

ROMANIAN MATHEMATICAL MAGAZINE

If $a + b + c = a^3 + b^3 + c^3 - 3abc = 2$, then prove that:

$$\max\{a, b, c\} - \min\{a, b, c\} \leq \frac{2\sqrt{3}}{3}$$

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We have: $2 = a^3 + b^3 + c^3 - 3abc = (a + b + c)(a^2 + b^2 + c^2 - ab - bc - ca)$, then

$$a^2 + b^2 + c^2 - ab - bc - ca = 1,$$

WLOG, we assume that $a \geq b \geq c$. We will prove that

$$a - c \leq 2 \sqrt{\frac{a^2 + b^2 + c^2 - ab - bc - ca}{3}}. \quad (1)$$

$$RHS_{(1)} = \sqrt{\frac{2}{3} [(a-b)^2 + (b-c)^2 + (c-a)^2]} \geq \sqrt{\frac{2}{3} \left[\frac{[(a-b) + (b-c)]^2}{2} + (c-a)^2 \right]} = a - c,$$

Equality holds iff $a = \frac{2 + \sqrt{3}}{3}$, $b = \frac{2}{3}$, $c = \frac{2 - \sqrt{3}}{3}$ and permutation.