

1041. Proposed by George Apostolopoulos, Messolonghi, Greece.

Let a, b, c be positive real numbers such that $a + b + c = 1$. Prove that

$$(1 - 2a)^5 + (1 - 2b)^5 + (1 - 2c)^5 + \frac{80}{3}abc \leq 1.$$

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

Let $S_n := (1 - 2a)^n + (1 - 2b)^n + (1 - 2c)^n, n \in \mathbb{N} \cup \{0\}$ and $p := ab + bc + ca, q := abc$.

$$S_0 = 3, S_1 = (1 - 2a) + (1 - 2b) + (1 - 2c) = 1, S_2 = (1 - 2a)^2 + (1 - 2b)^2 + (1 - 2c)^2 = 4(a^2 + b^2 + c^2) - 4(a + b + c) + 3 = 4(1 - 2p) - 1 = 3 - 8p.$$

$$\text{Since } (1 - 2a)(1 - 2b) + (1 - 2b)(1 - 2c) + (1 - 2c)(1 - 2a) = 4(ab + ac + bc) -$$

$$4(a + b + c) + 3 =$$

$$4p - 1, (1 - 2a)(1 - 2b)(1 - 2c) = 4(ab + ac + bc) - 2(a + b + c) - 8abc + 1 = 4p - 8q - 1$$

then for calculation of S_n we have the following recurrence

$$(1) \quad S_{n+1} = S_n - (4p - 1)S_{n-1} + (4p - 8q - 1)S_{n-2}, n \geq 2$$

with initial condition $S_0 = 3, S_1 = 1, S_2 = 3 - 8p$.

Using recurrence (1) we consecutively obtain

$$S_3 = (3 - 8p) - (4p - 1) \cdot 1 + (4p - 8q - 1) \cdot 3 = 1 - 24q,$$

$$S_4 = 1 - 24q - (4p - 1)(3 - 8p) + (4p - 8q - 1) \cdot 1 = 32p^2 - 16p - 32q + 3,$$

$$S_5 = 32p^2 - 16p - 32q + 3 - (4p - 1)(1 - 24q) + (4p - 8q - 1)(3 - 8p) =$$

$160pq - 80q + 1$ and original inequality becomes

$$160pq - 80q + 1 + \frac{80q}{3} \leq 1 \Leftrightarrow 0 \leq q(1 - 3p),$$

where latter inequality holds because $3p = 3(ab + bc + ca) \leq (a + b + c)^2 = 1$.