

Section 3.3 (Properties of Logarithms)

Because of the relationship between exponential and logarithmic forms, we find that the properties of exponents correspond to the properties of logarithms

- **Product Rule:** The logarithm of a product is the sum of the logarithms

$$\log_b (MN) = \log_b M + \log_b N$$

Examples: Use the product rule to **expand** each logarithmic expression

$$\ln (4x) =$$

$$\log_6 (7 \cdot 11) =$$

$$\log (100x) =$$

- **Quotient Rule:** The logarithm of a quotient is the difference of the logarithms

$$\log_b \left(\frac{M}{N} \right) = \log_b M - \log_b N$$

Example: Use the quotient rule to expand each logarithmic expression

$$\log \left(\frac{x}{2} \right) =$$

$$\log_8 \left(\frac{23}{x} \right) =$$

$$\ln \left(\frac{e^5}{11} \right) =$$

- **Power Rule:** The logarithm of a number with an exponent is the product of the exponent and the logarithm of that number

$$\log_b M^n = n \log_b M$$

Examples: Use the power rule to expand each logarithmic expression

$$\ln x^2 =$$

$$\log_6 (3^9) =$$

$$\ln \sqrt[3]{x} =$$

$$\log (x + 4)^2 =$$

You can use more than one of these properties in combination to expand logarithmic expressions

Examples: Use the logarithmic properties to expand each logarithmic expression as much as possible

$$\log_b (x^4 \sqrt[3]{y}) =$$

$$\log_5 \left(\frac{\sqrt{x}}{25y^3} \right) =$$

Thinking of these properties in reverse allows us to **condense** logarithmic expressions

Examples: Write the following as a single logarithm

$$\log_4 2 + \log_4 32$$

$$\log (7x + 6) - \log x$$

$$2 \log (x - 3) - \log x$$

$$2 \ln x + \frac{1}{3} \ln (x + 5)$$

We can use the change-of-base property to find logarithms in other bases (besides 10 and e)

- **Change-of-base Property:** The logarithm of M with base b is equal to the logarithm of M with any base divided by the logarithm of b with that same new base

$$\log_b M = \frac{\log_a M}{\log_a b} \quad \left(\text{note that } \log_b M = \frac{\log M}{\log b} = \frac{\ln M}{\ln b} \right)$$

Example: Use common logarithms (base 10) to evaluate $\log_7 2506$

Example: Use natural logarithms to evaluate $\log_7 2506$