

# ROMANIAN MATHEMATICAL MAGAZINE

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

**a)  $9(\sqrt{a} + \sqrt{b} + \sqrt{c}) + ab + bc + ca \leq 27 + 3abc$ .**

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

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a) Let  $x := \sqrt{a}$ ,  $y := \sqrt{b}$ ,  $z := \sqrt{c}$  and  $p := x + y + z$ ,  $q := xy + yz + zx$ ,  $r := xyz$ .

The given condition is equivalent to  $x^2 + y^2 + z^2 = p^2 - 2q$

= 3, and the problem becomes,

$$9(x + y + z) + x^2y^2 + y^2z^2 + z^2x^2 \leq 27 + 3x^2y^2z^2 \Leftrightarrow 9p + q^2 - 2pr \leq 27 + 3r^2$$

$2q = p^2 - 3$

$$\Leftrightarrow 36p + (p^2 - 3)^2 - 8pr \leq 108 + 12r^2$$

$$\Leftrightarrow 99 - 36p + 6p^2 - p^4 + 8pr + 12r^2 \geq 0 \quad (*)$$

We have  $3 = x^2 + y^2 + z^2 \leq p^2 \leq 3(x^2 + y^2 + z^2) = 9$ , then  $\sqrt{3} \leq p \leq 3$ .

☐ If  $\sqrt{3} \leq p \leq \sqrt{6}$ , we have  $LHS_{(*)} \stackrel{r \geq 0}{\geq} 9(11 - 4p) + p^2(6 - p^2) \geq 0$ .

☐ If  $\sqrt{3} \leq p \leq 3$ , we have

$$0 \leq (a - b)^2(b - c)^2(c - a)^2 = \frac{4(p^2 - 3q)^3 - (2p^3 - 9pq + 27r)^2}{27}$$

$$\Rightarrow r \geq \frac{-2p^3 + 9pq - 2\sqrt{(p^2 - 3q)^3}}{27} \stackrel{2q = p^2 - 3}{=} \frac{5p^3 - 27p - \sqrt{2(9 - p^2)^3}}{54}$$

$$\Rightarrow LHS_{(*)} \geq 105 - 36p + 3p^2 - \frac{31p^4}{27} + \frac{23p^6}{243} - \frac{2p(5p^2 - 9)\sqrt{2(9 - p^2)^3}}{243}$$

$$= (3 - p) \left( 35 - \frac{p}{3} + \frac{8p^2}{9} + \frac{8p^3}{27} - \frac{23p^4}{81} - \frac{23p^5}{243} - \frac{2p(5p^2 - 9)\sqrt{2(3 + p)^3(3 - p)}}{243} \right)$$

$$\stackrel{AM-GM}{\geq} (3 - p) \left( 35 - \frac{p}{3} + \frac{8p^2}{9} + \frac{8p^3}{27} - \frac{23p^4}{81} - \frac{23p^5}{243} - \frac{p(5p^2 - 9)[2(3 + p)^2(3 - p) + (3 + p)]}{243} \right)$$

$$= (3 - p) \left[ (3 - p) \left[ \frac{35}{3} + \frac{121p}{27} + (3 - p) \left( \frac{164p^2}{243} + \frac{239p^3}{729} + \frac{44p^4}{729} \right) + \frac{46p^5}{2187} \right] + \frac{4p^6}{2187} \right] \stackrel{3 \geq p}{\geq} 0,$$

which completes the proof of a). Equality holds iff  $a = b = c = 1$ .

b) Since  $k \geq 1$  then by Power Mean inequality, we have

$$a^k + b^k + c^k \geq 3 \left( \frac{a + b + c}{3} \right)^k = 3,$$

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and by AM – GM inequality, we have

$$ab + bc + ca = \frac{(a + b + c)(ab + bc + ca)}{3} \geq 3abc.$$

Using these two inequalities, we have

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

So the proof is complete. Equality holds iff

$$a = b = c = 1 \text{ or } k = 1, a = 3, b = c = 0 \text{ and permutations.}$$