

Problema S109. Solve the system of equations

$$\sqrt{x} - \frac{1}{y} = \sqrt{y} - \frac{1}{z} = \sqrt{z} - \frac{1}{x} = \frac{7}{4}$$

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Adding the three equations we obtain:

$$\sqrt{x} + \sqrt{y} + \sqrt{z} = \frac{1}{x} + \frac{1}{y} + \frac{1}{z} + \frac{21}{4} \quad \Rightarrow$$

$$(\sqrt{x} - 2)f(x) + (\sqrt{y} - 2)f(y) + (\sqrt{z} - 2)f(z) = 0 \quad (1)$$

where

$$f(t) = \frac{2 + \sqrt{t} + 4t}{4t} > 0, \quad \forall t > 0$$

Now $\sqrt{x} \geq 2$. In fact if $\sqrt{x} < 2$ then

$$x < 4 \quad \Rightarrow$$

$$\sqrt{z} = \frac{1}{x} + \frac{7}{4} > \frac{1}{4} + \frac{7}{4} = 2 \quad \Rightarrow$$

$$\sqrt{y} = \frac{1}{z} + \frac{7}{4} < \frac{1}{4} + \frac{7}{4} = 2 \quad \Rightarrow$$

$$\sqrt{x} = \frac{1}{y} + \frac{7}{4} > \frac{1}{4} + \frac{7}{4} = 2$$

which is impossible. Similarly $\sqrt{y} < 2$ or $\sqrt{z} < 2$ leads to contradiction. Thus

$$\sqrt{x} - 2 \geq 0, \quad \sqrt{y} - 2 \geq 0, \quad \sqrt{z} - 2 \geq 0$$

Therefore, since $f(x) \geq 0$, $f(y) \geq 0$, $f(z) \geq 0$ from (1) follows that:

$$\sqrt{x} = \sqrt{y} = \sqrt{z} = 2 \quad \Rightarrow \quad x = y = z = 4$$

and we are done. □