

**Problem.** Let  $x, y, z$  be positive real number such that  $xy + yz + zx = 1$ . Prove that

$$\frac{27}{4}(x+y)(y+z)(z+x) \geq (\sqrt{x+y} + \sqrt{y+z} + \sqrt{z+x})^2 \geq 6\sqrt{3}$$

**Solution:**

From the constraint, we have

$$\begin{aligned}(x+y)(y+z) &= y^2 + 1 \\ (y+z)(z+x) &= z^2 + 1 \\ (z+x)(x+y) &= x^2 + 1\end{aligned}$$

so that the right inequality can be rewritten as

$$x + y + z + \sqrt{x^2 + 1} + \sqrt{y^2 + 1} + \sqrt{z^2 + 1} \geq 3\sqrt{3}(1)$$

Now,

$$(x + y + z)^2 = x^2 + y^2 + z^2 + 2 \geq xy + yz + zx + 2 = 3$$

hence

$$x + y + z \geq \sqrt{3}(2)$$

Also the function

$$f(t) = \sqrt{t^2 + 1}$$

is a convex function (its second derivative satisfies

$$f''(t) = (t^2 + 1)^{-3/2} > 0$$

.

Thus,

$$\sqrt{x^2 + 1} + \sqrt{y^2 + 1} + \sqrt{z^2 + 1} \geq 3\sqrt{\left(\frac{x+y+z}{3}\right)^2 + 1}$$

and using (2) we obtain

$$\sqrt{x^2 + z} + \sqrt{y^2 + 1} + \sqrt{z^2 + 1} \geq 2\sqrt{3}$$

Adding (2) and (3) yields (1). As for the left inequality, it is equivalent to

$$\frac{1}{x^2 + 1} + \frac{1}{y^2 + 1} + \frac{1}{z^2 + 1} \leq \frac{3\sqrt{3}}{2}(4)$$

The constraint allows us to write

$$x = \tan \frac{a}{2}, y = \tan \frac{b}{2}, z = \tan \frac{c}{2}$$

where  $a, b, c$  are the angles of a triangle. Then (4) can be rewritten as

$$\cos \frac{a}{2} + \cos \frac{b}{2} + \cos \frac{c}{2} \leq \frac{3\sqrt{3}}{2},$$

which holds because from the concavity of  $\cos$  on  $(0, \frac{\pi}{2})$  we have

$$\cos \frac{a}{2} + \cos \frac{b}{2} + \cos \frac{c}{2} \leq 3 \cos \frac{a+b+c}{6} = \frac{3\sqrt{3}}{2}.$$

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