

One problem with many solutions.

<https://www.linkedin.com/feed/update/urn:li:activity:6519146412557631488>

Let a, b, x, y be real numbers such that $ay - bx = 1$.

Prove that $a^2 + b^2 + x^2 + y^2 + ax + by \geq \sqrt{3}$.

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

Let $a = p \cdot \cos \alpha, b := p \cdot \sin \alpha, x := r \cdot \cos \varphi, y := r \cdot \sin \varphi$, where $p, r > 0$ and α, φ be any.

Then $ay - bx = 1 \Leftrightarrow pr \cdot \sin(\varphi - \alpha) = 1$ and

$$a^2 + b^2 + x^2 + y^2 + ax + by = p^2 + r^2 + pr \cdot \cos(\varphi - \alpha).$$

Let $t := \varphi - \alpha$. Since $\sin t = \frac{1}{pr} > 0$ and $p^2 + r^2 + pr \cdot \cos(\varphi - \alpha) =$

$$p^2 + r^2 + pr \cdot \cos t \geq 2pr - pr|\cos t| = \frac{1}{\sin t} (2 - |\cos t|)$$

then suffice to prove inequality

$$\frac{1}{\sin t} (2 - \cos t) \geq \sqrt{3} \text{ for } t \in (0, \pi/2).$$

We have $\frac{1}{\sin t} (2 - \cos t) \geq \sqrt{3} \Leftrightarrow 2 \geq \sqrt{3} \sin t + \cos t \Leftrightarrow \sin\left(t + \frac{\pi}{3}\right) \leq 1$.

And more solutions.**Solution 2.**

Let $p := a^2 + b^2 + x^2 + y^2, q := (a^2 + b^2)(x^2 + y^2) = (ax + by)^2 + 1 \geq 1$.

Since $p \geq 2\sqrt{q}$ then $a^2 + b^2 + x^2 + y^2 + ax + by \geq a^2 + b^2 + x^2 + y^2 - |ax + by| = p - \sqrt{q-1} \geq 2\sqrt{q} - \sqrt{q-1}$ and further possible three different endings:

Ending 1.

$2\sqrt{q} - \sqrt{q-1} \geq \sqrt{3} \Leftrightarrow 2 \geq \sqrt{3} \cdot \sqrt{\frac{1}{q}} + \sqrt{1 - \frac{1}{q}}$, where latter inequality is Cauchy Inequality for $(\sqrt{3}, 1), \left(\sqrt{\frac{1}{q}}, \sqrt{1 - \frac{1}{q}}\right)$.

Ending 2.

Applying inequality $ab - cd \geq \sqrt{a^2 - c^2} \cdot \sqrt{b^2 - d^2}$, $a \geq c > 0, b \geq d > 0$ to $(a, c) = (2, 1)$ and $(b, d) = (\sqrt{q}, \sqrt{q-1})$ we obtain $2\sqrt{q} - \sqrt{q-1} \geq \sqrt{3}$.

Ending 3.

Since $q \geq 1$ then, denoting $t := \arccos \frac{1}{\sqrt{q}} \in [0, \pi/2)$ we obtain

$$2\sqrt{q} - \sqrt{q-1} - \sqrt{3} = \frac{2}{\cos t} - \sqrt{\frac{1}{\cos^2 t} - 1} - \sqrt{3} = \frac{2}{\cos t} - \tan t - \sqrt{3} = \frac{2\left(1 - \sin\left(\frac{\pi}{3} + t\right)\right)}{\cos t} \geq 0.$$

Solution 3.

Let $u := a^2 + b^2, v := x^2 + y^2, w := ax + by$ and let $t := u + v + w$. First note that $t > 0$. Indeed, since $u + v \geq 2|ax| + 2|bx|$ then $t \geq |ax| + |bx| + (|ax| + ax) + (|bx| + bx) \geq 0$. Since Vieta's system $u + v = w - t$ and $uv = w^2 + 1$ solvable in real u, v, w iff $(w - t)^2 \geq 4(w^2 + 1) \Leftrightarrow 3w^2 + 2tw - t^2 + 4 \leq 0$ then $t \geq 0$ should provide nonnegativity of discriminant of quadratic trinomial $3w^2 + 2tw - (t^2 - 4)$ that is $t^2 + 3t^2 - 12 \geq 0 \Leftrightarrow t \geq \sqrt{3}$.

And in addition to solutions presented above:

Solution of Giovanni Parzanese

Let $u := a^2 + b^2, v := x^2 + y^2, w := ax + by$. In such notation and since $ay - bx = 1$ Lagrange Identity $(a^2 + b^2)(x^2 + y^2) = (ax + by)^2 + (ay - bx)^2$ becomes $uv = w^2 + 1$

Then $a^2 + b^2 + x^2 + y^2 + ax + by = u + v + w = \frac{uv + v^2 + vw}{v} = \frac{w^2 + 1 + v^2 + vw}{v}$

and since $\frac{w^2 + v^2 + vw}{v} \geq \frac{3v}{4} \Leftrightarrow (v + 2w)^2$ we obtain $\frac{w^2 + 1 + v^2 + vw}{v} =$

$$\frac{w^2 + v^2 + vw}{v} + \frac{1}{v} \geq \frac{3v}{4} + \frac{1}{v} \geq 2\sqrt{\frac{3v}{4} \cdot \frac{1}{v}} = \sqrt{3}.$$

Remark

In my opinion it is ideal solution of the problem. I mean representation

$$U + W + V = \frac{UW + W^2 + VW}{W} = \frac{V^2 + W^2 + VW}{W} + \frac{1}{W} \text{ and using inequality}$$

$$\frac{V^2 + W^2 + VW}{W} \geq \frac{3W}{4}$$