

1. For positive real numbers a and b with $b > 1$, what does $\log_b(a)$ mean?

2. The goal for this section is to come up with a good definition for $\log_b(a) \bmod m$. We'll start by doing an example. Recall that we have the following table of powers for $(\mathbb{Z}/9\mathbb{Z})^\times$:

| x | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 |
|-------|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1^x | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 |
| 2^x | 2 | 4 | 8 | 7 | 5 | 1 |
| 4^x | 4 | 7 | 1 | 4 | 7 | 1 |
| 5^x | 5 | 7 | 8 | 4 | 2 | 1 |
| 7^x | 7 | 4 | 1 | 7 | 4 | 1 |
| 8^x | 8 | 1 | 8 | 1 | 8 | 1 |

When working mod 9...

(a) What should $\log_2(2)$ be?

(b) What should $\log_2(4)$ be?

(c) What should $\log_2(8)$ be?

(d) What should $\log_2(7)$ be?

- (e) Can you come up with another reasonable answer to the previous question? What about a third answer? A fourth?

- (f) Can you give a well-defined function $\log_2(n)$ for all $n \in (\mathbb{Z}/9\mathbb{Z})^\times$? If not, can you give a well-defined function $\log_2(n)$ up to some modulus?

(g) What should $\log_5(1)$ be?

(h) What should $\log_5(5)$ be?

(i) What should $\log_5(7)$ be?

(j) Can you give a well-defined function $\log_5(n)$ for all $n \in (\mathbb{Z}/9\mathbb{Z})^\times$? If not, can you give a well-defined function $\log_5(n)$ up to some modulus?

(k) What should $\log_7(7)$ be?

(l) What should $\log_7(4)$ be?

(m) What should $\log_7(5)$ be?

(n) Can you give a well-defined function $\log_5(n)$ for all $n \in (\mathbb{Z}/9\mathbb{Z})^\times$? If not, can you give a well-defined function $\log_5(n)$ up to some modulus?

3. Here's another example. Recall that we have the following table of powers for $(\mathbb{Z}/8\mathbb{Z})^\times$

| x | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
|-------|---|---|---|---|
| 1^x | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 |
| 3^x | 3 | 1 | 3 | 1 |
| 5^x | 5 | 1 | 5 | 1 |
| 7^x | 5 | 1 | 5 | 1 |

Does there exist a base b so that $\log_b(n)$ is a well-defined function on $(\mathbb{Z}/8\mathbb{Z})^\times$ (up to some modulus)? If yes, give a table of values of $\log_b(n)$ for $n \in (\mathbb{Z}/8\mathbb{Z})^\times$. If no, why not?