

ROMANIAN MATHEMATICAL MAGAZINE

If $a, b, c, d > 0$, then prove that :

$$\frac{abc + bcd + cda + dab}{a + b + c + d} \leq \frac{1}{4} \cdot \sqrt[3]{(a+b)(a+c)(a+d)(b+c)(b+d)(c+d)} \leq \frac{(a+b+c+d)^2}{16}$$

Proposed by Nguyen Hung Cuong-Vietnam

Solution by Soumava Chakraborty-Kolkata-India

$$\begin{aligned} 3(a+b+c+d) &= \\ &= (a+b) + (a+c) + (a+d) + (b+c) + (b+d) + (c+d) \stackrel{\text{AM-GM}}{\geq} \\ &\quad 6 \cdot \sqrt[6]{(a+b)(a+c)(a+d)(b+c)(b+d)(c+d)} \\ \Rightarrow (a+b+c+d) \cdot \frac{1}{4} \cdot \sqrt[3]{(a+b)(a+c)(a+d)(b+c)(b+d)(c+d)} &\geq \\ &= \frac{1}{2} \cdot \sqrt{(a+b)(a+c)(a+d)(b+c)(b+d)(c+d)} \\ &= \frac{1}{2} \cdot \sqrt{((a+b)(b+c)(c+d)) \cdot ((a+c)(a+d)(b+d))} \\ &= \frac{\left(\sqrt{(abc + bcd + cda + dab) + (c^2(a+b) + b^2(c+d))} \right) \cdot \left(\sqrt{(abc + bcd + cda + dab) + (a^2(b+d) + d^2(a+c))} \right)}{2} \\ \stackrel{\text{Reverse CBS}}{\geq} &\frac{abc + bcd + cda + dab + \sqrt{(c^2(a+b) + b^2(c+d)) \cdot (a^2(b+d) + d^2(a+c))}}{2} \\ &\stackrel{?}{\geq} abc + bcd + cda + dab \\ \Leftrightarrow \sqrt{(c^2(a+b) + b^2(c+d)) \cdot (a^2(b+d) + d^2(a+c))} &\stackrel{?}{\geq} abc + bcd + cda + dab \end{aligned}$$

Case 1 $ac + bd \geq ab + cd$ and then : LHS of (*) $\stackrel{\text{Reverse CBS}}{\geq}$

$$\begin{aligned} &ca \cdot \sqrt{(a+b)(b+d)} + bd \cdot \sqrt{(c+d)(a+c)} \\ &= ca \cdot \sqrt{(b+a)(b+d)} + bd \cdot \sqrt{(c+d)(c+a)} \stackrel{\text{Reverse CBS}}{\geq} \\ &ca \cdot (b + \sqrt{ad}) + bd \cdot (c + \sqrt{ad}) \stackrel{?}{\geq} abc + bcd + cda + dab \\ \Leftrightarrow \sqrt{ad} \cdot (ca + bd) &\stackrel{?}{\geq} ad(b+c) \Leftrightarrow ca + bd \stackrel{?}{\geq} \sqrt{ad} \cdot (b+c) \text{ and } \therefore \sqrt{ad} \stackrel{\text{AM-GM}}{\leq} \frac{a+d}{2} \end{aligned}$$

$\therefore$ in order to prove ①, it suffices to prove : $2(ac + bd) \stackrel{?}{\geq} (a+d)(b+c)$

$$= ab + ac + bd + cd \Leftrightarrow ac + bd \stackrel{?}{\geq} ab + cd \rightarrow \text{true} \Rightarrow \textcircled{1} \Rightarrow (*) \text{ is true}$$

Case 2 $ab + cd \geq ac + bd$ and then : LHS of (*) $\stackrel{\text{Reverse CBS}}{\geq}$

$$\begin{aligned} &cd \cdot \sqrt{(a+b)(a+c)} + ab \cdot \sqrt{(b+d)(c+d)} \\ &= cd \cdot \sqrt{(a+b)(a+c)} + ab \cdot \sqrt{(d+b)(d+c)} \stackrel{\text{Reverse CBS}}{\geq} \end{aligned}$$

ROMANIAN MATHEMATICAL MAGAZINE

$$cd \cdot (a + \sqrt{bc}) + ab \cdot (d + \sqrt{bc}) \stackrel{?}{\geq} abc + bcd + cda + dab$$

$$\Leftrightarrow \sqrt{bc} \cdot (ab + cd) \stackrel{?}{\geq} bc(a + d) \Leftrightarrow ab + cd \stackrel{?}{\geq} \sqrt{bc} \cdot (a + d) \text{ and } \because \sqrt{bc} \stackrel{\text{AM-GM}}{\leq} \frac{b + c}{2}$$

$\therefore$ in order to prove ②, it suffices to prove : $2(ab + cd) \stackrel{?}{\geq} (b + c)(a + d)$

$$= ab + ac + bd + cd \Leftrightarrow ab + cd \stackrel{?}{\geq} ac + bd \rightarrow \text{true} \Rightarrow \text{②} \Rightarrow (*) \text{ is true}$$

$\therefore$ combining both cases, (*) is true $\forall a, b, c, d > 0$ and so,

$$\frac{abc + bcd + cda + dab}{a + b + c + d} \leq \frac{1}{4} \cdot \sqrt[3]{(a + b)(a + c)(a + d)(b + c)(b + d)(c + d)}$$

$\forall a, b, c, d > 0$ and it's shown in the beginning that :

$$\frac{1}{2} \cdot \sqrt[6]{(a + b)(a + c)(a + d)(b + c)(b + d)(c + d)} \leq \frac{a + b + c + d}{4}$$

$$\Rightarrow \frac{1}{4} \cdot \sqrt[3]{(a + b)(a + c)(a + d)(b + c)(b + d)(c + d)} \leq \frac{(a + b + c + d)^2}{16}$$

$\forall a, b, c, d > 0$ and the proof is complete, " = " iff $a = b = c = d$ (QED)