

## Geometric inequalities involving a,b,c,r,R

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In a  $\triangle ABC$ , let  $a, b, c$  be its side lengths

$R$  - its circumradius and  $r$  - its inradius, prove that

(a)  $1/a + 1/b + 1/c \leq \sqrt{3}/(2r)$

(b)  $1/a + 1/b + 1/c \leq (1/\sqrt{3})(1/r + 1/R)$

(c\*\*)  $11\sqrt{3}/(5R + 12r) \leq 1/a + 1/b + 1/c \leq (1/\sqrt{3})(5/(4R) + 7/(8r))$ .

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

Let  $x := s - a, y := s - b, z := s - c$  and  $p := xy + yz + zx, q := xyz$ . Also assume  $s = 1$  (due to homogeneity of inequalities. Then  $x + y + z = 1, x, y, z > 0, a = 1 - x, b = 1 - y,$

$$c = 1 - z, ab + bc + ca = 1 + p, abc = p - q, \frac{1}{a} + \frac{1}{b} + \frac{1}{c} = \frac{1+p}{p-q}, r = \sqrt{q}, R = \frac{p-q}{4\sqrt{q}}$$

and noting that  $q = xyz(x + y + z) \leq \frac{(xy + yz + zx)^2}{3} = \frac{p^2}{3}$  we can proceed to the proof of inequalities (a),(b),(c) in p,q notation:

Inequality in (a) becomes  $\frac{1+p}{p-q} \leq \frac{\sqrt{3}}{2\sqrt{q}} \Leftrightarrow 2(1+p) \leq \frac{\sqrt{3}(p-q)}{\sqrt{q}}$ .

Since  $\frac{p-q}{\sqrt{q}}$  as function of  $q$  decrease in  $(0, p^2/3]$  then  $\frac{\sqrt{3}(p-q)}{\sqrt{q}} - 2(1+p) \geq$

$$\frac{\sqrt{3}(p-p^2/3)}{p/\sqrt{3}} - 2(1+p) = 1 - 3p \geq 0;$$

Inequality in (b) becomes  $\frac{1+p}{p-q} \leq \frac{1}{\sqrt{3}} \left( \frac{1}{\sqrt{q}} + \frac{4\sqrt{q}}{p-q} \right) \Leftrightarrow 1+p \leq \frac{1}{\sqrt{3}} \left( \frac{p}{\sqrt{q}} + 3\sqrt{q} \right)$ .

Since  $\frac{p}{\sqrt{q}} + 3\sqrt{q}$  as function of  $q$  decrease in  $(0, p^2/3]$  ( $\frac{p}{t} + 3t$  decrease for  $t \in (0, \sqrt{p/3}]$ )

and  $\sqrt{q} \leq p/\sqrt{3} < \sqrt{p/3}$  because  $p < 1$ ) then  $\frac{1}{\sqrt{3}} \left( \frac{p}{\sqrt{q}} + 3\sqrt{q} \right) - (1+p) \geq$

$$\frac{1}{\sqrt{3}} \left( \frac{p}{p/\sqrt{3}} + 3p/\sqrt{3} \right) - (1+p) = 0.$$

**Remark.**

Note that  $\frac{1}{\sqrt{3}} \left( \frac{1}{r} + \frac{1}{R} \right) \leq \frac{\sqrt{3}}{2r}$  because  $R \geq 2r$  (Euler Inequality) and

$$\frac{\sqrt{3}}{2r} - \frac{1}{\sqrt{3}} \left( \frac{1}{r} + \frac{1}{R} \right) = \frac{\sqrt{3}(R-2r)}{6Rr}. \text{ Thus, it was sufficient to prove inequality (b).}$$

Also note that  $\frac{1}{\sqrt{3}} \left( \frac{1}{r} + \frac{1}{R} \right) \geq \frac{1}{\sqrt{3}} \left( \frac{5}{4R} + \frac{7}{8r} \right) \Leftrightarrow \frac{1}{r} + \frac{1}{R} - \left( \frac{5}{4R} + \frac{7}{8r} \right) \geq 0 \Leftrightarrow$

$$\frac{1}{8} \frac{R-2r}{Rr} \geq 0.$$

That is  $\frac{1}{\sqrt{3}} \left( \frac{5}{4R} + \frac{7}{8r} \right) \leq \left( \frac{1}{\sqrt{3}} \left( \frac{1}{r} + \frac{1}{R} \right) \right) \leq \frac{\sqrt{3}}{2r}$ .

