

ROMANIAN MATHEMATICAL MAGAZINE

Let $a, b, c \geq 0$ such that : $a + b + c = 3$. Prove that :

a) $9(a^k + b^k + c^k) + ab + bc + ca \leq 27 + 3abc$ with $k = \frac{1}{2}$ and

b) $9(a^k + b^k + c^k) + ab + bc + ca \geq 27 + 3abc$ with $k \geq 1$

Proposed by Nguyen Van Canh-Vietnam

Solution by Soumava Chakraborty-Kolkata-India

When exactly 2 variables = 0 (WLOG $b = c = 0$ and $a = 3$), then :

LHS of a) = $9\sqrt{3} < 27 = \text{RHS of a)}$ and LHS of b) = $9 \cdot 3^k \stackrel{k \geq 1}{\geq} 27 = \text{RHS of b)}$

When exactly 1 variable = 0 (WLOG and $a = 0$ and $b + c = 3; b, c > 0$), then :

$$\text{LHS of a) } = 9(\sqrt{b} + \sqrt{c}) + bc \stackrel{\substack{\text{CBS} \\ \text{and} \\ \text{A-G}}}{\leq} 9\sqrt{2(b+c)} + \frac{(b+c)^2}{4} \stackrel{b+c=3}{=} 9\sqrt{6} + \frac{9}{4} < 27$$

$$\begin{aligned} &= \text{RHS of a) and LHS of b) } = 9\left((1+(b-1))^k + (1+(c-1))^k\right) + bc \\ &\stackrel{\text{via Bernoulli } \because k \geq 1}{\geq} 9\left(2 + k((b-1) + (c-1))\right) + bc \stackrel{b+c=3}{=} 18 + 9k(3-2) + bc \\ &\stackrel{k \geq 1}{\geq} 27 + bc > 27 = \text{RHS of b)} \end{aligned}$$

We now consider the case when $a, b, c > 0$ and a) \Leftrightarrow

$$9 \sum_{\text{cyc}} x + \sum_{\text{cyc}} x^2 y^2 \leq 27 + 3x^2 y^2 z^2 \quad (x = \sqrt{a}, y = \sqrt{b}, z = \sqrt{c})$$

$$\stackrel{3 = \sum_{\text{cyc}} x^2}{\Leftrightarrow} \left(\sum_{\text{cyc}} x^2 \right)^3 + 3x^2 y^2 z^2 - \frac{1}{3} \left(\sum_{\text{cyc}} x^2 y^2 \right) \left(\sum_{\text{cyc}} x^2 \right)$$

$$\geq 9 \sum_{\text{cyc}} x$$

$$\because 3 = \sum_{\text{cyc}} x^2 \quad \Leftrightarrow \quad 3 \left(\sum_{\text{cyc}} x^2 \right)^3 + 9x^2 y^2 z^2 - \left(\sum_{\text{cyc}} x^2 y^2 \right) \left(\sum_{\text{cyc}} x^2 \right) \geq \sqrt{3 \left(\sum_{\text{cyc}} x^2 \right)^5} \sum_{\text{cyc}} x$$

$$\Leftrightarrow \left(3 \left(\sum_{\text{cyc}} x^2 \right)^3 + 9x^2 y^2 z^2 - \left(\sum_{\text{cyc}} x^2 y^2 \right) \left(\sum_{\text{cyc}} x^2 \right) \right)^2 \stackrel{(*)}{\geq} 3 \left(\sum_{\text{cyc}} x \right)^2 \left(\sum_{\text{cyc}} x^2 \right)^5$$

ROMANIAN MATHEMATICAL MAGAZINE

$$\left(\begin{array}{l} \therefore 3 \left(\sum_{\text{cyc}} a \right)^3 + 9abc - \left(\sum_{\text{cyc}} ab \right) \left(\sum_{\text{cyc}} a \right) \\ 3 \sum_{\text{cyc}} a^3 + 9 \left(\left(\sum_{\text{cyc}} a \right) \left(\sum_{\text{cyc}} ab \right) - abc \right) + 9abc - \left(\sum_{\text{cyc}} a \right) \left(\sum_{\text{cyc}} ab \right) \\ 3 \sum_{\text{cyc}} a^3 + 9 \left(\left(\sum_{\text{cyc}} a \right) \left(\sum_{\text{cyc}} ab \right) - abc \right) + 9abc - \left(\sum_{\text{cyc}} a \right) \left(\sum_{\text{cyc}} ab \right) \end{array} \right)$$

