

Simultaneous surds equation

1. Solve $\begin{cases} \sqrt{\frac{x}{y}} - \sqrt{\frac{y}{x}} = \frac{7}{\sqrt{xy}} \\ \sqrt[4]{x^3y} - \sqrt[4]{xy^3} = \sqrt{12} \end{cases}.$

$$\begin{cases} \sqrt{\frac{x}{y}} - \sqrt{\frac{y}{x}} = \frac{7}{\sqrt{xy}} & \dots (1) \\ \sqrt[4]{x^3y} - \sqrt[4]{xy^3} = \sqrt{12} & \dots (2) \end{cases}$$

For $x, y > 0$, from (1), $x - y = 7 \dots (3)$

From (2), $\sqrt[4]{xy}(\sqrt{x} - \sqrt{y}) = \sqrt{12}$

Squaring we get $\sqrt{xy}(\sqrt{x} - \sqrt{y})^2 = 12 \dots (4)$

From (3), $\sqrt{x} - \sqrt{y} = \frac{7}{\sqrt{x} + \sqrt{y}} \dots (5)$

$$\begin{aligned} (5) \downarrow (4), \quad \sqrt{xy} \left(\frac{7}{\sqrt{x} + \sqrt{y}} \right)^2 &= 12 \\ \Rightarrow 49\sqrt{xy} &= 12(x + 2\sqrt{xy} + y) \\ \Rightarrow 12x - 25\sqrt{xy} + 12y &= 0 \\ \Rightarrow 12(\sqrt{x})^2 - 25\sqrt{xy} + 12(\sqrt{y})^2 &= 0 \\ \Rightarrow (4\sqrt{x} - 3\sqrt{y})(3\sqrt{x} - 4\sqrt{y}) &= 0 \\ \Rightarrow \sqrt{\frac{x}{y}} &= \frac{3}{4} \text{ or } \frac{4}{3} \\ \Rightarrow \frac{x}{y} &= \frac{9}{16} \text{ or } \frac{16}{9} \\ \Rightarrow x &= \frac{9}{16}y \text{ or } x = \frac{16}{9}y \dots (6) \end{aligned}$$

(6) $\downarrow$ (3), $\frac{9}{16}y - y = 7$ or $\frac{16}{9}y - y = 7$

$$-\frac{7}{16}y = 7 \text{ or } \frac{7}{9}y = 7$$

$$y = -16 \text{ or } y = 9$$

$$(x, y) = (-9, -16) \text{ or } (16, 9).$$

Checking with (1) and (2), we have $(x, y) = (16, 9)$.

Similarly, if $x, y < 0$, $(x, y) = (-16, -9)$.

Hence, $(x, y) = (-16, -9) \text{ or } (16, 9)$.

2. Solve $\begin{cases} \sqrt{7x+y} + \sqrt{x+y} = 6 \\ \sqrt{x+y} - y + x = 2 \end{cases}$.

$$\begin{cases} \sqrt{7x+y} + \sqrt{x+y} = 6 & \dots (1) \\ \sqrt{x+y} - y + x = 2 & \dots (2) \end{cases}$$

$$(1) - (2), \sqrt{7x+y} - y + x = x - 4 \Rightarrow \sqrt{7x+y} = 4 - y + x \dots (3)$$

From (1),

$$(\sqrt{7x+y} + \sqrt{x+y})(\sqrt{7x+y} - \sqrt{x+y}) = 6(\sqrt{7x+y} - \sqrt{x+y})$$

$$(7x+y) - (x+y) = 6(\sqrt{7x+y} - \sqrt{x+y})$$

$$6x = 6(\sqrt{7x+y} - \sqrt{x+y})$$

$$\sqrt{7x+y} - \sqrt{x+y} = x \dots (4)$$

$$(4) + (2), \sqrt{7x+y} - y + x = x + 2 \\ \Rightarrow \sqrt{7x+y} = 2 + y \dots (5)$$

$$(3) = (5), 4 - y + x = 2 + y \\ \Rightarrow x = 2y - 2 \dots (6)$$

$$(6) \downarrow (5), \sqrt{7(2y-2) + y} = 2 + y \\ \Rightarrow \sqrt{15y - 14} = 2 + y \\ \Rightarrow 15y - 14 = 4 + 4y + y^2$$

$$\therefore y^2 - 11y - 18 = 0$$

$$\Rightarrow (y-2)(y-9) = 0$$

$$\Rightarrow y = 2, 9$$

When $y = 9$, $x = 16$ (rejected)

When $y = 2$, $x = 2$ (satisfies (1) and (2))

Solution: $(x, y) = (2, 2)$.

Should also check: $(6) \downarrow (3)$. (Result is the same.)