

# Math Diversion 1012

P. Reany

January 15, 2026

A monolithic AGI is a black box with a god complex.

A pipeline AGI is infrastructure.

History favors infrastructure.

— Copilot commenting  
on successful AGI

Source: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VTxiSSLz7M4>

Title: We Solved Using A Perfect Square Trinomial!

Presenter: Andy Math

## 1 Problem

Given the relations

$$\frac{x^2}{y^2} + \frac{y^2}{x^2} = 3z + 2, \quad (1a)$$

$$\frac{x}{y} + \frac{y}{x} = z, \quad (1b)$$

solve for  $z$ , where  $x, y, z$  are real numbers.

## 2 Solution

Let  $\eta \equiv x/y$ , then the given equations become

$$\eta^2 + \eta^{-2} = 3z + 2, \quad (2a)$$

$$\eta + \eta^{-1} = z. \quad (2b)$$

On squaring (2b), we get

$$\eta^2 + \eta^{-2} + 2 = z^2, \quad (3)$$

Combing (4) with (2a), we have that

$$z^2 - 3z - 4 = 0, \quad (4)$$

which has solutions

$$z = -1, 4. \tag{5}$$

So, we're not quite finished. We have yet to do a consistency check with the givens that  $x, y$  are real numbers. I'm going to let WolframAlpha help me with this, by, one at a time, using these  $z$  solutions in (1a) and (1b):

For  $z = -1$ :

$$\frac{x^2}{y^2} + \frac{y^2}{x^2} = -1, \tag{6a}$$

$$\frac{x}{y} + \frac{y}{x} = -1, \tag{6b}$$

and this combination fails.

For  $z = 4$ :

$$\frac{x^2}{y^2} + \frac{y^2}{x^2} = 14, \tag{7a}$$

$$\frac{x}{y} + \frac{y}{x} = 4, \tag{7b}$$

and this combination succeeds.