

One double inequality for a right triangle.

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Let a, b, c be side lengths of a right triangle with hypotenuse c . Show that

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

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Let $t := ab$. Then assuming $c = 1$ (due to homogeneity of the expression) we obtain taking in account that $a^2 + b^2 = 1$ that

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{c^3 - a^3 - b^3}{c(c-a)(c-b)} &= \frac{1 - (a+b)(a^2 + b^2 - ab)}{(1-a)(1-b)} = \frac{1 - (a+b)(1-ab)}{1 - (a+b) + ab} = \frac{1 - (1-t)\sqrt{1+2t}}{1 - \sqrt{1+2t} + t} = \\ \frac{1 - \sqrt{1+2t} + t\sqrt{1+2t}}{1 - \sqrt{1+2t} + t} &= 1 + \frac{t(\sqrt{1+2t} - 1)}{1 + t - \sqrt{1+2t}} = 1 + \frac{t(1+2t-1)(1+t+\sqrt{1+2t})}{(1+t)^2 - (1+2t)\sqrt{1+2t} + 1} = \\ 1 + \frac{2t^2(1+t+\sqrt{1+2t})}{t^2\sqrt{1+2t} + 1} &= 1 + \frac{2(1+t+\sqrt{1+2t})}{\sqrt{1+2t} + 1} = 3 + 2 \cdot \frac{t}{\sqrt{1+2t} + 1}. \end{aligned}$$

Hence, $3 < \frac{c^3 - a^3 - b^3}{c(c-a)(c-b)}$ and since $t = ab \leq \frac{a^2 + b^2}{2} = \frac{1}{2}$ we obtain*

$$\frac{c^3 - a^3 - b^3}{c(c-a)(c-b)} = 3 + \frac{2t}{\sqrt{1+2t} + 1} \leq 3 + \frac{2 \cdot 1/2}{\sqrt{1+2 \cdot 1/2} + 1} = 3 + (\sqrt{2} - 1) = \sqrt{2} + 2.$$

* $\frac{t}{\sqrt{1+2t} + 1} = \frac{1}{\sqrt{\frac{1}{t^2} + \frac{2}{t}} + \frac{1}{t}}$ increase by $t \in (0, \infty)$ (because

$\sqrt{\frac{1}{t^2} + \frac{2}{t}} + \frac{1}{t}$ decrease by $t > 0$).