

Math 48B, Lesson 15: Graphs of Logarithmic Functions

In Math 48B Lessons 14, 15, 16, 17, and 18, we study logarithmic functions:

Logarithmic Form

$$y = \log_b(x)$$

Exponential Form

$$x = b^y$$

To begin our exploration, let's recall the rules of powers/exponents.

1. HOW TO EVALUATE LOGARITHMS?

Consider the two equivalent forms for logarithmic functions:

Logarithmic Form

$$y = \log_b(x)$$

Exponential Form

$$x = b^y$$

Use these two equivalent forms to evaluate the following logarithm problems.

✓ 1A. $4 + \log_{10}(0.001)$

✓ 1B. $\log_4\left(\frac{1}{32}\right)$

✓ 1C. $\log_e(e^{2/5})$

Problem 1A) Consider

$$\checkmark \quad 1 = 4 + \log_{10}(0.001) = 4 + -3$$

Focus on hard stuff first, then come back

input x = 0.001

Let $y = \log_{10}(0.001)$ ← logarithmic form

b = 10

"log base 10 of 0.001"

Notice we can put this in exponential form

$$y = \log_b(x)$$

\Leftrightarrow

$$b^y = x$$

input/output
swap from
exponential



$$\Rightarrow y = \log_{10}(0.001)$$

\Leftrightarrow

$$10^y = 0.001$$

\Leftrightarrow

$$10^y = \frac{1}{1000} = \frac{1}{10^3}$$

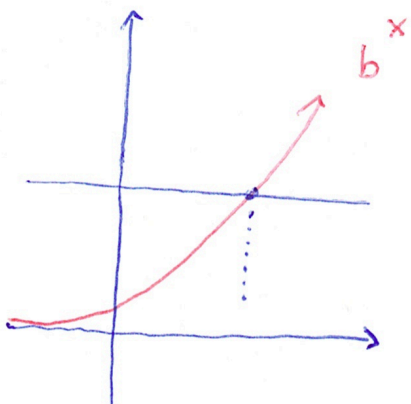
\Leftrightarrow

$$10^{\boxed{y}} = 10^{\boxed{-3}}$$

\Leftrightarrow

$$y = -3$$

Remember: $\frac{1}{10^3} = 10^{-3}$



if $b^{\boxed{x}} = b^{\boxed{w}}$, then $x = w$

output 1 = output 2 (b^x is one-to-one \Rightarrow inputs have to be same)

(2)

Problem 1B

Consider

$$\log_4 \left(\frac{1}{32} \right) = y$$

base $b = 4$

Recall

$$y = \log_4 \left(\frac{1}{32} \right) \iff \boxed{4}^y = \boxed{\frac{1}{32}}$$

$$\iff (2^2)^y = \left(\frac{1}{2^5} \right) = 2^{-5}$$

side note:
$4^1 = 4$
$4^2 = 16$
$4^3 = 64$

$32 = 2^5$

$4 = 2^2$

$\frac{1}{b^n} = \frac{b^0}{b^n} = b^{0-n} = b^{-n}$
$(b^n)^m = b^{n \cdot m}$

$$\iff 2^{\boxed{2y}} = 2^{\boxed{-5}}$$

$$\iff 2y = -5$$

$$\iff y = \frac{-5}{2} = -2.5$$

we see

$$\log_4 \left(\frac{1}{32} \right) = -\frac{5}{2} = -2.5$$

since

$$4^{\boxed{\frac{-5}{2}}} = 4^{\boxed{\frac{1}{2} \cdot \frac{-5}{1}}}$$

$$= \left(4^{1/2} \right)^{-5}$$

$$= \left(\sqrt[2]{4} \right)^{-5}$$

$$= 2^{-5}$$

$$= \frac{1}{2^5}$$

$$= \frac{1}{32} \quad \checkmark$$

$$\square b^{nm} = (b^n)^m$$

$$\square x^{n/m} = \sqrt[m]{x^n}$$

10. Consider

input $x = e^{2/5}$

$$y = \log_e (e^{2/5})$$

$$\Rightarrow e^y = e^{2/5}$$

base $b = e$

$$\Rightarrow y = 2/5$$

$$\Rightarrow \log_e (e^{2/5}) = \frac{2}{5}$$

logs cancel out exponents

Natural log

Note:

$$\log_e (x) =$$

$\ln(x)$ "LN of e"

log base e of x

the natural log function

Common Log

$$\log_{10} (x)$$

$$= \log (x)$$

if no base is written, then $b = 10$

$$\sqrt{x}$$

Name: _____

Soluton

$$b^n \cdot b^m = b^{n+m}$$

2. WHAT DOES THE GRAPH OF A LOGARITHM LOOK LIKE?

2A. Fill out the table for the logarithmic function $y = \log_2(x)$ below. Then, use Desmos.com to create a graph and describe the relevant features of that graph including the domain, range, x-intercept, and the end behavior as $x \rightarrow +\infty$.

