

## 5.4 Logarithmic Functions

Definition of a logarithmic function -

The logarithm function to the base  $a$ , where  $a > 0$  and  $a \neq 1$  is denoted  $y = \log_a x$ .

$$y = \log_a(x) \text{ iff } x = a^y$$

the argument

$$y = a^x$$
$$x = a^y \text{ implicit def'n}$$
$$\log_a x = y \text{ explicit def'n.}$$

Example 1: Relating logarithms to Exponents

(a) If  $y = \log_3 x$ , then

$$y = \log_3 x \text{ then } x = 3^y$$

(b) If  $y = \log_5 x$ , then

$$y = \log_5 x \text{ then } x = 5^y$$

Example 2: Change each exponential statement to an equivalent statement involving a logarithm.

(a)  $1.2^3 = m$

$$\log_{1.2} m = 3$$

(b)  $e^b = 9$

$$\log_e 9 = b$$

(c)  $a^4 = 24$

$$\log_a 24 = 4$$

Example 3: Change each logarithmic statement to an equivalent statement involving an exponent.

(a)  $\log_a 4 = 5$

$$4 = a^5$$

(b)  $\log_e b = -3$

$$b = e^{-3}$$

(c)  $\log_3 5 = c$

$$5 = 3^c$$

use defn of log and  $a^u = a^v$  then  $u = v$

**Example 4:** Find the exact value of ...

(a)  $\log_2 16 =$

$$2^x = 16$$

$$2^x = 2^4 \quad x = 4$$

(b)  $\log_3 \frac{1}{27} =$

$$3^x = \frac{1}{27}$$

$$3^x = 3^{-3} \quad x = -3$$

Domain and Range of Logarithmic Functions

Domain of log function:  $\{x | x > 0\}$   
 (Range of exponential function:  $\{y | y > 0\}$ )  
 Range of log function:  $\{y | -\infty < y < \infty\} \mathbb{R}$   
 (Domain of exponential:  $\mathbb{R}$ )

**Example 5:** Find the domain of each logarithmic function.

(a)  $F(x) = \log_2(x+3)$

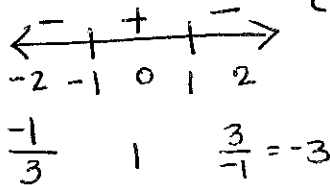
$$x+3 > 0$$

$$x > -3$$

D of  $F(x)$   
 $\{x | x > -3\}$

(b)  $G(x) = \log_5 \left( \frac{1+x}{1-x} \right)$

$$\frac{1+x}{1-x} > 0 \quad \text{D of } G(x): \{x | -1 < x < 1\}$$



(c)  $h(x) = \log_{\frac{1}{2}} |x|$

$$|x| > 0$$

$$\{x | x \neq 0\}$$

$$|x| > 0$$

$$x > 0 \text{ or } x < 0$$

$$|2x+1| < 1$$

$$2x+1 < 1 \text{ and } 2x+1 > -1$$

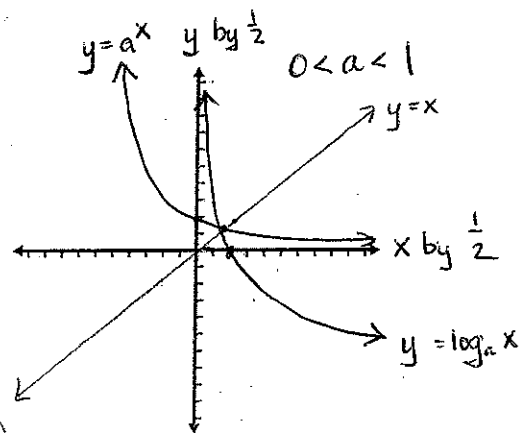
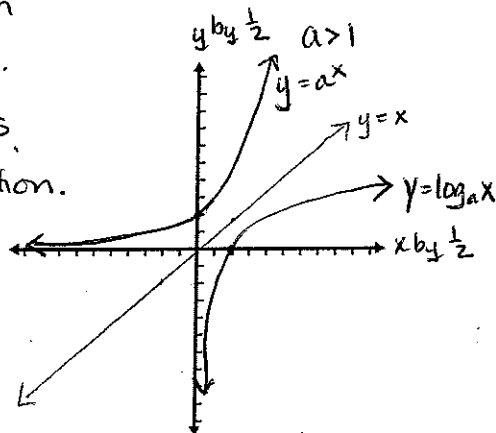
$$2x < 0 \text{ and } 2x > -2$$

