

# R M M

ROMANIAN MATHEMATICAL MAGAZINE

www.ssmrmh.ro



**Solve for real numbers:**

$$\left| \frac{\tan^2 x - 1}{\tan^4 x} \right| + \frac{1}{\sin^2 x} - 2\cot^3 x \left| + 2(\cot x + \cot^3 x) = 4 \right.$$

*Proposed by Daniel Sitaru-Romania*

*Solution by Khaled Abd Imouti-Damascus-Syria*

$$4 - 2(\cot x + \cot^3 x) \geq 0 \Leftrightarrow 2 - (\cot x + \cot^3 x) \geq 0$$

$$\Leftrightarrow \cot x + \cot^3 x \leq 2 \Leftrightarrow \frac{\cos x}{\sin^3 x} \leq 2$$

$$\text{Let } f: D - \{k\pi \mid k \in \mathbb{Z}\} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}, f(x) = \cot x(1 + \cot^2 x)$$

$$f(-x) = -f(x), x \in [0, \pi]$$

$$\lim_{x \rightarrow 0} f(x) = +\infty; \lim_{x \rightarrow \pi} f(x) = -\infty$$

$$f'(x) = \frac{-\sin^4 x - 3\sin^2 x \cos^2 x}{\sin^6 x} < 0 \Rightarrow f \searrow [0, \pi]$$

$$\text{Let } g(x) = 4 - 2(\cot x + \cot^3 x) \geq 0$$

$$\left| \frac{\tan^2 x - 1}{\tan^4 x} \right| = -(1 + \cot^2 x) + 2\cot^3 x + 4 - 2\cot x(1 + \cot^2 x)$$

# R M M

## ROMANIAN MATHEMATICAL MAGAZINE

www.ssmrmh.ro

I.  $\cot^2 x - \cot^4 x = -1 - \cot^2 x + 2\cot^3 x + 4 - 2\cot x - 2\cot^3 x \Leftrightarrow$   
 $-\cot^4 x + 2\cot^2 x + 2\cot x - 3 = 0$   
 $\cot x = y \Rightarrow -y^4 - 2y^2 - 2y + 3 = 0 \Leftrightarrow (y - 1)(y^3 + y^2 - y - 3) = 0$   
 $y - 1 = 0 \Rightarrow \cot x = 1 \Rightarrow x = \frac{\pi}{4}$   
 $y^3 + y^2 - y - 3 = 0$   
Let  $h(y) = y^3 + y^2 - y - 3$   
 $h'(y) = 3y^2 + 2y - 1; h'(y) = 0 \Leftrightarrow y_1 = -1, y_2 = \frac{1}{3}$   
 $\Rightarrow y^3 + y^2 - y - 3 < 0, \forall x \leq 1$

II.  $\cot^4 x - \cot^2 x = -1 - \cot^2 x + 2\cot^3 x + 4 - 2\cot x - 2\cot^3 x \Leftrightarrow$   
 $\cot^4 x + 2\cot x - 3 = 0; y = \cot x \Rightarrow$   
 $y^4 + 2y - 3 = 0 \Leftrightarrow (y - 1)(y^3 + y^2 + y + 3) = 0$   
 $y = 1 \Rightarrow \cot x = 1 \Rightarrow x = \frac{\pi}{4}$   
 $s = \left\{ \frac{\pi}{4} + k\pi \mid k \in \mathbb{Z} \right\}$

**Note by editor:**

**Many thanks to Florică Anastase-Romania for typed solution.**