x	y
$\frac{1}{64}$	
$\frac{1}{32}$	-5
$\frac{1}{16}$	-4
$\frac{1}{8}$	-3
$\frac{1}{4}$	-2
$\frac{1}{2}$	-1
1	0
2	1
4	2
8	3
16	4
32	5
64	6

$\lim_{x \rightarrow +\infty} f(x) = +\infty$

$$y = \log_b(x) \Leftrightarrow b^y = x$$

eg₁: $x = 4 \Rightarrow \log_2(4) = y$

$$\Rightarrow 2^y = 4$$

$$\leftarrow \log_2\left(\frac{1}{2}\right)$$

$$\leftarrow \log_2(1)$$

$$\leftarrow \log_2(2)$$

what exponent do we put on base 2 to get 2 out

what exponent do we put on 2 to get 4 out

eg₂: $x = 16 \Rightarrow$

$$y = \log_2(16)$$

$$\Rightarrow 2^y = 16$$

$$\leftarrow \log_2(64)$$

base 2 raised to what power is 64

$$\Rightarrow \log_2(16) = y = 4$$

eg 3:

$$x = 1 \Rightarrow$$

$$y = \log_2(1)$$

what exponent do we put on
base 2 to get 1

$$\Rightarrow 2^y = 1$$

$$\Rightarrow y = 0 = \log_2(1)$$

Recall:

