

**Inequality with side lengths, altitudes and circumradius.**

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In an arbitrary triangle  $ABC$ , let  $a, b, c$  denote the lengths of the sides,  $R$  its circumradius, and let  $h_a, h_b, h_c$  respectively, denote the lengths of the corresponding altitudes. Prove the inequality, and give the conditions under which equality holds.

$$\sum \frac{a^2 + bc}{b + c} \geq \frac{3abc}{2R} \sqrt[3]{\frac{1}{h_a h_b h_c}}.$$

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

Let  $F$  be area of  $\triangle ABC$ . Since  $\frac{3abc}{2R} \left(\frac{1}{h_a h_b h_c}\right)^{1/3} = \frac{3 \cdot 4RF}{2R} \left(\frac{abc}{ah_a \cdot bh_b \cdot ch_c}\right)^{1/3} =$

$6F \left(\frac{abc}{8F^3}\right)^{1/3} = 3(abc)^{1/3}$  and by AM-GM Inequality  $3(abc)^{1/3} \leq a + b + c$  remains

to prove inequality  $\sum \frac{a^2 + bc}{b + c} \geq a + b + c \Leftrightarrow \sum \left(\frac{a^2 + bc}{b + c} - a\right) \geq 0 \Leftrightarrow$

$$\sum \frac{(a - b)(a - c)}{b + c} \geq 0 \Leftrightarrow \sum (a^2 - b^2)(a^2 - c^2) \geq 0.$$

We have  $\sum (a^2 - b^2)(a^2 - c^2) = \sum (a^4 - a^2 b^2 - a^2 c^2 + b^2 c^2) = \sum a^4 - \sum b^2 c^2 =$   
 $\frac{1}{2} \sum (a^4 + b^4 - 2a^2 b^2) = \frac{1}{2} \sum (a^2 - b^2)^2 \geq 0.$

Since both inequalities which was used becomes equality iff  $a = b = c$  then inequality of the problem becomes equality iff  $\triangle ABC$  is equilateral. •