

The Natural Logarithmic Function

In Precalculus we learn about exponential

$$\text{functions } y = a^x \quad a > 0, a \neq 1 \quad \text{Ex } y = 2^x$$

$$y = 5^x$$

$$y = \left(\frac{1}{3}\right)^x$$

and their corresponding inverse functions

$$y = \log_a x \quad \text{since } y = \log_a x \Leftrightarrow a^y = x$$

+ inverse functions switch x + y

$$\text{Ex. } y = \log_2 x \quad y = \log_5 x \quad y = \log_{\frac{1}{3}} x$$

You may have also seen $y = e^x$ for our

special number $e \approx 2.718$

with inverse $y = \ln x = \log_e x$.

But in Precalculus, we can only give an intuitive

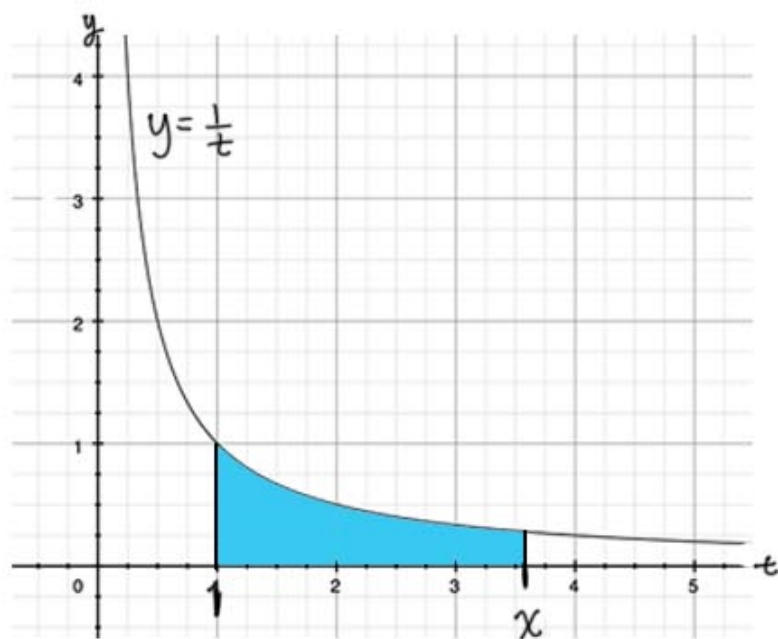
idea about what it means to define a^x

when x is an irrational number. So, none of the above was defined formally in pre calc.

Here, we begin a formal definition + presentation of exponential and log functions.