$$\square 1 = \frac{2}{2} = \frac{2^1}{2^1} = 2^{1-1} = 2^0$$

$$\square \frac{b^m}{b^n} = b^{m-n}$$

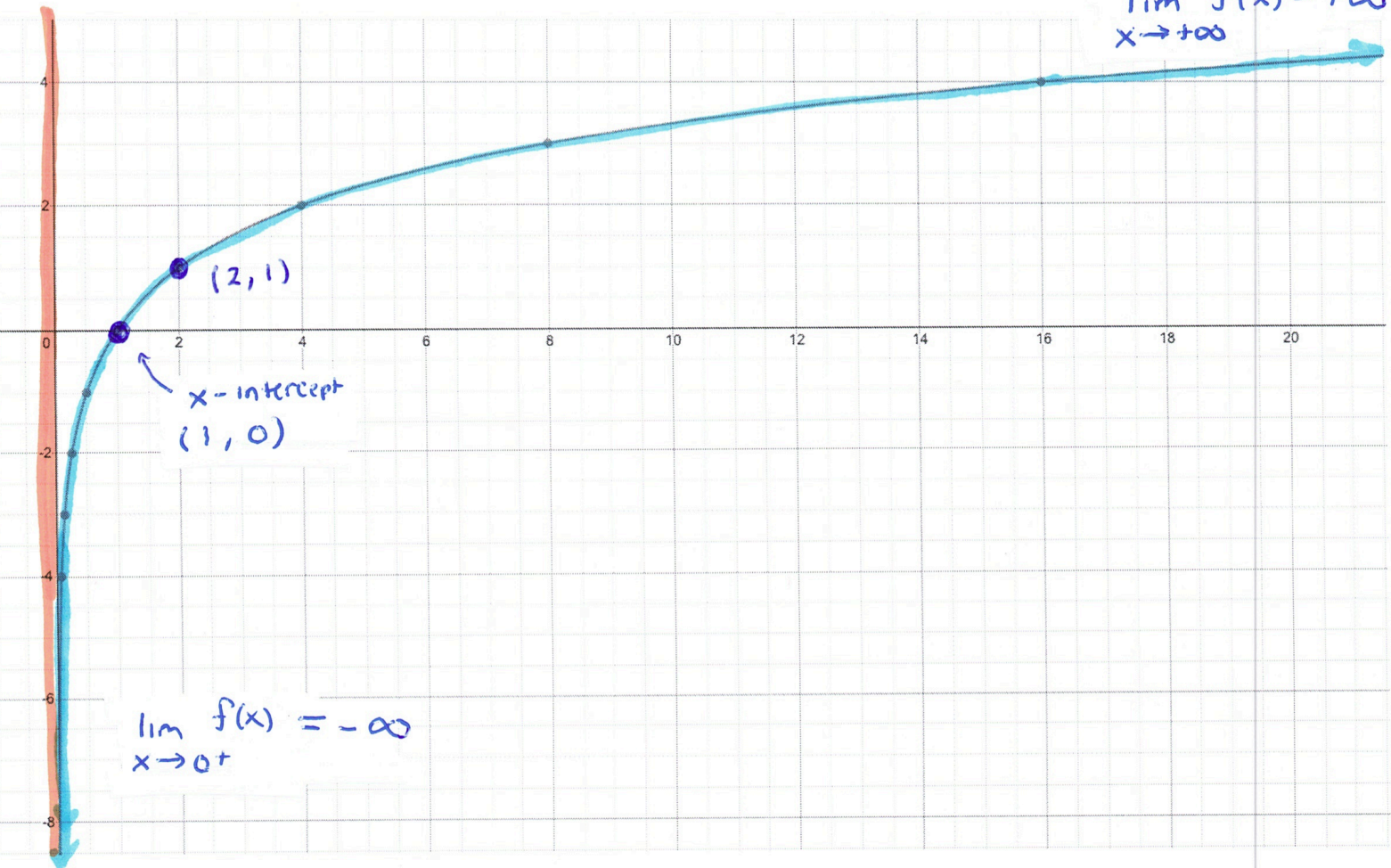
$$\square b^0 = 1$$

$$\square b^{-n} = \frac{1}{b^n}$$

Look at $f(x) = \log_2(x)$

✓ The domain of $f(x)$: $\text{Dom}(f) = (0, +\infty)$
↑ open parenthesis (does touch)

✓ The range of $f(x)$: $\text{Rng}(f) = (-\infty, +\infty)$
(set of possible y-values)
lim $f(x) = +\infty$
 $x \rightarrow +\infty$



Vertical asymptote
($x = 0$)

Never touches
the y-axis

No y-intercept

□ x-intercept at point : $(1, 0)$

$$\log_2(1) = 0 \iff 2^0 = 1$$

□ point $(2, 1)$ happens since

$$\log_2(2) = 1 \iff 2^1 = 2$$

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2B. Fill out the table for the common logarithmic function

$$y = \log_{10}(x) = \log(x)$$

The, use Desmos.com to create a graph and describe the relevant features of that graph including the domain, range, x-intercept, and the end behavior as $x \rightarrow +\infty$.

x	y
0.00001	-5
0.0001	-4
0.001	-3
$\frac{1}{10^2} = 0.01$	-2
$\frac{1}{10^1} = 0.1$	-1
1	0
10	1
100	2
1000	3
10000	4
100000	5
1000000	6

$$y = \log_b(x) \Leftrightarrow b^y = x$$

eg.: $x = 100 \Rightarrow \log_{10}(100) = y$

\Rightarrow

$$10^{\boxed{y}} = 100 = 10^2$$

what is exponent on 10 to get 100?

\Rightarrow

$$y = \log_{10}(100) = 2$$

$\leftarrow \log_{10}(1000)$ ← what exponent do we need on 10 to get 1000

$x = 1000 \Rightarrow \log_{10}(1000) = y$

$$\log_{10}(1000) = y$$

How many times do we multiply 10 by itself to get 1000

$$10^y = 1000 = 10 \cdot 10 \cdot 10$$

$\leftarrow \log_{10}(1000000)$

\Rightarrow

$$y = \log_{10}(1000) = 3$$

what exponent on 10 to get 1000000?

