

Cyclic inequality involving square roots

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Let a, b and c be positive real numbers. Prove that

$$\frac{2a}{\sqrt{3a+b}} + \frac{2b}{\sqrt{3b+c}} + \frac{2c}{\sqrt{3c+a}} \leq \sqrt{3(a+b+c)}.$$

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

First we will prove the following auxiliary inequality:

$$(1) \quad \sum \frac{a}{3a+b} \leq \frac{3}{4}.$$

Combining Cauchy Inequality and inequality $ab + bc + ca \leq \frac{(a+b+c)^2}{3}$

$$\text{we obtain } \sum \frac{b}{3a+b} = \sum \frac{b^2}{3ab+b^2} \geq \frac{(a+b+c)^2}{\sum(3ab+b^2)} = \\ \frac{(a+b+c)^2}{(a+b+c)^2 + (ab+bc+ca)} \geq \frac{(a+b+c)^2}{(a+b+c)^2 + (a+b+c)^2/3} = \frac{3}{4}.$$

$$\text{Hence, } \sum \frac{3a}{3a+b} = \sum \left(1 - \frac{b}{3a+b}\right) = 3 - \sum \frac{b}{3a+b} \leq 3 - \frac{3}{4} = \frac{9}{4} \Leftrightarrow (1)$$

Using inequality (1) and again Cauchy inequality we obtain

$$\sum \frac{a}{\sqrt{3a+b}} = \sum \sqrt{a} \cdot \sqrt{\frac{a}{3a+b}} \leq \sqrt{a+b+c} \cdot \sqrt{\sum \frac{a}{3a+b}} \leq \sqrt{a+b+c} \cdot \frac{\sqrt{3}}{2} \Leftrightarrow \\ \sum \frac{2a}{\sqrt{3a+b}} \leq \sqrt{3(a+b+c)}.$$