

**Double algebraic inequality with geometric interpretation of its right hand side.**

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Let  $x, y,$  and  $z$  be nonnegative real numbers such that  $x^2 + y^2 + z^2 + xyz = 4$ .

Prove that  $0 \leq xy + yz + zx - xyz \leq 2$ .

**Solution by Arkady Alt, San Jose, California, USA.**

Since by AM-GM inequality  $4 - xyz = x^2 + y^2 + z^2 \geq 3(x^2y^2z^2)^{1/3} \Leftrightarrow$

$3(xyz)^{2/3} + xyz - 4 \leq 0 \Leftrightarrow ((xyz)^{1/3} - 1)((xyz)^{1/3} + 2)^2 \leq 0 \Leftrightarrow xyz \leq 1.$

and  $xy + yz + zx \geq 3(x^2y^2z^2)^{1/3} \geq 3xyz$  then  $xy + yz + zx - xyz \geq 2xyz \geq 0.$

Note that  $xy + yz + zx - xyz \leq 2$  holds if at least one of the  $x, y, z$  equal

zero. Indeed, let  $z = 0$ . Then  $x^2 + y^2 = 4$  implies  $xy \leq 2$  since  $xy \leq \frac{x^2 + y^2}{2}$ .

Thus, for further we can assume  $x, y, z > 0$ .

Since all positive solutions of equation  $x^2 + y^2 + z^2 + xyz = 4$  can be represented in the

form  $x = 2 \cos \alpha, y = 2 \cos \beta, z = 2 \cos \gamma$ , where  $\alpha, \beta, \gamma \in (0, \pi/2)$  and  $\alpha + \beta + \gamma = \pi$  then

inequality  $xy + yz + zx - xyz \leq 2$  becomes  $4 \sum \cos \alpha \cos \beta - 8 \cos \alpha \cos \beta \cos \gamma \leq 2 \Leftrightarrow$

(1)  $2 \sum \cos \alpha \cos \beta - 4 \cos \alpha \cos \beta \cos \gamma \leq 1.$

Let  $ABC$  be some acute triangle with angles  $\alpha, \beta, \gamma$  and let  $R, r, s$  be, respectively, circumradius, inradius and semiperimeter of  $\triangle ABC$ .

Since  $\cos \alpha \cos \beta \cos \gamma = \frac{s^2 - (2R + r)^2}{4R^2}$  and  $\sum \cos \alpha \cos \beta = \frac{s^2 + r^2 - 4R^2}{2R^2}$

inequality (1) becomes

$$\frac{s^2 + r^2 - 4R^2}{2R^2} - \frac{s^2 - (2R + r)^2}{R^2} \leq 1 \Leftrightarrow s^2 + r^2 - 4R^2 - 2(s^2 - (2R + r)^2) \leq 2R^2$$

and we have  $2R^2 + 2(s^2 - (2R + r)^2) - (s^2 + r^2 - 4R^2) = s^2 - 2R^2 - 8Rr - 3r^2 \geq 0,$

because  $2R^2 + 8Rr + 3r^2 \leq s^2$  (**Walker's Inequality for acute angled triangle**).

Thus, for  $x, y, z > 0$  such that  $x^2 + y^2 + z^2 + xyz = 4$  inequality  $xy + yz + zx - xyz \leq 2$

can be considered as algebraic equivalent of **Walker's Inequality**.