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If $a, b, c, d \in \mathbb{R}$ then:

$$a + b + c + d \leq \frac{1}{2} + (a + b)(c + d) + a^2 + b^2 + c^2 + d^2$$

Proposed by Uche Eliezer Okeke-Anambra-Nigeria

Solution 1 by Ravi Prakash-New Delhi-India, Solution 2 by Nho Nguyen Van-Vietnam

Solution 1 by Ravi Prakash-New Delhi-India

$$\begin{aligned} & (a + b + c + d - 1)^2 + (a - b)^2 + (c - d)^2 \geq 0 \\ & \Rightarrow a^2 + b^2 + c^2 + d^2 - 2(a + b + c + d) + 1 \\ & + 2(ab + bc + cd + ad + ac + bd) + a^2 + b^2 - 2ab + c^2 + d^2 - 2cd \geq 0 \\ & \Rightarrow 2(a^2 + b^2 + c^2 + d^2) - 2(a + b + c + d) + 2(a + b)(c + d) + 1 \geq 0 \\ & \Rightarrow a + b + c + d \leq \frac{1}{2} + (a + b)(c + d) + a^2 + b^2 + c^2 + d^2 \end{aligned}$$

Solution 2 by Nho Nguyen Van-Vietnam

We have:

$$a^2 + b^2 \stackrel{?}{\geq} \frac{1}{2}(a + b)^2$$

$$c^2 + d^2 \stackrel{?}{\geq} \frac{1}{2}(c + d)^2$$

$$\begin{aligned} & \text{So: } \frac{1}{2} + (a + b)(c + d) + a^2 + b^2 + c^2 + d^2 \\ & \geq \frac{1}{2} [(a + b)^2 + 2(a + b)(c + d) + (c + d)^2 + 1] \\ & = \frac{1}{2}(a + b + c + d)^2 + \frac{1}{2} \\ & \stackrel{?}{\geq} \frac{1}{2} [2(a + b + c + d) - 1] + \frac{1}{2} = a + b + c + d \text{ (done)} \\ & \quad (x^2 \geq 2x - 1) \end{aligned}$$