

Trig helps algebra.

1. Solve the system.

$$\begin{cases} x^3 - 3xy^2 = 6 \\ 3x^2y - y^3 = 8 \end{cases}.$$

Solution.

Note that $\begin{cases} x^3 - 3xy^2 = 6 \\ 3x^2y - y^3 = 8 \end{cases} \Rightarrow \frac{x^3 - 3xy^2}{3x^2y - y^3} = \frac{3}{4} \Leftrightarrow \frac{t^3 - 3t}{3t^2 - 1} = \frac{3}{4}$, where $t := \frac{x}{y}$.

But equation $\frac{t^3 - 3t}{3t^2 - 1} = \frac{3}{4} \Leftrightarrow 4t^3 - 12t = 9t^2 - 3 \Leftrightarrow 4t^3 - 12t - 9t^2 + 3 = 0$

have no rational solutions.

Since $\tan 3\alpha = \frac{\tan 2\alpha + \tan \alpha}{1 - \tan 2\alpha \tan \alpha} = \frac{\frac{2 \tan \alpha}{1 - \tan^2 \alpha} + \tan \alpha}{1 - \frac{2 \tan \alpha}{1 - \tan^2 \alpha} \cdot \tan \alpha} = \frac{\tan^3 \alpha - 3 \tan \alpha}{3 \tan^2 \alpha - 1}$

then denoting $\theta := \tan^{-1}(t)$ we obtain $\frac{t^3 - 3t}{3t^2 - 1} = \frac{3}{4} \Leftrightarrow \frac{\tan^3 \theta - 3 \tan \theta}{3 \tan^2 \theta - 1} = \frac{3}{4} \Leftrightarrow$

$\tan 3\theta = \frac{3}{4} \Leftrightarrow \theta = \frac{1}{3} \tan^{-1}\left(\frac{3}{4}\right)$. Then $t = \tan\left(\frac{1}{3} \tan^{-1}\left(\frac{3}{4}\right)\right)$ and

$3x^2y - y^3 = 8 \Leftrightarrow y^3(3t^2 - 1) = 8 \Leftrightarrow y = \frac{2}{\sqrt[3]{3t^2 - 1}} \Rightarrow x = \frac{2t}{\sqrt[3]{3t^2 - 1}}$.