Assigning $y + z = X, z + x = Y, x + y = Z \Rightarrow X + Y - Z = 2z > 0, Y + Z - X = 2x > 0$ and $Z + X - Y = 2y > 0 \Rightarrow X + Y > Z, Y + Z > X, Z + X > Y$
 $\Rightarrow X, Y, Z$ form sides of a triangle with semiperimeter, circumradius and inradius

$$= s, R, r \text{ (say) yielding } 2 \sum_{\text{cyc}} x = \sum_{\text{cyc}} X = 2s \Rightarrow \sum_{\text{cyc}} x = s \rightarrow (1)$$

$\Rightarrow x = s - X, y = s - Y, z = s - Z$ and such substitutions \Rightarrow

$$\sum_{\text{cyc}} xy = \sum_{\text{cyc}} (s - X)(s - Y) \Rightarrow \sum_{\text{cyc}} xy = 4Rr + r^2 \rightarrow (2) \text{ and}$$

$$\sum_{\text{cyc}} x^2 y^2 = \left(\sum_{\text{cyc}} xy \right)^2 - 2xyz \left(\sum_{\text{cyc}} x \right) \stackrel{\text{via (1) and (2)}}{=} (4Rr + r^2)^2 - 2r^2 s$$

$$(4Rr + r^2)^2 - 2 \left(\prod_{\text{cyc}} (s - X) \right) \cdot s = (4Rr + r^2)^2 - 2r^2 s \cdot s$$

$$\Rightarrow \sum_{\text{cyc}} x^2 y^2 = r^2 ((4R + r)^2 - 2s^2) \rightarrow (3) \text{ and}$$

$$\sum_{\text{cyc}} x^2 = \left(\sum_{\text{cyc}} x \right)^2 - 2 \sum_{\text{cyc}} xy \stackrel{\text{via (1) and (2)}}{=} s^2 - (4Rr + r^2)$$

$$\Rightarrow \sum_{\text{cyc}} x^2 = s^2 - 8Rr - 2r^2 \rightarrow (4)$$

\therefore via (1)(3) and (4), (*)

$$\Leftrightarrow \left(\begin{array}{l} \left(3(s^2 - 8Rr - 2r^2)^3 + 9r^4 s^2 - r^2 ((4R + r)^2 - 2s^2) (s^2 - 8Rr - 2r^2) \right)^2 \\ - 3s^2 (s^2 - 8Rr - 2r^2)^5 \stackrel{(**)}{\geq} 0 \end{array} \right)$$

Now, $43,008t^3 - 126,400t^2 + 124,192t - 40,192$

(where $t = \frac{R}{r} \stackrel{\text{Euler}}{\geq} 2$ and comma represents the thousands - separator)

$$= (t - 2)(43,008t^2 - 40,384t + 43,424) + 46,656 > 0$$

$$\Rightarrow 43,008R^3 - 126,400R^2r + 124,192Rr^2 - 40,192r^3 > 0 \text{ and}$$

