

ROMANIAN MATHEMATICAL MAGAZINE

If $a, b, c > 0$, $\sqrt{a+1} + \sqrt{b+1} + \sqrt{c+1} = 6$ then:

$$\sqrt{a^2 + ab + b^2} + \sqrt{b^2 + bc + c^2} + \sqrt{c^2 + ca + a^2} \geq 9\sqrt{3}$$

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$$\begin{aligned} \sqrt{a+1} + \sqrt{b+1} + \sqrt{c+1} &= 6 \text{ or} \\ \sqrt{3(a+1+b+1+c+1)} &\stackrel{CBS}{\geq} 6 \text{ or } 3(a+b+c+3) \stackrel{\text{squaring}}{\geq} 36 \\ \text{or } a+b+c &\geq 9 \quad (1) \end{aligned}$$

Lemma:

$$\forall x, y > 0, \sqrt{x^2 + xy + y^2} \geq \frac{\sqrt{3}}{2}(x+y)$$

Proof:

We need to show:

$$\begin{aligned} \sqrt{x^2 + xy + y^2} &\geq \frac{\sqrt{3}}{2}(x+y) \text{ or } x^2 + xy + y^2 \stackrel{\text{squaring}}{\geq} \frac{3}{4}(x+y)^2 \\ 4(x^2 + y^2 + xy) &\geq 3(x^2 + y^2 + 2xy) \text{ or} \\ x^2 - 2xy + y^2 &\geq 0 \text{ or } (x-y)^2 \geq 0 \text{ true} \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned} &\sqrt{a^2 + ab + b^2} + \sqrt{b^2 + bc + c^2} + \sqrt{c^2 + ca + a^2} = \\ &= \sum \sqrt{a^2 + ab + b^2} \stackrel{\text{lemma}}{\geq} \sum \frac{\sqrt{3}}{2}(a+b) = \sqrt{3}(a+b+c) \stackrel{(1)}{\geq} 9\sqrt{3}. \end{aligned}$$

Equality holds for $a = b = c = 3$