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1) In $\triangle ABC$

$$\sum \frac{h_a}{h_b h_c} \leq \frac{R}{2r^2}$$

Proposed by Bogdan Fustei - Romania

Proof.

We prove the following lemma:

Lemma.

2) In $\triangle ABC$

$$\sum \frac{h_a}{h_b h_c} = \frac{s^4 + s^2(2r^2 - 8Rr) + r^2(4R + r)^2}{8s^2 r^2 R}$$

Proof.

Using $h_a = \frac{2S}{a}$, we obtain:

$$\sum \frac{h_a}{h_b h_c} = \sum \frac{\frac{2S}{a}}{\frac{2S}{b} \cdot \frac{2S}{c}} = \frac{1}{2S} \sum \frac{bc}{a} = \frac{s^4 + s^2(2r^2 - 8Rr) + r^2(4R + r)^2}{8s^2 r^2 R},$$

which follows from:

$$\sum \frac{bc}{a} = \frac{s^4 + s^2(2r^2 - 8Rr) + r^2(4R + r)^2}{4srR}$$

□

Back to the main problem:

*Using the **Lemma** the inequality can be written:*

$$\frac{s^4 + s^2(2r^2 - 8Rr) + r^2(4R + r)^2}{8s^2 r^2 R} \leq \frac{R}{2r^2} \Leftrightarrow s^2(4R^2 + 8Rr - 2r^2 - s^2) \geq r^2(4R + r)^2$$

which follows from Gerretsen's inequality $16Rr - 5r^2 \leq s^2 \leq 4R^2 + 4Rr + 3r^2$.

It remains to prove that:

$$(16Rr - 5r^2)(4R^2 + 8Rr - 2r^2 - 4R^2 - 4Rr - 3r^2) \geq r^2(4R + r)^2 \Leftrightarrow$$

$$\Leftrightarrow 4R^2 - 9Rr + 2r^2 \geq 0 \Leftrightarrow (R - 2r)(R - r) \geq 0$$

obviously from Euler's inequality $R \geq 2r$.

Equality holds if and only if the triangle is equilateral.

□

Remark.

Let's emphasise an inequality having an opposite sense.

3) In ΔABC :

$$\sum \frac{h_a}{h_b h_c} \geq \frac{1}{r}$$

Proposed by Marin Chirciu - Romania

Proof.

*Using the **Lemma** we can write:*

$$\frac{s^4 + s^2(2r^2 - 8Rr) + r^2(4Rr + r)^2}{8s^2 r^2 R} \geq \frac{1}{r} \Leftrightarrow s^2(s^2 + 2r^2 - 16Rr) + r^2(4R + r)^2 \geq 0$$

We distinguish the following cases:

Case 1). If $(s^2 + 2r^2 - 16Rr) \geq 0$, the inequality is obvious.

Case 2). If $(s^2 + 2r^2 - 16Rr) < 0$, the inequality can be rewritten:

$r^2(4R + r)^2 \geq s^2(16Rr - 2r^2 - s^2)$, which follows from Blundon-Gerretsen's

$$\text{inequality: } 16Rr - 5r^2 \leq s^2 \leq \frac{R(4R + r)^2}{2(2R - r)}$$

It remains to prove that:

$$r^2(4R + r)^2 \geq \frac{R(4R + r)^2}{2(2R - r)}(16Rr - 2r^2 - 16Rr + 5r^2) \Leftrightarrow R \geq 2r \text{ (Euler's inequality).}$$

Equality holds if and only if the triangle is equilateral.

□

Remark.

The double inequality can be written:

4) In ΔABC :

$$\frac{1}{r} \leq \sum \frac{h_a}{h_b h_c} \leq \frac{R}{2r^2}$$

Proof.

See inequalities 1) and 3).

Equality holds if and only if the triangle is equilateral.

□

Remark.

If we replace $\frac{h_a}{h_b h_c}$ with $\frac{r_a}{r_b r_c}$ we propose:

5) In ΔABC :

$$\frac{2}{r} \left(1 - \frac{r}{R}\right) \leq \sum \frac{r_a}{r_b r_c} \leq \frac{1}{r} \left(\frac{R}{r} - 1\right)$$

Proposed by Marin Chirciu - Romania

Proof.

We prove the following lemma:

Lemma.

6) In $\triangle ABC$:

$$\sum \frac{r_a}{r_b r_c} = \frac{1}{r} \left[\left(\frac{4R+r}{s} \right)^2 - 2 \right]$$

Proof.

Using $r_a = \frac{S}{s-a}$, using:

$$\sum \frac{r_a}{r_b r_c} = \sum \frac{\frac{S}{s-a}}{\frac{S}{s-b} \cdot \frac{S}{s-c}} = \frac{1}{S} \sum \frac{(s-b)(s-c)}{s-a} = \frac{1}{rs} \cdot \frac{(4R+r)^2 - 2s^2}{s} = \frac{1}{r} \left[\left(\frac{4R+r}{s} \right)^2 - 2 \right]$$

which follows from:

$$\sum \frac{(s-b)(s-c)}{s-a} = \frac{(4R+r)^2 - 2s^2}{s}$$

Back to the main problem.

□

*Using the **Lemma** the inequality can be written:*

$$\frac{2}{r} \left(1 - \frac{r}{R} \right) \leq \frac{1}{r} \left[\left(\frac{4R+r}{s} \right)^2 - 2 \right] \leq \frac{1}{r} \left(\frac{R}{r} - 1 \right), \text{ which follows from}$$

$$\text{Blundon-Gerretsen's inequality: } \frac{r(4R+r)^2}{R+r} \leq s^2 \leq \frac{R(4R+r)^2}{2(2R-r)}$$

Equality holds if and only if the triangle is equilateral.

□

Remark.

Between the sums $\sum \frac{h_a}{h_b h_c}$ and $\sum \frac{r_a}{r_b r_c}$ the following relationship holds:

7) In $\triangle ABC$:

$$\sum \frac{h_a}{h_b h_c} \geq \left(\frac{2r}{R} \right)^2 \sum \frac{r_a}{r_b r_c}$$

Proposed by Marin Chirciu - Romania

Proof.

*Using the identities **2)** and **6)** the inequality can be written:*

$$\frac{s^4 + s^2(2r^2 - 8Rr) + r^2(4R+r)^2}{8s^2r^2R} \geq \left(\frac{2r}{R} \right)^2 \cdot \frac{(4R+r)^2 - 2s^2}{rs^2} \Leftrightarrow$$

$$\Leftrightarrow s^2[Rs^2 + 2r(32r^2 + Rr - 4R^2)] \geq r^2(4R+r)^2(32r - R),$$

which follows from Gerretsen's inequality $s^2 \geq 16Rr - 5r^2$.

It remains to prove that:

$$(16Rr - 5r^2)[R(16Rr - 5r^2) + 2r(32r^2 + Rr - 4R^2)] \geq r^2(4R+r)^2(32r - R) \Leftrightarrow$$

$$\Leftrightarrow 9R^3 - 37R^2r + 49Rr^2 - 22r^3 \geq 0 \Leftrightarrow (R - 2r)(9R^2 - 19Rr + 11r^2) \geq 0$$

obviously from Euler's inequality $R \geq 2r$.

Equality holds if and only if the triangle is equilateral.



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