

Cyclic refinement of inequality $(a+b+c)\left(\frac{1}{a} + \frac{1}{b} + \frac{1}{c}\right) \geq 9$.

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Let a, b and c be positive real numbers. Prove that

$$27abc(a^2b + b^2c + c^2a) \leq (a+b+c)^2(ab+bc+ca)^2.$$

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Note that $27abc(a^2b + b^2c + c^2a) \leq (a+b+c)^2(ab+bc+ca)^2 \Leftrightarrow$

$$(1) \quad 27\left(\frac{a}{c} + \frac{b}{a} + \frac{c}{b}\right) \leq (a+b+c)^2\left(\frac{1}{a} + \frac{1}{b} + \frac{1}{c}\right)^2$$

and since $\frac{a}{c} + \frac{b}{a} + \frac{c}{b} \geq 3$ then (1) implies inequality $(a+b+c)\left(\frac{1}{a} + \frac{1}{b} + \frac{1}{c}\right) \geq 9$

and can be considered as it's refinement.

Also note that transposition a with b transform $\frac{a}{c} + \frac{b}{a} + \frac{c}{b}$ to $\frac{a}{b} + \frac{b}{c} + \frac{c}{a}$ but

not changed expression $(a+b+c)^2\left(\frac{1}{a} + \frac{1}{b} + \frac{1}{c}\right)^2$.

Hence, inequality (1) holds for any positive a, b, c if it holds for any positive a, b, c

such that $\frac{a}{c} + \frac{b}{a} + \frac{c}{b} \geq \frac{a}{b} + \frac{b}{c} + \frac{c}{a}$.

Since $\frac{a}{c} + \frac{b}{a} + \frac{c}{b} \geq \frac{a}{b} + \frac{b}{c} + \frac{c}{a} \Leftrightarrow (b-c)(a-b)(a-c) \geq 0$ for positive a, b, c

then in assumption $a = \max\{a, b, c\}$ (due to cyclic symmetry of (1)) suffices prove

inequality (1) for $a \geq b \geq c > 0$. In that case denoting $p := \frac{a}{b} \geq 1, q := \frac{b}{c} \geq 1$ we

obtain $b = qc, a = pqc, p, q \geq 1$ and then inequality (1) becomes

$$(2) \quad 27\left(pq + \frac{1}{p} + \frac{1}{q}\right) \leq (pq + q + 1)^2\left(\frac{1}{pq} + \frac{1}{q} + 1\right)^2, p, q \geq 1.$$

Let $u := p + q \geq 2, v := pq \geq 2$. Then we obtain

$$\begin{aligned} (pq + q + 1)^2\left(\frac{1}{pq} + \frac{1}{q} + 1\right)^2 - 27\left(pq + \frac{1}{p} + \frac{1}{q}\right) &= \\ \frac{(p+q)(2p^3q^3 + 8p^2q^2 - 19pq + 2) + (pq+1)^2(p+q)^2 + p^4q^4 - 21p^3q^3 + 11p^2q^2 + 6pq + 1}{p^2q^2} &= \\ \frac{u(2v^3 + 8v^2 - 19v + 2) + (v+1)^2u^2 + v^4 - 21v^3 + 11v^2 + 6v + 1}{p^2q^2} &\geq 0 \text{ (because} \end{aligned}$$

$2v^3 + 8v^2 - 19v + 2 = (v-1)(2v^2 + 10v - 9) - 7 \geq -7, v^4 - 21v^3 + 11v^2 + 6v + 1 \geq -2, (v+1)^2 \geq$

and, therefore, $u(2v^3 + 8v^2 - 19v + 2) + (v+1)^2u^2 + v^4 - 21v^3 + 11v^2 + 6v + 1 \geq$

$$4u^2 - 7u - 2 = (4u+1)(u-2) \geq 0).$$