Well known inequality (Soltan and Meydman)  $\frac{2(5R-r)}{3\sqrt{3}R^2} \leq \frac{1}{a} + \frac{1}{b} + \frac{1}{c} \leq \frac{(R+r)^2}{3\sqrt{3}Rr^2}$

but  $\frac{(R+r)^2}{3\sqrt{3}Rr^2} \geq \frac{1}{\sqrt{3}}(1/r + 1/R)$  because  $\frac{(R+r)^2}{3\sqrt{3}Rr^2} - \frac{1}{\sqrt{3}}\left(\frac{1}{r} + \frac{1}{R}\right) = \frac{(R-2r)(R+r)}{3\sqrt{3}Rr^2} \geq 0$ .

Since  $\frac{1}{\sqrt{3}}\left(\frac{5}{4R} + \frac{7}{8r}\right) \leq \frac{1}{\sqrt{3}}\left(\frac{1}{r} + \frac{1}{R}\right) \leq \frac{\sqrt{3}}{2r}$  then proof of inequality

(CR)  $\frac{1}{a} + \frac{1}{b} + \frac{1}{c} \leq \frac{1}{\sqrt{3}}\left(\frac{5}{4R} + \frac{7}{8r}\right)$  be at the same time proof of inequalities in (a)

and (b).

But proof of inequality (CR) is much more difficult than two others.

**Proof.**

In p,q notation inequality (CR) becomes  $\frac{1+p}{p-q} \leq \frac{1}{\sqrt{3}}\left(\frac{5 \cdot 4\sqrt{q}}{4(p-q)} + \frac{7}{8\sqrt{q}}\right) \Leftrightarrow$

$$\frac{1+p}{p-q} \leq \frac{7p+33q}{8\sqrt{3}\sqrt{q}(p-q)} \Leftrightarrow 1+p \leq \frac{1}{8\sqrt{3}}\left(33\sqrt{q} + \frac{7p}{\sqrt{q}}\right) \Leftrightarrow$$

$$(1) \quad (1+p)^2 \leq \frac{77p}{32} + \frac{1}{192}\left(1089q + \frac{49p^2}{q}\right).$$

Note that function  $1089t + \frac{49p^2}{t}$  decrease in  $\left(0, \frac{7p}{33}\right]$  and  $\frac{p^2}{3} < \frac{7p}{33} \Leftrightarrow p < \frac{7}{11}$ .

Thus  $1089q + \frac{49p^2}{q}$  as function of  $q$  decrease in  $\left(0, \frac{p^2}{3}\right]$ .

But unfortunately  $\frac{p^2}{3}$  as upper bound for  $q$  isn't good enough for proof of inequality (1)

and even more sharp inequality  $q \leq \frac{p^2}{4-3p}$  can't provide proof of (1).

In that situation remains only way, that is to use the best upper bound for  $q$  which can give a criterion for the solvability of the Vieta's system of equations

$a + b + c = 1, ab + bc + ca = p, abc = q$  in real  $a, b, c$ , namely inequality

$$(2) \quad 27q^2 - 2(9p-2)q + 4p^3 - p^2 \leq 0.$$

This inequality solvable in real  $q$  iff  $p \leq \frac{1}{3}$  and being solved with respect to  $q$  in particular

give us attainable upper bound for  $q$ , namely  $q \leq q_* := \frac{9p-2+2(1-3p)\sqrt{1-3p}}{27}$ .

