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1. Let ABC be an acute triangle. Prove that

$$\frac{m_a}{h_a} \cdot \cos A + \frac{m_a}{h_c} \cdot \cos B + \frac{m_c}{h_c} \cdot \cos C \geq \frac{3}{2}$$

Proposed by Nguyen Viet Hung - Hanoi - Vietnam

Proof.

$$\text{Using } m_a \geq \frac{b^2 + c^2}{4R}, h_a = \frac{bc}{2R} \text{ and } \cos A = \frac{b^2 + c^2 - a^2}{2bc}$$

$$\text{we obtain } \frac{m_a}{h_a} \cdot \cos A \geq \frac{(b^2 + c^2)(b^2 + c^2 - a^2)}{4b^2c^2}$$

$$\text{It follows } \sum \frac{m_a}{h_a} \cdot \cos A \geq \sum \frac{(b^2 + c^2)(b^2 + c^2 - a^2)}{4b^2c^2} = \frac{\sum a^2(b^2 + c^2)(b^2 + c^2 - a^2)}{4a^2b^2c^2} = \frac{6a^2b^2c^2}{4a^2b^2c^2} = \frac{3}{2}$$

Equality holds if and only if the triangle is equilateral.

□

Note.

From the above proof the condition of acute-angled triangle is not necessary.

Remark.

In the same way it can be proposed:

2. In $\triangle ABC$

$$\frac{m_a}{h_a} \cdot (\cos B + \cos C) + \frac{m_a}{h_b} \cdot (\cos C + \cos A) + \frac{m_c}{h_c} \cdot (\cos A + \cos B) \leq \frac{2R}{r} - 1$$

Proposed by Marin Chirciu - Romania

Proof.

We have

$$\sum \frac{m_a}{h_a} \cdot (\cos B + \cos C) = \sum \frac{m_a}{h_a} \cdot (\cos A + \cos B + \cos C - \cos A) = \sum \frac{m_a}{h_a} \sum \cos A - \sum \frac{m_a}{h_a} \cos A \leq$$

$$\leq \left(1 + \frac{r}{R}\right) \sum \frac{m_a}{h_a} - \frac{3}{2} \leq \frac{3}{2} \sum \frac{m_a}{h_a} - \frac{3}{2} = \frac{3}{2} \left(\sum \frac{m_a}{h_a} - 1\right) \leq \frac{3}{2} \left(\frac{4R+r}{3r} - 1\right) = \frac{2R}{r} - 1$$

where we've used:

$$\frac{m_a}{h_a} \cdot \cos A \geq \frac{3}{2} \text{ (inequality 1.)}, \sum \cos A = 1 + \frac{r}{R} \leq \frac{3}{2} \text{ (Euler's inequality) and}$$

$$\sum \frac{m_a}{h_a} \leq \frac{4R+r}{3r}, \text{ which follows from Cebyshev's inequality:}$$

The triplets (m_a, m_b, m_c) and $\left(\frac{1}{h_a}, \frac{1}{h_b}, \frac{1}{h_c}\right)$ are reversed ordered, and $\sum m_a \leq 4R+r$ and $\sum \frac{1}{h_a} = \frac{1}{r}$

$$\text{wherefrom } \sum \frac{m_a}{h_a} \leq \frac{1}{3} \cdot \sum m_a \sum \frac{1}{h_a} \leq \frac{1}{3} \cdot (4R + r) \cdot \frac{1}{r} = \frac{4R + r}{3r}$$

The equality holds if and only if the triangle is equilateral.

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