

ROMANIAN MATHEMATICAL MAGAZINE

If $a, b, c > 0$ and $n \in \mathbb{N}^*$, then :

$$\frac{a}{a+b} + \frac{b}{b+c} + \frac{c}{c+a} + \frac{1}{n^2} \left(\frac{b}{a} + \frac{c}{b} + \frac{a}{c} \right) \geq \left(1 + \frac{1}{n} \right)^2$$

Proposed by Marin Chirciu-Romania

Solution 1 by Soumava Chakraborty-Kolkata-India

$$\begin{aligned} & \frac{a}{a+b} + \frac{b}{b+c} + \frac{c}{c+a} + \frac{1}{n^2} \left(\frac{b}{a} + \frac{c}{b} + \frac{a}{c} \right) \geq \left(1 + \frac{1}{n} \right)^2 \\ \Leftrightarrow & \sum_{\text{cyc}} \frac{a}{a+b} + \frac{1}{n^2} \left(\sum_{\text{cyc}} \frac{b}{a} - 1 + 1 \right) \geq 1 + \frac{2}{n} + \frac{1}{n^2} \\ \Leftrightarrow & \left(\sum_{\text{cyc}} \frac{a}{a+b} - 1 \right) + \frac{1}{n^2} \left(\sum_{\text{cyc}} \frac{b}{a} - 1 \right) \stackrel{(*)}{\geq} \frac{2}{n} \end{aligned}$$

$$\text{Now, } \left(\sum_{\text{cyc}} \frac{a}{a+b} - 1 \right) + \frac{1}{n^2} \left(\sum_{\text{cyc}} \frac{b}{a} - 1 \right) \stackrel{A-G}{\geq} \frac{2}{n} \cdot \sqrt{\left(\sum_{\text{cyc}} \frac{a}{a+b} - 1 \right) \left(\sum_{\text{cyc}} \frac{b}{a} - 1 \right)}$$

$$= \frac{2}{n} \cdot \sqrt{\left(\sum_{\text{cyc}} \frac{1}{1+x} - 1 \right) \left(\sum_{\text{cyc}} x - 1 \right)} \quad \left(\text{where } \frac{b}{a} = x, \frac{c}{b} = y, \frac{a}{c} = z \right) \stackrel{?}{\geq} \frac{2}{n}$$

$$\Leftrightarrow \left(\frac{1}{1+x} + \frac{1}{1+y} + \frac{1}{1+z} - 1 \right) (x+y+z-1) \stackrel{?}{\geq} 1$$

$$\Leftrightarrow \sum_{\text{cyc}} x^2 + \sum_{\text{cyc}} xy \stackrel{?}{\geq} xyz \sum_{\text{cyc}} x + 3 \Leftrightarrow \sum_{\text{cyc}} x^2 + \sum_{\text{cyc}} xy \stackrel{?}{\geq} \sum_{\text{cyc}} x + 3 \quad (\because xyz = 1)$$

$$\text{Now, } \sum_{\text{cyc}} x^2 \geq \frac{1}{3} \left(\sum_{\text{cyc}} x \right)^2 = \frac{1}{3} \left(\sum_{\text{cyc}} \frac{b}{a} \right) \left(\sum_{\text{cyc}} x \right) \stackrel{A-G}{\geq} \frac{1}{3} \cdot 3 \cdot \sum_{\text{cyc}} x \Rightarrow \sum_{\text{cyc}} x^2 \geq \sum_{\text{cyc}} x$$

$$\rightarrow (1) \text{ and } \sum_{\text{cyc}} xy \stackrel{A-G}{\geq} 3 \cdot \sqrt[3]{(xyz)^2} = 3 \quad (\because xyz = 1) \rightarrow (2) \therefore (1) + (2)$$

$$\Rightarrow (**) \Rightarrow (*) \text{ is true } \therefore \frac{a}{a+b} + \frac{b}{b+c} + \frac{c}{c+a} + \frac{1}{n^2} \left(\frac{b}{a} + \frac{c}{b} + \frac{a}{c} \right) \geq \left(1 + \frac{1}{n} \right)^2$$

$\forall a, b, c > 0$ and $n \in \mathbb{N}^*$, " = " if $a = b = c$ and if

$$\left(\sum_{\text{cyc}} \frac{a}{a+b} - 1 \right) = \frac{1}{n^2} \left(\sum_{\text{cyc}} \frac{b}{a} - 1 \right) \Rightarrow \text{if } n = 2$$

i. e., " = " iff $(a = b = c \text{ and } n = 2)$ (QED)

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Solution 2 by Mohamed Amine Ben Ajiba-Tanger-Morocco

Let $x := a^2 + b^2 + c^2$ and $y := ab + bc + ca$. By CBS inequality, we have

$$\frac{a}{a+b} + \frac{b}{b+c} + \frac{c}{c+a} \geq \frac{(a+b+c)^2}{\sum_{cyc} a(a+b)} = \frac{x+2y}{x+y} = 1 + \frac{y}{x+y}.$$

$$\frac{b}{a} + \frac{c}{b} + \frac{a}{c} \geq \frac{(b+c+a)^2}{ba+cb+ac} = \frac{x+2y}{y} = \frac{x+y}{y} + 1.$$

Using these inequalities, we have

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{a}{a+b} + \frac{b}{b+c} + \frac{c}{c+a} + \frac{1}{n^2} \left(\frac{b}{a} + \frac{c}{b} + \frac{a}{c} \right) &\geq 1 + \left(\frac{y}{x+y} + \frac{x+y}{n^2 y} \right) + \frac{1}{n^2} \\ &\stackrel{AM-GM}{\geq} 1 + \frac{2}{n} + \frac{1}{n^2} = \left(1 + \frac{1}{n} \right)^2. \end{aligned}$$

Equality holds iff $a = b = c$ and $\frac{y}{x+y} = \frac{x+y}{n^2 y} \Leftrightarrow a = b = c$ and $n = 2$.