

Math Diversion Problem 275

P. Reany

January 26, 2025

Don't ever take a fence down until you
know the reason it was put up.
— Chesterton

The YouTube video is found at:

Source: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LHyg9-fBv_U

Title: A Trigonometric Exponential Equation |
Problem 103

Presenter: aplusbi

1 The Problem

Given the relation

$$\cos e^z = i, \tag{1}$$

find the values of z .

2 The Preparation

From the complex number theory, we need to know that

$$\cos z = \frac{e^{iz} + e^{-iz}}{2}. \tag{2}$$

3 The Solution

Hence,

$$\cos e^z = \frac{e^{ie^z} + e^{-ie^z}}{2} = i, \tag{3}$$

which can be rewritten as

$$e^{2ie^z} + 1 = 2ie^{ie^z}, \tag{4}$$

or as

$$\left(e^{ie^z}\right)^2 - 2ie^{ie^z} + 1 = 0, \quad (5)$$

which is a straightforward quadratic equation in variable e^{ie^z} . Thus,

$$e^{ie^z} = i \pm \sqrt{2}. \quad (6)$$

So that

$$ie^z = \ln(i \pm \sqrt{2}) + 2\pi in \quad \text{for } n \in \mathbb{Z}. \quad (7)$$

Next,

$$e^z = -i[\ln(i \pm \sqrt{2})] + 2\pi n \quad \text{for } n \in \mathbb{Z}. \quad (8)$$

And finally,

$$z = \ln\{-i[\ln(i \pm \sqrt{2})] + 2\pi n\} + 2\pi im \quad \text{for } n, m \in \mathbb{Z}. \quad (9)$$

Warning: My answer, at least by appearances, does not conform either to Pre-senter's or Wolfram Alpha's.