

## Unit 3 Logarithms

Look at the graph of the exponential function,  $y = 2^x$ , to the right and answer the following.

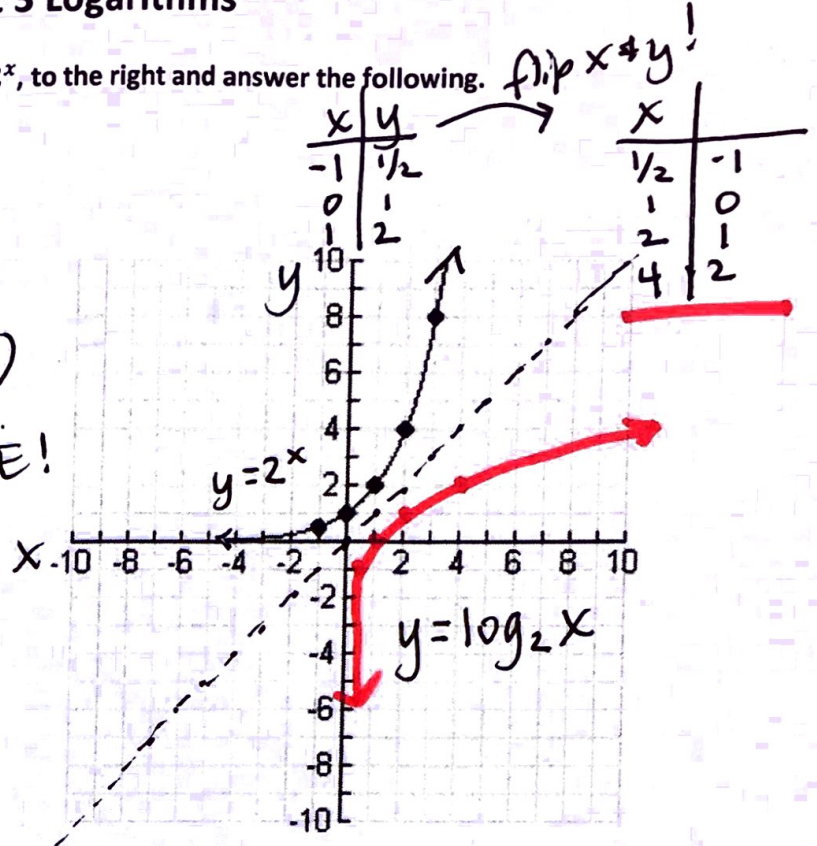
- What is the domain?  $\{x \mid x \in \mathbb{R}\}$
- What is the range?  $\{y \mid y > 0\}$
- State the horizontal asymptote.  $y = 0$

What is the x intercept? none      The y intercept?  $(0, 1)$

\*Sketch the line  $y = x$  and reflect the graph of  $y = 2^x$ .

Now answer the following questions.

- What is the domain?  $\{x \mid x > 0\}$
- What is the range?  $\{y \mid y \in \mathbb{R}\}$
- State the vertical asymptote.  $x = 0$
- What is the x intercept?  $(1, 0)$       The y intercept? none



To find the equation of the reflection we need to interchange x and y and solve for y.

$y = 2^x \rightarrow x = 2^y$       We need to solve this for y, but to do this we need to use logarithms.

A logarithm is the inverse of an exponential function.

$x = 2^y \rightarrow \log_2 x = y$

For the exponential function  $y = b^x$ , the inverse is  $x = b^y$ , to solve this for y, we use logarithms.

$x = b^y$  can be written as  $\log_b(x) = y$

← exponent      →

So the inverse of  $y = 2^x$  is  $y = \log_2(x)$ .

→ base      ↗

log always = exponent

Write the inverse of the following functions. Remember you must first interchange x and y to find the inverse before solving for y.

$x = 5^y$

a.  $y = 5^x$        $y = \log_5 x$

$x = 12^y$

b.  $y = 12^x$        $y = \log_{12} x$

c.  $y = 6^x$        $y = \log_6 x$

a.  $y = \log_9 x$        $x = \log_9 y$

$9^x = y$

b.  $y = \log_3 x$        $y = 3^x$

c.  $y = \log_7 x$        $y = 7^x$

Remember:

$$y = b^x \longleftrightarrow x = \log_b(y)$$

The base of a logarithm can be any number, just like you can use any number as the base of an exponent.

The two most frequently used numbers for the base of a logarithm are 10 and e. Because they are used more often, they can be abbreviated:

$\log_{10} x = \log x$  This is called the common logarithm or common log.

↑ understood 10!

Rewrite each equation in logarithm form.

1.  $5^2 = 25$

$\log_5 25 = 2$   
 (Annotations: "exp." above 25, "BASE" below 5)

2.  $3^{-4} = \frac{1}{81}$

$\log_3 \frac{1}{81} = -4$

3.  $6^3 = 216$

$\log_6 216 = 3$

4.  $10^4 = 10000$

$\log_{10} 10000 = 4$   
 or  $\log 10000 = 4$

5.  $10^{-2} = \frac{1}{100}$

$\log_{10} \frac{1}{100} = -2$

6.  $e^0 = 1$

$\log_e 1 = 0$   
 $\ln 1 = 0$

Rewrite each equation in exponential form.

1.  $\log_2 16 = 4$  →  $2^4 = 16$

2.  $\log_{16} 4 = \frac{1}{2}$  →  $16^{\frac{1}{2}} = 4$

3.  $\log_5 125 = 3$  →  $5^3 = 125$

4.  $\log_x 5 = 3$  →  $x^3 = 5$

5.  $\log_4 2x = 7$  →  $4^7 = 2x$

6.  $\log_n 10 = 2$  →  $10^2 = n$

Find the value of x in each of the following. \*WRITE IN EXP. FORM!\*

1.  $\log_2 4 = x$  →  $2^x = 4$   
 $2^x = 2^2$   
 $x = 2$

2.  $\log_x 25 = 2$   
 $x^2 = 25$   
 $x = 5$

3.  $\log_3 x = 3$   
 $3^3 = x = 27$   
 $x^{\log_x a} = a$

Evaluate the following. Hint: Set each equal to x before taking to logarithm form.

1.  $2^{\log_2 5} = 5$   
 base = / logs & exp. inverses!

2.  $7^{\log_7 12} = 12$

3.  $10^{\log_{10} 9} = 9$   
 understood 10!