

# Math Diversion Problem 789

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Chancellor, all presidents are faced with difficult decisions.

It is by their *decisions* that they are judged.

— Cardinal Barusa

[Doctor Who, *Deadly Assassin*]

Source: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=L8DqynoKGUE>

Title: A Complex Exponential Equation | Problem 343

Presenter: aplusbi

## 1 Problem

Given the relation

$$i^{iz} = 1, \tag{1}$$

solve for the complex values of  $z$ .

## 2 Solution

First, we perform our standard tricks.

$$i^{iz} = (i^i)^z = 1 = e^{2\pi in} \quad \text{where } n \in \mathbb{Z}. \tag{2}$$

Next,

$$i^i = (e^{\pi i/2})^i = e^{-\pi/2}, \tag{3}$$

and we did not this time add in another infinite number of complex solutions, because we already did that.

Therefore, (2) becomes

$$i^{iz} = e^{-\pi z/2} = e^{2\pi in} \quad \text{where } n \in \mathbb{Z}, \tag{4}$$

On taking the natural logarithm of both sides, we get

$$-\pi z/2 = 2\pi in \quad \text{where } n \in \mathbb{Z}. \tag{5}$$

Solving for  $z$ , we have that

$$z = -4in \quad \text{where } n \in \mathbb{Z}. \tag{6}$$