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If $a, b, c > 0$ then:

$$\left(6 \sqrt[3]{\frac{a}{b}} - \frac{a^2}{b^2}\right) + \left(6 \sqrt[3]{\frac{b}{c}} - \frac{b^2}{c^2}\right) + \left(6 \sqrt[3]{\frac{c}{a}} - \frac{c^2}{a^2}\right) \leq 15$$

Proposed by Daniel Sitaru – Romania

Solution 1 by Athanasios Mplegiannis-Greece, Solution 2 by Bibashwan Ghosh-India,
Solution 3 by Boris Colakovic-Belgrade-Serbia, Solution 4 by Ravi Prakash-New Delhi-India,
Solution 5 by Sanong Huayrerai-Nakon Pathom-Thailand, Solution 6 by Seyran Ibrahimov-
Maasilli-Azerbaijan, Solution 7 by Soumava Chakraborty-Kolkata-India

Solution 1 by Athanasios Mplegiannis-Greece

The function $f(x) = x^6, x \in [0, +\infty)$, is a concave up function because

$$f'(x) = 6x^5 \text{ and } f''(x) = 30x^4 > 0, \forall x > 0$$

The tangent line of the function's graph at point $(1, 1)$ is

$$y - f(1) = f'(1)(x - 1) \Rightarrow y = 6x - 5$$

So, $f(x) \geq 6x - 5 \Leftrightarrow x^6 \geq 6x - 5, \forall x \geq 0$, and

$$\left\{ \begin{array}{l} f\left(\sqrt[3]{\frac{a}{b}}\right) \geq 6 \cdot \sqrt[3]{\frac{a}{b}} - 5 \\ f\left(\sqrt[3]{\frac{b}{c}}\right) \geq 6 \cdot \sqrt[3]{\frac{b}{c}} - 5 \\ f\left(\sqrt[3]{\frac{c}{a}}\right) \geq 6 \cdot \sqrt[3]{\frac{c}{a}} - 5 \end{array} \right\} \Rightarrow \left\{ \begin{array}{l} \frac{a^2}{b^2} \geq 6 \cdot \sqrt[3]{\frac{a}{b}} - 5 \\ \frac{b^2}{c^2} \geq 6 \cdot \sqrt[3]{\frac{b}{c}} - 5 \\ \frac{c^2}{a^2} \geq 6 \cdot \sqrt[3]{\frac{c}{a}} - 5 \end{array} \right\} \stackrel{(+)}{\Rightarrow}$$

$$\Rightarrow \left(6 \cdot \sqrt[3]{\frac{a}{b}} - \frac{a^2}{b^2}\right) + \left(6 \cdot \sqrt[3]{\frac{b}{c}} - \frac{b^2}{c^2}\right) + \left(6 \cdot \sqrt[3]{\frac{c}{a}} - \frac{c^2}{a^2}\right) \leq 15$$

Equality holds for $\frac{a}{b} = \frac{b}{c} = \frac{c}{a} = 1 \Rightarrow a = b = c$.

Solution 2 by Bibashwan Ghosh-India

If $\sqrt[3]{\frac{a}{b}} = x$, then,

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$f(x) = 6x - (x^6)$ attains a global maximum at $x = 1$ which means

$$f(x) \leq 5$$

Thus, $f\left(\frac{a}{b}\right) + f\left(\frac{b}{c}\right) + f\left(\frac{c}{a}\right) \leq 15$ with equality at $a = b = c$.

Solution 3 by Boris Colakovic-Belgrade-Serbia

$$\frac{a}{b} = x^3 > 0, \frac{b}{c} = y^3 > 0, \frac{c}{a} = z^3 > 0$$

$$6(x + y + z) - (x^6 + y^6 + z^6) \leq 15 \Leftrightarrow$$

$$\Leftrightarrow x^6 + y^6 + z^6 - 6(x + y + z) + 15 \geq 0 \Leftrightarrow$$

$$\Leftrightarrow \frac{1}{243}(x + y + z)^6 - 6(x + y + z) + 15 \geq 0$$

$$x + y + z = t > 0$$

$$\frac{1}{243}t^6 - 6t + 15 \geq 0 \Leftrightarrow \frac{1}{243}(t-3)^2 \underbrace{(t^4 + 6t^3 + 27t^2 + 108t + 405)}_{>0} \geq 0$$

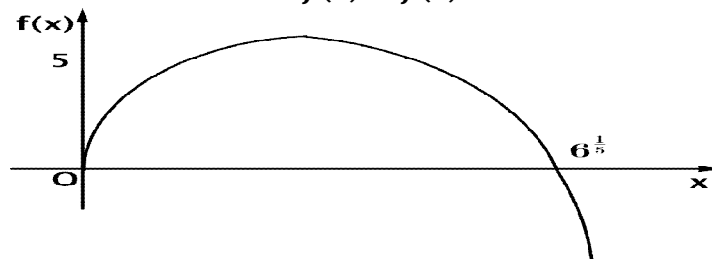
Solution 4 by Ravi Prakash-New Delhi-India

