

Inequality involving altitudes of a triangle.

<https://www.linkedin.com/groups/8313943/8313943-6418854553294237699>

In any triangle ABC with usual notions, prove that

$$(h_a/a)^2 + (h_b/b)^2 + (h_c/c)^2 \geq 9/4.$$

Proposed by Vasile Vanciu.

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

Let F area of $\triangle ABC$ and let $\Delta(x,y,z) := 2xy + 2yz + zx - x^2 - y^2 - z^2$

Since $h_a = \frac{2F}{a}$ we obtain $\sum \left(\frac{h_a}{a}\right)^2 \geq \frac{9}{4} \Leftrightarrow 16F^2 \sum \frac{1}{a^4} \geq 9 \Leftrightarrow$

$$(1) \quad \Delta(a^2, b^2, c^2) \left(\frac{1}{a^4} + \frac{1}{b^4} + \frac{1}{c^4}\right) \geq 9.$$

First note that inequality of the problem isn't holds for any triangle but holds holds for any non obtuse triangle.

Indeed, let $\triangle ABC$ be obtuse isosceles triangle with $C = 120^\circ$ and $AC = BC = 1$,

that is $a = b = 1, c = \sqrt{3}$. Then $F = \frac{\sqrt{3}}{4}$ and $16F^2 \sum \frac{1}{a^4} = 3\left(2 + \frac{1}{9}\right) = \frac{19}{3} < 9$.

Since inequality

$$(2) \quad \Delta(a, b, c) \left(\frac{1}{a^2} + \frac{1}{b^2} + \frac{1}{c^2}\right) \geq 9$$

holds for any triangle with sidelengths a, b, c then inequality (1) holds for any acute angled triangle because in that case a^2, b^2, c^2 satisfies to triangle inequalities.

Inequality (2) immediately follows from double inequality

$$\frac{9a^2b^2c^2}{a^2b^2 + b^2c^2 + c^2a^2} \leq \frac{3abc(a+b+c)}{a^2 + b^2 + c^2} \leq \Delta(a, b, c) \quad [1].$$

Indeed, $\frac{9a^2b^2c^2}{a^2b^2 + b^2c^2 + c^2a^2} \leq \Delta(a, b, c) \Leftrightarrow 9 \leq \frac{\Delta(a, b, c)(a^2b^2 + b^2c^2 + c^2a^2)}{a^2b^2c^2} =$

$$\Delta(a, b, c) \left(\frac{1}{a^2} + \frac{1}{b^2} + \frac{1}{c^2}\right).$$

Remains to prove that inequality $16F^2 \sum \frac{1}{a^4} \geq 9$ holds for any right angled triangles.

Let $\triangle ABC$ be right angled triangles with hypotenuse c . Then $F = \frac{ab}{2}, c^2 = a^2 + b^2$ and

$$16F^2 \sum \frac{1}{a^4} = 4a^2b^2 \left(\frac{1}{a^4} + \frac{1}{b^4} + \frac{1}{(a^2 + b^2)^2}\right) =$$

$$4 \left(\frac{(a^2 + b^2)^2}{a^2b^2} - 2 + \frac{a^2b^2}{(a^2 + b^2)^2}\right) = 4 \left(t + \frac{1}{t} - 2\right), \text{ where } t := \frac{(a^2 + b^2)^2}{a^2b^2} \geq 4.$$

Since $t + \frac{1}{t}$ increase if $t \geq 1$ then $t + \frac{1}{t} \geq 4 + \frac{1}{4}$ for $t \geq 4$ and, therefore,

$$4 \left(t + \frac{1}{t} - 2\right) \geq 4 \left(4 + \frac{1}{4} - 2\right) = 9.$$

1. Geometric Inequalities with polynomial $2xy + 2yz + zx - x^2 - y^2 - z^2$, Arkady Alt, OCTOGON MATHEMATICAL MAGAZINE vol. 22,n.2,

p.738, More inequality with Δ , after words "So it remains to prove:

$$1. \quad \frac{3abc(a+b+c)}{a^2 + b^2 + c^2} \leq \Delta(a, b, c) \leq \frac{8abc(ab + bc + ca)}{(a+b)(b+c)(c+a)}$$

$$2. \quad \frac{9a^2b^2c^2}{a^2b^2 + b^2c^2 + c^2a^2} \leq \frac{3abc(a+b+c)}{a^2 + b^2 + c^2} \Leftrightarrow$$

$$3abc(a^2 + b^2 + c^2) \leq (a + b + c)(a^2b^2 + b^2c^2 + c^2a^2). "$$

Link:

<http://www.equationroom.com/Publications/OCTOGON%20Mathematical%20Magazine/Geometric>