

Math 1050 ~ College Algebra

19 Logarithmic Equations and Functions

$$\begin{aligned} -3x + 4y &= 5 \\ 2x - y &= -10 \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{bmatrix} -3 & 4 \\ 2 & -1 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} x \\ y \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 5 \\ -10 \end{bmatrix}$$

$$\sum_{k=1}^m k = \frac{m(m+1)}{2}$$

$$\sum_{k=0}^n z^k = \frac{1-z^{n+1}}{1-z}$$

Learning Objectives

- Determine the domain of a logarithmic function.
- Determine x- and y-intercepts of logarithmic functions.
- Graph logarithmic functions.
- Solve logarithmic equations.
- Solve applications of logarithmic functions.

Determine the Domain of a Logarithmic Function

Remember $\log x$ is only defined for $x > 0$.

Ex 1: Determine the domain of each of these.

- a) $f(x) = \log_5(x+3)$ b) $g(x) = \log(x^2+3)$ c) $h(x) = \ln x - \ln(x+1)$

Solving Logarithmic Equations

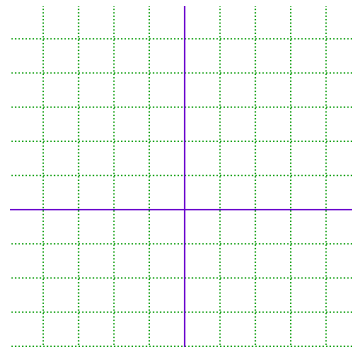
Ex 2: We will solve this equation by going through the basic steps.

$$\log(5x) + \log(x-1) = 2$$

- Use properties of logs to condense logs into a single log expression on one side of the equation.
- Exponentiate both sides with the base matching the base of the log.
- Rewrite as an equivalent exponential equation.
- Solve and check.

Ex 3: Graph this logarithmic function by following these steps. $f(x) = \ln |x + 1|$

- Determine the domain.
- Find the x - and y - intercepts.
- Determine any asymptotes.
- Plot a few points and sketch the curve.



Ex 4: Solve for x .

a) $\log_3 x - \log_3(x+1) = 2$

b) $\ln(x+4) - \ln(x-2) = \ln x$

Ex 5: Marilyn is saving for her retirement by depositing \$500 per month into an account earning 5.4% annual interest compounded monthly. The time it takes for such an account to grow to be worth S dollars is given by this equation.

$$t = \frac{1}{12} \log_{\left(1 + \frac{r}{12}\right)} \left[\frac{Sr}{12P} + 1 \right]$$

r = annual interest rate
 t = time (in years)
 P = monthly payments

How many years will she need to keep making these monthly deposits for the account to be worth two million dollars?