

# Math Diversion Problem 694

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Dear Algebra, stop asking us to find your X,  
she's not coming back.  
— Woody Paige

The problem is found at:

Source: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mLDj9TJJ7wQ>  
Title: Harvard University Admission Interview Tricks  
Presenter: Super Academy

## 1 Problem

Given the relation

$$\log_{81} x + \log_9 x = 6, \tag{1}$$

solve for  $x$ .

## 2 Solution

I intend to use an alpha substitution: Let

$$x = 81^\alpha = 9^{2\alpha}. \tag{2}$$

Then, (1) becomes

$$\alpha + \log_9 9^{2\alpha} = 6, \tag{3}$$

or,

$$\alpha + 2\alpha = 6. \tag{4}$$

Hence,

$$3\alpha = 6. \tag{5}$$

So,  $\alpha = 2$ , making

$$x = 81^2 = 6,561. \tag{6}$$