

ROMANIAN MATHEMATICAL MAGAZINE

Solve for positive numbers:

$$\begin{cases} x\sqrt[3]{x} + y\sqrt[3]{y} = 162 \\ x\sqrt[3]{y} + y\sqrt[3]{x} = 162 \end{cases}$$

Proposed by Marin Chirciu-Romania

Solution by Tapas Das-India

Let $a^3 = x, b^3 = y$ then above equation can be written as

$$a^4 + b^4 = 162 \quad (1)$$

$$ab(a^2 + b^2) = 162 \quad (2)$$

$$a^4 + b^4 = 162 \text{ or } (a^2 + b^2)^2 - 2a^2b^2 = 162 \text{ or } s^2 - 2p^2 \stackrel{s=a^2+b^2, p=ab}{=} 162$$

$$\text{From (2) } ps = 162 \text{ or } s = \frac{162}{p}$$

$$s^2 - 2p^2 = 162 \text{ or } \left(\frac{162}{p}\right)^2 - 2p^2 = 162 \text{ or } 2p^4 + 162p^2 - 162^2 = 0$$

$$p^4 + 81p^2 - 13122 = 0 \text{ or } t^2 + 81t - 13122 \stackrel{t=p^2}{=} 0$$

$$t = p^2 = \frac{-81 \pm 243}{2} \text{ or } t = p^2 = 81 \text{ (taking positive value) or}$$

$$p = 9 \text{ and } s = \frac{162}{p} = 18$$

$$p = a^2 + b^2 = 18, s = ab = 9$$

$$(a - b)^2 = a^2 + b^2 - 2ab = 18 - 18 = 0 \text{ or } a = b$$

$$\text{then } a = b = \sqrt[3]{9} = 3 \text{ and } x = a^3 = 27, y = b^3 = 27$$