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**If  $a, b, c \geq 1$  then:**

$$\frac{(1+a+a^2)(1+b+b^2+b^3)(1+c+c^2+c^3+c^4)}{(1+a^2)(1+b^3)(1+c^4)} \leq \frac{15}{2}$$

*Proposed by Daniel Sitaru – Romania*

*Solution 1 by Ravi Prakash-New Delhi-India, Solution 2 by Rajsekhar Azaad-India, Solution 3 by Soumava Chakraborty-Kolkata-India, Solution 4 by Soumitra Mandal-Chandar Nagore-India*

***Solution 1 by Ravi Prakash-New Delhi-India***

$$\text{Let } f(x) = \frac{1+x+x^2}{1+x^2}, x \geq 1$$

$$f'(x) = \frac{d}{dx} \left[ 1 + \frac{x}{1+x^2} \right] = \frac{(1+x^2) - 2x^2}{(1+x^2)^2} = \frac{1-x^2}{(1+x^2)^2} < 0, \forall x > 1$$

$$\Rightarrow f(x) \text{ decreases on } [1, \infty) \therefore f(x) \leq f(1) \forall x \geq 1$$

$$\Rightarrow \frac{1+a+a^2}{1+a^2} \leq \frac{3}{2} \forall a \geq 1 \quad (1)$$

$$\text{Let } g(x) = \frac{1+x+x^2+x^3}{1+x^3} = 1 + \frac{x+x^2}{1+x^3}$$

$$g'(x) = \frac{(1+x^3)(1+2x) - 3x^2(x+x^2)}{(1+x^3)^2} = \frac{1+2x+x^3+2x^4-3x^3-3x^4}{(1+x^3)^2}$$

$$= \frac{1+2x-2x^3-x^4}{(1+x^3)^2}$$

$$g'(x) = \frac{(1-x^4) - 2x(1-x^2)}{(1+x^3)^2} = \frac{(1-x^2)(1+x^2-2x)}{(1+x^3)^2} = \frac{(1-x)^3(1+x)}{(1+x^3)^2} < 0 \forall x > 1$$

$$\Rightarrow g(x) \text{ decreases on } [1, \infty) \therefore g(x) \leq g(1)$$

$$\Rightarrow \frac{1+b+b^2+b^3}{1+b^3} \leq \frac{4}{2} = 2 \forall b \geq 1 \quad (2)$$

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$$\begin{aligned} \text{Let } h(x) &= \frac{1+x+x^2+x^3+x^4}{1+x^4}, x \geq 1 \\ &= 1 + \frac{x+x^2+x^3}{1+x^4} \\ h'(x) &= \frac{(1+2x+3x^2)(1+x^4) - (x+x^2+x^3)(4x^3)}{(1+x^4)^2} \\ &= \frac{1+2x+3x^2+x^4+2x^5+3x^6-4x^4-4x^5-4x^6}{(1+x^4)^2} \\ &= \frac{1+2x+3x^2-3x^4-2x^5-x^6}{(1+x^4)^2} = \frac{(1-x^6)+2x(1-x^3)+3x^2(1-x^2)}{(1+x^4)^2} < 0 \quad \forall x \geq 1 \\ &\Rightarrow h(x) \text{ decreases on } [1, \infty) \therefore h(x) \leq h(1) \quad \forall x \geq 1 \end{aligned}$$

$$\Rightarrow \frac{1+c+c^2+c^3+c^4}{1+c^4} \leq \frac{5}{2} \quad \forall c \geq 1 \quad (3)$$

Multiply (1), (2), (3) we get

$$\frac{(1+a+a^2)(1+b+b^2+b^3)(1+c+c^2+c^4)}{(1+a^2)(1+b^3)(1+c^4)} \leq \frac{15}{2}$$

