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5519: Proposed by Titu Zvonaru, Comănesti, Romania

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

$$\frac{a^2}{b^2} + \frac{b^2}{c^2} + \frac{c^2}{a^2} + \frac{2abc}{a^3 + b^3 + c^3} \geq \frac{11}{3}$$

Solution by Arkady Alt, San Jose, California, USA.

Since by Cauchy inequality $\sum_{cyc} \frac{a^2}{b^2} = \sum_{cyc} \frac{a^4}{a^2 b^2} \geq \frac{(a^2 + b^2 + c^2)^2}{a^2 b^2 + b^2 c^2 + c^2 a^2}$

remains to prove inequality

$$(1) \quad \frac{(a^2 + b^2 + c^2)^2}{a^2 b^2 + b^2 c^2 + c^2 a^2} + \frac{2abc}{a^3 + b^3 + c^3} \geq \frac{11}{3}.$$

Let $p := ab + bc + ca, q := abc$. Then, assuming $a + b + c = 1$ (due homogeneity of (1))

we obtain $\frac{(a^2 + b^2 + c^2)^2}{a^2 b^2 + b^2 c^2 + c^2 a^2} + \frac{2abc}{a^3 + b^3 + c^3} - \frac{11}{3} = \frac{(1 - 2p)^2}{p^2 - 2q} + \frac{2q}{1 + 3q - 3p} - \frac{11}{3}$.

Since $3p = 3(ab + bc + ca) \leq (a + b + c)^2 = 1$, $9q \geq 4p - 1$ (normalized by $a + b + c = 1$)

Schur's Inequality $\sum_{cyc} a(a - b)(a - c) \geq 0$ in p, q notation) and $\frac{(1 - 2p)^2}{p^2 - 2q}, \frac{2q}{1 + 3q - 3p}$

both increasing in q ($\frac{3q}{1 + 3q - 3p} = 1 - \frac{1 - 3p}{1 + 3q - 3p}$) then

$$\frac{(1 - 2p)^2}{p^2 - 2q} + \frac{2q}{1 + 3q - 3p} - \frac{11}{3} \geq \frac{(1 - 2p)^2}{p^2 - 2 \cdot \frac{4p - 1}{9}} + \frac{2 \cdot \frac{4p - 1}{9}}{1 + 3 \cdot \frac{4p - 1}{9} - 3p} - \frac{11}{3} =$$

$$\frac{(p + 2)(1 - 3p)^2}{(2 - 5p)(9p^2 - 8p + 2)} \geq 0.$$