

$(a-b)^3 + (b-c)^3 + (c-a)^3$ を因数分解せよ。

(89 流通経済大)

解説

$$\begin{aligned} & (a-b)^3 + (b-c)^3 + (c-a)^3 \\ &= (a-b)^3 + (b-c)^3 - (a-c)^3 \\ & A = a-b, B = b-c \text{ とおくと, } a-c = A+B \text{ より} \\ &= A^3 + B^3 - (A+B)^3 \\ &= -3AB(A+B) \\ &= -3(a-b)(b-c)(a-c) \\ &= 3(a-b)(b-c)(c-a) \end{aligned}$$

別解

$$\begin{aligned} & (a-b)^3 + (b-c)^3 + (c-a)^3 \\ & A = a-b, B = b-c, C = c-a \text{ とおくと, } A+B+C=0 \\ & A^3 + B^3 + C^3 - 3ABC = (A+B+C)(A^2 + B^2 + C^2 - AB - BC - CA) \text{ より} \\ & A^3 + B^3 + C^3 = 3ABC \\ & \quad = 3(a-b)(b-c)(c-a) \end{aligned}$$