

ROMANIAN MATHEMATICAL MAGAZINE

If $A, B \in M_n(\mathbb{R})$; $AB + 9A + 4B = O_n$ then:

$$\det^2(A + 4I_n) + \det^2(B + 9I_n) \geq 72$$

Proposed by Nguyen Hung Cuong – Vietnam

Solution by Daniel Sitaru – Romania

$$(A + 4I_n)(B + 9I_n) = AB + 9A + 4B + 36I_n = 36I_n$$

$$\det((A + 4I_n)(B + 9I_n)) = \det(36I_n)$$

$$\det(A + 4I_n) \cdot \det(B + 9I_n) = 36^2$$

$$|\det(A + 4I_n)| \cdot |\det(B + 9I_n)| = 36^2$$

$$\det^2(A + 4I_n) + \det^2(B + 9I_n) \stackrel{AM-GM}{\geq} 2\sqrt{|\det(A + 4I_n) \cdot \det(B + 9I_n)|} =$$

$$= 2\sqrt{|\det(A + 4I_n)| \cdot |\det(B + 9I_n)|} = 2\sqrt{36^2} = 72$$

$$\text{Equality holds for: } |\det(A + 4I_n)| = |\det(B + 9I_n)|$$