Note: $10^y \neq 0$; $10^0 = 1$

for all y

Define $g(x) = \log_{10}(x)$

Domain of $g(x)$:
the set of all possible
x-values
(horizontal axis)

$$\text{Dom}(g) = (0, +\infty)$$

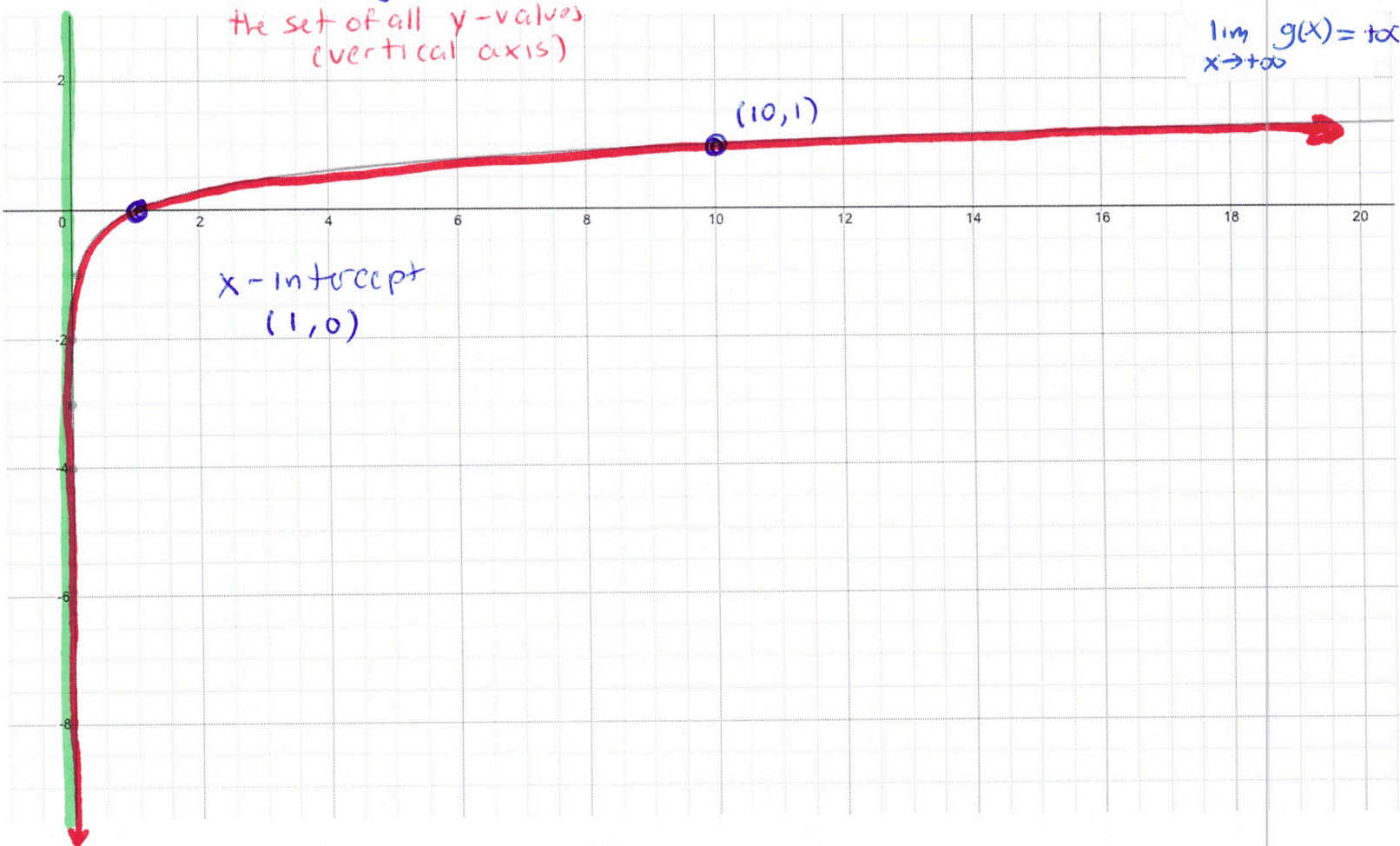
↑
open parenthesis

Range of $g(x)$:
the set of all y-values
(vertical axis)

$$\text{Rng}(g) = (-\infty, +\infty)$$

the set of all y-values
(vertical axis)

