

Math Diversions, Problem 52

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The Axiom of Choice is obviously true; the Well Ordering
Principle is obviously false; and who can tell
about Zorn's Lemma?
— Jerry Bona

1 Problem

The YouTube video is found at:

Source: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=80xLe4BDJbU>

Title: Maths Olympiad | How To Solve Olympiad Maths faster

Presenter: Maths Atoka

Given the relation

$$(x + \sqrt{1 + x^2})(y + \sqrt{1 + y^2}) = 1, \quad (1)$$

find the values of $(x + y)^2$.¹

2 Solution

Let's take the natural logarithm on both sides:

$$\ln(x + \sqrt{1 + x^2}) + \ln(y + \sqrt{1 + y^2}) = 0. \quad (2)$$

Seems to me that the next step should be to transform to inverse sinh functions.

$$\sinh^{-1} x + \sinh^{-1} y = 0. \quad (3)$$

Hence,

$$\sinh^{-1} x = -\sinh^{-1} y = \sinh^{-1}(-y). \quad (4)$$

But the sinh function has an inverse over all of its range. Therefore,

$$x = -y, \quad (5)$$

with the conclusion that

$$(x + y)^2 = 0. \quad (6)$$

¹According to Wolframalpha.com, the answer is zero.