$$209,152t^4 - 855,808t^3 + 1,311,424t^2 - 877,440t + 214,794$$

ROMANIAN MATHEMATICAL MAGAZINE

$$\begin{aligned}
 &= (t-2) \left((t-2)(209,152t^2 - 19,200t + 398,016) + 791,424 \right) + 205,578 > 0 \\
 &\Rightarrow 209,152R^4 - 855,808R^3r + 1,311,424R^2r^2 - 877,440Rr^3 + 214,794r^4 > 0 \\
 &\therefore \text{via Gerretsen, } 6(s^2 - 16Rr + 5r^2)^6 + (264Rr - 246r^2)(s^2 - 16Rr + 5r^2)^5 \\
 &\quad + r^2(4704R^2 - 8952Rr + 4276r^2)(s^2 - 16Rr + 5r^2)^4 \\
 &\quad + r^3(43,008R^3 - 126,400R^2r + 124,192Rr^2 - 40,192r^3)(s^2 - 16Rr + 5r^2)^3 \\
 &\quad + r^4 \left(209,152R^4 - 855,808R^3r + 1,311,424R^2r^2 - 877,440Rr^3 + 214,794r^4 \right) (s^2 - 16Rr + 5r^2)^2 \stackrel{(*)}{\geq} 0 \\
 &\therefore \text{in order to prove (**), it suffices to prove : LHS of (**)} \geq \text{LHS of } (*) \\
 &\Leftrightarrow \left(247,808R^5 - 1,361,664R^4r + 2,948,224R^3r^2 - 3,097,408R^2r^3 + 1,573,116Rr^4 - 308,477r^5 \right) s^2 \\
 &\stackrel{(***)}{\geq} r \left(3,760,128R^6 - 21,463,040R^5r + 49,317,504R^4r^2 - 57,311,104R^3r^3 + 35,056,912R^2r^4 - 10,519,128Rr^5 + 1,171,433r^6 \right) \\
 &\text{Now, } 247,808t^5 - 1,361,664t^4 + 2,948,224t^3 - 3,097,408t^2 + 1,573,116t - 308,477 \\
 &= (t-2) \left((t-2) \left(\frac{247,808t^3 - 370,432t^2}{+475,264t + 285,376} \right) + 813,564 \right) + 177,147 > 0 \\
 &\Rightarrow 247,808R^5 - 1,361,664R^4r + 2,948,224R^3r^2 - 3,097,408R^2r^3 + 1,573,116Rr^4 - 308,477r^5 > 0 \therefore \text{LHS of (***)} \stackrel{\text{Rouche}}{\geq} \\
 &\left(247,808R^5 - 1,361,664R^4r + 2,948,224R^3r^2 - 3,097,408R^2r^3 + 1,573,116Rr^4 - 308,477r^5 \right) \left(\frac{2R^2 + 10Rr - r^2}{-2(R-2r)\sqrt{R^2 - 2Rr}} \right) \\
 &\stackrel{?}{\geq} \text{RHS of (***)} \\
 &\Leftrightarrow 2(R-2r) \left(\frac{247,808R^6 - 1,507,072R^5r + 3,733,376R^4r^2}{-4,867,456R^3r^3 + 3,532,604R^2r^4 - 1,357,441Rr^5 + 215,739r^6} \right) \\
 &\stackrel{?}{\geq} 2(R-2r)\sqrt{R^2 - 2Rr} \left(\frac{247,808R^5 - 1,361,664R^4r + 2,948,224R^3r^2}{-3,097,408R^2r^3 + 1,573,116Rr^4 - 308,477r^5} \right) \\
 &\stackrel{(***)}{\geq} \text{RHS of (***)} \\
 &\text{Again, } 247,808t^6 - 1,507,072t^5 + 3,733,376t^4 - 4,867,456t^3 + 3,532,604t^2 - 1,357,441t + 215,739 \\
 &= (t-2) \left((t-2) \left((t-2) \left(\frac{247,808t^3 - 20,224t^2}{+638,336t + 1,187,712} \right) + 2,837,052 \right) + 844,911 \right) \\
 &+ 59,049 > 0 \Rightarrow 247,808R^6 - 1,507,072R^5r + 3,733,376R^4r^2 - 4,867,456R^3r^3 + 3,532,604R^2r^4 - 1,357,441Rr^5 + 215,739r^6 > 0 \text{ and } \therefore R-2r \stackrel{\text{Euler}}{\geq} 0 \\
 &\therefore \text{in order to prove (****), it suffices to prove :} \\
 &\left(\frac{247,808R^6 - 1,507,072R^5r + 3,733,376R^4r^2 - 4,867,456R^3r^3 + 3,532,604R^2r^4 - 1,357,441Rr^5 + 215,739r^6}{247,808R^5 - 1,361,664R^4r + 2,948,224R^3r^2 - 3,097,408R^2r^3 + 1,573,116Rr^4 - 308,477r^5} \right)^2 \\
 &> (R^2 - 2Rr) \left(\frac{247,808R^5 - 1,361,664R^4r + 2,948,224R^3r^2 - 3,097,408R^2r^3 + 1,573,116Rr^4 - 308,477r^5}{50,751,078,400t^{11} - 543,453,872,128t^{10} + 2,529,415,659,520t^9 - 6,675,031,293,952t^8 + 10,849,957,036,032t^7 - 10,843,569,209,344t^6 + 5,808,184,095,232t^5 - 209,088,406,656t^4 - 1,948,958,574,656t^3 + 1,330,648,500,336t^2 - 395,389,808,740t + 46,543,316,121} \right)^2 \\
 &> 0
 \end{aligned}$$

