

If  $a, b, c, d \in [0, 1)$  then:

$$\frac{1}{a^6 - 1} + \frac{1}{b^6 - 1} + \frac{1}{c^6 - 1} + \frac{1}{d^2 - 1} \leq \frac{2}{(abc)^2 - 1} + \frac{2}{abcd - 1}$$

*Solution 1 by proposer.*

If  $x, y, z, t \geq 0$  then:

$$\begin{aligned} x^6 + y^6 + z^6 + t^2 &\stackrel{\text{AM-GM}}{\geq} 3\sqrt[3]{x^6 y^6 z^6} + t^2 = \\ &= 3x^2 y^2 z^2 + t^2 = 2x^2 y^2 z^2 + x^2 y^2 z^2 + t^2 \geq \\ &\stackrel{\text{AM-GM}}{\geq} 2x^2 y^2 z^2 + 2\sqrt{(x^2 y^2 z^2) \cdot t^2} = \\ &= 2x^2 y^2 z^2 + 2xyzt \end{aligned}$$

$$(1) \quad x^6 + y^6 + z^6 + t^2 \geq 2x^2 y^2 z^2 + 2xyzt$$

In (1) we take  $x = a^n; y = b^n; z = c^n; t = d^n$

$$a^{6n} + b^{6n} + c^{6n} + d^{2n} \geq 2(abc)^{2n} + 2(abcd)^n$$

$$\begin{aligned} \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} a^{6n} + \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} b^{6n} + \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} c^{6n} + \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} d^{2n} &\geq \\ &\geq 2 \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} (abc)^{2n} + 2 \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} (abcd)^n \end{aligned}$$

$$(2) \quad \frac{1}{1 - a^6} + \frac{1}{1 - b^6} + \frac{1}{1 - c^6} + \frac{1}{1 - d^2} \geq \frac{2}{1 - (abc)^2} + \frac{2}{1 - abcd}$$

We use the fact:  $a, b, c, d \in [0, 1) \Rightarrow a^\infty = b^\infty = c^\infty = d^\infty = 0$ .

By multiplying (2) with " $-1^n$ ":

$$\frac{1}{a^6 - 1} + \frac{1}{b^6 - 1} + \frac{1}{c^6 - 1} + \frac{1}{d^2 - 1} \leq \frac{2}{(abc)^2 - 1} + \frac{2}{abcd - 1}$$

Equality holds for:

$$b = a; c = a; d = a^3$$

□

*Solution 2 by Mohamed Amine Ben Ajiba - Tanger - Morocco.*

By the AM-GM inequality, we have for all  $x, y \in [0, 1)$  that

$$\frac{1}{1 - x^2} + \frac{1}{1 - y^2} \geq \frac{2}{\sqrt{(1 - x^2)(1 + y^2)}} = \frac{2}{\sqrt{(1 - xy)^2 - (x - y)^2}} \geq \frac{2}{1 - xy}$$

with equality when  $x = y$ . Using this inequality, we have

$$(1) \quad \frac{1}{1 - a^6} + \frac{1}{1 - b^6} \geq \frac{2}{1 - (ab)^3}$$

$$(2) \quad \frac{1}{1-c^6} + \frac{1}{1-(abc)^2} \geq \frac{2}{1-abc^4}$$

$$(3) \quad \frac{1}{1-d^2} + \frac{1}{1-(abc)^2} \geq \frac{2}{1-abcd}$$

$$(4) \quad 2\left(\frac{1}{1-(ab)^3} + \frac{1}{1-abc^4}\right) \geq \frac{4}{1-(abc)^2}$$

Adding (1) – (4), we get:

$$\begin{aligned} & \frac{1}{1-a^6} + \frac{1}{1-b^6} + \frac{1}{1-c^6} + \frac{1}{1-d^6} + \frac{2}{1-(abc)^2} + \frac{2}{1-(ab)^3} + \frac{2}{1-abc^4} \\ & \geq \frac{2}{1-(ab)^3} + \frac{2}{1-abc^4} + \frac{2}{1-abcd} + \frac{4}{1-(abc)^2}, \end{aligned}$$

which simplifies to

$$\frac{1}{1-a^6} + \frac{1}{1-b^6} + \frac{1}{1-c^6} + \frac{1}{1-d^6} \geq \frac{2}{1-(abc)^2} + \frac{2}{1-abcd},$$

completing the proof. Equality holds if and only if  $a = b = c = \lambda, d = \lambda^3$  for some  $\lambda \in [0, 1)$   $\square$

*Solution 3 by Marian Dincă.*

Using the AM-GM inequality repeatedly, we obtain

$$(5) \quad \frac{1}{1-a^6} + \frac{1}{1-b^6} + \frac{1}{1-c^6} \geq \sqrt[3]{\frac{1}{1-a^6} \cdot \frac{1}{1-b^6} \cdot \frac{1}{1-c^6}} = \frac{3}{\sqrt[3]{(1-a^6)(1-b^6)(1-c^6)}}$$

and

$$\begin{aligned} \sqrt[3]{(1-a^6)(1-b^6)(1-c^6)} & \leq \frac{(1-a^6) + (1-b^6) + (1-c^6)}{3} = 1 - \frac{a^6 + b^6 + c^6}{3} \\ (6) \quad & \leq 1 - \sqrt[3]{a^6 b^6 c^6} = 1 - (abc)^2 \end{aligned}$$

From (5) and (6), we have

$$(7) \quad \frac{1}{1-a^6} + \frac{1}{1-b^6} + \frac{1}{1-c^6} \geq \frac{3}{1-(abc)^2} = \frac{2}{1-(abc)^2} + \frac{1}{1-(abc)^2}$$

Next,

$$\begin{aligned} & \frac{1}{1-(abc)^2} + \frac{1}{1-d^2} \geq 2\sqrt{\frac{1}{1-(abc)^2} \cdot \frac{1}{1-d^2}} \\ & = \frac{2}{\sqrt{1-(abc)^2(1-d^2)}} \geq \frac{2}{\frac{1-(abc)^2+1-d^2}{2}} \\ (8) \quad & = \frac{2}{1-\frac{(abc)^2+d^2}{2}} \geq \frac{2}{1-\sqrt{(abc)^2 d^2}} = \frac{2}{1-abcd} \end{aligned}$$

Finally, from (7) and (8), the conclusion follows.  $\square$