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Let $\{x, y, z\}$ be positive real numbers such that : $xyz = 1$. Prove that :

$$\frac{7+x}{x^2+2x+1} + \frac{7+y}{y^2+2y+1} + \frac{7+z}{z^2+2z+1} \geq 6$$

Proposed by Shirvan Tahirov-Azerbaijan

Solution 1 by Soumava Chakraborty-Kolkata-India

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{7+x}{x^2+2x+1} + \frac{7+y}{y^2+2y+1} + \frac{7+z}{z^2+2z+1} &= \sum_{\text{cyc}} \frac{x+1+6}{(x+1)^2} \\ &= \sum_{\text{cyc}} \frac{1}{x+1} + 6 \left(\left(\sum_{\text{cyc}} \frac{1}{x+1} \right)^2 - 2 \sum_{\text{cyc}} \frac{1}{(y+1)(z+1)} \right) \\ &= \frac{3+2m+n}{2+m+n} + 6 \left(\left(\frac{3+2m+n}{2+m+n} \right)^2 - \frac{2(m+3)}{2+m+n} \right) \\ &\quad \left(m = \sum_{\text{cyc}} x, n = \sum_{\text{cyc}} xy \text{ and } \because xyz = 1 \right) \stackrel{?}{\geq} 6 \\ &\Leftrightarrow 8m^2 + 3mn + n^2 - 5m - 19n - 36 \stackrel{?}{\geq} 0 \end{aligned}$$

Case 1 $m \geq n$ and then : LHS of (*) = $8m^2 - 5m - 57 + 3mn + n^2 - 19n + 21$

$$\begin{aligned} &\stackrel{m \geq n}{\geq} (8m+19)(m-3) + 4n^2 - 19n + 21 \\ &= (8m+19)(m-3) + (4n-7)(n-3) \geq 0 \\ \therefore m = \sum_{\text{cyc}} x &\stackrel{A-G}{\geq} 3 \cdot \sqrt[3]{xyz} \stackrel{xyz=1}{=} 3 \text{ and } n = \sum_{\text{cyc}} xy \stackrel{A-G}{\geq} 3 \cdot \sqrt[3]{x^2y^2z^2} \stackrel{xyz=1}{=} 3 \\ &\Rightarrow m, n \geq 3 \Rightarrow (*) \text{ is true} \end{aligned}$$

Case 2 $n \geq m$ and then : LHS of (*) = $8m^2 - 5m - 36 + 3mn + n^2 - 19n \stackrel{n \geq m}{\geq}$

$$\begin{aligned} &8m^2 - 5m - 36 + 3m^2 + m^2 - 19n \stackrel{m^2 \geq 3n}{\geq} 8m^2 - 5m - 36 + 12n - 19n \\ &\stackrel{m^2 \geq 3n}{\geq} 8m^2 - 5m - 36 - \frac{7m^2}{3} = \frac{17m^2 - 15m - 108}{3} = \frac{(17m+36)(m-3)}{3} \geq 0 \\ \therefore m = \sum_{\text{cyc}} x &\stackrel{A-G}{\geq} 3 \cdot \sqrt[3]{xyz} \stackrel{xyz=1}{=} 3 \Rightarrow m \geq 3 \Rightarrow (*) \text{ is true } \therefore \text{ combining both cases,} \end{aligned}$$

(*) is true $\forall x, y, z > 0$ such that : $xyz = 1$

$$\therefore \frac{7+x}{x^2+2x+1} + \frac{7+y}{y^2+2y+1} + \frac{7+z}{z^2+2z+1} \geq 6 \quad \forall x, y, z > 0$$

such that : $xyz = 1$, " = " iff $x = y = z = 1$ (QED)

Solution 2 by Mohamed Amine Ben Ajiba-Tanger-Morocco

Since $xyz = 1$, we may put $x = \frac{bc}{a^2}$, $y = \frac{ca}{b^2}$, $z = \frac{ab}{c^2}$, where a, b, c are some positive real numbers. Then, the desired inequality becomes

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$$\frac{7a^4 + a^2bc}{(a^2 + bc)^2} + \frac{7b^4 + ab^2c}{(b^2 + ca)^2} + \frac{7c^4 + abc^2}{(c^2 + ab)^2} \geq 6.$$

By the Cauchy Schwarz Inequality, we have

$$\begin{aligned} \sum_{cyc} \frac{7a^4 + a^2bc}{(a^2 + bc)^2} &\geq \sum_{cyc} \frac{7a^4 + a^2bc}{(a^2 + b^2)(a^2 + c^2)} = \frac{\sum_{cyc} (7a^4 + a^2bc)(b^2 + c^2)}{(a^2 + b^2)(b^2 + c^2)(a^2 + c^2)} \stackrel{?}{\geq} 6 \\ &\Leftrightarrow \sum_{cyc} (7a^4 + a^2bc)(b^2 + c^2) \geq 6(a^2 + b^2)(b^2 + c^2)(a^2 + c^2) \\ &\Leftrightarrow \sum_{cyc} a^4(b^2 + c^2) + abc \sum_{cyc} a(b^2 + c^2) \geq 12a^2b^2c^2 \quad (1) \end{aligned}$$

which is true by AM – GM inequality:

$$LHS_{(1)} \geq \sum_{cyc} a^4 \cdot 2bc + abc \sum_{cyc} a \cdot 2bc \geq 2abc \cdot 3abc + 6a^2b^2c^2 = 12a^2b^2c^2.$$

Equality holds iff $x = y = z = 1$.