

# Math Diversion Problem 203

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That's the problem with false proofs of true theorems;  
it's not easy to produce a counterexample.  
— Jeffrey Shallit

## 1 The Problem

Source: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eDlv67bAdXA>  
Title: Germany | Can you solve this?  
Presenter: Master T Maths Class

Given the relations

$$x + y = 10, \tag{1a}$$

$$xy = 50, \tag{1b}$$

find the values of  $x, y$ .

## 2 The Solution

Perhaps we should begin by multiplying (1a) through by  $x$  and then using (1b), to get

$$x^2 - 10x + 50 = 0. \tag{2}$$

Using the quadratic formula gives us

$$x = 5 \pm 5i. \tag{3}$$

Using (1a) we can determine  $y$  for each  $x$ , thus,

$$(x, y) = (5 + 5i, 5 - 5i), (5 - 5i, 5 + 5i). \tag{4}$$