

Math Diversion Problem 271

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Success is failing 19 times and succeeding the 20th.

— Julia Andrews

The YouTube video is found at:

Source: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hUUrZdeCUx0>

Title: A Problem With Conjugates |

Problem 142

Presenter: aplusbi

1 The Problem

Given the relation

$$z(\bar{z} + 2) = 2i, \quad (1)$$

find the values of z .

2 The Solution

First, we need to complex conjugate the Given relation, to get

$$\bar{z}(z + 2) = -2i. \quad (2)$$

So, if we add these two equations together, we get

$$2z\bar{z} + 2(z + \bar{z}) = 0, \quad (3)$$

and if we subtract them, we get

$$2(z - \bar{z}) = 4i. \quad (4)$$

But $z - \bar{z} = 2ib$, so

$$b = 1. \quad (5)$$

Since $z\bar{z} = r^2 = a^2 + b^2 = a^2 + 1$ and $z + \bar{z} = 2a$, from (3) we have that

$$2r^2 + 4a = 0, \quad (6)$$

which becomes

$$a^2 + 2a + 1 = 0, \tag{7}$$

which has the single solution $a = -1$. Therefore,

$$z = -1 + i. \tag{8}$$