

1) Let $a, b, c > 0$. Prove that:

$$\sqrt[2019]{\frac{a^3}{a^3 - ab^2 + b^3}} + \sqrt[2019]{\frac{b^3}{b^3 - bc^2 + c^3}} + \sqrt[2019]{\frac{c^3}{c^3 - ca^2 + a^3}} \leq 3$$

Proposed by Rahim Shahbazov-Azerbaijan

Solution.

Denote $\frac{a^3}{a^3 - ab^2 + b^3} = m$, $\frac{b^3}{b^3 - bc^2 + c^3} = n$ and $\frac{c^3}{c^3 - ca^2 + a^3} = s$,

we prove that $m + n + p \leq 3$, where from means inequality it follows

$$\sqrt[2019]{m} + \sqrt[2019]{n} + \sqrt[2019]{p} \leq 3.$$

2) Let $a, b, c > 0$. Prove that:

$$\frac{a^3}{a^3 - ab^2 + b^3} + \frac{b^3}{b^3 - bc^2 + c^3} + \frac{c^3}{c^3 - ca^2 + a^3} \leq 3$$

Solution

Denoting $\frac{b}{a} = x, \frac{c}{b} = y, \frac{a}{c} = z$, we have $x, y, z > 0, xyz = 1$ and the above inequality can be written:

$$\frac{1}{x^3 - x^2 + 1} + \frac{1}{y^3 - y^2 + 1} + \frac{1}{z^3 - z^2 + 1} \leq 3$$

As $x^3 - x^2 + 1 \geq x^2 - x + 1 \Leftrightarrow x(x - 1)^2 \geq 0$, obviously with equality for $x = 1$, it

suffices to prove that: $\frac{1}{x^2 - x + 1} + \frac{1}{y^2 - y + 1} + \frac{1}{z^2 - z + 1} \leq 3$

“Flipping” the last inequality, we obtain: $\frac{(2x-1)^2}{x^2-x+1} + \frac{(2y-1)^2}{y^2-y+1} + \frac{(2z-1)^2}{z^2-z+1} \geq 3$, which follows from

Bergström’s inequality. We obtain $\frac{(2x-1)^2}{x^2-x+1} + \frac{(2y-1)^2}{y^2-y+1} + \frac{(2z-1)^2}{z^2-z+1} \geq \frac{(2x+2y+2z-3)^2}{x^2+y^2+z^2-x-y-x+3} \stackrel{(1)}{\geq} 3$,

where (1) $\Leftrightarrow (x + y + z)^2 + 6(xy + yz + zx) \geq 9(x + y + z)$ (2), true from:

$$(xy + yz + zx)^2 \geq 3xyz(x + y + z) = 3(x + y + z) = 3t = u^2$$

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We have $xy + yz + zx \geq u$ and $x + y + z = \frac{u^2}{3}$. It suffices to prove equality (2) and to prove that:

$$\left(\frac{u^2}{3}\right)^2 + 6u \geq 9 \cdot \frac{u^2}{3} \Leftrightarrow u^4 - 27u^2 + 54u \geq 0 \Leftrightarrow u(u-3)^2(u+6) \geq 0$$

Equality holds if and only if $a = b = c$.

3) Let $a, b, c > 0$, real numbers and $n \geq 1, k \geq 2$, natural numbers.

Prove that:

$$\sqrt[k]{\frac{a^{n+1}}{a^{n+1} - ab^n + b^{n+1}}} + \sqrt[k]{\frac{b^{n+1}}{b^{n+1} - bc^n + c^{n+1}}} + \sqrt[k]{\frac{c^{n+1}}{c^{n+1} - ca^n + a^{n+1}}} \leq 3$$

Proposed by Marin Chirciu - Romania

Solution

Denoting $\frac{a^{n+1}}{a^{n+1} - ab^n + b^{n+1}} = m$, $\frac{b^{n+1}}{b^{n+1} - bc^n + c^{n+1}} = n$ and $\frac{c^{n+1}}{c^{n+1} - ca^n + a^{n+1}} = p$, we prove that $m + n + p \leq 3$, wherefrom means inequality it follows that $\sqrt[k]{m} + \sqrt[k]{n} + \sqrt[k]{p} \leq 3$.

4) Let $a, b, c > 0$ and $n \geq 1$, natural number. Prove that:

$$\frac{a^{n+1}}{a^{n+1} - ab^n + b^{n+1}} + \frac{b^{n+1}}{b^{n+1} - bc^n + c^{n+1}} + \frac{c^{n+1}}{c^{n+1} - ca^n + a^{n+1}} \leq 3$$

Proposed by Marin Chirciu - Romania

Solution

Denoting $\frac{b}{a} = x, \frac{c}{b} = y, \frac{a}{c} = z$, we have $x, y, z > 0, xyz = 1$ and we write the inequality that

$$\text{we have to prove: } \frac{1}{x^{n+1} - x^{n+1} + 1} + \frac{1}{y^{n+1} - y^{n+1} + 1} + \frac{1}{z^{n+1} - z^{n+1} + 1} \leq 3.$$

As $x^{n+1} - x^n + 1 \geq x^2 - x + 1 \Leftrightarrow x(x-1)^2(x^{n-2} + x^{n-3} + \dots + x + 1) \geq 0$, obviously with equality for $x = 1$, it suffices to prove that:

$$\frac{1}{x^2 - x + 1} + \frac{1}{y^2 - y + 1} + \frac{1}{z^2 - z + 1} \leq 3. \text{ "Flipping" the last inequality, we obtain}$$

$$\frac{(2x-1)^2}{x^2 - x + 1} + \frac{(2y-1)^2}{y^2 - y + 1} + \frac{(2z-1)^2}{z^2 - z + 1} \geq 3, \text{ which follows from Bergström's inequality.}$$

$$\text{We obtain } \frac{(2x-1)^2}{x^2 - x + 1} + \frac{(2y-1)^2}{y^2 - y + 1} + \frac{(2z-1)^2}{z^2 - z + 1} \geq \frac{(2x+2y+2z-3)^2}{x^2+y^2+z^2-x-y-x+3} \stackrel{(1)}{\geq} 3, \text{ where (1)}$$

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$\Leftrightarrow (x + y + z)^2 + 6(xy + yz + zx) \geq 9(x + y + z)$ (2), true from:

$$(xy + yz + zx)^2 \geq 3xyz(x + y + z) = 3(x + y + z) = 3t = u^2$$

$$\text{We have } xy + yz + zx \geq u \text{ and } x + y + z = \frac{u^2}{3}$$

It suffices for proving inequality (2) and to prove that;

$$\left(\frac{u^2}{3}\right)^2 + 6u \geq 9 \cdot \frac{u^2}{3} \Leftrightarrow u^4 - 27u^2 + 54u \geq 0 \Leftrightarrow u(u - 3)^2(u + 6) \geq 0$$

Equality holds if and only if $a = b = c$.

Note.

For $n = 2$ and $k = 2019$ we obtain the problem from RMM 2019, proposed by Rahim

Shahbazov.

Reference:

Romanian Mathematical Magazine-www.ssmrmh.ro