

ROMANIAN MATHEMATICAL MAGAZINE

Solve for real numbers:

$$x^2 - x + 1 = \sqrt[3]{3x - 2}$$

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$$\text{Let } t = \sqrt[3]{3x - 2} \text{ or, } t^3 = 3x - 2 \text{ or, } x = \frac{t^3 + 2}{3} \quad (1)$$

$$\begin{aligned} x^2 - x + 1 &= \sqrt[3]{3x - 2} \\ \left(\frac{t^3 + 2}{3}\right)^2 - \frac{t^3 + 2}{3} + 1 &= t \\ (t^3 + 2)^2 - 3(t^3 + 2) + 9 &= 9t \\ t^6 + 4t^3 + 4 - 3t^3 - 6 + 9 &= 9t \\ t^6 + t^3 - 9t + 7 &= 0 \\ (t - 1)^2(t^4 + 2t^3 + 3t^2 + 5t + 7) &= 0 \quad (2) \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned} (t^4 + 2t^3 + 3t^2 + 5t + 7) &= t^2(1 + t)^2 + (2t^2 + 5t + 7) \\ 2t^2 + 5t + 7 &> 0 \text{ as } a = 2 > 0 \text{ and } D = 5^2 - 4 \cdot 2 \cdot 7 = 55 - 56 < 0 \\ \text{and } t^2(1 + t)^2 &\geq 0 \forall t \in R, \text{ so } t^2(1 + t)^2 + (2t^2 + 5t + 7) > 0 \end{aligned}$$

For this from (2) we get $(t - 1)^2 = 0$ or $t = 1$

$$\text{so required solution } x = \frac{t^3 + 2}{3} = \frac{1^3 + 2}{3} = 1$$