**Solution 2 by Rajsekhar Azaad-India**

$$\frac{1+a+a^2}{1+a^2} - \frac{3}{2} = \frac{-(a-1)^2}{2(1+a^2)} \leq 0 \Rightarrow \frac{1+a+a^2}{1+a^2} \leq \frac{3}{2} \quad (i)$$

$$\text{Again, } \frac{1+b+b^2+b^3}{1+b^3} - 2 = \frac{1+b+b^2+b^3-2-2b^3}{1+b^3} = \frac{-(b^3+1)+b(b+1)}{1+b^3} = \frac{-(b+1)(b-1)^2}{1+b^3} \leq 0$$

$$\Rightarrow \frac{1+b+b^2+b^3}{1+b^3} \leq 2 \quad (ii)$$

$$\text{Again, } \frac{1+c+c^2+c^3+c^4}{1+c^4} - \frac{5}{2} = \frac{-3(c^4+1)+2c(c^2+1)+2c^2}{2(1+c^4)} = -\frac{(c-1)^2(3c^2+4c+3)}{2(1+c^4)} \leq 0$$

$$\Rightarrow \frac{1+c+c^2+c^3+c^4}{1+c^4} \leq \frac{5}{2} \quad (iii)$$

on multiplying (i), (ii) and (iii)

$$\frac{(1+a+a^2)(1+b+b^2+b^3)(1+c+c^2+c^3+c^4)}{(1+a^2)(1+b^3)(1+c^4)} \leq \frac{3}{2} \cdot 2 \cdot \frac{5}{2} = \frac{15}{2} \quad (\text{proved})$$

**Solution 3 by Soumava Chakraborty-Kolkata-India**

$$\frac{1+c+c^2+c^3+c^4}{1+c^4} = 1 + \frac{c+c^2+c^3}{1+c^4} \leq 1 + \frac{2c(1+c^2)+2c^2}{(1+c^2)^2}$$

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$$\begin{aligned} & \left( \because 1 + c^4 \stackrel{\text{Chebyshev}}{\geq} \frac{1}{2}(1 + c^2)^2 \right) \\ & = 1 + \frac{2c}{1 + c^2} + \frac{2c^2}{(1 + c^2)^2} \stackrel{(1)}{\leq} 1 + \frac{2c}{2c} + \frac{2c^2}{4c^2} \left( \because 1 + c^2 \stackrel{A-G}{\geq} 2c \right) \\ & = 1 + 1 + \frac{1}{2} = \frac{5}{2} \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned} & \text{Again, } \frac{1+b+b^2+b^3}{1+b^3} = \frac{(1+b)(1+b^2)}{(b+1)(b^2-b+1)} \\ & = \frac{(b^2 + 1 - b) + b}{(b^2 + 1 - b)} = 1 + \frac{b}{b^2 + 1 - b} \stackrel{(2)}{\leq} 1 + \frac{b}{b} = 2 \\ & \left( \because b^2 + 1 - b \stackrel{A-G}{\geq} b \right) \end{aligned}$$

$$\text{Lastly, } \frac{1+a+a^2}{1+a^2} = 1 + \frac{a}{1+a^2} \stackrel{(3)}{\leq} 1 + \frac{a}{2a} = \frac{3}{2} \left( \because 1 + a^2 \stackrel{A-G}{\geq} 2a \right)$$

$$(1) \times (2) \times (3) \Rightarrow LHS \leq \frac{5}{2} \cdot 2 \cdot \frac{3}{2} = \frac{15}{2}$$

(proved)

**Solution 4 by Soumitra Mandal-Chandar Nagore-India**

$$\begin{aligned} & \frac{(1 + a + a^2)(1 + b + b^2 + b^3)(1 + c + c^2 + c^3 + c^4)}{(1 + a^2)(1 + b^3)(1 + c^4)} = \\ & = \left( 1 + \frac{a}{1 + a^2} \right) \left( 1 + \frac{b(1 + b)}{1 + b^3} \right) \left( 1 + \frac{c(1 + c + c^2)}{1 + c^4} \right) \\ & \stackrel{AM \geq GM}{\leq} \left( 1 + \frac{1}{2} \right) \left( 1 + \frac{b}{1 - b + b^2} \right) \left( 1 + \frac{3}{2} \cdot \frac{c(1 + c^2)}{1 + c^4} \right) \left[ \because \frac{3(1 + x^2)}{2} \geq x^2 + x + 1 \right] \\ & \stackrel{AM \geq GM}{\leq} \frac{3}{2} \cdot 2 \cdot \left( 1 + \frac{3}{2} \cdot \frac{2c}{1 + c^2} \right) \left[ \because 2(1 + x^4) \geq (1 + x^2)^2 \right] \\ & \stackrel{AM \geq GM}{\leq} \frac{3}{2} \cdot 2 \cdot \frac{5}{2} = \frac{15}{2} \end{aligned}$$

(proved)