We start with the natural logarithmic function

$$\ln x = \int_1^x \frac{1}{t} dt \quad \text{for } x > 0.$$

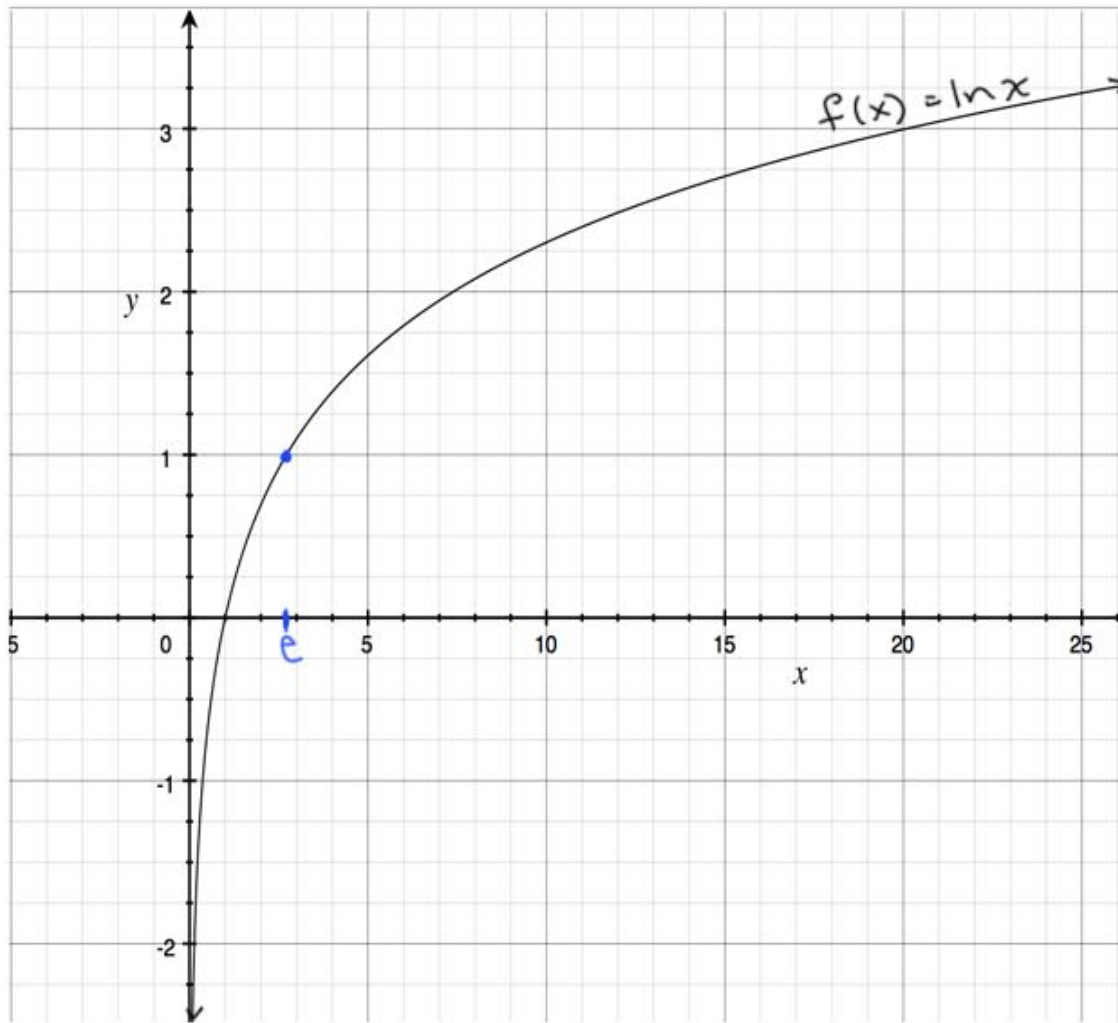


for $x > 1$
 $\int_1^x \frac{1}{t} dt$ is the area
under $y = \frac{1}{t}$ over $[1, x]$.

$$\text{for } x = 1, \quad \int_1^1 \frac{1}{t} dt = \int_1^1 \frac{1}{t} dt = 0 \quad \ln(1) = 0$$

and $f''(x) = -\frac{1}{x^2} < 0 \quad \therefore f(x) = \ln x$ is
concave down.

\therefore The graph of $f(x) = \ln x$:



With this definition of $\ln x$ we have the
usual laws of logarithms: for $x, y > 0$ and r rational

$$\ln(xy) = \ln x + \ln y, \quad \ln\left(\frac{x}{y}\right) = \ln x - \ln y, \quad \ln(x^r) = r \ln x$$

And with this definition of $\ln x$, we define

e to be the number such that $\ln(e) = 1$.

