

ON THE DIFFERENCE $f^3(x) - g^2(x)$

By

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In 1965 H. Davenport [2] proved that if $f(x)$, $g(x)$ are polynomials in x with arbitrary real or complex coefficients, then we have either

$$f^3(x) - g^2(x) = 0 \quad \text{identically,}$$

or

$$(1) \quad \deg(f^3(x) - g^2(x)) \geq \frac{1}{2} \deg f(x) + 1.$$

It is known that for some pairs of polynomials $f(x)$, $g(x)$ the equality holds in (1). Clearly, we have for such pairs of polynomials

$$\deg f(x) = 2k, \quad \deg g(x) = 3k$$

with some integral $k \geq 1$. Indeed, if

$$f(x) = x^2 + 2, \quad g(x) = x^3 + 3x,$$

then

$$f^3(x) - g^2(x) = 3x^2 + 8,$$

and if

$$f(x) = x^4 + 2x, \quad g(x) = x^6 + 3x^3 + \frac{3}{2},$$

then

$$f^3(x) - g^2(x) = -x^3 - \frac{9}{4}.$$

Some other examples of pairs of polynomials $f(x)$, $g(x)$ of higher degrees satisfying the condition

$$(2) \quad \deg(f^3(x) - g^2(x)) = \frac{1}{2} \deg f(x) + 1$$

are given by B. J. Birch, S. Chowla, Marshall Hall, Jr. and A. Schinzel [1]. They have shown in fact that

$$f(x) = x^6 + 4x^4 + 10x^2 + 6,$$

$$g(x) = x^9 + 6x^7 + 21x^5 + 35x^3 + \frac{63}{2}x,$$