

If we combine (3), (4), and (5), statement (1) follows and equality is attained throughout if and only if $a = b = c$.

Solution 3 by Arkady Alt, San Jose, CA

Let $F = [ABC]$ (area) and let s be its semi-perimeter.

Since $h_a = \frac{2F}{a}$, $h_b = \frac{2F}{b}$, $h_c = \frac{2F}{c}$ and $abc = 4RF$ then

$$\sqrt[3]{\frac{1}{h_a h_b h_c}} = \sqrt[3]{\frac{abc}{8F^3}} = \frac{1}{2F} \sqrt[3]{abc} \text{ and}$$

$$\frac{3abc}{2R} \sqrt[3]{\frac{1}{h_a h_b h_c}} = 3\sqrt[3]{abc}.$$

Thus, original inequality becomes

$$(1) \quad \frac{a^2 + bc}{b + c} + \frac{b^2 + ca}{c + a} + \frac{c^2 + ab}{a + b} \geq 3\sqrt[3]{abc}.$$

Since $\frac{4a^2}{b + c} \geq 4a - b - c \iff (2a - b - c)^2 \geq 0$ we have

$$\begin{aligned} \sum_{cyc} \frac{a^2 + bc}{b + c} &= \sum_{cyc} \frac{a^2}{b + c} + \sum_{cyc} \frac{bc}{b + c} \geq \sum_{cyc} \frac{4a - b - c}{4} + \sum_{cyc} \frac{bc}{b + c} \\ &= \frac{a + b + c}{2} + \sum_{cyc} \frac{bc}{b + c} = \sum_{cyc} \left(\frac{b + c}{4} + \frac{bc}{b + c} \right) \geq \sum_{cyc} 2\sqrt{\frac{b + c}{4} \cdot \frac{bc}{b + c}} \\ &= \sum_{cyc} \sqrt{bc} \geq 3\sqrt[3]{\sqrt{bc} \cdot \sqrt{ca} \cdot \sqrt{ab}} = 3\sqrt[3]{abc}. \end{aligned}$$

Solution 4 by Nicusor Zlota, "Traian Vuia" Technical College, Focsani, Romania, and Corneliu-Manescu Avram, Ploiesti, Romania

Assume that $a \geq b \geq c$.

First, we will prove that $\frac{a^2 + bc}{b + c} + \frac{b^2 + ca}{c + a} + \frac{c^2 + ab}{a + b} \geq a + b + c \iff$

$$\frac{a^2 + bc}{b + c} - a + \frac{b^2 + ca}{c + a} - b + \frac{c^2 + ab}{a + b} - c \geq 0 \iff$$

$$\frac{(a - b)(a - c)}{b + c} + \frac{(b - c)(b - a)}{c + a} + \frac{(c - a)(c - b)}{a + b} \geq 0 \iff$$

$$(a - b) \left(\frac{a - c}{b + c} - \frac{b - c}{c + a} \right) + (b - a) \left(\frac{b - a}{c + a} - \frac{c - a}{a + b} \right) + (c - a) \left(\frac{a - c}{b + c} - \frac{b - c}{c + a} \right) \geq 0$$

$$(a - b)^2 \frac{a + b}{(b + c)(c + a)} + (b - c)^2 \frac{b + c}{(a + b)(c + a)} + (c - a)^2 \frac{c + a}{(a + b)(b + c)} \geq 0.$$