

Study Materials for

U. G. Semester - V (Mathematics)

paper → DSE MATH 502A

(Theory of Equations)

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Topic :- Cardan's Method

Q. Discuss the Cardan's method of solving the cubic equation.

Sol<sup>n</sup>:- let the cubic equation be

$$ax^3 + 3ax^2 + 3a_2x + a_3 = 0 \quad \text{--- (1)}$$

let the given equation be transformed into the form

$$z^3 + 3Hz + G = 0 \quad \text{--- (2)}$$

where  $z = ax + a_1$  and  $H$  and  $G$  have usual meanings.

let  $z = p^{1/3} + q^{1/3}$  be the solution of (2) --- (3)

$$\Rightarrow z^3 = p + q + 3p^{1/3}q^{1/3}(p^{1/3} + q^{1/3})$$

$$\Rightarrow z^3 = (p + q) + 3p^{1/3}q^{1/3}z.$$

$$\Rightarrow z^3 - 3p^{1/3}q^{1/3}z - (p + q) = 0 \quad \text{--- (4)}$$

Since (2) & (4) are identical, therefore

Comparing their coefficients

$$\Rightarrow -3p^{1/3}q^{1/3} = 3H \Rightarrow pq = -H^3$$

$$\text{and } -(p+q) = G \Rightarrow p+q = -G$$

Therefore,  $p, q$  are the roots of the quadratic equation

$$t^2 + Gt - H^3 = 0 \quad \text{--- (5)}$$

$$\Rightarrow t = \frac{-G \pm \sqrt{G^2 + 4H^3}}{2}$$

Therefore we can take

$$\left. \begin{aligned} p &= \frac{-G + \sqrt{G^2 + 4H^3}}{2} \\ q &= \frac{-G - \sqrt{G^2 + 4H^3}}{2} \end{aligned} \right\} \text{--- (6)}$$

Now cube roots of  $p = p^{1/3}, p^{1/3}\omega, p^{1/3}\omega^2$

& cube roots of  $q = q^{1/3}, q^{1/3}\omega, q^{1/3}\omega^2$

Three values of  $Z$  will be

$$Z = p^{1/3} + q^{1/3}, p^{1/3}\omega + q^{1/3}\omega^2 \text{ \& } p^{1/3}\omega^2 + q^{1/3}\omega$$

From these values of  $Z$ , the value of  $x$  can be obtained by the relation

$$Z = ax + a_1$$

Q. Solve  $x^3 - 9x + 28 = 0$  by Cardan's method

Soln.  $\therefore x^3 - 9x + 28 = 0$  — (1)

The given equation is in the standard form  $x^3 + 3Hx + G = 0$  — (2)

$$\Rightarrow 3H = -9 \quad \& \quad G = 28$$

$$\Rightarrow H = -3 \quad \& \quad G = 28$$

Let  $x = p^{1/3} + q^{1/3}$  — (3)

$$\Rightarrow x^3 = p + q + 3p^{1/3}q^{1/3}(p^{1/3} + q^{1/3})$$

$$\Rightarrow x^3 = (p + q) + 3p^{1/3}q^{1/3}x$$

$$\Rightarrow x^3 - 3p^{1/3}q^{1/3}x - (p + q) = 0$$
 — (4)

but (2) & (4) are identical

$$\Rightarrow -3p^{1/3}q^{1/3} = -9 \Rightarrow p^{1/3}q^{1/3} = 3$$

$$\Rightarrow pq = 27$$

$$\& \quad p + q = -28$$

Hence  $p, q$  are the roots of the equation

$$t^2 - (p + q)t + pq = 0$$

$$\Rightarrow t^2 + 28t + 27 = 0$$
 — (5)

$$\Rightarrow t^2 + 27t + t + 27 = 0$$

$$\Rightarrow t(t+27) + (t+27) = 0$$

$$\Rightarrow (t+1)(t+27) = 0$$

$$\Rightarrow t = -1, -27$$

take  $p = -27$  &  $q = -1$

Hence roots of (1) are

$$p^{1/3} + q^{1/3} = (-27)^{1/3} + (-1)^{1/3} = -3 - 1 = -4$$

$$p^{1/3}w + q^{1/3}w^2 = w(-3) + w^2(-1)$$

$$= -3w - w^2 = \underline{-2w}$$

$$= -2w - (w + w^2) = -2w + 1 \quad \text{as } w^2 + w + 1 = 0$$

$$= -2 \left( \frac{-1 + \sqrt{3}i}{2} \right) + 1$$

$$= 1 - \sqrt{3}i + 1 = 2 - \sqrt{3}i$$

$$\text{also } p^{1/3}w^2 + q^{1/3}w = -3w^2 - w$$

$$= -2w^2 - (w^2 + 1)$$

$$= -2w^2 + 1$$

$$= -2 \left( \frac{-1 - \sqrt{3}i}{2} \right) + 1$$

$$= 1 + \sqrt{3}i + 1 = 2 + \sqrt{3}i$$

$\therefore$  The roots of the given equation is

$$-4, 2 + \sqrt{3}i, 2 - \sqrt{3}i$$

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