

Problem 2. Find all positive integers n such that $9n + 19$ and $3n^2 + 9n + 5$ are both cubes of integers.

Solution. Suppose that $9n + 19 = a^3$ and $3n^2 + 9n + 5 = b^3$ for some positive integers a, b . Then

$$(ab)^3 = (9n + 19)(3n^2 + 9n + 5) = 27n^3 + 138n^2 + 216n + 95.$$

Note that

$$(3n + 4)^3 = 27n^3 + 108n^2 + 144n + 64 < (ab)^3$$

and

$$(3n + 6)^3 = 27n^3 + 162n^2 + 324n + 216 > (ab)^3.$$

Thus we must have $(ab)^3 = (3n + 5)^3$, i.e.

$$27n^3 + 138n^2 + 216n + 95 = 27n^3 + 135n^2 + 225n + 125.$$

This is equivalent to $n^2 - 3n - 10 = 0$, i.e. $n = 5$. Now it is easy to verify that $n = 5$ indeed is a solution: $9n + 19 = 64 = 4^3$ and $3n^2 + 9n + 5 = 125 = 5^3$.

Exercise. Is there a positive integer n such that $4n + 1$ and $9n + 1$ are squares?

Remark. It is true, but much harder to prove, that the only integers n such that $3n^2 + 9n + 5$ is a cube are $n = -8, -2, -1, 5$.