

Math Diversion Problem 395

P. Reany

February 8, 2025

Don't ever take a fence down until you know
the reason it was put up.
— Chesterton

The YouTube video is found at:

Source: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DC9Xo_GV_ug
Title: Germany | Solving Log With Different Bases
Presenter: Math Hunter

1 The Problem

Given the relation

$$\log_2 x + \log_3 x = 5, \tag{1}$$

find the values of x .

2 The Solution

Let's put all the logarithms into the same base, base 10 will do. Then (1) becomes

$$\frac{\log x}{\log 2} + \frac{\log x}{\log 3} = 5, \tag{2}$$

which can be factored,

$$\log x \left[\frac{1}{\log 2} + \frac{1}{\log 3} \right] = 5. \tag{3}$$

Then

$$\log x \left[\frac{\log 2 + \log 3}{(\log 2)(\log 3)} \right] = 5. \tag{4}$$

Then,

$$\log x = 5 \left[\frac{(\log 2)(\log 3)}{(\log 6)} \right]. \quad (5)$$

Finally,

$$x = 10^{5 \left[\frac{(\log 2)(\log 3)}{(\log 6)} \right]}. \quad (6)$$

However, WolframAlpha is not happy with this answer. It makes a few subtle changes. First

$$x = 10^{\left[\frac{(\log 2)(\log 3^5)}{(\log 6)} \right]} = 10^{\left[\frac{(\log 2)(\log 243)}{(\log 6)} \right]}. \quad (7)$$

Then

$$x = (10^{\log 2})^{(\log 243)/(\log 6)}. \quad (8)$$

And finally,

$$x = 2^{(\log 243)/(\log 6)}. \quad (9)$$