

Summing to One

First I shall prove a famous lemma.

Lemma: $\log_a xy = \log_a x + \log_a y$

Proof

Let $a^n = x$ and $a^m = y$

Therefore, $\log_a x = n$ and $\log_a y = m$.

$$\Rightarrow \log_a xy = \log_a (a^n * a^m)$$

$$\Rightarrow \log_a xy = \log_a a^{(m+n)}$$

$$\Rightarrow \log_a xy = (m+n) \log_a a$$

$$\Rightarrow \log_a xy = m+n$$

$$\Rightarrow \log_a xy = \log_a x + \log_a y$$

This lemma can be generalized to any number of variables as multiplication is associative.

Part 1

$$\log_{81} 81 = \log_{81} 3 * 3 * 3 * 3$$

$$\Rightarrow 1 = \log_{81} 3 + \log_{81} 3 + \log_{81} 3 + \log_{81} 3$$

Hence 4 $\log_{81} 3$ are required to make 1.

Part II

$$\log_6 x + \log_6 y = 1$$

$$\Rightarrow \log_6 xy = \log_6 6$$

$$\Rightarrow xy = 6 \quad (\text{Eq I})$$

From (Eq I) all possible ways to do so are pairs of prime factors of 6 such that their product is 6.

So, the ways to do this are (6,1),(3,2),(2,3)&(1,6).

Similarly, it can be generalized that all possible values for the equation $\log_a x + \log_a y = 1$ are pairs of prime factors of a such that their product is a just by replacing 6 with a.

$$\text{For } \log_{12} x + \log_{12} y = 1$$

the values of x&y are

$$(1,12),(2,6),(3,4),(4,3),(6,2)\&(12,1).$$

$$\text{For } \log_{24} x + \log_{24} y = 1$$

the values of x&y are

$$(1,24),(2,12),(3,8),(4,6),(6,4),(8,3),(12,2)\&(24,1).$$