

Math Diversion Problem 604

P. Reany

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Zathras is used to being beast of burden to other
people's needs. Very sad life... Probably have
very sad death. But, at least
there is symmetry.
—Zathras
A character from *Babylon 5*

The YouTube video is found at:

Source: The Ether of Mathematical Ideas
Presenter: Patrick

1 The Problem

Show that

$$\int \frac{e^x + 1}{e^x - 1} dx = 2 \ln \left| \sinh \frac{x}{2} \right| + C. \quad (1)$$

2 The Solution

The first step is to multiply numerator and denominator by $e^{-x/2}$:

$$\int \frac{e^x + 1}{e^x - 1} dx = \int \frac{e^{x/2} + e^{-x/2}}{e^{x/2} - e^{-x/2}} dx \quad (2a)$$

$$= \int \frac{\cosh x/2}{\sinh x/2} dx \quad (2b)$$

$$= 2 \int \frac{\cosh x/2}{\sinh x/2} d(x/2) \quad (2c)$$

$$= 2 \int D_{x/2} [\ln (\sinh x/2)] d(x/2) \quad (2d)$$

$$= 2 \ln \left| \sinh \frac{x}{2} \right| + C. \quad (2e)$$