$$x < 0 \text{ and } x > -1$$

$$-1 < x < 0$$

Properties of the Logarithmic Function  $f(x) = \log_a x$

- $D: \{x | x > 0\}$   $R: \mathbb{R}$
- No y-int., x-int. (1,0)
- No horizontal asymptote, vertical asymptote  $x=0$
- If  $a > 1$ , log is an increasing function.  
If  $0 < a < 1$ , log is a decreasing function.  
Log's are 1-to-1.
- Points on graph  $(1,0), (\frac{1}{a}, -1), (a, 1)$
- Graph is smooth and continuous.



Base 10 (Common log)  
 $y = \log x$  iff  $x = 10^y$   
 Base e (Natural log)  
 $y = \ln x$  iff  $x = e^y$

- Example 7:**
- (a) Find the domain of the logarithmic function  $f(x) = 3 \log(x - 1)$
  - (b) Graph  $f$
  - (c) From the graph, determine the range and vertical asymptote of  $f$ .
  - (d) Find  $f^{-1}$ , the inverse of  $f$ .
  - (e) Use  $f^{-1}$  to confirm the range of  $f$  found in part (c). From the domain of  $f$ , find the range of  $f^{-1}$ .
  - (f) Graph  $f^{-1}$

a)  $x-1 > 0 \quad D: \{x | x > 1\}$   
 $x > 1$

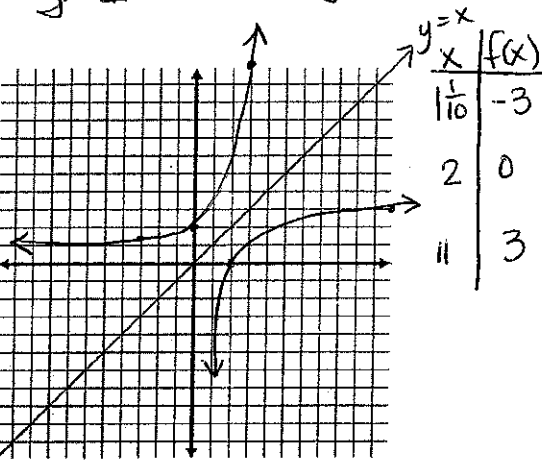
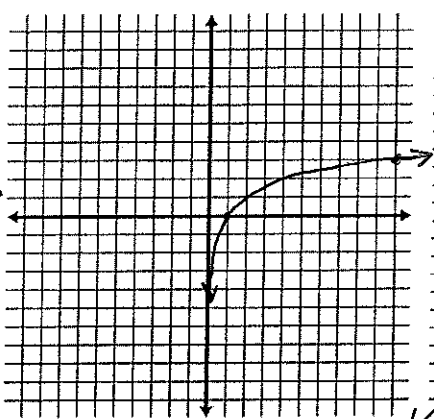
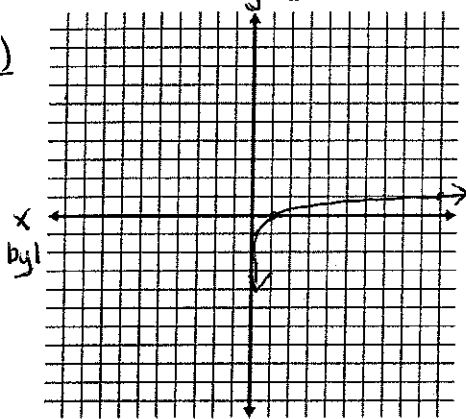
$f(x) = \log x$

