

Examples of Cardan's Method

Q - Solve $x^3 - 12x + 8\sqrt{2} = 0$

Ans: — The given equation is 3rd degree equation, so it has three roots.

Let $x = p^{1/3} + q^{1/3}$

$\Rightarrow x^3 - 3p^{1/3}q^{1/3}x - (p+q) = 0$ — (1)

Comparing this with given equation, we get

$-3p^{1/3}q^{1/3} = -12$

$\Rightarrow 4 = p^{1/3}q^{1/3} \Rightarrow pq = 64$

And $-(p+q) = -8\sqrt{2} \Rightarrow p+q = 8\sqrt{2}$ — (2)

The quadratic equation from the root p and q be given by

$z^2 - (p+q)z + pq = 0$

$\Rightarrow z^2 - 8\sqrt{2}z + 64 = 0$

$z = \frac{8\sqrt{2} \pm \sqrt{(8\sqrt{2})^2 - 4 \times 1 \times 64}}{2 \times 1} = \frac{8\sqrt{2} \pm \sqrt{64 \times 2 - 64 \times 4}}{2}$

$= \frac{8\sqrt{2} \pm 8\sqrt{2}i}{2} = 4\sqrt{2} \pm 4\sqrt{2}i$

Let $p = 4\sqrt{2} + 4\sqrt{2}i$; $q = 4\sqrt{2} - 4\sqrt{2}i$

$\therefore x = p^{1/3} + q^{1/3} = (4\sqrt{2} + 4\sqrt{2}i)^{1/3} + (4\sqrt{2} - 4\sqrt{2}i)^{1/3}$ — (3)

Let $4\sqrt{2} = r \cos \theta$ and $4\sqrt{2} = r \sin \theta$

$\Rightarrow r^2 \cos^2 \theta + r^2 \sin^2 \theta = 2 \times 16 \times 2$

$\Rightarrow r^2 = 64 \therefore r = 8$ and $\frac{r \sin \theta}{r \cos \theta} = \frac{4\sqrt{2}}{4\sqrt{2}} = 1$

$\Rightarrow \cos \theta = 1 = \tan \frac{\pi}{4} \therefore \theta = \frac{\pi}{4}$

By (3), $x = (r \cos \theta + i r \sin \theta)^{1/3} + (r \cos \theta + i r \sin \theta)^{1/3}$

$$= \sqrt[3]{8} \left[\cos \frac{2n\pi + 0}{3} + i \sin \frac{2n\pi + 0}{3} + \cos \frac{2n\pi + 0}{3} - i \sin \frac{2n\pi + 0}{3} \right] \text{ (By De Moivre's theorem)}$$

$$= \sqrt[3]{8} \cdot 2 \cos \frac{2n\pi + 0}{3} \quad \text{Where } n = 0, 1, 2,$$

$$= (\sqrt[3]{8})^{\frac{1}{2}} \cdot 2 \cdot \cos \frac{2n\pi + \pi/4}{3} = 4 \cos \frac{8n\pi + \pi}{12}$$

$$= 4 \cos \frac{\pi}{12}, 4 \cos \frac{9\pi}{12}, 4 \cos \frac{17\pi}{12}$$

$$= 4 \cos \frac{\pi}{12}, 4 \cos \frac{3\pi}{4}, 4 \cos \frac{17\pi}{12}$$

These are the roots of the given equation.

Q → Solve $x^3 + x^2 - 16x + 20 = 0$ by Cardan's method.

Ans. — The given equation is of 3rd degree equation. So it has three roots.

Comparing the given cubic equation with standard cubic equation

$$a_0 x^3 + 3a_1 x^2 + 3a_2 x + a_3 = 0, \text{ we get}$$

$$a_0 = 1, a_1 = \frac{1}{3}, a_2 = -\frac{16}{3} \text{ and } a_3 = 20$$

$$\text{So } H = a_0 a_2 - a_1^2 = 1 \left(-\frac{16}{3}\right) - \frac{1}{9} = -\frac{49}{9}$$

$$\text{and } G = a_0^2 a_3 - 3a_0 a_1 a_2 + 2a_1^3$$

$$= 1 \cdot (20) - 3 \cdot 1 \cdot \frac{1}{3} \left(-\frac{16}{3}\right) + 2 \left(\frac{1}{3}\right)^3$$

$$= 20 + \frac{16}{3} + \frac{2}{27} = \frac{540 + 144 + 2}{27} = \frac{686}{27}$$

Now the given cubic equation can be reduced to the standard form

$$t^3 + 3Ht + G = 0$$

$$\Rightarrow t^3 + 3 \left(-\frac{49}{9}\right)t + \frac{686}{27} = 0 \Rightarrow t^3 - \frac{49}{3}t + \frac{686}{27} = 0$$

$$\text{Where } t = a_0 x + a_1 = x + \frac{1}{3}$$

$$\text{Let } z = p^{\frac{1}{3}} + q^{\frac{1}{3}}$$

Then p and q are the roots of equation,

$$z^2 + 686z - 49^3 = 0$$

$$\Rightarrow z^2 + \frac{686}{27}z - \left(-\frac{49}{9}\right)^3 = 0$$

$$\Rightarrow z^2 + \frac{686}{27}z + \frac{49}{729} = 0$$

$$\Rightarrow 729z^2 + 686 \times 27z + 49 = 0 \times 729 = 0$$

$$z = \frac{-686 \times 27 \pm \sqrt{(686 \times 27)^2 - 4 \times 729 \times 49}}{2 \times 729}$$

$$= \frac{-686 \pm \sqrt{(686)^2 - 4 \times 49}}{2 \times 27}$$

$$= \frac{-686 \pm \sqrt{(686)^2 - (686)^2}}{54} = -\frac{686}{54}$$

$$\therefore p^{\frac{1}{3}} = -\frac{7}{3} \text{ and } q^{\frac{1}{3}} = -\frac{7}{3} \quad z = -\frac{343}{27} = \left(-\frac{7}{3}\right)^3$$

$$\text{Thus } t_1 = p^{\frac{1}{3}} + q^{\frac{1}{3}} = -\frac{7}{3} - \frac{7}{3} = -\frac{14}{3}$$

$$t_2 = \omega p^{\frac{1}{3}} + \omega^2 q^{\frac{1}{3}} = (\omega + \omega^2) \left(-\frac{7}{3}\right) = (-1) \left(-\frac{7}{3}\right) = \frac{7}{3}$$

$$t_3 = \omega^2 p^{\frac{1}{3}} + \omega q^{\frac{1}{3}} = (\omega^2 + \omega) \left(-\frac{7}{3}\right) = (-1) \left(-\frac{7}{3}\right) = \frac{7}{3}$$

$$\therefore t = z + \frac{1}{z} \Rightarrow z = t - \frac{1}{z}$$

$$\therefore z = -\frac{14}{3} - \frac{1}{z}, \frac{7}{3} - \frac{1}{z}, \frac{7}{3} - \frac{1}{z} = -5, 2, 2.$$

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