

ROMANIAN MATHEMATICAL MAGAZINE

If $a, b > 0, n \geq 0$ and the equation : $x^3 - ax^2 + bx - a = 0$ has 3 roots

$x_1, x_2, x_3 > 1$, then prove that : $\frac{b^n - 3^n}{a^n} \geq 3^{\frac{n}{2}} - \left(\frac{1}{\sqrt{3}}\right)^n$

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Via Viète, $x_1 + x_2 + x_3 = a, x_1x_2 + x_2x_3 + x_3x_1 = b$ and $x_1x_2x_3 = a$
and $\because (x_1 + x_2 + x_3)^2 \geq 3(x_1x_2 + x_2x_3 + x_3x_1)$ and

$$(x_1x_2 + x_2x_3 + x_3x_1)^2 \geq 3x_1x_2x_3(x_1 + x_2 + x_3) \therefore a^2 \geq 3b \text{ and } b^2 \stackrel{\textcircled{1}}{\geq} 3a^2$$

$$\Rightarrow b^2 \geq 3a^2 \geq 9b \Rightarrow b \stackrel{\textcircled{2}}{\geq} 9 \therefore \frac{b^n - 3^n}{a^n} \stackrel{\text{via } \textcircled{1}}{\geq} \frac{b^n - 3^n}{\left(\frac{b}{\sqrt{3}}\right)^n} (\because n \geq 0) = 3^{\frac{n}{2}} - \frac{3^n \cdot 3^{\frac{n}{2}}}{b^n} \stackrel{\text{via } \textcircled{2}}{\geq}$$

$$3^{\frac{n}{2}} - \frac{3^n \cdot 3^{\frac{n}{2}}}{9^n} (\because n \geq 0) = 3^{\frac{n}{2}} - \frac{1}{3^{\frac{n}{2}}} \therefore \frac{b^n - 3^n}{a^n} \geq 3^{\frac{n}{2}} - \left(\frac{1}{\sqrt{3}}\right)^n \forall a, b > 0, n \geq 0$$

such that the equation : $x^3 - ax^2 + bx - a = 0$ has 3 roots $x_1, x_2, x_3 > 1$,

" = " iff $(a = 3\sqrt{3}, b = 9)$ (QED)