

ROMANIAN MATHEMATICAL MAGAZINE

Let be $\lambda \in R^+$ fixed. Solve for reals:

$$\begin{cases} x^6 - y^6 = \lambda^6 - 1 \\ x^4 + x^2y^2 + y^4 = \lambda^4 + \lambda^2 + 1 \end{cases}$$

Proposed by Marin Chirciu-Romania

Solution by Tapas Das-India

$$\text{Let } a = x^2, b = y^2 (a, b \geq 0) \\ x^6 - y^6 = \lambda^6 - 1 \text{ or, } (x^2 - y^2)(x^4 + x^2y^2 + y^4) = (\lambda^2)^3 - (1)^3$$

$$(a - b)(a^2 + ab + b^2) = (\lambda^2 - 1)(\lambda^4 + \lambda^2 + 1)$$

Comparing we get :

$$a - b = \lambda^2 - 1 \quad (1), \quad a^2 + ab + b^2 = \lambda^4 + \lambda^2 + 1 \quad (2)$$

$$\text{Let } a + b = s, d = a - b = \lambda^2 - 1 \text{ then from (2) we get:} \\ a^2 + ab + b^2 = \lambda^4 + \lambda^2 + 1$$

$$(a + b)^2 - 2ab + ab = \lambda^4 + \lambda^2 + 1 \text{ or } (a + b)^2 - ab = \lambda^4 + \lambda^2 + 1$$

$$(a + b)^2 - \frac{1}{4}((a + b)^2 - (a - b)^2) = \lambda^4 + \lambda^2 + 1$$

$$s^2 - \frac{1}{4}(s^2 - d^2) = \lambda^4 + \lambda^2 + 1$$

$$\frac{3s^2}{4} = \lambda^4 + \lambda^2 + 1 - \frac{d^2}{4} \text{ or } 3s^2 \stackrel{d=a-b=\lambda^2-1}{=} 4(\lambda^4 + \lambda^2 + 1) - (\lambda^2 - 1)^2$$

$$s^2 = (\lambda^2 + 1)^2 \text{ or } s = a + b = \lambda^2 + 1 \text{ (as } a, b \geq 0) \quad (3)$$

$$ab = \frac{1}{4}((a + b)^2 - (a - b)^2) = \frac{1}{4}((\lambda^2 + 1)^2 - (\lambda^2 - 1)^2) = 4 \frac{\lambda^2}{4} = \lambda^2 \quad (4)$$

We construct an equation with roots a & b

$$t^2 - (a + b)t + ab = 0 \text{ or } t^2 - (\lambda^2 + 1)t + \lambda^2 = 0 \text{ or } t = \frac{(\lambda^2 + 1) \pm (\lambda^2 - 1)}{2} \\ \text{or } t = \lambda^2, 1 \Rightarrow x^2 = a = \lambda^2 \text{ or } x = \pm \lambda \text{ \& } y^2 = b = 1 \text{ or } y = \pm 1$$

$$\text{Solutions: } (x, y) \in \{(\lambda, 1), (-\lambda, 1), (-\lambda, -1), (\lambda, -1)\}$$