

Solve the equation $3^{x-1} = \frac{2}{4^{x+1}}$, giving your answer in the form $x = \frac{\ln a}{\ln b}$, where a and b are rational numbers.

$$3^{x-1} = \frac{2}{4^{x+1}}$$

Take logs of both sides (\ln)

$$\ln(3^{x-1}) = \ln\left(\frac{2}{4^{x+1}}\right)$$

$$\log \frac{a}{b} = \log a - \log b$$

$$\ln(3^{x-1}) = \ln 2 - \ln(4^{x+1})$$

$$\log a^r = r \log a$$

$$(x-1)\ln 3 = \ln 2 - (x+1)\ln 4$$

Multiply out the brackets

$$x\ln 3 - \ln 3 = \ln 2 - x\ln 4 - 1\ln 4$$

Rearrange the equation

$$x\ln 3 + x\ln 4 = \ln 2 - \ln 4 + \ln 3$$

Factorise

$$x(\ln 3 + \ln 4) = \ln \frac{6}{4}$$

$$x(\ln 12) = \ln \frac{3}{2}$$

$$x = \frac{\ln \frac{3}{2}}{\ln 12}$$