

Problem proposed by Arkady Alt, San Jose, California, USA.

Upper bound for product of two medians.

Let m_a, m_b be medians of a triangle with sidelengths a, b, c . Prove that

$$m_a m_b \leq \frac{2c^2 + ab}{4}.$$

Solution 1.

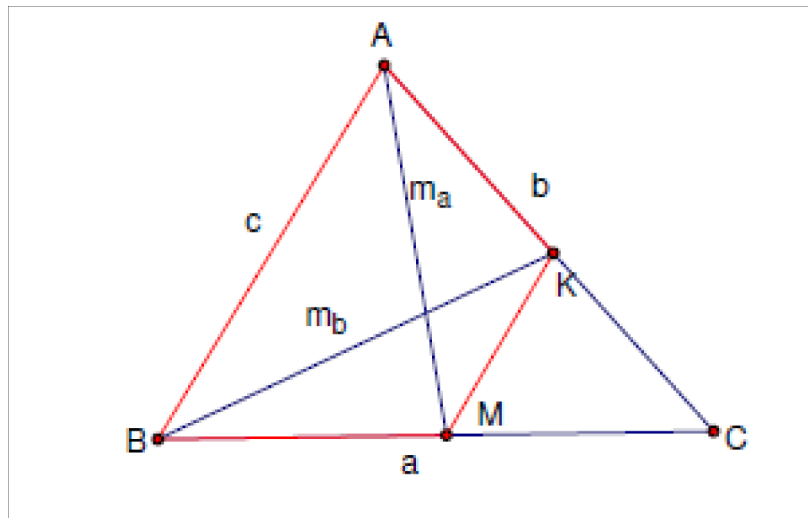
Since $m_a^2 = \frac{2(b^2 + c^2) - a^2}{4}$, $m_b^2 = \frac{2(c^2 + a^2) - b^2}{4}$ then

$$16 \left(\left(\frac{2c^2 + ab}{4} \right)^2 - m_a^2 m_b^2 \right) = (2(b^2 + c^2) - a^2)(2(c^2 + a^2) - b^2) -$$

$$(2c^2 + ab)^2 = 2((a^2 - b^2)^2 - c^2(a - b)^2) =$$

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

Solution 2.



Applying Ptolemy's Inequality to quadrilateral (trapezoid) $AKMB$ we obtain

$$BK \cdot AM \leq AB \cdot MK + AK \cdot BM \Leftrightarrow m_a m_b \leq c \cdot \frac{c}{2} + \frac{b}{2} \cdot \frac{a}{2} \Leftrightarrow m_a m_b \leq \frac{2c^2 + ab}{4}.$$