

ON THE EQUATION $f^n + g^n = 1$. II

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In [3], [4] the author proved that

$$(1) \quad f^3 + g^3 = 1$$

has the solutions

$$(2) \quad f = \frac{1}{2} \left(1 + \frac{\wp'}{\sqrt{3}} \right) / \wp, \quad g = \frac{1}{2} \left(1 - \frac{\wp'}{\sqrt{3}} \right) / \wp,$$

where the \wp -function satisfies

$$(3) \quad (\wp')^2 = 4\wp^3 - 1 \quad (\text{i.e., } g_2 = 0 \text{ and } g_3 = 1).$$

In [3] the author conjectured that all meromorphic solutions of (1) are necessarily elliptic functions of entire functions.

The conjecture was proved by Baker [1]. Baker proved

THEOREM 1. *Any functions $F(z)$ and $G(z)$, which are meromorphic in the plane and satisfy (1) have the form*

$$F = f(h(z)), \quad G = \eta g(h(z)) = \eta f(-h(z)) = f(-\eta^2 h(z)),$$

where f and g are the elliptic functions in (2). $h(z)$ is an entire function of z and η is a cube-root of unity.

In this note we give an alternate proof of Theorem 1. In fact we prove

THEOREM 2. *The function f in (2) is a uniformizing function of the Riemann surface of*

$$(4) \quad x^3 + y^3 = 1.$$

f maps the whole z -plane in a 1-1 manner on the Riemann surface of (4).¹

PROOF. Since $(1 - f^3)^{1/3}$ is a single valued meromorphic function, one can easily verify that either f is a uniformizing function or $f = l(h)$, where l is a uniformizing function and h is nonlinear and entire. The latter, however, is impossible. For otherwise we have $f = l(h)$ and $g = r(h)$, so that f and g and hence \wp and \wp' have h as a common

¹ In the sequel, uniformizing functions are assumed to have this additional property.