

Chapter 3 Section 3 Properties of Logarithms

Change of Base Formula

Let a , b , and x be positive real numbers such that $a \neq 1$ and $b \neq 1$. Then $\log_a x$ can be converted to a different base as follows.

$$\text{Base } b \quad \log_a x = \frac{\log_b x}{\log_b a}$$

$$\text{Base } 10 \quad \log_a x = \frac{\log x}{\log a}$$

$$\text{Base } e \quad \log_a x = \frac{\ln x}{\ln a}$$

Properties of Logarithms

Let a be a positive number such that $a \neq 1$, and let n be a real number. If u and v are positive real numbers, the following properties are true.

	<i>Logarithm with Base a</i>	<i>Natural Logarithm</i>
1. Product Property:	$\log_a (uv) = \log_a u + \log_a v$	$\ln(uv) = \ln u + \ln v$
2. Quotient Property:	$\log_a \frac{u}{v} = \log_a u - \log_a v$	$\ln \frac{u}{v} = \ln u - \ln v$
3. Power Property:	$\log_a u^n = n \log_a u$	$\ln u^n = n \ln u$