$$\lim_{x \rightarrow +\infty} g(x) = +\infty$$



y-axis
 $x=0$

□ x-intercept at point $(1, 0)$

$$\log_{10}(1) = 0 \iff 10^0 = 1$$

$$\square \log_{10}(10) = 1 \iff 10^1 = 10$$

what

vertical
asymptote

$$\lim_{x \rightarrow 0^+} g(x) = -\infty$$

No y-intercept

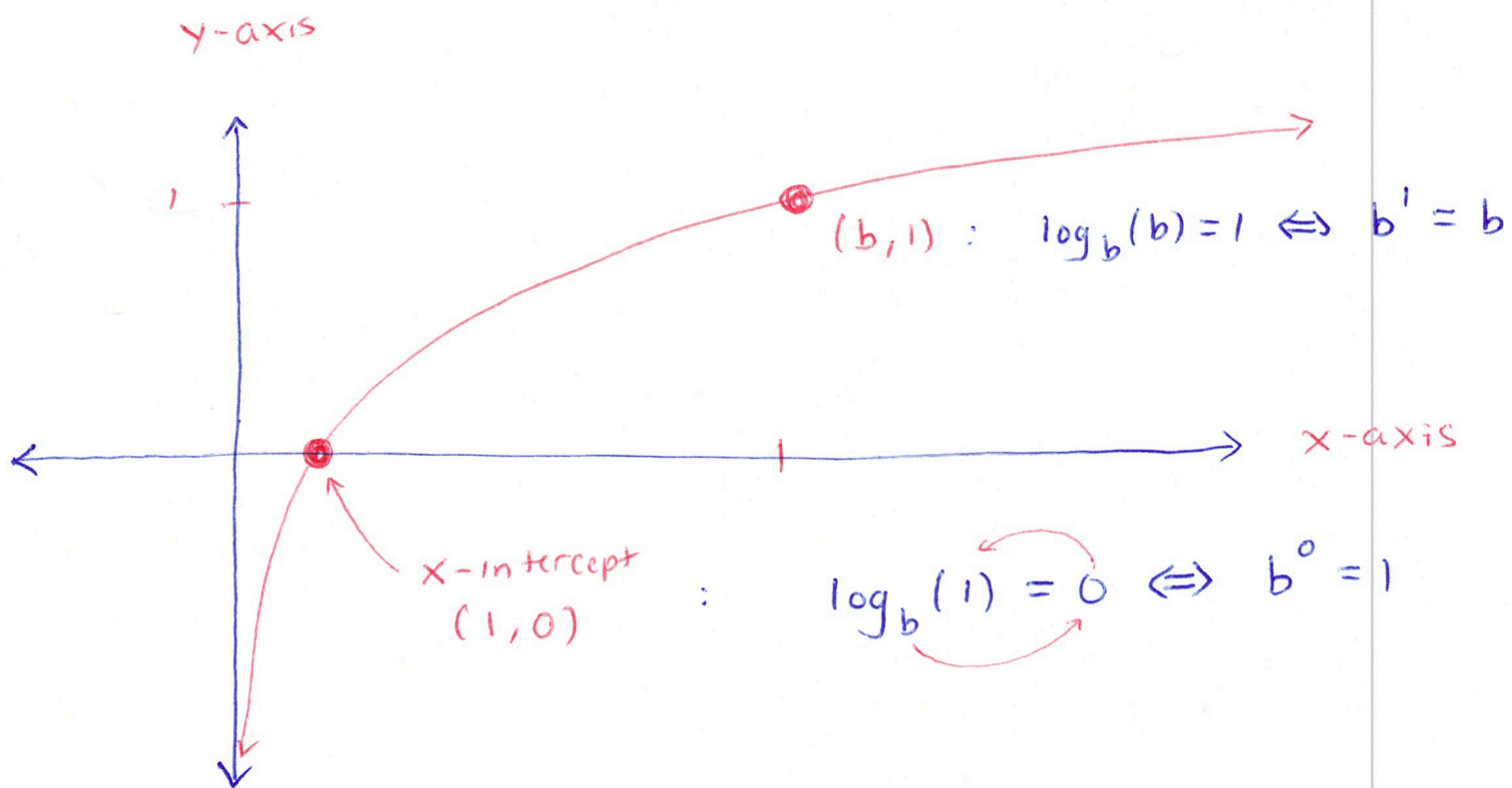
(10)

