

Math 150 Lecture Notes

Exponential and Logarithmic Equations

To Solve an Exponential Equation:

1. Isolate the exponential expression on one side of the equation.
2. Change from exponential to logarithmic form.
3. Use the Laws of Logarithms to solve for the variable.

To Solve a Logarithmic Equation:

1. Use the Laws of Logarithms to combine (condense) the logarithms into one term
2. Change from logarithmic to exponential form.
3. Solve the resulting equation for the variable.

Example 1: Find the solution of each exponential equation, correct to four decimal places.

$$2^{3x} = 34$$

$$e^{3-5x} = 16$$

$$\frac{10}{1+e^{-x}} = 2$$

Example 2: Solve the equation.

$$x^2 e^x + x e^x - e^x = 0$$

Example 3: Solve each logarithmic equation for x .

$$\ln(2 + x) = 1$$

$$\log(x - 4) = 3$$

Example 4: Solve each logarithmic equation for x .

$$2 \log x = \log 2 + \log(3x - 4)$$

$$\log_5 x + \log_5 (x + 1) = \log_5 20$$