

*Change of Base Formula for Logarithms:*

Suppose that  $a$  and  $b$  are real numbers with  $a > 0$ ,  $b > 0$ ,  $a \neq 1$ , and  $b \neq 1$ . Also, suppose that  $x$  is a real number with  $x > 0$ .

Then

$$\log_a(x) = \frac{\log_b(x)}{\log_b(a)}.$$

*Proof of the Validity of the Change of Base Formula:*

Let  $q = \log_a(x)$ ,  $s = \log_b(x)$ , and  $t = \log_b(a)$ . Then

$$a^q = x$$

$$b^s = x$$

$$b^t = a.$$

This implies that

$$b^{t \cdot q} = (b^t)^q = a^q = x = b^s.$$

Since  $b^{t \cdot q} = b^s$ , we conclude that  $t \cdot q = s$ . Furthermore, since  $t \neq 0$  (because  $a \neq 1$ ), we can conclude that

$$q = \frac{s}{t}.$$

By definition of  $q$ ,  $s$ , and  $t$ , this shows that

$$\log_a(x) = \frac{\log_b(x)}{\log_b(a)}.$$