ROMANIAN MATHEMATICAL MAGAZINE

$$\Leftrightarrow (t-2) \left((t-2) \left((t-2) \left((t-2) \left(\frac{(t-2)(\lambda) + 7,520,970,248,064}{t} + 2,467,147,211,712 \right) + 441,062,017,776 \right) + 37,020,180,060 \right) + 3,486,784,401 > 0 \right.$$

$$\left. \text{where } \lambda = 50,751,078,400t^6 - 35,943,088,128t^5 + 139,941,642,240t^4 + 222,194,925,568t^3 + 538,707,279,872t^2 + 1,350,519,504,896t + 3,195,171,795,456 \right)$$

→ true ∴ $t \geq 2$ and ∴ $\lambda > 0 \Rightarrow (****) \Rightarrow (***) \Rightarrow (**)$ ⇒ (*) is true

$$\therefore 9(a^k + b^k + c^k) + ab + bc + ca \leq 27 + 3abc \text{ for } k = \frac{1}{2} \forall a, b, c > 0 \mid \sum_{\text{cyc}} a = 3$$

$$\text{Also, } 9(a^k + b^k + c^k) + ab + bc + ca - 27 - 3abc = 9 \sum_{\text{cyc}} (1 + (a-1))^k + \sum_{\text{cyc}} ab - 27 - 3abc \stackrel{\text{via Bernoulli } \cdot k \geq 1}{\geq}$$

$$9 \left(3 + k \left(\sum_{\text{cyc}} a - 3 \right) \right) + \sum_{\text{cyc}} ab - 27 - 3abc \stackrel{a+b+c=3}{\geq}$$

$$\sum_{\text{cyc}} ab - 3abc \stackrel{A-G}{\geq} 3\sqrt[3]{a^2b^2c^2} - 3abc \stackrel{?}{\geq} 0 \Leftrightarrow a^2b^2c^2 \stackrel{?}{\geq} a^3b^3c^3 \Leftrightarrow abc \stackrel{?}{\leq} 1$$

$$\rightarrow \text{true } \therefore 3 = \sum_{\text{cyc}} a \stackrel{A-G}{\geq} 3\sqrt[3]{abc} \Rightarrow abc \leq 1$$

$$\therefore 9(a^k + b^k + c^k) + ab + bc + ca \geq 27 + 3abc \text{ with } k \geq 1 \forall a, b, c > 0 \mid \sum_{\text{cyc}} a = 3$$

∴ combining all cases,

a) $9(a^k + b^k + c^k) + ab + bc + ca \leq 27 + 3abc$ with $k = \frac{1}{2}$

$\forall a, b, c \geq 0 \mid a + b + c = 3, " = " \text{ iff } a = b = c = 1$

b) $9(a^k + b^k + c^k) + ab + bc + ca \geq 27 + 3abc$ with $k \geq 1$

$\forall a, b, c \geq 0 \mid a + b + c = 3, " = " \text{ iff } (a = b = c = 1) \text{ or, } (a = 3, b = c = 0; k = 1)$
or, $(b = 3, c = a = 0; k = 1) \text{ or, } (c = 3, a = b = 0; k = 1)$ (QED)