

ROMANIAN MATHEMATICAL MAGAZINE

If $\lambda \geq 0$ fixed, then solve for reals:

$$x^2 - 3x + 1 = -\frac{1}{\sqrt{\lambda+2}}\sqrt{x^4 + \lambda x^2 + 1}$$

Proposed by Marin Chirciu-Romania

Solution by Tapas Das-India

$$\frac{1}{\sqrt{\lambda+2}}\sqrt{x^4 + \lambda x^2 + 1} > 0 \forall x \in \mathbb{R} \text{ then R.H.S } \frac{-1}{\sqrt{\lambda+2}}\sqrt{x^4 + \lambda x^2 + 1} < 0$$

so L.H.S must be < 0 or $x^2 - 3x + 1 < 0$ (1)

$$x^2 - 3x + 1 = -\frac{1}{\sqrt{\lambda+2}}\sqrt{x^4 + \lambda x^2 + 1}$$

$$(x^2 - 3x + 1)^2 = \frac{1}{\lambda+2}(x^4 + \lambda x^2 + 1)$$

$$(\lambda+2)(x^2 - 3x + 1)^2 - (x^4 + \lambda x^2 + 1) = 0$$

$$(\lambda+2)(x^4 + 9x^2 + 1 - 6x^3 - 6x + 2x^2) - (x^4 + \lambda x^2 + 1) = 0$$

$$(\lambda+1)x^4 - 6(\lambda+2)x^3 + (10\lambda+22)x^2 - 6(\lambda+2)x + (\lambda+1) = 0$$

$$(x-1)^2((\lambda+1)x^2 - (4\lambda+10)x + (\lambda+1)) = 0$$

$$\text{now, } x-1=0 \Rightarrow x=1$$

$$\text{and } ((\lambda+1)x^2 - (4\lambda+10)x + (\lambda+1)) = 0$$

$$\Rightarrow x^2 - \frac{4\lambda+10}{\lambda+1}x + 1 = 0 \quad (2)$$

Clearly product of the two roots = 1,

which indicate that roots are reciprocal to each other let roots are $r, \frac{1}{r}$

$$\text{then from (2), } r + \frac{1}{r} = \frac{4\lambda+10}{\lambda+1} = 4 + \frac{6}{\lambda+1} > 4 \text{ as } \lambda \geq 0$$

but we should also remember that from (1) that roots of equation (2) must satisfy

$$x^2 - 3x + 1 < 0$$

$$x^2 - 3x - 1 < 0 \text{ or } \left(x - \frac{3+\sqrt{5}}{2}\right)\left(x - \frac{3-\sqrt{5}}{2}\right) < 0 \text{ so:}$$

$$\frac{3-\sqrt{5}}{2} < x < \frac{3+\sqrt{5}}{2} \text{ which indicate } x > 0$$

$$x + \frac{1}{x} - 3 = \frac{x^2 - 3x + 1}{x} < 0 \text{ as } x^2 - 3x + 1 < 0 \text{ and } x > 0$$

$$\text{or, } x + \frac{1}{x} < 3 \text{ but from (2) we get}$$

$$r + \frac{1}{r} > 4, \text{ their does not exist any } x \text{ in equation (2)}$$

so the only solution: $x = 1$