

ROMANIAN MATHEMATICAL MAGAZINE

If $A, B \in M_n(\mathbb{R})$, $AB + A + B = O_n$ then:

$$\det^2(A + I_n) + \det^2(B + I_n) \geq 2$$

Proposed by Nguyen Hung Cuong-Vietnam

Solution by Daniel Sitaru-Romania

$$\det^2(A + I_n) + \det^2(B + I_n) = (|\det(A + I_n)|)^2 + (|\det(B + I_n)|)^2 \geq$$

$$\stackrel{AM-GM}{\geq} 2\sqrt{|\det(A + I_n)| \cdot |\det(B + I_n)|} = 2\sqrt{|\det((A + I_n)(B + I_n))|} =$$

$$= 2\sqrt{|\det(AB + A + B + I_n)|} = 2\sqrt{\det I_n} = 2 \cdot \sqrt{1} = 2$$

Equality holds for $|\det(A + I_n)| = |\det(B + I_n)|$.