

ROMANIAN MATHEMATICAL MAGAZINE

If $\lambda \in \mathbb{R}$ then solve for reals:

$$\sqrt[3]{x - \lambda + 1} + \sqrt[3]{x - \lambda} + \sqrt[3]{x - \lambda - 1} = 0$$

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Solution by Tapas Das-India

$$\begin{aligned} \text{Let } y = x - \lambda \text{ then } \sqrt[3]{x - \lambda + 1} + \sqrt[3]{x - \lambda} + \sqrt[3]{x - \lambda - 1} &= 0 \\ \text{or } \sqrt[3]{y + 1} + \sqrt[3]{y} + \sqrt[3]{y - 1} &= 0 \\ (\sqrt[3]{y + 1} + \sqrt[3]{y - 1}) &= -\sqrt[3]{y} \quad (1) \end{aligned}$$

$$(\sqrt[3]{y + 1} + \sqrt[3]{y - 1})^3 = (-\sqrt[3]{y})^3$$

$$y + 1 + y - 1 + 3\sqrt[3]{y + 1} \cdot \sqrt[3]{y - 1}(\sqrt[3]{y + 1} + \sqrt[3]{y - 1}) = -y$$

$$\begin{aligned} 2y - 3y^{\frac{1}{3}}\sqrt[3]{y + 1} \cdot \sqrt[3]{y - 1} &\stackrel{(1)}{=} -y \\ y &= y^{\frac{1}{3}}\sqrt[3]{y + 1} \cdot \sqrt[3]{y - 1} \end{aligned}$$

$$y^3 = y(y + 1)(y - 1)$$

$$y(y^2 - y^2 + 1) = 0 \text{ or } y = 0$$

Solutions $y = x - \lambda$ or $x = \lambda$ (as $y = 0$)