vertical stretch  $\rightarrow f(x) = 3 \log x$

x	f(x)
$\frac{1}{10}$	-3
1	0
10	3

shift right 1  $\rightarrow f(x) = 3 \log(x-1)$

x	f(x)
$\frac{1}{10}$	-1
1	0
10	1



x	f(x)
$\frac{1}{10}$	-3
2	0
11	3

d)  $y = 3 \log(x-1)$

$x = 3 \log(y-1)$  implicit

$\frac{x}{3} = \log(y-1)$

$10^{\frac{x}{3}} = y-1$

$10^{\frac{x}{3}} + 1 = y$

$f^{-1}(x) = 10^{\frac{x}{3}} + 1$  explicit

c)  $R: \mathbb{R}$   
V.A.:  $x=1$

e)  $f^{-1} \left\{ \begin{array}{l} D: \mathbb{R} \\ R: \{y | y > 1\} \end{array} \right.$

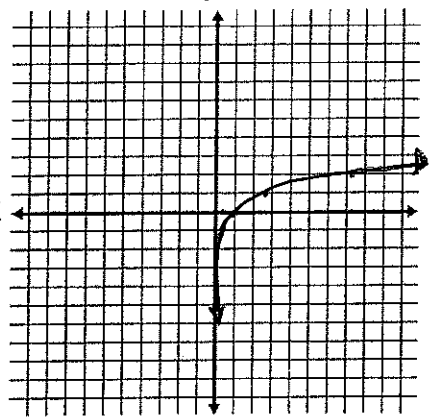
← algebraically

- Example 6:
- (a) Find the domain of the logarithmic function  $f(x) = -\ln(x-2)$
  - (b) Graph  $f \rightarrow$  using transformations.
  - (c) From the graph, determine the range and vertical asymptote of  $f$ .
  - (d) Find  $f^{-1}$ , the inverse of  $f$ .  $\rightarrow$  algebraically
  - (e) Use  $f^{-1}$  to confirm the range of  $f$  found in part (c). From the domain of  $f$ , find the range of  $f^{-1}$ .
  - (f) Graph  $f^{-1}$

a)  $x-2 > 0$   $D: \{x | x > 2\}$   
 $\quad \quad \quad +2 \quad +2$   
 $\quad \quad \quad x > 2$

