

ROMANIAN MATHEMATICAL MAGAZINE

Solve for real numbers:

$$x^8 + 18x^7 + 32x^6 - 36x^5 - 146x^4 - 64x^3 + 128x^2 + 128x + 32 = 0$$

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Solution by proposer

$$x^8 + 16x^7 + 2x^7 + 32x^6 - 32x^5 - 4x^5 - 16x^4 - 64x^4 - 64x^4 - 2x^4 - 32x^3 - 32x^3 + 128x^2 + 64x + 64x + 32 = 0 \rightarrow (x^8 + 16x^7 - 32x^5 - 16x^4) + (2x^7 + 32x^6 - 64x^4 - 32x^3) + (-4x^5 - 64x^4 + 128x^2 + 64x) + (-2x^4 - 32x^3 + 64x + 32) = 0 \rightarrow$$

$$\rightarrow x^4(x^4 + 16x^3 - 32x - 16) + 2x^3(x^4 + 16x^3 - 32x - 16) - 4x(x^4 + 16x^3 - 32x - 16) - 2(x^4 + 16x^3 - 32x - 16) = 0$$

$$(x^4 + 16x^3 - 32x - 16)(x^4 + 2x^3 - 4x - 2) = 0$$

$$x^4 + 16x^3 - 32x - 16 = 0 \rightarrow 16(x^3 - 2x - 1) = -x^4 \rightarrow (x+1)(x^2 - x - 1)$$

$$= -\frac{1}{16}x^4 \frac{(x+1)(x^2 - x - 1)}{x^2} = -\frac{1}{16}$$

$$\left(\frac{x+1}{x^2}\right)\left(\frac{x^2 - (x+1)}{x^2}\right) = -\frac{1}{16}$$

$$\frac{x+1}{x^2} = t, t^2 - t - \frac{1}{16} = 0$$

$$x_{1,2} = \frac{1 \pm \sqrt{3 + \sqrt{5}}}{1 + \frac{\sqrt{5}}{2}} = \frac{1 \pm \frac{1 + \sqrt{5}}{\sqrt{2}}}{1 + \frac{\sqrt{5}}{2}} = \frac{2 \pm (\sqrt{2} + \sqrt{10})}{2 + \sqrt{5}}$$

$$x_{3,4} = \frac{1 \pm \sqrt{3 - \sqrt{5}}}{1 - \frac{\sqrt{5}}{2}} = \frac{1 \pm \frac{-1 + \sqrt{5}}{\sqrt{2}}}{1 - \frac{\sqrt{5}}{2}} = \frac{2 \pm (\sqrt{10} - \sqrt{2})}{2 - \sqrt{5}}$$

$$x^4 + 2x^3 - 4x - 2 = 0$$

In the same manner:

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$$x_{5,6} = \frac{1 \pm \sqrt{3 + 2\sqrt{3}}}{1 + \sqrt{3}}, \quad x_{7,8} = \frac{1 \pm \sqrt{3 - 2\sqrt{3}}}{1 - \sqrt{3}}$$

$$3 - 2\sqrt{3} < 0, \quad x_{7,8} = \frac{1 \pm \sqrt{2\sqrt{3} - 3}i}{1 - \sqrt{3}}$$

Here $i^2 = -1$