

Senior problems

S397. Let a, b, c be positive real numbers. Prove that

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

Proposed by Nguyen Viet Hung, Hanoi University of Science, Vietnam

Solution by Arkady Alt, San Jose, CA, USA

Note that

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

Since

$$\sum_{cyc} \frac{a^2(a+b+c)}{a+b} = \sum_{cyc} a^2 + \sum_{cyc} \frac{a^2c}{a+b}$$

and by Cauchy-Schwarz Inequality,

$$\sum_{cyc} \frac{a^2c}{a+b} = \sum_{cyc} \frac{c^2a^2}{ca+bc} \geq \frac{(ca+ab+bc)^2}{\sum_{cyc} (ca+bc)} = \frac{ab+bc+ca}{2}$$

therefore

$$\begin{aligned} \sum_{cyc} \frac{a^2(a+b+c)}{a+b} + \frac{3(ab+bc+ca)}{2} &\geq a^2+b^2+c^2 + \frac{ab+bc+ca}{2} + \frac{3(ab+bc+ca)}{2} = \\ &a^2+b^2+c^2+2(ab+bc+ca) = (a+b+c)^2. \end{aligned}$$

Also solved by Adnan Ali, A.E.C.S-4, Mumbai, India; Konstantinos Metaxas, 1st High School Ag. Dimitrios, Athens, Greece; Nikos Kalapodis, Patras, Greece; Sushanth Sathish Kumar, Jeffery Trail Middle School, CA, USA; Alessandro Ventullo, Milan, Italy; Alok Kumar, New Delhi, India; AN-anduud Problem Solving Group, Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia; Khurshid Turgunboyev, Academic Lyceum S.H.Sirojiddinov, Tashkent, Uzbekistan; Nermin Hodžić, Dobošnica, Bosnia and Herzegovina; Nicusor Zlota, Traian Vuia Technical College, Focșani, Romania; Paolo Perfetti, Università degli studi di Tor Vergata Roma, Roma, Italy; Rajarshi Kanta Ghosh, Kolkata, India; Robert Bosch, USA; Albert Stadler, Herrliberg, Switzerland; Zafar Ahmed, BARC, Mumbai, India and Dona Ghosh, JU, Jadavpur, India.