

PC 4-0 Definition of Logarithm/Definition of e

The logarithm to the base a, where  $a > 0$ , and  $a \neq 1$  is

written as  $y = \log_a x$ .  
 "y equals the logarithm base a of x"

$y = \log_a x$  if and only if  $x = a^y$

The domain of the logarithm  $y = \log_a x$  is  $x > 0$ .

The number e is defined as:

$(1 + \frac{1}{n})^n$  as the number n goes to infinity ( $\infty$ )

In Calculus, using limit notation:

$e = \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} (1 + \frac{1}{n})^n$

**Properties of Logs:**

The log of a Product Equals the Sum of the Logs

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

Example:  $\log_3(4x) = \log_3 4 + \log_3 x$

The log of a Quotient Equals the Difference of the Logs

$\log_a(\frac{M}{N}) = \log_a M - \log_a N$

Example:  $\log_3(\frac{4}{x}) = \log_3 4 - \log_3 x$

The log of a Power Equals the Product of the Power and the log

$\log_a M^r = r \log_a M$

Example:  $\log_6 10^8 = 8 \cdot \log_6 10$

Fill in the table below to calculate e.

n	$\frac{1}{n}$	$1 + \frac{1}{n}$	$(1 + \frac{1}{n})^n$
1	$\frac{1}{1} = 1$	$1 + \frac{1}{1} = 2$	$(2)^1 = 2$
2	$\frac{1}{2}$	$1 + \frac{1}{2} = 1.5$	$(1.5)^2 = 2.25$
5	$\frac{1}{5}$	$1 + \frac{1}{5} = 1.2$	$(1.2)^5 = 2.48832$
10	$\frac{1}{10}$	$1 + \frac{1}{10} = 1.1$	$(1.1)^{10} = 2.59374246$
100	$\frac{1}{100}$	$1 + \frac{1}{100} = 1.01$	$(1.01)^{100} = 2.70481382$
1,000	$\frac{1}{1000}$	$1 + \frac{1}{1000} = 1.001$	$(1.001)^{1000} \approx 2.71692$
10,000	$\frac{1}{10000}$	1.0001	$(1.0001)^{10000} \approx$

2.718