Vibing Math (Floor Function Problem)

Shreenabh Agrawal

May 31, 2020

1 Question

Find x if

$$x \lfloor x \lfloor x \lfloor x \rfloor \rfloor \rfloor = 88$$

Here x > 0, $\lfloor x \rfloor$ is the floor function.

2 Solution

Approximating given expression as $x^4 \approx 88$, we have

$$x \approx 3.0628$$

Also, the given expression can be rewritten as:

$$\lfloor x \lfloor x \lfloor x \rfloor \rfloor \rfloor = \frac{88}{x}$$

This implies that $\frac{88}{x}$ is an integer. By substituting our approximate value of x, we get

$$\frac{88}{x} \approx 28.7318$$

This further means that

$$x = \frac{88}{28} \left(= \frac{22}{7} \right) or \frac{88}{29}$$

Substituting back and checking, we find that,

$$\frac{22}{7} \left| \frac{22}{7} \left| \frac{22}{7} \right| \left| \frac{22}{7} \right| \right| = 88$$

Therefore

$$x = \frac{22}{7}$$