

By Marin Chirciu – Romania

1) In ΔABC the following relationship holds:

$$108 \sum \sin^2 A \cot B \cot C \leq \left[2 \left(\frac{R}{r} \right)^2 + 1 \right]^2$$

Proposed by Marian Ursărescu – Romania

Solution

We prove the following lemma:

Lemma.

2) In ΔABC the following relationship holds:

$$\sum \sin^2 A \cot B \cot C = \frac{6R^2 + 4Rr + r^2 - s^2}{2R^2}$$

Proof.

$$\begin{aligned} \text{We have } \sum \sin^2 A \cot B \cot C &= \sum (1 - \cos^2 A) \cot B \cot C = \\ &= \sum \cot B \cot C - \cos^2 A \cot B \cot C = 1 - \prod \cos A \sum \frac{\cos A}{\sin B \sin C} = \\ &= 1 - \prod \cos A \cdot \frac{1}{\prod \sin A} \sum \sin A \cos A = 1 - \prod \cot A \sum \frac{1}{2} \sin 2A = \\ &= 1 - \frac{s^2 - (2R + r)^2}{2sr} \cdot \frac{1}{2} \cdot \frac{2sr}{R^2} = 1 - \frac{s^2 - (2R + r)^2}{2R^2} = \frac{2R^2 + (2R + r)^2 - s^2}{2R^2} = \\ &= \frac{6R^2 + 4Rr + r^2 - s^2}{2R^2}, \text{ where above we've used the known inequalities in triangle:} \end{aligned}$$

$$\sum \cot B \cot C = 1, \prod \cot A = \frac{s^2 - (2R + r)^2}{2sr} \text{ and } \sum \sin 2A = \frac{2sr}{R^2}.$$

Let's get back to the main problem.

Using the Lemma the inequality can be written:

$$108 \cdot \frac{6R^2 + 4Rr + r^2 - s^2}{2R^2} \leq \left[2 \left(\frac{R}{r} \right)^2 + 1 \right]^2 \Leftrightarrow \frac{54(6R^2 + 4Rr + r^2 - s^2)}{R^2} \leq \frac{(2R^2 + r^2)^2}{r^4}, \text{ which follows from}$$

Gerretsen's inequality: $s^2 \geq 16Rr - 5r^2$. It remains to prove that:

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$$\frac{54(6R^2 + 4Rr + r^2 - 16Rr + 5r^2)}{R^2} \leq \frac{(2R^2 + r^2)^2}{r^4} \Leftrightarrow$$

$$\Leftrightarrow 4R^6 + 4R^4r^2 - 323R^2r^4 + 648R^2r^4 - 324r^6 \geq 0 \Leftrightarrow$$

$\Leftrightarrow (R - 2r)(4R^5 + 8R^4r + 20R^3r^2 + 40R^2r^3 - 243Rr^4 + 162r^5) \geq 0$, obviously from Euler's inequality $R \geq 2r$. Equality holds if and only if the triangle is equilateral.

Remark.

Inequality 1) can be strengthened:

3) In ΔABC the following relationship holds:

$$\sum \sin^2 A \cot B \cot C \leq 3 \left(1 - \frac{r}{R}\right)^2$$

Proposed by Marin Chirciu - Romania

Solution

Using the Lemma and Gerretsen's inequality $s^2 \geq 16Rr - 5r^2$, we obtain:

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{6R^2 + 4Rr + r^2 - s^2}{2R^2} &\leq \frac{6R^2 + 4Rr + r^2 - (16Rr - 5r^2)}{2R^2} = \frac{6R^2 - 12Rr + 6r^2}{2R^2} = \\ &= \frac{6(R-r)^2}{2R^2} = 3 \left(1 - \frac{r}{R}\right)^2. \text{ Equality holds if and only if the triangle is equilateral.} \end{aligned}$$

Remark.

Inequality 3) is stronger than 1).

4) In ΔABC the following relationship holds:

$$\sum \sin^2 A \cot B \cot C \leq 3 \left(1 - \frac{r}{R}\right)^2 \leq \frac{1}{108} \left[2 \left(\frac{R}{r}\right)^2 + 1\right]^2$$

Solution

See inequality 3) and $3 \left(1 - \frac{r}{R}\right)^2 \leq \frac{1}{108} \left[2 \left(\frac{R}{r}\right)^2 + 1\right]^2 \Leftrightarrow 324r^4(R - r)^2 \leq R^2(2R^2 + r^2)^2$

$$\Leftrightarrow 18r^2(R - r) \leq R(2R^2 + r^2) \Leftrightarrow 2R^3 - 17Rr^2 + 18r^3 \geq 0 \Leftrightarrow$$

$$\Leftrightarrow (R - 2r)(2R^2 + 4Rr - 9r^2) \geq 0, \text{ obviously from Euler's inequality } R \geq 2r.$$

Equality holds if and only if the triangle is equilateral.

Remark.

Let's find an inequality having an opposite sense:

5) In ΔABC the following inequality holds:

$$\sum \sin^2 A \cot B \cot C \geq 1 - \left(\frac{r}{R}\right)^2$$

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Solution

Using the Lemma and Gerretsen's inequality: $s^2 \leq 4R^2 + 4Rr + 3r^2$ we obtain:

$$\frac{6R^2 + 4Rr + r^2 - s^2}{2R^2} \geq \frac{6R^2 + 4Rr + r^2 - (4R^2 + 4Rr + 3r^2)}{2R^2} = \frac{2R^2 - 2r^2}{2R^2} = 1 - \left(\frac{r}{R}\right)^2$$

Equality holds if and only if the triangle is equilateral.

Remark.

We can write the double inequality:

6) In ΔABC the following relationship holds:

$$1 - \left(\frac{r}{R}\right)^2 \leq \sum \sin^2 A \cot B \cot C \leq 3 \left(1 - \frac{r}{R}\right)^2$$

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Solution

See inequalities 3) and 5).

Equality holds if and only if the triangle is equilateral.

Reference:

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