

ROMANIAN MATHEMATICAL MAGAZINE

In any acute ΔABC the following relationship holds :

$$2 \left(\frac{1}{\cos A} + \frac{1}{\cos B} \right) \geq \sqrt{3}(\tan A + \tan B) + 2$$

Proposed by Nguyen Hung Cuong-Vietnam

Solution 1 by Soumava Chakraborty-Kolkata-India

$$\begin{aligned} \Delta ABC \text{ being acute} &\Rightarrow \cos A, \cos B > 0 \\ \therefore 2 \left(\frac{1}{\cos A} + \frac{1}{\cos B} \right) &\stackrel{?}{\geq} \sqrt{3}(\tan A + \tan B) + 2 \\ \Leftrightarrow 2(\cos A + \cos B) &\stackrel{?}{\geq} \sqrt{3}(\sin A \cos B + \cos A \sin B) + 2 \cos A \cos B \\ &= \sqrt{3} \sin C + \cos(A+B) + \cos(A-B) \\ \Leftrightarrow 4 \sin \frac{C}{2} \cos \frac{A-B}{2} &\stackrel{?}{\geq} \sqrt{3} \sin C - \cos C + 2 \cos^2 \frac{A-B}{2} - 1 \\ \Leftrightarrow 2t^2 - 4 \sin \frac{C}{2} \cdot t + \sqrt{3} \sin C - 2 \cos^2 \frac{C}{2} &\stackrel{?}{\geq} 0 \quad \left(t = \cos \frac{A-B}{2} \right) \text{ and to prove } (*), \end{aligned}$$

it suffices to prove : $t \stackrel{?}{\geq} \frac{4 \sin \frac{C}{2} + \sqrt{16 \sin^2 \frac{C}{2} - 8(\sqrt{3} \sin C - 2 \cos^2 \frac{C}{2})}}{4}$ AND

$t \stackrel{?}{\leq} \frac{4 \sin \frac{C}{2} - \sqrt{16 \sin^2 \frac{C}{2} - 8(\sqrt{3} \sin C - 2 \cos^2 \frac{C}{2})}}{4}$; $\because t \leq 1 \therefore$ in order to prove ①,

it suffices to prove : $1 \leq \sin \frac{C}{2} + \sqrt{1 - \frac{\sqrt{3}}{2} \sin C} \Leftrightarrow \left(1 - \sin \frac{C}{2}\right)^2 \stackrel{?}{\leq} 1 - \frac{\sqrt{3}}{2} \sin C$

$$\Leftrightarrow \sin^2 \frac{C}{2} - 2 \sin \frac{C}{2} + \sqrt{3} \sin \frac{C}{2} \cos \frac{C}{2} \stackrel{?}{\leq} 0 \Leftrightarrow \sin \frac{C}{2} + \sqrt{3} \cos \frac{C}{2} \stackrel{?}{\leq} 2 \rightarrow \text{true}$$

$\because \sin \frac{C}{2} + \sqrt{3} \cos \frac{C}{2} \leq \sqrt{1+3} \cdot \sqrt{\sin^2 \frac{C}{2} + \cos^2 \frac{C}{2}} = 2 \Rightarrow$ ① is true with equality iff

$\frac{C}{2} = \frac{\pi}{6} \wedge A = B \Rightarrow$ equality iff $A = B = C = \frac{\pi}{3}$ and again, $0 < A, B < \frac{\pi}{2} \Rightarrow$

$$-\frac{\pi}{4} < \frac{A-B}{2} < \frac{\pi}{4} \Rightarrow t \geq \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} > \sin \frac{C}{2} - \sqrt{1 - \frac{\sqrt{3}}{2} \sin C}$$

$$\Leftrightarrow \frac{1}{2} + 1 - \frac{\sqrt{3}}{2} \sin C + 2 \cdot \sqrt{1 - \frac{\sqrt{3}}{2} \sin C} > \sin^2 \frac{C}{2} \text{ and } \because \sqrt{1 - \frac{\sqrt{3}}{2} \sin C} > 0$$

\therefore it suffices to prove : $3 - \sqrt{3} \sin C > 1 - \cos C \Leftrightarrow \cos \frac{\pi}{6} \sin C - \sin \frac{\pi}{6} \cos C < 1$

$\Leftrightarrow \sin \left(C - \frac{\pi}{6} \right) < 1 \rightarrow \text{true} \Rightarrow$ ② is true (strict inequality) and so, ① and ②

are true $\Rightarrow (*)$ is true $\therefore 2 \left(\frac{1}{\cos A} + \frac{1}{\cos B} \right) \geq \sqrt{3} \cdot (\tan A + \tan B) + 2$
 \forall acute ΔABC , " = " iff ΔABC is equilateral (QED)

Solution 2 by Amin Hajiyev-Azerbaijan

$$f(x) = \frac{1}{\cos(x)} - \sqrt{3} \tan(x) \rightarrow f(A) + f(B) \geq 2$$

Investigation of extreme values:

$$f(x) = 2 \sec(x) - \sqrt{3} \tan(x) \rightarrow \frac{d}{dx} f(x) = 2 \sec(x) \tan(x) - \sqrt{3} \sec^2(x)$$

$$\frac{d}{dx} f(x) = \frac{2 \sin(x) - \sqrt{3}}{\cos^2(x)} \quad \frac{d}{dx} f(x) = 0 \rightarrow \sin(x) = \frac{\sqrt{3}}{2}$$

The unique root in the acute interval

$$\left(0; \frac{\pi}{2}\right) \text{ is } x = \frac{\pi}{3}$$

Characterization of the function and global minimum

- $x \in \left(0; \frac{\pi}{3}\right) \rightarrow \sin(x) < \frac{\sqrt{3}}{2} \quad \frac{d}{dx} f(x) < 0$ decreasing function
- $x \in \left(\frac{\pi}{3}; \frac{\pi}{2}\right) \rightarrow \sin(x) > \frac{\sqrt{3}}{2} \quad \frac{d}{dx} f(x) > 0$ increasing function

The minimum point of the function $x = \frac{\pi}{3}$

$$f\left(\frac{\pi}{3}\right) = \frac{1}{\cos\left(\frac{\pi}{3}\right)} - \sqrt{3} \tan\left(\frac{\pi}{3}\right) = 1$$

$$x \in \left(0; \frac{\pi}{2}\right) \rightarrow f(x) \geq 1 \rightarrow \begin{cases} f(A) \geq 1 \\ f(B) \geq 1 \end{cases} \quad f(A) + f(B) \geq 2$$

$$2 \left(\frac{1}{\cos(A)} + \frac{1}{\cos(B)} \right) \geq \sqrt{3} (\tan(A) + \tan(B)) + 2 \quad (Q.E.D)$$