Denoting  $t := \sqrt{1-3p}$  we obtain  $p = \frac{1-t^2}{3}$  and  $q_* = \frac{(1+2t)(1-t)^2}{27}$ ,

where  $0 \leq t < 1 \Leftrightarrow 0 < p \leq \frac{1}{3}$ .

Then

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{77p}{32} + \frac{1}{192}\left(1089q + \frac{49p^2}{q}\right) - (1+p)^2 &\geq \frac{77p}{32} + \frac{1}{192}\left(1089q_* + \frac{49p^2}{q_*}\right) - (1+p)^2 = \\ \frac{77}{32} \cdot \frac{1-t^2}{3} + \frac{1}{192}\left(1089 \cdot \frac{(1+2t)(1-t)^2}{27} + \frac{49(1-t^2)^2}{9} \cdot \frac{27}{(1+2t)(1-t)^2}\right) - \frac{(4-t^2)^2}{9} &= \\ \frac{77}{32} \cdot \frac{1-t^2}{3} + \frac{1}{192}\left(1089 \cdot \frac{(1+2t)(1-t)^2}{27} + \frac{49(1-t^2)^2}{9} \cdot \frac{27}{(1+2t)(1-t)^2}\right) - \frac{(4-t^2)^2}{9} &= \end{aligned}$$

$$\frac{t^2(105t^2 - 96t + 32(1 - t^3))}{144(2t + 1)} \geq 0$$

because  $105t^2 - 96t + 32(1 - t^3) > 96t^2 - 96t + 32(1 - t^3) = 32(1 - t)^3 > 0$ .

Proof of inequality

$$(CL) \frac{11\sqrt{3}}{5R + 12r} \leq \frac{1}{a} + \frac{1}{b} + \frac{1}{c}.$$

In p,q notation  $5R + 12r = \frac{5(p-q)}{4\sqrt{q}} + 12\sqrt{q} = \frac{5p + 43q}{4\sqrt{q}}$  and inequality (CL)

$$\text{becomes } \frac{44\sqrt{3}\sqrt{q}}{5p + 43q} \leq \frac{1+p}{p-q} \Leftrightarrow \frac{44\sqrt{3}}{1+p} \leq \frac{1}{p-q} \cdot \left(43\sqrt{q} + \frac{5p}{\sqrt{q}}\right) = \frac{43q + 5p}{(p-q)\sqrt{q}}.$$

Since  $\frac{5p}{43} > \frac{p^2}{3} \geq q$  then  $43\sqrt{q} + \frac{5p}{\sqrt{q}}$  decrease as function of  $q$  and, therefore,

$$\text{decrease } \frac{43q + 5p}{(p-q)\sqrt{q}}. \text{ Hence, } \frac{43q + 5p}{(p-q)\sqrt{q}} - \frac{44\sqrt{3}}{1+p} \geq \frac{43q_* + 5p}{(p-q_*)\sqrt{q_*}} - \frac{44\sqrt{3}}{1+p}$$

and

$$\frac{(43q_* + 5p)^2}{(p-q_*)^2 q_*} - \frac{5808}{(1+p)^2} = \frac{\left(43 \cdot \frac{(1+2t)(1-t)^2}{27} + 5 \cdot \frac{1-t^2}{3}\right)^2}{\left(\frac{1-t^2}{3} - \frac{(1+2t)(1-t)^2}{27}\right)^2 \frac{(1+2t)(1-t)^2}{27}} - \frac{5808}{\left(1 + \frac{1-t^2}{3}\right)^2} =$$

$$\frac{27t^2(1849t^4 - 15052t^3 + 11004t^2 + 3872t + 352)}{(2t+1)(t-1)^2(t-2)^2(t+2)^4} \geq 0 \text{ because}$$

$$11004t^2 + 3872t + 352 - 15052t^3 = 11004(t^2 - t^3) + 3872(t - t^3) + 176(1 - t^3) + 176 > 0.$$