

S252. Let a, b, c be positive real numbers. Prove that

$$a(b-c)^2 + b(c-a)^2 + c(a-b)^2 + 2abc \geq 2 \frac{\sqrt{3(a^4b^4 + b^4c^4 + c^4a^4)}}{a+b+c}.$$

Proposed by Pham Huu Duc, Australia and Cosmin Pohoata, Princeton University, USA

Solution by Arkady Alt, San Jose, California, USA

Since $(a^2b^2 + b^2c^2 + c^2a^2)^2 \geq 3(a^4b^4 + b^4c^4 + c^4a^4)$, it suffices that

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

To see this, write

$$\begin{aligned} & (a+b+c)(a(b-c)^2 + b(c-a)^2 + c(a-b)^2 + 2abc) - 2(a^2b^2 + b^2c^2 + c^2a^2) \\ = & (a+b+c)^2(ab+bc+ca) - 7abc(a+b+c) - 2((ab+bc+ca)^2 - 2abc(a+b+c)) \\ = & (a+b+c)^2(ab+bc+ca) - 2(ab+bc+ca)^2 - 3abc(a+b+c). \end{aligned}$$

The latter rewrites as

$$(ab+bc+ca) \left((a+b+c)^2 - 3(ab+bc+ca) \right) + \left((ab+bc+ca)^2 - 3abc(a+b+c) \right) \geq 0,$$

where the positivity holds because

$$(a+b+c)^2 \geq 3(ab+bc+ca) \quad \text{and} \quad (ab+bc+ca)^2 \geq 3abc(a+b+c).$$

Also solved by Daniel Lasaosa, Universidad Pública de Navarra, Spain; Michel Faleiros Martins, Instituto Tecnológico de Aeronáutica, Brazil; Paolo Perfetti, Università degli studi di Tor Vergata Roma, Roma, Italy; Radouan Boukharfane, Polytechnique de Montreal, Canada.