

Math Diversion Problem 783

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If you're not in love with the Truth, you could be
talked into believing almost anything.

— Author

Source: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8qbE7o-fqqc>
Title: Trig Meets the Imaginary Realm | P 565
Presenter: aplusbi

1 Problem

Given the relation

$$\sec \theta + \tan \theta = i, \quad (1)$$

solve for θ .

2 Solution

Since $\sec \theta = 1/\cos \theta$, the Given becomes

$$1 + \sin \theta = i \cos \theta, \quad (2)$$

with the condition that $\cos \theta \neq 0$, to be consistent with (1). Next, we multiply (2) though by i :

$$i + i \sin \theta = -\cos \theta, \quad (3)$$

which can be rearranged to

$$\cos \theta + i \sin \theta = -i = e^{3\pi i/2} = e^{3\pi i/2} e^{2\pi i n} \quad \text{where } n \in \mathbb{Z}. \quad (4)$$

So, the LHS of this last equation is $e^{i\theta}$ and the RHS is $e^{3\pi i/2+2\pi i n}$. Therefore, we have that

$$e^{i\theta} = e^{3\pi i/2+2\pi i n} \quad \text{where } n \in \mathbb{Z}. \quad (5)$$

On equating exponents and dividing through by i , we get

$$\theta = 3\pi/2 + 2\pi n \quad \text{where } n \in \mathbb{Z}. \quad (6)$$