

ROMANIAN MATHEMATICAL MAGAZINE

If $a, b, c > 0, \frac{1}{a} + \frac{1}{b} + \frac{1}{c} = 3$ then:

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

Proposed by Nguyen Hung Cuong-Vietnam

Solution by Tapas Das-India

$$\begin{aligned} a^2 - ab + 3b^2 + 1 &= (a^2 + b^2) + (b^2 + 1) + b^2 - ab \stackrel{AM-GM}{\geq} \\ &\geq 2ab + 2b + b^2 - ab = b(a + b + 2) \quad (1) \\ \frac{1}{\sqrt{a^2 - ab + 3b^2 + 1}} + \frac{1}{\sqrt{b^2 - bc + 3c^2 + 1}} + \frac{1}{\sqrt{c^2 - ca + 3a^2 + 1}} &= \\ &= \sum \frac{1}{\sqrt{a^2 - ab + 3b^2 + 1}} \stackrel{(1)}{\leq} \sum \frac{1}{\sqrt{b(a + b + 2)}} = \\ &= 2 \sum \sqrt{\frac{1}{4b} \cdot \frac{1}{a + b + 2}} \stackrel{AM-GM}{\leq} \sum \left(\frac{1}{4b} + \frac{1}{a + b + 2} \right) = \\ &= \sum \frac{1}{4b} + \sum \frac{1}{a + b + 1 + 1} \stackrel{AM-HM}{\leq} \frac{1}{4} \sum \frac{1}{b} + \frac{1}{16} \sum \left(\frac{1}{a} + \frac{1}{b} + 1 + 1 \right) = \\ &= \frac{1}{4} \sum \frac{1}{b} + \frac{1}{16} \left(\sum \frac{1}{a} + \sum \frac{1}{b} + \sum 1 + \sum 1 \right) \stackrel{\frac{1}{a} + \frac{1}{b} + \frac{1}{c} = 3}{=} \\ &= \frac{3}{4} + \frac{1}{16} (3 + 3 + 3 + 3) = \frac{3}{2} \end{aligned}$$

Equality holds for $a=b=c=1$.