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If $a, b, c \geq 0$ and $a + b + c = 1$, then prove that :

$$ab + bc + ca - 3abc \leq \frac{1}{4}$$

Proposed by Nguyen Hung Cuong-Vietnam

Solution by Soumava Chakraborty-Kolkata-India

Case 1 Exactly 2 among a, b, c equal zero and WLOG we may assume

$$b = c = 0 \ (a = 1) \text{ and then : LHS} = 0 < \frac{1}{4}$$

Case 2 Exactly 1 among a, b, c equals zero and WLOG we may

$$\text{assume } a = 0 \ (b + c = 1) \text{ and then : LHS} = bc \stackrel{\text{A-G}}{\leq} \frac{(b+c)^2}{4} = \frac{1}{4}$$

Case 3 $a, b, c > 0$ and then : LHS $\stackrel{a+b+c=1}{=} \left(\sum_{\text{cyc}} ab \right) \left(\sum_{\text{cyc}} a \right) - 3abc$

$$\stackrel{?}{\leq} \frac{1}{4} \stackrel{a+b+c=1}{=} \frac{1}{4} \left(\sum_{\text{cyc}} a \right)^3$$

$$\Leftrightarrow \sum_{\text{cyc}} a^2b + \sum_{\text{cyc}} ab^2 \stackrel{?}{\leq} \frac{1}{4} \left(\sum_{\text{cyc}} a^3 + 3 \left(2abc + \sum_{\text{cyc}} a^2b + \sum_{\text{cyc}} ab^2 \right) \right)$$

$$\Leftrightarrow \sum_{\text{cyc}} a^3 + 6abc + 3 \left(\sum_{\text{cyc}} a^2b + \sum_{\text{cyc}} ab^2 \right) \stackrel{?}{\geq} 4 \left(\sum_{\text{cyc}} a^2b + \sum_{\text{cyc}} ab^2 \right)$$

$$\Leftrightarrow \sum_{\text{cyc}} a^3 + 6abc \stackrel{?}{\geq} \sum_{\text{cyc}} a^2b + \sum_{\text{cyc}} ab^2 \rightarrow \text{true}$$

$$\therefore \sum_{\text{cyc}} a^3 + 6abc \stackrel{\text{Schur}}{\geq} \sum_{\text{cyc}} a^2b + \sum_{\text{cyc}} ab^2 + 3abc > \sum_{\text{cyc}} a^2b + \sum_{\text{cyc}} ab^2$$

$$\Rightarrow ab + bc + ca - 3abc < \frac{1}{4} \text{ and combining all cases, } ab + bc + ca - 3abc \leq \frac{1}{4}$$

$$\forall a, b, c \geq 0 \mid a + b + c = 1, " = " \text{ iff } \left(a = 0, b = c = \frac{1}{2} \right)$$

$$\text{or } \left(b = 0, c = a = \frac{1}{2} \right) \text{ or } \left(c = 0, a = b = \frac{1}{2} \right) \text{ (QED)}$$