

Inequality of George Apostolopoulos.

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Proposed by George Apostolopoulos.

Let a, b, c be positive real numbers with $a + b + c = 3$. Prove that

$$\sqrt{\frac{ab}{2a+b+c}} + \sqrt{\frac{bc}{2b+c+a}} + \sqrt{\frac{ca}{2c+a+b}} \leq \frac{3}{2}$$

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

Since triples $(\sqrt{bc}, \sqrt{ca}, \sqrt{ab})$, $\left(\frac{1}{\sqrt{2a+b+c}}, \frac{1}{\sqrt{2b+c+a}}, \frac{1}{\sqrt{2c+a+b}}\right)$ agreed

in order (because $(\sqrt{bc} - \sqrt{ca})\left(\frac{1}{\sqrt{2a+b+c}} - \frac{1}{\sqrt{2b+c+a}}\right) \geq 0$) then by

Rearrangement Inequality $\sum \sqrt{\frac{ab}{2a+b+c}} \leq \sum \sqrt{\frac{bc}{2a+b+c}}$.

By replacing (x, y, z) in inequality $x + y + z \leq \sqrt{3(x^2 + y^2 + z^2)}$ with

$\left(\frac{bc}{\sqrt{2a+b+c}}, \frac{ca}{\sqrt{2b+c+a}}, \frac{ab}{\sqrt{2c+a+b}}\right)$ we obtain

$$\sum \sqrt{\frac{bc}{2a+b+c}} \leq \sqrt{3} \sum \frac{bc}{2a+b+c}.$$

Thus, $\sum \sqrt{\frac{ab}{2a+b+c}} \leq \sqrt{3} \sum \frac{bc}{2a+b+c}$ and remains to prove inequality

$$\sqrt{3} \sum \frac{bc}{2a+b+c} \leq \frac{3}{2} \Leftrightarrow \sum \frac{bc}{2a+b+c} \leq \frac{3}{4} \text{ or, in homogeneous form,}$$

$$(1) \quad \sum \frac{bc}{2a+b+c} \leq \frac{a+b+c}{4}.$$

Using in (1) normalization $a + b + c = 1$ we obtain inequality

$$\sum \frac{bc}{2a+b+c} \leq \frac{1}{4} \Leftrightarrow \sum \frac{bc}{a+1} \leq \frac{1}{4} \Leftrightarrow 4 \sum bc(b+1)(c+1) \leq \prod(a+1).$$

We will prove that $4 \sum bc(b+1)(c+1) \leq \prod(a+1)$ holds for any $a, b, c \geq 0$.

Let $p := ab + bc + ca, q := abc$. Then $4 \sum bc(b+1)(c+1) =$

$$4 \sum (b^2c^2 + bc(b+c) + bc) = 4 \left((\sum bc)^2 - 2abc \sum a + \sum a \cdot \sum bc - 3abc + \sum bc \right) =$$

$$4(p^2 - 5q + 2p), \prod(a+1) = 2 + p + q \text{ and } \prod(a+1) - 4 \sum bc(b+1)(c+1) =$$

$$2 + p + q - 4(p^2 - 5q + 2p) = 2 - 4p^2 - 7p + 21q.$$

Since $3p = 3(ab + bc + ca) \leq (a + b + c)^2 = 1$ and $9q \geq 4p - 1$

(Schure's Inequality $\sum a(a-b)(a-c) \geq 0$ in p, q notation and normalized by

$a + b + c = 1$) then $p \leq 1/3$ and $q \geq \max\left\{\frac{4p-1}{9}, 0\right\}$.

$$\text{If } p \in [1/4, 1/3] \text{ then } 2 - 4p^2 - 7p + 21q \geq 2 - \left(7p + 4p^2 - 21 \cdot \frac{4p-1}{9}\right) =$$

$$\frac{1}{3}(4p-1)(1-3p) \geq 0;$$

$$\text{If } p \in (0, 1/4] \text{ then } 2 - 4p^2 - 7p + 21q \geq 2 - 7p - 4p^2 = (p+2)(1-4p) \geq 0.$$