

Inequality

<https://www.linkedin.com/groups/8313943/8313943-6409422411351101442>

Let x, y and z be real numbers such that $x, y, z \geq 1$ and $x + y + z = 6$, prove that

$$(x^2 + 2)(y^2 + 2)(z^2 + 2) \leq 216.$$

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Let $p := xy + yz + zx, q := xyz$. Then $x^2 + y^2 + z^2 = 36 - 2p, x^2y^2 + y^2z^2 + z^2x^2 = p^2 - 12q$ and $(x^2 + 2)(y^2 + 2)(z^2 + 2) = x^2y^2z^2 + 2(x^2y^2 + y^2z^2 + z^2x^2) + 4(x^2 + y^2 + z^2) + 8 = q^2 + 2(p^2 - 12q) + 4(36 - 2p) + 8 = (12 - q)^2 + 2(p - 2)^2$.

Since $q = xyz \leq \left(\frac{x+y+z}{3}\right)^3 = 8$ and $9q = 9xyz \geq 4(x+y+z)(xy+yz+zx) - (x+y+z)^3 = 24p - 6^3 \Leftrightarrow 3q \geq 8p - 72$. (Schure Inequality $\sum x(x-y)(x-z) \geq 0$).

Also we will prove that $q \geq 4$.

Indeed, assuming $x \leq y \leq z$ we obtain $1 \leq x \leq y \leq 6 - x - y \Leftrightarrow$

$$1 \leq x \leq 2 \text{ \& } x \leq y \leq 3 - \frac{x}{2} \text{ and } xyz = xy(6 - x - y) = x(-y^2 + y(6 - x)).$$

Since for $y \in \left[x, 3 - \frac{x}{2}\right]$ we have $-y^2 + y(6 - x) \geq$

$$\min\left\{-x^2 + x(6 - x), -\left(3 - \frac{x}{2}\right)^2 + \left(3 - \frac{x}{2}\right)(6 - x)\right\} \geq -x^2 + x(6 - x) = 2x(3 - x)$$

$$\text{because } -\left(3 - \frac{x}{2}\right)^2 + \left(3 - \frac{x}{2}\right)(6 - x) + x^2 - x(6 - x) = \frac{9}{4}(x - 2)^2.$$

Hence, for any $x \in [1, 2]$ we have

$$xyz - 4 = x(-y^2 + y(6 - x)) - 4 \geq 2x^2(3 - x) - 4 = 2(x^2(3 - x) - 2) = 2(x - 1)(2 + 2x - x^2) = 2(x - 1)(3 - (x - 1)^2) \geq 2(x - 1)(3 - (2 - 1)^2) = x - 1 \geq 0.$$

Since lower bound 4 is attained if $(x, y, z) = (1, 1, 4)$ then $\min xyz = 4$.

Thus, $q \geq q_* := \max\left\{4, \frac{8p - 72}{3}\right\}$ and

$$216 - ((12 - q)^2 + 2(p - 2)^2) \geq 216 - ((12 - q_*)^2 + 2(p - 2)^2).$$

Since $3 < p = xy + yz + zx \leq \frac{(x+y+z)^2}{3} = \frac{36}{3} = 12$, $q_* = 4$ if $\frac{8p - 72}{3} \leq 4 \Leftrightarrow 3 < p \leq 21/2$

$q_* = \frac{8p - 72}{3}$ if $21/2 \leq p \leq 12$ then:

For $p \in [21/2, 12]$ we have

$$216 - ((12 - q_*)^2 + 2(p - 2)^2) = 216 - \left(\left(12 - \frac{8p - 72}{3}\right)^2 + 2(p - 2)^2\right) = \frac{2(41p - 408)(12 - p)}{9} \geq \frac{2(41 \cdot (21/2) - 408)(12 - p)}{9} = 5(12 - p) \geq 0;$$

For $6\sqrt{2} \leq p \leq 21/2$ we have

$$216 - ((12 - q_*)^2 + 2(p - 2)^2) = 216 - ((12 - 4)^2 + 2(p - 2)^2) = 2(72 + 4p - p^2) \geq 0 \text{ because } 72 + 4p - p^2 = 76 - (p - 2)^2 \geq 76 - (21/2 - 2)^2 = \frac{15}{4} > 0.$$