

Math Diversion Problem 653

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All my life I kept running into smart people.... In school there were lots of smarter kids. And when I first joined the force, sir, they had some very clever people there. And I could tell right away that it wasn't going to be easy making detective as long as they were around. What I figured that... if I worked harder than they did. Put in more time. Read the books. Kept my eyes open. Maybe I could make it happen. And I did!
— Lt. Columbo to his prisoner
(from the TV show *Columbo*)
("The Bye Bye Sky High
IQ Murder Case")

The YouTube video is found at:

Source: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9xxP0hhYf04>
Title: A Nice Trigonometric Equation | Problem 546
Presenter: aplusbi

1 The Problem

Given the relation

$$\frac{\cos z + i \sin z}{\cos z - i \sin z} = e, \quad (1)$$

find the values for z .

2 The Solution

I got one solution; WolframAlpha got another. I'll prove that they're the same.

The Given relation can be rewritten as

$$\frac{e^{iz}}{e^{-iz}} = e^{2iz} = e^1 = e^{1+2\pi in}, \quad n \in \mathbb{Z}. \quad (2)$$

So, now equate exponents:

$$2iz = 1 + 2\pi in, \quad n \in \mathbb{Z}. \quad (3)$$

Divide by $2i$:

$$z = -\frac{i}{2} + \pi n, \quad n \in \mathbb{Z}. \quad (4)$$

Great! So what's the problem? The problem is that WolframAlpha claims that the answer is

$$z = -i \tanh^{-1} \left(\frac{e-1}{1+e} \right) + \pi n, \quad n \in \mathbb{Z}. \quad (5)$$

So, now my job is to prove that these answers are equivalent. What does that entail? I have to show that¹

$$\tanh^{-1} \left(\frac{e-1}{1+e} \right) = \frac{1}{2}. \quad (6)$$

That seems easy enough.

$$\tanh \left(\frac{1}{2} \right) = \frac{\sinh \left(\frac{1}{2} \right)}{\cosh \left(\frac{1}{2} \right)} \quad (7a)$$

$$= \frac{(e^{1/2} - e^{-1/2})/2}{(e^{1/2} + e^{-1/2})/2} \quad (7b)$$

$$= \frac{e-1}{e+1}. \quad (7c)$$

Okay, so we take the inverse tanh across this and get out (6).

¹I'm going to assume that the analysis is good for the first quadrant.