

Math Diversion Problem 145

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January 24, 2025

You don't understand anything until you learn
it more than one way.
— Marvin Minsky

The YouTube video is found at:

Source: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7zwAqqH6C58&list=PLMvuVeOn1Hd_KIT-dsvIVluQQN3pJrlmX&index=691
Title: Nice Algebra Math Simplification
Presenter: Master T Maths Class

1 The Problem

Given the relation

$$\left(\frac{x}{5}\right)^x = 5^{5^2}, \quad (1)$$

find the values of x over the real numbers.

2 The Solution

So, I'll make my usual variable transformation in this situation.

$$x = 5^\alpha. \quad (2)$$

Then

$$5^{(\alpha-1)5^\alpha} = 5^{5^2}, \quad (3)$$

On equating exponents, we have (with some manipulation) that

$$(\alpha - 1)5^{\alpha-2} = 1. \quad (4)$$

The obvious solution to this is $\alpha = 2$, thus

$$x = 5^2 = 25. \quad (5)$$