

ROMANIAN MATHEMATICAL MAGAZINE

In all acute triangles ABC the following relationship holds:

$$a(\cot B + \cot C) + b(\cot C + \cot A) + c(\cot A + \cot B) \geq 12r$$

Proposed by Zaza Mzhavanadze-Georgia

Solution by Daniel Sitaru-Romania

$$\begin{aligned} a(\cot B + \cot C) + b(\cot C + \cot A) + c(\cot A + \cot B) &= \sum_{cyc} a(\cot B + \cot C) = \\ &= \sum_{cyc} a \left(\frac{\cos B}{\sin B} + \frac{\cos C}{\sin C} \right) = \sum_{cyc} a \cdot \frac{\cos B \sin C + \cos C \sin B}{\sin B \sin C} = \\ &= \sum_{cyc} a \cdot \frac{\sin(B+C)}{\sin B \sin C} = \sum_{cyc} a \cdot \frac{\sin(\pi - A)}{\sin B \sin C} = \sum_{cyc} a \cdot \frac{\sin A}{\sin B \sin C} \stackrel{AM-GM}{\geq} \\ &\geq 3 \cdot \sqrt[3]{abc \cdot \frac{\sin A \sin B \sin C}{\sin B \sin C \cdot \sin C \sin A \cdot \sin A \sin B}} = \\ &= 3 \sqrt[3]{\frac{abc}{\sin A \sin B \sin C}} = 3 \sqrt[3]{\frac{abc}{\frac{a}{2R} \cdot \frac{b}{2R} \cdot \frac{c}{2R}}} = \\ &= 3 \sqrt[3]{8R^3} = 6R \stackrel{EULER}{\geq} 6 \cdot 2r = 12r \end{aligned}$$

Equality holds for $a = b = c$.