

Solution for Problem J375

$$x^{1/3} + y^{1/3} = \frac{1}{2} + (x + y + \frac{1}{4})^{1/2}$$

$$\Rightarrow x^{1/3} + y^{1/3} = \frac{1}{2} + \frac{(4x+4y+1)^{1/2}}{2}$$

Now, let $x^{1/3} = a$ and $y^{1/3} = b$. Thus,

$$2(a + b) - 1 = (1 + 4a^3 + 4b^3)^{\frac{1}{2}}$$

$$\Rightarrow 4(a + b)^2 + 1 - 4(a + b) = 1 + 4a^3 + 4b^3$$

$$\Rightarrow (a + b)^2 - (a + b) = a^3 + b^3 = (a + b)(a^2 - ab + b^2).$$

$$\Rightarrow (a + b)(a + b - 1) = (a + b)(a^2 - ab + b^2).$$

$(a + b) \neq 0$ for if $a + b = 0$ then LHS is 0 while RHS is 1

So factoring out the $a + b$ and canceling we get:-

$$\Rightarrow a + b - 1 = a^2 - ab + b^2.$$

$$\Rightarrow a^2 - (b + 1)a + b^2 - b + 1 = 0. \text{ Solving this equation by treating it as a quadratic in } a, \text{ we get,}$$

$$\Rightarrow a = \frac{b+1 \pm \sqrt{-3b^2+6b-3}}{2}$$

$$\Rightarrow a = \frac{b+1 \pm \sqrt{-3(b-1)^2}}{2}$$

Since $-3(b - 1)^2 \leq 0$, and since a has to be a real number, this forces

$$-3(b - 1)^2 = 0 \Rightarrow b = 1 \Rightarrow a = 1$$

$$\Rightarrow x = a^3 = 1, y = b^3 = 1$$

Thus $(1, 1)$ is the *only real solutions* of the given equation.