

2927★. [2004 : 172, 174] Proposed by Šefket Arslanagić, University of Sarajevo, Sarajevo, Bosnia and Herzegovina.

Suppose that a , b and c are positive real numbers. Prove that

$$\frac{a^3}{b^2 - bc + c^2} + \frac{b^3}{c^2 - ca + a^2} + \frac{c^3}{a^2 - ab + b^2} \geq \frac{3(ab + bc + ca)}{a + b + c}.$$

Comments by Arkady Alt, San Jose, CA, USA.

The solution of this problem in [2005 : 179–180] is correct; however, an editorial comment at the end of the solution is not correct. It states “Janous supplied a chain of generalizations. First he proved that

$$\sum_{\text{cyclic}} \frac{a^3(b+c)}{b^3+c^3} \geq 2 \sum_{\text{cyclic}} \frac{a^3}{b^2+c^2} \geq a+b+c.$$

He then extended the sharper inequality $\sum_{\text{cyclic}} \frac{a^3}{b^2+c^2} \geq \frac{a+b+c}{2}$ by replacing the left side by $\sum_{\text{cyclic}} \frac{a^{\lambda+1}}{b^\lambda+c^\lambda}$, where $\lambda \geq 0$.”

Unfortunately, the inequality

$$\sum_{\text{cyclic}} \frac{a^3(b+c)}{b^3+c^3} \geq 2 \sum_{\text{cyclic}} \frac{a^3}{b^2+c^2}$$

is not correct; in fact, the reverse inequality holds. Therefore, the inequality $2 \sum_{\text{cyclic}} \frac{a^3}{b^2+c^2} \geq a+b+c$ is not sharper than $\sum_{\text{cyclic}} \frac{a^3(b+c)}{b^3+c^3} \geq a+b+c$.

Indeed,

$$\frac{a^3(b+c)}{b^3+c^3} = \frac{a^3}{b^2 - bc + c^2} \leq \frac{a^3}{b^2 - \frac{1}{2}(b^2 + c^2) + c^2} = \frac{2a^3}{b^2 + c^2},$$

so that

$$\sum_{\text{cyclic}} \frac{a^3(b+c)}{b^3+c^3} \leq 2 \sum_{\text{cyclic}} \frac{a^3}{b^2+c^2},$$

as claimed.

[Ed.: Janous’ solution contained a small error which was overlooked by the editor.]