

ROMANIAN MATHEMATICAL MAGAZINE

If $a, b > 0$ then:

$$\frac{a^6 + b^6}{a^3 b^3} + \frac{2ab}{a^2 + b^2} \geq 3$$

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$$\text{Let } x = \frac{a^2 + b^2}{ab} \stackrel{\text{AM-GM}}{\geq} \frac{2ab}{ab} = 2 \quad (1)$$

$$\frac{a^6 + b^6}{a^3 b^3} = \frac{(a^2 + b^2)^3 - 3a^2 b^2 (a^2 + b^2)}{a^3 b^3} = \left(\frac{a^2 + b^2}{ab}\right)^3 - 3 \frac{a^2 + b^2}{ab} = x^3 - 3x$$

We need to show:

$$\frac{a^6 + b^6}{a^3 b^3} + \frac{2ab}{a^2 + b^2} \geq 3$$

$$\text{or, } x^3 - 3x + \frac{2}{x} \geq 3 \text{ or, } x^4 - 3x^2 - 3x + 2 \geq 0 \text{ or, } (x - 2)(x^3 + 2x^2 + x - 1) \geq 0$$

true as $x \geq 2$

Equality holds for $a=b=1$.