

# ROMANIAN MATHEMATICAL MAGAZINE

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

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

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Via Viete,  $x_1 + x_2 + x_3 = a$ ,  $x_1x_2 + x_2x_3 + x_3x_1 = b$  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

$$(x_1x_2 + x_2x_3 + x_3x_1)^2 \geq 3x_1x_2x_3(x_1 + x_2 + x_3) \therefore a^2 \geq 3b \text{ and } b^2 \geq 3a^2$$
$$\Rightarrow b^2 \geq 3a^2 \geq 9b \Rightarrow b \geq 9 \therefore \frac{b^n - 3^n}{a^n} \stackrel{\text{via } \textcircled{1}}{\geq} \frac{b^n - 3^n}{\left(\frac{b}{\sqrt{3}}\right)^n} \text{ (} \because n \geq 0 \text{)} = 3^{\frac{n}{2}} - \frac{3^n \cdot 3^{\frac{n}{2}}}{b^n} \stackrel{\text{via } \textcircled{2}}{\geq}$$
$$3^{\frac{n}{2}} - \frac{3^n \cdot 3^{\frac{n}{2}}}{9^n} \text{ (} \because n \geq 0 \text{)} = 3^{\frac{n}{2}} - \frac{1}{3^{\frac{n}{2}}} \therefore \frac{b^n - 3^n}{a^n} \geq 3^{\frac{n}{2}} - \left(\frac{1}{\sqrt{3}}\right)^n \forall a, b > 0, n \geq 0$$

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)