

## Inequality

<https://www.linkedin.com/groups/8313943/8313943-6440107986907201540>

Let  $a, b, c$  be positive real numbers such that

$abc = 1$ , prove that

$$(a + b + c + 3)/4 \geq 1/(a + b) + 1/(b + c) + 1/(c + a).$$

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

By replacing  $(a, b, c)$  with  $(x^3, y^3, z^3)$  we obtain the following equivalent inequality

$\frac{x^3 + y^3 + z^3 + 3}{4} \geq \sum \frac{1}{x^3 + y^3}$  for  $x, y, z > 0$  and  $xyz = 1$  which in homogeneous is

$$(1) \quad \frac{x^3 + y^3 + z^3 + 3xyz}{4xyz} \geq \sum \frac{xyz}{x^3 + y^3}.$$

Since  $x^3 + y^3 \geq x^2y + xy^2 = xy(x + y)$  then  $\sum \frac{xyz}{x^3 + y^3} \leq \sum \frac{z}{x + y}$  and for proving

inequality (1) remains to prove inequality

$$(2) \quad \frac{x^3 + y^3 + z^3 + 3xyz}{4xyz} \geq \sum \frac{z}{x + y} \Leftrightarrow \frac{x^3 + y^3 + z^3 + 3xyz}{4xyz} + 3 \geq \sum \left( \frac{z}{x + y} + 1 \right) \Leftrightarrow \frac{x^3 + y^3 + z^3 + 15xyz}{4xyz} \geq (x + y + z) \sum \frac{1}{x + y}.$$

Assuming  $x + y + z = 1$  (due homogeneity of inequality (2)) and denoting

$p := xy + yz + zx, q := xyz > 0$  we obtain  $x^3 + y^3 + z^3 + 15xyz = 1 + 18q - 3p$ ,

$(x + y + z) \sum \frac{1}{x + y} = \frac{1 + p}{p - q}$ . Then inequality (2) becomes

$$\frac{1 + 18q - 3p}{4q} \geq \frac{1 + p}{p - q} \Leftrightarrow (1 + 18q - 3p)(p - q) \geq 4q(1 + p) \Leftrightarrow$$

$$p(1 - 3p) \geq 18q^2 + (5 - 17p)q.$$

Noting that  $p = xy + yz + zx \leq (x + y + z)^2/3 = 1/3$  and

$q = xyz(x + y + z) \leq (xy + yz + zx)^2/3 = p^2/3$  and taking in account that

for  $q \in [0, p^2/3]$  we have  $\max(18q^2 + (5 - 17p)q) =$

$$\max \left\{ 0, 18 \cdot \left( \frac{p^2}{3} \right)^2 + (5 - 17p) \frac{p^2}{3} \right\} = \frac{1}{3} p^2 (1 - 3p)(5 - 2p)$$

we obtain  $p(1 - 3p) - (10q^2 + (5 - 9p)q) \geq p(1 - 3p) - \frac{1}{3} p^2 (1 - 3p)(5 - 2p) =$

$$\frac{1 - 3p}{3} (3p - p^2(5 - 2p)) = \frac{p(1 - p)(1 - 3p)(3 - 2p)}{3} \geq 0.$$