$f(x) = \ln x$

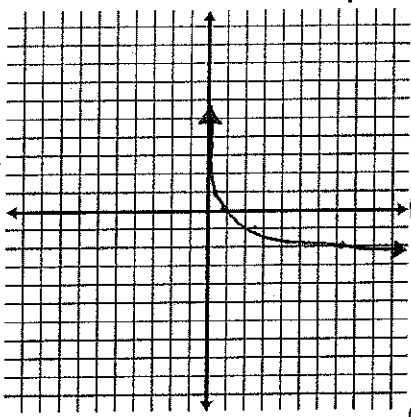
x	f(x)
$\frac{1}{e}$	-1
1	0
e	1
$e^2$	2



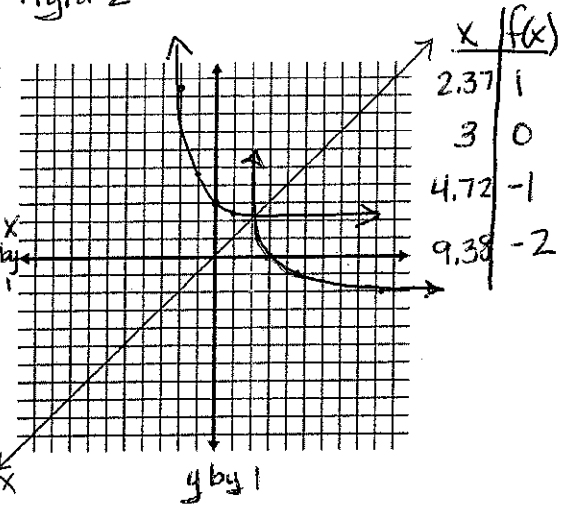
reflection over the x-axis  
by 1

$f(x) = -\ln x$

x	f(x)
$\frac{1}{e}$	1
1	0
e	-1
$e^2$	-2



shift right 2  $\rightarrow f(x) = -\ln(x-2)$



d)  $y = -\ln(x-2)$

implicit  $\frac{x}{-1} = \frac{-\ln(y-2)}{-1}$

$-x = \ln(y-2)$

$e^{-x} = y-2$

$e^{-x} + 2 = y$

explicit  $f^{-1}(x) = e^{-x} + 2$

c) R:  $\mathbb{R}$   
V.A.:  $x=2$

e)  $f^{-1}(x)$  D:  $\mathbb{R}$   
R:  $\{y | y > 2\}$

Example 8: Solving logarithmic equations

Note: B/c domain of log's is restricted,  
easy to get extraneous solutions -

(a)  $\log_3(4x - 7) = 2$

$$4x - 7 = 3^2$$

$$4x - 7 = 9$$

$$4x = 16$$

$$\boxed{x = 4}$$

check

$$4 \cdot 4 - 7 = 9$$

positive argument  
solution exists.

(b)  $\log_x 64 = 2$

$$64 = x^2$$

$$\sqrt{x^2} = \sqrt{64}$$

$$\sqrt{x^2} = \pm \sqrt{64}$$

$$x = \pm 8$$

x is the base

bases must be +

so -8 is extraneous

$$\boxed{x = 8}$$

So always  
check your  
solutions

Example 9: Using logarithms to solve exponential equations

Solve  $e^{2x} = 5$

$$2x = \ln 5$$

$$x = \frac{\ln 5}{2} \text{ exact answer}$$

$$x \approx .805 \text{ approximation}$$

Example 10: The blood alcohol concentration (BAC) is the amount of alcohol in a person's bloodstream. A BAC of 0.04% means that a person has 4 parts alcohol per 10,000 parts blood in the body. Relative risk is defined as the likelihood of one event occurring divided by the likelihood of a second event occurring. For example, if an individual with a BAC of 0.02% is 1.4 times as likely to have a car accident as an individual who has not been drinking, their relative risk of an accident with a BAC of 0.02% is 1.4. Recent medical research suggest that the relative risk  $R$  of having an accident while driving a car can be modeled by the equation

$$R = e^{kx}$$

where  $x$  is the percent of concentration of alcohol in the bloodstream and  $k$  is a constant.

(a) Research indicates that the relative risk of a person having an accident with a BAC of 0.02% is 1.4. Find the constant  $k$  in the equation.

(b) Using this value of  $k$ , what is the relative risk if the concentration is 0.17%?

(c) Using this same value of  $k$ , what is the BAC corresponds to a relative risk of 100?

(d) If the law asserts that anyone with a relative risk of 5 or more should not have driving privileges, at what concentration of alcohol in the bloodstream should a driver be arrested and charged with a DUI (driving under the influence)?

$$\begin{aligned} \text{a) } R &= e^{kx} \\ 1.4 &= e^{k(.02)} \end{aligned}$$

$$\frac{.02k}{.02} = \frac{\ln(1.4)}{.02}$$

$$k = \frac{\ln 1.4}{.02} \text{ exact (use)}$$

$$k \approx 16.82 \text{ approximation}$$

$$\begin{aligned} \text{b) } R &= e^{\left(\frac{\ln 1.4}{.02}\right)(.17)} \\ R &\approx 17.46 \end{aligned}$$

An individual with a BAC of .17% is 17.46 times more likely to get into an accident.

$$\text{c) } 100 = e^{\left(\frac{\ln 1.4}{.02}\right)x}$$

$$\left(\frac{\ln 1.4}{.02}\right)x = \ln 100$$

$$x = \frac{.02 \ln 100}{\ln 1.4}$$

$$x \approx .27$$

An individual with a BAC of .27% is 100 times more likely to get into a car accident.

$$\text{d) } 5 = e^{\left(\frac{\ln 1.4}{.02}\right)x}$$

$$\ln 5 = \frac{\ln 1.4}{.02}(x)$$

$$\frac{.02 \ln 5}{\ln 1.4} = x$$

$$.096 \approx x$$

A driver with a BAC of .096% or greater should be arrested if a relative risk of 5 is unacceptable.