

ROMANIAN MATHEMATICAL MAGAZINE

If $a, b \in \mathbb{R}$ and $ab(a^3 + b^3) = 2$, then prove that :

$$a^2 + b^2 \geq 2$$

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$$\begin{aligned}
 a^2 + b^2 \geq 2 &\Leftrightarrow (a^2 + b^2)^5 \geq 32 \stackrel{4 = (ab(a^3+b^3))^2}{=} 8 \left(ab(a^3 + b^3) \right)^2 \\
 &= 8a^2b^2(a+b)^2(a^2 + b^2 - ab)^2 = 8a^2b^2(a^2 + b^2 + 2ab)(a^2 + b^2 - ab)^2 \\
 &\Leftrightarrow x^5 \geq 8y^2(x+2y)(x-y)^2 \quad (x = a^2 + b^2, y = ab) \\
 &\Leftrightarrow x^5 - 8x^3y^2 + 24xy^4 - 16y^5 \geq 0 \\
 &\Leftrightarrow x^5 - 2x^4y + 2x^4y - 4x^3y^2 - 4x^3y^2 + 8x^2y^3 - 8x^2y^3 \\
 &\quad + 16xy^4 + 8xy^4 - 16y^5 \geq 0 \Leftrightarrow \\
 x^4(x-2y) + 2x^3y(x-2y) - 4x^2y^2(x-2y) - 8xy^3(x-2y) + 8y^4(x-2y) &\geq 0 \\
 \Leftrightarrow (x-2y)(x^4 + 2x^3y - 4x^2y^2 - 8xy^3 + 8y^4) &\geq 0 \\
 \Leftrightarrow (x-2y)(x(x-2y)(x^2 + 4xy + 4y^2) + 8y^4) &\geq 0 \\
 \Leftrightarrow (a^2 + b^2 - 2ab) \left((a^2 + b^2)(a^2 + b^2 - 2ab)b^2(a^2 + b^2 + 2ab)^2 + 8a^4b^4 \right) &\geq 0 \\
 \Leftrightarrow (a-b)^2 \left((a^2 + b^2)(a-b)^2(a+b)^4 + 8a^4b^4 \right) &\geq 0 \rightarrow \text{true } \forall a, b \in \mathbb{R} \\
 \therefore a^2 + b^2 \geq 2 \forall a, b \in \mathbb{R} \mid ab(a^3 + b^3) = 2, " = " \text{ iff } a = b = 1 \text{ (QED)} &
 \end{aligned}$$