

ROMANIAN MATHEMATICAL MAGAZINE

Solve for real numbers:

$$\sqrt[4]{x - \sqrt{x^2 - 1}} + \sqrt{x + \sqrt{x^2 - 1}} = 2$$

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Denote:

$$a = \sqrt[4]{x - \sqrt{x^2 - 1}}; b = \sqrt[4]{x + \sqrt{x^2 - 1}}$$

$$a \cdot b = \sqrt[4]{x^2 - (\sqrt{x^2 - 1})^2} = \sqrt[4]{x^2 - x^2 + 1} = 1$$

$$b = \frac{1}{a}; a + b^2 = 2 \Rightarrow a + \frac{1}{a^2} = 2$$

$$a^3 + 1 - 2a^2 = 0 \Rightarrow a^3 - 2a^2 + 1 = 0$$

$$a^3 - a^2 - (a^2 - 1) = 0 \Rightarrow a^2(a - 1)(a - 1)(a + 1) = 0$$

$$(a - 1)(a^2 - a - 1) = 0$$

$$a - 1 = 0 \Rightarrow a_1 = 1 \Rightarrow \sqrt[4]{x - \sqrt{x^2 - 1}} = 1$$

$$x - \sqrt{x^2 - 1} = 1 \Rightarrow x - 1 = \sqrt{x^2 - 1} \Rightarrow x^2 - 2x + 1 = x^2 - 1 \\ -2x = -2 \Rightarrow x = 1$$

$$a^2 - a - 1 = 0 \Rightarrow a_{2,3} = \frac{2 \pm \sqrt{5}}{2}$$

$$\sqrt[4]{x - \sqrt{x^2 - 1}} = a \Rightarrow x - \sqrt{x^2 - 1} = a^2$$

$$x - a^2 = \sqrt{x^2 - 1} \Rightarrow x^2 - 2xa^2 + a^4 = x^2 - 1$$

$$2xa^2 = a^4 + 1 \Rightarrow x = \frac{a^4 + 1}{2a^2} \Rightarrow x = \frac{a^2}{2} + \frac{1}{2a^2}$$

$$x_1 = 1; x_{2,3} = \frac{a^2}{2} + \frac{1}{2a^2}; a \in \left\{ \frac{2 \pm \sqrt{5}}{2} \right\}$$