

Math Diversion Problem 433

P. Reany

February 24, 2025

There is much you have to learn. You must explore; you
must reach out. Go...and give thought to the
the mysteries of the universe.
— The Galaxy Being
(An early proponent of
Life-Long Learning)

The YouTube video is found at:

Source: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8GXCTh8vg4k>
Title: An Absolutely Nice Homemade Equation | Problem 473
Presenter: aplusbi

1 The Problem

Given the relation

$$\frac{1}{z} + \frac{1}{|z|} = z_0 = \frac{9 + 3i}{25}, \quad (1)$$

find the values of z .

Note: $z = a + bi$, $z\bar{z} = r^2 = |z|^2$, and $z_0 = a_0 + b_0i$.

2 The Solution

First, let's clear of fractions by multiplying through by $r^2 = z\bar{z}$ with simplifications:

$$\frac{1}{z}z\bar{z} + \frac{1}{|z|}z\bar{z} = z_0z\bar{z}, \quad (2)$$

or

$$\bar{z} + r = r^2 z_0. \quad (3)$$

Now, let's conjugate through.

$$z + r = r^2 \bar{z}_0. \quad (4)$$

Solving this for z , we have that

$$z = r^2 \bar{z}_0 - r. \quad (5)$$

So, if we knew the value of r , we would know z . To that end, let's multiply (5) with its conjugate, to get

$$r^2 = r^4 z_0 \bar{z}_0 - r^3 z_0 - r^3 \bar{z}_0 + r^2, \quad (6)$$

which simplifies to

$$r^3 (r r_0^2 - 2a_0) = 0. \quad (7)$$

Now, since $r \neq 0$, then $r r_0^2 - 2a_0 = 0$, from which we have that

$$r = \frac{2a_0}{r_0^2} = \frac{2(9/25)}{90/25^2} = 5. \quad (8)$$

Therefore, from (5), we get

$$z = 25 \frac{9 - 3i}{25} - 5 = 4 - 3i. \quad (9)$$