(more in next lesson)

Differentiation with $\ln x$:

$$\frac{d}{dx}(\ln x) = \frac{1}{x} \quad \frac{d}{dx}(\ln(g(x))) = \frac{1}{g(x)} \cdot g'(x)$$
$$= \frac{g'(x)}{g(x)}$$

Ex. $y = \ln(x^2 + 10) \quad y' = \frac{2x}{x^2 + 10}$

Ex. $y = x \ln x$
 product rule.

$$y' = \frac{d}{dx}(x) \cdot \ln x + x \cdot \frac{d}{dx}(\ln x)$$
$$= 1 \cdot \ln x + x \cdot \frac{1}{x}$$
$$= \ln x + 1.$$

Ex. find $\frac{dy}{dx}$ for $\ln(xy) = y \sin x$

↑
separate using laws of logs

$$\ln x + \ln y = y \sin x$$

implicit differentiation:

$$\frac{d}{dx}(\ln x + \ln y) = \frac{d}{dx}(\underbrace{y \sin x}_{\text{product rule}})$$

$$\frac{1}{x} + \frac{1}{y} \cdot \frac{dy}{dx} = \frac{dy}{dx} \sin x + y \cos x$$

solve for $\frac{dy}{dx}$

$$\frac{1}{y} \frac{dy}{dx} - \frac{dy}{dx} \sin x = y \cos x - \frac{1}{x}$$

$$\frac{dy}{dx} \left(\frac{1}{y} - \sin x \right) = y \cos x - \frac{1}{x}$$

$$\frac{dy}{dx} = \frac{y \cos x - \frac{1}{x}}{\frac{1}{y} - \sin x} \cdot \frac{xy}{xy} = \frac{xy^2 \cos x - y}{x - xy \sin x}.$$

Consider $y = \ln|x| = \begin{cases} \ln x & x > 0 \\ \ln(\underbrace{-x}_{g(x)}) & x < 0 \end{cases}$

$$y' = \begin{cases} \frac{1}{x} & x > 0 \\ \frac{-1}{-x} = \frac{1}{x} & x < 0 \end{cases}$$

chain rule $\cdot \frac{g'(x)}{g(x)}$

$$\frac{d}{dx}(\ln|x|) = \frac{1}{x}$$

$$\therefore \int \frac{1}{x} dx = \ln|x| + C$$

Ex. $\int (2x^2 + \frac{3}{x} - 5) dx =$
 $3 \cdot \frac{1}{x}$

$$= \frac{2x^3}{3} + 3\ln|x| - 5x + C$$

$$\text{Ex. } \int \frac{2x+7}{x^2+7x-1} dx = \int \frac{du}{u} = \int \frac{1}{u} du$$

look out for $\frac{g'(x)}{g(x)}$ situation

$$= \ln |u| + C$$

$$= \ln |x^2+7x-1| + C$$

$$\begin{aligned} \text{let } u &= g(x) & u &= x^2+7x-1 \\ & & du &= (2x+7) dx \end{aligned}$$

Logarithmic Differentiation

$$\text{Ex. } y = \frac{(x^3+1)^4 \sin^2 x}{\sqrt[3]{x}}$$

find y'

$$\ln y = \ln \left(\frac{(x^3+1)^4 \sin^2 x}{\sqrt[3]{x}} \right)$$

instead of two chain rules in a product in a quotient,
take \ln of both sides

Now expand using the laws of logarithms...



Work on this problem
on your own

$$\ln y = \ln [(x^3+1)^4 (\sin x)^2] - \ln (x^{1/3})$$

$$\ln y = \ln((x^3+1)^4) + \ln((\sin x)^2) - \ln(x^{1/3})$$

$$\ln y = 4 \ln(x^3+1) + 2 \ln(\sin x) - \frac{1}{3} \ln x \quad \text{take derivative}$$



Work on this problem
on your own

$$\frac{y'}{y} = 4 \cdot \frac{3x^2}{x^3+1} + 2 \frac{\cos x}{\sin x} - \frac{1}{3} \cdot \frac{1}{x}$$

$$\frac{y'}{y} = \frac{12x^2}{x^3+1} + 2 \cot x - \frac{1}{3x}$$

$$y' = y \left(\frac{12x^2}{x^3+1} + 2 \cot x - \frac{1}{3x} \right)$$

$$y' = \frac{(x^3+1)^4 \sin^2 x}{\sqrt[3]{x}} \left(\frac{12x^2}{x^3+1} + 2 \cot x - \frac{1}{3x} \right) .$$