



Our Readers Write ...

Comment on: “Solution of the Cubic”

The above article by Chahal [1] presented the history as well as simplification of Cardano’s formula for solution of a cubic equation in an interesting manner. In this connection, the reader’s interest is drawn to the excellent and comprehensive work of Neumark [2], a British aeronautical engineer, which was published as early as 1965, but not appreciated or even mentioned in the vast amount of literature on the topic published since then. Neumark dealt with the solution of quartic as well as cubic equations. In particular, his handling of the cubic equation was brilliant because his procedure does not require the extraction of any root of a complex number. Readers are referred to a recent tutorial article [3] which gives a consolidation and simplification of Nuemark’s procedure.

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Suggested Reading

- [1] J S Chahal, Solution of the cubic, *Resonance*, Vol. 11, pp. 53–61, 2006.
- [2] S Neumark, *Solution of the Cubic and Quartic Equations*, Pergamon, London, 1965.
- [3] S C Dutta Roy, On the solution of the quartic and cubic equations, *IETE Journal of Education*, Vol. 47, pp. 91–95, 2006.

I read with interest your editorial in the August 2006 issue of *Resonance*. You have raised a question that I have always been asking me whenever I get the current issues of *Resonance* – “are they readable” by the “targeted audience University students and teachers”. *Resonance* articles I am sorry to say are “largely unread”.



You may ask who I am I to pass such a judgment. I am a College Physics teacher now retired after teaching at The American College in Madurai for nearly 40 years. What is wrong with resonance articles is the question. I feel that they are not addressed to any audience in particular. Lot of times the authors according to me want to show off their scholarship and assume the readers know the subject. I used to get the American Journal of Physics and Physics Today regularly. I was able to read and understand and motivate my BSc and MSc student to read the articles in those journals. I cannot say so of *Resonance* articles. I am not surprised that the response to your “correspondence” section is “lukewarm”. Some serious thinking is needed.

Srinivasan

I read your Editorial (*Resonance* August 2006, Vol.11, No. 8) and I was unable to keep myself away. *Resonance* is one of the best science journals. I am a regular reader (Subscriber) of *Resonance* since 1999 till date and I found it always readable, informative, and a very good source of learning.

I am teaching mathematics in a Junior college (Smt. Parvatibai Chowgule College, MARGAO – GOA) in Goa and simultaneously do a little work on the subject under the guidance of Dr S G Deo (Retired HOD & Dean of Goa University). *Resonance* is a good friend of mine in the field of academics.

I wish you all the more success in leading this Academic work.

R B Khandeparkar

