

Math Diversion 721

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The problem is found at:

Source: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=q1sSAu7TvEY>
Title: Stanford University Admission Interview Tricks
Presenter: Super Academy

1 Problem

Given the relation

$$10^{x+1} - 10^{x-1} = 100, \quad (1)$$

solve for x over the complex numbers

2 Solution

The Given can be rewritten as

$$10^x(10 - \frac{1}{10}) = 100. \quad (2)$$

Now, clear fractions:

$$10^x(100 - 1) = 1000, \quad (3)$$

or

$$10^x = \frac{1000}{99}. \quad (4)$$

For good measure, throw in a factor of $e^{2\pi in}$:

$$10^x = \frac{1000}{99}e^{2\pi in}, \quad n \in \mathbb{Z}. \quad (5)$$

Next, take the natural logarithm, to get

$$x \ln 10 = \ln(1000/99) + 2\pi in, \quad n \in \mathbb{Z}. \quad (6)$$

Solve for x :

$$x = \frac{\ln(1000/99) + 2\pi in}{\ln 10}, \quad n \in \mathbb{Z}, \quad (7)$$

and this is the WolframAlpha answer.