$$\text{Let } f(x) = 6x - x^6, x > 0, f'(x) = 6(1 - x^5)$$

$$= 6(1 - x)(1 + x + x^2 + x^3 + x^4 + x^5)$$

$$f'(x) > 0 \text{ if } 0 < x < 1, < 0 \text{ if } x > 1, = 0 \text{ if } x = 1$$

$$\therefore \max f(x) = f(1) = 5$$



$$\therefore f(x) \leq 5, \forall x > 0$$

Thus,

$$\left(6\left(\frac{a}{b}\right)^{\frac{1}{3}} - \frac{a^2}{b^2}\right) + \left(6\left(\frac{b}{c}\right)^{\frac{1}{3}} - \frac{b^2}{c^2}\right) + \left(6\left(\frac{c}{a}\right)^{\frac{1}{3}} - \frac{c^2}{a^2}\right)$$

$$= f\left(\left(\frac{a}{b}\right)^{\frac{1}{3}}\right) + f\left(\left(\frac{b}{c}\right)^{\frac{1}{3}}\right) + f\left(\left(\frac{c}{a}\right)^{\frac{1}{3}}\right) \leq 15$$

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Solution 5 by Sanong Huayrerai-Nakon Pathom-Thailand

$$\text{Give } \frac{a}{b} = \frac{x^3}{y^3}, \frac{b}{c} = \frac{y^3}{z^3}, \frac{c}{a} = \frac{z^3}{x^3}$$

$$\begin{aligned} \text{Hence } & \left(6\sqrt[3]{\frac{a}{b} - \frac{a^2}{b^2}}\right) + \left(6\sqrt[3]{\frac{b}{c} - \frac{b^2}{c^2}}\right) + \left(6\sqrt[3]{\frac{c}{a} - \frac{c^2}{a^2}}\right) \\ &= \left(6\sqrt[3]{\frac{x}{y} - \frac{x^6}{y^6}}\right) + \left(6\sqrt[3]{\frac{y}{z} - \frac{y^6}{z^6}}\right) + \left(6\sqrt[3]{\frac{z}{x} - \frac{z^6}{x^6}}\right) \leq 15 \text{ is to be true} \end{aligned}$$

Because $\forall m, n > 0$ we will get that

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{m^6}{n^6} + 5 &= \frac{m^6}{n^6} + 1 + 1 + (1 + 1 + 1) \geq 3\frac{m^2}{n^2} + 1 + 1 + 1 \\ &= \left(\frac{m^2}{n^2} + 1\right) + \left(\frac{m^2}{n^2} + 1\right) + \left(\frac{m^2}{n^2} + 1\right) \geq \frac{2m}{n} + \frac{2m}{n} + \frac{2m}{n} = 6\frac{m}{n} \end{aligned}$$

$$\text{Hence } 6\frac{m}{n} - \frac{m^6}{n^6} \leq 5$$

Solution 6 by Seyran Ibrahimov-Maasilli-Azerbaijan

$$\text{If } a, b, c > 0, \sum \left(6\sqrt[3]{\frac{a}{b} - \frac{a^2}{b^2}}\right) \leq 15 \Rightarrow$$

$$\Rightarrow \begin{cases} \frac{a^2}{b^2} + 5 = \frac{a^2}{b^2} + 1 + 1 + 1 + 1 + 1 \geq 6\sqrt[3]{\frac{a}{b}} \\ \frac{b^2}{c^2} + 5 = \frac{b^2}{c^2} + 1 + 1 + 1 + 1 + 1 \geq 6\sqrt[3]{\frac{b}{c}} \oplus \\ \frac{c^2}{a^2} + 5 = \frac{c^2}{a^2} + 1 + 1 + 1 + 1 + 1 \geq 6\sqrt[3]{\frac{c}{a}} \end{cases}$$

$$\Rightarrow 15 \geq \sum \left(6\sqrt[3]{\frac{a}{b} - \frac{a^2}{b^2}}\right) \Rightarrow \text{(proved)}$$

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Solution 7 by Soumava Chakraborty-Kolkata-India

$$\sqrt[3]{\frac{a}{b}} = \sqrt[3]{\frac{a}{b} \cdot 1 \cdot 1} \stackrel{GM-AM}{\geq} \left(\frac{a}{b} + 1 + 1\right) \cdot \frac{1}{3}$$

$$\rightarrow \begin{cases} 6\sqrt[3]{\frac{a}{b}} \leq 2\left(\frac{a}{b} + 2\right) = 4 + \frac{2a}{b} \\ 6\sqrt[3]{\frac{b}{c}} \leq 2\left(\frac{b}{c} + 2\right) = 4 + \frac{2b}{c} \\ 6\sqrt[3]{\frac{c}{a}} \leq 2\left(\frac{c}{a} + 2\right) = 4 + \frac{2c}{a} \end{cases} \rightarrow LHS \leq 12 + 2 \sum \frac{a}{b}$$

$$12 + 2 \sum \frac{a}{b} \leq 15 + \sum \frac{a^2}{b^2} \Leftrightarrow \sum \left(\frac{a^2}{b^2} - \frac{2a}{b} + 1\right) \geq 0 \Leftrightarrow \sum \left(\frac{a}{b} - 1\right)^2 \geq 0$$

Equality holds for $a = b = c$