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AMM v.125,n.8

12068. Proposed by D. M. Băținetu-Giurgiu, Matei Basarab National College, Bucharest, Romania and Neculai Stanciu, "George Emil Palade" School, Buzău, Romania.

Consider a triangle with altitudes $h_a, h_b,$ and h_c and corresponding exradii $r_a, r_b,$ and r_c . Let $s, r,$ and R denote the triangle's semiperimeter, inradius, and circumradius, respectively.

(a) Prove $\sum \frac{h_b + h_c}{h_a} \cdot r_a^2 \geq 2s^2$.

(b) Prove $\sum \frac{r_b + r_c}{r_a} \cdot h_a^2 \geq \frac{4s^2 r}{R}$.

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

Let F be area of the triangle. Since $h_t = \frac{2F}{t}, r_t = \frac{F}{s-t} = \frac{s \cdot r}{s-t},$

where $t \in \{a, b, c\}$ and $r^2 = s(s-a)(s-b)(s-c)$ then

$$\sum \frac{h_b + h_c}{h_a} \cdot r_a^2 \geq 2s^2 \Leftrightarrow \sum \frac{ab + ca}{bc} \cdot \frac{s^2 \cdot r^2}{(s-a)^2} \geq 2s^2 \Leftrightarrow$$

$$\sum \frac{ab + ca}{bc(s-a)^2} \geq \frac{2}{r^2} \Leftrightarrow \sum a^2(b+c)(s-b)^2(s-c)^2 \geq$$

$$\frac{2abc(s-a)^2(s-b)^2(s-c)^2}{r^2} \Leftrightarrow$$

(1) $\sum a^2(b+c)(s-b)^2(s-c)^2 \geq 2abc \cdot r^2 \cdot s^2$.

Also since $\frac{r_b + r_c}{r_a} = \frac{(2s - (b+c))(s-a)}{(s-c)(s-b)} = \frac{a(s-a)}{(s-c)(s-b)}$ and $h_a^2 = \frac{4s^2 r^2}{a^2}$

then $\sum \frac{r_b + r_c}{r_a} \cdot h_a^2 \geq \frac{4s^2 r}{R} \Leftrightarrow \sum \frac{a(s-a)}{(s-c)(s-b)} \cdot \frac{4s^2 r^2}{a^2} \geq \frac{4s^2 r}{R} \Leftrightarrow$

$$\sum \frac{s-a}{a(s-c)(s-b)} \geq \frac{1}{R \cdot r} \Leftrightarrow \sum bc(s-a)^2 \geq \frac{abc(s-a)(s-b)(s-c)}{Rr} \Leftrightarrow$$

(2) $\sum bc(s-a)^2 \geq 4r^2 s^2$.

Let $x := s-a, y := s-b, z := s-c, p := xy + yz + zx, q := xyz$.

Then, assuming $s = 1$ (due homogeneity) we obtain $x, y, z > 0,$

$$x + y + z = 1, a = 1 - x, b = 1 - y, c = 1 - z, abc = p - q,$$

$$r = \sqrt{\frac{(s-a)(s-b)(s-c)}{s}} = \sqrt{q}, R = \frac{abc}{4rs} = \frac{p-q}{4\sqrt{q}},$$

$$\sum a^2(b+c)(s-b)^2(s-c)^2 = \sum (1-x)^2(1+x)y^2z^2 =$$

$$\sum (x^3y^2z^2 - x^2y^2z^2 - xy^2z^2 + y^2z^2) = q^2 - 3q^2 - pq + p^2 - 2q =$$

$p^2 - pq - 2q^2 - 2q$ and, therefore,

$$\sum a^2(b+c)(s-b)^2(s-c)^2 - 2abc \cdot r^2 \cdot s^2 =$$

$$q^2 - 3q^2 - pq + p^2 - 2q - 2(p-q)q = p^2 - q(3p+2)$$

Since $3q = 3xyz(x+y+z) \leq (xy+yz+zx)^2 = p^2$ and

$$3p = 3(xy+yz+zx) \leq (x+y+z)^2 = 1$$
 then

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

Also, since $\sum bc(s-a)^2 = \sum (1-y)(1-z)x^2 = \sum (x+yz)x^2 =$

$$\sum(x^3 + x^2yz) = (1 + 3q - 3p) + q = 4q - 3p + 1 \text{ then}$$

$$\sum bc(s - a)^2 - 4r^2s^2 = 4q - 3p + 1 - 4q = 1 - 3p \geq 0.$$