

U410. Let a, b, c be real numbers such that $a + b + c = 5$. Prove that

$$(a^2 + 3)(b^2 + 3)(c^2 + 3) \geq 192.$$

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Due to symmetry we can assume that $c := \min\{a, b, c\}$. Then $c \leq \frac{5}{3}$ and $a + b \geq \frac{10}{3}$.

Let $p := a + b$. Since $(a^2 + 3)(b^2 + 3) \geq 3(a + b)^2 \iff (ab - 3)^2 \geq 0$ suffice to prove the inequality

$$3(a + b)^2(c^2 + 3) \geq 192 \iff (a + b)^2(c^2 + 3) \geq 64$$

or, in more compact notation, prove

$$p^2 \left((5 - p)^2 + 3 \right) \geq 64 \iff p^2(p^2 - 10p + 28) \geq 64.$$

Since $p \geq \frac{10}{3}$ we have

$$p^2(p^2 - 10p + 28) - 64 = p^4 - 10p^3 + 28p^2 - 64 =$$

$$(p^2 - 2p - 4)(p - 4)^2 \geq 0 \text{ (because } p^2 - 2p - 4 = (p - 1)^2 - 5 \geq \left(\frac{10}{3} - 1\right)^2 - 5 = \frac{4}{9} > 0).$$

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