frac{r}{n}\right)^{nt}$$

$$A = 2P$$

$$r = 0.06$$

$$n = 12$$

$$2P = P \left(1 + \frac{.06}{12}\right)^{12t}$$

$$2 = (1.005)^{12t}$$

$$\ln 2 = 12t \ln 1.005$$

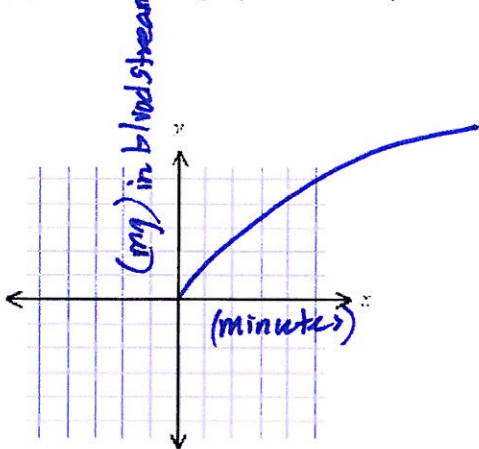
$$t = \frac{\ln 2}{12 \ln(1.005)}$$

$\approx 11.58 \text{ yr}$
or
11 yr. 7 mon

21. If a 100-milligram tablet of an asthma drug is taken orally and if none of the drug is present in the body when the tablet is first taken, the total amount A in the bloodstream after t minutes is predicted to be

$$A = 100[1 - (0.9)^t] \text{ for } 0 \leq t \leq 10.$$

(a) Sketch the graph of the equation.



(b) Determine the number of minutes needed for 50 milligrams of the drug to have entered the bloodstream.

$$A = 50$$

$$50 = 100(1 - 0.9^t)$$

$$.5 = 1 - 0.9^t$$

$$\frac{-.5}{-1} = \frac{-.9^t}{-1}$$

$$.5 = .9^t$$

$$t = \log_{.9}(.5) = \frac{\log .5}{\log .9} \approx 6.58 \text{ min.}$$