

ROMANIAN MATHEMATICAL MAGAZINE

If $a, b, c > 0$, then prove that :

$$(a^2 + 2)(b^2 + 2)(c^2 + 2) \geq 3(a + b + c)^2 + (abc - 1)^2$$

Proposed by Nguyen Hung Cuong-Vietnam

Solution by Soumava Chakraborty-Kolkata-India

$$\begin{aligned} & (a^2 + 2)(b^2 + 2)(c^2 + 2) - 3(a + b + c)^2 - (abc - 1)^2 \\ &= a^2b^2c^2 + 8 + 4 \sum_{\text{cyc}} a^2 + 2 \sum_{\text{cyc}} a^2b^2 - 3 \sum_{\text{cyc}} a^2 - 6 \sum_{\text{cyc}} ab - a^2b^2c^2 - 1 + 2abc \\ &= (abc + abc + 1) + 2 \left((a^2b^2 + 1) + (b^2c^2 + 1) + (c^2a^2 + 1) \right) + \sum_{\text{cyc}} a^2 - 6 \sum_{\text{cyc}} ab \\ &\stackrel{A-G}{\geq} 3\sqrt[3]{a^2b^2c^2} + 2(2ab + 2bc + 2ca) + \sum_{\text{cyc}} a^2 - 6 \sum_{\text{cyc}} ab \stackrel{?}{\geq} 0 \\ &\Leftrightarrow \sum_{\text{cyc}} a^2 + 3\sqrt[3]{a^2b^2c^2} \stackrel{?}{\geq} 2 \sum_{\text{cyc}} ab \\ &\Leftrightarrow \left(\sum_{\text{cyc}} a^2 \right)^3 + 27a^2b^2c^2 + 9 \left(\sum_{\text{cyc}} a^2 \right)^2 \cdot \sqrt[3]{a^2b^2c^2} + 27 \left(\sum_{\text{cyc}} a^2 \right) \cdot \sqrt[3]{a^4b^4c^4} \\ &\quad \stackrel{?}{\geq} 8 \left(\sum_{\text{cyc}} ab \right)^3 \end{aligned}$$

Assigning $b + c = x, c + a = y, a + b = z \Rightarrow x + y - z = 2c > 0, y + z - x = 2a > 0$ and $z + x - y = 2b > 0 \Rightarrow x + y > z, y + z > x, z + x > y \Rightarrow x, y, z$ form sides of a triangle with semiperimeter, circumradius and inradius = s, R, r (say);

$$\text{so } 2 \sum_{\text{cyc}} a = \sum_{\text{cyc}} x = 2s \Rightarrow \sum_{\text{cyc}} a = s \rightarrow (1) \Rightarrow a = s - x, b = s - y, c = s - z$$

$$\therefore abc = r^2s \rightarrow (2) \text{ and such substitutions } \Rightarrow \sum_{\text{cyc}} ab = \sum_{\text{cyc}} (s - x)(s - y) \Rightarrow$$

$$\sum_{\text{cyc}} ab = 4Rr + r^2 \rightarrow (3), \sum_{\text{cyc}} a^2 = \left(\sum_{\text{cyc}} a \right)^2 - 2 \sum_{\text{cyc}} ab \stackrel{\text{via (1),(3)}}{=} s^2 - 2(4Rr + r^2)$$

$$\Rightarrow \sum_{\text{cyc}} a^2 = s^2 - 8Rr - 2r^2 \rightarrow (4)$$

Via (1), (2) and (4), LHS of (*) \geq

$$\begin{aligned} & (s^2 - 8Rr - 2r^2)^3 + 27r^4s^2 + 9(s^2 - 8Rr - 2r^2)^2 \cdot \sqrt[3]{r^4s^2} \\ & + 27(s^2 - 8Rr - 2r^2) \cdot \sqrt[3]{r^8s^4} \stackrel{\text{Mitrinovic}}{\geq} \\ & (s^2 - 8Rr - 2r^2)^3 + 27r^4s^2 + 9(s^2 - 8Rr - 2r^2)^2 \cdot \sqrt[3]{r^4 \cdot 27r^2} \\ & + 27(s^2 - 8Rr - 2r^2) \cdot \sqrt[3]{r^8 \cdot 729r^4} \end{aligned}$$

ROMANIAN MATHEMATICAL MAGAZINE

$$\begin{aligned}
 &= (s^2 - 8Rr - 2r^2)^3 + 27r^4s^2 + 27r^2(s^2 - 8Rr - 2r^2)^2 + 243r^4(s^2 - 8Rr - 2r^2) \\
 &\quad \stackrel{?}{\geq} 8 \left(\sum_{\text{cyc}} ab \right)^3 \stackrel{\text{via (3)}}{=} 8(4Rr + r^2)^3 \\
 &\Leftrightarrow s^6 - (24Rr - 21r^2)s^4 + r^2(192R^2 - 336Rr + 174r^2)s^2 \\
 &\quad - r^3(1024R^3 - 960R^2r + 1272Rr^2 + 394r^3) \stackrel{?}{\stackrel{(**)}}{\geq} 0 \text{ and} \\
 &\because (s^2 - 16Rr + 5r^2)^3 \stackrel{\text{Gerretsen}}{\geq} 0 \therefore \text{in order to prove (**),} \\
 &\text{it suffices to prove : LHS of (**)} \geq (s^2 - 16Rr + 5r^2)^3 \\
 &\quad \Leftrightarrow (8R + 2r)s^4 - r(192R^2 - 48Rr - 33r^2)s^2 \\
 &\quad + r^2(1024R^3 - 960R^2r - 24Rr^2 - 173r^3) \stackrel{(***)}{\geq} 0 \text{ and } \therefore \\
 &(8R + 2r)(s^2 - 16Rr + 5r^2)^2 \stackrel{\text{Gerretsen}}{\geq} 0 \therefore \text{in order to prove (***)} \\
 &\text{it suffices to prove : LHS of (***)} \geq (8R + 2r)(s^2 - 16Rr + 5r^2)^2 \\
 &\Leftrightarrow (64R^2 + 32Rr + 13r^2)s^2 \stackrel{(***)}{\geq} r(1024R^3 + 192R^2r - 96Rr^2 + 223r^3) \\
 &\text{Finally, } (64R^2 + 32Rr + 13r^2)s^2 \stackrel{\text{Gerretsen}}{\geq} (64R^2 + 32Rr + 13r^2)(16Rr - 5r^2) \\
 &\stackrel{?}{\geq} r(1024R^3 + 192R^2r - 96Rr^2 + 223r^3) \Leftrightarrow 144r^3(R - 2r) \stackrel{?}{\geq} 0 \rightarrow \text{true via Euler} \\
 &\quad \Rightarrow (***) \Rightarrow (***) \Rightarrow (***) \Rightarrow (*) \text{ is true } \therefore (a^2 + 2)(b^2 + 2)(c^2 + 2) \\
 &\quad \geq 3(a + b + c)^2 + (abc - 1)^2 \forall a, b, c > 0, \text{'' ='' iff } a = b = c = 1 \text{ (QED)}
 \end{aligned}$$