Let's graph the function $h(x) = \log_b(x)$
for any $b > 1$

parent log function

Domain of $h(x)$: $\text{Dom}(\log_b(x)) = (0, +\infty)$

Range of $h(x)$: $\text{Rng}(\log_b(x)) = (-\infty, \infty)$



Vertical asymptote at $x=0$

4. TRANSFORMATIONS OF EXPONENTIAL FUNCTIONS?
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4A. For logarithmic function $y = a \cdot \log_b(x - h) + k$, what do parameters a , h , and k do to the graph of $y = \log_b(x)$? Develop graphs on Desmos.com to highlight each parameter and demonstrate the effect on your graph. Capture

Let $b > 1$ and consider $y = a \cdot \log_b(x - h) + k$

Scalar a : this does two function

□ stretch or compress the graph

□ if $|a| > 1$, we stretch graph

(if $a > 1$ or $a < -1$, we have a stretch)

□ if $0 < |a| < 1$, we compress graph

(if $0 < a < 1$ or $-1 > a > 0$, we compress)

□ Reflect about the x -axis

□ if $a < 0$, we reflect about x -axis

scalar h : horizontal shift

□ if $h > 0$, we shift to the left

□ if $h < 0$, we shift to right

scalar k : vertical shift

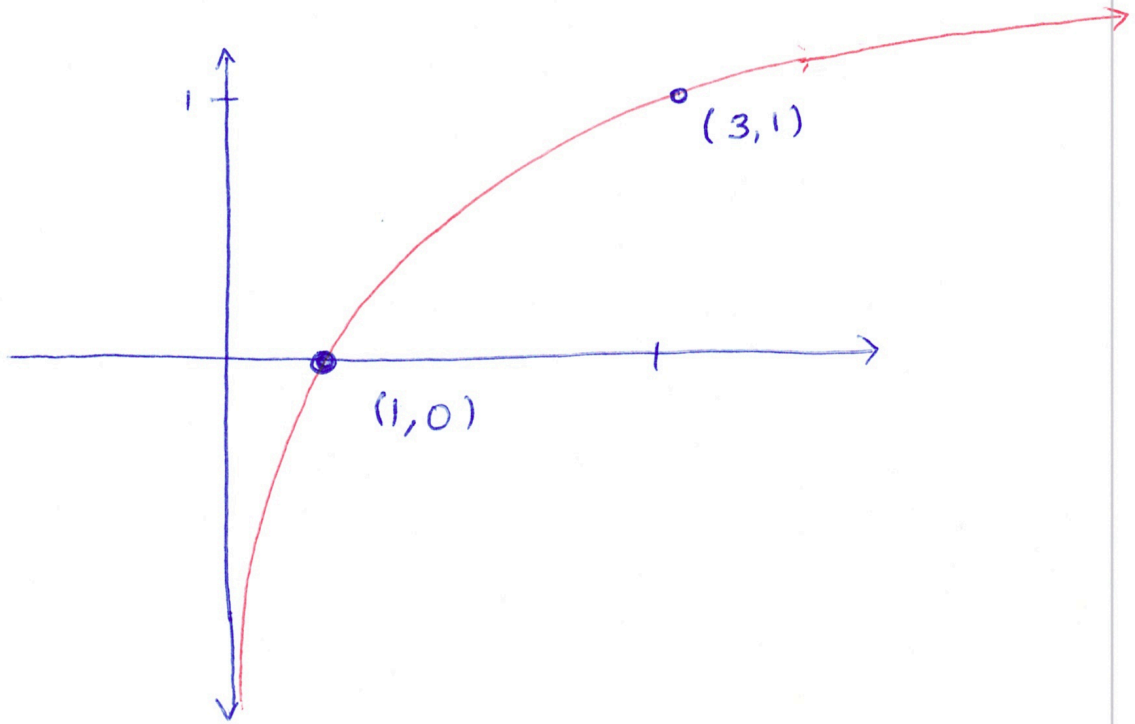
□ if $k > 0$, we shift upward

□ if $k < 0$, we shift down

4B. Test your hypothesis from Problem 4A above by graphing the function

$$f(x) = -2 \log_3(x - 4) + 5$$

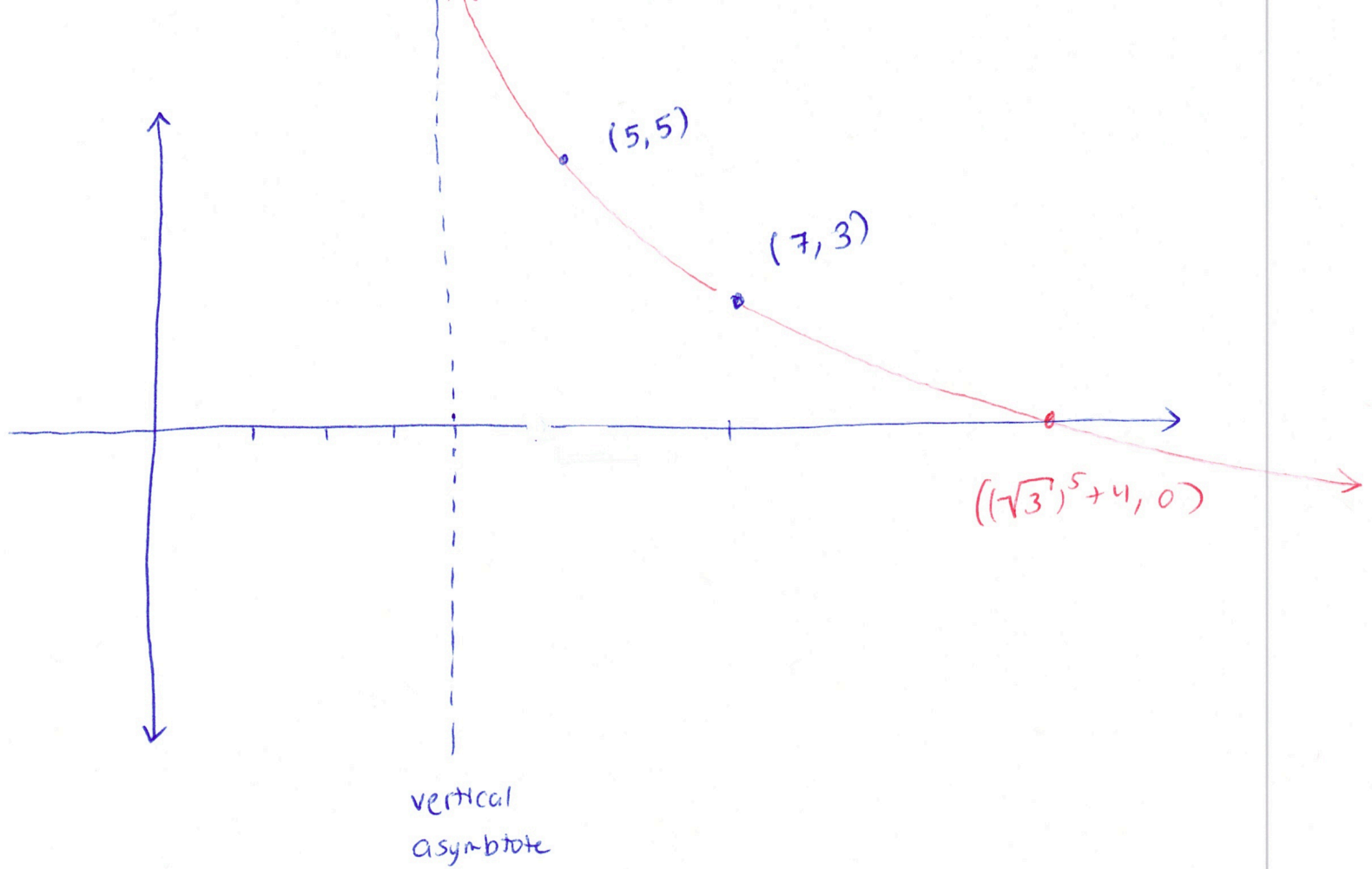
Let's recall $y = \log_3(x)$ has graph



Notice

$$f(x) = -2 \log_3(x - 4) + 5$$

reflection about x-axis (pointing to -2)
 stretch (pointing to 2)
 right shift by 4 units (pointing to x - 4)
 shift up by 5 units (pointing to + 5)



$$\text{Dom}(f) = (4, \infty)$$

$$\text{Rng}(f) = (-\infty, \infty)$$

$$x\text{-intercept: } 0 = -2 \log_3(x-4) + 5$$

$$\Rightarrow -5 = -2 \log_3(x-4)$$

$$\Rightarrow \frac{5}{2} = \log_3(x-4)$$

$$\Rightarrow 3^{5/2} = x-4$$

$$\Rightarrow x = 3^{5/2} + 4$$