

ROMANIAN MATHEMATICAL MAGAZINE

If $a, b, c \in \mathbb{R}$ and $a^2 + b^2 + c^2 \leq 2$, then prove that :

$$2024ca - ab - bc \geq -2024$$

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$$2024ca + 2024 - ab - bc \stackrel{2 \geq a^2+b^2+c^2}{\geq}$$

$$2024ca + 1012(a^2 + b^2 + c^2) - b(c + a) =$$

$$1012(c^2 + a^2 + 2ca) - b(c + a) + 1012b^2 = 1012(c + a)^2 - b(c + a) + 1012b^2$$

$$\geq 0 \left(\begin{array}{l} \because 1012(c + a)^2 - b(c + a) + 1012b^2 \text{ is a quadratic polynomial in "b" or "c + a"} \\ \text{with discriminant} = (1 - 4 \cdot 1012^2)(c + a)^2 \text{ or } (1 - 4 \cdot 1012^2)b^2 \leq 0 \end{array} \right)$$

with equality for $b = c + a = 0 \therefore 2024ca - ab - bc \geq -2024 \forall a, b, c \in \mathbb{R}$

$|a^2 + b^2 + c^2 \leq 2, " = " \text{ iff } (a = 1, b = 0, c = -1) \text{ or } (a = -1, b = 0, c = 1) \text{ (QED)}$