

Exercise 296

For the following exercises, use the change-of-base formula and either base 10 or base e to evaluate the given expressions. Answer in exact form and in approximate form, rounding to four decimal places.

$$\log_2 \pi$$

Solution

In order to evaluate this expression, set it equal to an unknown variable x .

$$\log_2 \pi = x$$

The base is 2, the exponent is x , and the result is π .

$$2^x = \pi$$

To solve for x , take the logarithm of both sides (ln or log—it doesn't matter).

$$\ln 2^x = \ln \pi$$

Use the property of logarithms that brings the exponent down in front.

$$x \ln 2 = \ln \pi$$

Divide both sides by $\ln 2$ to solve for x .

$$x = \frac{\ln \pi}{\ln 2} \approx 1.6515$$